A Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British Enclosure at Meole Brace, Shrewsbury

(Excavations 2005–6)

By KATE BAIN AND C. JANE EVANS

With contributions by VAL FRYER, IAN STEAD, JANE TIMBY, FELICITY WILD AND DAVID WILLIAMS

Illustrations by NIGEL DODDS AND HELEN MOULDEN

Summary

A double-ditched enclosure at Meole Brace, Shrewsbury (centred on NGR SJ 49401010), was excavated in March–May 2005. The fieldwork was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology, under instruction from Jennings Estates LLP, with advice from Andy Josephs Ltd., Archaeological Consultants, in advance of the construction of a new football stadium. A watching brief was also undertaken during construction groundworks in Spring 2006.

The double-ditched enclosure was first identified by aerial photography, and selectively investigated by Jenks in 1968–9 (Sharpstones Site E). More recently, the area surrounding the enclosure has been investigated by means of desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial-trenching.

The earliest features identified by the 2005 excavation were two concentric eaves-drip gulleys of probable Late Iron Age date (Phase 1). The earliest, Late Iron Age–early Roman activity, was represented by a double-ditched enclosure, with an entry-gap on its southern side (Phase 2A). Pottery from this phase mainly dated to the later 1st–early 2nd century AD. Both ditches were re-cut (Phase 2B). The re-cut ditches were generally less substantial in size than their predecessors. The Phase 2B ditches were backfilled with pottery of predominantly 2nd century date. The latest Roman features were field boundaries (Phase 2C), aligned with the enclosure.

Five sherds of Group D mudstone tempered ware dating to the Mid–Late Iron Age, were the earliest datable pottery sherds recovered. Adjoining the southern entry-gap, both outermost (Phase 2A) ditch terminals contained evidence of structured deposits. Three pieces from an empty iron scabbard dating to the second half of the 3rd century BC–second half of the 2nd century BC were deposited in the eastern outer ditch terminal. The western ditch terminal contained three fragments of an iron sword, or dagger, also possibly of Iron Age date. The Roman pottery included Severn Valley ware, Malvernian ware, samian and BB1. The pottery contained a wide range of forms, reflecting the proximity of the site to the local road network, as well as the adoption of Romanised dining habits.

Introduction

This report describes the results of an excavation of a double-ditched enclosure located to the south of the B4380 Oteley Road, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (centred on NGR SJ 49401010, Figs. 1 and 2, Gaffney and White 2007, 93–4 and fig. 4.18). The southern site boundary was formed by the A5 (T) Shrewsbury Bypass, and the western boundary was defined by the Shrewsbury–Hereford Railway. To the east was agricultural land. The excavation was undertaken in March–May 2005 by Birmingham Archaeology on instruction from Jennings Estates LLP, with advice from Andy Josephs Ltd., archaeological consultants. The work was undertaken as a condition

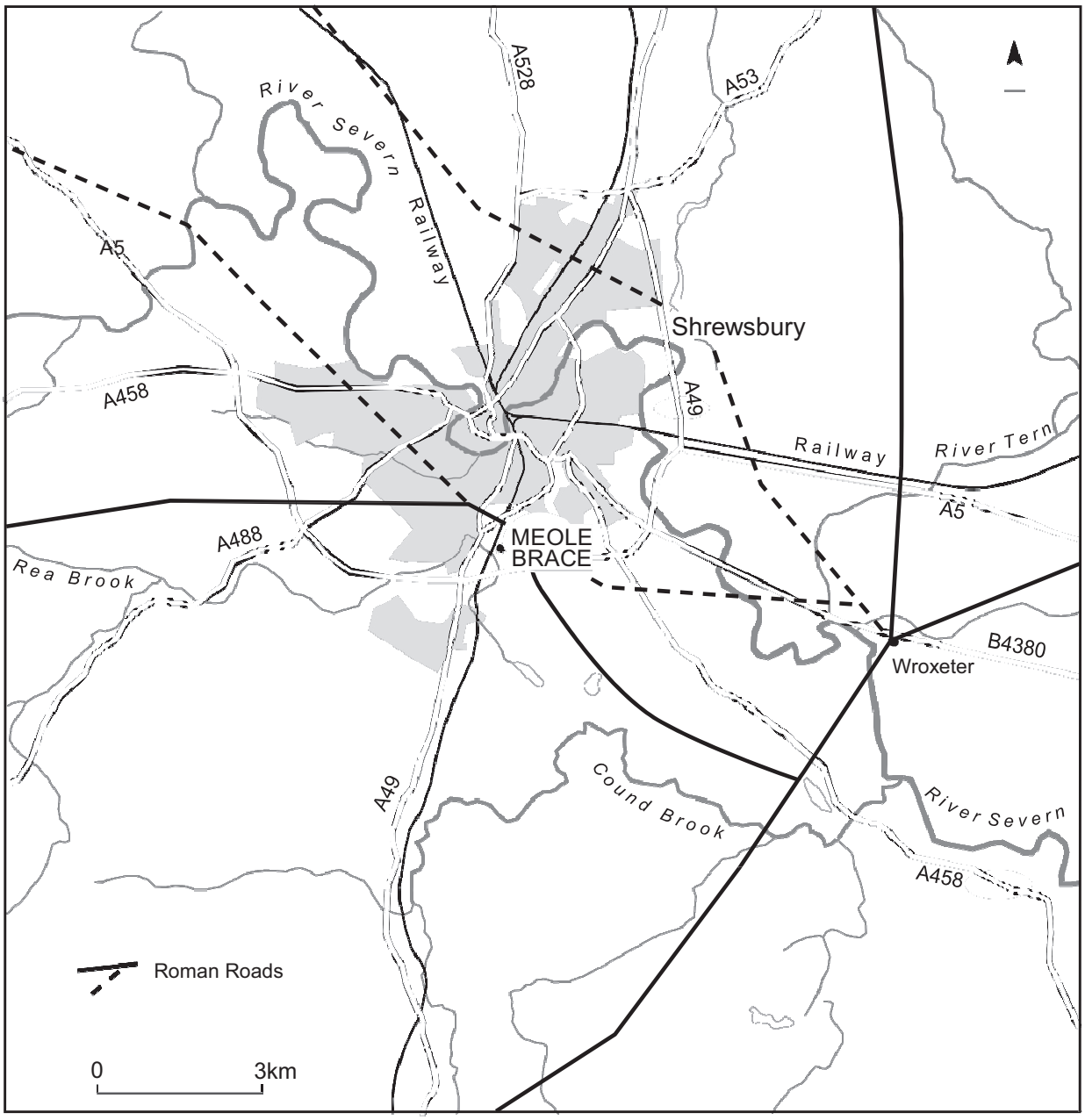

Figure 1 Site location in relation to Shrewsbury and Wroxeter.

of planning consent in advance of the construction of a new football stadium. The excavation was followed by an archaeological watching brief during the removal of overburden in March 2006. The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with a Brief prepared by Shropshire County Council (2004), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2005), approved by the Council. The area comprised agricultural land at the time of the investigations.

Background

The focus of the investigations was a double-ditched enclosure first identified by aerial photography (Fig. 2). Selective trenching of the site by Jenks in 1968–9 (Sharpstones Hill Site E, Barker *et al*. 1991, 31–36) recorded three phases of activity. The earliest, dated to the Late Iron Age (Phase 1), was represented by a small ditch and parallel palisade trench, located on the southern side of the later enclosure. Neither feature was recorded in the 2005 excavation, because of intervening plough truncation. The second phase of activity was attributed by Jenks to the Late Iron Age–early Roman period (Phase 2a). In this phase the innermost of the double ditches was dug, and

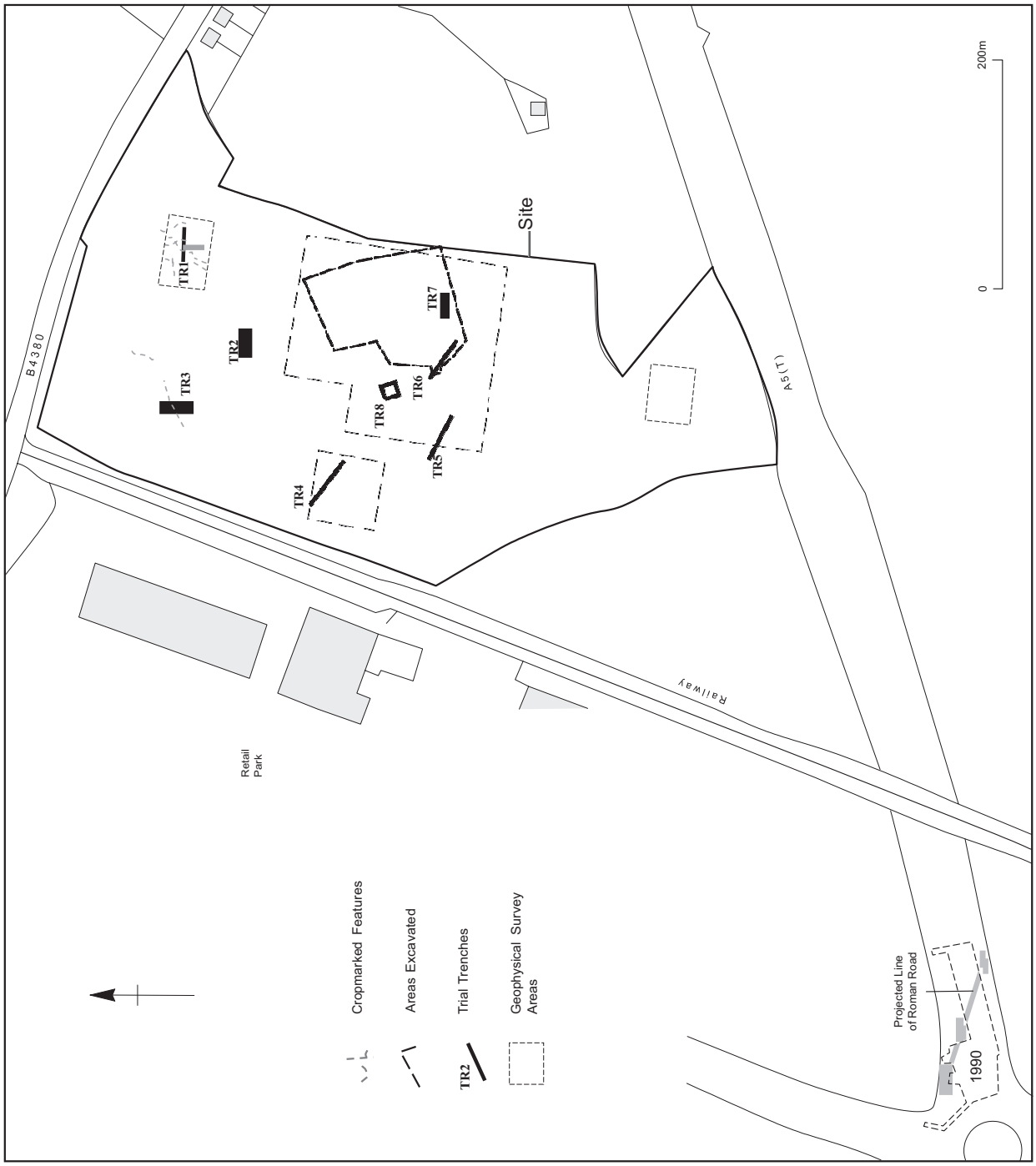

Figure 2 Location of area examined, trial-trenches and location of excavation in relation to cropmarks.

also partly backfilled. This ditched enclosure was associated with a single circular eaves-drip gully, also identified in the 2005 excavation despite recent plough truncation, together with a number of internal features which could not be identified in 2005. The uppermost backfills of the innermost ditch, and the outermost ditch and its backfills, were attributed by Jenks to the Romano-British period (Phase 2b). Jenks suggested that the outermost ditch was cut to channel water away from the site. Also identified in the 1968–9 investigations were traces of a rectangular building within the enclosure interior.

The majority of the dating evidence from the 1968–9 and 2005 excavations (Bain 2007) was attributed to the 1st–2nd century, although some Late Iron Age pottery was also recorded. Following this chronology, the double-ditched enclosure is likely to have continued in occupation during the second half of the 1st century AD, when the adjoining military road was laid out between Wroxeter and Forden Gaer/Caersws (Margary 1973, 344). A roadside settlement extending for almost 200m. was recorded alongside the road (Hughes 1994, Fig. 2), to the south of

the enclosure excavated in 2005. The earliest buildings recorded within the roadside settlement were dated from the mid 2nd–early 3rd century. During the early 3rd century the settlement appears to have contracted. Renewed roadside activity was recorded until the roadside settlement was finally abandoned in the later 4th century.

More recent archaeological work at the site has included a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial-trenching (Northamptonshire CC 2004). Trial-trenching examined the surrounding field boundaries which were shown to correlate with boundaries recorded on historic maps. Roughly north–south aligned ditches recorded in Trenches 4, 5 and 7 may possibly be contemporary with the enclosure, in particular a ditch in the latter which contained Roman pottery (*Ibid*., 10).

The drift geology comprises deposits of glacial till, a mixed sand-clay and gravel.

Aims

The objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were to preserve by record any known archaeological remains, and also any archaeological remains that were newly identified during development groundworks. The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to provide an understanding of:

1. the Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure and evidence of associated, or possibly associated field systems;
2. other features, including post-Roman features.

Methodology

A total area of 9,300 square metres was investigated by excavation (Figs. 2–3). The area was positioned to investigate the double-ditched enclosure, excluding its northwestern angle, which had been disturbed by recent quarrying. All topsoil and overburden was removed using a 360 degree tracked excavator, working under direct archaeological supervision. This machining exposed the subsoil which was selectively cleaned by hand to assist in the better definition of the features present, and to permit base-planning of archaeological features. Discrete features were half-sectioned. Other internal features were tested by hand-excavation, including those previously identified by Jenks, to confirm their form and assess the degree of plough truncation since the 1968–9 excavation. The strategy for sampling of the ditches by hand-excavation was agreed at on-site monitoring meetings during the fieldwork. It was supplemented by machine-dug trenches excavated with the approval of Shropshire County Council.

Features and deposits were planned (scales 1:20 and 1:50) and drawn in section (1:10 and 1:20). Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-forma record cards for contexts and features. These records were supplemented by monochrome and colour slide/print photography. Twenty litre soil samples were collected from datable archaeological features for the recovery of plant remains. Recovered finds were cleaned and marked.

A watching brief was also maintained during construction groundworks in March 2006. The mechanical excavators undertaking the ground reduction at this time were fitted with toothed buckets, and for this reason no archaeological features were identified. Accordingly, the watching brief was reduced from continuous monitoring to intermittent observation, before finally being terminated, in agreement with Shropshire County Council.

RESULTS

Phasing

A total of five phases of activity were defined on the basis of the observed stratigraphy and spot-dating, as follows:

Phase 1 Late Iron Age
Phase 2A First double-ditched enclosure, Late Iron Age to 1st–early 2nd century AD
Phase 2B Second double-ditched enclosure, 2nd century AD
Phase 2C Later Roman field boundaries
Phase 3 Post-Roman activity

The Phase 1–3 features were cut into the natural subsoil, which comprised a clay-sand with frequent concentrations of large gravel and pebbles.

