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THE IRON AGE AND ROMAN SITE OF VIABLES TWO (JAYS CLOSE), BASINGSTOKE

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ABSTRACT

Excavations at Viables Two, Jays Close, Basingstoke, revealed evidence of a Late Iron Age – Roman sub-rectangular enclosure with a number of internal features including gullies, pits and postholes. No evidence for houses was recovered, but it would appear that the ditches and pits represent domestic and burial activity.

INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT BACKGROUND

During May 1999, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) evaluated land to either side of Jays Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire (SU 6320 5005), in advance of development of the site for offices and industrial units (Figs 1 & 2). This picked up a number of archaeological features and determined where the subsequent archaeological investigation, carried out between August and September 1999, should be conducted. The excavations complemented an earlier investigation undertaken by the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society, which was in response to the construction of a new road in the southern section of Jays Close in 1973. This revealed an Iron Age and Romano-British enclosure, which was excavated between 1974 and 1976 (Millett & Russell 1982; 1984).

These earlier investigations had opened up an 'L' shaped area of *c.* 440m² (Fig. 2), with geophysical survey determining the outline of a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure 50 m long and 42 m wide, with many internal features and a possible entrance in the south-west corner (Fig. 4). A droveway ran to the south of the enclosure. The excavations produced material that suggested to the excavators that the site represented four separate periods of occupation. These dated to the Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, Late Iron Age-Early Roman and Roman periods respectively. Period II, dating between the 3rd and 1st centuries BC, was deemed contemporary with unenclosed occupation associated with a number of pits, including a large two-metre diameter pit which was located toward the centre of the enclosure (see Fig. 4). This contained two adult female burials, one *c.* 25–30 (Burial 1) and the other *c.* 35–40 (Burial 2) years of age. These inhumations were associated with a number of whole and semi-complete animal carcasses, that comprised a pair of sheep, horses and cows. They overlay a cist containing carved antler artefacts, including weaving combs, toggles and terrets. The remaining grave goods, with other unfinished antler objects (possibly comb and cheek-piece rough-outs) were located between Burial 1 and the north-western pit edge.

Millett and Russell (1982) remarked that although complete or partial burials of domestic animals are not exceptional from Iron Age or Roman sites, it is unusual to find so many and such a variety of species together in one layer. It is even less common to find these animal burials in association with human ones. The fact that the bones of the animals were still articulated, and the lack of evidence for skinning marks on them (Maltby 1982, 76) implies that they were not butchery waste. Thus, this pit contained evidence for a specific and structured deposition of a potentially ritual nature. All of the grave goods, with the exception of the unfinished antler objects, were deposited in sets of two. These were not balanced but rather, contrasting pairs, and consisted of finished and unfinished objects, an old and young cow, a ram and a ewe and a complete and incom-

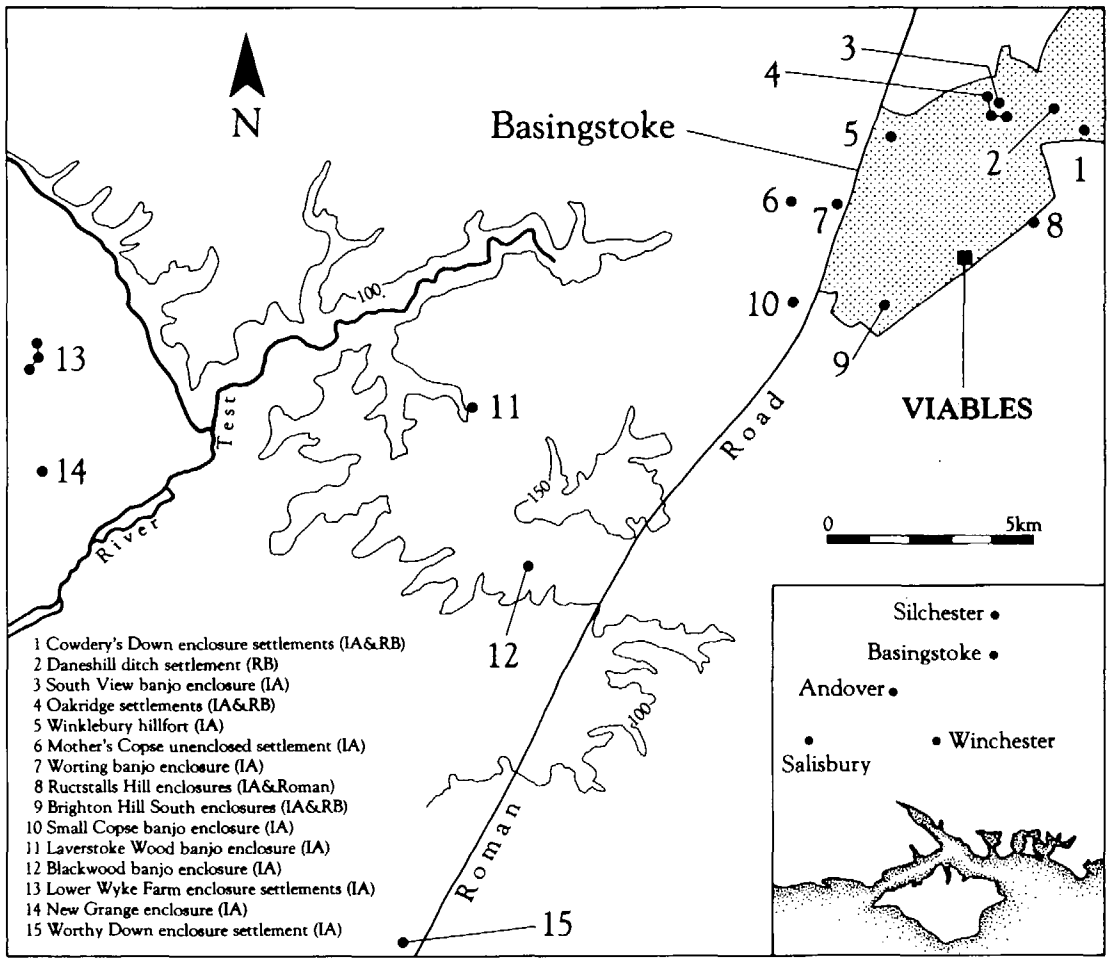


Fig. 1 Site location plan

plete horse. Millett and Russell (1982, 88) argued that the opposed pairs (in terms of sex, quality and age) emphasised the status dichotomy of the women interred. The minimal interpretation that they offered was that of a 'socially senior primary burial (the younger one) with an inferior secondary burial at her feet' (ibid., 88). However, there are other possible readings of this structured symbolism beyond that of basic associations with social hierarchy.

This burial association was provisionally dated between the 3rd and 1st centuries BC (*Period II*) (Millett & Russell 1982). The validity of this will be questioned in light of the fact that the dating evidence for distinguishing a separate stage was minimal, and Millett and Russell contradict themselves (compare 1982, 69 with 1982, 87–88 and 1984, 54). One sherd of a saucepan pot (3rd to 1st century BC) came from the horizon containing burials, but it was almost certainly residual (Thompson in Millett & Russell 1982, 87). The results from the HAT excavation may help to

determine whether the burials were deposited within enclosed or unenclosed space.

Millett and Russell dated the main enclosure to between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD (*Period III*), and suggested that it was filled with rubbish that dated as late as the 4th century AD (*Period IV*). Internal features included post holes, pits and gullies, thought to be indicative of a number of timber structures dating to Period IV.

Geology and Topography

The site is located on the south side of Basingstoke, *c.* 2km from the town centre, in an area known as Viables (Fig. 1). It comprises two separate areas either side of Jays Close (Fig. 2). Both areas are grassed and lie on a slight slope with a north-west facing aspect at a height of 105–112.5 m OD. However, plough scars on the chalk surface indicate that this area has been cultivated. Overgrown woodland lies to the south-east of the site, while a disused railway line forms the south-west site boundary. The western area (Area 1) is further bounded by an earthen bank to the north and east.

Geologically, the site lies at the interface of two soil types: the Andover 1 soil association (343h) to the east, and the Carstens soil association (581d) to the west. The former consists of well-drained calcareous silty soils over chalk on slopes and crests, deep calcareous and non-calcareous fine silty soils in valley bottoms, over chalk parent material. The latter comprises well-drained fine silty soils over clays, and flinty clay and fine silty soils over parent material of plateau drift and clay with flints (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

Archaeological Background

The Iron Age and Roman periods are well represented in the Basingstoke region (Fig. 1). A good understanding of these periods from this area results from several factors. Firstly, ditched and other enclosed settlements on chalk are easily identified from aerial photographs. Secondly, Hampshire has been one of the most intensively aerial photographed regions in Britain (Champion & Champion 1981, 37). Thirdly, the rapid expansion of towns like Basingstoke and Andover has increased the need for rescue archaeology.

A number of Late Iron Age enclosed settlements are known in the Basingstoke region within the vicinity of Viables (Fig. 1), and they include Small's Copse (Perry 1970, 43), and the banjo enclosure sites of South View (ibid, 43) and Worting (ibid, 42). The unenclosed Iron Age settlement of Mother's Copse, Wooton, lies three and a half miles to the south-west of Viables (ibid, 41). Immediately to the east of the Viables enclosure, an evaluation undertaken in 1988 prior to development, uncovered a single ditch and two gullies. These were provisionally interpreted as a droveway and field system boundaries associated with the enclosure (Trust for Wessex Archaeology 1988).

There is good recent documentation for Later Iron Age and Roman settlements from the surrounding area. Since the majority of Romano-British sites that have been excavated in the Basingstoke region have produced some evidence for Iron Age activity (cf. Millett 1983, Figure 1), it is worth considering these two periods together. The main exception to this rule is the enclosure settlement of Daneshill, to the east of Basingstoke (Millett & Schadla-Hall 1991, 94), where only residual Iron Age activity was detected from two of the ditches from the predominantly Romano-British enclosure settlement.

THE EXCAVATION

Excavation Strategy

The initial evaluation of the site was carried out in May 1999, when five trial trenches (1–5) were opened using a mechanical excavator (Fig. 2). These sought to determine the precise location and orientation of the main enclosure ditch and assess its preservation. Initially, it was thought that the enclosure ditch had been picked up in three of these trenches (1, 2 and 5), and a number of other ditches and gullies were revealed in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. However, it was later realised that two of the supposed ditch sections were in fact cuts through a pit and gully that lay beyond the enclosure (Figs. 2 and 3). The evalua-

