

RESCUE EXCAVATIONS ON A BRONZE AGE AND ROMANO-BRITISH SITE AT DANESHILL, BASINGSTOKE, 1980–81

By MARTIN MILLETT and TIM SCHADLA-HALL

with contributions from J C BARRETT, A BARTLETT, J H CLELAND, G H COLE, J EVANS, S GILL, G GRAINGER, F J GREEN, M MARLOWE, S NEEDHAM, R F TYLECOTE and L C WINTER

ABSTRACT

In December 1980 observation during the construction of a feeder road within Hampshire County Council's Chineham development resulted in the discovery and salvage excavation of a Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery (SU 6565541). Background research has produced evidence for Late Bronze Age activity in the area, including material from SU 651532 which is also presented. Subsequent trial trenching and a geophysical survey located Romano-British features. Limited excavation revealed an enclosure, droveway and iron smithing together with a pair of cremation burials.

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises work which was undertaken during 1980 and 1981 under salvage conditions. Both the excavation and subsequent analysis were dogged by a series of different problems which have resulted in this report being less detailed than might otherwise have been possible. In particular had more extensive excavation been possible, it is likely that further important data would have been recovered. The excavations were directed by the authors with supervisory work undertaken by G H Cole and J Evans. The finds and site records are held by Hampshire County Museum Service and bear the accession numbers A1980.89 and A1981.92.

Location, Geology and Topography

The site at Daneshill lies in the parish of Basing and is now beneath the outer eastern suburbs of Basingstoke (Figs 1 and 2). The site

of the present excavation lies on a slight northward facing dip slope between 90 and 100 m OD, some 100 m north of Lutyens' Daneshill House. This dominates the south facing escarpment at the junction of the clay of the Eocene Reading Beds with the Cretaceous chalklands of the Hampshire Basin. On the chalk ridge c 600 m south of Daneshill lies the contemporaneous site of Cowdery's Down (Millett 1983). The name Daneshill has now been adopted somewhat ambiguously as the name of an industrial estate c 1 km to the south-west.

In this locality the Reading Beds comprise heavy clays which are here overlain by a thin deposit of plateau gravel containing rounded flint pebbles c 20–40 mm in diameter. The water table is very high and until it was built upon this land was poorly developed with areas dominated by pasture and coppiced woodland and the excavation site was permanent pasture when the excavation commenced. The high water table in winter resulted in this subsoil resembling wet ready-mix concrete, a resemblance reinforced in the dry summer conditions when the mixture set solid with a uniform grey colour. In neither condition was excavation easy, and all but the most obvious features could be seen only with the utmost difficulty.

Excavation Strategy

Excavations took place during three separate periods: December 1980 – January 1981; April 1981, and June–July 1981 (when they were run

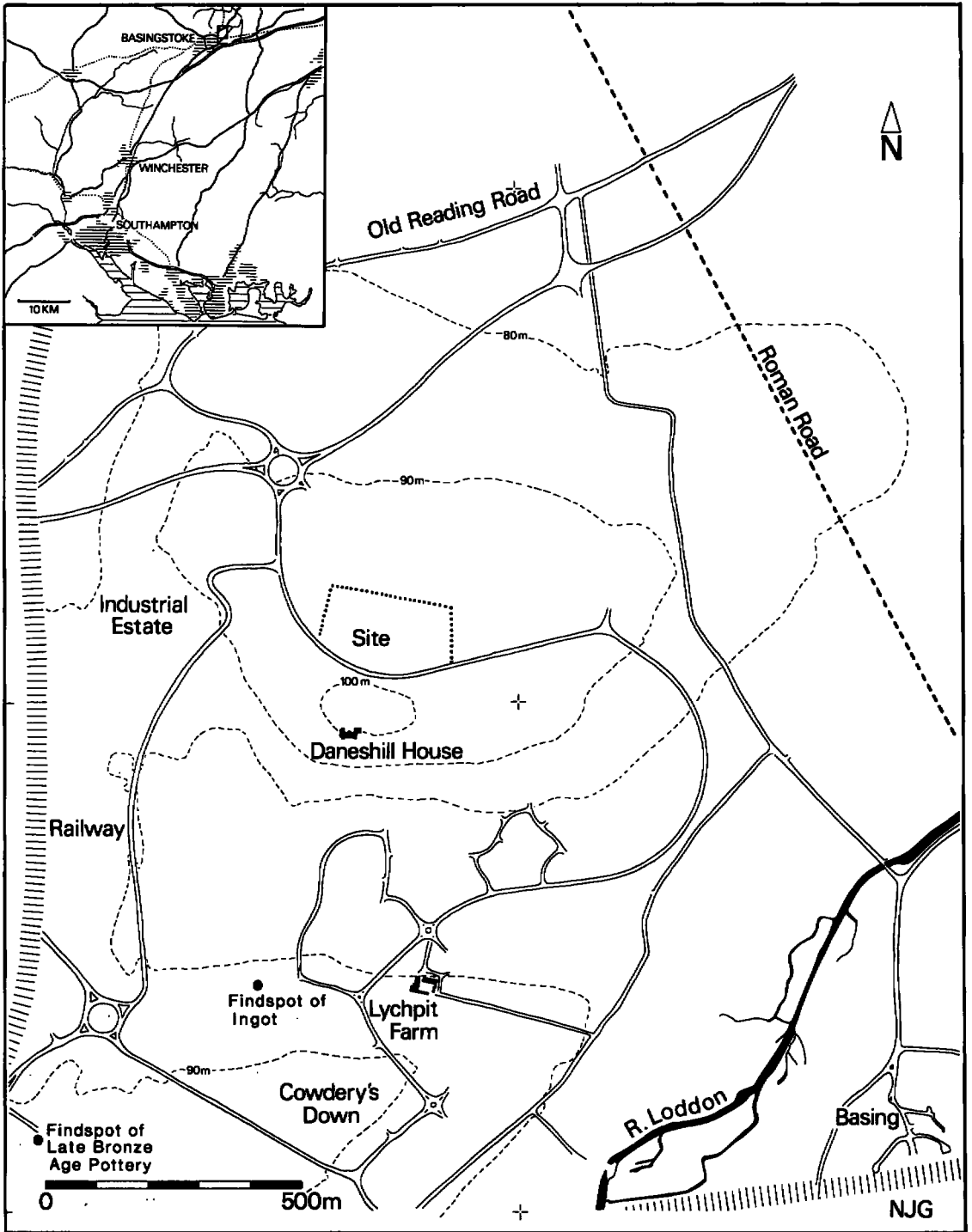


Fig 1. Location of the site at Daneshill and previous finds from the area.

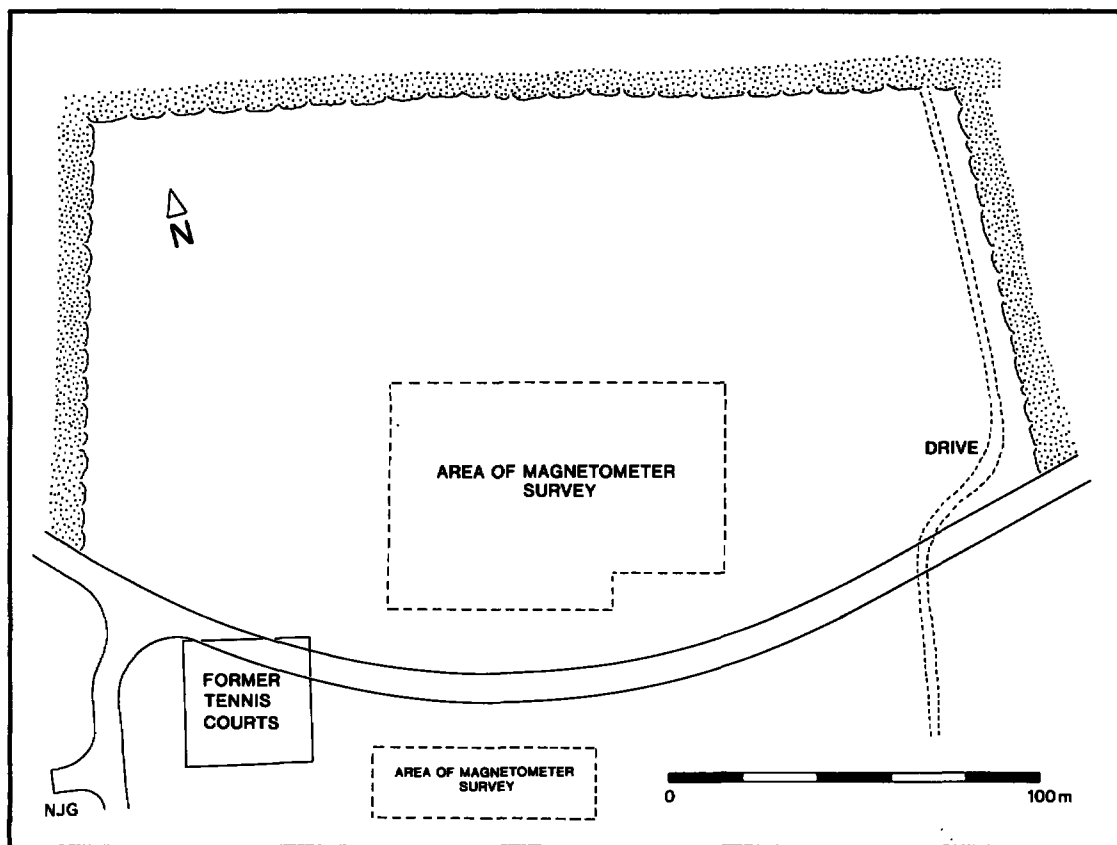


Fig 2. Location of magnetometer survey in relation to new roads and property boundaries as in 1981.

concurrently with those at Cowdery's Down). The excavations were undertaken by Hampshire County Museum Service with the aid of local volunteers. The trial trenches in April 1981 failed to convince the Department of the Environment that the site was of sufficient importance to merit rescue funding so the final work in June–July was designed simply to obtain maximum information before the site was destroyed.

