

EXCAVATION OF FOUR BARROWS, AND A MIDDLE BRONZE AGE CREMATION CEMETERY, AT HEATHERSTONE GRANGE, BRANGSORE, HAMPSHIRE

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ABSTRACT

Excavation at Heatherstone Grange, Brangsgore, Hampshire, investigated features identified in a previous evaluation. Area A included ring ditches representing two barrows. Barrow 1.1 held 40 secondary pits, including 34 cremation-related deposits of Middle Bronze Age date, and Barrow 1.2 had five inserted pits, including three cremation graves, one of which dated to the earlier Bronze Age, and was found with an accessory cup. A number of pits, not all associated with cremation burials, contained well-preserved urns of the regional Deverel-Rimbury tradition and occasional sherds from similar vessels, which produced a closely-clustered range of eight radiocarbon dates centred around 1300 BC.

Often pits in Area C, three were cremation graves, of which one was radiocarbon-dated to the Early Bronze Age and associated with a collared urn, while four contained only pyre debris. Barrow 1.3, in Area E, to the south, enclosed five pits, including one associated with a beaker vessel, and was surrounded by a timber circle. Area F, further to the south-west, included two pits of domestic character with charcoal-rich fills and the remains of pottery vessels, together with the probable remains of a ditched enclosure and two sets of paired postholes. Area H, located to the north-west of Area E, partly revealed a ring ditch (Barrow 1.4), which enclosed two pits with charcoal-rich fills, one with a single Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age potsherd, and the other burnt and worked flint. A further undated pit was situated to the east of Barrow 1.4.

The cremation cemetery inserted into Barrow 1.1 represents a substantial addition to the regional record of Middle Bronze Age cremation burials, and demonstrates important affinities with the contemporary cemeteries of the Stour Valley to the west, and sites on Cranborne Chase, to the north-west.

INTRODUCTION

From September to December, 2015, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) undertook an archaeological excavation at Heatherstone Grange, Brangsgore, Hampshire (centred at NGR: SZ 17680 980289 (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Bellway Homes (Wessex), in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2015), and approved by the Local Planning Authority on the advice of David Hopkins, the Senior Historic Environment Officer (SHEO) for Hampshire County Council (HCC), and Archaeological Advisor to New Forest District Council (NFDC). Evaluation of the site in 2015 had identified Early Bronze Age activity, including a partly-truncated ring ditch with an internal diameter of approximately 7m, representing a small round barrow (CA 2015). Amongst several pits enclosed by the barrow ditch, a central feature (1504), contained sherds of an Early Bronze Age beaker, although no trace of an accompanying burial was identified. A number of undated features identified by evaluation were suggested to be of Bronze Age date on the basis of spatial relationships.

The site

The Heatherstone Grange site is situated to the north-west of Brangsgore village, and enclosed an area of 10.5ha, within a former Royal Air Force (RAF Sopley) facility. Site topography comprises gradually-sloping, south-facing terrain, at an elevation of 15–30m AOD, situated on a first river-terrace above the River Avon floodplain. Underlying solid geology comprises Valley Gravels, Plateau Gravels, and a

thin band of Bracklesham Beds, of Palaeogene date (BGS 2015).

The full report, including specialist reports and data (CA 2017), can be found on the Cotswold Archaeology website: <http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/>. The archive will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust (Accession Number A2014.56).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Earlier prehistoric periods (c. 400,000 BC – c. 4,500 BC)

Palaeolithic findspots in Hampshire are associated with the raised gravel terraces of the former Solent River Valley and its tributaries, including the Avon and Test (Wenban-Smith *et al.* 2014, 32–33). During the Mesolithic period, the coastal plain was incised by deep, south-flowing river valleys, including that of the neighbouring Avon. Such estuaries ran far inland, and flint scatters marking former tidal shorelines suggest substantial activity at this time (Hey 2014, 73). Both early and later Mesolithic activity was concentrated within resource-rich river valley corridors, including the Avon floodplain and its margins.

Neolithic and Bronze Age (c. 4500 BC – c. 700 BC)

Recorded Neolithic finds made *c.* 700m to the east of the site include a flaked flint axe and a polished stone axe, although lithic evidence of Neolithic date is more widely distributed across higher ground overlooking the Avon valley.

The Heatherstone Grange site is situated within a wider Early Bronze Age funerary landscape, comprising a number of discrete barrow groups located within the New Forest and around its western margins (c.f. Bradley & Fraser 2010). Two former earthwork barrows within the site were originally depicted on first-edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, and were recorded by two ring ditches during this excavation.

Surviving barrows are respectively located 2.5km to the north-east and 120m to the south-west of Heatherstone Grange, and are similarly

depicted on historic maps. To the south of the site, a large ring ditch, of probable Early Bronze Age date, was identified as a cropmark, and a further recorded barrow, possibly levelled in World War Two, is also evident as a cropmark. Current online imagery has revealed several other unrecorded examples within the same field, and other barrow ring ditches are evident as cropmarks to the south and west, including a previously unrecorded linear group.

An aerial photograph, of *c.*1947, displays cropmark evidence of a north-west/south-east aligned, rectilinear enclosure of presumed later prehistoric date, located between the former Merryfield Copse and Derritt Lane.

Iron Age/Roman

With the possible exception of a single sherd from a late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Class II jar, from Area H, no evidence of Iron Age or Roman activity has been recorded within the site or its immediate surroundings.

Early and later medieval

An early medieval battlefield is marked to the east of the site, on 1st Edition OS maps, although no finds of early or later medieval date have been recorded. Shirley, a medieval settlement, is located north of Heatherstone Grange, and was first documented in the reign of King John (1199–1216) as ‘*Schirle*’, i.e. a clearing or wood where shire moots were held. Medieval Ridge and Furrow earthworks, to the north-west of this site, are visible on aerial photographs.

Post-Medieval and modern

A trackway, former quarry and a rectilinear earthwork enclosure, of suggested post-medieval date, are located to the south-west of the site.

RAF Sopley Radar Station was opened in December, 1940, and surviving remains include partly-buried operations rooms to the west, at Harpway Lane. Following the end of the War, Sopley was upgraded in the light of Cold War requirements, before eventual decommissioning in 1974. Features associated

with former military buildings, assigned to Period 4, were recorded in all excavated areas, and were commonly found to have truncated prehistoric features.

RESULTS OF EXCAVATION

Excavation revealed elements of a Bronze Age funerary landscape, in the form of four ring ditches, with 32 associated cremation burials or cremation-related deposits, of which 20 were associated with urns or other pottery vessels and occasional sherds. Other, non-funerary features included ditches, pits and postholes. The seven individual excavation areas, A-H, (Fig. 1) targeted features identified in earlier evaluation. Of these, Areas B and D demonstrated no further archaeological interest following machine stripping, and were not investigated further.

Phasing

The assignment of features to periods was based on the dating of artefactual evidence and the radiocarbon dating of biological material. However, some features produced no dateable material, or were not sampled for dating purposes, but where possible were phased according to spatial relationships with, or similarity to, dateable deposits. Artefacts and features of the following periods were identified within the areas excavated:

- Period 1: Early Bronze Age (*c.* 2500–1600 BC)
- Period 2: Middle Bronze Age (*c.* 1600–1100 BC)
- Period 3: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (*c.* 1100–600 BC)
- Period 4: Modern (twentieth-century military features)
- Undated

Area A (Figs 2–4 & 5)

Period 1

Excavation Area A contained the remains of two Bronze Age round barrows (Barrows 1.1 and 1.2, Figs 2–3).

Barrow 1.1

Barrow 1.1 was partly exposed along the northern edge of Area A, and was represented by a heavily-truncated barrow ring ditch (10088 and 10098), and surviving gravel mound deposits, which were clearly visible in section. The southern course of the ring ditch had been removed by truncation, although a surviving element, 10088, on the western side, measured 1.57m in width and 0.13m in depth, with a single fill of mid-yellow/brown sandy silt, with no dateable material. Ditch 10098, on the eastern side, displayed a comparable profile and fill.

Barrow 1.2

Barrow 1.2 was located 6m to the south-west of Barrow 1.1, and comprised penannular ring ditch 1.2, investigated by 11 interventions, including 10225 (ring ditch section A-A, Fig. 3). The ring ditch enclosed a group of five features, including two principal pits, 10171 and 10176, which contained cremation burials (Table 1), and three secondary features, of which 10170 contained a cremation burial and 10173 and 10178 contained deposits of pyre debris (Fig. 2). A clear distinction was apparent throughout between cremation burials *per se*, and charcoal-rich deposits comprising only pyre debris. Cremation burials are specifically associated with deposits of cremated bone, often small in quantity and in association with pyre material, including charcoal and burnt flint. While the term ‘pyre debris’ has been broadly defined by McKinley (1997, 137) as the ‘post-cremation remains of all that was on or in the pyre’, the term is used here to specifically refer to those charcoal-rich deposits of pyre-derived material, both urned and urned and often including burnt flint and ashy material. These specifically contain no cremated bone component, and appear to represent cenotaphs, or the symbolic commemoration of individuals who may have been cremated and buried elsewhere. Of the total of 52 pit deposits of all types recorded across the site, only 18 (36%) included cremated bone, while the remainder largely comprised charcoal-rich pyre deposits, of which ten were associated with urns or fragmentary pottery vessels.

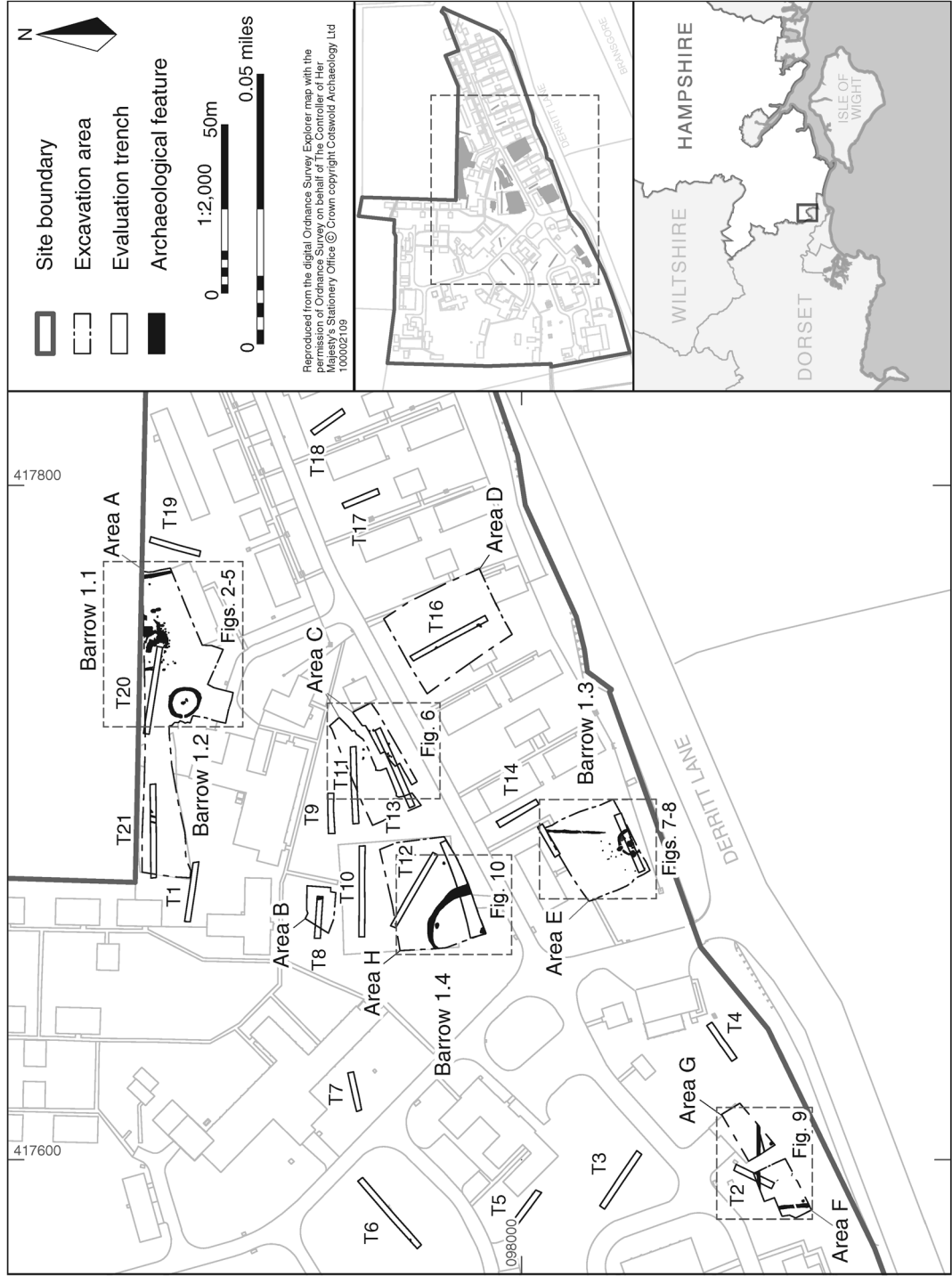
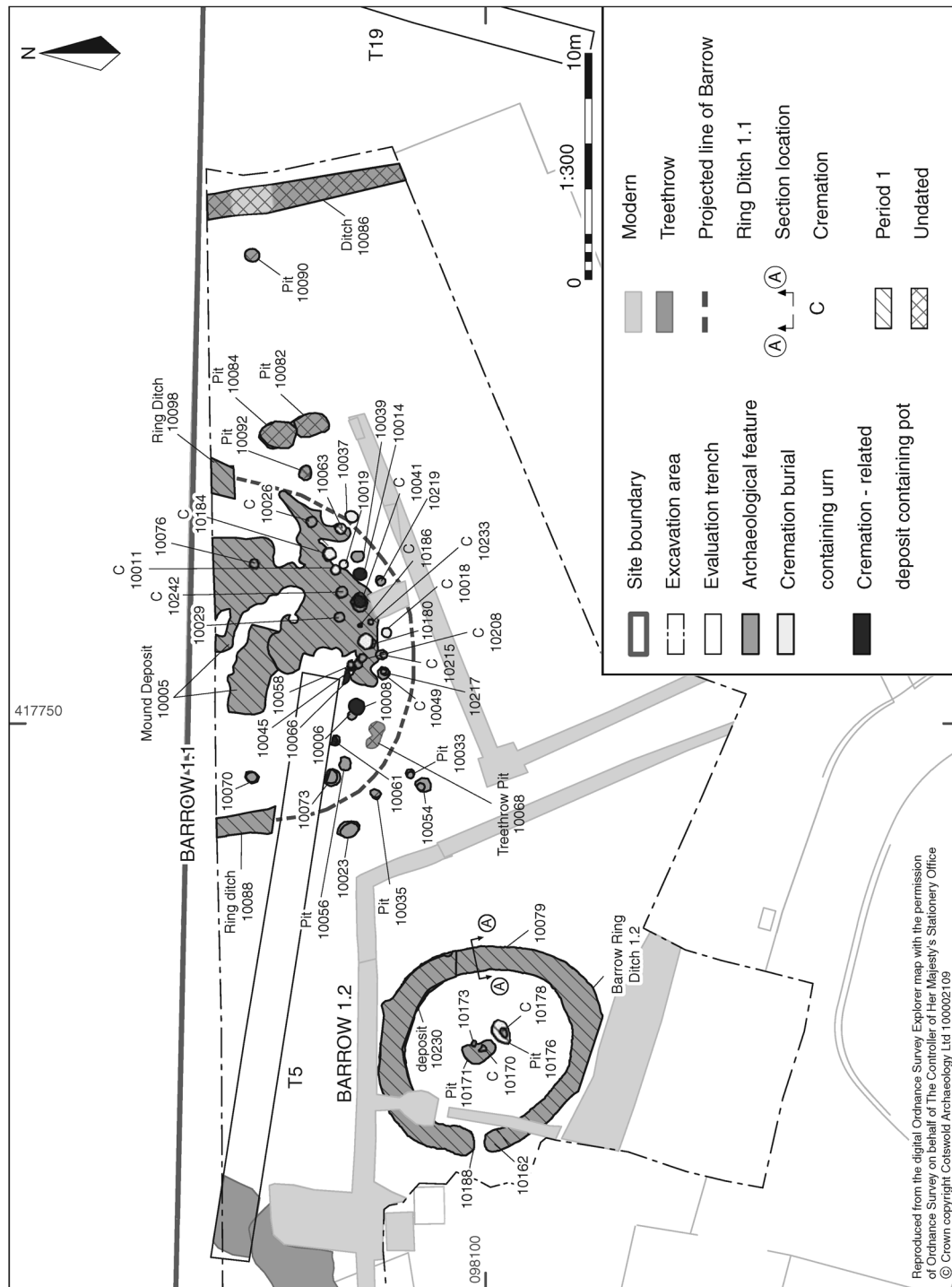


Fig. 1 Site plan: excavation Areas A –H (1:2000)



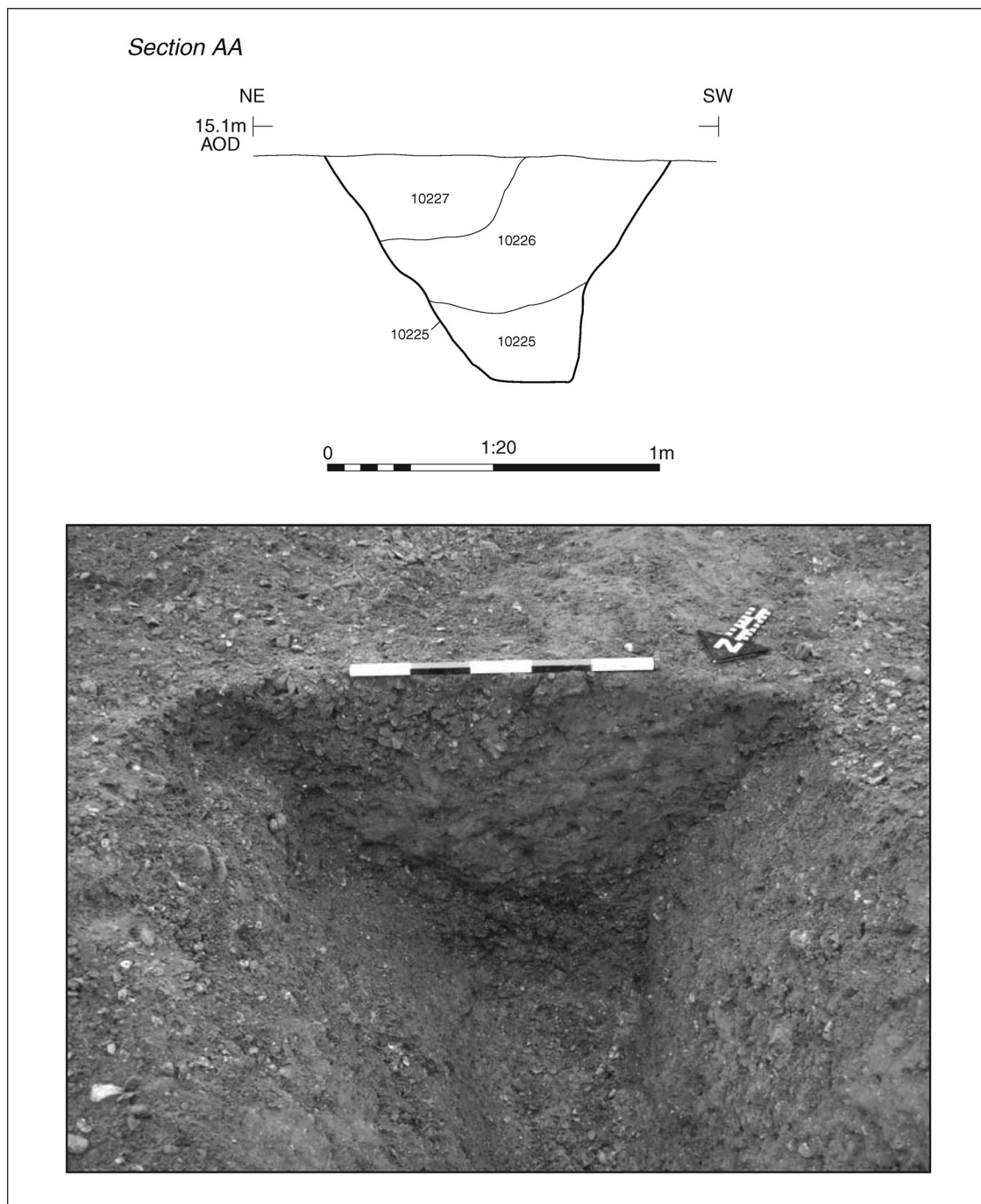


Fig. 3 Area A: section (1:20) and photograph of north-west facing section through barrow ring ditch 1.2, facing south-east (scale 0.5m)

The irregular, penannular ditch of Barrow 1.2 displayed an internal diameter of 7.5m, with two terminals (10162 and 10188) on the western side separated by a distance of 0.5m. A steeply-sloping ditch profile displayed a width of 1.09m and depth of 0.53m. Primary fills were derived from the erosion of the internal barrow mound, although surviving evidence of turf-lines suggested long-term stability. Fill 10230, of ditch intervention 10228, produced a possible beaker sherd of Early Bronze Age date (see Fig. 19.24 below), together with oak charcoal.

Pit 10171, measuring 1.3m in width and 0.18m in depth, contained an unurned cremation burial. Unurned cremation burial 10170, cut into the fill, 10172, of pit 10171, measured 0.29m in width and 0.06m in depth. The fill was of charcoal-rich, grey-brown silty sand. Immediately to the north-east, pit 10173, cut into the side of pit 10171, had a width of 0.25m and depth of 0.04m, and contained a shallow, charcoal-rich deposit of pyre debris, 10174.

Cremation grave 10176, located immediately to the south-west of 10171, measured 0.8m in width and 0.16m in depth, and may, in view of its central position, represent a primary burial. The cremation burial in pit 10176 was associated with a grog-tempered accessory cup of Early Bronze Age type (Ra.24015, Fig. 12.3). A later small pit, 10178, of 0.3m width and 0.07m depth, cut into the south side of the fill of pit 10176, contained a small deposit of cremated human bone, and the radiocarbon dating of this bone (context 10179) produced a date of 1736–1614 cal BC, at 95.4% probability (SUERC 73453). This date confirms the deposit in pit 10178 as intermediate between Periods 1 and 2 of the Heatherstone Grange sequence.

The features within Barrow 1.2 were therefore assigned to Period 1 on the basis of their stratigraphical relationship with a covering barrow mound, together with the presence of an Early Bronze Age pottery vessel in pit 10176 and the radiocarbon dating of cremated bone from pit 10178. The Barrow 1.2 pits are summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

Period 2

Barrow 1.1

Associated with Barrow 1.1 were forty pits of different sizes, some of which cut barrow mound deposit 10005 and the underlying natural, while others were located further to the south, beyond the truncated ring ditch. Of these, 12 contained cremation burials, of which two were unurned (Table 1), and 19 contained pyre-derived deposits, of which six were associated with urns or the remains of ceramic vessels. A further six pits, of varying dimensions, contained fills uncharacteristic of cremation-related activity, or did not relate spatially to Barrow 1.1 (Fig. 2).

It is evident that a significant proportion of these deposits were not intended to include cremated bone, (McKinley 1997; 2000), and a clear distinction is therefore made between these, and those in which cremated bone is present. As with cremation burials, pyre debris was present both as a sole deposit, and in association with urns or the remains of pottery vessels.

Barrow 1.1 contained ten urned cremation burials 10011, 10018, 10026, 10039, 10041, 10184, 10186, 10208 (Fig. 4), 10233 (Fig. 5) and 10242, together with two unurned cremation burials, 10049 and 10215. These were interspersed with 12 pits 10006, 10023, 10029, 10054, 10058, 10061, 10066, 10070 10073 10076, 10217 and 10219, which contained only deposits of pyre debris, and seven pits 10014, 10019, 10037, 10045, 10063, 10180 and 10008, which contained pyre debris within an urn, or associated with remains of pottery vessels (Fig. 3). These features and their fills are summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

A number of undated pits, including 10039, 10092, 10033, 10035 and 10056, were closely associated with the cremation-related features within Barrow 1.1, but contained fills which were notably uncharacteristic of cremation-related deposits. The fills of at least two of these pits were of an unusual, non-local character, including the chalky fill of pit 10056, within Barrow 1.1, which presumably originated in a neighbouring area of chalk downland. Such 'foreign soil' deposits may possibly commemorate personal

Table 1 AREA A: Summary of Period 1 and 2 features containing cremation burials (* = association with urn; Char = charcoal; CPR= charred plant remains)

Feature Number	Urned	Registered Artefact Number	Weight of Cremated Bone (g)	Diameter of Feature (m)	Depth of Feature (m)	Fill Inclusions	Period or Radiocarbon Date
<i>Barrow 1.1</i>							
10011	*	RA 24001	110.6	0.64	0.26	Char + CPR	1391-1128 cal BC
10018	*	RA 24003	175.5	0.54	0.42	CPR	1424-1266 cal BC
10026	*	RA 24005	>0.1	0.4	0.15	Char + CPR	2
10039	*	RA 24009	31.1	0.68	0.29	Char + CPR	2
10041	*	RA 24006	4.7	0.51	0.38	Char	2
10049			39.3	0.41	0.4	Char + CPR	2
10184	*	RA 24016	232.9	0.49	0.15	Char	2
10186	*	RA 24017	8.6	0.25	0.26	Char	2
10208	*	RA 24018	71.9	0.47	0.4	Char + CPR	1517-1304 cal BC
10215			255.1	0.32	0.1	Char	
10233	*	RA 24019	168.2	0.43	0.23	Char + CPR	2
10242	*	RA 24020	32.1	0.63	0.38	Char + CPR	1429-1272 cal BC
<i>Barrow 1.2</i>							
10170			23.7	0.49	0.06	Char	
10171			19.0	1.3	0.18	Char	
10176	(accessory)	RA24015	120.3	0.3	0.25	Char	1736-1614 cal BC

Table 2 AREA A: Summary of Period 1 and 2 pits containing deposits of pyre debris with no cremated bone present (* = association with urn; Char = charcoal; CPR = charred plant remains)

Pit No.	Urned	Registered Artefact Number	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Fill Inclusions	Period or C14 Date	Associated Artefacts
<i>Barrow 1.1</i>							
10006			0.36	0.14	Char	2	
10008			0.77	0.38	Char	2	
10014	*	RA 24002	0.35	0.15	CPR + Char	1402-1227cal BC	
10019	*	RA 24004	0.43	0.3	Char	1399-1224cal BC	glass bead
10023			0.94	0.17	Char	2	
10029			0.3	0.19	Char	2	burnt flint
10037	*	RA 24007	0.55	0.31	Char + CPR	1407-1228cal BC	
10045		RA 24008	0.58	0.39	Char + CPR	1420-1268cal BC	
10054			0.6	0.21	Char	2	
10058			0.5	0.12	Char	2	
10061	*		0.26	0.10	Char	2	
10063		RA 24010	0.48	0.12	Char	2	flint flake
10066			0.56	0.16	Char	2	
10070	*		0.36	0.28	Char + 'foreign' soil	2	
10180		RA 24014	0.7	0.34	Char + CPR	2	
10217			0.3	0.18	Char + CPR	2	
<i>Barrow 1.2</i>							
10173			0.3	0.4	Char + CPR	1	
10178			0.3	0.07	Char	1	



Fig. 4 Area A: cremation urn 24018 (pit 10208), under excavation, looking north-west (scale 0.3m)

or group origins, and may thus be analogous to the socio-cultural links to the Stour Valley and Cranborne Chase represented by elements of the urn assemblage.

Eight cremated bone and pyre debris deposits within Barrow 1.1 were radiocarbon dated, and these results are summarised in Table 5. The obtained dates ranged from 1517–1304 cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC 69246) for cremated bone from pit 10208, to 1391–1128 cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC 74460) for cremated bone from pit 10011. The other six dates obtained for this group, were very closely clustered, and exemplified by a date of 1399–1224 cal BC, at 95.4% probability (SUERC 74461), from charcoal from pit 10019. This suggests a relatively intense pattern of deposition centred on the 14–13th century BC.

Area A: other undated features

Three-throw feature 10068 was located within Barrow 1.1, and measured 1.22m in diameter

and 0.18m in depth, with a fill of grey/brown sandy clay. Located just to the east of Barrow 1.1, intercutting pits 10082 and 10084 averaged 1.6m in length, 1.1m in width and, 0.25m in depth, and contained similar fills of grey/brown silty sand, with no dateable material. Nearby pit 10092 contained a similar fill, and measured 0.65m in diameter and 0.18m in depth.

At the eastern limits of Area A, a 9m excavated length of north/south-aligned ditch, 10086, measured 1.07m in width and 0.29m in depth, and may represent a land boundary. It displayed convex sides and a concave base, with a fill of grey/brown sandy silt.

Area C (Fig. 6)

Area C comprised two adjoining components, which targeted the group of possible cremation-related pits, 1303, 1306 and 1309, identified by the evaluation.