For simplicity it is assumed that the enclosure was aligned north–south, although the figures are labelled with compass north.

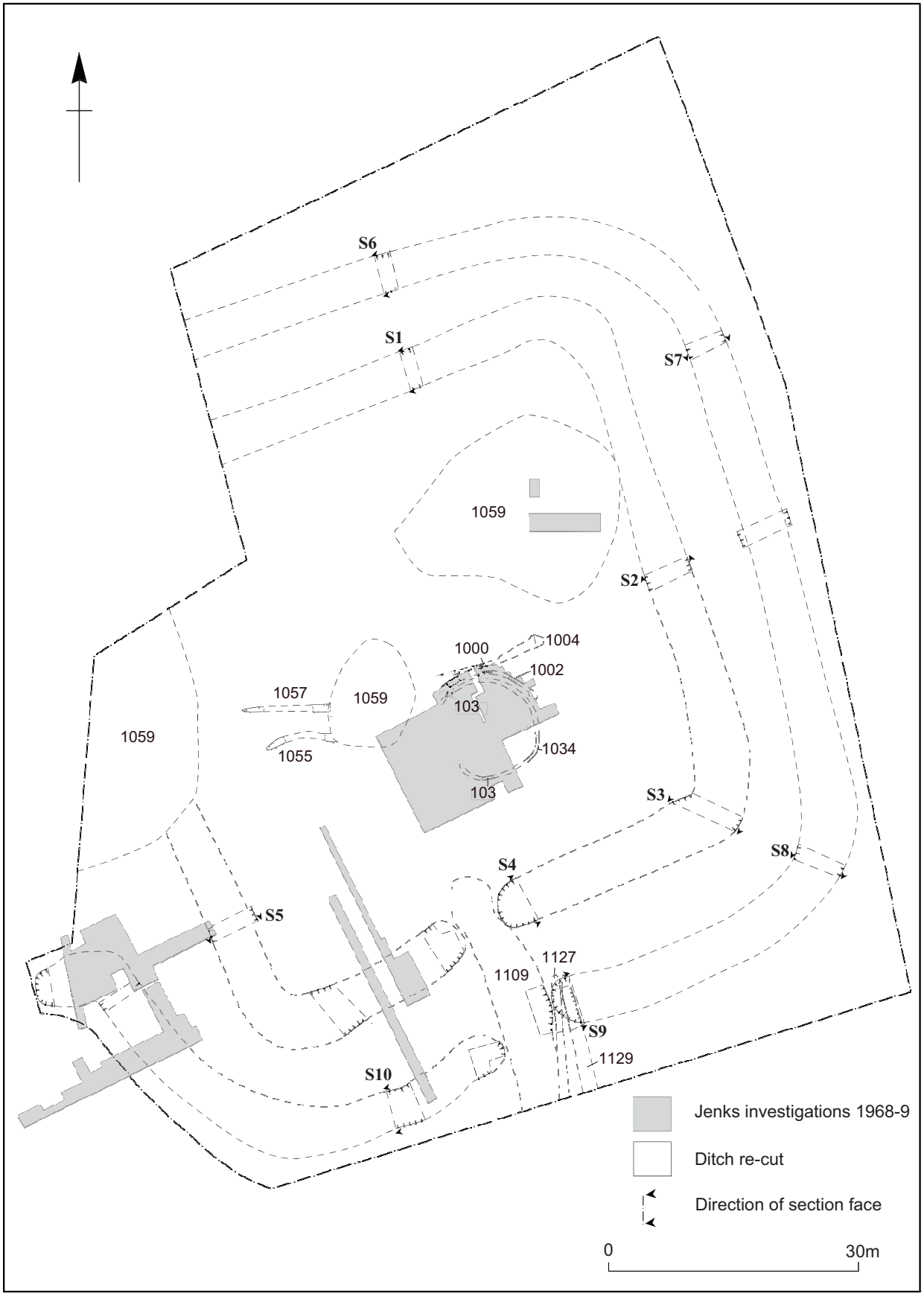

Figure 3 Excavation, simplified plan of the main features.

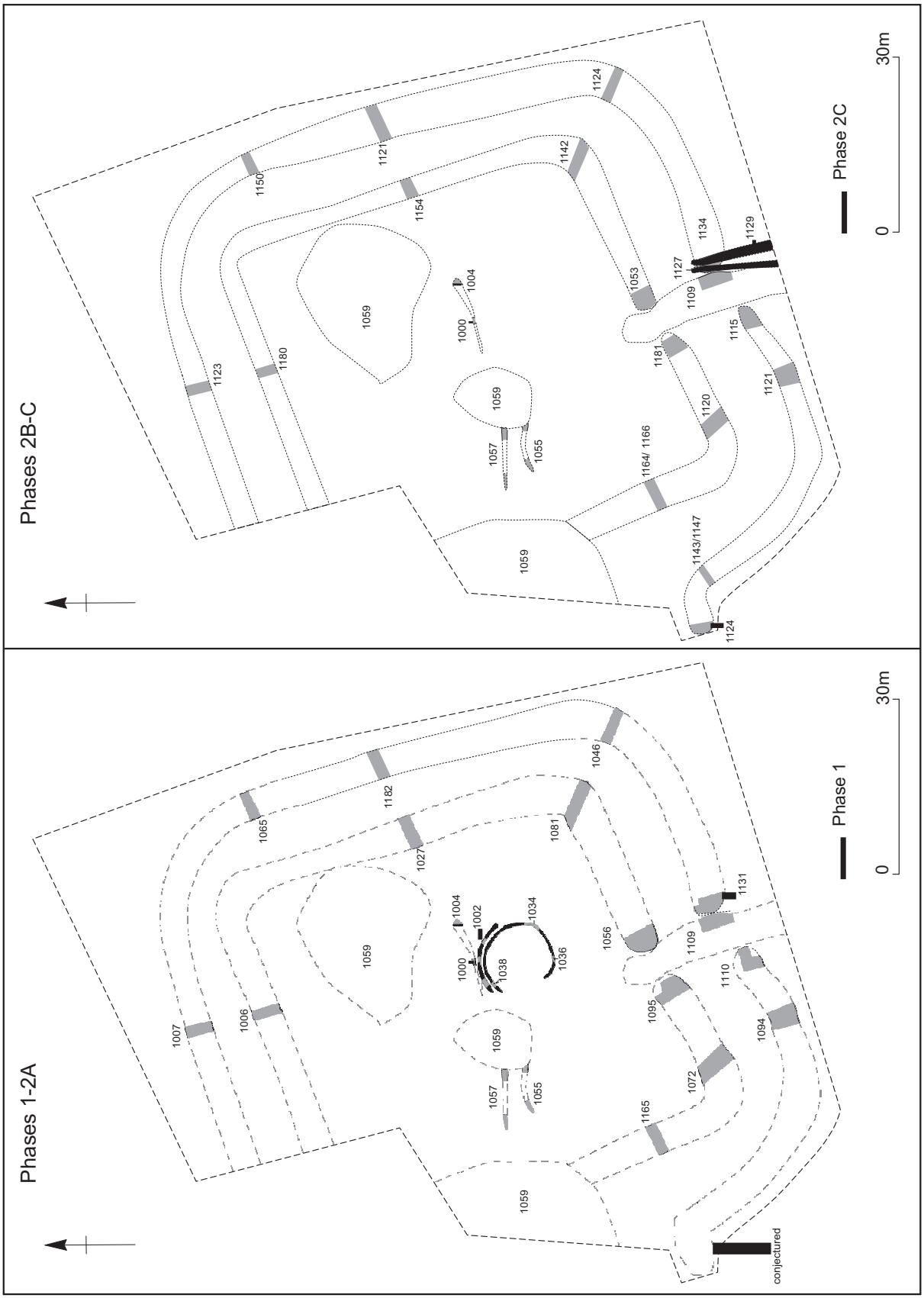

Figure 4 Phase 1–2A plan, and Phase 2B–2C plan.

Phase 1 features, Late Iron Age

Two incomplete ring-gullies (Figs. 3–5, Plate 1) were probably the earliest features identified. One circular ring-gully, 1034, 1036 and 1038, measured 12m. in diameter. It was defined by a U-shaped cut in profile, measuring a maximum of 0.3m. in width and 0.16m. in depth. It was backfilled with brown sand-clay-silt. A possible entry-gap was recorded on its western side, possibly enlarged by modern truncation. The northeastern arc of a second, more truncated ring-gully, 1002, was recorded just outside the first. This latter was cut to a U-shaped profile, and measured a maximum of 0.4m. in width and 0.18m. in depth. It was backfilled with brown sand-silt, flecked with charcoal. No internal features associated with either eaves-drip gully could be identified during the 2005 excavation.

The circular ring-gullies are attributed to this phase on the basis of the 17 sherds of Very Coarse Pottery (VCP, i.e. briquetage from the Cheshire salt production sites) (Barker *et al*. 1991, 40) recovered from the innermost ring-gully during the 1968–9 excavations, as well as the absence of Roman material from the same feature during the 2005 excavation. The excavator interpreted the Roman pottery from the inner ring-gully recovered during the 1968–9 excavation as intrusive.

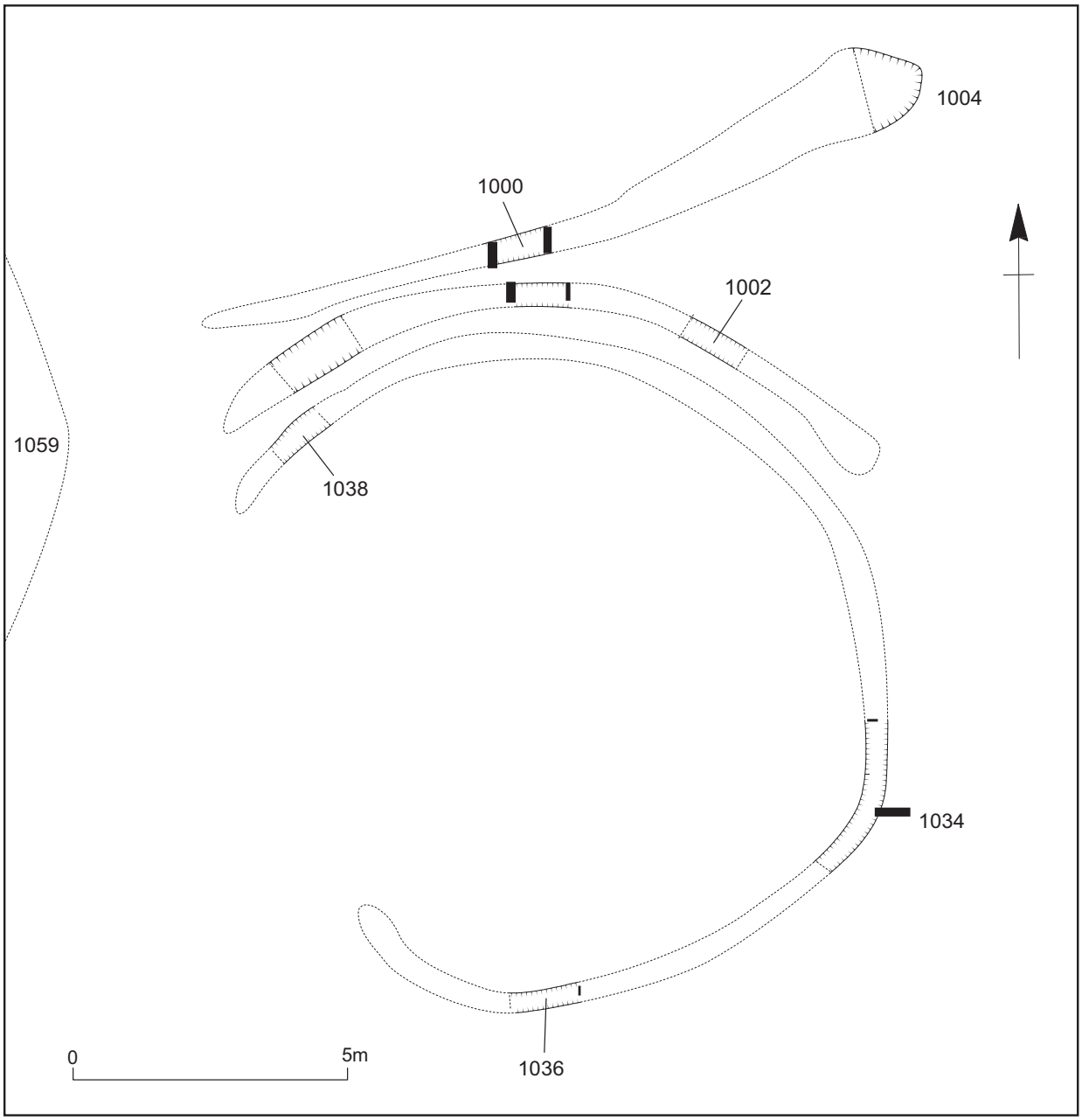

Figure 5 Detailed plan of ring-gully 1034, 1036, 1038.

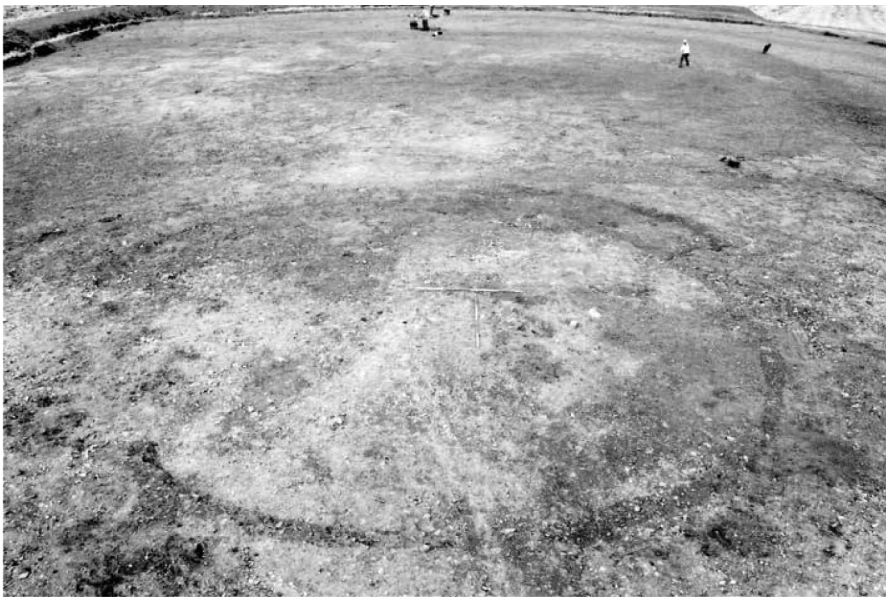

Plate 1 Eaves drip gully 1034/1036/1038, view north.

This earliest activity was also represented by four sherds of mudstone tempered ware dated to the Late Iron Age, recovered from the backfills of the Phase 2A inner ditch, and its Phase 2B re-cut.

Phase 2A, First double-ditched enclosure, Late Iron Age to 1st–early 2nd century AD

The earliest Late Iron Age–Roman activity was represented by a roughly rectangular, double-ditched enclosure (Figs. 3–4, 6–7, Table 1), draped around the highest point in the local topography.

