

# OUT OF THE WEALD, THE SECRET WEALD

Andrew Margetts, Anna Doherty, Catherine Douglas,  
Hayley Nicholls and Simon Stevens





# **OUT OF THE WEALD, THE SECRET WEALD**

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Hayley Nicholls and Simon Stevens**

with contributions from  
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**Front cover:** Overlooking the Weald from Harrison's Rock, Groombridge, Kent (© Fiona Griffin)

**Back cover:** (clockwise from the top right) Excavation underway at Chalkers Lane, Hurstpierpoint; Structure 6 (S6) looking north at land  
to the east of Stane Street Billingshurst; Late Iron Age/Early Roman simple neck jar with complex burnished infilled chevron  
decoration from Penlands Farm (The Pynde), Haywards Heath; Middle Palaeolithic hand axe from Chalkers Lane, Hurstpierpoint

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## CONTRIBUTORS

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| Post-Roman pottery            | Luke Barber  |
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| Fired clay                    | Trista Clifford  |
| Geological material           | Luke Barber  |
| Cremated bone                 | Paola Ponce  |
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## SUMMARY

‘The secret Weald’ of Puck’s Song (Kipling 1906) is manifest not just in the physical environment of the region but also in the time depth apparent in the area’s countryside. The Weald comprises one of the most important historic landscapes in southern England, but until recently the archaeology of the area has been little understood or trialled through excavation. That is now changing, and the sites presented here are key in that process. Their results show remains of settlement dating back to the Bronze Age; however, even older artefacts were recovered, belonging to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods.

In terms of the geographical areas covered, sites were excavated in the depths of the Low Weald at Billingshurst and Southwater as well as on the region’s boundary with the Greensand Ridge at Hurstpierpoint. At Penlands Farm, Haywards Heath, the excavation was located on the edge of the High Weald. Collectively, these investigations demonstrate increasing levels of settlement during prehistory, followed by a Roman period characterised by initial continuity and subsequent Romanisation. The medieval evidence is illustrative of a Saxo-Norman and high medieval reconquest of the Weald following an early medieval seasonal phase of settlement that is difficult to detect archaeologically.

The continuing phenomenon of a historic landscape showing enduring alignments of field boundaries and trackways is explored.

### CHALKERS LANE, HURSTPIERPOINT

Multi-period evidence was uncovered dating from the Middle Palaeolithic to the post-medieval era. The earliest find was a Middle Palaeolithic hand axe, residual in a later feature; the piece, an uncommon discovery from the Weald, is extensively bifacially worked. A background scatter of residual struck flint suggests a restricted level of activity on or near the site in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, but no contemporary features were identified. Prehistoric settlement evidence comprised a Late Bronze Age post-built roundhouse, part of a ditched enclosure system and a scatter of pits, and a Middle to Late Iron Age gully and isolated pit. The majority of dated features included a ditched enclosure of the 1st century AD, with at least three phases of roundhouses and a smaller ancillary structure with associated pits, postholes and middens. Later Roman activity consisted of part of a ditched enclosure with an almost certainly contemporary rectangular post-built structure and a single isolated pit. There were no clearly dated medieval features and post-medieval activity left only field boundaries, isolated watering holes and a dog burial.

### LAND TO THE EAST OF STANE STREET, BILLINGSHURST

Archaeological investigations on agricultural land to the east of Billingshurst revealed evidence of limited exploitation of the landscape in the Middle to Late Bronze Age. Rudimentary land division and the advent of metalworking defined the Early to Middle Iron Age, while the earliest definitive settlement originated shortly after the Roman Conquest with the establishment of a small enclosed farmstead. A peak in settlement activity was evident in the latter half of the 1st century AD, followed by decline in the 2nd century. Activity continued into the Late Roman period, with evidence of a ring-gully feature interpreted as a small regional shrine.

A return to the landscape in the early medieval era is apparent, with activity continuing into the high medieval period. An extensive system of fields and trackways was probably contemporary with the earliest phases of development of the settlement of Billingshurst and St Mary’s church. Some continuity in the layout of the landscape from the Early Roman period up to the present day is evident.

### MILLFIELD, SOUTHWATER

The earliest activity was represented by uncertainly dated pits possibly attributable to the Mesolithic and/or Early Neolithic periods. The most significant aspect comprised a settlement site dating to the 1st century AD. Some later Roman (*c* late 2nd–3rd century) activity was also represented, although this was generally associated with less well-defined features producing fewer finds.

The remainder of the features consisted of medieval boundaries, some of which appear to have served as trackways. Some of the boundaries were almost certainly established by the 14th–15th century and perhaps as early as the late 12th–13th centuries. Much of this early field pattern survived until the 19th century, although the work carried out during the initial evaluation also found some evidence of the imposition of a more rectilinear field system at the south-western end of the site during the 18th to early 19th centuries.



## **PENLANDS FARM, (THE PYNDE), HAYWARDS HEATH**

Remains of prehistoric enclosures and medieval activity were encountered at the site. The later of the two enclosures enjoyed some longevity in the historic landscape, surviving as an upstanding earthwork until the early 13th century. The medieval reuse of prehistoric enclosures is a well-known phenomenon in stone-using upland areas but has so far been little recognised in the woodland landscapes of the South East.

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### **MILLFIELD, SOUTHWATER**

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### **PENLANDS FARM (THE PYNDE), HAYWARDS HEATH**

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# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

*Andrew Margetts*

## 1.1 REIMAGINING THE WEALD

Situated between the opposing chalk escarpments of the North and South Downs, the area known as the Weald comprises one of the most important landscapes in southern England. Known for its distinctive woodland economy, heavy clay soils and dense tree coverage, the region has, in the past, received far less archaeological attention than surrounding areas. The persistence of this has been an enduring obstacle, with deep and lasting roots.

Twenty or more years ago, any student of British archaeology would have believed that for much of human history the Weald comprised a thickly wooded wilderness, devoid of significant occupation until the swing of the medieval pioneer's axe. While it is unquestionable that during the Middle Ages the region comprised one of 'secondary settlement', away from the earlier focus of parent settlements, it should not be thought of as devoid of occupation. Indeed, in the past few decades findings have shown not only significant medieval activity but also Roman and prehistoric remains that previously were not thought plausible.

Thanks to these discoveries it is hoped that we no longer perceive the Wealden landscape as a vast unoccupied forest, nor as devoid of significant activity until the later medieval and

post-medieval periods. In contrast to other nearby geological foci, such as the chalk downlands, the Thames Basin or the Isle of Thanet, the Weald produced a different archaeology, but one that is no less valuable and indeed is in many ways more remarkable than that of surrounding zones.

This volume details the results of archaeological work conducted by Archaeology South-East (UCL Institute of Archaeology) across four sites within the West Sussex Weald. They are the product of growing levels of developer-funded archaeological investigation and add to our increasingly nuanced knowledge of the area's past. Archaeological remains were revealed dating from the depths of prehistory and the last glaciation until the Victorian period. The sites extend from the Wealden periphery at Hurstpierpoint, on the junction with the Greensand, to the depths of the Low Weald at Southwater near Horsham. In the east they extend from Haywards Heath on the borders of the High Weald to sites close to Stane Street at Billingshurst in the west (Fig 1.1). As a group they shed light on a region that comprises the geographical core of the South East but was historically largely peripheral to the areas of densest settlement. Among the findings presented here are some regionally important remains, including one of just a handful of known Palaeolithic finds with a Wealden

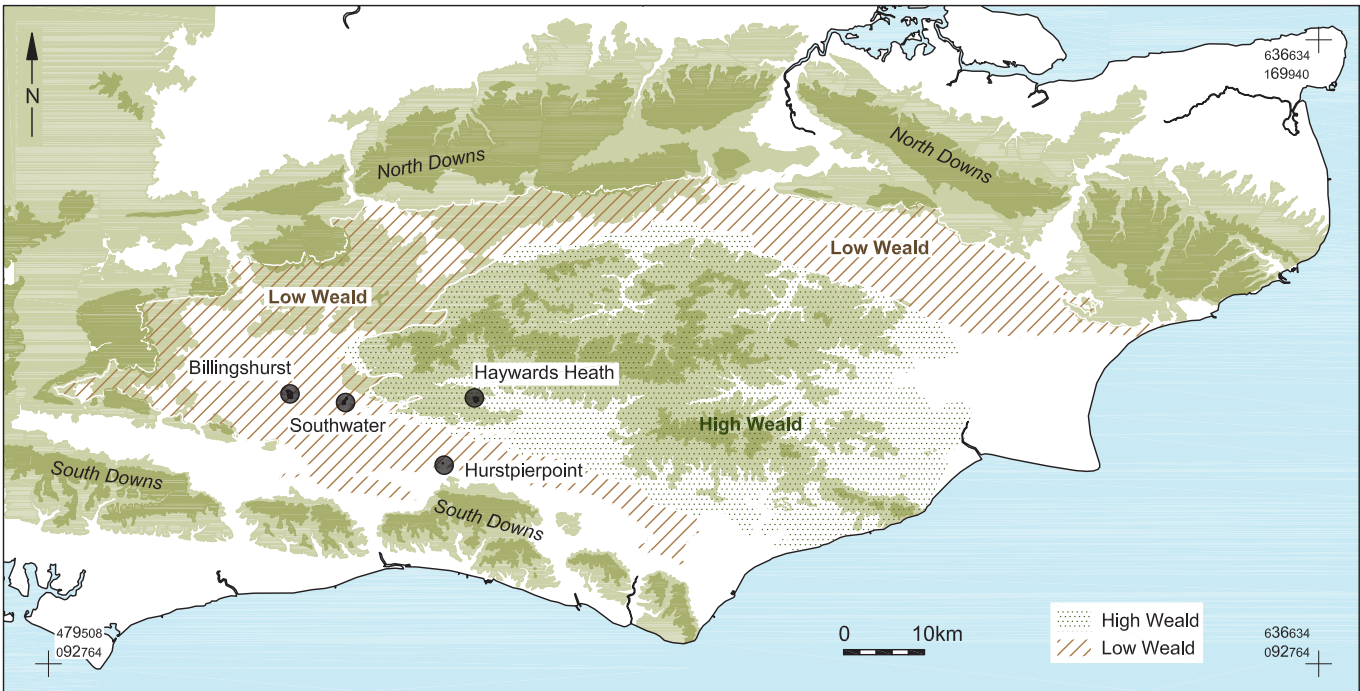


Fig 1.1 Site locations and the pays of Sussex



provenance, perhaps some of the earliest land division so far excavated in the Wealden region, a Roman shrine and what could possibly constitute the remains of an Iron Age fort, one of the hill-slope type.

## 1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### EARLY PREHISTORIC SITES

Although, thankfully, the extent of the Weald's prehistoric archaeology is now better known, the Palaeolithic potential of the area is still largely untested. Finds with a Wealden provenance are few, the 'Bout-Coupe' type hand axe from Billingshurst (WSHER: MWS3818) being one of only a handful of Palaeolithic finds from the Sussex Weald (see Pope et al 2015, fig 1).

Mesolithic flintwork by comparison is reasonably widespread, although to date few stratified deposits have been encountered. More common is material recovered as surface finds from ploughsoil contexts during fieldwalking. Within the Horsham area, 'The Standing Collection' comprises a key resource for understanding the period. This important flint assemblage, collected in the 1960s and 1970s, was recovered from fields largely to the east of Southwater; the significant proportion of microliths and wide variety of microlith forms, taken together with tranchet adzes and other tool types, suggests that local hunting camps were used over sustained periods (Butler 2008, 17). A 'background scatter' of Mesolithic flintwork may be typical of the period within the region, particularly along watercourses; however, larger scatters are known from the sandstone geologies of the High Weald (Margetts 2018a, 32–33).

Archaeological features of Neolithic date from the Low Weald are all but absent, despite flintwork from this period being fairly widespread and having been recovered in the immediate vicinity of the Millfield, Southwater site (WSHER 3570). It has also been suggested that a concentration of polished stone axes from the region are indicative of some level of forest clearance during the Neolithic (Gardiner 1990, 42). An unstratified polished axe in a non-local greenstone, probably from a source in Cornwall, the Peak District or continental Europe, was recovered during an evaluation on land directly adjacent to the south-west of Millfield (ASE 2016a), while in the Billingshurst area a similar polished greenstone axe was recovered south of Rowner Farm, and four polished flint 'celts' were collected near Billingshurst in 1852 (WSHER: MWS1235; MWS181).

## LATE PREHISTORY AND THE ROMAN WEALD

Though the Weald was previously recognised for the importance of some of its earlier prehistoric remains (particularly for the Mesolithic), the archaeology of the later prehistoric period was little documented. This situation has changed and updated syntheses have shown that the area was exploited for both farming and settlement during the Bronze and Iron Age (Margetts 2018a). Much of this activity appears to be based on pastoral agriculture and at times it is possible that a system of transhumance prevailed. This method of exploitation would facilitate the most effective use of the South East's banded resources and would be beneficial for early communities, as it allows a certain degree of 'risk-spreading'.

Despite this expansion in evidence, known late prehistoric remains from the vicinity of the sites explored here continue to be scarce. Excavations near the Penlands Farm site in Haywards Heath have encountered ironworking dating to the 4th–2nd centuries BC (ASE 2017; Sheehan 2020). This Middle Iron Age activity is symptomatic of the broader Weald at this time, as the period appears to mark an upsurge in exploitation of the Wealden interior where activity of this date often appears to precede more intensive and widespread Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British settlement (Margetts 2018a). Directly to the south-west of the Millfield, Southwater site (but *c* 500m beyond the main excavation area), recent investigations by Cotswold Archaeology uncovered multi-period evidence (Fig 1.2). Prehistoric remains included an unurned cremation burial radiocarbon dated to the Late Bronze Age and unenclosed Middle Iron Age settlement features, with post-built structures, including a roundhouse. A Late Iron Age/Early Roman rectilinear enclosure and mid/late Roman field systems and pits were also recorded (Ellis & Massey 2019).

Near Haywards Heath, excavations to the south of the Penlands Farm site undertaken in 2004 identified part of a small enclosure at least 35m across. This occupied an elevated position adjacent to Rocky Lane. The enclosure was defined by two ring-ditches incorporating small quantities of Late Iron Age/Early Roman and post-Conquest Roman pottery (ASE 2004a). Such locations appear characteristic of the Weald during the 1st and early 2nd centuries AD, as settlement enclosures appear to show a predilection for these elevated sites as well as lower-lying locations close to watercourses (Margetts 2018a). In the case of the Bolnore Village enclosure, the siting may have been equally influenced by the presence of the nearby Roman road the London to Brighton Way. The course of this routeway runs close to the east of Penlands Farm (Fig 1.3).

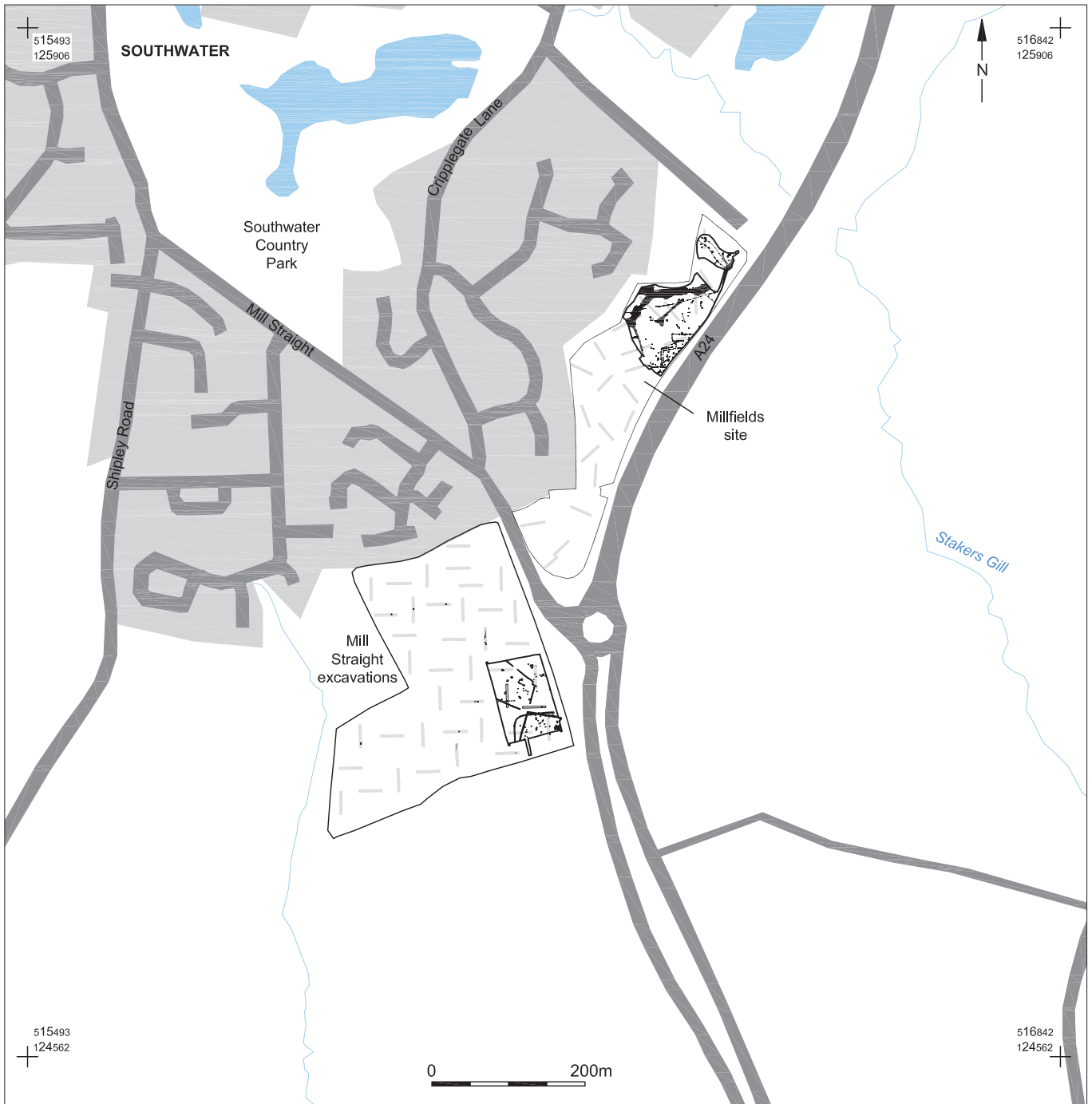


Fig 1.2 The Mill Straight excavations in relation to the Millfield, Southwater site (Ellis & Massey 2019, fig 1). Based on OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2020

Until recently, it was thought that much of the Low Weald remained virtually devoid of settlement during the Roman period, activity being limited to industry, ironworking and communication routes. Seminars held over a decade ago, as part of the South East Research Framework, noted that very little data was available from the area (SERF 2007). Similarly, the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain project also remarked on a relative lack of settlement sites from the region (Allen 2016, 34). Though both projects acknowledged that this was probably partly the result of collection bias, it was postulated that the lack of settlement evidence for the Roman period in

particular might be a real phenomenon, suggesting that the dense woodland of the Weald acted as a barrier to trade and distribution from villas in surrounding areas (SERF 2007). Development-led archaeology is radically changing this view, with the increase in evidence encapsulated by the results at Wickhurst Green (Margetts 2018a). This site, which is just 5km to the north of Southwater and *c* 6.5km north-east of Billingshurst, showed the presence of extensive Roman period remains deep in the Wealden interior (Margetts 2018a; Fig 1.4). The elements included two major 1st-century settlement foci, together with field systems and areas of pasture. Several

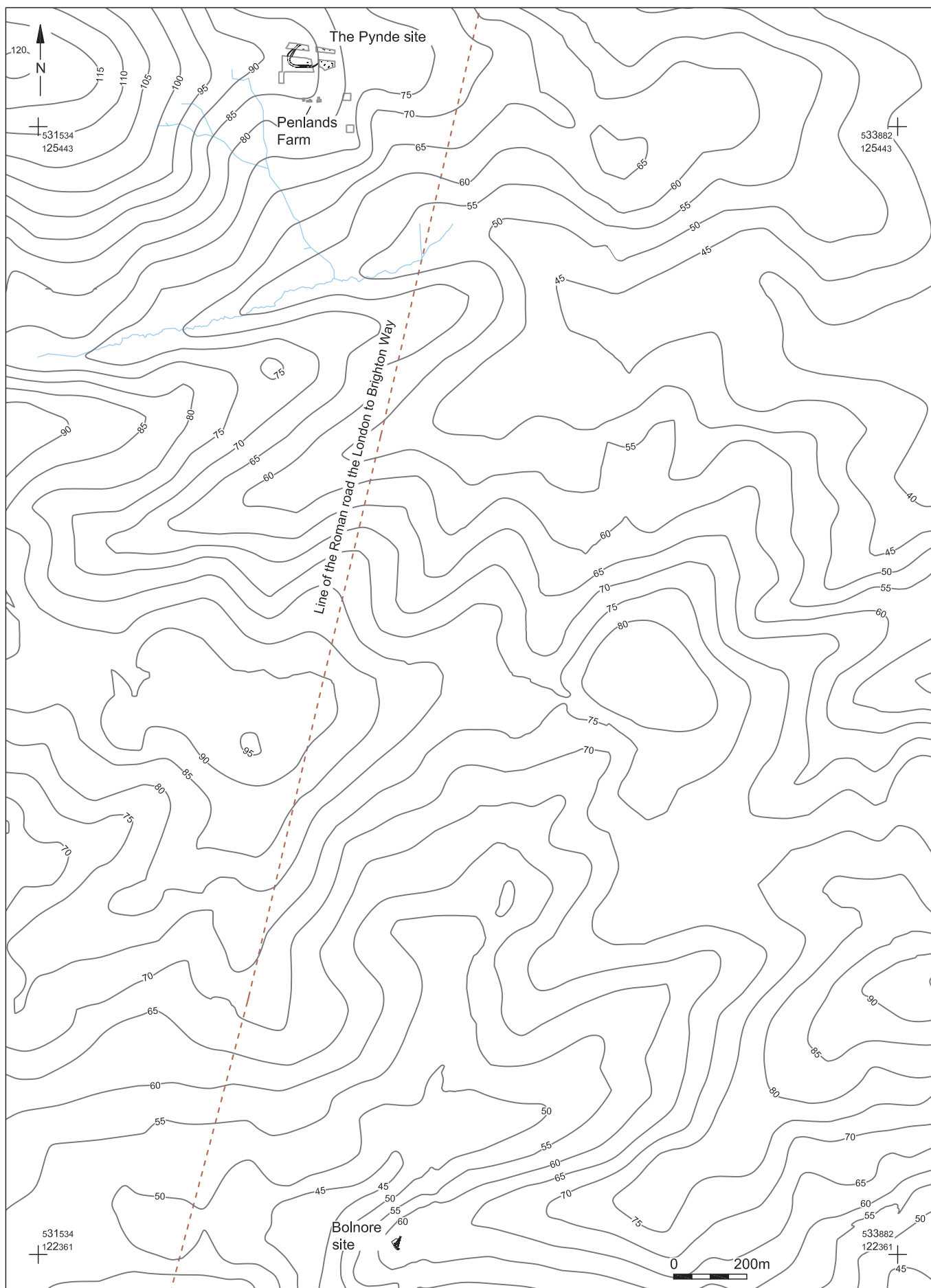


Fig 1.3 The location of the Penlands Farm site in relation to the London to Brighton Way.  
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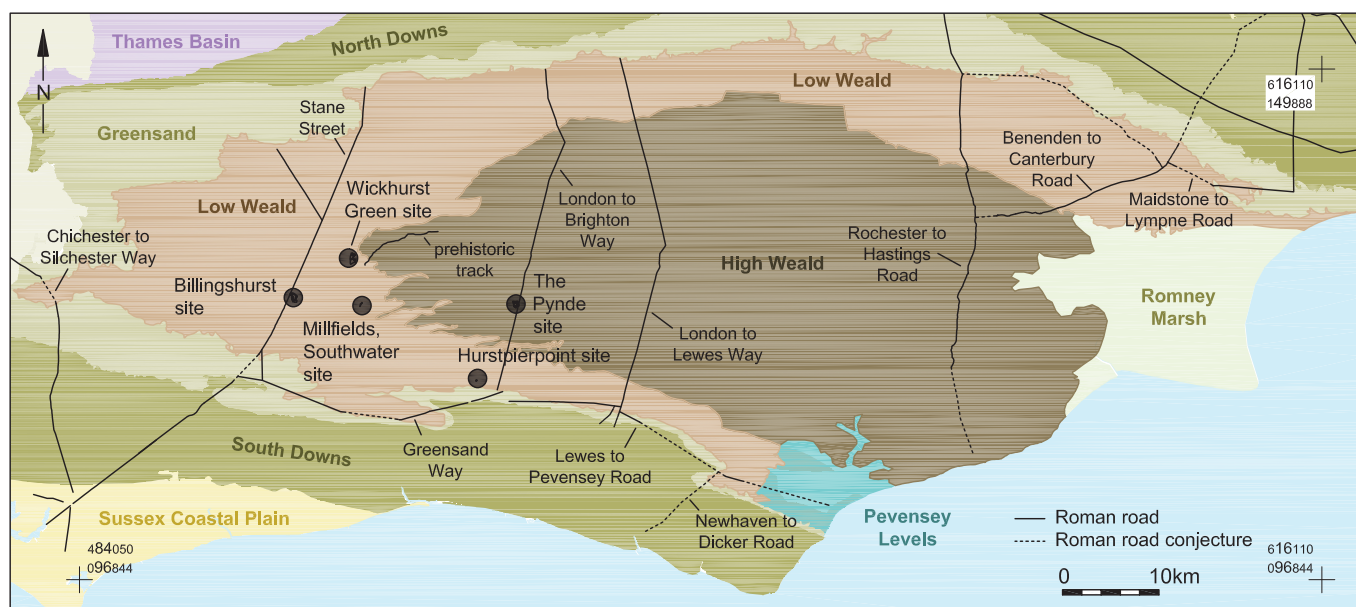


Fig 1.4 Site locations in relation to Wickhurst Green and the network of Roman roads

cemetery areas with rectilinear mortuary enclosures/square barrows, as well as groups of urned cremation burials, were also recorded. Though activity appeared to continue into the early 2nd century, by the mid Roman period there was a significant decline in settlement activity and pottery deposition, this despite possible continued agricultural exploitation of the site. There was then a resurgence of localised activity in the Late Roman period with some reuse of earlier features.

While more isolated rural settlement sites continue to emerge, much of the Roman-period activity appears to be connected to the arterial network of Roman roads (Fig 1.4). The site at Chalkers Lane is *c* 2km from the alignment of the Greensand Way, whereas Stane Street, the Roman road from London to Chichester, runs outside the north-western boundary of the Billingshurst site (the route of the present day A29; Margary 1948). The alignment of the road was confirmed during trial trenching at Parbrook Bungalow in 2004 (ASE 2004b) and Roman coins, pottery and tesserae have been found along Billingshurst High Street, perhaps indicating the presence of a yet to be revealed roadside settlement (WSHER: MWS369). At Hurstpierpoint churchyard, *c* 800m south of the Chalkers Lane site, Roman coins and pottery have been recovered on several occasions (WSHER: MVVS7316), indicating that contemporary activity extended away from both the nearby Roman road (The Greensand Way) and the 1st- to 2nd-century villa at Randolph Farm (NHLE: 1014948).

## EARLY MEDIEVAL LANDSCAPE: TRANSHUMANCE AND CONTINUITY

Prior to recent archaeological work that has tested and demonstrated the development of the Weald's early medieval landscape (Margetts 2018a), perhaps the most valuable indicator of Anglo-Saxon exploitation of the area was derived from toponymic evidence. The Old English place-names of the region reflect a pastoral model of settlement and land use, with names such as *falod* 'a fold', *denn* 'a woodland pasture, especially for swine', and *wic* 'a dwelling, a building or collection of buildings for special purposes, a farm, a dairy farm' (Mawer and Stenton 1929; Smith 1956a, 257; Dodgson 1978, 61; Margetts 2021), together being indicative of an area where livestock regimes and woodland exploitation dominated. It is likely that during the 6th century the Sussex Weald was acting as common pasture for the kingdom as a whole. It is similarly probable that by the 7th and 8th centuries communities in more favourable arable areas were beginning to create independent detached pastures within the forest. These areas may once have been used largely for the seasonal pannage of swine and cattle, but after the Conquest a shift towards cattle would have been the norm (Margetts 2021). This seasonal model of exploitation was largely based upon parent settlements located on the more agriculturally favourable soils of the South Downs, Greensand Ridge or coastal plain.

Palaeoenvironmental evidence and historic landscape analysis linked to excavations conducted to the south of the Penlands Farm site have identified one of these seasonal pastures within an oval enclosure of ancient origin ('The



Hayworth'; Margetts 2017). By the 12th century more permanent occupation linked to a specialised cattle ranch or vaccary ensued (ibid). Though some authors (Dyer 2021, 115) have questioned that the site acted as a centre for cattle rearing, the argument appears to disregard cumulative evidence. The presence of cattle teeth, features relating to a cattle race, the existence of an oval enclosure and large open building (particular features of vaccary and other specialised livestock sites) collectively suggest a site where cattle rearing was practised. Cattle farming was known to be prevalent in the locality during the medieval period and place-names potentially linked to cattle farming existed in the close vicinity of the site. The vaccary was a component of the 'lost' manor of Trubwick, a holding associated with the lords Warenne, known for their interest in the establishment of vaccary sites elsewhere. Beasts of the manor were pastured on nearby Haywards Heath. The site serves as an illustration of the Weald's shift from largely seasonal to permanent occupation and demonstrates that we cannot rely on documentary evidence alone in forming judgements on past land use.

## LATER MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT EXPANSION AND LANDSCAPE

The later medieval settlement of the Weald was of a dispersed nature, with scattered farms served by isolated churches at the centre of large parishes. Clearance of woodland through assarting gathered pace during the 12th and 13th centuries and prior to the Black Death much of the area had become thoroughly, although in comparison to areas of greater arable potential still sparsely, settled.

### SOUTHWATER

Millfield, Southwater lay in the southern part of the parish of Horsham. The name Horsham does not appear in the Domesday Book, but is mentioned in a pre-Conquest charter of King Eadred (Sawyer 525) and may have been a settlement from as early as the 10th century. During the medieval period a series of small settlements and farmsteads began to emerge in the parish, probably as a result of woodland clearance initially for swine and cattle pasture and later for more mixed husbandry. The landscape was characterised by irregular assarts with small patches of common demesne arable (land held in hand by the manorial lord). The manor of Nutham's manor house was probably located at Easteds Farm, to the north of the Millfield site. Nutham seems to have emerged as a sub-manor of Applesham during the 13th century and by the mid

14th century it held 150 acres of demense arable and probably pasture for 100 sheep (Hudson 1986, 166). It is thought that the settlement of Southwater first emerged as a medieval ribbon development along the road to Steyning and the coast.

### BILLINGSHURST

Like most Wealden settlements, Billingshurst is also not recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. The church was originally constructed in the 12th century (NHLE: 1354139), while Billingshurst village slowly developed around the church and along the High Street, becoming a recognisable settlement in the 13th century, with the first appearance of the name occurring on the Curia Regis Roll of 1202 (Mawer and Stenton 1929, 147). The agricultural landscape to the east of Billingshurst appears to have remained little changed during most of the post-medieval period. It is interesting to note that a vast majority of the fields in the Billingshurst area, recorded on historic mapping, all share an alignment with Stane Street. Also of note is the much-reduced area of the landscape given over to woodland, compared to that for regions to the west around Wisborough Green and to the east around Southwater. This potentially highlights the effect of the Roman road on its environs, or at least the effects of its later incarnations. There was, however, some minor modification of the field pattern, with the loss of some boundaries during the 19th century, contemporary with advances in farming technology and intensification.

### HURSTPIERPOINT

The routeways and land division in the vicinity of Hurstpierpoint are mainly the product of later Anglo-Saxon estates of linear form. After the Conquest the manor of Hurstpierpoint was held by Robert de Pierpoint of William de Warenne. Much land in the parish was turned over to hunting, marked by the presence of Danny Park or the Great Park of Hurst, as well as the Little Park. The site at Chalkers Lane may well have been situated within or in the vicinity of the latter, which is known to have been sited north of the church and was *c* 1.5 miles in circumference (Salzman 1940). The village grew up on a slight ridge astride a crossroads, while other lanes in the area probably originated as droveways heading for the Wealden interior. Hurstpierpoint held detached land near Bolney and in Bramber rape (ibid). The medieval landscape around the Chalkers Lane site would have been predominantly parkland, with irregular piecemeal enclosure and woodland. An area of cohesive assarts lies to the north.

## HAYWARDS HEATH

In the medieval period the Wealden area had a high density of dispersed farmsteads, but there was no nucleated settlement at Haywards Heath and, again, the settlement does not appear in the Domesday survey. During the 12th and 13th centuries Haywards Heath essentially acted as a common pasture for the nearby manor of Trubwick (Margetts 2017). The nearest settlement recorded in Domesday is Berth near Streat, c 4km to the south, which had a small population of nine householders (Domesday 13,3). This lack of large or nucleated settlement reflects the dominant dispersed settlement pattern and detached tenurial arrangements of the area. The eastern part of the Penlands Farm site is comprised of medieval cohesive assarts with bordering shaws and small blocks of ancient woodland.

## 1.3 STRUCTURE OF ANALYSIS AND REPORT

Chapters 2 to 5 introduce, discuss and present the results of each of the four sites in turn. Chapter 6 presents a short conclusion to this group of sites and this period of discovery in the Wealden region. A hierarchical context, group and land-use framework was used to structure the data. This framework is summarised below.

### CONTEXT

A unique number was assigned to each archaeological context in the field. Context numbers are shown in square brackets, thus: [000].

### GROUP

Groups (G) are an interpretative structuring of the context data and comprise a number (sometimes many) of interrelated contexts. For example, all the individual context numbers associated with a single phase of a ditch may be grouped together under a single group number. Similarly, a cluster of associated pits or postholes may be assigned a single group number.

### LAND USE

Each group has been assigned to a land use, which encompasses many separate features. These numbers are used broadly to characterise the function of the land for a given period. The following are examples of land-use classifications used in this report:

B Building

CS Ditch/channel system

D Ditch

ENC Enclosure

FS Field System

OA Open Area (open fields, yards etc)

S Structures (yard surfaces, post-built structures etc)

As far as possible, an integrated approach has been followed, with relevant finds and environmental information (RF<0> = Registered Find number; <0> = sample number) included as part of the narrative.

### ARCHIVES

All of the site archives are currently held by Archaeology South-East. Horsham Museum is the local repository for the Billingshurst and Southwater archives, but they are no longer accepting archaeological depositions owing to lack of space. The Chalkers Lane, Hurstpierpoint and Penlands Farm, Haywards Heath archives are awaiting deposition at Lewes Museum in accordance with their deposition policy and procedures.



# CHAPTER 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT CHALKERS LANE, HURSTPIERPOINT

*Simon Stevens, Karine Le Hégarat and Anna Doherty*

## 2.1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological investigation of a Wealden site at Chalkers Lane, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex, were undertaken in advance of redevelopment for new housing. The site, which measured around 3ha in extent, was located close to the junction of Cuckfield Road and Chalkers Lane, on the north-east periphery of the settlement of Hurstpierpoint in the West Sussex Weald (centred on NGR 528272 117545; Fig 2.1). Planning permission for residential development of the site was granted by Mid Sussex District Council in 2014 (planning reference 13/03305/OUT), with a condition attached requiring a programme of archaeological investigation.

To date, there has been little reported archaeological fieldwork in this part of the Weald, save for an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Orchard Way on the western side of Hurstpierpoint in 2004, c 1.5km from the current site. Struck flints and Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered, but no associated features were recorded (TVAS 2004).

The preliminary stages of work at the current site consisted of a magnetometer survey (Cranfield Forensic Institute 2015) that enabled the targeting of anomalies by subsequent trial trenching. The evaluation trenches identified settlement activity in the north-western part of the development area spanning the late prehistoric to Early Romano-British periods (Fig 2.1). The principal elements comprised a probable roundhouse set within a ditched enclosure (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2015), and this area formed the focus of the subsequent open-area excavation.

## 2.2 RESULTS

The archaeological features uncovered proved to be multi-period in date, ranging from the Late Bronze Age to the medieval periods (Fig 2.2). The features were cut into the underlying brownish orange/yellow Weald Clay (BGS 2015) and buried beneath two layers of overburden, a mid brown humic topsoil and a yellowish brown silty clay subsoil, which together were never more than 0.40m thick. The archaeological deposits were excavated and recorded in line with individual Written Schemes of Investigation for both stages of work (Mills Whipp 2015a; 2015b).

### MIDDLE PALAEOLITHIC – A RARE DISCOVERY

The Middle Palaeolithic period was represented by a single bifacially worked flint hand axe (RF<5>) recovered from the upper fill of a Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British ditch. Although clearly residual, the piece is of intrinsic significance as such artefacts are rarely found in the Weald. A recent review of isolated Palaeolithic material from the Weald and surrounding Cretaceous and Tertiary landscapes has established that, when retrieved from relatively superficial depth or from the topsoil, Palaeolithic flintwork is likely to date from the last glaciation (Pope et al 2015).

### MIDDLE/LATE NEOLITHIC TO EARLY BRONZE AGE – A BACKGROUND SCATTER

The evaluation and subsequent excavation work produced a small assemblage of worked flints and a moderate quantity of unworked burnt flint, all of which occurred as a residual component in later deposits, mostly from the topsoil. The majority of the material was not closely datable, although some pieces showed traits usually assigned a broad Middle/Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date. The material suggests restricted, possibly transient activity in prehistory, with no evidence of habitation or land division.

### PERIOD 1: LATE BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT (c 950–800 BC)

The earliest human activity to leave a discernible archaeological footprint at the site dates to the Late Bronze Age, when there was clear evidence of land division and occupation (Fig 2.3). Although environmental evidence from river valleys has long suggested that the Late Bronze Age was a period of extensive woodland clearance and instigation of arable agriculture across the Weald (Gardiner 1990, 42–3; Hamilton 2003, 73) evidence from excavated sites remains scarce. Therefore, the findings described below are useful additions to the dataset, despite the limited extent of the Late Bronze Age archaeology.

#### LAND DIVISION

A series of ditches (D1/D2 and D3) was identified as contemporary based on their stratigraphic position and silty fills, which were lighter in colour than those seen in later





Fig 2.1 Site location. Based on OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2020



Fig 2.2 Site plan all periods

features. Set within the corner formed by ditches D1 and D3 was a post-built roundhouse S1. The dating of roundhouse S1 was based on a small assemblage of Late Bronze Age pottery recovered from the postholes. A whetstone recovered from ditch D3 may be intrusive.

A break in ditch D3 suggested that access was possible from the east and, while there was no obvious access from the area to the south, the space was not enclosed to the north or east within the extent of excavation. Although truncated by a later ditch (Fig 2.2), ditch D3 does not appear to continue beyond this point, perhaps suggesting that the ditch system did not fully enclose the area.

An isolated stretch of ditch D4 on a similar orientation to ditch D3 was observed in an adjacent area stripped by the groundworks contractors outside the agreed archaeological mitigation area. With the agreement of the contractors, ditch D4 was rapidly excavated and recorded. During this process a small assemblage of Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered, providing some dating evidence. On balance, despite the lack

of prior evidence for extensive Bronze Age land division within the Weald it seems probable that ditches D1–D4 form part of a wider Late Bronze Age field system.

#### A ROUNDHOUSE WITH EVIDENCE OF STRUCTURED DEPOSITION

The remains of the roundhouse consisted of ten postholes forming a structure with a diameter of *c* 8m, with no evidence for any porch or internal features (Figs 2.3 and 2.4). It is only the third convincing structure of this date identified from a Wealden site in West Sussex, the others being located near Gatwick (Wells 2005) and at Burgess Hill (Wallis 2016).

Given the rarity of such structures, bulk samples were collected from all of the roundhouse postholes. Unfortunately, environmental material remains were scarce, with no charred plant remains and only very small quantities of unidentifiable charcoal.

Despite the lack of environmental evidence, posthole [231] did contain large elements of two pottery vessels,

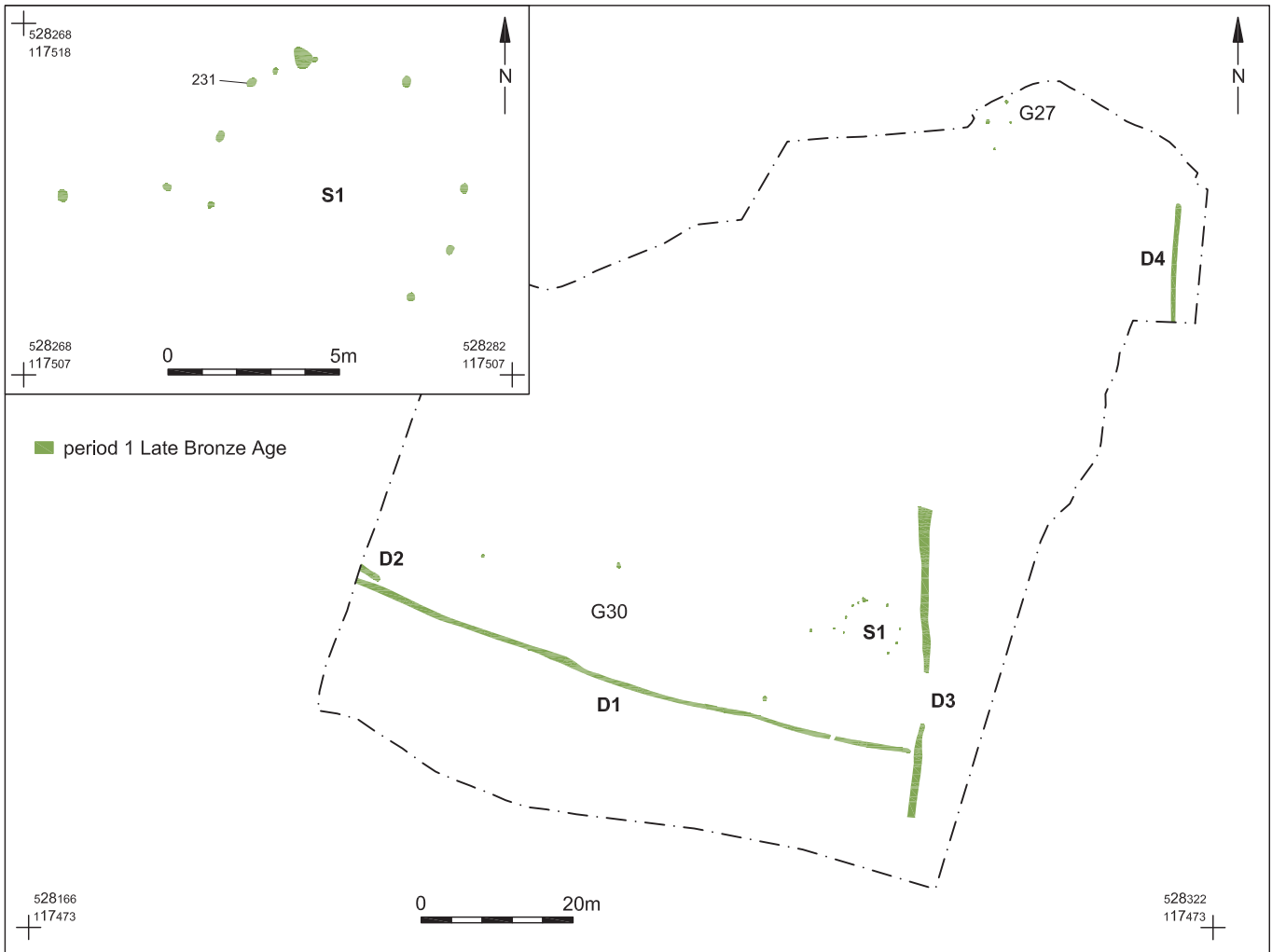


Fig 2.3 Plan of period I Late Bronze Age features

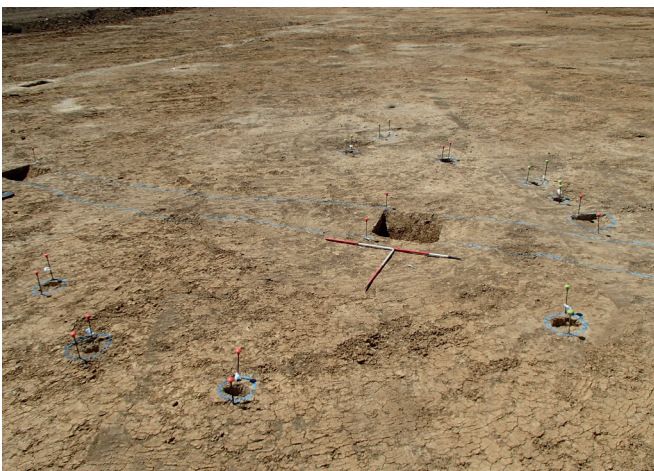


Fig 2.4 Photo of roundhouse Structure I, looking south-west

possibly representing ‘structured deposits’, a long-recognised phenomena characterised by the deliberate deposition of certain classes of artefacts together in a location chosen for some given cultural significance (Richards and Thomas 1984; Hill 1995). In this case it is conceivable that the deposition of pottery vessels was associated with the establishment or, more probably, the decommissioning of the building. Although

structured deposits in Bronze Age houses are sometimes associated with foundational or other significant events, they seem to be especially prevalent in features related to the decommissioning of buildings (Brück 2006a, 79; Brück 2006b, 299–300). Locally, strikingly similar evidence was encountered at Manor Road, Burgess Hill, where a small posthole forming part of a Late Bronze Age structure contained several hundred sherds from three individual vessels and eight complete or partially complete loom weights, though other associated postholes contained relatively few finds (Wallis 2012, 4; 2016).

Depositional events associated with the abandonment of houses are a phenomenon also widely seen in a group of Bronze Age downland sites in the area around Brighton and Lewes. For example, at Mile Oak Farm a number of near-complete vessels appeared to have been abandoned in situ in one of the roundhouses when the structure went out of use (Hamilton 2002, 38). At Peacehaven, a Middle Bronze Age vessel was inserted into the top of an infilled hut platform and apparently staked into place. In this case the deposit was interpreted as part of a closing ritual where the vessel may have served as a

marker or memorial to the building after its decommissioning (Hart et al 2015, 140). Although it is less clear that pottery was specifically selected in meaningful deposits at Black Patch (Drewett 1982), this may be due to the way the report is presented. The concept of structured deposition was not part of the contemporary discourse and the excavators were much more willing to interpret material culture as rubbish abandoned in situ that could be used to define spatial activity areas, although certainly objects such as complete loom weights and broken querns were repeatedly found on the hut floors.

In summary, it appears that there may have been some highly localised aspects of structured deposition practised when houses were abandoned during the Bronze Age in the South East. At both Chalkers Lane and Manor Road, Burgess Hill a single posthole forming part of a larger hut circle had apparently been selected for the deposition of ceramics that seemed to entirely fill up the space that the post had occupied, indicating that these deposits had been made after the post had been removed as the building was dismantled. Although this might suggest close cultural or even familial ties between neighbouring Wealden communities, these acts clearly represent variations within a wider tradition, seen both on the Sussex Downs and further afield in Britain and the near continent (eg Lambrick and Robinson 2009, 148–49; Brück 2006a, 79; Steffens 2016, 127–44). This evidence suggests that the deposition of household items often marked important events in the lifecycles of individuals, communities and their houses. In this scenario the detritus of everyday life may have had symbolic meanings, evoking death and decay, fertility and rebirth (Brück 2006b, 302–5).

#### PITS SCATTERS

The only other features assigned to this period consisted of two thin scatters of shallow pits (G27 and G30), each with light silty clay fills thought to be characteristic of an early date. The pits contained no datable material but are phased based on their spatial isolation from any discernibly later features and by a stratigraphic relationship between one of the G27 pits and the 1<sup>st</sup>-century enclosure ditch.

#### PERIOD 2: LIMITED MIDDLE TO LATE IRON AGE ACTIVITY (c 400 BC–c AD 40)

Only two features, a short length of gully (D5) and a small pit [500] (Fig 2.5), could be tentatively assigned to this period, the dating based on a very small assemblage of pottery. Owing to the scant evidence little can be said of the nature of the activity, and given problems with the close dating of the small pottery

assemblage it is possible that the features actually represent the earliest phase of period 3 (see below).

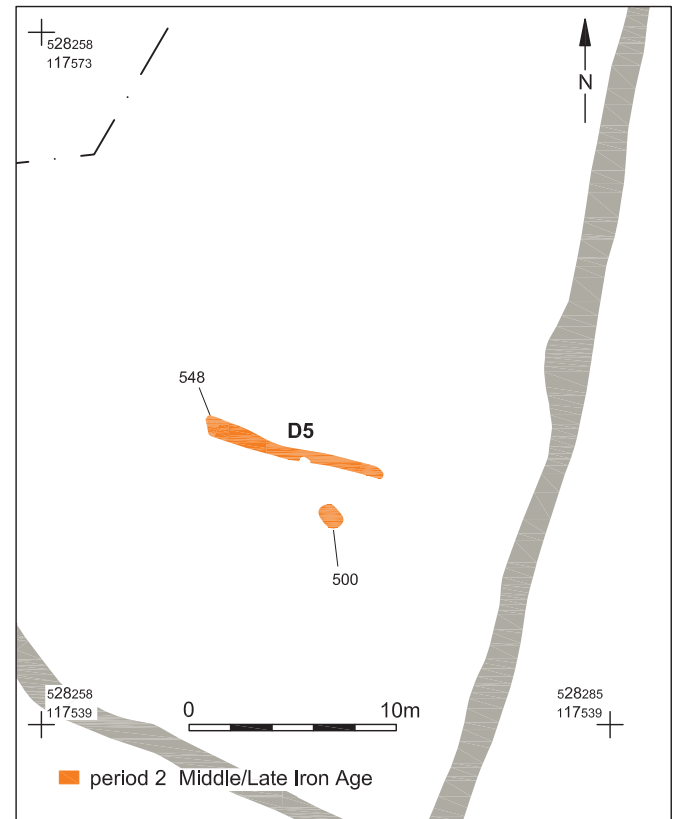


Fig 2.5 Plan of period 2 – Middle to Late Iron Age features

#### PERIOD 3: A LATE IRON AGE TO EARLY ROMANO-BRITISH FARMSTEAD (1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY AD)

The vast majority of features encountered at the site were dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, including four structures located within a ditched enclosure of unknown extent, and a spread of pits and postholes. Subdivision of the period into phases is based entirely on stratigraphic relationships, as close dating of the pottery assemblages proved challenging. The enclosure ditch, pits and postholes were assigned to this broad period; the roundhouses and their closely associated features were assigned to period 3, phases 1–3 based on stratigraphic relationships. Presumptions of broad contemporaneity have been based on spatial relationships (eg between roundhouses S4 and S5).

This period saw the deposition of sizable quantities of pottery, mostly in the enclosure ditch and in middens/areas of trample. Aside from pottery, there was, however, a notable lack of variety among the finds, with very little evidence for on-site activities save for fragments of a loom weight and a whetstone, and a number of possible polishing stones. The survival of environmental material continued to be poor, although some charred grains and oak charcoal were recovered.



## PERIOD 3

The enclosure ditch (ENC1) had a broadly V-shaped profile in most of the examined sections with evidence of multiple episodes of silting. While there was no evidence for the systematic wholesale recutting of the ditch at any time, localised recuts perhaps suggest that restricted clearance of the part-silted ditch was carried out for drainage purposes. The enclosure clearly extended beyond the limit of excavation (Fig 2.6) and its full extent and form is therefore unknown. A scatter of pits with no obvious spatial association to any of the roundhouses within the enclosure (G26) and a thin distribution of pits/postholes on the outskirts of the enclosure (G28 and G29) are poorly dated and difficult to interpret.

Aside from pottery, finds from the ditch included a fragment of triangular ceramic loom weight (RF<1>), a portion of a whetstone and smaller stones possibly used for polishing. The loom weight, and possibly the polishing stones, are evidence of textile processing.

Charred plant macrofossils were scarce and generally poorly preserved, with limited remains of wheat (*Triticum* sp), barley (*Hordeum* sp) and oats (*Avena* sp) recovered. The low number of crop remains suggests that they represent a background scatter of domestic waste rather than unequivocal evidence of crop processing. Equally, no artefacts relating to the processing of cereals were recovered (eg quernstones).

The occasional remains of wild plants consisted of caryopses of grasses (Poaceae), bromes (*Bromus* sp), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and docks (*Rumex* sp).

Although some of the features were rich in wood charcoal, it was generally in a poor state of preservation, with signs of sediment encrustation and percolation that are likely to be due to fluctuations in ground water level. Most of the fragments were identified as oak (*Quercus* sp), with a few displaying anatomical characteristics consistent with cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp) and two fragments tentatively identified as belonging to the Maloideae subfamily, which includes apple, whitebeam, rowan and hawthorn. This assemblage suggests selection of oak as the primary fuel source, but with other available woods used as and when needed.

## PERIOD 3, PHASE 1

The shallow gully of a roundhouse (S2) survived as two separate arcs forming around three quarters of a complete circuit, suggesting a diameter of *c* 11m (Fig 2.6). It was clearly truncated by the gully of later roundhouse S3 (see period 3, phase 2 below). It is possible that some of the pits/postholes (G24) within the surviving arc of the roundhouse actually dated from this phase, but have been assigned to the later roundhouse (see S3 below). Small assemblages of pottery were recovered from the roundhouse gully, which was fully

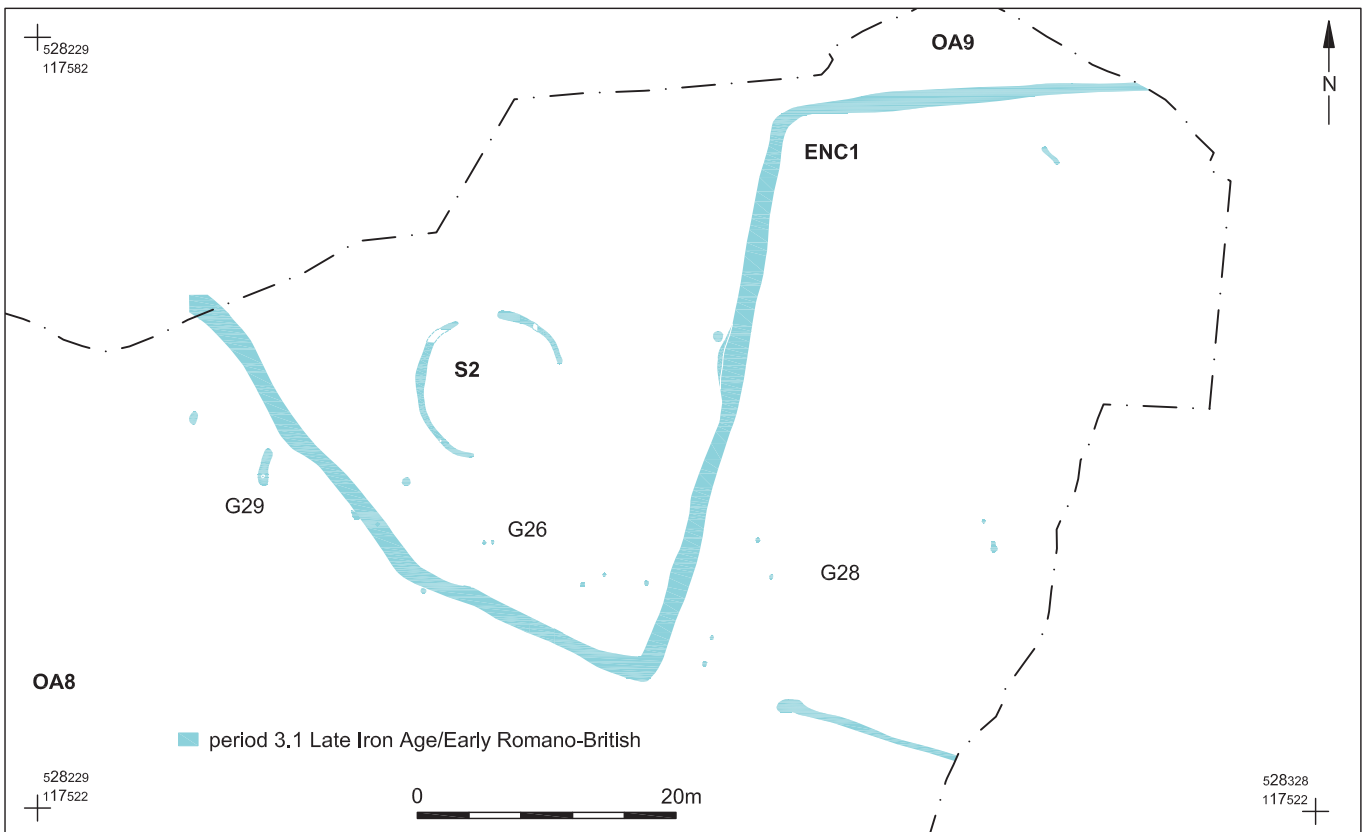


Fig 2.6 Plan of period 3, phase 1 Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British features

excavated. The only other artefacts recovered consisted of residual flintwork.

#### PERIOD 3, PHASE 2

The shallow gully of roundhouse S3 survived as an arc forming just under half of a complete circuit (Fig 2.7). Although uncertain, a diameter similar to that of roundhouse S2 (ie  $c$  11m) is suggested. A group of small pits/postholes (G24) lay within the presumed interior of the structure. The pottery assemblage recovered from the fully excavated gully was the largest from any of the four roundhouse gullies excavated at the site. Similar assemblages of pottery and fired clay/daub were recovered from some of the G24 pits and postholes.

#### PERIOD 3, PHASE 3

The ring-gully of S4 comprises the most complete example excavated at the site, forming an almost complete sub-circle with a gap to the south-east to accommodate an entrance (Figs 2.8 and 2.9). The curved fragment of gully (S5) is of less obvious morphology. The size of structure S5 suggests that it may have been an ancillary building of some kind (diameter  $c$  6m).

The dating of roundhouse S4 (diameter  $c$  10m) is derived from pottery-rich layers of material interpreted as midden or areas of trample (G21; including [451]), which partially overlay the gullies of both roundhouses S2 and S3.

The contemporaneity of structure S5 is based on the spatial relationship with roundhouse S4.

Small assemblages of pottery and fired clay/daub were recovered from the gully of roundhouse S4, with similar limited quantities of such material coming from the internal pits and postholes within roundhouse S4 (G19). Larger assemblages of pottery were recovered from the midden/trample associated with this roundhouse (G21), with more limited amounts of pottery from pits and postholes in the vicinity (G17). It is possible that these features actually represent the scant remains of a post-built structure of some kind.

Small groups of pottery, but no other finds, were recovered from the gully of S5. Similarly, only two sherds of pottery were recovered from the associated pits/postholes (G20). A group of unusual flint-packed features between the two structures, perhaps forming post-pads (G22), produced no other datable material. Arguably, this supports the view that this structure was not used as a domestic dwelling.

#### PERIOD 4: A LATE ROMANO-BRITISH ENCLOSURE AND STRUCTURE ( $c$ 330–410 AD)

Remains of this date were confined to the northern part of the site (Fig 2.10). They consisted of two stretches of gully or shallow ditch that formed the north-western corner of an enclosure (ENC2), presumably a development that made use

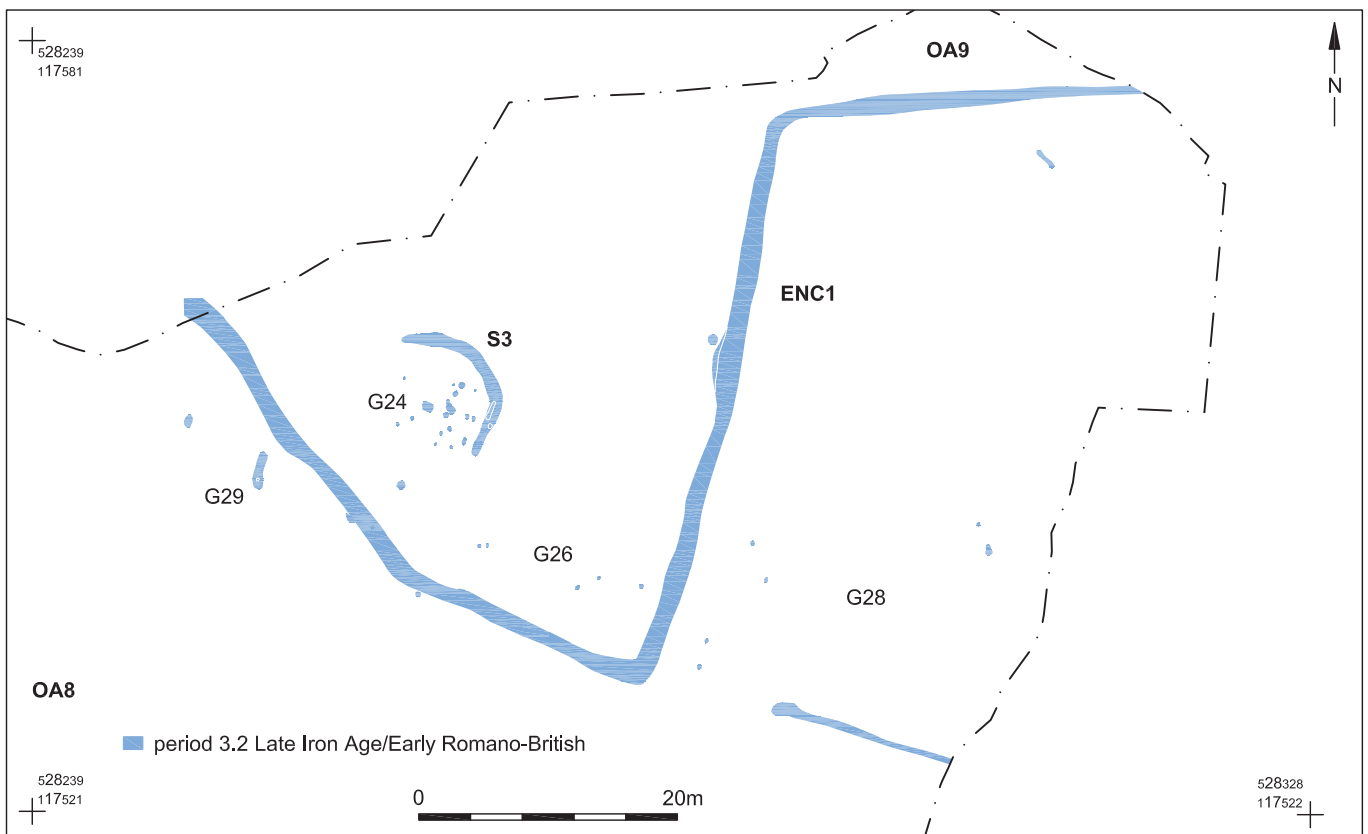


Fig 2.7 Plan of period 3, phase 2 Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British features

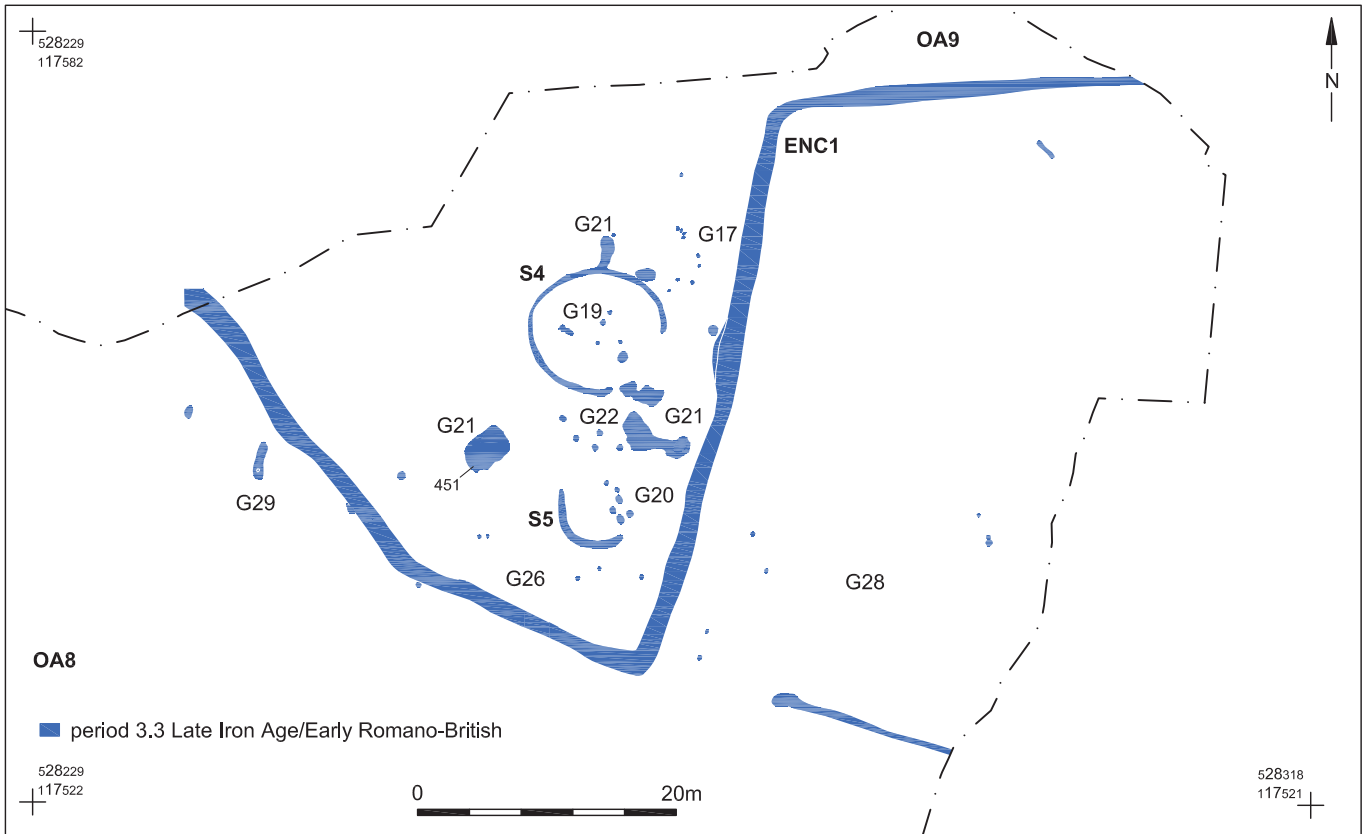


Fig 2.8 Plan of period 3, phase 3 Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British features



Fig 2.9 Photograph of roundhouse S4 during excavation, looking south



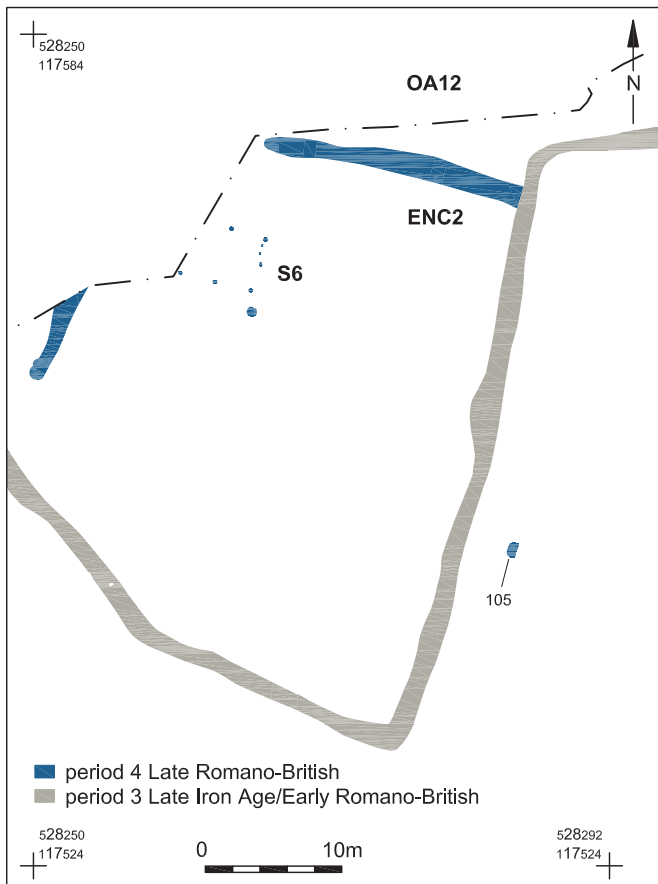


Fig 2.10 Plan of period 4 Late Roman features

of the extant earlier enclosure ditches (ENC1). Within the enclosure was an apparently rectangular post-built structure (S6). The dating of this structure is based on its alignment with the gullies, although scant pottery (only five sherds were recovered from the postholes) may suggest that it actually belongs broadly to period 3, although the pottery may be residual from the earlier activity.

The contemporary juxtaposition of square and round buildings in 2nd century AD Sussex is known from the villa complex at Barcombe (Rudling 2016, fig 8.9B), a site of a completely different character and slightly later date. Similarly, an apparently Early Romano-British rectangular building excavated at the downland site at Park Brow had evidence of internal wall plaster, tile roofs and window glass (Wolseley et al 1927), again suggesting conspicuous wealth, in stark contrast to the current site.

The function of the building remains unclear in the absence of any evidence of its character other than the surviving arrangement of postholes, and although a reasonable assemblage of pottery was recovered from the adjacent ditch this may have originated from domestic activity located outside the site boundary, rather than from activities associated with the structure. A similar, if earlier, rectangular building

set in an enclosure excavated at Hassocks was interpreted as a shrine, but the evidence was thin at best (Mullin et al 2010, 44). It is considered unlikely that the Hurstpierpoint structure performed a primarily ritual function; it was more likely to have been part of a short-lived late Roman farmstead complex, built presumably from wattle and daub with a thatched roof (given the absence of stone or ceramic tiles). A similarly constructed, if earlier, rectangular building excavated at Middleton-on-Sea was interpreted as a 'small domestic farmstead or an agricultural outbuilding of some form' (Barber 1994, 99). Arguably such a label could be equally appropriate to a building of 1st century AD date but on balance (and based on orientation), the building is considered to belong to this later phase.

The only other feature assigned to this period was isolated shallow, sub-square pit [105], which contained a late Roman pottery assemblage and fired clay/daub fragments. In keeping with the other periods, survival of environmental material was poor, although small quantities of oak charcoal were recovered from a structural posthole and pit [105].

#### LIMITED MEDIEVAL EVIDENCE

Medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden during the evaluation of the site (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2015) but no features could be confidently assigned to this period, suggesting that the site was given over to pastoral agriculture, with little evidence of any detectable land division.

#### PERIOD 5: POST-MEDIEVAL FIELDS

Two field boundary ditches, FS1, provide evidence of post-medieval agricultural activity at the site (Fig 2.11). The features were the surviving elements of two phases of a rectilinear field system shown on Yeakell and Gardiner's map of 1778 and the Ordnance Survey map of 1881, but which had been removed by 1910 (Mills Whipp 2015b, figs 2, 3 and 4 respectively). The ditches served to separate field-spaces (OA13–OA15). Although these field boundaries may be medieval in origin, there was no dating evidence to confirm this.

Elongated pits (G31), apparently waterholes associated with the use of the fields, and an isolated burial of a dog (G32) were also encountered. Although the latter was not dated by associated artefacts, the survival of the bone in the locally acidic ground conditions suggests the relatively recent burial of a domestic pet. A small assemblage of post-medieval material, including pottery, clay pipe and metalwork, was recovered from the overburden.

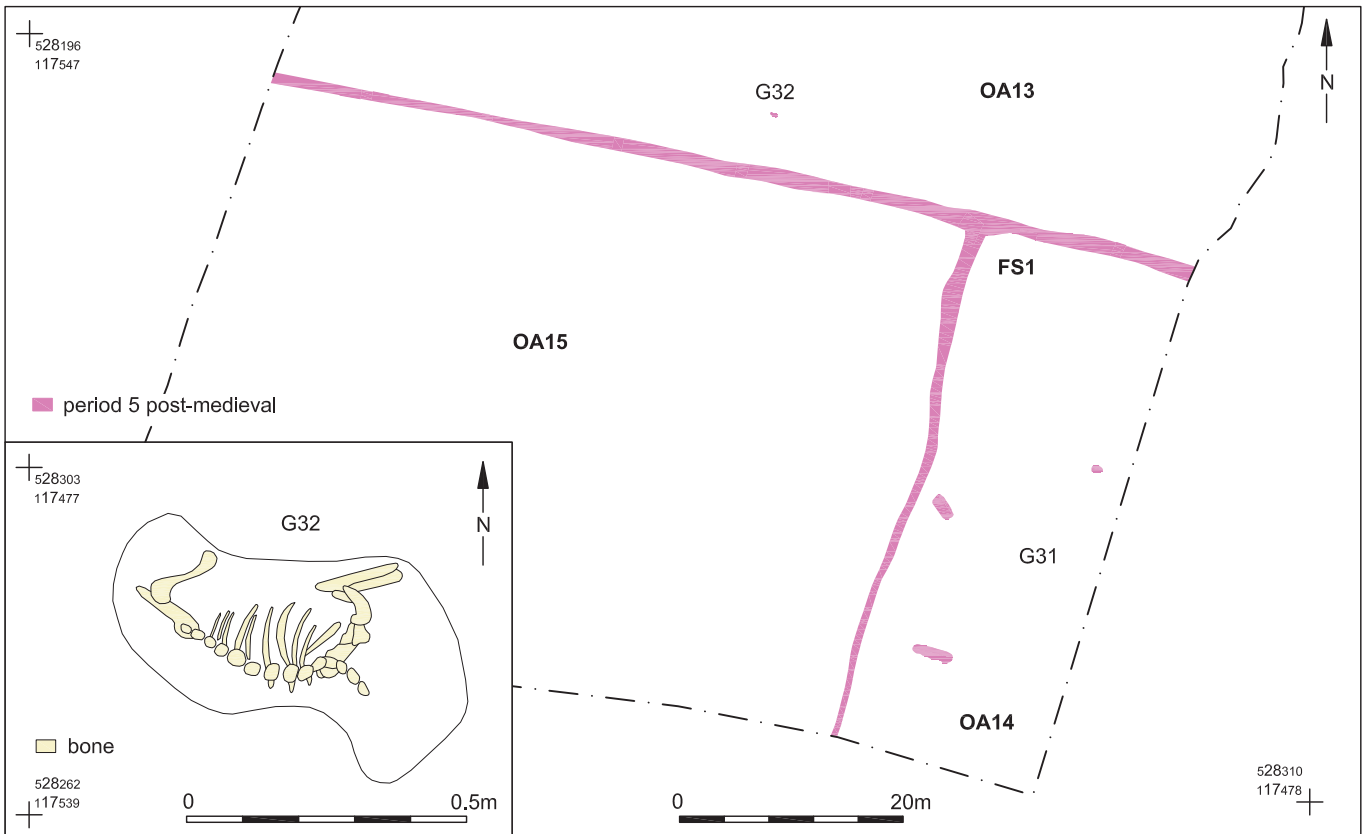


Fig 2.11 Plan of period 5 post-medieval features

## 2.3 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS REPORTS

### THE PALAEOLOGIC HAND AXE

*Karine Le Hégarat*

The only notable worked flint from the site was a Palaeolithic hand axe (RF<5>; Fig 2.12) recovered from the upper fill of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British enclosure (ENC1) ditch. Although clearly residual, it is in relatively good condition. It weighs 240g and measures 106mm in length, with a maximum width of 99mm and a maximum thickness of 19mm. It is reasonably symmetrical (both bilaterally and bifacially) and sub-triangular in plan, and displays a fairly regular profile, with only a few unpronounced deviations. Wide flakes have been initially removed on both faces, followed by a series of low-angled invasive retouch. These have been applied using a soft hammer. Both lateral edges display additional thin scalar retouch that forms a concave delineation towards the tip. The base is fairly straight and has also been modified into a working edge, though not as finely as the lateral edges. This straight base is reminiscent of *bout coupés* hand axes, although these types of hand axe display convex edges (White and Jacobi 2002).

Surprisingly, the piece displays minimal signs of edge abrasion, but it does exhibit surface alteration in the form of cortication patination. One face exhibits traces of creamy

discolouration that increase towards the centre. The other face is free from surface cortication patination, except for a very small area towards the terminal zone. Both faces are shiny, but the gloss is more pronounced on the uncorticated patinated surface. It is manufactured from a fine-grained very dark brown flint and one face exhibits a small area of stained cortex. Though fine-grained, the flint contains a cortex-filled void inclusion. The contrasting surface condition could imply that the hand axe was either exposed to the atmosphere for a certain length of time or that it was buried but affected by different environmental conditions. The overall condition indicates that the hand axe has experienced negligible post-depositional disturbance.

The tip of the hand axe is slightly rounded and exhibits small flake scar removals. The dull appearance of these scars compared with the glossy appearance of the rest of the artefact suggests that they may represent more recent removals. They could have been applied not long before the hand axe was incorporated into the ditch. Studies of late Middle Palaeolithic hand axes have shown that these types of hand axe have often been subject to several phases of shaping (Halliwell and Scott 2011). Equally they could have been applied during the subsequent prehistoric periods, or even during the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period.



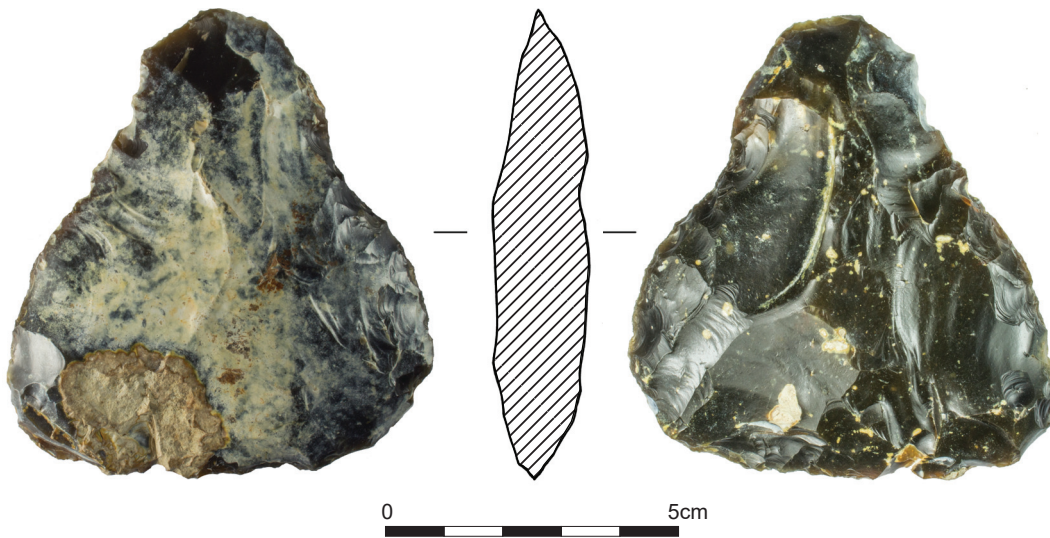


Fig 2.12 Photograph of Middle Palaeolithic hand axe, RF<5>

A recent review of isolated Palaeolithic material from the Weald and from the surrounding Cretaceous and Tertiary landscapes has established that, when retrieved from relatively superficial depth or from the topsoil, Palaeolithic flintwork is likely to relate to the last glaciation (Pope et al 2015, 35). Signs of weathering on earlier Palaeolithic material would be more consistent, simply because it would have been subject to multiple glacial/interglacial cycles. The hand axe was found in apparent isolation, but at least one further example was found in Hassocks, approximately 2.5km south-west of the site (Holden and Roe 1974, 7).

The hand axe occurred as a residual find in a much later context. It probably became incorporated into the upper fill of the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British enclosure ditch from the land surface. However, it could also have been deliberately brought to the site and deposited into the open ditch. Hand axes (among other objects, such as fossils) were sometimes used in Romano-Celtic religious and/or spiritual belief systems (Oakley 1965, 118). On the continent, the Temple des Essarts at Grand-Couronne (Normandy) produced a hoard comprising three Palaeolithic hand axes, 47 Neolithic polished axes and approximately 35 fragments of polished implements (in association with fossils and other material). In the UK, an Iron Age settlement and Roman religious site at Ivy Chimney, Witham (Essex), produced 41 certain and three possible hand axes (Turner and Wymer 1987). Closer to the current site, at Barcombe, a Palaeolithic hand axe was recovered during the excavation of the Roman villa (Wallace 2006), although here the juxtaposition may have been entirely accidental.

