

A LATE PREHISTORIC HILLTOP SETTLEMENT AND OTHER EXCAVATIONS ALONG THE TAPLOW TO DORNEY WATER PIPELINE, 2003–04

JONATHAN HART, E. R. McSLOY, AND ANDREW MUDD

with contributions by

ROWENA GALE, ANNETTE HANCOCKS, FIONA ROE,
ALYS VAUGHAN-WILLIAMS, ALAN VINCE, SYLVIA WARMAN and T.P. YOUNG

Between December 2003 and May 2004, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation along the line of the Taplow to Dorney Thames Water pipeline. The pipeline ran to the east of the hillfort and Anglo-Saxon burial mound at Taplow and to the west of the Berry Hill Farm cropmark complex. The northern part of the pipeline transected a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age hill-top site, consisting of a ditch, possibly demarcating an enclosure, and a dense area of pits and postholes. Small quantities of metallurgical residues indicate that iron-smithing was occurring on the hilltop, albeit beyond the excavated area. Limited activity continued into the Middle and Late Iron Age periods and the site was subsequently divided by field boundaries during the Early Roman period. To the west of the Berry Hill Farm cropmark complex, pits and ditches were identified. These ranged in date from the Middle Neolithic through to the Late Roman period and many conformed to the alignments of ditches within the cropmark complex.

INTRODUCTION

Project background

Between December 2003 and May 2004, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) undertook archaeological investigations along the route of the Taplow to Dorney Thames Water Pipeline. The pipeline is c. 2.9km in length and runs between NGR SU 9185 8105 and SU 9098 8325 (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Lang Hall Archaeology on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd in accordance with briefs for archaeological evaluation, excavation and a watching brief prepared by David Radford of Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service (BCCAS 2003 and 2004).

Taplow is best known as the site of a particularly rich Anglo-Saxon burial mound, discovered in 1883. More recently, just to the north of the burial mound, investigations at Taplow Court identified a prehistoric hillfort originating in the Late Bronze Age and continuing in use during the Iron Age

(Allen *et al.* forthcoming) (Fig. 2). A cropmark complex of probable prehistoric and/or Roman date is located at Berry Hill Farm within the southern half of the pipeline route (Buckinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record (BSMR) Site 4551). These cropmarks include enclosures, trackways, pits, ditches and at least one possible roundhouse (FA 2003) (Fig. 2). Excavations, in advance of quarrying, to the north of the Berry Hill Farm cropmarks identified ditches and pits dating from the Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age through to the modern periods (Fig. 2; WA 2008). Most of the features dated to the Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age and the Late Iron Age/Roman periods and seem to represent continuations of the Berry Hill Farm cropmark site (*ibid.*). A geophysical survey undertaken along the route of an access road bisecting the cropmarks also indicated the presence of pits and ditches (BCCAS 2004).

A geophysical survey of the proposed pipeline route was undertaken in May and July 2003. The

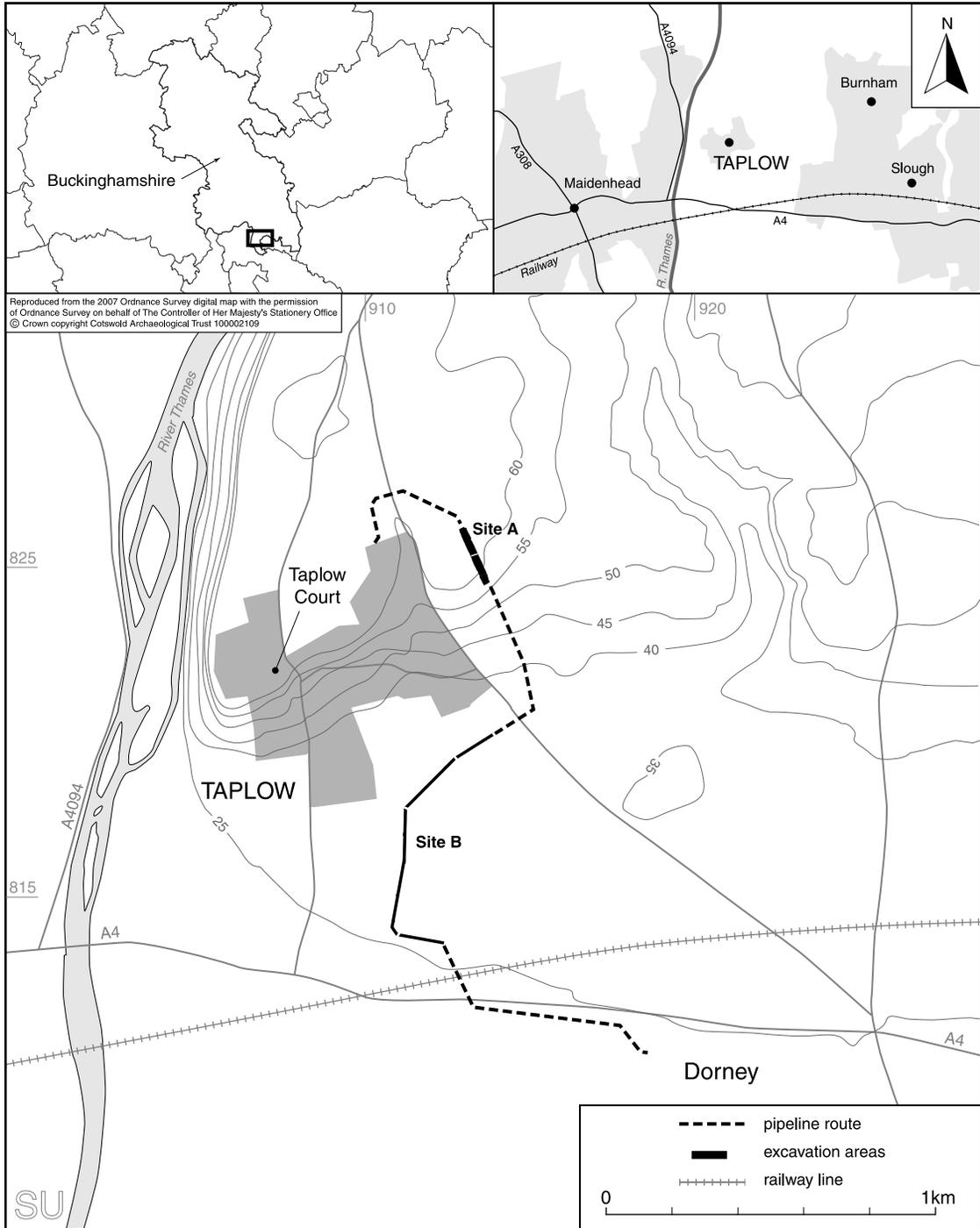


FIGURE 1 Site location plan (1:20,000)

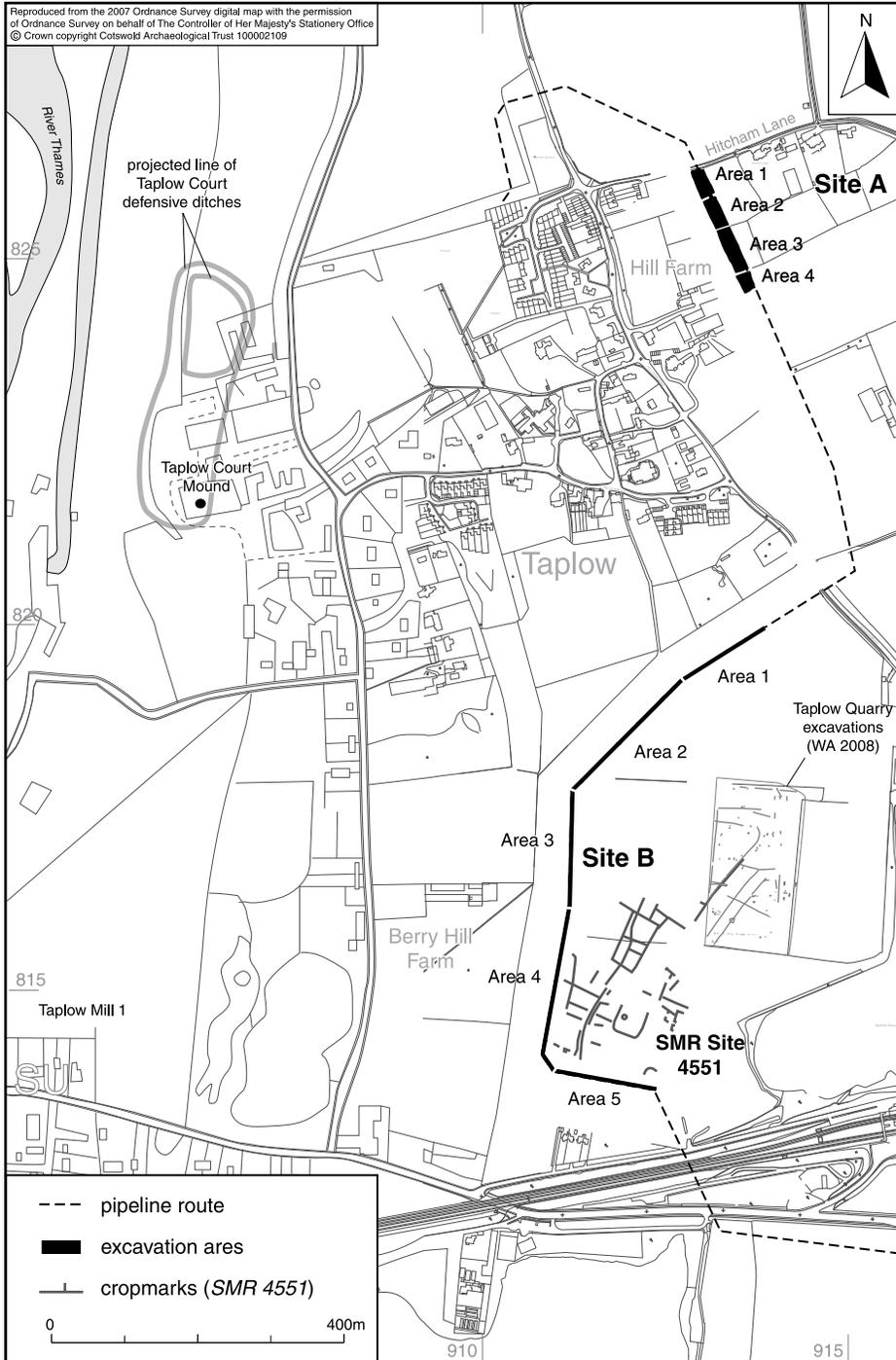


FIGURE 2 Pipeline route showing location of Sites A and B (1:10,000)

survey identified a concentration of probable pits and ditches towards the northern end of the pipeline, just north of Hill Farm (Fig. 3; Stratascan 2003). South of this, two alternative routes close to the Berry Hill Farm cropmarks were surveyed (Fig. 11; Bartlett-Clark Consultancy 2003). The easternmost of these routes was closest to the cropmarks and contained geophysical anomalies interpreted as probable pits. A smaller number of anomalies were recorded along the western route (*ibid.*), and this was therefore chosen as the final route. No archaeological features were identified to the south of the A4.

Topography and geology

Throughout its length, the pipeline traverses agricultural land, skirting the northern, eastern and southern sides of Taplow and crossing the A4 to the south before turning east to terminate at the works at Dorney on the western edge of Slough (Fig. 1). The northern end is on a plateau on the eastern bank of the Thames and affords extensive views over the surrounding landscape. The plateau lies at a height of *c.* 60m AOD, with a steep scarp alongside the river and a more gentle loss of height towards the south and east along the pipeline route.

The southern part of the pipeline traverses river gravels of the Taplow Terrace and Flood Plain Terrace. To the east and north of Taplow, it crosses deposits of glacial sand and gravel. All of these deposits overlay Cretaceous Upper Chalk (BGS 1990). Excavation confirmed the presence of sands and gravels.

Excavation methodology

The geophysical survey identified two areas of archaeological interest (designated Sites A and B) where it was decided that archaeological excavation would be required in advance of construction. Site A was to the north-east of Hill Farm on the south-eastern edge of the plateau, while Site B was to the east of Berry Hill Farm and at the foot of its southern slope.

At Site A, an initial evaluation confirmed the presence of the possible prehistoric pits identified by the geophysical survey and indicated that they were concentrated within four fields (CA 2004). To the north and south of this concentration, the density of archaeological features declined rapidly. A 170m length of the pipeline route was excavated to the full available width (17m) of the pipeline corridor (Fig. 2, Site A, Areas 1–4).

At Site B, because of the lower density of features identified during the geophysical survey, and the protection afforded by the overlying subsoil, the excavation was limited to a 2.5m wide strip along the centre line, comprising a length of *c.* 860m covering the three fields closest to the Berry Hill Farm cropmarks (Fig. 2, Site B, Areas 1–5).

Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil using a mechanical excavator. All features were hand excavated, including 20% by length of linear features and 50% by area of pits and postholes. Pits containing ecofactually or artefactually-rich fills were 100% excavated.

EXCAVATION RESULTS (Figs 3–15)

The archaeological features and deposits are assigned to periods within the following chronological framework based on the presence of artefacts and the similarity between features:

- Period 1: Early Prehistoric
- Period 2a: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
- Period 2b: Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman
- Period 3: Roman
- Period 4: medieval to modern

Periods 1–3 are discussed below. Medieval activity was confined to Site A and comprised two small pits, and an undated but probably medieval or later animal burial. In addition, a small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil and as intrusive material within Period 2 features. The medieval evidence and post-medieval and modern plough-marks and drainage (Period 4) are not discussed within this report.

Period 1 features were confined to Site B and were limited in number. A small assemblage of finds dateable to this period was recovered as residual material within later features across both sites. Most of the features found on both sites dated to Period 2, although these were concentrated in Site A, with fewer in Site B. A small number of Period 3 features were found in both Sites A and B.

Tree-throw pits were present across both sites, and some had a stratigraphic relationship with archaeological features in Site A, but the instances of this were too few to suggest a meaningful period of activity.

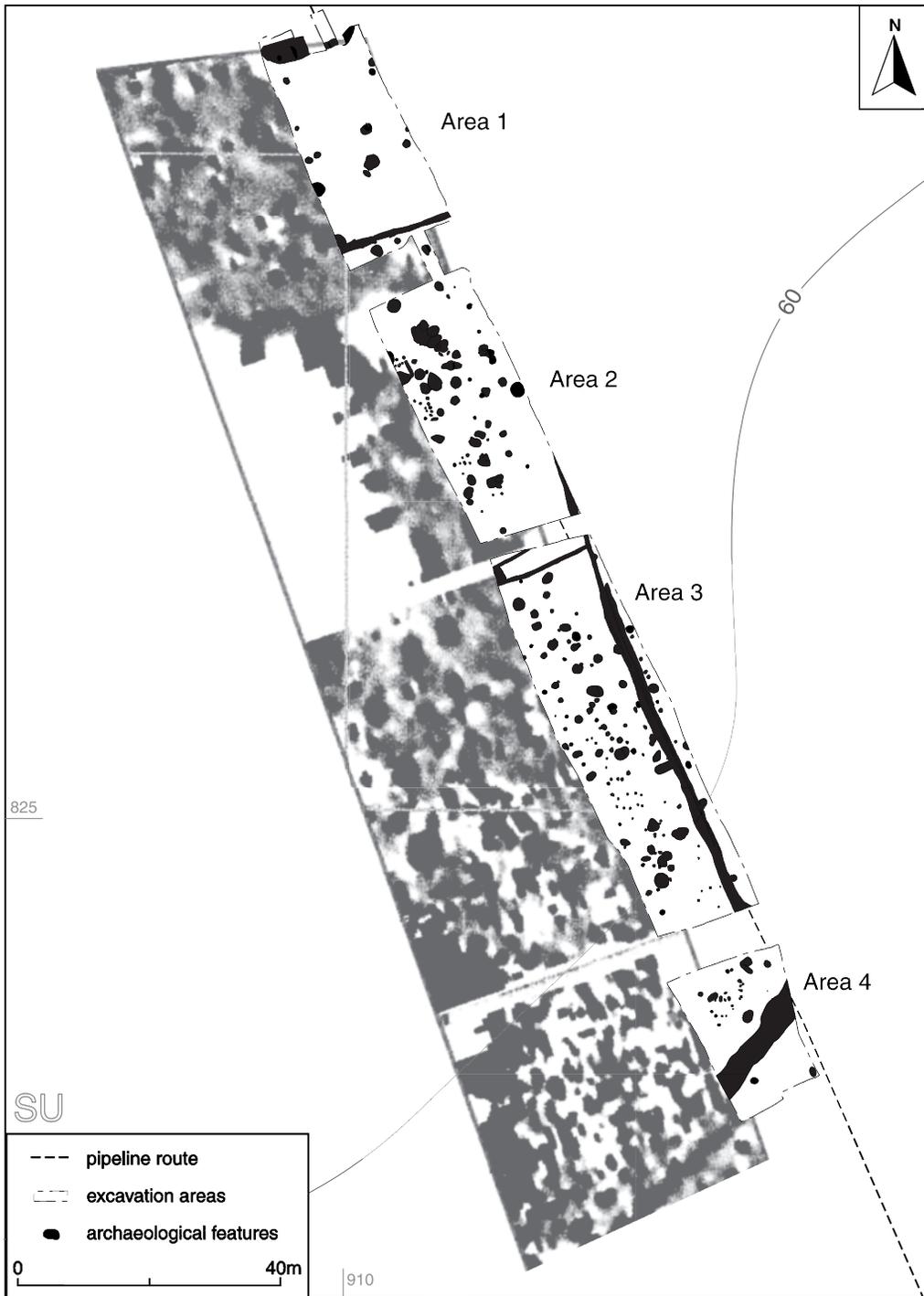


FIGURE 3 Site A: All feature plan with geophysical survey (1:1000)

The survival of postholes within both sites suggests only limited truncation by later agricultural regimes. The narrow strip in both sites made it difficult to establish structural patterns in Site A and to interpret the nature of some features in Site B. Very little inter-cutting of features was present on either site, and as a result stratigraphic relationships between features were rare. The presence of intrusive artefactual and ecofactual material, including modern weed seeds, in a number of pits was probably the result of the widespread tree root and animal burrow disturbance noted during the excavation. Pottery preservation was generally good, but little bone was recovered and that was in a poor state of preservation.

Site A

Period 1: Early Prehistoric: Mesolithic to Middle Bronze Age

The small group of residual finds from this period included an unstratified blade core and a possible axe-thinning flake from Period 2 pit 1471 (Fig. 4, Area 3), both of probable Mesolithic date. Further flakes were recovered across Site A in small quantities and are consistent with Late Neolithic to Bronze Age dating. It is possible that this material may be as late as the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, but otherwise it is likely to have been residual. Two sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery were also recovered, one from Period 2 posthole/pit 1417 (Fig. 4, Area 2), and the other as an unstratified find.

Period 2a: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (c.900–500 BC)

Most features within Site A were assigned to Period 2a, largely on the basis of ceramic evidence consisting of generic Late Prehistoric material and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age wares (c.900–500 BC). A small assemblage of Early Middle Iron Age pottery recovered alongside Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age wares in a number of features is considered to belong to the Period 2a ceramic phase (McSloy, this report), although this material hints at some continuity from Period 2a into Period 2b (Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman). The distribution of finds in cut features was uneven, since while four of the pits produced over 50 pottery sherds each, most contained little or no pottery, with 48 producing 10 or fewer sherds. A

large number of pits and postholes remained technically undated but were morphologically similar to those containing Period 2 pottery, and have been assigned to this period.

