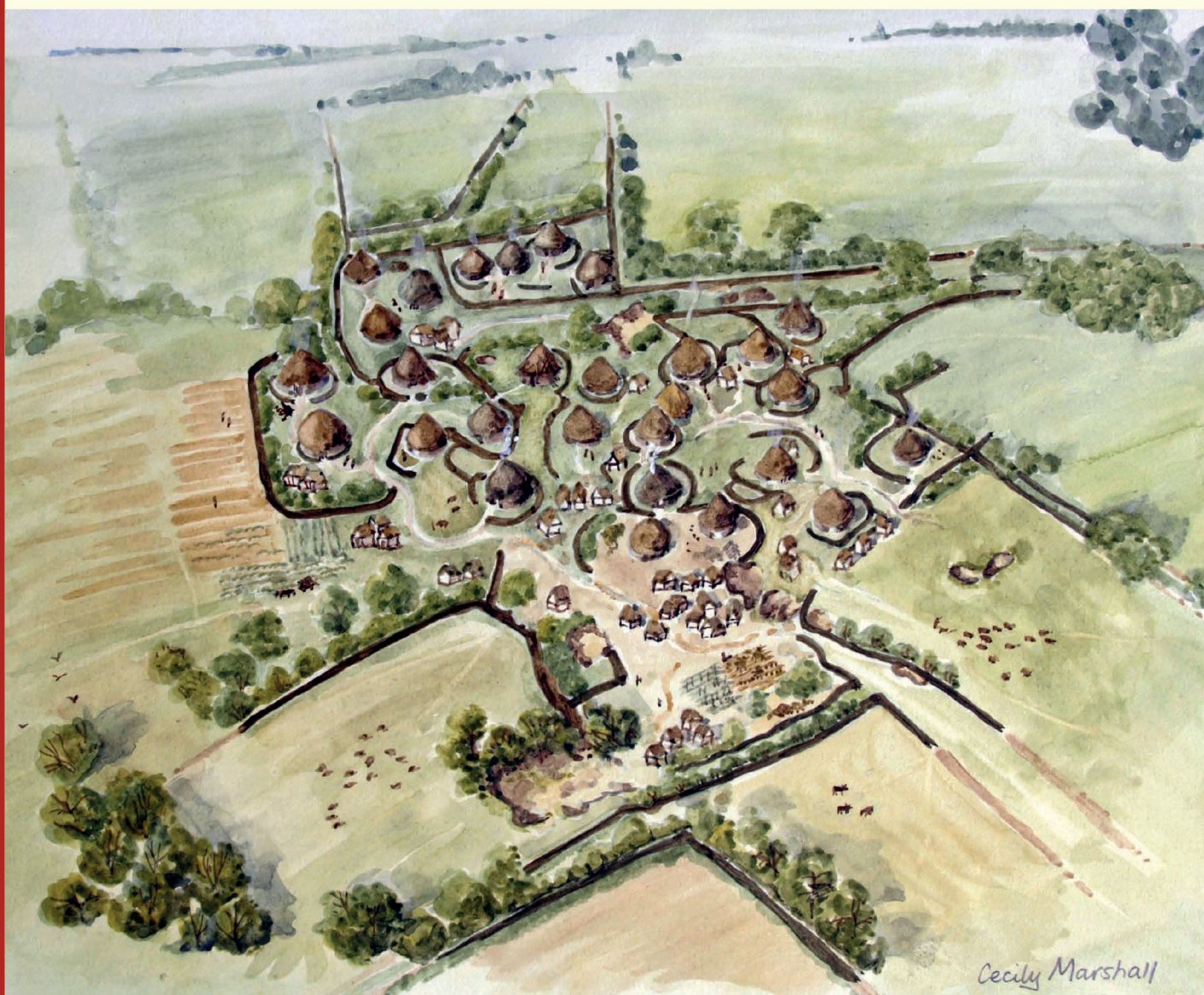


BOURTON WAY, WELLINGBOROUGH AND STATION ROAD, HIGHAM FERRERS

TWO MIDDLE IRON AGE SETTLEMENTS OVERLOOKING
THE RIVER NENE IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



BY MIKE LUKE AND JO BARKER

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY MONOGRAPH 5



Bourton Way, Wellingborough and Station Road, Higham Ferrers: two middle Iron Age settlements overlooking the River Nene in Northamptonshire

By Mike Luke and Jo Barker

With contributions by
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Drew Shotliff and Jackie Wells

Illustrations by
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Albion Archaeology Monograph 5

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Cover illustrations

Front: Reconstruction drawing by Cecily Marshall of the Bourton Way/Wilby Way settlement

Back: Reconstruction drawing by Cecily Marshall of the Station Road/Grasmere Way settlement

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Overall

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Fieldwork

Both fieldwork projects were managed by Mike Luke (Project Manager) with fieldwork direction by Ben Barker (Project Officer).

The following teams worked on the projects:

Bourton Way (Plate 1)

Supervised by Kathy Pilkinton. Excavation and recording by: Ben Carroll, Richard Gregson, Tori Hainsworth, Allan King, Iain Leslie, Gary Manning, Juha-Matti Vuorinen, Gareth Shane, Wiebke Starke, Slawomir Utrata, Adam Williams and Adrian Woolmer.

Station Road

Supervised by Marcin Koziminski. Excavation and recording by: Ben Carroll, Gareth Shane, Allan King and Adam Williams.

Metal-detecting was undertaken by Archie Gillespie and surveying by Mercedes Planas.

All finds were processed under the supervision of Jackie Wells (Finds Officer), who also, along with Holly Duncan, undertook the initial finds identification during fieldwork.

Processing of the ecofact samples was undertaken by Gareth Shane, Slawomir Utrata and Juha-Matti Vuorinen, under the supervision of Gary Edmondson.

Digitisation of site drawings was undertaken by Joan Lightning.



Plate 1: Part of the Bourton Way fieldwork team on another wet day in January 2014

Post-fieldwork

The post-fieldwork stages of the projects were managed by Mike Luke, with contextual assessment and analysis undertaken by Jo Barker.

On both projects the same specialists were used for the assessment and analysis/publication reports. They are duly acknowledged as contributors within this publication. The iron objects were x-rayed by Pieta Greaves of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. Identification of the petrology and source of the worked stone assemblage was carried out by Dr Jill Eyers (Chiltern Archaeology), whose report forms part of the project archive. Dr Mark Maltby identified the species for the worked antler and bone objects.

All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager), who also had the task of reading, commenting on and editing this publication. Copy-editing of this publication was undertaken by Catrina Appleby.

Photographs

All the photographs published here are Albion Archaeology copyright. Aerial photographs (Plates 2, 3 and 4) were taken by Commission Air Ltd, but are Albion Archaeology copyright.

Photographer credits (where known): Plate 1 (Ben Barker); Plates 5, 6, 7 and 9 (Kathy Pilkinton); Plate 8 (Adam Williams); Plate 10 (Wiebke Starke); Plates 11 and 12 (Gareth Shane); Plate 13 (Adrian Woolmer) and Plate 14 (Allan King).

About This Publication

STRUCTURE

Following this preamble, the introduction is presented in Chapter 1 and the discussion in Chapter 2. The site narrative for each excavation is presented separately – Bourton Way in Chapter 3 and Station Road in Chapter 4. These are followed by detailed discussion of the artefacts (Chapter 5) and ecofacts (Chapter 6) from both sites. Appendices, *e.g.* pottery type series *etc.*, provide supplementary technical detail.

Chapters 3 and 4 each begin with an overview, accompanied by an overall plan of the middle Iron Age settlements within the excavation areas. The text is then arranged by Site Landscape (SL number) for Bourton Way and by Land-use Area (L number) for Station Road, *e.g.* domestic focus, enclosures, unenclosed activity area *etc.* Subsequent sections cover the more significant Land-use Areas (L) and Groups (G number), *e.g.* individual buildings, structures *etc.* The text is accompanied by plans, section drawings and plates. Where appropriate, significant artefactual and ecofactual information is incorporated into these chapters.

Terminology and abbreviations

An understanding of the contextual hierarchy is fundamental to an understanding of the layout and terminology used in this publication. It is described in more detail below (see Chapter 1: Sections IV and V).

The main elements of the contextual hierarchy comprise Phases (written in full), Site Landscape (SL prefix), Land-use Area (L prefix) and Group (G prefix). It should be borne in mind that the two sites have overlapping numbering. In the artefact and ecofactual sections, Group or Land-use Area numbers may have a decimal point, indicating that they represent a fill, *i.e.* primary fills (.1) secondary fills (.2), tertiary fills (.3), single fills (.5).

A generic fill description is provided in the introduction (Chapter 1). On site, slight variations in colour, soil matrix and inclusions were used to distinguish between different fills. Such detail is only included in the Group text where it aids understanding of the evidence. In general, where primary or lower fills were identified they tended to be lighter in colour and contain fewer stones. Any significant or unusual variations are described in the Group text. All measurements are metric.

Finally, the following terms are used throughout the publication:

Settlement: a collection of domestic foci and adjacent fields and /or enclosures.

Domestic focus: a concentration of roundhouses, post-built structures, storage pits and finds suggestive of a focus of activity, which for convenience has been described as ‘domestic’, but which might have included other activities, *e.g.* crafts, food-processing *etc.*

Roundhouse versus structure: the term roundhouse is used where there is sufficient evidence that one existed, even if this solely comprises a circular ditch/gully. The term structure is used where an arrangement of postholes suggests the presence of a building, the form of which is uncertain.

Associated bone group (ABG): articulated or associated groups of animal bones, *i.e.* partial skeletons.

Phases and chronological periods

The indicative date ranges for each phase, on both sites, are as follows:

Phase 1	Pre-Iron Age	pre-c. 650 BC
Phase 2	Middle Iron Age	c. 350–100 BC
Phase 3	Medieval	c. 1150–1500

Tables

Table numbering reflects the chapter number, *e.g.* tables in Chapter 3 (Bourton Way) are numbered 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, *etc.* The tables provide detailed information in an easy-to-view manner. Where possible they have been standardised to allow quick and easy comparison between chapters. Some tables, such as Table 2.1 (which summarises all roundhouses), contain information that transcends individual chapters. These are usually presented in Chapter 2 where the first constituent element is mentioned in the text.

Figures

Figures within each chapter are numbered in a unique sequence, *e.g.* Chapter 3 figures are numbered Fig. 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 *etc.*

Artefact illustrations are presented within the relevant specialist reports. The illustration numbers for the different artefact types are prefixed as follows: pottery (P) and ‘other artefacts’ (OA). For pottery illustrations a catalogue is presented below each figure.

Reconstruction drawings

This publication includes two reconstruction drawings: one for each of the two middle Iron Age settlements. Although based where possible on the archaeological evidence, these inevitably require a degree of artistic licence to make them

meaningful. This has been particularly true for the Station Road/Grasmere Way settlement because only a small part of it has been subject to open-area excavation.

Drawing conventions

Plans

Plans are only labelled with those elements of the contextual hierarchy, *e.g.* L or G numbers that are actually referred to in the text. Most plans distinguish between excavated and unexcavated areas by the use of shading. Selected sections are presented to aid both understanding of individual features and to provide an overall impression of the dimensions and profiles of features across the sites.

Sections

Sections are shaded grey to help distinguish them within the figures. The majority are shown at a scale of 1:20 or 1:40, although a small number of other scales have also been used. Different line types are used for 'cuts' and their fills. The upper limit of a drawn section is always the level to which the site was machined, even if the section was located in the side of the excavation area. All sections are positioned in the horizontal plane, but no OD heights are given. They are usually either south- or west-facing; if necessary, the original drawing has been mirrored. To keep them uncluttered section drawings are only labelled where it aids understanding of the text. Accordingly, the majority of fills are not labelled because they are not specifically mentioned in the text.

Pottery

Standard drawing conventions have been used, with vessels shown at one-quarter size. An external view is shown on the right with a section and internal view on the left. Illustrated vessels are sequentially numbered with a prefix P (pottery) and are catalogued below each figure.

'Other artefacts'

Illustrations are in numerical order and prefixed with OA ('other artefact'). They are drawn at a variety of scales. The catalogue is an integral part of the 'other artefact' report, so is not repeated below each figure.

Location of the archive

At the time of writing there was no archaeological archive depository in Northamptonshire but when one exists the finds and records will be accessioned, with the landowners' permission.

Summary

This report presents the results of archaeological open-area excavations undertaken in 2014 by Albion Archaeology at Bourton Way, Wellingborough and Station Road, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire. The investigations took place ahead of residential developments by David Wilson Homes, who had engaged RPS Group Plc to commission and oversee the archaeological works.

The two middle Iron Age settlements are *c.* 9km apart and it was felt appropriate to publish them together because of their similar topographical locations overlooking the River Nene. In both cases the Albion Archaeology excavations were situated within settlements that had previously been partially investigated. Joint publication, therefore, also provides an opportunity to take a comparative overview of the whole of each settlement.

The Bourton Way excavation area covered *c.* 0.75ha of a postulated 4ha settlement. The settlement appears to have comprised a central domestic focus – containing roundhouses, post-built structures (square and rectangular) and storage pits – surrounded by fields. In addition, a D-shaped enclosure, defined by large ditches, was partly investigated *c.* 75m to the south-west of the Bourton Way excavation area. It is on the southern periphery of the settlement and may have been one of the last elements to be constructed (Windell 1981; Thomas and Enright 2003, 61). For convenience within this publication the wider settlement (a reconstruction drawing of which is included as Fig. 2.2) is referred to as Bourton Way/Wilby Way; the part of the settlement investigated by Albion Archaeology is referred to as just Bourton Way.

The Station Road excavation area covered *c.* 0.7ha of a postulated 3.5ha settlement. In contrast to Bourton Way/Wilby Way it appeared to comprise a loose arrangement of domestic and non-domestic enclosures, fields and linear boundaries. However, apart from the Station Road excavation, only two small open-area excavations have taken place within this area, so less information is available. One of the excavations was located immediately to the south of Station Road and was known at the time as Stanwick Road (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1998). The second was at the junction of Grasmere Way and Hecham Way prior to the construction of the roads and houses that now occupy the land to the west of Station Road (Smith and Muir 2009, 35–7 and fig. 3.1). There, a sub-rectangular enclosure, defined by large ditches, was partly investigated; it may represent the south-west edge of the settlement. For convenience within this publication the wider settlement is referred to as Station Road/Grasmere Way and a reconstruction drawing is included as Fig. 2.4; the Albion Archaeology investigation is referred to as just Station Road.

Situated on higher ground close to the River Nene, both settlements were in prime topographic locations for a mixed farming economy. This was dominated by the husbandry of sheep/goat and cattle, and the growing of spelt wheat and hulled barley. As is often the case on sites of this period, meagre evidence for non-agricultural activities, such as textile-, bone- and antler-working was recovered; there was also some evidence of small-scale metal smelting and working at Bourton Way.

Only two possible personal items were recovered: a possible iron armlet and an antler cheekpiece, both from Bourton Way. Burial evidence comprised one inhumation and five animal burials. Disarticulated human bone and partial animal skeletons were also recovered; along with a small number of ‘unusual’ deposits they may be evidence for rituals undertaken by the inhabitants of the settlements.

Chapter 1

Introduction

I. OVERVIEW

Two open-area excavations by Albion Archaeology revealed parts of two separate middle Iron Age settlements in Northamptonshire – Bourton Way, Wellingborough and Station Road, Higham Ferrers. The sites are c. 9km apart (Fig. 1.1). Both are situated close to the River Nene (Plates 2 and 3) and both are large settlements that have been partially investigated in the past.

II. PLANNING BACKGROUND TO THE INVESTIGATIONS

Both excavations were undertaken in advance of residential development by David Wilson Homes (South Midlands). The work was commissioned and overseen by RPS Group Plc. At Bourton Way the development was within an area of known archaeological sensitivity that had been avoided by the previous residential development in the vicinity.

III. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The Bourton Way development area is situated on the south-west edge of Wellingborough, centred on NGR SP 8823 6600 (Plate 2). It lies on a spur of land between the River Nene, c. 1.5m to the south, and one of its tributaries, Swanspool Brook, to the north. The natural ground surface is at 85–90m OD. The development area is bounded on three sides by housing, with the Priory PH and car park to the north-west. The underlying geology is of the Blisworth Limestone and Rutland Formation – Mudstone, with quaternary deposits of Boulder Clay and morainic drift.

To the north-east, along the A45, lies Station Road, Higham Ferrers (Plate 3). The development area, centred on NGR SP 9606 6979, is situated on the northern edge of the town, bounded to the east by the A6 and to the west by Station Road. It is situated on a slight north-facing slope overlooking the River Nene, which is presently just 0.4km to the north. The land within the development area slopes down gradually from the south, ranging in height from 55m to 45m OD. The underlying geology comprises Northampton Sand, Estuarine Clays and Great Oolite Limestone.

IV. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Both developments were located in areas of known archaeological potential, revealed by previous work in the vicinity – geophysical survey (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2010a; Thomas and Enright 2003, fig. 3), trial trenching at Station Road (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2010b), and geotechnical test-pitting at Bourton Way (Albion Archaeology 2013).

An extensive Iron Age settlement, initially revealed through aerial photography, was known to exist in and around the Bourton Way development area.

Archaeological fieldwork undertaken between 1979 and 1998 on adjacent land included geophysical survey, trial trenching and open-area excavation (Fig. 1.2). It revealed activity dating to the Neolithic, Bronze Age, medieval and post-medieval periods, although the vast majority of the evidence was associated with the Iron Age settlement. This work was published and is referred to within this monograph under the site name Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003).

The land to the south of the Station Road excavation was known to contain evidence of Iron Age settlement as a result of trial trenching (OAU 1997) and small-scale excavation (reported under the site name Stanwick Road (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1998)). Iron Age settlement was also known to the west of Station Road (Fig. 1.3), although open-area excavation was limited to the road corridors for Grasmere Way and Hecham Way (Smith and Muir 2009, 33–46). Within this monograph these investigations are referred to as Grasmere Way although they were published as one chapter within a larger monograph (Lawrence and Smith 2009). More extensive excavations have been undertaken further west; they located a concentration of Neolithic/Bronze Age monuments (Cramp 2009, 13–32), a Roman roadside settlement (Lawrence and Smith 2009, 47–145) and a Middle Saxon estate centre (Hardy *et al.* 2007).

V. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

Open-area excavation

Using all available information, RPS Group Plc defined the archaeologically sensitive parts of both development areas; these were subsequently agreed with the County Archaeological Advisor (CAA). With the exception of the south-west part of the Bourton Way development area – where the ground level had been raised to 88–93m OD as part of a previous development – preservation *in situ* was not feasible (CgMs Consulting 2011; 2013). Therefore, Albion Archaeology investigated an area of c. 0.75ha at Bourton Way between December 2013 and January 2014 and an area of c. 0.7ha at Station Road between April and May 2014. A wide safety corridor was left within the Station Road excavation area to protect a gas pipe; this area was later the subject of a watching brief, undertaken in tandem with construction work between July 2014 and March 2015. Excavation of a balancing pond to the north of the A6 was also monitored at this time (Fig. 1.1).

Ploughsoil and subsoil were mechanically removed under archaeological supervision, exposing the underlying natural geology, at which level archaeological features were visible. A pre-excavation plan was immediately created and used to help finalise the investigation strategy. All hand excavation and recording was carried out in accordance with Albion Archaeology's fieldwork procedures (Albion Archaeology 2001), an Archaeological Statement (CgMs Consulting 2011), Mitigation Strategy (CgMs Consulting 2013) and Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014a).

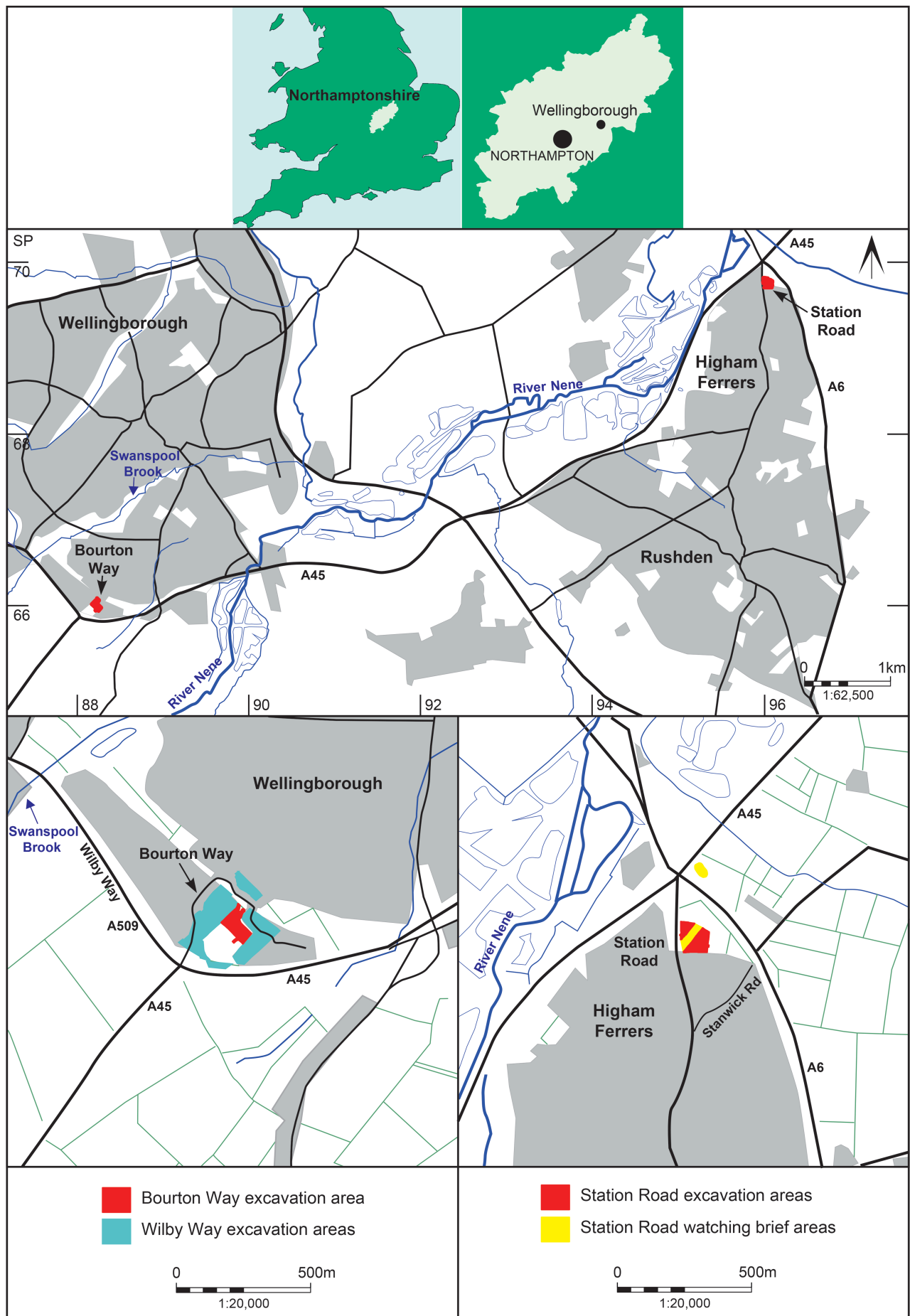


Figure 1.1: Locations of Bourton Way and Station Road



Plate 2: Aerial photograph of Bourton Way with the River Nene in the background (looking south)



Plate 3: Aerial photograph with the Station Road, Higham Ferrers excavation in the foreground, looking south-west along the River Nene towards Bourton Way, Wellingborough

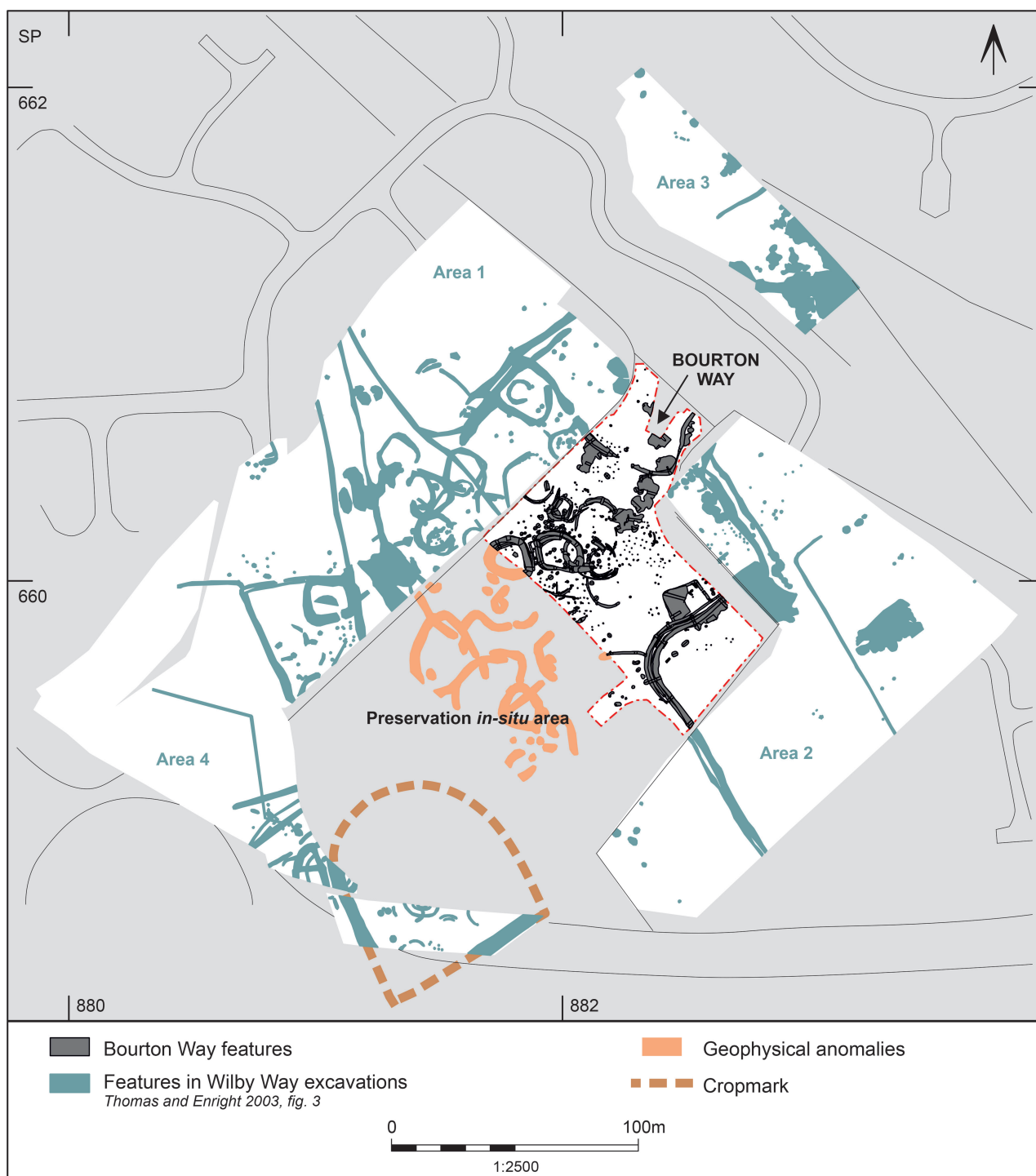


Figure 1.2: All features plan of Bourton Way with features from adjacent excavations

All isolated archaeological features were half-sectioned with the exception of graves, which were fully excavated. Initial segments through ditches were distributed evenly along their lengths, although potentially significant variations observed in the upper fills, *e.g.* artefact or ecofact concentrations, were also targeted. Finds and ecofact processing was undertaken concurrently with fieldwork to maximise feedback into, and adjustment of, the investigation strategy.

The features contained fills that were generally firm, mid-brown-grey, clayey silt, with occasional small to large-sized stones and charcoal flecks. Any fills that

fall outside that 'norm' are described in more detail in Chapters 3 and 4.

Post-excavation reports

Two preliminary reports were produced on completion of the main fieldwork (Albion Archaeology 2014b; c). At a later date, Assessment and Updated Project Designs were produced for both investigations (Albion Archaeology 2014d; 2015a). These summarised the fieldwork results and identified how the recovered data could address local, regional and national research priorities. The later report (Albion Archaeology 2015a) also proposed that

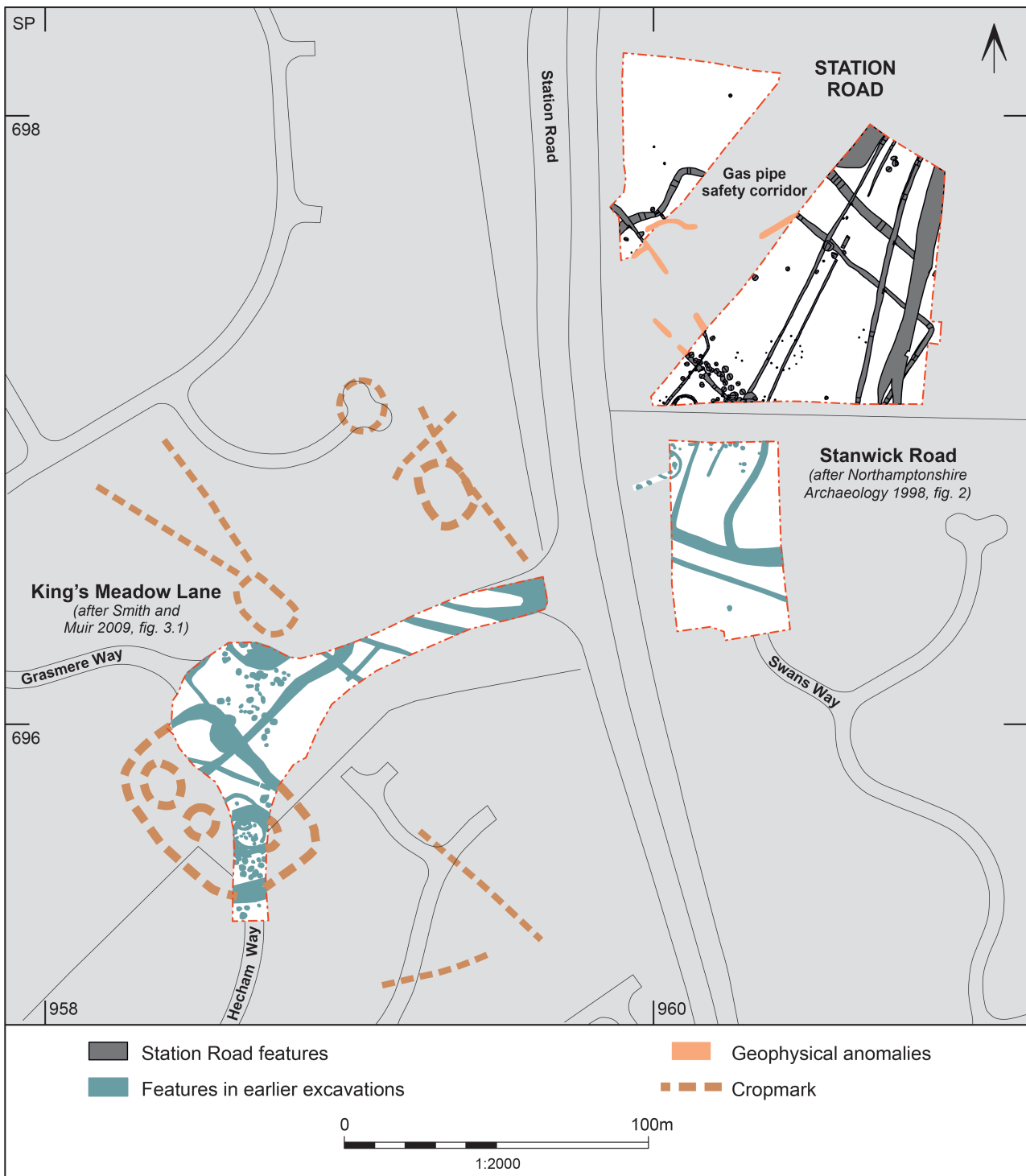


Figure 1.3: All features plan of Station Road with nearby archaeological features and cropmarks

the results of the two excavations should be the subject of a single publication, as together they could make a more valuable contribution to an understanding of middle Iron Age settlement in the region.

Post-excavation analysis

The overall approach was to manipulate all data within a fully integrated, computer-based system of analysis. All structural, artefactual and ecofactual data were entered onto an Access database, creating an interface with the digital drawings and images. This allowed rapid and

flexible analysis of the data and facilitated the creation of the text and plans that form the basis of this publication.

The methodology for the contextual analysis is summarised below; an understanding of the contextual hierarchy is essential as it underpins the structure of this publication. Analytical methodologies for the artefacts and ecofacts are summarised in the relevant sections. The project-specific updated project designs (Albion Archaeology 2014d; 2015a) should be consulted for full details of the methodologies applied to each data set.

A total of 1598 contexts were recorded at Bourton Way, with 454 contexts recorded at Station Road. As part of the post-excavation analysis the contexts were organised into a hierarchy. However, as the two projects were at different stages when the decision to publish them together was made, they use slightly different units, *e.g.* SL was used at Bourton Way but not at Station Road. The different elements of the contextual hierarchy are as follows:

- Phases: broad chronological divisions, *e.g.* pre-Iron Age, middle Iron Age, medieval, post-medieval.
- SL (Site Landscape): a collection of spatially coherent Land-use Areas, *e.g.* domestic focus, enclosures, unenclosed activity area. This level only applies to Bourton Way.
- L (Land-use Area): a collection of broadly contemporary and spatially coherent groups, *e.g.* an enclosure, focus of unenclosed activity, pit cluster, roundhouse enclosure *etc.*
- G (Group): more interpretive entities, *e.g.* build-ings, ditch lengths, concentrations of pits *etc.*
- SG (Subgroup): indivisible unit of interpretation, *e.g.* the primary fills of the same ditch.

The vast majority of the features were assigned to the middle Iron Age phase (late 4th to 2nd century BC) on the basis that they contained pottery of that date. In a small number of cases, where no pottery was found, they were assigned to the Iron Age because they represented features characteristic of this period, *e.g.* storage pits, square post-built structures *etc.*

Phase, Land-use Area and Group provide the main framework for presentation of the results within this publication. It should be borne in mind that it is the level within the structural hierarchy that is important, not necessarily the actual name of the hierarchical element.

VI. NON-IRON AGE ACTIVITY

This publication focuses on the middle Iron Age settlements. However, limited evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity was also identified; it is described in more detail within the respective assessment and updated project designs (Albion Archaeology 2014d; 2015a). A brief summary is provided below, with details of the medieval and post-medieval 'other artefacts' in Appendix II at the end of this publication.

Pre-Iron Age (Phase 1) at Bourton Way

The limited evidence for pre-Iron Age activity at Bourton Way comprised five worked flints and nine sherds of late Bronze Age–early Iron Age pottery; all were residual in middle Iron Age features. At the adjacent Wilby Way site, residual worked flints and areas of localised Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity were identified (Thomas and Enright 2003, 20).

Medieval fields (Phase 3) at Bourton Way

Furrows L30 (relating to a medieval open-field system SL5) were identified in the south-east part of the investigation area. They were aligned NE-SW, similar to middle Iron Age ditches, although the two types of feature rarely coincided. A continuation of this system was identified to the north-east and west at Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, fig. 3).

Post-medieval field (Phase 3) at Station Road

A post-medieval ditch L8 aligned broadly NE-SW was identified in the south-east part of the excavation area. A field boundary corresponding to this ditch is shown on maps produced at the beginning of the 20th century.

Chapter 2

Discussion

by Mike Luke and Jo Barker, incorporating ideas from Corinne Duhig, Holly Duncan, John Giorgi, Mark Maltby and Jackie Wells

I. OVERVIEW

Parts of two separate middle Iron Age settlements were investigated in advance of development off Bourton Way, Wellingborough and off Station Road, Higham Ferrers. Both sites were situated on higher ground adjacent to the floodplain of the River Nene.

The Bourton Way excavation area covered c. 0.75ha but the majority of the same settlement had previously been investigated within the Wilby Way excavation in advance of construction of the adjacent housing estate (Thomas and Enright 2003; Fig. 1.2). The settlement appears to have comprised a central domestic focus – containing roundhouses, post-built structures and storage pits – surrounded by fields (Figs 2.1 and 2.2). In addition, a D-shaped enclosure, defined by large ditches, was partly investigated c. 75m to the south-west of the Bourton Way excavation area which is on the southern periphery of the settlement and may have been one of the last elements to be constructed (Windell 1981; Thomas and Enright 2003, 61). For convenience within this publication the wider settlement is referred to as Bourton Way/Wilby Way; the part of the settlement investigated by Albion Archaeology is referred to as just Bourton Way.

The Station Road excavation area covered c. 0.7ha of a larger area of known Iron Age activity. In contrast to that at Bourton Way/Wilby Way, it appeared to comprise a loose arrangement of domestic and non-domestic enclosures, fields and linear boundaries (Figs 2.3 and 2.4). However, apart from the Station Road excavation, only two small open-area excavations have taken place within this area (Fig. 1.3) so the level of information available is different. One of the excavations was located immediately to the south of Station Road and was known at the time as Stanwick Road (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1998). The second was at the junction of Grasmere Way and Hecham Way, prior to the construction of the roads and houses that now occupy the land to the west of Station Road (Smith and Muir 2009, 35 and fig. 3.1). There, a sub-rectangular enclosure, defined by large ditches, was partly investigated; it may represent the south-west edge of the settlement (Smith and Muir 2009, 37 and fig. 3.1). For convenience within this publication the wider settlement is referred to as Station Road/Grasmere Way; the Albion Archaeology investigation is referred to as just Station Road.

Middle Iron Age settlements were widespread in Northamptonshire; large numbers were concentrated along the valleys of the Nene and Ise (Kidd 2004, 53) in a similar position to those at Bourton Way/Wilby Way and Station Road/Grasmere Way. Contemporary settlements within the county that are referenced more than once in this discussion include Crick (Hughes and Woodward 2015; Masfield *et al.* 2015), Mawsley New Village, Kettering (Hull and Preston 2002; Harvey 2012), Northampton Road and Radstone Fields,

Brackley (Albion Archaeology 2015b; 2016), Site 3 on the Rushden and Higham Ferrers Bypass (Mudd 2004) and Twywell (Jackson 1975). Several sites along the A43 Towcester to M40 Road Improvement Scheme (Mudd 2007) are referenced; they include Silverstone 2 and 3, Silverstone Fields Farm and Biddlesden Bridge. Two ‘aggregated’ sites in Leicestershire are also referenced: Beaumont Leys and Humberstone (Thomas 2011). The county in which these sites lie is not repeated hereafter.

The following discussion on the Iron Age settlements is organised around a number of themes: landscape and environment; origins and development; morphology (including extent, type, spatial layout and components); economic basis; burial and ritual; and the social and economic ‘status’ of the inhabitants. An artist’s impression of what the settlements may have looked like is shown on Figs 2.2 and 2.4.

II. LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT

The discussion of landscape and environment within the Wilby Way publication is still valid – not just for the Bourton Way/Wilby Way settlement itself but also for the Station Road/Grasmere Way settlement. It is therefore repeated below (Thomas and Enright 2003, 60):

The settlement at Wilby Way is just one of a number of Iron Age sites known locally in an area that appears to have been intensely settled in the later prehistoric period. The focus of this settlement was the River Nene, which offered a highly productive and diverse floodplain environment for agricultural communities with rich pasture for grazing and fertile soils. Such an environment would have been increasingly attractive in accommodating the growing population of the Mid to Late Iron Age. It is against this background that the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity and Iron Age settlement at Wilby Way, overlooking the Nene floodplain, must be viewed.

Environmental work at various sites in the Nene Valley, including the investigations of a palaeochannel at Turnells Mill Lane, Wellingborough (to the north-east of the site), has suggested that, apart from small-scale and generally temporary clearances, much of the floodplain remained wooded until the Mid–Late Bronze Age, with large-scale deforestation beginning in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and continuing into the Roman period. On the floodplain, an open grassland subdivided into fields appears to have been established by the Middle Iron Age (Brown and Meadows 1996–97). Preliminary research at Wollaston (approximately 2.5km to the south-east of Wilby Way) has indicated that the wooded valley bottom was cleared during the Bronze Age and subsequently maintained as open grassland which was divided into blocks of land in the Early Iron Age. These blocks of land were maintained throughout the Iron Age with associated settlements engaged in mixed arable and pastoral farming (Meadows 1995, 41–4).

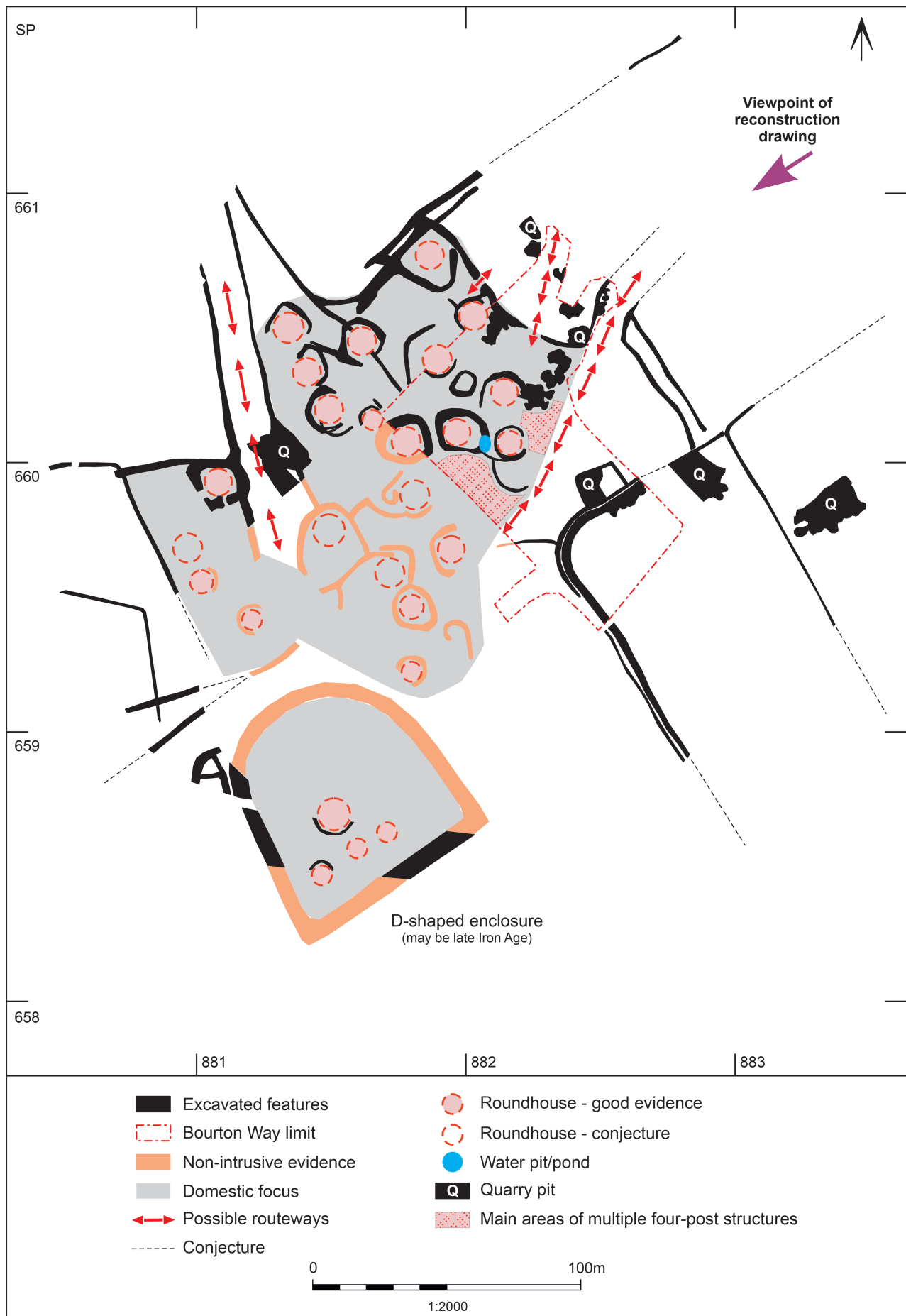


Figure 2.1: Simplified plan of the overall Bourton Way/Wilby Way settlement

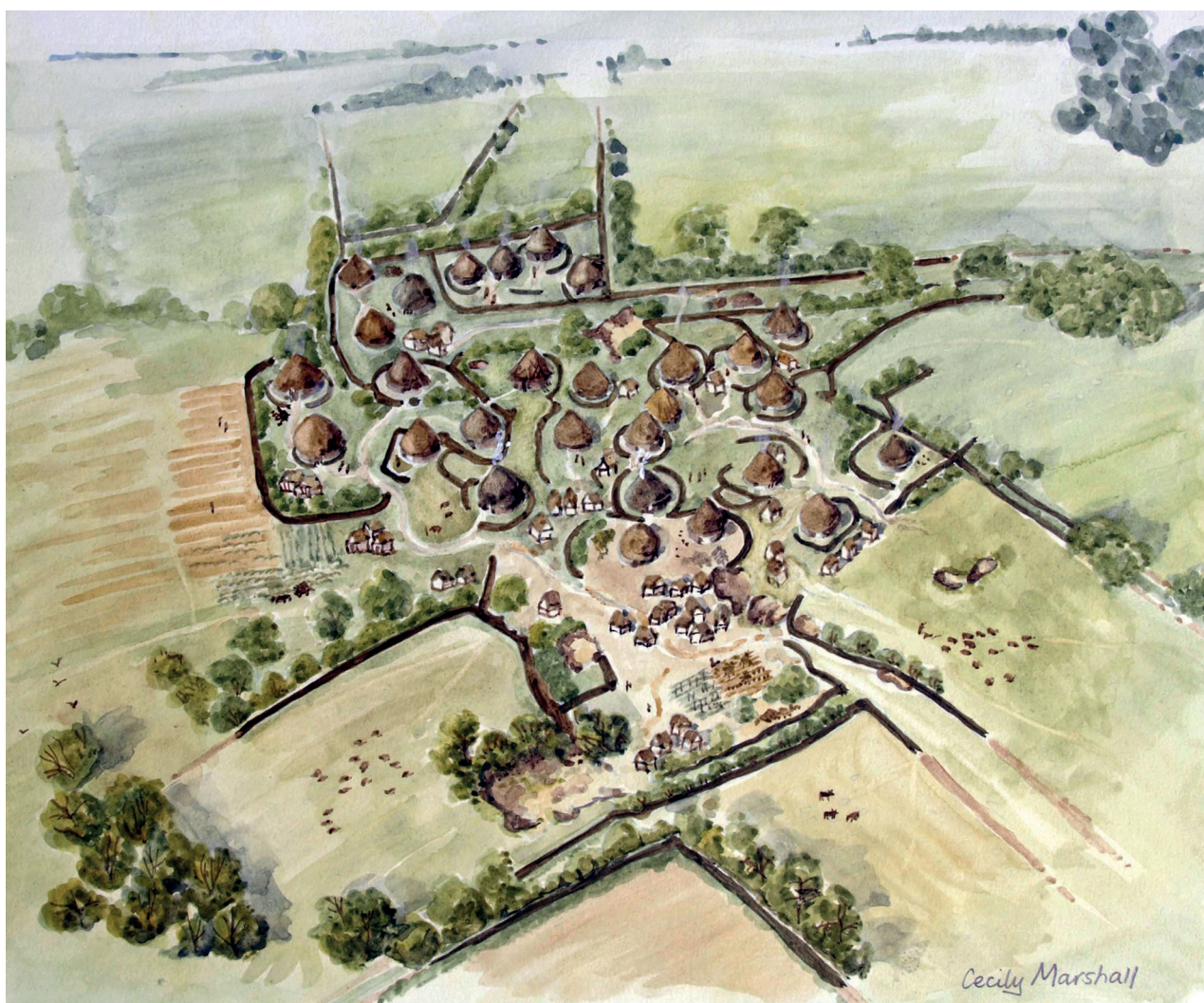


Figure 2.2: Reconstruction drawing of the Bourton Way/Wilby Way settlement by Cecily Marshall

There is no new evidence in terms of waterlogged deposits or pollen from Bourton Way or Station Road to help build up a more precise picture of the environment at either settlement, but there is some evidence in the charred plant remains (Giorgi, Chapter 6) and the animal bone (Maltby, Chapter 6) assemblage. Grassland was represented within both excavations by *Bromus* (brome) and *poaceae*, but also by *Medicago/Trifolium* (medick/clovers), *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain). Other weed seeds, hulled (spelt) wheat and hulled barely indicate that some of the land around the settlements was under arable cultivation.

The presence of cattle and sheep/goat also demonstrates the use of land for pasture. At Bourton Way/Wilby Way and Station Road/Grasmere Way, non-domestic enclosures/fields were present away from the domestic focus and probably represent areas set aside for arable cultivation and/or pasture for animals, but it is also possible that cattle spent the drier months grazing on the floodplain. The presence of badger, barn owl, red and roe deer bones indicates a range of habitats, such as scrubland or woodland and open grassland, in the vicinity of both settlements.

Access to a supply of wood for fuel and building material would have been of high importance to the settlements' inhabitants. Any woodland would also have provided food sources, for humans and animals, such as

hazelnuts and berries. Hazelnut shells recovered from Bourton Way and Wilby Way (Stevens 2003, 59) suggest access to woodland, but do not indicate any measure of distance.

III. ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT

The only evidence for pre-Iron Age activity (Phase 1) at Bourton Way and Station Road was residual worked flint from features that also contained middle Iron Age pottery. No evidence of a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age origin for either settlement was identified. Limited evidence for Neolithic/early Bronze Age settlement was found at Wilby Way, although there is no suggestion that it was in any way relevant to the Iron Age settlement (Thomas and Enright 2003, 20, 60–1). Similarly, while no earlier settlement origins were identified at Station Road, Mesolithic and Neolithic–early Bronze Age occupation is known within the King's Meadow Lane development c. 400m to the south-west (Cramp 2009, 13–14).