## THE PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN POTTERY

*Anna Doherty*

A moderate-sized assemblage of predominantly Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was found during excavations at the site (1639 sherds weighing 9.35kg). The assemblage also includes a small amount of Late Bronze Age pottery, including one possible structured deposit associated with the decommissioning of a house structure, and some very fragmentary material belonging to the Middle/Late Iron Age and late Roman periods.

The pottery was examined using a  $\times 20$  binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count weight, estimated vessel number (ENV) and estimated vessel equivalent (EVE). The quantification in Tables 2.1–2.4 excludes a small amount of prehistoric and Roman pottery that was either unstratified, intrusive to its period or residual in later features. Tempered fabrics were defined according to a site-specific fabric type-series in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010). In the absence of a regional type-series for Sussex, Roman fabrics and forms were recorded using the London/Southwark series (Marsh & Tyers 1978; Davies et al 1994).

### SITE-SPECIFIC FABRIC DEFINITIONS

#### CALC1

Partially leached soft sedimentary rock inclusions, frequently orangeish/iron-stained and set within a silty matrix

#### FLGL1

Sparse flint of 0.5–2mm and rare/sparse fine glauconite of 0.1–0.2mm

#### FLIN1

Sparse very ill-sorted flint of 0.5–3mm set within a dense very silty matrix

#### FLIN2

A dense silty matrix with common, ill-sorted flint, mostly of 1–4mm, very rarely ranging up to 6mm

**FLIN3**

Common, moderately sorted flint most of *c* 0.5–1.5mm (with some examples up to 2mm) set within a silty matrix

**GLAU1**

Common glauconite of 0.2–0.3mm with few other visible inclusions

**GROG1**

Common grog mostly of 1–2mm; a small proportion of the grog-like inclusions may be leached on surfaces

**GROG2**

On a continuum with GROG1 but with a much larger proportion of calcareous inclusions (moderate or common in frequency) and only sparse grog. The inclusions are sometimes of slightly larger size than those in GROG1 (*c* 1.5–3mm)

**QUCA1**

A very silty matrix with sparse larger quartz grains of 0.1–0.5mm and sparse leached sedimentary rock inclusions (similar to those in CALC1) of 0.5–2mm

**QUGL1**

Moderate to common quartz of 0.1–0.3mm and sparse fine glauconite of 0.1–0.3mm

**PERIOD 1**

The earliest pottery from the site, quantified by fabric in Table 2.1, belongs to the Late Bronze Age Post-Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) tradition and comes largely from features associated with roundhouse S1. The Late Bronze Age material is entirely flint-tempered, almost all in moderately coarse fabrics with flint inclusions of up to 3mm (fabric FLIN1); just one vessel is associated with a very coarse ware, with flint occasionally ranging up to 6mm in size (FLIN2).

| Fabric | Sherds | Wt (g) | ENV |
|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| FLIN1  | 31     | 131    | 5   |
| FLIN2  | 36     | 146    | 1   |
| Total  | 67     | 277    | 6   |

Table 2.1 Quantification of Late Bronze Age pottery (period 1)

By far the largest group comes from roundhouse posthole [231] (G12), which contains fairly substantial parts of two vessel profiles. One is a base, in the coarser FLIN2 fabric; the other, in fabric FLIN1, represents the only diagnostic vessel in the Late Bronze Age assemblage: a weakly shouldered jar with a slightly open profile and finger-tipped decoration along its rim (Fig 2.13, no 1). Although the small sample of fabrics encountered in this phase are fairly coarse – often an indicator of an early date within the PDR tradition – the use of decoration probably places this group, and the roundhouse as a whole, into the developed plain-ware phase of the PDR tradition (*c* 950–800 BC).

There are very few Bronze Age assemblages from the Weald with which to compare the current group. By far the largest is an assemblage of just over a thousand sherds excavated

about 5km to the north-east, at Manor Road, Burgess Hill (Raymond 2012). Radiocarbon evidence from the site, and several decorative elements of the pottery assemblage, suggested that activity began in the Middle Bronze Age, though the ceramics were characterised as belonging predominantly to the early undeveloped plain-ware phase of the Late Bronze Age PDR tradition (*c* 1150–950 BC). Some key differences between the Chalkers Lane assemblage and that from Manor Road appear to bolster the view that the current pottery group is slightly later in date. The Manor Road assemblage was dominated by plain convex jar forms, which clearly represent a direct evolution from the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury (DR) tradition and, other than a few probable DR sherds, the assemblage almost entirely lacked decoration. Furthermore, although fabrics were predominantly flint-tempered, over a third of the assemblage was grog-tempered, or contained both grog and flint – fabric types that are lacking from the current assemblage. There was possible evidence that the use of grog temper declined over time, since one of the stratigraphically earliest features contained a larger proportion of these wares, while some other features had entirely flint-tempered assemblages. Similar small transitional DR/PDR or undeveloped plain-ware PDR assemblages, also including an element of grog tempering, have been recorded on other Wealden sites, including America Wood, Ashington, Balcombe Road, Crawley and Ingram's Farm, Ninfield (Hamilton 1994; Doherty 2017a; 2017b).

An assemblage of a few hundred sherds from Gatwick Airport also appears to be slightly different in character to that from Chalkers Lane (Every & Mephem 2005). Although it was similarly dominated by flint-tempered wares, many of these were somewhat finer, with much sandier background matrixes, and one vessel in a non-flint-tempered vesicular fabric was recorded, possibly of a type similar to Iron Age fabrics CALC1 and QUCA1 from the current assemblage. Furthermore, although the Gatwick assemblage was characterised as an 11th- to 8th-century plain-ware PDR group, the range of forms represented include at least two strongly carinated vessels, including one with a long, flaring rim profile, perhaps more in keeping with Early Iron Age ceramic traditions (*ibid*, fig 9, no 1 and 4, 57).

The two vessels found in roundhouse S1 posthole, [231], are both *c* 20% complete. Being easily crushed, low-fired ceramics seem an unlikely choice for post-packing material and, had the vessels been used in this way, they would probably have been found in much more fragmented condition. The fact that the feature was almost entirely filled with pottery

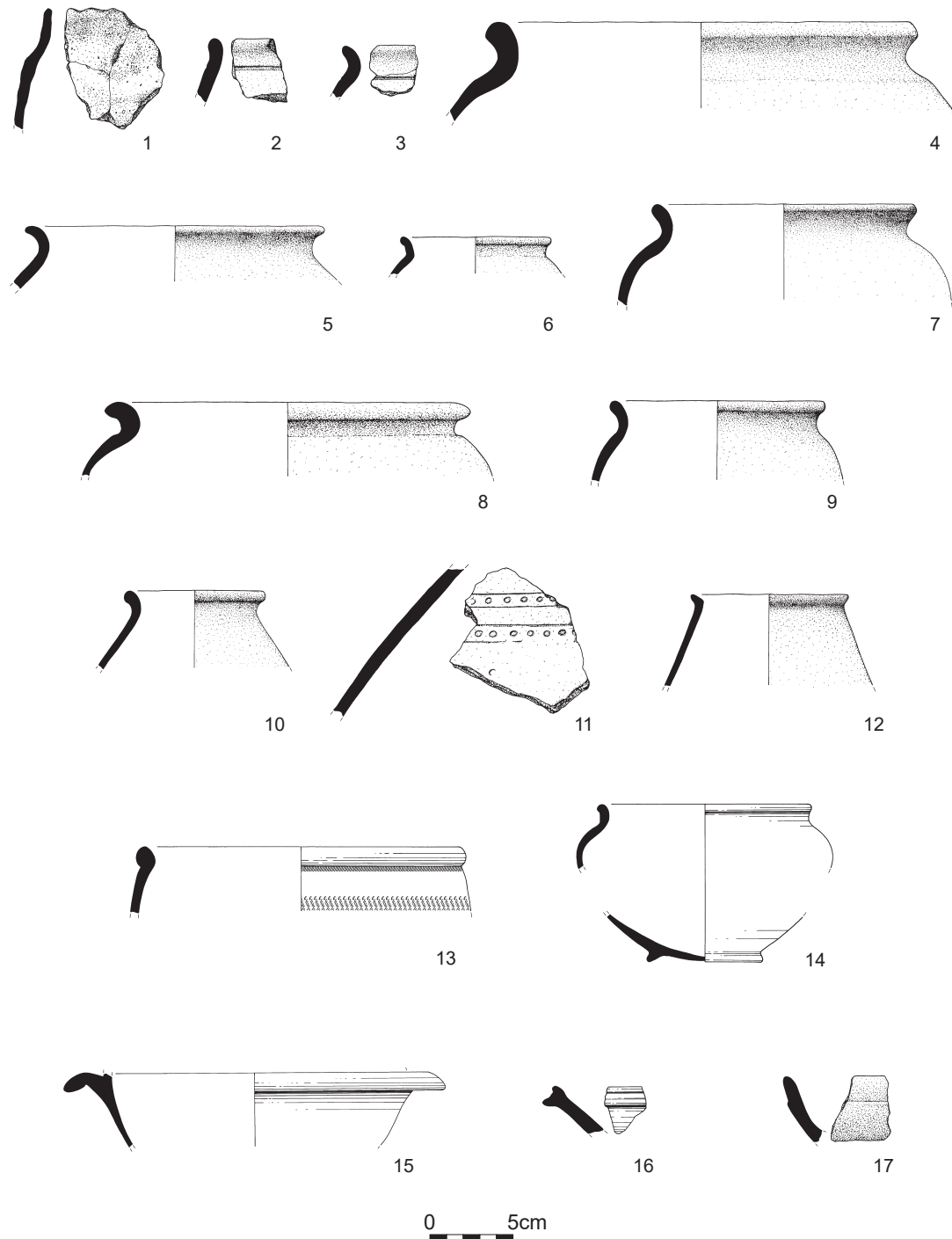


Fig 2.13 Prehistoric and Roman pottery illustrations

therefore seems to indicate that this material was deposited after the removal of the structural post, perhaps implying that the building was deliberately dismantled rather than left to decay in situ. Interestingly, though, the posthole was very small (0.15m in diameter and *c* 0.20m in depth), making it seem improbable that it was selected as a convenient receptacle for refuse, particularly as adjacent postholes were either completely devoid of pottery or contained only a few small body sherds.

#### PERIOD 2

A tiny quantity of pottery (five sherds, 17g, two ENV) was recovered from the Middle/Late Iron Age stratigraphic period. These comprised body sherds in a sandy fabric with leached sedimentary inclusions (QUCA1) from pit [500] (G23), and in a fine flint-tempered ware with glauconite (FLGL1) from gully [548] (G11). It should be noted that similar fabrics were quite commonly found in period 3 features, and the only evidence that the period 2 material might be earlier in date is the absence of grog-tempered wares.

## PERIOD 3 LATE IRON AGE/EARLY ROMAN

Period 3 has been divided into three phases, primarily based on the stratigraphic and spatial relationships of the roundhouses and their associated features. It is difficult to comment meaningfully on any associated ceramic phasing, simply because period 3, phase 1 and period 3, phase 2 produced very small quantities of pottery and about two-thirds of the assemblage came from deposits that could be only broadly assigned to period 3 as a whole. The material from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period is therefore discussed as one assemblage with fabrics quantified in Table 2.2 and forms in Table 2.3.

The period 3 pottery is predominantly made up by grog-tempered wares, as is typical in Late Iron Age/earlier Roman assemblages from the Weald. The current site also produced a small number of sherds in a suite of other tempered fabrics. In order of frequency these are: fine flint-tempered wares with glauconite (FLGL1), non-sandy wares with leached sedimentary inclusions (CALC1), fine flint-tempered wares (FLIN3), sandy wares with leached sedimentary inclusions (QUCA1), sandy wares with sparse fine glauconite (QUGL1) and purely glauconitic wares (GLAU1).

It should be noted here that, while sedimentary rock temper appears fairly specific to the Middle and later Iron Age in the Weald, at sites such as Broadbridge Heath (Doherty 2018) the glauconitic and finer flint-tempered fabrics could feasibly be earlier, since they have been identified in late PDR/Early Iron Age assemblages from Sussex (Seager Thomas 2008, 41). However, no diagnostic feature sherds from the period c 800–300 BC have been confidently identified in the current assemblage and, in several cases, the tempered wares are associated with diagnostic Middle or Middle/Late Iron Age forms, including several beaded rims and one simple to everted rim jar with tooled line decoration, which are probably

| Fabric       | Description                     | Sherds      | Sherds %     | Wt (g)      | Wt %         | ENV        | ENV %        |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| CALC1        | Site-specific fabric            | 12          | 1.0          | 52          | 0.7          | 6          | 0.9          |
| FLGL1        | Site-specific fabric            | 27          | 2.2          | 72          | 1.0          | 5          | 0.7          |
| FLIN3        | Site-specific fabric            | 17          | 1.4          | 43          | 0.6          | 5          | 0.7          |
| GLAU1        | Site-specific fabric            | 1           | 0.1          | 4           | 0.1          | 1          | 0.1          |
| QUCA1        | Site-specific fabric            | 4           | 0.3          | 26          | 0.4          | 3          | 0.4          |
| QUGL1        | Site-specific fabric            | 4           | 0.3          | 14          | 0.2          | 4          | 0.6          |
| GROG1        | Site-specific fabric            | 1085        | 88.9         | 6381        | 91.6         | 641        | 94.4         |
| GROG2        | Site-specific fabric            | 68          | 5.6          | 331         | 4.8          | 11         | 1.6          |
| FINE         | Un sourced fine unoxidised ware | 1           | 0.1          | 1           | 0.0          | 1          | 0.1          |
| OXIDF        | Un sourced fine oxidised ware   | 1           | 0.1          | 1           | 0.0          | 1          | 0.1          |
| SAND         | Un sourced coarse grey ware     | 1           | 0.1          | 42          | 0.6          | 1          | 0.1          |
| <b>Total</b> |                                 | <b>1221</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>6967</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>679</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 2.2 Quantification of pottery in period 2

| Form class   | ENV       | ENV %        | EVE         | EVE %        |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Jars         | 51        | 92.7         | 5.01        | 92.4         |
| Beakers      | 3         | 5.5          | 0.41        | 7.6          |
| Strainer     | 1         | 1.8          |             | 0.0          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>55</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>5.42</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 2.3 Quantification of period 3 forms

developed from the later Middle Iron Age decorated Saucepan tradition (Fig 2.13, nos 2 and 3). Interestingly, one of the grog-tempered vessels, which probably does not pre-date the 1st century BC, was associated with a decorative style that arguably also owes something to the Saucepan tradition, comprising burnished arcs and small stamped circles (Fig 2.13, no 11). This reinforces the impression that there was probably some low-level activity on site in the transitional Middle/Late Iron Age period, although some of the Iron Age tradition tempered wares may have remained in contemporary use into the mid 1st century AD. Similar Conquest period assemblages from a nearby excavation at Penlands Farm, Haywards Heath (Doherty Chapter 5.3), and from slightly further to the west at Dittons Road, Polegate (Doherty in prep a), both also featured a similar proportion of flint-tempered and glauconitic wares in predominantly grog-tempered assemblages.

Although the assemblage from period 3, phase 1 is not large enough to provide a representative sample of fabrics (see quantities in Table 2.1), it is worth noting that the small groups from the associated structure, roundhouse S2, included a sizable minority of these Iron Age tradition fabrics alongside grog-tempered wares (14% of sherds), while a larger assemblage (114 sherds) from the subsequent period 3, phase 2 building, Roundhouse S3, contained an even larger proportion of these wares (19%). Roundhouse S3 also produced the only flint-tempered sherd associated with later Iron Age jar form (P3).

By contrast, the substantial assemblage (238 sherds) recovered from roundhouse S4, assigned to period 3, phase 3, was 97% grog-tempered with only a handful of sherds in other tempered wares, perhaps indicating a somewhat later date of deposition. A similar composition was also noted in the largest group of all, from enclosure ditch G8 (761 sherds), and this was also the only stratified period 3 feature to contain a small number of



unsourced Early Roman sandy wares (fabrics FINE, OXIDF and SAND). This probably indicates that, although the ditch may have been open and in use throughout the life of the settlement, it was probably the latest feature to go out of use. There are no other large assemblages with close ceramic phasing from the mid Sussex region; however, looking further afield to other large Wealden sites such as Westhawk Farm, Ashford, it appears that large key groups of 1st-century date tend to contain a larger proportion of Roman wares than ditch G8 (Lyne 2008, 217). This seems to suggest that period 3 activity was coming to an end very early in the post-Conquest period.

The assemblage is almost completely jar-dominated (see Table 2.3). There are a few examples of beaded and simple everted rim forms, some of them associated with Iron Age tradition non-grog-tempered fabrics (Fig 2.13, nos 2–3); however, the assemblage is overwhelmingly made up by jars with simple necked profiles (Fig 2.13, nos 4–5 and 7–9). It is interesting to note that these lack any traits associated with the Gallo-Belgic tradition, such as cordons or carinations. Instead, the only style of decoration encountered is the use of thick applied finger-tipped cordons on the mid body (not illustrated). This decorative tradition appears quite insular and is confined to Wealden and some coastal East Sussex sites; it was repeatedly recorded at Broadbridge Heath, for instance, and examples have also been noted at Bishopstone, Newhaven and Hassocks (Doherty 2018; Green 1980, fig 27, no 1 and fig 29, 10–12; Lyne 1994, fig 5, no 1).

Apart from jars, only a handful of beaker forms was recorded, including one that could be characterised as a narrow neck jar/beaker (Fig 2.13, no 10). Apart from this there are two beakers, which appear loosely influenced by butt-beakers (eg Fig 2.13, no 12) – perhaps the only elements of the current assemblage with links to Gallo-Belgic ceramic traditions – and two examples of simple globular beaker forms (eg Fig 2.13, no 6).

#### PERIOD 4

A small assemblage of Late Roman pottery (quantified by fabric type in Table 2.4) was recovered from ditches G9 and G10. As in period 3, a large proportion of the assemblage is made up by grog-tempered wares. Although these are occasionally quite highly fired, most examples are not readily distinguishable from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman grog-tempered wares. Two of the grog-tempered sherds from period 4 features have decorative features that suggest that they are residual Late Iron Age/Early Roman wares, and it is likely that at least some of the other body sherds are also redeposited. The proportion of

grog-tempered wares is notably higher than at Burgess Hill, a site with no Late Iron Age/Early Roman phase, where a large later 4th- to early 5th-century ditch group comprised about 25% grog-tempered wares (Lyne 1999, microfiche table 2). It is possible that the period 4 activity at Hurstpierpoint is slightly earlier in date; it certainly contains lower levels of Alice Holt ware than the Burgess Hill group (where it makes up 28% of the group). However, Oxfordshire red-slipped wares (from an industry known to have expanded and taken a much greater share of the market in the last half century of the Roman period) are present at very similar levels to those from Burgess Hill (*c* 13%). Other later Roman fine wares represented in small quantities include Nene Valley colour-coated ware and Hadham red ware. Overwey/Portchester D ware, produced from *c* AD 330, is represented by only three estimated vessels.

| Fabric       | Description                    | Sherds     | Wt (g)      | ENV        |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| AHFA         | Alice Holt Farnham ware        | 4          | 6           | 1          |
| FINE         | Unsourced fine unoxidised ware | 2          | 13          | 2          |
| GROG1        | Grog-tempered ware 1           | 147        | 945         | 117        |
| GROG2        | Grog-tempered ware 2           | 20         | 125         | 16         |
| MHAD         | Much Hadham fine red ware      | 1          | 2           | 1          |
| NVCC         | Nene Valley colour-coated ware | 3          | 32          | 2          |
| OXID         | Unsourced coarse oxidised ware | 5          | 31          | 3          |
| OXIDF        | Unsourced fine oxidised ware   | 3          | 38          | 3          |
| OXRC         | Oxfordshire red-slipped ware   | 44         | 246         | 24         |
| PORD         | Portchester D ware             | 6          | 46          | 3          |
| SAND         | Unsourced coarse grey ware     | 62         | 312         | 16         |
| <b>Total</b> |                                | <b>297</b> | <b>1796</b> | <b>188</b> |

Table 2.4 Quantification of fabrics in period 4

The majority of the forms identified in this period are in grog-tempered or unsourced sandy coarse wares, imitating black-burnished ware vessels. They are predominantly everted rim jars (not illustrated), with a few examples of plain rim dishes (eg Fig 2.13, no 17) and one bead-and-flange bowl (Fig 2.13, no 16). Samian-related bowl forms in Oxfordshire red-slipped ware are also fairly well represented (Fig 2.13, nos 13–15).

#### DISCUSSION

It is interesting to note that the Late Iron Age/Early Roman assemblage shows much less diversity than an approximately contemporary assemblage excavated *c* 3km to the south-east at Hassocks. There, the earlier Roman pottery included a greater range of Roman fabric types, including a small amount of samian ware and regionally traded white wares from the Arun Valley. The form types also included a significant minority



of tablewares such as flagons and platters, which are simply absent at Chalkers Lane (Biddulph 2010, table 3, 31). In part this might be explained by chronology; the Hassocks earlier Roman pottery constitutes a broadly dated assemblage including material up to the early 2nd century AD, whereas (as discussed above) Late Iron Age/earliest Roman assemblages such as that from Chalkers Lane tend to be much more dominated by grog-tempered wares. However, many of the Hassocks tableware forms, including platters and flagons, do appear to be influenced by the Late Iron Age/Early Roman Gallo-Belgic tradition. Even among the coarse wares from Chalkers Lane there are curiously few stylistic or technological influences from the continent. Evidence for the use of the potter's wheel or the manufacture of distinctive condoned or carinated forms were not observed and instead the Chalkers Lane assemblage was dominated by utilitarian jar forms, which were largely undecorated or decorated in styles that appear quite insular and local.

The Hassocks settlement, which lay close to the junction of two important Roman roads, appears to have had both access to and some level of demand for Roman tablewares. Although there is no clear evidence to show that Hassocks was of an urban or nucleated character in the Roman period, a substantial cemetery and a small masonry building destroyed by quarrying in the 19th or 20th century may hint that it had some elements of organised Roman infrastructure (Lyne 1994) and it seems likely that major crossroads might have been places where the trading of goods took place. It must also be noted that the current site lies a short distance north of the east–west Greensand Way that leads to Hassocks, so the noticeable variation between the two assemblages may not be the result of differential access to a diverse range of wares. Instead, there may have been real cultural differences between populations living within a few kilometres of each other, the population at Chalkers Lane seemingly using a suite of vessels that was much more indigenous in character.

Finally, although the period 4 Late Roman assemblage is of fairly inconsequential size, it is worth noting that the chronological evidence it provides is in keeping with a growing body of ceramic data from the western side of the Weald that suggests a broader regional trend of sites seemingly abandoned in the 1st or early 2nd century, with some smaller-scale reoccupation near the end of the Roman period (Margetts 2018a). Interestingly, this contrasts with the picture to the south, on the Sussex Coastal Plain, where very few pottery assemblages of mid 4th-century or later date have been recorded.

## ILLUSTRATION CATALOGUE (FIG 2.13)

### Period 1

- Shouldered jar with finger-tipping along rim top; fabric FLIN1; fill [232], posthole [231], Roundhouse S1

### Period 3

- Jar with slightly beaded rim and horizontal tooled line; fabric QUCA1; fill [185], ditch [184], G8, Enclosure ditch 1
- Jar with simple necked/everted rim profile and horizontal tooled line; fabric FLIN3; fill [578], gully [577], Roundhouse S3
- Large simple necked jar; fabric GROG1; fill [104], posthole [103], Roundhouse S4
- Simple necked jar; fabric GROG1; deposit [414], midden/trample G21, associated with Roundhouse S4
- Everted rim, globular beaker; fabric GROG1; deposit [400], midden/trample G21, associated with Roundhouse S4
- Simple necked jar; fabric GROG1; fill [116], ditch [115], G8, Enclosure ditch 1
- Simple necked jar; fabric GROG1; fill [114], ditch [130], G8, Enclosure ditch 1
- Simple necked jar; fabric GROG1; fill [160], ditch [143], G8, Enclosure ditch 1
- Narrow-necked jar/beaker; fabric GROG1; fill [162], ditch [144], G8, Enclosure ditch 1
- Decorated body sherds with stamped circles within borders of horizontal and curvilinear tooled lines, reminiscent of decoration on later vessels of the Middle Iron Age Saucepan tradition; fabric GROG1; fill [162], ditch [144], G8, Enclosure ditch 1
- Butt-beaker imitation; fabric GROG1; fill [340], ditch [338], G8, Enclosure ditch 1

### Period 4

- Rouletted bowl loosely based on Dragendorff 37 (cf Young 1977 C68); fabric OXRC; intrusive in fill [336], ditch [331], G8, Enclosure ditch 1
- Necked, footring bowl (cf Young 1977 C75); fabric OXRC; fill [413], ditch [412], G9, Enclosure ditch 2
- Flanged bowl loosely based on Dragendorff 38 (cf Young 1977 C51); fabric OXRC; fill [108], ditch [109], G10, Enclosure ditch 3
- Bead-and-flange bowl; fabric GROG1; fill [108], ditch [109], G10, Enclosure ditch 3
- Plain rim dish with slight external ridge; fabric OXID; fill [108], ditch [109], G10, Enclosure ditch 3

## 2.4 DISCUSSION

The site at Chalkers Lane offered a range of archaeological features and finds, some of regional significance. The Palaeolithic flintwork and Late Bronze Age features were important in their own right, but arguably, given the paucity of fieldwork in the Weald, any buried archaeological features, especially reliable evidence for the presence of structures, are of value in this previously understudied region.

The Middle Palaeolithic hand axe joins a thin corpus of artefacts dating from the distant past recovered from the Weald. It was not recovered from a geological deposit, so was clearly not in situ when encountered. It is open to debate as to whether the artefact was an entirely accidental inclusion in the later deposit, originating locally, or if it had been collected/curated during the 1st century AD, before deposition in the ditch, either unintentionally or by design. Deliberate placing of such curated Palaeolithic hand axes in Roman contexts is a recognised, if rare, phenomenon known at religious/ritual sites on both sides of the English Channel. The deposition of

flint artefacts, perhaps originally viewed as ‘lucky charms’, at Romano-British agricultural/domestic locations is also widely attested (Adkins and Adkins 1985, 69). It is argued here that the ‘arresting, indelible and compelling nature’ (Pope et al 2006) of such Palaeolithic artefacts would have led members of past societies to treasure them for solely aesthetic reasons, even if no ritual significance was attached to them; the Hurstpierpont piece is particularly attractive (Fig 2.12).

The thin scatter of flintwork across the site suggested activity in the vicinity throughout prehistory, again perhaps not insignificant in itself given the diminutive Wealden dataset, but the presence of Late Bronze Age features, including a post-built roundhouse, is of undoubted importance. Given that a roundhouse of Middle Bronze Age date has also been recorded in the locale (at Hassocks; Mullin et al 2010), there is now growing excavated proof of the extensive and continuing woodland clearance and occupation long proposed for the Weald (Gardiner 1990) lasting through the Bronze Age.

It was unfortunate that the environmental evidence recovered from the Late Bronze Age features was so poor. This was similar to the situation at Gatwick (Carruthers 2005, 64), so it remains impossible to address issues around agricultural regimes in the Weald during the period at present, and awaits the analysis of assemblages from other sites. However, the available evidence does include clear indications of structured deposition. It is possible that these ‘special’ deposits associated with the roundhouses at both Chalkers Lane and Burgess Hill were part of a widespread and potentially highly organised framework for votive deposition in the Weald, encompassing as yet undiscovered features and artefacts, as well as ‘offerings’ such as the unused Late Bronze Age sword deposited in a watercourse near Crawley (found in 1952; Kaminski 2016). There is clear evidence for this ‘established behavioral repertoire’ of metalwork deposition on the coastal plain (Dunkin 2016, 76), but it awaits confirmation in the Weald.

Although evidence of field systems has been more forthcoming in the past, again such features are a rarity in the Weald, especially compared to the coastal plain (Yates 2007), although this probably reflects the comparative levels of fieldwork in the two geographical areas rather than showing the true picture of past occupation (Margetts 2018a). Although there were hints of Middle to Late Iron Age occupation at the site, the most conspicuous remains were those of the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British enclosure and roundhouses. Rebuilding/resiting of the roundhouses occurred on three occasions, all within the ditched enclosure, suggesting long-term intensive domestic/agricultural use of the site during this period.

Although it was unfortunate that the range of finds and environmental evidence from the features was so limited, the pottery assemblage provided clear evidence of occupation of the roundhouses during the 1st century AD. Regrettably, the limitations in the evidence did not allow a consideration of change through time, with no possibility of drawing meaningful conclusions in regard to any shifts in agricultural practice potentially linked to periodic rebuilding of the roundhouses. In truth, the artefactual and environmental evidence provided few clues to the agricultural regime in this part of the Weald, with the faintest suggestions of wheat, barley and oats as crops, and the triangular loom weight (RF<1>) offering an anecdotal hint at textile processing from domesticated livestock.

However, as with the Late Bronze Age structure, the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British roundhouses add to a limited corpus of structures of this date identified and published from the Weald. This is undoubtedly a reflection of the general paucity of fieldwork in the area, and perhaps also a result of the more visible nature of Late Iron Age Wealden hillforts and ironworking sites, where research excavations have been concentrated in the past (eg Money 1977; Stevens 2013). Although the identification of agricultural settlements away from the downland was identified as ‘a high priority for future research’ in the 1980s (Drewett et al 1988, 145), analysis of rural settlement patterns in the Weald has been hamstrung by the aforementioned rarity of fieldwork. In more recent years, however, excavations have uncovered evidence of settlements of this date in the region, but arguably some are of differing character from that at Chalkers Lane.

The nearby site at Hassocks lies adjacent to a known major Roman transportation route and the pottery assemblage from the site (Biddulph 2010) suggests a far more ‘Romanised’ settlement at an earlier date than Chalkers Lane. This is perhaps indicative of the relatively ‘indigenous’ nature of the current site, and an accompanying conservative viewpoint on material culture. It could equally be the result of the poverty of the settlement and a subsequent lack of choice. Similarly, the site at Beedings near Pulborough, which overlooks the Weald, was clearly of high significance and status in the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods (Pope et al 2012) and is not therefore comparable in any way to the apparently rather poor Wealden farmstead at Hurstpierpoint.

Perhaps more comparable and contemporary low-status domestic/agricultural sites include a double-ditched ?stock enclosure at Haywards Heath (Chapter 5), a site enclosed by ditches and a possible watercourse at Southwater (Chapter 4),

and a ditched enclosure with an associated roundhouse near Billingshurst (Chapter 3). The enclosures at the Southwater and Billingshurst sites may be slightly later in date, although there was also evidence of Late Iron Age activity at both locations.

A large-scale site excavated during the Wickhurst Green development near Broadbridge Heath has revolutionised the understanding of settlement in the Weald during this and other periods (Margetts 2018a). A group of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British enclosures containing evidence of agricultural, domestic and mortuary activity was recorded, with the size of the site allowing the author to consider themes such as the settlement's place in the local transportation network (*ibid*). Arguably the presence of imported material at Wickhurst Green places it higher on the social scale than Hurstpierpoint; however, such suggestions are tentative – it should be remembered that 'characterisation of the Wealden Iron Age ... is still somewhat in its infancy' (*ibid*).

The evidence of later Romano-British occupation at the site is limited but does offer scope for discussion, and although the evidence is dwarfed by the Roman material from Wickhurst Green, taken as a whole, both sites demonstrate a 'renewed uptake of earlier settlement enclosures' (*ibid*), a phenomenon that was also noted at Billingshurst (Chapter 3). Unfortunately, detailed characterisation of later Roman archaeology in the Weald is handicapped by the historic concentration of excavations at villas and ironworking sites, mirroring the issues with the Iron Age archaeology of the region (see above).

What can be said is that a 'new' enclosure, and probably an associated post-built rectangular structure, were in use at the site in the 4th century AD. Clearly estates such as that centred on the Bignor villa were flourishing at this time, despite threats from the continent (Rudling 2003, 121–2), and although the administrative structure of the Wealden economy is unclear at the time people clearly continued to live and farm in this part of the country.

The site appears to have fallen out of use towards the end of the Roman period, with no evidence of Anglo-Saxon or medieval reuse of the farmstead site for habitation. Post-medieval evidence was limited to the division of land, with limited evidence of agricultural exploitation, and the burial of a pet dog.

Although clearly not as ground-breaking or potentially lasting in its impact as the recent archaeological work at Wickhurst Green, the multi-period site at Chalkers Lane had much to offer, despite obvious limitations in the quantity (and arguably the quality) of the material culture and especially the

environmental evidence. It provides an all-too-rare opportunity to investigate a long-occupied site in the Sussex Weald. It is of importance for highlighting emerging aspects of Wealden archaeology – that is, evidence of occupation and land division in the later Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

# CHAPTER 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON LAND TO THE EAST OF STANE STREET, BILLINGSHURST

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## 3.1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeology South-East (UCL Institute of Archaeology) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd (now RPS Group Plc) to carry out a series of developer-funded archaeological investigations in advance of the residential development of a 27ha plot of land east of Billingshurst, West Sussex (NGR TQ 092263). The site is situated towards the western edge of the Low Weald, close to the junction of two key routes. The north-westernmost part of the site lies adjacent to Stane Street, the Roman road from Chichester to London and the modern A29, while the southern part of the site straddles the A272 as it passes eastwards out of Billingshurst (Fig 3.1). The site was

divided into 12 fields, including arable, pasture and scrubland, and encompasses a natural valley and its two flanking ridges, orientated roughly east to west. Ground levels started at 50m OD at the northern boundary, falling to 35m OD at the valley bottom and rising once more to 53m OD over the second ridge and the route of the A272, before dropping away once more to 34m OD.

The natural geology encountered in all parts of the site was Weald Clay with outcroppings of sandstone and mudstone (BGS 2018). It was typically a firm, mottled deposit, varying in colour from mid brown-orange to light grey, and consisted of a slightly silty clay with sandy clay patches. Outcrops of laminar

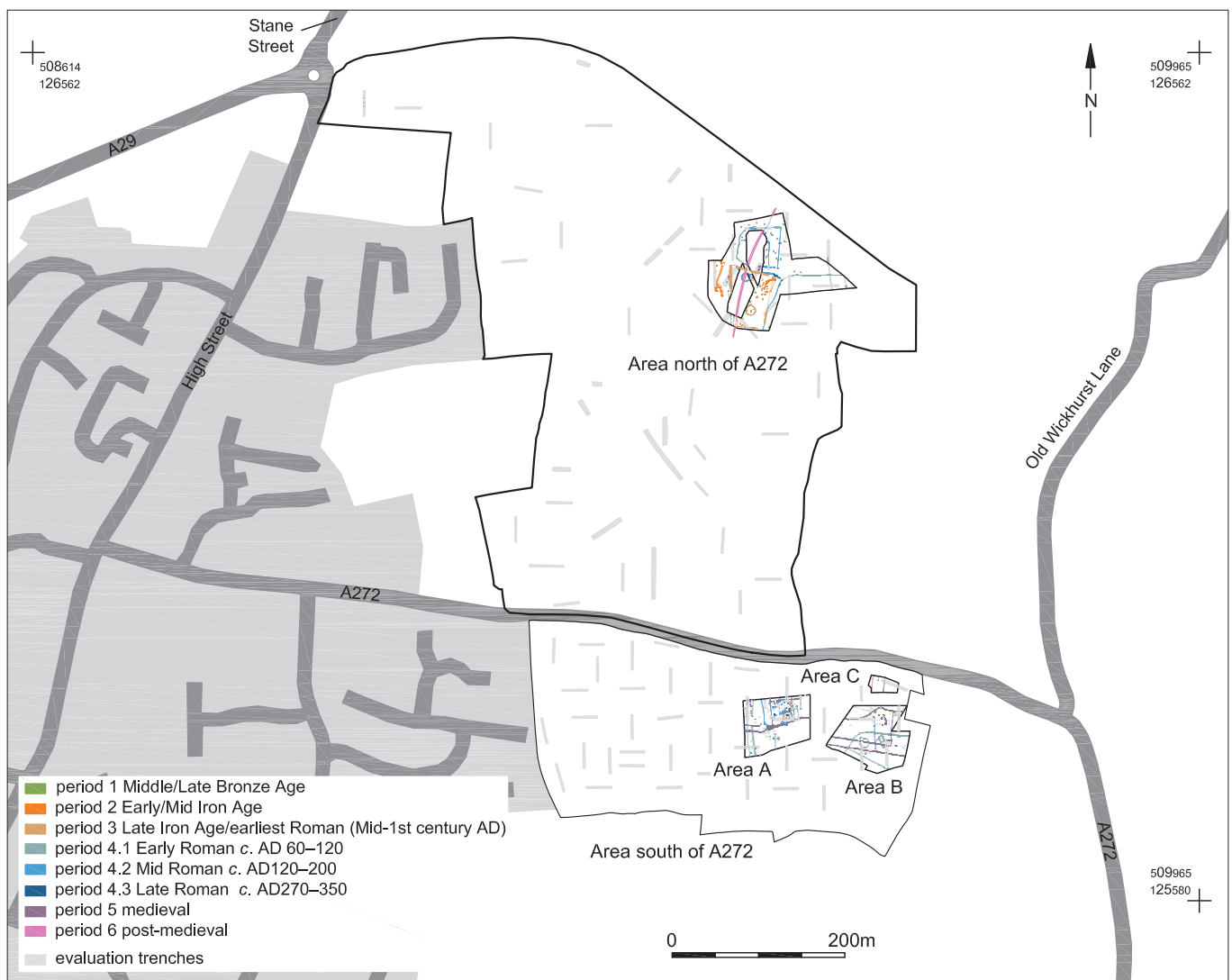


Fig 3.1 Site location and the locations of the various phases of work. Based on OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] [2020].



mudstone and sandstone were encountered, predominantly towards the top of both ridges, in the north and north-west portions of the area to the north of the A272 and in the north and north-east portions of the area south of the A272.

Narrow ceramic land drains were visible across both areas but other than these there was little visible disturbance of the site. However, many archaeological features were very shallow, suggesting that the site had been subject to a significant degree of horizontal truncation, probably as a result of 19th- and 20th-century ploughing. The Billingshurst Tithe Apportionment (1841–4) shows the relevant fields as under arable cultivation at that time.

Two large tree protection order zones (TPOs) around five old oak trees lay across the centre of the northernmost of the two excavated areas (Fig 3.2). This resulted in nearly half of the area internal to a Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosure being left unexcavated, along with a similar portion of the two Roman enclosures. As such, it is entirely possible that evidence of further structures and domestic or other activity remains buried within these inaccessible areas.



Fig 3.2 Aerial photograph of the excavation area to the north of the A272, facing east

## 3.2 SITE PHASING

The analysis and comparison of the sequence of deposits across both excavated areas has led to eight phases of activity being recognised across six periods.

Period 1 – Middle/Late Bronze Age

Period 2 – Early/Mid Iron Age

Period 3 – Late Iron Age/earliest Roman (mid 1st century AD)

Period 4 – Roman

4.1 – Early Roman - *c* AD 60–120

4.2 – Mid Roman - *c* AD 120–200

4.3 – Late Roman – *c* AD 270–350

Period 5 – medieval

Period 6 – post-medieval

Period 1 was evidenced by limited Middle to Late Bronze Age activity. This was followed by the earliest land division and metalworking, as evidenced by a small smithy phased to period 2. The earliest tangible evidence of settlement originated shortly after the Roman Conquest with the establishment of a small enclosed farmstead (Period 3). Three phases of Roman activity were defined as periods 4.1–4.3 and related to reorganisation of the Period 3 settlement alongside the establishment of a second settlement probably contemporary with the construction of Stane Street. A decline in both sites was evident in the 2nd century, with two unurned cremation burials associated with a phase of limited maintenance of earlier settlement features. Of particular interest from Period 4.3 was a complete ring-gully securely dated to AD 270–350. While the ring-gully may have formed part of a small roundhouse, the structure is considered most likely to have functioned as a small regional shrine. Activity resumed once again during the medieval period (Period 5), characterised by land division that would be further developed as the post-medieval period progressed (Period 6).

## 3.3 RESULTS

### RESIDUAL PREHISTORIC MATERIAL

A total of 178 flint artefacts was recovered across the whole area, dominated by knapping waste. Flakes were the best-represented type, but blades, bladelets and blade-like flakes were also evident. The assemblage contained 21 modified pieces including seven diagnostic tools: four microliths, a leaf arrowhead, a polished axe and a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead. Twelve cores were also found. Based on the presence of the diagnostic tools, and on technological grounds, the assemblage provides evidence for a Mesolithic and Neolithic to Early Bronze Age presence at the site. However, all surviving prehistoric features post-dated the Early Bronze Age, indicating that the flintwork is primarily residual material.

### PERIOD 1: MIDDLE/LATE BRONZE AGE

THE OPEN AREA LANDSCAPE (OA1 (NORTH) AND OA2 (SOUTH))

There continued to be no visible sign of landscape modification or settlement east of Billingshurst into the middle and latter half of the Bronze Age. Instead, the archaeological evidence, just three discrete features, points to the low-level exploitation





Fig 3.3 Plan of period 1 features (south site) with insert showing location of Open Area I

of a landscape probably comprising unmodified woodland. However, recent pollen data from Wickhurst Green has demonstrated that some woodland clearance was taking place in the west central Weald from the end of the Middle Bronze Age (Margetts 2018a) and, while being archaeologically invisible, some clearance may have also been occurring on land east of Billingshurst.

### EARLY ACTIVITY

The earliest intact archaeological deposits comprised three isolated features, all of ambiguous function, within the area to the south of the A272 (OA2) (Fig 3.3). Two of these are pits of greatly varying size, one very small [82/011] and the other large [2232]. Both contained only a few small conjoining body sherds of pottery, which were not closely datable beyond being broadly assigned to the later 2nd millennium BC. The larger of the two pits [2232] also contained a Neolithic broken leaf arrowhead displaying a bifacially retouched tip. The artefact is probably a residual find in this context.

The third feature comprised a possible pit with diffuse edges [1623] that contained the base of a thick-walled Deverel-Rimbury vessel of Middle Bronze Age date. The vessel contained many fragments of low-fired clay, but no evidence of human remains (Fig 3.4). Similar 'placed vessels' containing material such as burnt flint and charcoal are relatively common in Sussex and Hampshire (Seager Thomas 2010); however, this vessel contained only tiny quantities of such material. Deposits of this type may be associated with funerary or other ritual activity (Brück 2006b, 304). A semi-circle of six undated postholes enclosing an area approximately 11m across was arrayed around the pit to the south, and may be related to the feature; however, the lack of datable artefacts from the posthole group restricts certainty on this connection. What structure these postholes relate to similarly remains uncertain, but the small diameter of each (0.2m–0.3m), their wide spacing (between 2.2m and 3m apart) and the lack of any central posts makes it unlikely that they were able to support a roofed structure, and a fenceline or windbreak is perhaps more likely.

The area to the north of the A272 (OA1) was devoid of any intact Bronze Age archaeological deposits, although a few scraps of contemporary redeposited pottery suggested some human activity in the area.



Fig 3.4 Photograph of intact vessel in situ within pit [1623] (0.4m scale bar)

### PERIOD 2: EARLY/MIDDLE IRON AGE, c 500–200 BC

By the Iron Age increasing exploitation and modification of the landscape is evident. The earliest signs of possible rudimentary landscape division dates from this period, as does the advent of local ironworking. The environmental evidence demonstrates the persistence of a deciduous woodland landscape, suggested by oak and hazel wood charcoals, but also highlights woodland clearance. This is demonstrated by the presence of charcoal from light-demanding species such as field maple, which would have grown on woodland margins or in hedges and scrub. The arrival of ironworking in the area, and its associated need for fuel, is likely to have been at least partly responsible for this woodland clearance.

### EARLY IRONWORKING AND STRUCTURAL REMAINS (S1)

The evidence for this industry comprised a single four-post structure (S1) measuring 2.6m<sup>2</sup> identified to the south of the A272 (Figs 3.5 and 3.6). While four-post structures of this period are often interpreted as granaries (Gent 1983, 244–52; Cunliffe 2005, 411), in this instance all four postholes contained similar quantities of hammerscale flakes and spheres (between 50 and 200 small but fresh flakes and 10 to 20 spheres), by-products of smithing. Other artefacts recovered included small quantities of Middle Iron Age pottery and charcoal. Though the absence of larger pieces of smithing waste is unusual, these residues strongly suggest that the structure functioned as part of a blacksmith's workshop, or at least indicate smithing in the near vicinity. The pottery suggests a Middle Iron Age origin, although two radiocarbon dates obtained from the south-westernmost of the four postholes,

[2201], were not consistent with each other. The earlier of the two, on a charcoal fragment, dated to 2500±30 BP (Beta-470770, 788–537 cal BC), while the second, on charred hazelnut shell, dated to 2360±30 BP (Beta-470769, 536–383 BC). The latter sample probably belongs to the 5th century BC (476–392 cal BC at 68% probability). It is not possible to distinguish which is more likely, if either, to indicate a date for the infilling of the posthole, though it may be presumed that the earlier sample is residual.

No evidence for a hearth or forge was identified within the structure but, given that the hearth may have been at floor level, like those of Late Iron Age–Roman date at Southwark (Hammer 2003), and given the degree of horizontal truncation at the site, this is perhaps not surprising.

What is also notable about this structure is that, other than a single lone posthole [2297] (Fig 3.5), located a short distance away to the south-west, the structure stood alone and isolated within an open landscape (OA2). This may suggest that the workshop was located in a rural setting, beyond the limits of a settlement, potentially to minimise the risk of fire. However, it is also possible that associated features and structures have been lost, or lie to the east, beyond the limit of excavation.

Further evidence for metalworking within the study area comprised isolated finds of smelting waste within overburden deposits and features of Roman and medieval date. A piece of possible smelting cinder was recovered from period 5 ditch context [76/005], in close proximity to the four-post structure, and a piece of dense slag with minor aeration, also probably from smelting, was recovered from period 5 waterhole [1927], some distance away. Fresh bloomery tap slag was also found, both within the topsoil and within period 4.3 pit [1657], located 122m to the west (Fig 3.5). While these could suggest metalworking in later periods, their limited nature more strongly suggests they were residual within these contexts and derive from Iron Age smelting in the vicinity.

#### EARLY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION (G1–G3 AND G11)

Four features, interpreted as the remains of ditches (G1, G2, G3 and G11), lay within a landscape which otherwise continued undivided (OA1) (Fig 3.7). The widths of three of the ditches, between 2m and 3m, might indicate that they were substantial when first excavated, but all were heavily truncated, very shallow, and sterile, leaving some doubt as to their initial form and function. Certainly, the very limited finds recovered from this period makes it unlikely that the activity was associated with settlement. Instead, it is possible that the

ditches formed irregular boundaries or part of rudimentary enclosures, or functioned as drainage ditches or channels. The stratigraphic relationship of two of the ditches (G3 and G11) to working area features from later period 3.1 clearly indicates that the ditches pre-dated the Late Iron Age. Nevertheless, no dating evidence was recovered from either ditch, leaving the possibility of a date earlier than suggested. The remaining two ditches (G1 and G2) were attributed to this period owing to their relationship with, and similarity of fill composition to, a group of pits (G9). This despite the only dating evidence recovered from the ditches being three small sherds of Roman pottery considered to be intrusive.

A cluster of six pits of varying dimensions and unknown functions (G9) was situated at the north end of G1. All the pits contained near identical sterile fills, the composition of which was comparable to that of the two proximal ditches (G1 and G2), suggesting some similarity in date. A single sherd of flint-tempered pottery typical of the 1st millennium BC was retrieved from the group. While the pottery was not conclusively datable it was considered to be probably contemporary with other Middle Iron Age pottery from the site. The pits lay in close proximity to two hearths or cooking pits, [1332] and [37/004]. Both contained charcoal-rich basal fills and demonstrated evidence of in situ burning. A single undiagnostic body sherd in a rock-tempered fabric was recovered from the second hearth, [37/004].

### PERIOD 3: LATE IRON AGE–EARLY ROMAN, MID 1ST CENTURY AD

#### THE LANDSCAPE (OA1 AND OA2)

The possible rudimentary boundaries seen in the preceding period did not continue into the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. Instead, the evidence indicates that the environs east of Billingshurst continued as an open and predominantly undivided landscape into the 1st century AD. Scarcely environmental evidence was recovered, although small quantities of wood charcoal fragments, including oak, ash and willow/poplar, indicate the continuity of woodland in the area. A single charred oat caryopsis also points to continued clearance and possibly increasing agricultural exploitation, although the absence of floret bases hindered the identification of the oat as belonging to a wild or a cultivated species.

#### SETTLEMENT 1: ENCLOSED (ENC1)

Settlement 1 originated to the east of Billingshurst around the middle of the 1st century. The settlement evidence indicates

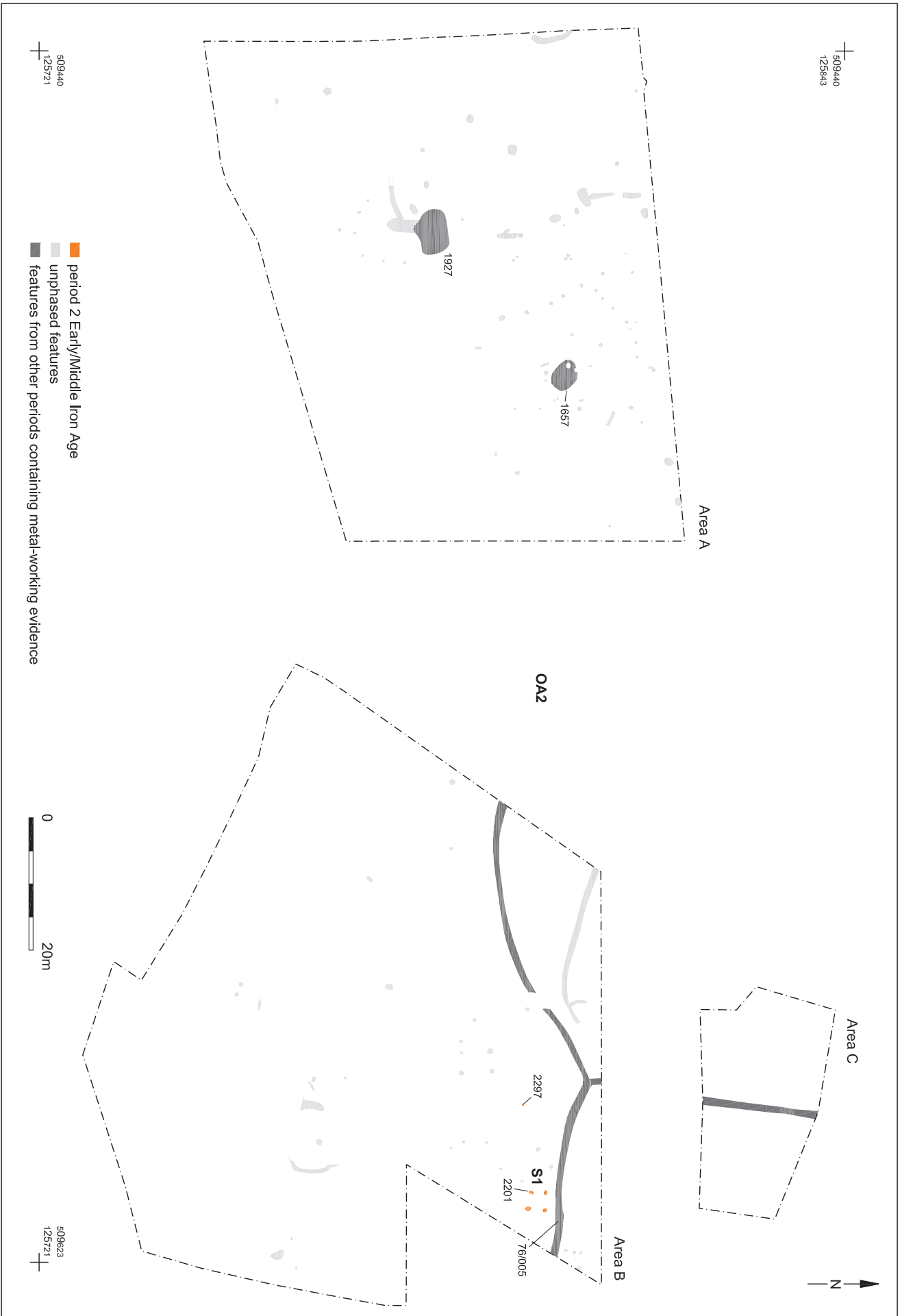
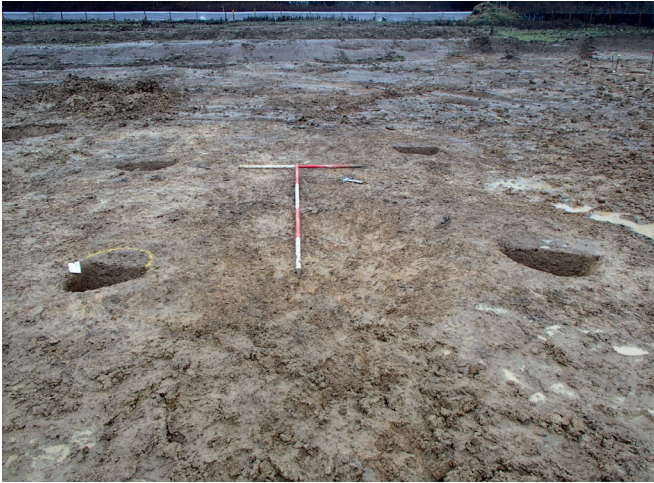


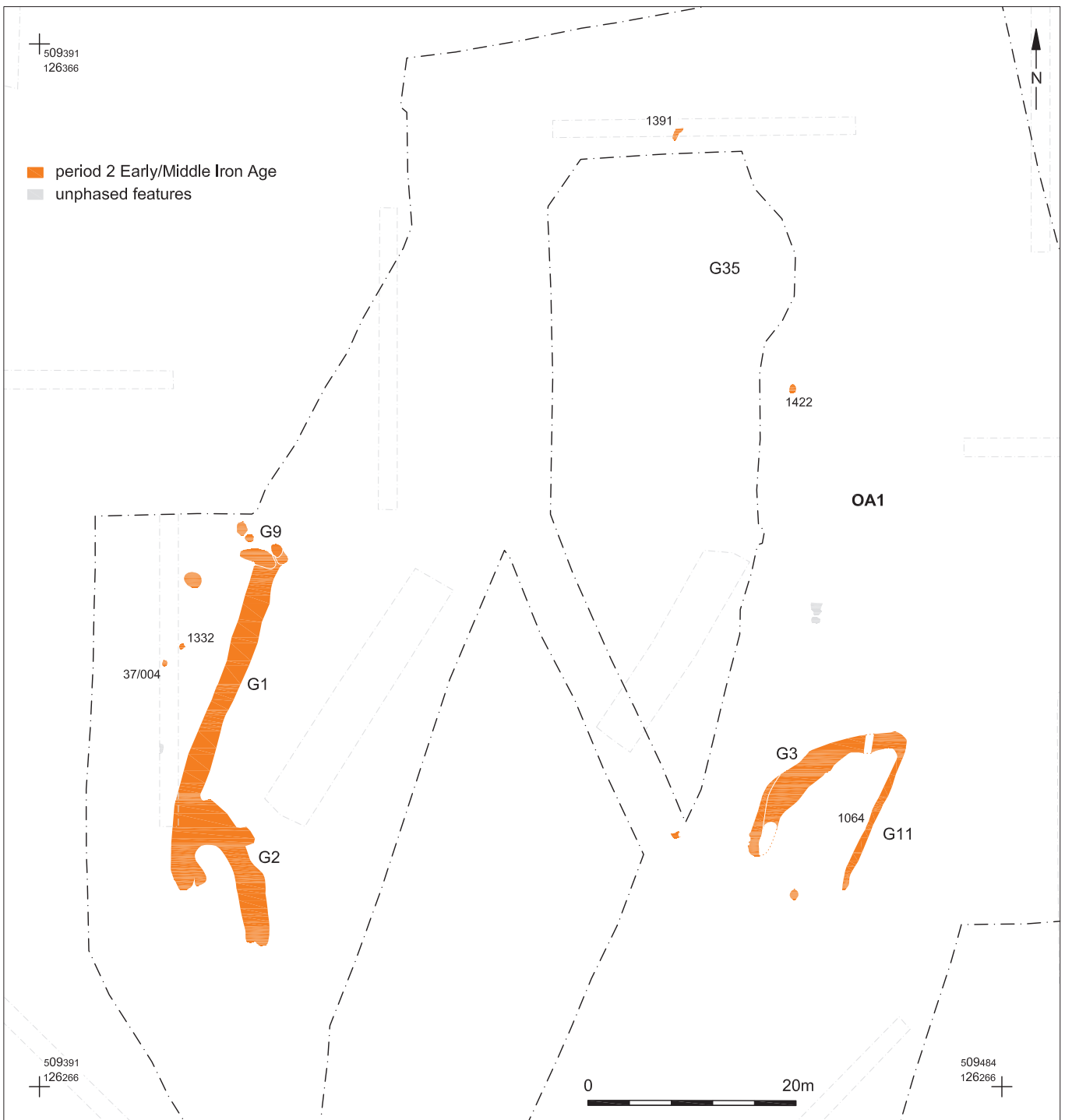
Fig 3.5 Plan of period 2 features (south site)



a small enclosed farmstead containing a single possible roundhouse (S2), a waterhole [1251] and a possible working area (G10). The enclosure was situated just south of a natural ridge on a shallow south-facing slope, and was regular and rectangular in shape, measuring 65m from north to south and at least 32m from east to west (ENC1). While the south and east edges of the enclosure were easily distinguishable (G5 and G7), the north and west edges (G32) and [1377] had been heavily

**Left:** Fig 3.6 Photograph of four-post structure Structure 1, facing north-east (1m and 2m scale bars)

**Below:** Fig 3.7 Plan of period 2 features (north site)





disturbed by later activity (Fig 3.8). Just four small sherds of pottery, probably of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date, were recovered from the enclosure ditches, with the majority of the material of this date deposited within pits and postholes. This is the reverse of what was seen in the subsequent period 4.1, where there was far greater deposition of material within enclosure ditches than other features, potentially indicating a change in deposition practices between the two phases of activity.

**STRUCTURE 2 (S2)**

A shallow, heavily truncated and undated curvilinear gully, (S2), was situated centrally within the southern half of the enclosure (ENC1), interpreted as the partial remains of a roundhouse. A diameter of 11m can be extrapolated from the surviving portion of the gully. The south-sloping topography and south-westerly prevailing winds would make a south-east facing entrance most logical; however, the gully was unbroken on the south-east side, suggesting an alternative location for the entrance. A large pit [1247] was located centrally within

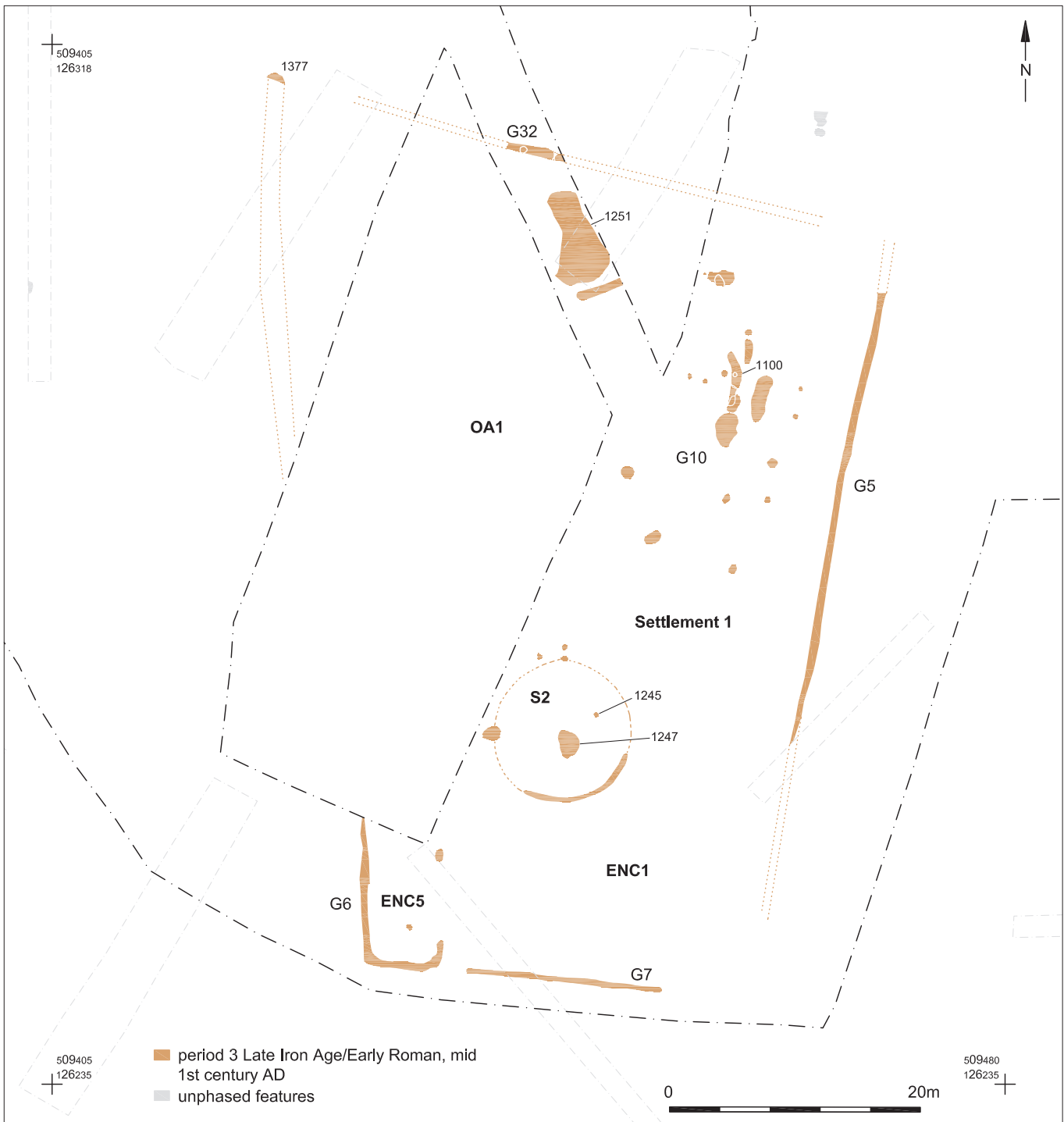


Fig 3.8 Plan of period 3 features (north site)

the structure, along with a single possible structural posthole [1245]. While the pit was undated, its location central to the roundhouse suggested that the two were contemporary. Similarly, the posthole was undated, but its location close to the outer edge of the roundhouse could suggest that it supported a structural post. There was a lack of cultural material associated with the structure.

#### ACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH SETTLEMENT 1: A WORKING AREA AND SMALL ENCLOSURE (ENC5)

A concentration of activity comprising an irregular cluster of 23 pits and postholes, interpreted as a possible working area (G10) (Figs 3.8 and 3.9), was evident within the north-east corner of the enclosure. All but nine of the features contained small quantities of predominantly grog-tempered pottery, while kiln or oven furniture and fuel ash slag were also recovered. The purpose of the working area remains uncertain and, although it is possible that it was associated with a particular process, it could have been a general space for undertaking a range of activities.

A large waterhole, [1251], was also situated within the enclosure, close to its northern edge. While the basal fill was sterile, the five overlying fills all contained large quantities of mid 1st-century pottery, suggesting the waterhole filled up quickly towards the end of this period or at the beginning of the next (Fig 3.10).

The last potentially significant feature associated with the settlement was a shallow, heavily truncated L-shaped ditch (G6) forming part of the south-west corner of the large enclosure (ENC1), which may have formed a small separate pen for livestock (ENC5). However, the paucity of recovered animal bone along with the degree of truncation severely hampers this interpretation. A paucity of recovered animal bone is unfortunately all too common on Wealden sites, and that which is recovered is often in a poor and degraded condition as a result of a number of factors, primarily the acidity of the soil.



Fig 3.9 Aerial photograph of G10 features





Fig 3.10 Photograph of waterhole [I251], looking north-east (1m scale bars)

#### ACTIVITY SOUTH OF THE A272 (G101, G135 AND G136)

The evidence south of the A272, just 17 features in two clusters, primarily all small pits and postholes, was less easily defined. One cluster (G101 and G136) was situated to the east of the other (G135) in an area set to become a focal point of activity throughout period 4 (Fig 3.11). As such, it seems that this location had already been identified as one of importance in this preceding period, with some continuity in land use from the Late Iron Age through to the Roman period. Just a single possible structure was identifiable within this easternmost cluster, where five postholes (G101) formed a rough upside-down L-shape and probably supported a small structure or fence. No other features had a distinguishable form or function.

Both clusters were in a noticeably different location to the period 2 metalworking evidence, being set further to the west. This indicates a probable shift in the focal point of activity between the earlier half of the Iron Age and its latter years. Furthermore, the period 3 activity north of the A272 did not respect the rudimentary ditches of the Middle Iron Age or their alignments. Given this evidence, it is possible that there was a hiatus in activity east of Billingshurst during this period, or that activity in the landscape took a less visible form.

#### PERIOD 4, PHASE 1: EARLY ROMAN, c AD 60–120

In the latter half of the 1st century AD the use of the land changed considerably, with a dramatic increase in its exploitation, probably coinciding with the construction of Stane Street. An organised landscape was established, centred on two focal points, both in elevated positions just

south of opposing natural ridges. An enclosed farmstead was constructed to the south, while the initial small settlement to the north underwent a major restructuring and expansion. In both cases associated field systems and trackways were laid out. More pottery was deposited during this phase than any other, in keeping with a peak in settlement activity during the late 1st–early 2nd centuries AD.

#### SETTLEMENT 2: AN ENCLOSURE (ENC2) AND ITS ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE (FS1 AND OA3)

To the north, a new, slightly larger enclosure (ENC2) was excavated over that of the initial period 3 settlement (Fig 3.12). The north and west ditches heavily truncated and removed most of the earlier ditches, the east ditch was constructed a little further to the east of its predecessor and the south edge now lay beyond the limit of excavation. The west ditch was noticeably larger than those to the north and east, with a width of 2.5m and a depth of 1m. This is unlikely to have been a result of variable horizontal truncation given that the east ditch was significantly smaller, at only 0.75m wide and 0.35m deep. Instead, it is considered possible that the west side of the enclosure may have had a different purpose to the other parts, or been viewed as more significant, possibly indicating the direction from which the enclosure would have been approached. Access to the enclosure was achieved via an entrance just 2.5m wide in the north-east corner, providing an easy route between it and the field system to the east (FS1).

This field system (FS1) represents a concerted effort to organise the landscape east of the settlement, and probably indicates a radical change in its use. As with earlier periods, charred plant macrofossils were limited in period 4.1 deposits, but caryopses of oat and possible barley were once again recorded, indicating that at least part of this field system may have been under arable cultivation. Orientated on a north–south to east–west axis, the fields were laid out with respect to the contours of the slope, with larger fields close to the settlement and smaller enclosures beyond. To the west of the enclosure no such field system was constructed, and an open landscape persisted (OA3), probably extending as far as Stane Street (Fig 3.12).

An assemblage of typical domestic waste was recovered from the enclosure ditches, including pottery, very small quantities of possible briquetage, tegulae, brick, a single possible tessera, vitrified ceramic building material, burnt bone and quernstone fragments. The ditches of ENC2 contained a high proportion (40% by sherd count) of grog-tempered wares,

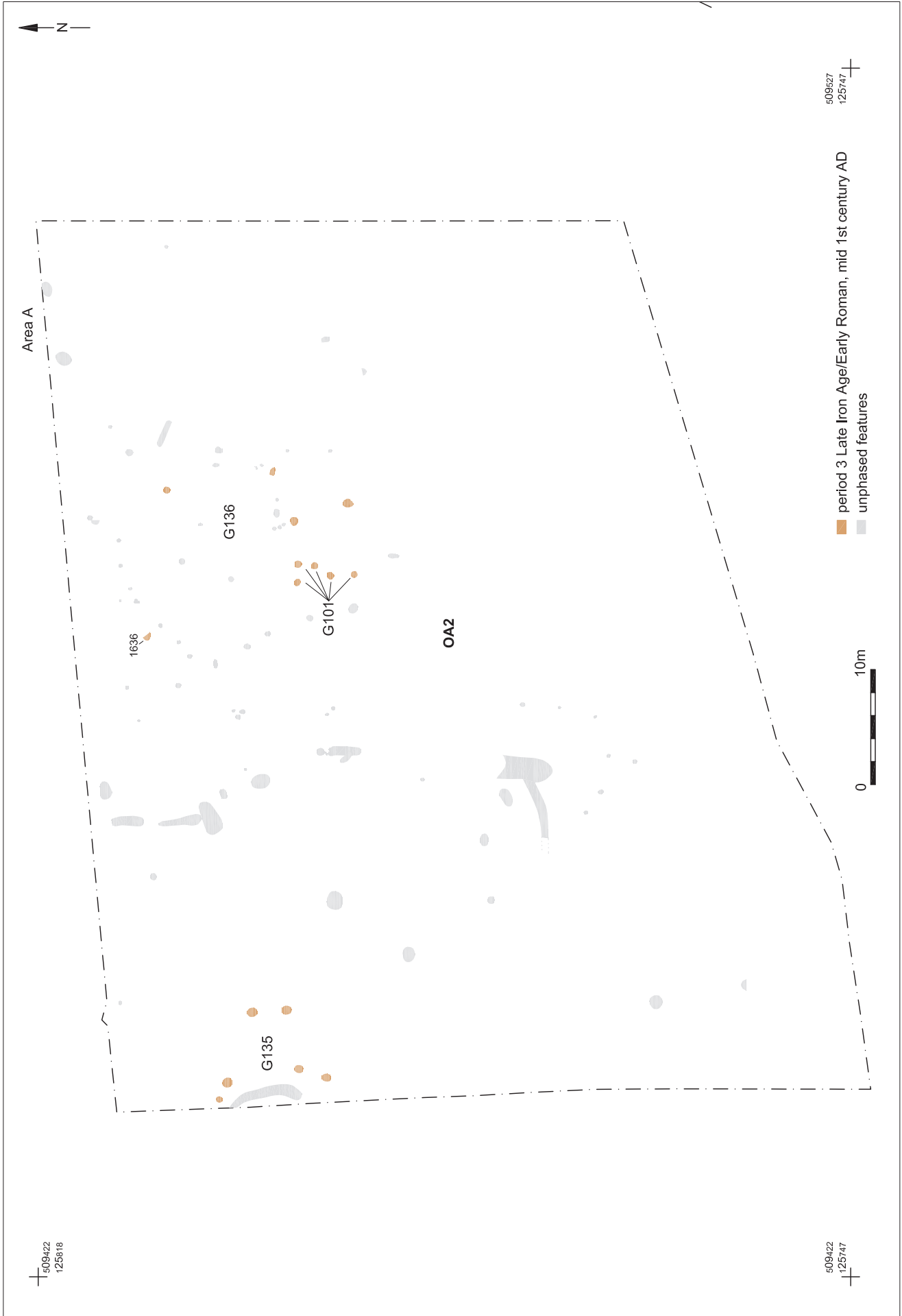


Fig 3.11 Plan of period 3 features (south site)

possibly suggesting that they were some of the earliest features in this phase. However, it is considered more likely that much of this material is residual, derived from the underlying period 3 ENC1 ditches, which were heavily truncated and almost entirely removed along the west and north sides by ENC2.

Other than a possible roundhouse (see S3 below), visible activity was noticeably limited within the enclosure. Just five isolated pits were identified, two of which, [1200] and [1203], located to the south of the roundhouse, were intercutting but of unknown function. Both contained moderately large groups of pottery, some diagnostic of the 1st century. The north-east corner of the enclosure, an area that had been a focal point of activity in the previous period, showed no evidence for continuity as a working area. This may be explained by the construction of a second enclosure to the north (ENC3), potentially enabling the separation of domestic life from agricultural or industrial activities; however, further archaeological deposits of a non-domestic nature may have been situated within the TPO zone, limiting the degree of certainty for this hypothesis.

#### STRUCTURE (S3)

Within the enclosure, the domestic activity moved north relative to that of the earlier settlement, with a possible roundhouse (S3) constructed close to the northern boundary, over the west edge of the infilled waterhole from period 3. The location seems an odd choice given that the area would, owing to its previous use, probably have been soft and boggy, although the area internal to the ring-gully sat beyond the edge of the waterhole and may have been drier and firmer. Just less than half of the gully was exposed; the rest sat within a TPO zone and was unexcavated, as was the vast majority of the area internal to the gully. Extrapolating from the portion of visible gully, a diameter of 11m is likely, similar to that of the earlier structure, (S2). While the earlier possible roundhouse was devoid of cultural material, this feature was not. Finds recovered included a large assemblage of pottery, small quantities of possible briquetage, Roman brick, unidentified burnt bone and two flakes of fuel ash slag, along with oak charcoal. The only identified internal features comprised a single small pit or gully [1261] located within the north-east quadrant, which contained an assemblage of pottery (as well as unidentified burnt bone) similar to that from the gully.

#### ENCLOSURES 3 AND 6 (ENC3 AND ENC6) AND ROUTEWAY 2 (R2)

A second associated enclosure, Enclosure 3 (ENC3), was laid out to the north of ENC2. This enclosure, which had a square-shaped plan, was the smaller of the two. Access was via two opposing entrances, one in the north-west corner, the other in the south-east. The latter lay in close proximity to the entrance of ENC2, providing easy access between the enclosures. The area internal to ENC3 was divided in two by a right-angled ditch less substantial than the outer perimeter (G19 and G20). This created a second smaller enclosure (ENC6) within the south-west corner of ENC3. It was accessible only via a single entrance to the north-west (Fig 3.13).

A short section of ditch (G27) was identified, underlying and mirroring the alignment of the southern boundary of ENC3. This ditch terminated close to the south-east entrance of ENC3, like the overlying ditch, strongly indicating the presence of an earlier, underlying enclosure. No datable artefacts were recovered from the ditch, however, and given the total lack of period 3 features in the vicinity it is considered most likely that the ditch indicates recutting and maintenance rather than a second enclosure associated with the initial period 3 settlement.

The lack of structural evidence within ENC3, combined with the presence of ENC6, suggests a possible stock enclosure as its function. The enclosure would have been large enough to contain entire herds of cattle or sheep and would potentially have been used for overnight corralling and overwintering, to check for disease or pregnancy, for branding and/or for milking. ENC6 may have been constructed to aid with livestock management and separation, but also to provide a greater level of protection for stock if required. Once again, however, the extent of the TPO zone may have prevented evidence of domestic or other activities from being identified.

#### ROUTE 2 (R2)

ENC2 and ENC3 were separated by a negative space 6m to 7m wide, apparently left intentionally to provide a route between the two (Fig 3.14). This corridor (R2) was probably used for moving livestock from the fields to the east (FS1) to the open ground (OA3) to the west. It would equally have enabled access to a north-south-aligned trackway running down the west side of Enclosure 2 (R1). More significantly, however, the location of Stane Street, combined with the impressive dimensions of the ditch along the west side of Enclosure 2, strongly suggests that the settlement would have been approached from the west.



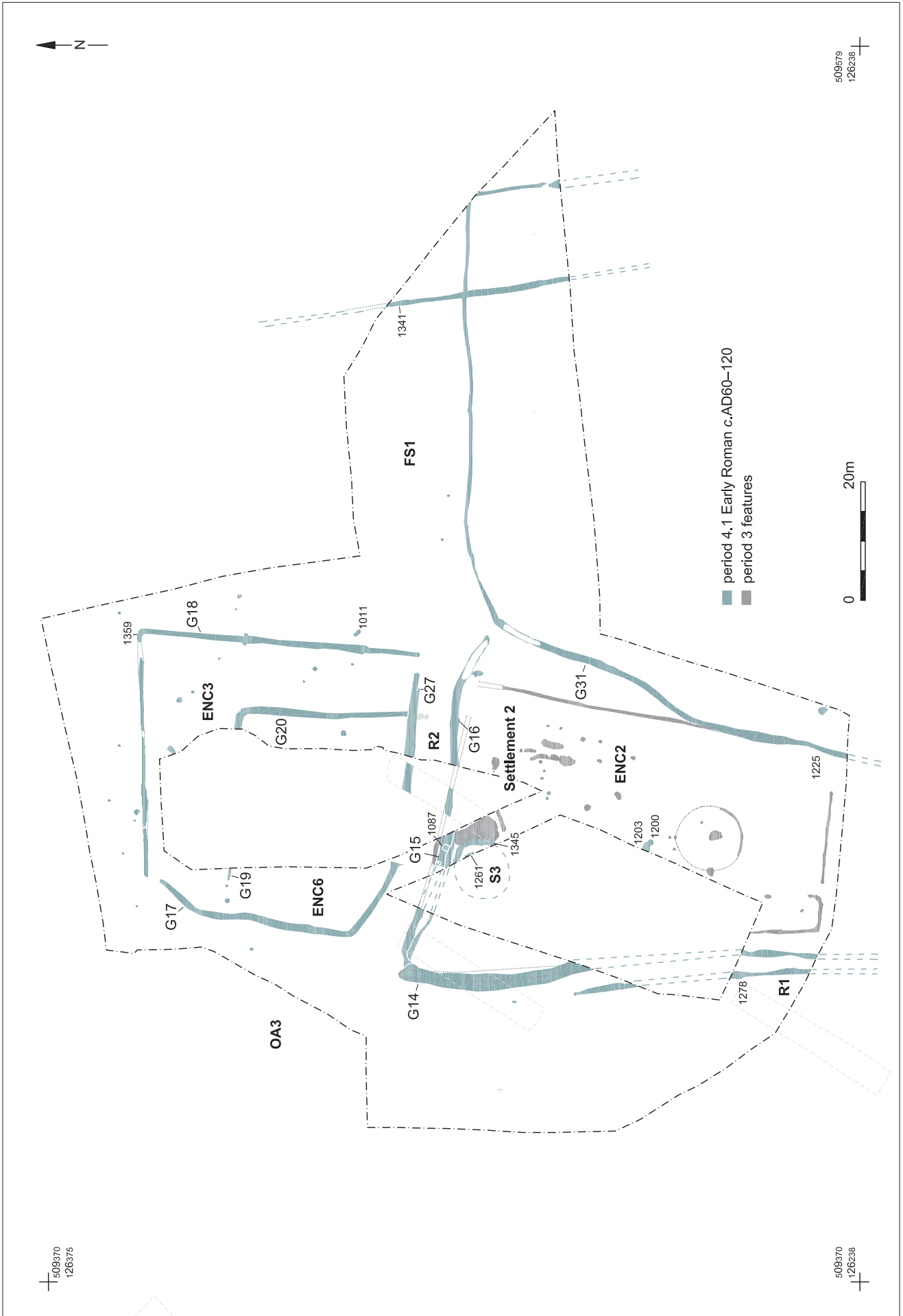


Fig 3.12 Plan of period 4, phase 1 features (north site), with earlier period 3 features shown in greyscale



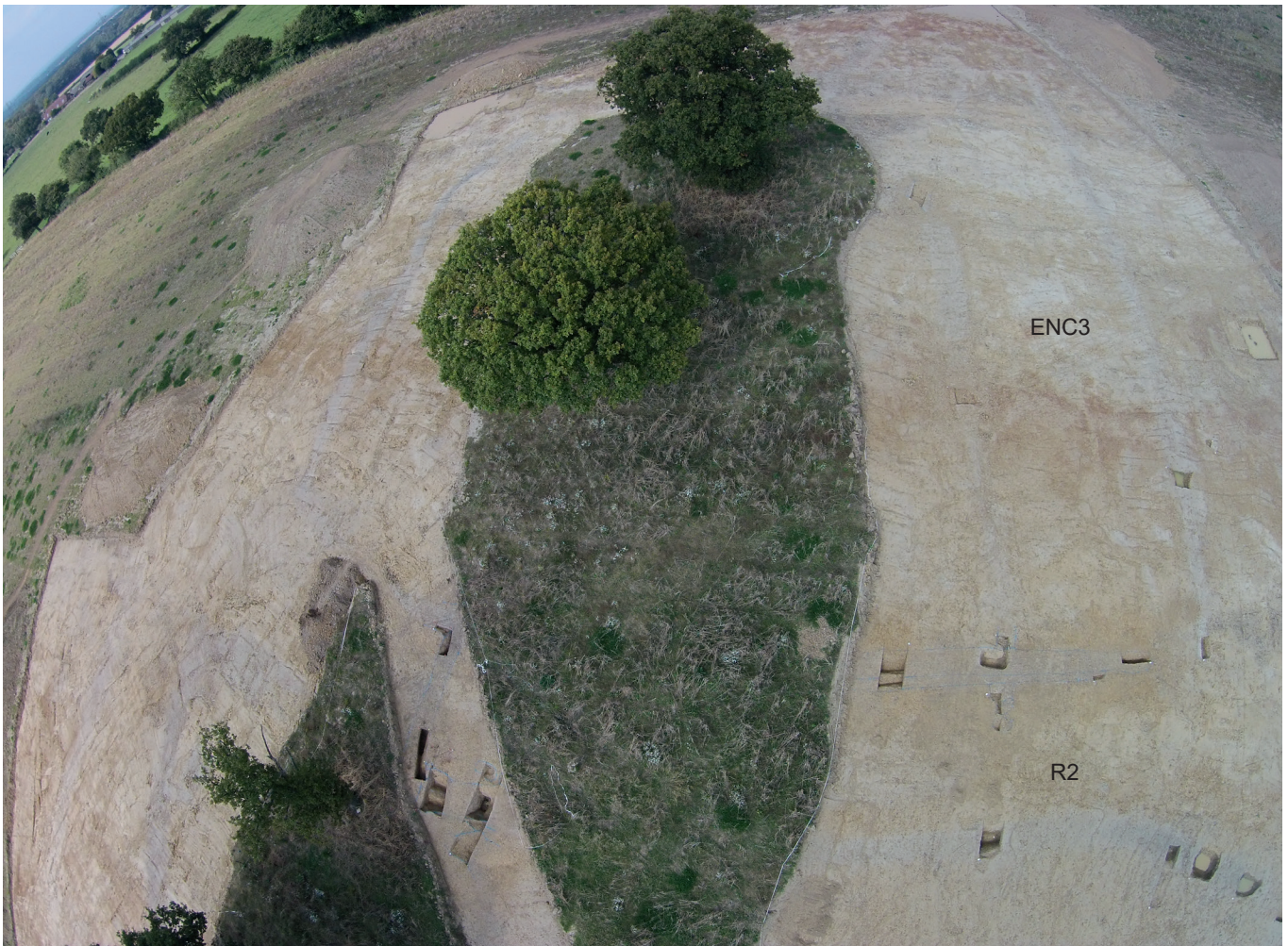


Fig 3.13 Aerial photo of Enclosure 3, looking north



Fig 3.14 Aerial photograph of Route 2, looking north



It was then probably necessary for visitors to pass through the corridor to access Enclosure 2 through its north-east entrance. As a result, this corridor probably played a central role in the movement of both people and livestock into, out of and between the settlement's distinct areas.

