

MIDDLE AND LATE IRON AGE OCCUPATION AT CADNAM FARM, ALTON, HAMPSHIRE

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ABSTRACT

Three individual areas, totalling 0.55ha, were excavated at the Cadnam Farm site, following evaluation. Area 1 contained a D-shaped enclosure of Middle Iron Age date, associated with the remains of a roundhouse, and a ditched drove-way. Other features included refuse pits, a four-post structure and a small post-built structure of circular plan.

Area 2 contained the superimposed foundation gullies of two Middle Iron Age roundhouses, adjacent to a probable third example. Area 3 contained a small number of Middle Iron Age pits, together with undated, post-built structures of probable Middle Iron Age date, including a roundhouse and four and six-post structures. Two large boundary ditches extended from the south-west corner of Area 3, and were interpreted as the funnelled entrance of a drove-way. These contained both domestic and industrial refuse of the late Iron Age date in their fills.

INTRODUCTION

During January and February, 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation at Cadnam Farm, Alton, Hampshire (National Grid Reference SU 72025 41075, Fig. 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Persimmon Homes (South Coast), and Martin Grant Homes, in accordance with a brief for archaeological investigation prepared by Neil Adam, Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council. An archaeological evaluation, in October and November 2015, entailed the excavation of 86 trenches (CA 2015). Excavation was confined to three individual areas, 1–3, targeted on features identified by evaluation (Fig. 1).

The site

The development site was 12.6ha in extent, and bordered to the south by modern residential development on the north-eastern margins of Alton (Fig. 1). The site overlooked the Wey valley, c. 1km to the south-east, and was situated on a gentle, north-south gradient, at elevations ranging from 146m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the east, declining to 126m aOD, in the south-west.

Geology

The geology of the site comprises New Pit Chalk of the Cretaceous period, overlain in places by superficial deposits of clay-with-flints (BGS 2015), both of which were recorded at depths of 0.3–0.7m below modern ground level. A 0.3m-thick colluvial deposit of red/brown clay silt was recorded in places, which increased in depth further downslope, and was cut on the north-western site margins (Trench 14), by Period 3 archaeological features.

Periglacial channels were recorded in a number of locations, particularly in the north of Field 2 (Area 3). Between Areas 1 and 2, a large NNW/SSE-aligned solution channel was identified by evaluation (Trenches 78, 79 and 82). This was c.3–4m wide and 0.52m deep, and filled with an archaeologically sterile, red-brown sandy silt.

The full excavation report, including specialist reports and data, and additional illustrations (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: A2015.66).

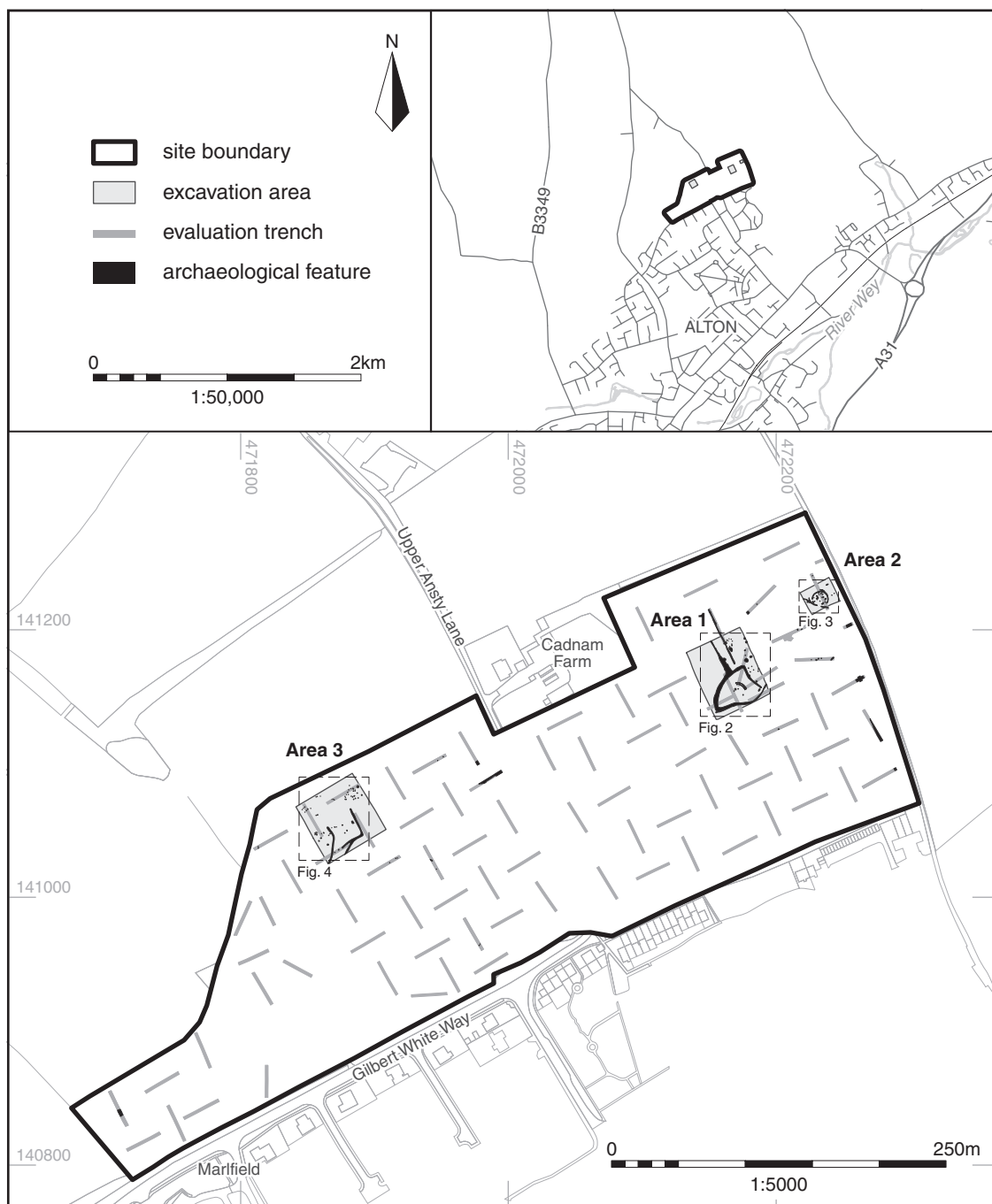


Fig. 1 The site, with evaluation trenches and individual Excavation Areas 1, 2 and 3

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Iron Age

The environs of the Cadnam Farm site provide only limited evidence of Iron Age activity, including a small, univallate enclosure at St John's Hill, East Worldham, c.4.8km to the south-east, and a large, D-shaped cropmark enclosure to the east of Dickett's Plantation, Froyle (SU 7232 4345) (Millett 1981, 49–53), some 2.4km to the north-north-east. Millett has suggested this as an elite Late Iron Age precursor of the Roman 'small town' at Neatham (*ibid.*). Iron Age settlements to the north-west, include an earthwork enclosure within Humbly Grove, Weston Patrick, (SU 7032 4595), and a sub-rectangular cropmark enclosure at Little Wood, Weston Patrick, at a distance of 7.3km (Wessex Archaeology 2004). Another earthwork enclosure of probable Iron Age date, at Weston Common (SU 6944 4460), is located 4km to the north-west, and evidence of Iron Age occupation has been recorded within the town of Alton itself. Residual Early Iron Age Pottery was recovered from pit and ditch fills in evaluation trenches 14, 16, 25 and 26 of this site. Discovered in 1996, within the vicinity of the town, the Alton Hoard included first-century AD Atrebatian gold staters and items of jewellery.

Roman

While no Roman evidence has been recorded within the site, finds of coins, pottery and a paved floor are associated with Treloar College and Manor Farm c. 0.75km to the east. Excavations at Manor Farm Cottages, Neatham, 1.75km to the east, recorded evidence of later Roman occupation, possibly associated with contemporary 'ribbon development' along the Silchester-Chichester Roman Road (Graham 1990, 17–30).

The site of a Roman 'small town' is located 1km to the south-east, near Neatham, at a significant junction of Roman roads (Millett and Graham 1986, 2–3). This is tentatively identified with the *Vindomis* of the Antonine Itinerary, on the road between Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*) and Chichester (*Noviomagus*) (Rivet & Smith 1979, 82; Clarke 1959, 83–97).

The earliest occupation within the Roman small town dates from the later first century AD (Millett & Graham 1986, 11), and may post-date Period 3 activity on this site. Excavations undertaken in 1969–70, on the course of the Alton by-pass, c. 130m to the east, recorded a group of rich Early Roman cremation burials, together with two inhumation burials (Millett 1986).

Evaluation (Fig. 1)

Following geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2015), eighty-six evaluation trenches were excavated in October and November, 2015 (CA 2015), representing a 4% sample by area (Fig. 1).

