Proc. Hampshire Field Club Archaeol. Soc. **75 (pt. II)**, *2020, 220–254 (Hampshire Studies 2020)*
https://doi.org/10.24202/hs2020015

LATE IRON AGE–ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT AT RAZOR'S FARM, CHINEHAM, BASINGSTOKE

By JON SANIGAR *and* PHIL ANDREWS
with contributions by
DANA CHALLINOR, L HIGBEE, INÉS LÓPEZ-DÓRIGA *and* RACHAEL SEAGER SMITH

ABSTRACT

A Late Iron Age farmstead was represented by an oval ditched enclosure, subsequently cut by another enclosure and together possibly forming a figure-of-eight plan, with contemporary features including a well, pits and post-holes. This was succeeded by a larger, early Roman enclosure in which lay a rectangular post-built structure and a sub-oval gully that may have been associated with a roundhouse, as well as hearths, pits, a well and a waterhole. The final mid–late Roman phase of settlement was characterised by a series of rectilinear enclosures. Although there is nothing of particular note amongst the finds and environmental assemblages, the significance of the site overall is that it provides a rare example of rural settlement of this date and duration on the Hampshire claylands, just to the south of Silchester and close to the Roman road that linked this with Chichester.

INTRODUCTION

In autumn 2016 Wessex Archaeology undertook a strip, map and sample excavation at Razor's Farm, Chineham, Basingstoke (NGR 465774 156207) in advance of residential development by Croudace Homes Ltd.

The development area is situated to the north-east of Basingstoke, just to the north of Chineham, and lies on the edge of the built-up area (Fig. 1). It is bounded to the east by a railway line, with Cufaude Lane beyond, and to the north and west by arable fields. The southern boundary is marked by Crockford Lane to the west and a pasture field in the east.

The projected route of the Roman road between Silchester and Chichester extends north-west to south-east through the development area, its course corresponding with a strip of mature trees designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (Fig. 1).

The underlying geology comprises London Clay (British Geological Survey 1981), and the site lies on a gentle north-facing slope at a height of approximately 83m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south and 70m aOD in the north.

Archaeological background

There is sparse recorded evidence to indicate prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity, though several concentrations of burnt flint may be indicative of human activity at this time. A little further away, Iron Age settlement remains have been found at sites including Winklebury (Smith 1977), Cowdery's Down (Millett & James 1984), Brighton Hill South (Fasham & Keevill 1995), Viables (Millett & Russell 1984; Gibson 2004) and Marnell Park, Popley (Wright *et al.* 2009; Thames Valley Archaeological Services 2016), all within Basingstoke.

The Romano-British *civitas* capital, Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*), lay approximately 6km to the north and, as noted above, the road between here and Chichester (*Noviomagus*) is known to pass through the centre of the development area. However, an evaluation carried out in 1999 on land immediately to the south, which included two trenches targeted on the course of the Roman road, found no trace of it (Wessex Archaeology 1999).

The Domesday survey (1086) records manors at Chineham. The origin of the place-name Chineham is uncertain but is possibly related to a slight valley and meaning rift/ravine estate (Coates 1989).

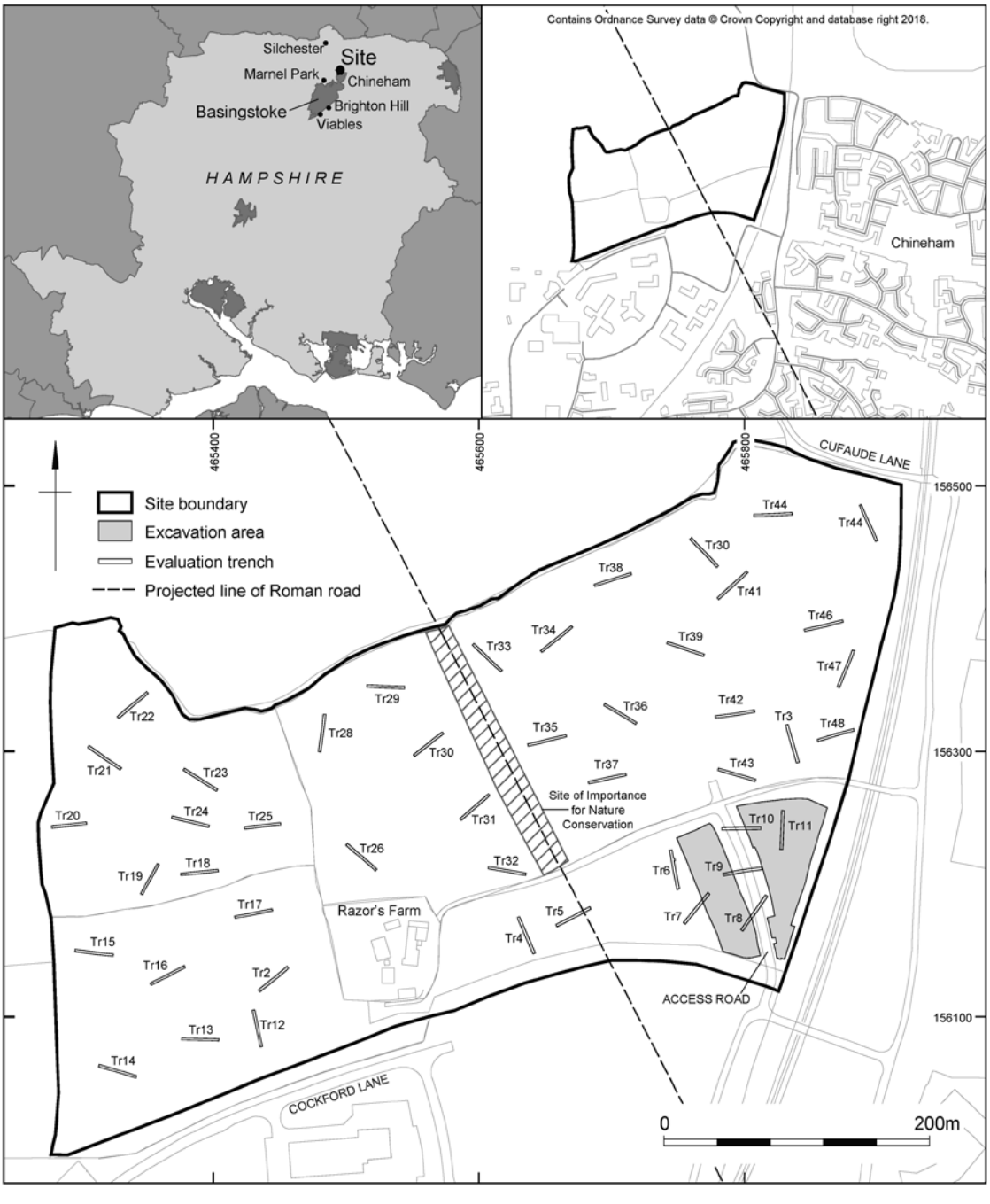

Fig. 1 Site location plan

The Razor's Farm buildings, four of them Grade II Listed, lie in the central southern part of the development area, within a farmyard bounded by ditches and hedgerows (Fig. 1). Whilst the present buildings are of 17th century or later date, the site may have earlier origins. Indeed, the layout of buildings indicates that Razor's Farm could have originated as a small medieval moated farmstead, with a surviving moat-like feature still evident to the north and west of the farm.

There is also evidence for post-medieval clay extraction and tile or pottery manufacture in the vicinity, with the Tithe Map recording the name of one field as Kiln Field.

Geophysical survey and evaluation trenching

A detailed gradiometer survey was conducted on the development area in 2012, covering approximately 16.5ha, which demonstrated the presence of a number of anomalies of likely archaeological interest (Wessex Archaeology 2012a).

Only 50m or so of the projected line of the Roman road was available for survey, the remainder covered by trees. Although no clear anomalies of archaeological interest were detected coincident with the road, weak linear trends were identified which might confirm its presence, though any metalling perhaps significantly truncated.

In the south-eastern corner of the area was a region of increased magnetic response, possibly indicative of former settlement activity, and corresponding with a series of low earthworks noted during an earlier walkover (Wessex Archaeology 2013). No geophysical anomalies of definitively archaeological origin were identified, although several weak linear and curvilinear anomalies were thought to be of possible archaeological interest.

In the north-west of the area were several strongly magnetised anomalies considered likely to be the result of burnt features possibly associated with clay extraction and tile or pottery manufacture, though no wasters have been found.

Two phases of archaeological evaluation were subsequently undertaken across the development area in 2012 and 2015 (Wessex Archaeology 2012b; 2015). These comprised 46 evaluation trenches, each 30m long, and a single hand-dug test-pit in the possible moat to the north of the farmhouse. The evaluation trenching confirmed the presence of the Roman road and revealed an adjacent Late Iron Age/early Romano-British farmstead in the south-east of the area, this consisting of a system of enclosures, field boundary ditches and a number of small pits and post-holes. Elsewhere, only a small number of archaeological features were encountered, either post-medieval or undated, and the single test-pit did not conclusively demonstrate the presence of a moat.

THE EXCAVATION

The proposed excavation was focused on the area of the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British farmstead identified in the evaluation. However, prior to this commencing, enabling works had been granted planning consent which allowed for the construction of an access road with associated parking across the centre of the designated investigation site.

Following consultation with the County Archaeologist it was agreed that a strip, map and sample excavation should target the known extent of the remaining archaeological resource within the site, to the east and the west of the access road, below which archaeological remains are likely to survive *in situ*, though possibly truncated to a varying degree. Together, the two excavation areas covered a total of 0.92ha, exposing the majority of the settlement, with the main exception of the strip covered by the access road through the centre (Wessex Archaeology 2017; Fig. 1).

Topsoil, generally 0.35m thick, overlaid up to 0.45m of subsoil, thickest downslope towards the north. The underlying geology comprised a mid-orange brown to yellow clay, with occasional patches of flint gravels; a machine-dug sondage revealed several large sandstone boulders at a depth of approximately 4m.

Fig. 2 Plan of Late Iron Age features

Late Iron Age

Enclosure 10701

The earliest phase of settlement was represented by oval enclosure 10701, approximately 50m by 40m in extent, which shared a close relationship with another possibly similar enclosure, 10702, to the south (Fig. 2). Enclosure ditch 10701 was 1.15–2.9m wide and 0.5–0.8m deep, the profile consistent throughout, with a shallow 'lip', which then sloped steeply downwards to a narrow concave base (Fig. 3). An internal earth bank is assumed but there was no clear

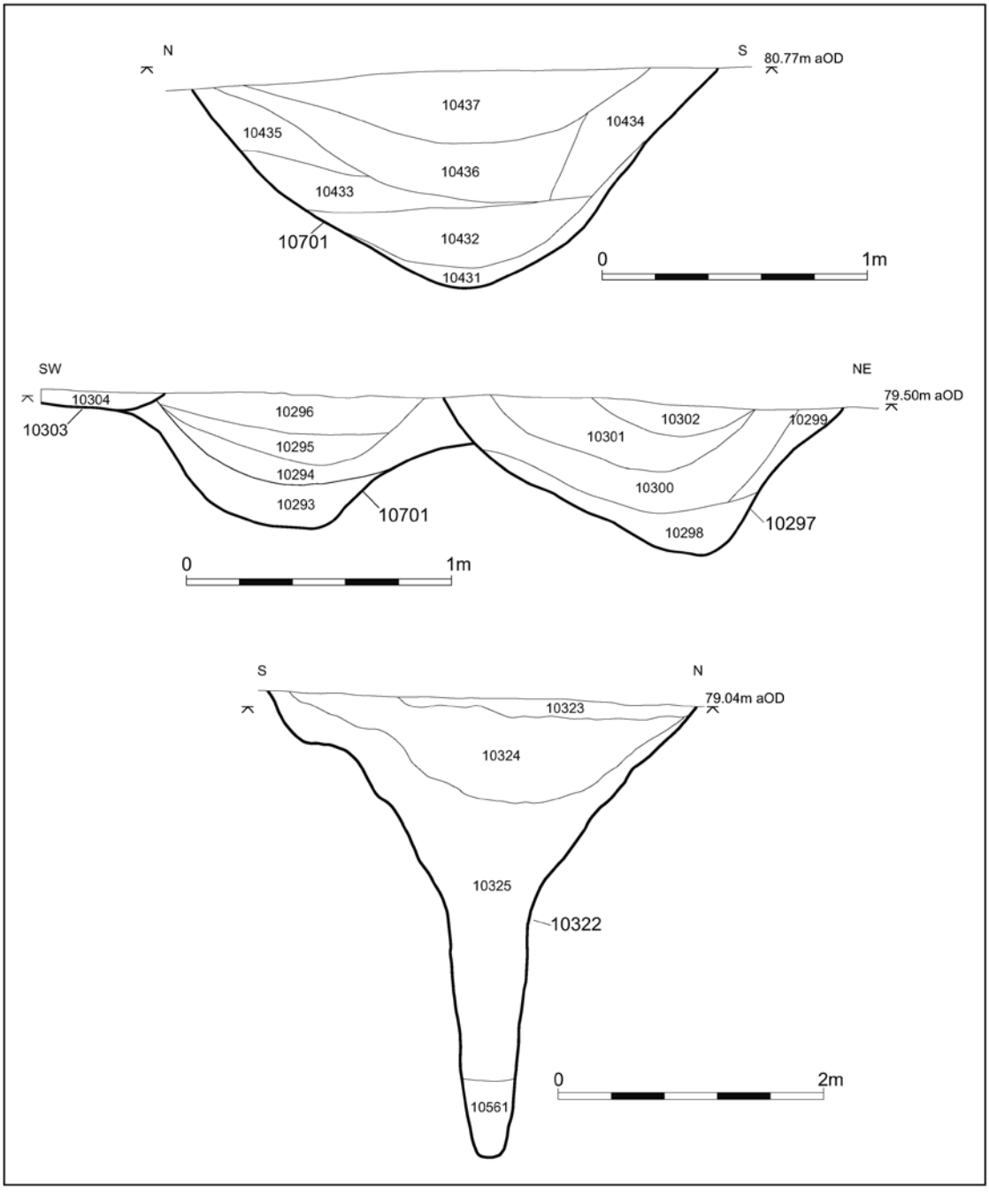

Fig. 3 Sections of Late Iron Age features

evidence for this. No entrance was located, and this may lie under the access road.

The enclosure ditch had filled up naturally over time, with a primary fill of yellowish brown silty clay and a secondary fill of mid-greyish brown silty clay. The uppermost fills along the south, north-west and west sides contained abundant charcoal, particularly in the vicinity of pits 10008, 10017, 10020 and 10043, possibly reflecting the close proximity of domestic activity. One section of the ditch to the north-east also produced a relatively large amount of pottery.

Enclosure ditch 10701 had been re-cut by ditch 10297 along the north-east side (Fig. 3), with the re-cut ditch then turning at a right-angle towards the east and extending beyond the limit of excavation. Ditch 10297 was 1.5m wide and 0.55m deep.

Enclosure 10702

Curvilinear enclosure ditch 10702 was either contemporary or slightly later than enclosure 10701, the projected junction lying under the access road (Fig. 2). Enclosure 10702 coupled with northern oval enclosure 10701 may have formed a 'figure-of-eight' plan, ditch 10702 continuing south and east beyond the edge of the site. Ditch 10702 was 2.1–2.2m wide and 0.6–0.8m deep, the profile very similar to that of oval enclosure ditch 10701. Towards the southern end of the enclosure, the ditch contained a blueish-grey silty clay at the base, suggesting the former presence of standing water.