Radiocarbon determinations were obtained from three Period 2a pits, but of these, only one (from fill 1293 of Area 3 pit 1291, Fig. 4) gave a calibrated date range (810–410 cal BC) consistent with the ceramic dating. The sample from pit 1228, Area 3 gave a date range of 890–1160 cal AD and pit 1007 from Area 1 gave a range of 1250–1400 cal AD. These late radiocarbon dates are probably the result of the high incidence of intrusive material within the Period 2 pits, which included modern weed seeds.

Only a small number of features were located towards the ends of Site A and it appears that most of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age occupation was exposed along the north-west/south-east axis of the pipeline corridor. However it seems apparent from the geophysical survey that a large concentration of features, perhaps the core of the occupation, lies to the west of Site A (Fig. 3). The narrow width of Site A meant that it was difficult to define possible structural patterns based on the presence of postholes. Additionally, despite the large number and density of features assigned to Period 2a, too few instances of intercutting features were present to allow further sub-phasing to be undertaken, although it was clear that not all of the features could have been in use at the same time.

Ditch 1 was located towards the southern edge of Site A (Figs. 3 and 4, Area 4). It was aligned north-east/south-west and appears to delimit the densest area of activity. On the geophysical survey, the ditch continues to run parallel to the c.60m contour, just off the top of the plateau's southern slope, and may have enclosed the spur of high ground above Hill Farm. The ditch was moderately large, 3.4m wide and between 1.0m and 1.4m deep; it had a slightly asymmetric profile with a steeper downslope side (Fig. 7, section AA). However, this asymmetry was not pronounced and might be just the result of the ditch running along sloping ground. The lower ditch fills represented natural infilling and contained little anthropogenic material other than small quantities of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Early Middle Iron Age pottery, along with an Iron Age loomweight (from fill 1308). The upper fills (1309 and 1137) contained a larger assemblage Late Bronze

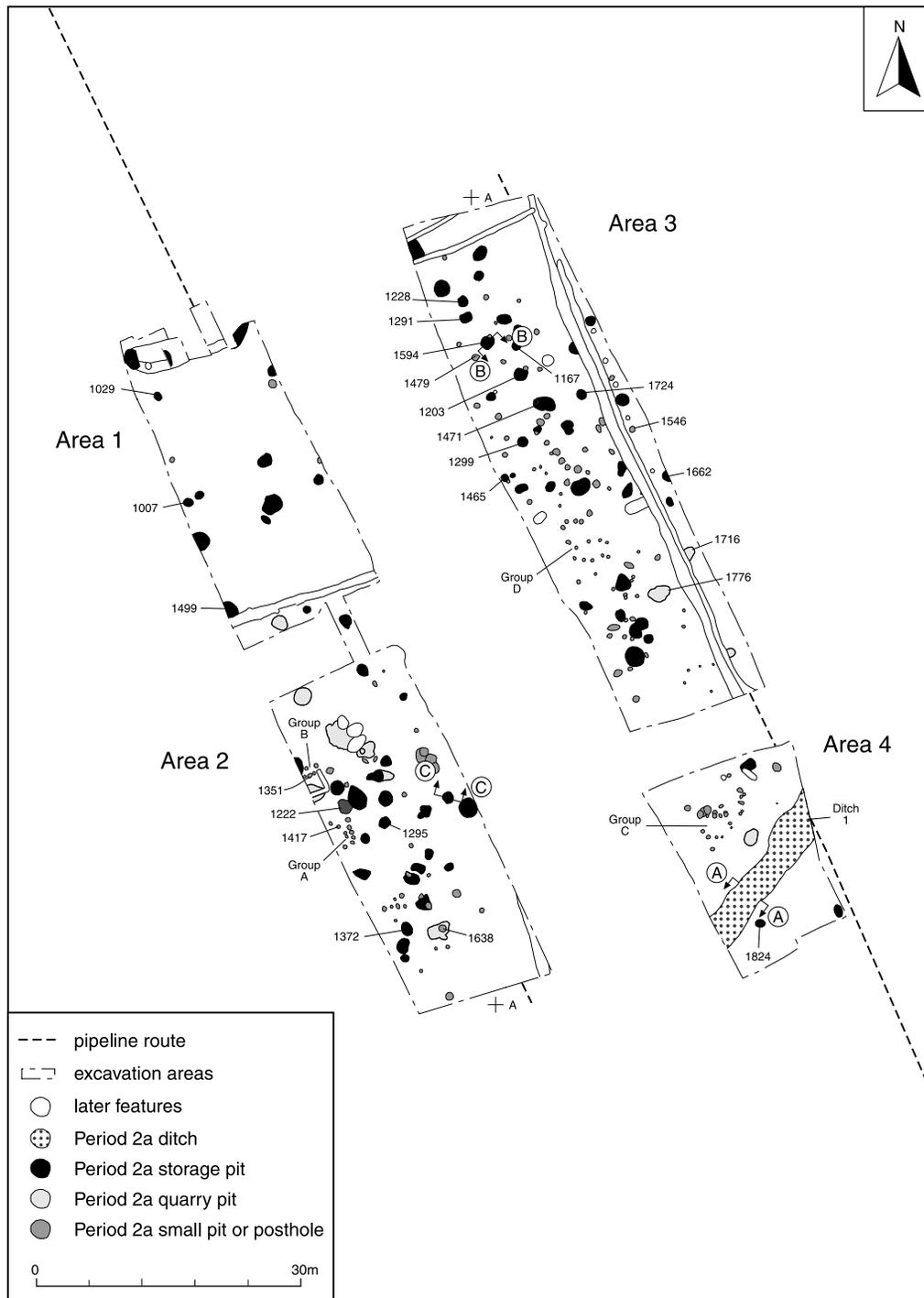


FIGURE 4 Site A: Period 2a, (Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age) features (1:750)

Age/Early Iron Age and Early Middle Iron Age pottery as well as charcoal flecks and a small amount of fired clay.

A space between the northern edge of Ditch 1 and the main concentration of features might suggest a former bank although the fills were not indicative of this. The inclusion of Early Middle Iron Age material in the pottery assemblage raises the possibility that Ditch 1 was a later addition within Period 2a to a previously unenclosed site.

Ditch 2 (Fig. 10) contained a small assemblage of Late Prehistoric pottery from one of its fills. It was assigned to Period 3 (Roman) on the basis of its alignment, which was similar to dated Roman ditches, and it truncated two pits which were themselves undated but were assigned to Period 2a on stylistic grounds. However, the possibility remains that Ditch 2 dates to Period 2a, and that it formed part of a segmented northern boundary to Period 2a activity.

A concentration of pits and postholes to the north of Ditch 1 was found within Areas 2–4, with a much lower density within Area 1. Only two pits were exposed to the south of the ditch. Based on morphological characteristics, three types of pits have been identified, distributed throughout Site A. The differences between these were generally quite clear, although a few examples could have fallen into more than one category. The least common type (12 pits) were large, irregular cuts that were wide and shallow (typically 2m–2.5m in diameter and 0.25m deep, although occasionally up to 0.6m deep) and were filled with homogenous deposits of redeposited natural from which little anthropogenic material was recovered. The fills of pits 1222 (Area 2), 1776 and 1716 (both in Areas 3) contained small quantities of Late Prehistoric pottery. Given the irregular plan and probable deliberate infilling of these pits they may have been excavated to quarry sand or flint. Where stratigraphic relationships are present, the quarry pits were consistently earlier than the other pit types.

The second type (80 pits) comprised smaller round or oval cuts with rounded edges and bases. Most fell into a size range of between 0.4m in diameter and 0.1m in depth to 0.8m in diameter and 0.18m in depth, and were widely distributed across Site A with little evidence for clustering. The morphological difference between some of these pits and the postholes described below was often slight, and it is possible that a number of the pits

were actually postholes. The pits each contained a maximum of two fills, all of which were inorganic and contained little artefactual material other than small quantities of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age or generic Late Prehistoric pottery. In addition, several pits contained Early Middle Iron Age pottery alongside Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age wares.

The third pit type (84 pits) comprised large, circular or oval, steep or vertical sided cuts, usually with flat bases (Fig. 7, sections BB and CC). They ranged in size from smaller examples measuring 0.5m in diameter and 0.5m in depth to larger pits measuring 1.5m in diameter and up to 1.5m in depth. Morphologically, these pits were similar to storage pits identified on other contemporary sites. There were no instances of *in situ* stored material surviving, but it is possible that the pits were scoured out before being backfilled, since some had flared upper profiles that were angled to one side. Most of the pit fills appeared to be deliberately backfilled with redeposited natural.

Five pits (1203, 1291, 1471 and 1594) within the north-western part of Area 3 were filled with dark, finds-rich deposits, although none of these were the remnants of *in situ* stored material. Pit 1594 contained a sequence of six fills which produced the richest finds assemblages on the site (Fig. 7, section BB). Similar deposits were also found within Area 3 pit 1662 and Area 2 pit 1295. Finds from these fills were typical of occupation debris and included small quantities of charred cereal grains (wheat and barely); loomweight fragments; burnt structural daub, including examples preserving wattle impressions; small quantities of burnt and unburnt animal bone; burnt naturally-occurring flint, possibly derived from hearth edges, and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. Pits 1471 and 1662 yielded over 50 sherds of pottery each, whilst pit 1594 produced 310 sherds weighing 5.5kg. The upper fill of pit 1594 also yielded 713g of unworked burnt flint. A small number of pottery sherds, mostly from the dark fills of these pits, exhibited evidence for use in the form of exterior sooting or internal burnt food residues. Also within this part of Area 3, a number of pit fills contained small quantities of metallurgical residues; of particular note are fragments of smithing-hearth cakes from Area 3 pits 1167, 1662 and 1724, in fresh condition, although not *in situ* (Fig. 5).

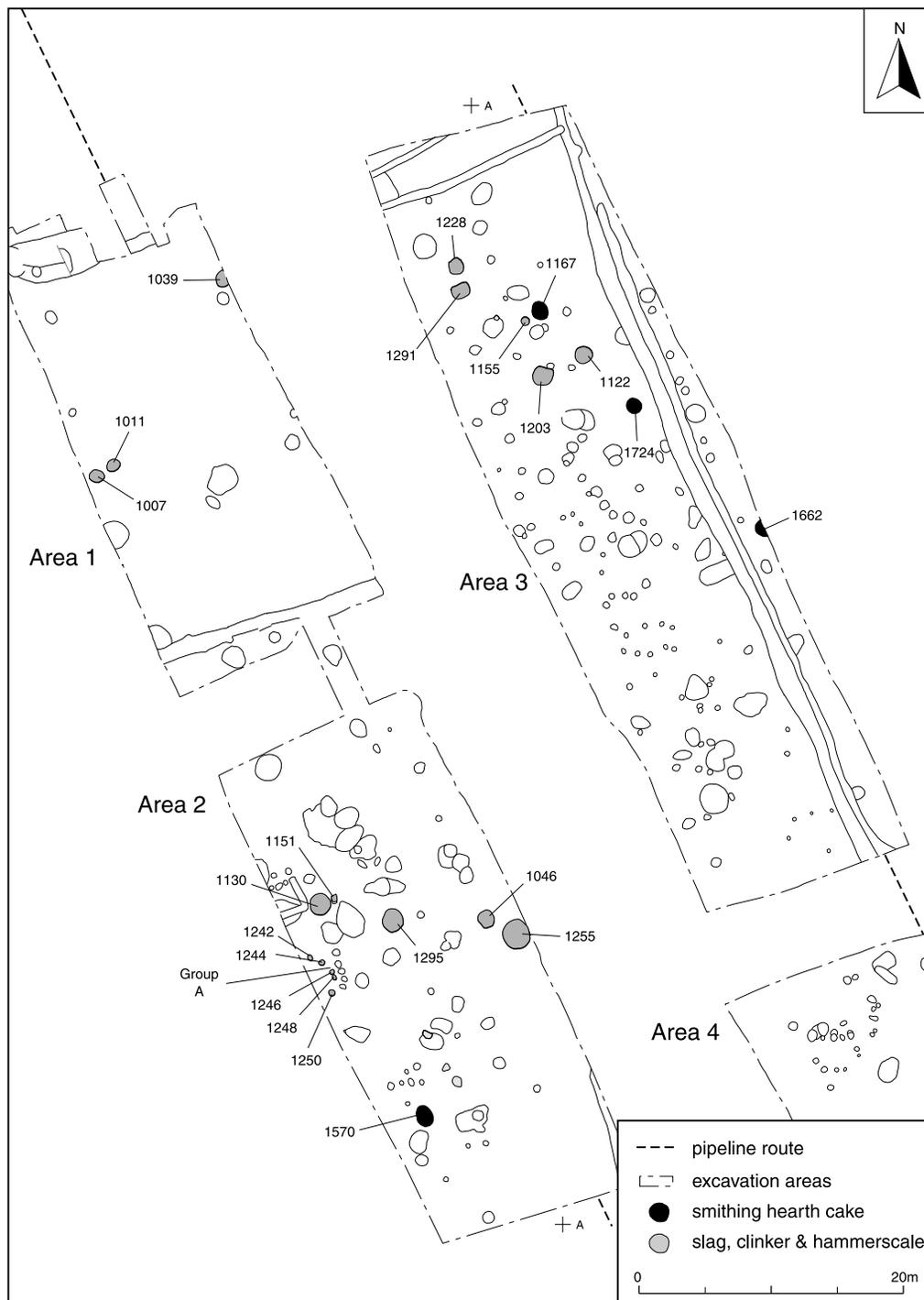


FIGURE 5 Site A: Distribution of Period 2 metallurgical residues (1:500)

None of the pits contained any obvious indications of structured deposition (ritual placement of objects within pits or other features, see Hill 1995), although it should be noted that bone survival across the site was poor. Fill 1302 of Area 3 pit 1299 did contain a worked quartzite pebble, possibly intended to represent a phallus (Fig. 19). However, this fill was otherwise unexceptional, containing a backfill derived from the natural substrate. Although an almost total absence of intercutting between these pits meant that a sequence of construction and use could not be established, it is clear that the storage pits represent an extended period of occupation rather than a single phase of use.

Postholes were widely distributed across Areas 2–4 of the site. Although the narrow width of the strip meant that attempting to recreate structural patterns proved to be too subjective, a few groupings were evident. The clearest grouping (Group A, Figs 4 and 9) consisted of an arc of five postholes or small pits within Area 2, and a line of five similar features to their immediate east. Further associated features potentially remain to the west, beyond the excavated area. All were filled with inorganic deposits which remained undated. The five westernmost postholes/pits were sampled and found to contain metallurgical residues, including hammerscale flakes, and slag and clinker pieces (Fig. 5). There was no evidence of *in situ* burning and the residues occurred in very small quantities. Further metallurgical residues were recovered in similarly small quantities within the backfills of a small number of the storage pits within Areas 1–3 (Fig. 5). Again, there was no evidence for *in situ* burning. Although the residues indicate that iron-smithing was occurring, this seems to have taken place beyond the excavated area, most probably somewhere within the dense area of geophysical anomalies located to the west.

Two rows of three postholes/pits (Group B) 6m to the north of Group A was located along the western edge of Site A, and its full extent may not have been exposed (Fig. 4). These features were filled with inorganic deposits containing little anthropogenic material with the exception of post-hole/pit 1351, the fill of which contained Late Prehistoric pottery. It is possible that Groups A and B were related, defining a single, possibly sub-rectangular, area of activity.

A cluster of postholes/pits (Group C) located

within Area 4 potentially formed a sub-circular structure, perhaps in the lee of the possible bank associated with Ditch 1 (Fig. 4). A number of small pits were located close to this group, of which two had been cut by the postholes. Both the pits and the pits/postholes were filled with similar inorganic fills, containing little anthropogenic material, although two of the pits contained Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Early Middle Iron Age pottery. Group D, located towards the southern end of Area 3 (Fig. 4), did not form any obvious structural pattern, but was located within an area devoid of pits, suggesting that this was the location of a structure or work space.

Period 2b Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman (c.400–50 BC and c. 100BC–80AD)

A small assemblage of Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery occurred within a small number of pits and within the latest fills of a few Period 2a pits (Fig. 6). This small assemblage is comparable in size with the small quantities of Early Middle Iron Age pottery noted in some of the Period 2a features. Although the Period 2b pottery assemblage was small, a possible trend towards the southern end of the site was evident.

Pit 1670 (Area 4) was similar to the Period 2a small pits, but contained Middle Iron Age pottery. Pit 1605 was located 2m to the east and consisted of a sub-rectangular cut with a U-shaped profile. It measured 1.85m in length, 0.75m in width and was 0.4m deep. It contained a single inorganic fill from which Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered. Clearly, this feature was a distinctively unique type for the site, and its similarity to a grave cut is striking. Although no human bone was recovered, this might reflect the poor survival of bone from the excavation.