In Field 1, evaluation identified a small, D-shaped, ditched enclosure of Middle Iron Age date (Trenches 73 to 77), together with pits, structural postholes and ditches (Figs 1 & 2). While a number of features were undated, Middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone and fired clay fragments were recovered, most notably from the fill of a large post pit (7907), in Trench 79, and adjacent post pit 7903 produced a bone weaving comb (Fig. 7.3). These finds and spatial associations suggested that most features were broadly contemporary.

Further features, some of Late Iron Age date, were recorded in the north of Field 2 (Area 3), and comprised ditches, pits and postholes (Fig. 1). Limited evidence for Early Iron Age activity on or around the site was represented by small quantities of residual Early Iron Age Pottery from pit and ditch fills in evaluation trenches 14, 16, 25 and 26. Fill 1412 of pit 1409, in Area 3, produced a rare copper alloy penannular brooch of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date (not illustrated).

SUMMARY RESULTS

The survival and intelligibility of site stratigraphy was limited, with negative features often heavily truncated. Despite a frequent lack of stratigraphic relationships, most principal features were phased on the basis of secure context dates and/or spatial associations. The principal phases across the three excavation

Areas comprised Period 2, of Middle to Later Iron Age date (c. 400 BC to AD 25), and Period 3, of Late Iron Age and early Roman date (c. AD 25–AD75), although any direct continuity between these periods could not be confirmed. Clear chronological and spatial distinctions were evident, with later Roman features almost entirely confined to Area 3, in the west, and Middle Iron Age features to Areas 1 and 2, in the east. The Middle Iron Age Period 2 was principally defined by diagnostic Iron Age pottery types, and was the only period represented in Area 2.

Many features produced no dateable material, but where possible these have been tentatively dated on the basis of spatial relationships with dateable deposits.

Area 1 (Figs 1 & 2)

Period 2: Middle to Late Iron Age (c. 400BC to AD 25)

Ditches 101 and 102

Parallel ditches 101 and 102 extended beyond the northern edge of Area 1, on a north-west/south-east alignment, and were separated by a distance of 8m. Ditch 101 ran for 23m before terminating, and measured an average of 0.75m in width and 0.51m in depth, with a V-shaped profile. This feature contained three fills, of which upper secondary fill 10051 was a grey/brown silty clay, containing limited animal bone and traces of ironworking residue.

Ditch 102 differed in size and profile, with moderately-sloping sides, and averaged 2.54m in width, and 0.17m in depth. It ran for 28m, on a straight, south-easterly alignment, from the northern edge of Area 1 to a point where it appeared to have been cut by Ditch 103. The terminal of Ditch 101, some 3.5m from the northern edge of Ditch 103, effectively created a small opening into the entrance, jointly represented by Ditches 101 and 102, although the marked differences in profile between these two ditches, suggested that they may not be strictly contemporary.

Enclosure 1.1: Ditch 103

D-shaped Enclosure 1.1 was defined by

curvilinear Ditch 103, of widely varying dimensions and profile. This did not form a complete enclosure circuit, but continued beyond the south-eastern corner of Area 1 on a north-east/south-west alignment, at which point it measured only 0.7m in width and 0.34m in depth. By contrast, section 10090, on the north-west side of Ditch 103, displayed a width of 2.6m and a width of 1.34m, with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 5, Section 1). Within a sequence of five fills, the lower two were primary, and of the three secondary fills of grey/brown silty clays, the middle, 10094, contained Period 2 pottery.

The notable variation in profile and depth of Ditch 103, has been attributed to differential plough truncation, although the variations remain so marked as to suggest an additional purpose, possibly relating to drainage.

Ring gullies 104 and 105 (Roundhouse 1)

Within Enclosure 1.1, two concentric, discontinuous gullies, 104 and 105, each described an approximate quarter-circle (Roundhouse 1). Gully 104 contained a single secondary fill of red/brown silty clay, containing pottery of Middle Iron Age date. It measured 0.4m in width and 0.18m in depth, with a moderately-sloping profile. Gully 105, measuring 0.2m in width and 0.16m in depth, produced no dateable material, and its narrower, steeper-sided profile suggested a slot-trench for stake or plank walling (Harding 2009, 71–76). By contrast, the shallower profile and silted fill identified 104 as a drip or drainage gully. Undated postholes 10070 and 10072, and pits 10087 and 10115, were located within the arc defined by gullies 104 and 105, and may represent internal structural features of probable Period 2 date.

Features outside Enclosure 1.1

Sub-circular-plan Pits 10037 and 10107 were respectively located 3m and 7.5m to the north-east of Enclosure 1.1. Pit 10037 contained three fills, of mid/dark-brown silty clays, with inclusions of Period 2 pottery and burnt clay fragments. Pit 10041 (Fig. 5, Section 2) was of similar plan and profile, and measured 1.26m in diameter and 0.64m in depth, with a sequence of four fills, of which a lower

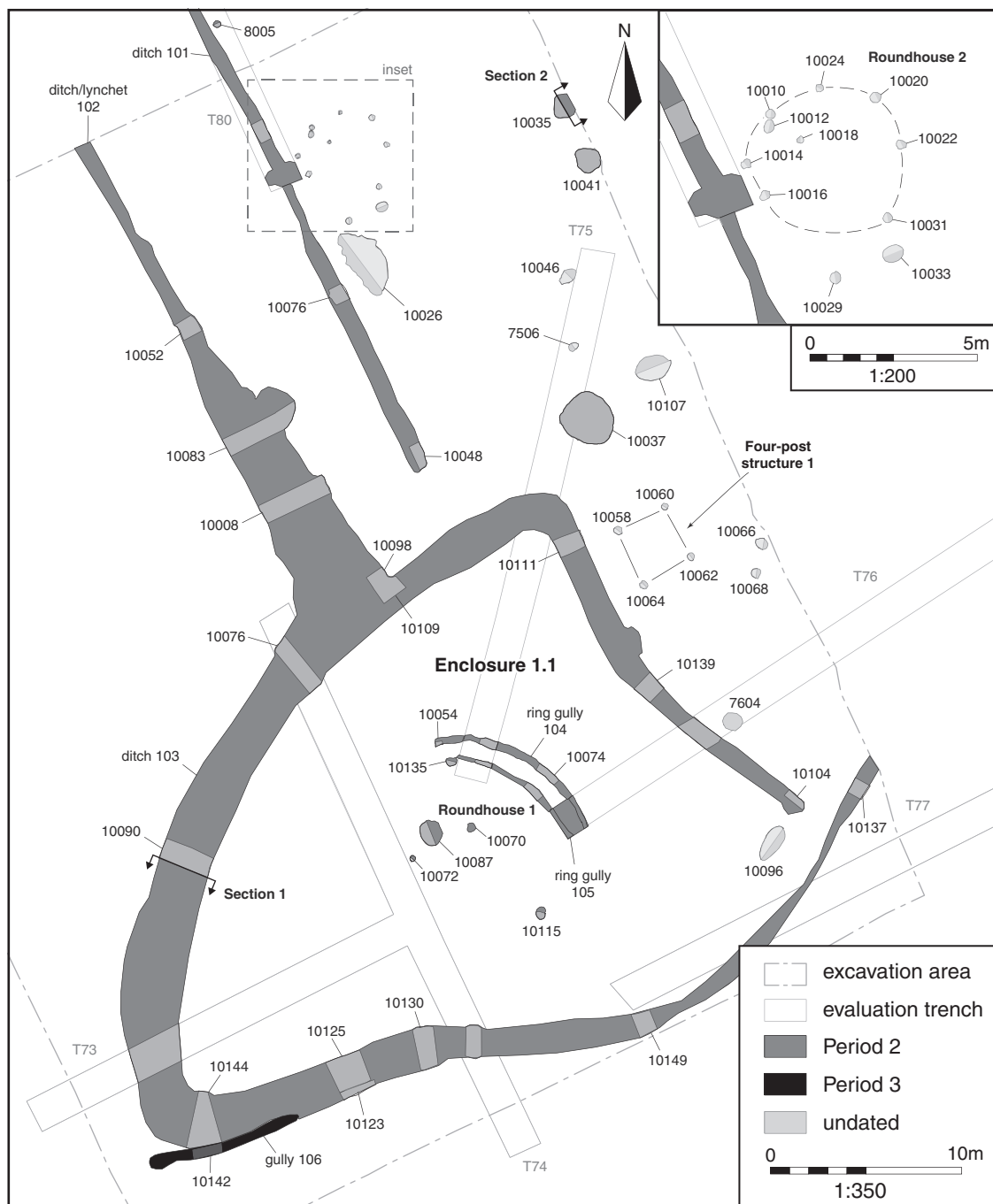


Fig. 2 Plan of Excavation Area 1

secondary fill, 10043, of black/brown sandy silt, contained high inclusions of charcoal, fragments of vitrified material, and fired clay, representing industrial debris. This context was rich in finds, including two partly-complete Middle Iron Age pots, metalwork, and items of worked bone. Environmental samples from this context identified a deposit of burnt domestic waste, although the unusual inclusion of domestic objects and materials suggested a structured deposit (Hill 1995).