The December–January work followed the identification of features after topsoil had been removed for road construction. The excavation involved cleaning the stripped surface, planning the exposed features and excavating as many of the exposed features as possible (Fig 3). In Area 3 where Bronze Age burials were

found, the cleaning was systematic and we may be confident that we have a complete record (Fig 4), elsewhere only the most obvious features will have been noted. This was followed-up in April with the excavation of a series of 2 x 2 m trial trenches designed to evaluate the extent of the site. This excavation was supplemented by a fluxgate gradiometer survey (Figs 2 and 3) undertaken by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory (Bartlett 1981). This survey located a series of discontinuous linear features which subsequently proved to be Romano-British ditches containing iron-working debris.

The June–July excavation tested the features identified by the gradiometer survey with a series of 2 m wide machine trenches cut

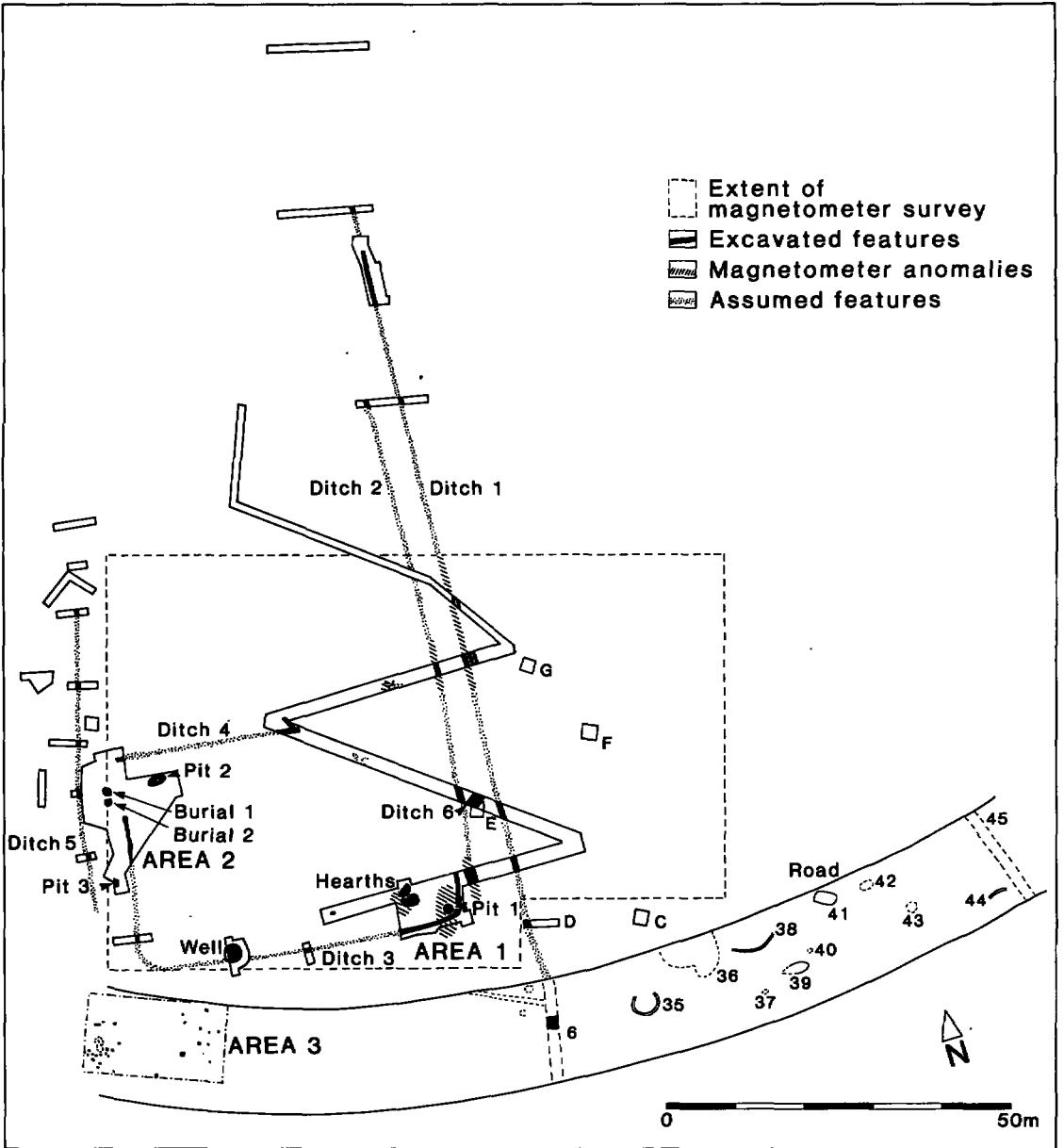


Fig 3. Daneshill. Plan showing excavated areas and principal features.

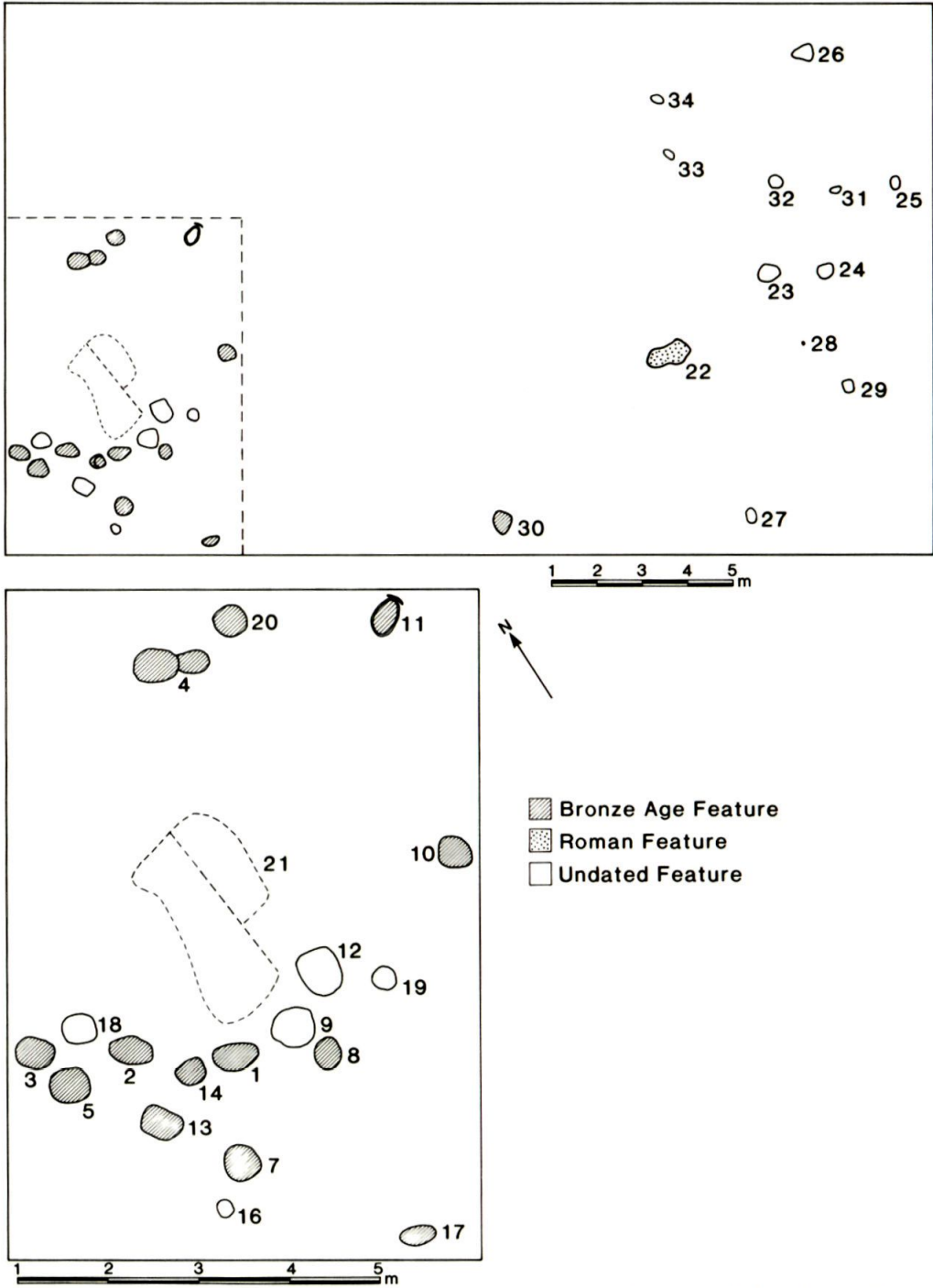


Fig 4. Daneshill. Plan of the features in Area 3. The upper plan shows all features in the cleared area. The lower plan shows details of the principal group of burials. (Drawn by Pauline Fenwick).

across the survey anomalies. These first trenches were followed-up with further machine cuts and two larger areas (1 and 2) designed to trace and further examine various features (Fig 3). The trenches were hand-cleaned, and the exposed features excavated. Because of the nature of the subsoil and the width of the trenches, only the most substantial features were identifiable. This strategy established the general nature of the site but did not locate any ephemeral features.

