

**RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY
IN
HAMPSHIRE**

**Number 2
—1974—**

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Editors
Michael Hughes
Elizabeth Lewis

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Editorial	3
Excavations carried out by South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group in 1972/3	4
A Mesolithic Site at Wakefords Copse, Havant	5
by Richard Bradley and Elizabeth Lewis	
The Excavation of a Round Barrow at West Meon Hut, Hampshire	19
by A.B. Page	
Iron Age Site, Wallington Military Road, Fareham 1972	29
by Michael Hughes	
Pottery from Fair Oak, Hants.	97
by J. R. Collis	
Route 421 and other Roman Roads in South Hampshire	99
by Grahame Soffe and David Johnston	

EDITORIAL

This, the second edition of this new journal, devoted almost entirely to the publication of reports of rescue excavations, contains five articles of a definitive nature. The increase in the number of reports would appear to reflect the need for such a journal, not only on a county basis but also on a national scale.

We realise that the printing quality of the first issue was not very good, but do assure contributors and readers that from this edition improvements in layout, printing quality and editing will be made.

Much of the pre-publication work this year was undertaken by Mrs. Sylvia Bremner, and accordingly the editors would like to acknowledge her considerable contribution in the production of this edition.

Material for issue No. 3 has already been promised, along with provisional material for No. 4. However, the editors would like to see more reports from other non-professional archaeological groups, especially from the north of the county, and to remind them of the comments made regarding publication in last year's editorial.

Those wishing to contribute reports may obtain a copy of "Instructions to Contributors" from the Editors at the address below. Material for each issue will be accepted up to April 1st each year.

The Editors would like to acknowledge the generous donation from IBM and the grant from the Hampshire County Museum Service towards the cost of the publication of this Journal.

Joint Editors

Elizabeth R. Lewis
Michael F. Hughes

Winchester City Museum
South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group

The Editors "Rescue Archaeology in Hampshire" c/o Dept. of Archaeology, The University, Southampton.

Excavations carried out by
South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group in 1972/73

Date		
1972		
September—	Chalton Manor Farm	M.F. Hughes, Publication forthcoming.
December	Late Anglo Saxon site	<u>Res. Arch. in Hants No. 3 1975</u>
1973		
March—	M27, Portsdown Hill	M.F. Hughes (i) Arch Review 1973
May	Paradise Lane	(ii) <u>Res. Arch. in Hants</u>
	Romano-British site	(forthcoming)
September—	Fareham Town Centre	A.G. Holmes (i) Arch Review 1973
November	Development	(ii) Res. Arch. in Hants
	Crown Court Building	(forthcoming)
	Romano-British site	
September—	Chalton Park Farm	M.F. Hughes (i) Arch. Review
November	Medieval Site	(forthcoming)
	1st Season	(ii) Med. Arch.
		(forthcoming)
		(iii) H.F.C. Proc.
		(forthcoming)

All the publication entries underlined indicate a full report.

Abbreviations: Arch. Review, Archaeological Review, C.B.A. Groups XII and XIII.
Res. Arch. in Hants, Rescue Archaeology in Hampshire.
Med. Arch., Medieval Archaeology (Medieval Britain in 1974).
H.F.C. Proc., Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society.

A MESOLITHIC SITE AT WAKEFORDS COPSE, HAVANT

by Richard Bradley and Elizabeth Lewis

The site described here (SU 72780914) lies on the top of a small hill rising to 160 feet O.D., and overlooking the valley which runs from Rowlands Castle to Havant. The land is now part of Wakefords School's playing fields and it was during the construction of these that excavation on the Mesolithic site took place.

Limited excavation¹ on this site in 1963 had revealed the footings of a Roman building and previous observations² had established the existence of Mesolithic occupation in the same area. In 1968 the field was acquired by Havant Education Committee and with their active help and encouragement, excavations began on the site of the Roman building, prior to the levelling of the area for school playing fields³. In the course of excavation random unstratified flint material, mainly Mesolithic, was recovered. After excavation, the levelling process began, which involved stripping topsoil from the whole field and subsequently shifting the subsoil by scraping. Ten to fifteen feet of the higher part of the hill was removed in this way and shifted to lower ground. A watching brief⁴ was maintained over the site during this process, which began in August 1970; the purpose of the observation was to record Roman features missed by excavation, but once the Roman levels had been stripped off earlier features were revealed. The speed of the operation hampered systematic recording work and made the establishing of precise levels impossible. Many features were observed, but disappeared beneath the blade of the scraper before they could be recorded. Apart from Roman features, eleven Mesolithic pits were sectioned and drawn, and it was estimated that as many again had been fleetingly observed. These pits could be identified by the grey sand which filled them, which distinguished them from the yellow sands through which they were cut. They were scattered over the summit and southern flank of the hill, above the 150 ft. contour.

The difficulty of excavating in these conditions was such that it was not possible to establish the original mesolithic ground surface. The subsoil is sand, which is leached and pale in the upper layers, and darker beneath, overlying clay. In the area of pits 1 — 7 however, a rough section cut by the scraper showed that above the clay, the lowest sand deposit was of dark orange sand, hard and compacted, about 2ft 6ins deep. The Mesolithic pits were first evident in this layer, and what appeared to be a floor area was discovered. Overlying the pits was a deposit of grey and yellow sands about twelve inches deep, in which unstratified flint material was evident, and above this a pale yellow sandy deposit in which mainly Roman material was found. In other areas of the site no distinct layers were identified, and the pits were observed cut into clay: it was not clear in these cases how far the hard orange sand had been removed, and the pits truncated by the scraper.

Field Observations

The first group of pits to be observed during bulldozing, was that on the eastern slope of the hill, where there appeared to be a natural hollow in the compacted yellow sand above the clay. Into this layer were cut seven pits (fig. 3), roughly grouped around a floor on which lay a considerable quantity of waste flint, with

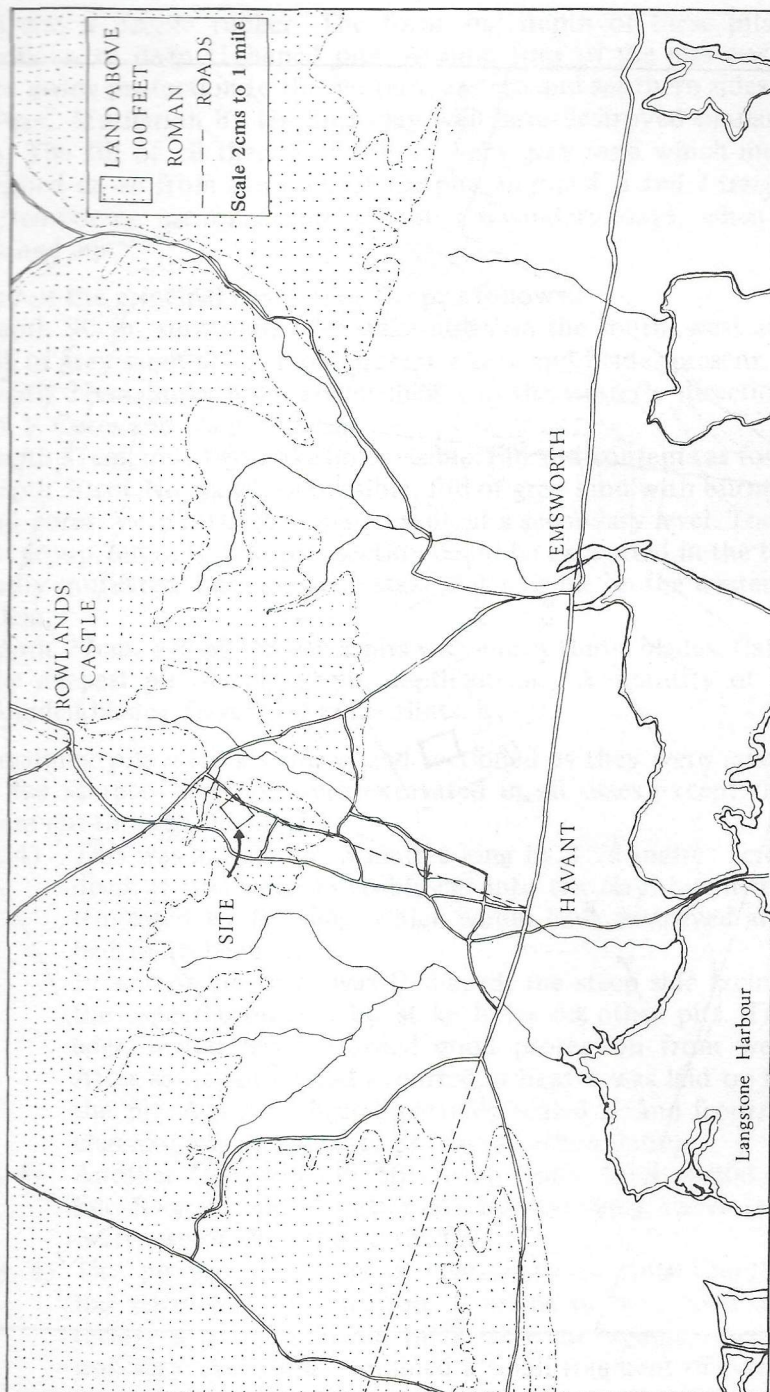


Fig. 1. Location Map

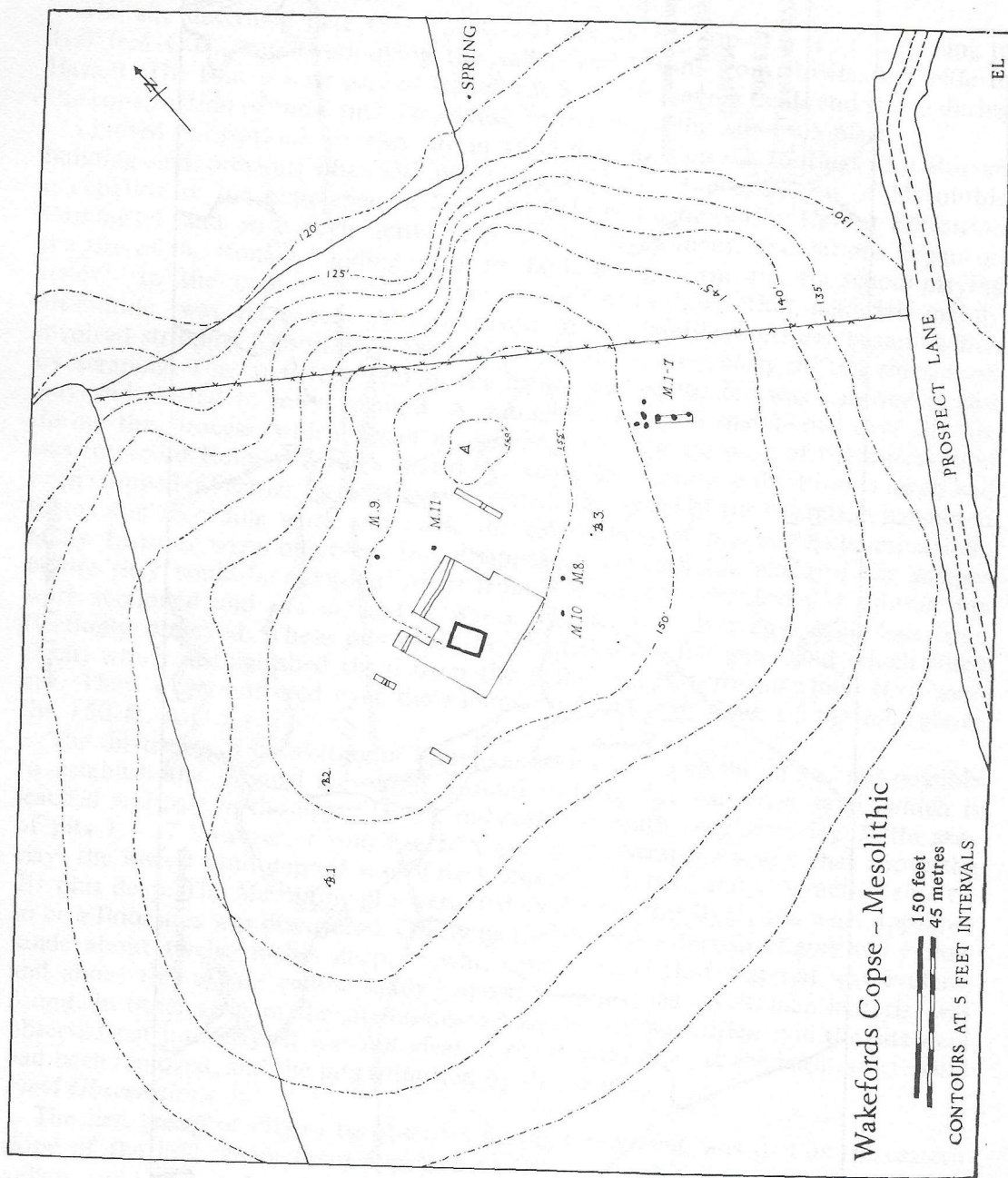


Fig. 2. General plan of the site showing the Mesolithic and Prehistoric features in the area.

two picks and a pebble rubber. The form and depth of these pits varied from shallow hollows to deep U-shaped pits. Around four of the pits was evidence of stake holes giving protection to the western, eastern and southern sides, but open on the north-east. Mutilation by levelling may well have destroyed similar evidence for other pits. The fill of all these pits was of light grey sand which must have been swiftly washed down from the sides of the pits. In pits 4, 5 and 7 traces of charcoal indicated temporary use or occupation at a secondary stage, when the pits had partially silted up.

A summary of the principal features of the pits follows:—

- Pit 1. Depth 90cm, surrounded by stake holes on the south, west and east sides. Fill of grey sand, no charcoal present. Cores and blades present.
- Pit 2. Depth 27cm, stake holes giving shelter in the westerly direction. Fill as for Pit 1. Cores and blades present.
- Pit 3. Depth 37cm, only two stake holes visible. Fill and contents as for pits 1 and 2.
- Pit 4. Depth 50cm. No stake holes visible. Fill of grey sand with burnt flints, blades and cores. Very little charcoal present, at a secondary level. The largest pit in the group, but only a narrow section could be excavated in the time available.
- Pit 5. Badly mutilated, but two small stake holes visible on the western side. Depth 30cm.
- Pit 6. Depth 27cm. Fill as for other pits with burnt flints, blades, flakes and cores.
- Pit 7. The deepest pit of this group, depth 60cm. A quantity of flint material included blades, flakes and burnt flints.

The remaining pits were identified and sectioned as they were revealed, haphazardly, by the scraper. Sections were excavated in all cases except that of pit 11. All pits were cut through the clay.

- Pit 8. (fig. 4) This was a large pit, 3 metres long by 1.75 metres across and 65cm deep. It first became visible cut into the clay, but it may have been truncated by levelling, which would have destroyed any post holes, had there been any.

In section its form was D shaped, the steep side facing south west, the aspect protected by stake holes on other pits. This long steep edge would have afforded good protection from westerly winds. After some silting had occurred, a hearth was laid on the bottom of the pit. A second hearth partially sealed it, and from this sufficient charcoal was collected to provide a carbon dating.

- Pit 9. (fig. 4) Another D-shaped pit, 50 cm in depth. After partial silting, a turf line formed, and a scatter of charcoal lying above indicates temporary use of the pit as a shelter.
- Pit 10 (fig. 4) This pit was very deep in relation to its width (depth 1.40m) but too narrow for occupation. It seems to have been constructed to receive a post, of which there were no organic traces left. The fill was very even, and contained a small fragment of pottery or baked clay.

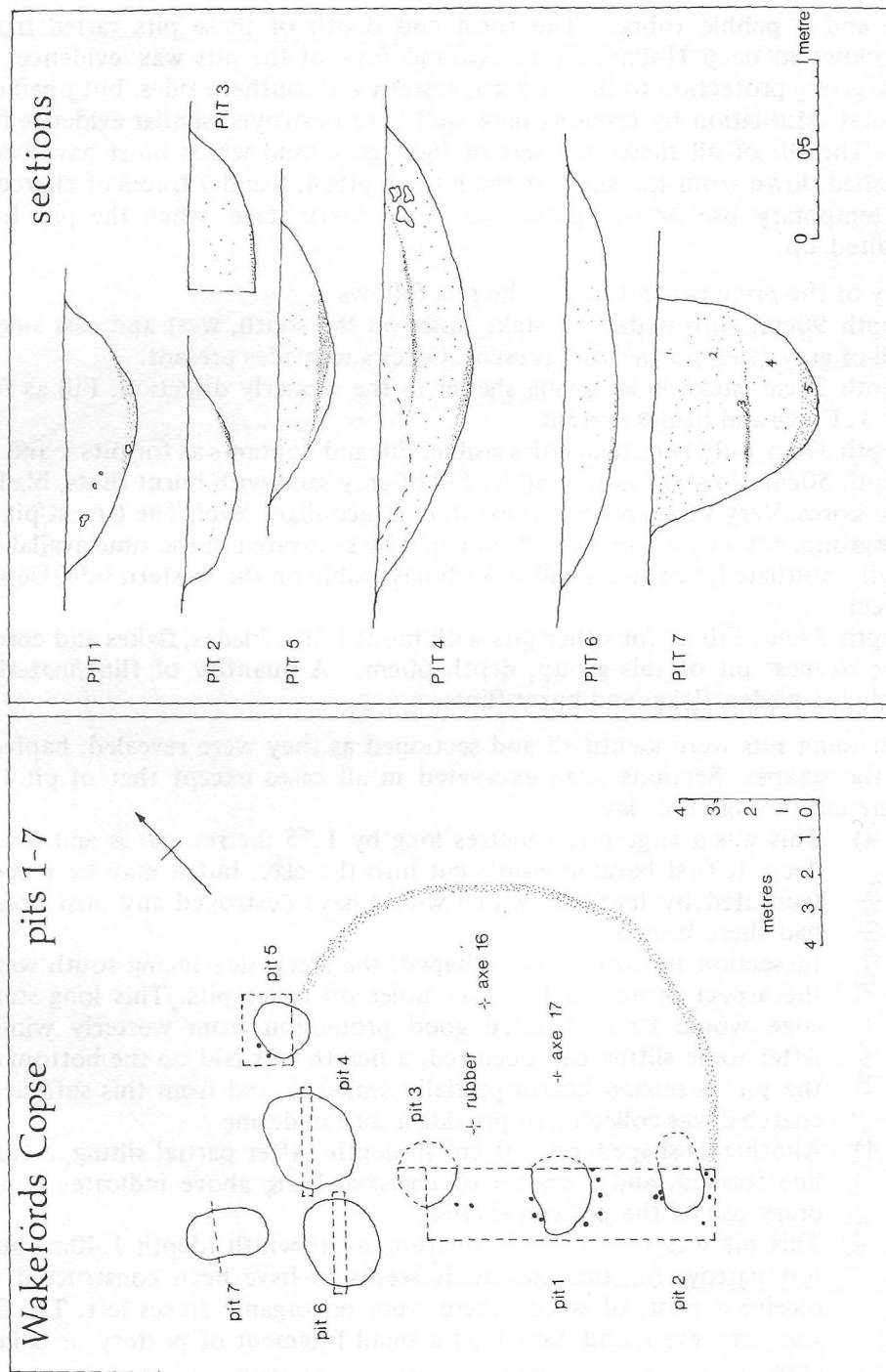


Fig. 3. Plans and sections of Mesolithic pits 1 ~ 7

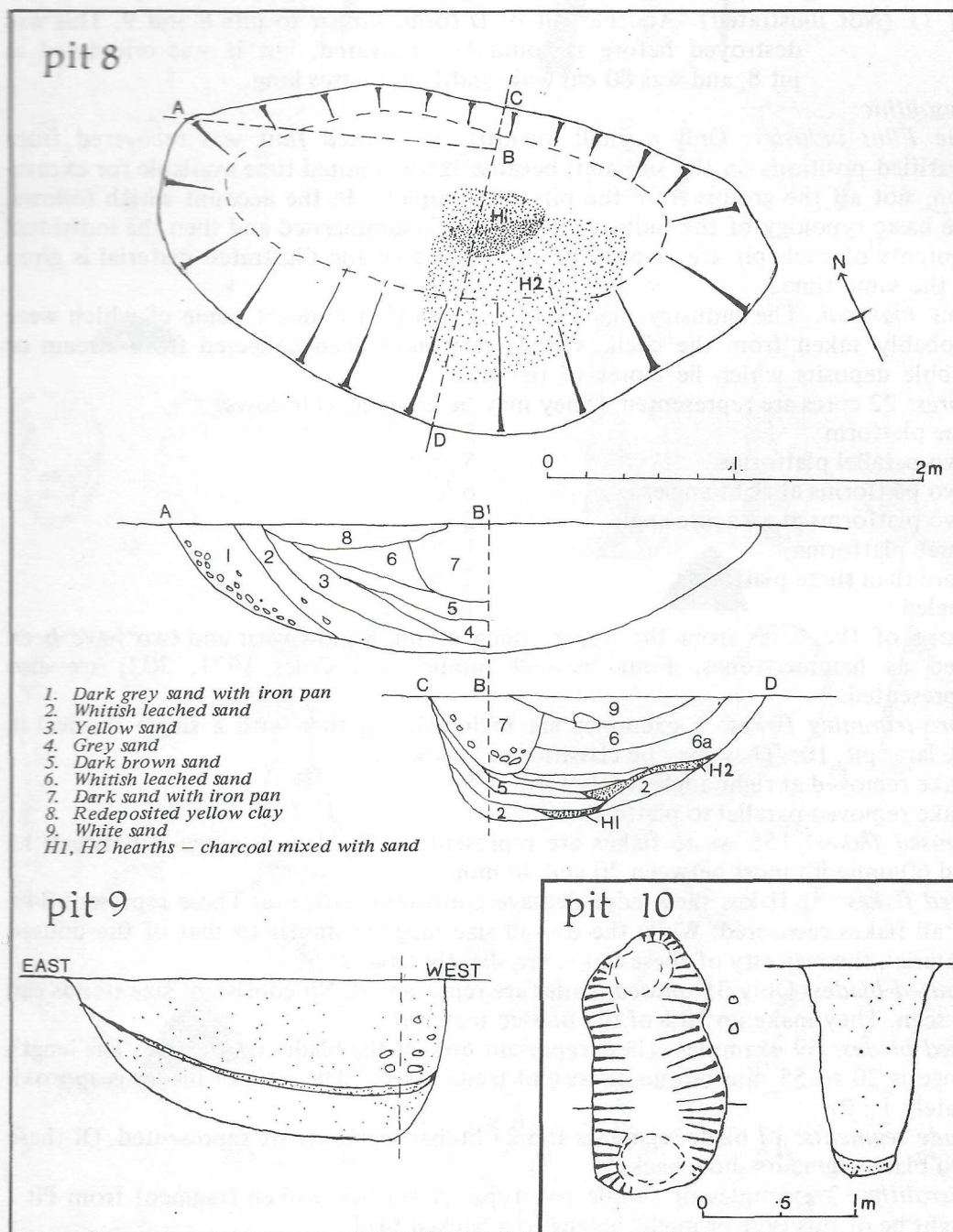


Fig. 4. Mesolithic pits 8 – 10

Pit 11 (Not illustrated) Another pit of D form, similar to pits 8 and 9. This was destroyed before it could be excavated, but it was orientated as pit 8, and was 80 cm wide and 1.20 metres long.

Mesolithic:

The Flint industry: Only a small quantity of worked flint was recovered from stratified positions on the site and, because of the limited time available for excavation, not all the groups from the pits are complete. In the account which follows, the basic typology of the industry as a whole is summarised and then the individual contents of each pit are given. The provenance of the illustrated material is given at the same time.

Raw material: The industry made use of rough flint nodules, some of which were probably taken from the chalk. Others may have been collected from stream or pebble deposits which lie closer to the site.

Cores: 22 cores are represented. They may be grouped as follows:

One platform	5
Two parallel platforms	5
Two platforms at right angles	6
Two platforms at an acute angle	2
Three platforms	1
More than three platforms	2
Keeled	1

Three of the cores from the upper filling of pit 8 show wear and two have been used as hammerstones. Four 'bashed lumps' (c.f. Coles 1971, 302) are also represented.

Core trimming flakes: 5 examples are included, together with a single survival in the later pit, 10. They may be classified as follows:

Flake removed at right angle to platform	5
Flake removed parallel to platform	1

Unused flakes: 155 waste flakes are represented. The length range is between 15 and 60mm with most between 20 and 40 mm.

Used flakes: 81 flakes show edge damage consistent with use. These represent 34% of all flakes recovered. While the overall size range is similar to that of the unused material, the majority of these flakes are slightly larger.

Unused blades: Only 35 unused blades are represented. No consistent size trends can be seen. They make up 18% of the unused material.

Used blades: 69 examples. These represent 66% of the blades on the site. The length range is 20 to 55 mm but no consistent trend is seen. The ratio of blades is approximately 1 : 2.

Blade segments: 17 blade segments and 27 bulbar segments are represented. Of these two blade segments show backing.

Microoliths: 2 examples of simple rod type. A further broken fragment from Pit I might be of this type or might belong to a backed blade.

Burins: Up to 6 examples are represented. Two examples from the upper filling of Pit 8 might be fortuitous but a third shows appropriate wear on the working angle.

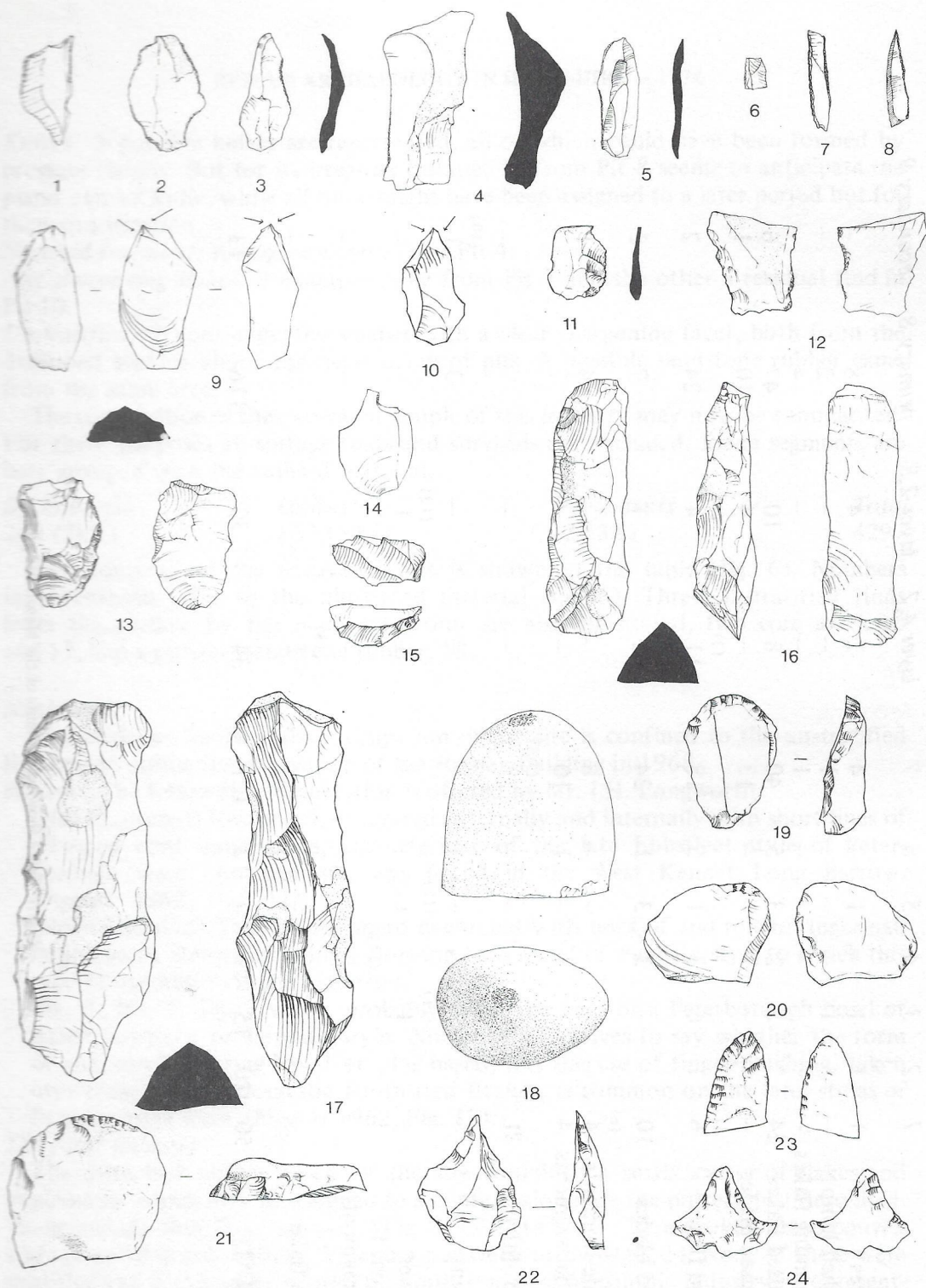


Fig. 5. The flint industries. Scale 1/3

<i>Pit</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	layer 4,7	layer 2,8	primary 8	secondary 9
Cores	1	1	1	—	1	—	4	2	4	8	—
Bashed lump	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Trimming flakes	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—
Unused flakes	24	7	3	2	3	5	40	8	10	47	6
Unused blades	—	—	—	7	—	—	13	—	4	10	1
	(1,2)							(3)	(4)		
Used flakes	6	1	6	3	1	5	18	11	4	24	2
								(5)			
Used blades	10	—	—	3	3	1	24	12	7	7	2
	(6)										
Blade segments	4	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	4	1
Bulbar segments	4	1	1	3	—	1	10	—	—	7	—
							(7,8)				
Microliths	?1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
			(9)								(10)
Burins	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			(11)		(12)				(13)	3	1
Knives	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Notched fragment	—	—	—	(14)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Axe flake	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(15)	—	—	—
								1	—	—	—
TOTAL	50	10	15	19	9	12	121	34	30	116	13

Fig. 6. Table showing contents of the Mesolithic pits.

Knives: 3 possible knives are represented, all of which could have been formed by pressure flaking. But for its irregular outline, 13 from Pit 8 seems to anticipate the plano convex knife, while all three might have been assigned to a later period but for their stratification.

Notched fragment: A single example from Pit 4.

Axe sharpening flakes: 2 examples, one from Pit 7 and the other a residual find in Pit 10.

Unstratified: 2 core axes, the smaller with a clear sharpening facet, both from the disturbed surface about the main group of pits. A possible sandstone rubber came from the same area.

The composition of the excavated sample of this industry may now be summarised. For these purposes all surface finds and survivals are excluded. Blade segments are here grouped with the utilised material.

<i>By Products</i>	<i>Utilised</i>	<i>Implements</i>	<i>Total</i>
249 (58%)	167 (39%)	13 (3%)	429

The contents of the excavated pits is shown in the table (fig. 6). Numbers in parenthesis refer to the illustrated material (fig. 5). Three unstratified finds from the surface by the main pit group are also illustrated, two core axes, 16 and 17, and a possible sandstone rubber, 18.

Neolithic

The evidence for Neolithic occupation of the site is confined to the unstratified finds made during the excavation of the Roman building in 1968.

Pottery: The following identification is offered by Mr. I.H. Longworth:

(Not illustrated) Rim sherd, decorated externally and internally with short lines of whipped cord impressions, characteristic of the late Ebbsfleet style of Peterborough ware. An example was found in the West Kennet Long Barrow. (Piggott 1962, Fig. 11).

(Not illustrated) Thin walled sherd decorated with lines of end to end finger nail impressions, almost certainly belonging to a vessel of Fengate style to which this type of decoration is characteristic.

Fig. 7, No. 1. Thick sherd, probably from the base of a Peterborough bowl of either Mortlake or Fengate style. Not enough survives to say whether the form of the bowl was ring-based or plug-based, but the use of finger-pinching, taken over from the late domestic Rusticated Beaker, is common on the later styles of Peterborough ware. (Piggott 1962, Fig. 12).

The Flint Industry

The disturbed surface layers of the site contained a small scatter of flakes and implements which may be assigned to a context alongside the pottery just described. These include thin flake scrapers, (Fig. 5, 19-21) a borer, 22, a broken plano-convex knife or possibly sickle blade, 23, and a transverse arrowhead, 24. None of these were stratified and it cannot be proved that only one post Mesolithic industry is represented.

A MESOLITHIC SITE AT WAKEFORDS COPSE, HAVANT

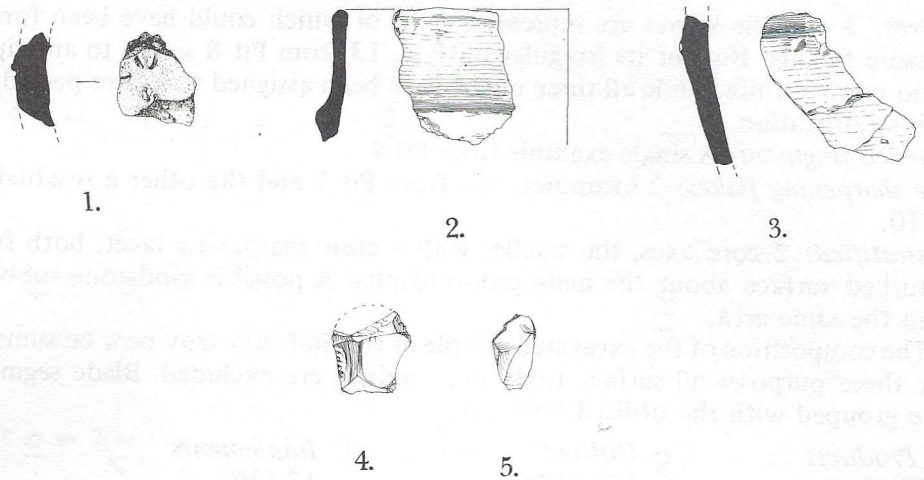


Fig. 7. Prehistoric pottery and flints. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

Later Bronze Age

Fragments of coarse, flint-tempered wares which may belong to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age were found unstratified in the course of excavation and site levelling. Groups of pottery were found in the fill of three hearths uncovered during levelling, which indicate temporary settlement here in the late Bronze Age. No evidence for structures survived. Hearths 2 and 3 were rough hollows, about a metre across, containing charcoal and burnt flints. Hearth 2 was surrounded by stake holes, perhaps for a windbreak, on the south side. Hearth 1 was represented by a wide scatter of charcoal.

Fig. 7, No. 2. Fragment of a vessel with raised shoulder. Black fabric with a tempering of large flint fragments. Burnt on exterior of pot. From Hearth 1. Also from hearth 1, not illustrated, a fragment of red pottery with a smooth surface, tempered with large flint fragments.

Fig. 7, No. 3. Fragment of bucket urn, with impressed fingertip marks along shoulder. Rough brown fabric with tempering of large flint fragments. From Hearth 2. Also from hearth 2, not illustrated, three fragments of smooth red pottery (possibly globular urn?) with a tempering of very fine flint grits.

Fig. 7, No. 4. Broken flint scraper, from hearth 2.

Fig. 7, No. 5. Flint blade, worked along two edges, from hearth 2.

Not illustrated, from hearth 3, fragments of thick walled pottery, in a red fabric with very large flint fragments in the tempering.

Little can be said of such fragmentary material. It is well matched in the later Bronze Age on the small domestic sites around Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours, while comparable material is known from the chalk at Chalton (Cunliffe 1970) and West Meon.

General Discussion:

Since the main interest of the site lies in its Mesolithic occupation, it may be useful to offer some brief comments upon the later material first. Neither the scatter of Neolithic items nor the later Bronze Age hearths can really be assessed, except to remark that both phases are marked by similarly scanty occupations elsewhere in this region. Neither is likely to reflect a full domestic use of this site and, as on the shoreline, an explanation in terms of a mobile settlement pattern may yet prove to be correct.

Pit 10 offers greater problems. Its post-Mesolithic context is firmly established by the one characterless body sherd stratified within it, but this cannot be firmly dated. The most likely context might be within the later Neolithic or early Bronze Age. The form of the pit might suggest that it had held large uprights but, if so, the absence of post pipes seems to suggest that these had not rotted in situ. On the other hand, there is no positive evidence for the digging out of any uprights and no signs of a natural filling but a thin lens of silt upon the bottom of the pit. On a larger scale the pit can be matched by one excavated by Stone & Hill (1938) on Stockbridge Down and dated by associated pottery to the early Bronze Age. This was originally interpreted as a living pit but such a view seems inappropriate to either example. The purpose of this pit must accordingly remain a mystery.

The Mesolithic phase is little more sharply defined, and here it is fortunate that the largest and best stratified group of flints, those in Pit 8, should have been associated with charcoal for which a radiocarbon date of 3730 ± 120 B.C. is now available (HAR 233). There are no obvious typological divisions to distinguish this group from those in the other pits and so it may be well to assume that the whole industry is broadly contemporary, but, quite apart from the dangers of basing too much on isolated dates, there are sites, such as Morton, (Coles 1971), where equally ephemeral occupation is associated with a wide spread of determinations. Needless to say, it cannot be shown whether any two pits on this site were in use at the same time. Little can be advanced from general typological arguments, although the presence of rod microliths and the absence of microburins in the excavated sample can be matched at High Rocks with carbon date of 3710 ± 150 B.C. (Money 1960). Higgs (1959) has also suggested these as late Mesolithic characteristics. Within the Hampshire Basin similar small industries are known from Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours (Bradley and Hooper, manuscript in preparation).

