

# By a Crystal Brook

Early Riverside Settlement and a Medieval Chapel  
at Sutton Poyntz, Dorset

By Mick Rawlings



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with contributions from

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# Summary

This report describes the results of several stages of archaeological work resulting from plans to construct a new water treatment plant utilising the springhead of the River Jordan at Sutton Poyntz, a village at the foot of the chalk scarp near Weymouth, Dorset.

Human activity in the area, since at least Mesolithic times, has focused on the river. Residual worked flint, including a bifacially flaked piece of Palaeolithic date, was recovered in excavation. More than 400 worked flint and chert items were found, including a concentration of Mesolithic material, mostly from a single feature or natural hollow. A small amount of probable Neolithic–Early Bronze Age flintwork including a thumbnail scraper, and 15 sherds of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery were also recovered from later features.

Evidence for a substantial Early Iron Age settlement was revealed, though it had been much disturbed by later activity. Part of a probable timber-built round-house was uncovered in the south-west part of the site. The building had a cobbled floor which showed evidence of episodes of repair and reuse. A second possible building lay immediately to the west. In the central area, a series of almost parallel ditches may have been for drainage or could have been used to define the edge of the settlement. Also in this area were a number of post-holes and shallow pits, although no structures have been identified. A substantial assemblage of 8th–5th century BC pottery was recovered. This includes shouldered jars, and bipartite, red-finished shouldered bowls with close local parallels, and wide-open bowls and large slack-shouldered jars that, elsewhere in the area, are of slightly later date.

During the 1st–2nd centuries AD a number of ditches and a single stone-built bank, aligned approximately north-east to south-west were constructed in the northern part of the site. A deposit of flinty gravel which covered part of this area may represent an attempt to level the ground, and prevent or reduce waterlogging.

Subsequently a stone-built bank was constructed across the site just above the base of the slope, probably to prevent the movement downslope onto the flat ground of colluvial soils. These soils continued

to build up behind the bank whilst deposits more typical of occupation were accumulating on the south side. However virtually no negative features of Romano-British date were identified in the central part of the site, so the nature of any such occupation is unclear.

A small ditch upslope of, and parallel to, the bank may have part of the same system of land management. The bank was reinforced and heightened at least once, but fell out of use and a further series of ditches was introduced here in the 3rd or 4th centuries.

Two infant inhumation burials in wooden coffins are probably of Romano-British date.

Following a period of colluviation, a rectangular building was constructed on an east–west alignment at the southern end of the site. This is thought to be a chapel of the 13th–14th centuries, possibly lying within a manorial settlement complex. It was built of limestone slabs with some ashlar blocks and a cobbled floor. Three phases of building and refurbishment could be identified. The remains of drains, soakaways and a plinth, possibly for the altar, were recorded. Detailed documentary analysis has established that there was a medieval chapel at Sutton Poyntz, constructed shortly before 1400, probably by the Poyntz family. However, it is not clear that the remains recorded in the excavation are of the same building.

A second building was partially excavated and could also be part of any such complex. To the north of the buildings further fragmentary walls may represent boundaries or isolated out-buildings. Beyond the walls was a network of shallow ditches indicating some form of land division and, along the eastern edge of the site, was at least one substantial pond, probably linked to a system of water management in connection with industrial activities.

Little activity was recorded in the excavation area after the chapel had been demolished, by 1650. Settlement seems to have shifted downslope where it was focused on two watermills. To serve these the River Jordan was dammed and diverted on several occasions and the first water pumping station was constructed in the 1850s.

# 1. Introduction

## Archaeological Background

The proposed construction of a new Water Treatment Works and associated facilities for Wessex Water necessitated the archaeological excavation of c. 1500 m<sup>2</sup> of land, centred on SY 7057 8402, at the northern edge of the village of Sutton Poyntz, Dorset (Fig. 1). This excavation was the major component of a staged programme of archaeological work carried out at the site; previous stages included a trial-trenched evaluation and the observation of geotechnical pits.

Sutton Poyntz is located within an area which has a rich and extensive archaeological record. There are some documented local find-spots of Palaeolithic artefacts (Wessex Archaeology 1993a, 116–7; 1993b, 164–5). Two hand-axes, a flaked nodule, and a Levallois flake were found at Poxwell, 3.5 km to the east; with other hand-axes known from Winterbourne Came, Bincombe Hill, Jordan Hill, and Weymouth. Mesolithic sites and find-spots in the area include Jordan Hill, as well as others in the vicinity of Weymouth and on the Isle of Portland (Wymer 1977, 72, 75; Palmer 1969).

Immediately to the north of the village is the dominant east–west escarpment of the South Dorset Ridgeway, along which is a dense concentration of Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows (Woodward 1991). Clusters of Bronze Age round barrows occur on West Hill and East Hill, the spurs of the Ridgeway which overlook the village. A single pit containing an Early Neolithic bowl of South-Western (Hembury) style was found next to the West Hill barrow group (Piggott 1954, 383; Farrar 1958) during the construction of a reservoir in 1937. The pit also contained several flint and chert flakes, including a scraper.

A similar event led to the discovery on Rimbury Hill, west of the village, of nearly 100 urned cremation and several inhumation burials of Middle Bronze Age date (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) 1970, 457). Studies of the ceramic vessels from this cemetery contributed to the formation of the concept of the ‘Deverel-Rimbury culture’. The term ‘Deverel-Rimbury’ is now more usually taken to represent a component part of a broader ceramic tradition (Bradley 1981; 1984; Cunliffe 1993). An extension to the reservoir in 1979 resulted in the recovery (Woodward 1980) of two Developed Southern Beakers (dating to c. 2000 BC) which had been placed in a pit alongside a flexed adult inhumation and accompanied by a copper alloy awl.

Rimbury Hill forms the tip of a spur leading southwards from the Ridgeway. Within the central

part of this spur is the Early Iron Age hillfort of Chalbury Camp (Whitley 1943), within which are two more round barrows. Further evidence of Early Iron Age activity has been excavated along the line of a gas pipeline immediately west of Chalbury Camp at Quarry Lodden (Bailey and Flatters 1971), where it was sealed below soil layers containing material of Romano-British date.

Evidence of activity in the Romano-British period has also been found to the south of Sutton Poyntz at Jordan Hill (RCHME 1970, 616–7), where an extensive inhumation cemetery of over 80 burials has been investigated. Most of the burials appear to date from the later part of the 1st century AD, although the possibility of a later Iron Age date for the origin of the cemetery cannot be ruled out. Some of the burials lay within well-defined plots surrounded by low walls, and the whole cemetery may have been enclosed within a large walled area.

Close by is a square building, usually regarded as a temple, which seems to have been most intensively used in the 4th and early 5th centuries AD. A large number of coins have been found within a probable square enclosure surrounding the building, these are mainly of 4th century AD date. A rectangular shaft in the south-east corner of the building was lined with roofing slabs and filled with a series of deposits indicating its religious significance. These deposits included superimposed pairs of roofing slabs, each pair sandwiching bones from a single bird, either buzzard, raven, starling, or crow, and also a single bronze coin, of Theodosius I (AD 379–95). A stone cist half-way down the shaft contained weapons and some pots, and a second cist at the base contained similar material and some other iron objects. The stratigraphic relationship between the shaft and the temple wall footings is not known.

A Roman villa of 3rd/4th century AD date has been partially excavated immediately south of the village of Preston (RCHME 1970, 618) and other finds of this period are said to have come from the churchyard there. Occupation material of the 4th century has also been found on the coastline, at Bowleaze Cove (*ibid.*, 617) and piles of a possible Roman landing stage have been reported.

Two flexed inhumation burials of probable later 1st century AD date were found during construction of a house to the east of the water pumping station in the village of Sutton Poyntz (*ibid.*, 618); a third burial remained unexcavated. Some sherds of 3rd/4th century date were also found in the garden. Other burials of probable later 1st century AD date have been found along Plaisters Lane, to the north-west of

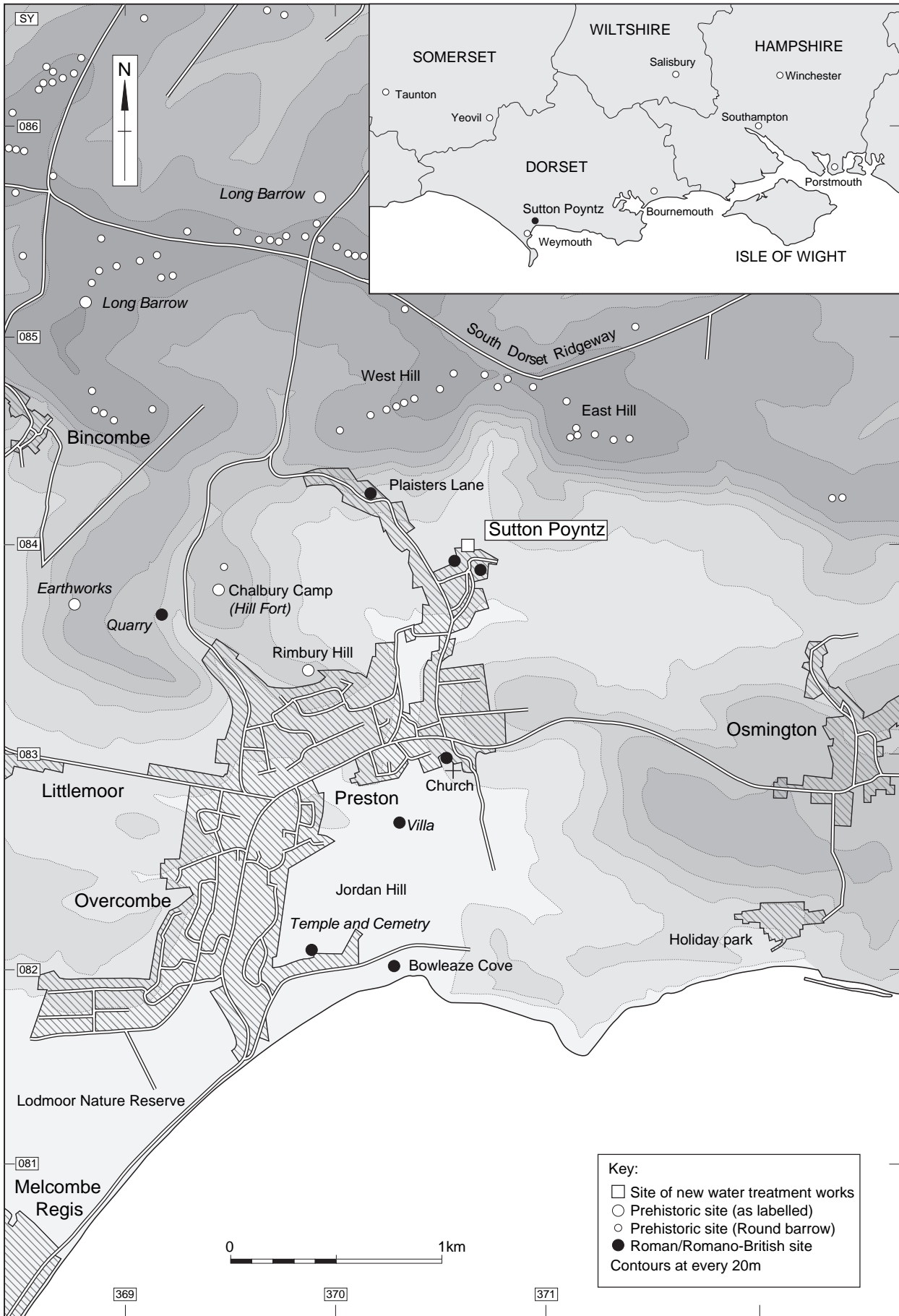


Figure 1 Site location and other major archaeological sites in the area

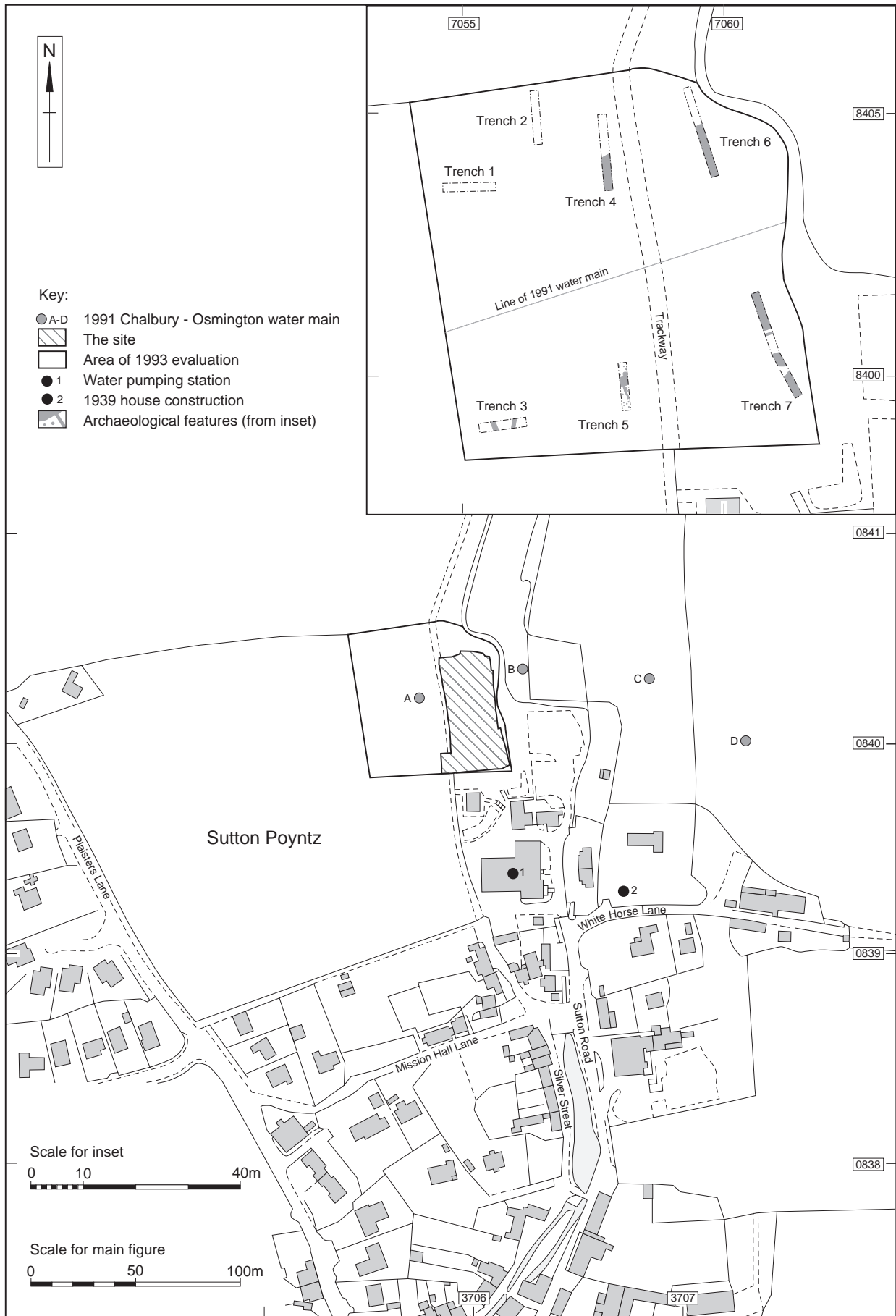


Figure 2 Evaluation trenches and detailed archaeological background



the village (*ibid.*, 618–9; Farrar 1964). Finds of Romano-British date are also known from the site of the former Water Pumping Station in the village.

## The Site

The area of land selected as the location of the new Water Treatment Works lies immediately to the north of the water pumping station. It is at the base of a gentle south-east facing slope, sheltered by the higher ground of the Ridgeway to the north and by its flanking spurs to the east and west. Along the eastern side of the site is the River Jordan, fed by springs at the base of the Ridgeway and flowing south past the Roman villa at Preston and on to Bowleaze Cove, site of the possible landing stage mentioned above.

The basal geology of the Sutton Poyntz area is a component of one of the most complex groups of formations in southern England, with the strata often being folded or steeply tilted and with many distinct faults. Reference to the relevant geological map (Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1:50,000 Drift Series 341/342) indicates that the excavation area is within an extensive deposit of Kimmeridge Clay of Jurassic date, which forms the central part of the Sutton Poyntz Pericline (Arkell 1947, 266–71). Immediately to the north of the site, at the base of the slope, is a major east–west fault zone which delineates the northern edge of the Pericline. Related dip faults are ultimately responsible for the break in the ridge between East Hill and West Hill and thus for the existence of the springs which feed the River Jordan.

No deposits of Kimmeridge Clay were recorded within the site area during the course of the archaeological excavation. The underlying geological material was instead shown to be a mottled orange–brown clay overlying a calcareous cream-coloured clayey gravel. These deposits represent material from higher up the slopes to the north and west, probably Oxford Clay and Chalk respectively, which has moved into the base of the valley by natural erosion processes. These may have included periglacial processes, such as solifluction, or be the result of landslips, although perhaps this latter would have resulted in slightly greater distortion within the deposits.

Confirmation of the presence of archaeological features of later prehistoric and Romano-British date within the site of the proposed Water Treatment Works was first provided during observation of the laying of a water main in 1991 (Lancley 1992, sites A and B). Occupation deposits of later Iron Age and Romano-British date were identified on either side of the track which leads northwards from the village to the springhead (Fig. 2). These deposits were cut by negative features of a similar date and, in places, were

sealed by more than a metre of colluvium containing pottery of Early/Middle Iron Age, later Iron Age, and early Roman date. Some medieval and post-medieval pottery was also recovered; this was considered to be intrusive and was probably the result of a number of later service trenches which had cut through the deposits.

Other features indicating activity in the Early/Middle Iron Age, later Iron Age, and Romano-British periods were found immediately to the east (Lancley 1992, sites C and D). The diagnostic Romano-British material from this area was mostly 3rd–4th century in date, whereas that from within the site of the proposed Water Treatment Works was mostly of the 1st–2nd century AD. The residual medieval material was mainly of 12th–13th century date.

## The Evaluation and Pre-excavation Watching brief

An archaeological evaluation of the site was commissioned in advance of the submission of a detailed planning application for the construction of the new Water Treatment Works. This was carried out in July 1993 (Wessex Archaeology 1993c). The evaluation area comprised a roughly rectangular piece of land measuring *c.* 4200 m<sup>2</sup> at the eastern side of the large field to the north-west of the water pumping station (Fig. 2). It included land on either side of the track which leads north across the field from the village towards the springhead.

The evaluation was undertaken as a series of machine-excavated trenches, the size and locations of which were determined to a great extent by the number of modern services known to exist within the area. The reported results of the evaluation identified three distinct types of archaeological activity at the site.

Primarily there were a number of features and deposits indicating occupation dating to the first half of the 1st millennium BC. These features were confined to the southern part of the evaluation area and included ditches, gullies, and post-holes cutting into the basal geology. In each case the features were sealed by soil layers up to a maximum recorded depth of 0.5 m. Although two sherds of Early Neolithic pottery were recovered from the surface of the natural clay, the pottery from the excavated features suggests that the occupation is mainly of Early Iron Age date. The discovery of some sherds of earlier Romano-British pottery could indicate renewed activity at this date.

Secondly, three areas of infilling were found along the eastern edge of the site. These took the form of large hollows of unknown depth (greater than 1.5 m) and the upper, excavated parts contained a small

amount of material of Iron Age and Romano-British date, although in one of the hollows two sherds of medieval (late 12th–14th century) pottery were also found. It was considered that these infill areas could have been associated with natural river meanders or activities connected with the river, and that the material in the hollows had probably washed into them from higher up the slope.

The final activity identified by the evaluation was a spread of material, predominantly limestone rubble, across the southern end of the site. A considerable quantity of roofing slate fragments was also found within this deposit, which was up to 0.5 m deep. This rubble spread was interpreted as a dump of unwanted building material derived from the construction of the water pumping station in *c.* 1856.

In August 1993 a number of small test pits was excavated within the proposed development area in order to accurately locate some of the existing services. This work was the subject of an archaeological watching brief and resulted in the recovery of a quantity of human bone. Freshly broken fragments of a skull, jaw, rib, and long bones were present in sufficient quantity to suggest that an inhumation burial had been disturbed. The test pit from which these fragments were recovered was located at the eastern edge of the site, adjacent to the east–west water main. This was an area in which the evaluation had identified an area of possible river channel infill, and some sherds of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery were found within the test pit.

## 2. The Excavation

In the light of the results of the evaluation, a programme of pre-construction excavation was developed for the site. The eastern part of the evaluation area (east of the track) was to be the subject of a full archaeological excavation; this part measured *c.* 1500 m<sup>2</sup> (Plates 1 and 2). West of the track, the topsoil was not to be removed and this area was to be protected during construction work. A project design was written by Wessex Archaeology and this document, with later revisions, formed the basis for the excavation work. The excavation methods were based on the results of the evaluation and, initially, entailed the removal by machine of topsoil and of the Victorian dump deposits in the southern part of the site. Archaeological features revealed below these layers would then be recorded and a portion of each feature excavated.

Excavation started in October 1993 and it was soon realised that the site contained a far more complicated sequence of deposits than those revealed by the evaluation. At the north end of the site the topsoil lay directly over colluvial deposits and the presence of linear features, both archaeological and also modern service trenches, was noted from the start. Towards the base of the slope, however, machining revealed a short extent of an east-west limestone wall immediately north of the Empool-Chalbury water main.

To the south of the water main it was necessary to machine away a slightly greater depth of material in order to reveal the orange-brown basal clay, within

which the apparent density of archaeological features was increasing. Although the modern service trenches were still present in this central area, the services and trench fills were left in place as standing baulks.

A further isolated section of limestone wall was preserved within this area and, as the machining progressed towards the southern end of the site, it became clear that below the topsoil and the dump deposits thought to be of Victorian date were the remains of at least one substantial stone building. In this southern area, therefore, the overlying deposits were removed only to the level at which this building was visible. A standing baulk aligned north-west to south-east, associated with a group of modern service cables, was initially left in place across the building; it was eventually removed during the course of the excavation.

A wall that appeared to represent a second building was found at the south-western corner of the excavation trench. At a later stage during the excavation it was realised that the proposed laying of diversion pipes would cause damage to this second building and, accordingly, a small extension to the trench was excavated.

The colluvial deposit at the north end of the trench was cut by several linear features, and examination of the trench baulks indicated that other features or deposits might be sealed below the colluvium. Further examination of this northern area consisted of the excavation of several slots into the colluvium, both by hand and by machine, along with



*Plate 1 General view of the excavation from the north-west*



*Plate 2 General view of the excavation from the south*

smaller box-sections and conventional sections across the features visible within its surface.

South of the water main, in the central part of the site, there appeared to be little or no colluvium. A range of archaeological features was visible, cutting into the orange-brown basal clay. These included a series of ditches aligned east-west and a large number of discrete circular or rounded features as well as a much larger feature at the eastern edge of the site. In this central area, a sample number of each feature type was excavated and recorded.

At the southern end of the site the isolated rectangular building was cleaned and the internal deposits removed. Slots were excavated in a number of places within and around the building in order to examine the construction techniques but the walls were left in place. The whole of the exposed part of the building in the south-west corner was excavated and removed, and underlying deposits examined. A slightly more extensive excavation of deposits at this level was carried out in the area between the two buildings.

At the completion of the archaeological excavations, the whole trench area was cleared in advance of construction. A watching brief was carried out during the clearance of a new access road from the existing car park to the east of the site.

## **Chronology and Phasing**

The internal site stratigraphy, along with an initial assessment of the artefactual material recovered during excavation, was used to establish a provisional dated sequence within which most excavated contexts could be placed. A more detailed examination of the records and the finds, especially the pottery, later allowed this sequence to be further refined and more securely dated. A group of sequence diagrams or matrices which present this information in graphic form are held in the site archive.

Six distinct periods of activity have been identified and separate phases within two of these periods have also been recognised. The following report describes the excavated sequence by period and phase. The associated artefacts are described by material type and period in Chapter 3, with catalogues in archive. The environmental data are described in Chapter 4.

With the exception of Period 1, for which diagnostic worked flint and a small amount of pottery were recovered, the primary dating for most of the identified periods was achieved by analysis of the pottery. Although a small number of residual Neolithic and Bronze Age sherds was recovered from the site, the assemblage of prehistoric pottery is predominantly of Early Iron Age date. Detailed analysis of the pottery from the Romano-British

phases suggests that the activity spans almost the whole of this period, from the 1st–4th centuries AD.

The medieval activity is tightly dated by the pottery to the 13th and early 14th century. Almost no material of post-medieval or later date was recovered, much of the overburden being removed by machine.

#### *PERIOD 1. Pre-1st Millennium BC Activity*

Residual worked flint, including a bifacially flaked piece of Palaeolithic date and several flakes possibly of a similar date, was recovered from the site. These pieces were found individually in several, separate deposits of prehistoric and medieval date, and also in the machine-stripped overburden. An assemblage of worked flint dating to the Mesolithic was also recovered; some of this material was residual within later features but 64 pieces were found in a ditch or stream channel. Other residual worked flint is likely to be of Neolithic/Bronze Age date and several sherds of pottery were recovered which are also of this period. Most of these were found in features resulting from activity at a later date.

#### *PERIOD 2. Early Iron Age Settlement*

A substantial settlement was revealed, covering much of the excavated area. At the southern end of the site it was quite deeply stratified but partially destroyed by medieval activity. The spatial extent of the settlement was indicated by the presence of features in the central area. Examination of the pottery suggests a date range of the 8th–5th centuries BC.

#### *PERIOD 3. Romano-British Activity*

At the northern end of the site was a series of ditches and a stone-built bank running across the slope. These were associated with deposits suggesting some settlement activity and also with episodes of colluviation. An infant inhumation burial in the central part of the site and another in the south-west are probably also of this period, which the ceramic evidence indicates spans the 1st–4th centuries AD.

#### *PERIOD 4. Colluviation*

Subsequent to the Romano-British activity the northern end of the site was sealed by a thick deposit of colluvium of probably early medieval date. Artefacts of earlier date contained within this deposit resulted from a reworking of underlying material.

#### *PERIOD 5. Medieval Settlement*

This was concentrated at the south end of the site and included a rectangular stone-founded building and the edge of a second one. The main building has been identified as a chapel associated probably with a settlement that is likely to have been manorial in origin. It is tightly dated to the later 13th–14th centuries by pottery recovered from within the buildings. The buildings were demolished and robbed apparently within the medieval period.

#### *PERIOD 6. Post-medieval Activity*

Little evidence was found of any activity following the abandonment of the medieval manorial settlement. The area seems to have been left unused, with some robbing of any remaining stone wall footings. In the Victorian period, following the adjacent construction of the water pumping station, waste building materials were dumped on the south end of the site.

### **Period 1. Pre-1st Millennium BC**

Seven flakes of worked flint of possible Palaeolithic date were recovered, along with a single fragment of a Palaeolithic bifacially flaked piece. This latter was found in the upper fill of an Early Iron Age ditch, whilst five of the flakes were within the overburden and the other two were from medieval contexts. These pieces seem to be derived from gravels rather than chalk-based sources, possibly beach gravel, although there are deposits of angular flint-gravel and plateau gravel within a few kilometres of the site.

Investigation of a post-hole in the central area of the site revealed that it was cut into the upper fill of a linear feature (Fig. 3, 422). A section excavated through this feature show it to be a steep-sided cut 0.5 m deep and 0.7 m wide at the surface. Within the excavated section, it was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east but, despite repeated cleaning of the orange-brown basal clay in this area, it could not be further identified. It was clearly cut by the post-hole and by an Early Iron Age ditch (Fig. 3, 55). A mottled grey/brown upper fill sealed a lighter-coloured clayey silt from within which almost all of an overall total of 61 pieces of worked flint and three pieces of worked chert were recovered.

The lithic assemblage includes tool types and other attributes which suggest a date of manufacture within the Mesolithic period and no artefacts of any later date were recovered from this feature. Although it was quite steep-sided, the presence of a thin deposit of gravel at the base indicates that it may have been a



Figure 3 General location plan of prehistoric features, Periods 1 and 2

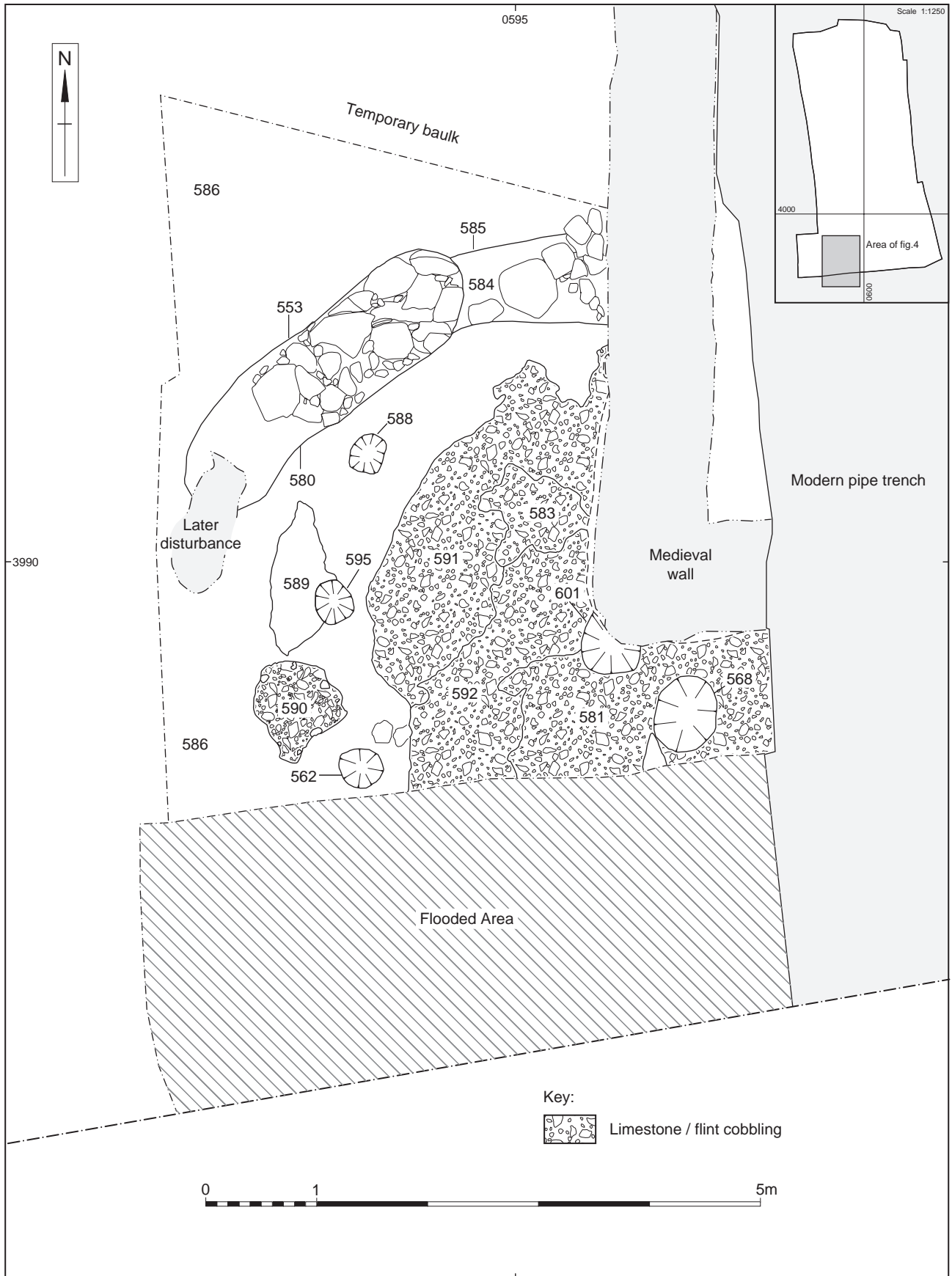


Figure 4 The round-house in the south-west part of the site

small stream or possibly a drainage ditch but an anthropogenic origin could not be proved.

A thin deposit of olive-green silty clay (78, 83) lay directly on the basal clay in this part of the site and was cut by features of Early Iron Age and Romano-British date. This may represent a buried soil which would pre-date the prehistoric settlement at the site and it contained a lithic assemblage comprising 29 pieces of worked flint and chert sharing the same overall attributes as the material from 422. Other worked flints probably of similar date were found as residual material in later features and these were all clustered around feature 422.

There are some pieces of worked flint within the overall site assemblage that indicate activity within the post-Mesolithic periods, but most of this material is undiagnostic and cannot be used to attribute dates to specific features. A single sherd of Early Neolithic gabbroic ware was recovered from the weathered surface of the basal clay during the evaluation.

A total of 14 sherds of grog-tempered pottery was also recovered and this group has been tentatively identified as later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date. Two features in the central part of the site (Fig. 3, 24; 99) contained exclusively grog-tempered pottery – only one and two sherds respectively – but in each case the sherds were small and probably residual, and these features should be regarded as essentially undated.

## Period 2. Early Iron Age Settlement

### *Stratified Deposits at the Southern End of the Site*

The earliest excavated material at the southern end of the site lay in the area between two medieval buildings. Although partially removed by the construction of these later buildings, the deposits and features recorded here suggested that part of a timber-built structure, possibly a round-house, had been identified (Figs 3 and 4). Three post-holes described a gently curving arc whilst a curving ditch outside the arc may have contained a wall. The three post-holes (562, 588, 595) were each 0.3–0.4 m in diameter and were shallow and bowl-shaped in profile. Each was filled with dark brown silty clay within which were fragments of limestone up to 0.15 m in length. These stones may have been used as packing around the posts. Three sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were found in the fill of post-hole 588 (Fig. 22, 10, 33).

Post-hole 595 appeared to have cut through the edge of a low bank or mound of compact clayey silt (589) up to 0.08 m high, although it is equally possible that this deposit represents a build-up of material around the outer edge of the arc of post-

holes. Immediately to the south of 589 was a slightly mounded area (590) made up of small pieces of limestone, this may also have been a build-up of material around the edge of the arc. Both 589 and 590 contained pottery exclusively of Early Iron Age date.

The post-holes were cut into a layer of dark compact soil (586) which comprised the stratigraphically earliest deposit excavated in this part of the site. Overlying this layer within the post-hole arc was a number of overlapping layers of limestone and flint rubble (581, 583, 591, 592) which made up a distinct cobbled surface up to 0.1 m thick. This surface had a curving exterior edge which was just inside the post-hole arc; all of the pottery found within these make-up layers was of Early Iron Age date. A shallow post-hole (601) c. 0.3 m in diameter and partially truncated by medieval activity was cut into this surface but may have been contemporaneous, it is almost central to the post-hole arc.

To the north of the post-hole arc and on a fairly similar curve was a gully or wall footing. At its eastern extent this was a shallow trench 0.7 m wide and only 0.15 m deep (585). Within the cut were a number of pieces of limestone, some quite large, set in a matrix of dark clayey silt. The western end of this feature was cut by a slightly larger trench (553) which followed the curve. This too had large and medium-sized pieces of limestone within the cut and the stones had been robbed out of its western part leaving an obvious robber trench (580). Both wall footing trenches and the robber trench contained a small number of sherds of Early Iron Age pottery. This curving gully or wall-footing is almost certainly related to the post-holes and the cobbled surface and together these represent a timber and stone-built structure, probably a round-house.

Following the build-up of a shallow soil (551, 555) within the interior of the building (Fig. 5), several discrete spreads of burnt debris (560, 578, 579) up to 0.1 m thick were dumped there and a small hollow (573) filled with similar material was cut into the upper part of the robber trench (580) along the outer gully (553). Much of the remainder of the upper part of the outer gully 553 was also filled with burnt material (552). Some of the burnt deposits may relate to reuse of the earlier structure, but this is not clear. Soil layers 551/555 contained a quantity (54 sherds; Fig. 22, 5–7, 23, 29) of Early Iron Age pottery and similar sherds were also recovered from the spreads of burnt material.

Activity in this area was sealed by an accumulation of dark soil (550) 0.1 m deep which was seen to extend to the west below a medieval building. This layer contained a substantial amount of pottery (47 sherds; Fig. 22, 3, 8, 24, 25, 32) exclusively of Early Iron Age date. A further soil layer (535) was also found to overlie 550 in places.



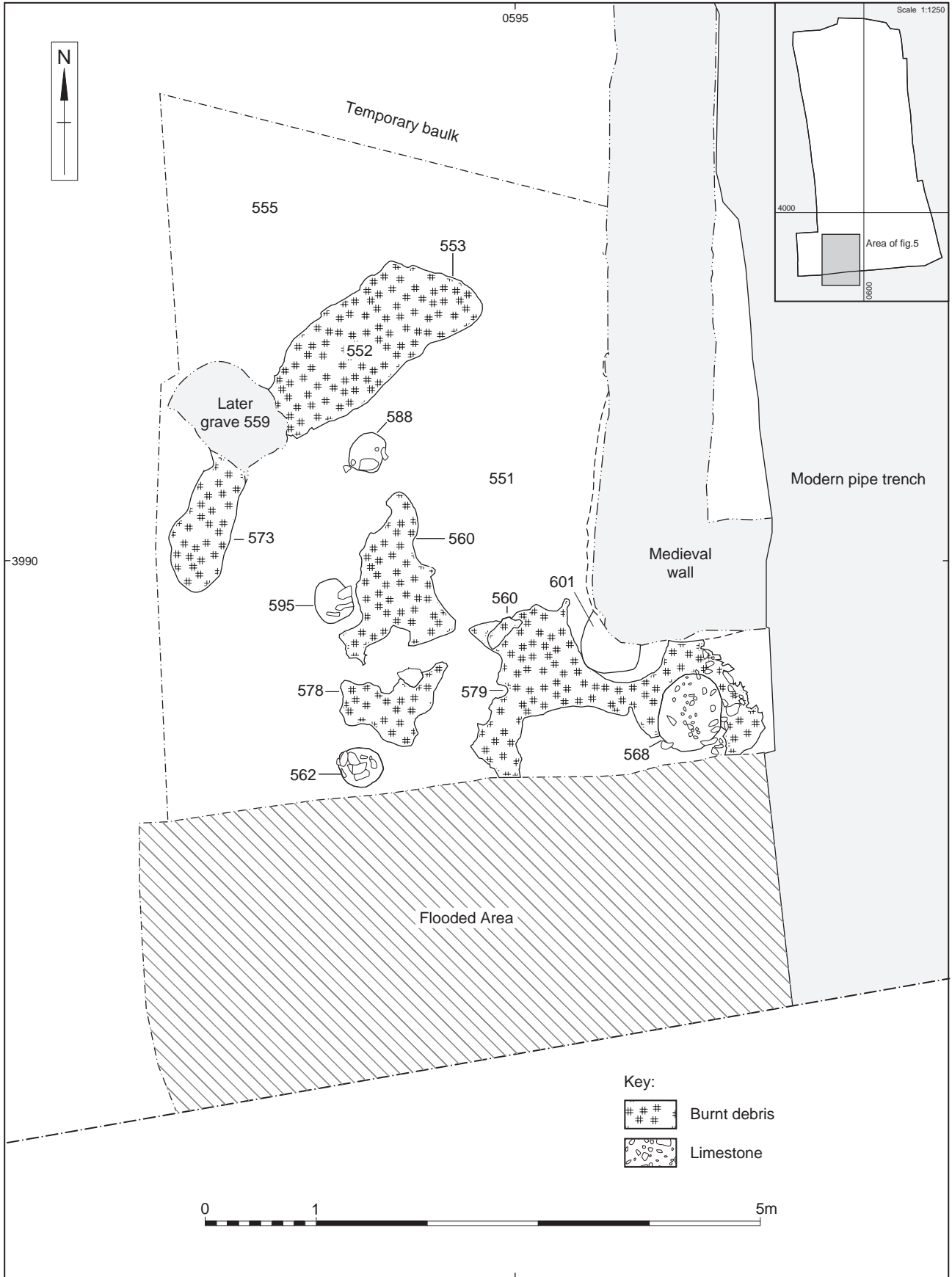


Figure 5 Re-use of the round-house

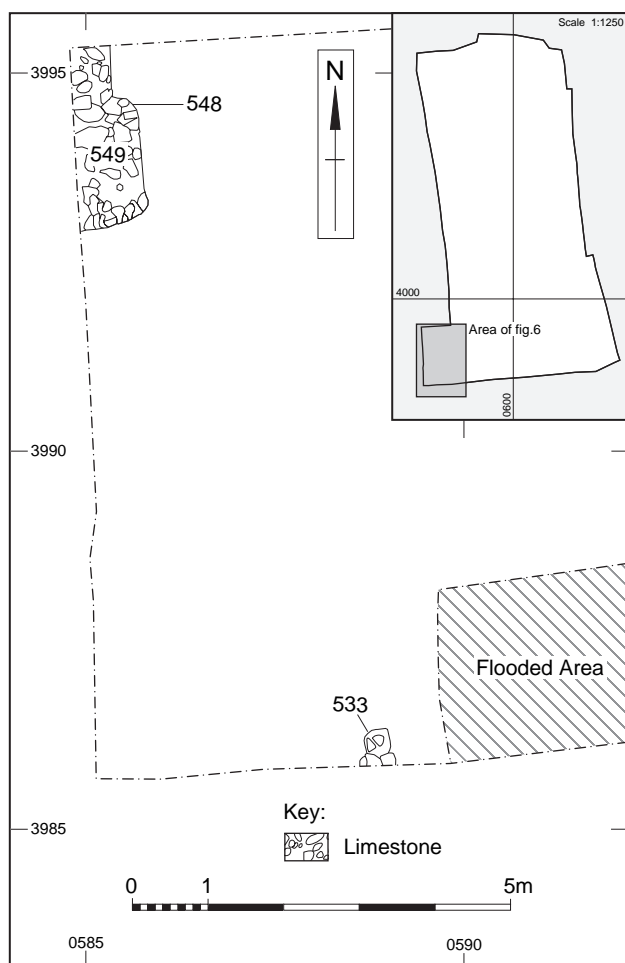


Figure 6 Prehistoric deposits in the south-west corner of the site

The prehistoric deposits in this area remained largely unexcavated (Fig. 6), but preliminary investigations suggested the presence of a further stone-founded wall (549) which had been partially robbed out (548) and a small pit (533). Although the pit contained pottery of Early Iron Age date (two sherds), analysis of the animal bone assemblage recovered from the single fill (534) suggests that it is more likely to be of medieval date. The robber trench (548) was sealed by a midden-like deposit of dark soil (503). This also contained pottery, mainly of Early Iron Age date, along with some of Romano-British date, but a large quantity of marine mollusc shells was recovered from the surface of this deposit and it too may be medieval.

To the east of the round-house almost all of the prehistoric deposits had been removed during construction of a rectangular medieval building. Where deposits of earlier date had survived outside this building, these were only revealed during the investigation of later features and no further features were identified. A small sondage adjacent to the eastern wall of the medieval building revealed that the footings were cut into a thick deposit of very dark grey

clayey silt (129) which contained over 30 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery (Fig. 22, 9, 11, 26) and a few sherds of Romano-British date. This deposit appeared to be sealed by a thin layer of a more humic silt (137).

### *Features in the Central Part of the Site*

In this area the overburden had been completely removed by machine, revealing a number of features cutting into the underlying basal orange-brown clay (Fig. 7). Many of these were excavated and most were shown to be Early Iron Age in date, although a single Romano-British inhumation burial and a few medieval features were also found. The unexcavated features are mostly thought to be post-holes and are assumed to be of Early Iron Age date, as all of the excavated and dated examples were of this period.

Four parallel ditches aligned east-north-east to west-south-west were examined, and all produced pottery of Early Iron Age date. The two southernmost ditches, 41 and 55, also contained some pottery of Romano-British date, but these sherds were usually small and are seen as intrusive within the fill sequences. A single slot was excavated through ditch 41, showing it to be filled with an homogeneous dark clay loam which contained 15 sherds of Early Iron Age date and four of Romano-British date. An articulated skeleton of a cow was also found within this excavated section (Plate 3). The ditch was 0.57 m deep and 1.6 m wide at this point (Fig. 8, S1), although in plan the width varied from 0.7 m to 1.8 m, getting gradually wider from west to east. In profile the upper part of the ditch had gently sloping concave sides but the central basal part had much steeper sides and a flat base.

Three separate slots were excavated through ditch 55 revealing it to have two main fills (Fig. 8, S2); an upper fill of mottled silty clay and a lower fill of more loamy material with some small pieces of chalk and limestone at the base of the ditch. In one of the excavated slots a band of charcoal-rich silty clay was sandwiched between the two main fills. Overall, 14 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery and 11 Romano-British sherds were recovered from this ditch. Those of the latter period were much smaller and more abraded than the prehistoric ones. The ditch varied in depth from 0.23 m to 0.40 m and in width from 0.8 m to 0.95 m. In profile it was consistently U-shaped.