In Area 3 a radiocarbon determination of 210 cal BC to 1 cal AD was obtained from the lower fill of pit 1122, whilst the upper fill contained a single Late Iron Age sherd, along with Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. The lower fill also contained hammerscale flakes and pieces of slag, but as with the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery recovered from the upper fill, this material is probably residual. Pit 1820 was filled with a single deposit containing two large, unabraded sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman (c.100/50 BC–50/80AD) pottery. Similar material, also

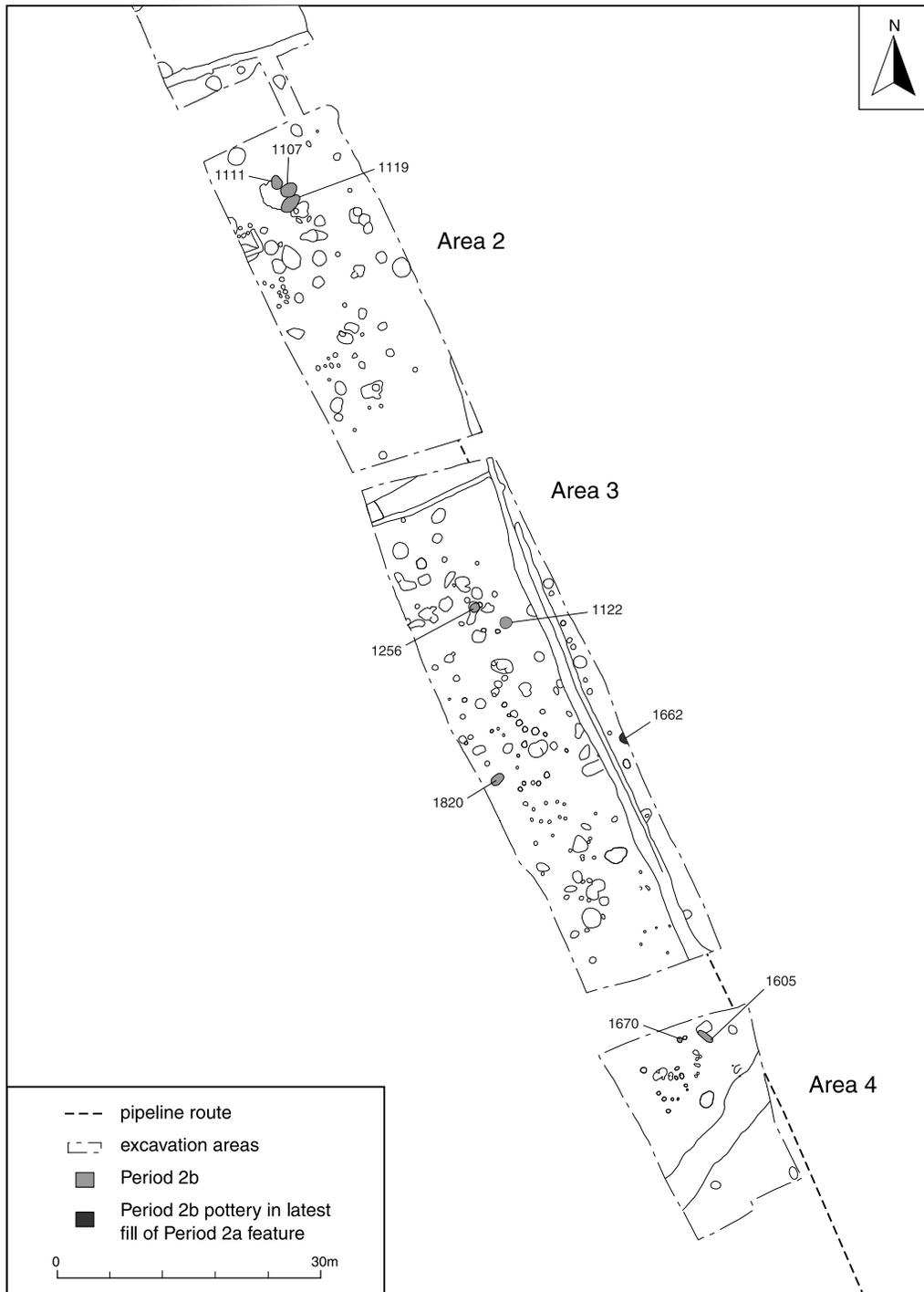
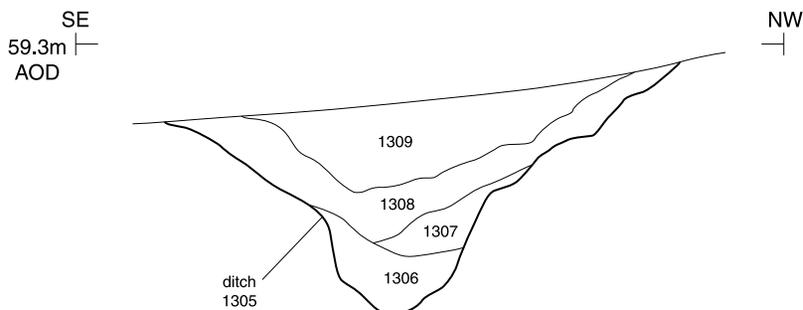
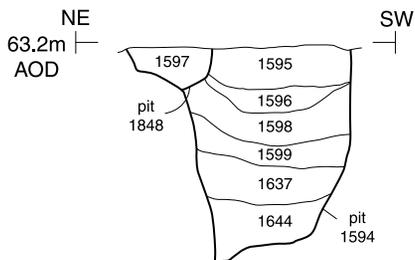


FIGURE 6 Site A: Period 2b and distribution of Middle and Late Iron Age pottery (1:750)

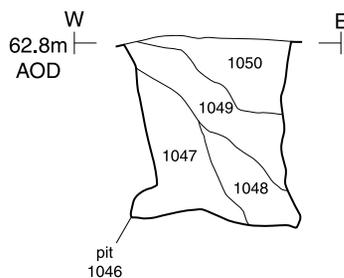
Section AA



Section BB



Section CC



0 2m

FIGURE 7 Site A Sections (1:50)

unabraded, was recovered from the only fill of pit 1119 in Area 2, and it is likely that two stratigraphically later pits (1107 and 1111) also date to Period 2b.

Aside from these features, a single sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from the upper fill of Period 2a pit 1662 (Area 3), and further Middle Iron Age sherds were found within the fill of tree-throw pit 1162 (not illustrated, but overlying Period 2a pit 1256 in Area 3). Along with the Early Middle Iron Age pottery noted within some of the Period 2a fills, the Period 2b pits and pottery assemblage indicates that activity on Site A continued in a much restricted form into the Middle Iron Age and the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.

Period 3: Roman (1st to 2nd century AD)

Roman activity consisted of several small ditches (Ditches 2–6) likely to have formed field boundaries (Fig. 10). Two parallel ditches may have been a 2.5m-wide trackway flanked by ditches (trackway 1) or a double-ditched boundary, almost in line with the existing field boundary. All the ditches were filled with silting deposits from which small quantities of Late Iron Age/1st-century AD and 1st to 2nd-century AD pottery was recovered, alongside residual Period 2 material. A degree of longevity in the Roman use of the site is suggested by the fact that Ditch 4 was replaced by Ditch 6.



FIGURE 8 Site A



FIGURE 9 Site A: Posthole/Pit Group A, looking east

Site B

Site B revealed a dispersed series of features to the west of the Berry Hill Farm cropmark site and the Taplow Quarry excavations, both of which form parts of an extensive area of archaeological activity dating from the Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age through to the Roman period (Fig. 11). Site B contained remains dating to these periods, along with earlier features, of Middle Neolithic date.

Period 1: Early Prehistoric: Middle Neolithic (c. 3500–2500 BC)

Period 1 activity identified towards the southern end of Site B consisted of four pits, dispersed along an 80m length of the site (Fig. 12). The dating for these pits seemed secure, none of this material appearing in association with later pottery. Pits 2045, 2047 and 2078 were all similar, being vertical sided and between 0.7m and 0.9m wide and 0.7m deep (although pit 2078 was only

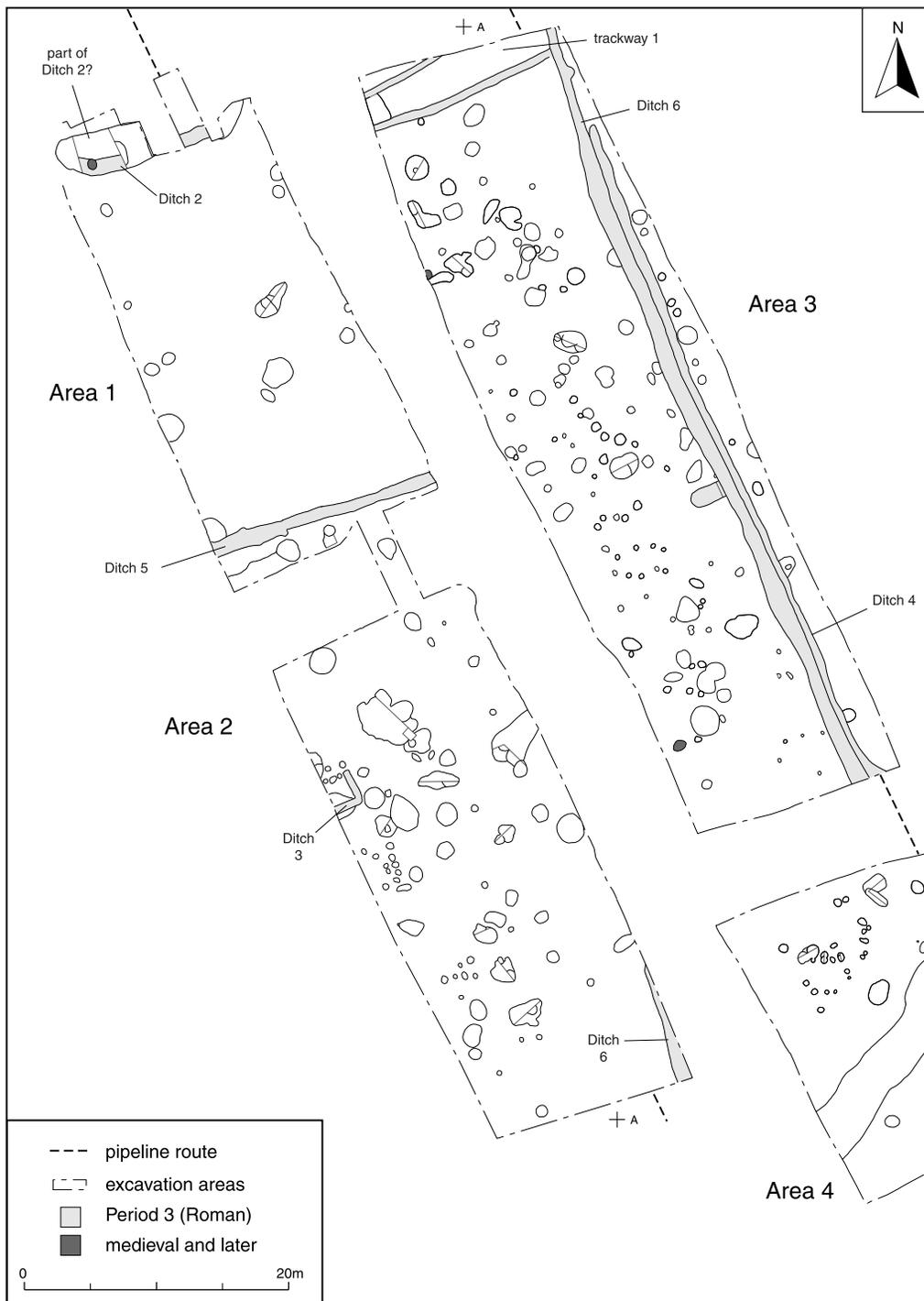


FIGURE 10 Site A: Roman and later features (1:500)

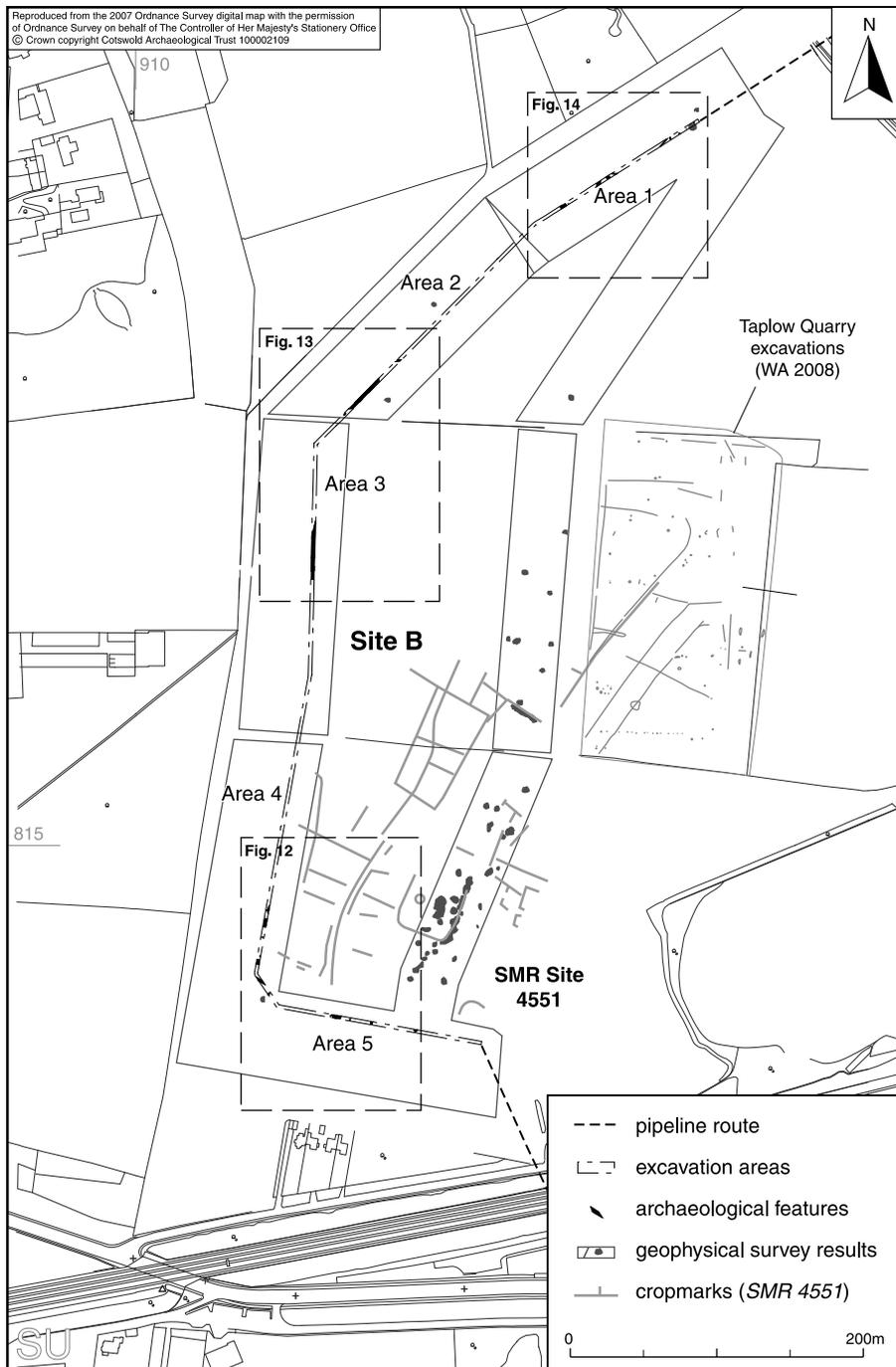


FIGURE 11 Site B: Pipeline route showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results (1:5000)

partially exposed). All were filled with single deposits: those from pits 2045 and 2078 contained Middle Neolithic pottery (pit 2047, although undated is assumed to be contemporary from its morphology and proximity to pit 2045). A sherd from pit 2045 included burnt food residues. Pit 2062 was larger, with rounded edges and base, and measured 1.15m in diameter and 0.34m in depth (Fig. 15, Section DD). Its lowest fill, 2063, was a thin band of flinty redeposited natural which contained Middle Neolithic pottery and might represent primary weathering of the cut edges. The rest of the pit fill was largely derived from the natural substrate and may represent natural infilling. This fill contained flint flakes and a flint chip, as well as 5g of unworked burnt flint.

*Period 2: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
(c.900–500 BC)*

In Area 4, Ditch 2058 (Fig. 12 and 15, Section EE) was orientated north-west/south-east and was 1.4m wide and 0.6m deep. It did not form an obvious continuation of any of the features identified as cropmarks or during the geophysical survey. Its lowest fill, 2061, was derived from erosion of the cut edges: above this was a deposit of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, all from a single vessel. This was overlain by a thin charcoal-rich fill, 2060, which together with the pottery potentially represents structured deposition. Most of the ditch was filled with a homogenous inorganic deposit (2059) containing only a few charcoal flecks and is likely to have been a natural infilling.

In Area 1, feature 2031 (Fig. 14) was steep sided and 4.5m wide. It was excavated to a depth of 0.6m without its base being encountered (due to the combined depth of the trench and the feature). Small amounts of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from its upper fill. The full extent of this feature was not exposed due to the confines of the strip, and it remains unclear as to whether it was a large pit or a steep-sided ditch.

In Area 5, Pit 2080 (Fig. 12) was a small irregular cut with a single fill from which Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery was recovered. It extended beyond the limit of excavation and might instead have been a ditch terminus. Pit 2095 was a wide, shallow feature *c.* 1.45m in diameter and 0.32m deep, observed in the trench section (its projected plan is shown on Fig. 12, Area 5). Late Prehistoric pottery was recovered from its only fill.

Period 3: Roman (1st century AD to 3rd/4th centuries AD)

Period 3 features were found towards the southern end of Site B and consisted of a track-way, an undefined feature and three postholes or pits (Fig. 12). Trackway 2 in Area 5 was orientated north-east/south-west and consisted of a slight holloway flanked by two ditches, 2084 and 2091, from which small quantities of Late Iron Age/1st-century AD and generic Roman pottery were recovered. This trackway appeared to be part of a curving trackway visible to the north within the Berry Hill Farm cropmark complex. Posthole/pit 2072 located next to the trackway was filled with a single inorganic fill from which 3rd/4th-century pottery was recovered. Two adjacent postholes/pits, 2070 and 2074, remained undated but are likely to have belonged to Period 3, given their proximity to the dated Roman trackway and posthole/pit 2072.

Feature 2065 (Area 4) was large, being 3.4m wide and 2.5m deep. It extended beyond the limits of excavation but its almost vertical sides suggest that it is more likely to have been a pit than a ditch. It was filled with a series of naturally-accumulated fills from which small amounts of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age/1st-century AD pottery were recovered.

Undated

Undated features, mostly ditches along with a few small pits, were distributed throughout Site B (Figs 12–14). The ditches conformed to the alignments of ditches within the Berry Hill Farm cropmark site and within the Taplow Quarry excavations (WA 2008). At Taplow Quarry, these ditches belonged to two phases of activity, Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age to Early Roman. It is likely that the undated ditches within Site B also belong to these periods, although the similar alignments of the ditches of both periods at Taplow Quarry makes closer dating impossible.