Ditch 10249

Ditch 10249 was approximately 56m long, 0.5–0.65m wide and 0.25–0.35m deep. It extended north-east from the edge of later enclosure ditch 10709, which appeared to cut it, and then turned at a right-angle, extending north-west downslope and beyond the limit of excavation (Fig. 2). The ditch may have served for drainage, to direct water away from the occupation area.

Well 10322

Located to the north of oval enclosure 10701 was a large well, 10322 (Fig. 2). The well was 3.5m in diameter, the top with a funnel-shaped profile, the shaft narrowing to approximately 0.6m in diameter halfway down its full depth of 3.85m (Fig. 3). The basal fill of dark grey silty clay was dry at the time of excavation and no waterlogged material survived. Above the basal fill was a thick secondary fill of mid greyish brown silty clay loam, with a mid-greyish silty clay loam above this, both layers containing a few stray sherds of Romano-British pottery and a small quantity (103g) of burnt flint. The latter fill merged with the fills of ditch 10326 (see below) and was in turn sealed by an upper fill containing a few sherds of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery.

A small ditch, 10326, had been cut into the side of well 10322, and seems to have been broadly contemporary with it. The ditch, 3.55m long, 0.8m wide and 0.5m deep, was aligned south-east to north-west and sloped downwards towards the well. It is suggested that this feature was dug to drain surface water into the well.

Pits and post-holes

Only a single pit can possibly be assigned an Iron Age date. Pit 10122, located within oval enclosure 10701, was 0.6m long, 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep, and contained five sherds of Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery, animal bone and burnt flint.

Towards the north of the site and in the vicinity of oval enclosure 10701 were possibly seven post-holes (10287, 10305, 10307, 10401, 10403, 10411 and 10534), these ranging from 0.35–0.55m in diameter and up to 0.15m deep (Fig. 2). Only 10305, 10307 and 10403 produced any pottery, while post-hole 10411 contained a perforated triangular object (ON 13), probably either oven furniture or a loomweight. It is unclear if any of the post-holes were associated and they formed no discernible pattern.

Undated post-holes 10039 and 10041 lay 1.2m apart, just within oval enclosure 10701, and were both approximately 0.4m in diameter and 0.25m deep.

Further south were nine, circular post-holes that have been tentatively assigned to the Late Iron Age. Most were isolated, but there were several that appear to be in groups. For example, post-holes 10179 and 10204, 0.2–0.4m in diameter and up to 0.18m deep, were located within enclosure 10702 and lay approximately 8m apart.

Early Romano-British

Roman road

The excavation area lay approximately 90m east of the Roman road between Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*) and Chichester (*Noviomagus*) (see Fig. 1). The Roman road itself and accompanying ditches were exposed and investigated within evaluation trench 5 in 2012 (Wessex Archaeology 2012b) (Fig. 4). Below a shallow depth of topsoil but above a 0.15m deep layer of subsoil was a thin, diffuse spread of flint gravel incorporating occasional larger cobbles. Spread 502 was almost 15m wide, exhibited no obvious structure in plan or section, and may represent the ploughed out remains of original metalled road surface 508 which lay directly on the natural clay. Surface 508 was in very poor condition, presumably due to plough damage, and was contemporary with flanking ditches 505 and 509 which lay 14.4m apart.

Ditch 505 on the west side of surface 508 was 1.7m wide, 0.25m deep and contained two distinct fills. Manganese staining within secondary fill 507 is indicative of damp or waterlogged conditions, and ditch 505 did partly fill with water during excavation. Ditch 509 on the east side of surface 508 was larger than ditch 505, at 2.2m wide, 0.35m deep, and contained two similar fills. No finds came from either of the two ditches or the road metalling.

Enclosure 10703

Large sub-oval enclosure ditch 10703 cut Late Iron Age enclosure ditch 10702 and has been assigned to the 1st century AD (Fig. 5). The overall width of the enclosure was 62m (east to west), and its length approximately 114m (north to south). An entrance was not found, but it may lie under the access road or to the south-east beyond the site limit. The enclosure ditch ranged from 2.25–3.65m wide and 0.7–1.15m deep, the size varying only slightly on the south, west and northern sides, but on the eastern side it was shallower at only 0.7m deep. The profile of the ditch was broadly consistent throughout, with a shallow inner lip, the sides then sloping steeply down to form a V-shaped profile, though it was more U-shaped to the north (Fig. 6). The enclosure ditch probably had an internal bank, perhaps indicated by redeposited yellowish-brown silty clay deposits in the top of the ditch in some sections, particularly to the south and north.

Enclosure ditch 10703 contained a primary fill of yellowish brown silty clay, except on the eastern side where it was a greyish brown silty clay, perhaps indicating periodic standing water within the ditch. The ditch was then filled with a series of secondary deposits with moderate amounts of early Roman as well as residual Iron Age pottery. The north and west sections of the ditch contained noticeably more pottery, burnt clay and charcoal than the south and east sides.

Ditch 10709 formed a major division within the enclosure, but the precise arrangement and relationship with ditch 10703 on the west side remains unknown as the junction lay beneath the access road. Ditch 10709, aligned north-west to south-east, was 2.15m wide and 0.6m deep in the centre but only 0.55m wide and 0.2m deep where it joined enclosure ditch 10703 to the east.

Gullies 10097 and 10103 appear to have been cut into the edges of enclosure ditch 10703 on the west side before the ditch had filled up, perhaps dug in order to assist with drainage as well as to delineate space. Gully 10097 was aligned east–west and approximately 10m in length, with a width of 0.5–0.75m and a depth of 0.12–0.4m. Gully 10103 was also aligned east–west, but curvilinear in plan, 9.3m long, 0.4–0.6m wide and 0.15–0.2m deep.

Two ditches were located in the north of enclosure 10703 and their layout suggests all three were contemporary. Ditch 10256, approximately 25m long, 1.1–1.2m wide and 0.3m deep, was aligned east to west and cut ditch 10309 to the east. Ditch 10309 was parallel to the line of enclosure ditch 10703, in excess of 24m long, 0.85m wide and up to 0.3m deep.

In the south of the enclosure, on the east side, there was a further complex comprising gullies 10707 and 10708 (Fig. 5) to the south of ditch 10709. Gullies 10707 and 10708 may have been associated and appeared to form a sub-oval possible drip gully. Located off-centre within the drip gully was a possible hearth 10338 (see below), which may suggest that the drip gully was related to a roundhouse within this part of enclosure 10703. The overall area enclosed by the gullies was 22m long (from north to south)

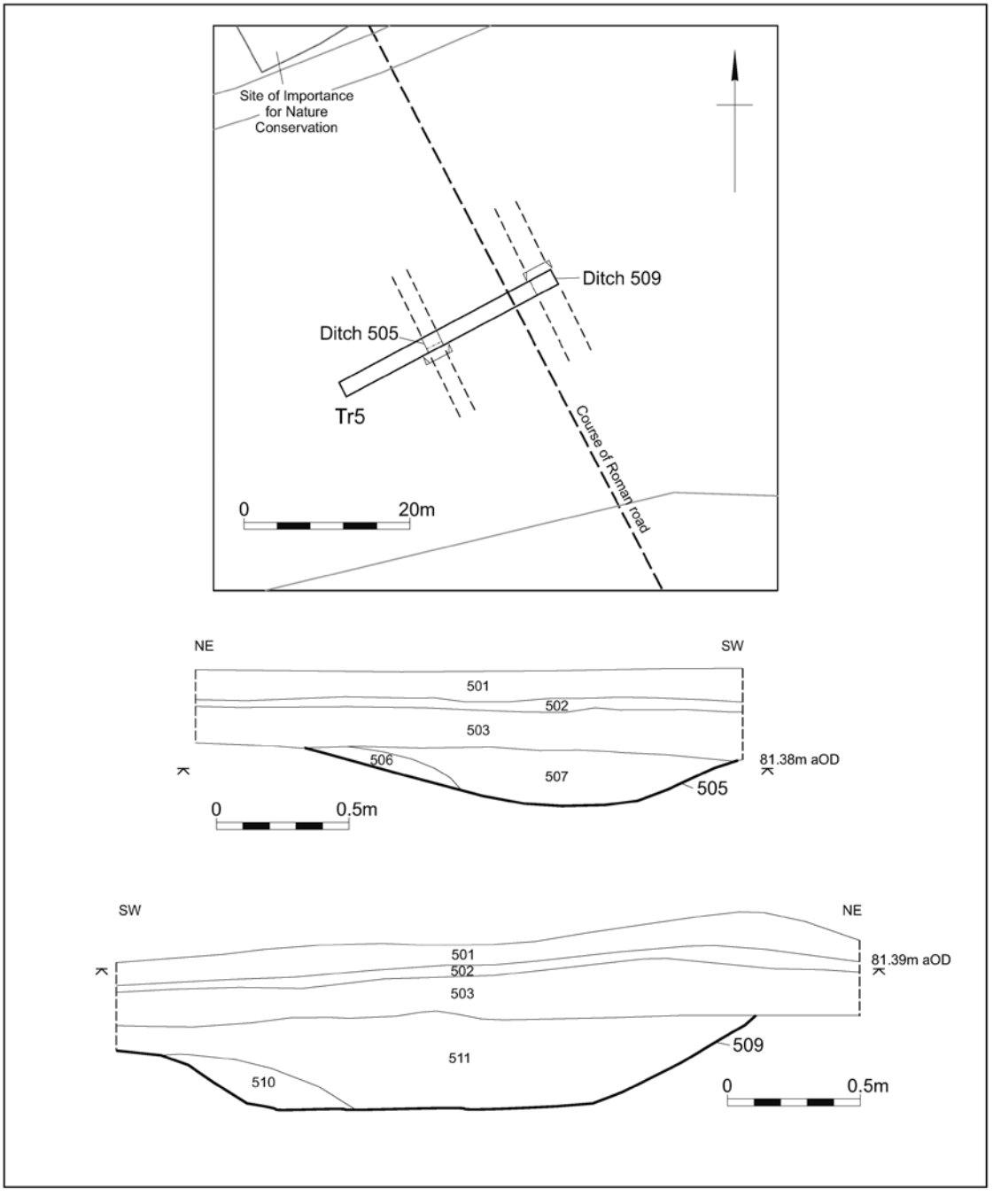

Fig. 4 Plan and section of Roman road

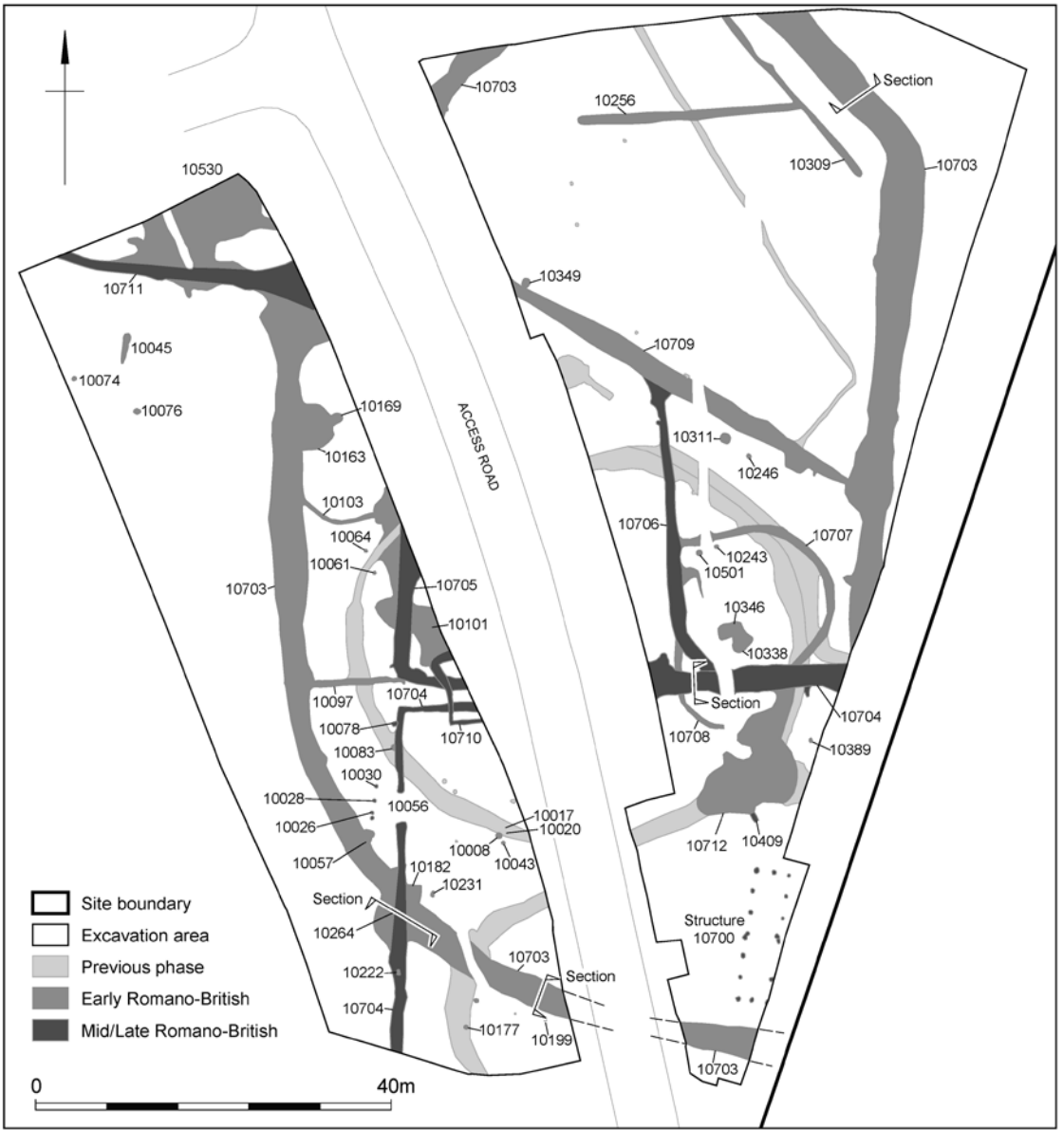

Fig. 5 Plan of Romano-British features

and 15m wide (from east to west). However, no contemporary internal post-holes were certainly identified. Gully 10707 was 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep and contained a moderate amount of pottery. This gully cut across the top of Iron Age enclosure ditch 10701, and was cut by rectilinear enclosure ditch 10704, as well as ditch 10706, both of mid–late Roman date. Gully 10708 was slightly smaller than 10707, at 0.55m in width and 0.2m deep.