It is suggested that the topographical setting of this farmstead may also have been significant, as there is an incline of about 8m from Stane Street to the settlement. Should the open area to the west (OA3) have been cleared rather than wooded, this would have provided a good view from the settlement towards the highway. The roundhouse (S3), located close to the northernmost boundary of Enclosure 2, would have commanded a particularly good view of anyone coming or going.

#### TRACKWAY 1 (R1)

A second route, (R1), was also associated with the settlement, running up the western edge of the larger, southernmost enclosure. This trackway was significantly narrower than R2, at just 2.7m wide, but appeared to provide access from the open area (OA3) to ground to the south. Given its narrow width, and the presence of the similarly aligned Stane Street to the west, it is unlikely to have functioned as a major north-south thoroughfare. Instead, it probably provided access to fields to the south or to the stream at the valley bottom that probably provided water for both inhabitants and livestock. This interpretation is potentially strengthened as no source of water or waterhole was identified within the settlement for this period of activity.

#### SETTLEMENT 3: ENCLOSURE 4 (ENC4) AND ITS LANDSCAPE

To the south a new settlement was established, at the epicentre of which was a small divided enclosure (ENC4) with a possible roundhouse (S5) and an eight-post structure (S7). Outside the enclosure, an associated field system (FS2) was constructed, extending as far as a bounding trackway (R3) to the west. Beyond the trackway an open landscape persisted (OA5), while to the east of the trackway one of the clusters of period 3 activity was further developed, possibly as a working area external to the enclosure, although the function and use of this area remained hard to define (OA4) (Fig 3.15).

Just the north-westernmost corner of Enclosure 4 (ENC4), the shape of which suggested a sub-rectangular form, was visible within the excavated area. No entrance was visible in any part of the exposed enclosure ditch, indicating an

entrance beyond the excavated area. The enclosure measured more than 65m from east to west and more than 46m from north to south, and was orientated on a similar alignment to the enclosures from both Settlements 1 and 2 to the north. This similarity in alignment was probably driven by the similarity in topographical setting, however, rather than any defined settlement style. All period 3 and 4 enclosures and their associated field systems and trackways were aligned perpendicular to the contours of the south-facing slopes on which they sat, an alignment that persisted through the medieval period and is still evident in much of the locally existing field systems today. Finds recovered included moderate quantities of pottery, a single fragment of Lower Greensand upper quernstone and two pieces of residual struck flint.

The area internal to the enclosure was divided in two by a ditch, (G103), aligned north-east to south-west. Two possible structures lay within the northern half, while no features were identified in the southern portion. This might suggest that domestic activity was separated from other practices, or that livestock were kept separate from household activities. Once again, however, a large area internal to the enclosure was left unexcavated, hampering clear interpretations of the use of both spaces. No access between the northern and southern parts of the enclosure was visible, and this probably lay to the east, outside of the excavated area.

#### STRUCTURES (S5 AND S7)

As mentioned above, two structures lay within the northern half of ENC4. The first, situated in the north-west corner of the enclosure, comprised a heavily truncated ring-gully that survived to depths of just 0.05m to 0.10m and was interpreted as the remains of a roundhouse (S5; Fig 3.16). The vast majority of the curvature of the ring was intact, with only the south-west portion missing, strongly suggesting a south-west-facing entrance. This was further suggested by the presence of a large posthole [85/008] just outside the extrapolated curvature of the ring, possibly indicating a porched entrance. The structure had a diameter of 10m, a little smaller than the two structures in the northernmost settlements. A moderate assemblage of material, in keeping with what would be expected from a domestic structure, was recovered from the gully. This included pottery of the late 1st century, while bulk soil samples yielded small quantities of burnt clay, burnt bone and burnt stone.

As is common in domestic structures of this form in Sussex (Margetts 2018a), no structural postholes were visible internal

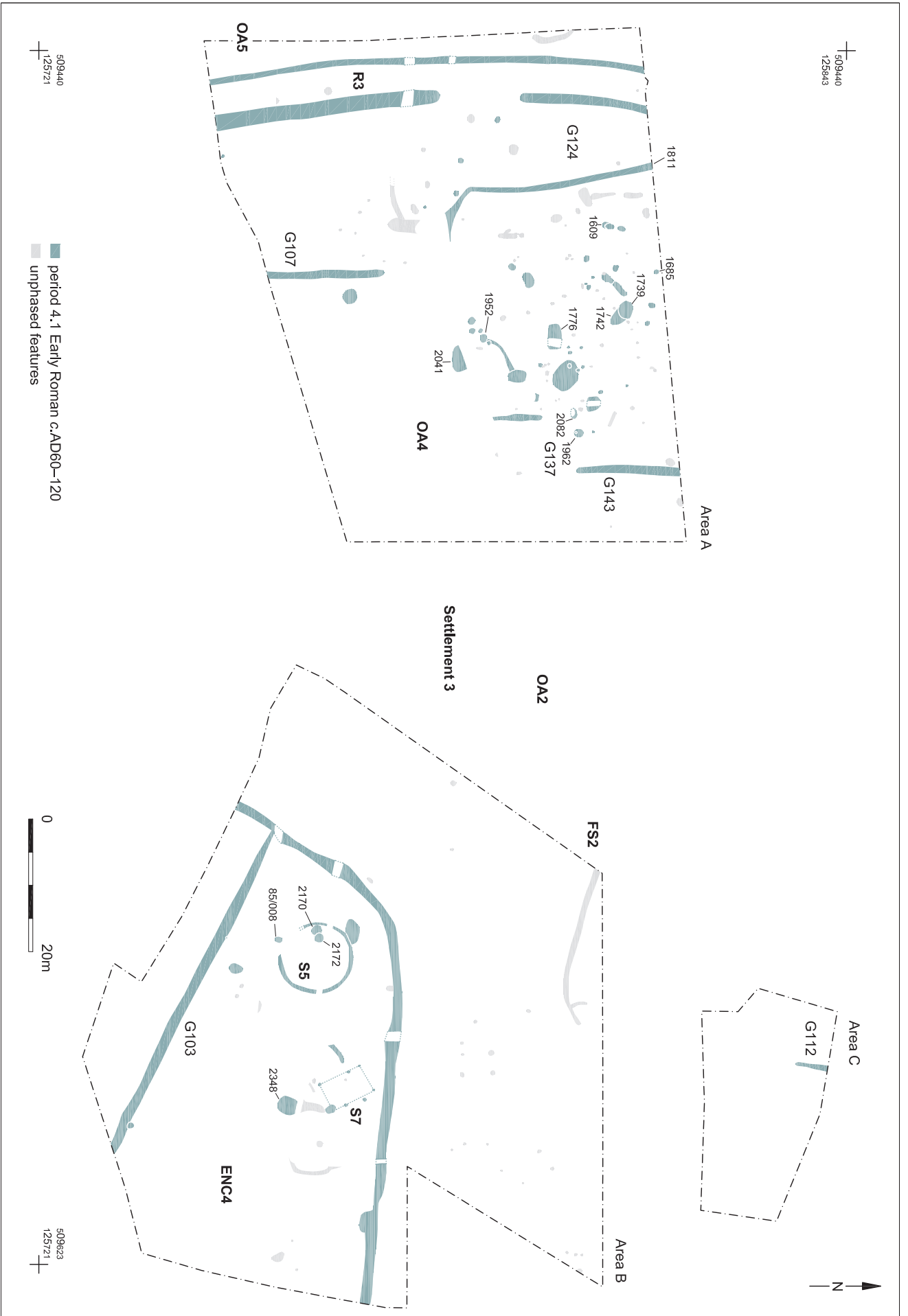


Fig 3.15 Plan of period 4, phase 1 features (south site)



Fig 3.16 Photograph of roundhouse S5 during excavation, looking south-west

to the roundhouse. Just two medium-sized pits were located internally, against the west edge and close to the entrance ([2170] and [2172]). Both pits were roughly 1.6m in diameter and 0.4m deep. Just three sherds of grog-tempered pottery were recovered from the westernmost of the two pits, but given that the single fills in each pit were identical it is presumed they were of a similar date, and both associated with the roundhouse.

The second structure comprised a possible partial eight-post structure situated 12m to the east-north-east of Structure 5, orientated on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment and measuring 6m × 4m (S7). Six of the eight postholes were visible, three down each of the long sides, all shallow and truncated. One of the intermediate postholes was lost from the westernmost side, while the south-east corner posthole had been removed by a later pit. Just a single tiny chip of undiagnostic Roman pottery was recovered across the structure, but given its location internal to Enclosure 4 and its proximity to the roundhouse (S5) it was considered most likely to be of this phase of activity. The very limited finds retrieval makes assessing the function of this structure very difficult, but one of any number of uses required by a rural agricultural settlement is likely, including both domestic or agricultural, functioning as both storage and/or shelter.

#### FIELD SYSTEMS (FS2) AND ROUTEWAYS (R3)

Just a few north-south-aligned ditches comprise the evidence for the field system associated with this settlement (FS2). One ditch lay to the north of the settlement enclosure (G112), while three lay to the west (G107, G124 and G143); all four contained small to medium quantities of pottery of 1st-century date. However, it is suggested that much of the evidence for this field system has been removed by later medieval field boundaries excavated on the same or similar alignments as

those of Roman date. This conclusion is supported by ditch G124, the basal fill of which [1812] contained only 1st-century pottery and is interpreted as part of the phase 4.1 field system, while the uppermost fill [1813] contained a mixture of 1st-century and medieval pottery, and is interpreted as part of a later medieval recutting of the ditch on the same alignment (Table 3.1).

| Context no | Pottery                       | Wt (g) |
|------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| 1812       | 2 sherds of Roman sandy ware  | 41     |
| 1813       | 1 sherd of Roman sandy ware   | >1     |
| 1813       | 24 sherds of medieval pottery | 406    |

Table 3.1 Pottery recovered from ditch [1811], G124

The spacing of the ditches within this field system is also noteworthy. Ditch G124 lies only 7m east of the ditch bounding the east side of a trackway (R3). This proximity strongly suggests that there were at least two phases to this period 4.1 field system, indistinguishable within the finds assemblage, with some of the ditches in use before others, and some of the field system in use earlier or later than the trackway.

A large trackway or droveway bounded this field system to the west (R3), orientated on a north-south alignment and lying at a distance of 100m from the settlement enclosure (ENC4). The parallel ditches forming the boundaries of this track were spaced 4.4m apart, and an entrance was visible in the middle of the easternmost ditch, providing access to and from the settlement area. No access to the open area to the west (OA5) was visible. It is most likely that this route provided access to and from a main thoroughfare along the ridge to the north, the route of the present day A272, while also providing access to fields to the south and to the river at the bottom of the valley.

#### OPEN AREAS (OA4 AND OA5)

Open Area 4 lay to the east of the trackway and within FS2, centred over a cluster of activity of period 3 date. Like the activity of the preceding phase, the period 4.1 activity in this area remained hard to define but indicated continuity of use of the area from one period to the other. For want of a better description, it is loosely interpreted as a working area; certainly it developed to become an area of concentrated activity. At this location 40 features, the vast majority of which comprised pits and postholes, were dated to the 1st century AD by small to moderate pottery assemblages (Fig 3.17). Further finds recovered included small quantities of daub, a fragment of possible loom weight and small quantities of unidentified animal bone.





Fig 3.17 Photograph(s) of period 4.1 pit examples in Open Area 4, looking east (2m scale bar)

Three large pits were also associated with this area, and all contained small quantities of 1st-century pottery within their basal fills: [1739], [1776] and [2041]. Unfortunately, the basal fills were otherwise sterile and the original purpose of these pits is unknown. The upper fills in all three pits contained moderate to large quantities of mid Roman material, suggesting that these pits were later utilised for rubbish deposition. The remainder of the features comprised isolated small pits and postholes of unknown function.

To the west of the routeway (R3), an open landscape (OA5) persisted, much of which lay beyond the excavated area. During the evaluation trenches excavated across its entirety identified only limited numbers of features, including occasional ditches, lone pits and postholes. Very few contained datable artefacts, suggesting low-intensity use of the area throughout much of its history. It is of interest to note that Settlements 1, 2 and 3 were offset from Stane Street by 370m and 850m respectively, and, in each case, open areas of land lay between the highway and the settlement. Unfortunately, the lack of good environmental evidence from these open areas makes interpreting their use difficult, as it is uncertain whether they were wooded or otherwise. If wooded, perhaps these areas provided the farmsteads with a screen from the road, and potentially a degree of privacy and protection. If cleared, they may have been used for grazing both local and travelling livestock.

#### PERIOD 4, PHASE 2: MID ROMAN, *c* AD 120–200

By the middle of the 2nd century the settlements were in decline. A continued presence in both areas is evident, but very few new elements were being constructed and many were no longer maintained. Almost all the pottery from this phase was

deposited within either enclosure ditches or pits constructed in the preceding phase.

#### SETTLEMENT 2

The primary elements of the settlement appear to have been subject to some maintenance during this period, while the extensive field system to the east of the settlement (FS1) appears to have been neglected. Certainly, the ditches forming the north and north-west edge of ENC2 were cleaned out and large groups of pottery with elements post-dating AD 120 deposited within both. Furthermore, a single fill within the ring-gully of S3 contained a large group of diagnostic pottery of AD 120–50 date. This may indicate that an effort was made to maintain at least part of this roundhouse while the settlement was in decline or that the structure in fact dated to this phase.

Similarly, attempts were made to clean out and maintain the ditches forming ENC3 and ENC6. This was particularly evident within the ditches near the north-west entrance to ENC3, where large diagnostic groups of pottery were deposited containing similar material to the preceding phase alongside later elements certainly post-dating AD 120 (Fig 3.18).

#### MORTUARY FEATURES ASSOCIATED WITH ENCLOSURES 3 AND 6

Three deposits associated with Enclosures 3 and 6 contained human bone and probably indicate mortuary features. The first deposit sat within a small, heavily truncated pit [1319], located just outside the entrance to Enclosure 6. Fragmentary sherds from the base of a single jar or coarse beaker were recovered from the basal fill of the pit, while tiny fragments of burnt bone, of which one was identifiable as human, were recovered from the overlying fill. While this strongly suggests a cremation burial, the degree of truncation and disturbance left doubt as to whether the jar functioned as a funerary urn or an ancillary vessel.

The other two deposits comprised a basal and overlying intermediate fill [1326] and [1327] respectively within the outermost ditch of ENC3, [1324], close to the north-west entrance (Fig 3.19). Both deposits contained pottery sherds from two fragmented but near-complete grey ware jars found in association with nearly a kilogram of human bone, probably representing the cremated remains of a single adult female. The bone did not appear to have been interred within either vessel, suggesting that the jars were ancillary to the burial.

Certainly, the pottery associated with the cremation burial within the enclosure ditch post-dated AD 120, indicating that it was interred during the decline of the settlement. The

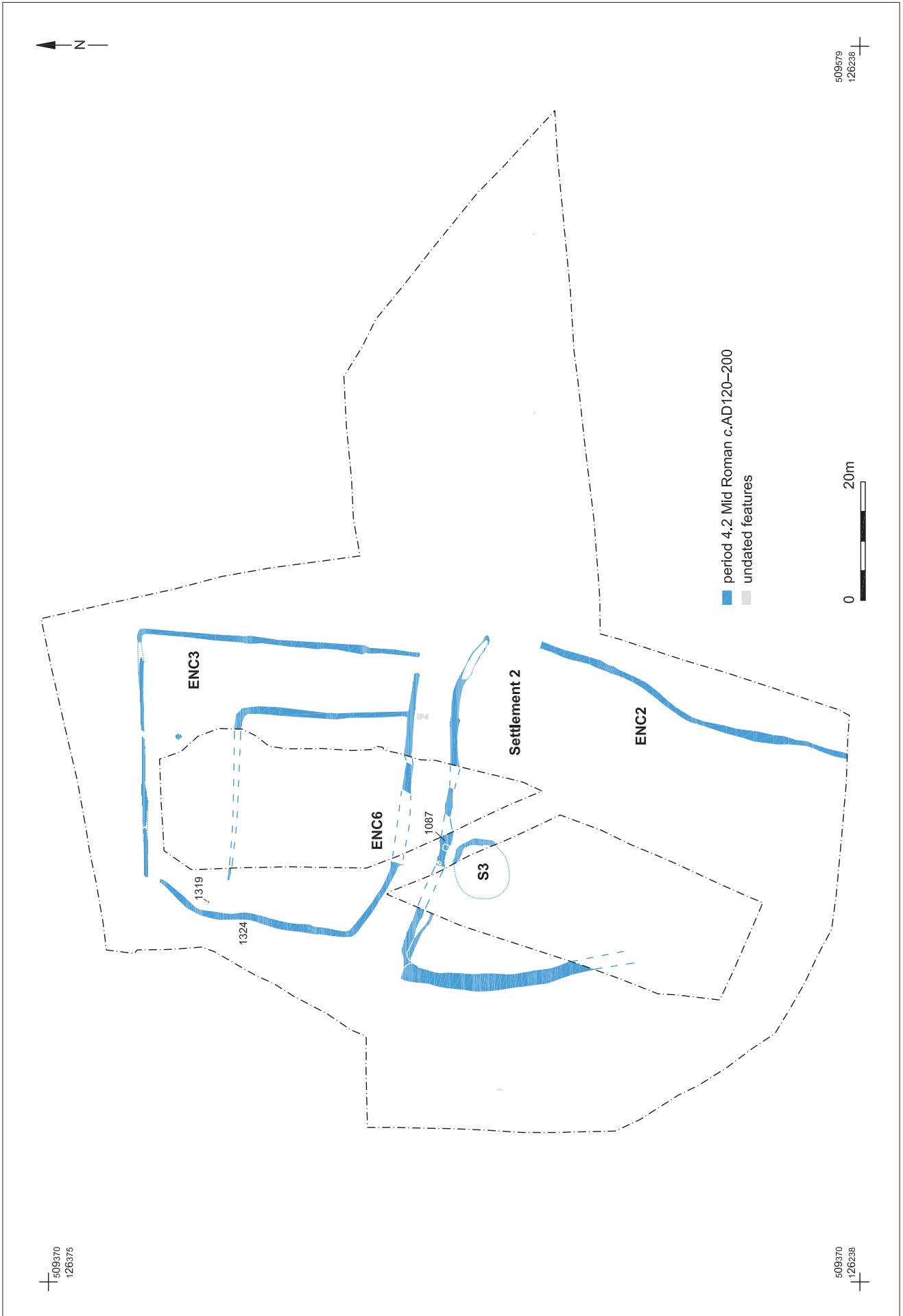


Fig 3.18 Plan of period 4, phase 2 features (north site)



Fig 3.19 Photograph of human remains in Enclosure 3 ditch context, looking north-east (0.4m scale bar)

cremation burial within pit [1319] contained less diagnostic pottery and may have been associated with either phase 4.1 or 4.2. Nevertheless, given its proximity to the other, better-dated cremation it is considered to be of mid Roman date.

### SETTLEMENT 3

The pattern of deposition evident within the Settlement 3 area was the reverse of that seen in Settlement 2. There was no evidence for the maintenance or deposition of material within the settlement enclosure ditches or the associated structures. Instead, all material was deposited within the pits and postholes clustered in OA4 (Fig 3.20).

### OPEN AREA 4 (OA4)

With the apparent abandonment of the settlement enclosure and its associated structures to the south-east, Open Area 4 became the centre of identifiable activity south of the A272 in this period. Furthermore, unlike in Settlement 2, a few new features were constructed in this area, including postholes and small pits. Nevertheless, the deposits of this date lay primarily within large pits of phase 4.1 date ([1739], [1776] and [2041]) (Fig 3.20), and appeared to comprise domestic refuse dumped into earlier features. Finds recovered from deposits of this date included small to large assemblages of pottery, a small assemblage of ceramic building material including tegula and brick, fired clay including multiple fragments of daub with flat surfaces, fragments of possible loom weights, a possible iron tool fragment, three hob nails, fragments of quernstone, and a whetstone. Four fragments of a simple flat strip copper-alloy bracelet were also recovered from a pit of this date. Identifiable animal bone included a sheep phalanx and ribs of a medium-sized mammal. Given the make-up of the finds assemblage, it

seems most likely that settlement did continue into the mid Roman period, beyond the early 2nd century, but that the focus of this settlement and its associated structures shifted beyond the excavated areas.

A large tree-throw hole located towards the western edge of OA4 [1720] also yielded a moderate assemblage of mid Roman pottery. It is possible that, like several of the period 4.1 features, the tree-throw hole was later utilised as a mid Roman rubbish pit. The sequence of five fills, all slumping down from east to west, suggests that the tree throw was gradually filled in over time in a series of distinctly separate events, with the rubbish all originating from activities occurring to the east. The lower fills were mostly finds-rich, possibly suggesting a higher intensity of activity in the 2nd century.

Two shallow gullies comprise the final features tentatively attributed to this phase, and may suggest some continued land division. The first lay to the east of OA4, was orientated north to south and potentially bounded the area (G114; Fig 3.20). The gully is attributed to this phase owing to the presence of one tiny chip of diagnostic samian ware in its fill. As a result, it cannot be ruled out that this find may be residual or intrusive, potentially placing the gully in an alternative phase. However, the gully was certainly cut by medieval ditch G121, making it earlier than period 5. The second gully, G131, is similarly hard to phase definitively, having no datable artefacts associated with it. However, stratigraphic relationships once again place it earlier than the medieval period and later than phase 4.1. Given the nature of the phase 4.3 activity it was considered less likely to be of that phase.

### PERIOD 4, PHASE 3: LATE ROMAN, c AD 270–350

Unlike the similarities seen in the pottery assemblages from periods 4.1 and 4.2, which seem to indicate gradual incremental change and a continued presence from one phase to the other, the period 4.3 pottery assemblage demonstrates some clear and substantial differences from those of the preceding phases, probably indicating a period of hiatus in the use of the site. While some of the latest material from the period 4.2 assemblage just post-dates the beginning of the 3rd century, the earliest period 4.3 material is from the end of the same century, potentially indicating a hiatus of around 50 years.

### SETTLEMENT 2

To the north a small assemblage of Late Roman pottery was recovered in association with charcoal-rich deposits, dumped within the remnant hollows of part of the Enclosure 2 ditch [1018]. While certainly associated with the disuse of the

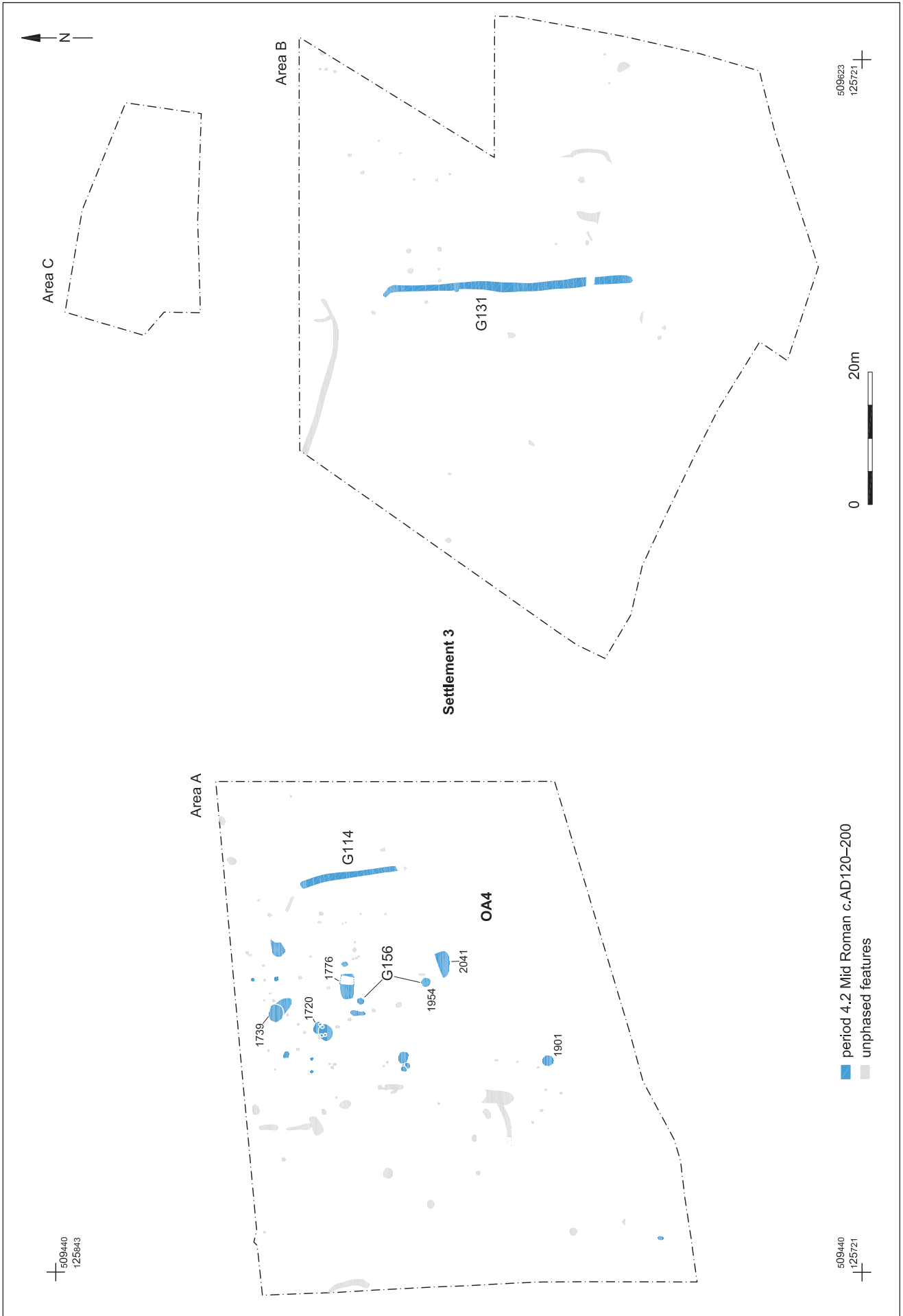


Fig 3.20 Plan of period 4, phase 2 features (south site)

enclosure, the material highlights Late Roman activity and potentially settlement in the vicinity. It is also potentially of note that all deposits were situated in close proximity to the enclosure's entrance (Fig 3.21).

#### COIN HOARD

A hoard of a minimum of 22 coins, of which all the firmly dated examples were of the 3rd century, was recovered from an upper fill of the Enclosure 2 ditch, also in close proximity to the entrance [1025] (Figs 3.21 and 3.22). The placing of this hoard, combined with the similar location of the Late Roman deposits, seems to indicate that this entrance may have maintained some significance, or perhaps some visibility in the landscape, even following the period of hiatus. While no evidence of bank material surrounding the enclosure was encountered for any phase of activity, it should not be discounted that there may have been one, later lost through ploughing. If this were the case, then more than shallow hollows along the lines of the old enclosure ditches may have remained visible in this period.

#### OPEN AREA 4 (OA4)

Given the period of hiatus, it is of note that Open Area 4 continued to be a centre of activity into the 4th century (Fig 3.23). This might indicate that, while periods of apparent abandonment of sites did occur throughout this period, the memory of the sites or their visibility remained. It may also be the case that a local switch in emphasis away from activities (such as settlement and arable farming) that result in the deposition of pottery and other datable artefacts either into middens or via manuring results in less archaeologically visible periods of use.

#### STRUCTURE 6 (S6)

Unlike Settlement 2 to the north, where the later Roman activity comprised only dumping or the interring of material over or within earlier features, to the south period 4.3 heralded a new phase of construction. An unusual complete ring-gully (S6) of uncertain function was constructed centrally within Open Area 4, with an internal diameter of just 7m (Figs 3.23 and 3.24). The gully cut one of the large refuse pits of mid Roman date and was filled with a dark, charcoal-rich soil containing the widest taxonomic diversity recovered, with oak, ash, Maloideae group, cherry/blackthorn, hazel, hazel/alder, birch, possible field maple and possible beech all recorded. Finds recovered included a contemporary copy *denarius* coin,

a moderate quantity of CBM, of which tegula and imbrex roof tile were particularly present along with box flue tile and brick, two hobnails, a fragment of whetstone, a single unidentifiable animal bone and a small quantity of undiagnostic fired clay fragments. While the vast majority of the pottery recovered from the ring-gully indicated a Late Roman date for the feature, in two sections through the southern portion of the gully the majority of pottery recovered was of mid Roman date. Given that the ring-gully was stratigraphically later than mid Roman refuse pits this pottery is considered residual, probably being derived from the earlier features it truncated. A late Roman date origin is considered the most likely.

The gully was well preserved to depths of between 0.3m and 0.4m, with no break in the ring and no visible point of access. It was also noticeable that the deposits within the gully were deeper than those within many of the surrounding shallow, heavily truncated medieval ditches. When initially excavated from the contemporary ground surface the ring-gully could have been significantly deeper and should the profile of the feature have remained at the excavated angle of c 45° then this would have reduced the internal area. This internal area was also further reduced by the presence of a large pit [1657] within the north-east quadrant, taking up nearly half of the internal space.

The function and dating of this pit as well as its relationship to S6 remains rather ambiguous. Pottery from the lower fill deposits (28 sherds of probable earlier Roman material alongside a single sherd of mid 3rd- to mid 4th-century date) may indicate that the pit originated in the Early Roman period, while 38 sherds of mid Roman material was recovered from its intermediate fills. Its final phases of infilling occurred later, with 80 sherds of Late Roman material deposited alongside 22 sherds of medieval pottery in the uppermost fills. It was unclear whether the medieval pottery related to a later, unrecorded intrusion or provides a medieval date, with the vast amount of Roman material being residual. Further finds recovered from these upper deposits included a moderate quantity of ceramic building material mostly comprising tegula, as well as fragments of Roman quernstone, two fragments of whetstone, a partial large mammal vertebra, two iron nails and a possible dupondius coin.

If pit [1657] originated during the Early Roman period it may relate to some activity that was referenced and commemorated in some way by the later ring-gully. It may have continued to act as a receptacle for sequential depositions as the Roman period progressed. This is considered less likely



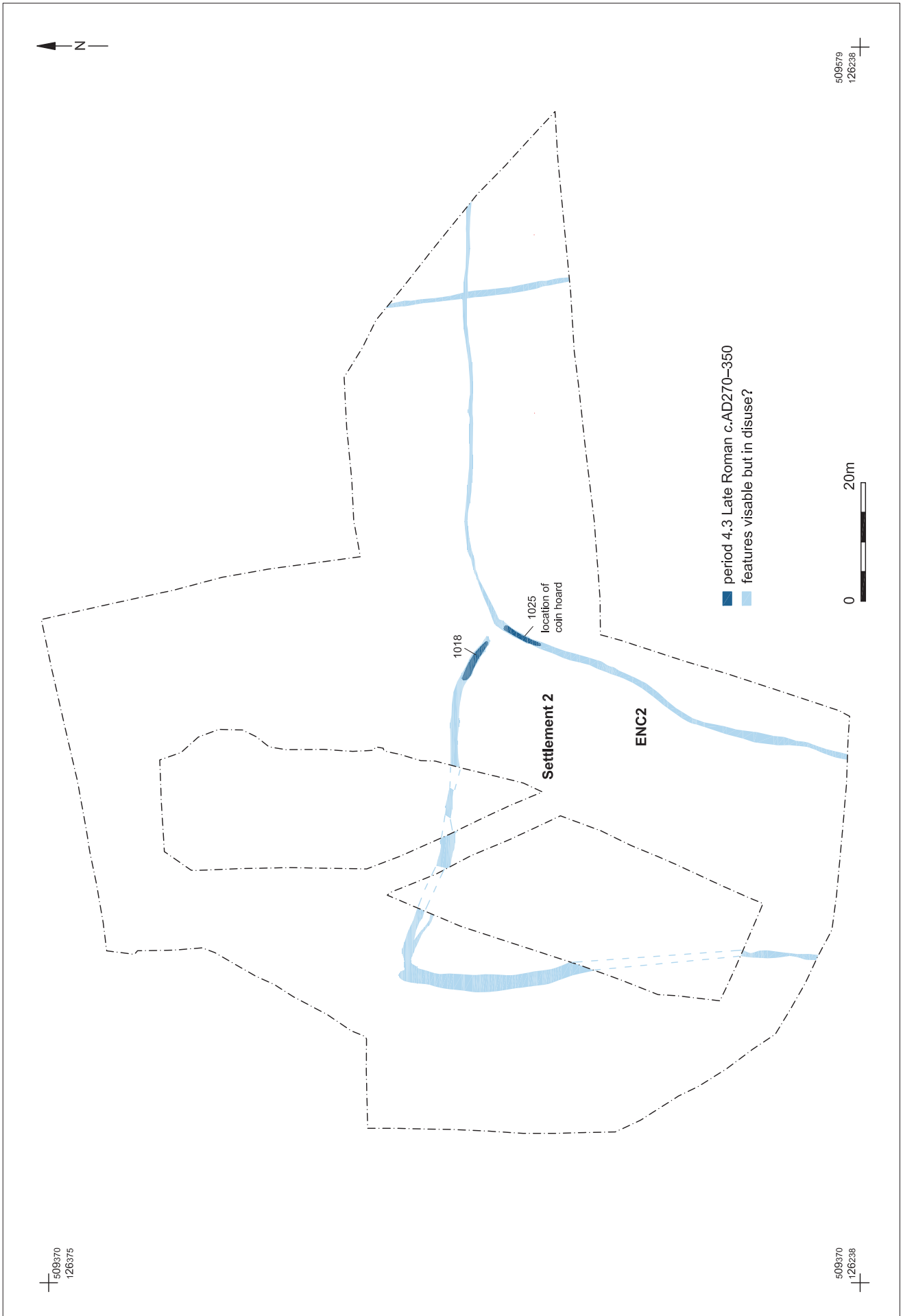


Fig 3.21 Plan of period 4, phase 3 features (north site)



Fig 3.22 Photograph of the coin hoard within Enclosure 2 ditch context [1025], looking north (0.5m scale bar)

than a Late Roman origin for the feature, however, and if this biography is correct the pit may relate to the deposition of material internal to the surrounding gully. The final, alternative explanation would be that the feature relates to a medieval pit dug to demolish or rob a central structure or negative feature within the ring-gully.

While the circular form and finds assemblage from S6 could suggest a domestic structure, the limited diameter of the ring-gully, the lack of an entrance and the presence of a large (possibly contemporary) internal pit renders an interpretation as either a domestic or agricultural building highly unlikely. Furthermore, roundhouse construction was declining by this period, with the increasing adoption of rectangular forms for domestic structures (Smith et al 2016), which raises the question as to the function of this rural structure. (for possible uses see discussion on page 93).

The only remaining archaeological evidence definitively of this date comprised three small pits or postholes, of which two [1761] and [2028] lay internal to Structure 6 (Fig 3.23). Pit [2028] contained two large sherds (80g) of a black-burnished-style bead-and-flange bowl.

Of the undated features in close proximity to S6, an alignment of postholes respecting and enclosing the structure to the north and west stands out. All postholes were of small dimensions and heavily truncated, but it is possible that they supported a fence or palisade. The location of this possible palisade, situated as it is within OA4, could be associated with any period of its use from the Late Iron Age through to the Late Roman period; however, its alignment appears to relate most closely to the Late Roman phase of activity and Structure 6. As such, it is considered highly probable that the two structures were associated.

## PERIOD 5: MEDIEVAL

S6, discussed above, formed the last phase of Roman occupation of the site. Furthermore, the presence of pottery sherds within the ring-gully that were fairly fresh and notably less fragmentary than those from other deposits could indicate a fairly rapid dismantling and levelling of the site, rather than a structure left to gradually rot and collapse. Why the site may have been vacated in this way is unknown, but by the latter half of the 4th century the site was probably once again abandoned.

No material of Anglo-Saxon date was recovered, suggesting only very limited exploitation of the landscape throughout this period. However, at some point in the early medieval period a return to the area south of the A272 is evident, with a determined effort made once more to organise the landscape. Trackways and field systems were laid out and ditches dug over old and new locations, probably continuing in use through the 11th to 14th centuries. Unfortunately, no distinct phases can be identified, with many of the deposits containing both early and high medieval material alongside residual Roman finds; however, given the mixed nature of the pottery, it is probable that the field system and trackways underwent repeated maintenance throughout this period.

The finds assemblage from across the period 5 features was considerably more limited in its diversity than those from periods of settlement. Instead, the material is in keeping with that usually seen from agricultural enclosures and trackways on the periphery of settlement, supporting the theory that the settlement of Billingshurst did not extend far to the east of St Mary's church in the 12th to 14th centuries.

The earliest elements of the finds assemblage, in keeping with the first half of the 12th century, hold some potential significance, however. While St Mary's church is considered to have been built in the 12th and 13th centuries, with the tower comprising the earliest section, the village is thought to have developed slowly, and is recognisable in documents only by the early 13th century. As such, the early medieval activity east of Billingshurst could be contemporary with, or even possibly pre-date, the first phase of construction of the church. Certainly, the activity identified here would have been contemporary with the very first phases of development of the Billingshurst community.

The environmental evidence indicates a return to cultivating oats and possibly barley, while the charred wood assemblage is dominated by oak, with other taxa, such as ash, maple, willow/poplar hazel/alder, buckthorn (*Rhamnus* sp) and *Maloideae*, appearing in lower amounts. This could reflect

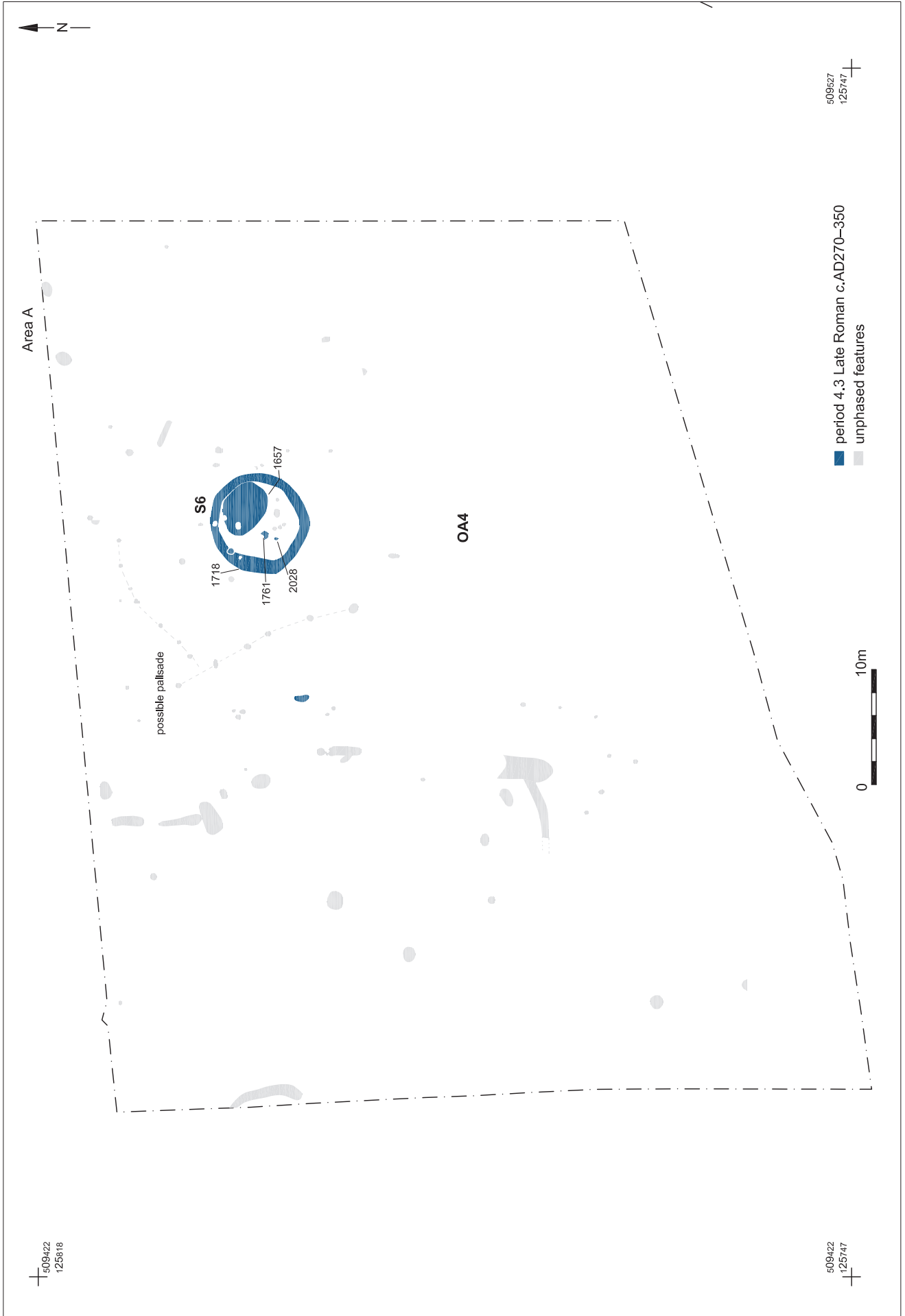


Fig 3.23 Plan of period 4, phase 3 features (south site)





Fig 3.24 Photograph of Structure 6 (S6), looking north west (1m scale bar)

a change in fuel selection strategies, where oak wood might have been used less for building and more for fuel. This change could perhaps relate to different uses of the fuel, where burning properties of the wood would have been privileged, or to a change in the origin of the wood supply, possibly indicating that a change had occurred in the makeup of the surrounding woodland between the Roman abandonment of the landscape and the return of identifiable activity in the medieval period.

#### TRACKWAYS (R4 AND R5)

Two trackways provided access through the landscape, both orientated on an east-south-east to west-north-west alignment, and both nearly co-linear with each other, leaving the possibility they may have formed a single route. While the trackway to the east (R4) was wide, with the parallel bounding ditches spaced 8m apart, the track to the west (R5) was narrower, with ditches spaced 5m apart. This variation suggests that the trackways played different roles in the movement of people and livestock through the landscape. However, it is considered very likely that neither would have been a major

thoroughfare, given the similarly aligned natural ridge to the north and the present day A272, which would have been a much more obvious location for such a route. Instead, both trackways R4 and R5 are likely to have been means of access through the surrounding field system (FS4) (Fig 3.25).

#### FIELD SYSTEM 4 (FS4)

Field system 4 was orientated on a generally north–south to east–west axis, although it was noticeably less regularly aligned than the Roman and later post-medieval field systems. Of particular interest is the evidence of medieval boundaries being constructed over earlier, Roman examples. This is seen with a north–south-aligned ditch G124, previously discussed in period 4.1, where the underlying fill is of Roman date while the uppermost fill indicates a medieval recutting of the ditch. Equally, a similarly aligned Roman ditch further east, G111, butts up to medieval ditch G113, strongly suggesting that G113 may have also been excavated over the alignment of a Roman ditch. While it is not suggested that the field systems of Roman date continued in use through to the medieval and



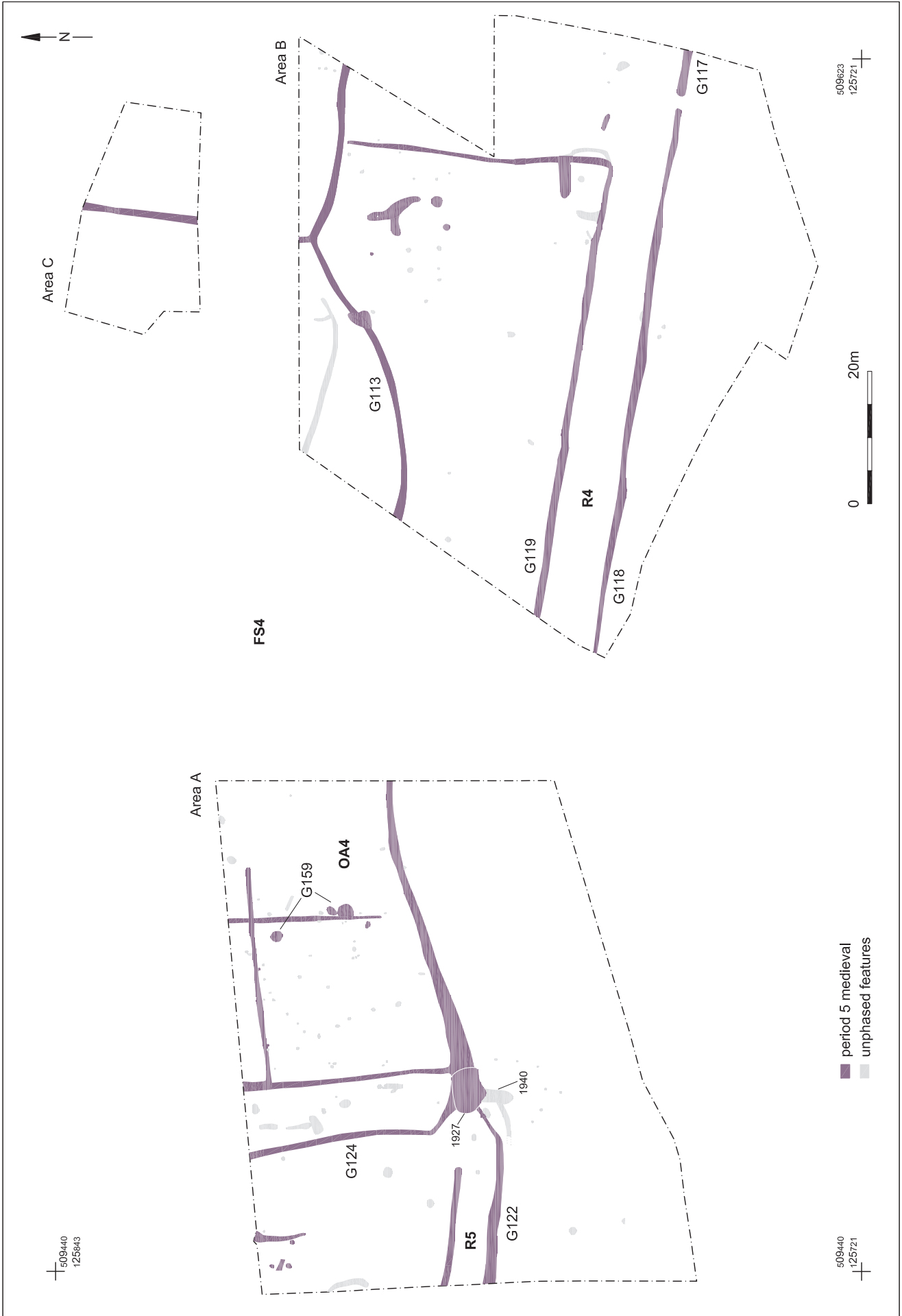


Fig 3.25 Plan of period 5 features (south site)

potentially later periods, it is suggested that the medieval field system may have been laid out to respect pre-existing and potentially still visible alignments, such as hollows, hedges and tree lines within the landscape.

#### OPEN AREA 4 (OA4)

Of equal interest is the presence of a cluster of three pits containing 12th- to mid 13th-century pottery within Open Area 4 (G159; Fig 3.25). All three also contained large quantities of Roman material, but the greater quantity and fresher and less fragmented nature of the medieval material indicated that the Roman artefacts were probably residual. Alternatively, the features may have been Roman pits later recut in the medieval period in a manner similar to some of the field system ditches. While it could be a coincidence that these pits were excavated in Open Area 4, over an area of considerable activity, it is also possible that there was no coincidence in their siting, and that the area retained some continued significance into the 12th and 13th centuries AD.

#### PERIOD 6: POST-MEDIEVAL

Features of this date comprised just a handful of ditches, orientated on north–south alignments. One of these ran parallel to the row of five protected old oak trees in the area north of the A272, a boundary still visible in the landscape today (G30) (Fig 3.26).

Another field boundary in the southern site was identifiable on historic OS mapping from the 1960s (G115). This boundary was aligned similarly to the medieval field system (FS4) and may suggest continued use and presence in the landscape from the medieval period through to the post-medieval (Fig 3.27). However, its alignment may also just be a result of post-medieval farmers respecting previous boundaries that were probably still visible in the landscape. Furthermore, the north–south alignment remained the most practical, as it runs perpendicular to the natural contours of the local topography. Certainly, far fewer boundaries of post-medieval rather than medieval date were visible across the area south of the A272, with clear evidence for the creation of larger fields throughout this period.

## 3.4 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS REPORTS

### FLINTWORK ANALYSIS

*Karine Le Hégarat*

#### INTRODUCTION

A preceding fieldwalking survey and the subsequent excavations produced 178 pieces (1151g) of struck flint, as well as a flint hammerstone (112g) (Tables 3.2 and 3.3). A further 243 fragments of unworked burnt flint were also recovered. The flintwork represents a coherent group. Based on the presence of diagnostic tools and on technological grounds, the assemblage provides evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic to Early Bronze Age presence at the site. The surviving prehistoric features post-date the Early Bronze Age, which suggests that for the most part the flintwork consists of redeposited material.

| Category                                   | Fieldwalking survey | Excavations | Total      |
|--|---------------------|-------------|------------|
| Flake                                      | 22                  | 37          | 59         |
| Blade                                      | 2                   | 15          | 17         |
| Bladelet                                   | 1                   | 5           | 6          |
| Blade-like flake                           | 4                   | 8           | 12         |
| Core face/edge rejuvenation flake          | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| Rejuvenation flake tablet                  | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| Irregular waste                            | 37                  | 3           | 40         |
| Chip                                       | 5                   | 4           | 9          |
| Single platform blade core                 | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| Opposed platform blade core                | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| Multiplatform blade core                   | -                   | 2           | 2          |
| Multiplatform flake core                   | 2                   | 2           | 4          |
| Unclassifiable/fragmentary core            | 2                   | 2           | 4          |
| End scraper                                | -                   | 2           | 2          |
| End-and-side scraper                       | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| Leaf arrowhead                             | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| Barbed-and-tanged arrowhead                | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| Fragmentary/unclassifiable/other arrowhead | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| Microolith                                 | -                   | 4           | 4          |
| Polished axe                               | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| Retouched flake                            | -                   | 5           | 5          |
| Retouched blade                            | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| Retouched blade-like flake                 | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| Unclassifiable retouch/misc retouch        | 2                   | 1           | 3          |
| Hammerstone                                | -                   | 1           | 1          |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>77</b>           | <b>102</b>  | <b>179</b> |

Table 3.2 Summary of the struck flint

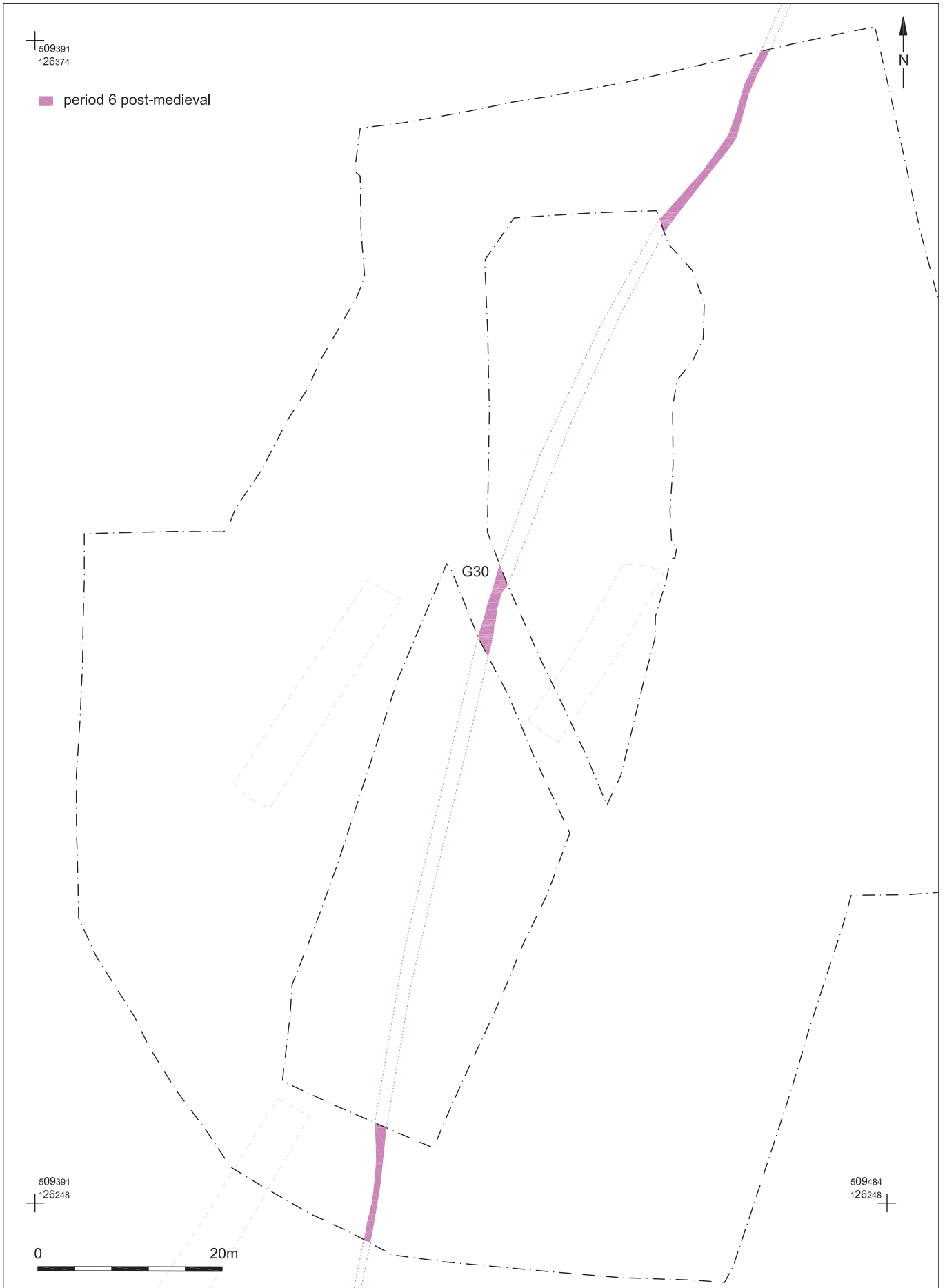


Fig 3.26 Plan of period 6 features (north site)

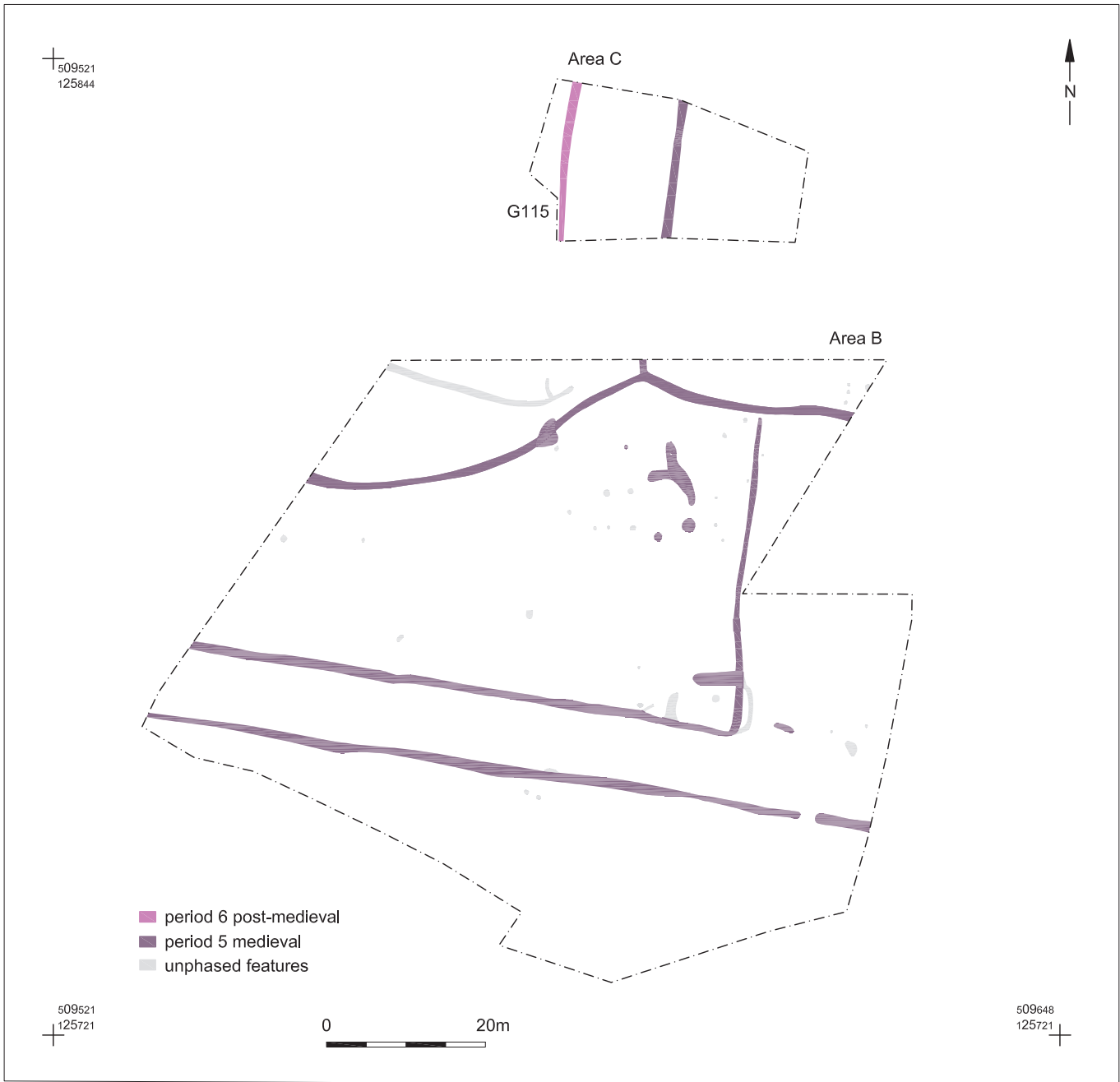


Fig 3.27 Plan of period 6 features (south site)

| Fieldwalking survey |        | Excavations |        | Total      |             |
|---------------------|--------|-------------|--------|------------|-------------|
| Count               | Wt (g) | Count       | Wt (g) | Count      | Wt (g)      |
| 174                 | 5180   | 69          | 1499   | <b>243</b> | <b>6679</b> |

Table 3.3 Summary of the burnt unworked flint

**METHODOLOGY**

The pieces of struck flint were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Butler 2005; Ford 1987; Inizan et al 1992). Basic technological details and further information regarding the condition of the artefacts were recorded. Dating was attempted where possible. All data have been entered onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and are summarised in Table 3.2.

**PROVENANCE**

The flints occurred in sparse quantities across the site, with no apparent concentration or clustering. The pieces recovered during the excavations came from unstratified deposits (15 pieces) and 70 contexts, including the fills of archaeological and natural features (74 pieces) and topsoil and subsoil deposits (13 pieces). The flints were thinly distributed, with no more than six worked flints recovered from any individual feature. For the stratified material, a single item came from a Middle/Late Bronze Age pit and six pieces came from six Early/Middle Iron Age features. The remaining pieces came from Late Iron Age or later features. The majority are therefore regarded as redeposited.



### RAW MATERIAL AND CONDITION

The raw materials consist exclusively of flint. With no evidence for the use of flint from primary chalk deposits, the raw material appears to have been collected from derived sources. It is mid brown and more frequently light to dark grey (to almost black), and is generally fine grained. Where present the cortex is generally slightly stained and abraded. This material was probably imported to the site. Some pieces display a thin, smooth and occasionally slightly pitted outer surface, which indicates that small river pebbles were also selected, and were probably sourced locally.

The condition of the flint varies. Generally, the pieces display a slight to moderate degree of edge damage, implying that the material has undergone negligible post-depositional disturbance. The material recovered during the fieldwalking survey exhibits a less fresh condition with evidence of edge abrasion. In total, 104 pieces are broken. Pieces with incipient traces of bluish white surface discolouration and pieces entirely recorticated are uncommon and, for this site, recortication seems to be chronologically insignificant.

### OVERVIEW OF ASSEMBLAGE

The assemblage is dominated by débitage products. Among this group flakes are the best represented (59 pieces), but blades, bladelets and blade-like flakes are also evident (17 pieces). Bladelets and blades with parallel lateral edges and ridges reflect a blade-orientated industry, and this indicates a presence during the Mesolithic or the Early Neolithic. The assemblage comprises a large quantity of competently produced flakes with thin flake scars on the dorsal face and carefully abraded striking

platform. These can be broadly placed within the Mesolithic–Early Bronze Age period.

A total of 12 cores was found (Table 3.2). Among them, the recovery of an opposed platform blade core (80g) from [1342] of ditch [1341] FS1 (Fig 3.28, no 1), an exhausted blade core (30g) from [59/005] of ditch [59/004], a single platform blade core (28g) from [1012] of tree throw [1011] (Fig 3.12), a multiplatform blade core (39g) from subsoil [1507] and two small fragmentary cores (14g and 19g) from subsoil [56/002] provides further evidence for the production of narrow blades and bladelets. The presence of a small core tablet and a core face/edge rejuvenation flake from overburden contexts [93/001] and [1507] confirms the use of a careful reduction strategy. The other cores could be slightly later in date (Middle Neolithic to Early Bronze Age).

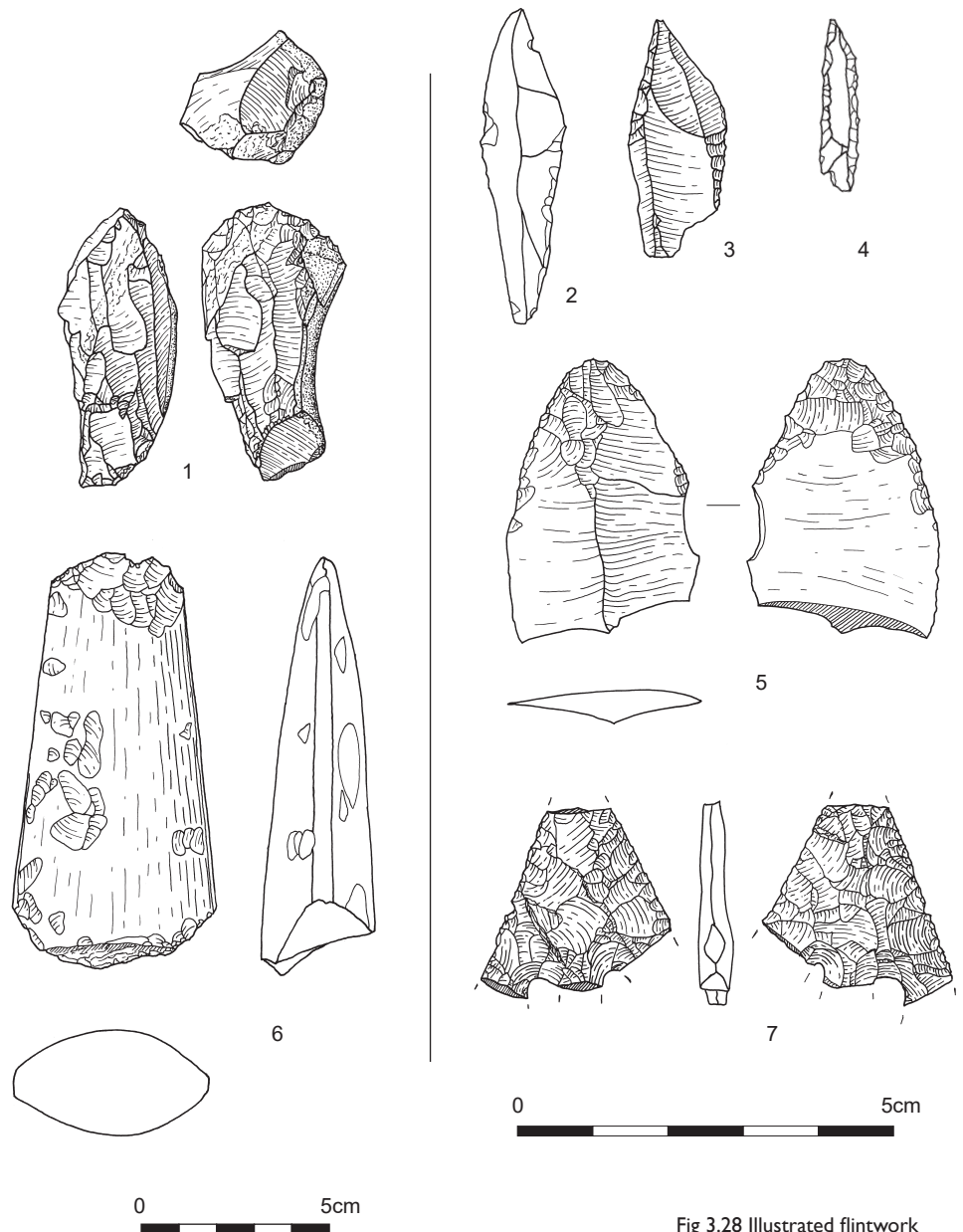


Fig 3.28 Illustrated flintwork

**ILLUSTRATION CATALOGUE (FIG 3.28)****Mesolithic**

1. Opposed platform blade core, earlier Roman ditch [1341], fill [1342], FS1. Residual Mesolithic
2. Obliquely blunted point of Jacobi's type 1a<sup>c</sup> (1978), unphased possible gully/ditch terminus [79/006], fill [79/007]
3. Unfinished microlith, earlier Roman ditch [1279], fill [1278], R1. Residual Mesolithic
4. Inversely retouched microlith, possible micro awl. Unstratified

**Neolithic**

5. Leaf arrowhead, Middle/Late Bronze Age pit [2232], upper fill [2233], OA2. Viewed from the side, it is symmetrical. Its current length is 111mm. While its maximum width is 54mm, it is 36mm wide at the butt end. It weighs 202g. Residual Neolithic
6. Polished axe, topsoil. Neolithic

**Early Bronze Age**

7. Barbed-and-tanged arrowhead, medieval pit [1955], secondary fill [1957], FS2. Residual Early Bronze Age

The assemblage contains 21 modified pieces, including seven diagnostic tools: four microliths, a leaf arrowhead, a polished axe and a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead.

The microliths confirm a Mesolithic presence at the site. Fill [79/007] from gully/ditch [79/006] produced an obliquely blunted point (Jacobi 1978, type 1a<sup>c</sup>) in a fair condition (Fig 3.28, no 2) that was formed by applying a truncation to the bulbar end of a bladelet. The tool attains 42mm in length, but it is narrow (10mm). The late Mesolithic tradition in the south of England differs from the tradition in the northern part of the country in that, in the south, during the late part of the Mesolithic, several formal tools including the truncated points persist in low quantities (Pitts and Jacobi 1979). However, based on its morphology and dimension, the point from [79/007] is more characteristic of Early Mesolithic assemblages (ibid, 169–70).

Fill [1279] from ditch [1278] (Fig 3.12) produced an unfinished microlith (Fig 3.28, no 3). The tool displays a proximal truncation as well as minimal retouch along the left edge, but the distal end remains unmodified. The microlith could represent an unfinished Bi-Truncated Rhombic Point (Jacobi's 1978 type 3a) or an unfinished Horsham Point (hollow based point – Jacobi's 1978 type 10). Both types suggest a Middle Mesolithic date (*c* 8000–7000 cal BC with overlaps).

The third microlith was found unstratified (Fig 3.28, no 4). It consists of an inversely retouched type. The narrow bladelet with blunted lateral edges is most characteristic of a rod, but it displays further inverse retouch at the tip that forms a very sharp point. Microliths are frequently associated with arrows, but several analyses have demonstrated that they were used not only for projectile heads (Finlayson & Mithen 1997; Dumont 1988; Donahue & Evans 2013). This microlith (Fig 3.28, no 4) could have acted as a piercing tool or micro awl.

Its small dimensions suggest a Late Mesolithic date. The fourth microlith was in a poor condition.

The leaf arrowhead (Fig 3.28, no 5) and the polished axe (Fig 3.28, no 6) provide evidence for a Neolithic presence. The broken leaf arrowhead from the upper fill [2233] of pit [2232] displays a bifacially retouched tip. The finely worked polished axe was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 69. It is recorticated orange brown, although recent breaks reveal a light grey flint. The cutting edge is absent, and the damage is likely to have occurred during use. The axe appears to have been entirely polished, perhaps excluding the butt end. The butt end exhibits a few deeper flake scars with sharp edges suggesting that the flakes were struck after the grinding of the axe surface. In profile the axe is widest towards the broken cutting edge, with straight edges tapering towards the butt end. It displays bevelled edges.

The secondary fill [1957] of pit [1927/1955] produced a broken barbed-and-tanged arrowhead (Fig 3.28, no 7). The artefact is finely worked on both surfaces. It indicates an Early Bronze Age presence at the site.

The end scrapers from [77/005] of ditch [77/004] and subsoil [1507] could be Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date. The remaining retouched pieces are less diagnostic, but they are likely to pre-date the Middle Bronze Age. For instance, topsoil [1001] produced an unfinished arrowhead. By contrast with the microliths it is in a poor condition, and represents a failed attempt. It is likely to be Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date.

**DISCUSSION**

Although relatively small and represented by isolated finds, the assemblage clearly demonstrates activity from the Mesolithic to the Early Bronze Age. This is based on the morphology and technology of the pieces and on the presence of diagnostic pieces. Only a small quantity of microliths was present, but they seem to represent the entire Mesolithic period. Although typical of the Early Mesolithic period, obliquely blunted points persisted in the subsequent periods. Given its dimension, the piece from [79/007] is more likely to be Early Mesolithic. The unfinished microlith from [1279] suggests a Middle Mesolithic date, and the unstratified microlith is likely to belong to the Late Mesolithic. While the polished axe and the leaf arrowhead are typical of the Neolithic period, the barbed-and-tanged arrowhead indicates an Early Bronze Age presence. The flintwork provides evidence for flint knapping activity and for the manufacture and/or maintenance of flint tools (or other artefacts).

Although the flintwork assemblage is small, it forms part of a much more extensive spread of material known from the area.

Over the years, keen collectors in the area around Horsham and Southwater have found large quantities of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flints, including several diagnostic tools (Gardiner 1988; Butler 2008). The recent excavations at Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath also produced a similar assemblage of early prehistoric (Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age) flints (Le Hégarat 2018).

The presence of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age diagnostic tools, including polished axes and arrowheads, in an area where the survival of prehistoric features pre-dating the Early Bronze Age remains uncommon is intriguing. Observing the pattern of breakage of polished axes in Southern England, Gardiner noted that the proportion of well-preserved (and even unbroken) polished axes from the Weald was high compared with the polished axes from the Chalk (Gardiner 2007). This unexpected result led Gardiner to propose the possibility that polished axes in the Weald had some extra ‘value’. The polished axe from the site is certainly not in a pristine condition. A similar level of recortication is present on the surface of the axe and on the broken cutting edge, suggesting that the piece was possibly damaged during use. Another aspect to consider is that Neolithic and Early Bronze Age tools may have been brought to the area during the Iron Age or later periods.

## THE PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN POTTERY

*Anna Doherty*

### INTRODUCTION

A large quantity of pottery was recovered from the site and is quantified by stratigraphic period in Table 3.4. A small prehistoric assemblage includes a placed Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury vessel and some very fragmentary sherds of Early to Middle Iron Age date. The vast majority of the pottery, however, belongs to the Roman period. This assemblage indicates a settlement founded around the mid 1st century AD with a clear peak in pottery use during the late 1st–early 2nd century AD. The pottery suggests a gradual decline in activity through the course of the 2nd century and a possible hiatus before a final episode of filling in several features during the late 3rd to mid 4th centuries.

### METHODOLOGY

The pottery was examined using a ×20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight, Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) and Estimated Vessel Number (ENV) on *pro forma* records and in an Excel spreadsheet. Prehistoric tempered wares were recorded according to site-specific fabric codes formulated in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric

| Period                                  | Period description        | Sherds      | Wt (g)       | ENV         | EVE          |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1.1                                     | Middle–Late Bronze Age    | 310         | 4198         | 3           |              |
| 2.1                                     | Early–Mid Iron Age        | 42          | 173          | 20          |              |
| 3.1                                     | Late Iron Age–Early Roman | 986         | 5102         | 536         | 2.23         |
| 4.1                                     | Earlier Roman             | 4434        | 33032        | 2240        | 26.91        |
| 4.2                                     | Mid Roman                 | 1844        | 25014        | 1314        | 23.86        |
| 4.3                                     | Later Roman               | 523         | 8402         | 460         | 8.74         |
| Unstratified/residual in later deposits |                           | 387         | 3410         | 324         | 2.81         |
| <b>Total</b>                            |                           | <b>8526</b> | <b>79331</b> | <b>4897</b> | <b>64.55</b> |

Table 3.4 Quantification of prehistoric and Roman pottery according to stratigraphic phase

Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010). In the absence of a regional types-series for Sussex, Roman fabrics and forms were recorded using an adapted version of the Southwark/London typology (with some additional codes for local types), which will be published in a forthcoming summary of Roman pottery from the West Sussex Coastal Plain (Marsh & Tyers 1978; Davies et al 1994; MoLA 2019; Doherty in prep b).

## SITE-SPECIFIC FABRIC CODES

### CALC1

Moderate, rounded yellowish/orange argillaceous rock inclusions of c 1–2.5mm; often leached, especially on surfaces

### FLIN2

Sparse, ill-sorted flint of 1–5mm in a silty matrix with sparse quartz up to 0.5mm

### FLIN3

Moderate ill-sorted flint of 1–8mm in a dense silty matrix

### FLIN4

Moderate to common, moderately to well-sorted flint of 1–2mm (with occasional examples up to 3mm) in a silty matrix; usually with well-smoothed/burnished surfaces

### FLIN5

Common/abundant well-sorted flint of 0.2–1.5mm in a silty matrix

### GRFL1

Sparse, fine grog and flint, both of 1–1.5mm, in a well-fired silty matrix

### GROG1

Moderate/common grog of 1–2mm and rare/sparse soft pale-coloured sedimentary inclusions of a similar texture and size range to the grog but often leached on surfaces

### GROG2

On a continuum with GROG1 but with a larger proportion of leached inclusions (moderate or common in frequency) and only sparse grog. The inclusions are sometime of slightly larger size than GROG1 (c 1.5–2.5mm)

### QUAR1

Moderate quartz of 0.1–0.3mm with few other visible inclusions

### ROCK1

Sparse, hard, pale, quartz-rich rock fragments (probably sandstone) of 2–4mm set within a dense matrix

## PERIOD 1.1 MIDDLE–LATE BRONZE AGE

The truncated base and lower wall of a vessel was found in pit [1623], having been placed upright and intact. Although

no diagnostic sherds from the upper body were present, the vessel can be assigned to the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury tradition based on the very coarse flint-tempered fabric (FLIN3) and thick-walled body profile. The vessel contained many fragments of low-fired clay, but no evidence of human remains. Placed vessels containing burnt material are a relatively common occurrence in Sussex and Hampshire (Seager Thomas 2010), though these are more usually filled with burnt flint and charcoal, which were present only in tiny quantities in the current vessel. It has been suggested that deposits of this type may be related to funerary or other ritual activity (ibid, 361; Brück 2006b, 304).

A few small conjoining body sherds in a coarse flint-tempered ware (FLIN2) were found in two other pits [82/011] and [2232] and these can probably be broadly assigned to the later 2nd millennium BC, though they are not closely datable.

PERIOD 2.1 EARLY/MIDDLE IRON AGE

A very small quantity of pottery was recovered from features assigned to period 2.1, though these included several intrusive Roman sherds. This period was predominantly defined on the basis of radiocarbon dating evidence. The accompanying pottery is fairly undiagnostic and appears to include fabrics of slightly different character from two separate areas of the site (Table 3.5).

| Fabric       | Sherds    | Wt (g)     | ENV       |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| CALC1        | 14        | 58         | 3         |
| FLIN2        | 1         | 5          | 1         |
| FLIN4        | 8         | 39         | 5         |
| FLIN5        | 2         | 5          | 1         |
| GRFL1        | 6         | 28         | 2         |
| QUAR1        | 3         | 2          | 1         |
| ROCK1        | 1         | 8          | 1         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>35</b> | <b>145</b> | <b>14</b> |

Table 3.5 Quantification of period 2.1 fabrics (excluding unquestionably intrusive material)

In Area B a small assemblage from features making up a four-post structure, G100, includes sherds in a fine grog-with-flint-tempered ware, GRFL1, and a moderately fine, fairly well-sorted flint-tempered fabric, FLIN4. One of the sherds in the former is a small rim from a plain ovoid profile jar (Fig 3.29, no 1). Based on the ceramics themselves the dating of this material would be ambiguous. The moderately fine flint-tempered body sherds could be of virtually any later prehistoric date and, in Wealden sites from mid and East Sussex, grog-with-flint fabrics are frequently associated with Middle to Late

Bronze Age assemblages (eg Hamilton 1994; Raymond 2012). The simple in-turning profile of the single rim sherd could be a very thin-walled example of a post-Deverel-Rimbury hook-rim jar (a form typical of assemblages from the early part of the Late Bronze Age). On the other hand, grog-tempered wares have very occasionally been identified in Iron Age assemblages in Wealden contexts and plain ovoid profiles are also found in later periods; one such vessel was assigned to the Middle Iron Age at Broadbridge Heath, for example (Doherty 2018). In this case, scientific dating appears to suggest an Early Iron Age attribution. Posthole [2201], containing sherds in both fabrics, also produced two radiocarbon dates. The earlier of the two, on a charcoal fragment, was presumed to be residual (Beta-470770; 2500±30; 788–537 cal BC) because its calibrated range was wholly earlier than the later of the two dates, on a charred hazelnut shell (Beta-470769; 2360±30; 536–383 BC). This latter sample probably belongs to the 5th century BC (476–392 cal BC at 68% probability).