The two northernmost ditches, 62 and 76, produced pottery exclusively of prehistoric date. These were also slightly more irregular in plan than the two southern ditches and could not be traced right through to the eastern part of the site. A single slot was excavated through ditch 62, revealing it to be 0.28 m deep and filled with an homogeneous deposit of dark loamy clay. The ditch was 1.0 m wide at this



Figure 7 Features in the central part of the site

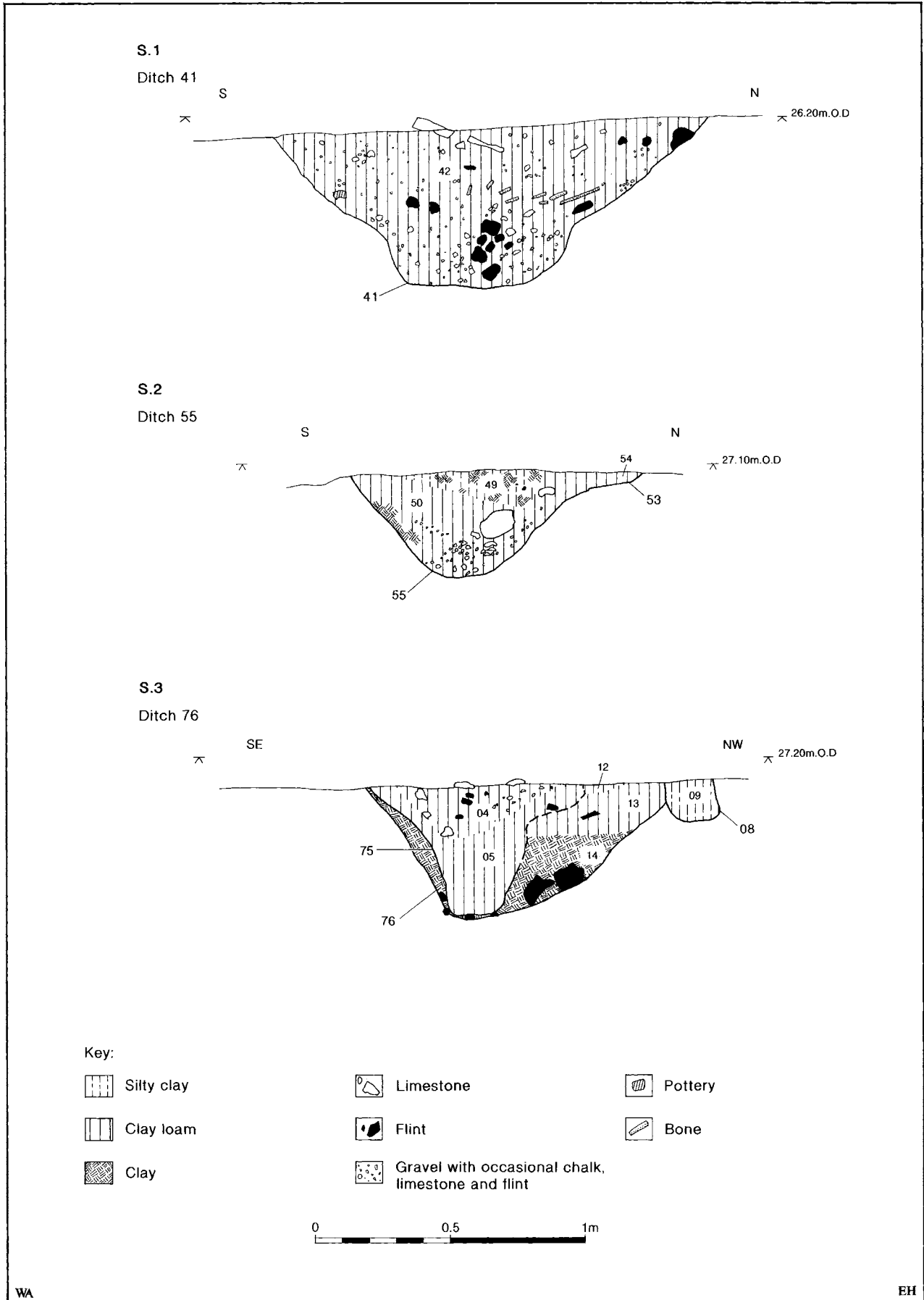


Figure 8 Sections through Early Iron Age ditches



*Plate 3 Early Iron Age articulated cow burial*

point but elsewhere along its recorded length it varied from 0.85 m to 1.3 m. A shallow scoop (61) cut through the northern edge of the ditch and the scoop also contained pottery of Early Iron Age date (Fig. 22, 14, 22).

Two slots were excavated through ditch 76 revealing depths varying from 0.25 m to 0.48 m. The shallower slot recorded a single fill of dark grey/green clayey silt from which 18 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered. In contrast, the deeper slot (Fig. 8, S3) contained three distinct ditch fills of which the basal element produced two Early Iron Age sherds. The recorded surface width of the feature varied from 1.1 m to 1.2 m.

Most of the other excavated features in this central area were post-holes. Over 50 were recorded in plan and 23 excavated. Twenty of the excavated examples were not stratigraphically related to any other feature. Eight of these contained pottery exclusively of Early Iron Age date whilst the 12 others contained no pottery. Although several post-holes were recorded on plan as cutting into the upper fills of the ditches described above, only one such example was excavated (Fig. 8, S3, 08) and no artefacts were recovered. Two further post-holes, 59 and 97, were cut by ditch 55 but again no datable artefacts were recovered.

Several of the post-holes, both excavated and unexcavated examples, were actually double post-

holes. Almost all of the post-holes recorded in this central part of the site contained medium-sized pieces of limestone, many of which had been burnt, and these were probably used for packing around the bases of the posts. In some instances, flint nodules of a similar size had been used alongside the limestone, but these were never burnt.

Out of a total of four shallow and occasionally elongated scoops, of which 30 and 56 contained Early Iron Age pottery whilst the final one (28) produced no artefacts. These varied in size, the largest (30) being 1.1 m long, 0.7 m wide and 0.38 m deep, with a gently rounded base and sides. In the eastern part of the area a further scoop (409) was cut by a large medieval feature. This scoop was only 0.14 m deep but it contained 19 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery (Fig. 22, 2, 4, 27) and nine of Romano-British.

Two shallow pits or circular scoops were also excavated, one (06) was 0.6 m in diameter and 0.4 m deep and contained a single sherd of Early Iron Age pottery and one very tiny Romano-British sherd. However, the animal bone assemblage recovered from this pit was more typical of the medieval period. The second pit (45) was cut into the edge of ditch 76. It was slightly shallower and contained 13 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery. A third similarly-sized feature just to the north of scoop 409 remained unexcavated.

Two gullies aligned north-north-east to south-south-west were also excavated. One of these (64) was

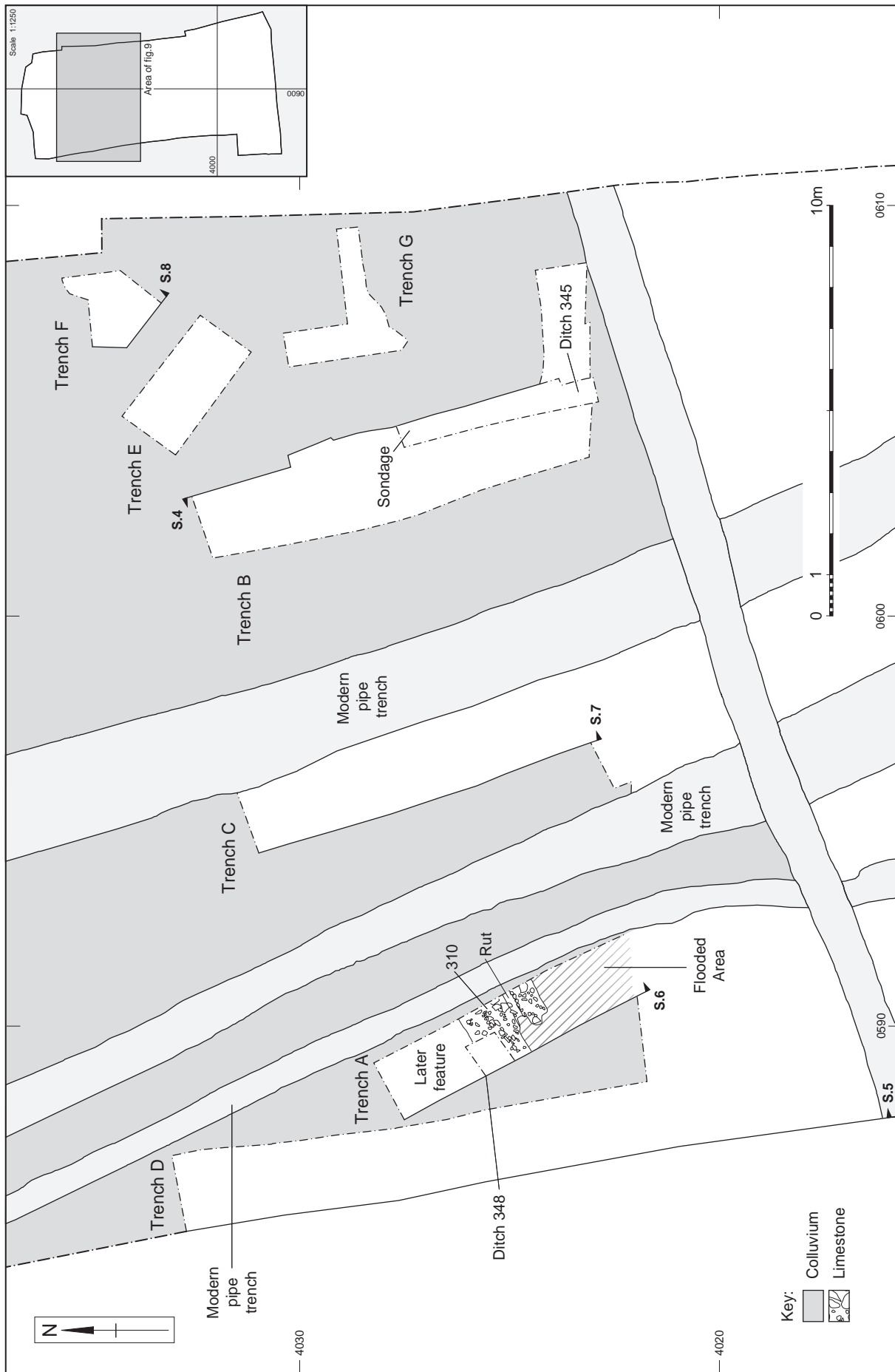


Figure 9 Period 3 features in the northern part of the site: Phase 1

only 2 m in length and was cut by scoop 56. The gully was 0.3 m wide and 0.13 m deep and produced three sherds of Early Iron Age pottery. The second gully (53) was recorded for a total length of over 13 m and it cut obliquely through ditches 62 and 76. This gully was 0.2 m wide and only 0.06 m deep where excavated (Fig. 8, S2), and it contained two sherds of Early Iron Age pottery. To the north of the excavated section this feature appeared to intersect obliquely with a third gully, this one was aligned east–west and was not excavated.

The ground along the northern edge of this central area, adjacent to the Empool–Chalbury water main, was permanently waterlogged during the course of the excavation and features within this area could not always be clearly identified.

### *Summary*

Part of a probable timber-built round-house was uncovered in the south-west part of the site. The building had a cobbled floor which showed evidence of episodes of repair and reuse. A limited investigation of deposits immediately to the west tentatively suggested the existence of at least one more building of this date.

In the central area, a series of almost parallel ditches may have been for drainage or could have been used to define the edge of the settlement; the contemporaneity or otherwise of these features could not be clarified. Also in this area were a number of post-holes and shallow pits; although no structures have been identified from the pattern of features here, the overall plan suggests that this is likely to be a continuation of settlement similar to that recorded in the south-western part of the site.

## **Period 3. Romano-British Activity**

Almost all of the features and deposits of this period were found in the northern part of the excavation area, sealed below the colluvium. Examination of this area was in the form of several trenches or slots through this colluvium, both by hand and by machine (Fig. 9, trenches A–G). A number of features including ditches, banks and surfaces were recorded in each of the trenches and to a great extent these features and the sequences can be correlated between separate slots.

Post-excavation analysis has facilitated the division of Period 3 into three distinct sub-periods or phases:

*Phase 1: Pre-bank activity*

*Phase 2: Bank construction*

*Phase 3: Occupation/colluviation*

### *Phase 1: Pre-bank Activity*

Two ditches and a surface, which may be a form of levelling or make-up, were identified as pre-dating any form of bank construction (Fig. 10). In the southern end of Trench B, one side of an irregular linear feature (345) was excavated. The profile indicated that the total width at the upper part of this feature would be in excess of 4 m; the profile was shallow and stepped. This was excavated to a depth of 0.65 m but was constantly waterlogged and the base of the feature was not reached (Fig. 10, S4). The lowest excavated fill was a very clayey silt from which a single sherd of Black Burnished ware was recovered, a second sherd of similar type was found in one of the upper fills. These upper fills comprised layers of more sandy or gravelly clay with some small fragments of limestone.

Feature 345 was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and was not recorded on the west baulk section of the excavation site, where it must have been below the level of recorded excavation in the waterlogged area. The fill characteristics certainly indicate that it carried water and it remains possible that it is a watercourse of natural origin rather than a ditch, as it is located at the base of the slope.

A second feature placed within this phase was identified further up the slope, in Trench A (348). This was a small ditch aligned north-east to south-west and excavation proved it to be 0.9 m wide and 0.2 m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile (Fig. 11, S6). No finds were recovered from the single greyish–brown silty fill, but the ditch was clearly sealed by a layer of dark soil (346) which contained a small number of sherds of Black Burnished ware.

This buried soil was subsequently covered by a layer of compact gravel 0.05 m deep made up of fragments of limestone and broken flint (310). This deposit extended south as far as the Empool–Chalbury water main whilst to the north it was cut by a later ditch (309). A similar layer (331) was recorded in the northern end of Trench B (Fig. 10, S4) and in the south part of this trench a further, thicker deposit of flint gravel (323) had slumped into the upper part of the underlying linear feature 345. It is possible that these gravels represent a deliberate surface laid down over a damp or waterlogged area and, certainly in Trench A, distinct ruts were recorded in the top of the gravel.

The gravels in Trench A were overlain by a shallow dark soil (Fig. 11, S6, 335) which may possibly be a former land surface or another layer of levelling or make-up material. No finds were recovered either from the gravels or the overlying soil layer.

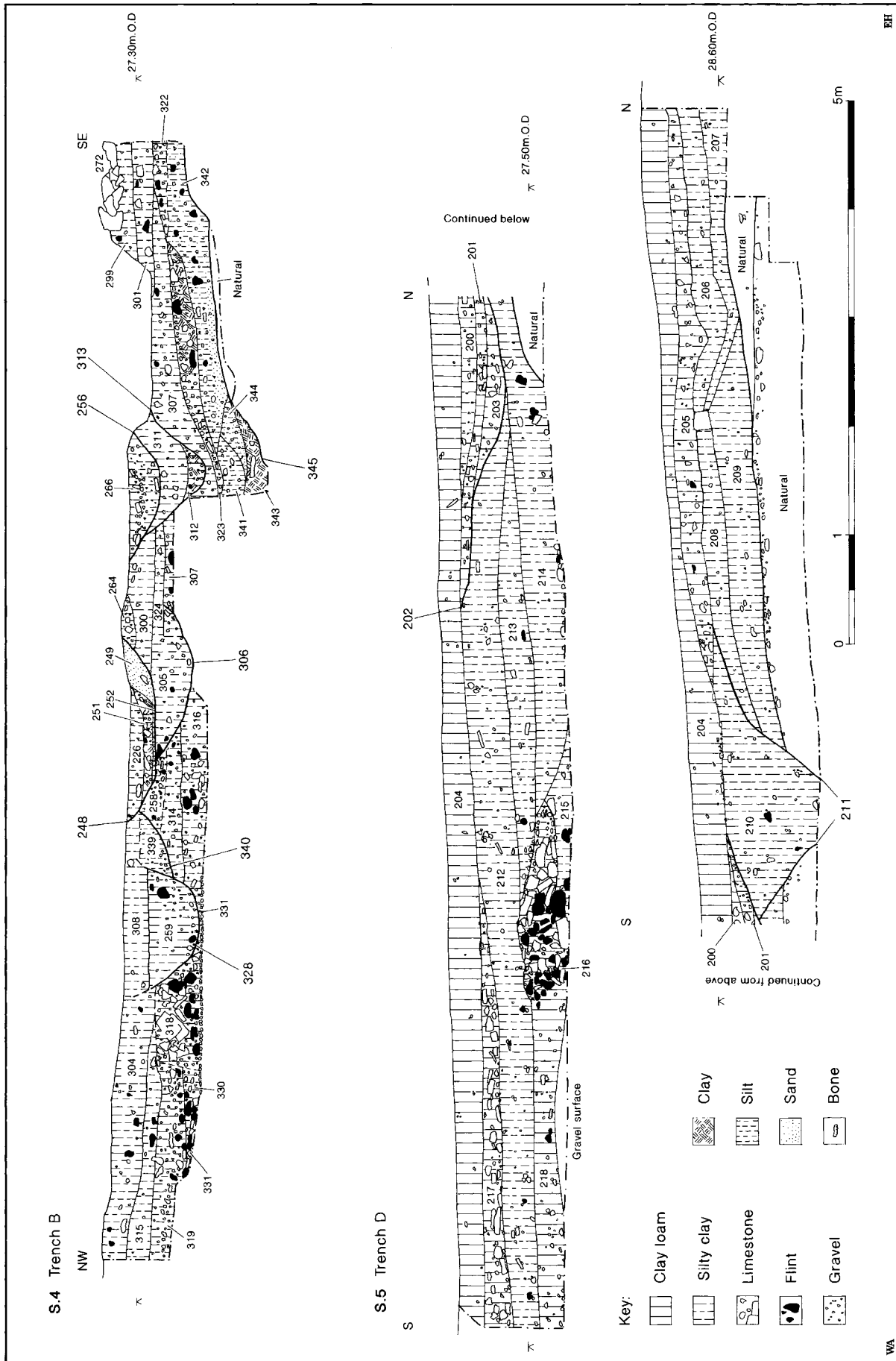


Figure 10 Sections through Romano-British features and colluvium



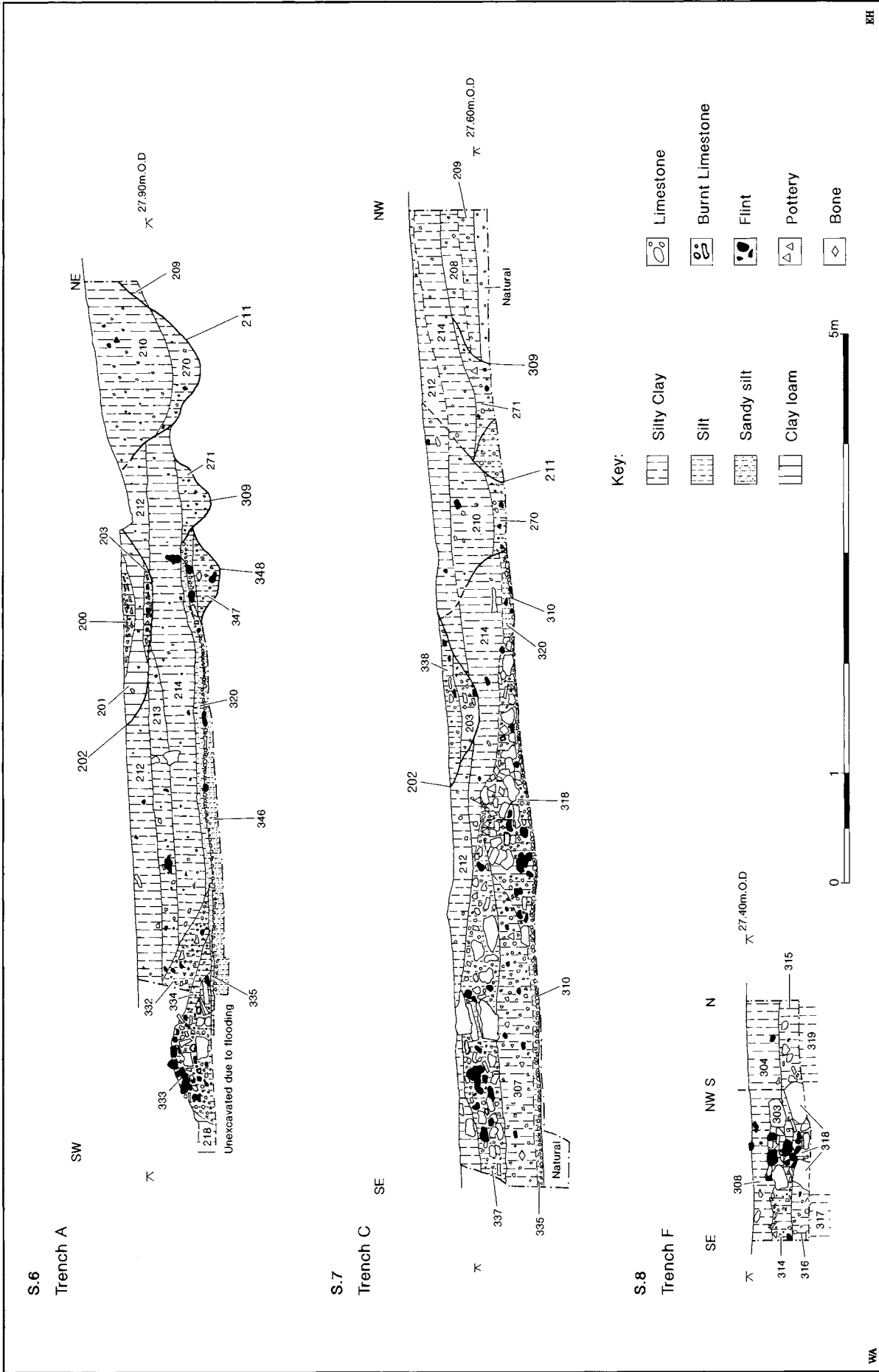


Figure 11 Sections through Romano-British features and colluvium

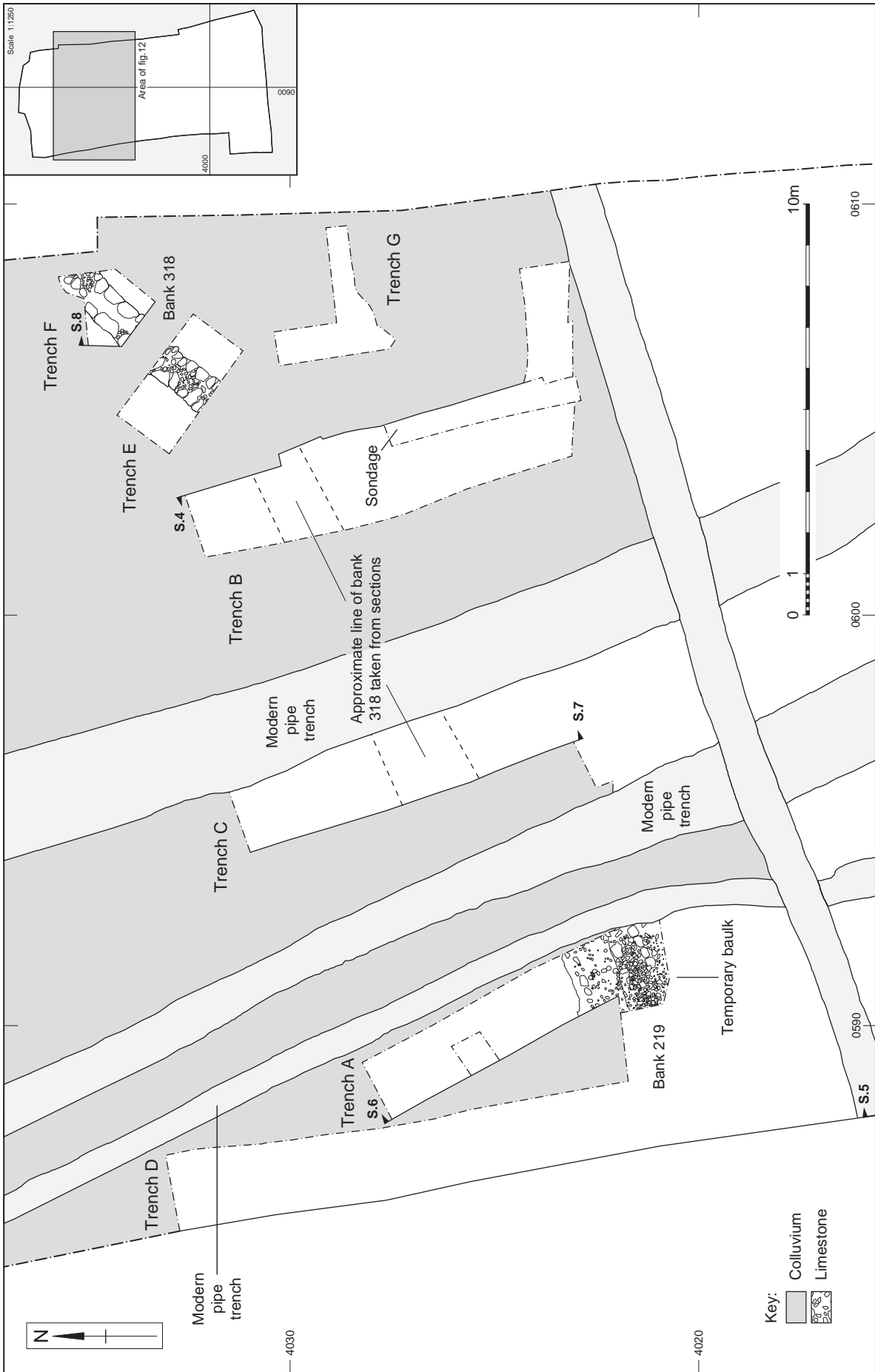


Figure 12 Period 3 features in the northern part of the site: Phase 2

### *Phase 2: Bank Construction*

A well-constructed, stone-built bank was recorded in most of the trenches in this part of the site (Fig. 12). It was not completely straight but was generally aligned north-east to south-west across the site (219, 318). In several of the trenches (A–D) the bank was recorded as a low mound up to 0.6 m high and over 1.6 m wide at the base. The bank here was not excavated but was recorded in section and plan and appeared to be based around a rubble core made up of limestone blocks and flint nodules in a matrix of smaller stones. In some instances more than one stage of construction was visible (Fig. 11, S6, 332, 333, 334), possibly the addition of an upslope turf revetment followed by a further more gravelly rubble layer.

Cleaning of the surface of the bank in Trenches A and D resulted in the recovery of over 100 sherds of Romano-British pottery, and the diagnostic elements within this assemblage suggest a date in the 1st or 2nd century AD. Five sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were also found.

At the eastern side of the site, however, the bank was excavated in detail and was slightly different in form (Trenches E and F). Here it comprised two parallel lines of limestone blocks, with a central gap of *c.* 0.25 m filled by a rubble core of limestone and flint fragments. The blocks were up to 0.7 x 0.3 m giving an overall width of *c.* 0.85 m for the bank here. Three sherds of undiagnostic Black Burnished ware were found within the bank make-up in this area.

### *Phase 3: Occupation/Colluviation*

Investigation of the bank and associated deposits in all trenches indicated a clear difference in the material on either side of the bank (Fig. 13). On the upslope (north) side was a series of layers of colluvium butting the northern edge of the bank and in some instances spilling over onto the top of it. On the downslope side the layers butting up against the bank were more typical of occupation or settlement deposits, being much darker and organic, and containing far more finds. Both the colluvial and the occupation deposits were cut by ditches aligned east-north-east to west-south-west across the site.

In Trenches B, E and F the colluvial deposits (Fig. 10, S4; Fig. 11, S8; 330, 319, 315) on the upslope side of the bank had a total depth of *c.* 0.4 m. They comprised silty clays containing some fragments of limestone and flint, and the lowest layer overlaid the flinty gravel (331) which pre-dates the bank. In Trench F it was very clear that either the bank had partially collapsed or that the colluvium (Fig. 11, S8, 315) had spread over the top of it, and

this was followed by a rebuilding in which a further course of limestone blocks and rubble infill (303) was added to the bank. Eleven Romano-British and three Early Iron Age pottery sherds were found within this upper colluvial layer.

In Trench C a thin deposit of darker soil (Fig. 11, S7, 320) overlay the base of the bank on the upslope side, and this contained 16 sherds of Romano-British pottery and one of Early Iron Age date. Further up the slope were two successive deposits of colluvium (208, 209), probably equivalent to the layers 330 and 319 discussed above. These were cut by a small ditch (309), aligned north-east to south-west. Although not fully excavated here, it was shown elsewhere to be 0.28 m deep and *c.* 0.8 m wide with a single fill containing pottery of both Romano-British and Early Iron Age date. A further deposit of colluvium (214) 0.3 m deep sealed the fill of ditch 309 and spread over most of the upslope part of the bank (318), continuing slightly onto its top.

The darker soil layer 320 was also recorded in Trench A (Fig. 11, S6); it may represent some external activity prior to colluviation or possibly a build-up of soil along the outer edge of the bank. At the northern limit of this deposit, ditch 309 was again sealed by colluvium 214. It is possible that the function of ditch 309 is linked in some way to that of the bank and that the ditch thus represents an additional part of the system. The recording within Trench D (Fig. 10, S5) indicated that there were more layers of colluvium further upslope (206, 207), but these all represent part of the same process of colluviation.

Detailed recording within Trenches A and D identified a darker layer (213) overlying the colluvium. This was slightly more loamy than the colluvial material and may represent a buried soil. It was almost 0.3 m deep and it butted the upper part of the upslope side of the bank.

In contrast, the deposits recorded downslope of the bank were very different to the colluvium. In Trench F (Fig. 11, S8) the lowest excavated deposit (316) was dark grey and contained frequent small fragments of limestone and broken flint. It was 0.22m deep and was overlain by a slightly darker and more stony deposit (314) which had partly spilled over onto the upper part of the bank and than been covered by the additional second course of the bank (303). Small amounts of Romano-British pottery were recovered from both 316 and 314 but none of this was diagnostic.

A more complicated sequence was excavated in Trench B (Fig. 10, S4). Both deposits mentioned above (314, 316) were recorded, and they were overlain by a third layer of similar material (258). However, the relationship between these deposits and the bank had been destroyed by a shallow pit and a



*Plate 4 Period 4 Romano-British child burials. (Left) 558, from the north-west; (right) 414 from the north*



ditch. The earliest of these was the pit (340) which was 0.3m deep and from which no finds were recovered.

Much of the pit was removed by the excavation of a substantial ditch (328) which post-dated the use of the bank, as between Trenches B and C this ditch must have truncated the bank. In Trenches A, C, and D (Fig 10, S5; Fig 11, S6–7) this ditch was recorded as 211, and it cut through the colluvial deposits described above. The ditch here was 1.5 m wide at the upper part and 0.45 m deep. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of this ditch, along with sherds of Romano-British and nine of Early Iron Age date.

Further south in Trench B (Fig. 10, S4), the occupation deposits discussed above were cut by another ditch, 306. This was on a fairly similar alignment to ditch 328 and it was also quite similar in size, being 1.4 m wide and 0.4 m deep. A single fill contained five sherds of undiagnostic Romano-British pottery. The occupation deposits (307) continued to the south of this ditch and from here 39 sherds of Romano-British and eight sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered. In this area, the deposits had slumped into the underlying linear feature 345. A more gravelly layer (322) at the southern edge of this

trench may have been a further attempt to level up the ground in this area.

A similar sequence of deposits was recorded in the trenches to the west. In Trench C layer 307 was again recognised (Fig. 11, S7), this time overlain by a more stony deposit (337), possibly some form of make-up or levelling material. In Trench A (Fig. 11, S6) the bank formed the southernmost feature examined and only a small extent of an occupation deposit (218) lying up against the edge of the bank was recorded; this was also present in Trench D (Fig. 10, S5).

#### **Other features**

The only other features on the site which have been placed within the Romano-British period are two graves, each containing the inhumation of a small child, and a small patch of rubble. One of the graves was in the central part of the site (Fig. 7, 407; Plate 4) and lay partially below a medieval wall. It comprised a rounded, irregular grave 1.05 m long and 0.6 m wide (Fig. 14). It was only 0.02 m deep and it is likely

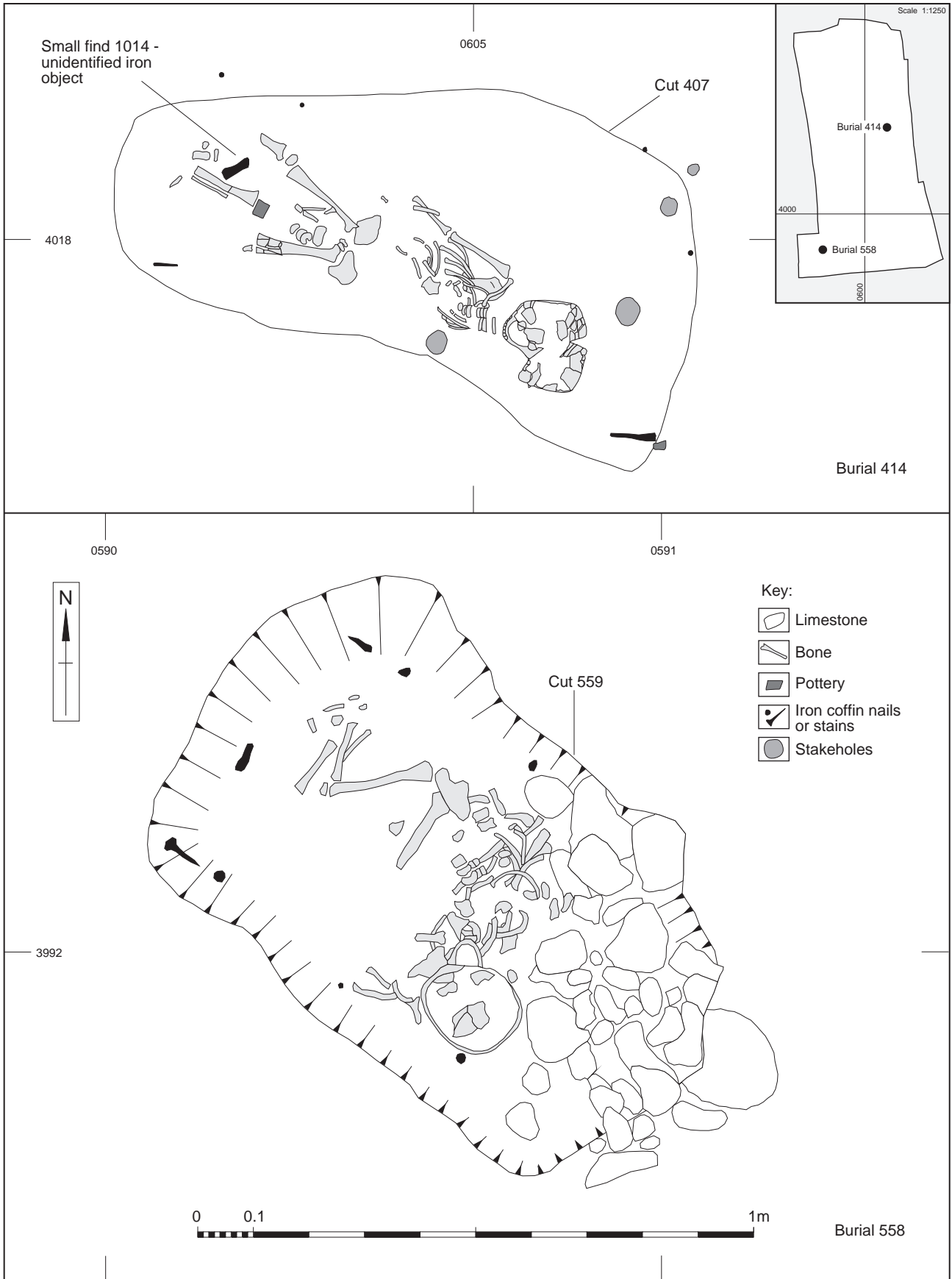


Figure 14 Period 3 Romano-British child burials 414 and 558

that post-internment activities had caused some damage to the burial and resulted in the irregular outline of the grave.

The extended supine inhumation (414) was of an infant aged between 1.5 and 2.5 years. It was aligned north-west to south-east with the head at the south-east, and seven iron nails or groups of nails were found around the edge of the grave. These probably indicate the use of a wooden coffin. A single small sherd of Black Burnished ware was found within the shallow grave fill, and the presence of a coffin also suggests that it is likely to be of Romano-British date. A small iron object found adjacent to the lower limbs remains unidentified.

A number of stake-holes were recorded during the detailed cleaning and excavation of the grave, but it is not clear if these were associated with the burial. Each was filled with a very dark, charcoal-rich silty clay and an excavated example (417) was found to be 0.09 m deep.

The second burial was in the south-west part of the site and the grave was cut partially into the fills of the gully of the Early Iron Age round-house (Fig. 5, 559; Plate 4). The shallow grave measured 1.1 m long and 0.65 m wide and contained a flexed inhumation of an infant aged 2.5 to 3.5 years. The body was lying on its left side and the upper part of the skeleton (558) appeared to have been disturbed (Fig. 14). Although no grave goods were observed, a total of eight iron nails were arranged around the edge of the grave at the area in which the body had been placed and may indicate the former presence of a coffin or possibly a wooden cover over the body. All eleven sherds of pottery found in the grave fill (557) were of Early Iron Age date but are seen as residual and result from the location of the burial within the prehistoric occupation deposits.

A small linear spread of rubble (428) in the central part of the site (Fig. 7) was originally considered to be a possible wall-line. This interpretation could not be upheld following excavation, and although three sherds of Early Iron Age pottery and some pieces of worked flint were recovered from the rubble, the presence of a single sherd of Romano-British pottery has resulted in the feature being tentatively assigned to this period.

### *Summary*

In the northern part of the site was a number of ditches and a single stone-built bank, all aligned approximately north-east to south-west. The earliest features were two of the ditches, followed by a deposit of flinty gravel which covered quite a large area within this part of the site and which may represent an attempt to level the ground here, and prevent or

reduce waterlogging. These features are likely to be of 1st or 2nd century AD date.

Subsequently a stone-built bank was constructed across the site just above the base of the slope. This was probably designed to prevent the movement downslope onto the flat ground of colluvial soils. These soils continued to build up behind the bank whilst deposits more typical of occupation were accumulating on the south side. However, as virtually no negative features of Romano-British date were identified in the central part of the site, the nature of any such occupation is unclear.

A small ditch upslope of, and parallel to, the bank may have part of the same system of land management. The bank was reinforced and heightened at least once, but fell out of use and a further series of ditches was introduced here. This period of activity is more likely to be of 3rd or 4th century date.

A single inhumation burial of an infant occurred in the central part of the site. This has been assigned to the Romano-British period on the grounds that the body seemed to have been contained within a wooden coffin, a practice more usually associated with the Romano-British period than the Early Iron Age. A single piece of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the grave fill. A second infant burial was cut into the Early Iron Age round-house in the south-western part of the site, and the presence of a coffin or wooden cover suggests that this too is of Romano-British date.

### **Period 4. Colluviation**

The whole of the northern part of the trench was subsequently covered by a deposit of colluvium. In some instances more than one layer could be distinguished within the overall build-up, but this is not unexpected as the colluviation here represents a gradual build-up of material rather than a single event. The colluvium sealed the ditches described above (306, 328/211) and also the occupation deposits to the south of the bank.

In Trench F this event was recorded as 304/308 (Fig. 11, S8) and the pottery recovered from the colluvium was mostly of Romano-British date, with a few sherds of Early Iron Age material. This indicates reworking of the underlying deposits. A similar assemblage was recovered from the colluvium (300/324/299/301) in Trench B (Fig. 10, S4). Across the rest of the trenches this event was recorded as 212, and again the pottery recovered was almost all of Romano-British date.

Detailed recording of the main western baulk of the site indicated that the colluvium became gradually thinner and finally petered out about 2.5 m to the south of the Empool-Chalbury water main. This



Plate 5 Period 5 medieval chapel, Phase 1, with soakaway 189, looking north

material post-dates the occupation deposits recorded to the south of the bank and represents a phase of agricultural activity subsequent to the Romano-British period, though the site itself seems to have been unoccupied at the time.

## Period 5. Medieval Settlement

### *The Chapel: Phase 1*

Preliminary cleaning at the south end of the site following the machine-stripping of topsoil had revealed the presence of a rectangular stone-founded building aligned due east–west. This building was extensively excavated, allowing the identification of several phases of construction, use, and modification. A number of criteria, including aspects of the form of the building and artefacts recovered from it, indicate that this was a chapel, probably within a manorial complex.

In its construction (Fig. 15; Plate 5), the building comprised a rectangular structure measuring 9.9 x 4.7 m internally. The walls were c. 0.9 m wide and were preserved to a maximum height of 0.6 m above the internal floor level. All external walls were constructed in similar fashion; outer and inner faces

of roughly-hewn, mortared limestone blocks (up to 400 x 400 x 25 mm in size) enclosed a loose core of smaller limestone rubble fragments.

The foundation trenches for the walls on three sides were only about 0.2 m deeper than the internal surface level within the building. However, an exploratory sondage adjacent to the outer edge of the eastern wall revealed a deeper foundation trench for this wall, at least 0.75 m below the internal surface level. Consequently, up to seven mortared courses of the outer face of this footing were recorded. This was the only foundation trench excavated in detail. It contained twelve sherds of medieval pottery in addition to seven of Romano-British and nineteen of Early Iron Age date.