In this report the features from the three excavations are described and discussed according to the two principal periods represented, Bronze Age and Romano-British. Undated features noted and planned on the eastern part of the road strip (Fig 3) remain undated and are not further discussed.

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE

Bronze Age material came from Area 3 (Figs 3 and 4) and comprised a series of cremation burials. These were cut into the gravel immediately beneath the topsoil and showed

up as patches of burnt material where they had been truncated by road building. The evidence for the features is collated in Table 1, with details of the pottery given in Table 2 (with Figs 5 and 6), the cremated bone in Table 3 (also Microfiche 17) and the radiocarbon dates in Table 4.

There were a total of fourteen cremations, all but two of which were associated with some pottery. Truncation by road construction and presumed earlier agricultural activity had resulted in considerable damage to the features. Where good evidence is available (contexts 1, 2, 11, 13, and 14) it is clear that the cremations contained within urns had been buried with the pot inverted, subsequent destruction having removed the bases of the pots, with occasional base sherds surviving only where the pot had collapsed in on itself (eg Fig 4, no 1). In the two most complete vessels (Fig 6 nos 13 and 14) less than half of the pots' estimated original height survives. In the two instances where no pottery was recovered (contexts 3 and 7) it might be argued that urns had been completely lost through similar destruction. This is not certain, and in the case of context

Table 1: Features in Area 3 (Fig 4)

Context no.	Character of Feature	Pottery (Table 2)	Cremated bone (Table 3)	Identification
1	Oval pit c 500 x 300 mm: No information on depth/fill.	Yes	Yes	Urned cremation
2	Oval pit c 500 x 300 mm. No information on depth/fill.	Yes	Yes	Urned cremation
3	Sub-circular pit, c 200 mm diameter c 170 mm deep, squared profile. Burnt bone on base. Fill of black earth.	No	Yes	Un-urned cremation
4	Sub-circular pit, c 500 mm diameter no information on depth, resolved itself into two smaller pits at base. Fill included charcoal.	Yes	Yes	Urned cremation
5	Circular pit, c 440 mm diameter. No information on depth/fill.	Scraps	Yes	Urned cremation
6	Not a feature.			
7	Circular pit, c 440 mm diameter. No information on depth/fill.	No	Yes	Un-urned cremation
8	Circular pit, c 240 mm diameter. No information on depth/fill.	Yes	Yes	Urned cremation
9	Sub-circular pit, c 480 mm diameter. No information on depth/fill.	No	No	Post hole ?
10	Sub-circular pit, c 360 mm diameter, flat bottomed. No information on depth/fill.	Yes	Yes	Urned cremation

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Character of Feature</i>	<i>Pottery (Table 2)</i>	<i>Cremated bone (Table 3)</i>	<i>Identification</i>
11	Oval pit, c 460 x 320 mm. No information on depth/fill. [Photos show the upper half of an urn but this is no longer extant]	Yes	Yes	Urned cremation
12	Sub-rectangular pit, c 540 x 440 mm c. 400 mm deep. No information on depth/fill.	No	No	Post hole ?
13	Sub-circular pit, c 500 mm diameter c 300 mm deep, flat bottomed. Burnt bone on base. Black soil/charcoal in fill.	Yes	Yes	Urned cremation
14	Sub-circular pit, c 300 mm diameter. No information on depth/fill.	Yes [now	Yes, missing]	Urned cremation
15	Number not used. This number was confused with 13 on site.			
16	Circular pit, c 180 mm diameter c 80 mm deep. Filled with dark soil/flint.	No	No	Post hole ?
17	Oval pit, c 380 x 200 mm. No information on depth/fill.	Scraps	Yes	Urned cremation
18	Sub-circular pit, c 180 mm diameter, shallow rounded profile c 90 mm deep.	No	No	Post hole ?
19	Sub-circular pit, c 240 mm diameter c 50 mm deep. No information on profile.	No	No	Post hole ?
20	Sub-circular pit, c 380 mm diameter. No information on depth/fill.	Yes	Yes	Urned cremation
21	Shallow subrectangular disturbance, c 1.10 x 2.00 m filled with clay and gravel.	No	No	Probably natural
22	Irregular scoop c 950 x 300 mm.	Yes	No	Romano-British
23	Sub-circular pit, c 400 mm diameter, c 200 mm deep, pointed profile. Filled with dark earth and flint.	No	No	Post hole ?
24	Sub-circular pit, c 300 mm diameter, c 100 mm deep, rounded profile. Filled with dark earth and flint.	No	No	Post hole ? (one fragment of burnt daub)
25	Sub-circular pit, c 300 mm diameter, c 140 mm deep, rounded profile. Filled with dark earth and flint.	No	No	Post hole ?
26	Sub-circular pit, c 400 mm diameter, c 200 mm deep, rounded profile. Filled with dark earth and flint.	No	No	Post hole ?
27	Sub-circular pit, c 300 mm diameter, c 250 mm deep, sub-squared profile. Filled with dark grey earth and flint.	No	No	Post hole ?
28	Small irregular hole, c 40 mm diameter.	Yes	No	Romano-British
29	Sub-circular pit, c 280 mm diameter. No information on depth/fill.	No	No	Post hole ?
30	Sub-rectangular pit, c 400 x 450 mm. No information on depth/fill.	Scraps	No	Possible urned cremation
31	'D'-shaped pit, c 230 mm long. No information on depth/fill.	No	No	Post hole ?
32	Sub-circular pit, c 300 mm diameter c 80 mm deep, rounded profile. Filled with dark earth and flint.	No	No	Post hole ?
33	Sub-circular pit, c 100 mm diameter c 200 mm deep. Filled with dark earth and flint.	No	No	Post hole ?
34	Sub-circular pit, c 100 mm diameter c 180 mm diameter, squared profile. Filled with black earth.	No	No	Post hole ?

3, the surviving depth of the pit suggests that it is unlikely and the burial was deposited in a pit on its own. In other cases it seems that the cremations were originally buried with sherds rather than complete pots (below p 91).

In at least two graves (contexts 8 and 13) there were multiple burials, although the process leading to their deposition is not clear. The burials were clustered in an area *c* 10 m across, with the bulk of the graves within 2 m of each other. There is no clear spatial patterning, although there is an initial impression of roughly circular array with a few outliers. Between the burials there were a series of other small pits or post holes, mostly undated. Two which contained Romano-British pottery (Fig 4) were located away from the principal group. Some of the others may represent almost wholly eroded burials, but their depths suggest that this is unlikely (Table 1). It is

more probable that they were post settings or other features associated with the burials.

The dating of the site depends on two radiocarbon assays and the ceramics. The radiocarbon dates (Table 4) give a consistent range between *c* 1600 and 1400 calibrated BC. The pottery vessels are all bucket urns.

Cemetery Organisation and Date by J C Barrett

The Bronze Age cemetery comprises a cluster of deposits lying within an area some 10 m across and as such it is directly comparable with other Deverel-Rimbury cemetery clusters which have been identified by Ellison (1980, 117). Ellison has also noted that such clusters are normally composed of between 10 and 30 deposits (1980, fig 2), and here again Daneshill is comparable, with 13 or 14 deposits depending upon the interpretation of the 'double' pit 4.

There is no obvious focus for the development of

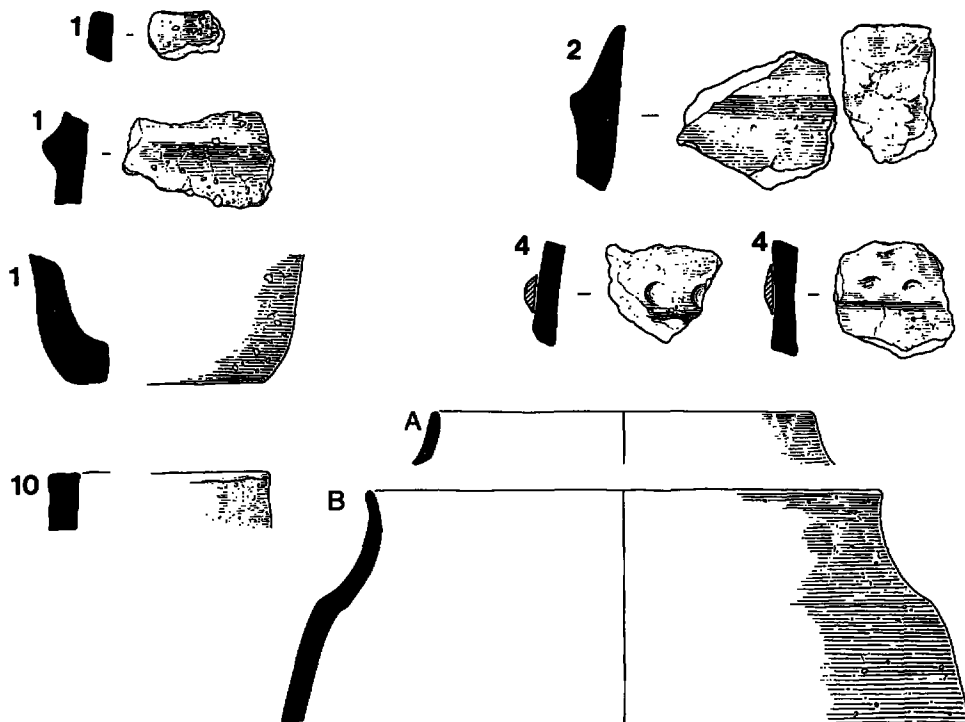


Fig 5. Bronze Age pottery from the Daneshill Cemetery, except A and B from the Sewage Farm, 1965. Scale 1:4. (Drawn by Yvonne Beadnell).