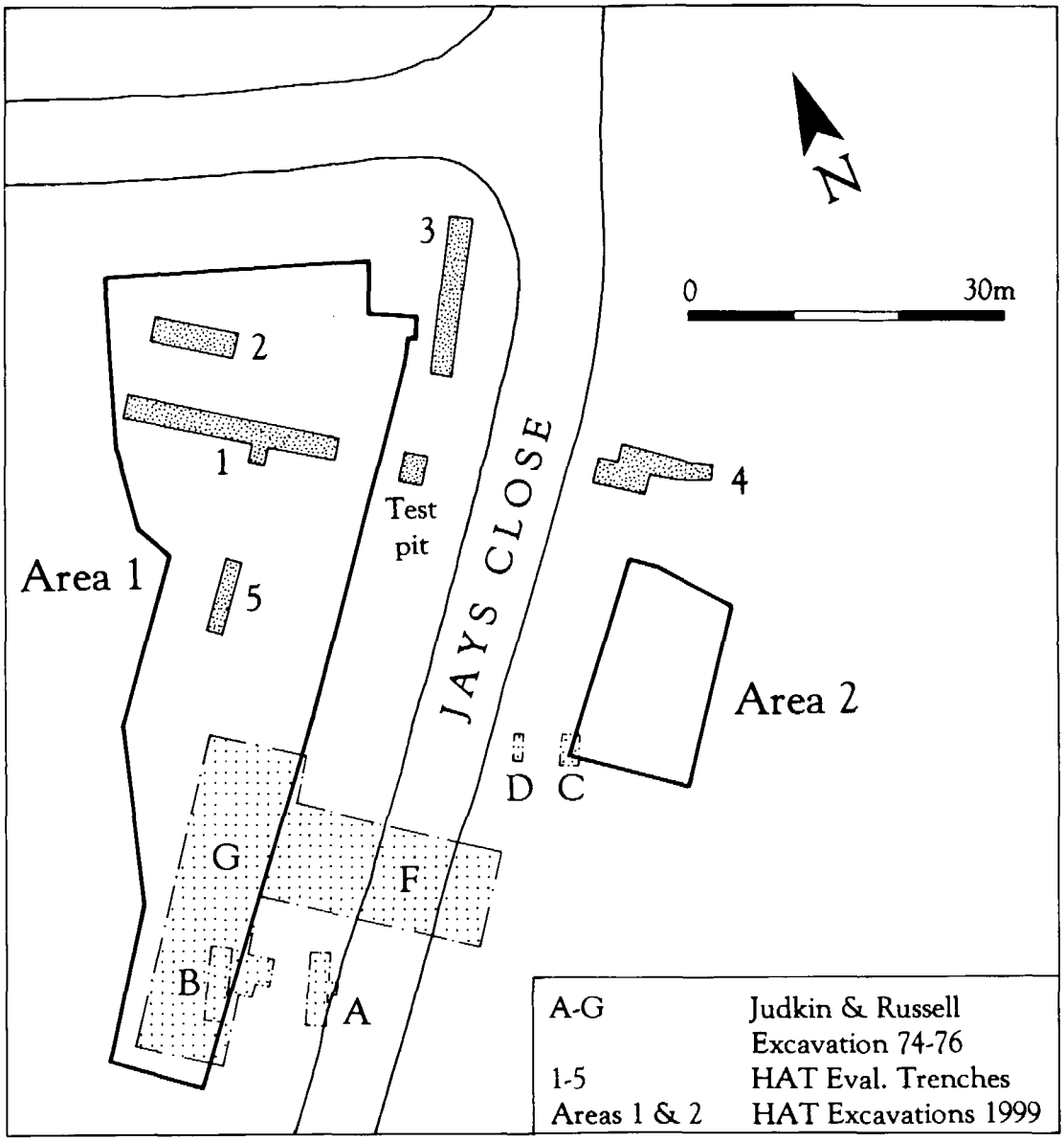
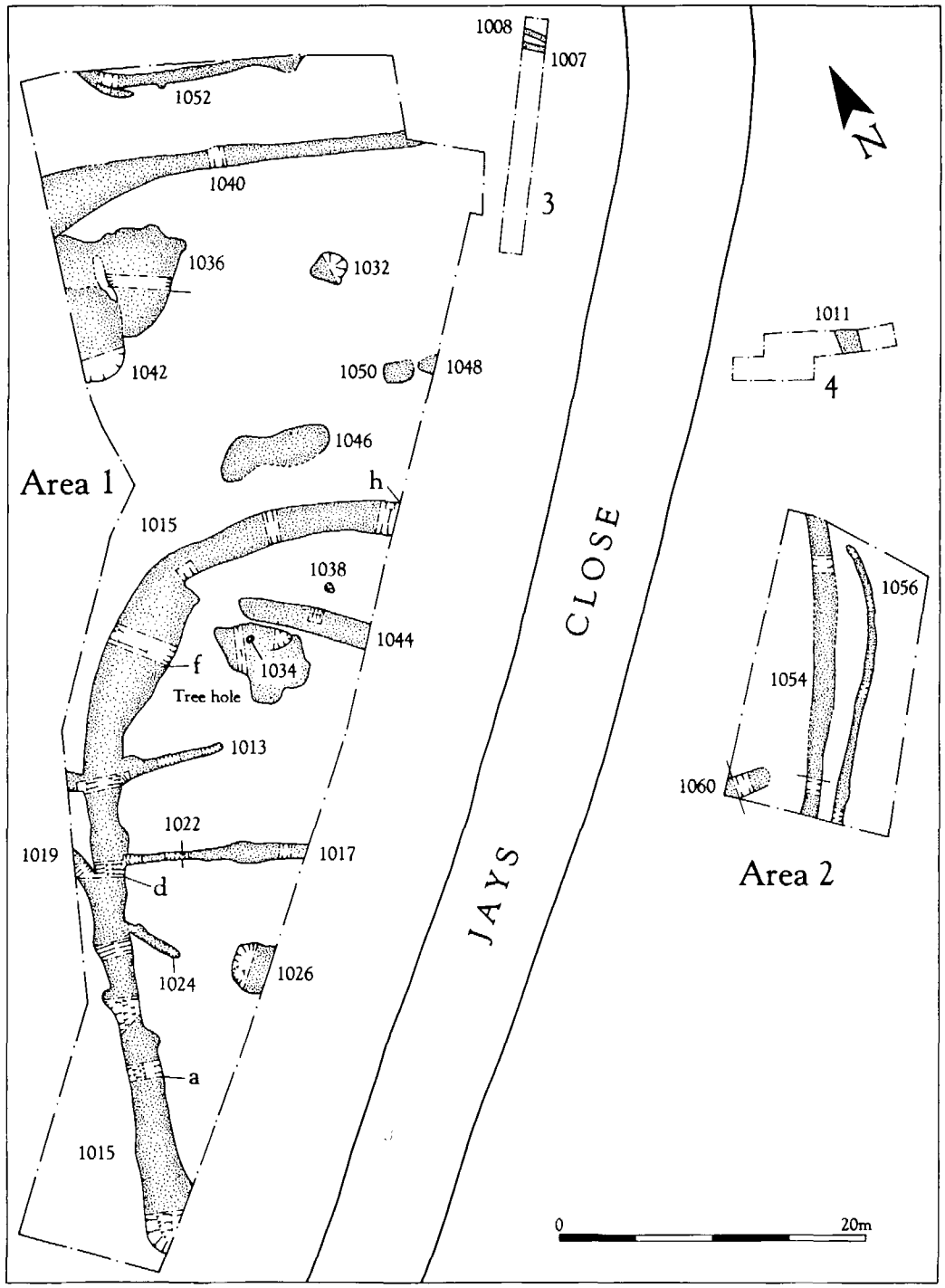


Fig. 2 Trench location plan

Fig. 3 (*opposite*) Plan showing all features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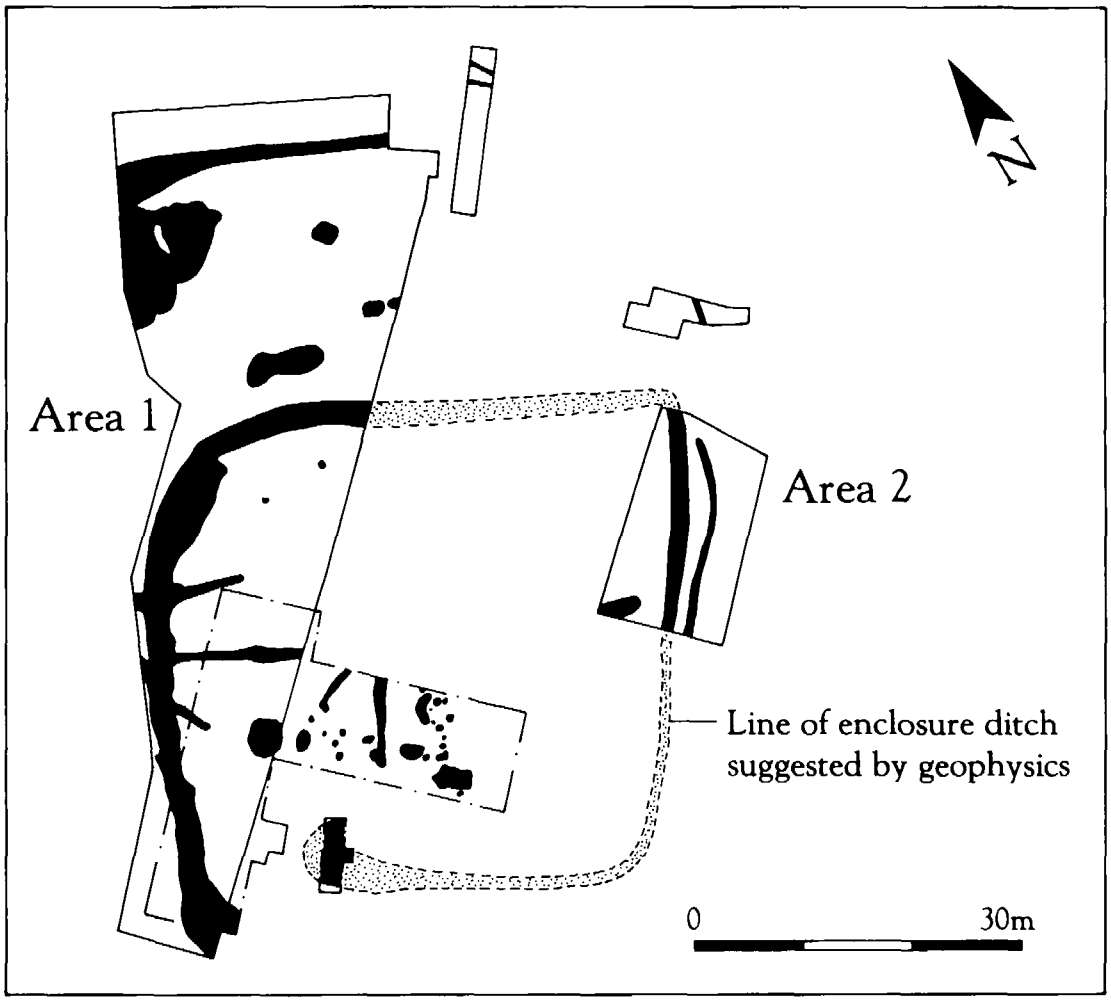


Fig. 4 Projected outline of the enclosure ditch

tion was able to conclude that the preservation of features immediately on either side of Jays Close was poor, owing to severe truncation by modern services.

The excavation followed on from the results of the evaluation, and opened up two areas to the west and east of Jays Close (Fig. 2). The larger Western Area (Area 1) comprised 1400m², while the Eastern Area (Area 2) comprised a total of 200m², smaller than originally planned owing to disturbance caused by modern services and a tree line. Both areas were aligned NE-SW, thus running parallel with the southern line of Jays Close.

