

A ROMAN SITE AT WALTON, MILTON KEYNES

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SUMMARY

Trial excavation of an area known to contain Roman finds took place during the rescue survey and excavation of the adjacent Walton Medieval Village. Results confirmed the existence of a nearby building of third-fourth century date. The building was possibly of timber construction. The date range of the occupation of the site probably extended from the early second to the mid fourth-century. The excavation produced a useful range of third to first-half fourth century pottery.

INTRODUCTION

The cleaning out of the southern boundary ditch of the close south of the Old Rectory at Walton in 1953 resulted in the discovery of a Roman site. The spoil from the ditch contained Roman pottery, part of a turned bone handle, a large quantity of fragments of roofing tile¹ and much stone debris suggesting the site of a building.

In 1961 D. C. Mynard visited the site and in trowelling down the face of the ditch recovered more Roman finds² including the other half of the bone handle found in 1953. The finds were recovered from a layer of stone and tile fragments at an average depth of one metre below the present ground surface.

Following the designation of the new town of Milton Keynes the site being within the designated area was included in lists of sites prepared by the Milton Keynes Research Committee. Subsequently in 1970³ a one-day trial excavation was carried out on behalf of the Milton Keynes Research Committee by Dr. John Evans of the Bucks County Museum staff. The excavation consisted of three mechanically dug trial trenches situated on the south side of the southern hedge of the Rectory Close. The results confirmed a Roman surface at a depth of 90 cms. below the present ground level. This surface contained cobbling and paving slabs cut by one or two gullies. Scattered on the surface were fragments of Roman pottery, tile and ox and sheep bones⁴. The excavator noted that the absence of recognisable walls or bedding trenches presumably indicated that any structure on the site had been of wood with a tiled roof.⁵

During 1972 the newly formed Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit carried out survey and rescue excavation of the Walton Medieval Village site in advance of the construction of the H9 grid road. Excavation which took place on several medieval house platforms was of a limited nature due to other commitments and financial limitations but time was found to carry out further trial excavation of this Roman site

1. Buckinghamshire County Museum, Acc. No. 119.55.

2. Buckinghamshire County Museum, Acc. No. 73.62.

3. *Records of Bucks*, p.440.

4. Buckinghamshire County Museum, Acc.No. 107-70.

5. Information on site record card at Buckinghamshire County Museum.

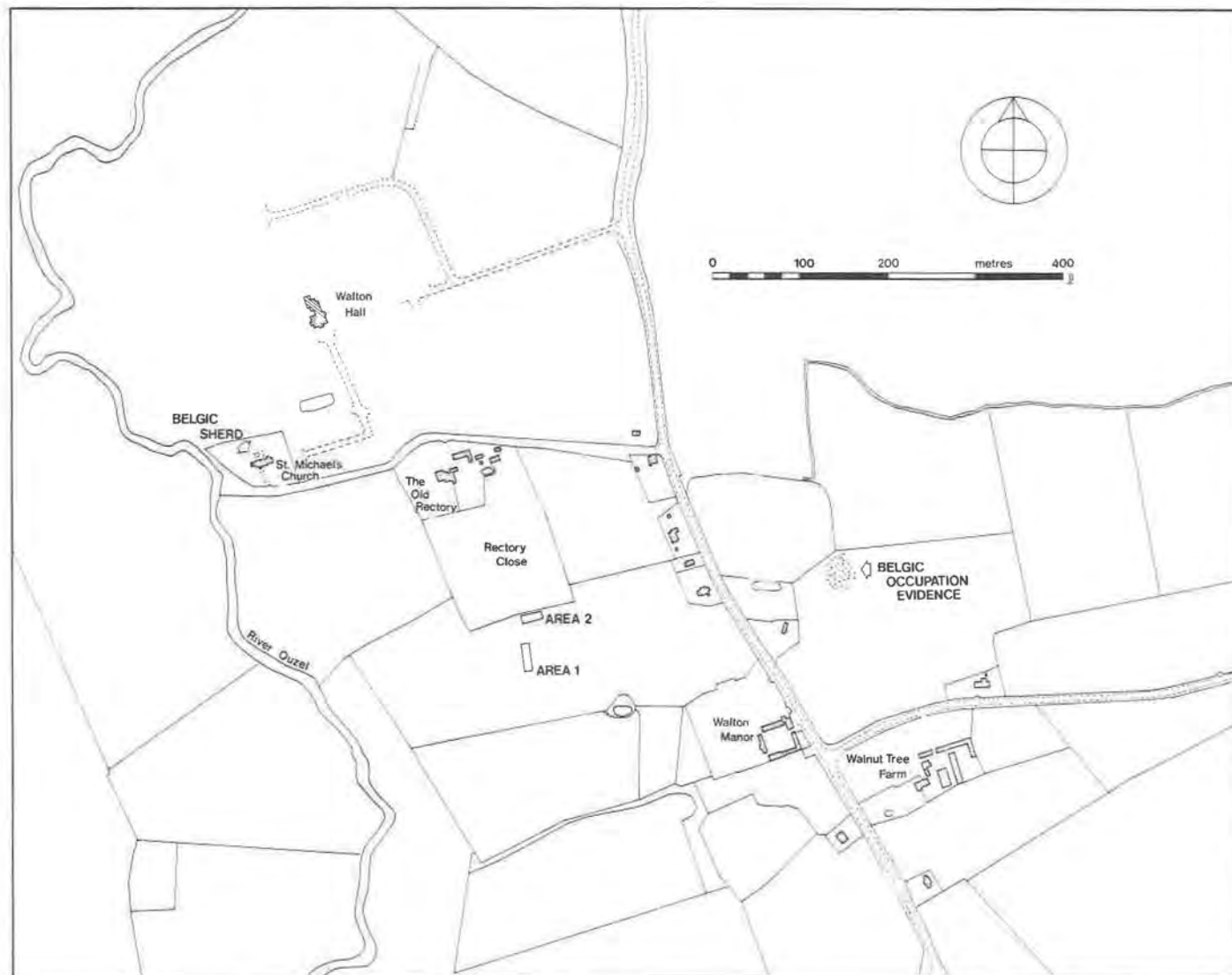


Fig. 1. Site Location Plan

which was adjacent to the proposed road and the Village site, see Fig. 1

Five areas were excavated in the medieval village and of these 'Area 2' was located immediately south of the Rectory Close hedge in close proximity to the previous findspots in order to obtain information about this Roman site. Area 2 was twenty by eight metres in size with its longest axis following the east-west course of the hedgerow.

The Excavation

Area 2 was commenced as two mechanically cut trial trenches six metres apart and twenty metres in length. The Roman surface was located at an average depth of one metre, this exceptionally heavy deposit of topsoil being due to the presence of a medieval plough headland at this point, the line of which is preserved by the present hedge. The Roman surface consisted of a thin stony layer containing some tile and pottery sherds no features were recognised within the trial trenches; we therefore decided to remove the soil between them in order to examine a larger area. This was effected by removing the bulk of the topsoil, Layer 1, with a Drott and finally trowelling down to the Roman surface. When thus exposed, the surface consisted of a sparse scatter of tile and limestone fragments, denser in the centre of the area where some cobbles remained to suggest a laid surface. The area was then retrowelled and the cobbles eventually lifted during this process. The soil variations were defined as individual layers as follows:

- Layer 1: modern topsoil and medieval ploughsoil.
- Layer 2: base of former topsoil above Roman surface, dark-brown clayey soil with Layers 3 and 12; the first trowelling on and immediately above the Roman surface, all over the area.
- Layers 5, 6, 7 and 8: second trowelling of the surface divided by area, viz.
- Layer 5: on the stone/cobble patch in centre of Area 2.
- Layer 6: north west corner of area, dark brown soil over the fill of a pit which was defined as Layer 9, see below.
- Layer 7: centre of area around the cobble patch.
- Layer 8: east side of area, dark brown soil, average 6 cms. in thickness, above natural clay.

In view of the indeterminate nature of this area and the fact that a medieval building was located by the contractor (Area 5) and required immediate excavation prior to destruction, it was decided to section the pit, layer 9, and to remove the cobble/stone patch, layer 10, in case it overlay a better surface or other features.

- Layer 9: the pit was sectioned and proved to be a shallow excavated area approx. thirty five cm. in depth; the fill was of green-grey sticky clay with patches of orange natural clay. On the bottom were several fragments of stone, but not enough to suggest a definite floor.

Layer 10: The removal of the cobble/stone patch in the centre of the area merely confirmed that it was laid on natural.

Layer 11: Dark brown soil beneath a small patch of stones in the north-west corner of the area and overlaying a cobbled surface.

No further work took place since it was clear that only large-scale area excavation would reveal enough of the Roman levels to afford interpretation. In addition, it was clear that the site lay to the north under the Rectory Close and not to the south where road stripping had failed to locate any further Roman features. It was therefore decided to consider further excavation at such time as development was proposed in Rectory Close.⁶

Dating Evidence

The dating evidence for Area 2 is provided by pottery and coins. Occupation of the site in the late Antonine period is attested by the pottery from Layers 9 and 11, which were sealed by the later Roman surface of third to mid fourth century date.

THE FINDS

In addition to the material from Area 2 some finds came from a Roman ditch in Area 1 (Ditch 2) and unstratified residual finds came from medieval levels in Areas 1 and 3. Any of these worthy of publication have been included in this report.

Finds from the MK Research Committee trial excavation are not discussed, although some of the pottery may be from our Group II. Unfortunately this relationship was not known until after our report was completed, at which time the excavators site plan became available to us.

The Pottery – for Pottery bibliography see Appendix II. The pottery found falls into two clear chronological groups:

Group I: from layer 9 (Pottery group no. P32) and Layer II (P34), which appears to be Antonine and probably late Antonine in date.

Group II: This comprises all the material from Area 2, Layers 2–8 and 10, which has been treated as one deposit, of third century date, with a spill-off at both ends of the century into the last part of the second and certainly into the first half of the fourth century.

Group I – Fig. 2, A–B and 1–8.

Samian Ware (by Hedley Pengelly)

A. Major part of a Dr. 33 cup, Tituronis of Lezoux, TITVRO. Late Antonine, 160–190, from Layer 9.

B. Base and two sherds of a Dr. 33, with the stamp of the little-known potter Regussius? REGVSSI. Late Antonine, from Layer II.

Unillustrated sherds

One sherd of a Dr. 33, same Date as A, sherds of a 31R, an 18/31R–31R and another 31R, all Antonine.

⁶At the time of writing this report (1977) there are no proposals for the development of this site.