Fig 6. Bronze Age pottery from Daneshill Cemetery. Scale 1:4. (Drawn by Gordon Turner-Walker).

the Daneshill cemetery, although some of the possible post holes found in the area of the cremations may be contemporary with these deposits. However, no evidence was recovered for a ring-ditch which would have indicated the existence of a contemporary or earlier round barrow. Flat cremation cemeteries do exist although they are unusual, it is more common for cemetery clusters to have developed within or beside a barrow mound (Ellison 1980, 119 and fig 1). If Daneshill is one such 'flat' cemetery then some comparison might be sought with the larger and more complex cemetery at Kimpton, Hampshire (Dacre and Ellison 1981). Here the deposits of cremated bone and pottery were covered by small flint cairns which were grad-

ually subsumed within a flint platform to which later deposits were also added.

The degree of plough erosion at Daneshill makes a detailed assessment of the individual deposits difficult. Certainly the recovery of pottery sherds might indicate that the cremations were originally accompanied by complete pottery vessels, although there is sufficient evidence from elsewhere to allow that incomplete vessels and sherds could also have been used (Barrett *et al* 1991, 174, 216-19). Among the earlier deposits at Kimpton, for example, were a number of 'slab burials', involving the burial of single large sherds which were not necessarily accompanied by cremated bone (Dacre and Ellison 1981, 159).

Table 2: *The Bronze Age Pottery from the Cremations (Table 1, Figs 4, 5 and 6)*

Context	Quantity (kg)	Fabric	Form	Figure
1	1.962	Light buff, tempered with crushed flint up to 5 mm	Plain squared rim with cordon at uncertain distance below. Finger tip decoration around part of cordon.	5 no 1
2	0.863	Buff, heavily tempered with crushed flint. Hand smoothed and striated.	Plain tapered rim with plain cordon c 40 mm below.	5 no 2
4	0.566	Oxidised exterior and heavily reduced interior. Heavily tempered with crushed flint c 1-2 mm.	Rim form uncertain, broad flattened cordon with finger tip decoration.	5 no 4
5	Scraps	Buff, heavily tempered with crushed flint.	Body sherds only	—
8	0.177	Buff, tempered with sparse crushed flint, c 1-5 mm.	Body sherds only. Finger tip decoration.	—
10	0.733	Smoothed, reduced surface. Sparse crushed flint up to 5 mm. Heavier temper at base.	Plain squared rim.	5 no 10
11	No longer extant			
13	7.988	Patchy reduced exterior, heavily reduced interior. Tempered with crushed flint up to 5 mm. Density of temper increases towards base.	Rim slightly thickened to give a 'T'-shaped profile. Broad squared cordon c 110 mm below with closely spaced finger tip decoration.	6 no 13
14	Unknown	Pale buff with reduced patches. Heavily tempered with crushed flint.	Rim absent, broad squared cordon more than 60 mm below with closely spaced finger tip decoration.	6 no 14
17	Scraps	Buff, tempered with crushed flint.	Body sherds only.	—
20	0.117	Heavily reduced, tempered with crushed flint c 3-5 mm.	Body sherds only.	—
30	Scraps	Buff, tempered with crushed flint.	Body sherds only.	—

Table 3: *Summary of Bronze Age cremations (for details see Microfiche)*

Context	Weight (g)	Largest fragment (mm)	Interpretation	Specialist
1	627.1	30	adult	G Grainger
2	53.2	30	—	G Grainger
3	45.3	26	sub-adult	G Grainger
4	39.6	27	—	G Grainger
5	0.2	7	—	G Grainger
7	2.1	9	—	G Grainger
8a (from urn)	995.0	40	several children, various ages	C A Marlow/L C Winter
8b (from pit)	174.0	46	very young infant plus child about 9 years	C A Marlow/L C Winter
13a (from urn)	743.0	70	one adult, two children, one 2-3 years, the other about 9 years	C A Marlow/L C Winter
13b (from pit)	135.2	27	adult	G Grainger
17	1.6	10.5	—	G Grainger

Table 4: Radiocarbon Dates

Context	Material	Harwell ref	Age BP	Calibrated Ranges (Stuiver et al 1986)
8	Charcoal from cremation	HAR 9108	3230±90	1620–1410 BC (68% confidence level) 1740–1310 BC (95% confidence level)
20	Charcoal from cremation	HAR 9109	3200±70	1560–1410 BC (68% confidence level) 1670–1320 BC (95% confidence level)

The pottery from the Daneshill cemetery belongs to the Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition of the British Bronze Age. Such assemblages are normally assigned to the Middle Bronze Age, with only very limited evidence that they continued in use later than 1000 BC. The earlier dating of this material is more difficult. The calibrated range of the two radiocarbon dates from Daneshill, between *c* 1600 and 1400 BC (Table 4), would support the indications that these ceramic traditions had developed before the end of the late 'Wessex' grave series and give some support to the early date range also indicated by the radiocarbon dates from Kimpton (Dacre and Ellison 1981, 201). This ceramic tradition would certainly pre-date the Late Bronze Age sherds also recovered from Daneshill which are illustrated here and discussed below (Fig 5, nos A and B).

LATE BRONZE AGE FINDS FROM THE LOCALITY

In addition to the material from this cemetery and that previously published from Cowdery's Down (Millett 1983) there are two further pieces of evidence for Bronze Age activity in the vicinity. Firstly, the collections of Hampshire County Museum Service contain a group of pottery (Accession no WOC 1964.755) from Daneshill (SU 651532). The accessions register states:

During the extension to the Sewage Farm some early Iron Age pottery was discovered. This was brought to the Museum by Mr Jeffery on 20 October [1964] and was followed up on the

following day by a visit to the site. Owing to the amount of chalk removed in the excavations in the field very little of the original site remained: it consisted of a hollow 3 inches deep in the chalk which was discoloured, either with weathering or burning. It was *c* 2 feet in diameter and had been originally *c* 1 foot 8 inches–2 feet deep, filled with fine earth, according to Mr Jeffery. It was possibly a small pit or hearth site. It was 150 yards from the Reading line to the west, *c* 100 yards from the London line to the south, 100 yards from farm to North, in a field containing pylons. The fill also contained charcoal and at least one calcined flint and probably others, not retained.

The pottery comprises a group of sherds (weight 1.642 kg) largely derived from two vessels (Fig 5, nos A and B). Both were in the same grey-buff fabric with crushed flint tempering (up to 1–2 mm diameter), and the

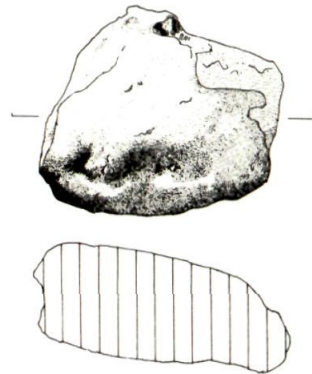


Fig 7. Daneshill area. Late Bronze Age Bun Ingot. Scale 1:2. (Drawn by Trevor Percy-Lancaster).

surfaces smoothed by hand. The form of the vessels is well within the range of types from Period 2B at Cowdery's Down (Thompson in Millett 1983, 172–76, figs 17–19) which date to the Late Bronze–earlier Iron Age (c 9th–5th century BC). The close parallels between these strongly suggests contemporaneous activity. They are of a different ceramic tradition to the Daneshill burial urns which may be more than 500 years earlier (Figs 5 and 6). The latter vessels have rudimentary cordons with finger tip decoration.

The other object of relevance is a metal-detector find of a piece of plano-convex bun ingot (Fig 7). This was found a little to the south of the excavated cemetery (SU 655 535) in 1978 and was subsequently donated to Hampshire County Museum Service (Accession no A1981. 122). The ingot was examined by Stuart Needham and analysed by the British Museum Research Laboratory in 1983. Dr Needham reports:

The analytical results (Table 5) show that this ingot conforms with the majority of analysed Late Bronze Age ingots in having rather low values for the standard trace elements (Craddock 1979). The copper value at 100% is within the experimental error range.

The form of a plano-convex ingot cannot of course be regarded as chronologically diagnostic. Without a context one should perhaps venture that form and composition are compatible with many pieces in Late Bronze Age contexts.