SPECIALIST REPORTS

The worked and burnt flint

E. R. McSloy

Worked flint amounting to 58 pieces (375g) was recovered during the excavations. Three pieces came from Period 1 (Early Prehistoric) features

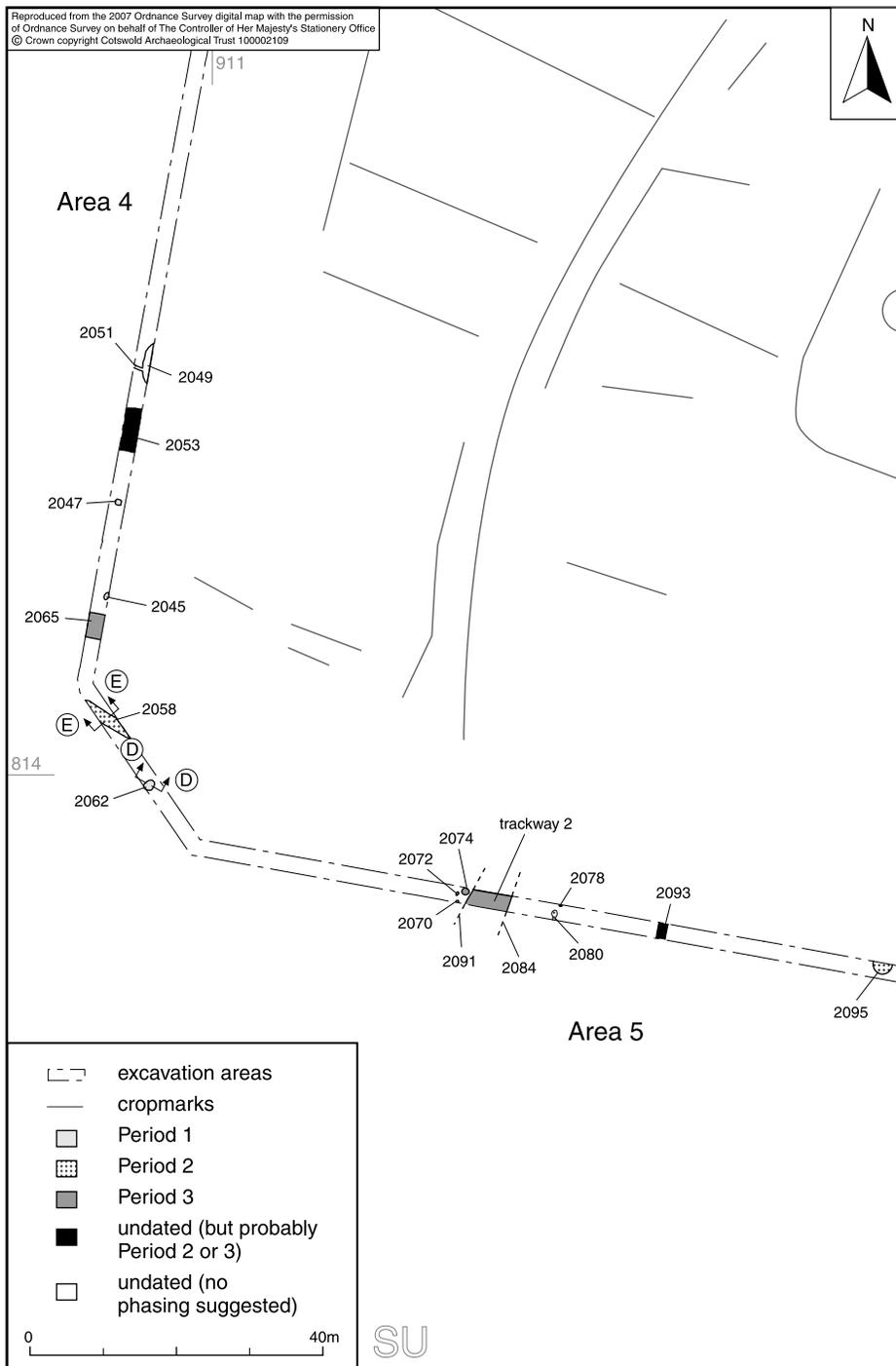


FIGURE 12 Site B: close-up of Areas 4 and 5 (1:1000)

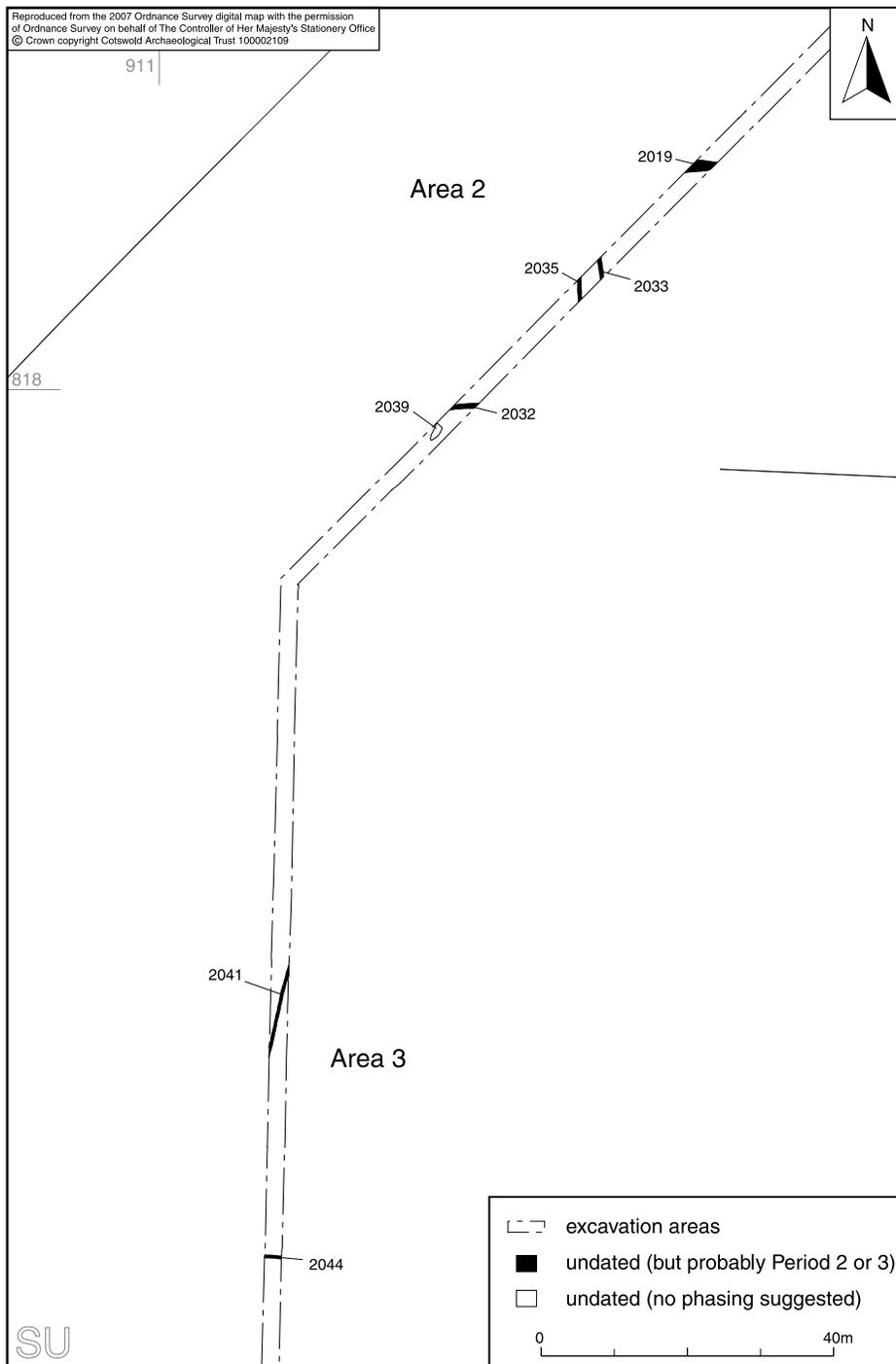


FIGURE 13 Site B: close-up of Areas 2 and 3 (1:1000)

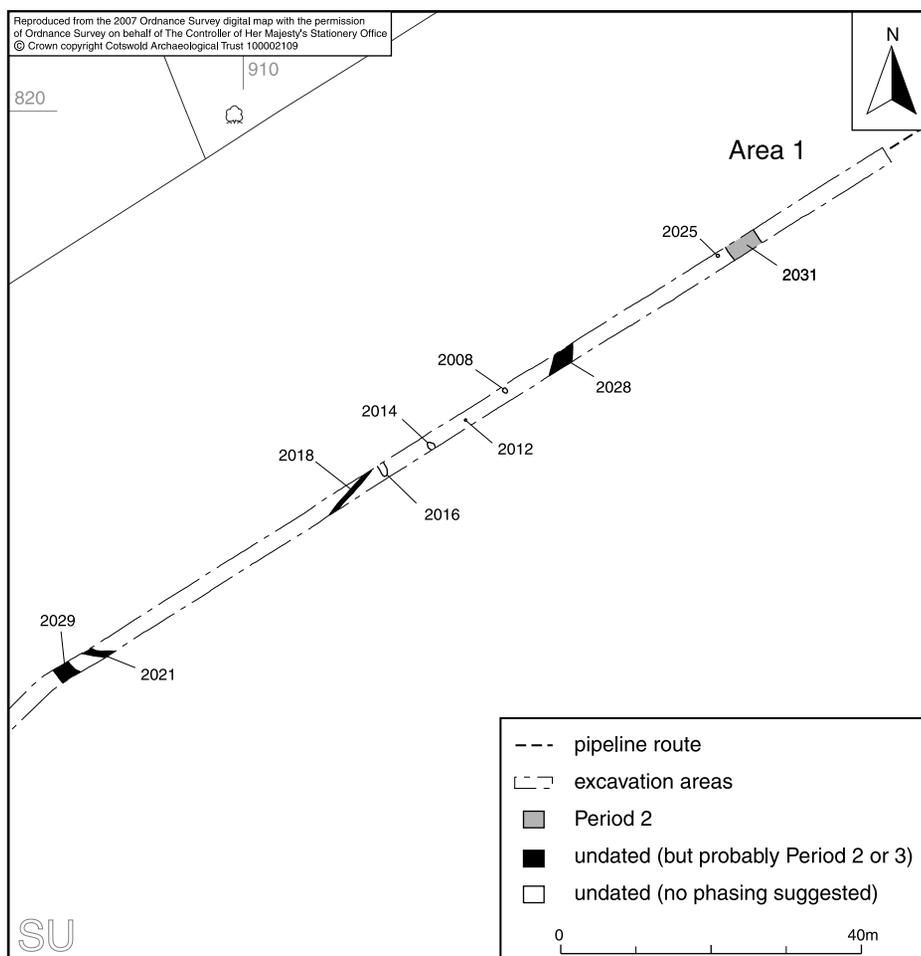


FIGURE 14 Site B: close-up of Area 1 (1:1000)

from Site B. The larger part of the assemblage was recovered from Site A, principally (36 pieces) from Period 2 (Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age) deposits, with the remainder unstratified. A significant portion of the assemblage (15 pieces) was retrieved from soil sample residues. With the exception of three flakes from Site B, Period 1 (below), the flint from the samples relates to Site A, Period 2 pit deposits.

The condition of the material is mixed, although few pieces exhibited extensive edge damage or rolling and most pieces are unpatinated. Raw material consists of grey and grey-brown flint, approximately half of which retain areas of cortex. The variable quality of the raw material and thinned/

polished appearance of the cortex suggests that most material was derived from secondary (gravel) sources, almost certainly the local Thames gravels.

Composition and Dating

Small quantities of worked and unworked burnt flint recovered from Site B, Period 1 pit 2062 (fill 2064) have been attributed to the Neolithic period on the basis of associated sherds of Peterborough Ware. The worked flint from this deposit consists of three unutilised tertiary flakes/chips in dark grey flint. Definable tools or other dateable pieces are almost entirely lacking from the remainder of the group. Retouched pieces are restricted to a poor end-scraper from Site A tree-throw pit 1077 and

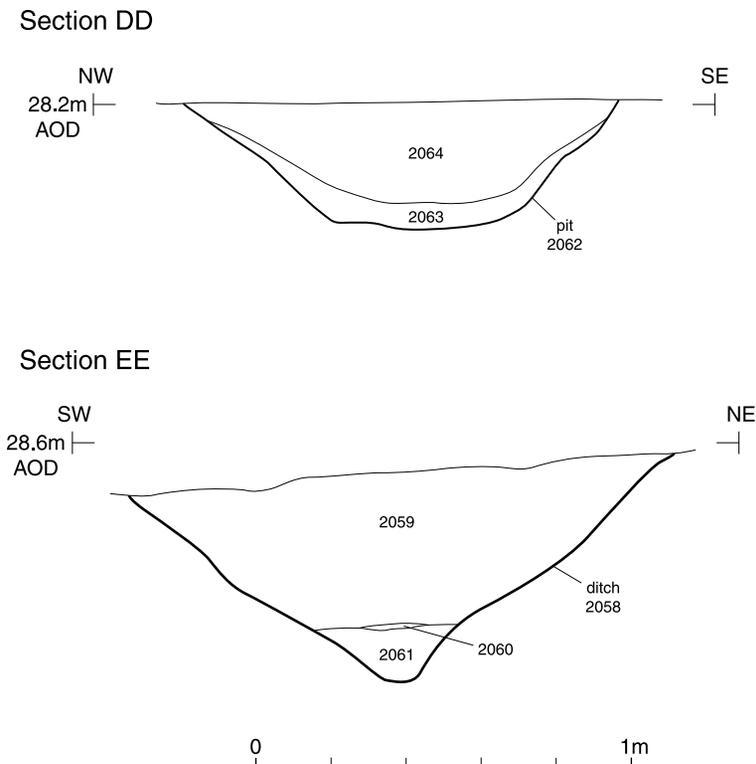


FIGURE 15 Site B Sections (1:20)

miscellaneous retouched pieces from Site A, Period 2 pits 1499 and 1724. A single platform blade core (unstratified) in good quality flint and with evidence for platform abrasion probably dates to the Mesolithic period. A possible axe-thinning flake from Site A, Period 2 pit 1471 (fill 1472), soft-hammer struck from good quality flint, may be of similar date.

Flakes from across the site are of similar type, characteristically of squat proportions and predominantly secondary or tertiary removals. Most appear irregular with a notably high incidence of hinge fractures and evidence for miss-hits showing as incipient bulbs of percussion. The characteristics of most removals are consistent with Late Neolithic to Bronze Age dating and the overall crudeness suggests relatively late dating in this scheme. Whether this dating extends as late as that of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ceramic phases, is unclear.

Unworked, burnt flint was recovered from 17 contexts and amounts to 1437g. Over half was retrieved from soil samples, most notably from the upper fill of Site A, Period 2 pit 1594 (fill 1595) which contained material weighing 713g. With the exception of material weighing 3g from the Neolithic deposit in Site B pit 2062 (fill 2064), the burnt flint was derived from Period 2 features. Burnt flint is a common artefact type from deposits of this date, with one possible use being 'fillers' for coarse pottery.

The Prehistoric pottery

E. R. McSloy

Introduction

A total of 1933 sherds (20.2kg) of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the excavations (Table 1). The assemblage is dominated by handmade pottery of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

tradition, with smaller quantities dating to the Middle Iron Age and wheel-thrown material of the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. In addition, there are a small number of sherds of Middle Neolithic and Middle Bronze Age date.

Condition

The assemblage is fairly heavily fragmented, with few vessels capable of reconstruction below shoulder level. Surfaces are typically well-preserved with surface treatments such as

TABLE 1 Pottery quantification by Fabric Group/Fabric

<i>Fabric Group</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Est. Vess</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
Flint/Quartz sand	F1	746	519	9036
	F2	33	8	694
	F3	126	32	2206
	F4	62	19	492
Quartz sand	Q1	117	83	716
	Q2	416	289	3524
	Q3	18	6	325
	Q4	7	5	63
	Q5	55	25	1337
	Q6	109	72	548
Ferruginous	Fe	25	2	137
	Fe1	181	54	848
	Fe2	8	3	40
Shell	SH1	10	7	50
	SH2	3	2	40
Grog	BGROG	8	7	105
Clay pellet	CP	4	4	49
Total		1933	1137	20210

TABLE 2 Pottery forms/fabrics correspondence (shown as estimated vessel count)

<i>Form</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>F1</i>	<i>F3</i>	<i>F4</i>	<i>Fe1</i>	<i>Q1</i>	<i>Q2</i>	<i>Q3</i>	<i>Q4</i>	<i>Q5</i>	<i>Q6</i>	<i>BGROG</i>
Bowl	uncertain	1		1		1						
	Type 3	3					1					
	Type 4	2					2					
	Type 5	1	1			1				1		
Jar	Type 1	13	3		1	2	3	1				
	Type 2	2				1	4	1				
	Type 2m						1					
	uncertain	2				1	2					
	Type 6			1	1	1	2		1			3
Misc.	Type 7				1		1				1	
	Type 8			1								
	jar/bowl											1
Wt*	strainer											1

* wheelthrown

burnishing clearly recognisable. The mean sherd weight (10.5g) is not especially low for a later prehistoric group and probably reflects the presence of thicker-walled sherds that represent a significant portion of the assemblage (16% of sherds were in excess of 10mm).

A small number of sherds are notable for alteration (discoloration, cracking and/or bloating), resulting from secondary subjection to extreme heat. Similar characteristics have been recorded on Late Bronze Age pottery from Hartshill Copse, Bucklebury, Berkshire (Morris 2006) and Early Iron Age material from Brighton Hill South (Morris 1992) where such distortion was ascribed to high-temperatures resulting from accidental or purposeful burning of domestic structures. The mixed presence here of 're-fired' and un-burnt material suggests that other processes might be responsible.

Methodology

Quantification is by estimated vessel (sherd family), sherd count and weight for each fabric type by context. Cross-context sherd joins/vessel matches were recorded and a number identified within deposits within the same features. Pottery fabrics were identified macroscopically or with the use of a x4 hand lens and described with the assistance of x20 binocular microscope. Samples were submitted for thin-section analysis (see Vince below). Full fabric descriptions were made using methodology supported by the Prehistoric

Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). Where this could be determined, vessel form (vessel profile) and form element (rim or base type) were recorded. Decoration type/location, surface treatment and attributes indicative of the use of the pottery, including burnt food or other types of residue, external sooting and use wear evidence were recorded. A measure of mean vessel wall thickness was also taken.

Provenance

Most of the pottery, comprising mainly Late Prehistoric material, was derived from pits and other features within Site A. Small quantities of Neolithic and Late Prehistoric pottery were recovered from features within Site B. A total of 1328 sherds (68.7% of the total) derived from pits, but with a notably uneven distribution, some features producing large volumes of material and other similar-sized features very little. Four (Period 2 pits 1471, 1594, 1600 and 1662) yielded over 50 sherds and are the main basis of much of the site chronology and the illustrated groups (Table 5). Pit 1594 produced 310 sherds (5.5kg) or the equivalent of 16% of the assemblage total (partly the result of the pit having been fully, rather than 50%, excavated).

Material from ditches amounts to 512 sherds (26.5%), the larger part coming from Period 2 Ditch 1. The mean weight value for pottery from ditches is notably less (7.2g) compared to that for material from pits (11.9g). This is presumably the

TABLE 3 Pottery decoration type/incidence by fabric

<i>Decoration</i>	<i>F1</i>	<i>F2</i>	<i>F3</i>	<i>F4</i>	<i>Q1</i>	<i>Q2</i>	<i>Q6</i>	<i>Total</i>
FT/N	13	1	1	1	1	3	2	22
FT/N;incised	1							1
FTrust								
Incised	1		1	1		2		5
Total	15	1	2	2	1	5	2	28

FT/N = Fingertip/fingernail; FTrust = fingertip rustication

TABLE 4 Pottery surface treatment incidence by fabric

<i>Treatment</i>	<i>F1</i>	<i>F3</i>	<i>Fe1</i>	<i>Q1</i>	<i>Q2</i>	<i>Q3</i>	<i>Q5</i>	<i>Total</i>
Burnish	6			26	7	1	2	42
Wiping/smoothing	56	4	1		11		1	73
Total	62	4	1	26	18	1	3	115

surfaces, and irregular fracture. Common, moderately sorted (2–4mm) calcined angular flint.

BA grog: Light brown external surface and margin with mid-grey core and internal surface. Hard with soapy feel and irregular fracture. Common and well-sorted (2–3mm), sub-rounded, grey or buff-coloured (oxidising close to surfaces) grog.

Later Prehistoric Pottery

Chronology/Ceramic Phasing

Vessel forms provide the basis for dating the assemblage. Vessel profiles, together with rim and base forms, can be paralleled from larger assemblages from the wider region including the Thames Valley, and the Berkshire Downs and Chilterns to the north.

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

(c.900/800–600/500BC)

The bulk of pottery recovered across Site A, including the key groups (Table 5) is considered to relate to this ceramic phase: a much smaller assemblage was recovered from Site B. Terminology as used (abbreviated to LBA/EIA), is here employed in describing styles emerging from the Post-Deverel Rimbury plain ware tradition of the Late Bronze Age (Barrett 1980). Coarse ware (Type 1) jars, typically with fingertip decoration, are characteristic of this tradition and comparable with groups from Reading Business Park (Hall 1992), Dunston Park, Thatcham, (Morris and Mephram 1995), Theale (Barrett 1980) and Petters Sports Field, Egham (O’Connell 1986). There are indications, principally from the fine wares, that elements within the assemblage may date to relatively late in the sequence, possibly to the 7th century BC (below), where the term ‘Early Iron Age’ is perhaps more appropriate (Morris and Mephram 1995). Pottery fabrics are consistent with what is known for the broad period from published comparanda, in particular the increased presence of quartz-sand bearing fabrics (O’Connell 1986, 72).

Middle Iron Age (c.400/300–100/50 BC)

Pottery certainly post-dating the main Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ceramic phasing was restricted in quantity and confined to the southern portion of Site A (Areas 3 and 4). A minimum of ten vessels (46 sherds, weighing 296g) were identified as Middle Iron Age date on the basis of form. The

largest group, from Pit 1605, is drawn (Fig. 18, nos 30–33). Forms comprise rounded/globular-bodied vessels (Type 6) and probable barrel-shaped (Type 7) jars. The diagnostic forms occur in ferruginous fabric Fe1 and sparse quartz-tempered Q6.