The Phase 2 settlements at both Bourton Way and Station Road were dated to the middle Iron Age on the basis of pottery fabrics and forms – in particular scored wares, which are typical of assemblages encountered on other contemporary sites in the region (Wells, Chapter 5). The range of 'other artefacts' was also typically Iron Age in date (Duncan Chapter 5). The date range corresponds

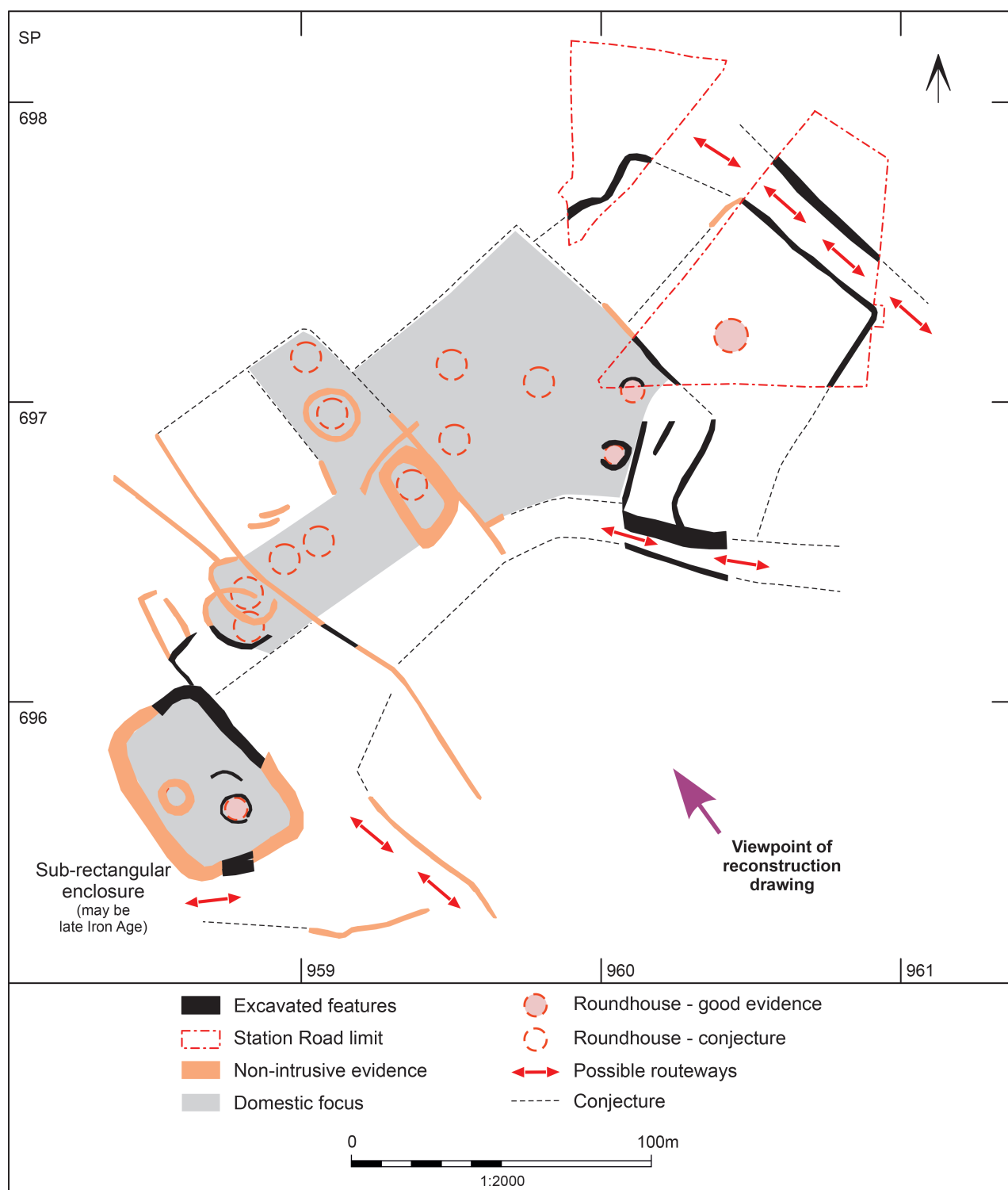


Figure 2.3: Simplified plan of the overall Station Road/Grasmere Way settlement

with the Wilby Way evidence, which suggested that the settlement was established around the 6th–5th century BC and remained in use until its abandonment in the 1st century BC (Thomas and Enright 2003, 15). The D-shaped enclosure on the southern peripheral of the settlement was only partly investigated within earlier investigations but ‘may have been one of the last elements of the settlement complex to have been constructed’ (Thomas and Enright 2003, 61). The evidence from the Grasmere Way excavations indicated that this part of the settlement was in use from ‘around the mid-3rd century BC until

the late 1st century BC, or early 1st century AD’ (Smith and Muir 2009, 41). An absence of wheel-thrown pottery indicates that neither of the settlements continued into the pre-‘Belgic’ late Iron Age.

The longevity of occupation was evident at both sites through the reworking of ditches and some intercutting storage pits, as well as the sheer number of post-built structures and pits at Bourton Way. Unfortunately, a precise time frame or even a sequence for this activity cannot be established by the ceramic assemblages from either settlement; nor can a close typological date be



Figure 2.4: Reconstruction drawing of the Station Road/Grasmere Way settlement by Cecily Marshall

assigned to the meagre ‘other artefacts’ assemblage. In all but a few stratigraphically clear cases, the sequence of enclosures, pits and post-built structures cannot, therefore, be reconstructed. Ascertaining how many of the structures and enclosures were contemporary was also a problem at Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, 61).

IV. MORPHOLOGY

In the East Midlands, ‘no template for settlement morphology appears to have been followed, although some ordering principles were clearly adhered to in the materialisation of individual sites. Some clustering of family/kin/other groups is implied by the number of apparently contemporary roundhouses in certain areas’ (Willis 2006, 103). The two settlements under discussion here share a number of characteristics: both are dated to the middle Iron Age; both are large; and both contain enclosed and unenclosed elements, roundhouses, post-built structures and storage pits. However, they do differ in their layout and probably in their size – some caution in making comparisons is required due to the differing extent of open-area excavation undertaken within them. This reflects the general pattern of Iron Age settlement in Northamptonshire, where familiar elements, such as roundhouses and storage pits, occur in different combinations and on differing scales: from small, open settlements, such as Mawsley New Village (Hull and Preston 2002; Harvey 2012) to larger, almost village-sized settlements, such as Crick (Hughes and Woodward 2015; Masfield *et al.* 2015).

Extent

It is difficult to define precisely the extent of largely unenclosed settlements. Thomas and Enright suggested the Bourton Way/Wilby Way settlement could ‘cover approximately 10 hectares’ (2003, 61). However, the more recent work indicates that the c. 0.75ha Bourton Way excavation represents roughly 20% of a 4ha settlement (Fig. 2.1). The excavation revealed part of the domestic focus of the settlement, which was also investigated at Wilby Way to the north-west and was mapped by geophysical survey in the preservation-in-situ area to the south-west. Two of the non-domestic enclosures (SL1 and SL2) at Bourton Way were also partly investigated at Wilby Way, where they were interpreted as part of a field system (Thomas and Enright 2003, 15).

Similarly, the 0.7ha excavations at Station Road covered only one part of a larger settlement. Unfortunately, even though the adjacent land to the west and south is now covered by residential development, it has been less extensively investigated. As a result, although fragments of Iron Age settlement have been uncovered, it is not clear how they relate to one another. A definite continuation of the domestic focus at Station Road was identified immediately to the south, where a roundhouse, pits and postholes were investigated (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1998). Contemporary enclosures and linear boundaries were identified during evaluation to the west of Station Road (Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit 1991) but only part of the new road corridors at the junction of Grasmere Way and Hecham Way were subject to archaeological excavation (Smith and Muir 2009). Here, c. 140m to the south-west of the Station

Road excavations (Fig. 2.3), a sub-rectangular enclosure defined by large ditches contained evidence for internal and external activity. The available evidence suggests, therefore, that the Iron Age settlement comprised a loose group of NE-SW aligned enclosures, fields and linear boundaries that may have extended over 3.5ha – with the Station Road excavation on its north-east periphery.

In summary, the extent of both settlements is larger than many contemporary settlements such as Site 3 on the Rushden and Higham Ferrers Bypass (Mudd 2004, figs 3 and 4) and Mawsley New Village (Harvey 2012, fig. 8). It is similar to the apparent extent of the settlements at Northampton Road (Albion Archaeology 2015b) and Radstone Fields, Brackley (Albion Archaeology 2016), but only half the size of that at Crick (Hughes and Woodward 2015; Masefield *et al.* 2015).

Type

Non-hillfort settlements in Northamptonshire ‘can be divided into three broad morphological categories: open settlements, enclosed settlements, and agglomerated settlements’ (Kidd 2004, 54). Open settlements tend to be more characteristic of the early Iron Age, *e.g.* Mawsley New Village (Harvey 2012, 17), while enclosed settlements, typically defined by enclosures containing one or more roundhouses, ancillary buildings and pits, are more usually associated with the middle Iron Age, *e.g.* Silverstone 2 (Mudd 2007, 25, fig 2.14) and Moulton Park, Northampton (Williams and Mynard 1974, figs 2 and 3). Agglomerated settlements comprise both open and enclosed elements and, as such, are typified by their far greater size, longevity and diversity of function (Kidd 2004, 54–6), *e.g.* Covert Farm, Crick (Hughes and Woodward 2015; Masefield *et al.* 2015) and Beaumont Leys (Thomas 2011). There are exceptions to this threefold categorisation: *e.g.* Northampton Road and Radstone Fields, Brackley – large settlements that are best described as open in nature (Albion Archaeology 2015b; 2016).

The Bourton Way/Wilby Way settlement contains both enclosed and open elements (Fig. 2.1) so is best described as agglomerated. The number, density and distribution of roundhouses suggest that the settlement was occupied by multiple family groups, although as is so often the case on middle Iron Age settlements, exactly how many of these buildings were in use at the same time is unclear. Agglomerated settlements in Northamptonshire (Fig. 2.5) are known at Crick (Hughes and Woodward 2015; Masefield *et al.* 2015, fig. 1.5), Silverstone 3 (Mudd 2007, fig. 2.2), and possibly Twywell (Jackson 1975, fig. 3).

In terms of Kidd’s categorisation, the nature of the Station Road/Grasmere Way settlement (Fig. 2.3) is uncertain, although this is largely because of the limited extent of the open-area excavations. However, it also appears to contain both open and enclosed elements. Enclosed settlements in Northamptonshire tend to be smaller than Station Road/Grasmere Way (Fig. 2.6), *e.g.* Silverstone 2 (Mudd 2007, fig. 2.14), Site 3 on the Rushden and Higham Ferrers Bypass (Mudd 2004, figs 3 and 4), and Mawsley New Village (Harvey 2012, fig. 8).

Spatial layout

The Bourton Way/Wilby Way settlement appears to have comprised a central domestic focus with peripheral fields/enclosures. Domestic foci, fields/enclosures and boundaries were identified within the Station Road/Grasmere

Way settlement but (for reasons explained above) their precise layout is less well understood than at Bourton Way/Wilby Way. Both settlements included at least one enclosure defined by large ditches and a number of linear boundaries/trackways. However, there is no evidence to suggest that either settlement was defined by a continuous outer boundary ditch.

Although the quantities of roundhouses, post-built structures and storage pits are very different at the two settlements, they do share some similarities in their layout. At both sites the roundhouses, post-built structures and, to a lesser extent, storage pits appear to be clustered. This was most obvious at Bourton Way where post-built structures were located to the south-east of the roundhouses, with only a small number in the peripheral fields/enclosures (Fig. 2.7). The ditches defining roundhouses at Bourton Way were re-dug on several occasions, suggesting that the location of individual buildings within the settlement was fixed and could not easily be changed. In addition, the areas of quarry pits at Bourton Way, as was also the case at Wilby Way, were located away from the domestic focus and in some cases appear to be situated adjacent to routeways into the settlement (Fig. 2.1). The latter is logical in that it would facilitate the movement of materials but of course the location of quarrying would be determined by the local geology.

Settlement components

The overall characteristics of the two settlements have been described above. However, the components of each settlement merit further discussion. In terms of cemeteries only one human burial was found – at Station Road; it is discussed below in the ‘Burial and Ritual’ section, along with disarticulated human bone and ‘unusual’ deposits.

Domestic focus

‘Domestic focus’ is the term used within this publication to indicate a concentration of roundhouses, post-built structures, storage pits and finds suggestive of a focus of activity, which might have included specific tasks, such as crafts or food-processing. At Bourton Way/Wilby Way there was a clear concentration of roundhouses in the central part of the settlement (Fig. 2.1). A large pottery assemblage was recovered from this area, along with evidence for food-processing (querns) and craft activity (loom weights and worked bone).

The situation is less clear at Station Road/Grasmere Way as the known clusters of roundhouses are *c.* 140m apart (Fig. 2.3). Two roundhouses were found at Station Road and one in the adjacent Stanwick Road excavation (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1998, fig. 2). The other cluster was within the sub-rectangular enclosure to the south-west (Smith and Muir 2009, fig. 3.2). It is therefore possible that this settlement had more than one domestic focus.

Enclosures/fields

Enclosures/fields defined by ditches were present within both settlements. They were generally rectangular or square in plan and the ditches had usually been re-dug several times. Due to the limited extent of the investigations, the overall size of the larger enclosures/fields was difficult to determine. At Bourton Way, L2 was in excess of 64m × 120m (when combined with evidence from Wilby Way). At Station Road, L2 was in excess of 60m × 60m.



Figure 2.5: Comparative plans of selected 'agglomerated' middle Iron Age settlements in Northamptonshire

Evidence for activity within the enclosures/fields at Bourton Way was limited. Where post-built structures and pits occurred they were usually located on the periphery of the enclosures/fields. The finds assemblage was also smaller than that recovered from the domestic foci.

The majority of enclosures/fields at Bourton Way could be classed as fields, which corresponds with the interpretation at Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, 22, 29–30, fig. 3). It is likely that the fields were

associated with cultivation or pastoralism. At Bourton Way, however, there is evidence for small-scale iron smelting and smithing within the enclosures assigned to SL1 (Duncan, Chapter 5).

On the periphery of both settlements was a single enclosure defined by large ditches – the D-shaped one at Wilby Way (82m × 77m) and the sub-rectangular one at Grasmere Way (62m × 47m). As both contained evidence for multiple roundhouses, they are considered to be domestic in nature.

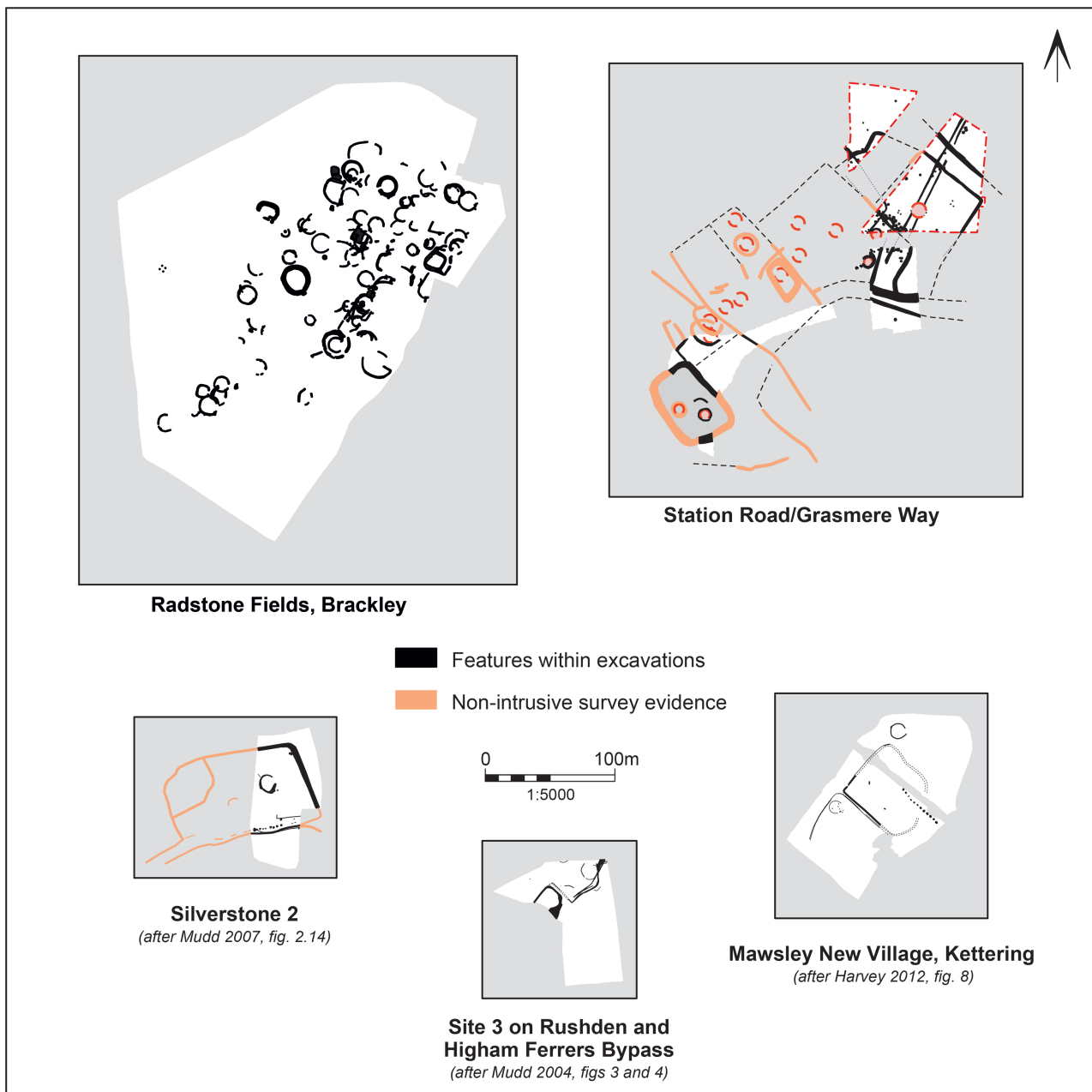


Figure 2.6: Comparative plans of selected open and 'enclosed' middle Iron Age settlements in Northamptonshire

Trackway/routeways

There is only limited evidence for trackways/routeways within the settlements. A possible routeway was identified at Bourton Way where there appeared to be a corridor devoid of activity passing through the entrance into enclosure SL2 (Figs 2.1 and 3.2). However, taking into account the layout of ditches within Wilby Way, the main routeways into the settlement were probably located to the north and north-east (Fig. 2.1). Few causeways across ditches or other open corridors were identified within the settlement itself, making it difficult to speculate as to the position of other routeways (which must clearly have existed).

A possible candidate for a trackway at Station Road is L12, although in the context of the wider settlement the reason for its peripheral location to the north-east is far from clear (Fig. 2.3). Perhaps a more convincing routeway into the settlement was found within the Stanwick Road

excavation; it would have provided access from the east (Fig. 2.3).

Linear boundaries

Within this publication, where ditches continued beyond the limits of excavation it has been assumed that they were part of fields/enclosures. However, a number of Iron Age settlements in Northamptonshire appear to have developed adjacent to extensive linear boundaries, *e.g.* Crick and Wakerley, as discussed by Masefield (2015, 273), or within field systems, *e.g.* Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1986–87). No clearly extensive linear boundaries have been identified within the Bourton Way/Wilby Way settlement and while there were a number of linear cropmarks to the west of Station Road within the Station Road/Grasmere settlement (Fig. 1.3), they appear to be perpendicular to the trend of the settlement. These have only been examined by trial trenching (Northamptonshire

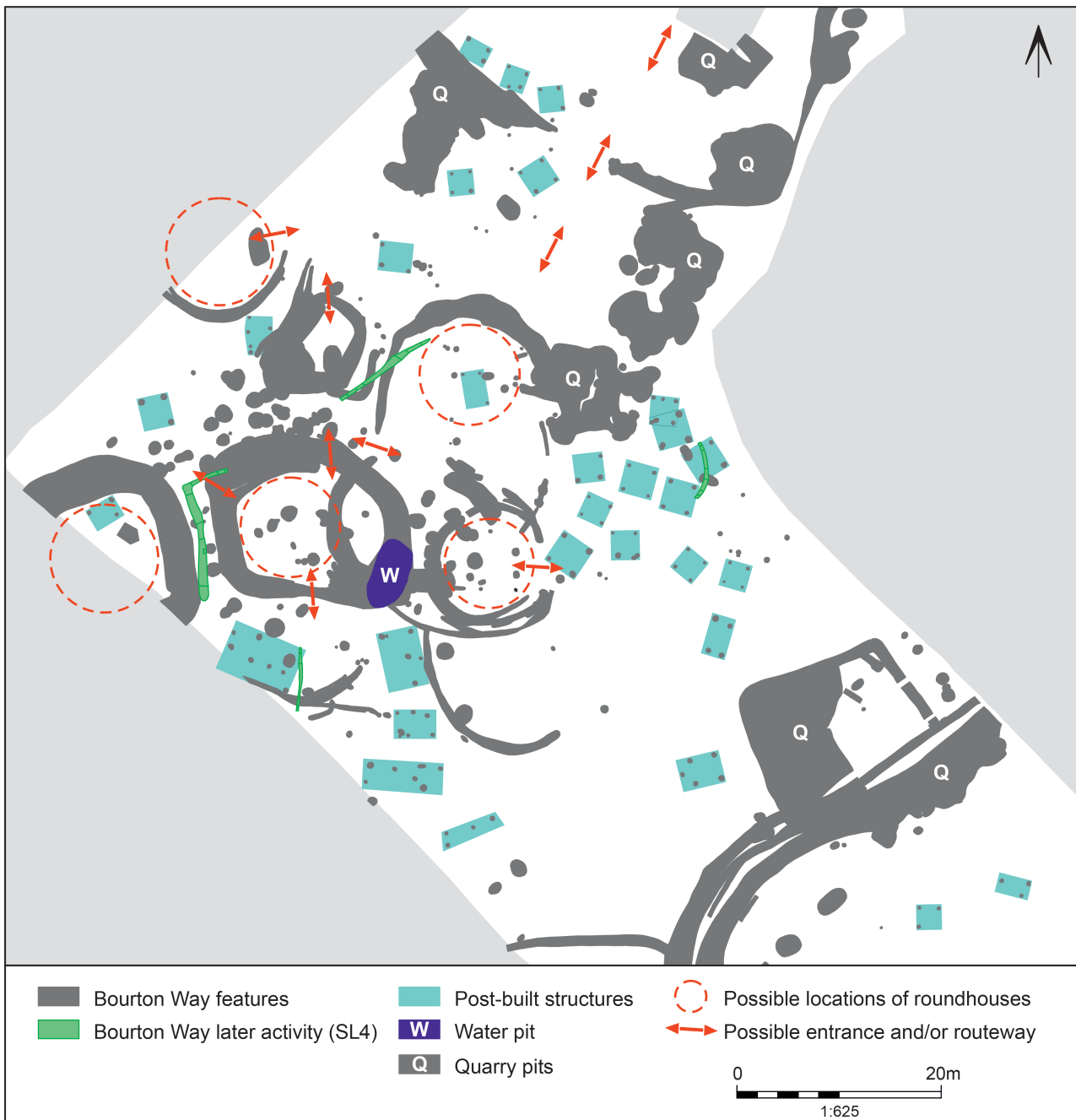


Figure 2.7: Simplified plan of the domestic focus within Bourton Way showing the locations of roundhouses and post-built structures

Archaeology Unit 1991), which indicated a probable Iron Age date (Smith and Muir 2009, 45), but clearly their full extent or nature could not be determined.

Buildings

Evidence was recovered for a number of different building forms: roundhouses, roundhouse enclosures, and post-built structures (both square and rectangular).

Roundhouses

Two definite roundhouses (G19 and G23) were identified at Station Road and three (L8, L11 and L27) at Bourton Way. Broadly circular enclosures at Bourton Way may indicate the location of at least three other roundhouses; these are discussed separately below.

With the exception of G19 at Station Road, all the roundhouses were defined by gullies that were c. 11m in diameter (Table 2.1). The gullies defining roundhouses L8 and L11 at Bourton Way and G23 at Station Road had been re-dug without significantly altering the size or shape of the enclosed area. The concave profile of the gullies and their shallow depth (0.1–0.3m) indicate that they were drains rather than the actual wall trenches of the buildings. At least ten roundhouses were identified at Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, 62 and fig. 5), one at Stanwick Road (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1998, fig. 2), and at least two at Grasmere Way (Smith and Muir 2009, fig. 3.1). They were similar in nature and size to the roundhouses at Silverstone (Mudd 2007, figs 2.4 and 2.18), Twywell (Jackson 1975, fig. 14) (Fig. 2.8)

L	G	SG	Redefinitions	Shape	Internal diameter/area (m)	Max. width : depth (m)	Ditch profile	Entrance	Internal activity	Pottery sherds : wgt (kg)	Animal bone (kg)	Human bone frag : wgt (kg)	Other finds (kg)
Bourton Way													
*8	19	278	1	?Circular	>12	0.6 : 0.2	Concave	E?	2 pits	30 : 0.23	0.45	-	Flint flake 0.01 fuel ash Slicker/knife (OA13) 2 x saddle quern (OA11, OA12) Sharpening/hone stone (OA14) Bone bobbin (OA16) Bone weaving implement (OA15) Bone point (OA17)
*11	34	466	5	Circular	11	0.6 : 0.2	Concave	E	Pits Postholes	169 : 4.8	2.0	-	
13	28	388	4	Sub-circular	<13	2.4 : 1	Steep sides, concave base	-	Post-built structure Pits	145 : 1.7	5.3**	1 : 0.01	
14	25	362	2	Oval	17 x 22	0.5 : 0.2	Steep sides, narrow flat base	E, W	Postholes Post-built structure	107 : 2.36	4.2**	-	0.01 fuel ash Flint flake 0.05 burnt stone Quern stone (OA18) Iron armlet? (OA19) Antler snaffle (OA20) Stone pivot (OA21) 0.06 fired clay Polished antler tip (OA22)
15	32	450	2	Circular	13	2.3 : 1.2	Steep sides, flat or concave base	N, E	Pits	118 : 1.7	3.2**	-	
16	30	406	7	Sub-square	14 x 11	0.3 : 0.6	Concave	NW, S, N	Water pit G49	255 : 3.8	5.9**	3 : 0.17	
*27	53	-	1	?Circular	>8	0.4 : 0.2	Concave	-	-	-	-	-	
Station Road													
*2	19	-	-	Circular	11	Post-built	-	E?	2 postholes	-	-	-	
*3	23	-	1	? Circular	>8	0.4 : 0.2	Concave	-	-	8 : 0.08	0.16	-	

* = Roundhouse (all others are roundhouse enclosures), ** Includes animal bone groups, L = Land-use Area number, G = Group number, SG = Subgroup number. All weights rounded to nearest 0.01kg.

Table 2.1: Summary of roundhouses and roundhouse enclosures

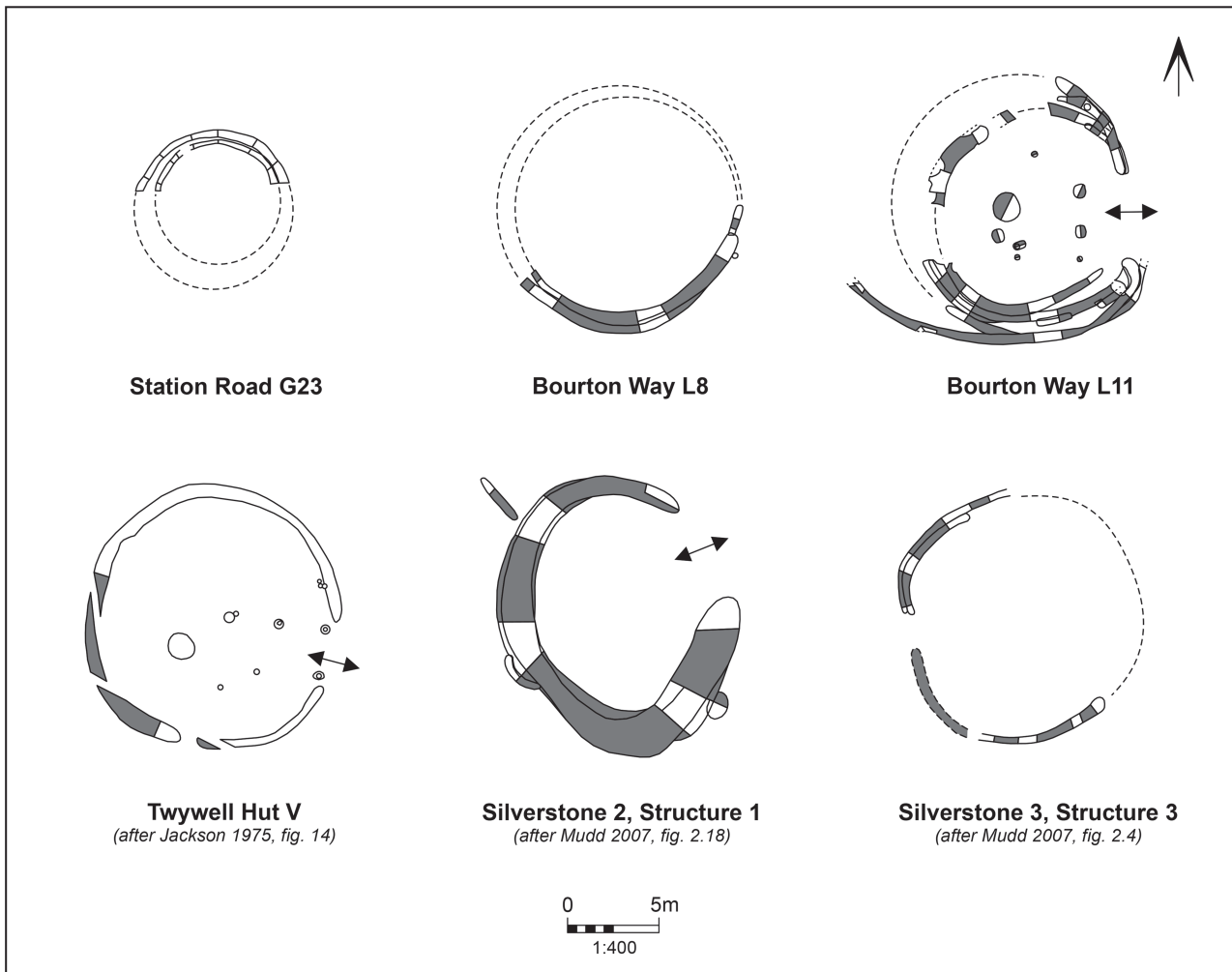


Figure 2.8: Comparative plans of Iron Age roundhouses defined by drainage ditches at Bourton Way, Station Road and other selected Northamptonshire sites

and numerous examples at Crick (Hughes and Woodward 2015; Masfield *et al.* 2015).

Gaps in the roundhouse gullies at Bourton Way and Station Road indicate the location of doorways and 80% of these were east- or northeast-facing. A similar predominance was noted at Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, 62). An easterly facing entrance is a 'well-known phenomenon' in Iron Age Britain (Oswald 1997, 87, figs 10.1 and 10.2). This widespread uniformity is usually explained in terms of environmental factors such as light (Hingley and Miles 1984, 63), although Oswald has argued that 'symbolic or ritual considerations' may have a greater significance (Oswald 1997).

There was one example of a post-ring roundhouse (G19) at Station Road. It had no gully but was similar in diameter to the other roundhouses (Table 2.1, Figs 2.8 and 2.9). Similar evidence has been found at Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1986–87, fig. 5), Crick (Woodward and Hughes 2007, fig. 4), and Beaumont Leys (Thomas 2011, fig. 9), sometimes in association with gullies (Fig. 2.9).

Possible evidence for activity within the roundhouses is limited to two postholes that did not appear to be part of the post-ring for roundhouse G19 at Station Road, and by a few postholes and pits within roundhouses L8 and L11 at Bourton Way. The latter included two probable doorposts set back from the wide causeway across the ditch. The other postholes may have been contemporary

with the buildings but this is less likely to be the case with the storage pits. A similar array of features was noted within the roundhouses at Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, 25–8, figs 6 and 10) and Grasmere Way (Smith and Muir 2009, 35–8).

A number of 'other artefacts' that may have derived from the building were recovered from the terminals of the gully defining roundhouse L11 at Bourton Way. These included an iron implement (OA13), combination whetstone and sharpening tool (OA14), and saddle querns (OA11 and OA12) (Duncan, Chapter 5).

Roundhouse enclosures Four sub-circular enclosures, one of which contained the circular gully associated with roundhouse L11 (see above) and three of which probably contained roundhouses, were identified at Bourton Way. The enclosures were defined by ditches that were different in character to the roundhouse gullies. They were up to 2.3m wide and 1.2m deep and in most cases had been re-dug several times. The size of the enclosures (Table 2.1) suggests that they could have contained roundhouses with a diameter of up to 13m.

A right-angled arrangement of three postholes G29 in enclosure L13 is probably a post-built structure unrelated to the actual roundhouse. Even if it were contemporary with the building, it would probably not be part of a doorway because it is located away from the known gaps in the ditch. At Danebury, 'for the most part the

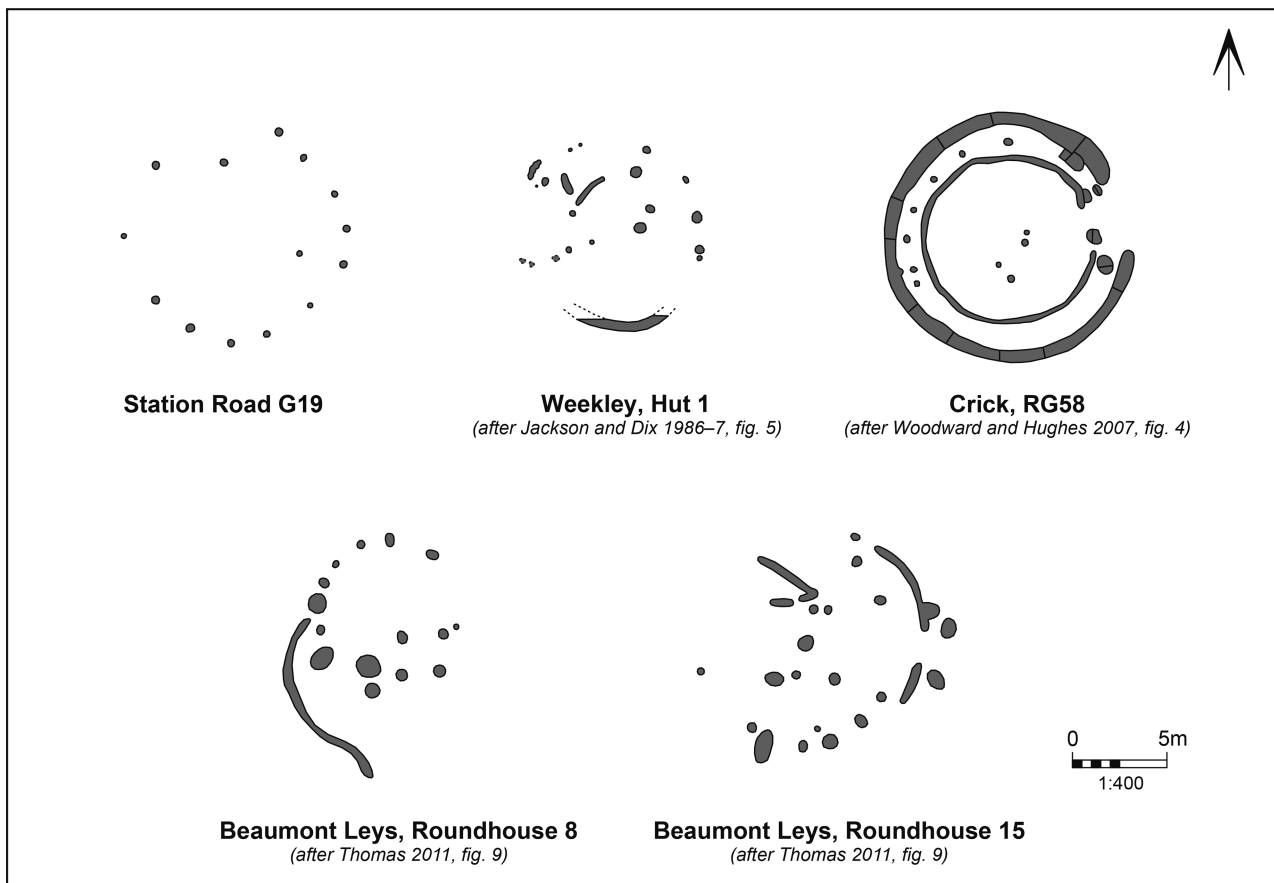


Figure 2.9: Comparative plans of Iron Age 'post-ring' roundhouses at Station Road and other selected sites

[roundhouse] interiors seem to have been kept clear', although 'many houses had scattered stake-holes or isolated posts suggesting a variety of internal structures probably of a temporary nature' (Cunliffe and Poole 1991a, 47).

Causeways across the original ditches, presumably indicating entrances, were often blocked during later re-cutting. This may seem a strange thing to do but it is possible that access was subsequently provided by planks laid across the ditch. Where causeways were identified they were generally on the east side of the enclosures, although there were a few exceptions.

Similar substantial ditched enclosures, both sub-circular and sub-square, were identified at Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, 21–28 and 30–2). One, structure 13, was associated with a larger concentric ditch (*ibid.*, 32, fig. 14) and is therefore comparable to those at Bourton Way. Elsewhere in Northamptonshire, similar roundhouse enclosures have been excavated at Biddlesden Road Bridge and Silverstone 2 (Mudd 2007, figs 2.18 and 2.37), and at Northampton Road and Radstone Fields, Brackley (Albion 2015b; 2016).

Square post-built structures

Twenty-three probably square structures (defined by three, four or five postholes) were present at Bourton Way but only four at Station Road. They varied in size from 2.1m × 1.3m to 4.2m × 3.2m (Table 2.2). With two exceptions, most of the postholes contained only small quantities of finds. SG573 at Bourton Way contained 30 sherds from a globular jar (Wells, Chapter 5) and a worked slab of Lincolnshire limestone (OA24) (Duncan,

Chapter 5), which probably served as post-packing. One of the postholes associated with structure SG585 at Bourton Way contained the articulated skeleton of a juvenile sheep SG592 and is likely to represent a structured deposit (see below). Surprisingly, given the number at Bourton Way, only three four-post structures were identified at Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, 30, 63, fig. 6).

Similar square structures are common on many Iron Age sites, *e.g.* Twywell (Jackson 1975, 52–4, fig. 16), Northampton Road and Radstone Fields, Brackley (Albion Archaeology 2015b; 2016), but very few were found at Crick (Hughes and Woodward 2015; Masefield *et al.* 2015). This type of structure has traditionally been interpreted as a raised storage building or granary but other suggestions include drying racks and excarnation platforms (Thomas 2011, 155).

Rectangular post-built structures

Seven possible rectangular structures were identified at Bourton Way but none at Station Road/Grasmere Way. They were characterised by broadly rectangular arrangements of up to eight postholes and they varied in size from 3.4m × 2.1m (SG328) to 8.5m × 3.5m (SG512). Some of the more tentative ones may actually have been two adjacent square structures rather than being individual rectangular structures. Generally speaking they occupied similar peripheral locations to the square post-built structures and a cluster of five rectangular structures, assigned to L19 and L24, was located just south of the domestic focus at Bourton Way (see Fig. 3.2).

SG	G	L	SL	Structure type	Postholes	Extent (m)	Pottery sherds : wgt (kg)	Other finds (kg)
Bourton Way								
188	10	2	1	Square	3	2 × 1.9	–	–
190				Square	3	2.6 × 1.4	3 : 0.06	–
243	16	6	2	Square	3	2.2 × 1.2	3 : 0.04	–
245				Square	4	2 × 1.8	–	–
247				Square	3	2 × 1.8	7 : 0.01	–
195	13	25	3	Square	5	2.4 × 2.4	4 : 0.01	0.01 animal bone
253	18	7		Square	4	2.4 × 2.2	–	–
255				Square	4	1.9 × 1.8	–	–
267				Square	3	2 × 2.5	2 : 0.02	0.03 animal bone
328	24	10		Rectangular?	5	3.4 × 2.1	1 : 0.01	–
350	26	14		Rectangular?	3	3 × 1.6	–	–
377	24	10		Square	3	2.2 × 2.6	–	–
402	29	13		Square	4	2.6 × 1.5	3 : 0.01	–
512	43	19		Rectangular	7	8.5 × 3.5	5 : 0.03	0.1 animal bone
551	50	24		Rectangular	6	4.4 × 5.5	2 : 0.01	0.14 animal bone
553				Rectangular	8	4.3 × 2	5 : 0.02	0.22 animal bone
555				Rectangular	7	8 × 4.3	2 : 0.02	–
557				Rectangular	4	5.5 × 1.4	–	–
569	51	25		Square	6	3.2 × 2.6	–	0.01 animal bone
571				Square	4	3.2 × 3.2	2 : 0.01	0.01 animal bone
573				Square	5	3 × 3	32 : 2.9	Pottery vessel broken <i>in situ</i> Architectural stone (OA24) 0.5 animal bone
575				Square	4	2.8 × 3	–	–
577				Square	4	2.8 × 2.5	–	–
579				Square	3	2.6 × 2.3	–	–
581				Square	4	2.5 × 2.2	–	–
583				Square	4	4.2 × 3.2	–	–
585				Square	4	2.5 × 2.5	–	Partial skeleton of juvenile sheep SG592
593				Square	4	2.3 × 2.3	–	–
595				Square	7	3.2 × 2	1 : 0.1	0.02 animal bone
597				Square	4	3.7 × 2	–	–
Station Road								
185	18	2	–	Square	3	3 × 3	1 : 0.02	–
191				Square	3	2.3 × 2	–	–
193				Square	3	>3.5 × 1.5	5 : 0.04	0.08 animal bone
195	22	3		Square	3	2.1 × 1.3	1 : 0.01	0.01 animal bone

Weights rounded to nearest 0.01kg.

Table 2.2: Summary of post-built structures

Rectangular structures appear to be less common than square structures on Iron Age sites but they are known at Northampton Road and Radstone Fields, Brackley (Albion Archaeology 2015b; 2016). As with the square structures, they are generally interpreted as raised storage buildings or granaries. At Beaumont Leys it was suggested that they could have been cattle byres or even small enclosures/stockades for livestock rather than structures (Thomas 2011, 155, fig. 15); however, these examples were considerably larger than those found at Bourton Way (Fig. 2.10).

Other structures

Hearth G62 at Bourton Way was the only such structure identified within both excavations. It was located on the north-east side of domestic focus SL3, adjacent to a quarry pit. However, the small quantity of fuel ash and burnt stone recovered from several roundhouse gullies does provide indirect evidence for hearths or ovens. The presence of an iron-working furnace was inferred through the recovery of slag, hammer slag and hammer scale from enclosure L1 at Bourton Way (Duncan, Chapter 6). A

comparable assemblage, not associated with structural remains, was recovered from Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, 63–4).

Water pits

A single example of a water pit G49 was identified at Bourton Way. Interpretation was based on the size and depth of the pit as no waterlogged deposits were present. No water pits were identified at Wilby Way, although Area 3 contained a possible pond (Thomas and Enright 2003, 31). No water pits have been identified within the Station Road/Grasmere Way settlement but this may purely reflect the limited extent of the excavations.

V. ECONOMIC BASIS

Situated on higher ground overlooking the River Nene both settlements were in prime topographic locations to practise a mixed farming economy. This is evident in the charred plant and animal bone assemblages. Meagre evidence for non-agricultural activities, such as textile, bone and antler-working was recovered; there is some

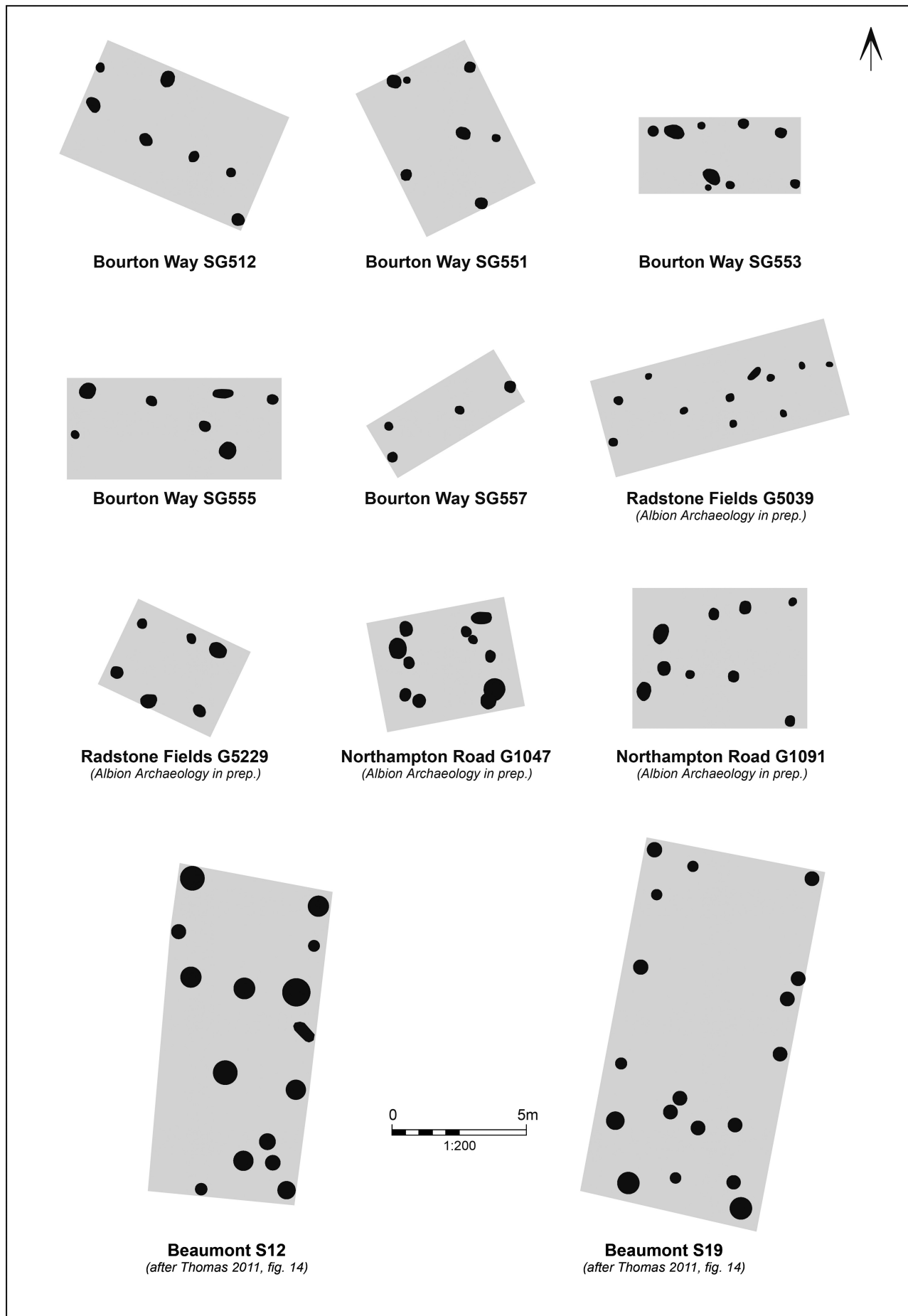


Figure 2.10: Comparative plans of Iron Age rectangular structures at Bourton Way and other selected middle Iron Age settlements

evidence of small-scale metal smelting and working at Bourton Way.

Cultivation

The archaeobotanical evidence from Bourton Way and Station Road showed very similar results in terms of crop husbandry (Giorgi, Chapter 6). The charred plant remains from both sites suggest that hulled spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and (six-row) hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) were the main crops being cultivated and used. There were also traces of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and another hulled wheat, emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*) (at Bourton Way only), which may have been minor crops. This range of cereals is typical for the early to middle Iron Age period in Britain (Greig 1991, 306). The weed seed evidence points to the use of calcareous loam soils in the immediate vicinity of both sites for growing crops that included winter-sown cereals. The charred plant assemblages at both sites are indicative of almost fully processed cereals, with the burnt remains deriving largely from activities associated with the final stages of crop-processing (before storage or milling) and/or food preparation. There was also some evidence for grassland plants at Station Road, which may have been collected for various uses including fodder.

At Bourton Way the botanical evidence suggests that the north-western part of SL3 may have been concerned mainly with the final cleaning of the grains (largely the de-husking of the hulled wheat) and food preparation. This is in contrast to the evidence from Wilby Way, where crops were 'harvested and stored either unprocessed or in a relatively unprocessed state' (Stevens 2003, 60). This may indicate that SL3 was part of the main domestic focus of the settlement. At Station Road, the charred remains suggest the presence of activities in the south-west part of domestic enclosure L2 associated with the final stages of crop-cleaning and/or possibly storage areas of cleaned or semi-cleaned (*i.e.* spikelets) grain.

Other evidence for crop-processing was provided by four fragments of saddle quern from Bourton Way; none was found at Station Road.

Animal husbandry

While there is indirect evidence for animals within the settlements – the presence of enclosures (which could have been used as paddocks or holding pens) – the main evidence is provided by animal bone.

The animal bone assemblages from the two settlements provide further evidence that animal exploitation in the region during the Iron Age was largely focused on cattle and sheep (Maltby, Chapter 6). Cattle was clearly consumed at both settlements but a tendency towards prime beef or older animals, previously kept as breeding stock or plough animals, was noted at Bourton Way. The presence of calves and neonates at Station Road indicates that veal was consumed and it is likely that the inhabitants raised their own cattle. The dominance in both assemblages of cattle over sheep/goat is a trend that has been repeated at Biddlesden Road Bridge and Silverstone Site 3 (Deighton 2007, 143–5) and Clay Lane (Jones *et al.* 1985). In contrast, sheep/goat was the dominant species at Twywell (Harcourt 1975, 88–9), and at Wilby Way (Maltby 2003, table 7) and site 3 on the Rushden and Higham Ferrers bypass (Deighton 2004, 83–4, table 4) the numbers were almost the same. Their relative abundance showed some variations between Bourton Way and

Station Road (and different parts of both sites) but this probably mainly reflects variations in site usage, disposal practices and bone preservation rather than significant differences in the relative number of these species kept and consumed.

Analysis of sheep mortality data did indicate some variations between the two settlements, with more animals at Bourton Way being slaughtered at a size and age most suitable for meat production than at Station Road. This may indicate different exploitation strategies at the two settlements, although it is also possible that some of the animals consumed at these settlements were acquired from elsewhere for slaughter rather than being bred and raised by the inhabitants themselves. Animal husbandry probably involved a complex network of interactions between regional farming communities, which would have involved the exchange of livestock for breeding and slaughter.

Station Road produced a higher percentage of pigs than has been encountered previously on Iron Age sites in this region, although they still ranked well below cattle and sheep in importance to the diet. Horse remains suggested that they were predominantly kept as beasts of burden at both settlements. An antler cheek-piece from Bourton Way (Duncan, Chapter 5) indicates that they were also ridden. Both settlements provided clear evidence that some horsemeat was eaten.

Wild resources

Animals

Although the wild species assemblage included badger, barn owl, duck, heron, short-tailed vole, roe and red deer, it was small in number and suggested that species such as venison and duck were a rare addition to the diet. The white-tailed eagle wing in a storage pit at Station Road may have been acquired for its feathers. There is no evidence that chickens were being kept at either settlement and no fish bones were identified from either settlement despite the proximity of the River Nene; this is often the case on Iron Age sites and could be attributable to poor preservation.

A similarly small representation of wild species was noted in the assemblages from site 3 on the Rushden and Higham Ferrers bypass (Deighton 2004, 84), Silverstone Fields Farm and Biddlesden Road Bridge (Deighton 2007, 141–7). A few bones of pigeon and other indeterminate birds were also noted at Silverstone Fields Farm (*ibid.*, 147).

Plants

The only other evidence for the exploitation of wild foods is the presence of a hazelnut shell in a sample (32) from Bourton Way; it probably came from a hedgerow or wood margin in the vicinity. Wild species have not always been widely recorded on Iron Age sites but hawthorn and hazelnut were both present at Biddlesden Road Bridge (Carruthers 2007, 155, table 6.6).

Craft activities

The majority of the evidence for non-agricultural activities is associated with metal-working although the quantity of material recovered was small. There is also limited evidence for bone-, antler- and textile-working.

Metal-working

Evidence for ‘occasional small-scale iron-working, possibly smelting and primary smithing’ was identified at Bourton Way (Duncan, Chapter 5). The by-products of such activity were found in quarry pits G4 (assigned to L33) and in an adjacent pit and gully SG153/SG156 (assigned to L1). Similar pit and gully arrangements, some containing slag, have been identified at Biddlesden Road Bridge (Mudd 2007, 52, 60, figs 2.37, 2.42). As at Bourton Way, no *in-situ* burning was present but they were located near iron-smelting furnaces so based on this and the presence of slag it was suggested that ‘they were probably associated with iron smelting or secondary working’ (Mudd 2007, 60). Evidence for small-scale iron-working was also identified at Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, 63–4) and it is likely that the slag and a crucible/mould fragment found in ditches and pits in area 2 are the continuation of the industrial activity identified in enclosure L1 at Bourton Way.