The form of the site is of greater interest than its contents. It is in fact the largest group of Mesolithic pits so far published and the stake surrounds to several of these hollows are a welcome feature. Even apart from these, the fact that the pits were dug into a subsoil of mixed sand and clay rules them out at once as mere quarries for raw material. A useful contrast here is with the shallow irregular hollows used in this way at Downton (Higgs 1959) and Bishop's Waltham. They are too large for any interpretation as sheltered fireplaces and only pit 7 included an area of burning. The charcoal in the fillings might be refuse from the surrounding area. Another possibility is that these pits were for storage but, despite the existence of comparable Neolithic pits with a stake surround (Stone 1934), this argument also seems to fail. The ground

would have been much too damp for an unlined storage pit and no traces of any linings could be seen, while there are no proven Mesolithic storage pits elsewhere in Britain and their presence might imply a more regular pattern of planned movement than the evidence at present permits. The alternative of a lengthy stay is excluded by the relative paucity of flints, 429 here compared with 101,000 at Oakhanger VII.

It accords better with the evidence to treat these hollows as temporary shelters, a view which has long been held and which was discussed at length by Clark and Rankine (1939). They set out the similarities of such features to recent winter houses and were able to indicate precursors in the Upper Palaeolithic. There seems little reason to repeat their arguments on this occasion save to point out that the stake holes on the present site find their counterparts amongst the isolated post holes at Farnham and other pit sites and among the stake surrounds of surface shelters at Downton and Morton. A comparable site at Wawcott in Berkshire with a carbon date of 3310 ± 130 B.C. (BM 449) is especially helpful here (Froom 1974). At Wawcott the soil from one pit had been piled outside a similar line of posts and one possibility would be that a branch shelter over the hollowed area had been covered by sods and turves in a comparable fashion to a modern charcoal burner's hut. Alternatively stakes could be set into the banked up spoil with the result that on other sites no post or stake holes might survive. Such a view raises two main areas of difficulty: the problems of placing hearths inside such vulnerable structures and the difficulties of access. There is, however, no reason why the few hearths recorded should not have been later than the pits, while similar problems of access are posed by Saxon grubenhauser which are frequently accepted as domestic structures.

A number of thoughts arise from the identification of these pits as shelters. First of all, there can be no warrant for regarding these as particularly permanent dwellings and the same applies to a similar group in Rowlands Castle nearby (unpublished excavation by Graham Harris, Manuscript record with Portsmouth Museum). In spite of the work needed to build them, there is very little debris in or around them. Only two of the nine pits show more than one real accumulation of flintwork in their filling and a pattern of repeated or seasonal reoccupations has little to commend it. It is here that Clark's comparison with winter houses may be useful for the use of this mode of construction might then be determined more by a common environment than a common density of occupation. Although the total number of comparable sites is still small – only 13 are so far known in south-east England – all of these favour lower ground and seem to cluster below the 400 ft contour, whereas Mesolithic sites generally may occupy much higher positions. While the distribution of softer subsoils favouring pit digging must not be ignored, such an interpretation would be compatible with seasonal movement from higher to lower ground in the cold months of the year and might match similar views from other areas. Only with more thoughtful publication of surface material can this be put to the test.

Notes

1. Excavation notes by A.B. Norton in Portsmouth City Museum.
2. Notes by C. Stanley in Portsmouth City Museum.
3. The excavation was directed by Elizabeth Lewis for Portsmouth City Museum. The initial project, which involved ten schools in the Havant area, was arranged by Mr. O.P. Simmons, Chief Education Officer for Havant. The Roman site will be reported separately.
4. Much of this work was carried out in difficult conditions by Mr. Graham Harris, on whose field notes this report is based.

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THE EXCAVATION OF A ROUND BARROW AT WEST MEON HUT, HAMPSHIRE

By A. B. Page

With report on the cremated remains by Calvin Wells

Introduction

In 1966 Dr. R.A. Pelham of West Meon, Hampshire, informed the Curator of Winchester City Museums that one well-preserved barrow in the group near the cross-roads at West Meon Hut, ten miles east of Winchester, was to be removed as an obstacle to cultivation. A partial rescue excavation of the barrow was undertaken in the autumn by the permission of the farmer, Mr. Gerald Silk, who delayed the bulldozing of the site while this was done and who subsequently gave the finds to the Museum. (WM 66 and Cat. No. 255.1.0.) The excavation was directed by Mr. A. B. Page, assistant for archaeology on the staff of the museum, who was assisted by his colleague Miss M.A. White, the Conservator. The Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society made a donation to help defray the incidental costs of the excavation.

This account of the excavations has been compiled by A.B. Rance and F. Cottrill from notes made by the excavator A.B. Page.

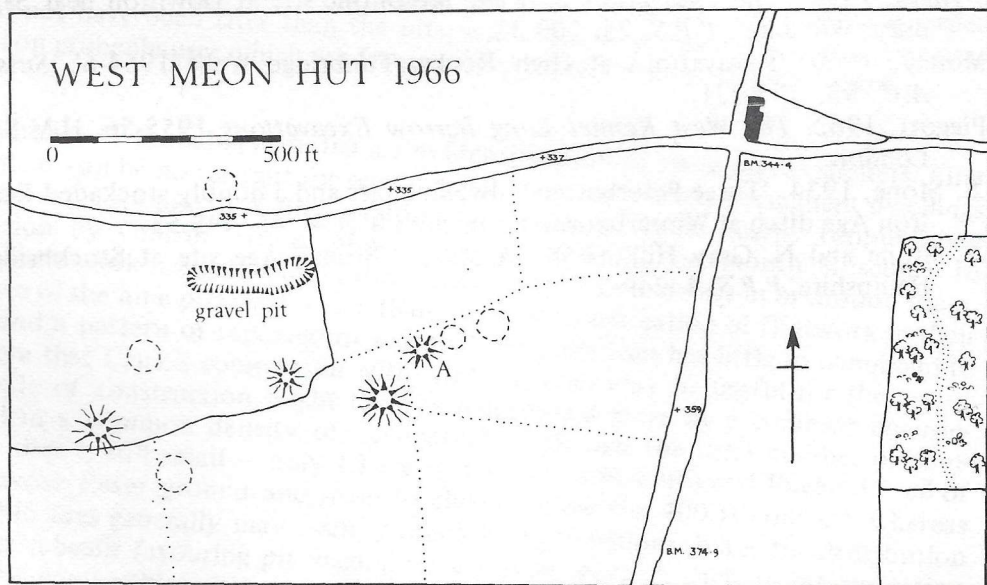


Fig. 1. West Meon Hut. Barrow Group Location Plan

The Site

The group at West Meon Hut consisted of eight barrows which are listed by L.V. Grinsell (1940, 355) The site is an unusual one for barrows that have survived in Hampshire, in that it is on the floor of a valley with higher ground to the north and south. The height above sea level is about 340 ft. The subsoil is river gravel resting on the middle chalk; the gravel here forms a slight ridge in the valley floor and the chalk outcrops about 50 ft. to the south of the excavated barrow.



Plate I. View of barrows at West Meon Hut before destruction. Looking N.
The excavated barrow is the westernmost of the three.

Photo: WCM 1288: Grinsell Colln.

The barrow is marked on the one inch O.S. map at SU 6475 2603 and is described in the Ordnance Survey files as a 'bowl barrow having the distinctive conical profile of barrows in this area'. It was the westernmost of three which were in line, the other barrows in the group lying to the west (Fig. 1 and Plate I). Until some time, before its destruction a hedge ran over its north-west limits, and there had been some encroachment on the southern edge by ploughing. (O.S. Nov. 1956) At the

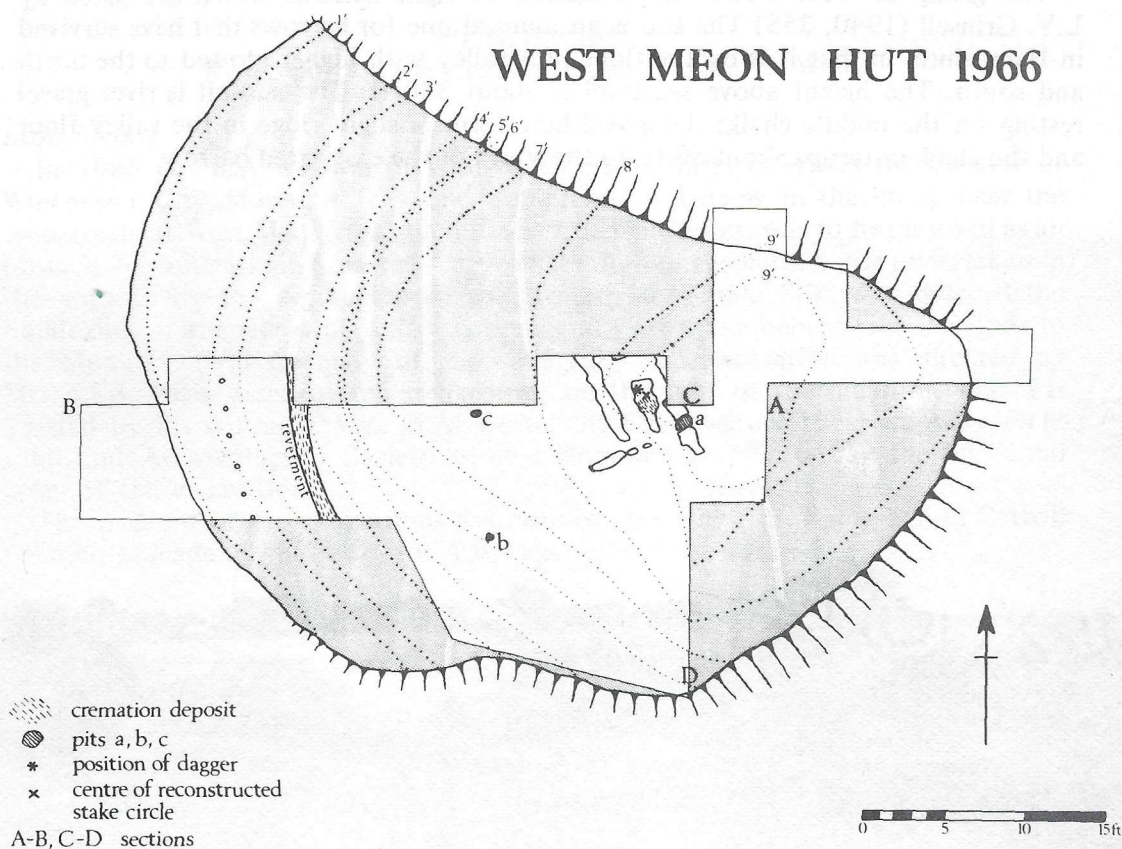


Fig. 2. Plan of barrow with excavated features

time of excavation the southern edges were severely damaged, but the highest part of the mound and the western slopes remained intact. There was no sign of a surrounding ditch, but a shallow one could have been removed by ploughing. After the excavation the remainder of the barrow was flattened by a bulldozer.

The Excavation

Partial excavation of the barrow was carried out with the removal of two quadrants (Fig. 2). The north-east quadrant was excavated down to the covering of the central burial, but the south-west quadrant was excavated down to the pre-barrow ground surface. The latter trench was 7 ft. x 42 ft. as first laid out, but subsequently extensions were made to the north and to the south. It was not possible to complete the excavation of the southern extension in the available time.

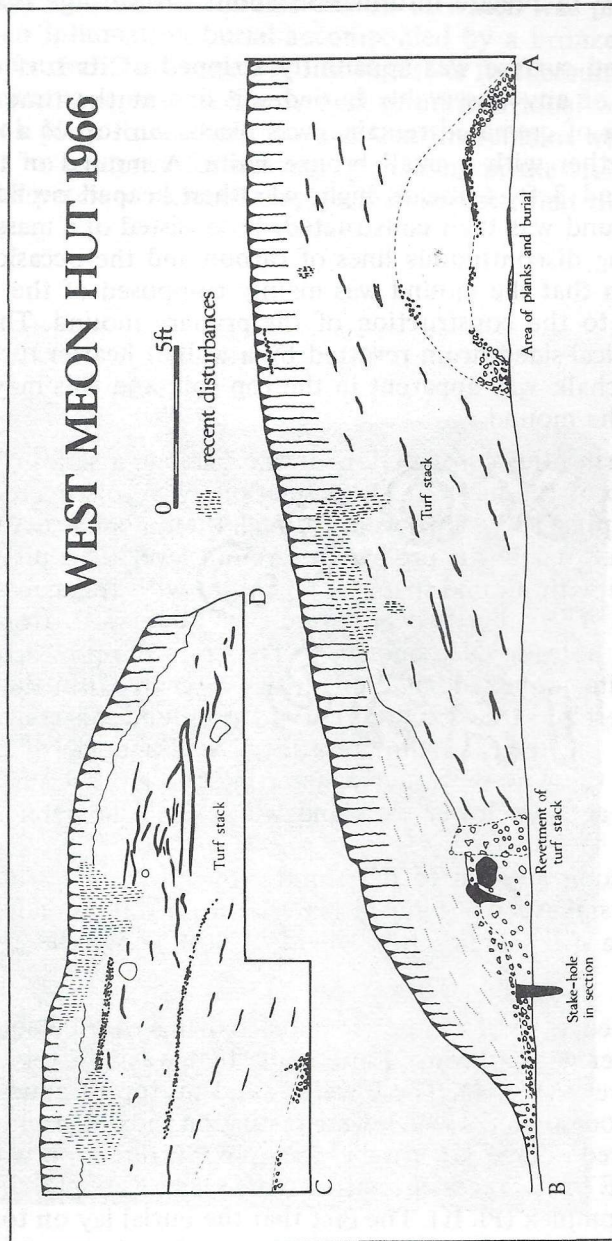


Fig. 3. Section of excavation: West Meon Hut

The excavation established the sequence of events that resulted in the final form of the barrow. Despite its partial nature it produced results that are a significant addition to the body of precise information about Bronze-Age burials in central southern England.

The original ground surface was apparently stripped of its turf covering which resulted in the lack of any observable buried soil line at the time of excavation. The burial, consisting of cremated remains, was placed on top of a construction of wooden planks, together with a small bronze knife. A mound of turf and gravel, 10 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. 6 inches high, was then heaped over the burial. The main part of the mound was then constructed. It consisted of a mass of soft yellow sandy clay containing discontinuous lines of carbon and the occasional patches of gravel. It would seem that the mound was mainly composed of the turves that had been removed prior to the construction of the primary mound. The main mound was piled into a vertical-sided drum revetted by a wall of heavier turves mixed with flints. A scatter of chalk was apparent in the top soil, and this may represent the original capping of the mound.

At some stage during the construction of the barrow, a series of pits were dug through the make up of the mound. Three such pits were discovered (a, b and c in fig. 2); one of these pits (18" diam.) went through the timber structure and was cut to a depth of 7 inches below the pre-barrow ground level. This pit was apparently immediately filled in with mound material mixed up with fragments of the timber which had been cut. The other two pits were each about 3 ft. from the centre of the mound but were not dug deep enough to penetrate the pre-barrow ground surface. One of these pits contained small quantities of charcoal in the fill. Following the back-filling of these pits, the construction of the mound was continued.

Four feet outside the turf and flint revetment wall a circle of stake holes was constructed. Six of these were found penetrating the ground surface. The stake holes were pointed at their lower ends and were 3" in diameter at their widest point.

The mound was soon allowed to deteriorate; the revetment wall collapsed and buried the circle of stakes with slumped material from the mound. This happened when the stakes were still standing to a height of 6 in. above the ground.

The Burial

The burial consisted of part of the cremated remains of a person aged between 30–40 years, together with a bronze knife blade that was in a very corroded state at the time of discovery (Fig. 4). These were found on top of and in the middle of some carbonized wooden planks which were resting on the old ground surface. Four planks were uncovered. Three lay parallel in a NW/SE direction with one lying at right angles at the SE end. Traces of another cross plank were partially excavated at the NW end of the complex (Pl. II). The fact that the burial lay on top of the planks indicates that they represent the remains of a bier rather than any sort of collapsed mortuary house. Collapsed mortuary houses under round barrows have been noticed in Hampshire (Piggott 1943, 8, Fig. 5.)

A bier structure similar to the West Meon discovery was excavated at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, in 1964 by David Johnston for the then M.P.B.W. This comprised two long bearers and four cross members on top of which was placed a plank built coffin containing an inhumation burial accompanied by a bronze dagger, a pygmy cup and a large decorated food vessel. A full report is forthcoming.

The cremated remains represented only part of an individual which suggests that the immolation took place somewhere else and that the remains were placed there as a token. There was no evidence for heating or burning in the vicinity of the planks (except for one small patch of reduced clay), which suggests that the planks were not in fact burnt *in situ*.

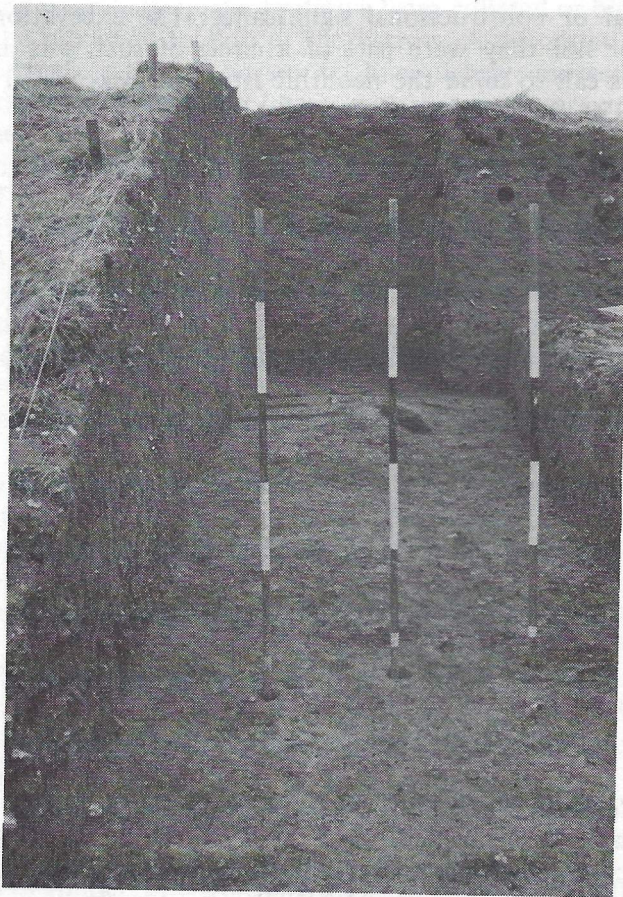


Plate II. West Meon Hut: View of trench from west before extension. Ranging poles mark the position of stake-holes. The charred planks are in the background.

Photo: WCM 1138

The Stake Circle and the Pits

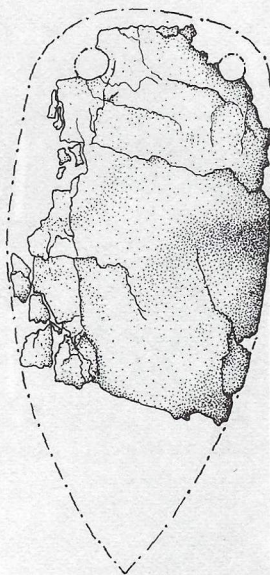
Both of these sets of features would seem to be associated with the ritual of burial. The six stakeholes that were uncovered would seem to be part of a circle of stakes surrounding the main mound. This circle would have been 46 ft. in diameter with the burial deposit situated close to its centre. The circle was of the peripheral type, falling into Ashbee's Class A of 'single post or stake circles, closely spread'. (Ashbee 1960, 65) The fact that these stakes were covered by material from the collapsed mound demonstrates that the stake circle was a permanent feature that was maintained in good repair at least as long as the mound itself. It may represent a demarcation of the limits of the 'sanctuary' area of the burial place. (Ashbee 1960, 65).

The three pits that were dug into the mound during the construction seem to have had no structural or constructional significance. The excavation did not demonstrate whether or not they were part of a circle of such pits around the central burial. These pits call to mind the neolithic ritual pits excavated at Goodland, Co. Antrim. (Case 1953, 24).

Fig. 4.

Bronze knife blade. West Meon Hut

Scale 1 : 1

**THE FINDS***The Bronze Knife (Fig. 4)*

The bronze blade deposited with the cremation remains is that of a flat rivetted knife of a type commonly found in what are considered to be the female graves of the later Early Bronze Age or early Middle Bronze Age. It was excavated in a very fragmentary condition, the complete profile having to be reconstructed.

The writers are grateful to Arthur ApSimon of the Department of Archaeology, Southampton University, for commenting on this find.

The Flints (Fig. 5)

The flints were found mainly in the make-up of the mound. They are mostly long bladed flakes exhibiting signs of wear along the edges. Implements represented include a well-formed end scraper (No. 4) and a broken transverse arrowhead (No. 6). There is no reason why all the flints should not be considered as being contemporary with the burial.

The Pottery (Fig. 5)

Notes for this report were prepared by Dr. Isobel F. Smith, F.S.A.

The five sherds are all of Early/Middle Bronze Age grog-filled ware. Minor variations in composition and thickness suggest that they come from four or five different vessels. One piece (No. 1) may have belonged to a small, cord-ornamented accessory pot. The remaining fragments appear to derive from collared or biconical urns.

No. 1. – from the ploughed section of the barrow. A decorated fragment carrying on the exterior a series of horizontal lines lightly impressed by means of a fine twisted cord. It is thin (7mm), with brown exterior, buff interior and with a rather flaky black core. Some grog is present in the fabric. Curvature in the horizontal plane indicates that the piece came from a pot with a diameter of 10 to 12 cm. Although it may possibly be part of the collar of a small urn, the profile and relative thinness suggest that it may come from the wall of an accessory vessel, perhaps comparable with an example from Barrow 16, Radley, Berks. (Case *et al.* 1964/5, Fig. 27.2.)

No. 2 – from turfy layer in the ploughed section of the barrow. A sherd from the upper part of an undecorated urn. Internally there is a fairly deep and sharply defined bevel below the missing, but evidently slightly everted, rim. Reddish buff exterior, dark interior and with a flaky black core. The filler contains much grog and there are numerous shrinkage cracks. The profile is too incomplete to show whether the urn was of the collared or biconical type.

No. 3 – from a disturbed area. A sherd from the junction of wall and flat base; the wall is 10 mm. thick, the base 18mm. Red exterior, black core and interior, and containing grog.

No. 4 – not illustrated:– from the ground surface by the revetment wall. A small, thin (6mm) body sherd; reddish ware with unevenly fired red and black core; grog added to the clay.

No. 5 – not illustrated:– from the turfy layer in the ploughed section. A small, thick (12mm) body sherd; red exterior, reddish buff interior and with a dark core. Contains abundant grog.

Timber Fragments

Two fragments of timber, one from the timber feature and one from the fill of the central pit, were identified as being oak, *Quercus* species. The Identification was carried out by the Forest Products Research Laboratory of the Ministry of Technology.

EXCAVATION OF A ROUND BARROW AT WEST MEON HUT, HAMPSHIRE

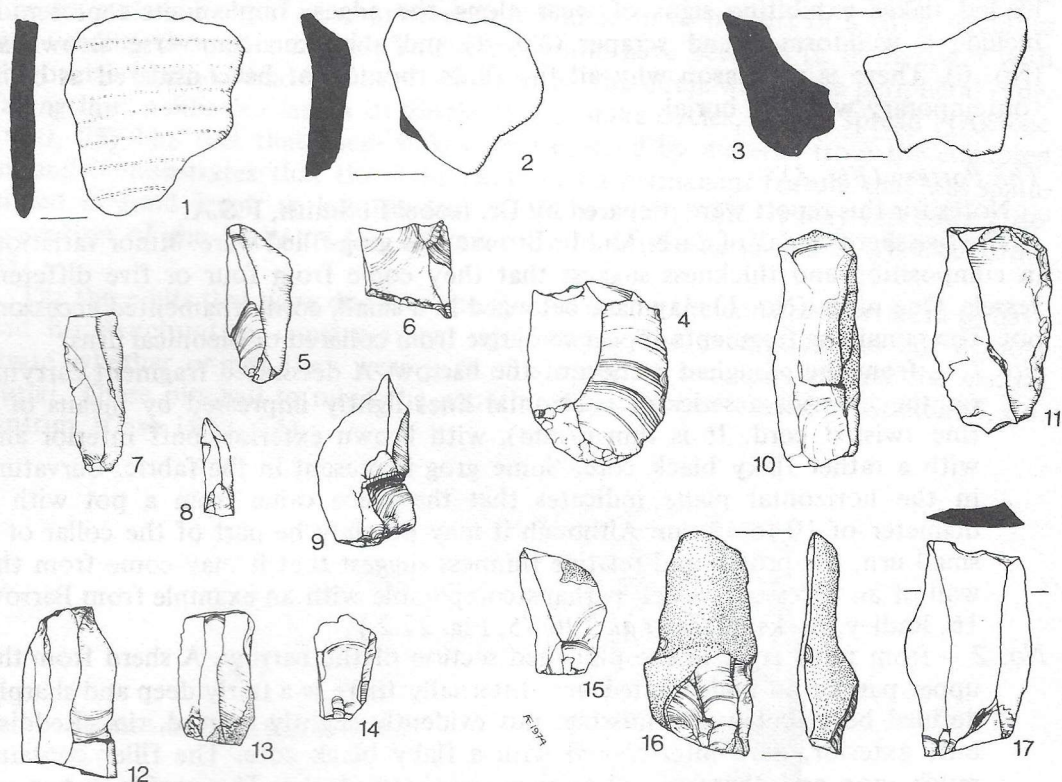


Fig. 5. Pottery and Flints. West Meon Hut. Scale 1 : 2.

Cremated Remains

This report was prepared by Dr. Calvin Wells.

This material consists of about 157 gm. of cremated human bones most of which is broken into extremely tiny fragments — much of it being little more than dust. As a result, there is not a great deal to be learned from it.

Pieces from most parts of the body can be identified. Cranial fragments include parts of the parietals and the occipital, the superior margin of a temporal squama, part of the frontal bone showing the interior of the frontal sinus, a piece of sphenoid and two molar tooth roots. Post cranial fragments include pieces of vertebral body, a thoracic intervertebral articular process, a section of rib, part of the lateral border of a scapula, femur and tibia, a damaged metatarsal head and some spicules of phalanges.

The general robustness of the fragments, including the thickness of the cranium,

the appearance of the frontal sinus, the muscle markings on long bones, etc., suggests that this was a male.

Some of the vault fragments show cranial sutures which are unfused on the ectocranial surface but are partly fused on the endocranial surface, which might suggest that this was a person in the 30–40 year range.

The cremation has been badly done. Much of it, especially the lower limbs, has been incompletely fired although the cranial fragments are more completely incinerated than the rest. The pattern of warping does not suggest that the funeral pyre was raised to a great heat: it was probably less than 800° – 750°C. This may imply that the pyre was only a small one and that the attendants were chiefly concerned to ensure that the head and trunk were more or less completely fired whilst having less interest in the fate of the legs.

On some fragments a black, slightly shiny, superficial deposit can be seen. I have observed this elsewhere and there is some evidence to suggest that it may be associated with cremations which have been carried out (perhaps at a lowish temperature) using pine wood or some other conifer rather than one of the more usually employed hard woods.

The presence of a few really substantial fragments makes it almost certain that many more similar pieces survived the cremation. Their absence here suggests that the collection of the remains – or at least their conservation – was a matter of indifference to those who supervised the ritual. Perhaps it sufficed to collect only a token sample of the remains.

Alternatively, recovery of the ashes may have been meticulous but the fragments may have been largely retained by the bereaved relatives as a *memento mori*, with these few surviving pieces being all that was needed for the burial ritual.

No trace of any pathological condition was detected.

There is no evidence that more than one individual is represented here.

No animal bones were identified.

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Winchester City Museums, Grinsell Collection.

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Plate I. Wallington Military Road: Aerial Photograph of M27 and site area

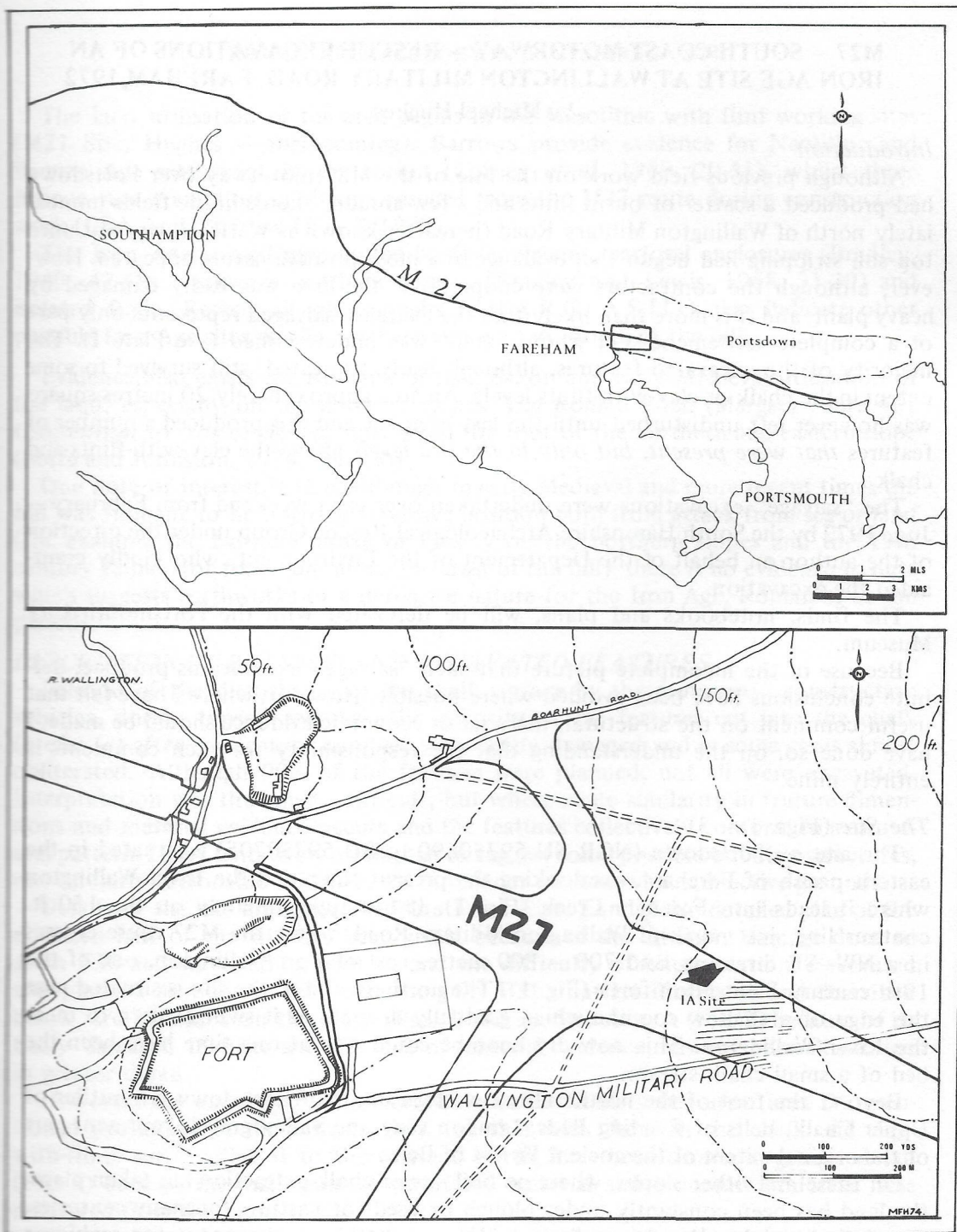


Fig. 1. Wallington Military Road: Location of site
(based on O.S. with permission)

M27 – SOUTH COAST MOTORWAY – RESCUE EXCAVATIONS OF AN IRON AGE SITE AT WALLINGTON MILITARY ROAD, FAREHAM, 1972

by Michael Hughes

Introduction

Although previous field work on the line of the M27 motorway over Portsdown had produced a scatter of burnt flints and a few abraded sherds in the fields immediately north of Wallington Military Road (hereafter known as WMR), it was not until top soil stripping had begun that evidence of a more positive nature appeared. However, although the contractors were cooperative, the area was badly damaged by heavy plant, and it is more than likely that the evidence salvaged represents only part of a complete settlement site, whose extent was undetermined (see Plate I). The majority of the excavated features, although badly truncated, still survived to some extent in the chalk or clay-with-flints levels. An area approximately 20 metres square was however left undisturbed until the last moment and this produced a number of features *that were present, but only in the soil levels* above the clay-with-flints and chalk.

The “salvage” excavations were undertaken over each weekend from February – June 1972 by the South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group under the direction of the author on behalf of the Department of the Environment, who kindly granted the excavation.

The finds, notebooks and plans, will be deposited with the Portsmouth City Museum.

Because of the incomplete picture that such “salvage” excavations produce, definite conclusions have been avoided where possible. However, where I have felt that useful comment on the structural, material or economic evidence should be made, I have done so, on the understanding that the responsibility for such comments is entirely mine.

The Site (Figs. 1 – 3)

The site on Portsdown (NGR SU 59750690 to SU 59750705) is situated in the eastern parish of Fareham, overlooking the present town and the River Wallington where it leads into Fareham Creek (Fig. 1). It lies approximately on the 150 ft. contour line, just north of Wallington Military Road, where the M27 route crosses in a NW–SE direction, and 700 – 800 metres east of Fort Wallington, one of the 19th century Palmerston forts (Fig. 1). The northern end of the site is situated near the edge of a shallow coombe which gradually deepens as it swings down to meet the River Wallington. This now dry coombe could well at one time have been the bed of a small chalk stream.

Beyond the foot of the northern and western limits of Portsdown, an outlier of Upper Chalk, belts of Reading Beds, London Clay and valley gravels represent part of the original extent of the ancient Forest of Bere.

On these and other slopes, where no building or chalk extraction has taken place, the land has been constantly under plough or used for pasture, for many centuries, the well drained calcareous soils providing a suitable environment for arable or pastoral farming. This fact is well attested from recent excavation reports, field work and aerial photographs.

The land utilisation of the area begins in the Mesolithic with flint working sites (M27 Site, Hughes – forthcoming). Barrows provide evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement in the region (Corney *et al.* 1969, 20-41), whilst three Bronze Age cremation urns were rescued from the M27 route during construction work (CBA Arch. Review 1971 & 1972).

The Iron Age is well represented by field systems, pastoral enclosures (Bradley, 1969, 42-58) trackways, settlement sites (Bradley and Lewis, 1968, 31-39) and isolated finds. Recent air photographs (S.H.A.R.G. A.S.[1]) also indicate other possible Iron Age sites on the northern and western slopes of the hill.

Evidence also exists for Romano-British, Saxon and early Medieval utilisation of the land, especially on the northern slopes. The Roman Road (Margary route 421 *Claesentum* to *Noviomagnus*) runs along the foot of the northern and eastern slope (Soffe and Johnston, 1974, 99-120).

One note of interest is that although in early Medieval and more recent times the hill was thought to be a strong defensive position both from attack from sea or land (for example the Norman motte of Pinsley on the northern slopes and the 19th century Palmerston forts built along the crest of the hill), there is no evidence to date which suggests earthworks of a defensive nature for the Iron Age, Roman or Saxon periods.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED AND EXCAVATED FEATURES

Because of the disturbance of the chalk surface by the motorway construction vehicles, during topsoil removal, the majority of the features cut into the chalk (prefix (c) after the feature number) were badly damaged and in some cases almost obliterated. Although 90% of the features were planned, not all were excavated. Interpretation was thus made difficult, but where some similarity in feature dimensions and material evidence occurs and the features collectively conform to a structural pattern, I have tentatively attempted to suggest some possible building structures, one on fairly reasonable evidence, the remainder on somewhat subjective grounds.

Details of the site are shown in Plate I and Figs. 2 and 3. No detailed plan of the northern half of the site has been given, because of the intensive damage done to ditch F30 and surrounding features and the difficulty of interpretation. Excavated and planned sections of F30 and the gully F31, that are illustrated and described below, are indicated on the plans (Figs. 2 and 3), Structure A (Fig. 2) because of its badly damaged features and the lack of material evidence, has not been illustrated in greater detail.

However, the majority of the features from the undisturbed area (area D), mentioned previously in the introduction, together with those in the chalk and clay-with-flints surrounding it to the east and north, have been shown in greater detail (Fig. 3) because the main bulk of structural, material and economic evidence, was recovered from this area.

