Excavations at Wessex Court Charles Street, Dorchester, Dorset, 1989

August 1992
(edited July 2019)

wessexarchaeology

Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

EXCAVATIONS AT WESSEX COURT, CHARLES STREET, DORCHESTER, DORSET 1989

N. J. Adam, C. A. Butterworth, S. M. Davies and D. E. Farwell†

with contributions by

M.J. Allen, M. Brooks, H. E. M Cool, J. A. Davies, J. Draper, J. Ede,
F. Healy, A. V. C. Jenkins, J. M. Maltby, L. Mepham,
R. H. Seager Smith, S. Staines, S. Wyles

illustrations by

L. Coleman, J. Cross, K. Nichols

FOR

West Dorset District Council
Council Offices
High West Street
Dorchester
Dorset

MEPC Developments Ltd
12 St James Square
London
SW1Y 4LB

August 1992
(edited July 2019)

CONTENTS

LIST OF PLATES

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

1. INTRODUCTION

Background to the Excavation

Outline planning permission for the Wessex Court retail development was granted in July 1988. The joint developers, West Dorset District Council and MEPC Developments Ltd commissioned and funded an initial period of excavations which was carried out between 22nd May–3rd July and 25th July–12th September 1989. Further excavations were carried out in 1990 and will be described in a separate report. Five trenches were opened and investigated in the 1989 season.

The development area lies within the southern part of the Roman town, *Durnovaria,* extending northwards from the late 2nd century defences for 200 m and encompassing 6% of the area of the town. It covers approximately 1.7 ha (centred on SY 69359045) and is bounded by South Walks Road, Acland Road and Charles Street, but with extensions north and west across the latter (Fig. 3). The area is important archaeologically because it lies in a coombe filled with deep soil deposits which have been little disturbed by medieval or post-medieval building; the only area of significant disturbance is along the Charles Street frontage, where most of the houses had cellars.

Three of the trenches were located in the north-eastern part of the development area, near previously excavated sites at Greyhound Yard (Waitrose: Woodward *et al.* 1993) and Wollaston House (Batchelor forthcoming a). Excavation in this area was intended to clarify the sequence of development of the Roman town suggested by the earlier excavations and to investigate further the nature and alignment of the large Neolithic monument which crossed the Greyhound Yard site (Fig. 2). The other two trenches, in the south-western part of the site, extended northwards from the inner edge of the Roman southern town defences. Here it was hoped that the nature and layout of the defences and the adjoining part of the town might be clarified.

Local Archaeological Context

The early importance of the Dorchester area is suggested by the concentration of prehistoric monuments and earthworks by which the modern town is surrounded. Maiden Castle, the largest and most visible of these, dominates the landscape to the south-west of Dorchester, but the smaller earthwork of Maumbury Rings stands within the modern town, and other lesser monuments such as barrows still survive in the surrounding countryside (Fig. 1).

Maiden Castle represents the earliest site in the area, since, although in its present form it appears as an Iron Age hillfort, evidence of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure, constructed *c.* 3800 BC, has also been found at the eastern end of the hilltop. A second, smaller causewayed enclosure, dating to between 3250 and 2750 BC, has recently been excavated at Flagstones on the eastern outskirts of the modern town (Woodward *et al.* 1993; Smith *et al.* 1997). Nearby, and also dating from the 3rd millennium BC, were other large monuments: a henge and enclosure at Mount Pleasant, a henge at Maumbury Rings, and a large post alignment, part of which is the subject of this report, beneath the present centre of Dorchester. Environmental

evidence from excavations at Mount Pleasant (Evans and Jones 1979) and Maiden Castle (Evans 1992) indicates that clearance and some cultivation of the land surrounding the monuments was already taking place. Settlement evidence for the Neolithic is scarce, but pottery, worked flint and animal bone found in pits at Maiden Castle (Sharples 1991), Poundbury (Smith 1987) and Flagstones (Smith *et al.* 1997) provide some indication of occupation activity in the vicinity.

By the Bronze Age, the land clearance initiated in the Neolithic had progressed towards a more formalised method of land allotment and the establishment of well-defined field systems. The large Neolithic timber monuments had generally fallen into decay by the earlier part of the Bronze Age, although at Mount Pleasant some of the posts were replaced by stone settings and a substantial timber palisade was also constructed (Wainwright 1979). Land within the monuments at Mount Pleasant and Maiden Castle was subsequently used for grazing and, intermittently and briefly, for arable cultivation. Elsewhere in the countryside the long barrows of the earlier Neolithic were replaced by the more numerous Bronze Age round barrows. These were often grouped in roughly linear cemeteries on higher ground, sometimes focused on the sites of earlier burials, and occupying the more peripheral areas which had not been incorporated into the expanding field systems of the period. Few settlement or occupation sites of the Bronze Age are known in the Dorchester area, although evidence of ditch-enclosed circular and rectangular post-built structures has been recorded at Poundbury.

The Early Iron Age saw the construction of a second group of major monuments in the area. These were the hillforts at Maiden Castle and Poundbury, the latter at the north-western edge of modern Dorchester. Of the two, Poundbury was the smaller but may be the earlier in origin, the enclosing bank and ditch perhaps dating from the Late Bronze Age (Green 1987). Evidence of occupation within the enclosure at Poundbury appears considerably scarcer than that at Maiden Castle, and the former site may have become ancillary to the latter, as the importance and status of Maiden Castle grew. The greater defensive potential of Maiden Castle may have influenced and aided such a process, to the extent that the enclosure at Poundbury appears to have become almost derelict by the Middle Iron Age and a new, unenclosed settlement became established to its east; this latter site continued in use until and beyond the time of the Roman Conquest (Green 1987). The Poundbury hillfort defences were refurbished and augmented during the Late Iron Age, but by then Maiden Castle had become the main focus of activity in the area and an important centre of the local people, the Durotriges. Following the Roman Conquest of Britain in AD 43, a planned Roman town, *Durnovaria*, was established to provide a market and administrative capital (a *civitas* capital) for the Durotriges, while smaller 'satellite' settlements grew up around it.

Durnovaria, on the evidence of finds recovered during earlier excavations, thrived until the 5th century AD when Roman administration ceased. Thereafter, as elsewhere, the picture becomes obscure, with little archaeological or historical evidence surviving to clarify developments. Scarcely any conclusive record of closely post-Roman activity has been found within the walls of the Roman town, but structures dating to the 5th and 6th centuries AD were recorded at Poundbury (Green 1987) and several slightly later burials have been excavated south-west of the town (Penn 1980). Some indication of continuity is also suggested by the record of the place-name *Dornwaraceastre,* subsequently to become Dorchester, in AD 868 (Keen 1984). Documentary evidence suggests that Dorchester was a royal residence by the

7th century AD, and Fordington, lying outside the Roman town walls, is recorded as a royal manor at the time of the Domesday survey (Penn 1980).

Summary of Previous Archaeological Work in Dorchester

Dorchester has been the focus of much excavation, survey and research in recent years, as a result of which information about the Roman town, its defences, road pattern and layout has been gathered, together with evidence of such earlier features and later development as has survived the construction and reconstruction of Dorchester to its present form. The sequence of Roman and later building within some areas the town has been clarified, but there still remain many areas of uncertainty.

Pre-dating the construction of the Roman town by almost three thousand years, the first significant indications of human activity in what is now Dorchester are the pits of the massive Late Neolithic post-alignment or stockade, constructed between 2920 and 2340 BC. First discovered, although not immediately recognised, during excavations at Church Street, the post-pits were more thoroughly investigated during the excavation at Greyhound Yard (Batchelor 1983; Batchelor forthcoming a and b; Woodward *et al.* 1993). The broad arc of the alignment suggests a monument of some considerable size, perhaps 300 m in diameter, and therefore significance. A further section of the monument was investigated during the Wessex Court excavations and is described below; its configuration now appears less regular than was previously supposed (Fig. 2). The lifetime of the monument was relatively short and its decay such that, by the Early Bronze Age, the land was used only for arable farming. The area continued to be used for agriculture, although latterly predominantly as pasture, until the arrival of the Romans.

It has been suggested that the town of *Durnovaria* was preceded by a Roman fort, probably near a crossing of the River Frome; no structural evidence of this has been recorded, however, although a few items of possible military equipment have been found in the town (RCHM 1970; Wacher 1974). Development of the town is thought to date from *c.* AD 60 or perhaps a little earlier (RCHM 1970; Woodward *et al.* 1993).

The Roman town was approached by roads from the west, south and east which entered the town through gates; the exact positions of the gates are not known, but they probably coincided with the ends of High East and West Streets and, approximately, the southern end of South Street; a north gate may also have existed, allowing access to fields and the river (RCHM 1970). The defences, built some 120 years after the foundation of the town, consisted principally of an earth bank and three ditches, although a wall was subsequently built in front of the bank. The line of the defences is known for the most part, the exception being at the north-eastern side of the town where it approached the river.

The sites of a number of important areas and buildings have been established or can be inferred. The forum, the main market place and administrative centre, probably lies a short distance north of the current development site, in the area of Cornhill; a broad gravel spread has been noted in this area, although no evidence of buildings has been recorded (RCHM 1970). The Roman bath house lay to the east of the current site, further down the coombe (now under the Wollaston House car park). The bath house, probably built in the 2nd century AD, appears to have been enlarged to approximately twice its original size quite early in its lifetime and then to have undergone further smaller additions and alterations before finally going out of use in

the 5th century (Batchelor forthcoming a). An aqueduct which could have supplied the water for the baths approaches the town from the north-west, traversing the southern side of the Frome valley from the direction of Maiden Newton, and probably terminating in an as yet undiscovered reservoir in the Colliton Park area, the highest part of the town (RCHM 1970). Outside the town defences, the Neolithic henge monument of Maumbury Rings was converted for use as an amphitheatre (and, in the 17th century, incorporated into the town defences during the Civil War) (RCHM 1970).

The layout of a number of roads within the town is also known. These form a fairly regular grid, with one exception, a road running from the south gate diagonally across the grid to the east gate (Fig. 3). This road crossed the Wessex Court site and is described more fully below. Other Roman roads are known to have run approximately on the lines of Acland Road and Durngate Street, and a fourth, probably defining the western side of the *insula* or block in which much of the proposed development area lies, ran at right-angles to the latter towards the defences (RCHM 1970; Woodward *et al.* 1993).

Excavations at the Old Methodist Chapel/Greyhound Yard sites indicate that the earliest Roman buildings had either timber slot foundations or were post-built, the timber structures being subsequently replaced by more substantial and complex ones of stone (Woodward *et al.* 1993). The precise nature and use of some of the buildings, however, remain obscure, although it is suggested that the earlier ones may simply have been small domestic structures. In this earlier period, before the encroachment of buildings, the centre of the *insula* was divided into a series of enclosures, some of which were possibly used as animal pens.

The later structures comprised parts of several town houses and ancillary buildings, some of which underwent considerable improvement and refurbishment. The nature and quality of some of the finds, and the surviving structural and decorative elements, such as decorated wall plaster and mosaic fragments, suggest that a considerable degree of wealth existed in the town in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. Although no clear evidence of major commercial or industrial activities was found, large localised deposits of animal bone and iron slag suggest that butchery and smithing both took place nearby, and crucibles and clay moulds suggest that other metalworking also took place in the vicinity. The overall picture presented by this and other excavations and observations is one of an important, busy and thriving town, a commercial and administrative centre of considerable importance during the Roman period.

The cessation of Roman administration is marked by an apparent break in the archaeological record. Many of their buildings fell into disuse and then either disintegrated or were taken apart. The degree of deliberate demolition is not known but in many cases the walls were dismantled for reuse elsewhere, a practice which carried through from the post-Roman period into post-medieval times; many buildings at Greyhound Yard, for example, were robbed in the 13th century. A considerable part of the town within the Roman defences reverted to agricultural use, particularly in the south-western and south-eastern quarters, with a resultant build-up of deep, dark and homogeneous, loamy soils. Open fields were established, the strips defined by boundary ditches, and, in some areas of more steeply sloping ground, terraces were created (Woodward *et al.* 1993). Some parts of the town, including much of the Wessex Court site, remained open until the 19th century. Elsewhere, particularly along the town's principal north–south and west–east streets (the positions of which were initially dictated and subsequently fixed by the locations of the Roman gates) the

building and rebuilding processes continued (Penn 1980), the earlier structures being lost beneath later ones.

Documentary Evidence

J. Draper

Medieval to 17th Century

The area of these excavations lies behind the main streets of medieval Dorchester, within the open field of Estwalles. When this area first started to be used for farming is not known from documentary evidence, but presumably it was before the Norman Conquest. The enclosure of the field is documented in some detail. *'All tharrable lands commonly called the towne lande within the west and east walles'* were enclosed in 1596 (Mayo 1908, xxxii) when the burgesses granted permission to *'inclose, deuide, take in, wall, suer or hedge the same'*. The boundaries of the individual tenants can be reconstructed as shown on Fig. 5. The lined out areas on the main street in Fig. 5 indicate the extent of the built-up area based on deeds and the Dorchester Domesday (Draper 1993). The boundaries of the newly-enclosed fields of Eastwalles are based on leases of 1623 projected onto the boundaries shown by Hutchins' map of 1772 (Fig. 6A). The parish boundary is inserted from the 1810 manuscript map of Dorchester although it is possible that the parish boundary between St. Peters and All Saints was moved slightly to the east to make it conform with the new boundaries.

Leases of 1623 show that at least two barns (one of them John White's, see below) and other unspecified buildings had been erected by then, and area B was divided into *'diverse gardens and small closes'*. It seems likely that the streets around the newly enclosed field developed soon after the enclosure (Draper 1993).

The Reverend John White, the patriarch of Dorchester and rector of Holy Trinity with St. Peter's (see below), rented from the Corporation 16 goades and a *'lately built barne'* in 1623 (DRO B2/26/l no. 43). On 31st March 1648, not long before his death, he asked the Corporation for *'a further estate in his Barne at Chub's gate'*. The boundaries of the land given in the lease show that it is at the north end of the enclosed field of east walls, with the parish boundary running down its west side (Draper 1993). The position of this building fits well with that of the small part of barn-like building 1615 excavated in Trench 2, and the north–south wall excavated there is on the line of the parish boundary between St. Peter's and All Saints parishes. The barn is right on the edge of the open field of East Walls, which was enclosed in 1596, and it seems unlikely that it was built before the enclosure; it is indeed described as *'lately built'* in the 1623 lease.

The Reverend John White was one of the principal figures in Dorchester in the 17th century. He was rector of Holy Trinity with St. Peter's from 1605–1648, a Puritan and one of the main organisers of emigration to America. He was highly respected: even a furious townsman who *'did wish he were hanged rather than stand with his hatt of before Mr Bailiff Whiteway'* in 1629 claimed '*ther were noe honest men in Towne save Mr White*' (Mayo 1908, 653). Some disapproved of him: a Lyme man was rash enough to say '*within this Borough that all the Proiectors for New England Business are rebells, and those that are gone over are Idolaters*', but he ended up in court.

18th and 19th Centuries

The barn which had belonged to John White continued to be described as a barn until 1794 when it became a cottage and candle house, whether by conversion or rebuilding is not specified (DRO B21/26/4 p. 10). The 1810 and 1848 manuscript maps of Dorchester show the building, and the lists with them describe it in the same way, but before the Ordnance Survey of 1888 it was demolished to make way for the new street up the east side of the site – Acland Road.

By 1810 a house had been built in the south-west corner of the area, but the rest of the land continued to be empty, probably as pasture. By 1888 the southern part was fully developed. The house had gone, but the southern plot, in separate occupation, had many flimsy buildings, mostly stables (DRO D4OA/4). The centre of the south was Ensor's auctioneers, again with small buildings. By contrast, in the centre of the area was Eldridge Pope's huge brick malthouse and beer store. The northern area looks as though it was in use as a nursery, but when it was sold for development in 1898 the auctioneer's brochure states *'now occupied and known as the Grammar School Recreation Ground'*. The land was sold for the erection of *'Industrial dwellings and moderate-sized villa residences'* (DRO PE/DO (HT) IN 14). On Charles Street the terrace of houses was built soon after the sale, but the Acland Road frontage took longer to sell and was not fully developed until the 1950s.

Fig. 6 summarises four maps of the south-eastern quarter of Dorchester from 1772 to 1929 and shows the main developments of the later 18th and earlier 20th centuries. Fig. 6A is part of Hutchins 1772 map of Dorchester showing the boundaries inserted when the open field was enclosed, slightly elaborated by the sub-division of the northern block. Fig. 6B is part of the 1848 manuscript map of Dorchester (DRO D4OE/7). The northern block (All Saints Glebe) has no internal boundaries, although the central barn seems to be in the same position as one shown on Hutchins. In the south-west corner is a house with workshop, first seen on the 1810 manuscript map (DRO OE 1), and the garden for this house has been cut out of the southern close. Fig. 6C is part of the Ordnance Survey 1888 map, which shows radical change in the street pattern, with Acland Road along the eastern edge of the site. The northern plot has been divided into four and is possibly in use as a nursery, but the greatest changes are to the south. The middle plot has a vast malthouse and associated smaller buildings, and the southernmost has lost the house and gained many small buildings belonging to an auctioneer. Fig. 6D is part of the 1929 Ordnance Survey and shows the full development of the area, with the northern plot lined with terraced houses on the west and partially developed on the east.

Excavation Strategy and Method

The intended aims of the excavation were originally summarised as follows:

- Clarification of the line and form of the Late Neolithic monument and any associated features; investigation of the contemporary environment.
- Investigation of the demise of the monument and subsequent prehistoric landuse of the area.
- Clarification of the Roman road system and layout of the *insulae.*
- Investigation of the detailed sequence and nature of Roman buildings along the Acland Road frontage opposite the Roman baths.

- Clarification of an early Roman ditch located south of the development area; to investigate whether it represents the early Roman fort, initial town-planning or some other feature.
- Investigation of the immediate post-Roman sequence and use of the Roman buildings or their decline.
- Clarification of landuse and town development in the medieval and post-medieval periods. In practice, time constraints and the nature of the preserved evidence meant that not all of these aims were achieved.

The excavations, carried out between May and September 1989, were phased, no more than three trenches being open at the same time to ensure the maintenance of car parking places. Trenches 1–3, in the north-eastern part of the development site, were the first to be excavated, Trenches 4 and 5 to the south-west being opened after 1–3 had been excavated, backfilled and reinstated as car-park. Altogether 509 m² were excavated, 3% of the development area, although a greater area *(c.* 833 m² 5%) was opened to allow for spoil heaps and access and also for safety measures to be incorporated in the trenches. The latter took the form either of battered sides or of perimeter steps at least 1 m wide wherever a trench was more than 1 m deep; more than one step was needed in some trenches. Machining involved the removal of modern, post- and late medieval soils to a level where earlier medieval or Roman structures or deposits became visible. Wherever possible all features were half-sectioned or dismantled in the case of walls and floors, but this was not always possible because of time or safety constraints.

The excavation used the current recording system (then undergoing modification) of the Trust for Wessex Archaeology to provide a full written, graphic and photographic record of the site. A unique numbering sequence was used for all trenches, with blocks of numbers being assigned to contexts and features for each trench to obviate repetition and any consequent confusion. The numbers assigned for each trench were as follows:

Trench 1: 501–623
Trench 2: 650–751
Trench 3: 1–362
Trench 4: 1000–1488
Trench 5: 1500–1538

Numbers above 1600 were given to structures during post-excavation analysis. Unique numbering sequences were also given in pre-assigned blocks for special finds (object records): numbers 3000–3257 were assigned on site, 4000–4963 were assigned by the finds supervisor. All site records and finds are held by the Dorchester County Museum in Dorchester under the accession code 1996.31.

2. DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURAL REMAINS AND SITE DEVELOPMENT

Phase 0: Geology

Dorchester and its immediate hinterland lie on a spur of Upper Chalk bounded by river terraces of the Frome to the north and the South Winterbourne to the south, both of which contain deposits of Alluvium and Valley Gravel. In many places the Upper Chalk lies beneath redeposited chalk (Coombe Rock), the result of periglacial activity; this was reached in all trenches, although its consistency varied considerably.

The development area extended across a coombe running south-west to north-east, towards the River Frome. The surface of the chalk (Coombe Rock) therefore sloped down to the south-east in Trenches 1, 2 and 3, and to the north in Trenches 4 and 5.

The chalk was encountered at 59.55 m OD in Trench 1 and at 58.60m OD in Trench 2. In Trench 1 this level was 1.6 m below the present ground surface, but there were indications that the natural surface had been lowered; in places modern build-up directly overlay the natural surface, and where Roman levels survived they were building layers rather than natural soil deposits. The drop of almost 1 m in the level of chalk between the two trenches can be partly explained by the natural slope to the east but may also be the result of terracing during the Roman period, although traces of a surviving pre-Roman soil level, 756 (see below), seem to rule out substantial removal of soil.

In Trench 3 chalk was encountered at 58.50m OD, reflecting the location of the trench further east along the northern side of the coombe. The chalk in the eastern half of the trench was covered by a mixed deposit, up to 0.4m thick, of undulating disturbed chalk into which the base of a red-brown silt clay layer, 319, had slumped (see below); to the west, Roman building 1609 had been terraced into the slope, removing the top level of the natural surface.

Trench 4 was on the southern edge of the coombe. Chalk was encountered at 58.60m OD in the centre of the trench, rising to 59.00m OD at the southern end. The upper surface of the chalk was mixed with clay-with-flints, both deposits being covered by a thin layer of broken flint; above this were intermittent traces of a prehistoric soil, 1452, suggesting that the natural surface had not been substantially affected by Roman or later activity.

The same sequence was recorded in Trench 5, where chalk was encountered at 59.30m OD, reflecting the rise in the chalk at the south of the coombe. The presence of prehistoric soil, 1534/1535, again suggests that the natural surface had not been substantially lowered by Roman or later activity.

Phases 1–3: Prehistoric (*c.* 2600–20 BC)

Only Phase 1, represented by the Neolithic post-pits and an associated gully, is closely datable by association with the radiocarbon dates from Greyhound Yard, where a date for the construction of the monument of between 2920 and 2340 BC is indicated (Woodward *et al.* 1993). Phase 2 is a general prehistoric phase which cannot be

closely dated, and is represented by a single gully. Phase 3 is also imprecise, encompassing the soil accumulation which followed the demise of the Neolithic monument but preceded early Roman activity.

Phase 1: Late Neolithic Monument 1601

The discovery of a Late Neolithic stockaded enclosure and associated ditch at the adjacent sites at Greyhound Yard (Woodward *et al.* 1993) and Church Street (Batchelor forthcoming b) made the definition of this structure within the area of the Wessex Court development an important concern. Trenches 1 and 3 were located over the projected line of the monument and in both cases further elements of the enclosure were discovered (Fig. 2).

Five post-pits were found in Trench 1, 17 m to the south of the southernmost post-pit at Greyhound Yard and continuing the slightly curved north–south alignment observed there. The post-pits, all oval in plan, were numbered from north to south, 525, 532, 513, 504 and 511 (Fig. 7). An associated ditch, 623, was also discovered (Fig. 7). The ditch was 1 m west of the post-pits but converged with them as they continued southwards. Later disturbance had removed all traces of a contemporaneous ground surface and all post-pits were cut from the top of the chalk. None were fully excavated, only 0.05–0.1 m of the upper fill being removed to define the features more clearly. An attempt to excavate the ditch was abandoned for safety reasons because of the features proximity to the site edge.

Post-pit 525 was largely north of the trench, with only part of the ramp end visible. The fill was predominantly chalk rubble in brown clay loam with occasional flints.

Post-pit 532 was partially obscured by later features. The ramp end was visible, however, and was l.5 m wide; the fill was similar to that in post-pit 525.

Post-pit 513 had been disturbed at its eastern end by a modern cellar which had been cut down 1.2 m below the level of surrounding natural. The post-pit and the outline of the post-pipe within it were visible in the cellar, which also provided a partial section through the ramp. The post-pit was 2 m wide and 5.5 m long; the post-pipe had a diameter of just under 1 m. The fill of the upper part of the ramp was similar to that in post-pits 525 and 532, but became more compact and lighter in colour towards the base of the cellar. The post-pipe was filled with brown clay loam and chalk rubble, darker and softer than the surrounding packing. Any potential relationship between the western end of the ramp and ditch 623 was destroyed by late Roman robbed wall trench 502.

Post-pit 504 had also been cut by the modern cellar, but again the outline of the post-pit and the post-pipe within it survived. The post-pit was 1.7 m wide, 4.5 m long and its post-pipe had a diameter of just over 1 m. The fills of the ramp and post-pipe were similar to those in post-pit 513.

Post-pit 511 was obscured at its eastern end by late Roman wall foundation 568. Only the length, 4.2 m, could be recorded. The material filling the ramp end of the post-pit was similar to that in post-pits 525 and 532.

The exposed part of ditch 623 crossed the south-western corner of the trench; it was 5 m long, 0.9 m wide and 0.55 m deep. It had sloping sides and was filled with red-brown clay loam which contained a few pieces of unworked flint.

Three post-pits, 349, 347 and 343, were found towards the eastern end of Trench 3. Theses were also oval in plan and were east of the alignment projected from the pits at Greyhound Yard and in Trench 1 (Fig. 9). The alignment of these post-pits

was more strongly north-west to south-east, giving a tighter than anticipated curve between Trenches 1 and 3. Because of the change of alignment one of the post-pits, 343, was sectioned to establish that it was of the same type. No associated ditch was found in Trench 3.

Post-pit 349 was the northernmost in the sequence in Trench 3. It was not excavated; the post-pipe lay outside the trench and was uncovered at the end of the excavation by mechanical excavator; the dimensions on plan are reconstructed. The top fill of the post-pit was clean red-brown silt clay, probably the slumped remnant of a prehistoric soil level (see below).

Post-pit 347 was fully exposed in plan, and 0.2 m of upper fill removed to define it more clearly. The post-pit was 4.5 m long, 1.5 m wide with a post-pipe 0.7 m diameter. The ramp fill was chalk rubble in a light brown silt loam matrix. The post-pipe was visible as a circle of clean red-brown silt clay, again probably slumped soil from a layer sealing these features.

Post-pit 343 was at the southern edge of the trench, most of its ramp extending beyond the section. This post-pit and a small part of the ramp were excavated; the post-pit being cut 2.6 m down into the chalk. The excavated part of the ramp was filled with hard-packed chalk rubble in a light brown silt loam matrix. The post-pipe had an upper layer of red-brown silt loam, 344, equivalent to general level 319 (see below), beneath which was a light brown silt loam with some chalk rubble and a festoon of charcoal, 345 (Fig. 10). The post-pipe was roughly circular, having a diameter of 1 m at its lower level but was slightly wider at the top. Much worked flint was recovered from the post-pit and six antlers were found in the post-pipe against the ramp packing to the west; the depth at which the antlers were found varied, but all were within 1 m of the base of the post-pit.

Phase 2: Gully 1464

Gully 1464 ran in a slight natural depression from north-east to south-west across the southern end of Trench 4 (Fig. 14). The base was very irregular and the gully may have been a palisade trench, although the underlying geology at this point (clay-with-flints) was such that the base of the gully was difficult to define. The gully was 1 m wide, 0.7 m deep and extended for 3.5 m across the trench. The south-western end was cut by early Roman pit 1223 and the north-eastern end obscured by deep layers of early Roman occupation debris. The upper fill of the gully was a 0.25 m deep deposit of clean orange-brown clay loam, similar to layer 1452 (see below), beneath which was flint rubble in an identical matrix. Some worked flints were recovered from this lower deposit. Small pockets in the bottom of the gully, thought to be either the bases of post-settings or primary fill in irregularities in the natural surface, were filled with grey-brown clay loam.

Phase 3: Early Soil Levels

The earliest surviving soil deposits were of clean, homogeneous, red-brown clay. No close estimate of the date of their deposition can be made, although a rough *terminus post quem* and *terminus ante quem* can be suggested; in Trench 3 the deposit sealed the Late Neolithic post-pits and was sealed by consolidation levels containing early Roman material; in Trench 5 it was sealed and protected by the primary bank of the Roman defence works.

In Trench 1 the deposit was absent, removed by modern house footings and terracing.

Trench 2 contained red-brown silt clay deposit 668/756, 0.15 m thick, and with a few fragments of chalk. This material lay directly over the natural chalk and was sealed by early Roman floor level 722. It was seen only in a central box section; at the eastern end of the trench it had apparently been cut away by the construction of post-medieval barn 1615.

Trench 3 contained a red-brown silt clay deposit, 319, which was up to 0.1 m thick and survived only over the eastern half of the trench (Fig. 10). From this layer one of two Durotrigian coins, dating from the later part of the 1st century BC, was recovered. To the west of the trench, the deposit had been removed by terracing associated with late Roman Structure 1609. Layer 319 contained some sherds of early Roman pottery but these were probably intrusive, trampled from overlying early Roman consolidation level 272. The layer covered the Neolithic post-pits, where it was slightly deeper; in post-pit 343 the deposit was numbered 344 (Fig. 10).

Trench 4 contained a yellow-brown silty clay loam deposit, 1452, which was up to 0.2 m thick (Fig. 16). The layer occurred as irregular patches over much of the northern half of the trench, where it overlay and formed a matrix for a natural flint layer. The deposit was not found under Roman road 1008 or to the south of it, although the top fill of prehistoric gully 1464 was similar and may represent material slumped from this layer. Deposit 1452 contained a few sherds of Roman pottery, again probably intrusive pieces from early Roman consolidation and flooring layers such as 1409 and 1301 which sealed the deposit.

In Trench *5,* a clean red-brown silt clay deposit, 0.2 m thick and with a few fragments of natural flint, was sealed below primary Roman bank 1533. In section the deposit was seen to consist of two layers, 1535 below 1534, separated by a thin layer of iron pan (Fig. 21). The clean, relatively stone-free nature of this deposit suggests that it was a remnant of an early worm-sorted topsoil (S. Staines pers. comm.).

Phase 4: Early Roman (*c.* 75–200 AD)

The major components of the Phase 4 activity comprised four wooden structures. Other features included pits, wells, infant burials, a Roman road and the early Roman defences. The structures and features are described below by type.

Structure 1602

Structure 1602 was in the south-western corner of Trench 1 and comprised slot 563 and a group of six postholes, 609, 611, 613, 615, 617, 621, which cut a small area of chalk flooring, 603 (Fig. 7). It is probable that together these represent the interior of a rectangular wooden building.

Slot 563 was 0.3 m wide and 0.15 m deep with a flat base and gently sloping sides. It ran east from the site section for 4.5 m before being truncated by modern cellar foundations. It was filled with red-brown clay loam with chalk and flint fragments. There was no direct evidence for its use as either a beam-slot or foundation trench, but its slight dimensions suggest the former to have been more likely. The postholes varied in size, the northern pair, 609 and 621, being 0.3 m in diameter and 0.5 m and 0.2 m deep respectively; postholes 611, 613, 615 and 617 formed a square, and were on average 0.08 m in diameter and 0.15 m deep. The chalk floor, 603,

survived for 0.6 m from north to south and 0.7 m from east to west, but extended beneath the site edge to the south.

Although no evidence of structures was recovered in Trench 2, a small patch of chalk flooring, 722, was assigned to this period (Fig. 8). The occurrence of pits in this area (see below) suggests that the chalk surface may have been outside a building rather than within one. Chalk surface 722 was covered by an occupation deposit, 725/728/729, which contained fragments of chalk, flint, charcoal, ceramic tile and sherds of Roman pottery.

Structure 1603

In Trench 3, Structure 1603 comprised a gully, 311, and three associated postholes, 309, 338 and 340 (Fig. 11). The postholes were 1 m south of the gully and are more likely to be internal features rather than the remains of an opposing wall.

Gully 311, which ran roughly east–west, was up to 0.3 m wide with steep sides and a maximum surviving depth of 0.06 m; it could be traced for 7 m, but both ends were truncated by later Roman consolidation layers. The gully was filled with brown silty loam with some flint and limestone fragments. Interpretation of this feature is difficult, but its alignment and association with postholes 309, 338 and 340 suggest that it may have been a beam-slot. The postholes were 0.2 m deep and had average diameters of 0.45 m; all were filled with brown silt loam and had traces of flint and limestone packing.

Three slots at the western end of Trench 3, 268, 270 and 272, were also assigned to the early Roman phase (Fig. 11). Slight and irregular in form, however, they were filled with clean light-brown clay loam and may have been the result of natural erosion rather than of structural activity.

Early Roman material incorporated within consolidation layers in Trench 3 attests both to the quantity and quality of structural activity nearby. Layer 275, which was cut by gully 311 (Structure 1603), was especially prolific; it consisted mainly of light brown silty clay loam with chalk and flint rubble but also contained occasional lenses of chalk, tile, limestone and ash (Figs 10, 13). Objects of copper alloy and iron and many fragments of animal bone, ceramic building material, fired clay, flint, glass, pottery and shell and a few fragments of shale, slag and wall plaster were also found in this layer. Most notable amongst the finds were three antefixes and a Durotrigian coin (see below). Although some of this material may have been intrusive most was not. The pottery suggests a date for this deposit within the second half of the 1st century AD.

Structures 1604 and 1605

In Trench 4, to the north of the road, two post-built structures, 1604 and 1605, were assigned to the early Roman phase. Although not spatially discrete they were stratigraphically separated by consolidation and flooring deposits and so are considered separately. The earlier of the structures, 1604, was sealed by primary flooring deposits 1301 and 1329 and cut directly into the underlying natural. The later structure, 1605, cut the primary flooring deposits and was sealed by dereliction deposit 1288 (which contained early 2nd century AD pottery) and consolidation and flooring deposits for succeeding structures.

Structure 1604

This was represented by two slots, 1420 and 1456, five postholes, 1433, 1436, 1440, 1443 and 1460 and a pit, 1425 (Fig. 14). The alignment of four of the postholes, from north–south 1460, 1440, 1436, and 1443, was continued by three of the infant burials assigned to this phase, 1416, 1414 and 1418 (see below). The fifth posthole, 1433, was 4.5 m west of the line described above. The postholes averaged 0.3 m in diameter and 0.2 m in depth, and all were filled with brown clay loam. Postholes 1440 and 1443 showed evidence of flint packing. Slots 1420 and 1456 lay at right-angles to the posthole alignment, defining the south-eastern corner of a rectangular structure. Slot 1420 was 2 m long, slot 1456 was 3 m long; the gap between them was 2.5 m. Both slots were about 0.65 m wide and up to 0.3 m deep with irregular sides and bases and were filled with brown clay loam with flint rubble. Neither showed signs of internal post-settings or other structural evidence. Infant burial 1484 was found in soil slumped into the top of slot 1420. Pit 1425 was oval in plan, 0.45 m deep and had a maximum width of 1.1 m. It had sloping sides and a rounded base, and, having an ash-rich fill, could have been the remains of a small hearth. No flooring or internal occupation deposits were associated with this structure, although the consolidation and flooring levels for Structure 1605 may have removed all such traces. The building was about 8rn wide at its southern end and its eastern side was 13 m long. If gully 1458 (see below) marked the north-eastern corner of the structure, the overall length would have been 14.5 m.

Structure 1605

This comprised ten postholes, 1269, 1300, 1303, 1325, 1354, 1370, 1372, 1374, 1381 and 1382, six stakeholes or stakehole groups, 1317, 1324, 1334, 1336, 1376 and 1384, hearth 1272, gully 1338 and a number of consolidation, flooring and occupation deposits (Fig. 14). These features were in general shallow, having been truncated by consolidation and flooring levels associated with late Roman Structures 1611 and 1612. From north-west to south-east, postholes 1303, 1300, 1269, 1381, 1382, 1370, 1372 and 1374 and stakeholes 1336, 1334 and 1384 formed a line 8.5 m long. This alignment is slightly askew to that of Structure 1604, the three southernmost postholes, 1370, 1372 and 1374, projecting east of Structure 1604. The postholes had average diameters of 0.25 m and depths of 0.15 m, and were filled with grey-brown silt loam. Postholes 1370 and 1382 held some limestone packing and 1303 had a limestone post-pad. Postholes 1325 and 1354 and stakehole 1324 formed a short alignment at right angles to and south-west of the main line. Interpretation of these features as components of a structure relies on associated features and flooring deposits to the south and west. The size of the building is difficult to assess, but a length of at least 9.5 m from posthole 1303 at the north to road 1008 at the south, and a width of at least 8 m, given that no opposing posthole alignment was found, are indicated.

West of the main posthole alignment and presumably within the structure, were gully 1338 and hearth 1272. The gully curved east and south from the western site section before being cut by the hearth. The gully was 0.6 m wide, 0.07 m deep and 2.5 m long; it had irregular sides and base and was filled with loose gravel in a sandy matrix. Hearth 1272 consisted of three limestone-packed postholes to the north of a patch of burnt chalk flooring and one posthole to the south. Two groups of stakeholes were associated with Structure 1605; 1317 – three stakeholes within the structure, and 1376 – seven stakeholes about 0.5 m north-east of the main posthole line.

The features were linked by consolidation, flooring and occupation deposits. Consolidation layers 1280, 1409 and 1457 (Fig. 16), mixed grey-brown loamy clay with chalk and flint rubble 0.2 m deep, underlay the area of Structure 1605. These deposits contained many sherds of pottery datable to the mid–late 1st century AD, together with some sherds of early 2nd century AD date. Chalk flooring layers 1271, 1301 and 1329 (Fig. 16) overlay the consolidation material, forming a continuous surface up to 0.15 m thick, from which over 100 sherds of pottery datable to the late 1st–early 2nd century were recovered. The postholes and stakeholes of Structure 1605 were cut into the top of this level. Slight variations within the surface suggest that the floor had been repaired, although large-scale resurfacing was not indicated. At the western side of the trench, occupation layer 1137 overlay floor 1329 (Fig. 16). This was 0.25 m thick, a very dark grey silty loam with chalk rubble, and contained over 500 sherds of pottery, most of which was datable to the 2nd century AD. To the east, the flooring deposits were covered by similar occupation deposits which, however, contained less datable pottery. These layers were in turn covered by an intermittent 0.2 m thick band of clean grey-brown silty clay loam, 1288. This deposit contained over 100 sherds of pottery datable to the late 1st–early 2nd century AD and its relatively clean and fine make-up suggest that it was formed during a short period of abandonment before the construction of late Roman Structures 1611 and 1612.

Other Features

Part of a semi-circular gully, 1458, was recorded at the northern end of Trench 3 (Figs 14, 16). This ran north-eastwards before turning toward the south; it was cut by late Roman wall foundation 1388. The gully was 0.2 m wide, 0.1 m deep and 1.5 m long, with a flat base and near-vertical sides; it was filled with chalk and flint rubble in grey clay loam, which yielded no dating evidence. The gully cut through consolidation layer 1457 and was sealed by chalk floor 1434 (probably equivalent to chalk flooring 1301 to the south); it may have been contemporaneous with Structure 1605.

Irregular features 1431 and 1446 were east of Structures 1604 and 1605 (Fig. 14); 1431, running from north-west to south-east, was 2.5 m long, 1 m wide and 0.2 m deep; 1446, which ran eastward for lm from the southern end of 1431 before reaching the eastern edge of the trench, was 0.6 m wide and 0.1 m deep. Neither showed any evidence for internal structures such as post-settings, but both were stratigraphically equivalent to elements of Structure 1604 and may have represented beam-slots associated with 1604 or a contemporary structure to the east.

A single posthole, 1480 south of road 1008, was assigned to this period (Fig. 14). It was 0.25 m deep, with a diameter of 0.4m and filled with grey-brown clay loam with frequent flint inclusions. The posthole was close to the eastern trench edge and may indicate the presence of a post-built structure to the east.

Consolidation and occupation layers 1399, 1401, 1405 and 1479 covered the southern end of the trench (Fig. 15). Deposits 1399 and 1479 consisted of crushed chalk and brown clay loam which contained fragments of pottery datable to the 1st century AD. Above these was a compacted chalk surface, 1401, which was covered by a grey-brown deposit of silty clay, 1405. Although these deposits may have formed within an early Roman structure it is possible that they were working surfaces associated with early Roman pit 1471 and well 1013 (see below).

No evidence for structures was found below the Roman defences in Trench 5.

Pits and Wells

No pits or wells were found in Trench 1. Trench 2 contained a considerable depth of medieval and post-medieval soil and four early Roman features were reached only in a deeper central box-section. All were cut through prehistoric soil level, 668/756 (see above).

Feature 664 was not excavated (Fig. 8), but was filled with light greenish-brown silt clay with a few small fragments of chalk and flint. Part of shale table-top (OR3047: see below) was recovered from the surface of this feature.

Features 762 and 763 were at the eastern end of the box-section (Fig. 8). They were 0.25 m and 0.2 m deep respectively and were filled with material similar to that in feature 664. A few sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered from these features.

Feature 723, part of a roughly square pit base, was lm wide and 0.07 m deep (Fig. 8). It was filled with greenish-brown loamy clay which contained frequent small fragments of chalk, charcoal, limestone, ceramic tile and animal bone. In addition, pottery datable to the late 1st century AD, and ten small pieces of lead (see below) were recovered.

In Trench 3 four pits lay below the construction and occupation levels of late Roman Structure 1609, where they may have been in an open area or yard associated with early Roman Structure 1603 to the east. Well 294 was also within this presumed open area, at the western end of the trench.

Pit 256, against the southern trench edge, appeared to be oval in plan; it was 1.3 m wide, with near-vertical sides but was not fully excavated (Fig. 11). The top of the pit was filled with slumped flooring material from the southern room of late Roman Structure 1609 (see below), beneath which was a light brown clay loam with frequent chalk fragments. Some pottery of early 2nd-century AD date onwards was recovered.

Pits 308 and 321 were against the northern side of the trench (Figs 11, 12). Although divided and disturbed by late Roman wall 292, they were probably both part of a single feature 4.5 m long, 2 m wide and up to lm deep, with sloping sides and an irregular base. Both sections were filled with brown clay loam which contained chalk and flint rubble from which a few sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered.

Pit 323 was badly disturbed by late Roman wall 292, the surviving section being 0.5 m deep, with sloping sides and a maximum width of 0.8 m (Fig. 11). It was filled with light brown clay loam which contained chalk and flint rubble, from which some undiagnostic Roman pottery was recovered.

Well 294 was in the north-east corner of the trench (Fig. 11). It consisted of a broad upper section, 293, over 3 m across and 0.5 m deep, within which was a circular vertical shaft 0.9 m diameter, the base of which was not reached (Fig. 12). The well had been cut directly into the chalk and there was no sign of a lining, nor of any internal structures. The broad upper part was filled with mixed light brown clay loam, 282, which contained sherds of pottery datable to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. This material may represent the backfill of a construction trench but there were no signs of compaction or associated hard-standing deposits. The upper fill of the shaft was a loose silt loam which contained no datable pottery.

In Trench 4 two pits, 1422 and 1482, were found north of road 1008, both probably associated with Roman Structure 1604. Two more pits were recorded south of the road, 1223 and 1471. A well, 1013, lay partly beneath the southern trench section.

Pit 1422, 2 m north of road 1008, was roughly circular with a diameter of 1.2 m and vertical sides, but was not fully excavated, only 0.6 m of the top fill being removed (Figs 14, 16). The fill, 1389, 1421, was grey clay loam with chalk and flint rubble and considerable quantities of domestic debris, including fragments of animal bone, wall plaster, ceramic tile, shell, a copper alloy brooch (OR3248) and pottery datable to the 1st–2nd centuries AD. The pit was sealed by early Roman occupation deposits 1137 and 1329, associated with early Roman Structure 1605.

Only a small part of pit 1482, 9 m north of road 1008, was visible against the eastern trench section (Fig. 14). It appeared to be circular with a diameter between 1.5 m and 2 m; the pit was half-sectioned to a depth of 0.9 m. Most of the excavated material had slumped from later occupation levels, the earliest of which, 1174, was a flooring level contemporary with 1329 to the west, post-dating pit 1422. The lowest fill reached was a grey clay loam with frequent flint nodules and fragments of chalk rubble. Some sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this feature but could not be closely dated.

Pit 1223 was 3 m south of the Roman road, on the western side of the trench (Figs 14, 15). It extended beyond the trench, but appeared to be circular with a diameter of 2 m. It was not excavated, but since the layers slumped over it (eg, 1246, 1247) contained pottery datable to the 1st–2nd centuries AD it has been included in this phase.

Pit 1471 was towards the southern end of the trench, extending beneath the western section (Figs 14, 15). In plan it appeared to be sub-rectangular with a width of almost 2 m. The pit was not bottomed but enough of the fill, 1470, a grey clay loam, was removed to recover a considerable quantity of pottery datable to the 1st–2nd centuries AD. Animal bone, ceramic tile, shell and glass were also recovered.

Well 1013 extended beneath the southern edge of the trench (Fig. 14). It was circular with a diameter of slightly over 2 m at contemporary ground level. Initially excavated to a depth of 1.2 m, at the end of the excavation it was machined down, reaching the water-table at 53.00m OD, an overall depth of almost 6 m. A central vertical shaft 0.7 m in diameter was filled with dark grey-brown silt loam, on either side of which were mixed layers of brown loam, chalk and ash. Sherds of pottery datable to the 3rd and 4th centuries AD were recovered from the upper fill, and, although no pottery was recovered from the basal deposits, it is probable that the well was in use during the early Roman period. The well had been cut directly into the chalk and no evidence of a lining was found.

No pits or wells were found in Trench 5.

Infant Burials

Four burials, 1414, 1416, 1418 and 1484, were found in Trench 4; all were associated with early Roman Structure 1605. None was accompanied by grave-goods. Disarticulated fragments of human bone were also recovered from flooring deposit 1329 in Trench 4 and well 294 in Trench 3.

Burials 1414, 1416 and 1418 were sealed beneath early Roman flooring deposit 1174 and dug into the surface of the natural. They were on the line of the eastern wall of early Roman Structure 1604 and are probably foundation burials (Fig. 14). Burial 1414 was the best preserved, placed in a crouched position on its left side, head to the south (Fig. 19). The grave was irregular, with a diameter of 0.5 m and depth of 0.15 m. Burial 1416 was badly disturbed and lay in a roughly circular grave 0.35 m in diameter and 0.05 m deep. Burial 1418 had been laid in a crouched position, head to

the south-east, in a roughly circular grave 0.3 m in diameter and 0.05 m deep. All three burials were of newborn babies, probably still-births (see below).

Burial 1484 was at the base of early Roman consolidation level 1329, above gully 1420, and should probably also be considered as a foundation burial associated with Roman Structure 1604 (Fig. 14). The burial, of a newborn child, was in a crouched position, laid on its left side with the head to the south-east. It lay in a roughly circular grave 0.35 m in diameter and 0.05 m deep.

Floor level 1329 contained seven fragments of human bone, all from newborn babies. Gestational ages derived from measurements taken on a radius and a femur from these bones do not match exactly, and it is likely that more than one individual is represented. The floor level was associated with Structure 1605, the second of the two early Roman buildings in this trench, and the bone may have come from foundation burials associated with the underlying building, Structure 1604.

Well 294 in Trench 3 contained a human humerus and a femur. The size of the bones indicates that they were from newborn babies, possibly the same individual. No early Roman burials were recovered from this trench, however, and the truncated nature of features associated with Structure 1603 may mean that associated burials were also disturbed and dispersed.

Roman Road 1008

The road ran diagonally across Trench 4 from the south-west, the direction of the south gate, to north-east (Fig. 14). Its original width, almost 5 m, was delimited by small drainage or mark-up gullies, 1449 and 1485. The natural ground surface, broken flint gravel, had been levelled and built up using gravel pebbles which were covered by successive compacted surfaces of chalk, fine gravel and sand. The construction level and first two surfaces have been assigned to this period, succeeding levels being added during the late Roman period (see below).

The primary road surface, 1437, was of level, compacted flint gravel (Fig. 17). This was covered by a thin band of clay loam which contained sherds of pottery datable to the 1st century AD. Two ruts, 1.2 m apart, 0.2 m wide and 0.05 m deep, were worn in the surface. Beneath 1437 was a consolidation layer, 1455, mixed clay loam with chalk and flint rubble, up to 0.3 m deep, which covered a very slight undulation in the natural (Figs 15, 17). Layer 1455 contained a few fragments of animal bone, ceramic tile and sherds of Roman pottery of uncertain specific date. The finds suggest that some Roman activity pre-dating the road had occurred nearby.

The secondary road surface 1291, consisted of a stabilisation layer of large, loose flint nodules 0.2 m deep, capped by a flat, compacted surface of fine, light brown gravel and sand (Figs 15, 17). The surface showed signs of wear and patching, and two ruts of the same size and spacing as the earlier pair were again worn into the metalling. The road surface was covered by a thin deposit of light greyish brown silt clay, 1289, which contained sherds of pottery datable to the 1st century AD, together with quantities of animal bone, shell, ceramic tile and glass (Fig. 15).

The gullies, 1485 to the north and 1449 to the south, were very slight; their dimensions varied, but on average they were 0.4m wide and 0.2 m deep (Figs 15, 17). Both were filled with grey-brown clay loam with mixed chalk and flint rubble. Gully 1485 was the earlier of the two and was contemporary with the original road surface, 1437. Gully 1449 was probably contemporary with chalk level 1390 and secondary road surface 1291.

Chalk surface 1390, 0.8 m wide and 0.1 m thick, was along the southern side of the road only (Fig. 15). It lay above surface 1437 and below 1291, and appeared to be contemporary with gully 1449. It may have been a temporary path or construction feature.

Chalk surface 1295, a strip of the same dimensions along the northern side of the road, lay above surface 1291 and was sealed by late Roman surface 1258 (see below; Fig. 17). It abutted wall 1166, the southern edge of late Roman Structure 1611, although, since 1166 had been extensively robbed no exact relationship could be recorded. Surface 1295 may represent a path between the road and Structure 1611, spanning both early and late Roman phases.

The Defences

The primary chalk and turf bank, 1533, and the main chalk bank, 1518, both in Trench 5, have been assigned to this period (Fig. 20; P1.1).

The primary bank, 1533, which ran roughly east–west, had been built directly onto prehistoric ground surface, 1534 (Fig. 21). It was almost 5 m wide and 1 m high: the top of the bank was at 60.50m OD and its dimensions and position suggest that it marked out the northern limit of the main chalk bank. The make-up of the bank, alternate levels of chalk and turf, was clearly visible in section. Four pieces of residual worked flint were recovered from the bank.

The main chalk bank, 1518, extended beyond the trench. The northern edge coincided approximately with that of primary bank 1533, although the alignment was not exact as bank 1518 appeared to veer north-eastward. The southern edge of the bank was not seen, but must have been to the south of Trench 5. Bank 1518 survived to a height of 2.2 m (6l.80m OD) but was truncated by construction levels associated with the cattle market and surrounding 19th-century buildings. The bank consisted of compacted chalk rubble with occasional flint nodules; no traces of turf lines were visible, although slight indications of banding within the chalk were noticed, possibly the result of stepped construction (Fig. 21). The chalk rubble was entirely free of finds.

General Soil Accumulations

In Trench 1 early Roman soil levels had been removed by later terracing. In Trench 2 layers 660 and 771 sealed the early Roman features and occupation deposits. They consisted of mixed brown clay loam with chalk rubble. Quantities of animal bone, ceramic tile, shell and pottery, mostly datable to the 1st–2nd centuries AD and some from the 3rd century, were recovered. The deposits probably represent a build-up of garden soil over a terrace previously occupied by a building, occurring towards the end of the early Roman phase. The few sherds of 17th-century pottery found in layer 771 were the result of contamination by post-medieval Structure 1614.

Deposition in Trench 3 was limited to the build-up of levels directly relating to consolidation for Structure 1603.

In Trench 4 a general deposit of garden soil incorporating much domestic debris, 1314 and 1313, built-up immediately to the south of Roman road 1008 (Fig. 15). Layer 1313 was predominantly a grey clay loam with some chalk and charcoal flecks; it contained fragments of animal bone, ceramic tile and some undiagnostic sherds of Roman pottery. It is likely that it represented a garden soil type build-up contemporary with early Roman abandonment layer 1288, post-dating early Roman

Structure 1605. Deposit 1314 was a black, charcoal-rich loam. It contained large quantities of domestic debris, including animal bone, ceramic tile, shell, glass, a copper alloy and bone object, possibly a necklace (OR3243) and pottery datable to the 2nd century AD. This material probably represents a domestic dump contemporary with and derived from early Roman Structures 1604 and 1605 north of road 1008. Both deposits probably post-date early Roman pits 1223 and 1471.

Trench 5 contained no general soil accumulations.

Phase 5: Late Roman (*c.* 200–400+ AD)

The main components of the Phase 5 activity were the remains of eight late Roman rectangular stone-built structures. Other features included pits, wells and infant burials. Re-surfacing of the Roman road also occurred during this period.

Structure 1606

This was in the north-west corner of Trench 1 and comprised robbed wall trenches 502 and 509 (Fig. 7). Modern terracing had cut down to the top of the chalk in this part of the trench and as a result no floor or occupation deposits survived. Direct dating of the structure by reference to associated pottery was not possible.

Wall trench 529 was 0.65 m wide, 0.2 m deep and extended 2.55 m south from the northern site edge. It had steep sides and a flat base and was filled with mixed grey-brown silt loam with frequent fragments of flint chalk and mortar. Wall trench 502 ran at right angles to wall trench 529, but no direct relationship survived since the south-east corner of the structure had been destroyed by the footings for a modern cellar. Wall trench 502 was also 0.65 m wide and 0.2 m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It extended from the western trench edge for 4m and was filled with material identical to that in trench 529. At the western end of trench 502, part of a return wall trench running northwards was visible but was not excavated. Structure 1606 measured about 6 m from west–east and at least 6.5 m from north–south.

Structure 1607

This structure was at the southern end of Trench 1 and was on a similar alignment to, although slightly south of, early Roman Structure 1602. It comprised robbed wall trench 536, wall foundation 568, infant burial 604, wall plaster deposit 584 and occupation deposits 601 and 607 (Fig. 7).

Wall trench 536 was 0.7 m wide, 0.2 m deep and extended 5 m from the western site edge before being destroyed by modern cellar foundations. It was filled with mixed grey-brown silt loam with frequent chalk, flint and mortar inclusions. Wall foundation 568 extended 1.5 m from the eastern site section at the lowest level of the modern cellar foundations, continuing the line of wall trench 536 but at least lm below it. Foundation 568 was 0.5 m wide and consisted of flint nodules set in buff mortar, at least five courses of flint surviving *in situ.* To the south of wall trench 536 lay a spread of collapsed wall plaster, 584, which was 0.1 m thick and covered an area of 2 m². This deposit was cut by robbed wall trench 536 and probably represents material dislodged from the wall face when the stone was taken. Wall plaster layer 584 sealed general occupation deposits, 601 and 607, mixed brown clay loams with over 100 sherds of pottery datable to the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. Infant burial 604 (see

below) was associated with these deposits. The postholes and floor level associated with early Roman Structure 1602 (see above) lay beneath 601 and 607.

Structure 1608

Structure 1608 was represented by a single robbed wall trench, 537, in the north-east corner of Trench 1 (Fig. 7). The trench extended 2.5 m from the northern site edge but the southern end was cut away by modern cellar foundations. It was at least 0.7 m wide, the eastern side being beyond the edge of the trench, and 0.6 m deep, steep-sided and with a flat base. It was filled with loose light-brown sandy loam with chalk and flint rubble, from which fragments of ceramic tile and pottery were recovered. The pottery was generally undatable but included some worn sherds from the 2nd century AD. The alignment of the trench suggests the presence of a structure parallel with and east of Structure 1606.

Trench 2 contained no structural evidence attributable to this period. In Trench 3 part of two rooms, a corridor and a courtyard of one building, Structure 1609, and a single wall from a second building, Structure 1610, were uncovered.

Structure 1609

This structure, in the western half of Trench 3, consisted of an upstanding section of wall, 166, wall foundations 351, 292, 288, 215, 246 and 247, and a number of associated surfaces (Figs 11, 12).

Wall foundation 351 ran north–south across the trench for 4.5 m and was 0.55 m wide. A parallel wall foundation, 292, of similar dimensions, was 6 m to the east. Both walls had been robbed, with generally one or two courses of flint nodules in buff mortar remaining in the base of the trenches. At the northern end of foundation 292, the trench was deeper where it cut early Roman pit 308, and seven courses of flint were visible in the site section (Fig. 12). Wall 166, comprising a 0.8 m length of limestone block wall, 0.5 m wide and 0.8 m high (four courses) above a flint foundation, ran east–west between foundations 351 and 292, dividing the area into two rooms. The limestone blocks forming the wall faces were roughly squared and laid with a minimal mortar and rubble core. Wall plaster survived *in situ* on the southern face, a moulded angle surviving at the base where it joined the floor. Both wall and foundation had been robbed at the western end of the trench.

The northern room was 5 m wide with a maximum length of 2.5 m. Within the room were two stone-built features, oven 125 and tank 195. Oven 125 was built against the south-western corner of the room and was of keyhole pattern. The firing chamber was formed from unmortared limestone blocks backed by coarse mortar, flint and limestone rubble; four courses of heavily burnt limestone survived *in situ.* The oven was 1.5 m long and 0.7 m wide, with an overall length to the end of the stoke chamber of almost 3.5 m. The stoke chamber was a shallow bowl-shaped depression filled with thin lenses of black and white ash, brown loam and crushed chalk. The primary deposits, such as 145, were bounded to the east by limestone block wall 354 (in section only; Fig. 12), with secondary deposits, such as 133, sealing the wall. Tank 195, which lay 0.5 m east of the oven, was lm square in plan, lined and floored with limestone slabs. The western and northern faces of the tank were set flush with the surrounding chalk floor, while the slabs of the eastern and southern faces stood slightly above it. The tank was filled with brown silt loam with chalk rubble. Between the tank and wall 166 to the south a complete pottery vessel

(OR3101: Fig. 11) was set into the floor. Neither the tank nor the oven contained objects suggesting their original purpose, but they may, together with the pottery vessel, have formed elements relating to a single domestic or possibly industrial function. Although much of the room was taken up by these features, some traces of floor and occupation levels survived at its eastern end. A sequence of rammed chalk floors, eg, 146 and 306, and occupation layers, eg, 75 and 302, had built up to an overall thickness of 0.6 m above early Roman pit 308.