Late Iron Age/Early Roman

(c.100/50 BC–50/80AD)

Wheel-thrown, grog-tempered sherds characteristic of this period (fabric BGROG) amounted to 8 sherds/vessels (105g), all from Site A. Large, unabraded sherds from Area 2 pit 1119 (fill 1120) and Area 3 pit 1820 (fill 1821) probably represent small-scale activity. Identifiable forms are restricted to necked (and cordoned) jars/bowls and one strainer with post-firing base perforations. A rim sherd from a bead-rimmed large storage jar in a coarse flint-tempered fabric (Site A, Period 3 Ditch 6) may also relate to this period.

Fabric descriptions (later prehistoric pottery)

Quartz sand group

Q1: Handmade. Dark grey throughout. Hard with smooth or slightly sandy feel and fine fracture. Common and well sorted, rounded quartz sand (0.3–0.5mm). May contain rare rounded iron oxide (0.5–1mm) or angular flint (1–1.5mm).

Q2: Handmade. Dark grey throughout or with red-brown margins. Hard with sandy feel and finely irregular fracture. Abundant and well-sorted rounded quartz (0.3–0.5mm); rare larger sub-rounded quartz (1mm). Black-edged voids from organic inclusions.

Q3: Handmade. Brown exterior surface with dark grey core and internal surface. Hard with slightly sandy feel and fine fracture. Common and well-sorted rounded quartz (0.2–0.3mm); prominent linear voids visible to break and surfaces; rare, sub-rounded brown/buff clay pellet, 1–2mm.

Q4: Handmade. Light brown surfaces and margins with dark grey core. Hard with sandy feel and irregular break. Rare sub-rounded quartz sand (0.2–0.3mm); rare, sub-rounded buff or grey clay pellet, 2–3mm.

Q5: Handmade. Red-brown exterior surface and margin with dark grey core and interior surface. Hard with sandy feel and regular break. Common sub-rounded quartz sand (0.3–0.5mm); Common sub-rounded red-brown iron oxide (1–2mm).

Q6: Handmade. Red-brown exterior surface and margin with dark grey core and interior surface. Soft with

smooth feel and irregular break. Rare sub-rounded quartz sand (0.3–0.5mm); rare, sub-rounded red-brown iron oxide (1–2mm).

Flint with quartz sand group

F1: Handmade. Patchy grey/grey-brown exterior surface with dark grey core and interior surface. Hard with sandy or rough feel and irregular break. Common, well-sorted angular flint (1–2mm or where coarser up to 4mm); common sub-rounded quartz sand (0.3–0.5mm); and common or rare, sub-rounded red-brown iron oxide (1–3mm).

F2: Handmade. Red-brown throughout. Hard with sandy or rough feel and irregular break. Common sub-rounded quartz sand (0.3–0.5mm); common, poorly-sorted (1–4mm) angular flint; and rare, sub-rounded red-brown iron oxide (1–2mm).

F3: Handmade. Dark grey throughout or with reddish-brown core. Hard with sandy feel and irregular break. Common sub-rounded quartz sand (0.3–0.5mm); common, well-sorted angular flint (0.5–1mm); and common, sub-rounded red-brown iron oxide (1–2mm).

F4: Handmade. Patchy grey/grey-brown exterior surface with dark grey core and interior surface. Hard with harsh feel and irregular break. Common or moderate poorly sorted angular flint (1–4mm); rare, sub-rounded red-brown iron oxide (1–2mm) and rare sub-rounded quartz sand (0.3–0.5mm).

Ferruginous group

Fe1: Handmade. Buff exterior surface and margin with grey core and interior surface. Soft with soapy feel and irregular break. Common red or red-brown iron oxide (1–2mm), prominent in break and surfaces; rare sub-rounded quartz sand (0.3–0.5mm).

Shelly group

SH1: Handmade. Grey throughout or with buff-brown exterior surface and margin. Soft with soapy feel and irregular or laminated fracture. Shell inclusions are commonly leached leaving plate-like voids. Where present shell (1–2mm) is well-sorted. May contain rare quartz sand (0.3–0.5mm) and red iron oxide (1–2mm).

SH2: Handmade. Grey throughout or with brown exterior surface. Soft with soapy feel and laminated fracture. Shell inclusions are completely leached leaving large plate-like voids and vesicular 'corky' surfaces.

Grog-tempered group (Late Iron Age/Early Roman 'Belgic')

BGROG: Wheel-thrown. Brown surfaces and margins with grey core. Soft with soapy feel and finely irregular break. Common, well-sorted (0.5–1mm) dark grey grog.

Thin-section analysis

Alan Vince

Twelve samples of Late Prehistoric pottery from Site A were submitted for thin-section analysis. Thin sections were prepared by Steve Caldwell, School of Earth Sciences, University of Manchester, and stained using Dickson's method (Dickson 1965). They were chosen to represent five fabrics recognised by eye: F1, FE1, Q, Q2, Q6. The samples selected were derived primarily from Period 2a features (Area 3 pits 1471 (fill 1474) and 1594 (fills 1598 and 1637) and Ditch 1 (fill 1309)). The remainder came from tree-throw pit 1482 (fill 1480) and from Period 2b features (Area 4 pits 1605 (fill 1606) and 1670 (fill 1671)). Greater variation was apparent in thin section and instead the sections could be grouped into five petrofabrics (Fabrics 1-5).

Fabrics

Fabric 1 (Site fabric F1. 3 samples: pit fill 1474 and tree-throw pit fill 1480)

Inclusion types: Rounded quartz. Abundant grains up to 0.5mm across; Chert. Sparse rounded grains up to 0.5mm across; Flint. Sparse subangular fragments up to 1.5mm across. These vary in texture and colour, unlike those in Fabric 2 which are more homogenous in appearance; Phosphate. Rounded, light brown fragments, some with traces of unidentified fossils; Opaques. Sparse well-rounded grains up to 0.3mm across. The groundmass consists of optically anisotropic baked clay minerals, abundant angular quartz grains up to 0.1mm across and sparse muscovite laths up to 0.1mm long.

Fabric 2 (Site fabrics Q2; Q1; FE1. 3 samples: ditch fill 1309 and pit fill 1474)

Inclusion types: Rounded quartz. Sparse grains up to 0.5mm across; Flint. Moderate sub-angular fragments. Most have a light brown colour and are crossed by irregular cracks, to either side of which the flint is lighter in colour and sometimes slightly coarser in texture; Clay/iron concretions. Moderate rounded grains of similar texture to the groundmass but with a dark brown to opaque colour; Chert. Rare rounded grains up to

0.5mm across; Phosphate. Rare rounded fragments up to 0.5mm across. The groundmass consists of optically anisotropic baked clay minerals, abundant angular quartz grains up to 0.1mm across and sparse muscovite laths up to 0.1mm long.

Fabric 3 (Site fabrics Q1; FE1. 2 samples: pit fills 1598 and 1606)

Inclusion types: Rounded quartz. Moderate subangular and rounded grains up to 0.5mm across; Chert. Sparse rounded grains up to 0.5mm across; Organics. Sparse carbonised fragments up to 1.5mm long and 0.2mm in diameter with traces of structure, probably rootlets. The groundmass consists of optically anisotropic baked clay minerals. That in V4758 contains a similar quantity of angular quartz silt to that found in Fabrics 1 and 2 but without the muscovite laths whilst that in V4759 contains few visible inclusions.

Fabric 4 (Site fabric Q6. 3 samples: pit fills 1637 and 1671)

Inclusion types: Shell. Moderate fragments of thin-walled shell up to 0.5mm long and c.0.05mm thick. The lack of diagnostic fragments and the size, curvature and thickness of the shell suggests that these are bivalves rather than gastropods; Clay/iron concretions. Sparse rounded dark brown grains, mostly with the same texture as the groundmass but darker in colour but including some with less quartz and no shell inclusions; Quartz. Sparse subangular grains up to 0.2mm across. The groundmass consists of optically anisotropic baked clay minerals, sparse angular quartz grains and rare muscovite laths up to 0.1mm across.

Fabric 5 (Site fabric Q6. 1 sample: pit fill 1606)

Inclusion types: Rounded quartz. Abundant well-rounded grains up to 0.5mm across, several of which have the outlines characteristics of Lower Cretaceous quartz sand; Altered glauconite? Moderate rounded grains, some botryoidal or reniform in outline, up to 0.5mm across. The grains vary from light brown to darker brown, and some have zonation with a darker crust; Bivalve shell. Sparse shell, similar in appearance to that in Fabric 4; Phosphate. Rare rounded fragments up to 0.5mm across; Clay/iron concretions. Sparse dark brown grains up to 1.5mm across having a similar texture to the groundmass. The groundmass consists of optically anisotropic baked clay minerals and moderate angular quartz up to 0.1mm across.

Interpretation

The fabrics can be grouped into three: first those probably derived from Quaternary clays, or tempered with Quaternary sands (Fabric 1, 2 and 3), and for which a source in the Chilterns is likely;

secondly, an un-tempered, naturally shelly clay (Fabric 4); and lastly a type tempered with a sand derived from the Lower Cretaceous Fabric 5). The nearest source for the latter would be at the foot of the Chalk scarp to the north or north-west of Taplow, approximately 20 miles distant. It is likely that Thames Terrace sands closer to Taplow also contain similar inclusions, although the glauconite probably would not survive prolonged erosion. The source of the shell in Fabric 4 is unknown but the closest potential source to Taplow would be Thames alluvium.

The thin sections confirm that several different raw materials were used, all of which could probably be found or within a short distance of the site. The similarity between some samples considered of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Middle Iron Age date, hints at continued exploitation of clay sources. The most distinctive, and probably the most travelled of the fabrics (Fabric 5), is represented by a single sample from a Middle Iron Age deposit. The dating of this material may be significant, since there is evidence at least in certain parts of southern and central England for increased exchange between communities as the Iron Age progresses, seen through the movement of 'non-local' ceramics and other commodities (Moore 2007).

Vessel Forms

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

Type 1: High-shouldered jar, high, upright neck with simple rounded, flattened or externally-expanded rims. The shoulder zone may be rounded (Fig. 16, no. 3) or less pronounced (Fig. 16, no. 4; Fig.17, nos 16, 22). Rims are simple rounded, squared or slightly expanded.

Type 2: Neck-less convex-profile jars and small jars/cups. Rims are plain or squared (Fig. 16, no. 6; Fig. 17, no. 19). Type 2m denotes miniature version/cup (Fig. 16, no. 7).

Type 3: Carinated bowls/jars with long neck (Fig. 17, nos 14 and 18). Rims are simple, rounded or squared.

Type 4: Angular tripartite (sharply-carinated) fineware bowls. (Fig. 16, no. 10; Fig. 18, nos 24 and 25).

Type 5: Round-shouldered fineware bowls. (Fig. 16, nos 8 and 9). Rims simple, tapered.

Middle and Late Iron Age

Type 6: Rounded or globular profile with, short upright or bead-like rim (Fig. 18, nos 32 and 33).

Type 7: Barrel-shaped jars with tapering or simple, rounded-rims (Fig. 18, nos 30 and 31).

Late Iron Age (to Early Roman)

Type 8: Large storage jar (Rim diam. in excess 250mm). Rolled/bead rim. (Fig. 18, no. 33)

Type 9: Wheel-thrown, necked bowls or jars.

The most characteristic and frequently occurring vessel forms among Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age assemblages are (Type 1) shouldered jars commonly featuring finger decoration to the shoulder and rim (Fig. 16, nos 3 and 4; Fig. 17, nos 16 and 22). Occurrence is typically in coarse, flinty, fabrics (Table 2), and presumes utilitarian use for storage or cooking. Mean sherd thickness at 8.9mm is greater than with other definable vessel classes at 6.3mm, with some very large and thick walled vessels occurring (Fig. 17, no. 20). Type 1 jars occur throughout the assemblage and are present in larger pit assemblages (eg. Site A, Period 2 pits 1471 and 1594). Neck-less, ovoid/barrel-shaped jars are also present in these assemblages, occurring alongside Type 1 jars and Type 3 bowls. Examples, primarily in sandy fabric Q2, occur mainly as smaller, thin-walled vessels (Fig. 16, no. 6 and Fig. 17, no. 19), with one vessel (Fig. 16, no. 7), better described as a cup.

Most abundant among what are here classified as fine-ware vessels are Type 3 jars/bowls. Bowl Types 4 and 5 occur only rarely although are likely to be present among smaller sherds with fine sandy fabrics and burnished surfaces. There is good correlation overall between the use of finer, sandy fabrics (type Q1) and use of burnish (Table 4). Little variation is evident among jar or bowl rim forms, most being simple, (rounded or flattened) or, rarely, expanded externally (Fig. 17, no. 21). A single stub from a vessel with loop handle is in fabric F1 from Site A, Period 2 pit 1167 (fill 1168) (Fig. 17, no. 23). Base forms are typically flat and simple (19 examples) or less commonly expanded/pushed-out (six examples) in the manner of examples from Aldermaston Wharf (Bradley *et al.* 1980, figs. 14, 71a, 15, 90c, 33, 70a) and Reading Business Park (Hall 1992,

68–9). An adaptation, noted elsewhere for example among broadly contemporary material from Hartshill Copse, Upper Bucklebury, Berkshire (Morris 2006) and Reading Business Park (Hall 1992, 69), is the application of crushed flint grits to the base underside (Fig. 17, no. 12). Six examples of this base type were recorded, there appearing to be no obvious correlation with chronology (see below). The purpose of the grits is unclear, although Morris has suggested they may have been added to help drying and reduce adherence of larger vessels during manufacture (Morris 2006).

Surface treatments and decoration

Incidence of surface treatment is given in Table 4. The most simple form consists of the wiping of vessel surfaces while still wet. This occurs commonly with coarse fabrics, resulting in ‘dragging’ of coarser inclusions. Burnishing is restricted to finer, sandy fabrics where it most commonly results in an overall surface polish to the exterior surface, or less frequently, in a banded appearance with horizontal burnish lines visible (Fig. 17, no. 18). The bulk of burnished sherds are fired to an overall dark grey. Notable exceptions are decorated vessels nos 25 and 26 (Fig. 18), the exterior surfaces of which are fired to a red-brown. With vessel no. 25, it seems clear that this effect was achieved through use of an iron-rich slip, which has resulted in a uniform, smooth surface feel.

Decoration of all classes (Table 3) was recorded on approximately 28 individual vessels or approximately 2.5% of the total Late Prehistoric group. Most common are fingertip/fingernail impressions to the upper or outer part of the rim and the shoulder/carination. One small sherd (Fig. 18, no. 28) is unusual in exhibiting repeated fingertip ‘rustication’ similar to decoration on a vessel from Petters Field, Egham, Surrey (O’Connell 1986, fig. 51, no. 174), though seemingly less ordered. Incised decoration is rare: it occurs as simple geometrical motifs (Fig. 18, nos 24 and 27) or, as with no. 25, parallel lines infilled with stabbing (Fig. 18, no. 25). Two vessels, (nos 25 and 26, Fig. 18) from Site A, Ditch 1 feature triple parallel lines, likely to relate to the tradition of furrowed bowls more commonly known from south central England (Cunliffe 1991, 559, fig. A:6).

Evidence for pottery use and re-use

Carbonised residues occurring internally as burnt food residues (13 examples) or, more rarely (two examples) of exterior sooting. There are four occurrences of a whitish limey residue, presumably resulting from storage or heating of water. There were no recorded instances of wear thought to relate to use. With one exception, all of these examples came from Site A, and mostly from the finds-rich pits located within Area 3. The exception came from Site B Period 1 pit 2045 (fill 2046).

A single sherd in fabric F1 (Fig. 18, no. 29) features incomplete perforations from both sides, which have been executed (post-firing) using an awl or similar tool. Part-perforated sherds from Petters Field, Egham (O'Connell 1986, 60) were identified as uncompleted spindle-whorls and a similar interpretation is favoured here.

Assemblage affinities and dating

The Late Bronze Age plain assemblage phase, typified in the Thames Valley by the large assemblages from Aldermaston Wharf (Bradley *et al.* 1980) and Runnymede Bridge (Needham and Longley 1980) and which characterise the period *c.* 1200–900/800 BC are absent from the assemblage, although characteristics such as the flinty fabrics and use of grits pressed into the underside of bases (see below), provide a link to this earlier style. With Middle and Late Iron Age material excepted, dating spanning the 8th and 7th/6th centuries BC is favoured for the assemblage, with indications that some elements relate to the later part of this range. A paired radiocarbon determination (770–540 cal BC) obtained for material from Site A, Period 2 pit 1291 is consistent with the range suggested. A later date (210–10 cal BC) was obtained for material from Period 2 pit 1122, a feature that produced a mix of Middle/Late Iron Age and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age material.

The assemblage exhibits some similarities with that from Taplow Court (Edwards forthcoming). The emphasis of that assemblage appears to be somewhat earlier (within the Late Bronze Age), apparent most obviously in the abundance of coarser flint-tempered fabrics and also in the absence of fineware (Type 4 or 5) bowls. The small quantities of Middle Iron Age pottery from both sites occur in a similar range of fabrics and forms.

The range and character of the pottery fabrics are consistent with primarily Late Bronze

Age/Early Iron Age dating, and an emerging regional pattern of transition from sand-free coarse flinty fabrics in the Late Bronze Age to sandier fabrics in the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (Edwards forthcoming). Better indications of dating derive from the forms and comparisons with published assemblages: Type 1 jars tend to have less angular profiles compared to similarly decorated vessels from Reading Business Park (Hall 1992, nos 66–9), but compare to examples from Petters Sports Field, Egham, Surrey (O'Connell 1986), Cippenham, Slough, Berkshire (Raymond 2003, 134), Theale, Reading (Barrett 1980, fig. 6, no. 6), Dunston Park, Thatcham, Berkshire (Morris and Mephram 1995) and Blewburton Hill, Berkshire (Collins 1947, Fig. 6). The neck-less Type 2 jars are a common component among Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age assemblages.

Characteristically, the fine-ware type vessels are most useful for defining stylistic/cultural affinities and assessing chronology, although their value is limited by the dearth of associated absolute dates. Carinated (Type 4) and shouldered (Type 5) vessels compare in their form and occurrence in burnished black sandy fabrics to examples from Blewburton Hill, Berkshire (Collins 1947, Fig. 9), which possibly relate to vessels of the later All Cannings Cross style of the Early Iron Age (Cunliffe 1991, 71). Also relating to this style is the small number of fine ware vessels decorated with incised motifs (Fig. 18, nos 24–7). Included are red-finished vessels influenced by the furrowed bowl tradition (Fig. 18 nos 25–6). Comparable vessels occur at Blewburton Hill and Dunston Park, Thatcham (Morris and Mephram 1995), where dating centered on the 7th century BC was suggested. To these, apparently relatively late-occurring features evident from the fine wares, may be added vessel no. 23 (Fig. 17), noteworthy for its lug-handle. Vessels with similar handles are found with the later All Cannings style and its variants (Cunliffe 1991, 560, Fig. A:7; Gingell and Morris 2000, 152–3), as well as in Early/Middle Iron Age groups from the wider region (Cunliffe 1991, 563, Fig. A:10).