The profiles of the excavated features are not shown in phases, but have been grouped approximately into ditches, gullies, possible building structures, pits, hearths and finally post-holes and stake holes of no obvious relationship. A des-

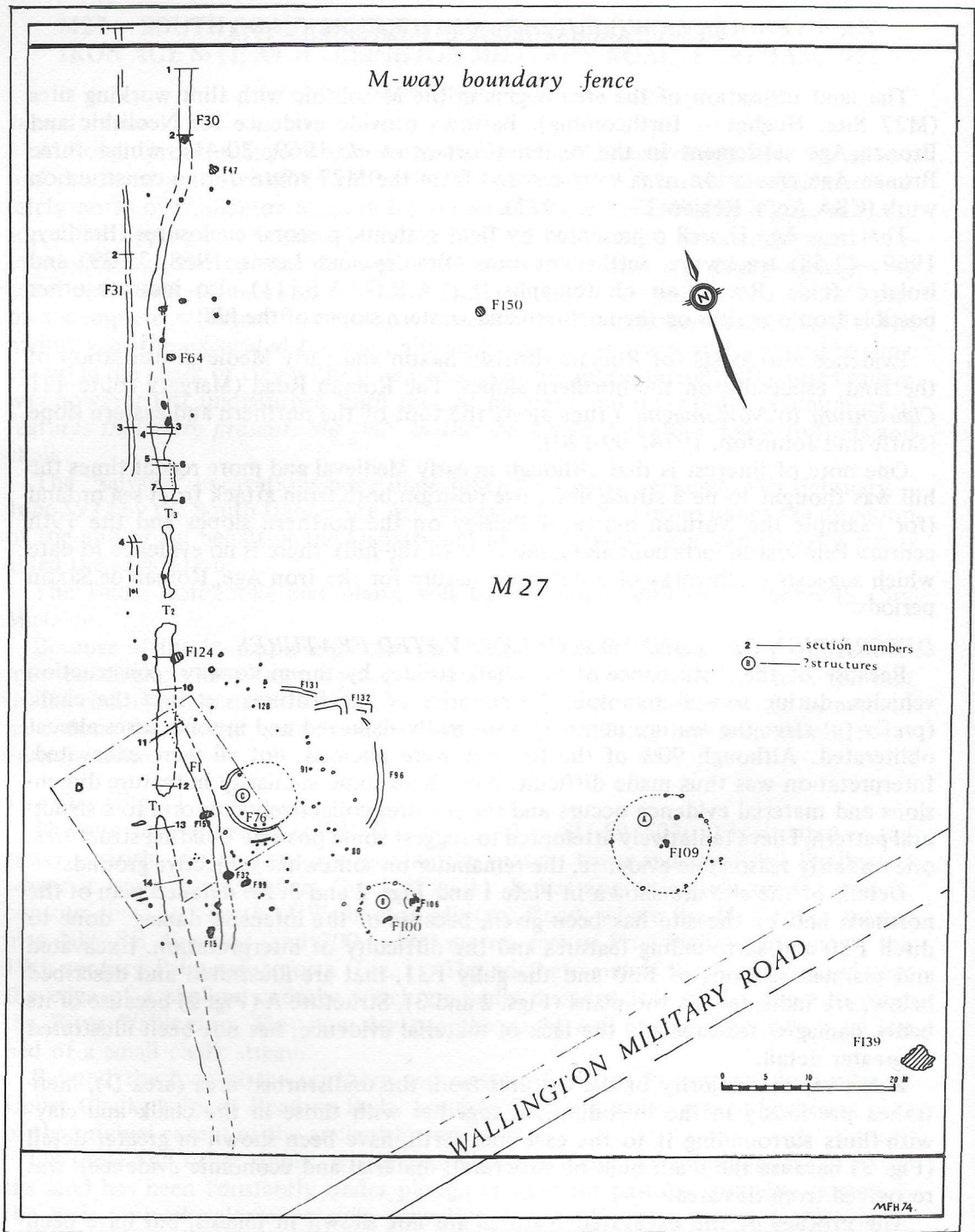


Fig. 2. Wallington Military Road: Plan of site

cription of each excavated feature is given, as well as of a number of planned features.

Ditches and Gullies

F30 (c), Figs. 5–8

A rather sinuous ditch feature running the width of the motorway route and traced by recent air photographs to extend at least another 100 – 200 metres to the north. Apart from area D, this feature was badly damaged during top soil removal, thus making the alignment and original shape difficult to ascertain (see Plate I, Figs 2 and 3).

Because of the damaged state of the feature in the northern section of the site, the recorded profiles were mainly of the bottom layers of the ditch. The unevenness of the damaged terrain caused rapid changes in the recorded widths of the ditch alignment, apparent in Fig. 2.

A number of sections were, however, excavated and recorded because of the unusual length of the feature, including three almost complete profiles obtained in relatively undisturbed environments. There would appear to have been three entrances in this section of the ditch (T1, T2 and T3), all observed and recorded only after top soil removal had taken place. A description of each section is given in numerical order, Nos. 2 – 9 and 12 – 13 of the damaged sections, and No. 1, 11 and 14 of the almost complete profile.

No. 1, Fig. 5.

This undamaged profile was recovered in the bank of the berm at the northern edge of the motorway site. The ditch at this point was V-shaped, 2.20m wide at the top, and approximately 1.0m deep. The silting evidence would suggest that a bank, made from the excavated ditch material, was situated on the western side, on the “downhill” side. The layer of black humus may indicate a period of stand during the silting up process, although it is more than likely to be the remains of the turf/weed covered top edge of the ditch that collapsed during weathering (see comments on sections nos. 10, 11 & 14).

Finds: (unstratified) Pottery of Groups I and II, burnt clay and briquetage fragments.

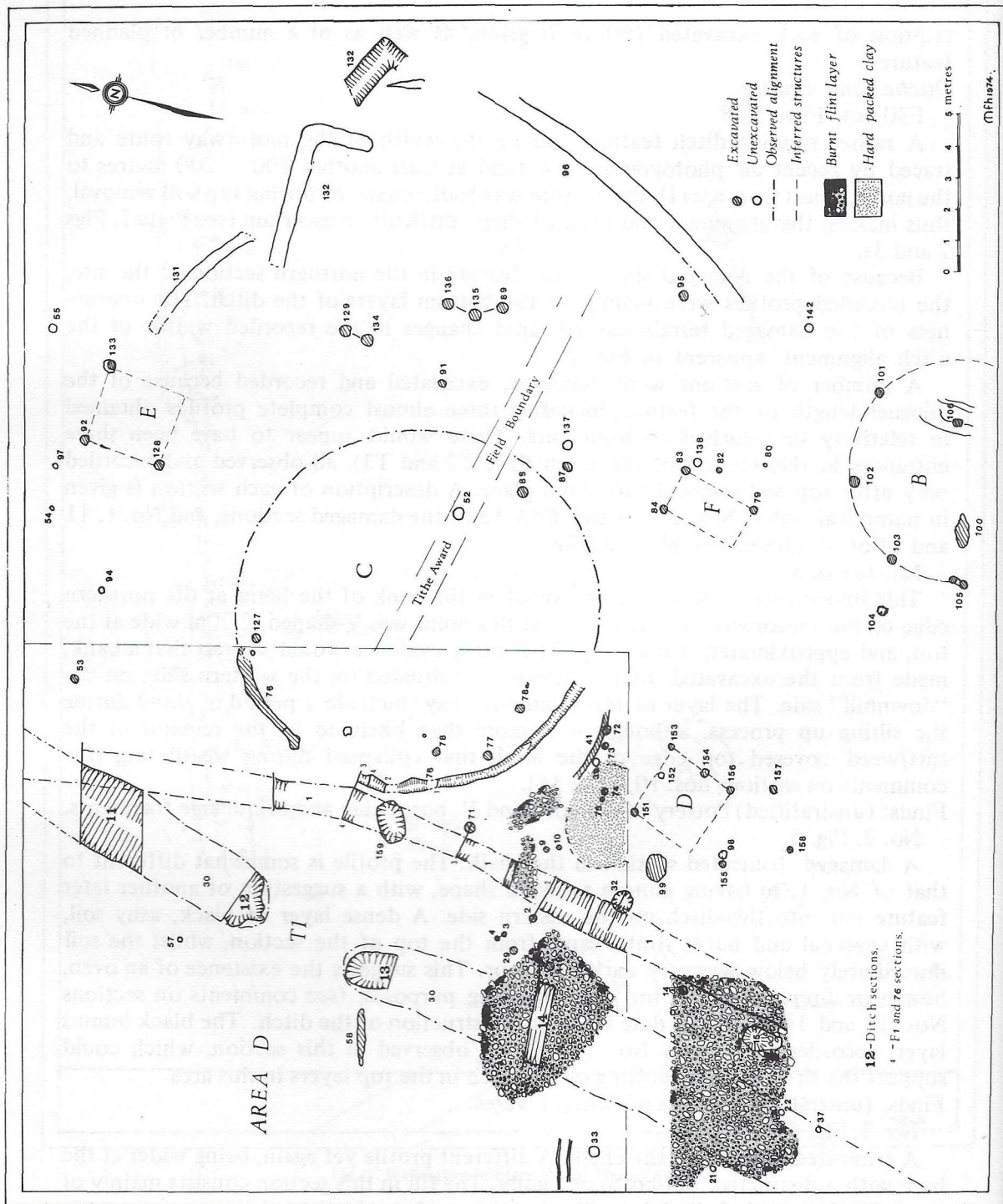
No. 2, Fig. 5.

A damaged, truncated section in the chalk. The profile is somewhat different to that of No. 1, in having a more rounded shape, with a suggestion of another later feature cut into the ditch on the eastern side. A dense layer of black, ashy soil, with charcoal and burnt flints, came from the top of the section, whilst the soil immediately below was very dark in colour. This suggests the existence of an oven, hearth or firepit, perhaps for grain parching purposes, (see comments on sections Nos. 11 and 14) of a later date than the construction of the ditch. The black humus layer, recorded in section No. 1, was not observed in this section, which could support the theory of a re-cutting of the ditch in the top layers in this area.

Finds: (unstratified) Sherds of Group I wares.

No. 3, Fig. 5.

A truncated section, in the chalk. A different profile yet again, being wider at the base with a distinctive flat-bottomed gully. The fill in this section consists mainly of clay-with-flints and chalk debris. The dark humus layer is again obvious.



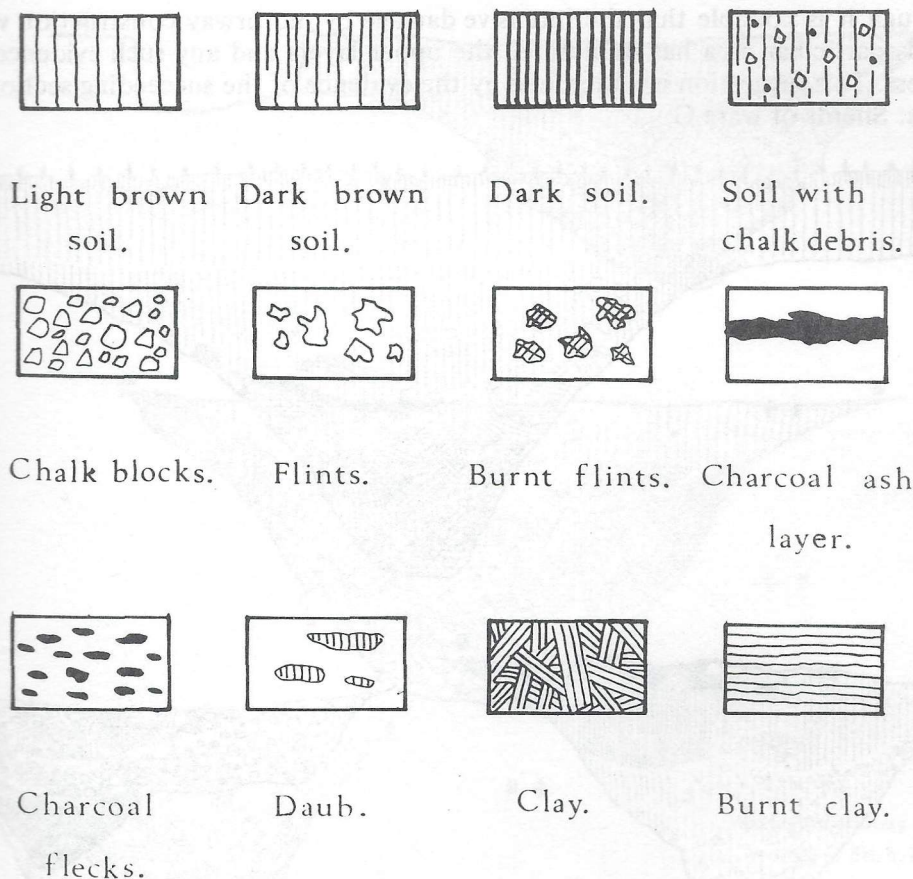


Fig. 4. Wallington Military Road: Symbols used in section illustrations

A small patch of burning with burnt flints was situated at the top of the section.

Finds: None

No. 4, Fig. 5.

A damaged, very truncated section, in the chalk. This profile is somewhat difficult to interpret. It would appear that some form of recutting took place, not necessarily for another ditch but more in the form of a "shallow pit". From the silting pattern it would appear that the excavated material from this later feature was banked up on the eastern, uphill side of the ditch.

Finds: None

No. 5, Fig. 5.

A truncated section, in the chalk. More similar in profile to the bottom half of section No. 1. There is no evidence of a recut feature as seen in the previous section,

although it is possible that the intensive damage by motorway construction vehicles in this particular area has obliterated the upper layers and any such evidence in the process. This suggestion is underlined by the evidence of the succeeding section.

Finds: Sherds of ware G.

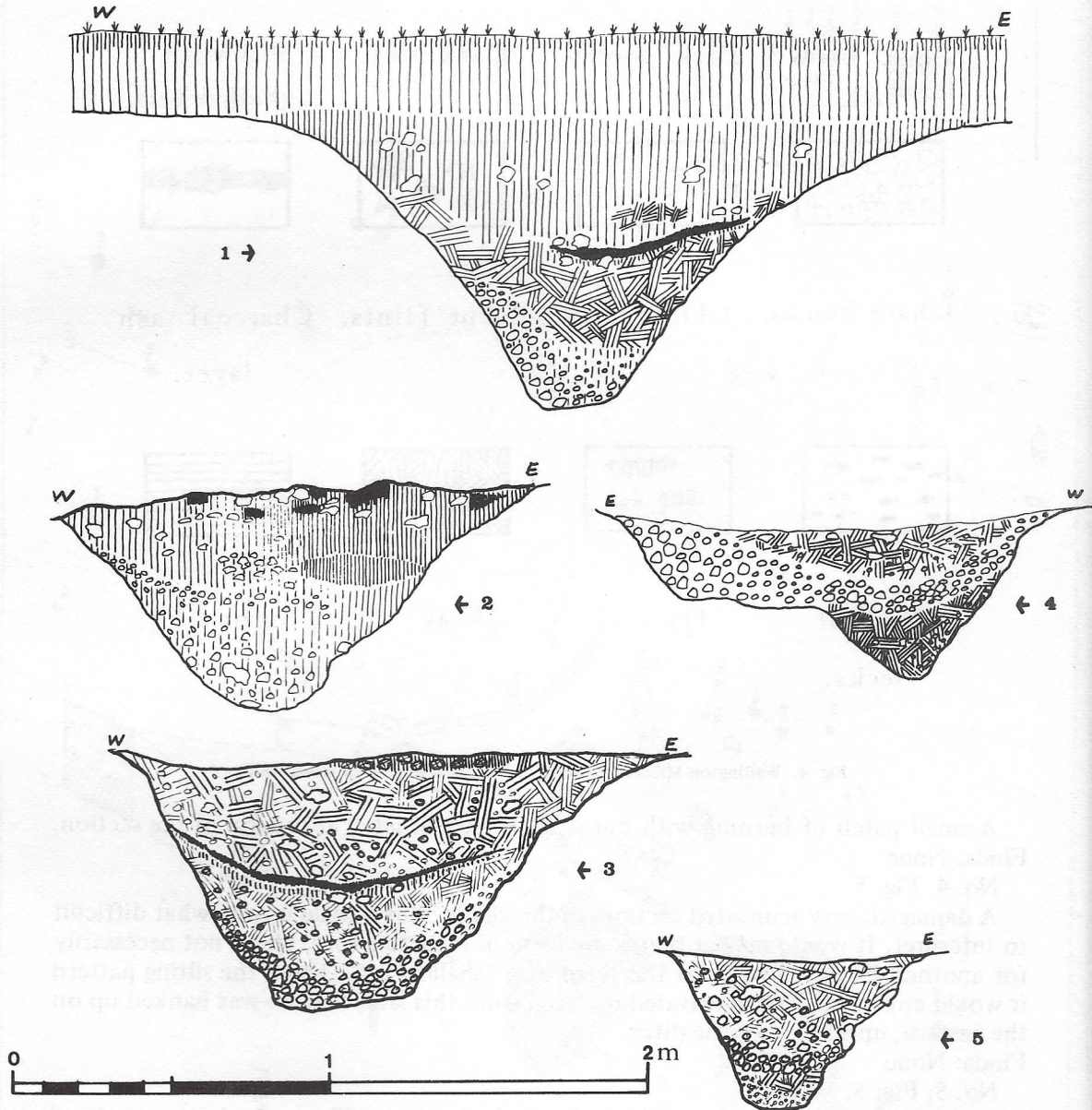
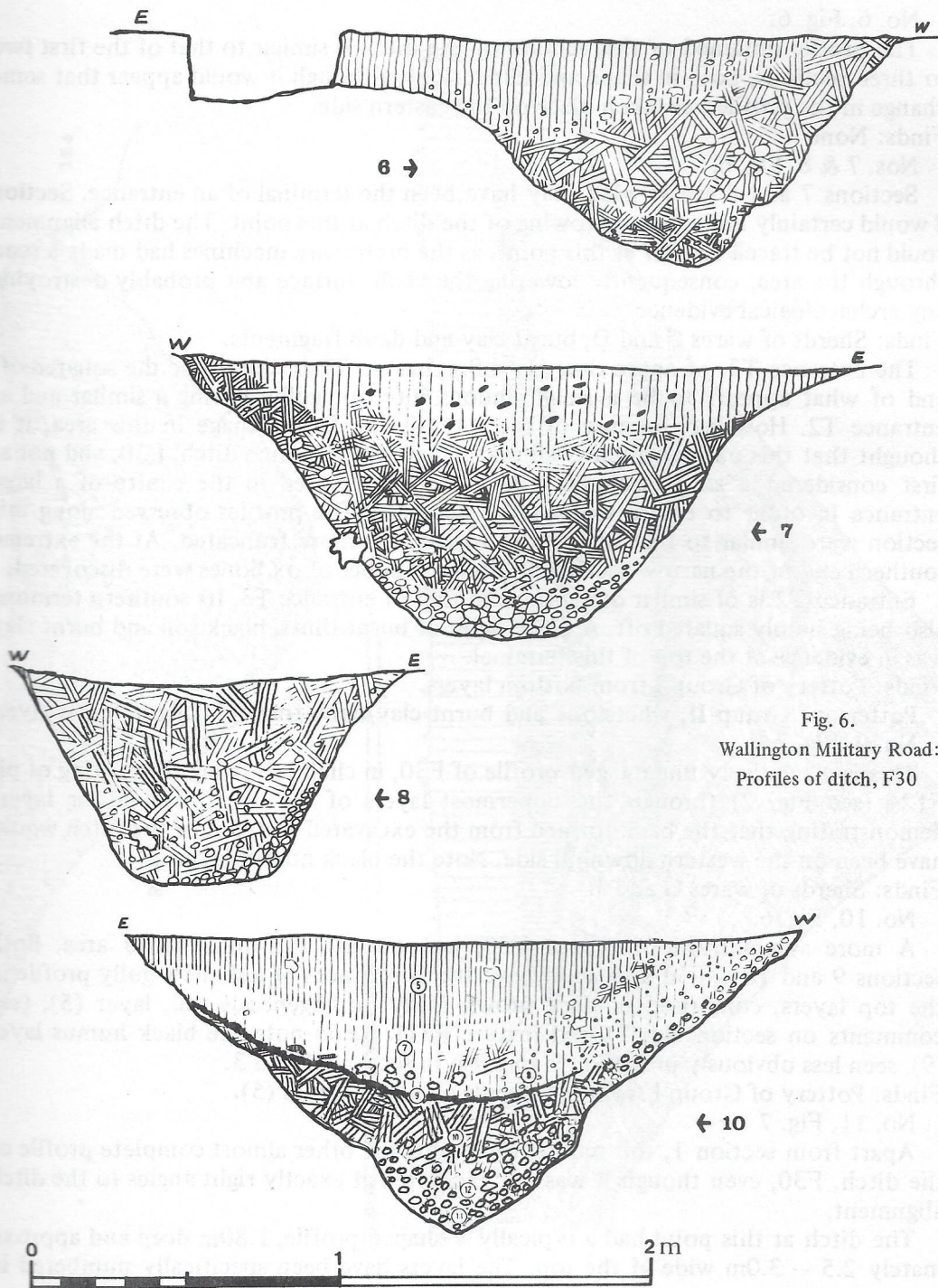


Fig. 5. Wallington Military Road: Profiles of ditch, F30



No. 6, Fig. 6.

The profile obtained of this section of the ditch is similar to that of the first two to three sections, both in shape and dimensions, although it would appear that some change in the profile has taken place on the eastern side.

Finds: None

Nos. 7 & 8, Fig. 6.

Sections 7 and 8 are at what may have been the terminal of an entrance. Section 8 would certainly indicate a narrowing of the ditch at this point. The ditch alignment could not be traced further at this point, as the motorway machines had made a road through the area, consequently lowering the chalk surface and probably destroying any archaeological evidence.

Finds: Sherds of wares C and D, burnt clay and daub fragments.

The entrance T3, of approximately 4.0m, has on its southern side the squared-off end of what appears to be a small sinuous ditch or gully, having a similar end at entrance T2. However, because of the intensive surface damage in this area, it is thought that this narrow ditch is all that remains of the same ditch, F30, and not as first considered a small secondary ditch or gully placed in the centre of a large entrance in order to create two smaller openings. The profiles observed along this section were similar to that of section 8, although more truncated. At the extreme southern end of the narrow section of ditch a number of ox bones were discovered.

Entrance T2 is of similar dimensions to that of entrance T3. Its southern terminal also being simply squared off. A dense layer of burnt flints, black soil and burnt clay was in evidence at the top of this terminal.

Finds: Pottery of Group I from bottom layers.

Pottery of Group II, whetstone and burnt clay/daub fragments from burnt layer.

No. 9, Fig. 7.

This is a relatively undamaged profile of F30, in chalk, showing the cutting of pit F124 (see Fig. 2) through the uppermost layers of the ditch. The silting layers demonstrating that the bank formed from the excavated material of the ditch would have been on the western downhill side. Note the black humus layer.

Finds: Sherds of wares G and J.

No. 10, Fig. 6.

A more symmetrical profile of F30, just outside the undisturbed area. Both sections 9 and 10 would appear to have the faint traces of a shallow gully profile in the top layers, comprised of dark brown fairly homogeneous soil, layer (5), (see comments on section No. 11 and feature F31). Again note the black humus layer (9), seen less obviously in section 9 and also in sections 1 and 3.

Finds: Pottery of Group I from (6), sherds of ware G from (5).

No. 11, Fig. 7.

Apart from section 1, this section represents the other almost complete profile of the ditch, F30, even though it was not excavated at exactly right angles to the ditch alignment.

The ditch at this point had a typically V-shaped profile, 1.80m deep and approximately 2.5 – 3.0m wide at the top. The layers have been specifically numbered in

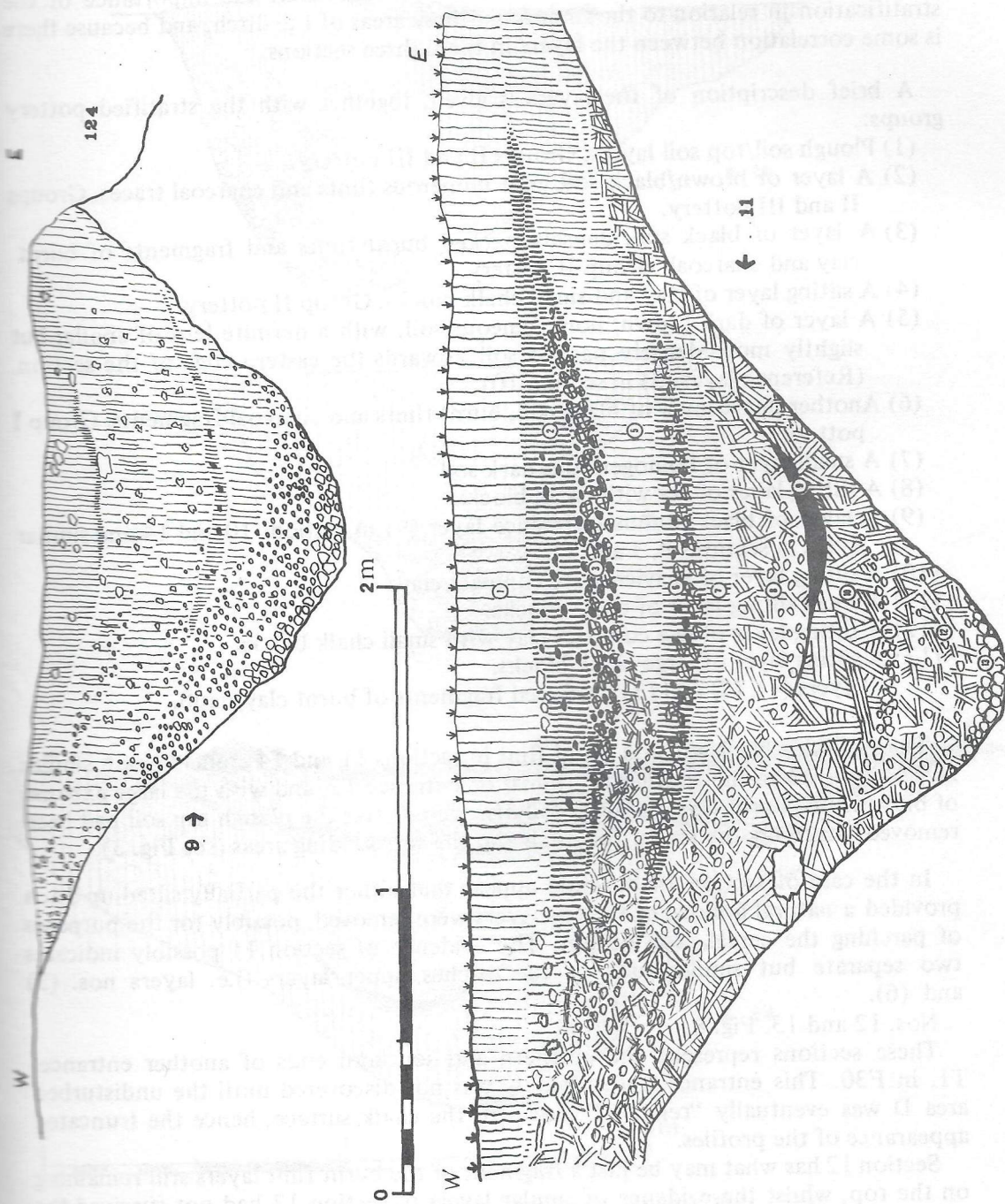


Fig. 7. Wallington Military Road: Profiles of ditch, F30

this section, as well as in sections 10 and 14, because of the importance of the stratification in relation to the finds from these areas of the ditch, and because there is some correlation between the layers in these three sections.

A brief description of the layers is given, together with the stratified pottery groups:

- (1) Plough soil/top soil layers. Groups II and III pottery.
- (2) A layer of brown/black soil with numerous flints and charcoal traces. Groups II and III pottery.
- (3) A layer of black soil, densely packed burnt flints and fragments of burnt clay and charcoal. Group II pottery.
- (4) A silting layer of clay and small chalk blocks. Group II pottery.
- (5) A layer of dark brown, homogeneous soil, with a definite lens of similar but slightly more densely packed soil, towards the eastern edge of the section. (Reference layer (5) in section 10).
- (6) Another dense layer of black soil, burnt flints and charcoal fragments. Group I pottery.
- (7) A small layer of homogeneous dark soil
- (8) A silting layer of lay with chalk blocks.
- (9) A layer of black humus (reference layer (9) in sections 10 and 14 and similar layers in sections 9, 3 and 1).
- (10) A silting layer of heavier more compact clay.
- (11) A small silting layer of chalk blocks.
- (12) A silting layer of less compact clay with small chalk blocks.
- (13) A silting layer of large chalk blocks.

Layers (1), (2) and (3) produced fragments of burnt clay/daub.

The layers of black soil and burnt flint in sections 11 and 14 coincide with similar layers observed in the southern terminal of entrance T2, and with the large expanse of burnt flints, burnt clay and dark soil discovered after the plough top soil had been removed, overlying the top of the ditch and the surrounding areas (see Fig. 3).

In the case of section 14 it would appear that either the partially silted up ditch provided a natural hollow, or the top layers were removed, possibly for the purposes of parching the cereal crop output. The evidence of section 11 possibly indicates two separate but similar uses of the ditches upper layers (i.e. layers nos. (3) and (6).

Nos. 12 and 13, Fig. 8.

These sections represent the northern and southern ends of another entrance, T1, in F30. This entrance unfortunately was not discovered until the undisturbed area D was eventually "removed" down to the chalk surface, hence the truncated appearance of the profiles.

Section 12 has what may be just a fragment of the burnt flint layers still remaining on the top, whilst the evidence of similar layers in section 13 had not survived the

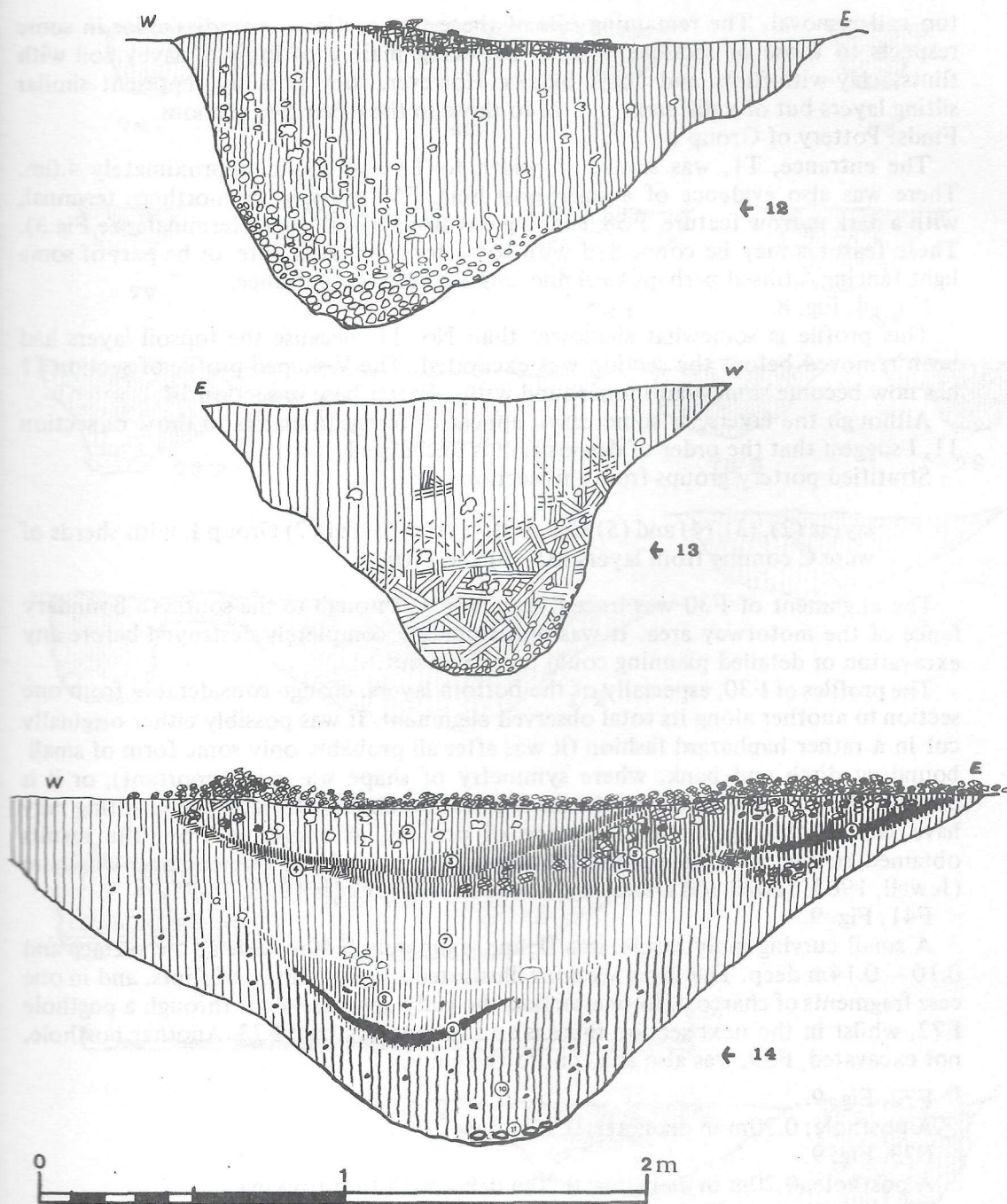


Fig. 8. Wallington Military Road: Profiles of ditch, F30

top soil removal. The remaining fills of these two sections were dissimilar in some respects to those of sections 11 and 14, being mainly of brown, clayey soil with flints, clay-with-flints and chalk blocks. However, they possibly represent similar silting layers but of a different matrix to those in the other two sections.

Finds: Pottery of Group I.

The entrance, T1, was similar in width to T2 and T3, ie. approximately 4.0m. There was also evidence of a small post hole, F57, outside the northern terminal, with a dark narrow feature, F58, running out from the southern terminal (see Fig.3). These features may be connected with some form of crude gate, or be part of some light fencing, utilised perhaps to funnel animals into the entrance.

No. 14, Fig. 8.

This profile is somewhat shallower than No. 11, because the topsoil layers had been removed before the section was excavated. The V-shaped profile of section 11 has now become somewhat more round with a flatter base in section 14.

Although the layers, in some cases, appear different in matrix to those of section 11, I suggest that the order of desposition is unchanged.

Stratified pottery groups from this section are:

layers (2), (3), (4) and (5) Group II, layers (6) and (7) Group I, with sherds of ware C coming from layers (8), (9) and (10).

The alignment of F30 was traced, very faintly, through to the southern boundary fence of the motorway area. It was unfortunately completely destroyed before any excavation or detailed planning could be carried out.

The profiles of F30, especially of the bottom layers, change considerably from one section to another along its total observed alignment. It was possibly either originally cut in a rather haphazard fashion (it was after all probably only some form of small boundary ditch and bank, where symmetry of shape was not important), or it is possible that the weathering of the ditch sides combined with fairly rapid silting may have caused this apparent divergence of profiles, as suggested from the results obtained so far on the experimental research earthworks of Overton and Wareham (Jewell, 1963; Jewell and Dimbleby, 1968, 313-421; Coles 1973, 76-77).

F41, Fig. 9.

A small curving gully inside area D; approximately 0.40m wide at the surface and 0.10 – 0.14m deep. The three sections illustrated show evidence of flints, and in one case fragments of charcoal. In one section the gully appears to cut through a posthole F72, whilst in the next section there is an adjacent posthole F73. Another posthole, not excavated, F39, was also adjacent to the gully.

F72, Fig. 9.

A posthole; 0.20m in diameter; 0.20m deep.

F73, Fig. 9.

A posthole; 0.20m in diameter; 0.20m deep, with flint packing.

F39 (not illustrated).

A posthole; 0.25m in diameter.

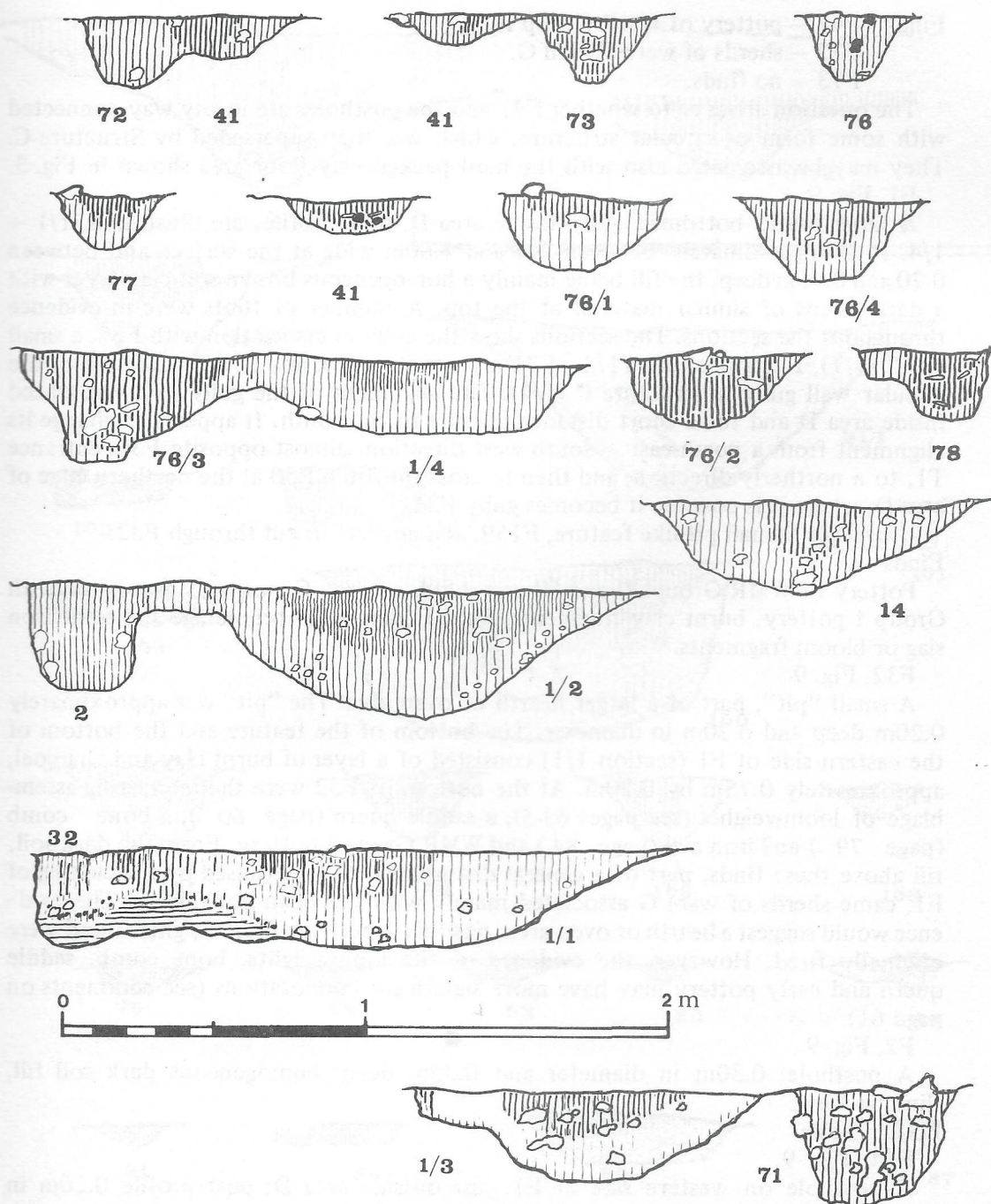


Fig. 9. Wallington Military Road: Profiles of other features

Finds: F41 - pottery of WMR Group II.
 F72 - sherds of wares F and G.
 F73 - no finds.