Buff Wares

1. Rim of large bowl; pink gritty fabric, grey core, grey grog, buff to cream external surface. Presumably related to *Brixworth* (1970), large bowl type B, there dated Late Antonine/Severan in the main. See also *Gadebridge*, Ditch B.

Grey Wares

Some dozen vessels were represented, including part of a narrow-necked cordoned jar decorated with bands of burnishing in a very fine slate grey fabric, (probably as *Ver.* ('72), 827 or 829, but rim missing); all these vessels indicate an Antonine date.

2. Wide-mouthed bowl, or more probably dish, fabric almost white, light to mid blue-grey surfaces, burnished internally.
3. Dish in dark grey sandy ware, burnished internally. cf *Ver.* ('72), 986, there dated 150-160 but this example undecorated. The type continues to the end of the century.
4. Dish or bowl in burnished black ware, *Ver.* ('72), 726, there dated 140-150; or perhaps a dish, Gillam 222 and 223, late 2nd century. Apparently B.B.2.
5. Small jar of Antonine type, with simple thickened rim, light grey fabric, darker surfaces, rim burnished. Probably as *Ver.* ('72), 859, there dated 155/160, but it could well be later in the century.

Mica-dusted

6. Base of beaker in hard red brown ware, grey core. A sherd of the same vessel from Area 2, 11, shows mica dusting. Presumably Antonine.

Shelly Wares

7. Cooking pot in buff to grey shelly ware, rilling not apparent on body sherds. The form is related to channelled rim jars, but the channel has almost disappeared. See *Ver.* ('72), 666, 140-160, and *Gadebridge*, 221, late 2nd century.
8. Rim of storage jar in coarse grey shelly ware, buff surfaces. Presumably late 2nd century. (One sherd only occurred of a storage jar in a grey fabric with much grey grog and brick red surfaces – a native derived type and ware. Perhaps this fabric ceases in the Antonine period? See discussion under No. 83. It occurs nowhere else on the site).

Some half dozen other shelly pots were represented, all being more or less finely filled.

The indications are that this is a late 2nd century group. There seems to be no ceramic evidence for residual earlier, i.e. pre-Antonine occupation.

Group II – Fig. 2, 9-18 and Figs. 3-5, 19-85.

Discussion of dating evidence: the two Roman coins from Layers 2 and 3 are mid to late third century antoniniani, not more precisely dateable due to illegibility; this date range is not at variance with that attributed to the Group II pottery.

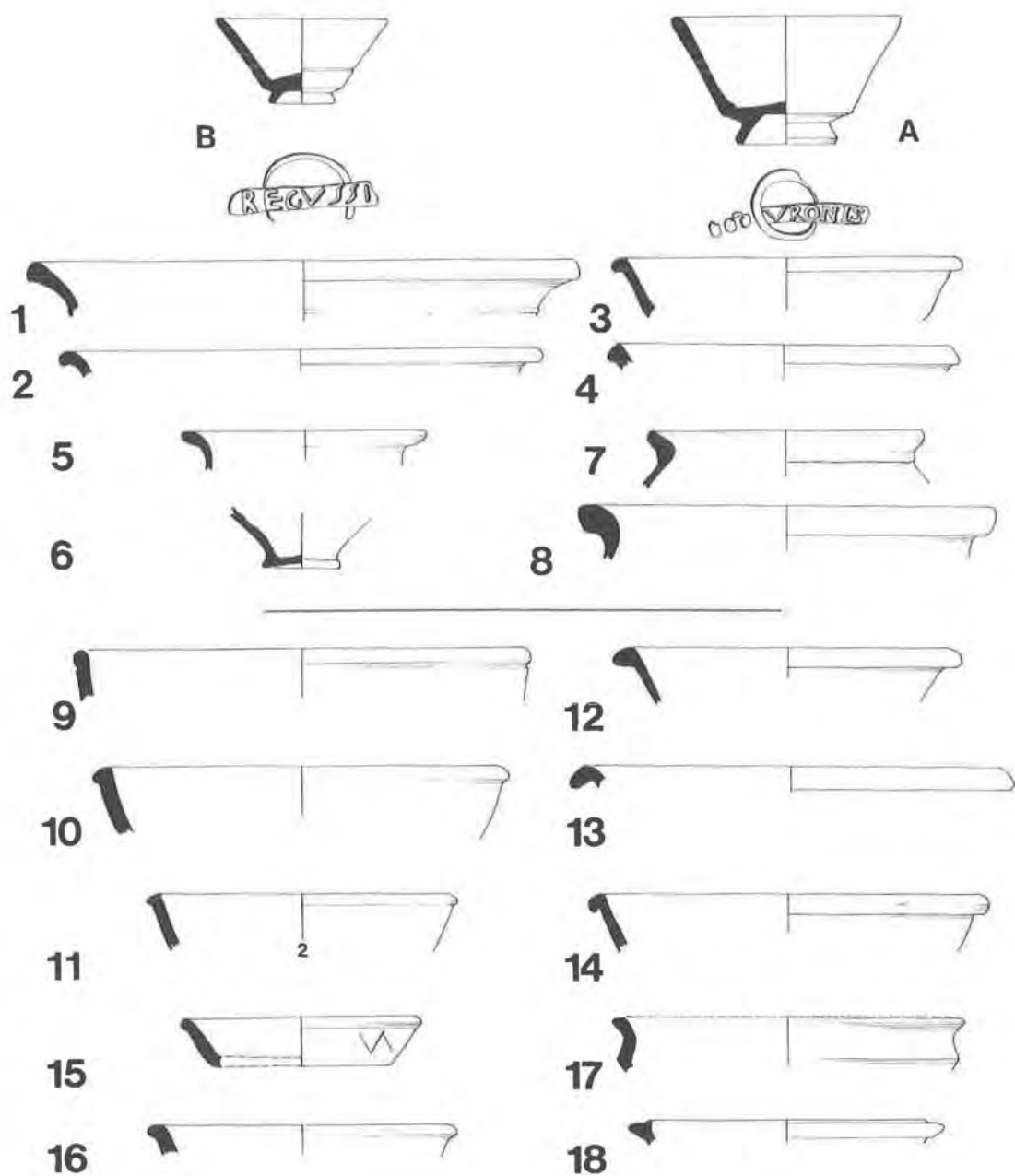


Fig. 2. Pottery Group 1 (Antonine) A-B and 1-8
Pottery Group II, Grey Wares 9-18, Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

Two further coins came from Area 1: one a coin of Constans of 341–346, and the other an antoninianus of the Gallic period, c.265–270. It would seem very unlikely, in view of the considerable amount of pottery discovered, that the occupation had continued well into the mid and late fourth century without producing at Area 2 some coins of those periods. Likewise it seems unlikely that there could have been serious pre-Antonine occupation without producing Hadrianic Samian, which was entirely absent. Neither was there any particularly early Antonine Samian, the balance being strongly towards late Antonine.

Considering the coarse pottery itself, there are noticeable early to mid Antonine and late fourth century absences. (See Appendix 1). The implications of these are that occupation probably started at Walton in the later Antonine period, barely before 160 and probably later, and ceased sometime in the first half of the fourth century. The evidence appears to rule out occupation after c.350.

Further publication from local sites should show which of these types are absent from other causes than chronological. Some of the absences may prove to be a general regional characteristic, and some may have social implications for this particular site.

Description of Group II pottery

Area 1 material, where it paralleled sherds from Area 2, has been included. One-offs from Area 1 are discussed separately, page 376. Mortaria, colour coated and parchment wares are, together with the Samian, reported on separately. The following classification gives details of the main coarse ware forms represented (except for mortaria). At this stage, this analysis has been in the main restricted to *form* and its likely dating implications, and less attention has been given to the minutiae and complexities of the finer distinctions of fabrics.

A more detailed analysis of ware will have to be undertaken in future reports from local sites and the dating implications of the forms and the initial ware divisions of the local coarse wares have become clearer.

I GREY WARES

A *Straight-sided dishes* – Fig. 3, 26-30

These are all in grey to black fabrics, none being in the buff to red wares of the second century straight-sided dishes. The five decorated examples are all incised with arcs. They almost invariably have black or dark grey surfaces, the ware being light grey to burnished black. One (no. 30), appeared to be black burnished ware as defined by Webster (1976), (BB2) but the majority were in imitation black burnished wares. [Totals: 23 (18 plain, 5 decorated).]

Dating implications: large numbers of straight sided dishes usually indicate the late second to the first half of the third century, when they are superseded by flanged bowls. The type does go on, but the late fourth century types are frequently coarser (a development not represented here). Decoration with incised arcs starts at Verulamium in about 150–160, and continues to the mid fourth century. It is not present in Group I here, but this is, of course a very small deposit.

