

PICKET TWENTY ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE

Excavation of a Bronze Age
Barrow Cemetery, 2017–2018

by Alistair J. Barclay and Andrew Mudd†



Cotswold Archaeology Monograph 22

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Andover, Hampshire

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by, Alistair J. Barclay and Andrew Mudd[†]

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Front cover: Area 6: aerial view of barrows 6002 to 6005 under excavation (reproduced courtesy of Adam Stanford, Aerial-Cam Ltd)

Back cover: top: medieval copper alloy buckle plate from Barrow 6003 ditch; middle: inverted Collared Urn within cremation burial 4016; bottom: Roman iron probable chisel from Barrow 6003 ditch

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work by Sarah F. Wyles. Finds work was initially led by Katie Marsden and subsequently by Ed McSloy and Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations are by Li Sou and Aleksandra Osinska. Kenneth Lymer undertook editing of the figures and also typeset the volume. The archive was prepared by Hazel O'Neill, Gemma Whelan and Charlotte Nicol Cobb and has been deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust under accession number A2017.105.

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Summary

Archaeological excavation by Cotswold Archaeology in 2017 to 2018 at Picket Twenty, Andover ahead a new housing development, focused on the remains of a barrow cemetery of Early Bronze Age date. This volume reports on the results of these excavations, presents the finds and environmental remains and puts the site within its local and regional context.

The barrow cemetery falls within the upper catchment of the River Test, an area of chalkland known as the Hampshire Downs. The earliest barrow contained a Beaker burial, a possible 'founder' monument for the cemetery, which was constructed from 2200 BC to 1500 BC. The barrows had suffered plough damage and no mounds or earthworks survived. However, the barrows were still visible during the Roman period and a substantial quantity of pottery, and other finds including ceramic building material, animal bone, metalwork, a possible roofing and flooring stone and a possible spindlewhorl seems to have been dumped or placed into the barrow ditches. The material was mixed in character suggesting episodic deposition over a period of

time rather than a single dump of material. The nature of this material is discussed in more detail but may represent deliberate, perhaps ritual deposition. It is probable that the barrows were still visible in the medieval period and possibly survived as earthworks as late as the 18th century.

The barrow ditches ranged in size and form and whilst most were round, there were two oval examples. More unusual was a post alignment and stake circle outside the barrows – a type of structure that is usually found within a barrow. Most of the monuments were associated with the burial of cremated remains some of which occurred with Collared Urn pottery. Pyre goods were occasionally present, whilst no evidence for *in situ* pyre sites was identified.

The earliest settlement evidence includes a Beaker pit of Chalcolithic (2400–2200 BC) date and a small number of dispersed timber structures comprising a roundhouse and a fence line that indicate small-scale open settlement across the landscape during the later Bronze Age. A four-post structure identified in the evaluation may relate to this activity or be of Iron Age date.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Alistair Barclay, Philippa Bradley, Joe Whelan and Richard Massey

Location, topography and geology

The site of the Picket Twenty residential development known as the Picket Twenty Extension lies on the east side of the Hampshire town of Andover situated on undulating chalkland between the London Road and the A303 (NGR 439316 145756), farmland and an area of woodland known as Harewood Forest, and within the catchment of the Test Valley and its tributaries (Fig 1.1). A programme of archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology from November 2017 to February 2018 ahead of development and focused on a linear barrow cemetery known as the Down House Group (Palmer 1984).

Prior to this excavation an archaeological survey and evaluation confirmed the presence of the barrow cemetery and other later settlement (Wessex Archaeology (WA) 2011; 2013) some of which was already known from aerial survey (Palmer 1984, 102 – Down House Group). The evaluation (Trench 87) identified a previously unknown small barrow to the east of the main barrow group, which was excavated in Area 7. In total, eight areas (Fig. 1.2: Areas 1–8) were identified by Hampshire County Council for further investigation through archaeological excavation. Areas 1 to 3 targeted settlement features in the northern extension of the development area that were found in evaluation Trenches 46 and 48. Area 4 targeted an area that had produced an unurned cremation burial in Trench 71 and Area 5 where there was a group of postholes (Trench 70). Area 6 targeted the main group of barrows and the surrounding area and Area 8 the adjacent eastern area beyond an area of tree preservation, which turned out to be blank (WA 2014). Trench 62 contained a four-post structure associated with sherds from two Deverel-Rimbury vessels of Middle Bronze Age date (WA 2014, 12) and could have been for raised storage or part of a roundhouse porch.

A post-medieval trackway, that appears on Taylor's map of 1759, was encountered in eight of the evaluation trenches running to the south of the main group of barrows and up to the small barrow, which it crossed. It is possible that the larger barrows still survived when the track was first

used, and the smaller barrow as a slight mound on relatively higher ground that its layout was aligned on. None of the barrows appear on Taylor's map. Traces of the ditches can be seen in the aerial photographs of the site under excavation (see Figs 2.3 and 2.14).

The evaluation also revealed that the site had suffered from considerable plough-truncation probably as the result of more intensive agriculture. However, despite this the site displayed important evidence for an Early Bronze Age funerary landscape including five barrows (6002–5 and 7003), and traces of settlement. Areas 1 and 2, to the north, contained small groups of features, including a Beaker pit, a post-built roundhouse, a row of postholes, and neighbouring Beaker-period pit in Area 2. Area 3 was focused on an alignment of postholes, representing a probable fenced boundary of probable prehistoric date. Area 4, to the south-west, contained a group of four unurned Early Bronze Age cremation burials, one within a Collared Urn, a cremation-related deposit and other related features, while Area 5 contained a group of small pits or postholes, including a possible post-ring roundhouse. Area 6, the largest excavation area, contained the remains of a small linear barrow cemetery comprising four ring ditches, together with satellite cremation burials, a post alignment and a stake circle.

Barrow 6003 contained no surviving evidence for internal burials, although a Bronze Age inhumation burial was found within its ditch, which also contained a rich deposit of Roman material. Barrow 6005 was only partially excavated, but contained a C-shaped ditch enclosing several pits with deposits of possible cremation-related material and a cremation burial. A smaller ring ditch in Area 7, enclosed a Beaker inhumation burial, accompanied by grave goods.

The areas between and beyond the barrows were largely devoid of earlier Neolithic activity and indeed later activity perhaps suggesting that the area was largely used for pasture and was perhaps either avoided and respected as a place of ceremony and burial by subsequent prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman communities.

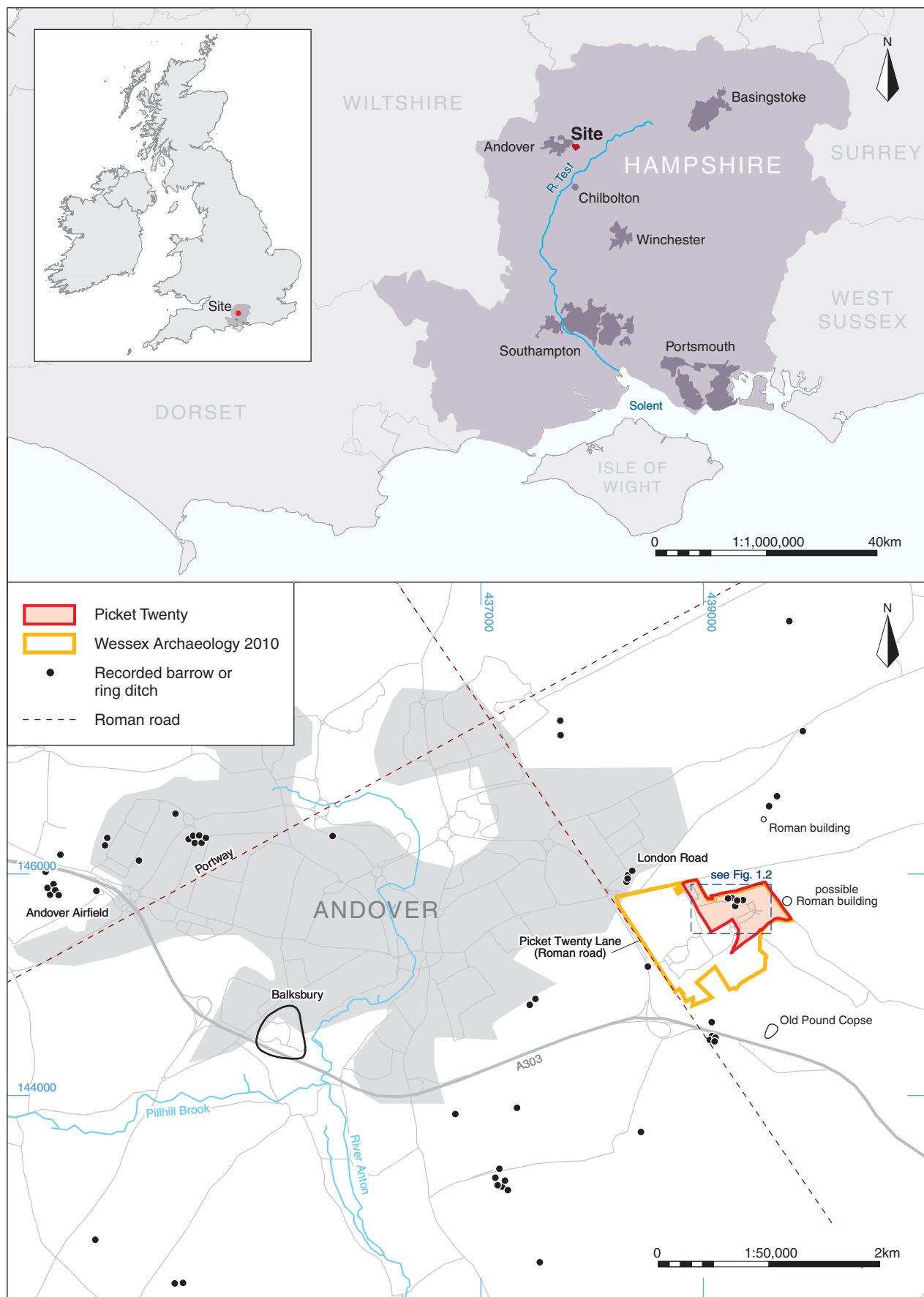


Figure 1.1 Site location showing selected archaeological sites

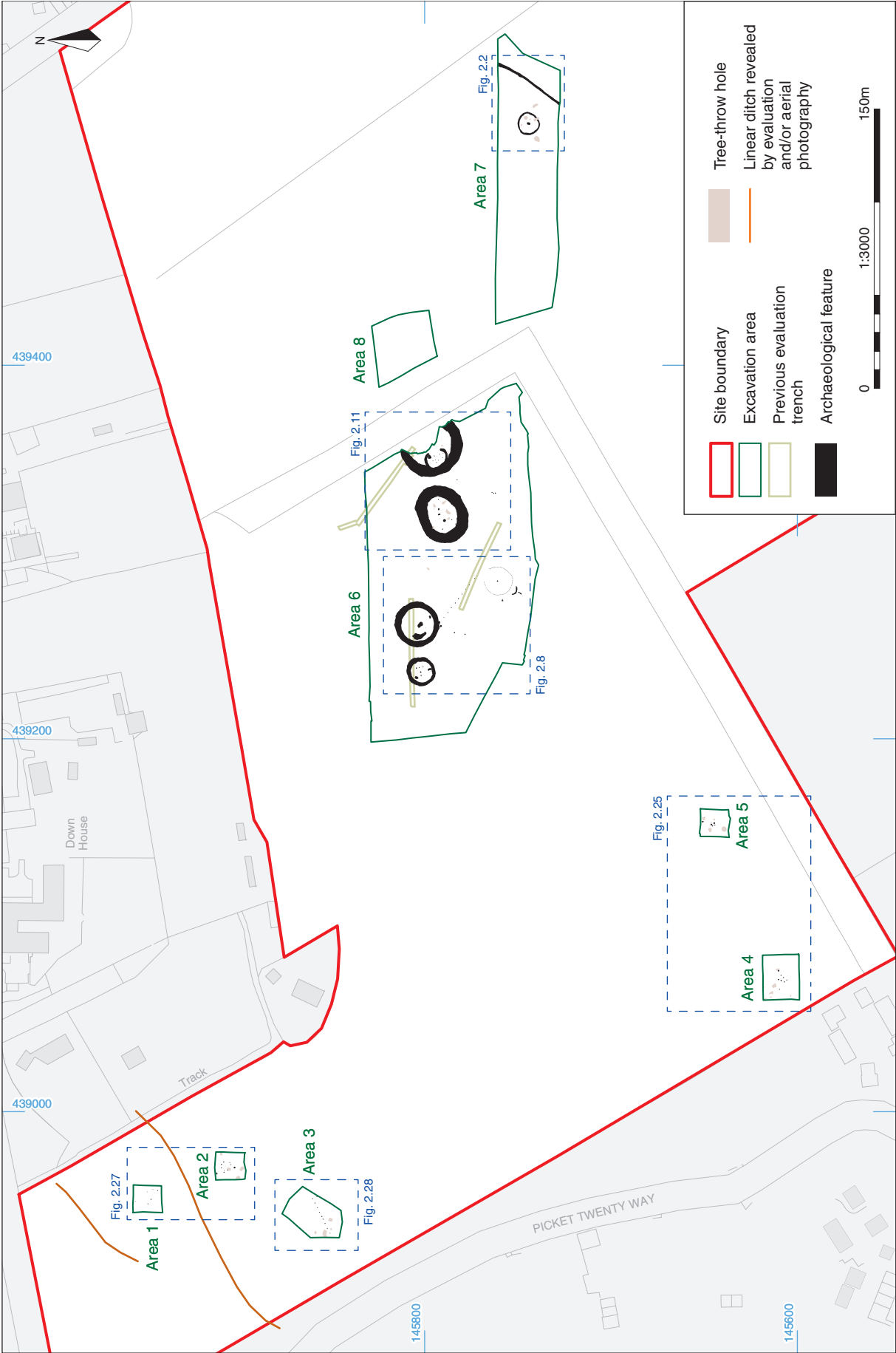


Figure 1.2 Location of areas excavated and main archaeological features

The development site measured 27.3ha in total area (2.1ha excavated), is bounded to the west and south by the new Picket Twenty housing development, to the east by farmland and a road known as 'The Middleway', and to the north by London Road (B3400) and properties fronting onto it. It occupies the south-west-facing aspect of a shallow chalk spur, and at the confluence of two shallow combs (Fig 1.3); one to the north and the other to the east. The spur slopes from an approximate height of 100m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-east to 90m (aOD) in the south-west. Overall the site occupies an area of high ground, overlooking the valley of the River Anton, which runs 3.7km to the west, and the surrounding lower ground occupied by the modern town of Andover.

The site was previously agricultural land. The bedrock geology is mapped as the nodular chalk formation (Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation), of the Cretaceous period (BGS 2025). The area is characterised by shallow, loamy lime-rich rendzina soils directly overlying chalk geology, with an extensive area of slightly acidic, loamy soils, partly derived from clay-with-flints deposits to the east, including much of the neighbouring Harewood Forest.

Archaeological background

Earlier prehistoric or pre-Bronze Age evidence from the local area is relatively uncommon and its absence cannot be easily explained. There is little recorded evidence for Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity within the environs of the Picket Twenty site, or for that matter Neolithic evidence, although Neolithic flintwork was recorded (AHBR 29027) in 1987, prior to the establishment of the Walworth Industrial Estate, located 1km to the north-west and Neolithic pottery and worked flint and other worked stone artefacts, including a polished axe, a mace-head and an adze, have been found on nearby excavated occupation and funerary sites. Features dated to the Neolithic period were found at Old Down Farm (Davies 1981), and at Barksbury Camp located to the south-west of Andover (Wainwright 1969), Peterborough Ware was found at the Portway (Cook and Dacre 1985), and Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery was found in a pit at Goch Way, near Charlton (Wright 2004). But overall, the recorded evidence for the Neolithic period from the Andover area is underwhelming in contrast to other parts of the Wessex chalklands (Lawson 2007). An Early Beaker burial with gold hair ornaments of Chalcolithic date (2400–2150 BC) was recorded in a barrow at Chilbolton just south of Andover (Russell 1990, Fig. 1).

Cropmark and excavated evidence for other barrows includes the small London Road Group (also known as the Walworth Group) (King 2015, 4 and fig. 2), which includes two conjoined examples (AHBR 31689 and 31690)

located to the north-west of Picket Twenty and within the Walworth Industrial Estate. Although it is suggested by Grinsell (1940) and Champion (1973) that the two conjoined barrows excavated by King were part of a group of four this remains unproven (King 2015, 4). Further examples of barrows were mapped by Palmer and others and are illustrated in Figure 1.1. The suggestion of a fifth barrow at Picket Twenty amongst the main group of four that some of these surveys note was found not to be real in both the evaluation and subsequent excavation (see below). As well as the barrow excavations at London Road there are two other notable sites on the west side of Andover at the Portway and the former Andover Airfield (Cook and Dacre 1985; Howell with Blackmore *et al.* 2019). Broader analysis of the distribution of Bronze Age burial mounds within the Andover area suggests that these were principally grouped as small (six barrows or less) linear or nucleated cemeteries, and located on ridges and spurs overlooking the headwaters of the River Anton (King 2015, 30, fig. 14).

In 2010, a group of enigmatic boundary features of Late Bronze Age date were excavated and included ditch segments, post alignments and a double-ditched boundary (Ellis and Chaffey 2014, 19, fig. 2).

Iron Age ditches and finds have been recorded in various archaeological investigations close to the development and during the development on the Walworth Industrial Estate (AHBR 56437) (WA 2004a) and other similar linear cropmark features have been noted in the southern part of the development site (AHBR 32796, 32783 and 32785); while elements of a wider field system were suggested by geophysical survey, subsequent evaluation (AHBR 63041 and 64905) revealed no trace of these (WA 2011). In addition, a complex sequence of cropmarks of probable Iron Age date, including enclosures, trackways, pits and linear features, extends across an area of some 14ha, on Andover Down, to the north-east of the site. The Old Pound Copse earthwork (AHBR 19050), a Scheduled Monument, located 1.4km to the south within Harewood Forest, survives as a sub-rectangular univallate enclosure (Fig. 1.1) and other large Iron Age enclosures and hillforts have been excavated at Vigo Road (Stoodley 2013), Barksbury Camp (Wainwright and Davies 1995; Ellis and Rawlings 2001) and at Bury Hill (Cunliffe and Poole 2000). Other Iron Age settlements have been investigated at Portway Industrial Estate (Stoodley 2013), Iron Age pottery has been widely found within the local area (Hopkins pers. com.), and an enclosed Iron Age settlement was investigated at Old Down Farm (Davies 1981).

Picket Twenty Lane runs 580m to the west of the site, and for much of its length follows the route of the Icknield Way, a Roman road linking Mildenhall (*Cunetio*), near Marlborough, with Winchester (*Venta Belgarum*) (Margary 1973, 98–9; fig. 1). However, no evidence for this road was identified by geophysical survey (GSB 2000 and 2001), or within evaluation trenches (AHBR 56438; WA 2004b).

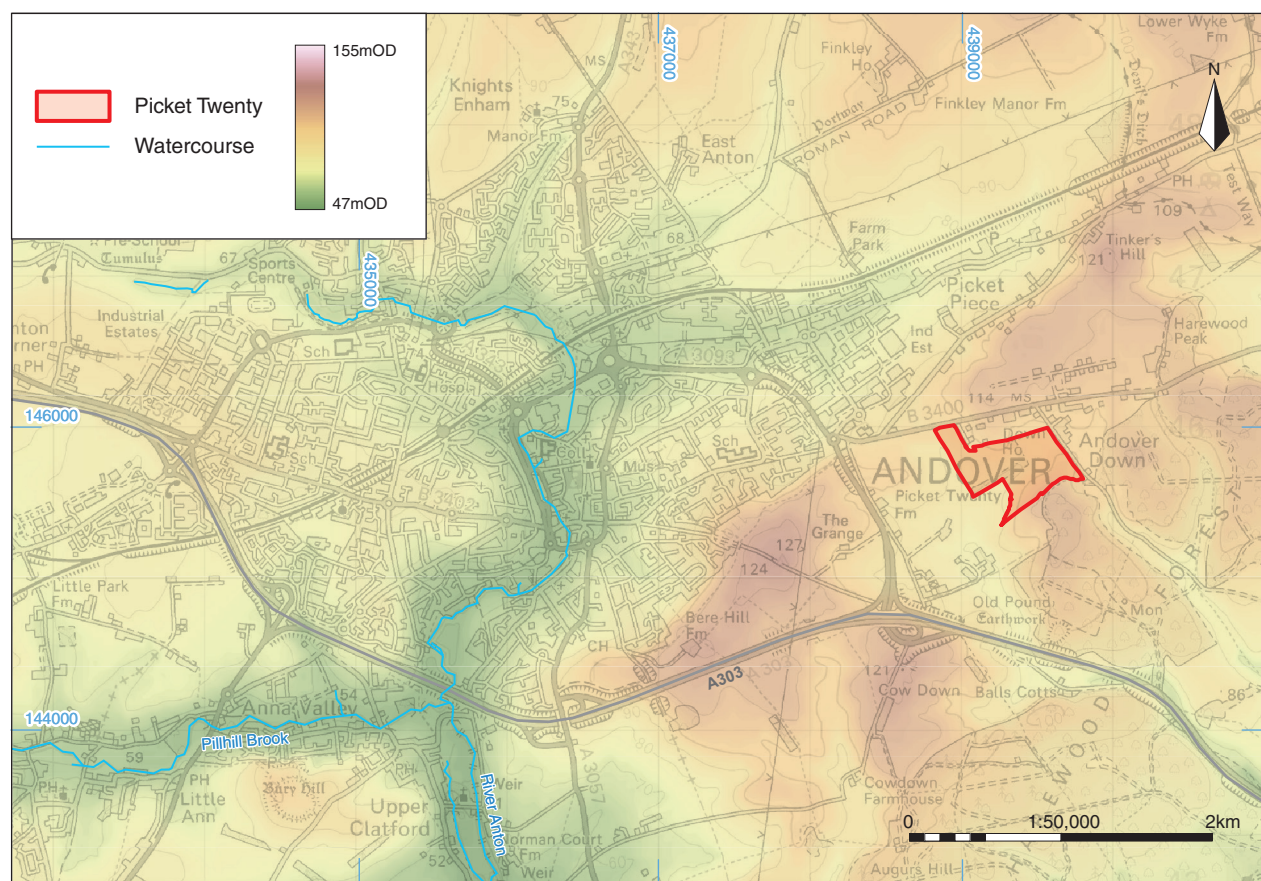


Figure 1.3 The local topography

At East Anton, 2.5km north-west of the Picket Twenty site, this road was crossed by the Portway, which ran from Silchester to Old Sarum (Margary 1973, 97). Here, a wayside settlement, tentatively identified with the *Leucomagus* of the *Antonine Itinerary*, was partly investigated, although no clear settlement focus was identified (Firth 2011; Fig. 1; Spaul 2011).

A Roman building of aisled plan (AHBR 23151) was investigated during the 19th century 800m north-east of the site, with another building 85m to the west (Scott 1993, 81; Fig. 1). A possible villa site (AHBR 21353) has been suggested at Tinker's Hill, adjacent to the eastern edge of the site (Fig. 1) (Kell 1867). A further, 4th-century building, apparently of T-shaped plan, was investigated in 1871, 2.5km north of the site (Scott 1993, 87; Fig. 1.1).

Excavation methodology

The aims and objectives of the excavation were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2017). These were to establish the character, level of survival, date, significance and extent of any surviving archaeological features or deposits within the

site, and the research aims and objectives of the excavation accorded with the regional research objectives for the periods in question (Bradley 2014).

The areas (Areas 1–8) chosen for mitigation were mechanically surface-stripped using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision until such time as natural geology or archaeological deposits/features were observed, whichever was encountered first. Following surface stripping, Area 8 was found to contain no archaeological features, and was not investigated further. The archaeological features thus exposed were recorded in plan, and hand-excavated. Within the areas investigated (Areas 1 to 7) the hand-cleaning of stripped surfaces was undertaken, where necessary, to better define identified archaeological deposits and features. All archaeological features were recorded in plan, using Leica GPS survey equipment.

A note on the use of radiocarbon dating

The radiocarbon measurements were obtained from the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) and Bristol Radiocarbon Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Facility (BRAMS). The uncalibrated dates

are conventional radiocarbon ages and are shown in plain type. The radiocarbon ages were calibrated and modelled using the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration programme OxCal v4.4.2 (Bronk Ramsey 2020; Bronk Ramsey 2009) using the IntCal20 curve and a mix of the IntCal20 and Marine20 curves (Reimer *et al.* 2020 and Heaton *et al.* 2020). The results deriving from Bayesian models along with OxCal keywords are italicised

in the text. The full details of samples and results are given in Chapter 3, Table 3.8.

Location of the archive

The archive has been deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust under the accession code A2017.105.

Chapter 2

Excavation results

*Alistair J. Barclay, Philippa Bradley, Jessica Cook and Andrew Mudd**

Introduction

Excavation revealed evidence for a Beaker and Early Bronze Age funerary landscape, in the form of five ring ditches, the truncated remains of round barrows, with associated features including a Stake circle, cremation burials and cremation-related deposits, two post alignments and features possibly associated with contemporary and later settlement. The barrows formed part of a small linear cemetery across the central part of the site, which extended for 1.34ha on a low chalk spur (Area 6; Figs 1.2 and 1.3) that overlooked a shallow combe and on a broadly east–west alignment approximately 150m west of a Beaker barrow in Area 7 (7003). These four barrows comprised two distinct pairs approximately 35m apart, of which the eastern pair, Barrows 6004 and 6005, were notably wider, deeper, more oval in plan, than those to the west, Barrows 6002 and 6003. More isolated settlement features of later Bronze Age date and a small cluster of cremation burials were found some distance from the barrows, indicating a largely empty landscape.

The site was revisited during the Roman period, where substantial quantities of domestic material was deposited in the upper fills of the barrow ditches, perhaps during reuse of the monuments for ritual purposes such as feasting or more structured burial of material culture.

The site was investigated through the excavation of eight areas (Areas 1 to 8; Fig 1.2). The assignment of features to period was principally based on the dating of artefactual evidence, and on the radiocarbon dating of human bone (cremated and non-burnt) and charred botanical material. However, some features produced no datable material and, where possible, these were phased on the basis of spatial relationships with, or similarity to, datable deposits. However, many were left as unphased or undated, although some of these features are discussed by spatial association. It should be noted that a number of features and deposits were initially identified during the excavation as cremation burials or cremation-related features. These were examined in detail, sampled and found to contain no cremated

human bone or charred material. However, they may still have been associated with the funerary activity in some way.

The following phases of activity have been identified across this site:

- Phase 1: Chalcolithic/Beaker period (c. 2400–2150 BC)
- Phase 2: Beaker/Early Bronze Age (c. 2150–1500 BC)
- Phase 3: Middle Bronze Age (c. 1500–1150 BC)
- Phase 4: Early/Middle Iron Age (c. 700–100 BC)
- Phase 5: Roman (c. AD 50–410)
- Phase 6: Post-medieval/modern
- Unphased/undated

Excavation results

The site was covered throughout by a topsoil of mid to dark grey/brown silty clay loam, of approximately 0.25m to 0.28m depth, containing small quantities of chalk, and sub-rounded flint nodules. Underlying natural chalk surfaces were heavily scored by ploughing, indicating that no undisturbed, sorted horizons survived below ploughsoil level. Scattered tree-throw holes were present across the site and are mostly undated.

Notably, no Neolithic features such as pits and isolated burials were found in the areas excavated, which can occur in close proximity to barrow cemeteries. Likewise, no monuments of Neolithic date are known in the general vicinity of the barrows. The immediate area is also devoid of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon activity, although more substantial features occur close to the periphery of the development and are noted in Chapter 1.

Natural subsoil

A crescent-shaped deposit or spread of grey/brown silty chalky rubble (6044) in probable natural hollow 6043 (Fig. 2.8, see below), was observed beneath the western internal edge of the Phase 2 Barrow 6003. It measured 7.8m by 2.6m and survived to a depth of 0.15m, and charcoal was recovered from it (see Table 5.7). It may be the remains of

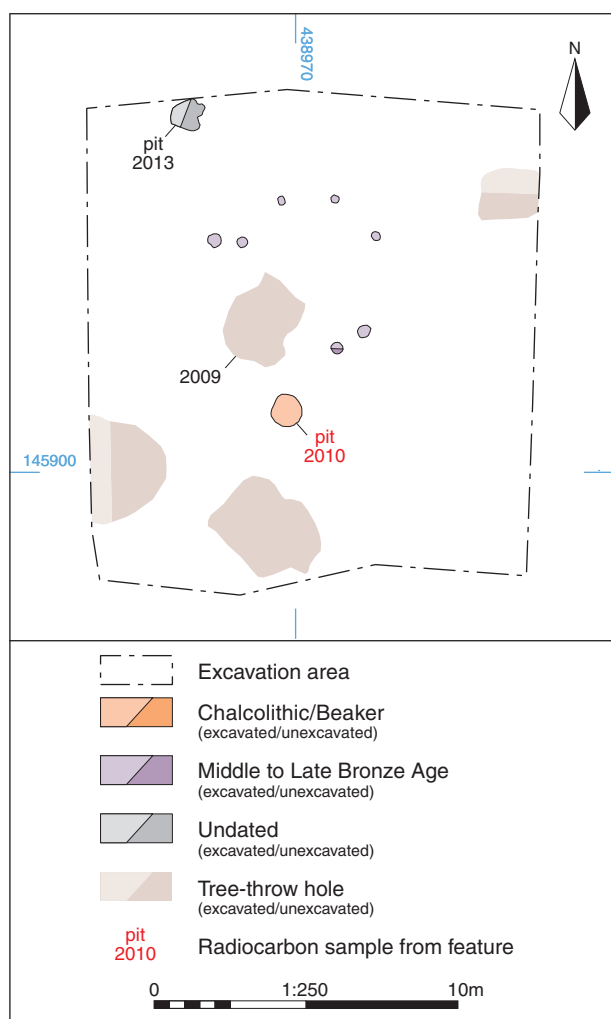


Figure 2.1 Phase 1 Chalcolithic/Early Beaker Pit 2010 in Area 2

a remnant buried soil/palaeosol. The reasons for its survival here, and not elsewhere, are unclear, although one likely explanation is the former existence of a barrow mound.

Phase 1: Chalcolithic/Early Beaker period (c. 2400–2150 BC)

A single feature, an isolated pit (2010), pre-dated the creation of the barrow cemetery and belongs within the Chalcolithic or Early Beaker period (2400–2150 BC), a period marked by major cultural change and renewed contact with mainland Europe.

Pit 2010 (Area 2)

The only feature positively dated to this period was a pit located over 500m to the north-west of the barrow cemetery (Pit 2010; Area 2; Fig. 2.1). Pit 2010 measured 0.96m in diameter by 0.23m in depth, had gently sloping, concave sides and a concave base and contained two fills of brown clay silt. A small quantity of Beaker pottery from a single vessel (Ra. 3, Fig. 4.2, 1), animal bone, charred plant remains, worked flint including flakes, cores, a retouched

flake and a scraper and burnt flint were recovered from the primary fill (2019). Three fragments of amorphous fired clay and a small quantity of burnt animal bone and teeth fragments were also retrieved from this fill. Charred hazelnut fragments from this fill produced a calibrated radiocarbon date range of 2356–2198 cal BC (95.4% probability) (SUERC-82092). Worked flint including flakes, cores and shatter as well as burnt flint was recovered from the upper fill (2020), but none of this material was particularly diagnostic. A droplet of glass is considered to be intrusive. Mollusc shells indicative of a local landscape of short-turfed grassland and areas of trample, with some open deciduous woodland in the wider area were recovered (see Wyles, Chapter 5).

Phase 2: Beaker/Early Bronze Age (2150–1500 BC)

The linear barrow cemetery consisted of five barrows (7003, 6002–6005, a C-shaped enclosure (6348), and Stake circle 6566) (Fig. 1.2), which were built over a period of 500 to 700 years (see Chapter 3). This development is divided into four subphases (2a–d), and the barrows are described in approximate chronological order. The earliest barrow was probably Beaker Barrow 7003 and this may have been the ‘founder’ burial within the cemetery. Barrow 6002 was also early and like 7003 relatively small in size, although its early date is based on a single radiocarbon date on cremated bone and this result could be an outlier (see Chapter 3). Slightly later was the C-shaped enclosure (6348) and this was enclosed in the following subphase by the large Barrow, 6005, which was paired with the possible ‘twin’ Barrow 6004. A final phase of construction saw the addition of Barrow 6003 next to 6002 and its enhancement with the addition of a post alignment that linked it to the Stake circle.

Phase 2a: Barrow 7003 (Area 7)

A sub-circular ring ditch with an internal diameter of 10.5m was uncovered at the eastern extent of the site (Barrow 7003; Area 7; Figs 2.2 and 2.3), and in an area that also contained tree-throw holes and was cut by a small number of later linear features. There was no evidence for a barrow mound.

Throughout, the ring ditch averaged 1m wide and 0.5m deep; it had steep sides and a flat base and contained two fills (Figs 2.4 and 2.5). A primary fill of weathered or redeposited chalk rubble was overlain by chalk-rich clay silt. These fills were generally devoid of datable material, although small quantities of prehistoric worked flint were recovered from the upper fill of intervention 7053 and a single possibly redeposited worked flint was recovered from the lower fill of intervention 7039. Other material was limited to fragmentary animal bone recovered from the upper fill of intervention 7039.