The additional depth of construction on this eastern side of the building is due to the nature of the underlying material. Below the rest of the building, the Early Iron Age deposits appeared to have been removed completely and the building rested directly on the basal drift geology. At the very eastern edge of the building, however, there was a fairly steep natural slope and the depth of the prehistoric deposits was much greater, necessitating a more secure foundation for the medieval building. Indeed, although the footing here is much deeper than for any of the other walls, detailed recording of the eastern wall revealed



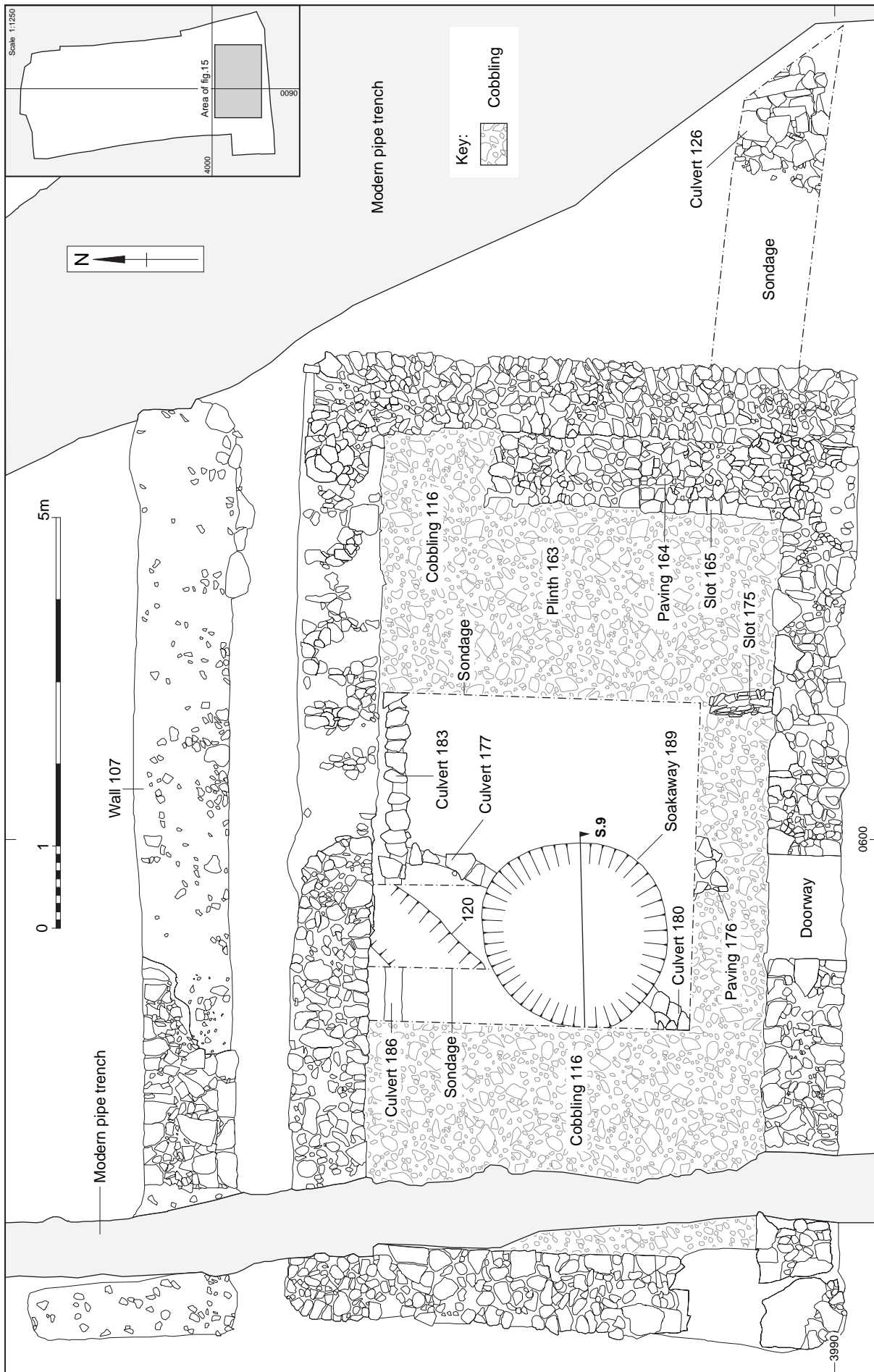


Figure 15 Period 5 the medieval chapel: Phase 1



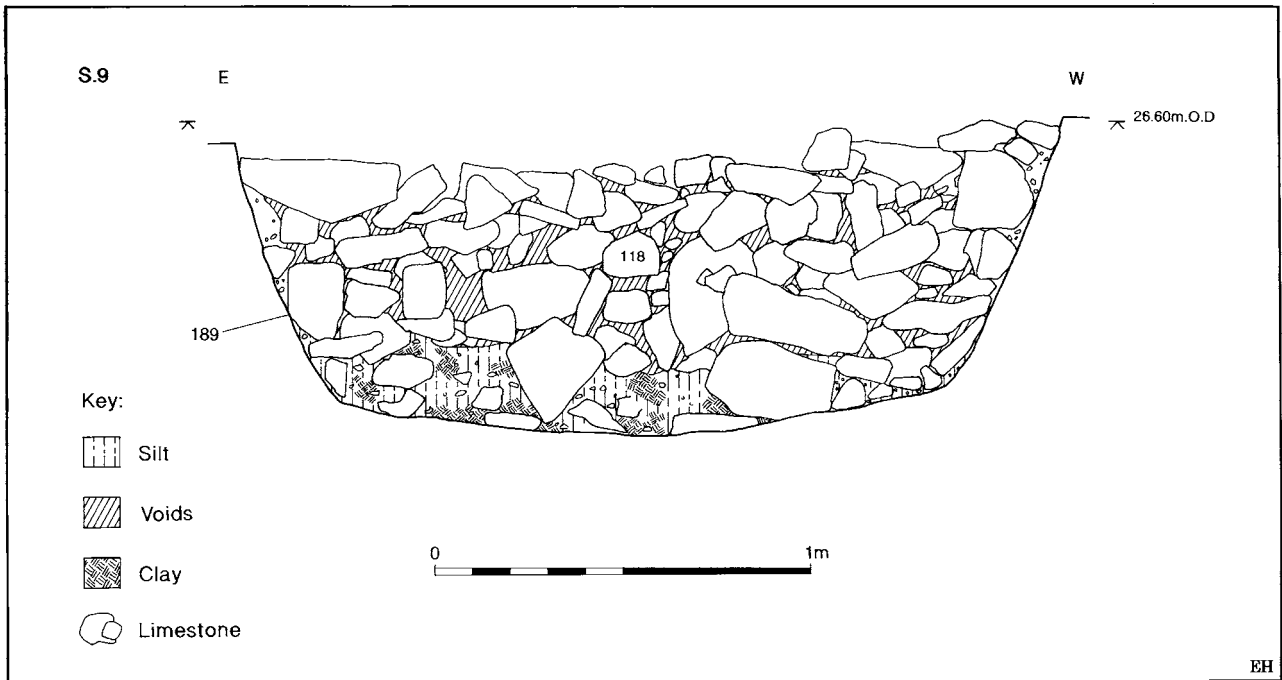


Figure 16 Period 5 medieval chapel, Phase 1, section through soakaway 189



Plate 6 Section through soakaway 189

that its northern end had collapsed or slipped at least once.

In each of the corners available for examination, the walls were bonded together rather than butted, indicating a single phase of construction. The doorway was in the southern wall, slightly to the west of centre. It was clearly distinguished by faced internal surfaces and a corresponding small area of limestone paving (176) within the building.

Within the 4 x 4 m internal area which was investigated at this level the prehistoric deposits had been scoured away during construction, although traces of a small, undated gully (120) were recorded. The underlying surface was of a creamy-white chalky clay and this had been scraped to form a level surface.

A circular feature (189) positioned to the west of the centre of the building measured 2.2 m in diameter. Excavation showed this to be a steep-sided,

flat-based pit 0.78 m deep (Fig. 16, S9; Plate 6). It was filled with a single deposit of limestone blocks (118), up to 0.45 x 0.25 x 0.3 m. In the lower part of the fill, these blocks were surrounded by a very pale greyish silty clay, but in the upper part the fill merely comprised voided rubble. Subsequently the pit was sealed by a capping of redeposited creamy-white chalky clay (117).

Leading into the upper edge of this pit were two small shallow gullies (177, 180), each about 0.3 m wide and 0.1 m deep. Gully 177 approached the pit from the north-east and was connected to a further similar feature (183/186) which was aligned east-west along the inner edge of the north wall of the building. Gully 180 approached the pit from the south-west and it was covered along its entire length by a line of flat limestone slabs, as were all of the other gullies. Each was filled with a pale grey silty clay fill and the only diagnostic artefact from any of them was a single sherd from a Poole Harbour jug (13th-early 14th century) found in gully 183.

The rubble-filled pit is almost certainly a soakaway collecting water delivered through the limestone-capped shallow gullies, which are therefore culverts. Their position along the inner edge of the wall indicates the intent to take water from the wall footing trenches at the earliest opportunity and transfer it to the soakaway. It is likely that similar culverts were located along the inner edge of each wall at this level.

The whole of the interior of the building, with the exception of a 0.9 m wide strip along the eastern wall, was subsequently covered by a tightly-packed layer of medium-sized limestone blocks and slabs (Fig. 15,



*Plate 7 The plinth and associated stonework in the Phase 1 chapel, looking north*

116). Occasional nodules of flint were also used. Many of the blocks were laid on end and the overall impression was that of a cobbled surface. There was no particular pattern to this cobbling but the recognition of ‘rosettes’ or ‘spirals’ indicates areas where the work commenced. These cobbles would have provided a stable foundation for a floor surface and also helped to reduce any dampness or waterlogging within the building. No indication of the nature of any floor covering was found, but it is possible that some form of organic material would have been used, such as rush matting, perhaps on top of some levelling material.

Internally, adjacent to the eastern wall within the building, was a strip *c.* 0.9 m wide within which several features were recorded. Positioned centrally along the eastern wall was a plinth or platform (163; Plate 7) which measured 1.5 x 0.9 m. This was raised above the level of the natural silty clay by one course of stones, the western edge of which had definitely been faced. The southern face was also distinct, but the northern edge had been damaged by a later robber trench. The ashlar block of limestone which formed the south-west corner of the plinth had a hole bored part way through it, located on the west face, and may have been reused from elsewhere. The plinth probably represents the base of an altar and is one of the factors in assigning an ecclesiastical role to the building.

A second raised area of stonework (164) comprising a ‘paved’ surface of flat limestone slabs filled the area between the plinth and the southern wall. Along the western edge of this surface was a regular slot 0.2 m wide and 0.1 m deep (165), separating the slabs from the cobbled surface. The base of this slot was made up of medium-sized limestone slabs. A similar area of stonework and corresponding slot may have also been present in the strip to the north of plinth 163, but this area was damaged by the robber trench which had affected the northern edge of the plinth. A small slot (175) was also set into the cobbling adjacent to the south wall, although there are no further indications of the function of this feature.

### *The Chapel: Phase 2*

Although just three phases have been allocated to the sequence of activity recorded for this building, it is likely that the alterations identified during the excavation represent several stages of modification and rebuilding.

The original internal drainage system of culverts and central soakaway was obviously unsuccessful, and this may have contributed to the collapse of the north end of the east wall. A new system was installed, this time within the cobbled surface rather than beneath

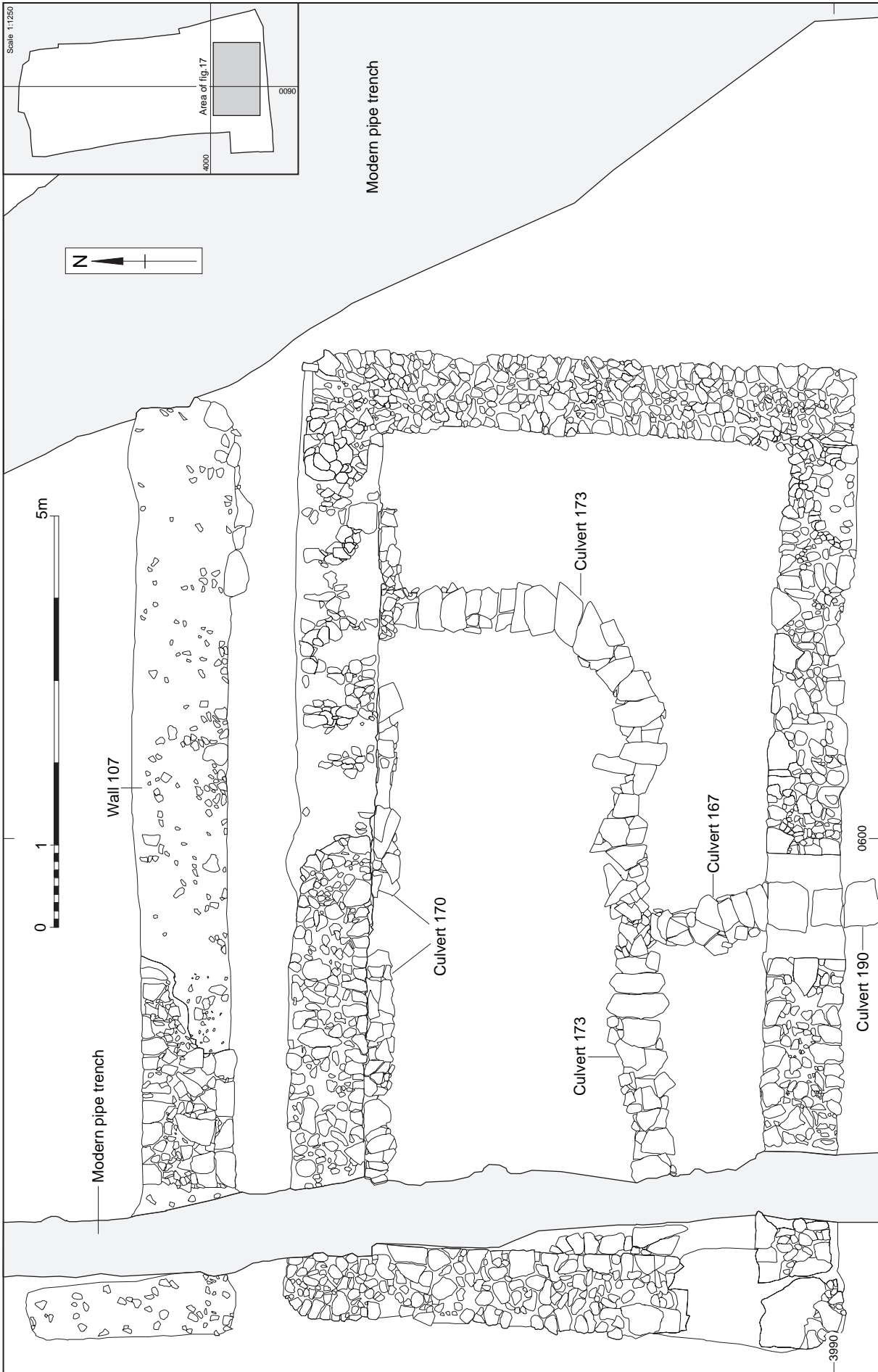


Figure 17 Period 5, medieval chapel, Phase 2, showing culverts 173 and 167

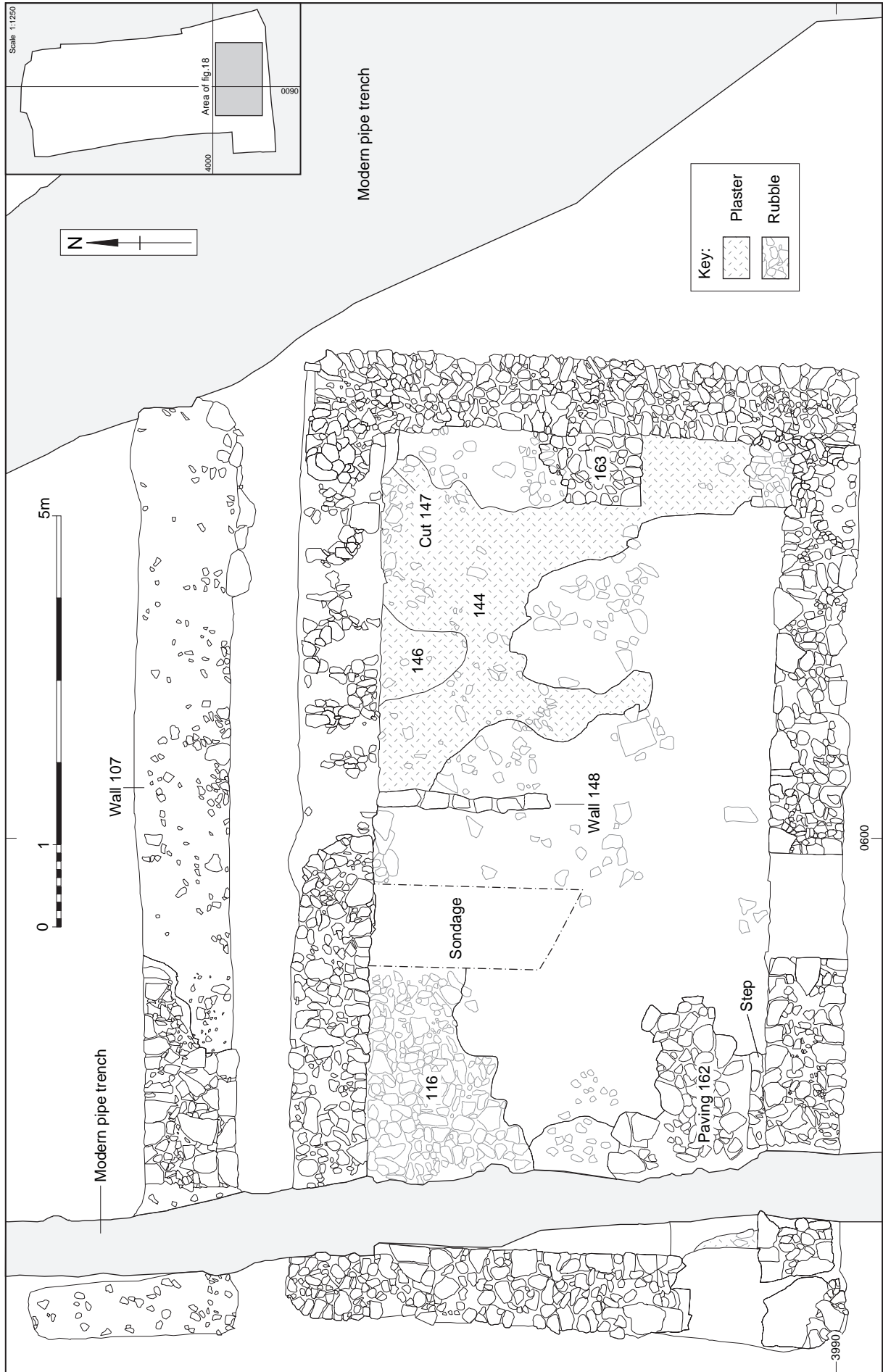


Figure 18 Period 5, medieval chapel, Phase 2, showing spreads of plaster and areas of paving



*Plate 8 The Phase 2 chapel, showing culverts, paving, and wall 148*

it, although it is possible that the new system worked in tandem with the original one. This second design comprised a new series of culverts (Fig. 17, 167, 170, 173; Plate 8) set into the cobbled surface. These were larger than the previous ones, up to 0.4 m wide, and were constructed to a higher standard in that they had sides and bases of limestone slabs, as well as being sealed by such slabs. However, these culverts did not lead into the central soakaway, they drained water out of the south side of the building through a culvert (190) which ran below the doorway. This part of the culvert system was constructed of larger slabs of limestone in both the side walls and the capping.

The whole of the interior, with the exception only of the altar plinth, was then covered by a deposit of gravel (115, 145, 149, 152) made up of very small flint pebbles and crushed quartzite. Thin lenses of clay (150, 151) were also recorded within this deposit. The gravel and clays represent make-up or levelling layers, to a maximum depth of 100 mm, on top of which floors could be laid. It was these levelling layers which contained almost all of the medieval pottery recovered from within this building, including a substantial amount of imported Saintonge and Poole Harbour jugs (Fig. 28, 6, 7, 9–12; Fig. 29, 16; Fig. 30, 18).

In the area around the beam slot (165) in the south-eastern corner of the building, a clear

concentration of charcoal was recorded within the gravels, and a number of iron objects, mostly nails, were recovered from this area. It is possible that the beam slot held a wooden screen or structure which was subsequently destroyed by fire. An anthropomorphic chess piece made of antler was also found within the gravels in this area.

On top of the gravels were patches, some quite extensive, of a mortar floor or make-up surface (Fig. 18, 144, 146). In places this was up to 70 mm thick, and small fragments of slate were also found embedded within the matrix. The most well-preserved areas of this material were in the eastern part of the building, where remnants of a plastered surface were still extant.

A line of stones one course high (148) extended across the building, almost centrally, for 2.1 m from the north wall. The northernmost stone was of a golden-coloured shelly limestone and had a hole bored into the upper surface, although it did not penetrate right through the stone. This wall course may have supported a partition or screen, and the hole in the end stone could have been utilised as part of such a function, but the tapered southern end indicates that the block itself is a reused piece.

In the south-west part of the building was another area of paving (162) made up of flat limestone slabs. This was west of the earlier paving discussed above



and thus west of the doorway. In addition, a step was placed along the inner wall face immediately adjacent to paving 162 and it is possible that a new doorway was positioned here, replacing the one which now had a culvert running underneath it.

### *The Chapel: Phase 3*

The building became disused and was partially dismantled. Most of the wall footings were robbed out, in some areas almost completely. The walls appeared to have pushed into the building rather than falling outwards, and most of the decorative stonework was removed. This may have been reused elsewhere within the village, possibly in a new manorial site. The interior of the building was thus covered with a thick layer of demolition rubble (113, 114, 121), comprising mainly unworked blocks from the wall faces and core.

Gradual removal of this rubble led to the recovery of a few fragments of architectural stonework, mostly door and/or window jambs, but including a large flat slab (broken into two pieces) of Purbeck Marble. This had hollow chamfering on two edges and is likely to have been an altar top. Pieces of both limestone and slate roof tiles were found within the demolition rubble, along with a large quantity of wall plaster fragments, some of which were painted. A copper alloy book clasp, possibly of 16th century date was also recovered (Fig. 25, 1).

### *Associated Features*

Immediately to the north of the rectangular building was a short length of wall (107) aligned parallel with the long axis of the chapel (Fig. 18). This was only 0.7 m from the north wall of the chapel and was of similar construction, comprising larger blocks of limestone at each face and a rubble core. Three courses were recorded, to a total height of 0.46 m, and the wall was 1.2 m wide at the base, with a slight step in each face resulting in an upper width of 0.9 m. The blocks on each face appeared to have been slightly more ashlar in form than those in the walls of the chapel.

The extant part of the wall was only 2.4 m long, but the line could be traced for a further 6 m to the east as a robber trench (106) backfilled with rubble. Some medieval pottery was found in the fill of the robber trench. To the west the wall had been cut by a modern water pipe trench, but beyond this the plan of deposits hinted at a corner with another wall possibly running north from this one.

The strip of deposits (100, 103, 108) lying between this wall and the north wall of the chapel were very dark and contained pottery which was

exclusively of Early Iron Age date. These deposits almost certainly form part of the sequence of prehistoric settlement evidence which was excavated west of the chapel and removed from within the building as part of its construction. The wall to the north may have been linked structurally with the chapel, but is more likely to have been part of another building, very little of which survived for investigation.

The small sondage against the outer face of the eastern wall of the chapel (Fig. 15) revealed the greater depth of the wall footing and the prehistoric layers through which the construction trench (135) was cut. In addition, however, it also encountered a section of culvert (126) which comprised a short length aligned north-south with a right-angled bend. The base and sides of the culvert were made up of limestone slabs, held into place within the cut (138) by a packing of smaller chunks of limestone rubble. The culvert may have been used to drain water from the exterior of the chapel, possibly part of a series of similar culverts or drains around the building.

### *Building 520*

Following the preliminary clearance of overburden within the excavation site, a substantial wall was revealed lying partially below the southern end of the eastern baulk. Subsequently, this part of the site area was extended to take in an area measuring c. 19 x 10 m. Within this extension was a second building (Fig. 19) and excavation showed this to be contemporary with the chapel. Some traces survived of cobbled surface (143) between the two buildings.

The wall recorded during the preliminary cleaning formed the eastern side of this building. In its original form this wall (510) comprised inner and outer faces of slightly-worked limestone blocks and an inner core of small limestone rubble. There was some indication of a greensand-based mortar. A total length of 3.2 m was recorded, the southern end of the wall had been removed by deeper trenching in this area in advance of pipe-laying. The wall was 0.7 m wide and was set within a distinct construction trench (517) which was 0.5 m deep.

At the north-east corner of the building, this wall was bonded with the north wall (508) indicating a single phase of building. This wall was also set into a foundation trench (515). A hearth or fireplace (512) was set into the inner side of the north wall, this had a base of flat limestone slabs and a front edge of vertical slabs. The hearth projected 0.2 m into the building and the stones forming the rear of the structure were burnt.

The south-eastern corner had not survived but was similarly likely to have been bonded to the east

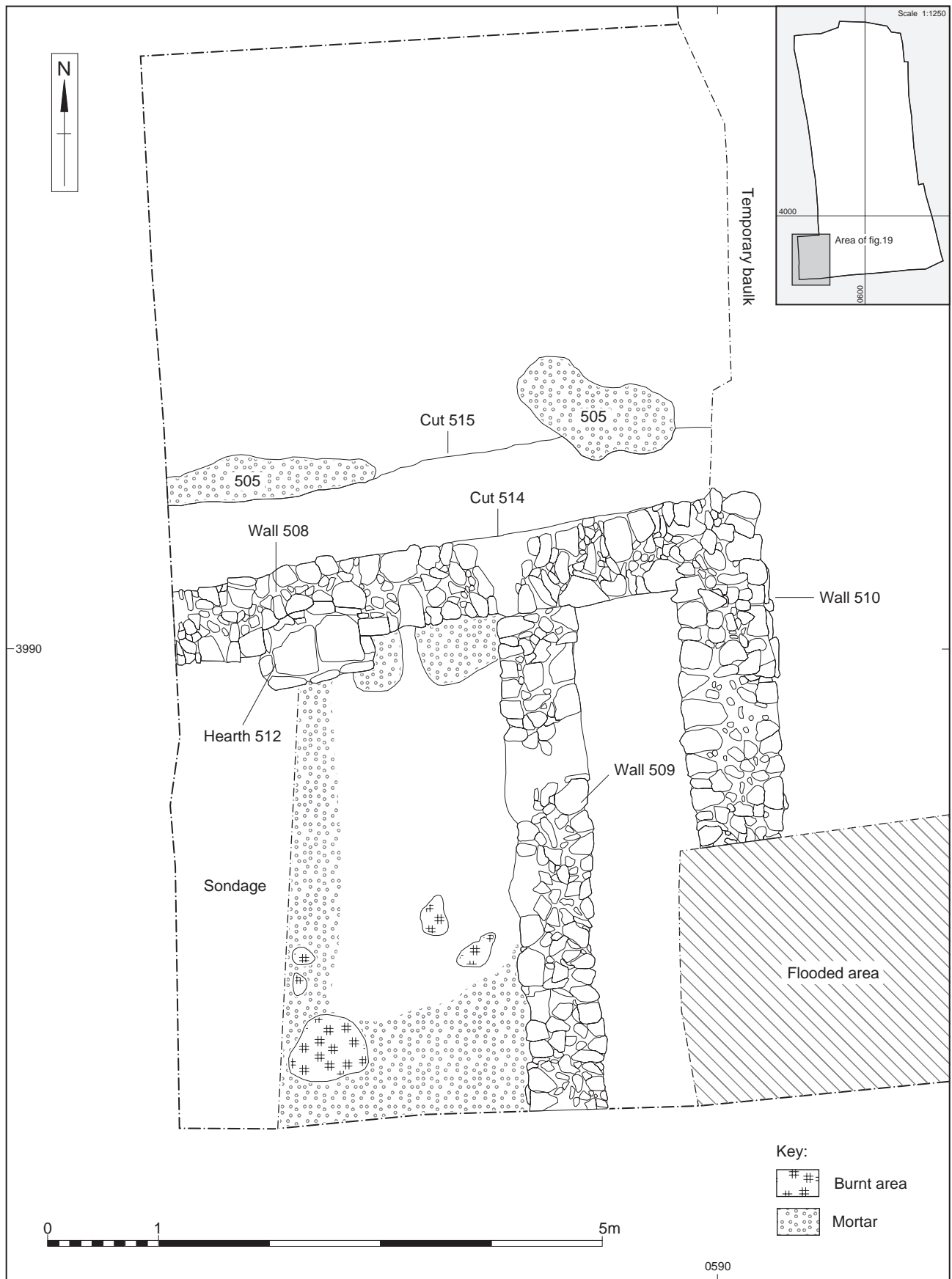


Figure 19 Period 5, medieval building 520

wall. A small part of the original southern wall was recorded (525, 529) and is of the same form as the east wall. At least two phases of construction were recorded for the south wall. Finds from the fills of the construction trench of the east wall included pottery of 13th century date in addition to sherds of Romano-British and Early Iron Age date. This reflects the underlying deposits into which the construction trench was cut.

A further phase (or possibly several phases) of rebuilding subsequently took place. A second east wall (509) was constructed one metre to the west of the earlier one, in a similar construction technique but with no foundation trench (Fig. 19). This butted the north wall but overlay the south wall and seemed to extend beyond it into the southern baulk of the site. All of the walls had been subject to some robbing activity, but the overall sequence was clear.

Within the building was a number of patchy spreads of greenish sandy silts, probably remnants of decayed mortar possibly indicating floor surfaces, but this is not certain. No other potential floor surfaces were uncovered and it is possible that the deposits within the building were at a sub-floor level. This building is about 0.5 m higher than the chapel. A small amount (four sherds) of Saintonge pottery had been found during initial cleaning of this area (524; Fig. 29, 17) and two more sherds were recovered from one of the patches of decayed mortar within the building (507). Four sherds of Rouen-type glazed pottery (mid 13th–early 14th century) were found in a small post-hole (546; Fig. 29, 15) which appeared to be sealed below the potential floor surfaces of this building.

No direct physical relationship between the chapel and building 520 was recorded but the ceramic evidence indicates that they were contemporaneous. Building 520 is not aligned in the same direction as the chapel and did not contain many similar artefacts. There were no fragments of painted plaster, no architectural pieces of stone and only a few pieces of ironwork, although some imported glazed pottery was recovered. This suggests that the building served a completely different purpose, possibly domestic. It could have been the house used by the clerics at the chapel, or merely part of the manorial settlement.

### *Other Features*

A few features of medieval date were identified in the central and northern parts of the site (Fig. 20). A ditch aligned north-east to south-west in the central area (75) clearly post-dated several of the prehistoric features. Excavation revealed it to be 0.5 m deep and up to 0.7 m wide at the surface level. It was broadly U-shaped in section and the fills produced a range of

pottery including sherds of Romano-British and Early Iron Age date. However, an almost complete scratch-marked jar of medieval date was also recovered (Fig. 27, 1) along with other sherds of this date. A small gully (65) attached to this ditch was also of medieval date.

At the eastern edge of the central area was a large sub-rounded feature (433) into which a small slot was excavated to a depth of 0.45 m below the surface of the natural clays and gravels. It clearly cut a prehistoric pit (409) and clipped the edge of one of the east–west ditches (55). The fill sequence comprised a number of interleaved deposits of silty clay and chalky gravel tipping in steeply from the edge of the feature, the base of which was not reached. Examination of the western baulk indicated that in the upper part of the feature a series of dumps of chalky gravel and rubble had levelled out the fill sequence, probably as a deliberate measure. This feature has been interpreted as a pond and some sherds of medieval date were recovered from the fills (Fig. 27, 3). It may have been linked to exploitation of the River Jordan, which runs immediately adjacent to the eastern edge of the site in a raised channel above the valley floor. Two other similar features along the eastern edge of the site may have served a similar purpose but remained unexcavated.

A short isolated stretch of limestone wall aligned north–south was found within the central (402, in construction trench 406) and overlay the Romano-British burial 407. The wall is presumed to be medieval but no associated features were recorded. A similar length of wall aligned east–west (272) lay on the eastern side of the northern area and it too is presumed to be medieval.

To the north-west of this wall, at the southern end of Trench B, a ditch (313) aligned north-east to south-west cut through the Romano-British colluvial deposits 300 and 324 (Fig. 10, S4). It had a steep U-shaped profile and was *c.* 1 m wide and 0.6 m deep. Excavation produced 22 sherds of Romano-British pottery and four sherds of Early Iron Age pottery. A smaller ditch (256) had been cut into the top of this one, and seemed to be a recut on exactly the same alignment. This feature produced only two sherds of pottery, one each of Romano-British and Early Iron Age date. These ditches probably represent a continuation of ditch 75, the intrusive sherds being from the occupation layers cut by the ditches in this area.

These north-east to south-west ditches terminated close to the eastern baulk of the site, in conjunction with two other medieval ditches. The stratigraphically earlier one (261) was aligned north–south and was up to 1.6 m wide and 0.25 m deep. It was cut into the colluvium and could be clearly seen following preliminary cleaning of this area. To the north it cut



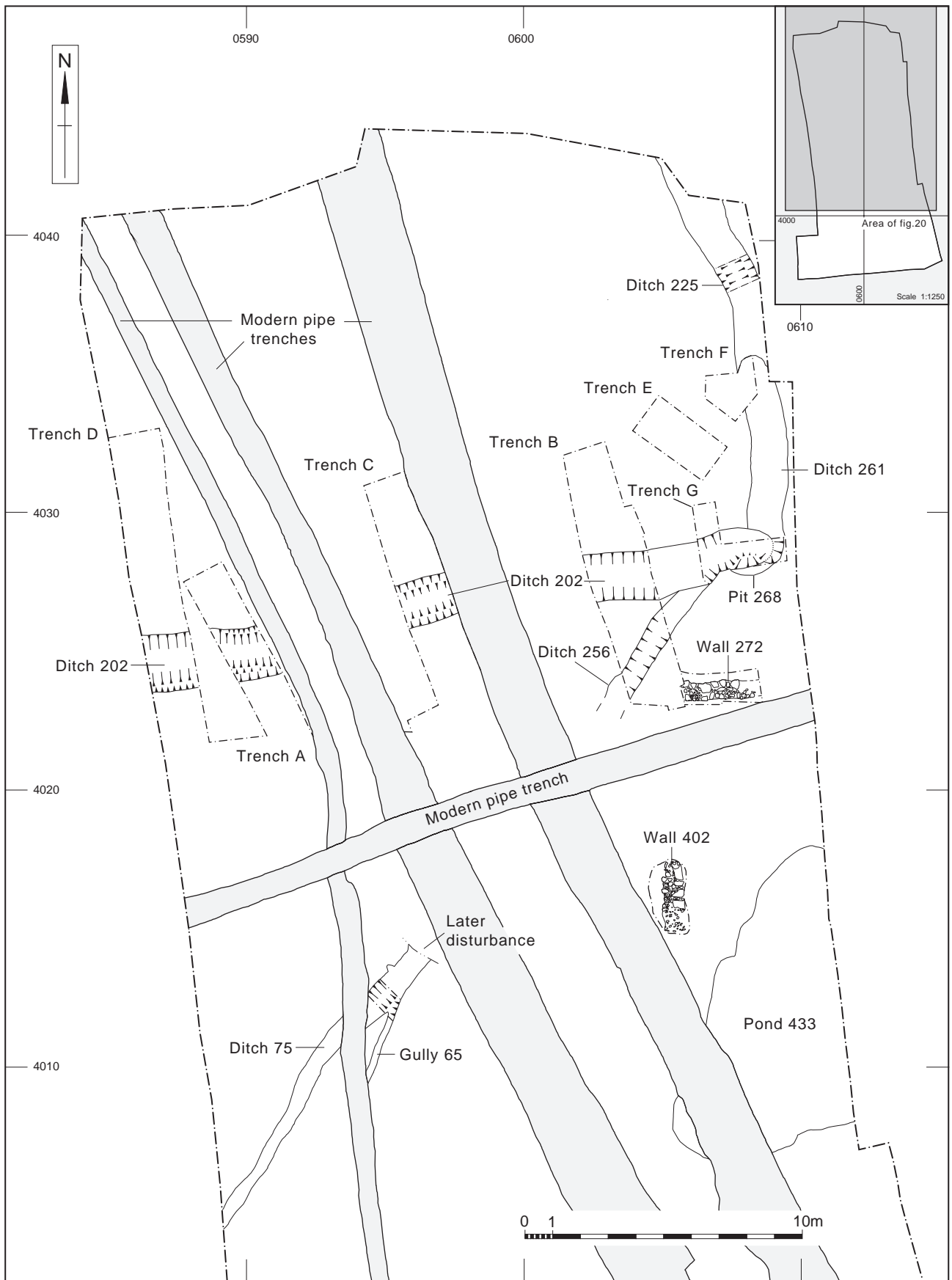


Figure 20 Period 5: other medieval features

across the top of the Romano-British stone-built bank and terminated in the end of another ditch (225), which was aligned slightly more to the west.

The other ditch (202/248) which terminated in conjunction with ditches 313/256 and 261 was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and could also be traced in the surface of the colluvium. It was recorded in the trenches excavated through the colluvium (Figs 10 and 11) and was up to 2.5 m wide and 0.6 m deep. As with the other medieval ditches at this end of the site, it had a gentle U-shaped profile. A shallow pit (268) just to the east of the ditches was probably also of this phase, although no diagnostic artefacts were recovered from it.

All of the ditches at the north end of the site contained pottery contemporary with that recovered from the buildings in the southern area. These ditches may be field boundaries or property divisions on the edge of the manorial settlement.

### *Summary*

A rectangular building aligned due east–west at the southern end of the site is thought to be a chapel, possibly within a manorial settlement complex. A second building was partially excavated and could also be part of any such complex. To the north of the buildings further fragmentary walls may represent boundaries or isolated out-buildings. Beyond the

walls was a network of shallow ditches indicating some form of land division. Along the eastern edge of the site was at least one substantial pond, possibly linked to a system of water management in connection with industrial activities.

### **Period 6. Post-Medieval Activity**

Following the demolition of the chapel there is no further sign of settlement in the site area. Very few artefacts of post-medieval or later date were recovered during machine-stripping and hand-clearing of the site. At the northern end of the site a deep modern topsoil directly overlay the colluvium, and colluviation may still have been an on-going process.

The archaeological remains in the southern and central parts of the site were covered by an extensive dump of limestone rubble. This contained some medieval pottery and is probably a result of the extensive landscaping required for the construction of the water pumping station immediately to the south in the Victorian period. It is likely that the medieval settlement uncovered during the excavation originally extended into the area of the pumping station and it was material from this settlement which was dumped onto the excavation area. Some of the otherwise unstratified pieces of human bone found during site clearance may have come from medieval burials disturbed during construction of the pumping station.

### 3. Finds

edited by Lorraine Mephram

#### Period 1

##### *Worked Flint and Chert*

by R Montague

A total of 487 pieces of flint were recovered. Of these, only 93 (19.1%) were considered to be *in situ* (those retrieved from feature 422 and buried soil 78/83), while the remaining 394 pieces (80.9%) were either redeposited in later features and layers or unstratified. The assemblage includes elements of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and later date with a large number of undiagnostic pieces. In addition, 29 pieces, mostly tiny chips, were recovered from the processed samples. The overall composition of the worked flint and chert assemblage is shown in Table 1, and full details may be found in the archive.

#### Material and sources

The assemblage comprises 398 flint (81.7%) and 89 chert (18.3%) pieces derived from several sources. Gravel flints with thin, rolled, and abraded cortex may derive from angular flint gravels and plateau gravels that occur 1.5 km and 3.5 km respectively from the site, whilst Chesil Beach (*c.* 8.5 km distant) could also be a possible source. Far fewer flints appeared to come from chalk sources, which is perhaps surprising given the proximity of the Upper Chalk *c.* 0.5 km to the north of the site. Several types of chert are also

represented; fine-grained, very dark grey Portland chert along with a paler, coarser-textured chert of unknown origin. This may be from any of the same sources as the gravel flint. Some of the flint is almost cherty in texture, and in some cases the distinction between the two material types has been made somewhat arbitrarily.

#### Condition

Flints ranged from heavily corticated white or blue-grey to completely unpatinated pieces; and from a deep orangy-brown stain to unstained with some calcareous encrustation. Almost 87% of pieces exhibit edge damage which is unsurprising as much of the assemblage was redeposited in later features and layers.

#### Palaeolithic

A fragment of an unidentified Palaeolithic bifacially flaked piece and seven possible Palaeolithic flakes were retrieved; all were residual in later features or unstratified. The bifacially flaked piece is broken and the remaining fragment has suffered severe edge damage. The piece is stained orange-brown and the edges and flake arrises are rolled. The seven flakes are all in a similar condition and all appear to be derived from gravel cobbles.

There are some documented local find-spots of Palaeolithic artefacts (Wessex Archaeology 1993a,

**Table 1. Overall composition of worked flint and chert assemblage**

<i>Feature/context</i>	<i>Flake</i>	<i>Blade</i>	<i>Fl. core</i>	<i>Bl. core</i>	<i>CRF</i>	<i>Misc. debit.</i>	<i>Tools</i>	<i>HS flake</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Broken</i>	<i>Chert</i>	<i>Burnt</i>
<i>Mesolithic contexts</i>												
Feature 422	43	17	–	–	–	2	1	1	64	25	3	10
Buried soils 78 & 83	21	7	–	1	–	–	–	–	29	9	2	1
Total from Meso contexts	64	24	–	1	–	2	1	1	93	34	5	11
<i>Later contexts</i>												
EIA layers & features	55	5	2	–	1	3	1	–	67	14	9	1
R-B layers and features	76	9	1	2	–	2	7	–	97	27	29	1
Medieval layers & features	40	3	1	–	–	2	1	–	47	13	14	1
<i>Undated &amp; unstratified contexts</i>												
Undated features	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	2	1	–
Topsoil & unstratified, inc. layer 34	121	29	3	1	2	11	4	2	173	52	30	2
Evaluation finds	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	3	1	–
Total 'residual' in later features	302	46	7	3	3	18	13	2	394	111	84	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>16</b>

CRF = core rejuvenation flake; Misc. debit. = miscellaneous debitage; HS flakes = hammerstone flakes

116–7; 1993b, 164–5). Two hand-axes, a flaked nodule and a Levallois flake were found at Poxwell, 3.5 km to the east; another hand-axe was found 3.5 km to the north-east at Winterbourne Came; two hand-axes were recovered at Bincombe Hill (2 km to the north-west); another hand-axe was found at Jordan Hill and a hand-axe and two flakes from Weymouth. Another three find-spots of hand-axes are known on the Isle of Portland.

### **Mesolithic**

#### *Flints from feature 422 and buried soil 78/83*

Feature 422 produced 64 lithic items, two from the upper fill (423) and 62 from the lower (424). Of these, 59 (95.3% of the total) are of flint and three (4.7%) chert. The flints show variations in staining and amounts of edge damage. The blades (17; 26.5%) and flakes (43; 67.2%) generally exhibit soft-hammer flaking, some with abrasion of the platform edges, and most bear single platform negative flake scars on their dorsal surfaces. No cores are present, although there is a flake from a flint hammerstone which had later been used as a core. Debitage includes a lump of core shatter and a microburin (a by-product of microlith production). The only tool present is a serrated blade. This artefact type would not be out of place in a Mesolithic assemblage, although examples also occur in earlier Neolithic assemblages (Pitts and Jacobi 1979, 173; Healey and Robertson-Mackay 1983, 16–17). Ten of the pieces are burnt (15.6%).

The high percentage of blades in the assemblage, the technological attributes, and the presence of a microburin and a serrated blade suggest that this assemblage can be dated to the Mesolithic period. The presence of material in the lower fill suggests that the feature itself may be of this date. Given the absence of chronologically diagnostic retouched pieces it has not proved possible to refine the dating more closely within this period.

Layers 78 and 83 directly overlay the natural geological base of the site in the same area as feature 422, and are interpreted as elements of a buried soil. Neither layer produced any pottery but 29 worked flint and chert pieces were recovered, of which 21 (72.4%) are flakes and seven (24.1%) blades. A single platform blade core is also present. Most of the pieces share the technological attributes described for the Mesolithic flints above, and both have a high overall percentage of blades in their totals.

#### *Other Mesolithic material*

Context number 34 was assigned to the material recovered during the intensive cleaning of the surface of the natural sub-base in the central part of the site directly below the buried soil 78/83. This cleaning produced a number of flints, but also both Early Iron Age and Romano-British pottery and may have been contaminated during the machine-stripping of this

area. For this reason the material has not been included in the figures for the buried soil, but rather in the total for the 'derived' flints.

Most of the 39 flints from this context are likely to be Mesolithic in date. These consist of 27 flakes (69.2%), seven blades (17.9%), a fragment of a single platform blade core, and a flake core which also shows some blade removal scars. There were also three tools; a microlith fragment (part of an obliquely truncated point), a serrated blade, and a small fragment of a blade with a steep nibbling retouch, possibly part of a backed piece.

Mesolithic flintwork was also found redeposited in later layers and features. This includes diagnostic tools such as a dihedral burin (from Romano-British rubble spread 428), debitage such as a microburin (from Early Iron Age ditch 62), and single platform blade cores (from Romano-British rubble spread 428 and Romano-British ditch 41). A burin made on a blade, an unstratified find, is also likely to be Mesolithic in date. Flakes and blades are soft-hammer struck, with thin butts and diffuse bulbs, and some display abrasion of the platform edges. They generally display negative flake scars from a single platform.

The location was plotted of all diagnostic or likely Mesolithic flints (4 blade cores, 3 flake cores with some blade removals, 1 microlith, 2 burins, 2 serrated blades, 1 possible backed blade and 2 microburins). Thirteen of these artefacts occurred in the vicinity of feature 422.

### **Neolithic/Bronze Age**

The presence of later flintwork on the site is suggested by tools such as a small, thumbnail scraper (from Romano-British rubble spread 428) and by technological factors such as the presence of squat, short flakes with thick and wide bulbs of percussion, no evidence of platform preparation, and often with prominent bulbs of percussion. However, a large part of the assemblage is undiagnostic and probably only attributable to the post-Mesolithic period.

### *Pottery*

by Lorraine Mephram

A small quantity of pottery (15 sherds) is of early prehistoric date, including probable Early Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age material. The methods used for the analysis of this small collection are as described for the later prehistoric assemblage (see below, Period 2 pottery). Three fabric types were identified, one containing rock fragments of igneous origin, and two grog-tempered. Totals by fabric type are given in Table 2. The pottery is described and discussed by chronological period below. The following terms are used in the fabric descriptions to define the frequency of inclusions: rare (1–3%);

**Table 2. Early prehistoric pottery**

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
<i>Gabbroic fabric (Neolithic)</i>		
R1	1	17
<i>Grog-tempered fabrics (Early Bronze Age)</i>		
G1	11	22
G2	3	17
Total	15	56

sparse (3–10%); moderate (10–20%); common (20–30%).

### Early Neolithic

A single sherd from the evaluation of the site was identified as probably of Early Neolithic date.