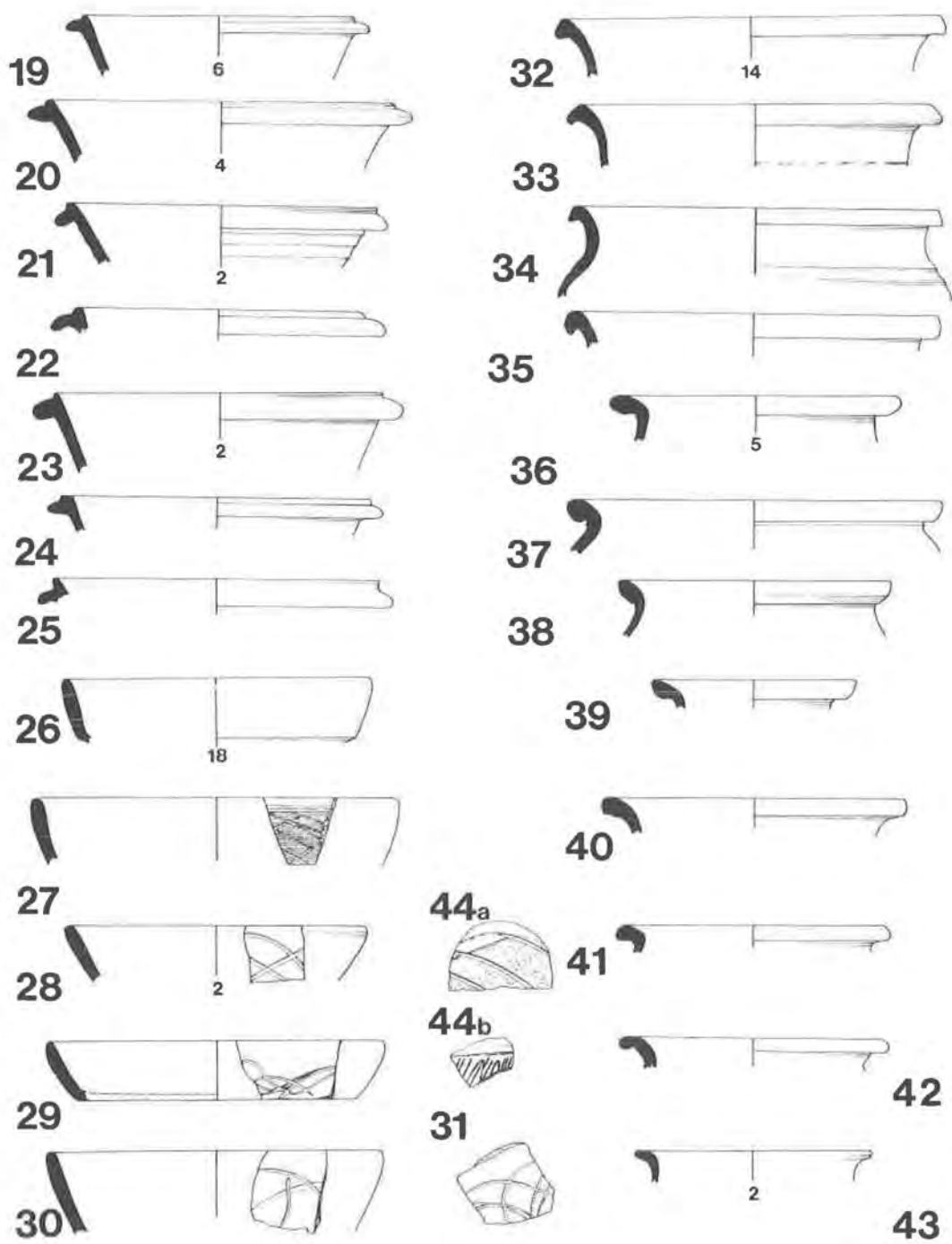


Fig. 3. Pottery Group II, Grey Wares, Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

B. *Flanged bowls* – Fig. 2 and 3 18-25.

These are in the same fabrics as type A; (in addition one unstratified example was in a shelly fabric). The only decorated bowl is too incomplete to know whether the incised line was to form an arc or a lattice. Additionally light grey self-coloured vessels did occur.

One bowl, (no. 20) appears to be black burnished ware, but the majority were in imitation black burnished fabrics.

Totals: 20 (19 plain, 1 decorated).

Dating implications: it is not known when this form appears in this area, but it is probably in the third century. It is not present in the late Antonine pit at Towcester. It occurs at Leicester at the Jewry Wall (type B), and at Verulamium, largely in the Antonine period. It does not, however, appear at Brixworth until late in the third century. At Rushden it appears in the first half of the third century.

The form continues into the fourth century, but again the expected coarsening does not occur at Walton.

C. *Plain jars with triangular rims* – Fig. 3, 32.

The form of these is unfortunately uncertain, but they appear not to be cordoned or grooved at the neck. They occur in mid to light-grey, self-coloured wares, or in a darker grey ware with specially treated black surfaces.

Total: 14.

Dating implications: the rim form is reminiscent of the triangular bowls and dishes (type F.). They are perhaps of the same date range. Antonine to the first half of the third century?

D. *Narrow mouthed jars* (Not including the ?unguent jar) – Fig. 4, 50-54.

Total: 5 – all different.

Dating implications: one (unillustrated) from the Antonine level is cordoned and burnished. The type with a frilled neck (no. 54) is now dated third to fourth century. The general impression is of a second and third century date, and there is nothing that need (though some may) be fourth-century in date.

E. *Medium to large jars with everted rims, flat on top* – Fig. 3, 36.

Diameters 19-24 cms. The ware of these is noticeably coarse, grey and sandy.

Total: 5.

Dating implications: A simple form, but again the sharp eversion is probably a third to fourth-century characteristic.

F. *Dishes with triangular rims* – Fig. 2, 4, 10, 11.

These occur in grey self-coloured and black wares. No. 4 appeared to be black burnished ware (B.B.2).

Dating implications: the date range is presumably Antonine/Severan. They were present in Group I. In addition various dishes in other forms, e.g. bead rim,

occurred in Antonine and first half of the third century types. (See individual descriptions for these). None occurred in sufficient numbers to merit a separate classification.

G. *Small jars in grey ware with everted rims giving a flat top* – Figs. 3 and 4, 43, 45.

Diameters: 12–14 cms.

This category includes additionally small footed bases which probably indicate the presence of a small quantity of beakers.

Total: 3.

Dating implications: the sharp eversion is probably a third century characteristic, but one of these jars did occur in Group I, although the eversion was not so sharp.

The form is probably too simple for close dating.

Types E and G occur as a form in all three main coarse ware divisions. The other types: A, B, D and F, occur only in grey wares. Type C occurs in orange wares, but in less quantity. *Black burnished wares* occur, but very sparsely. Walton appears to be outside the main distribution areas of both BB1 from Dorset and BB2 from Colchester.

II ORANGE-BUFF WARES

(a) STORAGE JAR/MIXING BOWL GRITTED FABRIC

Widemouthed neck-cordoned mixing bowl – Fig. 4, 55.

These occur in a grey fabric, tempered with grey grog and with pinky buff to cream external surfaces.

Total: 4

Dating implications: they are present in Group I, and are therefore Antonine and perhaps Severan in date?

Storage jar – Fig. 4, 61, 62.

The fabric is the same as type H.

Total: 4

Dating implications: the form of no. 61 is late third to early fourth century at Gadebridge, but storage jars are probably not susceptible to close dating.

(b) SOFT UNDERFIRED, USUALLY ORANGE, FREQUENTLY GREY-CORED FABRIC

(i) *Widemouthed jars with undercut triangular rims and neck cordons* – Fig. 4, 57.

These are all apparently about 24 cms. in diameter. Is this perhaps a standard size?

Total: 8

(ii) *Medium mouthed jars with triangular under-cut rims and neck cordons* – Fig. 4, 56. Diameters all apparently about 19 cms.

Total: 17.

This is also the most common size at Great Buckman's Farm, Worcs.

(iii) *Narrow mouthed jar, triangular and undercut* – Fig. 4, 59. 1 only

The surfaces of types K(i) to K(iii) are very occasionally buff, but are normally orange.

(iv) *Finer version of type K(i)* – Fig. 4, 58. Diameter 20 cms.

The ware is fired orange all through.

Total: 4

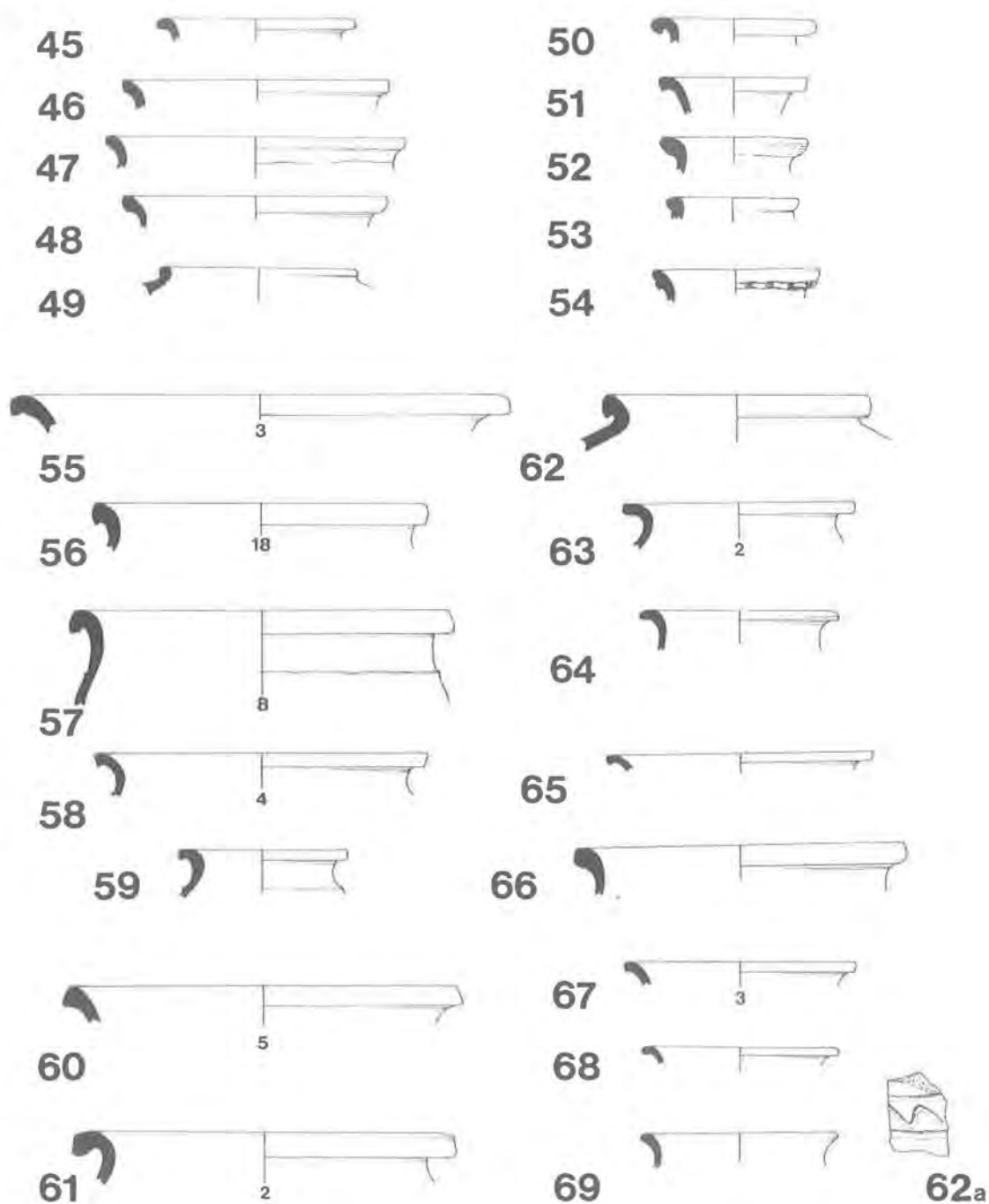


Fig. 4. Pottery Group II, Grey Wares 45-54 and Buff/Orange Wares 55-69. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

Dating implications: Type K is the most common form on the site, being represented by thirty vessels in all. The soft-firing and the form of the rim suggest that they may have been purchased for the contents rather than for the vessel. The form of the rim may be functional, i.e. to assist sealing, as much as of chronological significance. However, rather coarse wide-mouthed orange jars with triangular undercut rims occurred at Shakenoak in the late third century. They also occur in Severn Valley ware, again in standard sizes, c.f. *Great Buckman's Farm, Worcs.*, fig. 6 no. 37, there dated late 2nd century?