As Mudd has commented, ‘Definite evidence of iron production in this period in the region is surprisingly rare’ (Mudd 2007, 172). As at Bourton Way, small-scale smithing was identified at site 3 of the Rushden and Higham Ferrers bypass (Chapman 2004, 83) and at Crick (Hughes and Woodward 2015, 263–5). However, the evidence is limited in contrast to that from Biddlesden Road Bridge, where working areas including furnaces were investigated (Mudd 2007, 174–6).

Bone-, antler- and textile-working

Small-scale textile production was indicated by the recovery of loom weights from both settlements. At Bourton Way bone- and antler-working was also indicated by the recovery of several bone implements, sawn antler and an antler cheekpiece (Duncan, Chapter 5). A paucity of craft-related artefacts was also noted at Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, 64) and Grasmere Way (Smith and Muir 2009, 45).

Clay-lined pits such as SG166 at Station Road are a common feature on Iron Age sites and comparable pits have been found at Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1986–87, 47) and Twywell (Jackson 1975, 61). It has been suggested that they could ‘have been used for heating water and perhaps dyeing wool’ (Jackson and Dix 1986–87, 47). Several pits with clay-lined bases were excavated at Danebury but there the suggestion was that the clay/daub may have derived from a plug placed between two intercutting storage pits (Cunliffe and Poole 1991a, 159). With this in mind it is possible that the clay lining at Station Road acted as a barrier between the backfill of the original pit and its replacement.

VI. BURIAL AND RITUAL

Burial evidence comprised one inhumation and five animal burials. Disarticulated human bone and partial animal skeletons were also recovered; together with a small number of unusual deposits they may be evidence of rituals undertaken by the inhabitants of the settlements.

Inhumation

The inhumation at Station Road was the only evidence of formal burial from both sites (Fig. 4.6). It comprised a crouched child G17 and was very poorly preserved (Duhig, Chapter 6). The burial produced no dating evidence but it was adjacent to and on the same alignment as boundaries L6 – hence the assumption that it is Iron Age in date. While no inhumations were found at Bourton Way, three were found at Wilby Way, along with two un-urned cremation burials (McKinley 2003, 45–8).

Small numbers of formal human burials, as at Wilby Way and Station Road, is a common feature of Iron Age settlements before the first century BC in the county (Kidd 2004, 59) and over much of south-east Britain (Cunliffe 1991, 505).

Disarticulated human bone

The two settlements produced a total of nine examples of disarticulated human bone in non-funerary deposits (Table 6.23). A range of body parts was represented, including fragments of skull, femur, tibia, ribs and vertebrae (Duhig, Chapter 6). They were found only in storage pits at Station Road but in both pits and ditches at Bourton Way. Of the five deposits at the latter, only skull fragments SG637 were found within the terminus of a ditch (enclosure L9). At Wilby Way, eleven pits and ditches contained human bone (McKinley 2003, table 4).

The discovery of disarticulated human bone on Iron Age sites is relatively common and ‘in the absence of cemeteries the most satisfactory explanation of the observed facts is that excarnation was the normal rite’ (Cunliffe 1991, 507). With this in mind it is interesting to note that much of the disarticulated human bone at Wilby Way was worn, ‘suggesting exposure prior to burial or several depositional episodes’ (McKinley 2003, 45). One bone had possible cut marks on it (*ibid*, 48) and it was suggested that these may represent defleshing marks (Thomas and Enright 2003, 64).

Animal burials

In contrast to Wilby Way, where no articulated dog bone groups were found (Maltby 2003, 55), three dog skeletons were discovered. Although not 100% complete, they comprised most parts of the body and are therefore likely to have been deposited as complete carcasses (Maltby, Chapter 6).

SG	Description	G	L	SL	Species	Fragments	Interpretation
207	Partial skeleton within quarry pit	56	26	3	Dog (adult)	89	‘Unusual’ deposit
263	Partial skeleton within own grave	18	7	3	Dog (adult)	90	Burial
449	Left humerus, radius, ulna, third metacarpal and first phalanx probably from same animal within ditch	30	16	3	Horse (young adult)	11	Processing (cut marks)
592	Partial skeleton in posthole of four-post structure	51	25	3	Sheep (juvenile)	61	‘Unusual’ deposit
641	Severed neck within enclosure ditch	28	13	3	Cattle (adult)	49	Butchery waste
646	Partial skeleton in ditch terminal	9	2	1	Dog (puppy)	32	Burial

Table 2.3: Summary and interpretation of associated bone groups (ABGs) at Bourton Way

SG	Description	G	L	Species	Fragments	Interpretation
159	Largely complete skeleton in isolated storage pit	10	4	Dog (adult)	82	Burial
163	Three lumbar vertebrae, part of a sacrum and left pelvis from same animal within quarry pit	11	1	Cattle (young adult)	64	'Unusual' deposit
267	Six vertebrae and ribs possibly from same animal within quarry pit. Deposit also contained vertebrae from a calf	26	11	Cattle (immature)	26	'Unusual' deposit
269	Four vertebrae within quarry pit	26	11	Cattle (immature)	4	'Unusual' deposit
281	Incomplete skeleton within a ditch fill. May have been partially articulated at the time of final deposition	14	4	Cattle (young adult)	110	'Unusual' deposit / burial
283	Four lumbar vertebrae, humerus and rib in primary fill of storage pit	25	2	Dog (adult)	39	'Unusual' deposit

Table 2.4: Summary and interpretation of associated bone groups (ABGs) at Station Road

Only one, a probably female adult SG263 (SL3) at Bourton Way, was placed in its own grave; the shape and shallow depth differed from the storage pits and suggests that it was purpose-dug. There is some suggestion that the animal may have been skinned prior to burial but the evidence is not conclusive (*ibid*). Of the others, a puppy SG646 was placed in a possible ditch terminal of enclosure L2 (SL1) at Bourton Way and adult SG159 (L4) was found in an isolated storage pit at Station Road – ‘all areas of the body were represented and there is no evidence for carcass processing’ (*ibid*).

‘Unusual’ deposits

It has long been recognised in Iron Age studies that certain deposits may be associated with ritual activity rather than simply representing dumps of rubbish (Hill 1995). The interpretation of these deposits as being the result of ‘ritual’ or ‘functional’ behaviour is inevitably contentious, although it is generally accepted that in many past societies this may be an artificial divide (Morris 2010, 266). At Bourton Way and Station Road a number of deposits which, during excavation, appeared to be ‘unusual’ were recorded as such to facilitate more detailed examination of their contents – typically because the finds assemblage was considered to be unusual in quantity and/or nature or because the deposit was in an atypical location.

At Bourton Way examples of ‘unusual’ deposits which included artefacts comprise:

- SG490: part of a saddle quern (OA12), iron bladed implement (OA13) and combination whetstone/sharpening stone (OA14) (Duncan, Chapter 5) deposited along with 0.5kg of animal bone and 51 sherds (1.7kg) of pottery in the ditch terminus of roundhouse enclosure L11. A second fragment of saddle quern (OA11) was found within the opposing ditch terminus (*see* Fig. 3.7).
- SG573: a lid-seated globular jar that may have been broken *in situ* (Wells, Chapter 5) found within one of the postholes of four-post structure SG573 (*see* Fig. 3.6).
- SG637: an ovoid pottery vessel that may have been broken *in situ* (Wells, Chapter 5) and three human skull fragments deposited together in one of the ditch termini of enclosure L9 (*see* Fig. 3.13).

A number of animal bone assemblages comprising partial skeletons, large quantities of bone, or mixed assemblages were present on both sites (Tables 2.3 and 2.4). A ‘functional’ interpretation would be that these represent butchery/processing waste. This is probably the

case at Bourton Way with deposits such as SG449 (horse forelimb with cut marks) and deposit SG641 (a severed cattle head) (both SL3) (Maltby, Chapter 6). Others, such as the small groups of mainly cattle vertebrae at Station Road (*e.g.* SG281), are less easy to explain, especially when they exhibit no evidence for carcass processing and may have ‘belonged to more complete skeletons that were not processed but were subsequently disturbed and redeposited’ (*ibid*).

Of these, perhaps the most likely to be associated with ritual activity is the partial skeleton of a juvenile sheep SG592. This had been deposited within a posthole of four-post structure SG585 at Bourton Way and ‘may have been a foundation burial for the structure’ (*ibid*). Several sheep skeletons were found at Wilby Way but all within ditches and pits, although one of the latter was located within a probably building (Maltby 2003, 51–2).

The significance of the presence of individual animal parts is always difficult to interpret and they are, therefore, not listed in Tables 2.3 and 2.4. However, the largely complete adult horse mandible within a post-pipe of post-built structure SG574 (G51, L25) at Bourton Way would seem a deliberate action and the same may be true of the fairly complete cattle skulls in two storage pits within cluster G25 at Station Road (Maltby, Chapter 6). Finally, the wing from a white-tailed eagle in a storage pit within cluster G25 at Station Road is certainly a very unusual find – it may have been brought to the site for its feathers (*ibid*). Multiple examples of ‘unusual’ animal remains placed in ditches and pits were identified at Wilby Way, *e.g.* a cow skull found in the terminus of a roundhouse ditch (Thomas and Enright 2003, 64).

VII. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ‘STATUS’ OF THE INHABITANTS

The social and economic ‘status’ of the inhabitants of Iron Age settlements is always difficult to determine. This is because the artefactual and ecofactual assemblages are often meagre and ambiguous – as is the case at Bourton Way and Station Road. However, the evidence merits a brief review.

The ecofactual evidence suggests that the two settlements were very similar, practising a mixed farming regime dominated by sheep/goat and cattle and the growing of spelt and hulled barley. This is comparable to other settlements in Northamptonshire, *e.g.* Twywell (Jackson 1975), Silverstone (Mudd 2007, 178–81) and Crick (Hughes and Woodward 2015, 136–7). A rise in the number of large storage jars in the ceramic assemblage from the later phase at Wilby Way was thought to imply increased storage of cereal grains beyond the needs of the

occupants. Linked to this, Thomas and Enright suggested that the settlement became a 'communal focus and acted as a central place with increased importance within the region' (2003, 61). A similar rise in large storage jars was also noted in the earlier middle Iron Age at Crick (Hughes and Woodward 2015, 136–7).

It is usually assumed that settlements of this period were largely self-sufficient, with the inhabitants competent in a variety of crafts. However, as is often the case, the two settlements produced only small numbers of artefacts associated with craft activities – bone-, antler- and textile-working. There is also some evidence for small-scale iron-working at Bourton Way, although no *in-situ* furnaces were found.

Only two possible personal items were recovered: a possible iron armlet (OA19) and an antler cheekpiece (OA20), both from Bourton Way. These 'might suggest that at least one person of status was resident' (Duncan, Chapter 5). The quantity and local character of the pottery assemblage from both settlements is typical of the majority of Iron Age sites in Northamptonshire. However, the presence of querns from Sussex and a whetstone from the Pennines indicates that the inhabitants had access to wider trade networks, at least at Bourton Way. Parallels are scarce, but similarly sourced querns were found at Hunsbury Hillfort (Kidd 2004, 61) and there were imported querns at Beaumont Leys (Thomas 2011, 158) and Covert Farm, Crick (Hughes and Woodward 2015, 135–6). Kidd concluded that 'demonstrably imported artefacts are very rare in middle Iron Age contexts in Northamptonshire' (2004, 61).

The status and wealth of the inhabitants could also be reflected in the size and form of the settlements – assuming

that settlement morphology is a product of social and economic organisation. The clustering of roundhouses at Bourton Way/Wilby Way suggests a communally based settlement. This would enable the inhabitants to pool resources that might give them an economic advantage over smaller settlements. The presence of the large enclosures/fields surrounding the Bourton Way/Wilby Way settlement indicates that they were planned by and served the community, which had enough resources to maintain them. During the later Iron Age, a D-shaped enclosure defined by large ditches was established on the southern extent of the settlement at Wilby Way (Windell 1981; Thomas and Enright 2003, 61). This could be interpreted, as with the substantial ditches around some of the roundhouses at Bourton Way, as the occupants deliberately demonstrating their power/importance.

The situation at Station Road is less clear as the wider settlement has been only partially investigated. However, it did also contain at least one enclosure defined by large ditches (Smith and Muir 2009, 46, fig. 3.1). Whilst there is no proven link between this enclosure and the surrounding contemporary settlement evidence (including that at Station Road), it is on a similar alignment to known ditches and it is tempting to see it as part of the same aggrandising process seen at Wilby Way.

In summary, the occupants of the settlements at Bourton Way/Wilby Way and Station Road/Grasmere Way were farmers and probably self-sufficient in most things. The evidence for iron-working and access to some traded goods suggests that the occupants of the Bourton Way/Wilby Way settlement may have had wider contacts and were possibly wealthier.

Chapter 3

Bourton Way, Wellingborough

I. OVERVIEW

Bourton Way saw the excavation of c. 0.75ha of a middle Iron Age settlement that was part of the same site published as Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003) (Fig. 1.2). 'The pottery is datable to the middle Iron Age (broadly late 4th/early 3rd– 2nd centuries BC), and complements the material recovered from the adjacent investigations at Wilby Way (Blinkhorn and Jackson 2003)' (Wells, Chapter 5).

The excavation area encompassed part of an unenclosed domestic focus (SL3) and two non-domestic enclosures (SL1 and SL2) (Fig. 3.1, Plate 4). The domestic focus contained evidence for at least five round-houses, 25 post-built structures, one water pit and c. 100 storage pits (Fig. 3.2, Table 3.2). Unsurprisingly, this area produced the largest amount of pottery and animal bone (Table 3.1). The non-domestic enclosures were both rectangular and their boundary ditches had been re-dug several times. They contained pits and post-built structures, often located around their periphery, although in significantly lower numbers than the domestic focus. Given their spatial layout, it is clear that not all the post-built structures, pits and ditches were contemporary. However, given the long-lived nature of the pottery and the few stratigraphical relationships, it has only been possible to distinguish a small amount of definitely later activity (assigned to SL4).

II. ENCLOSED ACTIVITY FOCUS SL1

Enclosed activity focus SL1 comprised three enclosures (L1, L2 and L4) of very different sizes, an area of unenclosed activity L3 and quarry pits L33. Only enclosure L1 lay wholly within the investigation area (Fig. 3.3).

Pottery and animal bone was found in the majority of the features in SL1. In addition, an iron staple (OA3), bone bodkin (OA1), bone bobbin (OA2), sawn antler beam (OA4) and worked antler (OA5) were recovered (Table 3.1). Small quantities of ferrous slag, hammer-scale/slag and iron waste by-products were recovered, suggesting that iron-working may have taken place in this area.

Small rectangular enclosure and internal activity L1

The smallest enclosure, which may have been the earliest, was rectangular and 17m by 13m in extent. It was defined by ditch G1, which was c. 1m wide and 0.9m deep with a V-shaped profile (Fig. 3.4 section a). It had been re-dug at least once on the same course and to the south had been re-dug as part of a redefinition of enclosure L2.

The western half of the enclosure had been truncated by an area of quarry pits L33 (see below). Therefore, most of the surviving features G2 were located in the northern corner. They comprised a pit, a pit/gully and another gully that may have defined the extent of this activity. A single posthole was located to the south.

The pit probably served a storage function as it was 0.4m deep with steep sides and a flat base. A pit/gully

arrangement SG153/SG156 had been partially dug into the enclosure ditch (Fig. 3.4 section g). The 'pit' part of this feature 'contained 35g of ferrous slag, along with hammer-scale (5g), hammer-slag (0.2g) and fuel ash slag (14g)' (Duncan, Chapter 5). This, along with charcoal, suggests that small-scale smithing was associated with this feature or may have occurred in the vicinity. In addition, a possible bone needle or bodkin (OA1) was recovered from the enclosure ditch.

Large rectangular enclosure and internal activity L2

This enclosure extended beyond the excavation area and had been partly investigated within Wilby Way Area 2 (Thomas and Enright 2003, fig. 7). Overall it is assumed to have been rectangular in plan and c. 90m (NW–SE) by c. 70m (NE–SW). Its ditches were up to 2.5m wide and 0.7m deep with V-shaped profiles; they had been re-dug several times on the same course (Fig. 3.4 section h). With each redefinition there had been a gradual north-west migration, which ultimately resulted in later ditches being partly dug through small rectangular enclosure L1. No clear entrances were identified due to the extensive recutting but possible terminals suggested access into enclosure L1 to the north and to the south-west.

Evidence for activity (G10) within the enclosure comprised pits, two four-post structures and a small number of dispersed postholes, all clustered in the northern part of the enclosure. Given the absence of features within the southern part of the enclosure in the Wilby Way excavation (Thomas and Enright 2003, fig. 7), it is likely that the rest of the interior was devoid of evidence for activity. Three large oval pits appear to have been deliberately dug in a line parallel to the north-west enclosure boundary ditch. They were up to 3.2m long, 1.7m wide and 0.8m deep, with vertical sides and generally flat bases (Fig. 3.4 section d). Their profiles are similar to features interpreted elsewhere as storage pits but the latter were smaller and more circular in plan.

Two possible 'four-post' structures were identified, although in each case only three postholes were present. SG188 is the more convincing of the two because of its shape in plan and the presence of limestone post-packing in two of the postholes. However, the depths of the postholes associated with SG190 were not insubstantial (Fig. 3.4 section e and f).

An articulated dog skeleton SG646 indicated that a puppy had been buried in a possible terminal of one of the ditch recuts defining the south-west side of the enclosure (Maltby, Chapter 6). The only artefact of note was a bone bobbin (OA2) recovered from one of the enclosure ditches.

Possible enclosure and internal activity L4

A third enclosure may have existed on the west side of large enclosure L2. It was defined on the north side by ditch G12 and the south-western ditch of enclosure L2. Its northern ditch was c. 1m wide and 0.3m deep with a concave profile (Fig. 3.4 section b). A single posthole



Figure 3.1: Overall plan of middle Iron Age settlement at Bourton Way with SL assignments and showing the adjacent archaeological features



Plate 4: Aerial view of Bourton Way

next to the ditch may indicate the presence of an entrance/crossing, although there was no corresponding gap in the ditch.

Evidence for internal activity comprised pit G8, located next to the boundary ditch of enclosure L2. It was c. 2m in diameter and 0.7m deep with a flat base (Fig. 3.4 section h) – similar to the pits within L2 that were interpreted as storage pits.

Unenclosed activity focus L3

Six pits G11 were dug adjacent to the north-east side of enclosure L1 and appear to be aligned parallel to it. They were 0.6–1.2m in diameter but were all less than 0.3m deep, with fairly flat bases (Fig. 3.4 section c). Although shallow they are interpreted as storage pits.

Later quarrying L33

In two areas a series of pits was partly dug into the sides of the ditches defining enclosures L1 and L2, representing a later phase of activity. Their irregular shape and asymmetrical profiles suggest that they were dug as quarries, albeit multiple pits rather than a single large pit. It seems likely that the ditches had revealed material that subsequently became the focus of quarrying. Pits G4 were up to 1m deep; they stopped at the top of the natural limestone, suggesting that they were dug to extract the overlying clay. Pits G5 were restricted to a strip adjacent to the north-west boundary ditch of enclosure L2. 'The fill of quarry pits G4 contained evidence of both ferrous smelting and smithing' (Duncan, Chapter 5, Table 5.5). It also produced a sawn antler tine (OA4), an antler off-cut (OA5) and a staple or timber dog (OA3).

The quarry pits contained the same types of middle Iron Age pottery as found in the rest of the settlement. Although an extensive area of quarrying was also recorded in the adjacent Wilby Way excavation, it was considered to be medieval in date (Thomas and Enright 2003, 66 and fig.7).

III. ENCLOSED ACTIVITY FOCUS SL2

Large enclosure L6 (c. 50m north of similar enclosure L2 (SL1)) contained evidence for internal activity in the form of three post-built structures, dispersed small pits and postholes (Fig. 3.5). A later area of quarrying L29 was also identified within the enclosure. The northern part of the same enclosure had been investigated within the Wilby Way excavation (Thomas and Enright 2003, fig. 5).

Pottery and animal bone were found in the majority of the features in SL2, together with ferrous slag, a nail shank (OA6) and an iron wedge or tip of a punch (OA7).

Large rectangular enclosure and internal activity L6

The enclosure was defined to the south-west and south-east by ditches that were less than 1.6m wide and 0.4m deep with steep-sloping sides and flat bases; they had been re-dug on a number of occasions (Fig. 3.5 sections a and e). A SW-facing entrance was indicated by a 6m-wide gap in the ditch; two postholes on its west side may have been associated with an entrance structure or gate. The continuation of the south-west ditch had been found to the north-west within Wilby Way (Thomas and Enright 2003, fig. 5). The combined evidence indicates that the

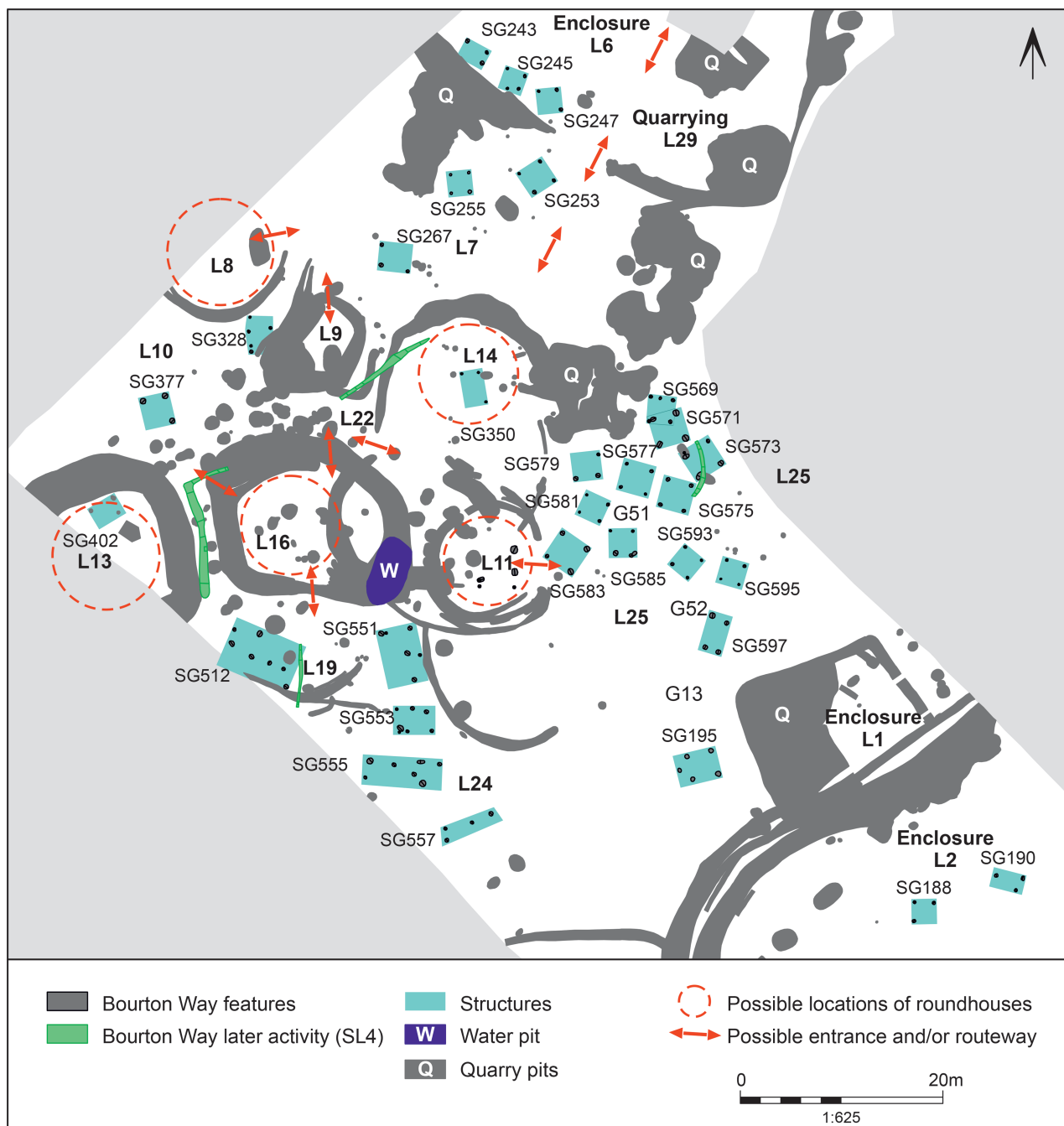


Figure 3.2: Interpretive plan of domestic focus SL3 of the Bourton Way settlement with labels for roundhouses and post-built structures

enclosure was rectangular and measured 70m (NW–SE) by at least 35m (NE–SW).

Internal activity G16 comprised three post-built structures (SG243, SG245 and SG247), positioned adjacent to the south-west enclosure ditch, and dispersed small pits and postholes. The post-built structures comprised broadly square arrangements of three or four postholes that defined areas *c.* 2m by 1.8m. The small pits were up to 0.8m in diameter and 0.4m deep with concave profiles (Fig. 3.5 sections f and g), indicating that they were probably not storage pits. Pit SG404, adjacent to the entrance into the enclosure, contained the complete mandible of an adult man (Duhig, Chapter 6).

Quarrying L29

Four areas of pits (G58) were dug in the southern part of the enclosure, two of them partly dug into the sides of the enclosure ditches. Their irregular shape and asymmetrical profiles suggest that they were dug as quarries. Although only 0.5m deep, they had been dug into the underlying limestone – unlike the quarry pits in SL1 – but whether this was the sole purpose of the quarrying is uncertain.

SL	L	Pottery sherds : wgt (kg)	Animal bone (kg)	Human bone Frags : weight (kg)	‘Other artefacts’ (kg)
1	1	40 : 0.2	0.5	–	0.04 ferrous slag 0.01 fuel ash slag 0.01 hammerscale 0.01 hammerslag Bone bodkin/needle (OA1) 1.2 burnt stone and flint LNeo/BA flint flake LBA flint flake Bone bobbin (OA2)
	2	126 : 1.05	1.9	–	0.01 vitrified clay 0.01 fuel ash slag
	3	5 : 0.02	0.01	–	–
	4	24 : 0.1	0.5	–	1.08 ferrous slag (smithing) 0.2 ferrous slag (smelting) 0.12 ferrous slag (undiagnostic) 0.01 hammerscale 0.01 hammerslag 0.03 vitrified clay lining 0.06 iron waste by-product (RA5, RA6) Staple or timber dog (OA3) Sawn antler beam (OA4) Antler offcut (OA5)
	33	95 : 1.17	2.1	–	0.04 slag 0.03 burnt stone Flint flake Nail shank (OA6) Iron object (OA7)
Total		294 : 2.59	5.06	–	
2	6	64 : 0.4	1.0	3 : 0.08	–
Total		64 : 0.39	1.0	3 : 0.08	
3	7	90 : 1.06	2.0	–	–
	8	30 : 0.23	0.45	–	Flint flake
	9	151 : 3.01	1.3	3 : 0.05	Worked slate (OA8) 2 × saddle querns (OA9 and OA10)
	10	69 : 0.77	1.3	1 : 0.04	0.01 fuel ash slag 0.01 fuel ash slag Iron slicker/knife/chisel? (OA13) 2 × saddle quern fragments (OA11, OA12) Sharpening and hone stone (OA14)
	11	169 : 4.8	2.0	–	Bone gouge (OA15) Bone bobbin (OA16) Bone point (OA17)
	13	145 : 1.7	5.3	1 : 0.01	0.01 fuel ash slag 0.01 flint flake 0.01 burnt stone Saddle quern (OA18) Possible iron armlet (OA19) Antler snaffle cheek piece (OA20) Pivot stone (OA21)
	14	107 : 2.36	4.2	–	0.06 fired clay Polished antler tip (OA22)
	15	118 : 1.7	3.2	–	0.02 vitrified clay Ceramic loom weight (OA23)
	16	255 : 3.8	5.9	3 : 0.17	–
	17	21 : 0.3	0.3	–	–
	19	47 : 0.5	0.5	–	–
	20	1 : 0.07	0.01	–	–
	22	39 : 0.9	1.2	–	–
	24	20 : 0.2	0.5	–	–
	25	82 : 4.1	1.1	–	0.01 burnt stone Architectural stone (OA24) 0.2 fired clay with lath or wattle impression 0.01 fuel ash slag Iron strip fragment (OA25)
	26	149 : 1.9	3.6	–	–
	28	5 : 0.02	0.01	–	–
	29	–	–	–	–
Total		1501 : 27.5	33.04	8 : 0.27	
4	21	17 : 0.16	0.1	–	–
	27	–	–	–	–
Total		17 : 0.16	0.1	–	

LNeo = late Neolithic, RA = Registered Artefact number, OA = Other artefact number (Duncan, Chapter 5).

Table 3.1: Summary of finds by Site Landscape (SL) and Land-use Area (L) at Bourton Way

G	SG	No. of pits	L	SL	Shape	Profile	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Other finds (kg)
2	153	1	1	1	Oval	Steep-sloping sides, flat base	1.4 × 0.7	0.4	0.07 animal bone
	156	1			Circular	Steep-sloping sides, concave base	1.2	0.4	0.06 animal bone 0.01 fuel ash
	159	1			Oval	Steep-sloping sides, flat base	1.4 × 0.7	0.4	–
8	121	1	4		Circular	U-shaped	2	0.7	0.1 animal bone
10	172	1	2		Circular	U-shaped	0.8	0.4	–
	174	1			Circular	U-shaped	0.9	0.4	–
	176	1			Oval	U-shaped	3.2 × 1.7	0.8	0.14 animal bone 1 worked flint
	180	1			Circular	U-shaped	2.5	1.2	0.06 animal bone
	184	1			Rectangular	U-shaped	2.2 × 0.7	0.8	0.03 animal bone
11	115	1	3		Circular	Steep-sloping sides, concave base	> 0.7	0.2	–
	166	3			Circular	Steep-sloping sides, concave base	0.7–0.8	0.2	–
	170	3			Circular	U-shaped	1–1.3	0.3	0.01 vitrified clay
16	202	2	6	2	Circular	Steep-sloping sides, concave base	0.8	0.4	–
	251	1			Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, flat base	1.2	0.1	0.01 animal bone
	404	1			Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, flat base	0.8	0.1	animal bone 0.08 human bone
17	216	2	7	3	Circular	U-shaped	2	0.6	0.77 animal bone
18	269	2			Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, flat base	0.4–0.6	0.1	0.01 animal bone
	273	1			Circular	U-shaped	0.8	0.4	0.03 animal bone
	275	1			Circular	U-shaped	0.8	0.8	0.05 animal bone
20	284	2	8		Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, uneven base	–	0.3	0.11 animal bone
22	317	1	9		Circular	U-shaped	1.1	0.4	0.18 animal bone
	320	1			Circular	Steep-sloping asymmetrical sides, concave base	1.7	0.3	0.01 animal bone
23	315	1	7		Circular	Steep-sloping sides, flat base	0.8	0.3	0.01 animal bone
	322	1			Oval	Gradual sloping sides, flat base	1.8 × 1.2	0.1	–
24	368	7	10		Circular	U-shaped	1.3–2.4	0.1–0.3	0.03 animal bone
	370	1			Circular	U-shaped	> 1.3	0.5	0.28 animal bone
	373	3			Circular	U-shaped	2–2.6	0.2–0.3	0.1 animal bone 0.01 fuel ash
	381	4			Circular	U-shaped	0.9–1.3	0.1–0.2	0.02 animal bone
	383	1			Circular	U-shaped	1.1	0.5	0.67 animal bone
	386	1			Circular	U-shaped	0.8	0.3	–
26	356	2	14		Oval	Steep-sloping sides, flat base	1.2 × 0.7	0.4	0.15 animal bone
	360	2			Circular	U-shaped	0.7	0.1	–
	623	1			Circular	U-shaped	2	0.5	0.43 animal bone
27	366	4	10		Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, flat base	0.6–1.2	0.1	0.07 animal bone
	545	3			Circular	U-shaped	1.5–2.2	0.1–0.3	0.07 animal bone
31	433	7	16		Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, concave base	0.4–1.6	0.1–0.3	0.04 animal bone
33	435	2	15		Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, flat base	0.6–0.9	0.1–0.2	0.04 animal bone
33	460	8			Circular	Steep-sloping sides, flat bases	0.8–1.6	0.1–0.4	0.01 animal bone
	462	1			Circular	Steep-sloping sides, flat base	1.1	0.1	–
	464	3			Circular	Moderate-sloping concave sides, flat base	1–1.5	0.2	0.05 animal bone
	628				Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, concave base	1	0.1	0.04 animal bone
35	484	4	11		Circular	Steep-sloping sides, flat base	0.7–0.8	0.1–0.2	0.03 animal bone
35	486	1			Circular	U-shaped	1.6	0.2	0.07 animal bone 0.01 fuel ash
38	494	2	17		Circular	U-shaped	1.7–2	0.3–0.5	0.06 animal bone
	566	1			Circular	U-shaped	0.7	0.1	–
43	516	3	19		Circular	Moderate-sloping concave sides, flat base	1.4	0.1–0.2	0.09 animal bone
	518	2			Circular	U-shaped	1–1.1	0.3–0.4	0.05 animal bone
	523	1			Circular	Asymmetrical moderate-sloping sides, concave base	2	0.3	0.09 animal bone
	525	1			Circular	Moderate-sloping concave sides, flat base	1.5	0.1	0.06 animal bone
46	539	3	10		Circular	Moderate-sloping concave sides, flat base	0.8–0.9	0.1–0.2	–
47	375	2			Circular	U-shaped	1.4–0.7	0.2	–
48	541	5	22		Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, concave bases	0.5–1.3	0.1–0.3	1.24 animal bone
50	559	1	24		Circular	Asymmetrical steep sides, concave base	0.8	0.2	0.01 animal bone
	561	2			Circular	Steep-sloping sides, flat or concave base	1.4–1.8	0.4–0.5	0.17 animal bone
51	589	1	25		Circular	U-shaped	1.1	0.7	0.38 animal bone
	621	1			Circular	Steep-sloping sides, flat base	1	0.2	0.01 animal bone
54	603	2	28		Oval	Steep-sloping sides, uneven bases	1.5 × 0.9	0.4	0.01 animal bone

All weights are rounded to the nearest 0.01kg.

Table 3.2: Summary of storage pits at Bourton Way

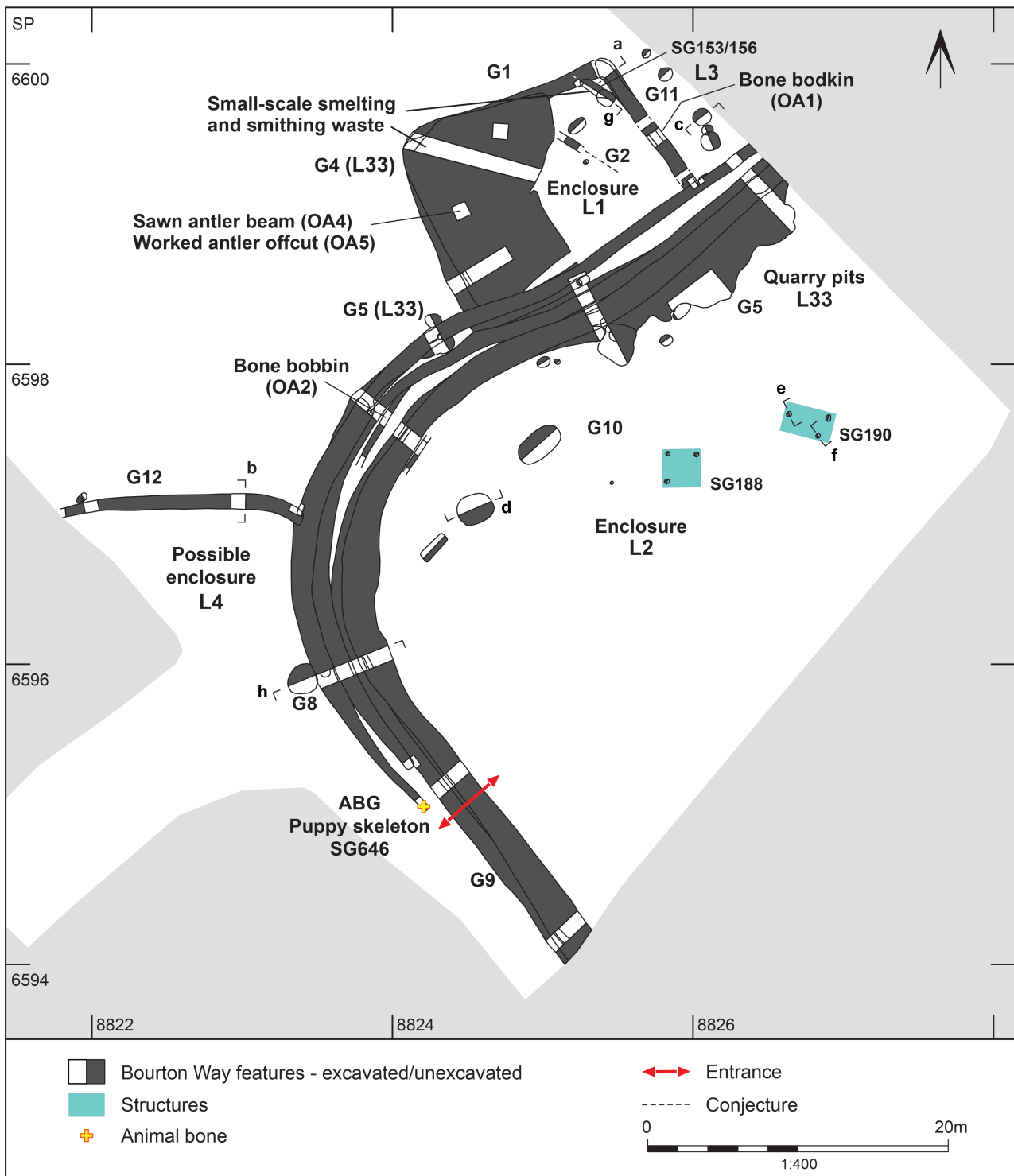


Figure 3.3: Plan of enclosed activity focus SL1

IV. UNENCLOSED DOMESTIC FOCUS SL3

Unenclosed domestic focus SL3 lay between enclosed activity areas SL1 and SL2. It covered 0.4ha within the excavation area but clearly extended into Wilby Way to the north and into the preservation-*in-situ* area to the south-west (Figs 1.2 and 3.6).

The central area of SL3 contained evidence for roundhouses and associated enclosures. Post-built structures were mainly situated to the east (L25) and south (L24) of

the roundhouses and enclosures, although a small number (L7) were located to the north-west. Pits (storage and other) and postholes (L10, L22) were dispersed across the SL3. One water pit G49 (L16) was present towards the centre of the excavated area.

The majority of the enclosure ditches had been recut several times, resulting in changes to the shape and size of the enclosures over time. Only in the case of L15 and L16 did ditches of different enclosures overlap, demonstrating non-contemporaneity. Interestingly, this change

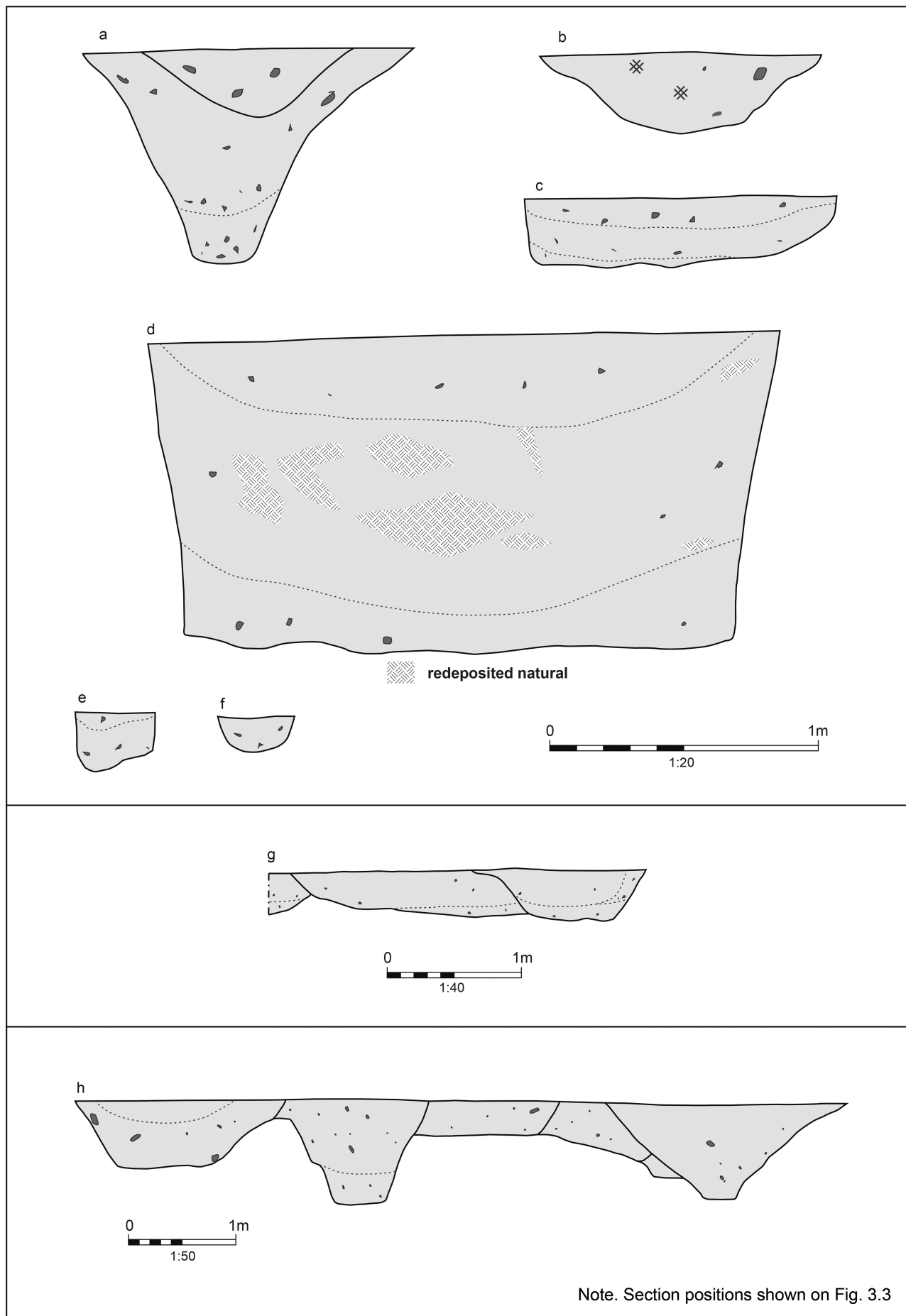


Figure 3.4: Selected sections of Phase 2 features shown on Figure 3.2

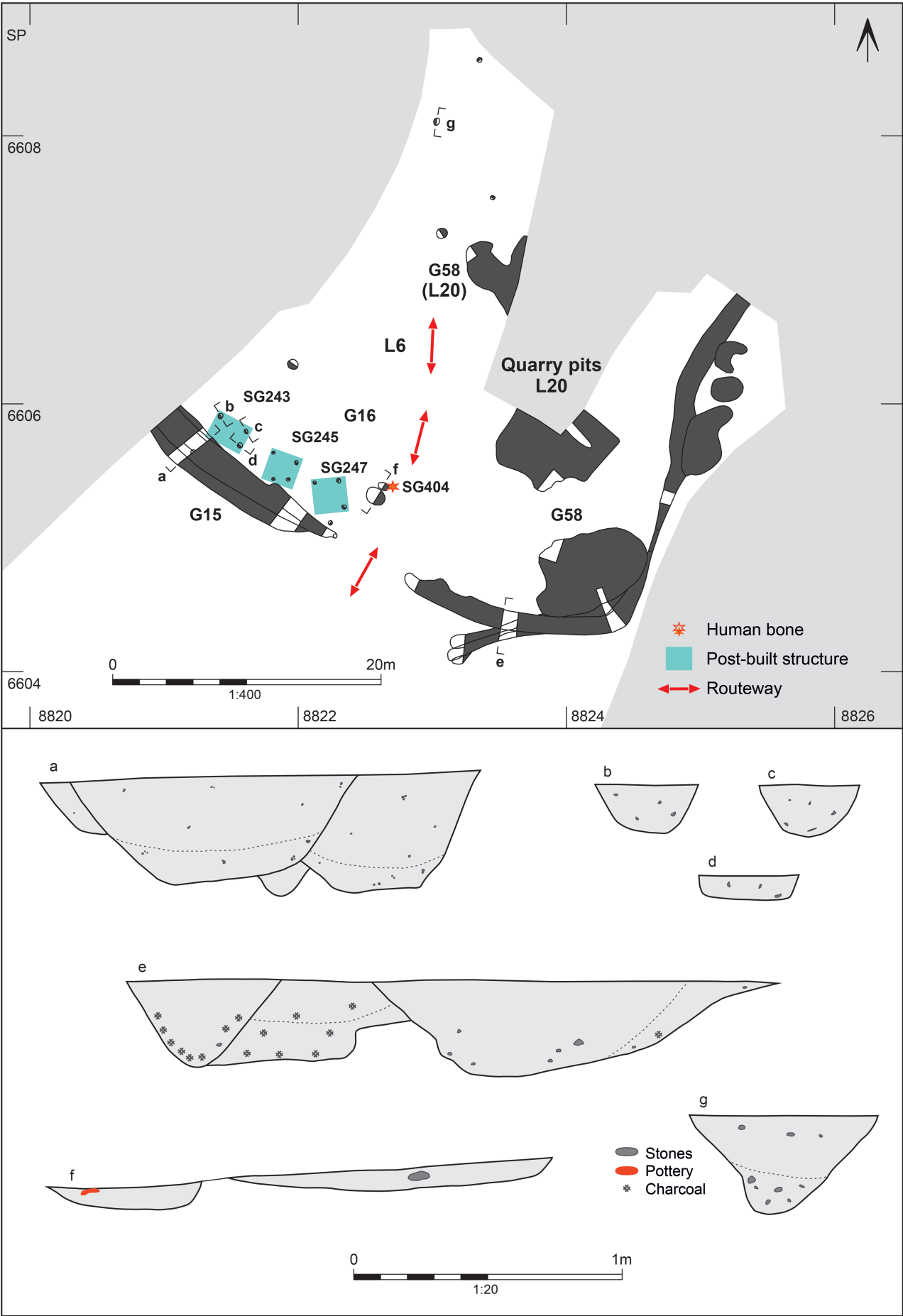


Figure 3.5: Detailed plan of early-middle Iron Age enclosure SL2, with selected sections

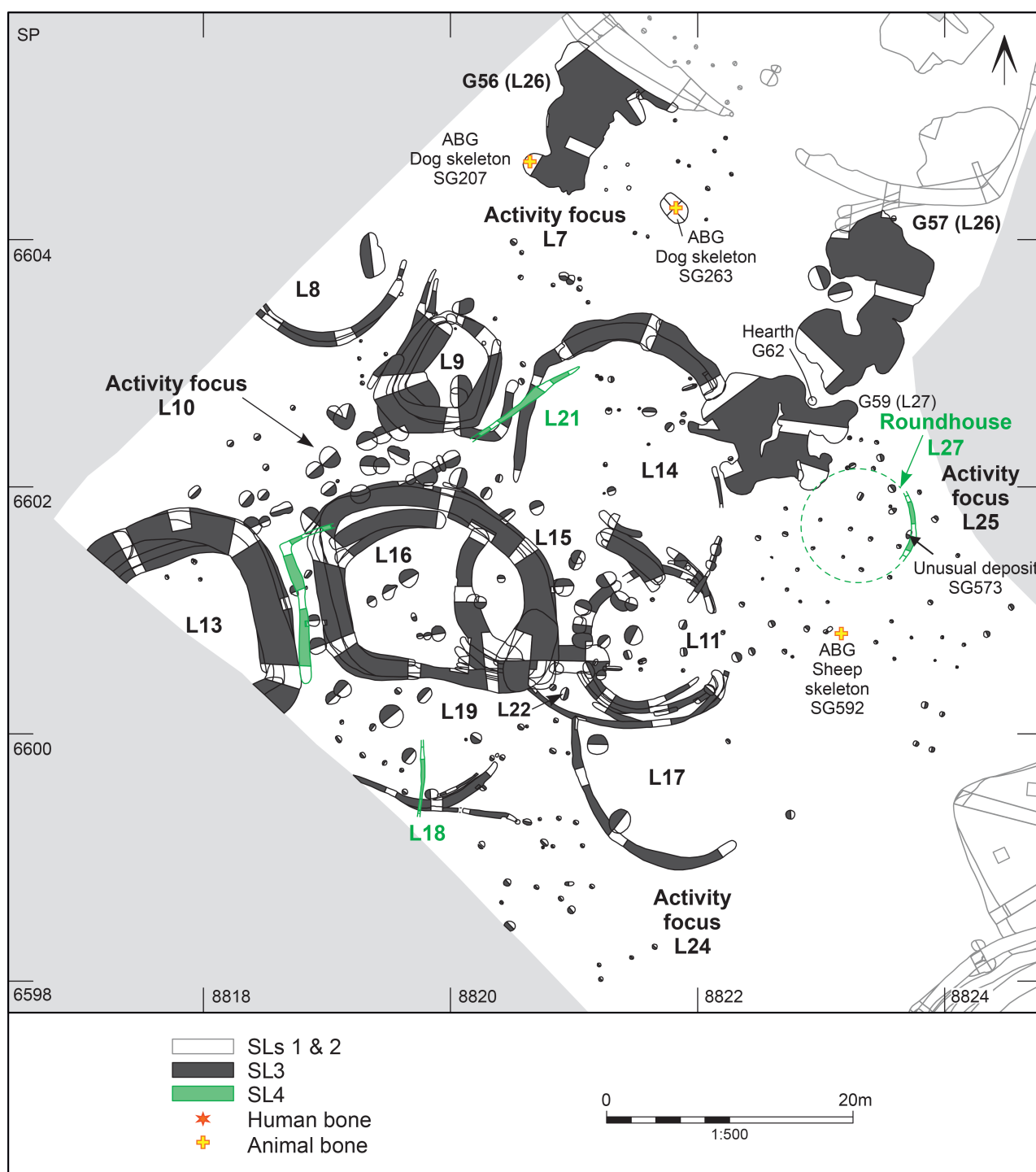


Figure 3.6: Detailed plan of domestic focus SL3 and later activity SL4

may have been associated with the digging of water pit G49. Only a small number of the post-built structures overlapped or were too close to each other to be contemporary but it was impossible to split them into meaningful chronological units and therefore they have all been assigned to SL3. Only post-built structures SG350 and SG402 occurred within the circuit of roundhouse enclosures (L14 and L13 respectively); it is unlikely, but not impossible, that they were associated with the actual roundhouse buildings. Only a very few features were stratigraphically later than multiple other features; they have been assigned to SL4 to distinguish them (Fig. 3.6).

The finds assemblage is summarised in Table 3.1. It is worth noting that the pottery (27.5kg) and animal bone (33kg) assemblages were much larger than those recovered from SL1 and SL2. A range of other material indicative of domestic activity was recovered, *e.g.* burnt stones, fired clay, fuel ash, vitrified clay. Small quantities of human bone were also recovered from the enclosure ditches.