Despite the uncertainty about its date, the presence of this item is consistent with the other evidence in suggesting a significant focus of Late Bronze Age activity in this area. Given the nature of the evidence as a whole, we cannot go far beyond this observation, although two general points should be made. First, there is a group of sites at Daneshill and Cowdery's Down which were certainly occu-

ried during this period, and this suggests a substantial density of population in the area around the end of the 2nd millennium BC. Secondly, the geology of the area is not conducive to arable agriculture as the recent land use shows. The heavy lands on the Reading Beds might be considered agriculturally marginal, so their occupation during this period may indicate that population pressure on the more tractable lands of the chalk immediately to the south resulted in their colonisation.

THE ROMANO-BRITISH PERIOD

There is little evidence for middle or later Iron Age activity at Daneshill, although there are a few sherds of residual pottery from Ditches 1 and 4. The limited nature of the excavation may account for this since the majority of Romano-British sites in the Basingstoke area which have been extensively examined have produced evidence for Iron Age phases (eg Millett 1983, Fig 1). Some of the undated curved ditches in the eastern part of the road strip (Fig 3) may perhaps be pre-Roman since otherwise ubiquitous Roman pottery was not observed in them.

The Romano-British features were mainly excavated in trial trenches, and comprised mainly ditches and pits. This report presents only basic descriptions with an outline chronology (based on the pottery) and a general discussion of the site. Despite the somewhat eccentric trench layout, the general character of the site is clear. Outline details of the stratigraphy and pottery are given on microfiche (pp 1–20).

The settlement is defined to the east by a pair of ditches (Fig 3, Ditches 1 and 2) which form a driveway on a north–south axis. These ditches, which were approximately 1 m wide by 1 m deep, had been recut on at least three

Table 5: Atomic Absorption Spectrometry analysis of ingot

Lab no	Cu	Sn	Pb	Zn	Ag	Au	Fe	Ni	As	Sb	Bi	Co	Cd	Mn
BBA 708	100	<.1	.094	<.005	.007	<.005	.075	.008	.07	.05	.005	.001	<.001	<.001

occasions (sections B, C and D, microfiche pp 4-5) and seem to have been long-lived, although a shallow scoop (Ditch 6) which is undated does cut across the droveway. The track which continues to the south as Ditch 1 was observed in the road cut (Fig 3), and to the north where the ditch was traced almost to the edge of the development site. Its absence from the most northerly trial trench is of uncertain significance. The pottery from the droveway ditches ranges from the 1st to the 3rd century AD. That from Ditch 2 continues into the later 3rd century, suggesting that it may have been infilled a little later than Ditch 1.

To the west of this droveway are a series of fragments of ditch (Ditches 3 and 4) which seem most satisfactorily interpreted as forming a sub-rectangular enclosure c 30 x 50 m. The ditches were c 0.5-1.0 m across. The pottery from these ditches is largely 3rd century although some of the forms present have a currency which lies slightly outside this range, both earlier and later. Within this enclosure a number of occupation features were located. In the south-east corner (Fig 8, Area 1) there were a pair of plough damaged hearths, a pair of post holes and a circular bowl shaped pit (Pit 1, section E, microfiche p 5). This pit, which also contained pottery of 3rd century date, produced a substantial deposit of charcoal and much hammer scale. Significant amounts of iron slag were present in this pit and adjacent stretches of ditch. Since there were indications of metal-working, the late Professor R F Tylecote was invited to visit the site, and subsequently slag samples were submitted to Dr J H Cleland for analysis.

Professor R F Tylecote wrote:

'The site on which iron-working has been found lies on plateau gravel on clay and geologically lies on a narrow exposure of the Reading Beds which we know on occasion to carry good iron ore. The trench, a 3 m wide cutting, had been machine scraped down to about 0.25 m to remove plough soil and revealed dark areas in the gravel, consisting of bits of charcoal and fine pieces of slag at the time of my visit. The two areas being excavated were about 1 m diameter and about 2-3 m apart. Larger slag lumps had been found on these areas.

The area was a settlement and had been defended by a ditch system which cut into the clay which contained water even in a dry July.

No metallurgical structures were evident at the time of my visit or before. But the slag 'nodules' shown to me were non-magnetic and were 60-90 mm across. They had no plano-convex shape nor were they hollow in the centre as are most of the Romano-British smithing furnace bottoms. But I do not think they were smelting debris. Vitrified clay was attached in places. No tap or run slag was present and the only piece of possible ore was ferruginous sandstone of comparatively low iron content.

The site is dated to the 3rd century AD. I think this was no more than a peasant smithing unit. But I would not be surprised if smelting was carried on somewhere in the vicinity.'

J H Cleland writes:

'As Tylecote concluded there has been smithing at this site and much of the material is of the typical mixture associated with the latter stages of smithing.

There are, however, some six or seven pieces of cinder which may well be associated with actual iron production. Table 6 shows the analysis of it compared with that of a 'glassy' slag from Chichester (Tylecote 1962, 247). The Daneshill slag is of interest since it may be transitional between normal cinder and the glassy slags.'

Table 6: Analysis (% weight) of the Daneshill slag compared with that from Chichester (Tylecote 1962, 247)

	Chichester	Daneshill
Fe 0	14.2	-
Fe ₂ O ₃	5.3	22.5
SiO ₂	63.4	64.6
Ca0	2.36	2.0
Mg0	0.71	trace
Al ₂ O ₃	7.25	4.4
Mn0	9.08	0.2
TiO ₂	0.70	0.6
P ₂ O ₅	1.27	trace
S	0.01	trace
H ₂ O	1.28	loss on ignition 3.7

This evidence thus shows that smithing and perhaps iron smelting were being undertaken on this site during the 3rd century, although on what scale remains uncertain. Further west

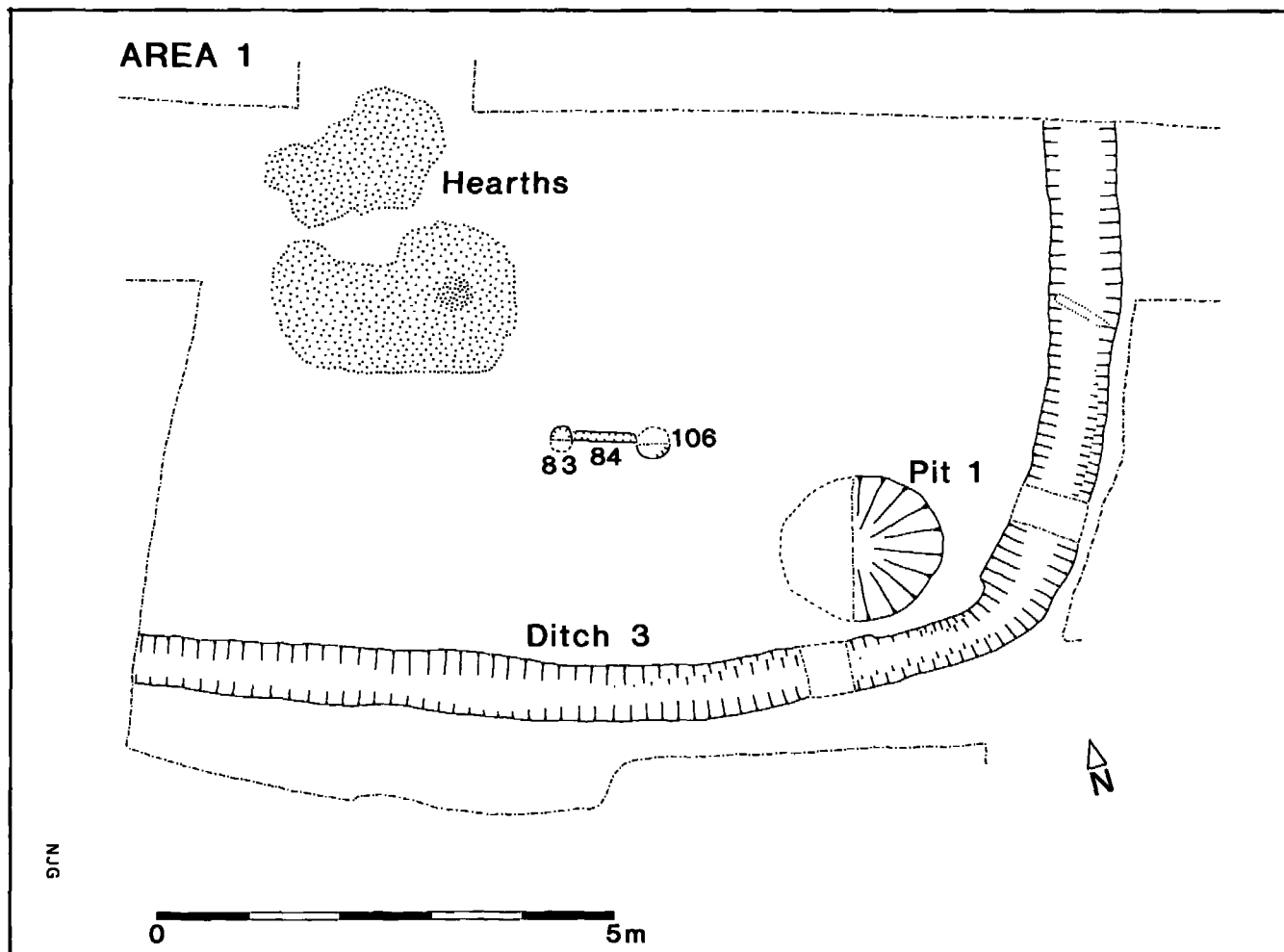


Fig 8. Daneshill. Plan of excavated features in Area 1. (For section of Pit 1 see Microfiche).