- L. *Triangular rim jars, not undercut* – Fig. 4, 60.

These closely resemble type C in grey wares.

Total: 5

- M. *Small jars with everted rims of varying forms* –

fig. 4, 64, 67, 68, 69.

This rather loose category probably includes beakers as there are some footed base sherds, indicating vessels with extremely small bases.

Total: 8

Dating implications: these are presumably a successor to the Antonine beakers, as no. 6.

The triangular-undercut-rim jars occur almost exclusively in this fabric.

III SHELL-GRITTED FABRICS

- N. *Jars with everted rim giving a flat top* – fig. 5, 70–76.

This is the same form as seen in the grey wares, type E, but not in the orange. The ware is usually grey, with buff to grey surfaces. The tempering is crushed shell. Black sherds and surfaces may be due to domestic burning. The surviving body sherds indicate that these are very plain shouldered jars.

Total: 16.

Dating implications: similar vessels are late third to the first half of the fourth century at *Brixworth* (1970), nos. 71 and 72.

- P. *Small cooking pots with simple out-turned rims* – figs. 2 no. 17 and 5, 77, 78.

This type also is a common plain form. The fabrics are black and grey-brown to black, perhaps burned.

Total: 10. (No. 77,8; no. 78,2)

Dating implications: this simple form is virtually undateable.

- Q. *Shell-gritted dishes with sloping rims* – fig. 5, 79–82.

Total: 6.

Flanged dish in shell-gritted ware, undecorated.

Total: 1 no. 80.

These dishes occur in more varied wares than the other shell-gritted fabric forms, having brick red and blue/grey surfaces. They were probably all originally rilled, but this has eroded in some cases. Straight sided dishes do not occur in shelly fabrics at Walton.

Dating implications: very large shell gritted bowls were being made at Harrold in the third century. However, at Quinton, Northants, these dishes do not occur until the closing years of the third century. The range of these dishes without flanges seems likely to be late third to early fourth century at Walton. (The flanged dishes could possibly be of fourth century date, except that these are normally decorated)

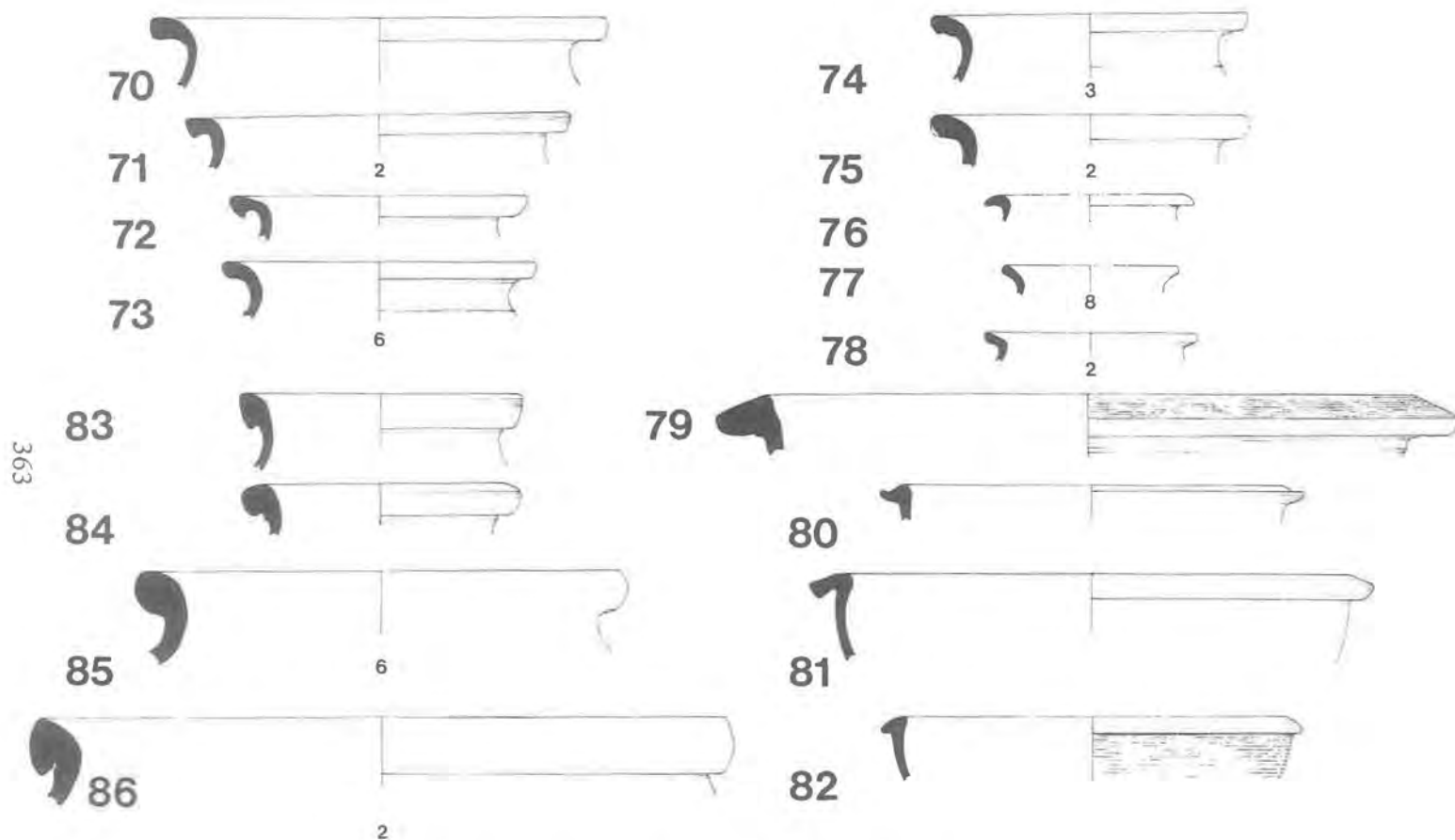


Fig. 5. Pottery Group II, Shell-tempered Wares, Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

- S. *Storage jars with undercut rims* – figs. 6, 83, 84 and 86.
 These are in a grey shelly fabric, with buff surfaces. See discussion under no. 83.
 Total: 4.
 Dating implications: No. 83 is dated late third to the first half of the fourth century at Brixworth. Storage jars are, however, notoriously difficult to date.
- T *Storage jars with simple out-turned, thickened rounded rims* – fig. 6, 85, fig. 2, 8.
 Diameter 25–35 cms.
 These are in the same fabric as type S.
 Total: 6.
 One occurred in Group I, and was therefore presumably Antonine. The type may well run throughout the period. The common triangular rim of the grey wares (type C) and orange wares (type L) does not occur in shell-gritted wares.

Description of illustrated sherds.

GREY WARES – Figs. 2–4.

Dishes

9. Bead rim dish in light grey sandy ware, smooth but unpolished. A 2nd-century and later type.
10. Dish with triangular rim in hard grey sandy fabric. Unpolished. A common Antonine type but continuing into the first half of the 3rd century.
11. Dish as above, but in hard mottled grey sandy ware. Unpolished. Plus one similar but with darker surfaces. Area 1, U/S.
12. Pie dish, light grey sandy ware, mottled surfaces. A 2nd-century type which becomes flanged sometime in the 3rd century.
13. Dish or bowl with down-turned rim. A common late 2nd and 3rd-century type, but not common on this site. Hard sandy grey ware, black surfaces, perhaps a slip. Plus one, grey to sandy ware, dark grey surfaces. Area 1, U/S.
14. Dish in grey sandy ware with hooked over rim. c.f. *Jewry Wall*, fig. 19, no. 19, where dated c.220.
15. Bead rim dish with graffito, incised after firing, NOT a lattice decoration, which was entirely absent from the site. Grey sandy ware, darker surfaces.
16. Another small dish, rim approaching triangular, red fabric, burnished black surfaces. An unusual fabric on this site. U/S.

Platters

17. Angular rim of unusual form, presumably a platter. Johnston discusses these in a Northamptonshire context, and dates them 2nd to 3rd century. c.f. Johnston, fig. 5, no. 8. There was also an angled platter base, both these vessels being in grey sandy wares.

Flanged bowls

18. Flanged bowl, almost white ware, blue grey surfaces, same fabric as no. 2. *Jewry Wall*, 11b?, there dated first half of the 3rd century.
19. Flanged bowl in hard grey ware, with pointed flange and slender bead. Presumably 3rd century. Plus one in burnished black ware, and plus four, but these thicker and coarser. One in hard light grey sandy ware, two similar but with darker surfaces,

- one dark grey, black surfaces. The commonest form of flanged bowl.
20. Bowl with larger more or less horizontal pointed flange and bigger bead. Dense black ware, burnished. This vessel exceptionally shows decoration with one line which could be part either of an arc or a lattice. This particular example was unstratified from Area 1, and appears to be black burnished ware. (BB1). Plus three, hard grey sandy ware, darker grey burnished surfaces, no decoration.
 21. Bowl with downward sloping flange. Hard light grey sandy ware, grey to orange streaked surface, ridged externally. Plus one, but flange less downward sloping, grey sandy fabric, red brown surface, black coating, burnished.
 22. Bowl with downward sloping flange, but angle with wall curved. Dark grey sandy ware, black surfaces, perhaps a slip. A 3rd-century type at Jewry Wall.
 23. Bowl with exceptionally thick flange in hard light grey sandy ware, burnished.
 24. Flanged bowl with squared off bead, hard light grey sandy ware.
 25. Bowl in hard dark grey ware, burnished black surfaces.

Straight sided dishes

This is again a common type in general from the Antonine period on, but it was not present here in Antonine levels.

26. Straight sided dish, with chamfered external angle at base, in hard dark grey ware, burnished black surfaces. (BB2). There are seventeen other straight sided dishes, but not enough of these survive to know whether they had the external chamfer: four in the same fabric as no. 26 (one from Area 1, U/S); four similar but with lighter grey internal fabric; five in light to mid-grey fabrics with darker surfaces (One from Area 1, U/S); two light grey with mottled surfaces; and two with brownish grey surfaces (one again from Area 1, U/S, and one from ditch 1 (no. 109)). BB1 and BB2 occur sparsely.
27. Rather unusual straight sided dish in hard light grey ware, interior burnished and streaked. The exterior appears to have been lightly rilled, over which a rather scribbly decoration of uncertain form has been incised.
28. Dish, hard grey sandy ware, decorated with arcs externally. Again, smooth burnishing inside, and rilling-like burnishing outside. A common 3rd and first half of the 4th century type, c.f. *Ver.* ('72), no. 1120, third quarter of the 3rd century. Plus one similar, but no rilling effect.
29. Plain sided dish, unchamfered base, burnished darker surfaces. Scribbled arcs. U/S.
30. Dish in hard black fabric, lightly burnished surfaces, decorated with arcs. U/S. This appears to be black burnished ware, apparently BB2.
31. Base of dish in hard light grey sandy ware, burnished internally with concentric rings, incised externally with arcs.