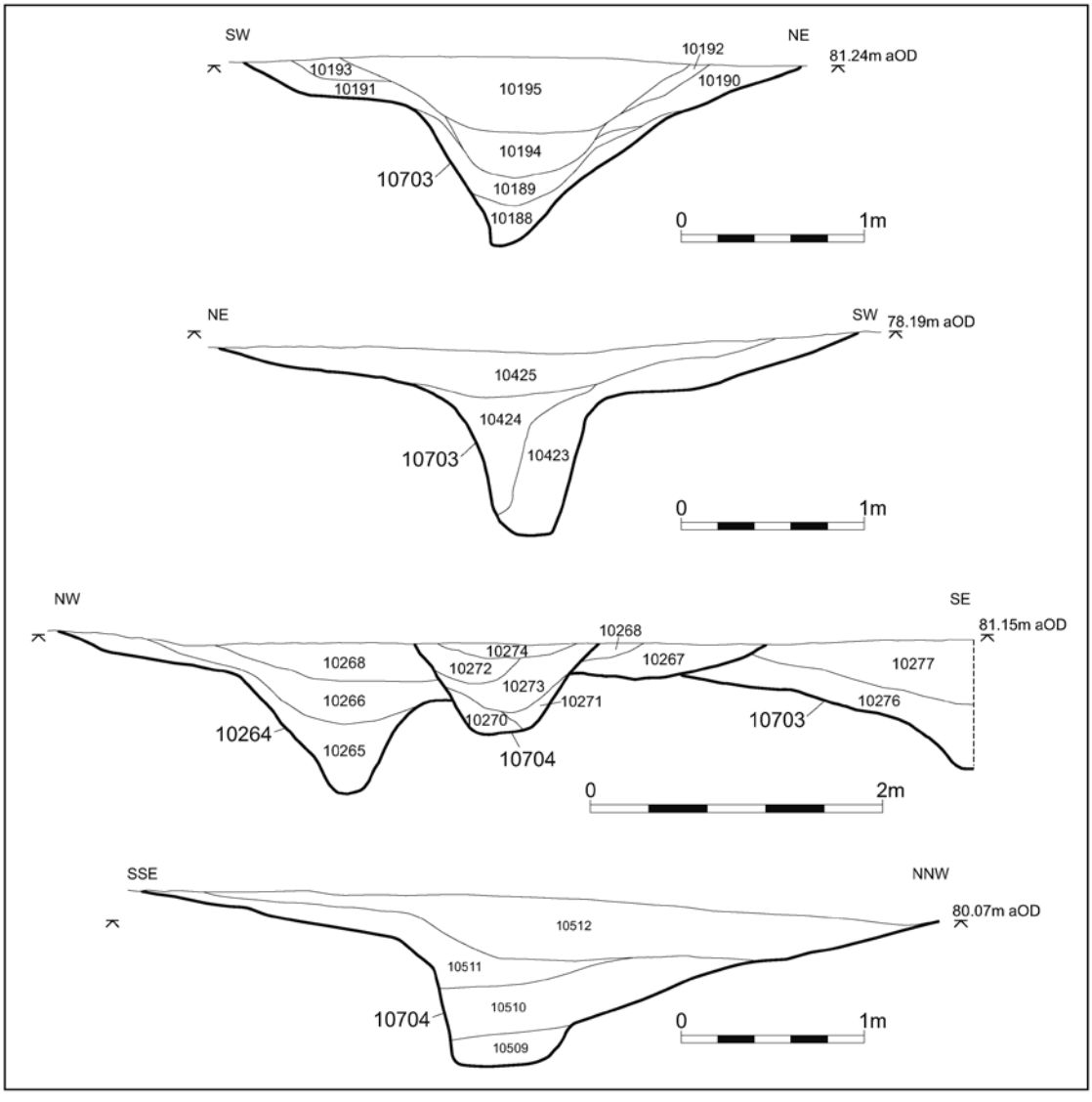

Fig. 6 Sections of Romano-British features

Structure 10700

Structure 10700, the only post-built building identified on site, was rectangular and possibly made up of two conjoining elements. It measured approximately 15m in length, 4.6m in width, and was aligned NNE to SSW (Fig. 5). It lay 3m north of the southern part of enclosure ditch 10703, at right angles to and apparently respecting it. However, it cannot be closely dated and there is a possibility that structure 10700 may have been associated with mid–late Roman rectilinear enclosure 10704, though it does not lie quite square to the ditches on the north and west sides. Whatever its association, it is thought most likely that structure 10700 served an agricultural use.

Structure 10700 comprised 17 post-holes, eight along the western side, seven along the

eastern side, and three along each of the shorter north and south sides. There was a gap between the double central post-hole and a single large post-hole on the western side, possibly marking an entrance, and an apparently matching but larger gap on the east side. The post-holes ranged from 0.35–0.85m in diameter and 0.2–0.35m in depth. All contained a single fill, and 14 of the 17 examples had large nodular flints used as post-packing. A small amount of abraded Roman pottery and CBM was retrieved from the fills of just five of the post-holes and their precise dating remains uncertain.

Excluding the post-holes associated with structure 10700 (see above) and those in the entrance to enclosure 10704 (see below), there were less than a dozen post-holes assigned a Roman date. These were scattered across the site and ranged from 0.2–0.5m in diameter and 0.1–0.25m deep, with only 10061 and 10064 forming a possible pair.

Well 10163

Well 10163, adjacent to enclosure ditch 10703 (Fig. 5), was of similar, circular shape to Iron Age well 10322 (see above), but with a wider top and vertical shaft. The top of the well pit had a diameter of 4.85m, and this upper part extended to a depth of 2.6m. The shaft itself was 0.85m in diameter, and at least 3m deep, though the full depth could not be established. Within the shaft, a thick secondary fill of blueish-grey silty clay probably formed within anaerobic conditions, though no waterlogged deposits were encountered. This fill contained a few, probably residual sherds of Late Iron Age pottery, while the uppermost fill had Roman pottery throughout (378 sherds weighing 3100g), suggesting the feature was later used to dispose of domestic waste after it went out of use as a well.

Pits

Seventeen pits of certain or probable Roman date were identified across the site (Fig. 5), the majority likely to be early Roman, but in some cases, there were relatively few or no finds.

Four pits, 10008, 10017, 10020 and 10043, were located within close proximity to one another in the south-west of enclosure 10703. Three of these features were cut into the upper fill of the southern part of Late Iron Age enclosure ditch 10701. The pits were circular or sub-circular in shape, 0.45–0.85m in diameter and 0.12–0.35m deep. All appear to have contained deliberate deposits of domestic waste which included small amounts of pottery. Pit 10055 lay further to the east and cut the south-west edge of enclosure ditch 10703; it was sub-circular, 0.8m long, 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep. A little further to the north, pit 10083 cut through Iron Age enclosure ditch 10701 and was subsequently cut by rectilinear enclosure ditch 10704. This relatively large circular pit was 1.55m in diameter and 0.7m deep and contained 19 sherds (141g) of 1st century, probably pre-Flavian pottery.

Also within enclosure 10703, and immediately south of ditch 10709, was pit 10311, interpreted as a fire pit or hearth as the base and edges had been subject to relatively intense heat. This circular pit measured 1.2m in diameter, 0.35m deep and contained four fills. The bottom fill was a very dark grey silty clay with abundant charcoal and sparse fired clay flecks, suggesting the remains of a fire. There were no associated structural remains other than possibly post-hole 10246 to the south-east. To the north-west of pit 10311, and on the north side of ditch 10709, was oval pit 10349, 1.1m long, 0.85m wide and 0.25m deep, which contained several large sherds of early Roman pottery.

Circular pit 10338 was located just off-centre within the area enclosed by curvilinear gullies 10707 and 10708 (see above) and was 1.5m in diameter and 0.2m deep. On the base was a thin layer of very dark greyish silty clay with abundant charcoal, possibly the remains of a fire, though there was no scorching of the pit sides to clearly indicate its use as a hearth. Pit 10338 cut irregular hollow 10346, of indeterminate function, which was 2m long, 1.3m wide and only 0.1m deep. Also, just within the northern limit of curvilinear gully 10707, was circular pit 10501, 0.6m in diameter and 0.25m deep, the middle fill containing several large sherds of pottery with a broad Roman date.

In the same general area, but just beyond the south-eastern limit of gullies 10707 and 10708, was circular pit 10389, 0.55m in diameter and 0.2m deep, the upper fill containing abundant charcoal, some pottery and burnt flint.

Possible hearth 10231 can also be noted here, located approximately 2m from the inner, south-west edge of enclosure ditch 10703. It was irregular in shape, 0.7m long, 0.4m wide and only 0.05m deep. The fill contained common charcoal flecks and some burnt stones.

Finally, two small probable pits were located to the west of enclosure 10703 in the northern part of the site. Pit 10074 was only 0.5m in diameter and 0.1m deep, and pit 10076 0.35m in diameter and 0.25m deep; both contained a few sherds of pottery.

Mid–late Romano-British

Enclosure 10704

This rectilinear enclosure measured at least 50m east–west by more than 38m north–south (Fig. 5). It is likely to have been contiguous and contemporary with enclosure ditch 10705 to the north, though the relationship between them could not be established as this lay beneath the access road. Enclosure 10704 may have been associated with rectangular post-built structure 10700, though it is considered more likely that the latter lay within early Roman enclosure 10703.

Enclosure ditch 10704 cut across early Roman enclosure 10703 and was cut by ditch 10710 (Fig. 6). It ranged from 1.4–4.4m wide and 0.6–0.95m deep. The enclosure had an entrance 3.25m wide on the west side, and approximately 2.3m west of this was a row of four post-holes, 10026 (a pair), 10028, 10030 and 10057, aligned north–south and marking a fence or screen controlling access to the enclosure.

The south-western section of enclosure ditch 10704 contained a moderate amount of mid–late Roman pottery, along with occasional CBM, burnt flint and iron slag, and the uppermost fill also contained a dump of fired clay. Moderate amounts of pottery and a complete vessel (ON 3) were also found near to the enclosure entrance.

The ditch on the northern side of the enclosure was wider and deeper than on the western side, particularly to the east where it merged with the south side of enclosure ditch 10705. The light grey/blueish hue of the bottom fills suggest waterlogging, these deposits containing sparse to moderate amounts of pottery and CBM. Within secondary fill 10362 were four conjoining pieces of rotary quern stone (ONs 7–10).

On the northern side of the ditch was a small patch of flint cobbles, laid directly on top of the natural clay, measuring approximately 2.3m by 1.8m and continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the west. Cobbled surface 10443 seems to have been contemporary with enclosure 10704 and may have provided an area of hard standing on the edge of the ditch.

Extending north from the east arm of enclosure ditch 10704 was ditch 10706, 33m in length, up to 1.3m wide and 0.4–0.5m deep. It joined earlier ditch 10709 to the north and appears to have been dug to create a part of the rectilinear enclosure system, perhaps serving also to direct water downslope to the north away from a central occupation area.

Enclosure 10705

Only the south-west corner of rectilinear enclosure 10705 was exposed, with the remainder lying under the access road (Fig. 5). The west side corresponded with that of enclosure 10704 immediately to the south, and the ditch on the south side merged with that of 10704 (below the access road), indicating that they were contemporary. Enclosure ditch 10705 was 0.9–1.7m wide and 0.4–0.5m deep, and from the southern section came a late Roman coin (ON 5).

Ditch 10705 appeared to cut spread 10101, this spread perhaps accumulating throughout much of the Roman period and containing 147 sherds of 1st–4th century pottery weighing 1735g and a large fragment of a rotary quern (ON 1). Both ditch 10705 and spread 10101 were later cut by ditch 10710.

Ditch 10710

Ditch 10710 was stratigraphically the latest Roman feature in this area, and possibly on the site. It cut across the top of enclosure ditches 10704 and 10705, and may have defined a small, sub-rectangular animal pen or paddock (Fig. 5). The exposed part of the ditch was 12.4m in length, 0.5–1m wide and 0.15–0.25m deep, the remainder lying beneath the access road. From the upper fill came a complete pot lid (ON 4).

Ditch 10711

Ditch 10711 lay in the north-west of the site, cutting an area of naturally silted amorphous hollows (10530, perhaps a shallow pond), downslope from the occupation area (Fig. 5). It was at least 28m in length, aligned WNW–ESE, and 0.8–1.15m wide and 0.3–1.2m deep, shallowest to the WNW and deepest in the ESE. Towards the west, ditch 10711 contained relatively large amounts of late Roman pottery and CBM.

Ovens

Oven 10045 was located 6m to the south of ditch 10711 and was an elongated 'teardrop' shape in plan (Fig. 5). It measured 3.4m long, 0.8m wide at the bulbous end and 0.35m at the narrowest end and was 0.15m deep. The oven contained a single fill of very dark greyish sandy clay, with very common charcoal flecks, and 50 sherds (315g) of 2nd–4th-century pottery; environmental samples produced some charred wheat and barley grains. The base and sides of the oven showed no clear evidence of having been burnt, suggesting perhaps that it may have been used over a short space of time, and at a relatively low heat.

Oven 10409 was much smaller than oven 10045, measuring 1.1m long, 0.45m wide and 0.1m deep. It had been cut into the side of earlier waterhole 10712 (see below; Fig. 5), and a dark fill in the upper part of the latter suggests that this had been raked out from the oven. Oven 10409 contained a single fill of very dark grey to black charcoal-rich clay loam, with pieces of burnt clay, and the base and sides had been scorched a dark reddish brown. However, the environmental sample was devoid of charred cereal remains.

Waterhole 10712

Waterhole 10712, dug at the junction of Late Iron Age enclosure ditches 10701 and 10702, measured approximately 11.5m long and 7m wide (Fig. 5). It comprised a cluster of features, possibly originating as quarries, with irregular edges and sides, and depths from 0.85m to more than 1.2m. The fills are those of probably a series of relatively large features dug over time and are correspondingly varied. The upper fills were relatively dark, probably representing deliberate backfill, with finds including both Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, the latest assigned to the early 3rd century; of particular interest are two halves of two samian dishes (ONs 11 and 12) which appear to have been placed on the edge of the waterhole closest to oven 10409.

Pits

At least three mid–late Roman pits lay towards the south-west corner of the site, but stratigraphy indicates they were not all contemporary. Pit 10182 cut the inner edge of enclosure ditch 10703 and was approximately 2m long, 1m wide and 0.6m deep. The basal fill contained some mid–late Roman pottery and the upper fill further pottery and a bronze pin (ON 6).

Sub-circular, steep-sided pit 10264 was the largest on site, and dates to the mid-Roman period. It had been cut into the outer edge of early Roman enclosure ditch 10703 and was cut by late Roman enclosure ditch 10704 (Figs 5 and 6). Pit 10264 was 5.5m long, 5.1m wide and 1.05m deep, and contained four fills. The primary fill of sterile light greyish brown silty clay was followed by a dumped deposit of dark grey silty clay. In addition to some CBM and burnt flint, this layer contained 350 sherds of pottery weighing 5995g, the largest quantity of pottery from any feature on the site, one sherd late Roman and the remainder of 2nd–3rd-century date. Above this were two backfill layers of fairly clean silty clay.

Pit 10222, in contrast to pits 10182 and 10264, cut the upper fill of enclosure ditch 10704. It was an elongated oval in plan, 1.65m long, 0.4m wide and only 0.1m deep. The single fill contained abundant charcoal, but no pottery or other finds.

FINDS

Pottery by Rachael Seager Smith

The pottery assemblage survived in moderate to poor condition, with extensive edge damage and surface abrasion apparent. The average sherd weight is just 10g, although the presence of at least six broken but more or less complete vessels suggests that much of this fragmentation

and probably the surface abrasion too, results from post-depositional factors. The fabrics and vessel forms are well paralleled in the area and indicate that activity was well-established on the site by the middle of the 1st century BC if not before, and continued into the 4th century AD.