Fig. 5 Area A: cremation urn 24019 (pit 10233), under excavation, looking north-east (scale 0.3m)

Period 1

Of three cremation burials, one, 10094, was associated with the remains of an Early Bronze Age collared urn (RA 24011, Fig. 12.2). Cremated bone from 10094 produced a radiocarbon date of 2009–1767 cal BC, at 95.4% probability (SUERC 69245), confirming a Period 1 date (Table 3). A further four pits contained pyre-derived material (Table 4), one of which (pit 10138) was associated with the partial base of a pottery vessel made from a unique, ferruginous fine sandstone-gritted fabric (RA 24013, Fig. 12.4). While actually undated, it is possible to suggest that these features (described next) also belong to Period 1 by proximity to the collared urn pit.

Undated features

Three pits, first identified within evaluation trench 13 (Figs 2 & 4), appeared to contain probable cremation-related material (charcoal). Pit 1309 was 0.7m in diameter and

contained a single, mid-brown sandy clay fill (1310). Pit 1306 was 0.7m in diameter, and of circular plan with shallow sides, and retained a primary fill and a charcoal-rich upper fill. Sub-circular pit 1303 was 0.4m in diameter, with gradually-sloping sides, and contained a shallow, charcoal-rich fill.

Two unurned cremation graves (10100 and 10108) were also identified within Area C (Table 3), together with four pits containing charcoal-rich, pyre-derived material (Table 4; 10114, 10116, 10131 and 10138). Unurned cremation grave 10108 measured 0.73m in diameter, and 0.38m in depth. A primary fill of mid-brown silty sand, produced charred plant material and oak charcoal. A secondary fill of charcoal-rich, grey-brown sandy silt may represent a secondary deposit of pyre material. Cremation grave 10100 was distinguished with a fine flint knife (see Fig. 11), recovered from its single fill of dark blackish-brown sandy silt. The four pits with pyre material averaged 0.65m

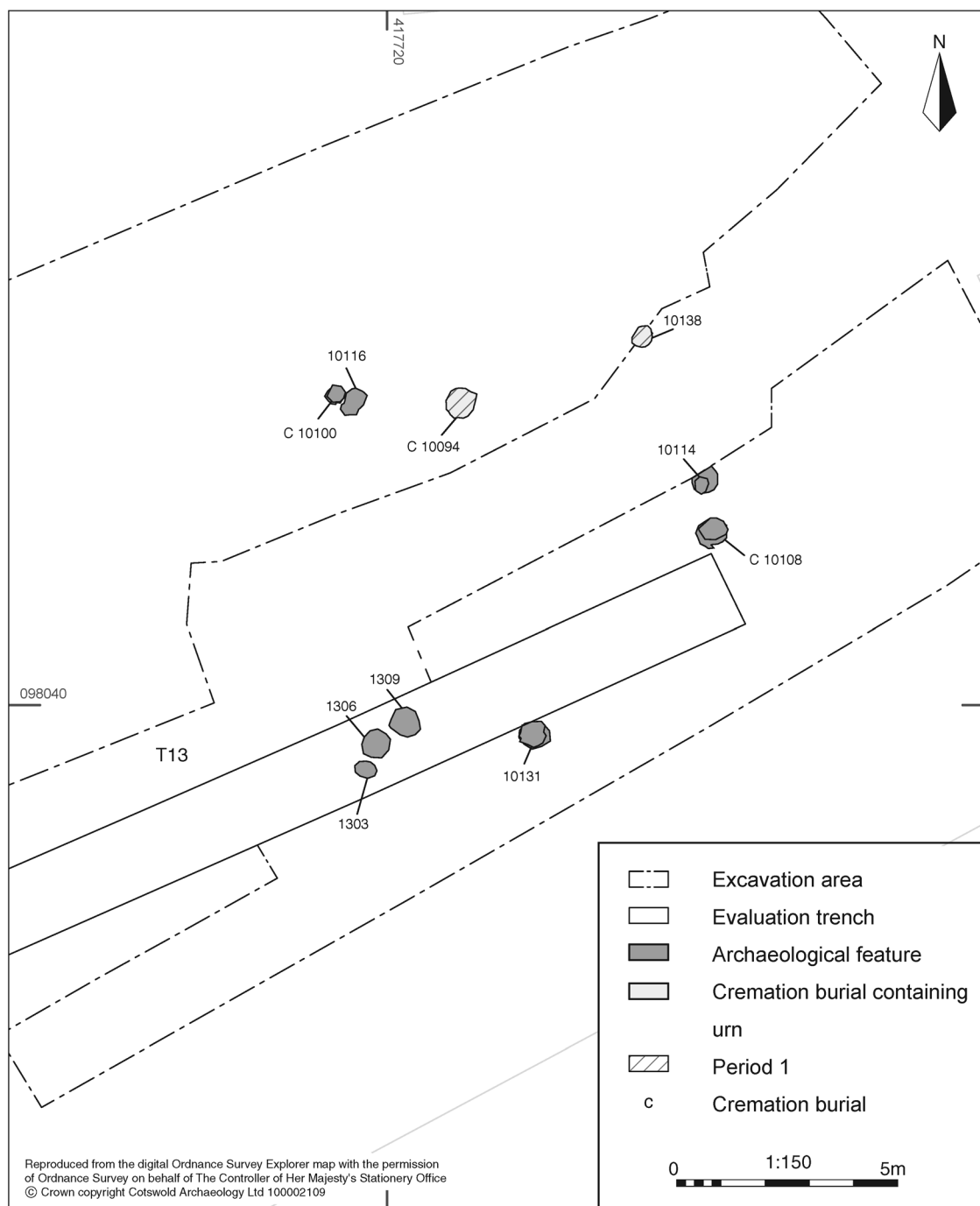


Fig. 6 Area C: plan of excavated features (1:150)

Table 3 AREA C: Summary of Period 1 features containing cremation burials

<i>Pit number</i>	<i>Urned</i>	<i>Registered Artefact Number</i>	<i>Weight of Cremated Bone (g)</i>	<i>Diameter of Feature (m)</i>	<i>Depth of Feature (m)</i>	<i>Fill Inclusions</i>	<i>Period or C14 date</i>	<i>Associated Artefacts</i>
10094	*	Ra. 24011	417.4	0.56	0.15	Char + CPR	1976-1767 cal BC	
10100		Ra. 24012	791.3	0.42	0.18	Char + CPR	1 (by proximity)	flint knife
10108			3.5	0.73	0.38	Char + CPR	1 (by proximity)	

Table 4 Summary of features in Areas C, F and H containing only pyre debris deposits (Char = Charcoal; CPR= Charred Plant Remains)

<i>Feature Number</i>	<i>Pottery Catalogue Number</i>	<i>Pit Diameter (m)</i>	<i>Depth of Pit (m)</i>	<i>Fill Inclusions</i>	<i>Period or C14 Date</i>	<i>Associated Artefacts</i>	<i>Associated Features</i>
AREA C							
10014		0.67	0.16	Char	1 (by proximity)		
10016		0.67	0.13	Char + CPR	1 (by proximity)		
10131		0.4	0.25	Char	1 (by proximity)		
10138	No. 4		0.15	Char	1 (by proximity)	flint flake	
1303		0.4	0.12	Char	1 (by proximity)		
1306		0.7	0.15	Char	1 (by proximity)		
1309		0.7	0.11	Sub-ang'r. stones	1 (by proximity)		
AREA H							
10327		1.9	0.16	Char	1 (at centre of ring ditch 1.4)	burnt and worked flint	Barrow 1.4

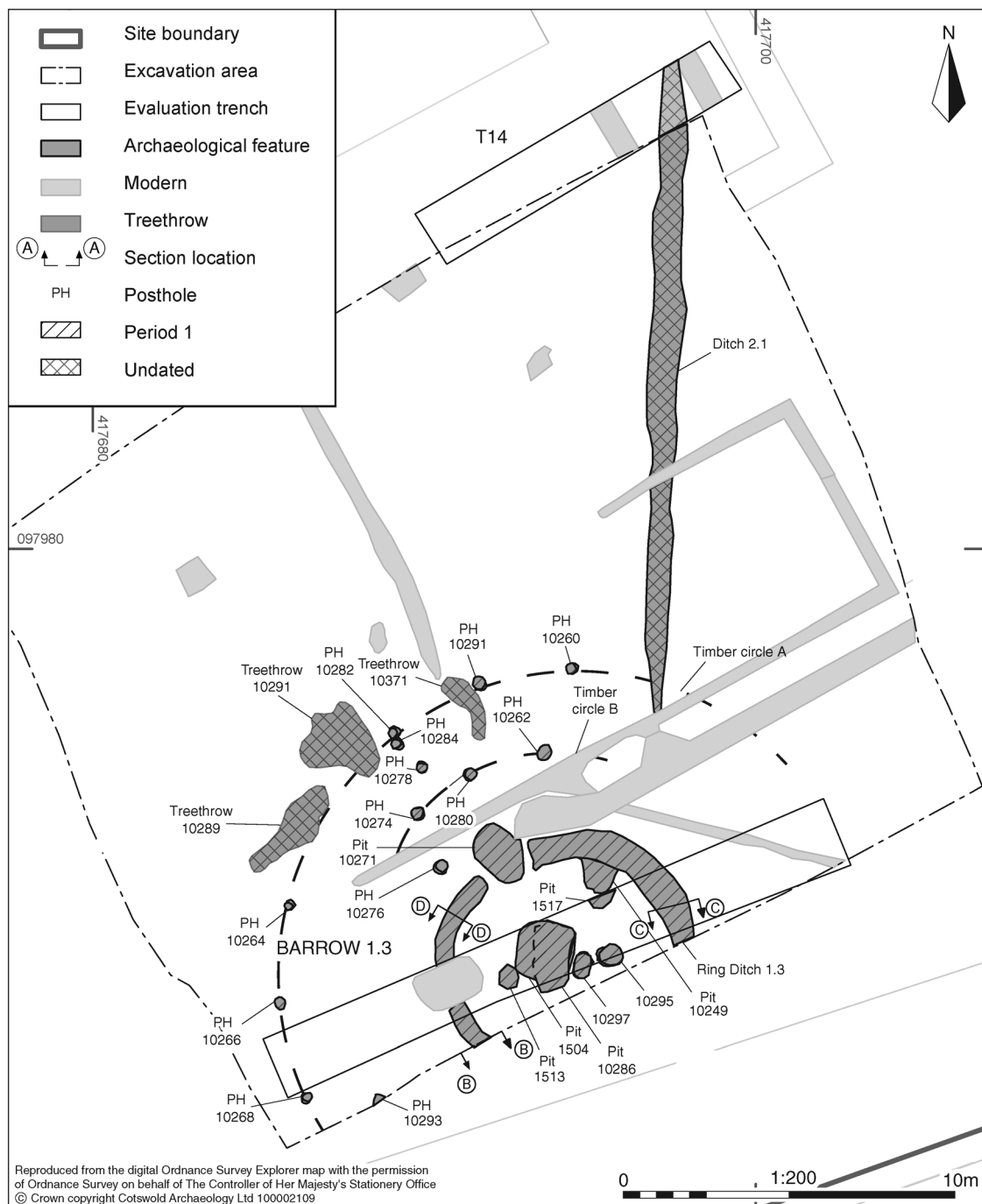


Fig. 7 Area E: plan of excavated features (1:200)

in diameter and contained charcoal-rich fills of grey/brown sandy silt.

All of the features within this Area were located within 12m of each other, and it is possible to suggest that the undated features represent additional Period 1 funerary activity. Pyre debris deposits recorded within Area C, which may be cremation-related, are summarised in Table 4.

Area E (Figs 7 & 8)

Area E was targeted on ring ditch 1.3, and included evidence for two concentric post-built circles (Timber Circles A and B, Fig. 7). Six larger pits were enclosed by Barrow 1.3 ring ditch, and Area E also included a length of ditch.

Period 1

The penannular barrow ditch was only partially revealed by excavation, and displayed an internal diameter of c.6.5m (Fig. 7). The ditch averaged 0.75m in width and 0.28m in depth, with a moderately-sloping, concave profile (Fig. 8). The ditch terminals were positioned 1.2m apart, on the north-west side, and weathering fills comprised undifferentiated grey/brown clay-sands, with sparse gravel inclusions.

Ring ditch 1.3 enclosed five features, of which one (evaluation pit 1504/excavation pit 10286) contained 74 fragments of a comb-decorated beaker vessel (RA 2301, Fig. 12.1), but no trace of any accompanying inhumation burial. This feature measured 2m in length, 1.04m in width and 0.12m in depth, with a single fill of red/brown silty sand and occasional streaks of charred material. Any other grave goods present may have been removed by truncation.

Similarly, the remains of any burials associated with other internal pits, including 10249, 10286, 10295 and 10297, if originally present, had been removed by truncation, or unfavourable soil conditions. Pit 10249 was partly cut on its east side by the barrow ring ditch, and was therefore an earlier feature, although its primary and secondary fills of brown, sandy silt produced no dating evidence. Sub-circular pits 10295 and 10297 respectively measured 0.6m and 0.82m in diameter, and 0.18m and 0.29m in depth, with

fills of grey/brown silty sand with charcoal, and also contained no dateable finds.

Sub-rectangular pit 10271 was located between the two terminals of ring ditch 1.3, and displayed a length of 2.1m, width of 1.2m and depth of 0.48m. Its primary and secondary fills, of dark-brown sandy silts, contained no dateable material. The intentionally precise location of pit 10271 may represent the deliberate placing of a significant, but not surviving, burial within the barrow 'entrance', thus achieving symbolic 'closure' of the monument.

Barrow 1.3 Timber Circles

Six post settings described a precisely circular, but incomplete, arc at a constant distance of c. 4.6m from ring ditch 1.3 (timber circle A, Fig. 7). These were set at regular intervals of 3m, although some interpolated positions had been obscured or truncated by later features. A further four post settings appear to comprise part of a similarly precise, concentric arrangement (Timber Circle B, Fig. 7), c. 2.5m from ring ditch 1.3. Three other postholes, 10276, 10278 and 10284, of closely comparable size and fill, did not conform to any circular configuration, and may represent another, contemporary arrangement of post settings, possibly relating to the barrow 'entrance'. The existence of one, and possibly two, timber circles around this barrow, suggests that particular status may have been associated with the possible beaker inhumation burial in pit 1504/10286.

Individual post settings were uniform in terms of size and plan, with average diameters of 0.3m, and surviving depths of between 0.09m and 0.23m. All contained single fills of grey/brown sandy silt, without charcoal or dateable material. Despite this lack of dating evidence, timber circles are widely recognised elsewhere as primary features of both henge and barrow monuments (Gibson 2004, 75). The disturbed character of some posthole sides and fills suggested the deliberate removal of posts at some stage, rather than their decay *in situ*.

Pit 10293, on the southern margins of Area E, contained dark, ashy material, with no dateable finds. It measured 0.74m in length, with a minimum width of 0.2m and a depth of 0.31m. No charred plant remains were

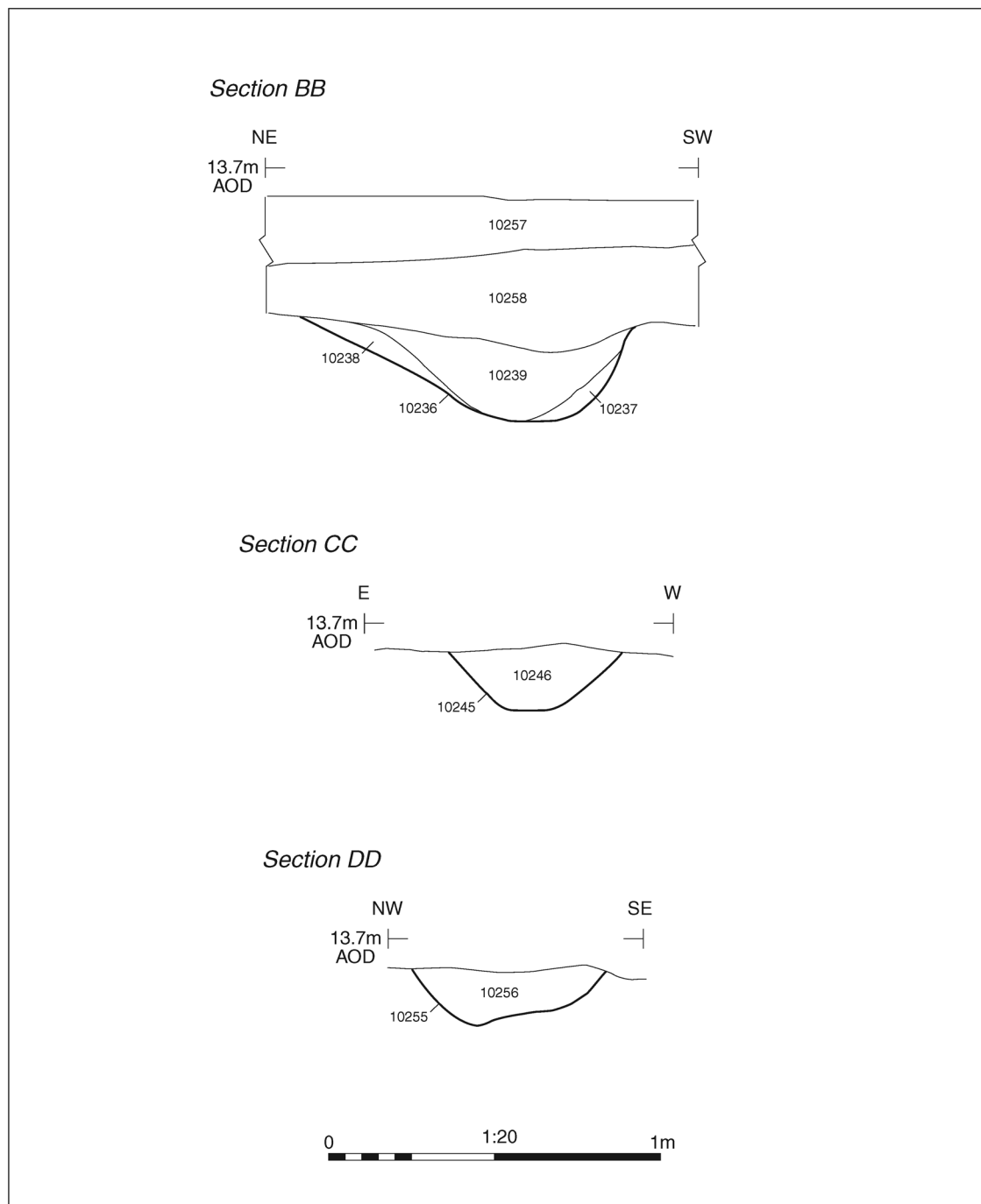


Fig. 8 Area E: sections BB, CC and DD of barrow ring ditch 1.3 (1:20)

identified from fill 10294 (sample 25109) of this feature, although the presence of oak charcoal suggested a pyre-related deposit.

Undated

As excavated, north/south-aligned ditch 2.1 extended 18m from the northern corner of Area E. It displayed an average width of 1.1m and depth of 0.2m, with moderately-sloping sides and level base. The fills comprised dark-brown to black silty loams, with no dateable material.

Area F (Fig. 9)

Area F was located towards the south-western corner of the site, and contained two lengths of ditch, two pairs of postholes, and two pits containing charcoal-rich deposits of domestic character.

Period 2 domestic deposits

Pit 10128 was only partly exposed along the southern edge of Area F, and measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.29m in depth, with a charcoal-rich, silty clay fill associated with an undecorated bodysherd from an undiagnostic vessel (Table 10, cat. no. 34) and an undecorated body sherd from either a barrel or bucket vessel (Table 10, cat. no. 35). The nature of the charred plant remains and the minimal representation of pottery vessels strongly suggest that this fill is of domestic, rather than funerary, origin.

Pit 10134, near the south-western corner of Area F, was oval in plan, measured 0.93m in diameter and 0.36 in depth, and had a dark, charcoal-rich lower fill (10135) which included burnt flint and several sherds from a flint-tempered barrel jar bearing with a plain body cordon (Fig. 19.25). Oak and alder/hazel charcoal from this fill produced a radiocarbon date of 1407–1213 cal BC, at 95.4% probability (SUERC 69248), associated with charred cereal grains, crop processing waste and weed seeds. An upper fill (10136) produced decorated sherds from two different bucket or barrel vessels (Fig. 19.26 & 27) from its mid-brown, sandy silt, with charcoal and burnt flint. This evidence confirmed pit 10134 as a domestic feature.

Undated

North/south-aligned ditch 10102 ran for 9m across the western end of Area F, and measured 1.02m in width and 0.38m in depth (Fig. 11). On the northern margins of Area F, ditch 10111 ran on an east-west alignment, and measured 1.07m in width and 0.43m in depth, with a comparable profile to that of ditch 10102. No artefacts were recorded in the dark-brown, loamy fills of either ditch. Collectively, these ditches, along with ditch 10153 in adjacent Area G, conform closely in plan to a rectilinear cropmark enclosure on an aerial photograph of 1947.

Posthole 10119 was located *c.* 0.3m to the south-east of posthole 10121, towards the centre of Area F. These shallow features respectively measured 0.48m and 0.26m in diameter, and contained no dateable material. On the southern edge of Area F, postholes 10123 and 10126 were separated by a distance of 0.3m. Averaging 0.3m in diameter, these contained grey/brown silty fills, with no dateable material. The date and function of such simple post-built structures remains obscure.

Area G (Fig. 9)

Undated

East/west-aligned ditch 10153 displayed a concave profile comparable with that of ditches 10102 and 10111 in adjoining Area F, and its alignment indicated a probable eastward continuation of ditch 10111. This feature measured 1.1m in width and 0.52m in depth, with a grey/brown sandy silt fill, 10157, containing oak and probable birch with charred cereal grains. It is tempting to suggest that ditches 10102, 10111 and 10153 form two sides of an enclosure around the pit and posthole features in Area F described above.

Gully 10158 ran on a south-west/north-east alignment for 5m, from the south-west edge of Area G, and was cut by ditch 10153. It measured 0.46m in width and 0.14m in depth, and its pale, yellow-brown sandy fill contained no dateable material.

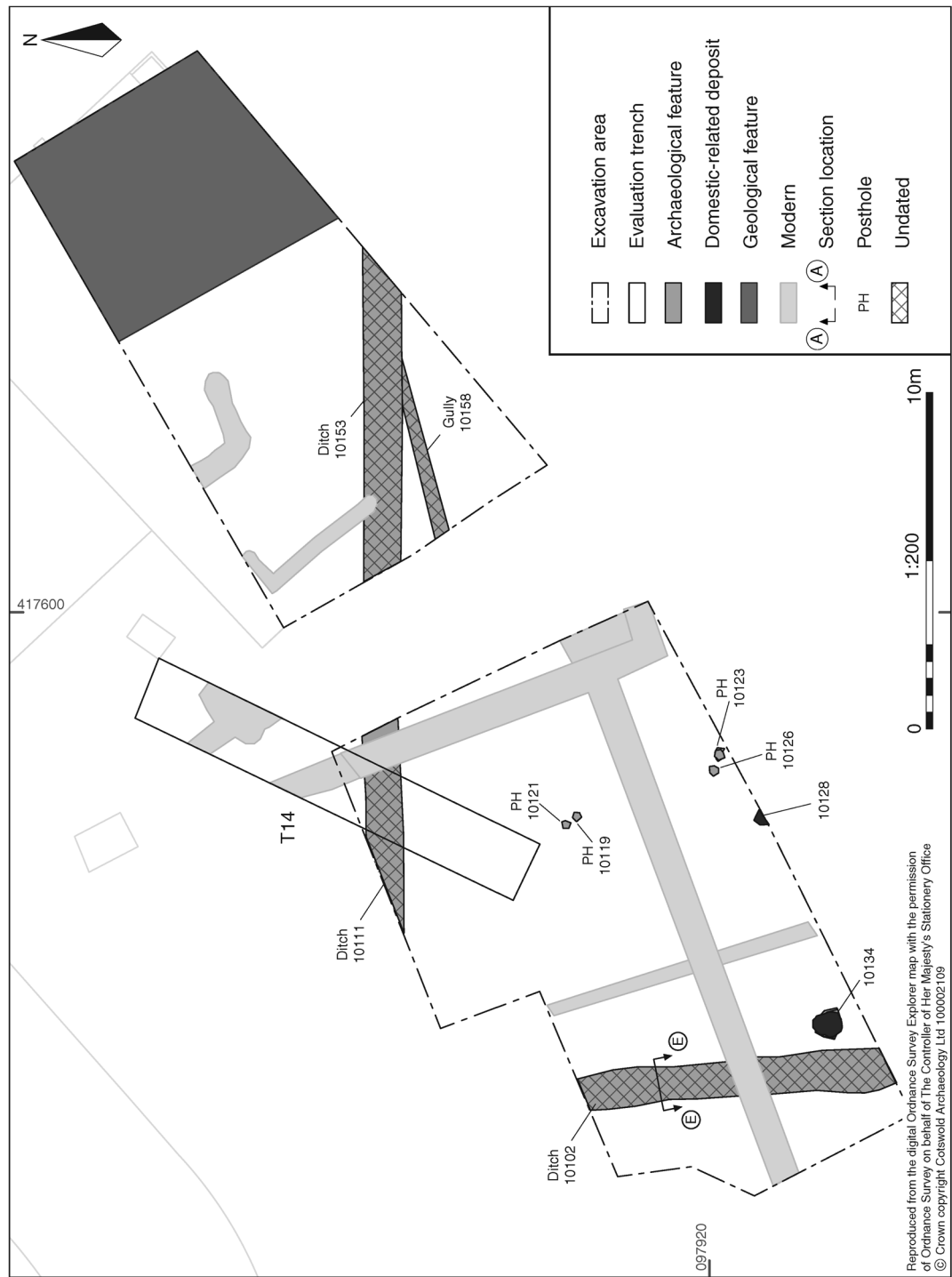


Fig. 9 Areas F and G: plan of excavated features (1:200)

Area H (Fig. 10)

The site of a round barrow identified by historic mapping within Area H was confirmed by a large ring ditch (Barrow 1.4) identified by excavation, together with three pits.

Period 1

While only a third of Barrow 1.4 was exposed (Fig. 10), its recut, sub-circular ditch displayed an extrapolated internal diameter of *c.* 20m, with an average width of 1.75m and 0.99m in depth. Ditch profiles were irregular, with generally steep, convex sides and a flat base. While no dating evidence was recovered from the yellow-brown silty sand fills of ring ditch 1.4, this barrow was assigned to Period 1 on the basis of the confirmed dates or associations of other barrow ring ditches within the Heatherstone Grange group.

Period 3

Oval pit 10338, located just within ring ditch 1.4, displayed a diameter of 0.59m, and depth of 0.72m, with a steep U-profile and a flat base. A secondary fill, of yellow-brown silty sand, was associated with a single sherd of a late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Class II jar (No. 36, not illustrated). This suggests a later phase of domestic activity, which is supported by the character of charred plant remains recovered from this fill (Table 4). The location of pit 10338, just within ring ditch 1.4, would not preclude this.

Undated

Shallow, sub-circular feature 10327 was partly exposed on the south-western margins of Area H. It displayed a diameter of 1.9m and depth of 0.16m, and was cut into a red-brown silty sand deposit, 10326, which was thought to comprise the surviving remains of the barrow mound. The charcoal-rich sequence of three silty clay fills, together with the range and quantity of plant remains, suggested a domestic deposit, of broad Bronze Age date. However, seventeen worked flints were retrieved from this pit, including items of possible Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date. While assumed to be residual, their condition suggested that they had not moved far from

the location of their original deposition, and some allowance could be made for a Neolithic date for feature 10327.

Charcoal from feature 10327 was identified as oak with hawthorn, and charred plant remains from both fills included cereal grains, hazelnut shell, hawthorn stones, and clover seeds.

Pit 10318 was located 8m to the north-east of ring ditch 1.4, and measured 0.6m in diameter and 0.14m in depth, with no dating evidence. A lower fill, of dark, silty loam, was rich in oak charcoal, and included hazelnut shell fragments.

RADIOCARBON DATING by Sarah Cobain

Radiocarbon dating was undertaken in order to confirm the dates of cremation urns 24001, 24002, 24003, 24004, 24007, 24008, 24011, 24018 and 24020 and pits 10134 and 10176. The samples were analysed during October 2016, June 2017 and August 2017 at Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow, G75 0QF, Scotland.

The uncalibrated dates are conventional radiocarbon ages. The radiocarbon ages were calibrated using the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration programme OxCal 4.2.4 (2013) (Bronk Ramsey 2009) using the IntCal13 curve (Reimer *et al.* 2013) (Table 1).

The results of radiocarbon dating are summarised in Table 5.