Jars

Jars with triangular rims, (no. 32) represent the commonest type – (D). The form of the whole vessel is unfortunately uncertain, but it appears to be a plain jar with a footed base and a gently rounded profile. The jars do not appear to be cordoned or grooved at the neck.

32. Jar in hard light grey sandy ware with triangular rim, burnished on and over rim.

Plus seven more in light to mid-grey wares. Plus six in dark grey wares, black surfaces.

These are presumably 3rd century, but perhaps continue into the 4th. It is possible that they start late in the 2nd century, perhaps paralleling the triangular rim dishes.

33. Neck and undercut triangular rim in hard light grey sandy fabric, burnished lighter on rim and neck. Very nicely potted. A version of no. 32.
34. Jar in lumpy grey ware, with triangular slightly undercut rim, grits showing as brown lumps on surfaces.
Buff grey finish, wiped? to give surface like light rilling. One only from site. This vessel is perhaps related to type K, no. 56/57, rather than to the grey wares. U/S.
35. Jar with undercut rim in grey sandy ware. Buff to brown streaked surface. U/S. Perhaps 4th century. Both fabric and rim are unusual on this site.
36. Jar in coarse grey ware with everted thickened rim, somewhat mottled finish, burnished on rim and externally. Plus four, all in coarse grey sandy wares. It seems likely that the sherds with the sharply everted rims are 3rd/4th century in date.
37. Jar in grey to buff ware, folded over rim, black external surfaces. Presumably 3rd century.
38. Jar with folded over rim in pale grey almost white ware, rim discoloured by burning. 3rd/4th century.
39. Small jar with thickened everted rim in hard grey sandy ware.
40. Jar with everted rim in sandy grey fabric. Dark grey surfaces.
41. Everted and thickened rim in grey sandy ware, darker surfaces. This looks like a mid to late 2nd century form.
42. Rim in hard grey sandy ware, fine black particles. Again, this is possibly a mid to late 2nd century form.
43. Small fine jar in grey sandy ware, simple everted rim, grey to buff surfaces. Plus one. The presence of footed sherds of small bases in similar fabrics suggest this form is probably a beaker. A 3rd/4th century type.
- 44a None of the grey jars were decorated apart from the burnished one discussed under Area 2, Layer 9, and the vessels from which these two sherds came. 44a appears to be part of a large jar of grey sandy ware decorated with incised arcs, and 44b appears to be the band of decoration round the shoulder of a jar. The incised decoration is, in fact, so fine as to be almost invisible; light grey ware, finely potted, dark grey surface.
45. Small jar with simple everted thickened rim; light grey ware, darker surfaces. Presumably 3rd century.
46. Jar in reddy-brown ware, light grey surface, with simple angled out pointed rim. Presumably late 2nd/3rd century.
47. Jar in light grey sandy ware, with upright and slightly thickened rim. This form is rare on the site. Perhaps Antonine?
48. Jar in greyish brown ware, light grey surface, with angled out thickened rim. Probably late 2nd/3rd century.
49. *Bead rim jar* in a hard grey sandy fabric. Buff core. A neckless bead rim jar is unlikely to be later than the Antonine period.

Narrow necked jars

50. Rather soft light grey sandy fabric, very undercut rim. Ver. ('72), 1074, third

quarter of the 3rd century.

51. Narrow necked jar, sandy grey ware, burnished rim and neck. Area 1, U/S. Perhaps 2nd century.
52. Jar in coarse sandy ware, darker grey surfaces. U/S.
53. Vessel in coarse grey sandy ware, lighter grey burnished surfaces. Perhaps an unguent jar? c.f. *Ver.* ('72), No. 637. Antonine?
54. Necked jar with frill in grey sandy ware, fired buff but probably originally with grey finish. c.f. *Shakenoak II*, nos. 345, 346, there late 3rd century.

GRITTY BUFF AND SOFT ORANGE/BUFF WARES – FIG. 4, 55–69.

Soft fired orange jars with triangular undercut rims are the commonest form of vessel found on this site. Rather coarse wide mouthed orange jars with triangular undercut rims occurred at Shakenoak in the late 3rd century, c.f. *Shakenoak IV*, no. 680

55. Wide mouthed rim of mixing bowl in grey gritty fabric, grey grog, pinky buff surfaces, undercut rim. Plus two, also in gritted fabrics, and pink buff surfaces. This fabric seems confined to these large strong bowls and to storage jars.

Wide-mouthed Jars

56. Jar with undercut triangular rim in grey ware with soft orange surfaces. It is assumed that this, plus eighteen others are from wide-mouthed, necked and cordoned jars as no. 57. The diameters are all about 19–20 cms. which may be a standard size. Of these eighteen, eleven are from the main occupation levels, nine being in orange ware with varying degrees of grey core, and two (possibly the same pot) from a grey vessel with pale buff/cream surfaces, from the topsoil above the yard. Six are from Area 1, U/S, in a similar range of fabrics.
57. Jar in coarse light orange fabric, similar to no. 56, but diameters larger (about 24cms–25cms), and rim form coarser. Plus seven others, three from main occupation levels, (one of which is grey with a creamy buff surface,) two from the topsoil over these levels and two from Area 1. U/S. See *Gadebridge*, no. 246.
58. Finer version, were orange all through. Topsoil over the main occupation, and Area 1, U/S.
59. Smallest version of necked jar with cordon, grey ware, buff/light orange surfaces. U/S.
60. Widemouthed jar with triangular rim. (c.f. no. 32 in grey ware. Plus four, one in orange to brick red ware, two in light buff ware, two with grey core, and three U/S. Areas 1 and 2. One from main occupation levels.

Storage Jars

61. Rim of storage jar in grey gritted fabric, buff surfaces. Another similar but less substantial, c.f. *Gadebridge*, no. 409, late 3rd/early 4th century.
62. Storage jar with undercut roll rim, grey gritty ware, buff/light orange surfaces. None of the vessels in the orange/buff fabrics had surface decoration except for 62a described below.
- 62a Body sherd from jar in orange/buff ware with a grey core. The decoration is incised and consists of a wavy line, running around the shoulder of the vessel, enclosed with two parallel lines. From layer 7.

Small jars or beakers

63. Small jar or beaker in smooth pinky buff fabric with grey core, with darker to grey surfaces. U/S.
64. Pink sandy fabric, grey surfaces.
65. Fine pinky buff sandy fabric, undercut rim, U/S.
66. Rim of jar, buff fabric, grey to buff surfaces. c.f. *Gadebridge*, no. 225, late 2nd–3rd century. Compare no. 40 in grey ware.
67. Small jar or beaker, grey ware, buff surfaces, everted and squared off rim. Plus two, light orange surfaces.
68. Beaker, rim turned over flat, pinky buff fabric, darker surfaces. An unusual fabric on the site.
69. Beaker, simple everted and thickened rim, buff to orange ware, grey core. Similar to no. 43 in grey ware. No. 65, 57, 68, and 69 presumably represent a class of simple undecorated necked beakers. There are some footed base sherds in this ware indicating vessels with extremely small bases.

SHELL TEMPERED WARES – Fig. 5, 70–86.

The forms represented are jars or cooking pots, mainly with simple everted rims, the undercut rim being rare. Dishes and bowls, and storage jars of very heavy profile are also present. The tempering is crushed white shell, usually without the admixture of any other grit.

Jars

70. Out-turned rim of large jar or cooking pot. Grey body, grey-buff surfaces.
71. Ware grey-buff, buff to black surfaces. c.f. *Brixworth* type 253, late 3rd/first half 4th-century. Plus one.
72. Dark grey body, grey to buff surfaces. c.f. *Brixworth* 251, late 3rd-first half 4th century.
73. Necked, grooved pot, in rather coarse shelly and gritted ware, external cooking soot. Grey body, brown to black surfaces. Plus five, these being heavier vessels with some additional grit. Two of these sherds have a distinctive brown soapy finish and are perhaps the same vessel.
74. Cooking pot, fabric as no. 73, sooted. Plus two, one from Area 1 Roman ditch.
75. Everted rim of heavy jar, black fabric, conspicuous large white shell. Plus one grey black fabric. Surviving body sherds of these vessels indicate an extremely plain shouldered jar.
76. Small jar with well out-turned rim. Buff fabric, buff to black surfaces.
77. Brown to black fabric, perhaps burned, shell eroded. Plus seven more, mostly sooted, diameters 14/18 cms. Presumably 3rd/4th century.
78. Small cooking pot in black shelly ware; plus one.

Bowls and Dishes

79. Sherd of very large bowl, grey shelly ware, grey to brick/red surfaces. Despite its size it is noticeably well potted. Fine parallel rilling on rim. Very large calcite-

gritted bowls were being made at the Harrold kilns during the 3rd and 4th centuries, but the 4th-century Harrold bowls are almost invariably decorated, both inside and on the tops of the wide rims and flanges.

80. Bowl in grey shelly ware, with curly flange, bright brick-red surfaces, slight rilling. Bowls of this type are believed to have been made from the Late Antonine period on at the Harrold kilns. However, at Quinton, Northants, they are generally 4th century, and in any case do not appear till the end of the 3rd century.
81. Large bowl in grey shelly fabric, buff surfaces. Probably originally a blue-grey finish and rilled, but surface and shell much eroded. c.f. *Shakenoak* IV, 639 for general type, there first half of the 4th century on, but thought to be 3rd century at Harrold, (see 79 *supra*).
82. Bowl in grey shelly fabric, brick red to grey surfaces. Ware apparently identical to 79. Rilled externally and over top of rim. The form looks like a development of the grey triangular rimmed dish.

Storage jars

83. Storage jars with hooked rim, grey shelly fabric, buff surfaces. c.f. Brixworth, fig. 36, no. 259, late 3rd/first half 4th century.
NB. This is not the Belgic derived-grey grog tempered-brick red surfaces – *not* shell tempered ware of the 1st and 2nd century storage jars, invariably decorated, in this area. The change-over perhaps comes in the Antonine period. One body sherd of the earlier type of storage jar did occur in the Antonine levels.
84. Rim of storage jar, grey fabric, buff surfaces.
85. Storage jar, grey shelly fabric, buff soapy surfaces. The type could be Antonine or 3rd century. This jar has been sawn through the rim. Plus five.
86. The largest storage jar rim from the site. Grey shelly fabric, buff surfaces. Plus one, diameter less, but rim section more massive. Both U/S.

