Excavations at Abbotstone field, Bell House Pit, Tarmac Colchester Quarry, Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex 1999-2001

report prepared by
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on behalf of
Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd

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Part 1 – The report

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1 Summary

The archaeological investigation of the cropmark site at Abbotstone field was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT), on behalf of Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd, over five years (1997-2001). This is the report on the archaeological excavation of the site carried out in the final three years of this investigation[1] (1999-2001).

Excavation of the cropmark site revealed a site divided into three distinct periods of use:
Period 1 – before the Middle Iron Age (before c *300 BC): Phase 0*
*Period 2 – the Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman period (*c *300 BC-late 2nd century AD): Phases 1-3*
Period 3 – the medieval period (12th-13th century): Phase 4

Period 1 – before the Middle Iron Age (before* c *300 BC)
Phase 0
A small amount of activity took place on the site in the years before the Middle Iron Age. Finds included several pieces of pottery and worked flint dated to the Neolithic, the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age, along with small fragments of a probable Bronze Age drum-shaped loomweight. The majority of the finds are residual from later features but four pits are believed to date to this period. This material was concentrated around the eastern side of the site and in the south-west corner, and probably represents areas of early activity that were likely to have been small in scale and periodic/seasonal in nature.

Period 2 – the Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age and into the Roman period (c 300 BC-late 2nd century AD)
Period 2 is subdivided into three continuous phases of activity:
Phase 1
This phase dates from the Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age and to the late 1st century AD. It is represented by the construction of two round ditched enclosures, one of which contained a round-house; an irregular enclosure to the south; three droveways; and a number of other isolated features. Evidence from these features suggests that the settlement was involved in activities such as food preparation/storage/consumption, animal keeping, textile production and some metal-working. None of this activity was on a large or industrial scale and appears to have been based on the needs of a relatively small and self-sufficient community, although some pottery, briquetage, quernstones and other materials were imported into the site.
Phase 2
This phase dates from the late 1st century AD to the early 2nd century and continues on directly from Phase 1 with no break in the occupation of the site. Within this phase, most of the features from Phase 1 were replaced by two square ditched enclosures – a large enclosure to the east with a smaller enclosure to the west – and a number of other ditches and isolated features. No structural remains were recorded in either enclosure, although the material recovered from the settlement would suggest that people were still living and working on the site. Activities involving food preparation/storage/consumption, animal-keeping, textile production and metal-working appear to have continued and imports into the site increased. Evidence for ritual activity was recorded in the form of a human head buried within a ditch, a cremation, and the debris from the remains of pyres and feasting activities.
Phase 3
This phase dates from the early 2nd century to the later 2nd century AD and also appears to have continued on from the previous phase with no break in the occupation of the site. All the features of Phase 2 were replaced by two new square ditched enclosures: a large enclosure to the north (containing formal entrances, internal divisions, stone surfaces and other features) and a smaller enclosure to the south (containing formal entrances but with little evidence of internal activity). No structural remains were recorded in either enclosure although, as with Phase 2, the material recovered from the settlement suggests that people were still living and working on the site and that a building of some sort probably did exist in the south-east corner of the large enclosure. Textile production and metal-working appear to have ended, although there is still evidence for activity revolving around food preparation/consumption/storage and for imports continuing (and increasing where metalwork is concerned).
Period 3 – the medieval period (12th-13th century)
Phase 4
A small amount of activity based in the 12th-13th centuries was also recorded on the site. A building and two 4-post structures were constructed within a 'field system' of ditches laid out across the landscape. The only identifiable medieval material remains from the site was a quantity of pottery along with two probably medieval pottery counters (made from Roman pot). This lack of large quantities of domestic material might suggest that the buildings were not used primarily for human occupation but as agricultural stores or animal shelters connected to the field system.

[1] see section 3 for a summary of the earlier archaeological investigations

2 Introduction

2.1 This is the report on the archaeological excavation of the cropmark site at Abbotstone field by Bell House Pit (formerly Bell House Farm), Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd, during three seasons of excavation (1999-2001).

2.2 The excavation of the Abbotstone cropmark site was completed by Stephen Benfield (site director), with the help of Colin Austin, Howard Brooks and Carl Crossan (site directors/assistant site directors), and a large team of field archaeologists from CAT. This report was principally prepared by Laura Pooley with the assistance of Stephen Benfield. Fieldwork dates from 1999 to 2001 and post-excavation work dates from 2001 to 2005.

2.3 The excavation was monitored by Pat Connell of the Heritage Advice, Management and Promotion (HAMP) group of ECC, Heritage Conservation Branch, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

2.4 The Bell House Pit and its extension into Abbotstone field and the Stanway Pit are all parts of the Tarmac Colchester Quarry which is located four miles south-west of the modern-day town centre of Colchester in north-east Essex.

Archaeological investigation of the cropmark site was carried out as a result of the Bell House Pit extension into Abbotstone field (planning application no COL/678/82) which involved mineral extraction from a core area of 16.2 hectares of former farmland adjoining the north-western part of the Bell House Pit. The extension of this quarry would eventually destroy all archaeological remains located within this area.

Archaeological investigation began in 1997 and 1998 with two fieldwalking surveys and a sample gradiometer survey. A trial-trenching evaluation was also carried out over the site in 1999[2].

2.5 A summary of the results presented here will be published in the CAT journal and the site archive will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under the accession code 1999.48.

2.6 This report follows the standards set out in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines for the standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1996, revised 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996, revised 2003).

3 Archaeological background

3.1 The Tarmac Colchester Quarry

The Tarmac Colchester Quarry consists of two quarries, Bell House Pit and the Stanway Pit. 'Abbotstone' is a field into which Bell House Pit was extended.

3.1.1 Abbotstone

3.1.1.1 The cropmarks (Figs 1-2)

The archaeological site at Abbotstone was first identified by aerial survey and consisted of two sets of cropmarks recorded as part of the Essex Sites and Monuments Record (ESMR; now the Essex Historic Environment Record or EHER) site 11919, located under National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 943 227 (c). The official EHER description of the site is 'Cropmarks: rectilinear enclosures, rectangular enclosure, linear features and a possible ring-ditch'. Only one of these sets of cropmarks was located within the boundary of the Abbotstone field and was therefore excavated. As the second set of cropmarks was not under threat of destruction it was not excavated; this cropmark consists of two archaeological features (a sub-rectangular enclosure and a half circle with a dot, possibly a ring-ditch with internal feature; description taken from CAT Report 73).

3.1.1.2 A summary of all archaeological surveys and excavations

The extension of the Bell House Pit into Abbotstone field was to be completed in three phases that corresponded with three different areas – the cropmark site was located within the 'phase 3' extraction area (Fig 1).

[2] see section 3 (archaeological background) for a summary of the results of the surveys and the trial-trenching evaluation

Archaeological investigation of the Abbotstone field began in 1997 when the 'phase 1' extraction area (5.2 hectares of land to the north of the cropmark) was fieldwalked (CAT Report 9). The survey produced only a small number of Roman tile and brick fragments and a struck flint flake of prehistoric date. In 1998, the 'phase 2' and 'phase 3' extraction areas (14.5 hectares) were also fieldwalked, and this produced a wide but thin spread of prehistoric and Roman material (CAT Report 20). In the autumn of 1998, a sample gradiometer survey was also carried out over the cropmarks (CAT Report 27). This, however, produced poor results, probably due to the wet ground and/or the unsuitability of the subsoil, and no further work was carried out.

As a result of mineral extraction in the 'phase 1' extraction area to the north of the cropmark site, it was necessary to erect a conveyor belt across the fields associated with 'phase 2' and 'phase 3' extraction areas. So, in 1999, a trial-trenching evaluation was undertaken (CAT Report 28): 31 trenches (each 10m long and 1.9m wide) were laid out across a 30m-wide and 400m-long corridor (aligned north to south, TL 9440 2306 to TL 9436 2282). During this evaluation, many of the features seen in the cropmark were recorded, including a series of ditches, pits and gullies. No archaeological remains were recorded in the trenches within the 'phase 2' extraction area.

A few months later, and following on from the successful trial-trenching evaluation, the area of the conveyor belt (through the 'phase 3' extraction area only) was stripped and fully excavated. This was a wedge-shaped area 200m long (north to south), 30m wide at the south end and 50m wide at the north, and which affected approximately 8,000 square metres of the site. At the end of this 1999 excavation, the bottom third of the site was also stripped and excavated; this was an area approximately 230m wide (east to west) and 100m long (north to south), ie 23,000 square metres.

Excavation of the rest of the cropmark site (an area approximately 200m wide and 200m long, or 40,000 square metres) was continued in 2000 but work was halted after only a few weeks due to poor weather conditions. Excavation was completed in 2001.

3.1.2 The Stanway Pit (Figs 1-2)

Three sets of archaeological remains were known from this site and recorded on the EHER as sites 11756 and 11757, centred on NGR TL 955 225. These cropmarks consisted of:

(1) a small group of cropmarks which might reasonably be interpreted as a linear field boundary, and the south ends of two undated enclosures
(2) two lines which might be the corner of a field
(3) five burial enclosures[3]

Cropmarks (1) and (2) were undated and unexcavated and have now been quarried away. Excavation of cropmark (3), in 1987-88 and 1996-7, led to the discovery of a nationally important burial site for British aristocrats which was in use during the 1st century BC and up to a few decades after the Roman invasion of AD 43 (Crummy *et al* forth).

A total of five enclosures was recorded at the Stanway site; these were laid out in two rows, one of three and the other of two enclosures. The smallest, and the earliest, enclosure was the nucleus of a small farmstead and the four funerary enclosures were added later one by one. The four funerary enclosures contained the remains of nailed wooden mortuary chambers with the remnants of smashed grave goods (ritually smashed in antiquity) and cremated human bone fragments scattered throughout the soil filling the chambers. In three of the four enclosures, secondary burials were also recorded. These burials were different from the main burials as they were placed in pits that did not include wooden chambers or involve the ritual destruction of grave goods to the same extent. Among many other finds, the ‘warrior grave' contained a spear and possible shield, the ‘doctor's grave' the remains of a wooden gaming board and a collection of medical instruments, and the ‘inkwell grave' a small pottery inkpot (Crummy 1997; Crummy *et al* forthcoming).

[3] descriptions taken from CAT Report 73

3.1.3 The Bell House Pit (Figs 1-2)

Four sets of cropmarks were located within this quarry and recorded on the EHER as site 11843, centred on NGR TL 948 230 (CAT Report 73). The cropmarks consisted of:

(1) a linear boundary
(2) two sets of parallel linear marks, probably forming a trackway
(3) a linear mark joining up with the corner of a field, with archaeological features (presumably pits) within an enclosed area, and
(4) a set of marks defining the corner of a field, with a trackway on the northern edge of the complex.

All these features were undated and unexcavated and have now been quarried away.

3.2 The Abbotstone site within a wider landscape (Fig 2)

3.2.1 The cropmark site at Abbotstone lies within the modern-day borough of Colchester. As Britain's oldest recorded town, Colchester (founded as the Roman 'Colonia Victricensis', set within the Iron Age territory of 'Camulodunum'), has a rich and varied history. The following brief summary was taken from Crummy 1997.

3.2.2 Camulodunum

The dykes

Grymes Dyke, a scheduled ancient monument (EHCR nos 1167-1168), lies 1,600m to the east of the Abbotstone site. This dyke is one of twelve earthworks (V-shaped ditches with a simple bank behind) constructed in the Iron Age and early Roman period (Fig 2); the sites at Abbotstone field and the Stanway and Bell House Pits are all located outside this dyke system. It has been traditionally thought that these dykes formed a fixed boundary corresponding to the limits of the settlement (of Camulodunum) and were constructed as defences. However, it is not clear if the concept of a fixed boundary is appropriate for this period. Moreover, the different positions in the sequence of dykes in the west side of Camulodunum suggest that there was no fixed boundary, unless that boundary was progressively moved westwards with the construction of each new dyke. So, the relationship between the sites at Abbotstone and Stanway with Camulodunum is unclear; these two sites do lie outside the dyke system but this does not mean that they were not a part of the settlement.

Gosbecks and Sheepen

Camulodunum had two main centres of activity, Gosbecks and Sheepen. The Gosbecks site lies 2,500m to the east of the Abbotstone site while the Sheepen site is located 6km to the north-east.

Gosbecks – Gosbecks was an important native and then Romano-British centre where it probably operated as a '... place of assembly with important administrative, commercial and religious functions...' (Crummy 1997, 18). During excavation of the site, a native farmstead associated with Cunobelin and a Roman temple, theatre and fort have all been recorded.

Sheepen – Sheepen acted as the industrial and trading centre of the Iron Age and later Roman settlement.

3.2.3 The legionary fortress and *Colonia Victricensis*

After the conquest of the area by the Romans, a legionary fortress was constructed on a spur of land immediately downstream from Sheepen on the River Colne. Not long after the completion of these works, the fortress was converted to a colony ('Colonia Victricensis') and became the first Roman town in Britain, with public buildings, the temple of Claudius, a statue of victory and a monumental arch being erected along with numerous other works. As a colony, the surrounding territory of Camulodunum (of which the site at Abbotstone would presumably have been a part) came under Roman jurisdiction, which would have involved the settlement of most of the countryside by the newcomers (sometimes to the detriment of the existing native population).

3.2.4 All this evidence shows that the cropmark site at Abbotstone does not survive in isolation but within a landscape which includes archaeological sites of local and national importance, where continuing surveys and excavations are producing evidence of an extensive pattern of activity dating principally to the Iron Age and Roman periods.

4 Aims

4.1 The primary aim of the excavation was to fully investigate and record the details of the cropmark site before it was destroyed as a result of the Bell House Pit extension into Abbotstone field, ie 'preservation by record'.

4.2 The secondary research aims were:

(1) to establish a better understanding of the nature of the site (what features/structures existed on the site and their function) and its date (and any subsequent phasing) through excavation, finds dating and analysis, environmental sampling, etc.

(2) to try to answer the following questions – to what extent was the site at Abbotstone a part of Camulodunum and how did it relate to the nearby excavated sites at Stanway and Gosbecks? Was the Abbotstone site native or Roman, and if native, what effect, if any, did the Roman conquest and settlement of Britain have on the site?

5 Method

5.1 All works were undertaken by a team of professional CAT archaeologists (except for the operation of heavy machinery). All the latest Health and Safety guidelines were followed on site. CAT has a standard safety policy, which was adhered to at all times.

5.2 A total area of approximately 71,000 square metres was stripped and investigated; approximately 31,000 square metres in 1999 and 40,000 square metres in 2000-2001.

5.3 Tarmac Quarries Ltd supplied a tracked 360-degree excavator with a toothless ditching bucket to strip the site. All stripping was carried out under the supervision of a professional CAT archaeologist. The modern ploughsoil layer, a layer of dark brown sandy loam (Layer or L1), was completely stripped away along with a post-medieval subsoil layer (L3) of flooding or rainwashed silt that covered the site. After L3 had been removed, the archaeological features, cut into a natural clay (L2), were exposed.

5.4 The excavation of all exposed archaeological features, contexts, layers and deposits was then completed by hand using trowels and, where appropriate, picks and mattocks. A total of 100% of all post-holes and structural features was excavated along with 50% of all pits and 10-20% of all linear features. A metal detector was used to scan key deposits, including spoil heaps. Individual records of excavated layers and features, including find and sample information, was entered on the standard CAT record sheets. All features and significant layers were planned at 1:50 using a fixed grid system with profiles and sections drawn at 1:10. A photographic record was kept that included general site shots and shots of all archaeological features and deposits on both a transparency and a digital camera, and these are accompanied by a full written and digital log.

5.5 No individual levels were taken on any of the archaeological features but a contour map of the entire site was produced (after stripping was completed) and this forms part of the site archive.

5.6 A licence was obtained from the Home Office for the removal of human remains from the site which were then sent away for analysis by a specialist.

5.7 Environmental samples were taken from appropriate deposits and examined by a qualified specialist. Finds were retained from each archaeological context excavated and where appropriate these were washed, marked with the site code and context number, and each category sent to a relevant specialist. There was an agreed list of specialists who were called on to provide written reports on the finds as well as advise on conservation and any other aspects of the investigation. The full finds catalogue is included in the site archive.

6 Results

See Figure 3 for a plan of all archaeological features/layers recorded from the site (excluding all modern and natural features/layers; see archive for full description and location plans of these).

6.1 Introduction

Evidence produced by the excavation of the site and the analysis of the archaeological material recorded from it indicates four main phases of activity on the site, preceded by a small amount of activity dated from the early Neolithic into the Early Iron Age (Phase 0). The phases are:

- Phase 1 – Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age and into the late 1st century AD (to *c* AD 70)
- Phase 2 – late 1st century AD to the early 2nd century AD
- Phase 3 – early 2nd century AD to the late 2nd century AD
- Phase 4 – the medieval period (12th-13th century)

The majority of the finds reports refer to the division of Phases rather than of Periods (see next paragraph).

The five phases of activity can be further subdivided into three periods. Each period is a time of continous activity on the site, and each period is enclosed by a length of time when the site was abandoned. The Periods are:

- Period 1 – before the Middle Iron Age (before *c* 300 BC): Phase 0
- Period 2 – the Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age and into the Roman period (*c* 300 BC-late 2nd century AD): Phases 1-3
- Period 3 – the medieval period (12th-13th century): Phase 4

6.2 Period 1 Phase 0 – early Neolithic to the Early Iron Age (before *c* 300 BC) (Figs 4 and 10)

Evidence for human activity at the Abbotstone site before the beginning of the main Middle Iron Age settlement of the site derives from three different sources: worked flint finds, pottery finds and four small pits.

6.2.1 The worked flint (Fig 4)

During excavation, a total of 113 pieces of worked flint was recovered from the site. Of these pieces, the blade tools were dated to the Early Neolithic; the scrapers, the borer and the bifacial fragment to within the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age period; and the small barbed and tanged arrowhead to the Early Bronze Age. Included in this total were three pieces of flint dated to the Iron Age; however, it is uncertain if these pieces pre-date the Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age occupation of the site (Period 2 Phase 1) or were contemporary with it. All but one of these pieces of worked flint were recovered as residual material from later features; the one exception came from a pit/hearth (Feature or F468) and dated to the Iron Age, but, as already stated above, we do not know if this evidence, and consequently this feature, pre-date the Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age phase of the site.

6.2.2 The pottery and pits (Figs 4 and 10)

A small quantity of Neolithic, Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery was recorded on the site.

Neolithic – A total of two pieces (at 12g) of Neolithic Grooved Ware (dated to the 3rd millennium BC to *c* 2900-2100 BC) were recovered from a single later feature.

Late Bronze Age – A total of 202 pieces (at 1222g) of Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from five different features. Of those five features, only three date to the Late Bronze Age (pits F22, F658 and F671). F22 contained a large proportion of the total quantity and weight of the Late Bronze Age pottery (180 pieces at 1158g) along with a large quantity of daub (1176g, including a possible drum-shaped loomweight or loomweights) and burnt flint. The remaining two features were both later in date.

Early Iron Age – A total of eight pieces (at 65g) of Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from three later contexts.

6.3 Period 2 Phase 1 – Middle Iron Age-Late Iron Age to early Roman (to *c* AD 70) (Figs 5-6 and 10-11)

Period 2 Phase 1 is dated from the Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age, and to the late 1st century AD (to *c* AD 70).

6.3.1 Round ditched enclosure 1 (RDE 1) (Figs 6 and 10)

6.3.1.1 The ditches and entrances

Two ditches, F54 and F336, joined together to form a round ditched enclosure (RDE 1), approximately 35m in diameter, which enclosed an area of 896 square metres. Ditch F54, the longest of the two ditches (at 106m), was on average 3.1m wide and 0.99m deep, while ditch F336 (at 21m long) was on average a smaller 1.8m wide and 0.76m deep. Both were U-shaped, single-phased ditches filled with a grey/brown clay or silty clay mix. Two entrances were located in the south-west edge of the enclosure, pointing roughly in a WSW and SSW direction, and formed openings which were 1m and 2m wide respectively.

6.3.1.2 The round-house and associated pits

Within the centre of RDE 1 stood a round-house delineated by 15 post-holes (F547, F548, F549, F550, F551, F552, F563, F564, F565, F566, F567, F568, F570, F571, F572), each one being on average 0.47m wide and 0.12m deep. The posts formed an oval structure 12m by 10m at its longest and widest points. Three of these post-holes, on the south-west side, were out of alignment with the main walls of the round-house and may represent an entrance or entrance porch, which would have been in a direct line of sight with both entrances into the enclosure. No internal divisions were recorded within the round-house, but two pits were located within it and date to this phase: F557 at the centre of the round-house and F358. Four other pits enclosed within RDE 1 are believed to be contemporary with it; three of these pits (F359, F448, F569) were located within the enclosure and the fourth (F486) was dug between the ditches of the WSW enclosure entrance.

6.3.1.3 The finds

Table 1: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features associated with RDE 1.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	885	6,247
Brick and tile	17	908
Daub	80	774
Hearth lining	12	38
Animal bone	79	73
Briquetage	10	28
Lava quern	1	522
Loomweights	7	698
Burnt flint	16	196
Worked sandstone	1	185
Iron fragments	13	264

6.3.2 Round ditched enclosure 2 (RDE 2) (Figs 5 and 11)

6.3.2.1 The ditches and entrances

Two ditches to the south of RDE 1, F353 and F356, joined together to form a second round ditched enclosure (RDE 2) approximately 34.5m in diameter. This enclosure has almost exactly the same diameter as RDE 1, but it enclosed a larger area (approximately 1,104 square metres) as it had a more rounded shape than RDE 1 which had the appearance of being slightly squashed inwards on its south-east edge. Ditch F356, the longest of the two ditches (at 109m), was on average 1.6m wide and 0.58m deep, and ditch F353 (16m long) was on average a smaller 0.9m wide and 0.16m deep. They were both single-phased, U-shaped ditches filled with a grey/brown silty/sandy clay. Two entrances were located on the north-west edge of the enclosure, pointing in roughly a WNW and NNW direction, and formed openings which were 2.5m and 2m wide respectively. No structural remains were recorded and none of the isolated pits or post-holes within this enclosure are believed to be contemporary with it.

There are differences in the widths/depths of the ditches and the size of the area they enclose, yet the diameter of both enclosures, their shape, and the position of their entrances make RDE 2 an almost exact mirror image of RDE 1.

6.3.2.2 The finds

Table 2: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features associated with RDE 2.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	157	1,113
Brick	1	147
Daub	5	124
Animal bone	64	106
Loomweights	1	24

6.3.3 Droveways (Figs 5 and 11)

6.3.3.1 The droveways

Three droveways or formal routes were laid out across the landscape in Phase 1. Little find or dating evidence was recovered from the majority of these features.

Droveway 1 – Droveway 1 comprised ditches F399 and F400 (both of which were partially cut away by enclosure ditches F18/F304 of Phase 3), F401 on the north edge and F311 on the opposing south side, and together they extended from the west of the site to the WSW entrance of RDE 1. The ditches were on average 0.95m wide and 0.12m deep and formed a droveway approximately 65m long and 11m wide.

Droveway 2 – Droveway 2 was formed by the southern edge of RDE 2 and ditch F21 on the north side and ditch F105 (and its later replacement ditch F117) on the opposing south side. This droveway extended from the centre of the site/the south-west edge of RDE 2 towards and beyond the eastern edge of the excavation. The ditches were on average 0.84m wide and 0.21m deep (excluding the section of RDE 2) and together formed a droveway 88m long and 6m wide (9m wide with later replacement ditch F117).

Droveway 3 – A possible droveway or boundary may have existed on a north-south alignment along the entire site. It started with ditch F411 to the north and extended along the western edge of RDE 1, F576 (partially cut away by enclosure ditch F305 in Phase 2), the western edge of RDE 2 and a section of F105 (which was aligned almost at right angles to the section used to form Droveway 2). These ditches were unusual as they had no opposing ditches to form a 'typical' droveway, but their north-south alignment does suggest that they formed some sort of route, possibly linking the north and south ends of the site and the two round ditched enclosures. This route appears to have gone out of use (or at least was reduced in length) when F117 replaced F105 to the south of the site.

6.3.3.2 The finds

Table 3: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features associated with the droveways.
(Note: table does not include the finds recorded from RDE 1, RDE 2 or ditch F117.)

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	64	426
Brick and tile	2	63
Daub	13	146
Loomweights	1	129

6.3.4 Southern enclosure (Figs 5 and 11)

6.3.4.1 The ditches

Within Phase 1, a series of irregular ditches was laid out across the south of the site. F105 appears to have been the earliest ditch located in this area (dated to the Middle Iron Age with two pieces of probably intrusive later pottery) where it formed a part of Droveways 2 and 3 (see section 6.3.3 above). The remainder of the ditches,

including F117 which replaced F105, were laid out in the Late Iron Age and seem to date from this time to the late 1st century AD (to *c* AD 70). Including F117, a total of 19 single-phased ditches (F91, F104, F117, F135, F143, F144, F145, F149, F155, F171, F206, F212, F213, F323, F456, F459, F472, F648, F740) date to this phase and were all approximately 0.3-1.47m wide and 0.05-0.74m deep and filled with a grey/brown silt and clay mix. Six other undated ditches (F131, F152, F207, F732, F733, F766) located in this area probably also belonged to this group. Together these ditches appear to have divided up the landscape and formed part of a large and irregular enclosure. No structural remains were recorded in this area.

Ditches F117, F145 and F323 all produced some early 2nd-century pottery, so some/all of these ditches may have survived into Phase 2.

6.3.4.2 The associated features

In total, 17 pits (F126, F134, F137, F138, F141, F151, F153, F162, F168, F173, F174, F374, F392, F649, F743, F758, F763), three post-holes (F161, F193, F194), one pit/hearth (F100), and one silt patch (F797) were located within the area defined by the ditches and are believed to be contemporary with the enclosure.

6.3.4.3 The finds

Table 4: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features associated with the southern enclosure.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	2147	17,477
Brick and tile	27	1,856
Daub	199	3,724
Hearth lining	74	680
Animal bone	41	171
Briquetage	16	704
Loomweight	9	421
Metal-working debris:		
smithing hearth bottom	3	846
undiagnostic	1	3
Copper-alloy objects:		
brooch fragment	1	1
penannular ring	1	1
Iron nail	1	9
Burnt flint	7	174

6.3.5 Other isolated features (Figs 5 and 11)

A total of 35 other isolated features date to this phase.

Eight pits (F125, F132, F178, F371, F461, F492, F529, F807), two pits/post-holes (F636, F736), four post-holes (F160, F186, F187, F806) and one gully (F367) all date to the Middle Iron Age. Ten of these fifteen features were located in the southern half of the site.

The remaining 16 pits (F28, F64, F338, F365, F402, F431, F433, F475, F532, F538, F539, F578, F580, F674, F676, F678), one pit/post-hole (F768) and three gullies (F368, F370, F469) all date from the Late Iron Age to *c* AD 70. Of these 20 features, eleven were located to the west of the site, seven were located to the east (around RDE 2), and the remaining two were located to the north.

Table 5: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the isolated Middle Iron Age features.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	121	712
Daub	5	4
Loomweights	2	84
Burnt flint	3	28

Table 6: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the isolated features dating from the Late Iron Age to *c* AD 70.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	364	3,424
Brick and tile	4	158
Daub	20	109
Daub fragments from an oven or kiln (F433)	250	4,000
Loomweights	1	10
Lava quern	4	2,500
Iron nail	2	24
Burnt flint	3	98

6.4 Period 2 Phase 2 – late 1st to early 2nd century AD (Figs 7 and 12-13)

Period 2 Phase 2 is dated from the late 1st century AD (*c* AD 70) to the early 2nd century AD.

6.4.1 Square ditched enclosure 1 (SDE 1) (Figs 7 and 12)

6.4.1.1 The enclosure ditches

Square ditched enclosure 1 (SDE 1) was located to the east of the site and completely replaced RDE 2, although it did still respect its entrance (at 2.5m wide) in what became the south-west corner of the enclosure, suggesting that little time had passed between the abandonment of the round enclosure and the construction of this new square one. SDE 1 consisted of five U-shaped ditches: F8, F66, F305, F604 and F714 (F604 was partially recut at some time during this phase, whereas the remaining ditches were all single phased). These were filled with a grey clay/silt mix, and all on average 2m wide and 0.6m deep, and enclosing an area 62m x 73m, a total of 4,526 square metres (measurements assume that F8 and F66 met in a north-east corner off of the edge of the excavation).

In an early stage in the development of this enclosure, it appears that ditch F305 (the west side of the enclosure) existed for a period of time without ditch F8 forming the north side. In the northernmost 'butt' end of F305, a human head was buried (find no 1121), and at some point later a pit (F498) was cut into this butt end and a pot with some cremated human and animal bone placed within it. It is possible that the pit placed within the butt end of this ditch was unrelated to the head and its location was purely by chance; however, the occurrence of human remains over the site was so sparse that the extremely close proximity of these finds suggests that they were somehow related. After pit F498 was cut into ditch F305, both these features were then cut by ditch F8. This suggests that this enclosure was not constructed as a whole but piecemeal, with ditch F305 existing for an unknown period of time before F8 was added. It is impossible to tell what relationship existed between the other ditches of this enclosure or the significance of this activity.

6.4.1.2 The internal features

No structural remains were located within this enclosure and only three features are believed to be contemporary with it; a stone spread (F485) in the north-west corner (approximately 10m long by 3m wide) and two post-holes (F71, cut into the base of enclosure ditch F66, and F75) in the south-east corner.

6.4.1.3 The finds

Table 7: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features associated with SDE 1.
(Note: table does not include the features associated with the human remains, F490 Sx 2 (a section within ditch F305) and F498; see Table 8.)

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	1,354	11,779
Brick and tile	26	2,371
Daub	53	456
Hearth lining	12	53
Animal bone	84	161
Briquetage	2	303
Loomweight	6	255
Lava and Puddingstone quern	2	779
Metal-working debris: undiagnostic	1	24
Iron fragments	1	2
Iron nails	2	28
Lead fragment	1	25
Burnt flint	11	177

Table 8: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from F490 Sx 2 (a section within ditch F305) and F498.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	310	3,737
Daub (inc remains of loomweight waster(s))	86	1,677
Loomweights	42	297
Animal bone	243	142
Human bone	187	2,504 (inc lots of compacted soil)

6.4.2 Square ditched enclosure 2 (SDE 2) (Figs 7 and 13)

6.4.2.1 The enclosure ditches

Square ditched enclosure 2 (SDE 2), located to the west of enclosure 1(SDE 1), was a small enclosure formed by eight single-phased, U-shaped ditches (F440a, F440b, F444, F449, F501, F505, F511, F794). These ditches were filled with a grey silty clay and were on average 0.7m wide and a very shallow 0.19m deep, enclosing an area 15m x 20m (300 square metres). The enclosure had two entrances; one definite entrance (2m wide) on its south side and probably an opposing one on the north edge (although the ditches were too shallow to show this clearly).

6.4.2.2 The internal features

No structural remains were recorded within this enclosure either, and only one other feature (pit F508) is believed to be contemporary with it.

6.4.2.3 The finds

Table 9: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features associated with SDE 2.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	439	2,674
Brick and tile	23	642
Briquetage	1	38
Puddingstone quern	3	5,313
Metal-working debris: undiagnostic	1	2

6.4.2.4 F507

Ditch F507 cut this enclosure at some later point, but does not seem to belong to Phase 3; it is uncertain what this activity represents.

6.4.3 Ditches (Figs 7 and 13)

6.4.3.1 The ditches

Six other ditches that do not belong to the enclosures mentioned above also date to this phase. F312, a long U-shaped ditch, on average 1.13m wide and 0.45m deep, extended west-east from the western edge of the excavation and then turned south-west to north-east, aligning itself with F8 (the northern edge of SDE 1). Ditches F458 and F463 both branched off from F312. F453, a U-shaped ditch, 1.09m wide and 0.52m deep, extended east-west across the middle of the site and lined up with the entrance to the large enclosure (SDE 1). It is uncertain where the western end of F453 was as the large enclosure of Phase 3 (SDE 3) cuts through it. Ditch F586 branches off from F453 extending in a north-west direction and just cuts F312 before it ends. The final ditch, F450, extends along the southern edge of SDE 1 and appears to form a small entrance with F453 leading into the northern half of the site from the southern. Ditch F453 did contain 17 pieces (at 120g) of medieval pottery; however, as it was recovered from the surface and upper fill of one section, this pottery probably represents intrusive material caused by later medieval activity over the ditch. Ditch F453 appears to have still been in use into Phase 3.

It also appears as though some of the ditches to the south of the site may have survived from Phase 1 into Phase 2; ditches F117, F145 and F323 all produced evidence dating to the early 2nd century. It is uncertain how much activity was centred on these ditches (or the enclosure they were a part of) in this phase as, except for a small quantity of early 2nd-century pottery, all the other material remains could belong to either phase (so details of these features have been primarily discussed under Phase 1).

6.4.3.2 The finds

Table 10: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the ditches.

(Note: table does not include ditches F117, F145, F323.)

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	2,235	16,727
Brick and tile	23	1,802
Daub	6	21
Animal bone	379	1,864
Briquetage	1	45
Loomweight	1	36
Puddingstone quern	8	2,175
Lava quern	3	641
Worked stone	1	227
Iron fragment	2	538
Iron nail	1	2
Burnt flint	2	76

6.4.4 Droveways (Figs 7 and 13)

Three droveways were laid out across the landscape of this phase leading into the centre of the site from the north, east and south-west.

Droveway 1 – Ditch F444 on the eastern side of SDE 2 was parallel to the western edge of SDE 1 (ditch F305); both southern butt ends were in alignment although the far north of ditch F444 disappeared before its end, so it is uncertain if the northern butt ends would also have aligned. This created a droveway 13m wide and 41m long which led into the centre of the site from the north.

Droveway 2 – Droveway 2 was formed by the southern edge of SDE 1 (ditch F714) and ditch F450 on the north side and then ditch F117 (see Phase 1) on the south, which created a route approximately 11m wide and 60m long which led into the site from the east.

Droveway 3 – Droveway 3 was formed by a parallel section of ditches F312 and F145, which extended from the south-west corner into the centre of the site. Together these ditches formed a droveway approximately 35-45m wide and 65m long. Half-way along this length, ditches F458 and F463 branched out from ditch F312 to form some sort of barrier across the droveway, and further along a smaller entrance into the north of the site was formed by ditches F450 and F453.

6.4.5 Isolated pits and stake-holes (Fig 7)

Seven pits (F46, F185, F413, F478, F488, F546, F632) and three stake-holes (collectively numbered as F196) also date to this phase.

Table 11: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the isolated pits and stake-holes.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	440	2,002
Brick and tile	2	288
Daub	15	320
Animal bone	1	3
Briquetage	3	85

6.5 Period 2 Phase 3 – early 2nd to late 2nd century AD (Figs 8 and 13-14)

Period 2 Phase 3 is dated from the early 2nd century AD to the late 2nd century AD and is the last phase of Roman occupation on the site.

6.5.1 Square ditched enclosure 3 (SDE 3) (Figs 8 and 13-14)

During this phase, a large square ditched enclosure (SDE 3) was constructed over the northern half of the site. No structural remains were recorded within the enclosure.

6.5.1.1 The enclosure ditches

This large square ditched enclosure consisted of six U-shaped ditches (F2 and its later recut F1, F4, F18, F301, F304) filled with a grey/brown silty clay; they were on average 3m wide and 0.70m deep and enclosed an area approximately 125m x 100m, at a total of 12,500 square metres (measurements assume that F2 and F18 meet in a north-east corner off of the edge of the excavation). Unusually ditch F4 appeared to continue eastwards off the edge of the excavation after it had formed the south-east corner of the enclosure with ditch F2.

6.5.1.2 The entrances

SDE 3 had three formal entrances on its north, east and southern edges.

The northern entrance

The northern entrance consisted of an opening 7m wide within ditch F18. Two ditches, F412 and F479 (on average 0.76m wide and 0.17m deep), then formed a droveway approximately 60m long and 7m wide which extended from the north of the site, through the entrance, and into the enclosure (although only ditch F479 appears to continue into the enclosure beyond the entrance). Ditch F18 was dug as a continuous feature along the northern side of the enclosure, so although no evidence was recorded it is assumed that some kind of surface or structure was erected over this ditch to form the entrance.

The eastern entrance (and possible western entrance)

The eastern entrance consisted of an opening 7m wide within ditch F2. From the entrance, two ditches formed a droveway into the enclosure. These two ditches, F16 on the north side (which was replaced at some point within this phase by ditch F57) and F15 on the south, created a droveway 25m long and 5m wide that began just within the entrance and led into the enclosure. Ditch F33 was dug between these two ditches, at 25m along, which created a smaller opening 3m wide (pointing south) that may have been used to filter entrants into the enclosure. Ditch F15 ended at the point where it met ditch F33 but ditch F16/F57 continued into the centre where the line of this ditch was picked up by ditches F446 and F543 which lead to the western edge of the enclosure. Ditch F803 also followed the line of ditches F446 and F543; it is uncertain if these ditches were contemporary. Ditch F453 (still in use from Phase 2) extended parallel to ditches F446 and F543 heading from the centre of the enclosure to the south-west corner. No entrance was obvious on the western/south-

western edge of the enclosure, but later medieval activity over this area may have removed any evidence.

Aside from the ditches, two post-holes (F58 and F68) were set just within the entrance on either side of the opening, the posts of which may have formed a structure over the entrance.

The southern entrance

The southern entrance consisted of an opening between ditches F304 and F714 at 6m wide. It had no ditches forming droveways that led into or through it, and there was only one post-hole (F782) set within the opening, the post of which may or may not have formed part of a structure over the entrance.

6.5.1.3 The internal ditches

As well as the entrance features mentioned above, SDE 3 contained many internal divisions formed by ditches laid out over the area, which created an almost grid-like pattern aligned north-south and east-west. The 27 ditches (F10, F23-F24, F30-F31, F32, F59-F60, F85, F310, F313-F314, F351-F352, F406, F409-F410, F414, F432, F436, F439, F441, F443, F445, F477, F480, F518) were on average 0.4-1.4m wide and 0.03-0.5m deep and were filled with a grey/brown silty clay. These divisions were all restricted to the area north of the eastern entrance ditches (F15, F16/F57, F446, F543). To the south of these entrance features, there were no formal divisions and only small ditches (F34, F38, F726) belong to this phase. In fact, the eastern (and western) entrance ditches themselves do not conform to the formal layout of the site and are aligned at a slight diagonal to the main enclosure. It is possible that the enclosure was abandoned before the grid was laid out over the entire area.

6.5.1.4 The stone surfaces

A number of stone surfaces were recorded within this enclosure and appear to have sealed certain sections of both the enclosure and internal ditches. These surfaces may represent later trackways/paths over the ditches; L5 sealed enclosure ditch F2 (in Sx 2), L11 sealed enclosure ditch F18 (in Sx 3), L13 sealed internal ditch F10 (in Sx 2 and Sx 3), and gravel deposits L104 sealed the corner of internal ditches F313 and F314.

6.5.1.5 The pits and post-holes

A total of eleven pits (F20, F36, F55, F63, F65, F369, F418, F424, F427, F471, F506) and one pit/post-hole (F49) produced material of a late date. Eight of these pits and the pit/post-hole were located in the south-east corner of the enclosure (below the eastern entrance), two pits were located within the north-east corner and one pit in the western half of the enclosure; the last pit was unplanned.

6.5.1.6 The finds

Table 12: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features associated with SDE 3.

(Note: table does not include ditch F453; this feature was primarily discussed within Phase 2; section 6.4.3).

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	6,602	71,322
Brick and tile	224	16,016
Flue tile	4	252
Daub	127	1,568
Hearth lining	4	25
Animal bone	261	1,070
Briquetage	6	133
Loomweights	28	396
Lava quern	115	5,575
Worked stone	2	1,557
Utilised stone	2	499
Glass	3	35
Burnt flint	26	295
Copper-alloy objects	3	10
Lead object	1	8
Iron fragments	3	114
Iron nail	9	143
Metal-working debris: possible smithing slag	1	12

6.5.2 Square ditched enclosure 4 (SDE 4) (Figs 8 and 14)

A smaller square ditched enclosure (SDE 4) was also constructed within this phase to the south of the site and appears to have been contemporary with its larger neighbour (SDE 3). No structural remains were recorded within this enclosure.

6.5.2.1 The ditches

Six single-phased, U-shaped ditches (F93-F94, F109, F113, F119, F130), on average 1.1m wide and 0.41m deep, enclosed an area approximately 50m x 60m at a total of 3,300 square metres.

6.5.2.2 The entrances

The enclosure had two entrances, on its northern and southern edges.

The northern entrance

The northern entrance, at 5m wide, was set between ditches F113 and F130. Two post-holes (F146 and F177) were dug just within this entrance and their posts may have formed a formal structure over the opening.

The southern entrance

The southern entrance, also 5m wide, was set between ditches F94 and F109. Ditch F128 led into the enclosure on the eastern side of this entrance and may have formed part of a droveway, although no ditch was observed on the other side of the opening.

6.5.2.3 The internal features

No structural remains were recorded within the enclosure, and only three other features (pits F110, F115 and F118) date to this phase.

6.5.2.4 The finds

Table 13: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features associated with SDE 4.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	930	12,850
Brick and tile	27	3,360
Flue tile	1	11
Daub	24	77
Animal bone	10	23
Loomweights	2	64
Worked stone	3	154
Copper-alloy object	1	1
Iron nails	3	4
Burnt flint	4	55

6.5.3 Features outside the enclosures (Fig 8)

A total of five features date to this phase that were not associated with either of the two enclosures:

Features outside SDE 3 – gravel surface F6, ditch F13, and pit F628 were located outside SDE 3.

Features outside SDE 4 – two small ditches (F96 and F165) were located outside SDE 4.

Table 14: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features outside SDE 3.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	98	1,023
Brick and tile	4	665

Table 15: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features outside SDE 4.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	23	288
Brick and tile	1	153
Lava quern	3	283
Frit melon bead	1	1

6.6 Period 3 Phase 4 – the medieval period (12th-13th century) (Figs 9 and 15-16)

Period 3 Phase 4 is dated to the 12th-13th century.

6.6.1 The medieval building, two 4-post structures and other pits and post-holes (Figs 9 and 15-16)

A building, two 4-post structures and numerous other pits and post-holes of medieval date were recorded in the south-west corner of the site.

6.6.1.1 The building

The medieval building consisted of eleven post-holes (F382, F385, F633, F638-F640, F680, F752-F755), on average 0.72m wide and 0.23m deep, the posts of which would have formed a structure 12m long and 5m wide. A total of 26 pieces at 99g of medieval pottery was recovered from these post-holes.

6.6.1.2 The 4-post structures

The first 4-post structure (no 1; post-holes F682, F686, F689-F690) was located to the west of the building. Each post-hole was on average 0.66m wide and 0.15m deep and together the posts would have created a structure 1m x 1.5m, which contained 18 pieces at 114g of medieval pottery.

The second 4-post structure (no 2; F326, F328-F329, F341) was located to the east of the building. These post-holes were on average 0.54m wide and 0.12m deep and the posts would have formed a structure 2m x 2m. Only Middle Iron Age pottery (1:2g) was recovered from these post-holes but it is assumed that this structure also dates to the medieval period.

6.6.1.3 The other pits and post-holes

A total of four pits (F616, F707, F771, F792), five pit/post-holes (F608, F641-F643, F693) and one post-hole (F692) were also located within this south-west corner and produced medieval pottery, and so are probably contemporary with the building.

6.6.1.4 The finds

Table 16: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features associated with the medieval building, two 4-post structures and other pits/post-holes.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Medieval pottery	205	1,478
MIA/LIA/Roman pottery	6	63
Brick and tile	22	5,465
Daub	9	37
Burnt flint	1	23

6.6.2 The field system (Figs 9 and 15)

During the medieval period, an irregular series of ditches was laid out over the site and appears to have formed a field system.

6.6.2.1 The ditches

Eight ditches (F82, F166-F167, F324, F515, F629-F630, F652) extended across the site, and these produced medieval pottery; a total of 390 pieces at 3857g. Fifteen other ditches (F40, F181, F398, F462, F493-F494, F497, F514, F592, F594, F599, F623, F757, F801-F802), that did not produce any medieval material, also appear to belong to this phase as they fulfilled one of two criteria: (1) they sealed features from Phase 3, or (2) they had a clear relationship with the datable medieval features.