Roundhouses and associated enclosures

Domestic focus SL3 contained evidence for two definite roundhouses (L8, L11), four sub-circular enclosures

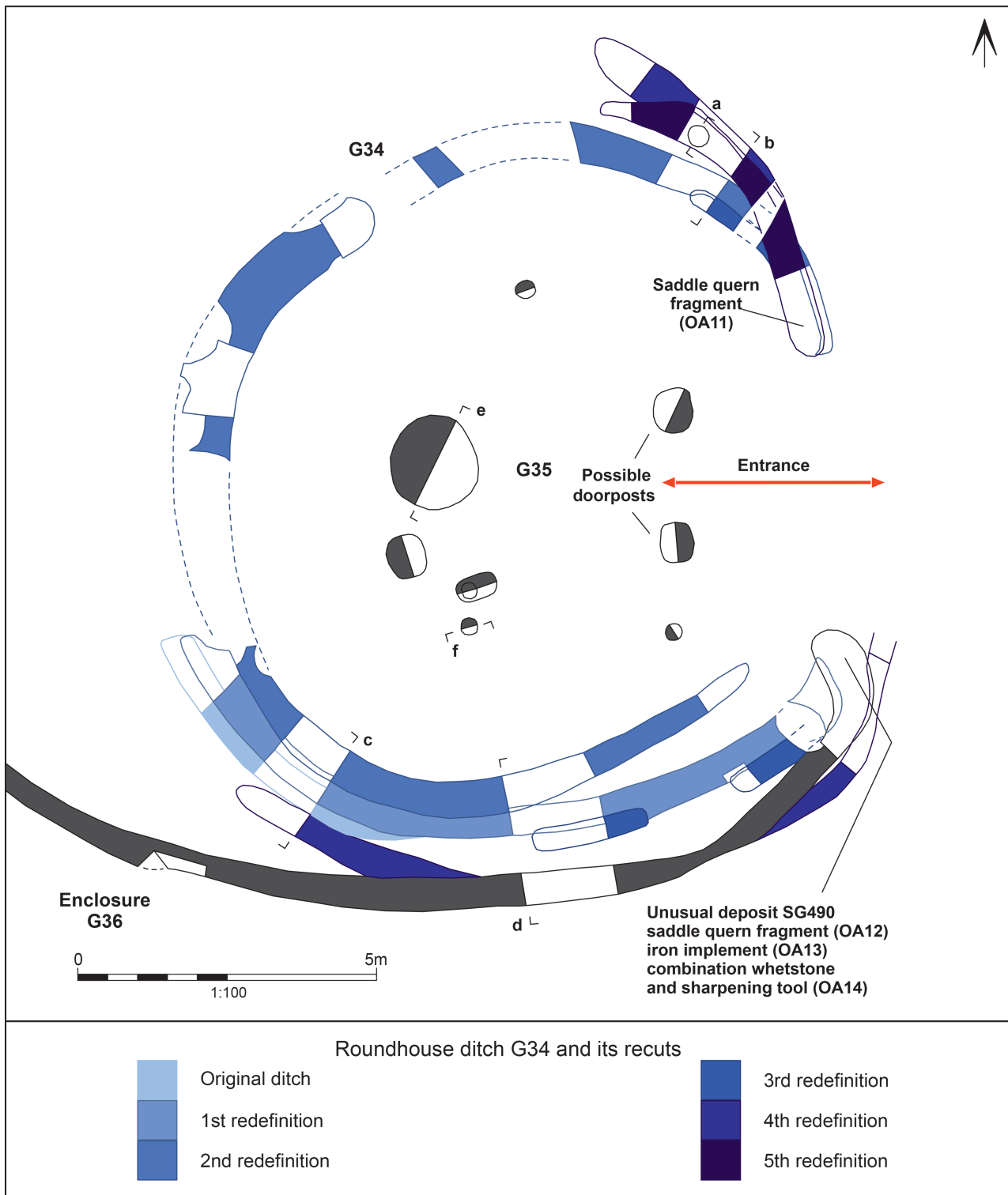


Figure 3.7: Detailed plan of roundhouse and roundhouse enclosure L11

(L13, L14, L15, L16) that probably surrounded roundhouses, two C-shaped enclosures (L17, L19) of uncertain function and a small sub-rectangular enclosure (L9). Based on stratigraphical relationships, the ditches of L15 and L16 are not contemporary.

The two definite roundhouses (L8, L11) were defined by gullies that were 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep with concave profiles (Figs 3.7 and 3.8 sections b, c and d). They had been recut on several occasions (Fig. 3.7) but

always enclosed a circular area c. 12m in diameter. The size and profile of the gullies suggest that they were not structural but were dug to provide drainage immediately outside the actual roundhouse. Roundhouse L11 clearly had an east-facing entrance (Fig. 3.7, Plate 5) and it is likely that L8 did too, although the evidence is insufficient to be certain.

The roundhouse enclosures were sub-circular in shape and c. 13m in diameter. They were usually defined by

ditches that were *c.* 1m wide and 1m deep with steep-sloping concave profiles. However, the ditches defining enclosures L13 and L15, at over 2m wide and 1m deep, were much larger (Figs 3.9 and 3.10 sections a and b, Plate 6). The majority of enclosure ditches had been recut several times; the ditch defining enclosure L16 was exceptional in that this had occurred on at least seven occasions (Figs 3.11 and 3.12).

Where evidence for ditch terminals survived later recutting, *e.g.* roundhouse enclosures L13 (Fig. 3.9), it suggests that there was no consistency in the position of entrances. In the case of L16, multiple entrances may have existed (Fig. 3.11).

Pits and postholes were present within the interior of most of the roundhouses and enclosures. In general, it is impossible to know whether or not these features were actually contemporary with the buildings. Exceptions to this rule are the possible doorposts in L11 (Fig. 3.7) and the arrangement of postholes within L14, including possible post-built structure SG350, which may be contemporary (Fig. 3.2).

In addition to the large quantities of pottery and animal bone, several individual artefacts of note were found. The terminals of the ditches of roundhouse L11 and its associated enclosure (Fig. 3.7) produced two

saddle quern fragments (OA11 and OA12), an iron bladed implement (OA13) and a combination whetstone/sharpening stone (OA14). All except one of these was found in the same fill of the southern terminal, which has been classed as an 'unusual' deposit SG490. Roundhouse enclosure ditch L13 produced three bone objects: a possible pin-beater (OA15), a bone bobbin (OA16) and a point (OA17) – all probably related to textile production (Duncan, Chapter 5). Two groups of human bone were recovered from separate deposits (SG639 and SG640) *c.* 7m apart within the ditches defining L13. 'The bones, although not proven to be related, were both from adults' (Duhig, Chapter 6). A complete skull of an adult dog was found in the eastern terminus of L14 (Maltby, Chapter 6). Roundhouse enclosure L15 produced a saddle quern (OA18), a fragment of a possible iron armlet (OA19), an antler cheekpiece (OA20) and a possible pivot stone (OA21). Part of a human tibia, probably from an adult, was found in deposit SG645 within one of the ditches defining L16 (Duhig, Chapter 6) and another ditch of the same enclosure contained the polished tip of a red deer antler (OA22). Finally, a fragment of a ceramic triangular loom weight (OA23) from C-shaped enclosure L19 is also suggestive of textile-working.

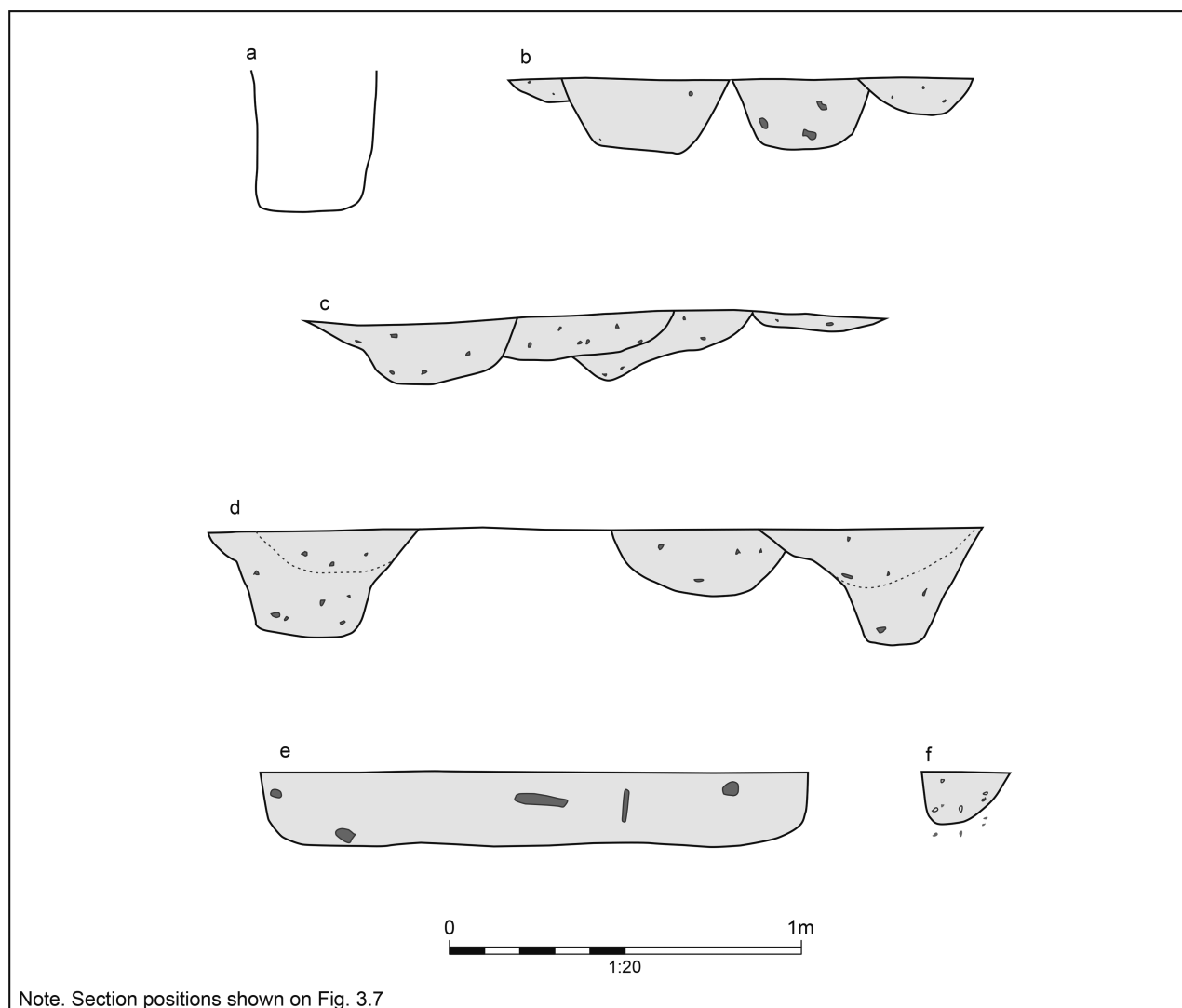


Figure 3.8: Selected sections of Phase 3 features shown on Figure 3.7



Plate 5: Roundhouse and associated enclosure L11

Water pit G49 (L16)

Pit G49 was positioned within the ditch defining the east side of enclosure L16. It was oval in plan, c. 7m by 3.5m and 1.4m deep, with steep-sloping asymmetrical sides (Plate 7). Based on its size, profile and position it is interpreted as a water pit, although no waterlogged deposits survived at its base. One unusual find recovered from its fills was a large unworked slab of limestone (c. 1m × 0.7m). Although recorded during fieldwork as cutting the enclosure ditch, the pit's position suggests that both features could be contemporary and that it was designed

to act as a sump, collecting water from the enclosure's ditches.

Small enclosure L9

L9 was a small, sub-rectangular enclosure that was positioned adjacent to roundhouse L8 and roundhouse enclosures L14 and L16 (Figs 3.13 and 3.14). At c. 8m × 6m it was much smaller in size than the other enclosures. Its ditch had been re-dug on at least five occasions, all roughly following the previous ditch. The amount of recutting makes it difficult to identify entrances through



Plate 6: Excavation of ditch defining roundhouse enclosure L13



Plate 7: Water pit G49

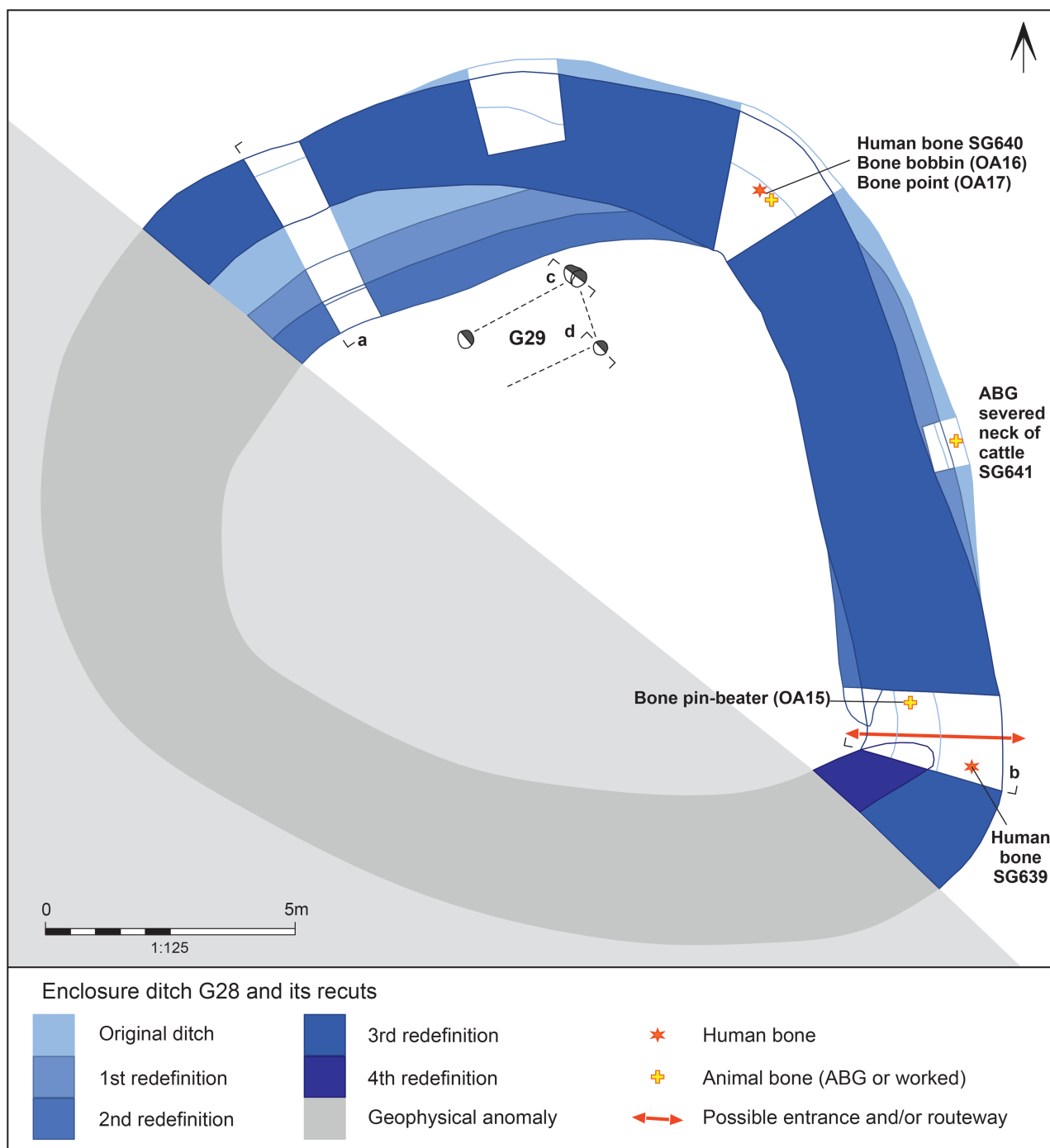


Figure 3.9: Detailed plan of roundhouse enclosure L13

all the ditches; where discernible they were usually to the north. Five postholes located in the vicinity of ditch terminals are presumed to be associated with an entrance structure.

The ditches produced 151 sherds (3kg) of pottery and 1.3kg of animal bone. Two large fragments of saddle quern (OA9 and OA10) appear to have been used as packing within one of the postholes dug into a backfilled earlier ditch. An 'unusual' deposit SG637, comprising a deliberately broken pottery vessel (Wells, Chapter 5) and several fragments of human skull (Duhig, Chapter 6), was found in the terminus of the last redefinition of the enclosure.

Activity foci L7, L10, L22, L24 and L25

Areas of different activity were located to the north (L7), east (L25) and south-east (L24) of the roundhouses and roundhouse enclosures, whilst a further two areas (L10, L22) were located amongst the enclosures. All contained post-built structures, storage pits, other pits and dispersed postholes. In addition, there were two animal burials in L7 (see below) and a possible hearth in L25 (see below). In general, the storage pits appeared to be clustered adjacent to the enclosures and the post-built structures slightly further away.

Activity focus L25 was the largest, extending over a 40m × 25m area. It comprised thirteen post-built

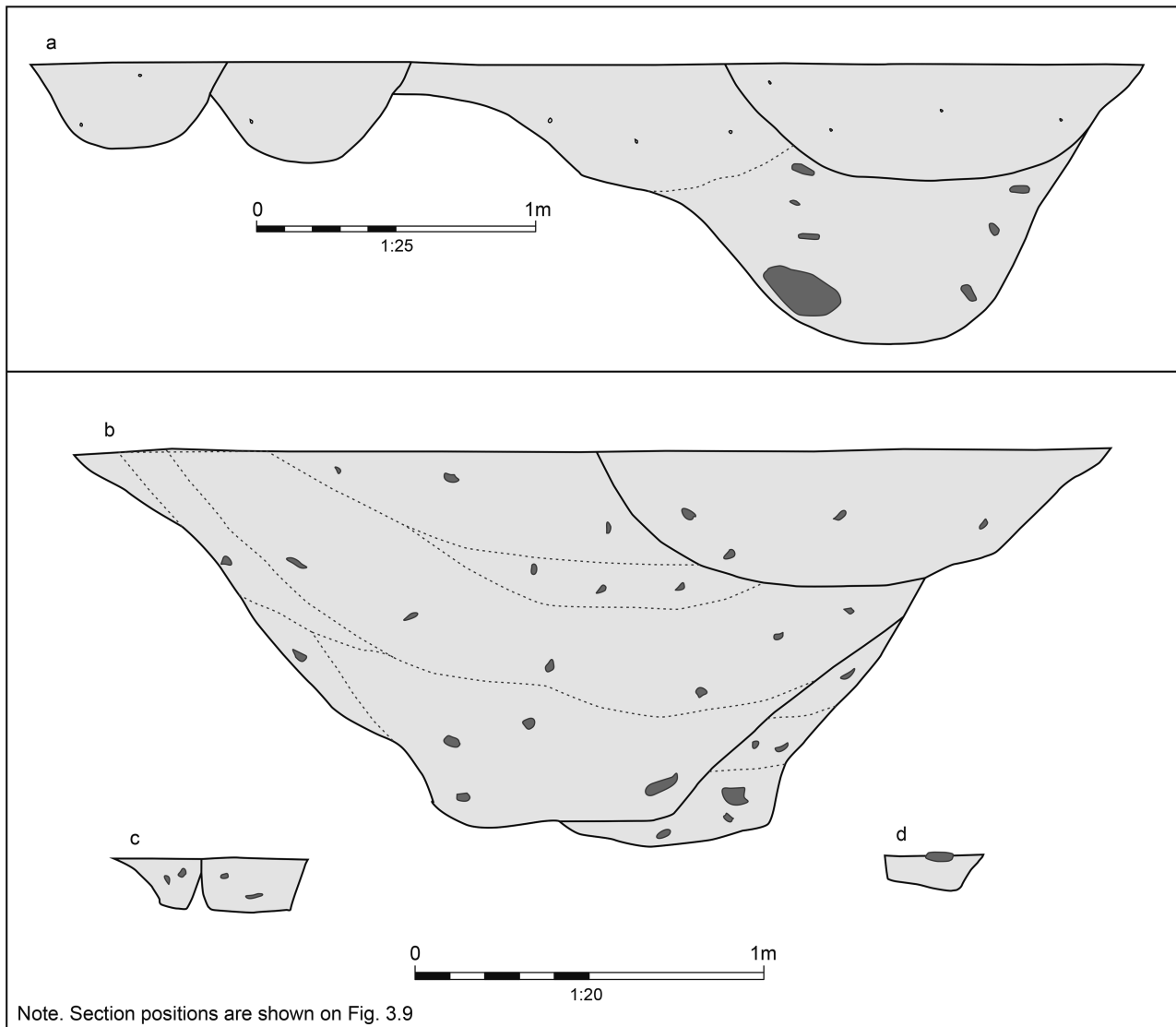


Figure 3.10: Selected sections of Phase 3 features shown on Figure 3.9

structures. These have been assigned to three clusters (G13, G51 and G52) but only structure G13 was distinctly separate, c. 10m to the south of the main groups. The majority of the structures were square and formed by three, four or five posts (Table 2.2; Plate 8). Two 'unusual' deposits were found in postholes associated with post-built structures: SG585 contained the articulated skeleton of a juvenile sheep (Maltby, Chapter 6) and SG573 contained 30 sherds from the same lid-seated globular jar (Fig. 5.1, P7). The latter (SG573) also contained a worked slab of Lincolnshire limestone (OA24) that had probably served as post-packing.

Activity foci L7 and L24 were spread across an area of c. 25 × 20m and 30m 20m respectively. Both areas contained post-built structures: three in L7 and four in L24. L7 was located immediately to the south of enclosure SL2; while L24 was located near roundhouse enclosures L17 and L19. The four structures within L24 were noticeably different from all others within the excavation area because they each consisted of up to eight posts. It is uncertain whether these represent adjacent four-post structures or larger rectangular structures.

Small and medium-sized pits were dispersed amongst the structures in L7, L24 and L25. It is uncertain how many were storage pits as only five had the characteristic steep-sided profile and most were less than 0.3m deep. An oval pit containing a partial dog skeleton (SG263), and a possible hearth G62 were also identified within activity focus L7; both are discussed in more detail below.

Two concentrations of pits (Plate 9) and dispersed postholes (L10 and L22) were situated in the vicinity of the roundhouse enclosures to the west. While some of these intercut, or were truncated by the adjacent enclosure ditches, all are considered to be broadly contemporary.

Hearth G62 (L25)

Hearth G62 (Plate 10) comprised a 30mm-thick deposit of burnt clay at the base of a shallow pit that was 0.7m in diameter and 0.1m deep; it was located between quarry pits G57 and G59 (L26). As the burnt clay was patchy and cracked it was unsuitable for archaeomagnetic dating.

The feature contained a dark fill that produced charcoal and charred plant remains. The latter included a small quantity of charred cereals and weed seeds, interpreted as

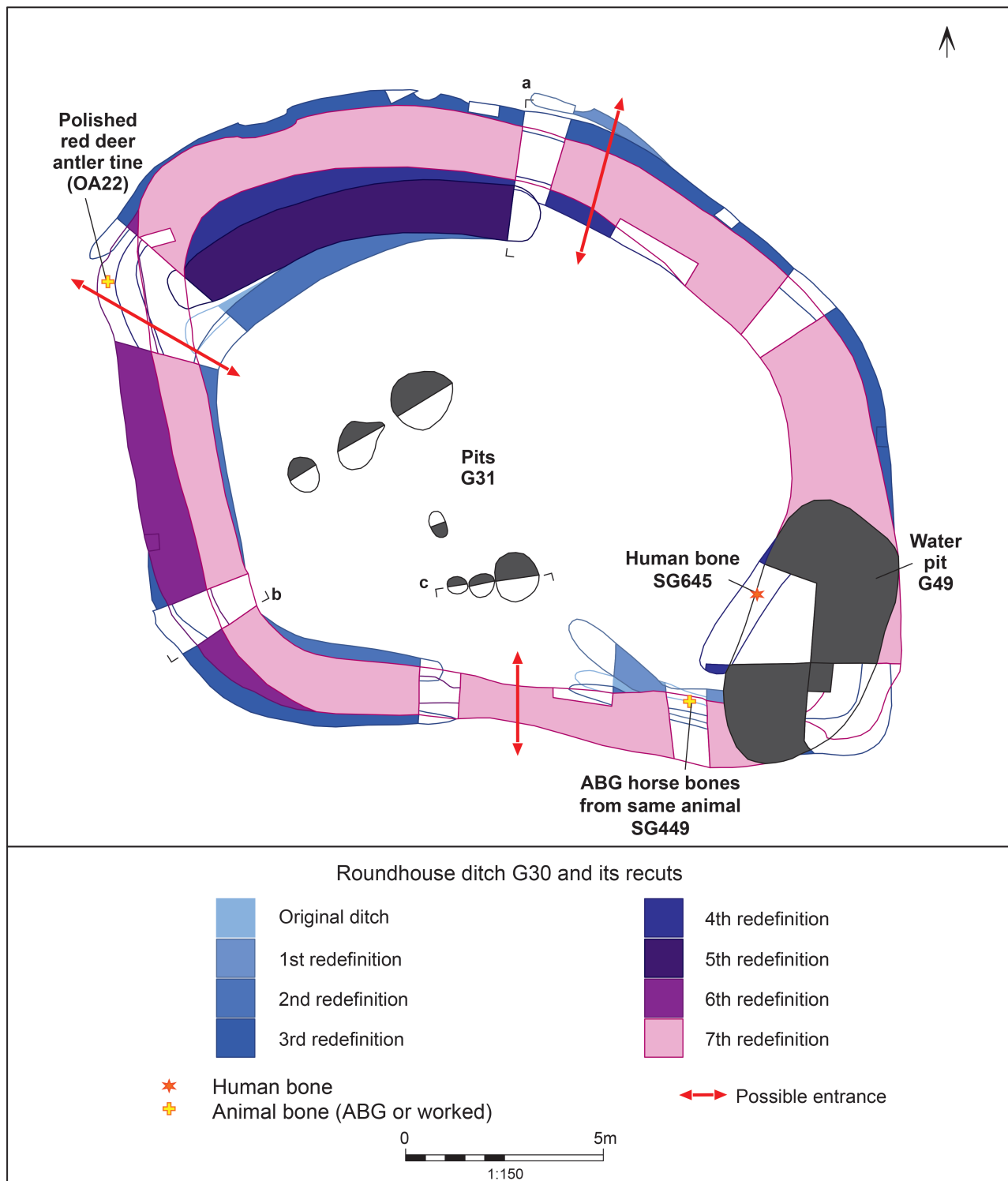


Figure 3.11: Detailed plan of roundhouse enclosure L16

'background debris from domestic activities associated with the final stages of crop-processing and food preparation' (Giorgi, Chapter 6).

Animal burials SG263 and SG592

Three partial animal skeletons were found within SL3: a dog buried in a pit within activity focus L7; a sheep associated with a four-post structure in activity focus L25; and another dog within quarry pits L26 (see Table 2.3). (The latter is described below in the following section.)

Oval pit SG263 (L7) contained the near-complete, articulated skeleton of an adult (probably female) dog (Plate 11). At 2.5m by 1.7m and 0.2m deep the pit appears too large to have been dug specifically for the burial; the skeleton only occupied its south-west quadrant. However, it was the only pit in this area, which may indicate that it was purpose-dug. 'The absence of many of the foot and tail bones could indicate that they were removed with the skin but no skinning marks were observed and other taphonomic and retrieval biases could account for their absence' (Maltby, Chapter 6).

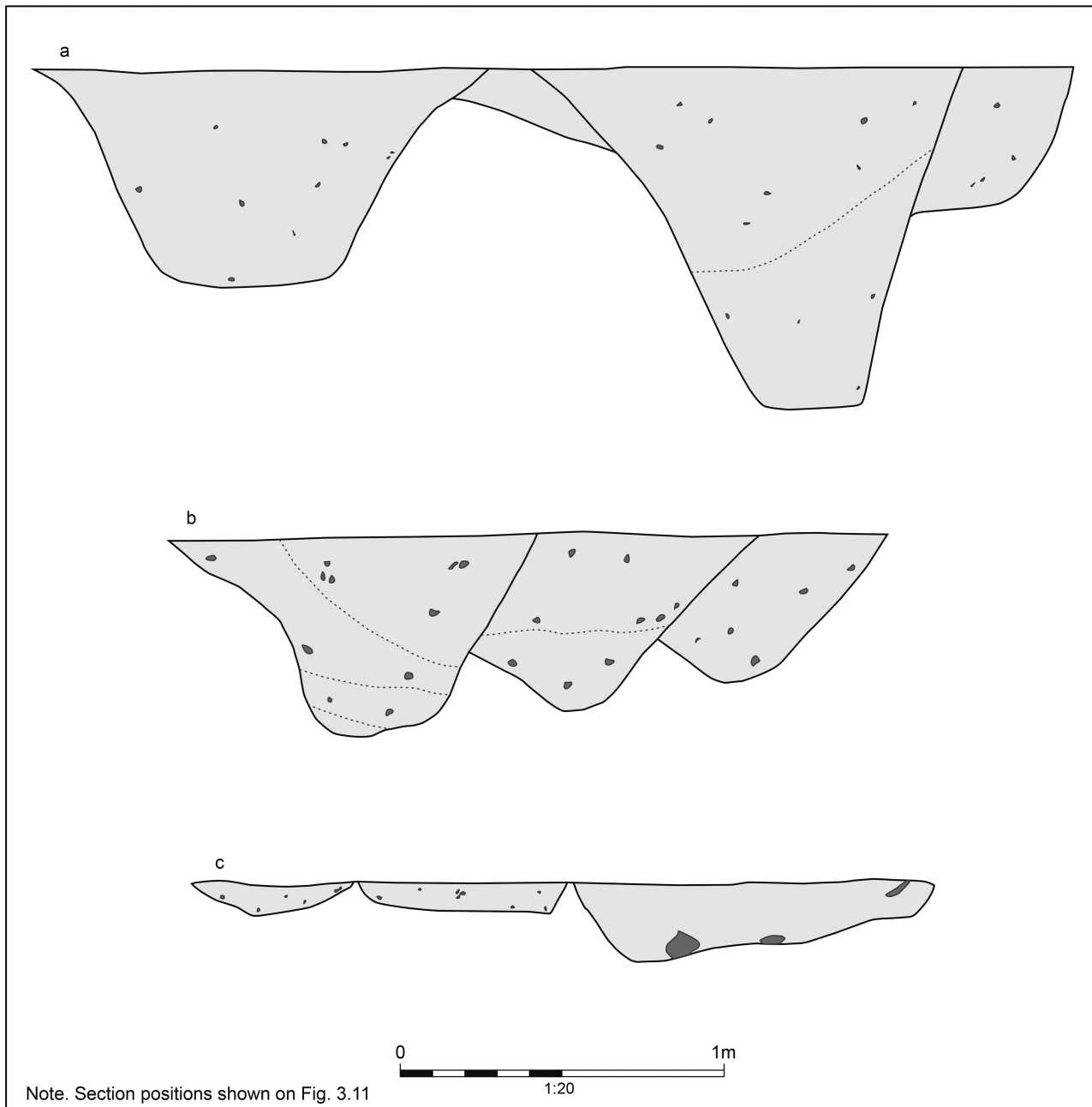


Figure 3.12: Selected sections of Phase 3 features shown on Figure 3.11



Plate 8: Excavation of a four-post structure in L25

One of the postholes of four-post structure SG585 (L25) contained the articulated skeleton of a juvenile sheep (SG592). 'The bones were fragmented but most parts of the body were represented. No evidence for carcass processing was observed' (Maltby, Chapter 6).

Quarrying L26

Three large areas of pits (G56, G57, G59) were identified on the northern extent of unenclosed domestic focus SL3 (Fig. 3.6). Their irregular shape in plan and asymmetrical profiles suggest that they were dug as quarries. The bases of the pits stopped at the top of the limestone bedrock, suggesting that they were dug to extract the clay rather than limestone. They were located on either side of the presumed routeway into enclosure SL2. Areas G56 and G57 did not appear to truncate any earlier features except the enclosure ditch. Area G59 truncated the very eastern

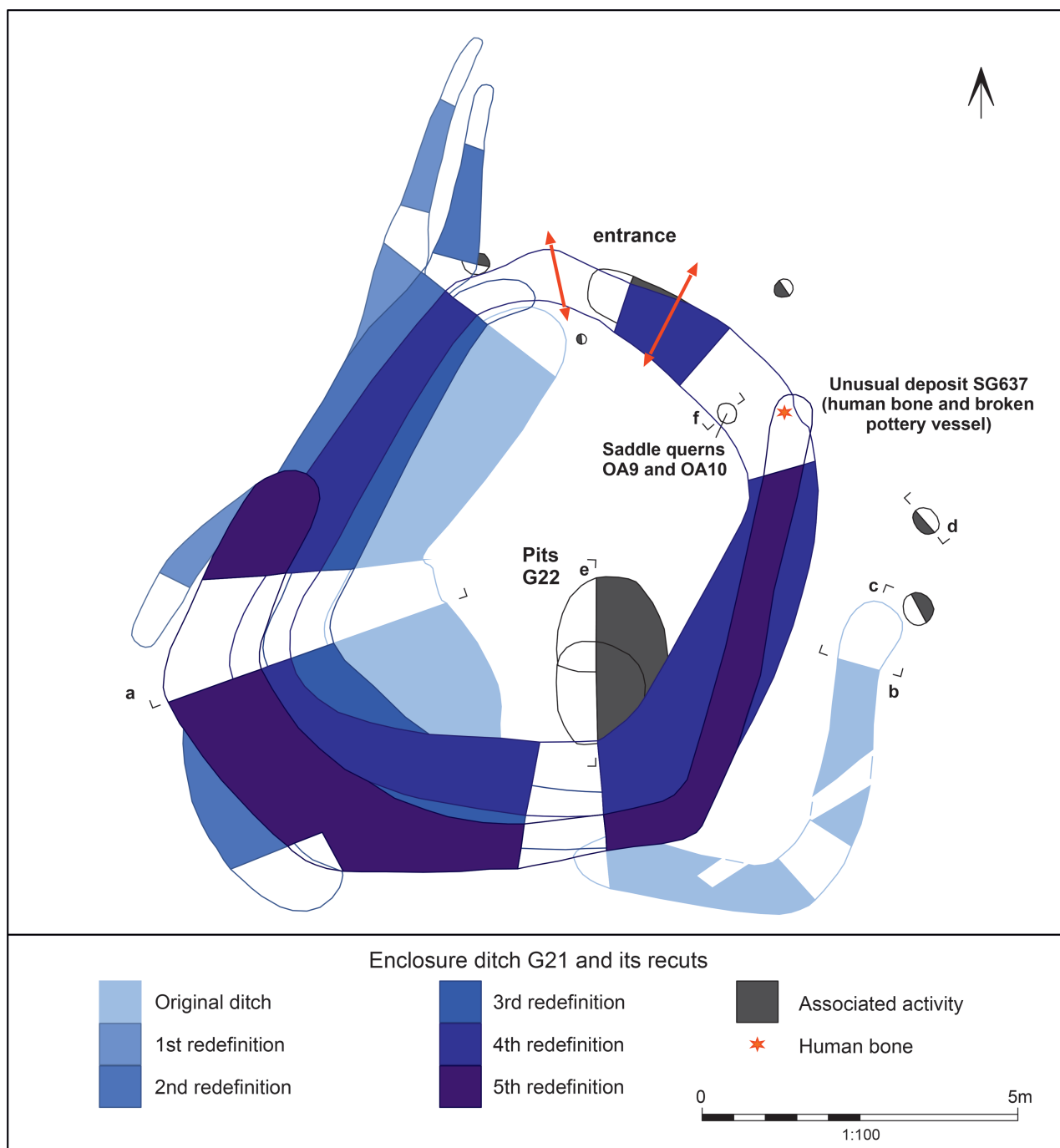


Figure 3.13: Detailed plan of sub-square enclosure L9

part of enclosure L14, although the postulated roundhouse could have still remained in use (Fig. 3.2).

Animal burial SG207

The skeleton of an adult dog (SG207) was found within quarry pits G56. It was largely complete and 'no evidence of carcass processing was observed' (Maltby, Chapter 6).

V. LATER ACTIVITY SL4

Only a small number of stratigraphical relationships existed between features; they suggest that ditches L21, ditch L18 and roundhouse L27 were later than some of the features assigned to SL3. Due to the undiagnostic and long-lived nature of middle Iron Age pottery, no firm date

can be assigned to this activity although it is presumed to be broadly contemporary with the main settlement.

Ditches assigned to L21 may have been dug to reinforce some of the boundaries defining enclosures L13 and L16. In places the ditches were V-shaped, 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep.

Roundhouse L27 was located in the same area as activity focus L25 (SL3) and while it was clearly later than some of the post-built structures, it may have been contemporary with others. It was defined by a gully (Table 2.1) that is not considered to be structural. The short surviving length of gully suggests that the roundhouse had a diameter of c. 9m.

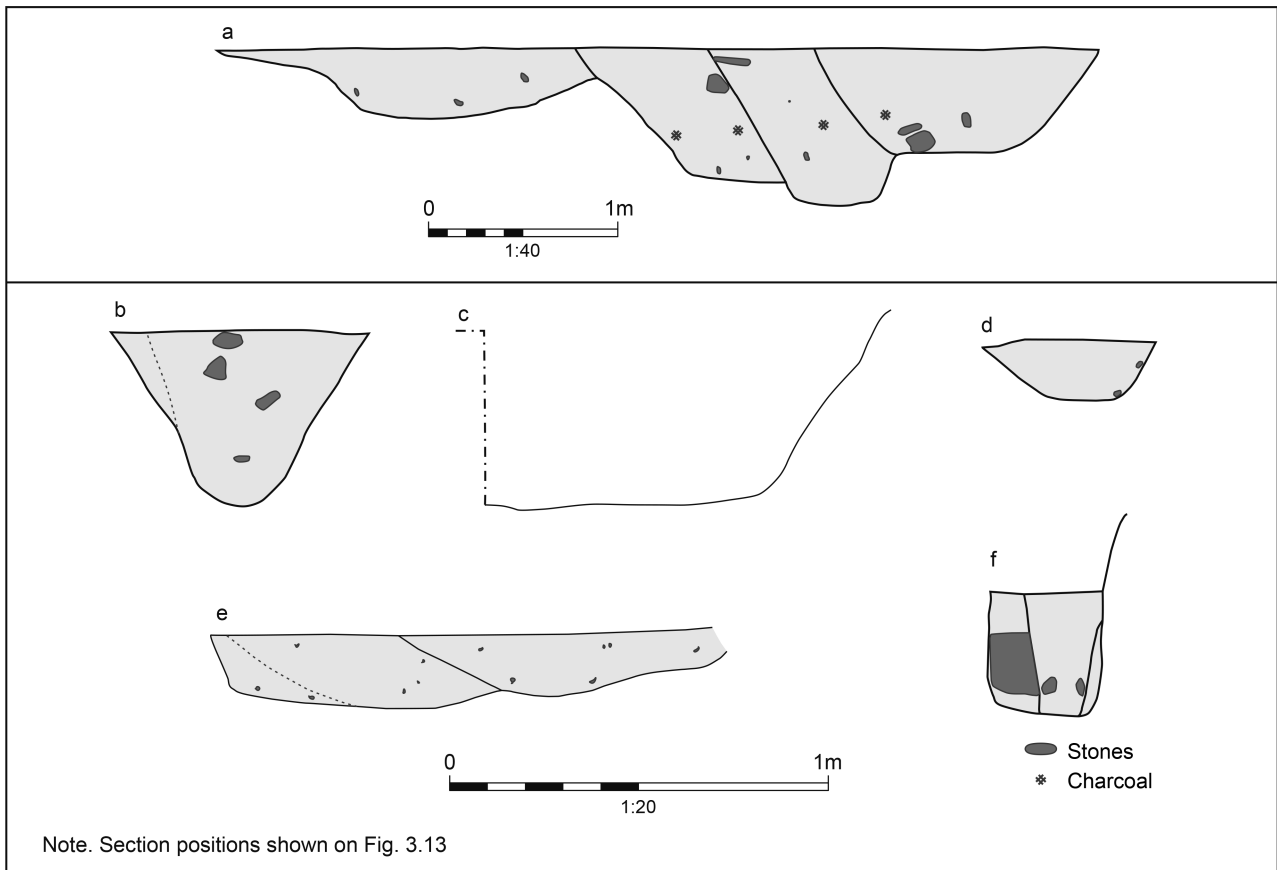


Figure 3.14: Selected sections of Phase 3 features shown on Figure 3.13



Plate 9: Excavation of pits in L10

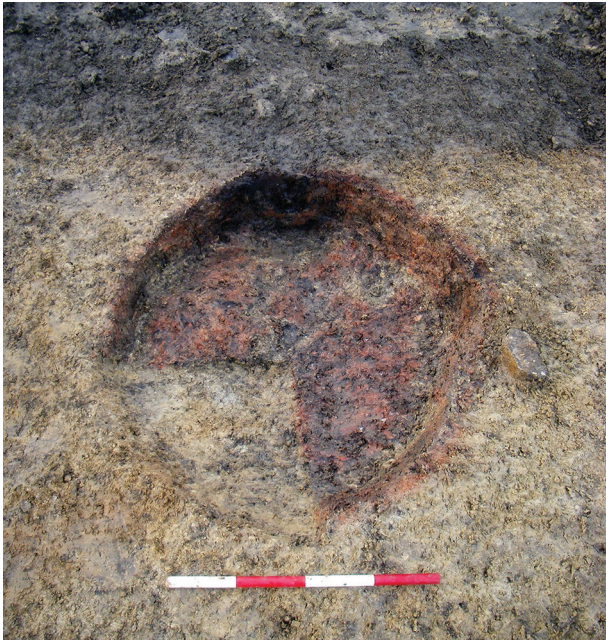


Plate 10: Partially excavated hearth G62



Plate 11: Dog burial SG263 (SL3)

Chapter 4

Station Road, Higham Ferrers

I. OVERVIEW

At Station Road c. 0.8ha was excavated of a middle Iron Age settlement that continued to the south-west beyond the limits of the development area (Fig. 2.3). 'The pottery is datable to the middle Iron Age (broadly late 4th/early 3rd–2nd centuries BC), and complements the material recovered from the evaluation (Northamptonshire

Archaeology 2010b, 14) and nearby excavations (Jackson 2009, fig. 3.4; Blinkhorn 1998)' (Wells, Chapter 5).

Within the excavation area, the main domestic focus of the settlement was located in the southern part of enclosure L2 and the northern part of enclosure L3 (Fig. 4.1). Unsurprisingly, this area produced the largest amount of pottery and animal bone (Table 4.1). It contained

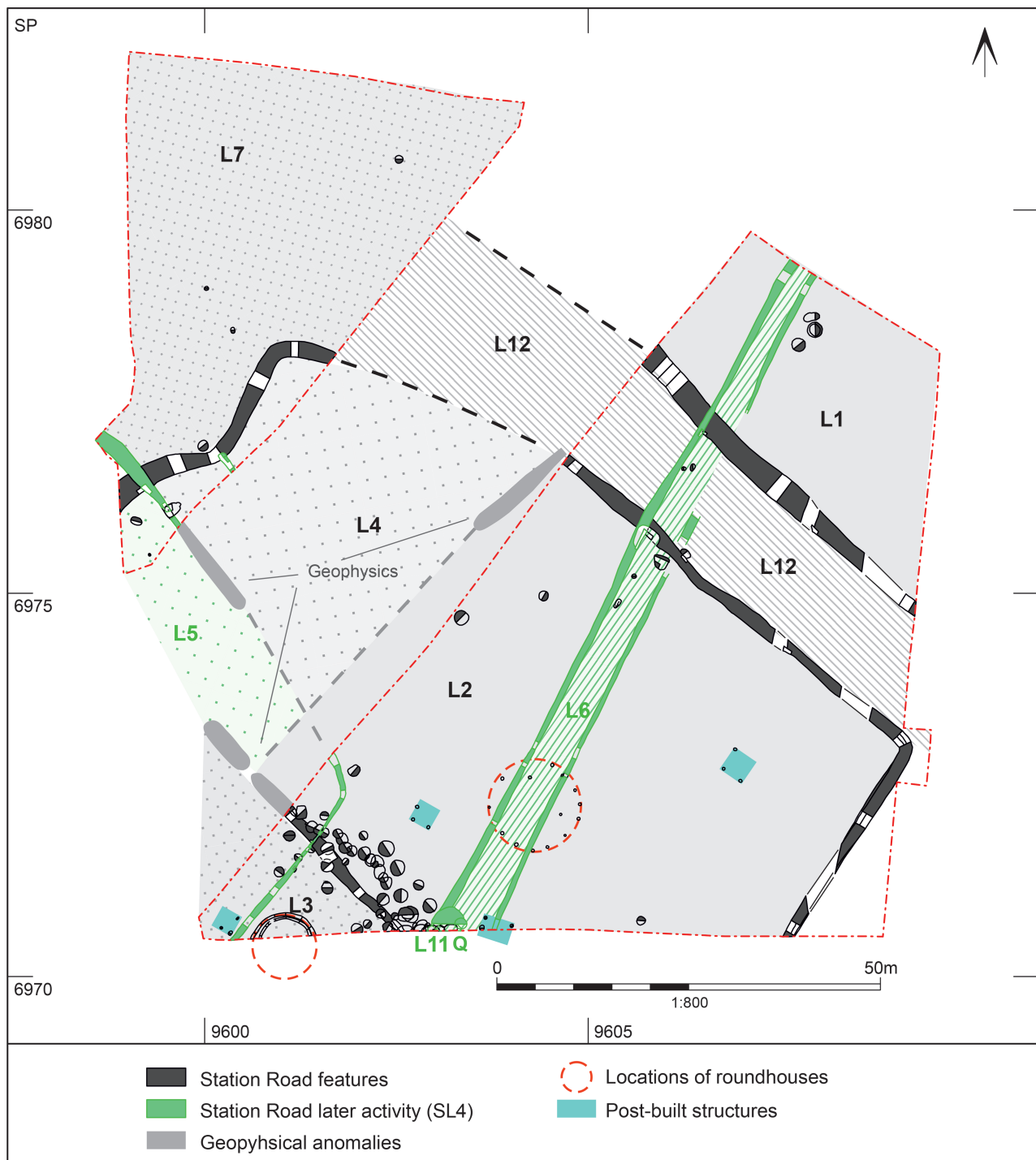


Figure 4.1: Overall plan of the middle Iron Age settlement at Station Road settlement with L labels

L	Description	Roundhouse	4-post structures	Storage pits	Quarry pits	Other pits and postholes	Inhumation	Animal burials	Pottery sherd : weight (kg)	Animal bone (kg)	Human bone frags : weight (kg)	'Other artefacts' (kg)
1	Enclosure	–	–	3	–	1 pit	–	–	56 : 0.5	0.63	–	0.32 burnt stone 1 flint flake (OA1) 0.03 fired clay 0.01 fuel ash slag 0.01 undiagnostic ferrous slag 0.01 burnt stone Iron strap fragment (OA2) Copper alloy looped fitting (OA3) Whittle tang knife (OA4)
2	Domestic enclosure	1 (G19)	3 (G18)	24	–	12 pits	–	1 (SG283)	445 : 7.03	8.53	20 : 0.19	
3	Domestic enclosure	1 (G23)	1 (G22)	7	–	4 pits	–	–	95 : 3.76	1.95	–	–
4	Enclosure	–	–	2	–	1 posthole	–	1 (SG159) 1 (SG281)	23 : 0.37	2.53	–	–
5	Later enclosure	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13 : 0.08	0.9	–	–
6	Double boundary	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2 : 0.01	0.01	–	–
7	Dispersed activity	–	–	–	–	2 pits 2 postholes	–	–	–	0.06	–	–
11	Quarry pits	–	–	–	11	–	–	–	81 : 1.29	6.8	–	0.07 fired clay Ceramic loom weight (OA8) Nail shank (OA7)
12	Trackway	–	–	–	–	1 pit 2 postholes	1 (SG184)	–	2 : 0.01	0.1	–	Flint flake (OA5) Flint chip (OA6)

OA = 'Other artefact' number (Duncan, Chapter 5). All weights rounded to nearest 0.01kg.

Table 4.1: Summary of finds by Land-use Area (L) at Station Road

evidence for two roundhouses, four post-built structures and a cluster of storage pits. Enclosures L1 and L4 to the north and north-west contained little evidence for internal activity. They are presumed to be paddocks and fields. An area of unenclosed activity L7, to the north of enclosure L4, comprised a small number of dispersed postholes.

As with Bourton Way, the spatial location of features suggests that they are not all contemporary. However, features were only assigned to later Land-use Areas where there were clear stratigraphic grounds for doing so, *e.g.* ditched enclosure L5, ditched boundary L6 and quarrying L11.

II. DOMESTIC ENCLOSURE L2

Almost all enclosure L2 lay within the development area (Fig. 4.2). It contained a roundhouse (G19), three post-built structures (G18), a cluster of storage pits (G25) and a small number of dispersed pits (G13, G27). The pottery and animal bone assemblages were mainly recovered from the enclosure ditches and pits. In addition, an iron strip fragment (OA2) and a copper alloy looped fitting (OA3) were recovered from enclosure ditch G1; a storage pit in cluster G25 produced a whittle tang knife (OA4).

The enclosure appeared to be rectangular and was at least 60m × 60m in extent. It was defined to the north-east and south-east by ditch G1 that was up to 1.5m wide and 1m deep with a steep-sloping profile (Fig. 4.3, sections f and i, Plate 12). To the north-west its boundary was probably identified by geophysical survey but it was not excavated as it fell within a pipeline safety corridor. To the south-west the enclosure is presumed to have been

defined by the ditch defining enclosure L3. No possible entrance gaps in the enclosure ditch were identified. The north-east and south-east boundaries were re-dug at least once on the same course (Fig. 4.3, section i).



Plate 12: Enclosure ditch G1 (L2)

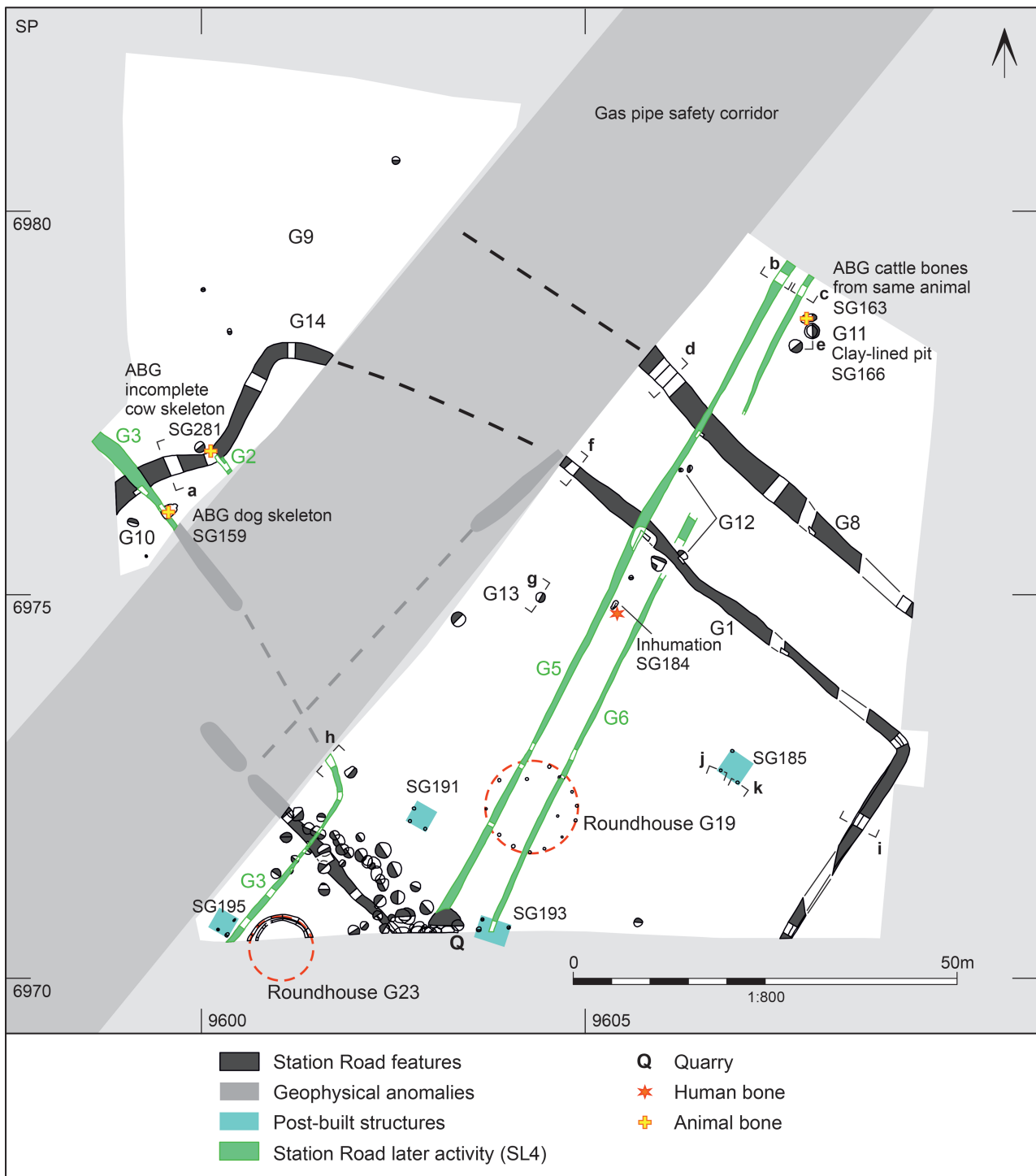


Figure 4.2: Overall plan of the main phase of the Iron Age settlement at Station Road with selected G and SG labels

Roundhouse G19 was positioned broadly in the centre of the enclosure; it is discussed in more detail below (Fig. 4.4). Three possible post-built structures G18 (SG185, SG191 and SG193) (Table 2.2) were located in the vicinity of the roundhouse. Although each was only defined by three postholes, their arrangement suggests that they would have originally featured four posts.