Period 3: Late Iron Age to Early Roman (c. AD 25–AD 75)

Gully 106

This feature terminated close to the south-western corner of Enclosure 1.1, and ran for 12m, on a south-west/north-east alignment, before being incorporated within Ditch 103. This feature measured an average of 0.37m in width, and 0.41m in depth, and contained a single fill, 10124, of yellow-brown clay silt, containing burnt flint, Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone. It is possible that Gully 106 represents a later, partial re-cutting of Ditch 103.

Undated structural features

Located close to the north-eastern corner of Enclosure 1.1, a discrete group of postholes, (10058, 10060, 10062 and 10064), represented a four-post structure measuring c. 2.5m by 3m in plan (Four-post Structure 1). The circular-plan postholes averaged 32cm in diameter, and contained single fills of dark-brown clay silt.

Postholes 10066 and 10068 were located towards the eastern margins of Area 1, and measured 0.42m in diameter, with fills of grey/brown silty clay. These may have comprised part of a small, post-built structure, which extended beyond the excavation area.

Roundhouse 2

Of a discrete group of 11 postholes located close to the northern edge of the excavated area, seven described a small, post-built structure of c. 5m diameter (Roundhouse 2). The constituent sub-circular postholes averaged

0.32m in diameter, with fills of grey-brown clay silts, containing no dateable material. Its small diameter suggests Roundhouse 2 as a transient, non-domestic structure, possibly a roofless animal pen (Harding 2009, 68). It is of possible Period 2 date, although the close proximity of Ditch 101 implied that these two features were not contemporary.

Area 2 (Fig. 3)

Period 2: Middle to Late Iron Age (c. 400 BC to AD 25)

Roundhouses 3, 4 and 5

Area 2 contained a group of partly superimposed, curvilinear gullies and pits which represented the truncated remains of probably three roundhouses of Period 2 date. Gully 202, together with gullies 205/206, pit 20060 and segmented gully 20052, represented the incomplete circuit of Roundhouse 3. These features were cut by ring gully 204, which represented a later roundhouse (Roundhouse 4), of Period 2 date. The heavily-truncated gullies displayed moderately-sloping, concave profiles, with shallow fills of mid-grey/brown clay silt, including charcoal, burnt flint and sparse Period 2 pottery. Gullies 205 and 206, associated with Roundhouse 3, appeared to represent a re-cutting, or adjustment. A shorter, adjacent length of curvilinear gully, 201, which extended beyond Area 2, plausibly represents the remains of a further roundhouse (Roundhouse 5), of comparable dimensions.

A sub-circular arrangement of postholes (including 20026, 20012, 20008, and pit 20018) within the arc of gully 204, appeared to represent an inner circle of structural post settings (Fig. 3). A comparable ring of concentric settings related to Roundhouse 3, including pit 20048, postholes 20006, 20004 and 20002, together with evaluation posthole 8413. Large, sub-angular flints in some fills (20008) were interpreted as post-packing material. While generally undated, individual features were assigned to Period 2 in view of their probable structural associations with Roundhouses 3 and 4.

Unattributed pits and postholes relating to Roundhouses 3 and 4

Ring gully 204, with a potential internal diameter of 12m, enclosed other pits and gullies which did not fall within the interpolated circuits of internal post-settings, and may therefore relate to either Roundhouse. These include 8411, 20016 and 20014, which may represent internal divisions, together with the large, irregular pits 20062 and 20070, and posthole 20010. The charcoal-rich, clay silt fills of these features contained degraded sherds of Period 2 pottery.

Ditch 203

As excavated, ditch 203 ran for 3.6m, on an east/west alignment, and measured 0.6m in width, and 0.29m in depth, with steep sides and a flat base. An upper secondary fill, of mid-brown silty clay, contained Period 2 pottery. This feature may represent a surviving section of boundary or enclosure ditch, although no further evidence of this was confirmed by evaluation.

Paired postholes, 20068 and 20066, were 2m apart, and contained similar secondary fills, which included Period 2 pottery. Such paired features are common in later prehistoric settlements, although their function has not been satisfactorily deduced (Harding 1972, 37–8).

Undated

Gully 207, located 6m to the north-east of ring gully 204, was an isolated feature, measuring 1.7m in length, 0.72m in width and 0.13m in depth, which may represent a heavily-truncated section of boundary or enclosure ditch. A single secondary fill, of grey/brown silty clay, contained no dateable material.

Pit 20074

Pit 20074 was bounded by Gully 201, and lay 0.25m from its inner, south-western edge. This feature was of sub-circular plan, with a length of 1.2m, width of 0.72m and depth of 0.19m, and contained a single secondary fill, 20075, of grey/brown clay silt, with no dateable material.

Area 3 (Figs 1 & 4)

Area 3 included three related ditches, 301,

302 and 303, of Period 3 date, which appeared to define part of a funnel-shaped track-way entrance, rather than an enclosure. Other confirmed Period 3 features comprised a small number of pits. Structural features, including six and four-post structures, a post-ring roundhouse and a number of paired postholes, were largely undated, although a number may be tentatively assigned Period 2 dates on the basis of spatial associations.

Period 2: Middle to Late Iron Age (c.400 BC to AD 25)

The few confirmed Period 2 features in Area 3 comprised pits or postholes in the southern half of the Area. Pit 30093 was located 3m to the west of Ditch 301, and measured 1.26m in maximum diameter and 0.36m in depth, with steeply-sloping sides. A lower secondary fill, of grey brown silty clay, included charcoal, animal bone and Period 2 pottery. An upper fill, of mid-brown silty clay, contained similar inclusions, interpreted as successive deposits of domestic refuse.

Posthole 30104 was partly truncated by tree-throw hollow 30102, and measured 0.6m in diameter and 0.32m in depth. A single fill, 30105, of grey/brown silty clay, contained charcoal and angular flints, which appeared to represent post-packing material. Posthole 30104 was otherwise undated, although two conjoinable fragments of a sandstone saddle-quern within the top of fill 30105 may indicate a Period 2 date for this feature, which may have structural associations with adjacent Roundhouse 6.

Oval pit 30119, located to the south-west of the terminal of Ditch 301, measured 0.81m in length, 0.26m in width and 0.17m in depth, with a single fill of grey/brown silty clay, containing Period 2 pottery and a single residual item of worked flint.

Postholes 30151, 30156 and 30159

A loose group of three isolated postholes were located equidistant from Ditches 301 and 302. Of these, 30151 had a diameter of 0.74m and depth of 0.17m. A dark secondary fill, of brown/grey silty clay, included charcoal and Iron Age pottery, and suggested a deposit of domestic waste.



Sub-circular postholes 30156 and 30159 averaged 0.55m in maximum diameter and 0.25m in depth, with fills of grey/brown silty clay. The fill of 30156 included charcoal, whereas that of 30159 included Period 2 pottery, together with vitrified hearth/furnace lining, cinder and fired clay (71g). Postholes 30156 and 30159 are probably paired, and therefore contemporary.

Four-post Structure 2

Immediately to the south of Roundhouse 6, Four-post Structure 2 measured 3.5m x 5m in plan. The grey-brown silty clay fills of its constituent postholes, which averaged 0.53m in diameter, included occasional Period 2 sherds together with large flints, as post-packing material, suggesting a substantial structure, possibly a porch or store contemporary with Roundhouse 6 (see Lambrick 2014, 136).

Period 3: Late Iron Age–Early Roman (c. AD 25–AD 75) (Figs 1 & 4)

Pit 30050

Sub-rectangular pit 30050 was located 2m to the west of Ditch 302, with steep, concave sides and a flat base. It measured 1.95m in length, 1.1m in width and 0.65m in depth, with a primary fill of yellow/brown chalky clay, with Period 3 pottery. A secondary fill of mid-brown clay silt, contained charcoal, fragments of fired clay (917g), and ironworking residues comprising 156g of smithing-hearth bottom. A similar upper secondary fill, cut into the top of this deposit, also contained Period 3 pottery.

Ditch 301

Ditch 301 extended for 21m from the south-western corner of Area 3, before turning north-west for 8m (Fig. 5, Section 3). This ditch displayed a steeply-sloping, symmetrical profile, of 0.90m in width and 0.47m in depth, with two secondary fills of brown clay silts containing Period 3 sherds and animal bone.

Ditch 302

Ditch 302 extended for 11m from the south-eastern edge of Area 3, on a south-west/

north-east alignment, before turning to the east for a further 8m, after which it turned through a 90° angle to the north-west and ran for 22m before terminating (Fig. 5, Section 4). Section 30143 of this ditch displayed a concave profile, and measured 1.3m in width and 0.44m in depth. Section 30140 demonstrated that Ditch 302 cut, and probably superseded, Ditch 303 at that point. A secondary fill of section 30140 contained 75g of undiagnostic ironworking debris, with fragments of burnt clay. A sample from this fill contained charred cereal grains and weed seeds.