THE FINDS

Lithics by Jacky Sommerville

Introduction and methodology

A total of 69 worked lithics (346g), and 3347 pieces of burnt, unworked flint (19kg) was recovered. The lithics were recorded according to broad debitage/artefact type. A reduced level of recording was carried out, due to the small size of the assemblage. The attributes recorded included: raw material; weight; degree of edge-damage (microflaking) and rolling (abrasion);

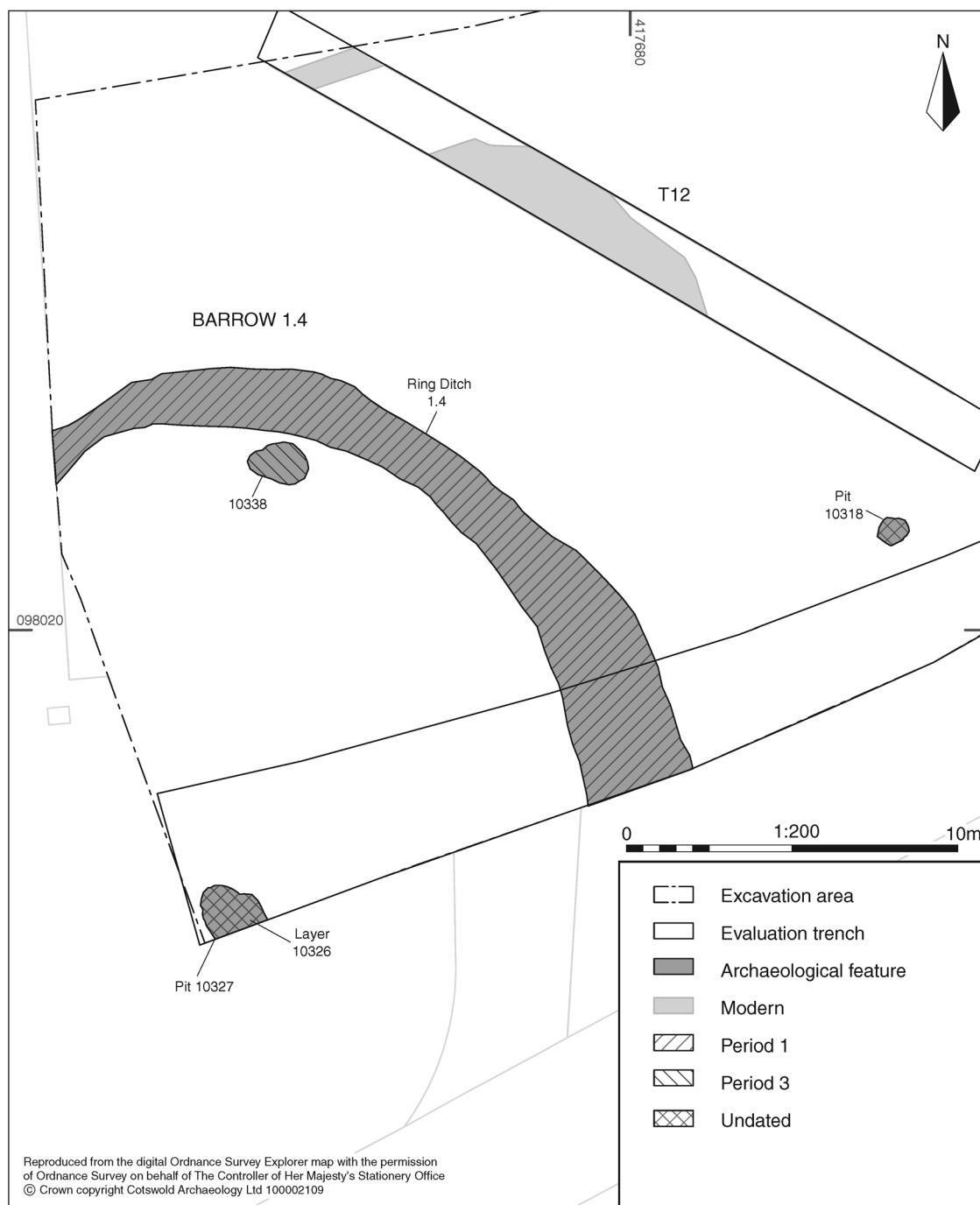


Fig. 10 Area H: plan of excavated features (1:200)

Table 5 Radiocarbon dating results (continued overleaf)

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Lab No.</i>	<i>Material</i>	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	<i>Radiocarbon age</i>	<i>Calibrated radiocarbon age</i> 95.4% probability	<i>Calibrated radiocarbon age</i> 68.2% probability
Context 10352	SUERC-69247	Cremated human bone	-25.0‰ assumed	3014 ± 34 yr BP	1391–1337 cal BC (16.2%)	1374–1357 cal BC (7.5%)
Urn RA 24001		Unidentifiable long bone fragments			1322–1156 cal BC (75.0%)	1301–1210 cal BC (60.7%)
Pit 10011					1147–1128 cal BC (4.2%)	
Context 10016	SUERC-74460	Charcoal – <i>Quercus</i> (oak twig - 3 rings only)	-26.8‰	3051 ± 29 yr BP	1402–1227 cal BC (95.4%)	1385–1340 cal BC (32.0%)
Urn RA 24002						1316–1264 cal BC (36.2%)
Pit 10014						
Context 10343	SUERC-73458	Cremated human bone	-23.1‰	3086 ± 32 yr BP	1424–1266 cal BC (95.4%)	1408–1374 cal BC (25.3%)
Urn RA 24003		Unidentifiable long bone fragment				1357–1301 cal BC (42.9%)
Pit 10018						
Context 10346	SUERC-74461	Charcoal – <i>Quercus</i> (oak twig - 2 rings only)	-25.0‰	3048 ± 29 yr BP	1399–1224 cal BC (95.4%)	1385–1340 cal BC (30.8%)
Urn RA 24004						1316–1262 cal BC (37.4%)
Pit 10019						
Context 10353	SUERC-73459	Charcoal – <i>Betula</i> (birch)	-27.0‰	3054 ± 32 yr BP	1407–1228 cal BC (95.4%)	1386–1340 cal BC (32.7%)
Urn RA 24007						1317–1266 cal BC (35.5%)
Pit 10037						

Table 5 Radiocarbon dating results (continued from overleaf)

Context 10355 Urn RA 24008 Pit 10045	SUERC-74462	Charcoal – <i>Quercus</i> (oak twig - 3 rings only)	-26.8‰	3084 ± 29 yr BP	1420–1268 cal BC (95.4%)	1406–1374 cal BC (24.5%) 1356–1301 cal BC (43.7%)
Context 10342 Urn RA 24011 Pit 10094	SUERC-69245	Cremated human bone – Unidentifiable long bone fragments	-22.8‰	3546 ± 34 yr BP	2009–2002 cal BC (0.8%) 1976–1767 cal BC (94.6%)	1942–1876 cal BC (49.7%) 1841–1821 cal BC (11.0%) 1796–1782 cal BC (7.5%)
Context 10364 Urn RA 24018 Pit 10208	SUERC-69246	Cremated human bone – Unidentifiable long bone fragments	-21.3‰	3162 ± 41 yr BP	1517–1375 cal BC (86.6%) 1346–1304 cal BC (8.8%)	1497–1472 cal BC (18.7%) 1464–1409 cal BC (49.5%)
Context 10345 Urn RA 24020 Pit 10242	SUERC-73454	Cremated human bone – Unidentifiable long bone fragments	-17.9‰	3091 ± 32 yr BP	1429–1272 cal BC (95.4%)	1411–1374 cal BC (28.0%) 1354–1302 cal BC (40.2%)
Context 10135 Pit 10134	SUERC-69248	Charcoal – <i>Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana</i> (alder/hazel)	-23.9‰	3042 ± 34 yr BP	1407–1213 cal BC (95.4%)	1385–1340 cal BC (26.7%) 1310–1258 cal BC (34.4%) 1247–1233 cal BC (7.1%)
Context 10179 Pit 10176	SUERC-73453	Cremated human bone – Unidentifiable long bone fragments	-24.0‰	3387 ± 32 yr BP	1736–1614 cal BC (95.4%)	1736–1716 cal BC (17.2%) 1695–1640 cal BC (51.0%)

Table 6 Breakdown of the lithic assemblage

	<i>All</i>	<i>Period 1 (Early Bronze Age) deposits</i>	<i>Period 2 (Middle Bronze Age) deposits</i>
Burnt unworked	3347	10	2001
<i>Primary technology</i>			
Blade	6	6	
Chip	8		5
Core	5	3	2
Flake	43	13	15
Shatter	3		3
<i>Secondary technology</i>			
Knife	1		1
Notched flake	1		1
Retouched flake	1		1
Rod	1		1
<i>Total</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>29</i>

colour; cortex description; the presence of breakage and burning; and for debitage, hammer mode (whether hard or soft-hammer struck), and evidence of the preparation of the striking platform.

Raw material and condition

The raw material consists entirely of flint. Cortex was present on 36 items: it was chalky on six (17%), and abraded on the remaining 83%. This indicates a reliance on secondary resources (such as beach or river gravels), with a lesser contribution from primary sources (chalk or clay-with-flints). The flints are mostly brown or grey in colour, with a small number of honey-coloured items, and several are burnt pink. Breakage is moderate at 30%, and eight items (12%) have been both worked and burnt.

Range and variety

Burnt flint

Just over a quarter (27%) of the burnt,

unworked flint (by weight) was recovered from cremation burials or cremation-related pits. The largest portion (63%) was retrieved from undated ditch 10153, in Area G (Fig. 9).

Primary technology

The assemblage breakdown is detailed in Table 6, in which are included 57 items of debitage. Too few flakes were present to enable their relative proportions to assist with dating. Features suggestive of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic dating were noted, i.e. the presence of six blades (11%) amongst the debitage, and evidence of preparation of the striking platform on one flake.

The assemblage includes five cores: two multi-platform, one single-platform, one dual-platform and one discoidal type, all of which had been used to produce flakes. Discoidal cores are most typical of the Later Neolithic period (Edmonds 1995, 82). Beyond the discoidal example, from Period 1 ring ditch 1.2 (Fig. 2), the other cores are not diagnostic types.

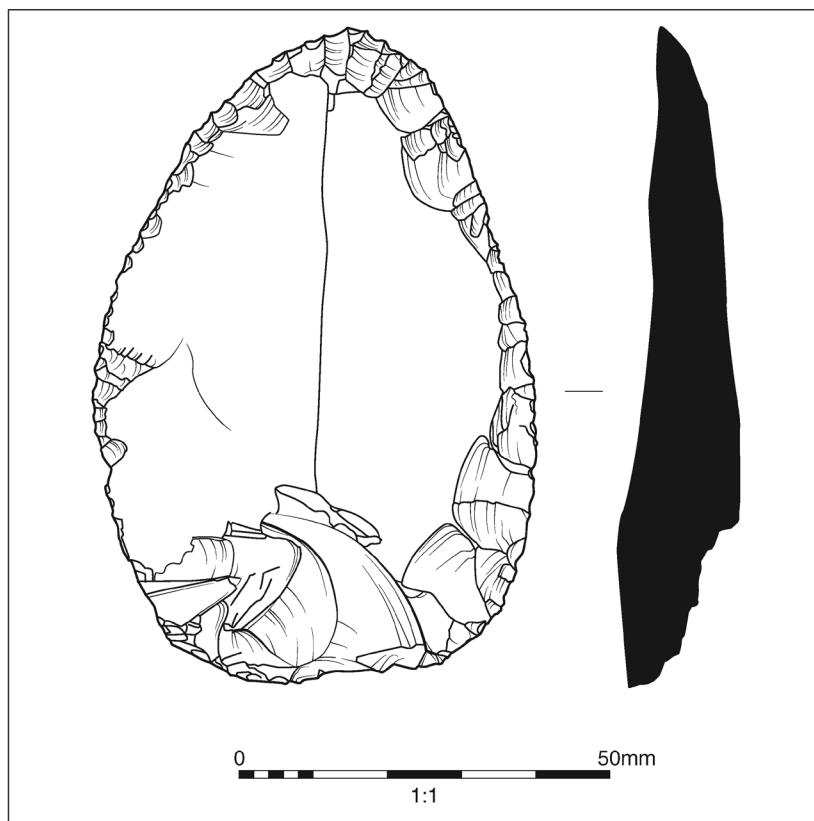


Fig. 11 Flint knife RA 24012, from cremation pit 10100 in Area C (1:1)

Discussion

Period 1 (Early Bronze Age) features

Seven Period 1 deposits produced 22 worked flints. Seventeen of these were retrieved from pit 10327 in Area H, of which only three (14%) were burnt. Included within this assemblage were five of the six blades recorded, together with the platform-prepared flake, all of which would be most typical of a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic assemblage. Many of the flints from these features were in a fresh, undamaged condition which suggests that, although residual, they had not moved far from the location of their original deposition.

Period 2 (Middle Bronze Age) features

The 29 flints from features of this date were recovered from cremation pits or urns

(although only 17% of these were burnt), except for the possible rod fragment from ditch 10102. The four retouched tools retrieved from the site were all from Period 2 deposits (Table 6). A broken tool from ditch 10102 may be a rod. It was made on a fragmentary flake blank, and had been steeply and quite regularly retouched along both dorsal lateral edges. Cremation 10100 produced a knife (Ra. 24012, Fig. 11), made on a large, tertiary flake. It features regular, semi-abrupt retouch along the distal and right dorsal edges. A series of removals at the proximal end of the dorsal face may have been intended to facilitate hafting. The flint is mid-grey and opaque, but does not display any 'crazing' (cracks) indicative of burning. The tools are not closely dateable types, although none would necessarily be out of place in a Middle Bronze Age assemblage.

Table 7 Catalogue of Bronze Age funerary vessels, nos. 1–21: fabric and vessel types, manufacture, and dimensions (measurements in millimetres) (continued overleaf)

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>Publication Fig. No.</i>	<i>Reg'd Artefact Number</i>	<i>Vessel Type (rim type)</i>	<i>Fabric Type</i>	<i>Method of Manufacture</i>	<i>Rim Diam.</i>	<i>Base Diam.</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Wall Thickness</i>	<i>Area/ Feature/ Context</i>
Phase 1 - Early Bronze Age										
1	Fig. 12, 1	RA 2301	beaker	GQ1	coil-built	140	90	c. 160-170	4-6	E/ pit 1504/ 1505
2	Fig. 12, 2	RA 24011	collared urn	G1	coil-built	340	-	-	12-15	C/ crem pit 10094/ 10342 & 10095
3	Fig. 12, 3	RA 24015	accessory cup	G1	coil-built	c. 90-100	c. 50	c. 50	4-6	A/ crem pit 10176/ 10177 & 10347
4	Fig. 12, 4	RA 24013	uncertain	SS1	handmade	-	c. 80	-	7-8	C/ pyre pit 10138/ 10137 & 10140
Phase 2 - Middle Bronze Age										
5	Fig. 13, 5	RA 24001	globular urn (GBL1)	VF1	coil-built	180	120	c. 240	4-6	A/ crem pit 10011/ 10012, 10350-1
6	Fig. 13, 6	RA 24002	globular urn (GBL2)	VF1	coil or ring-built	140	-	>130	5-6	A/ crem pit 10014, 10015-6
7	Fig. 13, 7	RA 24010	globular urn (GBL1)	VF1	coil-built	200	-	>140	4-6	A/ crem pit 10063/ 10064-5 & 10358
8	Fig. 13, 8	RA 24021	globular urn (GBL2)	VF1	uncertain	240	-	-	6-8	A/ crem pit 10066/ 10067

Table 7 Catalogue of Bronze Age funerary vessels, nos. 1–21: fabric and vessel types, manufacture, and dimensions (measurements in millimetres) (continued from overleaf)

9	Fig. 13, 9	RA 24016	globular urn (recessed base)	F2	coil-built	-	120	>100	5-6	A/ crem pit 10184/ 10185 & 10356-7
10	Fig. 14, 10	RA 24003	barrel urn (BRL3)	F1	slab-built	310	-	>310	5-6	A/ crem pit 10018/ 10017 & 10343
11	Fig. 14, 11	RA 24004	barrel urn (BRL3)	F1	slab-built	260	-	>175	5-8	A/ pit 10019/ 10020-1 & 10346
12	Fig. 14, 12	RA 24007	barrel urn (BRL1)	F1	coil-built	280	-	>280	5-6	A/ crem pit 10037/ 10020-1, 10038, 10044 & 10353
13	Fig. 14, 13	RA 24009	barrel urn (BRL2)	FV1	slab-built	300	-	>220	4-10	A/ crem pit 10039/ 10040 & 10047-8
14	Fig. 15, 14	RA 24014	barrel urn (BRL2)	F1	slab-built	260	130	>350	5-8	A/ crem pit 10180/ 10359- 60, 10181-2, 10184 & 10188
15	Fig. 15, 15	RA 24017	barrel urn (BRL2)	F1	slab-built	240	160	c. 280	4-6	A/ crem pit 10186/ 10187 & 10348-50
16	Fig. 16, 16	RA 24018	barrel urn (BRL4)	F1	slab-built	400	200	>350	5-10	A/ crem pit 10208/ 10209 & 10363-6
17	Fig. 17, 17	RA 24019	barrel urn (BRL1)	F1	slab-built	290	220-240	c. 420	5-8	A/ crem pit 10233/ 10234 & 10367-8
18	Fig. 17, 18	RA 24020	barrel urn (BRL1)	F1	slab-built	360	220	450	4-7	A/ crem pit 10242, 10243 & 10344-5

Table 7 Catalogue of Bronze Age funerary vessels, nos. 1–21: fabric and vessel types, manufacture, and dimensions (measurements in millimetres) (continued from opposite page)

19	Fig. 19, 19	RA 24005	bucket urn (BKT2)	FV1	?broad ring or wide coil-built	300	-	c. 420-430	13-15	A/ crem pit 10026/ 10025, 10027-8 & 10365-6
20	Fig. 19, 20	RA 24006	bucket urn (BKT1)	FII	?broad ring or wide coil-built	420	260	c. 500	11-12	A/ crem pit 10041/ 10042 &10361-2
21	Fig. 19, 21	RA 24008	bucket urn (BKT1)	F1	coil-built	160	-	>150	6-8	A/ pyre pit 10045/ 10046-7

Overall, however, the Period 2 flints are in poorer condition than those from Period 1 features (a third feature of these is moderate to heavy rolling and/or edge-damage), so it is likely that they also include redeposited items.

Illustration catalogue

1 Period 2 cremation 10100 (fill 10101) – unifacial knife.

The Bronze Age Pottery by Elaine L Morris

The assemblage comprises fragments of an Early Bronze Age beaker from a possible inhumation burial, three Early Bronze Age vessels associated with other funerary deposits, and 17 Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury urns recovered with secondary cremations inserted into a barrow (4,006 sherds, 45,139 grammes; Table 7). In addition, there are several sherds representing Middle Bronze Age vessels which do not derive from the main cremation urns, but were recovered from within associated cremation deposits, as well as individual sherds from other features (278 sherds, 936 grammes; Tables 8 and 10). Many vessels and sherds had been affected by acidic soil conditions, resulting in the pock-marking of interior and exterior surfaces and, usually in the loss of the flint temper in these fabrics, producing characteristic angular vesicles. Almost all cremation urns had been deposited within a pit, in an inverted position. As a result of truncation, due to past agricultural practice, the upper halves of these vessels survive in good condition. Altogether, 36 different vessels have been identified.

The assemblage was analysed and recorded following the guidelines established by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010). Fabric details were defined using x10-power binocular microscopy, and petrographic analysis was conducted to enhance descriptions, as indicated with an asterisk.

Fabrics and locations of sources

This distinctive Bronze Age assemblage has provided an opportunity to explore the Avon-Stour valley as a reservoir of pottery production resources. Ten fabric types within four fabric groups were defined, and the detailed descriptions are available in the digital archive:

Grog-tempered group

G1 – coarse grog-tempered fabric

G2 – fine grog-tempered fabric

GQ1 – fine grog-tempered, sandy fabric (*)

VG1 – vesicular, possibly grog-tempered fabric

Flint-tempered group

F1 – flint-tempered, slightly vesicular fabric (*)

FIQ1 – coarse flint-tempered, iron-rich, sandy fabric (*)

FV1 – flint-tempered, vesicular fabric (*)

VF1 – vesicular, fine flint-tempered fabric (*)

Sandstone-gritted group

SS1 – ferruginous fine sandstone-bearing, sandy fabric with sparse flint (*)

Sandy with some flint-tempering

QF1 – sandy fabric with moderate flint temper

The earliest division of the Tertiary geology surrounding the site comprises the Palaeogene (Eocene) Beds that overlie the Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous. This series includes the sands, loams and clays of the Reading Beds, together with beds of ironstone or flint pebbles and gravel (Chatwin 1960, 62). The bulk comprises red-mottled clays which historically have provided a valuable local source for brick and pottery making. The London Clay and Bagshot Beds, found above the Reading Beds, were not the source of the fabrics in this assemblage, due to their respective colour-ranges. Above these, the Bracklesham Group of clays, silts and sands, include the Poole Clay, Barton Clay and Headon formations (Bristow, *et al.* 1991, 33–54), which could have provided an ideal local clay source. However, the Barton Clay was not used by the makers of the Bransgore, vessels because these occur locally as glauconitic sandy clays, and no glauconite has been identified in any of the thin-sectioned fabric samples.

Probable sources for the silty clay matrices found in flint-tempered fabric F1, for example, would be the various clay deposits of the Poole Formation, which occur to the west of the River Avon, within 6km of the site, which is within the maximum exploitation distance defined by the Exploitable Threshold model of ceramic resource procurement (Arnold (1985, 35–57, fig. 2.5). The ferruginous sandstone or

ironstone fragments identified in fabrics FIQ1, GQ1 and SS1 occur in the immediately-local Reading Beds, and also in the Poole Formation (Bristow, *et al.* 1991, 52). It is possible that one or more vessels were sourced from clays located between 5–10km to the west and south-west of the site, within the heartland of the Avon-Stour valley complex of Early-Middle Bronze Age cemeteries, and transported to the site. Within this area, there appear to be more cemeteries of Middle Bronze Age date than elsewhere in southern England (see Calkin 1962), and the Bransgore cemetery widens that connection across the River Avon. While on the east side of the river Avon, the prevailing viewshed is to the west, towards the cultural heartland of this cemetery group.

Four grog-tempered fabrics were identified amongst five vessels. Grog strengthens a vessel, both physically and symbolically, through the addition of fragments of the family's ancestors' or neighbour's previously-used vessels to the creation of a new vessel. This is a distinctive cultural action which physically incorporates a sense of the past and of specific persons into the present (cf. Sterner 1989; Morris 1994; Brown 1995). The coarse, grog-tempered fabric (G1) of the collared urn (Fig. 12.2) contains two types of grog: one made from a vessel which had been fired in an unoxidising atmosphere, which appears as dark-coloured pieces of grog in thin-section, and the other from a vessel which had been oxidised. The latter had also been a grog-tempered vessel, while the former incorporated pieces of crushed, calcined flint, having been a flint-tempered vessel. Therefore, four vessels were involved at some stage in the making of the collared urn, representing three generations of vessels in its fabric. Generations of grog-tempered vessels continue to be identified when petrological analysis is used to investigate this type of fabric (Gibson, *et al.* 2004; Morris 2009, 61–2). Fabric G1 was also used to make an accessory cup, or small shallow bowl (Fig. 12.3). A finer grog-tempered fabric, G2, was employed to make a very softly-fired vessel, represented by a base sherd (Fig. 19.24) recovered from ring ditch 1.2. Fabric GQ1, used to make the principal beaker in this assemblage (Fig. 12.1), is a finer grog-tempered fabric than G2, due to the greater density, and generally smaller

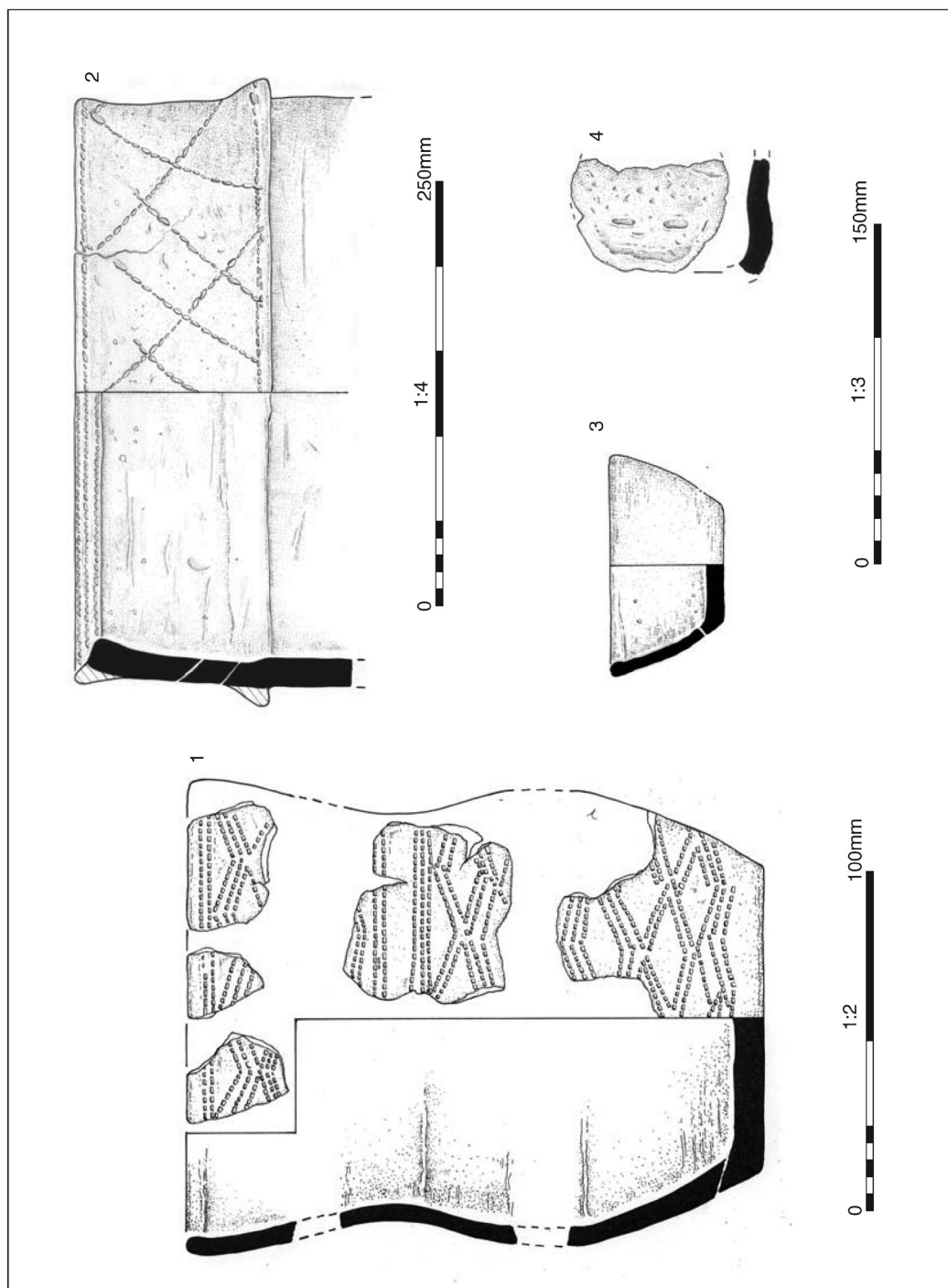


Fig. 12 Early Bronze Age vessels: 1, beaker RA 2301, from pit 1504 in Area E (1:2); 2, collared urn RA 24011, from pit 10094 in Area C (1:4); 3, accessory cup RA 24015, from pit 10174 in Area A (1:3); and 4, base of undiagnostic vessel RA 24103, from pit 10138 in Area C (1:3).

size and better sorting, of the grog pieces in its sandy clay matrix. Fabric VG1, represented by 11 fragments (Catalogue no. 28), may have had either a moderate amount of naturally-occurring clay pellets or grog temper, some of which are now represented by voids. A thin-walled vessel, possibly a beaker, had been made from it.

Four flint-tempered fabrics were created to make the majority of vessels in this assemblage (83%). The most frequently utilised was fabric F1, with 18 out of 33 flint-tempered vessels made from it, including barrel, bucket and globular urns of various sizes from the cremation cemetery in Area A, and four of the six vessels represented in the non-funerary features of Area F. Therefore, F1 could be interpreted as a universal fabric, which provides a ceramic link between the settlement and the cemetery across vessel forms and sizes. Other fabrics were more restricted; fabric FIQ1 used to make one very large bucket urn, and fabric FV1 for one large barrel and one large bucket urn. Neither of these coarser fabrics had been used to make globular vessels, a role reserved for the much finer flint-tempered, vesicular fabric VF1. With a silty clay matrix very similar to that employed to make fabric F1, fabric VF1 was used to make the majority of globular vessels found in both cemetery and non-cemetery features. It is likely that the flint-tempered vessels were made from clays which naturally contained either silt-grade quartz sand or iron oxides, and medium-grained sand, typical of those found in the Poole Formation of the Bracklesham Beds, to the west of the River Avon.

Sherds from a highly-abraded vessel made from a ferruginous, fine sandstone-gritted fabric (SS1), represented by a base-plate (Pot Fig. 12.4), were recovered from a small pit located near collared urn cremation pit 10094, in Area C. The ferruginous cement of this sandstone is iron (III) oxide, or ferric oxide, and is distinctively dense in this particular rock, making the quartz grains appear to be floating in a sea of dark matter in thin-section (c.f. Greensmith 1978, 87, fig. 6.22). A possible source for these inclusions would be the Poole Formation of the Bracklesham Group (Bristow, *et al.* 1991, 52), although 'ironstone' does occur more widely within the area, as in the Reading Beds mentioned above. The natural

clay matrix of SS1 is different from that of fabric F1, on the basis of sand-grain sizes. There may be a source connection between SS1 and fabric GQ1 (discussed above), based on the presence of the identical, but infrequent, ferruginous sandstone naturally occurring in the beaker fabric. However, the sparse pieces of angular to sub-angular calcined flint in SS1 are similar in texture to those in collared urn fabric G1. These two aspects of similar inclusions in the Early Bronze Age fabrics suggest connections in time and resources between these three fabrics (SS1, GQ1, G1) which are distinct from the manufacture of the Middle Bronze Age F1 vessels.