Located centrally within the interior of Barrow 7003, was a sub-rectangular grave aligned approximately north–

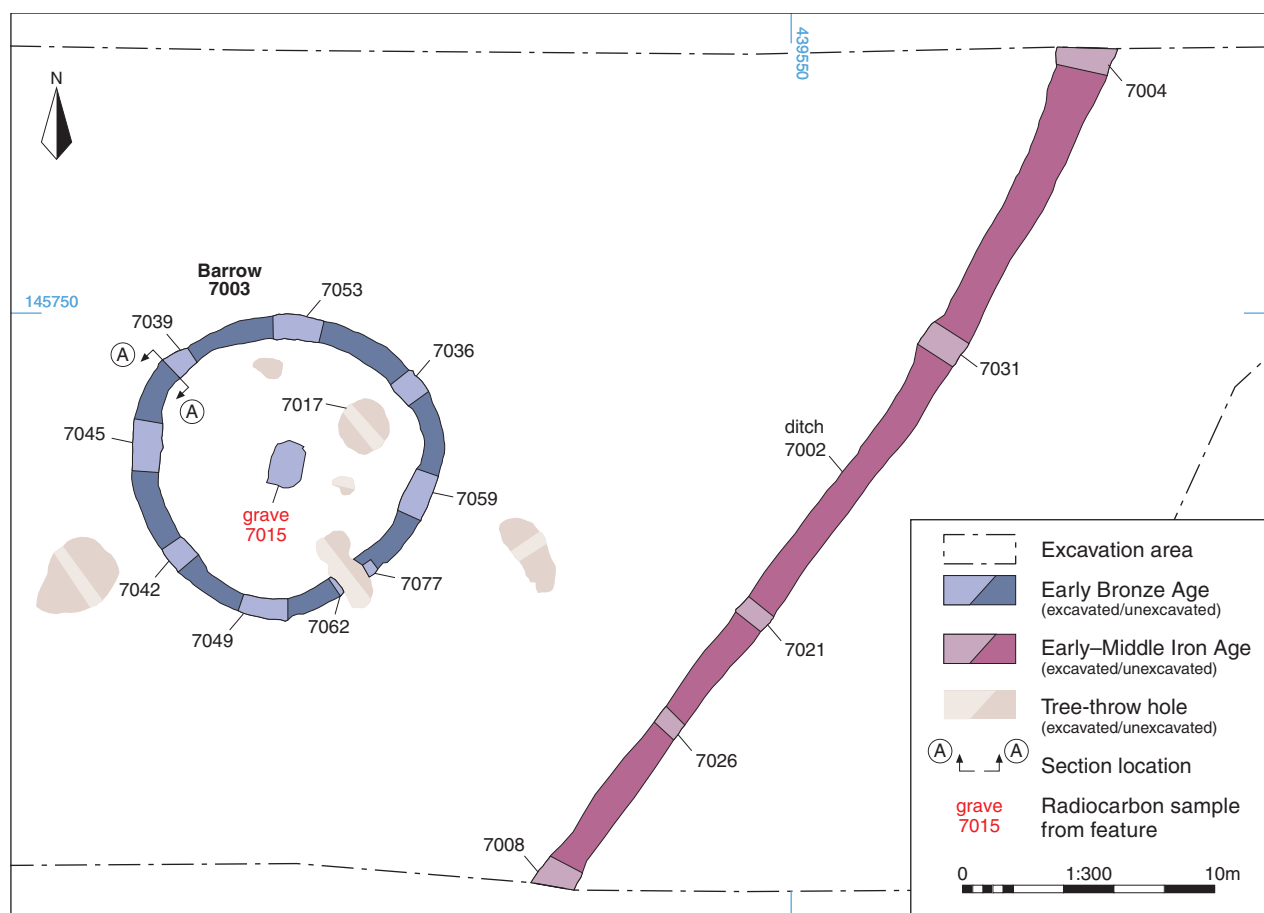


Figure 2.2 Phase 2 Beaker/Early Bronze Age Barrow 7003 in Area 7



Figure 2.3 Phase 2 aerial view of Barrow 7003



Figure 2.4 Barrow 7003 ditch section

south (7015), which measured 1.93m in length, 1.31m in width and 0.61m in depth, and contained a single, crouched inhumation burial (Figs 2.2, 2.6 and 2.7). The skeletal remains of an adult male individual (7057) were aligned with the head to the north. The bones survived in fragmentary condition, and were accompanied by a boar's tusk (Ra. 7), a flint thumbnail scraper (Ra. 5), fragments of rusticated Beaker pottery (Ras 6 and 8) and a copper alloy double ended awl (Ra. 9) (Fig. 2.6, 1–4, see also Chapter 4). A sample taken from the fragmentary right humerus of this skeleton produced a radiocarbon date with a calibrated range of 2200–2030 *cal BC* (95.4% probability) (SUERC-82088). The grave contained a very shallow primary fill of fine, grey/brown chalky silt (7072). The grave goods were all recovered from the base of the grave and/or immediately beneath skeleton 7057, which itself appeared to be covered by, or associated with, a very fine silt or ash-like deposit (7058). This may indicate that the burial had been placed in a wooden chamber as suggested from the photograph (Fig. 2.7), allowing the accumulation of fine silts before the grave backfill had sunk to the base of the grave and once the chamber had collapsed (assuming it was lidded). A secondary fill of redeposited chalk rubble represented the grave backfill (7016).

The mollusc assemblages from Barrow 7003 appear to indicate that the barrow ditch was dug in an open grazed grassland environment and that at times the area became more intensively grazed. There is also an indication of a small amount of long unkempt grass alongside or within the ditch (see Wyles and Kowalska, Chapter 5).

A number of discrete features closely associated with the barrow, were also investigated, and all proved to be natural tree-throw holes (Fig. 2.2), perhaps an indication that the barrow became the focus for a clump of trees.

Barrow 6002

Barrow 6002 was located just to the west of the larger Barrow 6003 and was the most westerly of the barrow group (Figs 1.2 and 2.8). Both barrows had been heavily truncated with no surviving evidence for barrow mounds,

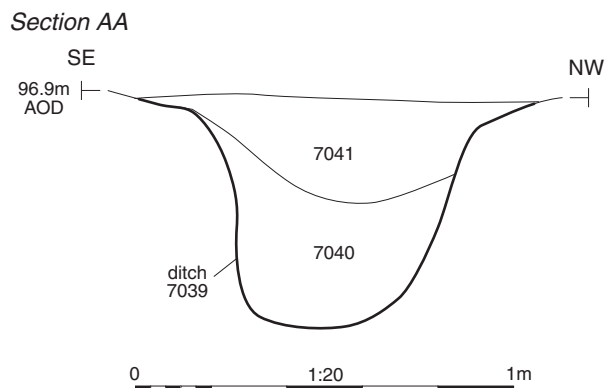


Figure 2.5 Barrow 7003 ditch section AA (7039)

although an area of ground surface, perhaps protected by a covering mound, may have been preserved within Barrow 6003 (see above).

Barrow 6002 had a maximum external diameter of 16m and an internal diameter of 13m, and its ditch had an irregular asymmetrical profile, an average width of 2m and depth of 0.7m (Figs 2.9–2.10). The ditch typically contained four fills: a series of weathered deposits of chalk rubble and silty clays with chalk inclusions that probably collapsed in from the mound. In one location at the south-west edge of the ditch, a patch of thin clay silt, 0.05m thick, may represent a primary trample deposit, although it is unclear why this deposit was limited to this location. Sherds of a thin-walled, flint-tempered Bronze Age pottery fabric recovered from the upper fill of the ditch (fill 6204 of intervention 6203) may represent the remains of a Globular Urn (see Chapter 4). A small deposit (6g) of burnt probable animal bone, in the upper fill (6194 of intervention 6193), may represent a commemorative deposit, 16 sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered from this fill. A total of 363g of Roman pottery was also recovered from the upper fills of Barrow 6002, which seems to have been deliberately deposited (see below and Chapter 4).

A total of four unurned cremation burials, singly placed in pits 6047, 6049, 6051, and 6053, were loosely grouped towards the centre of the barrow (6002). The largest pit, 6053, was located centrally within the group, a position which suggested a primary burial and, although it did not contain the most cremated bone (981.2g, approximately 30g less than the bone recovered from cremation burial 6049, see Table 3.2), it still represents a substantial portion of the individual. Evidence of joint degeneration indicates the remains may have belonged to an older adult (see Clough, Chapter 3). Pit 6053 measured 0.77m in diameter, 0.18m in depth, had irregular, vertical or concave sides and a flat base, and contained two fills of dark grey/brown clay silts. As well as the cremated bone, fragments of charcoal and *Arrhenatherum* tuber fragments (sample 51) (see Wyles, Chapter 5) were recovered from the lower fill together with a single unburnt flint flake, although it is unclear if

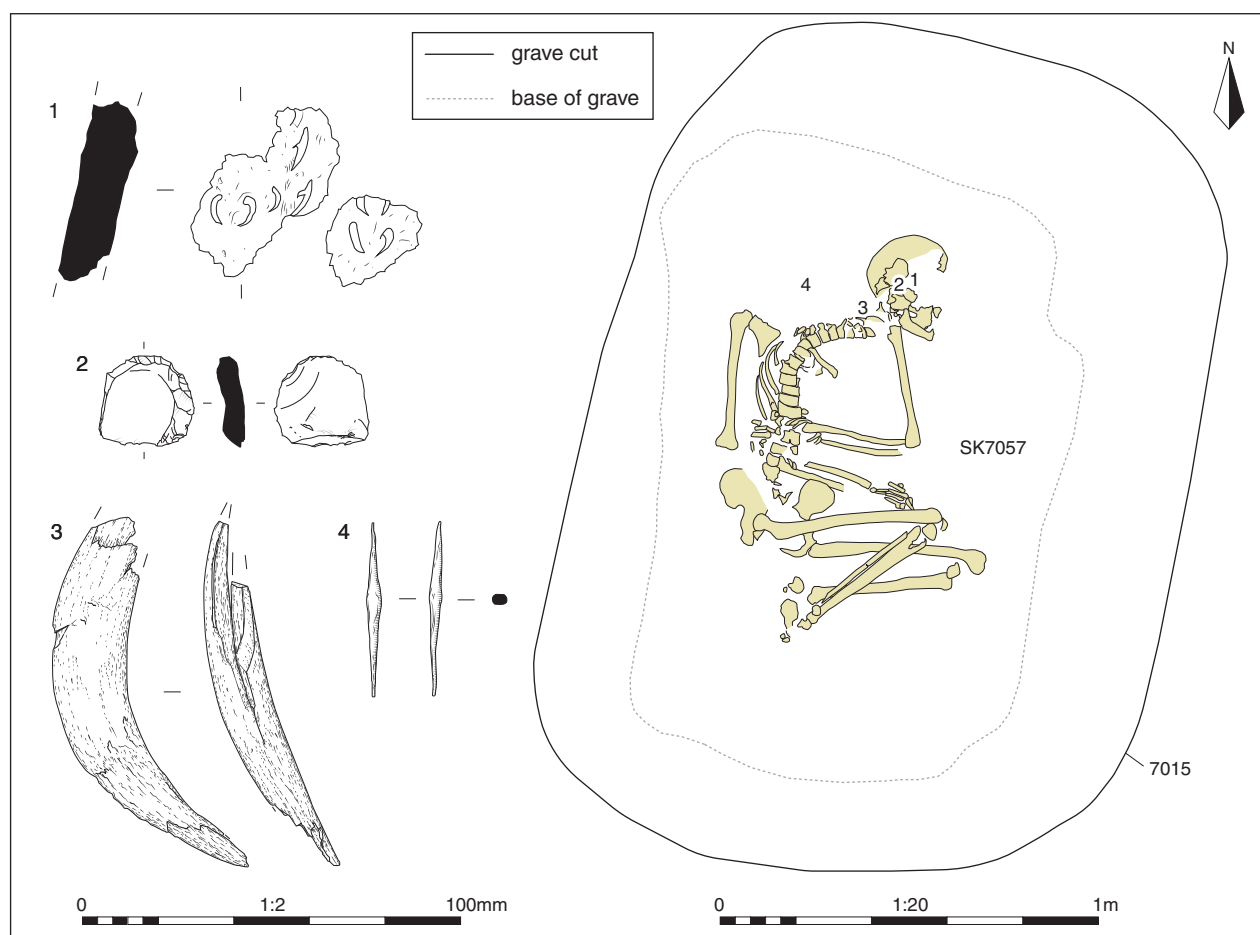


Figure 2.6 Barrow 7003 central grave 7015 and associated grave goods: 1, Beaker sherds, 2, flint thumbnail scraper, 3, boar's tusk and 4, copper alloy awl



Figure 2.7 Barrow 7003 overhead view of central grave 7015 showing grave cut and inner lining cut

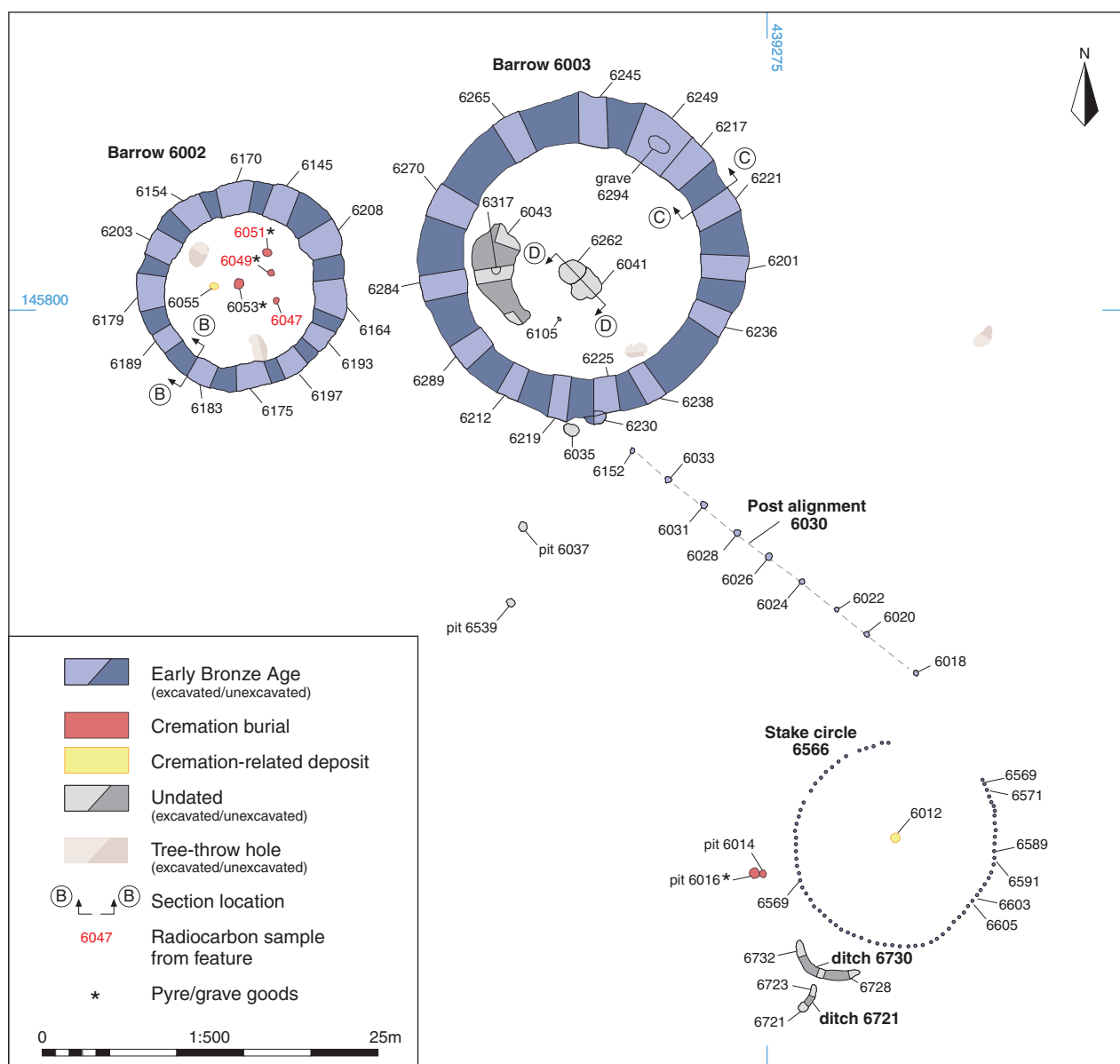


Figure 2.8 Barrows 6002 and 6003, Stake circle 6566 and Post alignment 6030 in the western part of Area 6



Figure 2.9 Barrow 6002 ditch section

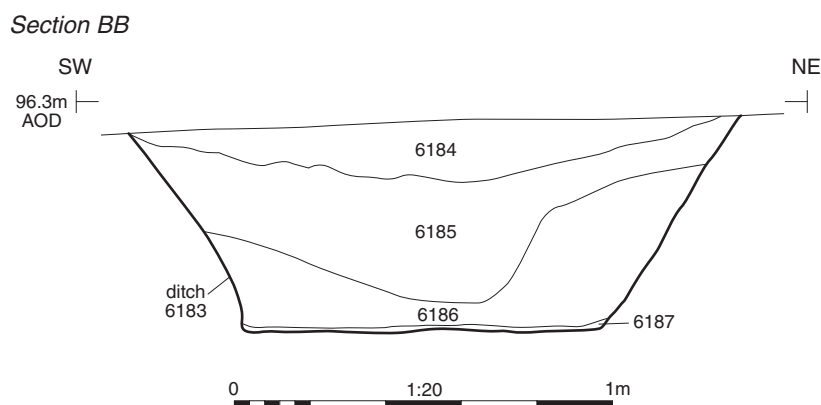


Figure 2.10 Barrow 6002 ditch section BB (6183 and 6187)

the latter was a deliberate inclusion. The upper clay silt fill contained burnt flint, but no cremated bone.

The other cremation burial pits as well as pit 6055 (containing a cremation-related deposit) had an average diameter of 0.5m and varied in depth between 0.08m and 0.32m. They typically had steep, near vertical sides and flat bases. All contained three fills, with the exception of the shallowest pit, 6055, which contained a single ash and clay silt fill from which a minimal quantity of cremated bone was recovered (0.1g). This material was possibly inadvertently included within a deposit intended to represent pyre debris. The fill sequences within cremation pits 6047, 6049 and 6051 varied noticeably, with sterile lower fills present in pits 6047 and 6051, including deposit 6525 in pit 6051 which was a silty clay soil containing some chalk. Cremated bone and charcoal were present in the upper fills of all three pits (219.8g in pit 6047, 416.8g in pit 6051 and 1009.81g in pit 6049) and deposits of pyre debris were identified underlying this fill in pit 6047. The remains from pit 6049 were probably also those of an older individual. Seven possibly burnt and corroded copper alloy fragments may originally have been from a single object (Ra. 25; see Walton, Chapter 4) and burnt bird bone recovered from the cremation deposit may indicate the presence of pyre goods. The remains in pit 6047 belonged to an adult male (notably with no identified lower limb bones present) and those in pit 6051 were likely to belong to an adolescent. A fragment of a perforated worked bone object, possibly a spatula, was recovered alongside the remains in the latter burial (see Clough, Chapter 3 and Collier-Jones, Chapter 4, Fig. 4.7, 3).

Arrhenatherum tuber fragments were recovered from environmental samples taken from pits 6051 (samples 194–198) and 6049 (sample 189) as well as hawthorn stones in 6051 (see Wyles, Chapter 5). A sample of long bone fragments from the same fill produced a radiocarbon date with a calibrated range of 1774–1529 cal BC (95.4% probability) (SUERC-82122). A similar radiocarbon date range of 1688–1534 cal BC (93.2%) (at 95.4% probability) (BRAMS-2971) was produced for a sample of long bone fragments from cremation pit 6051 to the immediate north of pit 6049. A sample of long bone fragments from pit

6047, to the south of pit 6049, produced a radiocarbon date of 2200–2035 cal BC (95.4% probability) (BRAMS-2970), notably earlier than the expected date range for this barrow, and without overlap with the other two dates. It is possible that this date represents an outlier (see Clough and Barclay, Chapter 3). The three dates are not statistically consistent and indicate that the burials were made over a substantial period of time that covers much of the Early Bronze Age period and subphases 2a to 2d. Whilst burials within the barrows can be placed within a relatively short period of time (a small number of generations), it is also the case that burials can be placed over a more substantial period of time that amounts to centuries (see Chapter 6).

Phase 2b: C-shaped Enclosure (6348) and Pit 6398

Situated between the two early barrows (6002 and 7003), described above, was a small C-shaped enclosure (6348), which was pre-dated by an earlier but not precisely dated pit (6398).

Pit 6398

Within the space later enclosed by Barrow 6005, pit 6398 was located immediately to the south-west of the northern terminal of C-shaped enclosure ditch 6348, which cut it. It was also cut on its west side by cremation burial pit 6071, and was one of the earliest features in this area (Fig. 2.11, inset). It was sub-rectangular in plan, with steep, slightly concave sides and an irregular concave base, and measured 2.2m maximum length (north-east/south-west) and 1.9m maximum width (north-west/south-east). A lower fill of firm, redeposited chalk, and an upper fill of mid-grey/brown clay silt, were both devoid of finds. It appears to have had no obvious association with funerary activity.

C-shaped Enclosure (6348)

The C-shaped ditched enclosure (ditch 6348) (Figs 2.11–2.13), was located within the south-western interior of what was to become Barrow 6005, and was shown to have pre-dated it. Enclosure 6348 comprised a single curvilinear ditch, oval in plan, with an average width of 1m, which partly enclosed an oval area measuring 13m (north-

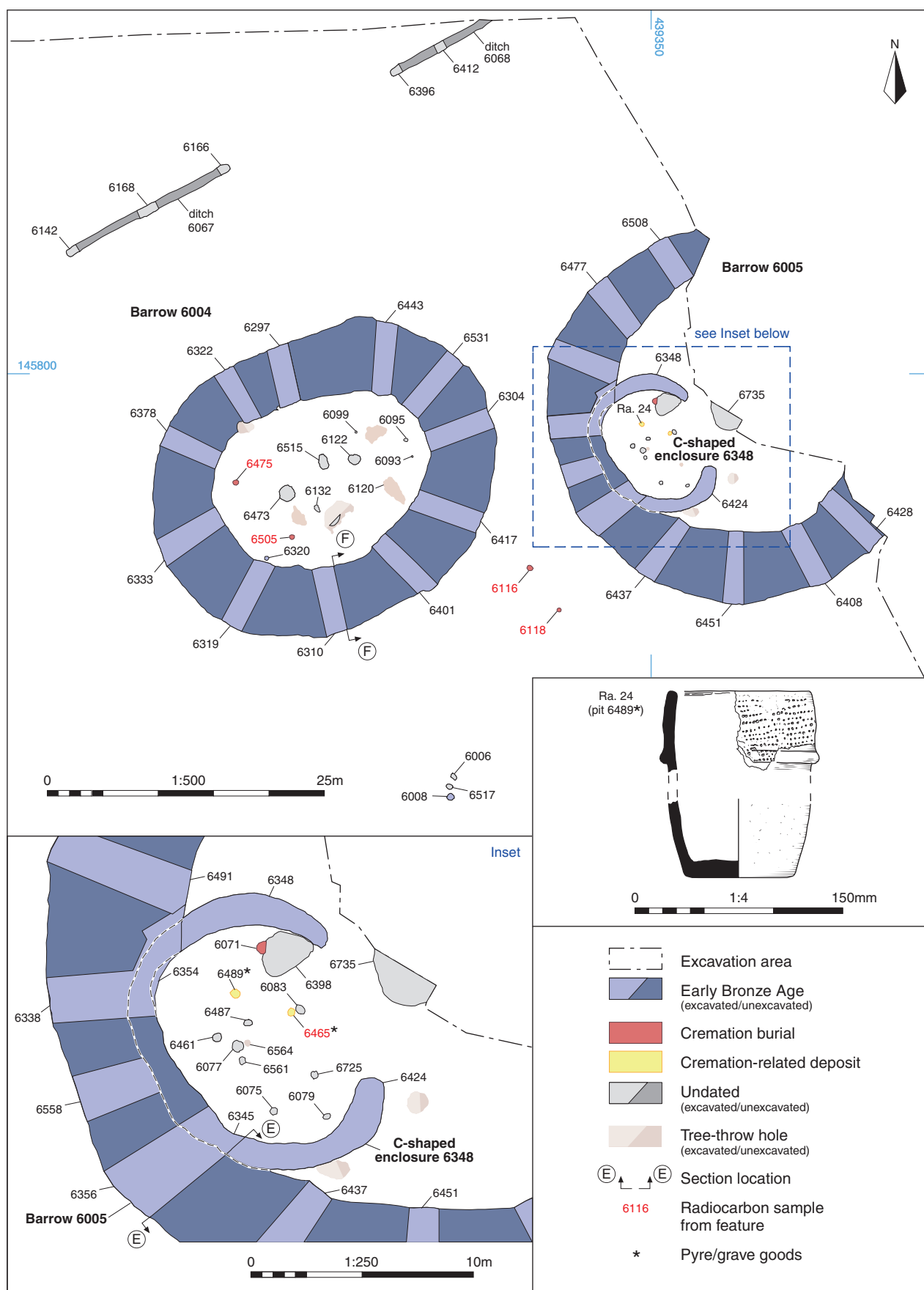


Figure 2.11 Barrows 6004 and 6005, and the C-shaped enclosure in the eastern part of Area 6 and their associated features including cremation burials and related deposits. Inset plan showing the internal features within the C-shaped enclosure

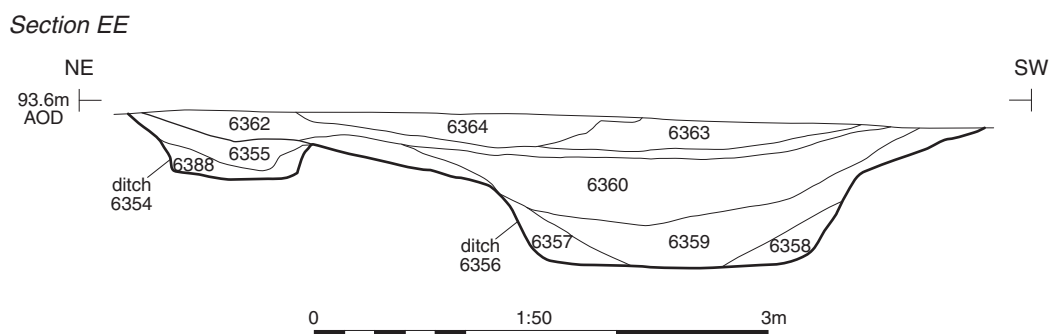


Figure 2.12 Barrow 6005 and the C-shaped enclosure ditch section EE (6356 and 6354 respectively) showing the redeposited chalky mound material 6364 in the upper part of the section



Figure 2.13 Barrow 6005 and the C-shaped enclosure ditch sections showing redeposited mound material in the upper ditch fill

west/south-east) by 9.5m (north-east/south-west). It had a 5m wide opening on its north-eastern side, which directly faced the central (unexcavated) feature 6735, which was assumed to represent a primary burial for the later Barrow (6005).

The ditch of the C-shaped enclosure had steep convex sides and a flat base (Figs 2.12–2.13), and contained two fills (6388 and 6355). Darker patches in the lower secondary ditch fill possibly represented an eroded charcoal deposit; four pieces of worked flint (53g) were recovered from this fill. The upper fill, a friable, dark grey/brown clay silt, may have derived from a post-medieval ploughsoil, following the levelling of the barrow mound. The secondary fills contained both worked flints and pottery sherds, some of which may represent the remains of deliberately placed items, perhaps relating to the group of features within the enclosure, some of which may have been related to the funerary activity. Remarkably few charred plant remains were recovered from the fills.

The C-shaped enclosure contained a group of 11 pits or postholes (6075, 6071, 6077, 6079, 6083, 6461, 6465, 6487, 6489, 6561 and 6725) and a tree-throw hole or natural feature (6564). Only pit 6071 contained a cremation burial and a further two pits contained possible cremation-related deposits – 6489, and 6465 (Fig. 2.11: inset).

Cremation burial 6071, the northernmost in the group, cut pit 6398. It was circular in plan (measuring 0.52m in diameter and 0.23m deep), with near vertical sides and a concave base. A single, charcoal-rich fill of friable, black clay silt included 25.7g of cremated bone, identified as belonging to a child aged 2–3 years (see Clough, Chapter 3 and Challinor, Chapter 5). Mollusc shells representing species of open country, indeterminate, shade-loving and woodland-loving individuals were also recovered (see Wyles and Kowalska Chapter 5). Roundwood *Pomoideae* charcoal, from the lower fill of pit 6465, produced a radiocarbon date with a calibrated range of 2020–1876 cal BC (86.5%) (at 95.4% probability) (SUERC-82093).



Figure 2.14 Area 6 aerial view of Barrows 6002 to 6005 under excavation. Noting the oval ditch of the possible twin Barrow 6004



Figure 2.15 Barrow 6005 prior to excavation showing the internal ditch of the C-shaped enclosure and the chalky mound deposits within the upper ditch fill of Barrow 6005



Figure 2.16 Barrow 6004 under excavation

The other pits within the C-shaped enclosure were generally circular in plan measuring 0.43–0.31m in diameter and between 0.03m and 0.14m deep. They were filled with dark brown, black or grey clay silts. Several contained some wood charcoal, but some of this was comminuted and therefore is not necessarily reflected in the analysis of the samples from these features. Only a few charred plant remains other than *Arrhenatherum* stem and tuber fragments were recovered; some features also contained mollusc shells. None of these features contained any cremated human remains. Some of these features may be related to the funerary activity but this could all have been associated with one burial event. Some of the other features could simply represent bioturbation.

Pottery was recovered from only one of the pits, 6489, which contained fragments of a miniature round-toothed comb-impressed Collared Urn (Ra. 24, Fig. 4.2, 5) in a grog-tempered fabric, of Early Bronze Age date together with a small amount of charcoal (see Barclay and Marsden, Chapter 4). This vessel had the appearance of heat damage and may represent an offering or pyre vessel, although the vessel is too small to have acted as an urn. Pit 6465 contained charcoal that may be the remains of pyre goods or the remnants of kindling (see Challinor, Chapter 5).

Phase 2c: Barrows 6005 and 6004 and associated features

Barrow 6005

Barrow 6005 was situated at a slightly higher elevation than the other barrows and for this reason may represent one of the older monuments in the group (cf Woodward and Woodward 1996; Field 1998), and thus potentially the nucleus of Periods 2b to 2d funerary activity (Figs 2.11 and

2.14). Alternatively, as the largest barrow within the group it may have assumed this role during a later phase.

The eastern part of the barrow remained unexcavated where the barrow, together with an unexcavated central feature, 6735 (presumed to be a primary central burial), were preserved *in situ*, within an area covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO, Figs 2.11 and 2.15–2.16). Barrow ditch 6005 truncated the C-shaped enclosure 6348 along its western extent. The visible dimensions of the barrow ditch measured 33m in external diameter, with an average ditch width of 6m. The ditch varied between 0.79m and 1.17m in depth, with an average depth of approximately 0.95m.

The ring ditch had near-vertical sides and a flat base, and typically contained six fills. Primary chalky fills were overlain by a series of clay silts, with final deposits of redeposited chalk rubble, probably derived from the levelling of the barrow mound, present in places. Of particular note are eight flint-tempered sherds from a Middle Bronze Age Globular Urn (Fig. 4.2, 8, see Barclay and Marsden, Chapter 4), recovered from a secondary fill within the ditch (fill 6429, of intervention 6428) indicating a phase of deposition which may, by implication, be represented by other sherds which are otherwise not closely dated. Limited plant macrofossils from the fills of barrow ditch 6005 included a free-threshing wheat grain (sample 106), from fill 6467 of intervention 6465. Finds of Roman date, including 41 sherds of pottery, ceramic building material, animal bone and an iron knife blade (Ra. 23, see Walton, Chapter 4) were recovered from the upper fills of the barrow ditch.

The presumed central feature 6735 measured at least 3m by 2m in plan. Its upper exposed fill was a yellow/brown clay silt, but no further excavation was undertaken due to the TPO. This feature lay opposite the entrance to the

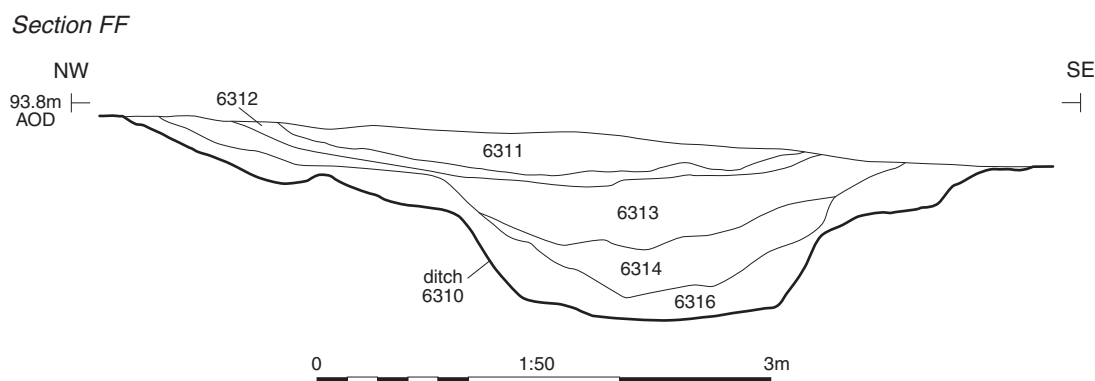


Figure 2.17 Barrow 6004 ditch section FF (6310)

C-shaped enclosure 6348 and may have been located to reference this monument.