Ditch 303

Ditch 303, an earlier phase of Ditch 302, was cut by, and extended from, Ditch 302, at a point 6m from the south-eastern edge of Area 3. It then ran for 8m, on a south-west/north-east alignment, before terminating. In section, it displayed steep sides and a rounded base, and measured 0.9m in width and 0.28m in depth. It contained a primary fill, of yellow red silty clay, and a secondary fill of grey brown silty clay, with charcoal, animal bone and Period 3 pottery.

Undated

Six-post structure

Within the north-western corner of Area 3, a discrete, regular arrangement of postholes clearly represented a six-post structure. Individual postholes were sub-circular in plan, with steep sides, and averaged 0.25m in diameter and 0.26m in depth. Their single fills, of dark-brown and yellow-brown silty clays, contained no dateable material.

Roundhouse 6 (Fig. 4)

The nine postholes of Roundhouse 6 included 2606 and 2608, recorded by evaluation, and collectively described a small, circular-plan structure with an internal diameter of c.6m, but no internal features. Most postholes averaged 0.30m in diameter and 0.2m in depth, with fills of yellow/brown silty clay, with no dateable material. The upper fill of a possibly-associated posthole, 30104, slightly to the south-east, contained fragments of a

sandstone saddle quern, suggesting a Period 2 date for Roundhouse 6.

Structure 3

Structure 3 comprised a discrete, irregular group of nine postholes, towards the western margins of Area 3. The seven smaller postholes averaged 0.22m in diameter, with single, grey-brown silty clays fills, containing no dateable material. No coherent plan could be deduced, and the putative structure displayed a maximum diameter of only 2.5m.

Paired postholes in Area 3

To the west of Ditch 301, paired postholes 30134 and 30149 displayed maximum diameters of c. 0.8m, with grey brown silty clay fills containing charcoal, but no finds. Other paired postholes were separated by distances of 1m, or less, including 30025 with 30027, and 30021 with 30023. Postholes 30106 and 30113 were positioned 1.5m apart, were both oval in plan, and averaged 0.30m in diameter and 0.25 in depth. Their grey brown silty clay fills, contained flint and charcoal, but no finds. These paired features represent simple, post-built structures of unknown, but presumably agricultural, function (see Harding 1972, 37–8).

Pits and postholes located between Ditch 301 and Ditch 302

Four undated postholes, comprising 30115, 30117, 30161 and 30163, occupied a broad, east/west alignment, to the east of the terminal of Ditch 301. All were of sub-circular plan and averaged 0.26m in diameter, with single fills of grey/brown clay silt containing no dateable material. Proximity to the terminal of Ditch 103 suggested an associated barrier or fence.

Sub-circular postholes 1607 and 1605 (evaluation trench 16), were respectively located 6.5m and 2.5m to the south-west of the terminal of Ditch 303, of which they may have represented a westward continuation and possibly some form of gate structure. They respectively measured 0.57m and 0.73m in diameter, with single, charcoal-rich fills of grey brown clay silt.

FINDS

Worked and burnt flint by Jacky Sommerville

One worked flint (1g), and 77 pieces of burnt, unworked flint (4741g) were recovered from 18 separate deposits. The worked flint comprises a single medial fragment from a broken flake, which was retrieved from Period 2 posthole 30119, in Area 3. This redeposited find is only broadly dateable to the prehistoric period.

Pottery by E.R. McSloy

Late Prehistoric pottery (including Late Iron Age/ Early Roman 'transitional')

Pottery amounting to 622 sherds (7900g) was hand-recovered from 56 separate deposits. This assemblage includes 156 sherds (1711g) recorded from the evaluation, and reported on elsewhere (CA 2015).

The pottery has been fully recorded; scanned by context, sorted by fabric and quantified according to sherd count, weight and rim EVEs (estimated vessel equivalents). Where possible, identifiable vessel form (profile) and rim morphology were also recorded, as were decoration/surface treatment and other attributes, including sherd thickness-range and evidence for use (residues and use wear). Summary fabric descriptions, with codes used for recording, are given below.

The excavated pottery assemblage relates to three areas, with the largest quantities coming from Areas 1 and 3 (Table 1). The majority was recovered from discrete pit/posthole features (326 sherds or 67.1%), including a group of 173 sherds from one feature, Area 1 pit 10037. Pottery recorded from the evaluation was largely derived from areas later targeted for excavation: Trenches 13–14, 16 and 24–26 (located close to Area 3) produced 67 sherds weighing 608g, and Trenches 74–79 and 82–85 (near to Areas 1 and 2) some 52 sherds, weighing 1010g.

The condition of the pottery assemblage was mixed; surface preservation is occasionally poor, particularly within the quartz-tempered group, where surfaces are friable/powdery. The mean sherd weight (12.7g) is moderately high for a prehistoric group, and does not

Table 1 Pottery summary quantification by Area

Area>	1	2	3	Eval. Total		Total	
Fabric	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Wt.(g)
FT	98	1509	84	730	57	1037	3327
FTc	3	23	39	483	50	176	699
FTs	11	226	6	113	1	11	350
QZ	59	1046	3	26	7	55	1172
QZc			6	111	21	279	390
QZfl	2	53	1	10	5	22	90
QZor	109	1538					1538
QZF	3	32			8	24	56
ORG	5	38			1	6	44
SH	3	62					62
GR*			1	27	1	1	28
GRfl*			6	24			24
QZcw*					2	85	85
GWl*					3	35	35
Totals	293	4527	146	1524	156	1731	7900

* wheelthrown types (LIA/ER transitional)

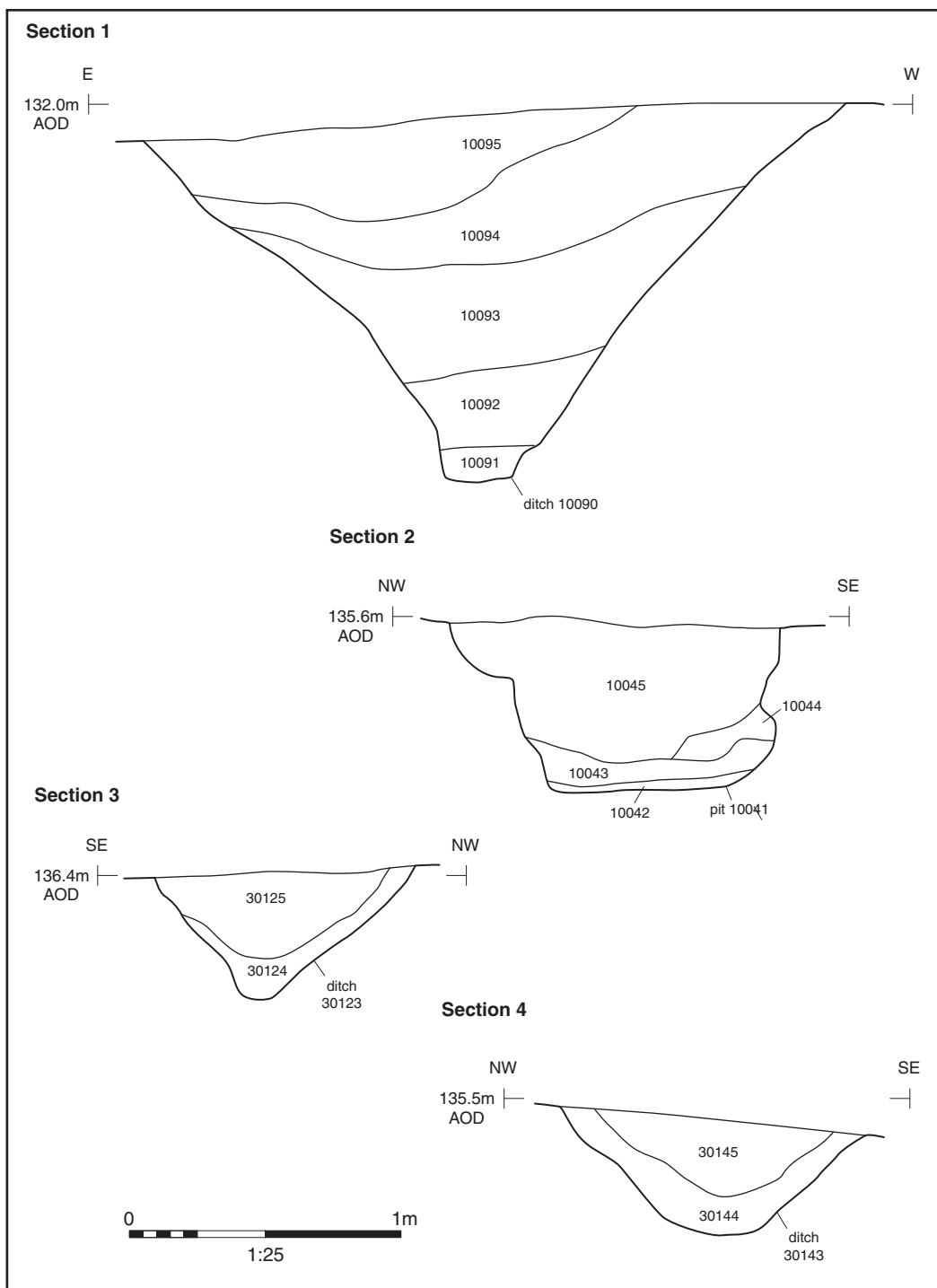


Fig. 5 Selected Sections – Areas 1 and 3

suggest high levels of disturbance. Degrees of fragmentation are, however, variable, with larger/joining vessel sherds limited to a small number of better-preserved groups, including those from Area 1 pits 10037 and 10041. Of particular note is 'saucepan pot' no. 6, recorded from Evaluation Trench 79, posthole 7907, and deposited intact (Figs 6 & 7.6).