A total of 21 features were recorded within the opened area of 1600 m² (Fig. 3). Eleven of these were ditches or gullies, although the ditch (F1054) in Area 2 is most probably the return of the main enclosure ditch (Fig. 4). Seven features were irregular or oval-shaped pits, and one was a possible hearth (F1034, the only positive feature identi-

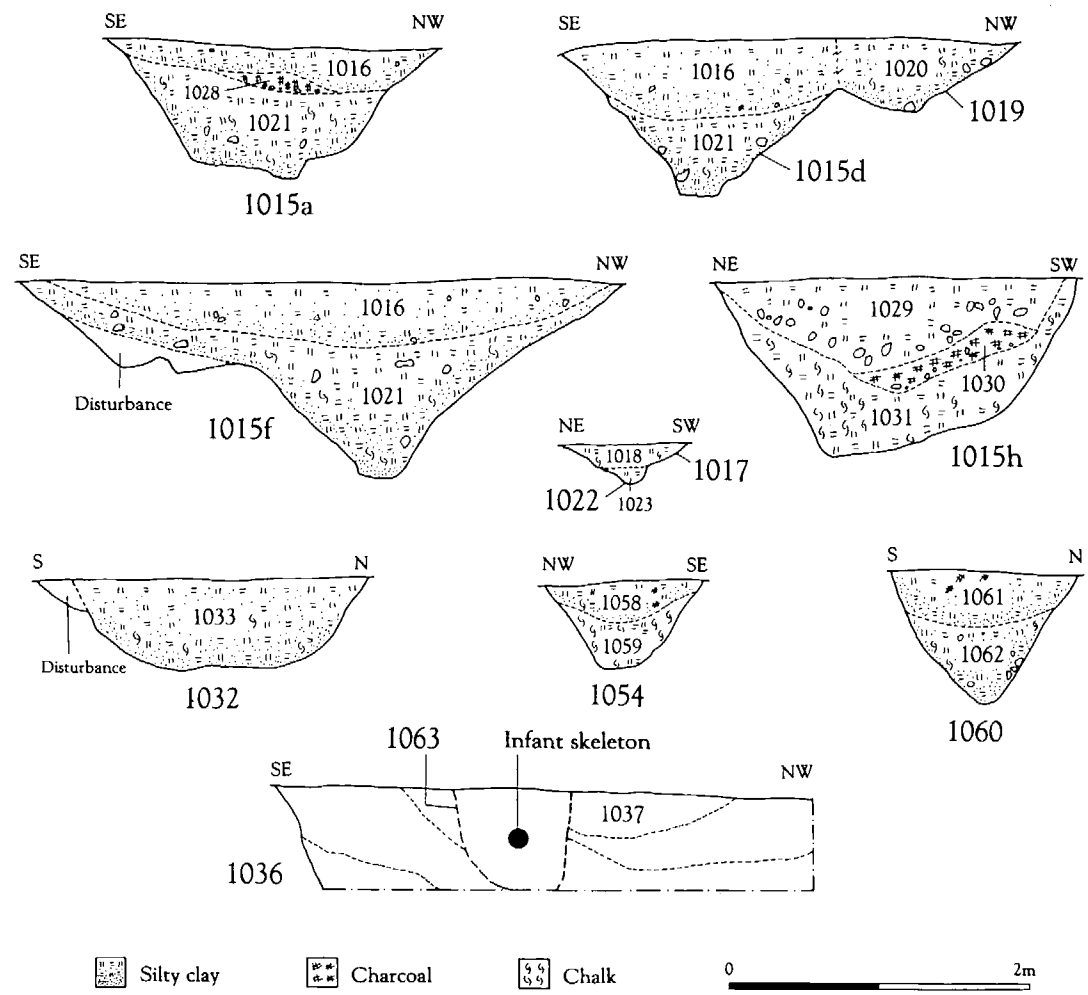


Fig. 5 Sections

fied). Seven sections were put through the main enclosure ditch F1015, and three of these were positioned where other gullies or pits were running off the main ditch (Fig. 3). Most of the other features were half sectioned, although several pits (F1036, F1042, F1046, F1048) were not fully excavated or left unexcavated.

Enclosure Ditch and Associated Features

The main feature excavated was a large curvilinear ditch, F1015, which began in the southern corner of Area 1 on a NNE/SSW alignment for *c.* 35 m, curving rapidly for *c.* 10 m round to a SE/NW alignment for *c.* 15 m, before continuing into the baulk on the south-east side (Figure 3). From an extrapolation of the geophysical plan made in

1974 by A. Bartlett, it would appear that the ditch excavated in Area 2 (F1054) is a return of this feature, running diagonally through the centre of the trench on a NE/SW alignment (Fig. 4).

The width and depth of the ditch varied markedly throughout its length, with no two same sections revealing the same profile (Fig. 5). Its dimensions ranged from 1.6 to 4.03 m in width and 0.6 to 1.29 m in depth, although it was fairly regular along the SW/NW alignment. This irregularity was caused partly by later pit cutting and other disturbance, particularly along the south-east side (section 'f'). The variations in the ditch sides from straight, 'U'-shaped, slightly concave to stepped were caused by recutting and differential erosion.

In general the ditch contained two fills, although two sections ('a' and 'h') also had a layer of charcoal and other burnt debris sandwiched between the upper and lower horizons, and interpreted as burnt dumps. All of the ditch fills contained artefacts, predominantly Late Iron Age – Roman pottery, animal bone and burnt flint, but also pieces of slag and tile, and even a bone tool and antler tine (see Crummy below). In general the upper fills contained more finds than the lower ones.

Other Ditches and Gullies

A number of linear features (predominantly gullies – F1013, F1017, F1019 and F1024) were associated with the ditch. The relationship between these and the main enclosure ditch could not be clarified easily for a number of reasons. These included the fact that ploughing, truncation and other disturbance had made these features rather shallow and the cuts difficult to define, and the upper fills of the ditch and gully features were virtually indistinguishable. Gullies F1013, F1017 and F1024, were situated on the south-east side of the enclosure ditch, and ran into it. F1013 and F1017 both contained Late Iron Age – Roman pottery, and hence were roughly contemporary with the main enclosure, although the plan would suggest that the ditch may truncate gully F1024, and hence slightly post-date it (Fig. 3). However, from the earlier excavations at this site, Millett and Russell (1984, 52–54) defined four separate phases of activity associated with the ditch. They also cut a section through the ditch where it adjoined a gully feature. Their phase plan (see Millett & Russell 1984, Fig. 4) implies that the ditch was constructed first, and was then later cut by the gully, which was subsequently cut by a post hole. Since their ditch section was only *c.* 10m to the south-west of the HAT excavation, it could be proposed that the other gullies abutting the western stretch of the enclosure followed a similar sequence, and hence were a later addition to the ditch. The shallow side-ditch, F1019, split from F1015 at section 'd' on a N/S alignment, before running under the baulk of the Area 1 trench (length >2.5 m, width 0.97 m, depth 0.49 m). The sherds of Late Iron Age – Roman pottery indicate that this ditch was also roughly contemporary with the main enclosure.

A number of other ditches were also exposed and excavated in both Areas 1 and 2. Two were sample excavated in the north-east end of Area 1, roughly 23 m to the NNE of the enclosure ditch. Both were aligned roughly NW/SE and were slightly curvilinear, continuing under the excavation baulks. F1040 was a relatively shallow ditch (length >22 m, width 0.8 – 4.1 m, depth 0.2 m). It contained two sherds of Late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery and was broadly contemporary with the main enclosure. F1052, the second ditch, was more curvilinear than F1040, but had a similar profile to it (width 1.2 m, depth 0.3 m). It contained only one sherd of Late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery.

In Area 2, a narrow curvilinear gully, F1056 (length >18.75 m, width 0.64 m, depth 0.18 m), ran 2 m to the south-east of the main enclosure ditch (F1054), and followed a roughly parallel alignment to it. Another possible linear ditch, F1060, was identified in the western corner of this trench (length >3.1 m, width 1.24 m, depth 0.88 m). Both these features contained Late Iron Age – Roman pottery, and hence were deemed to be broadly contemporary with the main enclosure ditch.

Pits and other Features

Several amorphous and sub-circular pits were detected in Area 1 only, and lay within the enclosure and to the north-east of it. Sub-circular pit F1026 (length 2.25 m, width 3.18 m and depth 0.27 m) was located in the southern part of the enclosure, while oval pit F1034 (length 0.53 m,

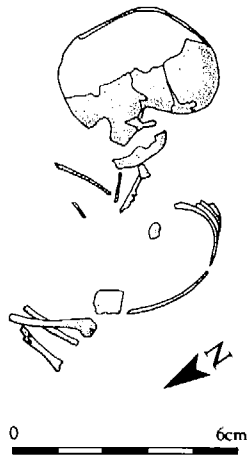


Fig. 6 Infant skeleton, F 1036 (L1037)

width 0.37 m, depth 0.04 m) was found in the northern sector. An elongated pit or ditch, F1044 (length >8.50 m, width 1.55 m, depth 0.60 m), lay adjacent to F1034. It was aligned NW/SE, and if a ditch, had a terminus in the north-west. A small heart-shaped pit or post hole, F1038 (length 0.69 m, width 0.58 m, depth 0.23 m), lay between F1044 and the enclosure ditch (Fig. 3). All these features contained sherds of Late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery, animal bone and struck flint, suggesting an approximate contemporaneity with each other as well as the main enclosure ditch.

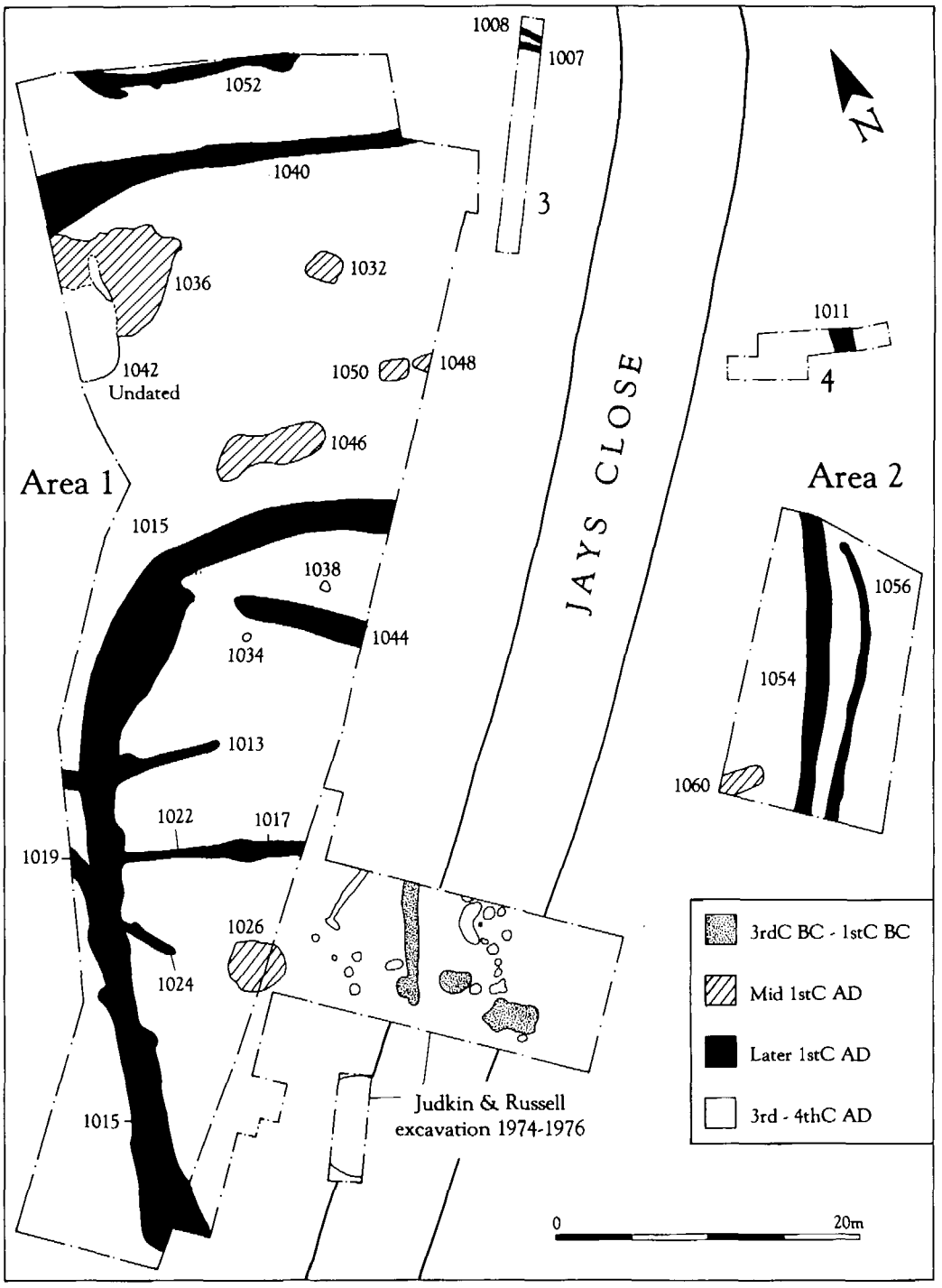
Four possible pits, F1032, F1046, F1048 and F1050, all with similar fills, were identified between ditches F1040 and F1052 and the enclosure. The latter three remained unexcavated due to lack of time, although surface finds were collected from them. F1032 was sub-circular (diameter 2.42 m, depth 0.59 m – Fig. 5), F1046 was an irregular figure-of-eight shape, F1048 disappeared under the eastern side of the baulk although appeared to be sub-oval in shape, and F1050 was sub-rectangular. The finds included Late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery, animal bone and struck flint, and F1046 contained daub and slag.