To the north of the A272, in pit [37/004], a single body sherd in a rock-tempered fabric, ROCK1, containing probable sandstone inclusions, was associated with a marginally later date on charcoal. This falls wholly within the Middle Iron Age (Beta-3787797; 2270±30; 395–210 cal BC) and probably within its first few decades (390–360 cal BC at 68% probability). Elsewhere, a small number of body sherds were recovered from pits and hearths in Open Area OA1. The majority of the sherds are in an argillaceous rock-tempered ware, CALC1. This was originally thought to represent a calcareous rock but recent work at Broadbridge Heath suggests that such inclusions are in fact leached coal-bearing shale (Quinn 2018). Other sherds in generally fine, well-sorted, commonly flint-tempered wares FLIN4 and FLIN5 and hand-made quartz-rich ware QUAR1 are consistent with a Middle Iron Age date, although not closely or conclusively datable. A coarser flint-tempered ware, FLIN2, probably represents a residual later Bronze Age fabric.

PERIOD 3.1 (c MID 1ST CENTURY AD)

**Fabrics**

In this period closely related grog-tempered fabrics GROG1 and GROG2 together account for about two-thirds of sherds and an even larger proportion of estimated vessels (Table 3.6). Argillaceous rock-tempered wares also make up about a quarter of the assemblage by sherd count, though this figure is skewed by one highly fragmented but partially complete vessel; in terms of estimated vessels, this fabric accounts for only about 6% of the assemblage. Nevertheless, its occurrence in the 1st



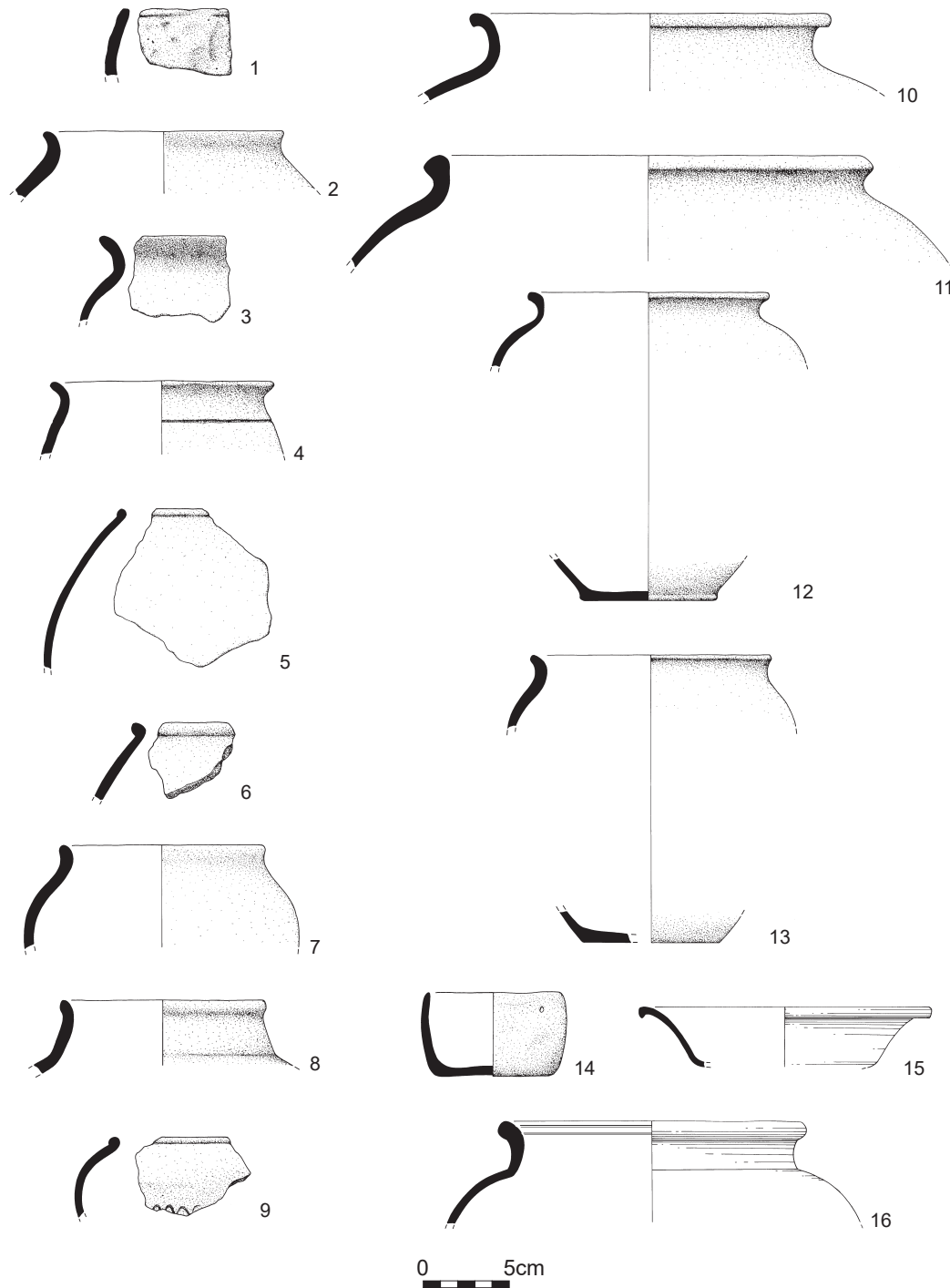


Fig 3.29 Iron Age and Roman pottery

century AD is of note because argillaceous rock tempering is more closely associated with Middle Iron Age pottery in the Weald. At Broadbridge Heath, sherds in comparable fabrics made up *c* 90% of the substantial Middle Iron Age assemblage, so there was some doubt about whether they were residual in Late Iron Age/Early Roman contexts (Doherty 2018). The scale of Iron Age activity on the current site is small and less likely to have produced large quantities of residual pottery, so it appears likely that this fabric was in contemporary use in the mid 1st century AD. Two possibly residual examples of hand-made

quartz-rich fabrics represent the only other non-Romanised fabrics to occur in this period.

A body sherd of amphora in a central or southern Italian fabric was recovered in this period. The thick-walled body profile indicates that this is likely to be from a Dressel 1 wine amphora of late 2nd- to 1st-century BC date; it is therefore likely to be residual or reused in its 1st-century AD context.

Only about 6% of the assemblage is made up by Roman sandy fabrics. Where Roman coarse wares are present, they are predominantly of local/Arun Valley origin. These fabrics

| Fabric code  | Fabric description              | Sherds     | Wt (g)      | ENV        | Sherds %     | Wt %         | ENV %        |
|--------------|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| CALC1        | Argillaceous rock-tempered ware | 268        | 1338        | 33         | 27.2         | 26.3         | 6.2          |
| GROG1        | Grog-tempered ware              | 453        | 2346        | 348        | 46.0         | 46.0         | 65.0         |
| GROG2        | Grog-tempered ware              | 201        | 1035        | 113        | 20.4         | 20.3         | 21.1         |
| QUAR1        | Iron Age quartz-rich ware       | 2          | 16          | 2          | 0.2          | 0.3          | 0.4          |
| CAMP         | Italian amphora                 | 1          | 21          | 1          | 0.1          | 0.4          | 0.2          |
| AVBW         | Arun Valley black-surfaced ware | 27         | 170         | 12         | 2.7          | 3.3          | 2.2          |
| AVGW         | Arun Valley grey ware           | 19         | 111         | 15         | 1.9          | 2.2          | 2.8          |
| AVOX         | Arun Valley oxidised ware       | 8          | 28          | 7          | 0.8          | 0.5          | 1.3          |
| OXID         | Un sourced oxidised ware        | 1          | 2           | 1          | 0.1          | 0.0          | 0.2          |
| RWCG         | Rowlands Castle grey ware       | 1          | 4           | 1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.2          |
| SAND         | Un sourced grey ware            | 4          | 25          | 2          | 0.4          | 0.5          | 0.4          |
| <b>Total</b> |                                 | <b>985</b> | <b>5096</b> | <b>535</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 3.6 Quantification of period 3.1 fabrics (excluding unquestionably intrusive material)

tend to be mostly black surfaced although, in this period, the distinction between grey/black-surfaced and oxidised wares may be arbitrary, as most vessels are somewhat unevenly fired. A few unsourced grey or oxidised fabrics of slightly different character were noted together with one sherd of – probably intrusive – Rowlands Castle grey ware.

### Forms

A very limited range of forms was encountered in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period (Table 3.7). These are overwhelmingly simple necked jar profiles (eg Fig 3.29, nos 2, 3 and 7). Just two jars with shoulder cordons were noted and these are generally not very pronounced (eg Fig 3.29, no 4). There are also examples of bead rim jars (eg Fig 3.29, nos 5 and 6) and a single storage jar (not illustrated). One form could be described as a narrow-neck jar or relatively coarse/undecorated butt-beaker derivative (Fig 3.29, no 8); the only non-jar form is a partial rim from a platter, probably imitating Cam 16 (not illustrated).

| Form                        | Codes      | ENV       | ENV %        | EVE         | EVE %        |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Jar, undifferentiated       |            | 4         | 12.1         | -           | -            |
| Jar, bead rim               | 2A         | 4         | 12.1         | 0.31        | 13.9         |
| Jar, necked                 | 2T         | 20        | 60.6         | 1.56        | 70.0         |
| Jar, necked with cordon     | 2T (B1–I)* | 2         | 6.1          | 0.2         | 9.0          |
| Jar, storage                | 2V         | 1         | 3.0          | -           | -            |
| Narrow neck jar/butt-beaker | 2U/3A      | 1         | 3.0          | 0.1         | 4.5          |
| Platter, Gallo-Belgic style | 5A         | 1         | 3.0          | 0.06        | 2.7          |
| <b>Total</b>                |            | <b>33</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2.23</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 3.7 Quantification of period 3.1 forms (codes in brackets are concordances to other typologies \*Thompson 1982)

### PERIOD 4.1 (c AD 60–120)

#### Fabrics

In period 4.1 a similar range of tempered wares to that noted in the preceding phase is seen, primarily made up by grog-tempered wares but still including a small component of argillaceous rock-tempered wares. There are also one or two examples of hand-made sandy fabrics and shelly wares (Table 3.8). Two conjoining sherds in a storage jar fabric with extremely coarse opaque quartz is similar to fabrics probably produced in the Alice Holt industry (cf Mason et al 2020, fabric OXSU). Overall, tempered wares make up a much reduced proportion of the assemblage (just over a fifth) when compared with period 3.1.

By this period, the assemblage is completely dominated by Arun Valley fabrics, which account for around 70% of the assemblage. Although black-surfaced variants are still present, Arun Valley coarse wares tend to be more evenly fired and there are far more examples of grey and oxidised fabrics. Arun Valley white wares, primarily associated with flagons, appear for the first time, as do Arun Valley fine wares, including grey, oxidised and black-surfaced variants.

There are few other major sources of supply in this period. Alice Holt grey wares represent about 3% of the assemblage and a single Verulamium region white ware vessel was also recorded. It is unclear whether the small number of Rowlands Castle grey ware sherds are contemporary with this period. This fabric was not typically distributed far beyond its core market in Chichester before the mid Roman period but, given the proximity of the site to Stane Street, it is possible that small amounts could have reached Billingshurst in the late 1st/early 2nd century. Similarly, a single sherd of Colchester colour-coated ware probably post-dates AD 120. Both it and all of the

| Fabric code                           | Fabric description                   | Sherds      | Wt (g)       | ENV         | Sherds %     | Wt %         | ENV %        |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Tempered wares</b>                 |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| CALCI                                 | Argillaceous rock-tempered ware      | 157         | 990          | 44          | 3.5          | 3.0          | 2.0          |
| COAR                                  | Miscellaneous coarse ware            | 2           | 5            | 1           | <0.1         | <0.1         | <0.1         |
| GROGI                                 | Grog-tempered ware                   | 786         | 5419         | 353         | 17.7         | 16.4         | 15.8         |
| GROG2                                 | Grog-tempered ware                   | 43          | 188          | 29          | 1.0          | 0.6          | 1.3          |
| QUARI                                 | Iron Age quartz-rich ware            | 2           | 29           | 2           | <0.1         | 0.1          | 0.1          |
| SHEL                                  | Shelly wares                         | 2           | 9            | 2           | <0.1         | <0.1         | 0.1          |
| <b>Local/unsourced coarse wares</b>   |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| AVBW                                  | Arun Valley black-surfaced ware      | 894         | 5821         | 502         | 20.2         | 17.6         | 22.4         |
| AVGW                                  | Arun Valley grey ware                | 1177        | 9877         | 770         | 26.6         | 29.9         | 34.4         |
| AVOX                                  | Arun Valley oxidised ware            | 886         | 7648         | 342         | 20.0         | 23.2         | 15.3         |
| AVWH                                  | Arun Valley white ware               | 52          | 398          | 15          | 1.2          | 1.2          | 0.7          |
| OXID                                  | Unsourced oxidised ware              | 12          | 153          | 9           | 0.3          | 0.5          | 0.4          |
| SAND                                  | Unsourced grey ware                  | 51          | 307          | 23          | 1.2          | 0.9          | 1.0          |
| <b>Regionally traded coarse wares</b> |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| AHSU                                  | Alice Holt/Surrey ware               | 90          | 1020         | 48          | 2.0          | 3.1          | 2.1          |
| NFSE                                  | North French/south-east English ware | 1           | 1            | 1           | <0.1         | <0.1         | <0.1         |
| RWCG                                  | Rowlands Castle grey ware            | 7           | 105          | 5           | 0.2          | 0.3          | 0.2          |
| VRW                                   | Verulamium region white ware         | 38          | 173          | 1           | 0.9          | 0.5          | 0.0          |
| <b>Local/unsourced fine wares</b>     |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| AVBF                                  | Arun Valley fine black-surfaced ware | 16          | 69           | 7           | 0.4          | 0.2          | 0.3          |
| AVGF                                  | Arun Valley fine grey ware           | 77          | 176          | 32          | 1.7          | 0.5          | 1.4          |
| AVOF                                  | Arun Valley fine oxidised ware       | 100         | 297          | 29          | 2.3          | 0.9          | 1.3          |
| OXIDF                                 | Unsourced fine oxidised ware         | 5           | 9            | 3           | 0.1          | <0.1         | 0.1          |
| TNIM                                  | Imitation Terra Nigra fabric         | 7           | 18           | 1           | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.0          |
| <b>Regionally traded fine wares</b>   |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| COLCC                                 | Colchester colour-coated ware        | 1           | 1            | 1           | <0.1         | <0.1         | <0.1         |
| <b>Imported fine wares</b>            |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| NGWH                                  | North Gaulish white ware             | 7           | 28           | 5           | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.2          |
| TN                                    | Terra Nigra                          | 4           | 16           | 1           | 0.1          | <0.1         | <0.1         |
| TR                                    | Terra Rubra                          | 2           | 18           | 1           | <0.1         | 0.1          | <0.1         |
| CGOF                                  | Central Gaulish colour-coated ware   | 1           | 2            | 1           | <0.1         | <0.1         | <10.0        |
| SAMLG                                 | La Graufesenque samian ware          | 6           | 41           | 5           | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.2          |
| SAMLZ                                 | Lezoux samian ware                   | 1           | 19           | 1           | <0.1         | 0.1          | <0.1         |
| SAMMV                                 | Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware     | 1           | 4            | 1           | <0.1         | <0.1         | <0.1         |
| <b>Imported amphora</b>               |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| AMPH                                  | Unsourced amphora                    | 1           | 156          | 1           | 0.0          | 0.5          | 0.0          |
| BAETE                                 | Baetican amphora                     | 1           | 10           | 1           | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          |
| <b>Total</b>                          |                                      | <b>4430</b> | <b>33007</b> | <b>2237</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 3.8 Quantification of period 4.I fabrics  
(excluding some unquestionably residual and intrusive material of prehistoric and late Roman date)

Rowlands Castle wares were found in enclosure ditches that had subsequent phases of filling and/or recutting.

Although imported fabrics make up a very small proportion of the assemblage, the range of sources is quite diverse for a rural assemblage. Gallo-Belgic fabrics include North Gaulish white ware, Terra Nigra and Terra Rubra. There is a single sherd of

central Gaulish colour-coated ware as well as La Graufesenque and Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware. A single sherd of Lezoux samian is considered intrusive to this phase. Amphora are uncommon and are represented by just one sherd in a Baetican fabric and another from an unidentified source.

**Forms**

In the earlier Roman period the assemblage remains dominated by jars, which make up about 75% of forms (Table 3.9). As in the preceding period, these are overwhelmingly simple necked profiles. Although wheel-thrown Arun Valley jars occasionally have a slightly better defined join between neck and shoulder, many are simple, sinuous forms (Fig 3.29, nos 10–13, 16; Fig 3.30, no 17). There are rare occurrences of other jar types, including bead rim jars (eg Fig 3.29 no 9), a single cordoned jar (not illustrated) and a miniature version of an early plain profile form analogous to Thompson (1982) form C3 (Fig 3.29, no 14). A base from a pedestal jar was also identified

(not illustrated). As already noted, Rowlands Castle grey wares and their associated everted rim jar forms may be intrusive to this period. Few other coarse ware forms are present, though lids in Arun Valley coarse fabrics are fairly well represented, accounting for 7% of ENV and 5% of EVE (eg Fig 3.30, nos 19, 21). Coarse ware bowls, made up entirely by flat rim Arun Valley vessels, make up slightly less than 2% of the assemblage (eg Fig 3.30, no 22).

Period 4.1 saw a modest expansion in the range of fine and table ware forms. Of these, beakers are the best represented, accounting for about 8% of ENV and 6% EVE. Included are partial rims from imported North Gaulish white ware butt-

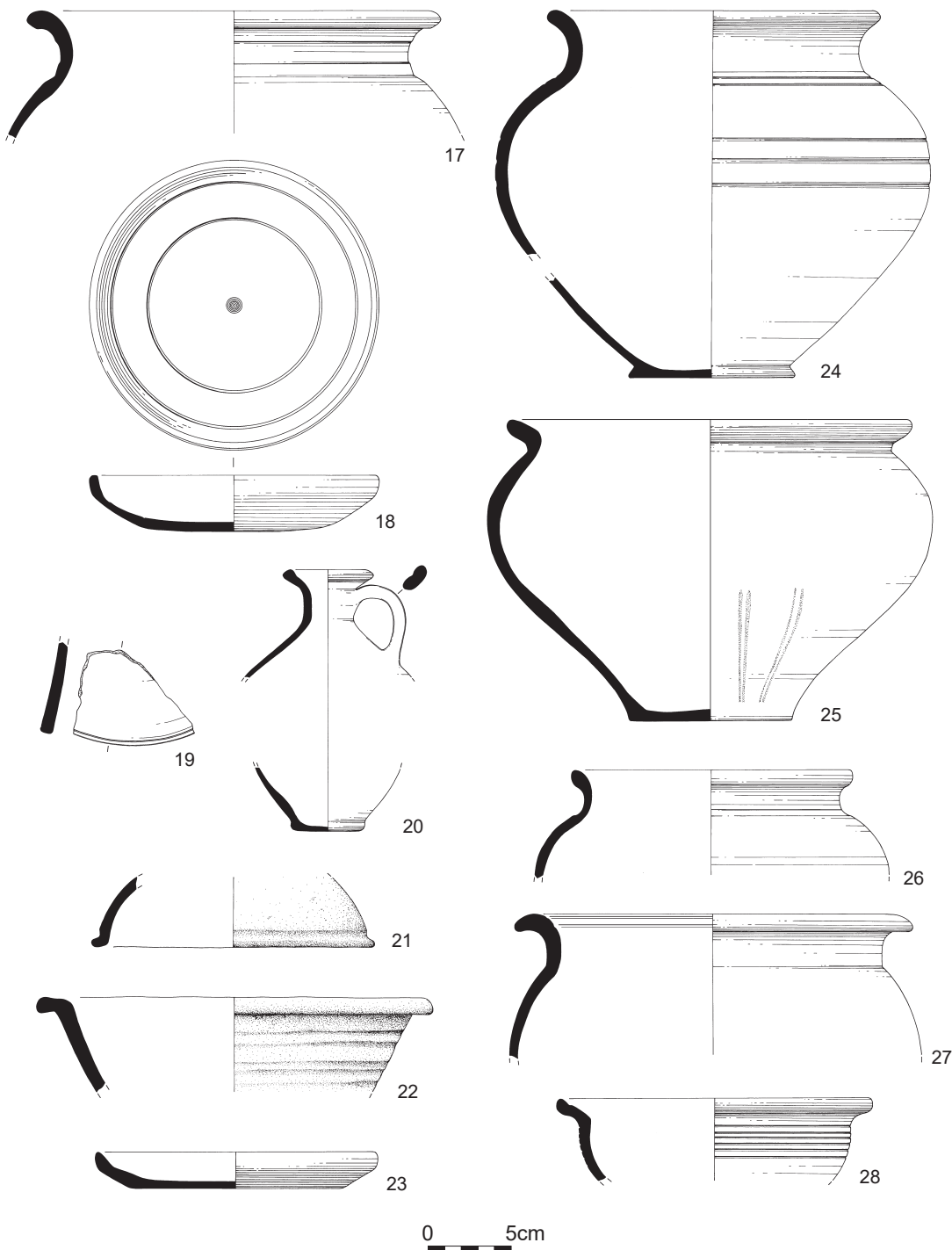


Fig 3.30 Roman pottery



| Form                                   | Codes        | ENV        | ENV %        | EVE          | EVE %        |
|--|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Flagons</b>                         |              |            |              |              |              |
| Flagon, collared                       | 1A           | 1          | 0.4          | 0.1          | 0.4          |
| Flagon, ring-necked                    | 1B.3         | 1          | 0.4          | 0.06         | 0.2          |
| Flagon, plain rim/disc-mouthed         | 1D           | 1          | 0.4          | 1            | 3.7          |
| Flagon, undifferentiated               | 1            | 1          | 0.4          | -            | -            |
| <b>Jars</b>                            |              |            |              |              |              |
| Jar, plain profile                     | 2(C3)*       | 1          | 0.4          | 0.48         | 1.8          |
| Jar, pedestal                          | 2PD          | 1          | 0.4          | -            | -            |
| Jar, bead rim                          | 2A           | 9          | 3.7          | 1.09         | 4.1          |
| Jar, necked                            | 2T           | 146        | 60.3         | 17.27        | 64.2         |
| Jar, necked with cordon                | 2T(B1-1)*    | 1          | 0.4          | 0.15         | 0.6          |
| Jar, narrow necked                     | 2U           | 3          | 1.2          | 0.44         | 1.6          |
| Jar, storage                           | 2V           | 4          | 1.7          | 0.26         | 1.0          |
| Jar, black-burnished-style everted rim | 2F           | 1          | 0.4          | -            | -            |
| Jar, Dicks D2 everted rim              | 2 (D2)**     | 2          | 0.8          | 0.2          | 0.7          |
| Jar, Undifferentiated                  | 2            | 16         | 6.6          | 0.27         | 1.0          |
| <b>Jars/beakers</b>                    |              |            |              |              |              |
| Jar/beaker, undifferentiated           | 2/3          | 3          | 1.2          | 0.48         | 1.8          |
| <b>Beakers</b>                         |              |            |              |              |              |
| Butt-beaker                            | 3A           | 3          | 1.2          | 0.37         | 1.4          |
| Beaker, globular                       | 3B           | 7          | 2.9          | 0.69         | 2.6          |
| Beaker, carinated                      | 3G           | 1          | 0.4          | -            | -            |
| Beaker, poppy-head                     | 3F           | 1          | 0.4          | 0.08         | 0.3          |
| Beaker, undifferentiated               | 3            | 8          | 3.3          | 0.54         | 2.0          |
| <b>Bowls</b>                           |              |            |              |              |              |
| Bowl, flat rim                         | 4F           | 3          | 1.2          | 0.4          | 1.5          |
| <b>Platters/dishes</b>                 |              |            |              |              |              |
| Platter, Gallo-Belgic style            | 5A, 5B       | 7          | 2.9          | 1.39         | 5.2          |
| Dish, samian-style plain forms         | 5DR18/31     | 1          | 0.4          | 0.05         | 0.2          |
| <b>Cups</b>                            |              |            |              |              |              |
| Cup, samian-style plain forms          | 6DR27, 6DR46 | 3          | 1.2          | 0.2          | 0.7          |
| <b>Lids</b>                            |              |            |              |              |              |
| Lid                                    | 9A           | 16         | 6.6          | 1.29         | 4.8          |
| <b>Total</b>                           |              | <b>242</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>26.81</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 3.9 Quantification of period 4.1 forms (codes in brackets are concordances to other typologies \*Thompson 1982, \*\*Dicks 2009)

beakers and imitations in Arun Valley fine wares. Almost all of the other beakers are also associated with Arun Valley fine fabrics, including carinated, globular and poppyhead forms (all too fragmentary to illustrate).

Flagons constitute about 4% of EVE and 2% of ENV. They include a fragmentary probable collared flagon in a coarse Arun Valley grey ware and a ring-necked form in an Arun Valley white ware (not illustrated). A partially complete flagon, with a profile that falls somewhere between ring-necked and disc-mouthed, was recorded in Verulamium region white ware (Fig 3.30, no 20).

Platters and dishes make up about 5% of forms in this period. These are predominantly Arun Valley imitations of Gallo-Belgic vessels based on Cam 14/16 (eg Fig 3.30, no 23) (Hawkes & Hull 1947). One such vessel (Fig 3.30, no 18) featured a central marking, possibly imitating name stamps on imported platters. Also represented is a probably intrusive Dragendorff 18/31 dish, associated with Lezoux samian ware. Fine ware bowl forms are notably absent in this period.

Cups, accounting for c 1% of the assemblage, include examples of samian Dragendorff 27 (not illustrated) as well as one imitation Dragendorff 46 cup in an Arun Valley fine oxidised ware (Fig 3.29, no 15). Several similar vessels have been noted in a cremation group at Offington Lane, Worthing (Thorne 2009, fig 4; Fig 3.29, nos 9–12).

#### PERIOD 4.2 (c AD 120–200+)

##### Fabrics

In terms of broad fabric composition, period 4.2 is similar to the preceding phase (Table 3.10). Grog-tempered wares are still present, accounting for about 6% of the assemblage. There appears to have been a very rapid decline in the use of tempered fabrics over the course of the preceding period, and it likely that at least some of the grog-tempered sherds in period 4.2 are residual; however, it is also possible that these wares remained in contemporary use to some degree. Assemblages from the East Sussex Weald are well known for their continued use of grog tempering throughout the Roman period (Green 1980). Although this seems to be less clearly the case in the western Weald, there was certainly good evidence for the continued use of grog tempering in the mid Roman period at Horley (Doherty in prep c).

Arun Valley coarse wares declined in frequency slightly in relation to the preceding phase, but still account for well over two-thirds of the period 4.2 assemblage. There is also a noticeable expansion in the range of regionally traded wares, with marked increases in the proportion of Rowlands Castle and Alice Holt grey wares. A few sherds from a range of other sources are represented, including BB1, BB2, Highgate Wood ware C and Verulamium region white ware, as well as unoxidised wares of unknown, probably non-local, south-east English/north French provenance.

| Fabric code                           | Fabric description                   | Sherds      | Wt (g)       | ENV         | Sherds %     | Wt %         | ENV %        |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Tempered wares</b>                 |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| GROG1                                 | Grog-tempered ware                   | 99          | 1102         | 76          | 5.4          | 4.4          | 5.8          |
| GROG2                                 | Grog-tempered ware                   | 5           | 28           | 4           | 0.3          | 0.1          | 0.3          |
| <b>Local/unsourced coarse wares</b>   |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| AVBW                                  | Arun Valley black-surfaced ware      | 158         | 2240         | 144         | 8.6          | 9.0          | 10.9         |
| AVGW                                  | Arun Valley grey ware                | 726         | 8507         | 596         | 39.3         | 34.0         | 45.4         |
| AVOX                                  | Arun Valley oxidised ware            | 280         | 6110         | 160         | 15.1         | 24.4         | 12.1         |
| AVWH                                  | Arun valley white ware               | 41          | 536          | 21          | 2.2          | 2.1          | 1.6          |
| BBS                                   | Black-burnished-style ware           | 1           | 114          | 1           | 0.1          | 0.5          | 0.1          |
| OXID                                  | Unsourced oxidised ware              | 18          | 137          | 15          | 1.0          | 0.5          | 1.1          |
| SAND                                  | Unsourced grey ware                  | 78          | 560          | 22          | 4.2          | 2.2          | 1.7          |
| <b>Regionally traded coarse wares</b> |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| AHSU                                  | Alice Holt/Surrey ware               | 128         | 1730         | 115         | 6.9          | 6.9          | 8.7          |
| BB1                                   | Black-burnished ware 1               | 11          | 243          | 10          | 0.6          | 1.0          | 0.8          |
| BB2                                   | Black-burnished ware 2               | 5           | 40           | 2           | 0.3          | 0.2          | 0.2          |
| HWC                                   | Highgate Wood ware C                 | 2           | 71           | 2           | 0.1          | 0.3          | 0.2          |
| NFSE                                  | North French/south-east English ware | 8           | 76           | 1           | 0.4          | 0.3          | 0.1          |
| RWCG                                  | Rowlands Castle grey ware            | 83          | 1753         | 24          | 4.5          | 7.0          | 1.8          |
| VRW                                   | Verulamium region white ware         | 12          | 47           | 4           | 0.7          | 0.2          | 0.3          |
| <b>Local/unsourced fine wares</b>     |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| AVBF                                  | Arun Valley fine black-surfaced ware | 60          | 489          | 32          | 3.3          | 2.0          | 2.4          |
| AVGF                                  | Arun Valley fine grey ware           | 17          | 60           | 17          | 0.9          | 0.2          | 1.3          |
| AVOF                                  | Arun Valley fine oxidised ware       | 43          | 352          | 19          | 2.3          | 1.4          | 1.5          |
| OXIDF                                 | Unsourced fine oxidised ware         | 4           | 14           | 4           | 0.2          | <0.1         | 0.2          |
| <b>Regionally traded fine wares</b>   |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| COLCC                                 | Colchester colour-coated ware        | 3           | 1            | 1           | 0.2          | <0.1         | 0.1          |
| <b>Imported fine wares</b>            |                                      |             |              |             |              |              |              |
| NGWH                                  | North Gaulish white ware             | 2           | 21           | 2           | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.2          |
| TN                                    | Terra Nigra                          | 4           | 11           | 1           | 0.2          | <0.1         | 0.1          |
| TR                                    | Terra Rubra                          | 3           | 15           | 1           | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.1          |
| CGBL                                  | Central Gaulish black-slipped ware   | 2           | 3            | 2           | 0.1          | <0.1         | 0.2          |
| KOLN                                  | Cologne colour-coated ware           | 1           | 4            | 1           | 0.1          | <0.1         | 0.1          |
| MLEZ                                  | Micaceous Lezoux samian ware         | 1           | 37           | 1           | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          |
| SAMAP                                 | Aldgate Pulborough samian ware       | 1           | 24           | 1           | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          |
| SAMLG                                 | La Graufesenque samian ware          | 11          | 97           | 8           | 0.6          | 0.4          | 0.6          |
| SAMLZ                                 | Lezoux samian ware                   | 31          | 548          | 21          | 1.7          | 2.2          | 1.6          |
| SAMEG                                 | East Gaulish samian ware             | 2           | 11           | 2           | 0.1          | <0.1         | 0.2          |
| SAMMV                                 | Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware     | 1           | 14           | 1           | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          |
| <b>Total</b>                          |                                      | <b>1841</b> | <b>24995</b> | <b>1311</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 3.10 Quantification of period 4.2 fabrics (excluding some unquestionably residual and intrusive material)

Romano-British fine wares continue to be almost exclusively made up by Arun Valley fabrics, including one sherd in the distinctive local Aldgate-Pulbrough samian fabric, believed to have been produced in the environs of Borough Farm Villa (Pope et al 2012, 83–86). The only non-local

Romano-British fine ware is Colchester colour-coated ware, represented by three small conjoining sherds.

By period 4.2 imported Gallo-Belgic wares such as Terra Rubra, Terra Nigra and North Gaulish white ware can probably be considered residual. Although it perhaps possible that fine ware imported vessels of this type were curated for

several generations, the TR sherds actually cross-fitted with a vessel identified in a period 4.1 deposit and had clearly been redeposited. Quite a diverse range of contemporary imports are represented, however, if only by one or two sherds. These include central Gaulish black-slipped ware, Cologne colour-coated ware and samian ware from south, central and east Gaulish sources. The occurrence of Lezoux central Gaulish samian ware in deposits of this period is one of the aspects that distinguishes it from period 4.1. Sherds of samian ware from 1st-century south Gaulish sources, as well as a single example of the early micaceous Lezoux fabric, may represent vessels curated in this period or entirely redeposited material.

### Forms

As with the fabrics, there is only gradual change in the range of forms when compared with period 4.1 (Table 3.11). There is evidence for residuality, which probably reflects the fact that much of the assemblage came from the upper deposits of features that had begun to fill in the preceding phase. On the other hand, there is probably a significant degree of continuity between the pottery of periods 4.1 and 4.2. This phenomenon is well demonstrated by two associated placed vessels, found with a cremation burial. One of these (Fig 3.30, no 24) is a jar with cordons and shoulder grooves, which are clearly influenced by Gallo-Belgic stylistic traditions that would have been dying out in the earlier 2nd century. This was accompanied by a typical Rowlands Castle everted rim jar (Fig 3.30, no 25), which is much more characteristic of mid Roman assemblages.

Looking at the assemblage more generally, jars declined in frequency only very slightly and a similar range of forms is represented, still dominated by simple necked profiles (eg Fig 3.30, nos 26–8). Some new jar forms do appear, including examples closely associated with the Alice Holt industry (including Fig 3.31, no 29 and other unillustrated forms 2C, 2D, 2Z; analogous to Lyne & Jefferies 1979, 1.11–1.13, 1.22–1.25, 3A.1–15). The appearance of Rowlands Castle and black-burnished ware everted rim jar forms (Fig 3.30, no 25; Fig 3.31, no 35) are another characteristic element of period 4.2; together they account for about 9% of estimated vessels and 13% of EVE by this period. Plain lids remain an important part of the coarse ware assemblage, if declining in frequency very slightly (eg Fig 3.31, no 36).

Coarse ware bowls and dishes in the black-burnished ware tradition also emerged during period 4.2. Together these account for about 15% of ENV and 11% of EVE. These are principally flat or rounded rim bowls and plain rim dishes (eg Fig 3.31, nos 30–31). Four examples of bead-and-flange bowls

are present (not illustrated). One of these is an early (4G226) variant and could belong to the later 2nd century, but the others are considerably later in date than anything else from this period and are therefore considered intrusive. A single Arun Valley bead-and-flange mortarium was recovered from this period (Fig 3.31, no 32).

The range of fine ware and table ware forms is similar to that in the preceding phase. Although flagons increased in frequency slightly, they are predominantly earlier ring-necked forms of 1st- to early 2nd-century date (eg Fig 3.31, no 33). Similarly, Arun Valley fine ware beakers account for about 10% of the assemblage but the associated forms seem to include a number of 1st-century forms: for example, a butt-beaker and two carinated beakers (Fig 3.31, no 34). Globular/everted rim and poppyhead forms account for the greatest number of beakers in this period and these are probably directly contemporary (eg Fig 3.31, nos 37–38).

Fine ware cups, dishes and bowls are entirely made up by samian vessels. These include residual or curated 1st-century Curle 11 and Dragendorff 18 platters/dishes and a Dragendorff 27 cup. Slightly later forms include Dragendorff 33 cups, 18/31 and 31 dishes/bowls and a body sherd from a samian mortarium.

### PERIOD 4.3 (c AD 270–350)

#### Fabrics

The general fabric composition in this period shows some clear differences with preceding phases. Arun Valley coarse wares make up a much reduced proportion of the assemblage, though they still account for about 25% of the assemblage (Table 3.12). Some of this material is likely to be residual, as it is generally accepted that this industry declined after around AD 200 (Lyne 2003, 145); however, data from some 3rd-century assemblages from the Sussex Coastal Plain suggest that production may have continued at a much lower level of intensity into the later Roman period (eg Thompson & Doherty in prep). The forms associated with Arun Valley wares in this period are predominantly black-burnished-related forms, including some examples of the post-AD 250 bead-and-flange bowl.

One of the main distinguishing characteristics of this period is the increasing importance of regionally traded coarse wares, especially Alice Holt grey ware, which now accounts for nearly a third of the assemblage. Rowlands Castle grey ware and BB1 also increased slightly in frequency, the former including some examples of dark-surfaced imitation black-burnished fabrics. Late Roman regionally traded coarse oxidised wares also appear for the first time, including a single sherd of

| Form   | Codes              | ENV        | ENV %        | EVE         | EVE %        |
|--|--------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Flagons</b>                               |                    |            |              |             |              |
| Flagon, ring-necked                          | 1B.1, 1B.2, 1B.3   | 3          | 1.5          | 1.33        | 5.6          |
| Flagon, undifferentiated                     | 1                  | 4          | 2.0          | -           | -            |
| <b>Jars</b>                                  |                    |            |              |             |              |
| Jar, bead rim                                | 2A                 | 3          | 1.5          | 0.06        | 0.3          |
| Jar, necked                                  | 2D, 2T             | 78         | 38.1         | 8.49        | 35.8         |
| Jar, necked, carinated shoulder              | 2C                 | 1          | 0.5          | 0.2         | 0.8          |
| Jar, necked with cordon                      | 2T (B1-3)*         | 1          | 0.5          | 0.65        | 2.7          |
| Jar, narrow necked                           | 2U                 | 3          | 1.5          | 0.5         | 2.1          |
| Jar, storage                                 | 2V                 | 2          | 1.0          | 0.61        | 2.6          |
| Jar, flat rim                                | 2Z                 | 9          | 4.4          | 1.59        | 6.7          |
| Jar, black-burnished-style everted rim       | 2F                 | 14         | 6.8          | 1.77        | 7.5          |
| Jar, Dicks D2 everted rim                    | 2 (D2)**           | 5          | 2.5          | 1.33        | 5.6          |
| Jar, undifferentiated                        | 2                  | 2          | 1.0          | -           | -            |
| <b>Jars/beakers</b>                          |                    |            |              |             |              |
| Jar/beaker, bead rim                         | 2A/3               | 1          | 0.5          | 0.15        | 0.6          |
| Jar/beaker, undifferentiated                 | 2/3                | 3          | 1.5          | 0.28        | 1.2          |
| <b>Beakers</b>                               |                    |            |              |             |              |
| Butt-beaker                                  | 3A                 | 1          | 0.5          | 0.13        | 0.5          |
| Beaker, globular/everted rim                 | 3B, 3E             | 7          | 3.4          | 1.05        | 4.4          |
| Beaker, poppyhead                            | 3F                 | 3          | 1.5          | 0.5         | 2.1          |
| Beaker, carinated                            | 3G                 | 2          | 1.0          | 0.25        | 1.1          |
| Undifferentiated                             | 6                  | 6          | 2.9          | 0.36        | 1.5          |
| <b>Bowls</b>                                 |                    |            |              |             |              |
| Bowl, reeded rim                             | 4A                 | 1          | 0.5          | 0.17        | 0.7          |
| Bowl, flat rim                               | 4F                 | 7          | 3.4          | 0.88        | 3.7          |
| Bowl, black-burnished-style flat/rounded rim | 4G, 4H             | 9          | 4.4          | 0.82        | 3.4          |
| Bowl, black-burnished-style bead and flange  | 4G226, 4M          | 4          | 2.0          | 0.33        | 1.4          |
| Bowl, plain samian forms                     | 4CU11, 4DR31       | 2          | 1.0          | 0.15        | 0.6          |
| Bowl, decorated samian forms                 | 4DR30/37,<br>4DR37 | 2          | 1.0          | 0.06        | 0.3-         |
| Undifferentiated                             | 4                  | 2          | 1.0          | -           | -            |
| <b>Platters/Dishes</b>                       |                    |            |              |             |              |
| Dish, plain black-burnished style            | 5J                 | 8          | 3.8          | 0.31        | 1.3          |
| Platters/dishes, samian-style plain forms    | 5DR18,<br>5DR18/31 | 4          | 2.0          | 0.3         | 1.3          |
| <b>Cup</b>                                   |                    |            |              |             |              |
| Cup, plain samian style                      | 6DR27, 6DR33       | 5          | 2.5          | 0.49        | 2.1          |
| Cup, undifferentiated                        | 6                  | 1          | 0.5          | -           | -            |
| <b>Mortaria</b>                              |                    |            |              |             |              |
| Mortarium, bead and flange                   | 7BEF               | 1          | 0.5          | 0.21        | 0.9          |
| Mortarium, undifferentiated                  | 7                  | 1          | 0.5          | -           | -            |
| <b>Lids</b>                                  |                    |            |              |             |              |
| Lid: plain                                   | 9A                 | 9          | 4.3          | 0.83        | 3.5          |
| <b>Total</b>                                 |                    | <b>204</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>23.8</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 3.11 Quantification of period 4.2 forms (codes in brackets are concordances to other typologies \*Thompson 1982, \*\*Dicks 2009)



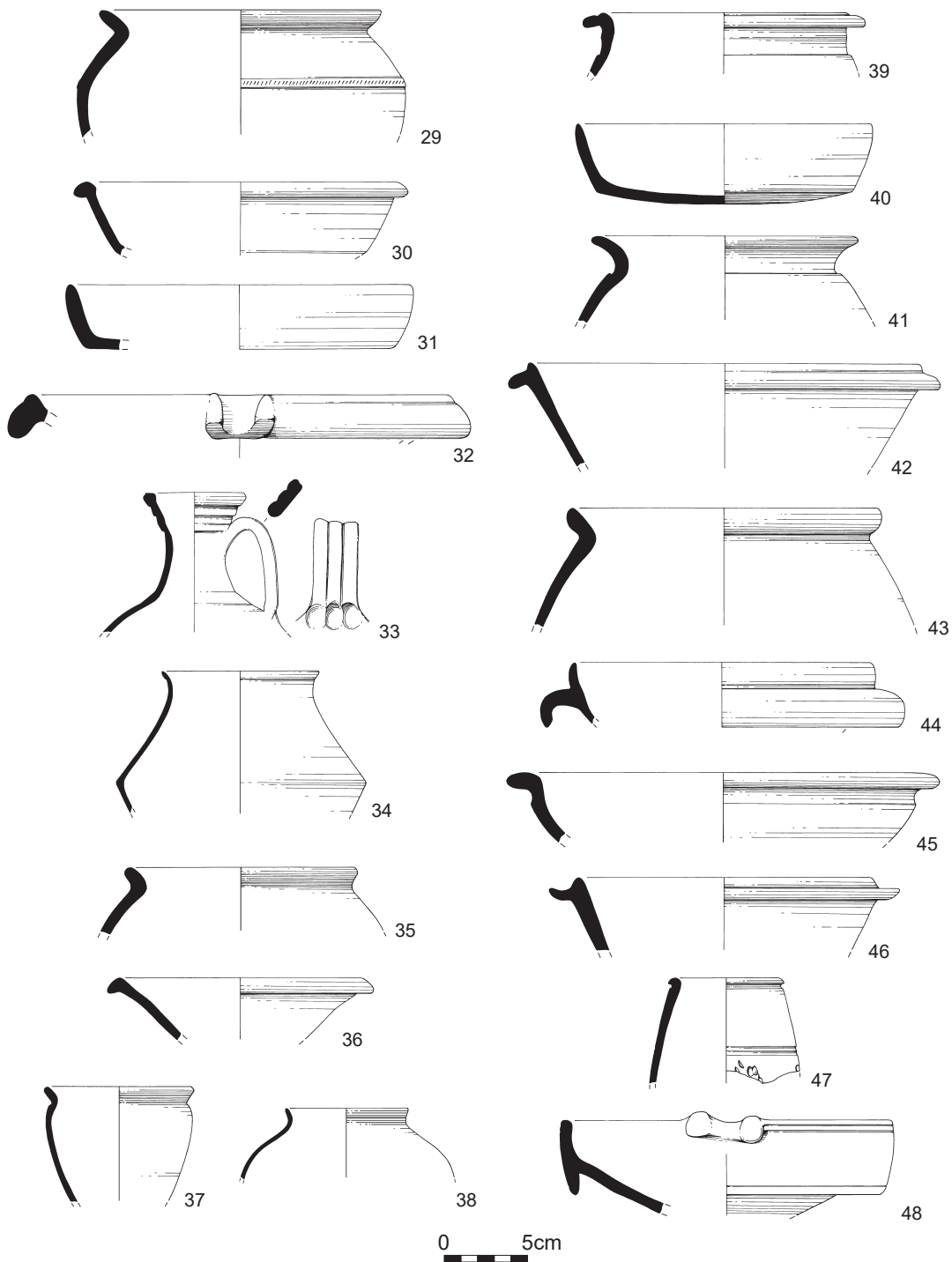


Fig 3.31 Roman pottery

Oxfordshire white ware and a small amount of Overwey/Portchester D ware.

A tiny number of Arun Valley fine wares are probably entirely residual in this period; however, a range of new regionally traded fine wares, including colour-coated wares from the Nene Valley and New Forest and fine red/red-slipped wares from Hadham and Oxfordshire, appear much more representative of contemporary ceramic trends. By this stage, most imported vessels are probably older vessels surviving in use but central Gaulish black-slipped wares and central and east Gaulish samian wares are represented.

### Forms

By period 4.3 jars represent a much less important component than in earlier Roman periods (Table 3.13). Several of the jar forms are probably residual, including bead rim and plain necked jars (not illustrated). More obviously contemporary with this period are strongly everted black-burnished-related forms (eg Fig 3.31, no 41), Rowlands Castle everted rim jars (eg Fig 3.31, no 43) and later variants of Alice Holt flat rim jars, sometimes with bead-and-flange or reeded rim profiles (eg Fig 3.31, no 39). Partial examples of hooked rim jars in Portchester D/Overwey ware were also noted (not illustrated). Two plain lids occur in this period, although, as both are

| Fabric code                           | Fabric description                                 | Sherds     | Wt (g)      | ENV        | Sherds %     | Wt %         | ENV %        |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Tempered wares</b>                 |  |            |             |            |              |              |              |
| GROG1                                 | Grog-tempered ware                                 | 37         | 494         | 35         | 7.0          | 5.9          | 7.6          |
| GROG2                                 | Grog-tempered ware                                 | 1          | 2           | 1          | 0.2          | <0.1         | 0.2          |
| <b>Local/unsourced coarse wares</b>   |  |            |             |            |              |              |              |
| AVBW                                  | Arun Valley black-surfaced ware                    | 29         | 239         | 28         | 5.5          | 2.9          | 6.1          |
| AVGW                                  | Arun Valley grey ware                              | 77         | 1098        | 74         | 14.7         | 13.0         | 16.3         |
| AVOX                                  | Arun Valley oxidised ware                          | 27         | 221         | 27         | 5.2          | 2.6          | 5.9          |
| AVWH                                  | Arun valley white ware                             | 1          | 6           | 1          | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.2          |
| BBS                                   | Black-burnished-style ware                         | 15         | 333         | 13         | 2.9          | 4.0          | 2.8          |
| OXID                                  | Unsourced oxidised ware                            | 14         | 295         | 6          | 2.7          | 3.5          | 1.3          |
| SAND                                  | Unsourced grey ware                                | 37         | 556         | 16         | 7.1          | 6.6          | 3.5          |
| <b>Regionally traded coarse wares</b> |  |            |             |            |              |              |              |
| AHFA                                  | Alice Holt/Farnham ware                            | 161        | 2790        | 148        | 30.9         | 33.3         | 32.3         |
| BB1                                   | Black-burnished ware I                             | 18         | 352         | 18         | 3.4          | 4.2          | 3.9          |
| HWC                                   | Highgate Wood ware C                               | 1          | 19          | 1          | 0.2          | 0.2          | 0.2          |
| RWCBB                                 | Rowlands Castle ware, black-burnished-style fabric | 1          | 25          | 1          | 0.2          | 0.3          | 0.2          |
| RWCG                                  | Rowlands Castle grey ware                          | 30         | 647         | 30         | 5.8          | 7.7          | 6.6          |
| OXWW                                  | Oxfordshire white ware                             | 1          | 14          | 1          | 0.2          | 0.2          | 0.2          |
| PORD                                  | Portchester D ware                                 | 14         | 354         | 8          | 2.7          | 4.2          | 1.7          |
| <b>Local/unsourced fine wares</b>     |  |            |             |            |              |              |              |
| AVBF                                  | Arun Valley fine black-surfaced ware               | 1          | 7           | 1          | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.2          |
| AVGF                                  | Arun Valley fine grey ware                         | 4          | 34          | 4          | 0.8          | 0.4          | 0.9          |
| AVOF                                  | Arun Valley fine oxidised ware                     | 2          | 39          | 2          | 0.4          | 0.5          | 0.4          |
| FINE                                  | Unsourced fine unoxidised ware                     | 3          | 15          | 1          | 0.6          | 0.2          | 0.2          |
| <b>Regionally traded fine wares</b>   |  |            |             |            |              |              |              |
| MHAD                                  | Much Hadham ware                                   | 1          | 10          | 1          | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.2          |
| NFCC                                  | New Forest colour-coated ware                      | 4          | 57          | 3          | 0.8          | 0.7          | 0.7          |
| NVCC                                  | Nene Valley colour-coated ware                     | 3          | 34          | 2          | 0.6          | 0.4          | 0.4          |
| OXRC                                  | Oxfordshire red-slipped ware                       | 24         | 331         | 21         | 4.6          | 3.9          | 4.7          |
| <b>Imported fine wares</b>            |  |            |             |            |              |              |              |
| CGBL                                  | Central Gaulish black-slipped ware                 | 3          | 8           | 3          | 0.6          | 0.1          | 0.7          |
| SAMLZ                                 | Lezoux samian ware                                 | 10         | 115         | 10         | 1.9          | 1.4          | 2.2          |
| SAMEG                                 | East Gaulish samian ware                           | 1          | 7           | 1          | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.2          |
| <b>Imported amphora</b>               |  |            |             |            |              |              |              |
| AMPH                                  | Unsourced amphora                                  | 1          | 284         | 1          | 0.2          | 3.4          | 0.2          |
| <b>Total</b>                          |  | <b>521</b> | <b>8386</b> | <b>458</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 3.12 Quantification of period 4.3 fabrics (excluding some unquestionably residual and intrusive material)

associated with Arun Valley fabrics, there is a possibility that these could be residual. Coarse ware dishes and bowls in the black-burnished tradition make up a much increased proportion of the assemblage compared with the preceding phase. Although one example of a typical *c* 2nd- to 3rd-century rounded rim bowl was recorded, the assemblage is dominated by post-AD 250 bead-and-flange forms (eg Fig 3.31, nos 42 and 46). Plain dishes are also well represented (eg Fig 3.31, no 40).

By period 4.3 fine ware and table ware forms are dominated by the products of late Roman industries producing colour-coated wares. Flagons are represented by a single example of uncertain overall form in Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (not illustrated). Beakers include late bag-shaped and necked forms from the New Forest, analogous to Fulford (1975) types 27 and 50 (eg Fig 3.31, no 47); a single Arun Valley globular beaker is almost certainly residual in this phase (not illustrated). Fine ware bowls are largely derivatives of plain

| Form   | Codes                            | ENV       | ENV %        | EVE         | EVE %        |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Flagons</b>                               |                                  |           |              |             |              |
| Flagon, undifferentiated                     | I                                | 1         | 1.1          | 0.12        | 1.4          |
| <b>Jars</b>                                  |                                  |           |              |             |              |
| Jar, bead rim                                | 2A                               | 1         | 1.1          | 0.1         | 1.2          |
| Jar, necked                                  | 2T, 2T(1.12)*                    | 16        | 18.2         | 1.57        | 18.0         |
| Jar, storage                                 | 2V                               | 3         | 3.4          | 0.1         | 1.1          |
| Jar, flat rim                                | 2Z, 2Z (3A.19)*, 2Z (3A.20)*     | 6         | 6.9          | 0.89        | 10.3         |
| Jar, black-burnished-style everted rim       | 2F                               | 11        | 12.6         | 1.32        | 15.2         |
| Jar, Dicks D2 everted rim                    | 2 (D2)**                         | 9         | 10.3         | 0.93        | 10.7         |
| Jar, hook rim                                | 2W                               | 2         | 2.3          | 0.2         | 2.3          |
| <b>Beakers</b>                               |                                  |           |              |             |              |
| Beaker, bag-shaped                           | 3J (50)***                       | 1         | 1.1          | 0.28        | 3.2          |
| Beaker, globular                             | 3B                               | 1         | 1.1          | 0.08        | 0.9          |
| Beaker, late short-necked globular           | 3N (27)***                       | 1         | 1.1          | 0.11        | 1.3          |
| Undifferentiated                             | 3                                | 3         | 3.4          | -           | -            |
| <b>Bowls</b>                                 |                                  |           |              |             |              |
| Bowl, black-burnished-style flat/rounded rim | 4H                               | 1         | 1.1          | 0.09        | 1.0          |
| Bowl, black-burnished-style bead and flange  | 4G226, 4M                        | 16        | 18.4         | 1.56        | 18.0         |
| Bowl, plain samian forms                     | 4DR31 (C45)****, 4DR38 (C51)**** | 2         | 2.3          | 0.17        | 2.0          |
| Bowl, decorated samian forms                 | 4DR30                            | 1         | 1.1          | 0.17        | 2.0          |
| <b>Dishes</b>                                |                                  |           |              |             |              |
| Dish, plain black-burnished style            | 5J                               | 7         | 8.0          | 0.7         | 8.1          |
| Dish, samian-style plain forms               | 5DR18/31–31, 5DR36 (C47)****     | 3         | 3.4          | 0.13        | 1.5          |
| <b>Lids</b>                                  |                                  |           |              |             |              |
| Lid, plain                                   | 9A                               | 2         | 2.3          | 0.14        | 1.6          |
| <b>Total</b>                                 |                                  | <b>87</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>8.66</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 3.13 Quantification of period 4.3 forms (codes in bracket refer to other typologies \*Lyne &amp; Jefferies 1979, \*\*Dicks 2009, \*\*\*Fulford 1975, \*\*\*\*Young 1977)

samian forms in Oxfordshire red-slipped ware, including Young types C45, C47 and C51 (Fig 3.31, nos 44–45), while a few examples of imported samian ware, including a Dragendorff 30 and 18/31 or 31, may represent older curated vessels still in contemporary use (not illustrated).

## DISCUSSION

### CERAMICS AND SITE CHRONOLOGY

Although at least one sherd of Republican wine amphora appears to be of 1st-century BC date, the pottery from period 3.1 is wholly or largely grog-tempered and dominated by undecorated simple necked jar forms – elements that are characteristic of ceramics from the middle decades of the 1st century AD in the Weald. In this period only a handful of Early Roman sandy wares occur and these are mostly confined to a few specific features, including the ring-gully associated with possible building S2 and the fills of waterhole [1251]. The *c* mid 1st-century AD assemblage from period 3.1 was collected almost exclusively from pits, which would presumably have

been opened and filled over short periods of time, rather than ditches, which might have remained open for long periods before collecting finds. It is therefore entirely possible that the settlement was first established in the post-Conquest period, though a very Late Iron Age inception cannot be ruled out.

In all site areas, pottery deposition was at its height in period 4.1, probably coinciding with a peak in settlement activity. In every major land-use element assigned to this period, Roman sandy fabrics clearly outnumber Late Iron Age/Early Roman tempered wares, though the ratio of these two fabric groupings is variable from feature to feature. The ditches of ENC2 appear to be among the earliest elements in period 4.1. Tempered wares accounted for about 40% of this group and there was less diversity in form than in the period as a whole (see Fig 3.29, nos 9–16), probably suggesting a date of deposition well before the end of the 1st century AD. More generally, most features from period 4.1 had much lower proportions of tempered wares and some individual land-use elements with large pottery assemblages, such as enclosure

ENC4 and trackway R1, contained negligible quantities (c 2% of sherds), indicating a significantly later date, almost certainly into the early 2nd century. Unfortunately, the continued prevalence of generic necked jar forms makes close dating of even quite large ceramic groups from this period problematic; however, it is notable that this assemblage largely lacks central Gaulish samian ware, Rowlands Castle ware and black-burnished-ware-style fabrics and forms that would all be common elements after *c* AD 120.

There was considerable evidence for continuity in site use between periods 4.1 and 4.2. In fact, most of the pottery assigned to the latter period was from elements that were in use earlier, such as the recuts of enclosure ditches ENC2 and ENC3 and later pits within OA4. Although typical Hadrianic fabrics and forms were relatively well represented by period 4.2, they were often found in direct association with fairly high levels of 1st- to early 2nd-century pottery (see, for example, the illustrated group from pit [1776] (Fig 3.30, nos 26–28; Fig 3.31, nos 29–38)). This earlier material is probably not entirely residual; rather, it probably indicates groups deposited not far into the second quarter of the 2nd century AD, including some vessels that had survived in use and some older sherds from long-lived middens. Overall, the continued prevalence of Arun Valley fabrics in period 4.2 suggests a largely 2nd-century date of deposition for this material, since this industry is known to have declined significantly by the early 3rd century (Lyne 2003, 145). Furthermore, Rowlands Castle and black-burnished-ware-related fabrics and their associated forms remain a fairly minor element in this period, whereas these would probably be expected to increase in frequency by the 3rd century. There is also a distinct lack of later samian ware forms, which would probably be encountered in late 2nd- to early 3rd-century assemblages of any size. Although three examples of the post-AD 250 bead-and-flange bowl (4M) form were attributed to deposits belonging to period 4.2, these were all found in areas of the site that had complex intercutting relationships and which were subsequently in use in period 4.3, suggesting that they are perhaps best interpreted as intrusive.

If we discount these three sherds, there appears to be evidence of a hiatus between periods 4.2 and 4.3. Whereas the assemblages from periods 4.1 and 4.2 seem to indicate gradual incremental change, the assemblage from period 4.3 is of substantially different character to that from 4.2. Instead, a new suite of fabrics and forms appears generally in keeping with a late 3rd- to mid 4th-century date range.

In the area north of the A272, the latest Roman ceramic groups all originate from final fills of enclosure ENC2. A small

hoard of later 3rd-century coins with associated ceramics was recovered from one such fill. The coins provide a terminus post quem of AD 275 and all of the firmly dated examples are earlier than *c* AD 285. The pottery recovered from other upper ditch fills in the same enclosure, as well as that from the ring-ditch S6 in Area A, appears to be of marginally later date. In both of these land-use elements a few examples of Portchester D/Overwey ware provide the latest Roman terminus post quem dates from the site (*c* AD 330). This fabric is present, however, in much smaller quantities than in other very late Roman assemblages from the Weald. For example, in a ditch group at Burgess Hill interpreted as post-dating AD 370 this fabric accounted for about 20% of the assemblage vs *c* 2% in the current assemblage (Lyne 1999, microfiche 3). Several other aspects of the general fabric composition in the period 4.3 assemblage also make it seem unlikely that settlement activity on site continued into the latter half of the 4th century: in particular, the continued prevalence of Rowlands Castle ware and the relatively low quantities of regionally traded fine wares such as Oxfordshire red-slipped ware.

#### POSSIBLE FUNERARY POTTERY

In two features pottery vessels possibly served as funerary urns or accessory vessels, although, in both cases, the evidence that they represent deliberately placed grave goods is slightly ambiguous. The heavily truncated base of a jar or coarse beaker in Arun Valley oxidised ware was noted in pit [1319] within enclosure ENC3, in direct association with some tiny fragments of burnt bone, one of which could be identified as human. Due to the disturbed nature of this deposit it is difficult to determine conclusively whether the vessel was a cinerary container or ancillary vessel.

Just a few metres to the west, in the primary fill [1327] of the associated enclosure ditch [1324] (ENC3), two fragmented but near-complete grey ware jars (Fig 3.30, nos 24 and 25) were found in association with nearly a kilogram of human bone, probably representing the cremated remains of a single adult female. The cremated bone was dispersed within deposit [1327] and its overlying fill, [1326], and did not seem to have been interred within either of the vessels. Although both appeared to be more than 90% complete, neither had 100% of the rim circumference present. Since the vessels occurred in a primary fill with overlying deposits, it seems unlikely that damage to the rims was the result of truncation, so the vessels were probably fragmented prior to deposition.

Generally speaking, coarse ware jars are much more likely to be selected as cremation urns than as accessory vessels. The



latter are usually interpreted as containers for food and drink provided for the deceased in the afterlife. Table ware forms, associated with serving and drinking, therefore tend to be disproportionately represented. Although it is certainly not unheard of for jars and other storage/food preparation vessels to be selected as accessory vessels, especially on lower-status rural settlements, vessels of this type usually make up a small minority of non-cinerary grave vessels (eg Biddulph 2005, fig 2). In this case, the burial context suggests practices that may diverge from formal Roman funerary customs and, although it is not unreasonable to suggest that the two near-complete vessels are related to mortuary rites, it seems possible that they served a different function to accessory vessels in more conventional cremation burials. It is also worth noting that all three fills of ditch [1324] produced a moderate quantity of mixed broken pottery from other vessels (in total 89 sherds weighing 1.1kg) alongside a few fragments of CBM and fired clay, giving the impression that the ditch was partly backfilled with domestic rubbish.

#### STRUCTURED DEPOSITION

Aside from funerary deposits, there is fairly limited evidence for the use of pottery in ritual practice, though there are a few possible examples. In period 3.1 highly fragmented sherds, probably constituting most of the base/lower wall of a truncated jar in fabric CALC1, were deposited in pit [1636] (G136) in open area OA2. In period 4.1 a fragmented but partially complete coarse jar was recorded in ditch terminus [1359] (G18; Fig 3.12), near an entrance of enclosure ENC3. In the corresponding enclosure to the south, ENC2, one intervention, [1225] (G31; Fig 3.12), contained three partially complete vessels in its primary fill, one of which appeared to be a miniature with a deliberate wall perforation – although, admittedly, this ditch also contained many other mixed broken sherds. Finally, in period 4.2 a semi-complete Dragendorff 31 samian bowl was found in pit [1901] (Fig 3.20), again near to an entrance in field system FS2. In each of these cases it is difficult to rule out the possibility that the pottery vessels simply represent direct deposition of domestic waste, although it is certainly possible that some or all of these features were used for votive acts. At Elms Farm, Heybridge, a large excavation that uncovered settlement areas and religious spaces, including a temple precinct, it was suggested that the deposition of whole pottery vessels seemed to be a recurrent domestic ritual, which was much less apparent in more formal religious settings (Biddulph & Compton 2015). The burial of vessels in short-lived features in pits might have occurred

at any time in the life of the settlement, although those from enclosure ditches seem likely to mark closing rituals, as houses were abandoned and rebuilt elsewhere and fields or enclosures were remodelled.

#### OTHER PATTERNS OF DEPOSITION

The assemblage more generally shows some changes in the patterns of pottery deposition over the life of the Late Iron Age/Roman settlement. In the earliest period, 3.1, pottery was almost absent from the ditches of enclosure ENC1 but fairly large assemblages were recovered from discrete features in the interior. From the later 1st century onward there was a clear shift towards deposition in ditches, with over 35kg of pottery recovered from sample excavation of the ditches making up enclosures ENC2, ENC3 and ENC4 and trackway R1 (adjacent to ENC2); however, only a tiny amount of pottery was found in internal discrete features (just over a kilo from all three enclosures put together). From period 4.1 onward there appears to have been sustained deposition of pottery in pits in open area OA4.

It is also worth noting that patterns of deposition in enclosure ENC3 seems to vary from that seen in other areas of the site. When compared with ENC2, average sherd weight was nearly three times larger (22g vs 8g) and the average weight per estimated vessel was more than six times greater (61g vs 10g). This seems to indicate that pottery was being directly deposited more frequently in enclosure ENC3 than in the other enclosures, where the pattern of deposition suggests material that had been repeatedly reworked in middens. This is particularly notable since ENC2 and ENC4 both had more evidence for buildings and other settlement features, whereas ENC3 had few internal features. Interestingly, the largest groups of pottery from ENC3 are all concentrated on its northern side, furthest away from ENC2 and its associated roundhouses S2 and S3. This could suggest that further settlement activity was present to the north of the excavated area or within the Tree Protection Order area.

Of the house structures, buildings S3 and S5 and possible building S6 all produced fairly large assemblages, though these presumably would have been deposited after the houses were abandoned. In the case of structure S6, pottery was notably less fragmented than average, with some large parts of vessel profiles recovered. This feature seems to have been one of the latest elements of the Roman occupation on the site, and the presence of fairly fresh domestic waste in the ring-gully might hint at a fairly rapid dismantling and levelling of the site, rather than a structure left to decay over time.

## SUPPLY AND TRADE

The composition of the ceramic assemblage is generally fairly typical for a rural Wealden site; fabrics are dominated by local coarse wares and forms by vessel types used in storage and cooking, rather than high-status drinking and dining. Although never represented by more than one or two sherds, there is, however, quite a diverse range of imports and other fine wares, which are somewhat unusual. As noted at Broadbridge Heath, near Horsham (Doherty 2018), the current assemblage adds to the growing distribution of imported Gallo-Belgic wares in the Weald. Among the Roman fine wares, there are single sherds of early micaceous Lezoux samian ware and central Gaulish colour-coated ware, as well as later imports such as Cologne colour-coated ware and central Gaulish black-slipped ware. In terms of other regionally traded wares, there are also examples of fabrics that occur fairly infrequently in Sussex, including Colchester colour-coated and Highgate Wood ware C. Overall, this perhaps hints that proximity to Stane Street resulted in slightly improved access to a range of traded wares being transported between Chichester and London, though the very small quantities involved suggests that these vessels were obtained only intermittently.

The Arun Valley coarse wares that so dominate the current assemblage are broadly comparable to fabrics known to have been produced at Littlehampton as well as in several locations in the Pulborough area (Lovell 2002; Swan 1984); however, there are some hints that pottery used at the current site may have been sourced more locally. At least five different necked jars had rim profiles that were slightly warped, perhaps suggesting minor production faults that were not severe enough to warrant discard. At least one of the slightly distorted rims had a distinctive set of grooves along the top of the rim (Fig 3.29, no 16), which also occurred on other vessels in the assemblage; again, this may suggest local production. Recently, excavations by the Horsham District Archaeological Group have uncovered evidence that Arun Valley-style white ware mortaria and flagons, previously known to have been produced only at Wiggonholt (Evans 1974), were also being manufactured much further to the north along Stane Street, at Alfoldean (Doherty 2017c). One rim sherd recovered from the current site almost certainly represents an Alfoldean product (Fig 3.31, no 48). Overall, although the current assemblage does not necessarily suggest pottery production in the immediate area of the site, it hints at a strong possibility that the Arun Valley industry was more widely dispersed than previously known, and there appears to be some potential for kilns to be identified in the Billingshurst area.

## ILLUSTRATION CATALOGUE (FIGS 3.29–3.31)

## Period 2.1

**OA2, G110, posthole [2195], fill [2196]**

1 Plain profile ovoid jar (fabric GRFL1)

## Period 3.1

**ENC1, G39, pit [1251]***Fill [1254]*

2 Simple necked jar (fabric GROG1, form 2T)

*Fill [1255]*

3 Simple necked jar (fabric GROG2, form 2T)

4 Necked jar with neck cordon (fabric GROG1, form 2T/ Thompson B1–1)

*Fill [1257]*

5 Bead rim jar (fabric AVBW, form 2A)

6 Bead rim jar (fabric GROG2, form 2A)

7 Simple necked jar (fabric GROG1, form 2T)

8 Narrow neck jar or plain butt-beaker derivative (fabric GROG2, form 2U/3A)

## Period 4.1

**ENC2, G4, ditch [1190], fill [1188]**

9 Bead rim jar with wavy line decoration (fabric AHSU, form 2A)

**ENC2, G14, ditch [1284]***Fill [1289]*

10 Simple necked jar (fabric AVOX, form 2T)

*Fill [1491]*

11 Simple necked jar (fabric AVOX, form 2T)

**ENC2, G31, ditch [1225], fill [1226]**

12 Fragmented, partially complete, simple necked jar (fabric AVBW, form 2T)

13 Fragmented, partially complete, simple necked jar (fabric GROG1, form 2T)

14 Fragmented, partially complete, miniature plain jar with post-firing perforation (fabric GROG1, form 2/ Thompson C3)

**ENC2, G15, ditch [1218], fill [1217]**

15 Imitation Dragendorff 46 cup (fabric AVOF, form 6DR46)

**ENC3, G17, ditch [1353], fill [1355]**

16 Simple necked jar with grooves along rim top; possible kiln waster/second (fabric AVGW, form 2T)

17 Simple necked jar (fabric AVGW, form 2T)

18 Platter imitating Cam 16; central markings may imitate stamps on imported vessels (fabric AVGW, form 5A)

**ENC3, G17, ditch [1382]***Fill [1384]*

19 Plain lid (fabric AVBW, form 9A)

*Fill [1383]*

20 Flagon with plain outer profile and slight disc mouth (fabric VRW, form 1D)

**S5, G104, ring-gully [2126], fill [2127]**

21 Dome-shaped lid (fabric AVBW, form 9A)

22 Flat rim bowl with external wheel-rilling (fabric AVBW, form 4F)

23 Platter based on Cam 14 (fabric AVGW, form 5B)

## Period 4.2

**ENC3, G56, ditch [1324], fill [1327]**

24 Necked cordoned jar with grooves and short diagonal slashes on shoulder, near-complete possible funerary-related vessel (fabric AVGW, Form 2T/ Thompson B1–3)

25 Rowlands Castle ware everted rim jar with vertical linear tooled decoration on the lower body, near-complete possible funerary vessel (fabric RWCG; form 2/DicksD2)

**OA4, G138, pit [1776], fill [1774]**

26 Plain necked jar (fabric AHSU, form 2T)

27 Plain necked jar with grooves on rim top (fabric AVOX, form 2T)

28 Necked jar with shoulder rilling (fabric AVGW, form 2T)

29 Jar with flat/everted rim, carinated shoulder and raised shoulder cordon with short diagonal slashes (fabric AHSU, form 2)

30 Rounded rim bowl (fabric AVBW, form 4H)

31 Plain rim dish (fabric BB1, form 5J)

32 Bead-and-flange mortarium (fabric AVWH, form 7BEF)

33 Ring-necked flagon (fabric AVWH, form 1B.2)

34 Carinated beaker (fabric AVBE, form 3G)

**OA4, G165, pit [1739], fill [1741]**

- 35 Rowlands Castle ware everted rim jar (fabric RWCG; form 2/DicksD2)  
 36 Plain lid (fabric AVGW, form 9A)  
 37 Beaker with short everted rim (fabric AVBF, form 3E)  
 38 Globular beaker (fabric AVOE, form 3B)

## PERIOD 4.3

**S5, G116, ring-gully [1663], fill [1664]**

- 39 Flat rim jar with slight bead (fabric AHFA, form 2Z/Lyne & Jefferies 3A.19)  
 40 Plain rim dish (fabric AHFA, form 5J)

**S5, G116, ring-gully [1713], fill [1712]**

- 41 Jar with everted rim (fabric AHFA, form 2F)

**S5, G116, ring-gully [1718], fill [1719]**

- 42 Bead-and-flange bowl (fabric BB1, form 4M)

**S5, G116, ring-gully [1991], fill [1992]**

- 43 Rowlands Castle ware everted rim jar (fabric RWCG, form 2/Dicks D2)  
 44 Bead-and-flange bowl based on Dragendorff 38 (fabric OXRC, form 4DR38/Young C51)  
 45 Flanged dish based on Dragendorff 36 (fabric OXRC, form 5DR36/Young C47)

**S5, G116, ring-gully [2036], fill [2034]**

- 46 Bead-and-flange bowl (fabric GROG1, form 4M)

**S5, G167, pit [1993], fill [1994]**

- 47 New Forest bag-shaped beaker with impressed/white painted decoration (fabric NFCC, form 3J/Fulford 50).  
 Residual in period ?4.2 pit [1657], fill [1659]  
 48 Wall sided mortarium (fabric AHWH, form 7LWAL)

**THE POST-ROMAN POTTERY**

*Luke Barber*

## INTRODUCTION

The various phases of archaeological work produced 441 sherds of post-Roman pottery. The totals vary considerably between area. The fieldwork to the north of the A272 produced far less material, consisting of 122 sherds from the fieldwalking, four from the evaluation and just one from the actual excavations. This material is not considered fully in this report, although it is referred to where prudent, and its paucity and distribution indicate manuring rather than occupation in this area.

The majority of the post-Roman pottery was recovered from the investigations to the south of the A272 and this forms the focus of the current report. Overall, this area recovered 314 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 3440g, from 72 individually numbered contexts (an estimated 181 different vessels are represented). The evaluation accounted for 27 of these sherds from 11 contexts. The assemblage has been fully quantified by sherd count, weight and Estimated Number of Vessels (ENV). This information, as well as context, fabric and form has been recorded on pro forma for archive and a corresponding spreadsheet created as part of the digital archive. All fabrics have been correlated with the West Sussex medieval fabric series.

The assemblage is quite variable in condition. Generally, sherds tend to be of a small size (up to 30mm across), although there is a scattering of larger pieces. Abrasion is often difficult to assess as a result of the surface weathering of sherds caused by the acidic subsoil at the site. Although most sherds do not appear very fresh this is often probably the result of the subsoil. However, there is a proportion of sherds that does exhibit signs of heavy abrasion and this, together with the often mixed chronological nature of the context groups, suggests that a good proportion has seen some reworking. This is highlighted by the notable quantity of sherds that are apparently intrusive in Roman features – some 56 sherds (400g) that constitute 17.8% of the post-Roman assemblage from this area.

A number of different periods are represented. The sherds allocated to each are quantified in Table 3.14 in order to chronologically characterise the assemblage. It should be noted that some sherds/fabrics undoubtedly cross the chronological boundaries allocated between periods, but the breakdown gives a reliable overview of the assemblage.

| Period                                   | No         | Wt (g)      | Ave sherd size (g) | No of fabrics |
|--|------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Early medieval (mid C11–early/mid 13th)  | 242        | 2798        | 11.6               | 7             |
| High medieval (early/mid 13th–mid 14th)  | 52         | 501         | 9.6                | 11            |
| Late medieval (mid 14th–mid 16th)        | 4          | 48          | 12.0               | 2             |
| Early post-medieval (mid C16th–mid 18th) | 6          | 40          | 6.7                | 3             |
| Late post-medieval (mid C18th–19th+)     | 10         | 53          | 5.3                | 4             |
| <b>Totals</b>                            | <b>314</b> | <b>3440</b> | <b>9.04</b>        | <b>27</b>     |

Table 3.14 Post-Roman pottery assemblage by sub-period from investigations to S of A272

Although the current assemblage is relatively small and often suffers from poor condition and/or notable reworking, it has provided the best medieval group to date from Billingshurst. Although a number of evaluations and watching briefs around the town have encountered medieval pottery, these have generally consisted of worn unstratified featureless sherds or very small groups of worn featureless sherds from field system ditches. As such, the current group has provided the first opportunity to see the wares in use and allow both comparisons with newly established fabric series to the north (Barber 2018) and an interesting contrast with the Southwater assemblage to the east (see Barber, Chapter 4).

Of the 69 individually numbered ‘stratified’ contexts containing post-Roman pottery from the south of the A272,

55 produced between one and five sherds only, often making spot-dating tenuous, particularly as it is impossible to judge the presence/absence or degree of any residuality. A further 12 contexts contained between six and 25 sherds, but only two produced more than 25: 39 and 24 sherds came from [1787] within pit [1788], G159 and [1813], within ditch [1811], G124 respectively (though the former assemblage derives from just two early medieval Ff1 cooking pots and the latter has a mix of early and high medieval sherds). As the individual context/feature groups are so small and frequently show some chronological mixing the assemblage is considered together by sub-period with consideration of specific context groups only given where needed.

PERIODS AND FABRICS

The vast majority of the assemblage is of the early and high medieval periods, perhaps spanning *c* 1125 to 1350. Earlier and later sherds are present, but only in very small quantities. Certainly, the peak of activity was probably between *c* 1125 and 1275. The assemblages of the late medieval and post-medieval periods are negligible, particularly from the area to the south of the A272, and probably represent a background manuring scatter during periods of arable cultivation. Although the post-medieval fabrics are of well-known types, the medieval ones are less well known owing to the limited number of assemblages from the general area. Some of the high medieval types can be tentatively ascribed a source, but the early medieval types are generally not well known. Although undiagnostic body sherds unfortunately dominate the assemblage there is a scatter of more diagnostic sherds, including rims of various stages of development.

EARLY MEDIEVAL

This period produced a significant assemblage in seven different fabrics (Table 3.15). Many of these have been noted before from the general area (Barber 2018), but the site produced at least one new fabric not yet noted in the county by the author (cf Grog 1). Calcareous/chalk and shelly wares of the mid 11th to 12th centuries are present, but only in negligible quantities and there are no associated rims. There are a few pieces with iron oxide tempering that are probably of similar date. Rims on these are of simple everted types, one of which has thumbbed decoration, and are very much in keeping with a date in the first half of the 12th century (Fig 3.32, no 54).