Barrow 6004

Barrow 6004 was of irregular, oval plan, and measured a maximum of 31.5m on its north-east/south-west axis, by 25m on its north-west/south-east axis (Figs 2.11 and 2.17). It had the appearance of a twin barrow, although two centrally aligned pits, 6122 and 6473, proved to contain no archaeological material. The ditch had an irregular profile, which averaged 6m in width and 1.2m in depth, although this increased to a maximum depth of 2.26m at the north-west edge and reduced to approximately 0.7m at the south-west edge: the reason for this variation in profile is not clear. Ditch 6004 contained a maximum of seven fills but had a typical profile of five fills. Disturbance from animal burrowing was widely recorded. Two unurned cremation burials (6475 and 6505) and a possible cremation-related deposit (6320) were located within the outer western margin of its interior (Fig. 2.11).

The ring ditch typically contained basal deposits of weathered chalk overlain by chalk-rich silty clays which probably derived through natural silting. As seen in ring ditch 6005, a final redeposited chalk fill present at the centre of the ditch appears to be the result of ploughing and levelling of the barrow mound in the post-medieval and modern periods. Bronze Age pottery and animal bone were recovered from the principal ditch fill and also fired clay (from 6536) and a piece of worn limestone, possibly used for flooring from fill 6336, which is probably intrusive. Roman-period artefacts including 41 sherds of pottery, ceramic building material and metalwork were recovered from the later fills. An intrusive fragment of ceramic building material of possible Roman date was also present in the underlying fill (6312) in intervention 6310. A piece of glass from a wine/spirits bottle (from fill 6536) is intrusive. Within the interior of Barrow 6004, two circular unurned cremation burials in pits were recorded, (6475 and 6505). The pits measured between 0.41m and 0.53m in diameter and between 0.05m and 0.22m in depth. Both pits had steep sides, pit 6475 had a flat base and pit 6505 had a concave base. Pit 6475 contained

two fills, the primary fill of which contained 645.8g of cremated bone. A sample of long bone fragments from this fill produced a radiocarbon date with a calibrated range of 1898–1742 cal BC (95.4% probability) (BRAMS-2972). A fragment of a copper alloy wire with a flattened terminal was recovered from fill 6476 (see Walton, Chapter 4, Fig. 4.4, 2). Occasional flint, grain rachis fragments, charcoal and fragments of *Arrhenatherum* tuber were identified alongside 648g of cremated bone in the single charcoal-rich fill of pit 6505. A sample of long bone from this cremation deposit produced a radiocarbon date of 1764–1622 cal BC (95.4% probability) (SUERC-82123) and the remains were identified as belonging to an adolescent. The two results are statistically inconsistent indicating that they are of different dates and the remains could have been buried up to a century apart.

Pits 6320 and 6132 also lay within the interior of the barrow. Pit 6320 was circular in plan measuring 0.41m in diameter and 0.05m deep. It was filled with a dark greyish black sandy silt from which a few charred *Arrhenatherum* tuber and stem fragments, charcoal and mollusc shells were recovered. A small quantity of calcined bone (0.8g) was also recovered although this was not human. Pit 6132 was an irregular oval shape in plan, measuring 0.41m by 0.38m and was 0.11m deep. It has a vertical eastern side but was more irregular to the west due to bioturbation, and it had a flat base. It was filled with a dark grey/black clay silt with some chalk inclusions; no finds were recovered from the fill but some charcoal and mollusc shells, largely of open country and intermediate species, were recovered together with 0.9g of cremated bone that was not human in origin (see Chapter 3, Table 3.1). These pits were initially believed to be further cremation burials; no human bone was recovered, although they may have been associated with the funerary activity.

A single undated pit of circular plan, 6473, was recorded towards of the south-west side of the interior of Barrow 6004. This pit measured 1.36m in diameter and 0.2m in depth, had steep sides and a flat base, and contained two fills. The upper fill was a light grey/brown clay silt (6474) and below that was a layer of redeposited compacted chalk (6520). No datable material was recovered from the pit but



Figure 2.18 Barrow 6003 ditch section

some mollusc shells were recovered (see Wyles and Kowalska, Chapter 5). Several features of probable archaeological origin (6093, 6095, 6099, 6120, 6122 and 6515), some of which may represent small pits, post- or stakeholes, were also present within the interior of the barrow. Although undated by artefacts, their central position may indicate that they were associated with the funerary activity.

Peripheral pits

Three closely-grouped and heavily truncated pits, 6006, 6008 and 6517, were recorded approximately 15m south-east of Barrow 6004. The pits all had irregular sides and a flat base and measured between 0.28m and 0.55m in diameter with an average depth of 0.05m. Mollusc shells, dominated by open country species, were recovered from all the pits and an indeterminate grain fragment from pit 6008.

Satellite cremation burials 6118 and 6116

Between Barrows 6005 and 6004 were two cremation burials (6116 and 6118, Fig. 2.11). Cremation pit 6118 was circular in plan and measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.55m in depth. The cremated bone recovered from the pit was a relatively small quantity (112.4g) comparative to the depth of the feature. This may in small part be due to the remains belonging to a child (aged between 4 and 7 years, see Clough, Chapter 3), but primarily appears to suggest there was no correlation between the size of cremation graves on the site and the quantity of bone recovered. The cremation deposit was covered by an upper fill, a probable deliberate capping of the burial. Sample 163 from this fill contained charred hazelnut shell fragments. A sample of *Arrhenatherum* tubers from the cremation fill in pit 6118 produced a radiocarbon date with a calibrated range of 1776–1631 cal BC (95.4% probability) (BRAMS-2967) and probable cranial fragments from the same fill produced a statistically consistent and very similar date range of 1808–1686 cal BC (95.4% probability) (BRAMS-2968). The results indicate that there is no age offset in the cremated bone result (see Barclay and Clough, Chapter 3). The results for this cremation deposit support the relatively early date for Barrows 6004 and 6005 within the Early Bronze Age period.

Section CC

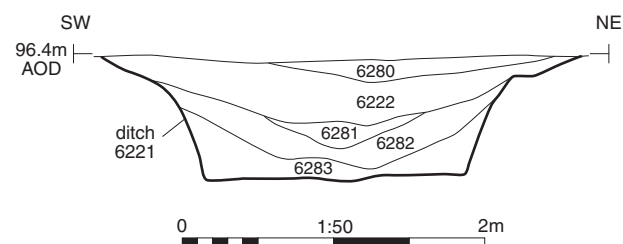


Figure 2.19 Barrow 6003 ditch section CC (6221)

Satellite cremation pit 6116, to the immediate north-west of pit 6118, measured 0.42m in diameter, 0.25m in depth, and contained a single fill of charcoal and cremated bone (462g). A sample of long bone from this cremation burial produced a radiocarbon date with a calibrated range of 1506–1421 cal BC (95.4% probability) (BRAMS-2969), indicating it was deposited at the start of the Middle Bronze Age. The bones were generally smaller in size and more gracile, which very tentatively suggests a female individual (see Clough, Chapter 3).

Phase 2d: Barrow 6003, Stake circle and related features

Barrow 6003

Barrow 6003 was distinctly larger and more regular than the probably earlier Barrow 6002 and had a maximum external diameter of 24m and an average ditch width of 3m and depth of 0.77m, although the north-eastern and eastern sections of the ditch were on average 0.9m deep (Figs 2.8, 2.14 and 2.18–2.19). Similar fills to those in Barrow ditch 6002 were identified, and very large mixed deposits of Roman material (including over 10,000 sherds of pottery, see Marsden and Sommerville, Chapter 4) were recorded from the upper fills. Two primary fill deposits of ditch 6003 (6233 and 6234 in intervention 6225) covered the external and internal sides of the base of the ditch but were not present at the centre, suggesting that the ditch (in this section at least) had been cleaned or recut at some stage. The overlying fills 6227 and 6228, were more pronounced on the internal ditch edge, indicating they derived from material slumped from an internal barrow mound. Two sherds of Beaker pottery including one with impressed cord decoration were recovered from intervention 6284 (fill 6286; Fig. 4.2, 3).

Upper ditch fill (6227 in intervention 6225) of dark grey, clay/chalky silt, appeared to represent a deposit washed into the ditch from the interior of the barrow, presumably at a time when the barrow mound had already become degraded. Calcined bone (4.6g) was recovered from this fill, although none of it was identified as human bone (see Table 3.1).



Figure 2.20 Pits 6041 and 6262

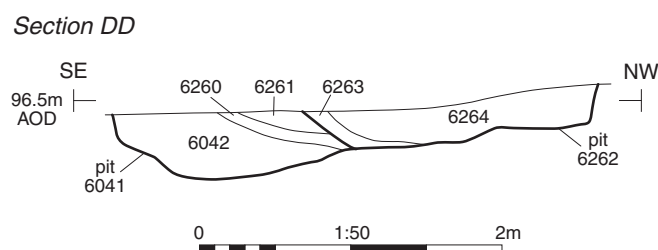


Figure 2.21 Pits section DD (6041 and 6262)

Central pits 6041 and 6262 (Figs 2.20–2.21) were initially assumed to be primary burials but contained no evidence of such. The earlier pit, 6041, measured 1.26m in length, 2.2m in width and 0.44m in depth, had near-vertical sides and a rounded base, and contained three fills of grey/brown silty clay representing episodes of rapid backfilling. None of these fills contained datable material. The western side of pit 6041 was cut by pit 6262. Pit 6262 was broadly oval in plan, measured 1.94m in length, 1.8m in width and 0.27m in depth, and had steep sides and an uneven base. The two fills were similar to those in pit 6041, and no datable material was recovered. It is possible that these were dug to remove a central burial at some stage.

Posthole or small pit 6317 was located to the west of pits 6041 and 6262, and measured 0.7m in diameter with a depth of 0.21m. It had concave sides and an uneven base and contained a single chalky silt fill from which no finds were retrieved. The function of the feature is unclear.

Grave 6294, in the north-east quadrant of the barrow ditch, had been cut through three ditch fills to its base, with a cumulative depth of 0.8m indicating it was inserted some considerable time after the digging of the barrow ditch. The grave was sealed by all subsequent fills within the barrow ditch (Figs 2.8 and 2.22). The grave, measured 1.69m in length, 0.94m in width and 0.43m in depth. It contained skeleton 6296, the remains of a prone adult; there were no associated grave goods. A right tibia from this burial

produced a calibrated radiocarbon date range of 1624–1508 *cal BC* (95.4% probability) (SUERC-82087), which places the burial significantly late within the established range of this phase of activity across the site.

Pit 6230 was located immediately adjacent to the southern edge of Barrow 6003 (Fig. 2.8). It was oval in plan, and measured 1.7m in length, 1m in width and 0.44m in depth, with steep sides and a flat base. A lower fill, 6232, of firm grey/brown clay/chalk silt, contained rare charcoal, while a middle fill, 6231, of grey/brown clay silt, contained only chalk and flint inclusions. The pit was sealed by the uppermost fill, 6226, within intervention 6225, of the immediately adjacent barrow ditch. This pit appears to have been broadly contemporary with the barrow ditch, but was sealed by its uppermost fill. It may represent the setting of a post or marker associated with the barrow or, more probably, part of post alignment 6030 (see below), which extended south-east from the southern edge of Barrow 6003 (Fig. 2.8) and, although undated, appears to have been associated with it.

Pit 6035

A small oval pit, 6035, located to the south of Barrow 6003, is undated. An upper fill, 6036, of compact, light grey ashy material, and the pit may have been related to the funerary activity, although there was no charred material, and none was recovered from the lower fill.



Figure 2.22 Inhumation burial 6296 in grave 6294, Barrow 6003

Post alignment 6030

A post alignment (6030), orientated south-east/north-west, contained no datable material but was of probable Period 2 date due to a presumed intentional relationship between the alignment and Barrow 6003, located at the north-western extent of the alignment, and Stake circle 6566, located 6m south of the southernmost extent of the alignment (Fig. 2.8). Contemporaneity between the features is implied, with the alignment possibly representing a fenced boundary or part of a ceremonial 'avenue' associated with the monuments. Pit 6230 at the edge of Barrow 6003 lay at the northernmost extent of this alignment (see above).

The alignment comprised a linear group of nine, heavily-truncated postholes (or ten if pit 6230 is included: 6018, 6020, 6022, 6024, 6026, 6028, 6031, 6033 and 6152) measuring 26m in length. Individual postholes were spaced at regular intervals, averaging 3.2m apart, and ranged from 0.35m to 0.48m in diameter, and from 0.05m to 0.24m in depth. Their respective fills contained a range of light grey or grey/brown silty clays, which appeared to represent natural silting. No evidence for post pipes was recorded, suggesting that the posts had been deliberately removed at some stage. Sample 61, from fill 6153, of posthole 6152, contained hazelnut shell fragments, sample 67 from fill 6019 of posthole 6018 contained a charred indeterminate grain fragment (see Wyles, Chapter 5).

Stake circle 6566 and central cremation-related feature 6012

Stake circle 6566 comprised 73 surviving stakeholes, set at regular intervals of approximately 0.2m, and ranging from 0.05m to 0.1m in diameter with an average depth of

0.2m (Figs 2.8, 2.23–2.24). The stakeholes all had steep, tapering sides, suggesting that sharpened stakes had been driven into chalk subsoil (Fig. 2.24). All contained uniform fills of brown and grey/brown clay silt. The Stake circle was not geometrically precise, but measured an average of 14m in diameter, with an opening of 6.5m width on its north-east side, which may represent an original entrance. It is also possible that the evidence has been lost here due to the proximity of the Period 6, post-medieval trackway on this side identified in an evaluation trench (Fig. 1.2).

The circle enclosed a central pit, 6012. Pit 6012 was oval in plan and measured 0.66m in diameter by 0.32m in depth, with steep sides and a flat base. A shallow square cut within the base of the pit may have been for the placement of an organic receptacle for cremated remains. The single fill of yellow/brown clay silt with chalky inclusions included infrequent charcoal. A small quantity (13.8g) of cremated bone was recovered from the pit and included two human cranial fragments; a fragment of black bone may be animal in origin but the remaining material was too small to identify. The deposit would appear to be a cremation-related feature and not a burial as such. A sample from the fill (sample 203) contained only *Arrhenatherum* tuber and stem fragments.

Stake circle 6566 and the enclosed central feature appeared to be a funerary monument in their own right, with the stakeholes possibly serving either as a revetment for a low turf mound or representing a low wattle fence which defined a ritually significant area around an important cremation-related feature. It can therefore be seen as a form of funerary enclosure that in other situations became covered by a mound.

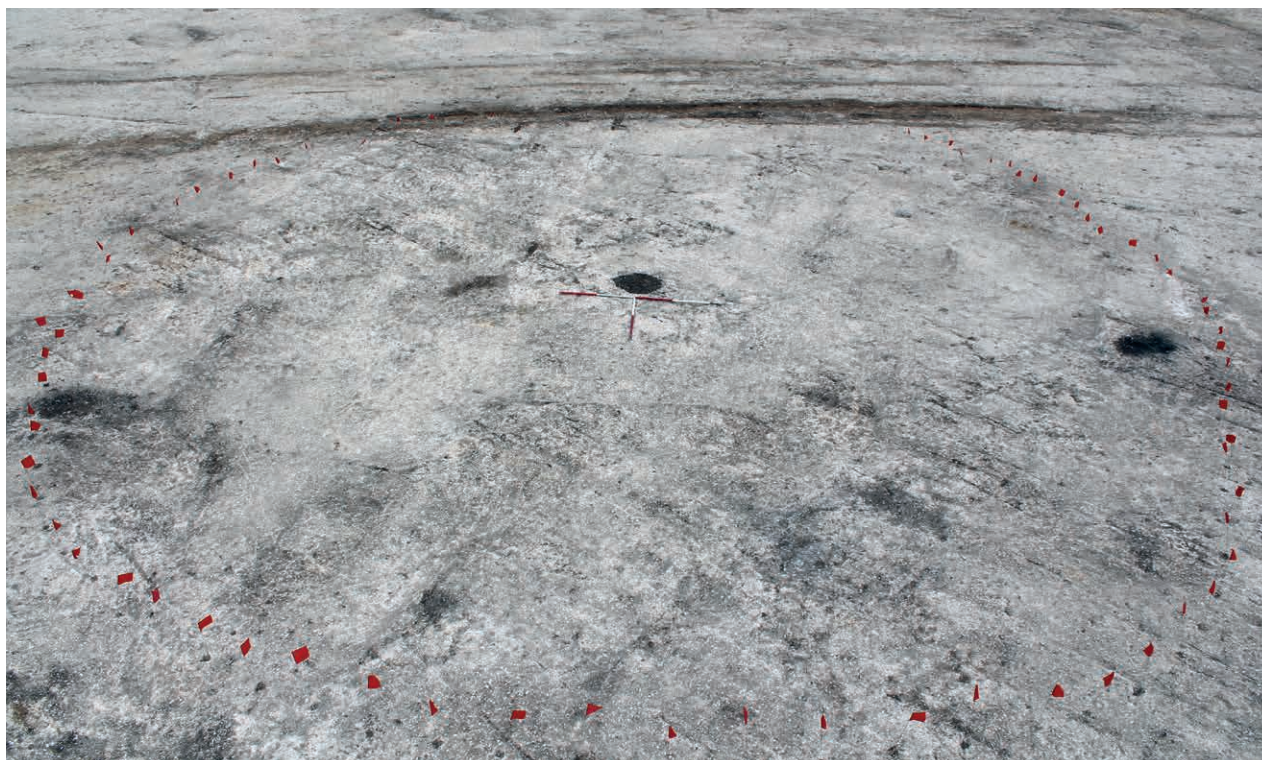


Figure 2.23 Stake circle 6566 and central cremation burial 6012, looking north-east



Figure 2.24 Stakehole from the circle showing a sharpened point (0.1m scale)

Two short lengths of curvilinear ditch (6721 and 6730) were recorded to the south-west of Stake circle 6566. The two ditches were separated by a distance of 1m and may well represent surviving elements of a single feature which had been reduced by plough truncation. Crescent-shaped ditch 6730 appeared to be symmetrically positioned on a possible south-west/north-east axis, which aligned with both cremation-related feature 6012 and the probable north-eastern opening in the Stake circle. The ditch measured 6.2m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.15m in depth shallowing to 0.06m at the north-eastern end, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill from which a small number of Bronze Age sherds were recovered from intervention 6732. The alignment of the ditch suggests an intentional relationship with the Stake circle; whilst it is possible that this was the remnant of a shallow outer gully, the south-western end of the ditch appeared to be a clear terminal (6728). The north-eastern end was too shallow to determine but the location of cremation burials in pits 6014 and 6016 to the north-west, and at approximately the same distance from the Stake circle, would suggest the ditch did not extend this far, indicating it was a localised feature. Ditch 6721 extended for 4.8m to the south-west from ditch 6730 and was positioned almost perpendicular to it. The ditch had an average width of 0.5m and depth of 0.3m; its single fill also contained a small quantity of Bronze Age pottery.

Two cremation burials, in pits 6014 and 6016, lay approximately 2.5m west of Stake circle 6566. Pits 6014 and 6016 were both circular and were abutting (Fig. 2.8). The larger pit, 6016, measured 0.8m in diameter and 0.25m

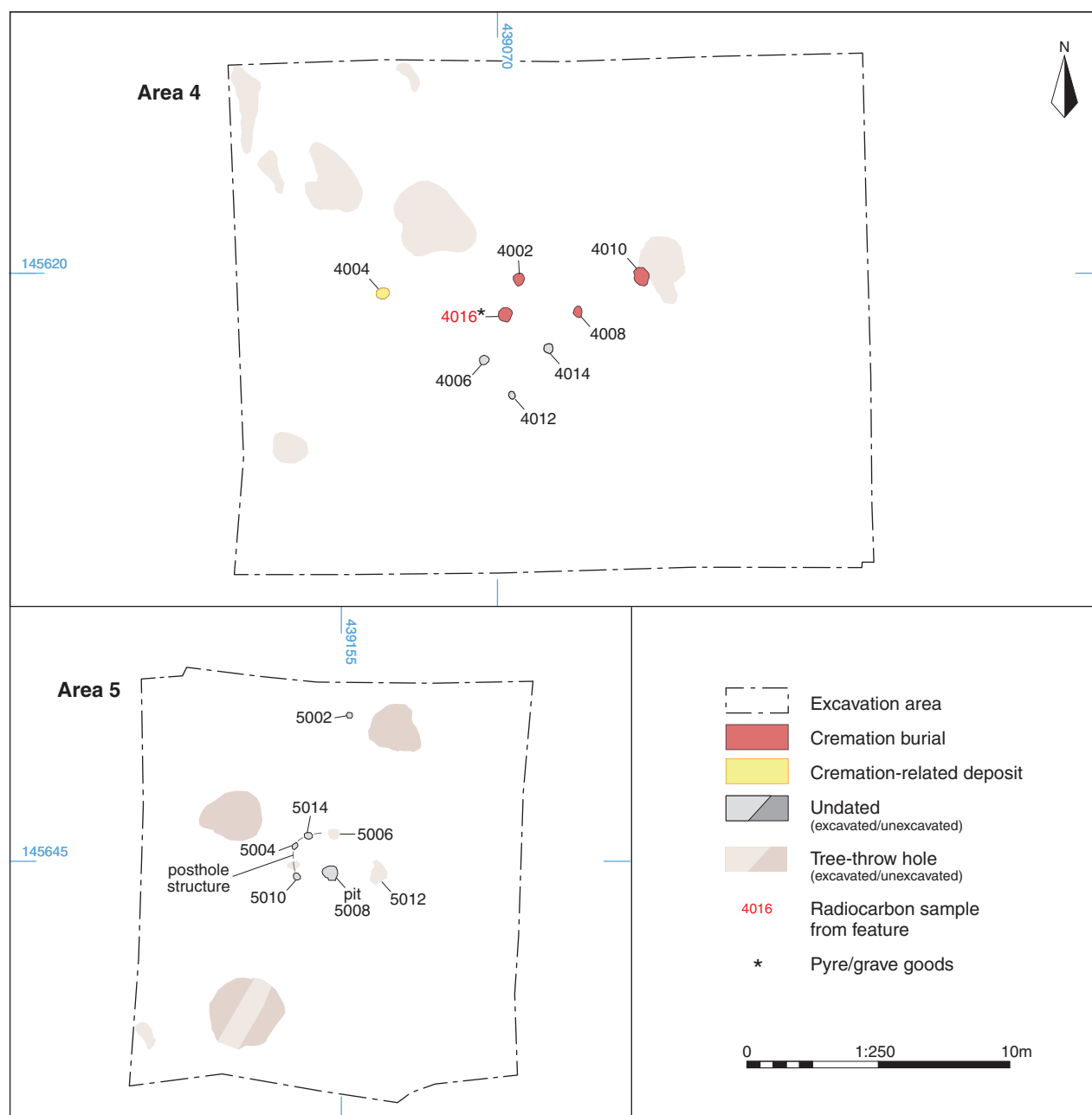


Figure 2.25 Areas 4 and 5. Area 4 contained a small cremation cemetery comprising cremation burials 4002, 4008, 4010 and 4016 (urned), and cremation-related feature 4006. Area 5 contained a small undated post-built structure

in depth. Pit 6014 measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.12m in depth. Both had near vertical sides and a flat base and contained a single charcoal-rich fill, from which cremated bone was recovered (57.2g in 6014 and 1685.8g in 6016, the largest amount of cremated bone recovered from the site, possibly indicating that almost all of the individual was retrieved; see Clough, Chapter 3). The fragmented remains of a Collared Urn vessel (Fig. 4.2, 7) and a worked bone perforated pin (Ra. 26, Fig. 4.7, 2, see Barclay and Marsden, and Collier-Jones, Chapter 4) were present within the fill of pit 6016, as was *Arrhenatherum* tuber fragments and a hulled wheat grain (sample 208). A sample of long bone fragments from this deposit produced a radiocarbon date of 1746–1530 cal BC (95.4% probability) (SUERC-82121).

Mollusc assemblages from the C-shaped enclosure 6348, the four barrow ditches, Stake circle 6566 and posthole alignment 6030 suggested that the Early Bronze Age landscape was one of well-established open downland with small areas of longer unkempt grass along/within some of the barrow ditches and some open deciduous woodland nearby (see Wyles and Kowalska, Chapter 5).

Cremation burials and other features in Area 4

Approximately 240m to the south-west of the barrows, a cluster of eight pits was identified in Area 4 (Figs 1.2, 2.25: 4002, 4004, 4006, 4008, 4010, 4012, 4014 and 4016), of which one (4004) had previously been recorded during the 2014 evaluation (WA 2014, 10). No identifiable structures



Figure 2.26 *Inverted Collared Urn within cremation burial 4016 (scale 0.05m) showing the level of truncation*

were associated with this group, which had been heavily truncated. Cremated bone was recovered from four of the pits (4002, 4008, 4010 and 4016).

Cremation burial placed in pit 4016 was located towards the centre of the group, a position which may indicate it was a primary burial. It was the largest of the cremation burials and the only one associated with an urn (Ra. 4, an inverted Early Bronze Age Collared Urn of which only the section above the collar remained; Figs 2.26 and 4.2, 4). The pit was sub-circular in plan, with steep sides and a flat base, and had a maximum diameter of 0.56m and depth of 0.12m. The single fill contained cremated bone (425.4g), burnt flint, chalk fragments and charcoal. Mollusc shells indicative of species of generally open landscapes were also recovered. Sample 31 from this fill contained charcoal and a barley grain fragment. Long bone fragments from this cremation deposit produced a radiocarbon date with a calibrated range of *1498–1391 cal BC (95.4% probability)* (SUERC- 82117). This date would place the cremation burial, and, by implication, the surrounding cremation-related deposits, firmly within the early centuries of the Middle Bronze Age. However, this date does not accord with the probable date-range of Collared Urn pottery (see Clough and Barclay, Chapter 3), and therefore appears to be anomalous. A second radiocarbon date produced an even later date range of *1400–1202 cal BC (95.4% probability)* (SUERC-83256). The two radiocarbon dates are statistically inconsistent, suggesting that there are technical difficulties with the bone samples rather than an alternative explanation that the pot is old and either an heirloom or a collected and reused item. Whilst the precise date for this cemetery remains uncertain, the presence of a Collared Urn would suggest an Early Bronze Age date.

The three other cremation pits were circular or oval in plan and typically had moderate to steeply sloped sides and a flat base. The pits varied in diameter between 0.25m and

0.56m and between 0.02m and 0.13m deep. All contained a single fill from which small quantities of cremated bone were recovered (33.9g in 4002, 1.9g in 4008 and 143.7g in 4010). Pit 4004 was identified in the evaluation as containing a deposit representing pyre debris (WA 2014, 10, pl. 11). Pits 4012 and 4014 had been heavily truncated and it was not possible to characterise their fills. Limited charred plant remains were recovered from the samples of these pits, including grains of free threshing wheat in pit 4008 (sample 25) and an indeterminate grain fragment in pit 4010 (sample 22; see Wyles, Chapter 5).

Pit 4006 was located to the south-west of pit 4016 (Fig. 2.25), and was oval in plan, measuring 0.43m in length by 0.27m in width and 0.10m deep. It had irregular, moderately-sloping sides and a concave base. A single fill, 4007, of dark grey/brown silty clay, contained inclusions of chalk and traces of oak charcoal, mollusc shells of open country species and shade-loving species, and a very small quantity (2.9g) of calcined bone that was not human in origin (see Table 3.1).

Phase 3: Middle Bronze Age (c. 1500–1150 BC)

With the exception of two Deverel-Rimbury vessels that were found at opposing ends of the small barrow group, actual features of later Bronze Age date were not identified with any certainty. These include a possible Bronze Age post-ring structure (2031) in Area 2, another possible post-built structure in Area 5 and a posthole alignment in Area 3. However, none of these features are well dated and their assignment to this phase is largely based on their form. A four-post structure was found in the evaluation (Trench 62). Sherds from two Deverel-Rimbury vessels of Middle Bronze Age date were recovered from the postholes of this structure (WA 2014, 12).

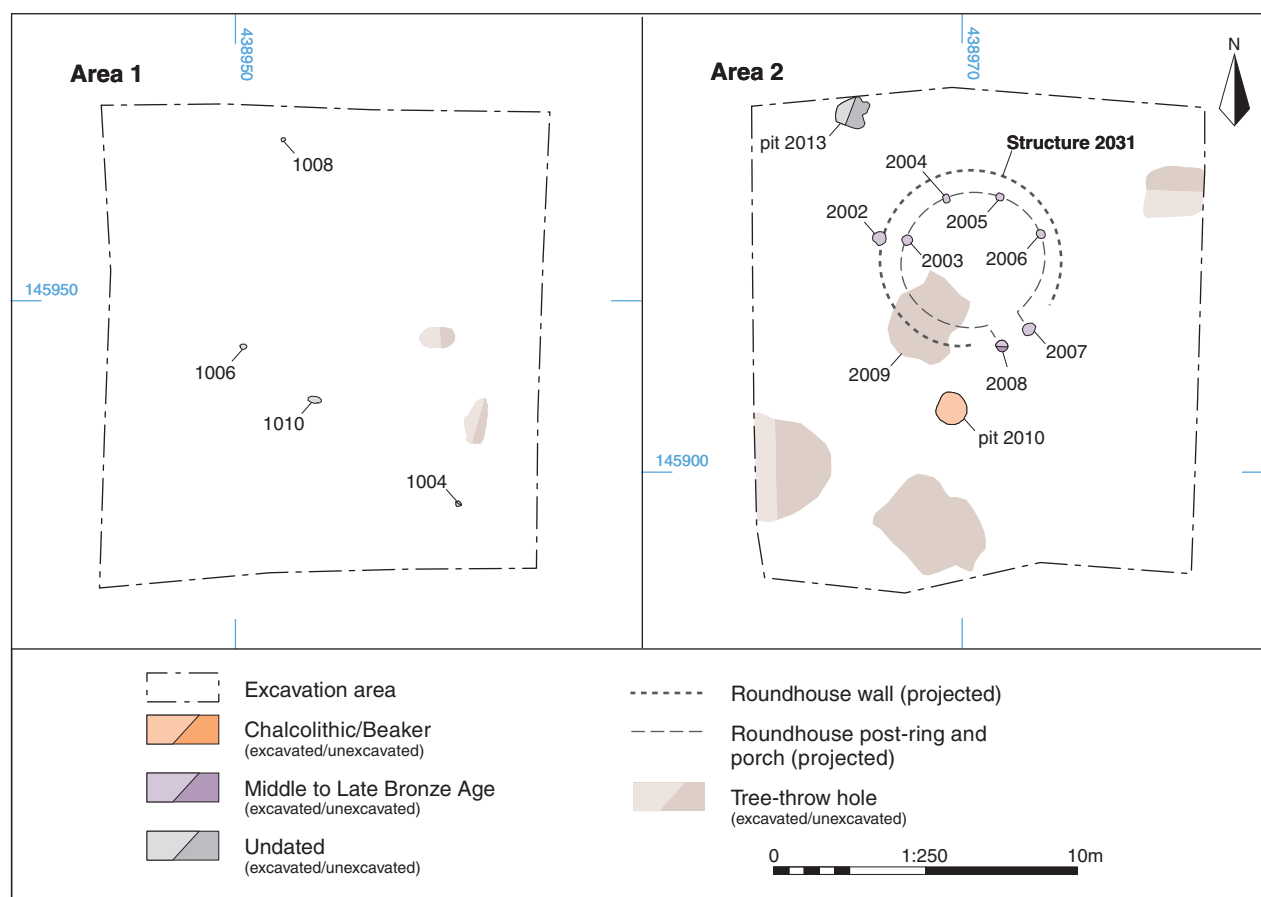


Figure 2.27 Areas 1 and 2. Area 1 contained a small number of undated features. Area 2 contained a small post-built roundhouse of MLBA date and a number of tree-throw holes

Structure 2031 in Area 2

A group of eight postholes (2002 to 2009) were arranged in a broadly circular plan (Structure 2031; Fig. 2.27). The circle measured 6m in diameter and may represent a Bronze Age post-ring structure. Individual postholes ranged from 0.25–0.38m in diameter, and 0.05–0.15m in depth, and not all were arranged within a circular configuration. The fill of posthole 2002 contained hazelnut shell fragments (sample 2). The mollusc assemblage from postholes 2002, 2005 and 2006 is indicative of a local landscape of short-turfed grassland and areas of trample, with some open deciduous woodland in the wider area (see Wyles and Kowalska, Chapter 5).

Post alignment in Area 3

A post alignment comprising nine undated postholes, was located in Area 3. It was aligned north-east/south-west and was traced for 23m across the area (Fig. 2.28). A further posthole, 3023, was located perpendicular to this alignment, and 3m to the south-east of its north-easterly element. The alignment may represent a fence-line or part of a fenced enclosure, which may have been broadly contemporaneous with other post-built features recorded in Areas 1, 2, and 5, although no dating evidence was recovered from any of the features. Individual postholes were of sub-circular plan, of which two were previously

excavated in Trench 48 of the evaluation (WA 2014). The postholes (3004, 3015, 3010, 3018, 3006, 3002, 3025, 3027 and 3029) individually averaged 0.20–0.40m in diameter, and 0.07–0.51m in depth. The notably larger dimensions of postholes 3006 and 3018, respectively of 0.45m and 0.6m in diameter, and 0.51m and 0.4m in depth is of some interest, perhaps suggesting settings for gateposts. These were positioned adjacently, towards the centre of the exposed alignment. There was no evidence for post pipes. A number of postholes contained chalky packing material, with occasional evidence (i.e. upper fill 3017 of posthole 3015) that holes had been backfilled after removal of the posts. A few cereal remains, including those of barley, were identified within sample 11, from fill 3003 of posthole 3002.