One final pit, F1036, was located towards the northern corner of the excavation and was sampled by members of the Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society. It was an irregular sub-oval shape (length 6.5 m, width 4 m, depth 0.72 m) with shallow sides, and containing 4 fills. A small pit had been cut within the centre of this feature and the remains of an immature human skeleton had been placed in the middle layer (Fig. 5). It lay on its right hand side in a crouched position (Fig. 6). It was incomplete, missing its left hand side and lacking foot bones, thus implying it was truncated (see Baxter below). The skull rested on a layer of chalk and two pieces of animal bone were found by the knees of the inhumation, while a third animal bone fragment lay under its pelvis. Other finds within the pit included 212 sherds of Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery, 141 more fragments of animal bone, and three struck flint pieces. It could be argued that this infant inhumation showed signs of having been disposed of in a general rubbish pit with minimal effort, as is known to be a common Late Iron Age burial tradition (see Cunliffe 1974, 316). However, the fact that the body appears to have been formally laid out, with specific animal bones placed around it, may imply ritual connotations, and potentially compares with the double inhumation with animal bones from the pit within the enclosure.

PHASING

Although the earlier excavations at this enclosure site had attempted a complex phasing of the features and finds (see Millett & Russell 1982; 1984), it would appear that the material retrieved from their excavations (in particular the pottery) allowed more precise chronological divisions than was obtained from the 1999 excavation (by HAT). On this basis, four separate phases or periods had been established. The earliest activity (*Period I*) was defined on the basis of worked Neolithic – Early Bronze Age flint scattered across the site. The bulk came from surface layers and not from defined features. Only one retouched piece – an Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead – was identified.

Period II was defined as the period of grain storage pits and burial activity within an unenclosed settlement. Most of the pits excavated contained assemblages of saucepan pots, suggesting a date between the 3rd/ 2nd and 1st centuries BC (Thompson in Millett & Russell 1984, 58).


1008
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Area 1
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Area 2
1015
1038
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1013
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1022
1017
1019
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1024
1015
Judkin & Russell
excavation 1974-1976
N
3rdC BC - 1stC BC
Mid 1stC AD
Later 1stC AD
3rd - 4thC AD
0
20m

However, a number of bead rim jars were also present in these pits and may imply a slightly later date. The double inhumation burial in pit 5 was allocated to this phase, although the dating evidence for this was rather meagre.

Period III was identified as the period of the digging of the enclosure ditch and the construction of the associated droveway. The ditches contained pot sherds that were predominantly bead-rimmed in their morphology and hence suggested a late date (1st century BC to 1st century AD). Thus the excavators suggested the development from an unenclosed Middle Iron Age settlement to an enclosed Late Iron Age – Roman one.

Period IV was dated between the 1st and 4th centuries AD, and seen as the time when the enclosure ditch silted up with rubbish, including Romano-British material. Features dated to this phase included a well, pit, gullies, slots and postholes (Fig. 7). These were interpreted as the possible remains of timber-built structures (Millett & Russell 1984, 54).

This precise phase division was not so clearly identified during the 1999 excavations of Jay's Close. This may imply that the separate chronological phases of the site were spatially discrete in separate areas within and beyond the enclosure. This begs the question as to whether the settlement developed from an open to enclosed settlement over time. Although it is not uncommon for undefended or open Middle Iron Age settlements to be modified into enclosed Late Iron Age – Roman sites [e.g. at the Ashville Trading Estate site, in Abingdon, Oxford (Parrington 1978, 28–29)], this need not mean that all settlements followed this developmental sequence. Certainly many Late Iron Age – Roman settlements would appear to have been enclosed from the outset. Examples include Worthy Down, Winchester (Hooley 1929), Daneshill, Basingstoke (Millett & Schadla-Hall 1991), Chalton (Cunliffe 1977), Brighton Hill, Basingstoke (Coe & Newman 1992), Binfield Park, Bracknell (Roberts 1995) and Rockbourne Down (Piggott 1941).

The 1999 excavation was slightly more restricted with respect to diagnostic vessels and decoration. However, as the pottery report demonstrates (see Last, below), it is possible to correlate specific fabric types with specific technologies and perhaps also to distinct periods. Fabrics taken to be characteristic of Period II (Last's S1 and S3) are better represented in the pit fills, while those argued to be diagnostic of Period III (Last's F1, F2 and G1) increase markedly in frequency in the ditch layers. The decrease of Period II fabrics and increase of Period III ones between the pit and ditch horizons are not sudden and absolute, but rather show a steady and gradual development.

SITE STRATIGRAPHY AND FINDS

Overall Spatial Disposition of the Finds Within the Site

It must be noted that the quantified distribution of finds from the site will be slightly biased in favour of the ditch sections, since more of these were excavated than pits and other features.

Ceramics

A large number of ceramics were recovered from pit F1036 (212 sherds), while an even greater quantity came from the small pit F1050 (299 sherds), a few metres to the south-east, and a substantial number were retrieved from the adjacent pit of F1048 (54 sherds). In fact, pit fills would appear to contain more pottery, both in terms of sherd number and sherd weight, than the enclosure ditch and the other ditches and gullies put together (see Table 1). In comparison, many of the ditch fills contained between two and seven sherds and only the upper fill of the ditch enclosure, F1016, contained a significant quantity of broken pot, with a total of 260 sherds. Thus the bulk of the potsherds came from pits that were beyond and to the NNW of the enclosure. One can tentatively propose that while the enclosure

Fig. 7 (*opposite*) Phase plan

Table 1 Pottery distribution by spatial zone

	Pits	*Ditches and gullies*	*Main enclosure ditch*	*Within Enclosure*	*On Enclosure boundary*	*Outwith Enclosure*
Number	594	37	508	29	508	608
Weight	5665 g	285 g	4263 g	183 g	4263 g	5797 g

Table 2 Burnt flint distribution by spatial zone

	Pits	*Ditches and gullies*	*Main enclosure ditch*	*Within Enclosure*	*On Enclosure boundary*	*Outwith Enclosure*
Number	84	146	505	108	505	97
Weight	7726 g	9570 g	40 668 g	6557 g	40 668 g	8986 g (7418 g from pits, 1568 g from ditches/ gullies)

Table 3 Struck flint distribution by spatial zone

	Pits	*Ditches and gullies*	*Main enclosure ditch*	*Within Enclosure*	*On Enclosure boundary*	*Outwith Enclosure*
Number	5	4	9	2	9	4
Weight	71 g	18 g	147 g	29 g	150 g	18 g.

itself was kept relatively clean of refuse, domestic rubbish was disposed of in external pits.

Ceramic Building Material

Only a few pieces of tile and daub were retrieved during the excavation, and nine of these pieces came from the subsoil. Four fragments of burnt daub came from the fill of the enclosure ditch, the rest came from various pits (4 frags. – 51 g). The remaining pieces of tile (4 frags. – 52 g), with one exception came from pit fills. This small quantity did not allow any obvious relationship to be established between the building material and the associated context. In fact some would appear to be the result of midden activity (see Fawcett below).

Struck and Burnt Flint

The majority of struck and burnt flint came from fills within the main enclosure ditch (Tables 2 and 3). Since the struck flint is likely to be residual, its contextual association is not relevant. Seventy-one percent of the burnt flint, thought to be connected with the Late Iron Age metalworking activity, came from the enclosure ditch, particularly from fills L1016 (20%) and L1021 (31%).

Table 4 Animal bone distribution by spatial zone

	Pits	*Ditches and gullies*	*Main enclosure ditch*	*Within Enclosure*	*On Enclosure boundary*	*Outwith Enclosure*
Number	220	22	284	22	284	219
Weight	2134 g	426 g	4802 g	426 g.	4802 g	2132 g.

Table 5 Slag distribution by spatial zone

	Pits	*Ditches and gullies*	*Main enclosure ditch*	*Within Enclosure*	*On Enclosure boundary*	*Outwith Enclosure*
Number	37	6	38	6	38	35
Weight	318 g	196 g	1558 g	198 g	1558 g	360 g

Animal Bone

Some features, such as the gullies F1017, F1013 and F1024, completely lacked animal bone, while others, particularly the pits outside the main enclosure ditch, often contained significant quantities. For example, pit F1036 contained 144 fragments of animal bone. The majority of the animal bone came from the fills within the enclosure ditch, in particular L1016 and L1021 (Table 4). Thus while broken ceramics tended to be deposited in pits beyond the enclosure, food refuse was predominantly thrown into the liminal boundary ditch. This may have been undertaken for the sake of convenience; presumably there would be more food debris than broken pots and thus it would be easier to dispose of it closer to the actual settlement space. While the bone from the ditches may be considered as midden refuse, that from the pit may have ritual connotations, since it was deposited in association with an infant burial.

Slag

Very little slag came from within the enclosure (Table 5). Most of the slag was retrieved from the enclosure ditch or from pits outside the enclosure, and this may imply that metalworking activities were carried out off site, although proximal to it (see Cowgill below).

FINDS ASSEMBLAGES

Struck and Burnt Flint by Tom McDonald

Struck Flint

A total of 23 struck flints, weighing 280g, was recovered. All of the pieces are patinated and were residual. The pieces came from eight features which contained Late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery. With the exception of a rolled bi-polar blade core (L1030), and a notched blade from F1015, the flint falls within the later Neolithic/ Bronze Age, flake-dominated industries. Both hard and soft hammer flakes are present. One flake from L1006 displays miscellaneous retouch.

Burnt Flint

A total of 756 pieces of burnt flint weighing 58022g was recovered. The pieces were generally large weighing on average 76g. The larger size of the burnt flint suggests that it was not re-heated.

Table 6 Fabric, ware and chronological correlation

Fabric	*Thompson's Group*	*Ware/Type*	*Period*
F1–2	B	'Silchester Ware'	1st century AD
F3	A	saucepan pots	3rd – 1st century BC
G1	D/E	Belgic/Atrebatic/Roman	1st century AD
G2	B?	'Silchester Ware'?	1st century AD
Q	F?	?	?
S1–3	C	Belgic/Atrebatic	?1st century BC/AD
S4	G	?Farnham/Alice Holt	1st century AD

Much of the burnt flint was found with Late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery in ditches, gullies and pits. A large concentration weighing 38685g occurred within enclosure ditch F1015. Other significant concentrations occurred within ditches F1060 (1612g) and F1044 (4319g), gully F1056 (1156g) and pits F1032 (2588g), F1036 (4188g).

It is probable that much of the burnt flint is derived from hearth dumps. A number of features (F1015, F1036, F1044, F1046, F1050 and F1054) which contained burnt flint and varying amounts of slag represent smithing waste-dumps.

The Pottery by Jonathan Last

The ceramic assemblage from Viables Two consists of *c.* 1370 sherds, including many tiny fragments, weighing 11 kg. Features with *c.* 50 or more sherds include subsoil L1006, ditches F1015 (fills L1016, L1021, L1029, L1030, L1031) and F1054 (L1055, L1058), and pits F1036, F1048 and F1050. Smaller quantities of pottery (*c.* 10 sherds or less) came from gullies F1017, F1056, ditches F1019, F1040, F1045, F1052, F1060, pits F1026, F1032, F1034 and F1046, and pit/post-hole F1038.