- R1 Soft, moderately fine-textured matrix, containing moderate, poorly-sorted, angular fragments of a white, non-calcareous mineral (probably feldspar) <2 mm; sparse, poorly-sorted, subangular darker minerals (unidentified) <3mm; sparse mica <1 mm. Unoxidised with oxidised exterior.

Although petrological analysis was not carried out, this sherd can be fairly confidently identified as gabbroic ware, containing fragments of a suite of minerals derived from weathered igneous rocks. Gabbroic wares were produced in both the Early Neolithic period and in the Late Iron Age, in both cases exploiting the same source of raw materials in south-west England (Peacock 1969a; 1969b). In the absence of any diagnostic features this sherd could be from either period, but given the coarseness of the fabric an Early Neolithic date seems more likely. The fabric is in fact considerably coarser than that of gabbroic wares from other sites in the south Dorset region, for example Maiden Castle (Cleal 1991, fabric Ga:1), but would not be out of place within the range of gabbroic fabrics identified at Carn Brea (Smith 1981), which vary widely in terms of the density and size of inclusions.

The actual provenance of the sherd would also be unusual for an Early Neolithic sherd; the distribution of gabbroic wares is generally confined to causewayed enclosures, which would make the Sutton Poyntz example a significant find, although examples from other sites are known, for example two sherds from a pit at Maiden Castle Road, Dorchester (Cleal 1997, 92).

The suggested source for the Neolithic gabbroic wares of the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall has still not been established beyond doubt. Questioned in the light of petrological analysis of the Carn Brea material (Sofranoff 1981), it now, however, seems almost certain following similar analysis of the Maiden Castle

gabbroic ware (Williams 1991) and the absence of any conclusive evidence pointing to an alternative source.

This single sherd came from a layer of weathered natural clay in Trench 4 of the evaluation. It was associated with a second sherd in a calcite-tempered fabric. The possibility of an Early Neolithic date for this sherd too cannot be ruled out, given the occurrence of similar calcite-tempered sherds within the Early Neolithic assemblage at Maiden Castle, for example (Cleal 1991), but the fabric cannot on visual grounds be distinguished from the Early Iron Age fabric C2 (see below, Period 2 pottery), and the two sherds did not derive from a securely stratified and sealed context. On this evidence, therefore, the second sherd has been assigned to the Early Iron Age.

### Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age

In addition, a small quantity of pottery was tentatively identified as Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age on the basis of the grog-tempered fabric type. Two fabrics were identified, both very similar, but distinguished on the basis of firing conditions.

- G1 Soft, moderately fine-textured matrix, containing moderate, poorly-sorted, irregular grog <1mm; rare fine mica; rare iron oxides <0.25mm; soapy feel; unoxidised.
- G2 Soft, moderately fine-textured matrix, containing common, poorly-sorted, irregular grog <1mm; unoxidised with oxidised exterior.

This material comprises only undecorated body sherds, but two angled sherds in fabric G2 appear to derive from the collars of Collared Urns. This ceramic tradition frequently employs grog-tempered fabrics, but the possibility also exists that some grog-tempered sherds could derive from Late Neolithic Grooved Ware vessels.

These grog-tempered sherds do not form any discernible cluster within the excavated area, although their distribution is restricted to the southern half of the site. Only two features produced only grog-tempered sherds (scoop 24 and post-hole 99), but it is by no means certain that these artefacts had not been redeposited.

## Period 2

### *Iron Age Metalwork*

by R Montague

#### **Copper alloy**

A penannular finger ring of lenticular-sectioned copper alloy strip (Obj. No. 1095; Fig. 21, 1) was recovered from a soil layer 555 within the Early Iron

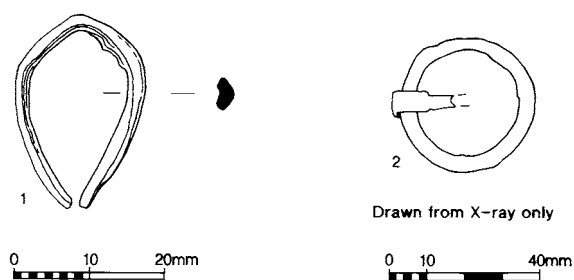


Figure 21 Iron Age metalwork: copper alloy strip (Obj. No. 1995) and iron ring (Obj. No. 1011)

Age round-house in the south-western part of the site. This can be compared with an example from a Late Iron Age context at Maiden Castle (Laws 1991, 156). However, it is of a simple type which also occurs throughout the Romano-British period, and indeed in the medieval period, and cannot therefore be used as a diagnostic dating indicator in itself. The function of a ferrule from ditch 55 is uncertain, although the perforation suggests that it was possibly secured by a nail or rivet.

### Iron

An iron ring with an attachment of uncertain section (Obj. No. 1011; Fig. 21, 2) was recovered from pit 409, a feature thought to be of Early Iron Age date. The link has a slightly tubular loop or collar where it attaches to the ring. The X-radiograph of this object shows that it bears white metal plating, and as such unlikely to be a structural fitting such as a loop-headed spike and ring. Its small size precludes it from being a rein-ring from a bridle-bit (compare with those illustrated in Palk 1984), although it may be some other kind of horse furniture, or some kind of decorative fitting.

A possible iron blade fragment was recovered from scoop 45. However, this object is too corroded to allow further comment.

### Iron Age Pottery

by Lorraine Mephram

The complete Iron Age pottery assemblage recovered from all stages of work at Sutton Poyntz (evaluation and excavation) amounts to 685 sherds (9139 g). Pottery was recovered from a variety of deposits on the site, including cut features (ditches, pits, post-holes) as well as soil accumulation and colluvial contexts, and stratigraphic information has enabled the construction of an overall scheme of phasing within which the pottery has been examined, and which the pottery has helped to refine.

It must be borne in mind, however, that the multi-period activity on the site has resulted in the successive reworking of many deposits. Soil accumulations and colluvial deposits contained a mixture of

pottery of various dates. Relatively few contexts, therefore, can be regarded as closely and securely dated within the prehistoric period. Furthermore, pottery dating has been hampered by the non-distinctive quality of certain parts of the ceramic assemblage, in particular the sandy wares, which can be visually very similar in both prehistoric and Romano-British periods. This is only to be expected within an assemblage which is likely to have been largely locally produced, exploiting similar sources of raw materials in every period, and given also the relative scarcity of diagnostic material.

### Methods

The assemblage was analysed following the guidelines set out by Morris (1992), focusing on a detailed examination of fabric and vessel form. Using a binocular microscope (X20 magnification), the assemblage was first divided into fabric types on the basis of the range and coarseness of inclusions, which fall into four broad fabric groups: Group C (fabrics containing calcareous inclusions); Group F (flint-gritted fabrics); Group Q (sandy fabrics) and Group V (organic-tempered fabrics). Fabrics have been coded using an alpha-numeric system which combines a letter denoting fabric group with a chronologically significant number (1–99 for prehistoric fabrics). Type series were created for vessel forms, using rim, base and other diagnostic sherds. Pottery was recorded by fabric type within each context, noting also sherd type (rim, base, etc), vessel form where known, surface treatment, decoration, manufacturing technique, cross-context joins and evidence of use.

### Fabrics

The Iron Age material comprises 29 separate fabric types within the four broad fabric groups. In order of frequency these are calcareous, sandy, flint-gritted/flint-tempered, and organic-tempered. Within these groups, fabric distinctions were not always clear-cut, and some types may merely reflect minor variations of a single fabric. This is not unexpected, given the largely *ad hoc* methods of production which may be assumed for the assemblage. The fabrics are described below within fabric group, and fabric totals are given in Table 3.

#### 1. Calcareous fabrics

The assemblage was dominated by fabrics containing calcareous inclusions, which included beef calcite, as well as oolitic and shelly limestone. Twelve separate fabric types were identified:

- C1 Soft, fine silty matrix, containing common, poorly-sorted, crushed shelly limestone <5 mm; rare iron oxides <0.5 mm; soapy feel.

- C2 Hard, moderately fine sandy matrix, containing moderate to common, poorly-sorted, subangular beef calcite <5 mm; rare, subrounded quartz <0.25 mm; rare fine mica.
- C3 Soft, moderately fine sandy matrix, containing sparse, fairly well-sorted, subangular beef calcite <2 mm; rare iron oxides <0.5 mm. Possibly a finer variant of C2.
- C4 Hard, moderately coarse sandy matrix, containing common, fairly well-sorted crushed oolitic limestone <1 mm; rare iron oxides <0.25 mm; rare fine mica.
- C5 Hard, moderately coarse sandy matrix, containing sparse, poorly-sorted, subangular beef calcite <3 mm.
- C6 Hard, fine silty matrix, containing sparse, poorly-sorted, crushed limestone <1 mm (including shell fragments and oolites); rare, subrounded quartz <0.25 mm; rare mica/fine quartz.
- C7 Soft, fine silty matrix, containing sparse, poorly-sorted, angular beef calcite <5 mm; sparse, poorly-sorted, irregular iron oxides <2 mm.
- C8 Soft, fine sandy matrix, containing moderate, fairly well-sorted, subangular crushed limestone <1 mm; rare subrounded quartz <0.5 mm; rare iron oxides <0.25 mm; rare, subrounded patinated flint <0.5 mm; slightly soapy feel.
- C9 Hard, moderately fine silty matrix, containing moderate, well-sorted, crushed oolitic limestone <0.5 mm; rare iron oxides <0.125 mm.
- C10 Hard, moderately fine sandy fabric, containing common, well-sorted, subangular beef calcite <0.125 mm; rare subrounded quartz <0.25 mm; rare iron oxides <0.25 mm.
- C11 Hard, moderately fine-textured matrix, containing moderate, well-sorted, subangular limestone <0.5 mm; rare subrounded quartz <0.5 mm. Possibly a finer variant of C8.
- C12 Hard, moderately fine-textured matrix, containing sparse, poorly-sorted, subangular limestone <5mm; rare subrounded quartz <0.25 mm; sparse iron oxides <0.25 mm.

Calcareous fabrics accounted for just over 60% of the total Iron Age assemblage by weight, and just over half of this group is made up of the five fabrics containing beef type calcite (C2, C3, C5, C7, and C10). Fabrics containing oolitic limestone comprise just under one-third of this group, the remainder containing shelly limestone. A preference for calcareous fabrics, particularly those containing beef type calcite, has been noted for Late Bronze Age pottery from Dorchester, a possible reason being the suitability of calcite as a tempering agent likely to counter thermal shock, and its relative ease of preparation (Cleal 1992, 37).

Calcite has also been identified amongst Early Iron Age pottery at Maiden Castle (Brown 1991) but,

interestingly, is apparently absent from the Early Iron Age assemblages from Purbeck; Rope Lake Hole, Kimmeridge and Eldon's Seat, where only limestone and shell tempers were noted (Davies 1987; Cunliffe and Phillipson 1968). A local origin is likely for all the fabrics in this group. Beef type calcite could have been obtained from the Purbeck Beds, and the other calcareous inclusions could also have been obtainable within locally outcropping limestones of the Purbeck and Portland series.

## 2. *Flint-gritted and flint-tempered fabrics*

The term 'flint-gritted' is used to define fabrics whose clay matrices contain flint inclusions which are naturally occurring, while 'flint-tempered' refers to fabrics which have flint deliberately added to the clay matrix. In some cases the distinction is not always clear-cut, and in these cases the term 'flint-gritted' is used. This was the least frequently occurring fabric group, and most of the fabric types may merely represent single vessels.

- F1 Hard, moderately fine-textured matrix, containing moderate, fairly well-sorted, subangular flint <2 mm; sparse iron oxides <0.25 mm; rare vegetable/carbonaceous material <1.5 mm.
- F2 Hard, moderately coarse-textured matrix, containing moderate, very poorly sorted, subangular flint <6 mm; rare subrounded quartz <0.5 mm; sparse iron oxides <0.25 mm.
- F3 Hard, moderately fine-textured matrix, containing sparse, poorly-sorted, subangular flint <2 mm; rare subrounded quartz <0.5 mm; sparse strands of vegetable matter <2 mm; rare iron oxides <0.5 mm.
- F4 Soft, moderately coarse-textured, slightly micaceous matrix, containing rare, subangular flint <1 mm; rare subrounded quartz <0.25 mm; rare iron oxides <0.5 mm.
- F5 Hard, moderately coarse-textured matrix, containing moderate, fairly well-sorted, subangular calcined flint <1.5 mm; rare crushed limestone <0.25 mm; rare iron oxides <0.2 mm.
- F6 Hard, moderately coarse-textured sandy matrix, containing moderate, fairly well-sorted subangular flint <2 mm.
- F7 Hard, moderately coarse-textured matrix, containing moderate, poorly-sorted, subangular patinated flint <3 mm; sparse, subrounded quartz <0.5 mm; rare fine mica.
- F8 Hard, moderately coarse-textured matrix, containing moderate, poorly-sorted, subangular flint <2 mm; sparse, subrounded quartz <0.5 mm; sparse strands of vegetable matter <2 mm.

Despite the number of fabric types represented, fabrics containing flint made up only 5% of the total assemblage by weight, and no fabric type is

**Table 3. Later prehistoric pottery**

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
<i>Calcareous fabrics</i>		
C1	40	420
C2	197	2459
C3	6	521
C4	103	1333
C5	25	236
C6	16	160
C7	2	13
C8	13	166
C9	15	127
C10	3	41
C11	1	5
C12	7	68
Total	428	5549
<i>Flint-gritted fabrics</i>		
F1	9	240
F2	5	75
F3	6	24
F4	5	34
F5	1	3
F6	4	42
F7	3	12
F8	5	33
Total	38	463
<i>Sandy fabrics</i>		
Q1	13	125
Q2	91	1690
Q3	18	207
Q4	53	567
Q5	12	251
Q6	15	149
Q7	9	89
Q8	2	15
Total	213	3093
<i>Organic-tempered fabric</i>		
V1	6	34
Overall total	685	9139

represented by more than nine sherds. A similarly low proportion of flint-tempered fabrics was noted at Rope Lake Hole (Davies 1987, fig. 83). Flint sources would have been locally available, and there is no reason to suppose any other than localised production for these wares.

### 3. Sandy fabrics

This group includes both fabrics to which sand has been deliberately added as tempering material, and those in which the sand is probably naturally occurring within the clay matrix. This group made up

approximately one-third of the later prehistoric assemblage, but just under half of the sherds in fabric Q2 are from a single context and appear to derive from a single vessel.

- Q1 Hard, fine silty matrix, containing common, well-sorted subrounded quartz <1 mm; rare iron oxides <0.25 mm
- Q2 Hard, moderately coarse sandy matrix, containing moderate, fairly well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.5mm (most <0.25 mm); sparse organic material <2 mm; sparse iron oxides <0.25 mm; rare grog/clay pellet <1.5 mm.
- Q3 Hard, moderately fine-textured matrix, containing sparse, poorly-sorted, subrounded quartz <1 mm; sparse, subangular patinated flint <1.5 mm; very rare limestone fragments <1 mm.
- Q4 Hard, slightly micaceous silty matrix, containing rare subrounded quartz <0.25 mm; rare limestone fragments <0.5 mm; rare strands of vegetable matter <1 mm; rare iron oxides.
- Q5 Hard, moderately fine-textured matrix, containing sparse, fairly well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.5 mm; sparse crushed oolitic limestone <1 mm; sparse iron oxides; rare, subangular patinated flint <5 mm.
- Q6 Hard, moderately coarse-textured matrix, containing moderate, well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.5 mm; sparse subangular flint <2 mm; rare iron oxides <0.25 mm.
- Q7 Hard, moderately fine-textured matrix, containing common, well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.5 mm; rare strands of vegetable matter <3 mm.
- Q8 Moderately coarse-textured matrix, containing moderate, poorly-sorted, subrounded quartz <1 mm; rare subangular calcite <5 mm; sparse iron oxides <0.25 mm.

Even without the single vessel in fabric Q2, this is still the most commonly occurring fabric type. Fabric Q4 is also relatively common; other fabric types occur in much smaller quantities. Overall, the proportion of sandy wares is lower than was observed at Rope Lake Hole, where these fabrics dominated the assemblage throughout the Iron Age and into the Romano-British period (Davies 1987, fig. 83). As for the calcareous and flint-gritted/flint-tempered fabrics, a local origin is likely for these sandy fabrics.

### 4. Organic-tempered fabric

This group is represented by just six sherds, in a single fabric type.

- V1 Hard, moderately coarse sandy matrix, containing sparse linear voids (leached out organic material); sparse, subrounded quartz <0.5 mm; rare iron oxides.



**Table 4. Later prehistoric vessel forms by fabric type**

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form unknown</i>			<i>Bowls</i>				<i>Jars</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>R1</i>	<i>R2</i>	<i>R3</i>	<i>R4</i>	<i>R5</i>	<i>R6</i>	<i>R7</i>	<i>R8</i>	<i>R9</i>	<i>R10</i>	
C1	–	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	3
C2	–	2	4	–	1	1	1	–	–	–	9
C3	–	3	3	–	1	–	–	–	1	2	10
C4	1	1	1	–	1	1	–	–	1	–	6
C5	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	2
C8	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
C9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	2
F1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
F3	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
F4	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Q2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Q3	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	2
Q4	–	1	–	1	1	–	–	3	–	1	7
Q6	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Q7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
V1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Total	1	14	10	2	7	4	1	5	2	4	50

No organic-tempered fabrics were noted at Rope Lake Hole, but again, there is nothing to suggest anything other than local manufacture for this fabric.

#### Vessel forms

The assemblage contained a fairly low proportion of rim and other diagnostic sherds; only 50 rims, for example, are present, and in only one case can the profile below the shoulder be ascertained. Other diagnostic material included angled or carinated sherds. Decorated sherds are discussed below. Using the rim sherds a small number of vessel forms were identified. The smaller, less diagnostic rims which were not attributable to vessel form (approximately half of the total number) were assigned to generalised categories on the basis of rim profile. The correlation of vessel forms to fabric types is given in Table 4.

- R1 Rim too tiny for profile to be ascertained. Vessel form unknown.
- R2 Simple or slightly thickened rim, everted. Vessel form unknown (Fig. 22, 2).
- R3 Simple or slightly thickened rim, upright or very slightly everted, with an inturned profile. Vessel form unknown (Fig. 22, 3–7, 11).
- R4 Carinated, bipartite bowl, with simple or slightly thickened rim, sometimes beaded. One example decorated above carination (Fig. 22, 8–10).
- R5 Weakly carinated bowl with flaring neck and everted, simple rounded or thickened rim, sometimes beaded (Fig. 22, 12–16).
- R6 Open, hemispherical or flaring bowl with internally flanged rim, flattened on top, giving an almost triangular section (Fig. 22, 1, 17–19).

- R7 Open hemispherical bowl with upright, simple rounded rim (Fig. 22, 20).
- R8 Slack-profiled, bag-shaped jar with simple rounded, slightly everted rim (Fig. 22, 21–3).
- R9 Large, thick-walled jar with everted simple rim; full profile unknown (Fig. 22, 24).
- R10 Thin-walled vessel, long-necked, either jar or bowl, with simple rounded or squared rim, upright or slightly everted. All examples red-finished and/or burnished (Fig. 22, 25–6).

#### Decoration and surface treatment

Decorated sherds are extremely scarce within the Iron Age assemblage (see Table 5). Techniques used are impressions on shoulders and tops of rims (Fig. 22, 14, 18, 23, 29, 32, 33), which occur only on coarse calcareous fabrics; and incised linear motifs, which generally appear above the carination on carinated bowls of Type 4, in a variety of fabric types (Fig. 22, 9, 10, 23, 27, 28, 31). One sherd in fabric C1 has a series of fingertip impressions on the interior surface (Fig. 22, 30), whether functional or as decoration is unknown; and two rims, both in fabric Q4, have possible slash marks below the neck (Fig. 22, 22, 23). Altogether sixteen sherds are decorated, from a maximum of fourteen vessels.

A number of vessels show signs of some form of surface treatment, ranging from the crude to the well-executed. Techniques include rough wiping of the exterior surface, possibly with vegetable matter, leaving marked striations on the surface; smoothing the surface more carefully to disguise the inclusions; and burnishing. The vessel forms from which these sherds derived can rarely be ascertained due to the

**Table 5. Later prehistoric pottery: surface treatment and decoration by fabric**

Fabric	Surface treatment		Decoration		
	Burnished	Red-finished	Finger impressions	Slashing on rim/neck	Incised motifs
C1	–	–	1	–	1
C2	8	7	4	–	–
C3	7	4	–	–	2
C4	13	9	1	–	1
C5	6	3	–	–	–
C9	3	5	–	–	–
C10	–	2	–	–	–
F1	–	1	–	–	–
F4	–	–	–	–	1
F8	–	1	–	–	–
Q1	–	2	–	–	–
Q2	2	1	–	–	–
Q3	4	7	–	–	–
Q4	10	1	–	2	2
Q6	3	4	–	–	1
Q7	–	1	–	–	–
Total	56	48	6	2	8

paucity of diagnostic sherds, but there seems to be a general correlation between the finer, thinner-walled vessels and more careful surface treatment, while the larger, more utilitarian vessels merit cruder finishing.

In addition, a number of sherds were observed to bear possible traces of the application of some kind of surface slip in a rich red or orange colour which contrasts with the underlying oxidised body colouring. These sherds would appear to fall within the range of what have in the past been described as ‘haematite-coated’ wares, and which are now more correctly termed ‘red-finished’ wares since the effect may be achieved by several different techniques of which the application of a haematite-rich slip is only one (Middleton 1987).

This effect is found on a number of different fabric types (Table 5), but again there seems to be a bias towards the finer, thinner-walled vessels; all four examples of Type 10 rims were red-finished. The quality of the finish on these vessels, with the implication of a higher investment of labour than for the coarser, more utilitarian forms, might be taken as evidence for a secondary, more specialised level of ceramic production, operating on a regional rather than a local basis. The occurrence of the red-finished surface treatment on a number of different fabric types, none of which need have originated from outside the Purbeck area, would tend not to support such an argument.

#### Chronology and affinities of the assemblage

The fabric types represented within the later prehistoric assemblage from Sutton Poyntz are not in

themselves chronologically diagnostic, but the rather limited range of vessel forms identified would indicate a date range within the Early Iron Age. Three sites within Purbeck: Rope Lake Hole, Eldon’s Seat, and Kimmeridge, provide a ceramic framework within which the Sutton Poyntz assemblage may be considered.

Close parallels for the vessel forms may be found within the Period 1–2 assemblage from Rope Lake Hole (Davies 1987, figs 79–80), and in the Period II assemblages from Eldon’s Seat and Kimmeridge (Cunliffe and Phillipson 1968, figs 15–18; fig. 23). These sites also provide some parallels for the range of calcareous, sandy and flint-tempered fabric types present at Sutton Poyntz, although the absence of calcite-tempered wares, and the differing proportions of the various fabric groups, have already been discussed. Although firm dating is unavailable for any site, a relative chronology has been suggested which places Eldon’s Seat I earliest in the sequence, followed by Kimmeridge II and Rope Lake Hole 1, then Eldon’s Seat II, and finally Rope Lake Hole 2 (Davies 1987).

The main elements of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ceramic sequence in the area, as illustrated by these three sites may be summarised as follows:

*Ceramic Phase 1:* Eldon’s Seat I: Coarse, bucket-shaped jars and large bipartite jars.

*Ceramic Phase 2:* Kimmeridge II/Rope Lake Hole 1: Coarse, shouldered jars, often finger-impressed on the shoulder; smaller, ovoid jars, frequently decorated and red-finished; bipartite furrowed bowls with sharp shoulders, invariably red-finished; bipartite, shouldered bowls, generally decorated above the shoulder, occasionally red-finished.

*Ceramic Phase 3:* Eldon’s Seat II/Rope Lake Hole 2: Wide, open bowls with flat-topped rims, internally flanged; large, slack-shouldered jars, sometimes red-finished; coarse jars of various sizes, rarely finger-impressed; globular jars with everted rims, frequently decorated with bosses; carinated bowls, generally red-finished; bucket-shaped, plain vessels.

This three-fold division is supported by ceramic evidence from other sites in south Dorset, such as Hengistbury Head (Brown 1987), although most sites have generally produced pottery from just one of these phases. Chalbury hillfort, for example, approximately 1 km west of Sutton Poyntz, produced an assemblage comparable to Eldon’s Seat II (Whitley 1943), and the assemblage from Maiden Castle of the

**Table 6. Later prehistoric pottery by *in situ* context**

Feature/ context	Calcareous	Flint-gritted	Sandy	V1	Total
<i>Central Area</i>					
Pit 06	–	1/32	–	–	1/32
Scoop 30	1/5	–	–	–	1/5
PH 32	4/11	1/9	–	–	5/20
Cont. 34	3/56	–	1/7	–	4/63
Ditch 41	8/72	3/19	4/48	–	15/139
Scoop 45	11/126	–	–	2/5	13/131
Gully 53	2/3	–	–	–	2/3
Ditch 55	10/65	2/58	2/7	–	14/130
Scoop 56	1/4	–	–	–	1/4
Scoop 61	6/64	5/108	5/89	–	16/261
Ditch 62	6/46	–	6/71	–	12/117
Gully 64	3/16	–	–	–	3/16
PH 73	1/10	1/6	–	–	2/16
Ditch 76	17/160	–	1/3	–	18/163
PH 79	12/125	–	–	–	12/125
PH 81	2/26	–	–	–	2/26
PH 90	1/10	–	–	–	1/10
Scoop 409	7/57	2/10	9/55	1/4	19/126
PH 415	1/11	–	–	–	1/11
Rubble 428	3/52	–	–	–	3/52
PH 429	5/54	1/8	4/57	–	10/119
Total	104/973	16/250	32/337	3/9	155/1569
<i>Southern Area</i>					
Soil acc. 100	27/340	2/9	7/45	–	36/394
Soil acc. 103	6/82	1/29	3/21	–	10/132
Soil acc. 129	28/267	1/28	7/81	–	36/376
Soil layer 522	12/174	2/17	7/55	–	21/246
Soil acc. 535	31/473	–	9/281	–	40/754
Soil acc. 544	–	–	2/141	–	2/141
Robber tr. 548	1/13	–	–	–	1/13
Soil acc. 550	29/437	2/18	16/233	–	47/688
Soil acc. 551	18/288	–	6/141	–	24/429
Dump 552	1/4	–	–	–	1/4
Construct. trench 553/585	3/21	–	–	–	3/21
Soil acc. 555	22/414	–	8/90	–	30/504
Burnt layer 560	1/27	–	3/34	–	4/61
Burnt layer 563	3/10	–	–	–	3/10
Robber tr. 580	3/29	–	1/6	–	4/35
PH 588	2/21	1/11	–	–	3/32
Clay dump 589	7/76	–	–	–	7/76
Rubble 590	16/184	–	–	–	16/184
Rubble 591	6/77	–	–	–	6/77
Rubble 592	6/73	–	–	–	6/73
Total	222/3010	9/112	69/1128	–	300/4250
Evaluation (all contexts)	22/108	2/4	7/76	–	31/188
Overall Total	348/4091	27/366	108/1541	3/9	486/6007

same ceramic phase has been dated to the 5th century BC (Wheeler 1943; Cunliffe 1991, 72). The ceramic evidence for the Early Iron Age period in Wessex is summarised by Cunliffe and Brown (1987, 303–5), who suggest a division into ‘earliest’ Iron Age (*c.* 800–600 BC) and ‘early’ Iron Age (*c.* 600–400 BC), corresponding to ceramic phases 1 and 2 respectively.

The Sutton Poyntz assemblage includes elements from both ceramic phase 2 (coarse, shouldered jars; bipartite, red-finished shouldered bowls) and ceramic phase 3 (wide, open bowls; large slack-shouldered jars), which would suggest a date range within the 8th–5th centuries BC. There is no evidence of an earlier, Late Bronze Age component (ceramic phase 1) such as is seen at Eldon’s Seat period I. The evidence for the reflection of the two ceramic phases in the stratigraphic evidence is discussed below.

### Distribution on site

#### *Southern area*

Less than half of the later prehistoric assemblage was recovered from securely stratified contexts on site (Table 6). Of the contexts which have been assigned to the later prehistoric period, all are located within the central or southern areas of the excavation area, and are particularly concentrated in the south-western corner of the site, associated with the round-house.

Pottery from this area was recovered from a series of post-holes and construction trenches both sealed by and cutting a number of soil accumulation layers. The stratigraphic data do not allow the definition of distinct phases of activity within this sequence of layers, since the sealing of features by soil accumulation layers is not unambiguous in any case. It may be noted, however, that vessel forms defined as belonging to ceramic phase 2, as described above (wide, open bowls and slack-shouldered jars), are almost entirely restricted to the soil accumulation layers 535, 544, 550, and 551 which, with certain reservations, may be assigned to the latter part of the stratigraphic sequence (Fig. 22, 3, 7, 16, 17, 19, 22–5, 29, 32). Having said that, the range of diagnostic vessel forms from other contexts in this area is extremely limited, so the evidence for a chronological division on ceramic grounds is not conclusive.

#### *Central area*

Smaller quantities of pottery derived from a series of features within the central part of the excavated area: scoops, post-holes, ditches, and gullies. It should be noted, however, that while these features have been assigned to the later prehistoric period on the basis of the pottery and in the absence of stratigraphic evidence to the contrary, not all of the pottery necessarily represents *in situ* deposits. The dating of gully 53, for example, should be treated with caution given the stratigraphic relationships with ditches 62 and 76, and the parallel alignment of ditch 75. The pottery from grave 407, also, is more likely to represent redeposited sherds within a later context, particularly given the metalwork evidence (see Montague, below).

Diagnostic material from contexts within the central area is particularly scarce, but rim sherds from

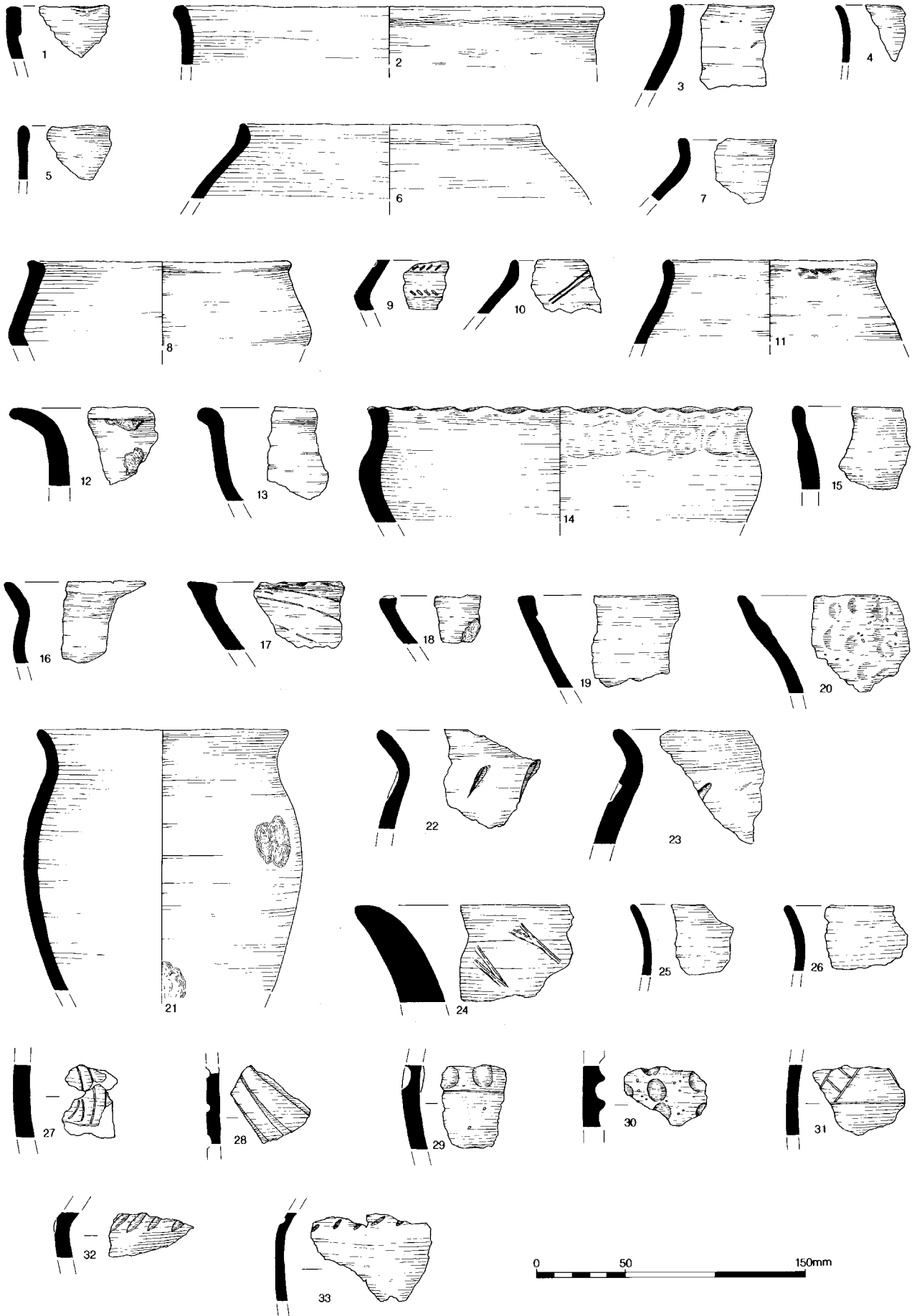


Figure 22 Iron Age pottery

carinated bowls (Fig. 22, 9, 11), open, flat-rimmed bowls (Fig. 22, 12–14), hemispherical bowls with simple rims (Fig. 22, 20), flaring-necked bowls (Fig. 22, 18) and slack-shouldered jars (Fig. 22, 22, 26) have been identified, as well as sherds decorated with incised motifs, likely to derive from carinated bowls (Fig. 22, 27, 28, 31). None of these diagnostic sherds came from a securely stratified context, but their presence is sufficient to indicate that activity within the central area is broadly contemporary with that relating to the roundhouse in the south-western corner. Again, there is no conclusive stratigraphic evidence to support the division of the assemblage into two ceramic phases.

#### *Illustrated pottery* (Fig. 22)

1. Bowl (R6), fabric C1. PRN 78, context 80, posthole 73
2. Jar/Bowl (R2), fabric Q3; rim diameter  $240\pm 10$  mm; burnished (possibly red-finished). PRN 358, context 410, pit 409.
3. Jar/Bowl (R3), fabric C2. PRN 471, soil accumulation 550.
4. Jar/Bowl (R3), fabric V1. PRN 361, context 410, pit 409.
5. Jar/Bowl (R3), fabric C2. PRN 470, soil accumulation 551.
6. Jar/Bowl (R3), fabric C4; rim diameter  $170\pm 10$  mm. PRN 510, soil accumulation 555.
7. Jar/Bowl (R3), fabric C3. PRN 497, soil accumulation 551.
8. Bowl (R4), fabric Q4, rim diameter  $150\pm 10$  mm. PRN 489, soil accumulation 550.
9. Bowl (R4), fabric Q6; impressed/incised decoration; red-finished. PRN 151, soil accumulation 129.
10. Bowl (R4), fabric F4; incised decoration. PRN 539, context 587, posthole 588.
11. Jar (R3), fabric Q4. PRN 147, soil accumulation 129.
12. Bowl (R5), fabric C2; spalled. PRN 5, context 04, medieval ditch 75.
13. Bowl (R5), fabric Q3; red-finished. PRN 178, context 137.
14. Bowl (R5), fabric F1, rim diameter  $220\pm 20$  mm; impressed decoration on top of rim. PRN 36, context 43, scoop 61.
15. Bowl (R5), fabric C5. PRN 430, context 516, medieval construction trench 515.
16. Bowl (R5), fabric C4. PRN 449, soil accumulation 535.
17. Bowl (R6), fabric C4; burnished interior, red-finished outside. PRN 450, soil accumulation 535.
18. Bowl (R6), fabric C1; spalled; impressed decoration on top of rim. PRN 18, context 34.
19. Bowl (R6), fabric C5. PRN 452, soil accumulation 535.
20. Bowl (R7), fabric C2. PRN 389, rubble 428.
21. Jar (R8), fabric C9, rim  $140\pm 10$  mm; spalled. PRN 463, soil accumulation 544
22. Jar (R8), fabric Q4; possible slashed decoration below rim. PRN 39, context 43, scoop 61.
23. Jar (R8), fabric Q4; possible slashed decoration below rim. PRN 520, soil accumulation 555.
24. Jar (R9), fabric C4; burnished inside rim. PRN 475, soil accumulation 550.
25. Jar/Bowl (R10), fabric Q4; red-finished. PRN 486, soil accumulation 550.
26. Jar/Bowl (R10), fabric C3; red-finished. PRN 137, soil accumulation 129.
27. Decorated body sherd, fabric Q4; incised linear motifs. PRN 360, context 410, pit 409.
28. Decorated body sherd, fabric Q6; impressed or incised lines; red finished. PRN 397, context 434, posthole 429.
29. Decorated body sherd from shoulder, fabric C2; fingertip impressions. PRN 492, soil accumulation 551.
30. Decorated body sherd, fabric C1; impressions on interior. PRN 77, context 80, posthole 73.
31. Decorated body sherd, fabric C1; incised geometric motifs. PRN 102, soil accumulation 103.
32. Decorated body sherd from shoulder, fabric C2; oblique impressions. PRN 469, soil accumulation 550.
33. Decorated body sherds from shoulder, fabric C2; oblique impressions. PRN 538, context 587, posthole 588.

#### *Worked Bone and Antler* by Nicholas A Wells

Five objects of worked bone and antler came from Iron Age contexts, comprising one pin, one probable and one possible gouge, and two handles. The bone pin, of which only the point survives (Obj. No. 1009; Fig. 23, 1), came from soil accumulation 129. The end of a tubular handle made from a large mammal long bone was recovered from the same context.

The probable gouge consists of a sheep or goat metatarsal sliced obliquely to a point at one end and with a partial transverse perforation at the opposite end, found in soil accumulation 550 (Obj. No. 2021; Fig. 23, 2). The second such object is more ambiguous; this consists of a section of sheep/goat radius which has been sliced longitudinally and worn or polished, from scoop 45. Both ends are missing. These objects falls within the range of pointed implements which are generally described as ‘gouges’, with a possible interpretation as weaving shuttles, although it is more likely that they had a multi-functional purpose. They are not particularly closely datable on morphological grounds, but are found throughout the Iron Age, for example at Danebury and Maiden Castle (Sellwood 1984, fig. 7.34; Laws

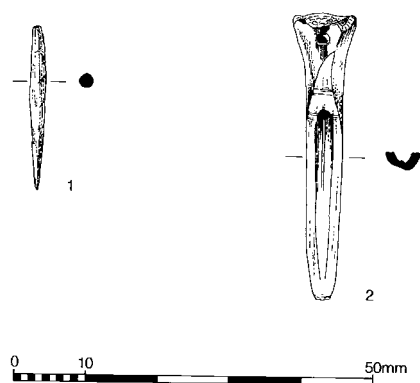


Figure 23 Iron Age worked bone pin (Obj. No. 1009) and ?gouge (Obj. No. 2021)

1991, fig. 188). Early Iron Age examples are known from Eldon's Seat (Cunliffe and Phillipson 1968, 225).

The two handles were found in soil accumulation 129 and posthole 415 respectively. The first consists of a small section from the end of a tubular handle probably made from a large mammal long bone. The exterior is polished. The second handle comprises three burnt fragments of a hollowed red deer antler tine with a polygonal external profile; a similar object is illustrated from the Early Iron Age occupation phase at Eldon's Seat (Cunliffe and Phillipson 1968, fig. 20, 10).

### Period 3

#### *Romano-British Metalwork*

by R Montague

Twenty-two metalwork items were recovered from Romano-British contexts (two of copper alloy and 20 of iron). In addition, a Romano-British copper alloy belt fitting came from an unstratified context, and a fragment of two strands of twisted copper alloy, which may be the remains of a Romano-British bracelet, was recovered from a medieval context. As the date of the latter object is ambiguous, it is listed in the medieval metalwork section.

A copper alloy rod fragment from occupation layer or buried soil 346 is likely to be part of an object such as a hairpin, a cosmetic or surgical implement or a stylus. A featureless lump of copper alloy from ditch 211 is too corroded to warrant further comment. A copper alloy openwork hinged belt fitting with three copper alloy rivets for attachment (Obj. No. 1093; Fig. 24, 1) was recovered from the spoil heap. In addition, the fragment of twisted wire from a medieval context (gravels 145) may be part of a residual Romano-British bracelet. Of the 20 iron

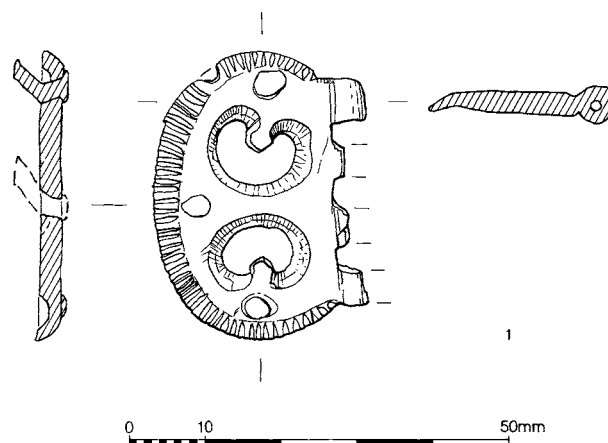


Figure 24 Romano-British copper alloy belt fitting (Obj. No. 1093)

objects recovered from Romano-British contexts, all but one are nails or nail fragments.

#### **Burial 558 in grave 559**

Eight iron nails were recovered from the fill of grave 559. The nails have flat round heads and a square-sectioned shank, and from their distribution around the grave it is assumed that they represent coffin nails. The majority of the late Romano-British burials at Poundbury in Dorchester produced evidence for wooden coffins, largely suggested by the presence of coffin nails, often few in number (Mills 1993, 114).

#### **Burial 414 in grave 407**

Four nail fragments (from a minimum of three nails) were recovered. Seven iron nails or groups of nails were noted during the excavation of grave 407, of which five were represented solely by a corrosion stain, and were not recovered. The extant nails have round flat heads and square-sectioned shanks. The nails were arranged around the edge of the grave cut, and were interpreted by the excavator as coffin nails. A further iron object was placed between the lower legs of the individual, who was buried in an extended prone position. This object has since been lost, but its position in the grave, and appearance on the post-excavation plan of the grave suggests that this was a grave good, of unknown type.

Seven nails and nail fragments were recovered from five other Romano-British contexts on the site.

#### *Roman Coin*

by Nicholas A. Wells

A single Roman coin was recovered from context 115, one of the gravel levelling deposits within the medieval chapel.

Æ 3 Nummus of Constantine I and family  
Obv. VRBS ROMA

Helmeted bust facing left and wearing the imperial cloak

Rev. Wolf and twins surmounted by two stars  
Diameter: 16 mm; Weight: 2.2 g

Struck AD 330–335 at an uncertain mint.

### *Romano-British Pottery*

by Lorraine Mephram

The Romano-British ceramic assemblage amounts to 466 sherds (4095 g), recovered from both evaluation and excavation.

#### **Methods**

The methods used to analyse the Romano-British pottery are as described above for the Iron Age assemblage (see above), involving primarily the analysis of fabrics and vessel forms. Given the relatively small size and generally poor condition of the Romano-British assemblage, a very detailed fabric analysis was not felt to be appropriate. Instead, fabrics were defined on a broader basis, using a combination of dominant inclusion type, and known details of type and/or source.

This resulted in the creation of eight fabric types, which fall into two broad fabric groups: Group Q (sandy fabrics) and Group E ('established' wares of known type or source). Fabrics have been coded using an alpha-numeric system which combines a letter denoting fabric group with a chronologically significant number (100–399 for Romano-British fabrics). Vessel forms have been related wherever possible to published type series (eg, Hearne and Smith 1991; Seager Smith and Davies 1993).

#### **Fabrics and forms**

A total of seven fabric types were defined, which may be briefly listed as follows:

- E101 Black Burnished ware
- E130 North Gaulish colour-coated ware
- E162 New Forest colour-coated ware
- E256 Amphorae
- E300 Samian
- Q100 Coarse greywares
- Q101 Orange/buff wares
- Q102 Miscellaneous colour-coated wares

Pottery totals by fabric type are given in Table 7. For the purposes of discussion, these wares have been divided into Finewares and Coarsewares.