The use of ironstone-bearing fabrics also containing quartz sand (F22, F23), grog (F17), sand plus flint (F13) and sand, grog and flint (F21) was also found amongst the Neolithic and Bronze Age assemblages from Bestwall Quarry, east of Wareham (Woodward 2009, 201–5, 213–4, 244–5, figs. 134, 141 & 162, table 52); however, it is not always certain as to whether what is referred to as 'ironstone rock' in the fabric codes and names (Woodward & Ladle 2009) is the same as the iron ore identified amongst the thin-sectioned samples examined petrographically (Woodward and Williams 2009). It was noted amongst the Bestwall Quarry Middle Bronze Age pottery that 'the dense flint fabrics were mainly associated with Central Wessex-style pottery, and not at all with those of Dorset Downs type,' and that various flint and grog fabrics correlated to all three decorative styles but mainly Avon/Stour and Dorset Downs (Woodward 2009, 306), discussed further below. This makes the highly consistent flint-tempered Middle Bronze Age assemblage from Bransgore extremely distinctive; none of these fabrics has any grog-tempering, which is an Early Bronze Age characteristic at this site (see further below).

A sandy fabric with flint temper (QF1) was identified in the only sherd recovered from Area G, a thin-walled and red-finished or red-slipped body sherd (Table 10; Cat. No.36). This combination of sandy fabric, with added crushed, calcined flint and red surface treatment is typical of the decorated phase of the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age period, c. 900–600 cal BC.

*Vessel forms, decoration and dating evidence***Early Bronze Age**

Beaker. Sherds from different parts of an incomplete beaker (74 sherds, 228 grammes; Fig. 12.1; Tables 7–8) were recovered from pit 1504/10286, within ring ditch 1.4 of Area E. It has a slightly flaring rim that is incurved at the lip, medium to long neck, concave waist zone and slight, low-set carination. It is decorated with repeated lengths of rectangular-toothed comb impressions used to create both horizontal lines and rows of empty lozenges, which alternate in a nested pattern. These emphasize different profile-zones, with at least two, and up to three or four, rows of lozenges around the neck, between a pair of parallel lines at the rim and two at the start of the waist. These are followed by an empty zone around the main waist, defined by a third set of three parallel, comb-impressed lines. The latter frame has at least seven, alternating rows of lozenges nesting into each other that suggest an affinity with woven textile or basketry patterns. Reconstruction of the vessel to approximately 170mm in height, its incurved rim profile, length of neck and beaker shape VII, as well as the method and pattern of decoration, indicate that this vessel belongs to the Late Southern (British) beaker group (S3) classification, and Motif Group 4 respectively (Clarke 1970, 42, 225–233 & 427, fig. VII). This classification makes the vessel traditionally later in the development of beaker styles, and one which would not be out of place amongst Needham's diverse classification of long-necked beakers (LN) which range in date from 2290 to 1520 cal BC (2005, 195–198, fig. 9, table 5).

Collared urn. The single collared urn found in cremation pit 10094 in Area C (Fig. 12.2; Tables 7–8) may be typical of a Secondary Series (Longworth 1984, 29–46, plates 131–162 & 169–222), 'late' style (Seager Thomas 2008) vessel, but is a rare, large example, with a rim diameter of 340mm (see Longworth 1984, fig. 33). It is decorated with criss-crossed lines of impressed, twisted cord, irregularly-executed around the false collar, within a panel created by two horizontal lines. There are also three horizontal lines around the interior rim bevel.

Similar Secondary Series South East examples include part of an urn from Winton Common, Bournemouth (Calkin 1962, 9, fig. 3, M18), which is located 10km west of Bransgore. This has the large, crisscrossed, twisted cord motif on a similar 'false collar formed by the addition of a projecting plastic strip', but without a framed collar panel. Related examples can be cited from Micheldever (Hampshire) (Longworth 1984, plate 150a, no. 626), and Lewes, East Sussex (Longworth 1984, 197, plate 149b, 557). Regional examples with not dissimilar decoration, found at Sturminster Marshall and Bloxworth Down in Dorset, include two examples as large as the Bransgore urn (Longworth 1984, plates 203 a, 430, 204a, 372 & 204c, 434). The large, freehand style, infrequent criss-cross, twisted cord motif on the collar area of this urn is quite rare in Britain; such decoration is not at all typical in the pattern-book of more structured motif templates recorded amongst more than 2000 vessels published in Britain and Ireland (Longworth 1984, figs 9–11), and may indicate an expression of individuality in this case.

There are very few radiocarbon dates associated with collared urns in southern England (Longworth 1984, 79–80). Amongst the 47 urns found in Sussex, one Secondary Series/Late urn has been dated to 2140–1620 cal BC (Seager Thomas 2008, 22, table 2). Therefore, the radiocarbon date of 2009–1767 cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC 69245) for cremated bone associated with the Bransgore vessel provides a much tighter date for the use of this type of collared vessel as a burial urn in central-southern England.

Accessory cup. A small, roughly-made and non-symmetrical, shallow, hemispherical, undecorated vessel (Fig. 12.3; Tables 7–8), made from the same fabric (G1) as the collared urn, was found in pit 10176, within the interior space of ring ditch 1.2 of Area A. Cremated bone was recovered from sample 25088 of context 10177, the primary fill of pit 10176 into which this vessel had been placed. Therefore, it would not be inappropriate to consider this vessel as an accessory cup. Accessory vessels directly associated with collared urn cremations are often very highly

Table 8 Catalogue of Bronze Age funerary vessels, nos 1-21: decoration (continued on the opposite page)

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>Public'n Fig. No.</i>	<i>Reg'd Artefact Number</i>	<i>Vessel Type (rim type)</i>	<i>Method of Decoration</i>	<i>Decoration Motif (1)</i>	<i>Decoration Motif (2)</i>	<i>Decoration Motif (3)</i>	<i>Decoration Motif (4)</i>	<i>Decoration Motif (5)</i>	<i>Additional Information</i>	<i>Area/ Feature/ Context</i>
<i>Phase 1 - Early Bronze Age</i>											
1	Fig. 12, 1	RA 2301	beaker	comb- impressed	pair of parallel lines below rim lip	row of lozenges: two or three impressions on each lozenge side	pair of parallel lines below lozenges	trio of parallel lines below neck zone panel	six rows of nested lozenges: 2-3 impressions each side	8mm-wide blank panel between (3) & (4)	E/ pit 1504/ 1505
2	Fig. 12, 2	RA 24011	collared urn	impressed twisted cord	trio of parallel lines on rim bevel interior	one horizontal line around upper applied cordon lip/ collar	one horizontal line around lower part of cordon/ collar	8 wide crosses irregularly between motifs (2) & (3)	-	-	C/ crem pit 10094/ 10342 & 10095
3	Fig. 12, 3	RA 24015	accessory cup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A/ crem pit 10176/ 10177 & 10347
4	Fig. 12, 4	RA 24013	uncertain	-	-	-	-	-	-	FN impressions on base interior	C/ pyre pit 10138/ 10137 & 10140
<i>Phase 2 - Middle Bronze Age</i>											
5	Fig. 13, 5	RA 24001	globular urn (GBL1)	tooled, linear impressions	four horizontal, parallel lines at lower neck	eight triangles around neck - made of motifs (3) & (4)	single line from upper right to lower left	10 or 11 hatching/ parallel lines down from motif (3)	?three, horizontal, imperfectorate lugs over lowest line motif (1)	smoothed interior	A/ crem pit 10011/ 10012, 10350-1

Table 8 Catalogue of Bronze Age funerary vessels, nos 1-21: decoration (continued from the opposite page)

6	Fig. 13, 6	RA 24002	globular urn (GBL2)	tooled, linear impressions	at neck two rounded apex chevrons with four or six nested arcs inside	two rows of paired impressed dots around vessel above carination	two wide (4-5mm), horizontal, parallel lines beneath carination	-	-	same wide/broad tooling; four chevrons expected in total	A/ crem pit 10014, 10015-6
7	Fig. 13, 7	RA 24010	globular urn (GBL1)	tooled, linear impressions	at neck two rounded apex chevrons with nine nested arcs inside	12-13 parallel horizontal lines infill space between chevrons	one horizontal line beneath decorated neck zone created by motifs (1) & (2)	beneath motif (3) parallel diagonal lines continuous around vessel	-	four triangles expected in total	A/ crem pit 10063/ 10064-5 & 10358
8	Fig. 13, 8	RA 24021	globular urn (GBL2)	tooled, linear impressions	triangles in the style of Cat. No. 5 but in reverse	beneath motif (1), a single horizontal line around lower neck	-	-	-	six chevrons expected in total around neck	A/ crem pit 10066/ 10067
9	Fig. 13, 9	RA 24016	globular urn (recessed base)	-	-	-	-	-	-	well-smoothed exterior and underneath base	A/ crem pit 10184/ 10185 & 10356-7
10	Fig. 14, 10	RA 24003	barrel urn (BRL3)	applied flat strips	horizontal strip on upper body	four vertical strips overlapping motif (1)	-	-	-	width of strips as Cat. No. 11	A/ crem pit 10018/ 10017 & 10343
11	Fig. 14, 11	RA 24004	barrel urn (BRL3)	applied flat strips	horizontal strip on upper body	four vertical strips overlapping motif (1)	-	-	-	same 12-13mm wide strips as Cat. No. 10	A/ pit 10019/ 10020-1 & 10346
12	Fig. 14, 12	RA 24007	barrel urn (BRL1)	applied, flat or raised strips & pads	two parallel strips around exterior below rim lip	one horizontal strip around vessel 92mm below motif (1)	4 strip arcs between motifs (1) & (2), right end continuing as rib down vessel wall	flat clay pad pressed onto junction of motif (2) and rib of motif (3)	each strip bears single row of finger-tip impressions	South Lodge-style variant; cordon on interior of base	A/ crem pit 10037/ 10020-1, 10038, 10044 & 10353
13	Fig. 14, 13	RA 24009	barrel urn (BRL2)	applied strip; finger-tip impressions	thick strip added around rim lip to increase effect	finger-tip and nail impressions applied along motif (1)	deep, finger-tip impressions along carination	-	[upper/lower sections joined to create carination]	thin lower vessel wall, thick upper vessel wall	A/ crem pit 10039/ 10040 & 10047-8

Table 8 Catalogue of Bronze Age funerary vessels, nos 1-21: decoration (continued from previous pages)

14	Fig. 15, 14	RA 24014	barrel urn (BRL2)	applied strip; finger-tip impressions	thick strip/ coil of clay added to rim exterior	flat strip applied to upper girth zone	one line of finger-tip and nail impressions irregularly inserted onto motif (2)	A/ crem pit 10180/ 10359- 60, 10181-2, 10184 & 10188
15	Fig. 15, 15	RA 24017	barrel urn (BRL2)	finger-tip & nail impressions	row of finger- tip & nail impressions on exterior of rim lip	row of finger- tip & nail impressions around upper vessel zone	-	A/ crem pit 10186/ 10187 & 10348-50
16	Fig. 16, 16	RA 24018	barrel urn (BRL4)	applied strips; tool impressions	single strip around upper vessel	continuous rib & arc strips from base angle across and return to motif (1)	closely- spaced, oval-shaped, tool impressions inserted along all strips	South Lodge- style; rib on left of arc contra Cat. No. 12, motif (3) 10363-6
17	Fig. 17, 17	RA 24019	barrel urn (BRL1)	applied strips; thumb impressions	3 horizontal strips - one below rim, two on upper vessel	six vertical ribs about lowest strip of motif (1), equally spaced	small, side of thumb impressions closely-spaced along rim edge strip	A/ crem pit 10233/ 10234 & 10367-8
18	Fig. 17, 18	RA 24020	barrel urn (BRL1)	applied strips; edge thumb impressions	one wedge- shaped strip applied around exterior rim lip	one flat strip applied beneath motif (1)	side of thumb impressions inserted onto motifs (1) & (2)	A/ crem post-firing perforations: 1 in base, 2 in wall 10243 & 10344-5
19	Fig. 18, 19	RA 24005	bucket urn (BKT2)	finger-tip & nail impressions	row of closely-spaced impressions around flat rim top	two roughly executed, opposing horizontal lugs	row of impressions around girth from one lug to next	A/ crem pit 10026/ 10025, 10027-8 & 10365-6

Table 8 Catalogue of Bronze Age funerary vessels, nos 1–21: decoration (continued from previous pages)

20	Fig. 18, 20	RA 24006	bucket urn (BKT1)	applied strip: finger- tip/nail impressions	strip around upper zone of vessel	row of finger-tip impressions along motif (1)	-	-	[sooted on exterior - possibly from pyre debris in feature]	A/ crem pit 10041/ 10042 & 10361-2
21	Fig. 18, 21	RA 24008	bucket urn (BKT1)	impressions made from sharp tool	irregularly horizontal row of sharp tool impressions	-	-	-	polished to nearly burnished on exterior	A/ pyre pit 10045/ 10046-7

decorated all over the exterior surface, but completely plain examples and slightly decorated examples do occur (Longworth 1984). The most frequent cup form is bipartite, although hemispherical examples have been found across the country. The wall thickness of the Bransgore vessel is somewhat thinner than most, which are normally quite sturdy, with substantial walls. Bone from sample 25088 produced a date of 1736–1614 cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC 73453), indicating that the adult buried in this Area A feature, in association with this cup, was cremated and deposited later than the young adult buried with the collared urn in Area C.

Undiagnostic vessel. Sherds from the wall and base-plate of a vessel of uncertain form (Fig. 12.4; Tables 7–8) were recovered from two contexts in pit 10138, in Area C, located 4m east of the collared urn pit 10094. The sherds are in very poor condition. There is a significant possibility that the vessel had been buried upright, due to the absence of any recovered rim sherds. The original vessel was moderately thin-walled, and made from the very distinctive sandstone fabric SS1. Small fingernail impressions are still visible on the interior surface of the base. There appears to be a possible recess in the centre of the underside of the plate. No cremated bone was found in the pit, only a little charcoal.

Middle Bronze Age

Globular urns. Two broadly similar rim types were identified amongst the five, thin-walled, Deverel-Rimbury style globular urns deposited in Barrow 1.1 in Area A (Fig. 13; Tables 7–8) with two additional examples from other funerary deposits (Fig. 19.22–23; Tables 7–8). Six of these, and a seventh represented by body sherds (see Table 10, cat. no. 33), had been made from a vesicular, flint-tempered fabric (VF1); the eighth from the common F1 fabric. Rim type GBL1 has an upright neck and slightly flattened inner rim lip, while GBL2 has a rounded rim lip, with a significantly thickened, upright neck beneath it. Three of the GBL1 vessels have similar body profiles, which are gently rounded at the girth and

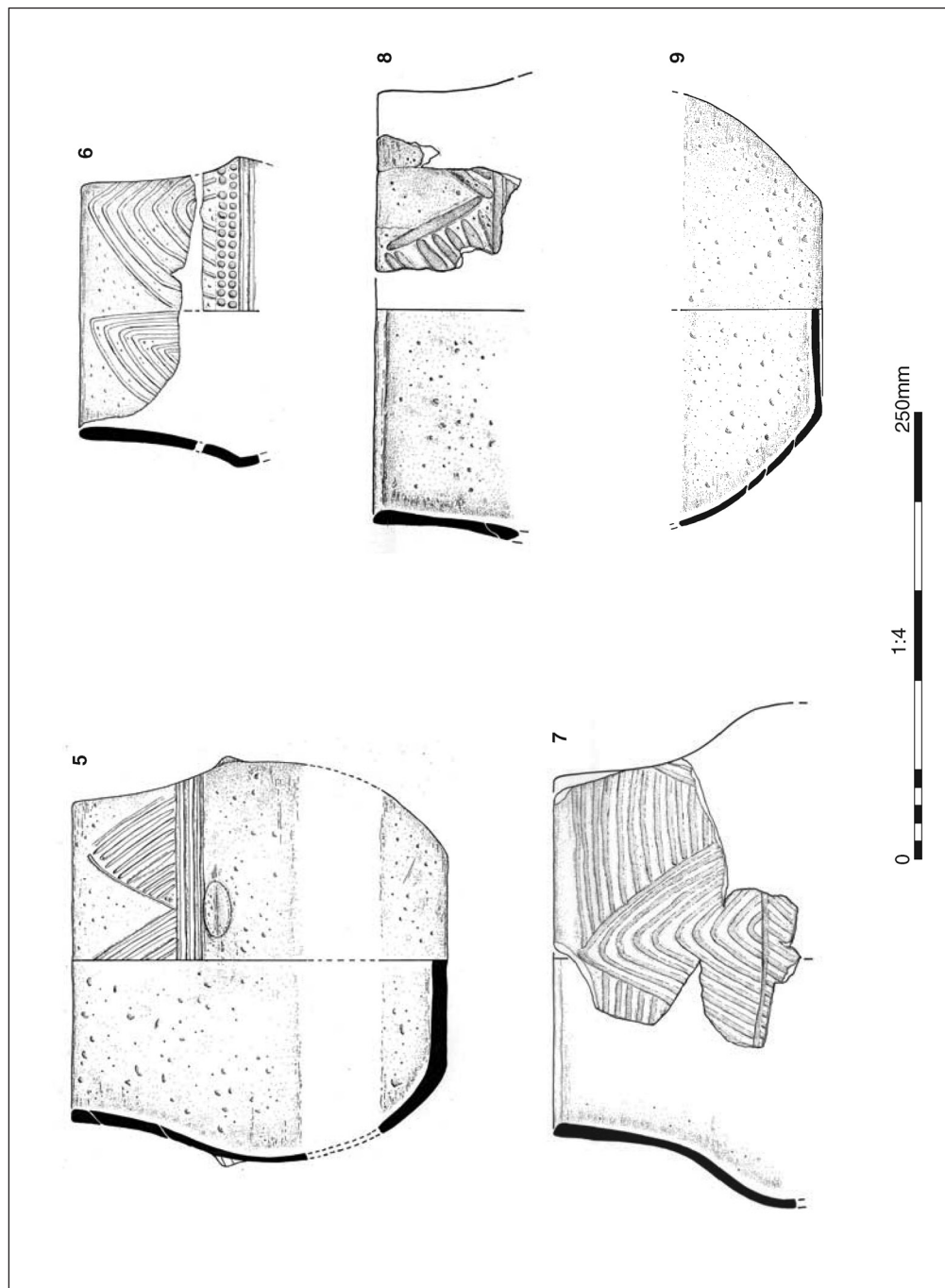


Fig. 13 Middle Bronze Age globular urns from Area A (1:4): 5, RA 24001, from pit 10011; 6, RA 24002, from pit 10014; 7, RA 24010, from pit 10063; 8, RA 24021, from pit 10066; and 9, RA 24016, from pit 10184.

truly bulbous or spherical in the lower section, while the profile of the single type GBL2 vessel is distinctively carinated or hipped at the girth. One example is represented by the lower part of the vessel only, and appears to have been a GBL1 type. The interior and exterior surfaces of all eight pots still appear to have been well-smoothed, despite residing in an acidic soil. All six vessels, which retain at least parts of their upper vessel bodies, were decorated with shallow tooling; two with hatched, standing triangles above parallel horizontal lines (Fig. 13.5 & 7), two with nested chevrons (Fig. 13.6 & 8), the fourth apparently with at least horizontal parallel lines around their neck-zone (Fig. 19.22), but the fifth retaining just two separate lines from broken sherds (Fig. 19.23). The nested arcs or hatched triangles are positioned to show-off these distinct motifs on three vessels, but on the fourth the arcs are immersed in fields of horizontal parallel lines infilling the spaces between them, and a single horizontal line at the girth actually cuts across the nested arcs. The other vessel with nested arcs displays pairs of impressed dots beneath its row of chevrons, and above horizontal lines located below its carination. The best-preserved vessel retained two imperforate, horizontal ovate lugs which had been attached on top of the lowest horizontal, parallel line at the girth (Fig. 13.5 rim type GB1), and it is from this urn that cremated bone has been radiocarbon-dated to 1391–1128 cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC 69247). A sample of charcoal from a second globular urn (Fig. 13.6; rim type GB2) dates to 1402–1227 cal BC, at 95.4% probability (SUERC 74460), suggesting that, during the central 150-year period of these dates, the two urns may have been contemporary in their use as funerary vessels. These dates fit within those recently established for Middle Bronze Age occupation at Bestwall Quarry, and an assessment of 40 dates from 12 other sites of this period (Woodward 2009, 265–70, table 6, figs. 98 & 179–182), and concur with earlier research by Needham (1996, fig. 3).

These vessels are typical of Calkin's Type I globulars (1962, 24), based on their finely flint-tempered and vesicular fabric, well-finished surfaces and shallow-tooled decoration, which

can often be quite faint in appearance, with one exception made from fabric F1. Similar examples were identified in the assemblage at Latch Farm (Piggott 1938, fig. 4, 46 & 55), located c.5km south-west of Bransgore, at the confluence of the Avon and Stour rivers, and at the Pokesdown cremation cemetery (Calkin 1962, fig. 10, 1, 3–7 & 11). On heathland above the Stour, some 4km east of Wimborne, excavations focused on four barrows and an associated flat urnfield site, known collectively as Simons Ground. These recorded several Type I globulars, including two with decorative patterns identical to ones from Bransgore (Watling & White 1982, figs 20, 10 & 16 and 22, 3, 4, 6 & 8–9). Further north, General Pitt Rivers excavated examples of similarly decorated Type I globular urns at South Lodge Camp, on Cranborne Chase (1898, plates 241, no. 13 & 242, nos. 1 & 3), as are two found at Thorney Down outside Salisbury, south Wiltshire (Stone 1941, figs 1–2); all of which are remarkably similar to those from Bransgore. Examples of the more carinated variant of the globular Type I form were found at Handley Barrow 24 on Cranborne Chase (Barrett 1991, fig. 8.9, 18i), and at the extraordinary cremation cemetery and flint platform at Kimpton, near Andover, in north Hampshire (Dacre & Ellison 1981, figs 14–16).

This Calkin type of globular urn at Bransgore falls into two of the three different Middle Bronze Age vessel form and decorative style-groups used by Woodward, for classifying the Bestwall Quarry assemblage (2009, 241–3): Central Wessex and Avon/Stour. Globular urns assigned to the Central Wessex style-group are exemplified by a nearly complete, bulbous-profile, thin-walled vessel from Bestwall Quarry, with standing, hatched triangles above a row of diagonal oval impressions at its girth, over which four horizontally-perforated, small lugs had been attached (Woodward 2009, 241, fig. 151.1). The two Bransgore examples displaying hatched, standing triangles (Fig. 14, 5 & 8) fit this ascription, while the two with gracefully-stacked arcs, or nested chevrons (Figs 13, 6–7 & 19, 22), are more typical of the Avon/Stour style-group. One Bestwall Quarry globular urn displays this Avon/Stour motif in a very unevenly-incised execution

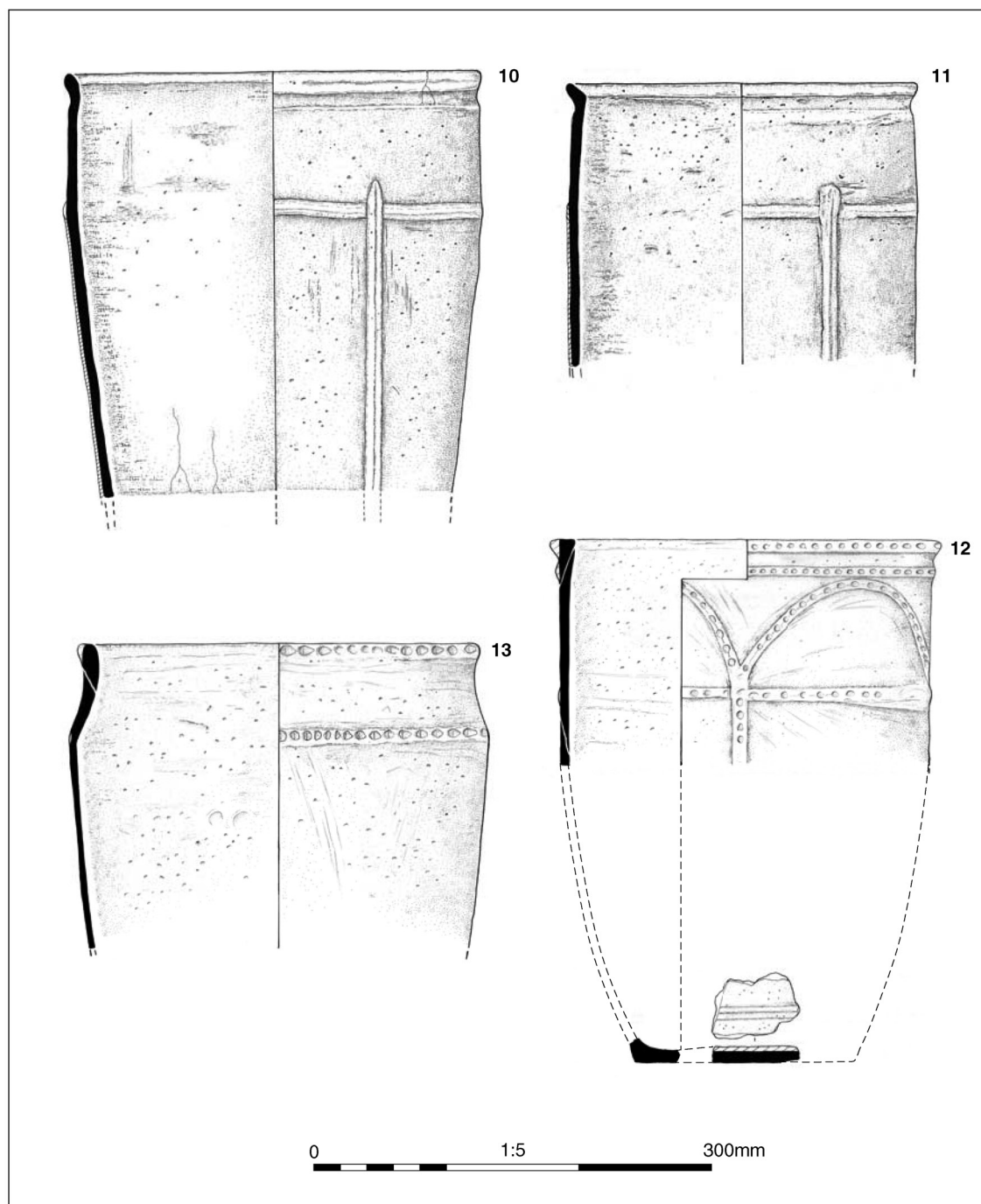


Fig. 14 Middle Bronze Age barrel urns from Area A (1:5): 10, RA 24003, from pit 10018; 11, RA 24004, from pit 10019; 12, RA 24007, from pit 10037; and 13, RA 24014, from pit 10180

Table 9 Catalogue of other Bronze Age sherds associated with cremation burial and pyre debris deposits, nos. 22–28 (measurements in millimetres)

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>*New* Publication Fig. No.</i>	<i>Vessel Type (rim type)</i>	<i>Fabric Type</i>	<i>Method of Manufacture</i>	<i>Rim Diam.</i>	<i>Base Diam.</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Wall Thickness</i>	<i>Method of Decoration</i>	<i>Decoration Motif</i>	<i>Additional Information</i>	<i>Area/ Feature/ Context</i>
22	Fig. 19, 22	globular jar (GLB1)	VF1	?coil-built	160	-	-	4-5	tooled, linear impressions	at least five parallel lines around lower neck	inside RA 24018, refired in its cremation pyre	A/ crem pit 10208/ 10364
23	(not illustrated)	barrel jar or bucket	F1	-	-	140	-	7-8	-	-	associated with RA 24006	A/ crem pit 10041/ 10350
24	Fig. 19, 23	globular jar (GLB1)	F1	?coil-built	<5%	-	-	5-6	tooled, linear impressions	horizontal, parallel lines around neck	associated with RA 24017	A/ crem pit 10186/ 10350
25	(not illustrated)	barrel jar or bucket	F1	-	-	-	-	11-12	-	-	associated with RA 24017	A/ crem pit 10186/ 101348
26	(not illustrated)	barrel jar or bucket	FV1	-	-	-	-	n.a. (flake)	-	-	associated with RA 24009	A/ crem pit 10039/ 10048
27	(not illustrated)	uncertain	F1	-	-	-	-	n.a. (flakes)	-	-	sherd flakes only present	A/ pyre pit 10061/ 10062
28	(not illustrated)	uncertain	VG1	-	-	-	-	5-6	-	-	sherds/ flakes present	A/ pyre pit 10008/ 10010

(Woodward 2009, fig. 155.10), which may suggest that its potter was unaccustomed to making such a pattern. Therefore, amongst the more complete decorated globular urns found at Bransgore, Central Wessex and Avon/Stour styles have equal representation, and they share a single fabric type (VF1) typical of Calkin's Type I globulars. The two radiocarbon dates for these two styles of globular urns from Bransgore correlate to the middle centuries (14th–12th cal BC) presented for five Central Wessex-style, and 11 Avon/Stour-style sherds (unspecified to vessel type), from which carbonised residues on their internal surfaces were sampled (Woodward 2009, table 6). There are no dates from any samples associated with Bransgore Middle Bronze Age vessels which fall into the 11th–10th centuries, as at Bestwall Quarry, where a steady continuity of occupation from the Middle Bronze Age through the post-Deverel Rimbury Late Bronze Age plainware phase (mid-11th through early 8th century, based on similar direct dating of potsherds) is striking.