Fabrics and Forms

Five major fabric groups were recognized, based on the dominant inclusion type, which can be correlated with those identified by Thompson (1984) during previous work at the site (Table 6). Descriptions conform to PCRG guidelines (1995):

Group F: pottery of various oxidation states, predominantly tempered with varying densities of generally poorly-sorted crushed flint, sometimes combined with smaller amounts of sand, grog and iron ore. Generally handmade.

F1 – moderate/common fine to very coarse flint
F2 – sparse fine to very coarse flint
F3 – moderate/common fine to coarse flint

Group G: pottery predominantly tempered with fine to coarse rounded red, brown or grey particles of grog/clay pellets, frequently with other inclusions at sparse/moderate density. The pastes varied considerably but can be divided into two broad sub-groups:

G1 – grog with no additional inclusions or fine/medium sand only; usually wheelmade
G2 – grog with additional coarse inclusions, predominantly flint; usually handmade

Group Q: pottery tempered with common fine to coarse/very coarse sand and quartz. Generally handmade.

Group S: pottery predominantly tempered with fine quartz sand. Includes handmade and wheelmade fabrics.

S1 – common fine/medium sand, sometimes with admixtures of flint and/or grog
S2 – common very fine sand, occasionally with admixture of grog
S3 – sparse fine sand, occasionally with admixture of grog
S4 – Romanised sandy greywares

Minor inclusions found occasionally include vegetable matter (V) and calcareous material, probably chalk (C). These often occur in Middle Iron Age fabrics elsewhere, e.g. organics at Binfield, Berkshire (Booth in Roberts 1995).

Technology appears to be strongly correlated with fabric. The Group F pottery is predominantly if not entirely handmade – though the rims of similar pots at Ructstalls were apparently finished on a slow wheel (Richardson in Oliver & Applin 1979, 68). In contrast, most of the Group S and G1 vessels appear to be wheelmade; the exceptions are some sandy fabrics with admixture of flint, which are perhaps better equated with fabric F2. The handmade pottery varies in colour from wholly oxidised (orange/buff) to wholly unoxidised (dark grey/black), while the wheelmade sherds are predominantly dark grey or grey-brown in colour, sometimes with a reddish core. This probably indicates improved control of firing conditions for the wheelmade vessels, and presumably the use of closed kilns.

Vessel forms are similarly correlated with fabric and technology. From the rim sherds, three basic shapes are apparent, which can be equated with several of Thompson's (1984) forms:

Form 1 – globular jars/bowls with short upright rim, mainly in fabric groups F and G1; usually but not always handmade (Fig. 8.1–7, 10–12). Wheelmade forms can be grogged or sand-tempered (Fig. 8.8–9). Form 1(a) has a globular profile (Fig. 8.11); (b) and (e) a slight neck (Fig. 8.1, 4, 7, 12) while (c) and (d) have beaded rims (Fig. 8.2–3, 5–6, 8–10). Cf. Thompson's forms 2, 3 and 6.

Form 2 – necked jars/bowls with everted rim, sometimes forming a flange, and frequent elaboration of the shoulder with grooves and/or cordons; mostly in fabric groups S and G2; usually wheelmade (Fig. 8.18–28). A few handmade, flint-gritted everted rim vessels are also known (Fig. 8.14–17). Form 2(a) has an upright neck (Fig. 8.18–19, 22–28), (b) a sharply everted rim but no distinct neck (Figure 8.14), and (c) is an everted rim with a neck (Fig. 8.16–17, 20–21). Cf. Thompson's forms 4–5 (handmade), 7 and 9 (wheelmade).

Form 3 – simple upright bowls/jars; few occurrences, nearly all in fabric group F, particularly F3 (Fig. 9.32–34). Cf. Thompson's form 1 (saucepan pot).

Bases are either simple (Fig. 8.13, 9.26, 9.31) or have a low foot-ring (Fig. 9.29–30), the latter only in some wheelmade, grog-tempered form 2 vessels. A single handle fragment was found, in a grog-and-flint-tempered (G2) fabric (Fig. 9.37), and several pieces of a flint-gritted pot lid (Fig. 9.36) came from the same deposit, subsoil L1006 (West).

A number of sherds in all fabrics have carefully smoothed, burnished or slipped surfaces, but decoration was otherwise entirely absent on the group F vessels. As well as the horizontal grooves and cordons noted on the shoulder or below the rim of some of the wheelmade form 2 pots, a shallow tooled wavy line was apparent on the body of one vessel from pit F1050 (Fig. 9.26). Two form 3 vessels (enclosure ditch F1015, pit F1036) had one or two tooled horizontal lines below the rim (Fig. 9.32–33), while a handmade rim from ditch F1054, also probably of form 3 (fabric S1), was decorated with slashes or fingernail impressions (Fig. 9.34). In addition a body sherd from pit F1036 had a row of circular impressions and a parallel incised line (Fig. 9.35). These are probably Middle Iron Age in date.

Catalogue of Illustrated Pottery

Abbreviations:

h/m = handmade	w/m = wheelmade	ext. = exterior
int. = interior	vf = very fine	f = fine
m = medium	c = coarse	vc = very coarse

Fig. 8

1 1006W; 1(b); h/m; dark greyish brown ext. & fabric, reddish brown int.; moderate f-vc (2 mm) flint; sparse m-c red grog.

2 1006W; 1(d); w/m; greyish brown surfs., light grey fabric; common f/m sand.

3 1006W; 1(c); w/m; dark grey over mid-brown surfs., grey fabric; common f/m sand.

4 1016; 1(b); h/m; dark grey slightly burnished surfs., dark grey fabric; common f-vc (2.5 mm) flint.

5 1016; 1(c); h/m; greyish brown burnished ext., grey fabric, reddish brown int.; moderate f-vc (2 mm) flint.

6 1016W; 1(c); h/m; greyish brown ext. & fabric, dark grey int.; common f-vc (3 mm) flint.

7 1016W; 1(e); h/m; dark greyish brown to mid-brown ext., dark greyish brown int,. reddish brown fabric; moderate f-vc (3 mm) flint, sparse vf sand.

8 1021W; 1(c); w/m; mid-brown to dark greyish brown ext., dark grey fabric, mid-brown int.; moderate m-c grog; rare c-vc flint.

9 1037; 1(d); w/m; dark grey to greyish brown ext., dark brown fabric, dark grey int.; common f/m sand; sparse c quartz.

10 1037; 1(c); h/m; dark grey ext. & fabric, light grey to greyish brown int.; common f-vc (3 mm) flint.

11 1050; 1(a); h/m; dark greyish brown ext., dark

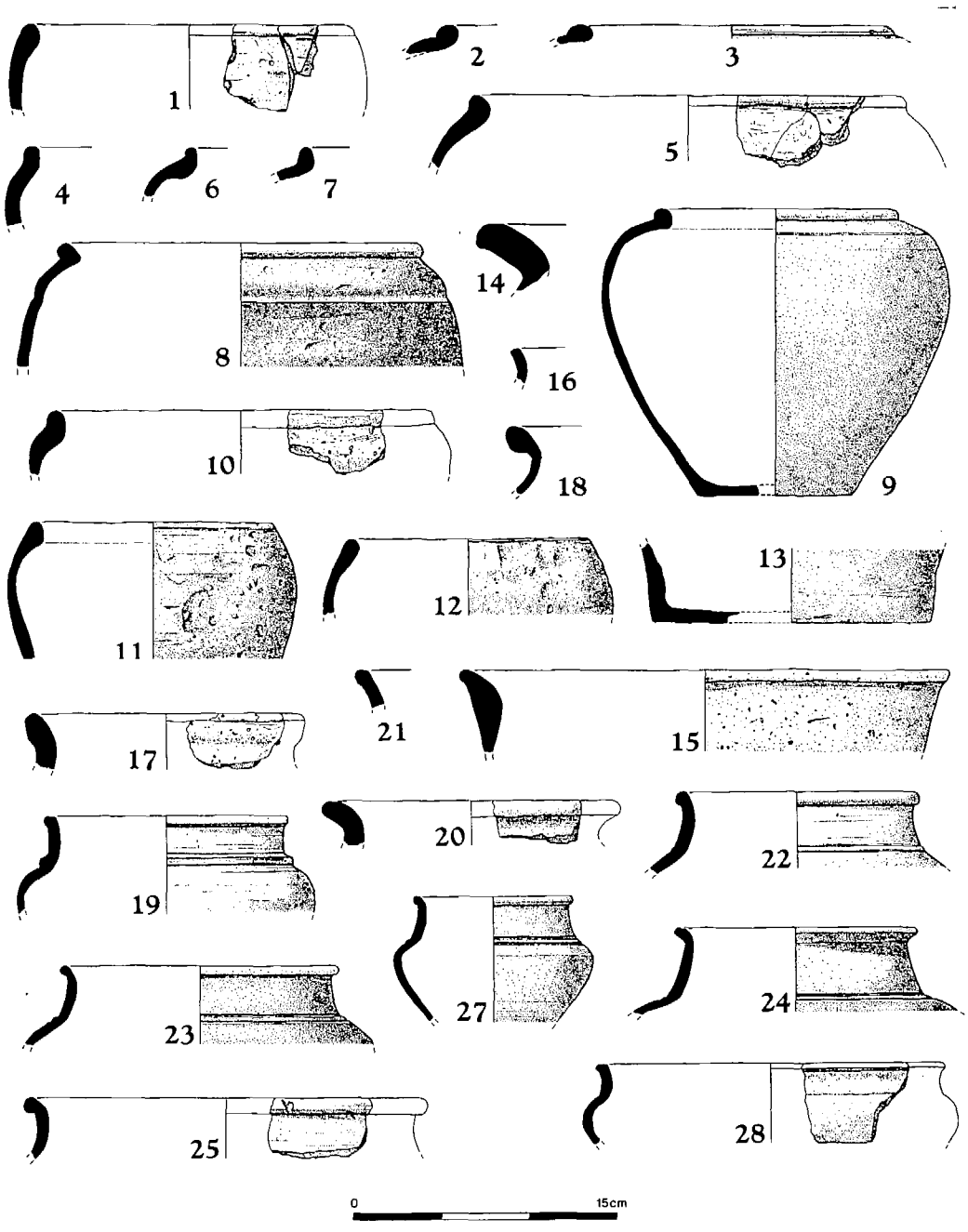

Fig. 8 Pottery

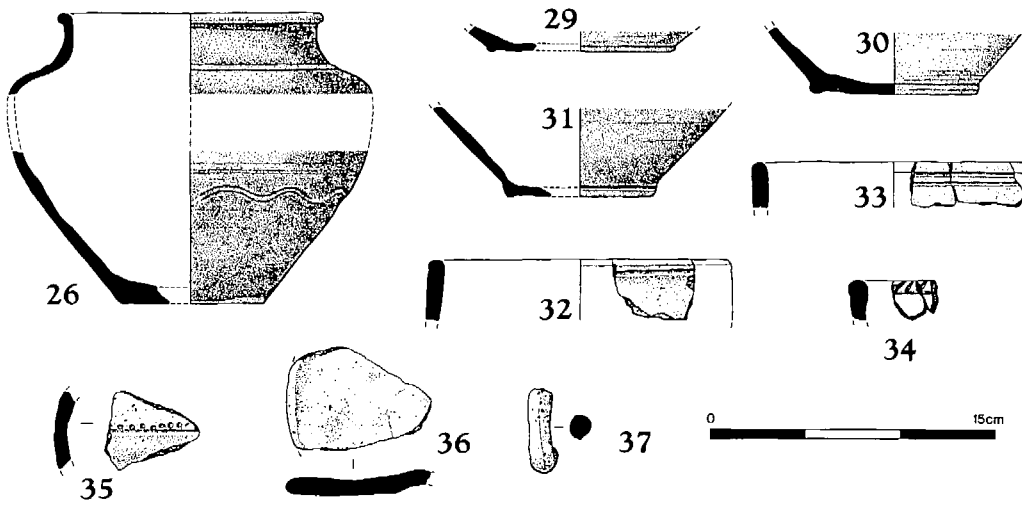

Fig. 9 Pottery

brown fabric, orange int.; common f-vc (3 mm) flint; sparse m-c grog.