THE MORTARIA – Fig. 6, 87–92. Katherine Hartley

Several sherds were found on the medieval ground and road surface in Area 1, these include the illustrated examples 87 and 92. The rest come from Area 2, Group II.

87. A flange from a mortarium in slightly sandy cream fabric. The rim-form and the fabric both indicate manufacture in one of the kilns in the Oxford area. That at Littlemore (unpublished) especially, produced mortaria of this distinctive form which is very reminiscent of mortaria made by such potters as Melus I of Brockley Hill whose work is dated AD 90–135.

The flange, flaring high above the bead and in this instance the distal bead on the flange are features in common between the potteries. In fact, the parallels are close enough for one to assume that the earliest potters in the vicinity of Oxford either came from the Brockley Hill/Radlett potteries or were imitating their products (C. J. Young tells me that other such parallels occur in some of the other coarse pottery).

A date within the period AD 110–135 is most likely for this example. From Area 1, residual.

It should be noted that this is the earliest dated sherd from the Roman site at

- Walton, as none of the other coarse pottery appears likely to be earlier than the Antonine period, although a handful of sherds could be Hadrianic/Antonine.
88. A rim fragment in slightly sandy cream fabric. Fabric and form are typical of workshops in the Oxford region. Probably made in the third century. From Area 2, layer 5.
 89. A worn mortarium in slightly sandy cream fabric with pink core and black trituration grit probably consisting of iron slag. The fabric and grit point to an origin in the Castor-Stibbington area of the Lower Nene valley. Probably third century rather than later.
From Area 2, layer 5.
 90. A slightly burnt mortarium in cream fabric with pink core. This is another typical product of the potteries in the Oxford region and is perhaps more likely to have been made in the third century than the fourth. It ought, however, to be stressed that third and fourth-century mortaria made in these potteries cannot be dated closely. From Area 2, unstratified.
 91. A mortarium in off-white fabric with brownish slip, made in the potteries of the Oxford region in the third or fourth century. From Area 2, layer 7.
 92. A small mortarium in slightly sandy cream fabric, with some pink in the core. Parallels for the form have been published from a kiln in the grounds of the Churchill Hospital⁹ and from Headington¹⁰. This is one of the types made after AD250 at the earliest and continuing in production in the 4th century. From Area 1, residual.

Unillustrated mortaria included body sherds in Oxford area cream fabrics, dated 100–400 (ten), probably 3rd century (one) and a spout fragment 3rd/4th century. In addition, there was a sherd from a Lower Nene valley mortarium, probably from vessel 72.

Area 1 produced in addition a body fragment of a mortarium in fine-textured pale pinkish brown fabric with darker core, crystalline grit and traces of red-brown slip. Two basic fabrics were used for mortaria in the workshops at and near Oxford: a cream fabric, and this which was sometimes used in conjunction with a cream slip, sometimes with a red-brown slip often reminiscent of samian ware. This second fabric was first used as early as 240, but it did not come into common use until after c. AD 270. It was probably produced at several workshops but one of the best known is that at Dorchester.¹¹

OXFORD WARES (other than mortaria), fig. 6, 93–101 by Christopher Young

All the material submitted for report was produced by the Oxfordshire industry in the third and fourth centuries. The bulk of Oxford material, as might be expected, is red colour-coated ware. The other widely traded late wares of the Oxford industry are also represented. Unusually there is also one sherd of the fine oxidised wares (no. 98) produced at some Oxford kilns in the third century but not traded widely. It is perhaps significant that the other two find-spots away from the production area are also in

9. Young, C. J. 'Excavations at the Churchill Hospital, 1971: Interim Report', *Oxoniensia* XXXVII (1972) 10–31 and Fig. 6, 19 and 23.

10. Headington, *Oxoniensia* XVII/XVIII (1952/3) fig. 45, 17.

11. Harden, D. B., 'Two Romano-British Potters Fields near Oxford', *Oxoniensia* I (1936), 81–102.

Buckinghamshire (at Saunderton and North Marston: Young 1977, Appendix 9). Entries in the catalogue are cross-referenced to Young 1977 where the evidence for the dates cited may be found.

Bibliography: Young, C. J. *The Roman Pottery Industry of the Oxford Region*, BAR 43 (1977).

Most sherds came from Area 2, Group II, but others are unstratified residual material from Area 1.

Group II

93. Necked, wide-mouthed jar in red colour coated ware. Type C18, 270-400, from Layer 5, also several other unillustrated sherds.
94. Bowl in white colour-coated ware, copying most common parchment ware type. Type WC3, c. 240-400+ from layer 7.
95. Bowl in red colour coated ware, from layer 3.
96. Base of a bowl in red colour coated ware, from layer 5, also 3 bowl body sherds, unillustrated.
97. Base of beaker in red colour coated ware, from layer 3.

Unstratified

(a) *from Area 2*

98. Rim of bag beaker in fine oxidised ware. Type 020 c.240-300. Also unillustrated in red colour-coated ware; a small rim sherd and a flanged sherd of two Dr. 38 copies (as no. 100 below). Also a body sherd of a Dr. 31 copy, type C44, c.270-400+. In addition one bowl base sherd and seven bowl body sherds, and the base of a beaker or flagon and a body sherd.

(a) *from Area 1*

99. Wall-sided bowl in parchment ware with moulded rim and painted decoration. Type P24, c.240-400+.
100. Part of rim sherd of Dr. 38 copy, in red colour coated ware, type C51, c.240-400+; also another small rim sherd (unillustrated).
101. Two rims and a base sherd, not from the same vessel, of Dr. 31 copies, type C45, c.270-400+. Other red colour-coated sherds, are:- a body sherd of a bulbous beaker with applied scales, type C.28, c.270-400+, and one bowl body sherd.

Nene Valley wares - fig. 6, 102-107.

We are grateful to Dr. J. P. Wild, for the following comments: "All this material submitted appears to come from the Nene valley. It should be noted, however, that there is no real pottery horizon between c.260/70 and 370 AD, so most of this has consequently to be dated late third/fourth century. The only post 370 AD pieces are from Area 1".

From Area 2, Group II

102. Castor-ware box, light buffware, bronze metallic coat, from layer 10.

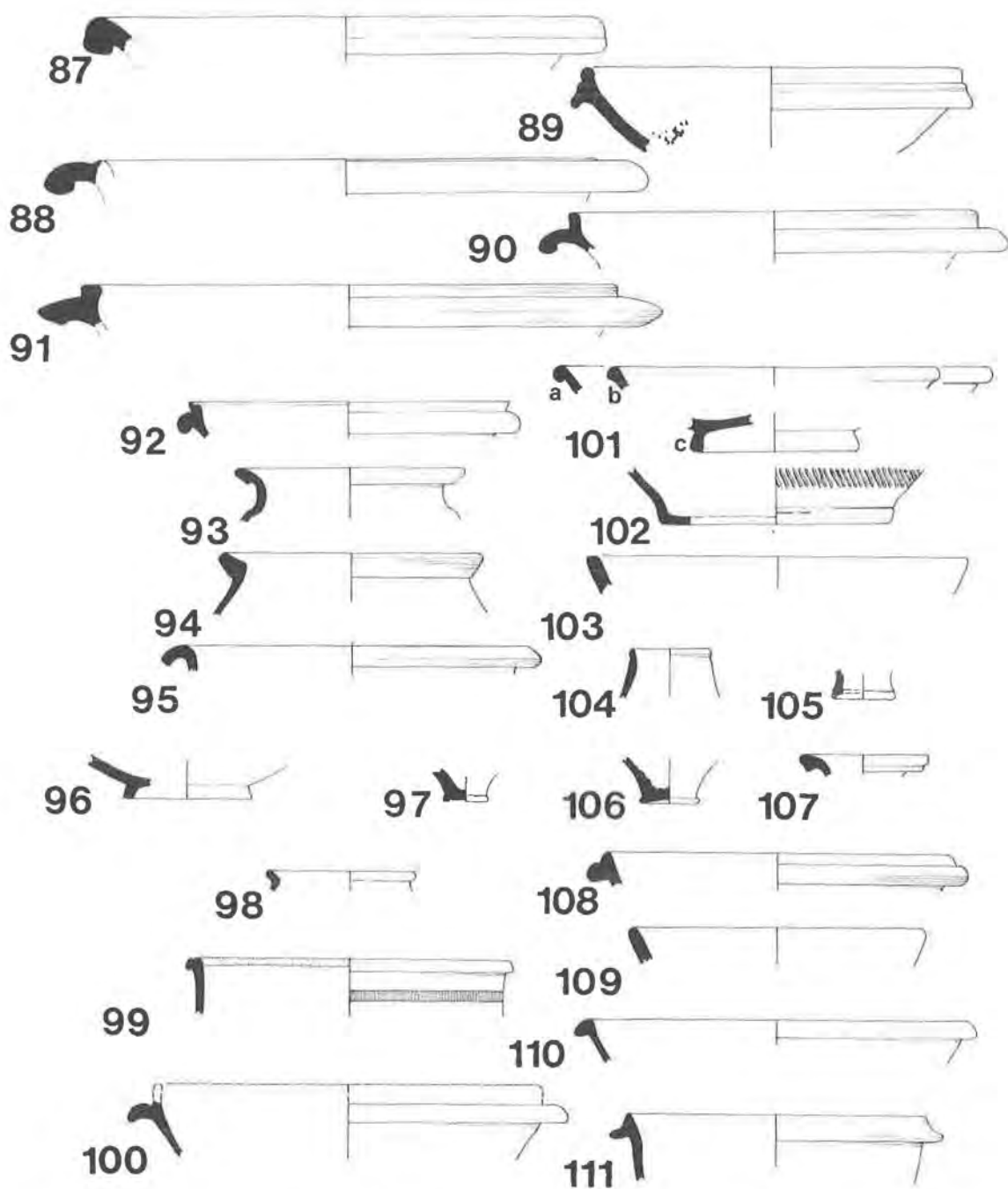


Fig. 6. Roman Mortaria 87-92, Oxford Wares 93-101, Nene Valley Wares 102-107, Pottery from Area 1, 108-111
Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

103. Straight sided dish in thick white fabric, colour coat eroded, from layer 3.
 104. Neck of beaker, buff body, purple brown colour coat, from layer 7.
 105. Base of beaker, reddish body, black colour coat, from layer 2.
 106. Base of beaker, pinky buff fabric, metallic dark grey colour coat, from layer 3.
 Unillustrated sherds: eight sherds of 4th-century jars and beakers, base with footring, fragments of another box, a beaker base and fine beaker sherds.