To provide a basic minimum archive, sherds from each context were sub-divided into broad ware groups (e.g. oxidised wares, greywares) or known fabric types (e.g. North Gaulish whiteware, New Forest colour-coated ware) and quantified by the number and weight of pieces present. A breakdown of the assemblage by ware type is shown in Table 1. The number and range of vessel forms was noted, cross-referenced to published type series where appropriate and

Table 1 Pottery totals by ware type

Ware	*No.*	*Wt. (g)*
Middle-Late Iron Age		
Poorly-prepared fine flint-tempered ware	102	283
Briquettage	2	11
Late Iron Age/early Roman:		
flint-tempered Silchester-type wares	730	9488
grog & sand-tempered wares	139	2648
grog-tempered wares	114	1754
grog & fine flint tempered wares	30	704
sand & flint-tempered wares	34	272
early sandy wares	28	206
Dressel 1 sp amphora	2	199
Roman		
South Gaulish samian	34	202
Les Martres de Veyre samian	5	59
Central Gaulish samian	111	1263
Central Gaulish colour-coated ware	2	5
Argonne-region colour-coated ware	14	37
Central Gaulish black slipped ware	2	6
Lower Rhineland (Cologne) colour-coated ware	4	14
Other tablewares	2	8
Dressel 20 amphora	15	878
Cam 186 amphora	3	139
North Gaulish whiteware mortaria	2	154
Verulamium region whiteware mortaria	1	193
Oxon red slipped mortaria	2	4
Oxon whiteware mortaria	12	420
Oxon red slipped ware	5	239
New Forest colour-coated ware	5	22
North Gaulish whiteware	5	47
Oxidised ware	126	649
Whiteware	115	784
Greyware	3156	27,157
South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware	104	1468
Wessex grog-tempered wares	4	158
Overwey/Tilford ware	1	6
	4911	49,477

other variables such as the presence of graffiti and evidence of re-use or repair were also recorded.

In this area, the assignation of pre- (Iron Age) or post- (early Roman) Conquest dates to ceramics is hampered by the continuation of the indigenous Iron Age ceramic traditions well into the late 1st or early 2nd centuries AD. The Middle Iron Age (cp 6–7) assemblage from Danebury, for example, is dominated by two uniform fabrics, one of local origin tempered with finely crushed burnt flint and the other, probably from the Salisbury district, predominantly sandy (Cunliffe 1984, 248), while a similar range of wares was noted among the contemporary vessels from Brighton Hill South (Rees 1995a, 35). At Silchester, grog-tempered wares are considered characteristic of the century before the Roman Conquest (Timby 2000, 232). Around the middle of the 1st century AD, these were superseded by the flint-tempered Silchester-type wares which occur widely in north Hampshire and south Berkshire (Charles 1979), and, as the century progressed, these too were gradually replaced by more Romanised sandy wares (Timby 2000, 307), largely from the Alice Holt industry.

At Razor's Farm, the various grog-tempered, sandy and flint-tempered wares all form part of this indigenous tradition. Overall, they account for approximately one quarter of the assemblage by sherd count (1177 sherds; 31% by weight – 15,355g). Based on form, one vessel in a poorly prepared fabric tempered with sparse fine flint can be assigned a Middle–Late Iron Age (3rd to 1st centuries BC) date. The unusually elaborate and extensive tooled decoration on this vessel (Fig. 7, 1) may suggest that it belongs towards the end of the period of saucepan pot currency. It was found, probably residually, in the upper fills of circular enclosure ditch 10701, where other vessels (e.g. Fig. 7, 2 and 3) are of Late Iron Age or early Roman date. The briquettage, made in fine fabrics containing organic material, sand and grog/iron oxides may also belong within this period. Although these pieces cannot be precisely dated and occur alongside Late Iron Age/early Roman sherds in recut 10483 of circular enclosure ditch 10701, similar organic-tempered briquettage fabrics from Brighton Hill South are predominantly of Middle–Late Iron Age date, occurring only residually in later deposits (Rees 1995b, 47).

The Late Iron Age or early Roman vessel forms are relatively restricted with proto-bead and bead rim jars, necked storage jars and lids being the most common amongst the Silchester-type wares, while the grog-tempered fabrics include bead rimmed and necked, cordoned jars, storage jars and a pedestal base from a jar. Products of the early (*c.* AD 60–150) Alice Holt industry replicated the Late Iron Age types – necked, cordoned jars, flat and bead rim jars, Atrebatic bowls, reeded rim bowls, imitation Gallo-Belgic platters, flagons, and lids (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, classes 1, 3A, 3B, 4–8). Small amounts of South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware also reached the site during the 1st century AD, evidenced by sherds from a jar (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 231–3, type WA 1), from pit 10264. As at Brighton Hill South (Rees 1995a, 38), pre-Conquest imports are limited to sherds of Dressel 1 species wine amphora, dating from the 1st century BC. Part of the neck and upper handle attachment from one such vessel was found with a few body sherds of Silchester-type ware in circular enclosure ditch 10701, while the second piece, from the lower edge of a rim, was found during the evaluation (ditch 908).

Later 1st–2nd century AD imports occur in greater quantities. The samian derives from Southern (forms 18, 27, 29 and 35) and Central (forms 18/31 or 32, 33, 37 and a mortarium base) Gaulish sources, with five pieces from the early 2nd century AD production centre at Les Martres de Veyre. Complete profiles (each representing about 50% of the vessel) from two form 18/31 dishes of 2nd century AD date came from pit 10381 indicating at least a mid-/late 2nd century AD date for this feature. Both these vessels and a Central Gaulish cup base (ditch 904) are stamped, but the poor condition of the sherds has obliterated all but the faintest traces of the rectangular cartouches. The same can be said of the form 29 and 37 decorated bowls; although it is clear these were decorated, few details of the decorative schemes survive.

Other imported tablewares include dark brown colour coated ware beakers from Central Gaul (AD 60–120), the Argonne region (AD 80–135) and Cologne (AD 120–150/60), as well

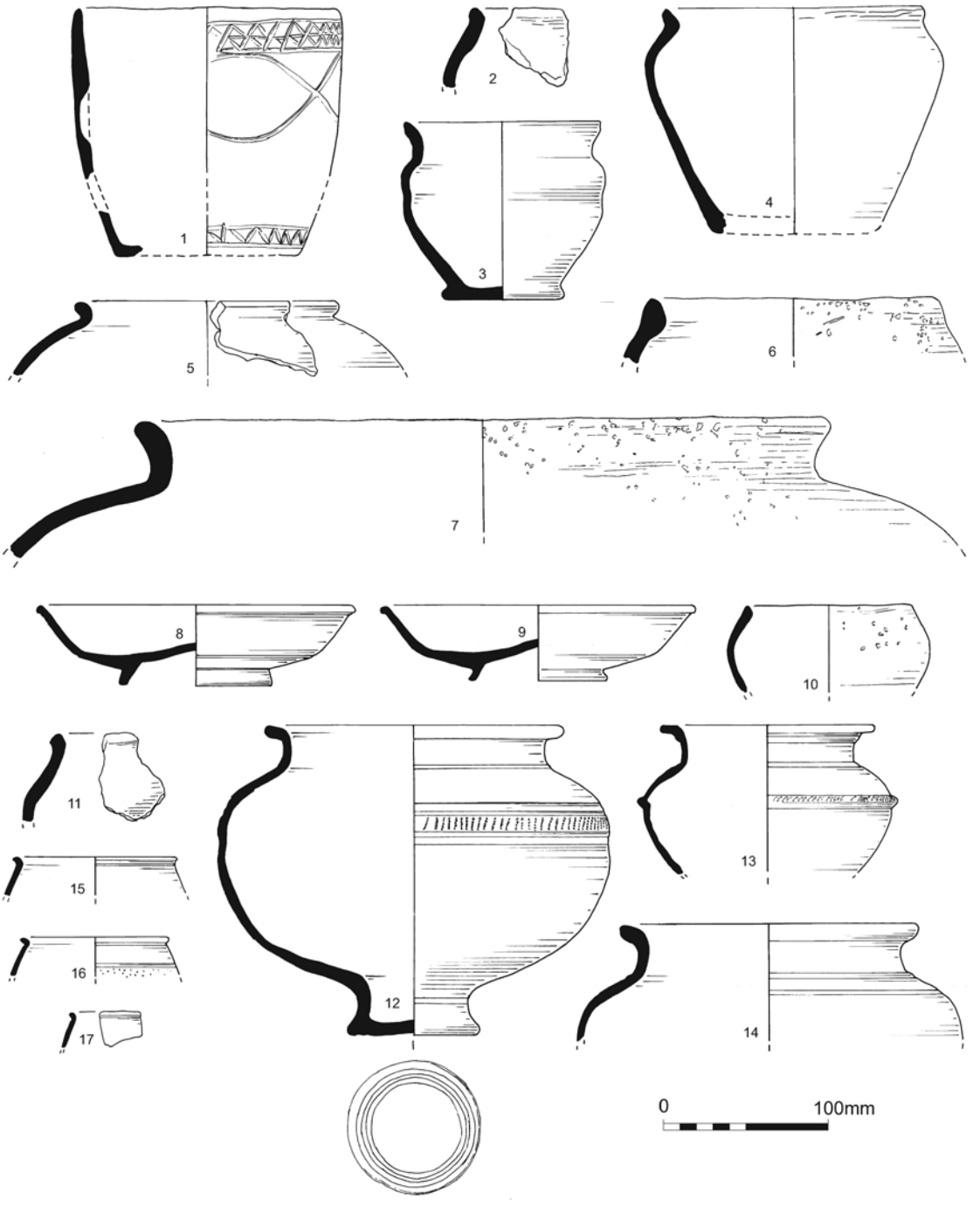

Fig. 7 Pottery (nos 1–17)

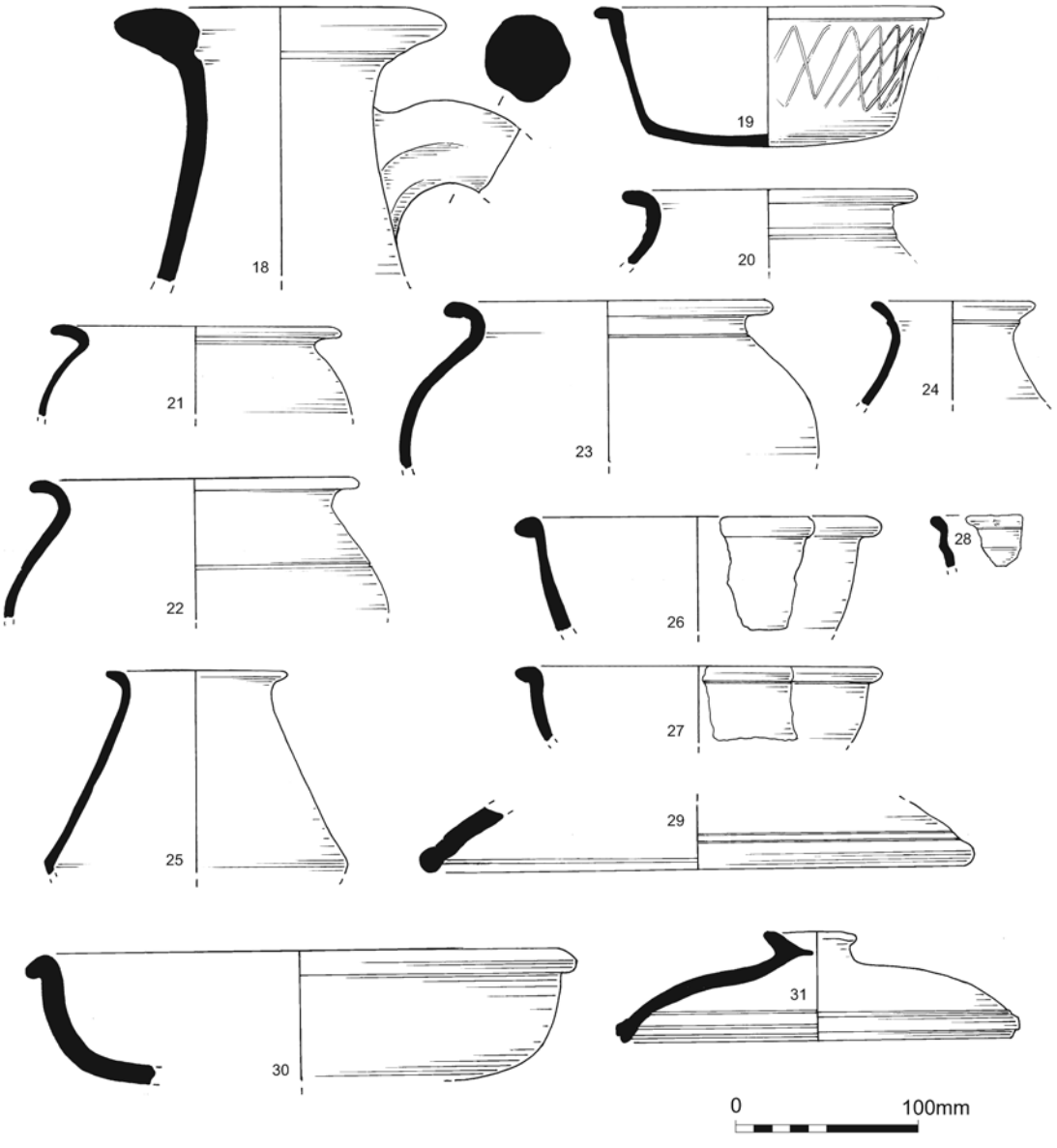

Fig. 8 Pottery (nos 18–31)

as two sherds from a later, Central Gaulish black-slipped ware vessel (AD 150/160–200/250; ditch 10147). Amphora include sherds from olive-oil carrying Dressel 20 vessels and the Cam 186 form, which probably carried fish-based products, both from southern Spain, while 1st–2nd- century mortaria are limited to rim sherds from two Gillam 238 vessels from north-west Gaul and one *Verulamium* (St. Albans) region whiteware vessel. Both types pre-date AD 150 and were found during the evaluation (ditch 908 and pit 4309). Later mortaria derive from the Oxfordshire industry where they were made from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