The alluvial flint-tempered wares (Ff1 and Ff2) are the dominant types and suggest an upturn in activity from *c* 1125–50. Certainly, the associated rims would support this suggestion (Fig 3.32, nos 49–51); although a few simple examples of early

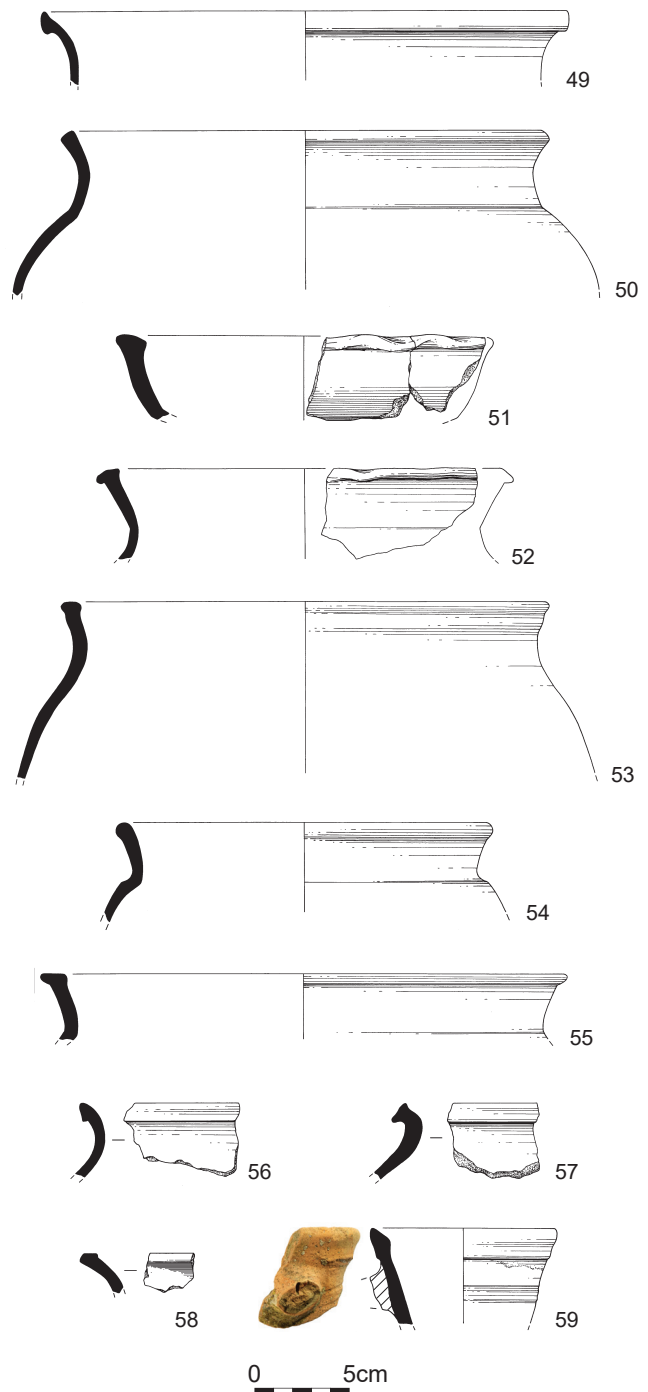


Fig 3.32 Post-Roman pottery

type are present, the majority consist of more developed types with expanded or beaded finishes. With the exception of one frying pan with light thumbing on its rim (Fig 3.32, no 51) all diagnostic sherds appear to be from undecorated cooking pots. At present the source of these wares is uncertain, but similar wares are found in the river valleys of Sussex (Barber 1999; Barton 1979; Gardiner 1994) and well into the interior of the Weald (Barber 2018). Although similar wares were also produced in Surrey (Jones 1998), a Sussex source for this material is suspected considering the similarity of forms to vessels from the Adur valley.



| Fabric Code | County fabric code | Expansion  | No/Wt (g) | Suggested date range | Fig 32 |
|-------------|--------------------|--|-----------|----------------------|--------|
| C1          | C/M1               | Chalk-tempered                                     | 1/2       | c 1050–1200          | -      |
| Fe Ox 1     | Sast+q/M3          | Fine/medium quartz, sparse iron oxides & sandstone | 4/74      | c 1050–1150          | 54     |
| Ff1         | F/M1               | Fine alluvial flint gritted                        | 103/1247  | c 1125–1225          | 49, 50 |
| Ff2         | F/M2               | Medium quartz, common alluvial flint               | 27/231    | c 1150–1250          | 51     |
| Grog 1      | Q+g/M1             | Sparse quartz, Fe oxide pellets & grog             | 1/48      | c 1050–1150          | 52     |
| S1          | S/M1               | Shell-tempered                                     | 12/92     | c 1050–1175          | -      |
| Qm1*        | Q/M1a              | Moderate/abundant medium quartz                    | 94/1104   | c 1050–1250/75       | 53, 55 |

Table 3.15 Early medieval fabric quantifications from investigations to S of A272 (\* fabric that can extend significantly into high medieval period)

The medium/coarse sandy ware Qm1 is a slightly enigmatic fabric grouping. The material from the current site would appear to be early, considering the simple flaring rim forms on the associated cooking pots (Fig 3.32, no 53). Such types can be placed anywhere between the mid 11th and mid 12th centuries, though the latter half of this range is probably more likely here. Qm1 vessels also include slightly more developed 12th-century types (Fig 3.32, no 55) as well as some best placed in the second half of the 12th to the early/mid 13th century. It was obviously a long-established type and it is quite likely that some of the finer Qm2 vessels (see below) could belong to the latter part of the early medieval period. Certainly, both types were noted in early medieval assemblages from Broadbridge Heath (Barber 2018). Such wares were common in Surrey at this time, but the fabric is not distinctive enough to be certain of source at present. Interestingly, early flaring rim cooking pots are also represented by sherds in FeOx1 and Grog1 (Fig 3.32, nos 54 and 56). Unsurprisingly, there are certainly no foreign imported wares in the assemblage.

The early medieval assemblage is of interest, as it appears to mark the start of post-Norman Conquest activity at the site. Interestingly, no early medieval pottery was recovered from the work to the north of the A272. The assemblage is also slightly enigmatic in that it is often mixed with earlier and, more frequently, later ceramics. However, a good proportion of the early medieval assemblage consists of larger fresher sherds than those of the high medieval period. The sherds associated with the medieval trackways and associated field system are predominantly of this period, although numbers are admittedly low. For example, G113, G117, G118, G119 and G122 (Fig 3.25) produced one, three, nine, four and one early medieval sherds respectively. Of these, only G119 contained a high medieval sherd (a probably intrusive 2g sherd of Qf2). Taken together, these would suggest that much of the silting of these ditches occurred in the later 12th to early 13th centuries – if the material is not wholly residual. The majority of the high medieval pottery is from Area A and it is here that there is a

much more even mix of early and high medieval pottery in the boundary ditches (and associated sump). This may suggest that the field system here was more comprehensively maintained by desilting of ditches in the high medieval period. However, it is this area that also produced some of the earliest medieval pottery. The assemblage from G124 (context [1813]) is of particular interest, as it produced many large fresh sherds of late 11th- to mid 12th-century type (12/304g). These may well relate to waste dumped during the initial creation of the medieval field system. The sherds were probably in a sealed deposit that was subsequently disturbed during works in the high medieval period, from which the more abraded 15 sherds of contemporary pottery derived. It is interesting to note that the G127 assemblage has a similar proportion of early and high medieval sherds, but the more southerly slot across the ditch in G124 produced but one sherd, of early/mid 12th-century date (Fig 3.32, no 55).

#### HIGH AND LATER MEDIEVAL

Eleven and two fabrics have been allocated to these periods respectively (Table 3.16), although the transition of the sandy wares from the later 12th to the mid 13th century is not well understood for this area. As such, it is quite possible that some of the earlier fabrics extend into the early part of this period and vice versa (particularly with Qm2, which also sometimes has earlier rim forms). Certainly some of the current Qm2 sherds are quite fresh – a trait more in keeping with the early medieval assemblage than the generally more abraded high medieval one. It is equally difficult to be certain of how far the current sandy wares extend into the 14th century. Most of the current fabrics, including those of probable known source, could be contained within the 13th century, but an early–mid 14th-century date cannot be ruled out for many sherds. Virtually all of the fabrics of this period are exclusively quartz-tempered, sometimes with varying amounts of iron oxides. There are a few fabrics that can be fairly confidently attributed to Surrey – namely the Earlswood and general Surrey



whiteware industries (Turner 1974; Jones 1998). No definite products from the Limpsfield industry (Ketteringham 1989; Prendergast 1974) are present, but this is probably as a result of the distance to Billingshurst. Fabrics Qf2 and Qm3 are of fairly typical West Sussex types, possibly originating from the coastal plain (Barton 1979).

There is a high incidence of featureless body sherds in the high medieval assemblage, often appearing in groups with apparently high quantities of residual earlier material. The sherds tend to show more instances of abrasion and overall the average sherd size is smaller than for the early medieval material (Table 3.14). Once again, the vast majority of sherds come from cooking pots. Where present, most of these have thickened, triangular or squared club rims. For the high medieval period, estimated number of vessels by form type are, for cooking pots ENV 15, for bowls ENV 1, for jugs ENV 16 and for uncertain forms ENV 5. The high number of jugs is probably attributable to their decoration making them individually distinct – a trait not replicated in the rather ubiquitous cooking pot body sherds. All the cooking pots are undecorated. The jugs include many with thumbled bases and good green glazes, sometimes with white slipped lines or applied clay strips. Once again, there are certainly no English regional or foreign imported wares in the assemblage, but by this time material from Surrey is represented in small but significant quantities. Ignoring material clearly intrusive in earlier features, the assemblage was mainly derived from Field System 2 (FS2; 38/381g) and overall the material is likely to have derived from intense but probably short-lived periods of manuring the earlier field system throughout the 13th century and probably the first half of the 14th century.

The late medieval period sees a notable drop-off in the quantity of pottery found, at least to the south of the A272. Just four sherds were recovered from this area (Table 3.16: Qm5 and Qm6). These tend to be slightly fresher, suggesting that they have not been subjected to any significant reworking. Potentially three cooking pots and a bowl, most with internally glazed bases, are present. Three of these were from waterhole [1927] (FS4; Fig 3.25), suggesting that this feature may have continued in use in the later 14th to 15th centuries. The other sherd was residual in pit [1940]. The work to the north of the A272 produced more sherds – eight from the fieldwalking and two from the evaluation (not included in Table 3.16). Although a few of the sherds are best placed between *c* 1350 and 1450, most belong to the fine Painted Ware (Q(f)/M21) tradition most common between the mid 15th to mid 16th centuries. Taken together, it would appear that refuse disposal drastically decreased after the mid 14th century, but some manuring had resumed by the mid 15th century.

#### DISCUSSION OF THE MEDIEVAL ASSEMBLAGES

The medieval assemblage suggests that the initial activity occurred in the late 11th or early 12th centuries. In the absence of significant features suggesting occupation on site it is probable that this activity was related to the establishment of the medieval field system and associated trackways. Pottery from many of the field system ditch fills hint that at least some were silting up badly by the later 12th or early 13th centuries. The pottery of this period is all of local Wealden types and is fairly typical of a domestic assemblage of the time.

The high medieval assemblage is smaller and generally more abraded. It suggests manuring of the land throughout the 13th century and to the mid 14th century, associated with

| Fabric Code | County fabric code | Expansion  | No/Wt (g) | Suggested date range  | Fig 32     |
|-------------|--------------------|--|-----------|-----------------------|------------|
| EARL I      | Q(f)/M10           | Earlswood fine sandy   | 1/4       | <i>c</i> 1200–1325    | -          |
| Qf1         | Q(f)/M4            | Fine quartz, sparse red fe ox                                  | 6/66      | <i>c</i> 1250–1400    | 59         |
| Qf2         | Q(f)/M2            | Common fine quartz (West Sussex Ware type)                     | 6/17      | <i>c</i> 1250–1425    | -          |
| Qf3         | Q(f)/M15           | Fine quartz, common black fe ox (probably Surrey)              | 1/4       | <i>c</i> 1200–1400    | -          |
| Qf4         | Q(f)/M23           | Abundant fine quartz   | 2/8       | <i>c</i> 1200–1400    | -          |
| Qm2         | Q/M13              | Sparse/moderate medium quartz                                  | 24/282    | <i>c</i> 1175–1300    | 56, 57, 58 |
| Qm3         | Q/M19              | Buff/pale matrix, common medium quartz                         | 4/30      | <i>c</i> 1300–1425/50 | -          |
| Qm4         | Q/M25              | Medium rose quartz tempered (Surrey)                           | 2/8       | <i>c</i> 1225–1400    | -          |
| Wwf1        | Q(f)/M14b          | Fine Surrey white ware   | 3/26      | <i>c</i> 1250–1400    | -          |
| Wwf2        | Q(f)/M26           | Fine/medium Surrey white ware                                  | 2/34      | <i>c</i> 1225–1400    | -          |
| Wwm1        | Q(f)/M1d           | Medium Surrey white ware                                       | 1/22      | <i>c</i> 1225–1400    | -          |
| Qm5         | Q/M11              | Late medieval sparse/common fine to medium quartz (well fired) | 3/38      | <i>c</i> 1350–1475    | -          |
| Qm6         | Q(f)/M21a          | Late Medieval Painted ware                                     | 1/10      | <i>c</i> 1425–1550    | -          |

Table 3.16 High and late medieval fabric quantifications from investigations to S of A272

periods of cultivation. This cultivation may well account for the high level of intrusiveness into earlier features. The pottery is again essentially of local wares, but with a little more diversity in fabrics. Although there is still an absence of imported wares Surrey products were clearly now arriving in the Billingshurst area. This material is of interest as it can be compared to fabric ratios from other Sussex Wealden sites. The sourcing of a notable proportion of assemblages from Surrey at this time has been noted before in the nearby towns of Horsham and Crawley (Barber 2005a; 1997; 2008a). At Crawley a number of well-sealed pit group assemblages showed that during the high medieval period Surrey wares made up a significant proportion of the assemblages (Barber 2008a). For example, pit [572] contained Earlswood and Limpsfield products totalling 51.8% of the assemblage by sherd count, while pit [492] produced Earlswood, Limpsfield and Surrey white ware products totalling 89.8% of the assemblage (6.5%, 3.3% and 80.0% respectively). The increase in Surrey white wares at the expense of the Earlswood and Limpsfield products is clearly a chronological phenomenon in Crawley. A more comparable site assemblage, being both rural and closer to Billingshurst, has recently been studied from Broadbridge Heath, Horsham (Barber 2018). This site produced 1719 early medieval sherds and 391 high medieval sherds but no late medieval sherds – occupation was probably curtailed by the plague. Of the 391 high medieval sherds 70% were from the same Surrey sources noted in Crawley. Here Earlswood dominated (60%), with lesser quantities of Limpsfield (5.6%) and Surrey white wares (6.9%). This clearly shows that these wares were also quite dominant during this period in the Horsham area. Some seven miles to the east of the current site is a comparable assemblage from Southwater (Barber, Chapter 4). Here Surrey products made up 44.6% of a high medieval group from trackway ditches – a notable reduction from the levels at Horsham to the north. The current site's high medieval assemblage includes 15.4% of Surrey products. Of this total only 1.9% is made up of Earlswood vessels and there are no Limpsfield wares, with the remainder mainly consisting of Surrey white wares. This is quite a marked drop-off in the proportion of Surrey wares compared with Broadbridge Heath/Horsham. If representative, it suggests that Billingshurst was near the edge of the marketing sphere for Surrey products and beyond the range of Limpsfield. However, the presence of Stane Street may have facilitated the southward movement of some types, as Surrey white wares are still present at Pulborough, albeit in very low quantities (Barber 2005b). Although the high medieval assemblage is small, there is a reasonable proportion of well-

decorated jugs, suggesting that the associated household may have been of reasonable status.

The late medieval assemblage suggests that there was a notable drop-off in activity around the middle of the 14th century, although not necessarily a cessation. Activity appears to have increased between the mid 15th and mid 16th centuries, but the ceramics lack diversity and are typically utilitarian. The source of this material is not absolutely certain, but Graffham, to the south-west of Petworth, was certainly producing similar wares at this time (Aldsworth & Down 1990).

#### POST-MEDIEVAL

The six early post-medieval sherds are composed of somewhat abraded sherds of local glazed red and buff earthenwares as well as a Surrey Borderware sherd (Table 3.17). Together they point toward limited manuring between *c* 1550 and 1750, but in the absence of feature sherds closer dating is not possible. Virtually all were recovered from topsoil deposits.

| Archive Fabric Code | Expansion                        | No/ Wt (g) | Suggested date range |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| GRE early           | Glazed red earthenware           | 4/26       | <i>c</i> 1550–1750   |
| GBEI                | Glazed buff earthenware          | 1/12       | <i>c</i> 1550–1750   |
| BORDY               | White Borderware (yellow glazed) | 1/2        | <i>c</i> 1550–1700   |
| UE                  | Unglazed earthenware             | 4/5        | <i>c</i> 1750–1900+  |
| ENGS                | English stoneware (late)         | 1/42       | <i>c</i> 1775–1900+  |
| ENPO                | English porcelain (bone china)   | 2/3        | <i>c</i> 1800–1900+  |
| REFW                | Refined white earthenware        | 3/3        | <i>c</i> 1825–1900+  |

Table 3.17 Early and late post-medieval fabric quantifications from investigations to S of A272

Interestingly, the work to the north of the A272 produced a far larger assemblage of early post-medieval material. This consisted of three sherds from the evaluation but a further 39 sherds from the initial fieldwalking (not included in Table 3.17). These assemblages were dominated by local glazed redwares but also included a few sherds of Wealden buff earthenware and so were in keeping with that from the current site (Table 3.17). This material clearly shows relatively intense manuring to the north of the A272 at this time. Whether the same intensity was present over the current site is uncertain, as it was not subjected to fieldwalking and thus the content of the topsoil was not established. However, it is likely that the whole area saw periods of manuring/arable cultivation between the later 16th and mid 18th centuries.

The late post-medieval assemblage consists of just ten generally small and abraded sherds (Table 3.17). Once again, most were recovered from topsoil contexts, although a few

were recovered from contemporary ditch fills. All appear to be of the mid 19th to early 20th centuries and relate to low-level manuring after *c* 1850. More late post-medieval material was recovered from the fieldwork to the north of the A272, mainly as a result of fieldwalking, which recovered 75 sherds of this period (not included in Table 3.17). The fieldwalking assemblage also included late 18th-/early 19th-century types such as creamware and pearlware, as did the few pieces from the subsequent evaluation/excavation, suggesting no break in manuring between *c* 1750 and 1850. It is probable that the topsoil over the current site would have had a similar mix of material.

## THE GEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

*Luke Barber*

The excavations produced 225 pieces of stone weighing 33,103g from 53 individually numbered contexts. The majority of the assemblage (152 pieces weighing 28,330g, from 37 individually numbered contexts) was recovered from Stage 1 and 2 excavations to the south of the A272. These totals include all stone from the evaluations and environmental residues (the residues from the excavations to the south of the A272 accounting for 93 pieces (1104g) of the total for this area). The material has been fully quantified by context and stone type on *pro forma* for the archive with the information subsequently being used to create an Excel database. The assemblage includes a range of stone types from deposits of a number of different periods. The material is summarised in Table 3.18.

The vast majority of the assemblage, at least by count, consists of stone types that are likely to occur naturally on or near the site. These account for the Wealden (Hastings Beds) sandstones and some of the minor types from the Lower Greensand series (ie the chert and carstone). These pieces are usually weathered and, with the exception of a few accidentally burnt examples, are generally unmodified by the hand of man (see below for an exception). They occur in most periods and do not appear to have been specifically collected for a particular on-site use. Unworked stone from further afield includes a flint beach pebble, the Tertiary sandstone and the intrusive granules of coal. The Tertiary sandstone has contemporary marine burros in the piece, suggesting that it was collected from the coast – certainly similarly affected stone was noted at Bignor villa, demonstrating the transport of material into the Weald, presumably via the Arun (Barber in prep a).

The worked stone consists of 14 fragments from rotary querns and three sharpening/polishing stone fragments. This material is fully listed in Table 3.19. All of the quern fragments are in Hythe Beds sandstone from the Lower Greensand: six (2571g) in an unsourced type, the others in the typical Lodsworth variant of the stone (Peacock 1987). The unsourced type was recovered from contexts of all Roman periods, as was the Lodsworth type, and there does not appear to be any chronological significance for the different types. Indeed, it is possible that the unsourced type reflects an atypical bed within the Lodsworth quarries, although Hythe Beds sandstones suitable for quern production undoubtedly had other outcrops

| Type/period                                 | Iron Age<br>(2.1–3.1) | Early RB<br>(4.1) | Mid RB (4.2)    | Late RB<br>(4.3) | Medieval<br>(5.1) | Undated and<br>post-medieval |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Number of contexts                          | 3                     | 26                | 8               | 6                | 6                 | 4                            |
| Iron concretion                             | -                     | 1/14g             | -               | -                | -                 | -                            |
| Fine-grained ferruginous Hastings Beds sast | 19/58g                | 31/8470g          | 22/210g         | 36/2148g         | 9/24g             | -                            |
| Fine-grained Hastings Beds sast             | -                     | 1/620g            | 3/432g          | -                | -                 | -                            |
| Fine-grained Hastings Beds sast (yellow)    | -                     | -                 | -               | -                | 1/118g*           | -                            |
| Wealden ferruginous siltstone               | -                     | 3/2g              | -               | -                | -                 | -                            |
| Hythe Beds sast                             | -                     | 4/1146g*          | 1/1166g*        | 1/260g*          | 1/24g             | -                            |
| Hythe Beds sast (Lodsworth type)            | -                     | 4/9714g*          | 4/2438g*        | -                | -                 | -                            |
| Greensand chert                             | 2/42g                 | 9/276g            | 2/10g           | 2/198g           | -                 | -                            |
| Ferruginous carstone                        | -                     | 21/732g           | 10/12g          | -                | -                 | -                            |
| Paludina limestone (Sussex Marble)          | -                     | -                 | -               | -                | -                 | 3/2928g                      |
| Quartzite                                   | -                     | 1/164g*           | 2/160g          | -                | 1/118g*           | --                           |
| Quartz                                      | -                     | -                 | 1/20g           | -                | -                 | -                            |
| Ferruginous Tertiary sast                   | -                     | 1/506g            | -               | -                | -                 | -                            |
| Flint pebble                                | -                     | 2/110g            | -               | -                | -                 | -                            |
| Coal  | 2/2g                  | 5/6g              | -               | -                | 2/1g              | -                            |
| <b>Totals</b>                               | <b>23/102g</b>        | <b>83/21,760g</b> | <b>45/4448g</b> | <b>39/2606g</b>  | <b>14/285g</b>    | <b>21/3902g</b>              |

Table 3.18 Summary of geological material from all excavations (\* worked stone)

that were exploited. The thickness of the stones in general would be much in keeping with the Early/Mid Roman date of the deposits in which they were found. There is a notable predominance of upper stones but these, being the thinner/lighter of a pair, are more prone to wear/breakage. At least five of the quern fragments exhibit clear signs of having been reused for grinding post-breakage (Table 3.19, including drawn pieces Fig 3.33, no 2 and Fig 3.34, no 4). Two of these are from period 4.1, two from 4.2 and one from 4.3. The querns were obviously highly valued and broken querns were pressed into service where they could still be of use. Such reuse is a common phenomenon on rural agricultural sites of the period (Barber in prep a, most notably on poorer settlements. What is apparent is the lack of any querns in other types of stone, showing that Hythe Beds sandstones dominated the supply of querns. This is apparent at other nearby Wealden sites of the period (Barber 2012; 2013a). It is interesting to note that at both the Broadbridge Heath and Southwater sites querns were also in both classic Lodsworth stone and another Hythe Beds

sandstone of less certain provenance. Although the decrease in querns in the later Roman period at the current site would hint at a change in the economy it may equally reflect the much less intense activity and the lower number of features by this date. However, no late type querns were present in the assemblage and this, combined with the increased reuse of earlier broken examples, suggests that milling was less important.

The earliest whetstone is composed of a natural elongated cobble in grey quartzite from a period 4.1 deposit (Table 3.19; Fig 3.34, no 5). The hardness of the stone has precluded any extensive wear but there is some polish to the stone and it was undoubtedly used for sharpening and/or polishing. The medieval period produced just two worked stones, both associated with polishing/sharpening rather than milling. The quartzite example could be a residual earlier piece or contemporary – certainly quartzite pebbles were used for polishing/sharpening in this period (Barber 2008b). The deliberately shaped whetstone in Hastings Beds sandstone (Fig 3.34, no 6) is more distinctively medieval and is a common

| N/S of A272                   | Context | Parent              | Stone type                             | No/weight | Use       | Description  | Fig No       |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------|--|-----------|-----------|--|--------------|
| <b>Period 4.1 Early Roman</b> |         |                     |  |           |           |  |              |
| N                             | 1046    | Ditch 1045 G18      | Hythe Beds sast                        | 1/470g    | Quern     | Upper stone. 51mm thick at outside edge  |              |
| N                             | 1202    | Pit 1200            | Hythe Beds sast (Lodsworth)            | 1/1568g   | Quern     | Upper stone. c 400mm diameter, 75mm thick at outer edge  |              |
| N                             | 1464    | Ditch 1463 G24      | Hythe Beds sast                        | 3/676g    | Quern     | ?Upper stone. Possibly re-used for grinding  |              |
| S                             | 1744    | Pit 1744 G139       | Quartzite                              | 1/164g    | Whetstone | Elongated light grey pebble. 97mm+ long with 40 × 20mm section   | Fig 34, no 5 |
| S                             | 1856    | Post-hole 1855 G140 | Hythe Beds sast (Lodsworth)            | 1/5464g   | Quern     | Lower stone. c 400mm diameter, 60mm thick at outer edge with c 50mm diameter eye   | Fig 33, no 1 |
| S                             | 2115    | Ditch 2112 G102     | Hythe Beds sast (Lodsworth)            | 1/1680g   | Quern     | Upper stone. 48–53mm thick at outer edge with 15mm diameter perforation for handle. Re-used with deep dish grinding hollow on upper face | Fig 33, no 2 |
| S                             | 2286    | Pit 2285 G148       | Hythe Beds sast (Lodsworth)            | 1/1002g   | Quern     | Upper stone. c 300mm diameter, 61mm thick at outside edge  | Fig 34, no 3 |
| <b>Period 4.2 Mid Roman</b>   |         |                     |  |           |           |  |              |
| S                             | 1659    | Pit 1657 G168       | Hythe Beds sast (Lodsworth)            | 1/300g    | Quern     | Part of grinding face  |              |
| S                             | 1738    | Pit 1739 G165       | Hythe Beds sast                        | 1/1165g   | Quern     | Upper stone. 70mm+ thick. Possibly re-used for grinding  |              |
| S                             | 1741    | Pit 1739 G165       | Hythe Beds sast (Lodsworth)            | 3/2138g   | Quern     | Lower stone. c 320mm diameter, 35mm thick at external edge. Deep polished grinding hollow on underside from re-use                       | Fig 34, no 4 |
| <b>Period 4.3 Late Roman</b>  |         |                     |  |           |           |  |              |
| S                             | 1658    | Pit 1657 G168       | Hythe Beds sast                        | 1/260g    | Quern     | 62mm thick stone. Re-used for grinding   |              |
| <b>Period 5.1 Medieval</b>    |         |                     |  |           |           |  |              |
| S                             | 2252    | Pit 2251 SG330      | Fine-grained yellow Hastings Beds sast | 1/118g    | Whetstone | Shaped elongated stone (94mm+ long) with square section 27 × 26mm+   | Fig 34, no 6 |
| S                             | 2316    | Pit 2315 G162       | Quartzite                              | 1/118g    | Whetstone | Flattened orange brown cobble. 80mm diameter, 14mm thick. High wear polish on both faces   |              |

Table 3.19 Summary of worked stone from all areas





Fig 3.33 Worked stone

type in the Wealden area at this time (Barber 2008b; 2011a). Both the current ‘whetstones’ came from deposits associated with high medieval pottery, but too few pieces are present to conclude that their presence, and the absence of querns, indicates a leaning toward a pastoral rather than an arable economy. However, it is interesting to note that two other recently excavated medieval Wealden sites thought to have a pastoral economy also produced notable quantities of whetstones (Barber 2011a; 2013a).

**THE REGISTERED FINDS**

*Trista Clifford*

**DRESS ACCESSORIES**

The excavations produced a relatively small number of Roman registered finds. Metal objects were particularly poorly preserved. The assemblage includes isolated finds of hobnails and four fragments of at least one (possibly two) simple flat

strip copper-alloy penannular bracelet recovered from [1953] within pit [1954] (OA4; Fig 3.20). It is in poor condition, with little of the original external surface remaining. One small area where the surface survives suggests it may have been decorated with a simple marginal groove. The maximum width is 10mm, tapering to 3–4mm at the terminals. Bracelets of this form were worn throughout the Roman period, becoming more widespread during the 4th century, when it became fashionable to wear groups of bracelets.

**TOOLS AND PRODUCTION**

A complete circular socketed iron handle from a large bladed knife or tool was recovered from the upper fill of pit [1776] (OA4; Fig 3.20). The blade is missing; the section at the break is oval and the junction between socket and blade may have been stepped rather than the blade continuing in line with the handle.



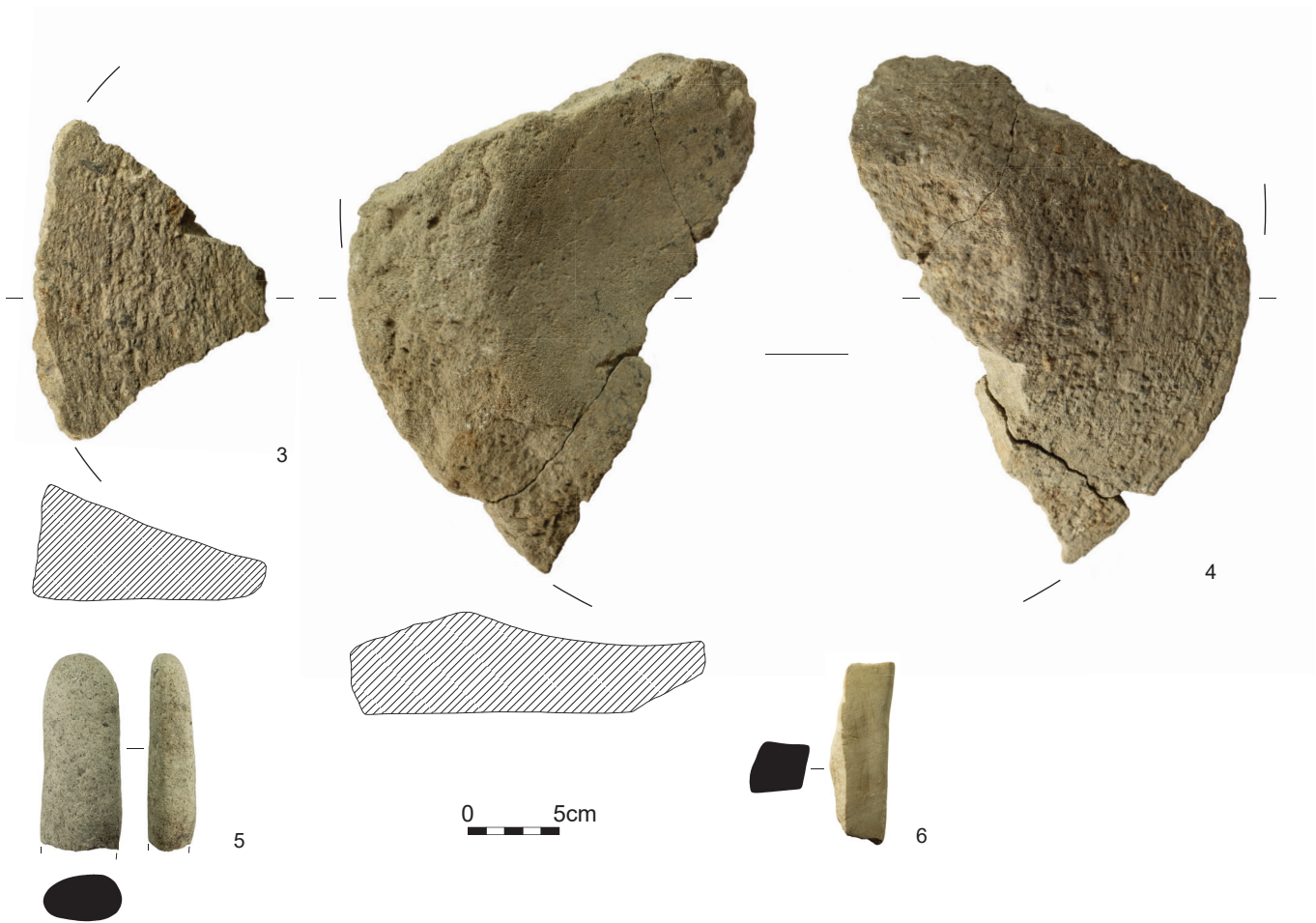


Fig 3.34 Worked stone

### COINS

A minimum of 25 Roman coins was recovered, including at least 22 from a single hoard. Three coins came from the excavation area south of the A272. These were in poor condition and can be identified only to denomination. A worn, corroded and illegible *dupondius* or 'as' was recovered unstratified. The corroded core of another probable *as/dupondius* also came from primary pit [1657] fill [1658]. Again, this coin is illegible. Uppermost fill [1631] within ring-gully [1718], S6 produced a fragment from a contemporary copy *denarius* with silver-plated copper-alloy core. A late 1st- to 3rd-century date is probable for this coin.

### THE ROMAN COIN HOARD

*Eleanor Ghey and Trista Clifford*

A hoard of a minimum of 22 copper-alloy coins of the denomination known as a radiate was recovered from the upper fill of enclosure ditch [1025] (ENC2; Figs 3.21, 3.35, 3.36). The hoard contains issues of Gallienus, Claudius II and Postumus dating between AD 260 and 270.

The latest dateable coin was minted after the death of Claudius II in AD 270, but the presence of at least one contemporary copy of this type might give a deposition date

slightly later than this. However, there were no coins that could be positively identified as the more common Gallic Empire issues of Victorinus and the Tetrici post-dating AD 269 or as later 'barbarous radiates', suggesting that the hoard was not deposited much later than this date.

A number of coins were in poor condition and could not be identified – the presence of fragmentary coins may suggest that the hoard contained more than 22 coins. The hoard is catalogued below, with the coin number in the right-hand column relating to the coin numbers in the photographs. The issues can be summarised as follows.

#### *Central empire*

Gallienus, AD 260–68 3

Salonina 1

Claudius II, AD 268–70 8

Divus Claudius 1

#### *Gallic empire*

Postumus, AD 260–9 1

Uncertain emperor 7

Irregular 1

Total 22 coins (plus fragments)

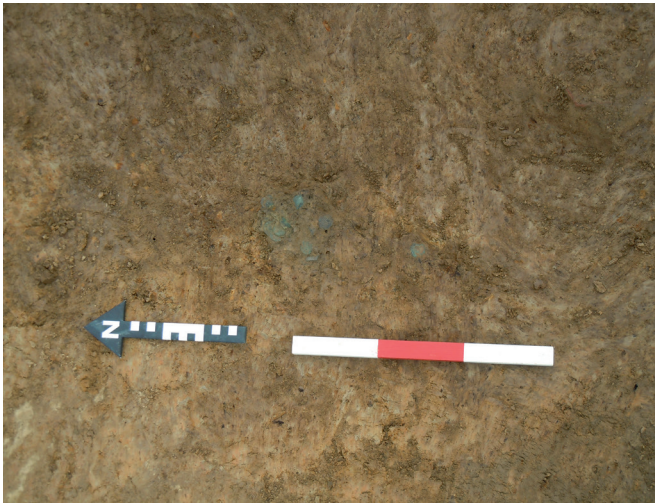


Fig 3.35 Photograph of coin hoard in situ

**CATALOGUE**

**Central Empire (12)**

**Gallienus (sole reign) (4)**

**Rome (4)**

5th series (1): GALLIENVS AVG

| Reverse              | Bust | m.-m.   | Cunetio | RIC | Coin no |
|----------------------|------|---------|---------|-----|---------|
| [ORIENS] AVG (Sol 3) | Z    | Z --//– | 1232    | 249 | 13      |

6th series (2): GALLIENVS AVG

| Reverse                                  | Bust | m.-m.   | Cunetio | RIC | Coin no |
|--|------|---------|---------|-----|---------|
| IOVI CONS (Goat 2?)                      | A1   | --//[ç] | 1375    | 207 | 6       |
| DIAN[AE CONS AVG] (Uncertain antelope 1) | B1   | --//[.] | ?       | ?   | 20      |

6th series (1): [... SALONINA] AVG

| Reverse                         | Bust | m.-m.   | Cunetio | RIC | Coin no |
|---------------------------------|------|---------|---------|-----|---------|
| [IVNONI CO]NS AVG (Capreolus 1) | E2   | --//[Δ] | Cf 1418 | 16  | 19      |

**Claudius II (8)**

**Rome (8)**

1st series (1): [IMP C] CLAVDIVS AVG

| Reverse                    | Bust | m.-m. | Cunetio | RIC | Coin no |
|----------------------------|------|-------|---------|-----|---------|
| IOVI S[TATORI] (Jupiter 2) | Z    | –     | 1929    | 52  | 5       |

1st or 2nd series (3): IMP [C] CLAVDIVS AVG

| Reverse                       | Bust | m.-m.     | Cunetio | RIC   | Coin no |
|-------------------------------|------|-----------|---------|-------|---------|
| [MARS VLTOR] (Mars 2b)        | Z    | – H //–   | 2073    | 66/67 | 14      |
| FIDES EXERCI (Fides 2)        | B1   | -- //–    | 2091    | 34–6  | 18      |
| PROVIDENT AVG (Providentia 3) | Z    | – [– //–] | Cf 2102 | 91/92 | 1       |

2nd series (1): IMP C CLAVDIVS AVG

| Reverse                | Bust | m.-m.  | Cunetio | RIC | Coin no |
|------------------------|------|--------|---------|-----|---------|
| ANNONA AVG (Annona 1a) | B1   | -- //– | 2132    | 19  | 2       |

3rd series (1): Illegible (bust of Claudius II)

| Reverse                 | Bust | m.-m.   | Cunetio | RIC | Coin no |
|-------------------------|------|---------|---------|-----|---------|
| [VIRT]VS AVG (Virtus 1) | Z    | – B //– | 2194    | 111 | 16      |

Uncertain series (1): IMP CLAVDIVS AVG

| Reverse   | Bust | m.-m.  | Cunetio | RIC | Coin no |
|-----------|------|--------|---------|-----|---------|
| Illegible | B1   | -- //– | ?       | ?   | 12      |

Uncertain series (1): Illegible (bust of Claudius II)

| Reverse                                 | Bust | m.-m.  | Cunetio | RIC | Coin no |
|---|------|--------|---------|-----|---------|
| Illegible (Standing figure ?Securitas?) | Z    | -- //– | ?       | ?   | 21      |

**Divus Claudius II (1)**

**Rome or contemporary copy (1)**

(1): DIVO CLAVDIO

| Reverse                | Bust | m.-m.  | Cunetio | RIC | Coin no |
|------------------------|------|--------|---------|-----|---------|
| CONSECRATIO (Altar 1a) | Z    | -- //– | Cf 2313 | 259 | 3       |

**Gallic Empire (1)**

**Postumus (1)**

**Principal mint (1)**

6th series (1): Obverse illegible

| Reverse         | Bust | m.-m.    | Cunetio     | RIC | Coin no |
|-----------------|------|----------|-------------|-----|---------|
| PAX AVG (Pax 1) | D1   | P -- //– | 2453 / 2456 |     | 7       |

**Uncertain issuer (7)**

(7): Obverse illegible

| Reverse   | Bust | m.-m.  | Cunetio | RIC | Coin no          |
|---|------|--------|---------|-----|------------------|
| [.VI...] (Jupiter standing left with thunderbolt) | Z    | -- //– | ?       | ?   | 17               |
| Illegible (Standing female figure)                | Z    | -- //– | ?       | ?   | 15               |
| Illegible   | Z    | -- //– | ?       | ?   | 4, 8, 9, 10, 11* |

\*Coins 10 and 11 could each represent two coins as these fragments are stuck together with fragments of another coin.

**Irregular (1)**

(2): Prototype of [DIVO CLAVDIO]

| Reverse                 | Bust | m.-m.  | Cunetio | RIC | Coin no |
|-------------------------|------|--------|---------|-----|---------|
| [CONSECRATIO] (Eagle 2) | Z    | -- //– | –       | –   | 22      |





Fig 3.36 Photographs of coins from hoard

## THE FIRED CLAY

Trista Clifford

The excavations produced a moderate assemblage of fired clay weighing just over 8.2kg. The assemblage is in a poor state of preservation with a mean fragment weight of 17.4g. No complete objects were recovered and none was found within primary contexts. Much of the fired clay is featureless and the fragmented state of the assemblage renders analysis difficult. There is some indication that an activity utilising fired clay objects was taking place during the Early Roman phases, although the evidence is rather ephemeral. The nature of this process is not clear, but saltworking is possible.

The diagnostic assemblage is characterised by the presence of what can loosely be termed oven or kiln furniture. This includes pieces up to 20mm thick with one smoothed flat surface, which could be the remains of flat plates from the base of an oven, hearth or kiln. Further fragments with adjoining flat surfaces that may come from square or rectangular sectioned bars or pedestals came from pit fills [1743], [2349] and [1256] from pits [1742], [2348] (Fig 3.15), and [1251] (Fig 3.8) respectively.

Possible triangular fire or kiln bar fragments were recovered from phase 2.1 fill [1065] of ditch [1064] (G11) and phase 4.1 ring-gully [1345] (S3; Fig 3.12); the latter is a particularly substantial example *c* 70mm thick. Pit [1609] (G137; Fig 3.15) produced a fragment from a circular pedestal or vessel base in a grog-tempered, pottery-like fabric with a diameter of 81mm+ (Fig 3.37, no. 1). A similarly substantial and unidentifiable object came from pit [1739] fill [1741]. While there is no indication that these objects are related to saltworking, they are similar in form to examples from Essex recovered from red hill sites (eg de Brisay 1975, 8); however, given the inland location of the site, they are more likely to derive from a kiln or oven structure.

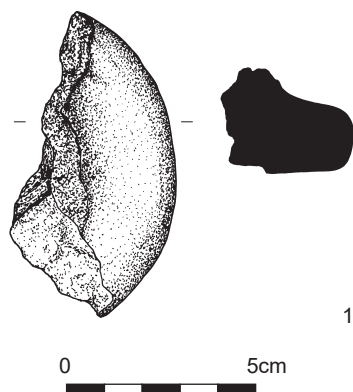


Fig 3.37 Illustrated fired clay

## THE CHARCOAL

Mariangela Vitolo

### INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Charcoal fragments from 22 features underwent analysis. Samples originated from various feature types, with deposits ranging in date from the Early–Mid Iron Age to the medieval period. More specifically, samples from the following periods are included in this analysis:

Early–Mid Iron Age (period 2.1): 2 samples

Earlier Roman (period 4.1): 12 samples

Mid Roman (period 4.2): 3 samples

Later Roman (period 4.3): 4 samples

Medieval (period 5.1): 1 sample

There is a noticeable dominance of Roman features compared with other periods; in addition, no samples from the Middle–Late Bronze Age or Late Iron Age were recommended for analysis, owing to lack or paucity of charcoal fragments. Nonetheless, the assemblage can provide a diachronic view of fuel selection strategies and vegetation environment at the site, highlighting any changes that occurred through time.

Analysed samples were associated with a range of features, including pits, gullies, ditches and postholes. None of the deposits represented *in situ* burning or could be related to a specific activity. Although contexts such as possible hearths and cremations were sampled, they did not yield sufficient charcoal to examine fuel selection strategies for specific purposes. All of the analysed samples derive therefore from secondary deposits, which are likely to contain an amalgam of waste originating from different sources and charring events. As some of the features might have filled up slowly through time, they hold better potential to provide information on general observed fuel selection patterns or vegetation changes rather than on fuel selection for specific uses.

Up to 100 charcoal fragments were extracted at random from each context and were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400× to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000; Schoch et al 2004; Schweingruber 1990). Identifications have been given to species where possible; however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. With the exception of the

Maloideae subfamily, Latin names are given at first mention and taxa are subsequently referred to in the text by their English common names. Taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 3.20. Nomenclature used and most habitat information follow Stace (1997).

## RESULTS

### Preservation

The state of preservation varied, but was generally poor, with up to 24% of fragments unidentifiable due to distortions of the wood anatomy and to sediment encrustations masking some anatomical characteristics. Deposit encrustations are due to fluctuations of the ground water levels, causing intermittent periods of wetting and drying. This leads to charcoal fragments becoming brittle, making it hard to obtain clear sections, which are necessary for identification. In general, poor preservation occurs commonly in charcoal and plant macrofossil assemblages from the area, due to the presence of heavy clay soils.

Vitrification was frequently noted, although it rarely hindered taxa identification. Vitrification happens when the wood anatomy fuses, becoming glassy, and it has traditionally been linked to the use of high temperatures, although experiments have shown that other as yet unknown co-factors might contribute to make charcoal vitrified (McParland et al 2010).

### Summary of taxa

Anatomical characteristics observed on the charcoal from Billingshurst are consistent with the following taxa or groups of taxa:

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Taxaceae   | <i>Taxus baccata</i> , yew   |
| Fagaceae   | <i>Quercus</i> sp, oak (two deciduous species are native to the British Isles, <i>Q. robur</i> , pedunculate oak, and <i>Q. petraea</i> , sessile oak)   |
| Oleaceae   | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , ash  |
| Betulaceae | <i>Corylus avellana</i> , hazel; <i>Corylus/Alnus</i> sp, hazel/alder; <i>Betula</i> sp, birch   |
| Rosaceae   | sub-families: Prunoideae: <i>Prunus spinosa/avium/domestica</i> , blackthorn/wild cherry/plum; Maloideae, including <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (hawthorn), <i>Malus</i> sp (apple), <i>Sorbus</i> sp (rowan, service, whitebeam), <i>Pyrus</i> sp (pear); Salicaceae: <i>Salix/Populus</i> sp, willow/poplar. It is generally not possible to conclusively separate <i>Salix/Populus</i> due to overlaps in anatomical characteristics. |
| Aceraceae  | <i>Acer campestre</i> , field maple  |

### Periods

Period 2.1: Early–Mid Iron Age – Samples <16> and <19>  
The fills of two irregular pits dated to period 2.1 and belonging to the same group G35 (Fig 3.7) yielded fewer than 100 suitable fragments for identification. Oak and yew were co-dominant in both contexts. Pit [1422] (Fig 3.7) was slightly

more mixed, as it also included a small amount of field maple, Maloideae, possible hazel and hazel/alder.

#### Period 3.1: Late Iron Age/Early Roman

No samples from this period were recommended for charcoal analysis as charred wood fragments were not abundant. However, during assessment (ASE 2015) oak was found to be the dominant taxon in pit [1100] (Fig 3.8), with smaller amounts of willow/poplar and ash.

#### Period 4.1: Earlier Roman – Samples <7>, <9>, <11>, <12>, <15>, <13>, <24>, <35>, <39>, <41>, <43>, <54>

Samples from the Early Roman period represented the largest group to undergo analysis. They originated from pits, ditches, gullies and postholes part of several groups from different areas of the site. The Early Roman ditches were dominated by oak trunk wood fragments, although some smaller diameter roundwood was also present. Other taxa included ash and birch – which were absent from the examined samples from the Iron Age – field maple, Maloideae and hazel. Preservation was variable, although sediment encrustations and brittle fragments were common.

Early Roman postholes were dominated by oak, with varying amounts of ash and Maloideae and a single roundwood fragment of yew from feature [1685] (Fig 3.15). Pits constituted the largest group of features from period 4.1. They were also slightly more mixed, although oak was still the most common taxon. Maloideae and ash occurred rather ubiquitously, while field maple, hazel and yew were recorded from only one or two features. Vitrification, sediment encrustations and radial splits occurred frequently on oak fragments, affecting preservation to various degrees.

#### Period 4.2: Mid Roman (AD 120–200+) – Samples <6>, <20> and <44>

Period 4.2 features included two pits and a ditch. The former group was co-dominated by oak and ash, while ditch [1087] (G15; Fig 3.18) was dominated by oak roundwood fragments and contained considerably less ash. Maloideae and field maple were also fairly common. Cherry/blackthorn and willow/poplar make their first appearance in the assemblage in this period and hazel is relatively abundant in pit [1954] (G156; Fig 3.20).

#### Period 4.3: Mid/late Roman (AD 270–350) – Samples <37>, <38>, <46>, <48> and <52>

Later 3rd- to mid 4th-century gully features yielded charcoal fragments displaying variable preservation, with sediment



|                                 | Period                                  | 2.1          | 2.1  | 4.1  | 4.1  | 4.1  | 4.1  | 4.1  | 4.1         | 4.1  | 4.1  | 4.1  | 4.1         | 4.1         | 4.1  | 4.1  | 4.1  | 4.1  | 4.1    | 4.1  | 4.1  | 4.2  | 4.2  | 4.2  | 4.2  | 4.2  | 4.2  | 4.2  | 4.3  | 4.3  | 4.3  | 4.3  | 4.3  | 4.3 | 6.1 |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|------|------|------|-------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|---|--|
|                                 | Context/deposit type                    | -            | P    | D    | G    | D    | PH   | PH   | PH          | PH   | P    | P    | P           | P           | P    | P    | P    | P    | P      | P    | P    | P    | P    | D    | G    | G    | G    | G    | G    | G    | G    | G    | G    | G   | P   |   |  |
|                                 | Land use                                | OAI          | OAI  | ENC2 | S3   | RI   | OAI3 | FSI  | OAI4        | OAI4 | P    | P    | FS2         | OAI4        | OAI4 | FSI  | FSI  | FSI  | ENC3   | OAI4 | ENC2 | S6   | S6   | S6   | S6   | S6   | S6   | S6   | S6   | S6   | S6   | S6   | S6   | S6  | S6  |   |  |
|                                 | Group                                   | 35           | 35   | 31   | 12   | 24   | 49   | 48   | 137         | 137  | 144  | 137  | 144         | 43          | 54   | 51   | 51   | 51   | 60     | 156  | 54   | 116  | 116  | 116  | 116  | 116  | 116  | 116  | 116  | 116  | 116  | 116  | 116  | 168 |     |   |  |
|                                 | Sample number                           | 16           | 19   | 7    | 15   | 24   | 13   | 9    | 35          | 39   | 41   | 43   | 54          | 11          | 12   | 12   | 12   | 20   | 44     | 6    | 37   | 38   | 46   | 48   | 48   | 52   | 52   | 52   | 52   | 52   | 52   | 52   | 52   |     |     |   |  |
|                                 | Context                                 | 1393         | 1423 | 1197 | 1346 | 1464 | 1315 | 1231 | 1686        | 1747 | 1897 | 1951 | 1740        | 1292        | 1294 | 1434 | 1953 | 1227 | 1712   | 1719 | 2034 | 2007 | 1659 | 1659 | 1659 | 1659 | 1659 | 1659 | 1659 | 1659 | 1659 | 1659 | 1659 |     |     |   |  |
|                                 | Parent context                          | 1391         | 1422 | 1208 | 1345 | 1463 | 1314 | 1228 | 1685        | 1746 | 1896 | 1952 | 1739        | 1291        | 1291 | 1432 | 1954 | 1087 | 1713   | 1718 | 2036 | 2006 | 1657 | 1657 | 1657 | 1657 | 1657 | 1657 | 1657 | 1657 | 1657 | 1657 | 1657 |     |     |   |  |
|                                 | Taxonomic identifications               | English name |      |      |      |      |      |      |             |      |      |      |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Quercus sp                      | Oak                                     | 28           | 12   | 71   | 89   | 62   | 85   | 88   | 47<br>(1rw) | 46   | 93   | 66   | 42<br>(1rw) | 55          | 63   | 33   | 34   | 72   | 42     | 45   | 30   | 29   | 83   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| cf Quercus sp                   | Oak                                     |              |      |      |      |      |      |      | 4           |      |      |      |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Fraxinus excelsior              | Ash                                     |              |      |      |      |      | 1    |      | 16          | 5    | 1    |      | 5           | 1           |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Acer campestre                  | Field Maple                             |              | 6    | 4    | 1    |      |      |      |             |      |      | 5    | 1           |             |      |      |      |      | 44     | 21   | 6    | 10   | 18   | 7    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     | 2 |  |
| cf Acer campestre               | Field Maple                             |              |      |      |      |      | 4    |      |             |      |      |      |             | 1           |      |      | 5    |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Maloidaeae group                | Hawthorn, Whitebeam, Rowan, Apple, Pear |              | 1    | 5    |      | 3    |      | 8    | 12          | 7    | 2    | 1    | 33          | 24<br>(5rw) | 4    | 12   | 8    | 23   | 12 (d) | 20   | 20   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| cf Maloidaeae group             | Hawthorn, whitebeam, rowan, apple, pear | 1 (D)        |      |      |      |      |      |      |             |      |      |      |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Prunus spinosa/ ovum/ domestica | Blackthorn/Wild cherry/Plum             |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |             | 1    |      |      |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Corylus/Ahnus sp                | Hazel/Alder                             |              | 1    |      | 3    |      |      |      |             | 3    |      | 3    |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| cf Corylus/ Ahnus sp            | Hazel/Alder                             |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |             |      |      |      |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Corylus oveliana                | Hazel                                   |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |             |      |      | 12   |             |             |      |      |      |      |        | 18   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| cf Corylus oveliana             | Hazel                                   |              | 1    |      |      |      |      |      |             |      |      |      |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Betula sp                       | Birch                                   |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |             |      |      |      |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| cf Betula sp                    | Birch                                   |              |      |      |      | 1    |      |      |             |      |      |      |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Salix/Populus sp                | Willow/Poplar                           |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |             |      |      |      |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| cf Salix/Populus sp             | Willow/Poplar                           |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |             |      |      |      |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Toxus baccata                   | Yew                                     | 24           | 11   |      |      |      |      |      | 1 (rw)      |      | 6    |      |             |             |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Indet distorted                 |   | 10<br>(rw)   |      | 20   | 6    | 19   | 10   | 4    | 24          | 20   |      | 16   | 23          |             | 13   | 5    | 3    | 3    | 5      | 12   | 6    | 23   | 11   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |
| Indet knotwood                  |   |              |      |      |      | 1    |      |      |             |      |      |      |             | 9           |      | 1    |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |   |  |

Table 3.20 Charcoal analysis data

encrustations and vitrification. All four features were fairly mixed and although oak was still the most common taxon it was not overwhelmingly dominant in the manner seen in most features of the previous phases. Ash, field maple, Maloideae and hazel/alder were common, while birch and willow/poplar occurred more sporadically. As all the samples from period 4.3 originate from gullies, it is difficult to infer whether the greater mixing occurring is due to the type of feature subject to filling more slowly, or to changes in the fuel selection strategies or vegetation related to the later period.

Pit [1657] was almost entirely dominated by oak, with a very small amount of field maple, hazel/alder and willow/poplar. Preservation in this context was particularly poor, with heavy sediment encrustations and brittle fragments.

## DISCUSSION

The charcoal assemblage derives from secondary deposits, some of which are likely to have filled relatively slowly. These type of deposits provide a more reliable picture of the local vegetation environment and its changes through time than deposits associated with *in situ* burning, where evidence for fuel selection for specific uses is more prominent. However, it is possible to notice general fuel selection patterns at the site. The range of taxa present is rather limited, perhaps because of a fairly strict fuel selection. All the taxa in this assemblage produce wood that is in fact an excellent fuel.

The results of the analysis do not entirely support the original assessment data which suggested that a wider variety of woody taxa were exploited for fuel in the Iron Age than in the Roman period (ASE 2015). In fact, a relatively limited range of species are attested in the two Iron Age pits. Evidence for deciduous woodland is provided by oak and hazel, while trees such as maple and the members of the Maloideae subfamily being light demanding could have grown on the margins of said woodland, or in hedges or scrub. Yew grows on well-drained limestone and acidic sandstone. This tree features prominently in both Iron Age pits and occurs more scarcely in two Roman features. Yew wood burns well and this could be one of the reasons for its selection, although this tree also holds elements of symbolism, due to its longevity, and it is often associated with ritual. The toxicity of yew is well known; therefore, its presence in pit [1391], on the edge of a livestock enclosure (Fig 3.7), could come across as surprising. However, some ruminants can browse yew trees and the use of yew for fodder has been common, for example, in some areas of northern Spain (Uzquiano et al 2015). Ethnographic evidence suggests that this

tree is poisonous to livestock only if they begin feeding on it during adulthood (Farris and Filigheddu 2008).

In the Early Roman period, while oak was still dominant across the assemblage, other taxa begin to appear, such as ash, cherry/blackthorn and birch. These new taxa, on top of the ones already attested in the previous period, are scarce, however. This suggests that deciduous woodland composed of oak and ash as well as woodland margins, hedgerows and scrub were still heavily utilised for fuel. In neither period is there a definite indication of taxa of wet ground or riparian environments. The hazel/alder identified in some of the samples does not confirm the definite presence of alder and it is possible that all the fragments in fact represent hazel. However, fuel choices are driven by complex factors and a charred wood assemblage does not directly reflect the local vegetation environment. Alder, for example, produces wood that makes a weak fuel when burnt fresh, although it does make excellent charcoal (Taylor 1981), and it might not have been selected. In the mid to later Roman period there is a very slight decrease of oak in the assemblage that coincides with the increase of ash, Maloideae, field maple, hazel/alder and birch and the appearance of willow/poplar. Yew, which was scarcely present in the Early Roman contexts, is absent from the features of periods 4.2 and 4.3. The decrease in the presence of oak could reflect an increased pressure on woodland resources perhaps due to an increase in population and size of the local settlements in the Late Roman period. Oak wood not only makes an excellent fuel but is also prized for timber (Taylor 1981) and it might have been preferred for its use in construction if an ever-growing population caused both more woodland clearance and the need for newer buildings.

Combined assessment and analysis data suggest the return to a dominance of oak in the medieval charred wood assemblage, with other taxa, such as ash, field maple, willow/poplar, hazel/alder, buckthorn (*Rhamnus* sp) and Maloideae appearing in lower amounts. This could reflect a change in fuel selection strategies, where oak wood might have been used less for building and more for fuel, or it could perhaps relate to different uses of the fuel, where the burning properties of the wood were privileged, or to a change in the origin of the wood supply.

The absence of beech throughout the occupation of the site is noteworthy, as this tree features prominently in charcoal assemblages from the Weald and is still dominant in the local woodland. For example, oak and beech co-dominated a late medieval context at Bridge Cottage, Uckfield (Margetts 2020) and at the Hayworth, Bolnore (Margetts 2017), while birch, oak and beech were dominant in several medieval contexts at the Asda site in Crawley (Stevens 2008).

## CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

Mariangela Vitolo

### INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

A combined total of 66 bulk soil samples was taken during both phases of excavations. In general, they yielded sporadic and poorly preserved charred plant remains and further analytical work on the plant macrofossils was not recommended for most of the samples (ASE 2015; 2016a). Only two Roman pits from G137 (Fig 3.15) and a medieval pit from G159 (Fig 3.25) produced enough crop remains to be considered for analysis.

The flots were passed through graded sieves to facilitate subsequent sorting under a stereozoom microscope at 7–45× magnifications. Identifications of macrobotanical remains were made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers et al 2006; Jacomet 2006; NIAB 2004) and a modern botanical reference collection was consulted when needed. Species are listed in Table 3.21 and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### RESULTS

Preservation was in general fairly poor. Sediment encrustations, due to fluctuating water levels, occurred commonly in all contexts. Fluctuations in the ground water cause intermittent periods of wetting and drying which lead to the deterioration of both the plant remains and the charcoal. Many items were unidentifiable owing to distortions and pitting of the surface. A considerable amount of caryopses were identifiable only as large grasses/cereals (Poaceae/Cerealia).

Caryopses of oat (*Avena* sp) occurred frequently in all samples. The absence of floret bases hindered the identification of the oats as belonging to a wild or a cultivated species, although their frequency indicates their use. A small number of caryopses were identified as possible barley (cf *Hordeum vulgare*) or oat/barley, suggesting that some barley could have been present alongside the main oat component. Bromes (*Bromus* sp) occurred in all samples. Other plant remains consisted of fairly common arable weeds, such as stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), scentless mayweed

|   |                            | Period           | 4.1  | 4.1  | 6.1  |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|------|------|------|
|   |                            | Sample number    | 45   | 50   | 49   |
|   |                            | Context number   | 1963 | 2083 | 2081 |
|   |                            | Parent context   | 1962 | 2082 | 2080 |
|   |                            | Land use         | OA4  | OA4  | OA4  |
|   |                            | Group            | 137  | 137  | 159  |
|   |                            | Feature type     | Pit  | Pit  | Pit  |
|   |                            | Flot volume (ml) | 100  | 40   | 50   |
|   |                            | Flot weight (g)  | 6    | 4    | 4    |
| Taxonomic identification                    | English name               | Habitat codes    |      |      |      |
| cf <i>Hordeum vulgare</i>                   | Possible barley caryopses  | C*               | 2    |      |      |
| <i>Avena</i> / <i>Hordeum</i> sp            | Oat/barley caryopses       | C*               | 19   | 26   |      |
| cf <i>Avena</i> sp                          | Oat caryopses              | AC*              |      | 2    | 2    |
| <i>Avena</i> sp                             | Oat caryopses              | AC*              | 74   | 163  | 48   |
| Poaceae/Cerealia                            | Grass/cereals              | AHG              | 25   | 43   | 17   |
| <i>Avena</i> / <i>Bromus</i> sp             | Oat/brome                  | AHG              | 26   | 14   | 16   |
| <i>Bromus</i> sp                            | Brome                      |                  | 20   | 1    | 5    |
| <i>Poa</i> / <i>Phleum</i> sp               | Meadow grasses/cat's tails | AHG              |      | 1    |      |
| <i>Chenopodium album</i> L                  | Fat-hen                    | CDn              |      |      | 1    |
| <i>Chenopodium</i> sp                       | Goosefoots                 | CDY              |      | 1    | 1    |
| Asteraceae                                  | Compositae/daisy family    |                  | 2    | 4    | 2    |
| <i>Lapsana communis</i> L                   | Nipplewort                 | DHSW             |      | 2    | 2    |
| <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L) SchBip | Scentless Mayweed          | CD               | 1    |      |      |
| <i>Anthemis cotula</i> L                    | Stinking Chamomile         | ADh              |      | 15   | 6    |
| cf <i>Anthemis cotula</i> L                 | Stinking Chamomile         | ADh              |      |      | 3    |
| Indeterminate charred plant remains         |                            |                  | 2    |      |      |

Habitat characteristics

A – Weeds of arable land, C – Cultivated plants, D – Ruderals, weeds of waste and disturbed places, G – Grassland, H – Hedgerows, S – Scrub, W – Woods, Y – Waysides/hedgerows, \* – plants of economic value

Soils/ground conditions

n – nutrient rich, h – heavy soils

Table 3.21 Species list

(*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*) and one caryopsis of meadow grasses/cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp).

Despite the absence of diagnostic floret bases in this assemblage, it is likely that the oats in this assemblage were cultivated. Oats were common crops both in the Roman and the medieval period. Records of cultivated oats in southern England start from the Iron Age and the cultivation of this cereal becomes extensive in Roman Britain (Jones 1981). Bromes could have been tolerated weeds, particularly if the crop they contaminated was destined to become fodder (Hagen 1995).

### 3.5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

#### PERIOD 1: MIDDLE/LATE BRONZE AGE

While only very limited deposits of this date were identified east of Billingshurst, and two of the three features were poorly dated, they do demonstrate a presence in the landscape around this time. Combined with the evidence of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age hearths/furnaces and associated deposits of pottery, charcoal and charred plant materials identified during works on the A29, 1.2km to the west (Place 1999), it seems probable that a similar picture of small isolated settlements with associated low-level agricultural exploitation and woodland clearance may have been the case here, as in other parts of the Weald.

#### PERIOD 2: EARLY/MIDDLE IRON AGE c 500–200 BC

The earliest phase of landscape modification was poorly represented by just four short sections of ditch, loosely dated to the Middle Iron Age. However, the advent of ironworking in the area was more conclusive, with evidence of a possible smithy of 5th-century BC date. The presence of this smithy is significant in the interpretation of the use of the landscape in this period. The structure and the quantity of hammerscale clearly indicates that there was enough demand for iron objects and their repair and/or reworking to warrant a blacksmith and a smithy in the area. However, this may well have been on a part-time basis, with production at a 'cottage-industry' level (Cunliffe 2005, 495). This in turn indicates that by the Early to Middle Iron Age agricultural activity and the cultivation of land, while nearly invisible in the archaeological record, was almost certainly occurring in the area, given that the local setting makes it hard to imagine that these iron objects comprised more than agricultural tools. This was similarly considered to be the case at two better-

preserved sites in Surrey from the 6th and 5th centuries BC, at Brooklands, Weighbridge and Hawk's Hill, Leatherhead, where small domestic forging was identified, the produce of which was considered probably for local agrarian consumption (Hodgkinson 2004).

The evidence from Billingshurst sits alongside both settlement and early enclosure of Middle Iron Age date at Wickhurst Green (Margetts 2018a) and settlement of Middle Iron Age to Late Roman date at Horley (ASE 2009), along with further sites in Kent and Surrey (eg Stevenson 2013; Swift in prep). Together, this corpus of data clearly indicates that a new version of regional prehistory should be embraced. As outlined by Margetts in his much-needed review of the regional body of evidence, the Low Weald should be considered increasingly well settled and exploited by the Middle Iron Age, with activity not solely restricted to the Wealden fringe. Billingshurst has demonstrated agricultural exploitation within the heart of the Low Weald, probably on the rise from at least the 5th century BC onwards.

While the majority of the early iron industry in the region had been understood to have been concentrated in the eastern part of the Weald, there is a small but growing body of evidence for early ironworking in the western Weald. Bloomery furnaces at Crawley have been radiocarbon dated to as early as the 4th century BC (Cartwright 1992; Pine 2013) and a smelting furnace, ore-extraction pits and some evidence for primary smithing at Birchen Lane, Haywards Heath has been radiocarbon dated to the early/middle part of the Middle Iron Age (Sheehan 2020). Furthermore, a spiral gully with an associated internal D-shaped building at Wickhurst Green, also of Middle Iron Age date, has also been interpreted as a possible smithy (Margetts 2018a). The smithing site at Billingshurst sits alongside this small but highly significant group, further emphasising the potential need to reassess the early Wealden iron industry. The fact that the dates of all these sites in the western Weald cluster around the Middle Iron Age may also be significant.

#### PERIOD 3: LATE IRON AGE/EARLY ROMAN, MID 1ST CENTURY

A hiatus of activity between periods 2 and 3 is possible given the shift in the focal point of activity south of the A272 between one period and the next, combined with a total lack of deposits from the latter half of the Iron Age. A similar trend was evident at Wickhurst Green to the north-east, with the Middle Iron Age settlement falling into decline from around the end of the 2nd century BC and the area remaining



unoccupied until the early 1st century AD (Margetts 2018a). A recent site at Mill Straight, Southwater followed a similar pattern, with Middle Iron Age settlement (*c* 400–150 BC) followed by a period of abandonment of the site up until the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Ellis & Massey 2019). This hiatus has been suggested as associated with a shift of later Middle Iron Age settlement from the Weald towards the chalk downs and the coastal plain (Hamilton, 2003, 77). At Wickhurst Green, however, it was considered that, while the settlement was abandoned, seasonal pastoral activity and clearance may have continued; this suggestion is supported by pollen evidence, which highlights a change in the local environment around the turn of the millennium from open woodland to grassland (Margetts 2018a). A similar situation may have been the case east of Billingshurst, as evidenced by the presence within the charcoal assemblage of light-demanding species that could have grown on the margins of woodland or in hedges or scrub, suggesting continuing clearance. Limited quantities of residual imported 1st- and 2nd-century BC wine amphora within later deposits further supports the theory of a continued, if reduced and invisible, presence in the landscape at this time.

Hiatus or otherwise, by the later Iron Age there is a marked increase in sites across the Weald, with an apparent return of settlement activity (Margetts 2018a). The first farmstead at Billingshurst does not appear to sit within the initial and earliest return to the Low Weald, but followed shortly after in the middle of the AD 1st century, potentially highlighting a slower return to the heart of the Low Weald than to its fringes. The pottery assemblage, although limited and fragmentary, is dominated by grog-tempered wares with only limited Roman sandy wares, while undecorated simple necked jars are the dominant form – all elements that are characteristic of ceramics from the middle decades of the 1st century AD. Furthermore, as the assemblage was collected almost entirely from pit contexts, features generally more likely to be opened and filled in again relatively quickly, it is considered most likely that the settlement was first established in the post-Conquest period, although a very Late Iron Age inception cannot be entirely excluded.

Given the location of Stane Street, 500m to the west, it seems likely that the road played a role in the siting of this initial settlement. However, much of the dating evidence from sites along Stane Street is of a slightly later date. Dating from both the *mansio* at Slindon, Alfoldean to the north and at Hardham, near Pulborough suggests a later 1st- or early 2nd-century inception (Wessex Archaeology 2006, 1–4; WSHER: MWS3358; MWS3220). Equally, excavations along the roadside in Billingshurst in 1819 uncovered Roman coins

ranging from Vespasian (AD 69–79) to Constantine (AD 306–337), pottery and tesserae (WSHER: MWS369). This suggests that the settlement east of Billingshurst pre-dated the Roman road by a couple of decades. Given that the settlement at Millfield, Southwater also originated shortly after the Conquest, but is situated away from a major Roman road (Chapter 4), it seems probable that the locations of at least some of the earliest Roman Low Wealden farmsteads were not dictated by the Roman road network or the Conquest, but represented a continuation of the Late Iron Age settlement in the area.

#### **PERIODS 4.1 AND 4.2: EARLY–MID ROMAN *c* AD 60–120/AD 120–200+**

A peak in human activity was evident east of Billingshurst in the latter half of the 1st century AD, extending into the early 2nd. This was evidenced by two small enclosed farmsteads with associated structures, field systems and trackways, and a greater quantity of pottery recovered from this phase than any other, along with a moderate quantity of other domestic artefacts in keeping with a rural settlement. While settlement evidence from the Early Roman period remains more limited within the Low Weald than in surrounding areas, the farmsteads east of Billingshurst sit alongside a growing number of similar settlement sites demonstrating a similar peak of activity in the 1st century. These small enclosed farmsteads are the dominant site type for this period, accounting for more than 60% of the Wealden data (Smith et al 2016, 79) and probably indicating a dominance of agriculture in the region. Certainly, the image of the Low Weald in the 1st century should increasingly be one of a well-utilised area characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern with large tracts given over to agriculture (Margetts 2018a).

Following the 1st-century peak of activity, a gradual decline in Wealden settlement is evident in the 2nd century. Both Billingshurst farmsteads appear to follow this trend. The enclosure and structures associated with Settlement 3 appear to have been abandoned by the early 2nd century, although the continued use of an open area of pitting external to the settlement enclosure for refuse disposal probably indicates a continuity of settlement activity in the vicinity in the Mid Roman period. Evidence from Settlement 2, on the other hand, suggests a continued use of the settlement enclosures and possibly the roundhouse structure up to the end of the 2nd century, and possibly marginally into the 3rd. However, a decline in the intensity of activity is clear, with a much smaller finds assemblage associated with this period than the preceding period 4.1.

Also of note are the mortuary features associated with the northernmost farmstead, Settlement 2, in this period of decline. Currently there is a distinctly limited amount of data for Roman burials in the Weald compared with surrounding areas. Just four further sites are known locally, two comprising cemetery sites rather than backland graves, one near Pulborough, another near Hassocks. The remaining two comprise cremations deposited in elements of the agricultural systems associated with the farmsteads at Millfield, Southwater and Wickhurst Green, both with strong parallels to the Billingshurst cremations (Chapter 4; Margetts 2018a). However, elsewhere in southern England these backland graves are fairly common occurrences, making up 21% of total burials, and are often in farm contexts, usually located on outer settlement boundaries, trackways and field systems. While inhumation is more common in this era, making up 62% of known burials, cremation is certainly not unusual. As such, the examples at Billingshurst are in keeping with other contemporary rural burial practices, but are of note lying as they do within the Weald (Smith 2015). Unfortunately, the degree of truncation to the cremations at Billingshurst and the poor condition of the bone limit how well they can be tied into emerging patterns of burial selectivity concerned with gender and age.

#### **PERIOD 4.3: LATE ROMAN c AD 270–350**

A brief hiatus following period 4.2 is considered probable, beginning perhaps around the end of the 2nd century or the beginning of the 3rd and lasting for around 70 years. The reason behind this is hard to decipher, particularly as there is not a huge degree of consistency across the western Weald heartland sites. The Early Roman settlement at Millfield, Southwater goes into decline shortly after its foundation and was probably over well before the end of the 1st century. At Wickhurst Green a decline is certainly seen in the Mid Roman period, but limited features with assemblages of this date indicated continued, if much reduced, activity into the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Reversely, at Mill Straight, Southwater the Roman activity appears to date from the 2nd to 4th centuries (Chapter 4; Margetts 2018a; Ellis & Massey 2019). It has been suggested that this decline following the Early Roman period may relate to a decline in the Wealden iron industry (Gardiner 1990) and, while this may be the case, the apparent discrepancies in the date and duration of this hiatus in the western heartland suggest a more complex situation. It must be hoped that with continued research into this understudied area, and with further excavation, a greater understanding of the reasons behind these changing settlement patterns may be achieved.

Following this variable hiatus, activity within the western Weald heartland returns to a more visible form in the later Roman period. While clear settlement evidence in the form of structures or enclosures remains elusive, deposits containing Late Roman material are identifiable. A few isolated features of Late Roman date were evident at Millfield, Southwater, while the enclosures at Mill Straight, Southwater show evidence for having continued in use up to the 4th century (Chapter 4; Ellis & Massey 2019). No structures internal to these enclosures were identified, but the domestic refuse within the ditch fills pointed to settlement nearby. Similarly, at Wickhurst Green, reasonable quantities of waste material were accumulated in the upper levels of almost completely silted-up ditches (Margetts 2018a), very like the pattern of Late Roman deposition at Billingshurst in the northernmost Settlement 2 area, both of which suggested settlement in the vicinity.

The activity in the area to the south of the A272 for this later Roman period is both puzzling and very probably significant. It is of note that the complete ring-gully is located over an area of Early and Mid Roman activity, probably indicating that the previous hiatus in settlement activity did not coincide with a total abandonment of the area. However, the function of the feature, which was 8.5m in diameter from outer edge to outer edge, 0.8m wide and securely dated to AD 270–350 from a large assemblage of pottery, is hard to define. The lack of an entrance, along with the presence of a large, at least partially open pit within the internal space, makes an interpretation as a domestic structure hard to believe. Combined with the fact that, by this period, rectangular buildings are by far the dominant form, with circular buildings accounting for only 20% of known later Roman structures in the south-east of England (Smith 2014), an alternative interpretation is more likely.

A shrine could be a better explanation. The Little Paxton Quarry site in Cambridgeshire yielded a structure with some parallels that was interpreted as a cellae of 3rd- to 4th-century date (Jones 2001). The circular footing of the cellae had a diameter of 15m from outer edge to outer edge, nearly double the size of the Billingshurst example, although the foundation width was similar and considered a sufficient size to contain the footings of a load-bearing timber wall. Like the Billingshurst example, the Little Paxton Quarry cellae footing lacked an entry gap, but this may merely indicate that the footings extended above ground level, with the timber wall and doorway constructed over this. Other examples of circular Roman timber shrines include Muntham Court, 11m in diameter and broadly dated from the late 1st to early 4th centuries AD

(Burstow and Hollyman 1957), while a circular cellae has also been recorded in a Late Iron Age and Romano-British context at Hayling Island (Downey et al 1980), although square and rectangular forms are more common.

Stone examples of round shrine structures are also the more frequent form. Stone examples include a dry-stone-walled structure 8m in diameter at Maiden Castle (Historic England 2018) and the Rutland shrine of mid 2nd- to 4th-century date, with a diameter of 10.5m and wall width of 0.6m – both more in keeping with the dimensions seen at Billingshurst (Carlyle 2011). However, no masonry or worked stone was recovered from the Billingshurst site, potentially indicating a more regional construction style, more in keeping with that at Little Paxton Quarry, Cambridgeshire.

Also unusual about the Billingshurst site is the lack of outer enclosure, or a further concentric ring delimitating an ambulatory around the shrine. However, it is at least possible that contemporary Late Roman phases of enclosure may have been removed by later medieval ditches. Furthermore, should the arrangement of undated postholes to the north and west be contemporary with the structure, they could have supported a palisade creating an enclosure around the sacred space. A similar arrangement of two phases of postholes, the later phase of which dated to the early 2nd century AD, was arrayed around the perimeter of the *temenos* of the temple at Hayling Island, Hants, and could further indicate a ritual function for the structure at Billingshurst (King and Soffe 2008). The presence of the central pit is not entirely unusual; similar features were encountered within cellae at Hayling Island, where they contained pottery, brooches, coins and a piece of *speculum* mirror, and at Temple 8, Gosbecks Farm, near Colchester (Downey et al 1980; Crummy 1980). Finds deposited within the central pit at Billingshurst included an assemblage of Roman pottery comparable in date to that from the ring-gully, nine sherds of presumably intrusive medieval pottery, a moderate quantity of CBM mostly comprising tegula, fragments of Roman quern stone, two fragments of whetstone, a partial large mammal vertebra, two iron nails and a possible *dupondius* (?) coin. While none of the finds assemblage clearly represents votive offerings, this may also not be an entirely uncommon feature of shrines, as some examples, including the shrine at Heathrow, have produced little or no artefactual material, though it is considered possible in this case that many votive objects may have been of organic material and therefore have not survived (Historic England 2018).

Should the Late Roman ring-gully at Billingshurst represent a shrine it would be the first within the Weald,

and of some substantial significance, potentially indicating a regional variation of such a site. However, that being said, a domestic function cannot be entirely ruled out, although it is worth keeping in mind, as pointed out by Historic England, that circular shrines can be difficult to identify, leading to the possibility that examples of such have been misinterpreted as domestic structures (Historic England 2018). Attempts should be made to not similarly misinterpret the Billingshurst structure, and as such both possible interpretations should be considered.

## PERIOD 5: MEDIEVAL

The landscape to the east of Billingshurst would have been one of agricultural land interspersed with small areas of woodland by the medieval period. Both the early and the high medieval activity and finds assemblages on site corroborates this, indicating agricultural exploitation on the periphery of settlement. This supports the assumption that the medieval settlement of Billingshurst did not extend far to the east of St Mary's church in the 12th to 14th centuries. However, it is of note that the earliest pottery, and probably the earliest phase of medieval activity east of Billingshurst, appears to be contemporary with the very earliest phases of the development of the settlement and the construction of the church.

The identified medieval features comprised field systems orientated on north–south alignments and roughly perpendicular trackways. This is significant, as the orientation is near identical to that of the Roman field systems both to the north and south of the A272, and that of the extant field system, potentially indicating some continuity in the landscape from the Early Roman period up to the present day. Furthermore, the way in which Roman ditches butt up to and underlie medieval ditches strongly suggests that the medieval field system could comprise later recutting and use of landscape features dating back to the Roman period.

This theory of certain areas of the Sussex Wealden landscape having continuity from the Early Roman to the medieval era and beyond is not new and has been developed and highlighted by Margetts (2018a; 2018b). At Wickhurst Green, where a landscape of north-east–south-west-aligned droveways bounds a rectilinear pattern of fields, similar evidence suggests that this landscape was in place by the 1st century AD before being significantly advanced in the early medieval period, with elements of the landscape and its orientation surviving up to the present day (2018a).

# CHAPTER 4 EXCAVATIONS AT MILLFIELD, SOUTHWATER, HORSHAM

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## 4.1 INTRODUCTION PROJECT BACKGROUND

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bovis Homes to undertake archaeological investigations on land adjacent to Millfield to the south-west of the village of Southwater, West Sussex (NGR 516256 125440; Fig 4.1). The work took place between 6 June and 17 July 2012 in advance of a new housing development with associated parking and access infrastructure, including a new residential road now known as Roman Lane.

Following an initial desk-based assessment of the site (ASE 2010), a planning application was submitted to West Sussex County Council. This was granted subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work. A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken in 2011 (ASE 2011a), followed by a trial trench evaluation in 2012 (ASE 2012). The results of the evaluation suggested that features in the south-western half of the site were largely agricultural boundaries of late post-medieval date and the subsequent open area excavation, also completed in 2012, was therefore targeted on

the north-eastern area of the site, where archaeological remains were concentrated (ASE 2013a).

## GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Prior to development, the site had been a narrow strip of pasture with scrubland and trees at the north-eastern and south-western extents. The land sloped gently from *c* 50m OD at the south-west to *c* 30m OD at the north-east. It was bounded by the A24 and Mill Straight on its south-western and south-eastern sides and, elsewhere, by houses and gardens. According to current data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2020), the bedrock geology of the site is mudstone of the Weald Clay formation, with no overlying superficial deposits.

## 4.2 RESULTS

### NATURAL GEOLOGY AND OVERBURDEN

Unless otherwise stated, all archaeological features and deposits were cut into or directly overlay the natural Weald Clay and were sealed by subsoil and topsoil (both of 0.1–0.4m in depth).