There is evidence to suggest that part of the large square ditched enclosure (SDE 3) of Phase 3 may have survived as an earthwork into this period, as medieval ditches F398, F629 and F630 all branch off from its south-west corner. Furthermore, a total of 23 pieces (at 118g) of medieval pottery was recovered from the surface and upper fills of the corner of ditch F301/F304 and the upper fill of the corner of ditch F18/F304.

6.6.2.2 The finds

Table 17: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the features associated with the medieval ditches.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Medieval pottery	390	3,857
MIA/LIA/Roman pottery	445	2,690
Brick and tile	44	3,221
Daub	50	364
Animal bone	5	9
Briquetage	1	5
Lava and Puddingstone quern	4	1,580
Pottery counters	2	224
Glass	1	4
Oyster shells	37	83
Iron fragments	1	23
Iron nails	3	20
Metal-working debris:		
smithing hearth bottom	1	254
possible smithing slag	1	56

6.7 Unphased Roman/medieval features (Fig 3)

6.7.1 The features (Fig 3)

Twenty features produced material dated to the Roman period but, as they could not be dated more specifically, they could not be assigned to a phase. These features consist of fifteen pits (F337, F376, F522, F615, F622, F626, F634, F646, F654-F655, F687, F705, F715, F798), two post-holes (F47, F711), one pit/post-hole (F635), two ditches (F451, F728), and one slot (F466).

6.7.2 The finds

Table 18: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the unphased Roman/medieval features.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	72	959
Brick and tile	29	2,016
Worked/architectural stone	1	3,000
Iron nail	1	5
Burnt flint	1	4

6.8 Later medieval, post-medieval and modern features (Fig 3)

6.8.1 15th-16th centuries (Fig 3)

A small quantity (five pieces at 48g) of 15th- to 16th-century pottery was recovered from ditch F167 and pit F707 suggesting that some form of activity may have occurred on this site in this period.

6.8.2 Post-medieval (Fig 3)

Two post-medieval boundary ditches were recorded on the site. Ditch F9 extended at a slight north-east to south-west angle cutting all earlier archaeological features, and ditch F540 extended from the west of the site into the centre (at a right-angle to F9) but disappeared before reaching the main area of archaeological activity. L3 is a post-medieval silt deposit that sealed all archaeological features and layers (not on plan).

6.8.3 Modern (not on plan; see archive for full description and location)

Two modern boundary ditches (F19 and F25) and 30 other modern features/layers were recorded across the site.

6.9 Undated features (Fig 3)

6.9.1 The undated features containing archaeological material (Fig 3)

A total of six features, ie five pits (F56, F133, F637, F685, F793) and one burnt patch (F537), produced small quantities of archaeological material that could not be dated (see archive for full details).

6.9.2 The undated features containing no archaeological material (Fig 3)

A total of 160 features produced no archaeological material (some of these might be natural deposits): 73 pits; 34 post-holes; 21 pits/post-holes; nine ditches; seven charcoal patches; five gullies; four burnt patches; two ditches/gullies; one stake-hole; one charcoal/burnt patch; one pit/hearth base; one hearth base; and one stone feature (see site archive for full details).

7 Finds

Note: during excavation, many of the features were given one or more feature/layer numbers as it was uncertain at the time as to whether they were a part of the same feature/layer or were a part of a separate feature/layer. In this report, this multitude of numbers has been simplified and all numbers given to a feature/layer have been discussed under the first feature number given out on site (or the first layer number if there are no associated feature numbers). So, for example, the eastern side of the large square enclosure ditch (SDE 3) of Phase 3 is discussed as F2; however, on the site this ditch was also given the numbers F3, F7, F70 and F98. Although in the overall report these numbers have been simplified (as F2), these numbers still exist in the archive and the finds lists. Some of the numbering in the finds reports below has been amended but it was impossible to do this for others (and for the archive), and thus there are finds discussed under feature/layer numbers that are not mentioned in the rest of this report. Please refer to Table 54 (section 13) for full details on the numbering system and to relate extra feature/layer numbers to the actual feature/layer numbers used in this report.

7.1 The pre-Belgic pottery

by Paul R Sealey

7.1.1 Introduction

The excavations at Abbotstone field produced 1202 sherds of pre-Belgic pottery weighing 7.968kg. By 'pre-Belgic' (an old-fashioned, but convenient term) is meant any prehistoric pottery earlier than the introduction of Late Iron Age wheel-thrown and grog-tempered wares of so-called 'Belgic' type. At Abbotstone, pre-Belgic pottery was retrieved from 98 features. The average sherd weight is only 6.6g and shows that the pottery had been thoroughly broken and abraded before final deposition in the contexts excavated, possibly with a sequence of disturbance beforehand.

The composition of the pottery by type is given in Table 19. Its stratigraphy and phasing are discussed below. Neolithic pottery is represented by two sherds residual in a Roman context. Four pits of Late Bronze Age date were recognised, one of which produced over a kilo of pottery. No features of Early Iron Age date were identified, but activity of that date in the vicinity is evident from a very few sherds of initial Iron Age date residual in Late Iron Age and Roman contexts. It was identified on the basis of its distinctive decoration and typology. Pottery of that date in Essex would normally be of Darmsden-Linton type, but some of the Abbotstone material finds its only parallels at Wandlebury hill-fort, and indicates contact with south Cambridgeshire.

Table 19: quantification of the pre-Belgic pottery by type.

	sherd count	percentage of total	sherd weight (g)	percentage of total
Neolithic	2	0.2	12	0.2
Late Bronze Age	203	16.9	1,248	15.7
Early Iron Age	8	0.7	65	0.8
Middle Iron Age	989	82.3	6,643	83.4
Totals	**1,202**		**7,968**	

Just over four-fifths of the pre-Belgic pottery is Middle Iron Age. A fifth of the Middle Iron Age pottery was residual in Flavian and later contexts. At least some Middle Iron Age pottery must also have been residual in the ditches of round ditched enclosure 1 (RDE 1). It is not possible to gauge how much because these ditches were filling with debris in the period that covered the transition from the middle to the Late Iron Age.

Table 20: site features with concentrations of Middle Iron Age pottery.

	sherd count	percentage of MIA pot	sherd weight (g)	percentage of MIA pot
RDE 1 – ditch F54	234	23.7	1732	26.1
RDE 1 – ditch F336	26	2.6	235	3.5
RDE 2 – ditch F353	36	3.6	68	1.0
RDE 2 – ditch F356	117	11.8	997	15.0
ditch F105	42	4.2	338	5.1
pit F125	64	6.5	392	5.9
pit F137	111	11.2	359	5.4
pit F371	3	0.3	261	3.9
Totals	**633**	**63.9**	**4382**	**65.9**

The most prolific single source of Middle Iron Age pottery was ditch F54 of the Phase 1 round ditched enclosure 1 (RDE 1; Table 20). There were only tiny quantities from the post-holes of the round-house (30 sherds weighing 122g), showing that its construction took place after the Middle Iron Age. More was present in the Phase 1 ditches of round ditched enclosure 2 (RDE 2). Both of these enclosure ditches produced 45.6% by weight of the Middle Iron Age pottery from Abbotstone. A further 20.3% was retrieved from features adjacent to RDE 2; the ditch F105, and the pits F125, F137 and F371. Otherwise Middle Iron Age pottery was only ever present in tiny quantities, with most contexts having less than 10-15 sherds.

7.1.2 Report objectives

The pre-Belgic pottery was studied in the first instance to elucidate site chronology. Most of the pottery in question is Middle Iron Age. A research agenda for the Iron Age in eastern England called for the publication of quantified pottery assemblages, and remarked on the lack of such reports (Bryant 2000, 14-15). In fact, our database of Early and Middle Iron Age pottery in the region is so limited that it is still difficult to define specific research objectives. In particular there is a dearth of Middle Iron Age pottery from Colchester and north-east Essex: it is hoped that the pottery from the Abbotstone site will go some way towards filling this gap in our knowledge. Pottery of the same date was recovered from the nearby site at Stanway and the report includes an examination of the relationship between the two assemblages. Abbotstone produced a few sherds of Early Iron Age date, residual in their contexts. As their typology and decoration is atypical of Essex, the report has attempted to elucidate their affinities.

7.1.3 Methodology and quantification

The pottery was studied along lines laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group and the format recommended for the publication of prehistoric pottery reports has also been followed here (PCRG 1997). All the sherds were examined macroscopically and with the aid of a hand lens with a magnification of x15 to establish the fabrics present. Examination of fabrics in a fresh fracture was avoided because of the tiny size of the sherds. Sherds from each bag were counted, weighed (to the nearest gramme) and assigned to a fabric group. Sherd counts, sherd weights and average sherd weights were then established for each fabric by phase. Calculations are correct to one decimal place.

7.1.4 Pottery archive

There is a pottery archive. It consists of data on paper but with the major components on disk as well, so that the information can be copied for research students. The archive includes ink sketches of all rim and base sherds by the writer (apart from the tiniest scraps). The primary units of excavated pottery kept by the Colchester Archaeological Trust are bag numbers, rather than context numbers (an individual context may be made up of several bag numbers). Data exists in the archive of the quantification of the pottery by sherd count and fabric for each bag. Record sheets for each bag include information about average sherd weight, decoration, burnt residues and any other information worth recording.

7.1.5 Fabric groupings

All the fabrics were fired in a reducing atmosphere to give pottery that is black, sometimes with darker or lighter brown and grey patches. Inclusions are described as temper whether or not there is reason to think they were deliberate additions to the clay by the potter. The only inclusions that might be described as temper in the technical sense are those which do not occur naturally, ie crushed burnt flint (which appears as angular white grains), chopped vegetable matter and grog (crushed pottery). Even some of these might be accidental additions introduced by the conditions in which the potter worked (Woudhuysen 1998, 33). To a greater or lesser degree, all the Abbotstone fabrics have inclusions of the fine silver mica typical of much prehistoric and Roman pottery from Essex and East Anglia; it is quite distinct from the black or golden mica found in wares elsewhere in Britain (Swan & Bidwell 1998, 23).

The pottery was divided into fabric groups using a modified version of the scheme devised for Essex by Brown (1988, 263-4). Sand and flint inclusions were divided on the basis of size with a numeric code as follows: 1, < 0.25mm; 2, < 1mm; and 3, < 2mm. Two more size categories were recognised with flint: 4, < 4mm; and 5, > 4mm. Chalk inclusions are described as 2, being < 2mm. Inclusions were divided on the basis of their frequency into three categories designated A, B and C as follows: A, < 6 grains per cm²; B, 6-10 grains per cm²; and C, > 10 grains per cm². The fourteen fabrics present are the same as those reported from the adjacent Stanway site (Crummy *et al* forth).

Fabric A	fine sand (1)
Fabric B	fine sand (1) with vegetable temper
Fabric C	sand (2A-2C)
Fabric D	sand (2A-2C) with vegetable temper (sand 2A-2B)
Fabric E	coarse sand (3A)
Fabric F	fine flint (1A-1B and 2A-2B)
Fabric G	fine flint and sand (flint 1A, with sand 1 and 2A)
Fabric H	flint and sand (flint 2A-2B, with sand 1 and 2A-2C)
Fabric I	coarse flint (flint 3A-3C and 4A)
Fabric J	coarse flint and sand (flint 3A-3B, with sand 1, 2A-2C and 3A)
Fabric K	coarser flint and sand (flint 4A, with sand 1, and 2A-2B)
Fabric L	very coarse flint (5A)
Fabric M	very coarse flint and sand (flint 5A, with sand 1, 2A-2C and 3A)
Fabric N	chalk and sand (chalk 2A, with sand 2A-2B)

7.1.6 Phasing of the pre-Belgic pottery

The earliest pottery is two sherds of late Neolithic Grooved Ware in Fabric F from the same vessel, residual in the Phase 2 Roman ditch F8; the decorated rim is illustrated (Fig 17 no 1). On the inside of the rim bevel there are three horizontal grooves. Closely-spaced horizontal grooves continue down the outside of the rim; the fifth and sixth grooves from the top are decorated with neat triangular stab marks.

Grooved Ware can be assigned to the 3rd millennium BC in England and Wales, quite possibly within the centuries *c* 2900-2100 BC (Garwood 1999, 152). On balance, the affinities of the rim from Abbotstone seem to lie with the Clacton style. Enough survives to show that it came from a tub-shaped pot with a diameter at the mouth of some 14cm and a wall that fell away steeply in a straight or slightly splayed profile. Such vessels are typical of the Clacton style (Wainwright & Longworth 1971, 237). Double or triple grooves inside or just below the rim were common at the type site of Lion Point, Clacton in Essex (Longworth *et al* 1971, pl 34 nos P4 & P7, pl 35 *passim*), although most rims with this decoration are plain and rounded. The internal bevel is a feature more typical of the Durrington Walls style (Wainwright & Longworth 1971, 240), as represented in some quantity by the Tye Field, Lawford material from Essex (Smith 1986). But it might be significant that our rim finds no parallel among the many bevelled rims from Durrington Walls itself (Wainwright & Longworth 1971, fig 20). Although rims with an internal bevel are uncommon in the Clacton style, one with internal grooving on the bevel is present at Lion Point (Longworth *et al* 1971, pl 34 no P3).

Otherwise the first coherent assemblage is the small group of 202 Late Bronze Age plain ware sherds from features dating to before the Middle Iron Age (Phase 0), weighing 1.222kg (Table 21). The only concentration was the 1.158kg in pit F22, just outside RDE 1. It included a fine ware thin-walled bowl with a wiped surface and a coarse jar with flat base and steep straight lower wall; a body sherd from the same pot has pinched decoration formed by finger-tip impressions (Fig 17 nos 2-3). The only other Late Bronze Age features were three pits on the south-east edge of the excavation (F539, F658 and F671). The last two of these lay side by side. All these pit groups have in common an absolute predominance of flint-tempered pottery, 93.1 and 98.3 % by sherd count and weight respectively. A sherd from the upper fill of the Phase 1 ditch F145 had flint rough-casting on the base, a typical feature of Late Bronze Age pottery (Rigby 1988, 103; Fig 17 no 4). Another (unillustrated) such base was present in F22. The base from F145 was the only residual Bronze Age pottery identified.

Table 21: sherd counts and sherd weights by fabric for the Late Bronze Age pottery from features dating to before the Middle Iron Age (Phase 0).

Fabric	sherd count	percentage by count	sherd weight (g)	percentage by weight
A	12	5.9	14	1.1
F	121	59.9	324	26.5
I	67	33.2	877	71.8
J	2	1.0	7	0.6
Totals	**202**		**1,222**	

The Early Iron Age material from Abbotstone was tiny in terms of quantity: only eight sherds weighing 65g. As it was all residual in its contexts, it was not felt necessary to allocate it a separate phase number. Despite its size, the material is important because it is evidence for contact with south Cambridgeshire. In view of its intrinsic interest, it has been reserved for description and discussion later in this report (pp 23-5).

The only other pre-Belgic pottery from Abbotstone was almost exclusively Middle Iron Age. Including the very few Grooved Ware, Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age sherds as minor residual elements, it amounted to exactly 1000 sherds weighing 6.746kg. Its average sherd weight is 6.7g.

Two concentrations of Middle Iron Age pottery can be recognised. The first (possibly earlier concentration) is defined by the Middle Iron Age pottery that dominated the fill of the enclosure ditch of RDE 2. Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered from the uppermost fill of the enclosure ditch. Details are given in Table 23. Droveway 2 (especially ditch F105) can be regarded as contemporary.

The second (later) concentration produced rather less Middle Iron Age pottery than the first and some of it was certainly residual. But not all. A third of the pottery from RDE 1 ditch fills was Middle Iron Age, with the remainder Late Iron Age or early Roman. It seems reasonable to suggest that the ditches of RDE 1 had started to fill when Late Iron Age Aylesford-Swarling or 'Belgic' pottery made its first appearance but when pottery of Middle Iron Age type was still in use. There were only tiny quantities from the post-holes of the round-house in RDE 1 (30 sherds weighing 122g), showing that its construction took place after the Middle Iron Age. Middle Iron Age pottery from Phases 2 to 4 was residual, although still significant in terms of quantity.

The relative chronology of these two concentrations might be straightforward, but the absolute dating is a more difficult topic. There is a review of Middle Iron Age chronology in the report on the Stanway site (Sealey forthcoming) and a summary of the position need only be given here. Hand-made Middle Iron Age pottery of the kind found at the Abbotstone and Stanway sites was current in Essex and neighbouring counties from *c* 300 BC until at least 50 BC. It was displaced by wheel-thrown pottery tempered with grog in the 1st century BC. This new departure in ceramics marks the advent of Aylesford-Swarling or 'Belgic' pottery and heralds the start of the Late Iron Age. Such pottery is found in cremation graves from at least as early as *c* 75 BC but

did not become significant on settlement sites until later, replacing Middle Iron Age wares *c* 50-25 BC. On this view, the ditches of RDE 1 at Abbotstone were filling with rubbish from *c* 50-25 BC. RDE 2 (where Middle Iron Age pottery was predominant) was earlier. Bearing in mind that flint temper was gradually replaced by sand temper in the Middle Iron Age (but at different rates on different sites, see pp 26), the dominance of sand tempers from RDE 2 suggests that its ditches ceased to be kept clean of rubbish and were allowed to fill later – rather than earlier – in the period *c* 300-50 BC. A date towards the end of the 2nd century BC seems reasonable.

Table 22: Middle and Late Iron Age to Roman pottery from RDE 1.

	sherd count	percentage of total	sherd weight (g)	percentage of total
Middle Iron Age	260	33.0	1,967	33.2
Late Iron Age and Roman	526	67.0	3,958	66.8
Totals	**786**		**5,925**	

Table 23: Middle and Late Iron Age to Roman pottery from RDE 2.

	sherd count	percentage of total	sherd weight (g)	percentage of total
Middle Iron Age	153	86.9	1,065	92.4
Late Iron Age and Roman	23	13.1	87	7.5
Totals	**176**		**1,152**	

Table 24: incidence of Middle Iron Age pottery by phase.

	sherd count	percentage of total	sherd weight (g)	percentage of total
Phase 1 concentration 1	466	46.6	2,904	43.0
Phase 1 concentration 2	349	34.9	2,484	36.8
Phases 2-5	172	17.2	1,292	19.2
U/S	13	1.3	66	0.9
Totals	**1,000**		**6,746**	

7.1.7 Typology and decoration of the Middle Iron Age pottery

No complete profile could be restored, but it is clear that the assemblage is dominated by bowls and jars with slack S-profiles. Typically the rim, neck and shoulder form a continuous and graceful curve (Fig 17 nos 8, 11, 17, 27 & 29). A large body sherd gives an impression of the typical body profile (Fig 17 no 18). Sometimes there is a slight break in the curvature between the shoulder and neck (Fig 17 no 24). At its most extreme, this gives a vessel with a carination at the junction of shoulder and neck topped by a rim that arches prominently outwards in a deep curve (Fig 17 no 21), but in general sharply arched necks are exceptional (Fig 17 no 23). On most vessels the neck is a slight feature marked only by a gentle inward curve below the rim (Fig 17 no 14). More or less neckless pots are represented by vessels where the wall falls away steeply from the rim (Fig 17 no 10). Sometimes the neck is absent because a vertical rim rises directly from the shoulder (Fig 17 nos 22 & 28).

The rim forms themselves are typically simplicity itself and take the form of a plain rounded moulding (Fig 17 nos 9, 17, 22 & 28). Sometimes they are thickened slightly at the very top (Fig 17 no 29). A few rims had been trimmed to give a flat top with square profile, sometimes also thickened at the top (Fig 17 nos 14 & 31). One exceptional rim is undercut to give something approaching a bead rim (Fig 17 no 19). Another unusual rim has a flat upper surface that projects outwards with weak mouldings beneath (Fig 17 no 25).

Bases are almost always flat. As a rule, the base is thicker than the wall above to give the vessel greater stability. Occasionally a straight steep wall rises from the base, but more typically the profile has a gentle change in curvature where the body wall rises from the foot. Only one vessel has a dished lower surface to the base to give something approaching a pedestal base (Fig 17 nos 12, 15-16, 26, 30).

An exceptional Middle Iron Age vessel is a hand-made neckless jar in Fabric C with corrugated decoration below the rim (Fig 17 no 13). Corrugations are not a feature of Middle Iron Age pottery in Essex and the pot from the Abbotstone site is a copy of a ceramic style that emerged in the Late Iron Age with the appearance of Aylesford-Swarling or 'Belgic' pottery. An interesting series of corrugated jars and bowls from a ditch dated *c* 50-25 BC at Kelvedon (Essex) exemplify the prototypes of the pot from Abbotstone (Rodwell 1988, fig 80 nos 53-7, 58 & 62, 107). The fill of the pit F392 was otherwise exclusively Middle Iron Age, but the corrugated sherd came from the upper fill and was presumably discarded later when Aylesford-Swarling pottery was starting to make an impact in Essex in the 1st century BC. Despite the fact that activity at the Abbotstone site spanned the decades that saw the introduction of this new style of ceramics, there is nothing else that need be transitional between the Middle and Late Iron Age.

Decoration on the Middle Iron Age pottery from the site is inconspicuous. On body sherds, it is exceptionally rare: less than 1 % of the Middle Iron Age sherds have any kind of surface marking at all (8 out of 1,000 sherds, 0.8 %). Such decoration consists of light combing or faint lines running down the vessel from the shoulder in more or less a vertical direction (Fig 17 nos 21 & 24). Significantly these two illustrated vessels also have decorated rims. Two sherds have incised or grooved lines. One of them has tramlines intersecting at a right angle reminiscent of the East Midlands scored ware found in counties to the north-west (Elsdon 1992).

Table 25: incidence of Middle Iron Age pottery with decorated rims.

Phase	number of plain rim sherds	number of decorated rim sherds
Phase 1 concentration 1	17	2
Phase 1 concentration 2	14	5
2-5	6	5
Totals	**37**	**12**

Decoration is only ever a regular component of the rim sherds but it is never common even there, with rather less than a quarter of all rim sherds having some form of decoration (24.5 %, 12 out of 49 sherds). Rim decoration takes the form of straight parallel incisions cut obliquely across the top of the rim to give a cabled effect (Fig 17 nos 20-21) or impressions of finger-tips or finger-tips-with-nails (Fig 17 nos 24 & 27).

7.1.8 Typology and decoration of the Early Iron Age pottery

The most unexpected component of the prehistoric pottery was three sherds from two hand-made Early Iron Age vessels (Fig 17 nos 5-6) whose typology is foreign to Essex and which can be proposed as imports from south Cambridgeshire. Five other sherds from a hand-made vessel are decorated with impressed circlets, an unusual motif in prehistoric Essex. This circlet-decorated vessel (Fig 17 no 7) is also Early Iron Age and if not an import to the county, exemplifies a motif that is apparently non-local in inspiration. Each vessel will be described in turn.

A fine ware bowl in Fabric C with incised decoration was present in the upper fill of F54, the ditch of round ditched enclosure 1 (RDE 1). Its profile is that of an angular tripartite bowl with a narrow and steep shoulder ledge. Above the shoulder ledge the rim slopes inwards. Just below the shoulder there is a row of oval finger-tip impressions set above a zone of horizontal combing. Below that there are two bands with oblique score marks resting on two other zones of horizontal combed decoration. The style of the decoration is different from the grooves on Darmsden-Linton pottery, which give the impression of having been executed individually. On this vessel the decoration seems to have been done with a comb (Fig 17 no 6).

The second vessel is a flared fine ware rim in Fabric C from the same context. On the exterior below the outward-flaring rim the clay had been cut away to give a tiny ledge-like shoulder feature (Fig 17 no 7).

Both vessels are Early Iron Age. The narrow shoulder ledges clearly relate to the carinations on Darmsden-Linton pottery and other ceramic styles of the initial Iron Age such as Chinnor-Wandlebury (Cunliffe 1968, 178-88; Cunliffe 1974, 39,

fig A:10). In the Early Iron Age, finger-tip impressions such as those on one of the pots from Abbotstone are found on the bodies of vessels as well as on the rims. Eventually finger-tip impressions on the body passed out of fashion and the technique became confined to the rim (Percival 2000, 112).

It is difficult to integrate the two pots from the Abbotstone site with what we know of Darmsden-Linton pottery because their typology is so atypical. Shoulder ledges on Darmsden-Linton carinated bowls are broader and the rim above *always* slopes out, not inwards as on one of the pots from the Abbotstone site.

Parallels are to be found at Wandlebury hill-fort in south Cambridgeshire, 7.5 km beyond the Essex county boundary. The Early Iron Age material there includes two bowls with narrow shoulder ledges and rims above that slope inwards. One of them has oval finger-tip impressions as on the sherds from the Abbotstone site. A third vessel has another narrow shoulder ledge (Hartley 1957, figs 7-8 nos 11, 16 & 45). Although the Wandlebury pottery does not have the combed decoration of one of the pots from the Abbotstone site, the typological congruence between the pottery from Abbotstone and Wandlebury is compelling. Petrological analysis of the pots from Abbotstone would be unlikely to advance matters because the tempers used over much of south-eastern Britain are not diagnostic to source. But both have the fine silver mica one has come to expect of pottery from Essex and East Anglia, and this is consistent with an origin in Cambridgeshire. Their typology is anomalous for Essex and these two fine ware bowls from Abbotstone are exotic pieces, with an origin in south Cambridgeshire. It is unusual to be able to recognise imported pottery in Early to Middle Iron Age Essex and the bowls from Abbotstone are a significant addition to knowledge.

Wandlebury itself will bear further examination. The site gave its name to the Chinnor-Wandlebury pottery style zone, but the pedestal-base carinated fine ware bowl from the site taken by Cunliffe (1974, fig A:10 no 17 being Hartley 1957, fig 7 no 16) as an example of his Chinnor-Wandlebury style zone (and cited above as one of three parallels for the bowls from the Abbotstone site) is quite unlike anything else from the site. Although the pot can still be styled Chinnor-Wandlebury, it is a unique import to Wandlebury itself. The distribution of Chinnor-Wandlebury fine ware bowls centres on the Chilterns (Bryant 1995, 21) and the nearest parallels for the Wandlebury bowl are to be found in south Hertfordshire (Hill 1999, 25). The other pot extracted by Cunliffe (1974, fig A:10 no 16) from Wandlebury as Chinnor-Wandlebury is exactly matched by bowls from Darmsden (Cunliffe 1968, fig 2 no 19) and there is no need to shunt the Wandlebury bowl into a Chinnor-Wandlebury bracket. This does not make the pot from Abbotstone with its narrow shoulder ledge a Chinnor-Wandlebury product because other features of its typology and decoration find no parallels in the Chilterns.

Although, when he published the Wandlebury pottery, Hartley (1957, 20) was drawn to see links with wares from sites further west like Chinnor in Oxfordshire (Richardson & Young 1951), those affinities now seem less compelling in the light of subsequent discoveries. The fact is that were it published nowadays, the Wandlebury pottery (apart from a solitary exotic piece exemplified by the carinated pedestal-base bowl) would not be described as Chinnor-Wandlebury. Nor – exasperatingly – can the assemblage be accommodated in the Darmsden-Linton style zone. Hartley (1957, 19-20) remarked on the absence at Wandlebury of the fine ware carinated bowls of the kind found at Linton (Fell 1953), only 9.5 km to the south-east. There are other differences as well.

The third Early Iron Age vessel from Abbotstone comes from L5, the Phase 3 stone surface that sealed ditch F2. It is represented by five body sherds in Fabric F. Three of them are decorated with impressed circlets 11mm in diameter; one of them was positioned along the carination (Fig 17 no 8). Stamped circlets are occasionally found on Middle Iron Age pottery from the Thames estuary (Elsdon 1975, 50-53, figs 13-14,102-4) but the carinated profile and flint temper of the Abbotstone vessel show it belongs much earlier, to the initial Iron Age.

One of the very few other examples of this decorative motif from the Early Iron Age of the eastern counties is a fine ware haematite-coated bowl from Darmsden (Suffolk). The other element of its incised decoration consists of upward pointing triangles with infilling of stabbed dots. As Cunliffe pointed out (1968, 186, fig 4 no 52, 189), the decorative scheme is reminiscent of Wessex. If this Suffolk pot did not

reach the county from elsewhere, its decoration certainly raises the possibility that it is a local copy of an exotic piece (Balkwill 1979, 208). Impressed circlets on pottery of Darmsden-Linton date are hardly more common in Essex. A sherd from a substantial pit with Darmsden-Linton pottery at Rook Hall in Heybridge in Essex is an exception (Adkins *et al* 1986, fig 15 no 33, 96-7). A more interesting and important find of stamped circlets on Early Iron Age pottery came from pit 403 at Slough House Farm, only a kilometre to the north-west. This was a small and steep-sided pit with sherds from at least eight fine ware or decorated bowls and jars. Vessels like this are rare: the recovery of so many from the one context indicates selective, deliberate deposition of material in a ritual act (Wallis 1998, 17 for the pit; Brown 1998, 132, 134-6 nos 41-7 for the pottery). Three vessels have stamped circlets inlaid with a white mineral paste. White inlay is otherwise unknown on Early Iron Age pottery from Essex but it is common on Chinnor-Wandlebury pottery and indeed on wares found further west at sites like All Cannings Cross in Wiltshire (Richardson & Young 1951, 138, 145). This cannot be a simple accident of survival because many of the Darmsden-Linton bowls from the north of the county and Suffolk have grooved decoration on the shoulder that could also have taken inlay – but none has been reported. One of the Slough House Farm pots has elaborate incised decoration that Brown (1998, 136) compared to Wessex decorative schemes.

What has emerged from this excursus is that the carinated bowl with its stamped circlets from the Abbotstone site exemplifies decoration that is ultimately of non-local inspiration. Unlike the two fine ware bowls from Abbotstone it cannot be claimed as an import to the site. But it seems reasonable to view it as broadly contemporary and as further testimony to the more distant connections of the site in the Early Iron Age.

7.1.9 Burnt residues on pottery

A few sherds have patches of dense black matter up to a millimetre or so thick adhering to their surface. Such crusts have every appearance of being burnt residues, presumably of foodstuffs prepared or served in the pots. This would explain their invariable position at Abbotstone, on the inside of the pot. As such they give an insight into vessel function. The topic is explored in more depth in the report on the Stanway site (Sealey forthcoming). Only seven of the 1,202 pre-Belgic sherds from Abbotstone had such residues, a rather lower incidence than usual. The position is summarised in Table 26. Five of the six sherds came from a stretch of the ditch of RDE 1, where they were retrieved from all levels of the fill. Their stratigraphy suggests not so much the remains of a single meal or feast, but rather an area of the site that had been used for food preparation or consumption throughout the lifetime of the enclosure.

One might have expected vessels with burnt residues to have been the more heavy-duty pottery with coarser tempers, but this is not the case. One of the sherds with burnt residues came from the same vessel as the thin-walled and ornate illustrated rim (Fig 17 no 21). This is at odds with conventional wisdom about what kinds of pot are best suited for cooking, but much the same was noted at Wardy Hill (Cambridgeshire) for the Middle Iron Age pottery there (Hill & Horne 2003, 181).

Table 26: details of pre-Belgic pottery sherds with burnt residues.

Phase	Fabric	position on sherd	feature
Phase 0	F	interior	pit F22
Phase 1 concentration 2	A	interior	ditch F336 upper fill
Phase 1 concentration 2	A	interior	ditch F336 middle fill
Phase 1 concentration 2	A	interior	ditch F336 middle fill
Phase 1 concentration 2	A	exterior	ditch F336 middle fill
Phase 1 concentration 2	C	interior	ditch F336 lower fill
Phases 2-5	C	interior	stony spread F485

7.1.10 The Middle Iron Age pottery from the Abbotstone and Stanway sites compared

Another group of Middle Iron Age pottery has been excavated from the Stanway site, only 1.4 kilometres east of the Abbotstone site (Sealey forthcoming). Like the Abbotstone site, the site at Stanway had a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure of Middle Iron Age date. Bearing in mind the proximity of the two sites, it seemed worthwhile exploring the relationship between the two assemblages in the hope that the chronology of both the pottery and the sites could be elucidated.

Typologically both groups are homogeneous and exemplify the same hand-made tradition of S-profiled jars and bowls with flat bases and minimalist decoration. Fabrics are tempered with sand or flint, or a combination of the two. The similarities between the Abbotstone and Stanway sites are perfectly reflected in the close correspondences in the incidence of decoration on vessels, detailed in Tables 27-28. But although both RDE 2 at the Abbotstone site and enclosure 2 at the Stanway site have the same pottery, this cannot be taken as proof of precise contemporaneity because Middle Iron Age pottery in Essex had a long history from *c* 300 to *c* 50 BC and a typological evolution over those centuries that might allow a closer dating within that time bracket is imperceptible.

Table 27: the incidence of decoration on the Middle Iron Age rims from the Abbotstone and Stanway sites.

	rim sherd count	decorated rim sherd count	percentage of decorated rims
Abbotstone	49	12	24.5
Stanway	149	25	16.8

Table 28: the incidence of decoration on Middle Iron Age body sherds from the Abbotstone and Stanway sites.

	body sherd count	decorated body sherd count	percentage of decorated sherds
Abbotstone	1,000	8	0.8
Stanway	2,509	29	1.2

As one moves from the Late Bronze Age into the Early and Middle Iron Age in Essex, there is a decline in the quantity of exclusively flint-tempered pottery, and an increase in purely sand and sand-with-flint temper (Brown 1988, 269). The same is true of Cambridgeshire (Woudhuysen 1998, 36-7), Suffolk (Martin 1988, 34) and Norfolk (Gregory 1995, 90). Indeed this trend is typical of much of southern Britain from the middle of the first millennium BC (Rigby 1988, 103) and is one of the main props in spot-dating hand-made later prehistoric pottery. It is important to remember that this is a broad trend, and nothing more: on two Iron Age sites from the Norwich southern bypass, the proportion of flint-tempered ware actually increased in the period, and for the Middle Iron Age pottery from Harford Farm, flint-tempered sherds were nearly 90% of the total by weight (Percival 2000, 179). But at the Stanway site it was possible to see a reduction in the proportion of flint-tempered pottery from the Early (initial) Iron Age until the advent of Aylesford-Swarling 'Belgic' pottery in the 1st century BC, when flint temper is no longer found. Indeed the varying proportions of flint and sand temper in the Middle Iron Age assemblages from the Stanway site helped establish the phasing of Middle Iron Age features on the site. It was hoped that a comparison of the incidence of flint temper at the sites of Abbotstone and Stanway might have allowed their sub-rectangular enclosures to be placed in a sequence.

The data needed for the comparison is given in Tables 30-35. To make these comparisons easier, it was decided not just to give data for each fabric but to amalgamate fabrics to give the broad outlines of the picture. How fabrics were amalgamated is explained in Table 29. Fabrics A-E and N were put together because they are essentially sand-tempered. Fabrics E (sand + vegetable temper) and N (sand + chalk temper) are so rare they do not distort the picture. Fabrics F, I and L are tempered only with flint. Fabrics tempered by flint-with-sand are grouped together as G, H, J, K and M. The final amalgamation was of fabrics tempered with

flint and with flint-with-sand, Fabrics F-M. The tables and text compare the Middle Iron Age pottery from Phase 1a (*c* 300-50 BC) at Abbotstone with phase 3 (*c* 250-50 BC) at the Stanway site. Data for the Middle Iron Age pottery from phase 4 (*c* 50-25 BC) at Stanway has been included to clarify some aspects of the discussion.

The tables show that Abbotstone produced more sand-tempered Middle Iron Age pottery than the Stanway site: 93.4 % and 65.4 % respectively by weight. Moreover, at Abbotstone the sand tends to be coarser, with higher proportions of Fabrics C and E. Pottery tempered with only flint is rare at the Abbotstone site, whereas at Stanway it is significant: 1.9 % and 13.5 % respectively by weight. The same picture emerges from the fabrics tempered by sand-with-flint. At Abbotstone they are only 4.8 % by weight, but at Stanway the proportion is 21.1 %.

It remains to be seen whether or not there is any chronological significance in these differences in fabric. There is no doubt that the Middle Iron Age pottery from the Stanway site includes groups that are late in the sequence. The phase 4 Middle Iron Age pottery from Stanway (*c* 50-25 BC) came from the ditch of the Late Iron Age funerary enclosure 1, where it was associated with (and outnumbered by) wheel-thrown 'Belgic' pottery. But even there we have nearly four times as much pottery tempered with flint-with-sand than at the Abbotstone site. RDE 2 at Abbotstone (the major source of the Phase 1 concentration 1 Middle Iron Age pottery) cannot be any later than the Middle Iron Age pottery from the Stanway site, despite the fact that it has so much more sand-tempered pottery.

So hopes that a comparison of the fabrics from the sites at Abbotstone and Stanway might allow their enclosures to be placed in a relative chronological sequence have been disappointed. The exercise shows that the progression from flint to sand temper between the Late Bronze Age and the Late Iron Age needs to be used with caution as a chronological tool when comparing adjacent sites. But there is also a positive side to the question. Abbotstone and Stanway are sites that would only have been a few minutes apart in antiquity. Although they used pottery that is indistinguishable typologically, there are sufficient differences in the incidence of pottery fabrics on both sites to suggest that they drew on different sources of supply. The simplest explanation is that both communities made their own pottery, in which case Abbotstone and Stanway confirm the findings of ethnography that most pottery in pre-industrial societies was made within only a few kilometres of where it was used (Arnold 1985, 38-51). Clay was reached in the deeper pits and ditches at Abbotstone, so there was no reason why pottery should not have been made on site.

Table 29: details of amalgamated fabrics for the Abbotstone and Stanway sites.

fabric amalgamations	fabric tempers
A-E & N	sand & sand with vegetable (rare) & sand with chalk (rare)
F, I & L	flint
G, H, J, K & M	flint with sand
F-M	flint & sand with flint

Table 30: sherd count and sherd weight by fabric for Abbotstone Phase 1a (*c* 300-50 BC).

Fabric	sherd count	percentage by count	sherd weight (g)	percentage by weight
A	120	25.8	574	19.8
B	6	1.3	49	1.7
C	258	55.4	1611	55.5
D	1	0.2	54	1.9
E	52	11.2	423	14.6
F	2	0.4	2	0.1
G	4	0.9	15	0.5
I	9	1.9	53	1.8
J	14	3.0	123	4.2
Totals	**466**		**2,904**	

Table 31: sherd count and sherd weight by amalgamated fabrics for Abbotstone Phase 1a (*c* 300-50 BC).

Fabrics	sherd count	percentage by count	sherd weight (g)	percentage by weight
A-E & N	437	93.8	2711	93.4
F, I & L	11	2.4	55	1.9
G, H, J, K & M	18	3.9	138	4.8
F-M	29	6.2	193	6.6

Table 32: sherd count and sherd weight by fabric for Stanway phase 3 (*c* 250-50 BC).

Fabric	sherd count	percentage by count	sherd weight (g)	percentage by weight
A	598	34.6	3,977	29.8
B	66	3.8	854	6.4
C	431	24.9	3,266	24.5
D	24	1.4	507	3.8
E	6	0.3	43	0.3
F	85	4.9	623	4.7
G	8	0.5	34	0.25
H	94	5.4	500	3.7
I	139	8	1,131	8.5
J	170	9.8	1,200	8.9
K	72	4.2	790	5.9
L	7	0.4	48	0.4
M	26	1.5	294	2.2
N	2	0.1	69	0.5
Totals	**1,728**		**13,336**	

Table 33: sherd count and sherd weight by amalgamated fabrics for Stanway phase 3 (*c* 250-50 BC).

Fabrics	sherd count	percentage by count	sherd weight (g)	percentage by weight
A-E & N	1127	65.4	8716	65.4
F, I & L	231	13.5	1802	13.5
G, H, J, K & M	370	21.1	2818	21.1
F-M	601	34.6	4620	34.6

Table 34: sherd count and sherd weight by fabrics for Stanway phase 4 (*c* 50-25 BC).

Fabric	sherd count	percentage by count	sherd weight (g)	percentage by weight
A	209	54.2	785	47.9
C	108	28.1	509	31.1
F	4	1	11	0.7
G	9	2.3	54	3.3
H	17	4.4	80	4.9
I	4	1	24	1.5
J	28	7.3	133	8.1
K	5	1.3	41	2.5
Totals	**384**		**1,637**	

Table 35: sherd count and sherd weight by amalgamated fabrics for Stanway phase 4 (*c* 50-25 BC).

fabric groupings	sherd count	percentage by count	sherd weight (g)	percentage by weight
A-E & N	317	82.6	1,294	79.0
F, I & L	8	2.1	35	2.1
G, H, J, K & M	59	15.4	308	18.8
F-M	67	17.4	343	21.0

7.1.11 List of illustrated pottery

Fig 17 no 1. Fabric F. Dark grey core and surfaces. Neolithic Grooved Ware rim residual in the middle fill of ditch F8. Phase 2

Fig 17 no 2. Fabric I. Light brown core and surfaces. Late Bronze Age coarse ware jar with pinched decoration. Pit F22. Phase 0

Fig 17 no 3. Fabric F. Light brown core and surfaces. Late Bronze Age fine ware bowl with bevelled rim. Pit F22. Phase 0

Fig 17 no 4. Fabric I. Grey core and mottled grey to brown surfaces. Flint rough-casting on the under surface of the base. Late Bronze Age sherd residual in the upper fill of ditch F145. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 5. Fabric C. Black core with mottled dark grey to dark brown inner surface; the outer surface is mottled dark grey to brown. Early Iron Age decorated fine ware bowl from south Cambridgeshire, residual in the upper fill of F54. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 6. Fabric C. The sherd has been burnt to give a brown core and light brown surfaces. Early Iron Age fine ware bowl from south Cambridgeshire, residual in the upper fill of F54. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 7. Fabric F. Grey core and brown surfaces. Early Iron Age carinated bowl with stamped circlets residual in L5. Phase 3

Fig 17 no 8. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and surfaces. Pit or hearth F100. Phase 1 concentration 1

Fig 17 no 9. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and brown surfaces. Ditch F105. Phase 1 concentration 1

Fig 17 no 10. Fabric A. Middle Iron Age. Black core and inner surface, the outer surface is brown. Pit F178. Phase 1 concentration 1

Fig 17 no 11. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and dark grey surfaces. Ditch F356. Phase 1 concentration 1

Fig 17 no 12. Fabric A. Middle Iron Age. Black core and brown surfaces. Pit F371. Phase 1 concentration 1

Fig 17 no 13. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and surfaces. Pit F392. Phase 1 concentration 1

Fig 17 no 14. Fabric A. Middle Iron Age. Black core and inner surface, the outer surface is brown. Ditch F409 section 1. Phase 1 concentration 1

Fig 17 no 15. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Brown core and inner surface, the outer surface is dark brown. Middle to lower fill of ditch F54. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 16. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and inner surface, the outer surface is brown. Middle to lower fill of ditch F54. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 17. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Brown core and dark brown surfaces. Middle to lower fill of ditch F54. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 18. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core with mottled dark brown to black surfaces. Middle to lower fill of ditch F54. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 19. Fabric A. Middle Iron Age. Grey core and surfaces. Upper fill of ditch F54. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 20. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and light brown inner surface, the outer surface is brown. Fill of ditch F54. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 21. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and inner surface, the outer surface is red. Lower fill of ditch F336. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 22. Fabric D. Middle Iron Age. Black core with mottled brown and dark brown surfaces. Post-hole F448 of the round-house in RDE 1. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 23. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and dark brown surfaces. Post-hole F547 of the RDE 1 round-house. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 24. Fabric A. Middle Iron Age. Black core and inner surface, the outer surface is brown. Middle fill of ditch F117. Phase 1 concentration 2

Fig 17 no 25. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Brown core and outer surface, the inner surface is dark brown. Residual in pit F632. Phase 2
Fig 17 no 26. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and surfaces. Residual in pit F632. Phase 2
Fig 17 no 27. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Light brown core and inner surface, the outer surface is mottled brown and dark brown. Residual in ditch F18. Phase 3
Fig 17 no 28. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and outer surface, the inner surface is brown. Residual in ditch F477. Phase 3
Fig 17 no 29. Fabric A. Middle Iron Age. Black core and surfaces. Residual in ditch F82. Phase 4
Fig 17 no 30. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and mottled dark brown surfaces. Residual in ditch F629. Phase 4
Fig 17 no 31. Fabric C. Middle Iron Age. Black core and brown surfaces. Unstratified

7.2 The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

by A R Fawcett

Note [by LP]: the pottery report included here is a shortened version of the original report and includes only the introduction, fabric codes and discussion. For a detailed discussion on the pottery phasing and Fawcett's pottery database, refer to the archive.