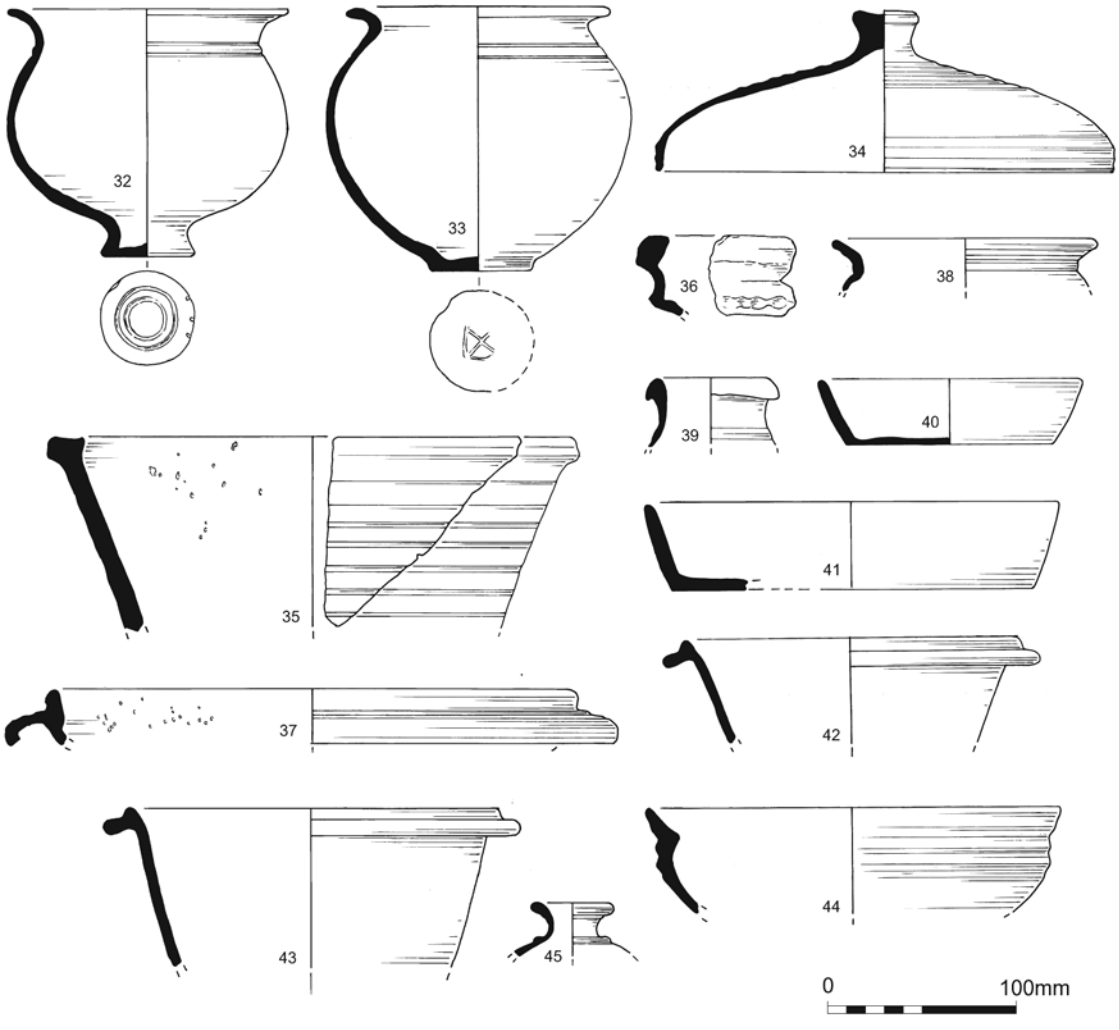

Fig. 9 Pottery (nos 32–45)

One of the Oxfordshire whiteware vessels is an unusual form (Fig. 9, 37). Although not directly paralleled in Young's (1977) corpus, it is probably a variant of type M7 and likely to be of similar, 2nd century AD, date.

From the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, fine tablewares were also provided by the regional Oxfordshire (mostly bowls) and New Forest (beakers) industries, along with one sherd of an unassigned red-slipped ware in a fine, micaceous fabric. The other regional import, Black Burnished ware, also continued to arrive after the expansion of the industry around AD 120, with the characteristic mid-2nd to 4th-century forms (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 231–3, types WA 2, 20, 22, 24 and 25), all being represented. The North Gaulish whiteware, oxidised and white ware fabrics indicate the presence of a range of medium-quality table and serving vessels, mostly flagon and bowl forms. Although unsourced, the tazza rim (Fig. 9, 36) is particularly noteworthy as such forms are commonly interpreted as lamps, lamp holders, incense burners or libation

cups used in religious or ritual roles, often associated with the military, although it is highly probable they were used in domestic contexts too (Woodfield 2005, 209). On a more everyday level, however, the Alice Holt industry (Lyne & Jefferies 1979; Lyne 2012) remained the major coarseware supplier, with other subsidiary centres perhaps including those at Hampstead Marshall and Shaw cum Donnington in Berkshire and Shedfield, Hampshire (Swan 1984, fiche 1.215–18 and 2.348–9). Vessel forms include the ubiquitous cordoned and everted rimmed jars, flat and triangular-rimmed bowls, bead and flanged bowls, straight-sided dishes and lids (Lyne & Jefferies 1979 classes 1, 3B, 3C, 5A, 5B, 6A and 7), as well as large storage jars and one or two less common types, such as pedestal jars (Ibid., 41, class 2.3) and deep, decorated bowls (Fig. 9, 35; Ibid., 47, class 5D). Although few of these forms provide a clear indicator of date within this period, the single Overwey/Tilford sherd, the triangular-rimmed jar sherd (both enclosure ditch 10704) and the Wessex Late grog-tempered sherds, in particular the bead and flanged dish/bowl sherds from ditches 10071 and 10147 (group 10711), indicate a small but definite late 4th century AD+ element to the assemblage.

Comparatively little evidence for use, re-use or repair was encountered, the majority of sherds being too abraded for such features to survive. However, two more or less complete 2nd century AD+ vessels from enclosure ditch 10704 both carry post-firing graffiti, one (Fig. 9, 32) probably representing an owner's mark, while the second (Fig. 9, 33) may be symbolic of the goddess Fortuna and good luck. A small, abraded oxidised ware sherd, also from this ditch, had been trimmed to make a circular counter or gaming piece (35mm diameter, small central perforation of 3mm across).

Approximately three-quarters of the assemblage by both count and weight came from just 13 features and deposits. These 'significant' groups, defined as any containing more than 50 sherds or 1kg of material, are listed in Table 2. Details of their fabric/vessel form composition are contained in the archive, with

Table 2 Pottery: date range and size of the 'significant' feature groups

Phase/Feature	*No. sherds*	*Weight (g)*	*Date of the sherds*
Late Iron Age			
Circular enclosure 10701	471	4202	latest sherds are 1st–early 2nd century AD
Circular enclosure 10702	69	1091	latest sherds are 2nd century AD
Early Roman:			
Enclosure 10703	616	4979	mixed; 1st–4th century AD
Ditch 10711	147	2828	mixed group; 1st–4th century AD
Pit 10349	58	1161	1st–early 2nd century AD
Well 10163	427	3627	mixed; 1st–4th century AD
Pond 10530	73	1100	latest sherds are 2nd/early 3rd century AD
Middle–Late Roman			
Rectilinear enclosure 10704	667	5525	predominantly 2nd–4th century AD; includes AD 270+ rim (bead and flanged bowl) from primary fill
Rectilinear enclosure 10705	189	2248	predominantly 3rd–4th century AD
Ditch 10706	353	2670	predominantly 2nd–4th century AD
Rectilinear enclosure 10710	116	1031	2nd– 4th century AD
Pit 10264	350	5995	predominantly 2nd–3rd century AD, with one sherd of late 3rd/4th century AD date
Spread 10101	150	1754	mixed group; 1st–4th century AD
Total:	3686	38,211	

the sherds illustrated here providing a flavour of the changing nature of the available pottery assemblage through time.

Catalogue of illustrated sherds (Figs 7–9)

Late Iron Age circular enclosure ditch 10701, intervention 10004

1. Saucepan pot with widely-tooled decoration; grog & fine flint-tempered ware. Middle–Late Iron Age (3rd–1st century BC), layers 10006 and 10007
2. Proto-bead rimmed jar; flint-tempered ware. 1st century AD. Layer 10006
3. Necked jar with a wide girth groove; grog and sand-tempered ware. 1st century AD. Layer 10006

Late Iron Age circular enclosure ditch 10702, intervention 10430, layer 10432

4. Bead rimmed jar; flint-tempered ware. 1st century AD

Early Roman pit 10349

5. Bead rimmed jar; grog and fine flint-tempered ware. 1st century AD. Layer 10351
6. Proto-bead rimmed jar; flint-tempered ware. 1st century AD. Layer 10351
7. Necked storage jar; flint-tempered ware. 1st century AD. Layer 10351

Pit 10381

8. Form 18/31 dish; Central Gaulish samian. 2nd century AD. ON 11, layer 10382
9. Form 18/31 dish; Central Gaulish samian. 2nd century AD. ON 12, layer 10382

Early Roman curvilinear gully 10708, intervention 10505

10. Proto-bead rimmed jar; flint-tempered ware. 1st century AD. Layer 10506
11. Necked jar/bowl; flint-tempered ware. 1st century AD. Layer 10506

Early Roman curvilinear gully 10707, intervention 10330

12. Necked, pedestal jar with combed decoration; greyware. Late 1st–2nd century AD. Layer 10331
13. Sharply carinated, necked jar/bowl with flat-topped rim and incised decoration; greyware. Late 1st–2nd century AD. Layer 10331
14. Necked, cordoned jar; greyware. Early Roman. Late 1st–2nd century AD. Layer 10331

Middle–Late Roman pit 10264

15. Beaker rim; Central Gaulish colour-coated ware. AD 60–120. Layer 10266
16. Beaker rim; roughcast decoration; Argonne region colour-coated ware. AD 80–135. Layer 10266
17. Beaker rim; oxidised ware. 2nd century AD. Layer 10266
18. Dressel 20 amphora rim, neck and upper handle stump (Martin-Kilcher 1983, type 30). Mid-/late 1st–mid-2nd century AD. Layer 10266
19. Straight-sided bowl with flat flanged rim; burnished line decoration; South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware. *c.* AD 120–late 2nd/early 3rd century AD. Layer 10266
20. Necked cordoned jar; greyware. Layer 10266
21. Everted rim jar; greyware. *c.* AD 150 +. Layer 10266
22. Necked jar with out-turned rim; greyware. *c.* AD 150+. Layer 10266
23. Necked jar with out-turned rim; greyware. *c.* AD 150+. Layer 10266
24. Narrow-necked, cordoned jar with out-turned rim; greyware. Layer 10266
25. Narrow necked jar with a long, sloping shoulder; greyware. Layer 10266
26. Round rimmed bowl; greyware. AD 170–220. Layer 10266
27. Round rimmed dish; greyware. AD 170–220. Layer 10266
28. Ring-necked flagon; greyware. 2nd century AD+. Layer 10266
29. Thick-walled lid with a beaded rim; greyware. 2nd century AD. Layer 10266
30. Thick-walled bowl; greyware. Layers 10266 and 10274
31. Lid with a bifurcated rim; pull has pre-firing perforation to allow escape of steam; greyware. 2nd century AD. Layers 10266 and 10274

Middle–Late Roman rectilinear enclosure ditch 10704

32. Necked, cordoned, pedestal jar; greyware. Mid-2nd century AD+. Post-firing graffito consisting of three incised notches in edge of base. ON 3, intervention 10109, layer 10110
33. Globular-bodied, everted rim jar; greyware. Mid-2nd century AD+. Post-firing graffito on underside of base – scratched circle or sub-square with an overlying X. Intervention 10358, layer 10361 and 10362

Middle–Late Roman rectilinear enclosure gully 10710

34. Externally corrugated lid; greyware. *c.* AD

220–270 (Lyne 2012, 224). ON 4, intervention 10136, layer 10137

Middle–Late Roman ditch 10706

35. Deep, decorated (irregularly rilled) bowl; greyware. *c.* AD 150–270 (Lyne & Jefferies 1979, 47).

Intervention 10284, layer 10285

36. Tazza rim; oxidised ware. 2nd century AD. Intervention 10415, layer 10418

Middle–Late Roman spread 10101

37. Mortaria rim with upstanding bead and a wide, thin flange curled under at tip; two concentric grooves immediately behind bead give appearance of a double bead. Oxfordshire whiteware. Probably 2nd century AD

Well 10163

38. Everted rim jar; greyware. *c.* AD 150+. Layer 10158
39. Narrow-necked jar; greyware. Late 2nd century AD+. Layer 10158
40. Small, shallow, plain rimmed dish; greyware. AD 180+. Layer 10158
41. Shallow, plain rimmed dish; greyware. AD 180+. Layer 10158
42. Bead and flanged bowl; greyware. AD 270+. Layer 10158
43. Bead and flanged bowl; greyware. AD 270+. Layer 10158
44. Round-bodied, lid-seated bowl or lid; greyware. Layer 10158
45. Small, narrow-necked, cordoned jar or flask; greyware. 2nd century AD+. Layer 10158.

Other finds by Rachael Seager Smith

Ceramic building material

With the exception of a single, modern compressed brick fragment (49g) from ditch 10704, all the ceramic building material (205 pieces, 14,580g) is of Roman date. The assemblage includes pieces from *tegula* and *imbrex* roof tiles, as well as the smaller, thinner brick types (*bessales*, *pedalis* and *lydion*) predominantly used in hypocausts and in lacing/bonding courses in walls. A few thin (less than 20mm thick), flat fragments, some with combed keying (ditch 10711 and enclosure ditch 10704, for example), indicate the presence of box-flue or voussoir blocks.

The largest groups came from the rectilinear enclosure ditch 10704 (1.8kg), pit 10264 (1.6kg) and ditch 10711 (1.3kg), but these are insignificant given that the weight of a single brick or tile could easily reach 10–15kg. Overall, the highly fragmentary nature of this material (mean fragment weight is just 68g) is more indicative of it being brought to the site for re-use, perhaps as hard-core, rather than as a primary building material.

Fired clay

This material type (254 pieces, 4.6kg) predominantly consists of small, featureless pieces in fine, slightly sandy, predominantly oxidised or variably fired fabrics, with occasional grog and/or flint inclusions. Some are overfired while a minority have withy impressions. Most probably derive from oven/hearth linings, but no significant concentrations were noted.

A large, perforated triangular object (Fig. 10; ON 13; Danebury type 1, Poole 1984, 401–3) in a very fine, variably fired sandy fabric was recovered from pit 10401, while three joining pieces from the apex of a second, similar object came from ditch 10712. Such items enjoyed a long currency, from the Iron Age well into the 2nd century AD (Wild 2002, 10), and although traditionally interpreted as loomweights used to stabilise the warp thread during the weaving of textiles, it is now considered much more likely that they functioned as oven/hearth furniture (Lowther 1935; Poole 1995).

List of illustrated objects (Fig. 10)

1. Perforated triangular object; fill (10402) of Late Iron Age or early Romano-British post-hole 10401, ON 12.

Worked flint

Seven prehistoric flints and one possible gunflint blank (pit 10177) were recovered. The prehistoric pieces consist of two flakes (circular enclosure ditch 10701), three burnt flakes (two broken – ditch 10071 and occupation layer 10156; and pit 10501) and two chips (ditch 10071 and layer 10317).

All these pieces were slightly battered and rolled with signs of post-depositional damage. None of the flakes are retouched and apart

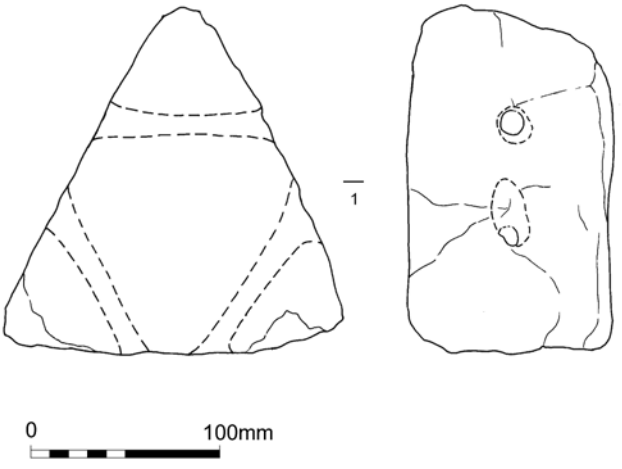

Fig. 10 Fired clay

from the possible post-medieval gunflint blank, there are no chronologically significant pieces although their presence indicates prehistoric activity in the area.