Assemblage range

Fabrics

The composition (fabrics range), by area, of the assemblage is summarised in Table 1. The large majority of this group consists of handmade types, among which flint-tempered and quartz-tempered types are strongly dominant, although quartz-bearing types are markedly less well represented among the Area 3 group (Table 1).

Both dominant fabric groupings are representative of common Iron Age traditions in Hampshire. Typically, as here, flint-tempered fabrics predominate, although relative proportions of the main flint and quartz-bearing types may be variable across Hampshire sites (Hawkes 1985, 60; Hawkes 1987, 24–25; Rees 1995, 37, fig. 23; Brown 1984). At Brighton Hill South, for example (Rees 1995, 37), relative proportions varied according to internal site chronology. The use of crushed, burnt flint has earlier prehistoric origins, and continued throughout the Iron Age and Early Roman periods. In chalkland areas, flint-tempered fabrics are generally of local origin. Sources for quartz-bearing fabrics are probably the Reading Beds or Lower Greensand, both located within 10km of the site. The remaining fabrics are similarly representative of other Iron Age/Early Roman regional types. The only non-local type is a shell-tempered fabric from enclosure ditch 10130 (fill 10133). Wheel-thrown fabrics of the Period 3 Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition are restricted to a small number of sherds recovered from Area 3 ditch 301 (section 30123, fills 30124, 30125).

Forms

V1 Slack-shouldered forms (probably jars);

upright or slightly everted necks, with simple or squared rim tops. Size range 160–260mm (diam.). 3 vessels (0.16 EVEs). Fig. 7.1.

V2 Globular-bodied vessels (probably jars). Neckless, or with short, upright or everted neck and simple or bead-like rims. Size range 140–220mm (diam.). 8 vessels (0.39 EVEs). Fig. 7.2–4, 9.

V3 Ovoid or barrel-shaped vessels (jars)/ 'incurving saucepan pots'. Neckless, with simple rims. Size range 90–180mm (diam.). 4 vessels (0.32 EVEs). Fig. 7.5.

V4 Straight-sided vessels (jars) in saucepan pot tradition. Neckless, with simple or bead-like rims. Size range 160–180mm (diam.). Decoration as all-over burnish, or horizontal burnish lines at base angle. 5 vessels (1.15 EVEs). Figs 6 & 7.6–7.

V5 Angular-shouldered vessels (jars or bowls). Neckless and with bead rims. Size range 120–160mm (diam.). 2 vessels (0.13 EVEs). Fig. 7.10.

V6 Large jars; globular or ovoid-bodied with everted rims. Size range 200–300mm (diam.). 2 vessels (0.24 EVEs). Fig. 7.7&9.

V7 Wheelthrown vessels (necked jars or bowls). Size range 150mm (diam.). 1 vessel (0.12 EVEs). Fig. 7.10–11.

Further vessels were present as smaller rimsherds, where vessel form (profile) was uncertain. Most almost certainly comprise additional examples of the forms described. The assemblage is clearly dominated by jar-proportioned vessels, of probable utilitarian function. Decorated fineware bowls of the styles seen rarely in Middle Iron Age groups from Hampshire (Hawkes 1985, 66, fig. 54; Rees 1995, 41–42, figs 24–25) were not recorded. Instances of decoration are very few (five vessels), and limited to scored or burnished lines on some 'saucepan pot' vessels, or overall burnish, also to vessels in this class (Fig. 7.6–7). One body-sherd (deposit 10045) exhibits more elaborate decoration, as burnished line decoration in a crosshatch pattern, and one vessel of form V2 (Fig. 7.2) features light scoring/brushing below its shoulder.