The innermost ditch enclosed an internal area measuring 60m. square. The northern and eastern innermost ditches of the enclosure were regular in plan, while the southern and western sides of the enclosure were slightly inturned. Excavation revealed that the southern side of the innermost ditch was interrupted by an entry-gap measuring 5m. in width.

The innermost ditch measured a maximum of 5m. in width (Fig. 6.S1–S5), and was notably enlarged at the corners. The depth and profile of the ditch varied along its circuit, although its original dimensions and profile could not be established because of re-cutting (see below). The northern ditch, 1006 (Fig. 6.S1; Plate 2), was cut to a gently-sloping profile, and measured 1.1m. in depth and 5m. in width. Along the remaining sides of the enclosure the ditch was cut to a depth of 2m., increasing to 2.6m. at the entrance terminals. Away from the northern side of the enclosure the ditch was cut to a stepped profile, which suggested re-cutting, most notably at the entrance terminals.

The outermost ditch (Fig. 7.S6–S10) defined an area measuring 85m. square internally (Plate 3, segment 1007). It was cut approximately 12m. outside the innermost ditch (measured centre to centre), except along the more irregular eastern side of the enclosure. In contrast to the innermost ditch, which was cut with nearly right-angled corners, the outermost ditch had notably rounded corners. The southern side of the outermost ditch was interrupted by an entry-gap, positioned flush with the entry-gap across the innermost ditch. This entry-gap was further defined by a pebble path, 1109, which was recorded for a distance of 30m., but did not extend significantly within the enclosure interior. Beyond the southwestern angle of the enclosure, the presumed continuation of the Phase 2A outermost ditch was scoured-out by Phase 2B re-cutting (see below).

The outermost ditch measured an average of 5–6m. in width along its length. This ditch varied in depth and profile along its length, although its original dimensions could not be recovered because of re-cutting (see below). The northern outermost ditch of the enclosure, 1007 (Fig. 7.S6), measuring only 1.5m. in depth, was notably smaller than the same ditch along the remaining side of the enclosure. A length of the eastern ditch, 1182, was stepped in profile, probably as a result of re-cutting, and measured 1.8m. in depth. The profiles of the southern and western ditches were irregular, although they were more steeply-cut towards the entrances, as a result of re-cutting. Along these sides of the enclosure the ditch measured between 1.7m. and 2.4m. in depth.

No *in situ* evidence was recorded of an earthwork bank associated with either Phase 2A ditch, probably because of plough truncation. The primary innermost ditch backfills comprised blue-grey clay, flecked with charcoal in

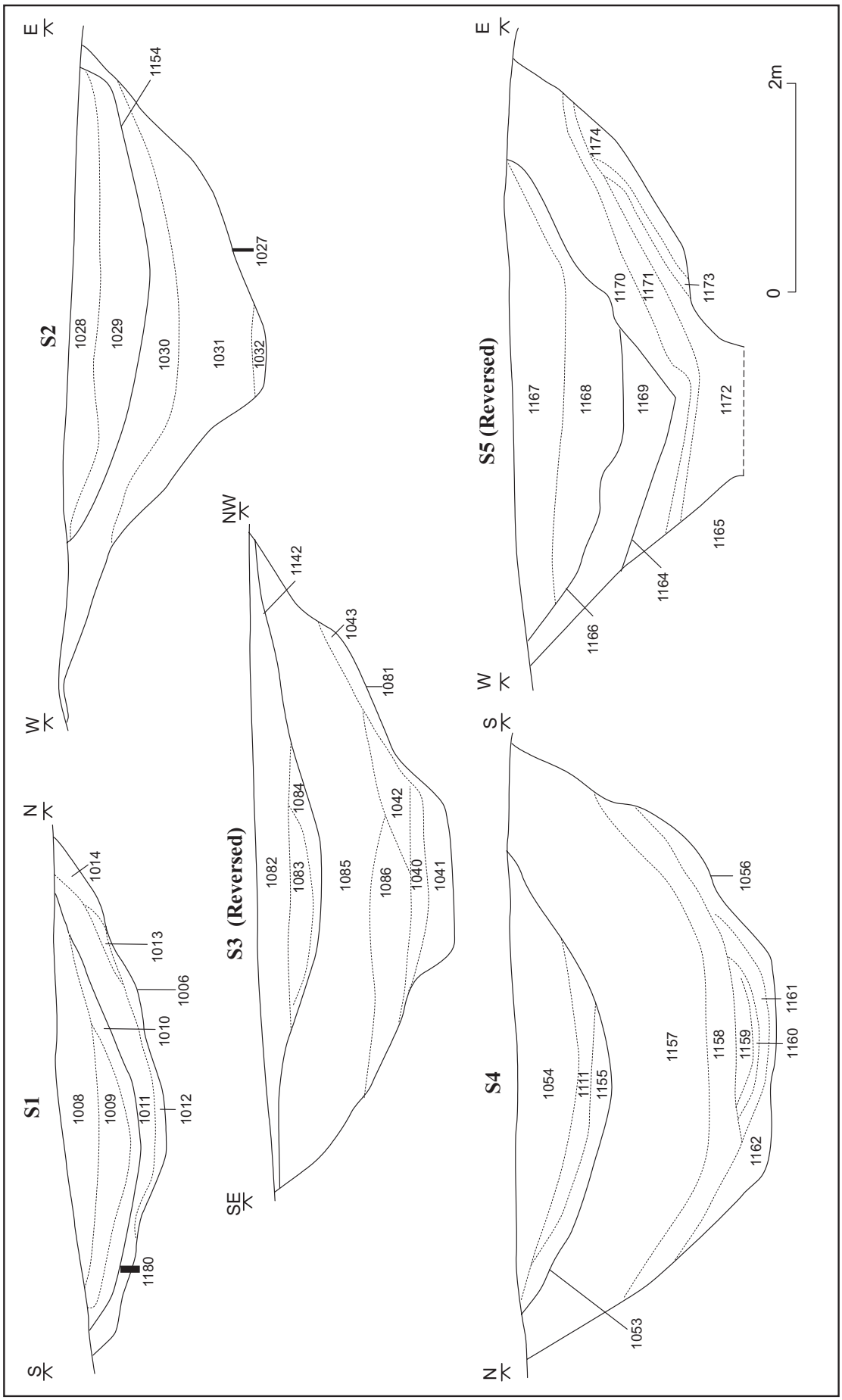

Figure 6 Phase 2A-2B inner ditch sections (S.1-S.5).

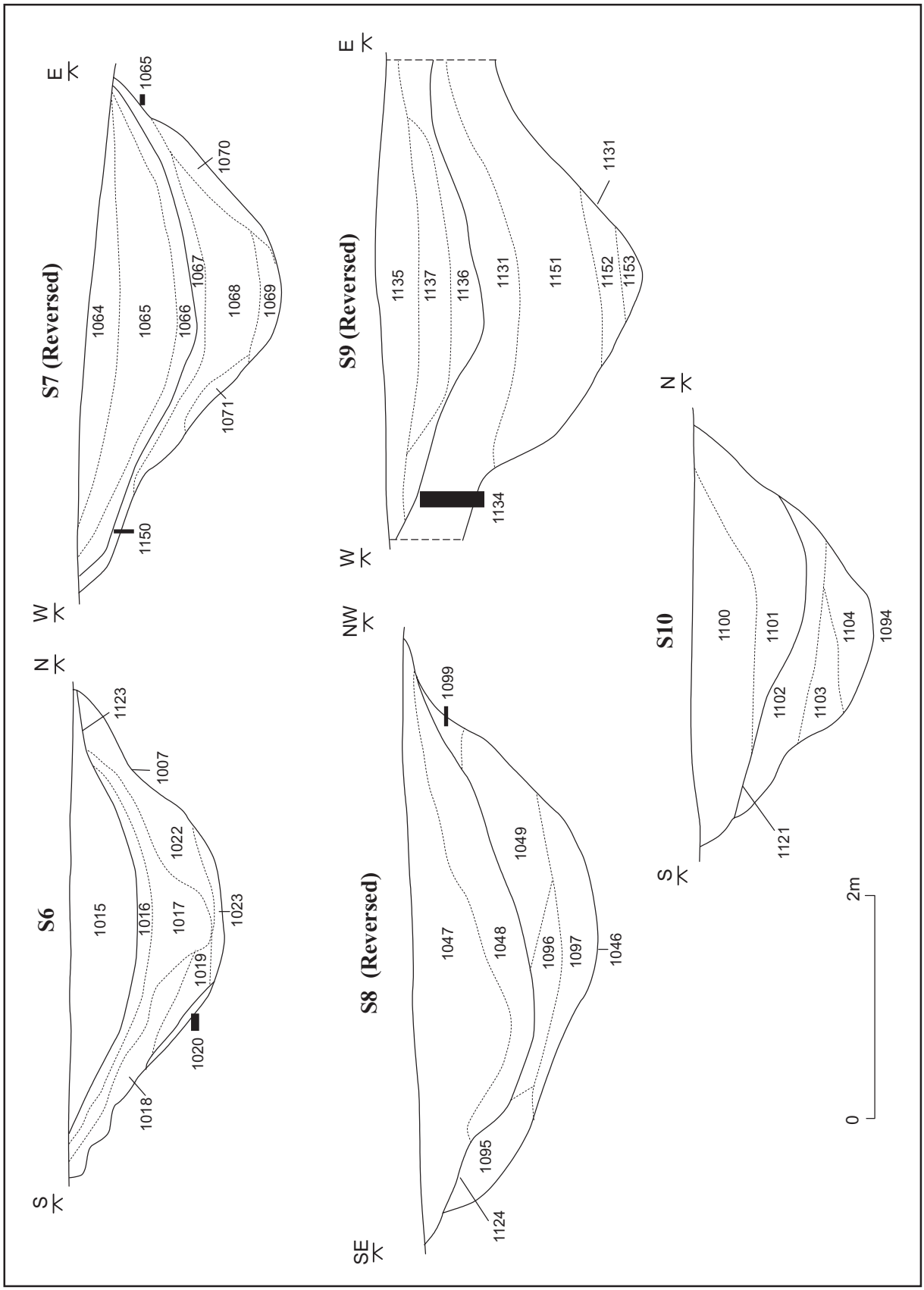

Figure 7 Phase 2A–2B outer ditch sections (S.6-S.10).

Table 1 Dating evidence from Phase 2A features.

Feature	Feature no	Spot date
Innermost ditch	1006	C1-C2
Innermost ditch	1027	C2; C1-C2; M-LIA-Conquest; Samian: pre-AD 120
Innermost ditch	1081	C1-C2; M-LIA-Conquest; Samian, Trajanic-Hadrianic
Outermost ditch	1182	C1-C2; Samian, Flavian-Trajanic and 2nd century
Outermost ditch	1094	C1-C3
Outermost ditch	1131	C1-C2; Samian, Flavian-Trajanic and 2nd century

Note: dating is from coarseware unless otherwise indicated.

Plate 2 Inner ditch (1006, Phase 2A; 1180, Phase 2B re-cut).

Plate 3 Outer ditch (1007, Phase 2A; 1123, Phase 2B re-cut).

Plate 4 Internal gully 1057 (Phase 2A–2B).

places. Most of this ditch was backfilled with red-brown silt-clay, flecked with charcoal. Along part of the ditch, particularly its northern and eastern sides, the sequence of ditch backfills suggested slumping from an external bank. Over the remainder of the Phase 2A ditch circuit the backfills suggested more or less even weathering of the ditch sides. Elsewhere, along the outermost ditch perimeter the sequence of ditch backfills suggested gradual weathering of the ditch sides. The primary backfills of the outer ditch comprised red-brown clay, sealed by grey-orange silt-sand with a very high stone content.

Three gullies, 1057 (Figs. 3–4; Plate 4), 1055 and 1000/1004, recorded within the enclosure interior could be associated with the Phase 2A enclosure or its Phase 2B successor (see below). The gullies followed an approximate east–west orientation. Their full plan could not be recovered because of extensive plough truncation, and modern disturbance (1059). Feature 1057 could represent the westward continuation of gully 1000/1004. Feature 1000 was cut to a U-shaped profile, and measured a maximum of 0.55m. in width, and 0.25m. in depth. It was backfilled with brown silt-clay. Adjoining features 1057 and 1055 measured an average of 0.75m. in width and 0.19m. in depth. They were backfilled with charcoal-rich silt.

The Phase 2A pottery dating evidence is summarised in Table 1. Innermost ditches 1006, 1072, and 1081, and outer ditch 1046 also contained pottery identified as Roman, which could not be more closely dated. Three fragments of an iron scabbard of Iron Age date, and three fragments of a dagger or iron sword also possibly of Iron Age date, were recovered from the backfills of the eastern and western terminals respectively of the Phase 2A outermost ditch (Stead below). Iron Age pottery was recovered from the primary fill of innermost ditch segment 1027 in the east of the enclosure. The recovery of Roman pottery from the primary fills of adjoining ditch segments (1006 and 1081) suggests that the material from 1027 was residual. Other Iron Age pottery from the same ditch derived from a layer sealing a deposit containing a quantity of Roman pottery.

Phase 2B, Second double-ditched enclosure, 2nd century

In Phase 2B both the Phase 2A innermost and outermost ditches were re-cut (Figs. 3–4, 6–7; Table 2) after they had been completely backfilled. Despite the re-cut, the position of the Phase 2A southern entry-gap continued to be maintained. The re-cut ditches were generally smaller and less steeply-cut than their Phase 2A predecessors.

A Phase 2B re-cut (Fig. 6.S1–S5) was recognised along the full length of the backfilled Phase 2A innermost ditch (Plate 2, segment 1180). In the westernmost excavated segment traces of two possible Phase 2B re-cuts, 1164 and 1166 (Fig. 6.S.5), were recorded. Along the ditch perimeter the re-cut ditch measured an average of 4m. in width, widening to 5–6m. at the southeastern corner of the enclosure. Overall, the Phase 2B innermost ditch was mostly cut to a gently-sloping, U-shaped profile, generally measuring 0.6–0.8m. in width. The ditch was more deeply-cut at its corners (e.g. Fig. 6.S3), where it measured between 1m. and 1.2m. in depth.

The outermost re-cut ditch (Fig. 7.S.6–S.10; Plate 3, segment 1123, Plate 5, segment 1143), broadly followed the line of the Phase 2A outermost enclosure ditch, maintaining a distance of between 12–15m. from the innermost

Table 2 Dating evidence from Phase 2B features.

Feature	Feature no	Spot date
Innermost ditch	1180	C2
Innermost ditch	1154	C2
Innermost ditch	1053	C1-C2; C1-C3; Samian, AD 100-120, Flavian-Trajanic, Hadrainic-Antonine
Innermost ditch	1164	LC2-MC3; L1-E2; samian, Hadrianic-Antonine, Hadrianic
Innermost ditch	1120	C1-C2
Outermost ditch	1142	C2-C4; Samian, Flavian, Flavian-Trajanic

Plate 5 Outer ditch (1143, Phase 2B).

re-cut ditch (measured centre to centre). The re-cut outermost ditch measured an average of 4.5m. in width, and 0.8m.–1m. in depth. This Phase 2B ditch was cut to a gently-sloping, U-shaped profile, except at the southeastern and southwestern corners of the enclosure, where the ditch had a flat base, and a more steeply-sloping western side, possibly as a result of re-cutting. The southwestern terminal of a second entry-gap, located along the western side of the outer ditch, was defined by an out-turned ditch segment which was repeatedly re-cut in Phase 2B (1124, 1143 and 1147). The opposing northwestern terminal of this entrance lay outside the area excavated. Similarly, Phase 2B re-cutting was recorded along the adjoining length of the contemporary innermost ditch (1164 and 1166).