The extent to which these seemingly late elements are representative of the date of the overall assemblage is unclear; appreciation of this is hindered by the dearth of good stratigraphic sequences. The Type 3 jars/bowls, present for example in Pit 1471 (Fig. 17, nos 14

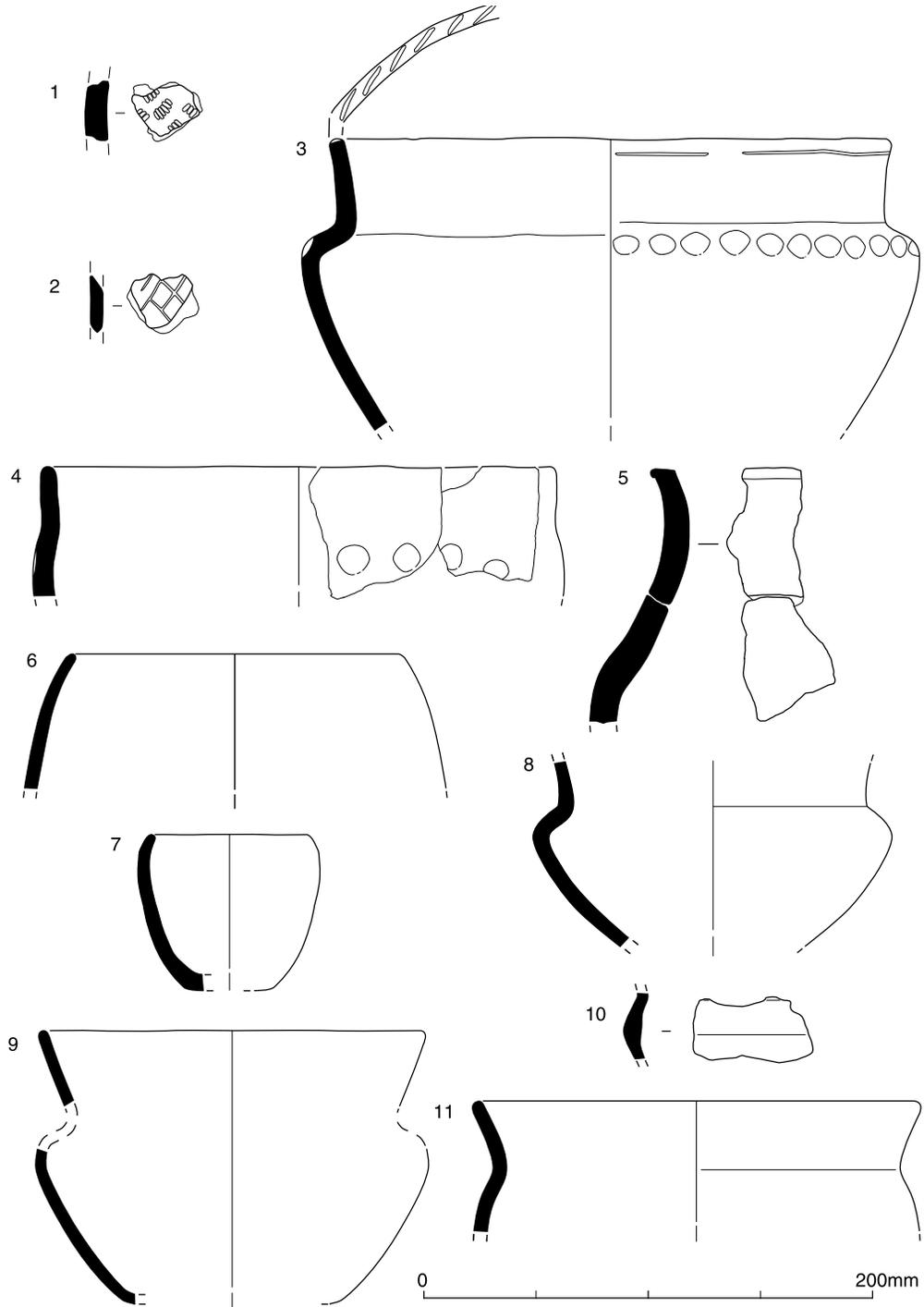


FIGURE 16 Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery – Nos 1-11 (1:3)

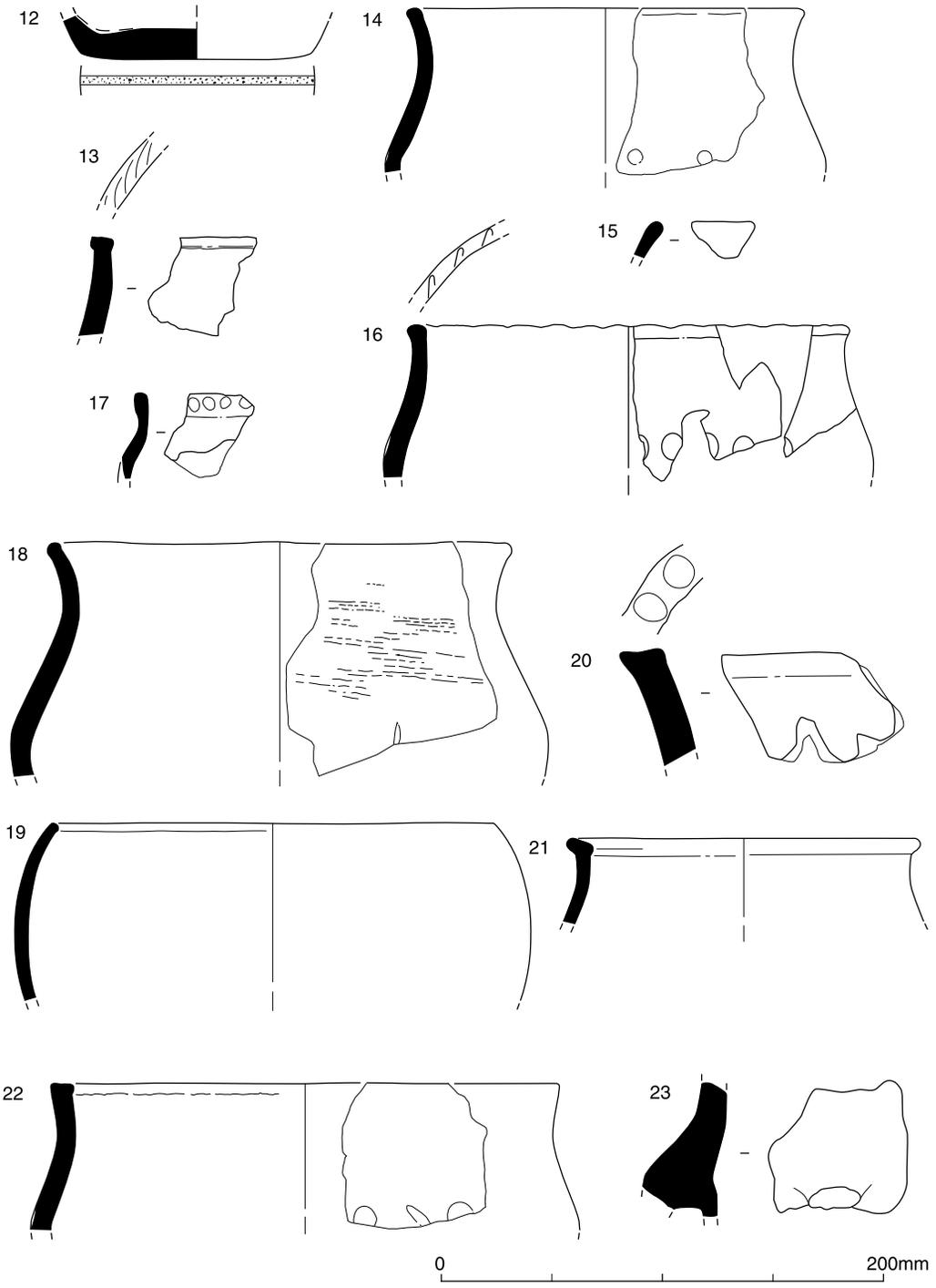


FIGURE 17 Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery – Nos 12-23 (1:3)

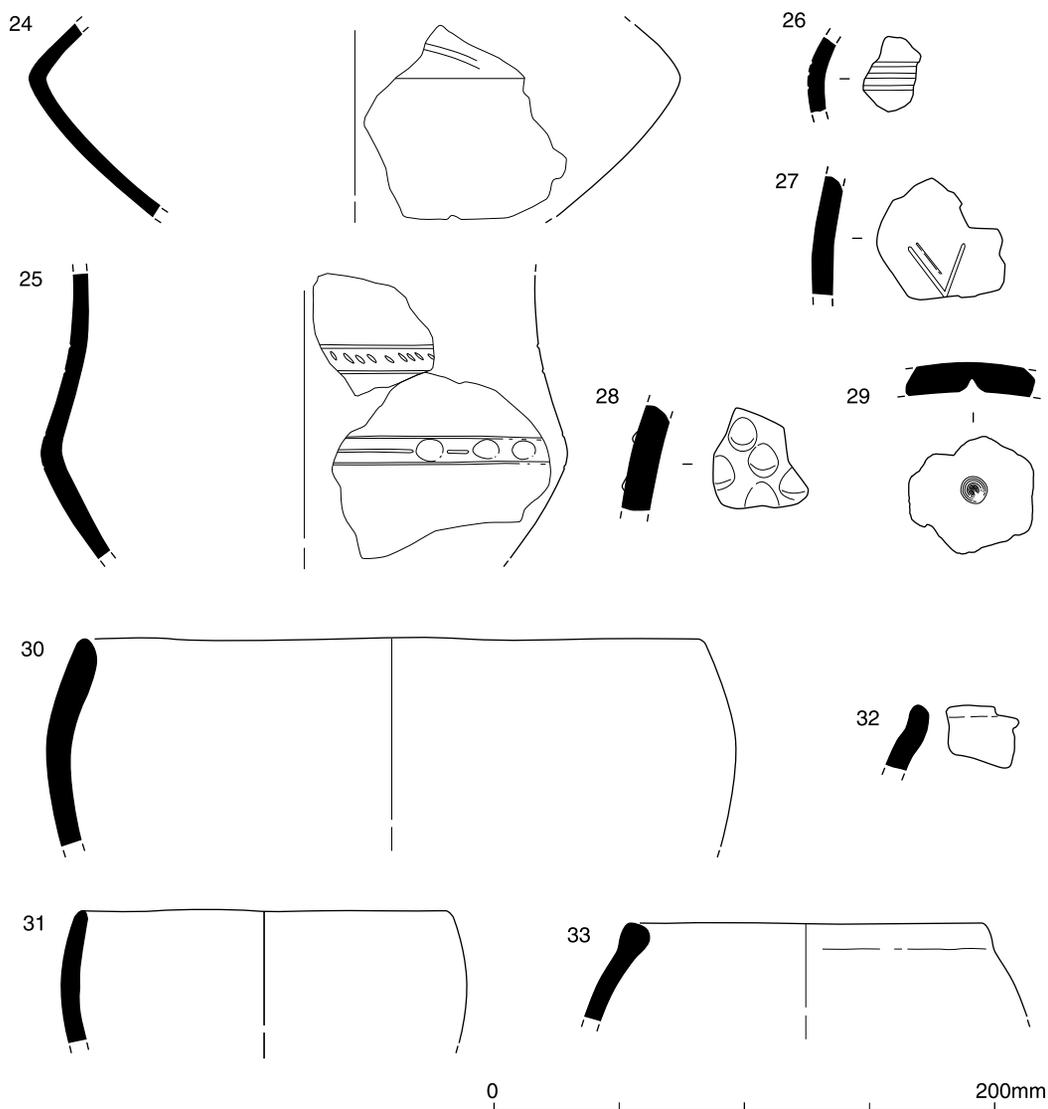


FIGURE 18 Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery – Nos 24-33 (1:3)

and 18) may be representative of an earlier, less-highly decorated tradition. Such vessels compare with examples from 'decorated' groups from Reading Business Park (Hall 1992, Fig. 48, no 145). A notable absence from the assemblage is any of the round-bodied fine ware bowls, which frequently characterise the later Early Iron Age

(c.5th to 3rd centuries BC) in the area (Collins 1947, Fig. 8). The small amount of pottery assigned to the Middle/Late Iron Age is undecorated. Forms and fabrics are compared with material described as of Middle/Late Iron Age date from nearby sites at Cippenham, Slough (Lyne 2003, Fig. 3.26).

*Illustrated Pottery (Figs. 16–18)**Neolithic*

1. Site B, pit 2045 (fill 2046). Neo FL. Sherd with whipped cord impressions.
2. Site B, pit 2045 (fill 2062). Neo FL. Sherd with incised lattice.

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

3. Site A, pit 1594 (fill 1637). Fabric F1. Type 1 Shouldered jar. Fingernail/fingertip decoration to shoulder and rim. Wiped surfaces.
4. Site A, pit 1594 (fill 1637). Fabric F1. Type 1 Shouldered jar. Fingertip decoration to shoulder.
5. Site A, pit 1594 (fill 1598). Fabric F3. Type 1 Shouldered jar. Wiped surfaces.
6. Site A, pit 1594 (fill 1637). Fabric Q2. Type 2 Convex-sided jar.
7. Site A, pit 1594 (fill 1637). Fabric Q2. Type 2m Convex-sided miniature jar/cup.
8. Site A, pit 1594 (fill 1637). Fabric Q1. Type 5 Shouldered bowl. Burnished.
9. Site A, pit 1594 (fill 1637). Fabric Q5. Type 5 Shouldered bowl. Burnished.
10. Site A, pit 1594 (fill 1637). Fabric Q1. Type 4 Carinated bowl. Burnished.
11. Site A, pit 1594 (fill 1637). Fabric F1. Shouldered bowl. Burnished.
12. Site A, pit 1594 (fill 1598). Fabric F1. Base with impressed flint grits.
13. Site A, pit 1471 (fill 1474). Fabric F3. Type 1 Shouldered jar. Overlapping fingertip decoration to rim upper.
14. Site A, pit 1471 (fill 1474). Fabric F1. Type 3 carinated jar/bowl. Fingertip decoration carination.
15. Site A, pit 1471 (fill 1474). Fabric Q1. Type 1 Ovoid/convex jar.
16. Site A, tree-throw pit 1162 (fill 1163). Fabric 2. Type J1 shouldered jar. Fingertip decoration to rim upper.
17. Site A, tree-throw pit 1162 (fill 1163). Fabric 2. Type J1 shouldered jar. Fingertip decoration to rim outer.
18. Site A, pit 1638 (fill 1639). Fabric Q2. Type 3 Carinated jar/bowl. Burnished.
19. Site A, pit 1638 (fill 1639). Fabric Q3. Type 2 Ovoid jar.
20. Site A, pit 1465 (fill 1466). Fabric F3. Type 1 Shouldered jar. Fingertip decoration to rim upper.
21. Site A, Ditch 4 (fill 1241). Fabric Q1. ?Bowl with externally expanded rim.
22. Site A, posthole/pit 1546 (fill 1547). Fabric F1. Type 1 shouldered jar. Fingertip decoration to rim upper.
23. Site A, pit 1167 (fill 1168). Fabric F1. ?Jar with loop handle.
24. Site A, pit 1291 (fill 1293). Fabric Q3. Type 4 Carinated bowl. Scored decoration. Burnished, dark grey.
25. Site A, pit 1479 (fill 1480). Fabric F1. Type 4 Carinated bowl. Scored, stabbed and fingertip decora-

tion. Red-firing slip.

26. Site A, Ditch 1 (fill 1137). Fabric Q2. ?Furrowed bowl sherd. Burnished, red-firing.
27. Site A, Ditch 1 (fill 1137). Fabric F1. Sherd with incised decoration.
28. Site A, pit 1372 (fill 1373). Fabric F1. Sherd with repeated fingertip 'rustication'.
29. Site A, pit 1594 (fill 1598). Fabric F1. Sherd with partial perforations.

Middle Iron Age

30. Site A, pit 1605 (fill 1606). Fabric Q6. Type 7 barrel-shaped jar.
31. Site A, pit 1605 (fill 1606). Fabric Fe1. Type 7 barrel-shaped jar.
32. Site A, pit 1605 (fill 1606). Fabric Fe1. Type 6 rounded/globular jar.
33. Site A, pit 1605 (fill 1606). Fabric Fe4. Type 6 rounded/globular jar.

The Roman pottery

Annette Hancocks

A total of 82 Roman sherds was recovered from the excavations. Most was only broadly dateable to the Roman period, although Late Iron Age/1st-century AD and 1st to 2nd-century AD pottery was recovered from Site A and Late Iron Age/1st-century AD and 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery from Site B. The Roman material derived mainly from Period 3 ditch fills within Site A and consisted typically of coarse sandy greywares of probable local origin and a small amount of Oxfordshire red-slipped ware.

The medieval pottery

E. R. McSloy

A small assemblage (17 sherds weighing 168 grams) of medieval pottery was recovered, mostly as intrusive material from Site A, Period 2 pits. The majority consists of body sherds in coarse quartz-tempered or quartz with flint-tempered cooking pot type fabrics. Two rim sherds identifiable as from jars with simple, everted rims, were recovered from Period 2 pit 1130 and Period 4 pit 1226. A single sherd in a glazed jug fabric was recovered from pit 1130. This sherd, in a white-firing fabric, possibly Kingston ware, features applied and brown-slipped pad decoration and probably dates to the later 13th or earlier 14th centuries. Broader, 12th to earlier 14th-century dating is suggested for the medieval coarsewares.

The radiocarbon dating

Dr Sylvia Warman

Four paired samples of charcoal were selected for dating by AMS (Gale and Branch 2005) to refine the chronology of Period 2, Site A.

Material

Fill 1293 (the middle fill of Area 3 pit 1291). Sample <20>. Maple (Wk-22465) and birch (Wk-22466)

Fill 1230 (Area 3 pit 1228). Sample <5> Two fragments of beech charcoal, (Wk-22467 and Wk-22468).

Fill 1252 (Area 3 pit 1122). Sample <9>. Blackthorn (Wk-22469) and hawthorn (Wk-2270).

Fill 1008 (Area 1 pit 1007). Sample <10>. Hawthorn and beech (Wk-22472).

Methodology

The samples were submitted in October 2007 for AMS dating to the University of Waikato Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Hamilton, New Zealand. Further details of the methods and equipment used can be found at (<http://www.radiocarbon dating.com>).

Results and Calibration

All eight samples were successfully dated. The results are conventional radiocarbon ages (Stuiver and Polach 1977) calculated using the calibration curve of Reimer *et al.* (2004) and the computer program OXCal 3.10, (Bronk Ramsey 2005) (Table 6). Date ranges cited in the text are those at 95% confidence level unless otherwise specified. Ranges are derived from the probability method

TABLE 6 Radiocarbon dating results

<i>Laboratory Number</i>	<i>Contxt</i>	<i>Pit</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>Charcoal</i>	<i>Radiocarbon Age (BP)</i>	<i>Calibrated date range (at 2σ 95.4% confidence)</i>
Wk-22465	1293	1291	20	<i>Acer</i> (Maple)	2474+/-35BP	770 – 480 cal BC (86.9% probability) 470 – 410 cal BC (8.5% probability)
Wk-22466	1293	1291	20	<i>Betula</i> (Birch)	2554+/-35BP	810 – 730 cal BC (47.2% probability) 690 – 660 cal BC (16.0% probability) 650 – 540 cal BC (32.2% probability)
Wk-22467	1230	1228	5	<i>Fagus</i> (Beech)	1020+/-35BP	890 – 920 cal AD (3.7% probability) 950 – 1050 AD (81.0% probability) 1080 – 1160 AD (10.7% probability)
Wk-22468	1230	1228	5	<i>Fagus</i> (Beech)	953+/-35BP	1010 – 1160 cal AD
Wk-22469	1252	1122	9	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> (Blackthorn)	2086+/-35BP	200 cal BC – 1 cal AD
Wk-22470	1252	1122	9	Pomoideae (Hawthorn / <i>Sorbus</i> group)	2093+/-35BP	210 – 20 cal BC (94.4% probability) 10 cal BC – 1 cal AD (1.0% probability)
Wk-22471	1008	1007	10	Pomoideae (Hawthorn/ <i>Sorbus</i> group)	696+/-35BP	1250 – 1320 cal AD (68.9% probability) 1350 – 1390 cal AD (26.5% probability)
Wk-22472	1008	1007	10	<i>Fagus</i> (Beech)	649+/-35BP	1270 – 1400 cal AD

(Stuiver and Reimer 1993). The date range occupying the largest probability fraction is cited in the text.