The question arises as to whether F41 and the postholes are in any way connected with some form of circular structure, which was then superseded by Structure C. They may be associated also with the hard packed clay floor area shown in Fig. 3.

F1, Fig. 9.

A large round bottomed gully inside area D, four profiles are illustrated, 1/1 - 1/4. It is approximately between 1.0 and 1.60m wide at the surface and between 0.20 and 0.45m deep, the fill being mainly a homogeneous brown soil/clay layer with a darker lens of similar material at the top. A number of flints were in evidence throughout the sections. The sections show the gully in association with F32, a small "pit" (1/1), F2, a posthole (1/2), F71 a posthole (1/3), and F76/3, a section of the circular wall gully in structure C (1/4). The alignment of the gully, F1, was traced inside area D and for a short distance outside to the south. It appears to change its alignment from a north-east - south-west direction, almost opposite F30, entrance T1, to a northerly direction, and then to cross the ditch F30 at the northern edge of area D, where it is possible it becomes gully F31.

It overlies a small pit-like feature, F159, and appears to cut through F32.

Finds:

Pottery of WMR Groups II and III and sherds of ware C, normally associated with Group I pottery, burnt clay fragments, some fragments of briquetage and some iron slag or bloom fragments.

F32, Fig. 9.

A small "pit", part of a larger hearth or oven area. The "pit" was approximately 0.20m deep and 0.20m in diameter. The bottom of the feature and the bottom of the eastern side of F1 (section 1/1) consisted of a layer of burnt clay and charcoal, approximately 0.75m by 0.20m. At the bottom of F32 were the interesting assemblage of loomweights (see pages 63-5), a saddle quern (page 60), a bone comb (page 79) an? iron awl (page 84) and WMR Group I pottery. From the dark soil, fill above these finds, part of a general disturbance of F32 caused by the cutting of F1, came sherds of ware G associated mainly with saucepan pot fabrics. The evidence would suggest a hearth or oven area, possibly where the loomweights found were originally fired. However, the evidence of the loomweights, bone comb, saddle quern and early pottery may have more significant connotations (see comments on page 61).

F2, Fig. 9.

A posthole; 0.30m in diameter and 0.35m deep; homogeneous dark soil fill, flint packing.

Finds: None.

F14, Fig. 9.

A posthole on western side of F1, just outside area D; post profile 0.20m in diameter; 0.15m deep; dark soil fill; flint packing.

Finds: a few sherds of wares C and D.

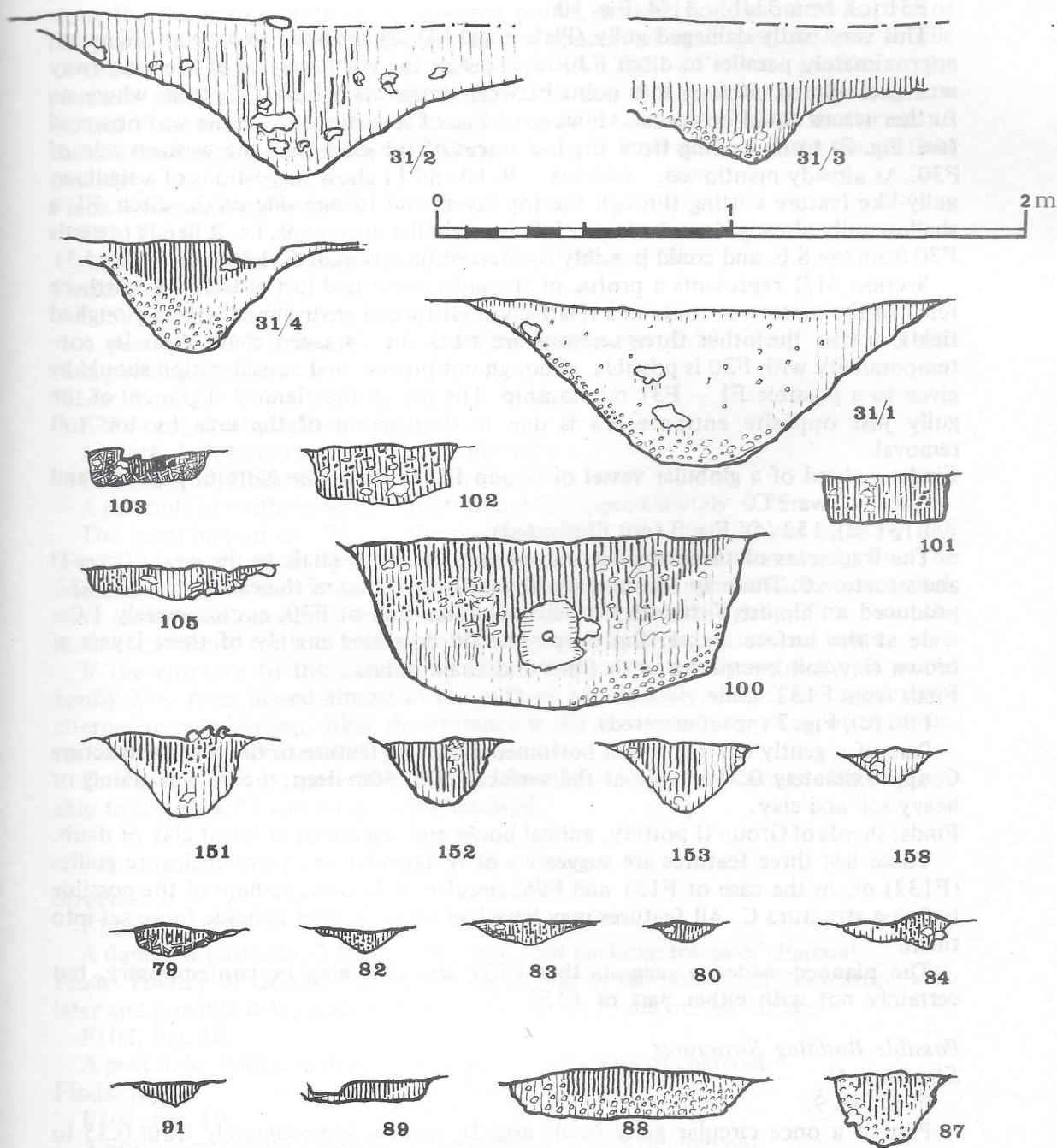


Fig. 10. Wallington Military Road: Profiles of other features

F31 (c), Nos. 31/1 – 31/4, Fig. 10.

This very badly damaged gully (Plate I and Fig. 2) appeared to have an alignment approximately parallel to ditch F30 for most of the northern part of the motorway area (i.e. approx 50.0m) to a point between entrances T3 and T2, from where no further traces could be found. However, a line of tentative stake holes was observed (see Fig. 2) to be leading from the last traces of the gully into the western side of F30. As already mentioned, sections 9, 10 and 11 show suggestions of a shallow gully-like feature cutting through the top layers and to one side of the ditch. F1, a shallow gully already described, also follows a similar alignment, i.e. it bends towards F30 from the S.E. and could possibly form a continuation of F31 (see Figs. 2 and 3).

Section 31/1 represents a profile of the gully excavated just outside the northern fence of the motorway route in a relatively undisturbed environment (i.e. a ploughed field), whilst the other three sections are from the damaged chalk area. Its contemporaneity with F30 is possible, although not proven, and consideration should be given to a possible F1 – F31 relationship. The gap in the planned alignment of the gully just opposite entrance T3 is due to destruction of the area by top soil removal.

Finds: a sherd of a globular vessel of Group I/II Pottery (see Note 6, page) and sherds of ware C.

F131 (c), 132 (c), Fig. 3 (not illustrated).

The fragments of three angular shaped features in the chalk to the west of area D and structure C. The only feature partially excavated, that of the eastern part of 132, produced an almost V-shaped profile, not unlike that of F30, approximately 1.0m wide at the surface and 1.10m deep. The fill consisted mainly of three layers of brown clay/soil intermixed with flints and chalk debris.

Finds from F132: none.

F96 (c), Fig. 3 (not illustrated).

Part of a gently curving round bottomed gully-like feature to the east of structure C; approximately 0.75m wide at the surface and 0.50m deep; the fill was mainly of heavy soil and clay.

Finds: sherds of Group II pottery, animal bones and fragments of burnt clay or daub.

These last three features are suggestive of rectangular or square enclosure gullies (F132) or, in the case of F131 and F96, circular enclosures, perhaps of the possible building structure C. All features may have had some form of palisade fence set into them.

The planned evidence suggests that F131 and F96 may be contemporary, but certainly not with either part of F132.

Possible Building Structures

Structure C

F76, Fig. 9.

Part of a once circular gully inside area D, varying approximately from 0.35 to 0.60m in width at the surface, and 0.15 – 0.30m deep. The fill varied from brown clay/soil to a darker soil fill, with flint packing and charcoal traces. At three points

along the southern section there appeared round, shallow, hollows in the bottom of the gully floor, which could possibly be the remains of small post sockets. Profile 76 is of the feature in the northern section, whilst 76/1 – 76/3 are profiles of the southern section. It would appear from Fig. 3 that the terminal of the northern section of the feature is squared off, suggesting an entrance. A possible similar end to the southern section will have been destroyed by a 19th century Tithe award field boundary.

Finds: a few sherds of ware G.

F77, Fig. 9.

A posthole; 0.25m in diameter, 0.15m deep, dark soil fill.

Finds: None.

F78, Fig. 9.

A posthole with a possible recut; 0.20m in diameter; 0.20m deep; dark soil fill; flint packing.

Finds: None.

F78a (not illustrated), see Fig. 3.

A posthole approximately 0.25m in diameter.

F127 (c) (not illustrated), see Fig. 3.

A posthole in northern section of Structure C, approximately 0.25m in diameter.

The combination of F76 and the postholes F77, 78, 78a, 127 and possibly F88 (Fig. 3) plausibly suggest part of a circular structure of original diameter 11.0m. The walls, probably of wattle and daub, although no evidence of this nature was found, were constructed around a framework of small posts set in the gully, F76. From the posthole evidence the roof was probably supported by a ring of internal posts.

If the entrance to the building is situated where previously suggested, it would hardly have been placed almost in the path of a wide gully (F1). This suggests two alternative possibilities; either the entrance is not situated as suggested, or the structure is not contemporary with gully F1.

Due to the lack of material evidence from the structure C features, the relationship to the gully F1 cannot be easily resolved.

Structure B

F103, Fig. 10.

A damaged posthole; 0.35m in diameter, flint packing; traces of charcoal.

Finds: Pottery of Groups I and II in association at the bottom of the feature, with later and possible R-B abraded sherds of Group III found on the surface.

F102, Fig. 10.

A post hole: 0.40m in diameter; flint packing; traces of charcoal.

Finds: None.

F101, Fig. 10.

A posthole; 0.38m in diameter; flint packing; traces of charcoal.

Finds: None.

F105, Fig. 10.

A damaged, double posthole; one 0.18m, the other 0.20m in diameter; flint packing in both; charcoal traces in both.

Finds: None.

F104, no section (see Fig. 3).

An unexcavated posthole 0.30 – 0.40m in diameter.

F100, Fig. 10.

An oval shaped pit; straight-sided, with a rounded base; dug into a clay-with-flints layer; 1.25m in diameter across longest axis and 0.50m deep.

The fill consisted of small chalk blocks, brown soil/clay in the bottom layers, whilst the remainder consisted of a larger layer of darker soil and clay intermixed with flints and flecks of charcoal. A large amount of pottery sherds, quernstone fragments, briquetage and burnt clay was packed into the centre of this layer.

Finds: Pottery of Group II with some abraded sherds of later wares.

F106, no section (see Fig. 3).

A damaged hearth or oven feature; a semicircular layer, approximately 0.50m in diameter, of flints, burnt flints and burnt clay. Two shallow gullies ran on either side of the feature, although one appeared to run through its edge.

It is suggested that these features form the remains of a circular posthole construction of approximately 7.0m in diameter. Traces of a possible wall gully, as in structure C, may well have been removed with the top soil, just leaving the evidence of the possible posthole roof supports. The reasons behind the original digging of the oval shaped pit and then filling it with broken artefacts must remain obscure.

“Structure” D

F151 (c), Fig. 10.

A posthole; post profile approximately 0.25m in diameter; flint packing, charcoal traces.

Finds: sherds of ware D and G.

F152 (c), Fig. 10.

A posthole; post profile approximately 0.30m in diameter; flint packing.

Finds: None.

F153 (c), Fig. 10.

A posthole; post profile approximately 0.20m in diameter; flint packing.

Finds: None

F156 (c), Fig. 11.

A posthole, post profile approximately 0.25m in diameter; flint packing.

Finds: None.

F154 (c), Fig. 11.

A possible posthole; no evidence of post profile or packing material.

Finds: None

Features 151, 153 and 156 are suggested somewhat tentatively as part of an almost square, four post structure of sides approximately 2.50m. It is also possible, if my premise is correct, that F152 and F154 are also part of the same structure.

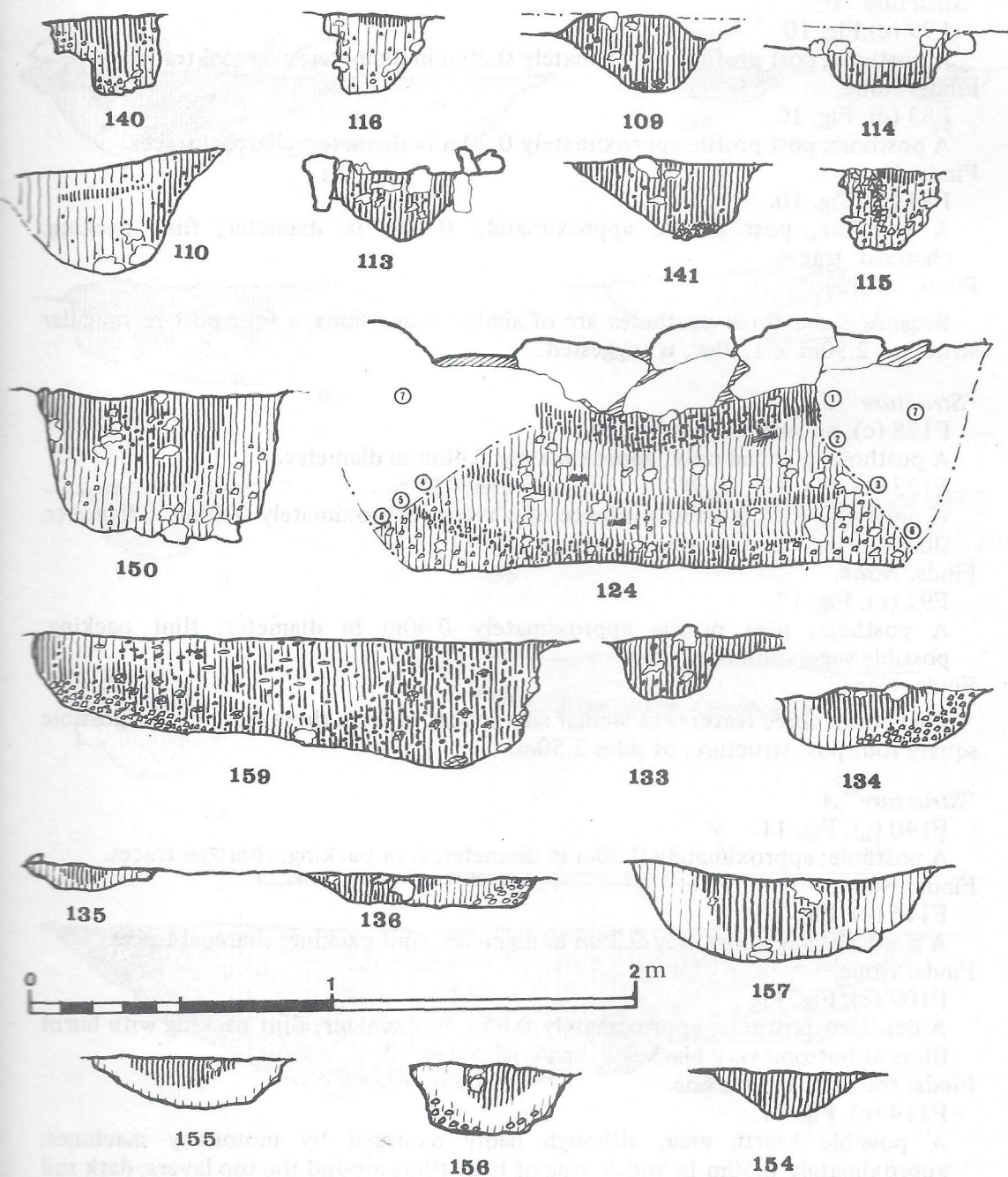


Fig. 11. Wallington Military Road: Profiles of other features

“Structure” F

F79 (c), Fig. 10.

A posthole; post profile approximately 0.20m in diameter; charcoal traces.

Finds: None.

F83 (c), Fig. 10.

A posthole; post profile approximately 0.20m in diameter; charcoal traces.

Finds: None.

F84 (c), Fig. 10.

A posthole; post profile approximately 0.20m in diameter; flint packing; charcoal traces.

Finds: None.

Because these three postholes are of similar dimensions, a four post rectangular structure 2.50m x 1.50m, is suggested.

“Structure” E

F128 (c), no section (See Fig. 3).

A posthole, planned only, approximately 0.40m in diameter.

F133 (c), Fig. 11.

A posthole, with possible evidence of a recut: approximately 0.40m in diameter, flint packing, charcoal traces.

Finds: None.

F92 (c), Fig. 12.

A posthole; post profile approximately 0.40m in diameter; flint packing; possible suggestion of a recut.

Finds: None.

Again these three features of similar size appear to form three corners of a possible square four-post structure, of sides 2.50m.

“Structure” A

F140 (c), Fig. 11.

A posthole; approximately 0.20m in diameter; flint packing; charcoal traces.

Finds: None.

F116 (c), Fig. 11.

A posthole; approximately 0.25m in diameter; flint packing; charcoal traces.

Finds: None.

F109 (c), Fig. 11.

A damaged posthole; approximately 0.45m in diameter; flint packing with burnt flints at bottom; very black soil; charcoal traces.

Finds: traces of burnt bone.

F114 (c), Fig. 11.

A possible hearth area, although badly damaged by motorway machines; approximately 0.50m in width; ring of large flints around the top layers; dark soil with appreciable traces of charcoal.

Finds: None.

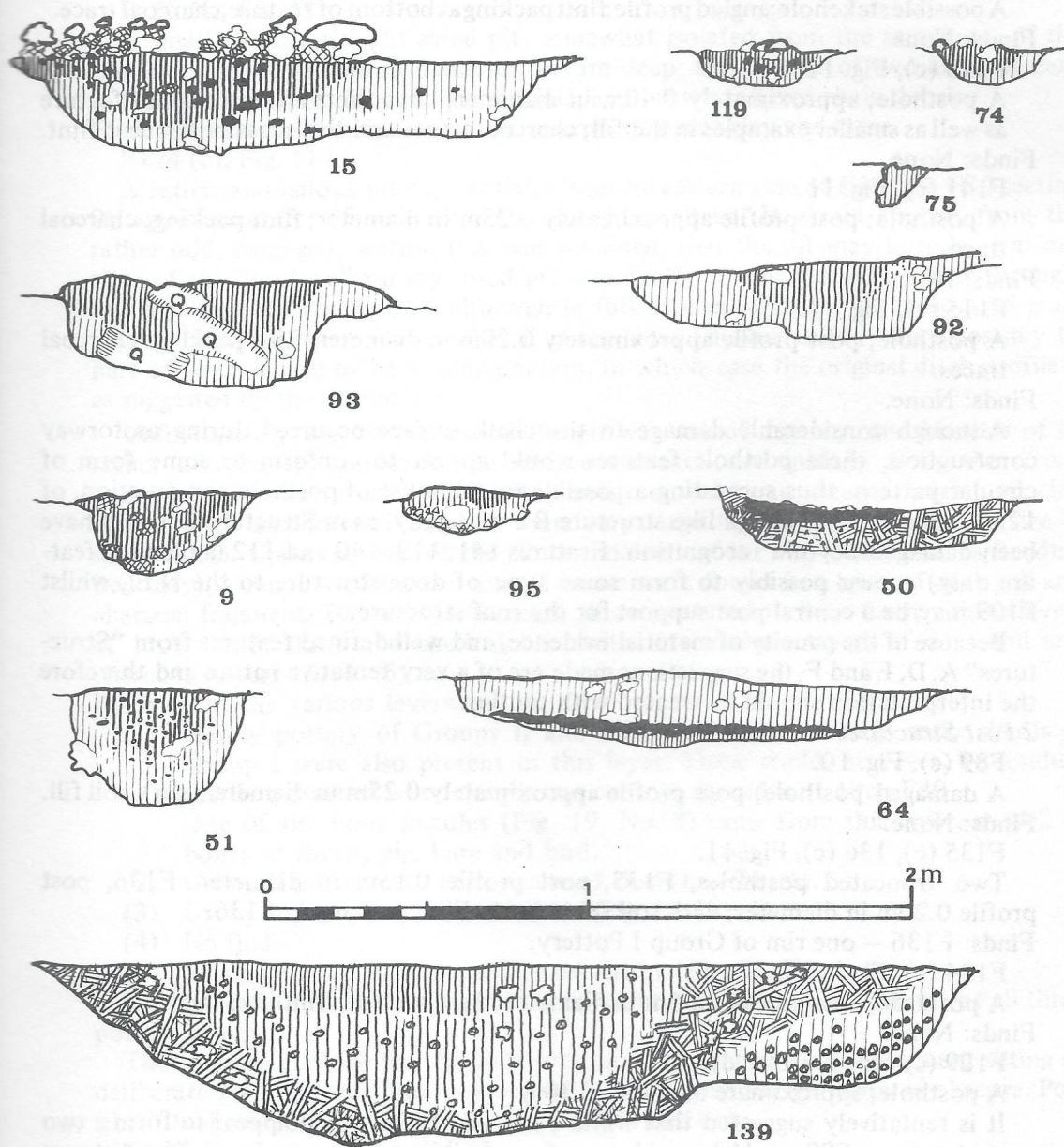


Fig. 12. Wallington Military Road: Profiles of other features

F110 (c), Fig. 11.

A possible stakehole; angled profile; flint packing at bottom of feature; charcoal trace.

Finds: None.

F113 (c), Fig. 11.

A posthole; approximately 0.40m in diameter; large flints around edge of feature as well as smaller examples in the fill; charcoal traces and the occasional burnt flint.

Finds: None

F141 (c), Fig. 11.

A posthole; post profile approximately 0.25m in diameter; flint packing; charcoal traces.

Finds: None.

F115 (c), Fig. 11.

A posthole; post profile approximately 0.20m in diameter, flint packing; charcoal traces.

Finds: None.

Although considerable damage to the chalk surface occurred during motorway construction, these posthole features would appear to conform to some form of circular pattern, thus suggesting a possible round house of posthole construction, of 12m in diameter, although like structure B a wall gully, as in Structure C, could have been damaged beyond recognition. Features 141, 113, 140 and 112 (a planned feature only) appear possibly to form some type of door structure to the N.E., whilst F109 may be a central post support for the roof structure.

Because of the paucity of material evidence, and well defined features from "Structures" A, D, E and F, the suggestions made are of a very tentative nature and therefore the interpretation should be treated with caution.

2 Post Structures

F89 (c), Fig. 10.

A damaged posthole; post profile approximately 0.25m in diameter; dark soil fill.

Finds: None.

F135 (c), 136 (c), Fig. 11.

Two truncated postholes, F135, post profile 0.15m in diameter. F136, post profile 0.20m in diameter, dark soil fill in both. Flint packing in F136.

Finds: F136 - one rim of Group I Pottery.

F134 (c), Fig. 11.

A posthole; post profile 0.35m in diameter; dark soil fill, flint packing.

Finds: None.

F129 (c) (not illustrated).

A posthole; approximate diameter 0.30m.

It is tentatively suggested that while F135 and F136 would appear to form a two post structure, F89 could be evidence of a rebuilding of the structure. The distance between each feature is approximately 0.50m. The suggestion of a two post structure is also offered for F134 and F129 although they are only 0.40m apart.

If the above premise is accepted, then they may be interpreted as possible drying racks as suggested in the first place by Bersu in his report on the Little Woodbury excavation (1940, 94-96).

Pits

F150 (c), Fig. 11.

A small circular straight sided pit, somewhat isolated from the remainder of the site (see Fig. 2); 0.80m in diameter; 0.45m deep; fill consists of two areas of dark soil fill with charcoal fragments and flints, and brown soil and chalk debris.

Finds: sherds of the early ware A. Fragments of burnt clay and bone.

F124 (c), Fig. 11.

A rather anomalous pit dug partially into the eastern side of F30 (see F30 section 9), approximately 1.5 — 1.8m wide and 0.70m deep. It would appear, from the rather odd, damaged, section that was obtained, that the pit may have been at one time of the "beehive" variety, used predominantly for the storage of grain throughout Iron Age sites in Wessex, although in this case no evidence of carbonised grain found. However, the very weathered chalk sides (shown as [7]) may possibly be part of some silting or back filling action, in which case the original ditch profile is as suggested by the dotted lines.

Unfortunately the excavation of the pit was one of urgency, and because of its rather unusual appearance at the surface was sectioned initially along the wrong alignment. It was revealed during top soil removal as an area of bright red clay capped with and intermixed with some very large flints (0.20 — 0.35m in size in some cases). Upon removal of the flints and some of the clay (identified as Reading Bed clay), a number of broken animal bones were found in a layer of dark soil and charcoal fragments (layer [1]). Beneath there appeared to be a further three layers of brown soil, flints and chalk debris, with intermediate layers of dark soil and charcoal (layers (3) & (5)).

Finds from the various layers are:

- (1) Mainly pottery of Groups II and III were found, although some sherds of Group I were also present in this layer. These could, however, be residual sherds disturbed when the pit was cut into the sides of ditch F30.
One of the bone handles (Fig. 19, No. 3) came from this layer, as well as bones of sheep, pig, hare and bird.
- (2) Group II pottery and the open work disc (Fig. 21, No. 5).
- (3) Group II pottery and bone handle (Fig. 19, No. 4).
- (4) No finds.
- (5) Sickle (Fig. 20, No. 2) and harness fitting (Fig. 21, No. 1).

Unstratified finds include fragments of burnt clay or daub and sherds of all three pottery groups.

The original purpose for the construction of the pit and its subsequent silting or deliberate refilling, and final capping with red clay and large flints, is obscure. Possible 'ritual' overtones, however, should not be ruled out.

F159, Fig. 11.

An oval shaped, shallow pit, underlying F1 in area D; 1.60m across its longest axis; 0.20m deep at one end and 0.35m deep at the other. Due to the presence of a large number of burnt flints and charcoal fragments in a black soil fill, the evidence would suggest an oven or hearth area or perhaps a hollow, similar to that as suggested

for the top layers of F30, Section 14, and used for the parching of grain.

Finds: sherds of wares F and H.

F93 (c), Fig. 12.

A damaged, small, oval shaped pit with straight sides, north of area D and east of F30; 0.80m across longest axis; 0.20 — 0.30m deep. The pit was virtually packed full of quernstone fragments situated in a dark soil layer, with light brown soil forming the bottom layer. One almost complete coarse greensand saddle quern (page) was found with a number of other similar fragments.

Finds also included the only sherds from the site of a possible shell gritted ware, which could suggest an early date.

F139 (c), Fig. 12.

This anomalous feature was the first to be discovered and excavated on the site (see Fig. 2), although its remoteness from the main occupation area almost precludes it from any possible association. It was roughly diamond shaped in plan, approximately 2.80 — 3.0m across and 0.50m deep. The fill consisted of a number of silting layers of clay with flints, brown soil/clay with chalk debris, and with a lens of darker soil at the surface. See section of hollow No. 7 in Little Woodbury report (Bersu, 1940, Fig. 16).

Finds: small fragments of ware G.

Its function is rather obscure, although it may possibly be some form of chalk quarry or "working hollow".

F99, (not illustrated).

A small pit-like feature, a metre away from pit F32 (see Fig. 3). Its shape was asymmetrical, with straight sides, approximately 0.60 — 0.75m across and 0.40 — 0.50m deep. The fill consisted mainly of clay and soil, with a scatter of small flints.

Finds: sherds of Group I pottery and some burnt clay fragments.

Hearths

F15, Fig. 12.

A hearth or oven like feature, situated in the burnt flint area overlying F30 and surrounding areas. Almost circular in shape, it was approximately 1.50m in diameter and 0.25m deep. One end consisted of black soil, large charcoal fragments and a large number of burnt flints in the fill. Partially surrounding the surface of the black area was a ring of burnt and natural flints, with fragments of burnt clay.

Finds: sherds of ware D.

F50 (c), Fig. 12.

A possible hearth feature just north of F64 and east of F30 (see Fig. 2); 0.90m in diameter; 0.10m deep. An intense black soil/charcoal layer was in evidence at one end of the feature, with a small number of burnt flints at the surface.

Finds: None.

F64 (c), Fig. 12.

Another possible hearth area, almost on the eastern edge of F30 (see Fig. 2); 1.20m in diameter; 0.20m deep; a dense black soil layer with charcoal and dark soil beneath formed the bottom of the feature. A silting layer of brown soil and flints

overlay the hearth area.

Finds: sherds of ware D, a footring base of ware G, and fragments of burnt clay and bone.

Other postholes/stakeholes

F158, Fig. 10.

A small posthole, south of 'structure' D; 0.25m in diameter; dark soil fill; flint packing.

Finds: None.

F82 (c), Fig. 10.

A small truncated posthole or stakehole to the east of 'structure' F; 0.25m in diameter; dark soil fill with charcoal fragments.

Finds: None.

F80 (c), Fig. 10.

A small, truncated posthole or stakehole to the east of 'structure' F; 0.20m in diameter; dark soil fill; flint packing.

Finds: None.

F91 (c), Fig. 10.

A possible small posthole or stakehole to east of structure C; 0.20m in diameter; dark soil fill.

Finds: None.

F87 (c), Fig. 10.

A posthole outside structure C, south of the Tithe award field boundary; 0.30m in diameter; 0.25m deep; dark soil fill with charcoal fragments; flint packing.

Finds: None.

F157, Fig. 11.

A large posthole to the east of F158; post profile 0.45m in diameter; 0.15m deep; dark soil fill; flint packing.

Finds: sherds of wares D and G.

F155, Fig. 11.

A posthole in vicinity of F158 and F157; post profile 0.30m in diameter; dark soil fill; flint packing.

Finds: None.

F119, Fig. 12.

A truncated posthole on the eastern edge of ditch F30, in area of burnt flints overlying this feature in area D; 0.35m in diameter; 0.10m deep; dark soil fill; charcoal fragments, flint packing.

Finds: None.

F74, Fig. 12.

A posthole in the hard packed clay area south of gully F41; 0.30m in diameter 0.10m deep; dark soil fill; flint packing.

Finds: None.

F75, Fig. 12.

A stakehole; adjacent to F74; 0.08m in diameter; 0.10m deep; dark soil fill.

Finds: None.

IRON AGE SITE AT WALLINGTON MILITARY ROAD – 1972

F91, Fig. 10.

A large posthole between F1 and structure C; 0.40m in diameter; 0.20m deep; dark soil fill; burnt flints; flint packing.

Finds: None.

F95 (c), Fig. 12.

A truncated posthole on western edge of gully F96; post profile 0.10m in diameter; dark soil fill.

Finds: None.

F51 (c), Fig. 12.

A posthole adjacent to F50; post profile 0.25m in diameter; 0.20m deep; dark soil fill; charcoal fragments; flint packing.

Finds: None.

Discussion

A conjectural interpretation of the occupation phases of the site is given in Table I.

Table I
Proposed Occupation Phases

1	2a	2b	3
F30 linear boundary	F41) possible)structural F72) remains	F30 top layers Burnt flint area	General layer (1)
F32 oven/hearth	F159 (underlying F1)	Structures B,C,D,E and F	
F150) F93) pits F99)	hearth/oven	F1/F31 gully Pits F100, F124 F96, F131, enclosure gullies	
Structure A	F132 enclosure gully		
?2-post structures			
WMR Group I pottery loomweights bone comb saddle quern iron ?awl	WMR Group II pottery	WMR Group II/III pottery rotary querns briquetage ironwork	WMR Group III pottery

From a limited examination of some comparative evidence the following comments have been made on the possible function of some of the excavated features.

The linear ditch, F30, too irregular in shape and too small to be defensive, with its three "entrances" and of recorded length 200–300 metres, is comparable to a

number of similar early Iron Age features. Examples can be quoted from Quarley Hill, Hants (Hawkes, 1939, 136-94), where they were of similar size and profile to the WMR ditch but were in some cases 2-5 kilometres in length. Other examples from Wessex sites are Ladle Hill (Piggott, 1931, 474-85), where a linear ditch approximately 1 km in length was thought to precede the construction phase of the unfinished hill-fort and Meon Hill (Liddell, 1933, 128-129), where a linear ditch formed part of an early pastoral enclosure and again was of similar shape and size to that from WMR. Worthy Down (Dunning *et al*, 1929, 178-92) also provided early phase linear ditches, whilst earlier excavations on Portsdown (Bradley, 1969, 42-58) produced evidence of a linear feature associated with a line of postholes on either side and traced for about 100 metres, from which came 5th-6th C B.C. pottery.

Nearly all these linear features have been suggested to be some form of boundary earthworks, perhaps providing a division between arable and pastoral activities.

From the excavated sections of F30, there appears to have been a small bank on the western, downhill side, which may have supported a fence as the small ditch and bank alone could hardly have prevented animals from straying across the boundary, if this was the earthwork's main function.

It is therefore quite possible that F30 may have enclosed an area of downland on the SW slopes of Portsdown. It runs very approximately along the 150 foot contour and may have enclosed an area of about 30-40 hectares between the 150 foot contour line and the 200 foot "plateau" that exists today. It may also have joined a trackway or ridgeway, at some nearby focal point, which ran across the top of the hill.

The reason for three closely spaced openings in F30 is somewhat obscure, especially in relation to the movement of animals. It may be that they were the entrances of three tracks coming from different directions, leading to a settlement or farmstead which lay close by. This settlement is not, however, identifiable from the rescued evidence, apart from F32 and the three small pits F150, F93 and F99, unless circular structure A, F139, the "working hollow" and the ?2-post structures were part of such a settlement site, although structure A and F139 were somewhat remote from the other excavated features (Fig. 2).

There is no sign of any timber gate construction for any of the entrances, unless the slender evidence just outside entrance T1, is acceptable.

The other linear feature from the site, the gully F31-F1, although not traced any further south than area D, did appear from the excavated section outside the northern motorway fence, to follow roughly the same alignment as its predecessor F30. Rather slender evidence for a few small posts was found which may suggest some form of associated palisade along a part of the length of the gully. The function of the gully would probably have been similar to that of F30 but here there is definite evidence of an occupation site close by one side of the gully and possibly also at its southern extremity.

Regarding structures A, B and C, it would appear that sites with circular structures of similar construction have a wide distribution over much of the Lowland Zone

and some of the Highland Zone in Britain, during the Middle-Late Bronze Age and Iron Age periods.

Some examples from sites in Wessex are Twyford Down (Stuart and Birbeck, 1936, 118-207), where a circular structure of postholes, 7.0 metres in diameter was found and Gussage All Saints (Wainwright, 1973, 113-114), where recent excavations revealed a 9.0 metre diameter, single wall gully, circular hut, together with evidence of a number of post ring structures. At Winchester in recent excavations (Biddle, 1965, 230-64), a circular structure of wall gully construction, with internal posts and of diameter 11.0 metres was uncovered.

Evidence for 4-post structures is increasing, mainly as a result of recent excavations. The three possible examples from WMR may be compared with examples from Maiden Castle (Wheeler, 1943, Plate VII), 2.4 metres square, Credenhill Camp (Stanford, 1971, 100-113), 2.7 metres by 2.4 metres, Grimthorpe (Stead, 1968, 153), 2.4 metres square and 3.1 metres by 2.7 metres, and Gussage All Saints (Wainwright, 1973, 114), 2.0 to 3.0 metres square. Closer at hand, excavations at Danebury in the past two years have revealed a large number of 4-post structures.

Although a number of theories have been advanced as to the function of 4-post structures, e.g. granaries, towers or living quarters, there is no evidence from the WMR examples to favour any of these ideas.

On some of the excavated Iron Age settlement sites in Wessex, small, straight-sided pits of varying sizes have appeared in reasonable numbers. Amongst other things they may contain pottery sherds, loomweights and burnt flints, together with a fill of chalk, clay or soil. The WMR site is no exception, having six to eight small pits of this type that have been dug into the clay-with-flints layers of the chalk.

It would appear that they are certainly not grain storage pits, but more likely pits dug for chalk or clay and soon back-filled with domestic rubbish and remaining overburden.