#### **Finewares**

Imported fine wares are limited to a handful of sherds of samian, amphorae, and one sherd of North Gaulish

**Table 7. Romano-British pottery totals**

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
E101 Black Burnished ware	414	3361
E130 North Gaulish colour coat	1	2
E162 New Forest colour coat	3	10
E256 Amphora	4	437
E300 Samian	14	47
Q102 Misc. colour coats	2	4
Q100 Greywares, unspecified	24	147
Q101 Orange/buff wares	4	87
Total	466	4095

colour-coated ware. No attempt has been made to assign the samian to specific production areas, but a visual examination suggested that examples of both Southern and Central Gaulish fabrics are present. This would indicate a date range from the 1st century AD well into the 2nd century.

The single sherd of North Gaulish colour-coated ware derives from a roughcast beaker. The ware apparently has a fairly restricted date range in Britain of AD 80–135, and has a generally western distribution (Anderson 1980, 31). All the amphora sherds are from Dressel 20 types of Iberian origin, and with a long currency in Britain (Peacock and Williams 1986).

British fine wares are represented by a few sherds of New Forest colour-coated ware (Fulford 1975, fabric 1a); the only vessel types recognised were indented beakers. Two other sherds are in unknown colour-coated wares (Q102), both small body sherds in moderately fine, oxidised fabrics, possibly unrepresentative examples of Oxford wares.

#### **Coarsewares**

The coarsewares are dominated by Black Burnished ware. This includes not only the distinctive BB1 fabric of Wareham/Poole Harbour type (as described, for example, by Farrar 1973a), but also a number of variant Black Burnished ware fabrics, such as are described for Dorchester (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 249) and which may derive from different sources from BB1 itself.

No attempt has been made here to subdivide this group into the different variants, but visual examination of the Black Burnished ware assemblage during analysis suggested that while BB1 predominated, a small but persistent proportion was made up of the subsidiary variants described under the umbrella type of fabric 1B at Dorchester (*ibid.*, 249). BB1 has a currency throughout the Romano-British period from the 1st to the 4th century AD, and possibly later; the fabric 1B variants are generally dated to the later 1st–early 2nd century AD, with a possible resurgence in the 3rd century.

The relatively poor condition of the assemblage is reflected in the general paucity of reconstructable vessel forms. Rim sherds allow the identification of a limited number of types: everted rim jars, bead rimmed jars and bowls, 'dog dishes', flange-rimmed and dropped-flange bowls. Comparison with published typologies (eg, Gillam 1976; Seager Smith and Davies 1993) shows that these types between them cover the whole of the Romano-British period. 'Early' forms are represented by the more globular jars with short everted rims, and the bead-rimmed forms. All these mark the continuation of native Durotrigian vessel forms which were manufactured well into the post-Conquest period, and all are found into the 2nd century AD.

The flange-rimmed bowl appears to be restricted to 2nd century AD deposits on many sites in south Dorset (eg, Hearne and Smith 1991, fig. 14), but continues in use at Dorchester until the end of the 3rd century (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, type 22). Slimmer jars with flaring everted rims are a later form, occurring from the 3rd century AD onwards, as are the dropped-flange bowls, which are late 3rd century or even later (*ibid.*, types 3 and 25 respectively). 'Dog dishes' have a currency from the late 2nd through to the 4th century AD (*ibid.*, type 20).

Despite its predominantly Romano-British distribution, the earlier origins of Black Burnished ware should not be forgotten. Black Burnished ware represents a continuation of native Durotrigian ceramic production, and there is now sufficient evidence to recognise that by the 1st century BC pottery production in Dorset had developed from purely localised manufacture into a well-organised and large-scale industry based on Poole Harbour and supplying Dorset and south Somerset with such substantial quantities of vessels that in many cases they overshadow the local products (eg, Cunliffe and Brown 1987, 319–21).

Both fabric types and vessel forms prevalent in pre-Conquest contexts continue in use into the Roman period (Lancley and Morris 1991, fabrics Q1 and Q2 and figs 58–61). The possibility, therefore, that some of the Black Burnished ware from Sutton Poyntz might be of Late Iron Age rather than Romano-British date cannot be ruled out. Certainly, vessel forms which span the Conquest period, such as bead rim jars and bowls, are present, but only one feature produced these forms alone (see below), and could be attributed on these and stratigraphic grounds to the Late Iron Age. In the absence of unambiguous evidence for Late Iron Age activity on the site, all Black Burnished ware has been classed as Romano-British.

Miscellaneous greywares (fabric Q100) occur in much smaller quantities, completely overshadowed by the Black Burnished ware assemblage. This fabric

type is a 'catch-all' for coarse greywares, and probably contains products of more than one source. The nearest known source is the New Forest production centre, operating in the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD; products of this industry cover a wide range of variation and are extremely difficult to distinguish from products of other centres (Fulford 1975, 39). Other possibilities include putative production centres in the south-west, in the Yeo valley or perhaps Exeter, which have been identified as possible suppliers of Dorchester (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 283).

Fabric Q101 is similarly a 'catch-all' type for orange/buff wares, again probably representing products of different sources. Most fall within the range of orange/buff wares described for Dorchester (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 279–81), which have a wide date range and a number of potential sources. Two sherds from a medieval context (chapel floor deposits) derive from the same vessel: a highly-burnished, rouletted form, probably a beaker of some form. Other sherds are plain body sherds and cannot be closely dated.

### Distribution on site

#### *Northern area*

While Romano-British pottery occurred in features distributed throughout the excavated area, the bulk of the pottery from *in situ* contexts was found within the northern half of the site, from both stratified features, e.g. the complex of ditches and banks running approximately east–west, and from a series of occupation layers and colluvial deposits (Table 8) which variously seal, or are cut by, these features. The sequence of activity represented by these features and deposits has been divided into three broad phases or episodes:

- Phase 1: Pre-bank activity
- Phase 2: Bank construction
- Phase 3: Occupation/colluviation deposits

*Phase 1: Pre-bank activity.* Only eight sherds can be assigned to this phase, from primary and upper fills of ditch 345, and from buried soil 346. All sherds are in Black Burnished ware, and include four sherds from the rim of an everted rim jar of 1st–2nd century AD type.

*Phase 2: Bank construction.* These features produced a large proportion of the Romano-British pottery from this part of the site, the vast bulk of it Black Burnished ware. Finewares include two sherds of samian, and two sherds of unidentified colour-coated ware. The vessel forms identified amongst this group include six everted rim jars, two shallow bowls or lids, one bead rim bowl, and one flange-rimmed bowl. The everted



**Table 8. Romano-British pottery by *in situ* context (no./weight (g))**

<i>Featur</i>	<i>BB1</i>	<i>Grey</i>	<i>Orange/buff</i>	<i>Amphora</i>	<i>Import</i>	<i>Misc c.c</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Northern area</i>							
<i>Phase 1: pre-bank activity</i>							
Ditch 345	2/8	–	–	–	–	–	2/8
Buried soil 346	6/217	–	–	–	–	–	6/217
<i>Phase 2: bank construction</i>							
Bank 219	55/357	–	1/10	–	1/1	–	57/368
Bank 332–4	54/501	3/11	1/43	–	1/8	2/4	61/567
Bank 318	3/24	–	–	–	–	–	3/24
<i>Phase 3: occupation/colluviation</i>							
Ditch 211	10/60	–	–	–	–	–	10/60
Buried soil 213	11/28	–	–	–	–	–	11/28
Colluvium 214	–	–	–	–	1/2	–	1/2
Occup. layer 218	3/42	–	–	–	–	–	3/42
Occup. layer 258	1/15	–	–	–	–	–	1/15
Ditch 306	3/26	–	–	1/6	1/1	–	5/33
Occup. layer 307	36/221	3/27	–	–	–	–	39/248
Ditch 309	3/11	–	–	–	–	–	3/11
Occup. layer 314	3/52	–	–	–	–	–	3/52
Colluvium 315	8/122	1/3	–	1/54	1/2	–	11/181
Occup. layer 316	–	–	–	–	1/1	–	1/1
Soil layer 320	10/51	5/40	–	–	1/1	–	16/92
Flint spread 322	14/144	–	–	1/355	–	–	15/499
Ditch 328	1/5	–	–	–	–	–	1/5
<i>Other features</i>							
Grave 407	1/4	–	–	–	–	–	1/4
Evaluation	21/208	–	–	–	1/1	–	22/209
Total	245/2096	12/81	2/53	3/415	8/17	2/43	172/2705

rim jars, where identifiable, are of early Romano-British type (1st/2nd century AD), and both the bead rim and flange-rimmed bowls would support this date range, although the dating of flange-rimmed bowls into the 3rd century AD at Dorchester should be noted.

*Phase 3: Occupation/colluviation.* The occupation and colluviation layers, and associated features, produced similar quantities of pottery to the bank construction layers, again nearly all Black Burnished ware. Other fabrics represented, all in very small quantities, are greywares, Dressel 20 amphorae, and samian. The samian occurs only as very small, abraded sherds, and in these contexts is almost certainly redeposited.

Vessel forms recognised include six everted rim jars, one bead rim jar, two ‘dog dishes’, one flange-rimmed bowl, and two drop-flanged bowls, all in Black Burnished ware; and a New Forest colour-coated indented beaker. Early Romano-British forms are present, such as the 1st/2nd century type everted rim jars and the bead rim jar, and other forms such as the flange-rimmed bowl and ‘dog dishes’ have a currency which runs into the late Roman period. The

presence of drop-flanged bowls, however, together with the New Forest beaker, would indicate a latest date for this phase in the later 3rd or 4th century AD.

#### *Other features*

Outside the northern half of the site, Romano-British pottery derived from a small number of features, but in nearly every case is considered to be either intrusive in Early Iron Age contexts, or redeposited in medieval contexts. Only one sherd is considered to derive from an *in situ* context; a piece of undiagnostic Black Burnished ware from grave 407 in the central area.

#### *Romano-British Ceramic Building Material*

by Nicholas A. Wells

Eight fragments of Romano-British *tegulae* are present within the ceramic building material assemblage, all were found as redeposited fragments in medieval contexts. In addition, one fragment of undiagnostic ceramic building material, in a soft, coarse fabric, came from ditch 309 and, as such, is likely to be of Romano-British date.

**Table 9. Romano-British pottery from Period 4, Phase 4 colluvium**

<i>Context</i>	<i>BB1</i>	<i>Grey</i>	<i>Import</i>	<i>New Forest</i>	<i>Total</i>
212	7/65	1/5	–	–	8/70
299	9/53	–	1/2	–	10/55
300	14/96	2/15	1/2	1/5	18/118
301	12/159	–	–	1/1	13/160
304	1/6	–	–	–	1/6
308	3/25	–	–	–	3/25
Total	46/404	3/20	2/4	2/6	53/434

## Period 4

### Pottery

by Lorraine Mepham

Colluvial deposits sealing the Romano-British occupation layers of Period 3 yielded a fairly restricted ceramic assemblage, in terms of both quantity and range. This was entirely of Romano-British date. Black Burnished ware dominated this group, with greywares, samian, North Gaulish colour-coated ware and New Forest colour-coated ware together represented by a handful of sherds (Table 9). The vessel forms identified; two everted rim jars, two drop-flange bowls, three flange-rimmed bowls and a 'dog dish', together with the presence of New Forest colour-coated ware, would suggest a date range similar to that of the previous occupation/colluviation phase (Phase 3 of Period 3), ie, later 3rd–4th century AD.

## Period 5

### Medieval Coin

by Nicholas A. Wells

This was an unstratified find from the south-western part of the site.

AG Half-penny of Edward III (AD 1327–1337)

Obv. EDWARDVS REX

Crowned facing bust

Rev. CIVITAS LONDON

Divided by a long cross pattée with three pellets in each angle

Initial mark: Cross pattée

Diameter: 15 mm; Weight: 0.5 g

Struck AD 1344–1351 in London. 3rd florin issue. Relatively worn, the coin also appears to be clipped, probably accounting for the low weight (North 1991, II 1131).

### Medieval Metalwork

by R Montague

Four objects of copper alloy and 61 of iron were recovered from medieval contexts. It is possible that one of the copper alloy objects is a residual Romano-British bracelet. Not included in these figures is an unstratified iron buckle with white metal plating which could be medieval, although it is of a type also known in the post-medieval period.

#### Copper alloy

A book clasp, decorated by short incised diagonal lines outside an incised border, was recovered from stone debris layer 114 within the chapel (Obj. No. 1051; Fig. 25, 1). It would have been attached to the book cover by the two small copper alloy rivets, and it can be compared with examples from Norwich, although these are dated to the late 16th century (Margeson 1993, 74–5, fig. 40.452–5). A fragment of a copper alloy sheet object was recovered from mortar spread 507, and a small copper alloy ring, possibly a link from a chain, was recovered from fill 04 of ditch 07. A fragment of twisted copper alloy wire (two strands) was recovered from gravel layer 145. This may well be a fragment of a medieval artefact, although the possibility exists that this is a fragment of redeposited Romano-British bracelet.

#### Iron

##### Tools

A range of tools was recovered during the excavations. These included a pair of pincers from demolition layer 114 within the chapel (Obj. No. 1008; Fig. 25, 2). One arm is extended and bent over, either for suspension or more likely for some specialised function suggested by the spike-like terminal of the extended arm, perhaps as a hoof-pick. Pincers and tongs are commonly found on sites where metalworking has taken place, and these are of a type used by farriers for removing horseshoes and horseshoe nails, with the curving jaws well suited to gripping the nails (Goodall 1993, 176, fig. 125.1350). Alternatively, the pincers could have been used for domestic tasks such as removing nails from timbers.

Other tools include a gimlet bit (Obj. No. 1010; Fig. 25, 3), which would have been used to drill holes in wood, and a single heckle tooth, used in groups to card fibres such as wool and flax, which was also recovered from layer 114 (Obj. No. 2026; Fig. 25, 4). The weedhook, with crescent-shaped blade and tapering rectangular-sectioned tang, from layer 145 within the chapel (Obj. No. 1053; Fig. 25, 5) indicates that some agricultural activity was taking place. Similar examples were recovered from medieval contexts at Facombe Netherton, Hampshire (Goodall 1990, 407, fig. 9.2/80–5).

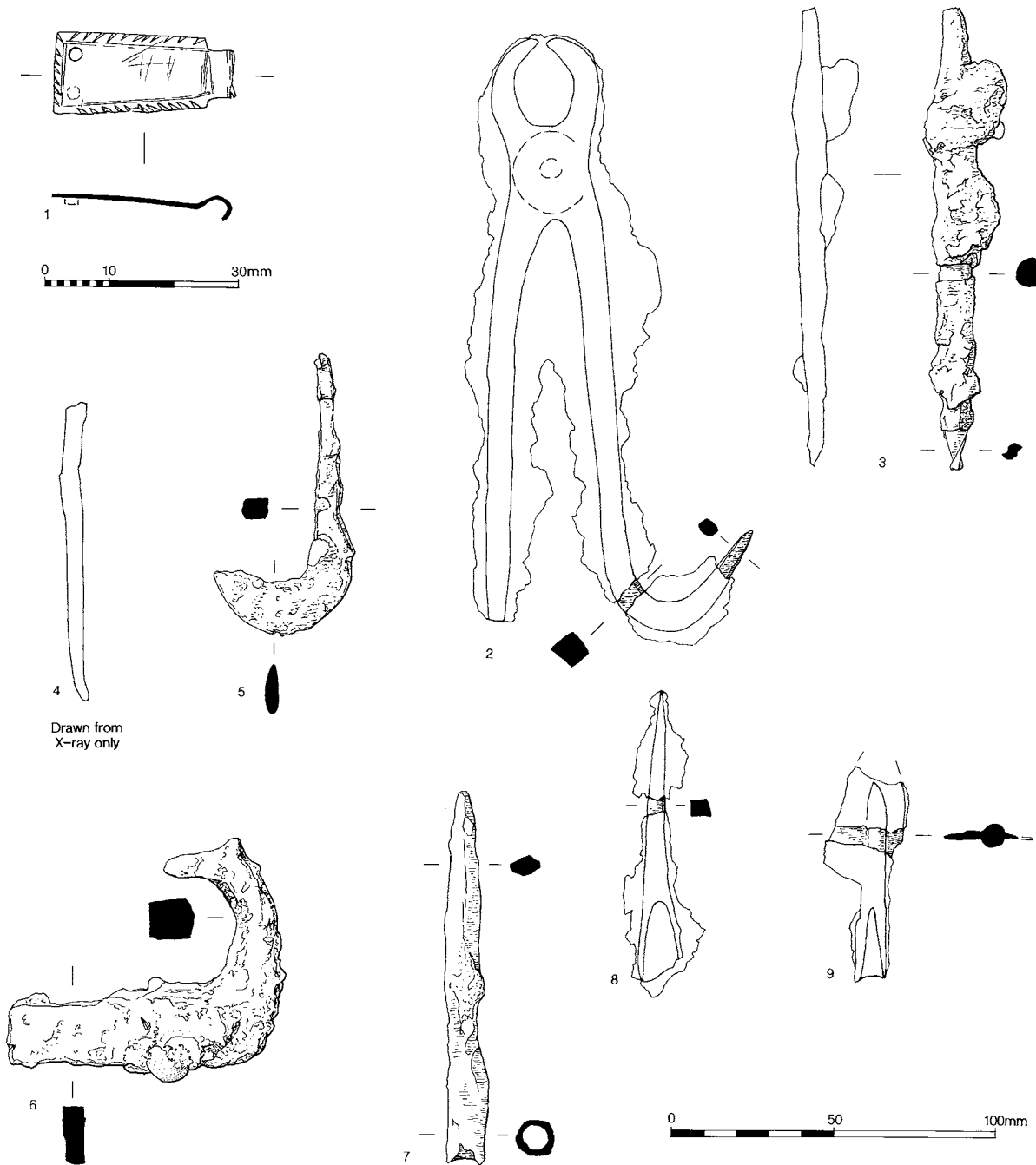


Figure 25 Romano-British metalwork

#### Structural fittings

These included a wallhook (Obj. No. 1074; Fig. 25, 6) from gravel layer 145, a common class of find which finds parallels, for example, at Faccombe Netherton (Goodall 1990, 109, fig. 9.5/232–8). This example has a rectangular-sectioned tapering tang to be driven into the wall and a sub-square sectioned tang rising from the end of the shank, with the tip bent over. Three wedges were recovered from layer 115 and these may have been used as structural ironwork. A clench bolt with rove also from layer 115 is likely to have been used for a double-thickness timber construction, such as doors and shutters (Goodall

1981, 59). It is possible that some of the strap fragments recovered (see below) are fragments of strap hinges. A fitting, somewhat like a large rove in appearance but with a rectangular perforation, recovered from gravel layer 145, may also have been a structural fitting of some sort.

A total of 24 structural nails was recovered, largely from deposits within the chapel, and are mainly flat, round-headed nails with square-sectioned shanks, ie, general timber nails, as might be expected. Two of these nails have large, stud-like heads and may well have served a decorative as well as a functional purpose. The structural nails and all other metal

objects in gravel layer 145 were concentrated just within the southern wall of the chapel.

#### *Decorative fittings*

A single bar object, with possible decoration in the form of white metal-plated dots was found in gravel layer 145. It is broken at both ends, but may originally have been a decorative fitting or binding of some sort.

#### *Horseshoes and horseshoe nails*

A single horseshoe was recovered from layer 114. This has three sub-square holes on each arm, with no evidence for countersunk holes or for calkins. This type of horseshoe appeared before the middle of the 14th century, and was used in conjunction with a type of nail *not* found on the site (Clark 1986, 3).

The 12 horseshoe nails recovered, all from contexts dated to the second half of the 13th century (114; 145; 149), are all of the same type, with a flat-topped head, which expands outwards towards the shank into 'lobes' or 'ears'. This type of nail sat in countersunk holes in the horseshoe, and had a relatively short period of currency from the second half of the 13th century into the early 14th century (Clark 1986, 3; Goodall 1990, 421, fig. 9.10/ 553–6). Interestingly, all the horseshoe nails came from within the chapel, and this raises the possibility that such nails also had another use, particularly as no examples of the accompanying horseshoes were recovered.

#### *Arrowheads*

Three iron arrowheads were recovered; one from floor 144 and one from gravel deposit 149, the third was an unstratified find from the spoilheap. Two of the three are military arrowheads, designed to pierce armour (Obj. Nos 2023 and 2027; Fig. 25, 7, 8). They are of Jessop's Type M8 (1993) with a long narrow tapering blade and a diamond cross-section along with a socket which joins the blade smoothly or with a prominent shoulder. This type has a broad date-range from the mid 13th to the 15th centuries. (*ibid.*, 34). The first of these was unstratified and the second came from floor layer 144 of the chapel. The third arrowhead, from gravel layer 149, is damaged (Obj. No. 1084; Fig. 25, 9) and is possibly of Jessop's Type MP8. This type has a central socketed spine with flat barbs of varying size attached. This type of arrowhead was probably used for hunting rather than for military purposes and is dated from the 12th to the 14th centuries (*ibid.*, 32).

#### *Miscellaneous*

Three iron strap fragments were recovered from layer 114. As mentioned above, these may have been fragments of a strap hinge. One fragment bears a nail *in situ*, whilst another has a circular perforation. Three iron sheet fragments, of unknown function, were recovered from layer 145, one of which was also

perforated. The remaining metalwork comprised an unidentifiable object and three featureless lumps, all from medieval contexts.

### **Discussion**

Despite the proposed religious nature of the medieval activity within much of the site, the activities represented by the metalwork include domestic activities such as the preparation of fibres prior to spinning, the shoeing of horses, woodworking (though this may be related to carpentry work on the chapel itself) and agricultural activity. However, much of the metalwork came from the gravel layers within the chapel, and may have been imported from elsewhere along with the gravels. The only item of a possibly religious nature is the book clasp, which may have been part of the bindings of a religious manuscript or devotional work. The structural ironwork is to be expected in a building of any purpose, although the two large-headed nails found within the chapel may have served a decorative purpose.

#### *Worked Stone*

by Nicholas A Wells with geological identifications by Adrian Murray

#### **Roof tile**

Ten stone roof tiles were found, of which five are complete. Two types of raw material were utilised: slate and Portland/Purbeck limestone. All tiles came from stratified medieval contexts. Tiles were quantified by number and weight by context. Surviving dimensions were recorded, as were additional features such as nail-holes and the presence of mortar. This detailed information is retained in the archive. A comparison of the slate and limestone tiles shows that they are broadly comparable in dimensions, though the limestone tiles (180–240 mm by 125–160 mm) tend to be slightly larger than the slate tiles (170–210 mm by 100–120 mm).

Nine of the ten tiles were found in contexts associated with the chapel, in particular in destruction layers of phase 3. There was no difference in distribution between slate and limestone tiles, both being found in the same contexts, suggesting that the two types were in use together, although their distribution and quantity is rather more limited than their ceramic equivalents, perhaps showing a more restricted use.

#### **Architectural fragments**

Architectural fragments comprise 30 pieces, 14 of which were found in stratified medieval contexts. All are of the local Portland/Purbeck limestone. None is complete, and five categories have been defined on morphological grounds:

- i. Ashlar blocks
- ii. Curved or rectangular blocks with bowtell mouldings, probably from door jambs or arches.
- iii. Chamfered blocks
- iv. Decorative blocks
- v. Others

#### *Ashlar blocks*

Four ashlar blocks were identified, only one of which was from a stratified context associated with the chapel (plinth or altar base 163). It is in a fine shelly limestone and has had a hole bored part of the way through one face, perhaps as a receptacle for an iron bar. This may have been a part of the raised plinth at the east end of the chapel. The remaining three unstratified ashlar blocks are all in oolitic limestone, and probably formed part of the main superstructure of the building.

#### *Rectangular or curved blocks with bowtell mouldings*

Four rectangular and five curved blocks with bowtell mouldings, all in oolitic limestone, were identified. All were from stratified contexts, and eight came from destruction layers within the chapel – the ninth was associated with Building 520. Five of the blocks had patches of whitewash evident, and one also had a faded red stripe painted on the whitewash. At least one example (Obj. No. 1031; Fig. 26, 1) is part of a door jamb or arch.

#### *Chamfered blocks*

Five blocks, all rectangular, showed evidence of chamfering. Only one was found in a stratified layer, associated with the fireplace in Building 520. Two fragments are of shelly limestone and three of oolitic limestone. These chamfered blocks are likely to have formed the base of architectural features, such as arches, door jambs, or as a base course of a wall.

#### *Decorative blocks*

Ten blocks fall into this category, three from stratified contexts. A fragment of tracery from a lancet window in shelly limestone (Obj. No. 1001; Fig. 26, 2) was found in what was possibly the garden soil between the chapel and a building immediately to the north (108). A shelly limestone *voussoir* block with chevron decoration (Obj. No. 1047; Fig. 26, 3) was found in a destruction layer within the chapel (113). A long rectangular crested block of shelly limestone with a transverse drilled hole was part of the base of the internal partition of the chapel (148). This is likely to have been used as part of the partition rail, holding an iron bar in place.

Other decorated fragments, all unstratified include:

- A fine limestone backed pentagonal column (Obj. No. 1016; Fig. 26, 4)

- An oolitic limestone chamfered arch block with string moulding
- A fine limestone arch block with combination bowtell and bead moulding on one side (Obj. No. 1018; Fig. 26, 5)
- A rectangular shelly limestone block with a narrow lip on one side, probably forming a part of a window sill.
- A roughly worked layered shelly limestone plinth (in two fragments) deeply hollow chamfered on two sides. This is most probably Purbeck marble, and was possibly used as an altar slab.
- A crested oolitic limestone block which possibly formed a part of a doorjamb.
- An incomplete object in a fine-grained limestone. It is very worn and may possibly have been sculpted.

#### *Others*

This category contains all remaining architectural fragments which cannot be assigned to the categories above. One fragment has three worked faces, but is otherwise featureless, while another was found incorporated into the south wall of the chapel. This latter object, in a fine-grained shelly limestone, had clearly been used as a door jamb, having a clear rebate, and reused as wall masonry.

### **Discussion**

Of the 14 stratified objects, eight were found in a single demolition layer within the chapel (113). A further four were found in other contexts associated with the chapel while the remaining two were associated with Building 520 in the south-western corner of the site. It is clear from this that the stratified objects, and almost certainly the unstratified objects also originated from the chapel. Much of the masonry would have been removed from the chapel soon after its destruction and abandonment, so it is not possible to create a coherent picture of the architecture of either the chapel or of the structure to its south-west, but some general conclusions can be reached.

It is clear that some, if not all, of the architectural fragments found at Sutton Poyntz are of an ecclesiastical nature. The variety of mouldings indicate the prestigious nature of the chapel and it seems that a shelly limestone was used for specific decoration such as windows and arches whilst oolitic limestone was used for the bulk of the edifice. Building 520 was certainly at least partly constructed out of stone.

The dating of such a small and fragmentary group of architectural pieces is problematic. Nevertheless, although the period of use and destruction of the structures has been well established by the ceramic assemblages, some further light can be shed by

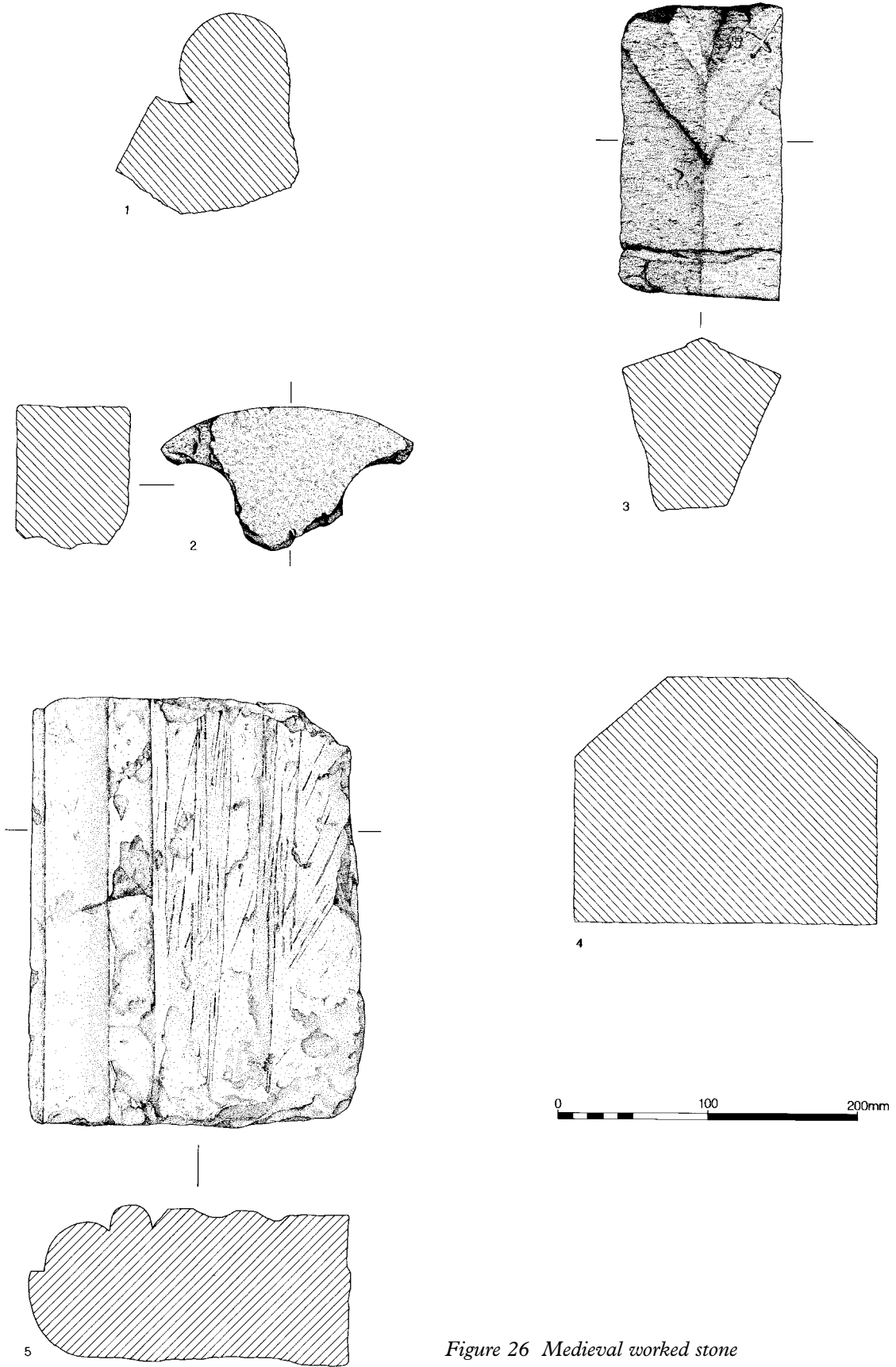


Figure 26 Medieval worked stone

looking at individual objects. Some architectural fragments, such as the backed polygonal column block (Fig. 26, 4), belong to the Anglo-Norman tradition (11th–13th century). The chevroned voussoir (Fig. 26, 2) may also be included in this tradition, but more properly belongs to the High Romanesque style (12th century). The lancet window (Fig. 26, 3) is of the early Gothic style (13th century), while the beaded and string mouldings could occur in any architectural style from the High Romanesque to the Gothic.

### *Medieval Pottery*

by Lorraine Mephram

The complete medieval pottery assemblage recovered from all stages of work at Sutton Poyntz (evaluation and excavation) amounts to 1763 sherds (15,608 g). Pottery was recovered from a variety of deposits on the site, including cut features (ditches, pits, post-holes) as well as soil accumulation and colluvial contexts, and stratigraphic information has enabled the construction of an overall scheme of phasing within which the pottery has been examined, and which the pottery has helped to refine.

The various coarse and indigenous finewares identified at Sutton Poyntz find most parallels within other medieval assemblages from south Dorset, particularly in the area between Dorchester and Christchurch, and an overall framework for this analysis is provided by syntheses covering the whole of Dorset (Spoerry 1988; 1990). The major interest of the medieval assemblage, however, which derived chiefly from the stone-built structures at the southern end of the site, lies in the identification of a small number of imported continental fineware jugs among floor layers in the chapel. The wider significance of these imports is discussed below, but their chronological contribution to the site has enabled the close dating of these and associated deposits, and suggests that the bulk of the assemblage has a relatively restricted timespan.

### **Methods**

Methods of analysis were as set out for the Iron Age pottery (see above). The fabric types identified fall into four broad fabric groups: Group C (fabrics containing calcareous inclusions); Group F (flint-gritted fabrics); Group Q (sandy fabrics) and Group E ('established' wares of known type or source).

### **Fabrics and forms**

A total of 19 fabric types was defined, which can be divided for the purposes of discussion here into six groups on the basis of both a coarseware/fineware distinction and of potential source areas:

1. Poole Harbour/Purbeck coarsewares
2. Poole Harbour fine glazed wares
3. West Dorset sandy wares ('Hermitage-type')
4. Miscellaneous coarsewares, probably S. Dorset
5. Miscellaneous glazed wares
6. Imported wares

Fabric totals are presented in Table 10.

#### *Poole Harbour/Purbeck coarsewares*

This group comprises two fabrics, which may merely represent a coarse and a slightly finer variant of the same fabric; the distinction between the two types is not always clear-cut.

Q400 Moderately fine matrix, containing common, fairly well-sorted, subrounded quartz <1mm; rare iron oxides <0.5mm. Handmade; 'pimply' surfaces caused by protruding quartz grains; occasionally scratchmarked. Firing irregular; can be oxidised or unoxidised.

Q404 Moderately fine silty matrix, containing moderate, fairly well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.5mm; rare iron oxides <0.25mm. Handmade; 'pimply' surfaces as for Q400, but not so pronounced. Firing as for Q400.

These two fabrics occur exclusively in unglazed utilitarian vessel forms: cooking pots or jars with sharply everted, thickened rims and rounded bases (Fig. 27, 1, 2).

These coarse, sandy wares find numerous parallels within medieval assemblages from south-east Dorset, for example from Christchurch, Poole, and Wareham (Davies 1983, fabrics 4–5; Jarvis 1992, fabric 1; Hinton and Hodges 1977, fabrics C and E), and fall within a widespread tradition of coarse sandy wares which extends over much of Dorset and south Wiltshire (Spoerry 1990, ware C1, figs. 5 and 6). Two potential sources for these wares have been identified: the excavated kilns at Laverstock (just outside Salisbury) which were producing a range of coarse wares, frequently scratchmarked, alongside finer, glazed jugs in the 13th century (Musty *et al.* 1969); and the Poole Harbour/Purbeck area, proposed on the basis of petrological analysis on samples of fabrics C and E from Wareham (Williams 1977).

Fabric samples from sites in south-east Dorset cannot be distinguished, either visually, petrologically or chemically, from the Laverstock material (Spoerry 1990), and the two areas apparently had a similar repertoire of vessel forms. This is perhaps not surprising given the geology of the region: an outcrop of Reading Beds and London Clay, suitable for potting, runs south-westwards from south Wiltshire to south Dorset, and is likely to have been extensively exploited not only by the Laverstock and putative

**Table 10. Medieval pottery fabric totals**

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>% of total</i>
<i>Poole Harbour/Purbeck coarse sandy wares</i>			
Q400	32	799	
Q404	61	1214	
Total	93	2013	12.9
<i>Poole Harbour fine glazed wares</i>			
Q403	656	6017	
Q40	91	647	
Q406	68	243	
Q407	10	116	
Q410	6	18	
Total	831	7041	45.1
<i>West Dorset sandy wares ('Hermitage type')</i>			
Q401	355	3603	
Q402	95	1044	
Total	450	4647	29.8
<i>Miscellaneous glazed wares</i>			
Q408	4	138	
Q409	4	34	
Q411	11	148	
Total	19	320	2.0
<i>Miscellaneous coarsewares</i>			
C400	2	17	
F400	1	31	
Q412	10	141	
Total	13	189	1.2
<i>Imported wares</i>			
Saintonge poly	293	1207	
Saintonge mono	55	135	
North French	5	21	
Rouen type	4	35	
Total	357	1398	9.0
Overall total	1763	15,608	

Poole Harbour/Purbeck industries, but also by the medieval precursor to the post-medieval Verwood industry of the Hampshire/Dorset border, which has so far been identified only from documentary sources (Algar *et al.* 1979; Spoerry 1988, 35).

The Purbeck/Poole Harbour area would be the most logical of the potential sources for the south Dorset material, and while an attempt has been made to link the south Dorset scratchmarked wares with the Laverstock kilns on the basis of chemical analysis and the apparent relative scarcity of scratchmarking in south Dorset (Spoerry 1990, 14), both published reports and recent finds have suggested that such decoration was more common in this area than previously suggested.

*Poole Harbour-type fine glazed wares*

Five fabrics have been included in this group, all in distinctive, pale-firing clay matrices.

Q403 Hard, fine, silty matrix, containing moderate, fairly well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.5 mm (most <0.25 mm); rare iron oxides <0.25 mm. Handmade; oxidised, firing creamy white to buff; green or yellow glaze.

Q405 Hard, fine, silty matrix, containing sparse, well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.5 mm; rare iron oxides <0.25 mm. Handmade; oxidised, firing pale orange-pink; green or yellow glaze.

Q406 Hard, fine, silty matrix, containing sparse, poorly-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.5 mm; rare iron oxides <0.25 mm. Probably wheelthrown; oxidised, firing cream to buff-pink; green glaze.

Q407 Soft, fine, micaceous sandy matrix, containing rare, fairly well-sorted, subrounded quartz <1 mm; very rare iron oxides <0.25 mm. handmade; oxidised, firing creamy white; thin green glaze.

Q410 Very hard, fine, silty matrix, containing sparse, well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.25 mm; sparse iron oxides <0.25 mm. Probably wheelthrown; oxidised grey-buff; olive-green glaze.

These fabrics are used exclusively for glazed jugs, many of which are decorated with a range of motifs in an iron-rich slip which appears dark brown under the glaze. Designs are mainly linear on the body of the vessel, including multiple vertical lines, and simple grid designs, with pellets generally occurring on the upper part of the vessel. The jugs are rounded or pear-shaped, with plain or thumb bases, pulled spouts, frequently incised vertically, and with strap handles which are nearly always incised vertically and stabbed or slashed down the centre and across the junction with the rim/neck (Fig. 28, 6–13). The number of handles would suggest that at least 27 vessels are represented within this group of fabrics.

Such jugs have been found in considerable numbers around the Poole Harbour area, for example in Poole itself and at Christchurch (Barton *et al.* 1992, figs 32 and 63; Thomson *et al.* 1983, fig. 17), where they have been identified as 'Dorset red-painted wares', with a suggested local source. Similar pale-firing fabrics, at least some of which appear to derive from slip-decorated jugs, occur in smaller quantities on other sites across south Dorset such as Wareham and Dorchester (Hinton and Hodges 1977; Draper and Chaplin 1982), but also have a much wider distribution across Dorset, as demonstrated by finds at Sherborne (Mephram unpublished). A date range of 13th to early 14th century is generally given to these vessels. There are as yet insufficient well-dated excavated sequences elsewhere to indicate any chronological development within this date range, so the association at Sutton Poyntz of a large group of Poole Harbour jugs with imported Saintonge ware vessels within the floor levels of the chapel gives an important chronological pointer, placing the deposit



firmly in the late 13th or early 14th century (the date of the imported wares is discussed further below).

As might be expected, other finds of Poole Harbour glazed wares from non-urban sites are generally scarce: less than 1% at sites around Wytch Farm (Lancley and Mepham 1991, 137), and less than 5% for all glazed wares at Holworth (Rahtz 1959, 140), so the presence at Sutton Poyntz of a particularly high proportion of these wares is significant (45.1% by weight of the total medieval assemblage). Furthermore, the similarity in style of many of the recognisable vessel forms would suggest that they form a group in contemporaneous use, a suggestion which is supported by the deposition of a substantial part of the group in a series of associated contexts within the floor levels of the chapel.

#### *West Dorset sandy wares ('Hermitage-type')*

Two fabric types make up this group. As for the Poole Harbour/Purbeck coarsewares, distinctions between the two fabrics are not always clear-cut, and could be considered to be two variants of a single fabric type.

- Q401 Hard, moderately fine sandy matrix, containing moderate, well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.25 mm; sparse iron oxides; rare fine mica; very rare limestone fragments <0.5 mm. Generally wheel-thrown; oxidised bright orange with unoxidised core.
- Q402 Hard, moderately fine sandy matrix, containing sparse, well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.25 mm; rare subangular flint <1 mm; rare limestone fragments <0.5 mm; rare iron oxides <0.25 mm; rare fine mica flakes. Handmade; oxidised orange-buff with unoxidised core.

A restricted range of vessel forms is represented here, nearly all in fabric Q401. Bowls with flaring sides and flanged rims are the most commonly occurring, generally partially glazed internally. Jars or cooking pots are also present in smaller quantities, together with a few jugs of unknown form. There is one wide-mouthed jug or pitcher in fabric Q402 with a slashed strap handle and pulled lip (Fig. 28, 5), and one example of a relatively uncommon form in fabric Q401: a curfew, in the same form as the flange-rimmed bowls, inverted, with opposed, thumbbed, horizontal lug handles (Fig. 27, 4). Vessels in these two fabrics are wheelthrown, or handmade with wheel-finished rims, and are relatively plain, with the exception of applied thumbbed strips below rims.

Sandy fabrics such as these occur commonly across west Dorset, sometimes forming up to 100% of the medieval assemblage (Spoerry 1990, fig. 4). The only known source for these wares is the excavated 13th century kiln at Hermitage in north Dorset, which provides parallels for all the vessel forms found at Sutton Poyntz (Field 1966), but the quantity and

wide distribution of sandy wares in west Dorset, coupled with a number of documentary references to pottery production in the north and north-west of the county, would suggest that the Hermitage kiln forms part of a more long-lived and larger tradition of sandy ware manufacture in Dorset (Spoerry 1988, 34). The 13th century date for the Sutton Poyntz vessels is supported by the association of several vessels (all in fabric Q401, including the curfew) with the chapel floor deposits dated to the late 13th/early 14th century by the presence of imported Saintonge wares.

#### *Miscellaneous coarsewares*

This miscellaneous group includes three fabrics, one limestone-tempered, one flint-tempered, and one sandy. All occur in very small quantities, probably representing single vessels in each fabric.

- C400 Hard, moderately coarse sandy matrix, containing moderate, well-sorted oolitic limestone fragments <0.5 mm; sparse, subrounded quartz <0.25 mm; rare iron oxides <0.25 mm. Handmade; oxidised orange, with unoxidised core.
- F400 Hard, moderately fine silty matrix, containing moderate, poorly-sorted, subangular flint <2 mm; rare, subrounded quartz <0.25 mm; rare iron oxides <0.25 mm. Handmade; oxidised pink-orange with unoxidised core.
- Q412 Hard, moderately fine sandy matrix, containing common, fairly well-sorted, subrounded quartz <1 mm (most <0.5 mm); rare limestone fragments <0.5 mm; very rare subrounded/subangular patinated flint <1 mm; rare iron oxides <0.5 mm. Handmade, with wheel-finished rims; unoxidised.

There are two rim sherds, both from jars or cooking pots, one in fabric C400 and one in fabric Q412. The 'dished' neck of the vessel in Q412 (Fig. 27, 3) is not a form generally found within coarseware assemblages in the Poole Harbour/Purbeck region; its affinities lie further north, and good parallels in apparently similar fabrics exist in 13th century assemblages from Dorchester and its environs (Draper 1975, fig. 9; Draper and Chaplin 1982, fig. 21). The source is unknown but is presumed to be at least fairly local.

Limestone- and flint-tempered fabrics do occur within assemblages in Purbeck, for example Wareham (Hinton and Hodges 1977, fabrics A and B), and a source within Purbeck is likely for both fabrics C400 and F400.

#### *Miscellaneous glazed wares*

Three fabrics, all occurring in small quantities, make up this group.

- Q408 Soft, fine sandy matrix, containing rare, subrounded

quartz <1 mm; sparse iron oxides <0.5 mm. Wheel-thrown; oxidised pale orange with unoxidised core; thin mottled green glaze.

- Q409 Hard, moderately fine sandy matrix, containing moderate, well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.125 mm; rare iron oxides <0.25 mm; rare fine mica flakes. handmade; oxidised orange-pink; thick olive-brown glaze.
- Q411 Hard, fine sandy matrix, containing moderate, very well-sorted, subrounded quartz <0.125 mm; sparse iron oxides <0.125 mm. Handmade; oxidised orange-brown with unoxidised surfaces; thin mottled green glaze.

Recognisable vessel forms within this group of fabrics are restricted to a single jug strap handle in fabric Q408 (Fig. 29, 14), although it seems likely that all sherds derive from glazed jugs of some form.