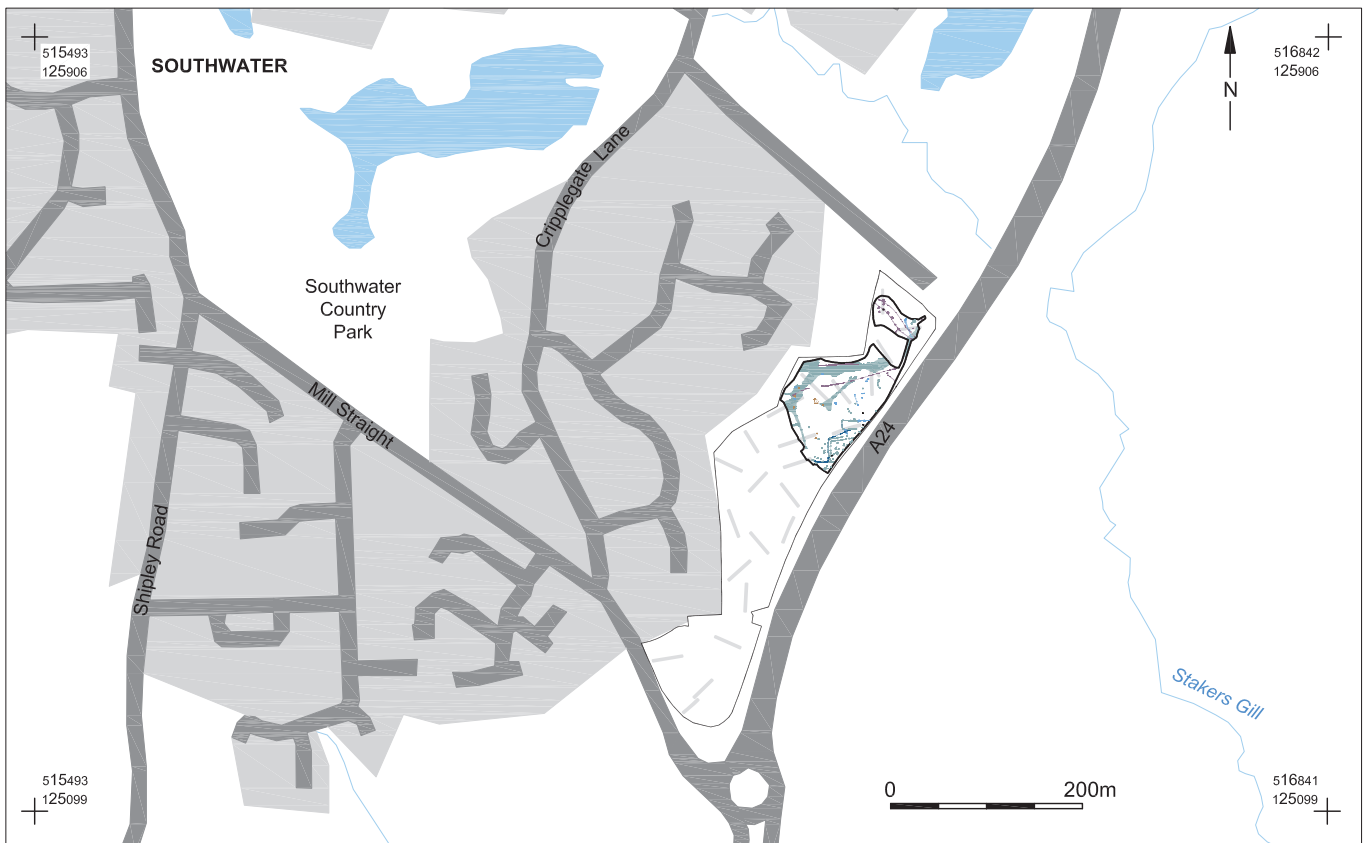


Fig 4.1 Site location with overview of evaluation trenches and excavation area. Based on OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] [2020].



**PERIOD 1: MESOLITHIC/EARLY NEOLITHIC***with Karine Le Hégarat*

A shallow deposit, [302], which covered a circular area of *c* 1m in diameter contained nine pieces of unretouched struck flint (Fig 4.2). The profile at the base of the deposit was poorly defined, with imperceptible breaks of slope, and it was uncertain whether it represented the base of a truncated pit or a tree throw. The flint assemblage includes one complete bladelet and another bladelet fragment, technology that is most consistent with the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods. A thin flake, struck using a soft percussor, displays dorsal blade-like scar removals and platform preparation and possibly also dates to the same broad period. Interestingly, all of the flint utilised for these pieces appears to have been procured from the same source and, although none of the pieces could be refitted, it is possible that they were struck from the same nodule. With the exception of another single bladelet, found as a residual element in a Roman feature, no other diagnostic earlier prehistoric flintwork was recovered from the site.

Two further shallow pits, [383] and [384], were of broadly similar dimensions and were located in the same general area of the site. Each contained a small assemblage of pottery (in total, seven sherds weighing 36g) that have been tentatively assigned to the Early Neolithic period on the basis of low-fired fabrics that were tempered with sparse but very ill-sorted flint. Two very fragmentary rim sherds were present: a relatively thin-walled plain-profiled vessel and a thicker walled form with a crudely made bead rim (not illustrated). Although all the elements described here are quite typical of the Early Neolithic Plain Bowl tradition, the assemblage was not considered large or diagnostic enough to date with certainty, as not enough of the vessel profiles are present to determine overall form and, although later Bronze Age flint-tempered pottery fabrics are typically better fired with greater frequencies of slightly better-sorted flint, it is difficult to distinguish definitively between fabrics of these periods. Unfortunately, no accompanying flintwork was recovered from these features.

**RESIDUAL OR UNSTRATIFIED LATER PREHISTORIC FINDS**

Another fragment of prehistoric pottery, a very coarsely flint-tempered, thick-walled body sherd, possibly belonging to the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury tradition, was a residual find in a Roman ditch. Just over 30 pieces of struck flint were also recovered; these were dominated by hard-hammer flakes, which are characteristic of the later prehistoric period, but none was considered well stratified in contemporary features or deposits.

**PERIOD 2: EARLIER ROMAN (AD 1ST CENTURY)****DITCH/CHANNEL SYSTEM AND LARGE ENCLOSURE (CS1)**

An irregular but broadly linear deposit, G14 (Fig 4.3), was recorded running on a meandering north-east–south-west alignment across the length of the excavation area. The deposit was *c* 0.2–0.4m deep, with a fairly flat-based profile. It was darker in colour than most other fills on the site, with dense concentrations of iron pan/iron-rich concretions. These attributes suggest that the deposit was alluvial in origin and probably represents a small silted-up stream or channel. In the north-western part of the excavation area the channel split into two distinct courses, with a diverging branch represented by deposits [160]/[162]. Another narrower linear deposit of probable alluvium, G18, was of similar character. Although it did not appear to join G14, it may represent another branch of the same alluvial channel that had been partly truncated away.

A north-north-west–south-south-east-aligned ditch, G12, appears to have been created partly in order to provide drainage into channel G14. Two other broadly east–west-aligned ditches, G15 and G29, also appear to be contemporary with the ditch/channel system, suggesting that there may have been further exploitation of the land to the south-west of this large enclosed space; however, evaluation in the area produced very few features or finds, so these areas may have been entirely agricultural in nature.

As well as feeding into the channel system, ditch G12 appeared to function as the western boundary to a large enclosed area of land, which was defined on its southern side by ditch G1. A wide entrance way in the south-west corner was formed by the termini of ditches G1 and G12. A large, shallow, slightly irregular oval feature, [136], may suggest that a tree stood by the entrance way.

The ditches and alluvial deposits enclosing this large area of land produced small finds assemblages and the pottery from these features included relatively high proportions of grog-tempered wares compared with the rest of the period 2 assemblage. This might hint that the stream/channel system had silted up before the period 2 settlement went out of use (see section 4.4, Chronology). The fact that the channel deposit, G14, was clearly cut by a series of pits/hearth assigned to period 4.1 provides fairly compelling evidence that the channel/stream had completely silted up prior to the late Saxon/Norman period.

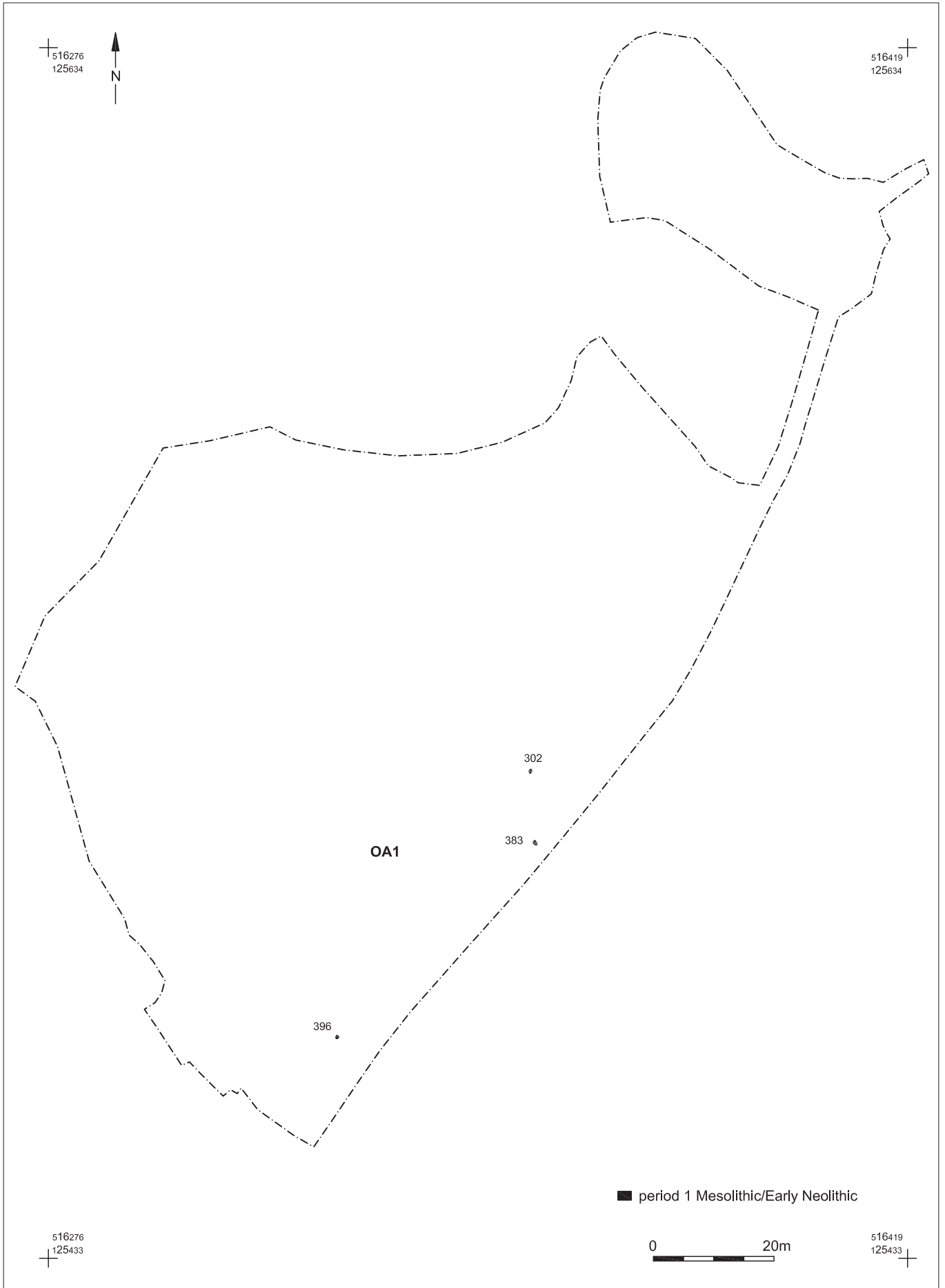


Fig 4.2 Plan showing possible Mesolithic/Early Neolithic features and deposits (period 1)

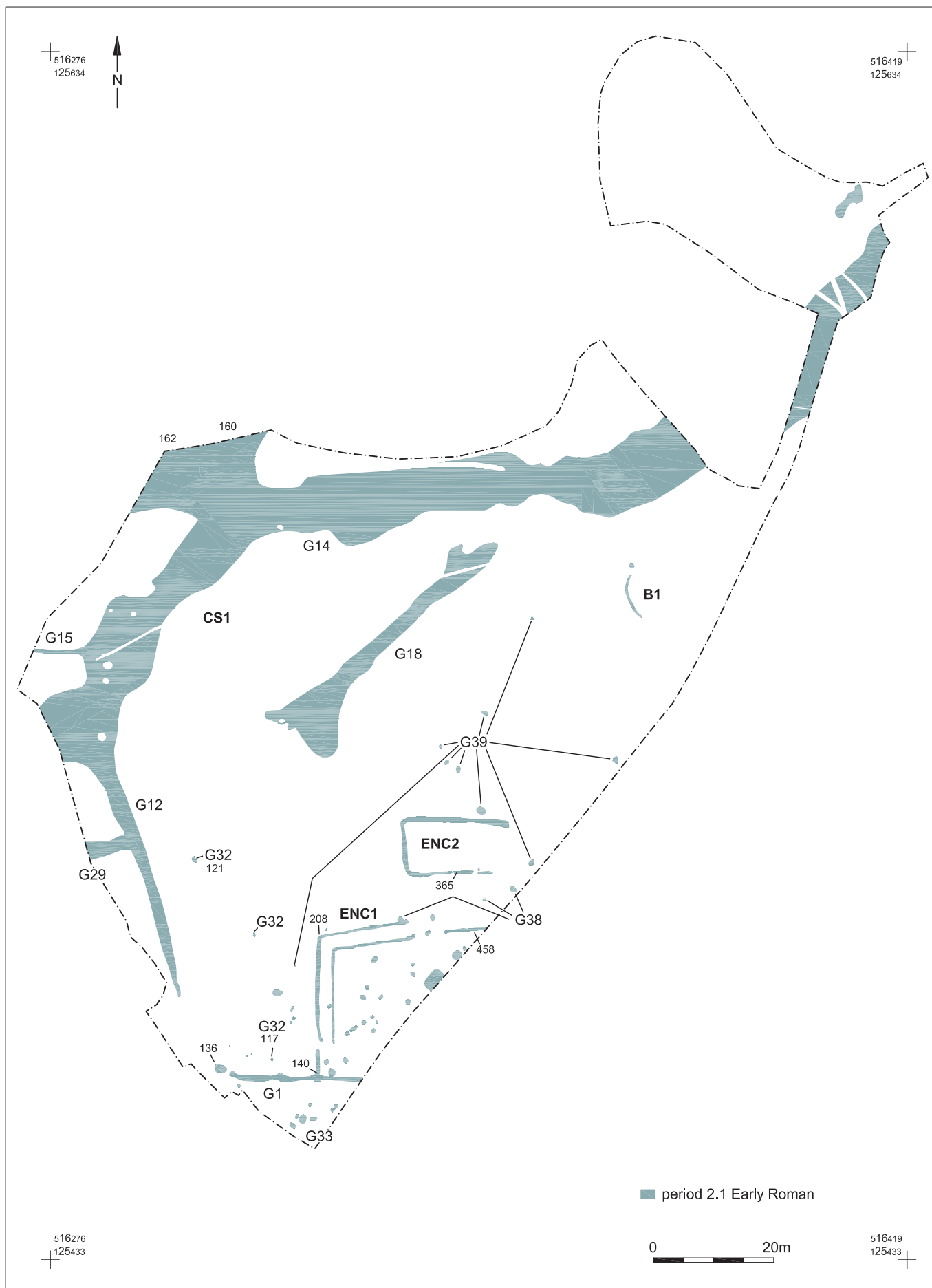


Fig 4.3 Plan showing Early Roman features (period 2)

## PERIOD 2.1: ENCLOSURES ENC1 AND ENC2

Within the wider area enclosed by the channel/ditch system, two internal enclosures were recorded, both aligned on the four cardinal points (Fig 4.4). The larger and southernmost of the two internal enclosures, ENC1, was bisected diagonally by the limit of excavation. It was *c* 20m in width and over 30m in length. As well as defining the southern edge of the wider enclosed space, east–west ditch G1 also marked the southern limit of this internal enclosure, probably indicating that ENC1

was created at the same time as the wider large enclosed area formed by the channel/ditch system, CS1. A group of probable tree throws, G33, lay just to the south of ditch G1. Some of these features contained sherds of earlier Roman pottery, perhaps suggesting that there had been some recent clearance of surviving woodland when the site was founded.

A contemporary short north–south-aligned ditch, G2, was joined to G1. This ditch terminated and resumed to the north as G5. On its northern and western sides ENC1 was defined by

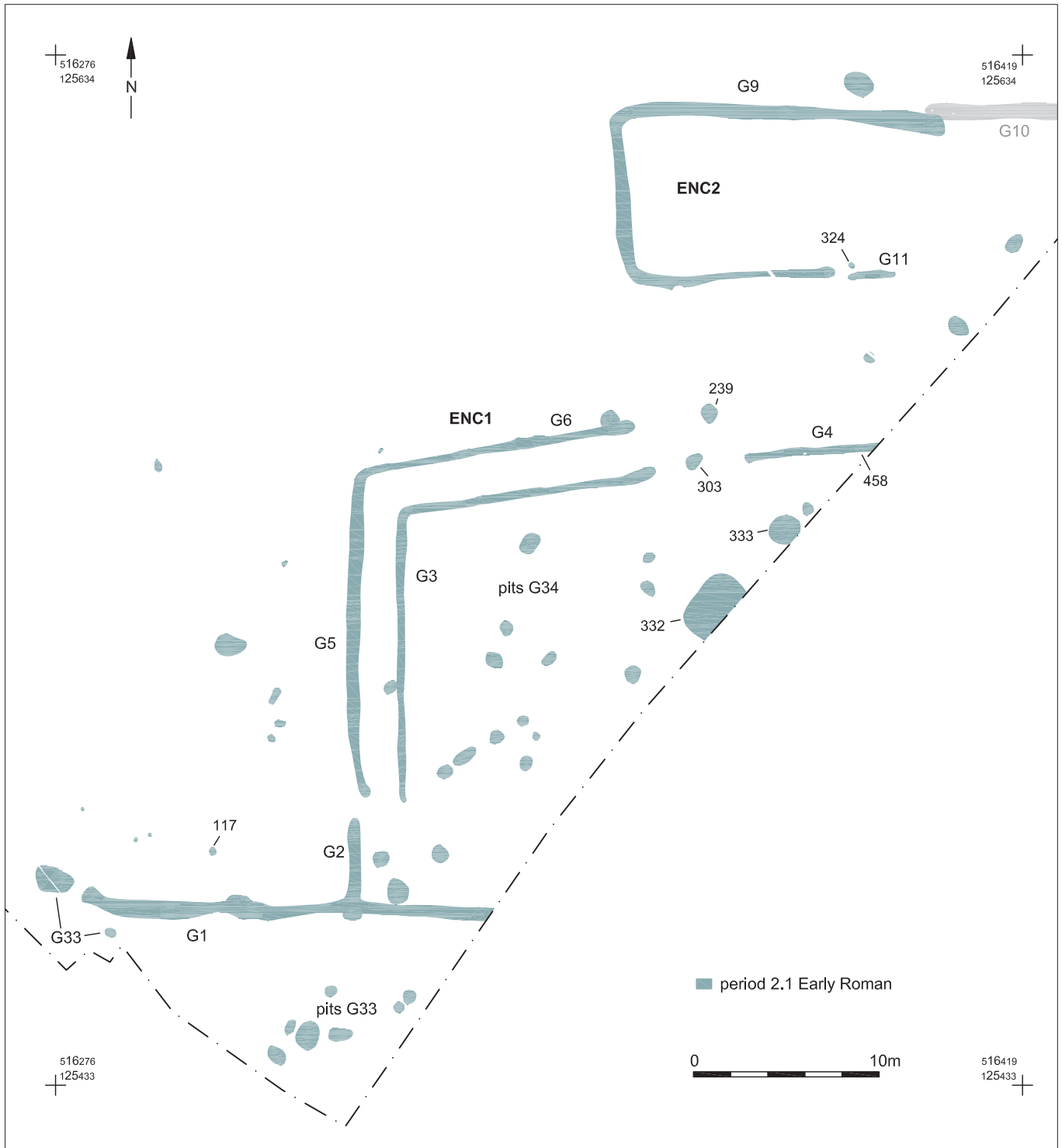


Fig 4.4 Period 2 Early Roman Enclosure 1 and Enclosure 2



parallel double ditches. Two separate numbers were assigned to the north–south (G5) and east–west (G6) stretches of the outer ditch; however, they are continuous and it seems likely that they were initially created as a single entity. The inner ditch, G3, terminated at exactly the same point as the outer ditch at both its southern and eastern extents, strongly suggesting that the inner and outer ditches were laid out together. The inner ditch terminated and resumed (as G4) to the east. There was, however, no evidence of a parallel continuation of the outer ditch.

This enclosure had two entrance ways: one, on the western side, was formed by the termini of ditches G2, G3 and G5, while the other, on the northern side, was defined by the termini of ditches G3, G4 and G6. The northern entrance was much wider than that on the western side. A discrete circular feature, [303], was located exactly at the midpoint of this entrance and another comparable feature, [239], was similarly aligned with the outer ditch. Although both were of similar character to other features in the vicinity, which have all been interpreted as pits, they might have represented postholes associated with gates or hurdles.

The eastern terminus of the inner enclosure ditch, G3, near the enclosure's northern entrance, possibly contained the fragmentary remains of a heavily truncated urned cremation burial, comprising a small concentration of burnt bone and fragmentary sherds from a pottery vessel (Fig 4.5). It remains uncertain whether this deposit should be interpreted as funerary in nature, as the only identifiable bone fragment was of a small mammal species. It is not unusual for animal remains to be found in pyre material and they sometimes formed part of funerary offerings (McKinley 2006, 30–31); however, only 6.2g of bone was recovered from the entire deposit from the metre-long intervention. Furthermore, the possible funerary urn was represented by only *c* 60g of base and lower wall sherds and quite a large number of other mixed broken sherds from other vessels were also recovered throughout the rest of the fill, which perhaps suggests a lack of care in the back-filling of this feature.

Around 20 relatively small shallow pits, mostly with gentle sloping bowl-like profiles, were located within enclosure ENC1. Many contained small quantities of Early Roman finds, but these generally seemed to have accumulated accidentally after the features had gone out of use and there is very little evidence regarding the primary function of the pits. Some very similar features, G38 and G39, were located just to the east and north of enclosure ENC1 (Fig 4.3), and one or two examples directly intercut with the enclosure ditches, although stratigraphic relationships were difficult to determine. It is



Fig 4.5 Photograph of possible cremation burial in the terminus of ditch G3 (0.2m scale bar)

therefore likely that at least some of the pits were in place before the ditches were cut or after they went out of use.

A single pit within enclosure ENC1, [333] (Fig 4.4), which was half-sectioned against the south-western baulk of the site, stood out from the others in terms of both its size and its very rich finds assemblages. It was over a metre in diameter and over half a metre in depth. It contained nearly 5kg of pottery, with a much larger average sherd weight than that seen in the other features, as well as fragments from two rotary querns in good-quality Lodsworth-type stone. In the vicinity of this pit a diffuse shallow deposit, [332] (Fig 4.4), was also rich in pottery. This type of material is perhaps indicative of settlement activity somewhere in the vicinity and could suggest that domestic structures were located in the other half of the enclosure, outside the limit of excavation.

Immediately to the north of the double-ditched enclosure, a narrower enclosure, ENC2, only *c* 10m in width, was defined on three sides by a continuous stretch of ditch, G9 (Fig 4.4). On both the northern and southern sides of the enclosure the ditch ran for only *c* 10–15m before terminating; however, all of the features in this area were relatively shallow, so it possible that any continuation of the enclosure to the east had been truncated away. Although a similarly aligned ditch, G10 (Fig 4.4), was noted on the northern side, this slightly intercut with G9 and produced a moderate-sized assemblage of pottery that is at least 150 years later in date than anything recovered from any of the period 2 features (see period 3).

On the southern side of ENC2 a short linear feature, G11 (Fig 4.4), was aligned with the terminus of G9 and may, like features [239] and [303], have served to support some kind of post or beam as part of a gate, fence or hurdle.

A small posthole, [324], may also have been associated with this possible entrance way. Aside from this, the enclosure was devoid of contemporary internal features.

#### PERIOD 2.2: ENCLOSURE ENC3

The parallel alignment of enclosures ENC1 and ENC2 and the similar positioning of possible entrances or gates strongly suggests that they were laid out together. Another ditch, G7, appears to be associated with the original enclosures, as it joins to the outer ditch of ENC1 and terminates near the possible gate/entrance on the south side of ENC2; however, its east-north-east-west-south-west alignment suggests that it was probably a later addition, attempting to join the two original enclosures into a single larger enclosed space, ENC3 (Fig 4.6).

Unfortunately, no stratigraphic relationship could be determined at the point where ditches G5, G6 and G7 met; however, it seems unlikely that all of the original ditches of ENC1 were open at this point because G7 would have effectively blocked off access to the northern side of ENC1 and created a narrow, awkward-to-use space to the north of ditch G6 (Fig 4.7). Instead, it seems probable that the cutting of ditch G7 coincided with ditches, G3, G4 and G6 going out of use. Dating evidence from features belonging to these two postulated phases is very similar, although the pottery lends some support to the view that the features were cut and went out of use in this sequence (see section 4.4, Chronology).

#### OTHER PERIOD 2 FEATURES

An undated curvilinear feature, G20, located *c* 40m north of enclosure ENC2, may represent the truncated eaves gully of a roundhouse, B1 (Fig 4.8). Both extant ends of the gully were excavated, although these were so shallow that it is unlikely either represents a true terminus. Although not enough of the gully survives to be certain that it was circular in form, it would be consistent with a small to medium-sized structure of *c* 10m in diameter. A single undated sub-circular feature, [425], was recorded in association. It was of relatively large size (*c* 0.90m in diameter) and lay outside the putative eaves gully. It therefore remains uncertain whether it should be interpreted as a structural posthole or pit. The complete absence of any cultural material from land-use feature B1 makes its interpretation as a possible domestic building very uncertain.

A few pits, G32 (Fig 4.6), were located within the large area enclosed by the channel/ditch system CS1, but outside the internal enclosures. These were broadly similar in form to the pits found inside the enclosures, but two of these

features, [117] and [121], contained small concentrations of charcoal and the former also contained a small assemblage of ironsmithing waste, suggesting that low-level industrial activity took place in this area.

#### PERIOD 3: MID-LATE ROMAN (*c* 2ND-EARLIER 4TH CENTURY)

##### POSSIBLE TRUNCATED FIELD SYSTEM FS1

A single east-west-aligned ditch, G10, was very similarly aligned with the northern side of the period 2 enclosure formed by ditch G9; however, the termini of these two features slightly intercut, suggesting that they were not directly contemporary (Fig 4.9). Unfortunately, this relationship could not be established in section but ditch G10 did produce a moderate assemblage of Roman pottery that is of significantly later date than that from the original enclosures (*c* AD 250–300).

Another short linear feature, G8, was aligned north-north-west/south-south-east. Its stratigraphic relationships with intercutting period 2 features were again, uncertain, but it produced a small amount of mid/late Roman pottery, including some mid 2nd- to 3rd-century forms. It may therefore have formed part of an enclosure or field with G10.

A few other poorly dated stretches of ditch appeared broadly aligned with G8 and G10 and may also represent remnants of a later Roman field system. North-north-west-south-south-east-orientated ditches G13 and G22 contained no datable finds; however, the latter cut the period 2 alluvial channel and was cut by period 4.2 field boundary ditches. A further short linear feature, G25, was roughly parallel with ditch G10 and perpendicular to G13; it contained a sherd of probable late 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery. Near ditches G13 and G25, a single pit, [400], also contained a small group of later Roman pottery.

##### OTHER FEATURES AND STRUCTURES

A group of four possible postholes was closely spaced in a rectangular alignment, perhaps suggesting a grain storage structure (S1) (Fig 4.10). A single sherd of later Roman pottery was recovered from one of the associated postholes.

Other widely dispersed pits, G44, were tentatively phased to period 3 based on their stratigraphic relationships with features from period 2 and, in one feature, elongated pit [429], the presence of pottery dating broadly to the later Roman period.

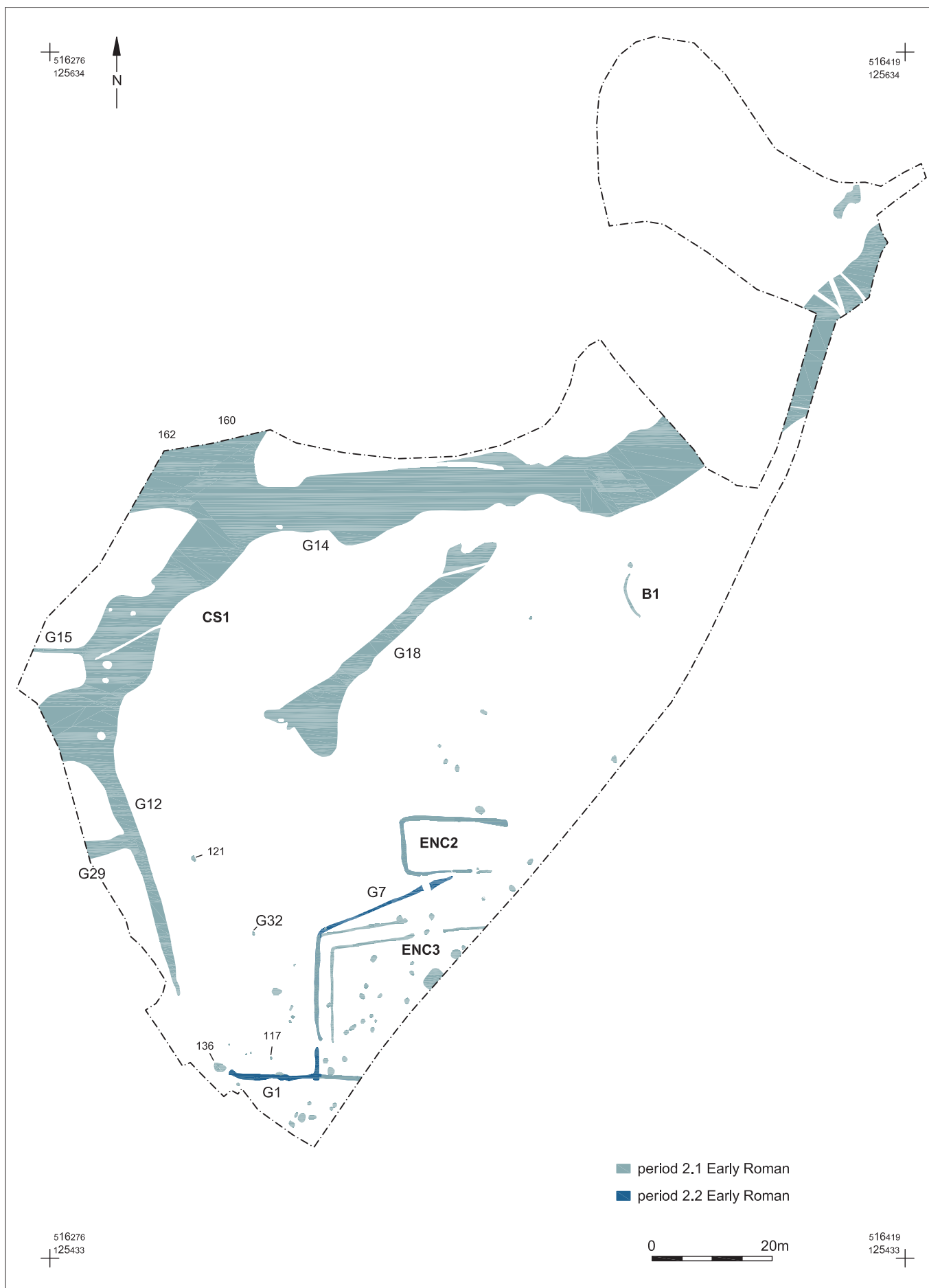


Fig 4.6 Plan showing Early Roman features (period 2.2)

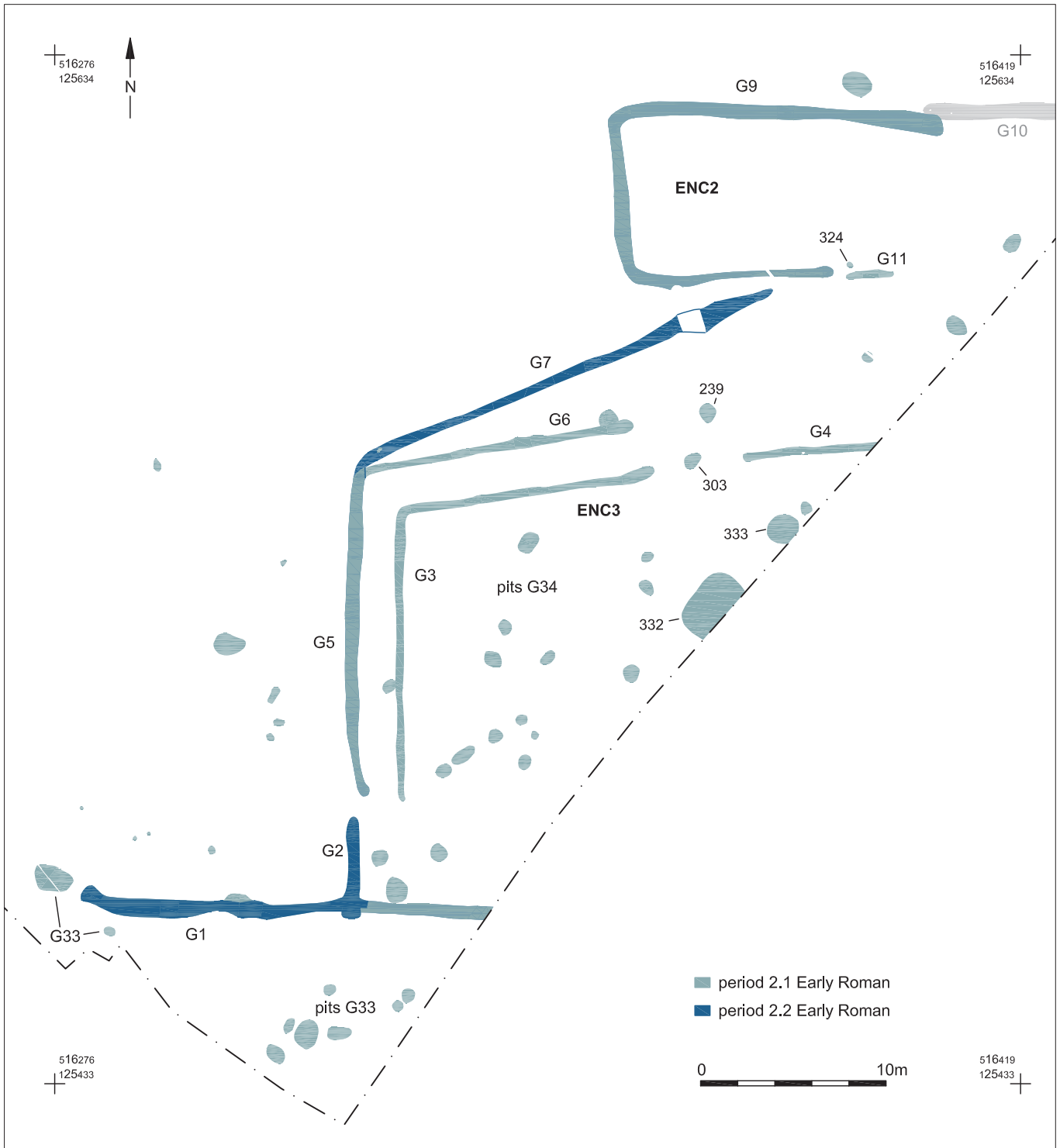


Fig 4.7 Period 2.2 Enclosure 3

#### PERIOD 4.1 SAXO-NORMAN (MID 11TH–MID 12TH CENTURY)

A group of six pits/hearths (G41) recorded in the western part of the site showed evidence of *in situ* burning, in the form of scorching to the surrounding natural geology or underlying archaeological deposits (Figs 4.11 and 4.12). Several of the pits had a thin layer of concentrated charcoal at the base, apparently deriving from the last burning event, although others appeared

to have been more thoroughly cleaned out. The secondary fills were generally also relatively rich in charcoal, suggesting that they may have been back-filled quite rapidly with material involved in the burning process rather than left open to weather after use. In the same area, another large pit, and associated deposit G43, contained redeposited low-fired burnt clay, suggesting an association with the burning events in pit

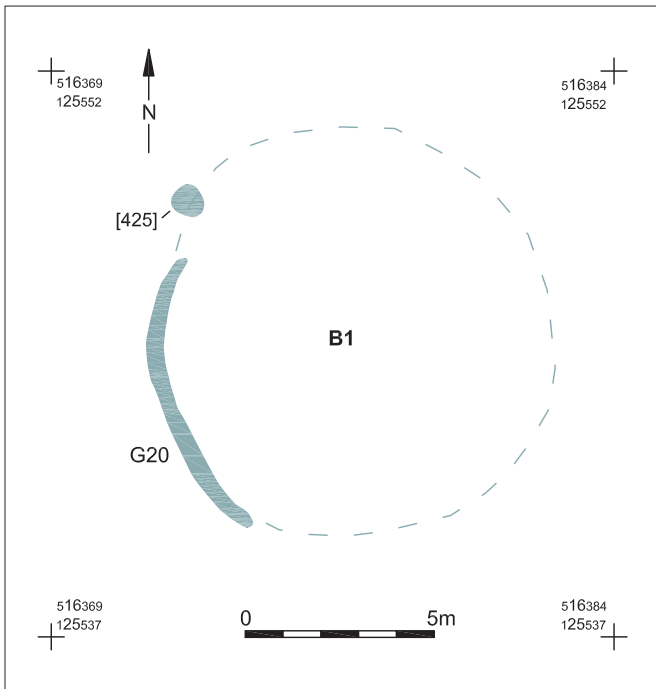


Fig 4.8 Plan of period 2 Building I

group G41, but there was no evidence here of *in situ* burning and these deposits contained relatively little charcoal.

Initially, these features were uncertainly dated. Most of the pits clearly cut the deposits within the alluvial channels CS1, which appear to have remained open at least into the Early Roman period. The only datable find was a sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, which was considered likely to have been redeposited from the underlying deposit. Initial radiocarbon dating of two samples of charred grain and oak charcoal from the basal fill of pit [172] produced similar dating evidence with calibrated date ranges of 95 cal BC–cal AD 51 and 42 cal BC–cal AD 62 (Table 4.1) and, again, it seemed likely that the dated material was residual. A second round of samples, comprising oak roundwood and privet charcoal, was therefore submitted from another pit within the group, [169] (Table 4.1). Taken together, these dates suggest burning activity around the mid 11th–mid 12th century, although one of the dates has a slightly broader calibrated range extending into the early 13th century. These dates appear more consistent with the stratigraphic evidence and, given the similarity and proximity of pit group G41 and the possibly associated pit and layer G43,

it seems likely that all of these features and deposits belong to the Saxo-Norman period.

### PERIOD 4.2: MEDIEVAL (13TH–MID 15TH CENTURY)

Two widely spaced curving parallel ditches ran broadly east–north–east–west–south–west across the site, possibly forming a wide droveway, R1 (Fig 4.13). These shallow features contained no finds but clearly cut the period 2 alluvial channel CS1. Ditch G19 was partially truncated away but resumed to the west as G16. Ditch G17 ran parallel and was also truncated away at its eastern and western extents. Ditch G17 may be associated with a short linear feature, G26, located to the north-east. Although G17 and G26 are quite differently orientated, if one were to draw a curving line between them it would correspond approximately to the shape of the irregular field boundary shown on the earliest available mapping, the Horsham tithe map of 1844, although it does not align exactly, the later boundary being located significantly further to the north-west (Fig 4.14). Given the very irregular shape of the land parcels shown on early mapping and surviving into the 20th century, it seems likely that the broad field pattern may have medieval origins.

Ditch G26 joined to and appeared to be contemporary with a perpendicular ditch, G23. Together with a similar parallel feature, G24, this appeared to form a trackway (R2), running on a curving but broadly north–west–south–east alignment. The trackway ditches cut the period 2 alluvial channel G14, and a period 3 ditch, G22.

Several shallow and irregular discrete deposits, G46 (Fig 4.13), generally covering areas of 1–2m<sup>2</sup>, were located between and around the trackway ditches, possibly representing areas of trampling or even dispersed remnants of an accompanying bank. In places the ditch fills and the deposits overlapped, but it was impossible to define any stratigraphic relationships between the two owing to the similarity of the deposits. A single feature, [489], in the same area was possibly a discrete pit. Both the ditches and the deposits produced relatively large quantities of 14th- to early/mid 15th-century pottery with some residual later 12th- to 13th-century material. Six

| Lab code    | Fill | Pit | Material                                | Conventional radiocarbon age (BP) | Delta C13 | Calibrated date (95% confidence) |
|-------------|------|-----|---|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| SUERC-43413 | 173  | 172 | Charred grain: <i>Triticum</i> sp       | 2025 ± 24                         | -23.0 ‰   | 95 cal BC–cal AD 51 cal          |
| SUERC-43414 | 173  | 172 | Charcoal: <i>Quercus</i> sp             | 1988 ± 24                         | -24.2 ‰   | 42 cal BC–cal AD 62 cal          |
| SUERC-68624 | 170  | 169 | Charcoal: <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>      | 947 ± 25                          | -28.3 ‰   | cal AD 1026–1155                 |
| SUERC-68628 | 170  | 169 | Charcoal: <i>Quercus</i> sp (roundwood) | 894 ± 29                          | -26.1 ‰   | cal AD 1040–1215                 |

Table 4.1 Results of AMS radiocarbon dating of samples from pit group G41 quoted in accordance with the international standard, Trondheim convention (Stuiver & Kra 1986), and given as conventional radiocarbon ages (Stuiver & Polach 1977). Calibrated dates determined using the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal4.3.2 (Bronk Ramsey 2017) and IntCal13 (Reimer et al 2013)



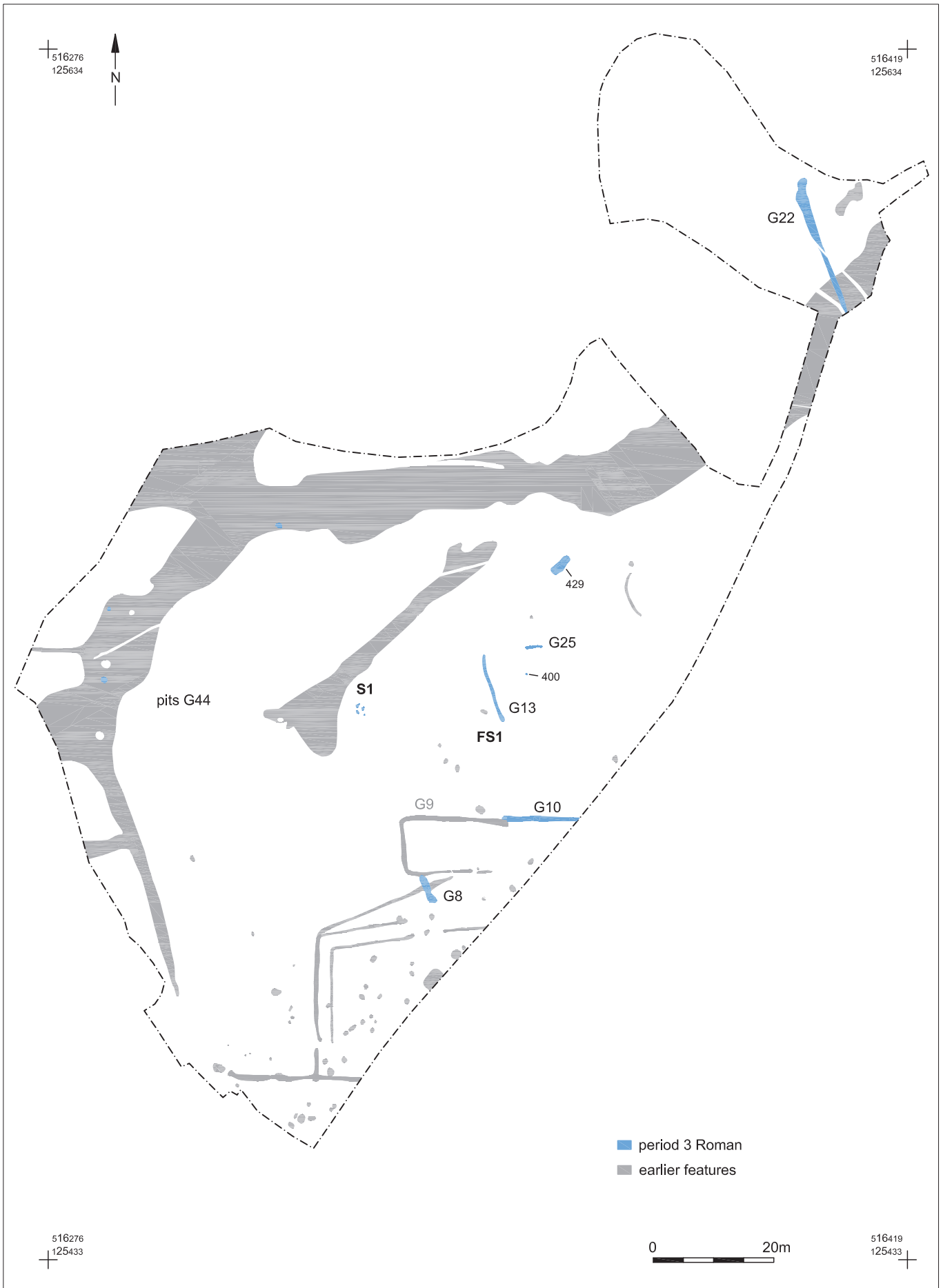


Fig 4.9 Plan showing later Roman features (period 3)

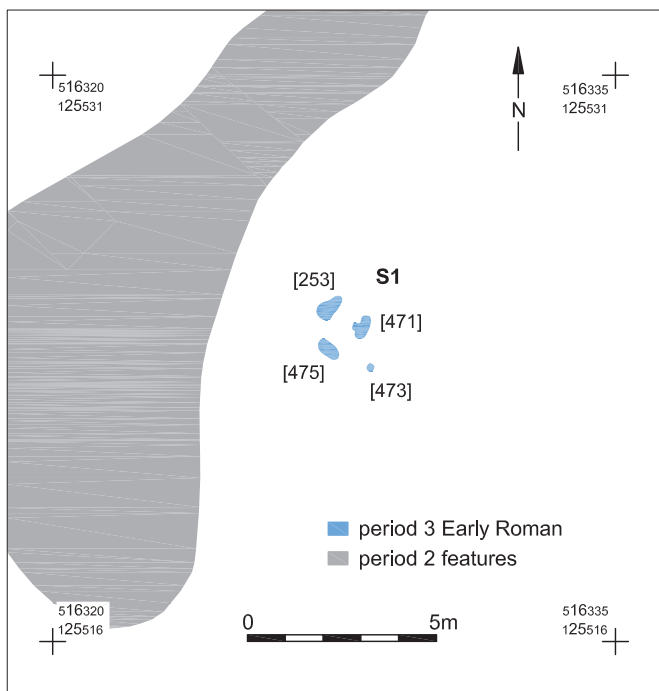


Fig 4.10 Plan showing Structure 1

probably intrusive finds from different interventions through these features and deposits, including CBM, glass and pottery, are of late 17th- to 19th-century date.

Unlike the other features assigned to period 4.2, the line of the trackway can be detected on the tithe map and on the first edition Ordnance Survey sheet of 1875–6, but it had been removed by the next OS edition from 1897. It seems likely that the original trackway ditches recorded here as archaeological features filled up and went out of use in the medieval period and there is no evidence that the post-medieval incarnation of this boundary included a ditch or trackway.

### 4.3 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS REPORTS

#### THE LATE IRON AGE AND EARLY ROMAN POTTERY

Anna Doberty

#### INTRODUCTION

Evaluation and excavation generated a moderate-sized assemblage of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery quantified by period in Table 4.2. Following a full assessment process, information on the very small earlier prehistoric pottery assemblage is integrated into the main stratigraphic text above.

In general, this appears to be a predominantly Early Roman assemblage, although it is not impossible that some of the pottery derives from pre-Conquest activity. A very small

assemblage of later Roman pottery was also recorded. This is relatively poorly dated but seems to span the 2nd to early 4th centuries AD.

| Period                              | Sherds      | Wt (g)      | EVE          | ENV        |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 2 (Early Roman unphased)            | 698         | 5092        | 6.6          | 578        |
| 2.1                                 | 459         | 2427        | 2.12         | 135        |
| 2.2                                 | 173         | 1259        | 1.62         | 115        |
| 3 (mid/late Roman)                  | 83          | 481         | 0.8          | 59         |
| Unstratified/in post-Roman contexts | 29          | 182         | 0.2          | 25         |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>1442</b> | <b>9441</b> | <b>11.34</b> | <b>912</b> |

Table 4.2 Quantification of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery

#### METHODOLOGY

The pottery was examined using a  $\times 20$  binocular microscope and quantified on *pro forma* recording sheets by sherd count, weight, estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) and estimated vessel number (ENV). In the absence of an established type-series in Sussex, fabrics and forms have been recorded using codes defined in London (Marsh & Tyers 1979; MoLA 2019), with some additional site-specific fabric definitions and cross-referencing to other relevant typologies (eg Lyne & Jefferies 1979; Dicks 2009).

#### PERIOD 2

The period 2 assemblage was probably mostly deposited over a narrow time period of around AD 50–80/100. Although two stratigraphic phases were defined in order to discuss modifications to the enclosure pattern, these produced relatively small assemblages that were very similar in character. A discussion of site chronology, including some consideration of possible chronological variation between the ceramics of phases 2.1 and 2.2, is included in the main stratigraphic narrative, but the assemblage is treated here as a whole.

As shown in Table 4.3, roughly 20% of the assemblage by sherd count is made up of grog-tempered fabrics typical of the so-called ‘East Sussex ware’ tradition, in reality a pottery style common to several different counties spanning East Sussex and the Weald. The grog-tempered wares are almost entirely associated with simple handmade neck jar forms lacking any decorative elements or Gallo-Belgic style cordons (eg Fig 4.15, no 2).

By far the most common fabric types are a series of coarse sandy wares that come in grey, black-surfaced and oxidised variants, although vessels are quite frequently fairly unevenly oxidised across different areas of the body (AVGW, AVBW, AVOX). Although these fabrics are not so distinctive as to



Fig 4.11 Plan showing Saxo-Norman features (period 4.1)



Fig 4.12 Photograph of pit/hearth [172]

entirely rule out another source, they are very comparable to fabrics from the nearby Arun Valley industry. In two cases, oxidised variants appeared to have a possible faint trace of a white slip (including Fig 4.15, no 6).

As with the grog-tempered wares, the predominant form types are simple necked jars (eg Fig 4.15, nos 9, 11, 14 and 15), although some examples have a somewhat better defined neck or subtle traces of cordons or grooves at the shoulder (eg Fig 4.15, nos 10, 12 and 13). They also include examples of jars with flatter rims (eg Fig 4.15, no 16) and storage jars (Fig 4.15, no 17).

A number of necked forms in coarse ware fabrics are relatively small and thin-walled and could be described as jar/beakers, while one example appears to represent a carinated beaker (Fig 4.15, no 4). Examples of flat rim bowls have similarities to a form produced at Arun Valley kilns in Littlehampton (Fig 4.15, nos 6 and 22; cf Laidlaw 2002, fig 8, no 18). A few small partial rims from lids were also noted in this material (not illustrated). Among the coarse oxidised vessels, a single example of a ring-necked flagon was recorded (Fig 4.15, no 8). The fabric associated with this vessel is an orange oxidised coarse ware rather than an Arun Valley white ware of the type produced at Wiggonholt (Evans 1974). Only a single sherd of this type was present.

A group of fine, micaceous fabrics is also thought to originate from the Arun Valley and made up around 10% of sherds. Coming in both oxidised and unoxidised variants (AVGF, AVOF), these are typically associated with necked/globular beaker forms (eg Fig 4.15, nos 3 and 20), including one with barbotine dot decoration related to the poppyhead tradition (Fig 4.15, no 21). Other body sherds feature rouletting and there is a partial rim from a probable carinated beaker (not illustrated). Two examples of forms, possibly imitating samian bowls were also noted, loosely related to Ritterling 12 and Dragendorff 29 (Fig 4.15, nos 5 and 23), and another is associated with a collared flagon (Fig 4.15, no 7).

| Fabric       | Description                             | Sherds      | Sherds %     | Wt (g)      | Wt %         | ENV        | ENV %        |
|--------------|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| AHFA*        | Alice Holy/Farnham ware                 | 10          | 0.7          | 348         | 3.7          | 5          | 0.6          |
| AHSU         | Alice Holt/Surrey ware                  | 10          | 0.7          | 114         | 1.2          | 4          | 0.5          |
| AVBW         | Arun Valley coarse black-surfaced wares | 29          | 2.2          | 413         | 4.4          | 9          | 1.1          |
| AVGW         | Arun Valley coarse grey wares           | 712         | 53.4         | 4838        | 52.0         | 494        | 59.4         |
| AVOX         | Arun Valley coarse oxidised wares       | 93          | 7.0          | 883         | 9.5          | 90         | 10.8         |
| AVGF         | Arun Valley fine grey wares             | 113         | 8.4          | 278         | 3.0          | 57         | 6.9          |
| AVOF         | Arun Valley fine oxidised wares         | 26          | 1.9          | 71          | 0.8          | 10         | 1.2          |
| AVWH         | Arun Valley (Wiggonholt) white wares    | 1           | 0.1          | 2           | <0.1         | 1          | 0.1          |
| BB2*         | Black-burnished ware 2                  | 1           | 0.1          | 4           | <0.1         | 1          | 0.1          |
| CADIZ        | Camulodunum 186 amphora fabric          | 3           | 0.2          | 288         | 3.1          | 1          | 0.1          |
| GROG1        | Grog-tempered ware                      | 269         | 20.1         | 1548        | 16.6         | 125        | 15.0         |
| NGWH         | North Gaulish white ware                | 19          | 1.4          | 215         | 2.3          | 7          | 0.8          |
| NKFW         | North Kent grey ware                    | 2           | 0.1          | 6           | 0.1          | 2          | 0.2          |
| OXID         | Un sourced oxidised wares               | 6           | 0.4          | 19          | 0.2          | 4          | 0.5          |
| RWCG*        | Rowlands Castle grey ware               | 22          | 1.6          | 169         | 1.8          | 9          | 1.1          |
| SAMLG        | La Graufesenque samian ware             | 4           | 0.3          | 24          | 0.3          | 4          | 0.5          |
| SAND         | Un sourced unoxidised wares             | 18          | 1.3          | 91          | 1.0          | 9          | 1.1          |
| <b>Total</b> |   | <b>1338</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>9311</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>832</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 4.3 Quantification of pottery fabrics from period 2 deposits (\*denotes probable intrusive fabrics)

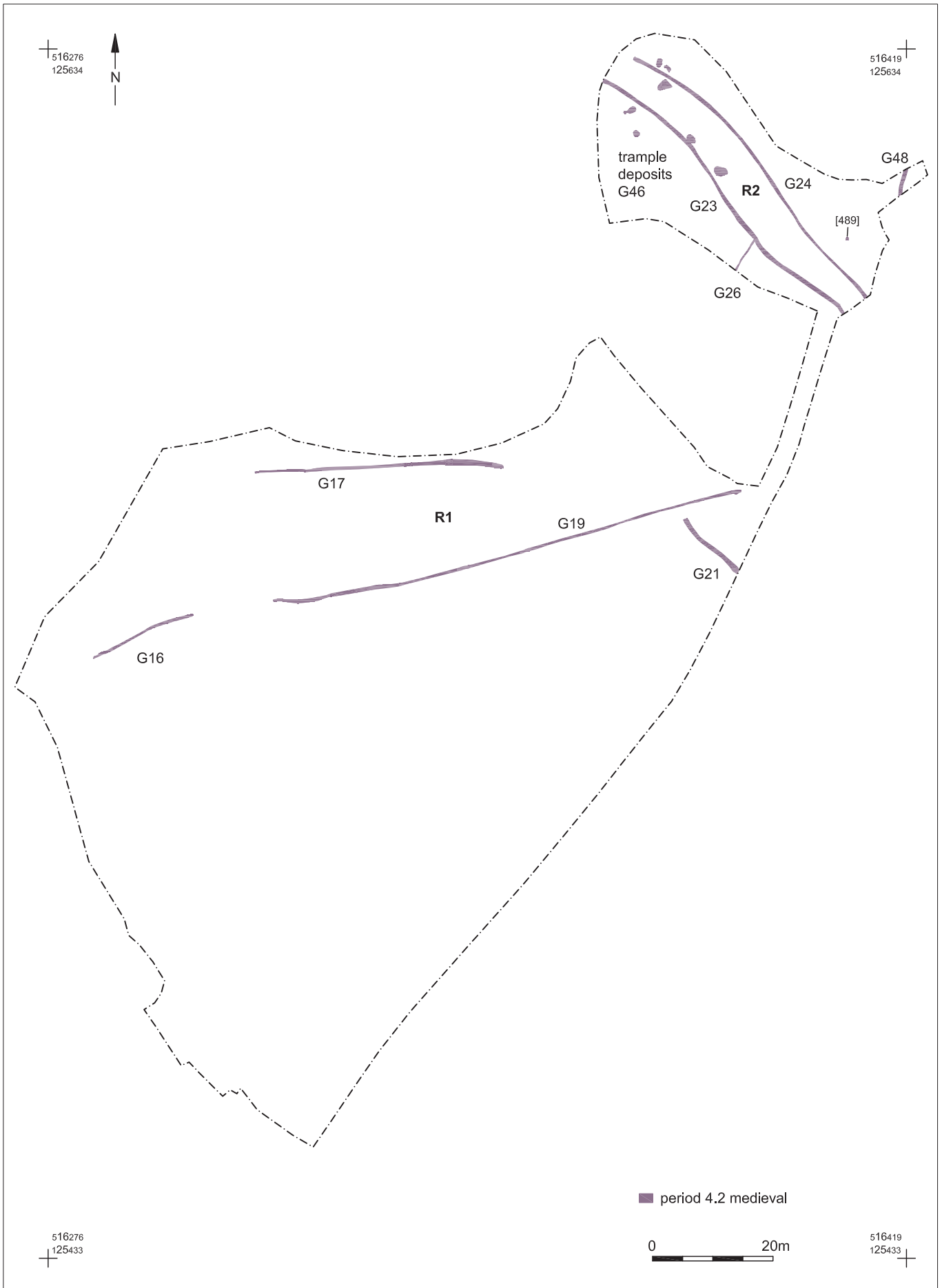


Fig 4.13 Plan showing medieval features (period 4.2)





Fig 4.14 Plan showing medieval features, overlain with the Horsham Tithing map 1844 (period 4.2)

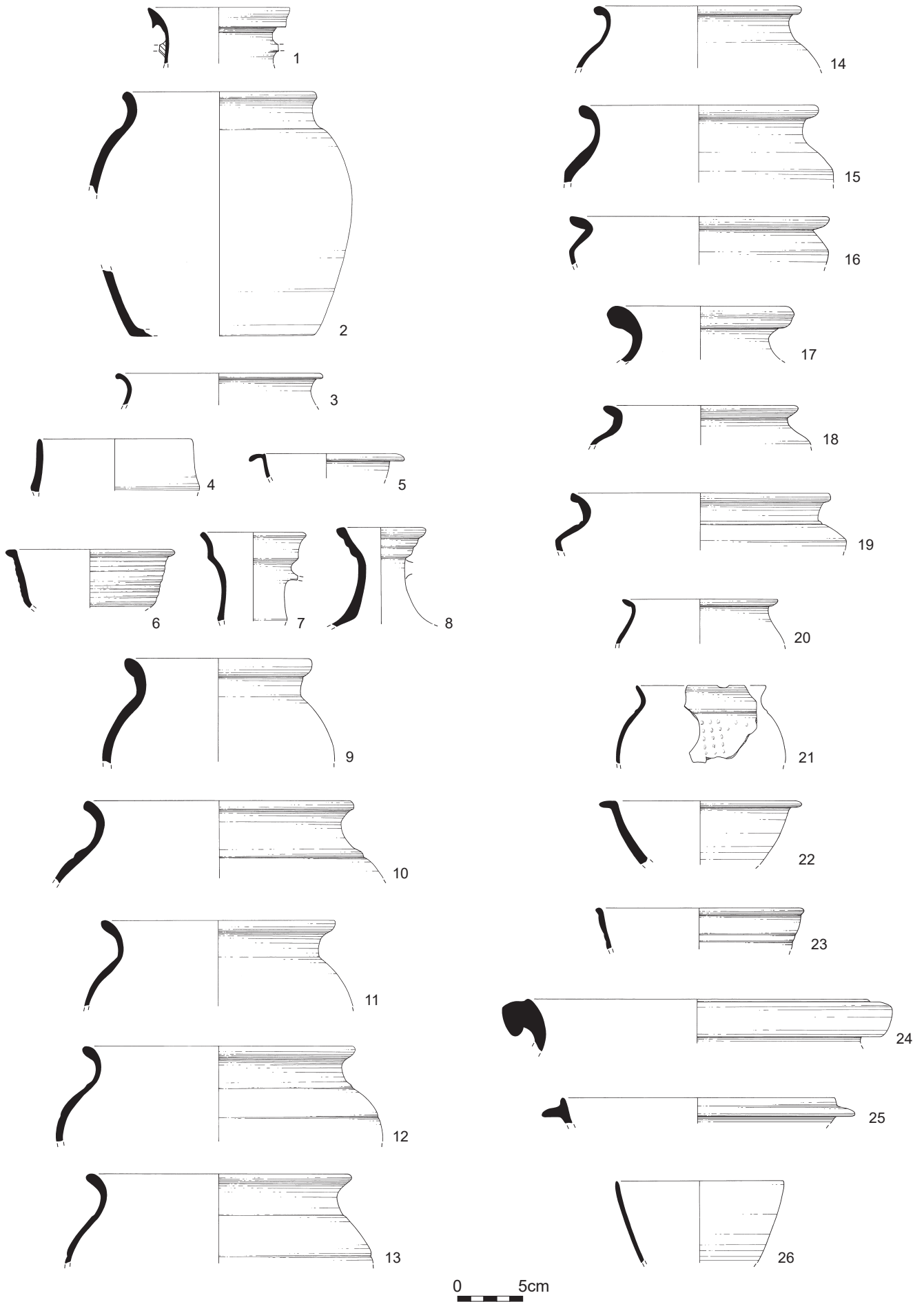


Fig 4.15 Prehistoric and Roman pottery

The only other regionally traded pottery that appears to be present in any quantity in period 2 is from the Alice Holt industry, including Lyne & Jefferies class 1 jars (Fig 4.15, nos 18 and 19). A few body sherds of North Kent fine wares were also noted. In addition, some oxidised and grey coarse wares are less typical of the Arun Valley or Alice Holt industries and remain unsourced.

Imported fine wares are represented by two fabrics types, North Gaulish white ware and La Graufesenque samian ware, the former including a two-handled flagon (Fig 4.15, no 1). All of the identified samian forms are Dragendorff 27 cups (not illustrated). The only amphorae sherds are conjoining sherds in a Cadiz fabric, typically associated with forms used for the transport of garum, such as Cam 186.

Some material attributed to features belonging to period 2 appears to be intrusive. This was mostly found in a few contexts that had intercutting relationships with period 3 features. This material includes a single fragment of probable BB2 and various sherds of more certain later Alice Holt fabric variants or forms and of Rowlands Castle ware, which is not typically distributed as far afield as the Weald until well into the 2nd century AD.

### PERIOD 3

Only a very small assemblage was well stratified in features belonging to period 3. It is quantified by fabric in Table 4.4 (although it is likely that a small amount of intrusive material ascribed to period 2 may actually derive from period 3 deposits).

| Fabric       | Description                       | Sherds    | Wt (g)     | ENV       |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| AHFA         | Alice Holy/Farnham ware           | 18        | 126        | 10        |
| AHSU         | Alice Holt/Surrey ware            | 6         | 34         | 1         |
| AVGW         | Arun Valley coarse grey wares     | 17        | 44         | 17        |
| AVOX         | Arun Valley coarse oxidised wares | 7         | 38         | 4         |
| BBS          | Black-burnished-style wares       | 2         | 9          | 1         |
| GROG         | Grog-tempered ware                | 12        | 69         | 10        |
| NFCC         | New Forest colour-coated ware     | 1         | 2          | 1         |
| OXID         | Unsourced oxidised wares          | 12        | 86         | 8         |
| RWCG         | Rowlands Castle grey ware         | 3         | 16         | 3         |
| SAND         | Unsourced unoxidised wares        | 5         | 57         | 4         |
| <b>Total</b> |                                   | <b>83</b> | <b>481</b> | <b>59</b> |

Table 4.4 Quantification of pottery fabrics from period 3 deposits

This small assemblage appears somewhat mixed in date, belonging predominantly to the 2nd or mid 3rd century, with just a few individual sherds that date to the later 3rd–4th century. Arun Valley coarse grey and oxidised fabrics remain

common in this period and it unclear how many represent residual sherds deriving from period 2. A fine ware Arun Valley cup, based on Dragendorff 33 (Fig 4.15, no 26), appears more likely to be of 2nd century than later date, but could still be contemporary in period 3. Arun Valley production continued throughout the 2nd century, though it seems to have suffered a decline by the early 3rd century. On the other hand, at least one clearly later 3rd-century bead-and-flange form (Fig 4.15, no 25) is in a fabric that is fairly indistinguishable from earlier Arun Valley fabrics.

Grog-tempered fabrics are also relatively common, whereas we would usually expect a decline in grog tempering in the Mid Roman period; however, grog tempering became common again in the Late Roman period so it is difficult to determine whether these are predominantly residual or represent more evidence of later Roman dating. Rowlands Castle wares appear in small quantities, including an example of the typical everted rim jar form (not illustrated, Dicks 2009, D2). Alice Holt wares include some examples of late fabric variants with white slips, including a typical Late Roman storage jar form (Fig 4.15, no 24; Lyne & Jefferies, class 1C). A few examples of unsourced black-burnished-style fabrics were also noted. The only Late Roman regionally traded fine ware is a single sherd of New Forest colour-coated ware.

### DISCUSSION

The proportion of grog-tempered wares in period 2 is relatively low compared with many other 1st-century Wealden assemblages. For example, at Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath, located 5km to the north of the current site, grog-tempered wares made up nearly 90% of fabrics in a phase spanning the period *c* AD 10–70 (Doherty 2018). While there did seem to be a marked decline in the use of grog tempering in the subsequent period (*c* AD 70–120), Roman sandy wares appear to have been adopted much more slowly than at Southwater. There may be a number of explanations for this. Wickhurst Green had clear pre-Conquest origins, so some Late Iron Age vessels may have remained in contemporary use in the Early Roman period and, since there appears to have been an unbroken period of settlement in the 1st century AD, it is likely that large communal middens may have been open for many decades. When this material was eventually deposited in the earlier Roman period it probably contained many older sherds. By contrast, Southwater seems to be a fairly short-lived, mostly post-Conquest settlement where all of the refuse material deposited in the latter half of the 1st century was probably of fairly recent origin.

Alternatively, it is possible that the more rapid decline of grog tempering reflects real differences in patterns of trade and exchange of ceramics over relatively short distances. The vast majority of coarse Roman fabrics at Southwater are of broadly similar type, with coarse quartz and often uneven firing colour. By far the nearest major industry producing such fabrics is located in the Arun Valley. Production evidence has been noted on a number of sites from the Pulborough area, and two kilns have been excavated closer to the coast at Littlehampton (Swan 1984; Laidlaw 2002).

The majority of the fine wares from Southwater are also similar to the products of the Pulborough area production sites. Such fabrics have sometimes been termed 'Hardham wares', although there is limited evidence that they were actually produced within the bounds of Hardham Camp (one of the Pulborough area sites). Although the original report on the 1920s excavations (Winbolt 1927) does describe dumps of pottery including wasters, this material was described as comprising coarse grey ware jars by Swan (1984) in her gazetteer of kiln sites. On the other hand, fine wares of the type described above are clearly common in Hardham and the original assemblage contained repeated examples of samian-style bowls similar to the examples from the current assemblage. Some of these were located and described as part of a more recent review of kiln evidence in Sussex; however, by this time some of the site archive was missing and original waster sherds could not be located (Mason 2012).

Interestingly, newly excavated evidence is beginning to suggest that the Arun Valley industry extends further north than was previously thought. The Horsham District Archaeological Group have uncovered a kiln at Alfoldean producing the same distinctive Arun Valley white ware flagons and stamped mortaria previously known to have been manufactured at Wiggonholt, in the Pulborough area (pers obs). Although we have no direct evidence at present, it now seems possible that further Arun Valley coarse ware kilns could be located in the Weald. If any were present within a few kilometres to the south of Southwater, this might explain the relatively rapid rate at which the current site adopted Roman sandy fabrics compared with Wickhurst Green to the north, which appears to have continued using grog-tempered fabrics for a longer period of time.

On the other hand, the early preference for Roman sandy wares at Southwater might not just reflect preferential access to new fabrics; it might also suggest different demand and styles of consumption. Although the Southwater pottery is broadly within the expected norms for a rural assemblage in terms of

the general levels of imported and table wares, it does have some slightly unusual characteristics. Jar forms, for example, account for a relatively low proportion of the assemblage, although this is perhaps partly accounted for by quite a large number of ambiguous jar/beaker forms (Table 4.5). There are relatively few other coarse ware forms and instead quite a large proportion of table ware forms is present. Perhaps unusually for such an early assemblage, there appears to be limited uptake of Gallo-Belgic fine wares or local imitations. Although quite a number of beakers are represented, just one example of a butt-beaker form was noted, for example, and instead the beakers are almost entirely globular forms. There is a small assemblage of north Gaulish white ware from the site, but, where forms could be identified, these were preferentially associated with flagon forms, and overall flagons are better represented than in most early rural assemblages. Although there is one example of a Gallo-Belgic influenced cup/bowl, platter forms of this tradition are missing from the assemblage and samian-style vessels, including some of local manufacture, are much more common. All of this seems to indicate a more Romanised assemblage using a slightly different range of vessels to those being consumed on Early Roman sites founded by existing Late Iron Age populations, like that at Wickhurst Green (Doherty 2018). This perhaps hints at ingrained cultural differences between settlements that were founded in the post-Conquest period. Although rural settlements in the Weald seem unlikely to have had a high proportion of military or administrative personnel, they may have been founded by people who had connections to this world.

| Form class             | ENV        | ENV%         | EVE          | EVE %        |
|------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Jar                    | 50         | 49.5         | 6.3          | 60.9         |
| Coarse ware dish/bowl  | 3          | 3.0          | 0.31         | 3.0          |
| Lid                    | 5          | 5.0          | 0.29         | 2.8          |
| Jar/beaker             | 13         | 12.9         | 1.28         | 12.4         |
| Beaker                 | 16         | 15.8         | 0.73         | 7.1          |
| Flagon                 | 7          | 6.9          | 1.2          | 11.6         |
| GB-style bowl          | 1          | 1.0          | 0.08         | 0.8          |
| Samian cup             | 3          | 3.0          | 0.03         | 0.3          |
| Samian-style dish/bowl | 3          | 3.0          | 0.12         | 1.2          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>101</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>10.34</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 4.5 Overview of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery form quantification

## ILLUSTRATION CATALOGUE (FIG 4.15)

### Period 2

Fill [459], cut [458], ditch G4, ENCI

1 Two-handled collared flagon (Cam 161); form 1A, fabric NGWH



**Fill [180], cut [208], ditch G6, ENC1**

2 Simple necked jar; form 2T, fabric GROG

**Fill [141], cut [140], ditch G2, ENC1/ENC3**

3 Thin-walled necked jar/beaker; form 2T/3, fabric AVGF

4 Carinated beaker; fabric AVBW

**Fill [321], cut [320], ditch G3, ENC1**

5 Bowl with small bead and curved flange probably loosely based on samian form Ritterling 12; form 4RT12, fabric AVOF

**Fill [131], cut [130], ditch G1, ENC1/ENC3**

6 Flat rim bowl with external riling; form 4F, fabric AVOX

**Fill [334], pit [333], G36, ENC1**

7 Collared flagon; form 1A, fabric AVGF

8 Ring-necked flagon; form 1B.2, fabric AVOX

9 Simple necked jar; form 2T, fabric AVBW

10 Necked jar with shoulder cordon; form 2T, fabric AVOX

11 Simple necked jar; form 2T, fabric AVOX

12 Necked jar with neck cordon and groove on shoulder; form 2T, fabric AVGW

13 Necked jar with groove at neck; form 2T, fabric AVGW

14 Plain necked jar; form 2T, fabric AVGW

15 Simple necked jar with slightly carinated shoulder; form 2T, fabric AVGW

16 Flat rim jar with carinated shoulder; form 2Z, fabric AVBW

17 Large necked/storage jar; form 2T/2V, fabric AVGW

18 Necked jar; form 2T, fabric AHSU

19 Necked jar with carinated shoulder; form 2C, fabric AHSU

20 Thin-walled necked jar/beaker; form 2T/3, fabric AVGF

21 Poppyhead beaker with abraded barbotine dot decoration; form 3F.2, fabric AVGF

22 Flat rim bowl; form 4F, fabric AVGW

23 Fine ware bowl probably imitating Dragendorff 29; form 4DR29, fabric AVOF

**Period 3****Intrusive in fill [184], cut [365], ditch G9, ENC2/ENC3**

24 Storage jar, Lyne & Jefferies type 1C; form 2L&J1C, fabric AHFA

**Fill [323], cut [322], ditch G10, FS1**

25 Bead-and-flange bowl; form 4M, fabric SAND

**Fill [230], fill [229], elongated pit/ditch G8, FS1**

26 Cup possibly based on Dragendorff 33; form 6DR33, fabric AVOX

**THE POST-ROMAN POTTERY**

*Luke Barber*

**INTRODUCTION**

The evaluation and subsequent excavation recovered 313 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 2290g from 23 individually numbered contexts (12 of which were from the evaluation). An estimated 119 different vessels are represented. The majority of the assemblage is characterised by small sherds (to 30mm across), although a few medium-sized pieces (to 60mm across) are also present. The average sherd size for the overall assemblage is just 7.3g and most sherds show moderate to heavy abrasion, suggesting a degree of reworking. In addition, the acidic nature of the subsoil has meant a certain amount of chemical weathering on even the less abraded pieces.

A fabric series was created for the assemblage that has been correlated with that established for Crawley (Barber 2008a) and the overall Sussex county fabric series. The whole assemblage has been quantified by fabric for archive, with notes being made on vessel type and, where present, decoration. This data has been used to create a spreadsheet in the digital archive.

The pottery at the site is virtually exclusively of medieval date with just three (28g) early and six (110g) late post-medieval sherds being recovered. The majority of the post-medieval pottery was of 18th- to 19th-century date and derived from a scatter in the topsoil, along with a few intrusive pieces in earlier deposits. The material is not considered further here. The aim of the current report is to give an overview of the medieval assemblage and compare it with others from the general area. This was considered worthwhile, despite the abraded nature of the assemblage, due to the paucity of published groups from the area of Southwater.

**THE MEDIEVAL ASSEMBLAGE**

The medieval assemblage spans the 12th to mid 15th centuries, although most can probably be placed between *c* 1225 and 1425/50. Unusually it was derived not from features directly associated with a settlement but from the ditches and associated trample deposits (G23/24 and G46 respectively) of period 4.2 trackway (R2). It is likely that the material represents spillage of refuse during its transportation along the trackway for manuring arable fields. The quantity of material involved would suggest that the associated settlement was close by – high-level spillage is more likely to occur close to where it was loaded onto the cart and before the refuse load had reached a state of ‘equilibrium’. Despite there being a number of period 4 ditches to the west of R2, no post-Roman pottery was found within them, suggesting that the refuse was not spread on these fields to any notable degree, but must have been destined for fields to the north or south.

The pottery itself is in a number of fabrics, most of which are of the high medieval (*c* 1200/25–1350/75) to late medieval (*c* 1350/75–1550) periods. Virtually all of the medieval pottery was recovered from either the flanking ditches or the trample of the trackway, which would be in keeping with the abraded condition of the material and its slightly mixed chronological range. Conveniently, these two trackway-related groups contain the full range of fabrics represented at the site (Table 4.6).

Eleven different medieval fabric groups are present, the earliest of which consists of residual early medieval vessels tempered with shell (M1). All of these are from oxidised cooking pots with club or beaded rims of probable 12th-century date. Sandy wares of different grades and sources dominate the high medieval assemblage, many from well-known pottery production centres in Surrey. These include products from Earlswood (Turner 1974), Limpsfield (Ketteringham 1989; Prendergast 1974) and the Surrey white ware industry (Jones 1998; Pearce and Vince 1988), but there is a significant quantity of fine to



| Fabric                               | Crawley & Sussex fabric codes | Track R2 (Ditch Groups 23 & 24)           | Track R2 (Trample Group 46)                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| M1 Shell-tempered                    | F9<br>S/M1                    | 8/41g<br>(CP × 2)                         | 1/3g<br>(? × 1)                               |
| M2 Earlswood fine/medium sandy ware  | F1d<br>Q(f)/M9                | 29/107g<br>(J × 1)                        | -   |
| M3 Earlswood coarse sandy ware       | F1c<br>Q/M6                   | 4/18g<br>(CP × 2)                         | 11/59g<br>(CP × 5)                            |
| M4 Limpsfield-type coarse sandy ware | F3a<br>Q/M7                   | 5/25g<br>(? × 4)                          | 12/87g<br>(CP × 6, B × 1,<br>? × 1)           |
| M5 Medium sandy ware                 | F12<br>Q/M13                  | 26/102g<br>(CP × 4, ? × 5)                | 75/584g<br>(CP × 13, B × 1,<br>J × 2)         |
| M6 Fine/medium sandy ware            | F15<br>Q(f)/M19               | 8/47g<br>(CP × 2, B × 1, J × 3,<br>? × 1) | 16/79g<br>(CP × 2, B × 1,<br>J × 1,<br>? × 3) |
| M7 Fine sandy Transitional ware      | F2b<br>Q(f)/M26               | 8/53g<br>(B × 1, ? × 1)                   | 61/620g<br>(CP × 28, P × 1;<br>J × 2, ? × 1)  |
| M8 Fine sand West Sussex Ware        | F4a<br>Q(f)/M12               | -   | 11/202g (J × 3)                               |
| M9 Surrey Coarse Border Ware         | F5<br>Q/M10                   | -   | 5/20g<br>(? × 2)                              |
| M10 Surrey-type white ware           | F18<br>Q(f)/M14               | 3/30g<br>(CP × 2)                         | 1/1g<br>(? × 1)                               |
| M10b Fine Surrey-type white ware     | F19<br>Q(f)/M15               | -   | 1/4g<br>(? × 1)                               |
| Glazed red earthenware (late)        | -                             | 1/9g<br>(? × 1)                           | -   |
| <b>Total</b>                         |                               | <b>92/432g</b>                            | <b>194/1659g</b>                              |

Table 4.6 Quantification of the main medieval pottery groups by number/weight/estimated number of vessels (CP – Cooking pot/jar; B – Bowl; J – Jug/pitcher, P – pipkin, ? – uncertain form)

medium ubiquitous sandy wares of uncertain origin (M5 and M6). Although such wares are known of in Surrey (Jones 1998), it is suspected that the current examples may be from a more local source, as the general finish is finer than the Surrey types. Some of the M4 sherds could be of the same local source, but all do fit within the parameters of Limpsfield coarse wares. High medieval vessels consist of a fairly typical domestic range with cooking pots, bowls and a few sparsely glazed jugs being represented. The best-quality jugs are the M2 Earlswood types, with at least one vessel having the typical white slip under a green external glaze. Otherwise, the assemblage is very plain and suggests a low-status household.

Overlapping with the high medieval assemblage are some fabrics that are more in keeping with a late medieval date. These consist of the M9

Coarse Border Ware and the M8 West Sussex Ware, which have ranges that extend into the 15th century (Pearce and Vince 1988; Barton 1979). Certainly the M7 buff fine sandy wares are more typical of a c 1375–1475 date range and represent the beginnings of the Painted Ware tradition so common in West Sussex between the early/mid 15th and mid 16th centuries (Barton 1979). It is quite clear that, unlike many other Wealden sites, the occupation that provided the source of the current assemblage was not abandoned as a result of the plague. The range of vessels is typical for the period – plain well-made utilitarian cooking pots/jars, pipkins and jugs/pitchers. Typically, decoration is virtually absent and the jugs/pitchers have minimal spots of green external glazing. The best feature sherds from M7 vessels, including several typical flaring rims, are included in the catalogue (Fig 4.16, nos 27–33).