7.2.1 Introduction

A total of 15,800 sherds weighing 151,339g with a total EVE of 102.39 has been recovered from the excavations at Abbotstone.

Through interpretation of the ceramic record, the report provides a date range for activity on the site, as well as a socio-economic statement. To enable comparison with sites of a similar nature within and around the Colchester area, the fabric codes and form matches employed are those recently amalgamated by Symonds and Wade in 1999 (*CAR* **10**). Dual national codes are also utilised (Tomber & Dore 1998), to facilitate comparisons with other sites in Essex and southern Britain. Other form matches, such as those from Chelmsford (Going 1987), Verulamium (Wilson 1984) and Thompson's grog-tempered *corpus* (1982) have been used where necessary. All of the pottery has been examined at x20 vision. Specific detail, such as coarse ware fabric divisions, can be found in the site archive.

7.2.2 Fabric codes

AJ/BAT AM 1 & 2	Baetican amphorae fabrics categories 1 & 2 (Dr20)
CB/COL CC 2	Colchester colour-coated ware category 2
CF/CHF SA	Chémèry-Faulquemont samian ware
CH/HAD OX	Hadham oxidised ware
CO/COL SA	Colchester samian ware
CZ/COL CC 2	Colchester colour-coated ware category 2
DJ/COL WH/UNS WH	Colchester white wares/unsourced white wares
DJ/COL OX/UNS OX	Colchester oxidised ware/unsourced oxidised ware
DZ/UNS FO	unsourced fine oxidised wares
EG/UNS EG	unsourced East Gaulish samian ware
EZ/CNG CC	Central Gaulish colour-coated ware
EZ/KOL CC	Cologne colour-coated ware
FJ/VER WH	Verulamium region white ware
FT/UNS FT	Unsourced flint-tempered ware
GA/DOR BB 1	Dorset black-burnished ware category 1
GB/COL BB2	Colchester black-burnished ware category 2
GP/NKT FR	'North Kent' style fine reduced ware
GQ/LON FR	London fine reduced ware
GX/BSW	black surfaced/Romanising grey wares (mainly locally produced)
GX/GRS	unsourced sandy grey wares (mainly locally produced)
GT/SOB FT	Southern British grog-tempered ware
HD/SEX/UNS SH	south-east Essex shell-tempered/unsourced shell-tempered ware
HZ/SOB GT St-BSW St-GRS	storage jar fabrics (see divisions above)
LZ/LEZ SA 2	Lezoux samian ware category 2
MQ/UNS WS	unsourced white slipped ware

MT/MON SA	Montans samian ware (southern Gaul)
MV/LMV SA	Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware (central Gaul)
ON/ROB MD	Romano-British mica-dusted ware
PRE/UNS SG/SC/SO	misc Late Iron Age combinations (sand, grog, calcite & organics)
RH/RHZ SA	Rheinzabern samian ware (eastern Gaul)
SG/LGF SA	La Graufesenque samian ware (southern Gaul)
TD/VER WH Mo	Verulamium region white ware mortaria
TR/TRI SA	Trier samian ware (eastern Gaul)
TZ/COL WH Mo	Colchester white ware mortaria
UR/GAB TN 2	Gallo-Belgic *terra nigra* category 2
WA/GRS/WAT RE	Wattisfield (style) grey ware/unsourced grey ware
WC/GRS	unsourced sandy grey wares

7.2.3 Discussion

The assemblage from Abbotstone represents two major phases of activity. The first spans the mid to late 1st century continuing into the early 2nd century AD. Thereafter the 2nd century sees a steady decline which appears fairly rapid after about AD 150. Apart from a few long-lived forms, there is no evidence for activity into the 3rd century and beyond. Equally, amongst the unstratified data there is no evidence for later Roman land use. Certainly the Late Iron Age sees some land use but it is not until after the Roman conquest that this really intensifies.

Through all time periods there is a very low percentage of imported wares, in particular samian ware and amphorae fabrics. This trend is also mirrored in consideration of Romano-British fine wares; even the Colchester colour-coated wares make little impact during the 2nd century AD.

This limited draw on fabrics from outside of the immediate area is matched within the coarse ware assemblage. Before the 2nd century there are one or two instances of Verulamium white ware; thereafter a few examples of Dorset BB1 and two examples of Hadham white slipped ware account for all. Even the local white ware kilns at Colchester account for only a meagre percentage in all phases. The 2nd century sees the introduction of Colchester BB2 but again it is thin on the ground.

Locally-produced coarse ware fabrics are completely dominant through all phases. Examination of the fabrics demonstrates (see archive) this continuity, with little variation in the mineral suite (except degrees of coarseness). This pattern runs through both oxidised and reduced fabrics.

As demonstrated in the phasing, the form assemblage is equally unimaginative, with two or three form categories (principally jars and bowl types) commanding in each phase. Other form classes such as flagons, true bowls, beakers and cups make up only a small percentage of the assemblages. In particular *mortaria* are very sparse. One or two other specialist forms occur in small numbers, such as cheese presses and sieved vessels. There is also a high degree of storage jar fabrics. In terms of the samian and other fine ware forms, these are restricted to a small number of cups, beakers and plates/bowls. Interestingly, a number of the amphorae sherds display burning which probably indicates re-use, perhaps on hearths.

In general, the pottery from the Abbotstone site indicates low status but fairly dense farming, perhaps dairy activity. The economy demonstrates little contact outside of its immediate area with demand low for basic dining and food preparation elements.

The high number of unsourced coarse wares limits detailed comparison with data from Colchester. Similarly the extremely low number of fine wares, 'coarser' versions and specialist fabrics (*mortaria*) are negligible to make meaningful comparisons. The best comparative exercise from the site concerns the Gallo-Belgic wares. Nonetheless, some differences may be highlighted. For instance, over the equivalent phases at Colchester (mid to late 1st century AD: *CAR* **10**, 492), reduced wares account for around 35% weight and 54% EVEs, whereas at the Abbotstone site the figures are 87% and 85%. A similar match of oxidised groups shows 34% and 30% at Colchester and 10% for both categories at Abbotstone. Samian at Colchester stands at approximately 8% in weight whilst that at Abbotstone amounts to just 2%.

Percentages for the 2nd century are equally wide apart, a fact distorted further by the low quantities of fabrics like Colchester white and colour-coated wares. The

appearance of Colchester BB2 in this period and a very small number of Dorset BB1 sherds are trends also noted at Colchester (*CAR* **10**, 495).

One interesting pattern is worth commenting on, ie the issue of fabric change from the mid 1st to 2nd century AD. Broadly this concerns the displacement of SOB GT/GT by BSW/GX and the latter by GRS/GX. This pattern was first demonstrated by Going at Chelmsford (1987) and studied by the current author over a variety of urban and rural sites (Fawcett 2003; Fawcett 2005; Fawcett forthcoming a; Fawcett forthcoming b).

Although in terms of supply the trend at Abbotstone is very typical of an inward-looking rural economy, there are one or two important distinctions. One might expect a quick demise of grog-tempered fabrics in favour of the Romanising style (BSW) on most urban sites (of course, location, status and function are all influencing factors). However, the grog-tempered tradition at rural sites is normally longer and at the Abbotstone site (during the mid to late 1st century AD) the trend is different. Furthermore, the numbers are fairly small in comparison to sites of a similar nature. For example, at the Abbotstone site, the figures are SOB GT 18% and BSW 54% (by weight percentage), while at Thorley on the east Herts-west Essex border, they stand at 30% and 34% (Fawcett forthcoming a); at Turners Hall Farm near St Albans, 63% and 19% (Fawcett forthcoming b); Herne Bay in north Kent, 58% and 5% (Fawcett 2003); Chells near Stevenage, 23% and 19% (Waugh 1999); and Great Chesterford in Essex, 40% and 36% (Fawcett 2005).

The conclusions inferred from this data 'snapshot' are that although fine wares and sourced Roman fabrics are very limited at the Abbotstone site, the rate of Romanisation of its coarse ware assemblage is quicker than at most other sites. The close proximity of unknown/suspected early Roman kilns must have had an influence on this (bearing in mind the minimal contribution of Colchester white/oxidised products to the site in this period). Equally, at Thorley, where the Hadham kilns are nearby, the two figures are fairly close (Fawcett forthcoming a). The GRS/GX are always in subordination to SOB GT and BSW in this period, their rise to dominance usually starts from the early to mid 2nd century AD.

Although comparable statistics are not in evidence for sites of similar nature around Colchester (due to the lumping together of broad fabric groups), there are numerous examples around Essex as a whole. It will be interesting to compare sites of a different status, function and economy with the Abbotstone site.

7.2.4 List of illustrated pottery

Fig 18 no 1. F312 (F556) - 1069/S1 GT Cam 231/B3-8 (Thompson 1982). A narrow necked jar with a single cordon at the base of the neck.

Fig 18 no 2. F16 (F781) - 1370 GT E3-4 (Thompson 1982). A small beaker with a high carination, flat base and simple everted rim.

Fig 18 no 3. F28 - 45 DJ Cam 199. Cheese press base in a Colchester white ware fabric.

Fig 18 no 4. F28 - 45 BSW/GX Cam 266 style. This version fits into the type 151-520 category. The fabric is fairly silty with sparse calcite.

Fig 18 no 5. F117 - 409/2 BSW/GX Cam 256 style globular jar. The nearest match at Colchester is GX no 732 (*CAR* **10**), at Chelmsford G3 (Going 1987) and in Thompson's corpus the C5-3 range (Thompson 1982). The form displays an everted rim which is slightly lid seated. This black surfaced vessel has brown margins and a grey core. Apart from grog, it contains ill-sorted sand and sparse calcite.

Fig 18 no 6. F117 - 409/2 BSW/GX Cam 218B/C. This form fits into the type 22 category but with no direct match. The surface is abraded but the fabric is fairly dense with sparse calcite, black iron ore and common silver mica.

Fig 18 no 7. F2 - 232/5 DJ Cam 199. The upper half of a cheese press in a Colchester white ware fabric.

Fig 18 no 8. F2 - 117/6 DJ Cam 199. This is the lower half of a cheese press in an oxidised Colchester fabric.

Fig 18 no 9. F498 (F512) - 1029 BSW/GX Jar. A similar form is noted at Colchester and is listed as GX100. The type has a cordon at the base of the neck and displays a beaded and everted rim. The fabric is in the Romanising category and contains sparse calcite. It appears to be derived from the Thompson B1-1 range (Thompson 1982).

Fig 18 no 10. F498 (F512) - 1029 BSW/GX bowl/jar. This form has no direct match, the style indicates that its roots are least within the 1st century AD. Again this is in an early Roman fabric containing sparse calcite.

Fig 18 no 11. F2 - 225/5 GX Cam 108. This beaker occurs in a light sandy grey ware and displays coarse rouletting. The vessel is a second, denoted by the warped rim. The fabric itself is typical of the site as a whole, abundant well-sorted fine quartz alongside sparse calcite and black iron ore.
Fig 18 no 12. F1 - 159/5 DJ. This appears to be a strainer fragment in Colchester white ware.
Fig 18 no 13. F18 (F308) - 835/1 GB Cam 279a/b. A Colchester BB2 jar which displays a zone of early lattice pattern. Traces of burning/soot are noted on its lower outer surface.
Fig 18 no 14. F2 (F98) - 349/3 GRS/GX jar. Only a small top part of this jar survives in a local sandy grey ware. It shows a thick cordon below a short neck with an everted bead rim.
Fig 18 no 15. F2 (F98) - 349/3 GRS/GX Cam 108 beaker. This form imitates a cornice rim, produced in a local reduced fabric.

7.3 The early Gallo-Belgic, Central and North Gaulish imports

by Val Rigby

7.3.1 Summary

Excluding the samian, approximately 300 sherds from 50 Gaulish imports were found at Abbotstone. There is one late Augustan Central Gaulish platter. The Gallo-Belgic assemblage spans the period AD 20-75, including three definitely post-conquest pieces. Since the form-range is much the same as that excavated at the Stanway site (Rigby forth), the preferred date range is AD 45-60. Any of the unclassified flagons in fine white wares could be later with a *terminus ante quem* of AD 120.

7.3.2 Size and condition of the assemblage

The early imports were selected by the processing team which is very experienced and does not miss anything significant. The samian was excluded.

The assemblage totals about 300 sherds and represents at least 50 different vessels. Generally the sherds are small, less than 50 x 50mm, with abraded surfaces and fractured edges, most having no surviving surface finish. Thirty vessels are represented by single abraded sherds and thirteen by fewer than nine further fragmented sherds, which all suggests a considerable period of disturbance and abrasion before they were silted into the ditches. There are seven main sherd clusters, from one pit and six ditches. Pit F46 contained a flagon Cam form 140 in poor condition (Sherd Cluster C). Although one rim, two neck bases, a handle and five base sherds survive along with over 50 body sherds, so much of the pot is missing that it cannot have been complete when deposited. The remaining clusters are groups of larger sherds from the same vessel, some if not all joining, and apparently dumped in the ditches in a single action after breakage of a usable vessel elsewhere. Typically there is no full profile, and the sherds are from one part of the vessel only. Sherds in two of the clusters (Sherd Clusters E and G) are in unusually good condition, complete with the original surface finish and apparently virtually unused, suggesting that each was gathered up immediately after breakage and part-deposited immediately in the ditch in a non-acidic location. Sherd Cluster G comprises what must have been the complete and intact neck and handles of a two-handled *lagena* of Cam form 161, found with the rim and upper body of a local copy of a butt-beaker (Cam form 113), representing about one-third of the circuit. Sherd Cluster E consists of the rim and upper body of a butt-beaker of Cam form 113. In contrast, the sherds from Sherd Clusters A, B and D have notably abraded fracture edges, suggesting that time elapsed between breakage and final deposition and that in the meantime they were subjected to particularly acid conditions. Sherd Cluster A consists of the upper body and neck of a butt-beaker Cam form 113, Sherd Cluster B consists of sherds from a flagon, Sherd Cluster D represents the full profile of a butt-beaker Cam form 113, and Sherd Cluster F the body sherds of a flagon of unknown form.

It is worth noting that, of the Gaulish imports, only so-called white wares, ie butt-beakers and flagons, occur in 'sherd clusters' in ditches here and at the Stanway site.

Table 36: Sherd clusters (arranged in feature number order).

Sherd Cluster	no of fragments	form	feature no finds no/ Sx no	feature	Phase
A	50+	Cam 113 butt-beaker	F2 8/1	ditch	Phase 3
B	26+	flagon body sherds	F8 265/2 + 334/1	ditch	Phase 2
C	60+	Cam 140 flagon	F46 149/1	pit	Phase 2
D	20+	Cam 113 butt-beaker	F66 199/1	ditch	Phase 2
E	23+	Cam 113 butt-beaker	F104 440/1	ditch	Phase 1-2
F	50+	flagon body sherds	F117 409/1 + 410/1	ditch	Phase 1-2
G		complete neck circuit Cam 161 *lagena*; one-third rim and upper body circuit local copy of Cam 113 butt-beaker	F556 1073/1 + 1075/1; F595 1187/1 + 1195/1	ditch	Phase 2

7.3.3 Fabrics and forms

Where applicable, the fabrics have been defined using my standard terminology cross-referenced with *The national Roman fabric reference collection* (Tomber & Dore 1998), and therefore only minimal fabric descriptions are given. Vessel forms are according to Hawkes and Hull 1947.

The form and fabric range of the Gaulish imports is varied and includes small and large platters; cups; pedestal cups; girth, ovoid and butt-beakers; and one- and two-handled flagons. It is similar to the pottery from the enclosure ditches of the Stanway cemetery, and, like those ditch assemblages, includes butt-beakers Cam form 113 which are inexplicably absent from the burials within the enclosures at the Stanway site when the form is the most common import and widely found import in cremations of the period AD 20-65.

7.3.3.1 Central Gaulish imports

Micaceous *terra nigra*/Central Gaulish (micaceous) *terra nigra* – **MTN/CNG TN**
A range of more or less sandy-textured, highly micaceous, reduced fabrics imported from Central Gaul between 25 BC and AD 20. The form-range reaching major Late Iron Age settlements like Camulodunum, Skeleton Green and the King Harry Lane Cemetery, Verulamium, is limited chiefly to large platters which were not stamped.
Abbotstone – one typical large platter Cam form 4 (F614. 1176/1)

7.3.3.2 Gallo-Belgic imports

Terra rubra 1 (A)/Gallo-Belgic *terra rubra* 1(A) – TR1(A)/**GAB TR I A**
Pale matrix with one surface is covered in a polished red slip. Platters and cup/bowls typically occur in assemblages pre-dating AD 25, pedestal cups have a date range AD 20-50.
Abbotstone – two pedestal cups, one/two Cam form 74, which could be a pre-conquest import (F595 - 1163/1 & 1179/1: U/S 1450/3)

Terra rubra 1 (B)/Gallo-Belgic *terra rubra* 1(B) – TR1(B)/**GAB TR I B** – production limited to pre-AD 25. Not recorded at Abbotstone.

Terra rubra 1(C)/Gallo-Belgic *terra rubra* 1(C) – TR1(C)/**GAB TR I C**
The technique is the same as that used for TR1(A) with a bright orange matrix and darker red polished on the visible surface. TR1(C), with a date range AD10-65, is the most commonly found TR in Britain. Only cups Cam form 56 are represented at Abbotstone.
Abbotstone – two cups Cam form 56 (F595 1117/1: U/S 1450/1)

Terra rubra 2/Gallo-Belgic *terra rubra* 2 – TR2/**GAB TR 2** – not recorded at Abbotstone.

Terra rubra 3/Gallo-Belgic *terra rubra* 3 – TR3/**GAB TR 3**
Fine-grained, dense and smooth pink or red matrix with the outer surface varying from very pale yellowish cream, clear red, red with a thin greyish smoked haze or red with a black 'fumed' effect. The fabric was used for tall beakers, commonly Cam form 112, 15 BC-AD 65 and form 84, AD 10-50.

Abbotstone – three girth beakers Cam form 84 (F312 890; F491 1093; F743 1314/1); three ovoid beakers Cam form 112, at least one is definitely post-conquest (F63 167/1; F117 417/1; F595 1136/2)

Terra nigra/Gallo-Belgic *terra nigra* 1 – TN/**GAB TN 1**
Typically, the surface colour is due to firing conditions and so can vary from dove grey to blue-black, frequently on the same vessel. The matrix varies fine silty to sandy, in the frequency of inclusions and from white to grey or brown. TN is typically more common in Britain than TR and the Abbotstone material reflects this fact.
Abbotstone – one large platter Cam form 5, possibly a pre-conquest import (F312 1242/1): one small platter Cam form 8 (F595 1136/1); two platters Cam form 14, definitely post-conquest, AD 45-70 (F115 360/1: F312 1242/1); one cup Cam form 56 (F595 1149/1); one cup Cam form 58, definitely post-conquest, AD 45-75, and found in the same feature as one of the late platters (F115 482/1).

Terra nigra 1A/Gallo-Belgic *terra nigra* – TN1A/**GAB TN 1**
The technique is the same as that used for TR1(A) but appears to have been rarely produced and was used only for platters. The upper visible surface of the pale grey matrix is covered with a dark grey polished slip.
Abbotstone – platter base (F8 111/1).

North Gaulish imports
Butt-beaker parchment ware North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic) white ware 3 – BBW/**NOG WH 3**
A fine quartz sand-tempered matrix with occasional coloured inclusions fired to white, off-white, parchment or cream, sometimes with a light blue-grey core at the rim and base. Used for butt-beakers Cam form 113, the exterior and the interior cornice of the rim received a smooth burnished finish, after which the decorative zone of rouletting was incised using a 'chattering' tool.

No kilns have been found but the sources are likely to have been in North Gaul – southern Gallia Belgica or adjacent parts of Gallia Lugdunensis. A wide range of sub-types are recorded at Amiens which would have been a good 'local' market for such fine-wares (Ben Redjeb 1985). It is by far and away the most common kiln-fired fine ware vessel-form at Sheepen where over 2,000 examples are recorded in Hawkes and Hull 1947. Such quantities suggested a local source of production; if this was the case, then the workshop was established by immigrant potters who introduced a new technology.

Abbotstone – eight examples; F2 8/2: F66 199/1; post-hole F75 238/1; F75 250/1; F104 440/1; F594 1397/1; F595 1117/2 and 1117/3.

At Abbotstone, besides the 'typical ' white fine sandy fabric, there is also a range of darker-coloured, apparently coarser-textured wares, although the forms remain typical of the early, fine imports. Certain technical traits suggest that they are from the same workshop. Given the abraded condition of most sherds, it is not possible to define them accurately other than by colour. They are:

a. Red-slipped butt-beaker, parchment ware
   A cream sandy textured slightly micaceous matrix, with traces of a red slip on the inside; F2, 8/1
b. Self-coloured butt-beaker, sandy parchment ware
   The sandy matrix is the similar while the colours include pink, yellow and light brown. Five examples; F2 59/1; F75 246/1; F75 250/2; F145 433/1; F306 1346/1.

White pipeclay ware/North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic) white ware 1 – WPW/**NOG WH 1**
A fine matrix fired to white, off-white, parchment or cream. Used for flagons and *lagenae*, with one and two handles respectively, the outer surface was either given a self-coloured slip or a wet hands 'slurry' finish and then typically smoothed over the body, but with fine rilling on the rim and neck. At the Abbotstone site there are sherds from between 11 and 14 different vessels, depending on how the estimate is calculated, most being unclassifiable body sherds. The fabric does, however, account for two significant sherd clusters.
Abbotstone – one example one-handled flagon Cam form 140, date range AD 20-65; F722 1288/1: two examples two-handled *lagenae* Cam form 161, date range AD 20-

65, F16 191/3: F556 1073/1: one example two-handled flagon Cam form 163, date range AD 20-65; F117 369/1 with 373/1.

Buff powdery flagon ware/North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic) white ware 2 – BPFW/**NOG WH 2**
There are red, brown and black argillaceous inclusions in the powdery matrix which can vary in colour from off-white through cream and beige to orange-brown, usually with a paler slurried or slipped exterior. It resembles Colchester fabrics used to produce early colour-coated fine wares and mortaria in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. In North Gaul, the fabric was used for a varied range of flagons and *lagenae* with ringed, flanged and pulley-mouth rims and also mortaria which were imported from the mid-1st century into the Antonine period.
Abbotstone – one definite example only, one-handled flagon Cam form 140, date range AD 20-75, which was found in pit F46, 149/1; also F70 207/1; F306 743/1.

Fine flagon ware – FFW
Similar to white pipeclay ware in texture, but the matrix is cream, beige or pink with more coloured impurities. All examples are extremely abraded and this may have exaggerated the effects of the impurities and colour differences. Depending on the form and source, the date range is within AD 10-120. Only undatable body sherds from four vessels are represented: F8 265/2 + 334/1 with L17 248/2 = Sherd Cluster B; F117 409/1 + 410/1 = Sherd Cluster F; F306 743/1; F722 1288/2.

7.3.3.3 Local products

Micaceous red ware – MRW. F117 379. 410
A fine grained, iron-rich micaceous matrix with sparse fine argillaceous pellets fired with a blue-grey core and orange or red surfaces, the fabric falls within the definition of TR4 in Hawkes and Hull 1947. Two beaker-types are represented; the first is a copy of the TR3 ovoid beaker Cam form 112 with rouletted fernleaf decoration which is a comparatively rare decorative technique at the Sheepen site: there are two parallels in the King Harry Lane cemetery, St Albans (*KHL* [4]*,* fig 60, variant 1C3, burial 276, and also burial 455). The second is a copy of the white butt-beaker Cam form 113; it is such a close copy that it must have been made by an immigrant potter trained to make the white ware versions. In both cases, given the fabric, manufacture is likely to have occurred in the Claudian period.
Abbotstone – copy Cam form 112 (F117 379/1 + 410/2): copy Cam form 113 (F595 1187/1 + 1195/1).

7.3.4 Discussion by feature

Pit F46 (find no 149) – Sherd Cluster C
The flagon Cam form 140 was most likely manufactured in North Gaul in the Claudian period. The small size and abraded condition of the sherds, along with the shortage of rims, necks and bases, suggest that it was broken elsewhere and that the sherds were gathered up for final deposition when further fragmentation occurred. Despite the missing sherds, and unlike other 'sherd clusters' in the ditches, all areas of the pot are represented, which perhaps supports the theory that a more or less complete flagon was intended as a special deposit.

Ditch F66 – Sherd Cluster D
Over 20 tiny abraded sherds representing three different butt-beakers of Cam form 113 were recovered from the post-hole. Sherds from the full profile of one could be identified and some joins were achieved; therefore, it may have been intended as a special deposit having been broken elsewhere. Only single abraded body sherds from the remaining two pots were found and they must be accidental inclusions. All three pots could have been made before AD 43, but their condition suggests that their final deposition in the post-hole did not take place until considerably later.

[4] *KHL* refers to Stead & Rigby 1989

Pit F115
Both TN imports were definitely post-conquest products with a date range of AD 45-75. Their condition suggests a fair period between use, breakage and final deposition in the pit.

Ditch F312
Two different pots make up Sherd Cluster G in this ditch. One can be repaired to form the complete rim, neck and handles of an imported *lagena* Cam form 161 and the other to form about one-third of the rim circuit, extending to the maximum girth, of a locally-made butt-beaker copy. Both are in such good condition that they must have been almost new at the time of breakage with deposition in the ditch occurring without delay, and so they stand out from other sherd clusters found elsewhere on the site. The date of deposition will lie between AD 45 and 65.

Sherds from five other imported vessels were found in this section of the ditch, including a pedestal beaker Cam form 74, a girth beaker Cam form 84, and ovoid beaker Cam 112 and two butt-beakers of Cam form 113, both late versions of Claudio-Neronian date. Taken together with the *lagena*, it represents the widest range of Gaulish imports in any feature.

Table 37: the identification and dating of all imports by context and in numerical order of features.

feature no	context & find no	Phases	sherd	condition	form	fabric	comments	j	source	date
U/S	U/S 1450/1	U/S	1R	EE – vva	cup – Cam 56	TR1C/**GAB TR1C**			GB	AD 10-60
U/S	U/S 1450/2	U/S	2B	F	platter	TN/**GAB TN** – pale	? large		GB	AD 20-50
U/S	U/S 1450/3	U/S	1S	FF	pedestal cup ?Cam 74	TR1A/**GAB TR1A**			GB	AD 10-50
F2	F2 8/1	3	2R;1B;50+S Sherd Cluster A	E/F – fair edges	butt-beaker Cam 113	BBPW/**NOG WH3** cream sandy version with red inner slip	chiefly upper body & neck Same source as F104,440		NG	AD 25-60
	8/2		1N;5S	E/F – ditto	Cam 113	BBPW/**NOG WH3** – typical white			NG	ditto
	F2 59/1		2R	E	Cam 113	BBSPW/**NOG WH3** – orange sandy, slurried finish	typical rim moulding, possibly local but made by immigrant potter so date as import		?import	ditto
	F70 207/1		2N join	E	large flagon	BPFW/**NOG WH2** – beige with flints			import NG	AD 50-160
F8	F8 111/1	2	1B	F	platter	TN1A/**GAB TN**			import G-B	?pre-AD 25
	F8 120/1 + 202/1 + 208/1 + 265/1		5S	F	flagon	WWP/**NOG WH1** – white	prob all same vessel		import NG	AD 25-70, same date as Stanway
	F8 265/2 + 334/1		10S Sherd Cluster B	FF	flagon	FFW? WWP/**NOG WH1**	prob all same vessel		import NG	AD 50-160
	L17 248/1		1S	E	flagon	WWP/**NOG WH1** – white			import NG	AD 25-70, same date as Stanway
	L17 248/2		2s joining Sherd Cluster B	EE	flagon	FFW? WWP/**NOG WH1**	same pot as F8 334/1			
	L17 266/1		1B	FF - vva	beaker	TR3/**GAB TR3** – red			GB	AD 10-60
	L17 266/2		16S lower body	C/E - further	flagon/*lagena*	FFW? WWP/**NOG**	same pot as F8 334/1		import	AD 50-160

			only Sherd Cluster B	fragmented		**WH1**	& 265/2		NG	
F16	F16 191/2	3	1N,1B,3S	E-F	*lagena* Cam 161	WWP/**NOG WH1** – white	prob all same vessel		import NG	AD 25-70
	F16 191/3		1 4-rib H	F	flagon Cam 140 or *lagena* Cam 161	ditto - pinkish			ditto	ditto
F31	F31 212/1	3	1S	F	flagon	WWP/**NOG WH1** – white			ditto	ditto
F46	F46 149/1 ?special deposit	2	1R;2N;6B; 3H;50+S Sherd Cluster C	EE - v abraded	flagon Cam 140, only 1 4-rib H found R=100; N=85; B=100; H=35mm	BPFW/**NOG WH2** – beige version	Broken elsewhere before deposition, but sufficient to suggest it was intended as a special deposit		import NG	AD 20-75, but most probably after AD 45
F57	F306 743/1	3	7S	FF	large flagon/amphora	FFW? WWP/**NOG WH2** – beige version			import	AD 50-160
	F306 1346/1		2B,2S join	FF	butt-beaker Cam 113 late version	BBSPW/**NOG WH3** - pink sandy ware	atypical fabric		import	ditto
	F306 1346/2		6B, 1S join –1/2 circuit – further fragmented	E	*lagena* Cam 161 or Cam 163	WWP/**NOG WH1** – white			import	AD 25-70, date as Stanway
F63	F63 167/1 pit	3	1R	FFF - vva	Cam 112 small	TR3/**GAB TR3**			GB	AD 10-60
F66	F66 199/1	2	3R, 15S neck & lower body Sherd Cluster D	C fragmented to F	butt-beaker Cam 113	BBPW/**NOG WH3** – white	good moulding		import NG	AD 10-40?
F75	F75 238/1 post-hole	2	1S	E	butt-beaker Cam 113	BBPW/**NOG WH3** – white			import NG	AD 10-40?
	F75 246/1		1R	E	butt-beaker Cam 113 late version	BBSPW/**NOG WH3** – yellowish sandy	narrow rim, no moulding		ditto	AD 10-25?
	F75 250/1		1N	E	butt-beakers Cam 113	BBPW/**NOG WH3** – typical white	good moulding		ditto	AD 10-40?
	F75 250/2		1S	E	Cam 113	BBSPW/**NOG WH3** – orange sandy, much white grog			ditto	AD 10-40?
F104	F104 440/1	1-2	3R, 20S further fragmented Sherd Cluster E	FF - abraded	Cam 113	BBPW/**NOG WH3** – white	upper body only		import	AD 25-60

F115	F115 360/1 pit	3	1R	EE – vv abraded	platter Cam 14	TN/**GAB TN**			import GB	AD 45-70
	F115 482/1		1R	EE	cup Cam 58	TN/**GAB TN**			ditto	AD 45-80
F117	F117 417/1	1-2	1R	FF	ovoid beaker Cam 112	TR3/**GAB TR3**			import GB	AD 10-50
	F117 409/2		1S	FF – vva.	beaker	TR3/**GAB TR3**			import GB	pre-AD 60
	F117 369/1 + 373/1		3R,1N,1H	E-F	*lagena* Cam 163	WWP/**NOG WH1** – white	all same pot but no body sherds		import NG	AD 25-70, date as Stanway
	F117 409/1 + 410/1		50+ S Sherd Cluster F		flagon or *lagena*	FFW? WWP/**NOG WH1** – beige version	all same pot, no upper body sherds, ?broken elsewhere before deposition		ditto	AD 50-160
F145	F145 433/1	1-2	1R	FF – vv abraded	butt-beaker Cam 113 late version	BBSPW/**NOG WH3** – yellowish sandy			import	AD 25-60
F305	F614 1176/1	2	1R	CC - vva	large platter Cam 4	MTN/**CNG TN**			import CG	15 BC-AD 25
F312	F312 890/1	2	1R	FF- vva	girth beaker Cam 84s	TR3 red/**GAB TR3**			GB	AD 10-50
	F312 1242/1		1R	EE	large platter Cam 5	TN/**GAB TN** – pale B/G			GB	10 BC-AD 60
	F556 1073/1		complete rim, neck & 2 handles but only 20+S upper body Sherd Cluster G	B	*lagena* Cam 161-4 rib. R = 120; N = 100; H = 44mm	WWP/**NOG WH1** – white	?complete when buried but where is base ?		import	AD 25-70, new at breakage and deposition
	F556 1075/1		3S ? 1073/1 - G		*lagena*	ditto			ditto	ditto
	F556 1089/1		3S possibly 1073/1 - G		*lagena*	ditto			ditto	ditto
	F595 1197/1		1R	E	platter Cam 14	TN/**GAB TN** – pale			GB	AD 45-70
	F595 1136/1		1B	E	platter Cam 8	TN/**GAB TN** – pale			GB	AD 20-65
	F595 1117/1		1R	E	cup Cam 56L	TR1(C) /**GAB TR1C**			GB	AD 10-65
	F595 1149/1		1R	F	cup Cam 56L	TN/**GAB TN** – pale			GB	AD 10-65
	F595		6S – joins	E	pedestal cup	TR1(A) /**GAB TR1A**	prob same cup as		GB	AD 10-50

	1163/1 + 1179/1				Cam 74		F639 1223/1			
	F595 1136/2		2S	E	ovoid beaker CAM 112 small	TR3/**GAB TR3** – red smoked	typical coarse rouletting on max girth		GB	AD 10-50
	F595 1117/2		1N	F	butt-beaker Cam 113 late version	BBPW/**NOG WH3** – pink	late version lacking cordon		import	AD 60-120
	F595 1117/3		1N	F	butt-beaker Cam 113 – late version	BBPW/**NOG WH3** – pink sandy, slurried finish			?import	AD 45-75
F323	F722 1288/1	1-2	9R join further fragmented	C	flagon Cam 140 (or Cam 161)	WWP/**NOG WH1** – white	neck diameter suggests a flagon		import	AD 40-70
	F722 1288/2		5N join further fragmented	E	flagon	FFW? WWP/**NOG WH1** - pink			import	AD 50-160
F491	F491 1093	3	1R, 3S join	E	girth beaker Cam 84	TR3/**GAB TR3** – pink, smoked			GB	AD 10-50
F594	F594 1397/1	4	1S	F	butt-beaker Cam 113	BBPW/**NOG WH3** – white			import	AD 25-60
F639	F639 1223/1 Pit	4	1S	F	pedestal beaker Cam 74	TR1(A) /**GAB TR1A**			GB	AD 10-50
F743	F743 1314/1 Pit	1	1R	F	girth beaker Cam 84	TR3/**GAB TR3** – red			GB	AD 10-50

Abbreviations
R - rim
B - base sherd
N - neck
S - sherd
Ss - small sherd
C - crumb, ie very small sherd

Condition codes:
A = complete
B = complete profile
C large sherds in good condition
D = one large sherd
E = small sherds, about 50 x 50mm
F = small sherds and crumbs.
Letters doubled to indicate heavy abrasion.

Table 38: the identification and dating of local products copying imports by context and in numerical order.

F16	F16 43/1 + 191/1	3	2B	FF - va	platter ?Cam 8 Step = 160; FR = 110mm	local			local	AD 45-75
	F16 191		2R +2S	FF	butt-beaker Cam 119	MRW/ TR4	local		local	AD 45-75
F30	F553 1059	3	1B	EE – burnt & v abraded	platter ?Cam 8 Step = 160; FR = 110mm	local			local	AD 45-75
F55	F55 224/1	3	6B joining	C	ovoid beaker Cam 112 COPY	Grog	very like *KHL*, burial 276		local	AD 20-65; fabric suggests it could be pre-conquest
F104	F104 377/1	1-2	1R	F	butt-beaker Cam 119	grog	local		local	AD 25-75
F117	F117 379/1 + 410/2	1-2	1B, 2S	E	ovoid beaker Cam 112 COPY B = 100mm	MRW/ TR4	Rouletted fern-leaf decoration cf *KHL,* fig 60,1C3; burials 276 and 455). Found also at the Sheepen site.		local	AD 45-65
F138	F138 452/1	1	1R	FF – vva	platter Cam 8	local	moulding and fabric typical of Catulussi		local	AD 45-75: in latest burial at the Stanway site
F312	F595 1187 1195/1	2	1 large sherd fragmented into 21 joining – 1/3 rim circuit Sherd Cluster G	C	butt-beaker Cam 113 COPY R = 130; C = 100; N = 140; MG = 160 @100mm	MRW/ TR4	local product made by a potter trained in Gaulish workshop, ?a pre-conquest immigrant ? see *CAR* **10**, fig 5.24, 3-4, 7-8 & 11 for close parallels		local	AD 45-65, a copy which has to be dated as the prototype; new at time of breakage and deposition

Abbreviations
R - rim
B - base sherd
N - neck
S - sherd
Ss - small sherd
C - crumb ie very small sherd

Condition codes:
A = complete
B = complete profile
C = large sherds in good condition
D = one large sherd
E = small sherds, about 50x50mm
F = small sherds and crumbs

Letters doubled to indicate heavy abrasion.

Table 39: the sherd count, estimated maximum and minimum number of vessels.

	sherd count	pits	U/S sherds	estimated vessel count
Central Gaulish				
platter Cam 4, mica TN	1R Late Augustan			1
Gallo-Belgic				
$ % platter Cam 5	1R			1
*$ % platter Cam 8,TN	1B			1
*platter Cam 14	2R	1R		2
small platter, TN1A	2B			2
large, platter TN			2S	1
platter total	**4R 3B**	**1R**	**2S**	**7**
*$ cup Cam 56, TR1C	1R		1R	2
*$ cup Cam 56, TN	1R			1
*$ flanged cup Cam 58, TN	1R			1
cup total	**3R**		**1R**	**4**
*cup Cam 74, TR1	6S - joins ? = pit	1S	1	**3/2**
% beaker Cam 84 TR3	3R			3
beaker Cam 91 TR3				
*beaker Cam 112 TR3	2R 3S			4
% beaker misc TR3	1B 1S			2
TR3 beakers	**5R, 1B, 4S**	**X**		**9/7**

Abbreviations for Tables 39 and 40:
R - rim
B - base sherd
N - neck
S - sherd
Ss - small sherd
C - crumb, ie very small sherd
* - form represented in burials at the Stanway site
$ - form represented in chambers at the Stanway site

Table 40: the sherd count, estimated maximum and minimum number of vessels.

	sherd count	pits	U/S sherds	estimated vessel count
North Gaulish				
% beaker Cam 113	8R, 1N, 40S = 4 pots	1N, 2S = 3 pots		7
latest version	1R, 3N, 2B, 3S = 5 pots	1R = 1 pot		7
[red-slip]	2R, 1B, 20+S = 1pot			1
[orange & yellow sandy]				
BB totals	**11R, 4N, 3B, 63+S**	**1R, 1N, 2S**		**15**
North Gaul-Lower Rhine				
***** flagon Cam 140	9R join = 1 pot			1
**lagena* Cam 161	1 complete neck circuit, 1N, 1B, 8S = 2 pots			2
lagena Cam 163	3R,1N,1H = 1 pot			1
*flagon/*lagena* 4-rib handle & sherds	6B, 2H, 8S = 5 pots			5
FFW - ?**NOG WH1**	5N, 78S = 3 pots			3
North Gaulish GPW	2N = 1 pot	1R, 2N, 6B, 3H, 50+S = 1 pot		2
% flagon/*lagena* totals	**12R, 1 complete neck circuit, 9N, 7B, 3H, 94S**	**1R, 2N, 6B, 50+S**		**14**
Totals				53

Table 41: a comparison of the incidence of imports in the enclosure ditches at the Abbotstone and Stanway sites.

	Abbotstone		Stanway					
		estimated vessel count	East ditch of enclosure 3 – north (BF4)	East ditch of enclosure 3 – south (BF27)	East ditch of enclosure 4 – north (BF39)	East ditch of enclosure 4 – south arm (BF40)	South ditch/north ditch of enclosures 4/5 (CF1)	estimated vessel count
#Central Gaulish								
platter Cam 4, mica TN	1R Late Augustan	1						
Gallo-Belgic								
$ platter Cam 5, TN	1R	1						
*$ platter Cam 8,TN	1B	1				4R,5B,1Ss (1)		1
*platter Cam 14	2R	2						
small platter,TN1A	2B	2						
large platter, TN					1B			1
platter total		**7**						**2**
*$ cup Cam 56, TR1C	3R	3						
*$ cup Cam 56, TN	1R	1						
8$ flanged cup Cam 58, TN	1R	1				1Ss		1
cup total		**5**						**1**
cup Cam 74, TR1(C)	6S - joins TRI (A)	1				2R, 1Ss (1)	1B circuit, 6Ss	2/1
beaker Cam 84 TR3	2R	2				1Ss		1
beaker Cam 91 TR3					1R	2Ss	1Ss	3/1
*$ beaker Cam 112 TR3	3R, 2S	4/3				1R	4R, 4B, 10Ss (1)	2/1
beaker misc TR3	1S	1				4Ss		1
TR3 beakers		**8/7**						**7/4**

North Gaulish								
beaker Cam 113	8R, 3N, 4B, 79S= 7 pots	10		3R (1), 1R	4Ss	2R, 1B circuit, 62Ss (1).	1R, 10Ss	6/4
latest version	1N	4						
BB totals		**14**						**6/4**
North Gaul-Lower Rhine								
***** flagon Cam 140	9R join = 1 pot	1						
* *lagena* Cam 161	complete neck+ 2H+ 20S & 1N, 7B, 12S = 5 pots	6						
lagena Cam 163	3R+1N+1H = 1 pot	1						
*flagon/*lagena* 4-rib handle	3H = 3 pots	3	1H	40+ S			1H	3/2
North Gaulish GPW	2N, 50+S = 2 pots	3						
flagon'/*lagena* totals		**14/11**						**3/2**
Totals		49/43	1H	4R, 40+Ss	1R, 4Ss	9R, 6B,72Ss	5R, 5B, 26Ss, 1H	21/14

Abbreviations
R - rim
B - base sherd
N - neck
S - sherd
Ss - small sherd
C - crumb, ie very small sherd
* - form represented in burials at the Stanway site
$ - form represented in chambers at the Stanway site

Table 42: incidence of imports in the ditches of the sub-enclosure in enclosure 4 at the Stanway site.

enclosure 4 sub-enclosure ditches	BF28	BF29	BF30	BF30/31	BF31 1130	minimum vessel nos
Gallo-Belgic						
platter Cam 5, TN			1R			1
*platter Cam 7/8 or 8, TN					1B	1
beaker Cam 84, TR3			1Ss			1
beaker Cam 91 or 112, TR3				3Ss	4Ss (1)	2
North Gaulish						
butt-beaker Cam 113, BPW		2C	3B,20+Ss (1)	1R,1Ss (1)	1R,12C	3
North Gaul-Lower Rhine						
*flagon, form unknown, WPW			1Ss			1
sherd nos		2	1R,3B,22+Ss	1R, 4Ss	1R,1B.16Ss	9

Abbreviations
R - rim
B - base sherd
N - neck
S - sherd
Ss - small sherd
C - crumb, ie very small sherd
* - form represented in burials at the Stanway site
$ - form represented in chambers at the Stanway site

7.4 The post-Roman/medieval pottery

by Howard Brooks

7.4.1 Introduction

This is the report on the post-Roman pottery from the excavations at the Abbotstone site.

7.4.2 The material

The material consists of 5896 grammes in 56 bags from 35 archaeological contexts. Fabrics present are as follows (after *CAR* **7**): Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware); Fabric 22 (Hedingham fine ware), Fabric 36 (London-type ware), and Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware). A list of weights per fabric per context is given in the archive.

7.4.3 Discussion

This group consists overwhelmingly of medieval sandy grey ware (Fabric 20), which accounts for 95% of the group by weight. There are smaller amounts of Hedingham ware (Fabric 22: 3% of the group by weight) and Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a: 1%). The lack of any post-medieval wares (except for one sherd of Fabric 40, post-medieval red earthenware) is a clear indication of a lack of activity in the post-medieval period.