#### *Imported wares*

The imported fine wares derive from two main continental sources: northern France and the Saintonge area of southern France. Four types were identified:

- E520 Saintonge green-glazed: soft, very fine silty matrix with no visible inclusions; firing off-white or pale buff-pink. Overall mid-green glaze; wheelthrown.
- E521 Saintonge polychrome: soft, very fine silty matrix with no visible inclusions; firing white or off-white. Polychrome painted decoration; wheelthrown.
- E525 Rouen-style: hard, fine sandy matrix, firing off-white. Complex painted and applied slip decoration; wheelthrown.
- E526 Northern French green-glazed: fabric as Rouen-style. Monochrome green glaze.

The Saintonge wares make up the bulk of this group. At least four polychrome vessels were identified. The most complete has fleur-de-lys motifs and vertical and horizontal bands in green, outlined in brown, and applied face masks on the rim (Fig. 30, 18). The other three are more fragmentary, and neither profiles nor complete designs could be reconstructed. One has shield motifs in yellow and brown; the second has birds in green, outlined in brown (Fig. 29, 16); and the third foliage motifs in green and yellow, outlined in brown (Fig. 29, 17).

The monochrome wares include sherds in a pink-buff variant of the Saintonge fabric, with a mottled mid-green glaze and decorated, thin, applied, thumbled strips; these sherds are all likely to derive from the same vessel. Additional sherds in the more standard off-white fabric with an even apple-green glaze could derive from more than one vessel; no rim or other diagnostic sherds are present.

The North French wares are represented by only a few sherds. All four sherds of Rouen-type ware derive from a single context, and are almost certainly all from the same vessel, a glazed jug decorated with applied pellets and rouletted strips over painted red slip zones (Fig. 29, 15). Five other plain body sherds with green glaze have been identified as North French wares of unspecified type.

The dating of imported wares found along the south coast is still a matter of debate, but the accumulated evidence from the major ports such as Southampton and Exeter would place the northern French wares in the first half of the 13th century, possibly continuing into the latter part of the century; and the Saintonge wares in the second half of the 13th century, continuing into the 14th century. The evidence for the importation of pottery along the south coast has been summarised by Allan (1983), and more recent discoveries have not altered substantially the known distribution of imported wares.

Northern French green-glazed wares have been found in Exeter in contexts dating from the very beginning of the 13th century, although there is a suggestion that they were appearing in Southampton slightly earlier. Examples dated to the second half of the 13th century are known, although numbers are considerably less. They are found rarely with Saintonge polychrome wares, and are very unlikely to have been imported after the end of the 13th century.

Rouen-type decorated jugs with applied and slipped decoration are fairly well known along the south coast, occurring at Exeter and Southampton in contexts dating from the mid to late 13th century and rarely being associated with Saintonge polychrome, although a few examples do seem to extend the date range into the early 14th century.

There is a debatable example of Saintonge green-glazed ware from Southampton from a context dated as early as the beginning of the 13th century, but generally evidence seems to indicate a date range no earlier than the mid-13th century, and extending into the early 14th century, with a few examples from Plymouth and Southampton which may push the date even later, possibly into the 15th century. Saintonge polychrome has a similar date range in the later 13th and early 14th century, with no examples certainly dated before *c.* AD 1280.

Altogether, the imported wares make up a significant proportion of the medieval assemblage (9.0% calculated by weight and 20.3% by number of sherds). The presence of such a relatively high proportion of imported wares on a small rural site is particularly interesting. While French imports are not uncommon in the larger ports along the south coast, notably in Southampton, Poole, Exeter, and Plymouth (over 50% of selected 13th and 14th

century groups in Southampton, for example, with Saintonge monochrome green-glazed being the most commonly occurring type), these wares are rarely found away from the coast, and are scarce even on coastal sites outside the major ports (Allan 1983, figs 11.1 and 11.2). Finds from Wareham, for example, are restricted to a handful of vessels (Hinton and Hodges 1977, 63–4; Renn 1960, 61, figs 19 and 20), and known finds from inland sites have as yet come only from Dorchester and Sherborne Old Castle (Draper and Chaplin 1982; Mephams unpublished).

It has been suggested that the absence of imported wares may be not so much a reflection of their high cost, since imports are frequently found on 'poor' sites within ports, but more a result of the lack of distributional networks operating in the hinterlands (Allan 1984, 13). This is puzzling, given the references in documentary sources for the overland transport of imported vessels from Southampton to inland centres such as Salisbury in the later medieval period (eg, Thomson and Brown 1992, 177), but this evidence cannot be extrapolated for the earlier medieval period with any degree of confidence. Certainly, new finds of imported wares made recently within Dorset have been restricted to odd sherds, for example a single sherd of Rouen-type ware from Purbeck (Lancley and Mephams 1991), and would still confirm a coastal bias for their distribution.

### Distribution on site

#### *Northern area*

A small number of ditches, as well as subsoil and colluvial layers, within the northern part of the excavated area could be dated to the medieval period on ceramic and stratigraphic grounds. Most of these features produced a very limited quantity of pottery in a restricted range of fabrics, comprising Poole Harbour/Purbeck coarsewares and glazed wares, and West Dorset sandy wares. The largest group of pottery derived from ditch 202/248, which in addition to the fabric groups just mentioned also produced sherds in fabrics Q408 (miscellaneous glazed ware), Q412, F400 and C400 (miscellaneous coarsewares). The West Dorset sandy wares were nearly all in the coarser variant Q402, including an unglazed jug/pitcher with pulled spout and slashed strap handle (Fig. 28, 5).

#### *Central area*

A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from features within the central part of the site, and the majority of the sherds derived from a single vessel from ditch 75; a round-based, scratchmarked jar in the Poole Harbour/Purbeck fabric Q400 (Fig. 27, 1). The coarseness of the fabric of this jar, coupled with the pronounced scratchmarking, would place this vessel within the earlier part of the suggested date range for Poole Harbour/Purbeck coarsewares, and a

date in the late 12th or early 13th century is likely. Associated pottery within the same feature comprised single sherds of Poole Harbour type glazed ware (fabric Q403) and West Dorset sandy ware (fabric Q401), both of which are likely to be of 13th century date.

Other features within this area produced a minimal amount of pottery, comprising sherds in West Dorset sandy ware (fabric Q401), and the coarseware fabric Q412. Sherds in the latter fabric are confined to pond 433, where they include a jar rim of probable 13th century date (Fig. 27, 3).

#### *Southern area*

The majority of the medieval pottery recovered from the site derived from contexts within the southern half of the site, predominantly associated with the stone-built structures at the southern end. Within this area, and relating specifically to the chapel building, three main phases or episodes of activity can be distinguished:

#### *Phase 1: Soil layers, construction trenches and culverts.*

Contexts associated with the initial building of the chapel produced only a small quantity of pottery, comprising Poole Harbour/Purbeck coarsewares and glazed wares, and West Dorset sandy wares. The only diagnostic material consists of a single coarseware jar rim, and two sandy ware jug rims (Fig. 28, 13).

#### *Phase 2: Rebuilding, make-up and floor deposits.*

The bulk of the pottery relates to this phase. With the exception of a small quantity (10 sherds) of Poole Harbour/Purbeck coarseware, this consisted entirely of Poole Harbour glazed wares and West Dorset sandy wares. The cobbles and culverts produced little diagnostic material, but the glazed wares apparently all derived from strap-handled jugs, including slip-decorated vessels. The later floor deposits, however, produced a large and interesting group of pottery, with a significantly high proportion of fine glazed wares (Fig. 28, 6, 7, 9–12), and including nearly all of the Saintonge wares recovered from the site, both green-glazed and polychrome (Fig. 29, 16, 18). Cross-context joins noted within this group would indicate that many of these layers are closely associated (particularly contexts 115, 145, 149, 150, 151) and are probably contemporary.

#### *Phase 3: Robber trenches and rubble deposits.*

Cross-context joins between this phase and phase 2 (e.g. Fig. 28, 9, 10) would indicate that the two phases are in fact contemporaneous, and an almost identical range of fabrics and forms is represented, comprising Poole Harbour glazed wares (e.g. Fig. 28, 8), West Dorset sandy wares, one sherd of miscellaneous glazed ware (fabric Q408), and imported Saintonge

wares. Amongst the diagnostic material is part of a large curfew in West Dorset sandy ware fabric Q401. This vessel is merely an inverted version of the standard West Dorset flange-rimmed bowl, with thumbled applied strip below/above the rim, and opposed horizontal thumbled lug handles (Fig. 27, 4).

*Pottery from the chapel:* It was apparent from a visual examination of the material from the various phases relating to the building and use of the chapel that the assemblage was markedly homogeneous. This homogeneity, combined with the number of cross-context joins noted both within phase 2 and between phases 2 and 3, would suggest that the assemblage in fact represents a very limited time span. A date range spanning the second half of the 13th century, possibly into the early 14th century, would cover the entire range of types present.

A very similar range of fabrics and forms was found in each phase, although some refinement may be possible on the grounds of the presence/absence of certain fabrics, or groups of fabrics. Of particular use here, for their value as dating tools, are the Saintonge wares. These are completely absent from phase 1, occurring in quantity only in phase 2, with smaller quantities in phase 3. Glazed wares of any sort are scarce in phase 1, the only phase where they are outnumbered by coarsewares, although the very small size of the phase 1 assemblage should be borne in mind. The date for the initial building of the chapel is therefore not easy to pin down closely, but it is unlikely to be much before the middle of the 13th century, with the second phase culverts falling somewhere in the third quarter of the 13th century. The phase 2 floor deposits and phase 3 robber trenches and rubble deposits can be dated on the basis of the Saintonge wares to the last quarter of the 13th or very early 14th century.

The significance of the deposition of the group within the chapel floor deposits is uncertain, but may have related to clearance of this or some other part of the site; it may be noted that no pottery dating later than the early 14th century was recovered from any part of the excavated area.

*Other pottery from the southern area:* Other contexts within the southern part of the site are more difficult to relate to the dated sequence for the chapel, due both to the absence of stratigraphic relationships and to the relative absence of the more diagnostic fine wares. The bulk of the pottery from these contexts comprises West Dorset sandy wares, and there are smaller quantities of Poole Harbour/Purbeck coarsewares, including sherds probably from a single jar in fabric Q404 from construction trench 515 in Building 520 (Fig. 27, 2). Poole Harbour glazed wares are represented by a single sherd, and there are no other indigenous finewares.

Imported wares, however, are present in small quantities: Saintonge polychrome from two contexts (mortar layer 507 and cleaning layer 524: Fig. 29, 17), and the only sherds of Rouen-type ware (Fig. 29, 15) from the fill of a small post-hole (546). The combined chronological information from this small group of pottery would indicate a date range somewhere within the 13th century, possibly into the early 14th century, and it is likely that most, if not all, is contemporary with the chapel, although the evidence is not conclusive.

## Discussion

The importance of the medieval assemblage from Sutton Poyntz lies not only in its chronological significance, but also in its general character. It is apparent that this group of pottery, including at least four Saintonge polychrome jugs and nearly 30 Poole Harbour glazed jugs, cannot be regarded as an assemblage typical of a small, rural site. The contrast with the nearby village site of Holworth, for example, is particularly marked (Rahtz 1959). The possible implications of the imported wares for the relative status of the site have been touched on already (see above); on sites outside the major ports their occurrence must still be regarded as unusual, even for other sites along the coast which must have benefited from coastal redistribution networks and from the use of the minor ports for the importation of wine (Allan 1983, 204). In this respect the position of Sutton Poyntz close to the port of Weymouth may be significant. The combination of the Saintonge wares (and the small quantity of other imports) along with the high proportion of indigenous finewares and their probable contemporaneity, all point to a site which functioned at a different level within the social landscape to other small rural sites in south Dorset, albeit for a relatively short period; all the pottery from the site can be accommodated within a maximum timespan of just over one hundred years.

## Illustrated pottery

(Figs 27–30)

1. Jar with rounded base, fabric Q400; scratchmarked exterior; handmade, context 84, ditch 75.
2. Jar rim, fabric Q404; handmade, context 516, construction trench 515.
3. Jar rim, fabric Q412; handmade, context 413, pond 433.
4. Curfew with horizontal opposed solid lug handles, fabric Q401. Applied thumbled strip above rim; edges of lugs also thumbled; wheelthrown, context 131, posthole 147, chapel phase 3.
5. Wide-mouthed jug or pitcher, fabric Q402. Strap handle, slashed; pulled lip; handmade?, context 200, ditch 202.
6. Base of jug, fabric Q403. Slipped decoration; yellow glaze overall; handmade, context 145/151, gravel

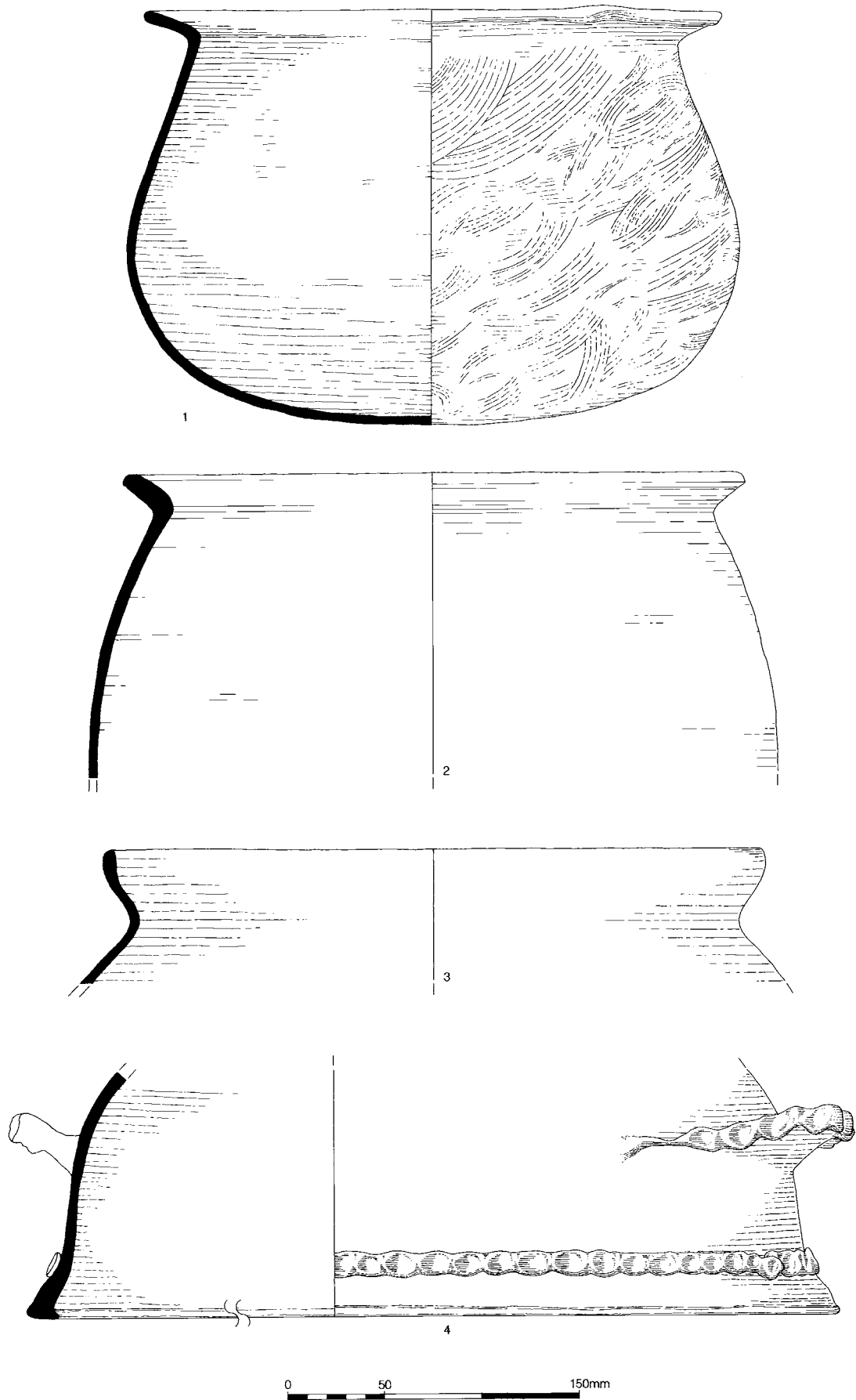


Figure 27 Medieval pottery (1-4)

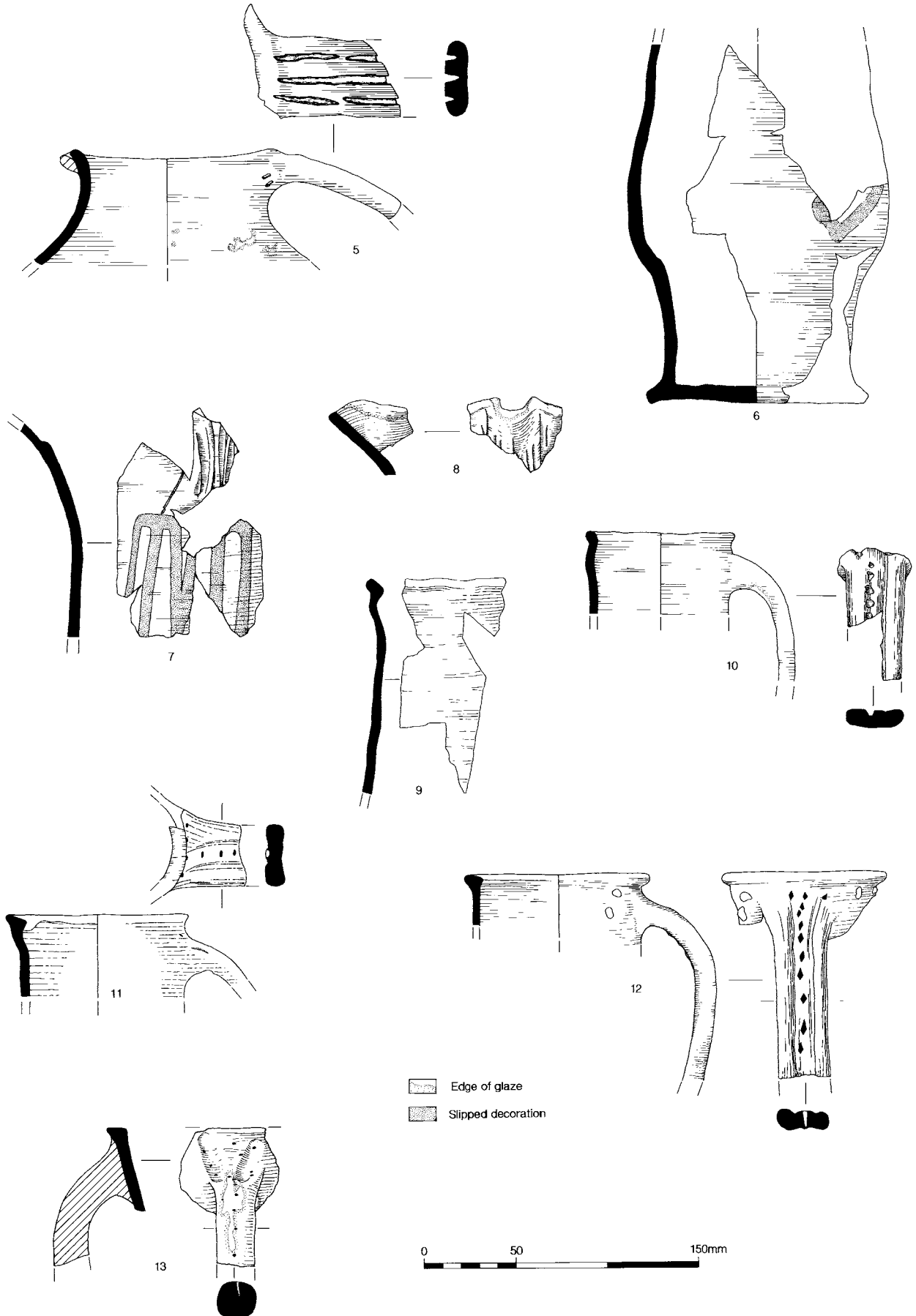


Figure 28 Medieval pottery 5-13

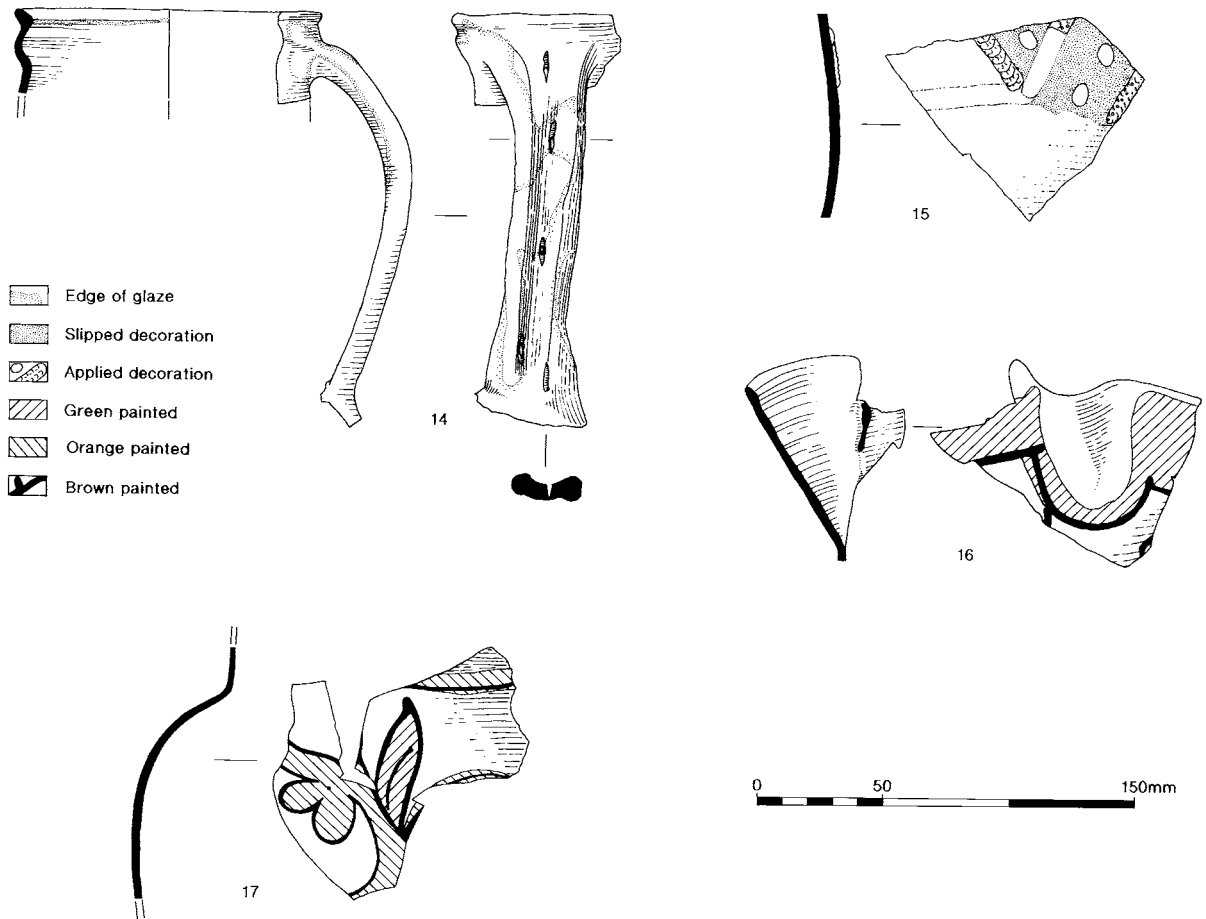


Figure 29 Medieval pottery (14–17)

- layer/make-up layer, chapel phase 2.
7. Base of pulled spout from jug, fabric Q403. Slipped decoration; Incised vertically; yellow glaze overall; handmade, make-up layer 151, chapel phase 2.
  8. Rim and pulled spout from jug, fabric Q403. Slipped decoration; yellow glaze overall, stone debris 114, chapel phase 3.
  9. Jug rim, fabric Q403. Slipped decoration; yellow glaze overall, gravel layer 145/stone debris 114, chapel phases 2/3.
  10. Jug rim and strap handle, fabric Q403. Handle stabbed; yellow glaze overall; handmade, gravel layers 145/149/stone debris 114, chapel phases 2/3.
  11. Jug rim and strap handle, fabric Q405. Handle incised and stabbed; yellow glaze overall; handmade, gravel layer 115, chapel phase 2.
  12. Jug rim and strap handle, fabric Q403. Slipped decoration below rim; handle incised and stabbed; yellow glaze overall; handmade, gravel layer 115, chapel phase 2.
  13. Jug rim and rod handle, fabric Q403. Handle impressed at junction with neck; stabbed; olive-green glaze; handmade, context 127, construction trench 135, chapel phase 1.
  14. Strap handle from jug, fabric Q408. Slashed decoration; partially glazed; handmade, context 200, ditch 202.

15. Body sherds from imported Rouen-style decorated jug. Applied pellets and rouletted strips over painted slip decoration; overall glaze; wheelthrown, context 545, posthole 546.
16. Saintonge polychrome jug; bridge spout. Painted decoration (faded) in green, outlined in brown; overall thin clear glaze; wheelthrown, gravel layer 149, chapel phase 2.
17. Saintonge polychrome jug. Foliage motif in green and orange, outlined in brown; traces of clear glaze; wheelthrown, cleaning layer 524.
18. Saintonge polychrome jug; fleur-de-lys motifs in green, outlined in brown. Thin clear glaze overall externally down to just above base; wheelthrown, make-up layer 151, chapel phase 2.

### *Ceramic Building Material*

by Nicholas A Wells

A total of 99 fragments of medieval ceramic building material (CBM) (9998 g) was recovered. Within this assemblage three distinct forms were observed: flat roof tiles, ridge tiles and hearth tiles. No complete tiles were found. A large proportion (91% by number) of the ceramic building material came from stratified medieval contexts.

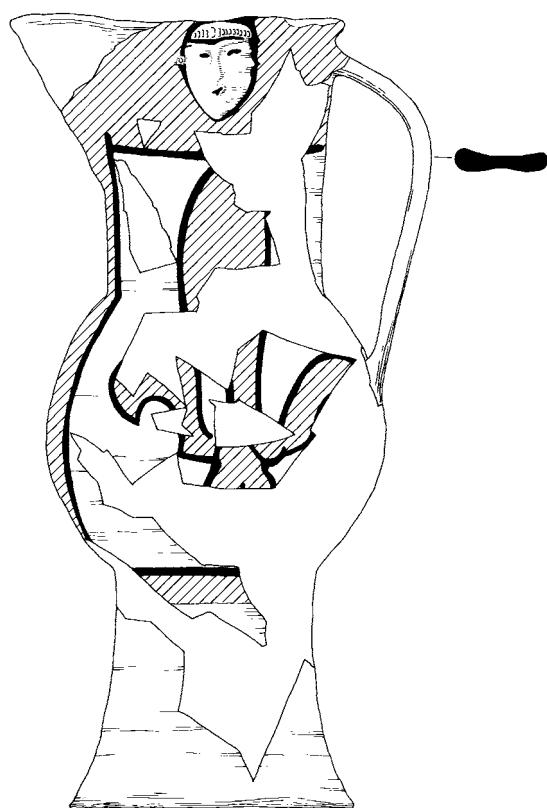
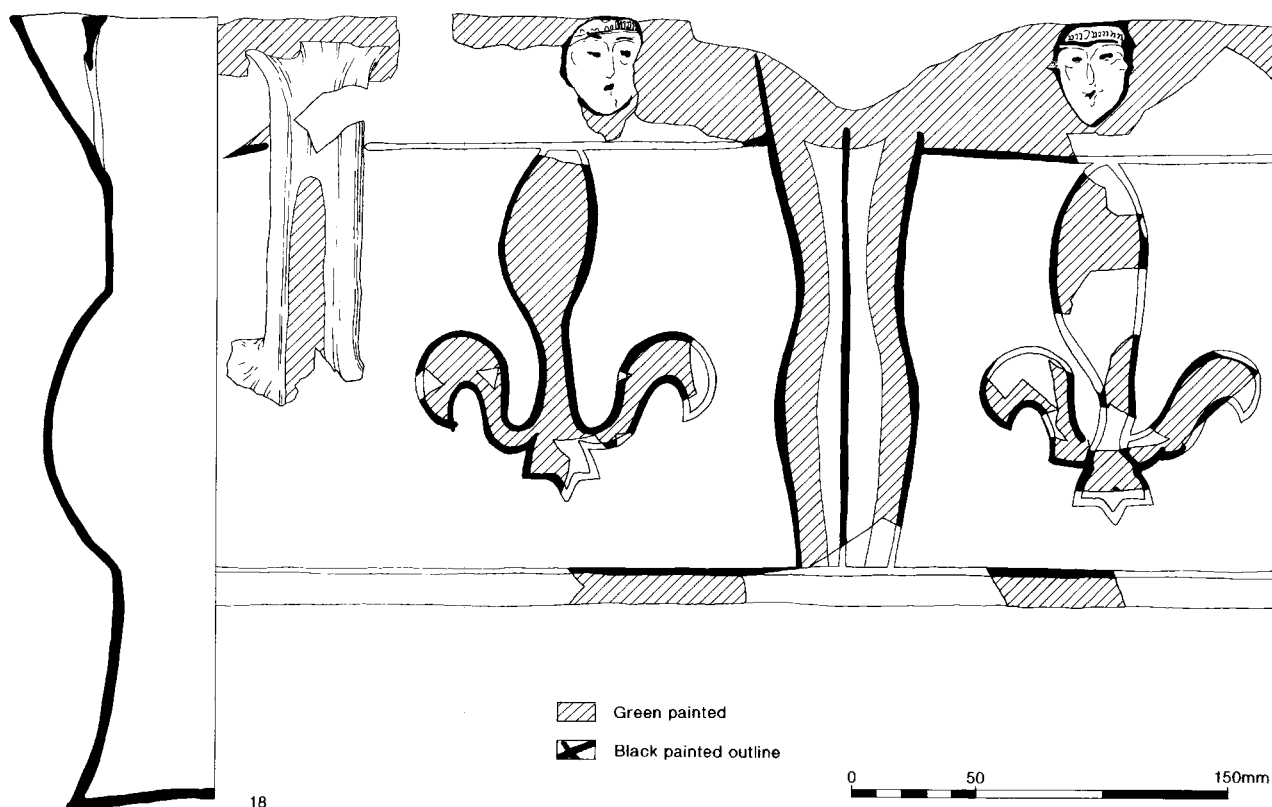


Figure 30 Decorated Saintonge polychrome jug

All CBM fragments were quantified by number and weight according to form and surviving complete dimensions. Details of diagnostic fragments were recorded, as was the presence of nail holes, glazing, decoration etc. Material from stratified contexts was then examined spatially, the ultimate aim being to recover the distribution of certain tile forms. Fabrics were not analysed, except on a very broad level. Table 11 summarises the CBM assemblage by area. Detailed records can be found in the archive.

#### Flat tiles

This is a generic term for all roof tiles that form the main body of the roof. More than two-thirds (by number) of the CBM recovered at Sutton Poyntz was of this type. Whilst no detailed fabric analysis was carried out on the tiles, it was noted that the dominant fabric type was a moderately coarse, oxidised sandy ware, which can be compared to the medieval pottery fabric type Q401 (see above), identified as a West Dorset sandy ware, and it is likely that the tiles have a similar source area. Glaze on the tile fragments is frequent, and consists of a thin, patchy, pale yellow-green lead glaze. Tile by its nature is difficult to date with any precision. However, the method of construction, glazing and associated finds indicate a date of the 12th–14th century.

Flat tile fragments were found in all areas of the site. However, a marked concentration occurred in the chapel area where 34 fragments were found in contexts associated with the structure, and a further



**Table 11. Distribution of medieval CBM**

Area	Ridge			Flat	Hearth	Total
	1	2	3			
Northern	2	–	–	6	5	13
Central	–	–	–	2	–	2
Southern						
Chapel ph. 2	1	1	–	10	8	20
Chapel ph. 3	3	–	–	24	1	28
Other, non-chapel	5	–	1	29	1	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>99</b>

29 came from contexts outside the chapel in the southern part of the site; in other words, the chapel roof was probably tiled. The quantity of tile recovered from the whole site is relatively small, but it is probable that much of the salvageable tile was robbed after the demolition of the chapel.

**Ridge tiles**

These are curved tiles that sit on the apex of the roof, often glazed and embellished with crests and/or finials. Only crested ridge tiles were found at Sutton Poyntz, their function being purely decorative, with crests of varying styles running along the highest point of the tile. Thirteen fragments of ridge tile were identified in which three crest styles were observed:

1. Applied knife-cut triangular crested decoration,

2. Applied knife-cut triangular crested decoration (Fig. 31, 2)
3. Applied knife-cut truncated triangular decoration with knife-stab incisions on both sides of the ridge (Fig. 31, 3).

Style 1 is well attested throughout the south and south-west, for example at Southampton, Christchurch, Poole, and Sherborne Old Castle (Dunning 1975, no. 1400; Jarvis 1983, 71; Jarvis 1994, 56, no. 8; Wells unpublished). Style 2 has parallels again at Southampton and Sherborne Old Castle (Dunning 1975, no. 1418; Wells unpublished). No direct parallels have been found for Style 3, of which there is just a single example, but is very similar in style and fabric to examples from Sherborne Old Castle (Wells unpublished).

Observation of the fabrics used for the ridge tiles reveals distinctions which mirror the morphological divisions. The majority of the ridge tiles of Style 1 are in a fabric similar to that used for the flat tiles, and comparable to medieval pottery fabric types Q401 and Q402 (West Dorset sandy wares). The single example of Style 3 is in a pale-firing fabric equivalent to pottery fabric Q400 (Poole Harbour/Purbeck coarseware). The single example of Style 2 is in a fairly non-distinctive oxidised sandy fabric which cannot be readily matched within the pottery assemblage. As with the flat tiles, it is difficult to date the ridge tiles. However, the style of construction,

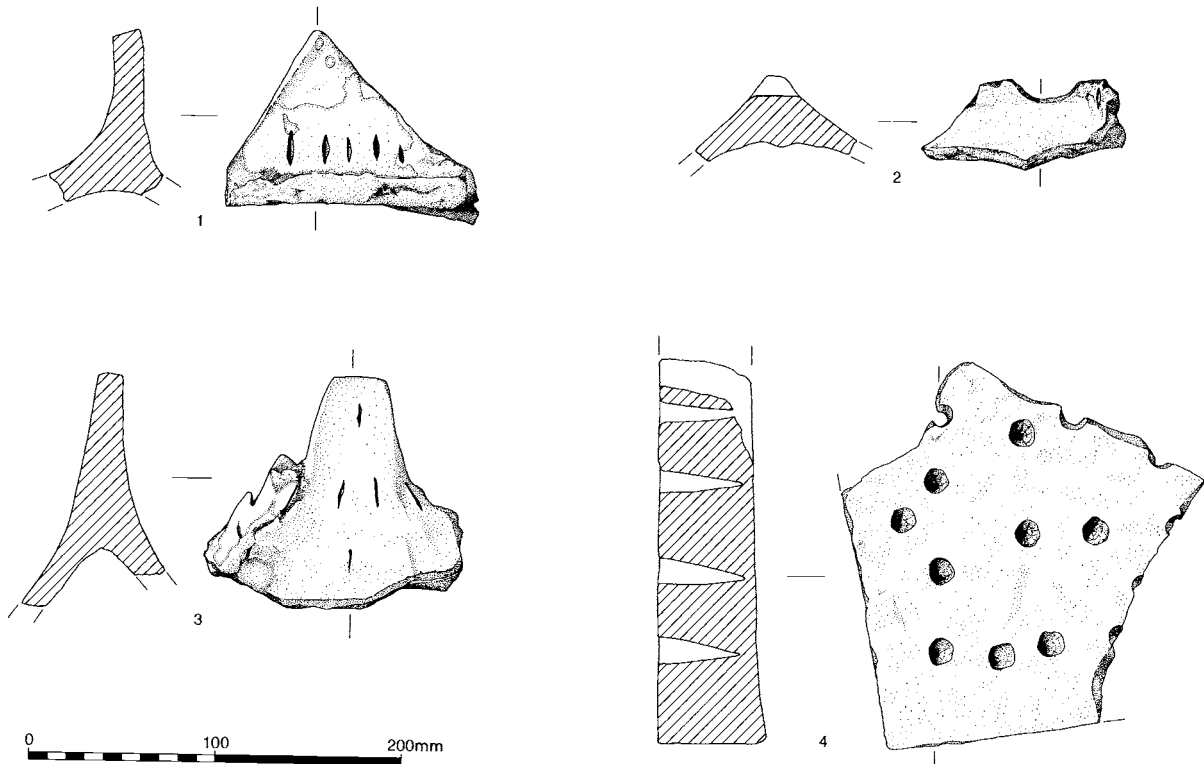


Figure 31 Medieval ceramic building material

glazing and known parallels would indicate a date range of 13th–14th century.

Style 1 ridge tiles were represented most frequently (11 examples). Eight of these, plus the single example of Style 2, were found in contexts associated with the chapel, or in the area outside the structure. The single Style 3 fragment was found in a construction trench (515) associated with Building 520 in the south-west corner of the site. If the structure there had a tile roof it is possible that the roof was polychromatic, with orange flat tiles and buff ridge tiles. This effect has been postulated, for example, at Southampton and Battle Abbey (Dunning 1975; Streeten 1985).

### Hearth tiles

These tiles were constructed in much the same way as flat tiles, except that a series of equidistant circular stab marks were punched into one side. Fifteen fragments were found at Sutton Poyntz, all except one showing the effect of burning on their smooth face (Fig. 31, 4). Associated pottery suggests a date range of 13th–14th century. The fabric in all cases is a relatively fine grey sandy ware. Ten fragments came from contexts associated with the chapel, eight in a construction dump at the northern end of the chapel, one in a demolition layer inside the building and another in a rubble layer.

### Wall Plaster

by Nicholas A Wells

A total of 175 fragments of wall plaster, weighing 7218 g, was recovered from the site. Each consists of a thin (1 mm) layer of whitewash on a base of gritty mortar. Over two-thirds of the pieces had some form of decoration, incised or painted, and an attempt has been made to separate wall plaster fragments by decoration and colour, although it has not been possible to reconstruct the subject of the painting.

All fragments of wall plaster were quantified by number and weight according to context, form and decoration. No attempt has been made to calculate the total area covered by the extant wall plaster as it was clear that much had been discarded due to poor survival on site. As such, the wall plaster examined in this report must be regarded purely as a sample.

Three decorative categories were defined:

1. Incised: shallow striations which form triangular or lozenge shapes. The angle at the apex (where observed) is very acute, at *c.*17°.
2. Chromatic: colour or combination of colours with some additional painted decoration.
3. Undecorated: plain white plaster.

**Table 12. Wall plaster, decorative motifs**

<i>INCISED</i>	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Faded red, specifically within converging incisions
2	6 mm wide stripe of red/faded red covering incision. Faded yellow/orange to one side of stripe
3	Combination of 1 & 2
4	As 1, but curved incision
<i>CHROMATIC</i>	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
5	Monochrome leather brown
6	Monochrome faded yellow
7	Faded red, sometimes with faded yellow
8	Red with darker red circular marks 8 mm diam.
9	Thin dark red lines, 2 mm wide on white background
10	6 mm wide red lines on faded yellow background
11	6 mm wide red/faded red lines on white background
12	6 mm wide dark, reddish-brown inverted 'T' shape on white background
13	6 mm wide curved red line with light grey interior on white background

Groups 1 and 2 are further subdivided as summarised in Table 12. A complete inventory of wall plaster types by context, number and weight can be found in the archive.

Ninety-five per cent (167 fragments) were found in a series of phase 3 destruction layers within the chapel, which probably reflects a single episode of deposition. Of the remainder, nine were from a clearance layer, five were found in a rubble layer associated with the chapel and four were from the top fill of a robber trench cutting into Building 520 in the south-west corner of the site. These contexts are clearly later disturbance and it is likely that the fragments therein derived from the same source as those in the chapel.

There appears to have been more than one phase of decoration within the building. Three fragments (all from a clearance layer) showed clear evidence of re-surfacing, one fragment having a possible two layers of whitewash/plaster covering a Type 8 decoration. Furthermore it appears that some of the stonework had also been painted, probably a continuation of the design on the plaster.

As mentioned above, it has not been possible to reconstruct even a part of the subject of the decoration. However, it is clear that a common feature was the repetition of simple triangular/lozenge shaped motifs, perhaps as a border. It is likely that a more complex design was also present, hinted at by decorative Types 8 and 12, which could have been either geometric or figurative.

### Worked Shale

by Nicholas A Wells

One large fragment of Kimmeridge shale, originally rectangular in shape and measuring 440 mm by 260 mm, thickness 17 mm was found. The long edges are vertically cut, and it is possible that the only extant corner shows traces of chamfering. This piece came from a rubble layer (113) within the demolition layers in the chapel, a phase dated to the late 13th or 14th century. Although no nail/peg holes survived, it is likely from the size and shape of this piece that it represents a roof tile. Evidence for large-scale shale-working is unknown during the medieval period, although it was used as fuel at this time. There are, however, a small number of shale roof tiles known from Dorset, mostly from Shaftesbury, including at least three from medieval contexts (Farrar 1973b; Wessex Archaeology 1995).

### Worked Bone and Antler

by Nicholas A Wells

One bone and one antler object were retrieved, both from medieval contexts. A pig metacarpus with a central transverse perforation, from a gravel layer (115) within the phase 2 chapel floor deposits, is one of a group of objects generally described as ‘toggles’, which are found from the Iron Age through to the medieval period. Their precise function is uncertain, and they have been variously interpreted as dress fasteners, or bobbins for winding wool (MacGregor 1985, 102–3), or even as simple musical instruments (Brown and Lawson 1990, 589).

The second object is a chess piece made of red or fallow deer antler (Obj. No. 1077; Fig. 32) recovered from gravel layer 145, chapel phase 2. This object has a D-shaped section with a rounded protuberance at the base of the flat face and a smaller protuberance on the top face. The whole object is decorated with stamped ring and dot motifs which run in horizontal bands around the top and bottom of the main body of the piece, with diagonal and vertical lines of three motifs in between. There is a vertical line of three ring-and-dot motifs down the centre of the basal protuberance, which also has a ‘stepped’ profile at the junction with the body; another motif can be seen on one side of the smaller projection.

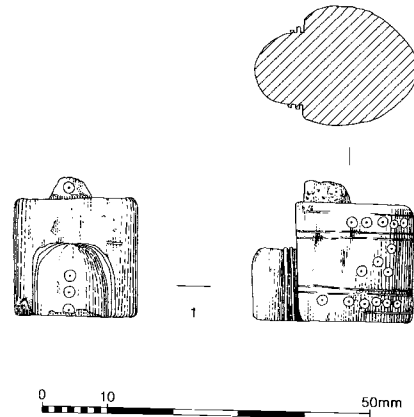


Figure 32 Medieval bone chess piece (Obj. No. 1077)

Chess pieces such as this, with a projecting lower half, and sometimes with a separate ‘head’ projecting from the top, represent the king or queen pieces from the earliest series of chess pieces known from England, appearing from the 11th century (MacGregor 1985, 137). One example similar to, but more elaborate than, the Sutton Poyntz piece, is known from London, now in the British Museum (*ibid.*, fig. 73d), and another example, provisionally dated to the 12th century, is known from Old Sarum, Salisbury (Stevens 1933). There is no sign on the Sutton Poyntz piece of the central ‘plug’ which in many cases replaces the cancellous tissue of the antler on such pieces.

These early chess pieces are not common finds, but it may be noted that at least two other such items have been found in Dorset. A group of chess pieces, including two knights and a bishop, was found at Witchampton near Wimborne Minster (Dalton 1927), and another knight came from more recent excavations at Greyhound Yard in Dorchester (Woodward 1993, fig. 102, no. 43). Dating of these objects is generally considered to lie between the 11th and 13th centuries, although few are well-dated. The importance of the Sutton Poyntz piece therefore lies not only in its intrinsic interest as an unusual item, but also in its well-stratified and dated provenance, from gravel layer 145 within the chapel floor deposits of phase 2, a phase dated closely by the presence of Saintonge polychrome pottery to the latter part of the 13th or early 14th century.

# 4. Human Bone

by Jacqueline I. McKinley

The human bone was examined in 1995. It included fragments from a probable burial context in the evaluation; one context in the pre-excavation watching brief; and seven contexts, (including two *in situ* Romano-British burials) in the excavation. The results of the analysis are summarised in Table 13.