The Figure 19.22 vessel has a set of at least four and possibly five, well-executed, tooled, horizontal lines around its lower neck, and may belong to the Central Wessex style. Two of the globulars are not assigned to style; one is an undecorated base and the other represented by small sherds from the rim and body, bearing single, horizontal tooled lines (Figs. 13, 8 & 19, 23). The latter was made from fabric F1, and appears to have an ovoid-profile, unique in the Bransgore assemblage.

Barrel urns. The most common, general vessel form in the Bransgore Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury assemblage recovered from Areas A and F is the barrel urn; of those vessels assigned to vessel form, 10 out of 21 are barrels (Tables 7–10). A similar proportion occurred at Latch Farm, with about half of that assemblage also being barrel urns (Piggott 1938). Normally, the dominant type of vessel is the bucket urn, as at the Simon's Ground (Watling & White 1982) and Knighton Heath (Petersen 1981) cemeteries, and at the Bestwall Quarry settlement (Woodward 2009). At Bransgore, however, barrel urn types dominate the small assemblage; they are distinctive

with both regional parallels and site-specific characteristics.

Five different rim and vessel variants of barrel urn were identified amongst the ten definite examples assigned to this Deverel-Rimbury form in Areas A and F. The classic barrel-profile vessels with convex body shape in this assemblage comprise Bransgore type BRL3, with its strongly-bevelled edge to the rim interior (Figs 14.10–11 & 19.25), and BRL4 with a softly-rounded lip and expanded interior surface of the rim (Fig. 16.16). Similar examples to the type BRL3 vessels have been found on Cranborne Chase sites, including around Handley Barrow 24 (Barrett 1991, figs 8.9.5i & 9iii and 8.12 46), with one undecorated example from the Latch Farm cemetery (Piggott 1938, fig. 5.60). Single examples of BRL4 types were recovered from excavations at Pokesdown cremation cemetery (Calkin 1962, fig. 8.3), and again at Latch Farm, (Piggott 1938, fig. 6.69), as well as more recently at Porton Down, north-east of Salisbury (Leivers 2016, fig. 11.8). Cremated bone recovered from the Bransgore BRL4 urn was radiocarbon dated to 1517–1304 cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC 69246). This is the earliest of the nine dates associated with funerary urns from the barrow 1.2 Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery deposits (Table 5).

The three examples of type BRL1 are equally distinctive. This form was created by making a slightly convex-profile or nearly straight-profile vessel, which narrows near the base angle, and then adding a cordon of clay to the exterior edge of its simple, upright rim lip, to give it an extended or expanded effect, resulting in a wide, flat berm to the top of the rim (Figs 14.12 & 17.17–18). The shape is common in the Avon-Stour area, with examples from Pokesdown cremation cemetery and the Kinson, East Howe, barrow (Calkin 1962, fig. 7, 7–8 & 10), as well as from Latch Farm (Piggott 1938, figs 7.34, 8.6 & 9.72) and Simons Ground (Watling & White 1982, figs 20, 2, 4 & 13). Further north, examples have been recovered from sites on Cranborne Chase, such as Angle Ditch, Handley Down (Pitt Rivers 1898, plate 264), and Handley Barrow 24 (Barrett 1991, fig. 8.10: 40). Normally, these vessels have

Table 10 Catalogue of Bronze Age sherds from ring ditch 1.3 and other features, nos. 29–36 (measurements in millimetres)

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>*New* Publication Fig. No.</i>	<i>Vessel Type (rim type)</i>	<i>Fabric Type</i>	<i>Method of Manufacture</i>	<i>Rim Diam.</i>	<i>Base Diam.</i>	<i>Wall Thickness</i>	<i>Method of Decoration</i>	<i>Decoration Motif</i>	<i>Additional Information</i>	<i>Area/ Feature/ Context</i>
29	Fig. 19, 24	probable beaker	G2	-	-	<5%	7-8	-	-	-	A/ ring ditch 1.2/ cut 10228/ 10230
30	Fig. 19, 25	barrel jar (BRL3)	F1	coil-built	<5%	<5%	4-8	applied strip	15-16mm wide flat strip around girth	soot on exterior; burnt residue on interior	F/ pit 10134/ 10135
31	Fig. 19, 26	barrel jar (BRL5)	FV1	-	<5%	-	5-8	finger- tip/nail impressions	one row beneath exterior rim lip	-	F/ pit 10134/ 10136
32	Fig. 19, 27	barrel jar or bucket vessel	F1	-	-	-	5-6	finger- tip/nail impressions	one row around vessel girth	-	F/ pit 10134/ 10136
33	(not illustrated)	globular jar	VF1	-	-	-	5-6	-	-	well-smoothed bodysherd; reburnt condition	F/ pit 10134/ 10136
34	(not illustrated)	uncertain	F1	-	-	-	3-4	-	-	-	F/ posthole 10128/ 10130
35	(not illustrated)	barrel jar or bucket vessel	F1	-	-	-	9-10	-	-	bodysherd	F/ posthole 10128/ 10130
36	(not illustrated)	Class II jar	QF1	-	-	-	7-8	-	-	bodysherd with red- finished slip on exterior	H/ pit 10338/ 10341

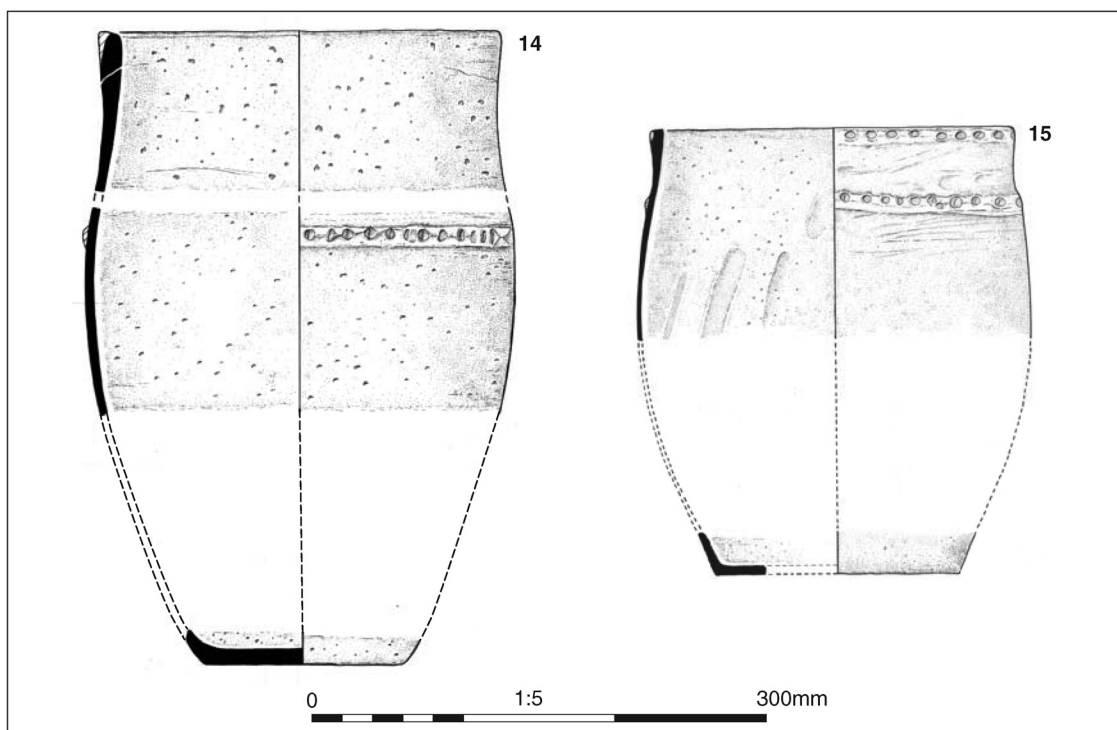


Fig. 15 Middle Bronze Age barrel urns from Area A (1) (1:5):14, RA 24014, from pit 10180 and 15, RA 24017, from pit 10186

two or three horizontal cordons or clay strips, with a more prominent one always around the rim lip, a flatter one often immediately added beneath this, and then a third flattened strip added a short distance further down the vessel, all of them decorated with finger-tip impressions. Often, but not always, there may be a number of applied vertical strips, or ribs, attached from this last cordon/strip down the vessel wall, in a parallel fashion. The ribs may be completely plain, or have finger-tip impressed decoration. These barrel urns with ribbed decoration were classified by Ellison, in 1975, as Avon/Stour style-type 3, (1982, 59).

Two barrel urns, one each of types BRL1 and BRL4 (Figs 14.12 & 16.16), appear to display, on these different types of barrel urn, separate interpretations of a distinct decorative style that has 'a widespread distribution, with no apparent regional diversity, across the Central Wessex, Avon/Stour and Dorset Downs areas' (Woodward 2009, 244). This

style was originally defined by Calkin (1962, 20, fig. 7.1–4 & plate 1B) as a combination of applied cordons with finger-tip impressions, to create horizontal bands and repeated arcs or swags around the upper vessel area. These may be short and located between the horizontal bands (arcs), or continuous from the upper to lower zones of the vessel wall (swags), which often cross over the horizontal bands as vertical ribs or continuously-curved straps on the exterior of vessels. Occasionally, applied plain cordons, in a cross pattern, can be found on the interior of the vessel base of vessels in this style. He named this the South Lodge style, based on the publication of an extremely large example with 16 vertical ribs, horizontal cordons with arc-like 'zig-zags' running between them, and an eight-spoke 'wheel ornament' on the inside of the base excavated by Pitt Rivers at South Lodge Camp (Rushmore) enclosure on Cranborne Chase (1898, plate 240). South Lodge-style vessels are

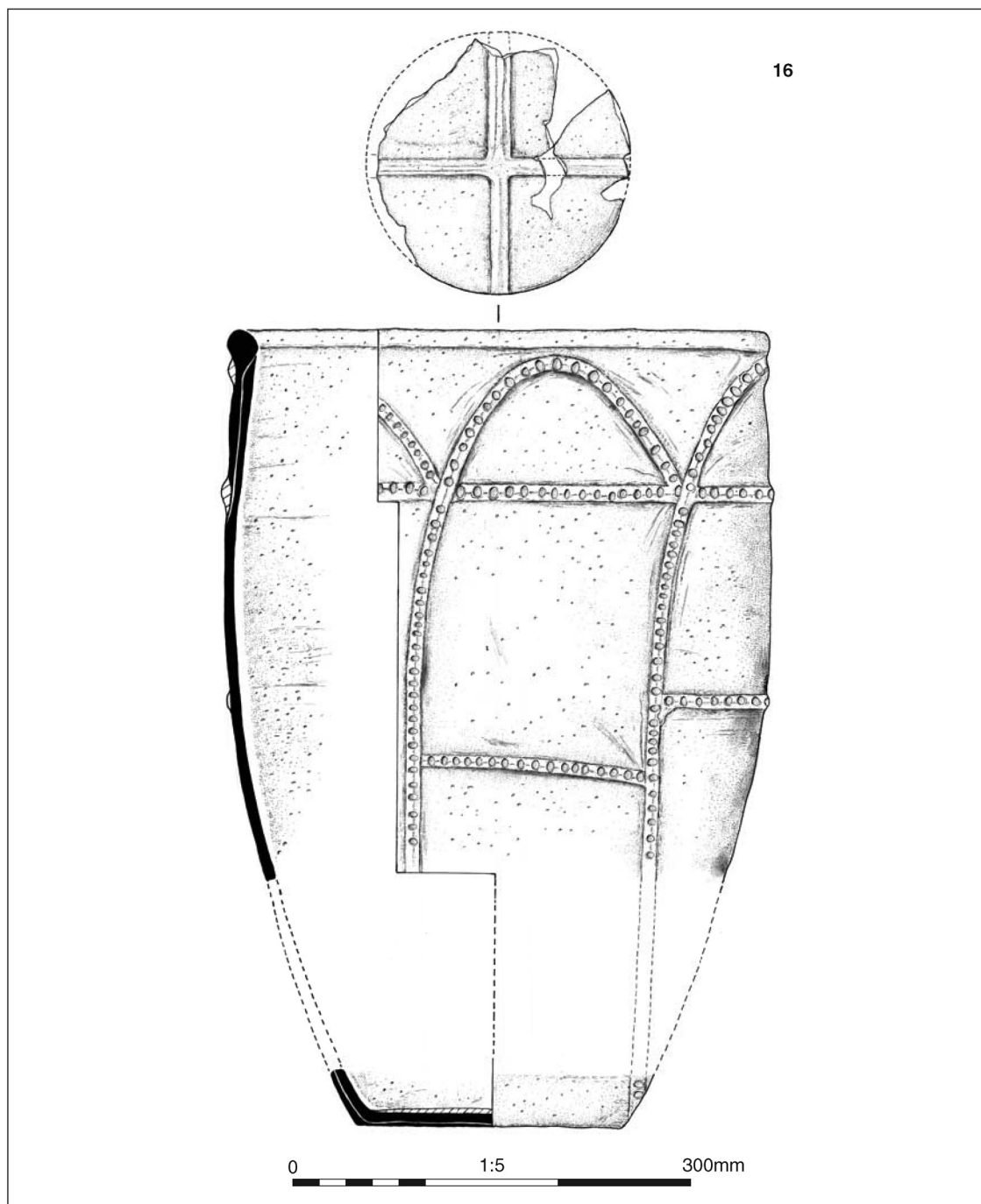


Fig. 16 Middle Bronze Age 'South Lodge style' barrel urn RA 24018, from pit 10208 in Area A (1:5)

a visually arresting aspect of the collections of barrel urns excavated in the Avon-Stour area, such as those from Latch Farm, where the 'arcs' were formed by continuous wavy lines (Piggott 1938, figs 7.78 & 9. 87). The large Bransgore BRL4 vessel (Fig. 16.16) is a classic example of this style, as originally defined, including the less-common occurrence of a very prominent, or high relief (5mm), applied interior base cross, which is similar to an example recovered by Pitt Rivers, at Barrow 24 on Handley Hill (1898, plate 301: 4). The BRL1 example (Fig. 14.12), however, is a more Avon/Stour or specifically Bransgore interpretation of the style, with its straighter vessel profile and pronounced cordon circling the rim, to create the flat upper surface. It has South Lodge-style arcs, but these seem to be hemmed-in by its horizontal cordons, resulting in just four shallow, broad curves around the vessel, creating a less confident appearance to the decoration of an otherwise fine vessel. This suggests a form of adding or copying a decorative style, including an interior base cordon, onto a familiar vessel form. Similar examples where the South Lodge-style of decoration appears to represent a local interpretation of design execution include two barrel vessels from Bestwall Quarry (Woodward 2009, fig. 152.1 & 5), where normally graceful, curvilinear arc cordons or waves are replaced by straight, diagonal cordons.

There are three urns assigned to type BRL2, which has a distinctively concave neck, in addition to the usual convex body profile (Figs 14.13 & 15.14–15). The upright rim lip of one vessel is enhanced with the addition of a thin cordon, which is decorated with impressions, or simply has impressed decoration directly onto the vessel wall; the third is not decorated at the rim. Examples of this form type have been recovered at Latch Farm (Piggott 1938, figs. 4, 53, 41 & 47 and 6, 54), and Simons Ground (Watling & White 1982, figs. 20, 5 and 21.1–2). Type BRL5 is represented by a single example (Fig. 19.26), found in the same, domestic feature, pit 10134, in Area F, as sherds from the BRL3 vessel decorated with a plain cordon (Fig. 19.25), although from different contexts. It appears to have been made using a method similar to that used to make type

BRL1 rims, with a vertical wall elaborated or enhanced at the upright rim lip with, in this case, a T-shaped applied strip across the wall, with extensions to both the exterior and interior of the rim.

Bucket urns. Three bucket urns were identified (Fig. 18.19–21 & Tables 7–8). Two are unusually large, with 300mm and 420mm rim diameters respectively. All three have flattened top edges to their rims, or lips. It is the shaping of their profiles which emphasizes their subtle differences, with two that are straight-sided (BKT1), and one which is partially convex in profile at the upper zone, while straight-walled below this (BKT2). These bucket urns are typical Deverel-Rimbury forms, and examples similar to the larger Bransgore vessels have been recorded nearby in the Bournemouth area (Calkin 1962, fig. 12, 4 & 7), as well as at Latch Farm (Piggott 1938, fig. 7.38), Simons Ground (Watling & White 1982, figs 19, 12 & 14 and 20, 17 & 20) and three barrow sites in the New Forest (Preston & Hawkes 1933, fig. 11). All three Bransgore buckets are decorated: the tallest vessel (Fig. 18.20), with a wide, finger-pressed cordon strip attached at the junction of its upper two collar-like coils, the next in size (Fig. 18.19), with finger impressions along the flat top rim surface and around its upper vessel wall, which was covered by a 60mm-long, lug-like lump of clay with finger-tip impressions over its surface to re-continue the decorative line, and the smallest (Fig. 19.21) with an irregular line of deep, wedge-shaped tooled impressions around its upper vessel wall. The two larger buckets are typical examples of Avon/Stour types 8/9 (Ellison 1981, 59), but the irregular lug-like piece seems to be a local, possibly Bransgore addition to that repertoire, and the finger impressions around the flat rim surface are far more Central Wessex in style, as is the use of a wedge-shaped tool to make impressions on the small urn.

Several examples of small (150–160mm rim diameters), bucket-shaped vessels, decorated with single lines of finger-tip impressions, were found at Latch Farm (Piggott 1938, fig. 6, 27 & 80), and these have been referred to as accessory vessels, in association with

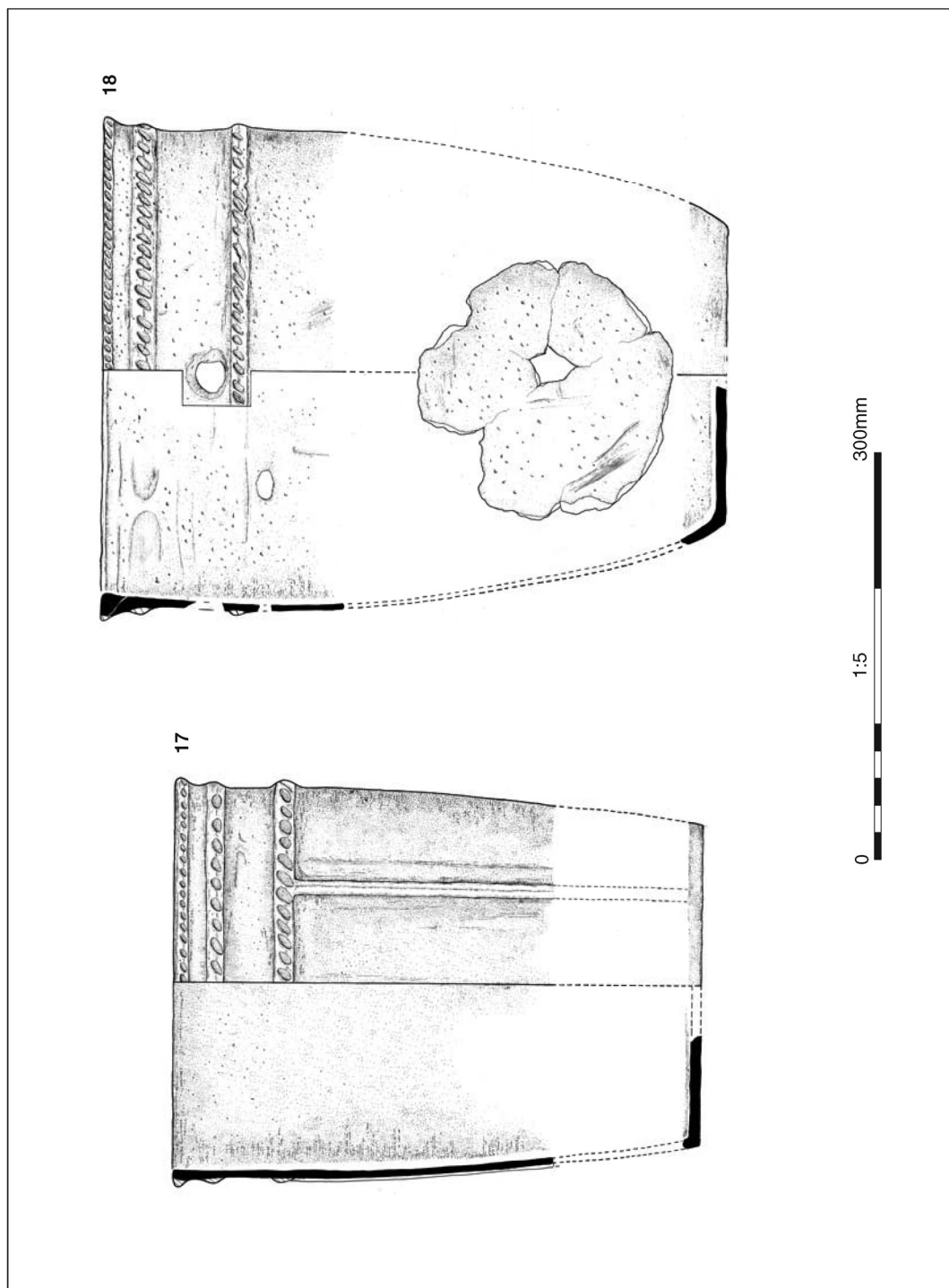


Fig. 17 Middle Bronze Age barrel urns from Area A (1:5): 17, RA 24019, from pit 10233 and 18, RA 24020, from pit 10242.

much larger urns and their cremations. The small Bransgore bucket is, however, an anomaly rather than an accessory; it was not accompanied by a larger pot nor any cremated bone from the three sieved samples taken from its feature, pit 10045. It was, however, deposited with a quantity of charcoal dated to 1420–1268 cal BC, at 95.4% probability (SUERC 74462), and interpreted as a pyre deposit. A similarly small (130mm diameter), bucket-shaped vessel, decorated with a line of finger-nail impressions irregularly executed below the rim, was recovered from the settlement ditch at Down Farm enclosure on Cranborne Chase (Barrett 1991, fig. 8.7.29).

Manufacturing techniques, vessel wall thickness, vessel types and sizes and evidence of use

At least two, and possibly three, different types of manufacturing technique were used to make the Middle Bronze Age cremation urns. Slab-building, which is well suited to the building of big pots (Rye 1982, 71–2, fig. 55.e), was clearly the preferred method for the larger Bransgore vessels. This method appears to have been used to make eight of the nine barrel urns in the cemetery assemblage (Figs 14.10–11 & 13; 15.14–15; 16.16 & 17.17–18). The two largest bucket urns, however, appear to have been made by the use of 70mm-wide rings of clay (Fig. 18.19–20). By contrast, the smallest bucket urn (Fig. 18.21) and at least three of the five globular urns were made by coil-building (Fig. 13.5, 7 & 9). This technique results in the presence of frequent 45°-angle fractures on the horizontal edges of sherds (Stevenson 1953, fig. 1; Rye 1981, 67–9). Coil-building was more suited to dealing with the complex profile of these shapely vessels. In addition, the Early Bronze Age beaker, collared urn and accessory bowl/cup were all coil-built.

One distinctive aspect of the Bransgore Middle Bronze Age assemblage is the extraordinarily thin walls constructed for seven of the nine barrel urns in the cremation cemetery. While the largest barrel (Fig. 16.16) measures up to 11mm in thickness, the walls of these seven range between 4–8mm across (Figs 14.10–12; 15.14–15 & 17.17–18), which is as thin as the Bransgore globular urns. In contrast, two of the bucket urns have

significantly thicker vessel walls at 9–12mm, while the small bucket has walls measuring 7–9mm thick. This cemetery characteristic is most striking when compared to the many bucket urns and six globular urns found at the Knighton Heath cemetery (Dorset) that are consistently much thicker than these at Bransgore, ranging between 7–16mm (mean 11–12mm) and 4–13mm (mean 8–9mm) respectively (Petersen 1981, figs 18–25). The Bransgore assemblage is far more similar to that from Simons Ground (Watling & White 1982, figs 19–24), in particular barrel urn F92 which is referred to as having ‘had exceptionally thin walls’ (ibid, 33). Altogether, the well-sorted range of sieved chips of crushed, calcined flint-temper in fabrics F1 and FV1 used to make the majority of barrel and globular urns respectively at Bransgore, the uniformity and consistently narrow thickness of vessel walls amongst these containers, and the smoothing of both interior and exterior surfaces which can still be traced on some urns, emphatically demonstrate the skills of experienced potters and a well-established, distinctive potting tradition in this assemblage.

It is also characteristic of the Middle Bronze Age Bransgore assemblage, which comprises just 16 vessels from Area A with measurable rim diameters, that several of the barrels and two of the three buckets are surprisingly large pots when compared to assemblages with far more suitable vessels, such as those from Latch Farm (Piggott 1938; 46 measurable rims) and Simon’s Ground (Watling & White 1982; 63 rims) cemeteries, and from Bestwall Quarry settlement (Ladle & Woodward 2009, figs 143–161; 83 rims). The rim diameters of the globulars and buckets from those three sites are available in histogram figures (Woodward 2009, figs 172–174). Although it is inappropriate to compare the modest number of Bransgore vessels to these impressive collections, the bias in the Bransgore range is noticeable. Amongst the Bransgore rims, more than a third (37.5%) are large (300–<400mm; 3 barrels and 1 bucket) to very large (400mm or more; 1 barrel and 1 bucket) in size. This relative amount is twice that of the Latch Farm assemblage, which has eight large urns and no very large vessels (17.4% of that assemblage), four times more

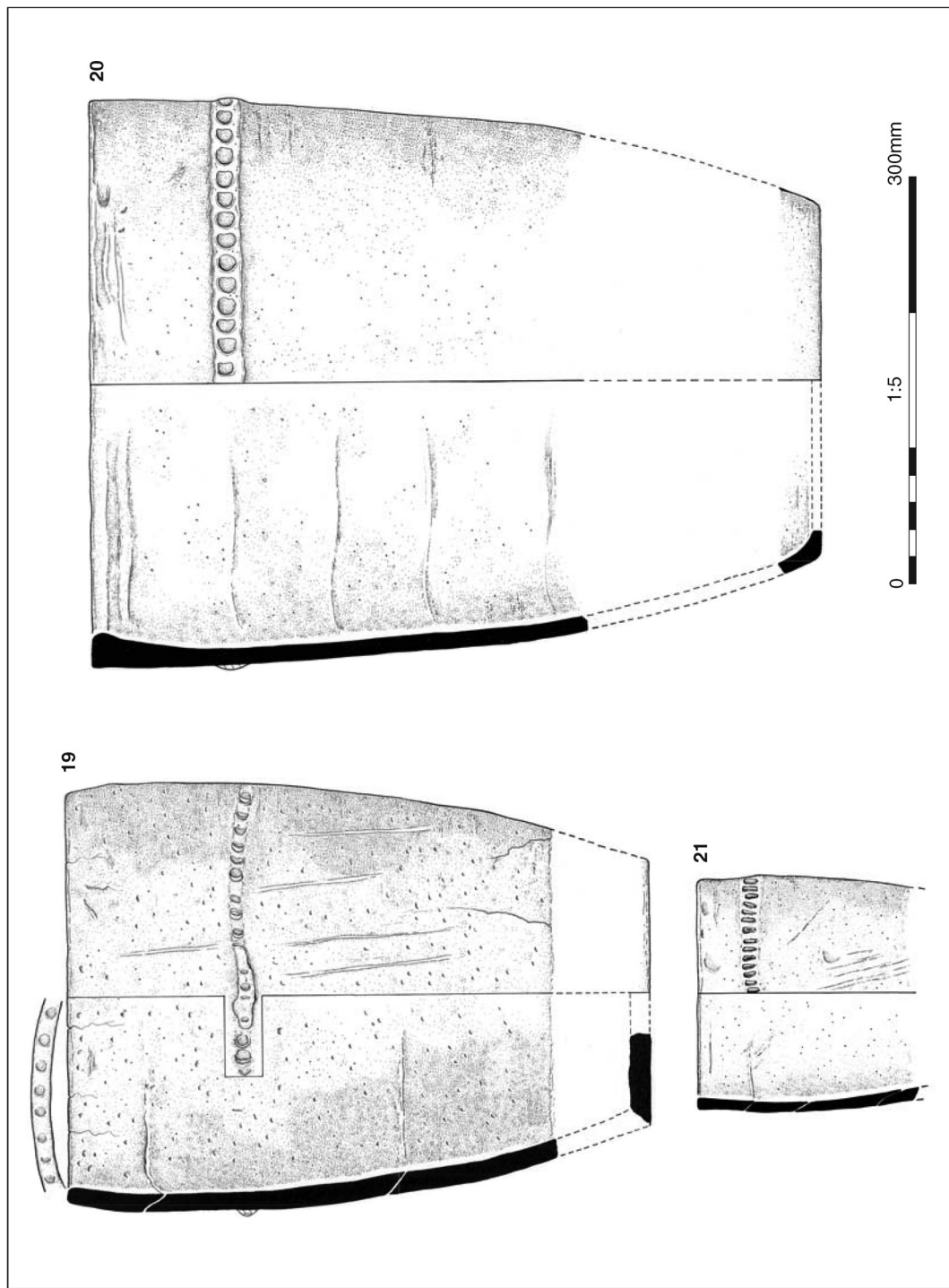


Fig. 18 Middle Bronze Age bucket urns from Area A (1:5): 19, RA 24005, from pit 10026; 20, RA 24006, from pit 10041; and 21, RA 24008, from pit 10045

than at Bestwall Quarry, with its seven large vessels and no very large pots (8.4%), and ten times more than at Simon's Ground (3.2%), which has only two large urns and no very large vessels. Woodward has discussed the relationship between specific bucket vessel sizes and functional groups, with small buckets used for serving and eating, medium buckets for food preparation and cooking and large buckets for storage of both food and non-food items (2009, 256–8). Following this correlation, it would seem that the vessels used to bury the dead at the Bransgore cemetery comprised a significant number of storage-sized vessels, with 43.8% medium-sized containers (2 globulars, 5 barrels) and 18.8% small vessels (2 globulars, 1 accessory).