There was no *in situ* evidence of an earthwork bank associated with either Phase 2B ditch re-cut. The sequence of backfills varied along the inner re-cut ditch perimeter. The primary backfills mostly comprised a dark grey-brown silt, sealed by brown clay-sand, overlain by a brown clay-silt. All the ditch backfills had a high pebble content. The character and profile of the innermost ditch backfills mostly suggests gradual infilling as a result of weathering. The primary backfill of the outermost re-cut ditch was a red-brown silt-clay, with occasional gravel scatters. Above was a layer of dark brown silt-clay with rounded pebbles, sealed by a layer of yellow-brown silt-clay.

The Phase 2A east–west aligned gullies (see above) and pebble path, 1109, may have continued in use in Phase 2B.

The Phase 2B dating evidence is summarised in Table 2**.** The only pottery from outermost ditch segment 1124 and innermost ditch 1142 was dated broadly to the Roman period. Innermost ditch terminal 1053 also produced a single residual sherd of Late Iron Age pottery.

Phase 2C, Later Roman field boundaries (Fig. 4)

The latest identifiable Roman features comprised the northern terminals of two converging, roughly north–south aligned field boundaries, 1127 and 1129. Both were cut into the backfilled southeastern terminal of the outermost Phase 2B enclosure ditch, presumably after it went out of use. Neither extended within the enclosure interior. The

field boundaries were cut to U-shaped profiles, and measured an average of 0.8m. in width and 0.45m. in depth. They were backfilled with dark brown clay-silt. The only other Phase 2C feature was an irregularly-shaped re-cut, 1087 (not illustrated), dug into the backfilled southwestern angle, 1120, of the Phase 2B inner ditch.

Phase 3, Post-Roman features

Post-Roman features comprised plough furrows (not illustrated) and areas of backfilled quarrying, 1059 (Fig. 3), not here described in detail.

Finds

Iron scabbard and blade (by Dr. Ian Stead)

Catalogue

1. Three pieces from an empty iron scabbard (Fig. 8), each comprising the two plates. Two pieces join to form a 238mm. length and the separate piece is 114mm. long. The scabbard is 39mm. wide at the top and maintains this width until almost the bottom of the separate piece, where it is 38mm. wide. The front plate overlaps the back with quite narrow flat overlaps, 2–2.5mm. wide. The campanulate mouth is damaged but its full height, 13mm., survives on the back plate. The suspension loop is 14mm. wide and 23mm. long including the sloping ends; the entire length of the attachment is 43mm. The loop plates are symmetrical, short and tapering with rounded ends. The upper loop plate is marginally shorter, 9mm. long compared with 11mm. for the lower loop plate. On the front plate bordering grooves about 1mm. from each edge continue round the mouth and a cross groove, 35mm. from the top, defines a decorated mouth panel. Much of the decoration has been lost to corrosion but a triangular shape defined by slightly concave lines can be distinguished and within it there are traces of hatching. Eastern outermost ditch terminal 1131, context 1151, Phase 2A (see Fig. 7.S9 for location).

The diagnostic feature of the Meole Brace scabbard (Fig. 8) is its suspension loop which is Type 2a indicating that the scabbard belongs to Group B, the equivalent of continental La Tène II scabbards. Although very narrow, it would have been a Type M scabbard of medium length, lacking a midrib or median ridge, with a closed chape end. It would have been designed for a Type ii sword whose blade would have been lenticular in section and have had a slight taper probably ending in a short point. When complete the scabbard would have been more than 600mm. long, so much is missing from the Meole Brace specimen. Chronology depends on typology, which suggests that the scabbard could have been as early as the second half of the 3rd century or as late as the second half of the 2nd century BC (for a discussion of the chronology and details of the typology, see Stead 2006).

2. Three separate lengths of an iron blade (not illustrated) with corroded edges: 86mm. long and 33mm. wide; 101mm. long and 32mm. wide; and 71mm. long and 26mm. wide, perhaps tapering to 24mm. wide. It is lenticular in section, 7mm. thick on the two longer pieces and reducing from 7mm. to 5mm. on the shorter tapering piece. Western outermost ditch terminal 1110, context 1117, Phase 2A.

The artefact cannot be dated other than by its context. If it is Iron Age then it is conceivable that it was a sword: the three lengths could be matched in width in the middle and lower parts of the extremely narrow blade from Newbridge (*Ibid*., no. 54, a Type i tapering blade). But it is perhaps more likely that they came from a dagger, in which case most of the blade is represented.

Late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery (by C Jane Evans, with contributions by Felicity Wild, samian, and David Williams, amphorae

Introduction

The excavation produced 347 sherds of pottery, weighing approximately 2.8kg. The assemblage dated primarily to the early Roman period, from the late 1st to late 2nd centuries, but also included five sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. The assemblage adds to the growing body of quantified data from the Wroxeter Hinterland and provides further evidence for the date and character of Roman activity at Meole Brace.

Taphonomy

The majority of the assemblage came from the two enclosure ditches, and their subsequent re-cuts (Table 3). A total of twelve sherds were recovered from a Phase 2A/B linear gully (cut 1057, fill 1058), but no pottery was

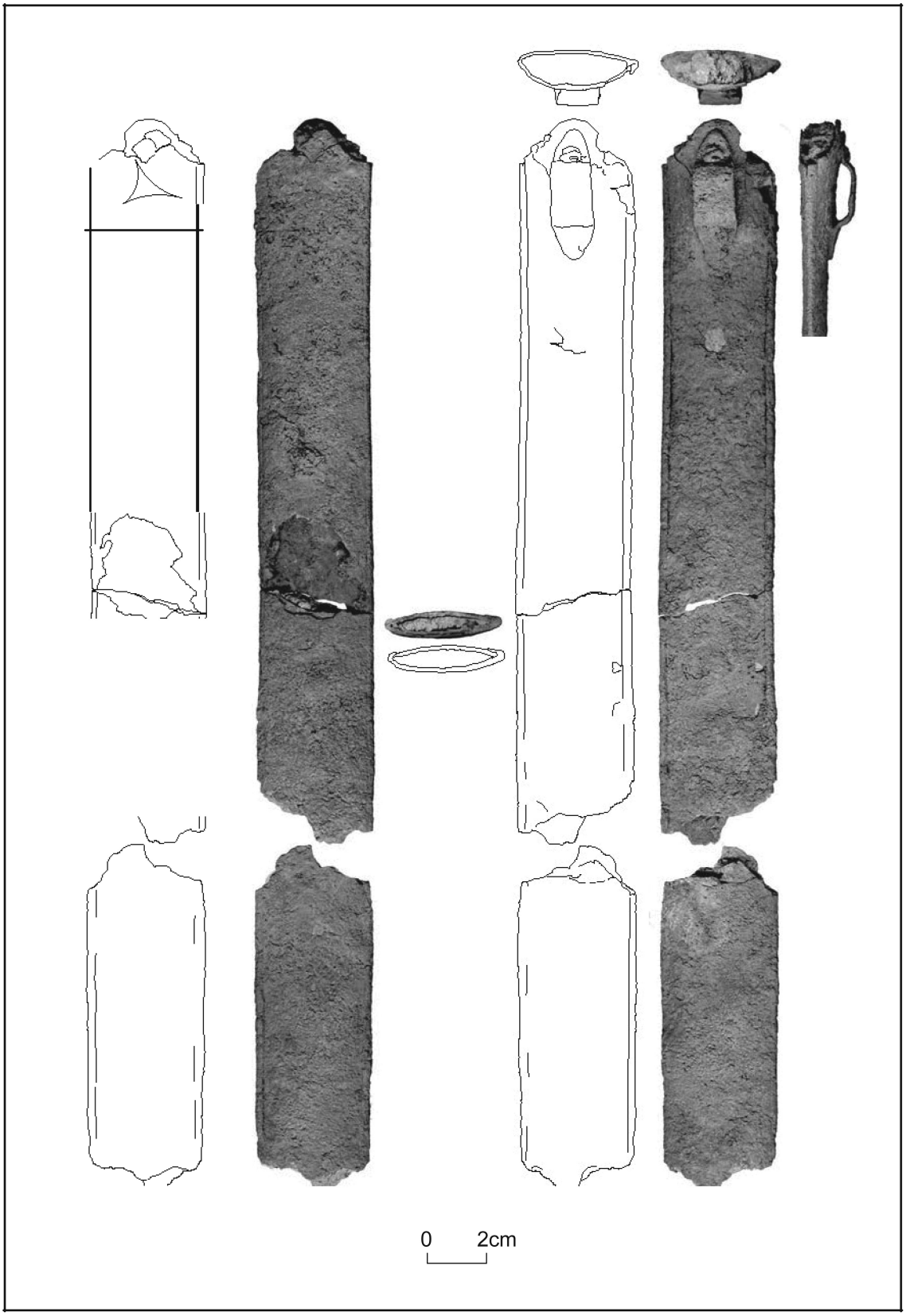

Figure 8 Iron scabbard and sword.

Table 3 Pottery, summary of the assemblage by feature type.

Feature Type	Qty.	% Qty.	Wt.(g)	% Wt.	Rim %	% Rim EVE	Average Wt.
Ditch	292	84.1%	2259	81.5%	232	91.4%	8
Gully	12	3.5%	187	6.7%	10	3.9%	16
Unassigned	43	12.4%	326	11.8%	12	4.7%	8
Total	347		2772		254		8

Table 4 Pottery, summary of the assemblage by phase.

Phase	Qty.	% Qty.	Wt.(g)	% Wt.	Rim %	% Rim EVE	Average Wt.
2A	154	44.4%	834	30.1%	90	35.4%	5
2A / 2B	15	4.3%	210	7.6%	10	3.9%	14
2B	170	49.0%	1695	61.1%	148	58.3%	10
Unphased	8	2.3%	33	1.2%	6	2.4%	4
Total	347		2772		254		8

Table 5 Pottery, the fabrics.

Fabric Name	Wroxeter Fabric Code (Evans 2000a)	Description/references (T&D = Tomber and Dore 1998)
Mudstone tempered ware	NAT1	Morris 1982, Group D; Morris 1983. Not clearly defined at Wroxeter, but probably subsumed under 'NAT' (Evans 2000a, 247)
Severn Valley ware, ox.	SVO	Variant with moderate quartz, Evans 2000a 247
	SVOF	Standard SV fabric: **SVW OX 2**, T&D 149, Pl 122; Webster 1976, Rawes 1982
	SVOFG	Variant with more obvious clay pellets
	SVOFL	Variant with more obvious limestone
Organic tempered SVW, ox.	SVORGO	Organic tempered variant, oxidised (elongated voids appearing as black/dark grey streaks in fracture; Bryant and Evans 2004, 250-3
Severn Valley ware, red.	SVR	Standard fabric, reduced
Wroxeter sandy ware, ox.	WWO	Evans 2000a 248. Similar to SVO but with abundant quartz, cf **WRX OX**, T&D 178, pl 149a
Wroxeter white colour coated ware, ox.	WWOCF	Evans 2000a 249. This is a finer variant of the Wroxeter white colour coated ware, fabric similar to SVO
Wroxeter sandy ware, red	WWR	Evans 2000a, 248. Reduced variant of WWO
Wroxeter white ware	CREAM	Evans 2000a, 249. cf **WRX WH**, T&D 179, pl 150a, c
Malvenian group A, handmade	MALVH	**MAL RE A** ,T&D 147, plate 120; Peacock 1967, Peacock 1968
South-east Dorset BB1	BB1	**DOR BB 1**, T&D 127, pl 100; Williams 1977; Seager Smith and Davies, 1993
Mancetter Hartshill mortarium	MANCH	**MAH WH**, T&D 189, pl 157a-d
Samian, South Gaulish	SAMSG	General category
Samian, Central Gaulish	SAMCG	General category
Samian, CG Lezoux (1st century)	SAMCG1	**LEZ SA** 1, T&D 31, pl 20
Samian, CG Les Martres-de-Veyre	SAMSG2	**LMV SA**, T&D, 30, pl 19
Amphorae, Baetican Dressel 20	DR20	Peacock and Williams 1986, class 25; **BAT AM 2**, T&D 85, pl 62

Table 6 Pottery, quantification by fabric and sources.

FAB CODE	Qty.	% qty	Wt. (g)	% wt.	Rim %	% Rim EVE	Average Wt.
SVO	130	37.5%	664	24.0%	36	14.2%	5
SVOF	49	14.1%	358	12.9%	44	17.3%	7
SVOFG	1	0.3%	19	0.7%	0	0.0%	19
SVOFL	9	2.6%	83	3.0%	0	0.0%	9
SVORGO	2	0.6%	11	0.4%	0	0.0%	6
SVR	3	0.9%	16	0.6%	0	0.0%	5
Total Severn Valley	*194*	*55.9%*	*1151*	*41.5%*	*80*	*31.5%*	*6*
WWO	100	28.8%	333	12.0%	30	11.8%	3
WWOCF	2	0.6%	21	0.8%	11	4.3%	11
WWR	2	0.6%	6	0.2%	0	0.0%	3
Total Wroxeter ware	*104*	*30.0%*	*360*	*13.0%*	*41*	*16.1%*	*3*
CREAM	11	3.2%	63	2.3%	0	0.0%	6
Total Local	**309**	**89.0%**	**1574**	**56.8%**	**121**	**47.6%**	**5**
MALVH	8	2.3%	105	3.8%	12	4.7%	13
MANCH	2	0.6%	22	0.8%	9	3.5%	11
BB1	3	0.9%	29	1.0%	10	3.9%	10
Total Traded	**13**	**3.7%**	**156**	**5.6%**	**31**	**12.2%**	**12**
SAMCG	6	1.7%	8	0.3%	5	2.0%	1
SAMCG1	2	0.6%	9	0.3%	10	3.9%	5
SAMCG2	4	1.2%	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	1
SAMSG	3	0.9%	21	0.8%	0	0.0%	7
DR20	5	1.4%	979	35.3%	87	34.3%	196
Total imports	**20**	**5.8%**	**1019**	**36.8%**	**102**	**40.2%**	**51**
Total pottery	**342**		**2749**		**254**		**8**

recovered from the Phase 1 ring-gullies. The remaining 12% of the assemblage, by count, came from other contexts.

In terms of sherd count, slightly more pottery came from the second ditched enclosure, Phase 2B, than the first, Phase 2A (Table 4). Quantifying the assemblages by weight and rim EVE (Estimated Vessel Equivalent) the difference is far more pronounced, with significantly higher proportions coming from Phase 2B. These figures, however, are heavily biased by the distribution of heavy amphorae sherds: Phase 2A produced one sherd weighing 96g. and Phase 2B two sherds weighing 775g., the latter including a near complete rim (87%).