The southern room, also 5 m wide and with a maximum length of 3 m within the trench, had a sequence of rammed chalk floors and occupation levels which survived to a maximum depth of 0.3 m. These had been laid directly onto the natural chalk, which, in the absence of consolidation build-up, may have been terraced. The rammed chalk floor deposits were thin, discontinuous and overlapped, indicating much use and repair. In the north-east corner of the room a complete pottery vessel (OR3098) was set into the floor. The vessel was empty and was covered by a limestone slab upon which an infant burial, 249, had been set (Fig. 11). The flooring and occupation deposits were sealed by dereliction layers, eg, 78 and 79, predominantly grey-brown silt loams with mixed building rubble. Where these layers adjoined robbed wall trenches 292 and 351 they contained large quantities of wall plaster.

East of the rooms described above, the eastern side of a 2 m wide corridor was defined by wall foundation 288. The wall had been robbed, only two courses of the flint rubble foundation surviving within a 0.75 m wide trench. Directly above 288 lay a second wall foundation, 215, mortar rubble with flint and limestone (Fig. 13). One large limestone block, which may have been representative of the robbed stones, survived *in situ* towards the southern end of the trench. In the corridor between wall foundations 288/2 15 and 292 to the west were a number of flooring and occupation deposits and the remains of three pottery vessels (OR3136, OR4227 and OR4932; Figs 1l, 12) which had been set into the floor levels. The primary flooring deposits were set over early Roman soil layer, 275 (see above), suggesting that the area of the corridor, unlike that of the western rooms, had not been terraced into the hill-slope and that the original floor level was intended to be slightly higher. Unlike the gradual build-up of flooring and occupation deposits found in the western rooms, the primary chalk flooring in the corridor was sealed by a mixed layer, 180, 0.35 m deep, of occupation and consolidation debris. This deposit, into which the three pottery vessels were set, contained sherds of pottery of dates ranging through the 2nd–4th centuries AD. It was sealed by chalk flooring 170, which in turn was covered by dereliction layer 136, containing building rubble and pottery of the 3rd–4th centuries AD (Fig. l).

East of corridor wall foundation 288, a courtyard covered the entire remaining area within Trench 3, extending for at least 13 m. The foundations of two short walls ran east from corridor wall 288, 247 to the north, 246 to the south (Fig. 11). Both were 1.5 m long, 0.5 m wide and survived to a depth of 0.45 m. Their construction differed from that of the foundations for the main walls in that they were formed from small limestone slabs set vertically in courses. The gap between the two foundations was 2.5 m wide and it is likely that they formed an entrance way. The deposits that made up the courtyard, like those in the corridor, had been laid directly onto early Roman soil layer 275. The primary consolidation level, 266, varied from predominantly clay loam in the north to silt loam in the south and contained fragments of chalk and flint (Fig. 13). Relatively free of building rubble and pottery, it may have represented a bare mud surface. It was covered by dumped deposits of soil and building rubble, 224, 234 and 254, which contained sherds of pottery datable to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

Above the consolidation material a crushed chalk path, 184, 5 m long, 1.4m wide and 0.06 m deep, ran initially east–west between walls 246 and 247 before starting to turn slightly southwards as it left the trench. The path was superseded by a deposit of fine, crushed limestone, 199, 0.05 m thick and laid on a bed of mortar, 225. The limestone surface extended across the whole width of the trench, but was thinner towards the north (and not visible in section). The surface was covered by fine silt loam deposits, 118, 143 and 188, which, although containing quantities of pottery datable to the 3rd–4th centuries AD, probably represent post-Roman soil accumulation (see below).

Structure 1610

This structure was represented by a single wall, 230, which extended from the eastern end of the northern site section (Fig. 11). The wall was on the same alignment as, but slightly to the north of, early Roman Structure 1603.

Wall 230 ran east–west for 4rn, was 0.6 m wide and had a maximum of two courses of flint in mixed mortar and limestone rubble. The western end extended beyond the edge of the trench and the eastern end had been destroyed by later activity. A small amount of unpainted mortar was found attached to the southern face. This wall was sealed by the major courtyard levels, and thus probably represents the remains of a structure earlier than 1609. It could, however, have been a remnant of an early northern boundary to the courtyard.

In Trench 4 a sequence of robbed wall trenches with some surviving wall foundations was found to represent three buildings, 1611, 1612 and 1613. Structure 1611 was the earliest of these and abutted road 1008. It was directly replaced by Structure 1612. Structure 1613, in the north-western corner of the trench, was the last in the sequence. A series of occupation deposits was also encountered which, because of robbing activity, could only be partially linked to the sequence of walls.

Structure 1611

This structure was rectangular, its long axis aligned from north-east to south-west at a right-angle to road 1008 (Fig. 18; P1.3). It was 6 m wide and at least 17.5 m long. The longer walls of the building were represented by robbed wall trenches 1161 and 1105, both up to 0.6 m wide and 0. 15 m deep. These were filled with light yellowish brown mortar with some fragments of flint and limestone rubble – all that remained of the foundation material. The southern wall survived as a 1 m length of robbed foundation, 1166, up to 0.8 m wide and 0.2 m thick. Two limestone blocks remained *in situ* on the mortar foundation. A single course of unmortared limestone blocks, 1026, 1.5 m long and 0.5 m wide and following roughly the same alignment as wall foundation 1105, survived on the western step of Trench 4, but may, however, have been associated with Structure 1612 (see below). In the north-western corner of the trench, beyond the modern disturbance, wall line 1161 was continued by flint foundations 1296 and 1350. These were separated by wall foundation 1388 of Structure 1613 (see below), but probably represent a continuous wall line. Foundations 1296 and 1350 were 0.35 m thick and 0.5 m wide, both consisting of three courses of rough flint nodules in light brown mortar. The overlying limestone walling was represented only by occasional *in situ* blocks.

Structure 1612

Structure 1612 was re-built over Structure 1611. It had the same width and alignment but was set back 1.5 m north of the road. The line of the southern wall survived as two stretches of robbed foundation, 1143 and 1163 (Fig. 18; P1. 3). Both sections were 0.6 m wide and 0.1 m deep and were filled with light brown mortar. The western end of foundation 1143 cut into the mortar of foundation 1105, thereby establishing the sequence of construction. The loss of wall stone from foundations 1105 and 1161 effectively removed any direct evidence concerning the reuse or rebuilding of these walls. However, the slight change of alignment between wall 1026 and foundation 1105 may reflect rebuilding over the earlier foundations. In the north-western corner of the site a single course of the western face of 1.5 m length of wall, 1076, was found above and 0.3 m east of the face of underlying foundation and wall 1296, suggesting that the new wall had been built almost directly over the base of the old one. The relationship with wall 1388 of Structure 1613 was not clear.

Occupation deposits and associated features were recorded within the area covered by Structures 1611 and 1612, but because most of the walls had been robbed it was not possible to assign internal episodes to specific structures. The primary flooring deposits lay directly over layer 1288 which sealed early Roman Structure 1605 (see above). The construction of the flooring varied from north to south; to the north, layer 1233 (Fig. 16) was a simple crushed chalk floor but to the south a layer of flint cobbling, 1202, provided firm support for a disturbed layer of compacted, finely crushed tile, 1201 (Fig. 18). The crushed tile floor was 0.05 m thick and had been cut by infant burial 1198 (see below; Fig. 18). Also cutting the floor levels at this end of the building was oven 1150, which was of keyhole pattern, the firing chamber to the south and stoke chamber to the north. The firing chamber was 0.6 m across and 1.5 m long with three courses of heavily burnt limestone surviving *in situ.* The fills of both firing and stoke chambers were disturbed by robbing, as was much of the south-western part of the building. A small patch of burnt chalk and a few burnt limestone blocks immediately south of oven 1150 may represent part of a second oven, but this was not certain. In the northern part of the building, disturbance was less widespread and chalk floor 1233 was the earliest in a sequence of floors. Above 1233 were occupation deposits 1231 and 1234, mixed grey-brown loams with some mortar and flint rubble (Fig. 16); neither deposit was extensive, and no datable sherds of pottery were recovered from them. Both were sealed by crushed chalk floor 1240, which was in turn covered by occupation level 1067, grey silt loam up to 0.25 m deep which contained mortar, limestone and chalk rubble, and pottery datable to the 3rd–4th centuries AD. Above this was the final floor surface, 1029, a mixed layer of compacted chalk and silt loam with mortar and limestone rubble. This surface was covered by medieval soil build-up 1024 (see below) and cut by five circular postholes, 1097, 1099, 1100, 1101 and 1103, with average diameters of 0.3 m and depths of 0.1 m (Fig. 18). All were filled with grey silt loam with small fragments of chalk and limestone rubble. The postholes may represent an internal division of Structure 1612, although their stratigraphic position above floor 1029 and below medieval soil deposit 1024 means that a later date cannot be ruled out. Traces of flooring and consolidation deposits, 1183 and 1193, were exposed in the north-western corner of Trench 4, abutting wall 1296 and cut by foundation 1388. These layers were broadly contemporary with the sequence to the south but no direct correlations could be made.

Structure 1613

This structure was represented by wall foundation 1388 in the north-west corner of Trench 4 (Figs 18, 16). It crossed the angle between the northern and western site edges, had a length of 4.5 m and was 0.75 m wide and 0.4m deep; it consisted of five rough courses of flint nodules set in light brown mortar. Above this was a disturbed layer of limestone blocks and flint rubble, 1077, the bottom course of the overlying wall (Fig. 16). At its eastern end the wall was made up of a single line of four large limestone blocks 0.5 m square which had probably been used to fill a doorway or other gap in the wall. The wall foundation was cut down through foundations 1296/1350 of Structure 1611. A badly disturbed spread of limestone rubble to the east, 1108, may have been the remains of an associated wall (Fig. 18). If so, it is possible that Structure 1613 enclosed well 1018 after the abandonment of Structure 1612; if not, then the bulk of Structure 1613 remained unexcavated to the north of Trench 4.

Other Features

In Trench 1 the base of a square pit, 534, cut late Roman robbed wall trench 536. The pit was lm across, 0.15 m deep and filled with grey-brown silt loam. No finds were recovered from the feature and it may not have been of Roman date.

Well 1018 was at the northern end of Trench 4 (Fig. 18). It comprised a stone-lined shaft of 1 m internal diameter, 1.5 m external diameter, set within a construction trench of 3 m diameter. The lining consisted largely of rough limestone blocks laid without mortar but also included fragments from two quernstones (OR3249, OR3250) and a few sherds of pottery dating to the 3rd–4th centuries AD. The construction trench had been backfilled with compacted deposits of mixed white and grey chalky silt loam, which contained residual sherds of pottery of 2nd-century AD date. The top 1.2 m of the shaft was filled with mixed stone rubble in grey-brown silt loam. The well was half-sectioned by mechanical excavator at the end of the excavation and found to extend 4.5 m down to the water-table at 53.46 m OD.

Pit 1180 was roughly oval in plan, extending 3 m north-eastwards into the southern part of the trench (Figs 18, 15). It was up to 1.2 m wide, 0.8 m deep and filled with dark grey-brown silt loam containing a few fragments of flint and limestone probably derived from 1022, the layer above (see below). The pit was later than gully 1179 but earlier than gully 1126.

Pits 1189 and 1191 were both cut by gully 1126 and their original shapes and sizes are unknown (Fig. 18). Both were filled with dark grey-brown silt loam with a few chalk, flint and limestone fragments; no datable finds were recovered from either feature.

Gully 1126 ran from south-west to north-east across the trench (Figs 18, 15). It was 0.4m wide, 0.3 m deep and filled with dark grey-brown silt loam which contained fragments of animal bone, ceramic tile, shell, limestone and sherds of pottery datable to the 3rd–4th centuries AD.

Gully 1179 was on the same alignment as gully 1126, but slightly to the south and cut by it (Fig. 18); it was cut into late Roman soil accumulation layers 1156 and 1168 (see below; Fig. 15). The gully was 1 m wide, 0.6 m deep and filled with dark grey-brown silt loam which contained a pair of copper alloy tweezers (OR3200).

Infant Burials

Seven burials were assigned to Phase 5, 604 in Trench 1, 249 in Trench 3 and 1198, 1257, 1406, 1466 and 1488 in Trench 4. In addition to these, disarticulated fragments of human bone were recovered from dump layer 1529 in Trench *5.*

Burial 604 in Trench 1 was sealed by collapsed wall plaster, 584, and was contemporary with occupation deposit 601 in late Roman structure 1607 (Fig. 7). The burial was of a newborn child; it had been placed in a crouched position on its left side, head to the south (Fig. 19). The grave was rectangular, 0.5 m long, 0.35 m wide and 0.15 m deep.

Burial 249, Trench 3, had been placed on a roughly rectangular limestone slab, 0.34m by 0.22 m by 0.05 m, over a pottery vessel. The burial was in the north-east corner of the southern room of late Roman structure 1609 (Fig. 11). It was sealed by late Roman occupation level 160, a grey clay loam with limestone and mortar rubble. The skeleton, probably that of a newborn child, was not well preserved but enough remained to suggest that it had been laid in a crouched position on its left side, head to the west. It is likely that the pottery vessel (OR3098), the top of which had been set flush with the floor, was already in position and was not a grave-good; a similar vessel (OR3 101) was set in the southeast corner of the northern room.

In Trench 4, burial 1198 was below late Roman occupation deposit 1146 and was cut into crushed tile floor 1201 associated with late Roman Structures 1611 and 1612 (Fig. 18). The burial, of a newborn child, had been laid in a crouched position on its right side, head to the north. The grave survived only as an indistinct slope immediately around the skeleton and was nowhere more than 0.05rn deep.

Burial 1257 was in both late Roman Structures 1611 and 1612, against the eastern wall (Fig. 18). It lay above early Roman floor level 1174 associated with Structure 1605 and had been disturbed by medieval stone robbing. The burial was of a newborn child, but the skeleton had been badly jumbled by the robbing activity (Fig. 19). It lay within an amorphous grave 0.1 m deep and was associated with three pottery vessels (OR3226–8).

Burial 1407 had been cut down into the top of wall foundation 1296 (Fig. 18). It was contemporary with the construction of late Roman Structure 1612. The burial was that of a newborn child; it had been laid in a crouched position on its left side, head to the north-west (Fig. 19). The grave was oval, 0.43 m long, 0.18 m wide and 0.06 m deep.

Burial 1466 was also that of a newborn child. The skeleton had been badly disturbed and less than 50% of the bones survived. No grave was recognised, the burial being recovered from the upper level of late Roman occupation deposit 1237 immediately east of wall 1026 (Fig. 18). The burial was covered by occupation deposit 1234 and was contemporary with late Roman Structure 1611.

Burial 1488 was in the north-west corner of Trench 4, in occupation layer 1348, a mixed grey silt loam deposit (Figs 18, 16). This layer was not securely dated, but appeared to post-date wall foundation 1388, and both layer and burial may have been associated with late Roman Structure 1613. No grave was recognised, nor was it possible to recover the complete skeleton since part lay beyond the trench edge. The burial was of a newborn child.

In Trench 5, layer 1529 consisted of dumped material associated with erosion deposits which had built up against the main chalk batik, 1518 (see below; Fig. 21). Within this deposit were a few disarticulated human bones, apparently from a single newborn child.

Roman Road 1008

At least two further surfaces were added to the road in Trench 4 during this period, until it reached its maximum surviving level of 60.20m OD, 1.3 m of metalling having been built up throughout the Roman period.

The tertiary road surface was built up over consolidation level 1258, which had been laid directly over early Roman soil deposit 1289 (see above) (Figs 15, 17). Layer 1258 consisted of loose flint pebbles in grey-brown silt loam and contained fragments of animal bone, ceramic tile, shell, shale and sherds of pottery datable to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. The consolidation material was capped by a compacted surface of light brown fine gravel and sand. The whole deposit was up to 0.25 m thick and, unlike the earlier road surfaces, showed no traces of discrete ruts, but had instead a single depression 2 m wide and 0.1 m deep.

Later road surfaces were visible in section, with up to three more compacted layers of light brown fine gravel and sand being recorded (Figs 15, 17). All of these surfaces were discontinuous, however, and were probably the result of resurfacing or repair operations. Pottery datable to the 3rd–4th centuries AD was recovered from them. The latest levels in the sequence, 1007 and 1244, contained more dark-brown silt loam amongst the gravel than had the earlier deposits (Figs 15, 17), but whether these represent the final late or post-Roman use of the road or are the result of later soil deposits mixing with the road surface is uncertain.

The Defences

In Trench 5 the early Roman main chalk bank, 1518, underwent a period of erosion which ended with the deposition of clay layer 1527. The clay, which prevented further erosion and formed a secondary bank north of the original line, was possibly associated with the construction of the town wall to the south.

The main bank erosion deposits consisted of chalk rubble with varying amounts of soil. Deposit 1538 contained blocky chalk rubble with almost no soil and may represent modification to the top of the earlier bank to the south (Fig. 21). A later deposit, 1528, contained fine chalk fragments in grey-brown silt loam and is probably the result of natural erosion. The two layers were separated by a grey-brown clay loam deposit, 1529/1532, perhaps deliberately used to cover the very loose rubble of layer 1538. The deposit contained fragments of animal bone, ceramic tile, shell, wall plaster and pottery datable to the 1st–2nd centuries AD.

The secondary bank deposits, 1527, consisted of red-brown silt clay with lenses of ash and chalk (Fig. 2l). Within these deposits were fragments of animal bone, ceramic tile, two copper alloy objects (OR3225 and OR3229) and sherds of pottery datable to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD. The chalk in this deposit was discoloured by manganese staining, indicating that the material was derived from a low-lying, waterlogged area (S. Staines pers. comm.). The deposit was at least 1 m deep at the northern end of the trench, surviving to the same height as 1518, the original chalk bank. It is reasonable to suppose that the clay was built up to the same level as the chalk bank to form an inner extension of this part of the town wall circuit.

General Soil Accumulations

Most of the late Roman soil levels in Trench 1 were removed by later terracing, except for the limited deposits associated with late Roman Structure 1607 described above.

In Trench 2 early Roman soil levels 660 and 771 were covered by layers 731, 743 and 753 which consisted of mixed brown loams with chalk rubble. All contained fragments of flint, limestone, ceramic tile, animal bone, shell and sherds of pottery datable to the 3rd–4th centuries AD. The deposits represent a build-up of garden soil and contained objects and lenses of chalk rubble probably derived from Structures 1606, 1607 and 1608 to the west in Trench 1.

The accumulation of material in Trench 3 resulted from the successive re-laying of floors and courtyard deposits and the build-up of occupation debris. The sequence was sealed by mixed garden soil and abandonment debris which have been described with late Roman Structures 1609 and 1610 above.

In Trench 4, soil deposition to the north of Roman road 1008 related to consolidation and flooring deposits within and to the east of Structures 1611, 1612 and 1613. Within the already partly filled natural hollow south of the road early Roman features, surfaces and soil accumulations were all covered by a mixed deposit of garden soil during the late Roman phase. This soil was made up of several layers, amongst which were 1167 at the base of the sequence, rising through 1168 and 1156 to 1182 at the top (Fig. 15). Deposit 1167 was a light brown clay loam with frequent charcoal flecks, 0.4m thick, and contained fragments of animal bone, ceramic tile, shell and sherds of pottery datable to 2nd–3rd centuries AD. Deposit 1168 was a brown-grey silt loam 0.2 m thick, which contained fragments of chalk, flint, limestone, animal bone, ceramic tile, shell and sherds of pottery datable to 3rd–4th centuries AD. Deposits 1156 and 1182, south and north respectively of gullies 1126 and 1179, were both mixed brown loams up to 0.2rn thick and contained fragments of animal bone, ceramic tile, shell, wall plaster and pottery datable to 3rd–4th centuries AD; a copper alloy coin (OR3219) was recovered from 1182, and a copper alloy finial (OR3 186) from 1156.

Trench 5 contained no general soil accumulations, all general levels being associated with the defences (described above).

Phase 6: Post-Roman *(c.* 400–500+ AD)

This phase was not securely dated; it has been assumed, however, that material which was demonstrably later than the late Roman buildings but did not contain pottery of medieval date (the earliest post-Roman pottery recovered dates from the 12th and 13th centuries AD), and in some cases was sealed by deposits that did, represents evidence of closely post-Roman activity, probably in the 5th and 6th centuries AD. All such evidence appears to be associated with the robbing of late Roman structures for building material.

Stone Surfaces 140 and 1022

Stone surface 140 in Trench 3 lay across the full width of the trench, extending 9 m east from the then derelict late Roman Structure 1609 (Figs 11, 13). The surface appeared to be a crude hard-standing; although roughly level, it was not well laid and

varied in composition from predominantly flint in the north-east to limestone in the south. Over most of the trench the surface was of single stone thickness, but layers up to three deep were found in the north-east corner. The stone overlay general soil accumulations 118, 143 and 188 (Fig. 13) which sealed the courtyard of late Roman Structure 1609 and therefore, although probably derived from that building, was not from an *in situ* collapse. A shallow gully, 105, ran across the stone surface for 6 m from west-north-west to east-south-east (Fig. 11). It was 1 m wide and 0.1 m deep with gently sloping sides and was filled with grey-brown silt loam which contained fragments of flint and limestone rubble and a few sherds of Roman pottery. In the south-east corner of surface 140 a possible drain, 93, was found, set 0.15 m below the stones and defined by limestone slabs set on edge (Fig. 11). A 4m length of the drain was exposed, running east–west, but its width was not known. The fill was identical to that of gully 105 and it also contained a few sherds of Roman pottery. The stone surface was sealed beneath general soil accumulations 76 and 101 (see below; Fig. 13).

Stone surface 1022 ran from north-east to south-west across Trench 4. It was patchy but apparently parallel to and 2 m south of Roman road 1008 (Fig. 18). Despite its irregularity the surface appeared linear in plan, was 1.5 m wide, and may have been a rough path. The surface was predominantly limestone with some flint nodules and was of single stone thickness, except where it had sunk into late Roman gullies 1126 and 1179 and two layers were recorded. The stones were in a dark grey-brown silt loam matrix similar to the soils associated with stone spread 140 in Trench 3 and were covered by a thick deposit of grey-brown silt loam, 1005, which held fragments of both Roman and post-medieval pottery.

Other Features

In Trench 3 a single posthole, 31, was assigned to this phase (Fig. 11). It was circular, 0.5 m in diameter, 0.3 m deep, with near-vertical sides and was filled with brown silt loam. The posthole was later than, but on the line of, robber trench 212.

Also in Trench 3, was a pit, 34; this lay partly beneath the western trench edge and was not fully excavated (Fig. 11). It was filled with grey silt loam which contained fragments of Limestone, wall plaster, animal bone, ceramic tile and sherds of Roman pottery datable to the 1st–4th centuries AD. The pit post-dated the last of the levels slumped into Roman well 294, and may have been the result of wall-robbing activities.

Feature 63 was 3 m long, 0.8 m wide, 0.5 m deep and ran south from the northern edge of the site (Fig. 12; not on plan). Although not lying above a Roman wall, the feature may represent an unsuccessful exploratory robber trench, perhaps abandoned when wall 292 was located. It was filled with dark-grey silt loam which contained fragments of animal bone, ceramic tile, wall plaster, sherds of pottery datable to the 3rd–4th centuries AD and a copper alloy object (OR3014).

Robber trench 212 ran along the line of late Roman wall 292, leaving only part of the flint-coursed construction level *in situ* (Figs 11, 12). The trench was up to 0.7 m wide and 0.8 m deep, filled with grey-brown silt loam which contained a few fragments of flint, limestone, ceramic tile, animal bone, wall plaster and sherds of Roman pottery of the 1st–3rd centuries AD.

Robber features 1031 and 1096 in Trench 4 probably belong to this phase. Feature 1096 was linear, 9 m long, up to 0.8 m wide and 0.3 m deep. It followed the line of late Roman wall 1161 (Fig. 18), leaving only a layer of mortar at the base of

the trench. Feature 1031 ran parallel and adjacent to 1096 and was 7 m long and up to 2 m wide (Fig. 18); the relationship between the two features was uncertain. It lay within the area covered by late Roman Structures 1611/1612. Both features were filled with mixed deposits of grey silt loam which contained chalk and limestone rubble, as well as quantities of animal bone, ceramic tile and shell. Most of the pottery recovered from these features was datable to 3rd–4th centuries AD, but ten sherds were dated to the 12th–14th centuries and a further ten to the 15th–17th centuries.

General Soil Accumulation

In Trench 3, fine, grey silt loam deposits pre-dating stone spread 140 are represented by layers 118, 143 and 188; apparently identical deposits, layers 76 and 101, also lay above the stones (Fig. 13). Both upper and lower deposits were generally clean, with occasional small fragments of flint, limestone, chalk, wall plaster, ceramic tile, animal bone and pottery. The pottery ranges in date from 1st–4th centuries AD, but is mainly of the 3rd and 4th centuries. The fine nature of these layers suggests that they had been washed down from higher ground to the north and west.

In Trench 4 stratigraphically equivalent layers were darker and less silty, probably reflecting a difference in origin and angle of slope rather than of depositional process. The grey silt loam was largely absent, late Roman deposits often being sealed directly by medieval agricultural soil. Only at the southern end of the trench, south of and associated with stone spread 1022, was a similar layer, 1023, found; pottery recovered from this deposit was dated to the 3rd–4th centuries AD. In the northern half of the trench, layer 1073, a grey silt loam which sealed late Roman wall 1077, probably represented a remnant of this deposit (Fig. 16). Over the rest of the trench equivalent soil had probably been removed during stone-robbing.

Phases 7 and 8: Medieval and Post-medieval *(c.* 1100–1875 AD)

These phases were represented principally by the deposition of agriculturally-sorted brown loam which covered the surviving traces of the late Roman buildings and the medieval robbing activity. In Trench 1 medieval and post-medieval levels were absent, partly because the level of natural chalk was relatively close to the present ground surface, and partly because modern disturbances obscured the first metre of stratigraphy. In Trench 2 postholes and stone features from a large building were found. This building was probably the barn rented by the Reverend John White in 1623 (see above). In Trenches 3 and 4 robbing and agricultural activity continued. In Trench 5 the Roman defences were truncated by the construction of the cattle market and stables in the 19th century, nearly all traces of medieval and post-medieval activity being removed thereby; a single disturbance, 1531, was recorded below the levelling and foundation deposits.

Structures 1614 and 1615

Structures 1614 and 1615 in Trench 2 represent two phases of a 17th-century barn, probably that rented by the Reverend John White in 1623. Structure 1614, which preceded stone-built Structure 1615, is represented by a group of seven postholes and one stakehole. Structure 1615 had two sub-phases of walling and cobbled and flagged surfaces.

Structure 1614 consisted of seven postholes, 710, 733, 735, 737, 739, 746 and 752 and a stakehole, 711 (Fig. 8). The postholes had an average diameter and depth of 0.25 m. Rough stone linings of flint and limestone rubble were recorded for all of the postholes, which were filled with grey-brown silt loam. A few fragments of redeposited Roman ceramic tile, wall plaster and pottery were recovered from them, but posthole 737 contained a single sherd of pottery of 16th or 17th-century date. The postholes were cut through general soil level 703, which contained sherds of pottery datable to the 15th or 16th centuries, and were sealed by construction and wall foundation deposits for Structure 1615. The size of the trench precluded any assessment of the size and shape of the building represented by these features, but the construction of stone building 1615 above them suggests that they parts of an earlier version of the barn.

Structure 1615 consisted of elements of a substantial stone building; three walls, 656, 707 and 712, cobbled surface 706/709, flagged surface 705 and drain 708 (Fig. 8; P1. 4). Wall 712 ran north-north-west for almost 5 m; it was 0.6 m wide and built of limestone blocks and a few roughly squared flint nodules. The wall was well-made, with parallel faces of squared, coursed stonework and minimal rubble core. A large limestone block, 0.7 m by 0.5 m by 0.3 m, marked the end of the wall. Wall 656 had been built directly over wall 712. Its construction technique was rougher, compact but uneven and uncoursed, incorporating more flint nodules than wall 712. The western face of the wall had been robbed, exposing a loose rubble core. The eastern face was irregular and drifted slightly to the west. It is possible that walls 712 and 656 were a single build, the foundation being offset, but the poorer quality of wall 656 suggests that it was the result at least of a major repair if not a complete rebuild. Wall 707 ran east–west at the northern side of the trench but remained largely unexcavated. It appeared to have been built with coursed, squared limestone blocks set in a pink-buff mortar. An area of flint cobbling, 706/709, 1.5 m by 1.5 m square lay east of the northern end of walls 712 and 656. The cobbling was bordered to the south and east by small limestone slabs set on edge, and was crossed from north to south by a limestone lined and edged drain, 708. The drain was 0.2 m wide and up to 0.1 m deep. The area between the cobbling and wall 707 to the north was covered by limestone flags, 705, which had been laid onto a thin bed of yellow-brown sandy mortar. All elements of the structure were covered by general soil deposits which contained sherds of pottery datable to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Other Features

In Trenches 3 and 4, the walls of late Roman buildings 1609, 1611, 1612 and 1613 were extensively robbed, continuing the activity started in the post-Roman phase by robber features 63, 212, 1031 and 1096. Although pottery from these features was generally sparse and included quantities of redeposited Roman material, some sherds were found which could be dated to the 12th–14th and 16th–17th centuries, suggesting that the Roman wall stone was taken intermittently over a considerable period of time. Some sections of Roman wall which had survived may have been partially robbed early on before being covered by soil, thus escaping detection at a later date.

In Trench 5, disturbance 1531 was an irregular depression extending beneath the eastern trench edge. It was 1.3 m deep, 3.3 m long from north to south and at least 1.4m wide, and had been cut through erosion layers at the back of Roman bank 1518 and partly into the chalk of the bank. The depression was filled with mixed layers of

grey-brown silt loam and dark brown clay loam with lenses of fine chalk rubble and charcoal; these contained fragments of animal bone, ceramic tile, shell and some sherds of pottery. Although most of the pottery was redeposited Roman material datable to the 3rd–4th centuries AD, a few sherds datable to the 13th–14th centuries and to the 17th–18th centuries were also identified. The nature of this feature is obscure, but it may be the result of quarrying for chalk from the Roman bank.

General Soil Accumulation

In Trench 1 medieval and post-medieval levels were absent, partly because of modern disturbance, but also because the level of natural chalk was higher there and relatively close to the modern ground surface.

In Trenches 2, 3 and 4 deposits of agriculturally sorted brown clay loam, with maximum surviving depths of 1.6 m were recorded. The soil was fine and generally free of rubble. Fine bands of fragmented chalk and flint were visible throughout the sections. Although considerable quantities of redeposited Roman material were recovered from these deposits, material of contemporary date was not common, suggesting either a low level of manuring or a fast soil build-up within the natural depression formed by the coombe. Most of the pottery recovered from these deposits was datable to the 3rd–4th centuries AD, but a few sherds from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries were also recovered.

In Trench 5 the Roman defences had been truncated by modern activity relating to the cattle market and stables built in the 19th century; this work had also removed nearly all traces of medieval and post-medieval activity.

Phase 9: Modern (1850+)

The trenches were sited to avoid potential areas of high disturbance and modern activities had not substantially intruded into the areas investigated, although some service trenches crossed the development area, damaging some sections.

Trenches 1 and 2 were not excavated as a single continuous area because of the presence of a large sewer trench. The area of these trenches had also been damaged by the construction of 2/3 Acland Road in the 19th century and the subsequent use of the building, although in Trench 2 this disturbance was confined to the extreme western edge of the trench. The eastern side of Trench 1 had been additionally disturbed by a cellar, but a general soil accumulation survived intact over much of post-medieval barn 1615.

Although the footings of a malthouse which stood in the area between Trenches 3 and 4 had probably caused some damage, in Trench 3 the gradual build-up of soil, which started in the post-Roman period and continued until the beginning of the 19th century, showed little sign of this. Only along the extreme northern edge of the trench had modern footings disturbed the ground, obscuring the top of the northern trench section.

In Trench 4 archaeological levels were almost untouched. At the top of the trench sections the present car park surface and footings overlay up to 0.2 m of crushed chalk from the 19th century cattle market. Below these were up to 2.4m of deposits from the early Roman to post-medieval periods. A single modern gravel-filled drain cut just into the top of natural ran across the northern half of the trench disturbing these levels.

In Trench 5, construction activity and footings of buildings up to 1 m deep were recorded; these related to the cattle market and had cut across the top of late Roman chalk bank 1518, destroying its summit.

3. THE FINDS

Coins

by John A. Davies

Fifty-two coins were recovered from excavations at Wessex Court in 1989. The detailed catalogue of coins is not reproduced in this report. Fifty of these are Roman issues and two are Celtic. Both of the Celtic coins are billon staters of the Durotriges (Durotrigian H) and date from the years *c.* 40–10 BC or thereabouts. The main concentration of Durotrigian issues has been found within the counties of Dorset, Hampshire, and Wiltshire, in the area between Lyme Regis in the west and the River Test in the east (Cunliffe, 1981, 87; Van Arsdell 1989, 490–1). Dorchester lies within this area, in the heart of Durotrigian territory.

The assemblage of 52 Roman issues (Table 1) complements a sizable body of recorded information from other Dorchester Romano-British intra-mural sites, which now numbers some 2,000 coins combined. The coins, as a group, exhibit the characteristic high loss between AD 259–296 and a low later 4th-century AD value (330–402), which is now known to be a typical feature of Romano-British urban sites. The very high proportion of late 3rd-century coinage at this site is comparable to that recorded at another Dorchester site, the bath house complex of Wollaston House (Reece forthcoming).

The early Roman issues are a particular feature of the Wessex Court assemblage. Coins of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD are regularly found on Dorchester sites, with a notably high proportion having also been recorded from the adjacent site of Greyhound Yard. However, more than a quarter of the Wessex Court coins belong to the years up to AD 213, which is a higher proportion than is usually recovered. Most of these are *assess* and *sestertii* of the period from AD 64–180, in the ratio of almost 2:1 respectively. Some of the larger coins (notably OR3219 and OR3244) exhibit heavy wear typical of *aes* issues recovered from sites and this indicates that they saw a long life in circulation prior to loss. For this reason, it is more difficult to assign *RIC* number to many early examples.

Among the 25 issues of the late 3rd century AD are five *antoniniani* of Carausius and two *quinarii* of Allectus. Such a high number of British Empire coins in an assemblage of this size is unusual. It is especially interesting since a similar high number was recorded at the County Hall site (Davies 1993). Of the examples which could be assigned to a specific mint, at Wessex Court two belonged to London and three to the 'C' mint (at *Camulodunum* or *Clausentum).* At County Hall four belonged to London and one to the 'C' mint. A further large proportion of the late Roman component are the barbarous radiates, with ten examples present. However, such irregular issues frequently predominate among groups of *antoniniani* from sites and the size of this group is not unusual. Three of the barbarous radiates are worthy of a separate note. Two of these are copies of the emperor Gallienus coinage and as such, are not commonly identified in Britain, although the animal reverse types used by him formed more popular subjects for the irregular moneyers in northern Gaul. There is also an example whose flan has been prepared by being clipped from sheet metal

(OR3056). The coin is, unusually, in uncirculated condition and exhibits very clearly cut marks and burrs from its manufacture.

The years from 296–388 AD are represented by just six coins, with the normally common issues of the House of Valentinian totally absent. The assemblage then finishes strongly, with three small bronzes of Arcadius and the House of Theodosius.

Table 1: Chronological breakdown of coins. Issue Periods are those defined by Reece (1972, 271)

Issue	Period	No.	%
I	To AD 41	-	-
II	41–54	-	-
IIb	54–68	2	4.3
III	69–96	2	4.3
IV	96–117	1	2.1
V	117–138	3	6.4
VI	138–161	2	4.3
VIIa	161–180	2	4.3
VIIb	180–192	-	-
VIII	193–222	1	2.1
IXa	222–238	-	-
IXb	238–259	-	-
X	259–275	8	17.0
XI	275–296	17	36.2
XII	296–317	-	-
XIIIa	317–330	2	4.3
XIIIb	330–348	3	6.4
XIV	348–364	1	2.1
XVa	364–378	-	-
XVb	378–388	-	-
XVI	338–402	3	6.4
3rd–4th century		3	
Iron Age		2	
Total		52	

Copper Alloy Objects

N. J. Adam

A total of 96 copper alloy objects was recovered from the Site. This comprised 86 items recovered from excavated contexts and included ten brooches, seven brooch fragments, eight finger rings, seven toilet items, five pins, a shaft fragment, three armlets, eight stud mountings, two necklaces, 15 sheet fragments and 16 miscellaneous items. The objects are presented by phase in Table 2. Fifty-eight objects were recovered from Roman contexts. Four pieces of scrap were also recovered (not included in Table 2). In addition, ten objects were recovered with the use of a metal detector from the spoil heaps of Trenches 2 and 3 (not included in Table 2). These included three plain rings, the hinge pin of a Roman brooch, a flat coin-like disc, two pieces of undiagnostic copper ahoy, one large hollow ring (diameter 100 mm), a plate from a modern coffin fitting and a button from a military uniform; none are illustrated. The full catalogue description of all the copper alloy

objects, excluding the detector finds, is in archive. The number of objects by phase is shown in Table 2.

The brooches and most of the other objects were cleaned and examined by Meg Brooks. Her comments concerning the state of preservation of some items and the types of alloy used in their manufacture are incorporated into the full archive catalogue.

Table 2: Copper alloy objects by phase (excavated finds only)

Phase	Trench	Brooches	Finger rings	Toilet items	Pins	Armlets	Stud heads	Neck-laces	Sheet frags.	Misc.
3	3	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	2
	4	1	-	-	-	-	.	-	.	-
4	2	1	-	-	-	.	-	-	-	1
	3	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
	4	5	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	3
5	1	-	1	-		-	-	-	-	-
	3	2	2	-	1	-	2	-	2	1
	4	1	4	2	1	-	1	-	10	2
	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	3	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	1
	4	2	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	2	-	-	-	-		-	1	-	-
	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3
	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
9	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		17	8	7	6	3	8	2	15	16

Brooches

The ten brooches are all bow brooches and include one Nauheim derivative (Fig. 22, 1), one strip brooch (Fig. 22, 2), one Aucissa (Fig. 22, 3), Three Hod Hill types (Fig. 22, 4–6), two Maiden Castle types (Fig. 22, 7–8), a T-shaped brooch (Fig. 22, 9) and a trumpet brooch (Fig. 22, 10). These were compared with assemblages from Hod Hill, Walls and Waddon Hill in Dorset, Nor'Nour in the Isles of Scilly, Fishbourne and Chichester in Sussex, as well as those from Alington Avenue, County Hall, Greyhound Yard and Poundbury in Dorchester. Seven brooch fragments were also found, all of which were identified as being from bow brooches; three were tentatively assigned to specific brooch types.

All of the datable brooches were from the Claudian-Neronian period and five (Fig. 22, 1–4 and 6) have parallels with examples from Hod Hill (Brailsford 1969), while two (Fig. 22, 1 and 2) are also paralleled at Poundbury (Davies 1987a, Figs 8 and 11). Four of the datable brooches were recovered from early Roman contexts (Fig. 22, 1, 3, 4 and 6) while two were redeposited, one in late Roman material (Fig. 22, 2) and the other (Fig. 22, 5) in a post-Roman deposit. One brooch (Fig. 22, 6) was an unusual Hod Hill type and was identical to the example from that site (Brailsford 1969, C. 100). This type is rare, although other examples have been found at Ham Hill and Camerton, both in Somerset. The Wessex Court brooch was recovered from a 1st-century AD context, thus fitting with the date suggested by Brailsford (*ibid*., 11). The Aucissa-Hod Hill brooch (Fig. 22, 4) is similar to examples in the Chichester

(Mackreth and Butcher 1981, Fig. 17) and Greyhound Yard assemblages (Henig 1993).

Two brooches (Figs 22, 7, 8) were Maiden Castle types, very similar to examples recorded at Walls (Butcher 1985, Figs 2 and 6) and Greyhound Yard (Henig 1993). This type of brooch has been firmly dated to the Claudian period, and the two Wessex Court examples were recovered from immediately post-conquest (Fig. 22, 8) and early Roman layers (Fig. 22, 7).

The T-shaped brooch with fine engraving (Fig. 22, 9) is undated but is similar to one from Nor'Nour (Dudley 1967, fig. 80). The trumpet brooch or Backworth type (Fig. 22, 10) is similar to an example from Fishbourne (Hull 1971, fig. 32). One other example of this type has been recovered in Dorchester (*ibid*., 100). The T-shaped brooch was recovered from a modern clearance layer, while the Trumpet brooch came from an early Roman context.

Of the brooch fragments recovered, one may have come from a Nauheim derivative, paralleled at Chichester (Mackreth and Butcher 1981, fig. 10.1, no.7), while a front bow appears to be from a Maiden Castle type similar to one found at Walls (Butcher 1985, Figs 5 and 7). Another bow is very similar to that on a strip brooch from Waddon Hill (Mackreth 1979, fig. 5).

Finger Rings

Eight finger rings (Fig. 22, 11–14) were recovered, all of which can be stylistically as well as stratigraphically assigned to the Roman period. No typology has been established for rings, but four (including Fig. 22, 11 and 14) have parallels with examples from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 50, no. 1762, fig. 51, no. 1787, and fig. 197, nos 4403 and 4420) and one has parallels at both Colchester and Greyhound Yard (*ibid*., fig. *50,* no. 1759: Henig 1993).

Four of the rings (Fig. 22, 13 and 14: two not illustrated) are made from flattened bands of metal, and one (Fig. 22, 12) is made from a simple cylindrical coil. Two of the rings made from flattened bands (including Fig. 22, 13) have settings for a gem or coloured glass; one of these (not illustrated) has only survived in fragments and is heavily corroded; both are similar to an example from Poundbury (Cool 1987, fig. 3). Two rings (not illustrated) are complete, one with an ovoid cross-section and the other with a D-shaped profile. The remaining ring (Fig. 22, 11) is of more complex construction, made from four strands of wire twisted together and fixed with a retainer.

Dating for the rings is uncertain. One (Fig. 22, 12) is of simple style and probably of early Roman origin. A tentative date range of 3rd–4th centuries AD is suggested for two others (including Fig. 22, 13).

Toilet Items

These consisted of three sets of tweezers (including Fig. 23, 15–16), a toilet spoon (Fig. 23, 18), an item from a manicure set (Fig. 23, 19), part of a nail cleaner (not illustrated) and a set consisting of tweezers and a nail cleaner (Fig. 23, 17). Four of the objects (including Fig. 23, 17–19) were recovered from early Roman contexts; two sets of tweezers (including Fig. 23, 16) were found in late Roman layers; the other set of tweezers (Fig. 23, 15) was from a post-Roman deposit.

Toilet items are common in urban Roman domestic sites; examples of nail cleaners and toilet spoons have been recovered at the nearby sites of County Hall and

Greyhound Yard (Mills 1993 a; Henig 1993). One of the sets of tweezers (Fig. 23, 16) is noteworthy for having parallel rather than flared blades. The blades are held in place by a clasp which has survived in place and is almost intact. Close dating of the items has not been established and it is possible to assume that such items were in use throughout the Roman period. The parallel-blade tweezers, however, may be from the early Roman period since their design is so unlike that of the others, all of which were found in late Roman layers.

Pins

Of the five pins recovered, three were dated to the Roman period (including Fig. 23, 20–1). The first of these (Fig. 23, 20) was categorised as a Crummy type 5 (Crummy 1983; with a groove or grooves below a flattened spherical head). This type of pin is identical to a type 5 bone pin dated to the 2nd century AD, and the metal version may be of similar date. The Wessex Court pin was recovered from a late Roman context and has a parallel from Greyhound Yard (Henig 1993). The second pin (Fig. 23, 21) is highly decorated, with a bead and reel design below a worked bone finial. The pin was recovered from an early Roman phase; no exact parallel was found, although the bead and reel decoration is similar to that found on Crummy type 6 bone pins (Crummy 1983, 26, fig. 24), which would suggest that the item was made *c.* 200 AD at the earliest. The third Roman pin (not illustrated) is similar to a Crummy type 1 (Crummy 1983, fig. 26, no. 466), although the loss of its head has made identification uncertain. If the pin is a type 1, then it probably dates from the 2nd century AD.

The other two pins (not illustrated) were recovered from post-medieval contexts. The first of these has a very thin shaft with a globular head and appears to be a hair pin of very recent manufacture (ie, no more than 100 years old). The second (not illustrated) is a very long thin metal shaft with a circular profile. It is in the style of a Crummy type 1, but is twice as long as the example quoted (Crummy 1983, fig. 26, no. 466). The form of the item suggests that it was a fixing pin of some kind, but its late stratigraphic date, combined with its ambiguous form, means that no firm date can be suggested for its manufacture.

Shaft Fragment

One fragment of a shaft with a rectangular cross-section (not illustrated) was recovered from a late Roman context. As the tip and head of this object are missing it is impossible to tell whether it was originally a pin or a needle shaft.

Armlets

The three armlets found (Fig. 23, 22–4) are all of different styles and are probably all of Roman manufacture. All three have internal diameters of 50 mm or less and may have been made for children. Only one armlet with a cable design (Fig. 23, 23), was datable by comparison with a similar example from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 41, no. 1628) to the 3rd–4th centuries AD. Of the undated armlets, one (Fig. 23, 24) was found in an early Roman context; this has a parallel from the Greyhound Yard assemblage (Henig 1993). The third armlet (Fig. 23, 22) was recovered from a post-Roman context.

Studs/Stud Heads

Eight studs or stud heads were recovered from contexts dating to the early 1st century AD (including Fig. 23, 26), the 1st–2nd centuries AD (Fig. 23, *25),* the late Roman and post-Roman periods. Two of these objects (including Fig. 23, 26) are heads with traces of lead and solder on their undersides. The other heads (including Fig. 23, *25)* have no traces of lead or solder, but are similar in size and style to the former and probably performed the same function.

Three items (not illustrated) have retained their iron shanks and are almost complete; the head of one is supported with lead. Two of the heads (Figs 23, 25–6) are similar but not identical to examples from Colchester (Crummy 1983, Figs 121, 122) and Greyhound Yard (Henig 1993). Another dome-headed stud (not illustrated) also has a parallel from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 120, no. 3124), while a damaged mounting (not illustrated) bears some resemblance to another Colchester example (*ibid*., fig. 120, no. 3149). A conical shaped head (not illustrated) is similar to one found at Greyhound Yard (Henig 1993). None of the studs has been closely dated, but all are assumed to be of the Roman period.

Necklaces

The two items classified as necklaces have no parallels in the other assemblages studied. The function of the objects, both of which are fragmentary, is not clearly established but the suggested use seems the most likely one. The internal diameter of one object (Fig. 23, 27), principally of worked bone but with a piece of copper alloy sheet holding two sections together, is too large for it to have been used successfully as an armlet. The fine chain construction of the other (not illustrated) would probably be equally unsuited to such relatively rough use. Both objects were recovered from post-medieval contexts and may not therefore be Roman in date.

Sheet Fragments

Fifteen pieces of copper alloy sheet were found (none are illustrated). All were small worked fragments which had originally been attached to other objects, none of which could, however, be identified. Two fragments are from edges and corners and another two have holes caused by small pins or rivets. Twelve of the fragments were recovered from late Roman contexts, ten of these in Trench 4. Single fragments only could be assigned to each of the early Roman, post-Roman and medieval periods. The fragment from the early Roman phase was the only decorated piece, with several scored marks radiating from a central point. Overall, no precise dating is possible for the sheet fragments.

Miscellaneous Objects

This category comprises 16 items only one of which is illustrated (Fig. 23, 28). The group includes four undiagnostic fragments, all of which were recovered from post-medieval contexts and cannot be dated. A single boss was recovered from a medieval context. This object is similar to an example from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 124, no. 4037) and probably originated from an item of military equipment such as a shield. From its location on site it is probable that this object was redeposited.

The one illustrated object (Fig. 23, 28) was found in a late Roman context, but could not be identified with any certainty. It may have been a stopper for a container, or perhaps a finial. Without associated finds or parallels though, its function remains unclear. Another finial, which took the form of an elaborate loop, may have come from the shaft of a hair pin or a stylus; too little remained for it to be identified with any certainty.

Four finds of copper alloy wire were made. Of these, two pieces were undiagnostic lengths, twisted and buckled in irregular patterns. The third piece was made up of five individual pieces of U-shaped wire which may have been links in a chain of some kind, probably from an item of jewellery. The fourth piece of wire was bent into the shape of a double hook, looped by a broken iron object. This double hook could perhaps have been used for hanging food or light domestic items.

One rivet was found. This was recovered from a post-Roman context and was in two fragments, the complete shank and part of the conical head. This object has a parallel from the Colchester assemblage (Crummy 1983, fig. 123, no. 4034) and its date of manufacture can therefore be placed in the Roman period. Two unidentified fragments were recovered from very early Roman contexts. One is a bar decorated with linear grooves and ridges, and the other is a fragment of a tube that was broken in antiquity. A flattened ring was excavated from an early Roman layer. The internal diameter of this object is too small for it to be a finger ring and its flattened profile would have made it awkward to wear; no parallels have been found and its function remains unclear.

The final object is a bowed, tapering strip. This was originally thought to be part of a bow brooch, but the thick D-shaped narrow end has no facility for holding a spring or catch, and shows no sign of having had any such feature broken off. The object is probably from a piece of jewellery, although of what kind is unclear, and is probably Roman in date.

Discussion

Of the 96 copper alloy objects recovered, 86 were excavated from archaeological contexts, and of these 58 were recovered from Roman contexts (Table 2). The objects recovered from modern and post-medieval layers, together with those located by metal detector, are perhaps of less significance in establishing the nature of the Roman occupation but they may give some general indication of the nature of activity in the area.

The items from Roman contexts at Wessex Court form a typical urban assemblage. Comparison with the collections from County Hall (Mills 1993 a) and Greyhound Yard (Henig 1993) shows that many items, such as brooches, armlets, pins and studs, appear on all three sites; finger rings, however, are absent at County Hall.

In terms of frequency of finds however, some differences are noted. At County Hall one item of copper alloy was recovered for every 517 sherds of Roman pottery, while at Wessex Court the metal was almost twice as common with a ratio of 1:210. A similar proportion of copper alloy was present at Greyhound Yard where the ratio was 1:339. This may indicate, as might be expected, that different activities were carried out in different parts of the town. The copper alloy finds at Wessex Court are dominated by items of jewellery that could have been worn and lost in a public or commercial area.

When viewed by phase it is notable that of the ten brooches, nine of which were Claudian-Neronian in date, seven were found in early Roman contexts. This suggests

that the items may have remained undisturbed after being discarded, although this is surprising since the site's stratigraphy had been heavily disturbed by later activity, especially in Trench 4. Some disturbance had taken place however, as is evidenced by the recovery of five of the seven fragments from late and post-Roman contexts. No brooches were recovered from the 3rd and 4th century AD contexts. The lack of later brooches suggests that those found were perhaps military pieces and that, following the demilitarisation of the south of England after the 1st century AD, these would have ceased to be present. However, why brooches appear to be absent in the later Roman period remains unclear.

All of the finger rings except one, which was found in a post-Roman layer, were recovered from late Roman contexts. As none of the rings have been closely dated, however, it is difficult to ascribe any significance to this, apart from suggesting that it may simply represent a change in local dress fashion in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, leading to a significant increase in the use of rings as jewellery.

The majority (80%) of sheet fragments were confined to contexts of the late Roman period. This concentration may be interpreted in two ways: firstly, that in this period the fashion for plating items was at its most popular; secondly, that the manufacture of sheeting was being practised nearby. The latter possibility is supported by the fact that most (83%) of the late Roman fragments were found in Trench 4, within which trench evidence of a roughly-finished and possibly 'industrial' structure was recorded.

All four pieces of scrap alloy were found in immediately post-conquest deposits in Trench 3. This may indicate that in this earliest Roman period bronze-working was carried out on or close by the site, although no crucibles were recovered.

The remaining categories of objects are distributed fairly evenly through the succeeding Roman periods. Three concentrations of objects were noted, however, in periods of destruction and abandonment in the early, late and post-Roman phases. This is not surprising, as it would have been during these periods that objects from earlier phases would have been disturbed and redeposited by demolition or destruction and mixed in contexts with discarded contemporaneous objects.

Illustrated copper alloy objects: Figures 22, 23

Figure 22

1. Nauheim derivative bow brooch: incomplete; Claudian-Neronian. OR3 104; layer 207, Trench 3; Phase 4.
2. Strip brooch with longitudinal decoration and plated with white metal; incomplete; Claudian-Neronian. OR3 102; layer 267, Trench 3; Phase 5.
3. Aucissa brooch: incomplete: Claudian-Neronian. OR3257: layer 1455, Trench 4; Phase 4. Aucissa-Hod Hill type brooch, the bow divided into three sections: Claudian-Neronian. OR3087; layer 724, Trench 2; Phase 4.
5. Hod Hill type brooch plated with white silvery metal: incomplete. OR3071, layer 188, Trench 3. Phase 6.
6. Miscellaneous Hod Hill type with massive bow and riveted decoration; incomplete. 1st century AD. OR3248, layer 1389, Trench 4. Phase 4.
7. Maiden Castle type brooch: incomplete. Claudian, possibly of local manufacture. OR3209: layer 1137, Trench 4. Phase 4.
8. Maiden Castle type brooch: incomplete. OR3256; layer 1452, Trench 4. Phase 3.
9. Simple rotating-pin T-shaped brooch, in very good condition. OR4809; layer 1501, Trench 5. Phase 9.
10. Backworth type brooch, very similar to an example from Fishbourne (Hull 1971. fig. 32); incomplete. ?Claudian-Neronian. OR3252; layer 1174, Trench 4. Phase 4.
11. Twisted cable finger ring: incomplete. OR3034: layer 607, Trench 1. Phase 5.
12. Simple single spiral coil finger ring, possibly made from a cut-down armlet; incomplete. ?1st century AD. OR3065: layer 194, Trench 3. Phase 5.

13. Finger ring with empty oval-shaped setting: in two parts, now joined: incomplete. 3rd–4th centuries AD. OR3198: layer 1021. Trench 4. Phase 6.
14. Ring made from flattened strip with undecorated bezel at the front, shape distorted. OR3217; layer 125l, Trench 4. Phase 5.

Figure 23

15. Pair of tweezers with flared blades: incomplete. OR3049: layer 129, Trench 3. Phase 6.
16. Pair of tweezers with parallel blades held together by clasp. OR3200; layer 1178: Trench 4. Phase 5.
17. Toilet set consisting of pair of flared blade tweezers and nail cleaner; both have iron wire fragments in loops (from retaining ring?). OR3096; layer 296, Trench 3. Phase 4.
18. Toilet spoon; shaft coated with white metal, traces of which remain; incomplete. OR3 112; layer 282, Trench 3. Phase 4.
19. Tapering conical object, probably a scraper, with suspension hook; probably part of toilet set. OR3253; layer 1409, Trench 4. Phase 4.
20. Crummy type *5* pin; incomplete. 2nd century AD. OR3111; layer 260, Trench 3. Phase 5.
21. Copper alloy pin with bead and reel decoration and worked bone finial: incomplete. OR3243; layer 1314, Trench 4. Phase 4.
22. Armlet made from flattened, undecorated band; more akin to iron armlet styling; incomplete. OR3067; layer 188, Trench 3. Phase 6.
23. Cable style armlet, made from three circular wires; incomplete. 3rd–4th centuries AD. OR3 161; layer 1073, Trench 4. Phase 6.
24. Armlet, one end fractured and bent, the other expanded into oval terminal; incomplete. OR3247; layer 1280, Trench 4. Phase 4.
25. Stud head; possibly of military origin. OR3103; layer 207, Trench 3. Phase 4.
26. Stud head with traces of lead solder inside the dome. OR3 123; layer 275. Trench 3. Phase 3.
27. ?Necklace; mainly worked bone with a piece of copper alloy sheet holding two sections together; incomplete. OR3002; layer 3, Trench 3. Phase 8.
28. Dumbbell-shaped finial with rectangular tang; function unclear. OR3 186; layer 1156, Trench 4. Phase 5.

Lead/Lead Alloy Objects

N. J. Adam

A total of 39 pieces of lead or lead alloy weighing 1132 g was recovered from the site. These consisted of fragments of a handle and a window strip, two worked, undiagnostic fragments and one piece of lead alloy waste; 34 fragments were unworked. Much of the lead, 28 pieces, was found in Roman contexts, mostly in Trench 2. Six pieces recovered from clearance layers included a musket ball and a centrally perforated weight fragment. The full catalogue description of all the worked lead items is in archive.

Objects

A single fragment of handle was recovered but was too small to be assigned a particular object; it is well worked and may have come from a good-quality product. The fragment of waste alloy, possibly smelting residue, was recovered from the fill of a late Roman well in Trench 4. Only one fragment of this nature was recovered, however, and it seems unlikely that lead smelting was carried out in the immediate area of excavation.

Unstratified and Miscellaneous Objects

The musket ball and weight fragment were both recovered from the spoil heap of Trench 3 with the use of a metal detector and are not, therefore, dated. One fragment of unworked lead shows traces of green staining from a nearby copper alloy source.

Discussion

The percentage of unworked or undiagnostic lead at Wessex Court is too great for any valid assessment of the significance and quality of the assemblage to be possible. While no attempt has been made to compare the assemblage with those from other sites, it may be of some significance that 75% of the Wessex Court material was from Roman contexts, while 86% of the County Hall collection was recovered from the post-medieval layers.

Most of the Wessex Court fragments were found in Trench 2 but the reason for this concentration is unclear; structural evidence in this trench was slight and the nature of the site from which the lead was recovered remains uncertain.