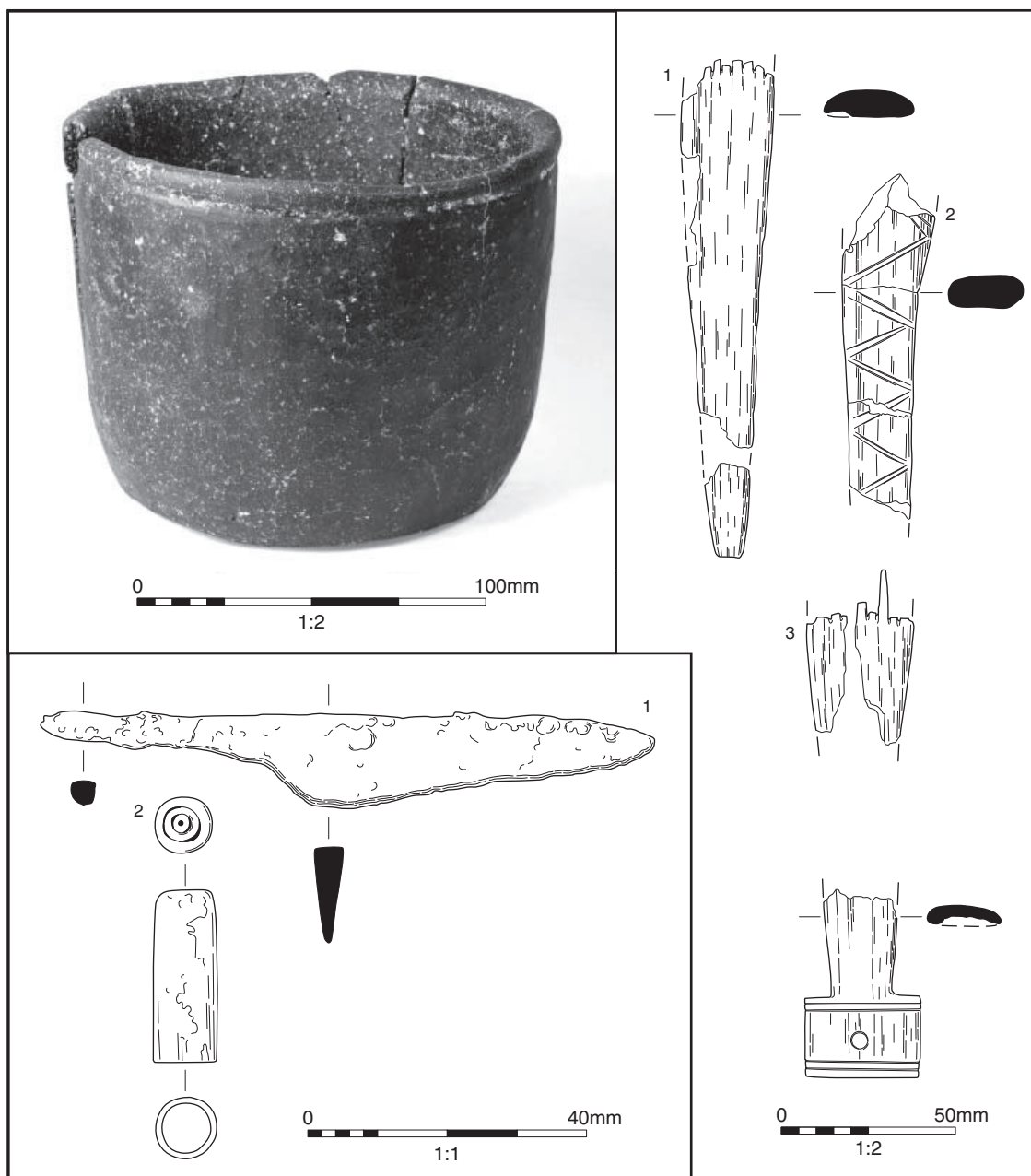


Fig. 6 Finds: Middle Iron Age Bowl Ra2, iron knife, CuA tube, and worked bone

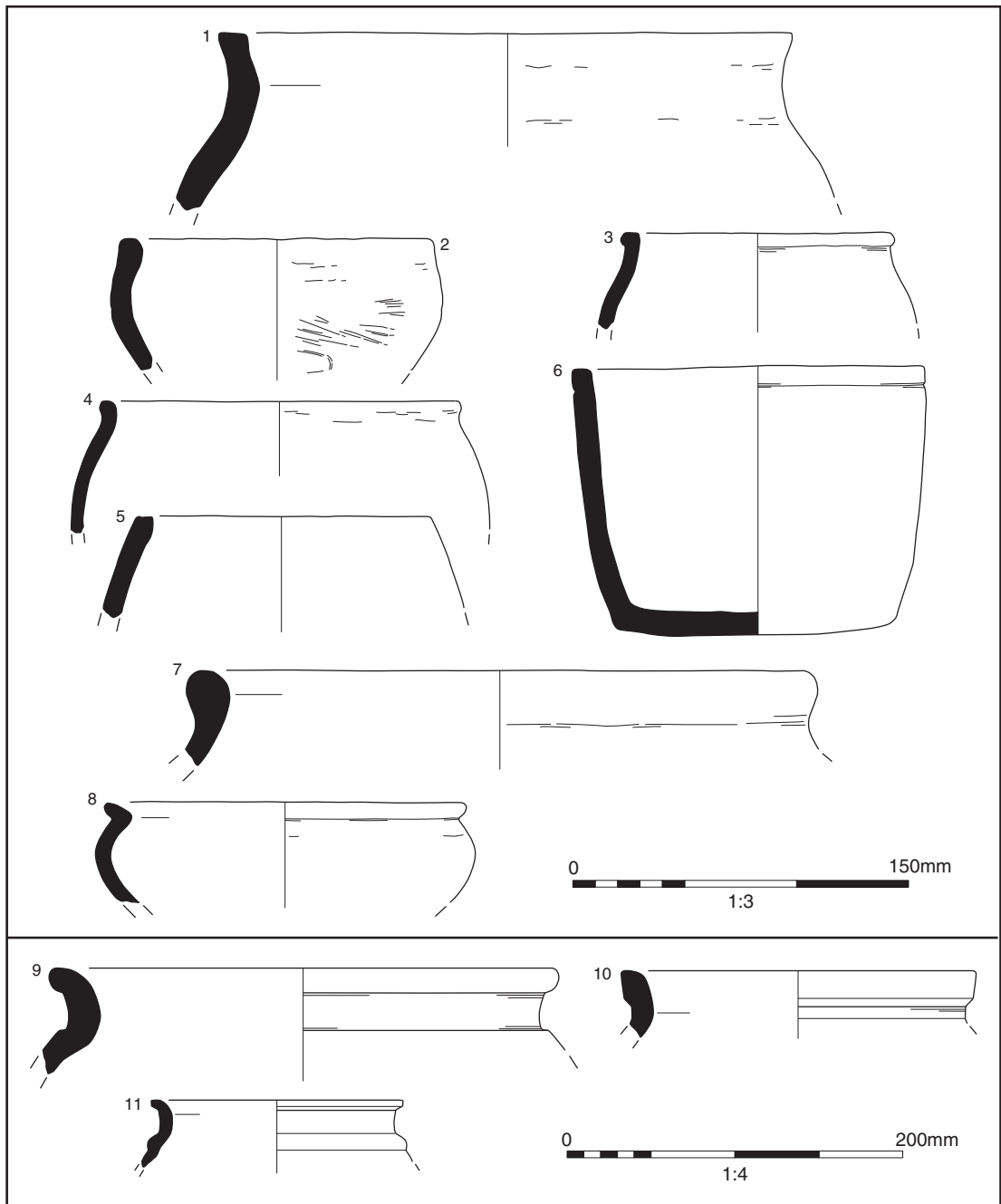


Fig. 7 Finds: Middle Iron Age and Early Roman pottery

Stylistic affinities and dating

Most of this assemblage is comparable with regional Middle and Later Iron Age styles, with a few vessels (from Area 3) suggesting continuity into the mid-1st century AD. The furrowed and other angular bowl styles, or fingertip-decorated vessels which commonly characterise forms of the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age transitional period (c. 8th to 5th centuries BC), are absent. The slack-shouldered, globular and neckless vessels (forms V1-V3), comprising the majority from Area 1, are more characteristic of the plainer styles beginning in the earlier Middle Iron Age (4th/3rd centuries BC). These compare, for example, to vessels from Phase 1 (Early-Middle Iron Age) at Brighton Hill South, near Basingstoke (Rees 1995, 41, fig. 24).

The 'saucepan pot' style, which is here confined to vessels from Area 1 (and Evaluation Trench 79) (Figs 6 & 7.6), similarly has earlier Middle Iron Age origins, from as early as the 4th or 3rd centuries BC at Danebury and Gussage All Saints (Wainwright 1979). The long-lived style continued into the 1st century BC (Cunliffe 2005, 627), and evidence suggests that plainer styles, including those represented at this site, are typical of the later Middle Iron Age. Although difficult to argue from such a small assemblage, it is possible that the plain, straight-sided saucepan pots represent later Middle Iron Age activity, due to their absence from pit group 10037, the pottery from which (Fig. 6.1-5) most suggests an earlier Middle Iron Age date.

A clear stylistic separation is evident between groups from Areas 1/2 and 3, and differences are also evident in the ranges of fabrics represented (Table 1). Although the number of identifiable forms is small, there is an absence of the earlier classes seen from Areas 1/2. The (handmade) bead-rim and large everted-rim jar forms (i.e. Fig. 6.7-8) compare more closely with the Late Iron Age or 'transitional' styles represented, for example, by the 1st centuries BC/AD contexts at Silchester (Timby 2000). The small number of wheel-thrown, grog-tempered and sandy vessels from this area (i.e. Fig. 6.9-11) may be contemporary, and suggest continuity into the middle or later 1st century AD.

Discussion

Stylistically and technologically, this small assemblage accords with the Iron Age record in the wider Hampshire area. Comparisons across the Area 1/2 and 3 groups reveal stylistic differences which may reflect differing chronologies, with Area 3 clearly the later. The stylistic differences apparent from the larger context groups from Areas 1/2 suggest that activity may have been of sufficient duration to encompass changes in ceramic styles.

Further comparison with contemporary groups from central-southern England, is suggested by apparent instances of 'structured deposition', most particularly the intact vessel within small pit/posthole feature 7908 (Fig. 6.6; Fig. 7). Material from the Area 1 pit 10041 may represent a further example, with pottery from this feature occurring as larger and possibly freshly-broken sherds, and in association with domestic items which are otherwise rarely represented. This combination of artefacts identifies pit 10041 as comparable to the 'structured' pit groups widely attested in Iron Age Wessex, and assessed in full by Hill (1995). Here, the 'selection' of straight-sided saucepan pots (Fig. 6.6) may be significant; this style being among the few exhibiting any degree of 'embellishment' (burnishing).

The pottery provides no clear indication of the status of the original users. The virtual absence of certainly non-local pottery, or 'finewares' (decorated bowls), suggests an isolated community with limited requirement for 'non-utilitarian' pottery. However, decorated or other 'finewares' and regionally-traded types are generally uncommon in regional Middle Iron Age assemblages, including those from Oram's Arbour, Winchester, where more elevated status is implied by the nature of the site (Holmes *et al.* 2004).

*Illustration catalogue (Fig. 7)***Area 1 Pit Group 10037**

- 1 Fabric QZor. Shouldered or globular vessel (form V1), with upright neck/flattened rim top. Fill 10040.
- 2 Fabric QZor. Neckless, ovoid or globular-bodied vessel (form V2), with simple rim. Scored/scratched 'decoration' at shoulder. Fill 10039.

- 3 Fabric FT. Globular-bodied (form V2), with upright neck and expanded rim. Fill 10039.
- 4 Fabric QZ. Globular-bodied vessel (form V2), with short, upright neck and simple rim. Fill 10038.
- 5 Fabric QZ. Neckless, barrel-shaped or ovoid vessel (form V3), with flattened rim. Fill 10040.

Evaluation Trench 79

- 6 Fabric FT. 'Saucepan pot' (form V4). Bead-like rim; burnishing on body. Small pit/posthole 7907 (fill 7908) (Fig. 6).

Area 1

- 7 Fabric SH. Globular-bodied vessel (form V2); thickened, everted rim. Ditch/gully 10130 (fill 10133).

Area 3/Evaluation Trench 16

- 8 Fabric FT. Jar/bowl with angular shoulder (form V5), and short, everted rim. Ditch 30123 (fill 30125).
- 9 Fabric FT. Large jar, with everted rim (form V6). Ditch/gully 30108 (fill 30110).
- 10 Fabric QZwc. Wheel-thrown necked jar (form V7); squared/bifid rim. Pit 1605 (fill 1606).
- 11 Fabric GT. Wheel-thrown necked jar or bowl (form V7); wide cordon at neck; curved rim. Ditch 30123 (fill 30124).

Appendix 1: summary fabric descriptions

FT Fine/medium flint-tempered. Dark-grey throughout, or with light-brown/red-brown surfaces. Soft, with rough feel and irregular fracture. Contains common moderately or well-sorted angular (calcined) flint 0.5–2mm.

FTc Coarser flint-tempered. Dark-grey, with light-brown/red-brown surfaces/margins. Soft, with rough feel and irregular fracture. Contains common, moderately-sorted angular (calcined) flint 1–4mm.

FT Sparsely flint-tempered. Dark, grey-brown throughout. Soft, with rough feel and irregular fracture. Contains sparse quantities of poorly-sorted, angular (calcined) flint 0.5–3mm.