Possible structure in Area 5

The evaluation identified a number of postholes in Area 5 (WA 2014, 10), that upon excavation were thought to represent a possible structure (Fig. 2.25). Postholes 5004, 5010, and 5014, were circular or oval in plan measuring between 0.22–0.30m long by 0.13–0.20m wide and up to 0.43m deep. The features contained yellow/brown to dark grey/brown fills of silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions; no dating material was recovered. These features have tentatively been interpreted as part of a small post-ring

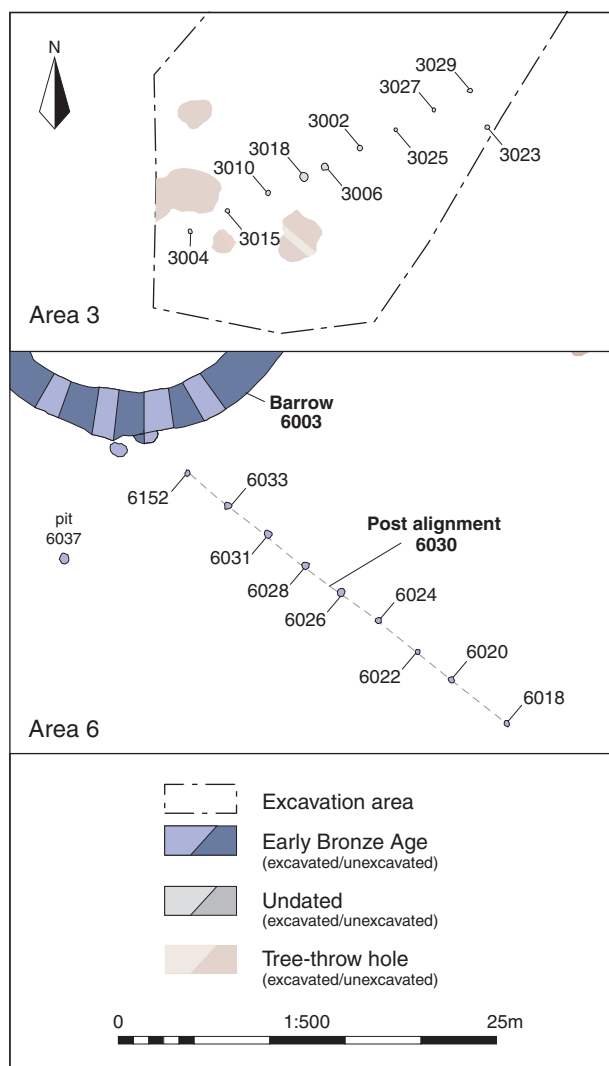


Figure 2.28 Areas 3 and 6. Comparative plans of post alignments in Area 3 and 6030. The former appears to be isolated but the latter linked the stake circle with Barrow 6003. Note both contained a setting of nine posts

structure of estimated 5m diameter. Pit 5008 was located towards the centre of the suggested building. It is possible that two features which were located within this suggested circuit (5006 and 5012), and initially interpreted as tree-root pits, may represent heavily-truncated post settings. Pit 5002 to the north of these features may have been associated. It was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.20m and was 0.06m deep, and filled with grey/brown silty clay from which no finds were recovered.

Phase 4: Early/Middle Iron Age (c. 700–100 BC)

Remains of this date were limited to a north-east/south-west boundary ditch 7002, extending across the eastern end of Area 7 (Fig. 2.2), approximately 14m east of Barrow 7003. Ditch 7002 measured 1.28m in width and 0.8m in depth, and had steep, convex sides and a flat base. The ditch contained four fills, including a secondary fill of loose

redeposited chalk sealed by a possible backfilling episode, after the ditch had fallen out of use. The uppermost fill, of dark red/brown clay silt, represented natural silting. The fills were generally devoid of datable material, although a small quantity (7 sherds, 19g) of pottery of Iron Age character (on the basis of fabric), and animal bone, were recovered from its backfill.

Phase 5: Roman (c. AD 50–410)

No features of Roman date were identified across the site; however, a substantial quantity of Roman artefactual material, primarily pottery (over 11,000 sherds weighing 91.71kg) was recovered from the middle and upper fills of the barrow ditches. Only one Roman sherd was recovered from Area 3 and only a few sherds in Area 6 came from non-barrow contexts, with the material largely concentrated in the ditch of Barrow 6003 (10,789 sherds weighing over 87.8kg). Much smaller quantities of pottery were also recovered from the upper fills of Barrows 6002, 6004 and 6005 (363 sherds (1651g), 253 (1814g) and 41 sherds (361g) respectively – see Marsden and Sommerville, Chapter 4, Table 4.8). Whilst it is possible that the smaller quantity from Barrow 6005 may conceivably represent material introduced through natural silting processes or animal burrowing, the pottery in Barrows 6002 and 6003, and possibly 6004, had clearly been deliberately deposited. Other material from these deposits included animal bone, ceramic building material, a possible ceramic spindlewhorl, a possible roofing stone and a flooring stone and metalwork, including a set of copper alloy tweezers (Ra. 16, Fig. 4.5, 3) and an intrusive medieval copper alloy buckle plate (Ra. 11, Fig. 4.6, 6) from fill 6218 in ditch 6217, a mid or later 1st-century AD iron brooch (Ra. 14 from fill 6222 in ditch 6221, not illustrated), a knife blade (Ra. 23 from fill 6411 in ditch 6408, Fig. 4.5, 4) and an iron chisel or possible stylus (Ra. 10 from fill 6202 in ditch 6201; Fig. 4.5, 5). Six 3rd or 4th-century dated coins were also recovered from the upper fills of the ditches of Barrows 6002 and 6003 (see Walton, Chapter 4).

Pottery was recovered from 16 upper fills within Barrow 6003, with the pottery groups ranging in size from as few as 53 sherds (236g) in fill 6226 in intervention 6225 to 1879 sherds (18.38kg) from fill 6218 in intervention 6221 at the north-eastern side of the ring ditch. Other notable deposits included 1588 sherds (10.87kg) from fill 6280 also in intervention 6221 and 1625 sherds (18.44g) from fill 6220 in intervention 6219. The upper fill of ring ditch 6003 comprised a relatively homogenous friable, dark grey/brown clay silt of varying depth, ranging from 0.11m (6244) to 0.52m (6266), and it appeared likely that a considerable upper portion of this deposit had been removed by truncation.

The assemblage primarily comprised local greywares, and oxidised and reduced sandy wares and appeared to cover the entire Roman period, as well as including a small quantity of possible Late Iron Age, or earlier material, potentially

representing an accumulation of material over a period of four centuries, or more. A few pieces of samian and Central Gaulish Black-slipped ware were also recovered. It would seem that Late Roman activity is less intense, although six coins of later 3rd and 4th-century date were recovered (see Walton, Chapter 4). In a small number of interventions (i.e., 6221 and 6270), the presence of mixed Roman material within successive fills indicated that this material did not represent a single episode of deposition, suggesting episodic deposition of domestic or midden waste in the Late Roman period, presumably for reasons unrelated to traditional waste disposal. Alternatively, this may represent material brought to the site for consumption during ritual feasting or deposited as offerings over a considerable period of time (see Marsden and Sommerville, Chapter 4).

The coarseware material consisted mainly of jars, bowls and dishes with smaller quantities of platters, beakers/cups and flagons; only one mortarium was identified. There were also a few fineware forms including New Forest Colour-coated ware beakers. There is no indication that any of this material represents wasters.

Other finds include some animal bone but unfortunately this was not in good condition, so limited conclusions can be drawn from it (see Holmes, Chapter 5). Roman metalwork, found in the ditches of Barrows 6003 and 6005, suggests activity in the 3rd or 4th century AD (see above).

Two medieval finds (a lace tag or chape and a buckle plate) came from Barrows 6004 and 6003 respectively.

These may have simply been chance losses but for the fact that no other medieval finds were retrieved from the site and there is a possibility that these were also deliberately deposited (see Walton, Chapter 4).

Phase 6: Post-medieval/modern

Two short, aligned lengths of a south-west/north-east ditch 15m apart, 6067 and 6068 (not illustrated), were located at the north-eastern corner of Area 6. Both ditches exhibited square-ended terminals, with flat, level bases and had an average width of 0.7m and depth of 0.28m. Both contained a single fill; two residual worked flints were recovered from ditch 6607. A small quantity of post-medieval glass including a wine or spirit bottle in dark green glass and two clay tobacco pipe stem fragments came from the barrows (see Marsden, Chapter 4).

Undated features

Undated features were identified across the areas excavated. Where it has been possible to suggest that these features relate to phased archaeology they have been included in the description above. In Area 1, however, a small number of features (1004, 1006, 1008 and 1010), which could not be assigned to a phase were recorded (Fig. 2.27). They were generally small circular or oval pits or postholes from which no datable material was recovered. A number of tree-throw holes were also identified.

Chapter 3

Human remains and scientific analysis

Osteological analysis

by Sharon Clough

Eighteen human burials were recovered including two inhumation burials, 15 cremation burials and one cremation-related deposit from excavated contexts. A total of 6744g of cremated bone was recovered from various pits in and around the barrows and from 16 intentional depositions of cremated human bone. Some of these have been radiocarbon dated (see Table 3.8) and are from the Early–Middle Bronze Age. Only a single burial (4016) was urned, found within an inverted Collared Urn, which was found with a small group of cremation burials 200m south-west of the barrows (Fig. 2.25). A single crouched inhumation burial of Beaker date recovered from the central grave in Barrow 7003 was accompanied by a typical set of grave goods for a Beaker period burial. A second inhumation burial was recovered from the ditch of Barrow 6003, lying in a prone position and dated to the end of the Early Bronze Age (SUERC-82087). The inhumation burials were both male individuals and probably aged over 45 years at the time of death.

Methodology

All skeletal material was examined and recorded in accordance with national guidelines (Brickley and McKinley 2004, updated Mitchell and Brickley 2017; Mays *et al.* 2018). Cremated bone analysis followed the standard procedure for the examination of cremated bone

(McKinley 1994; 2000; 2004). Where the cremation burial was contained within a ceramic vessel it was subject to excavation in the laboratory in spits (20mm) and quadrants. Unurned burials were excavated on site in spits of 50mm and where deemed appropriate, in quadrants.

The cremated bone was wet sieved and sorted prior to analysis, then passed through a stack of sieves with fraction sizes 10mm, 5mm and 2mm. The information from each fraction size was recorded for total weight and identified fragments (divided into skull, axial, upper limb, lower limb and unidentified limb). A measurement was taken of the largest fragment present in each context. Each deposit was assessed for colour of the burnt bone, calculated as a percentage of the whole. Demographic attributes were estimated using standard osteological landmarks and techniques. Due to warping, shrinkage and fragmentation associated with cremated bone, age or sex estimations are tentative and have not used the multi-method which is normally standard in osteological analysis. All weights were measured to the nearest 0.1g and measurements are in mm.

For cremated and non-cremated bone skeletal age was estimated on the degree of bone and tooth development (Scheuer and Black 2000) and sex was estimated from the morphological traits described (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Details of particular methodologies are provided below.

Some features were thought on site to contain burnt bone, samples were taken and processed but apart from pit 6055, which produced a fleck of bone, none contained any cremated human bone (Table 3.1). The fleck from pit 6055 was too small to be confirmed as either human or animal bone.

Results

Phase 2a – Beaker Barrow 7003

Skeleton 7057 from the centre of Barrow 7003 (2200–2030 cal BC 95.4%, SUERC-82088) was just over 75% complete, but fragmented (see Figs 2.6 and 2.7). The bone surface was eroded with rooting, the ends of long bones

Table 3.1 Features found to contain trace or no cremated human bone

Area	Cut number	Total weight (g)	Identification
4	4006	2.9	No human identified
6	6055	Less than 0.1	Fleck of bone
6	6132	0.9	No human identified
6	6320	0.8	No human identified
6	6225	4.6	No human identified



Figure 3.1 Left first metacarpal of SK7057, nodules on the superior surface

and spongy bone areas were particularly affected. As such, measurements were restricted to indices only.

Despite the poor preservation of the cranium, where the facial area was mostly absent, it was possible to observe some of the areas which indicate sex. The pelvis was equally poorly preserved, but it was possible to observe some key areas. The skull and pelvis both suggested a male individual. Age at death was estimated using the auricular surface (Lovejoy *et al.* 1985) and was between 40 and 50 years (stage 5 or 6).

Teeth were all present; although 14 were not in the alveolar, they were mostly from the maxilla, of which little survived. There was an interesting wear pattern to the upper incisors and canine's occlusal surface, which was a linear feature, almost notched and was possibly caused by the large overbite. The mal-occlusion has probably affected the expected attrition to the molar teeth, which appeared less than expected given the skeletal indicators of age. There were six alveolar with periodontal disease. These were lower posterior molar (second and third) and upper left first molar and second premolar. Dental enamel hypoplasia was observed on the left lower canine as two lines.

The spine exhibited porosity on the bodies of the upper cervical and lower lumbar vertebrae (there was poor survival of the thoracic), as well as some superior and inferior articulating facets. Three surviving thoracic vertebrae had Schmorl's nodes, but poor survival prevented identification of exactly their location in the spine. The presence of porosity on the vertebrae indicates degeneration of the joint, which would be expected in an older individual. There was also lipping (small extension of bone) around the joint of the glenoid fossa (elbow).

The left first metacarpal (thumb) may have lost the articulating phalanges (finger ends) before death. The preservation did not allow for an accurate examination, but the bone exhibited two nodules on the superior surface at the distal end and the shaft hints at a change in the dimensions, becoming narrower (Fig. 3.1). It is possible that the distal end was amputated (intentionally or accidentally) and that the two bony nodules are a reaction to the changes. Since

the left hand was more poorly preserved than the right it is not possible to say with any accuracy that the absence of the first phalanges is due to the preservation or as a result of the changes observed. There was certainly something affecting the thumb which caused these changes.

The measurements of proximal femoral and tibial shafts were used to calculate indices to examine the flattening anteroposterior (femur) and transverse (tibia). The left femur was platymeric (69) and the left and right tibia eurycnemic (69 and 72). This level of flattening is typical for the period (Brothwell 1981, 88–89).

The only observed non-metric trait was the double calcaneal facet on the left foot, which is commonly noted.

Phase 2a Early Bronze Age Barrows 6002 and 6003

Skeleton 6296 from the ditch of Barrow 6003 (6294, Fig. 2.8) was better preserved than SK7057 with less fragmentation. The surface erosion was patchy, and cracking and flaking were present. There was approximately 90% of the skeleton available for recording and observation. The individual was estimated to be male and aged between 45–49 years at death (from auricular surface).

Thirty teeth were present (two lost post mortem: first incisors) with excessive calculus on the lower right third molar, the tooth lay at an angle, so not in occlusion, which was probably a contributing factor to the development of a large amount of calculus. There were three caries; two very small and on the occlusal surface of the right mandibular second molar and maxilla right third molar. These teeth are adjacent to the tooth with excessive calculus. The mandibular third molar on the left side had a caries which was very large on the occlusal surface. The location of the calculus and caries suggests that food was becoming lodged at the very back of the mouth and creating an environment for bacteria to develop. There was only a single line of enamel hypoplasia observed on left maxilla canine. Calculus deposits on other teeth prevented observation.

Lambdoid ossicles were present, one left and two right. These are non-metric traits, small additional bones in the sutures of the cranium and have no effect on health. Squatting facets were present bilateral on the distal tibiae. These are considered to be associated with habitual squatting posture and are found more commonly in prehistoric populations (Brothwell 1981, 88–9). There was a right side calcaneal double facet present, left side not observable. This non-metric trait has no known cause, but is a commonly observed variation in the facet number of the calcaneus.

The long bones were too damaged at the ends to measure for stature estimation. The only measurement was the flattening of the proximal tibial shaft. Right tibia platycnemic index of 61, which is platycnemic (very flat).

There was ossified cartilage or tissue present which is considered to be from rib cartilage, calcified blood vessels or atherosclerosis. The latter are plaques causing the arteries to harden and narrow, restricting blood flow to heart or brain. This is associated with increased age, high fat diet and

being overweight. This would suggest that the individual had for the period a rich and good diet, with a lower level of mobility, and may infer they were of higher status. In addition, the muscle markings were slight, a fairly gracile skeleton for an adult older male. The dental attrition was low, which given the advanced age would be expected to be greater. This suggests a softer food diet which again may indicate a high status individual.

The spine did not have Schmorl's nodes, as is very often observed and the osteophytosis was limited to the third and fourth lumbar medial body vertebrae. The posterior parietal bones (back of the cranium) had surface porosity (often described as 'orange peel') which may indicate a scalp infection, or metabolic disease, the aetiology is unknown.

Cremated burials associated with Barrow 6002

Four internal features all within Barrow 6002 contained cremated bone and are interpreted as burials (Fig. 2.8). The burials were all made in pits without ceramic vessels, and over 200g in weight (Table 3.2). One burial (6053) lay central to the barrow and may be interpreted as the primary burial, although it did not contain the most cremated bone (this was 6049, by only 30g), it was a substantial portion of the entire individual. The bone was evenly distributed throughout the pit with no apparent ordering and it included some of the smallest bones (phalanges and sesmoid) to large fragments over 60mm from the joint surfaces of long bones. There were osteophytes observed around the joint surface of a concave joint (scapula or acetabulum), which indicates degeneration of the joint, usually associated with the older age ranges. Despite the large number of fragments, none were clearly male or female.

Burial 6049 was probably an older individual since the lower first incisor was heavily worn, such that due to the little remaining enamel the tooth had not shattered as normally occurs from the rapidly expanding enamel in the heat of the pyre (Fig. 3.2). There were also osteophytes around the proximal hand phalanges. The presence of copper alloy fragments possibly from a single object (Ra. 25, see Walton, Chapter 4) and burnt bird bone indicates pyre or grave goods were included. The distribution and identified elements demonstrated that there was no ordering within the pit and a random selection of bones was included.

Burial 6051 contained over 400g of cremated bone (Table 3.2) and was identified as an adolescent (10–16 years) individual (from unfused epiphyses). A perforated and burnt worked bone fragment was amongst the cremated bone (Fig. 3.3, see Collier-Jones, Chapter 4). The burial with least bone (6047) recovered was identified as an adult male and it included unburnt animal bone and notably no identified lower limb bones.

Cremation burials associated with Barrow 6004

Within barrow 6004 were two cremation burials (6475 and 6505) made in pits (Fig. 2.11). Further features contained a small amount of burnt bone, but these were so small (less than 1g) it was not possible to determine whether it

Table 3.2 Summary of cremated bone from Barrow 6002

Burial number	Total weight (g)
6047	219.8
6049	1009.81
6051	416.8
6053	981.2

was human or not. The burials both contained remarkably similar amounts of cremated bone – approximately 650g. Burial 6505 was identified as an adolescent from the thin cranium and unfused proximal epiphyses of the hand phalanx (so less than 16 years, Fig. 3.4), the size of the other fragments suggested over 8–10 years. The bone was quite fragmented, which resulted in less identification of elements. It was though possible to observe a range of elements from large to small and across the pit throughout all the spits.

Burial 6475 contained a range of elements, but more cranial bone was identified than any other area. This may be due to the ease with which cranial fragments can be identified, even when very small. Despite the number of cranial fragments none were definitively male or female,



Figure 3.2 Tooth wear on lower first incisor from cremation burial 6049



Figure 3.3 Perforated burnt worked bone fragment from cremation burial 6051



Figure 3.4 Unfused epiphyses cremation burial 6505

Table 3.3 Summary of cremated bone from Barrow 6004

Burial number	Total weight (g)
6475	645.8
6505	648

Table 3.4 Summary of cremated bone from burials between Barrows 6004 and 6005

Burial number	Weight of cremated bone (g)
6116	462.4
6118	96.4

Table 3.5 Summary of cremated bone from burials west of Stake circle

Burial number	Total weight of bone (g)
6014	57.2
6016	1685.8

but the lack of robust features and the more petite size of the bones compared to the other burials on the site would suggest that this individual may have been female.

Cremation burials outside Barrows 6004 and 6005

Two cremation burials were located between Barrows 6004 and 6005 (6116 and 6118, Fig. 2.11). Of these 6116 contained over 400g of cremated bone whilst despite the greater depth (0.55m), 6118 contained only just over 100g (Table 3.4). This clearly demonstrates the lack of correlation between grave depth and the quantity of bone recovered. The deliberate interment of small quantities of cremated bone has been observed across British Bronze Age cremation burials and it seems this was considered sufficient for the funerary rites (Rebay-Salisbury 2010). However, there would have been less cremated bone from the burial 6118 to collect from the pyre since these were the remains of a child, aged between 4 and 7 years (500g has been suggested as an average weight of cremated bone for a child (Trotter and Hixon 1974)), but this is still clearly a good proportion less than the expected amount. The age was identified from an unerupted molar tooth and size of other bone elements (Fig. 3.5). There was more cranial bone identified than any other area, but this has more to do with the ease of the identification than any other bias since the fragmentation was high (largest fragment size 37mm).

*Figure 3.5 Unerupted tooth crown from cremation burial 6118*

The adjacent burial 6116 had a fairly average quantity of cremated bone (approximately 500g average for adults in the Bronze Age, McKinley 1997), with 462g being recovered. Identified fragments were from across the body including the small phalanges and tooth roots. Some of the cranial fragments had sutures which were fused but not obliterated, indicating a not young person, but not of great age either, or the sutures would be obliterated. The bones were generally smaller in size and more gracile which very tentatively suggests a female individual. As with the other burials there was no pattern to the distribution of the bone elements within the grave.

C-shaped enclosure within Barrow 6005

A single cremation burial was identified within the C-shaped enclosure in Barrow 6005 (Fig. 2.11). Only 25.7g of cremated bone was recovered from pit 6071, which would suggest a cremation-related feature if it were not for the fact that it was identified as a child. The thin cranial bones, length of long bones and tooth development allow the estimation that the individual was a child of 2–3 years. The amount of bone available after cremation from a child of this age would be proportional to the size of the child and 25g could easily be an eighth of a complete small child's body (if the total weight was 200g). Only cranial and long bones fragments were identified, this is due to high fragmentation and the lack of quantity of bone.

Stake circle

At the centre of the Stake circle was a pit (6012, Figs 2.8 and 2.23), with a square-shaped cut and 0.32m deep that contained 12.6g of cremated bone (Table 3.7). It was possible to identify two cranial fragments as human, but the remaining pieces are small and unidentifiable, a single black fragment may be animal bone. The uncertain nature of this deposit and lack of identifiable fragments (which had been possible with much lower weighted deposits) suggests this is a cremation-related feature and not a burial as such.

Just outside the Stake circle, to the west, were two cremation burials within pits 6014 and 6016. Burial 6016 was 0.25m deep and contained the largest deposit of cremated bone of the excavation at 1685.8g. There were also three fragments of Collared Urn (Fig. 4.2, 7) within the deposit and a bone pin (Ra. 26, Fig. 4.7, 2). Adjacent was another much shallower (0.12m) pit, 6014, which only contained 57.2g of cremated bone.

The total weight of burial 6016 would suggest nearly the entire individual was present and interestingly the majority of the bone (1400g) was recovered from the last 50mm of the feature. This indicates that truncation was minimal for this feature and may partly explain the quantity recovered. The primary burials associated with barrows have been suggested to have the highest weights (McKinley 1997, 142); the location of this burial outside the Stake circle presents an interesting relationship between the two. The age of the individual may have been towards the younger end of adult, since the cranial sutures were sharp and the

fragments thin. There was, however, a patella fragment with enthesophyte growth on the anterior, which may indicate an older range. Despite the large quantity of bone and low fragmentation there were no clear indicators of sex. However, the large size and robusticity would hint at a male individual. There was an expected distribution of elements from across the body. There were some fragments which are likely to be animal, which are black in colour, indicating that they were burnt at a lower temperature.

Burial 6014 had identifiable fragments mostly from the limb bones and little cranial bone. Quite a number were from the hands, metacarpal and phalanges, the remainder being unidentified long bones. There was some black, sharp, spongy bone which may be animal. The distribution of elements and low weight highlighted this deposit as questionable as to whether it represented a cremation burial, or a cremation-related feature. The location so close to the other very high weighted burial, when no other burials on the site were physically so close, does hint that there is something different about this deposit.

Cremation burials from Area 4

The cremation burials in Area 4 were physically some way (200m+) from the barrows and formed their own separate grouping (Figs 1.3 and 2.25). Four burials were identified from which identifiable human bone was collected (4002, 4008, 4010 and 4016, Table 3.6). A feature to the north-west of this group was identified during the evaluation and was found to contain pyre debris (WA 2014, 10, pl. 11), but this material was not examined as part of this analysis. Three of the burials were not in ceramic urns but may have been placed within a bio-degradable containers. The greatest weighted burial from Area 4 came from the inverted Collared Urn (Ra. 4, Figs 2.26 and 4.2, 4), 4016, and it had a total weight of 425.4g. The cremated bone from within the urn was radiocarbon dated twice, but the dates were anomalous with one another and the date of the urn. It is possible that the urn was an heirloom, but given the inconsistency of the two dates it is more likely that both results could be technical outliers (see Clough and Barclay, below). The bone is white in colour, the same as the other deposits, and the total weight is only slightly lower than an average for the Bronze Age (McKinley 1997). There had been vertical truncation, the inverted urn only surviving to a small amount of side and rim. It is likely that only a small amount of cremated bone had been lost, since it would have settled at the bottom of the feature (or rim of the inverted vessel). The were indications that the bone could have been from a male individual of the older age range, but the accuracy of estimating age and sex from cremated bone is not as reliable as dry bone.

All parts of the skeleton are present, so there did not appear to be any selection bias. Some of the fragments re-fitted, indicating that they were originally deposited in larger pieces than have resulted after deposition and excavation. Animal bone was present in low quantities, perhaps representing meat joints also placed on the pyre.

Table 3.6 Summary of cremated bone from cremation burials in Area 4

Burial number	Total weight (g)
4002	33.9
4008	1.9
4010	143.7
4016	425.4

The animal bone was noticeably poorly burnt, black in colour, compared to the human bone, indicating that it was perhaps placed on the outer edges of the pyre, away from the hottest parts.

Cremation burial 4010 had a third less bone recovered than burial 4016. The bone was from an adult individual and the long bones of the upper and lower body are present, as were cranial fragments. The colour is much more variable, with a larger percentage of black and brown pieces. These fragments are from the femur, tibia and internal cranium, which are dense bones, so it suggests that the pyre was not sufficiently hot or did not burn long enough to completely combust all parts of the skeleton.

Burials 4002 and 4008 both had very low quantities of cremated bone; they were though identifiable as human. Burial 4002 had only just over 33g, although it was possible to identify petrous portion and temporo-mandibular fossa fragments from the cranium. There was osteophytic growth and porosity in the fossa, which indicates joint disease. Degeneration of the joints usually occurs with increasing age, so this would suggest that the individual was in the older age range. There were no long bones identified from the small quantity of bone. Which may indicate selection bias, but with such a small quantity and a large amount unidentified this is unlikely. It is more probable that truncation has removed the majority of the deposit and the cranial fragments are easier to identify. Burial 4008, despite there being less than 2g of cremated bone, was identified as a probable non-adult individual. The cranial fragments are very thin as are the long bone fragments. An entire cremated child would produce much less bone, so there would be less originally deposited, which accounts for the low quantity to survive the burial environment and truncation.

Cremated bone discussion

Fragmentation varied across the burials (Table 3.7, Fig. 3.6). The non-adult bones suffered from higher fragmentation as would be expected due to their thinner nature, and there did appear to be some slight protection afforded by the urn (Area 4).

Fragmentation

Fragmentation is a consequence of a variety of factors, which include the burial microenvironment (e.g., urned or not, soil type and pH value), level of disturbance of the feature before and during excavation. Lack or low levels of spongy (cortical) bone, which is predominantly in the axial part of

Table 3.7 Fragmentation and quantity of identified elements of all the cremation burials (g) and cremation-related deposit

Burial number	Area	Total weight (g)	Largest fragment size	>10mm	>4mm	>2mm	Total identifiable bone	Skull	Axial	Upper limb	Lower limb	Unid limb
4002	4	33.9	30	6.4	23.1	4.4	10.8	8.2	–	–	–	2.6
4008	4	1.9	8	–	1.9	–	1	1	–	–	–	–
4010	4	143.7	42	117.4	26.3	–	143.7	29.6	5.6	50.6	57.9	–
4016	4	425.4	57	360.7	123.9	6.6	268.9	25.2	9.3	39	195.4	–
6012	Stake circle	12.6	29	4.1	8.5	–	0	–	–	–	–	–
6014	West of Stake circle	57.2	43	19	35.4	2.8	20.1	2	–	1.3	–	16.8
6016	West of Stake circle	1685.8	68	1520	162.2	3.6	992.9	253.3	167	137.1	425.8	10
6047	Barrow 6002	219.8	57	101.1	113.3	5.4	92.9	47.2	15.6	25.3	4.8	–
6049	Barrow 6002	1009.81	86	680.8	312.6	16.4	528.5	200.9	72.6	110.4	141.3	3.3
6051	Barrow 6002	416.8	73	348.8	65.6	2.4	244.1	40.5	51.8	29.9	82.7	39.2
6053	Barrow 6002	981.2	63	522.6	432.2	26.4	272.7	65	29.9	43.1	134.7	–
6071	Barrow 6005 C-shaped enclosure	25.7	17	0.5	16.5	8.7	16.9	4.9	–	–	–	12
6116	Between Barrows 6004 and 6005	462.4	43	160.2	276.7	25.5	152.2	58.1	12.5	26.6	55	–
6118	Between Barrows 6004 and 6005	96.4	37	27.3	52	17.1	40.5	31.7	0.8	–	1.7	6.3
6475	Barrow 6004	650.5	65	360	273	16.9	273.6	149.4	40	40.6	43.6	–
6505	Barrow 6004	648	67	273.5	350.7	23.8	193.9	62	15.5	56.3	60.1	–

the skeleton, can indicate the level of fragmentation as this part is more easily destroyed than cortical bone. Deliberate manipulation of the cremated bone before deposition, such as crushing the bone to create a consistent size of fragment, is rarely seen in the UK (McKinley 2013, 163). The variety of fragment size (Fig. 3.6), and with most above 10mm for the largest fragment size (Table 3.7), seen across the features would suggest that environmental factors are the most likely the cause of fragmentation. Similarly, the quantity of axial bone varies considerably, but is, in general, the least identified.

Colour – pyre technology

All the cremated bone is mostly white, indicating a high and consistent temperature of the pyre. However, there was individual variation per burial which suggests that some pyres were more successful at full oxidation than others. In particular, animal bone stood out as the least well cremated and this may indicate that it lay on the edge of the pyre, or was added part way through. One of the most varied in colour was burial 4010 in Area 4, where the femur is black, indicating that the upper leg had not been in the highest area of heat for long enough duration. A variety of factors will influence the rate at which different areas burn and therefore oxidise the skeleton, including the location of the body on the pyre, depth of soft tissues, quantity of wood, wind direction, duration of pyre (maintenance). Age appeared to have no effect on the quality of the pyre, since the children and adolescent were as well cremated as the adults.

Demography

Of the 15 cremation burials, two were of children, one adolescent and the rest were adult. One feature (6012) was unclear as to its nature, but was not a cremation burial.

The inclusion of non-adults is not unheard of in the Bronze Age, but children are rarer to find. The Andover Airfield barrow cemetery did not have any non-adults identified from amongst the cremated bone deposits (Henderson 2019). However, close by at Walworth Road, Andover, two of the three cremation burials are thought to have been children (King 2015).

Where sex could be estimated it was based on one feature, or a general impression, so cannot be confidently assigned. From Barrow 6002 only one burial (6051) was estimated for sex and was male. Burial 6475 in Barrow 6004 was thought to possibly be female and between Barrows 6004 and 6005, burial 6116 was thought to be female. Both these groupings are interesting, since both the female burials lay adjacent to non-adult burials.

All burials except two were not from within a ceramic urn (6016 had Collared Urn fragments and 4016 was within an urn) but may have been placed in biodegradable containers such as cloth, or leather or cloth bag. They varied in weight considerably, which may be a reflection of status. However, the level of vertical truncation is not known but the loss of a portion of the urns indicates that there was truncation in this area. It is known though, from examination of other Bronze Age burials, that burial of the completely cremated individual did not regularly happen and was probably not desired or necessary. Where an individual was completely collected from the pyre and deposited in the ground it maybe that they had a higher status (McKinley 1997).