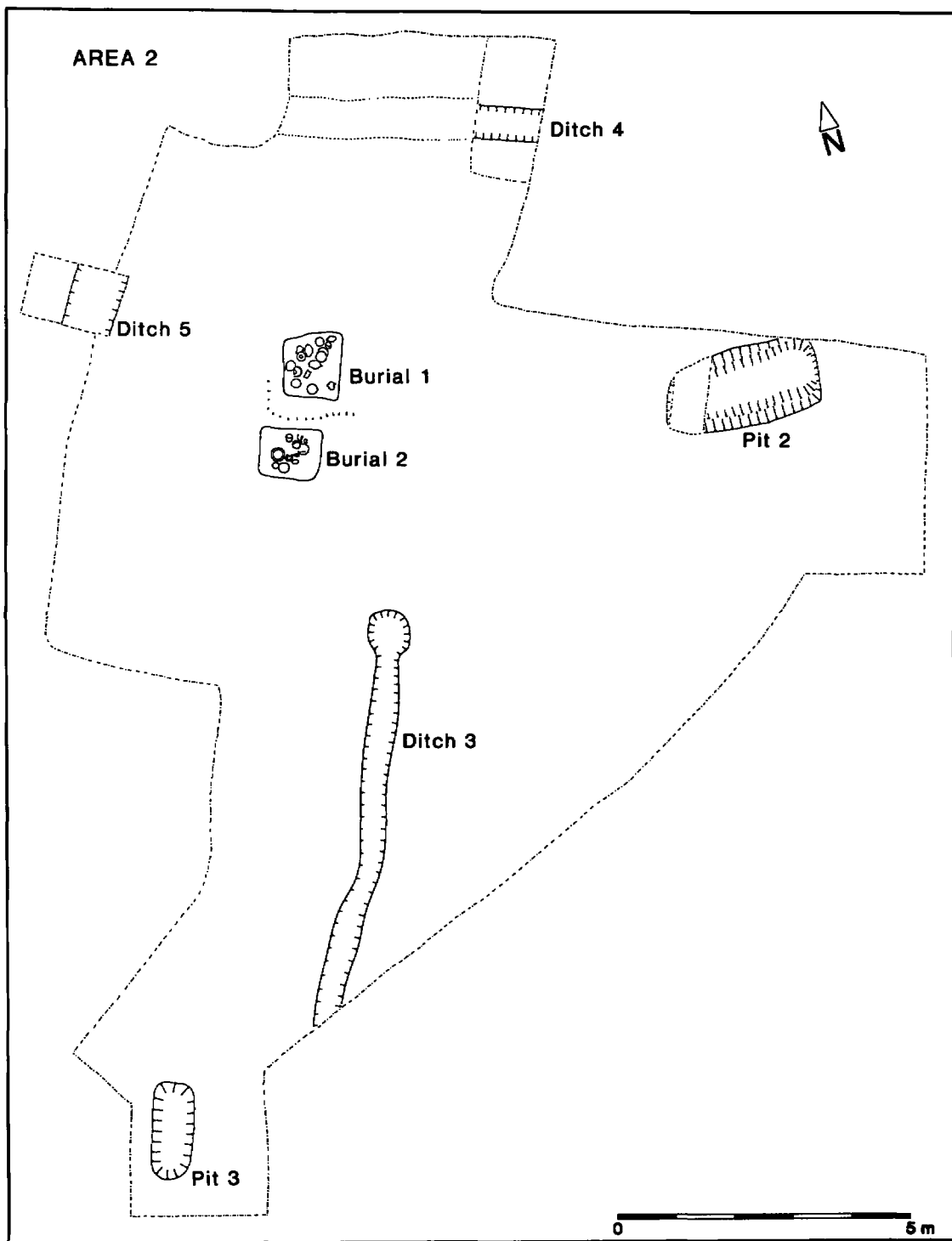


Fig 9. Daneshill. Plan of excavated features in Area 2. (For section of Pit 2 see Microfiche).

in the southern part of the enclosure was a well (Fig 3), which was not excavated below the weathering cone. The upper levels contained Oxfordshire wares as late as the later 4th–5th centuries. Although these fabrics (which are generally absent elsewhere on the site) confirm activity at this period, it post-dates the use of the enclosure. The well is unexpected, given the extremely high water table, and its pres-

ence is perhaps associated with the needs of metal-working.

Elsewhere the only area of the interior excavated was in Area 2 (Fig 9). Here the only feature located within the enclosure was Pit 2 (section A, microfiche p 4) which produced a single sherd of 1st century AD pottery and is thus probably earlier than the enclosure. Pit 3, outside the enclosure to the west of Ditch 3 is undated.

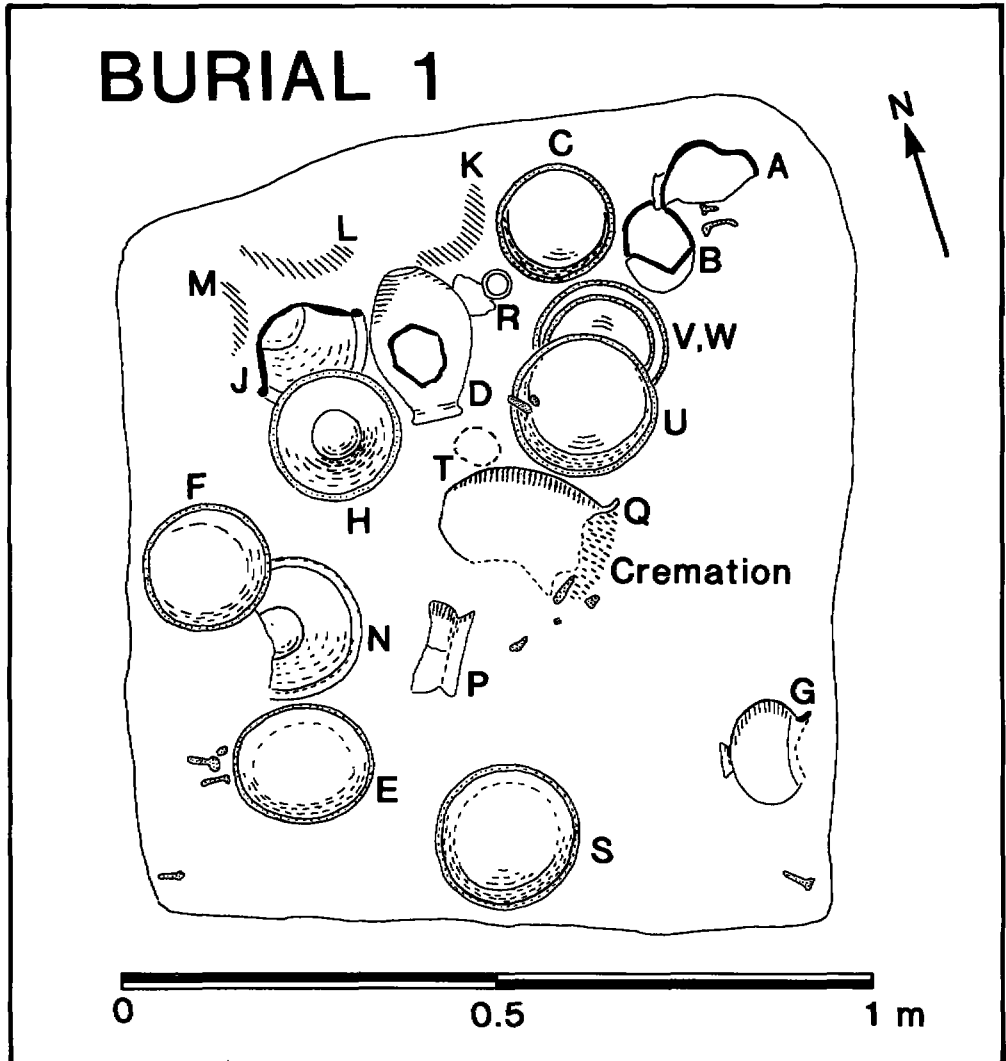


Fig 10. Daneshill. Plan of Roman Burial 1.

The layout of the enclosure in Area 2 is not clear. Ditch 3 terminates *c* 6 m short of its intersection with Ditch 4, which appeared to continue across the trench. The gap left is best interpreted as an entrance, although it may simply be that Ditch 4 is respecting the pair of graves located here (below). The relationship of Ditches 4 and 5 is also unresolved. The latter feature was not fully explored, and the single sherd of dated pottery recorded is early-mid 1st century AD suggesting that it was long out of use before the enclosure was constructed.

In the gap between Ditches 3 and 4 two cremation burials were located. Burial 1 was found whilst trenching with a JCB and was damaged in the process. Burial 2 was located when the trench was expanded as a result of the discovery of the first grave, and was fully excavated under controlled conditions. Both graves were poorly preserved, having suffered from both truncation as a result of cultivation and erosion of the pottery as a result of the ground water conditions. The result is that the

surfaces of many of the pots were lost, and iron objects survived only as lumps of corrosion. Non-ferrous metal survived nowhere on this site.