A large number of pits G25 were clustered adjacent to the south-west enclosure boundary (Plate 13, Table 4.2). Many of them intercut and a small number had been dug into the upper fills of the partially silted-up ditch. They

were generally 1.6m in diameter and 0.8m deep (Fig. 4.5, sections a and b); the largest three were 2.2m in diameter (Fig. 4.5, section d). The majority had steep sides and flat bases, suggesting that they were storage pits. A number were noticeably shallower (often only 0.3m deep) and slightly more concave in profile. It is uncertain whether these were heavily truncated storage pits or served a different function. Two of the pits contained high concentrations of charred plant remains – ‘a mix of grains, chaff and weed seeds, debris largely from the final

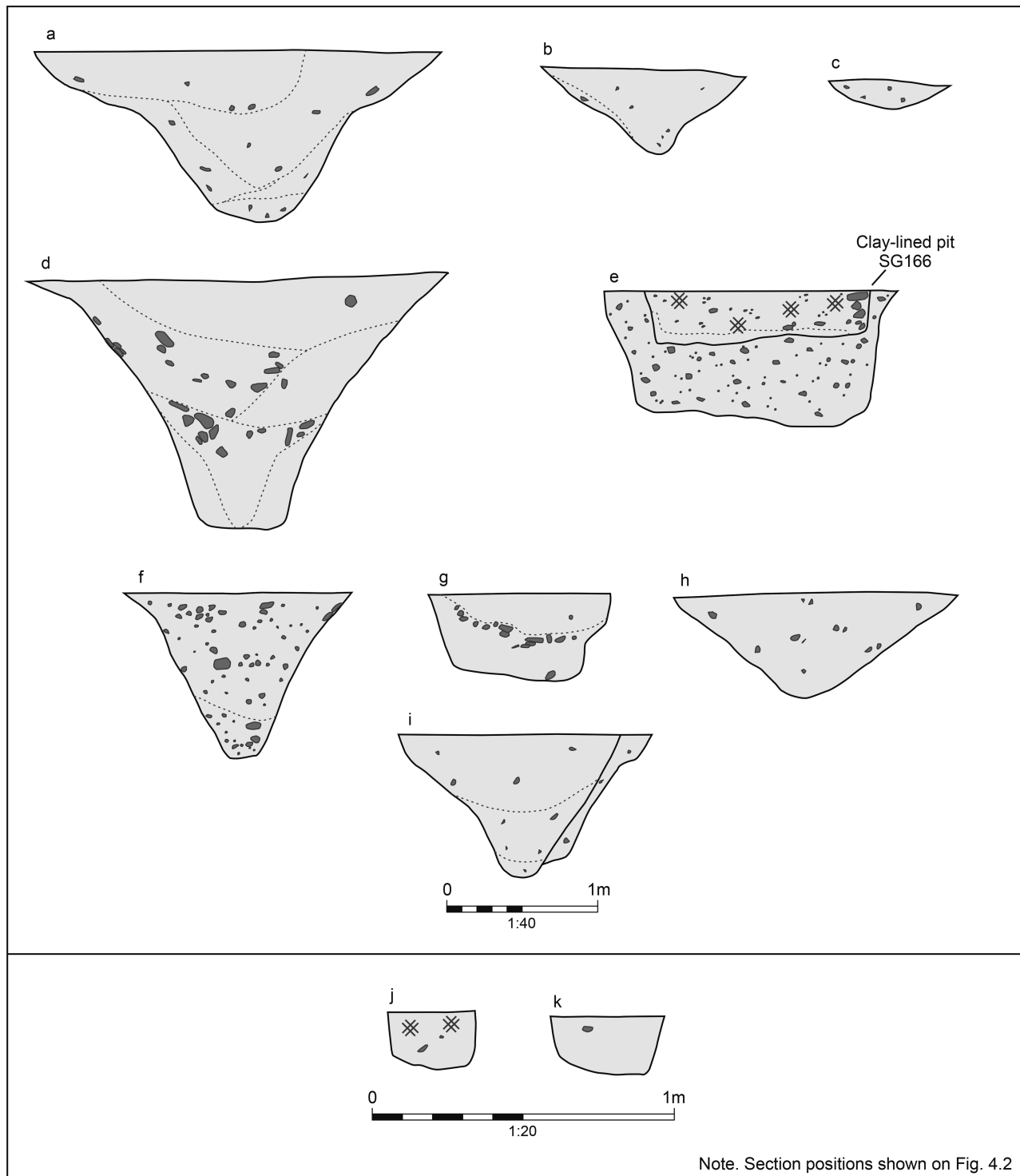


Figure 4.3: Selected sections of features

stages of crop-processing and possibly stored cereals' (Giorgi, Chapter 6).

The majority of the pottery assemblage (334 sherds, 6kg) and animal bone (7kg) was recovered from pit cluster G25. In addition, ferrous slag (30g), fuel ash (20g) and a whittle tang knife (OA4) were found. Three storage pits contained disarticulated human bone: part of a tibia (SG243) and fragments of skull (SG244) from the same pit; fragments of skull and one piece of cremated bone (SG257) from the same pit; and part of a tibia (SG227) (Duhig, Chapter 6). Substantial portions of cattle skulls

were found in two pits and the wing of a white-tailed eagle was found in another pit (Maltby, Chapter 6)

Of the five other pits (G13 and G27) dispersed across the enclosure, only two had typical storage-pit profiles (Fig. 4.3, section g). The others were smaller in size with asymmetrical profiles and are assumed to have had a different function.

Post-ring roundhouse G19

A circular arrangement of twelve postholes with a diameter of 11m is likely to represent a roundhouse; it



Plate 13: Storage pits along the boundary between enclosures L2 and L3

is unusual in that it was not associated with a drainage gully. The postholes were all less than 0.35m in diameter and 0.30m deep (Fig. 4.5, sections e–h). No definite entrance was discernable, although based on the arrangement of postholes, an east-facing one is possible.

III. DOMESTIC ENCLOSURE L3

Part of another enclosure was located immediately south-west of enclosure L2. It contained roundhouse G23, post-built structure SG195 and a cluster of pits G24 (Figs 4.2 and 4.4). The enclosure shared its north-east boundary (G4) with enclosure L2. Ditches that might have defined other sides of this enclosure were identified to the south within the Stanwick Road excavations (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1998, fig. 2).

Roundhouse G23 is described in more detail below. Approximately 3m to its west was post-built structure SG195 (Table 2.2). Like the similar structures in enclosure L2 to the north, only three postholes were located, although it is presumed to have been a four-post structure.

A cluster of eleven pits G24 was located between the roundhouse and the enclosure ditch, mirroring those within L2 to the north (L25), although they were far fewer in number (Table 4.2). Several of the pits truncated the ditch and are, therefore, slightly later in date but all contained similar Iron Age pottery and their close proximity suggests that this boundary may still have existed in some form. The pits were 1.2–1.7m in diameter and 0.1–0.5m deep; most had steep sides and flat bases (Fig. 4.5, section j) and are interpreted as storage pits.

The quantities of pottery (c. 3.75kg) and animal bone (c. 2kg) recovered from the features assigned to L3 were considerably lower than the assemblages recovered from L2, partly no doubt because fewer features were assigned to it. From one excavated segment of the north-east enclosure ditch 2.8kg of pottery was recovered.

Roundhouse G23

Only the northern part of roundhouse G23 fell within the excavation area (Fig. 4.4). It was defined by a continuous gully with an internal diameter of at least 6.2m. The gully was recut at least once on the outer side of its original course, thus increasing the diameter of the internal area to at least 7.5m. The gully was 0.3m wide and 0.2m deep with a concave profile (Fig. 4.5, sections

k and l), suggesting that it was a drain rather than a structural feature. Despite being 100% excavated by hand, it produced only a minute quantity of finds. No internal features were present. A second roundhouse was found c. 15m to the south within the Stanwick Road excavations (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1998, fig. 2).

IV. ENCLOSURE L1

L1 is presumed to be an enclosure to the north-east of enclosure L2; it contained a small cluster of pits G11 (Figs 4.1 and 4.2). There is some doubt as to whether it is an actual enclosure because only one ditch length (G8) was identified within the excavation area and no linear geophysical anomalies were located within the unexcavated land. At 3m wide and 1.7m deep (Fig. 4.3, section d), ditch G8 was far more substantial than those defining the enclosures to the south. It is therefore strange that its continuation into the gas pipe safety corridor was not picked up by the geophysical survey.

The cluster of four pits G11 included two with comparable profiles to those interpreted as storage pits to the south. After one of these pits was completely infilled, a new, smaller pit SG166 was dug into it (Fig. 4.3, section e). The latter was c. 1.5m in diameter and 0.4m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Unusually, it featured a 0.1m-thick clay lining, which survived best on the base and lower sides.

Only a small quantity of pottery (56 sherds, 0.5kg) and animal bone (0.6kg) was recovered from features assigned to L1.

V. ENCLOSURE L4

L4 was part of a presumed separate enclosure located immediately to the north-west of enclosure L2 (Figs 4.1 and 4.2). It was defined to the north-west by sinuous ditch G14 (Fig. 4.3, section a) and to the south-east by the ditch-type geophysical anomaly within the gas pipe safety corridor. The majority of the enclosure was unexcavated due to the gas pipe safety corridor. Evidence for internal activity included two pits and a posthole G10 (adjacent to the north-west boundary) and two animal burials (see below). The pits were intercutting; on the basis of their dimensions and profiles they are interpreted as storage pits.

Animal burials SG159 and SG281

Two animal skeletons were located near the enclosure's north-west boundary. An adult dog SG159 had been buried in one of the partially filled storage pits assigned to G10. 'All areas of the body were represented and there is no evidence for carcass processing' (Maltby, Chapter 6). SG281 comprised the partially articulated, incomplete skeleton of a young adult cow, which had been buried within the partially filled north-west boundary ditch G14. 'Although incomplete, the skeleton may have been still at least partially articulated at the time of final deposition. There is no evidence for gnawing damage or carcass processing' (ibid).

VI. TRACKWAY L12

L12 is interpreted as a NW–SE aligned trackway as it is defined by two parallel ditches c. 13m apart (Figs 4.1 and 4.2). However, no continuation of it was found in

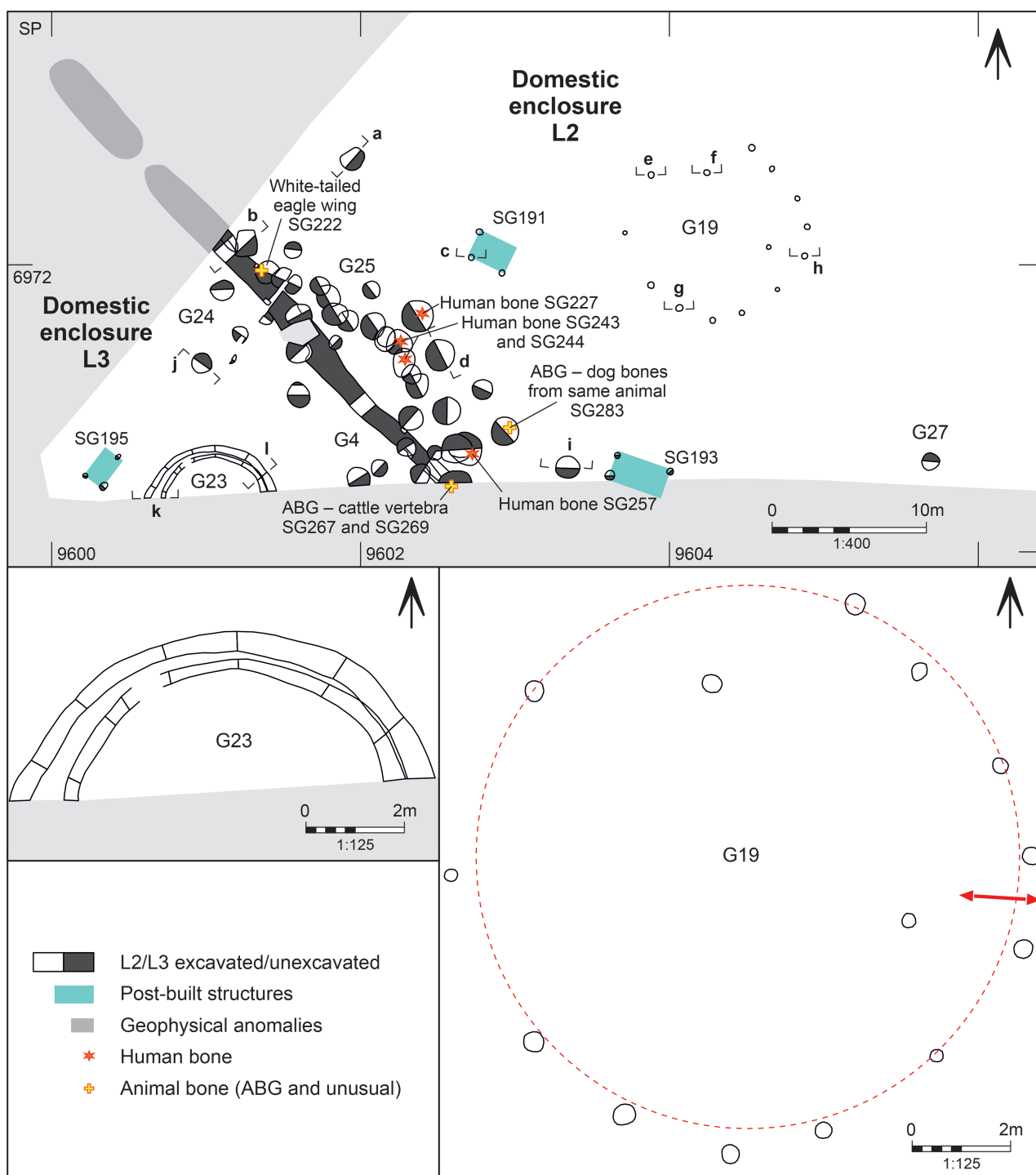


Figure 4.4: (Above) Detailed plan of domestic enclosures L2 and L3, with detailed plan of roundhouses G19 and G23

the western part of the excavation area or by geophysical survey. Two postholes and a small pit G12 were located within the area of the trackway but otherwise it was devoid of evidence for activity.

VII. UNENCLOSED ACTIVITY L7

A small number of dispersed pits and postholes G9 was located to the north-west of enclosure L4 (Figs 4.1 and 4.2). The postholes did not form any obvious patterns and the pits were small with variable profiles. No pottery was recovered from these features, which have been assigned to L7 on the basis of their proximity to L4 and L12.

VIII. LATER ENCLOSURE L5

Its stratigraphic relationships with other features indicate that ditch G3 (which defined enclosure L5 in the south-west part of the excavation area) was later than enclosures L2, L3 and L4 (Figs 4.1 and 4.2). However, the middle Iron Age pottery (13 sherds, 80g) recovered from the ditch's fills is comparable to that from all other features. Ditch G3 was 0.8m wide and up to 0.9m deep (Fig. 4.3, section h; Plate 14). A short length of a parallel, much smaller ditch G2 was also identified.

G	SG	No. of pits	L	Shape	Profile	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Pottery sherds : weight (kg)	Other finds (kg)	Other information
9	149	1	7	Circular	Steep-sloping concave sides, flat base	1	0.1	—	—	—
	160	1		Circular	Steep-sloping concave sides, flat base	1.5	0.2	—	0.06 animal bone	—
10	153	1	4	Circular	U-shaped	1.4	0.3	3 : 0.02	0.02 animal bone	—
	157	1		Oval	U-shaped	2.4 x 1.5	0.9	14 : 0.28	1.0 dog skeleton (SG159)	—
11	162	1	1	Oval	Steep-sloping sides, uneven base	2 x 1	0.3	27 : 0.17	0.4 animal bone	Partial skeleton of a young adult cow (SG163)
	164	1		Circular	U-shaped	2	0.9	4 : 0.02	0.02 animal bone	—
	166	1		Circular	U-shaped	1.5	0.4	19 : 0.24	1 worked flint	Clay lining on base and on one side
	168	1		Circular	U-shaped	1.8	0.7	—	0.04 animal bone	—
12	175	1	12	Circular	Steep-sloping sides, concave base	1.5	0.3	—	0.1 animal bone	—
13	173	1	2	Circular	Asymmetrical, steep-sloping sides, uneven base	2.1	0.4	29 : 0.29	0.06 animal bone	—
	177	1		Circular	Asymmetrical, moderate-sloping sides, flat base	0.6	0.1	—	—	—
	179	1		Circular	U-shaped	1.3	0.6	1 : 0.04	1.25 animal bone	—
	182	1		Circular	Steep-sloping sides, concave base	1.8	0.3	8 : 0.1	0.5 animal bone	Red deer antler
24	201	2	3	Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, flat base	1.3–1.6	0.1–0.2	6 : 0.1	0.01 animal bone	—
	203	3		Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, concave base	0.7–1	0.1–0.4	5 : 0.06	0.02 animal bone	—
	205	2		Circular	U-shaped	1.7	0.5	2 : 0.02	0.19 animal bone	—
	207	3		Circular	U-shaped	1.2–1.3	0.4–0.5	24 : 0.36	0.76 animal bone	—
	211	1		Circular	Asymmetrical, moderate-sloping sides, flat base	1.2	0.01	1 : 0.04	—	—
25	213	1	2	Circular	U-shaped	1.6	0.8	36 : 0.74	0.46 animal bone	—
	218	4		Circular	Moderate-sloping concave sides, flat base	1–1.4	0.1–0.3	15 : 0.4	0.08 animal bone	—
	220	3		Circular	U-shaped	1.4–1.6	0.2–0.5	10 : 0.23	0.13 animal bone	White-tailed eagle coracoid
	223	3		Circular	U-shaped	1.4–1.6	0.6–0.8	10 : 0.17	0.6 animal bone	—
	225	2		Circular	U-shaped	2	0.7	39 : 0.7	1.8 animal bone	—
	228	1		Circular	Moderate-sloping sides, flat base	1.1	0.1	1 : 0.01	0.01 slag	—
	230	1		Circular	Steep-sloping sides, flat base	0.9	0.1	1 : 0.02	0.03 animal bone	—
	233	2		Circular	U-shaped	1.5–1.6	0.5–0.8	45 : 0.93	—	—
	237	2		Circular	U-shaped	1.5–1.6	0.5–0.6	24 : 0.78	0.92 animal bone	—
	242	1		Circular	U-shaped	1.9	0.4	49 : 0.36	0.58 animal bone	—
	245	1		Circular	U-shaped	1.2	0.3	1 : 0.01	0.38 animal bone	Human cranium and top of femur (SG244)
	247	4		Circular	U-shaped	1.3–1.8	0.2–0.7	47 : 0.9	10 fragments of human bone	—
	252	1	2	Circular	U-shaped	1	0.2	3 : 0.03	0.01 burnt bone	Dog burial (SG283)
	254	1		Circular	U-shaped	2.1	1.1	22 : 0.19	0.05 animal bone	—
	258	1		Circular	U-shaped	2	0.9	10 : 0.2	0.9 animal bone	Cranium fragments from a juvenile (SG257)
	261	1		Circular	U-shaped	2.2	0.5	8 : 0.18	0.02 animal bone	—
	263	1		Circular	U-shaped	1.6	0.5	6 : 0.05	0.6 animal bone	—
	273	1		Circular	Steep-sloping sides, concave base	1.1	0.3	—	9 fragments of human bone	—
									0.01 burnt bone	—
									0.46 animal bone	—
									0.01 animal bone	—
									0.06 animal bone	—
									0.03 fired clay	—
									1 shell	—

All weights are rounded to the nearest 0.01kg.

Table 4.2: Summary of storage pits at Station Road

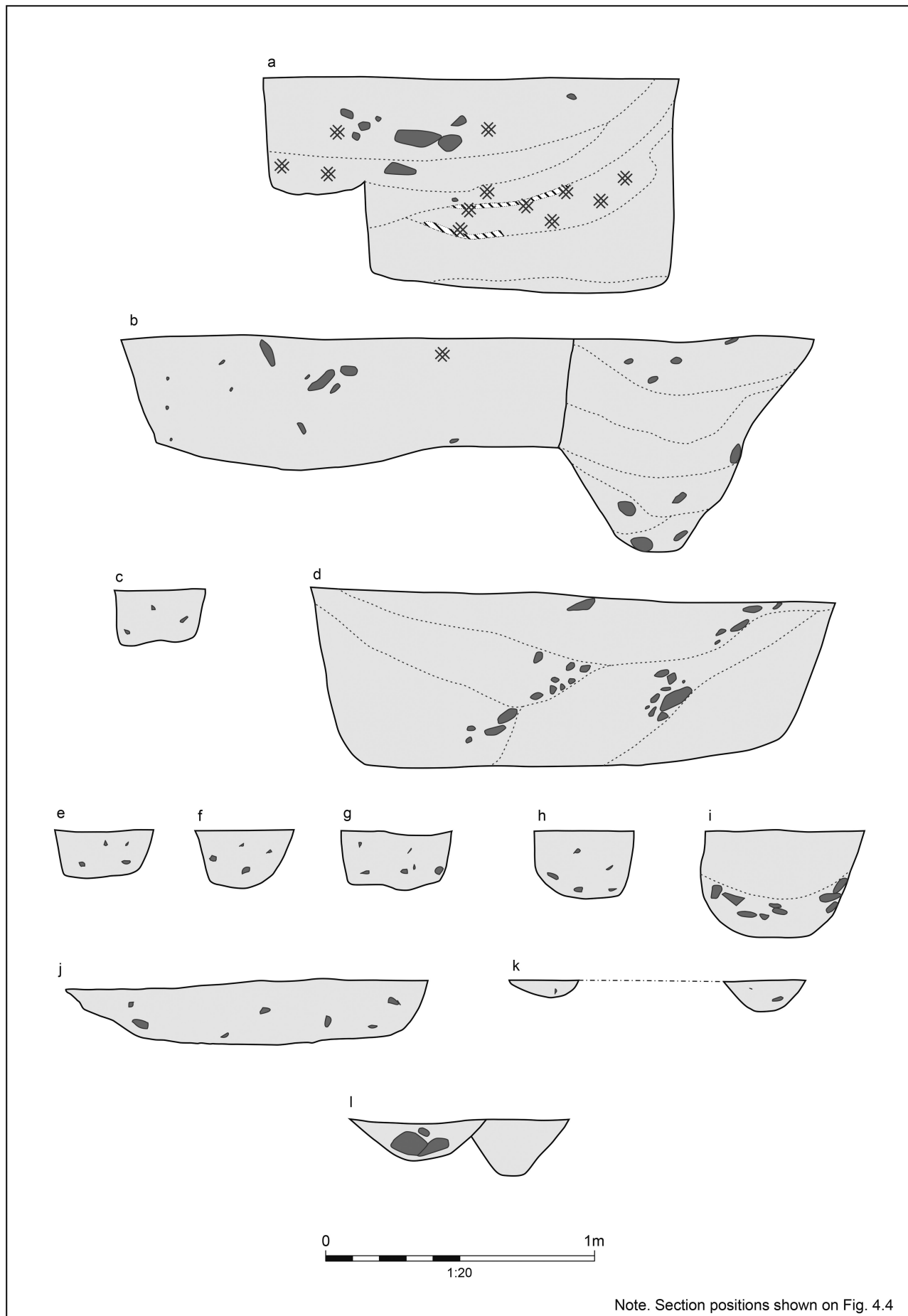


Figure 4.5: Selected sections of features within domestic focus L2 and L3



Plate 14: Enclosure ditch G3 (L5)

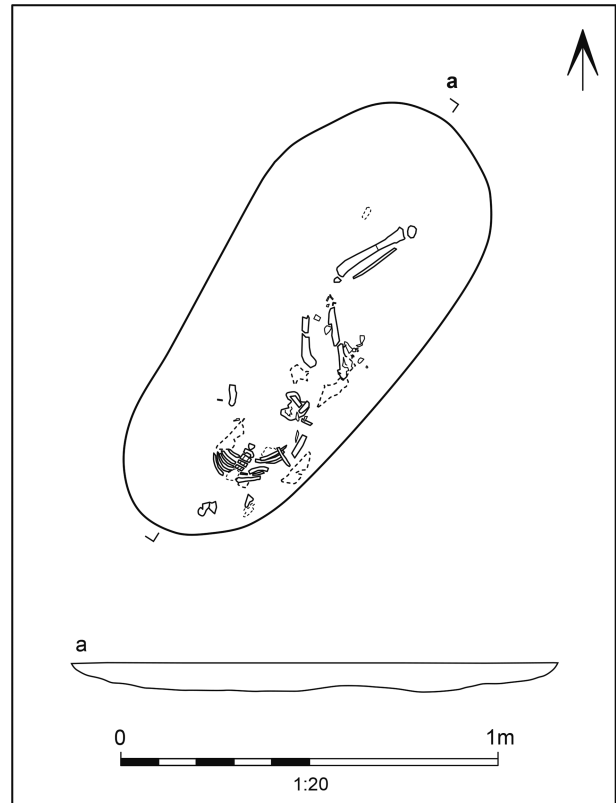


Figure 4.6: Detailed plan of inhumation G17 (L6)

IX. LATER BOUNDARY L6

Two extensive ditches G5 and G6 were dug across the areas of enclosures L1, L2 and trackway L12 (Figs 4.1 and 4.2). They were stratigraphically later than the enclosure ditches and also post-dated roundhouse G19 and post-built structure SG193. However, the pottery recovered from the ditches was middle Iron Age in date.

The ditches were not parallel but c. 5m apart to the south and 2m apart to the north. This demonstrates that they did not define a trackway and were probably dug at different times. They extended for c. 100m across the entire excavation area; a continuation was found to the south within the Stanwick Road excavation (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1998, fig. 2). Inhumation SG184 was identified on the south-east side of boundary ditch G5.

Inhumation SG184, G17

Inhumation SG184 was buried adjacent to ditch G5 (L6); it comprised 'the very poorly preserved skeleton of a child' (Duhig, Chapter 6) in a supine position, with its legs slightly flexed, head to the south-west and feet to the north-east (Fig 4.6). No dating evidence was present but

based on its alignment and the fact that it was positioned just 4m from ditch G5, it is considered to be contemporary with the boundary.

X. LATER QUARRYING L11

An irregular area of pits G26 was uncovered on the southern edge of the excavation area. Some of the pits were dug into boundary ditch G5 (L6), which is known on stratigraphic grounds to be late in the sequence. The pits were up to 1.3m deep with asymmetrical profiles and uneven bases, which suggests that they were dug as quarries – probably for clay. They represent areas of multiple pits rather than a single individual large pit.

Pottery (81 sherds, 1.2kg), animal bone (6.8kg), fired clay (70g), a nail shank (OA7) and a ceramic loom weight (OA8) were recovered from the pits. Two groups of animal bones in separate pits comprised several vertebrae that may have been associated. Although an unusual deposit, 'slight gnawing damage and the lack of evidence for any of the vertebrae being in articulation suggests these were secondary depositions' (Maltby, Chapter 6).

Chapter 5

Artefacts

I. INTRODUCTION

The investigations yielded an artefact assemblage comprising mainly pottery, fired clay and a small number of 'other artefacts' associated with domestic and agricultural activity. Where appropriate, methodologies are outlined in each of the following sections. More detailed information on the pottery type series is presented in Appendix I and on medieval and post-medieval 'other artefacts' in Appendix II.

II. POTTERY

by Jackie Wells

Methodology

Pottery was examined in accordance with PCRG / SGRP / MPRG guidelines (2016). The assemblage was quantified by minimum vessel number, sherd count, and weight, and assigned form and fabric groups. Vessel attributes, including decoration, manufacturing techniques and levels of abrasion, together with evidence for use (modification, residues/sooting and wear) were recorded. Selected pottery is illustrated in Figs 5.1 and 5.2; vessels are shown at one quarter size, external view on the right and internal view on the left.

The assemblages are separately described by fabric and form, followed by a discussion of significant pottery groups.

Bourton Way

The pottery assemblage totals 1876 sherds, representing a minimum of 581 vessels (29.9kg). The sieved residues of environmental samples yielded an additional 740g, although this material was highly fragmented and has not been considered further. The pottery is datable to the middle Iron Age (broadly late 4th/early 3rd–2nd centuries BC), and complements the material recovered from the adjacent investigations at Wilby Way (Blinkhorn and Jackson 2003).

Fabrics

Fabrics 1–5 correspond with those identified at Wilby Way (Blinkhorn and Jackson 2003, 33). Fabrics 6–8 were defined in the course of the Bourton Way investigations (Table 5.1 and Appendix I).

In common with many Iron Age sites in the county, shelly wares predominate (*cf.* Kidd 2004, 49), totalling 99% of the assemblage (by both sherd count and weight). They comprise a number of variants containing combinations of fine or coarse shell, sand, flint, or grog inclusions. Within this group, coarse shelly fabrics 1 and 6 are prevalent. Vessels are generally well made and occur in both oxidised and reduced examples, although a high incidence of abrasion was observed among the wares, which are often leached and have flaky, degraded surfaces.

Forms

Diagnostic forms are poorly represented, with only a small number of vessels retaining rim to shoulder profiles. The assemblage lacks the early carinated forms recovered from Wilby Way (Blinkhorn and Jackson 2003, 36), although a sherd with incised linear zig-zag decoration (Fig. 5.1 P12) may be one of the earliest pieces. Round-shouldered, more sinuous, fairly open vessels are the dominant form (Fig. 5.1), with vessel-wall thickness of 5–18mm. Vessel necks are fairly short and rims are generally stubby. The latter are predominantly rounded (twenty vessels) or flat-topped (eleven), with a small number of internally bevelled (four), beaded (one) and flattened examples (six), the latter with slight internal or external ledges. Indicating a range of vessel sizes, rim diameters typically span 120–260mm, with a coarse shelly outlier at 340mm. Bases are poorly represented within the assemblage but are mainly flat; a single footring example occurs. Seven handle fragments were identified (Fig. 5.1 P5). A more unusual form is a lid-seated globular jar with a perforated rim (Fig. 5.1 P7). A comparable example is known from Broom, near Biggleswade, Beds. (Brudenell 2007, 261 and fig. A3.16; F.774).

Decoration and surface treatment

Although the assemblage is dominated by plain body sherds, a few fine ware examples have a burnished finish, while the surfaces of coarser wares are often wiped or randomly brushed prior to firing. Deep scoring (mainly vertical), which may have served both functional and cultural purposes, occurs on 81 sherds (4% of the assemblage). This total is broadly consistent with the typical proportion *c.* 5–10% (Chapman 2014, 28) in middle Iron Age assemblages in Northamptonshire. Decoration comprises fingernail and/or fingertip impressions, restricted to rim tops (ten examples) and vessel shoulders (fourteen examples). One fine ware vessel has a poorly executed continuous incised zig-zag motif (Fig. 5.1 P12); a second has incised linear and curvilinear decoration (Fig. 5.1 P10; *cf.* Weekley – Jackson and Dix 1986, fig. 33).

Use

Sooting visible on the external and/or internal surfaces of 89 vessels, and internal white limescale residues on a further eight, indicate use.

Deposition

Pottery was collected from 244 features, 78% of which contained less than 100g (Table 5.2). Single sherds, weighing 1–150g, occurred in 55 features. Ditches and gullies represent the main focus of deposition, containing 57% of the assemblage; pits (quarry, rubbish and storage) contained 33%; layers and structural deposits the remainder. Where multiple fills occur, most sherds derive from the secondary and tertiary deposits. For a prehistoric assemblage, the pottery survives in fair condition,

Fabrics	Sherd No.	Wt. (g)
F1: Coarse shell	632	9198
F2: Fine shell	181	2022
F3: Sandy fine shell	458	5561
F4: Grog and shell	14	175
F5: Pounded shell	230	3331
F6: Sandy coarse shell	285	8138
F7: Mixed shell, grog and sand	72	1521
F8: Grog and sand	4	25
	1876	29,971

Table 5.1: Bourton Way pottery quantification by fabric type

with a mean sherd weight of 16g, compared with that of 11g recorded at Wilby Way (Blinkhorn and Jackson 2003, 32). Several vessels are represented by more than one sherd, although only a single complete profile survives (Fig. 5.1 P3). An absence of cross-fits suggests that the assemblage is mainly the product of secondary deposition.

Enclosed activity focus SL1

Features associated with enclosures SL1 yielded 294 sherds (16% of the total assemblage), weighing 2.5kg. The largest concentrations derive from enclosure L2 (1kg) and quarry pits L33 (1.1kg). Vessels are generally fragmented, with the largest single example – nine sherds from an undiagnostic fine shelly vessel (fabric 2) – weighing only 202g. Although only a small assemblage, the full range of fabric types is represented.

Enclosed activity focus SL2

Three percent of the assemblage (64 sherds, 388g) derived from enclosure L6. Some 53 vessels in fabrics

1–3, and 5–7 are represented. Individual vessels each weigh less than 35g, and are uniformly abraded.

Unenclosed domestic focus SL3

Features assigned to SL3 yielded 1501 sherds (80% of the total assemblage), weighing 27.5kg. The largest concentrations derive from roundhouse L11 (4.8kg) and pits and post-built structures within activity focus L25 (4.1kg). Notable within the assemblage are the remains of two sizeable vessels: the majority (30 sherds, 2.8kg) from a lid-seated globular jar (fabric 6: Fig. 5.1 P7) derived from a posthole associated with post-built structure SG573 in activity focus L25; and the 72 sherds (1.6kg) from an ovoid vessel (fabric 1) within the terminal of enclosure L9. Both vessels may have been broken *in situ* and the association of the latter with three human skull fragments strongly suggests that this represents an ‘unusual’ or ‘special’ deposit (Hill 1995). Vessels in fabrics 1–7 occur within SL3 features. However, no spatial variation was apparent in the distribution of wares to suggest functional or depositional differences between particular Land-use Areas or feature types, as observed at Wilby Way (Blinkhorn and Jackson 2003, 33 and 41).

Later activity SL4

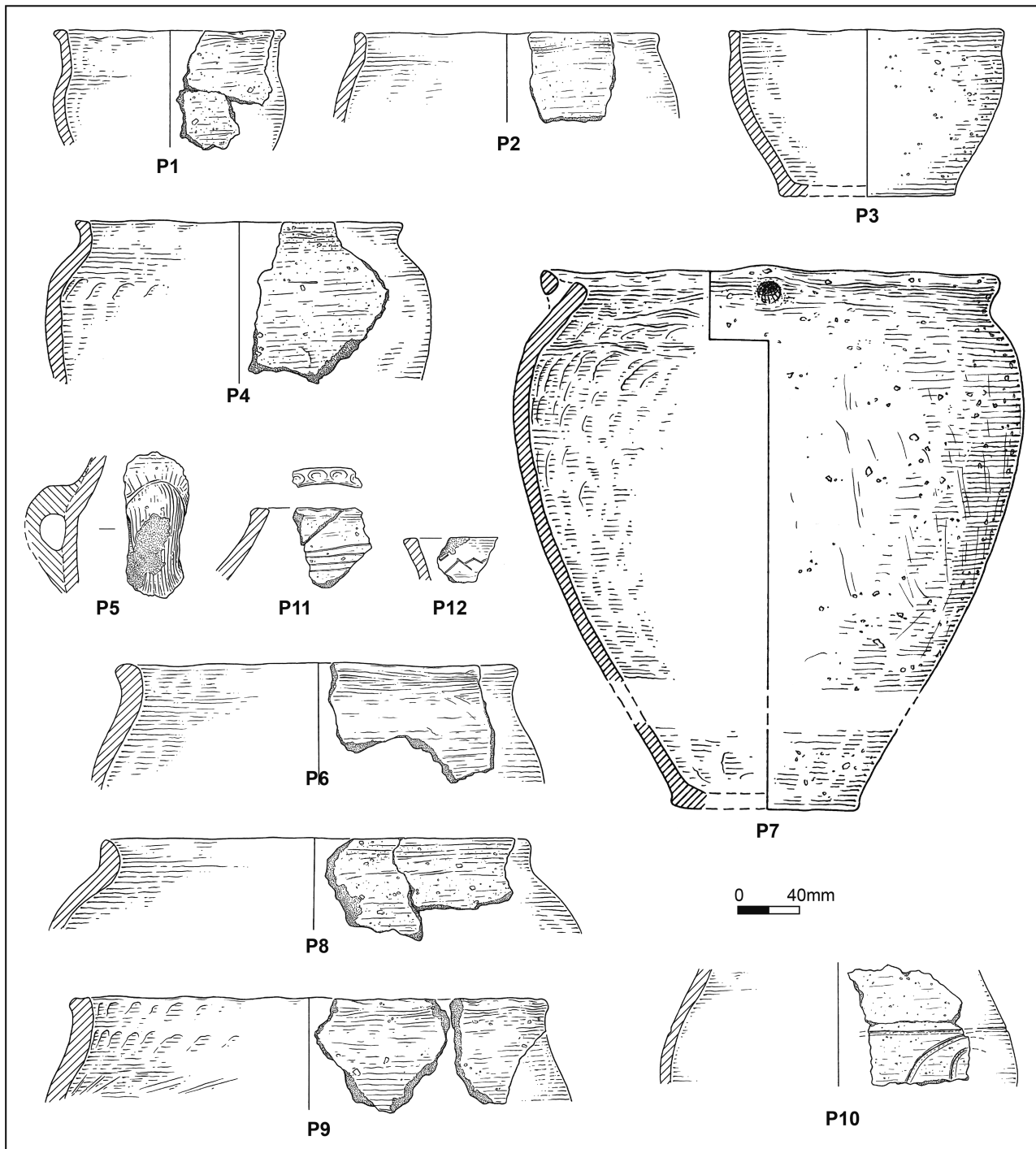
A negligible assemblage of seventeen sherds (163g) derived from enclosure ditch L21. Thirteen vessels in fabrics 1 and 6 are represented entirely by body sherds, each weighing less than 50g.

Station Road

The pottery assemblage totals 683 sherds, representing a minimum of 222 vessels (12.9kg). Sieved residues of environmental samples yielded an additional 65g, which has not been further considered. The pottery is datable

Site Landscape	Land-use Area	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
SL1 Settlement zones and associated activity focus	L1 Square enclosure	40	219
	L2 Rectangular enclosure	126	1047
	L3 Unenclosed activity focus	5	19
	L4 Possible enclosure	24	118
	L33 Quarrying	99	1184
	Sub-total	294	2587
SL2 Settlement enclosure	L6 Rectangular enclosure	64	388
SL3 Unenclosed settlement zone	L7 Activity focus	90	1061
	L8 Roundhouse	30	232
	L9 Sub-square enclosure	151	3052
	L10 Activity focus	69	768
	L11 Roundhouse	171	4812
	L13 Roundhouse enclosure	145	1727
	L14 Roundhouse enclosure	107	2359
	L15 Roundhouse enclosure	118	1727
	L16 Roundhouse enclosure	255	3829
	L17 Roundhouse enclosure	22	300
	L19 Roundhouse enclosure	47	492
	L20 L-shaped ditch	1	66
	L22 Activity focus	39	887
	L24 Activity focus	20	180
	L25 Activity focus	82	4116
	L26 Quarrying	149	1944
	L28 Oval pits	5	24
	Sub-total	1501	27,579
SL4 Later settlement activity	L21 Enclosure	17	163
Total		1875	30,717

Table 5.2: Bourton Way pottery quantification by Site Landscape and Land-use Area



Illust. No.	Description	Site Landscape	Landscape
P1	Jar or bowl (Fabric 4)	SL3 Unenclosed settlement	L17 Enclosure
P2	Jar or bowl (F3)	SL3 Unenclosed settlement	L9 Enclosure
P3	Bowl (F2)	SL3 Unenclosed settlement	L15 Enclosure
P4	Jar or bowl (F7)	SL3 Unenclosed settlement	L22 Activity focus
P5	Handle (F2)	SL3 Unenclosed settlement	L13 Enclosure
P6	Jar or bowl with wiped surfaces (F6)	SL3 Unenclosed settlement	L9 Enclosure
P7	Lid-seated globular jar with perforated rim (F6)	SL3 Unenclosed settlement	L25 Post-built structure
P8	Vessel (F7)	SL3 Unenclosed settlement	L11 Roundhouse
P9	Vessel (F6)	SL3 Unenclosed settlement	L11 Roundhouse
P10	Decorated body sherd (F2)	SL3 Unenclosed settlement	L10 Activity focus
P11	Vessel with scoring and fingertip impressed rim (F6)	SL3 Unenclosed settlement	L9 Enclosure
P12	Burnished body sherd with poorly incised decoration (F3)	SL1 Enclosed activity zone	L33 Quarry pits

Figure 5.1: Bourton Way selected illustrated pottery

to the middle Iron Age (broadly late 4th/early 3rd–2nd centuries BC) and complements the material recovered from the evaluation (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2010b, 14) and nearby excavations (Jackson 2009, fig. 3.4; Blinkhorn 1998).

Fabrics

Shelly wares are dominant, totalling 94% of the assemblage by sherd count (97% by weight), and comprise a number of variants containing combinations of fine or coarse shell, sand, grog or organic inclusions (Fig. 5.2, Table 5.3 and Appendix I). Within this group, coarse shelly vessels (fabric 1) are prevalent. This fabric is characteristic of thicker-walled vessels, thought to represent larger storage-type jars. Thinner-walled sherds from smaller, finer vessels contain sparser and smaller shell inclusions (fabrics 2 and 3). Both oxidised and reduced examples occur. The remaining wares contain quartz sand, organic matter and grog. While the latter represents a deliberate inclusion, the quartz and organic material may have occurred naturally in the clay. A high incidence of abrasion was observed, particularly among the shelly fabrics, which, in common with the wares from Bourton Way, are often extensively degraded and leached.

Forms

Diagnostic forms are poorly represented within the assemblage, with only a small number of vessels retaining rim to shoulder profiles (Fig. 5.2). Forms are variants of the slack- or round-shouldered, fairly open vessels with either ovoid or globular profiles which dominate middle Iron Age assemblages in the region. Vessel wall thickness varies between 4mm and 20mm. Rim forms are predominantly rounded (eight vessels) or flat-topped (nine), with single beaded, and slightly expanded flattened examples. The fragmented nature of the assemblage meant it was only possible to measure the rim diameters of ten vessels. Smaller pots range from 100–160mm and larger examples from 320–440mm, the latter deriving from a coarse shell (fabric 1) storage jar. One particularly large example (Fig. 5.2 P9) has a diameter of 580mm. Surviving bases (eleven) are all flat, with complete examples measuring 70mm and 80mm in diameter. One shelly body sherd has been modified to form an oval lid (diameter 60mm × 65mm).

Decoration and surface treatment

The assemblage is dominated by plain body sherds. Seven fine shelly sherds (fabric 2) have a smoothed, burnished finish, while the surfaces of nine coarse wares (fabric 1) are faintly brushed / striated. Bold scoring (both vertical and less commonly crude lattice) occurs on 33 sherds (5% of the total assemblage; Fig. 5.2 P1, P2). Decoration is rare and comprises fingernail or fingertip impressions on rim tops (four examples: Fig. 5.2 P4, P8) and vessel bodies (five examples: Fig. 5.2 P5).

Use

Vessel use is indicated by sooting on the external and/or internal surfaces of 53 vessels, and internal white lime-scale residues on two examples.

Deposition

Pottery was recovered from 71 features, the majority associated with domestic enclosure L2 (Table 5.4.). Pits,

predominantly storage pits, represent the main focus of deposition, yielding 83% of the assemblage (by sherd count). Within these features, thick-walled coarse ware vessels in fabrics 1 and 6 are prevalent. Fifteen percent of the pottery derived from ditches, and the remainder from layers and structural deposits, which generally contain a more varied range of finer wares (notably fabric 3). The pottery survives in fair condition – a mean sherd weight of 17g is closely comparable with that recorded at Bourton Way (MSW 16g). Both weights exceed the typical mean sherd weight of less than 10g for Iron Age assemblages in the region (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2010b, 12). Individual sherds range in weight from 1–111g. Several vessels are represented by more than one sherd, although there are no obvious complete profiles.

Domestic enclosure L2

Features associated with enclosure L2 yielded 445 sherds (62% of the total assemblage), weighing 7kg, the majority deriving from secondary and tertiary fills of storage pit cluster G25 (6.1kg). Vessels are generally fragmented, with the largest single example – 29 sherds from a fine shelly vessel (fabric 2) – weighing only 286g. No pottery was associated with roundhouse G19.

Domestic enclosure L3

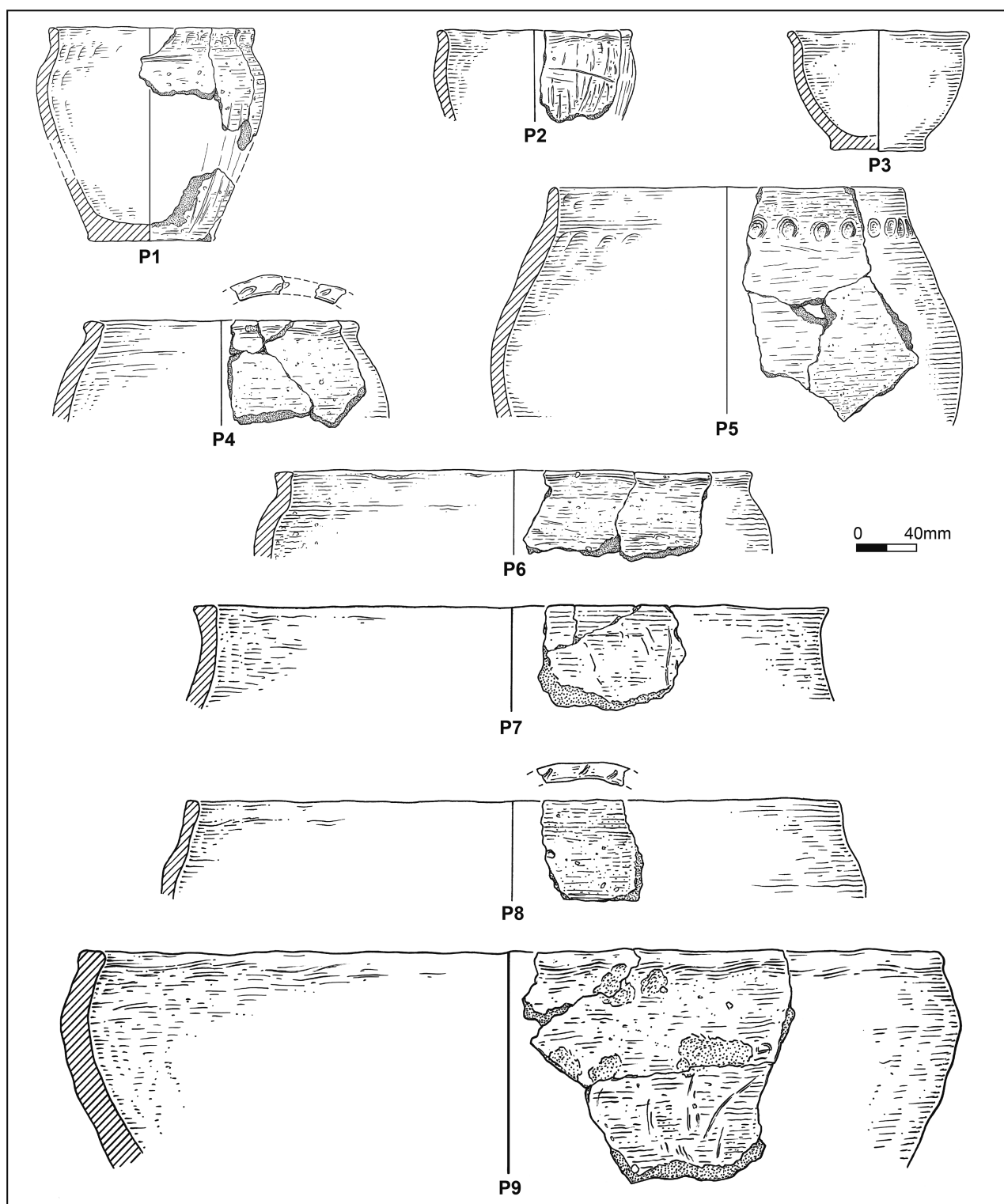
The majority of the L3 assemblage derived from the tertiary fills of boundary G4 (2.8kg); it comprised 27 sherds from a particularly large coarse shelly storage jar (Fig. 5.2 P9). A negligible assemblage of eight body sherds (80g) was associated with the disuse of roundhouse G23. The remainder of the pottery derived from the fills of storage pit cluster G24 (1.7kg), with most single vessels weighing less than 100g.

Other land-use areas

Small assemblages, each weighing less than 1kg, derived from enclosures L1, L4, L5, boundary ditches L6 and trackway L12. Although L5 and L6 are stratigraphically later than enclosures L1–L4, the pottery (albeit only fifteen sherds) compares well with that collected from the earlier features. A larger, although highly fragmented assemblage (1.2kg), was collected from the secondary and tertiary fills of quarry pits L11, the largest single example – five sherds from a fine shelly vessel (fabric 2) – weighing only 181g.