Ann Woodward has also detailed a tripartite functional division of fine, everyday and heavy-duty fabric wares amongst the types of vessels recovered from Middle Bronze Age settlements and cemeteries in southern Britain (1995), with cross-cutting vessel sizes associated with the general vessel types represented in these apparently functional groups and their possible production systems. The Bransgore cemetery assemblage appears to follow this division in a limited fashion, with one tier, the fineware globular urns, having an appropriately finer fabric for six of the eight examples, and vessel size-range typical of the Avon/Stour and Central Wessex regions, with the majority measuring 140–200mm in diameter and the largest at 240mm. However, the presence of so few bucket urns, only three out of 29 Middle Bronze Age vessels (Tables 8–11), is most unusual, and severely reduces the impact of the everyday functional group in this assemblage compared to others. Instead, it is the so-called heavy-duty ware barrel urns that dominate the Bransgore cemetery assemblage. What is most curious, along with this difference, is that fabric F1 was used to make all of the barrel urns, although this is not the coarsest, heavy-duty fabric in the collection, a category reserved for fabrics FIQ1 and FV1 employed to make two of the three bucket urns. Fabric F1 could be regarded as an everyday or utilitarian fabric because it had been used to make not only all of the barrels, including both cemetery and settlement vessels, but also one bucket and

two globular urns. In addition, the vessel wall thickness of the heavy-duty wares should be more substantial, in view of their greater size and probable use (Woodward 1995, 199), and this is the case for the most elaborate South Lodge-style barrel, which is the second largest urn in the collection (Fig. 16.16); the other barrels in the assemblage have much thinner walls. The largest vessel in the assemblage is a bucket which has equally thick walls and a reinforcing applied, decorated shoulder cordon and coarser fabric FIQ1 (Fig. 18.20). These variously contrasting characteristics appear to set the Bransgore assemblage apart from the general trend of Middle Bronze Age cremation cemeteries in southern Britain.

A frequently-asked question about barrel urns in particular, because of their size, is whether they had been used for domestic purposes prior to their selection to contain the cremated bones of members of a family or community, or whether they were made specifically for this sole, ritual purpose. According to Calkin (1962, 20), Pitt-Rivers suggested that in view of their capacity, frequency and condition of recovery, the barrel urns he found at South Lodge Camp on Cranborne Chase, a small domestic enclosure, had been used to store grain (Barrett *et al.* 1991, 143–83). Another example of Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury vessels used at a settlement enclosure site is Thorney Down, in south Wiltshire (Stone 1941), as is the case at the Bestwall Quarry settlement complex east of Wareham in Dorset (Woodward 2009, esp. table 6 – examples of carbonised residue on Middle Bronze Age sherds); both sites have vessels which displayed evidence of use as cookpots. Elsewhere, thin-walled barrel and bucket urns displayed clear evidence of use prior to their de-selection from within a living community and reuse as burial containers, at Zionhill Copse, Chandler's Ford (Raymond 2001, 11, fig. 7, 1 & 3–5). The sole example of evidence of use at Bransgore was found on a small barrel jar (Fig. 19.25), with walls from 7–8mm thick, recovered from a settlement pit containing charcoal located within the ditched enclosure in Area F. This jar had been used as a cookpot, due to soot on its exterior and burnt residue on its interior, so there is evidence that these burial urns could primarily have been made

for domestic use. It is worth considering that the relative infrequency of bucket urns in the Bransgore assemblage, compared to several other cemetery groups, may well signify that the strikingly thin-walled barrel vessels had been made specifically for use as funerary containers in this case, or that the Middle Bronze Age people who lived in the Bransgore area, and used this cemetery preferred thin-walled barrel vessels, and saw them as a stylistic indicator of their community.

In addition, one barrel urn had been perforated, after its original firing, at least three times from inside to outside of the vessel (Fig. 17.18). Two of these post-firing perforations lie on the long wall of the urn, one on each side of the third horizontal cordon, which suggests that they may have been a pair of repair holes to deal with a crack in the vessel. There may be another perforation further down the vessel wall, but fragmentation makes this difficult to confirm. At least twelve examples of repaired globular, barrel and bucket urns, as well as other types of funerary jars, were recovered at Kimpton, including two globular urns with two sets of repair holes and one jar with three perforations (Dacre & Ellison 1981, figs 10, C10, 14, D2 & D15, 15, D/E 1 & D/E6, 16, E34, 18, E13 & E37, 19, E20, 20, F3, 21, G1 & 22, G6). The occurrence and frequency of apparently repaired pots in Middle Bronze Age funerary assemblages, such as those from Simons Ground (Watling & White 1982, 27–8, figs 19, 4, 21, 9–10, & 12, 22, 5 & 12, and 24, 7; White 1982, plate 13), Locks Heath (McSloy & Ellis 2016, fig. 3, P6), Kimpton and Bransgore, imply that these vessels had had a domestic function, or that they had been damaged in transit to their respective cemetery locations. However, the third perforation in this Bransgore urn was inserted at the centre of the base, which indicates that it was not part of a repairing technique but rather an alteration to the intended function which may be resolved with lipid residue analysis, or is evidence for the release of the buried person's soul in its inverted position. At present, no other examples of this type of post-manufacture perforation in the base plate of a Middle Bronze Age urn have been identified in regional assemblages.

Middle Bronze Age cremation urns as vessel families

The Bransgore assemblage prompts consideration that at least some of these urns could represent family groups, related kin or special individuals. Frances Raymond identified a very limited range of vessel sizes, from 240–320mm, amongst the eight bucket and barrel urns from the Zionhill Copse cremation cemetery, at Chandler's Ford, and that three of these displayed a very similar and distinctive rim style. She has suggested the possibility that smaller cemeteries had served related groups of individuals through potters 'working according to a well-defined local tradition' (2001, 15). Any repeated characteristics amongst the Bransgore urns suggest that these are products of the same potters, or generations of potters, supplying different groups of family members within a community and, if so, we may be able to consider these vessels as representative of kinship groups, through repetitive stylistic patterns of vessel form and decorative detail which cross-cut these communal cemeteries. An analysis of the distribution of the urns in the cemetery by general form (globular; barrel; bucket) and rim diameter-size (300mm or larger; less than 300mm), in addition to the paucity of pre-adult remains and infrequency of gender assignment amongst the cremated remains (Clough, this report) has resulted in no identifiable spatial patterning within the cemetery. While the near absence of cremated remains of children is highly significant at Bransgore, and in contrast to the evidence from Simons Ground (White 1982, app. III), for example, their membership within the community cannot be explored further. Therefore, it appears that the deposition of urns and mainly cremated adult bones was a display of community identity focused at barrow 1.1 in Area A, while the stylistic evidence from the urns may represent relationships of either familial ties within that overall community, or simply potters' choices.

Barrel urns – relatives and an individual

This approach was inspired by the recognition of a pair of nearly identical barrel urns (Fig. 14.10–11). They are type BRL3 vessels, made from fabric F1, and enhanced in a very simple

decorative style of one horizontal body cordon, with four vertical ribs attached on top of them at quarterly intervals around each urn leading down to the base zone. Neither the cordons nor the ribs are decorated further. There are only two aspects which differ between these urns; one is 50mm larger in diameter than the other, and its ribs have rounded, rather than pointed, upper ends. Plain cordoned and ribbed barrel urns are more frequently found along the Dorset coast (Calkin 1962, 20), and therefore the presence of this set in the Bransgore cemetery is typical of this region. A temporal relationship between these urns was established with radiocarbon dating of cremated bone and charcoal to 1424–1266 cal BC (95.4% probability, SUERC 73458), and 1399–1224 cal BC (95.4% probability, SUERC 74461) respectively; one that suggests that the same potter, or successive generations of potters, could have made the vessels used to bury two members of a wider, coastal network of kin.

A set of barrel siblings is suggested by three type BRL1 vessels (Figs 14.12 & 17. 17–18), each of which is decorated with a cordon around the rim, creating an exterior rim lip, and a wide flat-top berm that may be both a form of rim strengthening and an opportunity for providing a surface for decoration. Two additional horizontal cordons encircle these urns, one beneath the rim zone cordon, and the other located between 90–120mm further down the upper vessel wall. All cordons are decorated with a single row of diagonally-positioned, oval impressions that appear to have been made by using the side of the thumb rather than a finger-tip. However, there are two attributes which visually separate these vessels from each other. One urn has at least one undecorated, vertical rib running down the vessel wall from the lower horizontal cordon to which it abuts; however, there are no ribs on one of the other urns, although the third has not only four vertical ribs, but also four upper-vessel curved arcs between the second and third horizontal cordons connecting to the vertical ribs (a rigid interpretation of the ‘South Lodge’ style described below). This third, and more highly-decorated, urn has finger-tip impressions on all applied strips, while the first

urn’s vertical rib is unelaborated. The second difference is one of size: the plain-ribbed and the ribbed-with-arc urns are both 70mm smaller in diameter than the unribbed urn, which measures 360mm in diameter. Therefore, while the vessels themselves and their horizontal decorations are uniform in appearance, each has something which is special to it. The marked similarities and differences amongst these three BRL1 urns are reminiscent of those between siblings. Multiple rim and shoulder horizontal cordons, decorated with finger-tipping, is a well-known feature amongst barrel urns of the Bournemouth area (Calkin 1962, fig. 7, 1–2, 4, 6–14) and, if decoration implies kinship, such relationships are widespread. In her 1975 doctoral thesis, Ann Ellison re-emphasized the significance and common distribution of this barrel urn style, as type 8/9 in her Avon/Stour regional classification system (1982, 59).

The three BRL2 barrel urns could easily be referred to as *pot cousins* (Figs 14.13 & 15.14–15). All three are classic barrel-shaped vessels, with their convex-profile bodies and concave necks. Two measure 240–260mm in diameter, with the third at 300mm. They are decorated with three variations of lines of finger-tip impressions around their bodies, and one has extra clay around the rim to emphasize it. Therefore, they appear at first sight to be alike, but more careful consideration reveals distinct differences, and therefore ‘cousins’, or simply ‘friends’, may be a more suitable attribution, not least because two of the vessels are made from fabric F1, and the third and largest from fabric FV1. One of the most unifying aspects of these three BRL2 vessels is their vessel walls. It is quite extraordinary that such large pots could have been handmade and bonfired, with the thickness of their body walls measuring only 4–6mm for two vessels and 5–7mm for the third. Once again, this is another distinctive array of characteristics which are typical of barrel urns in the Bournemouth area (Calkin 1962, fig. 8, C2, 4–5). None of the deposits associated with these three urns has been radiocarbon dated.

The very large, South Lodge-style barrel urn (Fig. 16.16) may be considered as a unique individual in this cemetery. It is the sole example of a type BRL4 vessel, with a graceful finger-moulded rim and emphatic, convex profile. Its

decorative pattern and sequence of application are quite singular in this assemblage, with one cordon attached horizontally to encircle the upper body, with a second cordon attached from the base-angle upwards in a graceful arc, which crossed over the horizontal cordon, up to the edge of the moulded rim and returned downwards in a curve, stopping on the horizontal cordon. Altogether, there are five of these sweeping cordons. There were two additional pieces of cordon attached horizontally, one each between two of the sweeping cordons, but distinctively offset from each. It appears that a small oval-ended tool was used to impress individual marks along each cordon. The graceful curvilinear arcs on this pot are in a stylistic league of their own. Vessel form, as well as decorative composition and execution, distinguish this barrel urn from the family of BRL1 vessels with its one South Lodge-style example described above, and identify this urn as a highly individual vessel amongst the barrel urns in the Bransgore assemblage. Such individuality is reinforced by the earliest of the Middle Bronze Age dates for the cremated bone found in it (1517–1304 cal BC at 95.4% probability, SUERC 69246) compared to all other dates in both the cemetery and settlement features. It might be possible to suggest the adult individual buried in this vessel as the founder of this community, or a most senior member of the original settlers.

Globular urns – different-handed potters making related vessels

The globular urns seem to exhibit a level of individuality in their decorative patterns, but these may be due to the nature of who made them. Two globulars have common, and quite similar, hatched triangle or infilled chevron designs, but the execution of the tooled infilling of these shapes may have been conducted by a left-handed and right-handed potter respectively. It would be easier for a left-handed person to tool the triangles on one (Fig. 13.5) rather than the other (Fig. 13.8); the tooling of the off-set diagonals, or hatching, conducted by the latter person would place the hand repeatedly onto the first side line of the triangle, and thus smear it. In addition, the tool used to make the motifs on each pot is different,

with a narrow-end tool used to decorate the former, and a wider tool used on the latter. A similar, right-hand executed chevron was found at Site B on Simons Ground (Watling & White 1982, fig. 22.9), while an outstanding example of a right-handed hatched chevron was recovered at Bestwall Quarry (Woodward 2009, fig. 151.1). In contrast to these performances, the decorator of globular urn RA 24002 (Fig. 13.6) appears to have found a way round this problem, by making a new type of chevron, comprising diagonal off-set tooled lines joined together along the apex to make two-sided or double chevrons, which were separated from each other rather than touching at their bases. An identical example of this double-chevron globular urn design was recovered at Pokesdown (Calkin 1962, fig. 10.1), and a nearly identical example of the entire decorative pattern on this Bransgore globular was found at Site F, at Simons Ground (Watling & White 1982, fig. 20.16). The only carinated globular urn in the Bransgore assemblage (Fig. 13.6) has an irregularly-executed chevron motif, made from a continuous, curvilinear-tooled pseudo-chevron, like a nested set of arcs. In addition, there are pairs of impressed dots in a row around the pot, beneath the open bases of these chevron-like arcs just above two horizontal parallel lines at the hip-girth.

These four designs, and the making of them, are a typical sample of the variety found on Type I globular urns in the Avon/Stour region, and demonstrate their regionality in style, as well as their individuality through subtle, but significant, variation. Five of the Bransgore motifs, comprising the double-sided chevron, the left-handed single chevron, multiple rows of impressed dots, the right-handed single chevron and multiple parallel lines, are found on globular urns at Latch Farm and Pokesdown cemeteries, located within 5km of Bransgore. This proximity of sites with urns displaying identical motifs implies that the copying of motifs by potters was expected, and at the same time individuality was not shunned within the wider Avon/Stour area. It is not difficult to envision that this behaviour reflects the intermarriage of women across the various communities represented by these cemeteries; the persons who made these pots

and taught their daughters to make similar pots for their families. Such family groups may be identifiable in the vessel form and decoration sets highlighted above.

Sherds from other vessels associated with cremation urns or from pyre deposits in pits (Table 9; Fig. 19)

Five examples of Middle Bronze Age vessels, represented by from one to 12 sherds, were found in the fills of four cremation pits. These sherds were identified as not belonging to the principal urns, due to their different fabric type, vessel form, wall thickness, decoration or firing condition. Two from globular vessels (Fig. 19.22–23) were found in association with principal barrel urns. One of these cremation pits also contained sherds from a different barrel or possibly a bucket (Table 9, cat. no. 25). However, a vessel represented by 11 body sherds found in a pyre pit in Area A (Table 9, cat. no. 28) was made from a distinctive vesicular and grog-tempered fabric (VG1), and may represent the remnants of a thin-walled, soft-fired, Early Bronze Age vessel, such as a beaker, derived from an earlier phase of activity at this location, and swept into the pyre deposit. The Middle Bronze Age examples are likely to represent remnants of previous cremation pyres at the same locations, where the associated principal urn cremation had been conducted, and were unintentional additions to its bone and charcoal contents. Conversely, these sherds may represent deliberate additions of fragments from other vessels, possibly as tokens of social relationships from the participants at the cremation events, or reflecting the life history of the cremated individual. Additional sherds were also found in eight Middle Bronze Age cremation urns recovered at the Simons Ground complex of cemeteries (White 1982, 27), and two at Knighton Heath (Petersen 1981).

Sherds from a ring ditch, pits and postholes (Table 10; Fig. 19)

A cut through the ring ditch 1.2, in Area A, contained one base sherd from a beaker-type vessel with a softly-fired, grog-tempered fabric (Fig. 19.24).

Several features excavated in Area F

produced sherds from a variety of Middle Bronze Age vessels. The upper fill (10135) of pit 10134 contained 41 sherds (699g), including a rim and base from a type BRL3 barrel vessel decorated very simply with one plain cordon around its girth (Fig. 19.25). This context was rich with fragments of charcoal which provided a radiocarbon date of 1407–1228 cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC 73459) for the deposit. The pot had been used as a cooking vessel, with soot on its exterior and burnt residue on its interior. The similarity of this vessel to other barrel urns with bevelled rims and single horizontal plain cordons (Fig. 14.10–11) is marked. The layer beneath it (10136) contained two sherds (10g) from the only BRL5 vessel decorated with finger-tip and nail impressions (Fig. 19.26). Its expanded rim form is commonly found on barrel urns from cemetery sites in the Bournemouth area (c.f. Calkin 1962, figs. 7, 5 & 8, A3), but is rare at Bransgore. The expanded-rim effect on this jar had not been made using an applied strip, as so frequently found on Bransgore barrel urns, but rather by folding over the rim lip and pressing it down during manufacture, an unusual technique in this assemblage. A second vessel is represented in this same context by a body sherd (12g) from a thin-walled barrel jar impressed with finger-tipping straight onto its surface (Fig. 19.27). Pit 10128 contained three undecorated body sherds, each from a different vessel: a globular jar made from fabric VF1, a barrel or bucket with rather thick walls of 9–10mm, and a vessel of uncertain type with very thin walls measuring 3–4mm thick (Table 10, cat. nos. 33–35).

One sandy and flint-tempered fabric body sherd, derived from a jar decorated with a red-finish slip on its exterior surface, was found in pit 10338 of Area G. This is the only sherd which suggests a phase of Late Bronze-Earliest Iron Age activity in this location.

Summary dating sequence and homeland connections

Three Bronze Age phases of activity are represented at this location by the prehistoric pottery assemblage: Early, Middle and Late Bronze/Earliest Iron Age. The Early Bronze Age is represented by four vessels. A Late

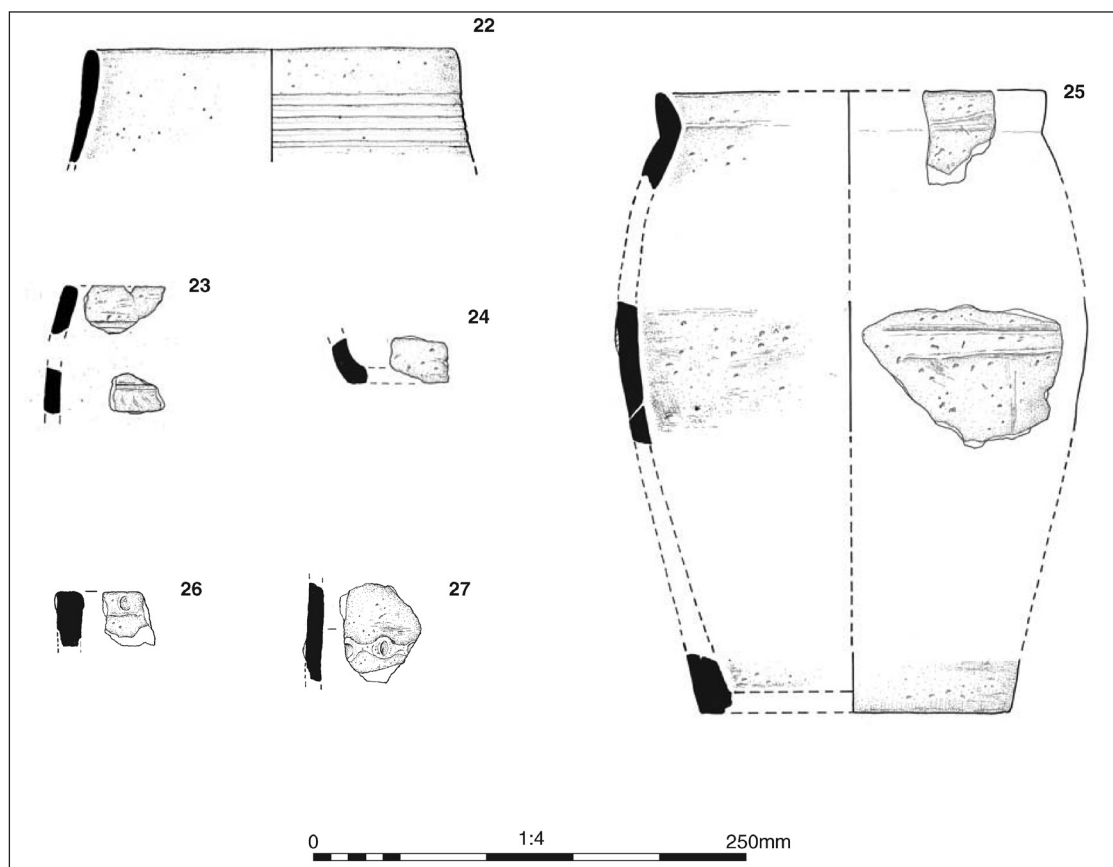


Fig. 19 Sherds from Early and Middle Bronze Age pottery vessels (1:4): 22, globular jar found inside 'South Lodge-style' barrel urn RA 24018 in pit 10208 in Area A; 23, globular jar associated with RA 24017 in pit 10186 in Area A; 24, probable beaker, from intervention 10228 of barrow ring ditch 1.2 in Area A; 25, barrel jar from 10135 in pit 10134 in Area F; 26, rim from barrel jar from 10136 in pit 10134 in Area F; and 27, rim from barrel or bucket vessel from 10136 in pit 10134 in Area F

Southern (British) beaker may have been deposited to accompany an inhumation burial in a special pit within an enclosure in Area E, at some time between the end of the third millennium and the middle of the second millennium BC, while the collared urn from Area C was deposited with cremated human bone dated to 2009–1767 cal BC at 95.4% probability, (SUERC 69245), and an accessory vessel accompanied a similar funerary deposit in Area A, dated to 1736–1614 cal BC at 94.5% probability (SUERC 73453). The use of these vessels spanned the Early Bronze Age period for over 400 years. Both the Deverel-Rimbury

burial urns inserted into barrow 1.1 in Area A and the use of a barrel jar deposited in a pit within the ditched enclosure settlement in Area F together provide a date-range typical of the Middle Bronze Age period of 1517–1128 cal BC, at 95.4% probability (SUERC 69246). Within this second 400-year span, it is possible to isolate the highly decorated and largest of the South Lodge-style barrel urn as the earliest vessel in this ceramic phase, and the finest globular urn as possibly the last deposited within this barrow.

If the Bransgore Middle Bronze Age cemetery is evidence of a return to this area during a period of Middle Bronze Age expansion on

the east side of the Avon valley, and north of the Latch Farm burial ground, by people who brought vessels from the core area of the wider social group to this new location, or by potters within the Bransgore community at least imitating the range of vessel shapes and decorations characteristic of the core area, then either activity would have reinforced social and cultural ties to that homeland. The strong decorative connections identified between the earliest barrel urn and the globular urns with those found at Simons Ground and Pokesdown, suggest that this core area is located within the Stour valley, while other barrel urns demonstrate strong coastal ties amongst the many generations in this cemetery. Possibly the last visit of later prehistoric people to this location is marked by the sherd of final Bronze Age date from a pit in Area H.

The Glass Bead by E. R. McSloy

A bead of pale blue/green glass, or glass paste, was recovered from the processing of the soil sample associated with Barrel Urn RA 24004, from pit 10019 in Area A. With the exception of lithic items, it is the only object recorded from any of the cremation-related deposits from this site. The bead is of small, sub-spherical/barrel-shaped form, measuring 4.4mm in length x 4.9mm in diameter, with an internal diam. of 2.4mm. An unusual feature is the ridging apparent to the internal diameter, which possibly results from the stretching of the heated glass paste during manufacture.

The bead surfaces are heavily pitted, although it lacks the quartz crystal inclusions characteristic of faience. Glass would appear to have been rare in Britain before the Late Bronze Age. Guido (1978) lists some 26 certain or possible examples from Britain and Ireland; the examples from Stockbridge, Hants, Portland, Dorset and Chewton Mendip, Somerset, offer possible parallels in terms of size and colour (*ibid.*, 20–21). Given its size, the bead may represent an intrusive find, although a possible later Bronze Age date would strengthen the evidence for later activity suggested by the single sherd of Class II jar from pit 10338 in Area H (No. 36).

THE BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Cremated bone by Sharon Clough

A total of 18 cremation deposits were recovered from the excavations at Heatherstone Grange. These were divided between three areas: Barrow 1.1, Barrow 1.2 and Area C.

Methods

Osteological analysis followed the standard procedure recommended by McKinley (1994a, 2000). Full details are described in the archive report (CA 2017).

Results

Cremated human bone was recovered from 12 pits in Barrow 1.1, and of these, 11 deposits comprised more than 5g of bone, and one had less than 1g (10026). The highest weight was 255.1g (10215), and the average was 92.8g. All except two burials were from within ceramic urns which were all inverted, except one (24016). The inverted urns had their bases truncated, and soil had penetrated the resulting void. The bone was worn and slightly chalky, indicative of an acidic burial environment. Some bone loss due to the burial environment is expected, although the original deposited weight of bone is unlikely to have been between the expected 1000–3000g for a full adult. It is well-documented that, in the case of Bronze Age burials, quantities of cremated bone generally fall short of the expected amount (Rebay-Salisbury 2010). It has also been frequently observed that there is no correlation between the size of urn and quantity of bone recovered (McKinley 1997, 139).

The distribution of cremated bone within urns was observed during micro-excavation, where a layer of bone commonly lay around the mid-section, and towards the neck, of the inverted vessel. The generally inverted position of the urn required that, when cremated bone was placed inside, the open neck had to be stopped with some form of biodegradable material before inversion. At a later stage, the urns filled with earth due to truncation or damage to the base.

A high fragmentation of cremated bone was consistent across all burials, with the majority

of fragments in the 5–10mm fraction. Most fragmentation would have occurred after burial, due to the effects of acidic environment and later excavation, as evidenced by re-joinable fragments. All cremated bone was white in colour, suggesting pyre temperatures in excess of 800°C (Shipman *et al.* 1984). This is a common finding amongst Bronze Age cremation burials, and indicates that complete combustion of the bone was achieved.

Identification of skeletal elements was problematic, due to the small fragment size, low weight and surface abrasion. Cranial fragments are easier to identify than other elements (McKinley 1998), and all but one burial had these present (10041). The least identified area was the axial skeleton, as this area has the highest quantity of trabecular bone and has been demonstrated to suffer the greatest degree of loss in acidic soils (McKinley 1997). There did not appear to be any collection or deposition bias.

All but one of the burials were of adult individuals. Burials 10018 and 10233 were possibly in the younger age-ranges, due to the presence of a thin cranial vault and low thickness of the diploë (Gejvall 1981), whereas 10184 exhibited fused, but not obliterated, cranial sutures which tentatively suggested an older age-range. A possible child (10186) identified from cranial vault fragments, although a very low weight, of 8.6g, prevented full identification. A single individual, 10018, was tentatively identified as female, due to the more gracile presentation of cranial features. The patella of 10184 had prominent enthesophytes for the patella ligament. This is a common observation, and entheses are known to increase with age.

Barrow 1.2 had three burials which contained cremated bone. Two were un-urned (10170, 10171), and one (10176) was associated with an accessory cup of Early Bronze Age type (RA 24015, Fig. 12.3). All three had low weights of bone, ranging from 19g to 120.3g (average 54g). This falls considerably short of the expected amount, and as with Barrow 1.1, the bone was soft and chalky with abraded edges, indicating an acidic burial environment. There was also a high degree of fragmentation, with most of the bone in the 5–10mm or 5–2mm fractions. This inhibited

identification of skeletal elements. Burial 10176 had the greatest weight, and therefore the most identifiable elements, which ranged across the body. The central location of this burial, and the greatest weight of cremated bone, suggests that it may represent the primary burial in the barrow, as weight in this case may relate to status (McKinley 1997). All the cremated bone was fully white in colour, indicative of full oxidation.

Area C had three burials which contained cremated bone, one urned and two un-urned. These were the highest weighted burials from all the sites, 417g and 791g, although burial 10108 had only 3.5g. The bone from these pits was sharper, and had more spongy bone present, suggesting a more favourable burial environment compared to other areas. The un-urned burial (10100) had the highest weight, in circumstances where a ceramic urn would be might have a protective effect, or imply a different status.