#### ILLUSTRATION CATALOGUE (FIG 4.16)

##### Trample [445], G46, R2

- 27 Necked cooking pot with expanded rim. Mid grey core, brick red margins and buff surfaces. M7.  
28 Cooking pot with tapering flaring rim. Light grey core, pale orange surfaces. M7.  
29 Cooking pot with out-turned flaring rim. Light grey core, buff surfaces. M7.  
30 Cooking pot with simple flaring rim. Mid grey core, brown/buff surfaces. Externally sooted. M7.  
31 Cooking pot with slightly concave flaring rim. Light grey core, buff surfaces. Externally sooted. M7.  
32 Cooking pot with beaded flaring rim. Light grey core, buff surfaces. Externally sooted. M7.  
33 Strap handle from pitcher, with four parallel lines of knife slashing on exterior face, with further shorter knife slashing on interior face. Mid grey core, buff surfaces. Externally sooted. M7.

Although the two assemblages from the track ditches and trample contain a similar range of fabrics there are some subtle differences between them (Table 4.6). The ditches appear to have an assemblage containing a higher proportion of 13th- to

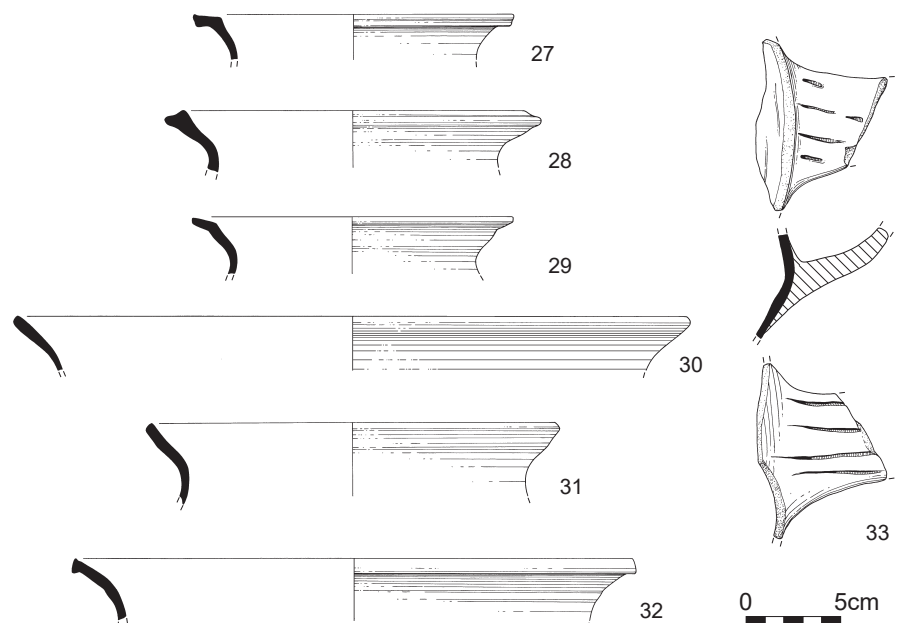


Fig 4.16 Post-Roman pottery

mid 14th-century material; they contain more residual M1 as well as greater quantities of Earlswood wares, but, significantly, no M8 West Sussex Ware or M9 Coarse Border Ware and relatively small quantities of Transitional M7. The assemblages would suggest that the flanking ditches may have already been substantially infilled by the mid/late 14th century. The trample layer, as well as containing much residual high medieval material, has a notable quantity of M7 sherds, many of which are of a larger average size, as well as M8 and M9 sherds. This shift in fabrics has been noted in Crawley from well-sealed pits with no/negligible residual element (Barber 1997; Barber 2008a). Certainly the evidence suggests that the trackway continued in use into the 15th century, even after the flanking ditches had been all but infilled.

## DISCUSSION

The medieval assemblage is composed exclusively of wares that were sourced locally, or from Surrey production centres. No imported sherds are present, but this is quite typical of a land-locked Wealden site. The sourcing of a notable proportion of assemblages from Surrey at this time has been noted before in the nearby towns of Horsham and Crawley (Barber 2005a; 2008a). At Crawley, a number of well-sealed pit groups gave clean assemblages that showed that during the high medieval period Surrey wares made up a significant proportion of the assemblages (Barber 2008a). For example, pit [572] contained Earlswood and Limsfield products totalling 51.8% of the assemblage by sherd count, while pit [492] produced Earlswood, Limsfield and Surrey white ware products totalling 89.8% of the assemblage (6.5%, 3.3% and 80.0% respectively). The increase in Surrey white wares at the expense of the Earlswood and Limsfield products is clearly a chronological phenomenon in Crawley. A more comparable site assemblage, being both rural and closer to Southwater, has recently been studied from Broadbridge Heath, Horsham (Barber 2018). This site produced 1719 early medieval sherds and 391 high medieval sherds, but no late medieval sherds; occupation was probably stopped by the plague. Of the 391 high medieval sherds 70% were from the same Surrey sources noted in Crawley. This clearly shows that these wares were dominant during this period in the Horsham area. To the west there is one reasonable assemblage from the site south of the A272 at Billingshurst (Chapter 2, section 3.4, post-Roman pottery). Here a small assemblage of 314 sherds consisted of 148 early medieval, 146 high medieval and four late medieval sherds. Of the high medieval assemblage just 6.2% consist of sherds from Surrey sources (Earlswood and Surrey white

wares but no Limsfield ware). This is quite a marked drop-off in the proportion of Surrey wares compared to Broadbridge Heath and, if representative, suggests Billingshurst was right on the edge of the marketing sphere for the Surrey products. The current site is therefore of interest to compare against the assemblages from Crawley, Horsham and Billingshurst. As can be seen from Table 4.6, Surrey products make up 44.6% of the group from the trackway ditches (G23/G24) by sherd count and so fall between the levels at Horsham to the north and Billingshurst to the west. Further assemblages will be needed from Billingshurst to be certain of the apparent dramatic decrease in Surrey wares there. The track trample (G46) produced only 15.5% of Surrey wares by sherd count but this is likely to be the result of its slightly later chronological emphasis. Certainly it would appear that in the north of the county (eg Crawley) Surrey white wares increased in the late medieval period, but further south the M7 Transitional wares became dominant as the Earlswood/Limsfield products decrease. These may have been made at a number of Sussex sources, though they were certainly produced at Graffham to the south-west of Petworth (Aldsworth & Down 1990).

## THE GEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

*Luke Barber*

### INTRODUCTION

The excavations recovered just nine pieces of stone weighing 2971g from five individually numbered contexts. The assemblage has been fully listed on *pro forma* for archive during this assessment, with all unworked pieces subsequently being discarded.

### PERIOD 2: EARLY ROMAN

The four pieces of stone from fill [334] of pit [333] (G34, ENC1) are associated with Early Roman pottery dating to around AD 60–80, making them the earliest from the site. Two of these pieces (581g) are unworked, deriving from 29mm thick beds of light grey, slightly glauconitic sandstone, probably from the Lower Greensand series. The other two fragments are from rotary querns in Lodsworth-type Lower Greensand (Peacock 1987) – the most common type in use in Roman West Sussex. The larger fragment (1046g) is from an upper stone with a diameter of *c* 300mm and edge thickness of 54mm. Part of the socket/trough for the handle remains in the broken edge. There appears to be some wear on both faces, suggesting that the stone may have been turned over at some point, but a larger piece would be needed to confirm this. The smaller piece (706g) is from a lower stone 35mm thick, not necessarily from the same quern as the upper stone already noted. The lower

stone's grinding face has relatively little wear, but it must have been prematurely broken as there is extensive wear (smoothing and hollowing) on its underside from the fragment being pressed into service as a grain rubber. Such reuse is a common phenomenon on low-status sites or those that did not enjoy easy access to good-quality querns (Barber 2003).

The small Roman stone assemblage appears to be associated with the preparation of cereals/flour, though whether this was cultivated by the occupants or brought in from elsewhere is uncertain. However, the querns demonstrate that good-quality Lodsworth-type stones were brought into the Weald and were highly prized by the site's occupants.

#### PERIOD 4.2: MEDIEVAL (13TH–MID 15TH CENTURY)

There is a very heavily weathered cobble-sized (347g) piece of white oolitic limestone from fill [301] of trackway ditch [300] (G23, R2) that could be from a number of non-local sources (including the Midlands or France). In a medieval deposit the piece could be residual, or indeed intrusive. The trample deposits in the medieval trackway ([280] and [445], G46, R2) produced more definite medieval stone. Context [280] produced a piece of fine Wealden sandstone of local origin and a 56mm-long fragment from a roughly square-sectioned whetstone in Norwegian mica-schist (22g). Interestingly, a near complete Norwegian mica-schist whetstone (153g) with typical elongated, slightly irregular form and oval/rectangular section was recovered from trample [445]. This piece has one notable longitudinal sharpening groove along with traces of shorter cross grooves.

The only other stone recovered from the site consists of a 14mm-thick heavily abraded fragment from a brown-grey Horsham stone roofing slab, probably of late medieval or early post-medieval date, recovered from the topsoil.

The medieval whetstones are of interest in that they show, once more, a specific stone type being brought into the Weald for its qualities. The dominance of whetstones could suggest a specialism in agriculture, potentially associated with animal husbandry, particularly considering the absence of medieval quern fragments. Certainly the Wealden site to the east at Bolnore, near Haywards Heath (Barber 2011a; Margetts 2017), also produced a notable quantity of whetstones, though, interestingly, these were of local origin. This difference may however, be chronological, as the Bolnore assemblage is thought to be of 11th- to 12th-century date and thus notably earlier than the current pieces.

## THE REGISTERED FINDS

*Trista Clifford*

A small collection of registered finds from the site mostly comprises post-medieval objects metal-detected from the topsoil. This material was fully reported on in the post-excavation assessment (ASE 2013a). The following objects are considered contemporary with the main periods of archaeological activity on site.

Three Roman dupondii or asses of 1st- to 3rd-century date were collected from the topsoil during metal-detecting (RF<1>, RF<2>, RF<300>).

The only stratified metal object, RF<302>, was recovered from [155] of the period 4.2 ditch [154] (G24, R2). It is a length of robust iron chain made up of alternating long and short oval links that, given its substantial size, may have had a security function, such as securing a door or gate, or tethering an animal. Chains with loops of comparable size came from a 13th-century context at Winchester (Goodhall 2011, 330 J214).

## THE CHARCOAL

*Mariangela Vitolo*

### INTRODUCTION

Following post-excavation assessment (ASE 2013a), 13 samples were selected for charcoal analysis in order to investigate strategies of fuel acquisition through time and the relationships between fuel used and different activities carried out at the site. The contexts examined in this report include ditches from two Early Roman enclosures (ENC1 and ENC2), one including a possible cremation deposit, an Early Roman pit just outside the enclosures (G32) and Saxo-Norman pit/hearth features with evidence of *in situ* burning (G41) and an associated deposit of redeposited burnt material (G43).

### METHODS

One hundred charcoal fragments were extracted from the heavy residues of each sample for identification. The fragments were fractured by hand along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000; Hather 2000; Leney and Casteel 1975). Charcoal specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400×. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000; Schoch et al 2004; Schweingruber 1990). Genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit more detailed identification. Details

of samples and contexts together with taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 4.7, and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997). Numbers in brackets indicate tentative identifications, due to the absence of all features necessary for identification. Latin names are given at first mention and, with the exception of the Maloideae group, taxa are subsequently referred to by their English common names.

## RESULTS

### Preservation

Preservation state was variable throughout the contexts, but in some cases it was too poor to permit identification. The percentage of unidentifiable fragments was as high as 27% in ditch [365] (G9) and 12% in pit [462] (G43). Several factors affected charcoal preservation. Evidence of sediment encrustation and percolation was noted to varying degrees in all contexts. Sediment encrustations are due to fluctuating water levels and are therefore post-depositional. Distortions of the wood anatomy were also generally noted. Vitrification also occurred in all contexts. This happens when the wood anatomy homogenises, creating a glassy appearance. Vitrification is generally associated with the use of high temperatures, although experimental evidence has shown that this factor alone is not sufficient to make charcoal vitrified and a secure cause is not yet known (McParland et al 2010).

### Summary of taxa

Anatomical characteristics observed on the charcoal fragments were consistent with the following taxa:

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Fagaceae      | <i>Quercus</i> sp, oak (two deciduous species are native to the British Isles, <i>Q robur</i> , pedunculate oak, and <i>Q petraea</i> , sessile oak); <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , beech  |
| Betulaceae    | <i>Corylus avellana</i> , hazel   |
| Ulmaceae      | <i>Ulmus</i> sp, elm  |
| Rosaceae      | <i>Prunus</i> sp, cherry/blackthorn; Maloideae subfamily, including several taxa that are generally not distinguishable, such as <i>Malus</i> sp (apple), <i>Pyrus</i> sp (pear), <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (hawthorn), <i>Sorbus</i> sp (rowan, service and whitebeam)   |
| Aceraceae     | <i>Acer campestre</i> , field maple   |
| Oleaceae      | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , ash; <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> , privet  |
| Aquifoliaceae | <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> , holly. This was a tentative identification based on two fragments of diffuse porous wood with vessels disposed in long radial files, multiseriate rays and obvious spiral thickenings. Sediment encrustations had obliterated most of the anatomy and perforation plates were not clearly simple or scalariform. However, no other native British taxon has the same characteristics as those identified on these fragments. |

The range of taxa present was, in general, restricted, with oak dominating all of the contexts regardless of feature type, land use or period. Oak produces wood that is both an excellent

fuel and sought after as construction material (Taylor 1981). Its dominance even in the later contexts is probably due to its burning efficiency, but it also suggests a lack of pressure on woodland resources throughout the Roman and medieval periods. Other taxa were only ever present as a minor inclusion in the charred wood assemblage and might have mostly represented wood used for kindling, especially in the case of the roundwood fragments. The results of the charcoal analysis are discussed in more detail below, by phase and land use.

## DISCUSSION

### Early Roman ditches within ENC1 and ENC2

Contexts within the two contemporary enclosures ENC1 and ENC2 were represented by secondary deposits and clearly contained a mixture of material from multiple discarding events. However, the range of woody taxa present was relatively restricted. This is surprising in secondary deposits and especially in ditches, which tend to fill up more slowly over time. The restricted range of species represented is probably due to a very strict fuel selection. Most of the represented taxa burn rather efficiently. This is particularly true of oak, ash and hazel. The prevalence of oak in these deposits indicates that oak was widely available in the local landscape and also that it constituted a major source of fuel wood.

### Early Roman cremation in ENC1

Possible Roman cremation deposit [273] in ditch [272] (G3) presented a range of taxa: mostly oak and, in lower amounts, ash, elm, Maloideae, hazel, privet and possibly holly. It is likely that oak constituted the main component of the pyre fuel, with other taxa becoming accidentally included or being used for kindling. Oak would have provided sturdy wood for the pyre structure itself as well as the fuel. This taxon occurs commonly in cremations alongside ash and it is attested locally in a later Roman cremation at Mill Straight (Wyles & Challinor 2019). At Broadbridge Heath (Allott 2018) cremation features produced charcoal assemblages dominated by oak or ash in combination with smaller amounts of different taxa. Some of the other taxa also often occur in this type of context. Hazel wood is a good fuel and some members of the Maloideae subfamily produce a pleasant smell while burning and might have been included for this purpose. The frequent vitrification on the charcoal from this context could be due to the high temperatures used, although vitrification implies the presence of other co-factors, such as prolonged burning as well as the presence of external material, such as fat, for example, leaking into the burning wood.

| Phasing | Sample number | Context | Land use | Parent context | Group | Feature type | Quercus sp | Fagus sylvatica | Fraxinus excelsior | Ulmus sp | Maloideae group                         | Prunus sp         | Corylus avellana | Corylus/Alnus sp | Ilex aquifolium | Ligustrum vulgare | Acer campestre | Indet distorted | Indet knot | Indet bark |
|---------|---------------|---------|----------|----------------|-------|--------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------|---|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
|         |               |         |          |                |       |              | Oak        | Beech           | Ash                | Elm      | Hawthorn, Whitebeam, Rowan, Apple, Pear | Cherry/Blackthorn | Hazel            | Hazel/Alder      | Holly           | Privet            | Field Maple    |                 |            |            |
| 2.2     | 4             | 135     | ENC1     | 134            | I     | D            | 100        |                 |                    |          |   |                   |                  |                  |                 |                   |                |                 |            |            |
| 2.1     | 10            | 198     | ENC2     | 197            | 3     | D            | 84         |                 |                    |          |   |                   | 9                | 7                |                 |                   |                |                 |            |            |
| 2.1     | 13            | 273     | ENC1     | 272            | 3     | D/CR         | 75 (1)     |                 | 4                  | 3        | 6 (4)                                   |                   | 1                | 1                | (2)             | 2                 |                |                 |            | 1          |
| 2.2     | 11            | 262     | ENC2     | 261            | 9     | D            | 67         |                 | 9                  | 10       | 5                                       |                   |                  |                  |                 |                   | 9              |                 |            |            |
| 2.2     | 15            | 366     | ENC2     | 365            | 9     | D            | 34         |                 | 8                  |          | 19                                      |                   | 2                | 5                |                 | (1)               | 4              | 27              |            |            |
| 2       | 2             | 118     | OA2      | 117            | 32    | P            | 70         |                 |                    |          |   |                   | 20               |                  |                 | 1                 |                | 3               | 6          |            |
| 4.1     | 5             | 170     | OA3      | 169            | 41    | P/HE         | 84         |                 |                    |          |   |                   |                  |                  |                 | 6 (rw)            |                | 7               | 3          |            |
| 4.1     | 6             | 171     | OA3      | 169            | 41    | P/HE         | 83         |                 |                    |          |   |                   |                  |                  |                 | 11 (rw)           |                | 4               | 2          |            |
| 4.1     | 7             | 173     | OA3      | 172            | 41    | P/HE         | 100        |                 |                    |          |   |                   |                  |                  |                 |                   |                |                 |            |            |
| 4.1     | 9             | 190     | OA3      | 189            | 41    | P/HE         | 81         | 3               |                    |          | 5 (3)                                   | 1                 |                  |                  |                 |                   |                | 5               | 2          |            |
| 4.1     | 17            | 443     | OA3      | 462            | 43    | P            | 87         |                 |                    |          |   |                   |                  |                  |                 |                   |                | 12              | 1          |            |
| 4.1     | 18            | 457     | OA3      | 456            | 41    | P/HE         | 100        |                 |                    |          |   |                   |                  |                  |                 |                   |                |                 |            |            |

Table 4.7 Charcoal identifications : rw= roundwood, V = vitrified

### Early Roman pit (G23)

The charcoal assemblage from Roman pit [169] (G23) did not differ from that of the contemporary ditches discussed above. Presumably, this context also contained a mixture of waste deriving from different sources. The assemblage was dominated by oak, with roundwood fragments of hazel and privet, suggesting the exploitation of small branches or twigs from the local vegetation, perhaps collected from the woodland floor.

### Saxo-Norman pits/hearths and associated deposits (G41 and G43)

A series of medieval fire pits with signs of *in situ* burning produced a large amount of charcoal that is likely to reflect a single use burning event of fuel wood. In these contexts, oak was still predominant, showing that its wood was still a valued source of fuel in the medieval period. Other taxa, such

as Maloideae, privet and, to a lesser extent, beech, occurred far less frequently and could have constituted kindling, especially as roundwood fragments occurred often.

## 4.4 DISCUSSION

### PERIOD 1: MESOLITHIC/EARLY NEOLITHIC

The presence of three possible *in situ* features of Mesolithic to Early Neolithic date is of note because, with the possible exception of two natural hollows containing Mesolithic flintwork at Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath (Margetts 2018a), stratified archaeology relating to this period is largely unknown in the Horsham area. It has been suggested that Mesolithic activity in the Low Weald tends to be concentrated on higher sandstone outcrops (Pope et al 2011, 13–14). There was some possibility that the small assemblage of Mesolithic–



early Neolithic flintwork had been struck from the same nodule, making residuality seem less likely; however, only nine pieces were recovered. Similarly, the potential Early Neolithic pottery is represented by fairly undiagnostic sherds that can be difficult to distinguish definitively from later prehistoric pottery fabrics. Furthermore, the three features were located in among Late Iron Age/Early Roman pits of similar size and profile. It remains possible, therefore, that the earliest finds are redeposited.

## PERIOD 2: EARLY ROMAN CHRONOLOGY

Radiocarbon dates on charred material, found in a Saxo-Norman feature but probably redeposited from the stream/channel G14, with which it intercut, suggest that there was probably at least some low-level activity on the site prior to the Roman Conquest. One date on a charred grain (SUERC-45413, 2025 ± 24BP) was calibrated to 95 cal BC–cal AD 31 at 92.4% confidence, although there is also a tiny probability of a very Early Roman date range – up to AD 51 – when the date is expressed with 95.4% confidence (Table 4.1). An accompanying piece of oak charcoal also provided a broad Late Iron Age/Early Roman determination (SUERC-4341442 cal, 1988 ± 24BP, 42 cal BC–cal AD 62).

Looking at the ceramics, however, it is clear that every stratified assemblage of any size is dominated by fully Roman fabric types, while Late Iron Age/Early Roman grog-tempered wares make up a much smaller proportion of the assemblage than we typically see in Early Roman groups from sites that have clearer pre-Conquest origins. Across the whole assemblage grog-tempered wares account for around 15% of estimated vessels, whereas at Wickhurst Green, around 5km to the north, similar fabrics accounted for almost 90% of the assemblage from a period spanning AD 10–70, and were generally in a clear majority even in groups that contained diagnostic Roman material (Doherty 2018). Overall, the ceramic evidence suggests that settlement activity at Southwater largely took place in the post-Conquest – probably pre-Flavian to early Flavian – period. This fits into a wider picture of expanding settlement activity in southern Britain over the course of the 1st century AD (Allen 2016, 81). The fairly short-lived period of intensive occupation contrasts slightly with that from Wickhurst Green, however, where clear evidence of settlement appears to have continued into the earlier 2nd century (Margetts 2018a). At both sites, however, there is evidence that the landscape was more extensively turned over to agricultural activities and associated with domestic activity by the Mid Roman period (see period 3 discussion below).

Turning to the question of how the pottery assemblages from the successive stratigraphic phases compare, there is some evidence to support the interpretation that elements of enclosures ENC1 and ENC2 (specifically ditches G3, G4, G6 and G11) went out of use at an earlier date and that other parts of the existing enclosures (G1, G5 and G9) were kept open and joined into a larger enclosure with a new ditch, G7. In the features postulated to have been backfilled or allowed to silt up in period 2.1, grog-tempered wares, which tend to decline in frequency over the course of the Early Roman period, account for 24% of ENV vs 13% in features believed to have been open into period 2.2; however, the relatively small decline in the use of grog tempering seems to suggest that these changes occurred over a relatively short period of time, perhaps as little as a decade or two.

## SETTLEMENT FORM AND CHARACTER

Following the classification system adopted by the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain project (Allen & Smith 2016), the Early Roman settlement at Millfield can probably be defined as a simple rectilinear enclosed farmstead where the majority of domestic activity appears to have occurred in two enclosures that feature no significant internal subdivisions of space (*ibid*, 23). The possibility remains that the enclosure uncovered in the current excavation forms part of a wider complex settlement, continuing beyond the site boundary to the south-east; however, more complex enclosures are reasonably rare in the south of England, especially in the earlier Roman period (Allen 2016, 84–85). The western/central Low Weald especially appears to be characterised by a pattern of smaller, more dispersed settlement enclosures (Margetts 2018a, 107). Where complex farmsteads are known in the region, they tend to be associated with roadside settlements, as, for example, at Hassocks (Biddulph 2010).

It is worth noting that at least one contemporary Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosure was recorded just under 500m to the south of enclosure ENC1, at Mill Straight, similarly aligned on the cardinal points of the compass (Fig 1.2; Ellis & Massey 2019). Few contemporary internal features were recorded and the function of this enclosure was uncertain, but a fairly substantial Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery assemblage from the site probably implies some settlement activity in the vicinity. Evaluation trenches excavated as part of the current project and prior to the Mill Straight excavations (ASE 2016b) revealed no evidence for contiguous settlement features between these two areas, so they can probably be regarded as two separate foci of

activity, although the similarity in their orientation may imply some degree of wider organisation of the landscape.

Margary (1948, 264) suggested that a major Roman trackway, running along ridgeways from Ashdown Forest through Turners Hill, Pease Pottage and Horsham, may have turned south-west towards Southwater along the line of the Denne Road, approximately parallel with Stane Street. There is no archaeological evidence for a route of this date in the area but, had it continued as far as south-west Millfield and Mill Straight, it would probably have passed within around half a kilometre to the north-west of both sites. If a major trackway did exist in this location it seems likely that areas of woodland might have been targeted for clearance, with settlements and field systems growing up alongside the track, as appears to have occurred in the landscape around Wickhurst Green (Margetts 2018a, 107). Having said this, none of the early enclosures at Millfield or Mill Straight appear to be closely aligned with the postulated north-west–south-east route of the Denne Road trackway. The presence of a stream or channel may have also influenced the setting of the site, as there is some evidence that settlement in the Low Weald was preferentially sited close to watercourses (*ibid.*).

The use of double ditches in enclosure ENC1 is notable. Where contemporary enclosures of this type have been recorded in the Weald, they tend to come in different forms and/or settings. For example, two Late Iron Age/Early Roman sub-oval double-ditched enclosures are known in the area around Haywards Heath at Bolnore Village and Penlands Farm, the former enclosing a low hilltop (ASE 2004a; Margetts & Douglas Chapter 5). Both produced relatively limited finds and environmental assemblages, suggesting that they were probably more likely to be animal corrals or stock enclosures than settlements. Meanwhile, a larger sub-oval double-ditched enclosure from Wickhurst Green was devoid of internal features except for a small shelter-like structure (Margetts 2018a, 96–101). Its ditches were slightly richer in cultural material but that might have originated from domestic activities associated with two roundhouses outside the enclosure.

Looking at the wider southern region studied in the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain project, double or triple ditched enclosures are also relatively rare, recorded in just 5% of settlements (Allen & Smith 2016, table 2.2). In some instances, multi-ditched enclosures could be linked to defence or social status, although most were probably designed to control the movement of stock (*ibid.*, 27–8). Given the concentration of pits within enclosures ENC1 and ENC2 at Millfield, and the large pottery and quern assemblages recovered from the former,

particularly from pit [333] (Fig 4.4), it seems unlikely that they were primarily used to contain livestock. They may instead have functioned to keep animals grazing in the larger area bounded by the channel or stream out of an area used for settlement or light industrial purposes.

#### SETTLEMENT EVIDENCE

No clear evidence for domestic buildings was noted, although a heavily truncated curvilinear ditch (G20) and an associated pit may represent the remains of a truncated roundhouse, B1. The lack of any associated features or material culture from this area of the site calls into question whether it was the focus of settlement. By contrast, the very large and relatively unfragmented finds assemblages from pit [333] suggest that people may have been living within the associated enclosure, ENC1, perhaps in the area beyond the site boundary, which has probably been truncated by the A24. The fairly rapid adoption of Roman pottery fabrics and forms and the presence of good-quality non-local querns was noted, suggesting that the population may have had stronger connections to Roman administrative system than on other sites in the area, such as Wickhurst Green to the north.

The possible truncated urned cremation in the terminus of ditch G3 further supports the evidence for settlement. A recent review of funerary evidence in the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain projects makes the point that, while a large proportion of burials were in formal cemeteries, many were found in more integrated settings within settlements, including examples in field ditches and boundaries (Smith 2018, 231). It is perhaps even possible that the burial was deliberately placed in this location to mark the end of a period of settlement.

#### ENVIRONMENT

The degree to which the site might have remained wooded in the Iron Age is uncertain. There is postulated evidence for Middle Iron Age activity, including post-built roundhouses and pits on the Mill Straight site directly to the south-west, suggesting some partial clearance of the landscape in the later 1st millennium BC. Dating evidence from these features was poor, however, being based on a handful of undiagnostic flint-tempered pottery sherds, which arguably have more similarities with Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age assemblages from the Weald (eg Every & Mephram 2005). This suggests that the dating evidence from Mill Straight should be regarded as tentative, with a strong possibility that this episode of settlement was separated in time from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity by half a millennium or more. This tends

to suggest that significant tree clearance would have been necessary at the beginning of period 2. Around 5km to the north at Wickhurst Green there was pollen evidence to suggest an increase in open grassland in the period 60 cal BC–cal AD 70 (Langdon & Scaife 2018).

Although there is some evidence for tree throw holes at the margins of the main enclosure system, it seems likely that the site occupied a large cleared area by the Early Roman period. Indeed, environmental evidence may indicate the presence of some dry scrubland (ASE 2013a); however, much of the charcoal is indicative of mixed deciduous woodland and woodland margin environments, suggesting that a wider wooded landscape still lay in the near vicinity.

### AGRICULTURE

It has long been noted that the Weald provides very unfavourable conditions for the preservation of both animal bone and macrobotanical remains, which limits our understanding of agricultural regimes being practised in the area (eg Allen 2016, 125). Aside from a few burnt fragments preserved in the possible cremation burial discussed above, no animal bone was recovered from the site. The layout of channel/ditch system CS1 seems particularly suited to animal pasturing, however, with a large area bounded by the stream or channel, G14, and enclosed by ditches G1 and G12. The very wide entrance way of *c* 15m between the termini of the two ditches may hint at the seasonal movement of large livestock, suggesting that transhumance may have been practised. Although sheep/goats tend to be the dominant species on settlements in the south of England (*ibid*), cattle and pigs may have been more suited to the heavy clay pasture of the Weald (Margetts 2018a, 142). It has already been suggested that the small enclosures ENC1 and ENC2 were probably domestic or working areas and features such as double ditches and gated entrances might have been designed to keep animals out of this area. It is interesting, however, that the two early enclosures appear to have been joined to create a large enclosed space towards the end of period 2, perhaps suggesting a change of use, with the new inner enclosure, ENC3, possibly being used to corral livestock at certain times of year.

Environmental samples taken from period 2 features were largely devoid of plant macrofossils, perhaps suggesting that arable agriculture was not a very significant aspect of the economy; however, several querns were noted in pit [333], indicating that some grain processing was occurring in the area.

### TRADE, INDUSTRY AND STATUS

Very little evidence of craft or industrial activities was noted, although a single feature, located outside ENC1, produced a small amount of ironsmithing waste, while another nearby pit contained a concentration of charcoal. This suggests that some small-scale ironworking and perhaps other light industrial activities occurred, presumably at times when the main channel/enclosure system was not occupied by livestock.

The finds assemblage suggests some degree of trade with areas to the west and south-west, in the form of pottery from the Arun Valley and querns possibly from Lodsworth.

### PERIOD 3: MID/LATER ROMAN

Dating evidence from period 3 is rather less well defined, as most features contained only small assemblages of pottery, with most dating to the mid 2nd to 3rd century, with a few diagnostic sherds of late 3rd- to 4th-century date. The small proportion of the latter suggests that the site was probably in decline by the 4th century. The period 3 archaeology is difficult to characterise, as the features mostly comprised scattered pits and short lengths of ditch from which it is difficult to reconstruct a clear field or enclosure pattern. There were also notably fewer finds, suggesting a decline in settlement activity, with more of the land probably turned over to agricultural use.

There is no direct evidence that farming regimes changed at Millfield in the mid/late Roman period as animal bone and charred plant remains are again, almost absent; however, a tentatively identified four-post structure could hint at grain storage on the site. At Wickhurst Green, around 5km to the north, there were indications that areas of open grassland pasture began to be turned over to cereal production by the 2nd century (Margetts 2018a, 142). This was perhaps linked to the rise of villa estates with greater control over previously marginal land and the movement of rural populations away from small farmsteads towards larger nucleated settlements (*ibid*, 138–40). This period also saw general improvements in farming techniques, which allowed heavier clay soils to be more extensively cultivated. This process has been demonstrated on the claylands of eastern England, for example, where plough equipment became more common and livestock more robust, presumably indicating use in traction, while evidence for intensified cereal processing can also be observed in the form of macrobotanical remains, querns, corn-drying ovens and granaries (eg Murphy et al 2000; Parks 2012, 265–71; Allen & Lodwick 2017, 147–54).

Against this background, one potentially significant change in period 3 is in the general landscape orientation. In the case of east–west-aligned ditch G10, there was some evidence for recutting and adaptation of existing boundaries, but, for the most part, the period 3 linear features were aligned north–west–south–east. Interestingly, the 2nd century also saw a change in the alignment of field ditches in the Mill Straight excavation area located *c.* 500m to the south–west, which appeared to coincide with a decline in the levels of material culture (Ellis & Massey 2019). The more clearly defined mid/late Roman field system at Mill Straight ran on a different orientation (north–east–south–west to north–west–south–east) to that at Millfield, however. This suggests that both sites may have been subject to wider societal forces in which smaller Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlements in the Weald were disbanded and more of the landscape was put under cultivation; however, the difference in field orientation may hint that the landscape was divided up among different private owners or estates.

#### PERIOD 4.1: SAXO-NORMAN

A group of six pits/hearths (G41) with clear evidence of *in situ* burning and an associated pit with a deposit of redeposited burnt material (G43) have been assigned to the mid 11th–mid 12th centuries on the basis of radiocarbon dates obtained from two charcoal samples from one of the pits.

Elsewhere in the Weald it has been noted that irregular burnt features may be associated with the practice of ‘burn-beating’ or ‘devonshiring’, where rough ground with brushwood stumps would be cleared by setting small fires using dried turf and other vegetation (Margetts 2018a, 14–15). At Millfield, after the Roman enclosures fell into disuse, there appears to have been no formal land division and it seems likely that there was some regrowth of tree cover. There was contemporary geoarchaeological evidence for similar processes at Wickhurst Green to the north, with sediments apparently ceasing to accumulate in streams (ibid, 189). The burnt features at Millfield, however, appear quite regular and often preserved a thick layer of *in situ* charcoal, suggesting that they are much more likely to be linked to small-scale industry of some type. The probability is that they represent small pit kilns, involved in the manufacture of charcoal (see Deforce et al in prep).

Charcoal production has close links with ironworking in the Weald, an industry that began to be re-established in the later Anglo-Saxon period after an apparent hiatus (Hodgkinson 2008). Both were often based in woodland environments and, at least in the Saxo-Norman period, were likely to have

involved low-level, non-specialist activity, perhaps combined with seasonal pastoral farming (ibid, 36; Birrell 1980, 82–83). Production of this type may not have required organised woodland management and may simply have made use of fallen branches (Hodgkinson 2008, 17). The oak-dominated charcoal assemblages recovered from these features are typical of charcoal produced for small-scale iron production in the Weald, which was usually used very close to its source of production due to the difficulty of transporting charcoal intact over longer distances (Rackham 2006, 203–4).

Aside from the burnt pits/hearths, there was very little archaeological evidence for the exploitation of the site in the Saxo-Norman period, a pattern that has been noted elsewhere in the Weald (Gardiner 1990, 47; Margetts 2018a, 161). Of course, it is likely that woodland environments continued to be exploited by parent manors as seasonal swine pasture in a way that would have left little impact on the archaeological record. The slow process of piecemeal land division and settlement of the Low Weald, described by Chatwin and Gardiner (2005), would have been underway during period 4.1. There are perhaps some hints, in the form of a few residual pottery sherds of 12th-century date, that the establishment of trackway and boundary R2 could also have had its origins towards the end of this period.

#### PERIOD 4.2: MEDIEVAL

The main elements of the medieval archaeological landscape recorded at Millfield are a possible droveway (or perhaps a former field or woodland boundary), R1, of around 20m in width, running east–north–east–west–south–west, and a better-defined undulating north–west–south–east–aligned trackway, R2; together they probably bounded an irregular assart characteristic of the sporadic forest clearance that occurred during the medieval period in this part of the Weald. Although the northern boundary ditch of the possible droveway G17 does not exactly align with modern field boundaries, its orientation may well have influenced the right-angled dog-leg in the shape of the modern field, while the trackway, R2, is almost exactly orientated along a field boundary seen on the 1844 Horsham tithe map and the first edition Ordnance Survey sheet of 1875–6 but which was removed by the time of the following OS edition in 1897 (Fig 4.14).

The possible droveway R1 was essentially undated, although stratigraphic and spatial relationships strongly suggest that it belongs to the medieval period, probably post-dating the activity associated with the burnt pits/hearths of period

4.1, which would probably have been positioned beyond the droveway ditches had these features been contemporary and the droveway interpretation correct. It is still possible that these represent early features. It has been noted, for example, that patterns of transhumance, requiring droveways, began to change from around the 13th century, when links with more distant parent manors began to loosen and more of the western Weald was cleared and put under cultivation (Margetts 2018a, 191).

Meanwhile, the more clearly defined trackway and associated trample deposits produced much larger, though slightly mixed finds assemblages. Pottery from this area suggests that this route was in use by the 14th and perhaps even as early as the 12th–13th centuries, since residual pottery of this period was also found in association. Again, this may imply that the trackway was created by a parent manor to provide seasonal access into the Weald, exploiting swine pasture and other commodities such as timber, iron, clay and stone, and woodland food resources such as honey, fruit, nuts and game (Chatwin & Gardiner 2005, 48). Later it is likely that these original trackways became fossilised as field boundaries at a time when more permanent occupation and established fields took hold. This said, the pattern of early droveways in this part of the Weald is overwhelmingly orientated on a roughly north-east–south-west axis, and it may be more likely that these examples relate to tracks between fields rather than the long-distance routeways known elsewhere (Andrew Margetts pers comm).

It has been suggested that the pottery from trackway R2 may derive from spillage of refuse during its transportation along the trackway for manuring arable fields (Barber, Chapter 4). The fairly substantial volume of finds is also of interest because they suggest that settlement areas may have lain in the vicinity. A medieval chain RF<302> is suggested to have possibly come from a door or gate, presumably in the context of substantial settlement. The nearest known medieval settlements are Nutham and Southwater, and it is possible that the routeways belonged to the former holding, as land parcels named Nutham Barn and Nutham Wood are close by.

It seems likely that the original trackway ditches passed out of use in the medieval period. Material from associated trample deposits suggest that the trackway may have ceased to be used by around the mid 15th century. As shown by historic mapping evidence, the boundary clearly survived in other forms, as also reflected by some post-medieval findings, including 17th- to 18th-century brick and earthworks explored in surrounding woodland (Joan Francis pers comm). Much of the medieval field pattern survived until the 19th

century, although the work carried out during the initial evaluation also found some evidence of the imposition of a more regular field system at the south-western end of the site during the 18th to early 19th centuries.



# CHAPTER 5 THE *PYNDE*: A REUSED LATE IRON AGE/EARLY ROMANO-BRITISH ENCLOSURE AT HAYWARDS HEATH, WEST SUSSEX

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*Anna Doherty and Paola Ponce*

## 5.1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeology South-East carried out an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation at Penlands Farm, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. The work followed on from a previous desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and evaluation conducted by Headland Archaeology (2013a; 2013b; 2013c). The site consists of two parcels of land on either side of a track leading off Hanlye Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex (NGR: TQ 532235 125654; Figs 5.1 and 5.2). The site encountered two enclosures of late prehistoric date as well as medieval activity including a possible building. Penlands Farm lies to the north-west of Haywards Heath, close to the boundary between the High and Low Weald. Prior to the residential development, the eastern part of the site comprised medieval cohesive assarts divided by ancient hedgerows, while the west was characterised by a modern amalgamation of fields. The northern and southern boundaries were marked by regenerated woodland. The south-eastern part of the site incorporated surviving ancient woodland. The underlying geology comprised Tunbridge Wells Sand, Sandstone and Siltstone of the Wealden Group, encountered at varying levels across the site, with the lowest point at 75.35m OD in the south and the highest at 88.34m OD in the north-west. Excavations revealed a typical stratigraphic sequence of 0.25–0.50m of top and subsoil overlying the geology. In some downslope areas a red-brown colluvium was encountered that ranged from 0.04m to 0.84m in thickness.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Over the last 20 or so years the growth in developer-funded projects has meant that the Weald is now better known for the extent of its prehistoric archaeology. Though the area was previously recognised for the importance of some of its earlier prehistoric remains (particularly for the Mesolithic), the archaeology of the later prehistoric period was little documented. This situation has changed and updated syntheses have shown that the area was exploited for both farming and settlement during the Bronze and Iron Age periods

(Margetts 2018a). Much of this activity appears to be based on pastoral agriculture and at times it is possible that a system of transhumance prevailed. This method of exploitation would facilitate the most effective use of the South East's banded resources and would be beneficial for early communities, as it allows a certain degree of 'risk-spreading'.

Despite this expansion in evidence, known prehistoric remains from the vicinity of the site continue to be scarce. Flintwork of various dates has been recovered from archaeological mitigation linked to the Haywards Heath Relief Road (Griffin et al 2004) and the Bolnore Village development (ASE 2004a; 2011b), while, further to the east, excavations have encountered ironworking activity dating to the 4th–2nd century BC (ASE 2017). This Middle Iron Age activity is symptomatic of the broader Weald at this time, as the period appears to mark an upsurge in exploitation of the Wealden interior where activity of this date often appears to precede more intensive and widespread Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British settlement (Margetts 2018a). In relation to the latter, excavations to the south of the site undertaken in 2004 identified part of a small enclosure at least 35m across. This occupied an elevated position adjacent to Rocky Lane. The enclosure was defined by two ring-ditches incorporating small quantities of Late Iron Age/Early Roman and post-Conquest Roman pottery (ASE 2004a; Fig 1.3, Bolnore Site). Such locations appear characteristic of the Weald during the 1st and early 2nd centuries AD, as settlement enclosures appear to show a predilection for these elevated sites as well as lower-lying locations close to watercourses (Margetts 2018a). In the case of the Bolnore Village enclosure, the siting may have been equally influenced by the presence of the nearby Roman road the London to Brighton Way. The course of this routeway runs close to the east of Penlands Farm (Fig 5.1).

Prior to recent archaeological work that has tested and demonstrated the development of the Weald's early medieval landscape (Margetts 2018a), perhaps the most valuable indicator of Anglo-Saxon-period exploitation was derived from toponymic evidence. The Old English place-names of

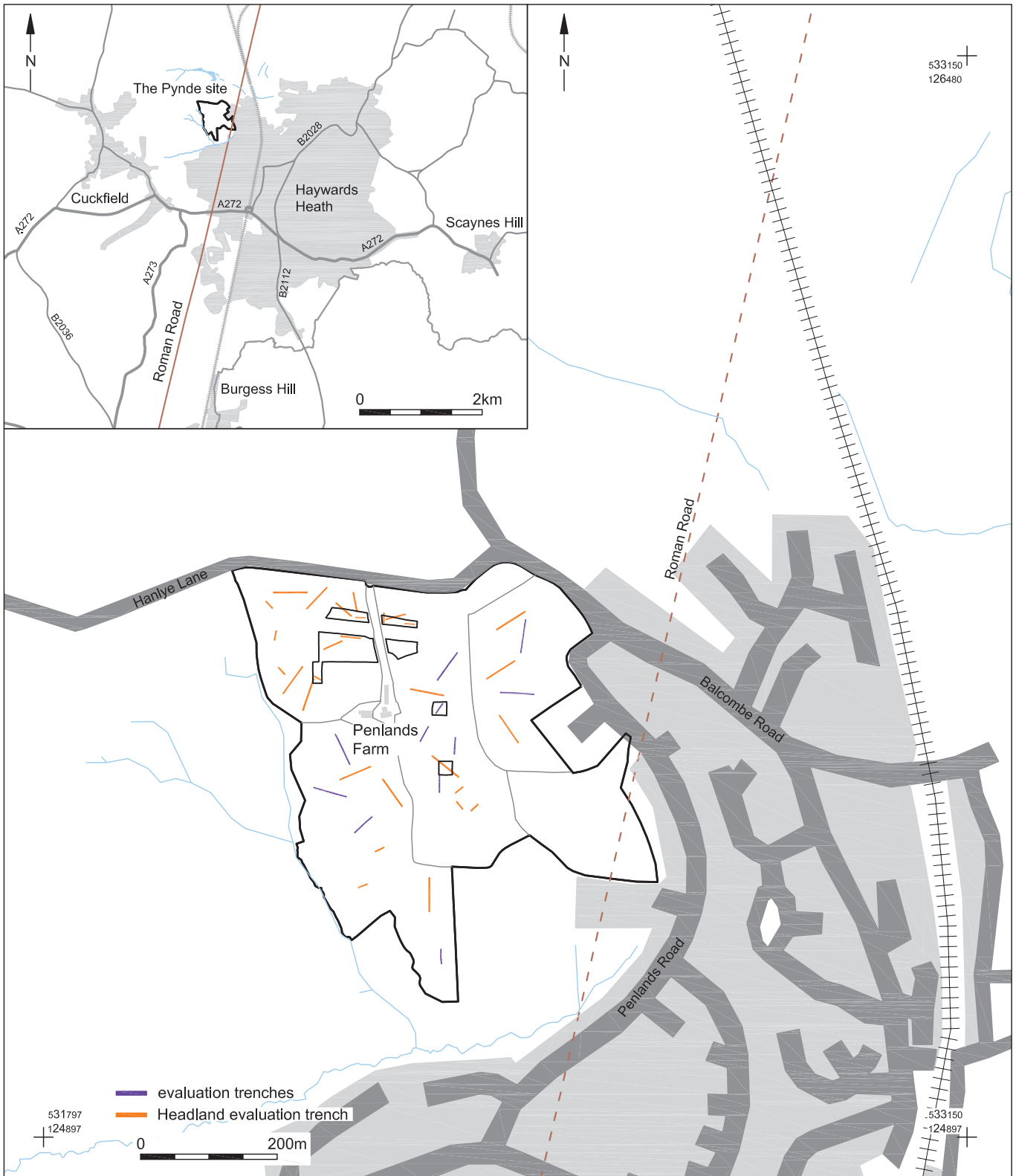


Fig 5.1 Site location. Based on OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] [2020].

the region reflect a pastoral model of settlement and land use, with names such as falod ‘a fold’, denn ‘a woodland pasture, especially for swine’, and wic ‘a dwelling, a building or collection of buildings for special purposes, a farm, a dairy farm’ (Mawer and Stenton 1929; Smith 1956a, 257; Dodgson 1978, 61) together being indicative of an area where livestock regimes and woodland exploitation dominated. It is likely that

during the 6th century the Sussex Weald was acting as common pasture for the kingdom as a whole. It is similarly probable that by the 7th and 8th centuries communities in more favourable arable areas were beginning to create independent detached pastures within the forest. These areas may once have been largely used for the seasonal pannage of cattle and swine (Margetts 2021). This seasonal model of exploitation

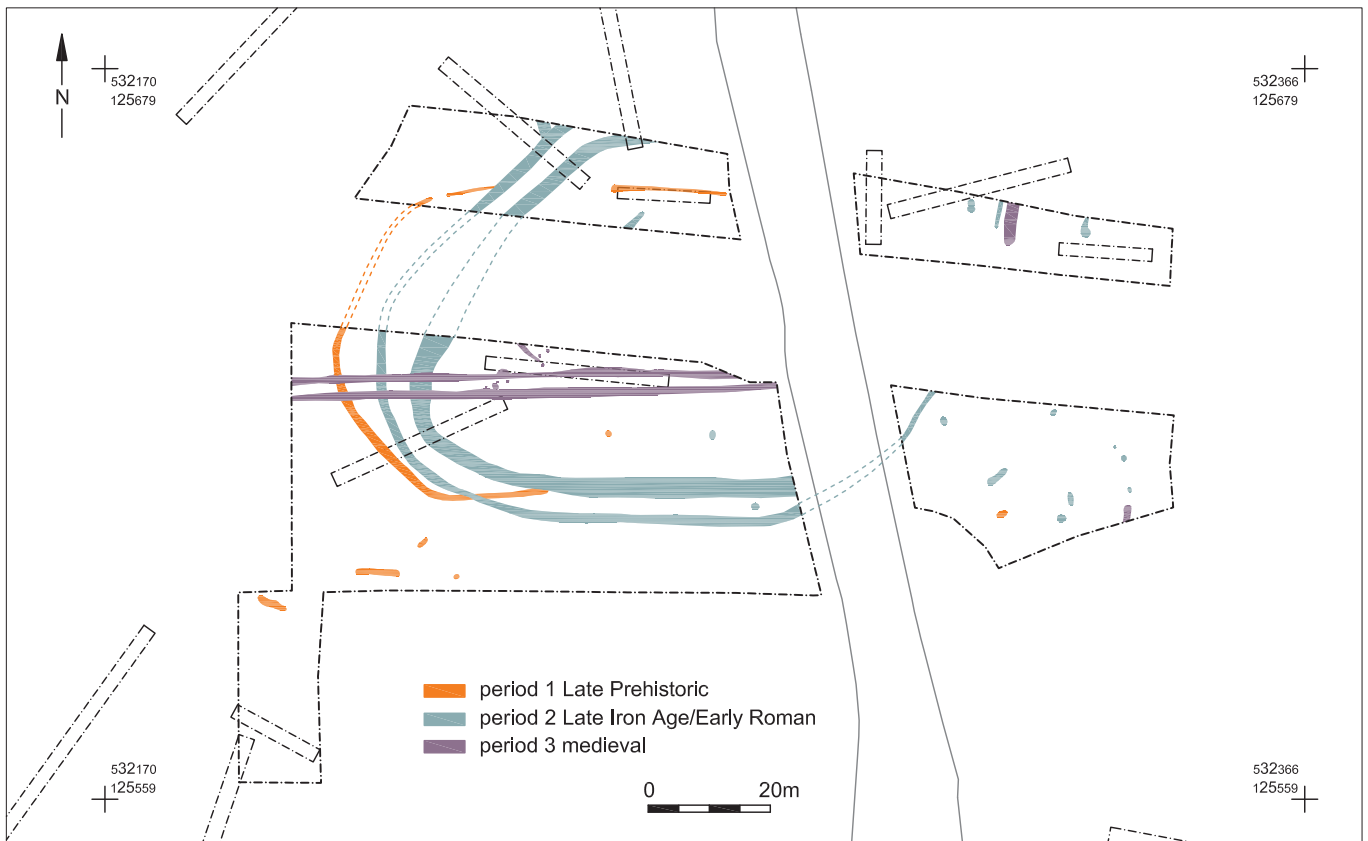


Fig 5.2 Site plan and excavated features

was largely based upon parent settlements located on the more agriculturally favourable soils of the South Downs, Greensand Ridge or coastal plain.

Paleoenvironmental evidence and historic landscape analysis linked to excavations conducted to the south of the site have identified one of these seasonal pastures within an oval enclosure of ancient origin ('The Hayworth'; Margetts 2017). By the 12th century more permanent occupation ensued and was linked to a specialised cattle ranch or vaccary (ibid). The vaccary was a component of the 'lost' manor of Trubwick and beasts of the manor were pastured on nearby Haywards Heath.

## 5.2 RESULTS

### PERIOD 1: LATE PREHISTORIC ACTIVITY

A broad, uncertainly dated period of later prehistoric activity was encountered at the site. This mainly comprised a large curvilinear ditch forming a sub-oval enclosure interpreted as a livestock corral (ENC1; Figs 5.3, 5.4, section 1 and 5.5). The enclosure measured *c* 49.63m from north to south and 32.44m from east to west. Apart from five medieval sherds that were clearly intrusive, the ditch remains entirely undated and was phased purely by means of *terminus post quem* dates provided by stratigraphically later periods of activity. The south-eastern side of the enclosure appeared to be open. It is probable, however, that

plough truncation could have removed the ditch on that side or that the large gap was closed by means of a removable wattle fence. The enclosure was further truncated on the northern and southern sides by a double-ditched enclosure (ENC2) dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period (see below).

Interventions through the enclosure ditch showed that it survived best to the south, where depths reached 0.45m. Further to the north the ditch survived only as a shallow ephemeral feature. On the edge of the enclosure a pit [254] contained four fills (Figs 5.4 and 5.6). The secondary fill contained prehistoric flint and fragmented body sherds from a single pottery vessel possibly dating as early as the Middle Iron Age. There was a large concentration of oak charcoal in this fill and possible evidence of in situ burning, suggesting that the pit may have functioned as a hearth.

Beyond the enclosure was an area of open ground possibly relating to pasture, woodland or wood-pasture (OA1). Here two elongated pits (G5 and G6) with fills similar to those in the ditch forming ENC1 were identified. A flint scraper encountered in G6 was not chronologically diagnostic, but is likely to pre-date the Middle Bronze Age. Two further largely unremarkable pits were encountered in OA1, along with a somewhat uncertainly dated pit [84] containing prehistoric pottery (below section 5.3, 'The prehistoric and Roman pottery').

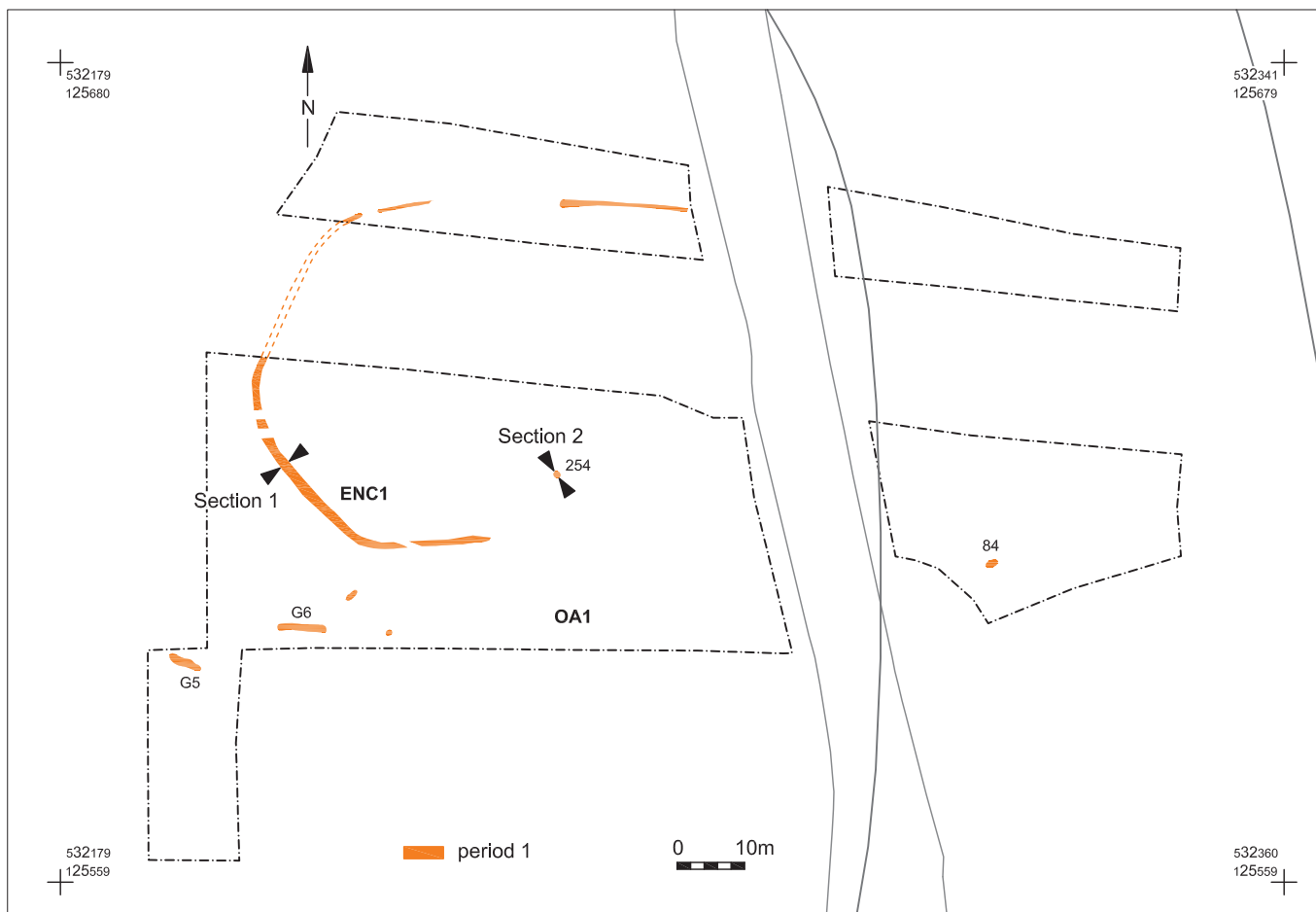


Fig 5.3 Period I plan

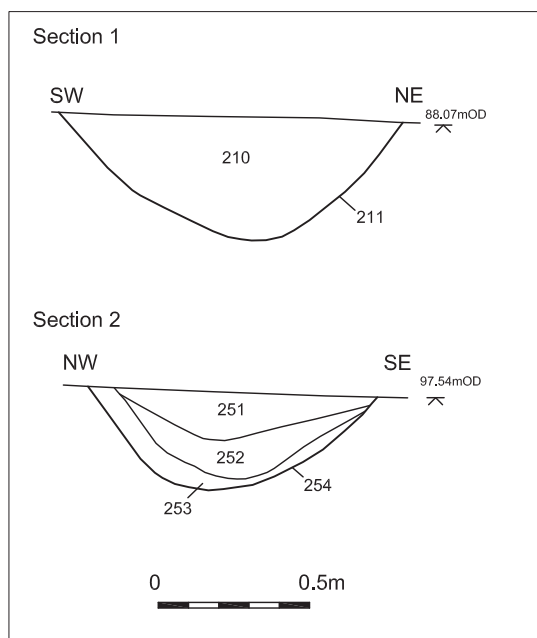


Fig 5.4 Period I sections of Enclosure I ditch [211] and pit [254]



Fig 5.5 Photograph of period I Enclosure I ditch [211], looking north-west (1m and 0.3m scale bars)



Fig 5.6 Photograph of period I pit [254], looking north-east (1m and 0.3m scale bars)

## PERIOD 2: THE LATE IRON AGE/EARLY ROMANO BRITISH ENCLOSURE

A large double-ditched enclosure (ENC2; Figs 5.7, 5.8 and 5.9) directly overlay, and partially truncated, the earlier livestock corral ENC1. Though not fully exposed due to the presence of overhead power lines and an associated exclusion zone, the sub-oval enclosure was clearly a substantial feature. It measured some 105m from east to west by 61.95m from north to south, enclosing an area of *c* 0.6ha. The inner ditch fluctuated slightly, but was generally around 2m in width, widening towards the west central area to around 4m. It had a very steep v-shaped profile and a varying depth of up to 1.80m. The ditch was filled by deposits of slowly accumulating silty clays. The largest individual stratified group of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery came from the primary fill of intervention [225] in the south-eastern part of the enclosure's circuit. A series of sherds probably dating from the mid 1st century BC to the early 1st century AD and featuring burnished rectilinear/chevron motifs was identified. In other parts of the enclosure pottery was recovered dating from the 1st century AD, including some post-Conquest material in one case, also recovered from a primary fill (fill [114] of ditch [113]). As well as pottery,

hammerscale (a diagnostic waste from ironsmithing) was also identified in the ditch's secondary fill. Around 25–50 flakes up to 1mm in size were recovered from environmental sampling, but the absence of any larger pieces of associated smithing slag suggests that the hammerscale had its source at some distance from the enclosure. The uppermost fill of the enclosure's inner ditch incorporated sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 11th–14th centuries (below, 'Period 3: medieval activity').

An outer ditch ran parallel to the inner example, generally at a distance of 2.54m. The intervening space may have been occupied by a substantial bank thrown up from the ditch arisings. Only a single feature was encountered within this gap between the ditches: an undated pit or posthole. Though it is possible that an entrance to the enclosure existed on the unexcavated western side, it is perhaps more likely that an opening originally existed to the east, between terminating ditches. The outer ditch was not quite as wide or deep as the inner ditch, with a general width of around 1.25m and a depth of 0.56m. A large portion from a single-cordoned narrow-neck jar was retrieved from the ditch (Fig 5.15, no 6). In the eastern excavation areas the ditches were probably a continuation of the enclosure, although they were slightly narrower and

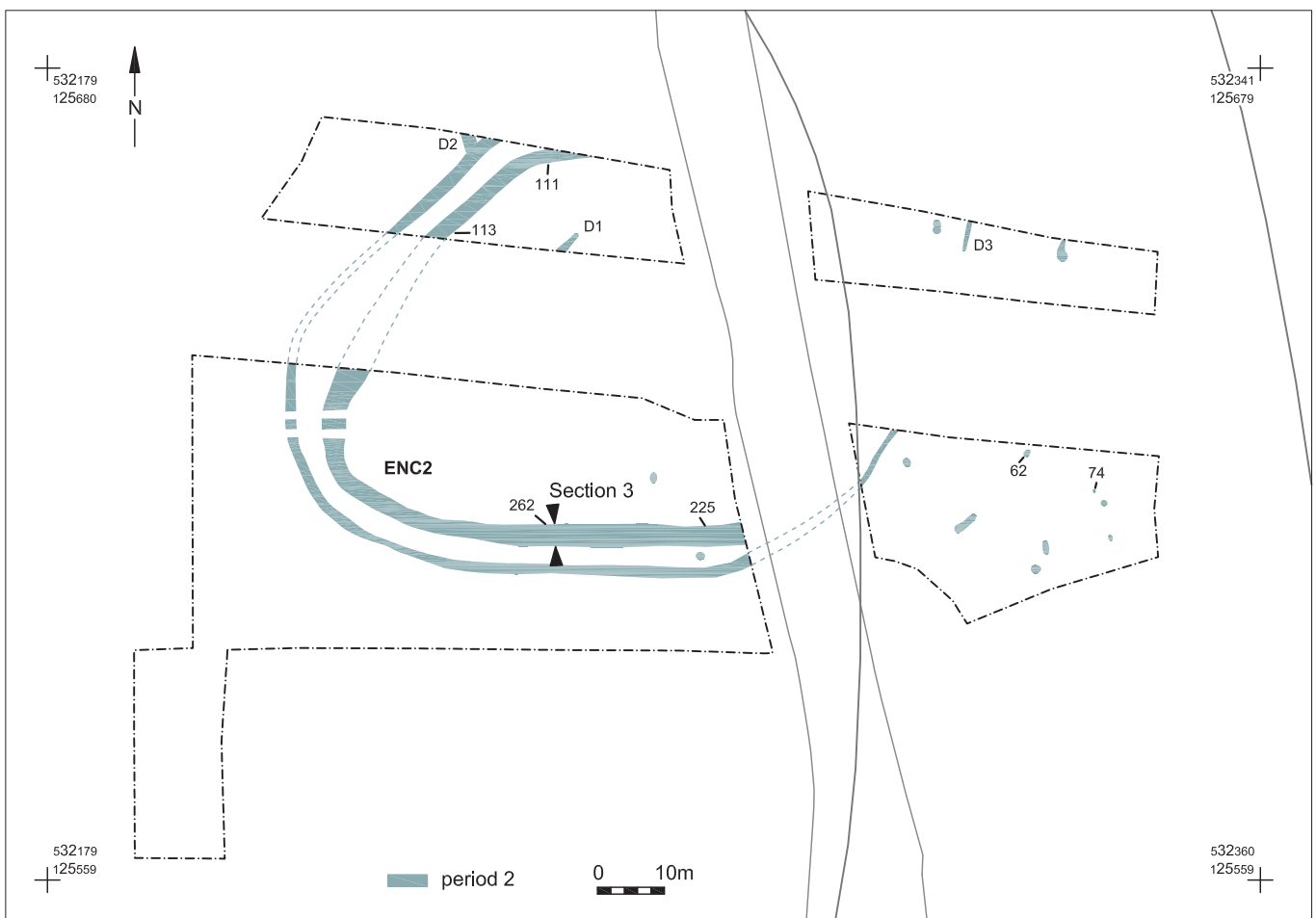


Fig 5.7 Period 2 plan



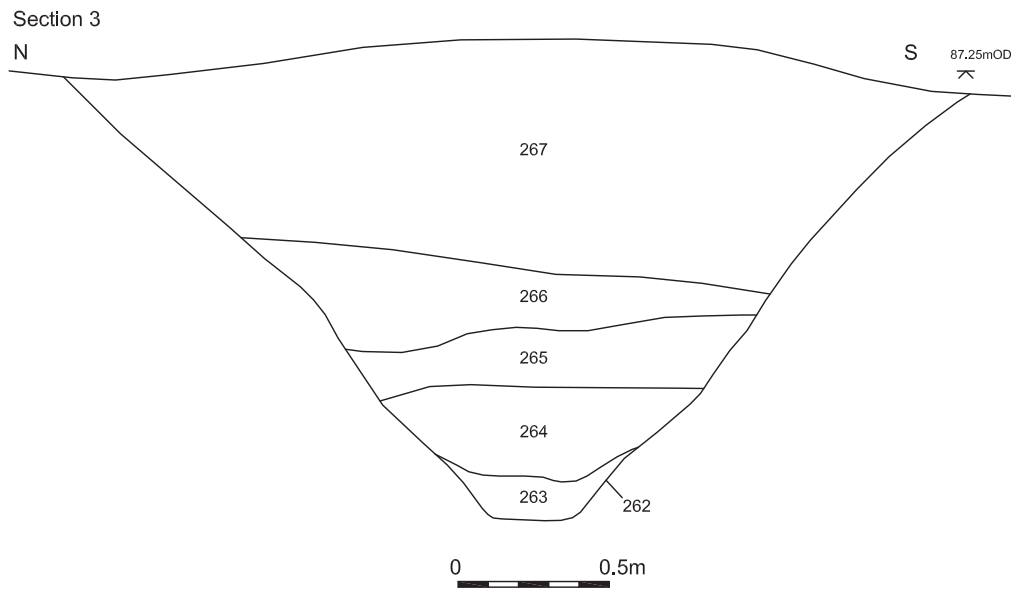


Fig 5.8 Period 2 ditch [262], west-facing section



Fig 5.9 Photograph of period 2 ditch [262], looking east (2m scale bar)

shallower than elsewhere within the circuit – possibly a response to the steeper hill contours on this side (Fig 5.10).

The pottery associated with the enclosure indicates that it was reasonably long-lived, perhaps being first established as early as the mid 1st century BC. It could be that there was some localised filling at an early stage of its life but that, in most areas, the enclosure ditches were kept clean until the Early Roman period. It is also possible that the early pottery sherds are residual and that they significantly pre-date the enclosure, but even if this was the case their presence on site seems to indicate some form of activity prior to the mid 1st century AD. This may help to date the earlier enclosure (ENC1; see below). The fairly small quantities of Early Roman pottery indicate that the ditches were probably silting up and going out of use early in the post-Conquest period.

Also within ENC2, four pits and a short length of ditch (D1) were identified. The pits were associated with period 2 purely based on their location within the enclosure and their close proximity to the defining ditches. Ditch 1 (D1) was a

north-east–south-west-orientated ditch. Only the north-east terminus of the feature was encountered, as the south-west end extended beyond the limit of excavation. It contained a single silty clay fill. No dating evidence was retrieved, but it was on the same alignment as the surrounding enclosure ditches. It is possible that it may in fact be related to the possible medieval building discussed below (?B1).

Beyond the enclosure was a group of largely unremarkable pits as well as two lengths of ditch. Ditch 2 (D2) extended beyond the northern limit of excavation, and was possibly truncated to the south by the outer ditch of ENC2. The relationship between the two features was not particularly clear, however, and it is possible that D2 represents a contemporary appendage to the adjacent enclosure (ENC2). This interpretation is strengthened by the ceramic evidence. Many of the Late Iron Age/Early Roman sherds recovered from the feature belonged to the same vessel encountered in the fill of the enclosure ditch (ENC2). Ditch 3 (D3) was orientated on a similar alignment to the nearest part of ENC2. The terminus contained a single silty clay fill that produced no dating evidence.

Also beyond the enclosure was a small cremation pit [74] filled by charcoal and flecks of burnt bone. The feature was clearly excavated to receive the burial of human remains probably related to a single adult (207g). So-called ‘token’ cremations have been found at other Late Iron Age/Early Roman Wealden sites (eg Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath; Margetts 2018a) and although this example was not dated by pottery it was probably contemporary with the enclosure.

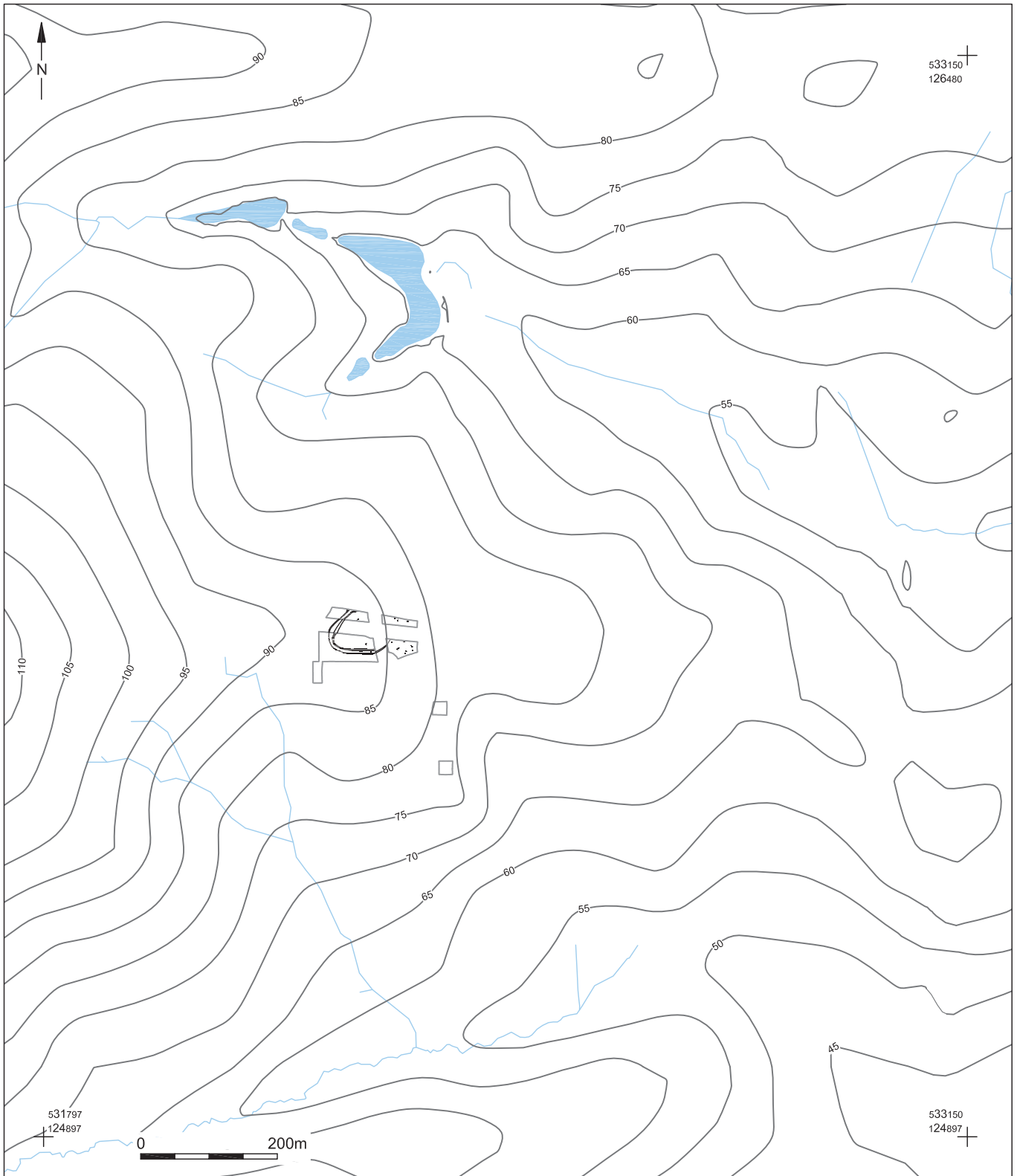


Fig 5.10 Enclosure 2's topographic setting. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020

### PERIOD 3: MEDIEVAL ACTIVITY

Within the boundary of the earlier enclosure a number of medieval features were encountered (Fig 5.11). These comprised two large shallow pits and two clusters of smaller pits or, more probably, postholes. A ditch or structural feature appeared to terminate next to one of these clusters and it is possible these features formed the southern corner of a

rectilinear enclosure or building (?B1; Fig 5.12). A single sherd of pottery dating to AD 1175–1250 was retrieved from the centre of the ditch or wall trench, and the nearby pits or postholes proved to be well dated by late 12th- to mid 13th-century pottery. Unfortunately, the area to the north was excluded from the excavation due to the presence of the overhead power cables. The large pits had diameters of 1m and

depths of 0.08–0.21m. Pit [141] contained a charred hazelnut shell fragment as well as pottery dating to AD 1075–1150. The other large pit [121] (truncated by a later field boundary; Figs 5.13 and 5.14) contained a single pottery sherd dated AD 1150–1250. Charcoal within its fill (identified at assessment; ASE 2016c) included field maple, which is a light-demanding species indicative of open landscapes. The field boundary (D7) that truncated this feature is illustrated on historic maps, which show that it was not decommissioned until the later 20th century. The finds from the feature were mainly of 18th- and 19th-century date; however, pottery sherds dating to the 12th and 13th centuries may indicate that its origins lay within the medieval period. This would certainly corroborate analysis of cartographic evidence, which shows that the area was characterised by fields created by assarting prior to modern field amalgamation. In the Weald, assarting is often ascribed a 12th- and 13th-century date as the result of settlement and agricultural expansion.

Beyond the area occupied by the earlier enclosure ENC2 two lengths of ditch were encountered (D5 and D6). D5 contained a single silty clay fill that included small pottery sherds dating to AD 1100–1200. It was quite a large but shallow

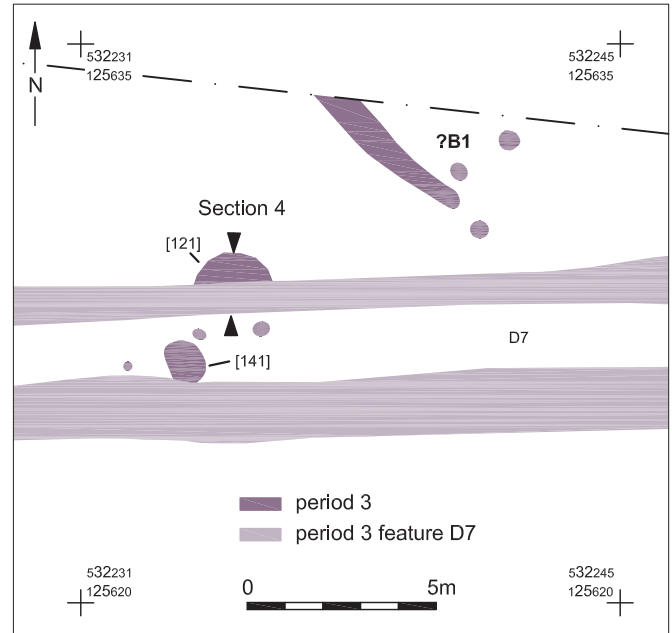


Fig 5.12 Medieval features found within the footprint of earlier Enclosure 2

feature, with a width of 1.45m and a depth of 0.08m. Although phased to the medieval period on the basis of the ceramic evidence, it is possible that this feature related to the terminating outer ditch of ENC2. D6 may have been a medieval drainage or boundary ditch or could have comprised a large elongated pit.



Fig 5.11 Period 3 plan

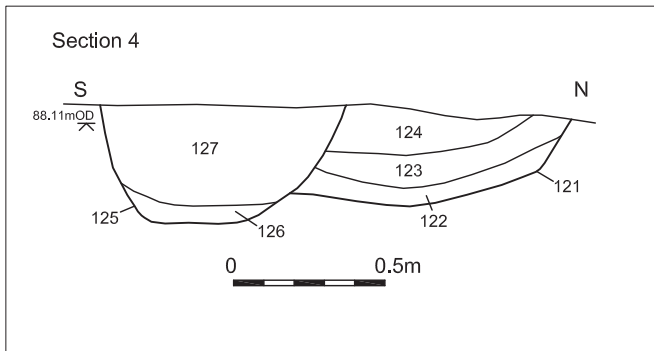


Fig 5.13 East-facing section of pit [121] and later ditch [125] Ditch 7



Fig 5.14 Photograph of section through pit [121] and later ditch [125] Ditch 7 (1m scale bar)

Although the substantial double-ditched enclosure encountered at the site clearly originated in the late prehistoric period, its upper ditch horizons contained a reasonable amount of material dating from the 11th to the 14th centuries. Indeed, where upper fills could be distinguished these represented significantly deep deposits dated purely by medieval ceramics (eg fill [267] of intervention [262]; Fig 5.8). The enclosure also appeared to be the focus of more intensive medieval activity than was found beyond and may have been occupied by a late 12th- to mid 13th-century building (perhaps with an open front, similar to the substantial building interpreted as a cowhouse from The Hayworth; Margetts 2017). The significance of this medieval activity in relation to the earlier enclosure is further explored below.

## 5.3 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS REPORTS

### THE PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN POTTERY

*Anna Doherty*

A small assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery was recovered from the site, totalling 198 sherds weighing 1.37kg. Eight fairly uncertainly dated sherds belong to features or

deposits associated with the initial period 1 activity, while the remainder of the assemblage is associated with the period 2 stock enclosure (ENC2).

The pottery was examined using a  $\times 20$  binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight, estimated vessel number (ENV) and estimated vessel equivalent (EVE). In the absence of a Late Iron Age/Roman type-series for Sussex, fabrics and forms were recorded using codes from the London/Southwark typology (Marsh & Tyers 1978; Davies et al 1994) with some reference to the Camulodunum series (Hawkes & Hull 1947). Several site-specific fabric definitions have also been created for the potentially earlier tempered wares, in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010).

### SITE-SPECIFIC FABRIC TYPE-SERIES

#### FLGL1

Sparse/moderate flint of 0.5–2mm, moderate glauconite of 0.4–0.6mm and rare quartz up to 0.5mm

#### FLGR1

Rare/sparse ill-sorted flint of 0.5–4mm and rare grog/argillaceous inclusions in a similar size range in a dense quartz-free matrix

#### FLIN1

Very common well-sorted flint of 1–2.5mm in a silty matrix

#### FLIN2

Moderate flint of 1–2mm in silty/fine sandy matrix with moderate quartz up to 0.1mm

#### FLIN3

Sparse moderately sorted flint of 0.5–2.5mm in a silty matrix

#### GROG1

Sparse coarse grog of 2–4mm in a silty matrix with rare large quartz grains up to 0.4mm

#### QUGL1

Sparse glauconite of 0.2–0.4mm and silty/fine sandy matrix with moderate quartz up to 0.1mm

### PERIOD 1

Unfortunately, no prehistoric pottery was recovered from the ditches associated with ENC1. Pit [84] produced four small featureless body sherds, including one purely flint-tempered example (FLIN1), one grog-tempered sherd (GROG1) and one with both flint-and-grog (FLGR1). The relatively thick-walled, low-fired and coarsely tempered nature of these sherds may suggest a Bronze Age date. In most areas of Sussex grog-tempered wares of this type are confined to the Early Bronze Age; however, ceramic data from a number of later Bronze Age sites excavated in the mid Sussex Weald suggests that grog- and grog-/flint-tempered fabrics remained current into the early 1st millennium BC in this area (eg Doherty in prep a; Raymond 2012). On the other hand, the fourth sherd in this group has a relatively thin-walled profile and is associated with a grog-



tempered fabric not dissimilar to other Late Iron Age/Early Roman wares from the site. This may suggest that, even if the other sherds in this group belong to the Bronze Age, they could be residual in a Late Iron Age/Early Roman feature.

The only other material assigned to period 1 comprises four tiny conjoining body sherds in a sandy glauconitic ware (QUGL1) from pit [254]. Fabrics of this type could be as early as the Middle Iron Age; however, tempered wares of similar transitional character also appear in period 2 features; it is therefore difficult to determine whether this feature is substantially earlier in date than the period 2 activity.