This group need not date outside the 13th century. The later material (Fabric 21a) is all from a single large pit (F707) which may post-date the main phase of activity. There is a sufficiently coherent set of ditches, gullies, pits and post-holes dated by medieval pottery to suggest a temporary occupation of this site at a date centred on the 13th century, with a possible continuation (or a later phase of activity) into the 15th/16th century. A group of post-holes or pits may mark the site of a domestic structure. Some of the sherds are sooted externally, showing that they have been set over a fire. Most of the Fabric 20 material is probably of local origin, but the decorated Hedingham ware was imported from Hedingham/Gosfield in Essex.

7.5 The Roman brick and tile

by Laura Pooley

7.5.1 The material (see archive for a full breakdown of results)

A total of 545 pieces of Roman brick and tile (at 43,745g) was recovered during the excavations at the Abbotstone site. The majority of these pieces were of a red/orange colour but included four pieces of tile in buff/cream (two with flanges). A total of 82:18,424g of brick was recorded from 49 different contexts and a total of 463:25,321g of tile was recorded from 134 contexts and included 28 flanges and five pieces of *imbrex*. Two pieces of brick and three tiles contained signatures (semi-circular markings believed to be the 'signature' of the craftsman who made them).

A total of five pieces of box flue tile were recovered from four different contexts within Phase 3. All were of a red/orange colour and were roller-printed. It is unlikely that these pieces were actually part of a hypocaust that existed on or near to the site (see below), but they were probably reused as general building material.

One *tessera* cube was found in the modern ploughsoil layer (L1). It was white in colour and contained traces of mortar around its bottom half. It was 25mm in length, 20mm in width and 18mm in depth, and weighed 13g.

7.5.2 Discussion (see Fig 19 for a distribution plan of the Roman brick and tile)

7.5.2.1 Roman period

Throughout the period of the Roman occupation, at the Abbotstone site, only one structure was recorded, ie the round-house associated with RDE 1 in Phase 1; however, this lack of *in situ* remains does not mean that there were no other buildings/structures on the site, and the large quantities and weights of Roman building material (brick and tile) collected during the excavation would seem to confirm this.

In Phase 1, a total of 53:3,230g of brick and tile was recorded (which included two fragments of *tegula* with flange) and appear to have concentrated in two main areas (1) around the round-house in RDE 1, and (2) associated with the features of the southern enclosure. Within Phase 2, a total of 73:5,028g of brick and tile was recorded (which included three pieces of *tegula* with flange and one piece of *imbrex*), the majority of which came from the features associated with the large square ditched enclosure (SDE 1). The totals of brick and tile from Phases 1 and 2 are similar both in quantity and weight; this indicates that small structures could have been built within both of these phases, ie the known round-house within RDE 1 and possibly an associated structure within the southern enclosure of Phase 1, and also a possible structure within SDE 1 of Phase 2.

Within Phase 3, a total of 256:20,194g of Roman brick and tile was recorded (and included 12 pieces of *tegula* with flange and four pieces of *imbrex*), of which approximately 60% came from the features associated with the south-eastern corner of the large square ditched enclosure (SDE 3), indicating that a large structure most probably existed here within this phase. Within the features of this south-east corner, four pieces of flue tile were also recovered. Flue tile is indicative of a large, high status building with underground heating. A further piece of flue tile was recorded within the small square ditched enclosure (SDE 4) to the south and a single *tessera* cube recovered from the topsoil layer of the site is the only other evidence we have that any high status building existed here; however, this material is small in quantity and there is no other evidence for the existence of a building of this status (eg there is no wall-plaster/painted wall-plaster, no structural fittings, no furniture fittings). This flue tile (and the *tessera* cube) may then actually represent a reuse of high status material as general building material. What is also interesting in the distribution of this material are the areas in which very little was recovered. The north-west and south-west corners of the enclosure (SDE 3) contained very little brick and tile, as did the smaller enclosure (SDE 4) of this phase, which suggests that no brick/tile structure was erected in these areas.

All of this evidence indicates that, except for the round-house of Phase 1, other small and probably relatively low status structures built (or partially built) of brick and tile did exist on the site. This material, however, cannot tell us what sort of structures existed or what they were used for (a building to live in, to work in, for storage or some other function).

7.5.2.2 The medieval period

A large amount of Roman brick and tile was also recorded in Phase 4 (66: 8,687g), especially in the south-west corner of the site where excavation revealed the existence of a medieval building and two 4-post structures. The recovery of this material from Phase 4 is evidence that Roman building material was reused in the medieval period, probably during the building of these structures.

7.6 The human and faunal remains

by Julie Curl

7.6.1 Summary

A total of 6.960kg of bone, consisting of 1,828 fragments, was recovered from the excavations at the Iron Age farmstead at the Abbotstone site. Most of the bone was in poor condition and included cremated bone. The assemblage contained both human and animal remains and included many remains of deer and an isolated human skull which suggests probable ritual activity at the Abbotstone site.

7.6.2 Methodology

Most of the bone had not been cleaned during or after the excavation due to the fragile condition of most of the remains. Some bone was also removed from site in blocks of soil to avoid further destruction. The first task was to carefully remove bone from blocks of soil and to clean other remains. The soil matrix had dried quite hard in most cases, a problem made worse by the presence of clay in some of the soil. The matrix was first softened by gently spraying with a fine mist of water, a process which was repeated until the soil became loose. Soil was carefully removed using wooden tools or soft brushes, so as to avoid scratching the surface of the bone.

The human skull was extremely fragile and the brain case and the rest of the skull had been filled and surrounded with a very dense clay/soil matrix. As much soil as possible was removed from around the skull (keeping any loose teeth or fragments of bone), while leaving the skull itself intact. After the initial cleaning around the skull, it was examined to determine if it was possible to remove any further soil, and measurements were also taken of the skull at this stage. Further cleaning would have resulted in possible damage to the skull, so it was decided to X-ray the head to see if this would provide any additional information. X-rays were taken of the left side and the right side of the skull to see if there were any unerupted teeth visible or any pathologies. Because of the density of the clay within the skull, it was extremely hard to penetrate the bone, so the final X-rays were taken at 9v for 5 and 8 minutes. Teeth that were present in the upper jaw were cleaned by spraying with water and cleaning with soft brushes. Photographs were also taken of the human skull to provide an additional record.

Once removed from the soil and cleaned, all the bone was examined to determine first whether it was of human or animal in origin. Whenever possible bone was identified to species, although because of the poor condition of the bone it was often only possible to identify remains simply as ‘bovid/cervid’ or ‘large mammal’. Where feasible, bones were identified to type, eg metatarsal, although, due to the fragmentary nature of the bone, some had to be recorded as, for example, ‘longbone’ or ‘skull’.

No complete elements were present in this assemblage and most of the bone was extremely fragmentary, so no measurements were taken. All bone was weighed and in most cases just represents actual bone weight; however, with the human skull, the weight includes the dense clay/soil matrix within the skull cavities. Fragments that could be identified were recorded with quantities for each identifiable species present; total quantities for each context were also recorded. The condition of the bone was noted, along with any sign of burning. Burnt bone was recorded as fully as possible, for example ‘burnt white’ or ‘burnt blue’ to give some indication of the level of heat the bone suffered. All the information was recorded on the faunal or human remains recording sheets and a summary of the results are presented in a table with this report.

(See archive for a table summary of all the bone recovered from the Abbotstone site.)

7.6.3 Provenance and preservation

Bone was recovered from a variety of fills, mostly from ditches and pits. Generally the bone in this assemblage was in very poor condition, with soft, porous and eroding surfaces. Some remains had also undergone varying levels of burning, some fragments were slightly blackened, other fragments were burnt white or blue by more intense heat. One fragment of bone from context F459 was in remarkably good condition compared to the rest of the assemblage and suggests that this bone derived from modern remains. The poor condition of the bone and eroded, soft surfaces led to difficulty determining the level of butchering carried out at this site, although many fragments showed evidence of chops and cuts.

7.6.4 Results and discussion

7.6.4.1 The human bone

Table 43: summary of the human bone recovered.

Feature no	Recorded as	Phase	Finds no	Weight (g)	Quantity	HSR Quantity	Level of burning	Cut?	Comments and condition
F45	F45	2?	130	42	9	HSR x 9	burnt white	cut	fragments of ulna and skull, cut on longbone fragment
F305	F490 Sx 2	2	1103	9	8	HSR x 8	burnt white		mandible fragment with roots of premolar to M2
F305	F490 Sx 2	2	1121	2,500	171	171			HSR - skull, aged approx 40 years, female, enamel hypoplasia (weight includes skull full of dense clay)
F498	F512	2	1032	4	8	HSR x 8	burnt white		fragments including a proximal phalange

Human remains were positively identified in three contexts at Abbotstone. The most interesting and intact was from ditch F305 (F490 Sx 2) which produced a human skull (finds number (1121); see Fig 20A, B, C). The skull is in very poor condition, although there was no sign of any burning, and it is largely held together by the very dense clay that fills and surrounds much of the skull. The size and shape of the skull suggest that this is the head of a female, partially indicated by the less protruding occipital bone, although the sex of the individual was difficult to assess due to the distortion of the skull (probably from soil weight). The left canine and the left premolar were present and showed wear. The roots of incisors and the left first molar were also *in situ*, but the teeth themselves had been lost. Extensive wear was apparent on the canine and pre-molar suggesting a coarse diet and an estimated age of between 30 and 40 years at death. Enamel hypoplasia was evident on the canine and pre-molar; a condition which has caused grooving on the teeth. This condition is produced by difficult or stressful episodes in an individual's history; these episodes can be dietary, pathological or psychological (Hilson 1986). It is possible that the enamel hypoplasia in this individual arose as a result of illness or malnutrition, without other evidence it is not possible to determine this fully. A fragment of mandible, with the visible roots from the right premolar to the second molar, was also yielded from context F305 (F490 Sx 2, finds number (1103)) and is likely to be associated with the skull.

Given the Iron Age/Early Roman date of the skull, it is possible that this isolated head could be evidence of the Celtic practice of head-hunting. The Celts were known to take the heads of those they killed, partly as a ‘trophy’ and also because the Celts believed that the strength and spirit of a person lived in the head. They would remove

the head to capture their spirit, gain their enemy's power and to prevent them from seeking revenge in the afterlife. Heads would sometimes be displayed on a pole, and this is something that could have happened to the head at the Abbotstone site. The margin of the foramen magnum (area of the spinal column) is broken and part of the base of the skull is missing, which would be expected if the head had been on a pole. Certainly the presence of this isolated skull, along with the associated pot and cremated bone, does suggest a ritual of some sort.

Cremated human bone was also found in context F498, which is part of the pit dug above the human skull; these remains were mostly fragments and included part of a proximal phalanx. As these were found with a pot above the skull, it is very probable that they are from the same individual; the body may have been burnt while the head was used in some other form of ritual.

Further human remains were recovered from context F45 and consisted of nine fragments of ulna and skull which had been cremated, resulting in white pieces of bone. One of the fragments of longbone showed a cut mark, which suggests that the remains had been dismembered prior to burning, butchering of human bones is known in Iron Age burials (Whimster 1981).

It is possible that some of the other cremated bone recovered from Abbotstone includes human remains, although this was difficult to determine fully due to the fragmentary nature and poor condition of the assemblage.

7.6.4.2 The animal bone

The majority of the bone fragments in this assemblage were derived from animal remains. Five species of mammal were identifiable, most of which were from domesticated species.

Ditch F312

The largest quantity of animal bone was produced from the 1st- to 3rd-century ditch F312, which yielded a total of 1.848kg of bone. The fills in this ditch contained numerous pieces of red deer, including molars, mandible, vertebrae, astragalus, tibia and antler, some of which had been butchered, suggesting that the deer had been skinned and probably butchered for food. Elements from cattle and butchered sheep/goat were also recovered from these ditch fills. Slight burning was noted on some of the bone in F312, more so in finds numbers (1055), (1171), (1184) and (1188). Numerous other fragments recorded as ‘large mammal’ were included in the fills of F312, but most appear to be fragments of the red deer longbones or mandible; no human remains have been identified from this feature.

Other animal bone

Further fragments of deer, cattle sheep, equid and pig were found. Due to the poor condition of the bone, most of the identifiable remains consisted of tooth fragments and the majority of the bone was produced from various ditch fills.

Cattle – Remains of cattle were the most common and these were recovered from ditch fills across the site. Cattle teeth were also included in the bone found with the human skull in context F305 (F490 Sx 2). Most of the identifiable cattle remains were teeth fragments, although some other bone was recorded. A cattle phalange was yielded from context F305 (finds no (1123)), which showed cuts that indicate that the animal had been skinned. A gnawed cattle pelvis fragment was recovered from one of the fills of the main enclosure (SDE 3) ditch F2, which suggests that some of the animal remains lay exposed for a time before being buried and were open to scavenger activity. All of the Iron Age/early Roman cattle remains were from mature animals, which would indicate a life of breeding and work before being culled for meat. No measurable elements were recovered so it is not possible to determine stature or breeds present at the Abbotstone site, although they were probably the typical small Dexter-type of cow that was common during the Iron Age.

Deer – Red deer were present in several ditch and pit fills around the site. The most frequent were in the fills of context F312 (see above) and included antler and evidence of the deer being skinned and butchered. Further antler was retrieved from the Late Iron Age context F117; however, none of the antler showed any sign of utilisation, although this may be due to the poor condition of the remains and eroding surfaces. Red deer would have been common in the area during the Iron Age and would have been hunted for their meat and hides, and the butchering of the remains

certainly attests to their contribution to the diet at the Abbotstone site. All of the remains of deer at this site are derived from adult animals.

Sheep/Goat – Remains of both sheep and goat were identified in this assemblage, although, due to the fragmentary nature of the bone, most has had to be recorded as 'sheep/goat'. Most of the identifiable remains were retrieved from context F312, which had been butchered. The remains included one bone that was from a small and rather delicate sheep, typical of the Soay breed, which were commonly kept during the Iron Age. Teeth recovered were well worn and included a worn third molar, indicating a mature animal. During the Iron Age, sheep were kept for milking and wool before being culled for meat and so would have been kept for a few years before being killed.

Equid – Numerous equid remains were found from the Iron Age/Roman period. Most remains were molars and in poor condition. It was possible to determine that the equids were mature at death from the well-worn surfaces on the teeth. Only one fragment of bone gave any indication to the stature of the equids, a distal metatarsal (finds number (1202)), that was derived from a small adult individual. No butchering evidence was noticed on the remains, although consumption cannot be ruled out. It is most likely that the equids at this site had the primary use as draught animals.

Pig – Only sparse remains of pig were recovered. A pre-molar and other burnt fragments of bone were found in the base of post-hole F75. An additional unerupted third molar and a fragment of burnt phalange were also recovered from F75 (finds no 251). The piece of mortar and gravel from context F18 also contained pig tusks. These sparse remains could not produce a great deal of information and it is possible that the remains could be from wild boar or domesticated pig.

7.6.5 Conclusions

The assemblage from the Abbotstone site is small and in poor condition due to a combination of soil conditions, butchering and burning. The bone has produced some further information on Iron Age diet and the species utilised; it is clear from the ages of animals present that they had other uses, such as milking or traction, before being culled for meat. The most interesting feature of this assemblage is the human remains, in particular the human skull. The presence of this skull and the nature of the burial is indicative of ritual activity at Abbotstone. It is quite possible that this skull is further evidence of the Celts' 'head-hunting' practices. It is also possible that the larger dump of animal bone in the ditch fills of F312 could have been the remains of feasting, possibly associated with some of the ritual activity on the site.

7.7 The Roman glass

by H E M Cool

Square bottles (Price & Cottam 1998, 194-6) are the only vessel type that can be recognised in the glass from Abbotstone (nos 1-4, 8). These are a very common form, in use from the 1st to early 3rd centuries. Their presence on the site is not surprising as such containers are frequently the only glass vessel type found on early to mid Roman rural sites.

Melted glass vessels are represented by nos 5 to 7. Nos 5 and 6 could well come from the same vessel as they are the same colour. Clearly they represent the remains of a pyre good, and if they do both come from the same vessel, then the charcoal patch F48 represents debris from the pyre of the individual buried in cremation F45.

The unstratified melted fragment no 5 might be from another vessel melted on a pyre, but domestic accidents occasionally produce melted glass, so its origin is uncertain.

1 ABB 1999.48 632 F82 (F355) Phase 4
Bottle; neck fragment. Cylindrical neck with tooling marks at base.

2 ABB 1999.48 186 F38 (F39 Sx 5) Phase 3
Square bottle; body fragment. Blue/green. Width of bottle 74mm.

3 ABB 1999.48 337 U/S (near F4 Sx 5)
Prismatic bottle; body fragment. Blue/green.

4 ABB 1999.48 61 L12 post-Roman
Prismatic bottle; body fragment. Blue/green.

5 ABB 1999.48 20 U/S
Blue/green; melted fragment. Weight <1g.

6 ABB 1999.48 128 F48 unphased/possibly Phase 2
Pale green; six melted and strain-cracked fragments. Weight 5g.
7 ABB 1999.48 130 F45 unphased/possibly Phase 2
Pale green; nine melted and strain-cracked fragments. Weight 5g.
8 ABB 2001 1296 F726 Phase 3
Prismatic bottle; two body fragments. Blue/green.

7.8 Small find, briquetage and daub report

by Nina Crummy, with a contribution by Sarah Paynter

7.8.1 Summary

The assemblage consists of six main groups: loomweights, structural clay, salt briquetage, quernstones, metalwork, and miscellaneous items of frit, pottery and stone.

In each of the first three groups, most of the stratified material comes from Phase 1 (as well as some structural clay from a Late Bronze Age pit), with a steady decline in weight to Phase 2 and again a decline to Phase 3. Much, if not all, is therefore likely to be residual in the two later phases. The loomweights and structural clay, and to some extent the briquetage, are typical of settlement assemblages in Essex in the Middle and Late Iron Age, and of the Late Iron Age/Roman transition (eg Major 1987; 1998a; 1998b; 1999a). The Abbotstone Phase 1 pattern of deposition is thus quite 'standard'. The loomweights imply the keeping of sheep for wool and the self-sufficient home production of textile, while the briquetage points either to trade contacts with the salt-makers of the nearby coast or with local entrepreneurs dealing in salt, or perhaps to salt-making as a seasonal occupation. There is very little metalwork, and the only brooch is a small fragment of a British-made Colchester from a Phase 1-2 ditch. The only imported items are a few fragments of lava querns which date to later than AD 43.

The material from Phases 2 and 3 is in marked contrast to that of Phase 1. Some of the structural clay may be contemporary, particularly where it is present in comparatively large quantities, but much is residual. The assemblages instead largely consist of quernstones, all imported into the area, some from Hertfordshire and some from the continent, and some metalwork and miscellaneous items, all occurring more frequently in Phase 3 than in Phase 2. Three items among these latter groups, two coins and a frit melon bead, are also continental imports. It should be stressed, however, that though this greater emphasis on imports is in contrast to Phase 1, it does not imply wealth. The coins do not necessarily argue for a cash economy (Reece 2002, 115-16), the melon bead is a common form. The only brooch is again a native type, a Colchester BB derivative. There is a marked absence of those items which suggest the complexities of post-conquest urban or high-status rural daily life, eg toilet or medical instruments, writing equipment, keys, furniture fittings, religious amulets or figurines, or even structural fittings such as wall-hooks or clamps. Even nails are not particularly well represented. In this context the quernstones should be seen simply as evidence for the daily necessity of grinding grain and the range of stones available to fulfil this need.

Quantifying small assemblages to establish how typical Abbotstone Phases 2 and 3 might be of farmsteads in the early Roman period is difficult to achieve when the range of objects present is both limited and varies from site to site, but similarly sparse groups of material come from the Chigborough Farm site in Little Totham and from Ardleigh, both Essex sites within a few miles of Abbotstone, and also from the farmstead at Orton Longueville, Cambridgeshire. In all these cases coins and other metalwork were scarce and quernstones formed a large part of the assemblage (Winter 1998; Major 1998c; Major 1998d; Major 1998e; Major 1999b; Major 1999c; Mackreth 2001). These sites could all be defined as having a way of life only very slightly touched by the consumer goods that characterise the small finds assemblages of Roman Colchester (*CAR* **2**; *CAR* **6**) and even of rural settlements such as West Stow, Suffolk (West 1990).

7.8.2 Loomweights (Table 44; Fig 21)

Only small fragments of triangular loomweights were recovered, for the most part very abraded. None are sufficiently well-preserved or distinctive to merit illustration.

Given the degree of abrasion of the material, some pieces listed in archive as structural clay (daub) may perhaps more correctly belong here.

The fabric and firing of the fragments matches those defined at the nearby Middle Age enclosure at Stanway. Where the piece is large enough for the fabric to be unambiguous, most are comparable to Stanway Fabric A, the surface dull orange-brown to buff and fired hard, with some small grits, and with a reduced core that, where exposed, clearly shows the lines of torsion caused during manufacture (Crummy forthcoming a). Some of the Fabric A fragments came from Middle Iron Age pits, though most were scattered across the site in the Late Iron Age to Roman phases.

Small fragments from Phase 1 F716 and Phase 3 F2 and F441 differ from Fabric A in containing much more grit. It is here defined as Fabric B and is not present at Stanway.

Fabric C from Stanway occurs here only in unstratified context (307), which came from above the Phase 3 ditches F16/F57. It is a pale orange-brown, soft and sandy. The reduced core shows comparatively few stress lines. The examples in this fabric, which is only slightly harder than structural daub, are more abraded than those of Fabric A. A fragment of a loomweight in a similar fabric came from a Middle Iron Age context at Birchanger, Essex (Major 1994, 43).

A fourth fabric, D, which again does not occur at Stanway, is very similar to Fabric A but differs in being fired to buff-grey and having only a thin margin over an evenly black core. Fragments come from the Phase 1 enclosure ditch F417 and F434 (= F54), Phase 1 pit F338, in Phase 2 in ditch F490 (F305), and in Phase 3 in ditch F113. The Phase 1 and 2 fragments all come from the north-east part of the site.

Triangular loomweights for use on a warp-weighted loom are a long-lived form, first occurring in the Middle Iron Age and only dying out sometime in the second half of the 1st century AD when it is usually assumed that the form was replaced by the Roman pyramidal weight (Wild 1970, 63; Lambrick & Robinson 1979, 57). However, the evidence for domestic weaving in the Roman period is very slight, and it seems likely that most households stopped weaving their own textiles and bought commercially-produced fabrics instead.

Abbotstone Fabric A is the only one which occurs on the site in the Middle Iron Age, but all the fabrics with stratified fragments are present in Phase 1 (Table 44; Fig 21). All the loomweights found in Phase 2 and 3 contexts are therefore almost certainly residual, and this is confirmed by the steady decrease in incidence by weight shown in Figure 21 for Fabrics A and D. Fabric B, only represented by a few fragments, presents an anomalous pattern. However, it is not possible to determine how many, if any, of the loomweight fragments present in Periods 1 and 1-2 are Middle Iron Age, and how many are Late Iron Age or transitional into the Roman period, but, as most pieces are small and abraded, it seems most likely that an early date is to be preferred.

Two further groups of fired clay fragments which may come from loomweights should be noted here. The first group comes from the Late Bronze Age pit F22 and may come from a drum-shaped loomweight, the second is from the west ditch of the Phase 2 enclosure and may be loomweight wasters. Both are more fully described below.

Table 44: incidence of loomweight fragments in Phases 0 to 3.

Feature/ Layer	No of pieces	Weight (g)	Fabric	Context description	Phase
F132	1	9	(A)	Pit	1-MIA
F178	1	75	A	Pit	1-MIA
F214	1	129	A	Ditch (F105) – part of droveway	1-MIA
F336	4	215	A	Ditch of RDE 1	1
F417	2	231	D	Ditch (F54) of RDE 1	1
F434	1	252	D	Ditch (F54) of RDE 1	1
F716	1	24	B	Ditch (F356) of RDE 2	1
F197	1	165	A	Ditch (F135) of southern enclosure	1
F153	7	243	A	Pit within area of southern enclosure	1
F338	1	10	D	Pit	1
F117	1	13	(A)	Ditch of southern enclosure	1-2
F8	3	90	(A)	Ditch of SDE 1	2
F305	3	165	A	Ditch of SDE 1	2
F490	35	66	D	Ditch (F305) of SDE 1	2
F312	1	36	A	Ditch	2
F512	7	231	A	Cremation (F498)	2
F2	13	234	A (46g) B	Ditch of SDE 3	3
F113	2	64	D	Ditch of SDE 4	3
F410	13	123	A	Ditch in SDE 3	3
F441	1	30	B	Ditch in SDE 3	3
L5	1	9	(A)	Stone surface in SDE 3	3

7.8.3 The structural clay (Table 45; Fig 24 no 1)

Most of the fragments are very abraded, very few retain voids from wattles, and some of the smaller pieces may be from loomweights but lack clear diagnostic features.

Table 45 shows the spread of structural clay by phase, weight, and feature or feature type. As with the loomweights (see above) and the briquetage (see below), most of the material derives from Phases 1 and 1-2, and a large proportion of that present in Phases 2 and 3 is therefore likely to be residual.

The quantities involved in all cases are small (the largest group weighs only 4 kg), but five groups larger than most can be distinguished: from the Late Bronze Age pit F22, from Phase 1 pit F433, from Phase 1 ditch F197 (F135), from the ditch of the Phase 2 enclosure, and from the main Phase 3 enclosure ditch.

The material from F22 consists of 1.176 kg of small fragments, some 321g of which are reduced. Though small and featureless, it is possible that at least some of this material derives from a drum-shaped Bronze Age loomweight, or weights.

Of the remaining four groups, three come from the northern part of the site and only F197 is in the south. Besides containing a concentration of daub, the latter also produced the largest quantity of briquetage by weight. The groups from the later enclosure ditches are probably only larger than average because they reflect the size of the features involved. It is, however, worth noting that most of the fragments from the Phase 2 enclosure ditch are concentrated on the west and north sides, with only 18g coming from the south and none from the east. In contrast, most of the Phase 3 enclosure ditch material comes from the south-east corner, but with scarcely any present in the ditch recut.

The material from the Phase 1 pit F433 can all be presumed to derive from a common source. The fragments are all small and friable, most are reduced, and only a few retain slight traces of voids where wattles have decayed away. External surfaces, where present, are generally flat rather than rounded. The high level of reduction, and the lack of evidence for a mix of large upright wattles or stakes and smaller horizontal wattling suggests that the fragments may have come from an oven or kiln (cf Major 1987, 39).

One group of fragments from the Phase 2 east enclosure ditch F490 (F305) may be from a loomweight waster or wasters. They are in a hard but friable fabric containing grit and occasional small pebbles. It has an unusual buff-white outer surface, the core being a mixture of buff-white, pink and orange. The fractures are rough and irregular, a feature that can often be seen on loomweights where the form has been achieved by folding up a thick slab of clay. One piece has a rounded corner, perhaps an apex, others have a flat surface. One piece is slightly concave; it may be from the centre of one of the triangular faces, which sometimes sink downwards during the drying process. The surface of at least one other piece is quite irregular, which suggests these fragments are not from a loomweight at all. They have, however, been fired and so are unlikely to be from a wall. They may instead come from a kiln or some other type of heat-affected surface. Other more standard daub fragments come from the same feature.

The ditch F2 on the eastern side of the main Phase 3 enclosure produced part of a distinctive fired clay block (Fig 24 no 1). This closely resembles Iron Age loomweights in fabric and firing, if not in form, and all three features distinguish it from the so-called 'Belgic bricks' from Orsett 'Cock' and elsewhere in the region (Major 1998a, 107, 110, fig 70; Major 1999a, 158). Probably the most comparable objects are the bricks from the Roman pottery kilns at West Stow, Suffolk (West 1990, 93, figs 63-5), and the group of Iron Age blocks from Willington in Derbyshire (Elsdon 1979, 197-205).

Fig 24, no 1. (59) F2. Main enclosure ditch, east side. Phase 3. Part of a fired clay block in a sandy fabric containing grit and pebbles (mainly flint) and chopped vegetable tempering. Both internally and externally it has fired to a patchy orange-brown. It has a flat base and sloping sides which taper upwards to a rounded top. One of the sides is slightly sunken, a feature of the drying process which can also be observed on Iron Age loomweights (eg Major 1998, fig 69, 4). Width at base 74 mm, height 95 mm, maximum length 120 mm (incomplete). Weight 875g.

Table 45: incidence of daub fragments in Phases 0 to 3.

Feature/ Layer	Weight (g)	Weight (g) by phase	Context description	Phase
F22	1,176	1,176	pit	0-LBA
-	145	145	Phase 1-MIA features	1-MIA
F54/F336/ F417/F434/ F483	682		ditch of RDE 1	1
F716	124		ditch of RDE 2	1
F197 (= F135)	2,200		ditch of southern enclosure	1
-	201		ditches of southern enclosure	1
F100	680		pit/hearth	1
F433	4,000		pit	1
-	311		other Phase 1 pits	1
-	101	8,299	other Phase 1 features	1
-	475	475	Phase 1-2 ditches	1-2
F8/F421/ F435/L17; F305/F490/ F614; F604/F605; F714	2,127		ditch of SDE 1	2
-	21		other Phase 2 ditches	2
-	379	2,527	other Phase 2 features	2
F2/F4/F5/ F301/F304	1,198		ditch of SDE 3	3
F1/L19	7		recut of ditch F2 - SDE 3	3
-	381		other Phase 3 ditches & gullies	3
-	219	1,805	other Phase 3 features & layers	3

7.8.4 Salt briquetage (Table 46; Fig 22 and Fig 24 no 2)

A total of 835g of briquetage was recovered, all of the thick walled type typical of north-east Essex (Fawn *et al* 1990, 11, Type A). The single illustrated sherd (Fig 24, no 2) is from a rim in which a depression with a grooved base has been made by pressing a stick three times into the clay. This also pushed the clay out into a flange, more marked on the inner side of the depression than the outer.

The 835g derived from 22 contexts; many pieces were abraded and many were very small, some weighing as little as 1g (Table 46). Notable exceptions are some quite large sherds from F197 (F135) and F76 (F66). There was no marked geographical concentration in any of the phases, but Figure 22 shows clearly that the weight of briquetage present in Phases 1 to 3 decreased steadily, matching the pattern for loomweights very closely, and therefore all can be presumed to have reached the site in Phase 1.

Both briquetage containers and hearth furniture made on coastal salt production sites are increasingly being recorded inland; the find spot most distant from the coast may be Baldock, Hertfordshire (Rigby & Foster 1986, 188). Rodwell suggested two possible methods for the material to travel inland, first, that salt was traded in the vessels in which it was made, and second, that salt production was a seasonal occupation that linked both inland and coastal sites (1979, 159-60, 172). With reference to briquetage from Kelvedon, Eddy added that raw salt-cakes might be acquired at the coast to be refined inland (1982, 26). The rural nature of many of the inland sites has led Barford to suggest that broken briquetage was traded in its own right, perhaps to be used as salt-licks for livestock, a particularly attractive idea in the context of Abbotstone (1990, 79), but this idea has been refuted by Sealey (1995, 68-9), and the recovery of large unabraded briquetage sherds in the sub-enclosure ditches associated with the high-status burial rites at the Stanway site, close to Abbotstone, clearly shows that the containers were brought inland intact (Crummy forthcoming b). While it is most likely that Rodwell is correct in stating that the containers held only salt, it is also possible that they were used for fish preserved in salt, a possible secondary product of the Red Hill production sites (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 347; Fawn *et al* 1990, 33).

Fig 24 no 2. (500) F197. Ditch (F135). Phase 1. Rim fragment (in two pieces), with a flanged and triple-grooved depression made by pressing a stick onto the rim. Very slightly curved; 19.5 mm thick. Weight 129 g.

Table 46: incidence of briquetage.

Feature/ Layer	No of pieces	Weight (g)	Context description	Phase
F91 Sx1	1	5	ditch of southern enclosure	1
F197	3	482	ditch (F135) of southern enclosure	1
F141	5	125	pit within area of southern enclosure	1
F417	10	28	ditch (F54) of RDE 1	1
F117 Sx 2	3	66	ditch of southern enclosure	1-2
F158	4	26	ditch (F145) of southern enclosure	1-2
F8	1	16	ditch of SDE 1	2
F76	1	287	ditch (F66) of SDE 1	2
F413	2	72	Pit	2
F463	1	45	Ditch	2
F509	1	38	ditch (F501) of SDE 2	2
F632	1	13	Pit	2
F2	2	60	ditch of SDE 3	3
F3	1	14	ditch (F2) of SDE 3	3
F1	1	9	recut of ditch F2 – SDE 3	3
F61	1	42	recut (F1) of ditch F2 - SDE 3	3
F16	1	8	ditch in SDE 3	3
F629	1	5	ditch	4
F120	1	<1	ditch	post-med

7.8.5 Quernstones (Table 47; Fig 23, Fig 24 nos 3 and 4)

Numerous fragments of rotary quernstones made from Hertfordshire puddingstone and Mayen lava were recovered, with a distinctive feature of the assemblage being that no Puddingstone querns appear before Phase 2.

Mayen lava querns, from the quarries in the Eifel Hills in Germany, were first introduced into Britain by the Roman army in AD 43, and after the conquest their use became widespread in eastern England. All the fills of the features containing lava quern fragments at Abbotstone are therefore of post-conquest date.

Table 47 shows that quern supply to Abbotstone was very period-specific and this is clearly shown in Figure 23, which presents the querns by weight: Mayen lava querns are present in all periods, though only a small quantity is present in Phase 2, but Hertfordshire Puddingstone is only present in Phase 2. The use of weight as an indicator when Puddingstone weighs much heavier than lava is not as misleading as it might be thought; the same pattern appears when fragment numbers are used instead. Whether this evidence should be considered as accurate in such a small sample is far from certain, but it suggests that a supply of Puddingstone querns arrived at the site in the late 1st or early 2nd century, perhaps coincident with a peak of production of these querns. Though Hertfordshire Puddingstone querns are of Late Iron Age beehive form, Major (1999c, 74; 2003) has noted for the Essex assemblage in general that there is no positive evidence for their use in the Late Iron Age, but that the majority of examples occur in late 1st- and 2nd-century contexts, a stimulus to production seemingly having been triggered by access to a wider market after the conquest. The Abbotstone assemblage confirms this, with all the Puddingstone quern fragments deriving from Phase 2. The Abbotstone sample also provides a useful comparison with the *colonia* at Colchester, where Mayen lava is predominant in all periods, suggestive of a 'social' preference by the urban population for imported rather than British-made querns, as well as the likelihood of Colchester being the port of entry (*CAR* **2**, 73-6; *CAR* **6**, 157-61).

Unlike the chronological distribution of the querns, their spatial distribution is less specific. While in Phase 1 they are concentrated in or close to the two round ditched enclosures, in Phase 2 they are widely scattered. In Phase 3 many fragments come from the ditch, and its recut, on the east side of the main enclosure, and from the ditch to the south of the eastern entrance, but there are also pieces in the internal pits and ditches and in the north enclosure ditch. Some fragments were reused as hardcore in the stone surface L5.

No Millstone Grit querns were found at Abbotstone, but a fragment of gritstone from the Phase 3 ditch F94 (see archive) may have been reworked from a broken quern, as may a piece of shaped and utilised gritstone, also from Phase 3 (see below).

Fig 24, no 3. SF 75. (1387) F444. Ditch. Phase 2. Hertfordshire puddingstone. Fragment of an upper-stone with part of the hopper hole. Diameter 260 mm, maximum thickness 85 mm. The hopper hole was drilled from each side, but the upper part was set off-centre. Both parts are U-shaped, the upper 62 mm deep, the lower 23 mm deep; they are joined by a narrow channel only 16 mm across.

Fig 24, no 4. SF 42. (162) F1 Sx 5. Recut of main enclosure ditch F2. Phase 3. Mayen lava. Fragment (in two pieces) of a lower-stone, broken close to the hopper hole, with idiosyncratic deep concentric grooving caused by hard inclusions or other irregularities in the lava of the upper-stone. Maximum thickness 23 mm.

Table 47: incidence of Mayen lava and Puddingstone querns in Phases 1 to 3.

Feature/ Layer	Stone type	Weight (g)	Context description	Phase
F336	Lava	522	ditch of RDE 1	1
F368	Lava	10	Gully	1
F370 (x 2)	Lava	290	Gully	1
F469	Lava	2,200	Gully	1
F305	Lava	365	ditch of SDE 1	2
F444	Puddingstone	5,000	ditch of SDE 2	2
F453 (x 2)	Puddingstone	1,223	ditch	2
F453	Lava	448	ditch	2
F508 (x 2)	Puddingstone	313	pit in SDE 2	2
F585 (x 2)	Puddingstone	952	ditch (F312)	2
F586	Lava	193	ditch	2
F714	Puddingstone	414	ditch of SDE 1	2
F1 (x 4)	Lava	697	recut of ditch F2 – SDE 3	3
F2 (x 2)	Lava	345	ditch of SDE 3	3
F2/F4	Lava	27	ditch of SDE 3	3
F4	Lava	272	ditch of SDE 3	3
F308	Lava	533	ditch (F18) of SDE 3	3
F15 (x 3)	Lava	1,520	ditch in SDE 3	3
F309	Lava	332	ditch (F30) in SDE 3	3
F352/F340	Lava	241	ditch/ditch (F30) in SDE 3	3
F491	Lava	544	ditch in SDE 3	3
F36 (x 2)	Lava	721	pit in SDE 3	3
F427	Lava	174	pit in SDE 3	3
L5	Lava	104	stone surface in SDE 3	3
L16	Lava	290	stone surface (L5) in SDE 3	3
F124	Lava	283	ditch (F96)	3

7.8.6 Metalwork and general small finds (Table 48; Fig 24 nos 5-7 and Fig 25 nos 8-13) Very few copper-alloy items were recovered, a brooch fragment from a Phase 1 ditch, and two coins, a brooch, a possible brooch pin, and a small chain link (the latter listed in archive) from Phase 3. In addition, probable pyre debris from a Phase 2 pit consisted of copper-alloy mixed with clay, some of which may have come from a brooch. The only other item of jewellery was a melon bead, the commonest form in the 1st and 2nd centuries in Colchester. Most of the ironwork consists of nails or nail fragments, or of small scrap pieces. The stone objects include a hone, one well-shaped piece of building stone, and miscellaneous reworked and utilised fragments.

Table 48, which presents in general terms the incidence of small finds and bulk metalwork in Phases 1 to 3, shows that the majority of the metal small finds and bulk metalwork came from Phase 3, in direct contrast to the assemblages of loomweights, structural clay, and briquetage, most of which came from Phase 1. Quite why most of these more varied finds should occur in the latest phase is uncertain, but the higher incidence of nails, for example, may derive from a greater use of timber fences as opposed to hedging, or from timber-framed buildings with nailed joints.

Table 48: incidence of general small finds and bulk metalwork by material in Phases 1 to 3.

Feature/ Layer	Material	Context description	Phase
F336/F54	iron; stone	ditch of RDE 1	1
F104	copper alloy	ditch of southern enclosure	1
F370	iron	gully	1
F117	copper alloy	ditch of southern enclosure	1-2
F157	iron	ditch (F145) of southern enclosure	1-2
F8	lead; iron	ditch of SDE 1	2
F453	stone	ditch	2
F556	iron	ditch (F312)	2
F603	copper alloy	pit (pyre debris)	2
F651	iron	ditch (F458)	2
F1	iron; copper alloy	recut of ditch F2 – SDE 3	3
F2	iron; stone	ditch of SDE 3	3
F16	iron	ditch in SDE 3	3
F17	copper alloy	ditch (F10) in SDE 3	3
F17	iron	ditch (F10) in SDE 3	3
F31	copper alloy	ditch in SDE 3	3
F39	stone	ditch/gully (F38) in SDE 3	3
F84	stone	ditch/gully (F34) in SDE 3	3
F306	lead	ditch (F57) in SDE 3	3
F476	stone	ditch (F432) in SDE 3	3
F496	iron	ditch (F477) in SDE 3	3
F506	iron	pit in SDE 3	3
L5	iron	stone surface in SDE 3	3
F93	stone	ditch of SDE 4	3
F94	stone	ditch of SDE 4	3
F119	iron	ditch of SDE 4	3
F115	copper alloy	pit in SDE 4	3
F165	frit	ditch	3

Coins

Two coins came from Phase 3 contexts, one from the recut (F1) of the ditch at the south-east corner of the large enclosure, the other from gully F31 inside the enclosure. Both are very abraded and they cannot be closely dated with any accuracy.

SF 6. (148) F1. Recut of main enclosure ditch F2. Phase 3. Fragment of a very abraded copper-alloy coin, with no details surviving. Diameter 25 mm, weight 3.52 g. Date range: 1st to 3rd century.

SF 2. (53) F31. Gully. Phase 3. Fragment of an abraded copper-alloy coin, with only the raised area of the head and some details of the hair remaining to show the bust was left-facing. Diameter 26.5 mm, weight 3.45 g. Possibly a copy of a Claudian *as*, AD 43-54.

Brooches

The good condition of the Colchester BB derivative brooch (Fig 24, no 5) compared to that of the other objects from the site suggests its loss was contemporary with its context, though this conflicts with the phasing.

SF 7. (385) F104. Ditch. Phase 1. Poorly-preserved fragment from the head of a Colchester brooch. A short part of the top of the bow remains, with a fragment of the external chord held in the rear part of the forward hook. The stump of the wire for the spring and pin also survives, with the characteristic left-angled turn for the first coil. Length 13 mm.

Fig 24, no 5. SF 1. (28) F17. Ditch (F10). Phase 3. Copper-alloy Colchester BB derivative brooch, complete apart from the tip of the pin. The axial bar passed through the spring and the external chord is held in a double lug at the back of the head. The semi-circular sidewings are plain. There is a small crest, vestigial of the forward hook of the earlier Colchester form, on the top of the head, but the bow is plain.

There are two round holes in the catchplate. Length 36 mm. Date range: *c* AD 60-80.

SF 9. (484) F115 Sx 1. Pit. Phase 3. Copper-alloy penannular brooch pin or buckle tongue fragment. Length 30 mm.

Pyre debris

A Phase 2 pit, F603, contained a number of fragments of slag-like debris from the burning of copper-alloy objects in close association with clay. In all 203g of material were recovered from contexts (1141), (1142), (1143), (1144) and (1352).

Sarah Paynter of the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth, kindly provided the following report:

The items were analysed using energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence (XRF). Charcoal was incorporated into many of the pieces.

The areas of red glassy material visible on (1141) and (1143) were rich in copper, zinc and tin. Crystals of cuprite (copper oxide) are responsible for the red colour. However, the composition of the glassy material is not consistent with intentionally produced red enamel. It was probably produced by the oxidation and reaction of a copper alloy with a siliceous material like clay. The grey areas of the slaggy lumps, such as (1141), were largely silica and alumina (a silica-rich clay, for example) with small amounts of lead, copper and zinc detected. Generally more zinc than any other metal was detected in areas of these slags, but this maybe because zinc, followed by lead, is the most volatile of these elements. If an alloy were heated, more zinc would probably have volatilised which may have resulted in more being absorbed by this clay-type material. Therefore high concentrations of zinc in this slag are not necessarily indicative of high concentrations in the original alloy. However, given the date of the context, it is quite possible that the object heated was brass.

Some objects are likely to have been bronze. A small fragment in (1142) consisted predominantly of copper and tin with small amounts of lead and zinc also detected. This alloy is therefore likely to be bronze. Despite its visual appearance, no silver was detected.

Again, no silver was detected in the flat object (1352), which is also silverish in appearance, but which proved to be predominantly of copper and tin, with several percent of lead and a small amount of zinc, and therefore is also likely to be bronze or leaded bronze.

The fragments are presumed to be all that remains of copper-alloy objects burnt on a funeral pyre. Most of the fragments are fairly flat, as if from refrozen puddles of molten metal collected at the base of a fire, and the remainder are too amorphous to enable any form to be identified. However, the probable identification of brass among the alloys present suggests that the grave goods included a brooch, many of which were brass in the Late Iron Age and early Roman periods (*CAR* **6**, 144).

SF 25. (1141) F603. Pit. Phase 2. Weight 17 g. Two flat slag-like fragments, one of mixed metal and clay, the other of metal, clay and charcoal.

SF 22. (1142) F603. Pit. Phase 2. Weight 117 g. Many small amorphous fragments of metal, clay, or mixed metal and clay.