Discussion

The dates obtained for the samples from Period 2a pit 1291 (fill 1293) gave a calibrated date range between 810–410 cal BC, which is consistent with the ceramic date of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. That for the samples from the lower fill of Period 2 pit 1122 (fill 1252) gave a calibrated date range between 210 cal BC to 1 cal AD. This is consistent with the single Late Iron Age sherd recovered from this fill.

The remainder of the radiocarbon samples produced unexpected late dates, reflecting the high incidence of intrusive material within the Period 2 pits. The dates for the samples from pit 1228 range from 890–1160 cal AD. The presence of beech (*Fagus*) in a Period 2 context would be unusual (Gale and Branch 2005) and the radiocarbon date suggests this beech charcoal is Late Anglo-Saxon or early medieval in date. The dates for the samples from pit 1007 range from 1250 cal AD to 1400 cal AD.

The fired and burnt clay

E.R. McSloy

Clay weights

Fragments of fired clay from five contexts (Ditch 1; pit 1594, (fills 1599 and 1594), and pit 1662) are recognized as triangular form clay weights, usually interpreted as for use with upright, warp-weighted looms (Poole 1984, 406). Identifiable fragments are of the well-known Iron Age form (Type 1), perforated at each corner and comparable to multiple examples known from Danebury, Hampshire (Poole 1984, 404–5, Fig. 4.47–8). Three fabrics are distinguished, only one of which would seem to be ‘tempered’, through the probable addition of quartz sand.

Fabric Types

Fabric 1: Patchy orange/dark-grey-firing surfaces and dark grey core. Hard with sandy feel and regular fracture. Common sub-rounded quartz sand (0.2–0.3mm); rare poorly sorted angular flint 3–7mm.

Fabric 2: Buff-firing surfaces and dark grey core. Soft with slightly sandy feel and irregular fracture. Common

sub-rounded iron oxide (2–3mm); rare sub-rounded quartz sand (0.2–0.3mm).

Fabric 3: Buff-orange throughout or with grey core. Soft with slightly soapy feel and fine, regular fracture. No inclusions: banding within natural clay apparent.

Burnt daub and miscellaneous material

A total of 5.1kg of fragmentary fired clay was recovered, mostly (5kg) from Period 2 features. The fragments are largely without specific features, or exhibit a single smoothed face and probably represent burnt daub, oven furniture or linings, as well as fragmented objects. Large groups of material from Period 2 pits 1594 and 1662 (1480g and 1986g respectively), were identifiable as burnt structural daub, with surviving wattle impressions.

The worked stone

E.R. McSloy (identification of stone by Fiona Roe)

- 1 Natural quartzite pebble with adaptation in the form of (seven) concentric grooves to one end. Length 46mm; width 19mm. Period 2 pit 1299 (fill 1302).

The clearly phallic character of the object (Fig. 19, no. 1) is the result of natural weathering. However, its subsequent adaptation is seen as an attempt to draw attention to its natural characteristics. The small quantities of pottery found in association with the object date to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, although an earlier date for this item is possible. Close parallels for this object or indeed for any carved representations of human form from the late prehistoric are difficult to find, although it is easy to see how items similar to this might have been overlooked in the past. The phallic form of Iron Age chalk figurines from East Yorkshire (Stead 1988, 9–29) has been noted, and these are a possible parallel. Given its subject, a totemic ‘function’ for this object would seem highly likely. Pit 1299 contained nothing else which would otherwise mark it as special and the site produced no evidence for the structured deposition that can characterise some Iron Age pit groups (Hill 1995). Possible use as a medical ‘*ex-voto*’ might also be considered: there is some evidence for this from the continental Iron Age as well as in the Classical world.

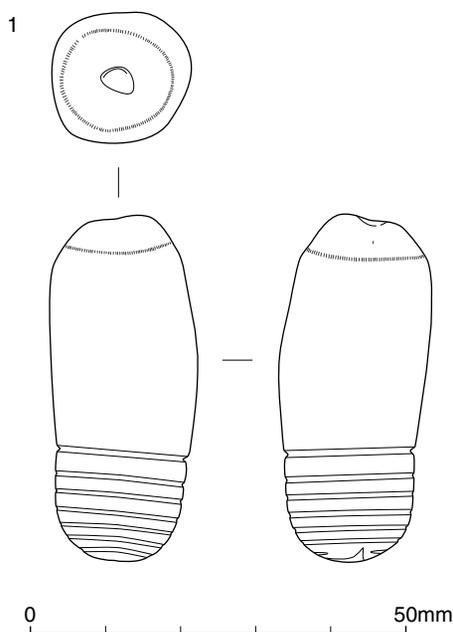


FIGURE 19 Object of fired clay (1:1)

The animal bone

Dr Sylvia Warman

Animal bone was recovered by hand with additional small fragments from environmental samples. In total 949 animal bones (1434 fragments, weighing 2.8kg) were present (Table 7). Of these, 240 bones were identifiable to species. The condition of the bone was generally poor.

Site A

Animal bone was recovered from Period 2 pits, ditches and pits/postholes. Almost all fragments were weathered, and many were burnt to a whitish colour. The species identified were entirely domestic (cattle, sheep/goat and horse). Most fragments could not be identified to either element or species. Six Period 3 deposits contained animal bone. In only one instance could species be identified: cattle teeth deposited in Ditch 4.

Site B

Period 1 pit 2062 contained unidentifiable animal bone whilst Period 2 ditch 2058 (fill 2059)

contained some cattle teeth. Undated ditch 2093 (fill 2094) contained cattle teeth.

The metallurgical residues

T.P. Young

Summary

The archaeometallurgical residues comprise a small quantity of both macroscopic and microscopic residues from iron-working (Young 2005). The macroscopic slags include four small pieces of smithing slag, at least three of which are pieces of small- to medium-sized smithing hearth cakes (SHCs). The micro-residues include fragments of similar slags, slag droplets, flake hammerscale and spheroidal hammerscale. Although the restricted distribution of contexts yielding these residues suggests their proximity to ironworking (Fig. 5), the very small quantity of residues recovered suggests that the actual focus of ironworking lay outside the excavated area.

Material

The macroscopic slags include four pieces of dense

TABLE 7 Animal Bone, Site and Period

Site	Period	no of fragments	no of bones	weight (g)	No of bones identified to species	species/part
A	0	295	295	71	2	Cattle, Cow-sized, sheep-sized
A	2a	390	258	966.75	17	Horse, cattle, sheep/goat, cow-sized, sheep-sized
A	3	7	2	8	1	Cattle. Cow-sized
A	5	560	217	1592	217	Cattle. Cow-sized
B	1	150	145	53	3	Cattle, cow-sized, sheep-sized
B	3	32	32	108	1	Cattle, cow-sized, sheep-sized
		1434	949	2798.75	241	

iron slag, each a fragment of a smithing hearth cake (SHC). They show dimpled lower surfaces, indicative of contact with the charcoal fuel. The sample from Period 2 pit 1570 is part of a moderately sized plano-convex cake; the fragment weighs 132g and probably indicates an original SHC of approximately 500g. The other three pieces are suggestive of rather smaller cakes. The piece from Period 2 pit 1167 (142g) is either a complete, but irregular, hearth slag lump or a fragment of a poorly-developed SHC. The pieces from Period 2 pits 1662 and 1724 (56g and 124g respectively) form substantial parts of small plano-convex cakes. The piece from pit 1570 may be slightly worn, but the other three appear reasonably fresh, and may not have moved far from their original source.

The microscopic residues were present in very small quantities within soil samples taken from Period 2 features. Some of the micro-residues, such as flake hammerscale, and spheroidal hammerscale can be related directly to ironworking. Small, mainly angular, fragments of a dense vesicular grey slag, also recovered from soil samples, are probably metallurgical (present in pits 1007 (fill 1008), 1011 (fill 1012), 1039 (fill 1041), 1122 (fill 1252) and 1167 (fill 1168) and in postholes/pits 1151 (fill 1152), 1155 (fill 1156) and 1248 (fill 1249)). These resemble the macroscopic smithing slags described above, although some fragments may be discrete slag droplets. The soil samples also contained small fragments and blebs of low-density clinker. The blebs are up to 3mm in diameter and are mid-grey in colour, in some cases with a maroon surface tint, and show signs of partial flowage at high viscosity. They probably represent the partial melting of small particles of rock or soil

within a hearth and this could be achieved in non-metallurgical hearths.

Distribution

The small-scale of the recovered assemblages suggests that the focus of the ironworking activity has not been located. The distribution of the material recovered from the site is not, however, random. There is a strong geographic structure to the location of the smithing residues. Macroscopic slags and micro-residues from smithing occur in a linear array of features trending SSE-NNW in Site A, Area 3 (pits 1662, 1724, 1203, 1167, 1291 and 1228 and pit/posthole 1155). In addition to these features, Period 2b pit 1122 contained similar residues.

The Group A pits/postholes in Site A, Area 2 all yielded a sparse hammerscale assemblage, and might therefore suggest an activity or structure contemporary with ironworking (pits/postholes 1242, 1244, 1246, 1248, 1250). Several pits to the south and east of this array also yielded micro-residues (pits 1130, 1295, 1046 and 1255 and post-hole/pit 1151). Three pits in Site A, Area 1 yielded micro-residues (pits 1007, 1011 and 1039).

The charcoal

Rowena Gale

Charcoal was recovered from several features in Site A and from a single context in Site B. Most of the charcoal came from Period 2 deposits. Most samples consisted of very small fragments and the origin of the charcoal is unknown. Four paired samples from Period 2 pits 1228 (fill 1230), 1122 (fill 1252) and 1291 (fill 1293) in Area 3 and from pit 1007 (fill 1008) in Area 1 were selected for C14

dating (Table 6). Although limited by the paucity of material available, the samples demonstrate a range of wood species reflecting the character of woodland in the locality.

Methods

Bulk soil samples were processed by flotation and sieving. Thirteen of the 18 samples produced fragments large enough for identification, although eight of these contained less than 10 fragments. Five hand-collected samples included slightly larger pieces. The condition of the charcoal was poor and friable and none of the samples included intact segments of round-wood. The charcoal was prepared for examination using standard methods (Gale and Cutler 2000). Anatomical structures were examined using incident light on a Nikon Labophot-2 compound microscope at magnifications up to x400 and matched to prepared reference slides of modern wood. When possible, the maturity of the wood was identified (*i.e.* heartwood/sapwood).

Classification follows that of *Flora Europaea* (Tutin, *et al.* 1964–80). Group names are given when anatomical differences between related genera are too slight to allow secure identification to genus level, for example members of the Pomoideae (*Crataegus*, *Malus*, *Pyrus* and *Sorbus*). When a genus is represented by a single species in the British flora, it is named as the most likely origin of the wood, given the provenance and period, (Godwin 1956), but it should be noted that it is rarely possible to name individual species from charcoal samples.

Results (Table 8)

The anatomical structure of the charcoal was consistent with the following taxa or groups of taxa:

- Aceraceae. *Acer campestre* L., field maple
- Betulaceae. *Betula* sp., birch
- Fagaceae. *Fagus sylvatica*, beech; *Quercus* sp., oak
- Rosaceae. Subfamilies:
 Pomoideae, which includes *Crataegus* sp., hawthorn; *Malus* sp., apple; *Pyrus* sp., pear; *Sorbus* spp., rowan, service tree and whitebeam. These taxa are anatomically similar; one or more taxa may be represented in the charcoal.
 Prunoideae: *Prunus spinosa* L. blackthorn

Site A

Bulk samples were collected from several Period 2 pits at the northern end of Area 3. Charcoal from these features was mostly very sparse and consisted of tiny fragments. Taxa identified included beech (*Fagus*), the hawthorn/*Sorbus* group (Pomoideae), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), birch (*Betula*.) and oak (*Quercus*.). Hand collected charcoal recovered from Period 2 pit 1029 within Area 1 was identified as oak (*Quercus*) heartwood.

Site B

Period 1 pit 2062, from which Neolithic pottery was recovered, contained oak (*Quercus*) sapwood and the hawthorn/*Sorbus* group (Pomoideae).

Discussion

The origin of the charcoal within the archaeological deposits is unknown, but is likely to derive from fuelwood. Despite the small size of the assemblage, the evidence suggests that throughout Period 2 a range of wood species, particularly oak, may have been utilised. Although based on rather limited data, it is suggested that oak (*Quercus*) formed the dominant component of local woodland throughout the phases of occupation. Other woodland species included beech (*Fagus*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and birch (*Betula*). The scarp of the plateau and the base of the valley probably supported the densest woodland, with scrubby species such as blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), the hawthorn/*Sorbus* group (Pomoideae) and possibly hazel (*Corylus avellana*) colonising marginal woodland and more exposed aspects. In the absence of intact pieces of roundwood in the samples it was not possible to assess the use of coppiced wood or woodland management.

The charred plant remains

Alys Vaughan-Williams

Bulk samples were processed by flotation using 300 micron and 1mm mesh sieves. The flots were scanned and identifications made using a low power zoom-stereo microscope. Identifications were assisted with reference to the modern seed collection at Royal Holloway University London. The results are summarised in Table 8.

TABLE 8 Summary of Charred Plant Remains and Wood Charcoal

<i>Context/ sample</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Sample Vol. (l)</i>	<i>Plant Preserv</i>	<i>Charred Plant</i>	<i>Wood Charcoal</i>
Site A					
1008 <10>	Pit 1007	10	+	<i>Triticum / Hordeum</i> sp. grain	1 <i>Fagus</i> , 2 <i>Pomoideae</i>
1012 <11>	Pit 1011	10	+		–
1041 <12>	Pit 1039	10	+		1 <i>Fagus</i>
1048 <7>	Pit 1046	10	+		3 <i>Fagus</i>
1163 <18>	Pit 1162	9	+	<i>Triticum</i> sp. grain	3 <i>Prunus</i>
1168 <3>	Pit 1167	10	+	<i>Triticum / Hordeum</i> sp. grain	–
1205 <4>	Pit 1203	10	+	<i>Triticum / Hordeum</i> sp. grain	–
1230 <5>	Pit 1228	10	+	<i>Triticum / Hordeum</i> sp. grain	1 <i>Fagus</i>
1234 <6>	Pit 1233	10			1h <i>Quercus</i>
1252 <9>	Pit 1122	10	+		2 <i>Pomoidae</i> , 1 <i>Prunus</i>
1293 <20>	Pit 1291	9	++	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. grain	1 <i>Acer</i> , 1 <i>Betula</i> , 1s <i>Quercus</i>
1297 <19>	Pit 1295	8.5	++	<i>Galium</i> sp.; <i>Hordeum</i> sp. grain; <i>Rumex</i> sp.; cf. <i>Papaver</i> sp.	1h <i>Quercus</i>
1472 <23>	Pit 1453		++		1 <i>Acer</i> , 1 <i>Pomoideae</i> , 1h <i>Quercus</i>
1474 <21>	Pit 1471		+++	<i>Triticum / Hordeum</i> sp. grain	1h, 2s <i>Quercus</i> ,
1595 <24>	Pit 1594		++	<i>Triticum / Hordeum</i> sp. grain	2h, 1s <i>Quercus</i>
1637 <25>	Pit 1594		++	<i>Triticum / Hordeum</i> sp. grain; <i>Galium</i> sp.	3h <i>Quercus</i>
1030 HC	Pit 1029				3h <i>Quercus</i>
1165 HC	Pit 1164				3 <i>Fagus</i>
1309 HC	Pit 1305				1h <i>Quercus</i>
1595 HC	Pit 1594				3s <i>Quercus</i>
1725 HC	Pit 1724				1 <i>Prunus</i>
Site B					
2064 <204>	Pit 2062		+		1 <i>Pomoidae</i> , 2s <i>Quercus</i>

Key: h = heartwood; r = roundwood (diameter <20mm); s = sapwood (diameter unknown). HC = hand collected

The number of charcoal fragments identified is indicated

–	absent	+	poor
*	<10 items	++	moderate
**	11-30	+++	good
***	31-50	****	>5

Site A: Period 2

Seventeen samples were processed from Period 2 pit fills. Preservation was poor. Area 3 pits 1167 (fill 1168), 1203 (fill 1205), 1291 (fill 1293), 1471 (fill 1474) and 1594 (fill 1595) and Area 2 pit 1295 (fill 1297) produced small assemblages containing occasional charred grains of wheat/barley (*Triticum/Hordeum* sp.). Grains from pit 1291 were more closely identified as barley. Pit 1295 also contained charred seeds of bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and a possible poppy seed (*Papaver* sp.). These colonise broad ranging habitats, especially waste ground and arable land, with bedstraw a common arable weed. Bedstraw was also recovered from pit 1594 (fill 1637). Modern seed capsules recovered from Area 3 pit 1471 (fill 1474) and modern waterlogged grass caryopses recovered from Area 1 pit 1007 (fill 1008) are likely to be intrusive. This is also likely to be the case for modern weed seeds such as goosefoot (*Chenopodiaceae* sp.), grass and grass caryopses which were also present in most of the assemblages.

The low concentration and poor preservation of charred material is common on Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age sites. The barley and/or wheat grains indicate these cereals were cultivated and consumed and the presence of occasional bedstraw seeds is evidence for local cultivation. Poppy is a typical weed seed of this period, and is commonly found bordering fields. Dock is generally found in damp habitats, possibly near to a stream or ditches.

DISCUSSION

Andrew Mudd

Earlier prehistoric occupation

The early prehistoric evidence is limited to a few worked flints from features at Site A. Only a blade core and a possible axe-thinning flake appear to be diagnostically of Mesolithic date, with the other 50 or so pieces perhaps of a wider date range. Most (from Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age features) are probably residual, although a small amount of material from tree-throw pits may derive specifically from activities relating to earlier tree clearance. The pattern may mirror that from Taplow Court (c.800m to the west) where a larger assemblage of flint, including Mesolithic and Early Neolithic material, has been linked to tree clearance on the hilltop at this time (Allen *et al.* forth-

coming). It is possible that the elevated position was a determinant in the siting of these activities, but it is not generally known whether these uplands, sited on glacial sands and gravels were favoured or 'persistent' places of occupation, or how this related to the occupation in the valley. Work on the Eton Rowing Course and Maidenhead-Windsor Flood Alleviation Scheme has shown the floodplain terrace of the Middle Thames Valley to have been densely settled in the early Neolithic with occupation in the middle Neolithic also common, but with a marked lack of late Neolithic evidence (Allen *et al.* 2004).