Burnt flint

A total of 29.3kg was recovered from 57 contexts in 32 features. This material is commonly interpreted as indicative of prehistoric activity, but it is intrinsically undatable and its burning was probably a by-product of some other form of agricultural, industrial or domestic burning process. The greatest quantities came from the circular enclosure ditch 10701 (18.7kg), pit 10264 (2.1kg) and enclosure ditch 10704 (1.005kg); none of the other features contained more than 750g.

Worked and utilised stone

The geology of the portable stone objects is comparable with that seen on other Iron Age and Roman sites in the vicinity (e.g. Keevill 1995; Hayward 2011 and 2012). Four were collected from the primary fills of rectilinear enclosure ditch 10704. These include a piece from the edge of a Greensand rubstone with slightly dished surfaces, and another from a fine grained sandstone rub- or sharpening stone with one of its flattish, polished surfaces scored by a narrow groove perhaps caused as knives or other tools were sharpened against it. Rejoining fragments from two upper quern stones of Curwen's 'Later Romano-British' type (1937, 144) were also found in this ditch (Fig. 11, 1–2). One (Fig. 11, 2) is of Greensand probably from the Lodsworth area of West Sussex, while the other (Fig. 11, 3) is well-worn and of a coarse sandstone of 'Millstone Grit' type, possibly from as far afield as the Pennines in Derbyshire or south Yorkshire (Hayward 2011, 59).

Rejoining fragments from a flat rotary quern of friable, perhaps burnt, pink sandstone (Fig. 11, 4) were found in pond 10530. A smoothed, elongated depression in the otherwise rough upper surface of this stone may indicate its re-use as a rub-stone once the quern was broken. Other quern fragments comprise two of Millstone Grit type sandstone (ditch 10703 and occupation spread 10101) and part of a Lodsworth Greensand upper stone, also of Curwen's 'Later Romano-British' type (1937, 144), from spread 10101.

Although not obviously worked or utilised, two coarse conglomerate (Puddingstone) fragments may also derive from querns. One was found during the evaluation (ditch 804), while the second came from ditch 10705. This has a ferruginous cement akin to the ferricretes (e.g. Burley Rock) from the Tertiary deposits of the Hampshire Basin, although querns in similar materials are known from north

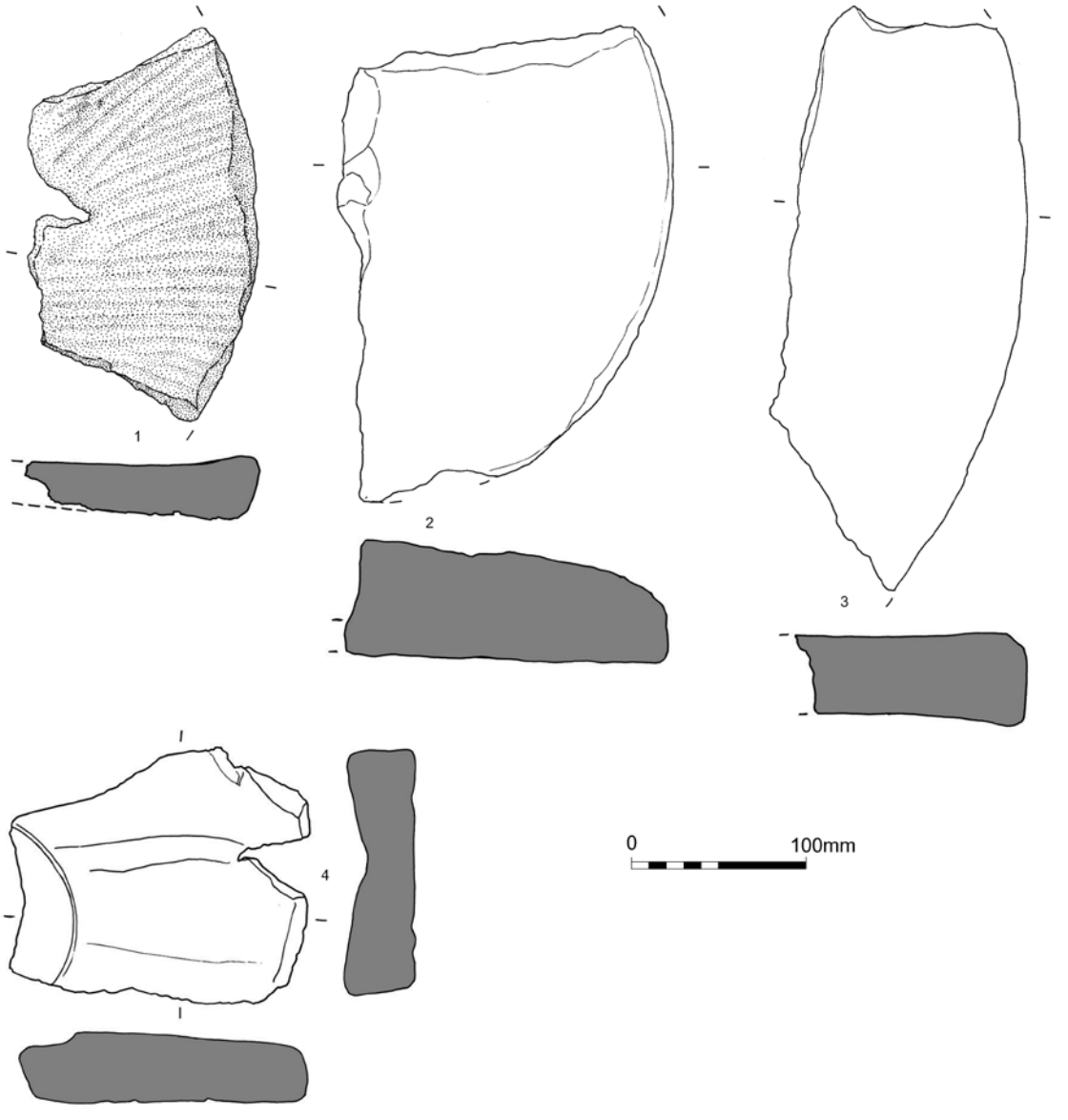

Fig. 11 Stone

Kent (e.g. Shaffrey 2011, 364–5), and may occasionally have been traded more widely.

List of illustrated objects (Fig. 11)

1. Upper stone of Curwen's 'Later Romano-British' type (1937, 144); coarse sandstone of 'Millstone Grit' type. 440mm diameter, 35–25mm thick. Fill (10359), intervention 10358, Middle to Late Roman rectilinear enclosure ditch 10704, ONs 7 and 8
2. Upper stone of Curwen's 'Later Romano-British' type (1937, 144); Greensand. 420mm diameter, 30–65mm thick. Fill (10359), intervention 10358, Middle to Late Roman rectilinear enclosure ditch 10704, ONs 9 and 10
3. Upper stone of Curwen's 'Later Romano-

British' type (1937, 144); Lodsworth Greensand. 680mm diameter, 45–55mm thick. Spread 10101

4. Re-used rotary quern stone fragment; pink sandstone. Grinding surface pecked with traces of concentric grooves around partially surviving central hopper; upper surface has elongated depression with smoothed surfaces, suggesting possible reuse as a rub-stone. Upper fill (10533) of pond 10530.

Glass

All four pieces (7g) of pale blue/green glass are likely to be of Roman date. The fragments from enclosure ditch 10703 and ditch 10705 are from vessels but are too small to identify the type. The remaining piece, from ditch 10711, is significantly burnt.

Metalwork

Metalwork was recovered in very small quantities and survived in poor, corroded condition. The 29 iron objects consist of handmade nails and nail fragments; these are not closely datable, but it is likely that most are Roman. The greatest single concentration (6 nails) came from enclosure ditch 10704. The size and shape of a corroded coin (ON 5, ditch 10705) suggests that it is of Late Roman date, while a complete hair-pin (Fig. 12) from enclosure ditch 10703 finds parallels in Crummy's 'miscellaneous' types of late or post-Roman date (1983, fig. 31, 504, 506, 508 and 511). Part of a broken but slightly tapering copper alloy strip (3–4mm wide) from ditch 10047 might derive from one arm of a pair of tweezers.

Distant or small-scale metalworking is also evidenced by four pieces (199g) of probable iron smelting slag from the circular enclosure ditch 10702 and undiagnostic iron working slag (32 pieces, 261g) from pit 10264, rectilinear enclosure ditch 10704 and ponds 10444 and 10530. Associated pottery suggests that this material is of Roman date. One undated piece of high-lead, copper alloy waste (32g) was also found during the evaluation.

List of illustrated objects (Fig. 12)

1. Copper alloy hairpin; upper part of the fine tapering rod has a slightly faceted cross-section, then circular to point. Head terminates in a rough bead defined by three horizontal grooves with a band of diagonal grooves and two further horizontal grooves below. 102mm long, 2mm diameter. Late or post-Roman. Fill (10183) of intervention 10182, enclosure 10703, ON 6.

Animal bone by L Higbee

A small (819g) assemblage of animal bones was recovered (Table 3). The composition of the assemblage has been significantly affected by poor preservation conditions and only the more robust skeletal elements, such as teeth, have survived.

The assemblage was analysed following established methods and guidelines (Baker & Worley 2014).

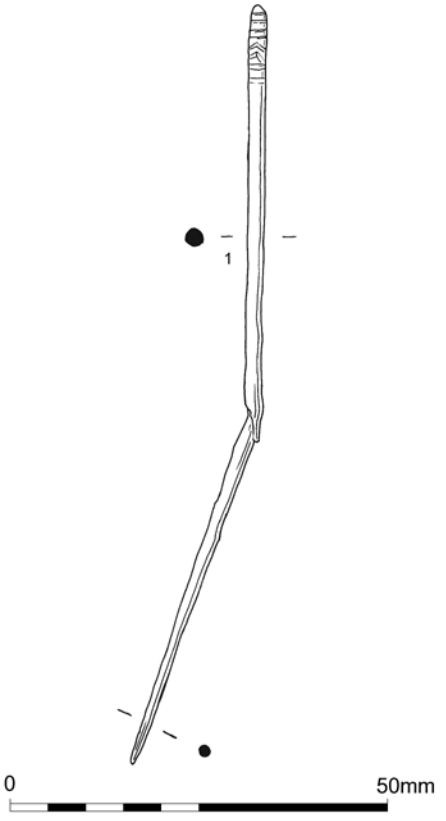

Fig. 12 Copper alloy

Table 3 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP)

Species	*Late Iron Age*	*Early Roman*	*Mid/late Roman*	*Total*
Cattle	12	10	2	24
Sheep/goat	2	-	2	4
Horse	2	-	-	2
Total identified	16	10	4	30
Total unidentifiable	14	26	7	47
Overall total	30	36	11	77

Results

A small number of animal bones came from Late Iron Age enclosure 10701. Loose teeth dominate and most belong to cattle. Several teeth recovered from one of the ditch slots are from a horse aged between five to eleven years. Fragments from a sheep/goat metacarpal shaft and charred distal tibia were also recovered from the enclosure.

A slightly larger assemblage of animal bones came from early Romano-British enclosure 10703, waterhole 10712, oven 10045 and post-hole 10246. The identified fragments are all from cattle and the majority are from enclosure 10703. Loose teeth dominate and pieces of scapula, radius and femur were also recovered. A few cattle teeth and sheep/goat bones came from mid- to late Romano-British enclosures 10704, 10710 and 10711.

Conclusions

Cattle appear to have been the mainstay of the local farming economy during the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, and this conclusion, based as it is on limited evidence, is in general keeping with other sites in the area. At Marnel Park in Popley, for example, cattle accounted for over half of the livestock kept during the periods under consideration (Grimm 2009), and the clay soils and topography in this part of Hampshire are likely to be key factors in type of animal husbandry regime adopted.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Introduction by Inés López-Dóriga

A total of 82 bulk sediment samples were taken from a range of Late Iron Age and Romano-British features during the evaluation and excavation of the site. A selection of 32 samples, of an average volume of 20 litres each, was processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental remains; the charcoal and charred plant remains from a further selection of seven samples was analysed and fully quantified. The selections of samples were based on the interest of the types of features and deposits and on the results of the assessment (preservation condition, abundance and diversity of the environmental evidence). This report incorporates the results of both the assessments of the evaluation and excavation samples, which have been revised, and the analyses.

The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods in a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4mm and 1mm fractions, and dried. A 1 litre subsample was taken from features suspected to contain waterlogged plant remains for separate assessment (wet). The coarse residue fractions (>4mm) were sorted with the naked eye, and the <4mm >1mm residue fractions and flots using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to 40×. Environmental material extracted from the sorted residues was added to the flots.

Charred plant remains by Inés López-Dóriga

Materials and methods

Identifications follow the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al.* (2012), for cereals, and with reference to specialised atlases and modern reference collections where

appropriate. For the assessment, preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa were noted, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, tables 3 and 5, pages 28 and 65), for cereals. Abundance of remains was qualitatively quantified as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa. The analysis data has been recorded with the software Arbodat (Kreuz & Schäfer 2002) for the purpose of data sharing. Quantifications are given as MNI (minimum number of individuals) and are based on anatomy (whole items or the highest type of anatomical fragments (cereals, based on Antolín & Buxó 2011; legume cotyledons divided by two) or size (hazelnut pericarp fragments, based on Antolín & Jacomet 2015).

Results

The assessment of the processed samples revealed the preservation of plant remains by carbonisation, with no evidence of waterlogging or mineralisation in features of potential, such as a pond and wells. The analysis of a selection of samples involved the quantification of 409 charred plant remains, belonging to a minimum number of specimens of 267 (see Table 4). The preservation was heterogeneous, with some well-preserved items and others poorly preserved, the fragmentation index (minimum number of specimens by number of remains) being usually high (<0.5) and the density of charred plant remains per litre of sediment variable but generally low. The charred plant remains identified were wild plant seeds, cereal grains and chaff, flax capsules, nutshell, fruit endocarp fragments and buds of indeterminate taxa. Unfortunately, poor preservation prevented identification to species level in some crucial instances (e.g. the plum/damson endocarp fragments).

Discussion

The samples from fire pit/hearth 10311 were chosen for analysis as they were the only probable *in situ* charred assemblage, rather than possibly residual deposits identified in ditch or pit fills that may relate to burning events carried out elsewhere. As such, the assemblage from pit 10311 is particularly informative about the nature of the activities carried out at the site. This assemblage was dominated by the remains of wild plants, the most common ones being a mixture of grassland (Poaceae such as meadow grass/cat's tail and heath grass, and ribwort plantain), arable weeds (stinking mayweed and cornflower/knapweed/star-thistle) and ruderal taxa (orache and docks). Although some of these have edible parts (Fern 1996–2012), the most probable reason for their presence is accidental, as part of crop weeds or surrounding vegetation. Other types of remains present were more likely intentionally exploited: cereal grains and chaff, flax, nutshell and fruit stones. Although potentially high-status exotic products, plum/damson were introduced in the Romano-British period (van der Veen *et al.* 2008) and could have been growing at the site.

The analysed assemblage is likely to represent the deliberate deposition of domestic by-products into a pit used in a combustion event, possibly related to some form of cooking (see charcoal report below). Despite being in primary position, the charred assemblage may be of secondary type (*sensu* Fuller *et al.* 2014), where the by-products originate from more than one processing activity. This is supported by the heterogeneity of the types of remains found, which do not correspond to any single processing by-product (van der Veen 2007), as well as their preservation condition: whilst the fragile chaff is generally well preserved, the more resistant grains (see Boardman & Jones 1990) are quite fragmented and distorted, indicating that they were probably damaged before deposition in the pit, or that they were by-products of milling. The use of by-products from different processing activities for fuel is a well-known practice (Hillman 1981). Although no clear evidence of sprouting was detected other than a detached coleoptile, some of the grains had embryonal damage which could be the effect of germination.