12 1050; 1(b); h/m; mottled dark brown ext., grey fabric, mid to dark brown int.; common f-vc (3 mm) flint; sparse m grog.

13 1050; base; h/m; mid to orange-brown ext., grey fabric, dark grey sooted int., common f-vc (2.5 mm) flint; rare f/m grog.

14 1016; 2(b); h/m; mid to dark brown ext., orange to reddish brown fabric; dark greyish brown int.; common f-vc (3 mm) flint.

15 1036; 2; h/m; mid to dark brown ext., dark grey fabric, dark brown int.; common f-vc (3 mm) flint.

16 1046; 2(c); h/m?; dark greyish brown/light brown surfs., dark greyish brown fabric; common f-c flint.

17 1050; 2(c); h/m?; dark greyish brown surfs., dark grey fabric; common f-vc (4 mm) flint.

18 1006; 2(a); w/m; greyish brown surfs., buff core; common f/m sand.

19 1021; 2(a); w/m; dark greyish brown ext., dark grey fabric, dark greyish brown to mid-brown int.; common f-c grog.

20 1021; 2(c); w/m; dark greyish brown surfs. & fabric; moderate f-c grog; moderate vf sand.

21 1021W; 2(c); w/m; dark greyish brown surfs. & fabric; moderate f/m sand; sparse c/vc flint.

22 1029; 2(a); w/m; light greyish brown surfs., buff core; common f/m sand.

23 1037; 2(a); w/m; dark grey ext., greyish brown fabric, dark greyish brown int.; common f/m sand.

24 1049; 2(a); w/m; dark grey burnished ext., dark greyish brown fabric & int., common f/m sand.

25 1049; 2(a); w/m; dark greyish brown surfaces, dark brown fabric; common f/m sand.

27 1050; 2(a); w/m; light grey surfs. & fabric; common f/m sand.

28 1050; 2(a); w/m; dark greyish brown surfs., reddish brown fabric; common f/m sand.

Fig. 9

26 1050; 2(a); w/m; dark grey burnished ext., reddish brown fabric; dark grey int.; common f/m sand.

29 1016; base; w/m; reddish brown surfs., light grey core; moderate f-c grog, sparse f/m sand.

30 1021; base; w/m; dark grey ext. & fabric, reddish brown int.; common f-c grog; sparse f-c sand & flint.

31 1037; base; w/m; dark grey ext., greyish brown fabric; dark greyish brown int.; common f/m sand.

32 1021; 3; ?h/m; dark grey burnished surfs., reddish brown core; common f-c (rarely vc) quartz.

33 1037; 3; h/m; dark grey ext. & fabric, dark greyish brown int.; common f-c flint; common vf sand.

34 1058; ?3; ?h/m; dark reddish grey ext. & fabric; reddish brown int.; common vf-m sand; sparse f-vc (2 mm) flint.

Table 7 Sherd numbers and weight by context

Context	*No.*	*Mean weight*	*Fabric (% by sherd count)*						
			F1–2	*F3*	*S1–3*	*S4*	*Q*	*G1*	*G2*
Subsoil									
L1006	131	5.8 g	48.9	–	43.5	3.8	0.7	1.5	1.5
Ditch fills									
F1015 (upper)	331	8.3 g	64.7	0.9	6.9	1.8	3.9	20.2	1.5
F1015 (lower)	163	9.3 g	43.6	0.6	28.8	1.2	3.7	16.0	3.7
F1054	48	8.0 g	43.8	4.2	31.3	14.6	–	–	–
Pits									
F1036	226	9.4 g	24.8	8.0	59.7	0.4	1.3	3.1	2.7
F1048	55	7.0 g	21.8	1.8	49.1	1.8	–	1.8	23.6
F1050	340	9.3 g	36.2	0.9	50.3	6.8	3.8	–	2.1
Others									
ditches & gullies	36	8.6 g	33.3	2.8	27.8	2.8	5.6	5.6	2.8
pits & postholes	36	7.7 g	61.1	–	27.8	8.3	–	2.8	–

35 1036; decorated body; dark greyish brown/ reddish brown ext., dark greyish brown core, light brown int.; common vf-m sand; sparse f-vc (2 mm) flint.
36 1006; lid; h/m; dark greyish brown surfs. & fabric; moderate f-vc (3 mm) flint.
37 1006; handle; h/m; dark greyish brown surfs. & fabric; moderate f-vc (3 mm) flint.

Discussion and Dating

Previous work at Viables Farm (Thompson 1984) distinguished three ceramic phases:

i) groups consisting entirely of saucepan pot types, dating to the 2nd century BC and perhaps later.
ii) assemblages dominated by handmade bead-rimmed jars, with occasional wheel-thrown vessels, dating to the first century AD
iii) assemblages containing a range of Romano-British forms datable to the 1st–3rd centuries AD

The current assemblage seems to fall entirely into Thompson's second phase (Period III on the site). A few sherds of saucepan pot type were recovered but they all come from groups dominated by later forms and are therefore either residual or represent the tail end of the currency of these vessels. At Ructstalls Hill, saucepan pots with shallow tooled decoration below the rim (cf. Fig. 9.32–33) are most common in the 3rd to 1st centuries BC (Richardson in Oliver and Applin 1979, 61). The use of flint rather than sand temper may indicate a date relatively late in the Middle Iron Age (Booth in Roberts 1995). Later Romano-British groups were also absent from Viables Two: no feature contained more than 15% greyware sherds (fabric S4, possibly from Farnham) which in Thompson's Period 4 comprise 37%. Moreover, there were no Roman finewares from the site.

However, the present assemblage does show some variation by feature type in the proportions

Table 8 Pottery forms by feature

	Form		
	1	*2*	*3*
Subsoil			
L1006	4	3	–
Ditch fills			
F1015 (upper)	12	7	–
F1015 (lower)	7	4	2
F1054	1	–	1
Pits			
F1036	5	6	3
F1048	1	2	-
F1050	3	4	1
Others			
ditches & gullies	-	–	–
pits & postholes	–	2	–
Total	33	28	7

of the different forms and fabrics, though it should be noted that the figures below are based on raw sherd counts rather than EVEs and may therefore be biased by the presence of large heavily fragmented single vessels in certain contexts. These notably include L1016 (form 2, fabric G), F1036 (forms 1 and 2, both fabric S) and F1050 (form 1, fabric F and form 2, fabric S). Mean sherd weight does not vary greatly between the assemblages, except that the subsoil produced smaller sherds on average, consistent with them being moved and redeposited.

Table 7 shows that the proportion of fabric F1–2 sherds is lower in the major pits (22–36%) than the subsoil and ditches (44–65%), with the highest proportion in the upper fills of F1015. Fabric S pottery shows almost the opposite distribution, with high values in the pits (50–60%), slightly less in the subsoil, and least in the ditches, especially the upper fills of F1015. Fine grogged fabrics (G1) correlate to some extent with group F, and G2 with group S (the high proportion in F1048 reflects a number of joining sherds in a small assemblage). Of the other minor fabrics, F3 (possibly Middle Iron Age) is most common in pit F1036 (8%) and S4 (Farnham greywares) in ditch F1054 – though the latter turns up in small quantities in each group. Fabric Q is most common in ditch F1015, pit F1050 and the minor ditches.

Because fabric is correlated with form these variations may have a functional basis, relating to the spatial distribution of particular activities. Rees (in Fasham and Keevill 1995) notes that the change from sandy to flinty fabrics in the Later Iron Age of the region may reflect deliberate selection of materials for particular properties, such as resistance to thermal shock. However, the difference between the upper and lower fills of F1015 suggests that the observed variation primarily reflects change over time, and that the major pits were filled before the enclosure ditch. Hence these assemblages appear to indicate a sub-phasing within Thompson's Period 3.

The forms of 68 vessels could be identified from rim sherds (a few other small rim fragments were of uncertain form). They comprise 33 of form 1 (globular/bead-rimmed jars), 28 of form 2 (necked jars/bowls) and six or seven of form 3 (saucepan pots). Most of the form 1 pots come from ditch F1015, consistent with the high proportions of fabric F (Table 8). The form 2 vessels are more evenly distributed, but proportionately more frequent in the pits. The presence of late (or residual) saucepan pots in the lower ditch fills and two pits supports the sequence suggested.

Local comparisons for the Viables assemblage are found at a number of sites. At Brighton Hill South sites B/C and K, also on the south side of Basingstoke, a much larger assemblage of 10,000 sherds was recovered (Rees in Fasham & Keevill 1995, 35–46). In the 'Middle-Late Iron Age' group, fabric 1 (abundant flint) and the saucepan pot form are predominant, followed by the rounded jar (form 1). However, many of these vessels are decorated, which is not the case at Viables Two, and there are no wheelmade forms. The 'Late Iron Age – early Roman' group, on the other hand, includes plain everted-rim and rounded bead-rimmed jars in fabric 1 along with

cordoned jars (form 2) in fabric 7 (Belgic grog-tempered ware); despite the greater range of forms than at Viables, it is probably with this group that the better parallels lie.

The distinctive handmade flint-gritted bead-rimmed jars of form 1 were first recognised at Silchester, where they are seen as perhaps mainly Claudian (Boon 1969, 65) and residual in 2nd century AD contexts (Richardson in Oliver & Applin 1979, 72). Bead-rimmed jars, along with necked bowls, are one of the major elements of the 'Atrebatic' assemblage identified at Chalton, which probably spans the period from the early 1st century BC to the end of the first century AD (Cunliffe 1977, 60). At Ructstalls Hill, on the eastern side of Viables, flint-gritted fabrics form 40–60% of the assemblage in Phase II, the end of which is dated to *c.* AD 100 (Stephenson in Oliver & Applin 1979).

If the currency of the bead-rimmed jars suggests an end date for the occupation at Viables Two, the presence of occasional sherds of Roman greywares in most features may provide evidence for the starting date. If these sherds are from Farnham, they are unlikely to much predate AD 55, by when the Alice Holt kilns were in operation. At Oakridge, to the north of Viables, the absence of Farnham greywares in certain features is taken as indicating that they were filled by AD 60 (Oliver 1992, 64). On the other hand, the low proportion of 'genuinely Romanised grey ware' at Brighton Hill is taken to suggest a date for the occupation *before c.* AD 60 (Rees in Fasham & Keevill 1995, 43).

Rees also suggests that grogged fabric 7 at Brighton Hill is earlier than the wheelmade sandy wares (e.g. fabric 5), although the opposite pattern seems to be present at Viables Two, with fabric G1 most common in the upper fills of the enclosure ditch. This is more like the pattern at Ructstalls, where sandy fabrics do seem to be partly replaced by grogged ones over the period *c.* AD 40–100. At Park Farm, Binfield, Booth (in Roberts 1995) suggests the Late Iron Age/Romano-British grogged wares are rather later than the flint-gritted wares.

The restricted range of fabrics and forms at Viables Two suggests a community of limited means. Rees (in Fasham & Keevill 1995) argues that the continued use, specifically for cooking and storage wares, of Iron Age flint-gritted fabrics into the early Roman period indicates centralised rather than household production. While this would imply the Viables Two site, with a similar assemblage, was also connected to local pottery distribution networks, the absence of fine and traded pottery, such as amphorae, Gallo-Belgic and samian wares, does not indicate a high status occupation. Booth suggests that some of the differences between the ceramic sequences at different sites in the region might reflect variation in the supply of pottery to higher and lower status sites.