PERIOD 2

The remainder of the assemblage was assigned to period 2 (quantified by fabric type in Table 5.1). Generally speaking, the pottery is quite fragmented and was found in fairly small individual context groups, perhaps suggesting that the excavated area was not a very intensive focus of Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlement activity; however, the assemblage was primarily recovered from a single major landscape feature – the double-ditched enclosure (ENC2) – and included one or two moderate-sized pottery groups from the individual fills of the ditches.

| Fabric       | Description                                   | Sherds     | Wt (g)      | ENV       | EVE         |
|--------------|---|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| FLGL1        | Flint and glauconite*                         | 1          | 4           | 1         |             |
| FLIN2        | Flint-tempered ware*                          | 1          | 4           | 1         |             |
| FLIN3        | Flint-tempered ware*                          | 1          | 7           | 1         |             |
| GROG         | Grog-tempered wares                           | 142        | 1101        | 33        | 1.23        |
| OXID         | Unsourcesd sandy Early Roman oxidised ware    | 4          | 3           | 2         |             |
| SAND         | Unsourcesd unoxidised Early Roman sandy wares | 33         | 182         | 2         | 0.25        |
| SHEL         | Shelly wares                                  | 8          | 35          | 2         |             |
| <b>Total</b> |   | <b>190</b> | <b>1336</b> | <b>42</b> | <b>1.48</b> |

Table 5.1 Quantification of pottery fabrics in period 2 (\* indicates site-specific fabric definitions)

In addition to the period 1 material described above, three body sherds in tempered fabrics were recorded, including flint-tempered wares FLIN2 and FLIN3 and flint-with-glauconite fabric FLGL1. These sherds occurred in the outer enclosure ditch and in a pit [270]. In both features the Iron Age tempered wares occurred in association with Late Iron Age/Early Roman grog-tempered fabrics. While it is possible that the flint-tempered wares are residual sherds of substantially earlier date, it seems likely that they represent the survival of Iron Age fabrics in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. Similar wares were recorded in Late Iron Age/Early Roman

features in other Wealden assemblages from Hurstpierpoint and Polegate, for example (Doherty Chapter 2; in prep a), and were also noted in small quantities in features containing grog-tempered wares during a nearby excavation at Bolnore Village (Thompson 2006).

Grog-tempered fabrics are in a clear majority, occasionally associated with a few sherds in shelly wares. The range of associated forms is fairly typical of the 1st century AD. Almost all of the feature sherds are from simple necked jar forms (eg Fig 5.15, nos 1 and 3), occasionally featuring curvilinear ‘eyebrow’ style decoration that is particularly typical in Wealden assemblages (eg Fig 5.15, no 2). However, the largest individual stratified group, from the primary fill of ditch [225], contained a series of burnished chevron motifs that may arguably be slightly earlier, perhaps from the mid 1st century BC to early 1st century AD (Fig 5.15, nos 4 and 5). In the later Iron Age assemblage from St Anne’s Road, Eastbourne, for example, it was tentatively suggested that eyebrow decoration superseded chevron motifs (Barber 2016, 173).

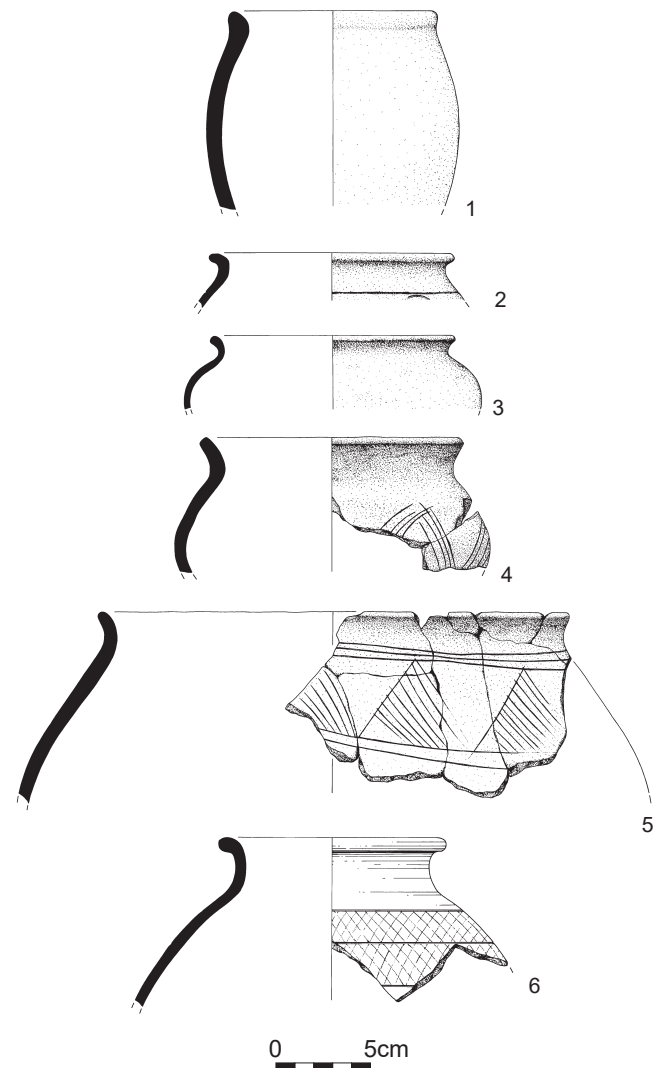


Fig 5.15 Prehistoric and Roman pottery



Just four vessels, recorded in ditches of ENC2, were associated with Early Roman sandy wares, all unsourced coarse fabrics with dark or unevenly oxidised surfaces. The most notable vessel was a fragmented but substantial portion of a single narrow-neck jar comparable to Cam. form 231 (Fig 5.15, no 6).

Overall the period 2 assemblage suggests the possibility that the enclosure system was reasonably long-lived, perhaps being first established as early as the mid 1st century BC. On the other hand, the most diagnostic group containing potentially early elements, from ditch [225], is part of an enclosure ditch, which elsewhere produced some small post-Conquest sherds from a primary fill. This may indicate that some of the material in [225] is redeposited from the earliest phase of enclosed activity, which unfortunately produced no securely stratified pottery. The fairly small quantities of Early Roman pottery indicate that the ditches were probably filling up and going out of use in the immediate post-Conquest period and it is likely that any Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity on the site had ended by the late 1st century AD.

## ILLUSTRATION CATALOGUE (FIG 5.15)

### Ditch G8, Enclosure ENC2

- 1 Simple beaded/weakly necked jar (fabric GROG). Fill [137], ditch [111]
- 2 Simple necked jar with trace of curvilinear 'eyebrow' decoration (fabric GROG). Fill [266], ditch [262]
- 3 Simple necked jar (fabric GROG). Fill [226], ditch [225]
- 4 Simple necked jar with burnished chevron decoration (fabric GROG). Fill [226], ditch [225]
- 5 Simple necked jar with complex burnished infilled chevron decoration (fabric GROG). Fill [226], ditch [225]

### Ditch G9, Enclosure ENC2

- 6 Narrow-neck jar with panel of tooled lattice decoration at the shoulder (fabric SAND). Fill [153], ditch [152]

## THE POST-ROMAN POTTERY

*Luke Barber*

The archaeological work recovered 111 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 817g from 19 individually numbered contexts. The whole assemblage was recovered by hand from the Stage 2 work. Although the average sherd size of 7.4g is small, there is a range present, from tiny somewhat abraded pieces through to larger fresher sherds of over 100mm across. Although initially the pottery appears to be somewhat abraded this is mainly the result of surface deterioration caused by an acidic burial environment. The whole assemblage has been fully listed on *pro forma* for the archive, with the resultant information being used to create a spreadsheet as part of the digital archive. The fabric series established at the nearby site at Bolnore was used for the assemblage (Barber 2011b; 2017) as the Lewes fabric series did not on the whole fit well with the current material (Barber in prep b).

## MEDIEVAL

The assemblage is nearly all from the medieval period, the vast majority of which can be placed into a *c* 1075–1225 date range, with the emphasis between *c* 1150 and 1225. Ten of the Bolnore fabrics are represented in the assemblage, but no new fabrics were present.

### Fabrics

The fabrics are briefly described below, with their equivalent county code and overall quantification.

#### F1 Coarse flint (Sussex: F/AS1) 2/14g

A low- to medium-fired fabric tempered with moderate/abundant sub-angular alluvial flint to 1.5mm in a silty sand-free matrix. Reduced cores with dull orange/grey patchy surfaces. Only one intrusive jar/cooking pot is represented, coming from ditch [132]. Probably a later 10th- to 11th-century fabric.

#### F2 Moderate to abundant fine flint (Sussex: F/M1) 17/121g

A medium-fired fabric tempered with moderate/abundant multicoloured flint grits to 0.75mm (most to 0.5mm) but no/virtually no sand. Grey to black cores with dull brown to orange surfaces. Only undecorated cooking pots are present, usually with thickened, simple or beaded flaring rims, but a hollow-topped rim from ditch [125] is similar to types from Lewes dated to the second half of the 12th century. Probably a late 11th-/early 12th- to late 12th-century fabric.

#### F3 Moderate to abundant fine flint with sand (Sussex: F/M2) 6/50g

A medium-fired fabric tempered with moderate/abundant multicoloured flint grits to 0.5mm (most to 0.25mm) and sparse to common quartz. Grey to orange cores with dull brown to orange surfaces. Only undecorated cooking pots noted. This is almost certainly a slightly later, though overlapping, fabric from the same source as F2. Probably a mid 12th- to early 13th-century fabric.

#### F7a Fine/medium sand with common flint (Sussex: F+q/M7) 51/413g

A medium-fired fabric tempered with moderate fine/medium sand and common multicoloured alluvial flint grits to 0.5mm (most to 0.25mm). Mid grey to black cores with dull brown/orange surfaces. Only cooking pots recognised, but the majority of sherds (50/140g) were derived from a single vessel in pit/posthole [150], fill [151] (Fig 5.16, no 8).

#### F7b Medium/coarse sand with common flint (Sussex: Q+f/c/M5) 2/4g

A medium-fired fabric tempered with moderate/abundant medium/coarse sand, common multicoloured alluvial flint grits to 0.25mm and rare calcareous inclusions to 1mm. Mid grey cores with brown to dull orange surfaces. A single cooking pot was recovered from pit/posthole [150]. Probably a late 12th- to mid 13th-century fabric.

#### F8 Medium sand with common flint (Sussex: Q+f/M7) 3/12g

A medium-fired fabric tempered with moderate medium sand and sparse/common multicoloured alluvial flint grits to 0.25mm. Mid grey to black cores with dull brown/orange surfaces. Only cooking pots recognised. Probably a late 12th- to mid 13th-century fabric.

#### F9 Fine/medium sand with rare shell (Sussex: Q+s/M5) 1/2g

A medium-fired fabric tempered with moderate/abundant fine/medium sand with very rare inclusions of shell and occasionally flint to 0.25mm. Closely related to F8. Mid grey, black or brown core and surfaces. Remains of a single cooking pot was recovered from gully [156]. Probably a 13th-century fabric.

#### F10 Shell-tempered (Sussex: S/M1) 8/54g

A low-fired fabric tempered with moderate/abundant shell (voids) to 2mm, but no/virtually no sand. Grey/black cores with brown or dull orange surfaces usually. Only cooking pots are present, with simple or squared flaring rims. Probably a late 11th- to 12th-century fabric (Fig 5.16, no 7).

#### F11 Medium/coarse sand (Sussex: Q/M14) 6/79g

A medium-fired fabric tempered with moderate/abundant medium/coarse sand, with occasional larger quartz inclusions to 1mm, though there is some variation in coarseness within this grouping. Grey/black cores with dull orange/buff surfaces usually. Only cooking pots are present, including one with

triangular club rim. Likely to be a Wealden source for this fabric. Probably a late 12th-/early 13th- to mid 13th-century fabric (Fig 5.16, no 9).

#### F12 Medium/coarse sand (Sussex: Q/M16) 7/24g

A finer version of F11 tempered with moderate/abundant medium occasionally calcareous and/or larger quartz inclusions to 0.5mm. Grey/black cores with grey, brown or dull orange surfaces usually. Only cooking pots are present, one with a flaring beaded rim. Probably an early 13th-century fabric.

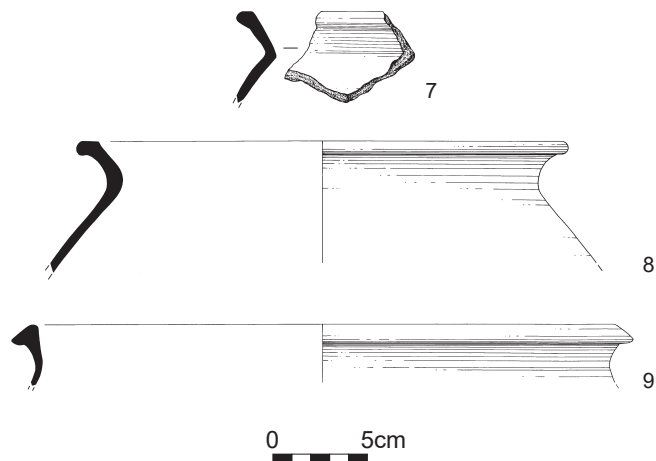


Fig 5.16 Post-Roman pottery

#### Assemblages

No individual contexts produced large groups of pottery. By far the largest was from pit/posthole [150], fill [151] (58/498g), though the vast majority derived from a single cooking pot (50/410g, Fig 5.16, no 8). Otherwise, deposits produced groups of fewer than ten sherds. The earliest context groups were recovered from ditch [132], fill [133], pit [141] (fill [142]) and ditch [234], fill [245]; in all the sherds were intrusive. These produced small assemblages of *c* 1050 to 1150: that from [133] consisting of just two F1 flint-tempered body sherds, while the others produced F10 shelly ware, including simple early flaring rim cooking pots (Fig 5.16, no 7).

The majority of deposits produced finer flinty wares, often with notable quartz, some of which probably derived from the Clay Hill/Ringmer industry (SNL 5 at Lewes: Barber in prep b). There are also a few sherds with essentially quartz tempering but with a notable scatter of flint, similar to early Ringmer types (HML1a at Lewes). However, although the hollow-topped rim from ditch [125], fill [127] is typical of the Ringmer area, the current flinty-sandy wares do not appear to have rims that can easily be paralleled in Lewes/Ringmer, though a larger quantity of feature sherds may alter this. The latest medieval sherds are of more developed oxidised sandy types that can only be generally placed between *c* 1200 and 1350 (eg ditch [111]) and could well be Ringmer products (the lack of feature sherds and weathered nature of the current pot makes attribution uncertain).

#### ILLUSTRATION CATALOGUE (FIG 5.16)

7. Cooking pot with slightly beaded flaring rim. Dark grey core, dull orange surfaces with slight sooting around rim edge. Fabric 10. Pit [141], fill [142].
8. Cooking pot with slightly flat-topped everted rim. Dark grey core, dull orange surfaces with slight sooting around rim edge and on exterior of vessel. Fabric 7a. Pit/posthole [150], fill [151].
9. Cooking pot with triangular club rim. Dark grey core, pale orange/buff surfaces. Fabric 11. Pit/posthole [150], fill [151].

#### DISCUSSION

The medieval assemblage, although small, is of interest as there have been very few well-excavated sites of the period from the area. Only in recent years has this situation begun to be rectified, most notably with the assemblage from Bolnore (Barber 2011b; 2017). It would appear that the area around Haywards Heath may have been at a watershed between the ceramic markets of Ringmer/Lewes to the south-east, the Adur valley to the south-west and the Weald to the north. Establishing the dominant force is difficult considering both river valley areas utilised alluvial grits for tempering in the 11th to 12th centuries. The F10 shelly wares are considered most likely to be Wealden products – they are very common in the Saxo-Norman period around Horsham (Barber 2013b; 2014; 2018). Here, they are not particularly dominant, probably because transporting ceramics up the river valleys was considerably easier than through the Weald. Whatever the case, the assemblage shows a very muted range of forms – all identifiable sherds consisting of cooking pot fragments. Decoration is non-existent, though the lack of glazing can be seen to be the result of the early date. There is nothing in the assemblage to suggest anything other than low-status occupation.

#### Post-medieval

The only post-medieval sherds were recovered from ditch [189], fill [190] (G25), which produced four glazed red earthenware and four London stoneware sherds (28g and 16g respectively) of 18th-century date.

#### CREMATED AND BURNT BONE

*Paola Ponce*

#### INTRODUCTION

A small amount of cremated human bone was recovered from fill [75] of pit [74], phased to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. Four other contexts produced burnt bone and this was retrieved from the fill of medieval pit [121] and the fills of a Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch (fill [133] of intervention [132]; fill [135] of [134] D2; fill [137] of [111]).

## METHODS

The excavated fills of the deposits underwent flotation and were processed as bulk environmental samples. Bone fragments were collected, subjected to careful recording and separated in sieve fractions of 2–4mm, 4–8mm and >8mm.

The assessment of the human cremated bone was undertaken according to standard guidelines (McKinley 2004). Age and sex were assessed from the stage of skeletal and tooth development along with sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton following Ubelaker (1989) and Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). The colour of the bone was described with reference to Holden et al (1995a; 1995b) and McKinley (2004). The presence of fragments from all skeletal areas (skull, axial skeleton, upper limb and lower limb) was noted. The potential of the assemblage to yield demographic or other information was then considered.

The burnt bone was also sieved and weighed, but, as it was unidentifiable, and therefore not possible to assign to either animal or human category, no further analysis was conducted on it.

## RESULTS

### Bone fragmentation and weight of cremated materials

The total amount of bone recovered from the cremated deposit was 207g (Table 5.2). All skeletal areas were represented. The identified fragments included fragments of the anterior border of the tibia, the linea aspera of the femur, the skull and the distal end of a hand phalanx. The largest fragment size measured 52.3mm.

The total amount of burnt bone recovered from contexts was 18g (Table 5.3). The smallest quantity was recovered from the fill [123] of medieval pit [121] (0.2g), while the fills of ditch [132] produced 17.8g.

As the largest amount of cremated bone, retrieved from context [75], was identified as human this is the focus of the remainder of the report.

### Bone colour

With regard to the degree of oxidation of the organic component of bone, it was noted that 90–100% of the assemblage was fully oxidised white (>600°C), which suggests a highly efficient cremation process. A combination of grey

| Context      | Wt (g)     |            |            |             |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
|              | 2–4mm      | 4–8mm      | >8mm       | Total       |
| 123          | -          | -          | 0.2        | 0.2         |
| 133          | 0.6        | 4.1        | 6.1        | 10.8        |
| 135          | 0.9        | 4.1        | 1.6        | 6.6         |
| 137          | 0.1        | 0.3        | -          | 0.4         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1.6</b> | <b>8.5</b> | <b>7.9</b> | <b>18.0</b> |

Table 5.3 Showing the summary of results on burnt bone

and blue hues was identified in a small percentage (10%) of the total fragments present, suggesting an incomplete oxidised process (up to *c* 600°C).

### Demographic data

From the cremated bone analysis it would appear that fill [75] of cremation pit [74] contained the remains of a single individual, as no repeated elements were noted. Sex was not possible to identify in any of the cremated bone studied, as no dimorphic features of the skull or pelvis were preserved. On the other hand, fragments that provide age at death information were present in this small assemblage and these suggested that this individual was an adult. No more accurate age estimate was possible and no evident pathology was observed.

## DISCUSSION

Unurned deposits of small amounts of cremated bone are not uncommon finds on prehistoric sites. Sussex examples have been reported in the Weald at Broadbridge Heath (ASE 2013b; Margetts 2018a) and on the South Downs at Peacehaven (Hart 2015). Indeed, the total 207g recovered from the cremation deposit at Penlands Farm corresponds to one fifth of the total cremated bone expected for a modern adult cremation. These ‘token cremations’, where very small amounts of cremated bone are found along with quantities of charcoal (below, 5.3, ‘Environmental Samples’) may represent a symbolic deposition of pyre debris (McKinley 2013). Philpott further suggests (1991) that unurned cremated bone in shallow pits could be interpreted as individuals at the lower end of the social scale. The time taken for the collection of bone for burial may reflect the status of the individual (McKinley 2006). Certainly, this is also reflected in the location of the cremation deposit, the only isolated burial in an agricultural context, which was situated outside a large stock enclosure.

| Context | Wt (g) |       |      |       | Type  | Identifiable |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------|--------|-------|------|-------|-------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|         | 2–4mm  | 4–8mm | >8mm | Total |       | Age          | Sex | S   | A   | U   | L   |
| 75      | 5.5    | 110.7 | 90.8 | 207.0 | Human | Adult        | ?   | yes | yes | yes | yes |

Table 5.2 Showing the summary of results on cremated human bone analysis

## ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Stacey Adams

### INTRODUCTION

Following an assessment of 17 bulk soil samples three samples were selected for wood charcoal analysis. The samples ranged from 20 to 40L in volume and are from late prehistoric and Late Iron Age/Early Roman deposits. Charred plant remains recovered from medieval features were quantified during assessment stage due to their paucity.

### METHODOLOGY

The bulk samples were processed by flotation in their entirety, using a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue and a 250µm mesh for the retention of the flot, before air drying.

Charcoal fragments were fractured by hand along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale and Cutler 2000; Hather 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 500× to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Schoch et al 2004; Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990). Identifications were given to species where possible; however, genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are insufficient to permit satisfactory identification. Distortion of the anatomical features, such as radial cracks, vitrification and post-depositional sediment, were recorded and the ring curvature of each fragment was assessed to determine the presence of twig and roundwood. Quantification and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 5.4 and classification and nomenclature follow Stace (1997).

The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at ×7–45 magnifications and the charred plant remains are quantified and recorded in Table 5.4. Identification of the charred remains was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure and quantification was based on approximate number of individuals.

### RESULTS

#### Charcoal

The charcoal fragments were well preserved from pits [254] and [62] with all of the fragments identifiable. Preservation of fragments from ditch [111] was moderate, with 16 fragments indeterminate due to general distortion, probably caused

| Phase                            |                            | 1   | 2   |       |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
|                                  | Sample number              | 18  | 8   | 14    |
|                                  | Context                    | 252 | 63  | 137   |
|                                  | Parent context             | 254 | 62  | 111   |
|                                  | Context/deposit type       | Pit | Pit | Ditch |
| <b>Taxonomic identifications</b> |                            |     |     |       |
| <i>Quercus</i> sp                | Oak                        | 99  | 100 | 46    |
| Betulaceae                       | Birch family               |     |     | 9     |
| <i>Alnus</i> sp                  | Alder                      |     |     | 11    |
| Maloideae                        | Apple sub-family           |     |     | 18    |
| <i>Acer campestre</i>            | Field Maple                | 1   |     |       |
| Indet                            | Indeterminate              |     |     | 16    |
|                                  | Vitrified                  | 23  | 11  | 14    |
|                                  | Radial cracks              | 21  |     | 12    |
|                                  | Post-depositional sediment | 40  | 7   | 41    |
|                                  | Distorted                  |     |     | 11    |
|                                  | Round wood                 |     |     | 2     |

Table 5.4 Charcoal identification from selected samples at Penlands Farm

by acute thermal degradation during the charring process, vitrification and post-depositional sediment.

Vitrification is a process that distorts the anatomical features of the wood, giving it a glassy appearance. Vitrification has often been attributed to high burning temperatures and prolonged exposure to heat (Gale and Cutler 2000; Prior and Alvin 1983), although recent experiments claim that vitrification is not induced by such factors and that the cause is still unknown (McParland et al 2010). Radial cracks have been associated with the burning of fresh wood (Keepax 1988, 32), while post-depositional sediment may reflect changes in the water table during burial.

Period 1: late prehistoric

*Pit [254]*

The charcoal fragments from pit [254] were almost exclusively of oak (*Quercus* sp), almost half of which were affected by post-depositional sediment. Vitrification and radial cracks also distorted the wood. A single fragment of field maple (*Acer campestre*) was the only other taxon present. The fragments were all of large branch or trunk wood.

Period 2: Late Iron Age/Early Roman

*Pit [62]*

The charcoal in pit [62] was all of large branch or trunk wood of oak, with only a few of the fragments affected by vitrification and post-depositional sediment.

*Ditch [111] (ENC2)*

Over half of the identifiable fragments in ditch [111] were of oak. Wood of the birch family (Betulaceae) was present and included that of alder (*Alnus* sp). Eleven fragments of Maloideae charcoal were recovered; the sub-family includes the taxa of apple (*Malus* sp), pear (*Pyrus* sp), hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp) and whitebeam (*Sorbus* sp). Two fragments of roundwood from oak and alder were identified within the assemblage.

**Charred plant remains**

Hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments were identified in ditch [163] D3 and medieval pit [141]. A single wild grass (Poaceae) caryopsis was also recovered from the latter.

## DISCUSSION

The charcoal deposits within the pits are most likely to indicate a single event of disposal of spent fuel, of which oak was evidently the preferred taxon. Ditches are often long-lived features and are more likely to contain material from multiple deposition events than are pits – a possible explanation for the diverse taxa in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch.

Oak would have been readily available in the local environment in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period, especially within the Weald. It is an excellent timber wood and burns well (Austin 2003, 99; Taylor 1981) and it is therefore likely that it would have been utilised for construction as well as fuel. Alder may have been collected from along the River Ouse or its tributaries, as it favours moist environments (Rodwell 1991; Polunin and Walters 1985). Wood of the apple sub-family may have been collected from local wild scrub or managed orchards. Field maple is strongly associated with calcareous soils and would have been widely available on the chalk soils of the North and South Downs. Hazelnuts were probably collected from the wild as a food source, as there was an absence of hazel wood charcoal in the assemblage. Similarly, oak was the dominant taxon identified in Iron Age features at Broadbridge Heath, West Sussex (Allott 2018), and was accompanied by similar taxa including alder, birch, field maple and the legume family (Leguminosae). Comparison indicates that exploitation of wood species was relatively limited in the Weald and is possibly related to pre-determined selection.

**5.4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

The archaeological work at Penlands Farm has provided further insight into the later prehistory of the Weald and the significant influence this had on the development of the historic landscape. Apart from residual prehistoric flintwork (see ASE 2016c) that complements similar assemblages from the surrounding area (Griffin et al 2004; ASE 2011b), the earliest phase of activity at the site was represented by a large sub-oval enclosure interpreted as a livestock corral (ENC1). Stratigraphic relationships showed that this monument preceded a later enclosure (ENC2) possibly established as early as the mid 1st century BC, and it would be reasonable to assume (despite the lack of dating evidence) that ENC1 originated in the late Middle Iron Age. This is a period that lays the foundation for subsequent activity across the Wealden region (Margetts 2018a) and it is highly likely that these enclosures were intended for the management of livestock. The animals would have been pastured on well-watered south-facing slopes of the nearby sandstone ridges, locations which have been shown to be favoured for the grazing of cattle during the later medieval period (Margetts 2017). Artefactual material recovered from both enclosures proved to be sparse and it is possible that they were utilised only seasonally, perhaps by herders engaged in transhumance. Certainly the increasingly open, but partially wooded, landscape of the Weald in the centuries leading up to and immediately following the turn of the 1st millennium (see Margetts 2018a) would have been advantageous for browsing and foraging animals excluded from the community's corn land. From the ceramic evidence it would appear that use of the site continued until the later 1st century AD, when, following the Roman Conquest, maintenance of the double-ditched enclosure gradually declined until its final abandonment.

Though ENC2 is thought to have functioned primarily as a permanent livestock enclosure, its morphology and topographic situation is also somewhat reminiscent of the small defended hill-slope enclosures of the West Country and parts of Wales. Fig 5.10 shows its location on a slight spur rather than a promontory, overlooked by higher ground to the west. It was in close proximity to areas that presumably comprised extensive grazing during the period at Haywards Heath and Ashdown Forest as well as water supplies in the form of the Scrase Stream and Lullings Gill. Such a situation is frequently found in Iron Age and Early Roman hill-slope or multiple enclosure forts of the west, and the size and defences of the Penlands Farm



example are also consistent with the site type (Fox 1952; Cunliffe 2005, 280–85, 293; Britnell and Silvester 2018). Indeed, the interpretations of hill-slope fort and livestock enclosure may not be mutually exclusive, as the sites appear to have been built by pastoral communities primarily concerned with protecting and managing herds rather than constructing expressions of defence (Fox 1952; Cunliffe 2005, 293).

Pottery evidence associated with ENC2 indicates renewed activity at the site during the 11th century. This was the earliest medieval material retrieved from the upper horizons of the enclosure ditches; however, greater quantities of 12th- and 13th-century pottery relate to more intensive utilisation possibly associated with a building. It is probable that ENC2 survived in earthwork form into the medieval period, and this may have been facilitated by the reasonably substantial nature of the associated ditches (up to 1.80m deep and 4m wide) and the potentially large size of an intervening or double bank (*c* 1–2m high when first constructed?). The possibility of the enclosure's reuse is borne out not just by the ceramic evidence or the relative intensity of medieval activity within the bounds of the enclosure compared with that beyond, but by the toponymic evidence of Penlands Farm itself. Penlands was likely to have been in existence by the early 14th century, when it was probably the home of one 'Thomas atte Pende' (AD 1327; Mawer and Stenton 1930, 266). Pende comes from the Old English *pende* or *pynde*, meaning 'an enclosure' (Smith 1956b, 75), and it is likely that the holding and its owners were named for the preserved topographic feature of the prehistoric earthwork. That this enclosure could have been utilised for 11th-century and earlier seasonal pastoralism is a distinct possibility and visitation by 6th- to early 11th-century herders would be difficult to trace ceramically (see Margetts 2018a). From the 7th century the wider area is known to have been utilised for livestock pasturage (Margetts 2017) and it would seem likely that a pre-existing enclosure provided a handy pinfold for animals in an intercommonable countryside.

By the later 13th century land management practices appear to have altered and the enclosure was levelled to make way for new system of assarted fields. This period of activity corresponds to more widespread occupation, enclosure and exploitation of the Wealden landscape at a time when there was an increasing need to fence agricultural land in response to population and grazing pressure. It has been suggested elsewhere that the late prehistoric and Early Romano-British period left a significant legacy in the Wealden landscape (Margetts 2018a; 2018b), and the evidence from Penlands Farm further demonstrates that early enclosures persisted in

earthwork form into the medieval period. At this time they were probably reutilised as part of the pastoral economy, a phenomenon known in stone-using areas such as Bodmin Moor, Cornwall (eg at Brown Willy; Herring 2006 or Stowe's Pound; NHLE: 435704), but little recognised in the woodland landscapes of the South East. Not only did the enclosure at Penlands Farm have a significant legacy in the historic landscape, but it also influenced the medieval toponymy and nomenclature of this area of mid Sussex: Thomas atte Pende and his farm were very likely to have been named after the distinctive enclosure that existed on the holding, an enclosure that had survived for some 1400 years or more.

# CHAPTER 6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

*Andrew Margetts*

## 6.1 DISCUSSION

Due to the ongoing efforts of fieldworkers, discussion of the archaeology of the Sussex Weald is thankfully no longer limited to Roman or later ironworking, nor to the system of medieval swine pannage recorded by charter evidence and Domesday. As important as these aspects of the history of the region are, the growth in development-led archaeology has now broadened our horizons when considering periods of human occupation and activity within the area. As examples of this trend, this small group of sites, stretching in the east from Haywards Heath on the borders of the High Weald to Billingshurst close to Stane Street in the west, has produced a fascinating array of finds dating from the depths of prehistory to the relatively recent past. Over the last ten years our eyes have been opened to Wealden activity dating to the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods, as well as Romano-British settlement the extent of which would not have been countenanced 40 years ago. Emblematic of this shift in the quantity and quality of known information is the reporting here of a late Middle Palaeolithic hand axe retrieved from the most southerly site, Chalkers Lane, Hurstpierpoint. The find is interesting in that it sheds light on Romano-British curation of earlier artefacts, but moreover it is inherently important for its regional scarcity and the link it might provide with our distant ancestors – those Neanderthals who wandered the Wealden anticline during MIS 3 (-59–24 ky BP).

### EARLIER PREHISTORY

Earlier studies of the archaeology of the Weald (Gardiner 1990; Margetts 2018a) have demonstrated that prehistoric exploitation was widespread. Evidence of Mesolithic and Neolithic to Early Bronze Age activity is reasonably common across the area, although evidence tends to be restricted to findspots and flint scatters rather than settlement sites. This pattern was borne out by the results of the four sites presented here that encountered ‘background scatters’ of mixed flintwork belonging to multiple periods. While Mesolithic material was probably present in all of the flintwork assemblages, it was most recognisable at Billingshurst, where four microliths were recovered. The presence of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age diagnostic tools, including polished axes and arrowheads, is noteworthy, as is the possible Early Neolithic pottery from Millfield, Southwater.

Despite the continued scarcity of evidence for occupation, the number of barrows on the Weald forest ridge indicate an increased population and an agricultural phase of settlement during the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (Needham 1987, 126–7). Though these four Wealden sites did not yield evidence of contemporary habitation or land division, they have demonstrated the increasing evidence that exploitation extended away from the ‘barrowlands’ of the High Weald. The most likely locations for contemporary occupation activity within the remainder of the region would be the low consecutive ridges that occupy parts of the Low Weald landscape. Updated distribution analysis of diagnostic Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age material combined with a LiDAR barrow survey (such as that utilised by the People of the Heath project; Needham 2016) would allow predictive modelling of where to focus effort in revealing this enigmatic period of Wealden exploitation.

### LATER PREHISTORY AND THE ROMAN PERIOD

A valuable outcome of this work has been the increased evidence for later Bronze Age activity on the Low Weald clays evidenced at the sites of Billingshurst and Chalkers Lane, Hurstpierpoint. At the former, activity comprised pitting and the deposition of a Middle Bronze Age vessel of the Deverel-Rimbury tradition. At Chalkers Lane there was more conclusive evidence of ‘permanent’ occupation suggested by a roundhouse with associated structured deposition. As an example of the more substantive later Bronze Age Wealden settlements found in Sussex, Chalkers Lane joins the enclosure at Gatwick Airport (Wells 2005), occupation at America Wood, Ashington (Priestley-Bell 1994) and the roundhouses, pits and possible field systems of Manor Road, Burgess Hill (Wallis 2016).

The Chalkers Lane site adds to an emerging picture of the Wealden periphery as a settled zone during this period (Margetts 2018a, 66), with activity at Burgess Hill being perhaps typical of wider patterns of occupation in the Low Weald. The area has seen a considerable amount of development-led archaeology that has revealed not only roundhouses and probable field systems but also burnt mounds dating to the end of the Bronze Age (Butler 2009). Burgess Hill is situated on the Low Weald clays astride tributary streams of the River Arun, watercourses that were utilised for the burnt

mound activity (ibid, 7). The use of the Wealden periphery during this period may be related to agricultural intensification, population increase and expansion of settlements from surrounding zones (Margetts 2018a, 65); however, more fieldwork is required before a more complete picture of contemporary Wealden settlement can be confirmed.

In line with earlier studies of the region (Margetts 2018a), the next significant period of activity relates to the Middle Iron Age. All four sites showed evidence of low-level activity dating to this period, although features at Penlands Farm and Billingshurst are of greater significance. At Penlands an early corral was ascribed to the Middle Iron Age despite a lack of direct dating evidence. More certainly of the period was a 5th-century BC four-post structure from Billingshurst that incorporated a quantity of hammerscale. Interpreted as a smithy, or part of a smithy complex, the structure expands our burgeoning knowledge of early ironworking in the region. The sites generally favour locations near watercourses and hills or ridges, a trend that has been noted elsewhere (see Margetts 2018a, 66, 323; Figs 6.1 and 6.2); they also continue a pattern of Middle Iron Age activity that precedes more widespread occupation in the Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British periods (Hamilton 2007, 84–5; Margetts 2018a, 66).

This subsequent Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity was found to be extensive, with all four sites showing evidence for

contemporary activity. They continue the pattern of dispersed farmsteads that appears to be characteristic of the region (see Margetts 2018a). Also consistent with earlier studies (Margetts 2018a; 2018b) was the generally north–south or north-east–south-west orientation of much contemporary land division. Though the reasons for this trend are open to debate, the examples presented here nonetheless corroborate earlier work (Margetts 2018a; 2018b). Questions surrounding Roman or pre-Roman continuity into the landscape of the medieval period were a central theme of the Fields of Britannia project (Rippon et al 2015), the aim of which was to study the extent of possible continuity, or discontinuity, in the physical fabric of the countryside. One of the ways this was achieved was by overlaying historic landscape evidence as depicted on Ordnance Survey 1st edition maps with excavated land division, allowing a determination of the relationship between the two: one in which they were completely different and unrelated; one in which a common orientation shows signs of possible continuity; or one where both landscapes were aligned, showing a form of continuity.

The Wealden region is known to be a well-preserved medieval landscape with much of the countryside as represented on Ordnance Survey 1st edition mapping providing a good representation of how the region may have looked in the late Middle Ages. It is also a region noted for

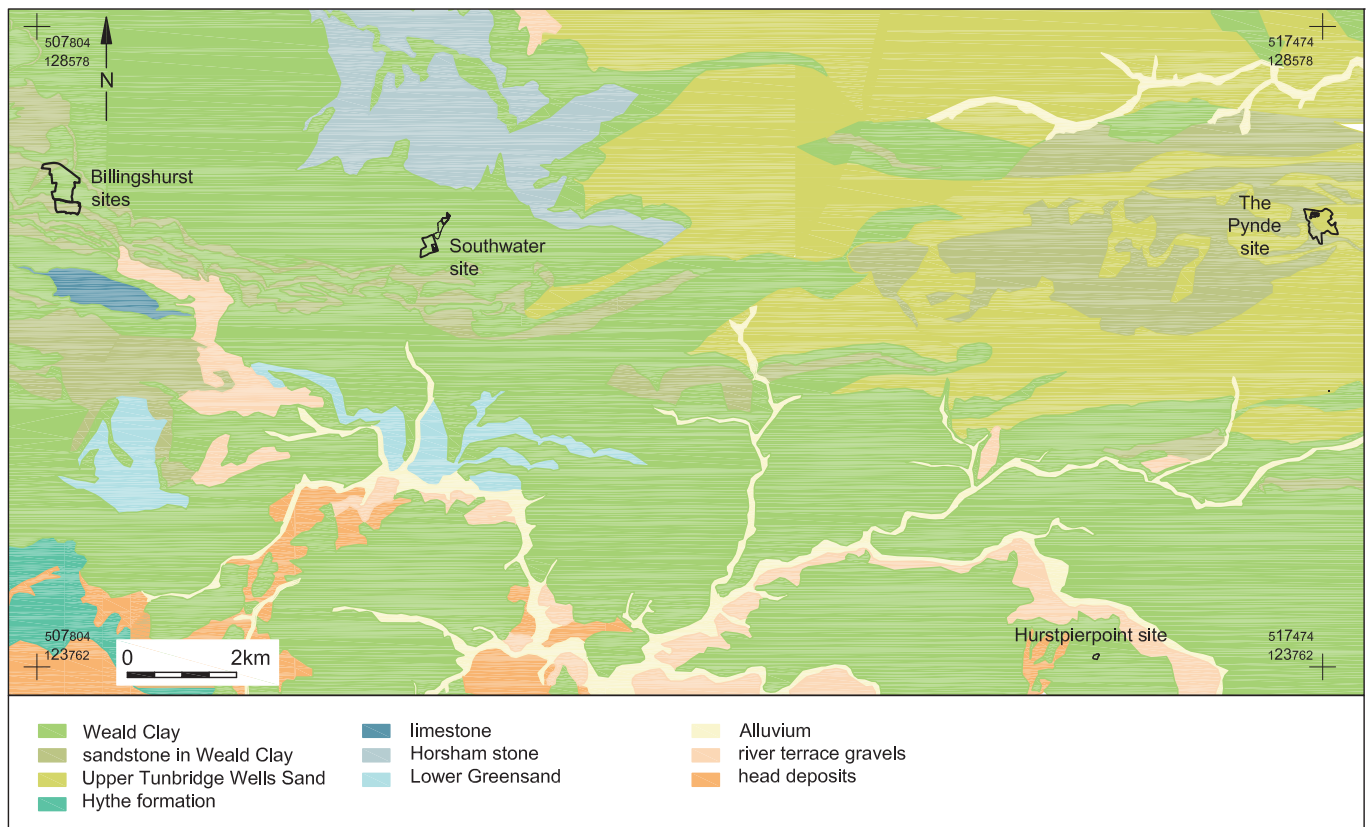


Fig 6.1 Site locations in relation to geology and watercourses. Contains British Geological Survey materials © UKRI [2020]

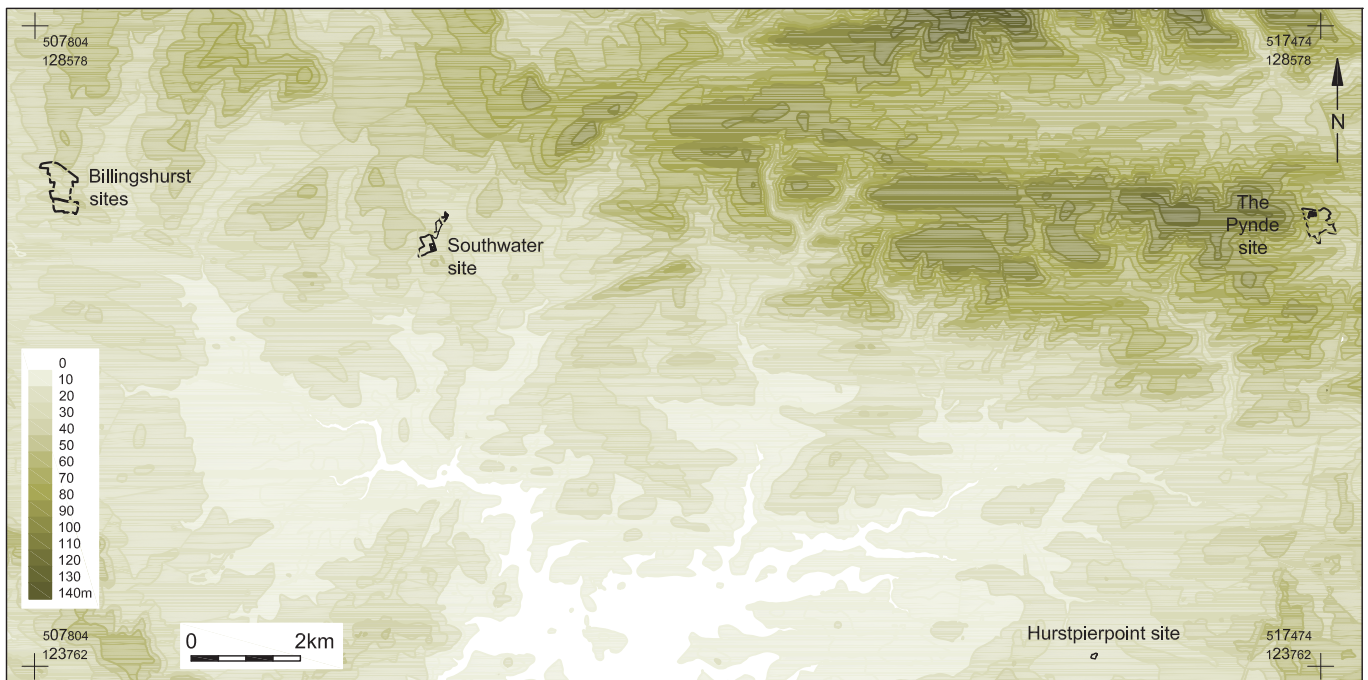


Fig 6.2 Site location in relation to topography. Contains © Crown copyright and database rights 2020

linear arrangements of loosely co-axial fields framed by axial elements comprising droveways, all of which are thought to be reflective of Anglo-Saxon estates and later medieval manors (Chatwin and Gardiner 2005; Margetts 2018a; 2021). Excluding the Penlands Farm/Pynde, all of the sites presented here are located in landscapes that display this generally linear arrangement of land division.

At Chalkers Lane, Hurstpierpoint, all periods of activity represented at the site shared a common general alignment with the historic landscape (Fig 6.3). The site was very likely to have been situated within the bounds of the Anglo-Saxon estate and subsequent manor of Hurst, which was held by Earl Godwin prior to the Conquest (Domesday 12,36). The orientation of the prehistoric and Roman land division (and that of the late Roman ditches in particular) with the historic landscape may indicate some continuity between early fieldscapes, the Anglo-Saxon estate and the modern countryside. That being said, the land division also appears to be orientated parallel to, or perpendicular to, a nearby stream (Fig 6.3). It has been noted elsewhere that the axial droveways and land division of the Sussex Low Weald appear to run perpendicular to topographical and geological boundaries found across the region (Margetts 2021, 109).

At Billingshurst the prehistoric and Roman land division was also well aligned with the historic landscape (Fig 6.4), although again it was noted here that the similarity in alignment was probably driven by the similarity in topographical setting (Chapter 3). The influence that Stane Street had on the correspondingly aligned historic landscape of

much of the Low Weald has been discussed elsewhere (Chatwin and Gardiner 2005, 38; Margetts 2018a, 306–7), and it is possible that the 1st century AD construction of the Roman road influenced the subsequent layout of the surrounding landscape. The earliest settlement enclosure at Billingshurst was probably established in the post-Conquest period, although a very Late Iron Age inception could not be entirely ruled out. It should be noted that the preceding Middle Iron Age features also show some orientation with the historic landscape, although they cannot be confidently described as ‘land division’. It should be noted that Stane Street potentially follows an earlier trackway and it may be the influence of that earlier route that we see in the surrounding landscape (Margetts 2018a, 307).

Archaeological and scientific dating of routeways is beginning to expand our knowledge of the deep time depth inherent in these landscape elements. Work by Martin Bell (2020) has demonstrated that cross-topographic routes (including Anglo-Saxon droveways) within the South-East appear to originate in late prehistory (*ibid*, 239) with the Ports Road and Thundersbarrow Hill routes of Sussex displaying probable Iron Age origins and the Lyminge route in Kent being scientifically dated to the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age (*ibid*). The latter was certainly well established by the Roman period.

Work undertaken for Wickhurst Green (Margetts 2018a, 15–18) has shown how it is possible for pre-existing boundaries to continue to have an influence on later landscape development despite periods of abandonment. In heavy clay environments elsewhere it has been postulated that if fields



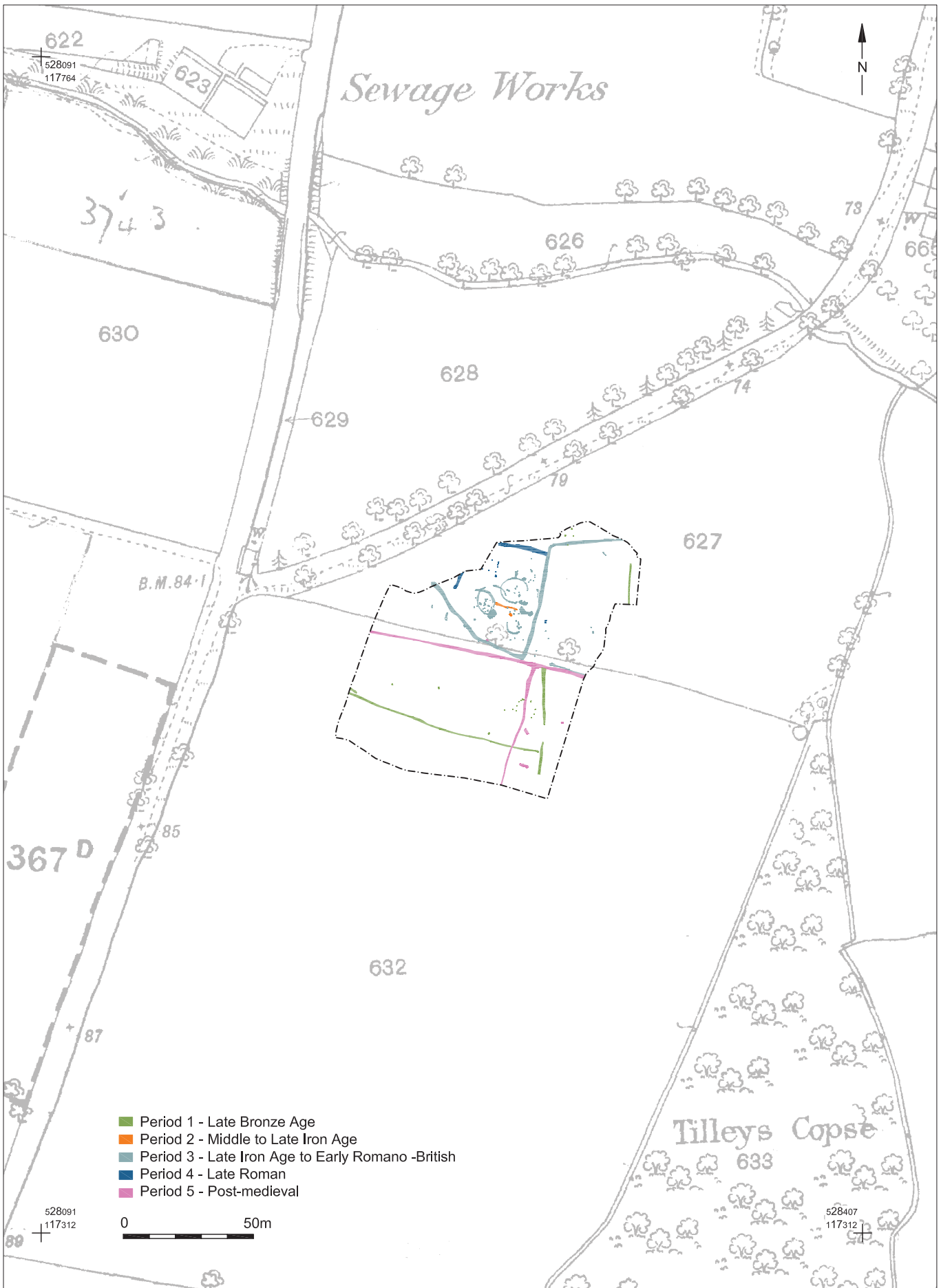


Fig 6.3 Chalkers Lane, Hurstpierpoint archaeological activity in relation to the historic landscape (period 5 and OS 1st edition)  
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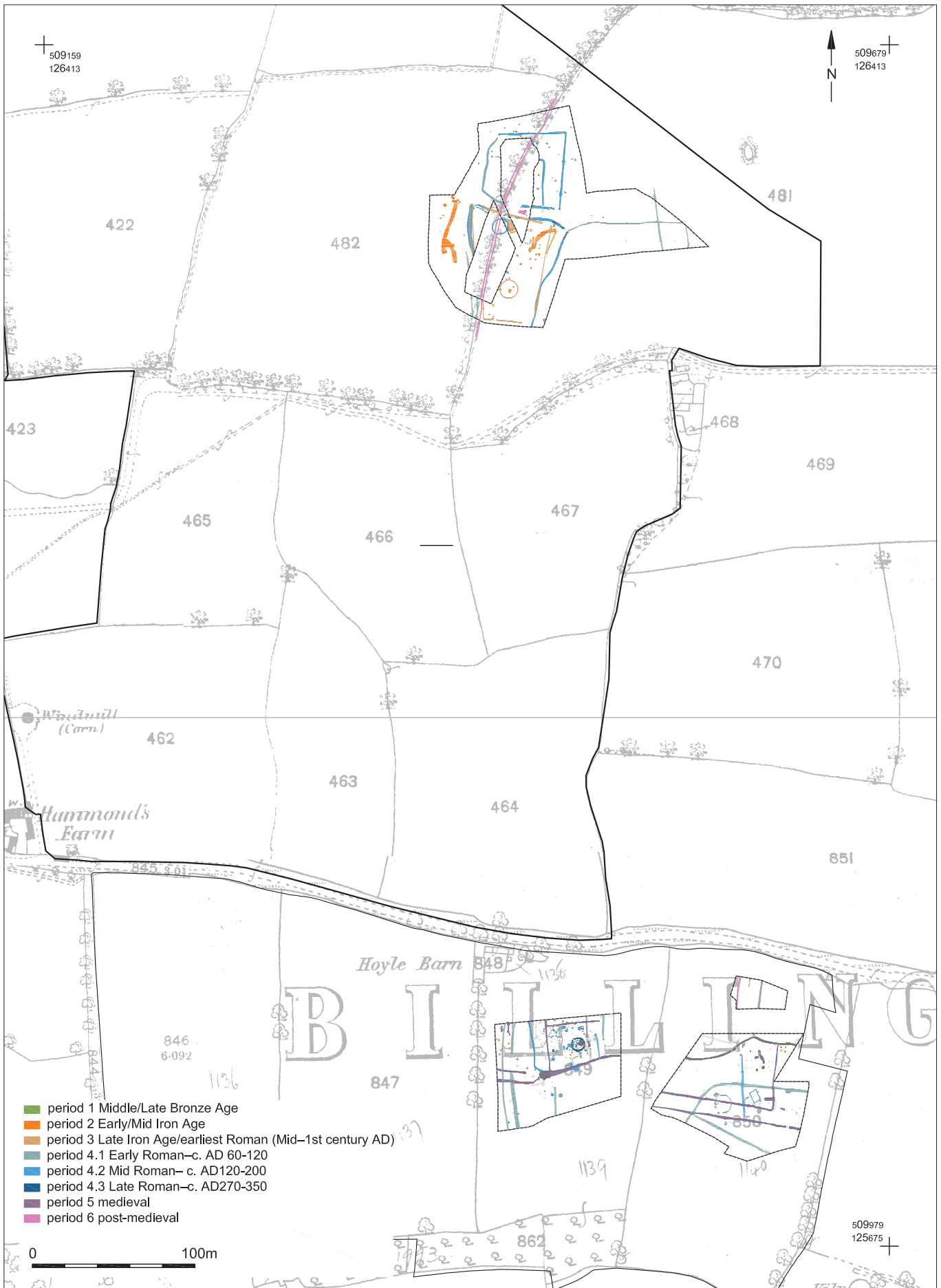


Fig 6.4 Archaeological activity to the east of Stane Street, Billingshurst in relation to the historic landscape (periods 5 and 6 and OS 1st edition)  
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had become abandoned to rough pasture and woodland it would have been easier to clear leaf mould and silt from pre-existing features once reclamation resumed (Hunter 2003, 7). At Billingshurst the identified medieval field systems and roughly perpendicular trackways were nearly identically aligned to the Roman field systems both to the north and south of the A272 (Chapter 3). Even more significant was the relationship of Roman ditches underlying medieval examples, strongly suggesting that the medieval field system could comprise later recutting and use of landscape features dating back to the Roman period.

At Millfield, Southwater, the Roman period land division appears orientated with some elements of the later historic landscape but not with others (Fig 6.5). At nearby Mill Straight, however, the Later Roman land division in particular seems unrelated to the historic landscape (Fig 6.6). Despite this apparent landscape discontinuity, an examination of the OS 1st edition maps show that there are some differences in chronology for the layout of fields and routeways in the area south of Southwater in which the sites exist. Firstly, the imposition of the Horsham to Steyning turnpike in 1764 resulted in Mill Straight, a new road connecting two earlier sections of routeway at Botting's Hill and Pollard's Hill (Hudson 1986, 108; Fig 6.7). This not only had the effect of reorientating some of the surrounding field boundaries prior to the 1876 OS map, but it is also likely to have resulted in the loss of a section of earlier north-east–south-west-aligned droveway somewhere to the north of the Mill Straight site (Fig 6.7). In addition, the area the sites occupy is characterised by cohesive assart fields of probable medieval date. It is clear from the historic mapping, however, that the field layout surrounding the new turnpike in a roughly oval area between Southwater and Knepp appears somewhat more recent than the dominant north-east–south-west-aligned cohesive assarts of the surrounding landscape (Fig 6.7). The latter are thought to be of early date (Chatwin and Gardiner 2005; Margetts 2018a; 2021). It may be that the imposition of the medieval hunting preserve of Knepp Park had an effect on the field pattern of the oval area (Fig 6.7). Once these nuances are understood the Roman and earlier land division at Mill Straight and Millfield appear to be better aligned with some of the oldest elements of the countryside. The later Roman elements of Mill Straight appear to be particularly well orientated with the earliest north-east–south-west trend of the Low Wealden cohesive assarts.

In contrast to the sites discussed above, the Iron Age/Early Roman activity at Penlands Farm comprised not land division in the form of enclosed fields or settlement enclosures

with appendant fields and trackways but rather an isolated and substantial enclosure preceded by a slighter forebear. Examination of potential continuity in terms of landscape orientation is therefore void in this instance; however, it was clear from the examination undertaken above (Chapter 5) that continuity between earlier landscapes and those of the medieval period was here expressed in different ways – namely, the survival of a pre-existing enclosure and its entry into the local nomenclature. It is interesting to note, however, that when more permanent and extensive exploitation of this part of the Weald occurred in the high medieval period, the old enclosure was not respected by the endeavours of the new assarters (Fig 6.8).

The discussion undertaken above demonstrates an increasing body of evidence. We are gaining an ever-expanding insight into the degree of Wealden exploitation during and around the 1st century AD and it is becoming apparent that the region was well settled and significantly utilised during this time. This expansion in knowledge is no doubt a product of a reasonably high Late Iron Age/Early Roman population within South-East England and the willingness of communities to make use of the area's significant resources. Iron and woodland are of course some of the Weald's great inherent properties, however, extensive pastoral reserves, whether that be cleared grassland or wood-pasture, is also a key asset of the landscape. Indeed, the Weald may have comprised a significant region for the South East in terms of cattle production, a well-known source of wealth and status during the period. It may be that a system of interdependent relationships existed between the various pays of the South East during the 1st century, as it did during the early medieval period, and it is possible that a system of transhumance may have been in operation at certain sites.

Of the four excavations explored here, the enclosures at Penlands Farm perhaps hold the greatest potential to have been associated with seasonal pasturage and occupation; however, the quantity of material finds at other sites and the nature of their associated landscape divisions suggest that permanent occupation also occurred. Indeed, evidence for Early Roman oat and barley production at both Chalkers Lane, Hurstpierpoint and Billingshurst indicate that by the later 1st century arable agriculture was being undertaken in the Weald. Though the low numbers of cereal grains at Hurstpierpoint means that we cannot be unequivocal regarding the presence of crop fields at that site, the quantity of arable weeds at Billingshurst supports the notion of contemporary Wealden arable production. At Millfield Southwater a few radiocarbon dates indicate at least low-level pre-Conquest activity, but most of the remains appeared to date to the later 1st century and

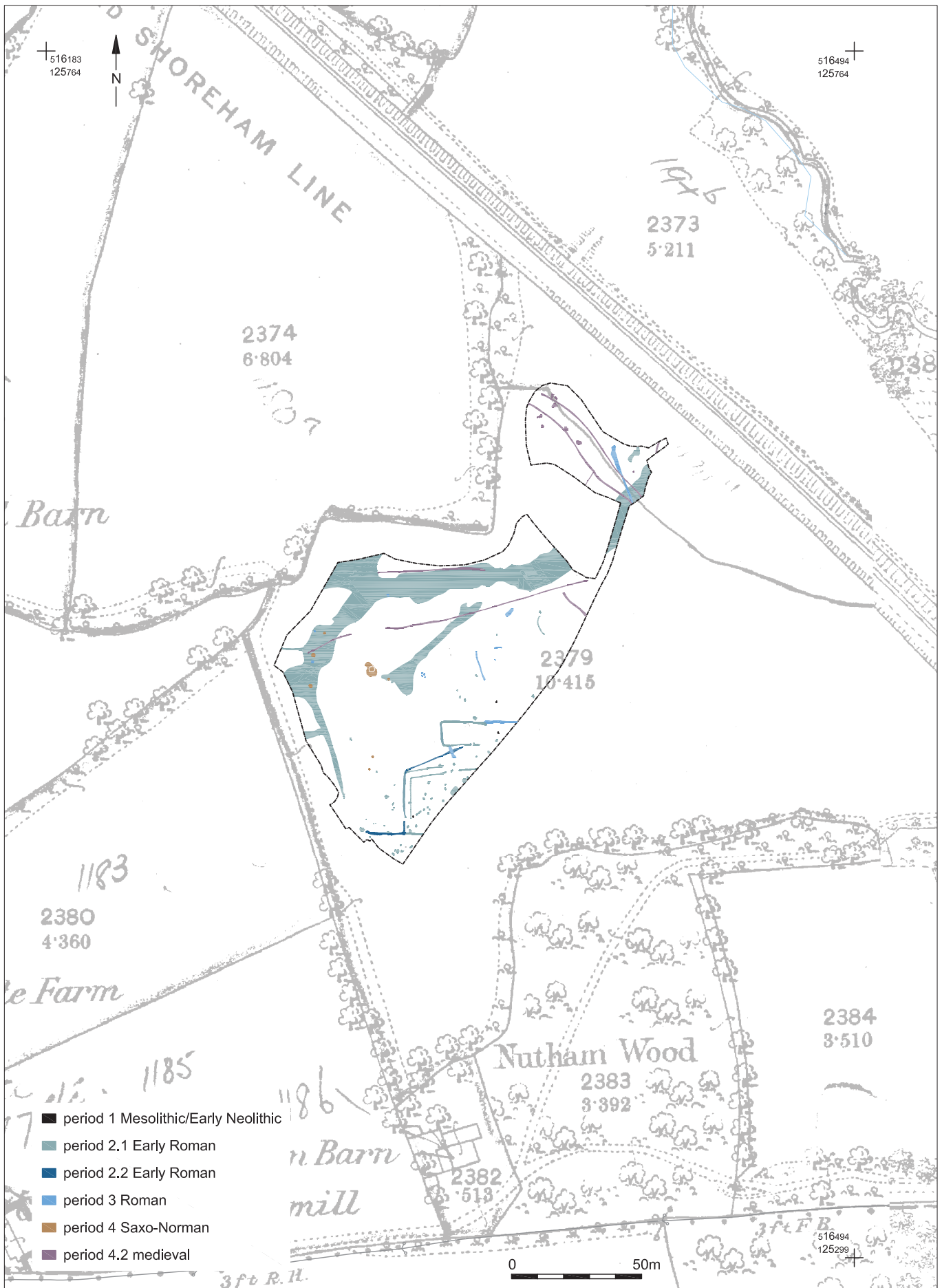


Fig 6.5 Millfield, Southwater, archaeological activity in relation to the historic landscape (period 4 and OS 1st edition)  
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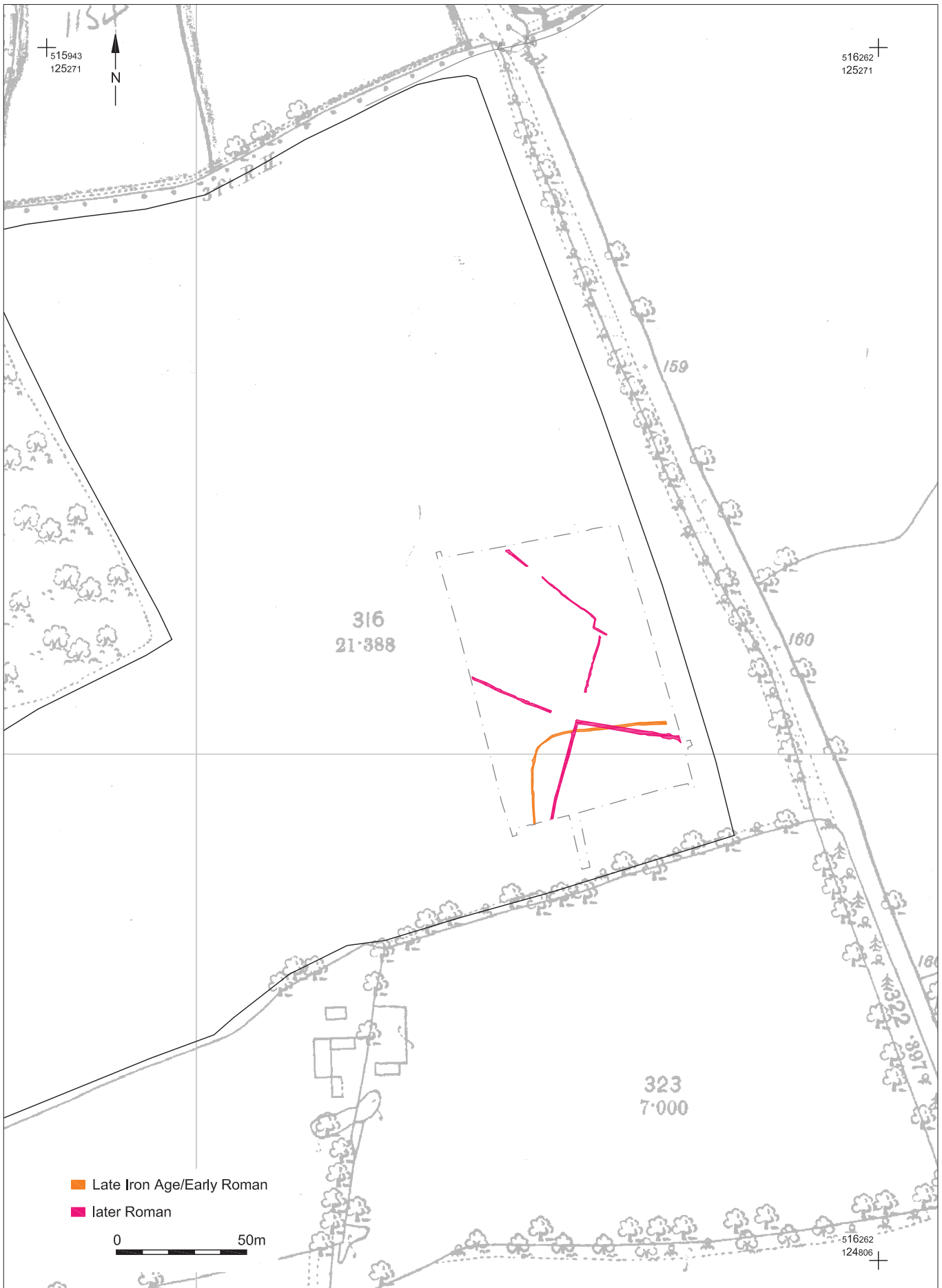


Fig 6.6 Mill Straight, Southwater, Late Iron Age and Roman land division in relation to the historic landscape (OS 1st edition)  
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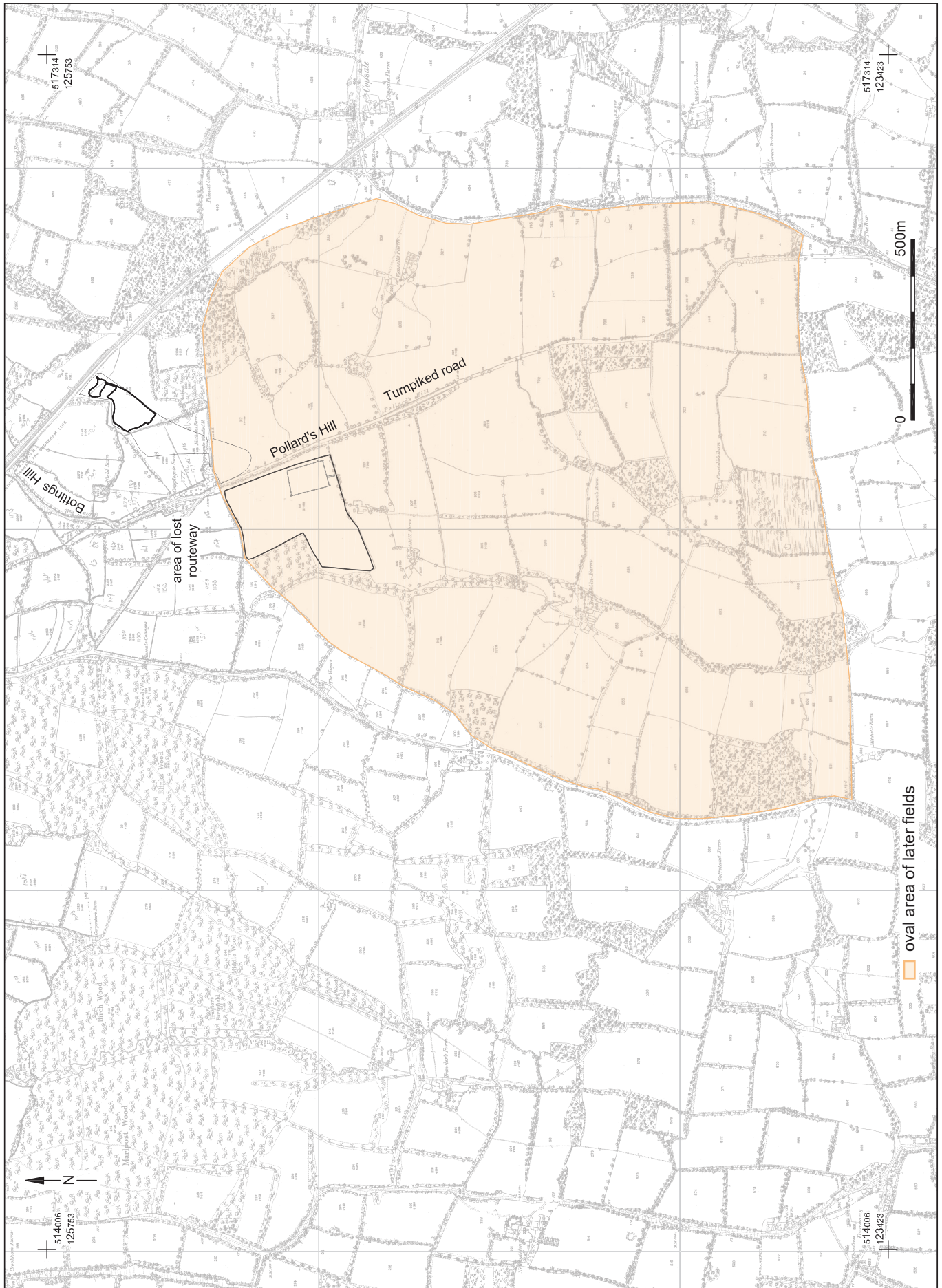


Fig 6.7 The wider area surrounding the Southwater sites as shown on the OS 1st edition map (1876). Contains Crown copyright Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved



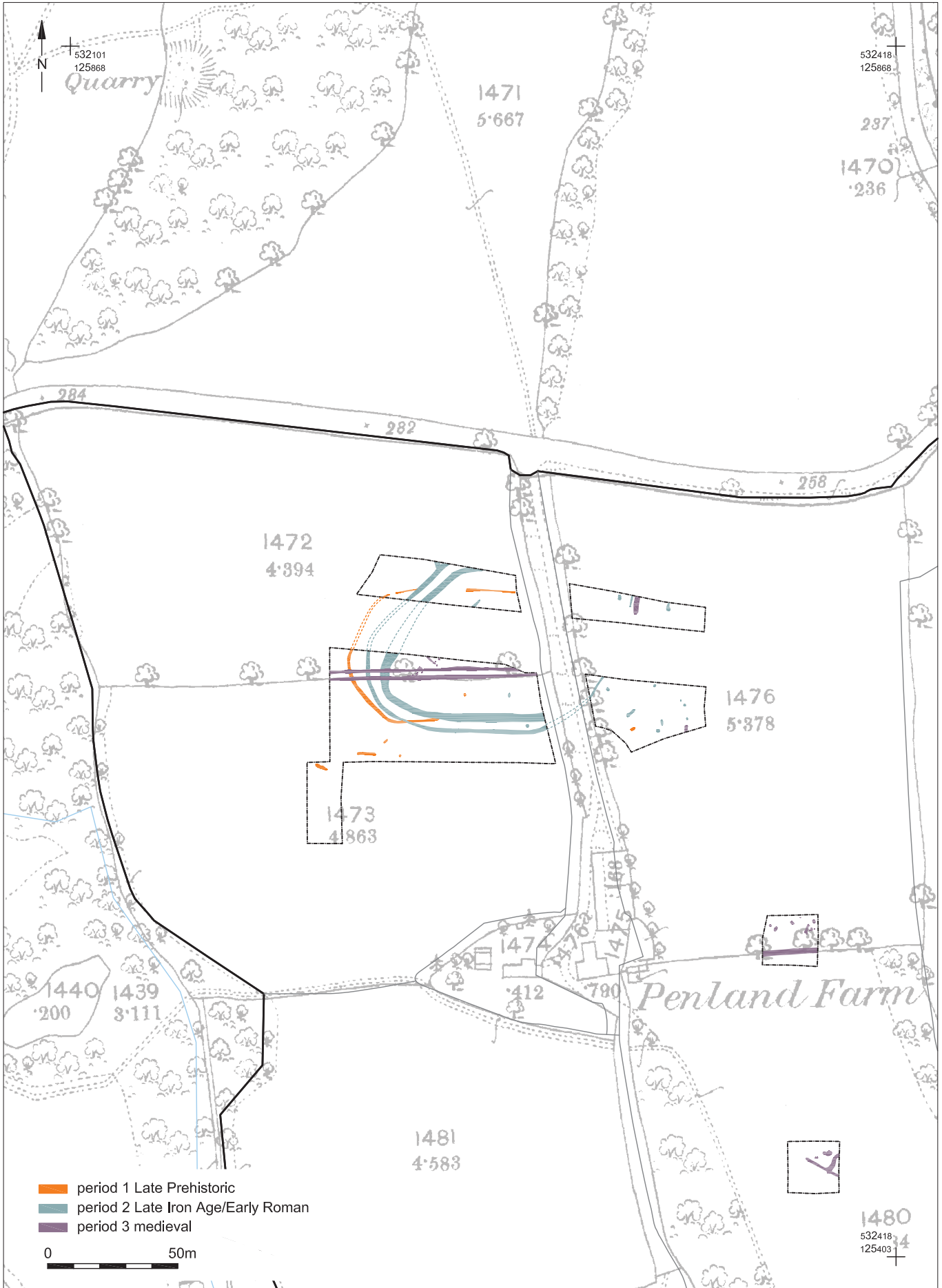


Fig 6.8 Penlands Farm, Haywards Heath, archaeological activity in relation to the historic landscape (period 3 and OS 1st edition)  
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many of the encountered features probably related to livestock management. The presence of several querns was also noted in pit [333] and it is likely that some grain processing was occurring in the area. The rapid assimilation of Roman styles within the pottery assemblage and access to good-quality non-local querns suggests that the 1st-century population may have had stronger connections to Roman administrative system than that at other sites in the area, including Wickhurst Green (Margetts 2018a).

Following intensive 1st-century activity there was a noticeable contraction in pottery deposition during the following century. This decline has been noticed elsewhere (Margetts 2018a) and it is apparent that the mid Roman period was witness to a significant reduction in activity across the Wealden region. This phenomenon is something partially but not wholly supported by the evidence presented here. Certainly, at Chalkers Lane, Hurstpierpoint, the 1st-century AD pottery was dominated by utilitarian jar forms that appear quite insular and local in comparison to similar assemblages that extend into the 2nd century (see Doherty, Chapter 2). At this site there was a sudden drop-off of activity during the mid Roman period, with reoccupation occurring probably in the early 4th century AD. Similarly, The Pynde at Penlands Farm was utilised until the later 1st century AD, when, following the Roman Conquest, maintenance of the double-ditched enclosure gradually declined before abandonment took place. At Billingshurst, a hiatus in pottery deposition appears in the later 2nd century and extended to the late 3rd to mid 4th century AD, whereas at Millfield, Southwater pottery deposition persisted through the 2nd and 3rd centuries, but at much lower levels and in disparate features (see Doherty, Chapter 4). The mid Roman activity at Millfield may have been an extension of that at nearby Mill Straight, where 2nd- to 4th-century activity occurred in rectilinear, probably Romanised fields. These were orientated on a north-east–south-west axis and, despite their characteristically Roman form, they were operated by a community that had access to only a modest material culture (Ellis & Massey 2019, 105).

The reasons for this apparent, but by no means total, abandonment have been discussed elsewhere and include the intensification of industry, altering methods of agriculture, changing settlement practice and social transformation (Margetts 2018a, 139–40). Perhaps, given the events of recent years, another factor should be considered: the ancient pandemic known as the Antonine Plague or the Plague of Galen. The years associated with this disease outbreak appear

to correspond with abandonment and contraction noted in the period AD 160–80 within surrounding zones, such as London (Perring 2011), and the mid 2nd-century decline in settlement evidence within the Weald could also be explained in such terms. Even if the plague did not have direct consequences for the population of the Weald, any decline in the demography of South East England would have had implications for landscapes often considered marginal.

Across the Low Weald it appears that there was a significant reoccupation of earlier sites in the Late Roman period. Activity dating to this time is often characterised by dark fill deposits, in many ways reminiscent of the so-called ‘dark earths’ found in Late Roman urban contexts (Carver 1987; Macphail et al 2003). Significant Late Roman activity was encountered at both Chalkers Lane, Hurstpierpoint and Billingshurst, where evidence included an enclosure and rectangular building as well as a possible shrine and a coin hoard. The late 3rd- and 4th-century reoccupation of sites together with the Wealden region more generally has been interpreted as use of the area as a refuge away from the troubles and militarised zone of the ‘Saxon Shore’ (Margetts 2018a, 140–1).

## THE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL PERIODS

The exploration of this small group of sites has helped reinforce our understanding of the medieval and post-medieval Weald. On the whole, the evidence related to field systems and the expansion of settlement during those well-rehearsed stages of colonisation firstly in the 10th–11th centuries and subsequently in the 12th to 13th centuries and the early post-medieval period. Earlier medieval activity in the Weald is difficult to detect archaeologically, largely as a result of its predominantly seasonal nature and the impracticality of ceramic vessels for those engaged in transhumance. Nevertheless, interpretation of the remains at Penlands Farm, combined with some toponymic evidence, shows that an earlier enclosure was potentially utilised by 6th- to early 11th-century herders. Small charcoal pit kilns dating to the Saxo-Norman period were encountered at Millfield, Southwater, highlighting the woodcraft the region is so well known for (Chapter 4). Overall, the evidence for the medieval and post-medieval periods represented here is drawn from agricultural activity and exploitation of the landscape. Trackways and routes between fields were encountered and the comparison of land division with historic maps shows the antiquity of the Wealden landscape.

## 6.2 CONCLUSION

The Weald has been successful in concealing its secrets for millennia. Its environment, geology, periodic stages of use and perceived marginality has meant that recognition of its rich archaeological heritage is not as forthcoming as it is in surrounding zones. In addition, many stages of Wealden use are poorly represented by contemporary material culture, limiting the effectiveness of archaeological interventions such as trial trench evaluations. A drawback of planning-led archaeology is the tendency for the value of archaeological remains that cannot be readily dated at the evaluation stage not to be fully recognised and realised. When larger excavation areas are implemented, as they were for the sites presented here, the richness of the Weald's archaeological record is revealed. From Palaeolithic hand axes to Roman shrines and Iron Age forts, the Weald produces a fascinating record of human history. It is the very fabric of the landscape, however, that is the richest archaeological find. It is a heritage resource in its own right, being consistently demonstrated to be a relic of the medieval period, if not before. In the hedgerows, fields and tracks of much of the Wealden landscape we see reflected the countryside of centuries past. Reach back further and the countrysides of late prehistory and the time of Rome can be glimpsed. Perhaps the secret Weald is no longer; perhaps it is emerging from the trees, blinking into the sunlight.

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**A**n air of ancient mystery permeates the close, heavily wooded clay and sandstone country of the Weald. Its spreading oaks, fern-lined driveways and dark hammerponds tell of the area's early use. The historic activities that shaped this important landscape are long-since past, but nevertheless they still define the character of the region, so readily apparent in its countryside.

This rich heritage has not been matched by commensurate levels of archaeological investigation, but over the last decade this has begun to change. This volume details the results of archaeological work conducted across four sites within the Sussex Weald. In terms of geographical areas covered, the sites presented are located on the Low Weald at Billingshurst and Southwater, on the region's boundary with the Greensand Ridge at Hurstpierpoint and at Haywards Heath, on the edge of the High Weald.

Among the findings presented here are some regionally important remains, including one of just a handful of known Palaeolithic finds with a Wealden provenance (a handaxe reminiscent of the *bout coupés* type), perhaps some of the earliest land division so far excavated in the Wealden region dating to the Late Bronze Age, a Roman shrine and what could possibly constitute the remains of an Iron Age fort, one of the hill-slope type.

Most of the sites produced useful pottery assemblages, including Late Bronze Age material, thus far so scarce within the Weald, and new medieval fabric types for the Billingshurst area. Environmental remains were also recovered including charcoal dominated by that derived from oak, affectionately known locally as 'Sussex weed'.