Two inhumation burials and nine cremation burials were associated with the barrows. The two inhumation burials were both male and in the older age category. The one from the centre of Barrow 7003 had skeletal indicators to suggest he may have lost his thumb and that some manual labour had occurred affecting the lower spine and elbow. The inhumation burial from the ditch of Barrow 6003 appeared

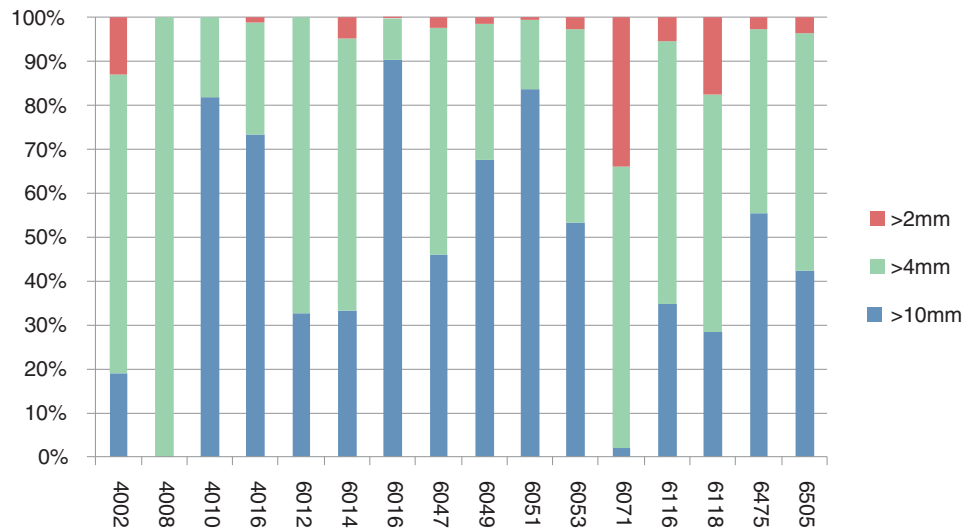


Figure 3.6 Distribution of the percentage of total weight of the level of fragmentation of the cremated bone recovered by sieve fraction size per cremation burial

to have no indicators of manual labour and probably ate a soft, rich diet.

The cremation burials associated with the barrows varied considerably in quantity of bone deposited from a token amount to a significant portion of what remained from the pyre. All age groups were observed indicating the process was not only for demographic one group. The quality of the pyre was good, burning the bone to the fully white in most cases, except the animal bone, which indicates this was treated differently.

Only three cremation burials were associated with the Stake circle, two of which were located to one side. One of the latter was the largest deposit of cremated bone from the entire site and was probably accompanied or contained in an urn and had grave goods. High weight deposits have been identified as possible the primary barrow deposits (McKinley 1997), and perhaps symbolises status. It is entirely possible that this burial to the west of the Stake circle was the primary deposit of this funerary landscape.

The cremation burials in Area 4, physically distanced from the barrow group, have a similar mixed age and quantity of bone. The pyre technology for one deposit, 4010, appeared to not be as efficient with more varied colour changes. The largest weight came from the inverted urned burial, which clearly afforded some protection from later truncation.

In all, the burials from this site are typical of Bronze Age burials found elsewhere, for example, the two local sites at Walworth Road and the Andover Airfield (King 2015; Henderson 2019), but also they sit within the general pattern seen across the UK during this period. The location and position of the male individual in the ditch of the Barrow 6003 is slightly unusual, rather than being placed centrally within the barrow, he was laid prone and not in the more typical crouched position for the period. The radiocarbon date confirmed that the burial was late Early Bronze Age, as it could have been assumed that it was a later insertion. Not all the barrows appear to have had

inhumation burials associated with them, it could be that these were removed by later activity, or perhaps this was an intentional omission. The same apparent lack of cremation burials in and around the barrows, may indicate that they had been inserted higher up and are now lost. Considering the number of barrows, the number of associated burials is low.

Burial catalogue

Dimensions (m): length x width x depth

Ra. = registered artefact

Calibrated radiocarbon dates are IntCal20 at 95.4% confidence, for probability density estimates and discussion of the dates see section on *Radiocarbon Dating*, below.

Area 7

Grave 7015 Barrow 7003 (SK7057, fills 7016, 7058 and 7072)

Figs 2.2–2.3, 2.6–2.7, 3.1

Grave: 1.93m x 1.31m x 0.61m

Age/sex/pathology: Adult 40–50 years, male, spinal degeneration, left first metacarpal nodules

Artefacts: Ra. 9 double ended copper alloy awl, Ras 6 and 8 rusticated Beaker fragments, Ra. 5 thumbnail scraper, Ra. 7 boar's tusk

Radiocarbon dating: 2100–2030 cal BC 95.4% probability (SUERC-82088; 3715±26 BP)

Area 6

Burial 6012 (fill 6013) Stake circle

Fig. 2.8

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.66m x 0.63m x 0.32m

Cremated bone total weight: 12.6g

Age/sex/pathology: Adult

Artefacts: None

Radiocarbon dating: None

Burial 6014 (fill 6015) West of Stake circle

Fig. 2.8

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.48m x 0.5m x 0.12m

Cremated bone total weight: 57.2g

Age/sex/pathology: Adult

Artefacts: Fired clay (1 amorphous fragment, 5g)

Radiocarbon dating: None

Burial 6016 (fill 6017) West of Stake circle

Figs 2.8, 4.7, 2

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.8m x 0.7m x 0.25m

Cremated bone total weight: 1685.8g

Age/sex/pathology: ?Male ?younger adult 1mm osteophyte around edge of a fragment of a possible long bone, patella fragment with enthesophyte growth on the anterior

Artefacts: Collared Urn and Ra. 26 unburnt bone perforated pin

Other: Small quantity (0.8g) possible cremated animal bone

Radiocarbon dating: 1744–1529 cal BC 95.4% probability (SUERC-82121; 3358±42 BP)

Burial 6047 (fills 6048, 6150, 6151 and 6160)

Barrow 6002

Fig. 2.8

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.5m x 0.46m x 0.23m

Cremated bone total weight: 219.8g

Age/sex/pathology: Adult male – notably no lower limb bones were identified

Radiocarbon dating: 2200–2036 cal BC 95.4% probability (BRAMS-2970; 3726±26 BP)

Burial 6049 (fills 6050, 6523 and 6524)

Barrow 6002

Fig. 2.8, 3.2

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.48m x 0.45m x 0.32m

Cremated bone total weight: 1009.81g

Age/sex/pathology: Older adult

Artefacts: Ra. 25 seven ?burnt copper alloy fragments possibly originally from one object

Other: Burnt bird bone

Radiocarbon dating: 1774–1628 cal BC (85.9%) at 95.4% probability (SUERC-82122; 3426±24 BP)

Burial 6051 (fills 6052 and 6525–6528) Barrow 6002

Figs 2.8, 3.3, 4.7, 3

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.65m x 0.45m x 0.29m

Cremated bone total weight: 416.8g

Age/sex/pathology: Adolescent (10–16 years)+

Artefacts: Worked bone possible perforated spatula, burnt

Radiocarbon dating: 1688–1534 cal BC (93.2%) at 95.4% probability (BRAMS-2971; 3342±26 BP)

Burial 6053 (fills 6054 and 6146) Barrow 6002

Fig. 2.8

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.77m x 0.7m x 0.18m

Cremated bone total weight: 981.2g

Age/sex/pathology: Older adult

Artefacts: Flint flake

Radiocarbon dating: None

Burial 6071 (fill 6072) C-shaped enclosure

Fig. 2.11

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.52m x 0.5m x 0.23m

Cremated bone total weight: 25.7g

Age/sex/pathology: Child 2–3 years

Artefacts: None

Radiocarbon dating: None

Burial 6116 (fill 6117) between Barrows 6004 and 6005

Fig. 2.11

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.42m x 0.4m x 0.25m

Cremated bone total weight: 462.4g

Age/sex/pathology: Adult ?female

Artefacts: None

Radiocarbon dating: 1506–1421 cal BC 95.4% probability (BRAMS-2969; 3183±26 BP)

Burial 6118 (fill 6507) between Barrows 6004 and 6005

Fig. 2.11

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.5m x 0.48m x 0.54m

Cremated bone total weight: 96.4g

Age/sex/pathology: Child 4–7 years

Artefacts: None

Radiocarbon dating: Charred seed 1776–1631 cal BC (81.8%) 95.4% probability (BRAMS-2967; 3430±25 BP)

Human cremated bone 1880–1686 cal BC 95.4% probability (BRAMS-2968; 3452±26 BP)

Burial 6475 (fill 6476) Barrow 6004

Figs 2.11, 4.4, 2

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.53m x 0.45m x 0.22m

Cremated bone total weight: 650.5g

Age/sex/pathology: Adult, ?female

Artefacts: Copper alloy wire

Radiocarbon dating: 1898–1742 cal BC 95.4% probability (BRAMS-2972; 3500±26 BP)

Burial 6505 (fill 6506) Barrow 6004

Fig. 2.11

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.43m x 0.4m x 0.2m

Cremated bone total weight: 648g

Age/sex/pathology: Adolescent

Artefacts: None

Radiocarbon dating: 1764–1622 cal BC 95.4% probability (SUERC-82123; 3407±24 BP)

Grave 6294 Barrow 6003 prone in ditch (SK6296, fill 6295)

Fig. 2.8

Grave: 1.69m x 0.94m x 0.43m

Age/sex/pathology: Adult 45–49 years, male

Artefacts: None

Radiocarbon dating: 1624–1508 cal BC 95.4% probability (SUERC-82087; 3308±26 BP)

Area 4

Burial 4002

Fig. 2.25

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.42m x 0.38m x 0.13m

Cremated bone total weight: 33.9g

Age/sex/pathology: Adult

Artefacts: None

Radiocarbon dating: None

Burial 4008

Fig. 2.25

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.41m x 0.27m x 0.04m

Cremated bone total weight: 1.9g

Age/sex/pathology: Non-adult

Artefacts: None

Radiocarbon dating: None

Burial 4010

Fig. 2.25

Grave: Unurned, truncated. 0.65m x 0.56m x 0.11m

Cremated bone total weight: 143.7g

Age/sex/pathology: Adult

Artefacts: None

Radiocarbon dating: None

Burial 4016

Figs 2.25, 2.26, 4.2, 7

Grave: Urned, truncated. 0.56m x 0.49m x 0.10m

Cremated bone total weight: 425.4g

Age/sex/pathology: Adult, ??male

Artefacts: Ra. 4 Inverted Collared Urn (1900–1700 BC)

Other: burnt animal bone 10g

Radiocarbon dating: 1498–1397 cal BC (92.8%) at 95.4% probability (SUERC-82117; 3153±24 BP), re-run second date: 1400–1196 cal BC 95.4% probability (SUERC-83256; 3031±29 BP). Combined result fails χ^2 test, the two results are statistically inconsistent and too young for the type of ceramic (Early Bronze Age Collared Urn)

Radiocarbon dating

by Sharon Clough and Alistair J. Barclay

Radiocarbon dating was undertaken in order to confirm the dates of cremation burials (4016, 6016, 6047, 6049 6505, 6118, 6051, 6116, 6475), skeletons (6296 and 7057), pit (2010), and a possible cremation-related deposit (6465) (Fig. 3.7). The samples were analysed during September/October 2018 at Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), Rankine Avenue, Scottish

Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow, G75 0QF, Scotland and during June/July 2019 at Bristol Radiocarbon Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Facility (BRAMS). The methodology employed by SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory is outlined in Dunbar *et al.* (2016) and at BRAMS in Knowles *et al.* (2019).

The uncalibrated dates are conventional radiocarbon ages. The radiocarbon ages were calibrated using the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration programme OxCal v4.3.2 (2017) (Bronk Ramsey 2017) using the IntCal13 curve (Reimer *et al.* 2013).

Of the 15 dates obtained, two are on inhumed bone, 10 are on calcined human bone and three are on short-lived plant material (charred) (Table 3.8). Two dates (SUERC-82117 and 83256) on cremated bone from burial deposit 4016 are statistically inconsistent (failed χ^2 test $T'=1$; $v=10.473$; $T'(5\%)=3.8$) and both are too young for the type of Early Bronze Age ceramic vessel (Fig. 3.8). These dates are considered to be technical outliers and do not provide accurate date estimates for this deposit and have been excluded from the model. The possibility that the vessel was reused or an heirloom is rejected on this basis. A pair of dates on calcined bone and charred plant material from cremation deposit 6507 (BRAMS-2967 and 2968) to test for the possibility of an age offset due to the transfer of carbon during the cremation process. The two results are statistically consistent (passed χ^2 test $T'=1$; $v=0.4$; $T'(5\%)=3.8$) indicating the probability that any offset was minimal (Fig. 3.9). A further date on cremated bone (6048 fill of 6047), BRAMS-2970, returned the earliest date range on cremated bone of 2200–2035 cal BC at 95.4% probability. This date falls within the start of the Early Bronze Age, and, therefore, is still archaeologically acceptable despite being a slight outlier with all other dates falling after 2000 cal BC, including two other dates on cremated bone from adjacent burials (6049 and 6051: SUERC-82122 and BRAMS-2971).

The radiocarbon dates have been placed within a simple phased model using the OxCal program (Fig. 3.7). With SUERC-82117 and 83256 treated as outliers, the other dates have good individual agreement and the model has good overall agreement (Amodel 96%). The model shows that the Beaker pit (2010) predates the two earliest burials, which are taken as the earliest burials within the cemetery, with the caveat that part of Barrow 6005 with its possible central grave was preserved *in situ* and other burials may not have survived later truncation. At face value this would suggest that Barrows 6002 and 7003 were the earliest. The latest dated burials are the inhumation from the ditch of Barrow 6003 (SUERC-82087) and a satellite cremation burial located between the ditches of Barrows 6004 and 6005. The inhumation burial possibly falls at the end of the Early Bronze Age and the cremation burial within the start of the Middle Bronze Age. Table 3.8 presents all of the dates in probability order from oldest to youngest and has been generated from the model described above and using the OxCal 'Order' function.

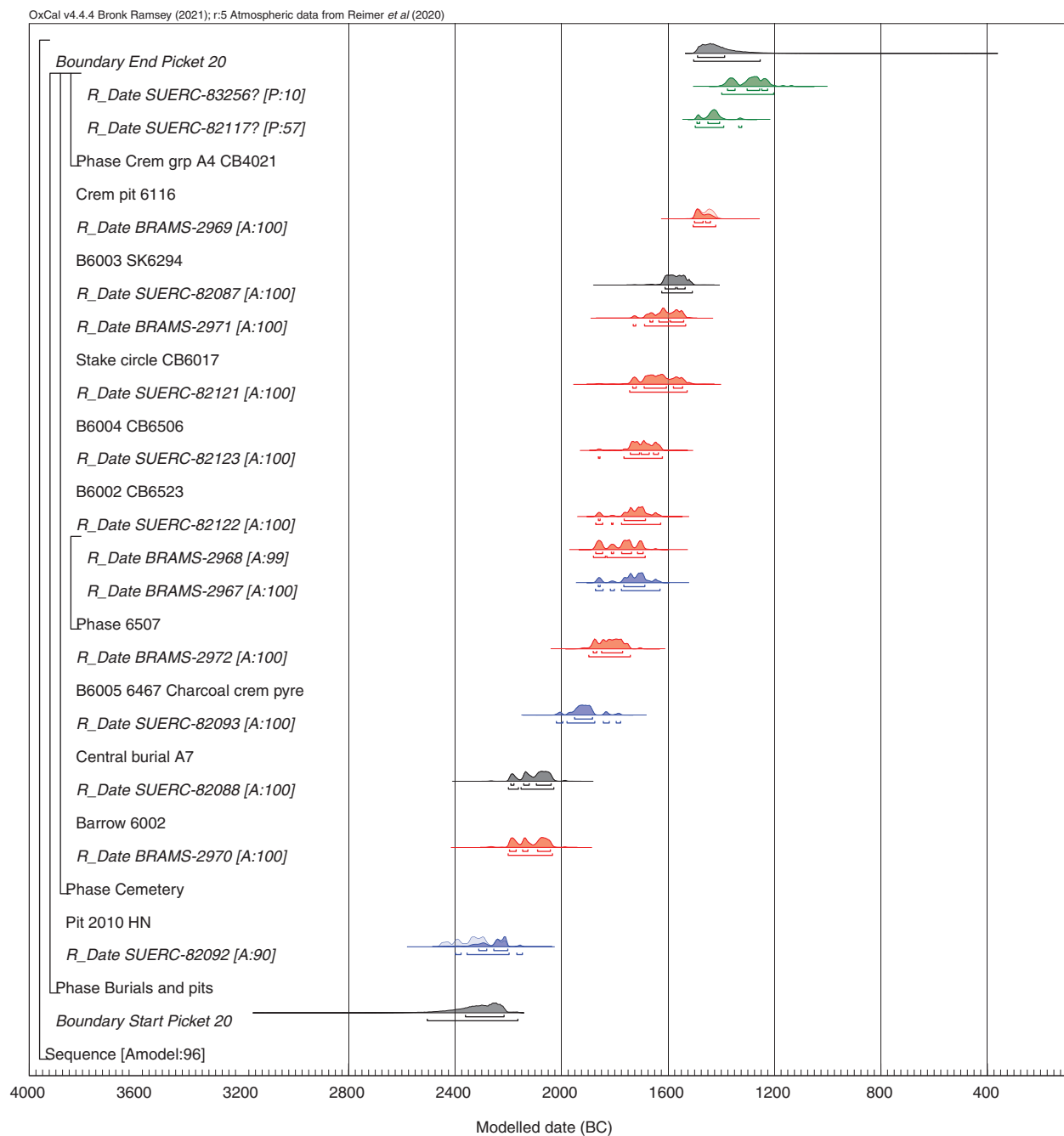


Figure 3.7 A simple phased model (OxCal) of all the radiocarbon dates obtained for the ritual and ceremonial use of the site. Black = plant remains, red = cremated human bone, blue = unburnt human bone, and green = outliers

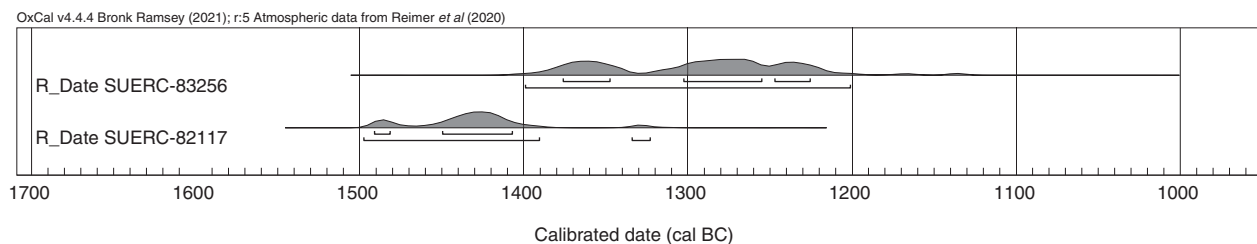


Figure 3.8 A comparison of the two dates (SUERC-82117 and 83256) on burial deposit 4016 to show their statistical inconsistency. Both dates are also significantly latter than the expected date range for Collared Urn

Table 3.8 A summary of all radiocarbon dating results from the excavations. The results deriving from the OxCal model are shown in *italics* and at 95.4% probability or the highest probability within this range. * = problematic result

Feature	Lab No.	Material	Radiocarbon age	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{15}\text{N}$	C/N ratio	Calibrated radiocarbon age 95.4% confidence	Probability density estimate 95.4% probability
4021 Cremation burial 4016	SUERC-82117	Cremated human bone	3153±24 BP	-22.3‰			1497–1393 cal BC (93.9%) 1333–1327 cal BC (1.5%)	1498–1391 (92.8%) cal BC*
4021b Cremation burial 4016	SUERC-83256	Cremated human bone	3031±29 BP	-19.4‰			1396–1207 cal BC (95%) 1201–1196 cal BC (0.4%)	1400–1202 cal BC*
Combined result		Replicant measurements SUERC-82117 and 83256					Fails a χ^2 test $T^*=1$; $V=10.473$; $T^*(5\%)=3.8$	
6017 Cremation burial 6016	SUERC-82121	Cremated human bone	3358±42 BP	-21.4‰			1746–1530 cal BC (95.4%)	1744–1529 cal BC
6523 Cremation burial 6049	SUERC-82122	Cremated long bone fragments	3426±24 BP	-22.8‰			1871–1844 cal BC (5.6%) 1812–1803 cal BC (1.0%) 1776–1658 cal BC (88.8%)	1774–1628 (85.9%) cal BC
6506 Cremation burial 6505	SUERC-82123	Cremated human bone	3407±24 BP	-21.5‰			1758–1632 cal BC (95.4%)	1764–1622 (94.5) cal BC
6294 SK6296 prone in ditch 6294	SUERC-82087	Cremated long bone fragments	3308±26 BP	-21.1‰	8.9	3.2	1643–1510 cal BC (95.4%)	1624–1589 cal BC
7015 SK7057 in grave fill 7072 crouched central inhumation	SUERC-82088	Human bone Human right tibia Human bone Human right humerus	3715±26 BP	-21.6‰	10	3.2	2199–2162 cal BC (15.7%) 2152–2032 cal BC (79.7%)	2200–2030 cal BC
2019 Pit 2010	SUERC-82092	Charred nut fragments	3853±26 BP	-24.3‰			2458–2273 cal BC (79.6%) 2256–2208 cal BC (15.8%)	2356–2198 (90.1%) cal BC
6467 Possible cremation burial 6465	SUERC-82093	Hazelnut fragments (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) Charcoal Pomoideae roundwood	3568±26 BP	-25.3‰			2017–1996 cal BC (4.1%) 1981–1876 cal BC (85.9%) 1842–1820 cal BC (3.4%) 1796–1781 cal BC (1.9%)	2020–1876 (86.5%) cal BC
6507 First fill of cremation burial 6118	BRAMS-2967	Charred seed <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> var. <i>bulbosum</i> (false oat grass)	3430±25 BP	-25.6‰			1873–1843 cal BC (8.0%) 1815–1800 cal BC (2.2%) 1778–1661 cal BC (85.3%)	1776–1631 (81.8%) cal BC
6507b First fill of cremation burial 6118	BRAMS-2968	Cremated human bone	3452±26 BP	-24.4‰			1879–1938 cal BC (21.3%)	1880–1686 cal BC
6117 Fill of cremation burial 6116	BRAMS-2969	Probable cranial fragments Cremated human bone Femur fragment	3183±26 BP	-20.8‰			1830–1690 cal BC (74.1%) 1501–1416 cal BC (95.4%)	1506–1421 cal BC
6048 Fill of cremation burial 6047	BRAMS-2970	Cremated human bone	3726±26 BP	-21.6‰			2201–2036 cal BC (95.4%)	2200–2035 cal BC
6526 Third fill of cremation burial 6051	BRAMS-2971	Radius/ulna fragment Cremated human bone Radius fragment	3342±26 BP	-21.6‰			1728–1724 cal BC (0.6%) 1691–1598 cal BC (77.2%) 1587–1533 cal BC (17.6%)	1688–1534 (93.2%) cal BC
6476 Fill of cremation burial 6475	BRAMS-2972	Cremated human bone Unidentified long bone fragment	3500±26 BP	-26.2‰			1896–1746 cal BC (95.4%)	1898–1742 cal BC

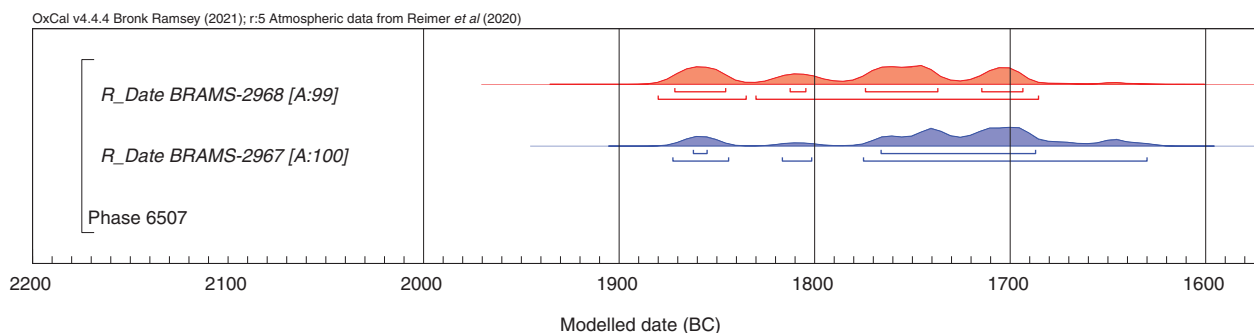


Figure 3.9 A comparison of the two dates (BRAMS-2967 and 2968) for burial deposit 6507 to show their statistical consistency. One date is on charred material and the other on cremated human bone. The latter appears to have no significant age offset

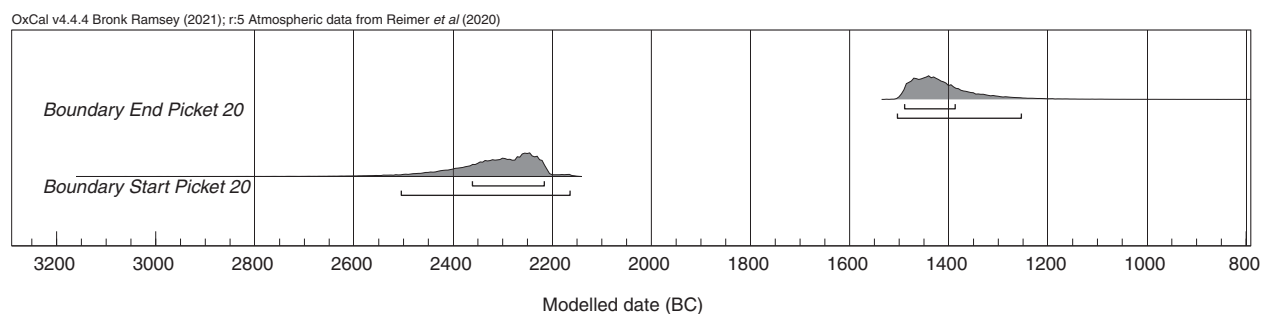


Figure 3.10 The modelled start and end dates for activity for Beaker to Early Bronze Age activity at Picket Twenty. Derived from the model shown in Figure 3.7

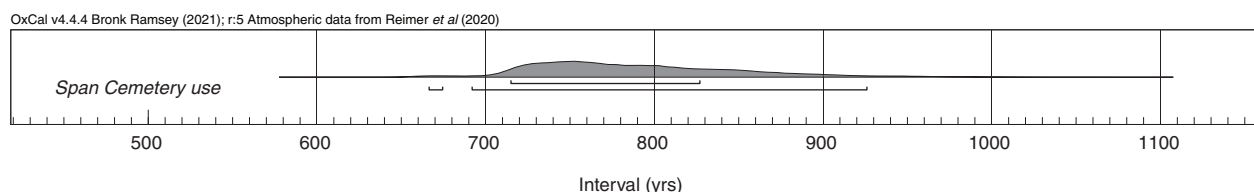


Figure 3.11 The duration of cemetery use modelled as 'span cemetery use'. Derived from the model shown in Figure 3.7

The barrow cemetery appears to have been in use for over 700 years and post-dated the earliest Beaker use of the site (Figs. 3.7 and 3.10). Overall ritual and funerary activity at the site started during 2521–2182 *cal BC* (at 95.4% probability) or during 2360–2216 *cal BC* (at 68.3% probability: modelled as 'start Picket 20'). The earliest feature was the isolated Beaker pit, which was dug at some point during 2356–2198 *cal BC* (90.1% at 95.4% probability), whilst the earliest burial (modelled using *First*) was made during 2202–2054 *cal BC* (at 95.4% probability). Funerary

activity, noting not all deposits were directly dated, appears to have lasted to a point during 1504–1254 *cal BC* (at 95.4% probability: modelled as 'end Picket 20'). Burial at the cemetery lasted for between 567 to 762 years (at 95.4% probability: modelled as 'Span Cemetery use') (Fig. 3.11).

The radiocarbon model presented here has been used to phase the site and sequence the barrows and outline the development of the site, which is described in Chapter 2 and discussed and illustrated (Figs 6.2a–b) in Chapter 6.

Chapter 4

Artefacts

Lithics

by Jacky Sommerville

Introduction and methodology

A total of 474 (6288.2g) worked lithics, and 204 pieces (3925.1g) of burnt, unworked flint, was retrieved from 85 deposits. The lithics were recorded according to broad debitage/artefact type and catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Access database. Attributes recorded include: raw material; weight; dimensions (for debitage over 20mm in length); degree of edge damage (microflaking) and rolling (abrasion), recortication (a white or blueish surface discoloration resulting from soil conditions (Shepherd 1972, 109)), concretion; colour; cortex description; and the presence of breakage and burning.

Raw material

All the raw material is flint. Cortex is present on 302 items – it is abraded on only four, and chalky on the remainder (99%). This indicates a reliance on chalk sources, which

would have been available very locally as the bedrock geology at the site is the Newhaven Chalk Formation (BGS 2025).

Provenance and condition

The majority of worked flints (304, 64%) were from Phase 2 (Beaker/Early Bronze Age) features (Tables 4.1–2). A proportion (57, 12%) is from Phase 1 (Chalcolithic/Beaker) deposits, 103 (22%) were residual in Phase 5 (Roman) deposits and ten (2%) are from unphased deposits. The assemblage is notable for the high degree of recortication (recorded as heavy or moderate on 423 items, 96%) and calcium carbonate concretion (present on 236 items, 50%). Ninety-three worked flints are broken (20%) and 46 are burnt (10%).

Range and variety

Primary technology

The assemblage breakdown is detailed in Table 4.1. The small number of blades (seven, i.e. 2% of debitage) is consistent with the date of the assemblage (Ford 1987, 79).

Table 4.1 Breakdown of lithic assemblage by phase

Type	Count by phase				Total
	Phase 1 Chalcolithic/Beaker	Phase 2 Early to Middle Bronze Age	Phase 5 Roman	Unphased	
Burnt unworked	56	123	25	–	204
Primary technology					
Blade	2	3	2	–	7
Chip	–	–	1	–	1
Core	7	2	–	1	10
Flake	42	285	96	9	432
Shatter	3	6	1	–	10
Secondary technology					
Burin	–	1	–	–	1
Notched flake	–	1	–	–	1
Piercer	–	1	–	–	1
Retouched flake	1	1	1	–	3
Saw	–	1	–	–	1
Scraper (end)	1	3	–	–	4
Scraper (end-and-side)	–	–	1	–	1
Scraper (side)	–	–	1	–	1
Scraper (thumbnail)	1	–	–	–	1
Total worked	57	304	103	10	474

Table 4.2 Breakdown of lithics from substantial Period 1 and 2 features

	Phase 1 Pit 2010	Phase 2 grave 6294	Phase 2 C-shaped enclosure 6348	Phase 2 Barrow 6002	Phase 2 Barrow 6003	Phase 2 Barrow 6004	Phase 2 Barrow 6005	Total
Burnt unworked	54	1	10	17	6	11	19	118
Primary technology								
Blade	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	5
Core	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	8
Flake	34	24	96	47	59	16	34	310
Shatter	3	1	1	—	2	1	1	9
Secondary technology								
Burin	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Notched flake	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Piercer	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Retouched flake	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Saw	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Scraper (end)	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	4
Total worked	47	26	104	49	63	17	36	342

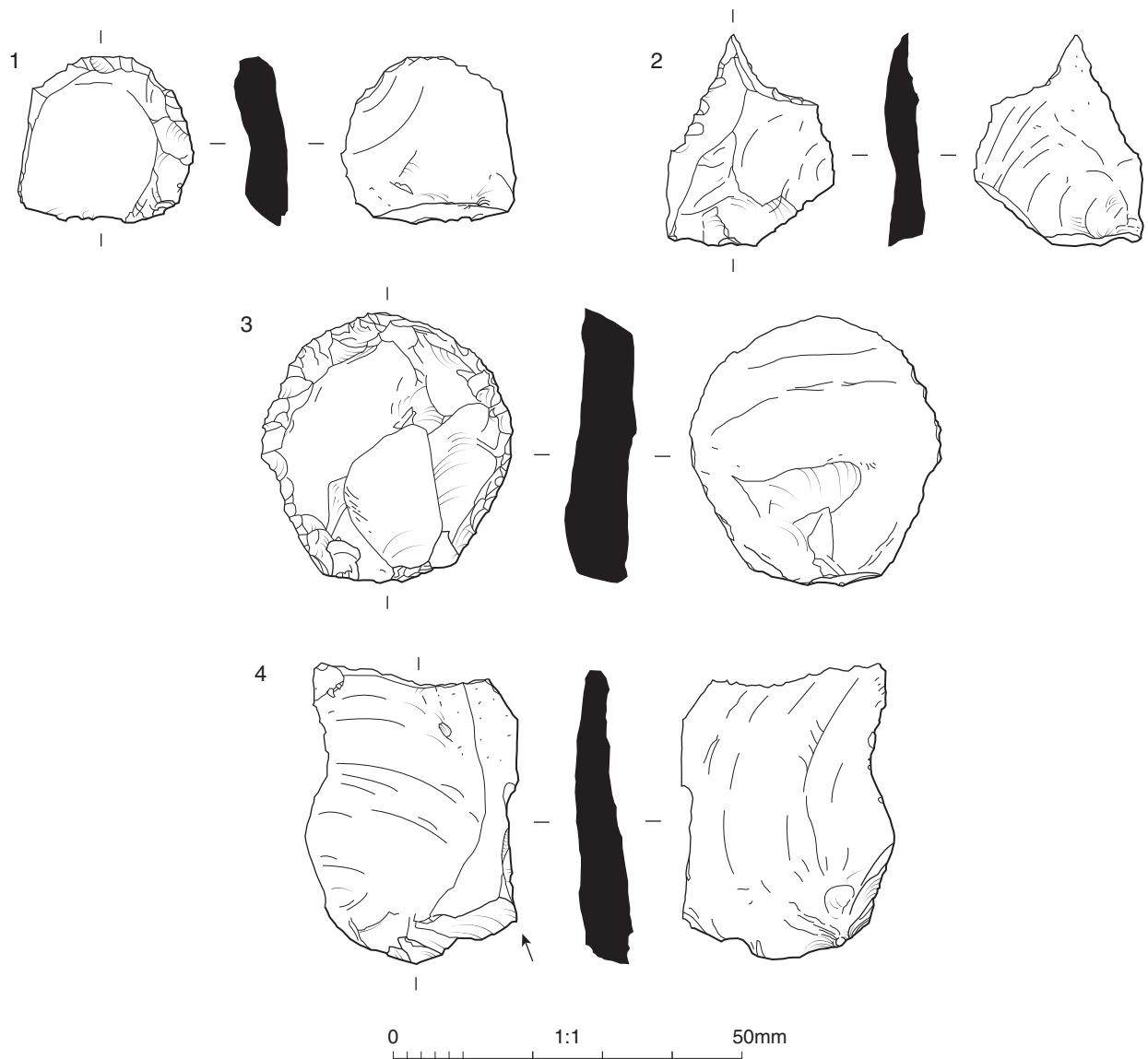


Figure 4.1 Lithics: 1–4

There are only ten cores and one chip, so although knapping was taking place on site it is unlikely to have been an important activity. The cores comprise four single-platform, three dual-platform (none of which are opposed) and three multi-platform types – all used for the production of flakes. Two were made on flakes and none was heavily worked out.