The only exception may be pit F124, an odd shaped pit, which may originally have been cut for grain storage and after use refilled with chalk, clay and soil rubble and domestic refuse, including the interesting collection of ironwork. The final enactment was to seal the top of the pit with red, Reading Bed clay and very large flints. At Owslebury (Collis, 1970, 254), the sealing of grain storage pits has been performed in a similar manner with red clay. This sealing technique utilising clay has been recorded from a number of other Iron Age sites where grain storage pits have been excavated. It is possible therefore that the original seal to the grain storage pit, F124, was re-used to seal it as a rubbish pit.

Feature F139, although similar in appearance to Bersu's "working hollows" (1940, 78) at Woodbury, used for threshing grain etc., produced no evidence to support use for agricultural activity. The fill looked like natural silting and therefore a more plausible suggestion is that it was used in the extraction of chalk or clay for agricultural or building purposes.

DESCRIPTION OF FINDS

Quernstones

Saddle Querns. Almost complete examples came from two features, along with a few small fragments.

F32 (Fig. 13 No. 2): This example is approximately 30cms long by 15cms wide, with a gently concave working surface. Made of coarse, grey sandstone.

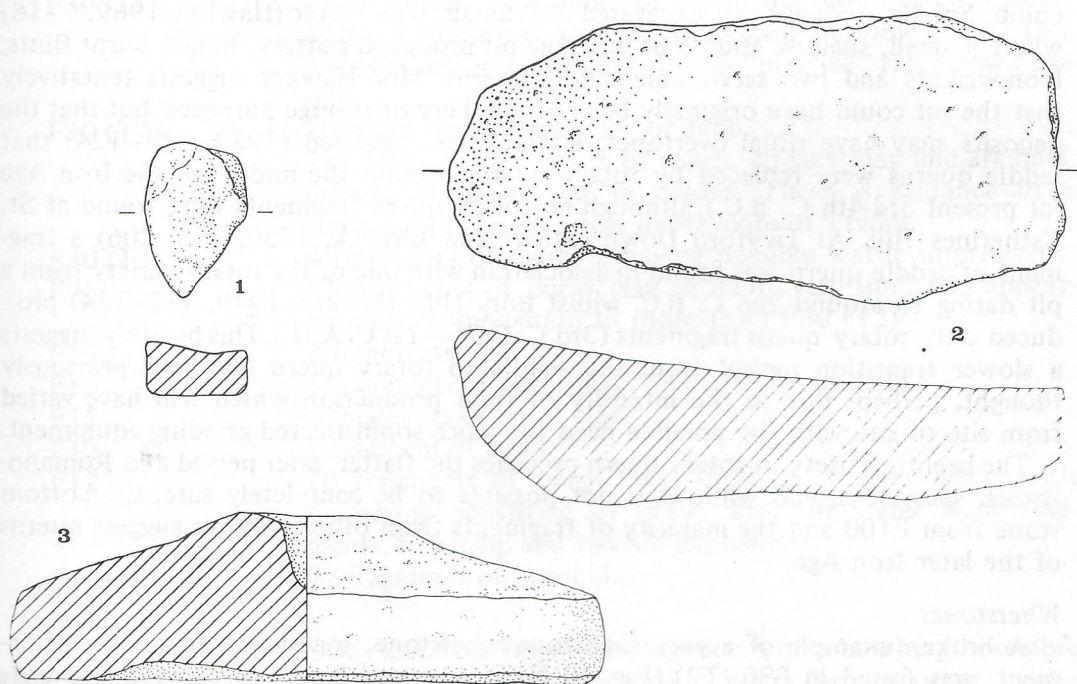


Fig. 13. Wallington Military Road: Whetstone, Saddle and Rotary querns
(Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

F93 (not illustrated): approximately 39cms long by 28cms wide, with a concave working surface, although more irregular in shape than that from F32. Made of coarse, red-brown, ferruginous sandstone, probably Upper Greensand. An example from St. Catherines Hill is 37.5cms long by 26cms wide. (Hawkes, 1930, Fig. 15 No. 3.)

Rotary Querns. Twenty-eight fragments of rotary type quernstones were found in various features, but only in one case was it possible to partially reconstruct a bottom stone.

F100 (Fig. 13 No. 3): 38cms in diameter and 9cms high in the centre, with a scoop 4 cms in diameter and 4.5cms deep at the centre. Made of coarse, grey sandstone.

Discussion

The complete saddle quern from the small pit F32 is of interest, because of its association with early pottery, a number of broken loomweights and a bone weaving comb. Similar evidence was excavated at Winnall, Winchester (Hawkes, 1969, 5–18) where a small, shallow Middle Bronze Age pit produced pottery, bones, burnt flints, loomweights and two serviceable saddle querns. Mrs. Hawkes suggests tentatively that the pit could have originally been for cookery or storage purposes, but that the deposits may have ritual overtones. Hawkes has suggested (1930, 123–124) that saddle querns were replaced by rotary querns around the middle of the Iron Age (at present 3rd–4th C. B.C.), although no rotary quern fragments were found at St. Catherines Hill. At Twyford Down (Stuart and Birbeck, 1936, 205–206) a fragment of saddle quern was found in association with one of the rotary variety from a pit dating to around 2nd C. B.C. whilst Bury Hill (Hawkes, 1940, 332–334) produced only rotary quern fragments (3rd C. B.C. – 1st C. A.D.). This possibly suggests a slower transition period from the saddle to rotary quern than was previously thought, perhaps due to the intensity of food production which will have varied from site to site with the possible need for more sophisticated grinding equipment.

The beehive variety of rotary quern precedes the flatter, later period and Romano-British specimens, and while it is not possible to be completely sure, the bottom stone from F100 and the majority of fragments from other features suggest querns of the later Iron Age.

Whetstones

A broken example of a grey sandstone whetstone, together with another fragment, was found in F30 (T2) (Fig. 13 No. 1). Present length 8cms by 5 cms wide. The upper, concave surface has been well worn in places.

Flints

A number of Mesolithic cores, microlithic blades, end scrapers, flakes and waste material were found in many of the features and over a greater part of the surface of the site. However, it is not intended to discuss them in this report as they probably consist of scatter from the Mesolithic flint working site excavated on this motorway, 20–30 metres west of the Iron Age site (Hughes, forthcoming).

In gully ditch F1, two well worn flint pebbles and two curious “pestle” and “mortar” shaped large flint pebbles were found, but are all naturally formed. Their presence in the feature may be accidental or they may have been picked up as curios, although it has been suggested (Dunning, *et al*, 1929) that worn pebbles could have been used for smoothing pottery.

From one of the earliest features on the site, small pit F32, came one worked flint which, due to its association with the other material evidence, is of interest. It is a rather indistinctive scraper made by minimum retouch of a hinge fractured flake from a angle of core. Again its inclusion might be accidental.

From the ditch, F30, came a flint echinoid fossil. These fossils have been found in features on other Iron Age sites, e.g. Casterley Camp, All Cannings, Wilsford Down and St. Catherines Hill, and may also have been curios.

Burnt Clay/Daub

- F30 (General) : 30 fragments of burnt clay, 21 fragments of daub.
- F30 (14) : 41 fragments. A number of fragments have flattened sides, wattle impressions and are blackened in some areas. Two pieces which join together form a "pinched" ridge down one side.
- F30 (T2) : 30 fragments of burnt clay or daub.
The fragments are made of rough, streaky clay and are buff, brown, black or red in colour. There is evidence of a vegetable filler with larger impressions of ? twigs.
- F30 (T3) : 4 fragments of daub, 2 having possible wattle impressions.
- F96 : 42 fragments of burnt clay or daub, very similar in appearance and composition to those from F30 (T2).
- F150 : 2 fragments.
- F1 : 5 fragments of burnt clay, 19 fragments of daub.
- F15 : 9 fragments of burnt clay.
- F12 : 1 fragment of daub.
- F124 : 16 fragments of burnt clay, including 3 large pieces with tempering consisting of chalk, shell, flint and ?grog fragments, finger tip and ?wattle impressions.
- General (1) : 32 fragments of burnt clay.

Discussion

The evidence of burnt clay and daub fragments, together with a number of possible wattle and finger tip impressions suggests structures of some form or other, or the clay linings to hearths or ovens.

Briquetage (Fig. 19)

- F30 (General) : 8 large fragments (5–8mm thick) and 12 smaller pieces; buff, brown, orange and red in colour, containing grass or chaff impressions.
- F30 (14) : 1 fragment, with grass or chaff filler.
- F1 : 4 fragments, one of which is illustrated. (Fig. 19 No. 2)
This shaped piece is probably part of a mould or container, is red black on the outside and black on the inside.
Grass or chaff has been used for tempering (Hughes, 1973, Fig. 8 No.8).

- F100 : 23 fragments, orange on outside, black on inside, containing grass or chaff tempering. Fragments of a mould or container.
- F124 : 1 fragment, 10mm thick, orange in colour, grass or chaff tempering.
- General (1) : 18 fragments, 5–6mm thick, buff-black in colour, grass or chaff tempering.

Discussion

The briquetage evidence in the main comes from the latest features or layers of the site and, as is the case from other Hampshire Iron Age sites, shows the importance of salt as a commodity. The salt was probably imported onto the site from the coastal salt working sites such as Paulsgrove (Bradley forthcoming), Brownwich Farm (Hughes, 1973, 20) and Hook (Fox, 1935, 105–109).

Clay Bead (Fig. 19, No. 1).

From F30 (unstratified) this clay bead is approximately 20mm in diameter, with the hole through the centre 2 mm in diameter. It is made of a buff brown clay matrix with the occasional fragment of flint in the fill.

One example from Rainsborough (Avery *et al*, 1967, Fig. 31, No. 157) of untempered clay is 18mm in diameter with a 3mm hole in the centre, whilst another from Meare (Bulleid and St. Gray, 1953, Pl. LI) is 21 mm in diameter with a 2mm diameter hole.

Loomweights

Fig. 14 illustrates the substantially complete loomweights recovered from pit F32. These were with a number of smaller fragments (not illustrated). A number of fragments were also found in features F1 and F30. The impression during excavation of F32 was that the weights had been deliberately set in an orderly stack before being abandoned in the pit.

All the weights are of sub-triangular form and made of poorly fired clay with occasional flints, slightly yellow-pink in colour, with irregular blackened areas. The present fracture lines tend to run parallel to a side and it is suggested that this could be consistent with the load of the imposed earth fill being applied vertically to the weights sitting flat on the ground. Voids now existing are presumed to be the result of incompletely fired clay crumbling when the weights were disturbed before or during excavation.

Each complete weight exhibited three cylindrical holes formed across the corners. These holes diverged widely in distance and alignment from the mean plane of each weight, and revealed no tool-marks of any sort. It appears that they may have been produced by inserting dowels, probably of wood, into a lump of clay and working the matrix until the general form was as required. The dowels might well have been disposed of by combustion during the firing operation, a virtue of such a procedure would have been that the section of the weight through the hole would have been kept as uniform as possible, which should have tended to prevent stress concentrations and possible cracking.

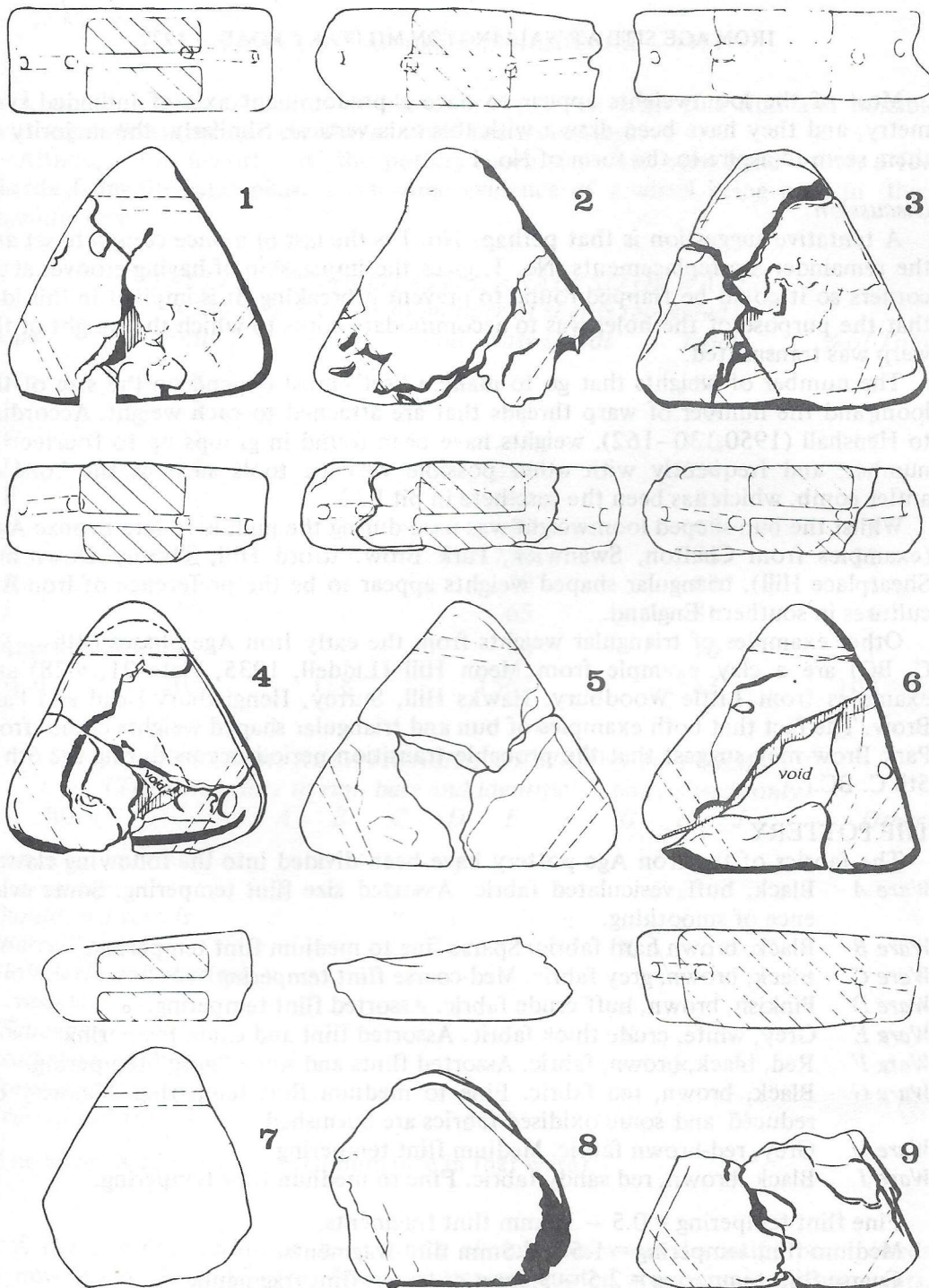


Fig. 14. Wallington Military Road: Loomweights (Scale 1/4)

Most of the loomweights appear to have a predominant axis of intended symmetry, and they have been drawn with this axis vertical. Similarly, the majority of them seem to aspire to the form of No. 1.

Discussion

A tentative suggestion is that perhaps No. 1 is the last of a once complete set and the remainder are replacements. No. 1. gives the impression of having grooves at the corners so it could be frapped round to prevent it breaking. It is implicit in this idea that the purpose of the holes was to accommodate cords to which the weight of the warp was transmitted.

The number of weights that go to make a “set” must depend on the size of the loom and the number of warp threads that are attached to each weight. According to Henshall (1950,130–162), weights have been found in groups up to fourteen in number, and frequently with other possible weaving tools such as the bone or antler comb, which has been the case here in pit F32.

Whilst the bun-shaped loomweight was used during the middle to late Bronze Age, (examples from Chalton, Swanwick, Park Brow, Itford Hill, Thorny Down and Shearplace Hill), triangular shaped weights appear to be the preference of Iron Age cultures in southern England.

Other examples of triangular weights from the early Iron Age phases (4th – 5th C. BC) are a clay example from Meon Hill (Liddell, 1935, Plate 21, v.28) and examples from Little Woodbury, Hawks Hill, Surrey, Hengistbury Head and Park Brow. The fact that both examples of bun and triangular shaped weights come from Park Brow may suggest that the probable transition period occurs during the 6th – 5th C. BC.

THE POTTERY

The fabrics of the Iron Age pottery have been divided into the following classes.

- Ware A* Black, buff vesiculated fabric. Assorted size flint tempering. Some evidence of smoothing.
- Ware B* Black, brown hard fabric. Sparse fine to medium flint tempering.
- Ware C* Black, brown, grey fabric. Med-coarse flint tempering.
- Ware D* Pinkish, brown, buff crude fabric. Assorted flint tempering.
- Ware E* Grey, white, crude thick fabric. Assorted flint and chalk tempering.
- Ware F* Red, black, brown, fabric. Assorted flints and some “grog” tempering.
- Ware G* Black, brown, red fabric. Fine to medium flint tempering. Majority of reduced and some oxidised fabrics are burnished.
- Ware H* Grey, red-brown fabric. Medium flint tempering.
- Ware J* Black, brown, red sandy fabric. Fine to medium flint tempering.

Fine flint tempering = 0.5 – 1.5mm flint fragments.

Medium flint tempering = 1.5 – 2.5mm flint fragments.

Coarse flint tempering = 2.5 – 5.0mm or larger, flint fragments.

The majority of flint fragments used in tempering the pottery have been obtained by crushing burnt flints.

A small number of sherds of black, brown fabric with fine flint and possible crushed shell tempering were also amongst the assemblage.

Although the majority of the pottery assemblage has been hand made, a few sherds from the later phase show some evidence of a wheel being used in their manufacture.

TABLE II: QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF WARES
(The figures relate to number of sherds recovered)

Ware	Rims	Bases	Body/base sherds	Total	% of Total
A	9	7	72	88	5
B	3	—	5	8	1
C	24	11	285	320	17
D	6	4	214	224	12
E	—	—	11	11	1
F	9	11	42	62	3
G	137	79	779	995	52
H	5	—	79	84	4
J	10	6	65	81	4
Others	—	—	10	10	1
Totals	203	118	1562	1883	100

TABLE III: RELATIONSHIP OF WARES TO FORMS
(The data relate to rim, base and identifiable body sherds only)

Ware	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Others
Finger tip impressed ornament	X	x	x					x		
Shouldered vessels			X	x		x		x	x	
"Barrel" jars				x			X			
Globular/hemispherical vessels							x			
"Saucepan" vessels						x	X			x
Bead-rim vessels		x					x	x	x	x
Footring bases							x			
Everted rim vessels							x		X	

(The larger X represents a predominance in that ware)

A detailed description of the majority of rims, bases and decorated body sherds is now given (Figs. 15–18). Body thicknesses quoted are average measurements. (1) in the descriptions denotes general overall layer below plough soil levels; F30 11 (6) denotes feature 30 section No. 11 layer No. 6.

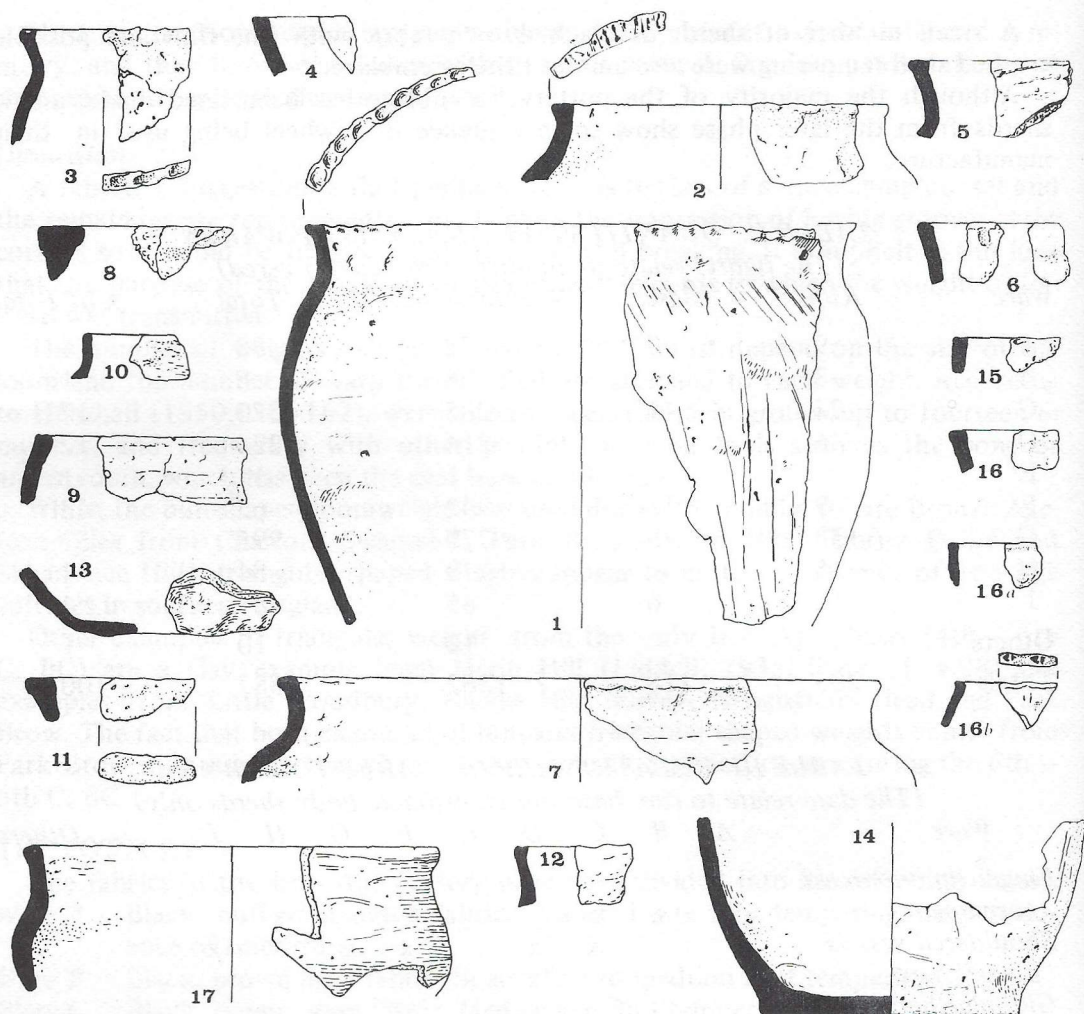


Fig. 15. Wallington Military Road: Iron Age Pottery (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

Coarse vessels with finger tip impressions (Fig. 15)

- No. 1 Bipartite jar; slack shoulders, short upright neck and flattened out-turned rim with "pie crust" finger tip impressions.
Ware A; 6–7mm thick (F32).
- No. 2 Bipartite jar; slack shoulders, short upright neck, flattened out-turned rim, with "pie crust" finger tip impressions.
Ware B; 8–10mm thick (F30 11 (6)).
- No. 3 Bipartite jar; rounded shoulders, short out-turned neck flattened rim with finger tip impressions.
Ware A; 7mm thick.

- No. 4 Coarse jar; out-turned flattened rim, faint finger tip impressions.
Ware G; 8mm thick (1).
- No. 5 Bipartite jar; short out-turned neck, flattened rim, finger tip impressions.
Ware C; 7mm thick (F30.T2).
- No. 6. Bipartite jar; straight, slightly angled neck, rounded simple rim, with finger tip impressions.
Ware G; 6mm thick (F30.T1).
- No. 7 Bipartite jar; sharp shoulder angle, short out-curving neck, flattened out-turned rim, with finger tip impressions.
Ware C; 7–8mm thick (F30. 10 (6)).
- No. 8 Coarse jar; heavy flattened rim (hammer-headed profile), faint finger tip impressions.
Ware D; (F30 14 (7)).
- No. 9 Coarse jar; simple flat, inturned rim, with finger tip impressions.
Ware C; 8mm thick (F30.T2).
- No. 10 Bipartite jar; short straight neck, flattened rim, with faint finger tip impressions. Very abraded sherd.
Ware H; 6mm thick (F124 (1)).
- No. 11 Coarse jar; flattened rim (hammer-headed profile) with finger tip impressions.
Ware D; (F30.T1).
- No. 12 Bipartite jar; short incurving neck, flattened rim with finger tip impressions.
Ware B; 6–7mm thick (F32).
- No. 13 Bipartite jar; rather crude “baggy” shaped base with finger tip impressions.
Ware A; (F32)
- No. 14 Coarse jar; upright base.
Ware A; base 10–12mm thick (F32).
- No. 15 Coarse jar; upright neck, simple rim with finger tip impressions.
Ware C; (F30.T1).
- No. 16 Bipartite jar; out-curving neck, flattened rim with finger tip impressions.
Ware C; 8mm thick (F30.T1):
- 16a Bipartite jar; upright neck, flattened rim.
Ware G; (F30.14 (6)).
- 16b Bipartite jar; inturned neck, flattened rim, with finger tip impressions.
Ware H; (F124).

Coarse, shouldered vessels (Figs. 15, 16 and 17)

Fig. 15

- No. 17 Bipartite bowl; rounded shoulders, upright neck with a flattened rim.
Ware C; 7–8mm thick (F30.2).

Fig. 16

- No. 18 Tripartite jar; sharp shoulder angle, out-flaring neck and simple rim, slightly flared, flat base.
Ware C; 8–9mm thick. (F99).

IRON AGE SITE AT WALLINGTON MILITARY ROAD – 1972

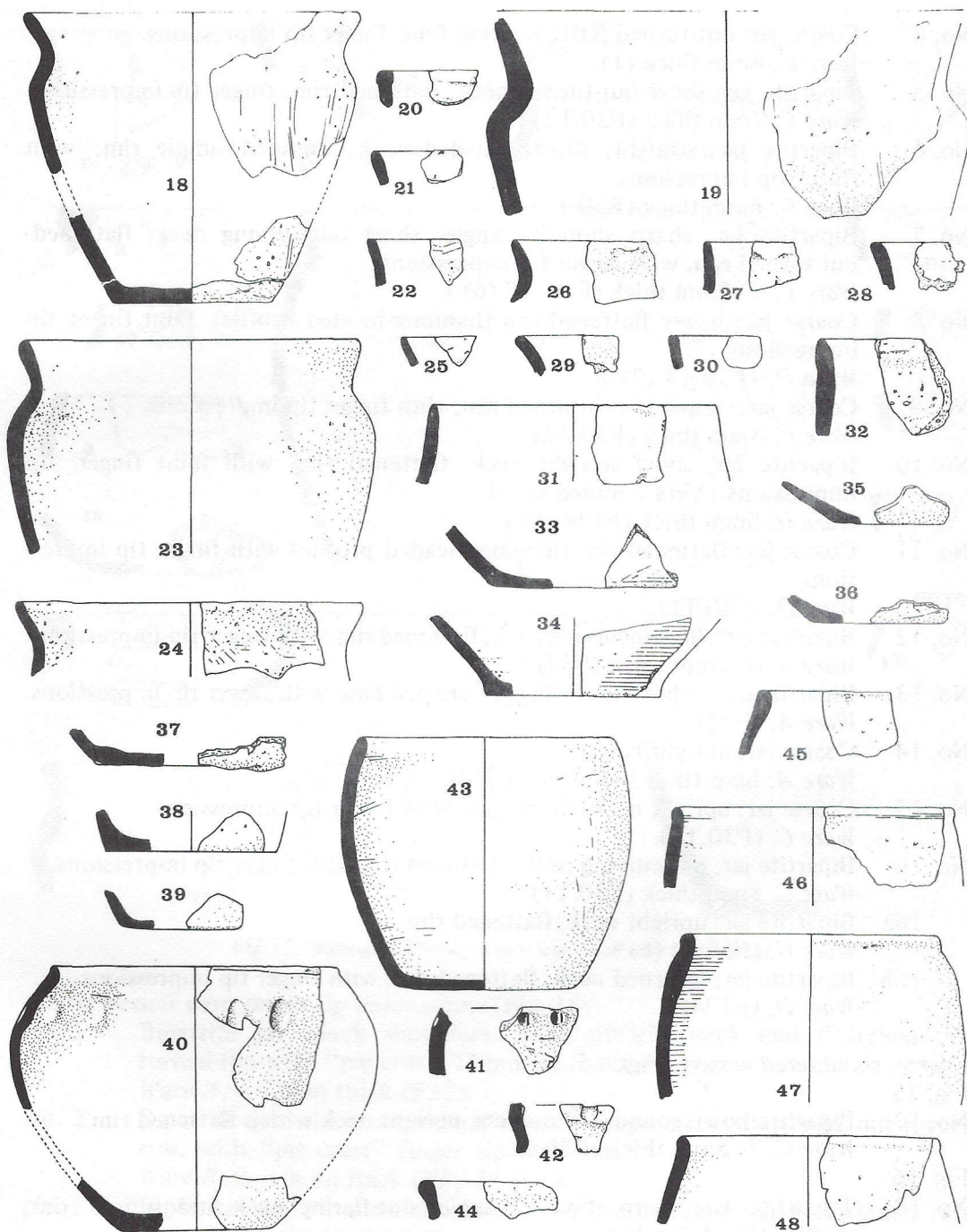


Fig. 16. Wallington Military Road: Iron Age Pottery (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

- No. 19 Large tripartite jar; sharp shoulder angle, out-flaring neck and simple rim. Faint finger tip impressions on shoulder line.
Ware C; 10mm thick (F30.T1).
- No. 20 Coarse jar; flattened rim.
Ware G; (F30.1.)
- No. 21 Bipartite jar; simple rim on out-flaring neck.
Ware C; (F30.T1)
- No. 22 Bipartite jar; simple rim on out-flaring neck.
Ware D; 6mm thick (F30. unstratified).
- No. 23 Bipartite jar; shoulder angle not so sharp as Nos. 18–19, out-flaring neck with simple rim thickened on outside.
Ware C; 6–9mm thick (F32).
- No. 24 Bipartite jar; slack shoulder profile, out-flaring neck with simple rim.
Ware C; (unstratified).
- No. 25 Bipartite jar; out-flaring simple rim.
Ware G; (F136)
- No. 26 Bipartite jar; out-flaring neck and simple rim.
Ware J; (F30.10 (6)).
- No. 27 Bipartite jar; upright neck and simple rim.
Ware H; (F30.10. (6)).
- No. 28 Bipartite jar; out-flaring neck and simple rim.
Ware F; (F99)
- No. 29 Bipartite jar; out-flaring neck and simple rim.
Ware F; (F99).
- No. 30 Bipartite jar; upright neck and simple rim.
Ware J; (F30.T1).
- No. 31 Bipartite jar; slight in-turning, upright neck with simple rim.
Ware J; (F30.10. (6)).
- No. 32 Bipartite jar; thick upright neck with simple rim.
Ware D; 11mm thick (F30.10. (6)).
- No. 33 Bipartite jar; flaring base with slight lip at the extreme bottom.
Ware G; base 5mm thick, body 8mm thick (F30.T2).
- No. 34 Bipartite jar; flaring body angle from an upright base.
Ware G; 6mm thick (F124).
- No. 35 Bipartite jar; flaring base.
Ware F; (F1).
- No. 36 Bipartite jar; flaring base.
Ware F; (F99).
- No. 37 Bipartite jar, rather crude base.
Ware C; (F30.T1).
- No. 38 Coarse jar; base.
Ware F; (1).
- No. 39 Coarse jar; base.
Ware F; (F103)

- No. 40 Globular jar; rounded shoulders, in-turned neck with incipient bead rim.
Finger tip “dimples” on shoulder.
Ware C; 6mm thick (F30.T2).
- No. 41 Globular jar; body sherd of finger tip “dimpled” shoulders.
Ware C; (F31).
- No. 42 Bipartite jar; body sherd of finger tip “dimpled” shoulder.
Ware J; (F30.2)

Coarse, barrel shaped vessels (Figs. 16 and 17)

- No. 43 Barrel jar; complete profile; simple rim.
Ware G; 8mm thick (F30.T2).
- No. 44 Barrel jar; rolled rim, thickened on the outside.
Ware G; (F103).
- No. 45 Barrel jar; simple rim, thickened on inside.
Ware G; 6mm thick (F30.14. (5)).
- No. 46 Barrel jar; simple slight out-turned rim.
Ware G; 8–9mm thick (F124)
- No. 47 Barrel jar; incipient bead rim.
Ware G; 8mm thick (F124)
- No. 48 Barrel jar; incipient bead rim.
Ware F; 6–7mm thick (F103).
- Fig. 17
- No. 49 Barrel jar; complete profile, simple rim thickened on inside.
Ware G; 6–7mm thick (F100).
- No. 50 Barrel jar; complete profile, shoulder more sharp in profile compared with No. 49; simple rim, thickened on inside.
Ware G; 7–8mm thick (F100).
- No. 51 Barrel jar; incipient bead rim.
Ware G; (F100).
- No. 52 Barrel jar; incipient bead rim, shallow tooling furrows on outside; finer ware.
Ware G; 4mm thick (F100).
- No. 53 Barrel jar; simple upright rim.
Ware G; 4–5mm thick (F124 (1)).
- No. 54 Barrel jar; simple rim, slight thickening on inside.
Ware G; (F124).
- No. 55 Barrel jar; bead rim.
Ware G; (1).
- No. 56 Barrel-type jar; simple rolled rim.
Ware G; (F96).
- No. 57 Barrel jar; simple rim. Very abraded sherd.
Ware G; (1).
- No. 58 Barrel jar; simple rim.
Ware G; (1).

- No. 59 Barrel jar; simple rim, with slight thickening on side.
Ware G; 8mm thick (1).
- No. 60 Barrel jar; simple rim, with slight thickening on inside.
Ware G; (F30.14 (2)).
- No. 61 Barrel jar; simple rim, thickened on inside.
Ware G; (F30.T2).
- No. 62 Barrel jar; incipient bead rim.
Ware G; (F30. unstratified).
- No. 63 Barrel jar; proto-everted rim.
Ware G; (F30. unstratified).
- No. 64 Small barrel jar; proto-everted rim, burnished.
Ware G; 5mm thick (F30.14 (3)).
- No. 65 Barrel jar; incipient bead rim, burnished.
Ware G; (F100).
- No. 66 Barrel jar; simple rim, slightly thicker on inside.
Ware G; (1).
- No. 67 Barrel jar; incipient bead rim.
Ware G; (1).
- No. 68 Barrel jar; fragment of simple rim.
Ware G; (F30.14 (2)).
- No. 69 Barrel jar; rolled rim, thickened on the inside.
Ware F; (F143).
- No. 70 Barrel jar; simple rim, burnished.
Ware G; 5mm thick (F96).
- No. 71 Barrel jar; incipient bead rim.
Ware G; 6mm thick (F171).
- No. 72 Barrel jar; incipient bead rim; three uneven rows of a circular punched decoration beneath the rim; burnished.
Ware G; 5mm thick (F124 (2)).
- No. 73 Hemispherical straining bowl; complete profile, out-turned simple rim; simple curvilinear incised decoration on outside; a number of 5–6mm diameter holes have been made in the base.
Ware G; 9–10 mm thick (F100).
- No. 74 Barrel jar; base.
Ware D; (F103).
- No. 75 Barrel jar; base.
Ware G; (F30.T2).
- No. 76 Barrel jar; base.
Ware J; (F124. (2)).
- No. 77 Barrel jar; base.
Ware J; (F30.9).

IRON AGE SITE AT WALLINGTON MILITARY ROAD – 1972

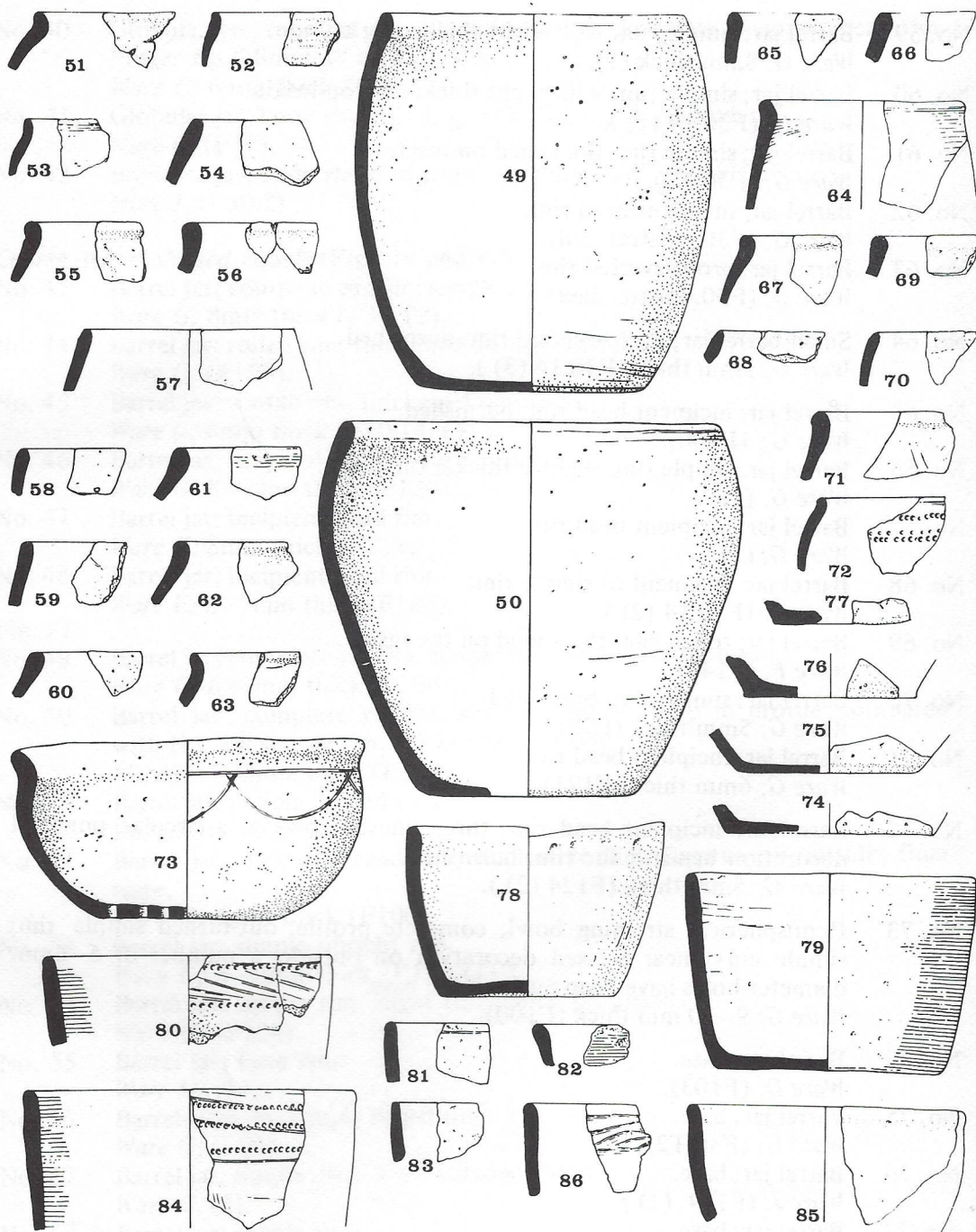


Fig. 17. Wallington Military Road: Iron Age Pottery (Scale ¼)

Saucepan pots and other similar vessels (Figs. 17 and 18).