SF 24. (1143) F603. Pit. Phase 2. Weight 49 g. Nine fragments, of metal, clay, or mixed metal, clay and charcoal.

SF 23. (1144) F603. Pit. Phase 2. Weight 16 g. One flat slag-like fragment of mixed metal and clay.

SF 94. (1352) F603. Pit. Phase 2. Weight 4 g. One copper-alloy fragment, more or less flat on one surface, irregular on the other.

Other objects

Only a selection of the stratified objects and one unstratified item are included here. They are listed by material and then by phase.

Melon beads were introduced into Britain at the conquest and probably continued to be imported into the 2nd century. Though frit melon beads have in the past been considered to be imports from workshops found in the eastern mediterranean, recent excavations at Cologne have uncovered a factory located in a reused barrack block of the naval base (Höpken 2001). None of the other objects can be closely dated, but it should be noted that both pottery counters, though made from recycled Roman

sherds, were found in Phase 4 contexts, and there must be some possibility that their reuse in this way dates to the medieval period.

The unstratified lump of copper-alloy may be from an ingot, though its date is unclear. There is Bronze Age material from the site, in pit F22, and there is some possibility that this fragment may also date to that period.

Fig 24 no 6. SF 95. (1364). Unstratified. Thick angular fragment of copper (alloy), possibly from an ingot. Maximum dimensions 37 by 32 by 23 mm; weight 87 g.

Fig 24 no 7. SF 30. (613) F309(F30)/F310. Ditches. Phase 3. Large lead roundel with three tapering projections for attachment on the reverse. Diameter 63 mm. The ends of the projections have not been hammered flat, as they would have been if the disc had been used as a plug to repair a hole in a pipe or vessel, but have been simply pushed up against the underside of the disc.

Fig 25 no 8. SF 8. (449) F165 Sx 1. Ditch. Phase 3. Fragment of a turquoise frit melon bead. Diameter 18 mm, length 15 mm.

Fig 25 no 9. SF 12. (351) F93. Ditch. Phase 3. Fragment of a sandstone hone, square in section at the break but worn to a point at the surviving end. Length 67 mm, section 35 by 31 mm.

Fig 25 no 10. (956) F476 (F432). Ditch. Phase 3. Spheroid of gritstone with one face flatter than the rest but not more polished. Probably a reworked fragment of a millstone grit quern reworked as a rubbing stone. Maximum dimensions 47.5 by 46.5 by 46 mm.

Fig 25 no 11. (1220) F634. Pit. Roman. Sandstone block with three contiguous well-worked faces, cut so that the stone tapers at the back. Part of the central face, the underside and the end of the tapering section have broken, so that the complete shape is uncertain, but the general shape would be suitable for a plinth, possibly a corner, as the left hand side of the block has been worked to a smoother finish than the central face. The right hand side is fairly irregular. The central face, the largest, has a deliberately-cut crooked shallow groove, and a series of long more or less parallel marks, probably the result of wear rather than from a chisel. The upper, tapering face is worked to a rough finish. Maximum dimensions 165 by 119 by 178 mm.

Fig 25 no 12. SF 132. (1162) F617 Sx 1. Ditch (F82). Phase 4. Large pottery counter made from a grey ware base sherd. The edge is ground smooth but is spalled in places. Diameter 73 mm, 9 mm thick in centre.

Fig 25 no 13. SF 133. (697) F355 Sx 1. Ditch (F82). Phase 4. Large rough-out for a pottery counter, made from a grey ware base sherd. The edge has been chipped into a rough circle apart from a slight projection at one point. Diameter 103 mm, 10 mm thick in centre.

7.9 Ironworking and other high temperature debris

by Lynne Keays

7.9.1 Introduction

Just over 1338g of material identified as having been generated by high temperature activity was recovered from the excavations. The material was visually examined and categorised on the basis of morphology alone. Each category of slag in each context was individually weighed to 2g, but in the case of the smithing hearth bottoms each was weighed and measured to obtain its dimensions. Additionally a magnet was run through the soil in bags to detect micro-slags such as hammerscale, the products of smithing.

Table 49: descriptions, weights and measurements of all ironworking and other high temperature debris recorded from the site.

Feature	Recorded on site as	Find no	Small find no	Phase	Description	Weight (g)	Length	Breadth	Depth	comment
F16	F16 Sx 3	78	139	3	fuel ash slag	4				
F10	F17 Sx 2	87	91	3	fuel ash slag	6				
F113	F113 Sx 5	393	90	3	cinder	2				
F144	F144 Sx 1	403	146	1	smithing hearth bottom	130	70	55	35	
F135	F189 Sx 4	487	87	1	smithing hearth bottom	716	135	90	35	
F301/ F304	F301/ F304	608	134	3	undiagnostic	12				smithing slag?
F8	F435 Sx 1	849	147	2	undiagnostic	24				smithing slag?
F440a	F440a Sx 1	856	135	2	undiagnostic	2				
F166	F379 Sx 1	877	85	4	smithing hearth bottom	254	80	80	40	
F166	F379 Sx 1	877	85	4	undiagnostic	56				
F603	F603	1352	93	2	bronze casting waste?	4				heavy run
F117	F725	1377	154	1-2	undiagnostic	3				

7.9.2 Discussion

Amongst the material were smithing hearth bottoms diagnostic of iron smithing; all were found in ditches where they had been thrown. No slags diagnostic of smelting activity were found and the undiagnostic slag tended more towards types produced by smithing.

Hammerscale is a micro slag not visible to the naked eye when in the soil but which is highly diagnostic of smithing activity, often remaining in the area around the anvil and near the hearth when macro-slags have been cleared out of the smithy and dumped elsewhere; it is usually recovered in soil samples. No hammerscale was present in the soil or had been recovered in samples (so it seems); therefore any specific foci of smithing activity could not be located.

Other debris present such as fired clay, vitrified hearth lining, cinder, and fuel ash slags could be the result of various kinds of high temperature activities – including domestic fires – and cannot be taken on their own to indicate that iron-working was taking place.

Copper-alloy waste in the form of a casting run was found in pit F603 (find no 1352); there was no other evidence for non-ferrous metal-working present amongst the assemblage.

The debris was widely distributed over the site with possibly a tiny bias towards the southern area, but no focus of activity can be postulated. The most that can be said is that a small amount of iron smithing took place somewhere on the site probably during the Late Iron Age/early Roman period.

7.10 Environmental remains

by Val Fryer

7.10.1 The 1999 excavation: an assessment

7.10.1.1 Introduction

Excavations at the Abbotstone site were undertaken in mid 1999. Samples were taken from a Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age pit (sample 99.5) and from ditches and pits of Roman date (samples 99.1-99.4, 99.6-99.7), some of which contained cremated bone deposits. These samples were taken to:

(1) Assess the potential of the environmental material from the Phase 1 samples

(2) Assess the potential for sampling during the second phase of the excavation.

7.10.1.2 Methods

The samples, or sub-samples thereof, were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at low power (x16) and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 50. Plant material was preserved by charring unless otherwise stated. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, seeds/fruits and arthropods were present in most samples.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm-mesh sieve and were sorted when dry for the retrieval of cremated bone and pottery and other artefacts.

7.10.1.3 Plant macrofossils

Cereals, chaff and seeds/fruits of common weed species were present at varying densities in all but sample 2. Preservation was moderate to good although the few grains noted had frequently become puffed and distorted during combustion.

Cereals – Grains of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were recorded with wheat being predominant. Oat (*Avena* sp.) awn fragments were abundant in sample 4, as were glume bases of spelt wheat (*T. spelta*). Rachis nodes of bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type and barley/rye (*Hordeum* sp./*Secale cereale*) were also present.

Wild flora – Seeds/fruits of common segetal species were rare but included brome (*Bromus* sp.), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), indeterminate grasses, knot-grass (*Polygonum aviculare*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), sheep's sorrel (*R. acetosella*), scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). A single ?mineral replaced spike rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) fruit was noted in sample 6.

Other plant macrofossils – Charcoal fragments were abundant in all but sample 2. Fragments of indeterminate inflorescence and charred root, rhizome or stem were also recorded.

7.10.1.4 Other material

Fragments of black porous 'cokey' and black tarry material and the siliceous globules are probably the residues of the combustion of organic materials, including grass/straw, at very high temperatures. Burnt/cremated bone fragments were common in samples 3 and 6. Other materials were rare but included fragments of burnt or fired clay and coal, burnt stone, pot and vitrified material.

7.10.1.5 Discussion

The assemblage from the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age pit (F22, sample 5) is probably derived from a low-density scatter of domestic and other refuse. The origin of this material is not known but it is presumably associated with contemporary activity in the area.

The assemblages from cremation F45 and pit F46 (samples 1 and 2) are very sparse. The charcoal in sample 1 may be associated with the cremation but otherwise it is not possible to draw any conclusion from the material.

Sample 3 from F8 and sample 6 from F75 contained burnt animal bone fragments. The plant macrofossil assemblages contain a low density of cereals, chaff and seeds of weeds and grassland plants including fig-leaved goosefoot (*Chenopodium ficifolium*), pale persicaria/redshank (*Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia*), and small-flowered buttercup (*Ranunculus parviflorus*).

Sample 4 from ditch F2 comprises a high-density deposit of cereal-processing waste consisting mainly of cereal chaff. Weed seeds and grains are present but rare. It is assumed that this represents the deposition of refuse in an available open feature. Sample 7 (F115) also appears to contain cereal waste including chaff and grains. The presence of cereal sprout fragments may indicate that this assemblage includes grains spoiled in inadequate storage facilities.

7.10.1.6 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In conclusion, of the seven samples taken, five produced assemblages which may be of value to the interpretation of the site or its component features. There is, therefore, potential for future samples to:

(1) Further illustrate the activities noted below
(2) Clarify various activities and their relationship to the site.

Although only one sample of pre-Roman date was taken, this does appear to indicate that domestic and other activities were taking place at this time in the vicinity of the site. Evidence from additional sampling of well-dated features from the second

and third years (2000 and 2001) of excavations further illustrate the level and nature of contemporary activity (see section 7.10.2 below).

Sample 4 produced a 'typical' Roman rural cereal-processing assemblage, that is dominated by spelt chaff but also including evidence of free-threshing hexaploid wheats, barley/rye and oats (cf Duck End Farm, Stansted Airport, Essex; Murphy 1990). Unusually, this appears to be a single dump of material, with no evidence of a 'background scatter' of comparable material in other contexts as is frequently seen at other contemporary sites. It is possible, therefore, that cereal processing was not a major activity in the immediate area. A limited series of control samples from further pits and ditches may clarify this. Further quantitative analysis of sample 4 may indicate which stage of processing is represented. This would be particularly valuable if similar deposits were noted during Phase 2.

Table 50: charred plant material and other remains from the Abbotstone site in 1999.

Sample no	**99.1**	**99.2**	**99.3**	**99.4**	**99.5**	**99.6**	**99.7**
Context no	**F45**	**F46**	**F8**	**F2**	**F22**	**F75**	**F115**
Context type	**cremation**	**pit**	**ditch**	**ditch**	**pit**	**post-hole**	**pit**
Cereals							
Avena sp. (awn)				xxx			
Cereal indet. (grains)			x	xx	x	x	x
(sprout fragments)				x			x
(basal rachis nodes)				x			
(silica skeletons)				x		x	
Hordeum sp. (grains)				xcf			xcf
Hordeum sp./*Secale cereale* L. (rechis nodes)				xx			
Triticum sp. (grains)			xcf	x	x		x
(glume bases)				xxx			x
(rachis internodes)				xx			x
(spikelet bases)				xx		x	
T. *spelta* L. (glume bases)				xxx		x	
(spikelet)				x			
T. *aestivum/compactum* type (rachis nodes)				x			
Herbs							
Bromus sp.			x				
Chenopodium album L.				xtf			x
C. *ficifolium* Smith						x	
Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia			x				
Small Poaceae indet.				x	x		
Large Poaceae indet.				x			
Polgonum aviculare L.	x			x			
Polygonaceae indet.				x			
Ranunculus sp.			x				
R. *parviflorus*						x	
Rumex sp.				x	x		
R. *acetosella* L.			x	xcf			
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.)Schultz-Bip				x			
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.				x	x		xcoty
Wetland plants							
Eleocharis sp.						xcfm	
Other plant macrofossils							
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	x	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx		xx		x		
Charred root/rhizome/stem	x	x	xx		x	x	x
Indet. inflorescence fragments			x	x			x
Indet. seeds		x	x	x xm		x	

Other							
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	xx	x	x	x	x	x
Black tarry material		xx			x		
Bone			xxb			xx xxxb	
Burnt/fired clay		x					
Burnt stone			x				
Mineralised soil concretions			x				
Pot							x
Siliceous globules					x	x	x
Small coal fragments			x		x		
Vitrified material					x		
Sample volume (litres)	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.4**	**<0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**50%**	**100%**	**100%**	**25%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Key
x = 0-10 specimens
xx = 10-100 specimens
xxx = 100 + specimens

tf = testa fragments
coty = cotyledon
m = mineral replaced
b = burnt
ss = sub-sample

7.10.2 The 2000/2001 excavation: an assessment

7.10.2.1 Introduction

During excavations at the Abbotstone site in 2000/2001, features of Iron Age to Roman date were recorded, including enclosure and boundary ditches, a pit containing a human head burial and numerous other features.

Samples for the extraction of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area, and eight were submitted for assessment (sample nos 99.12-99.13, 00.2, 01.4-01.5, 01.11, 01.15, 01.20).

7.10.2.2 Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500-micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 51. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were preserved by charring.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and dried prior to sorting. Artefacts/ecofacts were removed for further specialist analysis.

7.10.2.3 Results of assessment

Plant macrofossils – Cereal grains/chaff and/or seeds of common weed species were noted at very low densities in all samples. Preservation was poor to moderate, with a high proportion of the grains being either puffed and distorted (due to high temperatures during combustion) or fragmented.

Cereals – Because of their poor preservation, very few grains were identifiable to a specific cereal type. However, a fragmentary barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain was noted in sample 99.12 and an asymmetrical lateral grain of six-row barley (*H. vulgare*) was recorded from sample 99.13. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) chaff elements were present in four samples and included rachis internodes and spikelet bases and spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases.

Wild flora – Seeds of common segetal weeds were extremely rare, most occurring as single specimens. Taxa noted included brome (*Bromus* sp.), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), fig-leaved goosefoot (*C. ficifolium*), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.).

Other plant macrofossils – Charcoal fragments were present at varying densities in all samples. Other plant macrofossils included pieces of charred stem and an indeterminate bud scale.

7.10.2.4 Other materials

With the exception of mineralised soil concretions, which were abundant in the ditch fills, other material types were very rare. The fragments of black porous 'cokey' material and black tarry material may be derived from the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Very small burnt bone fragments were noted in samples 01.4, 01.11 and 01.15.

7.10.2.5 Discussion

All the assemblages studied are characterised by extremely low densities of plant macrofossils, making it very difficult to accurately interpret the material.

Sample 01.5, from the fill of an internal boundary ditch of Roman date (F476), may conceivably contain a very low density of cereal-processing debris, although it is equally probable that the assemblage is derived from a scatter of wind-blown detritus. The occurrence of mineralised soil concretions within the fills of the enclosure and boundary ditches may indicate that these features contained water at some stage during their use.

The samples from within the pottery vessels (samples 99.12, 99.13, 00.2 and 01.20), and those taken from the burial contexts (samples 01.11 and 01.15) appear only to contain material which has been accidentally incorporated within the feature.

7.10.2.6 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, plant macrofossils are extremely rare and most are probably derived from low-density scatters of refuse including wind-blown detritus. The assemblage from sample 01.5 may possibly indicate that cereal processing was taking place in the local area. It would appear that plant materials were not being deliberately placed within the cremation or burial contexts.

As none of the samples contained quantifiably viable assemblages (ie 100+ specimens), no further analysis of this material is recommended.

Table 51: charred plant macrofossils and other remains from the Abbotstone site in 1999/2000/2001.

Sample no	**99.12**	**99.13**	**00.2**	**01.4**	**01.5**	**01.11**	**01.15**	**01.20**
Context no	**F28**	**F28**	**F371**	**F434**	**F476**	**F498**	**F595**	**F781**
Context type	**pit**	**pit**	**pit**	**ditch**	**ditch**	**burial pit**	**ditch**	**pot**
Cereals								
Avena sp. (awn)							x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Hordeum sp. (grains)	x							
H. vulgare L. (*asymmetrical lateral grains*)		xcf						
Triticum sp. (glume bases)		x		x	x			
(rachis internodes)	x							
(spikelet bases)					x			
T. *spelta* L. (glume bases)				x	x			
Herbs								
Bromus sp.					x	xcf		
Chenopodium album L.		x						
C. *ficifolium Smith*	x							
Chenopodiaceae indet.			x					
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) *A.Love*			xtf					
Lamiaceae indet.				x				
Small Poaceae indet.								x
Raphanus raphanistrum L. (*siliqua fragments*)					x			

Rumex sp.				x	x			
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) *Schultz-Bip*	x							
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.					x	x		
Other plant macrofossils								
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xxx	xx	xxx	xx	xxx	xxx	x
Charcoal >2mm		x	x		x			
Charred root/rhizome/stem	x			x		x	x	
Indet.bud scales						x		
Indet.seeds		x	x					
Other materials								
Black porous 'cokey'material					x	x		x
Black tarry material				x				
Bone				xb		x xb	x xb	
Burnt concretions		x						
Ferrous slag							xcf	
Mineralised soil concretions				xxx	xxx			
Siliceous globules				x			x	
Small coal fragments				x			x	
Sample volume (litres)	**0.5**	**0.5**	**<0.5**	**8ss**	**8ss**	**8**	**8ss**	**<0.5**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Key
x = 1-10 specimens
xx = 10-100 specimens
xxx = 100+ specimens

b = burnt
ss = sub-sample

7.11 Worked flint

by Hazel Martingell

7.11.1 Introduction

A total of 121 pieces of flint was studied. Of these eight were natural. One of these pieces, however, was most unusual, consisting of a large cemented block of flint with fossils, some of them Belemnites.

Of the remaining 113 worked flints, 60% (68) were flakes and fragments of flakes; 7% (9) were blades; and 2% (3) were cores. The remaining 31% of artefacts were all modified (retouched) to a greater or lesser extent. They consisted of 19 retouched and/or notched flakes, 3 retouched and/or notched blades, 1 microdenticulate, 1 bifacial fragment, 1 arrowhead roughout (broken), 1 small barbed and tanged arrowhead (also broken), 1 good borer on a blade, a possible gunflint blank, and 5 scrapers, one on a core rejuvenation flake (Fig 25 no 14).

7.11.2 Material

Most of the artefacts are made of a good-quality black or grey brown stained flint. Very few are of typical gravel flint with inclusions. The three cores are of black flint with areas of cortex.

7.11.3 Dating

The earliest artefacts should be the blade tools, suggesting an Early Neolithic presence here. The scrapers, although most are fragmentary, are good and belong within the time span Neolithic to Early Bronze Age, as does the borer and the bifacial fragment. The small barbed and tanged arrowhead is an Early Bronze Age type. There are also at least three probable Iron Age artefacts; these are flakes with platforms at the widest part of the tool and with deep bulbar dorsal and ventral surfaces. One of these flakes has retouch along the platform edge (not core preparation).

7.11.4 Summary

It is unlikely that any of the excavated features can be associated with the Neolithic or Bronze Age artefacts, but the distribution of the retouched pieces is of interest. Twelve of these were recovered, with other flakes, from along the eastern side of the

site, from and close to the main enclosure (SDE 3) ditch F1-F2. This is an area of rising ground on the gravels of the northern slope of the Roman River valley. Another six retouched and unretouched artefacts form a small group from pit/hearth F468 and ditch F459; this includes the scraper (Fig 25 no 14). Close by, another two retouched pieces from F181 and F654 were recovered. This pit/hearth is in the lower-lying western part of the south area of the site; it may have been the site of a small 2nd millennium BC farmstead, which was then superseded by the Iron Age settlement.

7.12 Miscellaneous material

by Laura Pooley

7.12.1 Burnt flint

A total of 86 pieces at 1,227g of burnt flint was recovered from 30 different contexts. The material appears to concentrate around RDE 1 and the southern enclosure in Phase 1, and the large square enclosures SDE 1 and SDE 3 of Phases 2 and 3 respectively, indicating areas where domestic fires and settlement were based.

7.12.2 Charcoal

Small fragments of charcoal were found in 14 contexts. Of particular interest is the 30 pieces that were found in the cremation F45 (weighing a total of 43g) which were probably associated with the funeral pyre.

7.12.3 Oyster shell

A total of 41 fragments of oyster shell were found in three different contexts.

8 Discussion and interpretation

The archaeological investigation of the cropmark site at Abbotstone has revealed a site divided into three distinct periods of use:

- Period 1 – before the Middle Iron Age (before *c* 300 BC): Phase 0
- Period 2 – the Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age and into the Roman period (*c* 300 BC-late 2nd century AD): Phases 1-3
- Period 3 – the medieval period (12th-13th century): Phase 4

8.1 Period 1 – before the Middle Iron Age (before *c* 300 BC): Phase 0

8.1.1 The evidence

Evidence for human activity at the Abbotstone site before the beginning of Period 2 consisted of 113 pieces of worked flint, 212 pieces (at 1299g) of pottery and four pits all dating to before the Middle Iron Age.

The flint

A total of 113 pieces of worked flint was recovered from the site and these were variously dated to the Neolithic, the early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age period, and the Iron Age (although it is uncertain if this activity pre-dated the start of Period 2 or was contemporary with it). All of the pieces of flint (except one piece from pit/hearth F468) were recovered from definite later contexts.

The pottery and pits

A total of 2:12g of Neolithic pottery (from a single later feature), 202:1222g of Late Bronze Age pottery from three Late Bronze Age pits (F22, F658, F671) and two later features, and 8:65g of Early Iron Age pottery from three later contexts were recovered from the site.

Fired clay fragments (1.176kg) were also recorded from the Late Bronze Age pit F22. Some of these pieces may have come from a Bronze Age drum-shaped loomweight or loomweights. Environmental analysis of the material from this pit also revealed a low-density scatter of domestic and other refuse.

8.1.2 Conclusion

Although only four features (F22, F468, F658, F671) dated to this period, a study into the distribution of the find evidence, and the locations of the features themselves, have highlighted two significant concentrations of material – along the east side of the site and in its south-west corner – which may represent two areas of early activity (see Fig 4).

It is impossible to fully identify the scale and type of the human activity on this site before the main Period 2 occupation. The evidence we do have, however, suggests a small-scale use of the site (probably periodically/seasonally) between the Neolithic, the Early Bronze Age and later Bronze Age periods and into the Iron Age, that was probably associated with hunting (flint tools), food preparation/consumption (sherds of pottery vessels and the burnt residue of some kind of 'foodstuff' on one piece of Late Bronze Age pottery), and possibly textile production (loomweight fragments).

8.2 Period 2 – Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age and into the Roman period (*c* 300 BC-late 2nd century AD): Phases 1-3

8.2.1 Introduction

Period 2 at the Abbotstone site, a period of approximately 500 years of continuous activity, is subdivided into three main phases:

- Phase 1 – Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age and into the late 1st century AD (to *c* AD 70)
- Phase 2 – late 1st century AD to the early 2nd century AD
- Phase 3 – early 2nd century AD to the late 2nd century AD

The division of the features of this period into specific phases has been extremely difficult as neither the relationship nor dating evidence could provide more than a loose date (that could sometimes span a few hundred years). The earliest features proved so difficult to phase that Phase 1 itself spans approximately 400 years. It is not suggested that all of the features mentioned within each phase are contemporary but that it is impossible to subdivide them further based on the evidence. So, each phase as presented in this report contains all the features which, it is believed, existed primarily within that time-span, although not all would have existed at the same time. Realistically the site would have been going through continual change with features being dug, used and abandoned with more frequency than we can tell. Subsequently, the changes in the appearance of the site between the phases of this period were probably not so dramatic and were the result of a process of continual and piecemeal redevelopment, between and within the phases, rather than the complete abandonment and replacement of all the features in each phase. The fact that there is no obvious break in the dating evidence between these phases would seem to confirm this.

8.2.2 Phase 1 – Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age and into the late 1st century AD (to *c* AD 70)

Phase 1 at the Abbotstone site dates from the Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age and into the late 1st century AD (to *c* AD 70).

8.2.2.1 The features

The features of Phase 1 consist of: two round ditched enclosures (one containing a large round-house with associated pits); three droveways, leading into the site from the west and the east, and extending north-south across the site; a large southern enclosure, formed by a series of ditches with associated pits, post-holes, a pit/hearth and a silt patch; and a number of isolated pits, post-holes and other features recorded across the site

8.2.2.2 Dating

Round ditched enclosure 1 (RDE 1)

The ditches

Start date – Pottery sherds dated to both the Middle Iron Age and the Late Iron Age-*c* AD 70 were recorded in each of the stratigraphic layers of the ditch fill, indicating that these ditches were only allowed to silt up after the introduction of Late Iron Age-*c* AD 70 pottery vessels onto the site. This, however, does not provide us with a start date for the enclosure because the ditches may have been cleaned out regularly/re-dug before this final phase of silting, in which case all earlier evidence would have been lost. The large quantities/weights of Middle Iron Age pottery recovered from these ditches, and the occurrence of flint- as well as sand-tempered forms (flint temper was gradually replaced by sand temper on most sites in the Middle Iron Age), suggests that some form of activity in the early Middle Iron Age did occur here or that the use of the enclosure began within the Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age transition when Middle Iron Age pottery vessels were still in use.

End date – Within these ditches there is very little pottery that dates to beyond *c* AD 70 (and most of that is probably intrusive as it was all recorded from the surface and upper fill of the ditches).

The round-house and associated pits

The post-holes of the round-house produced pottery dating to the Middle Iron Age and the Late Iron Age-*c* AD 70; therefore the round-house cannot date to earlier than the introduction of the Late Iron Age-*c* AD 70 pottery vessels onto the site. All the associated pits also produced pottery dating to the Middle Iron Age and the Late Iron Age-*c* AD 70.

Round ditched enclosure 2 (RDE 2)

The ditches of this enclosure contained pottery dating to the Middle Iron Age and the period dated to the Late Iron Age-*c* AD 70, and included a single deposit of 19:38g of later Roman pottery which was probably either intrusive or came from a separate feature that was missed during excavation.

Start date – Only sand-tempered Middle Iron Age pottery (usually dated to the later Middle Iron Age; see above) was recovered from the lower and mid fills of the ditches. This suggests that the enclosure ditches were allowed to silt up (and the enclosure abandoned) within the Middle Iron Age, before the introduction of Late Iron Age-*c* AD 70 pottery vessels onto the site. This places the start date of this enclosure within the later Middle Iron Age period.

End date – Four pieces of Late Iron Age-*c* AD 70 pottery were recovered from the upper fills of the ditches, suggesting that the enclosure was abandoned at this time. However, as only four pieces of later pottery were recovered (compared to 106 pieces from RDE 1), the pottery could be intrusive and the enclosure could date exclusively to the Middle Iron Age, but it may be that less Late Iron Age-*c* AD 70 pottery was recovered from here as the enclosure was heavily machined (the ditches of RDE 1 were approximately twice as deep as those of RDE 2).

Droveways

The earliest feature of this droveway system was F105, dated to the Middle Iron Age, which formed parts of Droveways 2 and 3. By the Late Iron Age, ditch F105 was replaced by ditch F117 that widened Droveway 2 and shortened Droveway 3. The remaining droveway ditches appear to have spanned the date ranges of this phase and were probably contemporary with the start and end dates of the enclosures.

Southern enclosure

The irregular ditches to the south, which formed the southern enclosure, and the 22 associated pits/post-holes/silt patches, all date from the Late Iron Age to *c* AD 70, although some do contain very small amounts of residual Middle Iron Age material. The construction of this enclosure in the Late Iron Age represents an expansion of the settlement possibly corresponding to an expansion in the population of the site (associated with the Roman invasion). Three of these ditches (F117, F145, F323) also contained a small amount of evidence dating to the early 2nd century which may indicate that these ditches were still in use in Phase 2.

Other features

A total of seven pits, two pit/post-holes, four post-holes and one gully recorded across the site were dated to the Middle Iron Age. The remaining 20 features all dated to the Late Iron Age-*c* AD 70.

8.2.2.3 Function

Round ditched enclosure 1 (RDE 1)

The evidence for a round-house and large quantities of domestic material from within this enclosure suggest that it functioned as a focus for living and possibly working activities within the settlement.

The domestic remains recovered from this enclosure include large quantities of pottery sherds (some of which contained the residues of burnt foodstuffs), hearth remains (with burnt flints), animal bone with evidence of butchery, and fragments of briquetage and lava quern. The evidence provided by this material suggests that activities involving food preparation, consumption and storage were important in this

enclosure. The occurrence of loomweight fragments and the evidence for the keeping of sheep for wool would indicate that textile production was also important on the site.

Round ditched enclosure 2 (RDE 2)
The finds from this enclosure included pottery sherds, five pieces of daub, some animal bone and a loomweight fragment. When compared to the finds recovered from the other two enclosures of this phase (ie RDE 1 and the southern enclosure), the types, quantities and weights of the material from RDE 2 are much smaller. The difference in material remains may suggest that this enclosure was not used as a centre for domestic living/working activities but for some other function (stock-keeping, perhaps).

Droveways
Virtually no material remains were recovered from these ditches (although they were very shallow when excavated), suggesting that little activity centred on these features. The droveways were most probably used for the movement of animals (cattle/sheep/goats) across the site, possibly to/from grazing areas. The unusual series of ditches called 'Droveway 3' may actually be part of a boundary hedge extending across the site.

Southern enclosure
Although no structural remains were located within this enclosure, the large quantities of material waste recovered over this area would suggest that domestic living/working activities were carried out here.

A large quantity of building material was recorded from the fill of these features to a total of 27:1856g of Roman brick and tile and 199:3212g of daub (compared to 24:1276g of brick and tile and 123:1158g of daub recorded from the rest of the entire site in this phase). As the values from this area are particularly high, it indicates that some form of standing structure did exist here, especially when you take into account the fact that most of the total quantity/weight of material from the rest of the site came from RDE 1 and its round-house (17:908g of brick and tile and 80:775g of daub).

Also recovered from this enclosure were large quantities of pottery vessels, 20 pieces (at 704g) of briquetage (compared to 10:28g from RDE 1 and none over the rest of the site), 41 fragments (at 171g) of animal bone (about a third of the total), and nine fragments (at 421g) of loomweight (compared to 8:698g from RDE 1, 1:24g from RDE 2 and 3:155g from other features). This material is directly comparable in type, quantity and weight to that recovered from RDE 1 and indicates that, as in the other enclosure, food preparation, consumption and storage were important activities (although no quern was found), as was textile production. One significant difference in the material from these features was the recovery of three fragments of smithing hearth bottom and one fragment of undiagnostic metal-working debris. This material suggests that metal-working, and in particular iron-smithing, was occurring here within this phase. Two copper-alloy fragments (from a brooch and a chain) were also recorded from this area and indicate that objects of personal adornment were being worn and lost here.

Other features
The material recovered from the other features of this phase would appear to suggest that on the whole these were domestic rubbish-pits. Pit F433 contained a significantly large amount of daub fragments which are possibly the remains of an oven or kiln that may have existed on the site.

8.2.2.4 In conclusion

The Phase 1 settlement at the Abbotstone site appears to have been first laid out within the Middle Iron Age and consisted of two round ditched enclosures and three droveways; it was enlarged within the Late Iron Age with the construction of the enclosure to the south, and the majority of the features of this phase finally went out of use in the late 1st century AD (*c* AD 70). At least one structure existed on the site (a round-house in RDE 1), but the large quantities/weights of building material from

the southern enclosure suggest that other structures may also have existed here. The material evidence recovered from the features of this phase indicate that the main activities of the site revolved around food preparation/consumption/storage, textile production and iron smithing. None of these activities appear to have been on an industrial scale, suggesting that they were all small-scale domestic 'chores' providing for a relatively small and self-sufficient settlement, although imports such as Gallo-Belgic pottery, briquetage and lava quern indicate that the inhabitants did have some external trading links. The distribution of the material evidence from the three enclosures of this phase seem to suggest that the main living and working activities of the settlement were centred on RDE 1 and the southern enclosure with some other activity occurring within RDE 2.

8.2.3 Phase 2 – late 1st century AD to the early 2nd century AD

Phase 2 at the Abbotstone site dates from the late 1st century AD (*c* AD 70) to the early 2nd century AD.

8.2.3.1 The features

The features of Phase 2 consisted of: two square ditched enclosures, a large enclosure to the east and a much smaller enclosure further to the west (no structural remains were recorded in either enclosure); other isolated ditches; three droveways, leading into the site from the north, east and south-west; and a small number of isolated pits and post-holes across the site.

8.2.3.2 Dating

The features of this phase all contained pottery evidence dating primarily from the late 1st century (*c* AD 70) to the early 2nd century, along with a small amount of earlier 'residual' material.

As mentioned in the introduction to this section (section 8.2.1), it is unlikely that the features of Phase 2 completely replaced those of Phase 1 overnight, but probably occurred gradually over an undetermined length of time. Furthermore, three of the ditches that made up the southern enclosure of Phase 1 appear to have still been in use in Phase 2.

8.2.3.3 Function

Square ditched enclosure 1 (SDE 1)

No structural remains were recorded within this enclosure; however, a stone surface (F485) and post-holes F71 and F75 may represent the remains of buildings/structures. A large amount of Roman brick and tile (25:2256g compared to the 36:1379g recovered from the rest of the site in this phase), daub (65:509g compared to the 19:306g) and domestic waste was recovered from this enclosure, suggesting that people did live/work here and that a structure of some form probably did exist here within this phase. A concentration of brick and tile (Fig 19), daub, briquetage and other material was recorded around the north and west ditches of this enclosure, and as F485 is in the north-west corner it is likely that activity centred in this area.

The domestic waste from all these features includes large quantities of pottery vessels, fragments of hearth lining, animal bone, briquetage, lava and Puddingstone quern, and loomweight fragments, along with metal-working debris (a piece of possible smithing slag). The material from this enclosure is very similar in find type, quantity and weight to that recorded from the features of Phase 1, so although this enclosure grew in size from its predecessors, its relative material culture and function was unchanged with activities such as food preparation, consumption and storage remaining important along with textile production and iron-smithing.

Square ditched enclosure 2 (SDE 2)

No structural remains were recorded within this enclosure either, although one feature (pit F506) is believed to be contemporary. Domestic finds from these features were similar in type to those recorded in the larger enclosure (SDE 1) but were much smaller in quantity/weight and included pottery sherds, brick and tile, briquetage, quern and metal-working debris (a piece of undiagnostic debris; see Tables 7 and 9 for a comparison of this material with that from SDE 1). This evidence probably represents a small amount of domestic activity within this enclosure.

Ditches and droveways

The other ditches dug across this site in this phase primarily appear to form part of two droveways leading into the site from the east and south-western corner. As with the droveways erected within Phase 1, these features are probably associated with the movement of animals around the site.

Small amounts of domestic material were also recovered from these features. The only material of real interest is that recovered from a section of ditch F312, where the remains of a possible feast were recorded in the form of large quantities of animal bone (especially red deer) and Gallo-Belgic pottery.

8.2.3.4 The human remains

The only significant difference of Phase 2 compared to all the other phases (and periods) of the site is the burial of human remains. This is of particular interest as it shows that not only domestic but ritual activities were taking place within the settlement. In this phase a human head was buried within the 'butt' end of one of the ditches of the large square enclosure (enclosure ditch F305 – the section where the skull was found was called F490 Sx 2 on site), and at a slightly later date, a pot with cremated human and animal bone (F498) was buried above the head[5]. A total of 187 fragments of human remains were recovered from these two contexts along with 231 pieces (at 133g) of animal bone, 86 fragments (at 1677g) of daub (which includes the possible remains of a loomweight waster or wasters, or kiln) and nine fragments (at 297g) of loomweights. It is difficult to suggest what this activity represents. It could be part of a head-hunting cult[6] practice or, as it was a female head buried with fragments of loomweights and the possible remains of a loomweight waster or wasters[7], it may represent the burial of an important woman from the settlement.

One other undated feature (F45) contained cremated human remains and, as no other human remains were recorded in any other period in the history of this site, this cremation probably belongs to this phase (along with associated and undated pit, F48, which possibly contained the remains of a pyre related to the cremation[8]). If these features do belong to Phase 2 then so may pit F603 (loosely dated to the Late Iron Age or Roman period) which contained 28 fragments (at 203g) of burnt copper-alloy objects that may represent the remains of grave goods burnt on a pyre[9].

The evidence from these features shows that ritual activities were taking place on the site. It might be further possible to associate this activity with the remains of what appears to be the dumped material of a feast from ditch F312 (a funerary/ritual feast?).

8.2.3.5 In conclusion

By Phase 2 there had been an almost complete change in the layout of the settlement as the irregular enclosures of Phase 1 were replaced with a more formal 'square' set of enclosures. This more 'formal' layout of a settlement is a Roman characteristic, and at a time when not only the centre of Camulodunum but also its surrounding territory (*oppidum*) was being settled by the invaders, this change might be part of a process called 'Romanisation'. The term 'Romanisation' is generally used to explain the impact of the Roman settlement on Britain wherein the peoples of these two cultures interacted with each other to produce a separate 'Romano-British' culture by '…a process of dialectical change…' (Millett 1990, 1-2*)*.

Despite this almost total change in the appearance of the site there was little corresponding change in the material culture or function of the settlement. At least one structure probably existed on the site within the large enclosure, although its size/shape and function are unknown. The evidence shows that activities involved in the preparation, consumption and storage of food were still occurring here as was textile production and metal-working. The importance of textile production within this phase appears to be confirmed by the burial of loomweight fragments and the remains of a loomweight waster or wasters with a human head. It is possible that the metal-working debris from this phase is actually residual; however, all the metal-

[5] see section 7.6 for full analysis of the human remains recovered from this site
[6] see section 7.6
[7] see section 7.8
[8] see section 7.7
[9] see section 7.8

working debris from this phase was recorded in the north of the site whereas all the debris from Phase 1 was recorded in the south. Furthermore, if F603 can be placed within this phase (see above, section 8.2.2.4), then we also have evidence of possible bronze-casting waste (1:4g), indicating that non-ferrous metal-working was occurring here in this phase as well (which might also be associated with an unstratified copper-alloy ingot). A slight change in the material culture of the site is seen in the increases in imports of Gallo-Belgic pottery and the introduction of Puddingstone quern, all of which indicates that the inhabitants of the settlement at Abbotstone had access to an increasingly wider market. The only significant difference of this phase is that visible ritual activities were occurring here.

8.2.4 Phase 3 – early 2nd century AD to the late 2nd century AD

Phase 3 at the Abbotstone site dates from the early 2nd century to the late 2nd century, and is the third and final Roman phase of occupation. No evidence was recovered from the site to suggest why the settlement was subsequently abandoned.

8.2.4.1 The features

The features of Phase 3 consisted of: a large square ditched enclosure (with formal entrances, internal ditches dividing the enclosure in a grid-like system, and a series of stone surfaces and isolated features across the enclosure); a smaller square ditched enclosure (with formal entrances, and a small number of isolated features across the enclosure); and a very small number of features outside the two enclosures.

8.2.4.2 Dating

The features of this phase contained evidence dating to the end of the 2nd century AD, with large quantities of (and occasionally only) earlier 'residual' material. When only earlier material was recovered from these features they have been placed here based on their relationship with later dated features.

It is unlikely that the features of these enclosures (especially the large enclosure) were built as a whole but probably arose piecemeal over time; however, it is impossible (based on the evidence recovered from the site) to recreate any sequence to their construction. As such it is unclear what these enclosures would have looked like at any one moment in their existence.

8.2.4.3 Function

Square ditched enclosure 3 (SDE 3)

No structural remains were recorded within this enclosure; however, a very large quantity and weight of brick and tile was recovered from the associated features (to a total of 222:15,724g). This suggests that a brick and tile structure of some kind did exist within this enclosure, and if you look at the distribution of this material the majority of it was recorded in the south-east corner (Fig 19). The features of this south-east corner (which include the enclosure ditches F1, F2 and F4; the eastern entrance features; and the other isolated ditches/gullies, pits and post-holes located here), contained over 70% of the total quantity and weight of brick and tile recorded from the entire enclosure and over 60% of the daub. Four pieces of flue tile were also recorded in this south-east corner (none being recovered from the rest of the enclosure). The occurrence of flue tile on a site usually indicates the existence of a high status building; however, no other evidence recovered from the site would seem to indicate the existence of a building of this scale (eg there was no wall-plaster/painted wall-plaster, no structural fittings, no furniture fittings), and the flue tile may have been reused as general building material. As well as the building material, over 68% of the total quantity and weight of pottery, over 60% of the querns, approximately 50% of the animal bone and loomweights, and all of the briquetage and glass came from this south-eastern corner, including eight of the eleven pits/post-holes from the entire enclosure. All this evidence indicates that the focus of activity within this enclosure was centred in its south-east corner where a building was probably located.

Table 52: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the south-east corner of SDE 3.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	4,533	48,713
Brick and tile	171	11,475
Flue tile	4	252
Daub	79	1,342
Animal bone	134	507
Briquetage	6	133
Loomweight	14	243
Quern	77	3,429
Glass	3	35
Worked stone	1	1,404
Utilised stone	2	499
Copper-alloy object	1	3
Iron fragments	3	114
Iron nails	3	101
Lead fragments	1	8
Burnt flint	13	179

The remainder of the material from this enclosure was spread mainly among the internal ditches (with little being recovered from the other enclosure ditches or entrance features). Very little material was recovered from the north-east corner of the enclosure and we can only assume that other activities (possibly stock keeping) were taking place here.

Table 53: the total quantities and weights (g) of all the archaeological finds recorded from the rest of SDE 3.

Find type	Total quantity	Total weight (g)
Pottery	2,069	22,609
Brick and tile	51	4,249
Daub	48	361
Hearth lining	4	25
Animal bone	127	563
Loomweights	14	153
Quern	38	2,130
Metal-working debris possible smithing slag	1	12
Copper-alloy object	2	7
Iron nail	6	42
Worked stone	1	153
Burnt flint	13	116

In general, the pottery recovered from this enclosure includes a high incidence of residual forms and could suggest a degree of disturbance over the earlier features and/or that few 'new' vessels were being produced/brought into the site, representing a possible drop in demand by the population of the settlement. The recovery of briquetage fragments is also greatly reduced in this phase and the pieces that were recovered are likely to have been residual.

Evidence of both textile production and metal-working was also recorded from the features of this phase; however, fewer fragments of loomweight were recovered in this phase and only one piece of possible smithing slag was recorded. It is likely that these materials are in fact residual and that these activities were no longer carried out in the settlement. The triangular loomweights that were recorded in the other phases of this site were in use primarily from the Middle Iron Age to the second half of the 1st century, when they were either replaced by the Roman pyramidal weight (not recorded on the site) or production ended completely and commercially produced fabrics were brought instead[10]. This timescale would fit in with the

[10] see section 7.8

occurrence of loomweights on the site[11] and may suggest that the loomweights recorded from the features of Phase 2 are also in fact residual, but the burial of loomweights with the human head would seem to suggest that they still retained some significance for the site.

So, despite the massive increase in size of the area of this enclosure, there is no significant corresponding change in the quantity or quality of the material evidence recovered from it and, in fact, the evidence for textile production, metal-working and the importation of briquetage suggests that these activities may have stopped altogether in this phase. Strangely, though, items such as imported coins and glass were recorded for the first time and imports in general appear to have increased. Little appears to have changed in regard to food preparation, consumption and storage activities (with large amounts of lava quern still in use).

Square ditched enclosure 4 (SDE 4)

No structural remains were recorded within this enclosure and few features were contemporary with it. A quantity of brick, tile (including one piece of flue tile) and daub was recovered along with some domestic material which, when compared to the larger enclosure to the north, is significantly smaller in type, quantity and weight. This evidence suggests that some form of domestic activity was occurring within this enclosure but its exact function and the enclosure's relationship to its larger neighbour SDE 3 remains uncertain.

Features outside the enclosure

A small number of features were located outside the two main enclosures and contained small amounts of material (the only piece of any real interest is part of a frit melon bead from F165 that would have been imported from the Continent); it is uncertain what this activity represents.