Secondary technology

Retouched tools total 15 (3% of the assemblage) (Table 4.1), all made using flake blanks and most of which are not chronologically diagnostic, e.g. retouched flakes, end scrapers (Fig. 4.1, 3), a notched flake and a piercer (Fig. 4.1, 2).

Phases 1 and 2 (Chalcolithic/Beaker and Early Bronze Age) features

Pit 2010 (Area 2)

This pit produced the largest number of burnt, unworked flints from the site and 47 worked flints were also retrieved from the two fills, 2019 and 2020 (Table 4.2). Of these, 37 (79%) are burnt and 14 (30%) are broken – most are flakes and cores. The tools are a retouched flake and an end scraper. It is difficult to establish whether the flints are likely to be stratified on the basis of condition (i.e. edge damage and rolling), due to the preponderance of burning. Charred hazelnuts from the primary fill (2019) returned a radiocarbon date of *2356–2198 cal BC (90.1%) at 95.4% probability* (SUERC-82092) and the lithics are not inconsistent with this dating.

Inhumation burial 7015 (Area 7)

Only two flints were retrieved from the grave – a flake and a thumbnail scraper (Ra. 5, Fig. 4.1,1) from fill 7072. The latter is diagnostically Beaker/Early Bronze Age in date, and given its position in the grave it was probably a deliberately placed object (see Fig. 2.6). The flint flake may just have been an accidental inclusion into the grave fill. This is in keeping with both the pottery from the same fill and the radiocarbon date returned on associated skeleton 7057, *2200–2030 cal BC at 95.4% probability* (SUERC-82088). The scraper features regular abrupt to semi-abrupt retouch around approximately 50% of the perimeter.

Phase 2 (Early Bronze Age) features

A total of 123 burnt, unworked flints and 304 worked lithics were recorded from features in Area 6 assigned to this period (Table 4.1) – mostly from a grave, a C-shaped enclosure and four barrows (Table 4.2).

C-shaped enclosure 6348

A hundred and four worked flints were recorded from nine fills of this feature (22% of the assemblage). Most are flakes

and 78 are complete, giving average dimensions of 41 x 35 x 10mm, indicating relatively squat proportions, which is common for Late Neolithic/Bronze Age flakes (Butler 2005, 157). The tools comprise two end scrapers, a notched flake, a piercer (Fig. 4.1, 2 and 3) and a saw. The flints are in good condition, which is suggestive of stratification. One item of probable Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date is a burin (Fig. 4.1, 4) recovered from fill 6374. Such tools are thought to have been used for bone and antler working (ibid., 51; 108; 131–2).

Barrows 6002, 6003, 6004 and 6005

A total of 114 worked flints were recorded from these four features, making up 24% of the assemblage. They are almost entirely debitage, together with one core, two retouched flakes and an end scraper (Fig. 4.1, 3) (Table 4.2). Average flake dimensions are 43 x 38 x 11mm, based on 125 intact examples.

Catalogue of illustrated pieces

(Fig. 4.1,1–4)

- 1 Phase 2 grave 7015, fill 7072. Thumbnail scraper, Ra. 5
- 2 Phase 2 C-shaped enclosure 6248, cut 6424, fill 6426. Piercer
- 3 Phase 2 Barrow 6005, cut 6356, fill 6362. End scraper
- 4 Phase 2 Barrow 6003, cut 6249, fill 6374. Burin

Discussion

The majority of the lithic assemblage comprises probable stratified flints from Phase 1 (Chalcolithic/Early Beaker) and Phase 2 (Beaker/Early Bronze Age) features. Although relatively substantial flint assemblages have been recovered as grave goods in Beaker burials, such as the very rich 'Amesbury Archer' burial in Wiltshire (Harding 2011), it is more typical for only a small number of flint grave goods to be included (ibid., 98), as seen here. This is also observed at sites including Chilbolton, Hampshire (approximately 6.5km to the south) where nine worked flints were considered to be grave goods, (Boismier 1990, 158) and from the Amesbury 'Companion' burial who was buried with five flints, thought to be possible grave goods (Fitzpatrick 2011, 68).

The small lithic assemblages from the barrows are only broadly comparable to those from similar features in Hampshire, many of which are much larger and most of which are dominated by broad, hard hammer flakes. For example, two barrows containing Early to Late Bronze Age dating evidence were excavated at Walworth Industrial Estate, Andover, approximately 1.5km north-west of Picket Twenty (King 2015). Here 869 worked flints were recovered, although approximately 75% were thought to be residual (Harding 2015, 19). At Micheldever Wood, approximately 16km to the south-east, a triple barrow was excavated. Early Bronze Age phases produced a total of 2099 flints including retouched flakes, scrapers and borers (Fasham 1979, 28).

Prehistoric pottery

by Alistair J. Barclay and Katie Marsden

Introduction

A total of 234 sherds (2465g) of prehistoric pottery (Table 4.2) was recovered from the excavations including samples (5, 53, 122 and 219). Contexts included funerary deposits, the barrow ditches and associated features, pits, and settlement-related structures. Its broad date range covers the Beaker to Middle Bronze Age periods (2400 BC to 1150 BC). Represented styles include Beaker, Collared Urn and Deverel-Rimbury pottery (Fig. 4.2). A small number of vessel profiles are represented amongst the assemblage, although very few had complete profiles partly as a consequence of post-depositional disturbance such as truncation.

Methodology

Recording was undertaken in accordance with currently accepted guidelines for archaeological ceramics (Barclay *et al.* 2016) and directly to an MS Access database, and a guide to the codes employed, together with quantification by sherd number and weight, is detailed in Tables 4.3–4.

Provenance and condition

Pottery was recovered from Areas 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, with Area 6 producing the vast majority of material (99% by

Table 4.3 *A summary breakdown of the assemblage by ceramic style*

Pottery	Count	Weight (g)	Ra. vessels	Figure and catalogue nos
Beaker and Collared Urn	148	1846	3, 4, 6, 8 and 24	1–7
Deverel-Rimbury	53	481		8–9
Indeterminate	42	146		
Early prehistoric				
Total	241	2465		

Table 4.4 *Prehistoric fabrics and concordance*

Period	Code	Description	Ct	Wt (g)
<i>Prehistoric (Bronze Age)</i>	FL	Thick-walled, coarse flint-tempered fabric	57	379
	Fine Fl	Finer version of fabric FL, with thinner walls	2	107
	Gt1	Grog-tempered, dark grey core, oxidised surface, hackly break	100	1429
	Gt1 (ox)	Fully oxidised version of grog-tempered fabric Gt1	3	7
	Pre4	Shell and grog-tempered fabric	11	46
	Pre3	Flint and shell or limestone tempered fabric	3	46
	Pre2	Flint and grog-tempered fabric	25	241
	Pre1	Moderately grog-tempered fabric	31	178
	Pre1 (ox)	Fully oxidised version of grog-tempered fabric Pre1	1	10
	Sh	Shell-tempered fabric	1	3
<i>Iron Age</i>	Fer	Ferruginous pellets	7	19

sherds count). The material from Area 6 mainly came from fills of Phase 2 barrow ditches, which accounts for 92% of the total pottery recovered (by sherd count). These sherds were mostly recovered from the middle and upper fills of the ditches and, in some instances, from multiple phases of deposition.

The remaining 1% of pottery was recovered from features associated with funerary practices (fills of the C-shaped enclosure, cremation burials and graves), linear features, pits and postholes. Interestingly, Area 4 produced pottery exclusively associated with cremation-related pits, with no residual or intrusive material present.

The prehistoric pottery is generally very fragmented and abraded. The mean sherd weight of 10.5g would ordinarily reflect a moderately fragmented assemblage. However, the assemblage includes pottery of different types, fabrics, manufacture and sizes (e.g., Beaker sherds and urn sherds), and is skewed by cremation vessel (Ra. 4), which now comprises 50 sherds weighing 1214g but was recovered *in situ* and in an inverted position. The base and much of the body of Ra. 4 has been truncated by plough activity. The remaining sherds mostly result from the micro-excavation process, due to the fragile nature of the vessel. Prehistoric sherds are also characterised by chalk adhesion, which often masks elements of decoration.

Prehistoric

Pottery totalling 241 sherds (2465g) dating to the Beaker period, and the Bronze and Iron Ages, was recovered from 23 deposits. Of this number, only five deposits contained later dated pottery, suggesting that levels of residuality, or mixing within contexts, are low. A high proportion of this material derives from funerary deposits, particularly in Areas 4 and 7. These features include pottery recovered from inhumation grave 7015, cremation pit 6014 and cremation-related feature 6489, C-shaped enclosure 6348 (intervention 6414) and curvilinear feature 6730 (intervention 6732). A total of eight fabric groups were identified, with subdivisions noted for three fabrics (Table 4.4).

Beaker

Beaker sherds were recovered from pit 2010, Barrow 6003 ditch 6284 and grave 7015 (19 sherds, 213g). The earliest material from the site comprises 13 refitting sherds (186g) from a single Beaker vessel (Ra. 3), recovered from pit 2010 (fill 2019). The vessel occurs in a flint and grog-tempered fabric (Pre2), is of tall sinuous form and is unusually decorated with vertical columns of horizontally aplastic impressed fingernail decoration (Fig. 4.2,1). This type of motif is rare in that it is far more common to find vertical rather than horizon impressions (see Gibson 1982; Clarke 1970). However, a similar motif albeit executed with impressed comb occurs on the belly of a low carinated or European Beaker that was found at Cholsey, Oxfordshire (Clarke 1970, pl. 2) and using impressed finger-nail on the

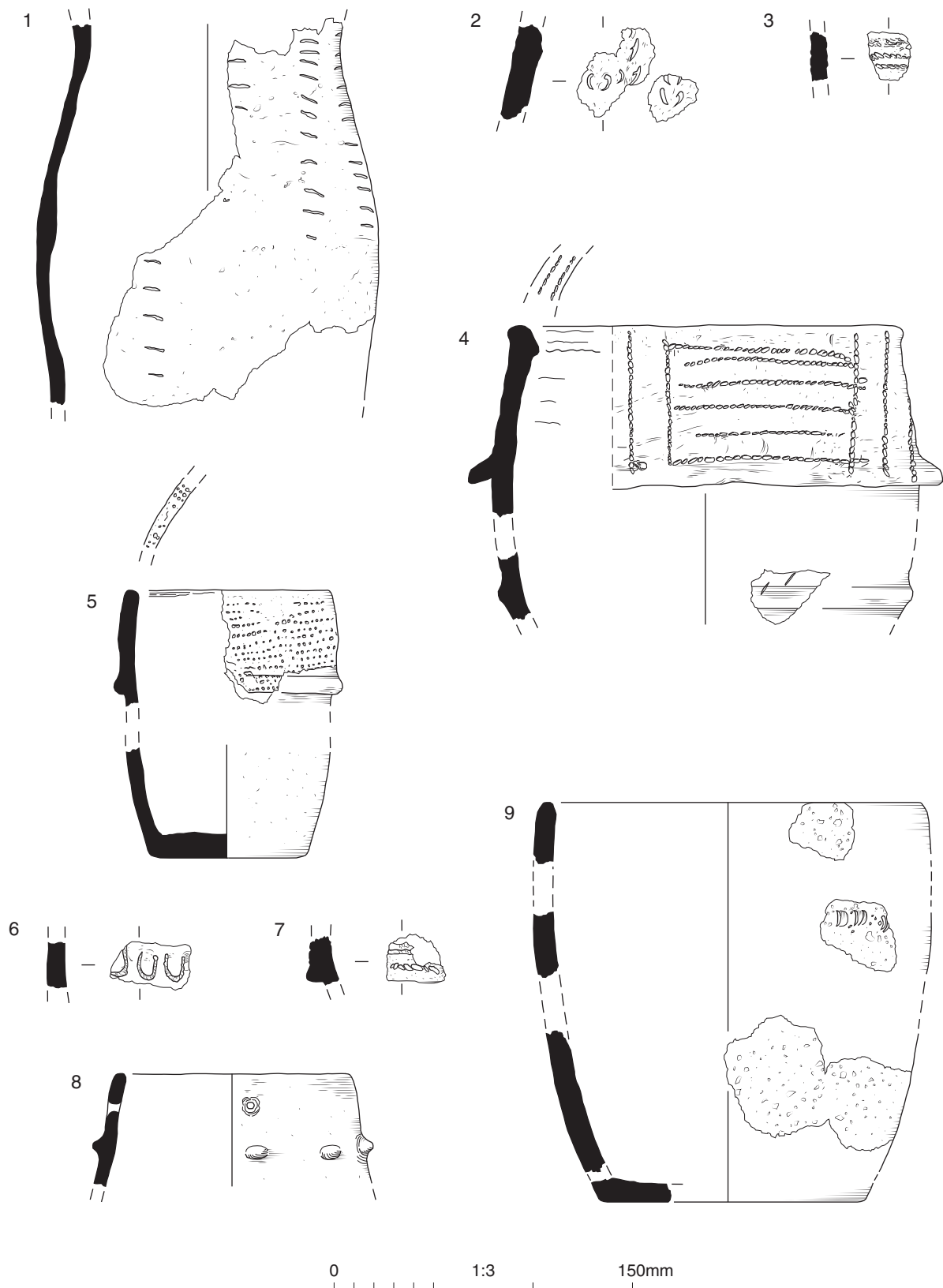


Figure 4.2 Prehistoric pottery: 1-9

belly of a globular-shaped Beaker from Brandon, Suffolk (Clarke 1970, 333, fig. 429).

Within a local context similarities can be drawn with a sinuous profiled vessel with aplastic finger-nail impressed decoration from the Chilbolton burial (Russell 1990, 161–2 and figs 2 and 5) that was found with a secondary burial above a rich Beaker burial (see Chapter 6).

Pottery sherds Ra. 6 and Ra. 8 (Fig. 4.2, 2, four sherds in total, 19g), recovered from inhumation grave 7015 (fill 7072, see Fig. 2.6) are probably from the same rusticated Beaker vessel. Rusticated or ‘domestic’ Beaker pottery tends to be found in non-funerary contexts (see Gibson 1982), although occasionally vessels occur in graves and mostly with secondary burials. In addition, token sherds and broken vessels of this type have been recorded in graves (Barclay and Bradley 2017, 150). They could simply represent incidental material that has become incorporated in the grave fill or token sherds either placed or thrown into the grave as part of the burial ritual.

Two Beaker sherds including one with impressed cord decoration came from ditch 6284 (fill 6286) from Barrow 6003 (Fig. 4.2, 3).

Collared Urn

At least three Collared Urn vessels were recovered from funerary contexts. A single inverted vessel (Ra. 4) had been used to hold cremated remains within Area 4 and a miniature vessel (Ra. 24) that had been used as part of the cremation ritual and subsequently buried within the C-shaped enclosure within Barrow 6005. Sherds from possible Collared Urns came from four other contexts associated with a pit outside the Stake circle (6017), from the ditches of Barrow 6003 (6259 and 6286), and from Barrow 7003 (7072).

Cremation pit 4016 (fill 4017) produced 29 sherds (155g), mostly refitting, of a Collared Urn (Ra. 4) (Fig. 4.2, 4), in a grog-tempered fabric (Gt1). The urn had been inverted over a cremation deposit, and only the upper part of the vessel, including the collar and a small number of shoulder sherds had survived. Similar decoration was identified on a second Collared Urn, from pit 6016 (fill 6017). As only the upper collar portion of the vessel survived, it was not possible to be completely certain of the vessel’s exact profile, although the upright ‘hat-like’ collar and sherds with a slight cordon marking a ‘shoulder’ suggest a vessel of tripartite form and of later style (Burgess 1986, figs 1 and 2, 345–348). The urn had been decorated with impressed twisted cord with twin lines on the rim bevel and alternating vertical and horizontal blocks of parallel lines on the collar – relatively common motifs that can be paralleled on urns of similar form from southern England (Longworth 1984, pls 149e, 157d and e, and 159a, c and d). Radiocarbon dates obtained for this burial are statistically inconsistent and fall well outside the accepted currency for this style of pottery and, therefore, do not provide an accurate date for this deposit (see Clough and Barclay, Chapter 3). In addition, two other vessels are

represented by a body sherd with an impressed ‘horseshoe’ motif (Fig. 4.2, 6) from Barrow 6003 and a collared rim sherd (Fig. 4.2, 7) from cremation pit 6016.

Collared Urns occur in a wide range of sizes from very large vessels to those that are cup-sized and smaller and fall within the recognised category of miniature vessel (see Longworth 1984, pl 246). An example of the latter is represented by Ra. 24 (Fig. 4.2, 5), a miniature vessel with round-tooth comb-impressed decoration, in a grog-tempered fabric (Pre1). This was recovered from pit 6489 (fill 6490) within the C-shaped enclosure and appeared to have been over or refired and as such could have been a pyre good given its context and association with other cremated remains.

Deverel-Rimbury

In total 46 sherds (462g) has been assigned to the Deverel-Rimbury style of the Middle Bronze Age, although it is possible that some of the less diagnostic sherds recorded at prehistoric could also be of this date. Two fragmentary vessels were recovered and this includes sherds from a Globular Urn (8 sherds, 65g) typically made in a flint-tempered fabric and with a series of embossed lugs (Fig. 4.2, 8) and rim, body and base sherds from a simple Bucket Urn with a single horizontal row of impressed finger-tip decoration (Fig. 4.2, 9) that was recovered from the upper ditch fill of Barrow 6002. The Globular Urn manufactured from a flint-tempered fabric (Fl) has a single post-firing hole set below the rim, which may have been for repair or to attach a handle. Such drilled holes in pottery of this date are relatively common and examples were recorded from the Andover Airfield cemetery (Howell with Blackmore *et al.* 2019, fig. 25, P25 and P29). This vessel was recovered from the upper fill (6429 section 6428) of Barrow 6005. It is notable that these two vessels occur at opposite ends of this small barrow group.

The remainder of the prehistoric assemblage (42 sherds, 146g), mostly from Area 6 (Barrows 6002–6005) comprises unfeatured bodysherds, in seven fabrics (codes Pre1–4 and includes flint-tempered, shell-tempered and grog-tempered fabrics) (Table 4.4), and although assigned a broad prehistoric date this material is likely to be contemporary with the vessels described above.

Iron Age

The latest material in this group comprises seven sherds (19g) in a ferruginous fabric (code FER) recovered from ditch 7002 (intervention 7031, fill 7033; see Fig. 2.2). Iron Age activity is known in the area, such as the Old Pound earthwork 1.6km to the south (Fig. 1.1) and enclosed settlements at Old Down Farm, Charlton and Knights Enham (Ellis and Chaffey 2014) further afield, but the small quantities recorded suggest that little activity of this period was taking place within the vicinity of the Picket Twenty site.

Discussion

The pottery assemblage from the barrow cemetery and associated features is relatively modest, although the range of styles is in keeping with the broad character and date of the site. Like other early prehistoric sites in the area, Neolithic pottery is rare or absent, although a single pit containing Middle Neolithic Mortlake Ware pottery, at least three bowls, was excavated at Portway, Andover (Smith 1985, 16 and fig. 10, 1–4). As at Andover Airfield near Weyhill, the earliest pottery from non-funerary contexts is of earlier Beaker date (see Howell with Blackmore *et al.* 2019, 8–9), whilst a Beaker flat grave with two similar Beakers (all were classified as Wessex/Middle Rhine) lay some distance (over 300m) away from the nearest of the barrows. Other Beakers found with inhumation burials from the Andover area include a possible single grave from the Iron Age enclosure site at Balksbury (Wainwright and Davies 1995, 9; Cleal 1995, 55 and fig. 55) and the very rich grave at Chilbolton (Russel 1990) both of which contained vessels of low carinated/bellied form.

At both Picket Twenty and the Andover Airfield sites pottery directly associated with primary and secondary funerary and perhaps ceremonial use included Collared Urn and Deverel-Rimbury style vessels. Food Vessels, likely to overlap in date with the use of Beaker and Collared Urn, were also present at the Andover Airfield site (Howell with Blackmore *et al.* 2019, 24) but not in great quantity and are absent at Picket Twenty. The burial of a small or miniature Collared Urn was also noted at both sites, and in both cases likely to be from funerary related deposits (see Chapter 6, and Howell with Blackmore *et al.* 2019, 18 and fig. 17, P18). A small number of Beaker and Deverel-Rimbury sherds were recovered from the Barrow A ditch fill at the Portway barrow cemetery (Smith 1985, 17 and fig. 10, 6–10).

Catalogue of illustrated sherds

(Fig. 4.2)

- 1 Beaker. Ra. 3. Sinuous vessel with finger-nail impressed decoration. Pit 2010 (fill 2019)
- 2 Beaker. Ra. 6 and 8. Rusticated vessel with pinched finger-tip impressed decoration. Grave 7015 (fill 7072)
- 3 Beaker. Twisted cord impressed lines. Ditch 6284 (fill 6286)
- 4 Collared Urn. Ra. 4. Collar and shoulder from a cord impressed vessel. Cremation pit 4016 (fill 4017)
- 5 Collared Urn. Ra. 24. Miniature vessel with impressed round-toothed comb decoration. Heat damaged, ?pyre good. Pit 6489 (fill 6490)
- 6 Possible Collared Urn sherd with impressed 'horseshoe' motif made from impressed twisted cord. Barrow 6003 (cut 6219) (fill 6259).
- 7 Collared Urn. A fragment of collar with twisted cord impressed lines. Cremation pit 6016 (fill 6017)
- 8 Deverel-Rimbury. Refitting sherds from the upper part of a Globular Urn with a row of applied bosses and a

post-firing hole set below the rim. Barrow 6005 (cut 6428) (fill 6429)

- 9 Deverel-Rimbury. Sherds from a Bucket Urn with a simple rounded rim and a single row of impressed finger-tip decoration. Barrow 6002 (cut 6154) (fill 6155)

Roman pottery

by Katie Marsden and Jacky Sommerville

Introduction and methodology

A substantial assemblage, totalling 11,478 sherds (91,817g), was hand-recovered from 57 deposits and as unstratified finds. Almost the entire assemblage was derived from secondary fills of prehistoric barrows and for this reason a reduced level of recording was undertaken, in accordance with current guidelines for the assessment of archaeological ceramics (Barclay *et al.* 2016). Recording has been undertaken directly to an MS Access database and the fabric codes and descriptions, together with quantification by sherd count and weight, are given in Table 4.5. Where possible, fabrics have been recorded using codes of the Danebury Roman Environs fabric type series (Durham 2008). The exception to this methodology, due to the volume of material assessed, is that the coding for the reduced coarsewares, has been split into three broad groups, rather than the 14 divisions employed by the Danebury project. These groups are 'micaceous', 'fine' and 'coarse', with the latter two groups subdivided by colour; light and dark. Also in keeping with the Danebury project, all base and rim sherds have been recorded separately, using the form and rim codes from the same publication (*ibid.*, 108). Where possible, fabric codes have been cross-referenced to those matching the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Provenance and condition

One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from Area 3 and the remainder is from Area 6. Most of the latter was recovered from fills of the barrow ditches, accounting for 99.7% by sherd count and 99.9% by weight (Table 4.6). These sherds were mostly recovered from the middle and upper fills of the ditches – mostly third, fourth and fifth fills. The remaining few sherds were from the C-shaped enclosure in Area 6 and a non-barrow ditch in Area 6.

The condition of the Roman pottery is fairly homogenous across the assemblage, with sherds appearing to be of a fairly even size and well fragmented, with a mean sherd weight of 8g. Few full-profile vessels are identifiable and these are limited to bowls/dishes. Reconstruction of larger vessels such as jars is made difficult by the high level of fragmentation and large context groups. This is reflected in the large number of jars of type JR, where details of

Table 4.5 *Assemblage summary*

Fabric code	Description	NRFRC*	Count weight (g)	Weight (g)
1.1	South-East Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	45	403
CGW1	Coarse greyware; pale fabric		1230	11664
CGW2	Coarse greyware; dark fabric		4997	35510
FGW1	Fine greyware; pale fabric		1074	2857
FGW2	Fine greyware; dark fabric		1212	11208
MGW	Micaceous greyware, dark fabric		1211	12083
2.1	Grog-tempered; very coarse ware		259	4396
2.2	Grog-tempered; smooth, soapy dark-coloured ware		418	3910
2.3	Grog-tempered; fine, smooth soapy grey ware		217	2959
2.4	Savernake Grog-tempered ware	SAV GT	136	1778
2.5	Grog-tempered; sandy, micaceous orange-firing ware		142	878
2.6	Grog-tempered; sandy ware		44	482
2.7	Hampshire grog-tempered ware	HAM GT	2	12
3.1	White-firing; coarse, sand-tempered ware		2	8
3.1a	Oxford White ware	OXF WH	1	10
3.2	White-firing; medium grade sand-tempered ware		6	53
3.3	White-firing; fine sand-tempered ware		5	34
4.1	Orange-firing; coarse sand-tempered ware		32	223
4.2	Orange-firing; medium sand-tempered ware		131	726
4.3	Orange-firing; fine sand-tempered ware		32	105
5.1	Buff/pink-firing; coarse sand-tempered ware		1	5
5.2	Buff/pink-firing; medium sand-tempered ware		65	420
5.3	Buff/pink-firing; fine sand-tempered ware		17	57
6.1	Flint-tempered; grey or orange fabric, moderate to abundant calcined flint		89	788
6.2	Flint-tempered; black or grey fabric, coarse flint and grog		81	1035
6.2 (fine)	Finer version of fabric 6.2		3	53
7.1	Central Gaulish Black-slipped ware	CNG BS	2	18
9.1	New Forest colour-coated ware	NFO CC	3	24
9.3	Miscellaneous colour-coated ware		6	31
FLAG	Buff coloured flagon fabric		3	21
CG SA	Central Gaulish samian (unsourced)		6	16
LEZ SA2	Central Gaulish samian (Lezoux)	LEZ SA2	2	29
LMV SA	Central Gaulish samian (Les Martres-de-Veyre)	LMV SA	1	15
MON SA	South Gaulish samian (Montans)	MON SA	2	6
Total			11477	91817

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes (Tomber and Dore 1998)

profile could not be recorded, and of indeterminate bowl/dish vessels (Table 4.7). Abrasion was not systematically recorded, but the pottery appeared moderately abraded, with well-worn edges, and samian and finewares often displaying a partial or total loss of surface slip.

Visible evidence for use, including burnt food residues, sooting and deposits of limescale, is rarely present within the assemblage, but is noted on 20 sherds. This general absence may be a result of taphonomic processes rather than the absence of cooking activity and is not considered to be a reliable indicator of the use of this pottery.

Fabrics

Local and regional

The majority of the assemblage (9725 sherds, 73322g, 85% by count, 80% by weight) comprises reduced coarsewares, probably of relatively local manufacture (Table 4.5). These belong to the fabrics grouped as fine, coarse and micaceous greywares (FGW1/2, CGW1/2 and MGW), which are likely to accord with fabrics 1.2 to 1.14 from the *Danebury Environs Roman Programme* (Durham 2008). Sources of these fabric groups are likely to have been fairly local to the Picket Twenty site, although the kiln locations are unknown. Regional imports are relatively poorly represented. A small amount of South-East Dorset Black-burnished ware (45 sherds), fabric 1.1, was recovered.

Grog-tempered fabrics (Danebury fabric codes 2.1–2.7), which were probably manufactured locally, amount to 1218 sherds (11% of the assemblage by sherd count). Savernake ware (fabric 2.4), produced in north-east Wiltshire, totals 136 sherds (1%). The distinctive, primarily Late Roman Hampshire grog-tempered ware (fabric 2.7) is poorly represented, amounting to just two sherds.

Comparatively few sherds in oxidised fabrics are represented in the assemblage, with just 292 sherds (3%). This group includes white (fabrics 3.1–3.3), orange (fabrics 4.1–4.3) and pink/buff-firing fabrics (5.1–5.3). Only one sherd is identifiable to source, fabric 3.1a, from kilns in Oxfordshire (Oxford whiteware). Two sherds of a buff-firing fabric with a grey core, of uncertain source (fabric code FLAG), were recovered, probably representing flagons.

Finewares are also very limited in the assemblage, comprising colour-coated wares from the New Forest (fabric 9.1) and unsourced colour-coated wares (fabric 9.3), which are likely to originate from New Forest or Oxfordshire production centres, but are generally too abraded to distinguish further. The group comprises 10 sherds (56g).

Continental imports

A very small proportion of imported wares, totalling 13 sherds (84g, 0.1% of the assemblage) was recovered, all of which are finewares. Samian ware accounts for 11 sherds,

Table 4.6 Pottery from Area 6 barrows

Barrow	Cut	Fill	Sherd count	Weight (g)
6002	6145	6147	47	239
		6148	1	8
		6154	6	33
		6164	34	249
		6170	3	3
	6175	6173	4	22
		6174	16	37
		6178	24	127
		6180	1	6
	6183	6181	1	2
		6184	16	130
		6193	7	31
		6198	22	131
	6203	6204	181	633
		6211	363	1651
		<i>Subtotal</i>		
6003	6189	6190	6	23
		6201	245	1237
		6212	724	4657
		6217	1879	18381
		6219	1625	18444
	6221	6222	1366	10208
		6280	1588	10879
		6236	512	3105
		6238	205	1386
	6245	6247	485	3637
		6249	1581	11140
		6265	84	665
		6270	60	368
	6289	6278	175	1086
		6293	254	2669
		<i>Subtotal</i>	10789	87885
6004	6225	6226	53	236
		6284	160	1290
		6297	4	34
		6304	2	17
		6310	2	17
	6319	6352	3	23
		6333	1	7
		6401	1	23
		6417	3	15
	6443	6422	2	21
		6446	1	12
		6448	2	4
		6531	19	115
		<i>Subtotal</i>	253	1814
6005	6338	6341	7	72
		6356	6	62
		6360	2	55
		6378	3	35
	6408	6411	1	8
		6437	7	55
		6451	4	22
		6477	4	26
	6491	6494	3	14
		6508	4	12
		<i>Subtotal</i>	41	361
Grand total			11446	91711

from production centres located in South Gaul (Montans; MON SA) and Central Gaul (including Lezoux; LEZ SA2 and Les Martres-de-Veyre; LMV SA). Forms include a Drag. 33 cup, with a stamp ending in '...ANIM', which could not be identified to maker. A bowl or dish and a vessel with a bead rim are too fragmentary to identify further. The remaining imported wares present as two sherds, from a beaker (BK1), of Central Gaulish Black-slipped ware (fabric 7.1).