Fabrics	Sherd No.	Wt. (g)
F1: Coarse shell	257	6692
F2: Fine shell	167	2559
F3: Sandy fine shell	110	1374
F4: Grog and shell	13	111
F5: Dense shell	22	597
F6: Sandy coarse shell	44	630
F7: Mixed shell, grog and sand	29	547
F8: Grog and sand	9	126
F9: Sand	5	84
F10: Sand and organic	27	181
Total	683	12,901

Table 5.3: Station Road pottery quantification by fabric type



Illust. No.	Description	Landscape	Group
P1	Scored jar (Fabric F2)	L2 Domestic enclosure	G13 Dispersed pits
P2	Scored jar or bowl (F1)	L2 Domestic enclosure	G25 Storage pits
P3	Ovoid bowl (F2)	L2 Domestic enclosure	G25 Storage pits
P4	Jar or bowl with fingertip impressed rim (F7)	L2 Domestic enclosure	G25 Storage pits
P5	Vessel with fingertip impressed decoration (F2)	L2 Domestic enclosure	G25 Storage pits
P6	Storage-type vessel (F6)	L2 Domestic enclosure	G25 Storage pits
P7	Faintly scored storage-type vessel (F1)	L2 Domestic enclosure	G25 Storage pits
P8	Storage-type vessel with fingertip impressed rim (F1)	L2 Domestic enclosure	G25 Storage pits
P9	Large storage-type vessel with lightly brushed/scored body (F1)	L3 Domestic enclosure	G4 Enclosure boundary

Figure 5.2: Station Road selected illustrated pottery

Land-use Area	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
L1 Enclosure	56	476
L2 Domestic enclosure	445	7031
L3 Domestic enclosure	95	3764
L4 Enclosure	23	372
L5 Later enclosure	13	76
L6 Boundary ditches	2	4
L11 Quarry pits	81	1289
L12 Trackway	2	3
Total	717	13,015

Table 5.4: Station Road pottery quantification by Land-use Area

Summary

Both assemblages are local in character and characteristic of middle Iron Age settlements. At Bourton Way, enclosure ditches and gullies represent the main focus of deposition, in contrast with Station Road where pits, predominantly storage pits, yielded the majority of the pottery. Nonetheless, both assemblages are dominated by sizeable coarse shelly vessels, including plain, brushed / faintly striated, and boldly scored examples. A range of smaller vessels also occur (jars and bowls), including some in a reduced fabric with burnished surfaces, which may be suggestive of a later middle Iron Age date (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2010b, 14). It is possible that the dominance of coarser shelly wares may be a reflection of an increase in food storage at each site, as postulated at Wilby Way (Blinkhorn and Jackson 2003, 41), although this remains speculative. Notwithstanding, middle Iron Age sites are known in large numbers across Northamptonshire (Willis 2006, 99) and the pottery assemblages from Bourton Way and Station Road fit well into this group.

III. 'OTHER ARTEFACTS'

by Holly B. Duncan

Methodology

Each object was assigned a 'broad term', material code and a functional category; where appropriate, type, date range, weight, quantity and description were compiled and entered onto an Access database.

This section discusses the 'other artefacts' (OA) assemblage by Site Landscape (SL) for Bourton Way and by Land-use Area (L) for Station Road. A catalogue of objects is included at the end of the relevant discussions; selected items are illustrated and these are indicated by an asterisk and the figure reference. The following information is appended to each entry in the catalogue: Registered Artefact number (prefixed by RA); Phase (prefixed by P); Site Landscape number (prefixed by SL) for Bourton Way only; Land-use Area number (prefixed by L); Group number (prefixed by G). It should be remembered that the two sites have overlapping numbering. The medieval and post-medieval 'other artefacts' are not discussed below but are summarised in Appendix II.

Bourton Way

Some 37 objects were recovered along with 1434g of ferrous slag, 23.5g of fuel ash slag and 36.3g of vitrified clay.

Enclosed activity focus SL1

A tapering bone shank from either a needle or a bodkin (OA1) was found in the secondary fill of the ditch delineating small enclosure L1. Although its incomplete state precludes certain identification of its function, it does suggest that either textile or leather working may have been carried out within enclosure L1. It also suggests that bone-working may have been undertaken, probably on an 'as needs' basis.

Pit SG156 within small enclosure L1 contained 35g of ferrous slag, along with hammerscale (5g), hammerslag (0.2g) and fuel ash slag (14g). Although the quantities of ferrous slag are small, the fact that both hammerscale and hammerslag were recovered may indicate that smithing occurred within enclosure L1, as these by-products are often found in the immediate vicinity of the smithing hearth and anvil (Bayley *et al.* 2001, 14).

Although enclosure L2 was larger than enclosure L1, 'other artefacts' were limited to a bone bobbin (OA2) and a flint flake from the fill of enclosure ditch G9. A second flint flake was recovered from pit G10 within the enclosure. The bobbin, in common with many Iron Age examples, was manufactured from a sheep metatarsal. It has an axial perforation through the articular surface of the proximal end with polish evident on the bone's surface. The lack of a transverse hole mid-shaft suggests OA2 equates to Taylor and May's type 4 bobbins (1996, 355). Bobbins are thought to have carried spun yarn at some stage between spinning and warping. This is the only 'other artefact' that suggests contemporary domestic occupation in enclosure L2. The flake from the enclosure ditch fill is secondary and hard-hammer struck; it could have originated from late Neolithic or Bronze Age activity. The double bulb of percussion and re-use of previously struck flint suggest the flake from pit G10 may be later Bronze Age in date (Butler 2005, 179–81).

Only one of the six pits (L3) located immediately to the north-east of enclosure L1 contained 'other artefacts' – 2g of fuel ash slag.

Quarry pits G4 (L33) contained evidence of both ferrous smelting and smithing, including an amorphous lump of dense magnetic slag (see Table 5.5). This material, combined with that from pit SG156 within enclosure L1, suggests small-scale smelting and primary smithing were carried out within the lifespan of enclosure L1. It is possible that the rectangular staple or timber dog (OA3, Fig. 5.3) from pit G4 was a product of this activity.

Associated with 260g of smithing slag in quarry pits G4 was a piece of sawn antler beam (OA4, Fig. 5.3)

L	G	Description	Object	Weight (g)
33	4	Second fill of quarry pit G4	Iron waste by-product	56
			Ferrous slag (smithing)	759
			Ferrous slag (undiagnostic)	10.3
			Hammerscale	0.8
			Hammerslag	0.4
			Vitrified clay lining	34.3
		Third fill of quarry pit G4	Ferrous slag (smelting)	198
			Ferrous slag (smithing)	311
			Ferrous slag (undiagnostic)	105
			Hammerscale	0.1
			Hammerslag	0.05

Table 5.5: Bourton Way ironworking evidence from quarry pit G4 (SL1)

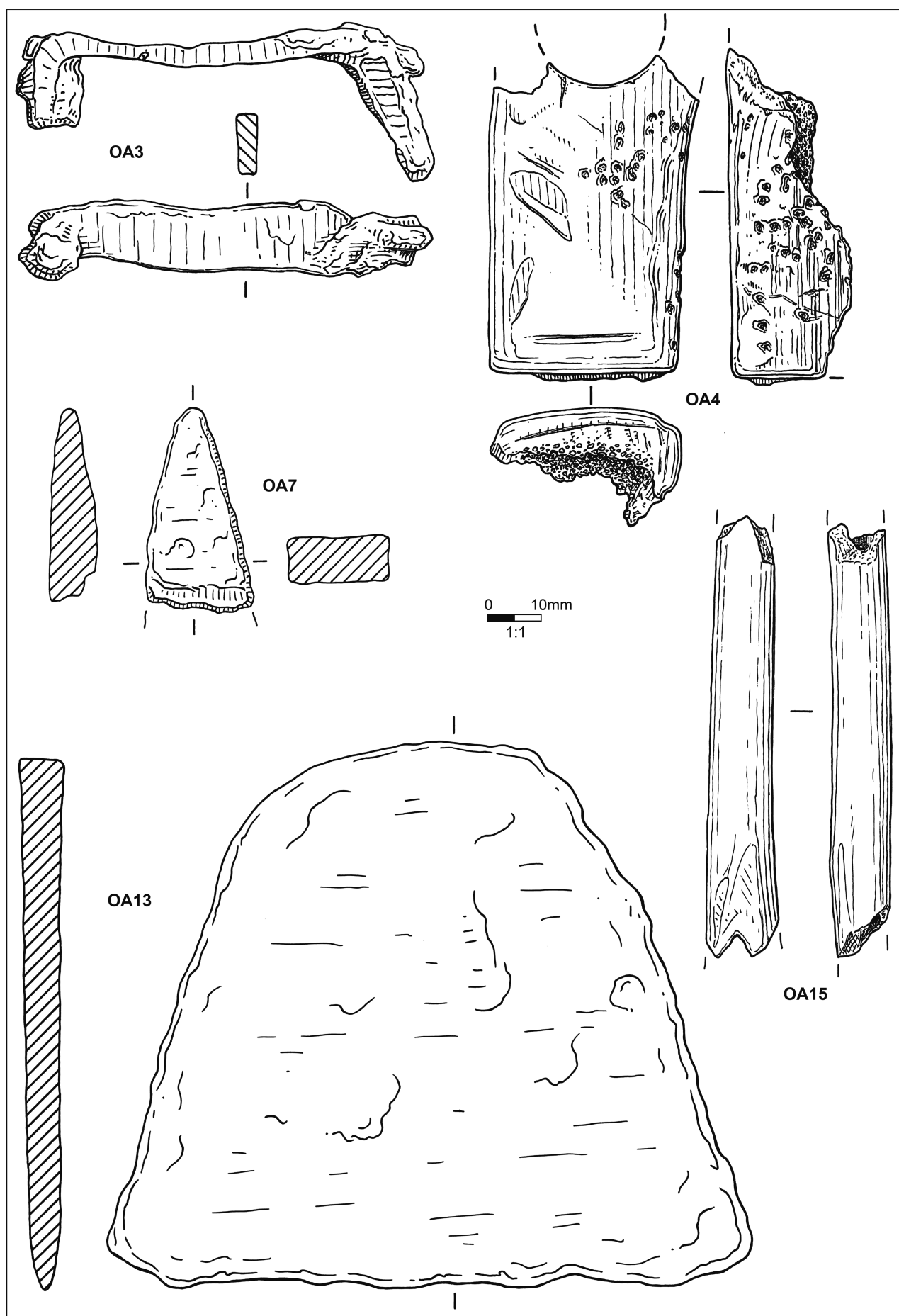


Figure 5.3: Bourton Way selected illustrated other artefacts (OA3, 4, 7, 13 and 15)

retaining, at the broken end, part of a drilled circular perforation (c. 29mm diameter). The identification of this piece is uncertain. Somewhat similar items, but with smaller circular perforations (15–19mm), were found at Winnall Down, Hampshire in contexts of Iron Age date; suggested uses include a handle, a hammer or a work surface (Winham 1985, 93–5, fig. 73 nos 1 and 2). A second piece of worked antler (OA5) was found in one of the upper fills of the same pit.

Enclosed activity focus SL2

The 'other artefact' assemblage from SL2 is meagre and not closely dated. The enclosure ditch fills contained undiagnostic ferrous slag (4.1g), a residual flint blade and a nail shank (OA6). The small quantity of ferrous slag does not suggest ironworking was carried out in the enclosure. The fill of a posthole within enclosure L6 contained a tapering triangular-shaped piece of iron (OA7, Fig. 5.3), which has a stepped break. This may have served as a wedge or possibly was the tip of a punch; alternatively it could be a portion of bar iron, the stepped break perhaps resulting from a partial cut by a chisel or punch that did not fully sever the bar, with the final break made manually (Ottaway 1992, 500).

Enclosed domestic focus SL3

The fill of the ditch defining roundhouse L8 contained a single hard-hammer-struck flake, which is presumed to be residual. The fill of the ditch defining small enclosure L9 had a small, flat triangular piece of slate (source unknown but not local) OA8 with one cut edge; its use remains uncertain. A posthole dug into the fills of this same enclosure ditch contained two large fragments of saddle quern (OA9 and OA10, Fig. 5.4, Table 5.6). Both querns were formed of split or cleft Lower Greensand (Sussex) boulders, the grinding surfaces relatively flat and worn smooth. They appear to have been re-used as post-packing. Their presence indicates grain processing was being carried out in the vicinity of this enclosure and that either primary or secondary trade contacts with the Sussex area were in existence.

The 'other artefact' assemblage from L10 was limited to 4.3g of fuel ash slag from the fill of storage pit G24; this material could have derived from a hearth (craft or domestic) or resulted from an accidental fire.

Roundhouse L11 produced two saddle quern fragments, one from its drainage gully and the other from its enclosure ditch (OA11 and OA12, Fig. 5.4). As with the saddle querns from L9, they were manufactured from split/cleft 'unformed' Lower Greensand (Sussex) boulders. Placed immediately on top of quern fragment OA12 was an iron, bladed implement (OA13) with a curved, 'humped' back and gently widening sides that flare slightly just before the straight bladed edge. Its function is uncertain and parallels are not readily available. There are some broad similarities to late Iron Age triangular knives (e.g. Stead and Rigby 1989, 104 and fig. 110, burial 123) but other uses are possible, such as a slicker for leatherworking or perhaps a chisel. The same deposit that produced quern OA12 and blade OA13 (Fig. 5.3) also contained a combination whetstone and sharpening stone (OA14). The whetstone is quartz arenite and may be Millstone Grit with a Pennine source; this suggests that the whetstone may have been formed from a re-used quern. It also hints at possible Pennine trade contacts.

The fill of the ditch defining roundhouse enclosure L13 yielded a probable bone weaving implement – a hollowed, polished limb-bone shaft, broken at both ends (OA15, Fig. 5.3). This is likely to be a 'gouge' – implements thought to be 'pin-beaters' used in weaving; alternative uses, such as a bone spearhead, have also been suggested (Duncan and Riddler 2011, 66). Further evidence of textile production comes in the form of a bone bobbin (OA16) from a different part of the same ditch. As with OA2 (from SL1), this bobbin is axially perforated and lacks a transverse mid-shaft hole. The incomplete bone point formed from a shaved horse metapodial (OA17), found in association with OA16, could also be related to textile production; the transverse wear marks on this point suggest use as a pin-beater.

The 'other artefact' assemblage from roundhouse enclosure L14 was meagre, comprising of a primary flint flake and 1g of fuel ash slag from the oval enclosure ditch (G25) and a further 2.1g of fuel ash slag from a storage pit.

Roundhouse enclosure L15 was slightly more productive. The fill of the original enclosure ditch contained another example of an unformed Lower Greensand (possible Sussex source) saddle quern (OA18), a fragment of a possible iron armlet (OA19, Fig. 5.4) and an antler cheekpiece (OA20). Possible iron armlet OA19 comprises a plain, curved fragment of rounded-square section, the curve suggesting a diameter of c. 110mm. As both ends are broken it is not possible to be sure of its function. Plain iron armlets were a popular Late Tene III form (Stead and Rigby 1989, 103) and continued in use into the Roman period; it is possible that such a simple form may have originated earlier in the Iron Age.

Antler cheekpieces, such as OA20 (Fig. 5.4), were probably used in conjunction with twine, rope or perhaps leather (Roes 1960, 68–72). This is the sole piece of artefactual evidence to suggest the presence of a riding horse at Bourton Way, although horse bones were found at both settlements (Maltby, Chapter 6), including Wilby Way where at least six individuals were noted from deposits in Area 2 (immediately east of SL1) (Maltby 2003, 54–5). Antler cheekpieces have a lengthy history starting in the later Bronze Age and continuing throughout the Iron Age and possibly into the early Roman period (Britnell 1976, 24–34; Longley 1980, 29–30; Taylor and May 1996, 361). OA16 does not appear to conform to either of the classes of late Bronze Age antler cheekpieces defined by Longley (1980, 29–30). The closest parallel was found amongst rubble during removal of a wall of a Romano-British building at Dragonby (Taylor and May 1996, 359–60 and fig. 14.9). Ceramic fabrics recovered from the same deposit as OA16, however, are firmly of early to middle Iron Age date.

One of the re-cuts of L15 contained a possible pivot stone (OA21, Fig. 5.4), comprising a rectangular block of Lower Greensand (Sussex), with two possibly 'cleft' edges. The upper face of the stone is flat, and retains an iron-stained circular concave depression near one edge (diameter c. 61mm), with concentric wear marks surrounding it. It is possible that this formed a pivot for a door or gate; it may have originally served as a quern.

Amongst the animal bone assemblage from ditch G30 (L16) was the polished tip of a red deer antler (OA22; Maltby, Chapter 6). The polished surface of the tine suggests that it may have served as part of an implement,

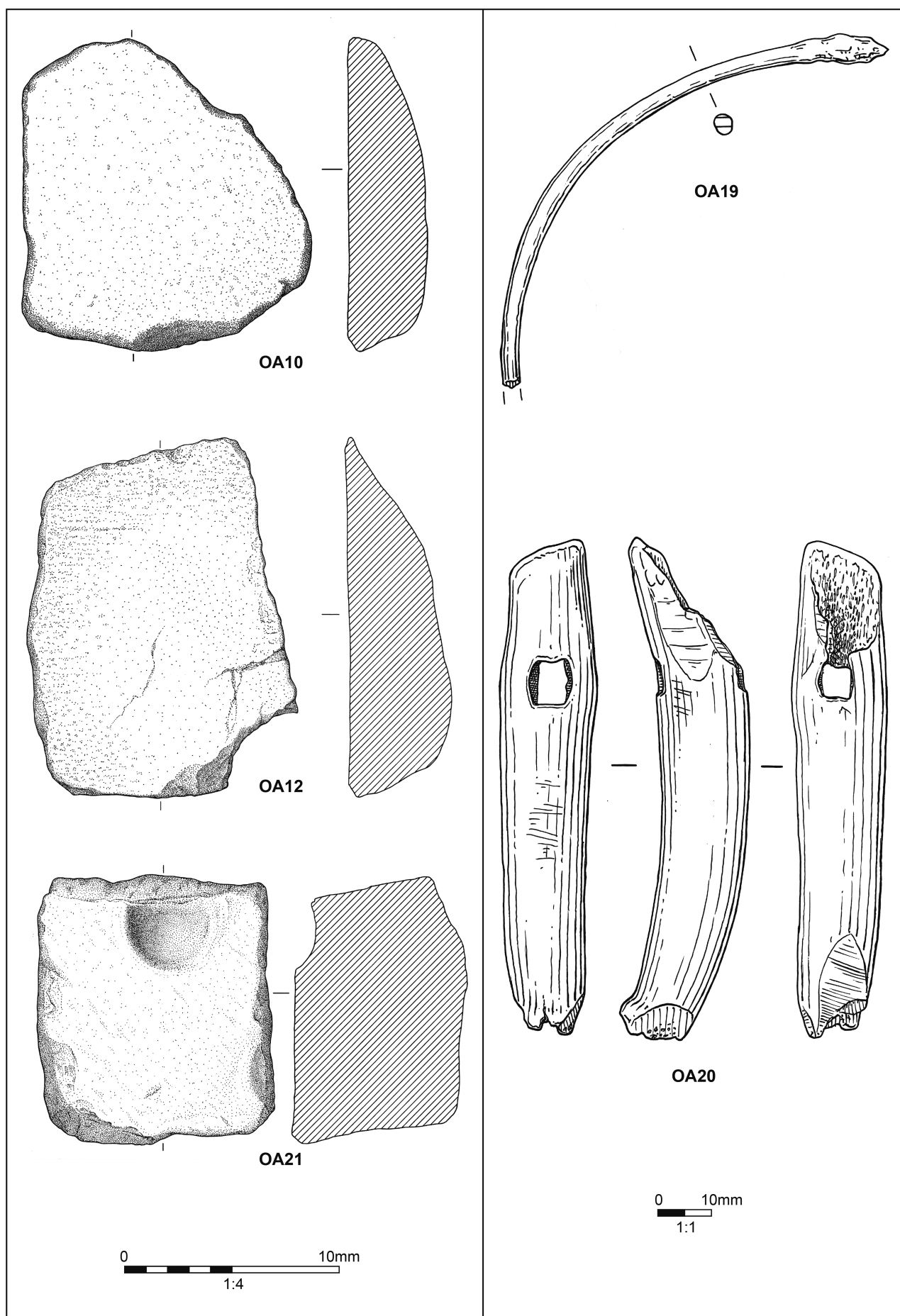


Figure 5.4: Bourton Way selected illustrated other artefacts (OA10, 12, 19, 20 and 21)

L	G	Description	Object	Quantity	Weight (g)
8	19	Fill of roundhouse ditch G19	Flint flake	1	
9	21	Fill of enclosure ditch G21	Stone (worked?)	1	
		Posthole dug into fill of enclosure ditch G21	Stone saddle quern	2	
10	24	Fill of storage pit G24	Fuel ash slag		4.3
11	34	Fill of 5th redefinition of roundhouse G34	Stone saddle quern	1	
	35	Fill storage pit G35 within G34	Fuel ash slag		1.5
			Iron slicker/knife/chisel?	1	
	36	Fill of roundhouse enclosure ditch G36	Stone saddle quern	1	
			Stone whetstone	1	
13	28	Second fill roundhouse enclosure G28	Bone gouge	1	
		Tertiary fill roundhouse enclosure G28	Bone bobbin	1	
			Bone pin-beater/bodkin?	1	
14	25	Fill of roundhouse enclosure G25	Fuel ash slag		1
			Flint flake	1	
	26	Tertiary fill of storage pit SG623 within G25	Fuel ash slag		2.1
			Stone saddle quern	1	
15	32	Tertiary fill of roundhouse enclosure	Iron armlet?	1	
			Antler cheek piece	1	
		Sole fill 2nd redefinition of roundhouse enclosure ditch	Stone pivot stone	1	
16	30	Fill of enclosure ditch G30	Antler tine polished	1	
19	41	Sole fill 2nd redefinition of roundhouse enclosure ditch	Ceramic loom weight	1	
25	51	Post pipe for post structure SG573	Stone padstone	1	
26	56	Main fill quarry pit G56	Iron strip fragment	1	
	57	Upper fills of quarrying G57	Fuel ash slag		0.6

Table 5.6: Bourton Way 'other artefacts' from SL3

for example a 'pin-beater' or perhaps a pendant; however, too little of the object survives to be certain.

A fragment of a ceramic triangular loom weight retaining part of a diagonal perforation (OA23) was found in the fills of enclosure ditch L19. This, like the possible gouge from adjacent enclosure L13 (OA15), suggests textile production was undertaken in the vicinity.

One of the postholes forming structure SG573 (G51, L25) contained a roughly pentagonal slab of fossiliferous Lincolnshire limestone with one edge clearly cut (OA24). This is thought to have served as a padstone for one of the posts.

The fills of quarry pits L26, situated immediately adjacent to the entrance to enclosure L6 in SL2, contained a minor quantity of fuel ash slag (0.6g) and a small iron strip fragment that retains no diagnostic features (OA25).

Catalogue

SL1

OA1 Needle/bodkin? Bone. Lower portion of tapering shank from a needle or bodkin? Oval in section (7mm by 5.5mm), tip missing. Part of shank and tip area burnt. L. 29.8mm. RA2; Phase 2; SL1; L1.2; G1.2.

OA2 Bobbin. Sheep metatarsal. Axial hole through proximal end (does not appear to be drilled), lower shaft and distal end broken off. Anterior surface approaching distal end has been shaved to form a flat and smooth surface. Surfaces worn and eroded. Probable bobbin? In two joining pieces. L. c. 114mm. RA29; Phase 2; SL1; L2.2; G9.2.

***OA3** Staple. Iron. Rectangular staple, back longer than arms. Back narrows at corners, arm width in opposite plane to back, arms taper to wedge-shaped tip, one arm incomplete. L. c. 60mm; ht. 31.5mm; back w. 12mm; th. 4mm. RA3; Phase 2; SL1; L33.3; G4.3. Fig. 5.3

***OA4** Uncertain. Antler. Sawn/cut end, second cut mark 6–7mm from end, upper surface retains whittle marks from removing part of the outer compact tissue, creating smooth surface. Broken opposing end, but retaining edge of circular drilled perforation (c. 29mm diameter) situated 56mm from sawn end. Only one face and portion of one side remain. L. 62mm; w. 39mm; current ht. 24.7mm. RA9; Phase 2; SL1; L33.2; G4.2. Fig. 5.3

OA5 Offcut/fragment. Antler. Less than a quarter of the circumference of a beam, broken on all sides, retaining a third of a drilled circular perforation (diameter c. 14.5mm) and, some 15mm apart, the remains of a rounded rectangular perforation, 7.5mm by 4mm. L. 35.4mm. RA30; Phase 2; SL1; L33.3; G4.3.

SL2

OA6 Nail. Iron. Rectangular-sectioned shank (7.5mm by 6.3mm) tapering to damaged, wedge-shaped tip. Opposing end broken. L. 52mm. RA8; Phase 2; SL2; L6.3; L15.5.

***OA7** Uncertain. Iron. Triangular fragment, tapering in width and thickness to one end. Rectangular in section. Stepped break at wider end. Wedge/point of punch? L. 40mm; w. 19.7mm; th. 10.5mm; RA4; Phase 2; SL2; L6.3; G16.5. Fig. 5.3

SL3

OA8 Uncertain. Slate (non-local, source unknown). Small triangular stone of rectangular section, one edge cut and smoothed, rest broken. L. 31mm; w. 24mm; th. 5.5mm. RA15; Phase 2; SL3; L9.3; G21.5.

OA9 Quern. Lower Greensand (Sussex). Unformed saddle quern fragment, split boulder, upper face almost flat and worn smooth. Base roughly flat. L. 235mm; w. 200mm; th. 110.7mm. RA16; Phase 2; SL3; L9; G21.

***OA10** Quern. Lower Greensand (Sussex). Unformed saddle quern fragment? Split/cleft boulder, plano-convex in section, almost flat upper surface, centre of which is worn smooth, outer edges slightly rough. L. 230mm; w. 219mm; th. 56mm. RA17; Phase 2; SL3; L9; G21. Fig. 5.4

OA11 Quern. Lower Greensand (Sussex). Part unformed saddle quern. Flattish base, upper surface worn smooth, slopes towards 'centre'. L. 200mm; w. 175mm; th. 67mm. RA18; Phase 2; SL3; L11.3; G34.5.

***OA12** Quern. Lower Greensand (Sussex). 'Block' of plano-convex section (275mm by 200mm by 69mm). The 'block' has been split and has a rounded base. The upper surface is flat, not dished, and the centre of the stone worn smooth, outer surface rough. Found with OA13. RA12; Phase 2; SL3; L11.3; G36.3. Fig. 5.4

***OA13** Uncertain. Iron. Slicker, knife or chisel? Curved back (hump-back), sides gently widen, then flair slightly at junction with straight, bladed edge. Rectangular in cross-section. Tapers in thickness from the back to the blade edge. Ht. 100mm; blade width 117.5mm; th. 7.4mm (back). Found with OA12. RA10; Phase 2; SL3; L11.3; G36.3. Fig. 5.3

OA14 Sharpening and hone stone. Quartz arenite (Millstone Grit? Pennine?). Burnt secondary whetstone and sharpening stone. Fire-fractured, incomplete, two V-shaped parallel grooves in one surface, part of one edge smoothed, possibly wear from honing blades. L. 140mm; w. 85mm; th. 70mm. RA25; Phase 2; SL3; L11.3; G36.3.

***OA15** Weaving implement/gouge? Bone. Hollow, polished limb bone shaft, broken both ends, surface is thinned (shaved) toward the nutrient foramen, creating a slight notch along the break. L. 81.8mm; w. 13.7mm; th. 11.4mm. RA14; Phase 2; SL3; L13.2; G28.6. Fig. 5.3

OA16 Bobbin. Sheep/goat metatarsal. Approximately half of a goat metatarsal retaining proximal end, which has a small axially drilled oval perforation (c. 4mm by 3mm) through the articular surface. Surfaces smooth and slightly polished. No sign of central transverse perforation. Part of shaft and distal end broken off. In two joining pieces. L. 57.7mm. RA27; Phase 2; SL3; L13.2; G28.7.

OA17 Uncertain. Horse lateral metapodial. Shaved metapodial to form point (on one side of bone), tip missing. Surfaces smoothed and slightly polished, worn transverse closely set grooves along one lateral edge of point. Opposing end broken. Possibly pin-beater or bodkin? L. 47.4mm. Phase 2; SL3; L13.2; G28.7.

OA18 Quern. Lower Greensand (Sussex?). Fragment of a saddle quern, plano-convex in section, slightly dished grinding surface worn smooth. Base irregular and burnt. L. 153mm; w. 90mm; th. 79mm. RA13; Phase 2; SL3; L15.3; G32.3.

***OA19** Armlet? Iron. Curved, narrow, rounded square-sectioned (3mm by 3mm) 'wire', tapering to one end (2.5mm by 3mm) before break, opposing end also broken. L. 110mm. RA26; Phase 2; SL3; L15.3; G32.3. Fig. 5.4

***OA20** Snaffle. Antler. Cheekpiece(?). Narrowed, solid end incomplete but partly flattened, probably by a knife, and polished by hard wear. A squared transverse perforation (6.8mm by 6.8mm) is situated 20.6mm from opposing or butt end. A longitudinal hole through the cancellous tissue connects the transverse perforation with the butt end. The outer concave side has been cut lengthwise along the tine for a distance of c. 17mm; one edge is flattened, again probably by a knife, and worn smooth, opposing edge smooth and rounded. L. 94.4mm. RA19; Phase 2; SL3; L15.3; G32.3. Fig. 5.4

***OA21** Pivot stone. Lower Greensand (Sussex). Rectangular block, two edges possibly 'cleft'. Upper face flat, iron-stained circular concave depression near one edge (diameter c. 61mm; depth 20mm), concentric wear marks surround. Dimensions 180mm by 173mm by 130mm. RA24; Phase 2; SL3; L15.3; G32.5. Fig. 5.4

OA22 Uncertain. Antler. Polished tip of red deer tine broken at one end. L. 53.4mm; max w. 10.9mm; th. 8.8mm. RA31; Phase 2; SL3; L16.2; G30.2.

OA23 Loom weight. Orange shelly fabric. Small fragment retaining part of one surface, one edge and half of a diagonal perforation, probably from a triangular loom weight. L. 67mm; w. 57mm; th. 35mm; wt. 125g. RA11; Phase 2; SL3; L19.3; G41.5.

OA24 Architectural stone. Fossiliferous Lincolnshire-type limestone. Padstone for post. Roughly pentagonal slab, one edge cut straight, others roughly broken. Thickest on straight edge (c. 50mm), thinning to 30mm. L. 240mm; w. 230mm. In four main joining pieces. Phase 2; SL3; L25; G51; SG573.

OA25 Fragment. Iron. Rectangular in plan, broken both ends, thin strip fragment. L. 15.8mm; w. 20.2mm; th. 3.2mm. RA7; Phase 2; SL3; L26.2; G56.2.

Summary

Very few of the 'other artefacts' from Bourton Way can be assigned a close typological date, so the assemblage cannot assist in refining the settlement's chronology and development. The fact that only saddle querns were in evidence may suggest that settlement within the investigated area did not extend into the later Iron Age.

The assemblage is fairly typical of most early to middle Iron Age settlements, with hints of mixed farming and evidence of craft activities, the latter probably carried out on a seasonal and as-needs basis. The recovery of small quantities of ferrous slag from enclosure L1 and adjacent quarry pits L33 suggests that occasional small-scale iron-working, possibly smelting and primary smithing, was carried out in the vicinity of this enclosure.

Some antler- and bone-working is hinted at by the bone needle/bodkin shank (OA1) from enclosure L1, the bobbin (OA2) from enclosure L2, and the perforated antler (OA4) and antler off-cut (OA5) from quarry pit fills L33. These are all likely to be the products of 'ad hoc' manufacture. The bobbin and needle/bodkin shank also hint at textile production.

The largest assemblage of 'other artefacts' derived from SL3. Evidence, in the form of saddle querns, for grain processing, was encountered in L9, L11 and L15, while textile manufacture is attested to in L13 and L19, and possible leatherworking in L11. In common with the evidence from SL1, the gouge or weaving implement (OA15), the bobbin (OA16), the possible pin-beater (OA17) from L13 and the antler cheekpiece from L15 (OA20) suggest occasional bone- and antler-working. All these activities were household-based, indicating domestic occupation of this area. The low recovery rate of 'other artefacts' from enclosure L2 in SL1 supports the view that this enclosure was non-domestic in nature.

There is firm evidence within the assemblage for externally traded goods, the querns deriving mainly from the Sussex area while whetstone OA14, thought to be made from a re-used quern, has a possible Pennine source. This is in contrast to Wilby Way, where the single saddle quern was locally sourced (Roe 2003, 44). It is also possible, given the evidence for limited ironworking, that the few iron objects recovered may have been manufactured within the settlement.

Considering the overall size of the settlement and the evidence for enclosures, roundhouses and post-built structures, the quantity of 'other artefacts' is relatively meagre. This could reflect the socio-economic status of the settlement but it could also be the result of planned abandonment of structures, and hence removal of usable items to a new location, and/or alternative methods or locations of rubbish disposal. Only the antler cheekpiece (OA20), which infers the presence of a horse, and the possible iron armlet (OA19), both from SL3 (L15), might suggest that at least one resident was of some status.

Station Road

Twenty-five objects were recovered from the excavation area, all except one from phased deposits. In addition, 33.5g of ferrous slag and 0.2g of fuel ash slag were found.

Enclosure L1

The only 'other artefact' recovered from enclosure L1 was a fragment of a secondary patinated flint flake (OA1) found in storage pit SG164. The damage, patination and association with middle Iron Age ceramics establishes the residual nature of this find.

Domestic enclosure L2

Although enclosure L2 contained features of a domestic nature, its 'other artefact' assemblage was fairly meagre. The fills of the enclosure ditch G1 contained a fragment of an iron strip (OA2) and a cast copper alloy looped

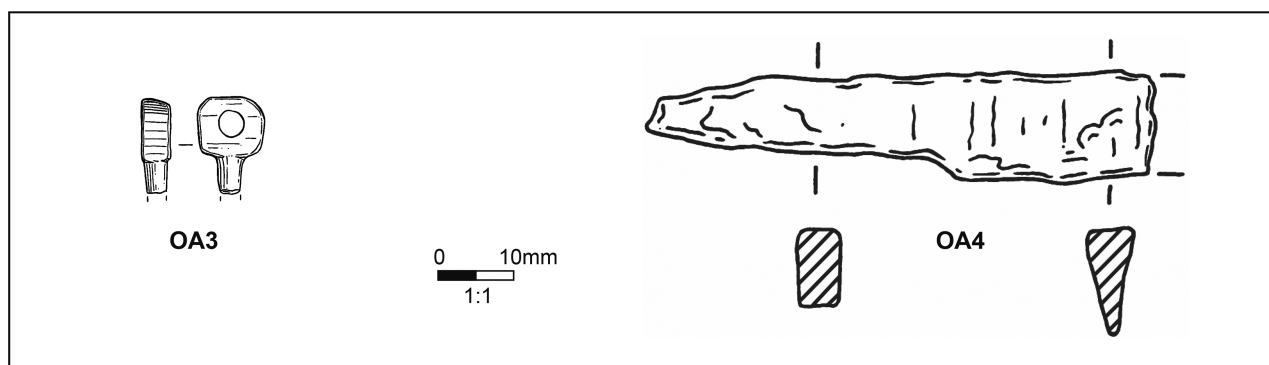


Figure 5.5: Station Road selected illustrated other artefacts (OA3 and 4)

fitting (OA3, Fig. 5.5). Although looped fitting OA3 bears some similarities to both Iron Age dress fasteners / Roman button and loop fasteners (Wild 1970, 137–55) and medieval strap loops with integral rivets (*cf.* Egan and Pritchard 1991, 229–31 and figs 145–6), its diminutive dimensions argue against this. The closest parallel for OA3 appears on later medieval book or dress clasps (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, fig. 1474 no. 15197), although an alternative identification as a handle lug on a late medieval metal chaffing dish is possible. OA3 was retrieved via metal-detecting; the find-spot was situated near a post-medieval boundary and it is likely to be intrusive.

Three storage spits within cluster G25 contained ‘other artefacts’. A small quantity of fuel ash slag (0.2g) was found within pit SG213; this could have derived from a hearth, accidental fire or other high-temperature activity. Pit SG225 contained 2.5g of undiagnostic ferrous slag, too small an amount to hypothesise about iron-working in the vicinity. Pit SG233 yielded the remains of a whittle tang knife (OA4, Fig. 5.5). The narrow blade is unfortunately incomplete but does appear to have a straight back, with the blade edge tapering up to the tip. Similar knives are known from Danebury, Hants. (Cunliffe and Poole 1991b, fig. 7.11 nos. 2.227 and 2.232).

Trackway L12

One of the postholes SG171 within the area of trackway L12 contained a flint flake (OA5) and a chip (OA6) of different coloured flint. Both pieces exhibited post-depositional damage and are thought to be residual.

Later quarrying L11

The quarry pits contained a nail shank (OA7) and fragments of a ceramic loom weight (OA8). The latter did not retain any diagnostic features, although considering its association with middle Iron Age pottery, it is likely to have been triangular in form.

Catalogue

L1

OA1 Flake. Patinated grey-brown flint. Part secondary flake, cortex on distal end. Two removal scars on dorsal surface, post-depositional edge damage. Triangular section. L. 30mm; w. 15.5mm; th. 6.9mm. Phase 2; L1.3; G11.5; SG164.

L2

OA2 Fragment. Iron. Slightly convex or D-sectioned strip, broken both ends, bent at one end. L. 148mm; w. 11.5mm; th. 5.2mm. RA17; Phase 2; L2.2; G1.2.

***OA3** Book clasp fastener? Copper alloy. Cast object, head 7mm long, 8.2mm wide and 4.7mm thick, circular perforation through centre (diameter 3.2mm). Short (4mm long) rounded (4mm diameter) shank. L. 12.6mm. RA4; Phase 2; L2.3; G1.3. Fig. 5.5

***OA4** Knife. Iron. Tapering rectangular-sectioned tang, broken towards tip, and part of triangular-sectioned narrow blade, back straight, blade edge appears to taper. Blade incomplete. L. 67.4mm; w. 13mm; th. 6mm. RA1; Phase 2; L2.3; G25.3; SG233. Fig. 5.5

L12

OA5 Flake. Dark grey/black opaque flint. Flake fragment, distal and proximal ends damaged, narrow blade-like removal scar, proximal badly bruised. Cortex on part one lateral edge. Phase 2; L12.3; G12.5; SG171.

OA6 Chip/flake fragment. Translucent toffee-coloured flint. Prominent bulb, narrow butt, lower two-thirds of flake broken off. Phase 2; L12.3; G12.5; SG171.

L11

OA7 Nail. Iron. Square-sectioned (3mm by 3mm) nail shank, head missing, shank bent at right angle, tip bent down and damaged. L. c. 22mm. Phase 2; L11.2; G26.2.

OA8 Loom weight. Ceramic. Orange to grey brown exterior, fine angular stone inclusions and occasional medium flint. Three joining pieces of smoothed exterior surface, with curvature to corner/sides. No perforations or diagnostic traits survive, form indeterminate, fragments worn. Wt. 114g. RA18; Phase 2; L11.3; G26.3.

Summary

The assemblage is meagre and contains both residual elements, for example the flint from a storage pit in L1 and posthole in L12, and intrusive finds, such as the book clasp fastener (OA3, Fig. 5.5) in L2. Enclosure L1 only produced residual flint, while enclosures L4 and L5 yielded no ‘other artefacts’, perhaps due to the fact that only a small portion of these two enclosures lay within the investigation area. In contrast, pits G25 (L2) did yield a knife (OA4, Fig. 5.5) and later quarrying L11 in the same area produced a loom weight fragment (OA8). The distribution pattern suggests that rubbish was discarded away from the immediate ‘domestic’ area. The loom weight does indicate textile production, a craft which would have been carried out by most households during this period. The knife attests to iron usage, but the origin of the implement, whether locally produced or traded, remains uncertain; the recovery of only 2.5g of undiagnostic ferrous slag from G25 (L2) is not sufficient to suggest ironworking within the examined enclosures.

Chapter 6

Ecofacts

I. ANIMAL BONE

by Mark Maltby

Introduction and methodology

All the bones and teeth recovered from both excavations, including those from sieved samples, were recorded individually onto a relational database (Microsoft Access), which forms part of the site archive. In the main database table the following information was recorded where appropriate for each specimen: context; species; anatomical element; zones of bone present; approximate percentage of bone present; gnawing damage; erosion; weathering; burning (charring and calcification); fusion data; associated bone group (ABG) number; sample number; other comments including observations of pathology and bone-working. Separate tables linked to the main table by an individual identification number were created for metrical, butchery and tooth ageing data. Tooth eruption and wear descriptions for cattle, sheep/goat and pig follow the method of Grant (1982). Most measurements are those described by von den Driesch (1976).

Bone preservation and overall sample size

Bones were recovered from 301 middle Iron Age contexts at Bourton Way. These provided a total of 3775 fragments, of which 1641 were identified (*see* Table 6.5). The total includes 1274 fragments from sieved samples, 1148 of which were unidentified. Around half of the bones came from ditch deposits. Substantial numbers were also recovered from pits and quarries (*see* Tables 6.7 and 6.8).

The middle Iron Age assemblage from Station Road came from 115 separate contexts producing a total of 1515 fragments, of which 719 were identified. Sieved samples produced 136 of these fragments, of which only twenty were identified (*see* Table 6.5). Most of the bones were found in pits (*see* Tables 6.7 and 6.8).

Bone preservation in both assemblages was generally quite good with few fragments suffering from significant surface erosion (*see* Table 6.10). Substantial percentages of bones did have evidence of weathering and/or gnawing damage, indicating that many bones had lain exposed to the elements and dogs prior to final burial. Bourton Way produced higher percentages of burnt fragments. These were mainly from sieved samples and very few of these were identified.

Provenance of the Bourton Way assemblage

Enclosed activity focus SL1

Square enclosure and internal activity L1

Features in the enclosure produced 107 animal bone fragments, of which 82, mainly from sieved samples, were unidentified. Horse, cattle, sheep/goat, pig and heron were represented in the assemblage (Table 6.1). Horse, unusually, was the best represented species, but there is no evidence that any of the eight fragmentary elements involved formed associated groups. The heron bone was a wing phalanx found in enclosure G1.

Large rectangular enclosure and internal activity L2

A total of 158 animal bone fragments were recovered, of which 94 were identified (Table 6.1). Dogs were the most commonly represented, although all but one of the 33 bones belonged to one animal (SG646), which had been deposited in a possible terminal of a later re-cut of the ditch defining the north-west side of the enclosure. Although many bones were missing, all parts of the body were represented, indicating the dog was originally deposited as a complete carcass. Fusion evidence indicated that the skeleton belonged to a puppy, probably aged 3–6 months old. Cattle were the most commonly identified of the other species, followed by sheep/goat, horse and pig. A fragment of a sheep metatarsal, worked to create a bobbin (OA2; Duncan, Chapter 5), was discarded in the fill of enclosure ditch G9.

Possible enclosure and internal activity L4 to the west of L2

Thirty animal bone fragments were recorded, of which twelve were unidentified. Cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse were represented (Table 6.1).

Unenclosed activity focus L3

Only one cattle rib fragment was recovered.

Later quarrying L33

The quarry pits produced a total of 161 animal bones fragments, of which 79 were identified. Preservation was moderate with many elements showing signs of weathering. Cattle provided half of the identified elements. Sheep/goat elements were also well represented and there were small quantities of horse and single finds of pig, dog and red deer (Table 6.1). Pit G4 contained a sawn antler tine (OA4) and an antler off-cut (OA5) (Duncan, Chapter 5).

Land-use Area	1	2	4	3	33	Total
Cattle	7	30	7	1	39	84
Sheep/goat	7	20	7		28	62
Pig	2	3	2		1	8
Horse	8	8	2		9	27
Dog		33			1	34
Red deer					1	1
Heron	1					1
Total identified	25	94	18	1	79	217
Unid. mammal	82	64	12		82	240
Total	107	158	30	1	161	457

Counts are of numbers of individual specimens (NISP).
Totals include bones in associated bone groups and sieved samples.

Table 6.1: Bourton Way animal bone species counts by Land-use Area in SL1

Enclosed activity focus SL2

Large rectangular enclosure and internal activity L6

A total of 146 animal bones recovered, 112 from the enclosure ditches (G15), and the remainder from internal features (G16). Preservation of the bones was moderate with many showing signs of weathering and gnawing damage. Only 49 elements were identified, all but five from ditches G15. Most of the identified material belonged to cattle and sheep/goat. Pig and horse were also recorded (Table 6.2). The sheep/goat assemblage included a horncore of a female goat (G15) and a metatarsal of a newborn lamb (G16).

Unenclosed domestic focus SL3

Roundhouses and roundhouse enclosures (L8, L11, L13, L14, L15, L16, L17, L19)

Roundhouse L8 produced 45 animal bone fragments, of which only thirteen were identified. Cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse were represented (Table 6.3). Preservation was moderate with seven cattle fragments showing evidence of canid gnawing.

Roundhouse L11 and its associated enclosure produced a larger animal bone assemblage consisting of 289 fragments, of which 104 were identified. Sheep/goat elements were the most commonly recorded, followed by cattle, pig, horse, red deer and dog (Table 6.3). The gullies of the roundhouse (G34) produced 130 fragments,

of which 45 were identified. Here, cattle (eighteen), outnumbered sheep/goat (thirteen) and there were two fragments each of red deer and pig plus a complete horse metatarsal. Cattle included seven mandible fragments from at least three jaws and a zygomatic of a very young calf. A humerus of a foetal or newborn pig was also recovered from a sieved sample. Interior features (G35) provided a further 38 fragments, but only four elements each of sheep/goat and cattle were identified. These included another cattle mandible fragment and a mandible of a very young sheep/goat, both found in sieved samples. The roundhouse enclosure ditch (G36) provided 117 bone fragments. Most of the 51 identified elements belonged to sheep/goat (28). The eleven cattle fragments included two further bones of very young calves. Pig (nine), horse (two) and dog (one) were also identified.

Roundhouse enclosure L13 (G28) produced a large bone assemblage of 386 fragments including 181 identified elements (Table 6.3). Cattle (91) were the most commonly identified. Their elements included a complete set of seven cervical vertebrae from a mature adult in SG641 (in the ditch defining L13). The neck had been severed through the seventh cervical vertebra. Mandible (fourteen) and radius (ten) fragments were the cattle elements most commonly recovered. Sheep/goat (60) included seventeen tibia fragments from at least nine different bones. Nine metacarpals included three fairly complete specimens of sheep and another of a very young lamb. Pig (fourteen) and horse (thirteen) were also present in these ditches, along with a fragment of red deer antler and the radius and ulna of an adult roe deer. Two worked bones were found in roundhouse enclosure ditch G28, L13 (SG640). The shaft of a lateral metapodial of a horse had been shaved whilst being manufactured into a point (OA17; Duncan, Chapter 5) and the proximal end of a sheep/goat metatarsal had a small hole drilled through the articular surface to create a bobbin (OA16; Duncan, Chapter 5). This specimen was tentatively identified as a goat.

Roundhouse enclosure L14 produced 299 animal bone fragments, of which 118 were identified. Most (207) of the bones were found in ditch G25 that defined roundhouse enclosure L14, including 92 identified specimens.

Land-use Area	6
Cattle	26
Sheep/goat	19
Pig	2
Horse	2
Total identified	49
Unid. mammal	97
Total	146

Counts are of numbers of individual specimens (NISP).

Totals include bones in associated bone groups and sieved samples.

Table 6.2: Bourton Way animal bone species counts by Land-use Area 6 in SL2

Land-use Area	8	11	13	14	15	16	17	19	9	7	10	22	24	25	26	Total
Cattle	8	39	91	51	44	78	10	8	21	19	27	15	11	14	34	470
Sheep/goat	3	48	60	50	41	76	4	19	5	43	19	8	6	67	85	534
Pig	1	11	14	10	14	13		1	1	17	5	2	1	1	12	103
Horse	1	3	13	3	5	14	2	3	1		3	4	1	1	4	58
Dog		1		3		2				90	1	1	2		90	190
Red deer		2	1			1										4
Roe deer			2			1									1	4
Badger										1						1
Mallard				1												1
Owl					1											1
Total identified	13	104	181	118	105	185	16	31	28	170	55	30	21	83	226	1366
Unid. mammal	32	185	205	181	72	340	31	80	25	167	167	10	51	75	164	1785
Total	45	289	386	299	177	525	47	111	53	337	222	40	72	158	390	3151

Counts are of numbers of individual specimens (NISP). Totals include bones in associated bone groups and sieved samples.

Table 6.3: Bourton Way animal bone species counts by Land-use Area in SL3

Altogether, almost equal numbers of cattle (51) and sheep/goat (50) were identified, along with smaller amounts of pig, horse and dog. An ulna of a mallard was also found (Table 6.3). As usual, most of the cattle bones were fragmentary, but a complete radius and a complete humerus were recovered (G25, L14). The back of a cattle skull was also discovered. Tibiae (nine) were the most common of the cattle elements, but at least four different humeri were represented by seven fragments. Two cattle bones belonged to neonatal calves. The metacarpal (eight) was the most common sheep/goat element. A complete skull of an adult dog was found in the eastern terminus of ditch G25.

The large enclosure L15 provided 177 fragments including 105 identified elements. The enclosure ditch (G32) and interior features (G33) produced 158 fragments and nineteen fragments respectively. Overall, cattle and sheep/goat were found in roughly equal numbers and there were smaller numbers of pig and horse (Table 6.3). A radius of a barn owl was found in a pit within the interior of the enclosure (G33). The bones from the tertiary fill of ditch G32 (L15) included a largely complete butchered cattle mandible, two substantial portions of sheep/goat scapula and the radius of a foetal horse. A complete adult horse mandible was recovered from the secondary fill of G32. Mandible (eleven) and femur (eight) were the most common cattle elements, with at least four femora being represented. The sheep/goat assemblage included eight fragments from at least five different radii.

Although roundhouse enclosure L16 produced the largest number of bone fragments (525) of any of the Land-use Areas from the site, many of these were unidentified fragments in sieved samples. Altogether, only 185 fragments were identified. Again, these were dominated by almost equal numbers of cattle and sheep/goat, with smaller numbers of horse, pig, dog, red and roe deer also being recorded (Table 6.3). Most of the bones (380) came from the enclosure ditch (G30), including 139 identified elements. Water pit G49 provided 67 fragments, of which 40 were identified. A total of 78 fragments came from internal features (G31), but only six of these were identified. The relative abundance of identified species was very similar in ditch G30 and water pit G49. The cattle elements included seventeen mandible fragments and the sheep/goat assemblages included eighteen fragments from at least eight tibiae. Five of the horse bones from SG449 probably belonged to the same animal. The group consisted of the left humerus, radius, ulna, third metacarpal and first phalanx. Although no carpals were recovered, it is possible that the metacarpal and phalanx were from the same forelimb as the upper limb bones. All the bones were largely complete, but there was evidence for slight gnawing damage on the proximal ulna and knife cuts were present around the distal end of the radius indicating disarticulation. Fusion evidence indicated that the bones belonged to a young adult. A polished red deer antler tine (OA22; Duncan, Chapter 5) was found in the ditch defining L16 (see Fig. 3.11).

Roundhouse enclosure L17 produced only 47 bone fragments, of which sixteen were identified. Only cattle, sheep/goat and horse were definitely represented (Table 6.3).

Roundhouse enclosure L19 provided 111 bone fragments but only 31 were identified. Sheep/goat elements were the most common, followed by cattle, horse and

pig (Table 6.3). The sheep/goat assemblage included two metatarsi from neonatal animals.

Small enclosure L9

Fifty-three bone fragments were recovered, of which 28 were identified. All but five of the elements were from the enclosure G21. Most of the identified fragments belonged to cattle. Sheep/goat, pig and horse were also represented in small numbers (Table 6.3). The terminus of L9 (SG637) produced a complete cattle radius.

Activity foci L7, L10, L22, L24 and L25

L7 produced a total of 337 animal bone fragments, 170 of which were identified. These included 90 bones of an articulated adult dog skeleton from the oval pit SG263 (G18). All of the upper limb bones, vertebrae and most of the ribs were recovered. Most of the skull and jaws and most of the metacarpals were also found. Only three of the eight metatarsals were recorded and only one phalanx was collected. The absence of many of the foot and tail bones could indicate that they were removed with the skin but no skinning marks were observed and other taphonomic and retrieval biases could account for their absence. No baculum was found, which suggests that the skeleton was female.