Methodology

The pottery was analysed using a hand lens at x10 magnification. Fabrics (Tables 5–6) and forms were recorded with reference to the published series from the Wroxeter baths and *macellum* (Evans 2000a; Evans 2000b). Where possible, fabrics have also been cross referenced with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). Precise form types and broad vessel classes (for example bowl, cook pot) were recorded where possible. Evidence for manufacture (wasters), use (sooting) and repair (rivets and rivet holes) was recorded if evident. However, the assemblage was extremely abraded by the acidic soils on site, and little surface evidence survived. Enough diagnostic forms were present to provide dating evidence for activity. Where possible these have been illustrated (Fig. 9), published parallels being cited for more fragmentary rims. The assemblage was quantified by sherd count, weight and rim EVE. Data for base EVEs are recorded in the archive. The pottery data, recorded in Excel, was imported into Microsoft Access 2002 so that it could be analysed in relation to the stratigraphic data provided by Birmingham Archaeology.

Fabrics

19 fabrics were recorded, one of which probably dated to the Late Iron Age. Nine of the 18 Roman fabrics were either Severn Valley ware variants (SVO, SVOF, SVOFG, SVOFL, SVORGO, SVR) or Wroxeter ware variants (WWO, WWOCF, WWR). These represent a spectrum of fabrics ranging from the standard Severn Valley ware (SVOF) and a slightly sandier Severn Valley variant (SVO), through to the much sandier 'Wroxeter wares'. All of these, and the white ware (CREAM), are likely to have been made fairly locally, probably at Wroxeter, to the east. Local pottery, therefore, makes up 89% of the assemblage when quantified by sherd count. Once again, the proportion by weight and rim EVE is biased by the presence of heavy amphorae sherds.

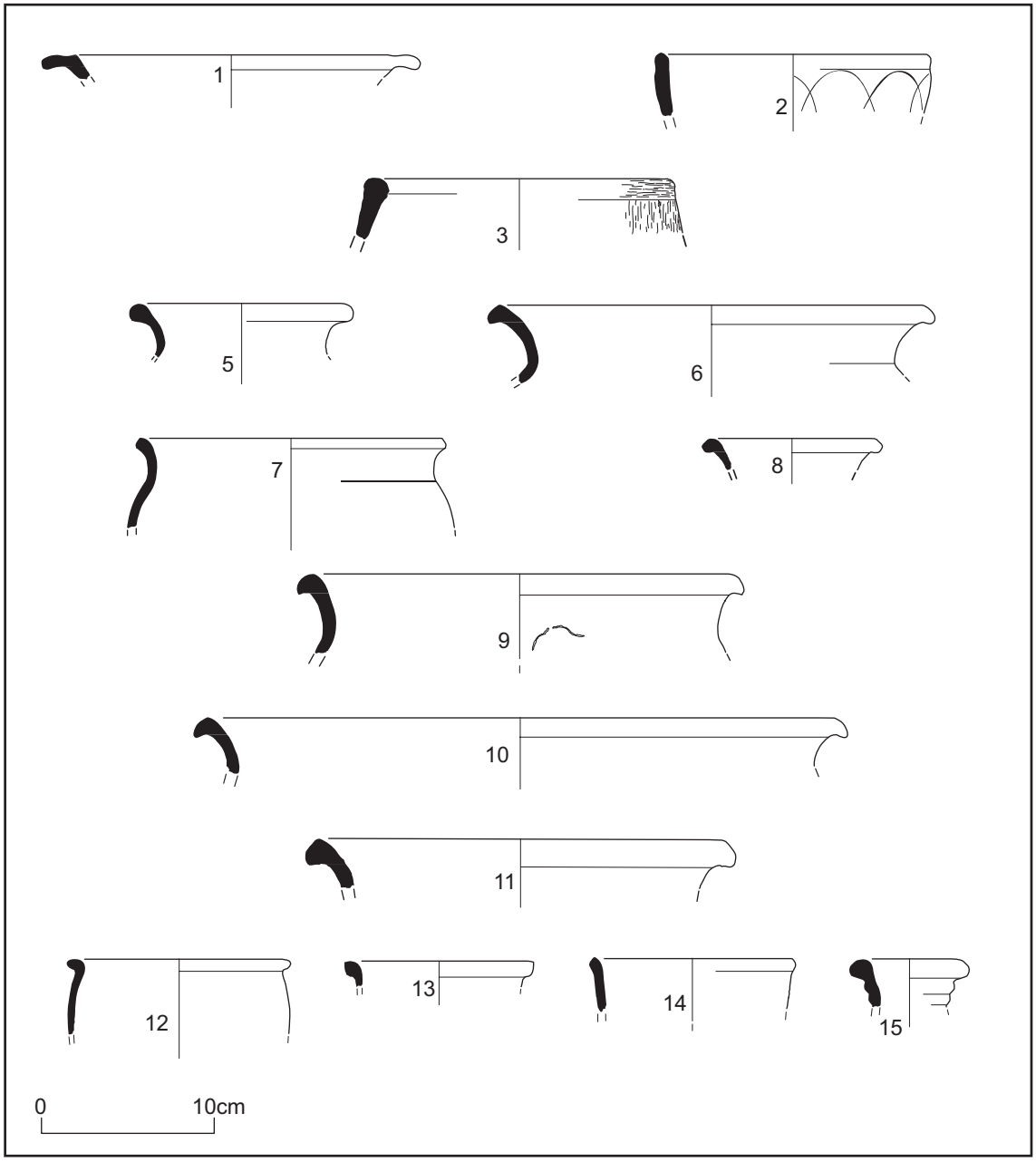

Figure 9 Pottery, nos. 1-3 and 5-15.

Only three more widely traded Romano-British wares are represented: cooking vessels from Malvern and southeast Dorset (MALVH and BB1) and mortaria from Mancetter–Hartshill. Of these, Malvern and Mancetter Hartshill both count as regional producers. BB1 present on most 2nd century and later sites in the region, was therefore the only non-regional ware reaching the site.

The only imports were samian, from South and Central Gaul, and Dressel 20 amphorae. These represented 6% of the assemblage by sherd count.

The significance of the sources represented is discussed below.

Dating

While no pottery was recovered from the Late Iron Age ring-gullies, a small quantity of typically Late Iron Age pottery was found to be residual in the Phase 2A–2B ditches. Two lower fills of the first innermost ditch, Phase 2A (ditch 1027, context 1032; ditch 1081, context 1086), and context 1054 within Phase 2B innermost ditch 1053, produced sherds of Group D mudstone tempered ware (Morris 1982, 1983). This fabric is typical of Middle and Late Iron Age sites in the Welsh Marches (Woodward 1994, 74), but is most common on Late Iron Age sites (Morris 1982). It does not appear to continue in use into the Roman period. It was recorded in the earlier

excavation at this site (Morris 1991), and has also been found at other sites in the Wroxeter hinterland (Woodward 1994, 74–5). It is thought to have been produced in the Martley area of Worcestershire.

Overall, the Roman pottery indicated activity on the site from the late 1st to the end of the 2nd century. The samian (Wild below) included Flavian to Trajanic samian from South and Central Gaul, the latter from both Lezoux and Les Martres de Veyre. The assemblage also produced a Dressel 20 amphorae rim dated by David Williams to *c*.AD 70–110 (Williams below). This period of activity is represented amongst the coarse wares, with forms dating broadly to the late 1st to early 2nd century. These comprised: a Malvernian tubby cooking pot with an inturned rim (Fig. 9.3); Severn Valley ware jars (Fig. 9.7–8); a beaker and jar in Wroxeter ware, both of types associated with military contexts at Wroxeter (Fig. 9.12–13); a typically early carinated bowl, also in Wroxeter ware (Fig. 9.14); and a white colour coated ware flagon (Fig. 9.15). As can be seen from the specialist reports and the catalogue below, a number of these were associated with Phase 2A deposits, thus dating the Phase 2A ditched enclosure. Some of the Severn Valley ware vessels associated with Phase 2A were longer-lived types (Fig. 9.5, 9–11), produced from the 2nd to the 3rd or even 4th centuries. The absence of Black Burnished ware (BB1), however, supports a *terminus ante quem* of *c*.AD 120 for this phase. It seems likely, therefore, that the later 2nd to early 3rd century Mancetter Hartshill mortarium (Timby below) from the Phase 2A outer ditch (cut 1094, fill 1104), is intrusive.

Fifteen sherds came from contexts attributed broadly to Phase 2A/B. These included a sherd of samian from Les Martres de Veyre in Central Gaul, dated Trajanic–Hadrianic.

The assemblage associated with the Phase 2B re-cut ditches included residual early material: sherds of Flavian/Trajanic samian, the Dressel 20 amphorae and some late 1st to 2nd century coarse ware forms. However, sherds of Central Gaulish samian indicated activity dating to at least the Hadrianic or Hadrianic/Antonine periods, and the BB1 forms (Fig. 9.1–2) suggested a date in the later 2nd century. A Severn Valley ware jar with a hooked rim is consistent with at least a 2nd century date (Fig. 9.6)

Catalogue of illustrated forms (Fig. 9; no. 4 is not illustrated)

BB1

1. B/D 23.2. Fragment from a conical bowl or dish with a flat, grooved rim (Evans 2000b, fig 4.69). The type is dated by Gillam to *c*.AD 180–210 (Gilam 1976, 67–70). Diam. 20 cm. (4%). Phase 2B, re cut-innermost ditch 1164, layer 1167.
2. D3.1. Plain rimmed dish, very slightly indented below the rim (Evans 2000b, fig. 4.70). This is a long-lived type that first becomes common in the late 2nd century (WA Type 20, Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 233, fig. 123). The illustrated example is decorated with burnished, intersecting arcs, forming a pattern of cross hatch. Diam. 17cm. (6%). Phase 2B, outermost ditch 1143, layer 1145.

MALVH

3. JC1.3. 'Tubby cooking pot' with an inturned rim that is thickened internally. No exact parallels in the Wroxeter form series. The form is dated by Peacock from the 1st to early 2nd centuries (Peacock 1967, 18, fig. 1, 9–11). Diam. 13cm. (10%). Phase 2A/B, gully 1057, layer 1058.
4. JC1.1 (not illustrated). Fragment from a 'Tubby cooking pot' with a near upright rim (Evans 2000b, fig. 4.54). Peacock dates this form to the 2nd century (Peacock 1967, fig. 1, 1–7), but subsequent evidence has indicated it is also present in 1st century contexts (Green and Evans 2001, 105). Diam. uncertain (*c*.2%). Phase 2B innermost ditch 1154, context 1029.

SVO

5. JN4.3. Fragmentary rim from a narrow mouthed jar with a near triangular rim (Evans 2000b, fig. 4.56). Similar forms are associated with the infilling of the Wroxeter *natatio*, dated to the Antonine period (Evans and Timby 2000, fig. 4.92 4, 5), but the form dates more broadly from the 2nd to 4th centuries (Webster 1976, fig. 1 A3, 4). Diam. 13cm. (5%). Phase 2A outermost ditch 1131, layer 1132.
6. JW2.3. Wide mouthed jar with an overhanging, 'hooked' rim (Evans 2000b fig. 4.61). Broadly dated by Webster from the 2nd–4th centuries (Webster 1976, fig. 4, C22/23). Diam. 25cm. (5%). Phase 2B, outermost ditch 1134, layer 1136.
7. JW3.2. Wide mouthed jar with an upright neck and gently out-turned rim; dated by Webster to the 1st to 2nd centuries (Webster 1976, fig. 4 C20; cf Evans 2000b fig. 4.61). Diam. 19cm. (27%). Phase 2A innermost ditch 1027, layer 1031.

SVOF

8. JN4.2. Fragmentary rim from a narrow mouthed jar with a pronounced bead rim, a late 1st to mid 2nd century type (Webster 1976, fig. 1 A2; Evans 2000b, fig. 4.56). Diam. 12cm (10%). Phase 2A, outermost ditch 1131, layer 1132.
9. JW2.3. Wide mouthed jar with an overhanging, 'hooked' rim (Evans 2000b, fig. 4.61); broadly dated by Webster from the 2nd–3rd centuries (Webster 1976, fig. 4 C21/22). Diam. 23cm. (9%). Phase 2A, outermost ditch 1094, layer 1104.
10. JW2.3. Variant of No. 6 above. Diam. 31cm. (8%). Phase 2A, outermost ditch 1110, layer 1117.

11. JLS2.3. Fragment from a large storage jar with a triangular rim (Evans 2000b, fig. 4.62). The rim type is found on vessels dating from the 2nd–4th centuries (Webster 1976, fig. 1 A4). Diam 24cm. (6%). Phase 2B innermost ditch 1053, layer 1054.

WWO

12. BK3.1. Ovoid beaker with an everted rim. At Wroxeter this is a typically 1st century, military form: the majority of beakers from military contexts fell within this class. There were many variations of the form, though these were not considered to be chronologically significant (Evans 2000b, fig. 4.52). Diam. 12cm. (12%). Phase 2B outermost ditch 1134, layer 1136.
13. JM7.5. Fragmentary rim from a short necked jar, with an elongated bead rim. This is a form typically associated with military contexts at Wroxeter (Evans 200b, fig. 4.60). Diam. 12cm. (10%). Phase 2A innermost ditch 1006, layer 1012.
14. BA3.4. Fragmentary rim from a small carinated bowl (Evans 2000b fig. 4.64). This is Webster's Iron 'C' derived bowl type, dated by him to 1st to 2nd century. Diam. 13cm. (6%). Ploughsoil.

WWOCF

15. F4.42. Ring necked flagon with a pronounced upper ring and a slightly cupped mouth, similar to examples published from 1st and 2nd century contexts at Wroxeter (Evans 2000b, fig. 4.50). The more pronounced upper ring suggests it dates to the late 1st to early 2nd century. Diam. 7cm. (11%). Phase 2B, innermost ditch 1180, layer 1008.