Table 4.7 Vessel forms

Form	Description	Count	Total/%
BK1	Beaker indented	1	3/<1%
BK2	Beaker necked	1	
CP	Cup	1	
BO	Bowl	2	56/5.8%
BO1	Bowl straight-sided	8	
BO2	Bowl curved-sided	33	
BO3	Bowl necked	2	
BO4	Bowl sieve	6	
BO5	Bowl carinated	4	
BO7	Bowl bead-rim	1	
BO/DI	Bowl/dish	12	108/11.2%
BO/DI1	Bowl/dish straight-sided	86	
BO/DI2	Bowl/dish curved-sided	9	
DI/BO1	Dish/bowl straight-sided	1	
DI1	Dish straight-sided	20	38/3.9%
DI2	Dish curved-sided	1	
PL	Platter	17	
FL2	Flagon flange/ring neck	1	1/<1%
JR	Jar	598	756/78.3%
JR1	Jar narrow-mouth	58	
JR2	Jar narrow-mouth with handle	1	
JR3	Jar wide-mouth	47	
SJ	Storage jar	52	
JR/BO	Jar/bowl	2	
Lid	Lid	1	
		Total count	965

Table 4.8 Rim and base typology

Code	Description
1	Beaded rim
2	Elongated bead
3	Upright rim (necked bowls and jars)
4	Everted rim
5	Sharply everted (cavetto)
6	Flat, out-turned plain rim
7	Flat, out-turned grooved rim
8	Plain rim (as straight-sided dish)
9	Flanged rim a) high flange b) drop flange
10	Flattened bead
11	Rolled rim
12	Triangular rim
13	Squared rim
14	Lid-seated
15	Moulded rim
16	Cupped rim
17	Cable moulded (as in Alice Holt/New Forest storage jars)
BA1	Flat base
BA2	Grooved base
BA3	Footring base
BA4	Semi-pedestal base
BA5	Pedestal base

Forms

The range of coarseware forms is relatively limited (Table 4.7), consisting mainly of jars, bowls and dishes, with much smaller numbers of platters (Fig. 4.3, 11), lids (Fig. 4.3, 7), beakers/cups and flagons, and only one mortarium. There are broad correlations between fabrics and forms. For example, large storage jars tend to occur in sturdy grog-tempered (Fig. 4.3, 6) and coarse greyware fabrics,

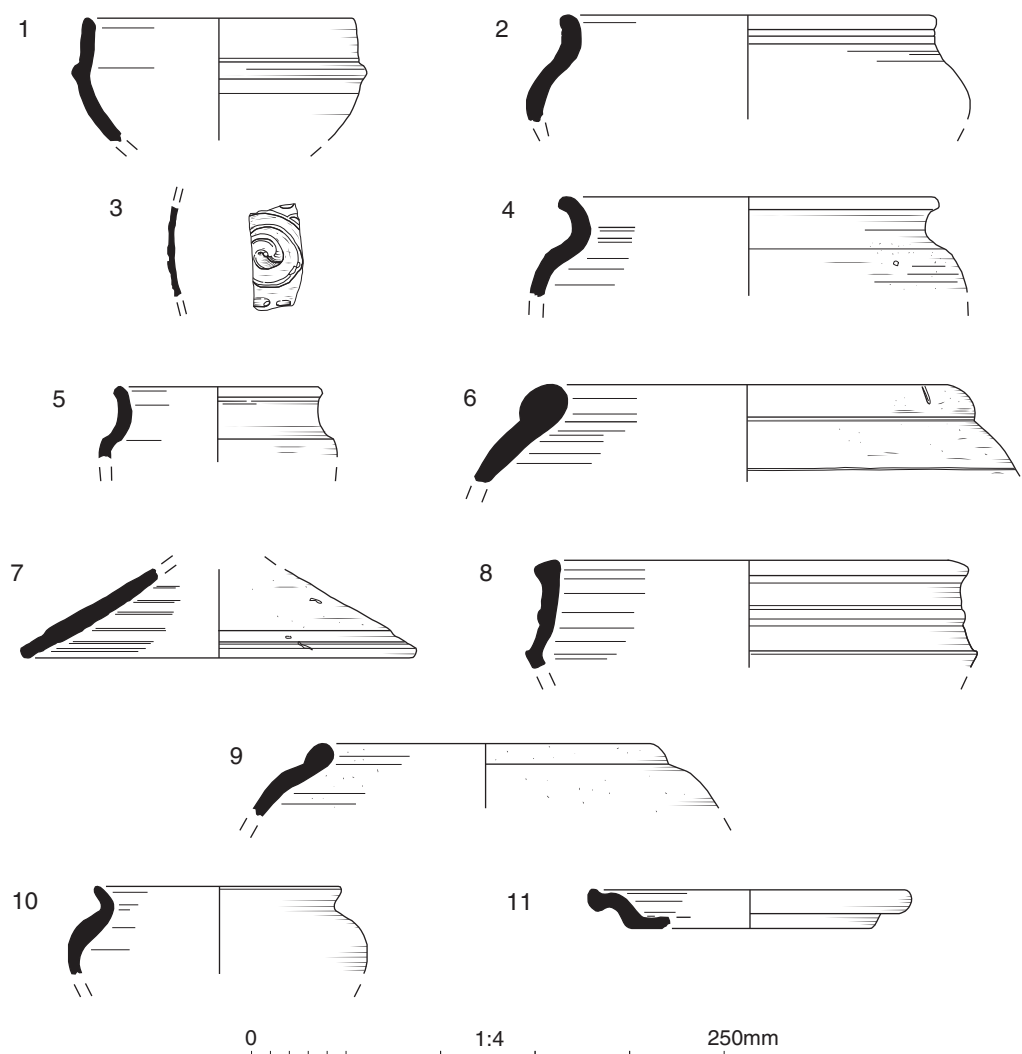


Figure 4.3 Roman pottery: 1–11

whereas platters, typically used for serving food for consumption, mostly occur in finer and micaceous greyware fabrics.

Jars (including storage varieties) are the most numerous form within the assemblage, representing 78.3% of identifiable vessels. This group also displays a wide range of rim types, covering 12 of the 17 Danebury rim types (Table 4.8). However, as is common in Roman assemblages, the most prevalent are upright, necked forms (rim 3) (Fig. 4.3, 5) and those with everted rims (rims 4 and 5) (Figs 4.3, 4 and 10). Due to the highly fragmented nature of the assemblage, few complete vessel profiles could be confidently reconstructed. It is likely that many bases derive from jars, in particular the flat bases (form BA1), however, this cannot be demonstrated. South-East Dorset Black-burnished ware (fabric 1.1), while relatively uncommon in the assemblage, could in several instances be identified to jar form using Seager Smith's and Davies' classifications (Seager Smith and Davies 1993). Included are a globular vessel with a narrow mouth and lid-seating (Type 62), jars

with everted rims (Types 1 and 3) and 'pulled' or bead-rim jars (Types 8 and 9).

Bowls and dishes make up the second most numerous vessel forms, numbering 228 sherds (3690g). Again the large degree of fragmentation makes it difficult, in most cases, to distinguish between bowls and dishes. Rim forms, as with the jars, display a wide variety but predominantly comprise plain (e.g. rims 8 and 3), bead (rims 1, 2, 10, 12 and 13) (Fig. 4.3, 9) or flat/flanged (rims 6, 7, 9a/9b and 14) types (Fig. 4.3, 2). Forms in fabric 1.1 are limited to Seager Smith and Davies (1993) Types 22 and 25, with flat and flanged rims, respectively. A single sherd of Oxfordshire whiteware (fabric 3.1a) is the only mortarium within the assemblage: a Young Type M11 (Young 1977, 70–3).

The only identifiable fineware forms are beakers in New Forest Colour-coated ware (fabric 9.1). Evidence for decoration is sparse, which accords with the generally low numbers of finewares in the assemblage. Where present, it is mostly confined to cordons (Fig. 4.3, 1, 8) or simple geometric lines scored or burnished onto the vessel body.

Lattice decoration, similar to that seen on South-East Dorset Black-burnished ware vessels, was noted on some sherds in greyware and grog-tempered fabrics. Barbotine decoration is present only on New Forest bodysherds (fabric 9.1) (Fig. 4.3, 3).

Catalogue of illustrated sherds

(Fig. 4.3)

All of the material is from the upper fills of the ditches of Bronze Age Barrow 6003.

- 1 Curve-sided bowl with plain rim and cordon, fabric FGW2. Phase 2 Barrow 6003, ditch cut 6217, Phase 5 fill 6218
- 2 Jar with flattened rim top, fabric FGW1. Phase 2 Barrow 6003, ditch cut 6217, Phase 5 fill 6218
- 3 Bodysherd with barbotine decoration, fabric 9.1. Phase 2 Barrow 6003, ditch cut 6217, Phase 5 fill 6218
- 4 Jar with everted rim, fabric 2.6. Phase 2 Barrow 6003, ditch cut 6221, Phase 5 fill 6222
- 5 Narrow mouth necked jar, fabric FGW2. Phase 2 Barrow 6003, ditch cut 6249, Phase 5 fill 6250
- 6 Storage jar with rolled rim, fabric 2.1. Phase 2 Barrow 6003, ditch cut 6249, Phase 5 fill 6250
- 7 Lid, fabric FGW2. Phase 2 Barrow 6003, ditch cut 6249, Phase 5 fill 6250
- 8 Carinated vessel, fabric CGW2. Phase 2 Barrow 6003, ditch cut 6249, Phase 5 fill 6250
- 9 Jar with flattened bead rim, fabric CGW2. Phase 2 Barrow 6003, ditch cut 6221, Phase 5 fill 6280
- 10 Jar with sharply everted (cavetto) rim, fabric CGW2. Phase 2 Barrow 6003, ditch cut 6221, Phase 5 fill 6280
- 11 Platter, fabric FGW1. Phase 2 Barrow 6003, ditch cut 6221, Phase 5 fill 6280

Chronology

The strong dominance of commonly long-lived coarsewares precludes close dating of much of the assemblage. Early Roman fabrics, such as those tempered with flint (fabrics 6.1, 6.2) and grog (fabrics 2.1–2.7) indicate a mid 1st to early/mid 2nd-century element. These early dated coarsewares make up 12% of the assemblage by sherd count. The Oxford Whiteware (fabric 3.a1) mortarium is a form datable to the late 2nd to mid 3rd century (Young 1977, 70). Forms in South-East Dorset Black-burnished ware (fabric 1.1) include both Mid and Late Roman types. The assemblage includes Seager Smith and Davies Type 22 flat rim dishes/bowls, of 2nd century date, Type 25 conical flanged dishes/bowl (mid 3rd to 4th century) and Type 3 jars with everted rims (late 3rd to 4th century) (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 230–5). The Late Roman forms and fabrics make up less than 1% of the assemblage so, although the whole of the Romano-British period may be represented, the pottery from the Late Roman period

appears to indicate less intensive activity. However, the six Roman coins recovered from fills of the barrows are late 3rd and 4th-century in date and two metal objects of medieval date were also retrieved (see Walton, below).

A number of Roman sites are known in the Andover area (see Chapter 1, Fig. 1.1). Other excavated sites include Shepherds Spring School, Andover, approximately 3km to the north-west (Powell 2017). This site produced 15.3kg of pottery dating to no later than the late 1st century AD. The assemblage compares reasonably well with that from Picket Twenty. Here the early Roman grog- and flint-tempered fabrics (including Saverlake Grog-tempered ware) made up 60% of the assemblage by sherd count and the remainder of the pottery was mostly 'sandy ware'. No fine wares were recovered (Brook 2017, 14–5). At Southern Distributor Road, Andover, approximately 3km to the west, nine Roman inhumation burials produced 3.4kg of pottery. This assemblage includes several products of the New Forest potteries, Oxford Red-slipped ware and South-East Dorset Black-burnished ware, and was dated to the 4th century (Jennings 2000, 129–30). The most significant Roman site in the area appears to be at East Anton, approximately 2.5km to the north-west of Picket Twenty (Firth 2011, 3). Excavations at this location suggest the presence of a dispersed settlement at the intersection of the Icknield Way, running north-south between Winchester and Cirencester, and the Portway, which ran east-west between Old Sarum and Silchester (Dunkin 1998, 2). The volume of pottery recovered from this excavation compares to that from Picket Twenty and it does include some Early Roman fabrics and forms, but is mostly Late Roman in date. Included are Oxfordshire and New Forest wares, Overwey whiteware and late forms in South-East Dorset Black-burnished wares, in addition to a possible late 4th/early 5th-century grog-tempered ware. Imported finewares include samian from all three production zones and Moselkeramik (Corney 2011, 39–40, table 12).

Discussion

Drawing conclusions from the Roman assemblage is not straightforward, owing to the unusual nature of deposition, with none of the pottery deriving from features of Roman date. Two questions are raised – where did the pottery come from and why was it deposited in the barrow ditches?

The pottery seemingly represents more than one depositional episode. Despite the large volume, there are no indications that any of the material represents waster dumps and the assemblage appears to relate to domestic activity. The minimal samian component (0.1% of the assemblage) may relate to economic status. According to Brindle's survey of non-urban sites (2017, fig. 7.2) assemblages from villas, roadside settlements and military *vici* tend to feature more than 2% samian by sherd count. The Picket Twenty assemblage also accords broadly with the local patterns evident in the work of the *Danebury Roman*

Environs Programme, in which assemblages were observed to be relatively homogenous, composed of a small number of local or regional products (Durham 2008, 109). A general dearth of finewares was particularly evident at Grateley, Hampshire (Brown and Durham 2008).

It is not uncommon to recover small amounts of Roman finds in the upper fills of, and around, prehistoric features, but the volume of pottery from the current site is unusual. It may represent the dumping of waste, perhaps midden material. Deliberate deposition has, however, been identified at a small number of sites, for example, at Juliberrie's Grave, a Neolithic long barrow in Chilham, Kent, where several episodes of Roman activity occurred (Ashbee 1996). This included the insertion of four burials with Early Roman grave goods into the ditch at the south end of the barrow, the deposition of pottery (of 2nd to 4th-century date) in the top of the mound and the upper fills of the ditch, and the creation of a hearth against the barrow with samian and 1st-century pottery, glass, animal bone and late 4th-century coins. A Constantinian coin hoard was also recovered from the ditch in the 19th century (Ashbee 1996, 21–6). At The Giant's Cave's long cairn, Luckington, Wiltshire, Roman pottery was also deliberately deposited, mostly in or near to Chambers C and D. This amounted to 571 sherds representing over 100 vessels. The pottery specialist surmised that this had been deposited on several occasions during the late 3rd to 4th centuries and suggested that it may represent offerings to the ancestors, as the monument would have been derelict by that time but still recognisable as a grave (Annable 1970, 55).

Metalwork and coins

by P.J. Walton

Introduction

Twenty-two items of metalwork ranging in date from the Beaker period to the medieval period were recovered from 13 deposits across the site. This small assemblage comprises seven copper alloy objects, nine iron objects and six Roman coins. The metalwork has been fully recorded and catalogued with the assistance of digital radiographs. A comprehensive catalogue has been entered into an Excel spreadsheet which along with the radiographs will be deposited in the site archive. Not all of the objects were assigned a registered artefact number (Ra.).

The artefacts were collected by both hand excavation and through metal detecting. With the exception of Ra. 9 recovered in Area 7, all objects were found in Area 6. All artefacts were collected from stratigraphically-phased deposits across the site. One was recovered from a Phase 2 Beaker/Early Bronze Age grave fill, two from Phase 3 Middle Bronze Age cremation burial fills and 19 from the upper Phase 5 Roman fills of ring ditches. The condition of the objects was variable and specialist cleaning was

undertaken to aid identification of the coins and buckle plate (Ra. 11).

Objects associated with the Beaker inhumation burial (Phase 2)

The earliest dated object recovered during the excavation was a copper alloy double-ended awl (Ra. 9, Fig. 4.4, 1). It was deposited as one of a small number of grave goods in burial 7015 in Barrow 7003 (Fig. 2.6). It can be classified as being of Thomas' Group 1b (Thomas 2005, 220–222), a type which mainly occurs in graves of the Beaker period, although they are also sometimes found with Early Bronze Age ceramics (Woodward and Hunter 2015, 89).

Both Beaker and Early Bronze Age copper alloy awls appear to be particularly associated with burials of adult women (Woodward and Hunter 2015, 96; Case 1977, 81; Gibbs 1989; Teague 2012, 227). This female association has been used to suggest that awls possessed a domestic craft function such as the working of textiles or soft leather, although alternative uses as tattooing or medical implements cannot be ruled out (Woodward and Hunter 2015, 96). Given the strong female association of awls, it is significant that the example from Picket Twenty was recovered from the grave of an adult male. This is paralleled at only a small number of sites in Britain including Amesbury (Parker Pearson *et al.* 2019, table 4.6, SK no. 245), Bee Low (*ibid.*, 143, table 4.6, SK no. 200) and Gotham (*ibid.*, 144, table 4.6, no. 206).

The location of the awl within the burial is also unusual, being positioned approximately 0.2m to the west of the skull (Fig. 2.6). In burials where the spatial distribution of grave goods is known, copper alloy awls tend to be found near the legs (cf. Barrow Hills, Radley, Oxon; Parker Pearson *et al.* 2019, 179) or feet (cf. Crichel Down, Dorset; Parker Pearson *et al.* 2019, 131, fig. 4.9). It may be significant that the other grave goods from burial 7015, which included a boar's tusk, a thumbnail scraper and sherds of pottery, were also focused on or around the neck and head of the inhumation.

Catalogue

(Figs 2.6, 4.4)

- 1 Double-pointed awl, copper alloy. Beaker or Early Bronze Age. Of Thomas' Group 1B (Thomas 2005, 220–222; Woodward and Hunter 2015, 91, fig. 4.6.1, nos 1287 and 1515). Lozengiform in plan with a rectangular-section body tapering at each end and becoming circular in section. Wt 2g L 45mm W 4mm. Phase 1 grave fill 7072, Ra. 9. Fig. 4.4, 1

Objects associated with Phase 2 cremation burials

Single copper alloy objects were found in the fills of two Phase 2 unurned cremation burials in Area 6. They

comprise seven fragments of a heavily corroded copper alloy object (Ra. 25) from cremation burial 6049 (fill 6523) and a small piece of flattened copper alloy wire from cremation burial 6475 (fill 6476). While neither find is identifiable, it is likely that they represent the remains of cremated grave goods, similar to those found at other barrow sites.

Catalogue

(Fig. 4.4)

- 2 Unidentified object, copper alloy. Seven small irregular fragments of corroded and ?burnt copper alloy, possibly originally part of a single object. Wt 0.9g. Phase 2 cremation burial 6049, fill 6523, Ra. 25. Not illustrated
- 3 Wire, copper alloy. Fragment. Oval in section with flattened terminal. L 31mm W 2.5mm Wt 0.8g. Phase 2 cremation burial 6475, fill 6476. Fig. 4.4, 2

Objects and coins associated with Roman activity

Nine certainly Roman objects and seven iron objects which could be Roman in date were recovered from Area 6. They indicate activity focused specifically on Barrows 6003 and 6005 in the late 3rd or 4th century AD.

The main focus of this activity appears to have been the later fills of the ring ditch surrounding Barrow 6003, where 13 objects were recovered. They include a pair of copper alloy tweezers (Ra. 16), a possible iron chisel (Ra. 10), four hand-forged iron carpentry nails (including Ra. 14), two fragmentary iron objects (Ra. 13 and Ra. 18), a *nummus* of Constantine II (Ra. 12) dating to AD 330–335 and four radiates (Ra. 1; Ra. 2; Ra. 19; Ra. 20) ranging in date from AD 260 to 285. The stratigraphic relationship between the coins may suggest that the radiates were deposited at some time after AD 335, when they represented demonetised currency. However, this hypothesis must remain tentative, as an intrusive medieval buckle plate (Ra. 11; discussed below) was also found in fill 6218, indicating some probable disturbance.

The secondary focus of activity appears to have been the ring ditch surrounding Barrow 6005, where two Roman objects were found in the later fills. They include a radiate of Victorinus and a small iron knife (Ra. 23, Fig. 4.5, 4).

While the composition of this small Roman assemblage is characteristic of Late Roman rural settlement across Britain (cf. Davies and Gregory 1991, 75), it is important to note that no Roman objects were recovered elsewhere on the site. This absence (even of iron nails) would appear to indicate strongly that the finds are not casual losses associated with settlement activity in the area. Instead, it is likely that they represent two or more deliberate deposits.

It is increasingly clear that earthwork barrows acted as foci for the deposition of coins and objects particularly in the late 3rd and 4th century AD (Thomas 2008, 56–57, fig. 46; Williams 1998, 73). It seems likely that many such deposits were votive offerings. For example, at Walkington Wold, East Yorkshire small groups of coins, including a

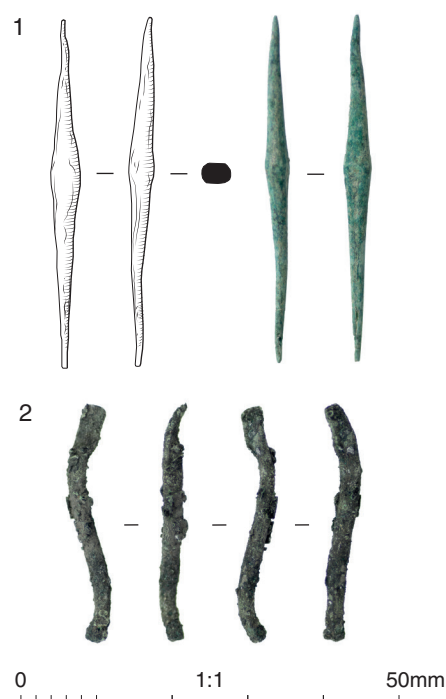


Figure 4.4 Metalwork: 1–2

cluster of 4th-century issues, were found in the ditches of two Bronze Age barrows, one of which also appears to have served as a small shrine (Bland *et al.* 2020, 192), while 4th-century coins have also been recovered from Barrow G35a at Avebury, Wiltshire and a round barrow near Lower Beeding, West Sussex (*ibid.*, 192).

The presence of numerous iron nails may seem incongruous in a votive context. However, it is worth noting that while nails tend to be regarded as simple utilitarian artefacts, they were associated with magico-religious beliefs and practices throughout the Roman period. It has been suggested that they were deliberately added to burials, perhaps as a means of ‘fixing’ the dead and acted as a focus for ‘intercessions between the natural world and the ‘otherworld’ (Dungworth 1998, 153), both particularly appropriate in the context of a barrow cemetery.

Catalogue

Roman objects

(Fig. 4.5)

- 4 Tweezers, copper alloy. Broadly Roman. Formed from a single rectangular-section strip of copper alloy which has been bent in half, creating a sprung loop at one end. The arms flare slightly towards bent-in terminals. Compare with examples from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 59, nos 1877 and 1881 and fig. 63). L 50mm W (max) 6mm Wt 4g. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6218 (Barrow 6003), Ra. 16. Fig. 4.5, 3
- 5 Knife, iron. Probably Roman. Straight back and slightly curved blade, extending to a rectangular-section tapering tang. Cf. Manning (1985) Type 10. L 87mm W 13mm Wt 10g. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6411 (Barrow

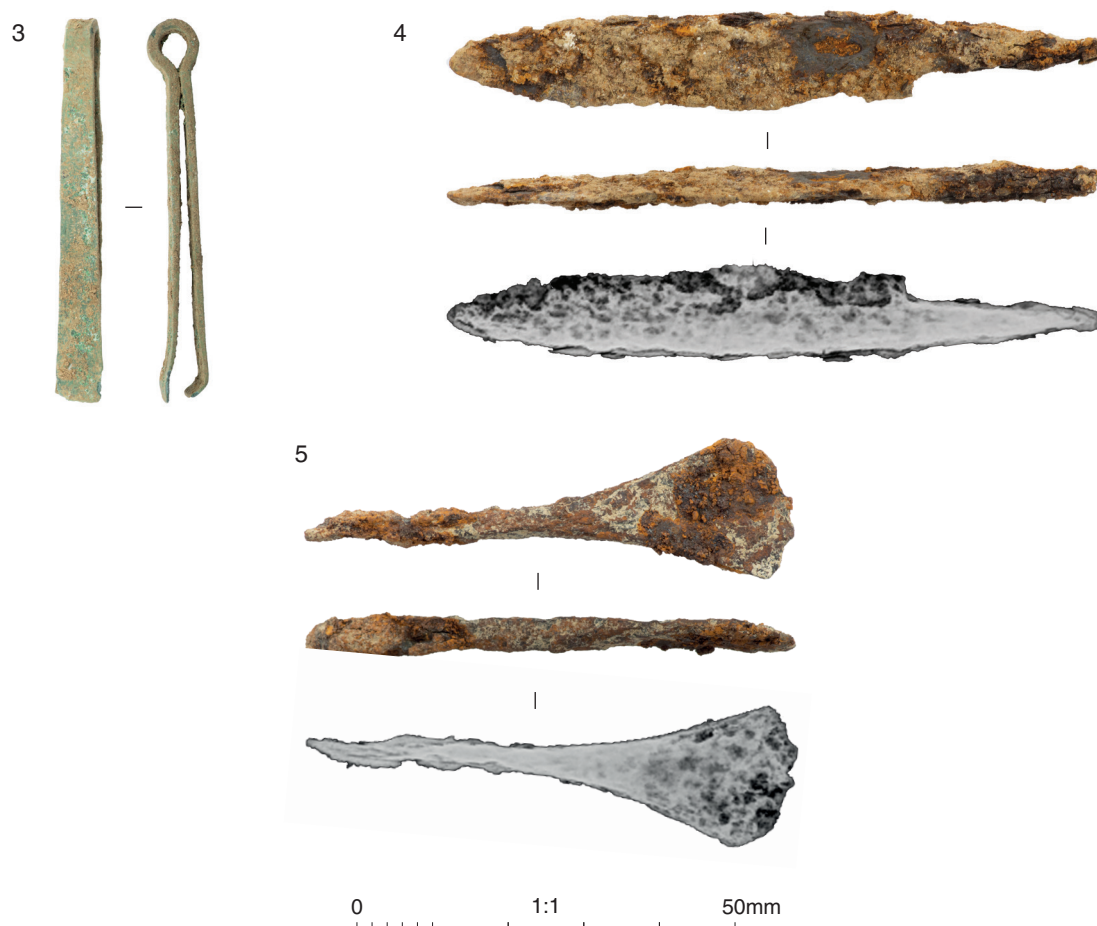


Figure 4.5 Metalwork: 3–5

- 6005), Ra. 23. Photograph with X-ray alongside Fig. 4.5, 4
- 6 ?Chisel, iron. Rectangular-section stem tapering at one end to a point; at the other it flattens and flares to form a triangular blade, the cutting edge of which is damaged but may be slightly convex. The identification of this object is not secure. Although it bears some similarity to chisels found in Iron Age or Early Roman contexts (cf. Darbyshire 1995, 216–219, O16–O22 and fig. 75; Manning 1985, 20–21, fig. 4, no. 1), it might also represent a Roman stylus of Manning's Type 1 (Manning 1985, 85, fig. 24). L 65mm W 19mm Th 5mm Wt 5g Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6202 (Barrow 6003), Ra. 10. Photograph with X-ray alongside Fig. 4.5, 5
- 7 Nail, iron. Flat circular head extending to rectangular-section tapering stem. L 45mm W (max) 5mm D (head) 9mm. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6218 (Barrow 6003). Not illustrated
- 8 Nail, iron. Flat circular head extending to rectangular-section tapering stem. L 31mm W 4mm D (head) 9mm. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6220 (Barrow 6003). Not illustrated
- 9 Nail, iron. Rectangular-section nail stem. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6222 (Barrow 6003). Not illustrated
- 10 Nail, iron. Almost cylindrical head extending to circular-section stem. Superficially resembles bow

brooch. L 24mm W 15mm. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6222 (Barrow 6003), Ra. 14. Not illustrated

- 11 Strip, iron. Fragment of tapering iron strip. Slightly convex in section at one end before flattening at other. L 90mm W (max) 22mm. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6237 (Barrow 6003), Ra. 18. Not illustrated
- 12 Strip, iron. Fragment of flat strip with one straight edge visible. L 25mm W 21mm Th 2mm. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6222 (Barrow 6003), Ra. 13. Not illustrated
- 13 Nail, iron. Rectangular-section nail stem, bent. L 49mm W 6mm. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6329 (Barrow 6004). Not illustrated

Roman coins

(Not illustrated)

- 14 Copper alloy radiate of Gallienus (sole reign). AD 260–268. FORTVNA REDVX reverse depicting Fortuna left with rudder and cornucopiae. Mint of Rome. Cf. Cunetio, 116–117, nos. 1215–1220 (Besly and Bland 1983). Wt 1.47g D 20mm. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6220 (Barrow 6003), Ra. 19
- 15 Copper alloy radiate of Victorinus. AD 269–271. SALVS AVG reverse depicting figure left feeding snake. Gaul Mint I. Cf. Cunetio, p. 149, no. 2552 or 2554 (Besly and Bland 1983). Wt 2.38g D 18mm. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6555 (Barrow 6005)

- 16 Copper alloy radiate of Victorinus. AD 269–271. PAX AVG reverse depicting Pax left with branch and ?transverse sceptre. Gaul Mint I. Cf. Cunetio p. 149, no. 2540 (Besly and Bland 1983). Wt 2.64g D 18mm. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6220 (Barrow 6003), Ra. 20
- 17 Copper alloy radiate of Tetricus I. AD 271–273. ?SPES PVBLICA reverse depicting Spes advancing left with flower and lifting hem of skirt. Gaul Mint I. Cf. Cunetio p. 151, no. 2583ff (Besly and Bland 1983). Wt. 1.99g D 20mm. Phase 5 ring ditch fill 6220 (Barrow 6003), Ra. 1
- 18 Copper alloy barbarous radiate copying an issue of Tetricus II. AD 275–285. Copying a PIETAS AVGG or PIETAS AVGVSTOR reverse depicting sacrificial implements. As Gaul Mint II. Cf. Normanby pp. 197–198, nos. 1540ff (Bland and Burnett 1988). Wt 0.84g D 14mm. Phase 5 4 ring ditch fill 6220 (Barrow 6003), Ra. 2
- 19 Copper alloy *nummus* of Constantine II. GLORIA EXERCITVS reverse depicting two soldiers, two standards. Mint unclear. Wt 1.45g D 17mm. Phase 5 barrow ditch fill 6218, Ra. 12

Objects associated with medieval activity

Two objects dating to the medieval period were also recovered from features in Area 6. They comprise a lace tag or chape (Ra. 22, Fig. 4.6, 7) from the ring ditch surrounding Barrow 6004 and an unusual buckle plate (Ra. 11, Fig. 4.6, 6) from the ring ditch surrounding Barrow 6003. The latter is decorated with an elaborate repoussé motif depicting a king enthroned. Both are broadly contemporary in date and as small items of personal adornment could easily have become detached from the clothing of their owners. However, it is perhaps significant that, with the exception of these two items, no other medieval artefacts were found at the site. Therefore, we cannot preclude the possibility that either or both items were deliberately deposited in the ring ditches for ritual or magical reasons, indicating some limited form of engagement with the prehistoric landscape into the medieval period.

Catalogue

(Fig. 4.6)

- 20 Buckle plate, copper alloy. In two fragments. *c.* AD 1150–1250. Folded sheet buckle plate with recesses at one end to accommodate the frame. The plate is pierced with four circular rivet holes, one in each corner. The two nearest the recesses contain circular-section copper alloy rivets. The upper surface of the plate is decorated with a repoussé motif depicting a draped seated figure, right hand on hip, left hand holding a bird of prey. The figure, interpreted as a king enthroned, is flanked by two stylised foliate motifs. Compare with examples from Little Abington, Cambridgeshire (SF-585CDE), Elveden, Suffolk (SF-585CDE) and Harling, Norfolk (NMS2307), recorded by the Portable Antiquities



Figure 4.6 Metalwork: 6–7

Scheme. L 25mm W 15mm Wt 2g. Fill 6218 of barrow ditch (Barrow 6003), Ra. 11. Fig. 4.6, 6

- 21 Lace chape or tag, copper alloy. *c.* AD 1250 to 1400. Two conjoining fragments of rolled sheet metal. Open at one end and tapering to a point at the other. Organic material is visible within the chape. Compare with medieval examples from London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 281). L 52 mm D 8mm (max) Wt 2.6g. Fill 6405 of ring ditch (Barrow 6004), Ra. 22. Fig. 4.6, 7

Worked bone

by Claire Collier-Jones

Three objects of worked bone were recovered, all Phase 2 burial deposits. Two items of worked bone were recovered from unurned Early Bronze Age cremation burials (6051 and 6016) and a boar's tusk was recovered from a Beaker inhumation grave (7015).

The worked bone catalogue is adapted from Crummy's functional categories (1983, 5–6). The assemblage is of a small size but provides evidence for Beaker period funerary practices and contributes to our understanding of Early Bronze Age dress habits and cremation rituals.

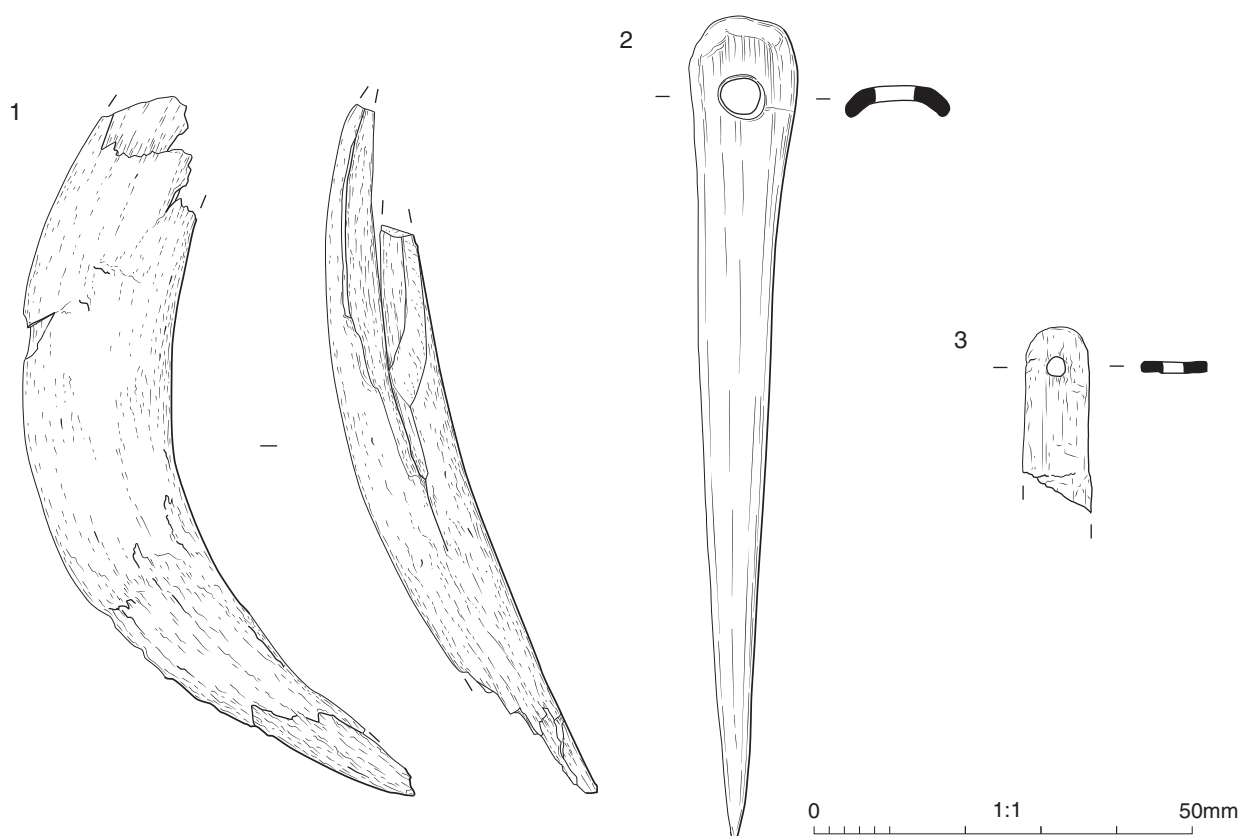


Figure 4.7 Worked bone: 1–3

Beaker period object

Objects associated with religious beliefs and practices

Examples of boars' tusks as Beaker grave goods, similar to object no. 1, have been found at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire (Clarke 1970, 504) and Pershore, Worcestershire (Smith 1957, 20). They are an uncommon find in Beaker graves in Britain, with more examples known from central Europe (Fitzpatrick 2011, 222). Some parallels feature a perforation for suspension, including the example from Mount Farm, Dorchester-on-Thames (Lambrick 2010, 20–3) and four were recovered from a Bronze Age 'shaman' grave at Upton Lovell, Wiltshire and interpreted as decorations on an elaborate costume (Woodward and Hunter 2015, 143). Object no. 1, however, is too fragmented to identify whether it would have had a perforation.