Burial 1 (Figs 10 and 11; Table 7)

Burial in a shallow sub-rectangular pit *c* 1 by 1 m, accompanied by 21 pots. Truncated by machine at time of discovery. The cremation (now lost) was contained in Pot Q, a jar. The overall range of ceramic types suggests a date in the second half of the 3rd century AD.

Burial 2 (Figs 12 and 13, Table 8)

Burial in a shallow sub-rectangular pit *c* 1 by 1 m, with 11 pots. Truncated by previous cultivation. Cremation in Pot A, although only just under 200g survived. The overall range of pottery forms suggest a date in the 3rd century.

This cremation burial tradition, including these graves, has been discussed recently (Millett 1986; 1987). The Daneshill graves are amongst the latest of the type, which are more

Table 7: Contents of Roman Burial 1

Item	Vessel type	Description	Form Neatham = Millett & Graham (1986)	Comment/Date
Pot A	Indented beaker	Chocolate brown slip, orange core. Perhaps Nene Valley ware.		
Pot B	Flagon	Off-white fabric. No surviving surface. Tempered with some grog and very fine sand. No visible mica.		
Pot C	Dish	Dark grey hard-fired Farnham fabric. Lattice decoration.	Neatham type 17	Mid-late 3rd
Pot D	Flagon	Mid grey, heavily fired Farnham fabric. Lightly burnished. Lattice decoration.		
Pot E	Dish	Very poorly fired Farnham ware with light grey core. No surviving surface.	Neatham type 17	Mid-late 3rd
Pot F	Dish	Dark grey, hard fired Farnham fabric with good burnished surface. Lattice decoration.	Neatham type 17	Mid-late 3rd
Pot G	Globular Pedestal pot	Light grey fabric with a little grog temper. Probably Farnham. No surviving surface.	Neatham type 79	Late 3rd-early 4th
Pot H	Flanged bowl	Mid-light grey Farnham fabric. No surviving surface.	Neatham type 54	Mid 3rd onwards
Pot J	Flanged bowl	Mid-light grey Farnham fabric. No surviving surface. (incomplete)	Neatham type 54	Mid 3rd onwards
Pot K	Dish	Dark grey Farnham fabric, mid grey core. Burnish largely eroded.	Neatham type 17	Mid-late 3rd

Table 7: Contents of Roman Burial 1

Item	Vessel type	Description	Form Neatham = Millett & Graham (1986)	Comment/Date
Pot L	Dish	Light grey fabric with a little grog temper. Probably Farnham. (fragments)	Neatham type 17	Mid-late 3rd
Pot M	Jar	Mid grey, hard fired Farnham ware.		
Pot N	Flanged bowl	Mid-light grey Farnham fabric. No surviving surface.	Neatham type 54	Mid 3rd onwards
Pot P	Jar	Mid-light grey fabric with some grog. Probably Farnham. No surviving surface.	Neatham type 76	3rd-mid 4th
Pot Q	Jar	Mid-light grey fabric with some grog. Probably Farnham. No surviving surface.		
Pot R	Flagon	Bright orange, very fine sand temper almost totally eroded with no surfaces surviving.		
Pot S	Dish	Mid grey fabric with a little grog temper. Probably Farnham. No surviving surface.	Neatham type 17	Mid-late 3rd
Pot T	Indented beaker	Oxidised ware with very fine sand temper. Surfaces largely eroded, but showing some oxidised slip. No visible mica; a little white sand.		
Pot U	Dish	Dark grey Farnham ware with burnished surfaces in good condition.	Neatham type 17	Mid-late 3rd
Pot V	Dish	Light grey Farnham ware. All surfaces eroded, but showing some evidence of dark grey surfaces.	Neatham type 17	Mid-late 3rd
Pot W	Dish	Dark grey Farnham ware. High fired with burnished surfaces.	Neatham type 17	Mid-late 3rd

Nineteen iron objects, apparently corroded nails. Those in the SW and SE corners may indicate that the cremation group was originally held in a box.

Scatter of cremated bone from the area of Pot Q.

generally of 1st-2nd century date, but they do continue the general characteristics of the tradition. Little needs to be added to the earlier discussion, although three points should be noted. First, the Daneshill burials lie immediately to the west of a contemporary enclosure, presumably a settlement, confirming the suggested association between these graves and smaller farmsteads. Secondly, in both burials there are a number of very poorly surviving vessels. Their poor quality cannot be entirely a result of poor soil conditions since other vessels in the same graves were better preserved, and this supports the previous suggestion that second-rate vessels were specially selected for use as grave goods (Millett 1986,

79-80). Finally, we may note that both graves included examples of Farnham ware pots of Neatham type 79 (Millett and Graham 1986), otherwise uncommon as site finds. This supports the suggestion of a possible liturgical function made on the basis of the occurrence of the form in ritual deposits at Neatham (Millett and Graham 1986, 32).

DISCUSSION

The Daneshill Roman settlement and cemetery are difficult to evaluate on this rather piecemeal evidence. In common with other sites in the Basingstoke area there is evidence

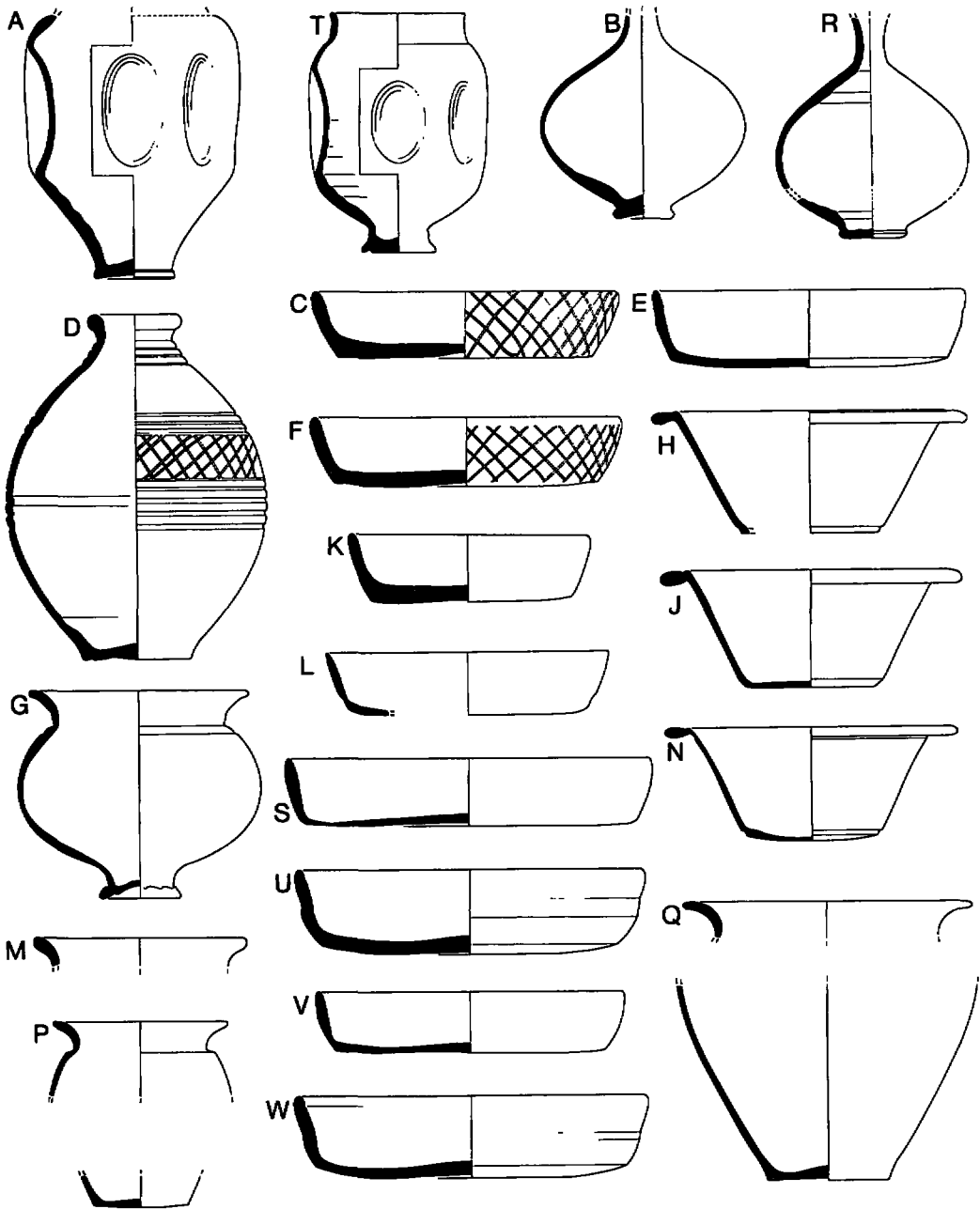


Fig 11. Daneshill. Pottery from Roman Burial 1. Scale 1:4. (Drawn by Gordon Turner-Walker).