The assemblage from Viables Two therefore corresponds with one phase of the material previously excavated from the site, and dates the major features to the 'Late Iron Age-early Roman' period of the 1st century AD, probably the second half of the century. It shows similarities with a number of other sites in the region, though there are also minor differences. Although the variation in assemblage composition across the site suggests the pits outside the enclosure predate the filling of the ditch, functional differences cannot be ruled out: the fabric groups represented on the site are thought to reflect specific technological choices and the Iron Age concern, rooted in traditional cosmologies, with the spatial ordering of activities within settlement sites is well-attested.

Building Materials by Andrew Fawcett

A total of 23 fragments of ceramic building material weighing 370 g were recovered from Jays Close, Basingstoke. Table 9 indicates that only a small amount of Roman material was identified. The majority of pieces came from the subsoil, and all the examples are small, undiagnostic and abraded. Although the assemblage is negligible and scattered across the site, two points are worth making. Firstly, the Roman fabrics all follow a consistent pattern which may indicate a local source. Secondly, the tile depths range from 14 mm to 16 mm. The range of depths for *tegulae* is roughly 15 mm to 33 mm with an average of *c.* 21 mm (Fawcett forthcoming.). It follows therefore that these fragments belonged to true flat tiles (e.g. *bessalis, pedalis* and *lydion*) rather than undiagnostic fragments of *tegulae.*

Table 9 Building materials

Type	*No.*	*%*	*Wt*	*%*
Roman	7	30%	150 g	41%
Daub	8	35%	90 g	24%
Post-Med	7	30%	127 g	34%
Unknown	1	5%	3 g	1%

A small number of daub fragments were burnt and found in association with slag and burnt flint (L1016). This may indicate they were contemporary with the other finds. The tile probably found its way into the field as part of manuring.

Small Finds by Nina Crummy

Four objects were recovered, all from Late Iron Age to early Roman contexts. Bone points made from splinters of long bones such as Fig. 10 No.1 are common on Iron Age and earlier sites, for example Danebury, Hampshire (Sellwood 1984, Fig. 7.36; Cunliffe and Poole 1991, Fig. 7.33), Maiden Castle and Mount Pleasant, Dorset (Wheeler 1943, Pl. 36a; Wainwright 1979, Fig. 80), and Brean Down, Somerset (Foster 1990, Fig. 113). They are generally identified as awls, with the rounded tip of this example placing it in Sellwood's Class 2 (1984, 387).

The transversely-perforated antler tine object, Fig. 10 No.2, is probably a cheekpiece from a leather bit, found from the Bronze Age to the

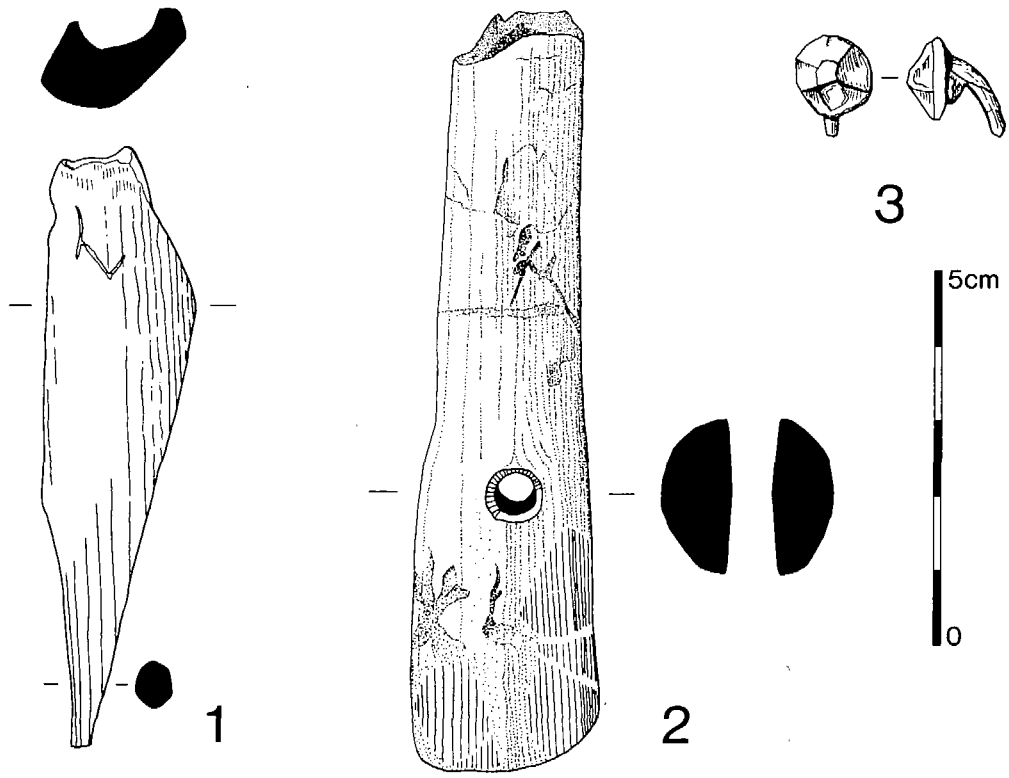

Fig. 10 Small finds: 1 & 2, bone tools; 3, iron hobnail

immediately post-conquest Roman period (Roes 1960; Foltiny 1967; Britnell 1976; Crummy 1983, Fig. 109, 2538; Taylor & May 1996, Fig. 14.9, 114). It does, however, differ from most cheek-pieces in several respects: the perforation does not have a V-profile cut on the inner side; there is no longitudinal hole through the tine from the butt end up towards the transverse hole; and the tine has been cut away at the worn area above the hole to prevent the strap from sliding. Though these points of difference may be considered sufficient to rule out identification of this object as a cheek-piece, the placing of the perforation with the worn area above appear to confirm it. It is probably simply a poorly-made example. An early Roman date is possible for this object, but it is most likely to be Late Iron Age.

This is also true of the fragment of coarse sandstone, probably from a rotary quern (not illustrated), but the iron hobnail from Ditch F1019 is of Roman date (Manning 1985, 136–7, Type 10).

Fig. 10.1 SF 2. (1016) F1015. Fill of enclosure ditch. Bone tool made from a splinter of long bone. The upper end has been left quite rough, the lower has been worked to a smooth point, the tip of which is missing. Length 80 mm.

Fig. 10.2 SF 1. (1031) F1015. Fill of enclosure ditch. Antler tine with a transverse perforation set towards the base. The tip is missing. The rough surface has mainly been removed. Some large cut facets at the base are highly polished. Two lie close together on the lower edge, one below each side of the hole on that face. Part of the circumference is worn and polished above the hole on the other side. Length 99 mm, maximum diameter 29 mm.

Not illus. SF –. (1058) F1054. Fill of ditch. Fragment of coarse sandstone with one curved worked edge. Maximum dimensions 70 by 69 by 48 mm. Probably from a quern.

Fig. 10.3 SF –. (1020) F1019. Fill of ditch. Iron hobnail, with bent shaft. The domed head is faceted. Length 11 mm.

Slag and Vitrified Material by Jane Cowgill

A total of 3168 g of smithing slags and associated materials (166 pieces) was submitted for recording. The lightness of the assemblage is due to the presence of a large amount of Iron Age Grey slags.

The assemblage is composed of two separate identifiable groups of slag (Table 10), those associated with iron smithing and the Iron Age Grey vitrified material, which with our current state of knowledge, are thought to be the results of two completely distinct and unrelated industrial processes.

The iron smithing slags were generated by the fabrication, repair or recycling of iron objects. The main form of evidence is the plano-convex slag accumulations or hearth bottoms. Most of the hearth bottoms from this site are fairly standard in form, but are generally flatter than usual. Visually the structure is either denser than normal or has a grey and lava-like appearance that is quite brittle and prone to fracturing.

The smithing slag lumps are similar to the hearth bottoms, in that they are small in size and comparatively dense. Most had some flint inclusions. The vague term iron slag was given to four pieces that have obvious isolated blocks of iron slag within them, which is highly unusual. They are probably a form of vitrified hearth lining or possibly some peculiar form of smithing slag lumps. Charcoal was the sole fuel noted within the slags.

The second and much more problematic group of slags are those recorded as Iron Age Grey. Consistent with all slags of this type most of these pieces are cream to a mid grey in colour, light, very vesicular, have evidently been molten and flowed and have a glassy grainy structure. Although brittle and easily crushed, some pieces are still quite large (60 × 60 × 50mm for example) and are too big and consistent in colour to be classified as ordinary fuel ash slags. This type of slag has so far been found exclusively on Late Iron Age sites, often farmsteads and commonly in association with domestic rubbish. Unfortunately all analytical attempts have failed so far to identify what high industrial process produced it and why it is consistently only generated during the Late Iron Age.

One of the unusual features of this assemblage is the fact that there are both flint and chalk inclusions. In ideal laboratory conditions chalk can decompose at 850°C but the temperature require can be considerably higher in a reducing atmosphere (Dr A Vince pers. comm..) There are a greater range of colours than is normal, some

Table 10 Slag and vitrified material: composition of the assemblage by type

Type	*Quantity*	*Weight (g)*
Iron smithing slags		
Hearth bottoms	33	1758
Proto-hearth bottoms	2	49
Smithing slag lumps	7	69
Iron smithing slag	4	47
Hammerscale	*	*
Iron Age Grey and associated materials		
Iron Age Grey	91	1004
Iron Age Grey + Hearth Lining	8	84
Non-specific categories		
Fired clay	2	12
Hearth Lining	3	14
Vitrified pottery sherds	5	23
Slag	2	56
Tuyere	2	8
Vitrified hearth lining	4	26
Vitrified clay†	2	11

* Present but not recorded
† Probably associated with the Iron Age Grey

having orangeish patches while a number of probably related pieces (from context 1055) are purple in colour. These latter pieces are also small by Iron Age Grey standards. Perhaps, more important, is the associated assemblage of hearth lining, some of which is still attached to the slag. The clays have all been fired in a reducing atmosphere and have a red/purple glassy surface that is unusual. The Iron Age Grey slags are composed mainly of silicates and it is thought to be highly unlikely that they are associated with any iron industry.

Discussion

The majority of the iron smithing debris is from the fills of the NNE/SSW aligned section of the enclosure ditch 1015. A small quantity was recovered from the upper fill, L1016, however, the majority including the hammerscale was from lower fill, L1021. This suggests that the smithing of iron was one of the activities taking place within (or close to) the enclosure.

The contexts in which the Iron Age Grey slags were found unfortunately do not assist in the debate as to how it was formed. The largest assemblage comes from the upper fill from the curvilinear ditch F1054 (L1055) in the eastern area of the site, and was found with few associated artefacts. This assemblage, however, had a number of unusual characteristics, including the presence of some attached and associated hearth lining material.

This important assemblage has provided addi-

Table 11 Number of identifiable fragments of bones of each species (NISP)

Taxon	*Total*
Horse (*Equus caballus* L.)	5
Cattle (*Bos* f. domestic)	78
Sheep/Goat (*Ovis/Capra* f. domestic)	19
Sheep (*Ovis* f. domestic)	(1)
Pig (*Sus* f. domestic)	11
Dog (*Canis familiaris* L.)	3
Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)	1
Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)	1
Fox (*Vulpes vulpes* L.)	1
Cf. Domestic Fowl (*Gallus* f. domestic)	1
Cf. Toad (*Bufo bufo* L.)	1
Total	121

tional and related forms of evidence that are linked to the Iron Age Grey slags. In the future, this group will undoubtedly help to clarify what high temperature process was being undertaken, seemingly exclusively, in the Late Iron Age.