Discussion

The proportions of the main fabric groups are illustrated below; for the assemblage as a whole (Fig. 10) and by phase (Fig. 11). These data can be compared with other sites studied in the Wroxeter Hinterland (Evans 2007, fig. 5.16). The proportions of Severn Valley ware, Malvernian ware, samian and BB1 (Fig. 11) are comparable with the broadly contemporary assemblage from Upton Cressett, dated to the late 1st to 2nd century (*op. cit.*, fig. 5.16d). The proportion of amphora, however, seems unusually high, particularly in Phase 2B (Fig. 11). The problems associated with quantifying amphorae have been discussed above. This is also a small assemblage, which would be particularly biased by the presence of few amphorae; in this case five sherds. However, it is worth noting that the proportion on this site is most comparable with sites such as Pentrehyling Fort, Brompton (Evans forthcoming, fig. 5.16e), a military site, and the roadside settlement excavated nearby at Meole Brace (Evans 1994; Evans 2007, fig. 5.16l). At the latter, the high proportion of amphorae was thought to indicate some type of service facility for travellers passing along the road. The Meole Brace roadside settlement produced a much larger assemblage than the one under discussion here (3,705 sherds, including 365 sherds of amphorae; Evans 1994, table 9), and there was other supporting evidence for this interpretation. It is possible, however, that the site under discussion here shared the same access to more exotic commodities passing along the road. The roadside settlement at Meole

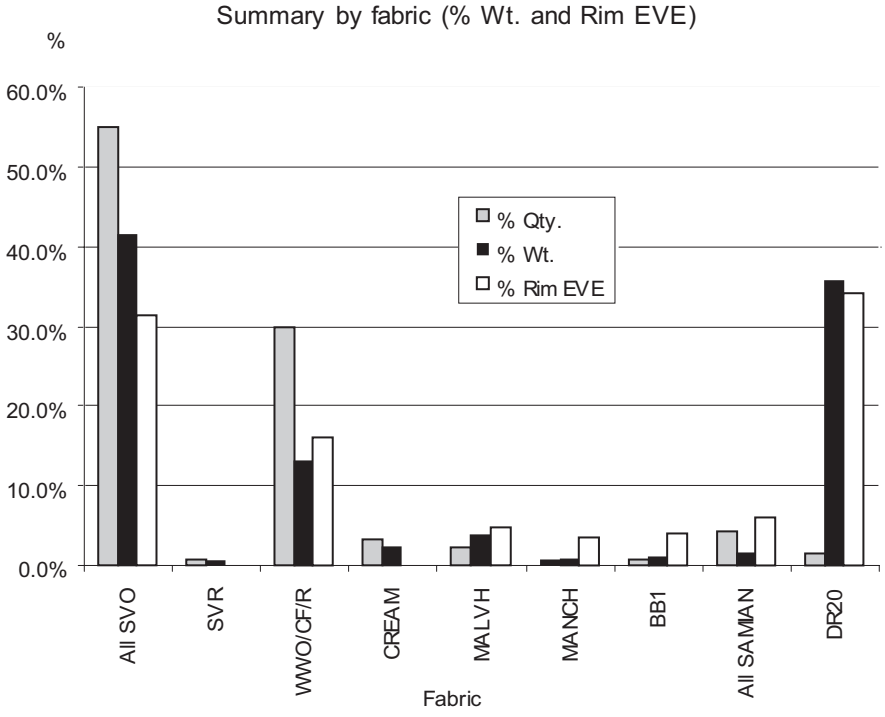

Figure 10 Pottery, summary of the assemblage by fabric.

Brace was thought to have developed when the road system to the west of Wroxeter was altered, in the Hadrianic period (White 2006). This might explain why the high proportion of amphorae on this site is particularly associated with Hadrianic–Antonine deposits (Phase 2B).

The range of vessel classes was also analysed (Fig. 12), although no strong patterns emerge. There is an emphasis on jars, particularly wide mouthed jars, but this is typical of many Roman sites. A range of other vessels were also used/deposited on the site; flagons, beakers, cups (a samian form 33 not represented by rim EVE), bowls, dishes and mortaria, reflecting some interest in 'Romanised' dining habits. Some of the forms (Fig. 9.12–13) are types associated with the Wroxeter legionary assemblage. Their presence is also evidence that the site occupants had access to, and an interest in, the continental style vessels used by the military at Wroxeter. This may again reflect access to the market in Wroxeter via the road network.

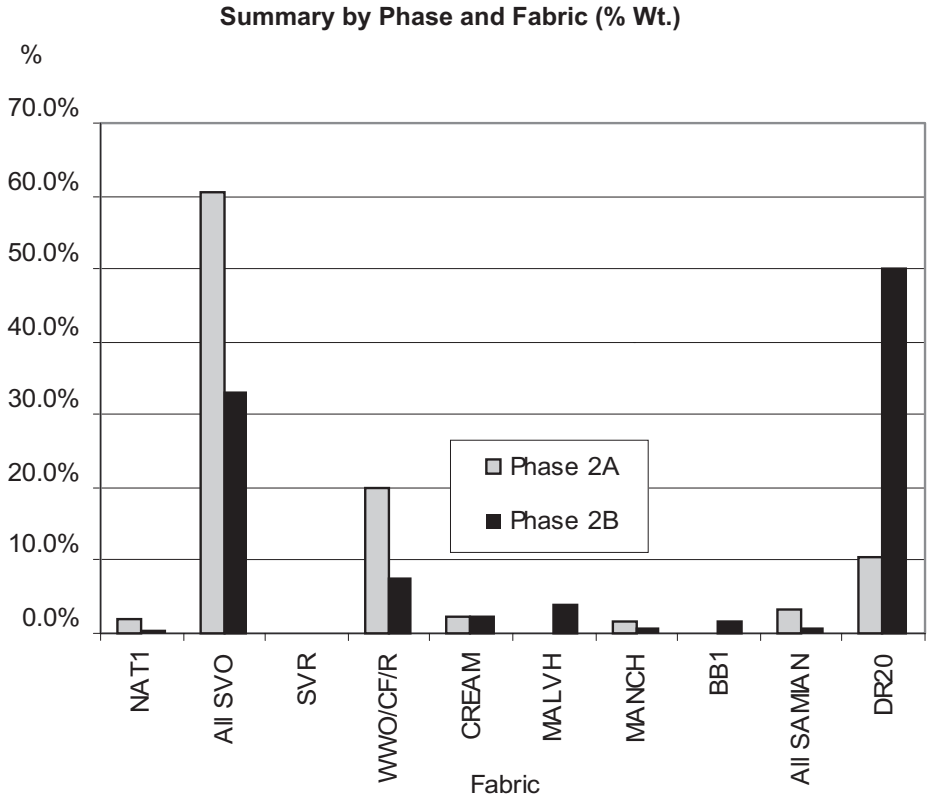

Figure 11 Pottery, summary by phase and fabric.

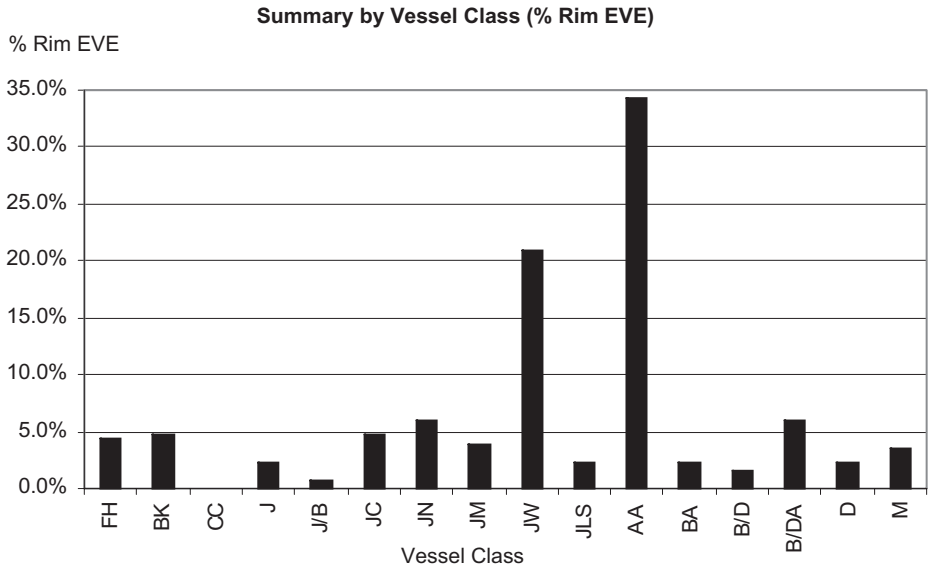

Figure 12 Pottery, summary by vessel class.

Mortarium (by Jane Timby)

Catalogue

1. Small abraded rimsherd with post-depositional surface patina from a Mancetter–Hartshill mortarium (Tomber and Dore 1998, 189, MAH WH). Cream to white fabric with sparse inclusions. The interior has a single extant trituration grit of a fine-grained red argillaceous inclusion. The vessel has an upstanding rim and a stubby downward projecting flange; this together with the type of trituration grit suggests a date probably in the later 2nd to early 3rd century. Context 1104, Phase 2A. (Not illustrated.)

Samian (by Felicity Wild)

The site produced 24 sherds of samian ware, mostly in tiny fragments, soft and degraded. In some cases, scraps were too small and degraded to be able to attribute the fabric to South or Central Gaul with any degree of reliability. Few were large or distinctive enough to identify the form. Of the sherds, eight were probably South Gaulish; and 16 from Central Gaul. Of the Central Gaulish sherds, two (joining) were probably in pre-export Lezoux fabric and of Flavian date; four, including the only decorated sherd, were in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre (Table 5). The date-range of the sherds in general was likely to have run from the Flavian period to the middle of the 2nd century AD. None of the sherds in standard Lezoux fabric looked particularly late.

The sherds were evenly divided between the ditches of the enclosures of Phase 2A (eleven sherds) and Phase 2B (13 sherds), with little or no obvious differences in the dating of the two phases.

Catalogue (not illustrated)

Phase 2A

1. Form 18, CG. Two joining sherds in an orange, non-micaceous fabric with silky, orange slip. Although lacking the characteristic mica, the fabric is likely to be that of Lezoux in the period before *c*.AD 120, when large-scale export started. Small quantities of this ware were reaching Britain during the second half of the 1st century AD. From the form, this piece is likely to be Flavian. Innermost ditch 1027, context 1031.
2. Dish or bowl fragment, SG, Flavian or Trajanic. Outermost ditch 1182, context 1081.
3. Two tiny scraps, CG, in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic or Hadrianic. Innermost ditch 1081, context 1043.

Outermost ditch 1182

4. Two tiny specks, too small for the fabrics to be identifiable with certainty, but probably CG, 2nd century. Contexts 1044–1045.

Outermost ditch 1131, context 1132

5. Body sherd of dish or bowl, and another scrap, both SG. Flavian or Trajanic.
6. Footring of cup and scrap of interior base, CG. If from the same vessel, probably form 33. 2nd century AD.

Phase 2B

Innermost ditch 1053

7. Form 37, CG, in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre, showing a panel with beaded border containing the stag (O.1704). Of the potters who worked at Les Martres, the stag was used by X13, who also used beaded borders (Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pl. 43, 499: 44, 502). *c*.AD 100–120. Context 1054.
8. Form 18 or 18/31 rim, and body sherd of uncertain form, both SG, Flavian or Trajanic. Context 1054.
9. Bowl rim, CG, Hadrianic or Antonine. Context 1054.
10. Form 33 rim, and body sherd from possible dish, both CG, Hadrianic or Antonine. Context 1111.

Innermost ditch 1142

11. Tiny scrap, SG, probably Flavian. Context 1082.
12. Footring scrap of dish, SG, Flavian or Trajanic. Context 1084.

Innermost ditch re-cut 1164, context 1167

13. Form 18/31 rim, CG, Hadrianic or Antonine
14. Two tiny flakes, CG, in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic or Hadrianic.
15. Scrap, CG, probably Hadrianic.

Amphorae (by David Williams)

A total of seven sherds of amphorae were recovered. Five sherds derived from Phase 2B ditch 1164 (1168); one from Phase 2A ditch 1143 (1145); and one from Phase 2A ditch 1063 (1058).

They all belong to the common globular-shaped amphora form Dressel 20, which carried olive-oil from Baetica in southern Spain and is found on many sites in Roman Britain, commonly reaching between 50–80% by weight of the total amphora assemblage (Williams and Peacock 1983; Peacock and Williams 1986, Class 25; Keay and Williams 2006). This form has a long production span, covering the period from the reign of Augustus until shortly after the middle of the 3rd century AD (Rodriguez-Almeida 1989). It is difficult to place the two plain bodysherds from Meole Brace at a particular point within this time frame but the rim offers more hope for dating, since Dressel 20 rims can be seen to evolve over the period of their production. Comparison with the well-dated stratigraphical classification of Dressel 20 rims from the Swiss forts of Augst and Kaiseraugst suggest that the Meole Brace rim dates to around the period *c*.A D 70–110 (Martin-Kilcher 1987, Beilage 2, no. 63).

Charred plant remains (by Val Fryer)

Introduction and methods

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within the primary and re-cut ditches. The samples were bulk floated by Birmingham Archaeology and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Tables 7–8. Nomenclature within the tables follows Stace (1997). Whilst most plant remains were charred, two assemblages (Samples 2 and 6) contained low densities of de-watered macrofossils. Modern contaminants including seeds and fibrous roots were present throughout. As none of the assemblages contain sufficient material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis was undertaken following assessment.

Results

Plant macrofossils

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds, wetland plants and tree/shrub species were recorded at a low to moderate density from all but two of the samples studied. Preservation was generally quite poor, with a high density of the grains and seeds being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. De-watered macrofossils of seeds/fruits with very woody endocarps were recorded from two samples. As such material can survive for considerable periods within most archaeological horizons, their contemporaneity with the contexts is uncertain.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, with wheat occurring most frequently. Chaff was relatively uncommon, but spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases were noted within the assemblages from Samples 3, 7 and 12. Weed seeds were exceedingly scarce, occurring within only six of the assemblages studied. All were of common segetal taxa including corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), small legumes (Fabaceae), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*) and indeterminate grasses (Poaceae). Individual nutlets of sedge (*Carex* sp.) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), both wetland species, were noted within Samples 10 and 11. De-watered bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*) 'pips' and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds were present within Samples 2 and 6, and charred elderberry seeds were also noted within Samples 7 and 11. Other possible tree/shrub macrofossils included a fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell and a fragmentary hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) stone. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present in all but Sample 2. Other plant macrofossils were rare, but did include indeterminate charred stem fragments and buds.

Other materials

Other material types were generally rare. The fragments of black porous and tarry material noted within seven of the assemblages are probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at extremely high temperatures.

Conclusions

The uniformity of composition of the assemblages, regardless of context type or phase, almost certainly indicates that the recovered material has a common source. As the density of material is so low, it appears most likely that the assemblages are derived from small quantities of scattered or wind-blown refuse, some or all of which may have been generated by activities conducted within, or adjacent to, the ditched enclosure. The nature of these activities cannot accurately be specified, but it would appear that cereals, some of which were heavily burnt either during drying or culinary preparation, were of importance to the occupants of the site. As there is little or no evidence for the primary deposition of material within the ditch fills it is, perhaps, most likely that the ditches were reasonably well maintained.

Table 7 Charred plant remains, details from Phase 2A.

Sample No	2	3	6	8	11	14	4
Context No	1175	1085	1092	1031	1160	1089	1117
Feature No	1165	1081	1072	1027	1156	1072	1110
Feature type	ID	ID	ID	ID	ID	ID	OD
Phase	2A	2A	2A	2A	2A	*2A*	*2A*
Cereals							
Avena sp. (grains)						x	
(awn frags.)		x					
Triticum sp. (grains)						x	
(glume bases)		x					
(spikelet base)					x		
(rachis internode frags.)		x					
T. spelta L. (glume bases)		x					
Cereal indet. (grains)					x	x	x
Herbs							
Chenopodiaceae indet.					x		
Galeopsis sp.			xw				
Galium aparine L.					x		
Linum sp.					xcf		
Small Poaceae indet.					x		
Wetland plants							
Carex sp.					x		
Tree/shrub macrofossils							
Rubus sect *Glandulosus* Wimmer & Grab	xw		xw				
Sambucus nigra L.	xxw		xxxw		xx		
Other plant macrofossils							
Charcoal <2mm		xx	x	xxx	xxx	xxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm		x		xx	xx	x	
Charred root/stem					x	x	
Waterlogged root/stem	xxxx		x				
Indet.buds					x		
Indet.seeds						x	
Other materials							
Black porous ‘cokey’ material		x				x	x
Black tarry material		x		x			
Bone				xb	xb	x	x
Mineralised/faecal concretions			xx		xx		
Vitrified material					x		
Waterlogged arthropods	x		x				
Sample volume (litres)							
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.2**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**50%**	**100%**	**100%**	**50%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Key:
x = 1–10 specimens; xx = 10–50 specimens; xxx = 50–100 specimens; xxxx = 100+ specimens; cf = compare; w = de-watered; b = burnt; ID = inner ditch; OD = outer ditch; IG = inner gully.