- No. 78 "Saucepan" pot; a crude example in complete profile; simple upright rim; slight omphalous base.
Ware G; 8mm thick (F30.T2).
- No. 79 "Saucepan" Pot; complete profile; simple upright rim, burnished.
Ware G; 7–8mm thick (F30.11 (2) (3) (4)).
- No. 80 "Saucepan" pot; simple rim; decorated, punched marks with diagonal incised lines; burnished.
Ware G; 8mm thick (F30.11 (1)).
- No. 81 "Saucepan" pot; simple rim; decorated with linear incision just under rim; burnished.
Ware G; 8mm thick (F124. (2)).
- No. 82 Coarse jar; simple rim, thickened on inside; burnished.
Ware G; (F1).
- No. 83 "Saucepan" pot; simple flat rim; burnished.
Ware G; (F30.T2).
- No. 84 "Saucepan" pot; simple rim; decorated — three rows of punched marks, with incised diagonal lines; burnished.
Ware G; 7–9mm thick (F124 (1)).
- No. 85 "Saucepan" pot derivative; slight out-turned rim; curving sides; burnished.
Ware G; 8mm thick (F124. (3)).
- No. 86 "Saucepan" pot; simple rim; incised linear and diagonal ornament; burnished.
Ware G; 8mm thick (F124)
- No. 87 "Saucepan" pot; incipient bead rim; some incised ornament under rim.
Ware G; (F124).
- No. 88 "Saucepan" pot; simple upright rim.
Ware G; (1).
- No. 89 "Saucepan" pot; simple, slight out-turned rim.
Ware F; 8mm thick (F103).
- No. 90 "Saucepan" pot; incipient bead rim.
Ware G; 8mm thick (1).
- No. 91 "Saucepan" pot; incipient bead rim.
Ware G; 8mm thick (1).
- No. 92 Coarse jar; incipient bead rim.
Ware G; (1).
- No. 93 "Saucepan" pot; simple upright rim.
Ware G; (1)
- No. 94 "Saucepan" pot; simple rim; burnished inside.
Ware G; 7mm thick (F170).
- No. 95 Coarse jar; simple rim, burnished.
Ware G; 7mm thick (F96).
- No. 96 "Saucepan" pot; simple upright rim; decorated with three linear grooves, just below the rim; smooth finish.
Ware G; 7mm thick (F30.14 (2) (3) (4)).

- No. 97 “Saucepan” pot; incipient bead rim.
Ware G; (1).
- No. 98 “Saucepan” pot; incipient bead rim, smooth finish; distinctive groove under rim bead.
Ware G; (F30. 14 (4)).
- No. 99 Coarse jar; simple rim; decorated with a row of circular punch marks around the outside of the rim, linear and diagonal incised lines below.
Ware G; (F30. unstratified).
- No. 100 “Saucepan” pot; simple rim, decorated with two irregular rows of oval punch marks; burnished.
Ware G; 8mm thick (F30.T2).
- No. 101 “Saucepan” pot; simple rim, thickened on outside.
Ware G; (F30.1).
- No. 102 “Saucepan” pot; decorated body sherd; a row of oval punch marks or possibly finger tip impressions, with a faint linear incised line below.
Ware G; 7mm thick (F1).
- No. 103 Coarse jar; simple flattened rim.
Ware C; (F1).
- No. 104 “Saucepan” pot; decorated body sherd; similar to No. 102, but with no incised line.
Ware G; 6mm thick (1).
- No. 105 “Saucepan” pot; decorated body sherd, similar to No. 102 but with incised line above row of punch marks.
Ware G; 7mm thick (1).
- No. 106 “Saucepan” pot; rim.
Ware G; (F1).
- No. 107 “Saucepan” pot; base of a small bowl.
Ware G; (F124. (1)).
- No. 108 “Saucepan” pot; base of a small bowl; burnished.
Ware G; (F124).
- No. 109 “Saucepan” pot; base; burnished.
Ware G; 6mm thick; 8–9mm thick base (F124).
- No. 110 “Saucepan” pot; base.
Ware G; (1).
- No. 111 “Saucepan” pot; base; burnished.
Ware G; 8mm thick base. (F30. 14 (3)).
- Assorted late Iron Age and Romano-British Vessels.*
- Fig. 18
- No. 112 Small jar; proto-everted rim.
Ware G; 5mm thick (F124).
- No. 113 Coarse jar; bead rim, decorated with incised lattice.
R-B ware? (Unstratified).
- No. 114 Coarse jar; simple upright rim.
Ware G; (1).

- No. 115 Coarse jar; angled rim.
Ware F; (1).
- No. 116 Coarse jar; everted rim, thickened at top.
Ware J; (1).
- No. 117 Coarse jar; everted rim.
R-B ware? (1).
- No. 118 Coarse jar; proto-everted rim.
Ware A; (1).
- No. 119 Coarse jar; bead rim; coarse sandy fabric; (1).
- No. 120 Coarse jar; flared base; grey sandy fabric; (1).
- No. 121 Coarse jar; base, very abraded; sandy fabric; (1).
- No. 122 Coarse jar; footring base,
Ware G; (F64).
- No. 123 Coarse jar; everted rim, abraded; sandy fabric.
R-B ware; (1).
- No. 124 Coarse jar; bead rim, abraded.
Ware H; (1).
- No. 125 Coarse jar; bead rim. 1st C A.D. R-B ware; (1).
- No. 126 Coarse jar; simple rim, abraded; sandy fabric; (1).
- No. 127 Coarse jar; bead rim; shallow incised lines under rim.
Ware G; (F124).
- No. 128 Coarse jar; bead rim.
Ware G; (F124).
- No. 129 Coarse jar; proto-everted rim; some smoothing of outside.
Ware G; (F124 (1)).
- No. 130 Coarse jar; incipient bead rim.
Ware G; (F103 upper layer).
- No. 131 Coarse jar; base; hard-grey, sandy fabric. R-B ware; (F103 upper layer).
- No. 132 Coarse jar; base.
Ware G; (F103 upper layer).
- No. 133 Necked jar; prominent everted rim; faint lattice decoration. R-B ware; (1).
- No. 134 Coarse jar; thick, everted rim.
Ware J; (F30.11 (1)).
- No. 135 Coarse jar; thick; everted rim.
Ware J; (F30.11 (2)).
- No. 136 Coarse jar; incipient bead rim.
Ware B; (F100).
- No. 137 Coarse jar; bead rim.
Ware J; (F1).
- No. 138 Coarse jar; base. Reddish ware; (F30.11 (1)).

IRON AGE SITE AT WALLINGTON MILITARY ROAD – 1972

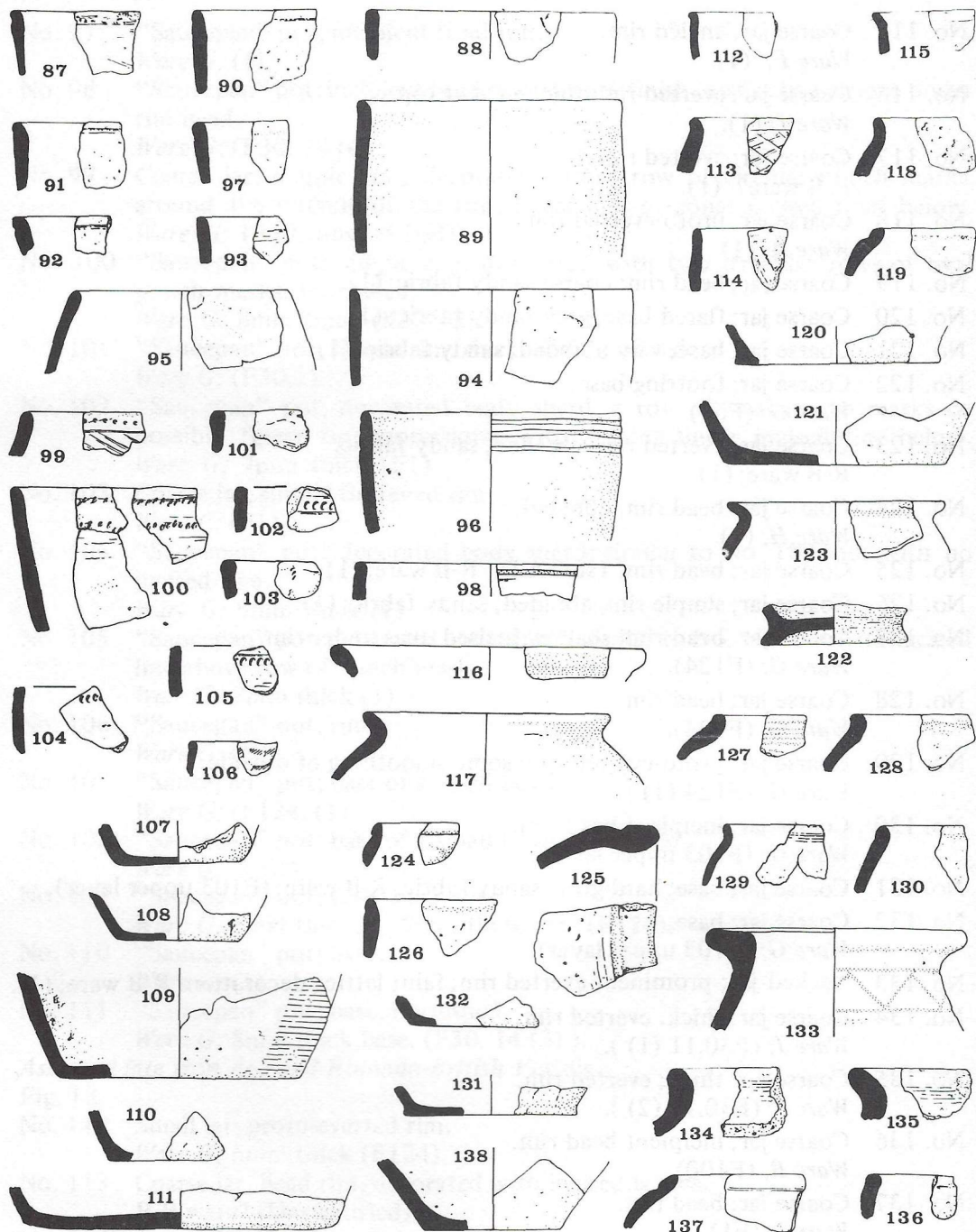


Fig. 18. Wallington Military Road; Iron Age and Romano-British Pottery (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

Discussion

It is not intended to place a long dissertation on the pottery before the reader. At the present time the Iron Age and its material evidence is constantly undergoing revision with regard to typological and chronological sequences. However, I should like to make the following comments:

- (1) From the quantitative analysis as given in Table I, three wares would appear to predominate in the assemblage, with C 17%, D 12% and G 52% of the total.
- (2) Table II indicates the relationship of some wares with forms. Ware A is predominantly used in coarse finger tip impressed vessels, Ware C mainly for shouldered vessels, and Ware G for barrel jars and saucepan pots.
- (3) The majority of the fabrics (approximately 90%) utilise burnt flint/flint fragments of varying sizes as a filler. Further research into the relationship of form and fabric, utilising heavy mineral analysis techniques, may point closer to Iron Age pottery producing sites, especially of saucepan pots and their derivatives, and be of some importance in the study of contact, trade and economy of this period.
- (4) I shall use as a chronological basis, in the broadest sense, for grouping the various forms together, the style zones as suggested recently by Cunliffe (1974, 29–48 and 89–106).

The first group of pottery, the finger tip impressed wares and shouldered vessels (Nos. 1 – 42) are largely comparable to the material of Park Brow – Caesar's Camp style zone, for which a date bracket of 5th–3rd C. B.C. is suggested.

Most of the sites in this style zone, including WMR, lack haematite coated ware from their respective assemblages. However, the WMR group of early pottery has a distinct similarity with St. Catherine's Hill early phase material, not only in form but also in fabric, which suggests an overlap between the style zones of All Cannings Cross-Meon Hill, in which the St. Catherine's assemblage is placed, and the Park Brow – Caesar's Camp style zone. This may provide further evidence for contact with Cunliffe's suggested south eastern coastal groups, and the central Wessex chalk-lands.

The assemblage both in form and fabric is also very comparable to pottery from another chalk land site, Site No. 50, Chalton, Hants. (Cunliffe forthcoming), which Professor Cunliffe has kindly discussed with the author.

This assemblage of early pottery from WMR to be called WMR Group I.

- (5) The second grouping to be called WMR Group II (Nos. 43 – 111) of barrel shaped vessels, saucepan pots, decorated and undecorated, and the hemispherical jar with simple curvilinear decoration, with in some instances incipient bead and bead rims, are comparable to the St. Catherine's Hill – Worthy Down style zone material, of 3rd – 1st C. B.C. contexts.
- (6) Whilst the globular vessel with 'dimple' decoration (No. 40, Fig.16) would appear to be out of context in the assemblage, being similar to the Maiden Castle – Marnhull style zone forms, of 3rd – 1st C. B.C. it was found in association with

sherds of ware C, a fabric mainly associated with the earlier assemblage. However shouldered vessel form sherds have been found in association with those of barrel shaped vessels and saucepan pots in two features, F103 and F173, which would therefore tentatively suggest a local overlap of form between the 5th — 3rd C. and 3rd — 1st C. B.C. style zones.

- (7) The last grouping WMR Group III (Nos. 112 — 138) includes large and small bead rim vessels, everted rims, a footring base and some obvious R-B wares. Tentatively, the majority of the material is comparable to that of the Southern Atrebatian style zone of 50 B.C. — A.D. 43; the remainder probably being some residual sherds from the nearby 1st — 4th C. A.D. site excavated on the Motorway during 1973. (Hughes, forthcoming).

Bone Implements

Bone weaving comb (Fig. 19 No. 5): from F32.

It is 14.8 cms long, with 8 teeth approximately 1.5 — 2.0mm apart. There is no evidence of incised decoration. The handle has been shaped, with a rough circular end.

The teeth are still quite pointed, with no breaks, indicating possibly a short working life. It has been suggested that the comb has been made from the radius or tibia of an ox.

Similar decorated and undecorated examples of approximately the same shape and size have been found at a number of Iron Age sites including Maiden Castle, in Belgic levels (Wheeler, 1943, Fig. 103, No. 21), the Caburn, Sussex, in 2nd — 1st C. B.C. contexts (Lane Fox, 1881, Plate XXVI, Figs. 11 and 12) and Hunsbury, Northants, as Iron Age "B" forms (Fell, 1936, Plate VIII Nos. 1 — 8 and Plate XII No. 7).

Compared with the number of combs found at such sites as All Cannings, Glastonbury, Meare and Maiden Castle, and recently at Gussage All Saints (Wainwright 1973, 115), it would appear that there is a distinct paucity of examples from Hampshire Iron Age sites published to date. An antler bone comb from Meon Hill (Liddell, 1935, Plate 29, V12), in La Tene II contexts, a casual find from Danebury during the mid nineteenth century (Franks, 1858, 241-2), an unpublished comb from Titchborne Down House, New Alresford (Ref. Winchester City Museums collections by kind permission of Miss E. Lewis), and single examples from Tatchbury, nr. Nursling (Williams Freeman, 1915, 167, 410) and Snoddington Down (Notes, 1925, 397) together with the present comb, make up the sum total. However, recent excavations at Danebury have produced eleven examples to date, both of antler and bone, from early (5th C. B.C.) and later (3rd — 1st C. B.C.) contexts. (Information kindly supplied by Professor B. Cunliffe).

Bone combs appear to be ubiquitous throughout the British Isles during the Iron Age, being found in early middle and late contexts, as well as in the Late Bronze Age (e.g. Shearplace Hill, Dorset), although Hawkes suggested (1934, 334) that they were introduced by his "B" cultures, along with rotary querns and "saucepan" pots.

There have been suggestions that those combs were used for skin preparation

rather than for weaving purposes. The comb from WMR, however, found in association with a number of loomweights, would tend to favour the latter theory.

Bone Handle (Fig. 19 No. 4); from pit F124 (3).

This reconstructed handle appears to be almost complete. It is 10.4 cms long, 2.3cms in diameter at the wide end, and 2cms in diameter at the narrow end, with a hole bored through the wide end 7.5mm in diameter. The outside surface is very smooth and worn, whilst inside the narrower end, traces of possible iron oxides (rust) are present.

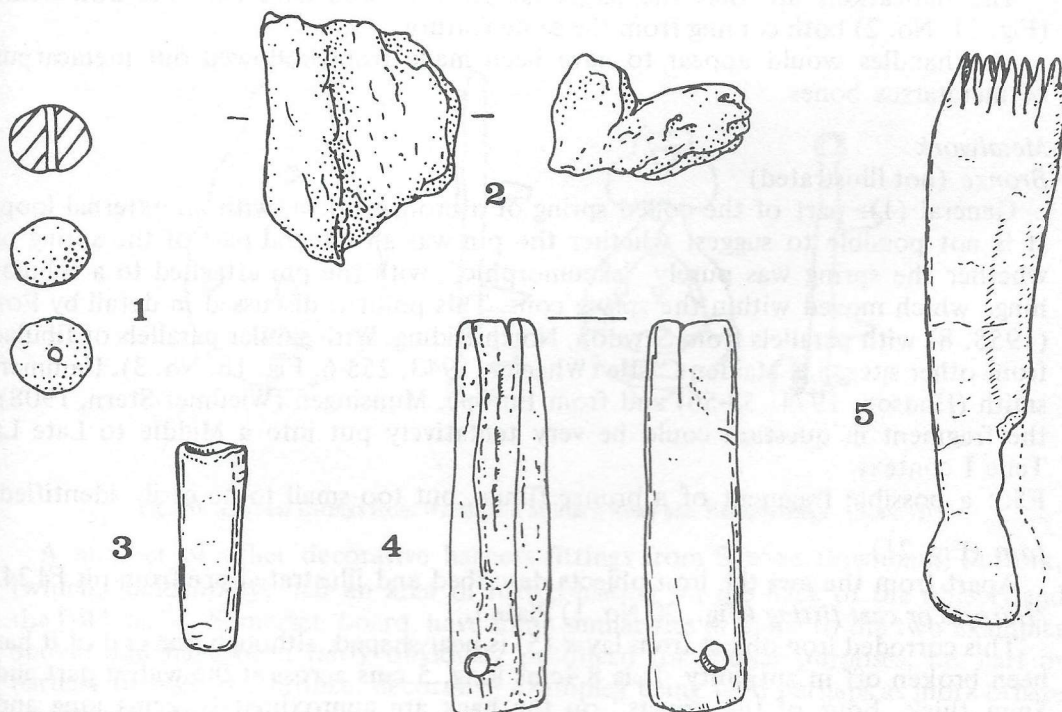


Fig. 19. Wallington Military Road: Objects of clay and bone (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

Bone Handle (Fig. 19 No. 3); from pit F124 (1).

This reconstructed example is not complete. Certainly part of the wider end has broken off in antiquity. The length of the fragment is 5.4cms, 1.8cms in diameter at the wide end and 1.2cms in diameter at the narrow end. There is evidence of a bored hole right through the bone at the wide end, whilst the edges of the narrow end have been chamfered. The handle is well worn and smooth on the outside, with traces of burning.

The first example, because of its size, feel and with the traces of rust on the inside, would suggest that it is the handle of an iron knife or possibly a small tanged sickle, as is the example from Standlake, Oxon (Harding, 1972, Plate 71, D). The bored hole was probably used to take a thong or strap, either around the wrist as a support or as a means of hanging the implement from the belt of its owner.

The other bone handle, because of its smaller dimensions, suggests use with an iron awl, as is shown by the example from Meare (Bullied and St. Gray, Fig. 65 No. 16 and Plate L1, No. 130).

The indications are that the larger handle may well have held the iron sickle (Fig. 21 No. 2) both coming from the same feature.

The handles would appear to have been made from hollowed out metacarpus or metatarsus bones.

Metalwork

Bronze (not illustrated)

General (1): part of the coiled spring of a bronze fibula, with an external loop. It is not possible to suggest whether the pin was an integral part of the spring or whether the spring was purely "skeuomorphic", with the pin attached to a tubular hinge which moved within the spring coils. This point is discussed in detail by Fox (1958, 8) with parallels from Sawdon, North Riding. With similar parallels of fibulae from other sites, e.g. Maiden Castle (Wheeler, 1943, 255-6, Fig. 18, No. 3), Hammer-smith (Hodson, 1971, 53-56) and from Europe, Munsingen (Wiedmer-Stern, 1908), the fragment in question could be very tentatively put into a Middle to Late La Tene I context.

F56: a possible fragment of a bronze fibula, but too small to be easily identified.

Iron (Fig. 21)

Apart from the awl the iron objects described and illustrated are from pit F124. ?*Harness or cart fitting* (Fig. 20 No. 1) Plate I.

This corroded iron object from layer (5) is pear-shaped, although one end of it has been broken off in antiquity. It is 8.4cms long, 5 cms across at the widest part, and 5mm thick. Four of the "rivets" on the back are approximately 2cms long and 5-6mm in diameter, while the ring or staple at the bottom is 1cm high and 4mm in diameter. The bottom "rivet" appears to have been driven in the opposite way to the other four, and the head stands slightly proud of the main plate. On the front of the "fitting" just below the broken splayed end a fragment of charred wood was attached and became "fossilized" from the rusting action of the iron (see Plate I).

From limited research only one other possible parallel could be traced. This is the bronze harness fitting from Rainsborough, Northants. It was first mentioned by the Rev. Cox (1898, 165-6) with an illustration; then discussed, firstly by Fox (1958, 121, Plate 66 and Fig. 53), and secondly in an appendix to the Rainsborough excavation report (Avery *et al.*, 1967, Appendix 6, 306).

An outline illustration of the two objects is presented side by side for comparison purposes (Fig. 20).

The Rainsborough harness fitting, although smaller, has three “rivets” approximately of the same dimensions as those of the WMR example, a ring and a “rivet” with its head proud of the surface. It is, however, decorated with fossil discs (encrenite stems) set into the pattern, which as Fox suggested shows a persistence of the lyre form in Celtic art. He also suggests that the proud “rivet” may well have helped a strap, which would then have been attached possibly, or passed through the hole at the top of the fitting. This top, open fitting is probably what is missing from the WMR example.

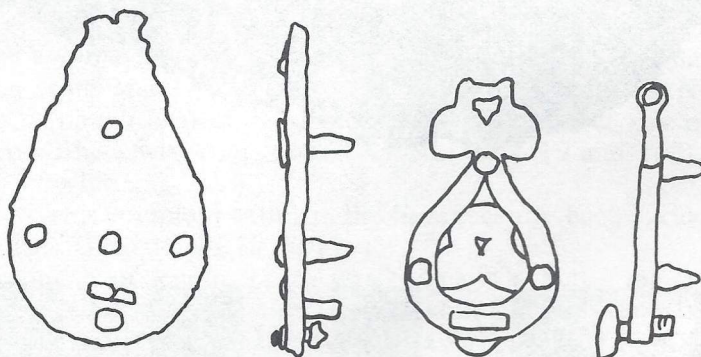


Fig. 20. Harness fittings from Wallington Military Road and Rainsborough (Scale ½)

A number of other decorative harness fittings from Santon Downham, Suffolk, (which, incidentally, had an area of rotted leather on the back of the object) and the Polden Hill, Somerset, hoard, have some similarities in shape to the two examples above, and have been fairly obviously produced for similar purposes, i.e. cart or harness fittings, the bronze, decorative examples being used perhaps as more ornate ceremonial fittings for carts or even chariots.

Fox suggested that the Rainsborough fitting, with its lyre form, was introduced by the Belgae, whilst the Rainsborough report places it into a possible 2nd C. — 1st C. B.C. context.

Sickle or Knife (Fig. 21, No. 2)

This small iron sickle, or knife, from layer (5), has a cross section, although difficult to accurately ascertain due to the corrosion, which suggests a single inside cutting edge. It appears to have an out-turned shoulder, in contrast to other examples which are in-turned. It is 8.5cms in length and the curved blade varies between 2.3 and 3cms wide. The thickness of the blade is approximately 2mm. As there is no suggestion of any in-turned flanges at the handle end, the sickle can be assumed to be of the tanged variety. A small fragment of charred wood has become fused onto the blade, probably as a consequence of the corrosion processes.

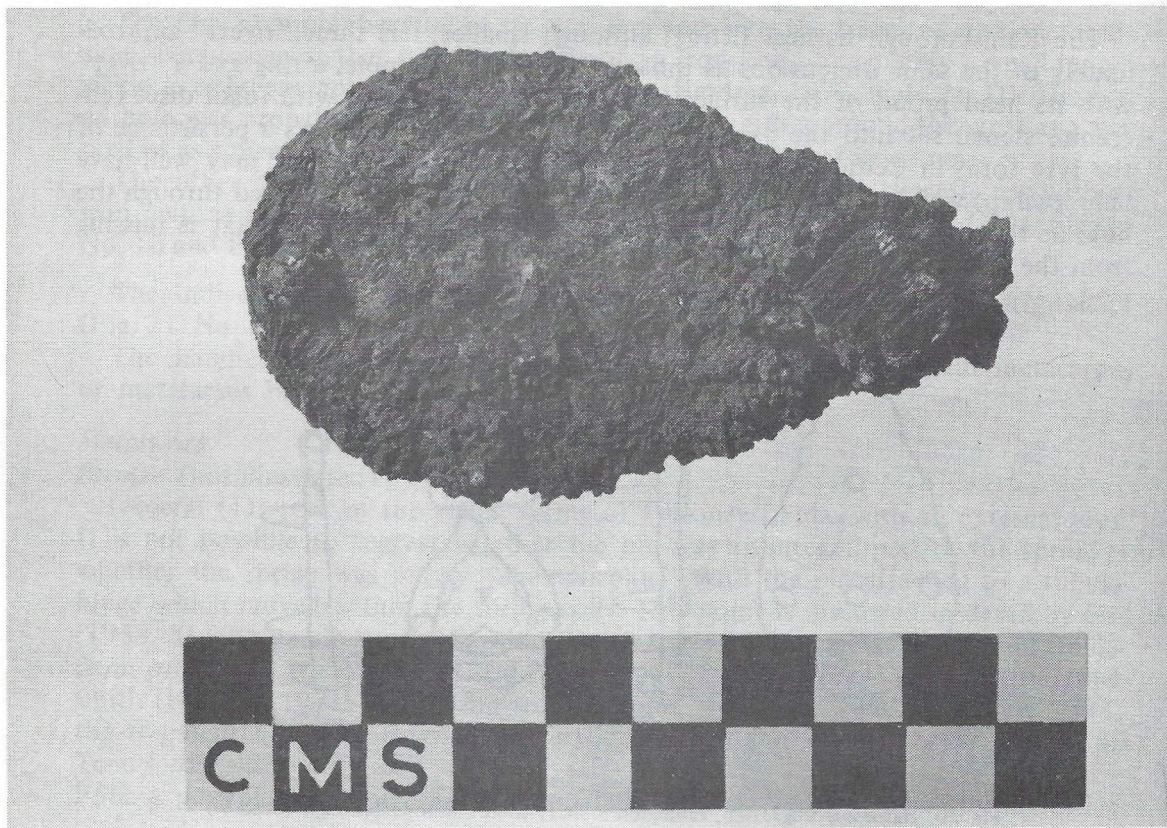


Plate II Wallington Military Road: Iron ?Harness fitting

A number of parallels to the WMR sickle can be found, both of the socketed and and tanged varieties, and of varying sizes.

Sickle typology was discussed at some length by MacGregor and Simpson (1963, 394–402), where a tanged example from Barbury Castle, Wilts (Fig. 1, No. 3) with a single edge, an in-turned shoulder and length 14.7cm came from an Iron Age “B” context.

Other tanged examples have been found, for example, at All Cannings (Cunnington 1923, Plate 20, No. 11), Glastonbury and Meare (Bulleid, 1924. Plate XV Nos. 5 and 7), Maiden Castle (Wheeler, 1943, Fig. 88, No. 5) Wilsford Down, Wilts (Cunnington and Goddard, 1934, Plate LXXVII) and the Caburn, Sussex (Lane Fox, 1881, Plate XXIV No. 10).

Apart from the All Cannings example, which is an early Iron Age site, the remainder of other sites mentioned have produced evidence of Iron Age “B” and “C” period material; the Maiden Castle sickle from late 1st C.BC levels, while the example

from the Caburn was found in conjunction with two Potin coins of Allen's Class I, types F, J and L (1971, 146) whose origin he places in an early 1st C.B.C. context.

Nail, staple or hook (Fig. 21, No. 3)

This very corroded object from (2) is 5.6 cms long and approximately 3–4mm thick, with an in-turned end. Its identity is difficult to ascertain but it would be reasonable to assume that it may have formed part of a wooden fitting, probably from a cart. No parallels could be found, with limited research, in Iron Age contexts.

Awl (Fig. 21, No. 4).

The awl from pit F32. is 8.8cms long and approximately 6mm in diameter. Because of the corrosion it is difficult to ascertain an accurate cross section of either end. The pointed end has certainly been broken off in antiquity, whilst the other end is slightly thicker and may be the end on to which a bone or wooden handle was fitted. Two examples from Meare (Bulleid and St. Gray, 1953, Fig. 65, No. 16 and Plate L1, No. 130), although broken, have their handles still intact, one of antler and the other of wood. Other awls from Meare (Plate L1 Nos. 19 and 162) are 9.3 and 7.2 cms long respectively.

A number of awls complete with handles have recently been excavated at Gussage All Saints, Dorset. (Wainwright 1973, 115).

An awl or punch of length 9.6cm was found in a burial pit at Worthy Down (Dunning *et al*, 18 and Fig. 46) along with Middle-Late La Tene II pottery, whilst examples from Barbury Castle (MacGregor and Simpson, 1963, p. 394 and Fig. 2, Nos. 18–24) are of varying lengths from 7.3 – 14 cms. The majority having rectangular cross sections at the hafted end with circular or square cross sections at the pointed end, which according to MacGregor and Simpson (1963, 399) date from Iron Age B times onwards; the WMR example, however being found in context with the earlier Group I pottery.

Open work disc (Fig. 21, No. 5, Plate II)

The unusual incomplete object from layer (2), is made entirely of iron, but due to excessive corrosion no trace was found of bronze or other decorative medium, even if any originally existed.

The overall diameter is 8.5cms and 4.5mm thick. It has a 4–5mm wide rim with a slight lip all around the outside, as can be seen from the cross-section. The shaft protruding from the back of the disc is 4.2cm long, 11mm in diameter at the disc end and tapering to 6mm in diameter at the opposite end, where it then widens out to form a “knob” of 8mm diameter.

The solid reconstruction of the design was traced from an X-radiograph of the object and is shown as it would have been viewed in use.

The similarity of this open work disc and the examples from Hunsbury (Fell 1936, Plate VI B) are marked. Although it is smaller in diameter (7.6cms), the open work design is similar. The shaft from the back is 11.3cms long and is complete with a terminal loop into which an iron ring has been fixed. The shaft is beaded and shows signs of bronze coating. Fell suggested that they are possibly “harness fittings” and tentatively dates them to 1st C. A.D.

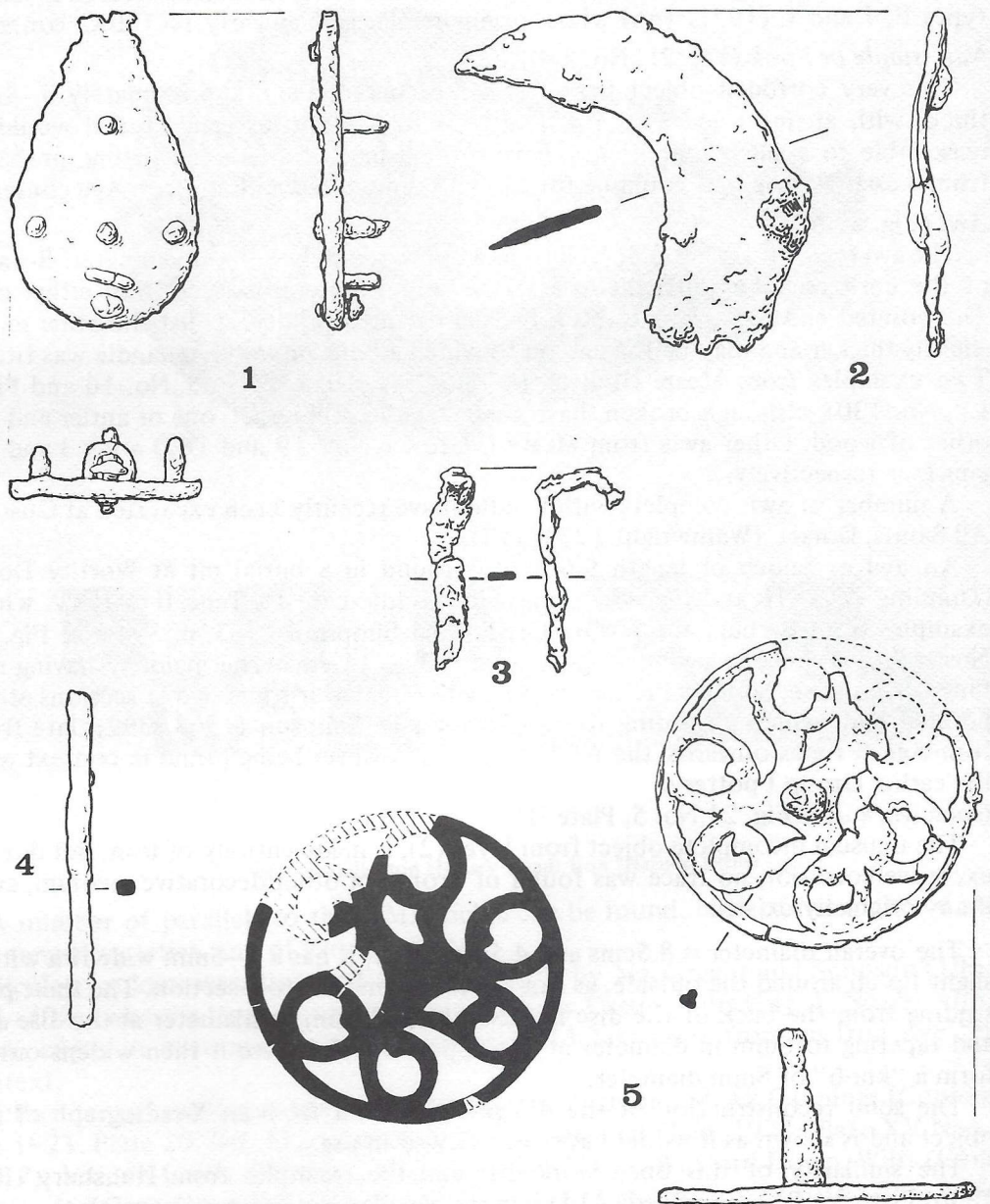


Fig. 21. Wallington Military Road: Objects of iron (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$)



Plate III Wallington Military Road: Iron Open Work Disc

The main constituents of the design of the Hunsbury disc, which incidentally Fox does not mention in his researches, although not very symmetrical in its execution, are according to Fox's classification (1958, 148) "three-sided voids", types L97-101. They would appear to be a development of the triquetral motifs, paralleled on the crescentic plaque designs from Llyn Cerrig (Fox, 1946, Plate XXXIII) and used more and more by craftsmen in the 1st C. B.C.-A.D. as a means of producing decorative circular and trumpet shaped designs. In mirror decoration for example, these motifs predominate, e.g. examples from Billericay, Essex and Old Warden, Bedfordshire.

Other bronze Iron Age and Roman objects with similar open work design features, are the triskele from Verulamium (Wheeler, 1936, Fig. 48) from 4th C.A.D. contexts, whilst a similar example to the Hunsbury open work disc is a bronze triskele fragment, with a ringed shaft, from Tre Ceiri, Caernarvonshire, (Baring-Gould, 1904, 13, Fig. 3) found in association with a Roman bead. According to Baring-Gould's report (1904, 13) other examples of this type are known from Berkshire and Kingsholm, Gloucestershire, Another cast, bronze triskele, unprovenanced, from the Ashmolean

Museum collections, also has a similar asymmetrical design to the WMR example, whilst a well known group of bronzes from Stanwick, Yorks (Fox, 1958, 129-130) included a number of open work "harness fittings", some with circular loops on the back, again of similar decorative styles.

Fox suggested that the majority of these open work objects are probably some form of pony harness or cart fittings and are British in manufacture dating to the early 1st C. A.D., although the WMR example was found in association with Group II pottery.