Iron Objects

N. J. Adam (with identification assistance by J. M. Mills)

A total of 1217 pieces of iron and iron slag was recovered from the site. This total includes 22 fragments of domestic items, ten tools, two agricultural implements, a key, 25 fittings or fragments of fittings and 16 miscellaneous items. These are all described in detail in a full catalogue in archive and are summarised in Table 3. The total iron assemblage also includes 850 nails and nail fragments (606 nails and 244 shank fragments), 39 hobnails, 53 rods, 33 strip fragments, 20 sheet fragments and 61 assorted fragments, 23 pieces of slag, together with 64 featureless lumps of corrosion. None of these are included in the full catalogue but they are summarised by phase in Table 4. Of the 76 fragments recorded in the catalogue, 50 were recovered from Roman contexts; a further 14 items excavated from post-Roman contexts were identified as being of Roman origin.

Table 3: Catalogued iron objects by Phase

Phase	Trench	Domestic items	Fittings	Tools	Agricultural implements	Other/ miscellaneous
3	3	3	1	-	-	1
4	2	-	-	-	-	3
	3	1	-	-	-	-
	4	1	1	1	-	1
5	3	4	7	2	-	1
	4	6	9	2	1	5
6	3	2	1	2	-	2
	4	1	-	1	-	1
7	2	-	1	-	.	-
	4	2	2	1	-	-
8	2	1	1	-	-	-
	3	1	2	1	1	1
Totals		22	25	10	2	16

In addition, five items were found on the spoil heaps of Trenches 1, 2 and 3 by the use of a metal detector. These items consisted of a shoe buckle, a shoe heel, a belt buckle, a large ring and an undiagnostic strip fragment, are undated and are not included, in the archive catalogue.

All of the objects were X-radiographed using the facilities of the Wiltshire Library and Museum Service Conservation Laboratory. Six items were subsequently cleaned or partially cleaned by Alison Hopper (Conservator, Wiltshire Museum). Her comments on the state of preservation and types of material present on these items are incorporated in the catalogue descriptions.

Domestic Items

These were recovered from contexts of all phases from early Roman to post-medieval, although most were identified as Roman in origin. This group of objects consisted of eight knife fragments, four styli and three styli fragments, a dining fork, a buckle, a spectacle rim fragment, a shoe fragment, a shoe cleat, a decorative plate and a needle.

Knife fragments

The eight knife fragments were recovered from early Roman, late Roman, medieval and post-medieval contexts. All but one, however, were identified as being Roman in date. Of those found in early Roman contexts, one, which survived as a tang with part of a blade, is similar to an example from *Verulamium* (Manning 1972, fig. 65, no. 43). Two of the four knife fragments found in late Roman layers, an incomplete tang and a pointed blade fragment, have parallels with more complete examples from *Vindolanda* (Jackson, 1985, fig. 52, nos 76 and 80–1). One other fragment, the hilt end of a blade, is also similar to an example from *Vindolanda* (*ibid.,* fig. 52, no. 77) and two other such examples are known from Portchester (Cunliffe 1975, 235–7, fig. 126, nos 191 and 196). The last of these fragments, an incomplete tang and blade, bears some similarity to knives from *Vindolanda* (Jackson 1985, fig. 52, no. 84) and *Verulamium* (Manning 1972, fig. 65, no. 43).

All of those mentioned above are narrow-bladed and probably from small hand knives. The blade found in the medieval context appears more akin to a cleaver blade, rather like one found at Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 113, no. 2949). The eighth knife fragment, the tang and part of a blade, although found in a post-medieval deposit, is thought to be Roman in origin due to its similarity to an example found at *Vindolanda* (Jackson 1985, fig. 52, no. 84).

Styli

All seven of the stylus fragments recovered were compared with the type series established by Manning, using the British Museum collection (Manning 1985, 85). Four of the fragments are identifiable, and, of these, three are classified as type 2 (styli with a distinct point separated from the stem by a marked shoulder), while the fourth (Fig. 24, 1) is of type 4 (styli with the point and eraser clearly separated from the stem with moulding or decoration). This example has four hoops of copper alloy on iron ribs situated just above the point.

The remaining three stylus fragments consisted of sections of shaft with the eraser still attached but these could not be identified with any degree of certainty, as typology rests on the design of the lower half of the shaft and its point. It should be noted, however, that one example is similar to the eraser of a complete example from *Verulamium* identified as a type 4 (Manning 1984, fig. 39, no. 52), while a second is

less nearly like another Verulamium example identified as a type 1 or 2 (*ibid*., fig. 39, no. 43). The third fragment compares with Manning's type series examples 2A or 3A (Manning 1985, 85), although the only catalogued example to which it bears any resemblance is from *Verulamium* (Manning 1984, fig. 39, no. 45), where similar examples are described as being either type 1 or type 2.

Other domestic items

Several other domestic items were recovered; including a two-pronged dining fork excavated from a post-medieval context. The fork had an undecorated worked bone handle. No parallels for this object were found in any of the Roman or medieval collections consulted, and it may be post-medieval in origin. A buckle fragment recovered from a post-Roman context was also without parallel and it remains, therefore, undated. Part of the rim of a pair of spectacles was excavated from a post-Roman layer.

Two fragments from shoes were identified. One of these was a piece of mineralised leather which retained three of the hobnails which had been driven through it. The other was an iron cleat, very similar to an example from Neatham (Redknap 1986, fig. 77, no. 205). A fragment of decorative plate could neither be identified nor dated. A single iron needle has had part of the eye broken off; it is similar to one from Walbrook in London (Manning 1985, D21), which is dated to the early Roman period.

Tools

Of the ten fragmentary tools (Figs 24, 2–3) found at Wessex Court, five are identified as wedges, two as awls, and one each as a chisel, a metal-working file and an unidentified socketed tool (Fig. 24, 4). Most of these objects were recovered from late and post-Roman phases, and of these only four were identified as Roman in origin.

Wedges

Of the five wedges, four were recovered in Trench 3, with the fifth being found in Trench 4. None of the wedges could be closely dated, although three could be assigned to the Roman period in general, either through parallels or through their stratigraphic position. Two were excavated from late Roman layers. No parallels were found for one of these two, while the other is very similar to an example from *Verulamium* which may have been used for splitting wood or stone, or as a cold set (Manning 1972, fig. 61, no. 16). The other three wedges were from post-Roman contexts. Two are unparalleled and undated, while the third is similar to examples from County Hall, Dorchester (Mills 1993 b) and *Verulamium* (Manning 1972, fig. 73, no. 167).

Awls

Two awls were recovered from late Roman and post-medieval contexts. Comparison with Manning's type series (1984) identified one (Fig. 24, 2) as being of type 4B (with a tapering, square-sectioned tang) and similar to an example from Hod Hill (Manning 1985, E22). This type is very common and has been dated to the 1st century AD. The other example is more fragmentary and difficult to identify. It is similar to an awl from *Vindolanda* (Jackson 1985, fig. 50, no. 51) and is probably Roman, but closer dating is not possible.

Chisel
One iron fragment from a late Roman context is tentatively identified as a chisel because of its similarity in shape and size to a paring chisel from *Vindolanda* (Jackson 1985, fig. 50, no. 45). The object cannot be closely dated.

Metal-working file
A single fragmentary example of a metal-working file was recovered from an early Roman context. It was box-shaped, one face only with teeth spaced at between seven and eight per centimetre (Fig. 24, 3). Fragments of white metal are visible amongst the teeth. Dating for this object is uncertain; the closest parallel found is a file from the Waltham Abbey hoard (Manning 1985, A37) which is dated to the pre-Roman Iron Age. It is probable that the Wessex Court file dates from the 1st century AD and is an example of a native style which continued to be made in the early Roman period.

Agricultural Implements

A ploughshare and part of the blade of a reaping hook were recovered from a Roman context and a post-medieval context respectively. The ploughshare is similar to a fragment found at Great Chesterford in Essex (Manning 1985, F4). This type of ploughshare seems to have been relatively common throughout Roman Britain. The Wessex Court example shows signs of use, having been worn down on one side of the point. The fragment of reaping hook was recovered from the latest surviving level of post-medieval soil; it was not datable.

Key

A single fragment of the shaft and looped head of a barb spring padlock key was recovered from a post-Roman deposit. Although the lower half of the shaft and the key bit of the Wessex Court example have been broken off it compares closely with a more complete example from *Verulamium* (Manning 1984, fig. 42, no. 93). This type of key was common throughout the Roman period.

Fittings

The 26 fittings form the largest group of iron objects recovered from the site and include: four split-spike loops, four timber dogs, two linch pins, four hinge pivots, four wall hooks, a pin head, a stud, two binding fragments, a dome-headed spike, a bolt, and an unidentified fitting.

Split-spike loops
These are a common fitting found on most Roman sites with timber buildings; the four examples recovered from the Wessex Court site are typical of others found elsewhere. Two of the objects, both found in late Roman contexts, have parallels with an example from *Verulamium* (Manning 1972, fig. 68, no. 92). Of the remaining two, one was from a medieval context and the other from a post-medieval layer.

Timber dogs
These were commonly used in timber structures, performing a similar function to a large staple. One complete and three incomplete examples were found; two were from late Roman contexts, one from a medieval context and the other from a post-medieval deposit. Three of them are similar to examples of dogs from *Verulamium* (Manning

1984, fig. 44, nos 133–4, 135 and 131) and the other has a parallel with a Colchester example (Crummy 1983, fig. 127, no. 4072).

Linch pins
Both of the linch pins found were fragmentary examples with spatulated heads. One survived in better condition and can be identified as a Manning type 2B (Manning 1972, fig. 64, no. 35), with a turned-over loop at the top of the head. Both objects were recovered from late Roman contexts and appeared similar to a more complete example from *Verulamium* (*ibid*., fig. 64, no. 35); so little remained of one, however, that it may have been more akin to other examples from the same site (*ibid*., fig. 64, nos 34–5).

Hinge pivots
Four L-shaped bars of iron were identified as hinge pivots; all were excavated from late Roman contexts and two have parallels from other sites. One is similar to examples from County Hall, Dorchester (Mills 1993 b) and Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 130, no. 4079), while another compares well with an example from *Verulamium* (Manning, 1984, fig. 54, no. 111).

Wall hooks
Four wall hooks were found, all from different phases: one each was recovered from early Roman, late Roman, post-Roman and post-medieval contexts. Two are similar to a *Verulamium* example (Manning 1972, fig. 68, no. 89), while a third, which is less complete, may be part of either one of two types from the same site (*ibid*., fig. 68, nos 86, 89). The fourth example also has a parallel with a *Verulamium* hook (*ibid*., fig. 68, no. 87). No chronology has been established for wall hooks but, despite their different stratigraphic origins, all four Wessex Court examples are thought to be Roman.

Pins and studs
One example of each was found, both being recovered from late Roman contexts. Only the pin head survives, but is noteworthy for its size, being 60 mm in diameter. Its date is uncertain, but a similar pin head was found at Rushmore Park (Pitt-Rivers 1887, fig. 11). The stud is a dome-headed one, the only parallel to which is a copper alloy example from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 120, no. 3096).

Binding fragments
Two binding fragments were found. One, from a medieval context, still has an attaching nail driven into it and is similar to an example of a *Verulamium* binding (Manning 1984, fig. *45,* no. 171). The other appears similar to a V-shaped binding also from *Verulamium* (Manning 1972, fig. 70, no. 131).

Other items
The remaining fittings consisted of a dome-headed spike, a bolt and an unidentified object, possibly another binding. The dome-headed spike was recovered from a late Roman context. It has a similar shaft to an example from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1975, fig. 18) and its head is like another from that site (*ibid*., fig. 21). The bolt (there is a possibility that this object may be a large nail shank) was found in an early Roman context and is also similar to one recovered at Fishbourne (*ibid*., fig. 57, no. 18). The fragment of fitting has not been fully identified but it appears similar to one of the binding fragments discussed above; insufficient diagnostic fragments remain for it to be identified with certainty.

Miscellaneous Objects

This category comprises objects which do not fit any of the major groups and consists of 16 items: a large unidentified object (Fig. 24, 4), three ferrules, four chain links and eight undiagnostic fragments.

Unidentified object
This is the largest of the iron objects excavated at Wessex Court (Fig. 24, 4). It was recovered from a late Roman context and is probably Roman in date. Attempts to find a parallel for it have been unsuccessful and its function is unknown. The object to which it bears the closest resemblance, with its head bent at an acute angle, is a hoe, although major differences in the shape of the head emerge when comparison is made with other Roman examples. It may, since the head is quite sharply pointed, be some form of adze or wood-working tool.

Ferrules
The three objects assigned to this category are all socketed and appear to have been part, the tip, of larger items. One is from an early Roman context, another from a late Roman context and the third from a post-medieval one. Outwardly covered in iron corrosion, the first may have been made from leaded bronze and is similar to an example in the Colchester catalogue (Crummy 1983, fig. 132, no. 4107); its use, however, remains uncertain. As only a fragment of the second survives, certain identification is not possible. It may have been either from a spear, like an example from *Verulamium* (Manning 1984, fig. 43, no. 116), or from a winged-bar-share, one of which was also found at *Verulamium* (Manning 1972, fig. 61, no. 17). The third ferrule is also fragmentary but is very similar to the shaft of a spear which appears in a more complete state in the *Verulamium* catalogue (Manning 1984, fig. 43, no. 116).

Chain links
All four iron rings recovered were classified as chain links. The rings were all similar in style, with a slight swelling along one short stretch of the ring, although not in size, to an example from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 197, no. 4402) and another from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1975, fig. 109, no. 67). This type of ring is interpreted by Cunliffe as being a chain link. All of the rings were found in different phases, with one from an early Roman, two from late Roman and the fourth from post-Roman contexts. All the links are probably Roman in origin but their dates are uncertain.

Undiagnostic fragments
These unidentified fragments consisted of a large, bent iron bar found in an early Roman context, a small, circular cross-sectioned bar from a post-conquest layer and a rectangular-sectioned bar with two broken ends which also came from an early Roman context. Two small pieces of iron were recovered, one each from early Roman and late Roman contexts, while a triangular-sectioned strip was found in a late Roman deposit. A piece of iron sheeting with a copper alloy rivet was excavated from a post-Roman context. The final object, a disc with a central perforation, was found in a medieval layer. Fuller descriptions of each item are given in the catalogue which is in archive.

Table 4: Uncatalogued iron objects and slag by Phase

Phase	Trench	Nail	Shank	Hobnail	Rod	Strip frag.	Sheet frag.	Misc.	Lumps	Slag
0	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3	17	1	-	3	1	.	2	-	3
	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-
4	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	12	2	-	4	-	-	-	1	1
	3	16	2	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
	4	39	23	6	1	-	-	11	4	1
5	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	126	14	4	8	6	3	6	6	-
	4	157	83	12	10	7	11	10	15	7
	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	3	65	22	-	1	5	-	4	2	-
	4	26	30	10	9	1	2	*5*	9	6
7	2	I	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	3	9	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4	50	38	*5*	9	7	1	6	19	3
8	2	38	3	-	3	4	3	10	2	11
	3	26	11	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
9	2	9	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
	4	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	5	I	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals		606	244	39	53	33	20	61	64	23

Metal-working Slag

A total of 115 pieces of metal-working slag weighing 3196 g were recovered during the excavation, the greatest quantity being found in Trench 4. The material has not been analysed in detail. Quantification of the material by context is held in the site archive.

Discussion

Of the 1217 iron objects recovered from the site, the majority (850 items) were nails and nail fragments. Although not described here, these objects have been grouped by phase in Table 4 and the information therein incorporated into this discussion. The other items, described above, are separately listed by phase in Table 3.

When both tables are studied, it is clear that most of the iron objects are concentrated in three main groups; the late Roman phases in Trenches 3 and 4, the post-Roman phase in Trench 4 and the medieval phase in Trench 4. The greatest concentration is in the late Roman phases in Trenches 3 and 4. These concentrations not only show the greatest numbers of objects, but also contain the greatest range of items.

Of the objects described in more detail above, almost half (35) were recovered from late Roman contexts. This concentration occurs in the period when the early timber buildings were demolished and cleared to make way for stone walled

structures at the end of the 2nd century AD. A high density of iron objects might be expected at this time, as nails and fittings from the demolished timber buildings were discarded. An increased amount of general rubbish, including domestic iron objects, might also have accumulated if the site had been left open before rebuilding.
A similar situation at the end of the Roman period would explain the second concentration in the post-Roman phase of Trench 4, although here the amount of ironwork is significantly smaller, probably reflecting the smaller number of nails and fittings used in the later stone structures. The amount of iron in Trench 3 in the post-Roman period is considerably less than that in Trench 4, however, which may indicate that the nature of the structures in the two trenches was rather different.

The concentration of iron in the medieval phase of Trench 4 is less easy to explain, since, for at least part of this time, the area was part of an open field. If not explained by another, final, phase of demolition, the presence of the iron may derive from late or post-Roman material disturbed by medieval ploughing. This disturbance would gradually abate as further soil accumulated in the coombe in which the site lies, sealing the Roman layers from later ploughing and leaving this medieval horizon of metal. This concentration must, however, also include some medieval artefacts, such as nails and discarded agricultural implements.

The Wessex Court ironwork was compared with that recovered from other Dorchester sites, Greyhound Yard, County Hall, Poundbury and Alington Avenue. It is clear from this that the iron objects from the current site make up a typical urban assemblage with the expected presence of domestic items, structural fittings and tools. Iron was considerably more common at Greyhound Yard, however, with a ratio of ironwork to Roman pottery of 1:8 at the former compared to 1:17 at Wessex Court. This may indicate significant but as yet not readily interpretable differences in the kind of activity carried out on these two neighbouring sites.

Illustrated iron objects: Figure 24

1. Manning type 4 stylus with banded copper alloy decoration on stem above point; top part of stem and eraser missing. OR4959: layer 1156, Trench 4. Phase 5.
2. Manning type 4B awl; complete. 1st century AD. OR4723; layer 1138, Trench 4. Phase 5.
3. Part of box-shaped metal-working file, 7/8 teeth per cm; traces of white metal on teeth; incomplete. Early Roman**.** OR4903; layer 1301, Trench 4. Phase 4.
4. Large unidentified object with socketed stem tapering to acutely-angled, leaf-shaped and slightly curved head, narrowing to blunted tip; apparently almost complete, small part of head missing; use uncertain.? Roman. OR3206; layer 1207, Trench 4. Phase 5.

Worked Flint

Frances Healy

The composition and incidence of worked flint are summarised by phase in Table 5.

Raw material

This is exclusively flint, most of it in the form of nodules from the chalk. These have a fresh, sometimes thick cortex, below which the flint is generally grey-brown, mottled with matt lighter grey patches. It is largely sound with occasional chalcedonic inclusions and latent thermal fractures. There is a small quantity of derived flint, like that described by Bellamy (1993) from Greyhound Yard, characterised by thin eroded cortex and a mid brown colour, sometimes with a glossy sheen.

Table 5: Worked flint: overall composition summarized by Phase. In addition to the totals recorded here, there are 870 chips, in the sense of fragments with a maximum area of less than 1 sq cm, recovered by sieving from Phase 3 deposits, most of them fragments of larger flakes rather than microdebitage.

Phase		Type						Totals	Burnt	Broken	Cores: flakes/blades
		Misc. debitage	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes	Blades	Blades				
0	no.	-	-	-	17	2	-	19	-	7	-
	%				*89.5*	*10.5*	*0.0*			*36.8*	
1	no.	5	9	6	352	15	3	390	1	116	1:41
	%	*1.3*	*2.3*	*1.5*	*90.3*	*3.8*	*0.8*		*0.3*	*29.7*	
2	no.	-	1	1	48	6	1	57	-	8	1:54
	%		*1.8*	*1.8*	*84.2*	*10.5*	*1.8*			*14.0*	
3	no.	1	12	1	237	17	6	274	1	65	1:21
	%	*0.4*	*4.4*	*0.4*	*86.5*	*6.2*	*2.2*		*0.4*	*23.7*	
4	no.	2	3	1	110	18	7	141	5	47	1:43
	%	*1.4*	*2.1*	*0.7*	*78.0*	*12.8*	*5.0*		*3.5*	*33.3*	
5	no.	1	6	2	106	7	1	123	3	51	1:18
	%	*0.8*	*4.9*	*1.6*	*36.2*	*5.7*	*0.8*		*2.4*	*41.5*	
6	no.	-	-	-	10	-	-	10	1	3	-
	%				100.0				10.0	30.0	
7	no.	-	1	-	13	1	-	15	-	7	1:14
	%		*6.7*		*86.7*	*6.7*				*46.7*	
8	no.	-	-	3	72	4	-	79	2	21	-
	%			*3.8*	*91.1*	*5.1*			*2.5*	*26.6*	
9	no.	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
	%		*50.0*		*50.0*						
Unphased	no.	-	-	-	2	1	-	3	-	1	-
	%				*66.7*	*33.3*				*33.3*	
Totals	no.	9	33	14	968	71	18	1113	13	326	1:31
	%	*0.8*	*3.0*	*1.2*	*86.9*	*6.4*	*1.6*		*1.7*	*28.6*	

Neolithic Post-pits

Most of the 390 pieces were excavated from Trench 3, where layer 346, the upper fill of post-pit 347, yielded 98 pieces and layers 342 and 345, the upper and lower fills of post-pit 343, 237 and 50 pieces respectively (Fig. 25, 1–3; Fig. 10).

All this material is in sharp, fresh condition, lightly corticated and sometimes encrusted with 'race'. It consists almost entirely of unretouched flakes. These tend to be large, often thick, and at least partly cortical, non-cortical flakes accounting for only approximately 25% of the total. Smaller flakes are slightly more frequent in the 346 assemblage and parallel-sided forms are everywhere rare. There are only four core rejuvenation flakes, one core tablet (from 342) and three struck along the angle of platform and core face (two from 342 and one, Fig. 25, 2, from 346. In general, cores and flakes alike show scant platform preparation and predominantly hard-hammer percussion, the latter reflected in the use of a fragmentary nodule as a

hammerstone. Most cores are, like Fig. 25, 1, fairly extensively worked. The two retouched pieces are both rough and irregular, like Fig. 25, 3.

Ditch 1464

The assemblage from the ditch fill (1463) is as fresh as those from the post-pits, but is uncorticated except for 11 pieces comprising seven flakes, three blades and a scraper which have a heavy white cortication. The contrast in condition between these and the bulk of the assemblage strongly suggests that they have had a different depositional history and are likely to be residual. Even when these are disregarded, the assemblage differs from those from the post-pits in including a blade core (Fig. 25, 4) and a slightly higher frequency of blade-like and parallel-sided flakes. It resembles them, however, in other respects, including scarcity of retouched forms, of which there are none, if the single scraper is regarded as of earlier date.

Early/pre-Roman Soil

Struck flint in this horizon was concentrated in Trench 3, which produced almost all of the total for the phase. The material contrasts with that from prehistoric contexts in its often heavily corticated and almost always abraded condition. While it includes a slightly higher proportion of retouched pieces than the assemblages from the Neolithic post-pits, the bulk of it s technologically comparable with them and seems likely to derive from contemporary activity. This is certainly true of the material from context 319, which overlay post-pits 343 and 347. A later element may be represented by a fragmentary retouched piece from 333, also in Trench 3, which may be a lathe tool like those found in the Late Iron Age and Romano-British shale-working industries on the Dorset coast (eg, Calkin 1953, fig. 8).

Subsequent Phases

Most of the material from Romano-British and later deposits also seems comparable with that from the post-pits, although the few distinctive implements within it indicate intermittent activity over thousands of years. A Mesolithic presence is indicated by Fig. 25, 5, an edge-blunted point. Trench 4, in which it was found, also produced a few possibly contemporary bladelets, some of them heavily corticated. A fragmentary leaf-shaped arrowhead, Fig. 25, 6, is probably of Early or Middle Neolithic date (Green 1980, 92–9), while Fig. 25, 7 from the same context, appears to be a heavy, perhaps unfinished oblique arrowhead, a form of similar Late Neolithic date to the timber monument itself (*ibid.*, 114–5). Two cores have the appearance of roughly-squared building stone and are of distinctly blacker flint than most of the collection. They may be of Romano-British or later date.

Discussion

Neolithic post-pits

The relationship of the assemblages from the post-pits to the history of the timber monument is not completely clear. Layers 342, 345 and 346 would all have been deposited, in their excavated form, after the decay of the timber uprights. Yet the

freshness and homogeneity of the struck flint from them are such that it seems highly unlikely to have lain on the then surface, exposed to diverse agents of mechanical abrasion and chemical alteration, before silting into the post-pits. Had it done so, its condition would not contrast so markedly with that of the struck flint from the early/pre-Roman soil of Phase 3. Its excellent preservation is compatible with its having been incorporated in post- or ramp-packing during the construction of the monument and having slumped with those packings to form the deposits from which it was excavated. In this case, it would be of the Later Neolithic date established by the six ^{14}C determinations made on charcoal and antler from post-pits of the same monument in Greyhound Yard (Woodward *et al.* 1993).

It compares closely with the struck flint excavated from the Greyhound Yard post-pits, in freshness, in overall technology, and in low frequencies of non-cortical flakes, parallel-sided flakes, and retouched forms (Bellamy 1993). Bellamy's scenario of the extraction of flint nodules during the digging of the post-pits, their initial knapping, the removal of blanks or finished implements, and the back-filling of the waste into the pits and ramps fits the Wessex Court material perfectly. The site falls within Bellamy's (1997) central monumental zone, in which assemblages, at least later Neolithic ones, consist almost entirely of debitage, resulting from the incidental quarrying involved in the construction of monuments and the apparent removal of products to living sites located away from the monuments.

Ditch 1464

The composition of the material from layer 2463 conforms to the same pattern. Its condition suggests that is was *in situ* in a prehistoric feature. Its small quantity precludes further interpretation.

Other deposits

The frequency of retouched forms remains low among the residual and unstratified material. The occurrence in it of both Early/Middle and later Neolithic arrowhead forms is no surprise, since both are plentiful in the Dorchester area (Woodward 1991), as is more substantial evidence for contemporary occupation. The Mesolithic presence represented by the single microlith and a small quantity of possibly contemporary material from Trench 4 is, however, locally less common. Mesolithic material has so far been recognised at few findspots in Dorchester, most of them along the River Frome (Williams 1972; Wymer 1977, 69; Smith *et al.* 1997). The Wessex Court finds may represent a continuation of contemporary activity from the river valley up the coombe across which the timber monument lies.

Illustrated worked flint: Figure *25*

1. Keeled core; chalk flint, fresh, lightly corticated and encrusted. Layer 342, Trench 3. Phase 1.
2. Core rejuvenation flake: chalk flint, fresh, lightly corticated and encrusted. Layer 346, Trench 3. Phase 1.
3. Retouched flake; chalk flint; fresh, lightly corticated and encrusted. It is unclear how far the edges have been retouched and how far they have been modified by heavy use. Layer 346, Trench 3. Phase 1.
4. Opposed-platform blade core; chalk flint; fresh. Layer 1463, Trench 4. Phase 2.
5. Edge-blunted point: mottled, pale grey-buff flint with opaque inclusions: abraded and slightly glossed with some ventral damage, bulbar end at base. Layer 1423, Trench 4. Phase 4. Illustrated at 1:1.
6. Leaf-shaped arrowhead: indeterminate pale grey flint: fairly fresh: small part of original flake surface remains on unillustrated face. OR3 105; layer 207, Trench 3. Phase 4.
7. ?Oblique arrowhead: indeterminate pale grey-buff flint: slightly abraded: atypically thick and heavy, perhaps unfinished. Layer 207, Trench 3. Phase 4.

Portable Stone Objects

N. J. Adam (most petrological identifications by P. Ensom, formerly of Dorset County Museum)

A total of 24 portable stone objects was recovered from the site, comprising nine counters, seven mortar fragments, six quern fragments, two whetstones and one unidentified fragment. The items were recovered from early Roman to post-medieval contexts, although only two were associated with early Roman contexts. A full catalogue description of the objects is in archive. The distribution of objects by phase is shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Portable stone objects by phase

Phase	Trench	Counters	Mortars	Querns	Whetstones	Misc.
4	4	-	3	1	-	-
5	3	1	1	-	-	-
	4	4	-	4	-	-
	5	-	1	-	1	-
6	3	-	1	-	1	-
	4	3	-	-	-	-
7	4	-	1	-	-	-
8	3	-	.	1	.	-
	4	1	-	-	-	-
	5	-	-	-	-	1
Totals		9	7	6	2	1

Counters

All of the nine counters found are of limestone; six (including Fig. 26, 2 and 3) are of Blue Lias limestone, and three (including Fig. 26, 1) of Grey Lower Lias limestone. These fine-grained limestones, both originating from the Somerset area, are well suited to the manufacture of small objects. Five of the counters were recovered from late Roman contexts, three from post-Roman contexts and one from a post-medieval context. The counters were divided into groups following the criteria used by Crummy (1983, 67) for fired clay counters: one counter (Fig. 26, 1) can be assigned to group 2 (counters with ground edges and abraded surfaces), two (Fig. 26, 2–3) to group 3 (counters with at least one partially ground edge and no abraded surfaces) and six to group 4 (rough-outs with unground, angular edges).

Mortar Fragments

Of the six mortar fragments found at Wessex Court, two (including Fig. 26, 4) are made of Purbeck limestone, two of shelly limestone and two of Purbeck Marble. The fragments were excavated from contexts spanning the early Roman to medieval periods. Comparison with examples from County Hall (Copson and Healy 1993 a) and Greyhound Yard (Mills and Woodward 1993 a) shows that all are common Romano-British types.

The large fragment of Purbeck limestone mortar (Fig. 26, 4) is similar in form to one found at Greyhound Yard (Mills and Woodward 1993 a), although the Greyhound Yard example lacks legs and is made of Purbeck Marble. The other small fragment of Purbeck limestone came from the same context as the larger piece and may have been from the same mortar, although the two did not conjoin. Two of the shelly limestone

fragments appear to be from similar mortars. Both of the Purbeck Marble fragments are similar in shape and decorative pattern to another Greyhound Yard example (*ibid.*) made from arenaceous limestone.

Quern Fragments

All of the six fragments found are from rotary querns; three are from top stones, one from a bottom stone and two are too damaged for their form to be determined. Two fragments are of Purbeck limestone, two of Kimmeridge Beds limestone, one of Ham Hill stone and one (Fig. 27) of a concretion of iron oxides and grit, probably originating from the Isle of Purbeck. Five of the quern fragments were found in Roman and post-medieval contexts, three (including Fig. 27) having been reused in the lining of a late Roman well in Trench 4.

Whetstones

The two whetstones recovered are both broken; one is of a micaceous fine sandstone and the other is a Forest Marble sandstone. The former was recovered from a late Roman context, while the latter, which is badly damaged, was excavated from a post-Roman context.

Unidentified Object

One piece falls outside the other groups. This is a fragment of Purbeck limestone with one concave edge; it may be waste stone, possibly residue from working a quern stone. It was recovered from a post-medieval context.

Discussion

The portable stone objects from Wessex Court occurred mainly in contexts of the late and post-Roman periods; only two early Roman contexts yielded worked stone objects. This may indicate a general scarcity of such items in the early Roman period, which seems unlikely, or, more probably, their destruction in succeeding periods. The survival of some pieces was undoubtedly aided by their reuse in a later built structure or by incorporation in floor consolidation deposits.

The majority of the stone used was gathered from local sources, mainly the Isles of Purbeck and Portland. The good quality and textural diversity of the local stone meant that it was generally unnecessary to import large amounts of material from further afield. Stone was only imported when particular qualities unavailable locally were required, as in the case of the counters, where Lias limestone from Somerset was found to be ideal; similar counters have been found at County Hall, where Grey Lower Lias limestone was used for four of the five examples recovered (Copson and Healy 1993 a).

Illustrated portable stone objects: Figures 26 and 27

Figure 26

1. Counter with ground edge and one abraded surface; Lower Lias limestone. OR3207; layer 1169, Trench 4. Phase 5.
2. Counter with ground edge and no abraded surfaces; Blue Lias limestone. OR3205; layer 1 169, Trench 4. Phase 5.

3. Counter with partially ground edge and no abraded surfaces; Blue Lias limestone. OR4952; layer 136, Trench 3. Phase 5.
4. Mortar with supporting legs; Purbeck limestone; incomplete. OR4963; layer 1409. Trench 4. Phase 4.

Figure 27
5. Top stone of rotary quern: concretion of iron oxidised grit; broken but almost complete. OR3250; well lining 1018, Trench 4. Phase 5.

Shale Objects

N. J. Adam

A total of 57 pieces of shale was recovered from the site, 28 of which were waste fragments. The identifiable shale objects consisted of 11 finished armlets, nine vessels, four trays, two spindle whorls and part of a table top; a further two pieces derived from manufactured items of unknown function. Most of the shale objects were recovered from early and late Roman contexts; all, including those from later contexts, date from the Roman period. A full catalogue description of the objects is in archive. The distribution of shale objects by phase is shown in Table 7.

All of the object categories are taken from those established for the shale recovered from the Wytch Farm project, Purbeck (Cox and Mills 1991); most of the sub-categories, called 'types', are those used for the material from Greyhound Yard (Mills and Woodward 1993 b). The material was also examined to try and establish whether shale production was carried out on site or whether only traded objects were present.

Table 7: Shale objects and unworked/undiagnostic shale by phase

Phase	**Trench**	**Objects by number**						**Unworked/undiag. by weight**	
		Armlets	Vessels	Trays	Spindle whorls	Table tops	Misc.	CAT I	CAT 2
0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	53 g	-
3	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	38 g
	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	18 g	30 g
	4	-	-	1	-	-	2	95 g	629 g
5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 g	-
	3	1	2	-	1	-	-	178 g	297 g
	4	3	3	-	-	-	-	736 k	25
	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	3	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	19 g	-
	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	212 g
Totals		11	10	3	2	1	2	1047 g	1231 g

Armlets

Armlets formed the largest category of shale objects in the Wessex Court assemblage. All of the armlets belong to category 9 (finished armlets). One was of type 1 (circular

cross-section), five (including Fig. 28, 1) were of type 2 (oval upright cross-section) and two were of type 4 (square cross-section). Two new types were added to the series, type 8 (D-shaped cross-section) and type 9 (hexagonal cross-section); both types were very similar to examples from Silchester (Lawson 1976, Figs 4–6, 18–58). Armlets occurred in contexts of all phases but were most common in the late Roman and post-Roman phases. The absence of blanks, cores and rough-outs indicates that armlet production did not take place at the Wessex Court site.

Vessels

Of the nine vessel fragments recovered, one is from a dish (Fig. 28, 4), four are probably from bowls, two are from platters and two could be from either bowls or platters. Apart from one platter fragment and one bowl fragment, all were recovered from late Roman contexts.

Trays

Four tray fragments were found, all from early Roman contexts. Two of the four were rim fragments, both decorated with a semi-circular pattern, and are similar to an example from Silchester (Lawson 1976, fig. 11); another example was found at Greyhound Yard (Mills and Woodward 1993 b).

Spindle Whorls

The two spindle whorls from Wessex Court (including Fig. 28, 2) were recovered from one late and one post-Roman context. Both were lathe-turned and were probably made from the waste cores of armlets (cf. Cox and Woodward 1987). Similar examples are known from Silchester (Lawson 1976 fig. 14, 108e) and Greyhound Yard (Mills and Woodward 1993 b).

Table Top

One fragment of a table top was found in an early Roman context. It was not decorated and had one surviving worked edge which displayed evidence of saw marks. Part of the original surface has survived and shows possible evidence of wear in the form of several irregular linear marks or scratches.

Unidentified Objects

Two pieces could not be identified with any degree of certainty. One object (Fig. 28, 3), which is lathe-turned, has a conical upper and a cylindrical lower section; the underside of the lower section shows signs of wear and has three equidistant, rectangular sockets cut into its side. The abject may be part of a three-legged table, possibly the central boss for three supporting struts below the table top. Three-legged tables have been identified in other urban shale assemblages such as Silchester (Lawson 1976, fig. 13), although that particular reconstruction does not include a boss. A similar object has been recovered from Worgret, near Wareham (Hearne 1992, fig. 20, 3). The second unidentified fragment has been both sawn and lathe-turned; it is similar to the rim of a circular table top from Silchester (Lawson 1976, fig. 12, 94).

Discussion

The Wessex Court shale objects represent a typical urban assemblage. As with the shale from the Greyhound Yard and County Hall sites in Dorchester (Mills and Woodward 1993 b; Copson and Healy 1993 b) and Silchester (Lawson 1976), finished products dominate the assemblage, with none of the diagnostic waste products associated with the lathe-turning of shale being found.

An examination of the Wessex Court shale by phase suggests that the amount of shale increased in the late Roman period. Accompanying the increase in quantity was a change in the range of items present; the shale tray and furniture fragments were limited to the early Roman phase, whereas vessel fragments, such as bowls and platters, were, in the main, associated with the later period.

Illustrated shale objects: Figure 28

1. Armlet with S-twist cable on outer face: incomplete. 3rd–4th centuries AD. OR3036: layer 95, Trench 3. Phase 6.
2. Spindle whorl: complete. Roman. OR3055: layer 138. Trench 3. Phase 5.
3. Unidentified object, possibly part of a table. Roman. OR3232: layer 1248, Trench 4. Phase 4.
4. Dish with concentric grooved decoration. Roman. OR4813: layer 1530, Trench 5. Phase 5.

Roman Vessel Glass

H. E. M. Cool

The excavations at Wessex Court produced 154 fragments of Roman glass from a minimum of 31 vessels. Approximately 75% of this material was recovered from Roman contexts where it was split evenly between early and late phases. The majority of the forms are common ones that have been found previously at Dorchester, but there are also fragments from an unusual facet-cut bottle and a wheel-cut beaker or cup. These glass vessels range in date from the mid-1st–4th centuries AD. There are no significant concentrations at any one period, though forms typical of the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD are relatively scarce. As is to be expected, the assemblage is very similar to that found at the neighbouring Greyhound Yard site where virtually all the vessel forms found at Wessex Court were represented. A detailed catalogue is held in archive.

The 1st-century AD Tablewares

Seven fragments from a minimum of four vessels come from types that were in use during the 1st century AD, and three of these can be more closely dated to the pre- or early Flavian period.

The first fragment (Fig. 29, 1) comes from a shallow blue/green pillar moulded bowl (Isings 1957, form 3a; Cool and Price 1995, nos 1–184). In general blue/green pillar moulded bowls are common throughout the 1st century AD, but in the north-western provinces the shallow form appears to go out of use after the mid-1st century (Welker 1974, 20). It is unlikely, therefore, that this vessel would have been in use much later than the early Flavian period.

The same is true of the polychrome fragments (Fig. 29, 2). These come from a deep blue jug or flask decorated with opaque white marvered spots. Strongly coloured vessels decorated in this way are commonest during the Claudio-Neronian period

(Berger 1960, 34; Cool and Price 1995, nos 258–72). They are sometimes found on sites associated with the Flavian advance to the north, such as Manchester (Price 1974, 131, no. 79, Fig. 48), Blackfriars, Carlisle (unpublished) and Castleford, West Yorkshire (Cool and Price 1998, 143, 157 nos 42-4, Fig. 52), but had probably gone out of production before this date. The fragments are from a cylindrical neck and it is not possible to identify the vessel form more precisely.

One fragment (Fig. 29, 5) comes from a facet-cut beaker with externally ground surface (Isings 1957, Form 21; Oliver 1984; Cool and Price 1995, nos 395–401). These vessels had come into use by the very early Flavian period at the latest, and are a common find on Flavian sites. At Greyhound Yard, for example, nine fragments from a minimum of three beakers were found. These beakers were made in both tall and squat forms but as the piece recovered is merely a body fragment it is not possible to identify the precise variant it came from.

A fragment of rim (Fig. 29, 22) is almost certainly from a blue/green amphorisk (Isings 1957, Form 15; Cool and Price 1995, nos 1165–9) which is an early and mid-1st century AD form that went out of use by the early Flavian period. Until recently these vessels appeared to be rare in Britain probably because of the difficulty of recognising them from fragments. Now they are being increasingly recognised in the assemblages of glass from mid-1st century AD sites in southern Britain (Price 1987a, 73).

The Later 1st to Mid-2nd-Century AD Tablewares

During the second half of the 1st century and the first half of the 2nd century AD**,** the commonest tablewares other than drinking vessels are tubular rimmed bowls (Isings 1957, Forms 44/5; Cool and Price 1995, nos 630–91), collared jars (Isings 1957, Form 67c; Cool and Price 1995, nos 732–806) and globular and conical jugs (Isings 1957, Forms 52 and 55; Cool and Price 1995, nos 871–954). With the exception of tubular rimmed bowls which occur in earlier contexts, the forms first appeared during the late Neronian period and were widespread and numerous for the rest of the 1st century AD. Collared jars and globular jugs disappear during the early 2nd century AD, but tubular rimmed bowls and conical jugs continued in use into the middle of the 2nd century AD.

This range of vessels occurs in large numbers on Romano-British sites. At Greyhound Yard for, example, there were at least three bowls, four jars and eight jugs, and they are also well represented at Wessex Court, where a minimum of three bowls (including Fig. 29, 3: yellow/brown, and Fig. 29, 15: blue/green) and one jar (Fig. 29, 16: blue/green) were found. The jug forms are represented by a number of fragments (including Fig. 29, 18–20), though it is not always possible to identify the precise variant they came from. The ribbed body fragment (Fig. 29, 20) comes from a conical jug, and a fragment from the edge of a light green handle with multiple ribs is most likely to have come from a globular jug as this handle form was the one commonly used on them. One fragment (Fig. 29, 21) might have come from either a globular jug or a collared jar as this form of base with an open pushed-in base ring was common to both. All of these bowl, jar and jug types could be decorated with ribs and it is very likely that otherwise undiagnostic ribbed body fragments (including Fig. 29, 4) also came from this range of vessels.

1st and 2nd-Century AD Containers

The majority of the fragments from containers discussed in this section came from blue/green prismatic and cylindrical bottles (Isings 1957, Forms 50 and 51; Cool and Price 1995, nos 1834–2239). This is generally the case on Romano-British sites where such fragments commonly make up a quarter or more of the assemblage. Other containers represent over 40% of the assemblage (67 fragments). It is difficult to quantify the minimum number of vessels such fragments represent, as using the rims and the bases always considerably underestimates the number of bottles present. At Wessex Court there are a minimum of five bottles based on the rim fragments (including Fig. 29, 26–9) and the handle fragment (Fig. 29, 30) which came from a much larger bottle than those indicated by the rim fragments. Square bottles are represented by several fragments (including Fig. 29, 30), though the majority of fragments which can only be identified as coming from prismatic bottles of uncertain form (including Fig. 29, 3 1–32) are also most likely to have come from square bottles. The presence of cylindrical bottles is indicated by one body fragment. Blue/green bottles first occur in the Claudian period but do not become very common until the late 1st century AD. Cylindrical bottles disappear in the early 2nd century but square bottles continue in use until the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries AD. The assemblage contains only one base fragment from a prismatic bottle. This has one of the less common base patterns of a straight moulding parallel to the edge surrounding a large central pellet.

One fragment (Fig. 29, 17) is from a blue/green funnel-mouthed jar with rolled rim edge (Cool and Price 1995, nos 807–830). These were in use during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD but appear to have been commonest during the 2nd century AD.

The other two blue/green containers are of 1st to 3rd-century AD date, but cannot be more closely dated within this period. The complete rim of a flask with a rolled rim (Fig. 29, 23) and the small base fragment (Fig. 29, 24) probably came from a bath flask (Isings 1957, Form 61; Allen 1986, 104–5 and 107–8; Cool and Price 1995, nos 190–209).

The Later 2nd and 3rd-Century AD Tablewares

The assemblage contains fragments from two of the common vessel forms of the later 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, and two other unusual vessels may also be assigned to this period.

The rim and base fragments (including Fig. 29, 6–7) come from a minimum of two cylindrical colourless cups with fire round rims and double ring bases (Isings 1957, Form 85b; Cool and Price 1995, nos 465–540). These were the commonest glass vessel type in use in the north-western provinces during the later 2nd and earlier 3rd centuries AD and are frequently found in large numbers on Romano-British sites. The earliest closely dated example yet to have been found in Roman Britain came from a pit at Felmongers, Harlow dated to *c.* AD 160–170 (Price 1987b, 204 no. 19, Fig. 2).

Another fragment (Fig. 29, 10) may also have come from a cup of this type. It has been grozed around the outside of a trailed base ring to form a disc. The possibility exists that this could have been the central part of a cylindrical cup base. The centres of such bases reused as counters in this way have been found at Colchester (Cool and Price 1995, nos 533–4) and Catterick (Cool and Price 1998, 219, 223 nos. 34-5, fig. 333). The diameter of the base ring is rather large for that of the central trail of the common undecorated variant, and on these the pontil scar is normally across the trail rather than in the centre of the base as on this piece. On the

trailed variant of the cylindrical cup such as that found at Baldock (Westell 1931, 276, no. 4828, fig. 6), however, this combination of central pontil scar and central trail with a large diameter is not uncommon, as may also be seen on a virtually complete trailed cup from Castleford, West Yorkshire (Cool and Price 1998, 166 no. 195, Fig. 57.).

Bases with base rings where the sides of the vessel have been grozed away so that a disc with a raised edge results, are common finds on Romano-British sites. In the Wessex Court assemblage this feature is represented by the colourless base fragment (Fig. 29, 11) in addition to that described above (Fig. 29, 10). The purpose of these reused bases is not clear, though possible uses include that of lid or counter.

The location of these fragments on the site is of interest. It should be stressed that on most Romano-British sites occupied at the relevant period, fragments from these cylindrical cups are very common. The Greyhound Yard site to the north, however, produced relatively few of them in relation to the very large assemblage of glass found there. This appeared to reflect a general under-representation of late 2nd and early 3rd-century AD material in the assemblage. If the Wessex Court site is taken as a whole, this assemblage does not appear to show this feature. If it is divided into the areas it came from, however, the relative scarcity of later 2nd and early 3rd-century AD glass reappears in Trenches I and 2, the two closest to Greyhound Yard, the majority of the fragments found coming from south of the road in Trench 4. The assemblage from Wessex Court is far too small for the absence of this material from Trenches I and 2 to be significant on its own, but taken in conjunction with the evidence from Greyhound Yard it is worthy of note.

A fragment from another vessel (Fig. 29, 8) may also have been in use during this period. It is now heavily weathered but appears originally to have been of good quality colourless glass. It comes from a cylindrical cup or beaker decorated with horizontal wheel-cut lines and with an out-turned fire-rounded rim. This vessel is not closely paralleled and was found in a post-Roman context. The combination of good quality, colourless glass and fire-rounded rim edge though, suggests that it was in use during the later 2nd or 3rd centuries AD.

The reeded handle fragment (Fig. 29, 14) may have come from the type of cylindrical bottle common in later 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. This was made of good quality, colourless glass and was decorated with horizontal wheel-cut lines, see for example that from Hauxton (Harden 1958, 12 no. 2, fig. 6, p1. IIIa). The Wessex Court example, however, is made from slightly green-tinged colourless glass and this may indicate that it came from the range of cylindrical bottles with funnel mouths that were typical of the later 3rd and 4th centuries AD (see below), as the glass of the later bottles is often green-tinged rather than truly colourless. Reeded handles are common to both types of bottles which are usually distinguished on other characteristics such as rim form.

The reeded handle fragment shows evidence of reuse as the edge of the shoulder shows secondary working to produce a sharp edge. The reuse of a fragment of vessel glass to form a tool is less common than the production of discs such as those described above, but is being increasingly recognised in Roman vessel glass assemblages. The thickened lower parts of handles are not infrequently used in a similar way to this example, probably because the handle is convenient to hold.

One fragment is from the shoulder and upper body of a cylindrical bottle (Fig. 29, 13) as it retains the very characteristic slight bulge at the top of the body. What makes the fragment unique to my knowledge is that it is decorated with facet-cutting. The shoulder retains two facets arranged in a horizontal V-shape and the upper body has a row of vertical rice grain facets above a row of oval ones. This style of facet

cutting recalls that used on the linear and facet-cut cups of the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, such as those from Corbridge (Charlesworth 1959, 44, fig. 3.6) and York (Harden 1962, 136, fig. 88. HG 205.1). It is interesting to note that the Wessex Court fragment has four lightly abraded lines between the two rows of facets which are reminiscent of the lightly abraded lines on such cups which have been interpreted as guide lines for the setting out of the facet cutting (Cool and Price 1995, nos 413–4).

A group of late Roman funnel-mouthed cylindrical bottles with cut decoration are known (Fremersdorf 1967: 125–34, tafn. 146–62) but the fragment described above does not appear to be related to them in any way as the two styles of cutting are quite different. The Wessex Court fragment cannot therefore, be dated by close parallel, nor is its post medieval context helpful as it is clearly residual. The style of the cutting and the good quality of the colourless glass it is made from suggest a 2nd or 3rd-century AD date. By the late 2nd century AD, colourless cylindrical bottles like the one from Hauxton were clearly being used as items of tableware, and it is to this period or later in the 3rd century AD that this piece probably belongs.

The colourless body fragment (Fig. 29, 12) may date to this period or slightly earlier. It is decorated with two wheel-cut lines and is most likely to have come either from a wheel-cut beaker which was the commonest beaker form in use during the early to mid-2nd century AD, or from a cylindrical bottle like that from Hauxton.

The Later 3rd and 4th-Century AD Tablewares

Material datable to the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD is not very common in this assemblage. Two pieces (Fig. 29, 9, 34) are rim fragments from two conical truncated beakers with cracked-off rims and abraded horizontal bands (Isings 1957, Form 106: Cool *et al.* 1995, nos 553–614). Another piece may be the lower body fragment of a third, though the light green glass it is made of is much less bubbly than was normal at that time. These beakers are one of the two main thinking vessels forms in use in the 4th century AD, and are very common finds on Romano-British sites.

Two fragments from post-Roman contexts may also be of late Roman date, though in neither case can the form of the vessel be identified with certainty. One fragment (Fig. 29, 25) is a complete concave base from a cylindrical vessel. It has a pontil scar which suggests that it had a fire-rounded rim, and the glass it is made of is full of small bubbles. The combination of these three features strongly suggests that it came from a funnel-mouthed bottle or flask of the type in use during the later 3rd or 4th centuries AD (Isings 1957, Form 102b, 126 and 127; Harden 1979, 219, no. 549; Cool and Price 1995, no. 2257). This fragment also shows signs of re-working along one-third of the circumference. This has produced a sharp edge suggesting that the aim was to produce a tool, rather than a disc.

The other fragment (Fig. 29, 33) may have come from a blue/green barrel jug or Frontinus bottle (Isings 1957, Forms 89 & 128; Price and Cool 1983, 117, 123, nos 57–60, Fig. 48; Cool and Price 1995, nos 2259–62). In Britain these have so far only been found in late Roman contexts, though the one-handled form is known to have been in use in other north-western provinces as early as the late 1st century.

Illustrated Roman glass vessels: Figure 29

1. Body fragments of shallow ?bowl; blue/green; parts of two narrow ribs remaining, with polished bevel on upper part of one; abraded band on interior of lower body: fire-polished externally and wheel-polished internally. Layer 282, Trench 3; Phase 4.
2. Two joining cylindrical neck fragments of jug or flask; deep blue with part of one opaque white marvered spot; elongated bubbles. Layer 248, Trench 3. Phase 5.

3. Rim fragment of tubular rimmed bowl: light yellow/brown; out-bent rim, edge folded out and down: some small bubbles. Layer 1133, Trench 4. Phase 4.
4. Body fragment: straight side; parts of two vertical ribs; occasional small bubbles. Layer 1280, Trench 4. Phase 4.
5. Lower body fragment of externally ground facet-cut beaker; straight side sloping in; parts of ten deep oval facets arranged in quincunx to form diamonds in five rows, lowest row of half size; small part of lower externally ground zone sloping in smoothly from facet-cut zone; occasional small bubbles: iridescent surfaces. Layer 721, Trench 2. Phase 4.
6. Rim fragment of cylindrical cup: vertical rim, edge fire-thickened: straight side; small bubbles: iridescent surfaces; strain cracks. Layer 1138, Trench 4. Phase 5.
7. Rim fragment of cylindrical cup: vertical rim, edge fire-thickened; straight side; clouded iridescent surfaces. Layer 1205. Trench 4. Phase 5.
8. Rim fragment of cylindrical cup of beaker; out-turned rim, edge fire-rounded; slightly convex-curved side: three wheel-cut lines on upper body: clouded, weathered surfaces. Layer 134, Trench 3. Phase 6.
9. Rim fragment of conical beaker; curved run, edge cracked off but not ground: straight side, sloping in; clouded surfaces. Layer 9, Trench 3. Phase 8.
10. Complete base fragment?; trailed base ring: concave base: circular pontil scar: side grozed: clouded surfaces. OR3170; layer 1127, Trench 4. Phase 5.
11. Three joining base fragments: tubular pushed-in base ring; concave base: pontil scar; side grozed; some small bubbles: dulled iridescent surfaces: strain cracks. Layer 1202, Trench 4. Phase 5.
12. Body fragment; straight side, two wheel-cut lines; clouded iridescent surfaces. Layer 234, Trench 3. Phase 5.
13. Upper body fragment of facet-cut cylindrical bottle; part of shoulder curving over to straight side. One complete rice grain facet and part of second arranged in horizontal V-shape: row of small vertical rice grain facets on upper body, parts of ten remaining, row of narrow oval facets below, parts of six remaining. Four very lightly abraded horizontal lines on plain area between rows of vertical facets. Some small bubbles dulled surfaces. Layer 47, Trench 3. Phase 8.
14. Handle and shoulder fragment of cylindrical bottle; part of simple lower attachment from reeded handle retaining part of shoulder. Edge of shoulder has secondary working below outer edge of handle attachment forming sharp edge. Green-tinged. colourless small bubbles; iridescent surfaces. Layer 184, Trench 3. Phase 5.
15. Rim fragment of tubular rimmed bowl; vertical rim, edge bent out and down; straight side; occasional small bubbles; iridescent surfaces. Layer 1088, Trench 4. Phase *5.*
16. Five rim fragments of collared jar, groups of three and two joining. Rim edge first rolled in. then folded out and down; upper part of collar bent out; body sloping out. Small bubbles; dulled surfaces. Layer 1410, Trench 4. Phase 4.
17. Rim fragment of funnel-mouthed jar; funnel-mouth, rim edge rolled in; some small bubbles: iridescent surfaces. Layers 720, 721, Trench 2. Phase 4.
18. Handle fragment of jug; angular ribbon handle with centre rib; elongated bubbles; streaky green impurities; strain cracks. OR3230; layer 1248, Trench 4. Phase 4.
19. Handle and body fragment of jug; part of ribbon handle with claw lower attachment, part of one side prong and central prong remain; slightly convex-curved body; elongated bubbles. Layer 1203, Trench 4. Phase *5.*
20. Upper body fragment of conical jug; slightly convex-curved side; parts of six diagonal shallow ribs: some small bubbles. Layer 207, Trench 3. Phase 4.
21. Lower body and base fragment of jug or jar: convex-curved side sloping in to open pushed-in base ring; concave base mostly missing; occasional small bubbles. Unstratified.
22. Rim fragment of amphorisk; rim edge bent out and down and then up; cylindrical neck; small fragment of handle attachment on lower edge of rim: dulled surfaces. Layer 207, Trench 3. Phase 4.
23. Complete rim and neck fragment of flask; outbent, asymmetrical rim, edge rolled in; narrow cylindrical neck; small bubbles; iridescent surfaces. Layer 1181, Trench 4. Phase *5.*
24. Base fragment of? bath flask; concave base; off-centre circular pontil scar; many bubbles. Layer 81, Trench 3. Phase 6
25. Complete base of cylindrical flask of bottle; pale blue/green; vertical side curving into concave base; circular pontil scar retaining small fragment of additional glass; base worn: side grozed for one-third of circumference; many small bubbles; iridescent surfaces. Clearance.

26. Rim and neck fragment of bottle; rim bent out, up, in and flattened; cylindrical neck. Layer 218, Trench 3. Phase 5.
27. Rim and handle fragment of bottle; rim bent out, up, in and flattened; part of folded upper handle attached on underside of rim. Layer 180, Trench 3. Phase 5.
28. Folded and flattened rim fragment with small fragment of handle attachment on edge. Layer 703, Trench 2. Phase 8.
29. Folded and flattened rim fragment. OR3233: layer 1248, Trench 4. Phase 4.
30. Two joining handle and body fragment of large square bottle; horizontal shoulder curving over to sides; simple attachment of reeded handle. OR3178; layer 1030, Trench 4. Phase 7.
31. Four joining handle and body fragments of prismatic bottle; horizontal shoulder curving over to side; lower part of reeded handle with simple lower attachment. Layer 1470, Trench 4. Phase 4.
32. Base fragment of prismatic bottle: concave base: base design straight moulding parallel to edge; central circular pellet Layer 1169, Trench 4. Phase 5.//03/07
33. Lower body and base fragment of? barrel jug: part of lower corrugated zone retaining lowest corrugation and pan of one above: outer edge of concave base: small bubbles. Layer 1040 Trench 4. Phase 7/8.
34. Rim fragment of conical beaker: pale greenish colourless: curved rim, edge cracked off hut not ground: straight side sloping in; small bubbles. Layer 7, Trench 3. Phase 8.

Roman Glass Objects

H. E. M. Cool

Most of the four glass beads and two counters found at Wessex Court are common forms widespread throughout Roman Britain. There is, however, one unusual bead (Fig. 30, 1) which graphically demonstrates how native craftsmen in the 1st century AD made use of the supplies of glass which became available after the Roman Conquest to develop new varieties of glass objects, such as, for example, the glass bangles decorated with twisted chords (Crew 1989, 51).