QZ Fine/medium quartz-tempered. Dark-grey

throughout, or with red-brown margin. Soft, with sandy feel and finely irregular fracture. Contains common, moderately-sorted sub-rounded or rounded quartz, mostly <0.2mm or rarely up to 0.4mm.

QZc Coarser quartz-tempered. Red-brown throughout, or with grey core. Soft, with sandy feel, and finely irregular fracture. Contains common rounded or sub-rounded quartz, mostly 0.2–0.4mm. May contain sparse, small rounded ironstone pebbles up to 4mm, and sparse iron oxides 1–2mm.

QZor Fine sandy, with organic inclusions. Grey, with buff exterior surface/margin. Soft, with powdery feel and fine fracture. Contains abundant, well-sorted silt-sized quartz (0.1mm), and sparse to common black-edged voids from burnt-out organic material. May contain sparse angular flint, or small stones up to 3mm.

QZfl Fine/medium quartz-tempered, with flint. Dark-grey throughout, or with red brown margin. Soft, with sandy/rough feel, and finely irregular fracture. Contains common, moderately-sorted sub-rounded or rounded quartz, mostly <0.2mm and common, moderately-sorted angular (calcined) flint (0.5–2mm).

QZf Fine sandy. Dark-grey throughout, or with brown exterior surface/margin. Soft, with powdery feel and fine fracture. Contains common or sparse, well-sorted silt-sized quartz (0.1mm).

ORG Organic-tempered. Grey throughout, or with buff exterior surface/margin. Soft, with smooth feel and finely irregular fracture. Contains common or sparse, black-edged voids from burnt-out organic material. Micaceous.

SH Shell-tempered. Dark grey-brown throughout. Soft, with slightly rough feel, and irregular/laminated fracture. Contains common, moderately-sorted fossil shell 0.5–2mm.

QZcw Wheel-thrown coarse, quartz-tempered. Dark-grey throughout. Soft, with sandy/harsh feel and irregular fracture. Contains abundant, moderately-sorted, sub-rounded or rounded (polished) quartz 0.2–0.4mm.

GR Wheel-thrown grog-tempered. Dark-grey throughout. Soft, with smooth feel and finely irregular fracture. Contains common, well-sorted sub-angular grog 0.5–1.5mm.

GRfl Wheel-thrown grog-tempered with flint. Grey, with light-brown surfaces/margins. Soft, with smooth feel and finely irregular fracture. Contains common, well-sorted sub-angular grog 0.5–1.5mm, and sparse well-sorted angular (calcined) flint (1–1.5mm).

GW1 Wheel-thrown sandy (grey-firing). Patchy grey/buff throughout. Soft, with sandy/harsh feel, and irregular fracture. Contains abundant, well-sorted rounded or sub-rounded quartz 0.2–0.4mm.

Items of worked stone by Ruth Shaffrey

Three fragments from two stone querns were recovered during the excavation. One is of coarse gritty sandstone (SF 2), from fill 30072, of posthole 30071, where it may have been used as post-packing material. The other example comprises two conjoining parts of a sandstone saddle-quern (SF 1), from the top of fill 30105, of posthole 30104, adjacent to Roundhouse 6, and may have been deliberately broken prior to deposition. Both querns may originate from a nearby Upper Greensand exposure.

Metalworking debris by David Starley

The very small amount of metalworking debris, (400g), was all derived from ditch fills within Area 3, and none was stylistically dateable. Diagnostic material principally represented iron smithing activity, although no focus for this was identified within Area 3. It is unclear whether this material was linked to Period 3 occupation around the site, or represents off-site distribution of debris. Details

of metalworking debris are provided in the full archive report.

Fired clay by Katie Marsden

A total of 73 fragments (1971g) of fired clay was recorded from 15 deposits. The majority occur in a soft, pale buff fabric, some with a dark-grey core. A small proportion (15 fragments, 127g) occurs in a harder-fired, orange fabric. The fragments display no evidence of deliberate 'tempering', although sparse limestone inclusions were present amongst the material recorded from pit 10041 (fill 10043). None of the fragments display features diagnostic of form or function.

Metalwork by Katie Marsden

A total of three metal objects, two of iron and one of copper alloy, was recorded from pit 10041 (fill 10043) in Area 1. This deposit also contained worked bone objects and quantities of Middle Iron Age pottery.

The iron knife is small (Fig. 7), measuring 87mm in length, and compares to Manning's type 11, with a straight blade-back continuing in line from the handle (Manning 1985). Knives comparable in form, although larger, are known from Middle or Later Iron Age contexts at Danebury (Sellwood 1984b, fig. 7.10, 2.28–30).

The iron bar (not illustrated) is rectangular in section and form, with a curve to one end. It is broken at both ends, thus precluding identification of original form and function. The copper alloy object (Fig. 7.2) comprises a circular-sectioned tube, measuring *c.* 20mm in length, with one enclosed end decorated with a moulded ring and dot design (one dot enclosed by two concentric rings). No convincing Iron Age parallels have been identified, although a decorative use, perhaps an end-cap for a tool or implement, is most likely.

A copper alloy penannular brooch (RA3, not illustrated) was recovered from fill 1412, of posthole 1409, of the evaluation. It accords with Fowler's Type B, with terminals coiled outwards, and a slightly arched pin (which has become detached). This type is relatively rare, and is thought to date to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period (mid-2nd century BC to 1st

century AD), with a distribution-range mostly concentrated within central-southern England (Fowler 1960, 151–7).

Items of worked bone by Katie Marsden and E. R. McSloy

Two fragmentary bone weaving combs were recorded from pit 10041 (fill 10043), of which one is burnt and distorted (Fig. 7.1–2). These displayed surviving lengths of 138mm and 98mm respectively, and widths of 31mm and 25mm. The back of the second example features decoration in a zig-zag pattern executed in incised double lines (*cf.* Selwood 1984a fig. 7.29, no. 3.37). The teeth were largely absent in both cases. A further example was recovered in three fragments from posthole/pit 7903, adjacent to Area 1 (Fig. 7.3). These examples are well-known Iron Age types, and of comparable form and decoration with those from Danebury (Selwood 1984a; Cunliffe & Poole 1991), where plain combs of the kind represented by no. 1 comprised one third of the Group (Selwood 1984, 372). The square/expanded-butt form of no. 3 was also well represented, and may be a feature of Late Middle Iron Age combs (Cunliffe & Poole 1991, 357).

Such items were typically made from cattle or horse long-bones, although the condition of these examples precludes identification of bone to species. Incised decoration similar to that of no. 2 also occurred within the Danebury Group (*ibid.*, fig. 7.229, 3.37), and with an example from Meare, Somerset (Coles 1987).

THE BIOLOGICAL RECORD

Animal bone by Matilda Holmes

The small assemblage of Period 2 and 3 animal bone precluded detailed analysis, although some comments can be made regarding the taxa present.

Bones were generally in fair to poor condition, with high incidence of breakage. There is evidence of butchery and burning, with some gnawed fragments. Sheep/goat remains predominated in both phases (Table 2), although cattle and equids were also

recovered in relatively high numbers, and pig, canid and red deer were also identified. A red deer antler tine may have been collected from shed antler, and may not necessarily imply hunting activity. Head and upper limb bones were in the majority, indicating a bias towards meat-bearing parts of the carcase. Neonatal and very young sheep were evident from the mid-late Iron Age assemblage, indicating that they were bred nearby, and the tibia of a juvenile horse, of between two and four years of age, was also recovered.

Charred plant remains by Sarah F. Wyles

Charred plant remains from seven bulk soil samples were analysed from Period 3 features in Areas 1 and 3. Four samples were taken from pit 10041 in Area 1, and three from ditch fills in Area 3.

Charred plant assemblages from fill 10043 (samples 1 and 2), of pit 10041, were dominated by weed seeds, while cereal remains outnumbered weed seeds in the smaller assemblages associated with the fills of Period 2 vessels from fill 10043 (samples 6 and 7), of pit 10041. Cereal remains predominantly comprised grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), with some hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*).

Weed seed assemblages included seeds of medick (*Medicago* sp.), clover (*Trifolium* sp.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), meadow grass/cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), oats (*Avena* sp.), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*).

These assemblages appear to represent debris from earlier stages of crop processing, prior to storage (Hillman 1981, 1984). Quantities of vitrified material, containing a number of plant stem impressions, were associated with some samples, particularly those from pit 10041, and probably comprise the remains of birch bark tar.