Sheep/goat dominated the remaining assemblage from L7, with cattle and pig also quite well represented (Table 6.3). A badger maxilla was found in the upper fill of a storage pit in L7.

L10 produced 222 bone fragments, but many of these were unidentified fragments from sieved samples and only 55 fragments were identified. These were dominated by cattle and sheep/goat, accompanied by small numbers of pig, horse and dog (Table 6.3). A few bones of neonatal cattle, sheep and pig were recovered.

L22 produced 40 fragments of animal bones, of which 30 were identified. Half of these belonged to cattle and sheep/goat, horse, pig and dog were also recorded (Table 6.3). A complete cattle radius was recovered from one of the pits in L22 and fairly complete mandibles of a dog and sheep were retrieved from one other pit in L22.

Some 72 bone fragments were found in L24, including 21 identified elements. Cattle, sheep/goat, dog, pig and horse were represented (Table 6.3).

L25 provided 158 bone fragments, of which 83 were identified. Most of these belonged to sheep/goat. Cattle were fairly well represented and there were single records of pig and horse (Table 6.3). Sixty-one of the sheep/goat bones belonged to the articulated skeleton of a juvenile sheep (SG592) deposited in one of the postholes of four-post structure SG585. The bones were fragmented but most parts of the body were represented. No evidence for carcass processing was observed. A largely complete adult horse mandible was found in one of the post-pipes of five-post structure SG574 (G51, L25).

Quarrying L26

The three quarry pits produced a total of 414 animal bone fragments, of which 226 were identified. Most (205) of the bones were found in pit G56. G57 and G59 produced 156 and 29 fragments respectively. The bones in G56 included 89 bones from the skeleton of an adult dog (SG207). Most of the vertebrae, ribs and upper limbs and metapodials were recovered, along with the skull and mandibles. However, carpals, tarsals and phalanges were poorly represented, possibly as the result of retrieval

bias. The absence of a baculum indicated that this was probably a female. No evidence of carcass processing was observed.

Sheep/goat bones were well represented in all three quarry pits (Table 6.3). It is feasible that some of them belonged to the same individuals, but there were no clearly articulated bones and more than one sheep was represented in each pit. Smaller numbers of cattle, pig and horse were found in each pit. A roe deer mandible was recovered from quarry pit G57.

Later settlement activity SL4

Animal bones were only recovered from rectangular enclosure L21. Twenty-one fragments were recorded, of which four belonged to cattle and five to sheep/goat. The rest were unidentified mammal fragments.

Provenance of the Station Road assemblage

Domestic enclosure L2

This enclosure produced the largest animal bone assemblage from the excavations, consisting of 707 fragments, of which 318 were identified. Ditch G1 provided only eleven of these fragments. The four dispersed pits G13 produced a further twelve elements including a substantial, but very fragmented, portion of red deer antler. Only two fragments were recorded from one of the three square post-built structures (G18). The vast majority of the bones came from pit group G25. Although there were some dense clusters in some pits, only one certain associated bone group was recorded. This group consisted of four lumbar vertebrae of an adult dog in SG283. A humerus and rib in the primary fill of the same pit could have belonged to the same animal. In contrast to the other Land-use Areas, sheep/goat elements (140) were the most commonly represented, providing 44% of the identified elements (Table 6.4). These included twenty mandible fragments from at least thirteen jaws. Other robust sheep/goat bones were also prominent with at least eleven different tibiae and eight radii being represented. Cattle (115) provided 36% of the identified elements, including fourteen fragments from at least six scapulae, one of which was from a newborn calf. Cattle mandible (twelve) and radius (eleven) fragments were also well represented. Most of the cattle bones were fragmentary,

but a fairly complete skull (albeit very fragmented) and another substantial portion of skull was found in two pits in G25. Pig elements (42) provided 13% of the identified material and included nineteen mandible fragments from at least six jaws. Horse (3%) was poorly represented. A mandible of a short-tailed vole was retrieved from a sieved sample from a pit in G25. An ulna of a medium-sized duck was also recovered. A much more unusual find was that of an eagle coracoid in SG222 (location shown on Fig. 4.4).

Domestic enclosure L3

Four groups produced a total of 169 bone fragments. The north-east boundary ditch G4 provided 77 fragments, of which 27 were identified. The cluster of pits and storage pits (G24) produced a further 70 fragments, of which 39 were identified. Roundhouse G23 produced eighteen fragments, only five of which were identified and only four fragments (one identified) came from the square post-built structure G22. Cattle fragments were the most frequently identified, followed by sheep/goat, pig and horse (Table 6.4). The cattle elements included a femur of a neonatal calf from roundhouse G23 and a largely complete mandible and femur from a pit in G24. Roundhouse G23 also produced a complete horse metatarsal. A horncore of a female goat was recovered from a pit in G24.

Enclosure L1

A total of 65 animal bone fragments were recovered, all but five from pit cluster G11. The remainder came from enclosure G8. Only 21 were identified to species, eighteen of which belonged to cattle (Table 6.4). These included three lumbar vertebrae and part of a sacrum of one animal from the fill of oval pit SG163. A left pelvis fragment may also have belonged to this bone group. The vertebrae were approaching full size, but none of the epiphyses had fused, indicating that the bones probably belonged to a young adult. No butchery marks were observed. Sheep/goat, dog and a medium-sized duck were each represented by a single bone.

Enclosure L4

A total of 210 animal bone fragments were recorded, including 133 identified elements (Table 6.4). The assemblage was dominated by two associated bone groups. The larger group consisted of 82 bones of an articulated skeleton of an adult dog from a secondary fill of storage pit SG159 (G10). Two third phalanges and some loose teeth from one of its mandibles were also found in a sieved sample from the primary fill of this pit. All areas of the body were represented and there is no evidence for carcass processing.

The second ABG within this enclosure came from SG281 (ditch G14). This group consisted of a maximum of seventeen cattle elements. These were deposited broadly in the centre of the north-west enclosure boundary, towards the top of the partially silted-up ditch. The group consisted mainly of some of the hind limb bones, but other areas of the same skeleton may be represented by parts of the skull, the left mandible, a portion of metacarpal and a vertebra. Although incomplete, the skeleton may have been still at least partially articulated at the time of final deposition. There is no evidence for gnawing damage or carcass processing. The epiphyseal fusion evidence indicates that the animal was a young adult.

Land-use Area	2	3	1	4	12	7	5	6	11	Total
Cattle	115	31	18	22	3	1	7		90	287
Sheep/goat	140	23	1	10			4		37	215
Pig	42	14		13			2		25	96
Horse	10	4		3					3	20
Dog	7		1	85						93
Red deer	1						1		2	4
Short-tailed vole	1									1
Duck	1		1							2
Eagle	1									1
Total identified	318	72	21	133	3	1	14	0	157	719
Unid. Mammal	389	97	44	77	7		23	21	138	796
Total	707	169	65	210	10	1	37	21	295	1515

Counts are of numbers of individual specimens (NISP).

Totals include bones in associated bone groups and sieved samples.

Table 6.4: Station Road animal bone species counts by Land-use Area

The remaining identified elements from L4 consisted of 31 fragments of pig, sheep/goat, cattle and horse (Table 6.4). The horse bones included portions of a pair of pelves.

Trackway L12

Only ten fragments of eroded animal bone were recovered from a pit, with just three elements, all of cattle, being identified.

Unenclosed activity L7

The only bone fragment consisted of part of a cattle pelvis recovered from a small pit located adjacent to animal burial SG281 within the north-west boundary of enclosure L4.

Later enclosure L5

Thirty-seven animal bone fragments were recovered, of which fourteen were identified. Most of these were cattle limb bones, but sheep/goat, pig and a cast red deer antler coronet were also represented (Table 6.4).

Later boundary L6

Ditch G5 produced five unidentified mammal fragments. A further seventeen unidentified bone fragments were retrieved from a sieved sample from inhumation SG184.

Later quarrying L11

The quarry pits produced a total of 295 animal bone fragments, of which 157 were identified. These were dominated by cattle elements (Table 6.4) and included several vertebrae that may have been associated. SG267 produced six unfused vertebrae that could all have been from one immature animal. Several of the unidentified mammal fragments were shafts of large mammal ribs, which could have belonged to the same cow. Three other vertebrae from SG267 belonged to a much younger calf. Four thoracic vertebrae from another immature cow were found in SG269. Slight gnawing damage and the lack of evidence for any of the vertebrae being in articulation suggests these were secondary depositions. No evidence of butchery was observed on any of these vertebrae. SG269 also produced a fairly complete, although fragmented, cattle skull. Both maxillae and the base of the right horncore were present. Most of the other cattle bones were fragmentary, although a complete metacarpal and radius and two fairly complete scapulae and a tibia were recovered. It is conceivable that some of the cattle limb bones were also associated, but there was no conclusive evidence for this. At least five different cattle femora and four metacarpals were represented.

Sheep/goat and pig were also quite commonly identified and portions of at least eight sheep/goat mandibles were represented. Four pig scapulae, all with gnawing damage, were also found. Small numbers of horse and red deer were also present, including an antler fragment.

Discussion

Introduction

This section will compare the animal bone evidence from Bourton Way and Station Road. Where relevant, it will also incorporate data from the Wilby Way animal bone analysis (Maltby 2003) and will make comparisons with other Iron Age assemblages from Northamptonshire.

Species abundance

Elements in the sheep/goat assemblage that were identified specifically as sheep or goat were dominated by the former at both Bourton Way and Station Road (Table 6.5). Only one horncore of goat was recorded at Station Road and a horncore and a metatarsal were the only goat elements positively identified at Bourton Way. In contrast, 22 and 75 bones were ascribed to sheep at Station Road and Bourton Way respectively. It can, therefore, be confidently assumed that the vast majority of the remaining sheep/goat assemblage belonged to sheep.

Cattle elements were the most frequently identified at Station Road, providing 43% of the identified mammal fragments (Table 6.6). They were particularly prominent in the quarry pits and were also comfortably the most commonly represented in ditches; cattle and sheep/goat were found in fairly equal numbers in pits (Tables 6.7 and 6.8). Overall, sheep/goat were the second most commonly identified based on Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) counts. Sheep/goat were less well represented than on the nearby A6 Bypass site at Higham Ferrers (Deighton 2004) but the latter was a small assemblage (Table 6.6).

Most of the bones from Bourton Way came from SL3. Overall, cattle provided exactly the same percentage of mammal fragments as at Station Road, although percentages of cattle were slightly higher in SL1 and the small sample from SL2 than SL3. Percentages of cattle and sheep/goat in pits (42% and 41% respectively) were almost identical to those in similar features at Station Road. Cattle were also well represented in ditches, but the quarry features contained a much higher percentage of sheep/goat (53%) than the quarry pits at Station Road (Tables 6.7–6.8). Unsurprisingly, cattle and sheep/goat percentages from Wilby Way were similar to those from Bourton Way (Table 6.6).

Most other Iron Age assemblages from Northamptonshire have also been dominated by cattle and sheep/goat, always providing over 73% of the identified mammal elements (Table 6.6). Cattle elements were particularly predominant at Biddlesden Road Bridge (Deighton 2007) and were comfortably the most numerous at Moulton Park (Orr 1974) and Clay Lane (Jones *et al.* 1985). Sheep/goat elements dominated the assemblage from Silverstone Fields Farm (Deighton 2007) and also comfortably outnumbered cattle at the Hardingstone enclosure site (Gilmore 1969). Other assemblages from Silverstone produced fairly equal numbers of cattle and sheep/goat elements (Deighton 2007). Reasons for these variations could be related to a combination of factors, including variations in agricultural production regimes, pasture availability, site location and chronology (see also Deighton 2007, 146). In addition, the detailed intra-site analysis at both Station Road and Bourton Way has shown significant variations in the relative abundance of cattle and sheep/goat in different areas of the same settlements and similar variations were observed at Wilby Way (Maltby 2003). These variations result from a complex combination of carcass processing, food consumption and deposition practices, allied to differential bone preservation. Overall species abundance on Iron Age settlements is often highly dependent upon what areas of the sites have been excavated. However, there can be little doubt that in some combination, cattle and sheep formed the mainstay of pastoral production in the region.

	Station Road	Bourton Way				Total	Wilby Way	Station Road	Bourton Way
		SL	SL2	SL3	SL4			Sieved	Sieved
Cattle	287	84	26	470	4	584	853	2	25
Sheep/goat	215	62	19	534	5	620	1201	6	81
Pig	96	8	2	103		113	218	6	15
Horse	20	27	2	58		87	215	1	1
Dog	93	34	0	190		224	23	4	4
Red deer	4	1	0	4		5	7		
Roe deer	0	0	0	4		4	0		
Hare	0	0	0	0		0	1		
Badger	0	0	0	1		1	0		
Short-tailed vole	1	0	0	0		0	4	1	
Mallard	0	0	0	1		1	1		
Medium-size duck	2	0	0	0		0	0		
Heron	0	1	0	0		1	0		
Barn owl	0	0	0	1		1	0		
Rook/crow	0	0	0	0		0	1		
Eagle	1	0	0	0		0	0		
Total identified	719	217	49	1366	9	1641	2524	20	126
Unid. mammal	389	240	97	1785	12	2134	607	116	1148
Unid. bird		0	0	0		0	1		
Total unidentified	796	240	97	1785	12	2134	608	116	1148
Total	1515	457	146	3151	21	3775	3132	136	1274

Counts are of numbers of individual specimens (NISP). Totals include bones in sieved samples, and bones from the following associated bone groups (ABG):

89 dog (2 ABGs); 35 cattle (5 ABGs) from Station Road

32 dog from Bourton Way SL1

179 dog (2 ABGs); 61 sheep; 7 cattle; 5 horse from Bourton Way SL3

375 bones sheep (6 ABGs) from Wilby Way

Data from Wilby Way adapted from Maltby (2003)

Table 6.5: Station Road, Bourton Way and Wilby Way overall animal bone species (NISP) counts

Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) counts from Station Road and Bourton Way/Wilby Way showed that NISP counts favoured cattle. Sheep/goat provided over 40% of all the mammal MNI counts with cattle declining to 20–25%. This would imply that sheep formed the largest number of animals kept and consumed by the residents of these settlements, although beef would have still formed the most important component of the meat diet.

Pig elements form a much smaller component of the assemblages from all Iron Age sites in Northamptonshire, often amounting to less than 10% of NISP or Minimum Animal Unit (MAU) counts (Table 6.6). The Station Road assemblage has, in fact, produced the highest percentage of pig (16%) from any of these sites. The analysis of intra-site variability (Tables 6.1–6.3) shows that pigs were fairly consistently represented in different Land-use Areas, although they were particularly well represented in ditches (Tables 6.7 and 6.8). This implies that pork production and consumption was slightly more important at Station Road than elsewhere. The NISP count of pig from Bourton Way (8%) was slightly lower than at Wilby Way and more typical of the relatively poor representation of pigs from contemporary sites in the county (Table 6.6). The pig MNI percentage from Station Road was also higher than at Bourton Way, which was lower than in the Wilby Way assemblage (Table 6.9).

Horse elements were poorly represented at Station Road, providing only 3% of the NISP counts of identified mammals. They were slightly better represented at Bourton Way (6%), although less prominent than at

Wilby Way (Table 6.6). Similar variations were observed in the MNI percentages (Table 6.9). However, a feature of the assemblage from Bourton Way/Wilby Way is the variability in horse remains from different parts of the complex. At Wilby Way, horse remains were very abundant in parts of Areas 2 and 3 (Maltby 2003, 54–5). At Bourton Way, horse elements were much more common in SL1 than elsewhere (Table 6.6). Admittedly this a relatively small sample, but the proximity of SL1 to Wilby Way Area 2 ditches where horse bones were particularly prominent is worthy of note. At both Bourton Way and Station Road, horse also provided a higher proportion of bones in ditch deposits than in other types of feature (Tables 6.7 and 6.8).

Dog bones were usually recovered in ABGs. Excluding these, they formed very small percentages of the bones from either Station Road or Bourton Way. This is typical of Iron Age sites in Northamptonshire (Table 6.6). No bones of cat were identified, which is again typical of sites in this region. The only site where cat has been recorded is at Wakerley (Jones 1978) and it is possible that this was of late Iron Age or possibly Roman date.

Wild mammals were very poorly represented on these sites (Tables 6.6–6.9). Only four fragments of red deer were recorded at Station Road, three of which were antler. Similarly, three of the five red deer elements at Bourton Way were antler fragments. The red deer bones identified were a metatarsal fragment at Station Road and pieces of femur and mandible at Bourton Way. Roe deer bones were only identified in the unenclosed farmstead

Station Road	Bourton Way			Wilby Way	A6 Bypass	Silverstone Site 2		Silverstone Site 3		Silverstone Fields	Biddlesden Road	Clay Lane	Hardingstone	Moulton Park
	SL1	SL2	SL3			SL4	Total	Ph 1-2						
Cattle	252	84	26	463	4	577	853	22	152	116	642	489	364	
Sheep/goat	215	62	19	473	5	559	826	26	145	39	516	599	192	
Pig	96	8	2	103	0	113	218	3	17	14	64	141	79	
Horse	20	27	2	53	0	82	215	14	13	17	141	124	36	
Dog	4	2	0	11	0	13	23	0	1	3	0	41	19	
Red deer	4	1	0	4	0	5	7	0	0	3	2	18	8	
Roe deer	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Hare	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Badger	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Short-tailed vole	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	592	184	49	1112	9	1354	2147	65	328	192	1365	1412	698	
% Mammal														
Cattle	42.6	45.7	53.1	41.6		42.6	39.7	33.8	46.3	60.4	47.0	34.6	52.1	
Sheep/goat	36.3	33.7	38.8	42.5		41.3	38.5	40.0	44.2	20.3	37.8	42.4	27.5	
Pig	16.2	4.3	4.1	9.3		8.3	10.2	4.6	5.2	7.3	4.7	10.0	11.3	
Horse	3.4	14.7	4.1	4.8		6.1	10.0	21.5	4.0	8.9	10.3	8.8	5.2	
Dog	0.7	1.1	0.0	1.0		1.0	1.1	0.0	0.3	1.6	0.0	2.9	2.7	
Red deer	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.4		0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.1	1.3	1.1	
Roe deer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4		0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Hare	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Badger	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1		0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Short-tailed vole	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Total	592	184	49	1112		1354	2147	65	328	192	1365	1412	698	
% Cow:S/G:Pig														
Cattle	44.8	54.5	55.3	44.6		46.2	45.0	43.1	48.4	68.6	52.5	40.0	57.3	
Sheep/goat	38.2	40.3	40.4	45.5		44.8	43.5	51.0	46.2	23.1	42.2	49.0	30.2	
Pig	17.1	5.2	4.3	9.9		9.0	11.5	5.9	5.4	8.3	5.2	11.5	12.4	
Total	563	154	47	1039		1249	1897	51	314	169	1222	1229	635	

Counts are of NISP unless otherwise stated. Totals include bones in sieved samples but exclude ABGs.

Data from Wilby Way adapted from Maltby (2003). Data from A6 Bypass adapted from Deighton (2004) – counts are of Minimum Animal Units (MAU). Data from Silverstone sites and Biddlesden Road Bridge adapted from Deighton (2007) – counts are of MAU. Data from Clay Lane, Hardingstone and Moulton Park are taken from the Archaeological Data Service (Pirnie and Albarella 2008).

Table 6.6: Station Road, Bourton Way and Wilby Way overall mammal percentages and comparisons with some other Iron Age sites in Northamptonshire

	Station Road					Bourton Way					
	Ditches	Pits	Quarry	Other	Total	Ditches	Pits	Quarry	Posts	Other	Total
Cattle	45	189	52	1	287	350	121	74	26	13	584
Sheep/goat	14	192	8	1	215	351	120	118	16	15	620
Pig	13	72	10	1	96	61	32	16	3	1	113
Horse	6	12	2		20	59	12	11	2	3	87
Dog		93			93	39	94	91			224
Red deer	1	2	1		4	3			1	1	5
Roe deer					0	3		1			4
Badger					0		1				1
Short-tailed vole		1			1						0
Mallard					0			1			1
Medium-sized duck		2			2						0
Heron					0	1					1
Owl					0	1					1
Eagle		1			1						0
Total identified	79	564	73	3	719	868	380	312	48	33	1641
Unid. mammal	123	596	71	6	796	1042	670	258	121	43	2134
Total	202	1160	144	9	1515	1910	1050	570	169	76	3775

Counts are of numbers of individual specimens (NISP).

Totals from Station Road include bones from the following associated bone groups (ABG): ditches: 17 cattle; pits: 89 dog, 9 cattle; quarry: 9 cattle.

Totals from Bourton Way include bones from the following ABG: ditches: 61 sheep, 7 cattle; 5 horse, 32 dog; pits: dog 90; quarry: dog 89.

Table 6.7: Station Road and Bourton Way animal bone species counts by feature type, including bones in sieved samples

	Station Road				Bourton Way			
	Ditches	Pits	Quarry	Total	Ditches	Pits	Quarry	Total
% Mammal								
Cattle	45.2	40.8	67.2	42.6	44.8	41.7	33.3	42.6
Sheep/goat	22.6	41.5	12.5	36.3	37.9	41.4	53.2	41.3
Pig	21.0	15.6	15.6	16.2	8.0	11.0	7.2	8.3
Horse	9.7	2.6	3.1	3.4	7.7	4.1	5.0	6.1
Dog		0.9		0.7	0.9	1.4	0.9	1.0
Red deer	0.2	0.4	1.6	0.7	0.4			0.4
Roe deer				0.0	0.4		0.5	0.3
Badger				0.0		0.3		0.1
Short-tailed vole		0.2		0.2				0.0
Total	62	463	64	592	766	290	222	1354
% Cow:S/G:Pig								
Cattle	50.9	40.5	70.5	44.8	49.4	44.3	35.6	46.2
Sheep/goat	25.5	43.2	13.1	38.2	41.8	44.0	56.7	44.8
Pig	23.6	16.2	16.4	17.1	8.8	11.7	7.7	9.0
Total	55	444	61	563	694	273	208	1249

Table 6.8: Station Road and Bourton Way animal bone species counts by feature type, excluding bones in sieved samples

SL3 at Bourton Way. Only four elements were identified, consisting of a fused radius and ulna, a humerus and a mandible. Therefore, although there is a little evidence that antler was acquired at both sites for working, venison seems to have been a very rare addition to the diet. Hare was not identified at either site and only one hare bone was found at Wilby Way. A maxilla of an adult badger from SL3 at Bourton Way and a mandible of a short-tailed vole from Station Road are the only other bones of wild mammals identified. The paucity of wild mammal remains is typical of other Iron Age sites in the county (Table 6.6).

Despite the extensive sieving programmes, no fish bones were recovered from either of the excavations,

which is again typical of Iron Age sites in the region and indeed more widely in England (Dobney and Ervynck 2007). Bird bones were only rarely recovered (Table 6.5). Notable by its absence is chicken (domestic fowl). Although it first appeared in England possibly as early as 500 BC, the species very rarely appears on middle Iron Age sites and is infrequently found on late Iron Age sites. In Northamptonshire, the only site in which it has been recorded is Wakerley (Jones 1978) and it is probable that the three bones from this site were of late Iron Age or even Roman date. At Station Road, the only bird remains consisted of two bones of medium-sized ducks and the coracoid of an eagle. The latter is a noteworthy find. Its size indicates that it probably belonged to a white-tailed

	Station Road Total	Bourton Way Total	Wilby Way Total	A6 Bypass Ph 1–2
Cattle	6	11	29	3
Sheep/goat	12	19	65	4
Pig	5	4	18	2
Horse	2	3	15	2
Dog	2	4	5	
Red deer	2	1	3	
Roe deer	0	1	0	
Hare	0	0	1	
Badger	0	1	0	
Short-tailed vole	1	0	2	
Total	30	44	138	11
% Mammal				
Cattle	20.0	25.0	21.0	
Sheep/goat	40.0	43.2	47.1	
Pig	16.7	9.1	13.0	
Horse	6.7	6.8	10.9	
Dog	6.7	9.1	3.6	
Red deer	6.7	2.3	2.2	
Roe deer	0.0	2.3	0.0	
Hare	0.0	0.0	0.7	
Badger	0.0	2.3	0.0	
Short-tailed vole	3.3	0.0	0.1	
Total	30	44	138	
% Cow:S/ G:Pig				
Cattle	26.1	32.4	25.9	
Sheep/goat	52.2	55.9	58.0	
Pig	21.7	11.8	16.1	
Total	23	34	112	

MNI = minimum number of individuals represented. Calculations based on highest MNE scores.

Totals include ABGs. Data from A6 Bypass adapted from Deighton (2004).

Table 6.9: Station Road, Bourton Way, Wilby Way and A6 Bypass Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) represented

eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*). They have only occasionally been recorded on Iron Age sites in the region (Pirnie and Albarella 2008) and this appears to have been the first time it has been found on a site from Northamptonshire. Bones of at least one skeleton were recovered from late Iron Age levels at Dragonby, Lincolnshire (Harman 1996). One bone was identified in middle–late Iron Age deposits at Fenny Lock, Milton Keynes (Hamilton-Dyer 2001) and two bones were found at the late Iron Age oppidum at Puckeridge, Hertfordshire (Ashdown 1979). At Fenny Lock and Puckeridge, cut marks were observed on white-tailed eagle humeri; at the former site, these were interpreted as marks associated with feather procurement (Hamilton-Dyer 2001). Five bones of an eagle, including four from the same wing, were recovered from an early Roman ditch at Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire (Maltby in prep). It is feasible that the coracoid at Station Road belonged to a wing imported for its feathers.

At Bourton Way, the only bird bones consisted of a mallard-size duck and a radius of a barn owl (*Tyto alba*). A mallard bone was also identified at Wilby Way, along with one bone of a rook or crow. Ducks may have been a

rare addition to the diet, but there is very little evidence for exploitation of birds for food on any of these sites.

Associated bone groups (ABGs)

Details of ABGs have been described above and the total numbers of bones involved are given below Table 6.5.

The only partial sheep skeleton SG592 from Bourton Way was from a four-post structure SG585 (L25). Unlike the four sheep ABGs from Area 1 of Wilby Way (Maltby 2003, 51–3), there is no evidence of butchery on these bones, although it may have been a foundation burial for the structure. Substantial parts of three dog skeletons were also recovered from Bourton Way. The two from SL3 (SG207 and SG263) were adult and probably female; the ABG from SL1 (SG646) belonged to a puppy. Station Road produced two ABGs of adult dogs (SG159, SG283) and the former was a fairly complete articulated skeleton in pit SG159 (L4). None of the dog skeletons from either site had evidence for carcass processing and it is clear that dead dogs were treated differently to the species that were the major suppliers of meat. Their close association with the human population is also indicated by the high percentage of gnawing marks on the animal bones (Table 6.10), showing that dogs had frequent access to meat and marrow from bones not required for consumption or discarded after cooking by the inhabitants of these settlements. Dogs were sometimes given discrete burials, although in other cases they were disposed of in disused features. No dog ABGs were recovered from Wilby Way, although one bone did include evidence for skinning (Maltby 2003, 55).

Station Road produced five small groups of cattle bones (SG163, SG267, SG269 (2), SG281), mostly consisting of vertebrae and mainly from the quarry pits assigned to L11. Some of these, like SG281, may have belonged to more complete skeletons that were not processed, but were subsequently disturbed and redeposited. Only one cattle ABG was recorded from Bourton Way (SL3), consisting of a severed neck (SG641), which can best be interpreted as butchery waste. The associated bones of a horse forelimb (SG449) from roundhouse enclosure L16 (SL3) also showed evidence of processing.

Iron Age ABGs have been interpreted, amongst other things, as processing waste, the burial of companion animals and/or sacrificial offerings, sometimes associated with the foundation or closure of buildings or other significant features. Interpretation is often difficult and needs to take into account species, elements represented, context, associated finds and taphonomy. The ABGs from Station Road and Bourton Way/Wilby Way are open to multiple interpretations, but include examples of all of the above.

Element Representation

Cattle NISP counts from Station Road (Table 6.11) show quite an even distribution of the major elements, with scapula fragments being the most commonly recorded, followed closely by those of the mandible and most of the upper limb bones. Minimum number of elements (MNE) counts, which to an extent counteract biases created by differential fragmentation and preservation, confirm that bones of the upper limb plus the scapula and pelvis were better represented than cranial and foot elements. This suggests that the disposal of good-quality meat bones of veal and beef was common in the areas excavated and may reflect that these were areas where consumption

	Station Road						Bourton Way					
	Weathered	Eroded	Gnawed	Ivori ed	Burnt	Total	Weathered	Eroded	Gnawed	Ivori ed	Burnt	Total
Cattle	45	16	32	1	1	287	101	3	114	1	5	584
Sheep/goat	31		16	6	5	215	73	1	78	16	4	620
Pig	7	1	12			96	12	1	9	1		113
Horse	5	1	2			20	10		11			87
Dog	1					93	2					224
Red deer		2				4	1					5
Roe deer						0			1			4
Badger						0						1
Short-tailed vole						1						0
Mallard						0						1
Medium-sized duck						2						0
Heron						0						1
Owl						0				1		1
Eagle						1						0
Total	89	20	62	7	6	719	199	5	213	19	9	1641
%	12.4	2.8	8.6	1.0	0.8		12.1	0.3	13.0	1.2	0.5	
Unid. Mammal					22	796					217	2134
Total					28	1515					226	3775
%					1.8						6.0	

Counts are of numbers of individual specimens (NISP). Totals include bones in sieved samples.

Table 6.10: Station Road and Bourton Way preservation data

waste was commonly deposited. Some of the poorer-quality meat bones would have been removed prior to cooking. Most of the vertebrae were from ABGs, which were mainly located in peripheral areas of the settlement, perhaps near to where slaughter and butchery of large mammals took place.

Cattle element representation at Bourton Way differs in that mandible fragments are much more prominent, providing over 16% of the NISP counts compared to 8% at Station Road. Loose teeth also form a higher percentage of the cattle remains at Bourton Way; although there are relatively fewer skull fragments, there is a higher percentage of horncore fragments. However, all the major limb bones are quite well represented and MNE counts show that they were not greatly outnumbered by mandibles. There were lower percentages of vertebrae than at Station Road, reflecting the lower incidence of cattle ABGs. At both sites the low percentages of carpals, some of the smaller tarsals and phalanges can largely be attributed to retrieval and preservation biases.

The poorer preservation of sheep/goat elements in both assemblages is clearly demonstrated in Table 6.12. Both are dominated by the larger and more robust bones. At Station Road, mandibles provided nearly 18% of the sheep/goat elements and radius, tibia and metacarpal each provided over 10%. Small bones and vertebrae were largely absent. MNE counts were dominated by mandible, followed by radius and tibia. At Bourton Way the same major elements were prominent but in this assemblage tibia fragments were the most common (15%), followed by radius (14%) and mandible (11%). Tibia MNE counts also slightly outnumbered those of mandible, followed by radius and metatarsal. It is not clear why tibiae were relatively more common at Bourton Way, although the higher incidence of loose teeth at this site suggests that a greater proportion of sheep/goat jaws have been destroyed. Nearly all the vertebrae and ribs were associated with the sheep ABG.

As is the norm in archaeological assemblages, pig elements from both sites were dominated by cranial elements, particularly mandible fragments, which provided 22% and 16% of the NISP counts at Station Road and Bourton Way respectively (Table 6.13). Tibiae formed over 10% of the fragments at both sites. Humeri provided over 10% of the Bourton Way pig assemblage and scapulae contributed 9% of the Station Road elements. MNE counts were headed by mandibles at Station Road and by humeri and ulnae at Bourton Way. Vertebrae were very rarely identified on either site but ribs were quite commonly recorded. Metapodials and phalanges were very rarely recovered at either site and the possibility that these were commonly removed from upper limb joints before they were brought to the site is worth consideration. However, their absence may largely be due to retrieval bias.

The horse assemblage from Station Road is too small to merit detailed discussion of element representation. At Bourton Way, loose teeth formed a prominent part (31%) of the horse elements (Table 6.14). Horse teeth are substantially larger than most of those of the other species, so they have a better chance of recovery. Mandibles also provided over 10% of the horse NISP counts and provided the highest MNE total.

The dog assemblages from both sites contrast with those of the other species in the presence of much larger percentages of foot bones, vertebrae and ribs, showing the more complete survival of bones in the ABGs. There is also a much more even representation of the major elements than in the case of other species (Table 6.15).

Carcass-processing evidence

Good bone surface preservation allowed for the survival of many butchery marks, including very fine incisions made by metal knives. These were prominent at both sites, particularly on limb bones, and show that knives were the main tools used in dismemberment and filleting

	Station Road				Bourton Way							
	NISP	NISP %	MNE	WBE	SL1	SL2	SL3	SL4	Total		Total	Total
					NISP	NISP	NISP	NISP	NISP	NISP %	MNE	WBE
Horncore	2	0.7	1.00		3		13		16	2.7	10.00	
Maxilla	12	4.2	6.00		1		7		8	1.4		
Skull	19	6.6	5.00			2	18		20	3.4	6.00	
Mandible	23	8.0	5.00	3.95	9	3	82	2	96	16.4	22.00	16.35
Hyoid	1	0.3	1.00						0	0.0		
Loose teeth	12	4.2			13	4	32		49	8.4		
Scapula	24	8.4	11.00	4.70	1	3	41		45	7.7	16.00	7.10
Humerus	18	6.3	9.00	3.70	7	1	27		35	6.0	14.00	6.60
Radius	20	7.0	8.00	4.15	7	2	31		40	6.8	18.00	11.85
Ulna	11	3.8	7.00	1.85	2	2	18		22	3.8	12.00	5.30
Pelvis	16	5.6	11.00	2.45	2	1	14		17	2.9	8.00	2.45
Femur	20	7.0	10.00	4.45	11	2	31	1	45	7.7	17.00	7.45
Patella							1		1	0.2		
Tibia	18	6.3	7.00	4.65	9	1	37		47	8.0	13.00	7.65
Carpals							1		1	0.2	0.17	
Astragalus	3	1.0	3.00	3.00	2		6		8	1.4	8.00	7.75
Calcaneus	6	2.1	6.00	4.00	5	1	7		13	2.2	13.00	5.45
Centroquartal	2	0.7	2.00	1.50					0	0.0		
Metacarpal	13	4.5	6.00	3.20	1	2	21		24	4.1	12.00	6.55
Metatarsal	10	3.5	5.00	3.80	5	1	28		34	5.8	12.00	8.30
Metapodial							3		3	0.5		
Phalanx 1	10	3.5	2.50		3	1	16	1	21	3.6	4.25	
Phalanx 2	5	1.7	1.25				4		4	0.7	1.00	
Phalanx 3	2	0.7	0.50		1		5		6	1.0	1.50	
Sesamoids							3		3	0.5		
Atlas (VC1)	1	0.3					2		2	0.3		
Axis (VC2)		0.0					2		2	0.3		
Cervical V	7	2.4			1		6		7	1.2		
Thoracic V	8	2.8					4		4	0.7		
Lumbar V	10	3.5					3		3	0.5		
Sacral V	6	2.1					1		1	0.2		
Caudal V							1		1	0.2		
Vertebra	1	0.3							0	0.0		
Ribs	7	2.4			1		5		6	1.0		
Total	287		11.00		84	26	470	4	584		22.00	

Total counts include elements in associated bone groups and sieved samples.

NISP = number of individual specimens. MNE = minimum number of elements represented. Raw counts of phalanges divided by 4. Raw counts of carpals divided by 6. WBE = whole bone equivalent based on % of complete bones represented.

Table 6.11: Station Road and Bourton Way cattle element counts (NISP, MNE and WBE)

(Table 6.16). Similar methods of butchery on British Iron Age sites have long been recognised (Wilson 1978; Maltby 1989) and these types of mark were also prominent at Wilby Way (Maltby 2003). Evidence for the use of heavier blades was also encountered at both sites but much less frequently. Saws were sometimes used to detach horns. Frequencies of occurrence of butchery varied between sites and between species but with no consistent pattern. It should, however, be noted that there is evidence that some horses were being processed for their meat as well as their hides at both sites. As previously stated, no butchery marks were observed on dog bones.

Ageing evidence

Only four cattle mandibles, all from adult animals, provided tooth eruption evidence from Station Road (Table 6.17). The slightly more abundant fusion evidence indicated that about 7% of the early-fusing epiphyses were unfused and belonged to calves (Table 6.18). Porous bones accounted for *c.* 10% of the cattle assemblage,

which indicates that veal was consumed in some quantities. Seven of the fragments were very porous and belonged to neonatal mortalities, which could also indicate that some of the cattle consumed were being raised at the settlement. Only 10% of the distal metapodials and tibiae were unfused, which perhaps suggests that few cattle were slaughtered between the ages of 1–3 years, although the sample is small and fusion ages are very varied. However, only 56% of the latest-fusing epiphyses had fused, which suggests that, although most of the cattle were adult, there was perhaps a substantial number that were slaughtered between three and five years of age.

Twenty cattle mandibles from Bourton Way provided tooth ageing evidence, with 75% belonging to fully adult cattle (Table 6.17). The fusion evidence was slightly contradictory – only 51% of the epiphyses had fused, indicating that about half of these bones may have been from cattle of less than four years of age. However, epiphyseal fusion can be substantially delayed by castration and not all the late-fusing epiphyses gave similar results (Table 6.18). The combined evidence could suggest that

	Station Road				Bourton Way							
	NISP	NISP %	MNE	WBE	SL1	SL2	SL3	SL4	Total	NISP %	MNE	WBE
Horncore	2	0.9	1.00			1	3		4	0.6	2.00	
Maxilla	11	5.1	5.00				14		14	2.2	11.00	
Skull	7	3.3	3.00				11		11	1.7	6.00	
Mandible	38	17.7	24.00	13.25	12	2	55		69	10.7	37.00	19.75
Hyoid		0.0					2		2	0.3		
Loose Teeth	9	4.2			11	1	47	1	60	9.3		
Scapula	17	7.9	7.00	4.00	1	1	25		27	4.2	14.00	7.85
Humerus	4	1.9	2.00	0.80	2	2	18		22	3.4	13.00	5.15
Radius	29	13.5	14.00	7.25	9	2	74	2	87	13.5	27.00	21.90
Ulna	3	1.4	3.00	0.60	1		17		18	2.8	7.00	4.05
Pelvis	4	1.9	4.00	0.40		1	14		15	2.3	7.00	1.95
Femur	9	4.2	6.00	2.70	2		19		21	3.3	12.00	5.60
Tibia	25	11.6	11.00	8.60	12	6	77	1	96	14.9	40.00	25.35
Carpals		0.0			2		2		4	0.6	0.67	
Astragalus	2	0.9	2.00	1.75			1		1	0.2	1.00	1.00
Calcaneus		0.0			1		3		4	0.6	4.00	3.00
Centroquartal		0.0					1		1	0.2	1.00	1.00
Other tarsals		0.0					3		3	0.5		
Metacarpal	22	10.2	7.00	6.50	2		45	1	48	7.5	14.00	13.20
Metatarsal	19	8.8	7.00	6.10	7	2	49		58	9.0	21.00	20.10
Metapodial	1	0.5							0	0.0		
Phalanx 1	1	0.5	0.25				17		17	2.6	3.25	
Phalanx 2		0.0					8		8	1.2	2.00	
Phalanx 3		0.0					2		2	0.3	0.50	
Sesamoids		0.0				1	2		3	0.5		
Atlas (VC1)		0.0					3		3	0.5		
Axis (VC2)	1	0.5					2		2	0.3		
Cervical V	1	0.5					3		3	0.5		
Thoracic V	1	0.5					10		10	1.6		
Lumbar V		0.0					7		7	1.1		
Sternebrae		0.0					1		1	0.2		
Ribs	9	4.2					23		23	3.6		
Total	215		24.00		62	19	558	5	644		37.00	

Total counts include elements in associated bone groups and sieved samples.

NISP = number of individual specimens. MNE = minimum number of elements represented. Raw counts of phalanges divided by 4. Raw counts of carpals divided by 6. WBE = whole bone equivalent based on % of complete bones represented.

Table 6.12: Station Road and Bourton Way sheep/goat element counts (NISP, MNE and WBE)

there was quite a high level of slaughter of cattle aged between five and seven years old. Only one mandible belonged to a young calf and only 3% of the early-fusing epiphyses were unfused, and only 5% of the bones were porous. The results of the ageing analysis at Bourton Way were broadly similar to those obtained from Wilby Way (Maltby 2003, 50–1). The focus on both sites was for the consumption of prime beef or slightly older cattle, which may serve as breeding stock or as plough animals prior to slaughter. There is no evidence that dairy production was a major factor in their exploitation. However, there was insufficient metrical data to determine whether the majority of adult cattle were male or female.

It is assumed that all the sheep/goat mandibles belonged to sheep. At Station Road, 21 ageable specimens were recorded. Most of these fell within two of the seven ageing stages. Seven (33%) belonged to lambs aged between three and twelve months of age, whereas eight (38%) were from adults over three years old. Only two definitely belonged to sheep with only two molars in wear, aged between 1–2 years old. Three specimens belonged to lambs under three months old (Table 6.17). Epiphyseal fusion data was limited but also indicated the

presence of several lambs culled under a year old (Table 6.18) and 7% of the bones were porous.

Ageing analysis of 41 sheep mandibles from Bourton Way produced significantly different results. Only 24% were from adults over three years old but these did include three mature animals possessing heavier molar wear than any of the specimens from Station Road. Although there were still fairly substantial numbers of lambs aged less than twelve months old, 44% of the mandibles belonged to sheep aged between 12–36 months old (Table 6.17). Around 32% of the early-fusing epiphyses were unfused, whereas 81% of the latest-fusing epiphyses were unfused (Table 6.18). Again, fusion ages are heavily influenced by castration, making accurate estimates of fusion problematic (Popkin *et al.* 2012). Porous bones of lambs accounted for 5% of the sheep assemblage. These results were again fairly similar to those obtained from Wilby Way (Maltby 2003, 53). Therefore, there was a greater focus on producing and/or consuming immature and young adult sheep for meat at Bourton Way/Wilby Way, whereas more lambs were culled in their first year at Station Road before they had reach full carcass size.

	Station Road				Bourton Way						
	NISP	NISP %	MNE	WBE	SL1	SL2	SL3	Total		Total	Total
					NISP	NISP	NISP	NISP	NISP %	MNE	WBE
Maxilla	6	6.3	3.00		1		5	6	5.3	3.00	
Skull	5	5.2	2.00				4	4	3.5	2.00	
Mandible	21	21.9	10.00	4.20		1	17	18	15.9	6.00	2.80
Loose Teeth	14	14.6			1		10	11	9.7		
Scapula	9	9.4	6.00	3.60	1		5	6	5.3	4.00	1.45
Humerus	5	5.2	4.00	1.20	2		11	13	11.5	7.00	2.75
Radius	2	2.1	2.00	0.75			1	1	0.9	1.00	0.10
Ulna	4	4.2	4.00	1.35	1		6	7	6.2	7.00	2.85
Pelvis	1	1.0	1.00	0.50	1		4	5	4.4	5.00	0.65
Femur	3	3.1	2.00	0.30			7	7	6.2	5.00	2.55
Tibia	10	10.4	4.00	2.50			13	13	11.5	6.00	3.30
Fibula	3	3.1	2.00	1.50			6	6	5.3	3.00	2.75
Metacarpal	1	1.0	0.50				2	2	1.8	1.00	1.00
Metatarsal	1	1.0	0.50					0	0.0		
Peripheral Mp	1	1.0	0.25				1	1	0.9	0.25	
Phalanx 1		0.0					1	1	0.9	0.25	
Phalanx 2		0.0					1	1	0.9	0.25	
Phalanx 3		0.0				1		1	0.9	0.25	
Peripheral P2		0.0					1	1	0.9	0.25	
Atlas (VC1)	1	1.0			1		1	2	1.8		
Ribs	9	9.4					7	7	6.2		
Total	96		10.00		8	2	103	113		7.00	

Total counts include elements in associated bone groups and sieved samples.

NISP = number of individual specimens. MNE = minimum number of elements represented. Raw counts of peripheral metapodials divided by 4. Raw counts of 3/4 metacarpals and metatarsals divided by 2. Raw counts of phalanges divided by 4. WBE = whole bone equivalent based on % of complete bones represented.

Table 6.13: Station Road and Bourton Way pig element counts (NISP, MNE and WBE)

	Station Road				Bourton Way						
	NISP	NISP %	MNE	WBE	SL1	SL2	SL3	Total		Total	Total
					NISP	NISP	NISP	NISP	NISP %	MNE	WBE
Maxilla							1	1	1.1	1.00	
Skull	1	5.0	1.00		1		2	3	3.4	2.00	
Mandible		0.0			3		7	10	11.5	6.00	2.70
Loose Teeth	3	15.0			10		17	27	31.0		
Scapula	1	5.0	1.00	0.75			2	2	2.3	2.00	0.35
Humerus		0.0					2	2	2.3	2.00	1.10
Radius		0.0			3		4	7	8.0	4.00	2.55
Ulna	1	5.0	1.00	0.25	1	1	3	5	5.7	5.00	2.00
Pelvis	4	20.0	4.00	1.35	1			1	1.1	1.00	0.10
Femur	2	10.0	0.35		1			1	1.1	1.00	0.10
Tibia	1	5.0	1.00	0.10	2		5	7	8.0	3.00	2.40
Astragalus		0.0			1			1	1.1	1.00	1.00
Other tarsals	1	5.0						0	0.0		
Metacarpal		0.0					1	1	1.1	1.00	1.00
Metatarsal	2	10.0	2.00	1.50	1		5	6	6.9	4.00	2.60
Peripheral Mp	1	5.0	0.25				3	3	3.4	0.75	
Phalanx 1	1	5.0	0.50		1	1	3	5	5.7	2.25	
Phalanx 2		0.0			1			1	1.1	0.50	
Atlas (VC1)		0.0					1	1	1.1		
Cervical V	2	10.0						0	0.0		
Thoracic V		0.0			1			1	1.1		
Ribs		0.0					2	2	2.3		
Total	20		4.00		27	2	58	87		6.00	6

Total counts include elements in associated bone groups and sieved samples.

NISP = number of individual specimens. MNE = minimum number of elements represented. Raw counts of 3/4 metacarpals and metatarsals divided by 2. Raw counts of phalanges divided by 2. WBE = whole bone equivalent based on % of complete bones represented.

Table 6.14: Station Road and Bourton Way horse element counts (NISP, MNE and WBE)

	Station Road				Bourton Way					
	NISP	NISP %	MNE	WBE	SL1	SL3	Total		Total	Total
					NISP	NISP	NISP	NISP %	MNE	WBE
Maxilla	2	2.2	2.00			5	5	2.6	4.00	
Skull	1	1.1	1.00			4	4	2.1	3.00	
Mandible	4	4.3	3.00	2.25	2	7	9	4.7	7.00	5.35
Loose Teeth		0.0			1		1	0.5		
Scapula	2	2.2	2.00	0.75	1	5	6	3.2	5.00	2.10
Humerus	3	3.2	3.00	2.00		6	6	3.2	5.00	4.35
Radius	2	2.2	2.00	1.25		6	6	3.2	6.00	5.00
Ulna	2	2.2	2.00	1.25		4	4	2.1	4.00	3.25
Pelvis	2	2.2	2.00	1.00	2	4	6	3.2	6.00	2.35
Femur	3	3.2	3.00	2.25	2	4	6	3.2	5.00	4.35
Tibia	2	2.2	2.00	0.75	2	6	8	4.2	7.00	5.85
Fibula	2	2.2	2.00	1.25		4	4	2.1	2.00	1.50
Astragalus	1	1.1	1.00	1.00	1	1	2	1.1	2.00	2.00
Calcaneus	2	2.2	2.00	2.00	2	1	3	1.6	3.00	2.25
Other tarsals		0.0			3		3	1.6		
Metacarpal	5	5.4	1.25			14	14	7.4	3.50	
Metatarsal	8	8.6	2.00		7	11	18	9.5	3.50	
Peripheral Mc		0.0				1	1	0.5		
Metapodial		0.0				1	1	0.5		
Phalanx 1	7	7.5	0.88		6	2	8	4.2	1.00	
Phalanx 2	1	1.1	0.13		3		3	1.6	0.38	
Phalanx 3	3	3.2	0.38			1	1	0.5	0.13	
Atlas (VC1)		0.0				2	2	1.1		
Axis (VC2)		0.0			1	2	3	1.6		
Cervical V	1	1.1				10	10	5.3		
Thoracic V	10	10.8				26	26	13.7		
Lumbar V	6	6.5				14	14	7.4		
Sacral V	1	1.1				1	1	0.5		
Caudal V		0.0			1		1	0.5		
Sternebrae	1	1.1				2	2	1.1		
Costal cart.		0.0				1	1	0.5		
Ribs	22	23.7				45	45	23.7		
Total	93		3.00		34	190	224		7.00	

Total counts include elements in associated bone groups and sieved samples.

NISP = number of individual specimens. MNE = minimum number of elements represented. Raw counts of metacarpals and metatarsals divided by 4. Raw counts of phalanges divided by 8. WBE = whole bone equivalent based on % of complete bones represented.

Table 6.15: Station Road and Bourton Way dog element counts (NISP, MNE and WBE)

	Station Road				Bourton Way			
	Cattle	S/G	Pig	Horse	Cattle	S/G	Pig	Horse
Horncore		s			c1 s1	c1		
Skull frag					k2			k1
Mandible	b1		k1 c1		k6 c1		k1	
Hyoid	k1							
Scapula	k4		k1		k3 c4		k1	
Humerus	k5	k1			k4 c1	k1		
Radius	k3				k6 b1	k1		k1
Ulna					k5			
Pelvis	k1	c1 b1	k1	k1	k3		k1	
Femur	k1	k1			k4		k2	
Tibia				b1	k7			
Astragalus	k1	k1			k6 c1			
Calcaneus					k3	k1		
Metacarpal		k1			k2 c1			
Metatarsal		k1			k2 a1			k1
Phalanx 1					k1			
Phalanx 3					c1			
Atlas						k1	k1	
Cervical V		k1 a1				k1	k1	
Thoracic V		c1			t1			
Rib	c	k1	k3		k1	k1		
Total	k16 c1 b1	k7 c1 b1 a1 s1	k6 c1	k1 b1	k55 c10 b1 a1 t1 s1	k5 c1	k6	k3
% Butchered	6.9	4.9	8.5	11.8	12.7	1.0	5.9	6.7

k = fine incision (knife); c = heavy blade or chop mark; b = heavy blade skim; a = axially/longitudinally split; t = transversely split; s = sawn.

Totals include specimens with more than one type of butchery mark. % butchered excludes loose teeth.

Table 6.16: Station Road and Bourton Way types of butchery marks observed on animal bones

At neither site was there strong evidence that wool production was of paramount importance, although fleeces would obviously have been available for shearing from the surviving members of the flock. This would support the evidence for small-scale textile production provided by the presence of loom weights at both sites.

The ageing data for pig from both excavations (Tables 6.17–6.18) was insufficient to determine detailed slaughter patterns. As usual, most of the pigs represented were immature, although toothwear evidence from Station Road indicated that many of the pigs there survived at least into their third year. First- and second-year mortalities were also represented in both samples. At Bourton Way, 14% of the pig bones were porous and from animals probably under a year old. This figure was slightly lower (6%) at Station Road. A few very porous bones of neonatal mortalities were found on both sites, possibly indicating that some pigs were being kept at the settlements.