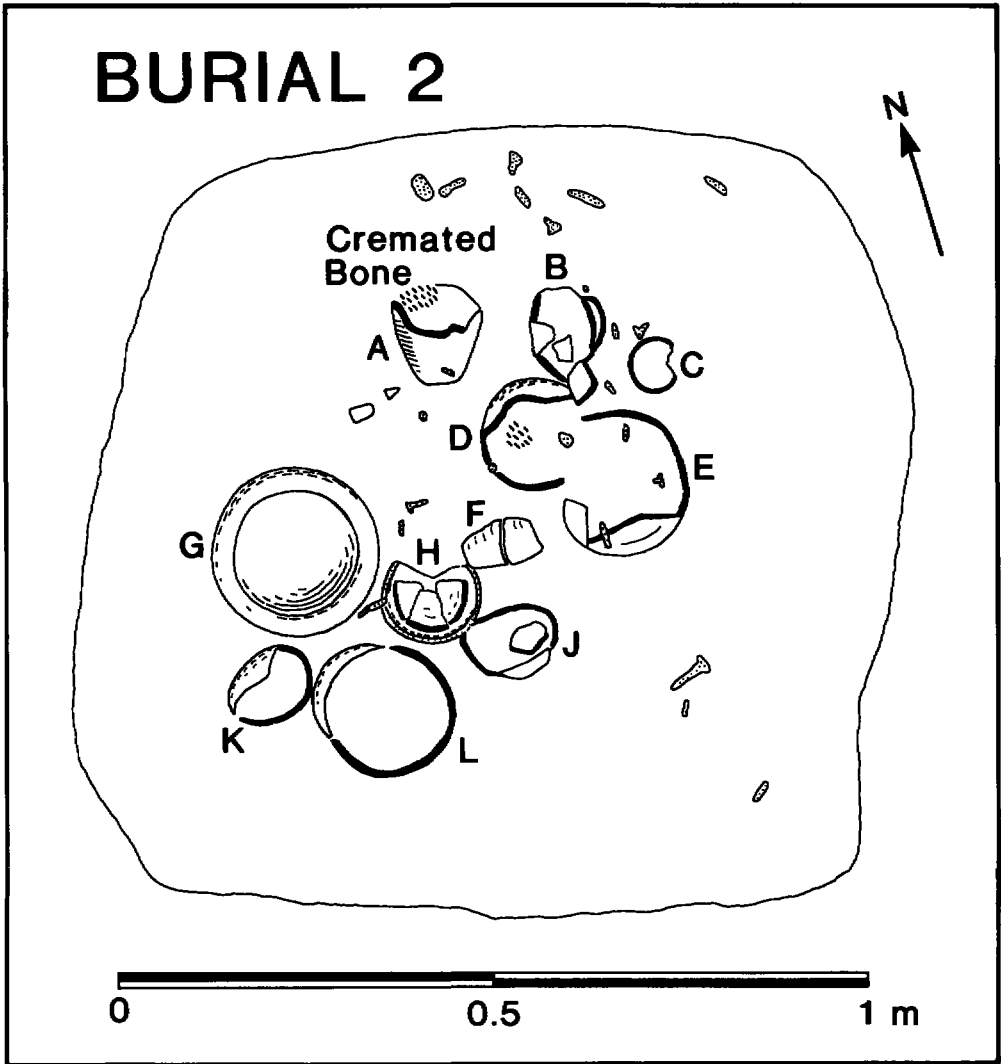


Fig 12. Daneshill. Plan of Roman Burial 2.

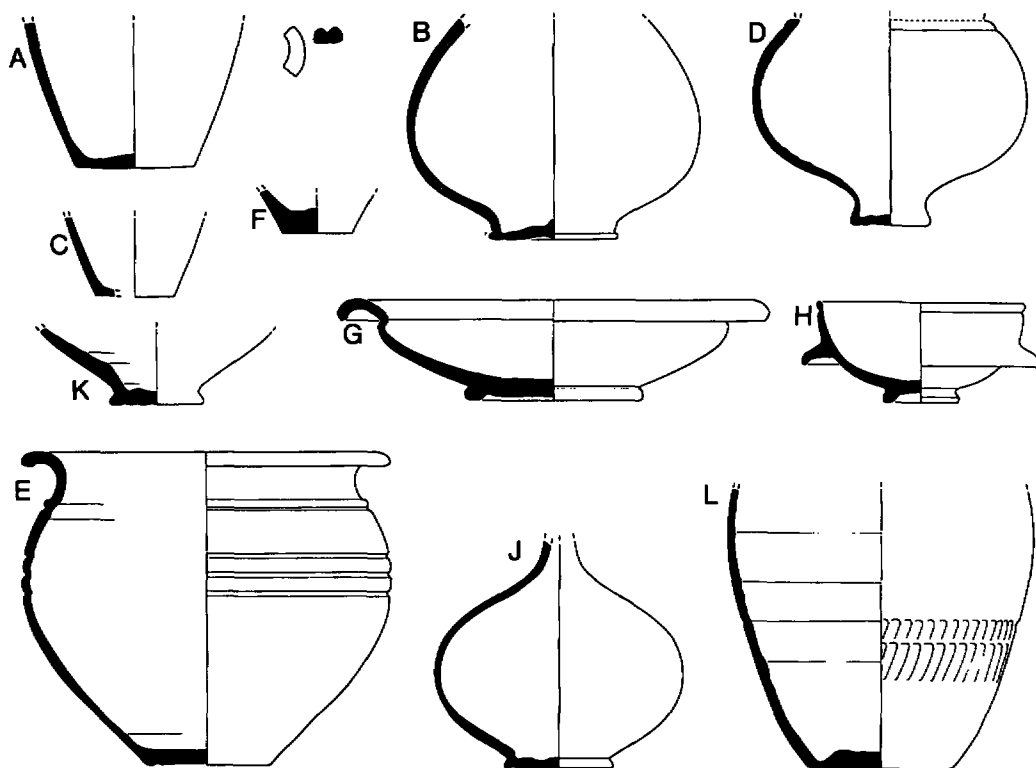


Fig 13. Daneshill. Pottery from Roman Burial 2. Scale 1:4. (Drawn by Gordon Turner-Walker).

from the 1st to 4th century AD. However, the *floruit* is unusually in the 3rd century, a little later than most sites in the Basingstoke area. The infilling of the enclosure and droveway ditches before the 4th century can be paralleled at Cowdery's Down. It need not indicate a cessation or decline of occupation but may rather reflect changes in settlement morphology which make the recognition of later settlement features more difficult.

The botanical evidence (microfiche 21–23) suggests that arable activity was taking place nearby, but the present-day environment indicates that the immediate environs are unsuitable for such agriculture. The position of the enclosure beside a droveway may suggest a stronger association with animal husbandry, but the absence of animal bones as a result of adverse soil conditions means that this is an

untestable hypothesis. The presence of iron working on a reasonable scale perhaps shows the *raison d'être* of the site, but the scale of working is possibly more consistent with it being ancillary to other activity. The wealth of the site in the 3rd century, however produced, is hinted at by the pair of cremation burials. As one of the few excavated Romano-British sites which are located away from the chalk, it offers a hint of the archaeological potential of such areas which have hitherto been neglected in the archaeology of Hampshire.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Work on site was undertaken by numerous local volunteers who endured most unpleasant working conditions. Glynis David organised the lifting of

Table 8: Contents of Roman Burial 2

Item	Vessel type	Description	Form Neatham = Millett & Graham (1986)	Comment/Date
Pot A	Jar	Farnham ware, burnished.	cf Neatham type 100	2nd
Pot B	Globular pedestal pot	Farnham ware, high fired with good burnish.		
Pot C	Jar	Granular ware. Tempered with fine multicoloured sand.		
Pot D	Globular pedestal pot	Mid grey Farnham ware. No surviving surface.	Neatham type 79	Late 3rd-early 4th
Pot E	Jar	Mid grey Farnham ware. Surfaces eroded.	Neatham types 77/78	Early 3rd-mid 4th
Pot F	Indented beaker	Heavily decayed, only base survives. Very soft, bright orange ware with very fine sand temper.		
Pot G	Dish	Pale orange ware. Very soft. Very fine sand temper with a little grog. Surfaces heavily eroded but some signs of red slip.	Imitation Drag. 36	
Pot H	Bowl	Pale orange ware. Very soft. Very fine sand temper with a little grog. Surfaces heavily eroded but some signs of red slip.	Imitation Drag. 38	
Pot J	Flagon	Pale orange ware. Very soft. Very fine sand temper with a little grog. Surfaces heavily eroded but some signs of red slip.		
Pot K	Globular pedestal pot	Oxidised (accidentally), slightly micaceous; otherwise as Farnham ware.		
Pot L	Jar	Oxidised (accidentally), otherwise as Farnham ware.		

Twenty-four heavily corroded iron objects, probably nails.

Cremation from Pot A identified by G Grainger as an adult and perhaps female (Microfiche p. 18).

several urns, which were subsequently treated in the laboratory of Hampshire County Museum Service. This excavation was undertaken by Hampshire County Museum Service, who also provided funds for the radiocarbon dates. Other post-excavation work was funded by Hampshire County Planning Department, whilst the University of Durham pro-

vided help in kind, including remedial conservation work (undertaken by Phil Clogg). Unless otherwise indicated drawings are by Neil Goddard who, with Victoria Brandon, undertook routine post-excavation work. Graham Huxley acted as site photographer. Other contributors are acknowledged in the text.

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	6-14 A. Fabric Catalogue		
	15-16 B. Feature dating	21-23	The Botanical Remains by F J Green
17-20	The Cremations		

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