At the time of the Conquest the manufacture of glass beads had long been established in Britain. The majority of these were deliberately coloured and decorated with spirals and chevrons (Guido 1978, 73, 89). The unusual Wessex Court bead (Fig. 30, 1) clearly belongs to the late Iron Age tradition of large annual polychrome beads but it has been made from a fragment of a purple and white pillar moulded bowl which is one of the more common colour combinations used on polychrome pillar moulded bowls from Romano-British sites (Price and Cool 1985, 42). Beads made from pillar moulded bowls are rare. There is one made from fragments of two different bowls at Claydon Pike, Oxfordshire (purple and white and green/blue [peacock] and white), and others have been noted at Usk (Wilmott *et al.* 2009, 351-2). The scarcity of these beads probably reflects both the fact that polychrome pillar moulded bowl fragments would have become rate during the Flavian period, and that the fashion for large polychrome beads also disappeared during the 1st century AD.

The other three beads are less noteworthy. One is a short biconical bead (Fig. 30, 2) and two others are short square-sectioned beads (Fig. 30, 3–4). Both of these varieties are commonest during the late Roman period but are occasionally found in earlier contexts (Guido 1978, 76–7; Brewer 1986, 147–8).

The excavations also produced one white and one black plano-convex counters (Fig. 30, 5–6). Though only one was found in an early Roman context, it is likely that both belong to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD as such counters are very common at that time.

Illustrated Roman glass objects; Figure 30

1. Large annular bead; polychrome-translucent purple ground with opaque white streaks; D-sectioned; approximately one-quarter extant. OR3129; layer 275. Trench 3. Phase 4.
2. Short biconical bead; translucent pale blue. Layer 224, Trench 3. Phase 5.
3. Short square bead; opaque blue; tapering slightly towards one rounded end. OR3035; layer 103, Trench 3. Phase 6.
4. Short square bead: translucent blue/green. OR3176: layer 138. Trench 4. Phase 5.
5. Plano-convex counter; white; underside smooth; voids on upper surface. Layer 715, Trench 2. Phase 4.
6. Plano-convex counter; appears black; underside pitted centrally, smooth around circumference. OR3013; layer 43, Trench 3. Phase 7.

Roman Window Glass

H. E. M. Cool

Twenty-six fragments of Roman window glass were found at Wessex Court, of which 13 came from early Roman contexts and ten from late Roman ones. No concentrations at any one location were noted. All of the fragments were from cast, matt/glossy window panes. This variety of window glass was the commonest type in use from the 1st–3rd centuries AD.

Fired Clay Objects

N. J. Adam

Nine fired clay objects were recovered from the site. These consisted of seven counters (including Fig. 31, 1–5), a spindle whorl (Fig. 31, 6) and a possible piece of kiln furniture. Six of the objects were recovered from contexts dated to the late Roman period. A full catalogue description of all the objects is in archive. The rest of the fired clay recovered from the site was interpreted as building material (see below).

Counters

All of the counters are made from pottery sherds; five are of Black Burnished ware (two of which have lattice decoration), one is of samian and the last is of a coarse, oxidised ware. Comparison with the Colchester assemblage allowed all of the counters to be assigned to three of the distinctive groups established by Crummy (1983, 93–5). Two examples (Fig. 31, 1–2) were from group 2 (counters which have no abraded surface but which do have a ground edge for at least part of their circumference). A further two (Fig. 31, 3–4) are from group 3 (counter rough-outs), while the other three (including Fig. 31, 5) belong to group 4 (pierced pottery counters). Apart from one, all of the counters came from late Roman contexts.

The precise use to which these counters were put is unclear. The two most popular views are that they were either used as measuring weights in shops and kitchens or as pieces in board games. It is possible that some of the group 4 counters may be spindle whorls (Crummy 1983, 67).

Spindle Whorl

One roundel (Fig. 31, 6) was identified as a spindle whorl using the criteria established by Crummy (1983, 67). This was the only fired clay object to be recovered from an early Roman context.

Miscellaneous Objects

A flattish fragment of fired clay with part of a circular perforation was recovered from a late Roman context and has been tentatively identified as a piece of kiln furniture, possibly a stacking-ring (Swan 1984, p1. 23).

Illustrated fired clay objects; Figure 31

1. Counter; lattice-decorated Black Burnished ware. OR3171; layer 1120. Trench 4. Phase *5.*
2. Counter: coarse oxidised pottery. OR4216: layer 277, Trench 3. Phase 9.
3. Counter; lattice-decorated Black Burnished ware. OR4209: layer 260. Trench 3. Phase 5.
4. Counter; samian. OR4857; layer 1249, Trench 4. Phase 5.
5. Pierced counter with drilled, single, off-centre hole; variant Black Burnished ware. OR4479; layer 1024, Trench 4. Phase 7.
6. Spindle whorl; base sherd, Black Burnished ware. OR3068: layer 715, Trench 2. Phase 4.

Roman Pottery

R. H. Seager Smith

In total, 21,967 sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered. Due to the limited scope of the project the material has not been analysed in detail. However, based on prior knowledge of Romano-British ceramics in the Dorchester area, especially from the nearby site of Greyhound Yard (Seager Smith and Davies 1993), all the pottery recovered was scanned to ascertain the range and quality of the material in terms of fabric and vessel form, and a spot-date was assigned on a context-by-context basis (data in archive). All the observations made in this report are based on the results of this scan.

The ceramic assemblage was divided into four major groups: Romano-British coarse- and finewares, imported Roman finewares, samian, and amphorae.

Table 8: Quantification, by number of sherds of the four major Roman fabric groups

Phase	RB coarse- and finewares		Imported Roman finewares		Samian		Amphora		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0	64	85	1	1.5	9	12	1	1.5	75	-
1	16	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5
2	10	59	1	6	6	35	-	-	17	-
3	1581	86	30	2	120	7	112	6	1843	8
4	4229	83	29	0.6	444	9	357	7	5059	23
5	7362	93	42	ft5	398	5	147	1.5	7949	36
6	3016	97	6	0.2	60	2	31	1	3113	14
7	1650	97	7	0.4	34	2	14	1	1705	8
8	1750	96	10	0.5	35	2	21	1	1816	8
9	347	93	4	1	19	5	4	1	374	2
Total	20025	91	130	0.6	1125	5	687	3	21967	99.6

For each context, the number of sherds in each group was quantified, while more specific details of fabric and vessel form were also noted. This information is summarised by phase for the entire assemblage in archive. The total number of sherds in each of the four main fabric groups and the percentage of the assemblage represented by these groups are summarised by phase, and for the assemblage as a whole, in Table 8. When compared with similar assemblage breakdowns for other sites in the Dorchester area (Table 9), closely comparable figures emerge, with the Romano-British coarse and finewares representing between 91–98% of the assemblage in each case, imported finewares from 0.3–0.8%, samian from 1–5% and amphorae from 0.3–3%.

Table 9: Dorchester ceramic assemblage comparisons

	RB coarse- and finewares		Imported Roman finewares		Samian		Amphora	
Site	**No**	**%**	**No**	**%**	**No**	**%**	**No**	**%**
Wessex Court	20025	91	130	0.6	1125	5	687	3
Greyhound Yard	48666	96	426	0.8	data not available		1433	3
County Hall	5412	97	25	0.5	156	3	126	2
Alington Avenue	10821	96	55	0.5	239	2	159	1
Dorchester Bypass	6564	99	24	0.3	62	1	17	0.3

The Romano-British Coarsewares and Finewares

This group forms the bulk of the assemblage (91%) and, although overwhelmingly dominated by the various Black Burnished ware fabrics, also includes a small but typical range of orange/buff and grey wares, Corfe Mullen ware and the products of the Oxfordshire and New Forest industries.

The Black Burnished wares

This major fabric group represents the continuation and development of the indigenous pre-Roman ceramic tradition of the Dorset region during the 1st to 4th centuries AD. As the Black Burnished wares dominate the Romano-British coarse- and fineware group and their dating and development are comparatively well-known (Gillam 1976; Williams 1977), any understanding of the chronology of the assemblage as a whole, must be based on the dating of these fabrics. Consequently, these wares were recorded in more detail than the rest of the assemblage, the various vessel forms present being recorded using the regional type series established for the Dorchester area (Seager Smith 2002; Seager Smith and Davies 1993; Seager Smith *et al.* 1993; 1997).

Although traditionally seen as a single homogenous sandy fabric (Gillam 1976; Farrar 1977), more recent work on Black Burnished ware from sites in the south-west (Bidwell 1979; Holbrook and Bidwell 1991; Davies and Hawkes 1987; Sunter 1987; Woodward 1987; Andrews forthcoming; Seager Smith and Davies 1993) has recognised not only wide variability within the main Wareham/Poole Harbour fabric group (Fabric E101), but also the existence of closely related but variant fabric groups (Fabric E102). The dating and development of these variant fabrics has recently been assessed. However, these fabrics were certainly present in Dorchester by about the mid–late 1st century AD onwards, although their frequency decreases markedly from the late 2nd–early 3rd centuries AD onwards (Andrews forthcoming; Seager Smith and Davies 1993). Both groups were present amongst the Black Burnished wares from

Wessex Court. Two very distinctive sub-types of Fabric E102 were also observed, occurring in very small quantities in early Roman contexts: a pale, rather granular, sandy fabric with a matt, mottled grey, rather than a shiny black, slip and a very fine, sandwich-fired fabric with red surfaces and margins and a black core. The presence of a very coarse, predominantly oxidised fabric with highly visible clay pellets/shale fragments (Fabric Q107) in substantial quantities in late and post-Roman contexts is also interesting. The significance and date range of this fabric type is discussed more fully below.

Summary descriptions of the Black Burnished Ware fabrics of the Dorchester type series present among the Wessex Court Romano-British pottery assemblage.

Fabric E101 – Black Burnished ware

Common-abundant rounded, translucent quartz grains <0.75 mm; very occasional, rounded shale fragments of shale <5 mm; occasional iron and flint; much variation within basic description.

Wareham/Poole Harbour region of Dorset; hand-made, although sometimes, especially among later forms, vessels may he wheel-finished; range of firing conditions found – oxidised, unoxidised and irregularly fired.

Dating evidence/parallels: 1st century BC–4th century AD÷ (Gilliam 1976, 58; Williams 1977, 189; correlates with Fabric la in Dorchester type series).

Fabric E102 – 'Variant' Black Burnished ware fabric

Soft, fine, sandy fabric with very common-abundant, small (<0.75 mm), translucent quartz grains; occasional iron oxides, particles of soft, white non-calcareous material and crushed flint. Generally very dark grey or black but frequently with light grey 'skin beneath black surface or sandwich' firing, with dark grey core and brown margins or brown core and red margins. Some, generally more coarsely-grained fabrics, much paler. freshly broken fracture having sugary, 'Milky Way'-like texture. Characterised by thick, black or grey slip on external surface, often dribbling over the rim onto interior.

Produced at many centres, probably in Dorset/Devon/Somerset area, but precise locations unknown; hand-made; examples of full range of firing conditions are found although irregular, 'sandwich' fired examples predominate.

Dating evidence/parallels: 1st century BC–lst century AD continuing until late 2nd or early 3rd centuries AD, although occasional later examples of very unusual vessel forms are found (Bidwell 1977, 189; 1979, 193; Davies and Hawkes 1987, M3; Andrews forthcoming; correlates with Fabric 1b in Dorchester type series.

Fabric 0107 – Coarse Black Burnished ware with very visible clay pellets/shale fragments.

Iron-rich rising clay matrix containing common. subangular quartz grains, <1 mm. sparse but very visible rounded clay/shale pellets <5 mm. occasional red iron oxides and pockets of soft, white calcareous material <0.5 mm. Frequency of clay/shale pellets increases markedly towards bottom of vessel.

Sub-division of Fabric E101; Wareham/Poole Harbour region of Dorset; hand-made; in many cases coil joins clearly visible; firing generally irregular with whole range of oxidised to unoxidised occurring on single vessel. Vessels generally finished with rough, very smeared burnishing and/or wiping above and below decorated band; internal surface may be very rough or occasionally slightly wiped.

Dating evidence/parallels: occurs in forms which date from 2nd century AD onwards but may represent very late fabric, possibly even decline of BB1 industry.

Forty-two Black Burnished ware vessel forms were recognised among the Wessex Court assemblage. Vessel forms from each of the four main categories were present:

- Jars – Types: 1, 2, 2/3, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 41, 46, 62, 67, 68
- Open bowls – Types: 13, 15, 16, 33, 34, 36, 40, 77
- Straight-sided bowls and dishes – Types: 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 78
- Miscellaneous – Types: 10, 19, 26, 29, 66, 69

Summary descriptions of the Black Burnished Ware vessel forms of the Dorchester type series present among the Wessex Court Romano-British pottery assemblage.

Type 1: Cooking pots/storage jars with upright or slightly everted rim; rim usually beaded on exterior edge; some examples with counter-sunk handles. Date range: 1st century BC–lst century AD.

Type 2: Cooking pots/storage jars with everted rim, usually beaded; rim diameter less than maximum diameter of body. Date range: 2nd century AD onwards.

Type 3: Cooking pots/storage jars with evened rim; rim diameter greater than or equivalent to maximum diameter of body. Date range: late 3rd century AD onwards.

Type 2/3: Cooking pots/storage jars with everted rims; not enough body survives to specify whether Type 2 or 3. Date range: 2nd century AD onwards.

Type 4: Cooking pot/storage jar with everted bead rim and pair of counter-sunk handles. Date range: 2nd century AD onwards.

Type 6: Large, round/barrel-shaped storage jars or bowls with flattened and tapering triangular rim, incurving at shoulder. Date range: 1st century BC–lst century AD.

Type 7: Jars with beaded rims; encompasses wide range of vessel profiles. Date range: 1st century BC–lst century AD but possibly continuing into 3rd century AD in Dorset. Type 8: Jars with developed or 'pulled' bead rim; wide range of vessel profiles. Date range: as Type 7.

Type 9: Small jars or beakers with developed or 'pulled' bead rim and one or more applied 'ear-shaped' handles; variety of vessel profiles. Date range: in Dorset, this form continues throughout Roman period.

Type 10: Beakers with beaded or slightly everted rims; variety of profiles. Date range: as Type 9.

Type 11: Jars with narrow, upright, flanged rim, and ovoid body; sometimes one or more small handles applied at shoulder level. Date range: mid/late 3rd century AD onwards.

Type 12: Storage jars with rolled or everted 'pie-crust' rim. Date range: later 3rd century AD onwards.

Type 13: Round-bodied open bowl with range of profiles; some examples may be lids. Date range: 1st century AD.

Type 15: Carinated open bowl with plain or beaded rim, foot-ring or pedestal base. Date range: 1st century BC–lst century AD.

Type 19: Colander; roughly rounded or pear-shaped body, unelaborated upright or everted rim and sagging, perforated base. Date range: uncertain,?3rd–4th centuries AD.

Type 20: Shallow. straight-sided dish (or? lid) with plain rim; 'dog-dish'. Date range: from late 1st century AD until end of Roman period; marked increase in numbers from late 2nd century AD onwards,

Type 21: Oval. straight-walled dishes, with plain rim; most have opposing handles at each end of long axis; 'fish-dish'. Date range: late 3rd–late 4th centuries AD.

Type 22: Flat- or flanged-rimmed bowls/dishes Date range: 2nd century AD.

Type 23: Flat- or flanged rimmed bowls/dishes with chamfered base. Date range: early to mid-2nd century AD.

Type 24: Flat- or flanged-rimmed bowls/dishes with incised groove on top of rim; also called incipient flanged bowls/dishes. Date range: mid-2nd–3rd centuries AD.

Type 25: Bowls/dishes with dropped flange; wide range of forms and flange positions. Date range: late 3rd–early 5th centuries AD.

Type 26: Lids; all forms. Date range: generally lst–2nd centuries AD but later examples also known.

Type 29: Flagons: all forms. Date range: generally lst–2nd centuries AD but later examples also known.

Type 33: Carinated, open bowl: footring or low pedestal base and beaded rim; characteristic are applied, vertical ribs of clay, with various arrangements of small, impressed dots at intervals around the vessel walls; 'Maiden Castle War Cemetery Bowls'. Date range: 1st century BC–lst century AD, possibly continuing into early 2nd century AD.

Type 34: High-shouldered bowl with simple rim and small external flange. Date range: 1st century BC–lst century AD.

Type 36: Open, carinated bowl with slightly flared wall, plain rim and footring base; variety of profiles; imitations of Gallo-Belgic and samian forms. Date range: lst–2nd centuries AD.

Type 40: Carinated or round-bodied, open bowls with straight sides, slightly beaded rims and pedestal or footring bases; copies of fineware imports. Date range: 1st century AD.

Type 41: Globular-bodied storage jar with narrow neck and upright or very slightly everted rim; occasionally has shallow lid-seating groove on inner lip. Date range: 1st century AD onwards.

Type 46: Small jar with sharply everted rim and little or no neck; profile may be rounded and shouldered or almost straight- sided; generally has sing1 ear-shaped handle'. Date range: probably similar to Type 7.

Type 62: Globular-bodied jars with narrow neck, everted rim and pronounced lid-seating groove on inner lip. Date range: 2nd century AD onwards.

Type 66: Globular-bodied jug/flagon form with opposing vertical handles, upright neck and flat-topped, out-turned rim. Date range: 2nd century AD.

Type 67: Small, straight-sided jar with everted rim: no neck. Date range: late 3rd century AD onwards.

Type 69: Bowl/wide-mouthed jar with simple rim and straight sides; prominent dropped flange on exterior surface. Date range: late 2nd–3rd centuries AD onwards.

Type 77: Shallow open bowl with footring base and incised groove on interior of rim; form similar to Type 15 vessels and probably based on Continental prototypes. Date range: mid-1st century AD.

Type 78: Straight-sided, dropped flange bowl/dish, distinguished from Type 25 by chamfered base. Date range: 2nd century AD onwards.

In addition to these established types, six new vessel forms were also identified – Types 81, 82, 83, 84, 85 and 2012.

Type 81: Pan-shaped vessel with a dropped flange rim and at least one strap handle attached to the outer edge of the flange and the vessel wall; burnished on both surfaces but exterior is less well finished than the interior: faint traces of burnished line decoration. Fig. 33, 6. At rim level this vessel type may easily be confused with rims of Type 25, or possibly even Type 69, vessels. Date range: uncertain; the Wessex Court example was derived from the fill of cess pit 763 (Phase 4), but lacked close associations with any other datable vessel types. However, a similar vessel was noted at Greyhound Yard associated with late vessel forms (Seager Smith and Davies 1993), thus suggesting a late 3rd or 4th century AD date for this vessel type.

Type 82: Small jar with a simple out-turned rim and without a neck: only short section of rim preserved so angle of vessel wall is uncertain; exterior and upper part of interior slipped, exterior smoothed with traces of diagonal wipe marks beneath the decoration of impressed circles between incised grooves. Fig. 33. 7. Date range: probably 1st to 2nd centuries AD. This example was found associated with other vessel types of this period among primary consolidation material to the north of the road (Phase 4).

Type 83: Shallow open bowls or platters with a carinated body; variety of body profiles based on Gallo-Belgic platter forms; well-finished internally. Fig. 33, 8. Date range: 1st century AD. Paralleled by similar vessels from Ower in a variety of 1st-century AD contexts (Woodward 1987, fig. 18, 108–16).

Type 84: Small, narrow-mouthed, high-shouldered jar with a short, upright neck and a lid-seated rim; burnished externally. Fig. 33, 9. Date range: uncertain; found in association with material of mixed date but predominantly 2nd–3rd centuries AD in the build-up in the main Roman building courtyard (Phase 5).

Type 85: Bead-rimmed bowl with gently rounded sides and a double incised groove around the body, giving the effect of a raised cordon; burnished on both surfaces. Occurs in the unusual red- black-red sandwich-firing variant of Fabric E102, previously only associated with Type 36 bowls. Fig. 33, 10. Date range: 1st century AD; found among the early Roman primary consolidation debris (Phase 3) associated with vessel forms and fabrics dated to the second half of the 1st century AD.

Type 2012: Carinated bowl with a long, almost vertical neck and a low-slung carination. Fig 33, 5. Date range: Probably mid-1st century AD; recovered from early Roman primary consolidation debris (Phase 3) associated with vessel forms and fabrics dated to the second half of the 1st century AD. Similar vessels of this date are known in a variety of fabrics in southern England (Cunliffe 1971, fig. 89, 69; Going 1987, 29; Mepham 1997, fig. 151, 23796), possibly based on imported Terra Nigra forms. However, the form is also reminiscent of Middle Iron Age vessels of Period 2 (5th–3rd centuries BC) at Rope

Lake Hole (Davies 1987c, fig. 80, 23–7), thus indicating a much longer history for this vessel type in the Dorset region.

All the Black Burnished ware vessel forms identified are common elements in the late Iron Age/Romano-British ceramic tradition of the Dorchester region and span the entire Roman period. Jar forms were represented by the widest range of individual types, the other major vessel categories containing the usual range of common and rarer forms typical of assemblages from Dorchester. The size and proportions of the majority of vessels present conform to those suggested by Gillam (1976) and Davies and Hawkes (1987), while the techniques of surface treatment and decoration follow the generalised 'rules' described elsewhere (Farrar 1973, 76–8; Gillam 1976; Williams 1977; Seager Smith and Davies 1993). A small number of Type 2 jars proved the exception to this, however, being larger than usual with very globular profiles, unusual combinations of burnished, smoothed and wiped surface treatments and acute/90° angled burnished line lattice decoration. These vessels occurred exclusively in Fabric Q107 and are discussed more fully below.

Orange/buff and grey wares

Although the orange/buff and grey wares were not individually quantified or assigned to specific fabric or vessel forms, these wares form part of the standard range of such products as seen at other sites in the Dorchester area (Seager Smith 2002; Seager Smith and Davies 1993; Seager Smith *et al.* 1993; 1997), and indeed, on most Roman sites. Despite this, the provenance and dating of these wares remains largely obscure, although it is likely to include many different British and possibly even Continental production centres, spanning the entire Roman period. Perhaps reflecting this, and although only present in small quantities, the orange/buff and grey ware sherds are found scattered throughout the Wessex Court assemblage. As noted at other Dorchester sites (Seager Smith and Davies 1993), comparatively few featured sherds were present amongst this group, the majority of the orange/buff ware sherds being plain bodies from flagon forms, while the grey ware sherds largely derived from a range of comparatively fine, well-finished jar, beaker and bowl/dish forms, including copies of Gallo-Belgic vessels. Almost all the products within this group were wheel-made.

Mortaria

(This group excludes the products of the Oxfordshire, New Forest or samian industries).

Mortaria were poorly represented in the Wessex Court assemblage, but where present sherds were confined exclusively to the early Roman to post-Roman phases. The mortaria were not assigned to either fabric or vessel form, but from observations made during scanning, the range of products appears to mirror those present at Greyhound Yard (Seager Smith 1993). Examples of Bushe-Fox type 26–30 vessels (1913, fig. 19, 26–30), which were probably produced in the Rhineland or Gallia Belgica *c.* AD 80–150, Hartley's Group 1 and 2 mortaria (1977, 11) made in Kent or alternatively imported from north-west France *c.* AD 60–150, as well as several vessels probably derived from the Rhineland *c.* AD 150–250, were noted. These mortaria types were also amongst the most common at other sites within and around Dorchester (Seager Smith 1993; Seager Smith *et al*. 1997). However, other unfamiliar types were also present including sherds from an early Roman, possibly even Claudian (*c.* AD 41–54), wall-sided vessel from the early occupation deposits south of the road, a type completely absent from the very much larger Greyhound Yard

assemblage, and the very large, unparalleled vessel recovered from the slump deposits in well 1013 (Fig. 32, 4).

Corfe Mullen ware

Small quantities of this fabric type were noted in the Wessex Court assemblage, predominantly occurring in late Roman and post-Roman phases. The majority of sherds were plain bodies derived from flagon forms, the most commonly produced vessel form in this fabric. Corfe Mullen ware is generally dated to the third quarter of the 1st century AD (Calkin 1935, 54; Bidwell 1979, 194; Seager Smith and Davies 1993).

New Forest and Oxfordshire wares

The products of these two centres were quantified as a group, while the different fabric types present were noted. Where identifiable, the vessel forms were noted according to the schemes presented for New Forest and Oxfordshire wares by Fulford (1975) and Young (1977) respectively.

In common with other sites in Dorchester, products of the New Forest kilns were far more numerous in the Wessex Court assemblage than those from the Oxfordshire region, largely due to the relative proximity of the former production centre. The New Forest products are represented by Fulford's fabric categories la–c, the fine, colour-coated stoneware and red- slipped fabrics, and fabric category 2, parchment ware (Fulford 1975, 24–6). The absence of New Forest grey wares is unsurprising given the dominance of the locally produced, more readily available Black Burnished ware vessels in the assemblage, which would fulfil all the necessary food preparation, storage and everyday serving vessel functions, and follows the patterns observed elsewhere in the Dorchester region (Seager Smith 2002; Seager Smith and Davies 1993; Seager Smith *et al.* 1993; 1997). Of the vessel forms present, fine colour-coated stoneware beakers were the most common, especially those from indented forms (Fulford 1975, types 27 and 42), although sherds from flagons, jug (*ibid*., type 18) and cup (*ibid*., type 53) forms were also noted. Predominant among the red-slipped wares were sherds from the dropped flange bowls (*ibid*., type 63), while sherds of parchment ware mortaria (*ibid*., types 103 and 105), bowls (*ibid*., type 89), lids (*ibid*., type 86), and even a candlestick (*ibid*., type 98), were also present. With the possible exception of the candlestick, a type scarce everywhere, all these types are common in the Dorchester region, while Fulford types 27, 63 and 89 are perhaps the most common and widely distributed forms produced by the New Forest industry.

A smaller range of Oxfordshire products were present, the majority being plain body sherds not assignable to any specific vessel type. Sherds of red colour-coated ware (Young 1977, 123) were probably the most numerous of the Oxfordshire products, the vessel forms present including Young's type C51, dated throughout the life of the industry (*ibid*., 160, fig. 59), and C81, dated *c.* AD 300–400 (*ibid*., 166, fig. 162). Occasional sherds of brown colour-coated beakers (*ibid*., 123) were also present. Mortaria occurred in a variety of fabrics including white ware (*ibid*., 56), white colour-coated ware (*ibid*., 117) and red colour-coated ware (*ibid*., 123). Only one vessel type was recognisable, however, Young type M17 (*ibid*., 72, fig. 20), a common, very widely distributed type dated *c.* AD 240–300.

The date range of both the Oxfordshire and New Forest products present at Wessex Court spans the entire production period of these industries, *c.* AD 240–400+ in the case of the Oxfordshire region, with a similar span for the New Forest industry

although production here did not begin until slightly later, *c.* AD 270. This late Roman date is clearly reflected in the distribution of the New Forest and Oxfordshire products in the Wessex Court assemblage, as, with the exception of one example from each production centre, both occur in the late and post-Roman phases only.

Imported Roman Finewares

Although these wares represented less than 1% (Table 8) of the entire Romano-British ceramic assemblage, this quantity compares well with that recovered from other sites in the vicinity (Table 9), while the range of finewares present is closely comparable to the types recovered from Greyhound Yard, (Seager Smith and Davies 1993).

The earliest imported finewares were sherds of Lyons roughcast and colour-coated beakers (Greene 1979, 18) and Central Gaulish lead glazed ware vessels (*ibid*., 99), both of which were current in Britain *c.* AD 40–70. These fabrics are often found in association with one another, as observed at Greyhound Yard (Seager Smith and Davies 1993) and among the early Roman deposits at Wessex Court, possibly implying their distribution and marketing by similar networks. Terra Nigra was also comparatively common. This fabric was imported during the period *c.* AD 10–85, although the number of Cam. 16 platters (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 220, p1. XLIX), which are one of the most common but latest vessel types to reach Britain *(c.* AD 45–85; Rigby 1973), may indicate that the Terra Nigra from Wessex Court belongs to the later part of this range. A similar dominance of Cam. 16 platters was noted at Greyhound Yard (Seager Smith and Davies 1993). Contexts in the early Roman phases also produced a variety of Pompeian Red ware sherds, mostly derived from platter forms. Pompeian Red ware is predominantly pre-Flavian in date, although some forms appear to remain current in Britain until *c.* AD 90 (Peacock 1977, 154).

Small quantities of several different mica-dusted fabrics were also noted, probably representing a similar range of products to those recovered from Greyhound Yard (Seager Smith and Davies 1993). The provenance of mica-dusted wares is as yet uncertain, although the fabrics occur widely in Britain in contexts dated from the pre-Flavian period into the mid/late 2nd century AD. Another group of products with a similar date range are the colour-coated and roughcast sherds, predominantly from beaker forms, derived from Central Gaul. These vessels were comparatively common at Greyhound Yard (Seager Smith and Davies 1993) and appear to be well-represented at Wessex Court, with at least one roughcast example from early Roman chalk floor 603 being derived from the Lezoux production centre.

The range of fineware fabrics dated from the late 1st–mid-2nd centuries AD, however, is far smaller than that of the preceding period and comprises several sherds of probable North Gaulish colour-coated ware, some with roughcast decoration, derived from bag-shaped beakers. As noted at Greyhound Yard, Anderson's fabric 1, (1980, 26), *c.* AD 80–135, predominates among this group. A sherd of a probable poppy-head beaker was found in the general late Roman soil accumulation to the north of the road. Such vessels were made at a variety of centres in southern Britain during the 2nd century AD with parallel types being produced in the Rhineland during the period *c.* AD 70–120/140 (Tyres 1978, 96). A small group of sherds comparable to the one from Wessex Court was found at Greyhound Yard, also among material from the late Roman phases (Seager Smith and Davies 1993).

The later imported fineware assemblages from both Wessex Court and Greyhound Yard were dominated by Rhenish wares, both the Central Gaulish fabric (dated to *c.* AD 150–200, continuing into the 3rd century AD), and that from Trier

(later 2nd century possibly continuing into the late 3rd or even 4th centuries AD). Branches of the industry as defined by Greene (1978b, 18) were present in the form of sherds of plain and fluted beakers with rouletted and barbotine decoration. These fabrics occur only from the late Roman phase onwards. A single sherd of probable Cologne colour-coated ware, dated to *c.* AD 150/160–260 (Anderson 1980, 330), was also noted from the post-Roman phase, while the only other late imported fabric type was Ceramique a l' éponge, represented by sherds, one from a dropped flange bowl (Raimbault 1973, 197, type 451), found among material from the medieval and post-medieval phases. On the Continent, the distribution of this fabric centres on the Poitiers region of north-west France and it is dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries AD (Raimbault 1973). In Britain this fabric type is generally found in 4th-century AD contexts (Fulford 1977, 46). Both the Cologne and Ceramique a l' éponge fabrics were also represented in similarly small quantities at Greyhound Yard (Seager Smith and Davies 1993).

A small number of fineware sherds remained unassigned to specific provenances or categories of vessels. At Wessex Court these include various colour-coated ware sherds, some with rouletted or barbotine decoration, sherds from a white ware butt/girth beaker and sherds from a white ware flagon, possibly derived from Central Gaul. While it is probable that the majority of these are imports, the possibility that some are British products cannot be ruled out.

Samian

In total 1125 sherds of samian were found, representing 5% of the assemblage as a whole, a comparatively high figure compared to the quantities recovered from other Dorchester sites (Table 8). Like the rest of the assemblage, the samian was scanned to provide a broad assessment of date. The total number of sherds, together with the range of the most easily recognised fabrics and vessel forms present in each context, were noted and these are summarised by phase in archive.

In general, the samian assemblage is in good condition, few sherds showing signs of extreme abrasion, and appears to be of fairly high quality. Although not excessively abraded, many of the vessels did show signs of being comparatively well-worn, with abrasion and scuff marks especially noticeable around the base, while five examples of sherds with rivet-holes, indicating repair, were also noted.

Twenty-three stamps, and one example of a mould maker's name were present. These are reported on by Brenda Dickinson (below).

The samian ranges in date from the mid-1st century AD to the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries AD. Southern and Central Gaulish products were well-represented in the assemblage, occasional sherds being assignable to more specific centres within these regions, such as La Graufesenque, Lyons and Lezoux. The Southern Gaulish products appear to range in date from the late Claudian period up to *c.* 120 AD while most of the Central Gaulish samian dates from about this time until the end of the 2nd century (Webster 1987, 11). Eastern Gaulish products appear to be under-represented in the assemblage, possibly due to the considerable variability of the fabrics from this region making then less readily identifiable. The most common plain forms present included the platter forms Drag. 15/17 and 18/3 1, and cup types Drag. 27 and 33, although examples of Drag. 35/36, 38, 42, 45 (Fig. 32, 1), Ritterling 8, 12, CurIe 11 and Drag. 46/CurIe 11 were also noted. Two unusual plain forms were identified, a Drag. 81 from the consolidation of the road and a hybrid platter form from the slump deposits in pit 1223 (Fig. 32, 2–3). Closed forms are also present amongst the Wessex Court samian. The decorated wares are dominated by the Drag. 29 and 37 bowl forms,

although examples of Drag. 30 were also noted. Approximately 20% of the sherds present carried moulded decoration characteristic of these forms, thus indicating a minimum percentage of these types present in the assemblage. No attempt was made to describe or analyse the decoration present in detail. Three sherds, from the primary flooring of the main late Roman Structure 1612, however, were noted to be decorated with the cut-glass technique.

Amphorae

A total of 687 sherds of amphorae was recovered (Table 10). This represents 3% of all sherds recovered, a figure which compares well with the proportion of amphorae recovered elsewhere in Dorchester. The amphorae have been classified by fabric type, the number of sherds of each type being counted. No complete vessels or sherds bearing stamps were found but a few rims, handles, bases and spikes are included in the total. However, no attempt was made to assign these to specific vessel forms.

Table 10: Number of amphora sherds by phase and type

Amphora	**Date range**	**Phase**										**Totals**
		0	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	***5***	***6***	**7**	**8**	**9**	
Carrot	late 1st BC–late 1st AD	-	-	-	-	3	1	-		-	.	*4*
Dressel 20	1st–late 3rd+	1	-	-	84	295	76	18	4	10	.	488
Pelichet 47/Gaul 4	mid-1st–3rd/4th AD	-	-	-	11	46	43	4	4	1	2	111
North African	mostly 3rd/4th AD	-	-	-	-	-	11	5	4	4	.	24
Amphora lids		-	-	-	-		1	-	-	-	-	1
Unassigned		-	-	-	17	13	5	4	2	6	2	59
Totals		1	-	-	112	357	147	31	13	21	4	687

Two amphorae types, Dressel 20 and Pelichet 47/Gauloise 4, overwhelmingly dominate the assemblage. Dressel 20 amphorae are the most common form imported to Roman Britain. These globular amphorae were produced in the southern Spanish province of Baetica, along the banks of the River Guadalquivir and its tributaries between Seville and Cordoba, and are perhaps the most widely distributed of all amphorae types especially in the western provinces, travelling via the Rhine and the Rhone rivers. Dressel 20 amphorae were predominantly used for the long-distance transport of olive oil (Peacock and Williams 1986, 136). The flat-bottomed Pelichet 47/Gauloise 4 type, comprises 16% of the sherds present. This form was predominantly made in the south of France, around the mouth of the Rhóne in Languedoc, and was principally used for the transportation of wine *(ibid*., 142). Both these forms have a wide date range, the Dressel 20 amphorae dating from the Augustan period of the late 1st century BC until at least the late 3rd century AD, while the Pelichet 47/Gauloise 4 forms date from the mid-1st century AD to the 3rd or possibly early 4th centuries AD (Peacock and Williams 1987, 136 and 142). Together, these two types consistently dominate amphora assemblages from Dorchester (Williams 1987, 117; Williams 1993a; 1993b), indicating a remarkable regularity in the principal amphora-borne commodities reaching Dorchester over a comparatively long period of time. However, it is interesting to note that the proportion of these fabrics, one to the other, is not consistent in the various assemblages. One sherd of Dressel 20 amphora from the Wessex Court assemblage is especially noteworthy for its lead ‘repair’, plugging a hole in the vessel wall, indicating the repeated use of the vessel, probably as a storage vessel.

Although occurring in much smaller quantities, the other amphorae sherds present also reflect the variety of types noted elsewhere in Dorchester, and give some idea of the trading contacts and the range of perishable commodities reaching the town during the Roman period. The source of the early Roman (late 1st century BC to late 1st century AD) Carrot amphora is as yet uncertain although a Mediterranean desert environment has been suggested. These vessels are often associated with early military sites in Britain and Germany and it is likely that they were used as containers for dates or other types of fruit (Peacock and Williams 1986, 109). The occurrence of the late Roman North African amphorae (3rd–4th centuries+ AD) at Wessex Court is confined to the late and post-Roman phases (Table 10). Sherds from these vessels represent 3.5% of the amphorae assemblage, and thus appear to be marginally more numerous here than at Greyhound Yard where they represented only 2% of the total (Williams 1993). However, in the case of both these sites, the number of sherds present need not imply the presence of more than one or two vessels. The principal commodity thought to have been carried in these vessels is olive oil, although they may also have been used to a lesser extent for fish-products (Williams 1993a; 1993b). One example of an amphora lid in a fine yellow-buff fabric, source unknown, was also noted, while 59 sherds (or 8.5% of the total), remained unassigned. Approximately 15–20 different fabric types are present among this group and it is likely that many of the less common products identified at Greyhound Yard (Williams 1993), are also represented here.

Discussion

Previous classificatory work on the Roman pottery from the Dorchester area has meant that the majority of commonly occurring fabrics and forms from this area can be dated with reasonable accuracy, at least within broad date bands. This information has been used to examine the material recovered from the major and most securely stratified groups in slightly more detail than used for the rest of the assemblage.

On the basis of our present knowledge, the early Roman assemblage from Wessex Court is characterised by the presence of samian, especially the southern and early central Gaulish wares, and a group of early imported finewares consisting of Lyons colour-coated and roughcast wares, Central Gaulish lead-glazed ware, Terra Nigra, Pompeian Red ware, mica- dusted wares and Central Gaulish colour-coats. The locally produced Corfe Mullen ware, as well as the imported Carrot amphorae also belong to this period which ranges in date from the mid-1st–early 2nd centuries AD. The Black Burnished ware assemblage of this period is dominated by jar and round-bodied open bowl forms, which represent the continuation of the local, pre-Roman, Durotrigian ceramic tradition (Types 2012, 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 33 and 34) or by forms based on Continental prototypes (Types 36, 40 and 77). The lid (Type 26) and flagon (Types 29) forms are dated to the late 1st–early 2nd centuries AD. During the mid-1st–early 2nd centuries AD the Black Burnished ware vessels tend to be well-finished, the slip characteristic of the variant fabrics never occurring on their Wareham/Poole Harbour counterparts at this time, while the most common form of decoration is acute-angled, burnished line lattice.

Although the production of many of these Black Burnished ware forms continued well into the 2nd, possibly even into the 3rd, century AD, during the period from the late 1st/early 2nd centuries AD into the 3rd century AD a range of new, more Romanised vessel forms was gradually introduced. These included jars with increasingly everted rims (Types 2, 4, 41 and 62), while the range of straight-sided

bowl/dish forms gradually replaced the earlier round-bodied bowl forms. A wide range of less common forms also developed during this century (Types 46, 66, 19, 67 and 69) and the change from acute to obtuse-angled lattice decoration also seems to have taken place at this time. By the end of the 2nd/early 3rd centuries AD the proportion of the variant Black Burnished ware fabrics in the assemblage has also decreased markedly. Imported wares include the continued presence of samian, as well as small quantities of North Gaulish and Cologne colour-coated ware, possible poppy-head beakers and both Central Gaulish and Trier type Rhenish ware and the majority of imported mortaria.

In the late Roman period, the late 3rd–4th centuries AD onwards, a more limited range of fabrics and vessel forms are apparent. Oxfordshire and New Forest wares occur, while imported fabrics are limited to North African amphorae and Ceramique a l' éponge. The Black Burnished ware assemblage is characterised by the virtual absence of the variant fabric types, except as residual finds, while the vessel forms consist of Type 20 'dog-dishes', dropped flanged bowls/dishes (Type 25), and jars with very everted rims (Type 3), restricted necks and dropped flanged rims (Type II) or rolled or everted piecrust rims (Type 12). The finish afforded to these vessels tends to be more cursory than in preceding periods, the use of slip and heavy wiping or brushing being more characteristic than burnishing at this time. Decoration is largely restricted to a narrow band of obtuse-angled lattice on jar forms and interlocking hoops or random scrolling on bowls/dishes. At Wessex Court material characteristic of this phase is frequently found in association with sherds of a rough, coarse oxidised fabric (Fabric Q107), containing very visible clay pellets or shale fragments.

Phase 3

The earliest material present is that recovered from the early Roman trample and primary consolidation deposits. A subjective assessment of sherd size among this material shows that the majority of sherds are comparatively small, but not badly abraded. More of the Black Burnished ware forms present are Durotrigian types paralleled in Brailsford's (1958) type series, together with two new vessel forms, Types 2012 and *85*. The variant Black Burnished ware fabrics are very well-represented among this material, while the range of finewares present includes Lyons colour-coated and roughcast ware, Pompeian Red ware, Terra Nigra, Central Gaulish lead glazed and colour-coated ware, mica-dusted fabrics and Corfe Mullen ware. The samian is mainly derived from southern Gaul and is predominately pre-Flavian in date. Although a 2nd-century AD form (a Type 22 flanged bowl/dish) is present, a small quantity of intrusive material in deposits of this nature is not unexpected, and it is likely that this group as a whole dates from the mid-1st century AD and may represent one of the earliest groups of material yet recovered from central Dorchester. Although securely stratified within the prehistoric/early Roman soil levels, insufficient material was recovered from the pre-Roman clay loam soil or the pre-bank clay soil to confirm their positions in the ceramic sequence.

Phase 4

The material recovered from this phase, especially that from the major stratified groups (pits 762 and 763; the general soil accumulation to the south of the road; secondary structural evidence to the north of the road, and the road itself), conforms to that outlined above for the period from the late first/early 2nd–3rd centuries AD. A very wide range of Black Burnished ware vessel forms are present, the earlier Durotrigian and Continental-based forms continuing alongside the straight-sided

bowl/dish and everted rimmed jar forms characteristic of the 2nd century AD, although the possibility that some of the former occur as residual material cannot be ruled out. Imported finewares, samian, mortaria and Corfe Mullen ware continue to be well-represented in these groups and while the most frequently occurring amphorae types are the dominant Dressel 20 and Pelichet 47/Gauloise 4 fabrics, three of the four sherds of Carrot amphora (dated from the late 1st century BC to the late 1st century AD) were recovered from contexts of this phase.

Phase 5

Material from the late Roman period was well-represented in the Wessex Court assemblage, although the terminal date of this material is as yet uncertain. Nine well-stratified groups of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the southern and northern rooms of Structure 1609, its corridor and courtyard, and general soil accumulation layers in Trench 3; the general soil accumulation to the south of the road, the main building surfaces relating to Structure 1611 and the road in Trench 4; the rampart construction in Trench 5. This material represents one of the most interesting elements of the Romano-British ceramic assemblage from Wessex Court. Well-stratified groups of this period were sparsely represented at Greyhound Yard (Seager Smith and Davies 1993) and, although present at the Bath House site (Andrews forthcoming), the Wessex Court material appears to be significantly different from these groups.

These late Roman groups at Wessex Court are characterised by the appearance for the first time of substantial quantities of New Forest and Oxfordshire wares, while the imported finewares, samian and amphorae decrease in importance. The presence of North African amphorae, dated to the 3rd–4th centuries AD and possibly continuing into the 5th century AD, in these groups alone is interesting. The Black Burnished ware vessel forms are dominated by jar types 3, 11 and 12, 'dog-dishes', Type 20, and the dropped flanged bowl/dish form, Type *25,* while occasional sherds of less common forms, such as the oval 'fish-dishes' (Type 21), and colander (Type 19), were also present. Sherds of a rough, coarse, predominantly oxidised Black Burnished ware fabric, containing quartz and frequent clay pellets/shale fragments ' (Fabric Q107), were noticed amongst the material from many of the contexts in these groups. sherds of this fabric were also identified amongst the late Roman material from County Hall (Seager Smith *et al.* 1993) and from Maiden Castle Road (Seager Smith *et al.* 1997). So far, occurrences of Fabric Q107 have been confined to very large, globular, Type 2 storage jars, decorated with acute or 90° angled burnished line lattice, a form traditionally dated from the 2nd century AD onwards. However, a similar rough, oxidised fabric is almost invariably used for Type 12 storage jars with 'pie-crust' rims, a characteristic late 3rd–4th centuries AD vessel form (Seager Smith and Davies 1993). Although rough, oxidised Black Burnished ware fabrics are not noted amongst the late Roman groups at the Dorchester Bath House site, large storage jar forms are also missing from these deposits (Andrews forthcoming). However, Andrews does note the tendency for the cooking pot forms to become increasingly globular, with less everted rims during the 4th century AD, a trend culminating in the development of the late 4th–5th centuries AD Type 18 jar form *(ibid.).* It may be possible therefore to see the Fabric Q107 Type 2 jars as at least part of the storage jar element of the assemblage in the very late Roman period, for not only is their fabric unusual but their very globular shape mirrors the known developments of cooking pot forms, while the positioning and execution of the surface treatments and decoration marks them out from the Type 2 vessels characteristic of the 2nd–3rd centuries AD

(ie, Gillam 1976, fig. 1, 4–9). In addition to the vessels' morphology, the stratigraphic position and the date range of material associated with all the Fabric Q107 Type 2 jars found to date indicate a late date for these vessels, possibly even extending into the post-Roman period. It may be possible to see the rough, coarse, predominantly oxidised fabric used for these vessels and the Type 12 'pie-crust' rimmed jars as representing the decline of the Black Burnished ware industry in the late 4th–early 5th centuries AD, although on present evidence this remains largely a matter for conjecture.

The circumstances governing the deposition of much of this material, especially the deliberate burial of substantially complete pots possibly as storage vessels associated with Structure 1609 (Trench 3), are also interesting. While it has not yet been possible to determine whether the material represents a domestic assemblage, more or less in its original context, its association with apparently structural features suggests that this is a possibility.

Illustrated Pottery: Figures 32–34

Figure 32

1. Lion-spouted mortarium; samian, Drag. 45. Layer 96, Trench 3. Phase 6.
2. Necked bowl with slightly evened rim: samian. Drag. Xl. Layer 1346, Trench 4. Phase 4.
3. Unusual platter form with rouletted decoration on interior. Layer 1205, Trench 4. Phase 5.
4. Spout of unusual, large mortarium with applied boss & incised line decoration. Layer 1017, Trench4, Phase 5.

Figure 33

5. Carinated bowl with long, almost vertical neck; Type 2012; undecorated; Wareham/Poole Harbour Black Burnished ware. Layer 275, Trench 3. Phase 3.
6. Pan-shaped vessel with dropped flange rim and at least one strap handle: Type 81; burnished line irregular diamond-shaped lattice decoration: Wareham/Poole Harbour Black Burnished ware. Layer 764, Trench 2. Phase 4.
7. Small jar with simple, out-turned rim; Type 82; decorated with impressed circles between incised, horizontal grooves; variant Black Burnished ware. Layer 1133, Trench 4. Phase 4.
8. Shallow, open bowl/platter with carinated body: Type 83; profiles vary, but based on Gallo-Belgic forms: carefully finished, usually undecorated; variant Black Burnished ware. Layer 1477, Trench 4. Phase 4.
9. Small, narrow-mouthed, high-shouldered jar with short neck and lid-seated rim; Type 84; undecorated; Wareham/Poole Harbour Black Burnished ware. Layer 260, Trench 3. Phase 5.
10. Rounded, bead-rimmed bowl with double incised groove around body; Type 85*;* undecorated; variant Black Burnished ware. Layer 275, Trench 3. Phase 3
11. Attenuated jar; Type 3; obtuse-angled, burnished line lattice decoration; Wareham/Poole Harbour Black Burnished ware. Layer 194, Trench 3. Phase 5.
12. Jar with pulled bead rim, wedge-shaped base and applied handle; Type 9; slipped and burnished, but undecorated; variant Black Burnished ware. Layer 194, Trench 3. Phase 5.
13. Rim of large storage jar with slightly everted 'pie-crust' rim; Type 12; undecorated, but all surfaces heavily wiped; coarse, oxidised fabric with clay pellets/shale fragments. Layer 73, Trench 3. Phase 5.
14. Flat base of large storage jar with central perforation; surfaces heavily wiped; coarse, oxidised fabric with clay pellets/shale fragments. Layer 73, Trench 3. Phase 5.
15. Unusual large, rounded jar with two applied handles; rim missing: Wareham/Poole Harbour Black Burnished ware. Layer 242, Trench 3. Phase 5.
16. Shallow, straight-sided dish: Type 29, 'dog dish': trace of burnished line decoration on interior: Wareham/Poole Harbour Black Burnished ware. Layer 194, Trench 3. Phase 5.
17. Dropped flange bowl: Type 25: undecorated: Wareham/Poole Harbour Black Burnished ware. Layer 68, Trench 3. Phase 5.

Figure 34

18. Large storage jar with evened rim; Type 2: obtuse-angled burnished line lattice decoration. Wareham/Poole F Harbour Black Burnished ware. Layer 249, Trench 3. Phase 5.
19. Large jar with narrow flanged rim; obtuse-angled burnished line lattice decoration: Wareham/Poole Harbour Black Burnished ware. Layer 192, Trench 3. Phase 5.

Samian Potters' Stamps

Brenda Dickinson

Each entry gives: potter (i, ii, iii etc. where homonyms are involved), die number, form, reading of the stamp (ligatures are underlined), pottery of origin, date. The letters a, b and c indicate: a - stamp attested at the pottery in question; b – potter, but not the particular stamp, attested at the pottery in question: c – assigned to the pottery on the evidence of fabric, distribution and/or form.

1. ? Atticus ii; 2b; Δ[·C·T·T·I·C·M] (Habert 1893, no. 132); Lezoux, b. Atticus ii's work occurs in the Rhineland, which received very little Central Gaulish ware after *c.* AD 150. It is also known in a group of burnt samian of the 140s at Castleford. This particular stamp occurs only on form 33, but Atticus ii also stamped forms 18/31, 27 and (occasionally) 80. *c.* AD 140–170.

2. Balbinus; 2a;15/17; □□□IBICNIM] (Terisse 1968, p1. LIII, first column. All the stamps are probably from the same die). Les Martres-de-Veyre, a. The die from which this comes originally gave BALBINIM, but most of the stamps from it show some damage to the lettering, leading to misreadings such as Ainibinim and Enibinim. Form 15/17 was rarely made at Les Martre-de-Veyre after the Trajanic period, and this does not look like the Hadrianic examples. *c.* AD 100–120.

3. (Conjoining sherds) Biragillus ii; 9a; 27 or 23; BIR□GIL (Habert 1893, no. 206); Les Martres-de-Veyre, b. There is no internal dating for this stamp. Like Balbinus, Biragillus ii made form 15.17, which suggests that he was at work under Trajan. Stamps from other dies at Ilkley and in the groups from the London Second Fire. The fabric is unusually micaceous for Les Martres and the glaze is very orange, but this is almost certainly due to underfiring. *c.* AD 100–120.

4. Comprinnus; 3a; 33; [CO]MPRINF Lezoux, b. Comprinnus is not closely dated, but his use of this die on form 27s and 18/31–31 and of others on forms 18/31 and 18/31R suggests Hadrianic or early Antonine date. The footring is exceptionally heavily worn.

5. Diogenes; la; 27; DIOCIINSIS; retrograde Les Martres-de-Veyre, a. This is usually on cups, but there is an example under the base of form 37 from Les Manes-de-Veyre (Terrisse 1954, 172, no. 36), a practice apparently confined to the Trajanic period: the fabric agrees with this date. *c.* AD 100–120.

6. Firmo i; 15a; 27g; FIRMO (Durand-Lefebvre 1963, no. 306); La Graufesenque, a. Firmo i stamped decorated bowls typical of the Tiberian period and some of the earlier plain samian forms, such as 16, 17 and Ritterling 5. This stamp does not appear on any of these and so is probably Claudian or later, but it is known on the pre-Flavian cup forms 24 and Ritterling 8. It occurs four times at Usk. *c.* AD 45–60.

7. Flo- Albinus; 4c; 31; F·A(LBI)NOIF: Lezoux. b. This was used on plain forms not normally earlier than AD 160, such as 31R and 79 or Ludowici TG. It is also known on the rim of form 30 by either Laxtucissa or Paternus v (Kamitsch 1959, Taf, 41, 4). *c.* AD 160–180.

8. Germanus i; 28a; 37; [G]ERMA[NI] (Hermet 1934, p1. 111, 112). This is the largest of Germanus's stamps on decorated ware. It has been noted from Burghofe, Rottweil and York. The decoration includes a dolphin (Hermet 1934, p1. 22, 217) and probably another sea-creature and fishing-lines. *c.* AD 70–85.

9. Martius iv; ib; 38 or 44; MARTIM (Dickinson 1986, 192, 3.103); Lezoux, a. This is common at forts on Hadrian's Wall and was used on some of the later Antonine cups, such as 80 and Ludowici Tx. *c.* AD 160–190.

10. Mascellio i; 4b; 33; MASCIILLIO (Dickinson 1986, 192, 3.111); Lezoux, a. A stamp noted from Catterick, Halton Chesters, South Shields and Wallsend. It was used on form 79R, which was not made before the late Antonine period. *c.* AD 160–190.

11. Modestus i; 2d; 29; [OFMO]DES(+) (Probably Knorr 1919, Taf. 58C): La Graufesenque, b. This was used on dishes and Claudio-Neronian form 29s, including one in a context of *c.* AD 50–55 at Narbonne. *c.* AD 45–65.

12, Nequres; la'''; 27g; –EQVRE (Laubenheimer 1979, no. 153); La Graufesenque, a. This is from the fourth version of a die which originally gave NEQVRES. The second and third versions occur in pre-Flavian contexts, but this version was apparently used in the early Flavian period, and is attested at Chester and the Nijmegen fortress (2). *c.* AD 70–85.

13. Pass(i)enus; 5a; 29; OFPΛ??EN(I) (Habert 1893, no. 1054); La Graufesenque, a. This stamp is only known on form 29 and is from one of the potter's later dies. Many of the bowls are clearly Flavian, though some could be late Neronian. The site record includes Aislingen (before *c.* AD 75), but also Caerleon (2), Carlisle, Castleford (2) and Corbridge. *c*. AD 65–80.

14. Pass(i)enus; 63a; 27g; PΛSSIE (Habert 1893, no. 1021); La Graufesenque, b. One of Pass(i)enus's pre-Flavian stamps, noted on forms Ritterling 8 and 9. It occurs in a group of samian of the early 60s at Oberwinterthur (Switzerland). *c.* AD 50–60.

15. Paterclus ii; l0a; 18/3 1; [PΛTER]CLOSFE (Terisse 1968, p1. LIII); Les Martres-de-Veyre, a. This is one of the few stamps to come from the die before it underwent two modifications, affecting the first and last letters. The final version occurs in the London Second Fire groups and at Chesterholm and Nether Denton, thus confirming the early 2nd-century date of the original. *c.* AD 100–110.

16. Reginus ii; 2a; 18/31; REGIN[VS·F]; Les Martres-de-Veyre, a. The footring of this dish is unworn, suggesting that it was never used. Reginus ii began work under Trajan and probably continued into the early Antonine period. This particular stamp is known from the London Second Fire groups, on Hadrian's Wall (Chesters Museum) and at Corbridge and Malton. A stamp from another die occurs in Antonine Scotland. *c.* AD 115–135.

17. Sabinus iii; 27g; OI·S?BII; retrograde La Graufesenque, a. This stamp should read OI·S?BN, retrograde, but the A and the N often become blocked with clay and many examples look like this one. Many of the sites from which it comes, such as Camelon and Catterick, suggest a Flavian date, but an example from the Gloucester Kingsholm site (Wild 1985, 59, S 19) should be pre-Flavian. *c.* AD 65–90.

18. Secundus ii; 11c'; 33; OFSE<C>; La Graufesenque, b. A stamp from a broken die. One of Secundus ii's stamps is in the material from the Boudiccan burning of London, but most of his output is Flavian. The complete version of this stamp occurs at Heidelberg, confirming the Flavian date of the broken version. *c.* AD 70–90.

19. Severus i; 7q?; 15/17 or 18; OFSEV[ERI] (F in the O); La Graufesenque, b. This is known from Caerleon, Castleford and Chester and was sometimes used on early Flavian decorated bowls of form 29. The stamp has been slightly mis-struck, but the attribution is almost certain. *c.* AD 70–90.

20. Soiellus 7; la; 31; [S]OIII??IM; Lezoux, c. The potter's name is slightly doubtful. Most of his output seems to consist of cups of form 33, but this occurs on

forms 31R, 38 and 79 or Ludowici Tg. It is noted from Catterick and Wallsend. A stamp from another die on form 27 suggests activity before AD 160, but la will fall within the range *c.* AD 160–180.

21. ΛNIN□ in a frame with swallow-tail ends, on form 15/17 or 18. One of the more common South Gaulish illiterate stamps, more Flavian than Neronian, though there is an example from the Gloucester Kingsholm site. Others occur at Elginhaugh (2) and York. *c.* AD 60–90.

22.]M on form 33. Perhaps from the same die as no. 9 above, but Antonine in any case.

23.]VS, mis-stamped, or]VSF on form 18/31; Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early Antonine.

24.]I□VS on form 31; East Gaulish (Rheinzabern). Late 2nd or first half of 3rd centuries AD.

Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery

L. Mepham (with Jo Draper)

A total of 261 sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the excavations, ranging in date from the 12th/13th to 20th centuries. No detailed analysis of fabric or form types was undertaken. The pottery has been grouped by broad chronological periods which are defined as follows (summarised by phase in Table 11):

Early medieval: 12th–13th centuries AD
Medieval: 13th–15th centuries
Late medieval: 15th–16th centuries
Post-medieval: 17th–19th centuries
Modern: 20th century

Table 11: Quantification of medieval and post-medieval pottery by Phase

Phase	Early Med.	Late Med.	Post Med.	Med.	Modern	Totals
5	-	3	-	7	1	11
6	-	-	-	1	-	1
7	3	2	17	5	-	27
8	14	20	36	125	10	205
9	-	2	3	8	4	17
Totals	17	27	56	146	15	261

Early medieval and medieval sherds comprise a range of coarsewares, all of which are likely to have been produced fairly locally. These include both unglazed sherds of cooking wares in coarse sandy and flint-gritted fabrics, and finer sandy fabrics, often glazed, probably deriving from jugs and pitchers. The latter include several pale-firing sherds, characteristic of fabric types commonly found in south-east Dorset, for example at Poole (Jarvis 1992); coarse sandy wares were probably produced at various places in the Poole Harbour/Purbeck area, and also in east Dorset (Hinton and Hodges 1977; Spoerry 1990). In the late medieval period two sherds of 'Tudor Green' ware from the Surrey/Hampshire Border industry give some indication of more regional trade.

The post-medieval assemblage consists largely of sherds of red earthenwares, with smaller quantities of Verwood-type earthenwares from east Dorset. Some slipwares of West Country type are present. There are a small number of stoneware sherds of both British and German origin, and single sherds of Staffordshire-type slipware and tin-glazed earthenware. One sherd from a glazed whiteware bowl may be a French import. Modern sherds include fine white wares and stoneware.

A small number of sherds occurred intrusively in late Roman and post-Roman contexts; otherwise, the majority of the assemblage derived from medieval and post-medieval contexts.

Antefixes

N. J. Adam

Fragments of 11 ceramic antefixes were recovered from the site; one of these was an almost complete example (Fig. 35, 1). All of the antefixes were recovered from early Roman contexts. The distribution of fragments by phase is summarised in Table 12.

Table 12: Summary of antefixes by phase

Phase	Trench	Description	Cat No.	Fig 36: No
3	3	i Complete face with fragments of frame and bracket	1	1
		ii Complete face only	3	3
		iii Complete face only	4	4
		iv Fragment of bracket	5	
		v Fragment of frame	6	
		vi Apex of frame	7	
		vii Fragment of frame	8	
4	3	i Fragment of bracket	9	
	4	i Incomplete face	2	2
		ii Apex of frame	10	
		iii Fragment of bracket	11	

The antefixes consist of a frontal decorative plate bonded to a fixing projection, the latter made to fit beneath an imbrex tile at the edge of the roof. One of the Wessex Court examples still has part of the fixing projection attached (Fig. 35, 1).

The decoration takes the form of a face surrounded by a rectangular frame with a gabled crest. The faces on the Wessex Court examples are in relief, all except one (Fig. 35, 2) having straight beards. Three (Fig. 35, 1, 3 and 4) appear to have feathered wings sprouting from the centre of the forehead, with more hair above. The bearded examples are identical to others found at Dorchester (RCHM 1970, *538* and p1. 228), while the beardless face can be compared with examples from Silchester (Boon 1957, 135, 148) and Holt (Brodribb 1987, fig. 14a).

Where visible, the surrounding frame is in the style of the Silchester examples (Boon 1957), the crest containing scrolled decoration, possibly a debased palmette, and the frame below the beard taken up with more irregular scrolling. All but one of the antefixes were scored on the reverse with a herring-bone pattern of shallow grooves.

The four best preserved antefixes from Wessex Court (Plates 1 and 2) are so similar to the other Dorchester examples that they may have come from the same, possibly local, mould, the few minor differences being the result of trimming and

handling prior to firing (RCHM 1970, 538). Antefixes are rarely found; until relatively recently only five examples were known from sites in and around Dorchester *(ibid.).* Fragments from four antefixes were also found at the nearby (and much larger) site at Greyhound Yard (Bellamy and Hassall 1993) and the recovery of pieces from 11 more examples from Trenches 3 and 4 at Wessex Court may be of some significance. The use of antefixes may have been limited to certain types of structure such as public buildings, and may indicate the presence of such buildings on or near the Wessex Court site.

Illustrated antefixes: Figure 35

1. Most complete example with most of face, partially surviving frame and fixing projection. OR3 127; layer 275, Trench 3; Phase 3.
2. Incomplete beardless face similar to examples from Silchester: other pieces of this antefix survive but are not illustrated. OR4930; layer 1465, Trench 4. Phase 4.
3. Complete face in same style as 1; on the reverse is an indentation where the fixing projection was attached; no other fragments survive. OR4936; layer 275, Trench 3. Phase 3.
4. Incomplete face in the same style as 1; on the reverse is an indentation where the fixing projection was attached and a single grooved line of herring-hone pattern: no other fragments survive. OR4937; layer 275. Trench 3. Phase 3.

Mosaic Fragments and *Tesserae*

N. J. Adam

One fragment of mosaic pavement was recovered in a post-Roman context (Plate 4). It was made up of 36 *tesserae* set into a block of *opus signinum,* a hard cement mixed with crushed tile. The *tesserae* consisted of four red fragments made from fired clay, five yellowish-green fragments possibly made of limestone, 13 fragments of white chalk and 14 bluish-grey fragments of Blue Lias limestone. The *tesserae* were arranged in a pattern of two arcs.

Table 13: Stone tesserae by Phase

Phase	Trench	Limestone	Chalk	Lias	Kimmeridge
0	all	-	-	-	-
1	3	-	-	-	-
3	3	-	-	-	-
4	2	-	-	-	-
	3	-	-	-	1
	4	-	-	-	1
5	1	-	1	-	1
	3	-	2	-	4
	4	-	1	1	-
	5	-	-	-	-
6	3	2	2	2	5
	4	2	2	-	-
7	3	1	-	-	-
	4	-	-	-	-
8	2	1	6	-	-
	3	2	1	-	-
	4	-	-	-	-
	5	-	-	-	-

9	3	-	-	-	-
Total		8	15	3	14

Comparison with other mosaics from Dorchester suggests a parallel with the design found at Durngate Street which belongs to the Dorchester school of mosaicists of the 4th century AD (RCHM 1970, 566, p1. 223). The Wessex Court fragment would fall on the outer edge of the outer circle of the Durngate Street example.

As this fragment was found in a redeposited context its original position cannot be known, but a 4th century date would suggest that it may have been in either Structure 1611 or its successor 1612 (Trench 4), both of which dated to the late Roman period.

In addition, 40 stone and 18 ceramic loose *tesserae* were also recovered (Table 13 – stone; Table 14 – ceramic). This stone *tesserae* comprised 25 made from various types of limestone: 14 of Kimmeridge, three of lower Lias, eight of Portland and 15 of chalk. Almost half the assemblage (17 *tesserae)* was recovered from post-Roman contexts in Trenches 3 and 4.

Ceramic and Stone Building Material

N. J. Adam

Ceramic Building Material

All ceramic building material recovered was weighed (681kg in total) and counted on site, and most was then disposed of. The totals of all building material by phase are given in Table 14. Some of the material was retained for reference purposes but this was not a wholly representative sample. The retained pieces included some *tegulae* and *imbrices* with either complete widths or lengths, and several examples of stamped tiles which bore the letters NUND. This stamp was also found on tiles from the site at Greyhound Yard (Woodward *et al.* 1993). In addition, some combed and peg tiles, along with all the ceramic *tesserae* and the *opus signinum* fragments were retained.

The greatest concentration of material was found in layer 275 in Trench 3 and was dated to the early Roman period (Phase 4). Included among the 503 fragments recovered were the antefixes discussed above. This concentration of material may suggest that layer 275 represents a period of demolition towards the end of the 2nd century AD. Not surprisingly, most of the material was located in late and post-Roman contexts and mirrors the demolition of early Roman buildings, the rubble becoming incorporated into later Roman structures and deposits, and the subsequent decay and collapse of late Roman structures in the post-Roman phase.

While the demolition rubble from the early Roman structures included a large amount of ceramic tile, the rubble of the later Roman structures appears to indicate that the roofing material of choice in the 4th century AD was limestone (see below). This change of materials may reflect the change from timber structures to more substantial ones predominantly of stone in the later period.

Stone Building Material

There was not time during the excavation to record the stone building material in full. Much limestone roofing tile was noted in post-Roman contexts in all trenches, however, but particularly in Trench 3 (layer 64), where the tile covered the width of

the trench and appeared to represent the entire roof of a collapsed late Roman structure. None of this tile was retained for analysis or quantification, with the exception of some complete examples and those which still retained iron fixing pins. Two limestone floor tiles were also found.

Large quantities of limestone walling stone were uncovered, nearly all of which would have been discarded rubble from medieval and post-medieval robbing activity. The stone was not quantified but some examples were retained for petrological identification by Paul Ensom (formerly Dorset County Museum). Most of the assemblage was provenanced to the south Dorset region with the Isles of Portland and Purbeck identified as the main sources. Stone from sources further afield included Ham Hill limestone, Old Red Sandstone, Phyllite and Lias limestone, all from Somerset. Several examples of each were retained. All of the limestone from the surviving *in situ* walling was discarded without petrological identification.

Table 14: Ceramic building material and *opus signinum* by Phase

Phase	Trench	Imbrex	Tegula	Peg tile	Combed	Tesserae	Other	Undiag.	Opus signinum
0	all	1	2	-	-	-	-	17	-
1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	8	-
3	3	361	35	-	2	-	-	550	1
	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
	2	7	15	-	-	-	-	345	1
	3	26	20	-	1	-	-	200	4
	4	60	152	-	8	1	9	1038	2
5	1	7	7	-	1	1	-	127	10
	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
	3	190	213	-	16	1	1	1296	2
	4	83	100	-	9	1	3	1334	8
	5	3	18	-	2	-	-	81	-
6	3	102	133	1	18	6	-	1092	12
	4	17	27	-	4	-	-	218	10
7	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	-
	3	13	17	1	4	-	1	284	4
	4	33	36	-	6	4	1	337	1
8	2	14	16	-	2	-	2	386	5
	3	53	62	2	-	3	1	575	-
	4	2	6	-	1	1	-	30	-
	5	15	11	-	1	-	1	60	-
9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	2
	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	219	-
	5	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	-
Total		986	873	4	75	18	20	8254	62

A single fragment of sarsen was recovered from Neolithic post-pit 343. The presence of sarsen in the hinterland of Dorchester is well known (Bowen and Smith 1977), with the Valley of Stones, Long Bredy and the South Dorset Ridgeway being two possible Sites of origin for this particular example, although there is a concentration of large sarsens in the area of Little Mayne Farm, West Knighton, some 3.5 km south-east of Dorchester (RCHM 1970, 513; Bailey 1975).

Wall Plaster

N. J. Adam

A total of 3521 fragments of wall plaster weighing 75869 g was recovered from the site, most of it from Trenches 1 and 3. Nearly all of the wall plaster was monochrome, the most common colours being either yellow or red. A small proportion of fragments were patterned with geometric or naturalistic designs. The wall plaster was recovered from a wide range of contexts, mostly of the late Roman, post-Roman and post-medieval periods.

Because the deposits of wall plaster were closely confined the following description and discussion will largely be limited to specific areas and phases. The rest of the plaster is discussed as a whole, with the text addressing the different categories found throughout the various phases; other than the specific phases discussed, the total amount of wall plaster recovered from any one phase did not exceed an estimated area of 1.5 m². The distribution of wall plaster types and colours by phase is summarised in Tables 15 and 16.

Table 15: Wall plaster types by Phase

Plaster	Ph. 3	Phase 4		Phase 5				Ph. 6	Ph. 7	Phase 8		Ph. 9
Type	Tr. 3	Tr. 3	Tr. 4	Tr. 1	Tr. 3	Tr. 4	Tr. 5	Tr. 3	Tr.3	Tr. 2	Tr. 3	Tr.3
1	-	*	-	*	*	-	-	*	*	-	*	-
2	-	-	-	*	*	-	-	*	-	-	*	-
3	-	-	-	-	*	*	-	*	-	-	*	-
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	*	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
7	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	*	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-
9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
10	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
11	-	-	-	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	*	-
12	-	-	-	-	*	-	*	*	-	-	*	-
13	-	-	-	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	*	-
11	-	-	-	*	*	-	-	-	*	-	-	-
15	*	-	*	*	*	-	-	*	-	-	*	-
16	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
17	-	-	-	-	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-
18	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
19	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
21	-	-	-	*	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
22	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
23	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	-	-	-	*	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 16: Wall plaster colours by phase

Colour	Ph. 3	Phase 4		Phase 5				Ph. 6	Ph. 7	Phase 8		Ph. 9
	Tr. 3	Tr. 3	Tr. 4	Tr. 1	Tr. 3	Tr. 4	Tr. 5	Tr. 3	Tr.3	Tr. 2	Tr. 3	Tr.3
Red	*	*	*	*	*	-	-	*	*	*	*	*
Yellow	-	*	-	*	*	-	-	*	*	*	*	-
Green	-	-	-	*	*	-	-	*	*	-	*	-
Blue	-	-	-	*	*	-	-	*	-	-	*	-
White	-	*	-	*	*	-	-	*	*	*	*	*
Pink	*	*	*	*	*	-	-	*	*	-	*	-
Orange	-	-	*	-	*	-	-	*	-	-	-	-
Brown	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Wall Plaster Typology

The scarcity of geometric and naturalistic designs made any comparison of the wall plaster from Wessex Court with that from other Dorchester sites (such as Greyhound Yard and 58/60 High West Street) invalid. As a result a new type series was established, based on the different colours and colour combinations used for backgrounds and dados, as well as panel borders. Any design that was not interpreted as a border or a dado was either classified as a geometric (type 16) or a naturalistic design (type 17).

Type 1 White stripe on a red background
Type 2 Red stripe on a yellow background
Type 3 Red stripe on a blue background
Type 4 White stripe dividing a red and blue background
Type 5 White stripe dividing a red and green background
Type 6 White and dark red stripes dividing a blue and green background
Type 7 White stripe on a green background
Type 8 Yellow and white stripes: imitates plaster mouldings
Type 9 Yellow stripe on a red background
Type 10 Monochrome red
Type 11 Monochrome yellow
Type 12 Monochrome green
Type 13 Monochrome blue
Type 14 Monochrome white
Type 15 Monochrome pink
Type 16 Geometric designs
Type 17 Naturalistic designs
Type 18 Green stripe on a red background
Type 19 White stripe on a blue background
Type 20 White stripe dividing a green and yellow background
Type 21 Pink and red stripes on a yellow background
Type 22 Red stripe on a green background
Type 23 Red and white stripes dividing a blue and green background
Type 24 Blue and white stripes dividing a red and green background
Type 25 Blue and white stripes on a red background
Type 26 Green stripe on a yellow background
Type 27 White stripe dividing a yellow and red background
Type 28 Blue stripe on a yellow background
Type 29 Red, pink, white and brown stripes on a yellow background
Type 30 Red and blue stripes on a green background
Type 31 Red stripe on a white background

Phase 5, Late Roman: General Structural Evidence, Trench 1

Wall plaster in Trench 1 was confined in the main to a spread of material, *584,* 1.4m by 0.9 m in area, which contained 508 pieces of plaster, weighing 7497 g. The plaster was cut by a later robber trench. All of the plaster appears to have come from one wall, and could have covered an area of 1.5 m². The principal colour of these fragments was monochrome yellow, any patterns being mainly of type 2 (red stripe on a yellow background).

The rest of the plaster from this phase was from robber trenches 502, 529, 536 and 537*,* wall foundation 560/568, slot 565/567 and general occupation deposit 607. The fragments from all of these contexts together were estimated to cover a total wall area of 1 m². The fragments were mostly monochrome yellow with a small proportion of red, blue, white and pink pieces and several different coloured border patterns. No fragments with geometric or naturalistic patterns were recovered, although ten angled fragments were found, nine of them exterior-angled, probably from a door or window recess (Brodribb *et al.* 1973, IV, 97).

One fragment of an interior angle was recovered. This was very similar to an example of type D from Shakenoak (Brodribb Ct at. 1973, fig. 50). The angle was formed by one wall face having been plastered before the other, leaving a weak obtuse-angled joint (average size 135°) where the faces met. The joint was easily broken and complete examples rarely survive from the Roman period, although despite this, it is the most common type of plaster angle to be encountered; the weakness of the joint is illustrated by the fact that one face of the Wessex Court example has almost completely broken away. The fragment is yellow on a red background.

The nine exterior-angled fragments, some of which were adjoining, comprised two pieces with angles of 220° while the rest were of 225°; these are the same as types B or C from Shakenoak (Brodribb *et al.* 1973). The fact that all of the fragments have only one open angle and not two, however, suggests that they are all probably of type B. Five of the fragments have type 31 decoration (red stripe on a white background), while four are of type 2 (red stripe on a yellow background).

Structure 1609, Southern Room, Trench 3

The only in *situ* wall plaster from the site, 161, was found on the southern and western faces of an upstanding section of wall 166 in the southern room of Structure 1609. The plaster, part of a monochrome red dado, covered an area of about 0.5 m².

This room also contained 606 loose pieces of wall plaster, weighing 59,079 g; it is estimated that these fragments could have covered an area of 2.1 m². The majority of the pieces had no paint at all or only the barest traces; much of the plaster had lost its painted layer altogether, leaving only the surface of the rough aggregrate beneath. Of those pieces which were painted, the predominant colour was monochrome yellow, with a small proportion of red and single examples of pink and white. The only patterns were border designs of type 2 (red stripe on a yellow background) and a single example of type 1 (white stripe on a red background).

The room yielded five fragments of exterior-angled plaster, all with open angles of 220°. The fragments may have come from a window embrasure, door opening or perhaps a wall recess. Three had traces of yellow and red paint, possibly in a type 2 pattern. The other two fragments have lost their fine finish and paint. All of these fragments are similar to Shakenoak examples of type B (Brodribb *et al.* 1973).

Other Phases

Whereas the wall plaster described above was found *in situ* or close to its place of origin, the plaster from the rest of the site was found in redeposited layers amidst later building disturbance. The variety of styles found appears to represent plaster from a number of demolished Roman structures, although not necessarily those within the Wessex Court trenches. Most of the type series established for the site are from the post-Roman soil accumulation and post-medieval contexts.

As with the material already discussed, monochrome yellow and red (including three pieces of red dado with a scagliola or imitation marble effect made by speckling the red with pink and dark red paint) are the main colours present. However, a few pieces with geometric or naturalistic patterns were also found, although in far smaller numbers than the monochrome fragments. Because the number of decorated pieces found was not large it was not considered worthwhile establishing a typology and each is described below.

Geometric Designs

Wall plaster with geometric designs was found in four separate areas, all in Trench 3. The first example is from the corridor of late Roman Structure 1609. This apparently has a circular pattern of red lines on a white background, but was recovered only in very small fragments and the exact nature of the pattern cannot be determined. To the east of this, from the courtyard of the same building, came a small fragment which may have been part of a spotted polygonal frame with red dots enclosed by yellow lines on a white background.

Four fragments with geometric designs were found in the post-Roman soil accumulation in Trench 3. The first of these has a red background with a yellow curvilinear mark and a straight blue stripe. The second example has a green background with one straight and one curving white stripe; beyond the curving stripe the background colour changes to red. The third fragment has a white dot and stripe, but is too small to suggest the overall pattern. The final fragment has a yellow background with one straight white stripe and two parallel diagonal stripes, one on each side of the vertical. One of the diagonal stripes is green and the other is red.

The only other geometric pattern is on a single small fragment recovered from the post-medieval soil accumulation. This fragment is probably part of a spotted polygonal frame, the design coloured and set on a red background.

Naturalistic Designs

In all, eight fragments of plaster decorated with naturalistic designs were recovered, all except one from Trench 3. The small size of the fragments precludes any interpretation of their overall patterns.

One small fragment with irregular yellow flecks on a red background was found in the corridor of late Roman Structure 1609. Three pieces were recovered from the post-Roman soil accumulation. Two of these conjoined and showed a white stripe dividing a red and yellow background (type 27), with a diagonal strip of interleaving brush strokes across the yellow section. The strip may be part of a representation of a vine. The third fragment, which is on a very rough aggregate made up with pieces of brick, has at its centre a yellow and a blue dot.

One plaster fragment found in a post-Roman feature has a red background over-painted with a thick, white curvilinear line which diverges from a straight white stripe. In the broadening gap between the two lines are irregularly placed white dots.

Two fragments were recovered from post-medieval features. The first, which has a white background, shows a roughly triangular design created by downward brush strokes of green overlain with red, giving a feeling of depth so that the triangular shape appears more like a cone. The second piece has a red background on which blue, white and yellow flecks are randomly painted.

A single piece of plaster with a naturalistic pattern was found in the late Roman soil accumulation in Trench 4. As with the other examples, the fragment was too small for the overall pattern to be established, but it displayed a series of white ovoid shapes on a red, pink and green background.

Interior-angled Fragments

All of the five such fragments found outside the two main areas described above were similar to type D from Shakenoak (Brodribb *et* at 1973). One piece was found trodden into the top fill of one of the Neolithic post-pits in Trench 1. This has an interior angle of 130º and has lost all of its painted surface, with only the underlying rough aggregate surviving. A similar example was found in the late Roman soil accumulation of Trench 4; this had lost both faces, only the joint surviving. A fragment with no paint and one face lost was recovered from the post-Roman soil accumulation; this had an estimated internal angle of 125°. Two interior-angled pieces came from the post-medieval soil build-up. One, which has both faces surviving, is painted monochrome pink (type 14) and has an interior angle of 1100. The second has an angle of 100°; this piece has lost its paint and fine surface.

One fragment of monochrome white plaster from the courtyard of late Roman Structure 1609 in Trench 3 has a curving inner edge. This is unlike any interior-angled fragments found elsewhere but when compared to Shakenoak examples appears to be more akin to a joint between wall and ceiling (Brodribb *et al.* 1973, fig. 50, f).

Resurfaced Fragments

Nine pieces of plaster had had their surfaces re-laid and repainted. Six of these were found in association with early Roman features in Trench 4. All of the fragments had been painted orange originally and were subsequently resurfaced with 11 mm of fresh plaster. The new surface of one piece had been painted monochrome red and on another were traces of yellow paint on a red background; too little of the yellow paint survived for the nature of the pattern to be determined.

Two fragments of monochrome red plaster which had been resurfaced with 11 mm of fine plaster and repainted red were found in the courtyard of late Roman Structure 1609 in Trench 3. Both fragments were probably from a dado. On both pieces, some of the secondary surface has become detached and exposed the original surface, but it is not clear how one was keyed to the other. One other resurfaced fragment was found in the post-Roman soil accumulation. The resurfacing on this piece showed only in section, the fine original surface being overlain by 5 mm of plaster decorated with a red stripe on a yellow background (type 2).

Rendering

Normally wall plaster would have been applied to a masonry wall which had been pecked with a pick or pointed hammer to produce a key (Davey and Ling 1982, 55). On a clay or pise wall the keying would have been achieved by the impression of a herring-bone pattern with a stamp or roller (*ibid.*). No such patterns are present on the Wessex Court plaster, where reeds and straw appear to have been used in the plaster aggregate thus providing a good surface for rendering. Evidence for the use of straw and reeds is provided by indentations found on some fragments of wall plaster from the site.

Discussion

The wall plaster fragments from the two large concentrations in Trench 1 and Structure 1609 of Trench 3 show a complete absence of geometric or naturalistic designs. The few pieces with such designs were found exclusively in later contexts from Trench 3. This phenomenon may be explained in Trench 1 by the robbing of the stone walls of the Roman structures in the post-Roman period. The robbing would have worked down from the top of the wall, thus removing first those areas which might have been decorated, and leaving the lower section, with its red dado and simply-coloured border on a yellow background, to survive for longer. While most of the upper part would have been destroyed, the lower plaster remained buried and protected until later robbing of the wall foundation deposited it next to the robber trenches where it was found.

The large proportion of monochrome yellow plaster recovered suggests that not all of the plaster was from a border. Indeed, it is possible that the yellow fragments made up whole unpatterned panels with a multi-coloured border and red dado. An example of such a design was found at Catterick in Yorkshire (Davey and Ling 1982, 78 and 82, fig 12 and pl. XXV).

All of the fragments with geometric designs and all except one of those with naturalistic designs were found in post-Roman and later contexts in Trench 3, suggesting that the plaster in late Roman Structure 1609 may have been more highly decorated than that of the building in Trench 1. The small total number of patterned fragments may again reflect the way in which the walls were robbed.

Despite the disturbance undergone by the late Roman deposits in Trench *4,* none of the small amount of plaster found there was from post-Roman or later contexts. This may indicate that the walls in late Roman Structures 1611–13 were not painted and that the fragments recovered were from demolition nearby, or that it was earlier material redeposited.

Bone Objects

N. J. Adam (species identification by J. M. Maltby)

Thirty-nine pieces of worked bone were recovered, including one needle, 16 pins, 12 pin or needle shank fragments, five counters, two possible pegs, two worked fragments and a handle. All of the objects date to the Roman period, with the possible exception of the decorated handle which may be post-Roman. The distribution of worked bone objects by phase is shown in Table 17; most of the pieces (30) were recovered from late and post-Roman contexts. A full descriptive catalogue is in archive.

Table 17: Bone objects by Phase

Phase	Trench	Pins	Needles	Shaft frags	Counters	Pegs	Handles
4	4	-	-	2	-	-	-
5	3	3	-	3	1	-	-
5	4	6	1	4	2	-	-
6	3	4	-	-	-	-	1
6	4	-	-	1	2	-	-
7	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
7	4	2	-	2	-	2	-
8	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals		16	1	12	5	2	1

Pins

Three complete pins were recovered, the rest having lost points or sections of shaft. All the pins were compared with those from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 19–25*)* and with others from the Dorchester sites of County Hall (Mills 1993 c) and Greyhound Yard (Woodward and Stacey 1993). Four pins can be identified as being of type 1 (including Fig. 36, 1–3) and one is of type 2 (Fig.36, 4); type I pins date from the Flavian period to the 4th century AD and type 2 from the pre-Flavian period to the beginning of the 3rd century AD. The most numerous pins, however, are the Crummy type 3 examples; three are of type 3a (including Fig. 36, *5),* three of type 3b (including Fig. 36, 6–7) and two of type 3c (including Fig. 36, 8). A single example of type 6 (Fig. 36, 9) was also recovered. Types 3 and 6 both date from the beginning of the 3rd century AD to the end of the Roman era. Two pins (Fig. 36, 10–11) do not appear in the Crummy type series but are similar to examples from Greyhound Yard. Pins were found in deposits and rubble layers from the Roman period, but also in post-Roman, medieval and post-medieval contexts.

Needle

A single needle (Fig. 36, 12) was recovered from a late Roman context; this can be identified as a type 1 needle dating from the 2nd–4th centuries AD (Crummy 1983, 65). It has a circular eye drilled through the shaft from opposite sides; the eye is slightly wider on one side than the other, indicating that the maximum width of the drill did not completely pass through the shaft (Crummy 1983, 65).

Shaft Fragments

Some shaft pieces were so fragmentary that not enough survived to identify their type. Three appear to be swollen shafts and may belong to pin type 3, while four have tapering shafts and may be of types 1 or 2. It is likely that all the fragments are from Roman items.

Counters

The five counters (including Fig. 36, 13–15*)* are comparable with examples from Colchester and are all of type 1 (Crummy 1983, fig. 94). Three are plain with unmarked flat surfaces, two have a central lathe indentation; one example of each is countersunk on the obverse; one also has graffito on the reverse in the form of a crude

O (Fig. 36, 13). Type I counters occur throughout the Roman period. The Wessex Court examples were recovered from late and post-Roman contexts.

Pegs

Two artefacts are tentatively identified as pegs (including Fig. 36, 16). Both objects are very roughly finished, leaving an angular stem and unworked top on each. From their unfinished appearance, they resemble pin blanks rather more closely than other well-finished examples of pegs (Crummy 1983 163, fig. 199), but both have the basic shape of pegs and are considerably wider than any known examples of dress pins; no examples of pin blanks were available for comparison. The objects were recovered from a medieval context.

The Handle

A fragment of a possible bone handle (Fig. 36, 17) was found in a post-Roman context. This object has no parallels with objects from the Colchester or Dorchester assemblages, but may, from its size, have been a knife handle. The means by which it would have been attached to a blade, however, is not clear, nor is its date of manufacture known.

Worked Fragments

Two pieces of bone with signs of working were identified. One, which is perforated at one end, is probably from the end of a limb bone. A potentially similar object to this was found at Greyhound Yard (Woodward and Stacey 1993) and is interpreted as a toggle or perhaps a child's toy. The Wessex Court example was found in a post-Roman context. The other object has been worked lengthways and bears some resemblance to the pegs described above; it is possible that this piece was being worked into a similar form but was discarded before completion.

Discussion

The total amount of worked bone from Wessex Court was compared with the amount of Roman pottery (excluding samian and amphora) and expressed as a ratio; this was also done with the County Hall and Greyhound Yard collections. In this way the frequency of worked bone from each site could be assessed and compared, even though the amounts from each site varied greatly. Despite having the largest collection of worked bone, Greyhound Yard had the lowest frequency with only one piece for every *655* sherds of pottery. Wessex Court had a slightly higher rate at 1:516, with County Hall having a ratio of 1:460. From this it can be seen that none of the sites produced greatly more or less worked bone than any other, nor was the quantity anywhere such as to suggest a manufacturing site.

Pin types 2, 4, 5 and 6 (Crummy 1983) are generally uncommon in Dorchester, with only single examples of each type being found in most cases, apart from three type 2 and four type 5 pins from Greyhound Yard. These pin types are datable to the same period as types 1 and 3 and their rarity may be of functional rather than chronological significance.

Other than pins, the most common worked bone objects from all three Dorchester sites were counters. These were found in roughly equal proportions on all

of the sites, comprising 20% of the late Roman worked bone on average. This relatively high percentage may indicate that some of the excavated buildings were public or communal, such as inns, where gaming counters would have been often in use, or, equally, that they are easily lost items in widespread general use.

Illustrated worked bone objects: Figure 36

1. Incomplete type 1 pin. lst–4th centuries AD. OR3108: layer 284, Trench 3. Phase *5.*
2. Complete type 1 pin. lst–4th centuries AD. OR3172; layer 1120, Trench 4. Phase *5.*
3. Incomplete type 1 pin: lst–4th centuries AD. OR3203; layer 1127, Trench 4. Phase *5.*
4. Incomplete type 2 pin with spiral decoration; lst–3rd centuries AD. OR3188; layer 1156, Trench 4. Phase 5.
5. Incomplete type 3A pin with spherical head. 3rd century AD ÷. OR3214; layer 1032, Trench 4. Phase 7.
6. Complete type 3B pin with elliptical/low convex head. 3rd century AD onwards. OR3026; layer 77, Trench 3. Phase 6.
7. Type 3B pin with conical/hemispherical head. 3rd century AD + . OR3173; layer 1030, Trench 4. Phase 7.
8. Incomplete type 3C pin. 3rd century AD onwards. OR3053; layer 121, Trench 3. Phase 5.
9. Incomplete type 6 pin with single reel/flat disc head. 3rd century AD onwards. OR3064: layer73, Trench 3. Phase *5.*
10. Incomplete pin with slightly tapering, rectangular head decorated with chevron pattern. Roman. OR3061: layer 143, Trench 3. Phase 6.
11. Incomplete pin with undecorated conical head. Roman.OR3 189; layer 1169, Trench 4. Phase 5.
12. Incomplete type 1 needle with round eye and conical head. lst–4th centuries AD. OR3216; layer 1251, Trench 4. Phase *5.*
13. Type 1 counter: countersunk obverse, graffiti on reverse. Roman. OR3116; layer 286, Trench 3. Phase *5.*
14. Type 1 counter; no lathe markings. Roman or later. OR3185: layer 1044, Trench 4. Phase 5.
15. Type 1 counter: countersunk obverse with lathe indentation. Roman or later. OR3191; layer 1169, Trench 4. Phase 5.
16. Incomplete ? peg: single transverse cut at head. Late/post-Roman. OR3193; layer 1030, Trench 4. Phase7.
17. Incomplete handle decorated with transverse grooves. Post-Roman. OR3029; layer 72, Trench 3. Phase 6.

4. HUMAN BONE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

The necessity of full scale environmental analyses from the Wessex Court excavations was negated by the detailed analyses undertaken for the Greyhound Yard excavations (Woodward *et al.* 1984; 1993). The aim of analyses here, therefore, was to characterise the basic assemblages and isolate specific differences between those from Wessex Court and Greyhound Yard. Where assemblages of deposits were shown to be similar further work was not undertaken, but where assemblages, deposits or specific soils were recognised which had not been recorded at Greyhound Yard more detailed reporting was undertaken.

The aims of the analyses, was to provide further information of the local environment and economy of Roman Dorchester. In particular the excavations at Wessex Court enable detection of differing uses of parts of the Roman town and further evidence for the important, pre-Roman occupation of the area.

Human Bone

A. V. C. Jenkins

All the stratified human bone was from Roman contexts, mostly comprising four burials from Phase 4 (early Roman) and seven burial from Phase 5 (late Roman). Without exception all of the human bone presented for examination was perinatal (infant) in age and most of it was derived from discrete graves. The condition of the material varied from good to poor and the degree of survival of the skeletons ranged from almost complete down to two fragments. Because of the youth of the subjects no non-metrical observations were made and measurements were limited to the maximum lengths of the diaphyseal shafts of the long bones, the clavicles and ilia (measurements in archive) (Table 18), in order that the gestational age of the skeletons could be calculated using the logarithmic regression equations published by Scheuer, Musgrave and Evans (1980).

No trauma, pathology or abnormality was observed on any of the bones, making individual descriptions of the burials superfluous.

At least twelve infants are represented in the burials. The disarticulated bone may derive from as few as one or as many as six further individuals.

Except for one disarticulated femur the calculated age of all of the material falls within the range 37–40 weeks. Since a normal pregnancy is taken to last 40 weeks the population may reasonably be taken to be of newborn, presumably stillborn, infants. Infanticide is neither implied nor precluded.

No significance can be attached to the mean age falling slightly below 40 weeks since the small size of the sample, the accuracy of the method and erosion of the bone may all account for this. Neither can it be taken to imply a slightly smaller birth size in Romano-British Dorchester or a higher mortality among smaller babies, though both conditions may well have been true. Only the femur from consolidation layer 1329 measuring 64mm and an estimated gestational age of 34±2 weeks is likely to belong to a less than full term foetus.

Table 18: Human bone measurements and age estimates

Grave/context number	Maximum length (mm)							Est. age (weeks)
	Cl	Hu	Ra	Ul	Fe	Ti	Il	
249	-	61	49	57	-	-	30	37±2
604	-	61	50	57	72	63	31	37±2
1198	42	64	51	-	73	-	31	38±2
1257	48	-	55	63	-	71	-	40±2
1406	-	71	-	-	80	73	35	40±2
1414	-	71	53	62	78	-	-	40±2
1416	-	-	-	-	73	-	-	38±2
1418	-	67	53	61	79	68	32	39±2
1466	45	65	51	-	-	-	-	38±2
1484	48	73	56	64	80	72	-	40±2
1488	-	-	51	60	-	64	-	38±2
1529	-	-	47	-	-	64	-	38±2
Disartic. bone								
207a	-	65	-	-	-	-	-	39±2
207b	-	-	-	-	76	-	-	39±2
250	-	-	-	-	80?	-	-	40±2?
1151	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	37±2?
1329a	-	-	52	-	-	-	-	38±2
1329b	-	-	-	-	64	-	-	34±2

Prehistoric Soils

S. Staines and Michael J. Allen

Two deposits were examined pedologically. They were the prehistoric soils infilling the Neolithic post pit in Trench 3 and the buried soil sequence beneath the chalk ramparts in Trench 5. Undisturbed soil samples were examined by S. Staines and full soil micromorphological descriptions provided by him are retained in the archive.

Phase 2: Soils above Neolithic post-pit 343

A single Kubiena sample of undisturbed soil was taken from the prehistoric soil infill (context 344) of Neolithic post-pit 343 (Fig. 10). Soil micromorphological analysis was undertaken to characterise and interpret the post Neolithic soils and compare them with similar deposits recorded from Greyhound Yard (Staines 1993).

The sampled layer (344) is strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) to brown (10YR *5/4)* silty clay loam with weak medium prismatic to subangluar blocky peds. In thin section it was shown to contain clay coats and clay concentrations. Some of the clay coats line voids. This produced characteristics typical of truncated argillic brown earths (Garston Series) and can be paralleled with those described and analysed from Greyhound Yard (Staines 1993).

Phase 3: The buried soil sequence

A buried humic soil sequence was examined beneath the Roman chalk bank (Fig 21). The sequence comprised two distinct humic horizons (contexts 1534 and 1535*)* over a stony flinty horizon, all of which overlay the chalk. The sequence is described below:

1534: Ah horizon: dark reddish brown (5YR 3/3) humic, silty clay, stone-free with medium blocky peds. A sharp smooth boundary with thin (up to 4mm) iron and magnanese pan and localised staining. This horizon displayed discrete and distinct patches which may represent individual turfs.

Possible turf. [Soil micromorphology sample 3]

1535: A/E horizon: lighter, reddish brown, (5YR 3/3) humic silty clay, mottled and displaying evidence of iron staining and localised hydromorphism. Strong, small to medium block peds. Abrupt wavy boundary. [Soil micromorphology sample 6]

1536: Stony Bt horizon: abundant medium flints within a silty clay (clay) matrix. Periglacial gravels

The aims of micromorphological analysis were to ascertain if the field interpretation that 1534 represented turf was correct, to identify pedologically the soil horizon beneath and provide explanations for iron and manganese panning.

The three samples from the show some interesting features. Sample 3 (uppermost sample – context 1534) contains very few clay coats, is well sorted with little material coarser than silt. It contains many manganiferous concentrations indicating separation of iron rich compounds in an anaerobic environment.

Sample 6 (the central sample – context 1535) is similar but with few manganiferous separations.

Sample 13 is less well sorted and has a better developed structure. It has a more clay-rich matrix which contains many clay coats and concentrations.

These features are capable of interpretation in the following way: the lowest sample represents an undisturbed Bt (horizon containing evidence of significant clay translocation) developed in loessial material. It is clearly below any worm-sorting because of the present of stones (flints). The overlying layers are clearly derived from similar but worm-sorted material. The similarity between sections 3 (context 1354) and 6 (context 1535) suggests they are the same sorts of horizons. The intensity of mottling in the layers suggests soil changes in an anaerobic environment. This can be accounted for if during the construction of the bank the uppermost layer was formed by the placing of inverted turves on the soil surface. The sharp junction observed between the two layers in question supports this contention. It is just possible to suggest that compaction of the original soil surface could account for the degree of mottling. However, the thickness of the stone-free and mottled layer makes the contention of an additional turf layer more probable. Indeed the presence of an essentially sealed layer containing much organic matter is probably a necessary condition for the formation of intense mottling in what is otherwise an essentially permeable medium.

In summary, the buried sequence soil comprises local, and possibly inverted, turves that were placed on the thick argillic soil. The construction of the bank resulted in severe compaction and localised iron and manganese mottling. The pan formed at the natural boundary between the turves and the undisturbed soil horizon.

Discussion

The soil thin sections all have many features in common. They are all dominated by quartz-rich silt which is thought to be loessial in origin. Most of the matrices or the sections have a stipple speckled b fabric indicating non-calcareous soils. In the context of the present state of knowledge in relation to chalkland soils, these materials equate to the sorts of material which currently form acidic argillic brown earths like the Garston and Charity series which are largely absent from the chalklands today.

These soils typically consist of well drained brown silty clay loams over chalk (less than 800 mm deep for Garston soils and greater than 800 mm deep for Charity soils).

The presence of acidic, relatively well developed, argillic brown earths on the site confirms evidence for ancient soil patterns gathered from other sites in and around Dorchester (for example the Dorchester Bypass: Allen 1997). Evidence gathered here suggests that the soil environment has changed considerably over time. The present soil environment is now dominated by very shallow (<400 mm deep) calcareous soils over chalk. The prehistoric soil environment seems to have been characterised by rather deeper non-calcareous silty soils giving an acid environment. Soil erosion initiated by people has been invoked as a cause for this major soil change.

Charcoal and Land Mollusca from Neolithic post-pit 343

Michael J. Allen

Only the charcoal from the Neolithic post-pit 343 (Fig. 10) was identified. A single sample from the upper horizons (context 342) of the Neolithic post-pit was briefly examined. One litre of soil was disaggregated in water and hydrogen peroxide and the flot decanted onto a 0.5 mm mesh sieve. The residues were not examined.

A considerable quantity of charcoal was recovered in the flot, most of which was small (<2 mm) comminuted fragments. Most of the larger and identifiable fragments were of mature oak *(Quercus* sp.), however a few pieces of hawthorn type (Pomoideae) were recovered. No cereal fragments or grain were noted. This array is similar to that recorded by Jones and Straker (1993) at Greyhound Yard.

All the Mollusca noted in the flot were shade-loving species; *Vitrea* spp, *Aegopinella nitidula, Oxychilus cellarius* etc and are comparable with the assemblages recorded by Allen (1993) from the post-pits fills at Greyhound Yard.

There is no evidence from the sample examined of Romano-British contamination suggested by the excavators, but see comments on the bones from this feature by Maltby (see below).

Carbonised Plant Remains

J. Ede

Eight samples were processed and submitted for analysis of carbonised remains. The samples were processed by flotation using standard methods; flots were retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and residues on 1 mm mesh sieves. The residues were sorted under x10 magnification and flots sorted by the author using x15.5 magnification. The seeds were identified under up to x50 magnification and nomenclature follows Clapham, Tutin and Warburg (1952).

Two of the eight samples (samples 6005 and 6006) contained no seeds at all. The other six samples contained very few seeds and just one item of chaff (Table 19).

Phase 3: Prehistoric

Bulk samples from the pre-Roman soil (Fig. 21) were processed for carbonised remains. Although 90 litres of sediment was sieved only three seeds (one cereal indeterminate, one Chenopodiaceae and one unidentified) and one wheat glume base

were recovered. The low density of charred remains would imply that these charred items were incorporated casually into the soil. The presence of charred remains in the soil implies the cultivation and processing involving burning of seeds in the locality.

Table 19: Charred plant remains

Date		**Prehistoric**			**Romano-British**		
Sample No.		**6001**	**6002**	**6003**	**6004**	**6007**	**6000**
Context No.		**334**	**335**	**336**	**1250**	**1398**	**156**
Volume (l)		**20**	**40**	**30**	**20**	**10**	**8**
Feature type		**Soil**			**Ash layer**		**Oven**
Triticum sp.	wheat grain	-	-	-	1	1	-
	glume base	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cereal indet.	Grain	1	-	-	2	-	-
	Fragment	-	-	-	-	2	3
Chenopodiaceae	indet.	-	-	1	-	-	-
Leguminosae							
cf Vicia/Lathyrus sp.	Vetches	-	-	-	-	1	-
Polygonaceae							
Runex ocetosella agg.	sheep's sorrel	-	-	-	-	1	-
Plantaginaceae							
cf Plantago sp.	Plantain	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cyperaceae							
cf Carex sp.	Sedges	-	-	-	-	-	2
indet	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Gramineae	grasses, small, indet.	-	-	-	-	-	1
	NFI	-	1	-	-	-	9
Total seeds		1	1	1	3	5	16

Phase 4: Early Roman

One sample from an ashy, dumped ‘consolidation layer (1398) which contained sparse charcoal flecks was analysed. Wheat was represented by a single grain and two further unidentified grain fragments were also recovered. The three weed species present were all plants found commonly on disturbed and arable land.

Phase 5: Late Roman

A further sample from a later ashy layer contained wood charcoal and other slag-type particles resulting from burning but very few seeds. A single wheat grain and two other grains of a cereal were also present but too badly preserved to be identified further.

One sample from oven 125 also contained only a few seeds. The residue contained a quantity of wood charcoal. The seeds included some fragments of a cereal grains, seeds of the Cyperaceae family, one small grass seed and nine unidentified seeds. Of the unidentified seeds four were silicified and looked like very small *Rumex* sp. seeds.

Discussion

The quantity of plant remains (other than charcoal) is too small to allow much interpretation. Wheat was at least one cereal present at this time on the site but the lack of carbonised seeds present in these samples may suggest either that seeds did

not become carbonised in the first place on the site, that this type of refuse was not deposited on this site or that habitation occurred at some distance from these contexts so only small amounts of burnt waste became incorporated into these deposits. The structural archaeology of this site reveals that habitation was close enough to these deposits to expect a higher density of carbonised remains to be present in the deposits if burnt refuse was present at the time of the sites occupation which would seem a reasonable assumption. Other sites from Dorchester (eg, Greyhound Yard – Jones and Straker 1993; County Hall – Ede 1993) have to date also contained few carbonised remains and it is possible that there was some form of organised refuse disposal in the Roman town of Dorchester. It can easily be envisaged that small amounts of burnt rubbish would soon degrade with trampling and end up scattered around in low densities. There is an obvious need to examine more Roman deposits from the town, distributed in all parts of the town in order to further elucidate these questions.

Assessment of the Animal Bone

M. Maltby

Animal bones from the excavations were scanned at the Faunal Remains Unit, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton. The main purpose was to assess whether the bone had the potential to add further significant information about animal exploitation to that already known in Dorchester during the Romano-British period. The analysis of the substantial sample from Greyhound Yard excavations, (Maltby 1990; Maltby 1993) has provided a sound basis, with which comparisons of animal bones recovered from other contemporaneous sites within the town can be made.

Methods

Bones from each context were identified to species where possible. Unidentified fragments were counted (but not sorted) into 'large mammal' or 'sheep-sized mammal' categories. The total number of fragments for each species was recorded (Table 20), and an overall total of 8850 bones were scanned. Bones were not individually recorded but the number of measurable bones and the number of mandibles with surviving cheek teeth were counted for each species, in order to obtain an indication of the quality of the metrical and ageing data available (Table 21). For each context, brief notes were also made of the state of bone preservation, of any pathological conditions and of any interesting or unusual traits in the butchery data. No attempt was made in this assessment to analyse the metrical or ageing data.

Stratigraphic and dating information from the scan of the pottery were available, and were also recorded.

Phase 1: Neolithic Monument

Post-pit 343 (Fig. 10) produced six substantial portions of red deer antler and ten fragments of animal bone. These included fragments of two humeri and a femur of pig and a cattle humerus. They were heavily eroded. The assemblage is typical of those found in many of the other post-pits of this monument which were found during the Greyhound Yard excavations. Both red deer antlers, many of which were probably

used in the digging out of the pits, and good meat bones of pig were consistently found in these pits at Greyhound Yard (Maltby 1993).

A mandible and a rib of sheep/goat were also found in this post-pit. These were much better preserved and were probably Romano-British intrusions. No bones of sheep/goat were found in any context of the post pits, apart from those which also included Roman pottery.

Table 20: Animal bone fragment number by Phase

Phase	Trench	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Fowl	Duck	Other mammal	Other bird	Fish	Unid.	Total
1	3	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	4	16
2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
3	3	34	137	36	5	-	7	1	-	-	2	353	575
	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Total		*35*	*137*	*36*	*5*	-	*7*	*1*	-	-	*2*	*357*	*580*
4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	2	15	51	13	-	-	7	2	-	2	5	242	337
	3	20	69	28	-	2	15	6	2	4	2	138	286
	4	161	290	53	5	1	7	4	2	5	10	441	979
Total		*197*	*410*	*94*	*5*	*3*	*29*	*12*	*4*	*11*	*17*	*822*	*1634*
5	1	22	25	3	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	45	100
	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	15	19
	3	152	115	49	5	4	8	5	5	4	9	357	713
	4	216	446	172	4	6	60	16	8	31	19	1180	2159
	5	59	58	18	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	80	219
Total		*450*	*646*	*243*	*11*	*14*	*69*	*22*	*14*	*36*	*28*	*1677*	*3210*
6	3	365	232	84	33	17	6	5	6	4	-	688	1440
	4	130	150	25	3	5	6	4	1	2	1	395	722
Total		*495*	*382*	*109*	*36*	*22*	*12*	*9*	*7*	*6*	*1*	*1083*	*2162*
7	2	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	18
	3	59	34	6	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	84	198
	4	113	98	41	6	7	10	5	-	4	2	369	655
Total		*176*	*136*	*57*	*8*	*8*	*10*	*6*	*1*	*4*	*2*	*463*	*871*
8	3	77	55	23	2	3	6	3	-	1	-	175	345
	4	4	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	18	29
Total		*81*	*60*	*24*	*2*	*3*	*7*	*3*	-	*1*	-	*193*	*374*

Table 21: Numbers of measurable bones and mandibles with ageing evidence

Phase	Measurable						Mandibles					
	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Bird	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Bird
3	2	14	6	-	-	-	-	8	5	-	-	-
4	17	37	7	-	2	18	8	33	3	-	2	2
5	51	73	12	2	3	26	7	35	16	-	1	-

Phase 2: Other Prehistoric Features

Two contexts from Phase 21 produced three unidentifiable fragments. These may have been Romano-British intrusions.

Phase 3: Pre-Roman (Prehistoric/Early Roman Soil Levels)

A total of 580 fragments were recorded most of which were found amongst primary consolidation debris of early Roman deposits. The bones from this phase were generally only moderately preserved, and included a high proportion of eroded, gnawed and fragmentary material. Identifiable material was dominated by sheep/goat (Table 20) and included a number of ageable mandibles and measurable bones.

Phase 4: Early Roman (c. AD 75–200)

Approximately 1,633 fragments were recorded from this phase most of which came from Trenches 2, 3 and 4.

Trench 2 – 337 fragments were recorded from 12 contexts. Generally, preservation was quite good but the fragmentary nature of the bones meant that a high percentage of them were unidentifiable. Sheep/goat fragments dominated the identified portion of the assemblage (Table 20).

Trench 3 – Most of the bones from Trench 3 were found in the upper fills of well 293 and the slumping layers above it. The bones were generally in a good state of preservation and included a relatively broad range of species that included duck, fish, hare, roe deer and corvid as well as the bones of the major domestic animals.

Trench 4 – The bone from Trench 4 came from a relatively wide range of deposits including a series of well-sealed contexts south of the road.

Soil accumulations south of the road produced 272 fragments mostly only moderately preserved (Table 20); 42 of the 63 cattle fragments were from a single context (1314) and included a relatively high proportion of head and foot bones, perhaps indicating that there was a small dump of cattle primary butchery waste amongst this material. Most of the other contexts contained more sheep/goat fragments.

Pit 1471 from south of the road produced 20 well-preserved fragments, including six fish bones. A good sample may have been obtained from this feature had it been possible to excavate it fully; 109 fragments were obtained from pit 1422 and other features north of the road. Again preservation was moderate and sheep/goat was the most commonly identified species.

Buildings to the north of the road produced 422 fragments from 25 contexts, most of which contained moderately preserved bones. Sheep/goat were again well represented. Small numbers of roe deer, fish and a species of small duck were also identified. Occupation and consolidation layers to the north of the modern disturbance included 56 bones from the skeletons of two immature sheep in context 1349. An astragalus bore knife cuts showing that the carcass of at least one of these animals had been partially processed.

Bones from the road itself were usually moderately or poorly preserved. They did include the only bones identified as horse recovered in this phase and cattle fragments outnumbered those of sheep/goat in this sample.

Phase 5: Late Roman (c. AD 200–400)

This was the most productive phase for animal bone finds. 3,210 fragments were recovered from 175 contexts (Table 20).

Trench 1 – Deposits associated with the occupation of the building in Trench 1 produced 100 fragments; most of the identified fragments belonged to sheep/goat or cattle. The bones were quite well preserved.

Trench 2 – Late Roman soils produced 19 fragments, most of which were unidentified, stained and damaged by carnivores.

Trench 3 – Most of the bones from Trench 3 came from deposits associated with the main Roman building. Only 36 fragments were recovered from contexts associated with the structural elements of building 1609. However, large quantities were found amongst the occupation and dereliction layers of the southern room, the northern room, the corridor and the courtyard. The destruction layers of the southern room contained a high proportion of cattle bones (Table 20). Elsewhere, representation of the major species was more even with sheep/goat fragments recovered slightly more commonly than cattle. Pig bones were better represented in the courtyard deposits than in other contexts. Bird and fish bones were found in small numbers in all locations.

Trench 4 – Trench 4 produced, the greatest quantity of bones, nearly 50% of which were found in the soil accumulations to the south of the road. Soil accumulations to the north of the road produced only 24 fragments from two contexts.

Preservation of bone from pits and wells was quite good and the slump deposits above the well 1023 and the pit 1223 had very well preserved material. Most of the fish and bird bones, which were recovered in comparatively large numbers, were found in these slump deposits. Again, this suggests that had these features been more fully excavated, good faunal samples would have been obtained from them. Sheep/goat fragments dominated the identified portion of the assemblage, with pig and cattle in roughly equal numbers. Rarer species included hare, frog, woodcock and another species of wader.

The top fills of three pits and a gully to the south of the road produced 122 fragments. Most of the cattle fragments were found in gully 1126.

Twenty-one contexts associated with the main Roman building (Structure 1612) produced 175 fragments, mostly moderately preserved. Bones from the upper fills of well 1018 are included in this group. These were dominated by sheep/goat fragments, which consequently were the most commonly identified in the group as a whole (Table 20).

Occupation layers of this building (1612) produced 86 fragments in mixed states of preservation. Bones of only the major domestic species plus horse and domestic fowl were identified. Occupation deposits to the north and east contributed 113 fragments again mostly only moderately preserved.

The road surfaces of this phase contributed 47 moderately or poorly preserved fragments.

Phase 6: Post Roman

Trenches 3 and 4 produced animal bones from soil accumulations and various features that post-dated the Roman occupation. Most of the bone, however, is assumed to be residual as nearly all the associated pottery was of Roman date.

Trench 3 – Cattle bones bearing butchery marks typical of Roman urban butchery techniques were noted in several contexts. Cattle the most commonly identified, followed by sheep/goat and pig. Horse bones were more commonly represented than in previous deposits and 14 bones from two feet were found in context 72. The mandibles and cervical vertebrae of a dog were found in context (97)

and the dog was present in several other contexts. Other species found in small numbers were domestic fowl, duck, cat, badger, woodcock and hare. Red deer was represented by a sawn fragment of antler.

Trench 4 – Cattle fragments were the most commonly identified (Table 20). A large number of the sheep/goat fragments came from a single layer (1151), 86 of which were of a single skeleton of an immature sheep. Preservation of the bones was again mixed.

Phase 7: Medieval

The assemblages again probably included a high incidence of residual (Roman) material. Cattle fragments were the most commonly identified followed by sheep/goat and pig. Several other species of mammal, bird and fish were represented in small numbers. The ranking of the major species was similar in both Trenches 3 and 4, but there was a lower proportion of bones of rarer species in trench 3 possibly due to the lower numbers of bone fragments (Table 20).

Phase 8: Post-Medieval

Bones from post-medieval deposits were only found in Trenches 3 and 4. Again, there was a high incidence of earlier pottery in such contexts, which probably means that most of the bones were also residual. Major species ranking in the larger sample from Trench 3 was the same as encountered in the samples from the medieval deposits (Table 20). Most of the assemblages were only moderately preserved.

Discussion

The Neolithic post-pits contained a similar faunal assemblage to those obtained from other post-pits at Greyhound Yard (Maltby 1993). Six red deer antlers were deposited with a few upper limb bones of pig and probably one of cattle.

Many of the faunal assemblages from the Roman deposits are securely dated. However, because most of the contexts were from buildings, soil layers and other deposits where bones are likely to have lain close to the ground surface, preservation of the material was often not of the highest order. A high proportion of the bones were gnawed and a fair number also showed signed of erosion or weathering, It was not possible to excavate deep features such as pits and wells, which are likely to have produced much better preserved samples. The slump layers above several of the pits and wells contained well-preserved bones, suggesting that good faunal samples would have been obtained had the features been dug. There were a few features excavated which would have been suitable for the dumping of large-scale butchery waste of for the disposal of complete or partial carcasses not destined for further processing (particularly dogs and cats), possibly including in some cases ritual depositions. Bones associated with such activities were commonly found in pits and wells at Greyhound Yard (Maltby 1993; 2010a; Woodward and Woodward 2004).

The relative abundance of fragments of the major domestic species calculated for the various Roman phases can be compared with the results obtained from a much broader sample from Greyhound Yard (Maltby 1990, table 75). Although the percentages calculated for the Wessex Court samples rely on a quick scan and fragment count and are not as reliable as the results from Greyhound Yard, they do provide a rough guide for comparative purposes. The assemblages from Wessex Court

showed some similarities but also some interesting differences to those from Greyhound Yard. First, the percentage of cattle fragments was generally low at Wessex Court. Only the early Roman assemblages from consolidation layers south of the Roman road contained a relatively high percentage of cattle. This was the result of the presence of an unusually high proportion of head and foot bones in one deposit, possibly representing the remains of a small dump of butchery waste. However, this was the only evidence of any discrete dumps of cattle butchery waste on the site. The highest percentage of cattle (68%) was recovered amongst the rubble of the southern room in the later Roman building 1609 and similarly high figures for cattle were noted in some samples from the debris of buildings at Greyhound Yard.

The percentage of cattle fragments tended to increase in the later Roman deposits at both Wessex Court and at Greyhound Yard. However, the samples from both sites were from a limited number of deposits and may not be typical of the town as a whole.