Discussion

Chronology and sequence

The earliest activity at the site was Iron Age in date (Fig. 4). Probable Bronze Age and earlier activity is represented more widely in the surrounding landscape by ring-ditches and associated cremations (Sharpstones Site A, Barker *et al*., 21–23; Site B, *Ibid*., 26–28; Hughes 1995). A circular ring-gully (Barker, Haldon and Jenks 1991, fig. 7) and ditched enclosure of Iron Age/Roman date was found at Site A Sharpstone Hill. This was suggested to

Table 8 Charred plant remains, other contexts sampled.

Sample No	1	12	7	9	10	5
Context No	1054	1083	1113	1058	1056	1051
Feature No	1053	1142	1115	1057	1055	1182
Feature type	ID	ID	OD	IG	*IG*	*OD*
Phase	*2B*	*2B*	*2B*	*2A/B*	*2A/B*	*2A*
Cereals						
Avena sp. (grains)			x			
Secale cereale L. (grains)	xcf					
Triticum sp. (grains)	xcf				xcf	
(glume bases)			x			
T. spelta L. (glume bases)		x	x			
Cereal indet. (grains)		x	x	xcf	x	
Herbs						
Agrostemma githago L.	xcf					
Anthemis cotula L.						x
Fabaceae indet.		x		x		
Wetland plants						
Carex sp.					x	
Eleocharis sp.					x	
Tree/shrub macrofossils						
Corylus avellana L.		xcf				
Crataegus monogyna Jacq.				xcf		
Sambucus nigra L.			x			
Other plant macrofossils						
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	x
Charcoal >2mm		xx	xx	xx	xx	x
Charred root/stem		x		x	x	
Indet.buds		x				
Indet.seeds		x		x	x	
Other materials						
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		x			x
Black tarry material			x			
Bone				x		
Burnt/fired clay				x		
Small coal frags.	x					
Vitrified material		x				
Sample volume (litres)						
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

have represented a continuation of occupation, or re-occupation of a location in use during the Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age/Iron Age, the enclosure being constructed over an earlier linear boundary (Wigley 2007, 181), marking a period of apparent change in the broader patterns of land tenure.

Jenks (Barker *et al*., 1991, 33, Site E) attributed an Iron Age origin to the enclosure excavated in 2005. He interpreted this earliest activity (Phase 1) to include a shallow ditch and external palisade trench (*Ibid*., fig. 12, F3–F4), both lost to plough truncation by the time of the 2005 excavation. According to Jenks, the next phase (Late Iron Age–Romano-British, Phase 2a) of activity comprised the excavation of the innermost ditch, the circular eaves-drip gully, and other internal features. Handmade pottery of Iron Age date, including VCP sherds were recovered from these internal features. Jenks attributed the excavation of the outer enclosure ditch, and the final backfilling of the innermost ditch to the Romano-British period (Phase 2b). Whilst he did not identify the re-cutting of either ditch Jenks noted that the pottery from the primary fill of the innermost ditch was earlier in date than the pottery from the outermost ditch. He also suggested that the site had been finally abandoned by the end of the 2nd century.

A broadly similar phasing is suggested in this report. The two eaves-drip gulleys excavated in 2005 may have been contained within the Phase 1 enclosure defined by the palisade trench and small ditch identified by Jenks. The ring-gully excavated by Jenks produced sherds of VCP pottery as well as Roman pottery – identified as

intrusive by the excavator. The innermost ditch produced sherds of Iron Age pottery from one primary fill, as well as Roman pottery from the primary fills within adjoining excavated ditch segments. These five sherds of Iron Age pottery from the 2005 excavation, along with the VCP and Iron Age pottery from the earlier excavation, indicate an Iron Age origin for the first enclosure — which is therefore attributed to the Late Iron Age–early Roman period. The Iron Age occupation of other nearby enclosures is also represented by comparatively few sherds of pottery. For example, only 32 sherds of pottery were recovered from extensive excavation at Preston Farm (Woodward 1994, 72). An Iron Age origin for the earliest field system at Duncote Farm was suggested by the recovery of five sherds of pottery from later contexts (Woodward 1994, 75). Moreover, the presumed Iron Age enclosure at Preston Montford produced no pottery at excavation (Jones 1994). Whilst Jenks attributed the outermost ditch to the Romano-British period, in this report the primary cut of this ditch is ascribed to Phase 2A (Late Iron Age–1st-early 2nd century AD). The Iron Age origin for this ditch is supported by the discovery of three iron scabbard fragments, dated to the second half of the 3rd century BC–second half of the 2nd century BC, as well as by fragments of a dagger or sword of possible Iron Age date, in the eastern and western terminals of the southern entrance, respectively. These lower ditch terminal deposits were not disturbed by later re-cutting of the ditches, which will have enlarged the size of the southern entrance-gap.

The primary cuts of the outermost and innermost ditches are assumed to be contemporary in the absence of dating evidence to the contrary, and in particular because of the paucity of material from the outermost ditch, and the similarity of their profiles. It is however notable that Iron Age pottery was recovered only from the innermost ditch, although, overall, the greatest quantity of pottery was recovered from this ditch, and its re-cut. Similarly, the Phase 2B outermost and innermost ditch re-cuts are interpreted as contemporary. Moreover, two Phase 2B re-cuts are recorded in adjoining segments of the western outermost and innermost ditches, providing further evidence of likely contemporaneity, at least along this side of the enclosure. The latest, (undated), phase (Phase 2C) of Roman activity is represented by field system ditches, which appear to respect the entrance to the abandoned enclosure. A broader pattern of boundaries following the orientation of the enclosure was recorded by trial-trenching (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2004; Fig. 2).

Longevity may have been an important attribute of the enclosure. The style of the iron scabbard fragments suggests that they could have dated from the second half of the 3rd century BC–second half of the 2nd century BC. Wigley has recently emphasised the evidence for continuity in the occupation of Iron Age enclosures (2007, 185), citing in particular the example of Collyfryn, Powys (Britnell 1989), occupied for three centuries. If Iron Age occupation was continuous at Meole Brace, which is possible, although not proven, a similar overall length of pre-Roman occupation may be suggested here.

Ceramically, it is not clear if the site was occupied continuously from the later Iron Age into the early Roman period, or if there was a break in settlement here. Other Iron Age enclosures in the vicinity (e.g. Preston Farm, Jones 1994) went out of use in the pre-Roman period, and were not subsequently re-occupied. The Roman pottery from the 2005 excavation indicated occupation from the later 1st to the end of the 2nd century AD, although some longer-lived types were also recorded. The lack of BB1 suggests a *terminus ante quem* of AD 120 for Phase 2A, while the coarsewares suggest a date range in the late 1st to early 2nd century. The finewares from Phase 2A comprised an amphora rim dated AD 70–110, and samian which included sherds of Flavian–Trajanic date. The Phase 2B pottery included sherds of Flavian–Trajanic samian, and late 1st–2nd century coarse wares. Hadrianic–Antonine samian sherds were also present, along with BB1 forms dating in the later 2nd century. It is therefore possible that the site was abandoned at the end of the 2nd century. The Phase 2B assemblage also included earlier, residual material. Some slightly later Roman pottery may have become incorporated into Phase 1–2B feature backfills from Roman manuring scatters.

Economy and function

A wider context for the excavation is provided by the Wroxeter Hinterland survey (Gaffney and White 2007). The most ubiquitous form of settlement was ditched enclosures, of which a total of 324 are recorded (Gaffney and White 2007, table 6.18), many identified by aerial photography, and some investigated by excavation (e.g. Roe 1991, Jones 1994, Hunn 2000). Single enclosures are part of the basic pattern of the exploitation of the countryside (Booth 2006, 507; Gaffney and White 2007, fig. 6.6), termed ‘family farms’ by Hingley (1989, 55). Plotting of their distributions suggest that within the Wroxeter Hinterland the majority are located on land categories 3 and 4 which are heavy to work, which are moisture retentive and provide good pasture (Gaffney and White 2007, 255). This suggests that they may have been predominantly engaged in pastoralism – or at least not primarily concerned with arable cultivation.

The charred plant remains from the 2005 excavation were comparatively uniform in composition. They are likely to have derived from scattered, or wind-blown refuse, derived from within, or just outside, the enclosure.

The charred plant remains suggest that cereals were being heated during cooking or drying, although more detailed information was not forthcoming.

The patterning of enclosure distribution within the hinterland of Wroxeter also suggests that an economic 'boundary' is reached at around 6km. from the town. This boundary approximately coincides with the location of the nearby Meole Brace roadside settlement, interpreted as a market or administrative centre (Hughes 1994). It is possible that the enclosure was supplying livestock or produce to this adjoining roadside settlement. Gaffney and White (2007, 254) suggest that the enclosures closer to Wroxeter were supplying meat and dairy products to the town – where they could arrive in peak condition. Animal bone which might support (or disprove) this suggested interpretation did not survive in the acid subsoil at Meole Brace. More widely, Esmonde Cleary (2011) has emphasised the importance of pastoralism in the north and west of the Roman west midlands, including the potential of this part of the region to have been a military procurement zone during the earlier part of the Roman period at least.

In the past, lowland cropmarked enclosures have been interpreted as Iron Age farmsteads, and therefore distinct from the 'small hillforts' (Wigley 2007, 173). In his recent re-assessment of the smaller enclosures in the central Welsh Marches, Wigley (2007, 176) has suggested that the distinction between small hillforts and enclosures is more a matter of their current state of preservation than their original function. He argues that the small hillforts and cropmarked enclosures belonged to the same class of monument. Following Whimster's scheme of classification (1989), the site is defined as a bivallate rectilinear enclosure, which were less frequent in the Late Iron Age–early Roman landscape of the central Marches. The distribution of rectilinear enclosures suggests that they are most common in Shropshire and within the eastern central Marches (Wigley 1989, 177). Analysis by Silvester and Britnell of small enclosures in Montgomeryshire (quoted in Wigley 2007) noted that a high proportion (25%) of enclosures were double-ditched. Since these sites often survive as earthwork features, they may originally have been defined by more extensive earthworks than the single ditched enclosures, a conclusion supported by more recent work in Shropshire (Wigley 2007, 179). Wigley (2007, 178) suggests that this evidence indicates that hillforts and enclosures represent a broad continuum of enclosure size and form.

One of the most notable attributes of the enclosure is its topographic location, occupying a high point in the local topography, which makes the enclosure site particularly visible from the south and west. This prominent location, together with the substantial size of the ditches (and of the presumed earthwork banks formed of their upcast), suggests a concern for display. Similarly, a recent survey of Montgomeryshire enclosures identified that 36% of the total occupied prominent locations, indicating that display was an important factor in site location (Wigley 2007, 178), although other enclosures occupy a wide range of settings. Hingley (1984) has suggested that the size and scale of enclosures was a reflection of their social status – which would suggest a considerable degree of importance for the excavated Meole Brace enclosure. In particular, enclosure size was dependent on the size of the labour force which could be assembled to excavate the ditches (Wigley 2007, 185). The Meole Brace enclosure can be compared with the enclosure at Collyfryn (Britnell 1989, fig. 38), which comprised four concentric ditches measuring 3–4m. in width, and up to 2m. in depth, slightly smaller than the ditches at Meole Brace which measured up to 5–6m. in width, and 1.7m.–2.4m. in depth (see above). In his discussion of the Collyfryn enclosure, Wigley (2007, 185) suggests that it was the relatively high social status of the occupants that allowed the community to assemble the large labour resource necessary to excavate the enclosure ditches, an interpretation which might also be suggested for the Meole Brace enclosure.

The majority of the pottery recovered from the double-ditched enclosure was, of course, Romano-British in date. The assemblage contains a similar proportion of Severn valley ware, Malvernian ware, samian and BB1 as the rural site of Upton Cressett (Evans 2007). An exception is the higher quantity of amphorae — which may be explained by the proximity of the road network, as was suggested at the Meole Brace roadside settlement (Evans 1994). Within the range of forms derived from the 2005 excavation, jars are frequent, particularly wide mouthed jars, which are typical of Roman rural sites. The range of flagons, beakers, cups, bowls, dishes and mortaria represent 'Romanised' influences. As noted by Evans (above) their presence suggests the inhabitants had access to, and an interest in, the range of continental vessels such as those used by the military at Wroxeter, again emphasising the ready access of the site to Wroxeter, via the local road network.

Ritual

Of particular importance was the discovery of three fragments from an empty iron scabbard (Fig. 8; Stead above). The Type 2a suspension loop of this item suggests that it belongs to Group B (equivalent to continental La Tène II scabbards). Originally it would have measured a minimum of 600mm. in length, and contained a slightly tapered blade, ending in a short point. The suspension loop typology suggests that the scabbard dated in the range from the second half of the 3rd century BC to the second half of the 2nd century BC. Three fragments from an iron blade, possibly from a dagger or a sword, were also recovered.

It is important to consider the context of both these items in detail in order to assess the full significance and context of their disposal. Both items were recovered from the outermost Phase 2A enclosure (Late Iron Age–1st-early 2nd century AD) ditch terminals adjoining the southern entry-gap. The scabbard fragments were recovered from the eastern entrance terminal (1131), and the dagger or sword fragments from the western terminal (1110). In both cases the objects were found in the third layer of ditch backfill from the base of the ditch, a red-brown silt-clay. No datable pottery was recovered from either context, or from any earlier outer ditch backfills — although overall this contained less pottery than the innermost ditch. The presence of the Iron Age scabbard and possible Iron Age scabbard or dagger, and the absence of Roman pottery, suggests that the ditch terminals and were backfilled in the pre-Roman period. Layers 1151 (scabbard) and 1117 (dagger or sword) were not affected by re-cutting along the remainder of this ditch circuit, which will have had the effect of enlarging the southern entry-gap.

It is suggested that the placement of both the scabbard and the possible dagger or sword blade in adjoining ditch terminals formed part of the same act of structured deposition, in particular a termination deposit at the end of one sub-phase of the Iron Age occupation of the enclosure. The evidence for this supposition comprises the similar stratigraphic position of the two iron object groups, and the same number of fragments of each artefact that were found. The Iron Age pottery from the site dated its earliest occupation to the Middle–Late Iron Age, or more likely to the Late Iron Age.

This suggested structured deposit has parallels within an Iron Age context (Hill 1995, Willis 1997, Poole *et al*. in Cunliffe 1995, Gwilt 1997). At Danebury, metal artefacts found in special pit fills comprised horse harnesses, tools, vehicle attachments or weapons (Poole *et al*., 1995, 262–3). Such structured deposits, interpreted by Hill as offerings or sacrifices (Hill 1995, 113), are often found within entrance ditch terminals (*Ibid*., 79). Fitzpatrick (1997, 81) has noted that 'the deposition of weaponry…objects, arguably made by male smiths and used by male warriors, helped to legitimate and/or secure a dominant male-centred ideology by reproducing it in unassailable public rituals and rites' within an Iron Age context.