Discussion

Four of the iron objects, from pit F124, present an interesting assemblage. Their provenance suggests that they were deposited within a reasonably short span of time. Apart from the sickle, the three other objects strongly suggest use with pony or horse harness and possibly cart fittings.

From the comparative material it would seem reasonable to suggest a date of 1st C. B.C. for the deposit, although association with "barrel" vessels and "saucepan" pots may possibly suggest a slightly earlier date.

FINAL DISCUSSION

Apart from Balksbury Camp, Andover, (1967), and the smaller reports of excavations on Portsdown, this report represents the only other published definitive excavation report with stratified material of an Iron Age settlement site, in Hampshire, since the last war. It is the report of a "salvage" excavation on a motorway, where conditions were far from ideal and the evidence recovered, incomplete. Accordingly, constraints have been placed on the author in making comparisons with other published material and in attempts to draw other than very tentative conclusions.

Using the three settlement phases suggested in Table I, the overall picture would appear to be that a linear boundary ditch and bank was constructed, possibly enclosing an area of downland and dividing pastoral from arable activities. At one point in this boundary earthwork, three openings or "entrances" were made, possibly to allow access to a nearby settlement area.

This linear boundary ditch was then superseded by a later small gully with a possible associated palisade fence along part of its length, following approximately the same alignment as its predecessor, in the northern half of the site and probably having a similar function. A small enclosed settlement of two or three circular huts, a number of 4-post structures, associated pits and hearths and evidence of grain parching areas, then grew up on one side of the gully and possibly at its southern extremity.

The site was finally abandoned and the location of the settlement moved farther down the SW slopes towards the river Wallington during the 1st C. A.D.

The evidence for the economy of the site, especially during the early phase of settlement is somewhat varied, Pit F32, produced loomweights and a bone comb, implying the rearing of sheep or goats for wool, but also produced a saddle quern with its arable economical implications. However, from all the later features an emphasis on an arable economy is indicated. The evidence consists of large amounts of burnt flints, probably used for grain parching, numerous quernstone fragments, both of saddle and rotary types, the small iron sickle, the whetstone and the small sample of cereal grains and seeds of weeds of cultivated land.

The size of the animal bone evidence although being comparatively small also suggests an emphasis on arable activities. Nearly 60% of the total number of bones is represented by those of draught animals, horse and ox; mature animals by the evidence from their teeth. Sheep bones found were apparently from young animals of two years old or less, suggesting that they were mainly reared for slaughter.

On the other hand there is a distinct paucity of grain storage pits, which are a common feature of many excavated settlement sites and hill-forts in Wessex, with distinctive arable economies. This may well be because none were discovered at WMR during the excavation or that they were destroyed by the motorway machines during topsoil removal operations.

On balance the evidence overall would suggest a mixed economy over the total period of settlement of the site, one of sheep rearing both for meat and wool and of arable farming, where it would appear the main cereal crop was wheat. Perhaps greater emphasis was placed on the arable economy during the second and third suggested phases of settlement, where a greater surplus was needed due to a rapidly expanding local population.

The animal bone assemblage also included a number of pig bones. The keeping of pigs would certainly have helped supplement the subsistence of the community, pannage being available in nearby coppices and small beech woods, on the lower hill slopes.

The pottery and metalwork provide the only guide to the time span of settlement on the site and the lack of recent published stratified material precludes any attempt to produce more than a very basic chronology.

Cunliffe's recent broad synthesis on pottery groupings (1974, 29-48), has been used as a basic framework for suggesting a chronology for the WMR pottery assemblage, although even this must be considered as very tentative.

An example for comment in this respect is F30, the linear ditch. This feature provided a stratified sequence of pottery, with the earliest, according to Cunliffe's groups, of 5th – 3rd C B.C. in date, coming from the primary silts and layers immediately above, whilst later products, e.g. saucepan pots, of 3rd – 1st C B.C. in date

came from subsequent layers. However F30 being a relatively small ditch may have silted up fairly rapidly, probably within the period of 100 years, although this is only a guess. This could suggest three possible conclusions. Firstly that there was a local overlap in pottery traditions, secondly that there was a local longer lifetime for certain early styles and fabrics, or finally that there was a local longer lifetime for wares like saucepan pots, which would then suggest that a time scale of perhaps 4th – 1st C B.C. be advocated for these wares.

The answers to these questions must remain unsolved until such time as more stratified sequences of pottery are published and so for the time being, a timescale of 5th – 1st C B.C. for the phases of settlement on the Wallington Military Road Iron Age site is tentatively proposed.

Acknowledgements

The rescue work could not have taken place without the unstinting support of the members of the Rescue Group, whose assistance during and after the excavations I gratefully acknowledge. I would like especially to mention George Moore and Liz Lewis for their help on site; Len Tavender for his surveying in a difficult terrain, and for his loomweight drawings and useful comments; Sylvia Bremner for her pottery, bone implement and metalwork drawings, Eileen Moore for her work on the Mollusca; Peter Oborn for his photographic assistance and for his examination of the seed and cereal grains; and the members of the Animal Bone Group for their findings.

I would also like to acknowledge the cooperation of the motorway contractors during the excavations, Messrs. Laings, and of the Resident Engineer of the South Eastern Road Construction Unit, Arthur Worrall.

Finally, I would like to thank Isabel Shakespeare for typing the manuscript and my wife for her patience and forbearance during the writing of this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

CEREAL GRAIN AND SEED EVIDENCE

by Peter Oborn

Although a number of soil samples were taken from the fill of some of the features, subsequent examination produced very little in terms of environmental evidence.

A sample from ditch F30, Section No. 14, layer (5), produced a small number of carbonized cereal grains. The majority of them were badly distorted or damaged, and of the total number of 33 only 8 were in a reasonably good condition. These eight grains were examined microscopically and measured, see Table III.

Table IV. Measurements of cereal grain
(measurements in millimetres)

	Length	Breadth	Height
1	5.8	3.4	2.6
2	5.5	3.1	2.6
3	5.6	3.2	3.4
4	5.5	3.0	2.7
5	5.4	3.0	2.1
6	5.0	3.1	2.3
7	4.8	2.8	2.2
8	5.0	3.0	2.3
Average dimensions	5.3	3.1	2.5

In the absence of any other recognisable parts of the cereal plants, and considering the poor condition of the recovered grains, positive identification must be precluded (see Morrison, 1959, 15). However, the sample can be identified as being that of the genus *Triticum* (wheat). Any attempt to identify the species on the available samples would only be conjectural.

Also included in this same sample was one carbonized seed of *Rumex acetosella* L. (Sheep's sorrel).

Another sample, of doubtful value because of its provenance in general layer (1) immediately above the ditch F30, produced a number of uncarbonized seeds, although consisting of the *testa* in most instances. This sample also contained one carbonized cereal grain, although unidentifiable.

The majority of these seeds could be positively identified as either *Chenopodium album* L (Fat hen), or *Stellaria media* (L) Vill (Chickweed). The total number of identifiable seeds recovered as follows:

Chenopodium album (L) – 72 complete/almost complete *testa*
12 fragments.

Stellaria media (L) Vil – 32 complete/almost complete *testa*

Both of the above species being common weeds of waste or cultivated land.

ANIMAL BONES

by S.H.A.R.G. ANIMAL BONE GROUP

David Alderman, Valerie Carter, John French, Jill Hughes, Patricia Lloyd

Vertebrate remains from the Iron Age site consist of a thin and irregular scatter of bones mainly of 'domestic' species. 'Wild' animals are represented only in the form of a few deer bones and a number of small mammal and bird bones. The total number of identifiable bones was 132, which includes 4 bird bones and 2 bones, possibly of rodents (see Table No. V). A number of small, unidentifiable fragments also exist which will be available for the future, more experienced, researcher.

In most features each species is only represented by one bone or fragment; however in a few features there are accumulations of teeth apparently from a single animal.

Since each feature contains only one bone per species in many cases, estimation of numbers is not possible beyond the statement 'minimum number – one'.

In the ditch, F30, there are a number of horse, sheep, ox and pig bones in the different sections and layers. The remains of sheep from the area of Section 9 are part of the same animal as that found in F30 (T2). Other than these comments it is not possible conclusively to reduce the number of animals in each feature, section or layer to less than one per 'unit' per species. There is no reason to believe however that bones of the same species lying in adjacent features cannot, provided that other evidence indicates that they are co-eval, be regarded as belonging to one animal. For example, the Ox jaw remains in F99 and F30 Section 10 have been shown to be parts of the same animal – indicating that these two features are co-eval. There are no other species represented in F99 however so that no further 'linking' or reduction in minimum numbers from the site is possible.

TABLE V

No. of Surviving Bones per Species

	<i>No. of Bones</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Horse	39	30%
Ox	25	18%
Sheep	35	27%
Pig	20	15%
Deer	7	5%
Bird	4	3%
Rodent	2	2%
TOTAL	132	

Ageing and Use of Animals

From evidence of epiphyseal fusion, teeth etc., it is possible to state that both horse and ox remains were for the most part those of mature, if not old, animals (see sample ages in Table VI). This presumably indicates a prime use for these species as draught animals. In contrast, sheep remains were of animals of about two years of age, which would indicate the use of young sheep for slaughter – although

in these remains there is no evidence of butchery. One pig jaw from F30 has markings which do seem to be a clean butcher's cut rather than chance fragmentation.

TABLE VI

Analysis of Bones

	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Ox</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>Deer</i>
Mandible	—	4	2	1	—
Teeth	13	18	14	15	5
Vertebrae	—	—	—	1	—
Scapula	—	1	2	2	1
Humerus	4	1	1	—	—
Radius	8	—	3	—	—
Ulna	1	—	1	—	—
Carpals/Metacarpals	—	—	2	—	—
Pelvis	3	—	1	—	—
Femur	1	—	—	—	—
Tibia	5	—	1	—	—
Tarsals/Metatarsals	3	1	6	1	1
Phalanges	1	—	1	—	—
Horn Core	—	—	1	—	—
Age of animals (from teeth analysis)	4 mature 1 over 3 years 1 very old	3 mature 2 over 3 years	6 young		1 young

Pathology

There is no evidence of disease or of wound healing in any of the specimens examined.

Discussion

The bones identified possibly represent the remains of about ten to twelve mature horses, and about eight oxen, all used in the main as draught animals because of their maturity at death, which could tentatively suggest that at least part of the economy could have been arable farming. The remains of possibly more than a dozen sheep and three or four pigs, suggests the slaughtering of young animals for meat.

Since all the remains are so fragmentary it is possible that all the animals were finally used for meat, as well as hides, skins, tallow, etc., although not necessarily slaughtered on this particular site. Remains are mainly in the form of long bones and scattered teeth together with some fragmentary skull and rib parts, but not enough to indicate 'on site' slaughter.

One point of interest that arose from a comparison of animal bones from this and other similar Iron Age sites of the same period (e.g. St. Catherine's Hill, Martin, Down, Quarley Hill and Portsdown) was that horse bones were in the minority (i.e. 0 — 7%) at these other sites, whereas WMR produced 30% horse bones.

MOLLUSCA

by Eileen Moore

Only a small number of mollusca was obtained from the site, from archaeological layers and it is possible that they may represent a post Iron Age environment, (see Table VII). Some fragments were unidentifiable and not all the soil samples taken during the excavation have been examined in detail for further minute species.

TABLE VII

Species	Number	Percentage
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	20	43%
<i>Helix aspera</i>	7	15%
<i>Helix pomata</i>	7	15%
<i>Helix nemoralis</i> (Cepea)	3	7%
<i>Helix hortensis</i> (Cepea)	3	7%
Unidentified	6	13%
TOTAL	46	

At Portsdown Hill (Bradley, 1969, 57-58) *Pomatias elegans* samples comprised over 90% of the total. This species is anthropophobic, as are *Cepea nemoralis* and *Cepea hortensis*, preferring the wild habitat away from man's influence on the landscape. All three varieties favour the more congenial climes of Southern England and are susceptible to winter cold.

It is interesting to note that both *Cepea nemoralis* and *Cepea hortensis* were found in equal numbers, even though the sample is not very large or representative, for both seem only to compete together on high grassy uplands, as *Cepea nemoralis* dislikes frosty hollows and can only survive if there is dense woodland in the vicinity.

Pomatias elegans is most commonly found on chalky downlands where the open scrub offers a loose, shady and moist soil environment, suitable for its burrowing habits.

The other two species, *Helix aspera* and *Helix pomata*, are of the synanthropic variety, usually occurring on arable land, hedgerows, rubbish pits etc. Though fairly scattered, they are most prolific in Southern England, where it seems they may have been first introduced during the Roman occupation. They are both edible mollusca, *Helix pomata* being the larger of the two species.

Thus the rather small sample does suggest a moist grassy downland environment, rather than one of an arable nature.

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POTTERY FROM FAIR OAK, HANTS

by J. R. Collis

Sometime in 1963 two schoolboys unearthed a group of pottery in the south side of a sand pit which lies just to the south of the trackway leading to East Horton Farm (SU 506183). When I subsequently visited the site there was visible in the middle of the south side of the pit a patch of dirty sand filling a ditch about 4 feet deep. The pottery described here presumably all derives from this ditch. I also found a sherd (no. 14) in the top soil in the edge of the sand pit at its eastern end.

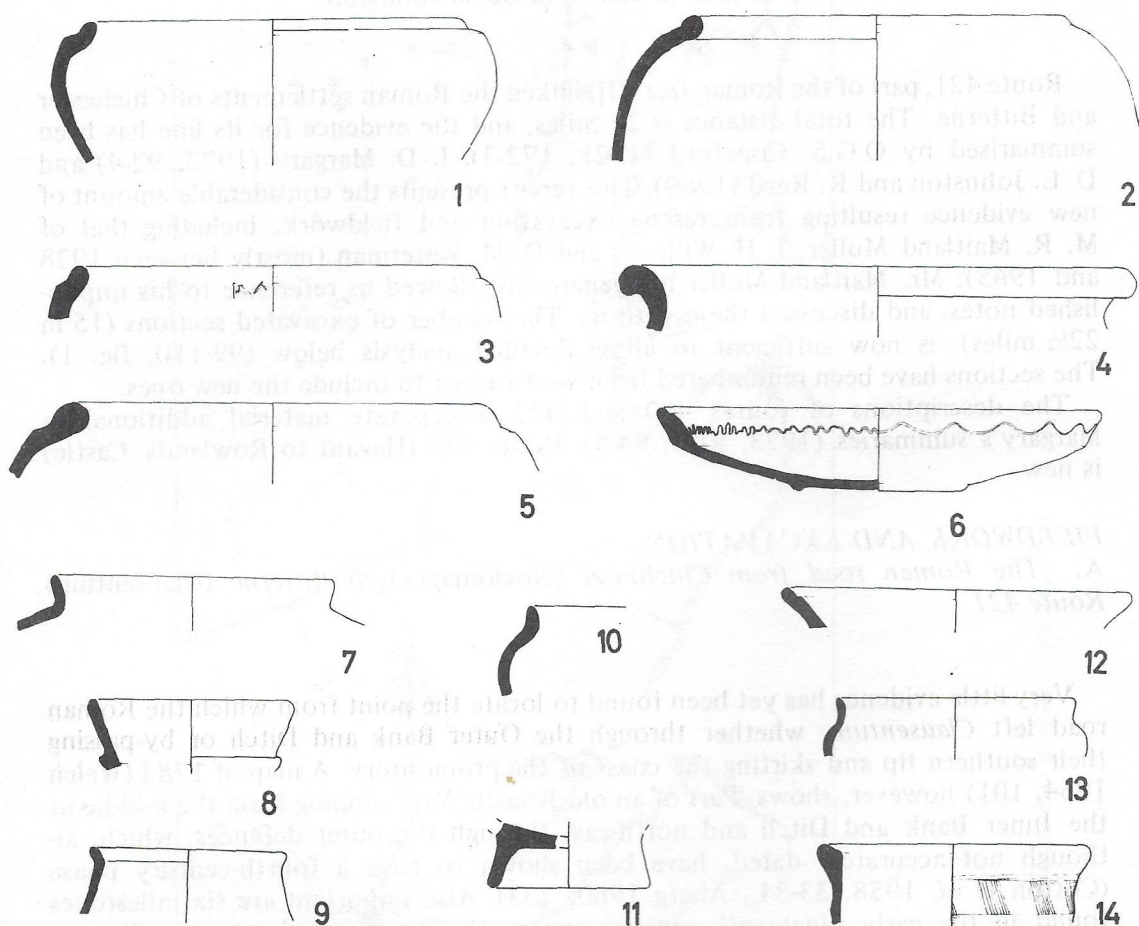
The following year Mr David Pearson from Southampton and Mr Christopher Gill, late of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, carried out some small excavations which revealed a complex of ditches running into the field to the south. The finds were mainly early Roman, including some sherds of samian and of a terra nigra platter. Of the pottery described here, no. 14 has been deposited at the City Museum, Winchester, nos. 2, 5, 6 are in the possession of Mr Jason Kerr, and the rest of Mr Maclure (both of Fair Oak).

Descriptions

- 1 Hard, sandy grey-white surface with black core.
- 2 Grey-brown ware with a black surface and plentiful grit.
- 3 Grey-brown sandy ware with a brown surface. The *graffitto* was scratched after firing.
- 4 Hard sandy light grey ware with red-brown surface — bright orange-red in places.
- 5 Black-orange ware with large flint particles.
- 6 Sandy grey-brown ware with black surface, and burnished decoration.
- 7 Hard sandy light grey ware with a brown surface.
- 8 Dark grey sandy ware with an irregularly burnished surface.
- 9 Hard sandy, light grey ware. Outer surface black or buff, burnished.
- 10 Hard, sandy, light grey ware. Outer surface black or buff, burnished.
- 11 Light grey sandy ware, light brown in patches. Surface dark brown or grey.
- 12 Hard sandy grey-brown ware, black burnished surface.
- 13 Sandy, red-brown ware. Burnished.
- 14 Soft orange ware with fine grit. The surface is brown with burnished decoration.
(Not associated with the other finds)

Not illustrated: 1 fragment of a bead rim bowl, 1 fragment of a small bowl with upright rim and slightly everted rim, a storage jar with a flattened, horizontally everted rim, and a fragment of very hard grey pottery.

Excepting no. 14, which may be part of a girth beaker, the rest can, with slight reserve, be accepted as an associated, stratified group belonging to the decades after the Roman conquest. High pedestals (no. 11) do not survive long into the Roman period, and other vessels like no. 8 would not be out of place in a pre-conquest depo-



Romano-British Pottery from Fair Oak Scale ¼

sit. The platter no. 6 with its burnished wavy line decoration is more happy in a Flavian context, but the chronological range is not yet established. The fabric of no. 4 with its bright orange patches is readily distinguishable, and has occurred several times in early Roman contexts at Owslebury. The occurrence of a *graffitto* at this early date is to my knowledge unparalleled at Owslebury. In summary the group should be Neronian or early Flavian in date.

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ROUTE 421 AND OTHER ROMAN ROADS IN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

by Grahame Soffe and David Johnston

Route 421, part of the Roman *Iter* VII, linked the Roman settlements of Chichester and Bitterne. The total distance is 27 miles, and the evidence for its line has been summarised by O.G.S. Crawford (1921, 172-3), I. D. Margary (1973, 92-4) and D. E. Johnston and R. Reed (1969). This report presents the considerable amount of new evidence resulting from rescue excavation and fieldwork, including that of M. R. Maitland Muller, J. H. Williams and D. M. Waterman (mostly between 1938 and 1965); Mr. Maitland Muller has generously allowed us reference to his unpublished notes, and discussed them with us. The number of excavated sections (15 in 22½ miles) is now sufficient to allow detailed analysis below (99-110, fig. 1). The sections have been renumbered from west to east to include the new ones.

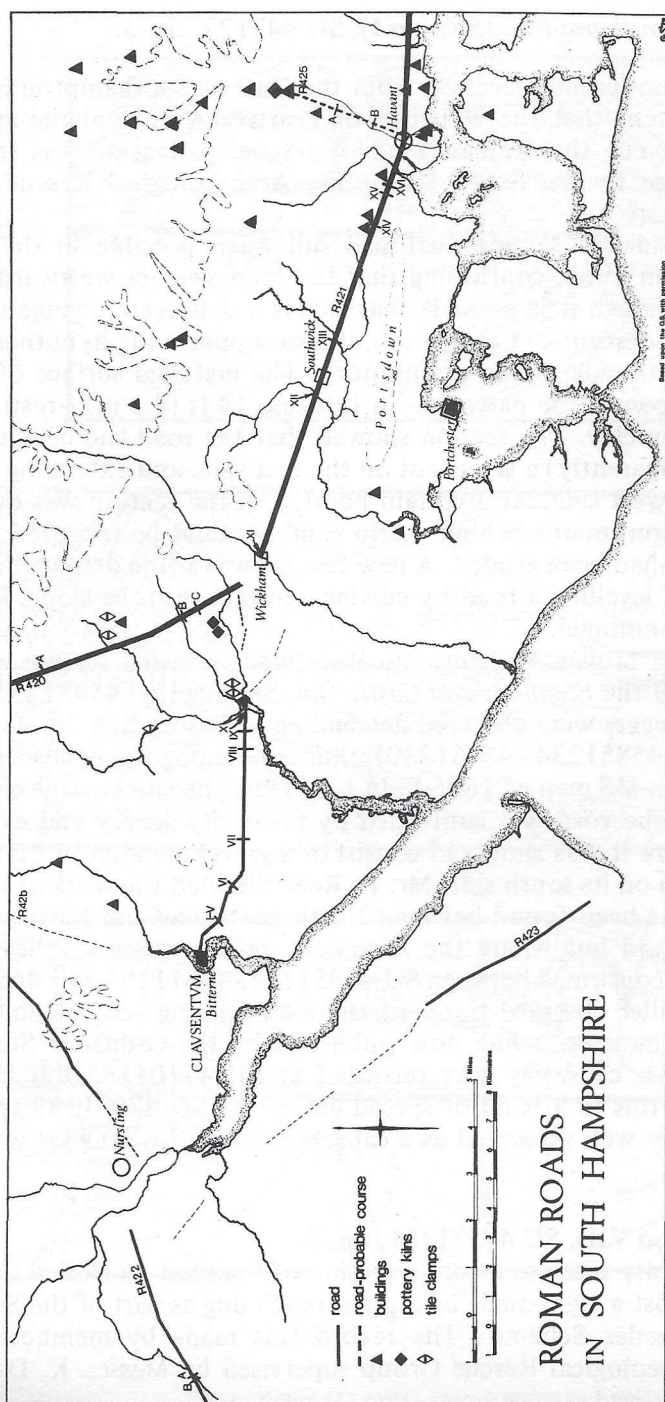
The descriptions of routes 420 and 422 incorporate material additional to Margary's summaries (1973, 91-2, 94-5). Route 425 (Havant to Rowlands Castle) is new.

FIELDWORK AND EXCAVATION

A. *The Roman road from Chichester (Noviomagus) to Bitterne (Clausentum), Route 421.*

Very little evidence has yet been found to locate the point from which the Roman road left *Clausentum*; whether through the Outer Bank and Ditch or by-passing their southern tip and skirting the coast of the promontory. A map of 1783 (Welch 1964, 101) however, shows 'Part of an old Roman Way' running from the middle of the Inner Bank and Ditch and north-east through the outer defences, which, although not accurately dated, have been shown to have a fourth-century phase (Cotton *et al.* 1958, 33-34., Aberg 1960, 233). Also important are six milestones found in the early nineteenth century apparently incorporated into the 'Roman town-wall', (*RIB* 2222-7). The wall has been provisionally dated to c. 370, (Cotton *et al.* 1958, 41-43), but the original milestone inscriptions belong to the period 240-275 A.D. Another, dated to c.210-20 mentions the restoration of roads 'which had fallen in through age'. (*RIB* 2228).

The first certain remains of the road were recorded over twenty years ago on Freemantle Common, (Crawford 1947, 247). In July 1968 it was excavated at four points on Freemantle Common (Trenches A-D), and at another point, prior to housing development further east near the *Elephant and Castle* Inn, Sholing (Johnston *et al.* 1969). In Trenches A-D the constant features were an apparent preliminary levelling of the site and a steeply cambered metalling of gravel barely 13 ft (4 m) wide with evidence for wear and repair. Trench D indicated a bend of 3° towards *Clausentum*.



Freemantle Common, Southampton, (Section I), SU 447127, fig. 3.

In November 1971, notice was received from the City of Southampton Engineer and Surveyors Department that the widening of Peartree Avenue at the approach of Spring Road would cut the Roman road. A rescue excavation was therefore arranged at short notice by the South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group, directed by Mr. Johnston.

The excavation provided a section that had not been possible in the nearby Trench D (Section II) in 1968, confirming that the road swerves westwards about 3° from its course. Although it is possible that this is a deliberate change of alignment, to ease the steep descent to *Clausentum*, it also supports the hypothesis of an approach along the south side of the promontory. The metalled surface of orange gravel (layer 2), was shown to be narrow — in this case 14 ft (4.3 m) — resting on a natural subsoil of yellow clay. The section showed that the road had been widened at some time, filling (apparently) a wheel-rut on the east side, and extending beyond a worn hollow on the west side. At a certain point, (3), the section was disturbed but the metalling was continuous behind it. No camber could be recorded because the surface of the road had been eroded. A new feature was a fine demonstration of the Roman principle of levelling a road by cutting a terrace into the slope. Into this the gravel metalling was rammed.

Further east Maitland Muller, Williams and Waterman recorded surface evidence of the road just south of the *Elephant and Castle* Inn, Sholing (SU 45951235). Four short alignments of an *agger* were observed descending and ascending the slopes of a valley, (SU 45781238–45851234–45951230), thus confirming the bends shown on the Ordnance Survey 2 in MS map of 1806-8. In July 1968 the site became a housing estate, but not before the road was confirmed by resistivity survey and excavated (Section VI) (*ibid.*). Here it was shown to consist of a gravel metalling 12 ft (3.7 m) wide with a slight scoop on its south side. Mr. R. Reed directed the work at this site. No trace of the road has been found between North East Road and Kathleen Road north of Weston Common but where the alignment again crosses a valley, traces of a causeway have been confirmed between SU 46351198, 46511192 and 46571187. From here Maitland Muller observed traces of the road running across Dumbleton's Copse and Netley Common on a line now published by the Ordnance Survey. In 1939 a slight turf-grown causeway was recorded at SU 47101185 but by 1941 ploughing had reduced this to a band of spread gravel. At SU 47501183 the 1939 evidence was particularly well preserved as a causeway 25 ft (7.6 m) wide with side-ditches.

Netley Common, (Section VII), SU 47571181, fig. 3.

In 1971 the opportunity arose to record a section of the road on Netley Common when it was cut at almost a right-angle by a pipe trench dug as part of the Southern Gas Board's 'Itchen Feeder Scheme'. The record was made by members of the South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group supervised by Messrs. K. Dallimore and M. Hughes.

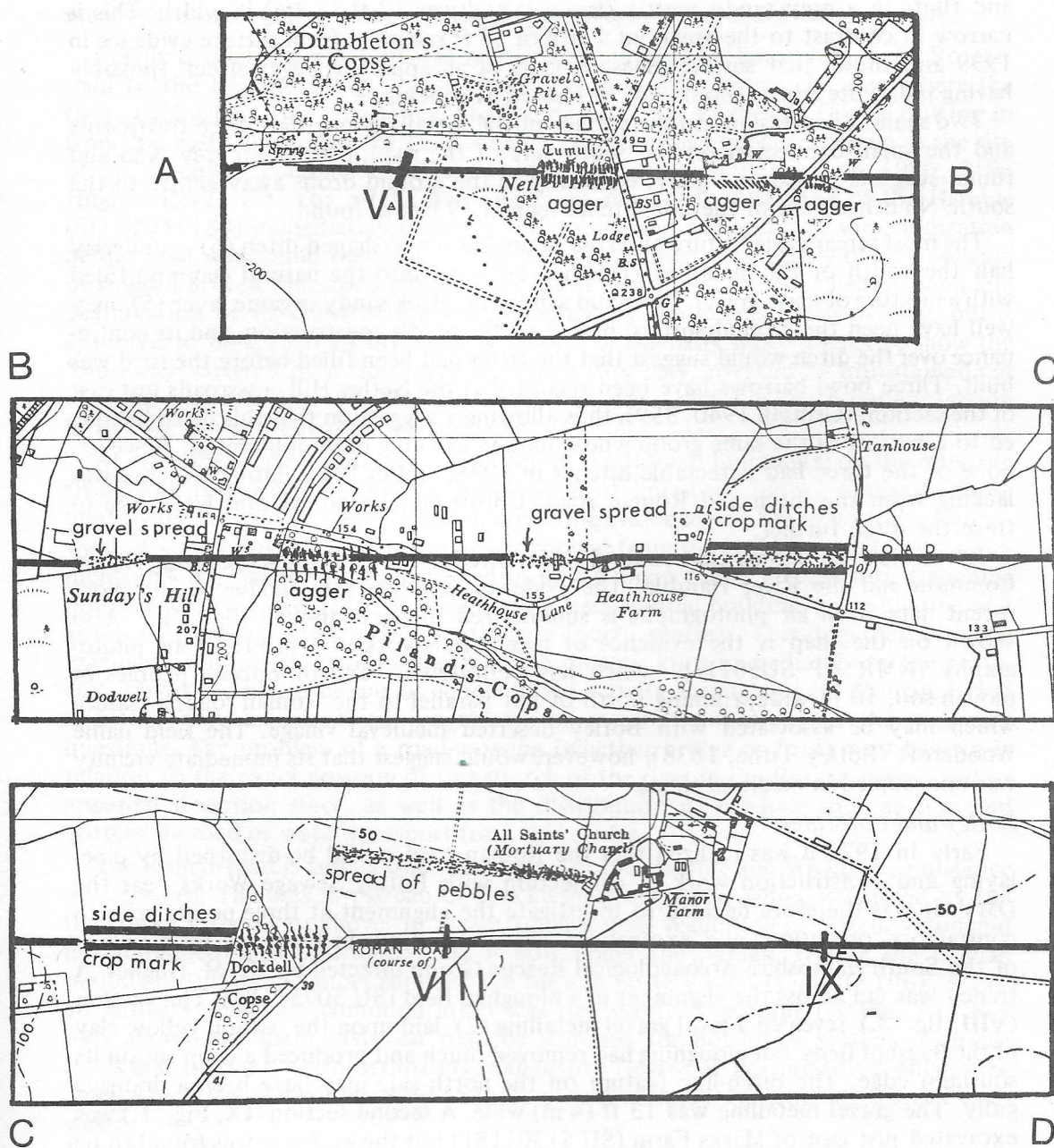


Fig. 2. Route 421 (part) Scale 6 inches to 1 mile

The profile showed the metalling at this point to consist of tightly packed pebbles and flints in a grey sandy matrix (layer 2) and was 12 ft (3.7m) in width. This is narrow in contrast to the apparent width of 25 ft recorded from surface evidence in 1939 and shows that surface measurements of an apparent 'agger effect' (possibly having indefinite edges) should not be treated as conclusive.

Two shallow depressions on the surface of the metalling may have been traffic-ruts and the small depression on the south side of the road, filled with grey sand and flints, suggests a drainage gully, especially as the ground drops away gently to the south. No other trace of the side-ditches seen in 1939 was found.

The most remarkable feature observed in profile — a V-shaped ditch (6) — underlay half the width of the metalling. This had been cut into the natural clay and filled with a mixture of clay, gravel, flints and sand. The black sandy organic layer (5), may well have been the ground surface buried by the road's construction, and its continuance over the ditch would suggest that the latter had been filled before the road was built. Three bowl barrows have been recorded at the Netley Hill crossroads just east of the section, (Grinsell 1940, 359), thus allowing a suggestion that this ditch belonged to a barrow of the same group whose mound has long been obliterated. However, none of the three had detectable ditches in 1938, and in 1971, dating evidence was lacking from the ditch and Roman road. Unfortunately, no attempt was made to trace the ditch further.

It can now be shown that route 421 followed a straight course between Netley Common and the River Hamble. The evidence for this from fieldwork and more recent data from air photographs is summarized in the strip-map (fig. 2). Also shown on the map is the evidence of recent fieldwork and pre-1939 air photography (NMR AP SU5011/1) which has indicated a band of Eocene pebbles in plough-soil, 10 m wide, running north of but parallel to the Roman road, a feature which may be associated with Botley deserted medieval village. The field name Woodcroft (Botley Tithe, 1838), however, would suggest that its immediate vicinity was unoccupied in medieval times.

Botley and Curbridge

Early in 1972 it was realized that the Roman road would be disturbed by pipe-laying and construction work in connection with Botley Sewage Works near the DMV. It was therefore decided to investigate the alignment at three points prior to contractors' operations and excavations were carried out in February by members of the South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group directed by Mr. M. Hughes. A trench was cut across the alignment in a ploughed field (SU 50751181). The section (VIII, fig. 3.) revealed a local gravel metalling (2), laid upon the natural yellow clay of the Bagshot Beds, but ploughing had removed much and produced a deep rut on its southern edge. The ditch-like feature on the north side may have been a drainage gully. The gravel metalling was 13 ft (4 m) wide. A second section (IX, Fig. 1.) was excavated just east of Marks Farm (SU 51301181) but the evidence was found to be disturbed by nineteenth century field drains. The main feature was a strip of gravel 17 ft (5 m) wide, confined to a shallow trench cut into the natural clay. A thin layer

of green clay formed a base to this stratum. To the north and parallel to the alignment was a small gully containing abraded Romano-British sherds of local ware.

Finally a brief examination was made to establish the relationship of the Roman road to the Hamble River. Investigation was concentrated on the area where the river is joined by two tributaries, Shawfords Lake and Curbridge Creek, flowing in from the east. The tongue of land formed by these has long been known as the site of an extensive complex of Romano-British occupation (Haverfield 1900, 310., Hughes 1972, 47). The established alignment meets the west bank of the Hamble (SU 52051180) immediately opposite the occupation site and here some indication of the road was found (Section X, Fig. 1.) This consisted primarily of a 'causeway' of rough Purbeck limestone blocks, exposed at low tide in the river bed. A complete examination of its construction was prevented by the extensive silt overlay, but it appeared to be c 13 ft (4 m) wide. A section of the bank was cut back to show the 'causeway' covered by a thin layer of yellow silty clay, overlaid by iron-stained red clay and a gravelly top-soil. The 'causeway' was over a metre in depth but excavation to its base was prevented by waterlogging.

At the same time, limited examination of the Roman building(s) on the opposite river bank revealed wall-footings constructed of limestone blocks similar to those used in the 'causeway', and although no dating evidence was found with the 'causeway', it seems possible that material was robbed from the building(s) after abandonment and the 'causeway' constructed in post-Roman times. Exploratory trenching on the occupation site (SU 520118) located a substantial building, probably one of a group in use from the late first to the late fourth century. This, together with the extensive series of Romano-British tile and pottery kilns immediately to the north-east, shows the site to be one of concentrated activity throughout the Roman period and that only an organized programme of research would answer the necessary questions. The problem of a road-crossing (whether bridge or ford) must be seen in relation to the exact position of this stretch of the river in the Roman period and its apparent desertion since, as well as the distribution of produce such as tiles and pottery by road or water transport from this centre.

The Roman road is largely unknown between the Hamble and Wickham, a distance of 2½ miles. The area, a plateau of Bracklesham clays and sands, is drained by the tributaries referred to above. In recent times a local vegetation of mixed woodland has abounded, although much land is now under the plough. During the Roman period local clay and timber supplied the tile and pottery kilns (Cunliffe 1961, 8-24); an industry in which communication was necessarily important (cf Fig. 7.) Not only should the main east-west road be searched for but also a system of service roads and trackways. Unfortunately, exhaustive fieldwork has produced only a few clues which may be summarized as three possible routes, all generally aligned east-west:

1. A band of spread gravel in ploughsoil following a straight alignment across Biddenfield (SU 55421202–55751205), photographed by Maitland Muller in 1965. The name of the adjacent copse, Blacklands, may indicate associated occupation.