Horse exploitation and management on Iron Age sites was usually focused on adult animals, reflecting their importance for riding and as beasts of burden. Very little ageing evidence was obtained from Station Road, but the few epiphyses present were all fused and there was no evidence for the presence of immature horses in the assemblage (Table 6.18). However, the evidence from Bourton Way was more variable. Although three mandibles belonged to adults, estimates of age from tooth heights (following Levine 1982) indicated that two of these were aged between 6–8 years old, indicating they were not kept until old age. A maxilla belonged to a slightly younger horse, aged between 4–5 years old. Epiphyseal fusion data from Bourton Way also indicates the presence of several unfused specimens from immature animals, plus a radius of a foetal foal. There was more evidence for the presence of immature horses than was obtained from the Wilby Way site, where bones of adult animals predominated, although a few elements of younger horses were recorded (Maltby 2003, 54–5). As discussed above, there was also some evidence that horse-meat was eaten and, although it would seem unlikely that there was a strong focus on meat production, it is possible that some surplus animals were slaughtered for meat.

As discussed above, most of the dog ABGs belonged to adults, although one was from a puppy. No bones of neonatal puppies were recovered. The roe deer mandible from Bourton Way belonged to an immature animal.

Pathology

A number of skeletal pathologies and anomalies were observed. The skull of an adult dog from Bourton Way (SL3) had evidence for a healed fracture above the orbit. At Station Road, the right femur of the articulated skeleton of the adult dog in SG159 (G10) had suffered a severe fracture. This had healed but the bone was very distorted and shortened. Although these injuries may have been the result of mistreatment, the fact that the dogs survived for a considerable period subsequent to the traumas suggests that they were valued as companion and probably principally as working animals. A dog mandible from Bourton Way had misalignment of the fourth premolar.

Minor lipping and exostosis was observed on three cattle first phalanges from Bourton Way and on one from Station Road. Sometimes these conditions develop on animals that have been used for traction but they can also develop on animals that have never been yoked to a plough (Bartosiewicz *et al.* 1997). None of the cattle

distal metacarpals on either site had evidence of splaying or related conditions associated with stresses created by ploughing. A cattle acetabulum from Bourton Way bore slight eburnation associated with arthritic deterioration. Pitting on a cattle proximal femur articular surface may have been the result of similar deterioration. Minor distortion of the ilium was observed on two cattle pelves, one from each site. The condyle of the ascending ramus of a cattle mandible from Bourton Way had minor exostosis on the medial aspect. A cattle mandible from Bourton Way had malocclusion of the first and second molars. Two cattle maxillary third molars from Bourton Way and one from Station Road had extended posterior cusps, indicative that the mandibular third molars did not possess their posterior cusps, which resulted in uneven wear in the upper molars. This genetic anomaly has been recorded quite commonly on British sites.

Two of the older sheep mandibles at Station Road bore evidence of periodontal disease and three from Bourton Way suffered from the same condition, representing c. 10% and 7% of the ageable mandibles respectively. A high incidence of periodontal disease can be linked to poor feeding regimes, although the percentages of affected jaws at these sites were not unusually high. A ewe horncore from Bourton Way had distinctive ‘thumbprint’ indentations, which may also be linked to malnutrition (Albarella 1995). A sheep metacarpal and metatarsal from Station Road displayed minor linear exostosis on the posterior aspects of the shafts.

A horse third metatarsal from Station Road had fused pathologically to the adjacent tarsal. This condition, commonly known as spavin, is a degenerative condition of the hock joint usually found in older animals often resulting from cartilage compression or uneven loading.

Metrical data

Metrical data was obtained from 59 bones at Station Road and 122 specimens from Bourton Way. All the measurements are stored in the animal bone archive. The more common ones are listed in Table 6.19. On their own, the samples are too small to allow detailed discussion of sizes, but the data can be incorporated into a more wide-ranging chronological review of the stature of domestic animals in the east Midlands.

Withers height estimates were possible on five complete cattle limb bones from the two sites. Four of these fell in the range 103–109cm, which is typical of the small size of cattle found on many British Iron Age sites, and slightly smaller than the four complete metapodials from Wilby Way (110–113cm) (Maltby 2003, 51). However, a radius from Station Road produced an estimate of 125.6cm, representing a much larger animal. This specimen also had breadth measurements (von den Driesch 1976 BFp = 80.0mm) that were much larger than any of the others from either site (Table 6.19) and is exceptionally large for a British Iron Age specimen. This may have belonged to a large bull. Other cattle measurements conformed to the expected ranges of small cattle found on other Iron Age sites in the region.

Only one sheep bone from each site was sufficiently complete to provide withers height estimates. Both fell below 59cm, which is again typical of the sizes of most of the small, slender sheep found at Wilby Way, and indeed on many other British Iron Age sites. These results further highlight the unusually large size of one of the butchered sheep skeletons at Wilby Way, which

Cattle	Station Road	%	Cum %	Bourton Way	%	Cum %
Stage 1	0			0	0.0	0.0
Stage 2	0			1	5.0	5.0
Stage 3	0			0	0.0	5.0
Stage 4	0			1	5.0	10.0
Stage 5	0			3	15.0	25.0
Stage 6	3			11	55.0	80.0
Stage 6–7	0			1	5.0	85.0
Stage 7	1			3	15.0	100.0
Total	4			20		

Sheep/goat	Station Road	%	Cum %	Bourton Way	%	Cum %
Stage 1	0	0.0	0.0	1	2.4	2.4
Stage 2	3	14.3	14.3	2	4.9	7.3
Stage 3	7	33.3	47.6	5	12.2	19.5
Stage 3–4	1	4.8	52.4	5	12.2	31.7
Stage 4	2	9.5	61.9	9	22.0	53.7
Stage 5	0	0.0	61.9	9	22.0	75.6
Stage 6	8	38.1	100.0	6	14.6	90.2
Stage 6–7	0	0.0	100.0	1	2.4	92.7
Stage 7	0	0.0	100.0	3	7.3	100.0
Total	21			41		

Pig	Station Road	%	Cum %	Bourton Way
Stage 1	0	0.0	0.0	
Stage 2	0	0.0	0.0	
Stage 3	2	18.2	18.2	3
Stage 4	0	0.0	18.2	
Stage 4–5	1	9.1	27.3	1
Stage 5	1	9.1	36.4	
Stage 6	1	9.1	45.5	
Stage 6–7	1	9.1	54.6	
Stage 7	5	45.5	100.0	1
Stage 8	0	0.0	100.0	1
Total	11			6

Stage 1 = 4th deciduous premolars (dp4) not in wear.
 Stage 2 = dp4 in wear; 1st molar (M1) not in wear.
 Stage 3 = M1 in wear; 2nd molar (M2) not in wear.
 Stage 4 = M2 in wear; 3rd molar (M3) and permanent premolars not in wear.
 Stage 5 = M3 in wear; 4th permanent premolar (P4) not in wear (cattle).
 Stage 5 = M3 in wear; M1 at Grant (1982) wear stage g (s/g).
 Stage 5 = P4 in wear; M3 not in wear (pig)
 Stage 6 = P4 in wear; M3 < Grant wear stage k (Cattle)
 Stage 6 = M1 at Grant wear stages h–m; M2 at Grant wear stage g (s/g).
 Stage 6 = M3 at Grant wear stages a–b (pig).
 Stage 7 = M3 at Grant wear stages k–m (cattle).
 Stage 7 = M1 and M2 at Grant wear stages h–m (s/g).
 Stage 7 = M3 at Grant wear stages c–d (pig).
 Stage 8 = M3 at Grant wear stage >d (pig).

Table 6.17: Station Road and Bourton Way cattle, sheep/goat and pig mandibular tooth ageing data

had an estimated height of 63cm (Maltby 2003, 54). Its large size may have been one of the reasons it was selected for special treatment, probably associated with ritual activity. There was no evidence for the presence of hornless sheep, which is also typical of British Iron Age assemblages.

There is insufficient evidence to discuss the sizes of pigs, other than to note that none of the measurements was sufficiently large to suggest that any of the porcine bones belonged to wild boar. Withers height estimates of two complete horse bones were 131cm (Station Road)

and 135cm (Bourton Way). The latter specimen was from a horse very similar in size to one represented by a complete bone at Wilby Way. These were the size of large ponies. The adult dog skeleton from Station Road produced shoulder height estimates of 48.5cm and 51.5cm. The skeleton of the adult dog (SG207) from the quarry (L26) at Bourton Way belonged to a larger dog of around 57–58cm in height. Dogs of both these sizes are common in Iron Age deposits, which rarely produce evidence for miniature types, in contrast to the Roman period (Harcourt 1974; K. Clark 1995).

II. CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

by John Giorgi

Introduction and methodology

Forty-four environmental bulk soil samples from Bourton Way and fifteen from Station Road were collected for the recovery of charred plant remains and potential information on the agrarian economy of the settlements. The samples were collected largely from ditches, storage pits and pits, with fewer collected from quarry pits and postholes. In addition, two samples were collected from hearth G62 at Bourton Way and one sample from inhumation SG184 (G17) at Station Road.

The soil volume of the individual samples ranged from 8–30l, although most were at the upper end of this scale. They were processed using a Siraf-style type flotation tank and meshes of 0.3mm and 1mm for the recovery of the flot and residue respectively. The flots were dried and charred botanical remains sorted and identified using a binocular microscope (with a magnification of up to 40) together with modern and charred reference material and reference manuals (Cappers *et al* 2006; Jacomet 2006). All charred plant remains were counted except for small cereal grain fragments, indeterminate items and charcoal, estimated frequencies of which were made on the basis of the following rating system: + = <5; ++ = 5–25; +++ = 26–100; ++++ = 101–300; +++++ = >300 items.

The results are shown in Tables 6.20–6.22 (arranged by site), with nomenclature and taxonomic order for the wild plants following Stace (2005), which was also used for ecological data together with Brenchley (1911; 1913), Hanf (1983) and Wilson and King (2003).

Bourton Way

Thirty-seven of the 44 samples produced variable amounts of identifiable charred plant remains, with over a thousand charred plant items being counted (Tables 6.20 and 6.21). These consisted largely of cereal debris, both grains (58%) and chaff (30%), and only a small quantity (12%) of wild plant remains.

Cereals

Cereals were identified in virtually all the productive samples and were represented by both grains and chaff fragments in 36 and 29 samples respectively. Preservation, however, was generally poor and 72% of the grains could not be identified further; there were also variable amounts of unquantifiable, very fragmented grain in 33 samples.

Triticum (wheat) was the best represented cereal identified in 31 samples on the basis of both grain and virtually all the chaff from the site. The well-preserved remains showed hulled wheat, largely *Triticum spelta*

Cattle							Pig						
Station Road			Bourton Way				Station Road			Bourton Way			
Early Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F	Early Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F
Radius P		8		1	18		Radius P		2				
Scapula D	1	6		1	8		Scapula D	1	5			1	
Acetabulum	1	9			4		Acetabulum		1		1	3	
Humerus D	1	2			10		Humerus D					1	
Phalanx 1 P		7			16		Phalanx 2 P					1	
Phalanx 2 P		5			4		Total	1	8	88.9	1	6	85.7
Total	3	37	92.5	2	60	96.8							
Later Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F	Later Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F
Tibia D	1	5		2	11		Phalanx 1 P					1	
Metacarpal D		1			2		Tibia D	1	1		1		
Metatarsal D		3		3	4		Metacarpal D		1		1		
Total	1	9	90.0	5	17	77.3	Metatarsal D		1				
							Peripheral Mp D	1			1		
Latest Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F	Total	2	3	60.0	3	1	25.0
Ulna P					1								
Femur D	2	4		8	1		Latest Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F
Radius D		3		3	6		Ulna P	1			2	1	
Humerus P	2	2		4	1		Femur D				1		
Femur P	1	4		1	2		Radius D						
Calcaneus P	2	1			1		Humerus P						
Tibia P	4			1	6		Femur P				1		
Total	11	14	56.0	18	17	48.6	Calcaneus P						
							Tibia P						
							Total	1	0	0.0	4	1	20.0
Sheep/Goat							Horse						
Station Road			Bourton Way				Station Road			Bourton Way			
Early Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F	Early Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F
Radius P		1		2	8		Scapula D		1			2	
Scapula D	2	3			6		Radius P				1	3	
Acetabulum		3			6		Humerus D					1	
Humerus D				4	4		Acetabulum		3				
Phalanx 1 P	1			5	7		Phalanx 1 P		1			5	
Phalanx 2 P				5	3		Phalanx 2 P					1	
Total	3	7	70.0	16	34	68.0	Total	0	5	100.0	1	12	92.3
Later Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F	Later Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F
Tibia D	2	3		2	9		Tibia D		1		2	1	
Metacarpal D		1		6	1		Metacarpal D					1	
Metatarsal D	1			8	1		Metatarsal D		1			3	
Metapodial D	1						Metapodial D						
Total	4	4	50.0	16	11	40.7	Total	0	2	100.0	2	5	71.4
Latest Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F	Latest Fusing	U	F	%F	U	F	%F
Ulna P				3	1		Femur D		1				
Femur D		1		5			Ulna P					1	
Radius D	1			1	3		Radius D				2	1	
Humerus P				2			Humerus P				1		
Femur P	1	1		4			Femur P						
Calcaneus P				3	1		Calcaneus P						
Tibia P				3			Tibia P				2	1	
Total	2	2	50.0	21	5	19.2	Total	0	1	100.0	5	3	37.5

P = proximal; D = distal; U = unfused; F = fused. Unfused includes specimens that are just fusing (>50% of fusion line visible).

Table 6.18: Station Road and Bourton Way epiphyseal fusion data

Cattle	Station Road	Bourton Way	Bourton Way mean
Horncore Bp	43.7	46.4	
Astragalus Bd	34.2 36.5	36.0 36.8 37.8 38.1 39.3 40.0 40.4	38.3
Astragalus GLI	56.0 60.1	59.1 59.3 60.2 60.2 61.1 61.4 65.2	60.9
Femur DC	38.1 44.5	39.5 40.1	
Humerus BT	67.9	62.2 70.0 70.5 71.0	
Metacarpal Bp	50.8 51.4	47.2 52.9 53.4 55.7 56.7	53.2
Metacarpal Bd	53.1	61.8	
Metatarsal Bp	39.9 43.5 44.4 44.8	40.7 41.3 45.2 47.4	
Metatarsal Bd	46.1 49.3	46.9	
Radius BFp	61.0 66.6 69.8 80.0	61.4 63.9 64.4 66.8 69.8 71.3 72.5	67.2
Radius Dp	35.3 37.4 37.5 41.7	34.4 35.4 40.8 42.1	
Scapula GLP	62.3	66.2	
Scapula SLC	46.9 53.0	42.7	
Tibia Bd	50.0 50.5 54.7 58.3	52.3 52.5 53.7 53.7 54.3 56.2 56.8 62.4	55.2
Tibia Dd	37.7 38.9 39.6 43.1	37.7 38.7 39.0 40.8 41.3 41.3 43.2 44.1 45.0	41.2
Withers Ht (cm)	106.8 108.4 125.6	103.7 105.4 108.4	
Sheep/Goat			
Humerus BT		23.7 24.1	
Metacarpal Bp	20.3 21.2	19.1 20.7	
Metatarsal Bp	17.9	17.5 17.6 17.6 18.4 18.9	18.0
Radius BFp		25.2 25.7 26.3	
Radius Dp		12.9 13.8 14.1 14.5	
Scapula GLP	27.3 28.8	27.2 28.3 29.1 31.3	
Scapula SLC	16.1 17.6	14.5 15.9 16.0 16.5 19.3	16.4
Tibia Bd	21.8 22.0	21.3 22.1 23.1 24.9	
Tibia Dd	17.0 17.2	16.8 17.5 17.5	
Withers Ht (cm)	57.8	55.1	
Pig			
Mandible M3L	26.1 32.2	32.0	
Radius Bp	26.4 27.6		
Radius Dp	18.2 19.6		
Scapula GLP		34.0	
Scapula SLC	22.0 22.8	23.2	
Tibia Bd	28.7		
Tibia Dd	24.3		
Horse			
Humerus BT		68.9	
Metacarpal Bp		47.2	
Metatarsal Bp	44.7	44.3 45.4 46.6	
Radius BFp		68.7 72.0	
Radius Dp		42.9 43.8 43.8	
Scapula GLP		87.7	
Withers Ht (cm)	131.0	135.1	

Bp = proximal breadth; BFp = breadth proximal articular surface; BT = breadth distal trochlea; Bd = distal breadth; DC = depth caput; Dp = proximal depth; GLI = greatest lateral length; LG = length glenoid cavity; SLC = minimum breadth of neck; GLP length of glenoid process; M3L = length of 3rd molar.

Table 6.19: Station Road and Bourton Way common measurements (mm)

(spelt), to be the main cereal, with definite evidence of *Triticum dicoccum* (emmer) in only two samples. A few *Triticum aestivum* (free-threshing wheat) type grains, some being tentative identifications, were found in four samples, possibly hexaploid bread wheat grains on the basis of their very rounded squat morphology and flat dorsal side.

Hordeum vulgare (barley) was the second best represented and other main cereal at the site, identified in 21 samples on the basis of the grains and one barley rachis fragment. The well-preserved grains showed the presence of hulled barley with a small number of lateral (twisted) grains indicating the presence of six-row hulled barley. A few possible *Avena* (oat) grains were found in four samples, although these are likely to have been weeds at this time. A tentatively identified *Secale cereale* (rye) grain could be intrusive material from later medieval activity on the site.

The two main cereals, spelt wheat and hulled barley, are the principal grains cultivated during the Iron Age in southern Britain on the basis of current archaeobotanical evidence (Greig 1991, 306) – including results from Wilby Way, which also included traces of free-threshing wheat (Stevens 2003, 59). Other Iron Age sites in this part of Northamptonshire also produced similar results, with spelt wheat and hulled barley present at Grasmere Way and Station Road, Higham Ferrers, c. 10km to the east (Moffett 2009) and also Twywell, c. 20km to the north-east (Jackson 1975, 90–1).

The cereal grains may have been used for porridge or gruel or cooked with other foodstuffs in stews or soups (Renfrew 1985, 15), while the hulled wheat grains may have been used for bread – particularly spelt, which contains the necessary proteins for a well-risen loaf. Barley, however, only produces flat bread (Cool 2006, 70–1). There were no sprouted grains to suggest that any of the cereals were being used for brewing. Barley was also used as animal (horse) feed.

Crop husbandry

Evidence for other plants only made up a small proportion (12%) of the botanical remains from the site, consisting largely of wild plant/weed seeds, although there were traces of *Corylus avellana* (hazel nut) shell in two samples, a common find on prehistoric sites and evidence for the gathering of wild foods. A few charred stem fragments in three samples may be from cereals and/or wild grasses (Poaceae); there was also a charred tuber fragment.

The weed seeds were from a fairly limited range of species with wild grasses, particularly *Bromus* (brome), and leguminous seeds making up just over 80% of the quantified seeds; the legumes at best could only be reduced to *Vicia/Lathyrus* (vetch/tare/vetchling) or *Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum* (vetch/tare/vetchling/pea) and, therefore, it was not possible to establish whether they were from cultivated and/or wild pulses.

Only a few weed seeds were identifiable to species, which limits comments on crop husbandry. *Galium aparine* (cleavers), recorded in five samples, may indicate the cultivation of loams and clay soils while a few weed seeds of *Bupleurum rotundifolium* (thorow-wax) and *Hyoscyamus niger* (henbane) may tentatively suggest the use of better-drained calcareous loam soils, although *Hyoscyamus niger*, along with *Polygonum aviculare* (knotgrass), are also found in sandy soils. A larger weed

seed assemblage recovered from earlier excavations at the site, however, included a range of species also suggesting the cultivation of drier, slightly calcareous soils (Stevens 2003, 59). Soils in the immediate vicinity of the site today consist of free-draining lime-rich loamy soils with areas of slightly acid loams and heavier soils further to the west and east. The two main cereals in the samples, spelt wheat and hulled barley, may grow on both heavy and light soils (Jones 1981, 105–6). The presence of *Galium aparine* in the samples may point to the winter-sowing of cereals, with spelt being a particularly hardy grain suitable for autumn sowing while barley may be sown in either spring or autumn.

Crop-processing

The bulk of the charred plant remains from the samples consisted of cereal debris (88%) with relatively few weed seeds (12%). The proportion of cereal remains would have been even greater had it been possible to quantify the small grain fragments. These remains represent the burnt residues of almost cleaned cereals, with grain and chaff making up between 74% and 96% of the quantified remains in the seven richest assemblages containing more than 50 items. Cereal grains were more numerous than chaff fragments in virtually all these samples and may have been accidentally burnt while being dried before storage/use and/or milling or during cooking. Alternatively, burning may have occurred with the chaff during the parching of hulled wheat spikelets to facilitate the separation of the grains from the glumes; the ratio of hulled wheat glume bases to hulled wheat grains only, in the seven richest assemblages, showed a better representation of chaff, although this does not take account of indeterminate grains and fragments. Wheat chaff may have also been used as fuel. Hulled wheat may have been stored as spikelets, particularly in areas with wet summers to protect the grain against spoilage (germination or insect attack) (Hillman 1981).

The weed seeds in the seven richest assemblages accounted for between 4% and 25% of the quantified remains, with small-seeded and large-seeded species being almost equally well represented. Large grass seeds, particularly *Bromus*, accounted for at least half of the weed seeds in the richest assemblages and are characteristic of almost fully cleaned cereals – being of a similar size to the grains and therefore difficult to separate other than by hand-sorting. The smaller weed seeds would have been largely removed by fine sieving using the ‘wheat’ sieve, a stage often but not always carried out before storage of cereals as spikelets. All the weed seeds may have been used as fuel.

The spatial distribution of the charred plant remains

An examination of the composition of the individual assemblages provides an opportunity to establish the nature and spatial distribution of human activities across the site. The charred plant assemblages were recovered from features (mainly pit and ditch fills) associated with sixteen Land-use Areas, largely within SL3. Most of the charred plant assemblages, however, were small; 25 of the 37 productive samples contained fewer than twenty items with low densities of remains, 24 assemblages producing fewer than one item per litre of quantified soil. The composition of the smaller assemblages, however, was broadly similar, consisting mainly of grain and chaff and only occasional weed seeds – background debris

Land-use Area		14		15		16		17		19		24		25		26		57	
Group	Sub-group	25	14	26	15	30	16	31	17	43	19	41	50	13	51	62	56	26	57
Feature type	Sample	Quarry pit	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Posthole	Grave	Quarry pit	Quarry pit	Quarry pit	Quarry pit
Sample	Sample	13	40	21	36	28	39	38	25	8	31	30	6	34	10	9	11	17	26
Sample vol. (L)	Sample	17	20	20	20	14	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	8	20	20	20
Flot vol. (ml)	Flot	3	2	200	3	1	11	68	<1	72	1	<1	<1	<1	150	8	4	4	9
ENGLISH																			
LATIN NAME																			
Cereal grains																			
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> Schubl.	emmer wheat						1												2
<i>T. dicoccum/spelta</i>	emmer/spelt wheat																1		1
<i>T. cf. dicoccum/spelta</i>	?emmer/spelt wheat																		
<i>T. aestivum</i>	free-threshing wheat						1												
<i>T. cf. aestivum</i> type	?free-threshing wheat																		
<i>Triticum</i> sp(p).	wheat	1	1	2	2	1	1												6
<i>cf. Triticum</i> sp(p).	?wheat			2	1	2	1	1		3							1		5
<i>cf. Secale cereale</i>	?rye																		
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	barley, hulled twisted	1																	3
<i>H. vulgare</i> L.	barley, hulled straight			1						1									1
<i>H. vulgare</i> L.	barley, hulled indet			3	1									1					1
<i>H. vulgare</i> L.	barley, indet			3						1									3
<i>cf. H. vulgare</i> L.	?barley, indet							2		1									5
<i>cf. Avena</i> sp.	?oat																		
Cerealia indet.	indet cereal grain	1	4	49	4	1	2	19	2	10	1	1	5	+	+	4	6	3	92
Cerealia indet.	indet cereal grain frags <2mm	+	+	++	+	+	++	+	+	+++						+	++	+	+++
Cereal chaff																			
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> Schubl.	emmer wheat glume base			1															2
<i>T. spelta</i> L.	spelt glume bases			3	1	1		1		2	1	2				2			9
<i>T. spelta</i> L.	spelt spikelet bases/forks																		
<i>T. spelta</i> L.	spelt rachis fragments				1														1
<i>Triticum</i> sp(p).	wheat glume bases	2	5	5	1	2	4	7	2	1	2	7				4	1		24
<i>Triticum</i> sp(p).	wheat spikelet forks/ bases			2		4	1					1							10
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	wheat rachis fragments			1				1											
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	barley rachis fragments																		1
Other plant/weed seeds																			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazel nut shell fragments																1		
<i>Rumex</i> sp(p).	dock			1												1			1
Polygonaceae indet	vetch/tare/vetchling																		
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp(p).	small rounded						1	2				1				1			3
Fabaceae indet.	herbane				1											1			2
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.	eyebrights/bartsias																		
<i>Euphrasia/Odonites</i> sp(p).	cleavers	1					1	2											
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	?bedstraw fragments															1			
<i>cf. Galium</i> sp.	sedges																		7
Cyperaceae indet.	brome			1												1			2
<i>Bromus</i> sp(p).	?brome		2					1				1							
<i>cf. Bromus</i> sp(p).	grasses (large seeds)																		
Poaceae indet.	grasses (small seeds)																		
Poaceae indet.	charcoal																		
indeterminate		++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++++	++++	++++	++++
Total charred plant items		6	12	75	9	4	10	46	23	38	5	19	6	13	5	1	15	3	9
<i>item density (per litre of soil)</i>		0.4	0.6	3.8	0.5	0.3	0.5	2.3	1.2	1.9	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.4	0.5

Item frequency: + = <5; ++ = 5–25; +++ = 26–100; ++++ = 101–300; +++++ = 300+ items

Table 6.21: Bourton Way charred plant remains from SL3

from domestic activities associated with the final stages of crop-processing and food preparation.

Seven samples produced larger assemblages (more than 50 items) and a greater density of remains (from 3.4 to 9.1 items per litre of processed soil). These samples were concentrated in unenclosed domestic focus SL3, specifically within activity focus L10, roundhouse enclosure L11, roundhouse enclosure L14 and quarry pits L26. The composition of the charred plant remains in these seven samples was similar, containing largely cereal debris (grain and chaff) with few weed seeds. The three pit fill samples within L10, however, produced slightly greater proportions of weed seeds while the two samples from L11 (G34.5, G35.5) contained more chaff fragments than grains, which could tentatively point to cleaning activities (largely associated with the final stages of crop-cleaning) taking place within or close to these two areas.

Summary

The charred plant remains from Bourton Way suggest that hulled (spelt) wheat and hulled barley were the main crops being used at the time, as also shown by previous botanical research at the site. These two cereals are also the main grains in Iron Age deposits from other sites in Northamptonshire and further afield in southern Britain. The limited weed seed assemblage tentatively supports earlier evidence from the site suggesting the cultivation of the surrounding calcareous loam soils including the winter sowing of cereals. The bulk of the charred plant remains consisted of cereal debris (both grains and chaff) and relatively few weed seeds, indicative of almost fully cleaned cereals. This is in contrast to the results at Wilby Way, where there were a greater proportion of small weed seeds; this suggested to the author that the crops had been stored either unprocessed or in a relatively unprocessed state (Stevens 2003, 60). This could indicate that those parts of the settlement investigated within the Wilby Way excavation were mainly concerned with the storage of largely unprocessed crops (where cleaning the grains of small weed seeds may have also taken place), while the botanical evidence from Bourton Way suggests that the central area (notably the north-western part of SL3) may have been concerned mainly with the final cleaning of the grains (largely the de-husking of the hulled wheat) and food preparation.

Station Road

Ten of the fifteen samples produced variable amounts of identifiable charred plant remains, with over a thousand charred plant items being counted consisting of a mix of cereal grains (31% of the quantified remains), cereal chaff (28%) and wild plant/weed seeds (41%) (Table 6.22).

Cereals

Cereal remains were recorded in all the productive samples represented by grains and chaff in ten and four samples respectively. The quantified remains show almost equal amounts of grain and chaff, although this does not take into account the variable (but occasionally large) amounts of unquantified small cereal fragments in all the samples. Indeed, preservation was generally poor and almost 70% of the counted grains could not be identified further.

Of the identifiable grains, *Triticum* (wheat) was the best-represented cereal, being recorded in seven samples on the basis of both grains and chaff fragments. The

well-preserved remains showed hulled wheat, *Triticum dicoccum/spelta* (emmer/spelt), to be the main cereal, identified in five samples, with hulled wheat chaff fragments showing the presence of spelt wheat. Two grains in one sample were tentatively identified as *Triticum aestivum* (free-threshing wheat) type grains.

Hordeum vulgare (barley) was the other main cereal at the site, represented, however, by significantly smaller amounts of grains in seven samples and a few barley rachis fragments in two samples. Hulled and occasional lateral (twisted) grains indicate the presence of six-row hulled barley. There were just three *Avena* (oat) grains in two samples; it was not possible to establish if these were from cultivated and/or wild species because of the absence of diagnostic oat floret bases; they are likely to have been weeds at this time.

The two main cereals at the site, hulled wheat (including spelt) and hulled barley, are typical crops for this period on the basis of current archaeobotanical evidence, which suggests that spelt wheat and hulled barley were the main cereals cultivated during the Iron Age (Greig 1991, 306). Both hulled wheat, mainly spelt, and hulled barley were also identified within Iron Age deposits at the nearby Grasmere Way excavation (Moffett 2009), while other sites from this period in Northamptonshire have shown similar results – for example, spelt wheat and barley in middle Iron Age pits at Twywell to the north of Higham Ferrers (Jackson 1975, 90–1).

The hulled grains may have been used for bread – particularly spelt, which contains the necessary proteins for a well-risen loaf unlike barley which only produces flat bread (Cool 2006, 70–1). The cereal grains may have also been used for porridge or gruel or cooked with other foodstuffs in stews or soups (Renfrew 1985, 15). Both spelt and barley may have also been used for brewing, although there were no sprouted grains to suggest they were being used as such. Barley was also fed to horses.

Crop husbandry

Wild plant/weed seeds made up a fairly high proportion (41%) of the quantified remains, representing moderate species diversity, although many of the charred seeds could not be reduced to species, limiting ecological interpretation. The majority of the weed seeds were from plants associated with disturbed habitats, probably mainly cultivated ground given their association with cereal remains. A broadly similar range of weed seeds was identified in the samples from the Grasmere Way site (Moffett 2009).

The two best-represented weeds, *Lithospermum arvense* (field gromwell) and *Galium aparine* (cleavers), both loam indicators, suggest the use of calcareous clay loams for growing cereals. This corresponds well to the soils in the immediate vicinity of the site, which consist of free-draining lime-rich loamy soils, with lime-rich loamy and clayey soils further to the south-east. The two cereals in the samples, spelt and hulled barley, may grow on both heavy and light soils (Jones 1981, 105–6), spelt being a particularly hardy grain suitable for autumn sowing; both *Lithospermum arvense* and *Galium aparine* are widespread in winter-sown cereals. Barley may be sown in either spring or autumn, although there is very little evidence for spring-sowing of crops except for single seeds of *Stellaria media* (chickweed) and *Fallopia convolvulus* (black bindweed) and possibly some of the *Chenopodiaceae*.

	Land-use area	1		2		3		4		5	6
	Group	11	1	25		4	23	10		3	5
	Feature type	Storage pit	Ditch	Storage pit		Ditch	Ditch	Storage pit		Ditch	Ditch
	Sample	3	15	9	8	7	12	2	5	13	11
	Sample vol. (L)	20	20	20	10	20	20	20	20	20	20
	Flot vol. (ml)	2	<1	35	11	10	1	2	11	1	<1
LATIN_NAME	ENGLISH										
Cereal grains											
Triticum spelta L.	spelt wheat			1							
T. dicoccum/spelta	emmer/spelt wheat			7	4	3		1			
T. cf. dicoccum/spelta	?emmer/spelt wheat				6	2				1	
T. aestivum/spelta	free-threshing/spelt wheat				1						
T. cf. aestivum type	?free-threshing wheat			2							
Triticum sp(p).	wheat			14	8	2	1	1	2		
cf. Triticum sp(p).	?wheat			5	7	2			1		
Hordeum vulgare L.	barley, hulled twisted				2						
H. vulgare L.	barley, hulled straight				1						
H. vulgare L.	barley, hulled indet			1	4	1	1				
H. vulgare L.	barley, indet			1	5				2		
cf. H. vulgare L.	?barley, indet			5	2	1		1		1	
Avena sp(p).	oat				2			1			
Cerealia indet.	indet cereal grain	1		82	101	17	7	11	12	1	
Cerealia indet.	indet cereal grain frags <2mm	++		++++	+++	++	++	++	++	+	
cf. Cerealia indet.	?indet cereal grain frags		+								+
Cereal chaff											
Triticum spelta L.	spelt glume bases			2	15	3		2			
T. spelta L.	spelt spikelet bases/forks				2						
T. spelta L.	spelt rachis fragments				6			1			
Triticum spp.	wheat glume bases			45	139	5		3			
Triticum spp.	wheat spikelet bases			13	27						
Triticum spp.	wheat rachis fragments			7	27	2					
Hordeum vulgare L.	barley rachis fragments			2	3						
Other plant/weed seeds											
Atriplex spp.	orache			6							
Atriplex/Chenopodium sp(p).	orache/goosefoots etc.				5			1			
Stellaria media (L.) Vill.	common chickweed				1						
Silene sp(p).	campion/catchfly			2		1					
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A Love	black bindweed			1							
Rumex sp(p).	dock			11	15	2	1		1		
Polygonaceae indet					1		1				
Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum sp.	vetch/tare/vetchling/pea			1		1					
Medicago/Trifolium sp(p).	medick/clovers			36					2		
Fabaceae indet.	small rounded legumes					2					
Hyoscyamus niger L.	henbane			2	19	3					
Lithospermum arvense L.	field gromwell			60	1						
Plantago lanceolata L.	ribwort plantain							1			
cf. P. lanceolata	?ribwort plantain				1						
Euphrasia/Odontites sp(p).	eyebrights/bartsias			5	21	1					
Rhinanthus minor L.	yellow rattle				2						
Galium aparine L.	cleavers			53	4	1	1				
cf. G. aparine	?cleavers			19	3						
Galium spp.	bedstraw			7							
cf. Galium sp(p).	?bedstraw fragments	1		6							
Cyperaceae indet.	sedges				2						
Festuca/Lolium spp.	fescue/rye-grass			4							
Bromus sp(p).	brome			23	1	1		1			
cf. Bromus sp(p).	?brome			17	4				1		
Poaceae indet.	grasses (large seeds)			16	6	3			1		
Poaceae indet.	grasses (small seeds)	2		40	5	3	1	1	2	2	
Poaceae/Cerealia indet.	grass stems/cereal straw	+		+	+						
indeterminate	charcoal	+++++	+++	++++	++++	+++	+++	++++	+++++	++	++
indeterminate		+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
	Total charred plant items	4		496	453	56	13	24	25	5	
	item density (per litre of soil)	0.2		24.8	45.3	2.8	0.7	1.2	1.3	0.3	

Item frequency: + = <5; ++ = 5–25; +++ = 26–100; ++++ = 101–300; +++++ = 300+ items. Feature type: T = storage pit, D = ditch

Table 6.22: Station Road charred plant remains

The wild plant/weed seeds include evidence for a range of potential grassland plants, with Poaceae (grasses), both large- (particularly *Bromus* (brome)) and small-seeded, making up just over 30% of these quantified remains. *Medicago/Trifolium* (medick/clovers) seeds and occasional seeds of *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain) and *Rhinanthus minor* (yellow rattle) may also be indicative of grassland habitats; these plants may have been collected for use as fodder or together with other material for use as flooring, animal bedding or simply fuel. It is also possible, however, that these plants may have been growing as arable weeds.

Crop-processing

As noted above, the charred plant remains consisted of a mix of cereal grains (31%), cereal chaff (28%) and wild plant/weed seeds (41%), products and by-products largely from the final stages of crop-processing. The charred grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried before storage and/or milling, or during cooking, or together with the chaff as part of the de-husking process before grain use/storage. The hulled wheat and chaff may also represent burnt debris from stored hulled wheat spikelets. Hulled wheat was stored as spikelets, particularly in areas with wet summers to protect the grain against spoilage (germination or insect attack) (Hillman 1981).

The weed seeds also derive from the latter stages of crop-cleaning. Just over half of the weed seeds were from large-seeded species, including *Lithospermum arvense*, *Galium aparine* and large-seeded grasses such as *Bromus*, all of which are indicative of virtually cleaned crops because they are of a similar size to the grains and therefore can only be separated by hand-sorting. The smaller weed seeds in the samples (making up just under half of the wild plant seeds) would have been largely removed by fine sieving using the 'wheat' sieve and may have subsequently been used as fuel. This may have been carried out earlier if the hulled crops were being stored as spikelets or after de-husking if the cereals were being stored as fully cleaned grain.

The spatial distribution of the charred plant remains

An examination of the composition of the individual assemblages provides an opportunity to establish the nature and spatial distribution of human activities across the excavation area. The ten charred plant assemblages were recovered from features spread over six Land-use Areas (L1–6) from five pit fills (G10, G11, G25) and five ditch fills (G1, G3, G4, G5, G23). Eight of the ten samples, however, only contained traces or small to moderate amounts of charred plant remains, with low item densities ranging from 0.2 to 2.8 per litre of processed soil – background debris from activities associated with the final stages of crop-processing and food preparation which may have been taking place at some distance from the sampled features.

Only two samples produced significant amounts and high concentrations of charred plant remains: the secondary fill of pit SG215 and the tertiary fill of pit SG235. Both were located within pit cluster G25 (domestic enclosure L2), but c. 12m apart and they accounted for 88% of the quantified remains from the excavation. The two pit samples contained a mix of grains, chaff and weed seeds, debris largely from the final stages of crop-processing and possibly stored cereals. The assemblage

in the fill of pit SG215 did contain a high percentage of weed seeds (65%), but well over half were large seeds characteristic of almost fully processed or stored crops; there were fewer weed seeds (20%) amongst the charred remains from pit SG235.

As noted above, it is difficult to establish whether the hulled wheat grains and chaff in the two samples represent debris from accidents prior to de-husking, during cooking (in the case of grains) or from use as fuel (in the case of chaff), and/or from the fragmented remains of burnt stored hulled wheat spikelets, for which one would expect approximately equal amounts of grains and glume bases. There were, however, more grains (wheat and indeterminate grains) than glume bases (a ratio of 7:3) in the secondary fill of pit SG215 and more glume bases than grains (ratio of 6:4) in the tertiary fill of pit SG235, although these ratios do not take account of unquantified cereal fragments on the one hand and the possible limited preservation of more fragile chaff fragments on the other, given the generally poor condition of the charred remains in the two fills. It is, therefore, difficult to come to any firm conclusions as to whether the remains are from one event or from multiple activities subsequently mixed together in the pits, although all the remains do come from almost fully processed crops.

Summary

The charred plant remains from Station Road suggest that hulled (spelt) wheat and hulled barley were the main crops being used, which corresponds well with current archaeobotanical research showing these two cereals to be frequently the best-represented grains in Iron Age deposits in Britain, including sites in Northamptonshire. The weed seeds suggest the cultivation of the surrounding (calcareous) clay loams and indicate the winter-sowing of cereals. The charred remains suggest the presence of activities in the south-west part of domestic enclosure L2 associated with the final stages of crop-cleaning and/or possibly storage areas of cleaned or semi-cleaned (*i.e.* spikelets) grain.

III. HUMAN BONE

by Corinne Duhig

Introduction

The assemblage comprises one inhumation (from Station Road) and nine non-funerary deposits that contained disarticulated human bone (Table 6.23). Whilst the assemblage was small and fragmentary, it has been possible to establish the sex of the individuals for some and age for the majority.

Bourton Way

Human bone was recovered from five deposits (location shown on Figs 3.5, 3.9, 3.11 and 3.13).

Enclosed activity focus SL2

A complete, though broken, adult mandible was recovered from the fill of pit SG404 (G16, L6) (Fig. 3.5). All adult teeth were present at the time of death, but have been lost post-mortem. The mental and gonial angles, the only two sex-determination points on the jaw, are male in form.

SG	SL	L	G	Age	Sex	Description
<i>Bourton Way</i>						
404	2	6	16	Adult	Male	Mandible
637	3	9	21	Adult	Male	Skull fragments
639		13	28	Adult	Male	Body of fifth lumbar vertebra
640				Adult	–	Fragment of the head and neck of a right rib and left fifth metacarpal
645		16	30	Adult	–	Distal two-thirds of right tibia
<i>Station Road</i>						
184	–	6	17	Child	–	Inhumation
227		2	25	Adult	–	Shaft tube of left tibia
243				Neonate	–	Proximal half of left tibia
244				Adult	Female	Skull fragments
257				Late teens/young adult	–	Skull fragments Cremated shaft tube from a small-sized long bone

Table 6.23: Summary of all human bone

Unenclosed main domestic focus SL3***Small enclosure L9***

Skull fragments SG637 were recovered from the eastern terminus of the latest redefinition of the enclosure (Fig. 3.13). They were from a small part of the left temporal (the inner and outer ear; external auditory meatus and the petrous bone; and mastoid process), which articulates with the lower part of the left parietal. The individual was adult and the robusticity of the mastoid process and zygomatic root indicate a male.

Roundhouse enclosure L13

Two fragments of human bone were recovered *c.* 7m apart within the ditches defining roundhouse enclosure L13 (Fig. 3.9). The bones, although not proven to be related, were both from adults, with one assemblage identified as male. They comprised:

- SG639: the body of a fifth lumbar vertebra.
- SG640: a fragment of the head and neck of a right rib, probably the fourth or fifth, and a small-sized, but adult, left fifth metacarpal.

Slight lipping on the edges on the bone from SG639 indicated that the individual was in middle or later adulthood, as this type of new bone development (part of the changes called spinal osteoarthritis or degenerative arthritis) begins at about 35 years of age.

Roundhouse enclosure L16

The distal two-thirds of an adult right tibia was recovered from the south-east length of roundhouse enclosure SG645 (Fig. 3.11).

Station Road

Human bone was recovered from four deposits, excluding inhumation SG184.

Domestic enclosure L2

All of the disarticulated human bone was recovered from storage pits within cluster G25 (Fig. 4.4). The majority were from the tertiary fills, but one assemblage (SG243) had been deposited in the secondary fill of the same pit

that produced other human bone (SG244). The majority of bones were from adults, with just one representing part of a neonate (SG243). In general, sex indicators were not present, but skull fragments from one pit (SG244) were female. The assemblage is as follows:

- SG227: a shaft tube from the left tibia, the size suggesting adult.
- SG243: the proximal half of a left tibia, the size indicating a neonate.
- SG244: several skull fragments that could be refitted into a portion of the left posterior vault (posterior parietals, part of left occipital squama, left mastoid process/petrous bone/external auditory meatus), plus a small area of the central frontal bone immediately over the frontal sinuses. The skull sutures were beginning to fuse, indicating an adult individual, and the small size of the mastoid process and faintly developed root of the zygomatic process suggest a female.
- SG257: two large and seven tiny fragments of skull from the right parietal bone. The adult size with widely open sutures shows that the individual was in late teenage or young adulthood. One piece of cremated bone, a shaft tube from a small-sized long bone, perhaps a metacarpal or very small radius.

Double boundary L6

Grave SG184 (G17) contained the very poorly preserved skeleton of a child (Fig. 4.6). It consisted of five flakes of the skull vault; many rib fragments from both sides; portions of left and right innominate bones (including the auricular area/sciatic notch on the right and the same with the ischial tuberosity on the left); fragments of the left scapula, ulna and radius, right humerus and radius; the neck/proximal shaft of the left femur and parts of the right femur, tibia and fibula, all heavily fragmented.

Age estimation was problematical due to the damaged condition but the femoral head and proximal tibial epiphysis were both unfused, showing an age of less than sixteen, possibly less than thirteen, whilst the bone length shows that the age was at least 8.5–9.5 years.

Appendix I

Pottery type series

by Jackie Wells

Fabrics are summarised below; detailed descriptions are available in the archive. Wares are defined on the basis of principal inclusion type and character, following Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group guidelines (PCRG 2011). Descriptions for fabrics 1–5 are from the Wilby Way report (Blinkhorn and Jackson 2002, 33). Fabrics 1–8 occur at both sites; fabrics 9 and 10 are specific to Station Road. Due to their similarity, the divisions between some wares must be considered a little arbitrary.

Fabric 1: Coarse shell. Moderate to dense temper of angular coarse shell fragments, up to 10mm, with rare quartzite, grog, flint, organic material or ironstone.

Fabric 2: Fine shell. Sparse to moderate angular shell fragments, up to 5mm, although most are usually below 2mm. Other material occurs as F1.

Fabric 3: Sandy fine shell. As F2, but with moderate sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, giving sherds a sandy texture.

Fabric 4: Grog and shell. As F2, but with sparse to moderate red grog, up to 2mm.

Fabric 5: Pounded/dense shell. Sparse to moderate fine shell, up to 1mm. Vessels are often self-slipped, so that inclusions are only visible in section.

Fabric 6: Sandy coarse shell. As F1, but with moderate sub-rounded quartz, up to 1mm, giving sherds a sandy texture.

Fabric 7: Mixed shell, grog and sand. Variant of F1, but with grog and sand occurring in greater quantities and, less commonly, flint.

Fabric 8: Grog and sand. Abundant grog, up to 2mm, and moderate sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, giving sherds a sandy texture.

Fabric 9: Sand. Abundant sub-rounded quartz, up to 1.5mm.

Fabric 10: Sand and organic. As F9, but with frequent elongated voids, where organic matter has burnt out.

Appendix II

Medieval and post-medieval ‘other artefacts’

by Holly B. Duncan

Bourton Way

A George III copper alloy halfpenny of 1806–07 was recovered from medieval furrows SL5. It is intrusive, presumably introduced as a result of modern ploughing.

STATION ROAD

The post-medieval phase L8 was represented by NE–SW aligned boundary ditch G7 and a narrow linear layer of colluvium G28 located to its east. The fill of boundary ditch G7 contained three iron nails – two flat-headed (OA9, OA10) and one with a slightly domed head (OA11), none of which can be closely dated – and a copper alloy button (OA12). The button is of cast, solid, biconical shape with an integral loop. Examples of this form are known from Amsterdam in 17th-century contexts (Baart 1977, cat. nos 362–5) as well as Norwich in deposits dating to 1550–1700 (Margeson 1993, 20). Buttons of similar form, but in lead/tin, are known from 13th–14th-century contexts in London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 274 and fig. 178), which may suggest that they had a lengthier history.

Linear colluvium layer G28 ran parallel to boundary ditch G7 and hence was considered to be associated with it. However, it is possible that G28 may represent the remnants of a medieval headland, which influenced the location and alignment of subsequent boundaries. Three of the ten objects recovered have a suggested later medieval date. Enamelled harness pendant OA13 is likely to date from the second half of the 13th century, when enamelling on pendants became popular, until the end of the 14th century, when harness pendants appear to be on the decline in favour of decorative leather or fabric trappings (Griffiths 1995, 62). Sexfoil strap mounts such as OA14 were in common use by the middle of the 14th century and continued to be popular late into the 15th century (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 186). A close parallel for OA14 was found in deposits of 1350–1400 from London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, fig. 119 no. 952). The final object of medieval date is an eared shoeing nail (OA15), generally associated with Clark’s type 3 horse-shoes dating to the 13th and 14th centuries (J Clark 1995, 86–7; 96).

Although layer G28 may have had its origins in the later medieval period, the ‘other artefact’ assemblage also contains post-medieval objects, such as the lead bullet (OA16), possibly for a long, small-bored barrel pistol, widely popular in the earlier part of the 17th century (Blair 1968; Eaves 2002, 348). Heel irons, such as OA17, served to protect the heels of wooden clogs and shoe soles from wear; this is likely to be 19th century in date as there is little certain evidence for the use of shoe irons prior to this (Margeson 1993, 63 and fig. 31 no. 395).

It is not possible to date closely the remainder of the assemblage from G28. The flat-headed nail and the looped spike could date to the Roman period as well as the medieval and post-medieval periods. The two fragments of copper alloy are too small for their original function to be identified, although one piece retains soot on its internal surface, which could suggest use as a vessel

Phase 3 catalogue

L8

OA9 Nail. Iron. Small, flat rectangular head and tapering rectangular-sectioned (4.5mm by 4mm) shank, lower shank bent at acute angle, tip missing. L. 28mm. RA16; Phase 3; L8.3; G7.5; boundary ditch F504 (505).

OA10 Nail. Iron. Flat, narrow rectangular head, tapering rectangular-sectioned shank (5.5mm by 3mm), tip missing. L. 23mm. RA3; Phase 3; L8.3 G7.5; boundary ditch F504 (533).

OA11 Nail. Iron. Slightly domed, semi-circular head and short portion rectangular-sectioned shank (14mm by 8mm). Head off-set to one side of shank. L. 17mm. RA2; Phase 3; L8.3; G7.5; boundary ditch F20 (21).

OA12 Button. Copper alloy. Cast solid biconical button with short stem and integral loop. Oval in plan (10.5mm by 10mm); height (including loop) 14mm. RA13; Phase 3; L8.3 G7.5; boundary ditch F504 (505).

L28

OA13 Harness pendant. Copper alloy and enamel. Cast with integral loop. Small central lozenge containing fleur-de-lys in ground of red (gules) enamel with fleury projections surrounding lozenge, giving the whole a rectangular outline with the projecting integral loop in the middle of one shorter edge. Flat reverse. L. (including loop) 25.7mm (without loop 18mm); w. 12.2mm; th. 3.8mm. RA8 Phase 3; L8; G28; layer 305.

OA14 Strap mount. Copper alloy. Domed sexfoil mount with separate rivet, rivet incomplete. Diameter 12.2mm; height 4.8mm. RA11 Phase 3; L8; G28; layer 305.

OA15 Shoeing nail. Iron. Possibly eared shoeing nail (13th- to mid-14th-century date), thin rectangular shank, tip missing, shank bent shortly below head. L. c. 41mm. Phase 3; L8; G28; layer 305.

OA16 Bullet. Lead. Cast pistol/musket ball, seam still visible. Diameter 10.8mm; weight 7.7g. RA12; Phase 3; L8; G28; layer 305.

***OA17** Shoe iron. Iron. Heel iron. U-shaped in plan, rectangular in section, possibly four narrow rectangular nail holes, possibly two nails/tacks *in situ*. One arm incomplete. Ht. c. 56mm; brdth. 57.2mm; w. 12.5mm; th. 5.7mm. RA15; Phase 3; L8; G28; layer 305.

Summary

The ‘other artefact’ assemblage from Station Road Phase 3 (post-medieval) colluvial layer G28 suggests that this feature may have originated in the later medieval period, as indicated by the presence of an enamelled harness pendant (OA13) and sexfoil strap mount (OA14). Finds of the 17th and later centuries within G28 suggest that the deposit continued to be added to over several centuries.

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Two new housing developments in Wellingborough and Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, gave Albion Archaeology the opportunity to excavate there before building work began. Each excavation revealed part of a middle Iron Age settlement that was already known from previous investigations, and this publication takes a comparative overview of the whole of both settlements.

Situated overlooking the River Nene, the two settlements were in prime topographic locations for a mixed farming economy, dominated by the husbandry of sheep/goat and cattle, and the growing of spelt wheat and hulled barley. As is often the case on sites of this period, occasional evidence for non-agricultural activities such as textile-, bone- and antler-working was also recovered.

The Bourton Way settlement in Wellingborough is thought to have covered about 4 hectares and comprised a central domestic focus of roundhouses, post-built structures and storage pits, surrounded by fields. In contrast, the Station Road settlement in Higham Ferrers consisted of a loose arrangement of domestic and non-domestic enclosures, fields and boundaries spread over about 3.5 hectares. The cover illustrations by Cecily Marshall reconstruct how each of the settlements may have looked, based as far as possible on the archaeological evidence.