Sheep/goat fragments were the most commonly identified in the Roman phases at Wessex Court. Nearly all the diagnostic fragments belonged to sheep rather than goat. The relative abundance of sheep and pig did differ between these deposits and those from Greyhound Yard. The lowest percentage of sheep/goat amongst the total sheep/goat and pig fragments was 68% and was over 78% in most of the early Roman groups. These figures were higher than all but four of the samples from Greyhound Yard. Lower percentages of pig were also recorded at the Dorset County Hall site, also situated in an area close to the outskirts of the walled town (Hamilton-Dyer 1993). It is possible that the processing and/or consumption of pork may have been greater near the centre of the town. This in turn may have been a result of dietary preferences or it may even reflect the relative wealth of the inhabitants in different parts of the town. The area around Dorchester does not seem to have been important for pig farming in the later Iron Age and there also appears to have been a greater reliance on pork in the town during the Roman period than on contemporary sites in its hinterland. Pork may thus have been regarded as more of a luxury commodity than lamb or mutton.

The very low representation of horse bones (Table 20) is typical both of other Roman sites in Dorchester and other urban assemblages in southern England (Maltby 1990; Maltby 2010b, 269-71). It contrasts with higher percentages of horse bones both on Iron Age sites and contemporary rural settlements. Horsemeat was not, however, commonly consumed in the town.

The low percentage of dog bones at Wessex Court reflects the absence of excavated features that would have been suitable for the dumping of their complete carcasses.

The abundance of bird bones recovered varied quite markedly, probably as a result of a combination of differential recovery rates and preservation conditions between contexts. The majority of the bird bones belonged to domestic fowl, with domestic duck/mallard and smaller species of duck also quite well represented (Table 20). These results were also similar to those obtained from Greyhound Yard (Maltby 1990, table 17). Bones of wild species of mammal, bird and fish were found comparatively rarely.

The scan of the post-Roman, medieval and post-medieval assemblages confirmed that most of the material was probably residual and Roman in origin.

Marine Mollusca

Sarah F. Wyles and Michael J. Allen

Marine molluscs, collected by hand, were identified from 208 contexts with eight species being represented. Minimum bivalve numbers per phase are recorded (Table 22) which were calculated by counting the valves and dividing by two, except for the oyster shells; these were separated into right and left valves and the number of most common valve for each phase recorded. Due to the small size of the assemblage (887 molluscs), the data has been viewed in phase groups across the site. The information for each context is available in archive.

Table 22: Marine mollusca from Phase groups representing minimum numbers of individuals

Marine molluscs	**PHASE**											
	0	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**Unph.**	**Total**
Ostrea edulis (oyster)	1	1	0	16	155	389	160	87	35	1	2	847
Anomia ephippium (saddle oyster)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerastoderma edule (cockle)	-	-	-	1	1	15	1	-	2	1	1	22
Patella vulgata (limpet)	-	-	-	-	5	-	3	-	1	-	-	9
Mytilus edulis (mussel)	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	4
Pecten maximus (scallop)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Buccinum undatum (whelk)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Acoenthocardia aculeata (spiny cockle)	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Totals	1	1	0	17	164	409	165	87	38	2	3	887

Oyster *(Ostrea edulis)* formed the bulk of this assemblage, with 847 bivalves, 95% of the total number of molluscs. Although it is present in every phase producing marine molluscs, 46% of the oysters were found in Phase 5 and over 83% were in Phases 4, 5 and 6 collectively.

The only other significant species is the cockle *(Cerastoderma edule),* which occurred in six phases but was especially abundant in Phase 5 (68% of the total number of cocides). Cockles, however, only represent 2.5% of the assemblage.

The remaining six species are insignificant in that they are a 1% or less of the assemblage; collectively they only represent 2% (Table 22). These species are saddle oyster *(Anomia ephippium),* limpet *(Patella vulgata),* mussel *(Mytilus edulis),* scallop *(Pecten maximus),* whelk *(Buccinum undatum)* and spiny cockle *(Acanthocardia aculeata).*

The distribution of species throughout the Romano-British period and into the medieval/post medieval shows no significant variation. Oyster always predominates. Immediate comparison with the assemblage of Greyhound Yard (Winder 1993); an adjacent site of similar date within the walls of the Roman town, is difficult due to disparity in sample size. Excavations at Greyhound Yard produced nearly eight times as many marine molluscs, nevertheless all the species found at Wessex Court were amongst those recorded at Greyhound Yard. Only four species were not represented at Wessex Court.

The low numbers overall indicate that marine molluscs were never a significant nor major component of the diet. Nor does there seem to be any status accorded with them, and thus can be seen as a local dietary supplement; the oysters probably being fished from Poole Bay (Winder 1993).

The Urban Environment – A Summary

Michael J. Allen

The Prehistoric Environment

Evidence from the Neolithic post-pits indicate the presence of long shady grass and scrubby habitats supported by thick, non-calcareous, argillic brown earths. Deer, pig and cattle were all present and were eaten and the red deer antlers used for digging.

The argillic brown earth soils existed locally until the construction of the Roman defence bank (Fig. 21). This is significant as such soils are ideal for agriculture, though highly susceptible to erosion. In many areas around Dorchester, the soils were denuded by erosion and survived only as thin Rendzinas by the Iron Age (Staines 1991). The evidence for pre-Roman farming within Dorchester is tenuous (Ede 1993) but particularly significant.

Roman Economy and Life

Evidence for food, other than the meat, is particularly sparse. This is in part due the lack of suitable features available for analysis, the unavailability of the contents of some of the deeper pits, but also possibly an indication of more formal rubbish disposal. Bones, however, were found throughout the excavation (a total of 8850 was recovered), but no large-scale dumps of butchery waste were recovered. The main domestic animals (cattle, sheep and pigs) were present and displayed standard Roman butchery techniques. Sheep were most common throughout the Roman period but in the later Roman period cattle increased. Pig was a significant component of the assemblages, but was a much lower proportion than that recovered from Greyhound Yard. The local variation in the distribution of the remains may reflect the relative wealth of inhabitants in the town or specific functional variation of some parts of the town or even some buildings.

It is likely that all of the animals and the cereals were farmed around Dorchester, either within large Roman estates (eg, Fordington Bottom) or by native Romanised farmers (Allen 1997). The produce being largely farmed specifically for the inhabitants of *Durnovaria* and brought into market.

The Infant Burials

All the human bones were from infant graves. The high infant mortality in the Roman period led to many neo-natal or perinatal children being buried in graves within the town, within private properties, rather than in formal cemeteries outside the town, eg Poundbury. This practice is well attested in many Roman towns.

5. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

The Neolithic Monument (Fig. 37)

The Wessex Court excavation has increased our knowledge of the post-built monument to the extent of establishing that its course is less regular than was previously indicated; this, unfortunately perhaps, proposes more questions than it solves and the monuments complete plan and function remain unknown. Whereas the post-pits discovered during the excavations at Greyhound Yard and Church Street could be extrapolated into a broad, gentle curve suggestive of a large circular enclosure, the tighter angle of the Wessex Court post-pits indicates another, less regular plan (Figs 2, 37). Whatever the full plan of the monument may be, its scale, both of the alignment as a whole and of the individual post-pits, suggest a site of considerable importance and, it is reasonable to suppose, of some especial significance. The interior' of the monument, which could provide further valuable information on the nature of the structure, remains as yet uninvestigated.

Most of the post-pits found so far have been at the western side of a coombe which runs down towards the River Frome. The known line of the post-pits appears to some extent to reflect the contours of the coombe, the broad, regular arc running along the side and the tighter group (in Trench 3 of the Wessex Court excavation) turning across the coombe near its head. The alignment discovered so far suggests that the monument would have partly encompassed the lower section of the coombe and if, as may be supposed, the whole structure was in any degree symmetrical, would certainly have done so. It has been suggested (Woodward *et al.* 1993) that the arrangement and scale of the post-pits make the monument comparable with southern British timber henges and northern British palisade enclosures. Of the former, the henge at Durrington Walls, Wiltshire, occupies a very similar topographical location and it may be that these sites were deliberately chosen with consideration of the view across the monuments (and of the activities within them) in mind.

Although no entrance has as yet been discovered for the Dorchester monument, the change of alignment in the higher, narrower part of the coombe may indicate its proximity; at Durrington Walls for example, the higher entrance is in a similar situation (the other is at the lowest point opposite), which may support this suggestion. The absence in Trench 3 of the convergent external ditch recorded at Greyhound Yard and in Trench 1 may, if the two features are contemporaneous, be another sign of an interruption in the course of the monument.

Radiocarbon analysis of charcoal and antler samples taken from post-pits at Greyhound Yard (Woodward *et al.* 1993) has provided a date for the construction of the monument between 2920–2340 BC (Late Neolithic); no contradictory evidence was recovered during the Wessex Court excavation. The Greyhound Yard excavations have suggested that the monument was not long-lived and that the original posts, once decayed, were not replaced (ibid.); again no observations were made from the Wessex Court excavation which contradict this interpretation.

Finds from the post-pits were relatively scarce, but, with the exception of post-pit 343 in Trench 3 which was the only one to be fully half-sectioned, very little fill was excavated from them. Worked flints were the most numerous artefacts recovered. Antler fragments were found in the lower part of post-pit 343 and a few pieces of pig

and cattle bone were also recovered from this feature. No prehistoric pottery was recovered from any of the post-pits.

The only other possible evidence for prehistoric activity was the small, irregular gully, 1464, in Trench 4 (Fig. 38). Cut by an early Roman pit, this feature could not be closely dated, nor was its function determined. The gully was some distance away and on a different alignment from the post-pits and ditch and is unlikely to have been directly associated with them.

The Early Roman Period (Fig. 38)

The establishment of the Roman town in the 1st century AD relocated the focus of activity north and eastwards away from the large Iron Age hillfort at Maiden Castle and the smaller one at Poundbury. Although the Poundbury hillfort was near the River Frome it lay on higher ground which fell sharply away northwards down to the river; the location for the new town of *Durnovaria* took advantage of the more gently sloping ground at the north and western sides of the coombe in which, almost three thousand years earlier, the Neolithic monument had stood. The new site may indeed have been selected because of the more favourable position it occupied in terms of access and communications, perhaps lying closer to a ford or other river crossing. There is no evidence of any continuity of activity between the Neolithic and Roman periods and the coincidence of the site of the town with that of the monument may be no more than fortuitous, the recognition of an advantageous and desirable site for both.

The relatively small size of the Wessex Court trenches and their more dispersed locations has not allowed such a comprehensive view of the development of individual buildings and their settings as did the excavation at Greyhound Yard (Waitrose). The style of building in the early Roman period, however, the use of timber as witnessed by postholes and beam slots, is the same.

No evidence was found of new roads which might have further defined individual *insulae,* although the course of the atypical diagonal (south-west–north-east) road previously located in Wollaston Field (RCHM 1970, 552) was confirmed in Trench 4. The road was clearly a primary feature within the town and may have functioned as a direct through route between the east and south gates. It has been suggested that the southern limit of the *insula* in which the Greyhound Yard buildings stood might have coincided with the line of the northern (east–west) part of Charles Street (Woodward *et al.* 1993). No evidence of such a road has yet been found, but if one had existed it would place at least the northern structures of the Wessex Court trenches in a separate *insula,* with the area further south traversed and divided by the diagonal road.

The orientation and nature of the building represented by the fragmentary structural elements recorded in Trench 1 is uncertain. They are thought to be part of the interior of a building (Structure 1602) which could have fronted onto the postulated street described above, or, and perhaps more probably, onto the Roman precursor of Acland Road. The small, probably external, patch of chalk floor cut by pits in Trench 2 may not have been associated with the Trench 1 building, but could have been part of a yard or open area belonging to a building further to the east.

In Trench 3, Structure 1603 was similarly incomplete, the postholes perhaps representing internal features and the main part of the building thus lying south of the

gully or beam slot. No return walls were recognised, the only other possible structural evidence being three rather nebulous slots toward the western end of the trench.

A sequence of two Early Roman timber buildings was recorded north of the Roman road in Trench 4. Built apparently to abut or front onto the diagonal road (and thus on a different alignment to the. structures of Trenches 1–3) the first of these, Structure 1604, consisted of two slots parallel to the road and a line of postholes at right-angles to these. Together the slots and postholes formed the south-eastern corner of the building, but internal features and floor levels had been destroyed by the construction of the second building. Four foundation burials of infants are probably associated with this building; an early date for such burials is not common in an urban setting, but also not unexpected.

The second building, Structure 1605, was set slightly to the east and across the line of its predecessor. The wall lines were represented by post- and stakeholes, although a hearth and areas of repaired chalk flooring also survived. There was no evidence to indicate the use of either building. A single posthole was the sole 'structural' feature found south of the road, where otherwise pits and a well were the only excavated features. Lying close to the eastern edge of the trench, the posthole could represent a building beyond the trench and set back from the road.

The road itself was relatively narrow (c.5 m wide) and of simple construction with a gully or gutter and possible path at either side. The gully and path to the north accompanied the primary road surface, those to the south the succeeding one.

Further to the south in Trench *5* a section was cut through a small primary bank over which extended the northern edge of the main inner bank of the defences. The earlier bank was probably set out to mark the line of the defences but could have been of pre-Roman construction since the only finds associated with it were of worked flint. No continuation of the L-shaped ditch found beneath and outside the defences in the grounds of Southfield F-louse (at the west end of South Walks Road: Davies and Thompson 1987) was seen in Trench 5.

Finds from the early Roman phase include some of the antefix fragments, several of which, together with a wide variety of other materials (including much pottery, wall plaster and other building materials, glass, metalwork and one of the Durotrigian coins), were recovered from a 1st century AD consolidation deposit (275) in Trench 3. The recovery of so much material from this early deposit suggests that rebuilding was in progress at an early stage in the development of the town. Most of the pottery of this and subsequent periods was locally produced, but a lesser proportion of imported vessels indicate a substantial degree of international trade was already taking place; amongst the imported vessels, the amphorae attest to the import of 'exotic' commodities from the Mediterranean. As might be expected the quantity of imported material is higher at Wessex Court (and also at Greyhound Yard) than at less central sites such as County Hall or those beyond the town walls, such as on the Dorchester Bypass and Alington Avenue. Of the other finds, assemblages are such as might be expected from an urban site, the mix of utilitarian, everyday objects and those of a more decorative or less functional nature attesting to a degree of prosperity commensurate with an important local centre.

No conclusive evidence of industrial processes was recorded in the excavated trenches nor was there any obvious artefactual evidence of such activity in the immediate vicinity. Small quantities of metal-working waste and slag were recovered, but these were such as might have originated in minor local repair operations or very small-scale manufacture only. Likewise, a small dump of cattle bone in Trench 4 may indicate that some butchering was carried out on site, but the remainder of animal

bone assemblage, in which cattle bone is generally not plentiful, appears to be of more directly domestic origin.

The Late Roman Period (Fig. 38)

Structural evidence from this period confirms the pattern recorded at Greyhound Yard of the replacement of the earlier timber buildings by stone-built structures (Woodward *et al.* 1993). This occurred in all areas where buildings of the early Roman period were recorded, in most instances the new buildings being more extensive than the earlier ones and, sometimes, on different alignments.

In Trench 1 parts of three buildings were recorded, one possibly a replacement for Structure 1602. It is possible that two of the structures, 1606 and 1608, may have been parts of one building since they appeared to be on the same alignment. Unfortunately, the walls of both had been robbed in antiquity and, additionally, the south-east corner of Structure 1606 and the southern end of the single (west) wall of Structure 1608, where some possible relationship might have been established, had been destroyed by more recent (19th century) construction work.

Structure 1607, in the southern part of the trench was on a slightly different alignment from both other buildings of this phase and from its possible predecessor of the early Roman period, Structure 1602. Wall plaster probably dislodged from the interior of the north wall when the wall stone was robbed lay within the building; although simply patterned, this and other plaster fragments recovered from the robbed wall trenches of all the Trench 1 structures may indicate a degree of embellishment, although it is interesting to note that no solid floors survived.

Evidence of two possible buildings, Structures 1609 and 1610, was found in Trench 3, although the latter was represented by a single wall only. Structure 1610 could have been an early northern boundary to the courtyard of Structure 1609, beneath which it was subsequently buried. It was on a similar alignment to early Roman Structure 1603, although 2.5 m further north.

The remains of Structure 1609 were more substantial, comprising parts of two adjoining rooms, a corridor and entrance from a courtyard. Close to each other in the northern room were a stone-built oven and tank set into the floor; a pottery jar was also set in the floor in the corner between the tank and wall. Another vessel was set into the adjacent corner of the southern room, although this one had been covered by a limestone slab upon which an infant burial had been placed. No other internal features survived in this room. The floors of both rooms were of rammed chalk, a small area of wall plaster surviving attached to the lower part of a wall in the southern one. The corridor had apparently been deliberately constructed at a higher level than the two rooms to the west. From the outer corridor wall, two short walls led out into the courtyard, a curving chalk path turning in between them from the south-east across the otherwise unpaved yard surface. These structural elements clearly represent part of a larger whole which almost certainly extended around the southern and probably eastern sides of the courtyard, fronting onto the Roman Street approximately on the line of the modern Acland Road. The excavated part of the property, situated at the rear, would appear to be ancillary to the main part of the building and may have been part of a shop (J. Wacher, pers. comm.).

Two phases of building were recognised during the late Roman period in Trench 4, as had been the case in the earlier Roman period. The buildings were on the same site as their predecessors, north of and at right-angles to the road. The earlier building

of the two, Structure 1611, was built immediately next to the road, overlying the small gully which had previously lined it. No internal divisions survived, a single room apparently running back across the whole remaining length of the trench. The replacement building, Structure 1612, was set back 1.5 m from the roads edge, but otherwise appears to have occupied the same site, re-using the foundations and wall bases of Structure 1611, with only minimal deviation. A single oven was found towards the southern end of the buildings, although it was not possible to assign it to one particular building phase; a well was just outside the east wall. Fragmentary floors in a variety of materials, rammed chalk, crushed tile above flint cobbling or simply soil, were similarly unassignable. Postholes cutting the latest surviving floor level may represent internal division of the later building, Structure 1612, but could be later features altogether. There was no indication of the use of either building, although the apparent absence of any form of internal finishing, the simple nature of the floors and the presence of the oven suggests that they were intended perhaps to be functional above all else.

A wall representing a third structure, 1613, crossed the eastern wall line of Structures 1611 and 1612, but it is most likely that almost the whole of this building, if such it was, lay to the north beyond the trench edge.

The area south of the road, resurfacing and repair of which continued as before, was again apparently devoid of buildings. A relatively compact group of intercutting gullies and pits, the nearest gully almost parallel with the road but 3 m to the south, were the only features found in this area, which otherwise consisted principally of accumulated soil deposits.

Further to the south the town defences were maintained. Some erosion of the bank appeared to have taken place, but this was stopped and the inner face of the bank stabilised and augmented by the addition of extra soil.

The finds assemblages from this period display much the same characteristics as those of the preceding one. The quantity of pottery recovered is larger than for the early Roman period but again includes a proportion of imported material, although imported' may now be taken to include vessels from further afield in Britain. Other categories of finds, such as the glass and shale and several additional antefix fragments, show that fine goods were in continuing use and demand. Again no evidence was found for large-scale industrial or commercial activities. The majority of the animal bone from the site was assigned to this phase, an increase in the amount of cattle bone being noted, but again all appears to be of domestic origin. Evidence of other food items was scarce, but a few cereal grains were found in deposits of this period.

The Post-Roman Period (Fig. 39)

The period following the cessation of Roman administration is nowhere very clearly delineated in the archaeological record and the Wessex Court site is no exception to this. Deposits from the immediate post-Roman period were scarce or remained unidentified and, with most of the finds from them being apparently residual, the features assigned to this phase were not closely datable.

One activity which did take place at this time, however, was the robbing of stone from the walls of the increasingly derelict Roman buildings and their piecemeal demolition to provide material for construction or reconstruction elsewhere. Buildings no longer used or wanted clearly provided an easier, more readily and freely available

source of suitable stone than quarrying at source. Stratigraphic evidence indicates that the removal of stone took place during this period, although no significant evidence of reuse of or modifications to existing buildings was recognised in the excavations. There is, however, no reason to suppose that adaptation of existing buildings would not have taken place if, at the time, it was deemed convenient.

Although no new buildings can be assigned to the post-Roman period, the construction of a rough but functional (and apparently drained) hard-standing in the eastern part of Trench 3 may indicate the use of at least the remains of an earlier one. A flint and limestone surface, 140, extended eastwards across the former courtyard of Structure 1609; the yard was by then buried beneath an accumulation of soil, but the close approximation of the eastern edge of the earlier building and the western edge of the paving suggest that at least part of the building may still have been standing when the stone was laid down. It is likely that much of the paving stone also derived from the derelict remains of Structure 1609.

A possible path toward the southern end of Trench 4 may also belong to the post- Roman period. The feature, 1022, is odd in that it occurs at approximately the same level as the highest surviving part of the Roman road and appears to follow the same course, albeit slightly further to the south. Since the line of the road should still have been visible, its direction apparently the same and its construction considerably more robust, it is difficult to see the need for a path.

Despite the absence of structural evidence, the numbers of finds assigned to this phase are the largest in many categories. The earlier date of many of the artefacts recovered, however, probably more accurately reflects the disturbance to earlier buildings and the general redistribution of material caused by their disintegration rather than any very constructive contemporaneous activity.

The Medieval and Post-medieval Periods (Fig. 39)

That part of the area of the Roman town had reverted to agricultural land by the medieval period is known, but exactly when that happened is not. Documentary evidence shows that the Wessex Court site was part of a large area of open field, *Estwalles,* before it was enclosed in 1596. The contraction of the town which had begun with the Romans' departure does appear to have stabilised and perhaps been reversed by the 10th century, when the town became a mint and a port; by the time of Domesday the town had become a royal borough (Penn 1980, 60–1). However, the built-up area within the walls of the Roman town had still not grown back to its former size, the main concentration of buildings probably lying along the axes formed by High East and West Streets, Cornhill/South Street and North Square

Clearly the stone robbing continued until all upstanding Roman buildings were demolished; some of the pottery found in the robbed wall trenches dates from the 12th to 14th centuries, some from as late as the 16th and 17th centuries. Small remnants of the lower parts of walls survived, but probably only because they were buried in the course of searching for other stone or because the amount or quality of stone they contained was not worth taking. The walls were not always systematically followed once they had been located, although this would, of course, have become less easy to do as the more visible parts were lowered. The wall foundations were generally ignored, unless they were of good quality stone in which case that would be taken too; often the foundation courses were of small, rubbly stone or flint nodules, neither very desirable for reuse.

A build-up of fine, dark, agriculturally-derived soil up to 1 .6 m deep was recorded above the surviving Roman foundations in Trenches 2–4, but this had been truncated by modern disturbance in the other two trenches. A shallower deposit of the dark soil seen in Trench 1 may have been the result of the higher natural level of chalk there. Evidence of medieval terracing was recorded further up the northern side of the coombe at Greyhound Yard (Woodward *et al.* 1993), but there was no sign of this in the Wessex Court trenches. A large irregular hole cut into the back of the Roman defensive bank in Trench 5 may have been the result of another form of salvage quarrying, in this instance for chalk.

Following the enclosure of the open field in the 16th century, new buildings began to encroach upon its northern edge in the 17th century. One of these was the 17th-century barn belonging to John White, part of which lay within Trench 2. The building, originally of timber construction, appears to have been rebuilt more solidly of stone, laid out with drains and cobbled and flagged surfaces, but very little of the building could be examined in the small area available. The rest of the area remained largely undeveloped until the 19th century, when the large malthouse, cattle market buildings, terraced houses along Charles Street and some of the Acland Road buildings were constructed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, D., 1986. 'The glass vessels' in J. D. Zienkiemicz, *The Legionary Fortress Baths at Caerleon Volume 2: the finds*. Cardiff, National Museums and Galleries of Wales, 98–116.

Allen, M. J., 1993. 'Land snails', in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 340–5.

Allen, M. J., 1997. 'Landscape, land-use and farming', in Smith, 1997, 277–83.

Anderson, A. C., 1980. *Guide to Roman Fine Wares*. Highworth, Wiltshire, VORDA Res. Ser. 1.

Andrews, G., forthcoming. 'The pottery', in D. Batchelor, Roman bath house excavations at Wollaston House, Dorchester.

Bailey, J., 1975. 'A note on the Dorset section of the sarsen stone survey', *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.* 97, 47– 8.

Barford, P. M., and Hughes, M., 1985. 'Painted plaster', in K. Blockley, *Marshfield, Ironmongers Piece Excavations 1982– 3: an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement in the south Cotswolds*. Oxford, BAR 141.

Batchelor, D., 1983. 'Church Street, Dorchester', *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.* 105, 150.

Batchelor, D., forthcoming a. Roman bath house excavations at Wollaston House, Dorchester.

Batchelor, D., forthcoming b. Excavations at the old egg packing station, Dorchester.

Bellamy, P. and Hassall, 1993. 'Clay and stone roof tile', in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 172–6

Bellamy, P., 1993. 'Worked flint and chert', in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 136–8.

Bellamy, P., 1997. 'Flaked stone assemblages', in Smith *et al.* 1997, 136–54.

Berger, L., 1960. *Romische Gläser aus Vindonissa*. Basel, Birkhäuser Verlag.

Bidwell, P. T., 1979. *The Legionary Bath-House and Basilica and Forum at Exeter*. Exeter, Exeter Archaeol. Rep. 1.

Boon, G. C., 1957. *Roman Silchester: the archaeology of a Romano-British town.* London, Parrish.

Bowen, H. C. and Smith, I. F., 1977. Sarsen stones in Wessex: the Society's first investigations in the Evolution of the Landscape Project', *Antiq. J.* 57 (2), 185–96.

Brailsford, J. W., 1958. 'Early Iron Age 'C' in Wessex', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 24, 110–119.

Brailsford, J. W., 1969. *Hod Hill Volume 1: antiquities from Hod Hill in the Durden Collection,* 2nd edn. London, British Museum.

Brewer, R. J., 1986. 'The beads and glass counters', in J. D. Zienkiewicz, *The Legionary Fortress Baths at Caerleon, Volume 2: the finds,* Cardiff, National Museums and Galleries of Wales, 146–56.

Brodribb, G., 1987. *Roman Brick and Tile.* Stroud, Sutton.

Brodribb, A. C. C., Hands, A. R., and Walker, D. R., 1973. *Excavations at Shakenoak Farm, near Wilcote, Oxfordshire. Parts I, II and IV*. Oxford, privately published.

Bushe-Fox, I. P., 1913. *Excavations on the Site of the Roman Town at Wroxeter, Shropshire, in 1912*. Oxford, Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiq. London.

Butcher, S. A., 1985. 'The brooches', in C. J. Bailey, 'The Romano-British site at Walls, Puncknowle, Dorset', *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.* 107, 55–86.

Calkin, J. B., 1935. ‘An early Romano-British kiln at Corfe Mullen, Dorset’, *Antiq. J.* 15, 42–5.
Calkin, J. B., 1953. ‘“Kimmeridge Coal Money”, the Romano-British shale armlet industry’, *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.* 75, 45–7.
Charlesworth, D., 1959. ‘Roman glass from northern Britain’, *Archaeol. Aeliana Ser. 4,* 37, 33–58.
Clapham, A. R., Tutin, T. G. and Warburg, E. F., 1952. *Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
Collingwood, R. G. and Richmond, I., 1969. *The Archaeology of Roman Britain*. London, Methuen, 286–302.
Cool, H. E. M., 1987. ‘Copper alloy personal ornaments’ in Green 1987, 97–8.
Cool, H. E. M. and Philo, C. (eds.). 1998. *Roman Castleford Excavations 1974-85. Volume I: the small finds* Wakefield, Yorkshire Archaeology 4
Cool, H. E. M. and Price, J., 1995. *Roman Vessel Glass from Excavations in Colchester 1971-85*, Colchester Archaeol. Rep. 8, (Colchester)
Cool, H.E.M. and Price, J. 1998. 'The vessels and objects of glass', in Cool and Philo, 141-94.
Cool, H.E.M. and Price, J. 2002. ‘Vessel glass from Catterick Bypass (Sitr 433)’, in Wilson, 213-33
Copson, C., and Healy, F., 1993a. ‘Portable stone objects’, in Smith 1993, 36.
Copson, C., and Healy, F., 1993b. ‘Shale’, in Smith 1993, 36–9.
Cox, P. W. and Hearne, C. M., 1991. *Redeemed from the Heath: the archaeology of the Wytch Farm Oilfield (1987–90)* Dorchester, Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc. Monogr. 9.
Cox, P. W. and Mills, J. M., 1991. ‘The shale objects’, in Cox and Hearne 1991, 170–5.
Cox, P. W., and Woodward, P. J. 1987. The Kimmeridge Shale’ in P. J. Woodward, ‘The Excavation of an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement at Rope Lake Hole, Corfe Castle, Dorset’, in N. Sunter and P. J. Woodward, *Romano-British Industries in Purbeck*. Dorchester, Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc. Monogr. 6, 123–84.
Crew, P., 1989. ‘A glass bangle’ in J. Britell, *Caersws Vicus, Powys: excavations at the Old Primary School 1985–86*. Oxford, BAR 205, 49–51.
Crummy, N., 1983. *The Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971–9*. Colchester, Colchester Archaeol. Rep. Vol. 2.
Cunliffe, B. W., 1971. ‘The coarse pottery’, in B.W. Cunliffe (ed.), *Excavations at Fishbourne, 1961–1969 Volume 2: the finds*. London, Soc. Antiq. Res. Rep. 27, 158–259.
Cunliffe, B. W., 1975. ‘The iron objects’ in B.W. Cunliffe (ed.), *Excavations at Portchester Castle Volume 1: Roman*. London, Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiq. London 32, 240–3.
Cunliffe, B. W., (ed.) 1981. *Coinage and Society in Britain and Gaul*. London, CBA Res. Rep. 38.
Dannell, G. B. and Hartley, B. R., 1974. ‘The samian pottery’, in C. J. Ainsworth and B. A. Ratcliffe Densham, ‘Spectroscopy and a Roman cremation from Sompting, Sussex’, *Britannia* 5, 310–6.
Davey, N., and Ling, R., 1982. *Wall-Painting in Roman Britain*. Gloucester, Sutton.
Davies, J. A., 1993. ‘Coins’, in Smith 1993, 29–30.
Davies, S.M., 1987a ‘The brooches’ in Green 1987, 95–7.
Davies, S. M., 1987b. ‘The ironwork’ in Green 1987, 98–9.

Davies, S. M., 1987c. ‘The coarse pottery’, in P. J. Woodward, ‘The Excavations of an Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement at Rope Lake Hole, Corfe Castle, Dorset’, in Sunter 1987, 150–7.
Davies, S. M. and Hawkes, J. W., 1987. ‘The Iron Age and Romano-British coarse pottery’, in Green 1987, 123–7.
Davies, S. M. and Thompson, C. N., 1987. ‘Archaeological evaluation at Southfield House, Dorchester, Dorset’, *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.,* 109, 126–9.
Davies, S.M., Bellamy, P.S., Heaton, M.J. and Woodward, P.J., 2002. *Excavations at Alington Avenue, Fordington, Dorchester, Dorset, 1984–87*. Dorchester, Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc. Monogr. 15.
Dickinson, B., 1986. ‘Potters’ stamps and signatures on samian,’ in L. Miller, J. Schofield and M. Rhodes, *The Roman Quay at St. Magnus House, London*. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc. Spec. Pap. 8.
Draper, J., 1993. ‘The documentary evidence’ in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 7–10.
Dudley, D., 1967 ‘Excavations on Nor’Nour in the Isles of Scilly 1962–6’, *Archaeol. J.* 124, 1–64.
Durand-Lefebvre, M., 1963. *Marques de Potiers Gallo-romains Trouvées a Paris,* Paris, Impr. Nationale.
Ede, J., 1993. ‘Plant remains’, in Smith 1993, 73–7.
Elmer, G., 1941. ‘Die Munzpragung der gallischen Kaiser in Koin, Trier und Mailand’, *Bonner Jahrbucher* 146, 1–106.
Evans, J. G., 1991. ‘The environment’ in Sharples 1991, 250–2.
Evans, J. G., and Jones, H., 1979. ‘The environment’ in Wainwright 1979, 190–213.
Farrar, R. A. H., 1973. ‘The techniques and sources of Romano-British Black Burnished Ware’ in A. P. Detsicas (ed.), *Current Research in Romano-British Coarse Pottery*. London, CBA Res. Rep. 10, 67–103.
Farrar, R. A. H., 1977. ‘A Romano-British Black Burnished Ware industry at Ower in the Isle of Purbeck’, in J. Dore and K. Greene, *Roman Pottery Studies in Britain and Beyond*. Oxford, BAR S30, 199–227.
Fremersdorf, F., 1967. *Die Römischen Gläser mit Schliff Bemalung und Goldauflagen aus Köln*. Die Denkmäler des Römischen Köln, VIII.
Fulford, M. G., 1975. *New Forest Roman Pottery.* Oxford, BAR 17.
Fulford, M. G., 1977. ‘Pottery and Britain’s foreign trade in the later Roman period’, in D. P. S. Peacock (ed.), *Pottery and Early Commerce*. London, Academic Press, 35–84.
Gillam, J. P., 1976. ‘Coarse fumed ware in Northern Britain and Beyond’, *Glasgow Archaeol.* 4, 58–80.
Glass, H., 1989 ‘Roman painted wall plaster’ in I. Barnes and H. Glass, *An archaeological assessment at 58/60 High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset*. Salisbury, Trust for Wessex Archaeology unpubl. rep..
Going, C. J., 1987. *The Mansio and Other Sites in the South-Eastern Sector of Caesaromagus The Roman Pottery*. London, CBA Res. Rep. 62.
Green, H. S., 1980. *The Flint Arrowheads of the British Isles*. Oxford, BAR 75.
Green, C. J. S.. 1987. *Excavations at Poundbury, Dorchester, Dorset (1966–1982), Volume I: the settlements*. Dorchester, Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc. Monogr. 7.
Greene, K., 1978a. ‘Mould decorated Central Gaulish glazed ware in Britain’, in P. Arthur, P. and O. Marsh (eds), *Early Fine Wares in Roman Britain*. Oxford, BAR 57, 31–60.

Greene, K., 1978b. 'Imported fine wares in Britain to AD 250: a guide to identification, in Arthur, P. and O. Marsh (eds), *Early Fine Wares in Roman Britain*. Oxford, BAR 57, 15–30.
Greene, K., 1979. *Report on the Excavations at Usk 1965–1976: the Pre-Flavian* finewares. Cardiff, University of Wales Press.
Guido, M., 1978. *The Glass Beads of the Prehistoric and Roman Periods in Britain and Ireland*, London, Res. Rep. Comm. Soc. Antiq. London 35.
Habert, T., 1893. *La Poterie Antique Parlante*. Paris, Reinwald.
Hamilton-Dyer, S., 1993. 'Animal bone', in Smith 1993, 77–82.
Harden, D. B., 1958. 'Four Roman glasses from Hauxton Mill, Cambridge. 1870', in Liversidge, J., 'Roman discoveries from Hauxton', *Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc.* 51, 12–6.
Harden, D. B., 1962. 'The glass', in Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) 1962, 136–41,
Harden, D. B., 1979. 'Glass vessels' in G. Clarke, *Pre-Roman and Roman Winchester Part II: The Roman Cemetery at Lankhills*. Oxford, Clarendon Press.
Hartley, K. F., 1973. The marketing and distribution of mortaria' in A. P. Detsicas (ed.), *Current Research in Romano-British Coarse Pottery*. London, CBA Res. Rep. 10, 39–51.
Hartley, K. F., 1977. 'Two major potteries producing mortaria in the first century AD', in J. Dore and K. Greene, *Roman Pottery Studies in Britain and Beyond*. Oxford, BAR S30, 5–18.
Hartley, B. R. and Dickinson, B., 1986. 'The samian,' in J. Wacher, J. and A. McWhirr, *Cirencester Excavations I: Early Roman Occupation at Cirencester*, Cirencester, 119–46.
Hawkes, C. F. C. and Hull, M. R., 1947. *Camulodunum*. Oxford, Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiq., 14.
Hearne, C. M., 1992. 'The Kimmeridge Shale', in C. M. and R. J. C. Smith, 'A Late Iron Age settlement and Black-Burnished Ware (BBI) production site at Worgret, near Wareham, Dorset, *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.* 113, 93–5.
Henig, M., 1993. 'Copper alloy and non-ferrous metalwork', in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 117–32.
Hermet, F., 1934. *La Graufesenque (Condatomago)*. Paris, E. Leroux.
Hinton, D.A. and Hodges, R., 1977. 'Excavations in Wareham, 1974-5', *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc*. 99, 42–83
Holbrook, N. and Bidwell, P. T., 1991. *Roman Finds from Exeter*. Exeter, Exeter Archaeol. Rep. 4.
Hull, M. R., 1958. *Roman Colchester*. Oxford, Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiq. London, 20.
Hull, M. R., 1971. 'The Brooches' in B.W. Cunliffe (ed.), *Excavations at Fishbourne, 1961–1969 Volume 2: the finds*. London, Soc. Antiq. Res. Rep. 27, 104–5.
Isings, C., 1957. *Roman Glass from Dated Finds*. Groningen, J. B. Wolters.
Jackson, R., 1985. 'The objects of iron' in P. T. Bidwell, *The Roman Fort of Vindolanda at Chesterton, Northumberland*. London, Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission Archaeol. Rep. 1, 130–51.
Jarvis, K.S., 1992. 'Introduction to the pottery' in I.P. Horsey, Excavations in Poole 1973–1983, Dorchester, Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc. Monogr. 10, 62–5
Jones, J. and Straker, V., 1993. 'Macroscopic plant remains' in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 349–50

Kainitsch, P., 1959. *Die Reliefsigillata von Ovilava*. Linz, Institut f. Landeskunde von Oberösterreich.
Keen, L. J., 1984. 'The towns of Dorset' in J. Haslam (ed.), *The Anglo-Saxon Towns of Southern England*. Chichester, Phillimore, 203–47.
Knorr, R., 1919. *Topfer und Fabriken verzierter Terra-Sigillata des ersten Jahrunderts*. Stuttgart, W. Kohlhammer.
Laubenheimer, F. 1979. 'La collection de céramiques sigiflées gallo-romaines estampillées du Musée de Rabat', *Antiquitées africaines* 13, 99–225.
Lawson, A. J., 1976. 'Shale and jet objects from Silchester', *Archaeologia* 105, 241–75.
Mackreth, D. F., 1979. 'The brooches' in G. Webster, 'Final report on the excavations of the Roman fort at Waddon Hill, Stoke Abbot 1963–69', *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc* 101, 55–90.
Mackreth, D. F., and Butcher, S. A., 1981. 'The Roman brooches' in A. Down, *Chichester Excavations 5*. Chichester, Phillimore.
Maltby, J. M., 1990. *The Animal Bone from Romano-British Deposits at the Greyhound Yard and Methodist Chapel sites in Dorchester, Dorset*. Ancient Monuments Laboratory Rep. 9/90.
Maltby, J, M., 1993. 'Animal bones' in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 315–40.
Maltby, M. 2010a. Zooarchaeology and the interpretation of depositions in shafts. In J. Morris and M. Maltby (eds.) *Integrating Social and Environmental Archaeologies: Reconsidering Deposition.* British Archaeological Reports (International Series) S2077. Oxford: Archaeopress, 24-32.
Maltby, M. 2010b. *Feeding a Roman Town: Environmental Evidence from Excavations in Winchester, 1972-1985.* Winchester: Winchester Museums Service.
Manning, W. H., 1972. 'The iron objects' in Frere, S., *Verulamium Excavations Vol. 1*. London, Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiq. London 27, 163–95.
Manning, W. H., 1984. The iron objects' in Frere, S. S., *Verulamium Excavations Vol. III*. Oxford, Oxford Univ. Comm. Archaeol. Monogr. 1, 83–106.
Manning, W. H., 1985 *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum.* London, British Museum.
Mattingly, H., *et al.* (eds), 1923 onwards. *Roman Imperial Coinage*. London, Spink.
Mayo, H., 1908. *The Municipal Records of the Borough of Dorchester*. Exeter, W. Pollard.
Mepham, L N, 1997, 'Pottery [The Romano-British cemetery]', in A. P. Fitzpatrick, *Archaeological Excavations on the Route of the A27 Westhampnett Bypass, West Sussex, 1992. Volume 2: The Cemeteries*. Salisbury, Wessex Archaeology Report 12, 257–63.
Mepham, L. N. and Morris, E. L., 1992. 'The pottery' in C. A. Butterworth, 'Excavations at Norton Bavant Borrow Pit', *Wiltshire Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.* 85, 18–21.
Millet, M., and Graham, D., 1986. *Excavations on the Romano-British Small Town at Neatham, Hampshire 1969–1979*. Hampshire Fld Club Monogr. 3.
Mills, J. M., 1993 a. 'Objects of copper alloy', in Smith 1993, 30–2.
Mills, J. M., 1993 b. 'Objects of iron' in Smith 1993, 32–5.
Mills, J. M., 1993 d. 'Bone objects', in Smith 1993, 67–8.
Mills, J. M. and Woodward, P. J., 1993 a. 'Portable stone objects', in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 145–9.

Mills, J. M. and Woodward, P. J, 1993 b. 'Shale and jet', in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 139–45.
Oliver, A., 1984. 'Early Roman faceted glass', *J. Glass Stud.* 26, 35–58.
Peacock, D. P. S. (ed.), 1977. *Pottery and Early Commerce*. London, Academic Press.
Peacock, D. P. S. and Williams, D. F., 1986. *Amphorae and the Roman Economy: An Introductory Guide.* London, Longman
Penn, K. J., 1980. *Historic Towns in Dorset*. Dorchester, Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc. Monogr. 1, 60–1.
Pitt-Rivers, A. H. L. F., 1887. *Excavations in Cranbourne Chase: Romano-British village of Woodcuts and Rushmore Park 1881–5, Vol. 1*. Privately printed,.
Pitt-Rivers, A. H. L. F., 1892. *Excavations in Cranbourne Chase: excavations in Bockerly Dyke and Wansdyke 1888–1891 Vol. 3*. Privately printed.
Price, J., 1974. 'The glass', in G. D. B. Jones and S. Grealey, *Roman Manchester.* Altrincham, Sherratt
Price, J., 1987a. 'The Roman glass', in S. S. Frere, 'Brandon Camp, Herefordshire', *Britannia* 18, 49–92.
Price, J., 1987b. 'Glass from Felmongers, Harlow in Essex: a dated deposit of vessel glass found in an Antonine pit', in *Annales di 10e Congrés de L'Association Internationale pour L'Histoire du Verre*. Amsterdam.
Price, J. and Cool, H. E. M., 1983. 'Glass from the excavations of 1974–76', in A. E. Brown and C. Woodfield, 'Excavations at Towcester, Northamptonshire: Alcester Road Suburb', *Northamptonshire Archaeol.* 118, 43–140.
Price, J. and Cool, H. E. M., 1985. 'The glass' in H. R. Hurst, *Kingsholm*. Cambridge, Gloucester Archaeol. Rep. 2.
Raimbault, M., 1973. 'La ceramique Gallo-Romaine ditte "a l'eponge" dans l'ouest de la Gaule', *Gallia* 31, 185–206.
Redknap, M., 1986. 'The objects of iron' in Millet and Graham 1986, 112–21.
Reece, R. M, 1972. A short survey of the Roman coins found on fourteen sites in Britain', *Britannia* 3, 269–76
Reece, R. M., forthcoming. 'The coins from Wollaston House', in D. Batchelor, Roman bath house excavations at Wollaston House, Dorchester.
Rees, S. E., 1979. *Agricultural Implements in Prehistoric and Roman Britain, Parts I and 11*. Oxford, BAR 69.
Rigby, V., 1973. 'Potters' stamps on Terra Nigra and Terra Rubra found in Britain', in A. P. Detsicas (ed.), *Current Research in Romano-British Coarse Pottery*. London, CBA Res. Rep. 10, 7–24.
Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England), 1962. *The City of York Vol. 1. Eburacum Roman York.* London, HMSO.
Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England), 1970. *An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset, Vol. 2.* London, HMSO.
Scheuer, J. L., Musgrave, J. H. and Evans, S. P., 1980. 'The estimation of late foetal and perinatal age from limb bone length by linear and logarithmic regression', *Annals of Human Biology,* 7(3), 257–65.
Seager Smith, R. H., 2002. 'Late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery', in Davies *et al.* 2002, 93–107.
Seager Smith, R. H., 1993. 'Mortaria', in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 219–24.
Seager Smith, R. H., and Davies, S. M., 1993. 'Roman pottery' in Woodward et *al.* 1993, 202–14.
Seager Smith, R. H. with Mills, J. M., Corney, M., Dickinson, B. and Williams, D. F., 1993. 'Roman pottery', in Smith 1993, 41–61.

Seager Smith, R. H. with Mills, J.M., Corney, M. and Dickinson, B. 1997, 'Late Iron Age and Roman pottery', in Smith *et al.* 1997, 102–18.
Sharples, N., 1991. *Maiden Castle: Excavation and Field Survey 1985–6,* English. Heritage Archaeol. Rep. 19.
Smith, I. F., 1987. 'The Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery' in Green 1987, 114–7.
Smith, R. J. C., 1993. *Excavations at County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset, 1988 in the North-west Quarter of* Durnovaria. Salisbury, Wessex Archaeology Report 4.
Smith, R. J. C., Healy, F., Allen, M. J., Morris, E. L., Barnes, I. and Woodward, P. J., 1997. *Excavations Along the Route of the Dorchester By-pass, Dorset, 1986–8*. Salisbury, Wessex Archaeology Report 11.
Spoerry, P.S., 1990. 'Ceramic production in medieval Dorset and the surrounding region', *Medieval Ceramics* 14, 3–17
Stacey, L., 2002. 'Worked bone objects' in Davies *et al.* 2002, 107–8.
Staines, S., 1991 'The Soils', in Sharples, 1991, 12–15.
Staines, S., 1993. 'Soils', in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 313–14.
Sunter, N., 1987. 'Excavations at Norden', in Sunter, N., and Woodward, P. J., *Romano-British Industries in Purbeck, Dorset*. Dorchester, Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc. Monogr. 6, 1–44.
Swan, V. G., 1984. *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain*. London, HMSO, Royal Commission on Historic Monuments Supp. Ser. 5.
Terrisse, R, *1954.* Eine Sigillata-Topfereiin Martre-de-Veyre (Frankreich)', *Gallia* 32, 17 *1–5.*
Terrisse, J-R. 1968. 'Les Céramiques sigilléés gallo-romaines des Martres-de-Veyre (Puy-deDome)', *Gallia* Suppl. XIX, Paris.
Tyres, P., 1978. 'The poppy-head beakers of Britain and their relationship to the barbotine decorated vessels of the Rhineland and Switzerland,' in P. Arthur and G. Marsh (eds), *Early Fine Wares in Roman* Britain. Oxford BAR 57, 61–108.
Van Arsdell, R. D., 1989. *Celtic Coinage of Britain.* London, Spink.
Vanderhoeven, M., 1975 *De Terra Sigillata te Tongeren*. Tongeren.
Vitruvius, *Dc Architectura.*
Wacher, J., 1974. *The Towns of Roman Britain.* Berkeley, University of California Press.
Wainwright, G. J., 1979. *Mount Pleasant, Dorset; Excavations 1970–1971*. London, Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiq. London 37.
Webster, J., 1981. 'The metal small finds' in J. Draper, J. Startin and J. Webster, 'Excavations at South Grove Cottage, Dorchester', *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.* 103, 21–42.
Webster, P., 1987. *Roman Samian Ware: background notes,* 3rd edn., Cardiff, University College.
Welker, E., 1974. *Die Römischen Gläser von Nida-Heddernheim*. Schriften des Frankfurter Museums für Vor- und Fruhgeschichte VIII, Bonn.
Westell, W. P., 1931. 'A Romano-British cemetery at Baldock, Hertfordshire, *Archaeol. J.* 87, 247–301.
Wild, F.C., 1985. 'Samian ware', in in H. R. Hurst, *Kingsholm*. Cambridge, Gloucester Archaeol. Rep. 2, 56–111.
Wilmott, T. (ed) 2009. *Hadrian's Wall: Archaeological Research by English Heritage 1976-2000*, Swindon, English Heritage
Wilmott, T., Cool, H. and Evans. J. 2009. 'Excavations at Hadrian's Wall for of Birdoswald (Banna). Cumbria: 1996-2000', in Wilmott, 203-395

Williams, D. F., 1977. 'The Romano-British Black Burnished Ware industry: an essay on characterisation by heavy mineral analysis', in Peacock 1977, 163–220.
Williams, D. F., 1987. 'The Amphorae', in Green 1987, 117, Mf. 3, ClC4.
Williams, D. F., 1993a. 'Amphorae', in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 214–9.
Williams, D. F., 1993b. 'Amphorae', in Smith 1993, 48–9.
Williams, P. F., 1972. 'Some surface finds in South Dorset', *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.* 94, 87
Wilson, P.R. 2002. *Cataractonium Roman Catterick and its Hinterland. Excavations and Research, 1958-1997. Part II*. CBARR 129: York
Winder, J., 1993. 'Oysters and other marine mollusc shells', in Woodward *et al.,* 1993, 347–9
Woodward, P. J., 1987. 'The excavation of a Late Iron Age trading settlement and a Romano-British Black Burnished pottery production site at Ower, Dorset' in N. Sunter and P. J. Woodward, *Romano-British Industries in Purbeck* Dorset. Dorchester, Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc. Monogr. 6, 44–124.
Woodward, P. J., 1991. *The South Dorset Ridgeway, Survey and Excavations 1977–84*. Dorchester, Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc. Monogr 8.
Woodward, P. J, and Stacey, L., 1993. 'Bone objects', in Woodward *et al.* 1993, 183–9.
Woodward, P. J. *et al.* 1991. 'The landscape survey', in Sharples, 1991, 9–36.
Woodward, P. J., Davies, S. M., and Graham, A. H., 1993. *Excavations at the Old Methodist Chapel and Greyhound Yard, Dorchester 1981–84*. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc. Monogr. 12.
Woodward, P. and Woodward, A. 2004. Dedicating the town: urban foundation deposits in Roman Britain. *World Archaeology* 36, 68-86.
Wymer, J. J. (ed.), 1977. *Gazetteer of Mesolithic Sites in England and* Wales. London, CBA Res. Rep. 20.
Young, C. J., 1977. *Oxfordshire Roman Pottery*. Oxford, BAR 43.

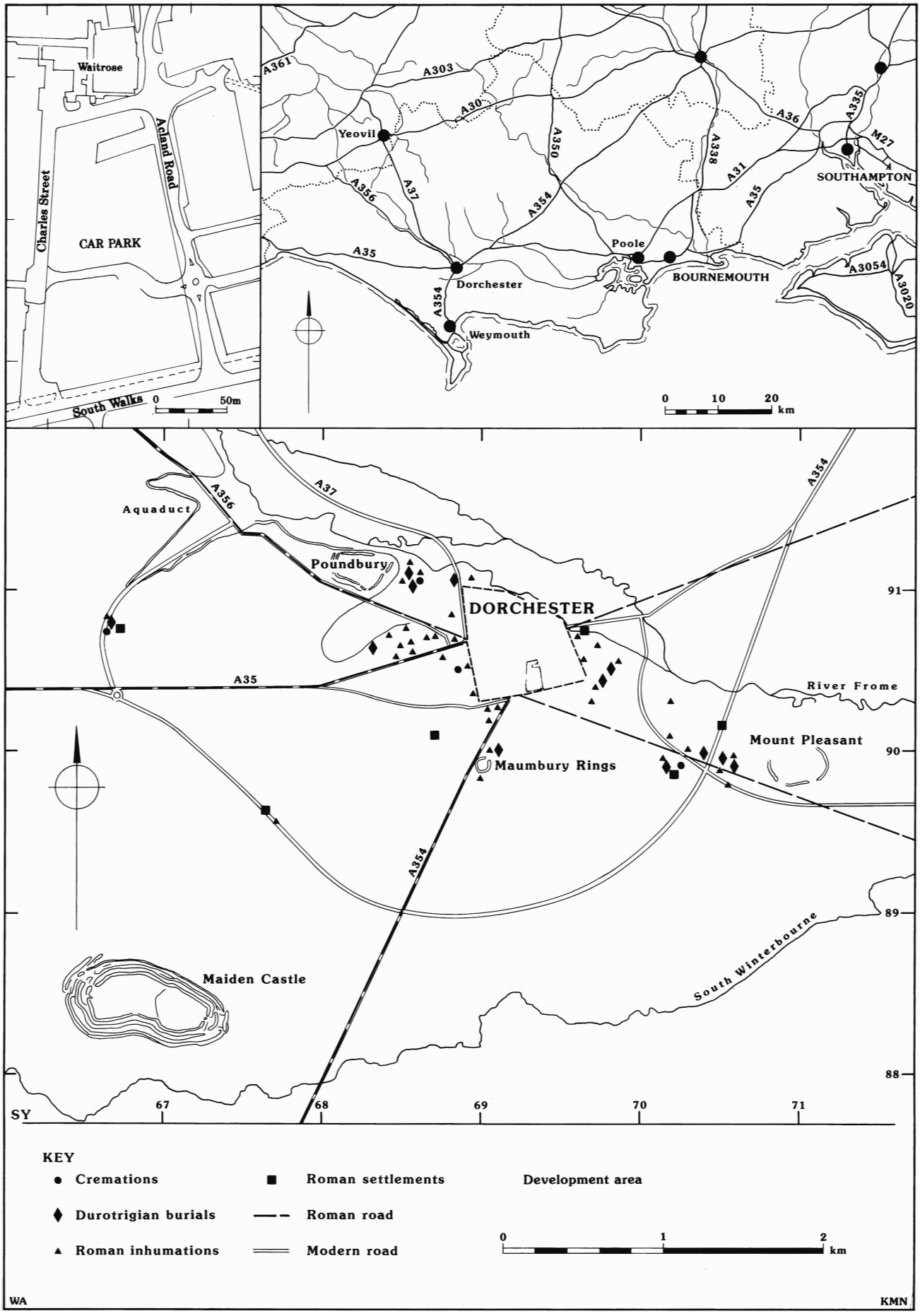

Figure 1: General location and local archaeological landscape (Iron Age and Roman)

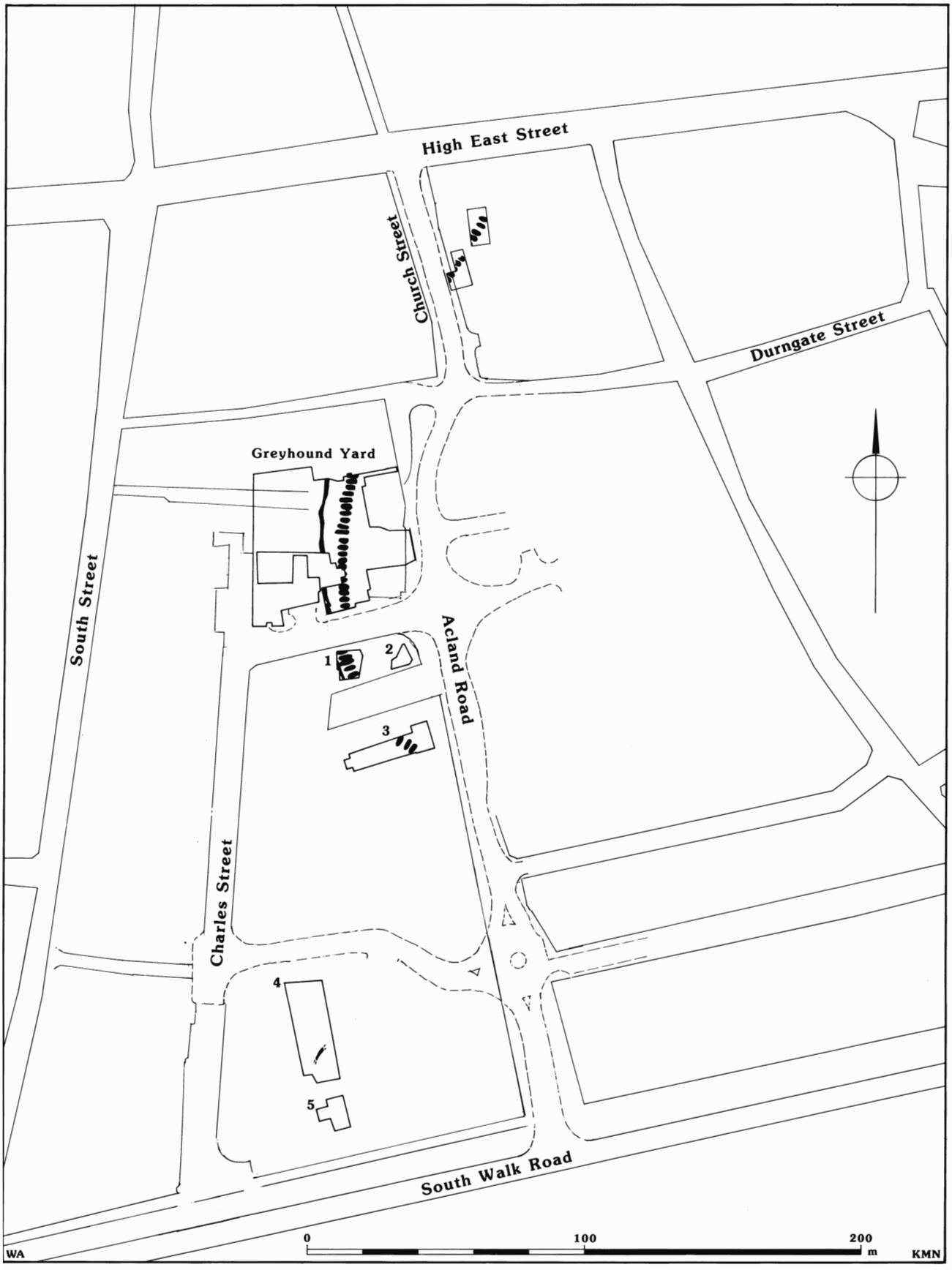

Figure 2: Location of Trenches 1-5 and nearby sites: Neolithic

Figure 3: Roman Dorchester

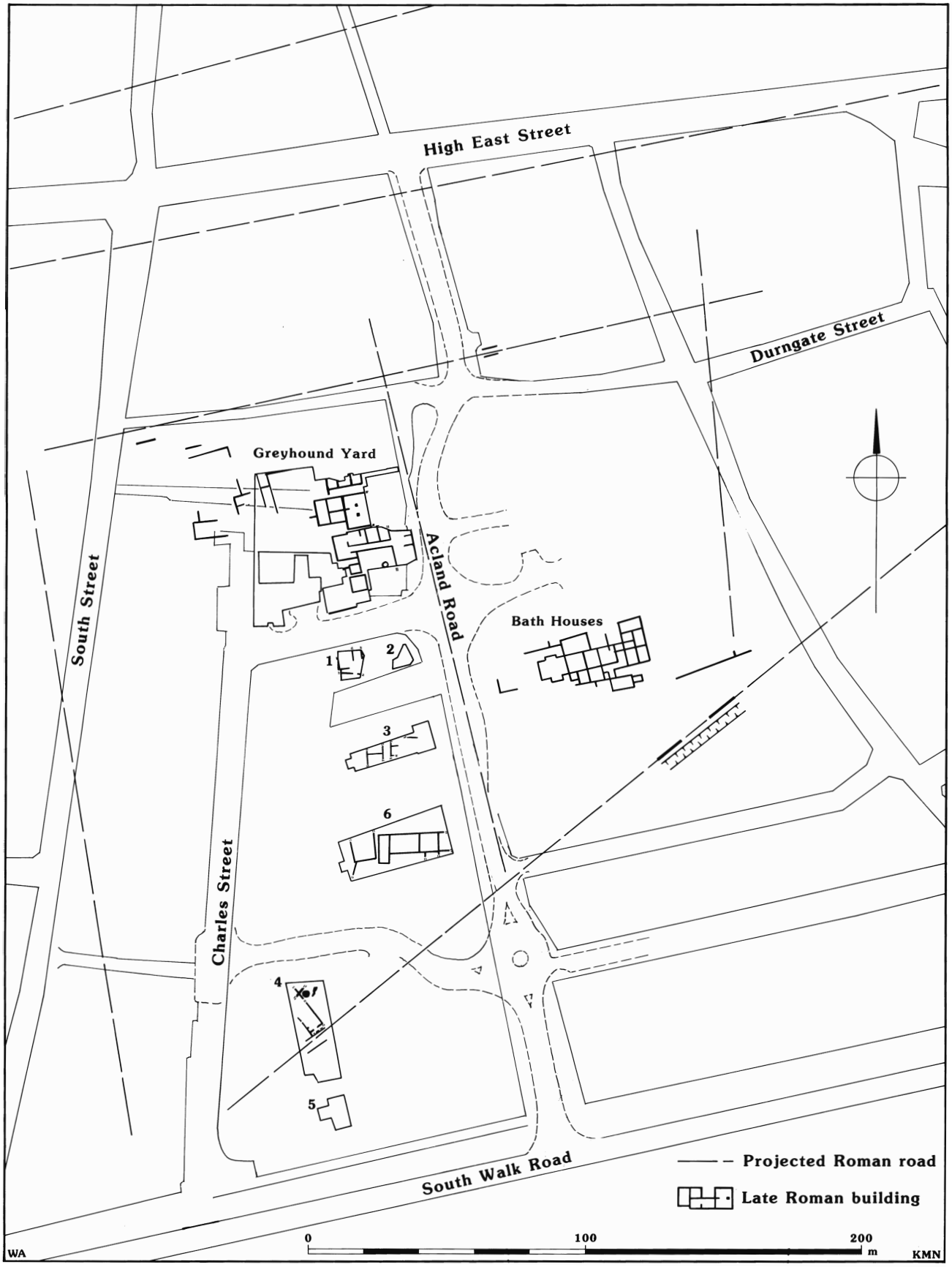

Figure 4: Location of Trenches 1-5 and nearby sites: Roman

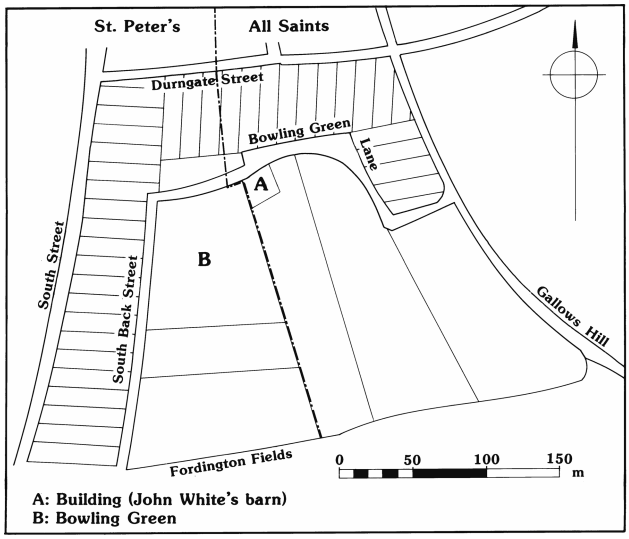

Figure 5: A schematic map of the area showing development enclosure in 1596

Figure 6: Four maps of the south-eastern quarter of Dorchester from 1772 to 1929.
A: Part of Hutchings 1772 map of Dorchester. B: Part of the 1848 manuscript map of Dorchester.
C: Part of the 1848 Ordnance Survey map. D: Part of the 1929 Ordnance Survey map.