From Area 1, unstratified

107. Neck of flagon, white fabric, dark grey metallic colour coat.
 Unillustrated sherds: two small painted jar sherds of mid to late 4th century date, and five small sherds of assorted jars, rouletted beakers, indented and scale beakers, all late 3rd to 4th century.
 NOTE: The proportion of Nene Valley colour coated wares to Oxford colour coated wares is about equal, but only amounts to thirty sherds in both cases, a very small proportion of the whole.

Samian Ware – Fig. 2, A–B.
 By Hedley Pengelly

Group I Samian has been reported in the appropriate section above.

Area 2, Material from Group II layers.

Part of the flange of a Dr. 38 bowl, East Gaulish late Antonine, (from layer 5) and from other layers sherds of two Dr. 33, three Dr. 31R dishes, a Dr. 18/31, a Dr. 18/31R, a Dr. 31 and Dr. 36 dishes; all Antonine or late Antonine.

Area 1, unstratified levels.

- A sherd of a Dr. 79 dish, mid to late Antonine.
 A sherd from a dish, probably a Dr. 36, Antonine.

Objects of Copper Alloy – fig. 7, 1–2.

1. Double wire twist, terminal and part of hook, perhaps from a simple bracelet, length 6 cm. From Layer 5.
2. Part of a bronze dress pin, originally carrying a ?gemstone at the head. The pin is cylindrical, grooved at the neck. The head is cubed-shaped, but wider at the top, which contains an egg-shaped hollow to hold the gem. There is a small half-round nick on the one side. The four faces are marked with two parallel incised lines on three faces, and three parallel lines on the fourth face. Length of remaining part 3.75 cm. From Layer 12, unstratified.

Objects of Worked Bone – Fig. 7, 3–5.

3. Incomplete bone pin with round head, roughly made, length remaining 5.2 cm, diameter of head 7.5 mm and of shaft 4 mm. From layer 7.
4. Part of similar pin, length remaining 3.9 cm, diameter of head 6mm and shaft 4mm. From layer 5.
5. Incomplete bone needle of crewel type, with round shank and flattened eye, length remaining 6.5 cm. From layer 10.

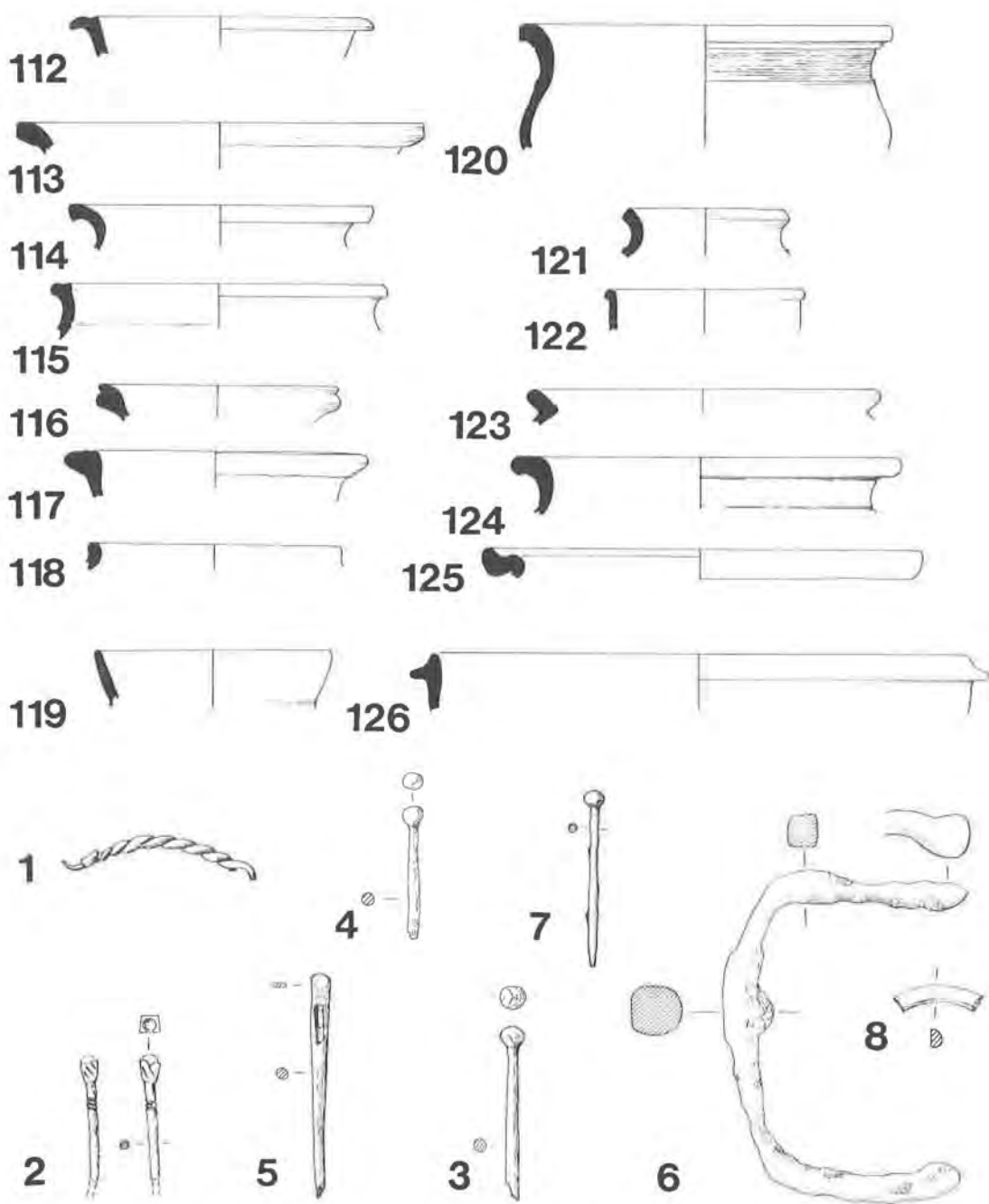


Fig. 7. Pottery from Area 1, 112-126, Scale $\frac{1}{4}$, Small Finds Copper Alloy 1-2, Bone 3-5 and Ironwork 6 & 7, Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

Ironwork – Fig. 7, 6 and 7

Ironwork was recovered from most of the excavated layers; in the main it consisted of badly corroded nails. It is described below in two groups conforming to the chronological sequence defined by the pottery evidence.

Group I – layers 9 and 11

6. Part of a large buckle, length of remaining side 9.3 cm, the upper bar is flattened at the end as if to take a cross bar; if so, the width would have been approx. 14 cm. layer 9.

Also from layer 9 came the end of a knife blade and a fragment perhaps from a hinge. No ironwork was found in the fill of the pit, layer 11.

Group II

Fortyone nails were found in and on the Roman surfaces. Of these approximately a third had large round heads suggesting that they came from weatherboarding on a timber building. The only other ironwork from this level was part of a hinge arm from layer 7, and the pin described below:

7. Pin with round head, length 5.25 cm. Very neatly made, presumably an item of dress; from layer 2.

Shale object

8. Fragment from a shale bracelet, diam. 5 cm internally and semi-circular in section. Somewhat similar to an unstratified example from *Ver.* ('72), Fig. 57, 222.

Building materials

Apart from fragments of limestone, none of which were dressed, the only building materials recovered were fragments of shell tempered tile. The following list gives details of tile found by layer. All were small and well weathered.

Layer 2–37 fragments of Tegula and Imbrex.

Layer 3–12 fragments of Tegula and Imbrex.

Layer 6–96 fragments of Tegula and Imbrex and also piece of square tile, (hypocaust pilae?).

Layer 5–5 fragments tile.

Layer 12–17 fragments of Tegula and Imbrex.

The Coins

By Paul Woodfield

Two coins were found in Area 2; one from layer 2, the other from layer 3. Both are mid-to-late 3rd century antoniniani. The state of preservation was poor and precluded precise identification.

Layer 2 Obv.] P F [Radiate head right.
 Rev.] T V S [? Virtus standing facing.

Layer 3 Obv.] P F AVG [Radiate head right.
 Rev. Figure standing holding spear. Probably an irregular piece.

Two further coins were found in Area 1, layer 1, the base of the topsoil above the medieval surface.

- Layer 3 Constans AD 341–346
 Obv. CONSTANS [Head Type 3e
 Rev. Two Victories [O AVGG QNN
 Mint illegible, but probably Trier, Arles or Aquileia.
- Layer 4 Antoninianus of Gallic period, probably Victorinus c.265–270 AD.
 Rev. illegible.

ROMAN POTTERY FROM AREA 1

Area 1 produced a minor road and two ditches, one Roman and the other Medieval in date. The material from the Roman ditch is described below as Group A, whilst that from the road and adjacent surface is classified as Group B which, being found in association with medieval sherds, is considered to be residual.

Group A – Pottery from the Roman ditch – Fig. 6, 108 and 109.

108. Flanged bowl, thick flange as 23, but shorter, approaching the residual flange of 4th century, even the later 4th century forms. Ware grey, dark grey surfaces. c.f. *Gadebridge* 291; there dated first half of the 4th century.
109. Fragment of a straight sided dish, in coarse grey sandy ware.
 In addition, half a dozen small sherds each of grey, buff and shell tempered wares, including two everted rim sherds of small (16 cms diameter) shelly ware cooking pots and a damaged and burnt bead rim sherd from a dish probably as No. 95. The ditch fill should perhaps be dated tentatively to the first half of the 4th century.

Group B – Unstratified Pottery – Fig. 6 110–111, and Fig. 7, 112–126.

This pottery is discussed here only when it differs from types present on Area 2. Samian, mortaria and colour coated wares are covered in the specialist reports. It will be noted that a wider date range appears to be represented here (from the early 2nd to the late 4th) though this postulated extended date range depends on only a handful of sherds.

Grey Wares

110. Dish in light grey sandy ware, c.f. *Ver.* ('72), 720, but this example undecorated; there dated 130–150.
111. Flanged dish in hard fine light grey ware, with unusual angled wall. c.f. *Gadebridge* 299 for form, but there and elsewhere in a calcite gritted fabric. The *Gadebridge* vessel is dated c.325 to c.350.
112. Flanged dish with very small bead, in black sandy fabric, brown to black surfaces, burnished. c.f. *Gillam* 314, 220–360; *Ver.* ('72), 1171, 310–315. The type is dated mid 4th century at Jewry Wall. This appears to be B.B.1.
113. Jar in soft grey to buff fabric, pale grey surfaces, fold for slightly grooved rim very clear on section.
114. Jar in grey lumpy fabric, tempered both with shell and large lumps of grit. Pale grey lumpy surface. it has the simple out-turned rim of much of the shell-tempered ware. Unusual fabric for site.