Human Remains by Ian Baxter and Corinne Duhig

Human remains were found in two features at the site. An isolated young adult upper right canine tooth came from the enclosure ditch F1015 (L1016) and an infant partial skeleton was recovered from pit F1036 (L1037) (Fig. 6). The infant was 6–7 months of age at the time of death. The infant burial in pit F1036 was accompanied by a quantity of animal bone derived from several wild and domestic species and it is unlikely that the pit was especially dug to receive the human remains. The bones retrieved from this infant burial are listed below. As can be seen, they are predominantly from the right hand side of its body. With the exception of the skull, there is little evidence for bones above the chest cavity. The body of this neonatal would thus appear to have been truncated and the bone analysis suggests that this was done at the time of burial, rather than as a result of later disturbance.

F1036 (L1037)
Infant partial skeleton aged 6–7 months, comprising:
Fragmented cranium
Loose unerupted dI^1 crown
Loose unerupted crowns of dP^1 and dP^2
Right mandible fragment with unerupted dP_1 and dP_2
Right clavicle fragment
Right scapula fragment
Right ulna fragment
Right femur fragment. A.P. dia. Midshaft (Fe D_3): 82.0 mm; M.L. Dia. Midshaft (Fe D_4): 76.0 mm
3 phalanges (manus)
16 rib fragments (8 proximal)
30 vertebral fragments (6 centra)

Animal Bone by Ian Baxter

A total weight of 7.6 kg of animal bones comprising 540 fragments was recovered from the site. Of this total, 121 'countable' fragments have been identified to species (Table 11). The condition of the bone is generally fair, although ground leaching has made it friable and the bone surface is

eroded and root-etched inhibiting the identification of cut marks. All the animal bones from Viables Two were hand-collected, and hence an under-representation of smaller species and body parts is to be expected, due to recovery bias. Three hundred and six fragments (or 57%) came from ditches and gullies, while 234 fragments (or 43%) from pits or other features.

Cattle

Cattle remains formed the most common species, accounting for 64% of all identified fragments. The cattle ranged in age from young calves to old adults, although there is insufficient material to construct a reliable age profile. All parts of the skeleton are represented suggesting that entire carcasses were processed on site. A complete radius from enclosure ditch F1015 (L1021) came from a beast approximately 100 cm high at the shoulder based on the multiplication factors of Matolcsi (1970). A metatarsal from context L1031 in the same feature derived from an animal approximately 107 cm at the withers. These are heights typical of the Iron Age and Early Roman period.

Sheep/Goat

Sheep/goat is next most frequent, representing 16% of all identified fragments. From the available mandibles that could be calculated, 57% derived from animals aged 6–12 months, most probably yearling lambs, 14% from individuals aged 1–2 years, and 29% from older animals aged between 4–8 years. The latter probably represent breeding stock and sheep kept for milk and wool. There is, therefore, some suggestion that many lambs were slaughtered for their meat at around one year old, but the assemblage is small and only tentative conclusions can be made.

Other Domestic Species

Pig bones account for 9% of the total assemblage. Most of the remains are from immature or subadult animals, as would be expected for a species raised primarily for its meat. Small horse remains are relatively frequent. A complete 3rd metacarpal from enclosure ditch F1015 (L1016) came from an individual approximately 108 cm high at the withers or around 10 hands based on the multiplication factors of Kiesewalter (1888). A mandible fragment with M_{1-3} preserved found in pit F1036 (L1037) came from a horse approximately 10 years old based on comparison with recent New Forest pony wear curves (Levine 1982). The other bones are also attributable to horse on the basis of general size and characters.

Canids are only represented by mandibular fragments. Two rather different types of dogs are represented at the site. A mandible found in enclosure ditch F1015 (L1016) came from a large animal, probably employed as a herding dog (Pryor 1998, 96–100) and/or watchdog. The mandible from pit F1036 (1037) came from a rather smaller animal, with relatively large carnassial teeth, that probably resembled the modern Dachshund. These animals were probably customarily employed as hunting dogs, but may have also been useful in the herding of cattle like the recent Corgi breed (Baxter forthcoming). Such employment seems more apposite to a low status (i.e. non villa) Late Iron Age to Early Roman site. Dogs of this general type are also known from pre-Roman European sites, possibly as natural genetic mutations, from as early as the Bronze Age but show a definite increase in the immediately pre-Roman Iron Age (Bökönyi 1974).

A distal humerus fragment of a large and old domestic fowl was recovered from pit F1026 (L1027), possibly a chicken. (*Gallus* f. domestic). Domestic fowl are generally infrequent on Romano-British sites and show a marked increase thereafter.

Wild Species

Antler fragments from red and roe deer were found in gully F1013 (L1014), and enclosure ditch F1015 (L1021). The red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) fragment from L1014 is a section of antler beam that has been cut at both ends and represents craft waste. The roe fragment from the enclosure ditch derives from the antler crown and displays no signs of working.

A fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) mandible fragment was found in pit F1036 (1037). A large anuran tibiofibula fragment was recovered from enclosure ditch F1015 (L1016). On account of its size this most probably derives from a female toad (*Bufo bufo*).

Summary and Discussion

The assemblage is too small to provide much insight into the husbandry regime practised at the site. Cattle seem to have been the main domestic species, followed by sheep. Pig appears to have been almost as numerous as sheep and will have contributed more to the diet due to greater carcass weight. Dogs were undoubtedly important as herding animals, and small native ponies were likewise indispensable as mounts and, perhaps also as pack animals. Deer species seem to be of some importance as providers of raw material, seasonally collected shed antler, but perhaps of much less significance as a source of meat.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The HAT excavations at Viables complemented the earlier investigations by Judkin, Millett and Russell and have provided further information concerning the nature of occupation and activity at this ditched enclosure site. Although the excavations by Judkin and Russell determined a potential four phases of occupation, the trenches opened in 1999 were able to identify material culture and features that related predominantly to one main phase of activity, dating roughly between the 2nd/1st century BC and the 1st century AD Since the HAT trenches were positioned adjacent to, and to some extent overlapped with, the earlier exposures of the 1970s, the fact that little Middle-Late Iron Age or late Roman evidence was identified might seem surprising. It would appear that the different periods of activity were spatially discrete. From a collation of all the excavation data, one can provisionally conclude that occupation relating to Periods II (pits relating to grain storage and clay quarrying) and IV (timber structures) was focussed within the central area of the enclosure. On the other hand, domestic and industrial activity associated with Period III was concentrated around the ditch boundary, as well as beyond the enclosure itself.

The ceramic analysis would suggest that the pits beyond the enclosure may date to a slightly earlier phase than the construction of the ditch, although the limited number of saucepan pots would imply they were later than the pits within the enclosure. This suggests an interesting chronological and spatial distribution pattern in the nature of occupation at this site. It would appear that two separate phases of pit activity in distinct areas can be witnessed at this site, both of which pre-date the digging of the ditch. The ditch, in turn, was associated with continued activity in the pits beyond the enclosure, and both became filled with domestic refuse and industrial waste. Thus, activity relating to Period III was predominantly focussed towards the extremities and outwith the enclosed space. Finally, in Period IV, the first and only structural evidence for occupation at this site emerges towards the centre of the enclosure, by way of timber-framed buildings. At this point, the enclosure ditch itself went out of use and completely silted up.

The question of the phasing of the burials – both the double inhumation and the baby burial – has still not been answered with certainty. Neither contained sufficient evidence for precise chronological assignations, but other indirect evidence might be employed to date them. The burial pit (Millett & Russell's 1982 pit 5, HAT 373's pit F1026) was located in a strategic position within the enclosure, close to and directly aligned with its entrance (Figs. 3 & 4). This might be paralleled with other Iron Age sites where burials are often located near the entrances to sites or beneath extensions to rampart extensions, as at Maiden Castle and Hod Hill in Dorset (Cunliffe 1978, 316). It could be argued that the double inhumation burial pit from Viables symbolically protected the opening to the site, and its content of structurally opposed grave goods might have been related to the dichotomies of inside/ outside; culture/ nature and domestic/ wild. Another possibility is that since multiple burials in pits are relatively rare in the Late Iron Age, this double inhumation might be interpreted as holding the remains of undesirable or unclean women who were excluded from the normal burial rite. In this context, the large number of associated animal carcasses and other grave goods might be interpreted as generous gifts or sacrifices in order to appease the gods (e.g. see Cunliffe 1995, 75). Even if we cannot assume either of these associations, the position of the pit and the presence of a silvered bronze terret, consistently dated between

the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD (Millett & Russell 1982, 88) implies a later chronology than those of the other internal pits, and a direct association with the construction and use of the enclosure. Whatever the significance of this pit burial, one thing is clear – the world of the dead was no longer externalised at this site, but rather brought inside to the world of the living.

The baby inhumation in pit F1036 was found in association with a small number of sherds relating to saucepan pots and fine flint saucepan type fabric vessels, implying a potential Late Iron Age date. However, these vessels may be residual (Last pers. comm.). Furthermore, the burial cut within the pit was missed during the excavation by the Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society (the cut was determined from a photograph of the section), and hence earlier material may well have become mixed with later horizons. The presence of neonatals from Late Iron Age sites is quite rare, and certainly not a normative burial rite. Only thirteen such pit burials were discovered from the 25 season excavation campaign at Danebury (Cunliffe 1995, 73). Three of these survived as partial skeletons, but Cunliffe (ibid, 73) argued that they were all likely to have been buried complete. However, newborn and infant interment in pits and non-cemetery contexts is relatively common in Roman Britain. For example, 97 infants were discovered in a farmstead courtyard at Hambledon, Buckinghamshire (Keith in Cocks 1921) and several were noted in domestic contexts at Boxfield Farm, Hertfordshire (Going 1999, 33). This evidence may support the argument that this infant is more likely to be 1st century AD or later in date. However, the burial rite itself is unusual and it is worth considering this in more detail.

Although most Late Iron Age and early Roman neonatal burials were deposited in normal pits with associated domestic rubbish, this need not mean that infants were also considered as refuse, and simply dispatched without any accompanying ritual. In all cases the neonatals were placed in the middle or upper fills of the pits, contrasting with juvenile or adult burials which tended to be inhumed in the basal fills. This process of deposition concurs with the Viables neonatal, which was interred in the middle horizon of the pit (Fig. 5). One could postulate that the younger the deceased, the closer to the world of the living that they could be interred, while the older the deceased, the further and deeper into the ground and world of the dead they had to be buried. Certainly, this is a custom of some native North American tribes. The fact that the Viables neonatal appeared to have been buried with some ceremony, in a crouched position (Fig. 6) with grave goods of animal bones, and not simply dumped in a pit, may imply that it was a ritual deposit. There is no other documentary evidence of baby burials of Late Iron Age date being split in half at the time of death, presumably while still fleshed (on the basis of the articulation of bones as a crouched inhumation). The left hand side of the infant may lie in the middle fill of another pit beyond the limit of excavation, perhaps even in one diametrically opposed to it. Like the double female inhumation, one can tentatively make a comparison between oppositions; in this case between the left and right hand sides being separated and then, at least with respect to the right hand side, placed as a symbolic deposit in a pit beyond the main enclosure. Of course there is a more mundane explanation. The pit may have been recut again after the baby was interred, and the left hand side of the body removed during the disturbance. Unfortunately, any possible later cuts were also missed during the excavation of this feature.

The HAT excavations at Viables Two have added to our understanding of this important Late Iron Age – early Roman enclosure site. The spatial and chronological analyses of features and finds have expanded upon Millett and Russell's (1982; 1984) interpretations of the nature of domestic, industrial and ritual activity within and beyond the enclosure between the 3rd century BC and the 4th century AD Finally, this investigation confirmed earlier observations that burial and associated ritual activity played an important part in the functioning of this site. However, the symbolic components of the inhumations need not simply be interpreted as highlighting distinctions within social hierarchy, but may have acted as metaphors for less tangible aspects of Late Iron Age – early Roman ritual.

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