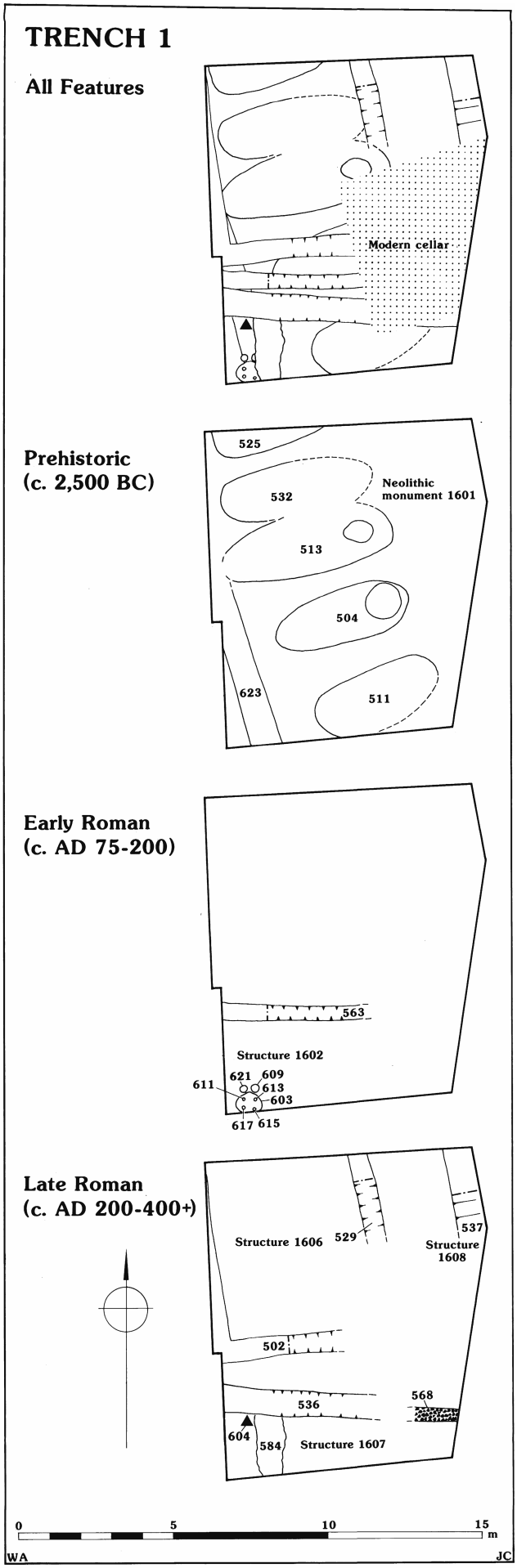

Figure 7: Trench 1: plans of features and prehistoric, Early Roman and Late Roman phases

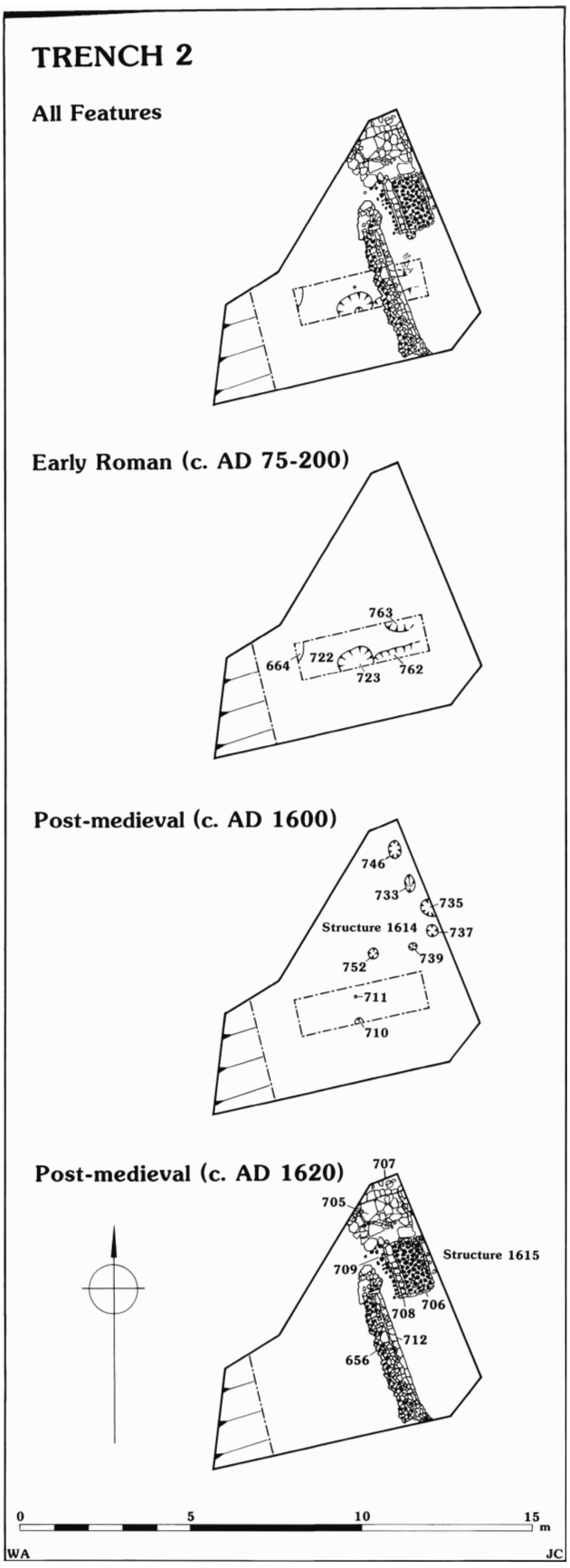

Figure 8: Trench 2: plans of features and Early Roman and post-medieval phases a) *c*. AD 1600; b) *c*. AD 1620

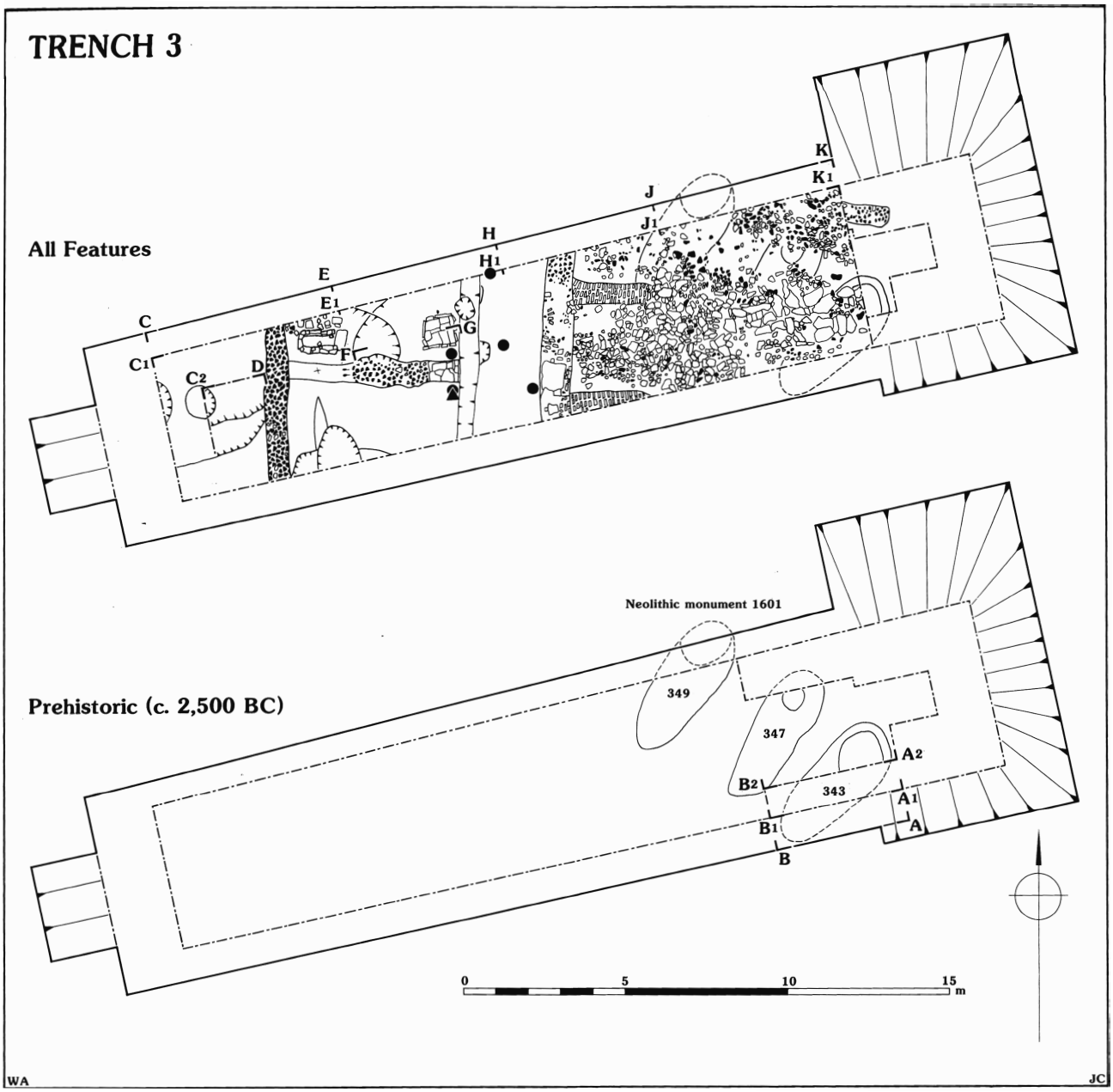

Figure 9: Trench 3: plans of features and prehistoric phase

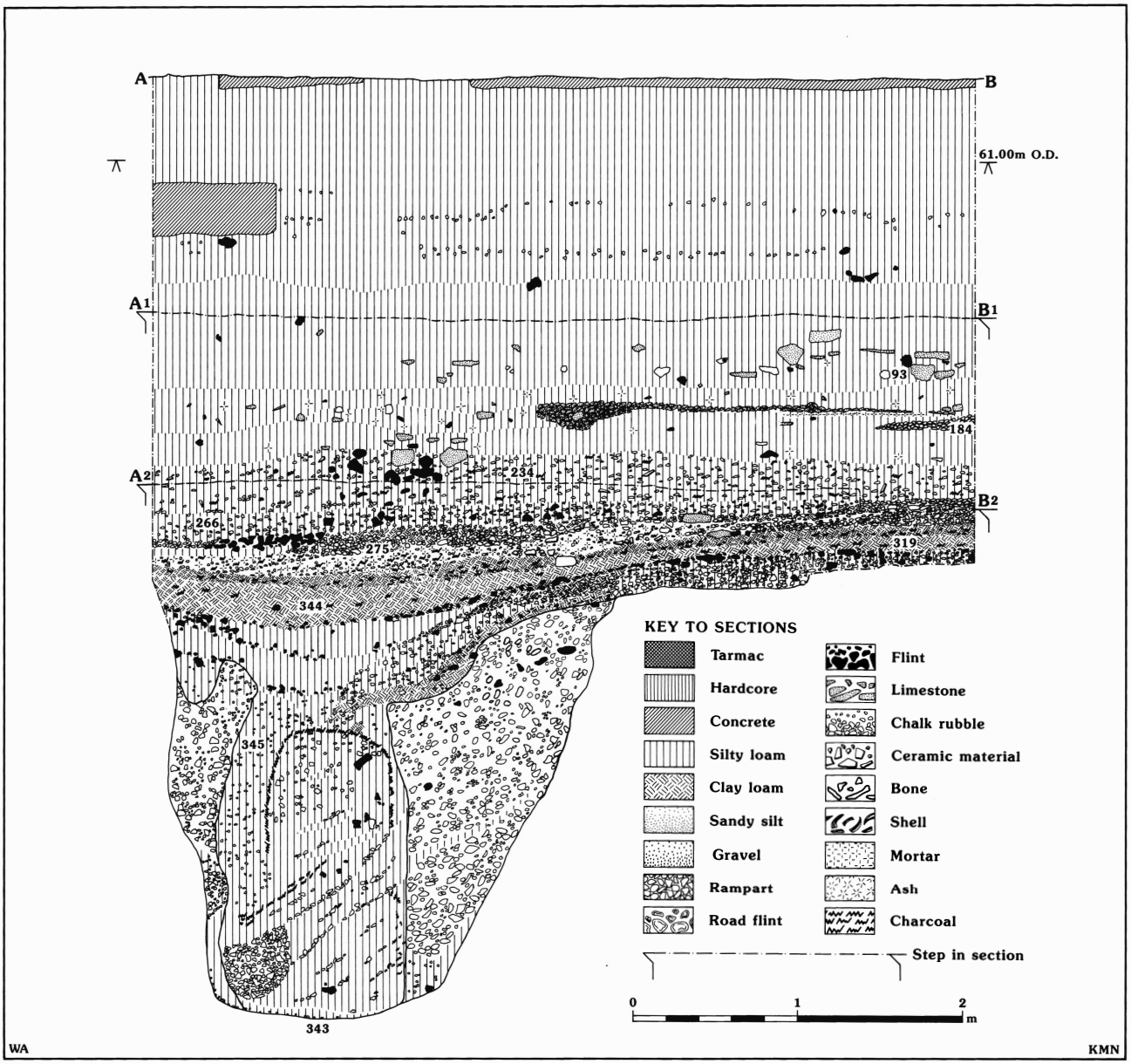

Figure 10: Trench 3: section through Neolithic post-pit 343: key to symbols

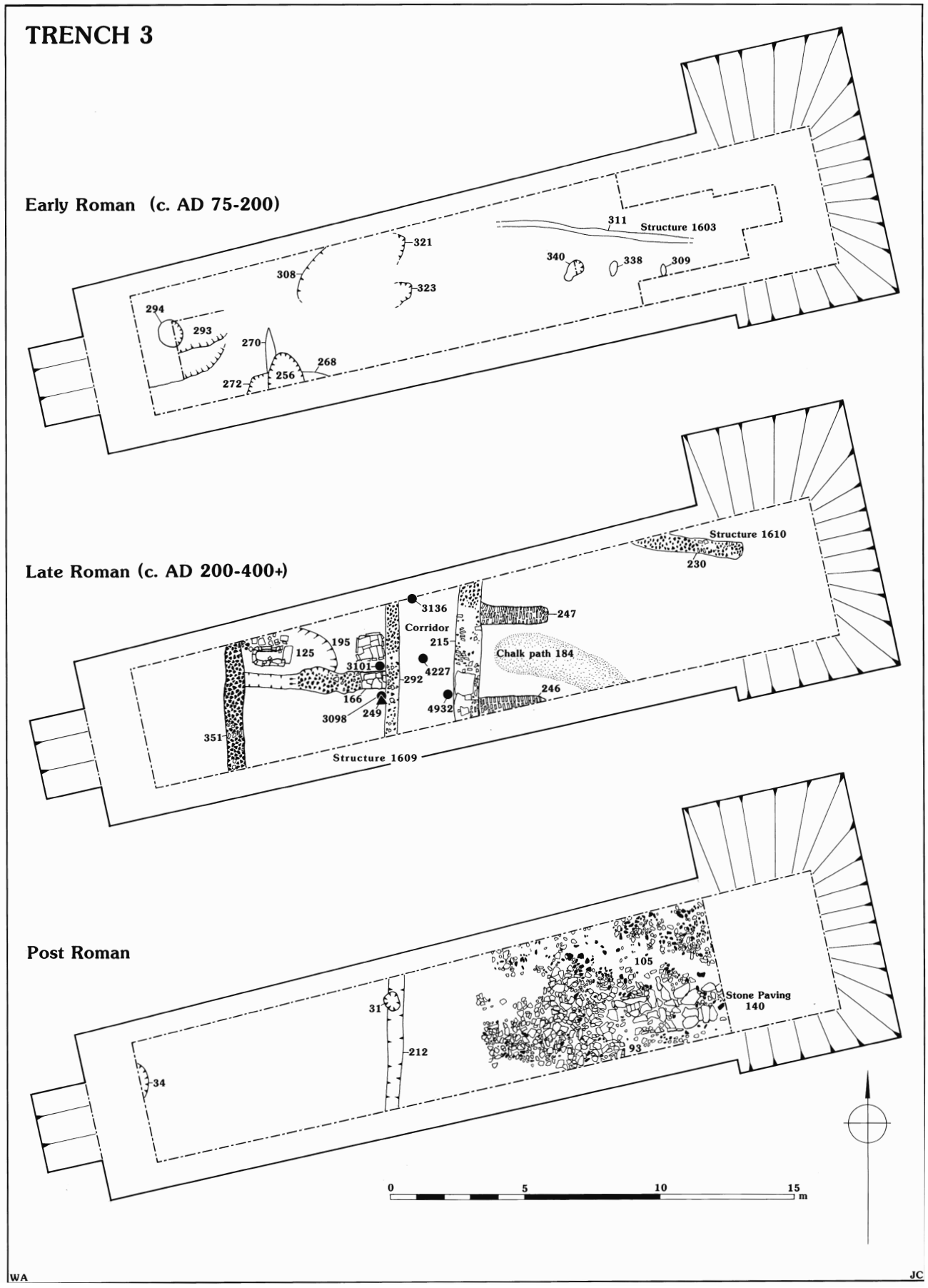

Figure 11: Trench 3: plans of early Roman, late Roman and post-Roman phases

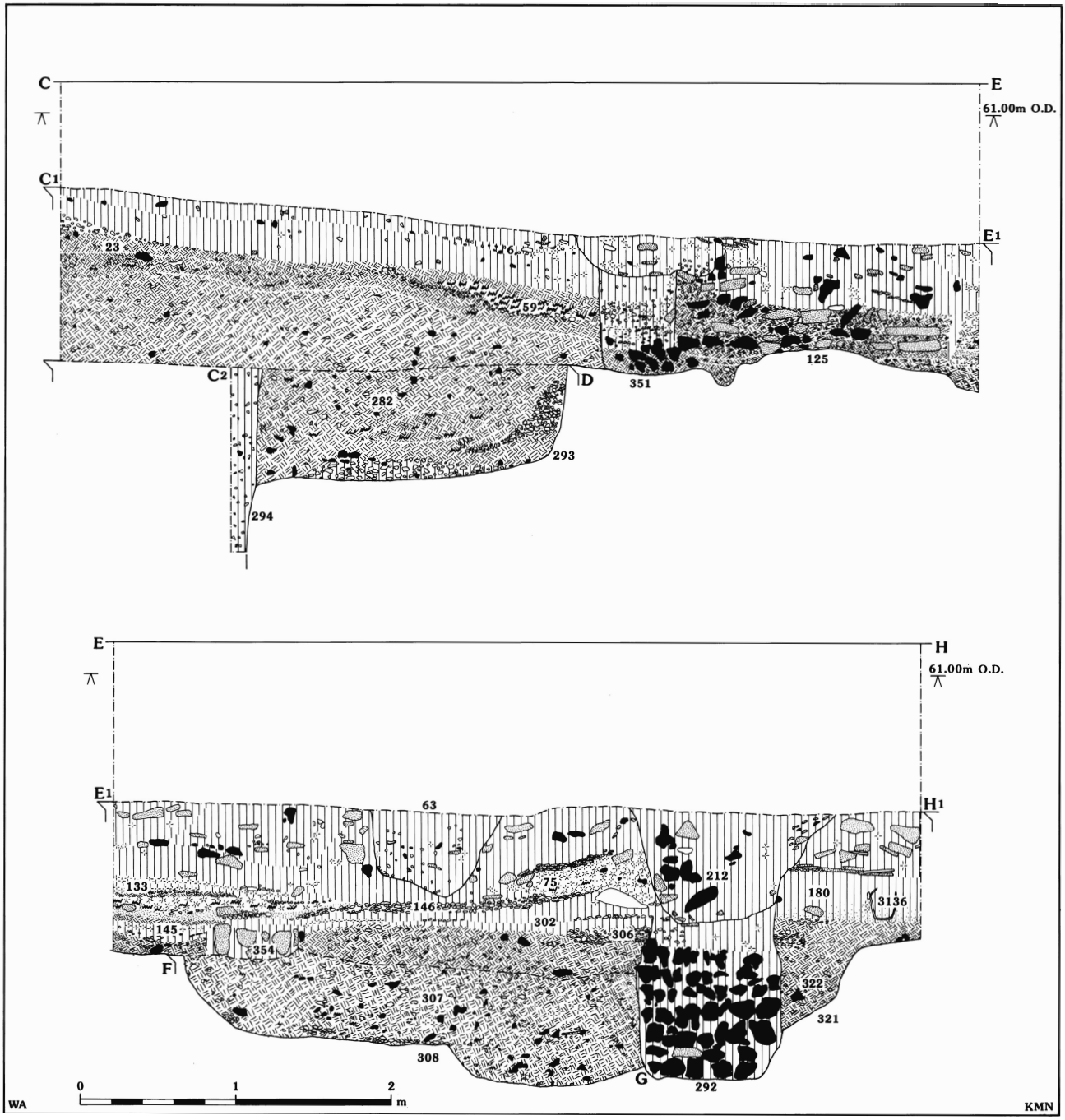

Figure 12: Trench 3: north site section, western half

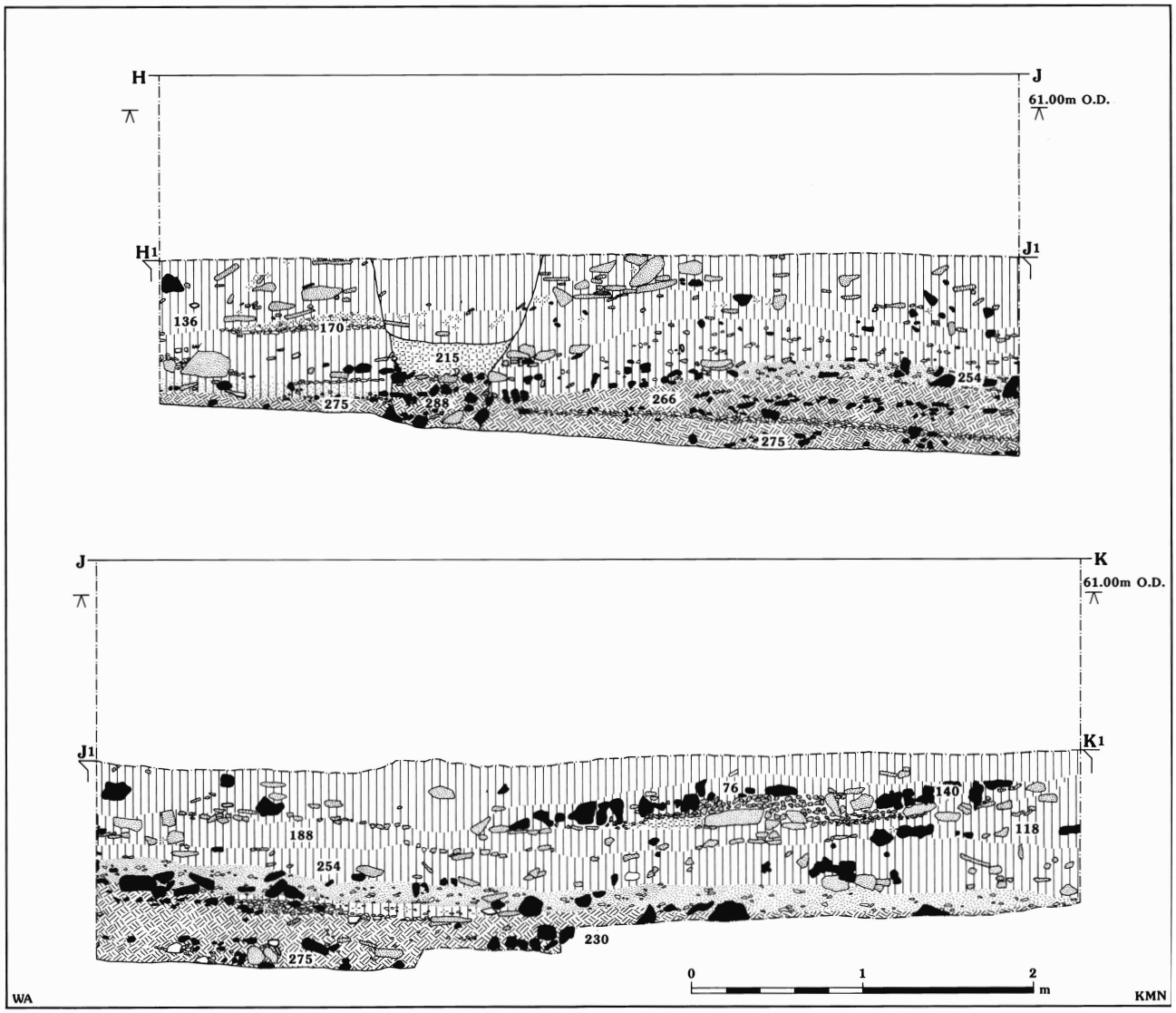

Figure 13: Trench 3: north site section, eastern half

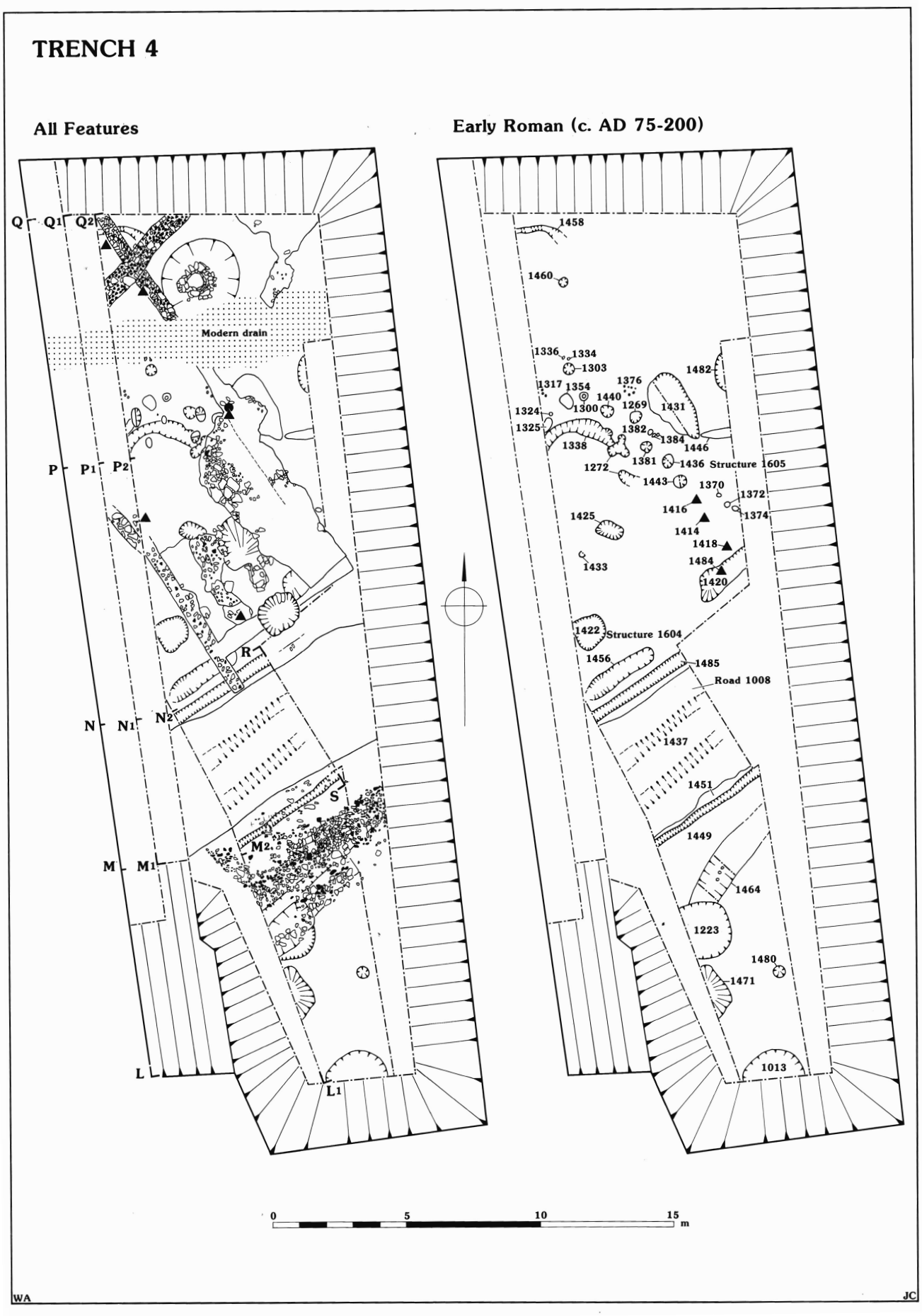

Figure 14: Trench 4: plans of features and early Roman phase

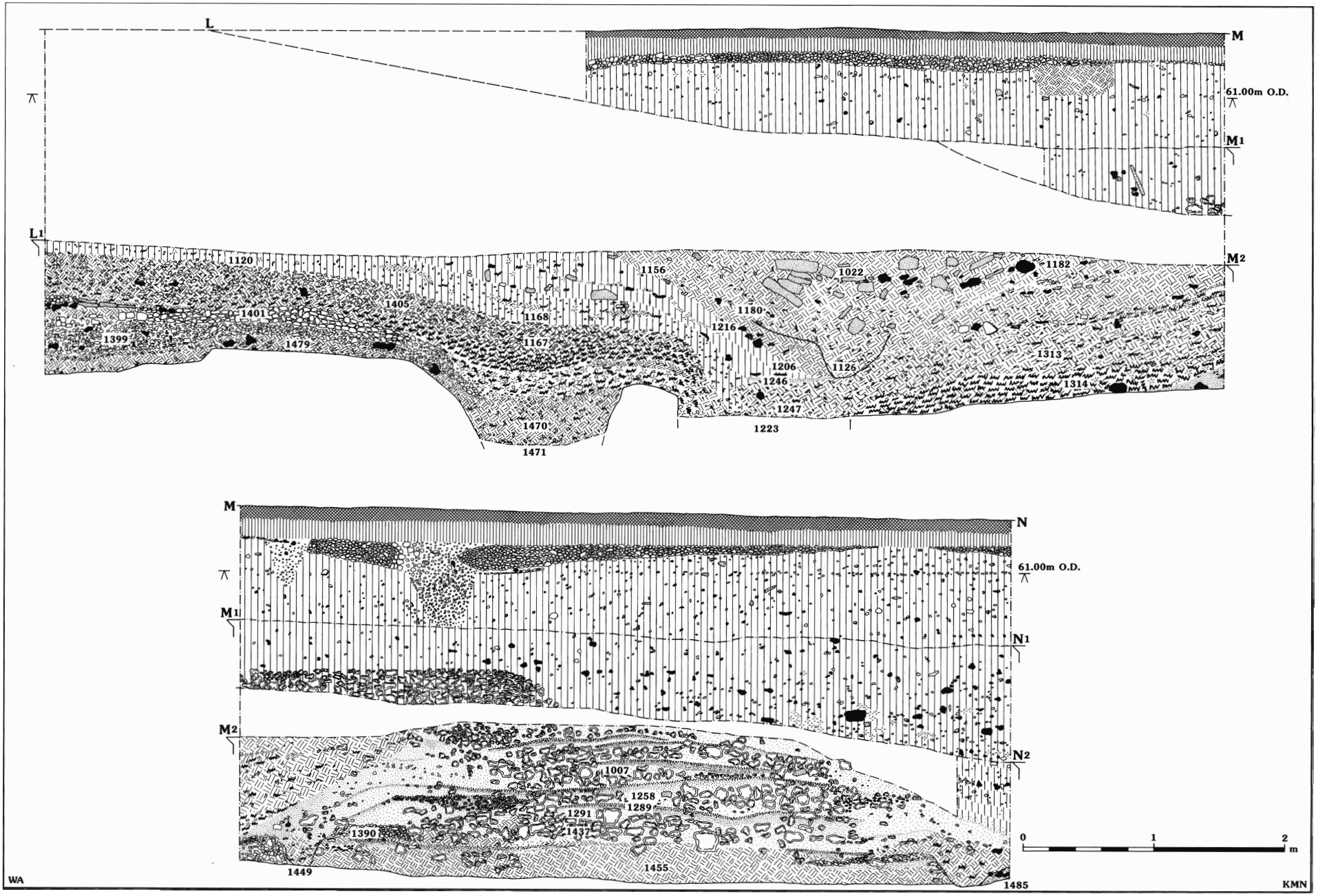

Figure 15: Trench 4: west site section, western half

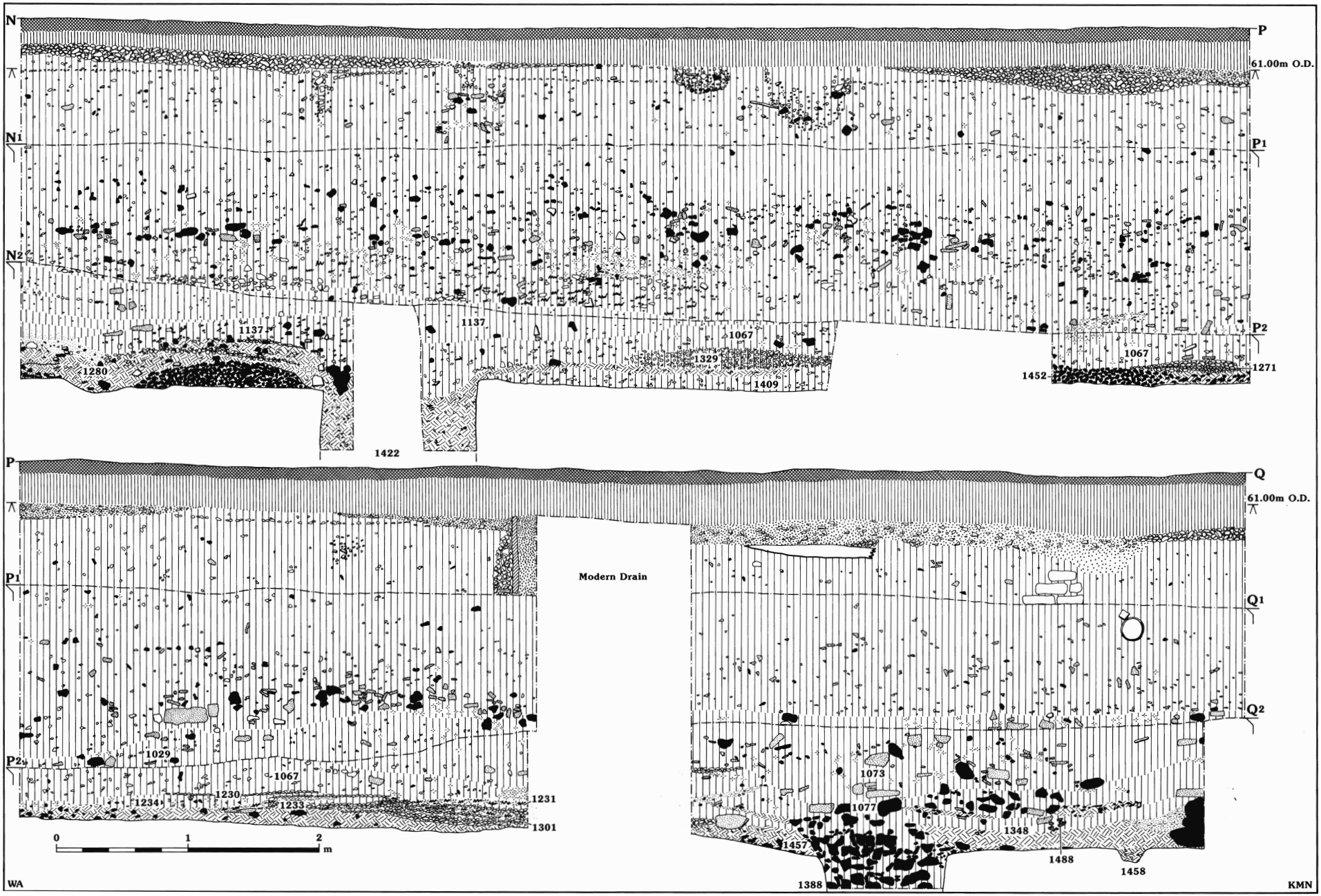

Figure 16: Trench 4: west site section, northern half

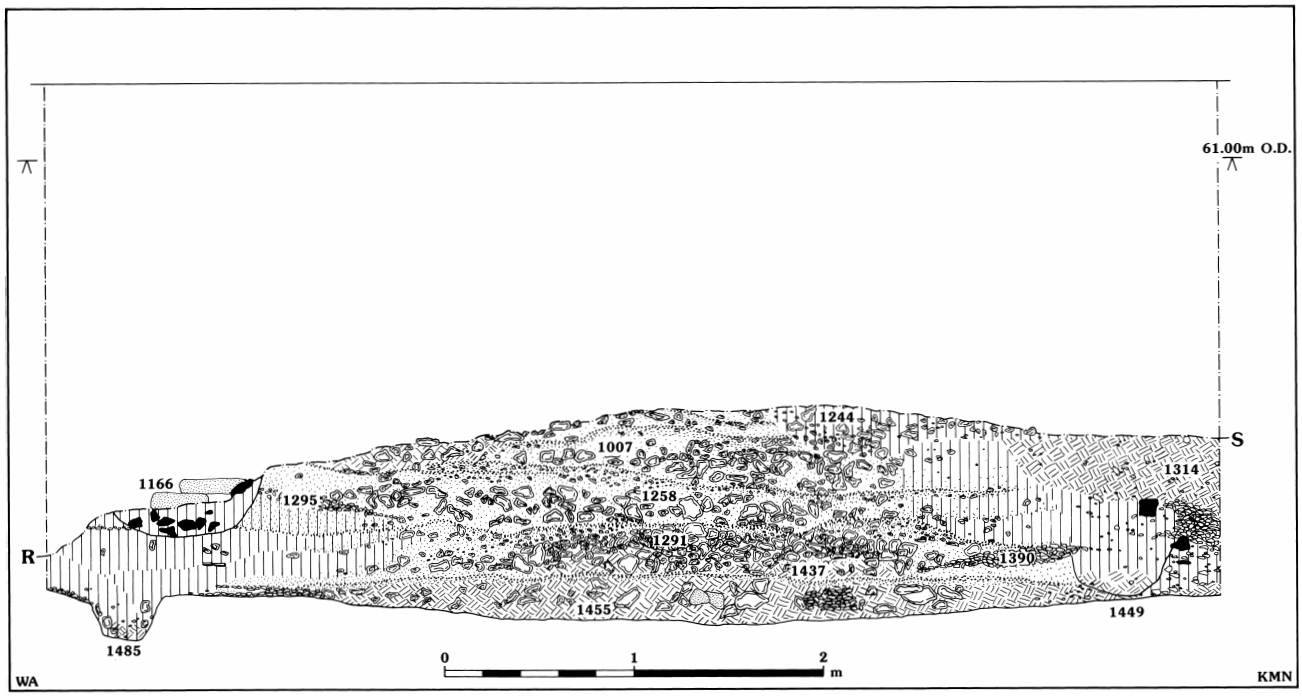

Figure 17: Trench 4: east section through Roman road

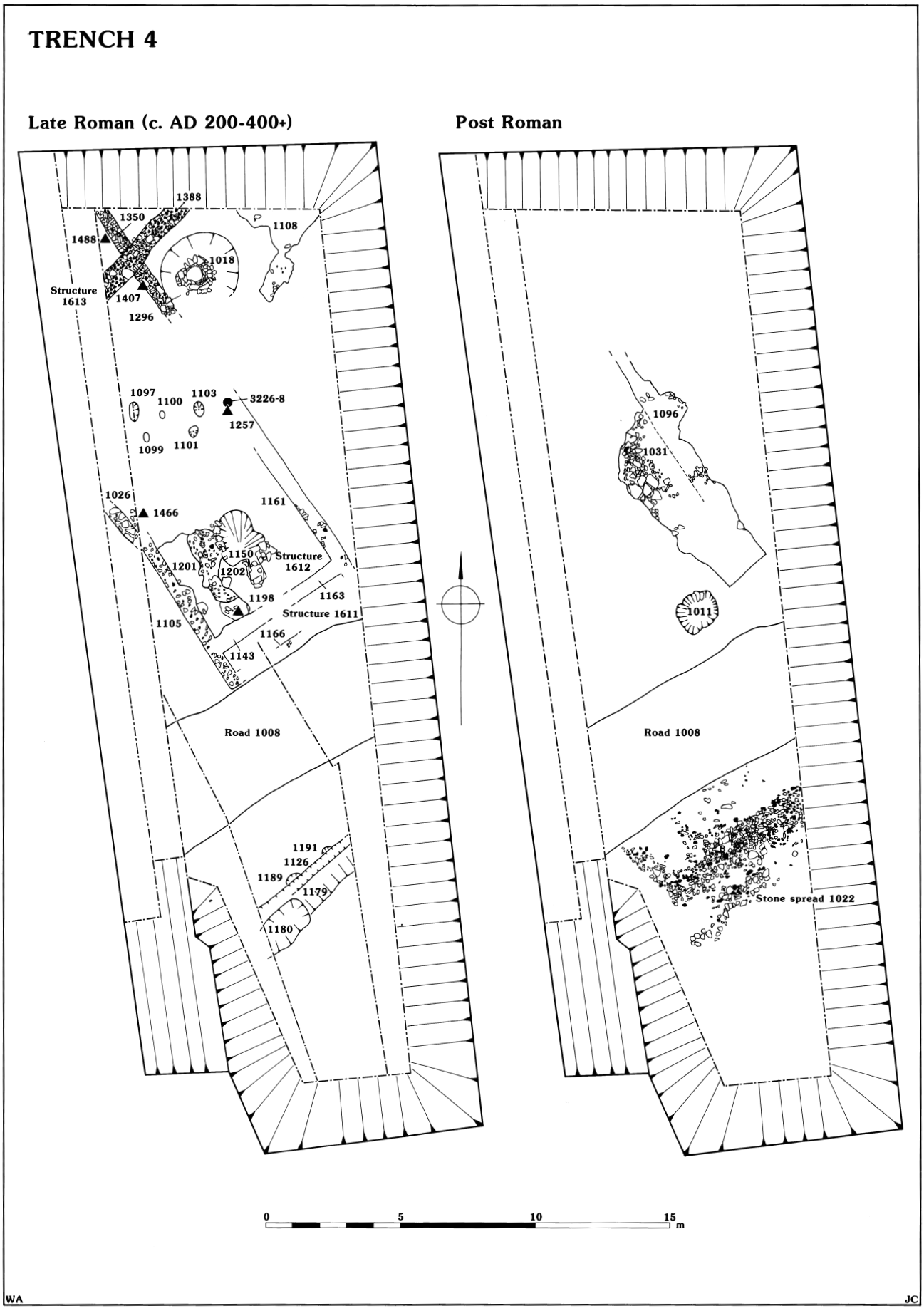

Figure 18: Trench 4: plans of late Roman and post-Roman phases

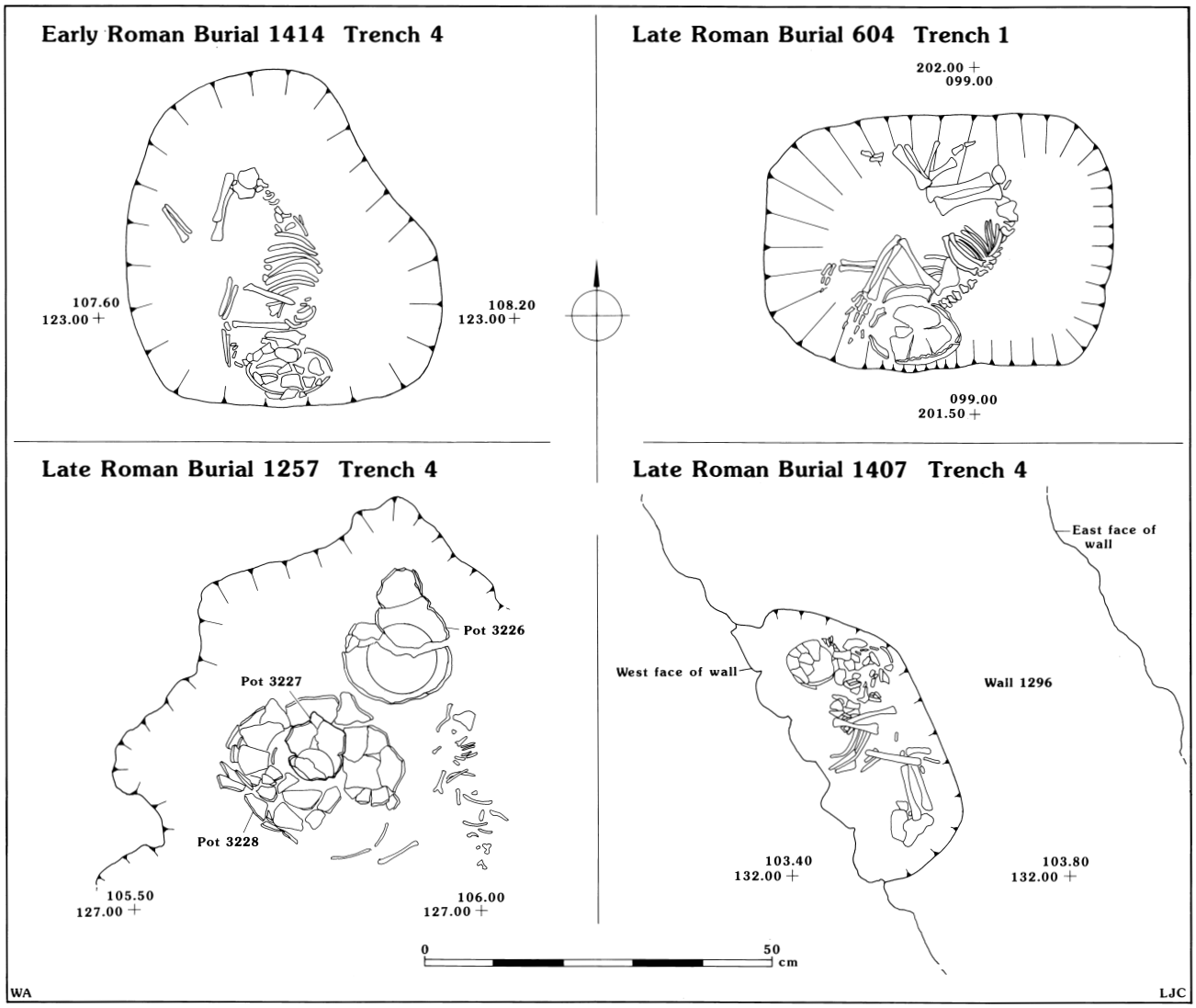

Figure 19: Plans of early Roman burial 1414 and late Roman burials 604, 1257 and 1406