115. Necked jar in grey sandy ware, rim grooved on top. The surface has fired brick red, over which there is a dark grey surface. c.f. *Jewry Wall*, fig. 44, no. 26, there dated 150–160. The type also occurs earlier in the century.
116. Jar in hard pinky grey fabric, light grey surfaces. Grooved rims seem to run from Antonine sites (c.f. Johnston, fig. 7, 70) or even Hadrianic at Verulamium but there the ware is buff – on to the 3rd and 4th centuries at Shakenoak.
117. Rim in very hard buff sandy ware, originally grey surfaces, residual reeding on rim. c.f. *Ver.* ('72), 952, there dated 150–160.
118. Rim in hard grey sandy fabric, burnished light grey, c.f. *Jewry Wall*, fig. 50, no. 34, first half 3rd century, and *Ver.* ('72), 1186, there dated 275–360.
119. Fine grey sandy fabric with buff surfaces. Perhaps a cordoned poppy headed beaker. This long necked form is mainly Antonine to 175 AD at Verulamium, c.f. *Ver.* ('72), fig. 123, 837; but see also *ibid.*, fig. 132, 1073, there dated 270–275.

Orange Buff wares

120. Wide mouthed bowl, grey body, soft underfired, orange to buff surface, lightly rilled on neck. See no. 56/57. Presumably late 3rd to early 4th century.
121. Narrow necked cordoned jar, grey body, soft buff to bright pink surfaces, presumably 3rd century. Or perhaps a flagon, see *Shakenoak II*, fig. 79., 335, but there colour coated; these both dated last half of 3rd century.
122. *Mica-dusted* beaker, grey body, smooth buff surfaces. c.f. *Ver.* ('72), fig. 127, 950, dated there 150–160.

Calcite Gritted Wares

123. Channelled rim jar, grey with smooth soapy brown surfaces. The form appears 2nd century, but the soapy fabric is late 3rd to early 4th century at Brixworth.
124. Large cooking pot in grey shelly ware, probably originally buff surfaces, but burnt on fire. Groove drawn under rim and round neck.
125. Bowl or dish in grey shelly ware, buff surfaces.
126. Dish in shelly ware, very eroded, originally black shelly body, buff surfaces. The last two vessels are presumably late 3rd-century products of the Harrold kilns.

ANIMAL BONES

Doreen Field

Detailed statistical analysis is impossible due to the small amount of bone available for study and the likelihood that the main group is contaminated by intrusive medieval material.

Group 1

This comes entirely from layer 9 and is Antonine in date.

Ox 1 tibia 1 2nd phalange and 2 jaw fragments.

Sheep 1 Scapula fragment.

Cat 1 Jaw (incomplete)

Group 2

This group from the later Roman surface is of a general 3rd to mid 4th century date. However, it must contain medieval bones since approximately a third of the pottery associated with the Roman Group II was of medieval date. Table A indicates the presence of the usual domesticated animals, and shows a preponderance of ox, followed by sheep, and scant remains of roe deer, horse, pig and pheasant. The only complete bones were:

- 1 tibia of roe deer
- 3 ox metacarpals
- 4 ox first phalanges,

measurements are given below. A proportion of the bones had evidence of butchering, many being split lengthways and some having a boiled spongy texture. The majority were abraded. There were no horn cores or antlers and the skull fragments were mainly from the eye orbital area. Two rib fragments, 1 ox, 1 sheep, were distorted by an arthritic condition and a sheep metacarpal had a healed fracture. One or two teeth also had malformed roots, and all teeth appeared to be well worn. From the degree of wear and eruption of the teeth, and epiphysal fusion of some of the long bones, it can be assumed that some animals had attained a minimum age range of 1 to 3 years. Data for ageing was obtained from "The Ageing of Domestic Animals" by I .A. Silver, from '*Science in Archaeology*' edited by Brothwell and Higgs, 1969, Where Silver has given alternative tables, the earliest data has been used.

TABLE A

Bone:	OX	SHEEP	DEER	PIG	HORSE	OTHERS P = Pheasant
Humerus	xxxx	xx	x		x	
Rad/Ulna	xxxxxxxx	x		x	x	P
Femur	xxxx	x	xxx			
Tibia	xxxxxxxx	xx	xx			
Scapula	xxxxxxxx	x	x			
Pelvis	xxxxx	xxx				
M/Carp	xxx	x				P
M/Tars		xx				
Phalange	xxxxx					
Skull (frags.)	xxxxxxxx					
Calcaneus	x					
Astragalus	x					
Cuboid	x					
Hyoid	x					
Jaws (frags.)	xxxxx	xxxxx	x	x	x	
Teeth	xxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx		xxx	x	
Rib (frags.)	21 ox size	38 Sheep/Pig size				

TABLE B

Total weight of Bone and Teeth identified was 5.82 kgs, proportioned as follows:

	OX kgs.	SHEEP kgs.	PIG kgs.	HORSE kgs.	OTHERS kgs.
Bones plus Teeth & Jaw frags.	4.028	.423	.056	.354	.114
Teeth & Jaw frags.	.882	.096	.049	.085	
Rib. frags.	283 (21 frags.)	(— .290 kgs. —) (— 38 frags —)			

Number of fragments identified — 187 Weight 5.82 kgs.

Number of fragments not identified 12 Weight .26 kgs.

Measurement of complete bones from Area 2

	<i>Animal</i>	<i>Bone</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Width at centre of diaphysis</i>
GROUP I				
	Ox	2nd phalange	4.5 cms	2.8 cms
GROUP II				
	Ox	Metacarpal	22 cms	3.7 cms
	Ox	Metacarpal	21 cms	3.6 cms
	Ox	Metacarpal	19 cms	3.5 cms
	Roe Deer	Tibia	17.5 cms	1.2 cms
	Ox	1st phalange	6.5 cms	2.5 cms
	Ox	1st phalange	5.5 cms	2.4 cms
	Ox	1st phalange	5.8 cms	2.2 cms
	Ox	1st phalange	5.8 cms	2.2 cms

Age grouping derived from the dentition and epiphysal fusion of long bones.

Dentition

<i>Animal</i>	<i>under 1 yr.</i>	<i>1-2 yrs.</i>	<i>2-3 yrs.</i>	<i>3-4 yrs.</i>	<i>Over 4 yrs.</i>
Ox	xx	xxxxxx	xxxxx	x	xx
Sheep	xx	x	xx	x	
Pig			xx		
Horse		x			

Bones

Animal

Ox		xxxxx	xxxxx	x	
			xxxx		
Sheep	x	xx	x		
Pig			xx		
Horse		x		x	x

AUTHOR'S FOOTNOTE

Since 1972 all development in the Walton area has been watched. In the event, two finds of Belgic material have been made, suggesting that the Roman occupation reported above was part of a longer sequence than previously suspected.

The first find was made at NGR SP 8615 3677 on the line of the V9 grid road, just to the south of the H9/V9 roundabout. Here the author and Richard Griffiths discovered Belgic and Roman features during road construction. The features recorded during destruction were drainage gullies, obviously part of a larger site on either side of the road.¹²

The second find consists of a single sherd of Belgic pottery which was found in the soil of a trench dug to construct a damp proof course along the north wall of Walton Church¹³ in 1977.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to the Site Supervisor: Alison Taylor, and for particular help on site to Barbara Hurman, Bruce Induni, Tony Johnson and Norman Adams. Also to members of the Wolverton & District Archaeological Society; in particular R. Griffiths, K. Field and P. Cole.

Initial sorting of the finds was carried out with the aid of the members of an evening class held at Wolverton College of Further Education, and the finds were all drawn by June Burbidge.

The pottery and small finds report is by Charmian Woodfield, and we are indebted to the contributors of specialist reports, and finally to Mrs. D. Eley who typed the report.

¹²The finds are preserved at Bradwell Abbey Field Centre.

¹³Found by Mr. C. H. Woodcraft and retained in his possession.

APPENDIX I

Standard late pottery forms usually indicative of latter half of fourth century occupation:

Copies of Dragendorf 38's
 Copies of Dragendorf 35's) in
 Copies of Dragendorf 45's) colour coated
 Copies of Dragendorf 37) fabrics

Large quantities of red colour coated Oxford wares
 Oxford red mortaria with cream slip
 Stamped red colour coated wares
 Rouletted red colour coated wares
 Painted red colour coated wares
 Conspicuously coarse straight sided dishes
 Straight sided dishes with rudimentary flange
 (as *Ver.* ('72) no. 1287)
 Nene Valley painted colour coated jars of mid
 to late 4th century types
 Decorated shell-tempered large bowls
 Finger nail decoration
 Decoration by slashing

Second century material as represented at the Hedgerley, Bucks. kiln (early/mid Antonine)

	<i>Hedgerley Type No.</i>	
Vessels with trellis decoration	5, 6 & 11	Nil
Vessels with bands of incised or burnished lines on shoulder:	1, 3 & 11	1 in Group I (burnished bands)
Red ware dishes	6	Nil
Carinated bowls	4	Nil
Narrow necked decorated jars	11	1 as above in Group I
Beakers in hard red/buff ware with darker surfaces	18	2 in Group I
Rough cast beakers	19	2 residual Nil

Other common second century forms

Poppy head beakers	Nil
Other barbotine decorated vessels	Nil
Rouletted self-coloured beakers	Nil
Imitation Samian forms in self-coloured wares	1 pink ware base with foot ring in Group I
Reeded rim bowls (to 150+ Verulamium)	Nil
Fine hard grey Hadrianic/early Antonine wares	Nil
Mica dusted (to Antonine at Verulamium)	3 sherds, 1 Group I 1 Area 1 R-B ditch, 1 U/S.
Channelled rims to 150/160 at Verulamium	Group I, No. 7 1 U/S Area 1. Both in shelly ware.

Quantities at Walton

(2 sherds Area 1 U/S and
 (2 sherds Area 2 U/S.

Nil
 1 sherd
 Nil

Very small

Nil
 Nil
 Nil
 Nil
 Nil

Nil

2 small sherds Area 1,

Nil
 Nil
 Nil

Flagons in white ware
Amphorae

3 small U/S sherds
2 U/S sherds, Area 1.

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