8.2.4.4 In conclusion

Within this phase, the semi-regular square enclosures of Phase 2 were replaced by two enclosures with formal entrances, one of which was laid out internally with a grid-like division of ditches. The enclosures of this phase are very Roman in appearance and, as with the changing shape of the settlement from Phase 1 to Phase 2, probably represents new ideas coming into the site from the surrounding area and a more 'Romanised' way of thinking. These two enclosures, however, have an odd relationship with each other; they are on a different alignment; their entrances do not align; and there is no formal route between the two. The significance of this relationship is uncertain.

Despite the massive change in appearance of the site within this phase, there is no significant corresponding change in the material culture of the site. Some activities appear to have no longer been carried out on the site (textile production/metal-working/salt imports), although metal finds (including two coins) do increase within this phase. It appears that at least one structure was erected in the south-east corner of the large enclosure and activities including food preparation, consumption and storage were still occurring here.

8.2.5 The status and economy of the Period 2 Phases 1-3 settlement at the Abbotstone site

8.2.5.1 Status

The evidence recorded from the Period 2 Phases 1-3 settlement at the Abbotstone site indicates the status of the site during that time.

The features

The evidence provided by the successive 'remodelling' of the enclosures/features of the settlement throughout the three phases of Period 2 suggest that the site was increasing in status as it progressed from being a Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age collection of irregular enclosures through to being an increasingly more large, square and formal set of 'Romanised' enclosures.

Evidence from the material culture of the site, however, does not reflect this pattern.

[11] see section 7.8

The Roman brick and tile (Fig 19)
Except for the round-house within RDE 1 in Phase 1, no other structural remains were recorded *in situ* on the site; however, a study of the Roman building material recovered from the site indicates that other structures probably did exist within the settlement. The concentrations of such building material have highlighted areas where these structures may have existed: within RDE 1 (part of the known round-house) and the southern enclosure of Phase 1; within the large square ditched enclosure of (SDE 1) Phase 2; and within the south-east corner of the large square ditched enclosure (SDE 3) of Phase 3. Despite the recovery of fairly large quantities and weights of building material from these areas, there is no evidence of what sort of structures were built, their size or what they were used for, and this evidence cannot on its own be used to indicate the status of the site. The only building materials of a high status that were recorded were five pieces of flue tile (four of which came from the south-east corner of the large enclosure of Phase 3, SDE 3) and a single *tessera* cube from the topsoil layer (L1). This material, although indicative of a high status building, is small in quantity and its status is not reflected in any of the other material remains from the site (eg there is no wall-plaster/painted wall-plaster, no structural fittings, no furniture fittings), and therefore it is likely that these pieces were brought in and reused on the site as general building material. So, it is possible to state that structures of brick and tile were built throughout the phases of Period 2 but, without any further evidence as to the nature of these structures, this evidence probably represents simple low status buildings of indeterminate function.

The pottery
Analysis of the pottery recovered from features throughout this period shows an assemblage dominated by locally produced and low status coarse wares, with a very low percentage of imported wares, Romano-British fine wares and sourced coarse wares[12]. Many of the finer imported wares that were recorded on the site came from clusters (especially the Gallo-Belgic vessels); for example, in F312 with the remains of what may have been a feast (large quantities of animal bone including red deer), in cremation deposit F45, and others. This evidence may indicate that fine wares and/or imported wares were not used for everyday purposes but were imported into the site for special occasions.

Imports
Pottery vessels, briquetage, quernstones, glass, coins and some metal objects were all imported into the site and provide evidence that the inhabitants of the settlement at the Abbotstone site did have trading contacts outside the settlement. By Phase 2 (of Period 2), imports such as pottery, quern (especially Puddingstone quern), glass, metal objects and objects of personal adornment all increased. This increase was probably a direct result of the settlement's access to an increasingly wider market (opened up by the Roman invasion and settlement of the area). These imports, however, do not necessarily indicate a high status site. Many of the imports into the site were based on a functional need (special occasion imports of pottery; briquetage and quern for food preparation/storage/consumption) and not for status.
Furthermore, the glass is of a type most commonly seen on 1st- to 3rd-century rural sites; the frit melon bead is a common form, the only identifiable brooch is a native Colchester BB derivative, and the occurrence of coins does not necessarily indicate a monetary economy[13]. Aside from this, many of the trappings of a complex/high status settlement are missing (such as furniture and structural fittings, religious items, toilet/medical/writing instruments, high status imports)[14].

Conclusion
The evidence recovered from this site within Period 2 Phases 1-3 would suggest that, although the settlement increased in size and was formalised in structure throughout the period, there was no corresponding change in the material wealth of the site. The evidence would seem to suggest that the settlement at the Abbotstone

[12] see section 7.2
[13] see section 7.8
[14] see section 7.8

site was and remained a low status rural site with some outside trading links importing basic functional, and some personal, items into the settlement.

8.2.5.2 Economy

The material evidence recorded from the Period 2 Phases 1-3 settlement at the Abbotstone site also indicates the economy/function of the site.

Food preparation, consumption and storage

Study of many of the material finds from the site strongly indicates that elements of food preparation, consumption and storage were of great importance in this settlement. The majority of the material evidence from Period 2 is in the form of pottery vessels which were retrieved in sherds across the site. The pottery evidence shows many pottery forms in use with a domination of jars, in particular storage jars, and bowls, with smaller amounts of mortaria, cheese presses and sieved vessels. All these vessels have some function associated with food preparation and storage, and some even contained the burnt residues of 'foodstuffs'. Briquetage fragments (clay vessels associated with the manufacture and trade of salt) were also recorded in small quantities across the phases of the site. Salt was an important ingredient in both the preparation and storage of foodstuffs and the occurrence of briquetage also indicates that the settlement had trading links with areas where salt was produced. It has been suggested that fish may also have been traded within briquetage vessels (although no fish bones were found on the site). Aside from the pottery evidence, analysis of fragments of animal bone from the site shows that red deer, cattle, sheep/goats and pig were butchered and consumed on the site. The environmental analysis of certain deposits (revealing a low-density 'background' scatter of cereal-processing waste), along with large quantities of quernstone, show that some cereal-processing also occurred here.

Farming

Agriculture – The only evidence for the production and processing of crops on or near to the site are low-density scatters of cereal-processing waste (from the environmental analysis) and fragments of quernstone, both of which are most probably associated with small-scale domestic activities. There is no evidence for any large-scale/industrial production or processing of crops on the site; however, this does not mean that large-scale agriculture was not practised by the inhabitants of the settlement but that the processing and storage of any such materials was not undertaken on the site.

Animal keeping – Analysis of the animal bone from the site has revealed the use of wild species such as red deer and possibly wild boar and domesticated species such as cattle, sheep/goats, horse and possibly pig. The bones from the wild species all provided evidence of butchering and appear to have been used primarily for their meat; however, the evidence from the domesticated species is quite different. All the cattle and sheep/goat bones were from mature animals, which indicates that these animals were used primarily for other activities such as breeding, milking and for wool (sheep/goat), before being culled for meat. The horses were also mature on death and were probably used primarily as draught animals (unlike the cattle and sheep/goats, they do not appear to have been subsequently butchered for their meat). Analysis of the animal bone from the site also indicates that animals such as cattle and red deer were skinned and may also have been kept/hunted for their hides. Only the pig appeared to have been kept primarily for meat. Evidence for the keeping of animals for milk is also provided by the recovery of cheese presses (for cheese production) from the site, and for wool production and processing by the recovery of loomweights (for textile production). Throughout Period 2, the quantities of animal bone recovered from this site was quite small and there is no evidence for the large-scale keeping of domestic animals for meat or any other purposes. This, however, does not mean that large herds were not kept on the site but that they may have been moved before being slaughtered/butchered and the remains disposed of. The management of such animals on the site would explain the occurrence of droveways (to help move animals from enclosures to grazing land, etc) and may explain why several large enclosures and areas within the enclosures/settlement were devoid of domestic waste as they may have been used as animal pens, ie

RDE 2 in Phase 1 and areas defined by ditches both inside and outside of the main enclosures of Phases 2 and 3.

Industry

Textile production (Fig 26) – Evidence for the production of textiles in the settlement is provided by the animal bone, with the evidence that sheep/goats were primarily kept on the site for their wool (and milk), and the high quantity of loomweight fragments recovered from many of the features. The loomweight fragments appear to be concentrated around RDE 1 and the southern enclosure of Phase 1, the large square ditched enclosure (SDE 1) of Phase 2 (some of which were buried with the human head), and from the large square enclosure (SDE 3) of Phase 3, and may represent areas where textile production was based. It is probable that the loomweights recorded from Phase 3 were residual and that textile production was based primarily in Phase 1 with some activity in Phase 2. None of this material appears to have been on a large or industrial scale and may represent production on a 'self-sufficient' scale for their own needs.

Metal-working (Fig 27) – Throughout this period, several fragments of metal-working debris were recovered in the form of four fragments from smithing hearth bottoms, two pieces of possible smithing slag, a piece of bronze-casting waste, a copper-alloy ingot (possibly used for working), and three other pieces of undiagnostic debris. This evidence proves that metal-working did occur on the site, in particular iron-smithing (but not smelting) and possibly other non-ferrous working. The recovery of only eleven pieces of this material would suggest that this activity did not occur on an industrial scale but was perhaps initiated by the small-scale needs of the community. Seven of the eleven pieces of metal-working debris were recovered from features dating to Phases 1 and 2 (of the remaining pieces, one dated to Phase 3 and the others were recorded residually in a medieval feature with one unstratified piece). It is, therefore, likely that the main period of metal-working on the site occurred in Phases 1 and 2. All these pieces of debris were recovered from widespread features across the site and do not appear to represent one main concentration of activity, although there is a slight bias towards the southern half of the site (seven of the eleven pieces came from here).

Pottery production – Analysis of the pottery from the site throughout the period shows a site dominated by locally-produced (unsourced) coarse wares. Comparison of the Middle Iron Age pottery from the Abbotstone site with the pottery from the nearby Stanway site was attempted but failed (section 7.1), and it was hypothesised that this failure shows that both sites were producing their own pottery in this period (and possibly within the Roman period as well). So, although no evidence for pottery production and/or kilns was observed on this site, it may have been carried out nearby.

Imports

Evidence including some pottery vessels, briquetage, lava and Puddingstone quern, coins and objects of personal adornment show that material was imported into the site and that the inhabitants of the settlement did have trading contacts and access to wider markets. There is no evidence of what was traded in return for these objects; it could have been crops, meat, wool and/or textiles.

In conclusion

The economy of the settlement at the Abbotstone site within Period 2 Phases 1-3 appears to have revolved around activities such as food preparation/storage/consumption, farming (dominated by animal-keeping – especially cattle and sheep/goats), textile production, metal-working and possibly pottery production. Trade also occurred between the inhabitants of the settlement and those outside (but who they were, where they came from, and what they received in return is unknown). There is no evidence that any of these activities were ever carried out on an industrial scale on the site, but that they were probably small in scale, based on the needs of a relatively self-sufficient community.

8.2.6 Summary of Period 2 Phases 1-3

The Abbotstone site, within Period 2 Phases 1-3, provides evidence of over 500 years of settlement activity spanning the period from the Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age, and into the Roman period. Throughout this period (which is subdivided into three different phases, Phases 1-3), small irregular enclosures were gradually replaced by a larger and more formal set of square 'Romanised' enclosures. Despite this growth, the Abbotstone site was and remained a low status rural settlement, involved in small-scale domestic/self-sufficient activities such as food preparation/consumption/storage, animal-keeping, textile production, metal-working and pottery production, and some external trade.

This report attempts to not only provide an account of the nature of the site and its date, but also to answer a number of questions:

(1) To what extent was Abbotstone a part of Camulodunum and how did it relate to nearby excavated sites at Stanway and Gosbecks? The evidence from the excavation of the site has shown that the inhabitants of the settlement at the Abbotstone site did have trading contacts and this must presumably have included trade with the Roman town of Colchester and the markets at Gosbecks, although we have no evidence to prove this link. Likewise, we have no evidence connecting the Abbotstone site with the Stanway site (in fact the Middle Iron Age pottery forms from the two sites are completely different and probably derive from different sources). Furthermore, given the high status of the Stanway site, the Gosbecks site and the Roman town, the site at Abbotstone is very different (a low status and rural settlement) and it should not, perhaps, be too surprising that no links can be made between these sites.

(2) Was Abbotstone a native or Roman site and what effect, if any, did the Roman conquest have on the site? The site at Abbotstone began as a native settlement in the Middle Iron Age and was in occupation throughout the Roman conquest. The evidence from this site suggests that the Roman conquest of the area did have an effect on the settlement as (a) throughout the period the appearance of the site became gradually more 'Romanised', as formal square enclosures replaced smaller irregular 'native' styles; (b) the rate of 'Romanisation' of the settlement's coarse ware pottery was quicker than at most other sites; and (c) full use was made of the increasing access to wider markets, with local and Continental imports being used on the site. This effect, however, does not appear to have been all-encompassing, as (a) the site never increased in status; (b) it never changed the basis of its material culture or economy; and (c) there is no evidence that the native population of the site was removed when the territories of Camulodunum came under Roman control. So, although the conquest of the area by the Romans did have an effect on the settlement, it does not appear to have altered the basic nature of the site.

8.3 Period 3 – the medieval period (12th-13th century): Phase 4

In the 12th-13th centuries, the Abbotstone site was again occupied. Within this phase, a building and two 4-post structures were constructed within a large field system of ditches. A total of 612:5455g of medieval pottery was recovered from these features, along with a large quantity of Roman material which can best be explained as residual but appears to include some items that were reused in this period, such as brick and tile for building material and Roman pottery for the production of two counters[15].

Despite the large quantities of medieval pottery and the two counters, no other material of medieval date was recovered from the site, and the only material that could date to this phase is a very small quantity of animal bone. This lack of domestic material may suggest that the buildings on this site were not used primarily for human occupation but possibly as agricultural stores or animal shelters that were connected with the field system laid out over the area.

8.4 Later activity

Very little activity occurred on the site after the 12th-13th centuries and the area became agricultural and/or pastoral land, and it remained so until the present day.

[15] see section 7.8

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11 Glossary

1:5g	this is a short-hand way of writing 1 piece (eg of pottery, brick, daub, etc) at 5g
briquetage	the debris from salt manufacture – fragments of large vessels in which salt was dried
c	*circa*, approximately
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
context	a specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
daub	fired or burnt clay
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
enclosure	a retangular, circular or other area defined by a ditch
faunal	animal
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
forth	forthcoming
imbrex	Roman roof tile
intrusive	a later object out of place in an earlier context (eg a 19th-century coin in a Roman pit)
layer	an archaeological deposit which is basically flat, eg soil
LBA	Late Bronze Age
LIA	Late Iron Age, the last two centuries BC and up to AD 43 (Roman conquest)
loomweights	clay weights used to keep the vertical warp threads of a loom under tension
medieval	AD 1066 to later 15th century
MIA	Middle Iron Age, 5th to 3rd centuries BC
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	16th century to 19th century
prehistoric	the years BC, before the Roman invasion of AD 43
quernstone	stone for grinding corn into flour
residual	an earlier object out of place in a later context (eg a Roman coin in a 19th-century pit)
ritual	with a religious or magical significance
RDE	round ditched enclosure
Roman	period from AD 43 to around AD 430
SDE	square ditched enclosure
tegula	Roman roofing tile
U/S	unstratified

12 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 1999.48.

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date: *20.09.05*

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13 Site data

Table 54: context list.

Feature no	Also recorded as	Phase	Description 1	Description 2
F1	F61, F83, F88, L18, L19	3	Ditch	enclosure ditch recut - SDE 3
F2	F3, F7, F70, F98	3	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 3
F4	F5, F713	3	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 3
F6	F99	3	Gravel surface	
F9	F27, F37, F120, F366, F717	post-medieval	Ditch	
F8	F421, F435, L17, L106	2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 1
F10	F17	3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F11		modern	Plough cut	
F12		modern	Plough cut	
F13	F14	3	Ditch	
F15		3	Ditch	eastern entrance ditch - SDE 3
F16	F777, F781	3	Ditch	eastern entrance ditch - SDE 3
F18	F307, F308, L103	3	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 3
F19	F773	modern	Boundary ditch	
F20		3	Pit	within SDE 3
F21	F729	1		droveway ditch
F22		0-LBA	Pit	
F23	F29, F86	3	Gully	internal ditch - SDE 3
F24		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F25		modern	Boundary ditch	
F26		-	Post-hole	
F28		1	Pit	
F30	F309, F340, F553, F554, F555	3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F31		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F32		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F33	F62	3	Ditch	eastern entrance ditch - SDE 3
F34	F35, F50, F51, F84	3	Ditch/gully	internal ditch - SDE 3
F36		3	Pit	within SDE 3
F38	F39	3	Ditch/gully	internal ditch - SDE 3
F40		4	Ditch	
F41		modern	Field drain	
F42		modern	Plough cut	
F42			Natural	
F43			Natural	
F45		2?	Cremation	
F46		2	Pit	
F47		Roman	Post-hole	
F48		2?	Charcoal patch	
F49		3	Pit/post-hole	within SDE 3
F52		-	Pit/post-hole	
F53		-	Pit/post-hole	
F54	F417, F434, F489, F521	1	Ditch	enclosure ditch - RDE 1
F55		3	Pit	within SDE 3
F56		-	Pit	
F57	F306	3	Ditch	eastern entrance ditch - SDE 3
F58		3	Post-hole	eastern entrance post-hole - SDE 3
F59		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F60	F67	3	Gully	internal ditch - SDE 3
F63		3	Pit	within SDE 3
F64		1	Pit	

F65		3	Pit	within SDE 3
F66	F72, F76, F87, F172	2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 1
F68	F69	3	Post-hole	eastern entrance post-hole - SDE 3
F71		2	Post-hole	within SDE 1
F73			Natural	
F74			Natural	
F75		2	Post-hole	within SDE 1
F77		-	Post-hole	
F78			Natural	
F79		-	Post-hole	
F80			Natural	
F81		modern	Plough cut	
F82	F355, F617	4	Ditch	
F85		3	Gully	internal gully - SDE 3
F89		modern	Field drain	
F90		modern	Field drain	
F91		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F92		-	Pit	
F93		3	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 4
F94	F121	3	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 4
F95		-	Pit/post-hole	
F96	F108, 124	3	Ditch	
F97			Natural	
F100		1	Pit/hearth	within area of southern enclosure
F101			Natural	
F102			Natural	
F103			VOID	
F104		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F105	F116, F136, F214, F734, F735	1-MIA	Ditch	droveway ditch
F106		-	Pit	
F107		modern	Plough cut	
F109		3	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 4
F110		3	Pit	within SDE 4
F111		-	Post-hole	
F112			Natural	
F113		3	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 4
F114			Natural	
F115		3	Pit	within SDE 4
F117	F725, F731, F791	1-2	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F118		3	Pit	within SDE 4
F119	F303, F749	3	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 4
F122		-	Pit	
F123		-	Charcoal patch	
F125		1-MIA	Pit	
F126		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F127		-	Post-hole	
F128		3	Gully	southern entrance gully - SDE 4
F129		-	Pit	
F130	F750	3	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 4
F131		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F132		1-MIA	Pit	
F133		-	Pit	
F134		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F135	F188, F189, F197	1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F137		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F138		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure

F139		-	Pit	
F140		-	Charcoal patch	
F141		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F142		-	Pit	
F143		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F144		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F145	F157, F158, F741	1-2	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F146		3	Post-hole	northern entrance post-hole - SDE 4
F147			Natural	
F148			Natural	
F149		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F150		-	Charcoal patch	
F151		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F152		1	Ditch/gully	part of southern enclosure
F153		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F154		modern	Plough cut	
F155		1	Gully	part of southern enclosure
F156		-	Charcoal patch	
F159			VOID	
F160		1-MIA	Post-hole	
F161		1	Post-hole	within area of southern enclosure
F162		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F163		-	Charcoal patch	
F164		-	Charcoal patch	
F165		3	Ditch	
F166	F169, F379, F739, F764, F765	4	Ditch	
F167	F170, F378, F474, F748, F789	4	Ditch	
F168		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F171		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F173		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F174		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F175		-	Gully	
F176			Natural	
F177		3	Post-hole	northern entrance post-hole - SDE 4
F178		1-MIA	Pit	
F180			Natural	
F181		4	Ditch	
F182			Natural	
F183		-	Burnt patch	
F184		-	Burnt patch	
F185		2	Pit	
F186		1-MIA	Post-hole	
F187		1-MIA	Post-hole	
F190		-	Pit	
F191			Natural	
F192		-	Charcoal/burnt patch	
F193		1	Post-hole	within area of southern enclosure
F194		1	Post-hole	within area of southern enclosure
F195		-	Post-hole	
F196		2	3 stake holes	
F198		modern	Field drain	

F199		-	Ditch	
F200		-	Ditch	
F201		-	Ditch	
F202		-	Post-hole	
F203		-	Pit	
F204			Natural	
F205		modern	Plough cut	
F206		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F207		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F208		-	Ditch	
F209		-	Pit	
F210		-	Burnt patch	
F211		modern	Field drain	
F212		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F213		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F215-F300			VOID	
F301	F302	3	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 3
F304		3	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 3
F305	F335, F490, F613, F614	2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 2
F310	F502	3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F311		1	Ditch	droveway ditch
F312	F556, F585, F595, F596	2	Ditch	
F313		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F314		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F315			Natural	
F316			Natural	
F317			Natural	
F318			Natural	
F319			Natural	
F320			Natural	
F321			Natural	
F322			Natural	
F323	F722	1-2	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F324	F325, F452, F723	4	Ditch	
F326	F718	4	Post-hole	part of 4-post structure no 2
F327		-	Post-hole	
F328	F720	4	Post-hole	part of 4-post structure no 2
F329	F721	4	Post-hole	part of 4-post structure no 2
F330		-	Post-hole	
F331		-	Pit/post-hole	
F332		-	Post-hole	
F333		-	Pit/post-hole	
F334		-	Pit	
F336	F483, L105	1	Ditch	enclosure ditch - RDE 1
F337		Roman	Pit	
F338		1	Pit	
F339		-	Post-hole	
F341	F719	4	Post-hole	part of 4-post structure no 2
F342		-	Post-hole	
F343		-	Post-hole	
F344		-	Post-hole	
F345		-	Pit/post-hole	
F346		-	Pit/post-hole	
F347		-	Post-hole	
F348		-	Pit/post-hole	
F349		modern	Pit	
F350		modern	Pit	
F351		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F352		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F353	F619, F624	1	Ditch	enclosure ditch - RDE 2
F354		-	Pit	
F356	F618, F625, F712,	1	Ditch	enclosure ditch - RDE 2

	F716			
F357		-	Pit	
F358		1	Pit	within round-house of RDE 1
F359		1	Pit	within RDE 1
F360		-	Pit	
F361		-	Gully	
F362	F363, F364	-	Gully	
F365		1	Pit	
F367		1-MIA	Gully	
F368		1	Gully	
F369		3	Pit	within SDE 3
F370		1	Gully	
F371		1-MIA	Pit	
F372		modern	Plough cut	
F373			Natural	
F374		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F375		-	Ditch	
F376		Roman	Pit	
F377		-	Post-hole	
F380		-	Pit	
F381		-	Pit	
F382	F756	4	Post-hole	part of medieval building
F383		-	Pit	
F384		-	Gully NOT ON PLAN	
F385		4	Post-hole	part of medieval building
F386		-	Pit	
F387		-	Pit	
F388		-	Pit/post-hole	
F389		-	Pit	
F390		-	Pit	
F391		-	Pit	
F392	F759	1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F393			VOID	
F394			Natural	
F395			Natural	
F396			Natural	
F397		-	Pit	
F398	F558	4	Ditch	
F399		1	Ditch	droveway ditch
F400	F775, L102	1	Ditch	droveway ditch
F401		1	Ditch	droveway ditch
F402	F561	1	Pit	
F403			Natural	
F404		-	Pit	
F405		-	Pit	
F406		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F407		-	Pit	
F408		-	Pit/post-hole	
F409		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F410		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F411	F525, F526	1	Ditch	droveway ditch
F412	F527	3	Ditch	northern entrance ditch - SDE 3
F413		2	Pit	
F414		3	Gully	internal ditch - SDE 3
F415		-	Ditch	
F416		-	Pit	
F418		3	Pit	within SDE 3
F419		modern	Wheel ruts	
F420		modern	Wheel ruts	
F422		modern	Pit	
F423		-	Ditch/gully	

F424		3	Pit	within SDE 3
F425		-	Pit	
F426		-	Pit	
F427		3	Pit	within SDE 3
F428			Natural	
F429		-	Pit	
F430			Natural	
F431		1	Pit	
F432	F476	3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F433		1	Pit	
F436		3	Gully	internal ditch - SDE 3
F437			Natural	
F438			VOID	
F439		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F440a	F503	2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 2
F440b	F504	2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 2
F441	F442, F491	3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F443		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F444		2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 2
F445		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F446	F536	3	Ditch	eastern entrance ditch - SDE 3
F447		-	Pit	
F448		1	Pit	within RDE 1
F449	F510	2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 2
F450	F620, F727, F783, F784	2	Ditch	
F451		Roman	Ditch	
F453	F457, F473, F591	2-3	Ditch	
F454			Natural	
F455		-	Pit NOT ON PLAN	
F456	F657	1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F458	F651	2	Ditch	
F459		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F460		-	Ditch	
F461		1-MIA	Pit	
F462	F683	4	Ditch	
F463		2	Ditch	
F464		-	Pit/hearth base	
F465		-	Pit	
F466		Roman	Slot	
F467			Natural	
F468		0 – pre-MIA	Pit/hearth	
F469		1	Gully NOT ON PLAN	
F470		-	Pit/Post-hole NOT ON PLAN	
F471		3	Pit NOT ON PLAN	
F472	F672	1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F475		1	Pit	
F477	F487, F495, F496	3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F478		2	Pit	
F479	F542, F573	3	Ditch	northern entrance ditch - SDE 3
F480	F482	3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F481		-	Pit	
F484		-	Pit	
F485		2	Stony spread	within SDE 1
F486		1	Pit	within RDE 1
F488		2	Pit	
F491	F441, F442	3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F492		1-MIA	Pit	

			NOT ON PLAN	
F493		4	Ditch	
F494	F499	4	Ditch	
F497		4	Ditch	
F498	F512	2	Cremation	cut into enclosure ditch - SDE 1 (F305)
F500			Natural	
F501	F509, F533	2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 2
F505	F517, F520	2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 2
F506		3	Pit	within SDE 3
F507	F516, F524	2	Ditch	
F508		2	Pit	within SDE 2
F511		2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 2
F513		-	Pit	
F514	F587, F589, F602	4	Ditch	
F515	F583, F590, F600	4	Ditch	
F518	F544	3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F519		-	Pit	
F522		Roman	Pit	
F523			Natural	
F528		-	Pit	
F529		1-MIA	Pit	
F530		-	Post-hole	
F531		-	Post-hole	
F532		1	Pit	
F534		-	Pit	
F535		-	Pit	
F537		-	Burnt patch NOT ON PLAN	
F538	F691	1	Pit	
F539		1	Pit	
F540	F593	post-medieval	Ditch	
F541		-	Post-hole	
F543	F598	3	Ditch	eastern entrance ditch - SDE 3
F545		-	Post-hole	
F546		2	Pit	
F547		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F548		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F549		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F550		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F551		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F552		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F557		1	Pit	
F559		-	Post-hole	
F560		-	Post-hole	
F562		-	Post-hole	
F563		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F564		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F565		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F566		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F567		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F568		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F569		1	Pit	within RDE 1
F570		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F571		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F572		1	Post-hole	part of round-house
F574		-	Post-hole	
F575		-	Post-hole	
F576		1	Ditch	droveway ditch
F577		-	Pit/post-hole	
F578		1	Pit	
F579		-	Post-hole	
F580		1	Pit	

F581		-	Ditch	
F582		-	Pit	
F584		-	Ditch/gully	
F586	F601	2	Ditch	
F587		4	Ditch	
F588		-	Pit	
F592		4	Ditch	
F594		4	Ditch	
F597		-	Ditch	
F599		4	Ditch	
F603		2?	Pit	pyre debris
F604	F605	2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 1
F606		-	Pit	
F607		-	Pit/post-hole	
F608		4	Pit/post-hole	
F609			Natural	
F610		-	Pit	
F611		-	Pit/post-hole	
F612		-	Pit	
F615		Roman	Pit	
F616		4	Pit	
F621		-	Pit	
F622		Roman	Pit	
F623		4	Ditch	
F626		Roman	Pit	
F627		-	Pit/post-hole	
F628		3	Pit	
F629		4	Ditch	
F630	F694	4	Ditch	
F631		-	Post-hole	
F632		2	Pit	
F633		4	Post-hole	part of medieval building
F634		Roman	Pit	
F635		Roman	Pit/post-hole	
F636		1-MIA	Pit/post-hole	
F637		-	Pit	
F638		4	Post-hole	part of medieval building
F639		4	Post-hole	part of medieval building
F640		4	Post-hole	part of medieval building
F641		4	Pit/post-hole	
F642		4	Pit/post-hole	
F643		4	Pit/post-hole	
F644		-	Pit	
F645		-	Pit/post-hole	
F646		Roman	Pit	
F647		-	Pit	
F648		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F649		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F650		-	Pit	
F652		4	Ditch	
F653		-	Pit	
F654		Roman	Pit	
F655		-	Pit	
F656		-	Pit	
F658		0-LBA	Pit	
F659		-	Pit	
F660-F699			VOID	
F670		-	Pit	
F671		0-LBA	Pit	
F673		-	Post-hole	
F674		1	Pit	
F675		-	Pit	
F676		1	Pit	

F677		-	Pit	
F678		1	Pit	
F679		-	Pit	
F680		4	Post-hole	part of medieval building
F681		-	Gully	
F682		4	Post-hole	part of 4-post structure no 1
F684		-	Pit	
F685		-	Pit	
F686		4	Post-hole	part of 4-post structure no 1
F687		Roman	Pit	
F688		-	Pit	
F689		4	Post-hole	part of 4-post structure no 1
F690		4	Post-hole	part of 4-post structure no 1
F691		-	Post-hole	
F692		4	Post-hole	
F693		4	Pit/post-hole	
F695		-	Post-hole	
F696		-	Pit	
F697		-	Pit	
F698			Natural	
F700			Natural	
F701			Natural	
F702			Natural	
F703			Natural	
F704		-	Pit	
F705		Roman	Pit	
F706		-	Pit/post-hole	
F707		4	Pit	
F708		modern	Pit	
F709		-	Pit	
F710		modern	Pit	
F711		Roman	Post-hole	
F714		2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 1
F715		Roman	Pit	
F724		-	Pit/post-hole	
F726		3	Ditch	internal ditch - SDE 3
F728	F785	Roman	Ditch	
F730		-	Charcoal patch	
F732		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F733		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F736		1-MIA	Pit/post-hole	
F737		-	Pit/post-hole	
F738		-	Pit/post-hole	
F740	F776	1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure
F742		-	Pit	
F743		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F744		-	Pit	
F745		-	Hearth base	
F746		modern	Disturbance	
F747		modern	Disturbance	
F751		modern	Disturbance	
F752		4	Post-hole	part of medieval building
F753		4	Post-hole	part of medieval building
F754		4	Post-hole	part of medieval building
F755		4	Post-hole	part of medieval building
F757	F788, F790	4	Ditch	
F758		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F760		-	Pit/post-hole	
F761		modern	Disturbance	
F762		-	Post-hole	
F763		1	Pit	within area of southern enclosure
F766		1	Ditch	part of southern enclosure

F767		-	Post-hole	
F768		1	Pit/Post-hole	
F769		-	Pit	
F770		-	Post-hole	
F771		4	Pit	
F772		modern	Disturbance	
F774		modern	Pit	
F778		modern	Degraded wooden post	
F779		modern	Post-hole of F778	
F780		-	Stone feature	
F782		3	Post-hole	southern entrance post-hole - SDE 3
F786		-	Pit	
F787		-	Pit	
F792	F796	4	Pit (with timber lining)	
F793		-	Pit	
F794		2	Ditch	enclosure ditch - SDE 2
F795		-	Pit	
F797		1	Silt patch	within area of southern enclosure
F798		Roman	Pit	
F799		-	Post-hole	
F800		-	Pits	
F801		4	Ditch	
F802		4	Ditch	
F803	F804	3	Ditch	eastern entrance ditch - SDE 3
F805		-	Stake-hole	
F806		1-MIA	Post-hole	
F807		1-MIA	Pit	
L1	L101	modern	Topsoil	
L2			Natural	
L3	L4, L6, L8, L10, L12, L14	post-medieval	Silt deposit	
L5	L7, L9, L16	3	Stone surface – seals F2 (possibly contemporary with F1)	in SDE 3
L11		3	Stone surface – seals F18 Sx 3	in SDE 3
L13	L15	3	Stone surface – seals F17	in SDE 3
L104		3	Fill of F313 and F314	in SDE 3

Excavations at Abbotstone field, Bell House Pit, Tarmac Colchester Quarry, Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, 1999-2001

small finds drawn by Emma Spurgeon with Kirsti Bambridge;
pottery drawn by Howard Brooks and Emma Spurgeon

Part 2 – The figures

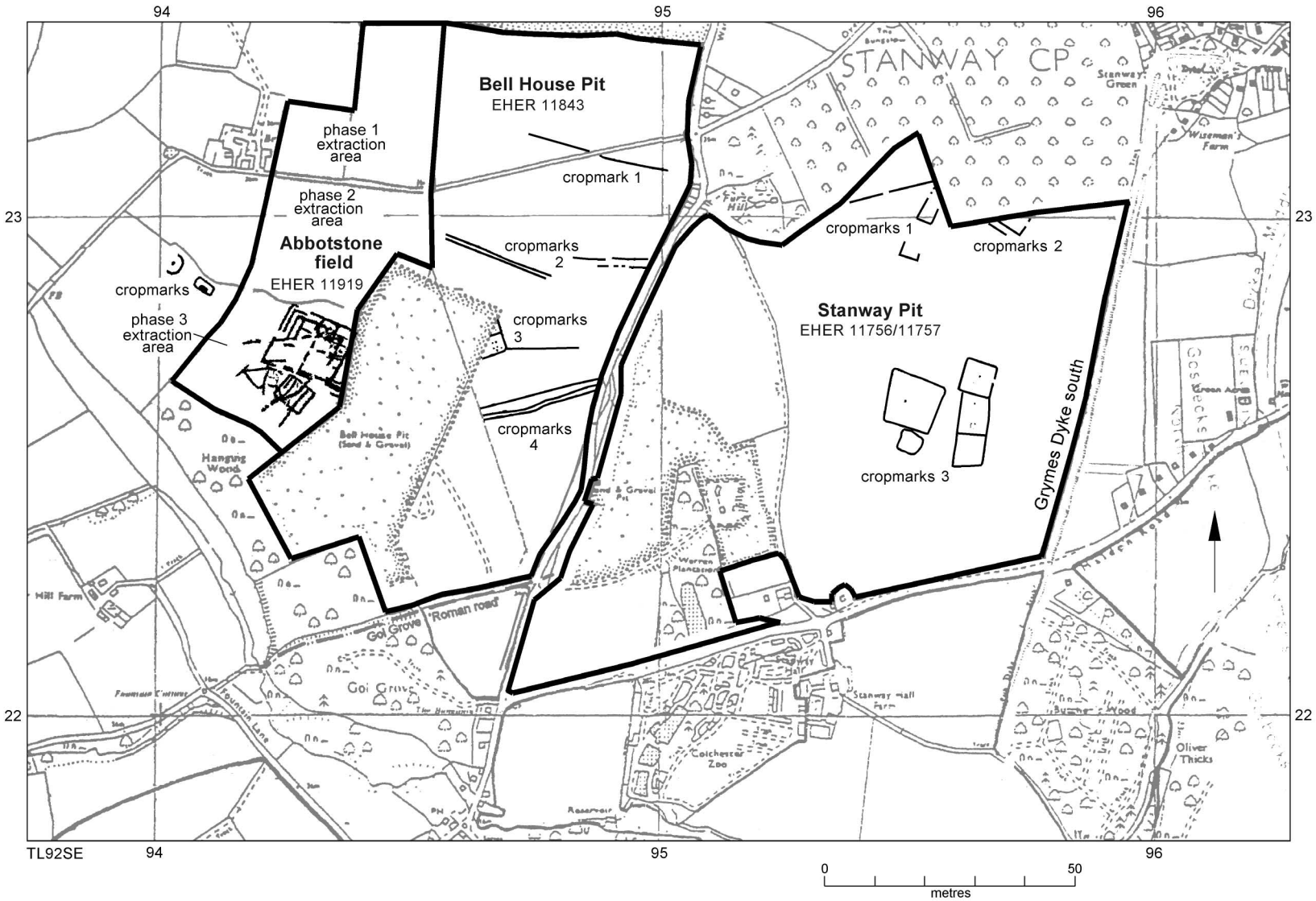


Fig 1 Plan of the Tarmac Colchester Quarry (subdivided into the Bell House Pit, Abbotstone field and Stanway Pit), showing all cropmarks.

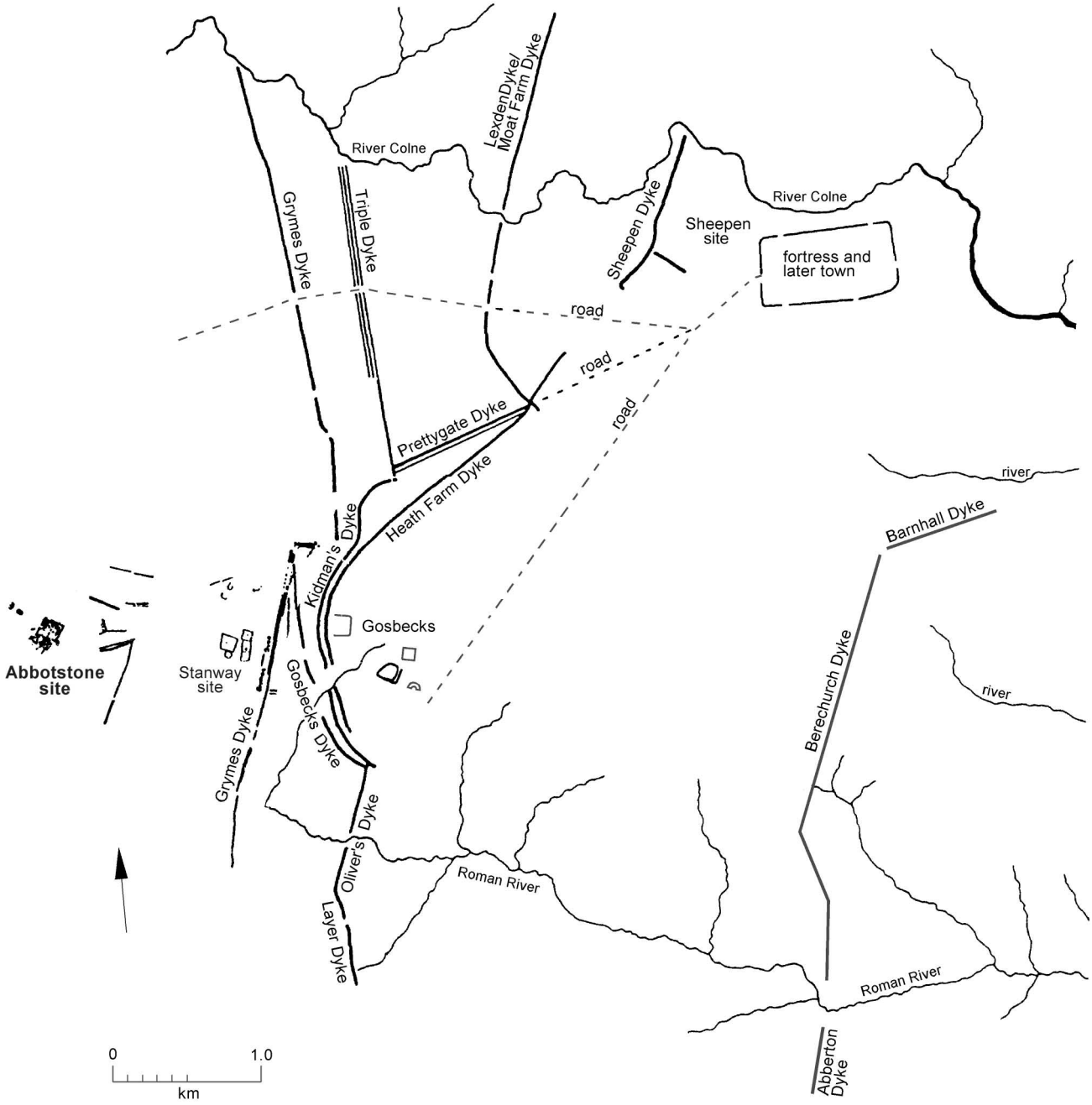


Fig 2 Plan of the Abbotstone cropmark site within its wider archaeological landscape (including the dykes, Gosbecks, the Sheepen site, the Stanway site, and the fortress/later walled town).

Fig 3 Plan of all excavated features/layers (excluding modern and natural features/layers).

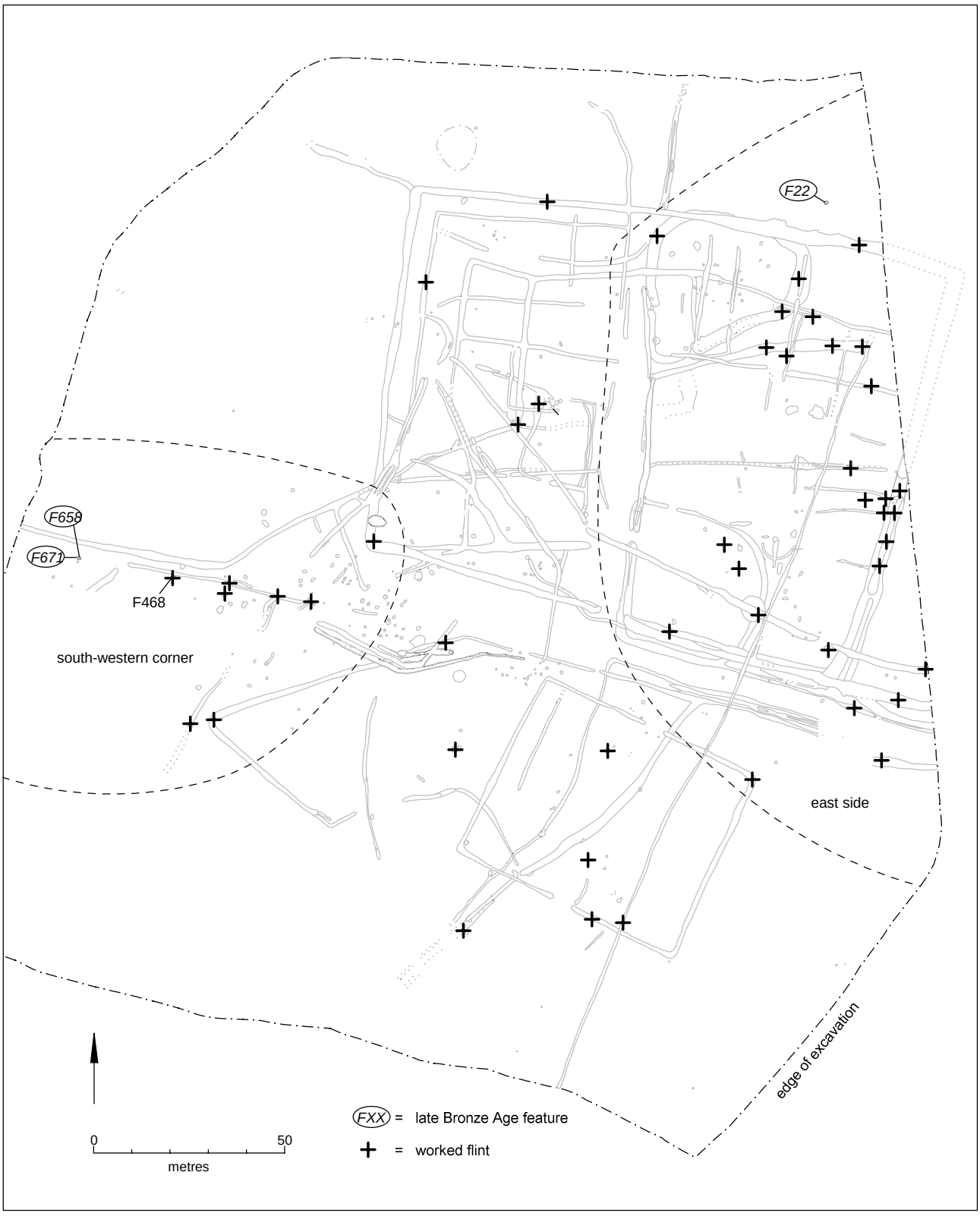


Fig 4 Plan of features showing activity before the main phase of occupation (before *c* 300 BC) – Period 1 Phase 0.