The earliest recognisably man-made features on the present project are the scatter of three pits at Site B containing a few sherds of Peterborough Ware, probably of the Mortlake sub-style, dating them to the Middle Neolithic (c. 3500–2500 BC). Another pit on this site is also likely to be of a similar date. Other associated material comprised just three worked flints, some burnt flint, and a small amount of wood charcoal. The implications of these discoveries are not clear, but in view of the narrowness of the trench, activity here on the Taplow Terrace may have been quite dense. Neolithic features and finds have been reported from Taplow Quarry, although details have not been published (WA 2008). Four pits containing Peterborough Ware were found at Taplow Mill 1 not far to the west, and ten pits, including one with a complete (though broken) Mortlake bowl, were found at Lake End Road West, 3km to the south-east, (Allen *et al.* 2004, 92). A largely complete Mortlake bowl also came from the Wood Lane site, Cippenham, Slough (Ford *et al.* 2003). The Lake End Road West and Cippenham vessels clearly indicate a deliberate deposition, although the circumstances by which the fragmentary material from Site B was deposited are not clear.

Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age occupation at Site A

There are sherds of probable Middle Bronze Age pottery from Site A but no features can be ascribed to this date and their context is not known. The main interest on this site is the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement, although a number of difficulties of chronology and interpretation need emphasizing. The settlement was represented by a large number of pits and postholes (over 160 features covering a range of these types) and

perhaps just one ditch. A proportion of these features contained pottery dating from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods, as well as other artefacts such as loomweights, fired clay and iron-smithing residues. A considerable effort has been directed toward assessing the degree of mixing and redeposition on this site. It can be noted, for instance, that most of the 17 palaeo-environmental samples contained modern intrusions of grass seeds, and for this reason small materials may well be contextually unreliable. It is probable that the unconsolidated and highly permeable nature of the flint gravels and sands have resulted in some intrusion of small material by percolation, while animal burrowing has been noted as resulting in mixing to an unquantifiable degree. There is therefore still some uncertainty with regard to the dating of some features, although the broad pattern of activity is not in doubt.

There were a few relatively shallow and irregular features interpreted as quarry pits, which in some cases may have been stratigraphically earlier than the features containing finds, although none were closely dated. It is not clear whether there may have been a distinct episode of quarrying before the main occupation, but it can be noted that the earliest features at Taplow Court, pre-dating the late Bronze Age hillfort, were 'hollows' containing fragments of early Bronze Age pottery (Allen *et al.* forthcoming). The features on Site A may be a similar phenomenon, although in both cases the purpose of these features remains unclear. Quarrying is not an altogether convincing explanation, although both sand and flint were used to temper pottery of the Bronze Age/Early Iron Age tradition on Site A, so there is at least some evidence that the materials were in demand. It is possible that there was a zone of quarrying in this part of the site in the earliest phases when occupation was largely focused elsewhere.

The bulk of the pottery assemblage appears to be slightly later in date to those from the large late Bronze Age sites in the region, such as Reading Business Park, Dunstan's Park Thatcham, and Petter's Sports Field Egham. It includes some characteristically early Iron Age wares, and overall a date in the range 800–500 BC for the main period of occupation is likely. The triangular form of the loomweights is also characteristic of the early Iron Age, as they seem to replace the cylindrical late

Bronze Age type. This dating is supported by the paired radiocarbon dates from pit 1291. There is more limited evidence for material dating to after 400 BC, although this includes paired radiocarbon dates from pit 1122 which were late Iron Age. The chronology therefore seems to be a long one overall, with no discernable difference in the nature of the occupation over time, but with a marked fall off in activity after *c.*500 BC.

The size and nature of the settlement is not easily definable, although it would appear to have been extensive – *c.*160m north/south. An equivalent east/west dimension would make the overall area about 2.5ha. It seems to have had a southern boundary in the form of Ditch 1, although this may have been added later. There is no clear evidence for a northern boundary, the segmented ditch (Ditch 2) close to Hitcham Lane being considered more likely to be Roman because of its alignment. While the site may have been enclosed, Ditch 1 was 1.4m deep and cannot be construed as defensive. The long chronology together with the general lack of intercutting of the pits, gives the impression of a prolonged, non-intensive occupation. It may have been peripheral to more intensive occupation further west, although the geophysical survey does not depict indisputably archaeological features with any clarity (Fig. 3). There is no discernable pattern to the features within the excavated area. The abundance of postholes indicates the presence of structures, and houses, which would have been typically post-ring constructions at this time, seem likely to have been among them. Most of the pits are of the grain storage type, and, while the palaeobotanical remains were poorly preserved, it is likely that arable farming was a significant part of the economy. This combination of characteristics may put the site into the category defined by Cunliffe (2004) as an early Iron Age 'enclosed settlement'. In the Wessex region these appear distinct from the (slightly earlier) late Bronze Age 'hilltop enclosure' (which include sites such as Rams Hill in Berkshire and Balksbury in Hampshire) which Cunliffe argues are more directed towards stock management. The late Bronze Age 'hilltop enclosures' would appear to equate to the 'early hillforts' in Buckinghamshire of which Ivinghoe Beacon and Taplow Court are the best-known (Kidd no date).

Excavated examples of early Iron Age 'enclosed settlements' cited by Cunliffe include Houghton Down (Hampshire) and Cow Down Longbridge

Deverill (Wiltshire), the early phases of which are dated to *c.*750–600 BC (Cunliffe 2004, fig. 5, 70). The dating of the Site A settlement appears to be similar, or with a slightly earlier start, but it is not at all clear how far the comparison can be taken, as it is by no means certain that Site A was ever a fully enclosed settlement. A possibly closer comparison is the early Iron Age occupation site at Coldharbour Farm, Aylesbury. Here hundreds of intercutting pits, as well as several enclosures, appear to have been focused on an extensive boundary ditch, which was later replaced by a trackway (Parkhouse and Bonner 1997). The date of the Coldharbour Farm site, imprecisely dated to *c.*800–500 BC, makes it similar to Site A in that respect, and the very limited evidence for a late Iron Age and Roman presence makes the comparison closer still, despite its radically different topographic location. It is not known whether this is typical of developments in the Middle Thames region. Sites of this date are still rare in the county, and while both these examples have been shown to be extensive, their form and nature are not readily apparent.

The settlement at Site A lies within 800m of the hillfort at Taplow Court, which had its origins around 1100 BC as a palisade enclosure, was further defined by a V-profiled ditch a little later, and was enlarged or redefined around 500–400 BC (Allen *et al.* forthcoming). While the sites are broadly contemporary with each other, the construction sequence for Taplow Court suggests that the occupation was at its most intense in the late Bronze Age (*ibid*). Following the construction of the V-profiled ditch (possibly 900–800 BC), there may have been a hiatus when the ditch had lost its defensive function and, during the early Iron Age, became infilled. There was, furthermore, no clear indication of significant early Iron Age activity in the immediate vicinity. This ‘hiatus’ would appear to coincide with the main occupation at Site A, and at face value suggests a period when settlement did not need to be defined by defensive works to the extent that it had been, or was later to be. Further interpretation is constrained because at neither site did excavation uncover more than a fraction of the occupied area. The role and status of Taplow Court as a ‘settlement’ in the late Bronze Age is not yet clear and whether both sites played the same role at different times, or whether they had distinctive, perhaps complementary functions are topics awaiting further research. The role of the

Coldharbour Farm settlement in relation to the hillfort 1km to the east at Aylesbury is similarly intriguing.

The material from Site A includes some iron-working residue consisting of slag fragments, hammerscale and smithing hearth cake (Fig. 5). The micro-residues from the soil samples present problems of contamination (some came from features returning medieval radiocarbon dates) but the fact that this material came from a number of features containing exclusively Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, and was not ubiquitous in the samples (as might have been the case with blanket contamination), suggests that iron-working was associated with the main occupation on the site. Furthermore, macroscopic smithing hearth cake from pits with early Iron Age and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (pits 1167, 1724 and 1570) suggest that this was a genuinely early Iron Age practice, which appears to have continued into the mid-late Iron Age (pit 1662). There is no indication of the location of the ironworking, although posthole Group A comprises a double arc which may mark the location of a screen for this activity (Fig. 9), and there appears to be some clustering in the location of residues over this site. The evidence therefore supports the presence of iron smithing in certain parts of the site, but it is not known how early this might have begun and its significance in terms of the status and role of the settlement must remain an unanswered question for now. There appears to be little evidence for ironworking in the region until a much later date. Iron smelting was undertaken in the Chiltern woodlands to the north in the Roman period, presumably using local ores, but whether this had much earlier origins is at present unknown (Kidd no date).

There is extensive evidence for late Bronze Age activity in the Middle Thames Valley, where field systems of this date are characteristic (Yates 1999), but it is possible that this largely predated the settlement at Site A. In general, it is suggested that there was a dislocation of settlement at the end of the Bronze Age linked to the collapse of the ‘prestige goods economy’ based on the control of bronze (Yates 1999, 167), but it is not certain that this led to a complete abandonment of fields. Whether some of the fields in the immediate area were contemporary with the Site A settlement is not possible to determine in the present state of knowledge. The field boundaries in Taplow Quarry

include some late Bronze Age to Iron Age elements (WA 2008), but the picture is confused with a late Iron Age/Roman system on a similar alignment, which, at face value, might suggest a continuity of the system. For the most part, the cropmarks between Taplow Quarry and the pipeline (Fig. 2, SMR 4551) are likely to be late Iron Age/Roman. Site B intercepted at least two late Bronze Age ditches (2058 and 2031) and there may have been others without dating evidence from the excavated sections (Figs 12-14). The evidence cannot confirm whether they were out of use by the time Site A was occupied, although it would be reasonable to expect some fields in the area to relate to the agricultural regime of the settlement.

Roman and later activity

Early in the Roman period, ditches were set out that probably represent the boundaries to fields. On Site A these ditches disregard the layout of earlier features and suggest that the landscape was being reorganised in a totally different way. The pottery dated from the first to the fourth centuries AD and probably represents the casual dispersal of refuse by manuring rather than indicating settlement within the immediate area. The cropmark settlement 4551 (Fig. 2) on the Taplow terrace is likely to be largely Roman in date, but how this related to earlier occupation here is not known.

There is evidence of medieval activity on Site A in the form of occasional pits containing pottery. Two radiocarbon dates on charcoal also pertain to this period suggesting that burning wood was also undertaken. This presumably relates to 'backyard' activities associated with occupation along Hitcham Lane to the north.

Conclusion

The opportunity to undertake archaeological investigations along this 2.9km stretch of landscape has resulted in discoveries that can be put into the context of the emerging picture of prehistoric and Roman settlement and land use in the Middle Thames Valley. Material dating to the middle Neolithic, terminal Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods was recovered, but without doubt the most significant discovery relates to the late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement on Site A, which represents a type that is rare in the region. The information is partial as a consequence of the narrow corridor of land available for excavation,

for the most part in a trench 2.5m wide although locally up to 18m where denser and more vulnerable remains were present at Site A, and neither the geophysical survey nor the cropmarks provide clear or unambiguous evidence of the wider picture.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation and excavation were undertaken under the supervision of Kevin Colls and latterly Laurent Coleman. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Mark Collard. Post-excavation was managed by Annette Hancocks and Mary Alexander. The figures were drawn by Rachael Kershaw, and the small finds illustrations by Peter Moore. CA are grateful to all the site staff who assisted during the course of this project. CA would also like to thank Claire Cable, Clare Hallybone (Thames Water Utilities Ltd), Mike Lang Hall (Lang Hall Archaeology) and David Radford (Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service) for their assistance during the course of this project.

REFERENCES

- Allen, T.G., Barclay A. and Lamdin-Whymark H. 2004 'Opening the wood, making the land: the study of a Neolithic landscape in the Dorney area of the Middle Thames Valley', in Cotton J. and Field D. (eds), *Towards a New Stone Age: aspects of the Neolithic in South-East England*, CBA Research Report 137, York, 82–98
- Allen, T., Hayden, C. and Lamdin-Whymark, H. forthcoming *From Bronze Age enclosure to Saxon settlement: new light on Taplow hillfort, Buckinghamshire. Archaeological excavations from 1999–2005*. Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph
- Barrett, J. 1980 'The Pottery of the Later Bronze Age in Lowland England', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 46, 297–319
- Bartlett-Clark Consultancy 2003 *Taplow to Dorney Pipeline: Report on the Geophysical Survey*. Typescript report
- BCCAS (Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service) 2003 *Taplow to Dorney Pipeline, Thames Water: Brief for Archaeological Trenching*.
- BCCAS (Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service) 2004 *Taplow to Dorney*

- Pipeline, Thames Water: Brief for an Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief.*
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1990 *Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 255: Beaconsfield Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50,000 series.*
- Bradley, R., Lobb, S., Richards, J. and Robinson, M. 1980 'Two Late Bronze Age Settlements on the Kennet Gravels: Excavations at Aldermaston Wharf and Knight's Far, Burghfield, Berkshire', *Proc. Prehis. Soc.* 46, 217–95
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2004 *Taplow to Dorney Pipeline, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation.* Typescript report no. 04013
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2005 *Taplow to Dorney Pipeline, Taplow, Buckinghamshire: Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design.* Typescript report no. 05078
- Collins, A. E. P. 1947 'Excavations on Blewburton Hill, 1947', *Berkshire Arch. J.* 50, 4–29
- Cunliffe, B. 1984 *Danebury: An Iron Age Hillfort in Hampshire, The Excavations 1969–78, Vol. 2: The finds.* Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 52. Council for British Archaeology, London
- Cunliffe, B.W. 1991 *Iron Age Communities in Britain* (3rd edition). Routledge, London
- Cunliffe, B. W 2004 'Wessex Cowboys?', *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 23 (1), 61–81
- Dickson, J. A. D. 1965 'A modified staining technique for carbonates in thin section', *Nature*, 205, 587
- Edwards, E. forthcoming, 'Prehistoric Pottery', in Allen *et al.* forthcoming
- FA (Foundations Archaeology) 2003 *Taplow Source to Hitchen Lane Pipeline Route: Archaeological Assessment.* Typescript report no. 310
- Fitzpatrick, A.P., Barnes, I. and Cleal, R.M.J. 1995 'An Early Iron Age settlement at Dunston Park, Thatcham', in I. Barnes, W.I. Boismier, R.M.J. Cleal, A.P. Fitzpatrick, and M.R. Roberts, *Early Settlement in Berkshire: Mesolithic–Roman Occupation in the Thames and Kennet Valleys.* Wessex Archaeology Report no. 6. Trust for Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, 65–92
- Ford, S. with Entwistle, R. and Taylor, K. 2003 *Excavations at Cippenham, Slough, Berkshire, 1995–7.* Thames Valley Archaeological Services Monograph 3. Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, Reading
- Gale, R. and Branch, N. 2005 'The Charcoal', in CA 2005, 39–41
- Gale, R. and Cutler, D. 2000 *Plants in Archaeology.* Westbury Publishing and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Otley London
- Gingell, C.J. and Morris, E.L. 2000 'Form Series', in A.L. Lawson, *Potterne 1982–5: Animal Husbandry in Later Prehistoric Wiltshire.* Trust for Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, 149–57
- Godwin, H. 1956 *The History of the British Flora,* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge
- Hall, M. 1992 'The prehistoric pottery', in J. Moore and D. Jennings *Reading Business Park: A Bronze Age landscape.* Oxford Archaeological Unit/Oxford University Committee for Archaeology, Oxford, 63–71
- Hill, J.D. 1995 *Ritual and Rubbish in the Iron Age of Wessex.* Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Ser. 242. British Archaeological Reports, Oxford
- Kidd, Sandy (no date). *Buckinghamshire later Bronze Age and Iron Age Historic Environment Record Assessment,* http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/assets/content/bcc/docs/archaeology/A_ST_Bucks_3_Bucks_Iron_Age_FINAL.pdf
- Lyne, M. 2003 'The Later Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval Pottery', in Ford *et al.* 2003, 135–8
- Moore, T. 2007 'Life on the edge? Exchange, community, and identity in the Later Iron Age of the Severn-Cotswolds', in C. Haselgrove and T. Moore, *The Later Iron Age in Britain and Beyond.* Oxbow Books, Oxford, 41–61
- Morris, E.L. 2006 'The Prehistoric Pottery', in Collard, M., Darvill, T. and Watts, M. 'Ironworking in the Bronze Age? Evidence from a 10th-century settlement at Hartshill Copse, Upper Bucklebury, West Berkshire', *Proc Prehist Soc* 72, 384–8
- Morris, E.L. 1992 'The pottery', in D. Coe and R. Newman 'Excavations of an Early Iron Age building and Romano-British enclosure at Brighton Hill South, Hampshire', *Proc. Hampshire Fld Archaeol.Soc.* 48, 5–26
- Morris, E. L. and Mephram, L. N. 1995 'Pottery', in Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1995, 77–84
- Needham, S. and Longley, D. 1980 'Runnymede Bridge, Egham, a late Bronze Age Riverside Settlement in J. Barrett and R. Bradley (eds) *Settlement and Society in the British Late Bronze Age* Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser. 83(1) British Archaeological Reports, Oxford
- O'Connell, M. 1986 *Petters Sports Field, Egham: Excavation of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age*

- Site. Surrey Archaeol. Soc. Res. Vol. 10, Guildford
- Parkhouse, J. and Bonner, D. 1997 'Investigations at the prehistoric site at Coldharbour Farm, Aylesbury in 1996', *Records of Buckinghamshire*, 39, 73–139
- PCRG (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group) 1997 *The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication*. Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occasional Papers 1 and 2, Oxford
- Poole, C. 1984 'Objects of Baked Clay', in Cunliffe 1984, 398–407
- Raymond, F. 2003 'The Earlier Prehistoric Pottery', in Ford *et al.* 2003, 120–35
- Reimer, P.J., Baillie, M.G.L., Bard, E., Bayliss, A., Beck, J.W., Bertrand, C., Blackwell, P.G., Buck, C.E., Burr, G., Cutler, K.B., Damon, P.E., Edwards, R.L., Fairbanks, R.G., Friedrich, M., Guilderson, T.P., Hughen, K.A., Kromer, B., McCormac, F.G., Manning, S., Bronk Ramsey, C., Reimer, R.W., Remmele, S., Southon, J.R., Stuiver, M., Talamo, S., Taylor, F.W., van der Plicht, J. and Weyhenmeyer, C.E. 2004 'IntCal04 Terrestrial Radiocarbon Age Calibration, 0–26 cal kyr BP', *Radiocarbon* 46 (3), 1029–1058
- Stead, I. 1988 'Chalk Figurines of the Parisi', *Antiq J* 68, 9–29
- Stratascan 2003 *A Report for Thames Water Utilities Ltd on a Geophysical Survey carried out at Taplow, Buckinghamshire*. Typescript report no. 1777
- Stuiver, M. and Polach, H.A. 1977 'Discussion: Reporting of 14C data', *Radiocarbon* 19, 355–63
- Stuiver, M. and Reimer, P.J. 1993 'Extended 14C database and revised CALIB 3.0 14C Age calibration program', *Radiocarbon* 35(1) 215–30.
- Tutin, T.G. and Heywood, V.H. *et al.* 1964–80 *Flora Europea*, vols 1–5. Cambridge University of Waikato Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory 2006 'Operating Procedures' <http://www.radiocarbon dating.com/operatingprocedures> (viewed on 17.01.08)
- WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2008 *Taplow Quarry, Taplow, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*. Typescript report no. 61054.03
- Yates D.T. 1999 'Bronze Age Field Systems in the Thames Valley', *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 18 (2), 157–170
- Young, T. 2005 'Metallurgical Residues', in CA 2005, 31–33