The skeletal elements identified were fairly evenly distributed throughout the skeleton, although there was surprisingly little cranial vault from 10100, although maxilla, mandible and tooth roots were present, as were the smallest bones (phalanges) of the hand and foot. These elements are fairly common in cremation burials of Bronze Age date, and suggest a collection procedure which involved raking off the upper levels of the cooled pyre, rather than hand collection.

Despite the higher weights of bone, there were few fragments diagnostic of age or sex. Burials 10094 and 10100 were possibly male individuals, with 10094 possibly in the younger age-range. Enthesophytes were identified on the superior humeral shaft of 10094, and there was also evidence of healed periostitis (infection) on a long-bone fragment.

Fragmentation was higher in the urned burial 10094, than the unurned burial 10100. It would be expected that an urn would provide protection from fragmentation and *in situ* degradation, but the opposite appears to be the case. A similar finding, by Pankowská (*et al.* 2014), suggests that the greater fragmentation observed in urned burials may reflect that fact that these cremated bone samples had more room to move in the ground, and that

Table 11 Cremated bone deposits summary: Barrow 1.1, Area A

<i>Cut number</i>	<i>Total Weight (g)</i>	<i>urn no.</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Largest frag size (mm)</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Pathology</i>
10011	110.6	24001	Cranial vault, tooth root, hum, hand phalanx, rad/uln shaft	37	Adult	U	
10018	175.5	24003	Cranial vault, frontal right superior orbit, hum, fem, tib, fib, talus.calc, MT head, 1st pedal phalanx, hand phalanges	49	Adult - Younger age range, thin vault	?female or gracile male	
10026	>0.1g	24005	1 fleck of bone	Less than 5	Too small to ascertain	U	
10039	31.1	24009	Cranial vault	27	Adult ?	U	
10041	4.7	24006	Unidentified long bone	24	Adult	U	
10049	39.3	Un-urned	Cranial vault, unidentified long bone	34	Adult?	U	
10184	232.9	24016 (not inverted)	Cranial vault, mastoid process, maxilla, uln, clav, rad, hum, fem, tib, fib, patella, rib, vert, mcl,	39	Fused cranial sutures, but not obliterated prime-mature adult	U	Patella -entheso-phytes on anterior surface
10186	8.6	24017	Cranial vault	18	Child.		
10208	71.9	24018	Cranial vault, mandibular coronoid, petrous portion, rib, fem, hum	45	Adult	U	
10215	255.1	Un-urned	Cranial vault, hum, rad, uln, fem, tib, mcl, tooth root, sesmoid	42	Adult	U	
10233	32.1	24019	Cranial vault, unidentified long bone	30	Adult – young thin vault & sutures sharp	U	
10242	168.2	24020	Cranial vault, occipital, frontal, left sup orbit frag, rib, tib, fem, hand prox phalanx	42	Adult	U	

micro-excavation of urn contents may result in further fragmentation. These fragments were mostly white in colour, with occasional patches of grey. As with the cremation burials from the barrows, full oxidation of the bone was achieved in this case.

An animal bone component was identified in cremation burial 10100, comprising 3.8g of thin, small fragments from a bird. Due to the size and lack of long bones, identification of species was not possible. This burial was of a probable adult male, and was accompanied by

Table 12 Cremated bone deposits summary: Barrow 1.2, Area A

<i>Cut Number</i>	<i>Total Weight (g)</i>	<i>urn number</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Largest frag size (mm)</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Pathology</i>
10170	23.7	Un-urned	Cranial vault, mandible frag, tooth root single	34	Adult	U	
10171	19	Un-urned	External auditory canal, tooth root frag, unid long bone	20	Adult?	U	
10176	120.3	24015 - broken	Cranial vault, parietal superior, petrous portion, vert frag, fem, hum, tooth root, cervical vert, MC shaft?, rad/uln shaft	44	Adult	U	

Table 13 Cremated bone deposits summary: Area C (continued overleaf)

<i>Cut Number</i>	<i>Total Weight (g)</i>	<i>urn number</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Largest frag size (mm)</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Pathology</i>
10094	417.4	24011	Cranial vault, 3rd molar tooth root, 4x tooth roots, scapula, hum, radial head, rad/uln shaft, radial head, fem, tib, dist fem, vert, ribs	82	Adult – thin vault, younger age range	?male	Enthesophytes on humerus. Healed periostitis on long bone frag (?humerus)

Table 13 Cremated bone deposits summary: Area C (continued from overleaf)

10100	791.3	Un-urned	Mandible, left zygomatic, cranial vault, mandible ramus, left superior orbit, right maxilla (all), zygomatic arch, petrous portion x2, mandibular coronoid process, mandibular alveolar, cervical vert body, vert frags, ilium frags, ribs, scaphoid, Mc1 head, ulna prox shaft, mc 4&5, mc1, further MC heads, capitate, distal phalanx x4, prox phalanx x7, hum shaft, hum condyle, scapula glenoid, radial shaft, patella, prox mt, prox & mid phalanges x2 each, distal and prox epiphyses, fem, tib, fib shafts, tooth roots 5x single 10x multi, 1 3rd molar,. Animal bone ? bird cranium.	48	Adult - Y	?male – superior orbit thick
10108	3.5	Un-urned	Unidentified		Adult	U

a fine flint knife made on a tertiary flake (Ra. 24012, Fig. 11). This item, and the presence of bird bone, probably representing a pyre offering, may identify a particular status for this individual.

Discussion

It is clear from all the cremation burials that

complete collection of the burnt bone was not considered a necessary aspect of Middle Bronze Age funerary rites, but that full oxidation of the bone was. Although a lack of some skeletal elements and low bone weight may be explained by taphonomic factors, these would not account for the considerable quantities which were absent. The method of disposal

of the rest of the cremated bone, or other skeletal elements, remains wholly obscure, but might include scattering across the landscape, within water courses, distribution amongst the mourners or curation above ground, all of which are possibilities which would leave no archaeological trace.

Fragmentation of cremated bone was high, and prevented identification of elements. Any evidence of deliberate post-pyre breakage is likely to have been obscured by post-depositional factors. Remarkably, there is no evidence that urned deposition provided better protection of cremated bone.

It was not always possible to estimate the age or sex of adult cremation burials, although it was observed that both female and male individuals were present, and there was one possible child from the Barrow 1.1 group. Pathological lesions were confined to enthesophytes and healed periostitis.

The cremation burials were compared to others from similar time periods, and in the surrounding area. Seven burials contained human bone from Lock's Heath, Hampshire (McSloy & Ellis 2016), and nine from Beggarwood Lane, Basingstoke (Massey & Kennedy *forthcoming*). On both sites, the bone was also highly fragmented and fully white in colour, and only low weights were recovered. At Beggarwood Lane it was also identified that the urned burials had a lower weight than the un-urned, whereas all those recorded from Lock's Heath were contained in an urn. The range of cremation burials from Heatherstone Grange appears broadly typical for the region and the time periods concerned.

Charred plant remains by Sarah F. Wyles

The charred plant remains from seven samples were selected for further analysis from the series of 94 environmental samples taken from the site, on the basis of the sample assessment results. These were from Middle Bronze Age urned cremation deposit 10242 and unurned cremation related deposit 10100 in Area A, Middle Bronze Age pit 10134 in Area F, and undated pits 10318 and 10327, in Area H. The samples were processed following standard flotation methods, using a

250µm sieve for the recovery of the flot, and 0.5mm sieve for the collection of the residue. All identifiable charred plant remains were identified, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, provided by Zohary *et al.* (2012), for cereals. The results are recorded in Table 14, below. The charred plant assessment results have also been considered within this report.

Period 1 – Early Bronze Age

No suitable charred plant assemblages for further analysis were recovered from the samples of this date. The small assemblage recovered from cremation-related deposit 10095 surrounding collared urn RA 24011, in cut 10094 in Area C, included a few seeds of rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.).

Period 2 – Middle Bronze Age

The small charred plant assemblage recovered from fill 10345 (sample 25126), of barrel urn RA 24020, comprised small numbers of weed seeds, stem/rootlet fragments and tuber/rhizome fragments. No cereal remains were recorded. The weed seeds included those of pale persicaria/redshank (*Persicaria lapathifolia/maculosa*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*).

Fill 10101 (samples 25064 and 25065), of cremation-related deposit 10100, contained large amounts of stem/rootlet and tuber/rhizome fragments. Some of the tubers were identifiable as those of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*). The weed seeds included those of meadow grass/cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.), brassica (*Brassica* sp.) and clover (*Trifolium* sp.). Again, no cereal remains were recovered. The small charred plant assemblages recovered from some of the other urned and unurned cremation-related deposits in Area A and Area C were compatible with these results.

These assemblages are comparable with the remains from other Bronze Age cremation-related deposits, both urned and unurned, including those from North of Saltwood Tunnel, Kent (Stevens 2006), Kingsborough Manor, Isle of Sheppey, Kent (Stevens 2008) and Twyford Down (Clapham 2000). Plant tubers, in particular those of false oat-grass,

occur in cremation deposits (Godwin 1984; Robinson 1988), and it is thought that some of these tubers and stems may represent material uprooted while creating a fire-break around the cremation site, and then used as tinder (Stevens 2008).

A moderate number of charred plant remains was recorded from fill 10135 (sample 25062), of pit 10134 in Area F. The assemblage was dominated by cereal remains, with grain fragments outnumbering chaff elements. The cereal remains included hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) grain, glume base and spikelet fork fragments and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain and rachis fragments. A number of the hulled wheat remains were identifiable as emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*). The weed seeds included those of persicaria, black bindweed, vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.). These weed seed species are those typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments. The assemblage appears to be representative of general domestic settlement waste. Emmer was generally the predominant wheat taxon in Southern Britain during the Middle Bronze Age (Greig 1991).

Prehistoric – ?Bronze Age

Fill 10320 (sample 25110), of pit 10318 in Area H, contained a moderate quantity of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments, and a few hulled wheat grain fragments. The assemblage may be indicative of the exploitation of wild food resources within the area, and there is no indication that this feature is associated with any funerary activity.

A high number of plant remains were recovered from fill 10329 (sample 25112), and a moderate quantity from fill 10328 (sample 25111), of pit 10327 in Area H. Cereal remains were predominant in both assemblages, with grains being more numerous than chaff elements. These remains included hulled wheat grain, spikelet fork and glume base fragments and barley grain fragments. A number of hulled wheat remains were identifiable as emmer wheat. A single possible free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) grain was recorded from fill 10328. This is likely to be intrusive material. Other charred remains from this pit included

hazelnut shell fragments, hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) stone fragments and seeds of dock (*Rumex* sp.) and oat/brome grass. There is some indication of the possible exploitation of areas of woodland edge, hedgerow and scrub. These assemblages appear to represent dumps of general domestic hearth waste material. Again there is no indication that this feature is associated with any funerary activity.

Summary

The charred plant assemblages recovered from the Middle Bronze Age urned and unurned cremation-related deposits in Areas A and C appear to be comparable with other cremation-related deposits of this date in Southern Britain. There is evidence for domestic settlement activity, including crop processing and the exploitation of wild food resources, in Area F during the Middle Bronze Age, and in Area H in the broader prehistoric period, thus identifying specific areas of funerary and settlement activity.

The Charcoal by Dana Challinor

Introduction

The aims of the analysis, identified in the assessment, were to determine: 1) whether single-taxon dominance, common at other sites, was replicated; 2) whether this differed significantly from non-funerary contexts at the site; 3) if there were any status or gender patterns relating to fuel use; and 4) if any regional differences could be distinguished. In practice, the evidence from non-funerary contexts was limited, although a range of cremation-related contexts were examined in detail (e.g. pyre debris with deposited urns, pyre debris without urns and the fills of cremation urns). A total of twenty-seven samples were analysed in full, with the additional results from some of the assessed samples referred to in this report.

Methodology

Standard identification procedures were followed, using identification keys (Hather 2000, Schweingruber 1990), and modern reference material. Most of the samples studied had been selected for analysis because they produced

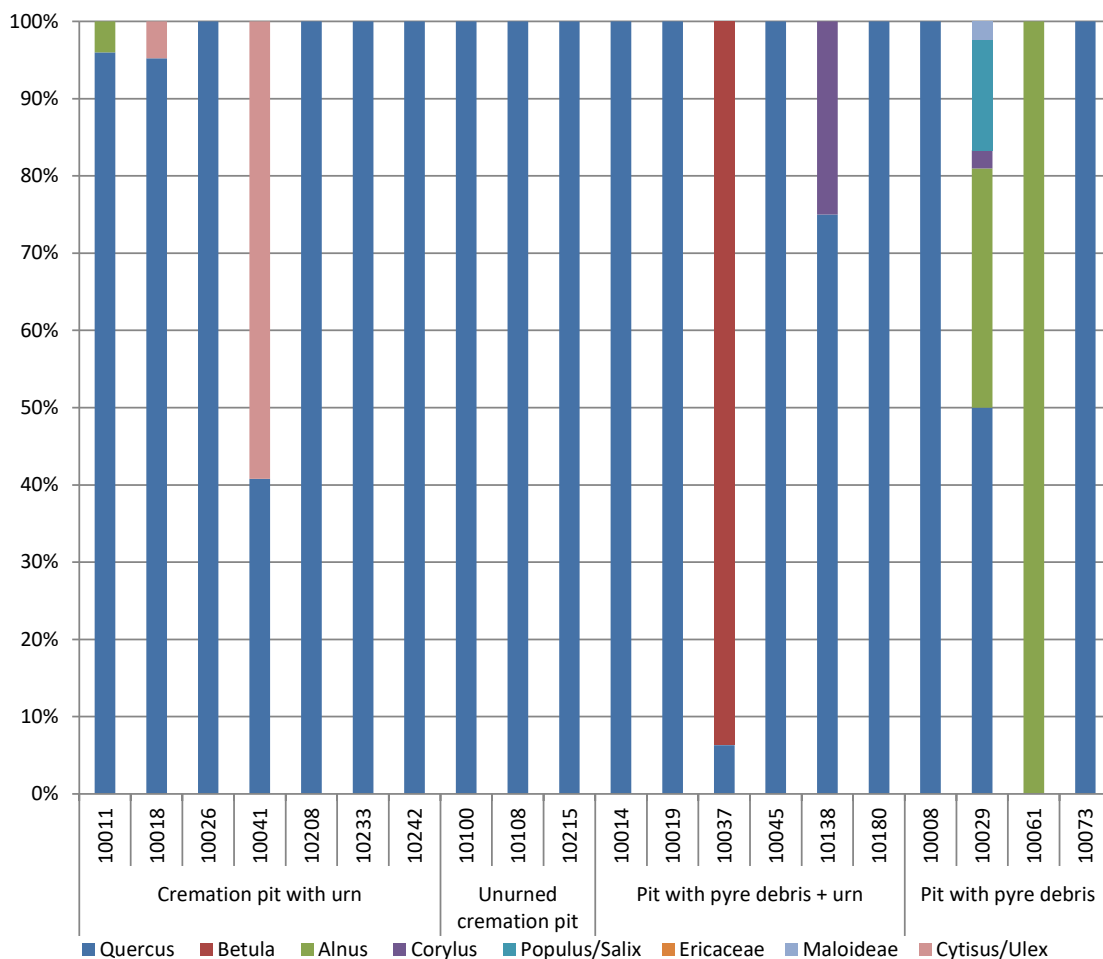


Fig. 20 Taxonomic composition of cremation-related assemblages (grouped by feature and based on fragment count (N=1056))

abundant assemblages (for which assessment alone was not reliably representative), and were sub-sampled as appropriate; between 30 and 50 fragments per sample, depending on whether multiple samples were examined from the same feature. The charcoal was fractured and examined at low magnification (up to X45), with representative fragments examined in longitudinal sections at high magnification (up to X400). Observations on maturity, and other features, were made where appropriate. Classification and nomenclature follow Stace (1997). Comments on habitat preferences,

wood properties and burning qualities are drawn from various sources including Stace (1997), Edlin (1949), Gale & Cutler (2000) and Warren (2007).

Assessment samples

Almost all of the assessment samples which were not included in the full analysis were sparse in material preservation, or could not be securely dated. Any cremation-related features which were not analysed produced traces of oak or similar assemblages to those which were fully quantified.

Table 14 Charred plant remains (continued on opposite page)

Period	2 - Middle Bronze Age				Prehistoric			
Area	A			F	H			
Feature type	Barrel					Fire Pit ?		
	Urn	Cremation				Associated		
	RA	deposit		Pit	Pit	with barrow		
	24020							
Cut	10242	10100		10134	10318	10327		
Context	10345	10101	10101	10135	10320	10328	10329	
Sample	25126	25064	25065	25062	25110	25111	25112	
Vol (L)	11	9	10	10	14	15	24	
Flot size	150	175	150	375	625	120	350	
%Roots	2	10	10	5	1	40	30	
Cereals	Common Name							
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. sl (grain)	barley	-	-	-	2	-	- 3	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. sl (rachis frag)	barley	-	-	-	1	-	- -	
<i>Triticum cf. dicoccum</i> (Schübl) (grain)	emmer wheat	-	-	-	2	-	4 18	
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> (Schübl) (glume base)	emmer wheat	-	-	-	4	-	- -	
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> (Schübl) (spikelet fork)	emmer wheat	-	-	-	3	-	- 1	
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (grain)	emmer/spelt wheat	-	-	-	2	2	7 50	
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (spikelet fork)	emmer/spelt wheat	-	-	-	2	-	- 3	
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (glume bases)	emmer/spelt wheat	-	-	-	1	-	- 1	
<i>Triticum turgidum/</i> <i>aestivum</i> (grain)	free-threshing wheat	-	-	-	-	-	<i>cf.</i> 1 -	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)	wheat	-	-	-	2	-	- -	
Cereal indet. (grains)	cereal	-	-	-	7	2	15 25	
Cereal frag. (est. whole grains)	cereal	-	-	-	5	-	5 12	
Other Species								
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	buttercup	-	-	1	-	-	- -	
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (fragments)	hazelnut	-	-	-	-	69	11 47	
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	goosefoot	1	-	-	-	-	- -	

Table 14 Charred plant remains (continued from opposite page)

<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i> / <i>maculosa</i> (L.) Gray/Gray	pale persicaria/ redshank	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	knotgrass	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) Å. Löve	black-bindweed	4	-	-	2	-	-	-
<i>Rumex</i> sp. L.	docks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Brassica</i> sp. L.	brassica	-	5	4	-	-	-	-
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> Jacq.	hawthorn	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Vicia</i> L./ <i>Lathyrus</i> sp. L.	vetch/wild pea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
<i>Medicago/Trifolium</i> sp. L.	medick/clover	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Trifolium</i> sp. L.	clover	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Asteraceae type stem/ seed head frag		2	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Sch. Bip.	scentless mayweed	cf.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Poa/Phleum</i> sp. L.	meadow grass/ cat's-tails	-	4	10	-	-	-	-
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> Var. <i>bulbosum</i> (Willd)	false oat-grass	-	15	14	-	-	-	-
<i>Avena</i> L./ <i>Bromus</i> L. sp.	oat/brome grass	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Stem/rootlet frag > 2mm		2	100+	90	3	-	-	2
Tuber/Rhizome frags		2	70	45	-	-	-	-
Galls		-	3	2	-	-	-	-

Results

The preservation of the charcoal was generally very good, with some large fragment sizes and a clean and clear anatomical structure. Some high levels of vitrification were recorded, especially in oak fragments, which exhibited a clinkery texture and frequent radial cracks. Vitrification is no longer considered a result of burning at high temperature, but relates to the condition of the wood when burned (Marguerie & Hunot 2007). Some assemblages of oak contained highly-comminuted fragments (<1 growth-ring visible), where it was impossible to establish maturity. A total of 1131 fragments were examined for the analysis, from which eight taxa were positively identified; all of which were consistent with native taxa, and

identifications are provided to the highest taxonomic level possible according to the native British flora, i.e. where there is only a single native species, this is named, but where there are several native species, the genus or subfamily is given.

Fagaceae: *Quercus* spp. (oak).

There are two oak species native to England which are not distinguishable anatomically. Oak was ubiquitous in prehistory, and was commonly exploited for timber and fuelwood. It coppices well, and provides a good firewood with a high calorific heat, especially when well-seasoned.

Betulaceae: *Betula* spp. (birch).

There are two native species of birch. *B.*

pubescens favours wetter soils than *B. pendula*, but both are light-demanding and readily colonise open areas. Birch provides good, but relatively short-lived firewood.

Betulaceae: *Alnus glutinosa*, Gaertn. (alder).

Common alder is the sole species native to Britain, and is common on riversides and in wetland habitats. Alder would have characterised localised wetland areas, especially along the river Avon. Alder is considered a poor fuelwood, slow to burn.

Betulaceae: *Corylus avellana* L. (hazel).

Hazel commonly associates with oak woodland, often forming a shrubby understory. Like oak, it coppices well and was important in woodland management practices. It makes a good fuel. Anatomically, hazel is very similar to alder, and was difficult to distinguish in poorly-preserved charcoal.

Salicaceae: *Populus* spp. (poplar).

These two genera can rarely be distinguished anatomically. *P. nigra* and the several native willow species favour wet soils, and would have grown on the River Avon floodplain close to the site. Poplar and willow are considered relatively poor firewoods, and require seasoning.

Ericaceae: *Erica* spp. (heaths) and/or *Calluna vulgaris* L. (heather).

There are several species which may be represented in the charcoal assemblage; however the presence of *Calluna* is likely, given its dominance in local New Forest heathlands. As gathered stems, heather would have provided a fast, high heat, good for kindling, with the use of whole turves giving a more sustained, longer burn.

Rosaceae: Maloideae, subfamily, but including genera *Sorbus*, *Malus*, *Crataegus* and possibly *Pyrus* (referred to as hawthorn group).

There are many native species of the Maloideae family, which are rarely distinguishable by anatomical characteristics. They can be small trees or shrubs, and are commonly associated with hedgerows and scrub. The wood of the

Maloideae is generally dense, and makes a good fuelwood, with some species producing a pleasant odour.

Fabaceae: *Cytisus scoparius* L. (broom) and/or *Ulex* spp. (gorse).

These genera are not distinguishable anatomically, and there are several native gorse species. They are both shrubs, which grow well on sandy soils, with gorse particularly characteristic of heathland. Among other uses, gorse was known to be cultivated for fuelwood, especially where woodland was scarce. It was also traditionally used in bread ovens, as the wood provides a high, fast heat and leaves little ash.

Roundwood fragments were abundant; although few with preserved bark and pith, and there were many with moderate or strong ring curvature. Detached bark fragments were recorded in several samples, but there were no complete stems, despite the otherwise fine preservation. Some roundwood was relatively wide, with ring counts of >20 years and diameters of 30mm, but there were also fragments of slower growth with little or no latewood visible. Tyloses, laid down during heartwood formation, were less commonly observed. Heartwood is usually easier to identify than sapwood in archaeological material, so its paucity in these samples is probably an accurate reflection of the character of the wood used. Two samples contained notable quantities of oak heartwood; >40% in unurned cremation pit 10100, and >80% from the redeposited pyre debris in pit 10073. Cremation 10100 was also interesting, as some of the oak heartwood exhibited numerous insect channels, indicating that the wood was fairly decayed at the time of burning.

Early Bronze Age

Confirmed Early Bronze Age samples were too few or sparse to merit analysis, but the assessment yielded some assemblages worthy of record. The ring ditch of a small barrow (Area A; 10228, ring ditch 1.2, Fig. 2) produced an abundant assemblage, comprising oak trunkwood, including some slow-grown heartwood as well as sapwood. Cremation-related assemblages from pit 10094 (both from within the collared urn RA 24011 and

Table 15 Analysed charcoal from Area A (showing fragment counts)

Feature	10008	10011	10014	10018	10019	10026	10029	10037	10041	10045	10061	10073	10100	10180	10208	10215	10233	10242
Context	10010	10013	10015	10343	10017	10346	10366	10030	10032	10036	10062	10075	10101	10182	10364	10216	10368	10345
Sample	25005	25001	25006	25123	25124	25127	25147	25010	25032	25142	25143	25052	25064	25091	25145	25101	25149	25126
<i>Quercus</i> sp. oak	50 rsh	48 rs	48 rsh	15	5	50 rs	50 rsh	21r	3	27	3	50 rsh	50 hs	50 rs	50 rs	50 rsh	48 rs	48 rsh
<i>Betula</i> sp. birch											3							
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> Gaertn. alder		1						13 (r)			24 (r)							
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. hazel								1										
<i>Alnus/Corylus</i> alder/hazel		1						2			6 (r)							
<i>Populus/Salix</i> poplar/willow								6 (r)										
Ericaceae heather/heaths																		
Maloideae hawthorn grp								1										
<i>Cytisus/Ulex</i> broom/gorse					1r					30 (r)	47 (r)							
Indeterminate			2b					6 (rb)	6b								2b	2b

r=roundwood; s=sapwood; h=heartwood; b=bark

Table 16 Analysed charcoal from Areas C and F (showing fragment counts)

	Area C		Area F
Feature	10108	10138	10134
Context	10110	10140	10135
Sample	25058	25063	25062
<i>Quercus</i> sp. oak	50 (rsh)	36 (rs)	35 (rsh)
<i>Betula</i> sp. birch			
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> Gaertn. alder			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. hazel		12 (r)	
<i>Alnus/Corylus</i> alder/hazel		2	
<i>Populus/Salix</i> poplar/willow			
Ericaceae heather/ling			8r
Maloideae hawthorn group			
<i>Cytisus/Ulex</i> broom/gorse			7r
Indeterminate			

r=roundwood; s=sapwood; h=heartwood; b=bark

surrounding the urn), redeposited pyre debris in pit 10073 and the fill of grog-tempered bowl RA 24015, in pit 10176, all produced traces of oak, but the material was small and scant.

Discussion

Fuelwood selection and single-taxon dominance

The cremation-related assemblages at Bransgore were consistent with the pattern of single-taxon dominance recorded at other Early and Middle Bronze Age funerary sites; e.g. Rollright Stones, Oxfordshire (Straker 1988), Barrow Hills, Oxfordshire (Thompson 1999), Raunds, Northamptonshire (Campbell

2007), Heathrow (Challinor 2010a) and Cotswold Community, Gloucestershire (Challinor 2010b). Of the 20 features with quantified assemblages at Bransgore, 18 assemblages were dominated by a single taxon (17 with >90%), of which 14 were exclusively of one taxon. Figure 20, below, suggests that there is little significant difference in assemblage composition and date between different funerary deposit types. With one possible exception (discussed below), the cremation burials which actually contained human bone deposits (both those with urns and those without) were oak-dominated. There is perhaps a little more variation in the assemblages from pyre debris deposits (two which are not oak-dominated, and one which is more diverse), but oak prevails in seven of these assemblages, with no clear differences between pits with urns and those without. The general pattern of low diversity in the pits with pyre debris, (but no burial of bone) suggests that they still represent the deposition of material from a single cremation event, rather than mixed material from several burning events. The sample from pit 10029 (pyre debris without urn) was atypical in this respect, as it produced a more diverse assemblage of five taxa, including two taxa not encountered elsewhere in the charcoal; poplar/willow and Maloideae (hawthorn group). The character of the oak wood, in this sample, was also unusual; it represented <50% of the assemblage, and was entirely composed of narrow roundwood (up to 7 years growth), with some immature wood that had not yet developed wide rays. There is no obvious evidence to indicate why this charcoal assemblage differs from other cremation-related samples.

The widespread use of oak is unsurprising, since it provides the high calorific value necessary for efficient cremation, which is borne out by the strong calcinity of the cremated human bones (Clough, this report). The available evidence from the osteological analysis showed that all of the cremated remains (from those features for which charcoal was available) were from adults. This is consistent with the idea that that adults (and infants) were cremated with a single taxon, while more diverse assemblages are associated with children

(Campbell 2007, 31). The assemblage from the burial of a possible female (10018) was also composed of oak, and was only remarkable by the presence of a single fragment of broom/gorse. It also contained some small stem or rootlet fragments, which might indicate that turves had been partially used on the pyre, or that the pyre was constructed over a shallow pit where the roots would have been exposed to fire.

Unusual assemblages and ritual deposition

Cremation pit 10041 was unusual for the significant quantity of broom/gorse found in two assemblages from the fills (10361 and 10362) of bucket urn RA 24006. All the assemblages produced abundant charcoal, so the presence/absence of taxa was reliably established. It is not possible to distinguish between gorse and broom in charcoal; both would have been supported on local heathlands, but gorse was more widely used for fuel, especially in later periods. Gorse provides a high, but short-lived, heat which would not provide the sustained high temperatures necessary for human cremation. Interestingly, the charcoal assemblage from the fill surrounding the urn (10052) was entirely composed of oak. This suggests that the actual pyre fuel and structure were utilising oak (and achieving efficient temperatures) while the assemblages from within the urn represent material that was located in close proximity to the bone that subsequently formed the burial deposit.