ROUTE 421 AND OTHER ROMAN ROADS IN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

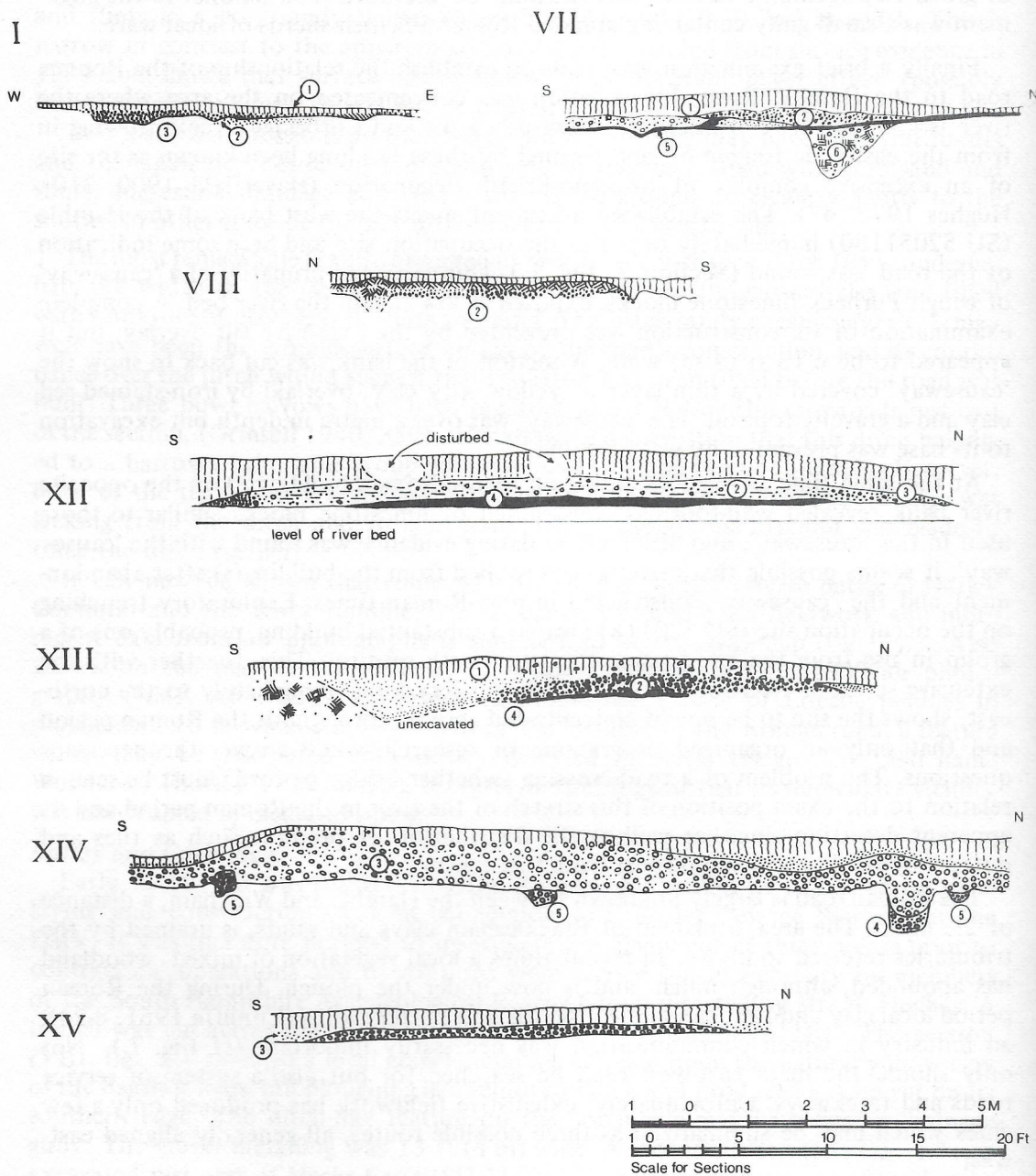


Fig. 3. Sections: Route 421

2. An alignment traced by Maitland Muller between SU 54041195 and 54651185 partly following the line of a holloway, Mansfield Lane. Possible 'camber' at SU 54271188 but no trace seen in 1968 mains trench (SU 545119). Known locally as a Roman road.
3. A possible route along a narrow ridge of outcropping Bagshot Beds between Curbridge and Tapnag. Field names *en route* include Rocky Close, Coldland, Ridge Copse, Blackmoor and Stoneyfield.

Wickham

The site of route 421's junction with the road from Winchester (420) remains unknown. If the alignments are extended to meet one another, a location in the grounds of Coldharbour (Williams Freeman 1915, 443-4) or Park Place near Wickham would seem likely. On the other hand, if the Biddenfield route does represent route 421, its junction with route 420 would be further north at SU 563121.

Evidence is now beginning to indicate the existence of a Romano-British settlement of uncertain character at Wickham itself, situated at or near the Roman crossing of the River Meon. The place name may imply survival of a significant community into the Saxon period, and the correlation between Roman roads in general and place-names derived from the compound *wickam* is an added indication (Gelling 1968). Also the name of Townfield, the open area immediately west of the medieval centre, is significant in that its first element is in many local instances associated with Roman occupation. Some verification of this came in 1967 when a large quantity of first-century pottery and portions of a ditch-system were found in builders' trenches at Townfield (SU 57141135). Traces of Claudian occupation were also located on the east bank of the Meon. Thus the possibility of a *mansio* or road station (Cunliffe 1973, 72) at Wickham becomes at least arguable in spite of the present lack of evidence for the usual rectangular earthwork.

Immediately east of Wickham, the alignment and construction of the road have been determined by excavation and geophysical survey (Johnston *et al.*, 19-20). It was found here that the line diverged from that suggested by Crawford and Margary. In 1965 a sewer trench section (XI, Fig. 1.) showed the metalling of dark gravel to be 16.7 ft (5 m) wide with a side-ditch to the south, and at this point 32 m south of the published line (*ibid*). An extension of the confirmed line to the River Meon sites the Roman crossing adjacent to Townfield and 400 m downstream from the medieval Bridge Street and the mill.

Southwick

East from Wickham Common route 421 is now known to follow a near straight course as far as the coastal plain at Havant (Crawford 1921, 172-3). For a mile the line is preserved by the modern Wickham-Southwick road between Wine Cross and Walton Heath. A lateral branch road has been suggested (Pile 1969, 70) on the basis of an alignment of lanes and field boundaries running north from route 421 at Lodge Farm (SU 617097) to a Roman building near Soberton (SU 625156), but archaeological evidence has yet to be found to support this. On low ground at

Walton Heath, Margary (1973, 93) has recorded an *agger* 24 ft (7 m) wide. East of this point the line survives as a spread of Eocene pebbles in arable.

At a ford described as 'Drawlegs' in the Southwick Estate Records, the Roman road crosses a major tributary of the Wallington River (SU 62820933), a few metres west of a medieval holloway. At a point where the river flows over the London Clay on a gradient of c.1 : 100 substantial remains of the ford survive as an accumulation of heavy gravel on the flat stream bed. The profile recorded as **Section XII** is preserved in the cut-back face of the north bank (fig. 3). Sealed below a sandy topsoil the main feature is a hard layer of orange gravel bound in a matrix of rammed chalk (2) which becomes less distinct at the edges (3). The profile is 39 ft (12 m) long, from which a true width of 37 ft can be estimated. Beneath layer 2 is a thin layer of fine brown gravel (4) resting on the clay subsoil. Layer 4 may represent a primary phase of metalling. About ½ mile east of the river crossing, the Roman road passes just south of a medieval ringwork and bailey situated on a small plateau of the Brackleshams Beds (Williams Freeman 1915, 337 & 410., Cathcart King *et al.* 1969, 90–127): a reminder that 'the great majority of mottes in England are planted either on or near Roman or other ancient roads' (Armitage 1912, 83–84). In 1955, the Ordnance Survey located the remains of a sub-rectangular earthwork enclosure immediately south-west of the ring and bailey, which they have tentatively interpreted as a *mansio*. It measured 110 m by 90 m (slightly smaller than Iping) and was bisected by the line of the Roman road. The best preserved portion on its north and north-east sides consisted of a large spread bank 16 m broad and 0.8 m high but the southern half of the enclosure had been levelled for a Ministry of Defence playing field. On the north-east the bank was intersected by the Norman bailey defences. Additional support for a Roman dating of the enclosure comes firstly from the recorded finding of 'Roman remains' over 70 years ago (Haverfield 1900, 347) and secondly, from the fact that the site marks a half-way stage along the Roman route between *Clausentum* and Chichester. Field inspection in 1973 has added no further information. Although this could well be a remarkable example of continuity in the occupation of a site and the survival and use of a road after the Norman Conquest, further speculation should await scientific excavation.

East of the rectangular enclosure the road alignment forms a boundary to Southwick Park. At a point where its line crosses the lynchet boundary of Hop Ground (SU 64080887) there is a concentration of chalk in the ploughsoil. Definite surface indications again appear at Lye Heath (SU 647086) where it approaches another tributary of the Wallington just below the 100 ft contour. In 1973 a distinct *agger* could be seen crossing pasture on either side of a lane, and during dry weather in September its grassy surface was parched revealing a surface scatter of large brown flints. The area, ploughed occasionally since 1940, remains subject to flooding.

As part of their 'River Itchen Scheme' the Portsmouth Water Company planned to lay a 36 inch main across the Roman road at a point where the *agger* on Lye Heath is best preserved (SU 64770863), thus affording an opportunity to record the construction of the road.

In November 1973, before contractors' work started, a trench was excavated across the apparent *agger* at a right angle to the road axis, in order to obtain a section. Two months later the contractors mechanically removed the topsoil from the site. A combination of the evidence produced by these operations is illustrated in fig. 3 . (Section XIII).

The main constructional feature was a distinct layer of brown gravel metalling (2), 17 ft (5 m) wide, having a pronounced camber. A few large flint nodules remained on top of the gravel but a greater number had been removed by ploughing. Running along the southern edge of the metalling was a shallow ditch or scoop 2-4m wide (not completely excavated), the filling of which partly covered the edge of the metalling and consisting of a yellow sandy loam with patches of iron staining. Seven metres north of the road a second ditch was exposed, 5 m wide, filled with a similar material.

The metalling rested directly upon stiff white sand (4), sealing a thin layer of black organic material. No evidence was found for wear or repair. These excavations have failed to determine whether layer 4 is alluvial or artificial in origin; contractors' test borings have shown the natural subsoil to be a stiff grey clay of the London Clay series. Forty metres east of the section, the subsoil is a heavy ironstained alluvial gravel associated with the river. It appears then that initially the road was well constructed and possessed substantial side-ditches at a place where, crossing soft terrain, it approached a river.

Purbrook and Havant

The course of route 421 between Southwick and Havant was fully worked out by Crawford in 1920, and later published with an annotated map (Crawford 1921, 172-3). By recording surface traces across open country he showed that the metalled road continued the straight alignment at Wickham Common, thus presenting a completely new departure from the established view that the *main* Roman route followed the pre-existing ridgeway along Portsdown to the south. Indeed, in 1725, Stukeley 'found some of the Roman way upon this ridge, which I suppose went through Fareham and Havant, between *Trausantum* and Chichester, with a vicinal turning out to Portchester . . . ' (1776, 195). In reality the ridgeway must have acted as a secondary route throughout the Roman period and is known to have continued as such until recently.

Since 1935, much of the Roman road across Purbrook Park and Bedhampton has been built over, but some new information can be provided from recent fieldwork and excavation. In Drivetts Copse (SU 658083) Mr. Reed confirmed its presence there by a resistivity traverse but no trace of the road was visible during bridge and river alterations at Purbrook in 1970 (SU 67170778). However, trenching along Purbrook, Heath Road in 1972 disclosed a layer of pebbles 30 cms below the surface.

At Crookhorn, the Roman road by-passes the eastern tip of the Upper Chalk anticline of Portsdown and descends across Eocene strata to the coastal plain at Bedhampton. It was at Crookhorn in 1920 that Crawford noted that the 'causeway

was well preserved'. He was able to confirm his observations by aerial reconnaissance in 1926, and more recently, vertical air cover has indicated side-ditches beneath differential crop growth. (NMR AP SU6806/8 SU6807/1-2 [1948]). Between SU 68880719 and 69110711 the ditches can be estimated at 40 ft (12 m) apart.

In June 1972, during construction work for Havant Technical College at Crookhorn a gas main trench was cut across the Roman road alignment from north to south (SU 68930718). No traces of the road or side-ditches were visible in section, but 60 m further north, on the crest of a ridge of the Bagshot Beds, the trench revealed a bank of grey Bagshot pebbles set in a sand matrix (SU 68950723, **Section XIV**, fig. 3). The pebble bank (3), lay directly upon the natural yellow clay sealing three equally spaced gullies of white sand (5) and a larger ditch (4). The linear nature of the feature, apparent after topsoil removal, together with its prominent position, suggests that it probably relates to the nearby settlement (see below), and is possibly a lynchet or field boundary. More recent service trenching across the line of the Roman road during housing development at Crookhorn has shown that erosion has accounted for much of the evidence. In one instance only, 125 m west of **Section XIV**, traces of the road have been recorded in section as a scatter of Bagshot pebbles on the natural yellow sand. The prominent iron panning beneath the pebbles suggests that the metalling was originally substantial but unfortunately, the obliquity of the angle of section and the disturbance of the profile by more recent ditches, prevents an accurate estimate of the road's width.

Just north of route 421 at Crookhorn, current excavations and those of 1926 show that the area was probably occupied by an agricultural community during the Roman period. The two-period flint-footed dwelling house partially examined in 1926 appears to have faced south-east onto the road (Soffe 1973, 58–76). This is the westernmost manifestation of a long ribbon of Romano-British settlement which follows the road as it skirts the heads of numerous creeks along the coastal plain as far as Chichester.

East of Crookhorn, at Belmont Park housing estate the road was recorded before destruction by development. In May 1938, soon after the demolition of Belmont House, the road was recorded in drainage trenches in the London Clay (**Section XVI**, fig. 1.) The metalling was contained in a shallow ditch 15 ft (4.5 m) wide. Into this were laid layers of 'soil', gravel, chalk blocks, small chalk and flints (Roberts 1939). In October 1953, members of the Portsmouth Museum Society, directed by Mr. A. Corney, excavated a section across the road in advance of more housing (SU 6990681, **Section XV**, fig. 3). Builders had already struck the metalling at several points whilst digging foundations. The metalling was well preserved as a compact layer of Bagshot flint pebbles set in a clay-sand matrix, 21 ft (6.4 m) wide and resting on the natural clay. The sandy loam (layer 3), possibly the original topsoil, had accumulated at the edges of the metalling. We are grateful to Mr. Corney for this information.

East of Belmont, the Roman Road is joined by the modern A27 south-coast road which follows its line more or less to Chichester. Initially it forms the northern

boundary of Bidbury Mead (the site of Saxon Bedhampton) and then crosses the Hermitage Stream at SU 70880651. At this point the Roman road is crossed by the boundary of *Hamanfunta* (Havant) as described in two charters of c. 935 (B707 K111) and c. 980 (K624) (Birch 1887, 411-3., Grundy 1929, 118-125). The text in both reads. *thaet ofer tha stret. aet utelan bricge. thenne ofaer tha straet. twamles thae thrittig gyrda ...* 'then over the Street at Utela's (?) Bridge, then over the Street for 28 rods'. The characteristic reference to *straet* or 'made road' is evidence that the Roman road was being kept in good repair at Bedhampton in the late Saxon period, and also implies the survival of a bridge or bridging-point from the time the road was first built.

The alignment continues as far as the medieval church at Havant crossroads where it bends to establish a further straight alignment to Emsworth and Chichester. The Roman north-south route 425 must cross it near the Church, an aspect which is discussed below.

In general, there is little to add to Margary's description of the route between Havant and Chichester (1973, 92). Apart from the modern coastal road which seems to follow its straight line approximately, no trace of the Roman road can be found on the surface or on air photographs. In fact no part of it has yet been examined archaeologically. A map showing its suspected course east of Emsworth has already been published (Cunliffe 1971, I, 9). However, there is considerable evidence of Roman settlement, often of early date, clustered along the road at points adjacent to creek-ends. This evidence can be summarized in four areas typified by dense concentration of Roman material. Firstly, a number of sites south of road and north of Hayling Island including those at Langstone and Warblington. A recently discovered site at Warblington Road, Emsworth has produced significant amounts of first-century pottery. Secondly, at Prinstead and Nutbourne traces of buildings have been found immediately south of the alignment (Butler 1817, 3 & 63). A group of masonry and timber buildings aligned east-west besides the road were excavated at Broadbridge in 1832 (Mitchell 1866, 1-3) and by Mrs. M. Rule in 1967. The recent evidence gives a date range from the second to the fourth century. To the north recent air photographs have revealed a possible Romano-Celtic temple at Ratham Hill, and to the south at Bosham, the remains of two Claudian marble statues have been found (Painter, 1965). Lastly, an area of up to 50 acres south of the road at Fishbourne was densely occupied from c.A.D. 43-5 (Cunliffe 1971, I, 218). Although route 421 was undoubtedly laid out by 75 it has been suggested that the military phase and the Flavian palace at Fishbourne were connected to Chichester's west gate by a separate road (*ibid.* 9.). Evidence now shows that the town itself was well established by the Flavian period, and thus, by inference, the road also. In addition, the concentrated settlement along its route must indicate that the road played a fundamental role in the Romanisation and subsequent economic and administrative development of this part of Britain.

B. The Otterbourne-New Forest Road (Route 422).

The course of this Roman road was discovered and carefully traced by O.G.S. Crawford in the winter of 1912/13 (Crawford 1912., & 1955, 82); his description of the road was later published by Williams-Freeman (1915, 437-42).

At Otterbourne it branches south-westwards from the Winchester-Bitterne road (Margary's route 42b) on several alignments towards Nursling where it must have crossed the River Test. Crawford's fieldwork established that for much of this distance the metalling is of grey Eocene pebbles, but in contrast, west of Nursling, it is predominantly of gravel.

The apparent relationship of the Romano-British settlement at Nursling with the road and its crossing of the Test is unlikely to be fortuitous, although its nature and extent remain uncertain (cf. map, fig. 1). It is still, however, potentially identifiable with the *Onna* of the Ravenna Cosmography (Ordnance Survey 1956), a name possibly derived from *onn-* 'ash tree' or *ond-* 'stone or rock'. The latter has been suggested from the presence of conglomerate gravel in the bed of the Test at Nursling Mill, but 'ashes' was thought to be the more likely explanation. (Richmond *et al.* 1949, 1-50). The road is largely lost near the river, the only possible traces being recorded on Crawford's early air photographs which show two parallel crop-marks (side-ditches) running NE-SW at SU 370157. Recent ground inspection revealed that much of this area is now destroyed by modern road-works and gravel extraction. Beyond the gravel terraces of the Test and Blackwater the road's position is pinpointed by the place-name Hill-street and from here it has been traced by way of Cadnam to Stoney Cross and Ringwood. The location of *Noviomagno* (Ravenna C.) remains unknown.

In April 1972, excavations were carried out at Cadnam in advance of the M27 motorway by members of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society, New Forest Section, in conjunction with the South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group. Four sites were selected, two of which involved mechanically excavated sections through the presumed Roman road in Rockram Wood. Mrs. U. Betts kindly provided notes and drawings on which our text and fig. 4. are based.

Section A. SU 29281355 (fig. 4).

Here, in an area scheduled for destruction by the M27, a cutting 17.7 m long, 1 m wide and 1 m deep was made across the slight *agger* at a right angle. The metalling appeared as a bank of compact yellow gravel 22 ft (6.7 m) wide with a camber (layer 2). Beneath this was a very thin sandy layer (3) resting on the natural yellow clay. No ditches could be traced despite an extensive search, and owing to lack of time the road-surface could not be examined before cutting began. A twice-mended pothole in the west face of the trench (not recorded in section) provided evidence of use.

Section B. SU 29051343 (fig. 4).

The topsoil here was stripped in advance of excavation and the surface of the metalling exposed. It appeared as a close-set stretch of pebbles so polished and rounded as to look almost water-worn; on lifting, however, they were found to be jagged on

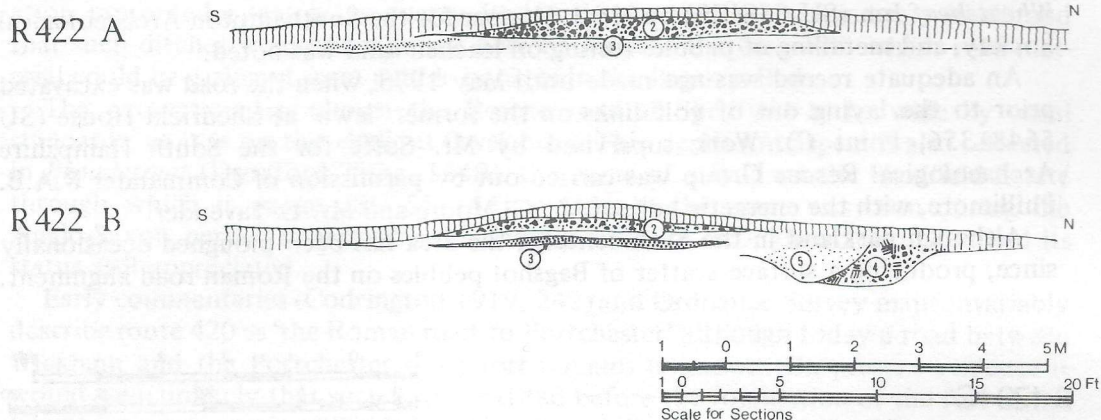


Fig. 4. Route 422 Sections

their buried ends and to be normal components of the yellow gravel which here, as in Section A, composed the roadway (layer 2). There were no traffic-ruts or signs of repair but beneath the gravel metalling was a thin layer of fine grit (3) resting upon the natural yellow clay. A ditch was found on the north side filled with a clay-gravel mixture (4) and cut into this was a secondary filling of fine grey silt. There was some evidence that layer 2 may have extended over and thus post-dated this ditch. No ditch was found on the south side of the road.

In conclusion, the excavations provided a first opportunity of studying the road's construction under reasonable conditions. Although no dating evidence was found all factors would seem in favour of its Roman origin.

C. The Winchester-Wickham Road (Route 420), (figs. 1 & 5)

At first, for 6½ miles from Winchester (*Venta Belgarum*) the Roman road crosses undulating chalk downland, where in several instances, a distinct *agger* has survived. Margary (1973, 31) has noted widths of 27 ft (8.2 m) at Morestead and 33 ft (10 m) at Owslebury (Austin's Copse), with ditches on each side. Recent ground inspection indicated that stretches of *agger* survive only in woodland, deep ploughing having levelled the lengths in between. Fortunately, air photography over the last 10 years has recorded the entire length with side-ditches as far south as Upham, and for the most part, fieldwork has shown the *agger* to be built of chalk with a flint metalling.

South of the chalk the alignment continues across Eocene sands and clays with little surface trace. Recently its construction has been noted in 3 instances. At Wintershill (SU 535181) in 1963, a section was observed below the modern road (point A). In 1972, students from Brune Park School, Gosport, exposed a surface of

yellow gravel with a chalk kerb on its western edge at Grange Farm, Shedfield (SU 55321386, point B). Further south, a trench was cut across the road at the *Wheatsheaf* Inn (SU 558129) by Mr. J. Hooper for the Southampton Archaeological Society, and metalling of pebbles resting on leached sand was noted.

An adequate record was not made until May 1973, when the road was excavated prior to the laying out of golf links on the former 'lawn' at Shedfield House (SU 55481356, Point C). Work supervised by Mr. Soffe for the South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group was carried out by permission of Commander R.A.B. Phillimore, with the energetic help of Mr. G. Moore and Mr. L. Tavender.

Although parkland in the 19th century, the area has been ploughed occasionally since, producing a surface scatter of Bagshot pebbles on the Roman road alignment.

R420 C

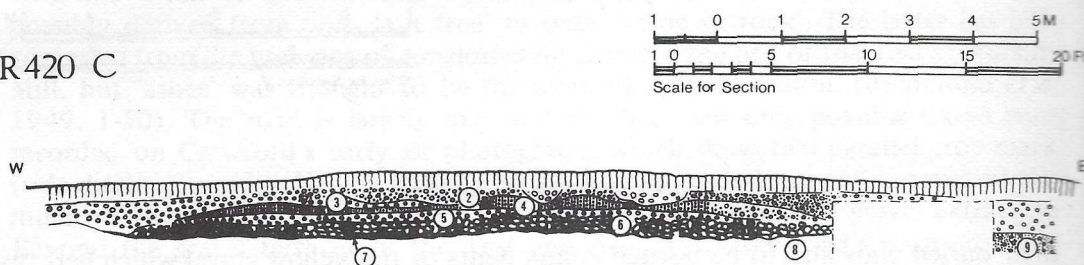


Fig. 5. Route 420 Section

A trench was cut across the road at a near right angle and the profile exposed (fig. 5). The road was constructed of varied layers of grey Bagshot pebbles set in sand, forming a cambered metalling 36 ft (11 m) wide. This sealed a fossil subsoil of white-yellow leached sand (8), the surface of which was covered by a thin layer of hard ferruginous material and humic sand (7) which displayed a curvilinear pattern when viewed in plan. The organic material is likely to have been segregated from a horizon such as layer 4 and similarly, the harder material can be interpreted as an incipient iron-pan developing immediately after road construction. The initial metalling consisted of large pebbles set in white sand (layer 6) over-laid by smaller pebbles in grey sand (7). These layers had been rammed and cambered. Overlying this metalling was an irregular layer of pebbles and humic sand, black in the centre and red-brown at the edges (4). Irregular layers of fine loam and pebbles (2), and orange sand with few pebbles (3) were distinguished above layer 4. It is possible that layer 4 represents a short period during which the road was not fully maintained and became covered by vegetation; perhaps after the Roman period. This may reflect the period between c.450 and 650 when urban occupation and regular maintenance of streets appear to have ceased in Winchester itself (Biddle 1972, 236). Layers 2 and 3 reflect attempts at repair, and subsequent wear. The absence of artifacts *in situ* has prevented any precise dating.

A trial trench 2.5m west of the metalling located a bed of orange sand and pebbles (9), probably natural in origin. Apart from this, the lack of resources during excavation prevented a search for quarry-ditches. However, there seems every likelihood that such ditches were not required here because of the ease with which road material could be gathered from pebble pockets in the Bagshot Beds;

The excavation has shown the Roman road at Shedfield to be wide by usual standards, as it is on the chalk at Owslebury. This significant aspect is also reflected in *Broadstreet* (Droxford Tithe, 1840), the name of a field on the Shedfield Estate through which it passes (SU 551143). No doubt the name was born during the Anglo-Saxon period to describe this length of route 420, then still in use and its status still appreciated.

Early commentaries (Codrington 1919, 242) and Ordnance Survey maps invariably describe route 420 as 'the Roman road to Portchester' although today a road between Wickham and the Portchester shore fort remains unknown. On present evidence it would seem unlikely that such a road existed before the foundation of the fort in the late third century (Cunliffe 1969, 65). A metalled road was possibly constructed around A.D. 285 to connect the fort to a network established since the first century. D. A *Road from Havant to Rowlands Castle (Route 425)*¹

The possibility of a Roman road running north from Havant has been speculated upon since the early nineteenth century (Butler 1817). Indeed, we rely almost entirely upon early antiquarian reports for our knowledge of the road, which has only recently been supplemented by fieldwork, air reconnaissance and rescue excavation. Longcroft (1857, 2.) was able to conclude that: 'The Romans fully appreciated the importance of a good and available communication between their inland camps and the sea, and the road crossing the street of Havant at right angles from north to south, seems to have been one of the main approaches from their encampment on old Winchester² through Rowland's castle to the harbour and island of Hayling. In confirmation of this, various remains of pottery and many coins have from time to time been found in the vicinity of the line, as well as in the town of Havant, but not to such an extent as would enable one to form any very accurate idea of the size or importance of the place prior to the Norman conquest'.

Today it cannot be doubted that Havant was of some minor importance during the Roman period. The medieval street pattern, street names and the relative position of the church have been compared with Chichester, although the latter was a Roman town in the true sense, thus making the analogy a weak one. Chance finds of Roman material are concentrated around the crossroads; an early example being the finding in 1832 of a 'solid concrete of Roman brick and cement' and second-century coins, sealed beneath the medieval church (*ibid.* 46).

In the early 1960s, fieldwork by Stanley and Hooper indicated the possible route of a minor road running in a straight line N 20° E from a point on route 421 near the church, across Leigh Park and into the Rowlands Castle valley. In June 1964, Mr. G. Harris recorded a section in a builders' trench during housing development at

1. Route number agreed with Mr. Margary.

2. Old Winchester Hill, Meonstoke. Iron Age hill-fort.

Prospect Farm, Leigh Park (SU 7270867, Section A). A foundation of large flint nodules 60 cms thick formed the main feature. This was sealed below a layer of fine gravel and clay 20 cms thick. The whole structure was 10 ft (3 m) wide. In August 1968, Mr Harris excavated a section across the line of the road at Oak Park School (SU 72120719, Section B). This revealed a gravel surface of metalling which, as in Section A had been laid over large flints resting on the natural valley gravel. The dimensions were also the same. In addition, Section B also revealed two side-ditches, 60 cms deep and 60 cms wide, containing three layers of silting and abraded sherds of Romano-British and medieval pottery. There was no berm between the metalling and the ditches.

Recent attempts to trace the road north of Prospect Farm have met with little success, although rescue excavations near the probable line in 1968 and 1970 revealed two small buildings of the second and third centuries overlying first-century enclosure ditches, on a sandy hill at Wakefords Copse (SU 727091) (Lewis forthcoming). In the Rowlands Castle valley the situation is complicated by the diversity of Romano-British settlement. Longcroft (1857, 123) mentions a 'bed of what seems to have formed an ancient Roman road' between the Norman motte (SU 733105) and the three Roman buildings near Maize Coppice Farm (SU 73420988). Unfortunately much of this area was later swallowed up by the Victorian brickworks and the railway (Lewis 1853). More significantly however we learn that 'from these buildings a causeway, with a fosse on either side, extended in a southerly direction towards the sea coast, and several other earthworks now levelled with the plough' (Butler 1817, 59, Longcroft 1857, 124). This statement was confirmed when air reconnaissance by Mr. J. Boyden and Mr. A. Rule showed that remains of this complex of features survived below the modern ploughsoil. Oblique air photographs taken in 1962 record as crop-marks two parallel ditches extending south from the occupation site (NMR AP SU 7310/1 etc). Fig. 6 gives a sketch-plan of the crop-marks based on this evidence. Although more recent air survey has failed to detect these features again, ground inspection since 1970 has confirmed a concentration of flint nodules and *tegulae* along the line of the 'causeway'. There remains the possibility that the Roman road continued north beyond the Rowlands Castle pottery kilns (Rule forthcoming). Air photography has recently verified a length of road running north from the Chichester-Silchester road (route 155) at Frithend, into the area of the Alice Holt potteries (pers. comm. Mr. M. Lyne), but little, (apart from nebulous soil-marks at Idsworth Farm), has been found in between.

Again, there is the tradition that the road crossed route 421 at Havant, reaching Hayling Island by means of a wade-way. The straight alignment of Rectory Road and raised footpath to the shore at SU 720050, seems the likely route. Supplementary evidence is again provided by traces of settlement. Firstly an extensive group of buildings including a bath-house at Langstone suggesting intensive commercial activity; and secondly, a large monumental structure of probable mid-first-century date (Talfourd Ely 1908). These provide a focus for a scattered settlement on Hayling and the small islands in Langstone Harbour particularly concerned with

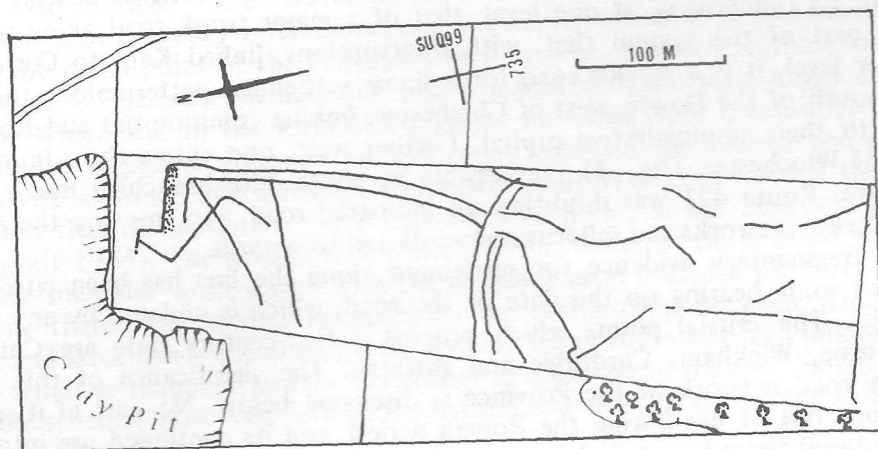


Fig. 6. Cropmarks near Rowlands Castle

the commercial winning of salt and shell-fish. It seems likely that the metalled road acted primarily (although not exclusively) as the link between the Rowlands Castle kilns and their markets. In a recent study of the distributions of two kiln products Ian Hodder (forthcoming) has shown that the immediate marketing area is restricted to a small area surrounding the production centre. It can now be added that the main density of finds occurs in a zone corresponding with the road's long axis. Secondly, a high density area extends east along route 421 to include the *civitas* capital at Chichester and its immediate hinterland, and from there extends up Stane Street, the road to London. Hodder also notes a sharp fall-off in distribution west of the kiln area, possibly due to the influence of Winchester's tributary area, although here again finds are concentrated along route 421. Chichester is suggested as the major additional market linked as it is by a good road to the kilns. However, if a minor nucleated settlement existed at the Havant crossroads, it too must have acted as a simple market centre for the exchange of pottery, articular goods and marine produce, with Chichester as a 'higher-order central place' (Hodder *et. al.* 1971, 404) providing back-up specialist services. Our present scanty data from Havant itself represents settlement in the third and fourth centuries, a period when the Rowlands Castle kilns were flourishing. Evidence is lacking for the earlier periods (Todd 1970, 124) but an early foundation is indicated indirectly by the first-century date of route 421 itself and the occupation along its length together with the early remains of Wakefords Copse and Hayling Island.

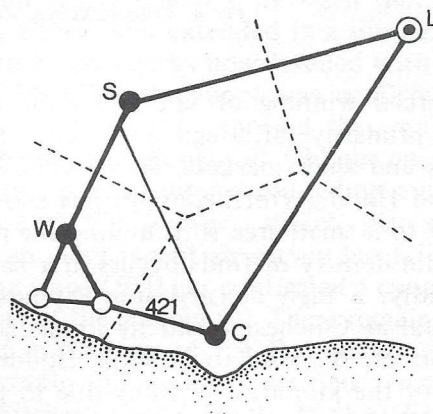
DISCUSSION

Route 421 is an important element in the road network of central southern Britain. Its function is, at one level, that of a major trunk road along the south coast, part of the system that, with interruptions, linked Kent to Cornwall. At another level, it is a service road for a linear settlement pattern along the coastal plain south of the Downs west of Chichester, linking communities and Romanised farms to their administrative capital. Further west, one enters the administrative zone of Winchester, (fig. 7), accessible by route 420, branching north-west at Wickham. Route 421 was doubtless an industrial road, too, moving the products of potteries, tileworks and salterns eastwards and westwards.

The fragmentary evidence for settlement along the line has been cited above. This has some bearing on the date of the road, which is undated by any internal evidence. The crucial points which support a first-century date are Chichester, Fishbourne, Wickham, Curdridge and Bitterne. The significance of this for the primary road network of the Province is discussed below. No part of it seems to have gone out of use during the Roman period, and its continued use into Saxon and medieval times is noted above (p. 12) and in the excavation report of sections II - V. Heavy wear and repairs were observed in sections I - V and XIII.

Fig. 7.

Analysis of Road Network



We now have enough evidence to show that the character of the road changed frequently, using varied local materials, and forming an *agger* or terrace, with or without side-ditches and scoops, as the terrain dictated. There was an *agger* in sections VI, VII and probably XII and at two points east of Wickham, but not consistently throughout. Wickham marks a change in the character of the road. To the east, widely-spaced flanking ditches are recorded (as on a major road), and the metalling is noticeably wider. The model (fig. 8) shows evidence of excavation. Excavation thus confirms a significant feature previously suggested from superficial examination.

The box-like network of fig. 7 (which is also that of *Iter VII*) looks at first sight like the classic solution to the problem of linking six centres with the minimum of road mileage – the “travelling salesman” problem. This, however, is nonsense in terms of everyday intercourse, and the reality seems to be two hierarchies. London, the nodal point of the Province’s road system, is linked to three towns of second rank – Silchester, Winchester, and Chichester. While logic might demand parity for Winchester in the form of a separate link-road from London, economic commonsense suggests a diversion via Silchester. Likewise, the absence (on present evidence) of a direct link between Chichester and Winchester proves the basic proposition that the optimum route between two points is not always a straight line (Haggett 1965). The diversion of route 421 via Wickham (in contrast with the Chichester-Silchester link) agrees with the archaeological evidence for first century settlement there. The second hierarchy – the relationship between Winchester, Bitterne and Wickham – accounts for the western leg of route 421, as a link between the two minor settlements, and for the change in character of the road, noted above. The whole scheme, moreover, follows the natural east-west “grain” of the land.

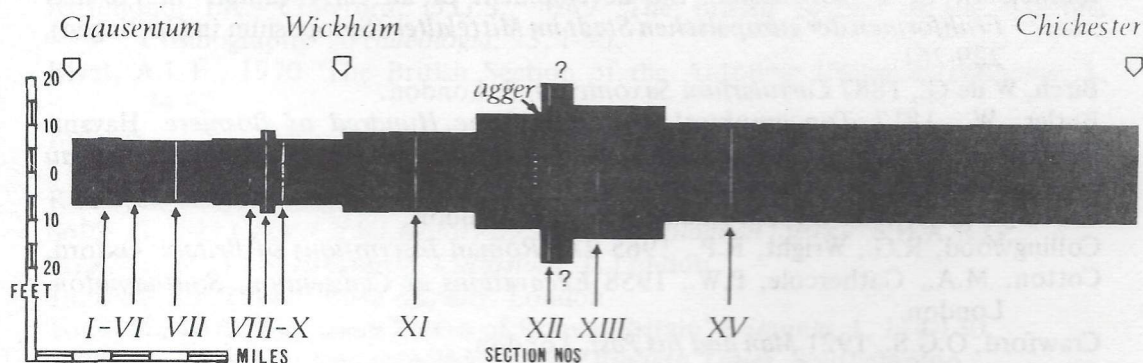


Fig. 8. Route 421: Analysis of road widths

The study of this model prompts a revision of the hypothesis advanced recently by one of the authors (Johnston and Reed 1969, 22), that the Winchester – Wickham link (route 420) is a secondary element. This rested on the superficial dimensions of one length of *aggr* near Owslebury, apparently supported by the wide profile subsequently recognised at Shedfield; however, the implication that route 421 was remodelled between Wickham and Chichester is disproved by the excavated evidence of sections XI – XV, (with the possible exception of XII).

We conclude therefore that the entire route 421 is of first-century date, part of a planned network, catering for long-distance and local traffic; and that it fulfilled the latter function long after the end of the Roman period, in places to the present day.

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