Weed seed species are typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments, and comprised those favouring drier, calcareous soils, including field madder, clover, medick, corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvensis*) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). The few

Table 2 Faunal species representation by anatomical element

Element	Mid to Late Iron Age (Period 3)					Late Iron Age - Early Roman (Period 4)						
	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Equid	Canid	Red deer	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Sheep	Pig	Equid	Large mammal
Antler						1						
Horn core + frontal							1					
Maxilla												
Mandible		3			1		1	2				
Loose teeth	3	6		8			1	3			3	
Scapula		1										1
Humerus	1						2					
Radius	1	1					1	1				
Ulna	1	1									1	
Pelvis	2			3			2					1
Femur							1	1				
Tibia	1	6					1	3		1	1	
Astragalus											1	
Metacarpal		3					1					
Metatarsal	1							1	1			
Lateral metapodial								1				
Total	10	21	1	11	1	1	11	12	1	1	6	2

seeds of mallow (*Malva* sp.), from pit 10041, may indicate damper environments in the vicinity, while low-growing species, such as clover and medick, suggest a low harvesting height by sickle (Hillman 1981). Details of the charred plant remains are included in the full archive report.

Mollusc remains by Sarah Wyles

Large numbers of mollusc shells were recovered from fill 10043 (samples 1 and 2) of pit 10041, and smaller numbers associated with partly-complete Period 2 vessels from the same pit. The assemblages were dominated by the open-country species group, including *Helicella itala*, *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica* and *Pupilla muscorum*, and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*. These complement plant remains from the site, by indicating a well-established, open landscape, incorporating both arable environments and short-turfed pasture. Small assemblages, of similar composition, were recorded from Period 4 ditches 303 (sample 3), and 302 (sample 4), in Area 3.

The large assemblage from ditch 30126 (sample 5) differed in composition, with shade-loving species, including *Discus rotundatus*, *Carychium tridentatum*, *Aegopinella pura* and *Aegopinella nitidula* representing over half of the assemblage, along with shells of the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*. Open-country species formed only 14% of this assemblage, which may imply the proximity of larger-scale, shady environments. *Discus rotundatus* is a species which favours leaf-litter and the underside of logs within woodland and hedgerow environments, while *Carychium tridentatum*, *Aegopinella nitidula* and *Aegopinella pura* are all found in leaf-litter and ungrazed grassland. The assemblage included no species exclusive to woodland. Details of mollusc remains are included in the full archive report.

Wood charcoal by Dana Challinor

Of the six samples from Period 3 and 4 features submitted for charcoal analysis, four came from pit, 10041, in Area 1, and two from Area 3 ditches 303 and 302. Only a few small fragments were present in most samples. The results of

the charcoal assessment are summarised in Table 3, below.

The condition of the charcoal was poor, with very high levels of vitrification, and only one sample, from ditch 303, produced a reasonable assemblage. This comprised comminuted slivers of *Quercus* sp. (oak), with some sapwood and roundwood noted. The other positively identified taxon was *Prunus* sp. (blackthorn/cherry), from the fills of pit 10043.

DISCUSSION

Cunliffe (2005, 252–3) has remarked on the rapid increase in farmstead settlements during the later Middle Iron Age of central-southern Britain, which were frequently sited to optimise a range of resources. The evidence in Hampshire suggests a period of rapid, socially-directed agricultural and settlement expansion (Haslegrove *et al.* 2001, 29; Haselgrove 1995, 80–7), into previously unsettled, less fertile areas. The Cadnam Farm site may reflect this movement from areas of increasing population pressure and degraded soils (see Cunliffe 1984b, 31; 1995, 96). However, an earlier phase of activity is suggested by small quantities of residual Early Iron Age pottery recovered by evaluation in Area 3. McSloy (this report), has identified Area 1 vessel forms as generally more characteristic of the early Middle Iron Age, while groups from Areas 2 and 3 are of later Middle Iron Age character, suggesting continuity with Period 3 activity. The fills of Area 3 ditches suggest Period 3 occupation within the vicinity.

The Period 3 ditches

The Period 3 ditches in Area 3 were tentatively interpreted as a funnelled entry-point of a livestock drove-way (see Lambrick & Robinson 2009, 84, 85, Fig. 3.19; 110, Fig. 4.12), and thus represent a scheme of landscape reorganisation following the abandonment of Middle Iron Age settlement (Fig. 4). However, evaluation identified no evidence of contiguous ditched features beyond Area 3, and the excavated fills of the ditches were associated with finds and biological material, including cereal grains, suggesting adjacent domestic occupation. On this basis, the principal focus of any Period 3

Table 3 Charcoal from the Period 3 and 4, Middle and Late Iron Age Features (+ = sparse, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant)

Taxon	Area	Area 1		Area 3	
		Feature number	Pit 10041	Ditch 30137	Ditch 30140
		Context number	Fill 10043	Fill 10043, RA 4	Fill 30139
		Sample number	1	2	3
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	oak			7	4
<i>Prunus</i> sp.	blackthorn/cherry			++	+++
Prunoideae/Maloideae	cherry/hawthorn groups		+		+
Indeterminate diffuse			+		+

settlement might may lay beyond the limits of Area 3. Evidence of contemporary activity within the environs of the Cadnam Farm site is limited, by contrast with the notable concentration of Late Iron Age activity around Basingstoke, c. 12km to the north-west, (c.f. Fasham & Keevil 1995; Gibson 2004; Oliver 1992; Wright *et al.* 2009, *inter alia*), and it may be possible to suggest links with such a centre. The Late Iron Age period in southern Britain is characterised as one of dynamic settlement change and expansion (Haselgrove & Moore 2007, 3–5), commonly involving the movement of small social groups into new areas. While these were often associated with river valleys or confluences (see Hill 2007, 23–5), the possibility in this case of local settlement continuity from the Middle Iron Age period should not be discounted.

Evidence of industrial activity

The small quantities of metalworking debris from Period 3 pit and ditch fills in Area 3, were diagnostic of smithing activity, although other industrial activities may be represented on this site, and the presence of birch bark tar in Period 2 pit 10041, in Area 1, is significant. This material was identified on repaired pottery sherds from an Iron Age pit at Carshalton, Surrey (Seager Smith 2017, 29), and the charred plant assemblages from this feature also included smaller, seeded weed species and barley grains (Wyles 2017, 69–75), as was the case at Cadnam Farm.

Structured deposition

The intact vessel deposited within the small pit/posthole feature 7908, together with items from the Area 1 pit 10041, may represent examples of deliberate or structured deposition. The large, freshly-broken sherds in pit 10041, which had been deposited in a single context with a group of domestic artefacts identifies this fill as unusual, and comparable to the ‘structured’ pit groups discussed by Hill (1995, 95–98) *inter alia*, as a distinctive aspect of late prehistoric

domestic sites. McSloy (this report) has drawn attention to the possible selection of specific pottery types in this context.

The deposit within pit 10041 may well mark a specific event in the occupation of Enclosure 1.1, and Hill (1995, 88–9) has suggested that such deposits may commemorate infrequent but significant episodes of change, including the death, or departure from the community, of specific individuals (see Sharples 2010, 236; Lambrick & Robinson 2009, 286). Such acts of formal closure may also commemorate the abandonment of the settlement (cf. Gerritsen 2003, 102–4; Bradley 2005, 79–80), whose apparently short-lived occupation may reflect the lifetime of its principal inhabitant (Sharples 2010, 222–3).

Conjoining fragments of a sandstone saddle quern (SF 1) from the upper fill of a posthole, adjacent to Roundhouse 6 (Fig. 4) may represent deliberately-placed items relating to the decommissioning or demolition of the Roundhouse (see Hill 1995, 100–1, 108; Bradley 2005, 114, 119).

Evidence of roundhouse structures

The truncated roundhouse gullies in Area 2 may be only broadly contemporary with the enclosed settlement in Area 1, and on the basis of pottery styles may represent different phases of Period 2 occupation (McSloy, this report). Fluid relationships between enclosed and unenclosed settlement characterise the later Middle Iron Age, (see Bowden & McOmish 1987; Lambrick & Robinson 2009, 130–31), and the chronological relationship between Enclosure 1.1 and Roundhouse 1 remains uncertain. Comparative regional evidence, including that from Winnall Down, Hampshire (Fasham 1985), suggests that much settlement of this period developed with little reference to earlier patterns of enclosure.

Truncated features within Area 2 represent partly-superimposed Roundhouses 3 and 4 (Fig. 4), of closely-comparable size, with Roundhouse 3 stratigraphically earlier than Roundhouse

4, although it is difficult to speculate on the timescales involved. A number of commentators (Brück 1999, 149; Brossler *et al.* 2004, Figs 13 & 16) have suggested that the use-life of a prehistoric roundhouse may have been coeval with the life of its principal inhabitant, and possibly exemplified by excavated examples at Reading Business Park (Barnes *et al.* 1997, Fig. 4.14), where numerous superimposed roundhouse plans were recorded, each without evidence of any lengthy period of occupation. At the near-contemporary site of Winklebury, Basingstoke (Smith 1977), at least three successive roundhouses appeared to have been reconstructed on almost the same spot (see Guilbert 1981, 301–2). Sharples (2010, 228) has suggested that in such cases there may have been no direct succession between occupants and their descendants, and that the reconstruction of a house on, or close to, the location of the original, may simply signify a deliberate act of inheritance by a new generation, possibly involving the re-use of the timbers of the original house.

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