Landscape

The recent discovery of an Iron Age road running east – west over Sharpstone Hill has only served to emphasise the importance of the relationship of the site to the road network, a relationship that continued to be important in the Roman period (Malim and Hayes 2011). Meole Brace would have been located at, or close to, the junction of two Roman roads. The earliest Roman route was Watling Street, which bypassed Wroxeter and headed for the ford at Atcham and mid Wales (White and Barker 1998, 41 and fig. 16; Fig. 1). By the time of the foundation of the Wroxeter fortress in AD 57 a spur road was laid out, linking the fortress with Watling Street to the north. Subsequent traffic passed through the fortress, and via a river crossing to the southwest (White 2006). A later road laid out to the west of the ford rejoined Watling Street. The likely point of junction was at, or near to, Meole Brace (*Ibid*.), which may have provided the impetus for the layout of the roadside settlement, as is suggested by Evans (above).

The later chronology of the Meole Brace enclosure may be related to the sequence of activity at the adjoining roadside settlement (Hughes 1994). The settlement was probably established in the mid 2nd century (Hughes 1994, 52). Thus, it could have been laid out after the Phase 2A Meole Brace enclosure had been abandoned, or during the early use of the subsequent Phase 2B enclosure. It is possible that the occupants of the enclosure could have relocated to the adjoining roadside settlement (White 2007, 133). The earliest roadside activity at Meole Brace, dated to the mid 2nd–early 3rd century, comprised a timber-framed rectangular building with associated stone surfaces, including a possible threshing floor (Hughes 1994, 40). By the early 3rd century extensive deposits of light brown silt accumulated over the earlier roadside settlement during a period of abandonment, or at least a shift in focus (*Ibid*., 42). This possible abandonment may have been broadly contemporary with, and suggest an association with, the final abandonment of the Meole Brace enclosure at the end of the 2nd century. This suggested abandonment, or later roadside activity, may provide a context for the Phase 2C Roman field systems at the Meole Brace enclosure. A re-occupation of the roadside settlement in the mid 3rd century was represented by the layout of an aisled building, possibly forming a dwelling or a barn (*Ibid*., 44). Later 3rd century roadside occupation was defined by a group of small kilns or ovens associated with a timber-framed building. The final phase of Roman roadside occupation was formed by cobble platforms, defining the extent of earth-fast buildings, possibly stores (*Ibid*., 46). The latest coins were of mid 4th century date. The setttlement may have provided informal resting and refreshment facilities to travellers from Wroxeter (Hughes 1994, 53). The comparatively high proportions of samian and amphorae suggest a marketing function for the settlement, which provides a local economic context for the later occupation of the Meole Brace enclosure. An alternative interpretation for the abandonment of the enclosure is that it formed part of the broader pattern of re-arrangement of rural landholdings in the later 2nd, and into the 3rd, century (White 2007, 146).

Conclusion

Detailed excavation has confirmed the Iron Age (Phase 1) origins of the Meole Brace enclosure, although little evidence survived of pre-Roman occupation. The Iron Age enclosure origins may be reflected most vividly in the termination deposits positioned on either side of the southern entrance. Two main phases of enclosure occupation may be suggested, the first ending in the first quarter of the 2nd century (Phase 2A, Late Iron Age–1st-early 2nd century AD), the second (Phase 2B, 2nd century AD) at the end of that century, the latter resulting in the abandonment of the enclosure, which became subsumed within a field system. The end of the first phase of Roman occupation may imply desertion of the settlement in favour of the nearby roadside settlement. The Phase 2B re-cut ditches were less substantial than the primary ditch cuts, although the quantity of pottery deposited within the ditches was greater in the second Roman phase of occupation. A notable feature of the Roman occupation of the enclosure, as well as of the roadside settlement, was the wide range of forms, reflecting the site's proximity to the road network, as well as the adoption of Romanised dining habits. Comparison of the 2005 excavation results with the earlier excavation by Jenks has served to illustrate the significant level of plough truncation over the intervening decades.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was sponsored by Jennings Investments LLP, with advice from Andy Josephs Archaeological Consultants Ltd. The project was monitored by Mike Watson for Shropshire County Council. The excavation was supervised by Kate Bain, with the assistance of Jessica Bryan, Helen Garrett, Tim Evans, Jamie Patrick, Chris Pole and Victoria Wilkinson. The report was illustrated by Nigel Dodds, and edited by Alex Jones, who also managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology. Dr. Roger White read and commented upon an earlier draft of this report.

Bibliography

Bain, K., 2007: *Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, Archaeological Investigations 2005–6, Post-Excavation Assessment*, Birmingham Archaeology Report no. 1283.

Barker, P. A., Haldon, R., and Jenks, W. E., 1991: 'Excavations on Sharpstones Hill near Shrewsbury, 1965–71', in Carver, M. O. H. (ed.), 1991, 15–57.

Birmingham Archaeology, 2005: *Written Scheme of Investigation, Archaeological Excavation, New Meadow, Shrewsbury, Shropshire*.

Britnall, W., 1989: 'The Collyfryn Hillslope Enclosure, Llansaintfraid, Deuddwyr, Powys, Excavations 1980–1982', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, **55**, 89–133.

Bryant, V., and Evans, J., 2004: 'Iron Age and Romano-British Pottery', in Dalwood, H. and Edwards, R., *Excavations at Deansway, Worcester 1988–89: Romano-British Small Town to Late Medieval City*, Council for British Archaeology Research Report 139, 240–280.

Carver, M. O. H. (ed.), 1991: 'Prehistory in Lowland Shropshire', *Trans. Shrops. Archaeol. Soc.*, **67**.

Ellis, P., Evans, C. J., Hannaford, H., Hughes, G., and Jones, A., 1994: 'Excavations in the Wroxeter Hinterland, 1988–1990: The Archaeology of the A5/A49 Shrewsbury Bypass', *Trans. Shrops. Archaeol. Soc.*, **69**, 76–91.

Esmonde-Cleary, A. S., 2011: 'The Romano-British period: an assessment' in Watt, S. (ed.) *The Archaeology of the West Midlands. A framework for Research* Oxbow Books, Oxford., 127–147.

Evans, C. J., 1994: 'The Roman Pottery', in Ellis, P. *et al*., 1994, 76–91.

Evans, C. J., 2000a: 'Fabric Descriptions', in Timby, J. *et al*., 2000, 246–257.

Evans, C. J., 2000b: 'Form Series', in Timby, J. *et al*., 2000, 195–246.

Evans, C. J., 2007: 'The Roman Pottery from Wroxeter's Hinterland', in Gaffney *et al*., 2007, 146–168.

Evans, C. J., forthcoming: 'The Roman Pottery', in White, R. W., and Forster, A. K. (eds.), 'Excavations by J. Allen and Birmingham Archaeology at Brompton (Pentrehyling) Fort, Shropshire', *Trans. Shrops. Archaeol. Soc.* (forthcoming).

Evans, C. J., and Timby, J., 2000: 'The Period 3 Pottery', in Timby, J. *et al*., 2000, 273–282.

Evans, C. J., Jenks, W. E., and White, R. H., 1999: 'Romano-British Kilns at Meole Brace (Pulley), Shropshire', *Trans. Shrops. Archaeol. Soc.*, **LXXIV**, 1–28.

Fitzpatrick, A. P., 1997: 'Everyday life in Iron Age Wessex', in Gwilt, A., and Haslegrove, C., *Reconstructing Iron Age Societies*, Oxbow Monograph, 1997, 71, 72–86.

Gaffney, V. L., White, R. H., with Goodchild, H., 2007: *Wroxeter, the Cornovii and the Urban Process: Final Report of the Wroxeter Hinterland Project, 1994–1997*, Journal of Roman Archaeology, Supplementary Series, **68**.

Gillam, J. P., 1976: 'Coarse Fumed Ware in Northern Britain', *Glasgow Archaeological Journal*, **IV**, 57–80.

Green, S., and Evans, C. J., 2001: 'Pottery Discussion', in Jones, A., 'Roman Birmingham I: Metchley Roman Forts excavations 1963–4, 1967–9 and 1997', *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society*, **105**, 104–6.

Hill, J. D., 1995: *Ritual and Rubbish in the Iron Age of Wessex; a Study on the Formation of a Specific Archaeological Record*, British Archaeological Reports, British series, **242**.

Hingley, R., 1984: 'Towards Social Analysis in Archaeology: Celtic Society in the Iron Age of the Upper Thames Valley', in Cunliffe, B., and Miles, D., *Aspects of the Iron Age in Central Southern Britain*, 72–88, Oxford Committee for Archaeology, Monograph 2.

Hughes, E. G., 1994: 'A Romano-British Roadside Settlement at Meole Brace', in Ellis, P. *et al*., 1994, 31–55.

Hunn, J. R., 2000: 'Hay Farm, Eardington, Shropshire: Excavation of an Iron Age and Romano-British Enclosure', in Zeepvat, R. J. (ed.), *Three Iron Age and Romano-British Rural Settlements on English Gravels*, British Archaeological Reports, British series 312, Oxford, 123–144.

Hughes, E. G., and Woodward, A. B., 1995: 'A Ring-Fitch and Neolithic Pit Complex at Meole Brace, Shrewsbury', in 'Excavations at Meole Brace and Bromfield 1981–1991', *Trans. Shrops. Archaeol. Soc*., **LXX**, 1–22.

Jones, A. E., 1994: 'Two Prehistoric Enclosures at Preston Farm and Calcott Farm', in Ellis, P. *et al*., 1994, 15–31.

Keay, S. J., and Williams, D. F., 2006: *Roman Amphorae: a digital resource*. Available at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/archive/amphora_ahrb_2005/index.cfm.

Mahany, C., 1994: *Roman Alcester: Southern Extramural Area, Part 1 Stratigraphy and Structures*, Roman Alcester Series **1**, Council for British Archaeology Research report 96.

Malim, T., and Hayes, L. 2011: 'An Engineered Iron Age Road, Associated Roman Use (Margary Route 64), and Bronze-Age Activity Recorded at Sharpstone Hill, 2009 *Trans. Shrops. Archaeol. Soc*., **85**, 2010, 7–80.

Margary, I. D., 1973: *Roman Roads*.

Martin-Kilcher, S., 1987: *Die Römischen Amphoren aus Augst und Kaiseraugst*, Bern.

Morris, E. L., 1982: 'Iron Age Pottery from Western Britain: Another Petrological Study', in Freestone, I., Johns, C., and Potter, T. (eds.), *Current Research in Ceramics: Thin Section Studies*, British Museum Occasional Papers, **32**, 15–25.

Morris, E. L., 1983: 'Salt and Ceramic Exchange in Western Britain during the First Millenium BC', unpublished. Ph. D. thesis, University of Southampton.

Morris, E. L., 1991: 'Pottery' in Carver (ed.), 36–41.

Northamptonshire CC, 2004: *Evaluation at Meole Brace, Shropshire*, unpublished.

Oswald, F., 1936–37: *Index of Figure Types on Terra Sigillata*, University of Liverpool Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology, Supplement.

Peacock, D. P. S., 1967: 'Romano-British Pottery Production in the Malvern District of Worcestershire', *Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society*, 3rd Ser., **1** (1965–7), 15–28.

Peacock, D. P. S., 1968: 'A Petrological Study of Certain Iron Age Pottery from Western England', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, **13**, 414–427.

Peacock, D. P. S., and Williams, D. F., 1986: *Amphorae and the Roman Economy*, London.

Poole, C., with Cunliffe, B., Lock, G., and Osgood, R., 1995: Study 12: 'Pits and Propitiation', in Cunliffe, B., 'Danebury, An Iron Age Hillfort in Hampshire', **6**, *A Hillfort Community in Perspective*, Council for British Archaeology Research Report **102**, 249–275.

Pryor, F. M. M., 1998: *Prehistoric Farming*, Stroud.

Rawes, B., 1982: 'Gloucester Severn Valley Ware: a Study of the Roman Pottery Forms', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, **100**, 33–46.

Roe, A., 1991: 'Excavations at Castle Farm, Shifnal, 1980', in Carver, M. O. H. (ed.), 63–83.

Rodriguez-Almeida, E., 1989: *Los Tituli Picti de las Anforas Olearias de la Betica*, Madrid.

Seager Smith, R., and Davies, S. M., 1993: 'Black Burnished Ware Type Series: The Roman Pottery from Excavations at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester, Dorset' in *Wessex Archaeology*. (Offprinted from Woodward, P. J., Davies, S. M., and Graham, A. H., 'Excavations at the Old Methodist Chapel and Greyhound Yard, Dorchester 1981–1984', *Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Monograph Series*, **12**).

Shropshire CC, 2004: *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Work at New Meadow, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, Shropshire*.

Stace, C., 1997: *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd edition.

Stanfield, J. A., and Simpson, G., 1958: *Central Gaulish Potters*.

Stead, I. M., 2006: *British Iron Age Swords and Scabbards*.

Taylor, J., 2007: *An Atlas of Roman Rural Settlement in England*, Council for British Archaeology Research Report **151**.

Timby, J., with Anderson, A., Anderson, S., Braithwaite, G., Dannell, G., Darling, M. J., Dickinson, B., Evans, C. J., Faiers, J., Hartley, K., Simpson, G., Webster, G., and Williams, W., 2000: 'The Roman Pottery', in Ellis, P. (ed.), *The Roman Baths and Macellum at Wroxeter: Excavations by Graham Webster 1955–85*, English Heritage Archaeological Report **9**, 193–313.

Tomber, R., and Dore, J., 1998: *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook*, MoLAS Monograph **2**.

Webster, P. V., 1976: 'Severn Valley Ware: A Preliminary Study', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, **94**, 18–46.

Whimster, R. P., 1989: *The Emerging Past*, RCHME.

White, R. H., 2006: 'The Roman Road West of Wroxeter', *Trans. Shrops. Archaeol. Soc.*, **78**, 153–156.

White, R. H., 2007: *Britannia Prima: Britain's Last Roman Province*.

Wigley, A., 2007: '*Rooted to the Spot: the 'Smaller Enclosures' of the Later First Millenium BC in the Central Welsh Marches'*, in Haselgrove, C., and Moore, T. (eds.), 173–189.

Williams, D. F., 1977: 'The Romano-British Black-burnished Industry: An Essay on Characterization by Heavy Mineral Analysis', in Peacock, D. P. S. (ed.), *Pottery and Early Commerce: Characterization and Trade in Roman and Later Ceramics*.

Williams, D. F., and Peacock, D. P. S., 1983: 'The importation of olive-oil into Roman Britain', in Blazquez, J. M., and Remesal, J. (eds.), Produccion Y Comercio del Aceite en la Antiquedad. II Congresso, Madrid, 263–280.

Woodward, A., 1994: 'The Iron Age pottery', in Ellis, P. *et al.*, 72–76.

Woodward, A. B., and Leach, P. J., 1993: *The Uley Shrines, Excavation of a Ritual Complex on West Hill, Uley, Gloucestershire: 1977–9*, English Heritage Archaeological Report, **17**.