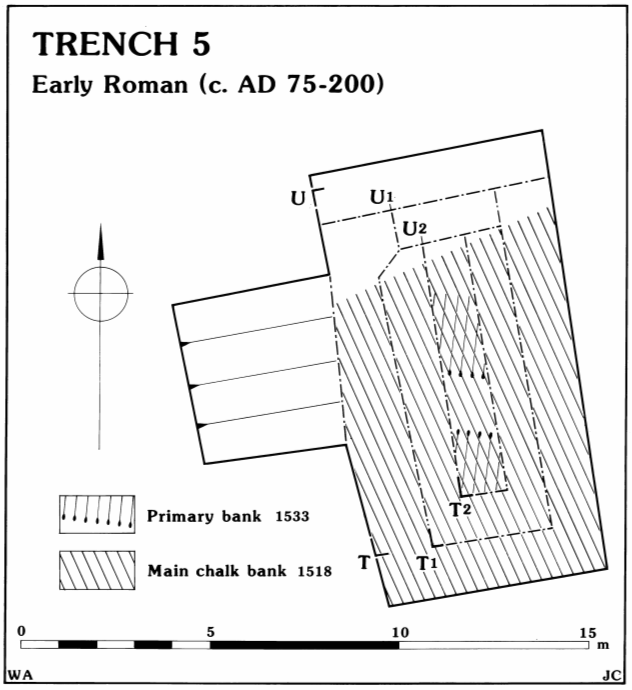

Figure 20: Trench 5: plan of early Roman phase

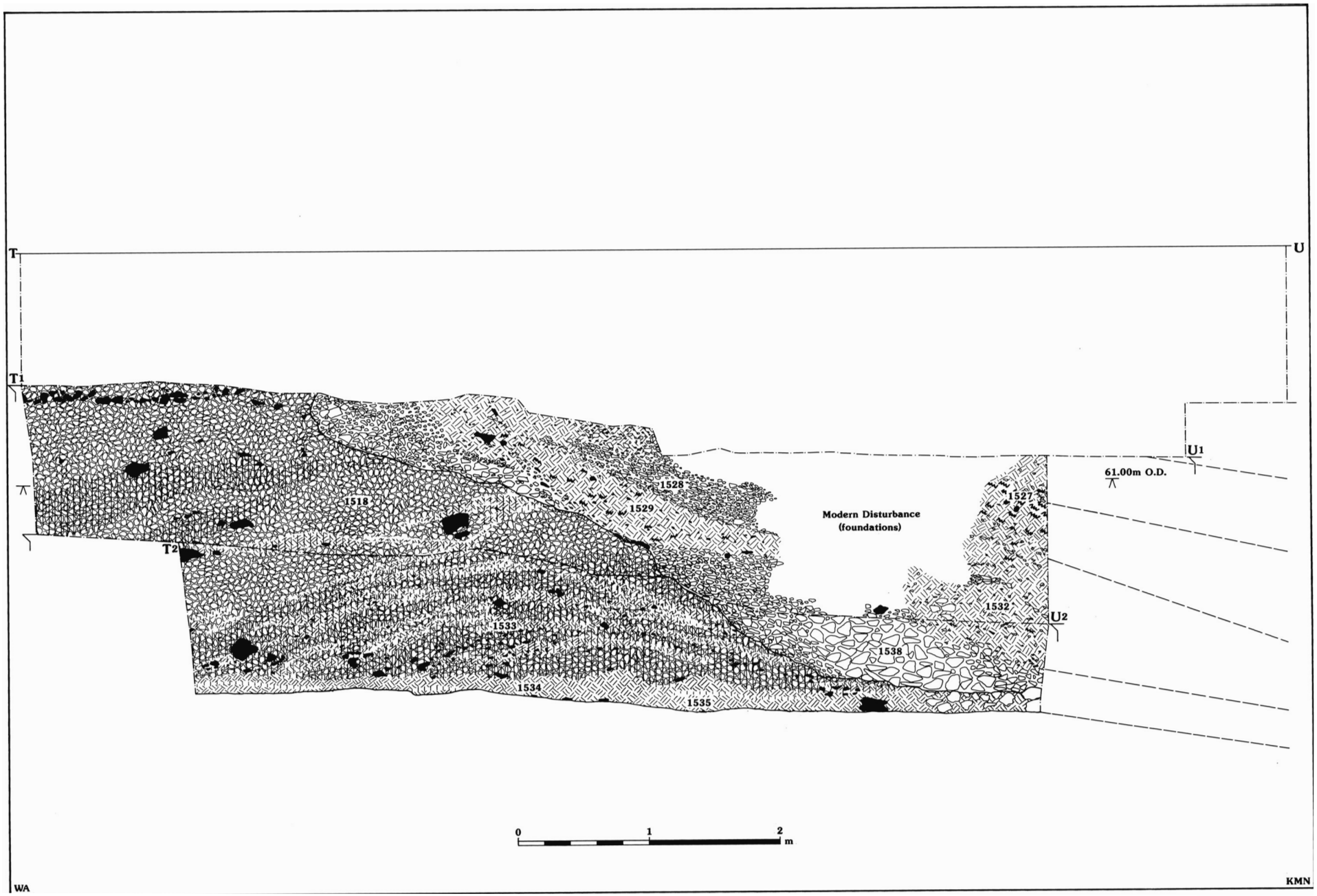

Figure 21: Trench 5: west section through inner part of Roman town defences

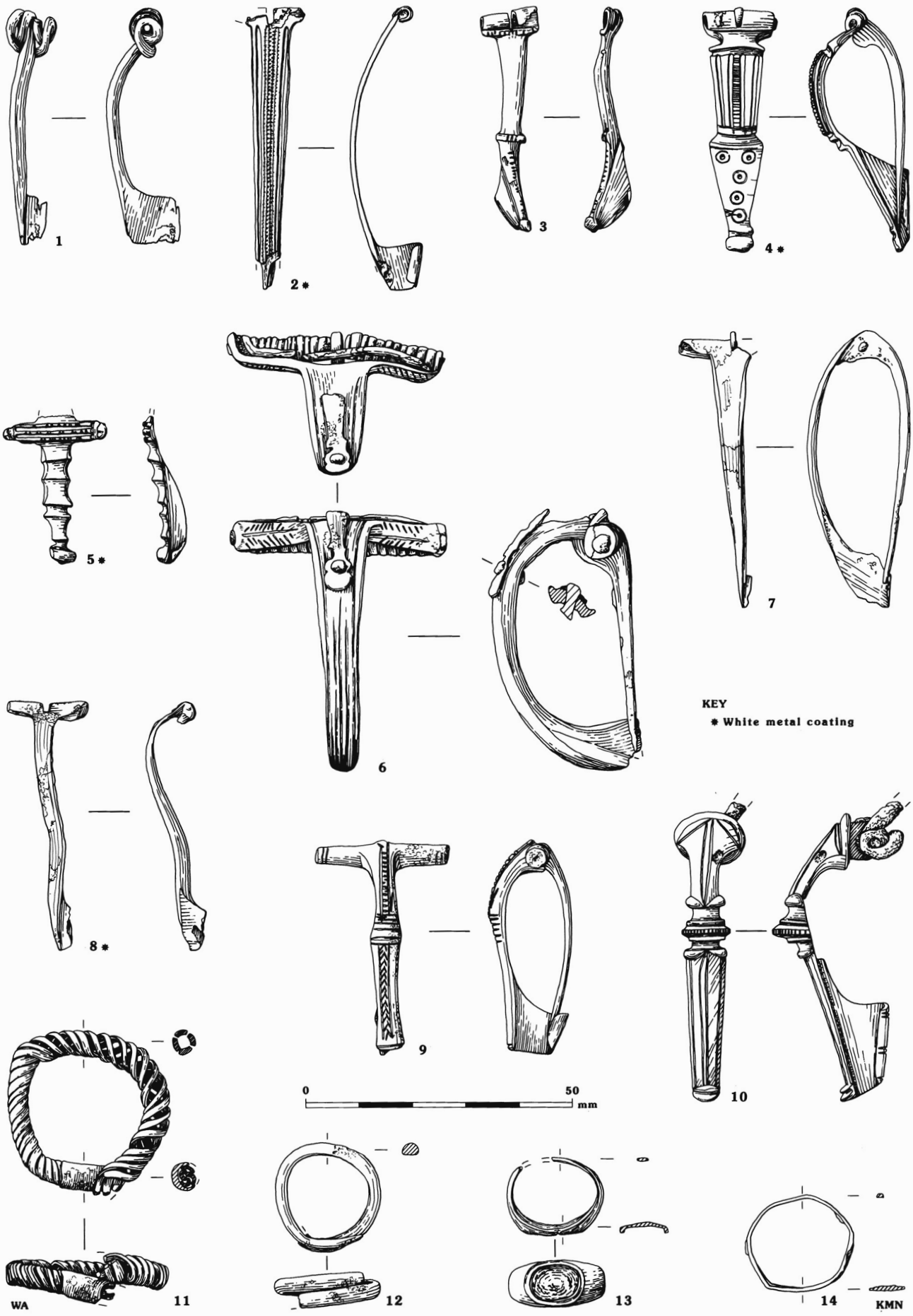

Figure 22: Copper alloy objects 1-14

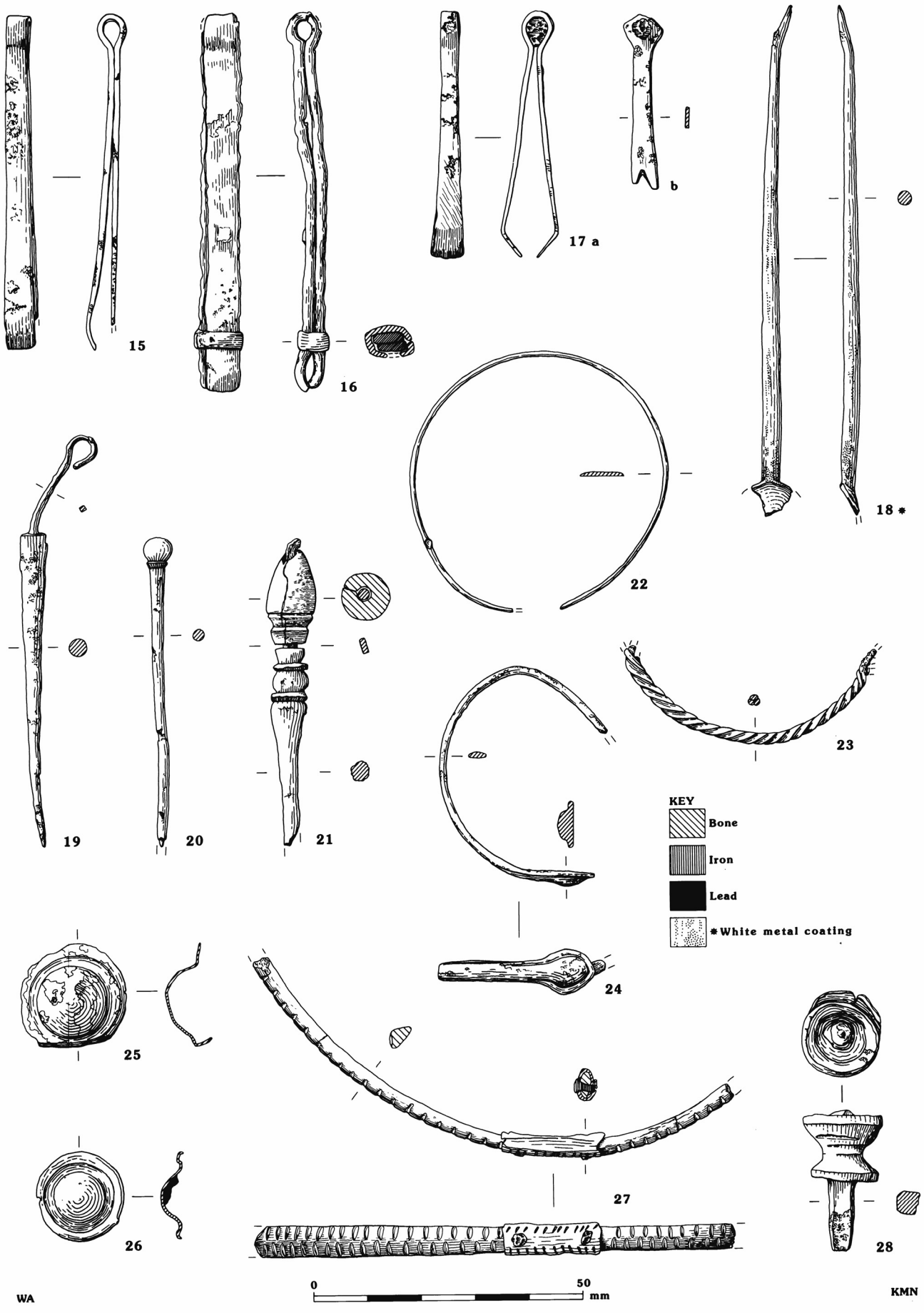

Figure 23: Copper alloy objects 15-28

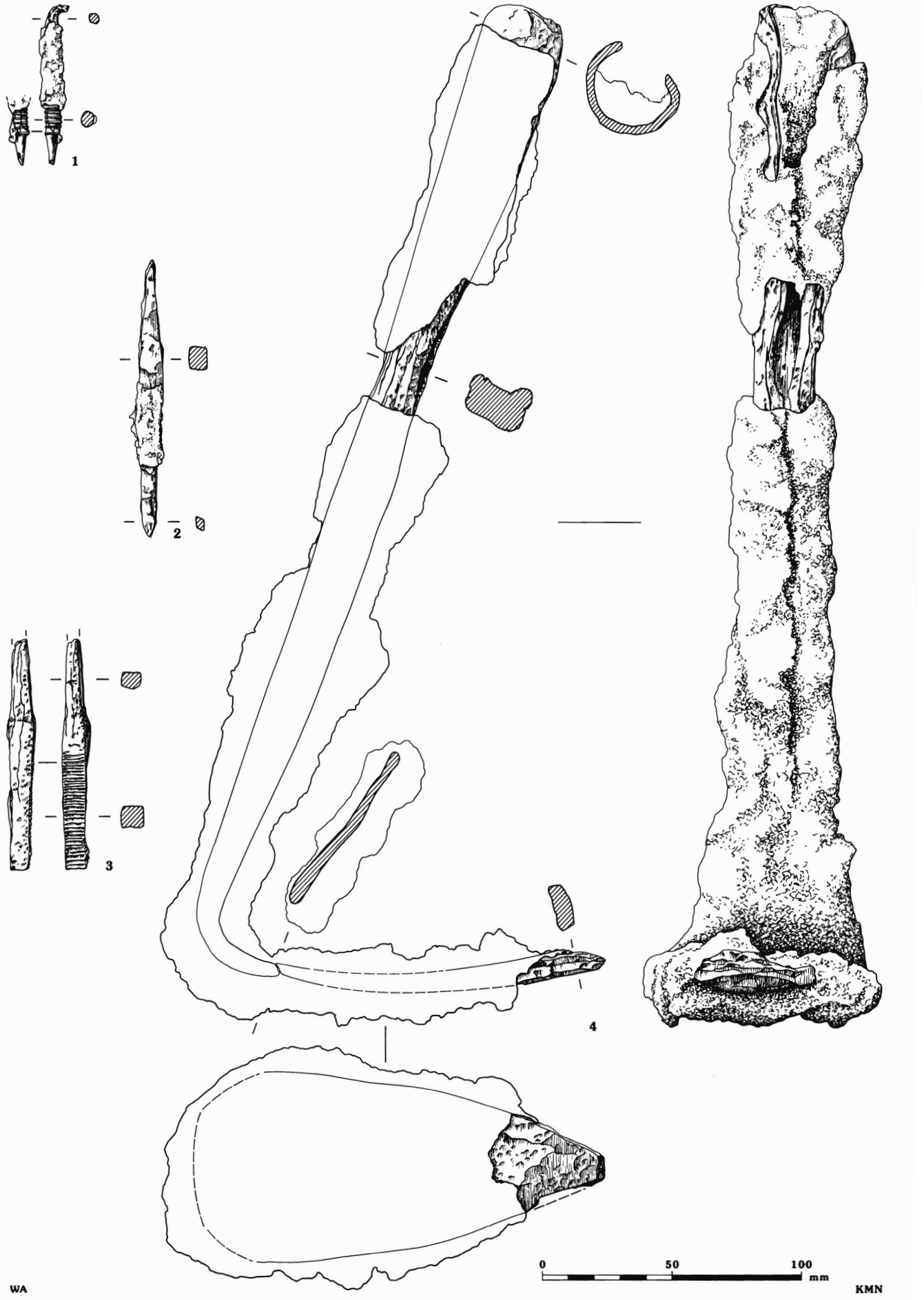

Figure 24: Iron objects 1-4

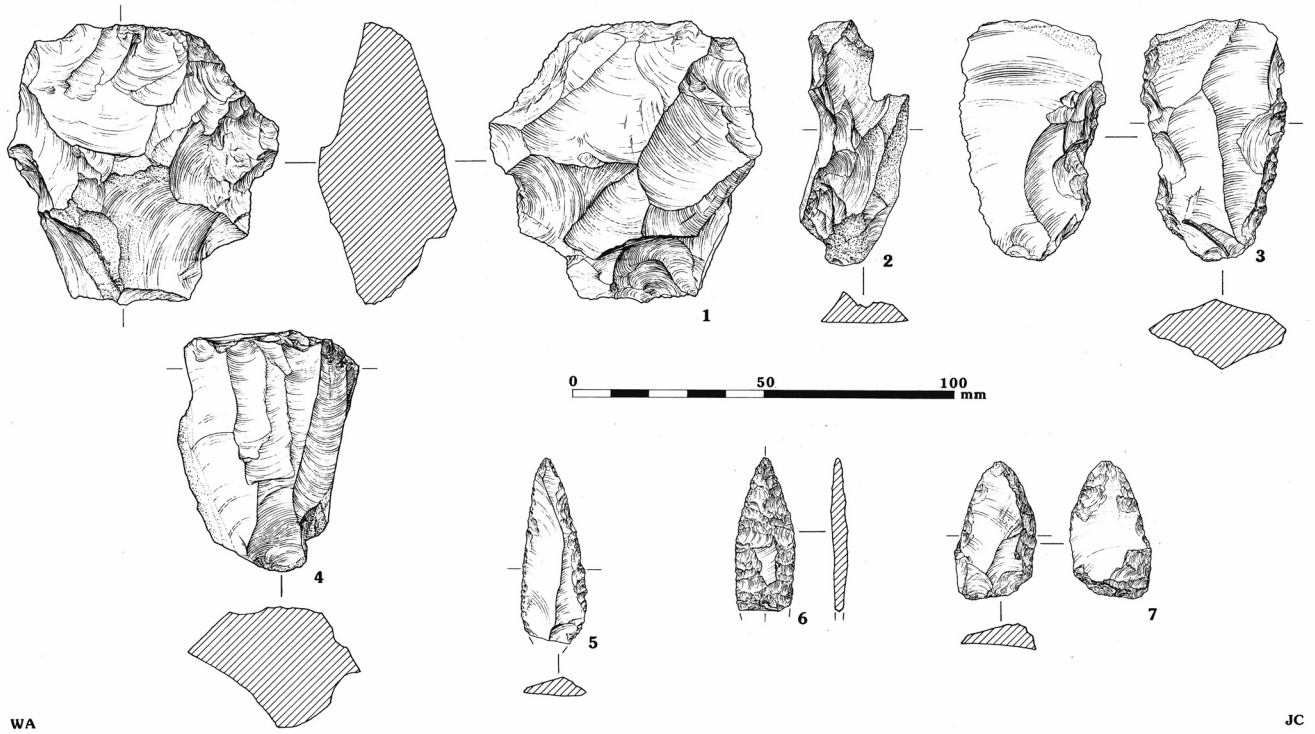

Figure 25: Flint objects 1-7

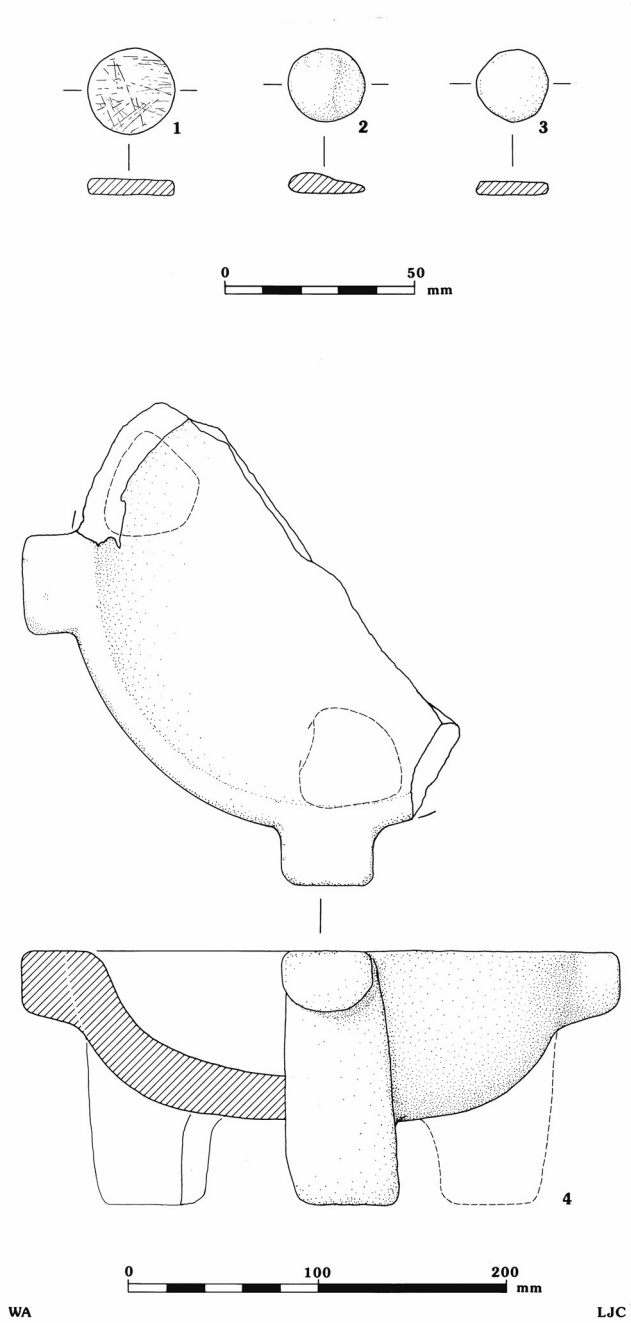

Figure 26: Stone objects 1-4

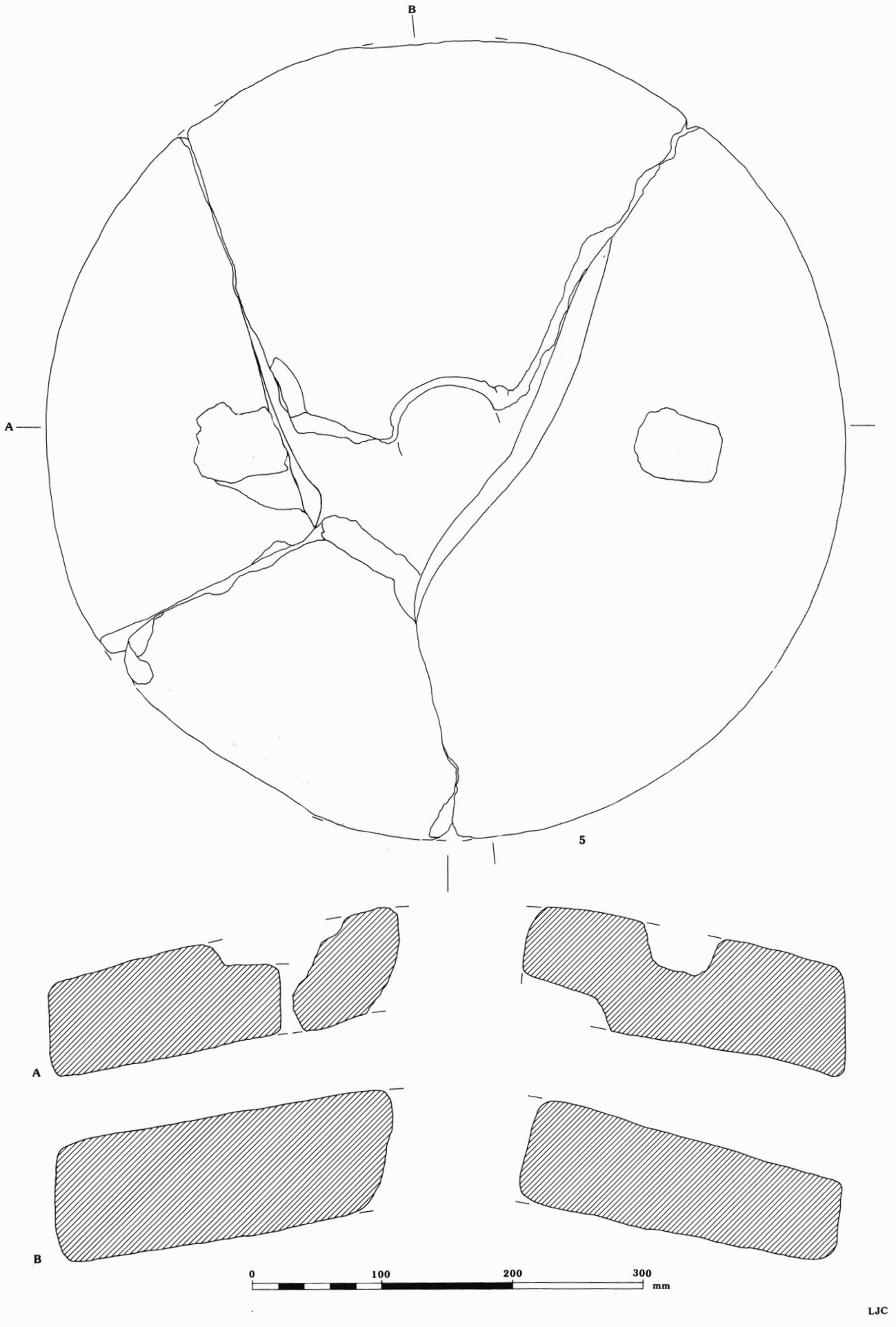

Figure 27: Stone object 5

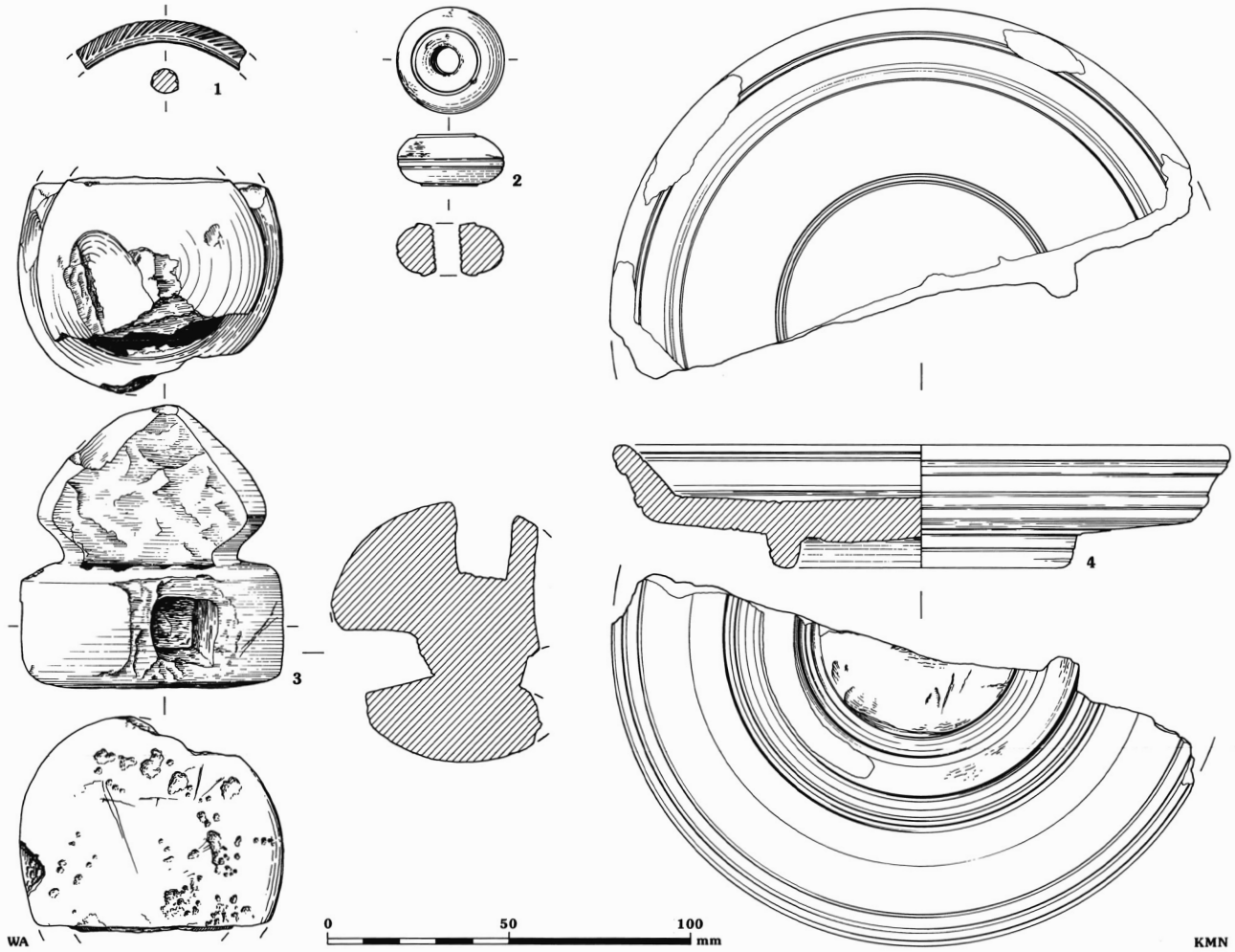

Figure 28: Shale objects 1-4

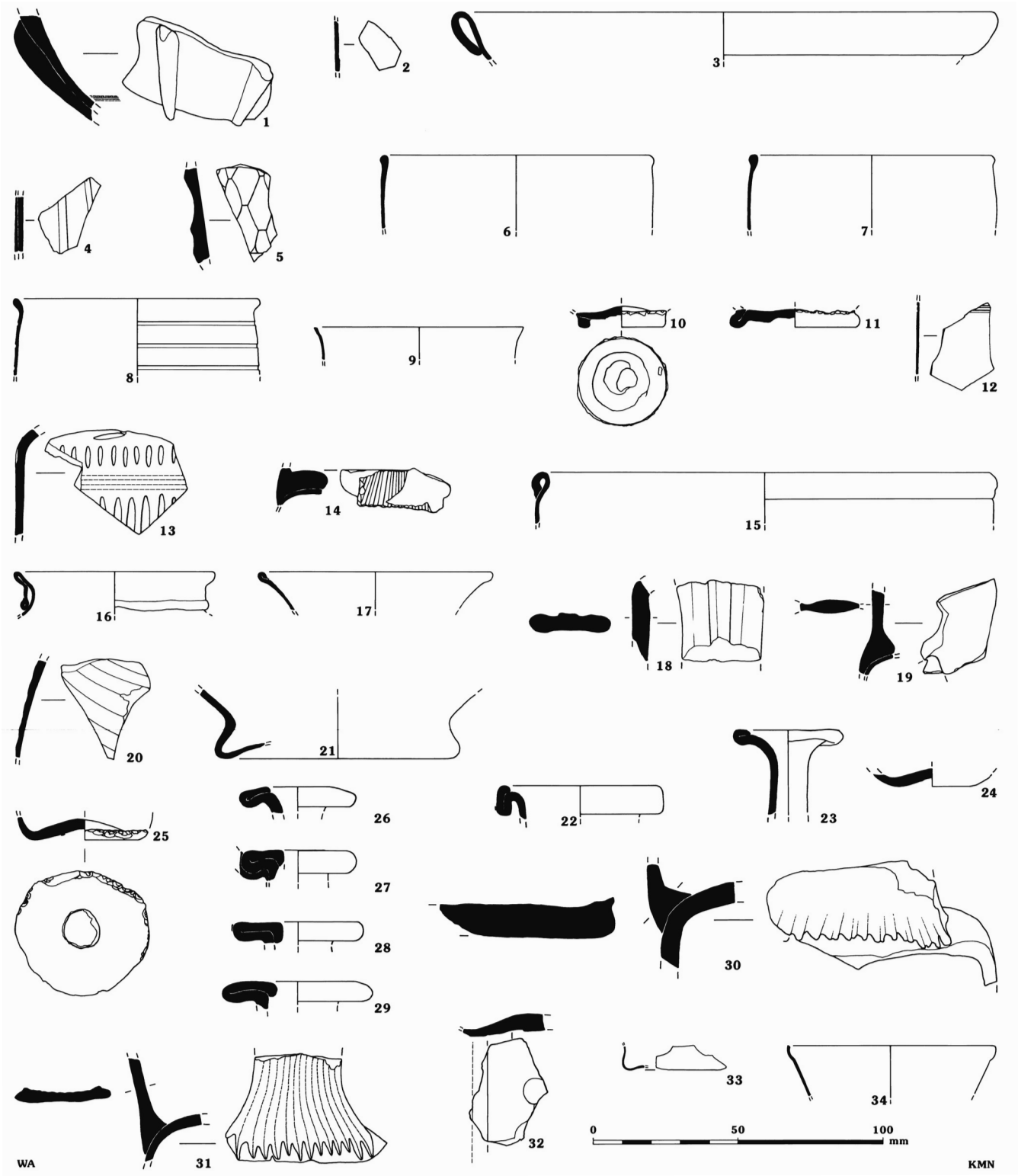

Figure 29: Glass vessels 1-34

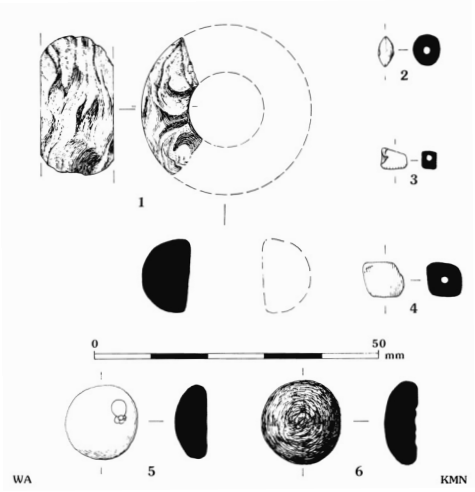

Figure 30: Glass objects 1-6

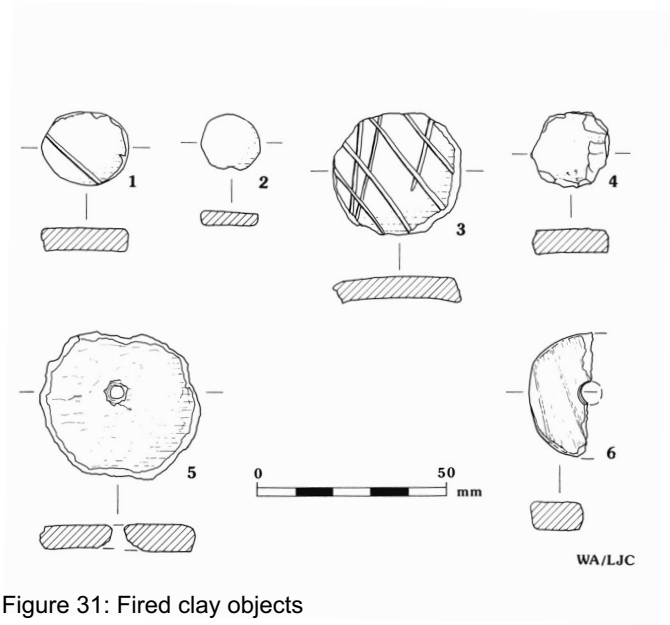

Figure 31: Fired clay objects

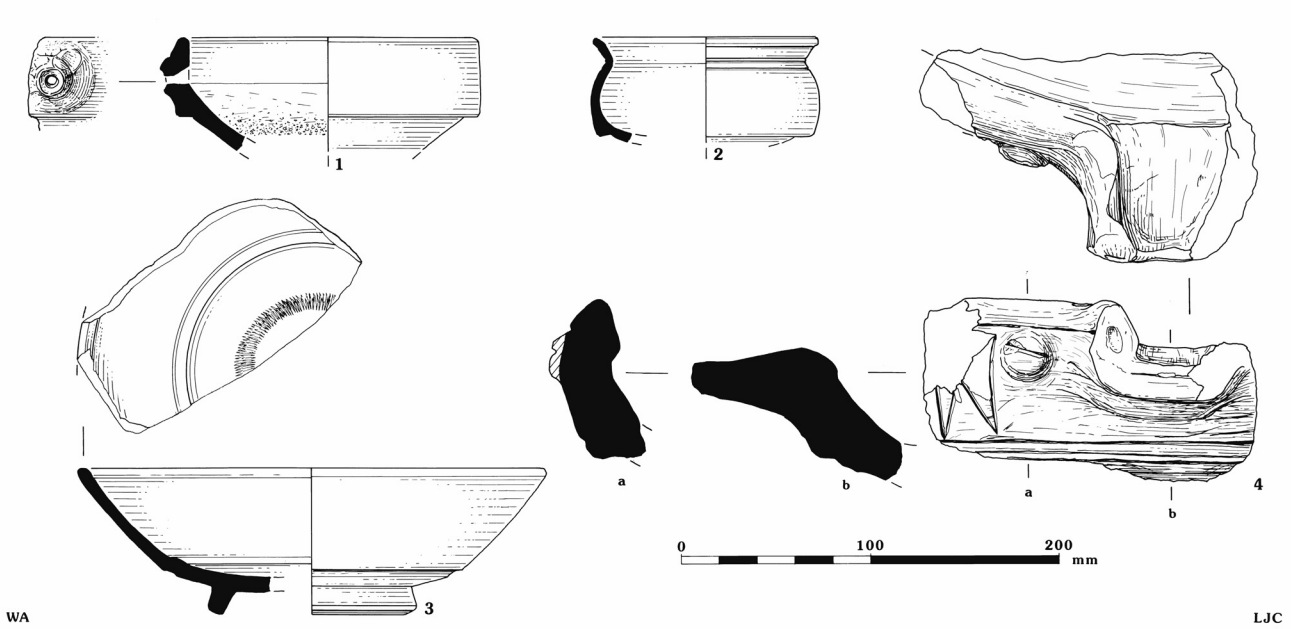

Figure 32: Roman pottery: 1-3, Samian, 4, Mortarium

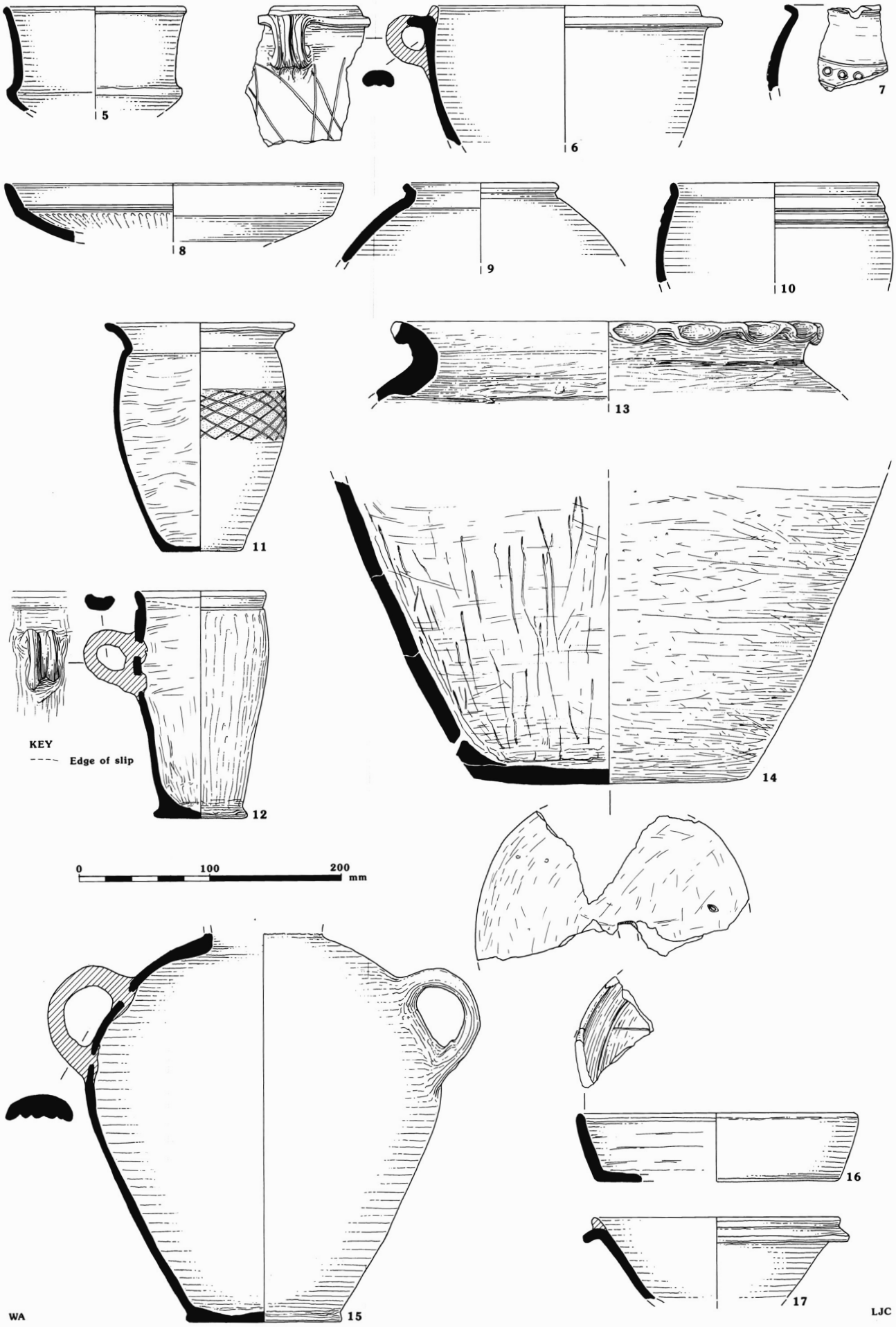

Figure 33: Roman pottery: 5-17, Black Burnished Ware

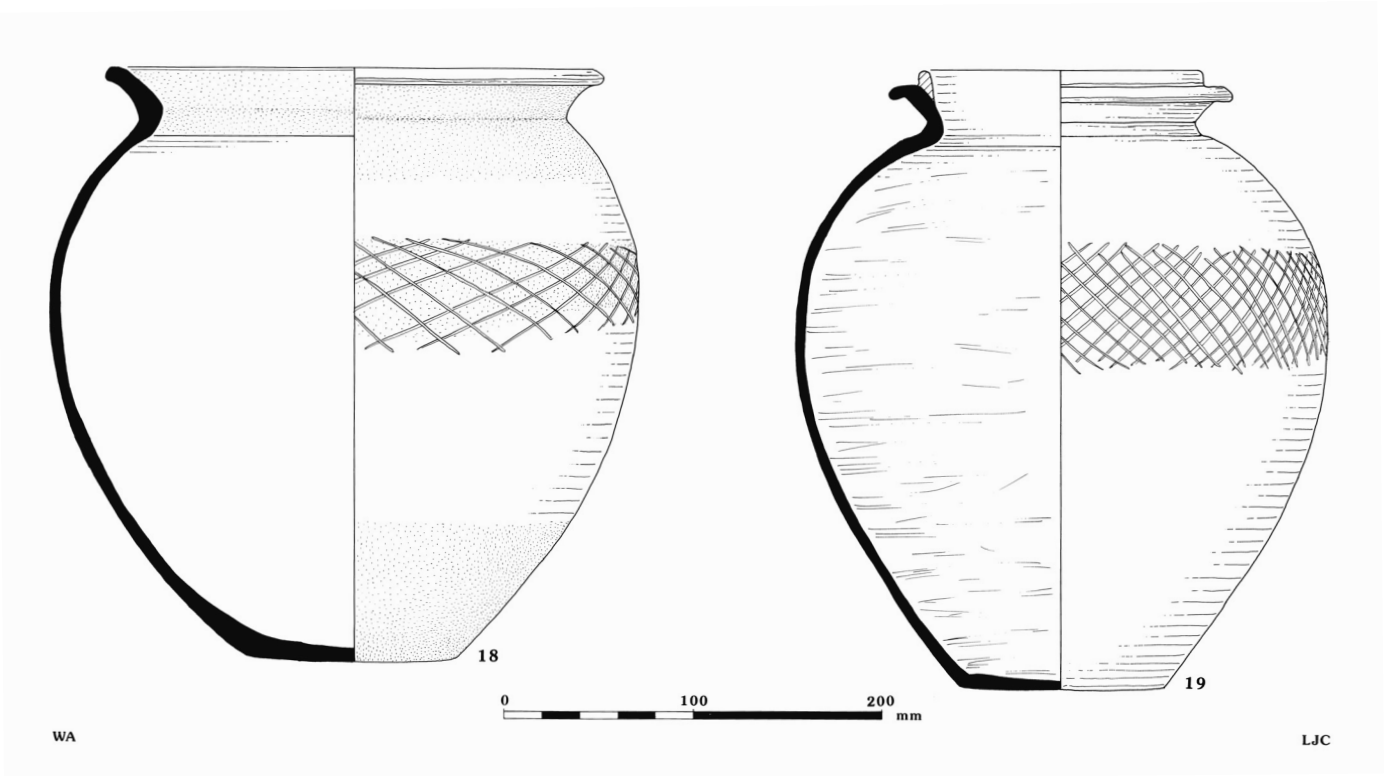

Figure 34: Roman pottery: 18-19, Black Burnished Ware

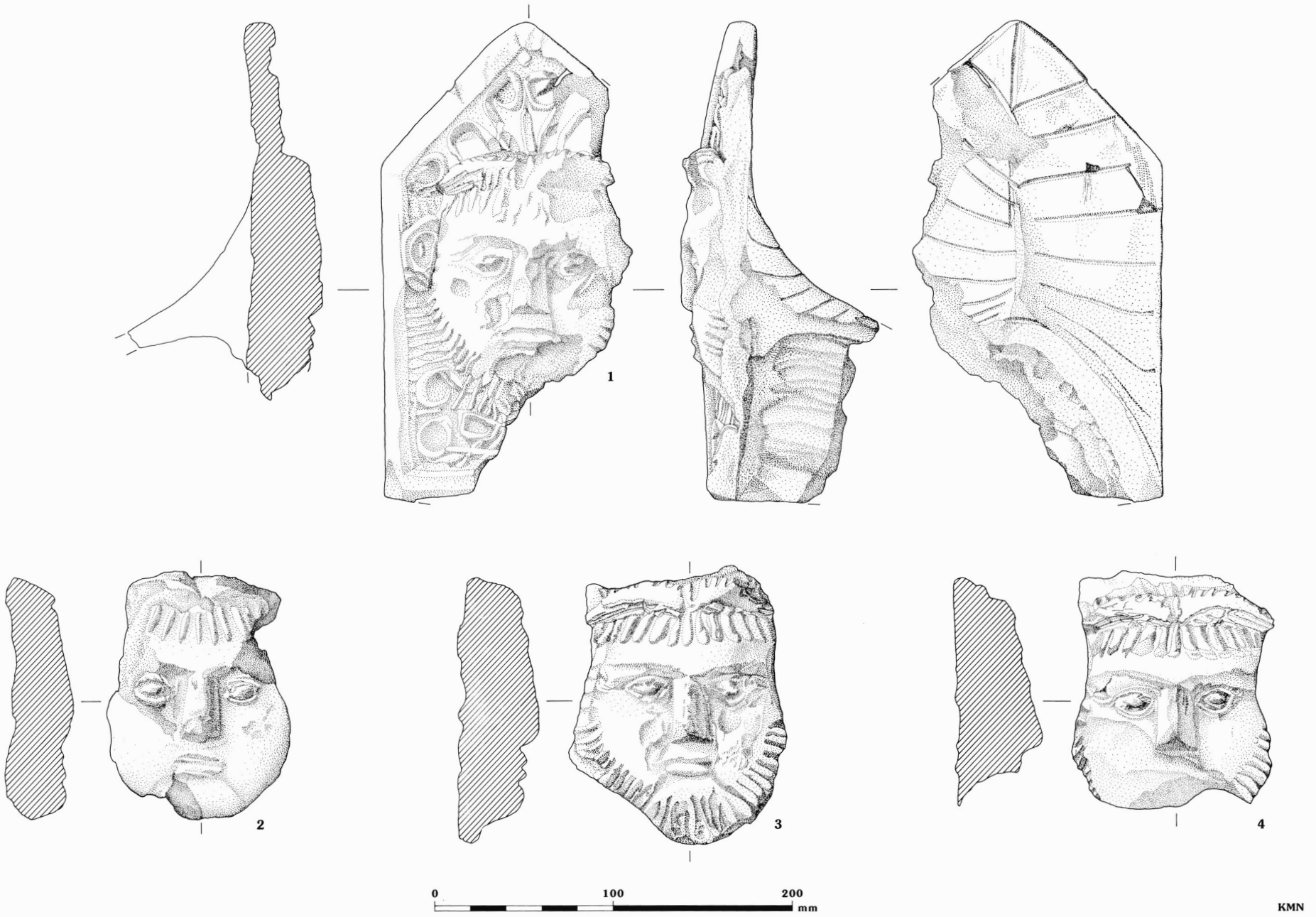

Figure 35: Antefixes 1-4

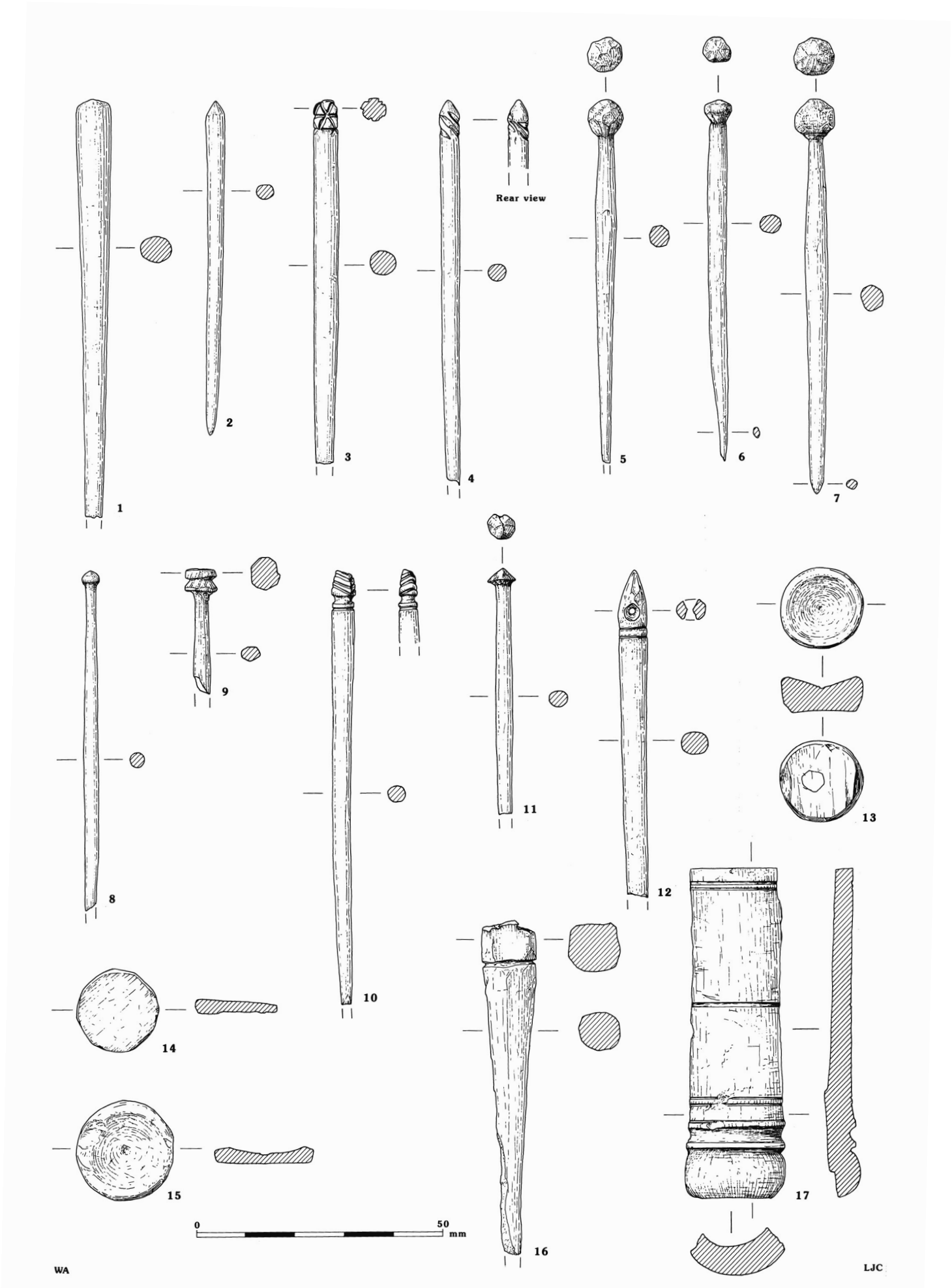

Figure 36: Bone objects 1-17

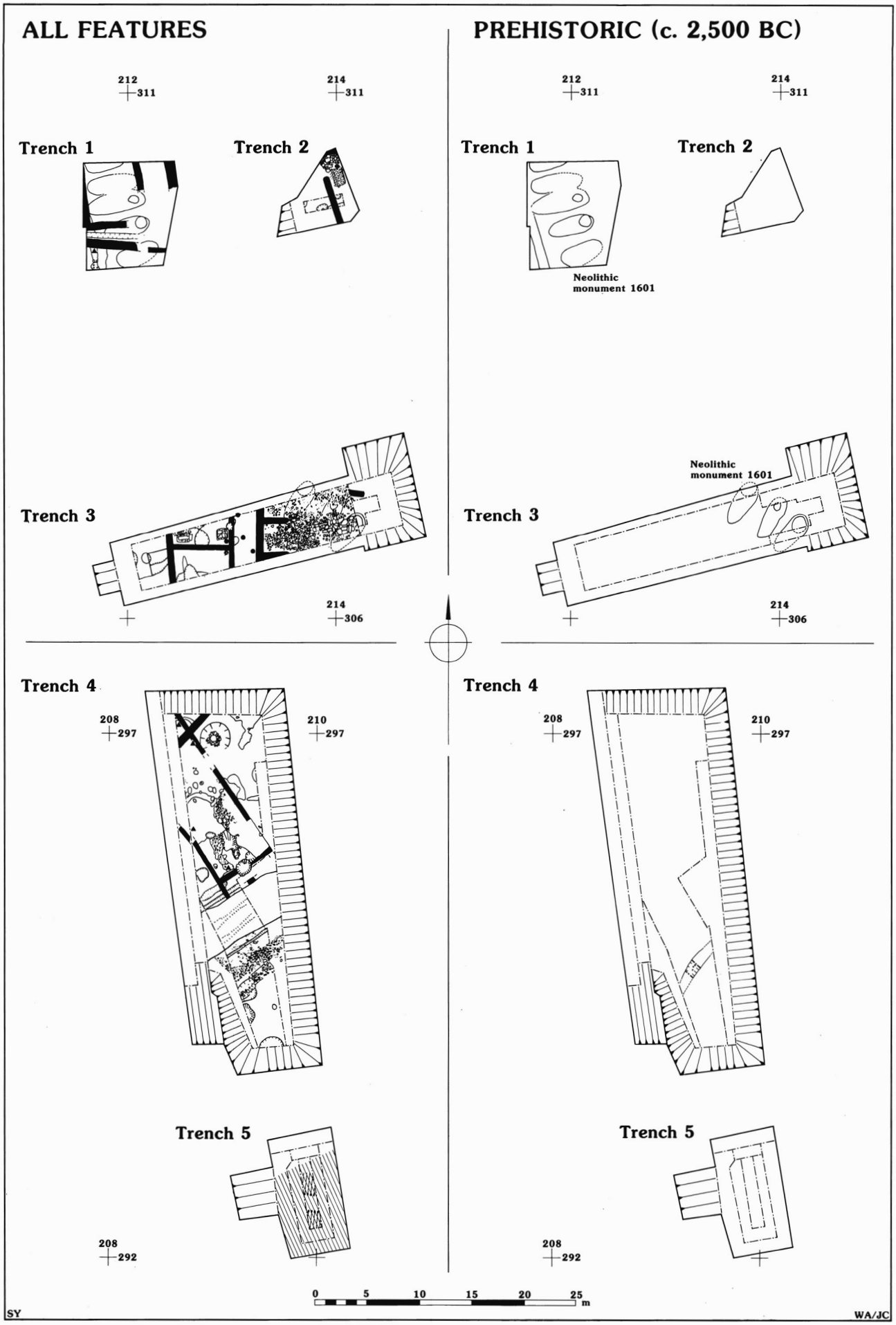

Figure 37: Trenches 1-5: plans of all features and prehistoric phase

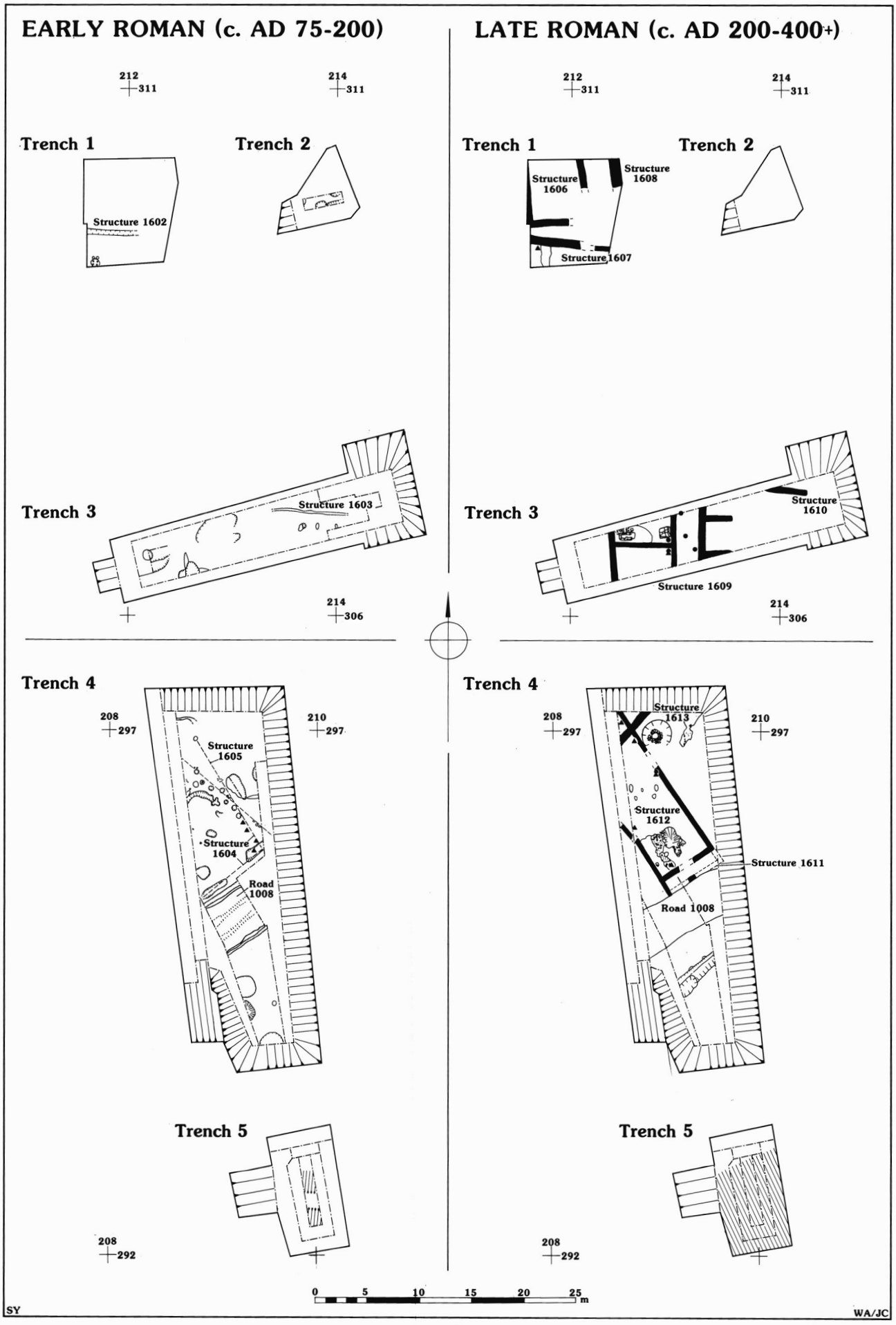

Figure 38: Trenches 1-5: plans of early Roman and late Roman phases

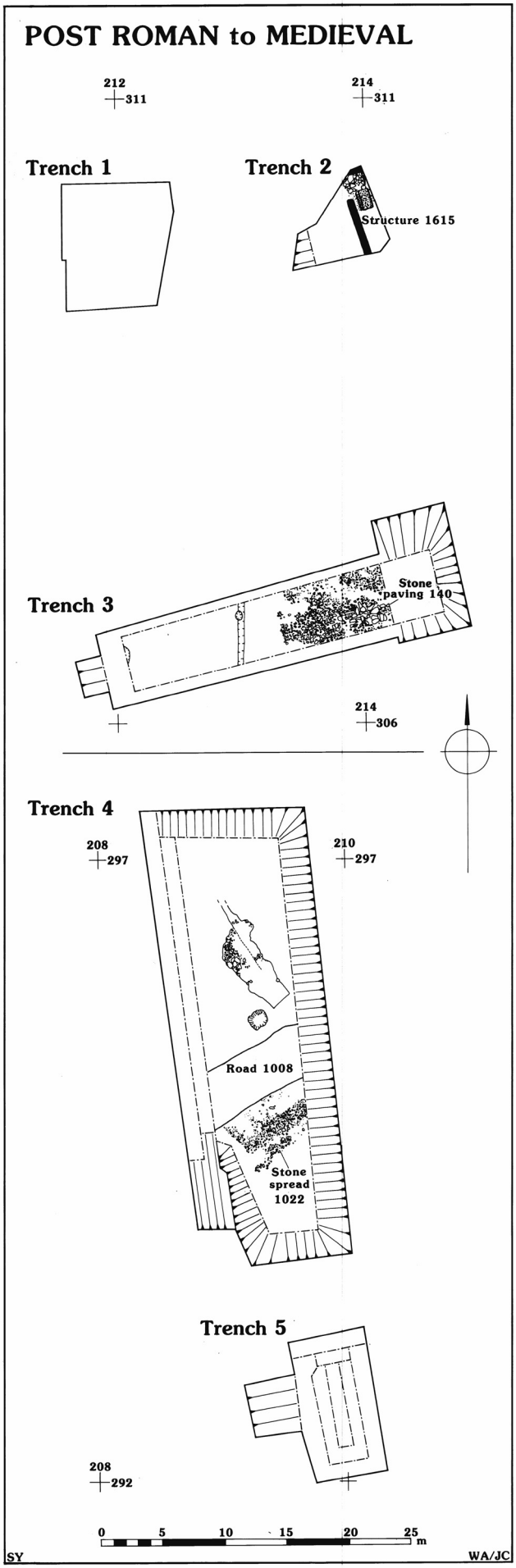

Figure 39: Trenches 1-5: plans of post-Roman to post-medieval phases

PLATES 1 & 2. Roman antefixes (scale: 5cm)

PLATE 3. Romano-British Black Burnished Ware pot (scale 5cm)

PLATE 4. Roman mosaic fragment (scale 1cm)

Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www. wessexarch.co.uk

FS 606559