Further assemblages (assessed but not analysed, see Table 5) may represent other activities carried out in the settlement. For example, the assemblage from fill 10149/50 in ditch 10711 (sample 11), dominated by chaff, may have represented the disposal of fuel debris

Table 4 Charred plant remains from analysed samples

		Pit	10311	10311	10311
		Deposit	10315	10314	10312
		Sample	32	33	34
Taxon	*English name*	*Remain type*			
Grassland vegetation					
Centaurea spec.	Knapweed	Seed			4
Phleum pratense/Poa annua	Annual meadow grass	Seed		1	18
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort plantain	Seed	1		1
Ruderals/segetals					
Atriplex spec.	Orache	Seed			8
Crops					
Hordeum distichon	Two-rowed barley	Rachis segment		1	10
Hordeum vulgare undiff.	Cultivated barley, multi-rowed	Grain	2	1	5
Triticum spelta	Spelt	Grain	3		1
Triticum spelta	Spelt	Glume base	1	8	4
Triticum spec.	Wheat	Grain	2	2	3
Triticum spec.	Wheat	Glume base		24	
Cerealia indet.	Cereal	Grain	2	4	
Cerealia indet.	Cereal	Chaff		5	9
Linum usitatissimum	Flax	Capsule fragment		1	
Weeds of cereal fields					
Anthemis cotula	Stinking mayweed	Seed		1	32
Garden/imported plants					
Prunus domestica/insititia	Plum/bullace	Seed			1
Deciduous forests/shrubbery					
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Pericarp		1	1
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Endocarp			1
Varia					
Caryophyllaceae	Carnation family	Seed			1
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot family	Seed			4
Cyperaceae	Sedges	Seed	6	2	27
Melilotus/Medicago/Trifolium	Medic/clover/trefoil	Seed		8	9
Vicieae	Vetch	Seed	1		3
Fabaceae	Legumes	Seed		1	
Polygonum lapathifolium s.str.	Pale persicaria	Seed		2	
Polygonum spec.	Bindweed	Seed			2
Polygonaceae	Knotgrass family	Seed	3	5	6
Primulaceae	Primrose family	Seed			1
Ranunculus spec.	Crowfoot	Seed	1		
Rumex spec.	Dock	Seed	1	3	10
Stellaria spec.	Stitchwort	Seed			8
Galium spec.	Bedstraw	Seed		2	
Avena spec.	Oat	Grain			1
Bromus spec.	Brome	Grain		1	
Danthonia	Heath grass	Seed		5	12
Poaceae	Grasses	Grain	2		3
Poaceae	Grasses	Grain		2	15
Other					
Indeterminata	undetermined remains	Seed	2	2	37
Indeterminata	undetermined remains	Buds			2

Table 5 Summary of charred plant remains from assessed samples (continued on the next page)
Key: A* = 30–99, A = >10, B = 9–5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects

Context: {group} [feature] (context)	Sample ID	Vol (l), Flot (ml), Bioturbation proxies	Grain, chaff, other	Taxa
Late Iron Age / early Romano-British ditches				
[1206] (1207)	74585_1	9, 150, 20%	-, -, -	-
[4104] (4105)	74585_4	9, 50, 65%	-, -, -	-
[4304] (4305)	74585_5	9, 50, 65%	-, -, -	-
[4804] (4805)	74585_3	19, 110, 60%	-, -, -	-
{10701} [10011] (10013)	74586_1	16, 150, 15%, C, E	C, -, -	Triticeae
{10701} [10332] (10334)	74586_36	18, 50, 10%, C, E	C, -, C	Triticeae, bud
{10701} [10536] (10538)	74586_71	18, 120, 5%, C, F	B, -, C	*Triticum* sp. grains and chaff (glume bases), *Persicaria lapathifolia,* Poaceae (inc. *Bromus* sp.), *Ranunculus* sp., Trifoliae, Vicieae
{10702} [10430] (10436)	74586_34	20, 60, 70%, B, E	B, B, C	*Hordeum vulgare* and *Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff, Vicieae
[10543] (10547)	74586_73	15, 250, 1%, C	C, C, C	cf. *Triticum* sp. grain fragment and chaff (glume bases), *Rumex* sp.
[10071] (10073)	74586_6	16, 30, 60%, E	-, -, -	-
[10326] (10329)	74586_68	16, 50, 90%, C, E	C, -, -	Triticeae grain fragments
[10483] (10484)	74586_72	19, 250, 10%, A, E	C, C, C	*Triticum* sp. glume bases, Triticeae grain fragments, Bud
Late Iron Age / Romano-British pits				
[1205] (1204)	74585_2	5, 250, 80%	-, -, -	-
Middle–late Romano-British ditches				
[4306] (4308)	74585_6	9, 100, 10%	A, A, B	*Hordeum vulgare* grains, *Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume base + spikelet fork), *Avena sp.* awns, *Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus*
[4306] (4307)	74585_7	20, 175, 20%	A, A, B	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grain and glume base + spikelet fork, *Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus*
[10129] (10130)	74586_10	16, 400, 10%, C, F	C, -, B	*Triticum* sp., *Rumex* sp., *Persicaria lapathifolia,* Trifoliae, Poaceae (*Poa/Phleum*)
{10711} [10147] (10149-50)	74586_11	18, 50, 10%, C	A, A*, B	*Triticum* sp. grains and chaff (glume bases), *Hordeum vulgare* rachis, *Chenopodium* sp., *Persicaria lapathifolia, Rumex* sp., Poaceae (inc. *Poa/Phleum, Lolium/Festuca*), Trifoliae, bud
{10711} [10147] (10151)	74586_19	18, 3, 60%, B, E	C, A, B	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases), *Hordeum vulgare* grain, Poaceae (cf. *Avena* sp., *Bromus* sp.) Asteraceae (tp. *Anthemis cotula*)
{10704} [10269] (10274)	74586_30	40, 10, 80%, C, E	C, -, C	Triticeae (cf. *Triticum* sp.) grain fragment, *Ranunculus* sp., *Rumex* sp.

Table 5 Summary of charred plant remains from assessed samples (continued from the previous page)

Context: {group} [feature] (context)	Sample ID	Vol (l), Flot (ml), Bioturbation proxies	Grain, chaff, other	Taxa
{10704} [10508] (10509)	74586_66	18, 100, 20%, C, E, F	A*, A, C	*Triticum* sp. (cf. *spelta)* grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grain, *Avena* sp. awn, *Corylus avellana* shell, Poaceae *(Lolium/Festuca), Rumex* sp., Cyperaceae, Indet.
{10703} [10047] (10049)	74586_4	19, 250, 5%, C	C,C, C	*Triticum* sp. (inc. spelta) grains and chaff, Poaceae (*Lolium/Festuca*), Persicaria lapathifolia, bud, indet tissue
{10703} [10370] (10373)	74586_40	18, 10, 90%, C, I	-, -, -	-
Romano-British pits				
[4309] (4310)	74585_8	18, 250, 10%	B, A, B	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta)* grain, glume base + spikelet fork, *Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus*
[10017] (10018)	74586_2	8, 250, 90%, A*, E, I	C,-, -	cf. *Hordeum vulgare, Triticum* sp.
[10020] (10021)	74586_3	8, 200, 90%, A, E	C, -, C	cf. *Hordeum vulgare,* Triticeae, Poaceae
[10163] (10171)	74586_20	34, 10, 80%, A*, F	C, B, C	*Triticum* sp. (cf. *spelta*) grain and chaff (glume bases), *Hordeum vulgare* grains, cf. *Ranunculus* sp.
[10338] (10339)	74586_38	26, 150, 20%, E, I	-, -, C	Indet
Romano-British ovens, hearths and kilns				
[10045] (10046)	74586_5	17, 125, 70%, B, E	B, C, C	*Triticum* sp. and *Hordeum vulgare* grains, *Triticum spelt*a chaff (glume base), Vicieae, *Avena* sp. grain
[10389] (10390)	74586_45	19, 100, 40%, C, E	-, -, -	-
[10409] (10410)	74586_50	15, 150, 10%, C, E	-, -, -	-
[10409] (10410)	74586_51	15, 605, 70%, C, E	-, -, -	-
Romano-British wells and pond				
[10322] (10325)	74586_43	18, 10, 10%, C	B, A, C	*Triticum* sp. (cf. spelta) grains and (spikelet forks and glume bases), *Hordeum vulgare* grain, *Avena* sp. awn
[10444] (10453)	74586_56	16, 60, 80%, C, E	C, -, -	*Triticum* sp. (cf. spelta) grain
[10530] (10533)	74586_69	20, 20, 90%, B, E, I	-, -, C	*Bromus* sp.
Romano-British occupation layer				
(10101)	74586_9	18, 10, 50%, B, E	C, -, C	*Triticum* sp., Vicieae
Natural feature				
[10316] (10317)	74586_35	16, 50, 50%, C, F	C, -, -	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae

from a crop-dryer (van der Veen 1989), whilst the assemblage from fill 10151 (sample 19) in the same segment of ditch 10711, dominated by cereal grain, could represent an accidentally charred crop intended for drying/malting.

Although there are some differences in the abundance, diversity and preservation among the samples taken across the site, which may correspond to different origins and formation processes (see van der Veen 2007), the charred assemblages are relatively homogeneous and generally consistent with Late Iron Age and early Romano-British crop processing and plant exploitation activities and their by-products (Hillman 1981). The information provided by these assemblages sits well within rural settlement data from the area, from where relatively abundant information is available (see Allen *et al.* 2015) and at a wider level: hulled wheats (emmer and spelt) and barley were the dominant crops of Iron Age agriculture (van der Veen and Jones 2006), transitioning to focus in the Romano-British period on the cultivation of mostly spelt and barley (Campbell 2016). The late Romano-British period sees the proliferation of processing activities which involve, accidentally or intentionally, the sprouting of cereals as part of the storage, malting or crop-drying processes (van der Veen 1989). Wild hazelnut gathering may have involved some sort of coppice management and could have complemented orchard (plum/damson) produce. Flax was also a relatively frequent crop, grown for its fibres or the oil in the seeds, or both (Campbell 2016).

Wood charcoal by Dana Challinor

Introduction

Charcoal preservation at the site was generally poor, with moderate to low quantities, and samples from only four features were provided for analysis: ovens 10045 and 10409, pit 10389 and fire pit/hearth 10311. A total of seven samples were examined, comprising several contexts from oven 10409 and fire pit/hearth 10311. All were dated to the Romano-British period and offered the opportunity to explore fuel use and woodland exploitation in this phase of occupation at the site.

Charcoal >2mm in transverse section was considered for identification, though preference was given to larger >4mm fragments which had greater potential for positive identification. The charcoal was fractured and sorted into groups based on the anatomical features observed in transverse section at 7× to 45× magnifications. Representative fragments from each group were then selected for further examination using a Meiji incident-light microscope at up to 400× magnification. Identifications were made by comparison with identification keys (Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990) and modern reference material. Observations on maturity and other features were made where appropriate. Two samples from features with additional samples (oven 10409 and fire pit 10311) were scanned but did not merit analysis as they presented comparable, but less well preserved, charcoal assemblages to the analysed samples. The full results are provided in the

Table 6 Wood charcoal
Key: r=roundwood; s=sapwood; h=heartwood; b=bark

	Feature type	*pit*	*ovens*		*fire pit/hearth*	
	Feature	10389	10045	10409	10311	
	Context	10390	10046	10410	10312	10314
	Sample	45	5	50	34	33
Quercus sp.	oak	16 (rs)	21 (rs)	22r	27 (rsh)	26 (sr)
Alnus/Corylus	alder/hazel		3	1r		
Populus/Salix	poplar/willow			2r		
Prunus spinosa L.	blackthorn	1r	2 (r)			
Prunus sp.	cherry type	9 (r)				
Acer campestre L.	field maple				1r	
Fraxinus excelsior L.	ash		1r	2r		
Indeterminate		4 (b)	3	2	2b	4b

archive. Classification and nomenclature follow Stace 1997.

Results

The condition of the charcoal was poor, soft and crumbly, with infilled pores and strong orange and blue-green staining. This is a result of the depositional environment and suggests some seasonal or partially waterlogged conditions. Some of the charcoal, notably from fire pit 10311, exhibited high levels of vitrification, relating to the condition of the wood prior to burning. Six taxa were positively identified: *Quercus* sp. (oak), *Alnus/Corylus (*alder/hazel), *Populus/Salix* (poplar/willow), *Prunus spinosa* (blackthorn), *Acer campestre* (field maple) and *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash) (Table 6). Poor condition prohibited the differentiation between alder and hazel. Many of the fragments derived from small roundwood, which can also make identification difficult. Some of the oak, for instance, did not exhibit the large rays typical of this taxon; however, this is common in young roundwood, and any potential confusion with *Castanea sativa* (sweet chestnut) was ruled out on other anatomical grounds. The presence of blackthorn was confirmed (on ray size) in a few fragments, but much of the small roundwood did not exhibit the wider rays and it was uncertain whether a second *Prunus* species was present, or whether it was due to immaturity. Only one fragment of oak – from pit 10311 – was definitively confirmed as heartwood; this may be an under-representation due to poor condition, but it was notable that the samples (33 and 34) from this pit contained more charcoal from trunkwood than the others which were predominantly from roundwood.

Discussion

Oven 10409 and fire pit/hearth 10311 showed clear signs of scorching, indicating burning *in situ* to a relatively high heat. Oven 10045 did not show evidence for burning, but its teardrop shape was consistent with an oven function and the charcoal assemblage probably represents the last burning event. The charcoal assemblages from all of these features were similar: chiefly oak, with traces of other taxa (alder/hazel, poplar/willow, blackthorn, field maple and ash). The use of small oak roundwood for fuel would produce a high, but quite short-lived heat – suitable for crop processing or cooking. The larger logs suggested by the assemblage in fire pit 10311 may account for the higher intensity of scorching in this feature. Pit 10389, which represented re-deposited waste fuel, was also comparable, but with a larger component of blackthorn type.

Several observations may be drawn from these results. Firstly, oak was favoured for domestic fuelwood, supplemented with a range of other taxa. This is not unusual for rural sites in Roman Britain (Lodwick 2017; Pelling 2012), although the range at Razor's Farm and quantity of non-oak taxa is quite limited compared to a nearby site at Basingstoke (Challinor 2018). The predominant use of immature or small wood is consistent with the use of firewood bundles, which were commonly used for domestic fires (Gale 1999) and might be sourced from timber off-cuts or coppiced stems. There was only scant evidence for hedgerow or scrub types and there was little evidence for the use of larger, mature wood. This suggests some form of woodland supply management was occurring, although it must be noted that this may have been related to easy labour (gathering deadwood and cutting branches is easier than felling a tree), rather than indicating intensive woodland management practices such as coppicing.

DISCUSSION

The excavation in 2016 identified three main phases of rural settlement, represented by a succession of probable farmsteads, these spanning the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The site lies just to the south of Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*) and immediately east of the Roman road between and there and Chichester (*Noviomagus*), a location which is likely to have been significant, particularly in the settlement's later development.