## Methods

Age was assessed from the stage of tooth development and eruption (van Beek 1983); the stage of ossification and epiphyseal bone fusion (Gray 1977; McMinn and Hutchings 1985; Webb *et al.* 1985); length of immature long bones (Bass 1987); tooth wear patterns (Brothwell 1972); and the general degree of cranial suture fusion and degenerative changes to the bone. Sex was assessed from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Gejvall 1981; Bass 1987; Schutkowski 1993). Platymetric and platycnemic indices were calculated (Bass 1987), and stature was estimated using Trotter and Gleser's regression equations (1952; 1958). Pathological lesions and morphological variations/non-metric traits were recorded, and diagnoses suggested where appropriate.

### Age Categories

infant	6 mth–4 yr (young 6 mth–2 yr; older 3–4 yr)
juvenile	5–12 yr
subadult	13–18 yr
young adult	19–25 yr
mature adult	26–45 yr (older 31–45 yr)
older adult	45 yr +

Full details of all identified bone are presented in the archive report including; Skeleton Record Sheets and Data Sheets to show skeletal elements recovered, tooth wear patterns and measurements taken, and text descriptions of morphology and pathological lesions

## Results

In general, the condition of the bone was good. Some of the unstratified fragments from the excavation and some from the watching brief were worn and battered, in the latter case many of the old breaks between fragments were worn. In burials 414 and 558

much of the bone was fragmented, especially the skulls. The bone from the evaluation (excavated by workmen trying to find an earlier pipe trench) was badly fragmented; all the breaks were fresh and many had no adjoining fragments indicating that not all the bone was recovered.

A minimum number of seven individuals was identified. Only two *in situ* burials were excavated; the coffined infant inhumations 414 and 558, both of which are of Romano-British date. The remains of the young adult male from the evaluation are likely to have originated from an *in situ* burial, only the proximal end of which was excavated. Although fragmented, the bone was in good condition and showed none of the wear noted on many of the redeposited fragments. The skeletal elements recovered represent the skull and upper limb bones suggestive of an articulated skeleton.

The fragments of two adult females from the pre-excavation watching brief were deposited in a small cut on the south-eastern side of the excavation area and probably represent a deliberate redeposition of disturbed material, although the worn and battered appearance of some of the bone may indicate there was some lapse of time between the initial disturbance and eventual reburial. The remaining bone was recovered from medieval contexts or was unstratified. A minimum of one other immature individual is indicated, and a minimum of one other adult female (duplicate bones).

The nature of the deposits and incomplete skeletal recovery precludes much demographic comment. The fact that most of the redeposited bone was found in medieval contexts suggests the bone is of pre-medieval date. As the dating evidence suggests that the *in situ* burials are Romano-British, it would not be unreasonable to presume that the other disturbed burials were also Romano-British. If the burials were all contemporaneous, the present evidence would suggest a normal 'domestic' type cemetery, with individuals of a wide age range and both sexes.

## Indices

The platymetric index (Bass 1987) was calculated for three femora; two were platymetric, one eurymeric. The platycnemic index (Bass 1987) was calculated for one tibia (from the pre-excavation watching brief), it was mesocnemic. Stature was estimated for one of the adult females from the pre-excavation watching brief as 158.3cm (*c.* 5' 2.25").

**Table 13. Summary of human bone**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Recovery (approx. %)</i>	<i>Skeletal elements</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Pathology</i>
<i>Undated</i>						
Evaluation	Disturbed burial?	15	S:U	young adult	M	cribra orbitalia
Pre-excav. watching brief	Redeposited	5–20	S:A:U:L	2 adults, 1 older	2 x F	OA - axis; OP - r. prox. ulna, dist. l. & prox. l. radius; EXO- calcaneum; MV - calcaneal double facet
Unstrat.	Redeposited	<2	A:U:L	1) older mature/ older adult 2) adult 3) older juvenile/ subadult	1) F 2) M	Sacro-ilitis; coxa vara; OA - r. dist. femur
<i>Medieval</i>						
Cobbled surface 143, w. of chapel	Redeposited	<1	L	subadult/adult	–	
Fill, pond 433	Redeposited	<1	L	adult	M	OP - dist. metatarsal
Mortar spread next to building 520	Redeposited	<1	U	adult	F	
cleaning over building 520	Redeposited	<1	S	subadult/adult	–	
<i>Romano-British</i>						
414	Burial	70	S:A:U:L	young infant	–	Calculus
558	Burial	75	S:A:U:L	older infant	–	Hypoplasia; endocranial new bone; periosteal new bone - r. prox. femur; fracture - 1st ribs; MV - mandible M1 4-cusp

S = skull; A = axial; U = upper limb; L = lower limb; OA = osteoarthritis; OP = osteophytes; EXO = exostoses; MV = morphological variation

## Pathology

Comment on observed pathological lesions is limited in consequence of the nature of most of the contexts and the low level of skeletal recovery. The majority of lesions were degenerative in nature and may be indicative of the early stages of degenerative joint diseases (Rogers *et al.* 1987), for example the osteoarthritic lesions noted in an axis vertebra from the pre-excavation watching brief.

*Cribrata orbitalia* (pitting in the orbital vaults) is believed to result from a metabolic disorder connected with childhood iron deficiency anaemia.

*Coxa vara* is a condition in which the neck-shaft angle of the femur is less than the normal of *c.* 125° (Adams 1986), resulting in shortening of the limb. The deformity results from mechanical stress on a femur which is defective or abnormally soft in consequence of a number of factors e.g. congenital abnormality, fracture, softening of the bone (Adams 1986). There was no evidence to suggest the causative factor in this case. The periosteal new bone on the femur shaft of inhumation 558 is indicative of infection of the periosteal membrane. It may be significant that endocranial new bone was noted on the base of the skull in this individual.

## 5. Environmental Evidence

edited by Michael J. Allen

### Plant Remains

by Pat Hinton

All samples were processed by Wessex Archaeology's standard flotation methods, with flots retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues on a 1 mm mesh, from which appropriate samples were selected for analysis. The residues of all analysed samples were sorted under a x10–x30 stereo-binocular micro-scope. The flots were searched with a stereo microscope at x7–40 magnification and residues scanned at x7 magnification. Higher magnification (usually x200) was used for the examination of surfaces of some seeds, e.g. *Brassica* and *Carex* spp.

### Identification

Identification was aided by reference to standard works, published accounts, and to modern comparative material. Some seeds were difficult to identify, particularly those of *Vicia* or *Lathyrus* species. The seeds from this site were very rarely whole, often appearing as halves split between the cotyledons. They usually had no remnants of testa and only occasionally an indication of the hilum.

The seeds ranged in diameter from c. 1.8 mm to c. 4.2 mm, and on some of the very small ones it was possible to see the short hilum which is characteristic of *Vicia tetrasperma* (smooth tare); seeds of *V. hirsuta* (hairy tare) are similar in size, slightly more lens-shaped, and with a longer hilum but this was more difficult to discern.

In the middle range (c. 2.0–3.0 mm) were some seeds with no readily identifiable features. These may include such species as *V. cracca* (bush vetch), and *Lathyrus pratensis* (meadow vetchling) and these have been recorded as *Vicia/Lathyrus* spp. The largest of the vetches, ie, those c. 3.0–4.2 mm, were recorded as *Vicia sativa* s.l. (common vetch). Other species not closely identified were small seeds of Poaceae spp. (grasses), and a few others have been discussed below. Order and nomenclature in the tables accords with Stace (1991). All taxa are represented by 'seeds', this term including caryopses, achenes etc. unless otherwise stated.

### Period 1

Samples from the fills of the Mesolithic linear feature 422 were found to include charred grains of *Triticum* spp. (wheats) and one seed of *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain), all in fairly good condition. These

'seeds' were considered to be intrusive from later contexts and have not been included in the tabled results.

### Period 2

#### *Cultivated plants*

The cereal grains were poorly preserved, particularly in the ditch samples, with the majority being little more than distorted fragments, but it was possible to distinguish some species (Table 14). Rachis nodes also were badly damaged but some of the glume bases were sufficiently intact to confirm the presence of the glumed wheats *Triticum dicoccum* (emmer) and *T. spelta* (spelt). These two wheats occurred throughout the Early Iron Age phase, and the free-threshing wheat *Triticum cf. aestivum* s.l. (bread wheat) was also identified. These shorter, plumper wheat grains with a steeply-angled radicle depression correspond to *T. compactum* (club wheat).

*Hordeum vulgare* (hulled barley) also occurred throughout but the grains and few rachis fragments were too damaged to consider whether they were 6-row or 2-row, dense- or lax-headed varieties. *Avena* sp. (oats) were also present, possibly as accompanying weeds. There were no floret bases to determine whether they were wild or cultivated species.

*Vicia faba* (broad/field beans) were present as a few whole beans. Many fragments were from the earliest layers examined at the south-west corner of the site, with a probable occurrence in a later deposit.

#### *Wild plants*

Many of the wild plants found here have no particularly restrictive habitat preferences but were probably weeds of the cultivated cereals and beans, some might have originated in grassland. Appearing in deposits of this period were *Lithospermum arvense* (corn gromwell), present in two samples, and *Valerianella dentata* (narrow-fruited corn-salad) in one. These are characteristic of lighter, more basic soils and were at one time frequent in autumn-sown cereal crops on chalky soils. However, also in the Early Iron Age samples was *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle), identified despite its very fragmentary condition by the size of the hilum area and traces of the large tubercles. Corn cockle will grow on sandy, loamy or clay soils.

*Vicia tetrasperma* and *V. hirsuta* (smooth and hairy tare) were both identified in the Early Iron Age samples. The larger seeded vetches (c. 3.0–3.4 mm) were within the range of *V. sativa* (common vetch), but this species includes not only ssp. *sativum*, in which

Table 14. Plant remains from Period2, Early Iron age settlement

Feature type Feature number Context Sample size (titres)	Layers			Ditches			Post-holes		
	129 15	560 15	555 15	55 26 15	41 42 15	73 74 15	79 80 15	97 88 15	415 416 15
<b>Cultivated</b>									
<i>Triticum</i> cf <i>dicoccum</i> - grains - glume bases	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
<i>Triticum</i> cf <i>spelta</i> - grains - glume bases	3	2	2	1	-	3	11	-	-
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> - grains - glume bases - rachis nodes	4	1	5	1	1	-	8	-	-
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> s.l. - grains	2	-	-	2	2	2	8	2	3
<i>Triticum spelta/aestivum</i> - grains	13	-	3	12	2	1	10	-	-
<i>Triticum</i> sp. - grains	5	-	9	4	2	-	-	2(1)	-
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. - grains - rachis frags	-	-	-	8	3	-	-	-	-
<i>Avena</i> sp. - grains - awn frags	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	4	-
Cerealia indet. - grains - frags (mls.)	6	3	(4)	27	13	1(2)	5	6	1
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.	-	1	(1)	3	-	1	-	-	1(1)
	1	-	-	1	3(1)	-	(1)	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	1.5	<0.25	-	4	-	-	-	-
	-	-	c. 20	1.5	0.5	<0.25	<0.25	<0.5	<0.5
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)
<b>Arable/grassland/waste</b>									
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
<i>Atriplex prostrata/patula</i>	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Stellaria media/neglecta</i>	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> Á. Löve	1	11	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Rumex</i> sp. cf <i>Viola</i> sp.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Potentilla</i> sp.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
<i>Vicia</i> cf <i>hirsuta</i>	1	-	-	(1)	-	(2)	-	(1)	-
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i> (L.) Shreber	>1	-	-	2	1	-	2	-	2
<i>Vicia hirsuta/tetrasperma</i>	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
<i>Vicia sativa</i> L.	1	-	-	1	1(4)	-	-	-	-
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	3	-
<i>Medicago lupulina</i> L. - capsule	1	1	-	-	-	1	(1)	-	1
<i>Trifolium</i> cf <i>pratense</i>	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i> L.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Plantago major</i> L.	-	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Euphrasia/Odonites</i> sp.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	1	>11	3	-	-	2	-	1	1

Table 14. (continued)

Context	129	560	555	586	26	42	74	80	88	416
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	1	-	-	-
<i>Valerianella denata</i> (L.) Pollich	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Lapsana communis</i> L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	1
cf <i>Festuca</i> sp.	(1)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
cf <i>Lolium perenne</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Poa annua</i> L.	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
cf <i>Phleum</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bromus</i> cf. <i>secalinus</i>	>2	2	1	1	1	2(1)	1	1	2	-
Poaceae indet.	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Wetter Grassland</b>										
cf <i>Thalictrum flavum</i>	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Carex</i> cf. <i>acutiformis</i>	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Carex flacca</i> /C. <i>viridula</i> ssp. <i>oedocarpa</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wood margins, Scrub</b>										
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. - shell frags	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Unidentified	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1

Key: ( ) = identification uncertain

are all the many varieties grown as fodder, but ssp. *nigra*, which is commonly found in open grassy places, and could be the more likely identification of the seeds in this size range.

Grasses included *Bromus* cf. *secalinus* (rye brome), a very frequent companion of spelt, and other small-seeded grasses which have not been securely identified. These could well be field weeds gathered with the crop or they may have originated in nearby grassland. *Thalictrum flavum* (meadow rue), if the uncertain identification is in fact correct, would indicate fen or wet meadow land.

*Carex* cf. *acutiformis* (lesser pond sedge) is a tentative identification of one sedge from the Early Iron Age samples. The obovoid shape, distinct angle lines, and pattern of cells with flattish papillae are common to several sedge species but the suggestion of longitudinal furrows on one face made this a possible identification. This is a sedge of wet areas of varying soil conditions. The other sedge is doubtfully identified and is compared to both *C. flacca* (glaucous sedge) and *C. viridula* ssp. *oedocarpa* (common yellow sedge).

### Period 3

#### Cultivated plants

Spelt wheat continued in the Romano-British samples but emmer, unless included among the uncertainly identified grains, appeared to be absent (Table 15). Bread wheat, hulled barley, and oats occurred in a few of the samples, but most of these were from a stakehole within grave 407 and the assignation of the stakehole to this period is not definite.

#### Wild plants

Many of the weed seeds for this period were also present in the preceding Early Iron Age samples. The small vetches or tares were present as before, with smooth tare again being the most prominent. The larger seeded vetches (c. 3.2–3.7 mm) were probably the uncultivated ssp. *nigra*, as in the Early Iron Age samples.

Other seeds include one of *Ranunculus parviflorus* (small-flowered buttercup). This charred seed, measuring only 1.7 mm at its greatest width, had traces of tubercles covering both surfaces. This distinguished it from *R. sardous* (hairy buttercup) which has tubercles set mostly close to the margin. This now uncommon buttercup was formerly found in arable fields or damp to dry grassland.

The identification of the one *Papaver* sp. (poppy) seed to genus level was not in doubt but its condition precluded closer identification, in contrast to a seed of *P. somniferum* (opium poppy) identified in a sample from a medieval feature (see below). The Romano-



Table 15. Plant remains from Periods 3–5, Romano-British, colluvial and medieval contexts

Feature type	Period 3 Romano-British activity					Period 4 Colluvium			Period 5 Medieval settlement		
	Ditch	Bank make-up	Buried soil	Stake hole	Burial	Colluvium	Layer	Cutbeert	Pond	Ditches	
<i>Feature number</i>	345	332	213	417	407	212	503	433	75	313	
<i>Context</i>	343	15	15	418	414	15	123	411	4	311	
<i>Sample size (litres)</i>	15	15	15	0.25	0.25	15	15	7	15	15	
<b>Cultivated</b>											
<i>Triticum cf dicoccum</i> - glume bases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	1	
<i>Triticum cf spelta</i> - grains	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	
- glume bases	-	4	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	
<i>T. dicoccum/spelta</i> - grains	-	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
- glume bases	-	4	-	2	1	1	2	2	11	2	
- rachis nodes	-	4	4	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	
<i>T. aestivum</i> s.l. - grains	-	1	-	11	-	-	4	14	3	6	
- rachis frags	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>T. spelta/aestivum</i> - grains	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. - grains	-	1	(3)	7	1(1)	1(1)	21	3	9	6	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> - grains	-	-	1(2)	5(2)	-	-	1(2)	2	4	1	
- rachis frags	-	-	-	1(1)	-	-	1	-	-	-	
<i>Avena</i> sp. - grains	-	-	-	1	-	-	1(1)	-	3(1)	-	
- awn frags	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Cerealia indet. - grains	-	-	3	6	-	-	9	2	-	-	
- frags (mls.)	<0.35	<0.5	<0.25	0.5	<0.25	<0.35	2	0.5	<0.25	<0.5	
<i>Vicia faba</i> L. - broad/field bean	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	
cf <i>Pisum sativum</i> - frags	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	
<b>Arable/Grassland/Waste</b>											
<i>Ranunculus parviflorus</i> L. - small-flowered	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i> - buttercup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Papaver somniferum</i> L. - opium poppy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
<i>Papaver</i> sp. - poppy	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Stellaria media/neglecta</i> - chickweeds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	
cf <i>Agrostemma githago</i> L. - corn cockle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	
cf <i>Silene</i> sp. - campion	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L. - knotgrass	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> L. - black bindweed	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3(4)	(1)	
<i>Rumex</i> sp. - dock	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	
cf <i>Viola</i> sp. - violet or pansy	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
<i>Brassica</i> sp. - cabbage/mustard/turnip	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i> (L.) Gray - hairy tare	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i> (L.) Schreber - smooth tare	1	1	1	-	-	1(2)	8	4	-	-	
<i>Vicia hirsuta/tetrasperma</i> - hairy/smooth tare	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	
<i>Vicia sativa</i> L. - common vetch	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	1	>5	

Table 15. (continued)

Context	243	332	213	418	414	408	408	212	300	503	123	411	04	68	311
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2(1)	1
<i>Medicago Lupulina</i> L.	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2)	-
<i>Trifolium cf repens</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Trifolium cf pratense</i>	-	-	-	1(2)	-	-	-	-	-	13	5	-	-	-	-
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
<i>Anthem. cotula</i> L.	-	-	-	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	-	1(1)	39	5
cf. <i>Festuca</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
<i>Lolium</i> sp.	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Poa annua</i> L.	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Bromus cf secalinus</i>	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	1(1)	1	-	3	1
Poaceae indet.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	14	-
<b>Wetter grassland</b>															
<i>Carex ovalis</i> Gooden	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Carex flacca/C. viridula</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2)	1	-	-	-	(2)
<i>oedocarpa</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wood margins, Scrub</b>															
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. - shell frags	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	2	-	-
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Unidentified	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	4	-

Key: ( ) = identification uncertain

British example is one of the typical cornfield weed species.

One sedge seed was also found in a sample from this period, and again is not closely identified. Grass seeds were found in several of the samples, the commonest being rye brome.

#### Period 4

Not surprisingly very few seeds were recovered from samples taken from the colluvium (Table 15), and those that were found may have been incorporated into the colluvium from the reworking of underlying deposits. The only identified cereal type was spelt, and the only identified non-cereal was smooth tare.

#### Period 5

##### Cultivated plants

The main wheats from the medieval samples were spelt and bread wheat, although there was still some evidence of emmer (Table 15). Hulled barley and oats were also present, as was a single probable example of *Vicia faba* L. (broad/field bean). A further cultivated species was the probable *Pisum sativum* (pea), unfortunately only represented by two fragments.

##### Wild plants

Vetches of all sizes were present as in the earlier periods and also some larger seeds (3.5–4.2 mm), perhaps at this end of the range representing cultivated plants. Vetches, both winter- and spring-sown varieties, have been grown for fodder from at least the 13th century (Currie 1988).

Another possibly cultivated plant is *Brassica* spp. (cabbage/mustard/turnip) but these seeds are difficult to assign to species. The six seeds recovered from the fill of ditch 75 ranged from 1.4–1.9 mm in diameter with a reticulate surface of apparently more or less square cells measuring *c.* 70–80 µm microns across with conspicuous margins. These features matched those of *B. nigra* (black mustard) more closely than other *Brassica* spp., but this identification was by no means certain. Black mustard grows in rough ground, often by river banks.

Other weed seeds were not very different from the preceding period. Corn cockle may have been present in one sample, and notable is the larger number of *Anthem. cotula* (stinking mayweed) seeds. This plant is indicative of heavy soils. The poppy seed from this period is in very good condition and can be more confidently identified by the size and distribution of the reticular cells as *P. somniferum* (opium poppy). Opium poppies have

been cultivated for their oil-rich seeds since Neolithic times in Europe and recorded from at least the Late Bronze Age in England (Helbaek 1957). Poppy seeds can remain viable in the soil for very many years and may germinate when the soil is disturbed.

Grasses again may have originated in pasture areas or been part of the weed flora of the cultivated fields. *Carex ovalis* (oval sedge), distinguished from *C. nigra* by its larger cells and larger papillae, is a plant of damp, grassy places and woods.

### Discussion

From the Iron Age through to the medieval period at this site, a similar range of cereals is represented. Bread wheat, hulled barley, and oats were present throughout and usually the 'glume' wheats (emmer and spelt). These two species are quite characteristic of the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, but their occurrence in medieval contexts is less expected. Although the grains of these wheats cannot be safely identified or distinguished from those of free-threshing bread wheats by purely morphological criteria, rachis fragments and glume bases are diagnostic if well-preserved. Even if the chaff of emmer and spelt cannot always be separated, at least it can be distinguished from that of bread wheat. The rachis and glume fragments found in the medieval levels at this site have been carefully rechecked by the writer.

The continuance of emmer and spelt has been recorded in early, middle, and late Saxon contexts in several sites in East Anglia (Murphy 1994), in late Saxon contexts in Wraysbury, Berkshire (Jones 1989) and Steyning, Sussex (Hinton 1993), and in late Saxon and medieval contexts in Gloucester (Green 1979). In a few cases there is a possibility of residual survival, and this cannot be discounted here, but in others there seems little doubt of their contemporaneity. Spelt and some emmer at Springfield Lyons (Murphy 1994), and spelt and possibly emmer at Steyning, is considered by the excavators to be genuinely Late Saxon in date. In Gloucestershire charred and waterlogged spelt was found in three periods dated respectively 9th, 10th, and 11th/12th centuries, and again there is no reason to doubt that it was contemporary. Earlier in this century emmer was grown, sometimes in the place of barley, in parts of Europe (Percival 1921), and spelt is still cultivated today in southern Germany and in Austria.

In archaeological contexts, if residuality is discounted, the glume wheats must either persist as contaminants, which might indicate continuous use of fields (Green 1979), or they continued in cultivation. The latter might be the case if local soils and other conditions were particularly appropriate for the

species. Although spelt will do best in conditions suitable for bread wheat it will succeed on drier and lighter soils, and emmer will grow on soils which are too light for spelt (Percival 1921). The evidence from Sutton Poyntz suggests that both light and heavier soils were available for cultivation and possibly glume wheats were considered a useful crop, perhaps for fodder, in areas of poorer soil. An alternative suggestion for continued cultivation in some areas is simple conservatism (Green 1979).

Instances of broad bean and the probable pea were too few to make useful observations. Charred beans have been found in numerous sites in southern Britain from the Late Bronze Age onwards and their presence here is not surprising. Peas are found much more rarely although there are earlier records. In all periods at this site vetches, which have a useful role in maintaining soil fertility, have often not been closely identified, and their status as weeds, wild plants gathered as fodder, or intentionally cultivated crops is uncertain.

As only small numbers of seeds were available and identification often not secure, it may be making too much of the fact that weeds commonly associated with light chalky soils were present in the earlier phase and plants of heavier soils apparently more frequent in the later periods. Probably it is safer to assume that some crops were grown on the nearby chalk, perhaps the barley and emmer or spelt, and others on damper soils at the foot of the scarp, possibly the bread wheat, beans and peas. The grass seeds from all periods, in that they were not closely identified, cannot be used to suggest soil conditions. Sedges, however, occurred in all three periods and suggest damper grassland, which would certainly have been present around the site.

As is common, most of the seeds in the samples, particularly those from soil layers, ditches, colluvium etc, probably came from the background of charred fragments from domestic hearths and other fires which become distributed during time. The four samples from around the Romano-British inhumation also appear to mirror the surrounding conditions. The cereals and crop weeds are most likely to represent waste products from crop processing and the grassland seeds probably also fit into this category but there is the possibility that they may have a meadow origin.

### Charcoal

by Rowena Gale

Bulk soil samples from Mesolithic, Early Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval features included plant macrofossils and charcoal. Thirteen samples of charcoal (ie, those including fragments measuring

>2mm in the transverse section) were selected for species identification to assess both the woody vegetation present in the local environment throughout these periods and the utilisation of woodland resources.

### *Materials and methods*

The charcoal fragments were mainly well-preserved although some (eg, from Early Iron Age post-hole 79) had been infiltrated with reddish deposits which obscured diagnostic features on the cell walls. Suitable fragments from each sample were fractured to expose fresh transverse surfaces and sorted into groups based on the anatomical features observed using a x20 hand lens.

Representative fragments from each group were prepared for detailed examination. These were further fractured to expose tangential and radial longitudinal surfaces and supported in clean sand. Their anatomical structure was examined using an incident light microscope at magnifications of up to x400 and matched to reference material. Where possible the maturity (ie, stem wood, sapwood and heartwood) was noted.

### *Results*

The results are summarised in Table 16. The taxa identified included:

?*Betula* sp., birch

*Cornus* sp., dogwood

*Corylus* sp., hazel

*Fraxinus* sp., ash

Pomoideae, a subfamily of the Rosaceae which includes *Crataegus* sp., hawthorn; *Malus* sp., apple; *Pyrus* sp., pear; *Sorbus* spp., rowan, whitebeam, and wild service. The members of this group are anatomically similar.

*Prunus* spp., which include blackthorn, bird cherry, and cherry.

*Quercus* sp., oak

Salicaceae which includes *Populus* sp., poplar and *Salix* sp., willow. It is not usually possible to distinguish these genera from their anatomical structure.

*Ulmus* sp., elm

#### **Period 1**

A sample from the primary fill of the Mesolithic feature 422 was examined. Charcoal fragments from this sample were rather small and probably all derived from sapwood. Oak, elm, and ash were identified. Ash recolonised England c. 6000 BP (Huntley and Birks 1983) and it has rarely been associated with features

or sites of Mesolithic date, although Godwin (1956) records finds of charcoal at Bourne Mill Spring, Farnham and at Brook, Isle of Wight (Late Mesolithic). Its presence at Sutton Poyntz may, however, indicate redeposited material from a later phase since charred grain from the same sample was considered to be intrusive (Hinton, this report).

#### **Period 2**

Some fairly large fragments of charcoal (up to 20 mm in longitudinal axis) including oak stem and sapwood, hazel, ash, *Prunus*, and dogwood were recovered from the earliest excavated soil layer 586. Oak (sapwood), ash and a member of the Pomoideae (hawthorn, etc) were found also in soil layer 555. Oak and *Prunus* were recovered from all of the sampled post-holes whilst ash was found in three of them. Other charcoal from these features included hazel, poplar/willow, Pomoideae, and possibly birch.

#### **Period 3**

A small sample taken from a stakehole (417) included hazel and *Prunus* (possibly blackthorn). The stakehole may have been associated with the burial of an infant, and samples taken from the grave fill (408) contained charcoal fragments of oak, *Prunus*, and ash (stem).

#### **Period 5**

The humic fill of culvert 123 contained evidence of oak (sapwood and heartwood), ash (sapwood), elm (sapwood) and *Prunus*. A sample from the upper fill of ditch 75 included oak stem and hazelnut shell.

### *Discussion*

#### **Environmental evidence**

The undulating terrain and geology of the area includes deposits of both chalk and clay, offering a variety of floristic habitats. The charcoal, perhaps mostly from fuel woods, may have derived from wood gathered from various parts of the neighbourhood and although relatively few samples from each period were examined, the range of trees and shrubs identified was more or less consistent throughout the phases of occupation from the Early Iron Age to the medieval period. The sample from the Mesolithic feature may not have been a primary deposit (see above), and the presence of ash in this context should therefore be regarded cautiously.

During the later periods the lower lying clays and damper folds of the hills probably supported tall woodland trees such as oak, ash, and elm, possibly forming mixed deciduous woodland. Elm was rare in the charcoal but this may reflect species selection by the occupants of the site rather than paucity in the environment. Elm is noted for its poor performance

Table 16. Charcoal

	Period	1			2			3			4		
		Mesolithic Ditch/stream	Layers		Early Iron Age settlement Post-holes			Pit	Romano-British activity Stake-hole Burial		Medieval Culvert	Ditch	
	Feature	422			79	97	415	06	417	407	138	75	
	Context	424	555	586	80	88	416	03	418	408	408	123	68
	Sample size (litres)	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	0.25	0.25	15	15	15
<i>Betula</i>	birch	–	–	–	?1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Cornus</i>	dogwood	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Corylus</i>	hazel	–	–	1	1	–	?1	–	3	–	–	–	2n
<i>Fraxinus</i>	ash	1	1	6r	1	1	–	–	–	1r	3s	–	–
Pomoideae	various *	–	1	1	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Prunus</i>	various*	–	–	–	3	2	1	2	1	–	1	2	–
<i>Quercus</i>	oak	4	14s	1	2	4	8	23sh	–	?1	1	8sh	1r
Salicaceae	poplar/willow	–	–	41rs	–	–	6r	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Ulmus</i>	elm	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3s	–

r = roundwood (diam. <20 mm); s = sapwood; h = heartwood; n = nutshell; \* = see text

as a wood fuel, particularly in comparison to oak and ash (Edlin 1949), which were evidently plentiful. However, large areas of the chalk downland at least were probably largely cleared by the time of the first recorded occupation on the site (ie, Early Iron Age).

Hazel may have grown both as understorey in the wooded areas and as clumps of nut-bearing shrubs in glades or on the higher ground. *Prunus* species are often difficult to distinguish using anatomical wood features but in this instance a fragment from stakehole 417 was almost certainly blackthorn. Blackthorn is a spiny shrub which colonises woodland margins and open ground where it can quickly develop into dense thickets. Cherry, a woodland tree, may also have grown locally. Hawthorns grow as small trees or scrub in similar habitats to blackthorn. Other members of the Pomoideae, eg, apples, pears, and the service tree are woodland trees. Whitebeam is characteristically a tree of secondary woodland. Willows probably occupied the damper regions or banks of streams/ rivers. Poplars prefer seasonally wet or damp sites and may also have been present. Dogwood is shrubby and generally associated with chalklands.

#### Utilisation of woodland resources

The residues of charred material excavated from pits, post-holes, ditches, and layers frequently included grains, seeds, burnt flints, and charcoal and may represent discarded hearth debris. A mixture of wood species appears to have been used but predominantly oak and ash supplemented with hazel and *Prunus*. These taxa are particularly efficient as fuel woods. Other taxa such as elm, poplar, and willow, which evidently grew near the site, are much less efficient and were apparently used infrequently.

#### The Animal Remains

by Sheila Hamilton-Dyer (submitted 1995/6)

A total of 2565 bones was examined and recorded, 1292 recovered by hand excavation with a further 1273 extracted from sieved soil samples. Most of the material was recovered from the Early Iron Age, Romano-British, and medieval phases (Periods 2, 3 and 5). Very few fragments were recovered from the pre-1st millennium activity (Period 1). General unstratified material was briefly scanned but has not been recorded in the database.

#### Methods

The methods used for identification and recording were based on the FRU (Faunal Remains Unit, Southampton) method 86 system, with some modifications (see FRU archive, and SH-D archive file BONESTRU). Preservation of the material varied between contexts from moderately eroded to excellent, most fragments were in good condition. Some bones exhibited modern breaks and were joined and counted as single fragments where possible.

Fragments were identified to species and element with the following exceptions: ribs and vertebrae of the larger mammals, other than axis, atlas, and sacrum were identified only to the level of cattle/ horse-sized (LAR) and sheep/pig-sized (SAR); unidentified shaft and other fragments were similarly divided; some indeterminate fragments were recorded as mammalian only, particularly those recovered by sieving; recording of the bird bones follows a similar format. Identification of small mammal, fish and

**Table 17. Animal bone: species distribution summary**

Period	Hand recovery						Sieved							
	2	3	4	5	6	Total	%	1	2	3	4	5	Total	%
Horse	5	8	3	10	1	27	2.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cattle	96	53	12	73	4	238	18.4	–	1	1	–	–	2	0.2
Sheep/goat	82	31	13	64	4	194	15.0	–	8	7	1	6	22	1.7
Pig	12	15	3	111	3	144	11.1	–	–	6	–	1	7	0.5
Red deer	3	–	–	–	–	3	0.2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
LAR	90	46	8	79	1	224	17.3	–	–	4	1	1	6	0.5
SAR	87	20	9	103	3	222	17.2	–	13	9	1	1	24	1.9
Mammal	9	–	–	8	–	17	1.3	–	108	152	34	72	366	28.8
Dog	1	17	4	5	1	28	2.2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cat	–	–	–	1	–	1	0.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hare	2	–	–	2	–	4	0.3	–	2	1	–	–	3	0.2
Small mammal	–	–	–	1	–	1	0.1	6	125	230	39	88	488	38.3
Dom. fowl	5	–	–	103	2	110	8.5	–	1	–	–	–	1	0.1
Goose	3	–	–	37	–	40	3.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Duck	1	–	–	10	1	12	0.9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other bird	1	–	–	3	–	4	0.3	–	3	4	3	10	20	1.6
Unid. bird	–	–	–	19	–	19	1.5	–	2	3	–	2	7	0.5
Fish	–	–	–	3	–	3	0.2	1	43	72	14	97	227	17.8
Reptile	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	58	5	18	94	7.4
Amphibian	–	–	–	1	–	1	0.1	1	2	1	–	2	6	0.5
Total	397	190	52	633	20	1292		8	321	560	98	298	1273	

LAR = large ungulate, probably mostly cattle but may include horse and red deer; SAR = small artiodactyl, probably mostly sheep/goat but may include pig and domestic dog

other taxa concentrated on those elements which give the highest level of species identification, other bones have been mainly grouped together. Species identifications were made using the author's modern comparative collections.

Measurements follow von den Driesch (1976) and are in millimetres unless otherwise stated. Withers height estimations of the domestic ungulates are based on factors recommended by von den Driesch and Boessneck (1974). The archive includes metrical and other data not in the text and is kept on paper and electronically.

## Results

In the hand-excavated material cattle, sheep and pig bones are dominant. Most of the unidentified material is likely to be also of these animals (Table 17). Fowl bones were also high in number, but predominantly from the medieval period. Fowl bones found in contexts from earlier periods may include intrusive material. Other species identified within the overall site assemblage included horse, dog, cat, red deer, goose, ducks, pigeon, guillemot, rat, and conger. The greatest variety of material was found in the medieval contexts.

From the summary tabulation (Table 17) it can be clearly seen that sieving was essential for good representation of the smaller species, in particular fish and small mammals. Just three fish bones were recovered by hand-excavation, whereas 227 were extracted from the sieved samples. These samples were taken principally for the recovery of plant macrofossils and were themselves only a small sample of the contexts available. Many of the contexts with bone were not sampled, including the two contexts containing the hand-excavated fish bones. In total 41 samples were taken from 33 contexts.

Animal remains were recovered from 39 samples, fish bones were present in 22 of these. Only two samples contained no animal bone at all. Eel is the most common of the identified species. Other fish include rays and other members of the shark family, conger, herring, hooknose, wrasse, flatfish, and stickleback. As with the larger material the medieval contexts contain the most variety of species (Table 18).

### Period 1

Just eight fragments were recovered from contexts attributed to this period, from three soil samples. Field vole (*Microtus agrestis*) and amphibian were identified from the fill of the Mesolithic feature 422,

**Table 18. Animal bone: fish distribution (sieved)**

Species	Period					Total	%
	1	2	3.	4	5		
	EIA	R-B	Colluv.	Med.			
Sharks	–	–	–	1	2	3	1.3
Rays	–	2	1	1	1	5	2.2
Eel	–	10	32	5	15	62	27.3
Conger	–	–	–	–	2	2	0.9
Herring	–	1	–	–	10	11	4.8
Stickleback	–	2	–	–	–	2	0.9
Hooknose	–	–	–	–	2	2	0.9
Wrasse	1	–	–	–	–	1	0.4
Flatfish	–	–	–	–	1	1	0.4
Unid.	–	28	39	7	64	138	60.8
Total	1	43	72	14	97	227	

and the pharyngeal of a wrasse from the soil layer 78 in the central part of the site. This fish is a marine species and is not usually found on prehistoric sites in southern England. All the bones found in the samples of this period (Period 1) may well be intrusive.

### Period 2

Most of the bones identified to species are of cattle and sheep/goat, 96 and 82 fragments respectively. Pig is represented by just twelve fragments and horse by five. Three small pieces of worked and burnt red deer antler were recovered from the fill of post-hole 415. Only one dog bone was recovered but gnawed bones were a consistent, if variable, presence. The general bone condition also varied greatly between contexts, and within contexts, but none of the bone was severely eroded.

The only bones of hare (*Lepus cf. europaeus*) from the site were recovered from the fill of pit 533. This feature also contained bones of fowl and goose (probably greylag, *Anser anser*) and a single fragment of partridge (*Perdix perdix*). This assemblage is more typical of medieval material and this feature may actually be of this date. The other two of the five fowl bones from this period were recovered from pit 06, which may also be medieval. The remaining two bird bones were of goose and goose/large duck.

Ditch 41 contained several associated cattle bones. These include a much fragmented skull, jaws, and cervical vertebrae of a mature animal and the front legs of a much younger animal with the distal humeri unfused. Other bones, including a pair of scapulae and some toes, may also be associated with this animal and the remains may represent the partial excavation of a complete skeleton.

A nearby feature also contained a partial cattle skeleton, again mostly of the front legs. The distal radii are just fused but the proximal ulnae unfused, indicating an animal of around three years at death.

This is a prime meat age but no butchery or skinning marks were observed on any of the bones.

Many of the 321 bones recovered from the sieved samples are of small mammals, mostly field vole (*Microtus agrestis*) and house mouse (*Mus musculus*). Woodmouse (*Apodemus* sp.), was identified from pit 06. This fill also contained rabbit or hare teeth and several fish bones; in addition to eel and stickleback these included ray teeth and a herring vertebra. This feature, like pit 533 discussed above, may be of medieval date rather than prehistoric. The fish bones from other features were mostly of eel, other bones recovered could not be positively identified but are of a small species, possibly the freshwater bullhead.

Bird bones, apart from a fowl bone from pit 06, were of small passerines such as sparrow. Bones of amphibians and of reptiles (slow-worm) were also recovered.

### Period 3

In the hand-excavated material cattle, sheep, pig and horse are again present with a higher proportion of pig than in the earlier material at the expense of sheep/goat. Dog bones are more common but 11 of the 17 recovered are from a single fill of ditch 211 and are probably from a single animal of about 0.4 m at the shoulder, the other six are also from this ditch and may be from the same animal.

Deposit 332, part of the stone-built bank, contained an unusual equid lower second molar. The metaconid-metastylid valley is not U-shaped as it is in most horses nor tick-shaped like donkey but distinctly V-shaped. This has been recorded for mule, some donkeys and only very occasionally in horse. The protoconid-hypoconid valley just reaches the neck of the metaconid-metastylid in the manner of horse or mule, but does not penetrate as deeply as it can in some horse specimens. The general size, shape and pattern in fact closely resembles that of a possible mule from Billingsgate (Armitage and Chapman 1979). While it is indeterminate in characteristics between horse and donkey, it is unwise to record the presence of mule on a single tooth. It has been noted that the bones of some small ponies such as the New Forest can have characteristics more like donkey than horse and this may extend to the teeth in some cases. The low crown height of this tooth indicates an animal well over 20 years old (Levine 1982). This may also have some bearing on the unusual tooth pattern.

The identified bones from the sieved contexts were again predominantly of small mammals including common shrew, field vole, house mouse and wood mouse. Other taxa included a fragment of hare, several bird bones of thrush/sparrow size, several remains of slow-worm (and possibly grass-snake) and many fish fragments. Bones of small eels accounted for 45 of the 72 fish remains, there was also a small

skin denticle of a ray. Other fish remains were mainly unidentified ray fin fragments but also included some vertebrae of an unidentified small species.

#### Period 4

The bone assemblage recovered from deposits of this period was small in comparison with those from the other periods. From the hand-recovered material cattle, sheep/goat, horse, pig, and dog were identified. The four dog fragments are from an animal about 0.4 m at the shoulder. The sieved assemblage included several bones of house mouse, field vole, slow-worm/grass snake and eel. There was also a small skin denticle of a ray and a tooth comparable with dogfish.

#### Period 5

This period provided the largest amount of hand-collected bones and a substantial number were recovered from the sieved samples. Most of the material was recovered from contexts within the probable chapel. In the hand-collected material the usual large domestic animals such as horse, cattle, sheep and pig are present, albeit with a higher proportion of pig than for the earlier periods (Table 19). Other mammals are present in small numbers including dog, cat, hare, and rat. Amongst the mammal bones were several of calf and piglet, though not neonatal. One dog bone, a humerus from the fill of ditch 313, is of a neonate.

The amount of fowl is noticeably high, 16% of all the fragments and 24% of the bones identified to species. Other birds present are domestic goose/greylag, ducks (mostly domestic/mallard but two match wigeon (*Anas penelope*), a winter visitor, and another is comparable with teal (*Anas crecca*)), pigeon, and a fragment of guillemot (*Uria aalge*), probably an incidental catch. Fowl bones are varied in size, two of the smaller ones containing medullary bone indicating females. One bone, a slightly damaged humerus, is unusually short at about 58 mm, even for this period, and is comparable with bantam. Together the total of the hand-collected bird remains comprise 27% of the total bones and an impressive 40% of the bone identified to species. In addition small passerines were recovered from the soil samples.

The gravels in the chapel floor sequence (115) produced the only identified fish bone collected by hand; two fragments of a conger eel head from a fish over a metre in length. Sieving of medieval samples produced more fish bone numerically than the Romano-British samples, and of more species (Table 18). Conger is again present, (from the fill of culvert 138), other marine species are herring, thornback ray, shark (probably blue), flatfish, and hooknose. Bones of small eels are also present but no other species which may have been taken from the stream.

#### Period 6

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered whilst clearing topsoil in the south-west part of the site. Most of this is unremarkable in form and character and a canid fragment recorded is more likely to be of fox than dog.

### Discussion

The assemblage as a whole is not a large one and detailed analysis inappropriate but certain aspects do warrant further discussion. The small sample sizes offer few measurements, those available are within the ranges reported for sites in southern England.

From the Early Iron Age contexts two complete sheep metacarpi from different animals both give estimated withers heights of 0.58 m. These are considerably larger than the unusually small ones reported for Flagstones (Bullock and Allen 1997) and are similar to those from other sites including Danebury (Grant 1982) and the early Romano-British deposits from Greyhound Yard (Maltby 1993).

A complete cattle metacarpus from a Period 4 colluviation layer gave a withers height estimate of 1.14 m, and a pair from a Period 2 feature both gave a withers height of 1.18 m. These values are within the range, but larger than the mean, reported for the early Roman deposits at Dorchester (Maltby 1993). Maltby suggests that most of these early period metacarpi at Dorchester belonged to females, whereas the length/width indices of the Sutton Poyntz bones (0.32 and 0.33), suggests male animals. The Sutton Poyntz cattle are large, just outside the range for those from Flagstones where the withers height range for the Late Iron Age material is given as 1.0–1.14 m with the single metacarpal giving a height of 1.08 m.

The number of jaws with ageing information is negligible and it is therefore impossible to analyse the cull pattern. The few cattle jaws all have, or would have had, fully erupted tooth rows. Just three Early Iron Age sheep/goat jaws with teeth were recovered but all three of these are of the age stages reported at Flagstones, ie, neither lamb nor aged. There were however a few bones of lamb, probably over a month old and certainly not neonate. Calf is represented by several bones from Early Iron Age and medieval layers. Pig bones and teeth vary, but most are immature and include piglet bones in the medieval layers.

With limited data it is difficult to assess the differences in species representation but the proportions of cattle, sheep and pig are quite distinct between the three main periods. These ratios are presented in Table 19, and the effect of the associated cattle bones has been reduced by using Minimum Numbers of Individuals (MNI) in those contexts.



**Table 19. Animal bone: relative proportions (%) of cattle, sheep, and pig (hand recovered)**

Period	2	3	5
	EIA	R-B	Medieval
Cattle	35.1	53.5	29.4
Sheep/goat	57.0	31.3	25.8
Pig	7.9	15.2	44.8
Total bones	151	99	248

In Period 2 sheep/goat bones dominate at 57%, cattle forms 35.1%, with pig under 8%. This high level of sheep/goat bones is common in material from Wessex, although the exact proportion often varies with context type.

In Period 3 the proportions of cattle and sheep/goat are reversed, there is also a slight increase in pig to 15.2%. These proportions are similar to those at Winchester and also the later material from Dorchester. In comparison with the tripole graph given by King (1984) the proportions are in the area of overlap between villas, *vici*, and un-Romanised settlements.