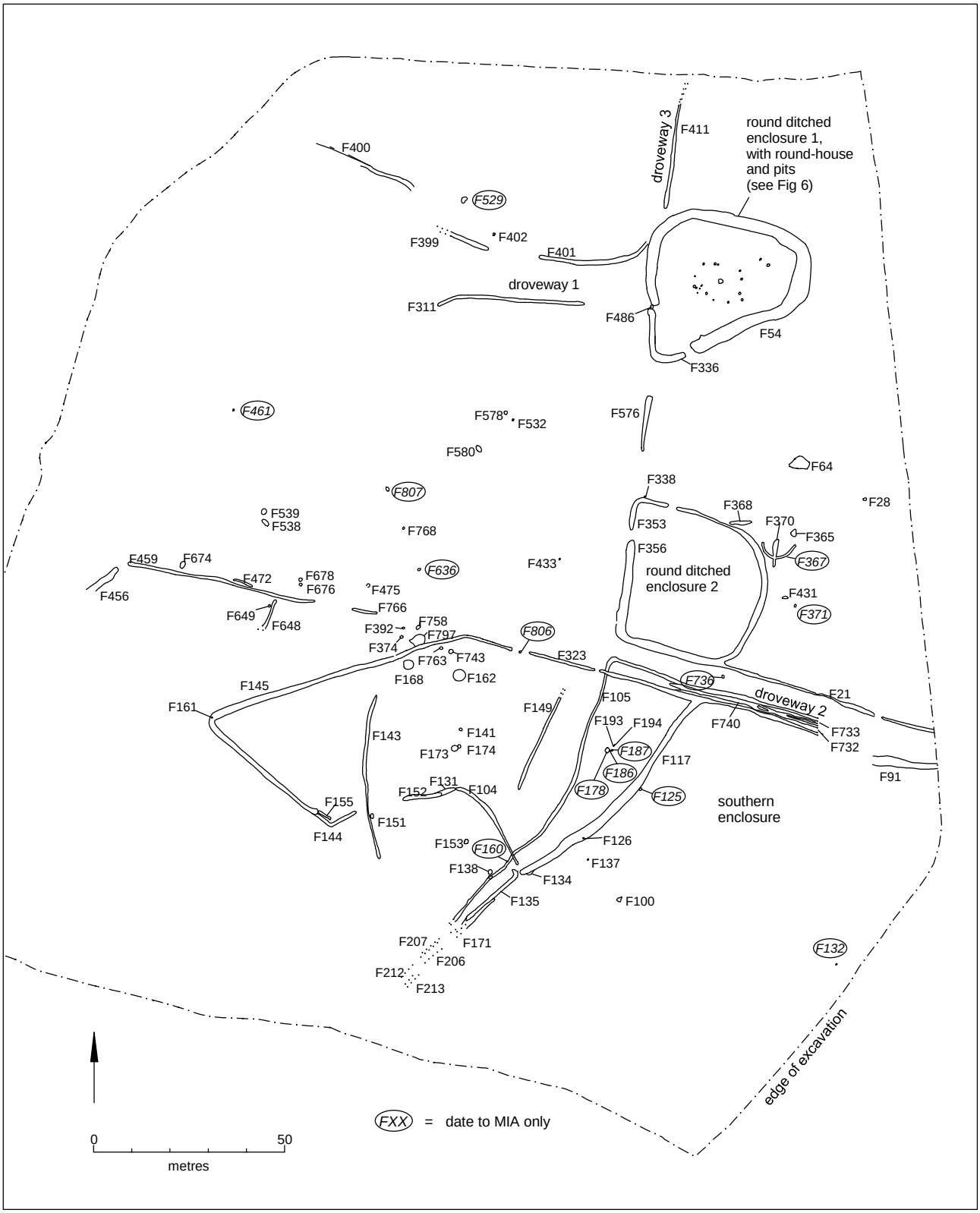


Fig 5 Plan of Period 2 Phase 1 – Middle Iron Age-*c* AD 70.

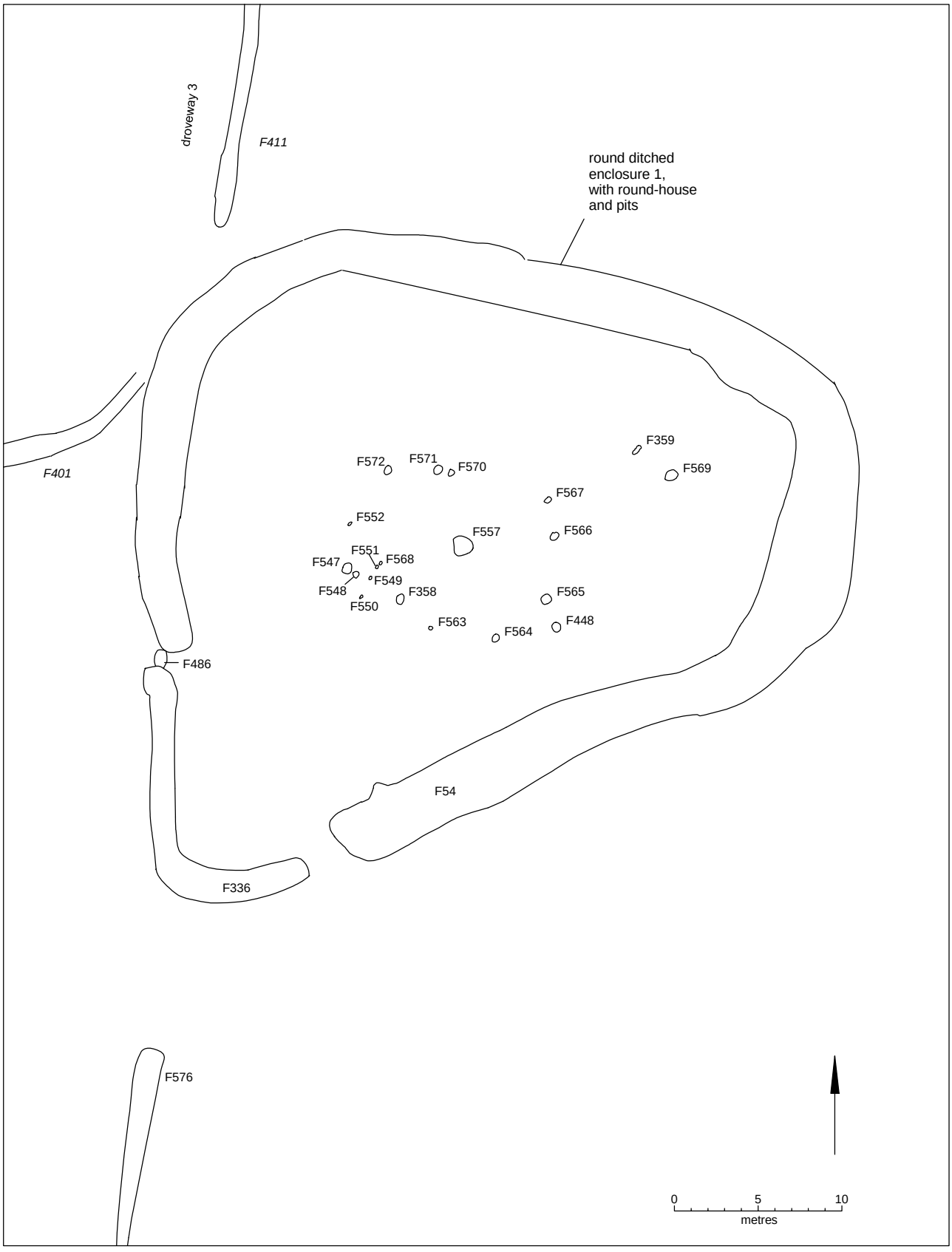


Fig 6 Close-up plan of RDE1 and the round-house (Period 2 Phase 1).

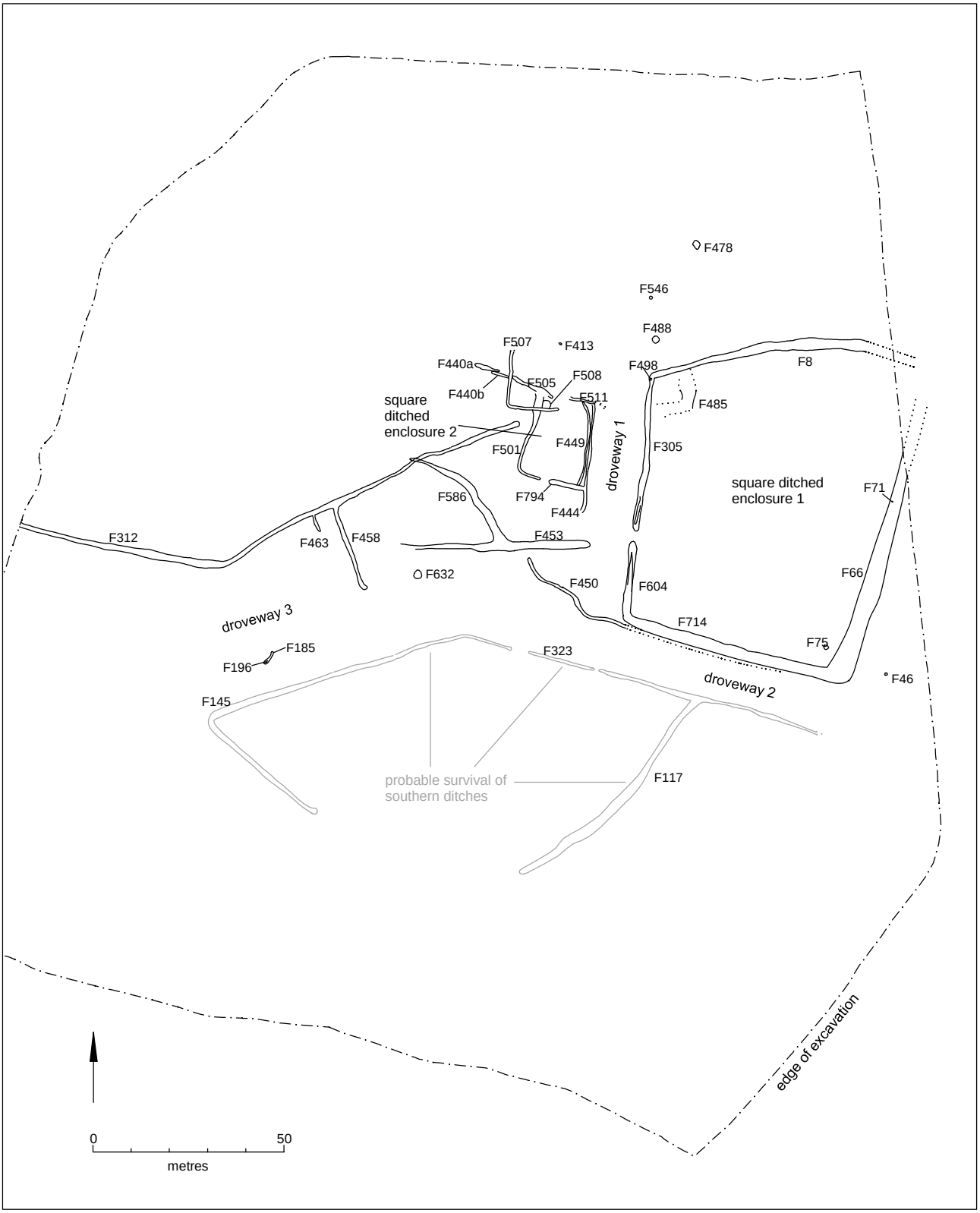


Fig 7 Plan of Period 2 Phase 2 - late 1st-early 2nd century AD.

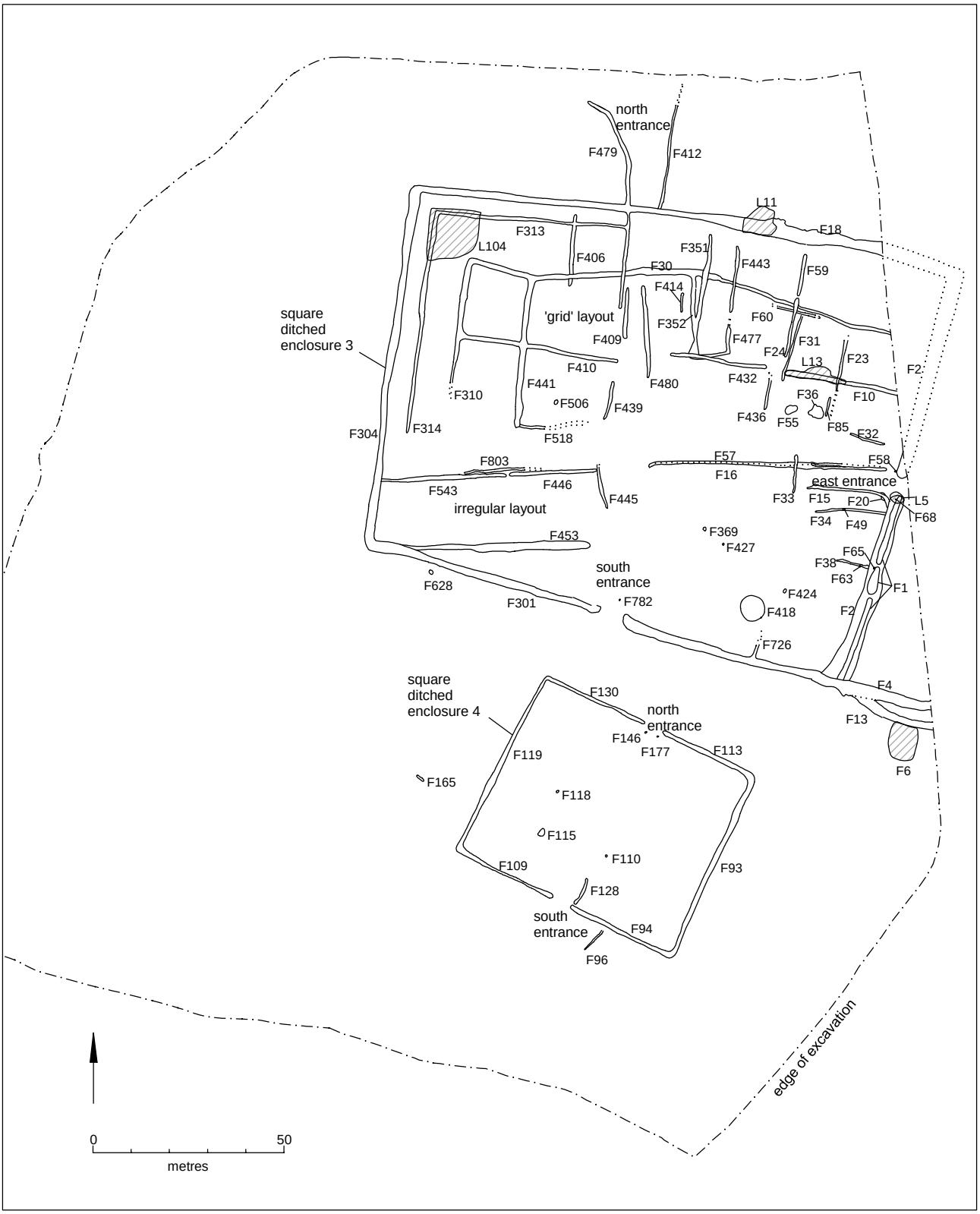


Fig 8 Plan of Period 2 Phase 3 - 2nd century AD.

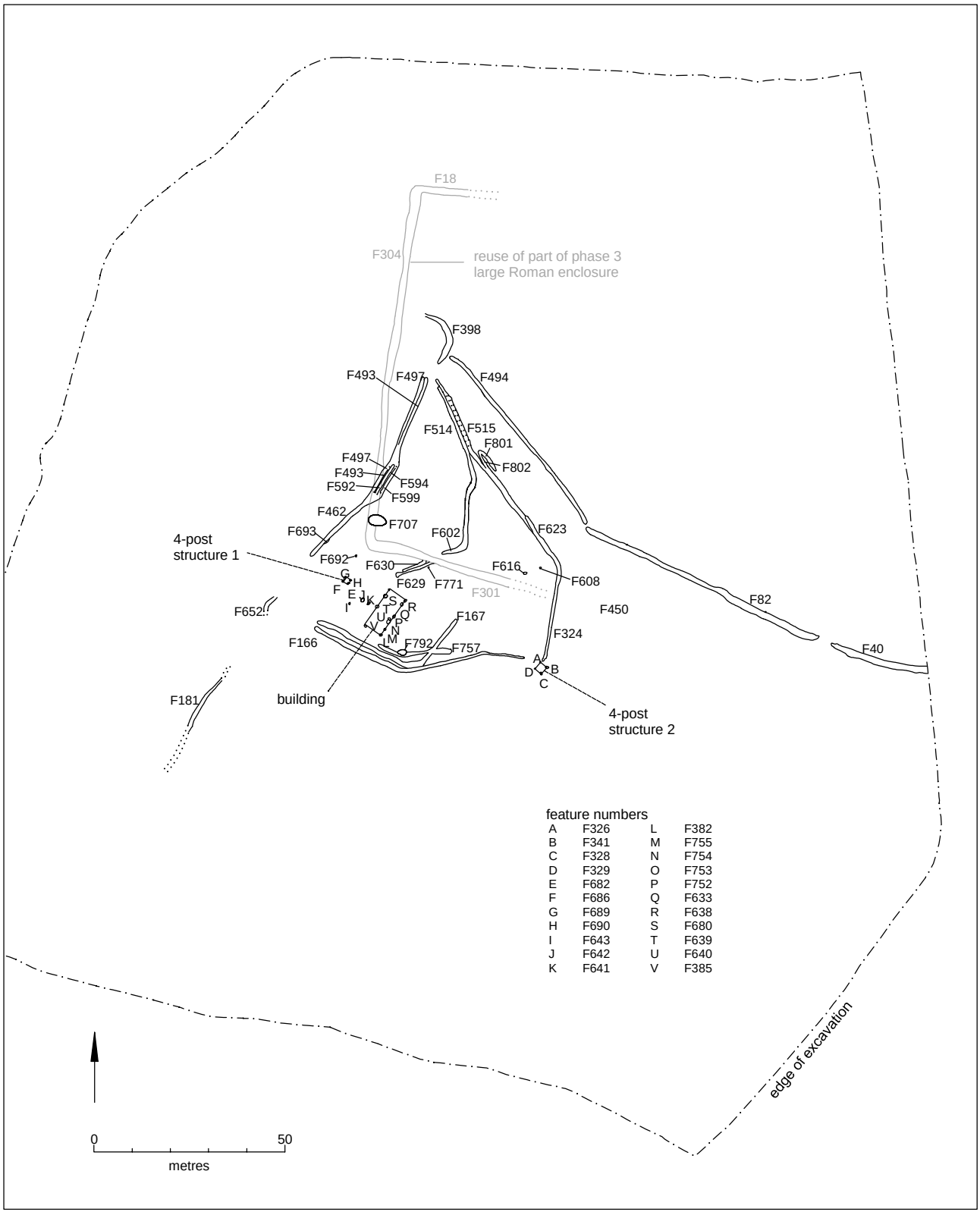


Fig 9 Plan of Period 3 Phase 4 - medieval.

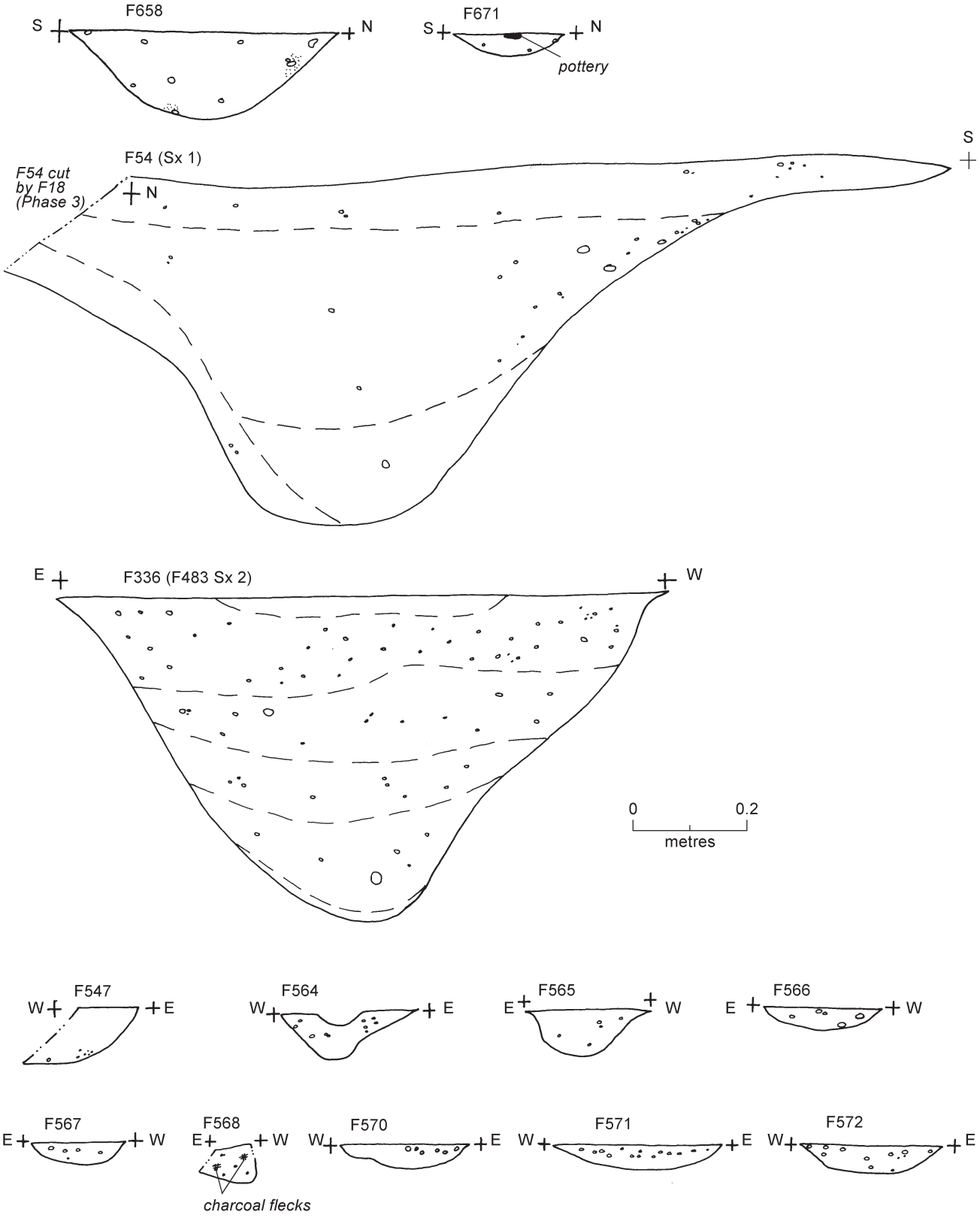


Fig 10 A representative sample of sections from pits dating to the Bronze Age (Phase 0) and from the features of Phase 1 -
Phase 0: pits (F658, F671)
Phase 1: the ditches of RDE 1 (F54, F336) and the structural post-holes of the round-house (F547, F564-F568, F570-F572).

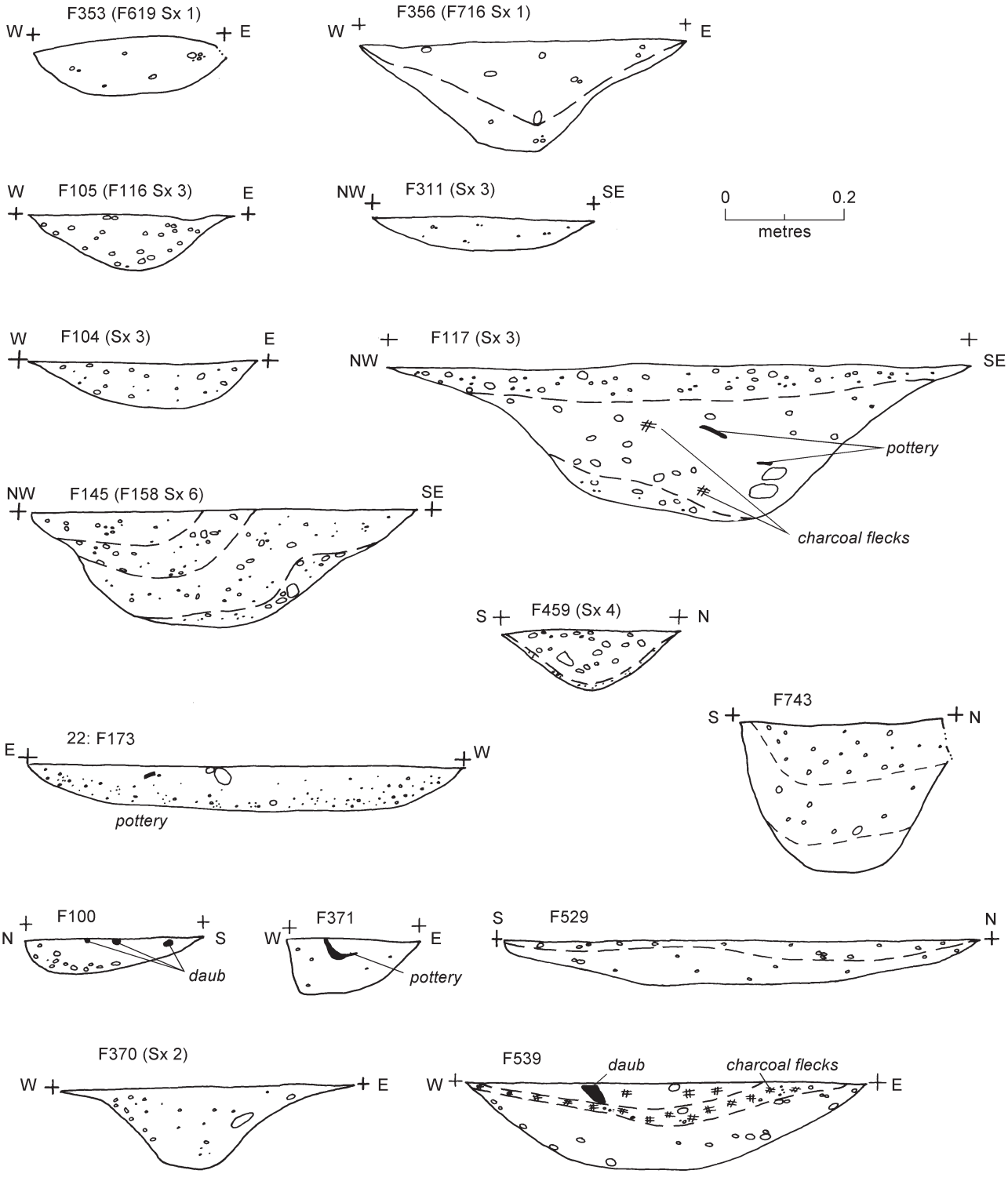


Fig 11 A representative sample of sections from the features of Phase 1: the ditches of RDE 2 (F353, F356); the droveways (F105, F311); the features associated with the southern enclosure: ditches (F104, F117, F145, F459); pits (F173, F743); pit/hearth (F100); and other isolated features, Middle Iron Age: (F371, F529) and late Iron Age/early Roman: (F370, F539).

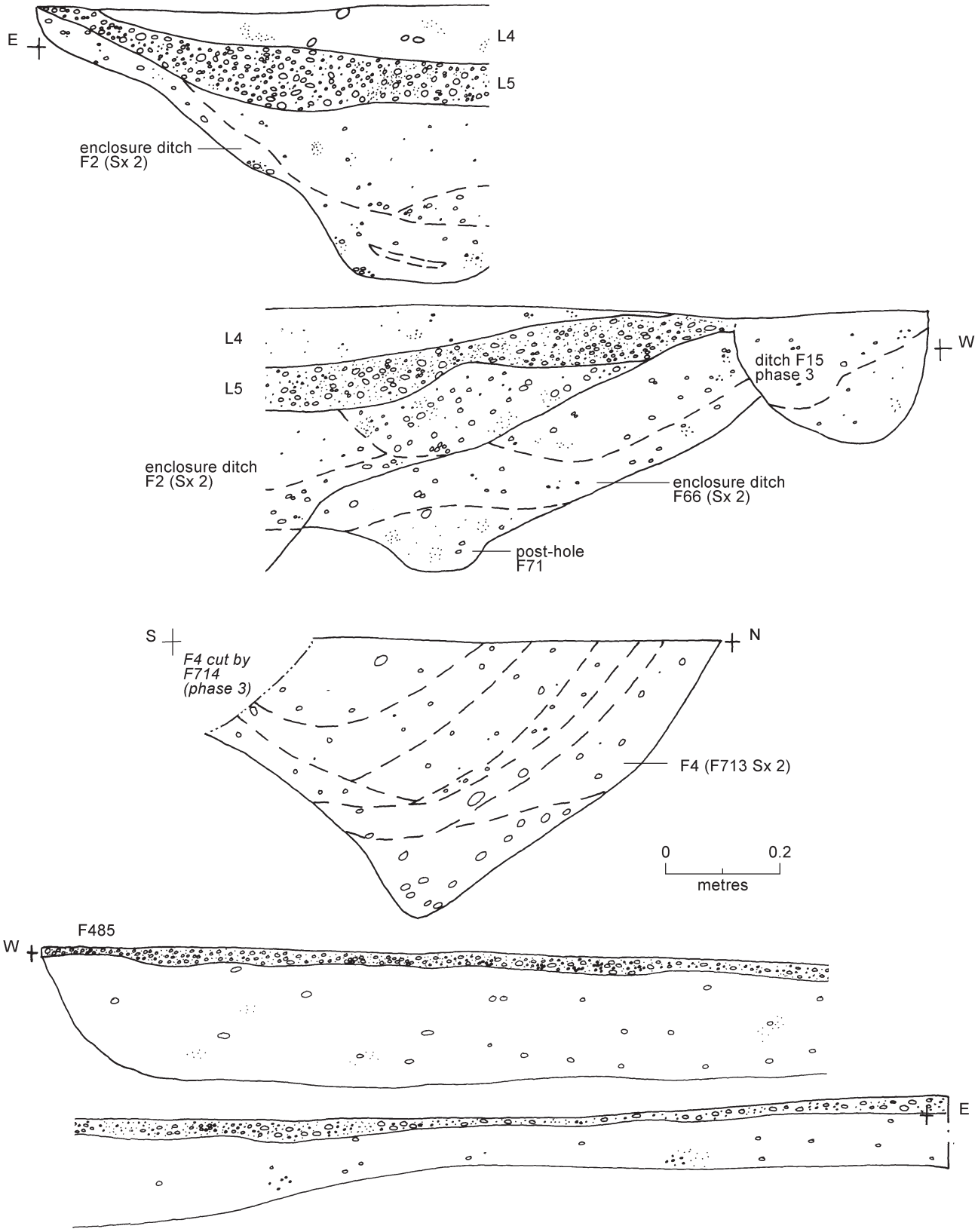


Fig 12 A representative sample of sections from the features of Phase 2 (SDE 1): the enclosure ditches (F66, F4); and internal features, post-hole (F71) and stone surface (F485). The section of F2 dates to Phase 3 and shows the later enclosure (SDE 3) cutting the earlier one.

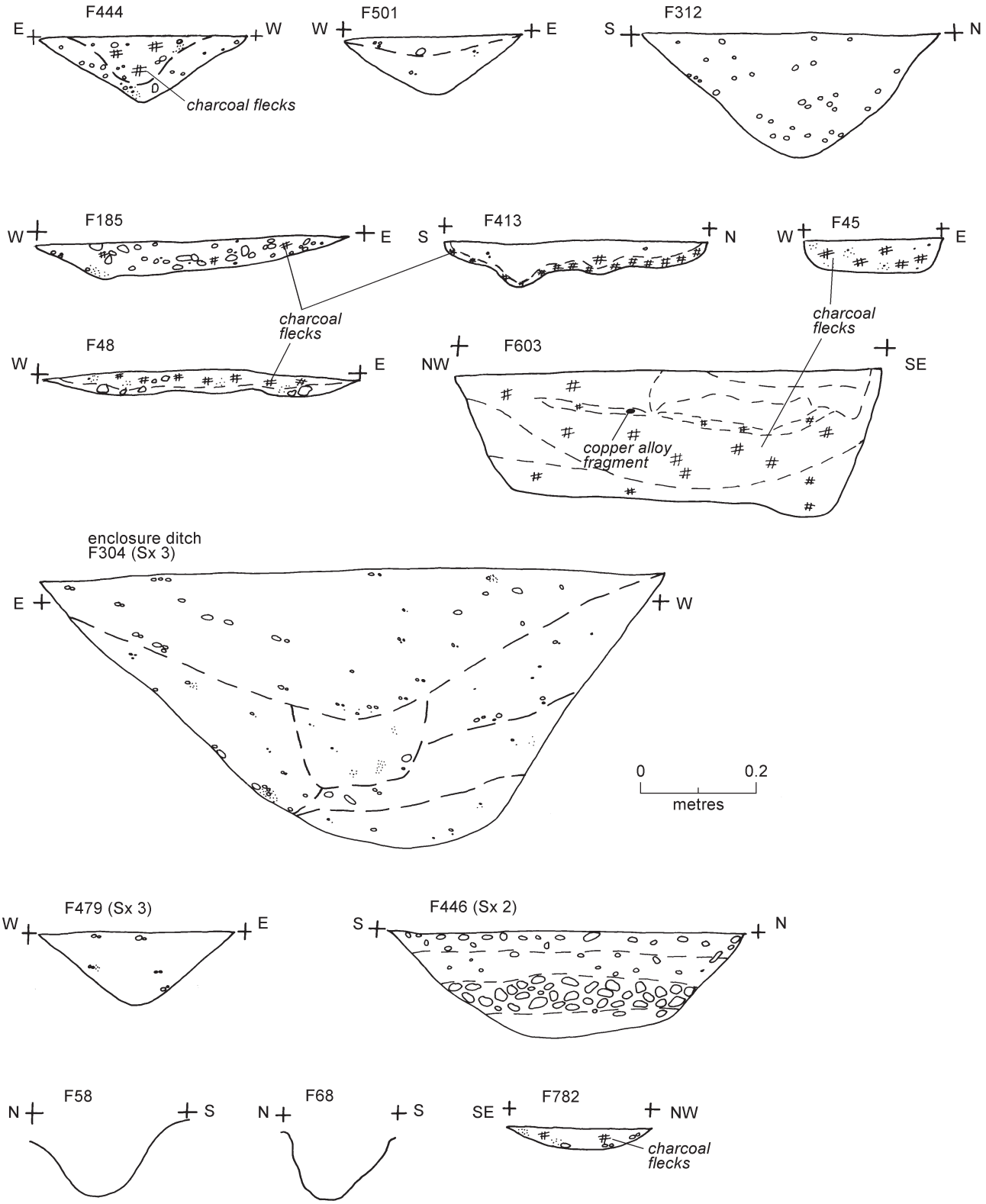


Fig 13 A representative sample of sections from the features of Phase 2 and Phase 3 - Phase 2: the enclosure ditches of SDE 2 (F444, F501); the other ditches (F312); the isolated pits (F185, F413); and the features associated with the human remains/ritual activity (F45, F48, F603). Phase 3: the enclosure ditch (F304, also see Fig 12, F15 section) and the entrance features of SDE 3 (F479, F446, F58, F68, F782).

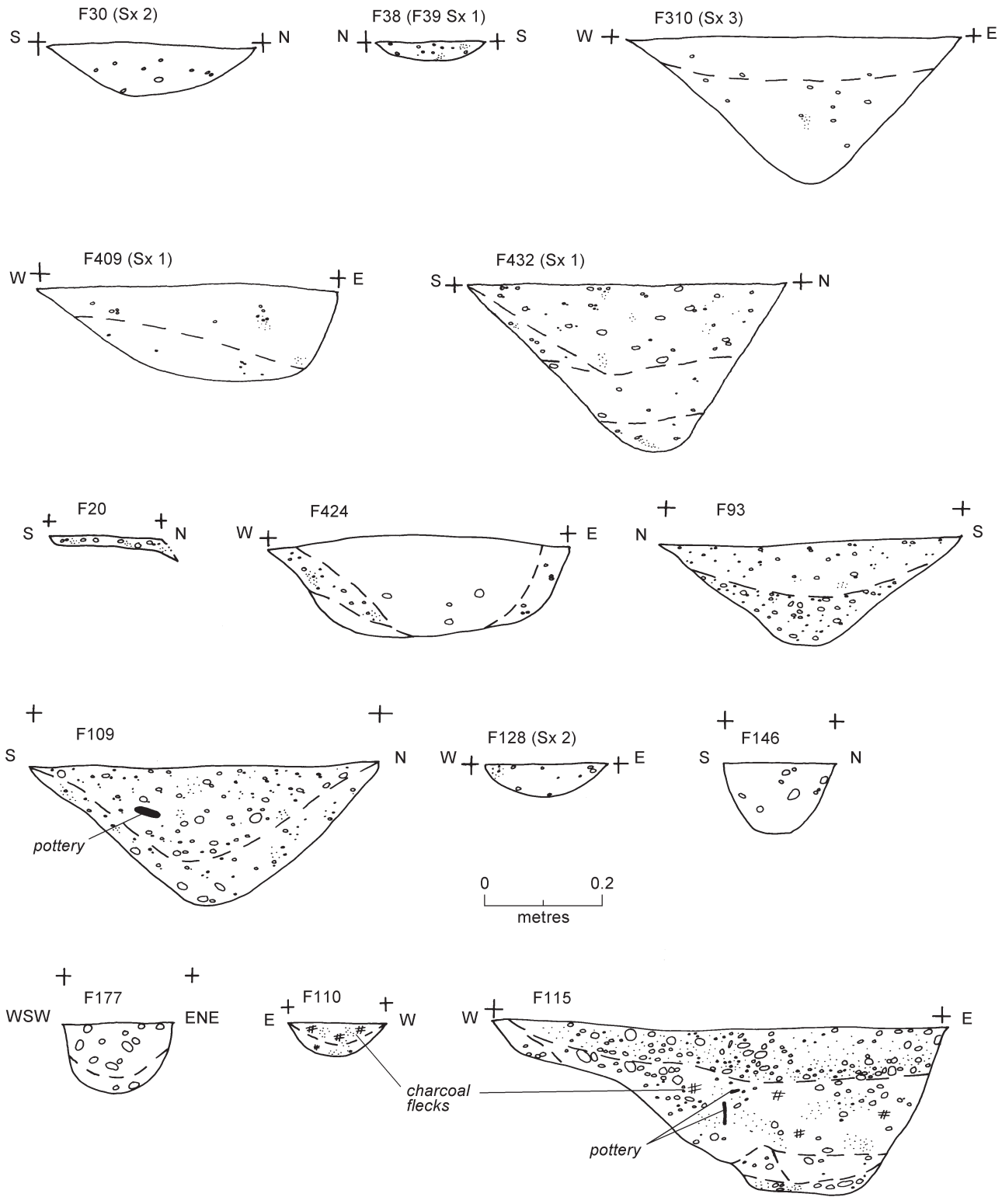


Fig 14 A representative sample of sections from the features of Phase 3 -
SDE 3: the internal ditches (F30, F38, F310, F409, F432) and pits (F20, F424)
SDE 4: the enclosure ditches (F93, F109); entrance features (F128, F146, F177);
and internal pits (F110, F115).

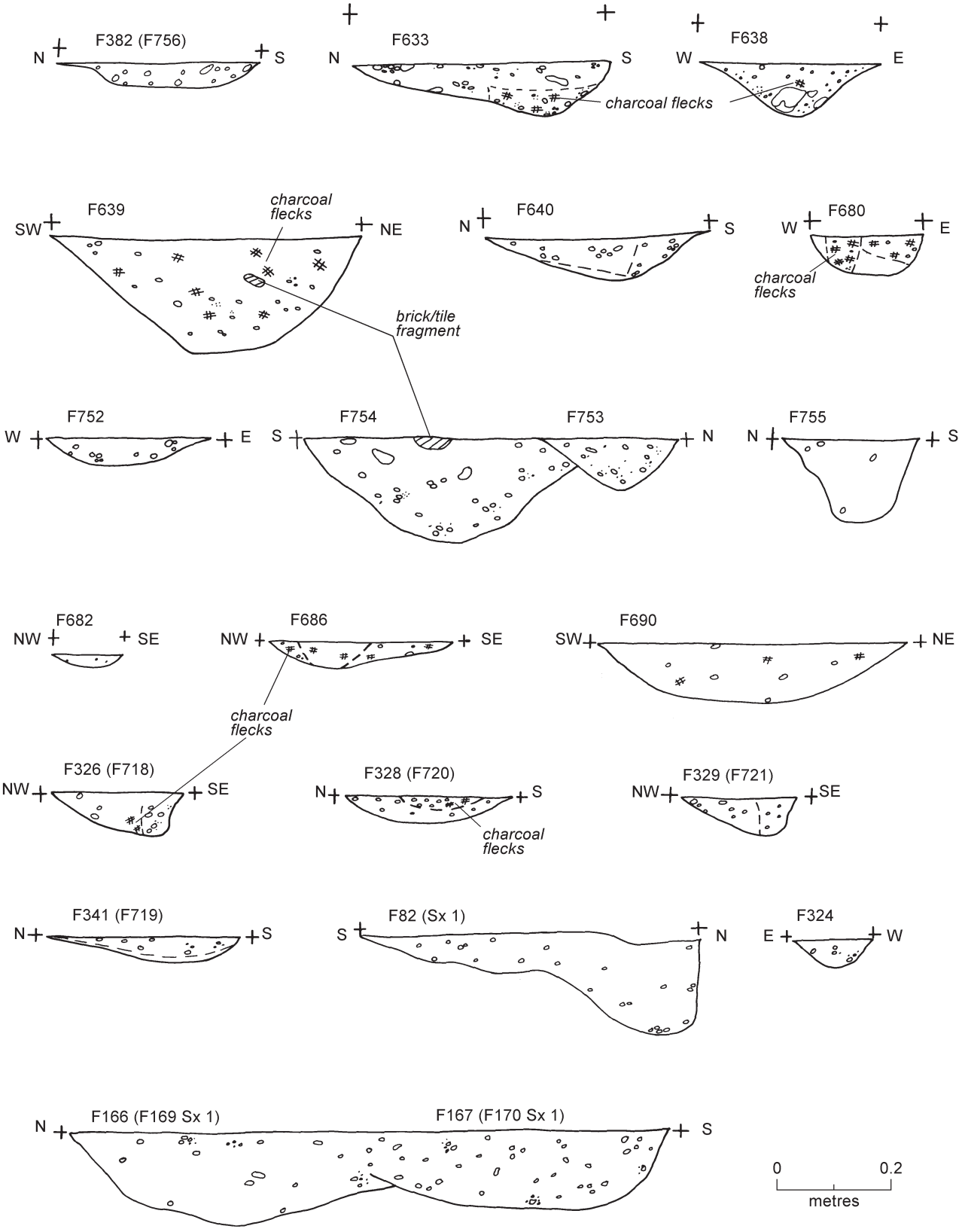


Fig 15 A representative sample of sections from the features of Phase 4: the structural post-holes of the building (F382, F633, F638-F640, F680, F752-F755); the post-holes of 4-post structures no 1 (F682, F686, F690) and no 2 (F326, F328, F329, F341); and the ditches of the field system (F82, F324, F166, F167).