That said, there was little bone in the burial, indicating that complete recovery for interment was not considered important, and that a token burial of bone was sufficient (Clough, this report). Indeed, the total absence of cremated bone in many of the pits with urns suggests that the burial of actual bone was not always deemed essential or feasible. It is interesting, nonetheless, that this particular urn (RA 24006), and several others (RA 24004; 24008, 24018; 24019), contained large quantities of charcoal, since urn deposits are frequently sparse in charcoal remains. The derivation of the charcoal deposited in funerary urns is either a deliberate inclusion, as part of the ritual deposition, or an accidental inclusion where it has not been distinguished from

the cremated bone (or failed to be sieved out). The larger quantities in these deposits at Bransgore suggests the deliberate burial of charcoal in the urn deposits, as well as redeposited pyre debris within the burial pits (although some of the fills surrounding the urns presumably include material spilled out from the urn deposits as organic lids decayed). The assessment of all the samples from each cremation-related feature showed that most of the assemblages from the urns, and surrounding the urns (and other fills within a pit), were highly similar.

Consequently, the deposition of the broom/gorse in urn RA 24006 is likely to represent a deliberate deposit of material from the pyre. Unlike the fills of other urns, it does not appear to be from the main pyre fuel or structure, and may represent the remains of kindling or brushwood infilling. Since one of the properties of gorse (prized in medieval bread ovens) is that it leaves little ash residue, it is less likely to be from the main, hottest section of the pyre and it would be expected that most kindling would have burned away over the duration of the cremation process. The charcoal may, instead, represent a pyre offering or ritual inclusion. Historical sources show that, along with the use of broom (and to a lesser extent, gorse) for sweeping, both shrubs yielded dyes from various parts of the plants (Rotherham 2007, 17). Additionally, broom has been associated with medicine, due to the narcotic and hallucinogenic properties of its seeds and flowering branch tips (Mabey 1997, 229). Examples of other cremation-related assemblages including broom/gorse charcoal are rare, with a Late Iron Age burial at Beechbrook Wood, Kent (Aldritt 2006) and an isolated Romano-British grave from Imperial College Sports Ground, near Heathrow (Challinor 2015, 274).

Cremation pit 10037 was also unusual, in that the charcoal was dominated by birch, with only trace elements of oak. Charcoal was abundant, and four assemblages from the feature were analysed, including one from the fill of the barrel urn RA 25007 (context 10353), and three from surrounding fills (10038 and 10044). All produced strikingly similar assemblages. Birch is a hardwood, providing a high heat, but is not

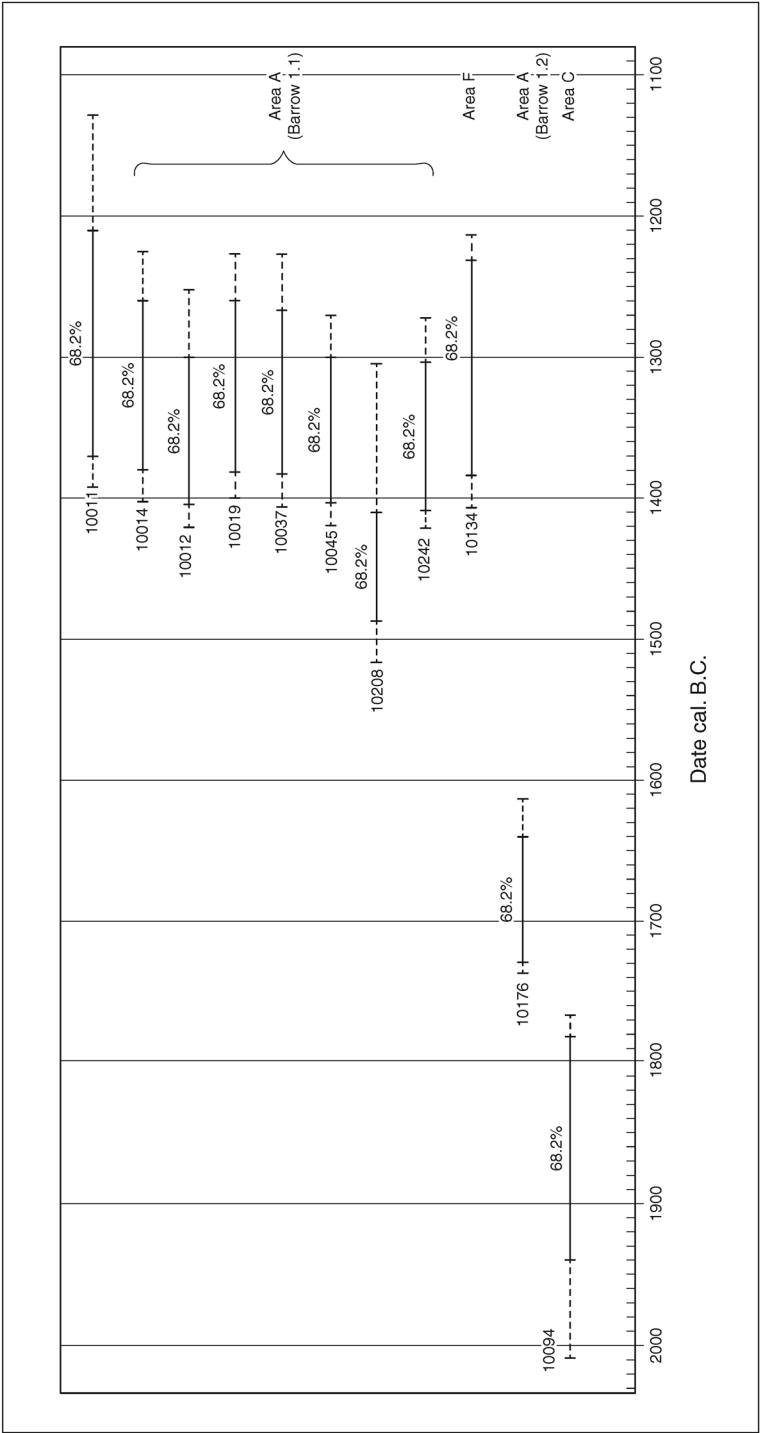


Fig. 21 Ranges of radiocarbon dates obtained from cremation burials, cremation-related deposits and other features listed by feature number; 68.2% probability presented along solid lines, and 95.4% probability along dashed lines

often found as the dominant taxon in cremation assemblages, perhaps because it provides a less sustained heat than oak; potentially requiring more fuelwood and more labour in refuelling to ensure the adequate cremation of human bone. The lack of cremated bone in this feature may explain the choice of fuel – the assemblage representing a cenotaph, in which the charcoal derives from a ritual burning in the absence of a body. However, the predominant use of oak in almost all the other bone-absent assemblages suggests that other factors were involved in the fuelwood selection.

Comparison with domestic assemblages

Unfortunately, charcoal that was reliably associated with non-funerary activities was minimal in quantity, or of uncertain/irrelevant date. In consequence, there was only a single Middle Bronze Age sample that merited analysis; pit 10134 from Area F. This feature produced a charred plant assemblage which was indicative of domestic waste, comprising cereal remains and weed seeds (Wyles, this report). The charcoal assemblage was, in part, indistinguishable from the cremation-related assemblages, since oak represented 70% of the identified charcoal. Some of the oak, however, was from narrow stems (with pith and sometimes bark) of $\leq 9\text{mm}$ and 6–7 years growth. This contrasts with the wider, older roundwood exhibited in several cremation-related assemblages. Also of interest is the presence of heather and broom/gorse in the domestic assemblage, which shows that heathland habitats were exploited for fuel in the Middle Bronze Age. The extent of heathland development or utilisation cannot be determined from this sample alone. However, there is evidence for heathland from Early to Middle Holocene pollen records (including *Calluna vulgaris*, (heather), and less frequently, *Ulex* sp. (gorse)) at Cranes Moor (<4 miles from Bransgore) (Grant *et al.* 2014).

Conclusion

The cremation-related assemblages from Bransgore replicate results from other Middle Bronze Age funerary sites, with a clear pattern of single-taxon dominance. This indicates a focused selection of wood for cremation. The

limited evidence from the Early Bronze Age suggests that practices were similar in the earlier period. The nearby New Forest would have readily supplied all of the wood types recorded, both from areas of oak deciduous woodland, as well as heathland. Since the area would have supported a larger range of tree taxa than seen in this study, it confirms that deliberate preferences for fuelwood types were practiced. The frequent large volume of charcoal recovered from within urns suggests that pyre charcoal was deliberately buried in the urns; perhaps representing a proxy in the absence of human remains, or as a ritual offering of its own.

DISCUSSION

With the exception of the probable beaker sherd from ring ditch 1.2, the barrow ditches produced very little dateable material. The association of Barrow 1.3 ring ditch with a beaker-related pit and possibly contemporary timber circles must confirm a Period 1 date for that complex of features. Similarly, Barrow 1.2 with an Early Bronze Age accessory cup in pit 10176 (Fig. 12.3), and a radiocarbon date of 1736–1614 cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC 73453) for its adjacent cremation burial 10178, must, along with cremation pit 10094 in Area C, with its Early Bronze Age collared urn (Fig. 12.2) and radiocarbon-dated deposit of 2009–1767 cal BC (95.4% probability, SUERC 69245), place this group of features within a sequence of non-contemporary, Period 1 deposits. These radiocarbon dates suggest a *terminus ante quem* for Period 1 burials of no later than 1600 BC. The most likely earlier of the two Middle Bronze Age South Lodge-style barrel urns (Fig. 16.16), associated with a cremation burial found in pit 10208 in Barrow 1.1, has a radiocarbon date of 1517–1304 cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC 69246). This suggests a clear hiatus in Period 1 funerary activity before the onset of intensive Period 2 burial activity in Barrow 1.1 of perhaps 100 years, or more. The Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery dug into Barrow 1.1 of Area A comprises both urned deposits in pits, seven of which have additional dates for deposits ranging from 1429–1128 cal

BC, together with features containing unurned cremated bone, or pyre material, which have been assigned to Period 2 on the basis of spatial relationships.

Additional features belonging to Period 2 include two pits in Area F containing sherds from four different Middle Bronze Age vessels (10128 and 10134) and worked flint (10327), along with two convergent, but undated, ditches, and four postholes located within the interior of these ditches, which may represent settlement activity. Charcoal from pit 10134 produced a radiocarbon date of 1407–1213 cal BC (95.4% probability, SUERC 69248), thus confirming a Period 2 date. Associated charred plant remains strongly identify these fills as domestic waste. This supports the interpretation of features in Area F as a Middle Bronze Age settlement, located *c.* 200m south-west of the contemporary cremation cemetery, in Area A. This is discussed further, below.

Very limited dateable evidence of later activity on the site includes a Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age sherd found in pit 10338 in Area H, which comprises the sole evidence of Period 3 on the site, and which may be confined to domestic activity. Undated ditches in Areas A, E, D, F and G may plausibly relate to a Period 3 phase of settlement and/or agricultural activity.

Deposits of pyre debris

A minority of pyre deposits are associated with urns, or remains of other pottery vessels. Of the total of 52 pit deposits of all types recorded across the site, only six (12%) comprised deposits of cremated bone only, and 12 (24%) comprised deposits of cremated bone associated with pottery vessels. Much of the remainder comprised charcoal-rich pyre deposits, of which ten were associated with urns or fragmentary pottery vessels.

Such deposits of pyre material may represent a form of token or cenotaph burial, with cremated bone disposed elsewhere, or by other means. The limited representation of cremated bone is problematic, but is broadly paralleled elsewhere in the region. At Lock's Heath, Hampshire, only seven cremation burials were recorded within 11 individual pits associated with up to 21 urns (McSloy & Ellis 2016, 3–4).

A small Early-Middle Bronze Age cemetery at Beggarwood Lane, Basingstoke, comprised 27 cremation-related deposits, of which only ten (37%) produced identifiable samples of human bone (Kennedy & Massey, *forthcoming*). While local soil conditions may accelerate the *in situ* degradation of cremated bone, such might not be the case with alkaline, chalky subsoils, and it is clear that such deposits were only intended to include a 'symbolic' sample of pyre material. Of these, ten were nevertheless urned on this site, or associated with the remains of pottery vessels, and such deposits appear to have been as formally recognised as those of cremated bone, albeit in pits of generally smaller dimensions.

The term un-urned in this case should not necessarily infer less care or investment on the part of mourners, and excavated profiles suggest that at least some burials were interred in organic containers. These could have been made from textile, wood, leather, or basketry (Pankowská *et al.* 2004), involving an investment of time and money possibly as great as that involving ceramic vessels.

Dacre and Ellison (1981, 159) speculated that pyre deposits might symbolise individuals who had joined other communities, possibly through exogamy, and whose cremated remains had been interred within the cemetery of their adopted settlement. Such inter-communal relationships might also be expressed through the commemorative presence of "foreign" soils in some deposits, including the unusual chalky fill of pit 10056, within Barrow 1.1, which presumably originated in a downland location, and perhaps commemorated a personal association with that area. Conversely, it may equally be possible to interpret pyre debris deposits, and indeed deposits containing very small samples of cremated bone, in terms of status and gender (cf. Brück 2009, 6–8).

Pits containing cremation burials generally displayed smaller dimensions, compared to those with pyre deposits. The average values between the two groups were not great, with cremation pits averaging 0.52m in diameter and 0.26m depth, compared to 0.48m and 0.22m respectively for pits with pyre deposits, although the median values for the latter group were substantially lower than this. This disparity is evident in other cases, including

the cemetery dated by collared urn types at Beggarwood Lane, Basingstoke (Kennedy & Massey, *forthcoming*), and appears to indicate a discriminatory approach to different cremation-related deposits.

Grave and pyre offerings

Grave offerings do not generally comprise a conspicuous aspect of the Deverel-Rimbury funerary tradition in southern Britain, although a number of items within cremation-related deposits at Heatherstone Grange deserve comment. Grave goods in the Bronze Age period have been interpreted not simply in terms of status and identity, but as a metaphorical expression of links between the dead and the living (Brück 2004; McKinley 1997, 132), although a general move away from grave goods is evident by the Middle Bronze Age period (Braithwaite 1984, 104–5). Such relationships are also evident in the choice of cremation vessels and in the evident ‘family groups’ of barrel urns. Deposited items include the glass bead found in the contents of a barrel urn (Fig. 14.11), in pit 10019 of Barrow 1.1, dated to 1399–1224 cal BC (Table 5), unburnt flint flakes in pits 10063 and 10138, and the flint knife (RA 24011, Fig. 11), associated with animal bone in cremation pit 10100. Equally significant in this context may be the individual sherds and remains of pottery vessels associated with a number of cremation-related deposits, including those of pyre material in pits 10128 and 1338. A total of seven cremation or cremation-related deposits were associated with additional individual or several sherds derived from other pottery vessels (Table 9), most of which, even allowing for the effects of truncation, may be considered to represent grave offerings or the remnants of previous cremation pyres. One example of the latter possibility comprises sherds from a globular urn (Fig. 19.22), found, in a re-fired state, associated within the largest cremation urn in the cemetery (Fig. 16.16).

The presence of such individual sherds and incomplete vessels is a widely-observed aspect of the Deverel-Rimbury funerary tradition (Barret *et al.* 1991, 218–9; Dacre & Ellison 1981, 165; Brück 2006, 301–2), and is by no means

confined to cremation burials *per se*. Raymond (2004, 78) has suggested (cf. Brück, 2004) that the retention of part of a broken vessel by the living may have provided a tangible link with the deceased individual.

Such objects prompt speculation regarding further evidence for pyre offerings, both organic and inorganic, which is generally under-represented in the archaeological record (cf. McKinley 1994b, 132–4). The animal bone accompanying the cremation burial in pit 10100 appears to represent a pyre offering of a bird, of unknown species.

Middle Bronze Age settlement

Settlement evidence appears to be represented by several features in Areas F. Pits 10128 and 10134 contained fills with individual sherds representing different vessels (Fig. 19.25–27 & Table 10, cat. nos. 33–35). Charcoal from pit 10134, produced a radiocarbon date-range of 1407–1228 cal BC (Table 5), thus confirming a Period 2 date. Associated plant remains strongly suggest these fills as domestic waste, and presumably related to neighbouring settlement. In addition, there are three lengths of convergent ditches running north-south and east-west (10102, 10111 and 10153) in this area which may have enclosed these pits and pairs of nearby postholes, 10118/10121 and 10123/10126.

The lengths of ditch in Areas A and E remain undated, but may plausibly relate to a phase of prehistoric settlement and/or land division. The Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age sherd from pit 10338, in Area H, together with a glass bead of possible Late Bronze Age date, represent the sole evidence for later, Period 3 activity, which may well be confined to domestic settlement.

Barrett and Bradley (1980, 251) identified close spatial associations between Middle Bronze Age burial and contemporary settlement in Wessex, which in some cases may be as little as 100m (Bradley 1984, 100). On the basis that the Area F and G ditches represent the rectilinear enclosure visible on earlier aerial photographs, a possibly contemporary settlement was situated c. 450m south-west of the group of secondary burials associated with Barrow 1.1, in Area

A. A comparable spatial relationship may be apparent at South Lodge Camp, Dorset, (Pitt Rivers 1898; Barrett *et al.* 1991; Green 2000, 111). The regional evidence suggests not only significant changes in burial rite by the Middle Bronze Age, but a radical change in the relationship between living communities and the dead. The substantial Early Bronze Age barrow cemeteries on the heathlands of East Dorset and the New Forest occupied areas of marginal soils, and may have occupied landscapes removed from their contemporary centres of population (Bradley 2002, 76; Bradley & Fraser 2010). By contrast, many 'colonising' Middle Bronze Age communities in this area appear to have had a more intimate relationship with burial sites.

Burial chronologies

The late Southern British beaker RA 2301, from pit 1504/10286 in Area E, has a probable date of not earlier than *c.* 2100 BC (Clarke 1970, 225–232; Needham 2005). Although no trace of an inhumation survived in pit 1504/10286, the central position of this feature within Barrow 1.3 suggests that this had been a primary burial. Barrows 1.2 and 1.3 are untypically small examples (cf. Woodward 2000, 37), whereas Barrows 1.1 and 1.4, while not of confirmed Period 1 date, conform more closely to Wessex examples of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age round barrows. That such monuments provided a focus for contemporary burial in the Early Bronze Age period is evident from the radiocarbon date of 2009–1767 cal BC (95.4% probability, SUERC 69245) from cremation burial 10094, associated with the collared urn (Fig. 12.2), in Area C, some 90m to the north-east of Barrow 1.4 (cf. Bradley 2002, 128).

The earliest confirmed date of Period 2 secondary burials is associated with the large South Lodge-style Barrel Urn (RA 24018, Fig. 16.16) from pit 10208, in Barrow 1.1, which was dated to 1517–1304 cal BC, at 95.4% probability (SUERC 69246). The pyre debris deposit associated with the Globular Urn RA 24010, from pit 10063, may be closely contemporary with this Barrel Urn, and of 14th-century BC date, but could conceivably be up to a century or two later. The greatest number of dateable

deposits associated with Barrow 1.1 appear to cover a broad period of *c.* 1500–1100 BC (Table 5; Fig. 21), and well within the established date-range of the regional Deverel-Rimbury pottery tradition. The latest radiocarbon date for Period 2 activity is 1391–1128 cal BC, at 95.4% probability (SUERC 69247), in association with a fine globular urn (Fig. 13.5), from pit 10011 in Area C.

The tradition of Deverel-Rimbury secondary burials within earlier barrow monuments has been widely attested within the region, most notably at Simons Ground, Hampreston, on the Dorset heathlands (White 1982), the Deverel Barrow, Milborne St Andrew (Woodward 2000, 43) and Zionshill Copse, Chandlers Ford (Entwhistle 2001). Such a resumption of burial activity represents up to 400 years of deposition in this location, and interestingly mirrors the similar date-range of 2009–1614 cal BC (95.4%) for Period 1-dated activity.

The re-use of earlier burial monuments

The discrete association of Period 2 cremation-related deposits with Barrow 1.1 appears to indicate a marked discrimination in favour of this particular monument. As a coherent group, these conform to a regional pattern identified by Ellison (1980, 122), in which such deposits occur in discrete clusters of 10–50, with groups of more than 25 rare. In this case, the apparently close convergence of associated radiocarbon dates suggests that these represent the burial focus of an individual social group (c.f. Dacre & Ellison 1981, 168–9, fig. 6), and one which may have become newly established, or re-established, in this location. Of particular interest in this context are the close stylistic relationships amongst the barrel urns in this group, which strongly complement the spatial evidence of kinship or social links.

Woodward (2000, 43) has observed a tendency in Wessex for simpler bowl barrow types to be selected for secondary burials, although within an area comparatively rich in such monuments such selection cannot have been made on a purely arbitrary basis. A number of commentators (Mizoguchi 1993, 223–245; Bradley 2002, 141–46) have observed that the commemoration and reuse of earlier

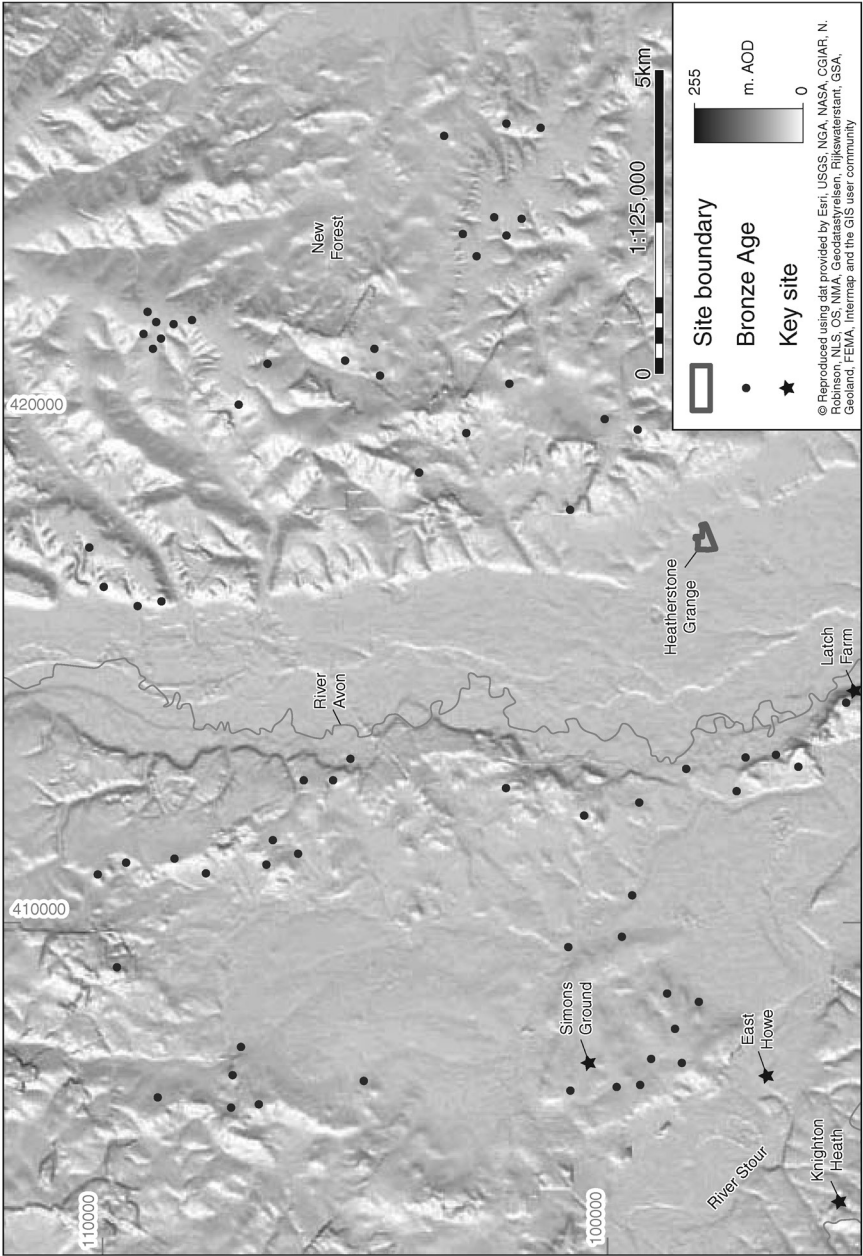


Fig. 22 The Heatherstone Grange site within its surrounding topographic context, with locations of surrounding barrow cemeteries and some key sites mentioned in the text.

burial monuments simply reflected the role of time and social memory in the reproduction of mortuary practice. In such cases, time has added specific value to those representations of past life and social memory which accrete around the visible evidence of past events (i.e. funerary monuments). Such representations are likely to have had important implications for perceptions of identity, territoriality and ancestry, particularly at a time when many landscapes throughout southern Britain were undergoing reorganisation (cf. Bradley 1984, 85; Fox 1976). In such circumstances, visual sequences of deposit and burial will have created a narrative human past, and provided a context for the origins of the social group, around which myth and ritual discourse were articulated (Garwood 1991; Gibson 2013, 118–9). In such circumstances, concepts of ancestry, real or mythological, are likely to have been paramount (cf. Connerton 1989, 72–9), with earlier burial monuments representing the mythic founders of lineages and/or the heroic protagonists of earlier prehistory (Bradley 2002, 19; Thomas 2013, 94–5).

The apparently random patterning of intermixed burials and cremation-related deposits in and around Barrow 1.1 is broadly typical of the Middle Bronze Age tradition across southern Britain, and demonstrates little differentiation in terms of social ranking (Woodward 2000, 45). In a number of cases, including pits 10049, 10215 and 10014, the insertion of cremation-related deposits within earlier pit fills suggests close family relationships. This suggests, in turn, that the locations of earlier pits may have been accurately marked, to enable the insertion of closely-spaced later deposits. Similarly, there is very little evidence of intercutting between individual pits, despite their relatively dense configuration around Barrow 1.1, and this may also indicate the use of some form of grave marker.

The respective ring ditches of Barrows 1.2 and 1.3 are atypical of the wider Bronze Age traditions, both in terms of their small diameters, and the irregular, sub-circular form of their penannular ditches. Both are associated with Period 1 burials. Woodward (2000, 37) has identified an altogether smaller class of ‘beaker barrows’ in Wessex, which are

commonly simple in form and surrounded by interrupted ditches. A cited example (ibid.) of Grinsell’s Barrow 51, Amesbury, within which a beaker burial within a rectangular grave cut was excavated by Cunnington in 1805, bears a distinct resemblance to Barrow 1.3 (Grinsell 1941, 1978). In terms of their sub-circular plan, internal dimensions and ‘entrances’, Barrows 1.2 and 1.3 are arguably symbolic of the roundhouse tradition, and symbolic associations between circular-plan monuments and dwellings have been frequently observed (Bradley 1998, 149; Bradley 2012; Watson 2001, 207–8). In a number of cases, barrows are known to have been constructed directly over, and were thus directly representative of, the houses concerned (cf. Bradley 2005, 57–58; Peterson 2007, 133–135), although no evidence of precursor structures, or domestic occupation, was found in these two cases.

The timber circles

The ditch morphologies of Barrows 1.2 and 1.3 suggest some affinity with smaller henge monuments (cf. Watson 2001, 207), and in the case of Barrow 1.3, any such affinity may be strengthened by the evidence of post-built circles around the monument. Timber circles have been identified as primary or precursor structures which were frequently associated with the deposition of cultural material, and which may anticipate secondary phases involving the construction of a stone circle or internal barrow mound (Bradley 2002, 89; Gibson 2004, 75). The evidence of disturbed fills and collapsed sides associated with post settings suggested that timbers had been deliberately removed, rather than left to decay *in situ*. While a number of commentators (Gibson 1998, 41; Bradley 1998, 96) have observed the tendency of timber circles, particularly in upland areas, to be replaced by stone monuments, Bradley (1998, 118–9) has suggested that, in many lowland regions, the adoption of ditched henge or barrow enclosures as successors to timber circles, may simply represent a pragmatic response to monument creation in areas devoid of suitable stone. It is therefore possible to suggest a sequence of remodelling of Barrow

1.3, whereby the primary timber circle around the primary burial(s) (most notably pit 1504) was removed, and subsequently replaced by the penannular ditch and barrow mound (cf. Owoc 2001, 198). That the ditch of Barrow 1.3 is later than the presumed burial pits within it, is indicated by its cutting of pit 10249. Comparable processes of remodelling are evident in a number of henge-type monuments in Wessex and elsewhere (Gibson 2004, 74–78; Burrow 2010, 190–91; Ashbee 1957), although a number of these examples are likely to pre-date the Period 1 features at this site.

Gibson (1998, 40–41) has assessed a number of associations between barrows and post-built circles, within which beaker material has commonly provided a *terminus ante quem*. Of these, the example of Standlake 20, Oxfordshire (Catling 1982) offers a close parallel in terms of size and plan, albeit with a continuous, rather than a penannular, ditch. Amesbury 50, within the Stonehenge Cursus barrow group, was associated with a sub-circular setting of 22 postholes beneath the barrow mound, but located within a causewayed barrow ditch (Amadio & Bishop 2010, 8–9; Grinsell 1978), and neighbouring barrow Amesbury 9 displayed a similar arrangement (Ashbee 1978). Within the regional environs of Heatherstone Grange, Barrow 3, at Ogden Down, Dorset (Green 2000, 113–7) arguably offers a closer parallel. In this case, a continuous ditch of comparable diameter to Barrow 1.3 enclosed an urned cremation burial, and was situated within a similar concentric arrangement of double-post circles. This example included a south-west oriented entranceway, and it is possible that the apparently non-aligned postholes surrounding

Barrow 1.3 may represent a differently-aligned but comparable arrangement.

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