Cattle and sheep are almost equal in Phase 5 contexts but pig is markedly dominant at 44.8%. This high level of pig is unusual and may be related to the special status or use of the site at this time. A comparison of several medieval sites has been plotted on tripole graphs by Albarella and Davis (1994). On these graphs the proportions at Sutton Poyntz are just inside the polygons for early to mid-medieval, and also for castles, but most of these have significant amounts of deer.

The increase in birds in the medieval material, both in species diversity and amount, is to be expected but the exceptional concentration of birds may also be related to special status or function of the building. Unlike some medieval high status sites hunting appears to be minimal with no deer and only two fragments of hare. The birds are mainly fowl, goose, and ducks, which could be kept or caught in the immediate vicinity, no woodcock or plovers were identified, but a bone of the highly prized partridge was recovered, albeit from a disputed context. The presence of piglet and calf bones, some butchered, probably also indicates consumption by high status individuals.

Remains of fish are uncommon from rural sites, but can be common at urban centres and high status sites. This site is close to the coast and the material is sufficiently well-preserved for the survival of fish bone. Fish remains were recovered from all periods except post-medieval (Table 18). An inferior pharyngeal of a wrasse was recovered from a pre-Early Iron Age soil layer (78). This is a marine fish and, as such, unusual for Iron Age deposits in southern Britain.

The fish from the securely dated Early Iron Age deposits are restricted to small eels and remains of a similarly small fish, probably the freshwater bullhead. Other species including herring were found in deposits which may be of medieval date. Romano-British contexts again produced eel and small fish but also rays, marine fish common in this area. The medieval deposits produced the highest number of species. These are mainly marine and include herring, conger and flatfish as well as sharks, rays and the ubiquitous small eels. The hooknose is a small inshore species which is often caught in shrimp trawls.

Some of the small mammals recovered from the site will be pit-fall casualties, others will be natural mortalities and perhaps cat kills incorporated into various contexts. The species identified make only shallow runs and burrows and are unlikely to be intrusive except in contexts near the surface. The largest species represented is rat. The bone could not be distinguished between the two species but in a medieval context is likely to be the black rat (*Rattus rattus*). This species is strongly associated with human occupation.

Other species identified were common shrew (*Sorex araneus*), field vole (*Microtus agrestis*), house mouse (*Mus musculus*), and wood mouse (*Apodemus* sp.). Bones of shrew were recovered in small numbers from Romano-British and medieval contexts. The shrew is an insectivore, eating a wide variety of invertebrates. It is most abundant in locations with good cover such as dense grass and hedges. The herbivorous field vole also prefers dense grass and is very common in ungrazed grassland, it was recovered from all periods, the largest number from the Romano-British layer 307.

The woodmouse can be found in most habitats and is omnivorous, concentrating on seeds, berries, and nuts. It was found in many of the same contexts as remains of the field vole but in smaller amounts. Some mouse jaws and teeth have been positively identified as house mouse. The omnivorous house mouse is well known as a serious pest of poultry houses, grain stores, and in houses but can be found in most habitats, except woodland where woodmice compete more successfully. One of the earliest well-stratified group of remains was found in pre-Roman Iron Age deposits at Gussage-all-Saints, Dorset (Harcourt 1979). The remains at Sutton Poyntz are from contexts dated to Early Iron Age, Romano-British, and medieval and are therefore of considerable interest in the study of the distribution of this species.

Reptile remains were unusually common in several samples from most periods, but especially from Romano-British layer 307. The remains were principally vertebrae and scales and are comparable

with slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*). This snake-like lizard can be found in a variety of habitats, preferring dry situations. It favours locations with flat stones and other cover suitable for shelter and basking, they are also commonly found in compost heaps. They are capable of burrowing to depths of up to 0.7 m for hibernation and therefore shallow contexts may be contaminated by more recent material.

Amphibian bones were found in many of the samples, most of these are likely to be common frog (*Rana temporaria*). They are frequent pit-fall victims and may also inhabit open ditches and pits. Although they prefer damp situations they do not necessarily indicate standing water in the immediate vicinity.

These conclusions should be treated with caution with such a small sample, particularly as the context types are dissimilar, but the period differences are conspicuous. These differences are mainly in the proportions of the main domestic animals, and in the species variability.

## Oyster and Other Marine Shell

by Sarah F. Wyles

A total of 429 marine shell valves (Minimum Number of Individuals = 266) was recovered from 39 contexts. Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) formed the majority of the assemblage (c. 95%). Nine other marine shell species were present: queen scallop (*Chlamys opercularis*); great scallop (*Pecten maximus*); common cockle (*Cardium edule*); prickly cockle (*Cardium echinatum*); common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*); common periwinkle (*Littorina littoralis*); sting wrinkle (*Ocenebra erinacea*); limpet (*Patella cf. vulgata*); common mussel (*Mytilus edulis*). These all occurred in low numbers with none more than six. However, although it is likely that these species are slightly under-represented as a limited sieving programme produced three of the non-oyster marine shells, it is evident they were never a significant part of the assemblage. Only the oyster shell was considered for further analysis.

Oyster shells were retrieved from all the main periods represented on the site, but most of the assemblage was from the medieval phase (Table 20). Three features produced significant amounts of shell; a midden deposit (503), a culvert (138), and a pit (528). Although it contained pottery exclusively of Early Iron Age date, the midden deposit was located directly below medieval deposits and it is possible that it too is of medieval date. As 63% of the assemblage was recovered from three contexts with the remainder being widely distributed in low concentrations, no detailed site distribution analysis was undertaken. Although the shells from the midden deposit 503 are potentially significant, as relatively few oyster shell assemblages of Early Iron Age date have been

**Table 20. Oyster shells: distribution by period**

Period	No.	LV	UMLV	RV	UMRV	Total	MNI
contexts							
2. EIA	6	44	23	62	9	138	71
3. R-B	3	1	–	–	frag.	1	1
5. Med.	28	79	56	96	27	258	166
6. Post-med.	1	2	1	4	–	7	4
Unstrat	1	2	–	1	–	3	2
Total	39	128	163	163	36	407	244
Analysed contexts*							
2. EIA	1	42	–	61	–	103	61
5. Med.	2	45	–	44	–	89	56
Total	3	87	–	105	–	192	117

LV/RV= left/rightvalve; UMLV/UMRV = unmeasurable left/right valve; MNI = minimum number of individuals

\* Analysed samples are included in the totals above

analysed in detail, the results should be regarded with caution.

Analysis of the shells was undertaken in order to examine temporal variation in the collected oysters and in the method of collection being employed (fishing versus farming), the nature of the marine habitats exploited, and the dietary importance of this resource, and the likely location of the oyster beds. The oyster database is rather small both in terms of shell numbers and numbers of suitable contexts and some questions may remain unanswerable.

## Methods

The methods used follow those developed by Winder and detailed elsewhere (Winder 1992a; Wyles and Winder 2000). The marine mollusc shells were recorded for each context and the oyster shells were subdivided into measurable and unmeasurable shells for both left and right valves. Only three contexts contained enough shells to be considered suitable for analysis (Table 20) and from them only the measurable valves were used for the detailed analysis; ie, those in which at least two-thirds of the shell had survived intact (including the umbo and adductor scar). These shells were very gently washed so as not to lose any evidence of infestation and were then measured.

Evidence of infestation or encrustation by other small marine organisms which had attacked or damaged the shell or had taken shelter there was recorded (cf. Winder 1992a; 2002). Eight categories of infestation traces and encrustations left by organisms were recorded; *Polydora ciliata*, *Polydora hoplura*, *Cliona celata*, calcareous tubes, barnacles, Polyzoa, boreholes, and sand tubes. These were re-

corded individually by presence/absence and by an estimation of the percentage of the shell covered by the combined infestation traces and encrustations (Table 21). Other shell characteristics, some of a more subjective nature, were also recorded. These were; relative shell thickness, the presence of chambers and chalky deposits, physical shell condition and discoloration, the attachment of oysters or spat, mis-shapeness, deliberate notches and cuts and surviving traces of ligament.

This information was entered onto a data base (DBase III+) and basic statistical analysis was undertaken using a statistics package (Statgraphics 2.6). Statistical methods employed to test population questions included simple linear regression, student two sample t-tests and Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests. Frequency diagrams of shell size for all four measurements were also calculated. The averages and standard deviations were calculated for shell width and length and the occurrence of each of the twenty attributes by sample.

### Oysters

The oysters were generally in good condition with over 65% of the shells being measurable. There were also no significant biases between the disposal of left versus right valves except for the fill of culvert 138 which had a ratio of two left valves for every right valve. Although there may be an indication of discard of the food valves in the culvert, the remaining assemblage does not indicate different areas of preparation and consumption on this site. About 15% of the analysed shells had a noticeable degree of wear, indicative of shells which had not been disposed of immediately. There do not appear to be significant differences between the shells from the midden deposit 503 and those of a definite medieval date. The statistical tests indicate that the oysters all derive from a similar, if not common, source.

#### The location of the oyster bed and the nature of the substrate

The type of oyster bed and its substrate may be deduced from analysis of the infestation and other characteristics data and the shape of the shells. The analysed shells had little infestation, only 1.7% of each valve (average) bearing infestation trace suggesting generally healthy specimens.

The combination of the habitats of the four main predators recorded appears to indicate a location in open, shallow water (as the *Polydora* spp. were predominant) with a generally constant level of salinity. Although *Cliona celata* cannot survive low salinity, it has been recorded in higher numbers as the salinity level decreased in the Poole harbour area (Winder

**Table 21. Analysed oyster shell: characteristics and infestations (%)**

<i>Period</i>	<i>2. EIA</i>	<i>5. Medieval</i>	<i>All</i>	
<i>Context</i>	<i>503</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>528</i>	
<i>Infestations</i>				
<i>Polydora ciliata</i>	23.5	72.7	35.6	37.7
<i>P. hoplura</i>	11.8	54.5	31.1	26.2
<i>Cliona celata</i>	10.8	47.7	4.4	17.8
Calcareous tubes	–	4.5	–	1.0
<i>Polyzoa</i>	–	4.5	–	1.0
Boreholes	8.8	25.0	26.7	16.7
Sand tubes	–	11.4	2.2	3.1
<i>Other characteristics</i>				
Chambered	7.8	50.0	11.1	18.3
Oysters attached	–	6.8	–	1.6
Irregular shape	19.6	38.6	24.4	25.1
Notches/cut	43.1	27.3	44.4	39.8
% indiv. shell infested	1.21	3.36	1.07	1.67

1992b). Oysters tolerate wide variations in salinity caused by dilution by freshwater and thus can colonise rich inshore waters but do not appear able to withstand lowering of salinity below 23 ppt (Yonge 1960). The high level of chambering (c. 50% of the shells from the culvert) could be indicative of salinity changes and thus these shells may be more typical of those from beds at headwaters of a creek or inlet. The entire assemblage was of shells elongated in shape, with greater widths than lengths. This is usually the result of the bed being located on softer sediments rather than firmer sea beds in deeper water which tend to produce rounder shells (Winder 1992b).

The source of the majority of the Sutton Poyntz oysters thus appears to be a bed in open shallow water with a substrate of softer sediments and little salinity fluctuation. This environment would not preclude any of the other marine shell species retrieved from the site. The oysters from the culvert appear to originate from a bed in the headwaters of a creek or estuary with a substrate of softer sediments and salinity fluctuations.

#### Exploitation of laid or natural beds (fished or farmed ?)

The size of the shells, both width and length was recorded. Although the overall size range was 25–105 mm, the majority (c. 90%) of the assemblage fell in the range 60–100 mm with width being greater than length. The frequency size diagrams for each measurement for both valves showed normal distribution. The low number of other marine shells in the assemblage and the few small oyster shells is probably the result of some process of selectivity such as dredging or hand-collection. If this was due to the

dredging of the oyster bed with a net, a mesh size would have been about 60 mm to produce the size distribution recorded and recover few other species. This selective process would ensure that this resource was not over-exploited. There were no significant differences between the three samples.

From the midden and the pit there was no evidence of clumping and of other shells being attached. This, together with the good size of the shells retrieved, is indicative of an oyster bed with plenty of room for growth and the oysters probably came from a natural bed which was farmed and carefully managed to avoid over-exploitation, the shells being spread about on the bed to encourage growth. Shells from the culvert were more irregular in shape (38% of the sample) and there was a low level of clumping and of other shells being attached. These shells were probably from a natural bed which was not fished or managed to the same degree.

#### **Importance within the diet**

The relatively low number of oyster shells would seem to indicate that they had a supplementary role within the diet and were never a significant component of the site economy. A high proportion (40%) of the shells

bore cut marks and notches, indicative of shells of good quality which were fit for consumption.

#### *Conclusions*

The marine shell retrieved from Sutton Poyntz was not in sufficient quantity to have been a significant part of the diet in either period and appears to be a simple domestic assemblage. There appears to be two sources of the oysters represented at the site, but this does not seem to be a temporal change. It is difficult to ascertain the exact location of the oyster bed represented by the assemblage in the well and pit. No obvious source immediately south of Sutton Poyntz fits the established criteria. This assemblage does, however, appear to be compatible with oysters retrieved from Poole Bay (Winder 1992b) and this may have been the source. The probable source of shells from the culvert is a natural oyster bed in the headwaters of a creek or estuary with a soft substrate and salinity fluctuations. This bed is unlikely to have been managed or fished to the same extent as the other source, and these few shells could well have come from within Poole Harbour itself.

## 6. Report on the Documentary Evidence

by John Chandler

The excavation at Sutton Poyntz had included the investigation of a building in use during the 13th–14th centuries which was interpreted as a medieval chapel within a complex of manorial buildings. The excavators were aware of a short history of Sutton Poyntz (Litschi 1990) which included a number of unreferenced assertions about the medieval chapel. This research, therefore, examined documentary evidence for such a chapel or chapels in Sutton Poyntz, including location(s), relationship to other medieval demesne buildings, and the influence on such buildings of members of the Poyntz family and other manorial owners. It also attempts to substantiate the information given in the 1990 history.

Research was conducted locally in the Dorset Record Office, Dorchester Reference Library, Dorset County Museum (all in Dorchester), and Weymouth Reference Library. Information about the Poyntz family has also been sought in the Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset, and Wiltshire and Swindon Record Offices, the National Register of Archives, Westcountry Studies Library (Exeter), Public Record Office Kew, Bristol Reference Library, and the University of Bristol Library.

This report outlines salient aspects of the history of Sutton Poyntz, describes positive and negative references discovered to the existence or absence of a medieval chapel or chapels, and discusses their significance in relation to the results of the 1993 excavation. It also examines the assertions made by Litschi (1990), and discusses their probable origin.

### Sutton Poyntz: Outline History

What little has been written about the early history of Sutton Poyntz (eg, Hutchins 1863; Litschi 1973–4) has tended to focus on the genealogy and exploits of members of the Poyntz family, from whom the settlement name derives its affix. The family was indeed an important one, which ramified into several branches, and produced several leading barons and noblemen during the high middle ages; but despite its name no branch resided at Sutton Poyntz, and this particular manor is hardly mentioned in their family history (Maclean 1886; Cockayne 1945). The seat of the Poyntz branch which owned Sutton was Curry Mallet in Somerset.

Sutton is first recorded in a charter of reputed date AD 891, and appears to have been the caput of its

hundred, Culliford Tree. The name means ‘southern settlement’, presumably southern in relation to Dorchester, with which it is grouped in Domesday Book. Preston, ‘the priest’s settlement’, does not warrant an entry in Domesday and appears to have been subordinate to Sutton within a single parish; the two remained linked as a liberty and as a prebend of Salisbury Cathedral. Preston may always have been the ecclesiastical focus of the parish, although the possibility of an early church at Sutton must not be discounted. For reasons now obscure, Preston gradually eclipsed Sutton as the principal settlement within the parish, and its church, which is largely 14th–15th century in date, became the parish church.

### Documentary references to a chapel at Sutton Poyntz

Assertions for which the only or principal reference is Litschi’s 1990 history are given in square brackets, followed by an assessment of their source and reliability. Some references to related matters, such as the court house and the excavation site, are included.

1228: Geoffrey, chaplain of Preston, re. presentation to the chapel of Stoke St Edwold: *‘Dorset. Jordanus Oliveri, Willelmus Maubane, Walterus de Lagrave, Lucas Russel, assignati sunt justiciarii ad assisam capiendam ad Syreburn in octabis Nativitatis Beate Marie, inter Willelmum de Cantilupo, petentem, et Galfridum capellanum de Prestun, deforciantem, de ultima presentatione capelle de Stokes Sancti Edwoldi [Stockwood, Dorset]. Teste rege, apud Hereford, xvi die Augusti, anno xii. Et mandatum est vicecomiti Dorsete quod predictam assisam predictis die et loco coram eis venire faciat.’*

This refers to a hearing at Sherborne into the presentation of a chaplain to the chapel at another Poyntz manor in Dorset, Stockwood or Stoke St Edwold, following complaint by Geoffrey, chaplain of Preston. His existence seems to imply that there was then a chapel within the parish of Preston, or that Preston was then a chapelry to Sutton (Cal Pat Rolls, 1225–32 (1903), 221).

1291: The prebend was valued at 25 marks; but no vicarage or chapel is then mentioned. (Hutchins 1863, 836, presumably from Taxation of Pope Nicholas).

[14th century: In the 14th century the Poyntz family, who were lords of Sutton and the hundred of Culliford Tree, had a chapel built for the village and the present Laurel Cottage

stands on the original foundations (Litschi 1990, 15). No source has been found for the dating of this chapel. The site is given by Tanner (1972, 14) and lies within the present village of Sutton Poyntz, approximately 300 m to the south of the excavated building.]

[c. 1329: After capturing the abbot of Bindon, John de Montacute, Baron Hugo Poyntz IV visited his Sutton manor and his newly built chapel and attended service there. He made arrangements for the old courthouse (where today the mill is standing) to be converted to a watermill and for another watermill to be built further up the valley (Litschi 1973–4, 72; 1990, 15, 44). Hugh Poyntz was certainly responsible for restoring order at Bindon Abbey in 1329 (Cockayne 1945, 675–6, citing Patent Rolls). Mr Litschi (pers. comm.) read about the incident in a very old book about Dorset lent to him by Mr Tanner, but subsequently disposed of; I have been unable to trace his source.]

1331–3: Calendar of Papal Registers, Papal Letters, vol.2, 343 (1331, 9 Kal July); to John son of Richard de Riperiis. Provision of a canonry of Salisbury, with reservation of a prebend, notwithstanding that he has the chapel of St Mary Magdalene, Preston. Same volume, 383 (1333, 4 Kal Aug); to the bishop of Salisbury. Mandate, at the king's request, to grant a dispensation to the king's clerk, John, son of Richard de Ryvers, knight, to accept a benefice or dignity with cure of souls, he being in his twenty-first year.

[1338: Nicholas Poyntz of Curry Mallet was 'charged to repair his manor nearest the coast (Sutton), and to have his household armed against threat of invasion.' (Litschi 1990, 45). Cockayne (1945, 676) confirms this, although Sutton is not mentioned and may not be the manor intended. However, Poyntz was one of the keepers of the Dorset coast in 1347 (*ibid.*), so Litschi's assumption is probably correct.]

[1340: Richard Poyntz in 1340 paid 15s for the provision of a chaplain who should celebrate mass daily for his soul and the souls of his ancestors (Litschi 1990, 15). This, according to Calthrop (1908, 75) refers to provision of a chaplain to celebrate in Shaftesbury Abbey church. The source is Cal Pat 14Edw3, pt.3, m.20. It is irrelevant, therefore, to the question of a chapel at Sutton.]

1341: There is no reference in the *Inquisitio Nonarum* to a chapel at Sutton Poyntz.

1348: An inquisition before the justices touching the death of John le Clerk of Sutton Pointz at Matto Kestrowe in the tithing of Thornfagon on Sunday, the morrow of St Matthew the Apostle. The same Nicholas [Poyntz, knight] indicted as above of the death of the said John, puts himself upon the country and is acquitted (Cal. Pat. Rolls 1348–50 (1905), 18: (1348, 12 Feb)). By this date it is not realistic to draw any conclusion from the occurrence of an occupational surname such as 'le Clerk'.

[c.1400: The present church at Preston replaced a Norman predecessor, and seems subsequently to have incorporated fragments from Sutton chapel, which may have been built around the same time (Tanner 1972, 14–15). Tanner admits that this is merely his own conjecture, and it is not shared by RCHME (1970), although the font at Preston is certainly Norman.]

1405: At the Dean of Salisbury's visitation, held at Preston on 18th July 1405, it was claimed that in Sutton chapel the altars to St Giles and St Mary Magdalene had been dedicated without the dean's licence, and that for the last eight years the vicar of Preston had failed to provide a suitable chaplain to say mass there three times a week, to the great detriment of the people of Sutton (Timmins 1984, 11, no. 20). This is the first incontrovertible evidence of a chapel at Sutton, although the dedication to St Mary Magdalene may be sufficient to identify this chapel with the one referred to as at Preston in 1331 (see above).

1412: At the Dean of Salisbury's visitation, held at Preston in June 1412, it was claimed that the vicar failed to provide a chaplain to say mass in St Juliana's chapel, which is presumably the chapel at Sutton (Timmins, 1984, 111, no. 313).

1483: At Dean Davyson of Salisbury's visitation, held at Preston in 1483, occurred the following presentment: 'The inhabitants of the precinct of Sutton Chapel, in the parish of Preston, asked for mass to be celebrated for them in the said chapel according to the ancient custom of the vicar of Preston, namely three times a week, on no fixed day. The vicar appeared and said that because tithes owing to him for this celebration were taken by the rector and prebendary of Preston, therefore he had withdrawn his celebrations. He was ordered to celebrate mass three times a week from then on as he used to do. As for the tithe owing to him, it was postponed until the register could be inspected to see what tithes were owing to him and of what value.' (Stewart, f.111)

15th century: The lych-gate of 1911 at Preston church incorporates some 15th century moulded timbers from the old Court House at Sutton Poyntz, salvaged from the 1908 fire (RCHME 1970, 362; Litschi 1990, 20).

c. 1536–9: A thumbnail illustration of a church with tower, captioned 'Sutton', is included on the Henrician defence map of the Dorset coast (Barrett 1913; copy of map in Dorset County Record Office, photocopy 159). This must in fact represent Preston church, and merely reflect the usage of 'the parish of Sutton Poyntz' (see below, 1552) to refer to it.

1548: There is no reference to Sutton Poyntz chapel in the chantry certificates for Dorset (Fry 1906; 1907).

1552: The inventory of church goods, 1552, for Dorset includes 'the parish of Sutton Poyntz', with a list of goods, and signed by the vicar. This must refer to Preston, which is not listed separately (Barnes 1904, 228–9).

1650: Sutton Poyntz presented [to the Parliamentary Commission] that they had no chapels (Hutchins 1863, 837).

1654: A detailed manuscript survey of Sutton Poyntz among the Sherborne Castle records includes no reference to a chapel (DCRO D/SHC: KG/1233).

[16th–17th centuries: The chapel fell into disrepair and practically disappeared. Many stones and gravestones turned up in the surrounding cottages as did the christening water fonts, now used in the feeding of chickens. The subsequent building raised on the foundations of the chapel was first used as a refuge for wayfarers and then as a secondary poor house. In 1832 it was converted to a private dwelling and became a home for impoverished vicars' widows. The chapel stood on a slightly elevated position, and old gravestones have been dug up in the garden of *The Laurels*, some serving today as part of a local garage floor (Litschi 1990, 16–17). The local information is presumably accurate, and the reference to a poor house is confirmed by Hutchins (see below).]

1795/1838: The field adjacent to the excavation site is referred to on an estate map (DCRO D/WLC/P22) and the tithe map and apportionment (DCRO T/PRE) as 'Court Close'.

1867: 'The only remaining portion in 1867 of this [Sutton Poyntz] chapel are three hip-knobs surmounting the gables and porch of the school buildings. The site of the chapel was occupied by a poor-house called the Church-house, till it was pulled down on the alteration of the poor law' (Hutchins 1863, 835)

[1908: The ancient court house opposite Sutton Mill was accidentally burnt down on 25 April 1908 (Litschi 1990, 2, 20). This is well-attested.]

1911: The lych-gate of Preston church, made in 1911, incorporates some 15th century moulded timbers from the old court house at Sutton Poyntz (RCHME 1970, 362)

1971: W.G. Putnam investigated earthworks on the west side of Plaisters Lane, and found 12th–13th century pottery, but no structural stonework. He concluded that this was not the site of the lost chapel (Tanner 1972, 16).

## Discussion

There is no single source among the national public records, nor held locally among diocesan or private archives, which provides complete and infallible evidence about the incidence of private medieval chapels and chapels of ease. The non-appearance of a chapel in a list where it might be expected to occur, such as the 1291 Pope Nicholas taxation, cannot be used as evidence that no chapel then existed. There are, however, a number of record series in which references to chapels routinely occur, and these have been examined during the course of the present research. The results of this search, positive, negative, and inconclusive, are summarised above.

A complicating factor is the reference in Litschi (1990, 15, 44) to the activities of Hugh Poyntz in visiting his new chapel at Sutton Poyntz. No reference is given by Litschi to the source of this statement, which he believes (pers. comm.) was found in a published work about Dorset lent to him by the Rev. E.V. Tanner. Detailed summaries of the career of this Hugh Poyntz have been published (Maclean 1886, 21–5; Cockayne 1945, 675–6), but give no indication of the original source behind Litschi's reference.

There is no doubt, from documentary as well as the archaeological evidence, that there was a medieval chapel at Sutton Poyntz. It must have existed before 1397, because in 1405 it was said to have been neglected for eight years. It still existed in 1483, and was once again neglected. It was almost certainly no longer in existence as a chapel in 1650. There are references to a Geoffrey, chaplain of Preston, in 1228, and to John le Clerk of Sutton Poyntz in 1348, both of which may possibly suggest that the chapel existed at these dates. The 1331 reference to a chapel of St Mary Magdalene, Preston, Dorset, also seems to refer to this chapel.

## 7. Subsequent Investigations at Sutton Poyntz

A number of further archaeological investigations were undertaken for Wessex Water in the vicinity of the site between 2001 and 2003. Their results are summarised here as they relate directly and indirectly to the findings of the 1993–4 excavation.

### Evaluation and Excavation 2001

In May–June 2001, 11 evaluation trenches were machine-excavated in the field immediately north-east of the excavation site, in response to proposals to develop the south-western part of the field as another water treatment works (Wessex Archaeology 2001a). The field, which slopes gently towards the south, straddles the base of the River Jordan valley, although at the north the river is diverted into a leat adjacent to the field's western boundary; at the south it has broken through the leat to resume its natural course. A topographic survey of the field had earlier demonstrated the presence of a number of earthworks of probable archaeological interest, including an earthen dam across the valley at the north end of the field, an adjacent and possibly associated 'platform', and a low bank and ditch on the eastern side of the valley.

The trenches in the lower lying areas of the field revealed features of purely hydrological origin, while those on the relatively higher ground revealed a range of archaeological features. The most complex stratigraphy was revealed in Trench 9, where the natural Kimmeridge Clay had been cut by a succession of intercutting river channels. These were filled with alluvial clays with calcareous gravels containing residual archaeological material of Middle-Late Iron Age date, demonstrating that the deposition occurred during the Holocene period and is non-glacial – the pottery would have derived either from hillwash from the valley sides or from archaeological settlement deposits further upriver. These layers were sealed by a succession of alluvial and colluvial deposits, with an intervening buried soil containing Middle–Late Iron and pottery, indicating a period of hydrological stabilisation. At the east the colluvium was cut by a 1 m wide, V-shaped ditch running north–south and producing flint flakes and Early–Late Iron Age pottery. Further colluvium, probably post-Roman, sealed the ditch and was in turn cut by another 1m deep ditch producing small quantities of ceramic building material.

The dam (Trench 11) comprised a 1.3 m high stone core built directly on the natural clay, consisting of chalk, flint, and Greensand eroded from the Sutton Poyntz pericline. Against the north side of the core were successive dumps of thickly laminated calcareous gravel upcast from the excavation of the

upstream 'reservoir', with layers of sterile clay to the south. These were overlain by a clay 'cap', resulting in a strong watertight structure. The dam produced no finds but it is likely to be of medieval or post-medieval date. It diverted the river water from its natural course to a higher elevation along the western edge of the field, probably to feed the depression identified as a pond (433, p. 35). At a much later date, probably in the late 18th century, upstream of the dam, the main course of the river was diverted once again to the west and higher ground, to form a leat. This would have provided a greater head of water to drive the Upper Mill's overshot wheel. The Upper and Lower Mills had been established in the 14th century during the time that Hugo Poyntz held the manor of Sutton Poyntz.

The 'platform', south of the dam's west end, proved to be a compact calcareous deposit of natural origin (Trench 10). However, two small parallel ditches, 1.6 m apart, ran north–south across it, one producing a small sherd of residual Mid–Late Iron Age pottery.

A low bank and ditch ran east from the edge of the river channel (Trench 4). The V-shaped ditch, which was 1.4 m wide and 0.9 m deep, cut through earlier calcareous deposits. Its upcast, and material from its subsequent cleaning out undertaken to facilitate the drainage of the surrounding landscape, survived as a 5 m wide bank on its downhill side, largely levelled by later ploughing. The ditch was filled with a post-medieval mixed ploughsoil/colluvium that covered the eastern part of the evaluation site, suggesting that the earthwork may be medieval or post-medieval in origin.

Part of an inhumation burial was revealed on the east side of the river channel towards the southern end of the field (Trench 3). In order to investigate the grave more fully a single trench, centred on the grave, was excavated in September 2001 (Wessex Archaeology 2001b). The grave, which contained the crouched inhumation of a large adult male with its head probably to the south, was cut into the natural clay on the sloping eastern bank of the river channel, the skeletal remains having slumped down towards the river. Only approximately 50% of the skeleton had survived, the rest probably having been washed away, with only fragments of the skull being recovered from just west of the grave. Schmorl's nodes and degenerative disc disease were evident in several vertebrae.

The only finds from the grave were burnt flint and undiagnostic fired clay, but the burial is probably prehistoric in date and possibly associated with the evidence for Iron Age settlement recorded during the main excavation. A small possible pit, cutting the



natural clay south of the grave, had a single homogeneous fill containing charcoal and fragments of fired clay. Both the grave and the pit produced charred grain and weed seeds indicating domestic and/or storage activities in the vicinity, the lack of chaff suggesting the presence of processed remains. There may have been some symbolic significance in the position of the grave close to the river.

Both features were sealed by a layer of calcareous gravel containing animal bone. In the river channel the gravel was overlain by layers of clay, which were cut through by a large post-medieval drainage ditch running north–south, the lower fill of which produced a large fragment of roofing slate.

### **Inspection of Pss *Great Eastern* Number 1 Funnel 2001**

During the course of the 2001 evaluation, an inspection was also made of a large iron cylinder sitting upright over the water intake pipe that carries the water from the weir below the Sutton Poyntz springs to the pumping station (Dunkley 2002). The cylinder was some 2 m in diameter, made of ½ inch (13 mm) thick wrought iron plate perforated with drilled holes to act as a crude strainer for removing plant material. It was removed from that position in November 2003, prior to the springs being covered over (below). The cylinder had originally been part of a funnel from Brunel's revolutionary iron paddle steam ship *Great Eastern* (originally conceived as *Leviathan*).

Brunel had designed the ship, for the Eastern Steam Navigation Company, to be able to carry in style 4000 passengers to the Far East and Australia without the need to re-fuel, her double hull making her unsinkable. At over 200 m she was twice as long as any previous ship, and was not equalled in size for another 43 years. However, although she became the blueprint for future ship design, she was dogged by a series of mishaps from the day of her disastrous sideways launch attempted in November 1857, and she failed commercially as a passenger liner. She was eventually sold in 1865 and used for laying telegraph cables under the Atlantic and Indian Oceans until laid up at Milford Haven in 1872. Finally, in 1885, she was moored at Liverpool and opened as a floating amusement park, before being scrapped in 1888.

One of the early mishaps occurred on 9 September 1859 during sea trials off Hastings, when there was an explosion in the forward funnel. Six stokers died from their injuries (Brunel, too, died from a stroke six days later, after hearing the news), and following the ship's arrival in Portland Roads an inquest was held in Weymouth. There was great local interest in the ship and the explosion, and as the top section of the funnel was relatively undamaged it was bought by the Weymouth Waterworks Company.

Three years before, in 1856, the Company had demolished the Upper Mill at Sutton Poyntz to build the new water pumping station. An innovative 'ram pump' driven by a water turbine was installed in the engine house, pumping water to a reservoir on Rimbury Hill until 1958 (the pump is now a Scheduled Monument preserved within the Water Supply Museum). At the same time a new dam was constructed to collect the water from just below the springhead. However, water company documents record that, on 14 April, 1858, the 'Dam gave way'. A replacement dam was built in 1860, during which the salvaged *Great Eastern* funnel was adapted and inserted around the outlet pipe running to the pumping station, to act as a crude strainer for removing plant material. The funnel is now in the SS Great Britain Museum in Bristol, beside the remains of Brunel's first iron ship.

### **Archaeological Recording of the Sutton Poyntz Springs 2003**

As part of a Wessex Water project designed to protect the Sutton Poyntz water source from potential contamination by the parasite *cryptosporidium*, the springs and the stream leading to the intake weir have now been completely covered over. Prior to this work, the springs and the stream in their immediate vicinity were subject to archaeological recording (Wessex Archaeology 2003).

The springhead has cut back through solifluction and/or similar deposits, probably deposited in the early post-glacial period, that lie within the east–west fault zone that delineates the northern edge of the Sutton Poyntz pericline. The stream runs for 75 m from the springhead to the intake weir, with a series of 22 lateral springs feeding into it along its course.

Thirteen of these springs had lintels over them (a further two lintels had no associated water flows). The lintels were of similar construction, comprising flat slabs *c.* 0.9 m long, 0.4 m wide, and 0.08 m thick, set within slight cuts in the soliflucted chalky material that formed the banks of the stream channel. Most were limestone, although subsequent observation during construction work indicated that some were made of pre-cast concrete (John Willows, pers. comm.). The slabs were capped with up to three courses of undressed, possibly sandstone, blocks, and although the blocks were mortared together, they did not appear to have been mortared to the slabs.

There was no clear evidence to indicate when these structures were made. While they may be contemporary with the construction of the reservoir basin (1856 and 1860), the presence of pre-cast concrete suggests that a date of 1910, when the reservoir was refurbished and a new concrete apron was installed, is more likely.

## 8. Discussion

### Period 1. Pre-1st Millennium BC Activity

Evidence for pre-1st millennium activity at Sutton Poyntz is, perhaps, surprisingly ephemeral. The excavation recovered several pieces of Palaeolithic flintwork. Though not common in this part of Dorset other Palaeolithic finds are recorded in the general area. A small ditch or natural stream channel (422) appeared to be of possible Mesolithic date. It contained a quantity of diagnostically Mesolithic flintwork in the lower fills but neither the artefactual nor the environmental information was sufficient to confirm either a date or an anthropogenic origin. The occurrence of dug features in the Mesolithic has recently been the subject of a review (Allen and Gardiner 2002) so the possibility cannot be ruled out. Other Mesolithic flintwork from the site showed some concentration in the same area as feature 422 suggesting that there was a small focus of activity in this area, though its nature and a more precise date cannot be established. The presence of Mesolithic material is not unsurprising as there are numerous findspots in the area with a concentration of material on the Isle of Purbeck and around Weymouth (Wymer 1977; Wessex Archaeology 1993a; 1993b; Palmer 1969) and findspots on the chalk downs to the north-west (Woodward 1991, chapter 10).

The lack of Neolithic and Bronze Age evidence from Sutton Poyntz is notable. A single sherd of probably Early Neolithic gabbroic ware was recovered during the evaluation. Gabbroic sherds are usually associated with causewayed enclosures and the presence of this sherd, if the dating is correct (see above, Period 1 pottery), would be unusual. Neolithic finds in the neighbourhood are generally scarce though a sizeable pit containing Hembury-style pottery recorded on West Hill in 1937 was one of the first examples of a large, isolated Early Neolithic pit to be recorded in the south of England (Piggott 1954; Farrar 1958).

The main focus of Neolithic activity in the south-west of Dorset was clearly around Maiden Castle/Dorchester where both Early and Late Neolithic monuments and flint scatters are well-documented (Smith *et al.* 1997). It is possible that the West Hill pit represents an 'outlier' of this focus and that the Sutton Poyntz sherd points to Neolithic activity in the area associated with the pit. A single sherd hardly constitutes grounds for reconstructing Neolithic social patterns however and, similarly, the presence of a few Late Neolithic sherds is interesting to note in this area but insufficient for further comment.

Just as the main areas of Neolithic activity seem to have been on and within the downland to the north-west of Sutton Poyntz, so the main areas of Bronze Age occupation and burial also seem to be focused 'inwards' rather than towards the sea. The cemetery on Rimbury Hill is the archetypal Middle Bronze Age cemetery for southern England and it lies on a south-facing chalkland spur less than 1 km from the present site. The Bronze Age barrows in this area, as in so many other areas of the southern Chalk downlands, emphasise the upper slopes and skylines, with particular reference to the watersheds. The Dorset Ridgeway is festooned with barrows which run along the Ridgeway itself and the crests of various spurs (see Woodward 1991, fig. 2). While many are clearly visible from either side of the chalk spine, the majority of Early Bronze Age barrows clearly relate to activity on the slopes and valleys on the northern side of the Ridgeway where they overlook a variety of stone circles and other monuments and, presumably, settlement sites (*ibid.*, fig. 69). In the Middle and Late Bronze Age extensive field systems, enclosed settlements, individual huts and cross-ridge dykes attest to intensification of settlement and land division.

Sutton Poyntz, lying in a valley to the south of the Ridgeway, does not seem to have been part of this extensive and complex system of settlement and land-use. It seems to have been in a marginal position beyond the traditional 'homelands' of the chalk downs. The complex geology, soils, and water regime of the valley was probably also a reason for its lack of exploitation at this time though social constraints may have been of greater consideration.

### Period 2. Early Iron Age Settlement

By contrast, the Early Iron Age ceramics from the site place Sutton Poyntz within a now familiar group of assemblages including Rope Lake Hole, Eldon's Seat, and Kimmeridge (see Mephram, above). The Iron Age occupation of the site has been badly disturbed and largely removed by the medieval buildings but at least one post-built round-house with a partially surrounding wall and internal cobbled surface seems to have been present.

Only a small handful of non-ceramic finds was recovered, including a copper alloy finger-ring, and two domestic bone objects providing little useful evidence for activities. The environmental evidence is not extensive but indicates the consumption of both emmer and spelt wheats, barley, and beans with cattle and sheep providing the bulk of the animal bone evidence.

### Period 3. Romano-British Activity

Evidence for Romano-British activity on the site is limited to a few ditches and a stone-built bank, the latter of which, at least, seems to have been constructed in a not altogether successful attempt to prevent the downslope movement of hillside soils. Overall the impression is of a period of land management of probable 3rd–4th century date. The presence of infant burials suggests the proximity of a settlement as it was quite common to bury infants at the edges of settlements at this time.

### Period 4. Colluviation

A sustained period of intensive agriculture on the downland slopes above Sutton Poyntz is indicated by the build-up of colluvium over a large part of the northern area of the excavation. This probable dates, at least in part, to late and post-Roman farming activity.

### Period 5. Medieval Settlement

Some ambiguity still surrounds the use of the site in the medieval period. What is certain is that the excavation uncovered the ground plan of a rectangular, stone-built structure, for which the dates of initial construction (mid 13th century) and subsequent rebuilding (late 13th century) are provided by a relatively tightly dated group of pottery, including a significant proportion of high quality imported glazed wares. The remains of two other buildings, almost certainly contemporary, were uncovered nearby.

The main building was a substantial structure, built of limestone facing blocks with a rubble core, and initially with a cobbled limestone/flint nodule floor make-up (perhaps supporting rush covering), later capped with gravel and clay levelling layers. An early soakaway pit with drainage gullies was later replaced by a series of stone-lined culverts. Placed centrally along the eastern wall of the building was a shallow limestone plinth or platform. There may have been an internal wooden structure in the south-east corner, and perhaps, in the second phase of modification, a screen or partition across the interior. The painted wall plaster found here almost certainly derives from this building, as do the stone and ceramic building materials (flat roof tiles and glazed ridge tiles). There is no evidence for glazed windows, nor for any flooring (eg, ceramic floor tiles) above the make-up layers just described.

What evidence do we have that this was a chapel? There is little amongst the archaeological evidence that could be tied specifically to an ecclesiastic

function, although the location of the limestone plinth at the eastern end of the structure is suggestive of an altar base. A chamfered Purbeck marble slab, possibly an altar top, was found amongst the demolition rubble over the structure. The dimensions of the building are broadly comparable to the 13th century chapel at the royal place at Cheddar, although the latter has an added chancel (Rahtz 1979, fig. 73).

The interpretation of the documentary record has been complicated by the unsourced reference to the building of, and subsequent visit to a chapel at Sutton Poyntz in the 14th century by the Poyntz family (Litschi 1990, 15), and the identification of the site of this chapel at a location approximately 300 m to the south of the excavated building (Tanner 1972, 14). This would, in any case, seem too late for the archaeological evidence. There is no doubt, however, that there was a chapel here in the medieval period, established before 1397, and still in existence in 1483. More ambiguous references exist for 1228 (to a chaplain of Preston), 1331 (to a chapel of St Mary Magdalene, Preston), and 1348 (to John le Clerk of Sutton Poyntz). The archaeological evidence would fit better with the earliest of these, but it is frustrating that there are no firmer references for the latter part of the 13th century.

If a foundation for the excavated chapel is to be presumed in the mid 13th century, this would place it well within the period, beginning in the late 12th century, when the Canon Law largely influenced the foundation of new churches (Hase 1994). The Canon Law prohibited the founding of new churches which harmed any existing church (by affecting its income). Either the law was circumvented in this case, or there was no pre-existing church or chapel in the parish, or the excavated building directly replaced an existing chapel. The current parish church of St Andrew in Preston is probably early 14th century in origin (RCHME 1970, 361). The documentary reference to a chaplain of Preston in 1228 implies the existence of a chapel at this time, but not its whereabouts within the parish.

It is presumed that the chapel stood within a manorial complex, but next to nothing is known of this complex beyond the remains of the other two buildings found adjacent to the chapel and assumed to be contemporary. Indeed, little is known of the medieval history of the village. No surviving buildings of this period are listed by the RCHME (1970, 362–3), and the only other known archaeological evidence came from the Springhead Public House on White Horse Lane, to the south-east of the 1993 excavations, where a medieval drainage system was found (Brading 1998). Again, the picture has been confused by the identification of the medieval chapel of Sutton Poyntz to the south of the 1993 excavation, at the south-western end of Silver Street (Litschi

1990). This may indeed be the site of the later medieval chapel, but this does not preclude the existence of an earlier manor on another site particularly if successive settlement shifts to the south have taken place, resulting in the eclipse of Sutton Poyntz as principal settlement by the village of Preston.

Certainly the status of the site does not seem to be in question. These are substantial buildings, incorporating high quality masonry and other building materials. The significance of the imported pottery in this respect may be debatable (Allan 1983; Brown 1997), but in this instance these vessels form part of an artefactual and ecofactual assemblage

which confirm a high status function for the site, including a significant proportion of higher class comestibles in the form of birds, fish, and young animals, military/hunting arrowheads, and an elaborate antler chess piece. Evidence for activities within the complex are limited, but the interpretation of a large sub-rounded feature in the central area of the excavation as a pond suggests the exploitation of the nearby River Jordan, perhaps for industrial purposes (eg, milling) and/or for the maintenance of a ready supply of fish. Otherwise a fairly standard range of domestic or agricultural-related activities such as textile working and farriery are suggested by the ironwork and other artefacts.

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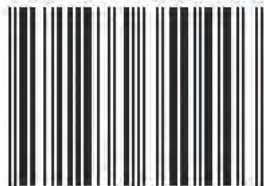
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This volume describes the results of several stages of archaeological work resulting from plans to construct a new water treatment plant utilising the springhead of the River Jordan at Sutton Poyntz, a village at the foot of the chalk scarp near Weymouth, Dorset. Human activity in the area, since at least Mesolithic times, has focused on the river. Its post-medieval history revolved around its water mills. Evidence for an Early Iron Age settlement, including at least one round-house, and Romano-British activity, including infant burials were recorded, partly beneath a thick colluvial deposit. A rectangular, stone-founded building has been identified as a 13th-14th century chapel probably belonging to the Poyntz family estate.



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