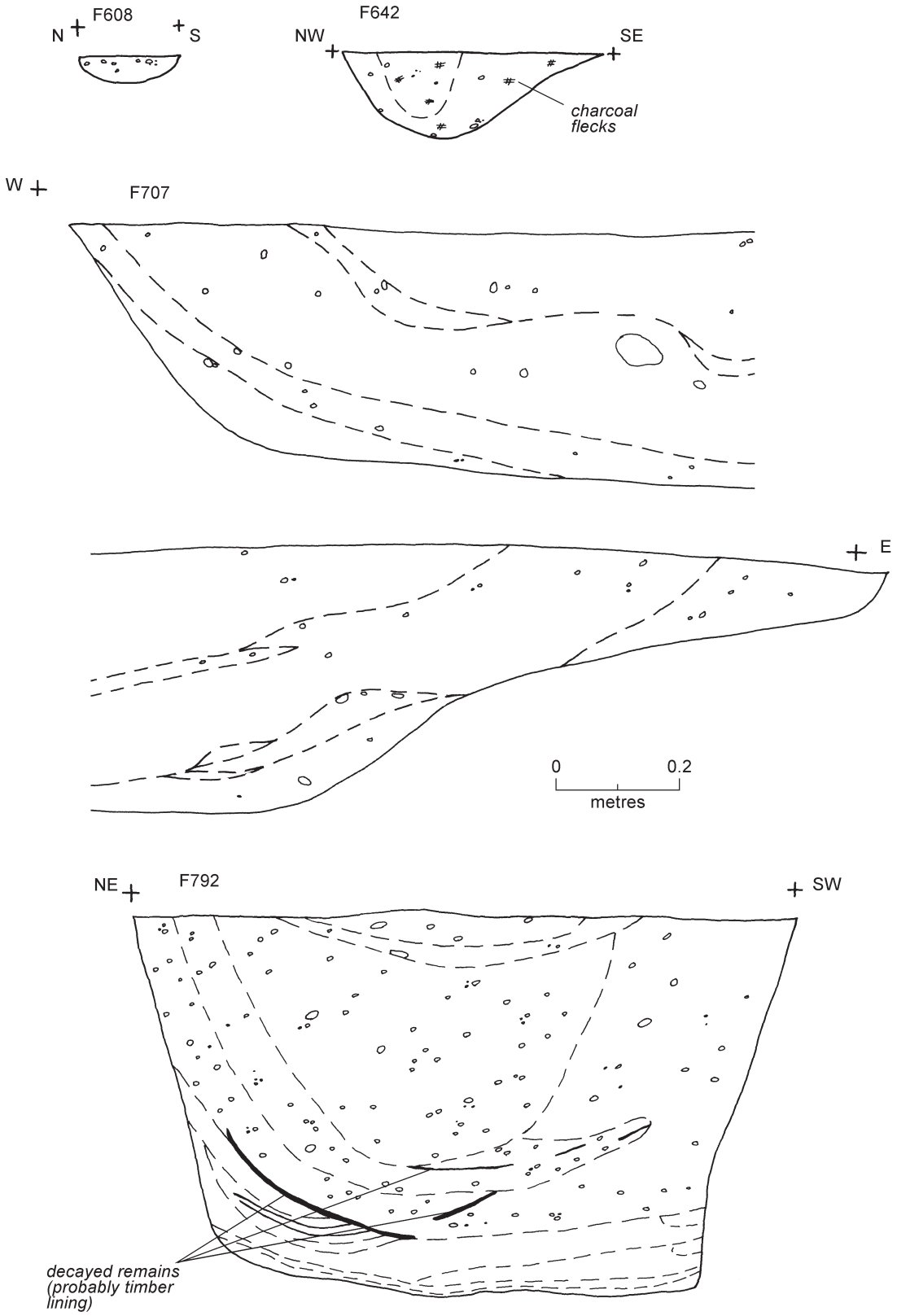


Fig 16 A representative sample of sections from the features of Phase 4: post-holes (F608, F642) and isolated pits (F707, F792).

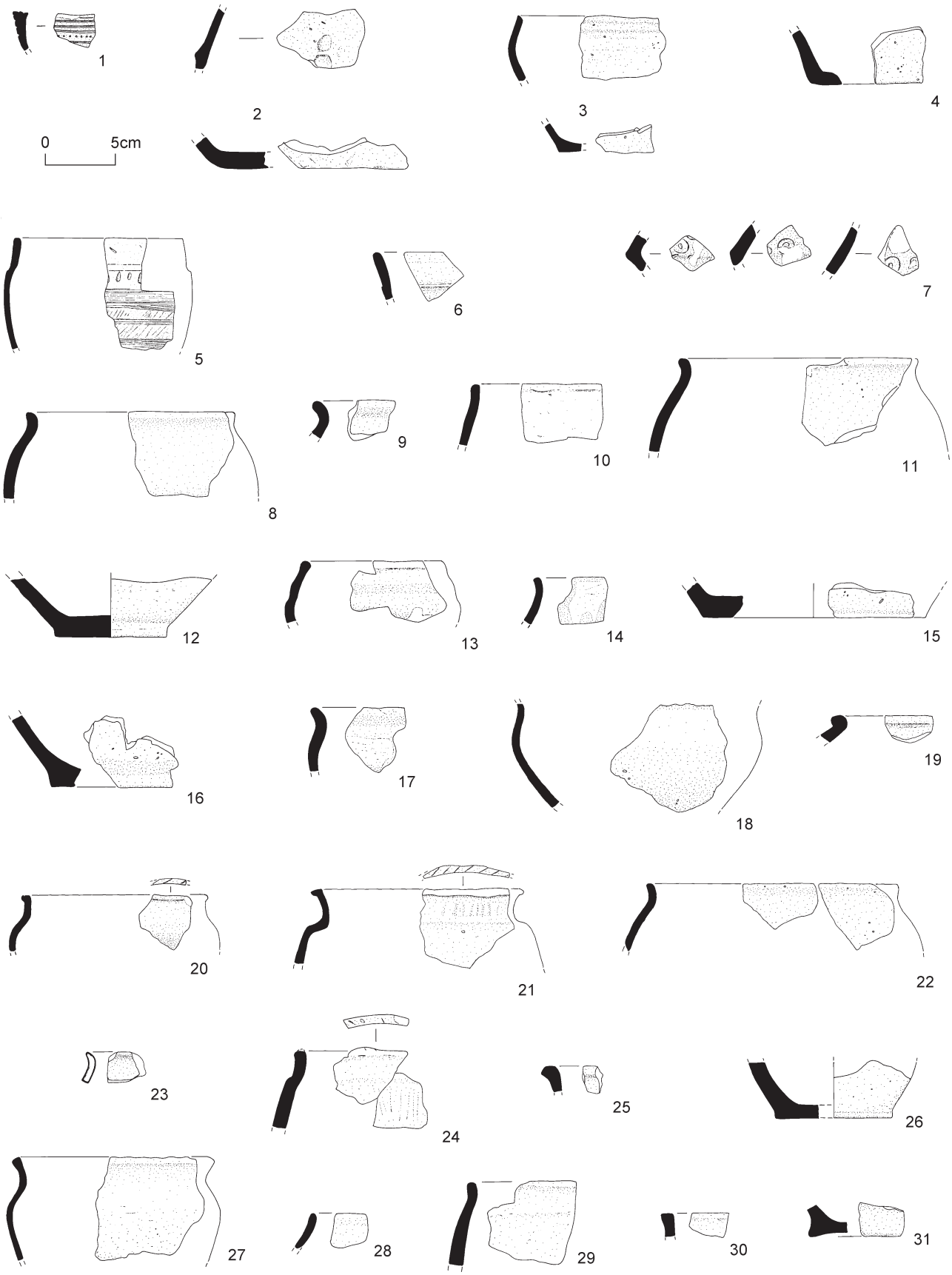


Fig 17 Pre-Belgic pottery (nos 1-31).

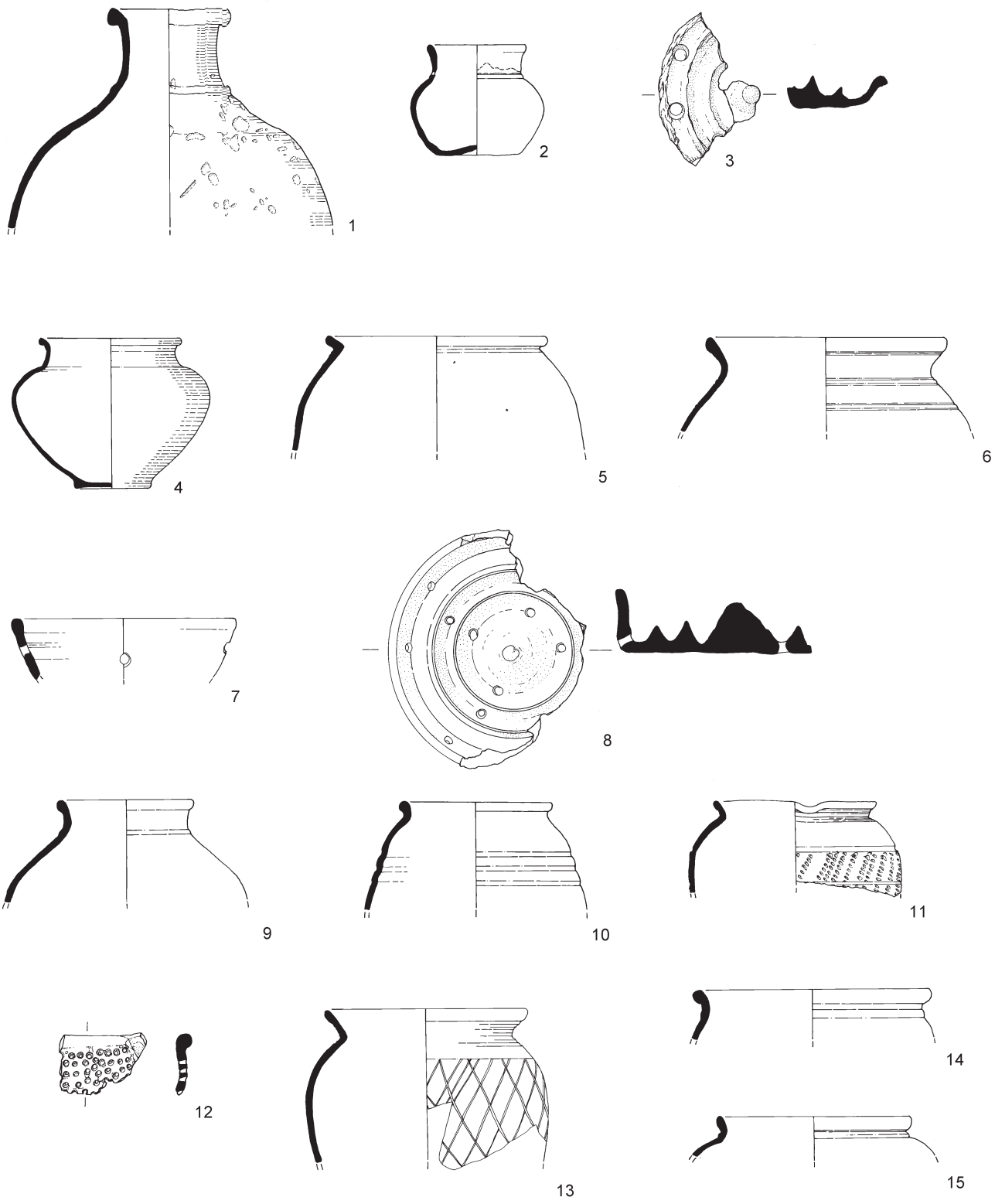


Fig 18 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery (nos 1-15).

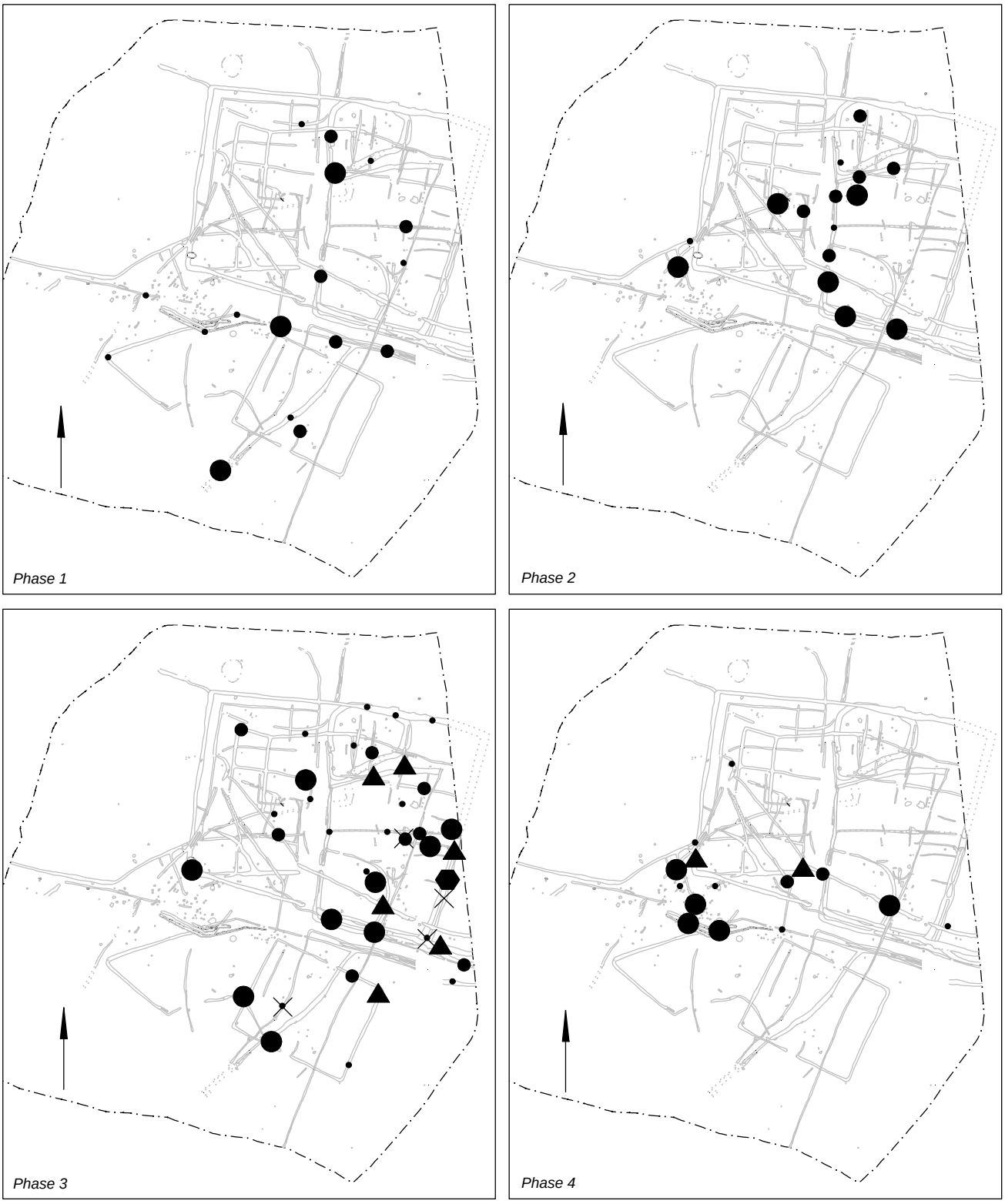
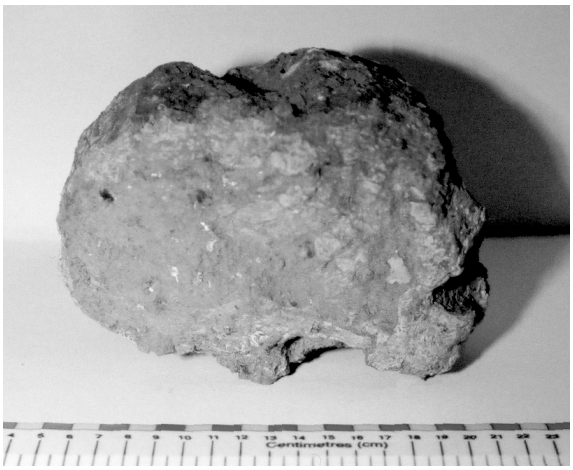
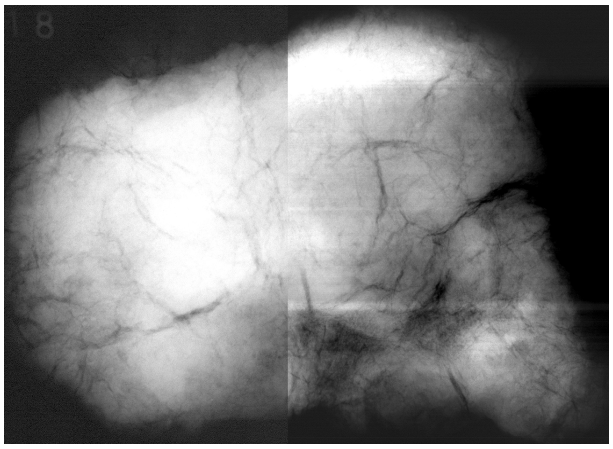


Fig 19 The Roman brick and tile: distribution plan, per phase (Periods 2-3).

A

B





C

Fig 20 The human skull from context F305 (F490 Sx 2, finds no (1121)):
A – photograph, ??.
B – photograph, right side.
C – X-ray, right side (see methodology for further details of the X-ray).

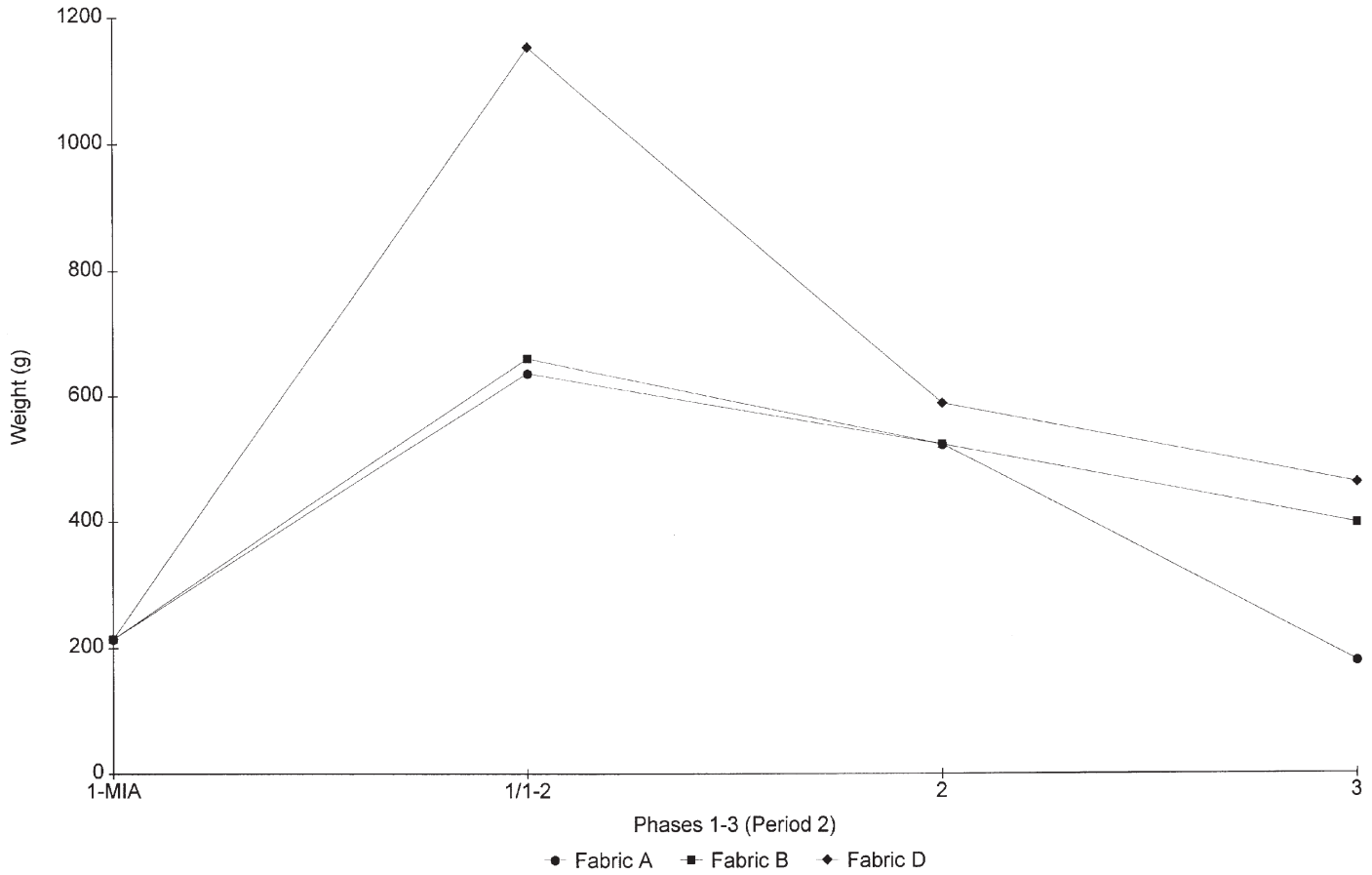


Fig 21 Incidence by weight (g) of loomweight fabrics A, B and D in Phases 1-3, with the Phase 1 Middle Iron Age material shown separately.

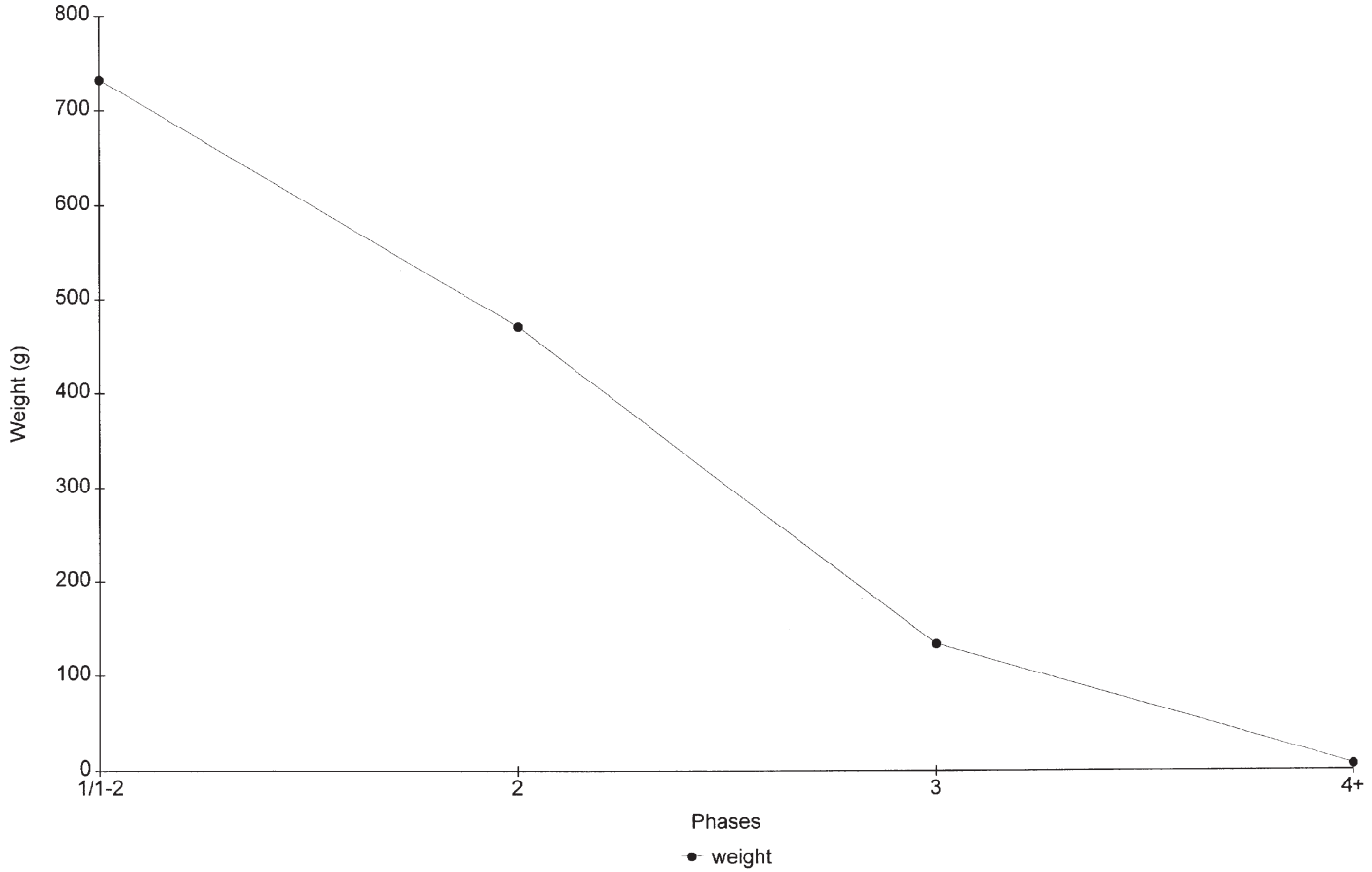


Fig 22 Briquetage: incidence by weight (g) in all phases.

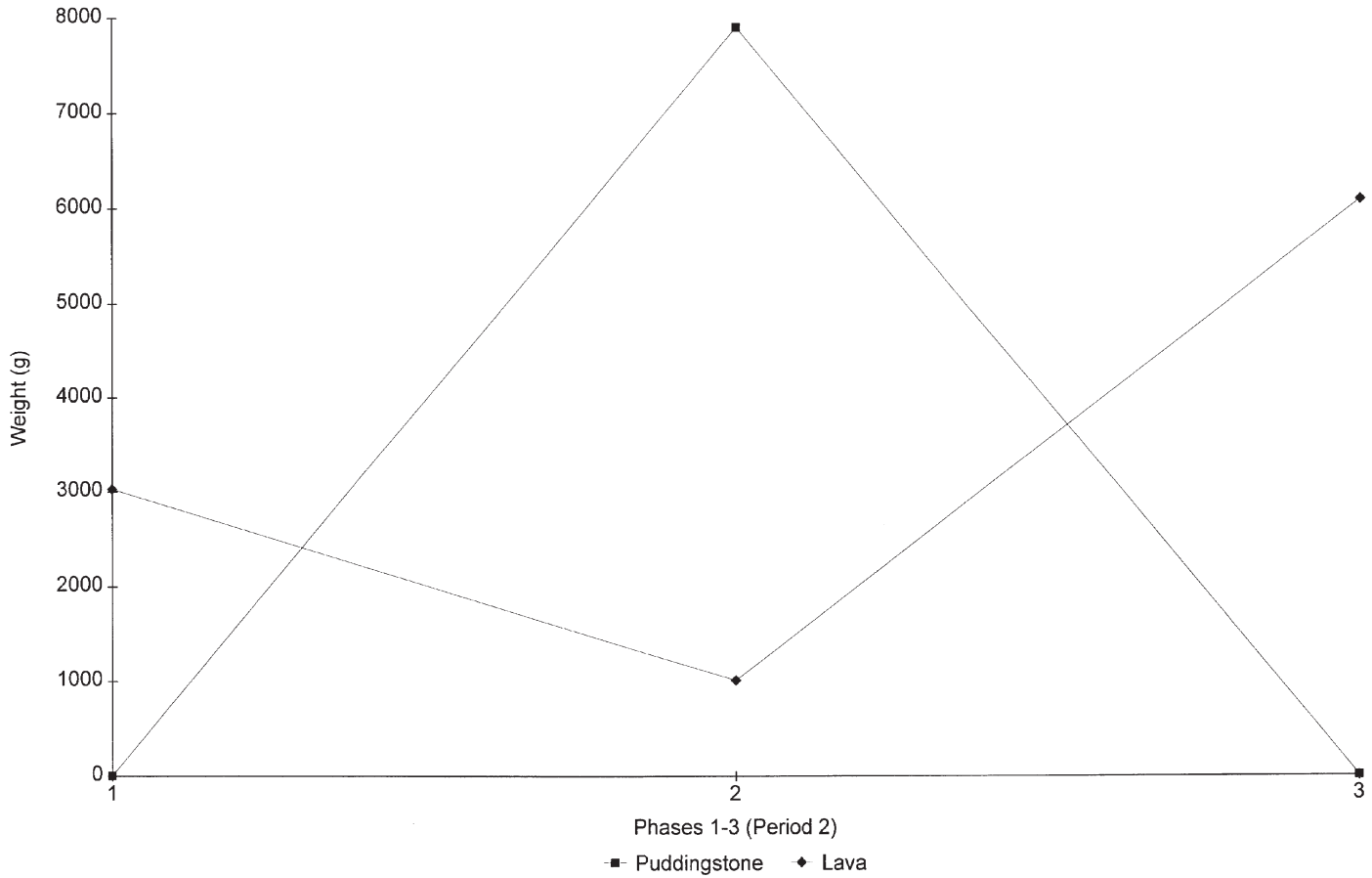


Fig 23 Lava and Puddingstone querns: incidence by weight (g) in Phases 1-3.

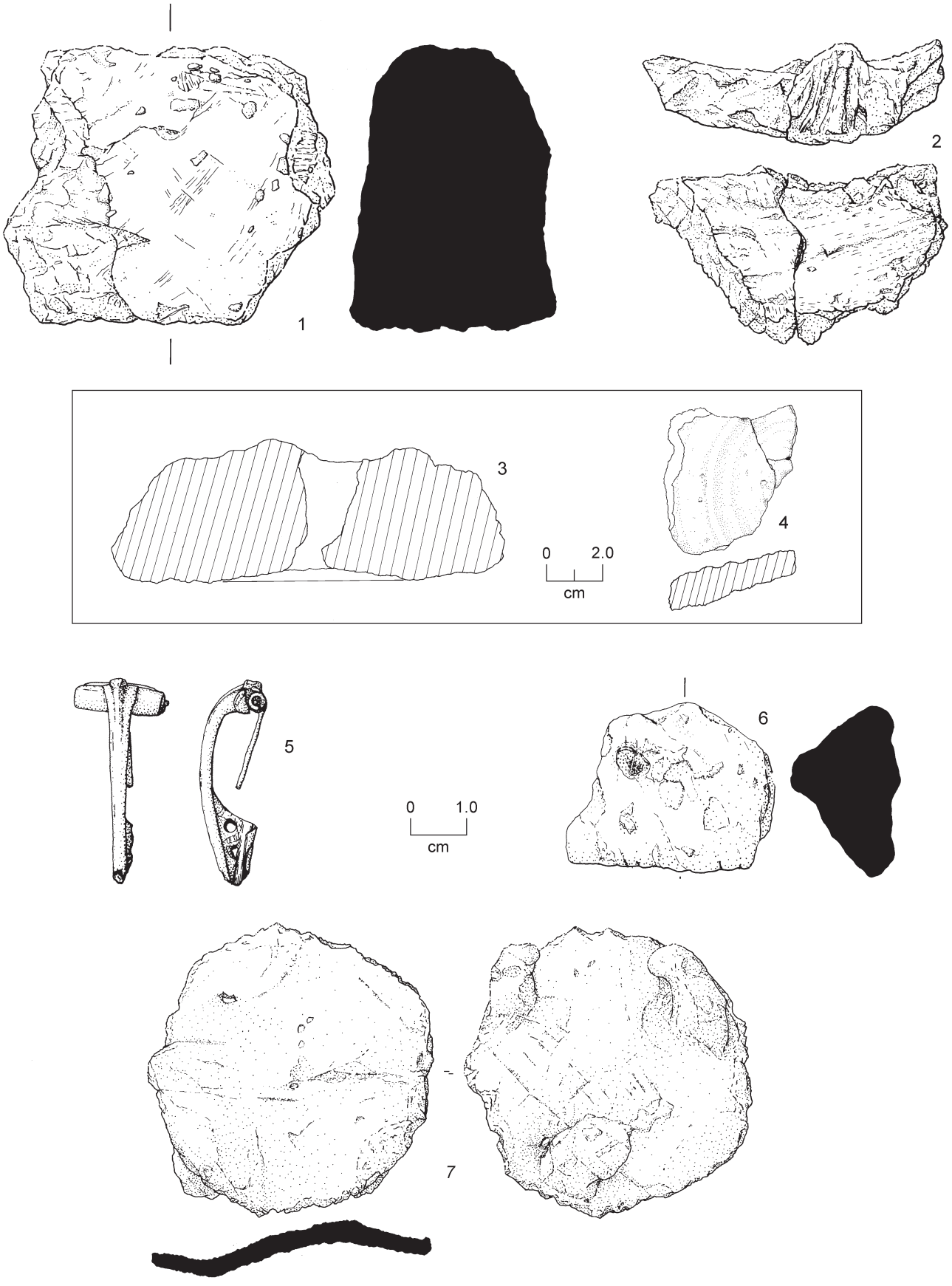


Fig 24 Daub (no 1); briquetage (no 2); quernstones (nos 3-4); metalwork and small finds (nos 5-7).

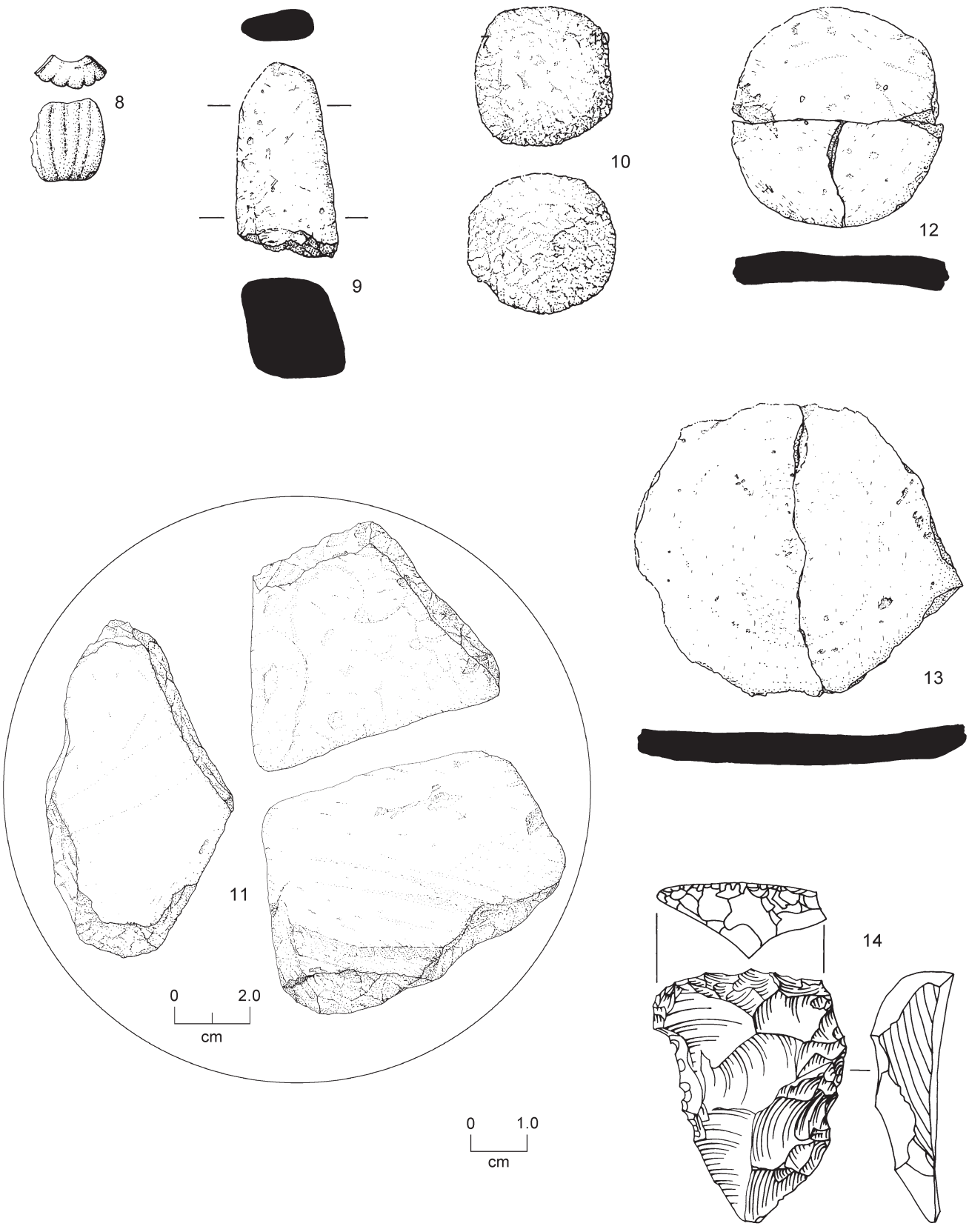


Fig 25 Metalwork and small finds (nos 8-13); worked flint (no 14).

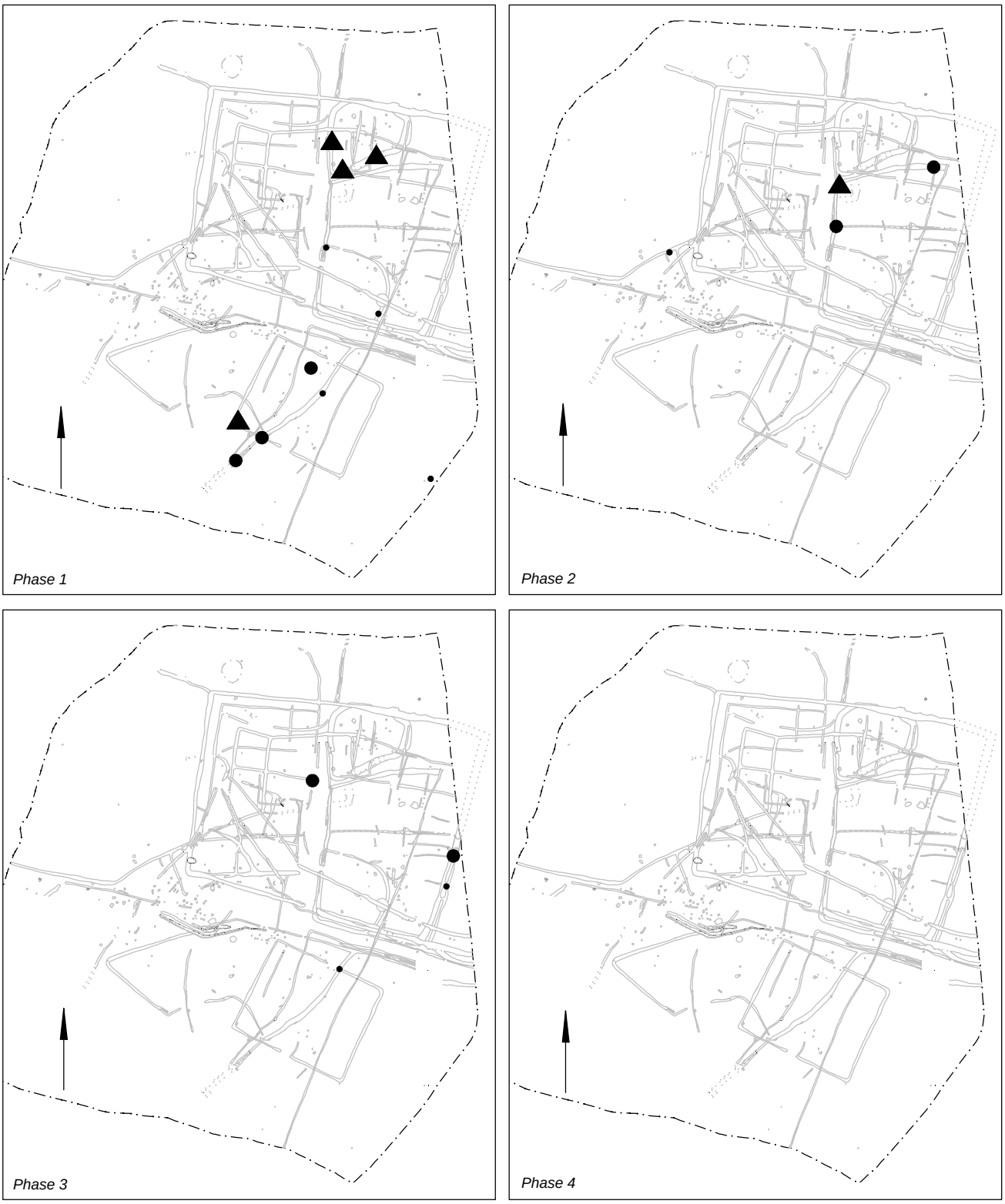


Fig 26 The loomweight fragments: distribution plan, per phase (Periods 2-3).

Fig 27 The metal-working debris: distribution plan, per phase (Periods 2-3).

Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Abbotstone field, Bell House Pit, Tarmac Colchester Quarry, Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	***District:*** Colchester
NGR: TL 943 227 (c)	***Site code:*** 1999.48
Type of work: Excavation	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 1999-2001	***Size of area investigated:*** 71,000 sq m
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	***Funding source:*** Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd
Further seasons anticipated? No	***Related EHER nos:*** 11919, 11756, 11757, 11843, 1167-1168
Final report: this report, publication in a CAT Journal and a summary in *EAH*	
Periods represented: pre-MIA, MIA, LIA, Roman, medieval	

Summary of fieldwork results:

Excavation of the cropmark site revealed a site divided into three distinct periods of use:

Period 1 – before the Middle Iron Age (before c *300 BC): Phase 0*
*Period 2 – Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman (*c *300 BC-late 2nd century AD): Phases 1-3*
Period 3 – the medieval period (12th-13th century): Phase 4

Period 1 before the Middle Iron Age (before c ***300 BC)***

Phase 0 – *A small amount of activity took place on the site in the years before the Middle Iron Age. Finds included several pieces of pottery and worked flint dated to the Neolithic, the Bronze Age and the early Iron Age, along with small fragments of a probable Bronze Age drum-shaped loomweight. The majority of the finds are residual from later features but four pits are believed to date to this period. This material was concentrated around the eastern side of the site and in the south-west corner, and probably represents areas of early activity that were likely to have been small in scale and periodic/seasonal in nature.*

Period 2 the Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age and into the Roman period (c ***300 BC-late 2nd century AD)***

Period 2 is subdivided into three continuous phases of activity:

Phase 1 – *This phase dates from the Middle Iron Age, through the Late Iron Age and to the late 1st century AD. It is represented by the construction of two round ditched enclosures, one of which contained a round-house; an irregular enclosure to the south; three droveways; and a number of other isolated features. Evidence from these features suggests that the settlement was involved in activities such as food preparation/storage/consumption, animal keeping, textile production and some metal-working. None of this activity was on a large or industrial scale and appears to have been based on the needs of a relatively small and self-sufficient community, although some pottery, briquetage, quernstones and other materials were imported into the site.*

Phase 2 – *This phase dates from the late 1st century AD to the early 2nd century and continues on directly from Phase 1 with no break in the occupation of the site. Within this phase, most of the features from Phase 1 were replaced by two square ditched enclosures – a large enclosure to the east with a smaller enclosure to the west – and a number of other ditches and isolated features. No structural remains were recorded in either enclosure, although the material recovered from the settlement would suggest that people were still living and working on the site. Activities involving food preparation/storage/consumption, animal-keeping, textile production and metal-working appear to have continued and imports into the site increased. Evidence for ritual activity was recorded in the form of a human head buried within a ditch, a cremation, and the debris from the remains of pyres and feasting activities.*

Phase 3 – *This phase dates from the early 2nd century to the later 2nd century AD and also appears to have continued on from the previous phase with no break in the occupation of the site. All the features of Phase 2 were replaced by two new square ditched enclosures: a large enclosure to the north (containing formal entrances, internal divisions, stone surfaces and other features) and a smaller enclosure to the south (containing formal entrances but with little evidence of internal activity). No structural remains were recorded in either enclosure although, as with Phase 2, the material recovered from the settlement suggests that people were still living and working on the site and that a building of some sort probably did exist in the south-east corner of the large enclosure. Textile production and metal-working appear to have ended, although there is still evidence for activity revolving around food preparation/consumption/storage and for imports continuing (and increasing where metalwork is concerned).*

Period 3 the medieval period (12th-13th century)

Phase 4 – *A small amount of activity based in the 12th-13th centuries was also recorded on the site. A building and two 4-post structures were constructed within a 'field system' of ditches laid out across the landscape. The only identifiable medieval material remains from the site was a quantity of pottery along with two probably medieval pottery counters (made from Roman pot). This lack of large quantities of domestic material might suggest that the buildings were not used primarily for human occupation but as agricultural stores or animal shelters connected to the field system.*

Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 9, 20, 27, 28, 73	
Author of summary: Laura Pooley with Stephen Benfield	***Date of summary:*** September 2005