The first clear evidence for settlement is during the Late Iron Age, perhaps around the beginning of the 1st century AD, with two relatively substantial enclosure ditches identified from this period. The ditches were broadly contemporary, with 10701 the earlier, and these appear to have merged to form what

may have been a figure-of-eight in plan, the enclosures extending east beyond the limit of excavation. Oval enclosure ditch 10701 had been recut on the north-east side, probably to create another enclosure, this also extending east beyond the limit of excavation. The enclosures are likely to have defined an area of occupation but no structures were identified, although they may lie beneath the recently built access road. Other features of probable Late Iron Age date include a small number of post-holes, these forming no clear patterns, at least two pits, and a well which lay just to the north of the oval enclosure. It cannot be clearly demonstrated, but this appears to have been a Late Iron Age–early Romano-British settlement enclosed from the outset, similar to Daneshill (Millett & Schadla-Hall 1991) and Brighton Hill South (Coe & Newman 1992; Howell & Durden 2005), for example.

During the early Roman period the settlement may have become more established and ditch 10704 was dug to enclose a larger area than previously, the upper fills of the earlier enclosure ditches containing varying amounts of Roman pottery and perhaps in part deliberately backfilled and levelled. Apparently contemporary with the new enclosure were a series of smaller ditches and gullies dug to drain water away from the central occupation area and into the enclosure ditch, as well as serving to demarcate areas within the enclosure. The location of the entrance is uncertain but it may have lay to the south-east, outside the excavation area. At the southern end of the enclosure, and probably contemporary with it, was a relatively large rectangular post-built structure which is likely to have served an agricultural function, though the post-holes appeared too insubstantial for it to have been an aisled barn. Approximately 15m to the north was a sub-oval possible drip- or drainage gully and a fire pit/hearth, which together may indicate the position of a roundhouse on the east side of the enclosure, though no other evidence of the structure itself was found. A waterhole lay on the south-west side, in the same area as several pits used for the disposal of domestic waste, with a small number of other pits and a well scattered across the northern half of the enclosure and beyond. Two small hearths or ovens were also identified, one inside and one outside of the enclosure. Again, the new access road will have obscured some features within the enclosure, possibly including further structural evidence, but it has probably not greatly hindered an understanding of the layout and sequence, as appears to have been the case for the smaller, but perhaps morphologically similar later 1st-century AD enclosure at Viables, also bisected by a road (Gibson 2004).

The third phase of activity followed enclosure 10704 going out of use, probably around the middle of the 2nd century, and then continued through the mid- and into the late Romano-British period, this phase of activity characterised by at least two rectilinear enclosures of quite different form to their predecessors. Nevertheless, similar quantities of pottery attest to continuing settlement, again in the likely form of a low to moderate status farmstead, with nothing of particular note amongst the finds and environmental assemblages. The pottery includes the expected range of forms and fabrics, with relatively few imported wares, and the animal bone and charred plant remains are consistent with a mixed farming economy, cattle being the main livestock present.

However, overall, the significance of the site lies in the fact that although there are comparable Late Iron Age–Romano-British sites in Hampshire, these have been predominately on the chalk downland, whereas sites identified on the claylands are far rarer. One such example was found during recent excavations at Marnel Park, Popley, approximately 2.6km to the south-east, where a settlement of similar date lay on the clay close to its interface with the chalk (Thames Valley Archaeological Services 2016). A small, rectangular Late Iron Age enclosure, broadly spanning the 1st century BC–1st century AD, was later enlarged in the early Roman period, with at least one associated trackway, broadly similar to the sequence at Razor's Farm. The Popley site contained a moderate density of pits, post-holes and linear features, but no structures were identified, and it was apparently abandoned early in the 2nd century AD, probably a century or so before the demise of the settlement at Razor's Farm.

The character, date and function of such rural settlements within Hampshire in general

has been poorly studied, and the opportunity provided here is enhanced by the site's location only 6km to the south of the *civitas* capital at Silchester, close to the Roman road between this and Chichester, which might in part explain the relative longevity of occupation at Razor's Farm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Croudace Homes Ltd for commissioning the archaeological investigation. The help and assistance of Kristoffer Holmes of Croudace Homes Ltd, and David Hopkins, the County Archaeologist for Hampshire, is also duly acknowledged.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Jon Sanigar, assisted by Andy Sole, Jamie McCarthy, Eva Estela, Yohan Paci, Matt Kendall, Tom Burt, Moises Reixarch, Belle Neilson, Elisenda Gimeno, Virva Lompolo, Jennifer Loader, Dylan Duane-Roche, Anna Smaldone, Elena Calabria, Emma Clark, Pete Capps, Mike Cepak, Charlie Scovell, Dudley Staniforth and Briony Lalor.

The soil samples were processed by Tony Scothern, Mai Walker and Dylan Duane-Roche, the flots and residues sorted by Nicki Mulhall, Jenny Giddins and Elizabeth Foulston, and the plant remains from the evaluation assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. The illustrations are by Kenneth Lymer (plans and sections) and Nancy Dixon (finds). This article was edited by Finn Cresswell and Philippa Bradley.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Bruce Eaton (fieldwork) and Phil Andrews (post-excavation). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology Ltd, in Salisbury, under the project code 74580–86, but in due course it will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust under the accession number A.2013.39.

REFERENCES

Allen, M, Blick, N, Brindle, T, Evans, T, Fulford, M, Holbrook, N, Richards, J D & Smith, A 2018 *The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain: an online resource*: (data-set) https://doi.org/10.5284/1030449 [accessed 8/4/2019], Archaeology Data Service, York.

Antolín, F & Buxó, R 2011 Proposal for the systematic description and taphonomic study of carbonized cereal grain assemblages: a case study of an early Neolithic funerary context in the cave of Can Sadurní (Begues, Barcelona province, Spain), *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany* **20** 53–66.

Antolín, F & Jacomet, S 2015 Wild fruit use among early farmers in the Neolithic (5400–2300 cal BC) in the north-east of the Iberian Peninsula: an intensive practice? *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany* **24** 19–33.

Baker, P & Worley, F 2014 *Animal Bones and Archaeology: guidelines for best practice*, Historic England.

Boardman, S & Jones, G 1990 Experiments on the effects of charring on cereal plant components, *J Archaeol Sci* **17** 1–11.

British Geological Survey, 1981 *Sheet 284 Solid and Drift 1:50,000*, Keyworth.

Campbell, G 2016 Market forces – a discussion of crop husbandry, horticulture and trade in plant resources in southern England, in Bird, D (ed.) *Agriculture and Industry in South-Eastern Roman Britain*, Oxford, 134–55.

Coe, D & Newman, R 1992 Excavations of an Early Iron Age building and Romano-British enclosure at Brighton Hill South, Basingstoke, Hampshire, *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc* **48** 5–26.

Challinor, D 2018 *Wood Charcoal from Kennel Farm, Basingstoke, Hampshire*, unpubl client report for Cotswold Archaeology.

Charles, D 1979 *Aspects of the Chronology and Distribution of Silchester Ware Roman Pottery*, unpubl BA dissertation, University of Reading.

Coates, R 1989 *The Place-Names of Hampshire*, Batsford.

Crummy, N 1983 *The Roman Small finds from Excavations in Colchester, 1971–9*, Colchester Archaeol Rep 2, Colchester.

Cunliffe, B 1984 *Danebury: an Iron Age hillfort in Hampshire. Volume 2, The Excavations*

1969–1978: the finds, (CBA Res Rep 52), London.

Curwen, C 1937 Querns, *Antiquity* **11** 133–51.

Fasham, P J & Keevill, G with Coe, D 1995 *Brighton Hill South (Hatch Warren): an Iron Age farmstead and deserted medieval village in Hampshire*, Wessex Archaeology Rep 7, Salisbury.

Fern, K 1996–2012 *Plants For A Future: plant species database*: http://www.pfaf.org/ [accessed: 31/03/2016].

Fuller, D Q, Stevens, C J & McClatchie, M 2014 Routine activities, tertiary refuse and labor organization: social inference from everyday archaeobotany, in Madella, M & Savard, M (eds) *Ancient Plants and People. Contemporary Trends in Archaeobotany*, Tucson, 174–217.

Gale, R 1999 Charcoal (from Pomeroy Wood), in Fitzpatrick, A P, Butterworth, C A & Grove, J (eds) *Prehistoric and Roman Sites in East Devon: the A30 Honiton to Exeter improvement DBFO, 1996–2000. Volume 2: Romano-British sites*, Trust for Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, 372–82.

Gibson, C 2004 The Iron Age and Roman site of Viables Two (Jays Close), Basingstoke, *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc* **59** 1–30.

Grimm, J 2009 Animal bone, in Wright, J, Powell, A B & Barclay, A *Excavation of Prehistoric and Romano-British Sites at Marnel Park and Merton Rise (Popley), Basingstoke, 2004–8*, Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, 45–50.

Hather, J G 2000 *The Identification of Northern European Woods: a guide for archaeologists and conservators*, London.

Hayward, K 2011 Petrology, in Coles, S, Lowe, J & Ford, S Excavation of a Roman enclosure at Park Prewett Hospital, Basingstoke, Hampshire, *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc* **66** 57–60.

Hayward, K 2012 The worked stone, in Haslam, R Iron Age and Roman settlement and burial activity at Old Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke, *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc* **67** 125–6.

Hillman, G C 1981 Reconstructing crop husbandry practices from charred remains of crops, in Mercer, R (ed.) *Farming Practice in British Prehistory*, Edinburgh, 123–62.

Howell, L & Durden, T 2005 Further excavation of an Iron Age enclosure at Danebury Road, Hatch Warren, Basingstoke, *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc* **60** 39–63.

Keevill, G 1995 Objects of stone, in Fasham, & Keevill 1995, 49.

Kreuz, A & Schäfer, E 2002 A new archaeobotanical database program, *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany* **11(1–2)** 177–9.

Lodwick, L 2017 Woodworking, fuel and woodland, in Allen, M G, Fulford, M, Lodwick, L, Brindle, T & Smith, A T *The Rural Economy of Roman Britain. New Visions of the Countryside of Roman Britain, Vol 2,* Britannia Monogr Ser 30, 230–34.

Lowther, A W G 1935 An early Iron Age oven at St Martha's Hill, near Guildford, *Surrey Archaeol Collect* **43** 113–5.

Lyne, M A B 2012 *Archaeological Research in Binsted, Kingsley and Alice Holt Forest, Hampshire*, (BAR Brit Ser 574), Oxford.

Lyne, M A B & Jefferies, R S 1979 *The Alice Holt/ Farnham Roman Pottery Industry*, (CBA Res Rep 30), London.

Millett, M & James, S 1984 Excavations at Cowdery's Down, Basingstoke, Hampshire 1978–81, *Archaeol J* **140** 151–279.

Millett, M & Russell, D 1984 The Iron Age and Romano-British site at Viables Farm, Basingstoke, *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc* **40** 49–60.

Millett, M & Schadla-Hall, T 1991 Rescue excavations on a Bronze Age and Romano-British site at Daneshill, Basingstoke 1980–81, *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc* **47** 83–105.

Pelling, R 2012 Environmental overview, in Clelland, S E Prehistoric to Post-Medieval occupation at Dowd's Farm, Hedge End, Hampshire, *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc* **66** 156–159.

Poole, C 1984 Objects of baked clay, in Cunliffe 1984, 398–407.

Poole, C 1995 Loomweights versus oven bricks, in Cunliffe, B *Danebury: an Iron Age hillfort in Hampshire. Volume 6*, (CBA Res Rep 102), London, 285–6.

Rees, H 1995a Iron Age/early Roman pottery, in Fasham, & Keevill 1995, 35–46.

Rees, H 1995b Briquettage, in Fasham & Keevill 1995, 47.

Seager Smith, R H & Davies, S M 1993 Roman pottery, in Woodward, P J, Davies, S M & Graham, A H *Excavations at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester 1981–4*, Dorset Natur Hist Archaeol Soc Monogr 12, Dorchester, 202–89.

Shaffrey, R 2011 Worked stone, in Biddulph, E, Seager Smith, R & Schuster, J *Settling the Ebbsfleet Valley: High Speed 1 excavations at Springhead and Northfleet, Kent, the Late Iron*

Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval landscape. Vol 2, Late Iron Age to Roman Finds Reports, Oxford/Wessex Archaeology, 363–77.

Schweingruber, F H 1990 *Anatomy of European Woods*, Bern & Stuttgart.

Smith, K 1977 The excavation of Winklebury Camp, Basingstoke, Hampshire, *Proc Prehist Soc* **43** 31–129.

Stace, C 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*, (2nd ed.), Cambridge.

Swan, V 1984 *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain*, RCHME Suppl Ser 5, London.

Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 2016 *Marnel Park, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, Phase 1: archaeological excavation*. unpubl client report (MPB 11/125).

Timby, J R 2000 The pottery, in Fulford, M & Timby, J *Late Iron Age and Roman Silchester: excavations on the site of the Forum-Basilica 1977, 1980–86*, Britannia Monogr 15, 180–312.

van der Veen, M 1989 Charred grain assemblages from Roman period corn driers in Britain, *Archaeol J* **146** 302–19.

van der Veen, M 2007 Formation processes of desiccated and carbonized plant remains – the identification of routine practice, *J Archaeol Sci* **34** 968–900.

van der Veen, M & Jones, G 2006 A re-analysis of agricultural production and consumption: implications for understanding the British Iron Age, *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany* **15(3)** 217–28.

van der Veen, M, Livarda, A & Hill, A 2008 New plant foods in Roman Britain – dispersal and social access, *Environmental Archaeology* **13(1)** 11.

Wessex Archaeology, 1999 *Hampshire International Business Park, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hampshire: archaeological evaluation report*, unpubl client report (42645).

Wessex Archaeology, 2012a *Razor's Farm, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hampshire: detailed gradiometer Survey*, unpubl client report (74582.02).

Wessex Archaeology, 2012b *Razor's Farm, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hampshire: archaeological evaluation report*, unpubl client report (74583.03).

Wessex Archaeology, 2013 *Razor's Farm, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hampshire: consolidated heritage statement*, unpubl client report (74581.05).

Wessex Archaeology, 2015 *Razor's Farm, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hampshire: archaeological evaluation report*, unpubl client report (74585.03).

Wessex Archaeology, 2017 *Razor's Farm, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hampshire: archaeological strip, map and sample assessment report*, unpubl client report (74586.01).

Wild, J P 2002 The textile industries of Roman Britain, *Britannia* **33** 1–42.

Woodfield, C 2006 Rare tazza, paterae and a broad hint of lararium from *Lactodorum* (Towcester), *J Roman Stud* **12** 209–212.

Wright, J, Powell, A B & Barclay, A 2009 *Excavation of a Prehistoric and Romano-British Site at Marnel Park and Merton Rise (Popley) Basingstoke, 2004–8*, Salisbury, Wessex Archaeology.

Young, C J 1977 *Oxfordshire Roman Pottery*, (BAR Brit Ser 43), Oxford.

Zohary, D & Hopf, M 2000 *Domestication of Plants in the Old World: the origin and spread of cultivated plants in West Asia, Europe, and the Nile Valley*, (3rd ed.), Oxford.

Zohary, D, Hopf, M & Weiss, E 2012 *Domestication of Plants in the Old World. The Origin and Spread of Cultivated Plants in West Asia, Europe and the Nile Valley*, Oxford.

Authors: Jon Sanigar & Phil Andrews, Wessex Archaeology Ltd., Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6EB