Several interpretations for boars' tusks used as grave goods in Europe include as hunting trophies or, in the case of a find from Raunds, Northamptonshire where the tusk is hundreds of years older in date than its associated burial, as an heirloom. Boars' tusks also appear as grave goods in the Neolithic period (Healy and Harding 2011, 577; Woodward and Hunter 2015, 141–5). Beaker grave finds from Britain include the burials at Amesbury Down, Wiltshire, which were found alongside stone metalworking tools suggesting a direct association and it is thought that the tusks could have been used as planishing or burnishing

tools (Fitzpatrick 2011, 61, 222) – perhaps indicating or symbolising part of a 'metalworkers' kit. However, limited evidence for wear was found in Woodward and Hunter's study (2015, 143) and they suggest that these objects were used as ornaments. Object no. 1 was found alongside a flint thumbnail scraper and a copper alloy awl, so it is unlikely that this is the assemblage of a 'metalworker' but its fragmentary nature precludes certain identification as a pendant or other ornament.

Catalogue

(Fig. 4.7)

- 1 Boar's tusk. Fragmented. Associated adult male skeleton dated to 2200–2031 cal BC 95.4% probability (SUERC-82088). Length 86mm, width 22mm, depth 12mm. Phase 2, grave 7015 (fill 7072) Ra. 7. Fig. 4.7, 1

Objects from Bronze Age cremation burials

Objects of personal adornment or dress

Bone points are known from Neolithic to Iron Age contexts (Healy and Harding 2011, 402–3); their association with Collared Urns, as with object no. 2, is common across Britain and includes examples from Aldbourne, Wiltshire and Collingbourne Kingston, Amesbury, Wiltshire (Woodward and Hunter 2015, 97–109). Their incorporation as grave goods implies that they are likely to have been decorative and used for fastening clothing or in styling hair (Healy

and Harding 2011, 402–3). They are often found as single objects, or in small groups, although a large set of over 60 perforated bone points, unique in terms of quantity in Britain, were recovered from a Bronze Age ‘shaman’ grave at Upton Lovell, Wiltshire and are thought to represent the fringes of a special garment (Howarth 2009, 72–3; Woodward and Hunter 2015, 97–109).

Catalogue

(Fig. 4.7)

- 2 Pin, unburnt. (Woodward and Hunter) Class 2 with articulate end retained, concavo–convex section and perforated through head. Split from a long bone. Point is polished from use and polish around the perforation indicates thread-wear from being suspended or secured to a garment. Associated cremated human bone was radiocarbon dated to *1744–1529 cal BC 95.4% probability* (SUERC–82121). Associated Collared Urn vessel fragments are of late Phase 2 date. Length 110mm, width 14mm, depth 4mm. Phase 2, cremation pit 6016 (fill 6017) Ra. 26, Fig. 4.7, 2

Possible bone tool

Only the head of object no. 3 remains and therefore it is not possible to be certain of its function. It is similar in form to Bronze Age bone and antler spatulae, which tend to be narrow with fairly flat, plano–convex or concavo–convex cross sections. A perforated example is known from Kirby Underdale, Yorkshire, and non–perforated examples from Roundway, Wiltshire and Amesbury, Wiltshire (Woodward and Hunter 2015, 83–5). A bone pin from Bloxworth Down, Dorset (Longworth 1984, 64; pl. 204) and a bone point from Amesbury, Wiltshire are also similar in form to object no. 3. These (Woodward and Hunter 2015) Class 4 bone points have similar rounded heads, perforations and a lack of shoulder between the head and shaft, but they tend to be thicker and circular or ovoid in section (Woodward and Hunter 2015, 97–9) unlike the thin cross section of object no. 3.

Catalogue

(Fig. 4.7)

- 3 Possible spatula. Thin, concavo–convex cross section. Perforated head. Shaft broken and end missing. Burnt. Cremated human bone from the cremation burial was radiocarbon dated to *1688–1534 cal BC (93.2%) at 95.4% probability* (BRAMS–2971). Length 24mm, width 9mm, depth 1mm. Phase 2, cremation pit 6051 (fill 6527), Fig. 4.7, 3

Worked stone

by Ruth Shaffrey

Two fragments of stone were retained. One small fragment of burnt and blackened limestone was recovered from upper

fill 6266 of cut 6265, in Barrow 6003. It retains no original edges, but given its thickness and lithology appears likely to have originally been used as roofing material. A second fragment of the same limestone was found in secondary fill 6336 of cut 6333 of Barrow ditch 6004. This fragment also retains no original edges, but is worn on one face, in a way which suggests use as flooring, rather than as an active rubbing tool.

Catalogue of worked stone

(Not illustrated)

Possible roofing

- 1 Fragment of naturally flat stone, burnt/blackened on one side. No original edges, but may be a fragment of stone roofing. Slightly shelly, fine-grained limestone. Measures 18mm thick. Weighs 144g. Fill 6266

Possible flooring

- 2 Fragment of naturally slabby stone. All edges are damaged. One face is worn smooth, and slightly convex, however the surface is not sufficiently regular for it to have been used as a rubber, and it is more likely that its wear results from incorporation in a floor surface. Slightly shelly, fine-grained limestone (same as above). Measures 18mm thick. Weighs 554g. Fill 6336

Miscellaneous finds

by Katie Marsden

Glass

A small group of four glass fragments (17g) was recovered from four deposits. A single undated item was recovered by bulk soil-sampling of Phase 1 pit 2010 (fill 1919). This comprised a dark-coloured, spherical droplet, possibly related to glass-working waste or debris. The item is too fragmentary to be dated and is probably intrusive.

The remaining three items were hand-recovered as intrusive material, from Phase 2 barrow ditches. All date to the post-medieval period, and are likely to have been introduced via animal burrowing. One item, from Barrow 6004, ditch 6531 (fill 6536), is from a wine/spirits bottle in dark green glass, of post-medieval date. The other two items occur in a pale green glass, of similar date.

Clay tobacco pipe

Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe, both stem pieces without decoration or maker’s information, were recovered as intrusive material in Phase 2 barrows. Clay pipes broadly date from the late 16th to late 19th centuries but like the more recent glass are indicators that the barrows attracted some attention in more recent times.

Ceramic building material

A small group of ceramic building material (CBM), totalling nine fragments (676g), was recovered from six deposits, all from fills of Phase 2 barrow ditches, although they clearly relate to later phases of activity. Four are datable to the Roman period, comprising brick or tile fragments recovered from the fourth fill (6218) of ring ditch section 6217, and the second fill (6247) of ring ditch section 6245 (both Barrow 6003). Two fragments occur in a different, hard-fired fabric, and are likely to be of medieval date, or later. They comprise a tile fragment from the fourth fill (6446) of ring ditch 6443 (Barrow 6004), and a brick fragment, from the fourth fill of ring ditch section 6310 (also of Barrow 6004). The remaining three items retain no surviving surfaces to identify function, and cannot be dated.

Fired clay and ceramic objects

A small group of 18 fragments of fired clay, weighing a total of 278g, was recovered from five deposits. Of the

group, three items were recovered from Area 2 (Phase 1 pit 2010, fill 2019), with the remainder derived from Area 6 deposits. The fragments are typically small and amorphous, and the function and date of this group is largely unclear. The exception, a triangular-shaped fragment, may represent an item of kiln furniture (e.g. a spacer). There is also a possibility that the triangular shape is coincidental. As the item was recovered from fill 6237, of Phase 2 ring ditch 6236 (Barrow 6003), along with a large quantity of Roman pottery, similar dating is suggested.

A single ceramic object, a spindlewhorl produced from a pottery sherd, was recovered from the fourth fill (6218) of Phase 2 ring ditch 6217 (Barrow 6003). The object matches the criteria described in Crummy (1983) for spindlewhorls, and is similar to examples recovered from Colchester (cf. fig. 71, no. 2005). It occurs in a pale-firing coarse greyware (pottery fabric code CGW1), and has been worked into an irregular circle from a bodysherd. The central hole has been drilled from the inner surface. On the basis of the fabric, and an association with the dumped material comprising the deposit, a Roman date is suggested.

Chapter 5

Environmental evidence

Animal bone

by Matilda Holmes

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered, largely from undated features. Sample sizes are too small for further analysis, even if the undated bones are included.

Methodology

All bones and teeth were recorded, although for some elements a restricted count was employed to reduce fragmentation bias: vertebrae were recorded when the vertebral body was present, and maxilla, zygomatic arch and occipital areas of the skull were identified from skull fragments. A basic recording method was employed, to assess the potential of the animal bone assemblage. The number of bones and teeth that could be identified to taxa were noted, as well as those used to age the major domesticates (tooth wear and bone fusion). The quantity of bones likely to be useful for metrical data was also recorded. Other information included condition, and the incidence of burning, gnawing and butchery marks. All fragments were recorded by context, including those that could not be identified to taxa. Recording methods and analysis are based on guidelines by Baker and Worley (2014).

Discussion

The bones are generally in poor condition (Table 5.1), with a high proportion of loose and broken teeth. A few

examples of gnawed and burnt (calcined) bone were also recorded, with further calcined bone fragments coming from sieved samples, some of which could not be identified to species. Chalcolithic/Beaker pit 2010 contained some animal bone including cattle. No Bronze Age features produced bone fragments that could be identified to taxon (Table 5.2), although a few cattle, sheep/goat and equid (horse or donkey) remains came from Roman contexts. The majority of animal bone came from unphased features, of which cattle were most common, followed by sheep/goat then pig, with a few fragments of red deer, hare/rabbit and equid also present.

There were no associated bone groups, or evidence for isolated deposits of butchery, skin processing, bone, horn or antler-working waste. Unsurprisingly, for such a small sample of poorly preserved bones, very few bones or teeth could be aged or measured. The absence of fish and bird remains in the hand-recovered assemblage was also reflected in the samples (Table 5.3), although micro-mammal remains were present.

Charred plant remains

by Sarah F. Wyles

Introduction

A series of 126 bulk environmental samples were processed from a range of feature types, mainly possible cremation-related deposits of Early Bronze Age date (Phase 2), across

Table 5.1 Preservation and bone modifications observed for each phase (assessment data). * = present

Phase	Description	Preservation					Bone modification		
		Good	Good-fair	Fair	Poor	Fair-poor	Gnawed	Butchered	Burnt
1 Chalcolithic/Beaker		–	–	–	20	–	–	–	*
2 Bronze Age	Barrow ring ditches (Area 6)	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–
5 Roman	Upper fills of barrow ring ditches	–	–	–	8	2	–	–	–
Iron Age & undated		–	1	2	36	10	1	–	2
Total N contexts		–	1	2	66	12	1	–	2

Table 5.2 Number of bone fragments recorded for the major domesticates and other taxa in the hand-collected assemblage (assessment data)

Phase	Cattle		Sheep		Pig		Bird	Fish	Other	Total Identified	Other taxa
	Unidentified	Bones	Teeth	Bones	Teeth	Bones					
1 Chalcolithic/Beaker	20	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	
2 Bronze Age	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	
4 Roman	61	3	4	–	5	–	–	–	3	15	Equid
Iron Age & undated	251	14	21	2	9	1	3	–	12	62	Red deer (bone and antler), hare/rabbit, rabbit, equid
Total	343	18	27	2	14	1	3	–	15	80	

Table 5.3 Number of animal bones identified to taxa from samples (assessment data)

Phase	Burnt	Micro-mammal	Cattle
Unphased	39	7	1

Table 5.4 Breakdown of bulk and mollusc samples by area and phase

Area	Date	Number of bulk samples analysed	Number of bulk samples assessed	Number of mollusc samples assessed	Feature types
2	Middle Bronze Age	–	3	–	Post-build structure
	Beaker	1	–	–	Pit
3	Undated but probably Middle Bronze Age	–	2	–	Post alignment
4	Middle Bronze Age	–	12	–	Cremation burials and possible cremation-related deposits
6	Early Bronze Age	–	27	8	Barrow 6002 – cremation burials, possible cremation-related deposits + ditch
		–	4	8	Barrow 6003 – pits + ditch
		–	18	9	Barrow 6004 – cremation burials, possible cremation-related deposits, pits, posthole + ditch
		–	6	9	Barrow 6005 – cremation burial + ditch
		–	20	4	C-shaped enclosure 6348 – possible cremation-related deposits + ditch
		–	15	–	Cremation burials between Barrows 6004 + 6005 + SE cluster
		–	12	–	Stake circle + western edge – cremation burial, possible cremation-related deposit + stakeholes
	Undated but probably Middle Bronze Age	–	4	–	Post alignment 6030, pit
7	Early Bronze Age	–	2	5	Barrow
	Undated	–	1	–	Ditch
	Total	1	126	43	

Table 5.5 Charred plant remains from Beaker pit 2010

Phase	Area 2
Feature type	Chalcolithic/Beaker
Cut	Pit
Context	2010
Sample	2019
Volume (litre)	5
Flot size	20
% roots	200ml
	10
Species	Common name
Cereals	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. <i>sl</i> (grain)	barley 47
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. <i>sl</i> (grain)	naked barley 4
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. <i>sl</i> (grain)	hulled barley 9
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (grain)	emmer/spelt wheat 2
Cereal indet. (grains)	cereal 120
Cereal frag. (est. whole grains)	cereal 55
Other	
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (fragments)	hazelnut 3421
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	knotgrass 6
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) Å. Löve	black-bindweed 8
<i>Malus sylvestris</i> Miller type (fruit)	apple fruit with pip impression 1
<i>Vicia</i> L./ <i>Lathyrus</i> sp. L.	vetch/wild pea 1
<i>Medicago/Trifolium</i> sp. L.	medick/clover 1
<i>Avena</i> sp. L. (grain)	oat grain 1
Parenchyma	– 14

the site with the intention of recovering environmental evidence for domestic activity and funerary practices. In addition, a further 43 small samples were taken in sequences from the barrow and C-shaped enclosure ditches for the recovery of molluscan remains. The charred remains in these samples were also noted.

As a result of the assessment, the charred remains from a single bulk sample were selected for further analysis. The charred plant remains assemblages from the samples assessed but not selected for further analysis have been considered within this report. The breakdown of the samples is listed in Table 5.4. Charred remains were recovered from Areas 2, 3, 4 and 6.

Methodology

The bulk and mollusc samples were processed following standard flotation methods, using a 0.25mm mesh sieve size for the flot and 0.5mm for the residue for the bulk samples, and 0.5mm mesh sieve size for both flot and residue for the mollusc samples.

Identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 5.5 for the analysed sample and preliminary identifications for the assessed samples in Table 5.6. The identifications follow nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals.

Area 2

Phase 1: Chalcolithic/Early Beaker

Fill 2019 (sample 5) of pit 2010 located near the later roundhouse (Fig. 2.1) contained a very large quantity of charred plant remains, dominated by hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments. Hazelnut shell fragments from this deposit were radiocarbon dated (SUERC-82092 2356–2198 cal BC (90.1%) (at 95.4% probability)). There were also high numbers of cereal remains, predominantly those of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), a few of which had the appearance of the naked variety (*Hordeum vulgare* var. *nudum*). The small quantity of weed seeds included seeds of black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), and were those of species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments. There was also a fragment of crab apple type (*Malus sylvestris*) fruit. This assemblage suggests waste associated with food preparation. The predominance of hazelnut shell fragments within this assemblage may be indicative of the exploitation of wild food resources as a significant part of the diet during this period, as has been recorded from other Neolithic and Beaker deposits in southern Britain. (Moffett *et al.* 1989; Stevens 2007; Robinson 2000). Hulled and naked barley and hazelnut shell fragments have been recorded in Beaker assemblages from other sites in the wider area, such as some from land in south-east of Amesbury (Wyles and Stevens in prep.). Very few charred plant remains were recorded from

the Beaker deposits on the site at Andover Airfield, Penton Mewsey (Davis and Stewart 2019).

Phase 3: Middle Bronze Age

A few hazelnut shell fragments, but no other charred remains, were recorded from posthole 2002, part of Structure 2031.

Area 3

Undated – ?Phase 3: Middle Bronze Age

Two samples were processed from postholes 3001 and 3002, part of the post alignment, which although is undated is probably associated with the Middle Bronze Age and later activity on the site. Only a few cereal remains, including those of barley, were noted from one of the samples.

Area 4

Phases 2/3: Early/Middle Bronze Age

A series of 12 samples were taken from five cremation burials and possible cremation-related deposits (4002, 4006, 4008, 4010 and 4016), although 4006 contained a small quantity of calcined bone it was not human in origin. The radiocarbon dates obtained for cremation burial 4016 are inconsistent and too late for the style of vessel (see Chapters 2 and 3). On this basis the radiocarbon dates are considered not to reflect the true age of this feature, whilst the Collared Urn vessel would suggest an Early Bronze Age date. Low numbers of charred plant remains were observed within five of the samples. These remains included grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and barley, seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), and tuber and stem fragments. Free-threshing wheat became the predominant wheat species in this part of Britain from the post-Roman period onwards (Greig 1991) and in this instance is likely to be intrusive within the deposit.

Area 6

Phase 2: Early Bronze Age

Barrow 6002

A series of 24 samples were processed from five possible a natural hollow (6043), cremation burials (6047, 6051 and 6053) and cremation-related deposit (6055) within Barrow 6002. Low levels of charred plant remains were recorded in eight of the samples from all five of these possible cremation-related deposits. A possible free-threshing wheat grain was observed in a single sample from cremation-related deposit 6047. The other remains included false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*) tuber and stem fragments, hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) stone fragments and hazelnut shell fragments. Plant tubers, in particular those of false oat-grass, can be

Table 5.6 *Charred plant remains (assessment data)*

Feature	Context	Sample	Volume (litre)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred Notes other
Area 2 Middle Bronze									
Post-built structure									
2002	2016	2	5	20	70	—	—		* <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag
2005	2022	7	1	5	50	—	—		—
2006	2015	1	6	20	70	—	—		—
Area 3 Undated but probably Middle Bronze Age									
Post alignment									
3001	3005	13	2	15	70	—	—		—
3002	3003	11	19	15	70	*	—	Barley grain frags	—
Area 4 Middle Bronze									
Cremation burials									
4002	4003, spit 1	26	8	15	70	—	—		—
	4003, spit 2	27	6	20	75	—	—		—
4008	4009	25	3	15	65	*	—	F-t wheat grain	—
4010	4011, spit 1	21	10	30	30	—	—		—
	4011, spit 2	22	6	15	50	*	—	Indet. grain frag	—
4016	4017, spit 1	28	4	15	70	—	—		** Tuber + stem frags, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Sherardia</i>
	4017, spit 2	31	4	10	75	*	—	Barley grain frag	—
	4021, RA 4 spit 1	53	2	20	25	—	—		—
	4021, RA 4 spit 2	54	2	20	40	—	—		* Stem frags
	4021, RA 4 spit 3	68	2	5	20	—	—		—
Possible cremation-related									
4006	4007, spit 1	23	4	25	50	—	—		—
	4007, spit 2	24	2	10	65	—	—		—
Area 6 Early Bronze Age									
Barrow 6002 – cremation									
6047	6151, spit 1	55	4	20	50	—	—		—
	6048, spit 2	56	10	120	50	*	—	?F-t wheat grain	—
	6150, spit 3	57	4	50	50	—	—		—
	6160, spit 4	58	4	40	50	—	—		—
	6160, spit 5	59	5	40	65	—	—		—
6051	6528, spit 1	194	10	25	40	—	—		* <i>Crataegus</i> stone, tuber + stem frags
	6527, spit 2	195	16	35	40	—	—		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags, <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag
	6526, spit 3	196	19	75	40	—	—		* Stem frags
	6525, spit 4	197	4	10	40	—	—		—
	6052, spit 5	198	5	15	60	—	—		—
6053	6146, spit 1	49	19	160	20	—	—		—
	6054, spit 2	50	22	160	40	—	—		—
	6054, spit 3	51	22	75	60	—	—		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber
Barrow 6002 – internal features									
6043	6050 spit 1	188	6	10	65	—	—		—
		225	5	10	50	—	—		—
	6523, spit 2	189	5	150	10	—	—		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber frags
		226	2	20	40	—	—		—
	6523, spit 3	190	12	600	10	—	—		—
		227	2	45	10	—	—		* Stem frags
	6523, spit 4	191	8	650	5	—	—		—
		228	2	40	25	—	—		—
	6523, spit 5	192	9	750	10	—	—		—
	6524, spit 6	193	12	100	40	—	—		—
6055	6066	52	10	75	50	—	—		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tubers
Barrow 6002 – ditch									
6145	6144	47	13	40	25	—	—		—
6164	6162	156	18	30	35	—	—		—
6183	6185	223	10	125	5	—	—		—
Barrow 6003 – pits									
6317	6138	80	20	50	70	—	—		—
6041	6042	69	17	120	20	—	—		—
Barrow 6003 – ditch									
6236	6252	139	18	120	10	—	—		—
6289	6292	219	20	160	10	*	—	Indet. grain frag	—
Barrow 6004 – cremation									
6475	6476, spit 1	124	10	30	65	—	—		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
	6476, spit 2	125	10	25	50	—	—		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
	6476, spit 3	126	5	5	60	—	—		—
	6476, spit 4	127	7	15	30	—	—		—
6505	6506, spit 1	158	7	20	60	—	—		* Stem frags
	6506, spit 2	159	7	10	60	—	*	Rachis frags	* Tuber frags
	6506, spit 3	160	7	25	50	—	—		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
	6506, spit 4	161	10	20	60	*	—	Barley grain frag	* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
Barrow 6004 – internal features									
6132	6133, spit 1	180	6	50	20	—	—		—
	6133, spit 2	181	4	25	50	—	—		—
6320	6321	79	3	10	70	—	—		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
Barrow 6004 – pits									
6120	6121	199	10	15	30	—	—		—
6122	6123	186	10	40	20	—	—		—
6473	6474	116	9	40	25	—	—		—
Barrow 6004 – posthole									
6099	6100	215	1	5	50	—	—		—

Table 5.6 Continued

Feature	Context	Sample	Volume (litre)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred Notes other
Barrow 6004 – ditch									
6304	6308	90	15	150	5	–	–		–
6333	6334	n/a							
	6337	221	20	70	5	–	–		–
6401	6407	91	7	45	15	–	–		–
Barrow 6005 – cremation burial									
6071	6072, spit 1	92	10	35	40	–	–		–
	6072, spit 2	93	10	40	20	–	–		* Tuber frag
	6072, spit 3	94	11	40	10	–	–		* Stem frags
	6072, spit 4	95	5	50	5	–	–		–
Barrow 6005 – ditch									
6437	6439	115	19	50	20	–	–		–
6491	6495	222	20	200	5	–	–		–
C-shaped enclosure 6348 – internal features									
6075	6076	128	3	5	50	–	–		–
6077	6078, spit 1	170	5	5	50	–	–		–
	6078, spit 2	171	4	3					–
6079	6080	143	3	5	70	–	–		–
6083	6084, spit 1	101	4	5	50	–	–		–
	6084, spit 2	102	2	5	60	–	–		–
6461	6462, spit 1	99	4	25	20	*	–	Indet. grain frag	–
	6462, spit 2	100	5	15	50	–	–		–
6465	6466, spit 1	105	3	10	25	–	–		–
	6467, spit 2	106	5	60	10	*	–	F-t wheat grain	–
	6467, spit 3	107	2	40	25	–	–		–
6483	6490	142	4	25	30	–	–		–
6487	6488	129	4	10	35	–	–		* Tuber frag
6489	6490	122	7	30	10	–	–		–
6564	6565	210	3	15	25	–	–		* ?Tuber frag
C-shaped enclosure 6348 – ditch									
6424	6425	98	10	70	5	–	–		–
	6426	178	10	100	10	–	–		–
	6426	179	10	120	5	–	–		–
	6427	96	10	25	10	*	–	Hulled wheat grain	–
6499	6501	140	10	80	5	–	–		–
Cremation burials between Barrows 6004 and 6005									
6116	6117, spit 1	182	4	15	25	–	–		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
	6117, spit 2	183	4	15	25	–	–		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
	6117, spit 3	184	7	40	30	–	–		* Stem frags
	6117, spit 4	185	5	20	25	–	–		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber frags
6118	6119, upper	162	22	200	5	–	–		** <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
	6507, spit 1	163	7	25	10	–	–		** <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber frags, <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags
	6507, spit 2	164	6	30	15	–	–		** <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
	6507, spit 3	165	6	100	8	–	–		** <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
	6507, spit 4	166	5	250	5	–	–		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
	6507, spit 5	167	6	70	10	–	–		–
	6507, spit 6	168	4	35	8	–	–		–
	6507, spit 7	169	5	40	10	–	–		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber + stem frags
Pits south-east of Barrows 6004 and 6005									
6006	6007	175	2	10	40	–	–		–
6008	6009	176	15	40	30	*	–	Indet. grain frag	–
6517	6518	177	2	10	40	–	–		–
Stake circle – central possible cremation-related deposit									
6012	6013	203	50	200	20	–	–		* Tuber + stem frags
Stake circle 6566 – stakeholes									
	6618	211	2	2	50	–	–		–
	6622	218	2	2	50	–	–		–
	6664	217	2	3	50	–	–		–
	6666	216	2	2	25	–	–		–
Western edge of Stake circle – cremation burial									
6016	6015, upper	201	12	150	10	–	–		–
	6015, lower	202	10	125	10	–	–		–
	6017, spit 1	204	23	50	50	–	–		–
	6017, spit 2	205	20	75	35	–	–		–
	6017, spit 3	206	19	75	35	–	–		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber frags
	6017, spit 4	207	20	60	40	–	–		* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber frags
	6017, spit 5	208	23	75	50	*	–	Hulled wheat grain	* <i>Arrhenatherum</i> tuber frags
Area 6 Undated but probably Middle Bronze Age									
Post alignment group 6030 leading to Barrow 6003									
6018	6019	67	7	10	70	*	–	Indet. grain frag	–
6022	6023	65	5	10	70	–	–		–
6152	6153	61	3	5	80	–	–		* <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag
Pit near Barrow 6003 at end of Post alignment group 6030									
6035	6545	200	17	50	30	–	–		–
Area 7 Early Bronze Age									
Barrow 7003 ditch									
7039	7040	123	20	20	60	–	–		–
7053	7056	224	20	10	50	–	–		–
Area 7 Undated									
Ditch									
7026	7027	35	3	5	70	–	–		–

* = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items

found in cremation deposits (Godwin 1984; Robinson 1988) and it is thought that some of these tubers and stems may represent material uprooted while creating a fire break around the cremation site and then used as tinder (Stevens 2008). These assemblages are comparable with the remains from other Bronze Age cremation-related deposits where tubers have been recovered, from sites in the wider area such as Beggarwood Lane, Basingstoke (Wyles 2019), Andover Airfield, Penton Mewsey (Davis and Stewart 2019), Twyford Down, Winchester (Clapham 2000) and Heatherstone Grange, Bransgore (Wyles 2018) and from further afield including North of Saltwood Tunnel, Kent (Stevens 2006) and Kingsborough Manor, Isle of Sheppey, Kent (Stevens 2008).

Barrow 6003

A very few charred remains were recovered from pits 6317, 6041 and barrow ditch section 6289.

Barrow 6004

Small numbers of charred plant remains were recorded from seven samples taken from cremation-related deposit 6320 and cremation burials 6475 and 6505. The plant remains included false oat-grass tuber and stem fragments, and a barley grain fragment.

Barrow 6005

Cremation burial 6071 contained a few tuber and stem fragments.

C-shaped enclosure 6348

Small numbers of charred plant remains were noted from possible cremation-related deposit 6465, and undated pits within the C-shaped enclosure 6461, 6487 and 6564, and also ditch section 6424.

Cremation burials between Barrows 6004 and 6005

Moderate numbers of false oat-grass tubers and stem fragments and a few hazelnut shell fragments were recorded from cremation burials 6116 and 6118.

Peripheral pits south-east of Barrow 6004

Pit 6008 contained an indeterminate grain fragment.

Central-related feature within Stake circle

A few tuber and stem fragments were noted from cremation-related deposit 6012.

Cremation burial to the west of the Stake circle

Low numbers of false oat-grass tuber fragments were noted from three of the seven samples from cremation burial 6016. A hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain was retrieved from spit 5 (sample 208) of this deposit.

Post alignment 6030 and pit 6035

Small quantities of charred plant remains, which included an indeterminate grain fragment and a hazelnut shell

fragment, were recovered from postholes 6018 and 6152; no remains were recovered from pit 6035.

Summary

The charred plant remains are indicative of some general domestic activity on the site during the Beaker period, with evidence for the exploitation of the wild food resource and for crops.

Some of the charred plant assemblages from the Early and Middle Bronze Age deposits are related to funerary activities and are compatible with other of this date from cremation-related deposits in the wider area. There is no indication from these remains for any domestic settlement or agricultural activities taking place on the site during this period. These results add to the picture of the activities in this area during these periods.

Wood charcoal

by Dana Challinor

Introduction

Charcoal was studied from samples associated with the Early Bronze Age Barrows 6002, 6004 and 6005, C-shaped enclosure 6348 and Stake circle 6566 in Area 6. Additionally, charcoal from the small cluster of cremation burials in Area 4, which by association with a Collared Urn is (see Chapters 2–4) dated to the Early Bronze Age, was examined, but the quantities were low and did not merit full quantification. Charcoal was well preserved at the site but there was significant variation in the quantities recovered from individual features. In total, 68 samples were examined, yielding an insight into cremation practices and fuelwood selection at the site.

Methodology

Charcoal >2mm in transverse section was considered for identification, though preference was given to larger >4mm fragments which could be assessed for maturity. Where there were multiple samples from cremation pits, some of the richer assemblages were analysed and quantified for comparison and others were scanned to check for atypical taxa. Between 20 and 130 fragments per feature were examined, depending upon quantity, condition and diversity. The charcoal was fractured and sorted into groups based on the anatomical features observed in transverse section at x7 to x45 magnifications. Representative fragments from each group were then selected for further examination using a Meiji incident-light microscope at up to x400 magnification. Identifications were made by comparison with identification keys (Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990) and modern reference material.

Table 5.7 Charcoal analysis from Early Bronze Age cemetery features (showing fragment counts)

Feature	Barrow 6002			Barrow 6004			Barrow 6005	Between Barrows 6004 and 6005		C-shaped enclosure 6348		Stake circle 6566
Feature type	Natural hollow	Unurned burials	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Unurned burial	Ditch	Unurned burial	Unurned burials	Ditch	Pit	Unurned burial
Feature number	6043	6047 6053	6055	6145	6132	6475	6401	6071	6116 6118	6424	6465	6016
<i>Ulmus</i> sp. Elm	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
<i>Quercus</i> sp. Oak	5 (hr)	65 50 (hrs)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. Hazel	–	–	–	–	1r	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maloideae Hawthorn group	–	–	–	–	49 (r)	–	–	1	2 100 (r)	–	73 (r)	–
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i> L. Dogwood	7 (r)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> L. Holly	–	–	–	11	–	–	18	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Acer campestre</i> L. Field maple	118 (r)	–	–	19	20	–	9	–	39	50	–	–
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L. Ash	–	–	–	–	–	30	–	74	–	–	1	100 (sr)
Indeterminate Diffuse	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	9	–	–	–
Total	130	65 50	30	20	50	30	30	75	50 100	50	75	100

r = roundwood; s = sapwood, h = heartwood; () brackets denotes present in some frags only

Table 5.8 Charcoal identifications from Early and Middle Bronze Age cremation burials (showing presence only)

Feature	Area 6						Area 4					
	Barrow 6002		Barrow 6004	C-shaped enclosure 6348		Stake circle	Cremation burial cluster					
Feature number	6051		6505	6077	6461		6012	4006		4010		4016
Context number	6528	6526	6506	6078	6462	6462	6013	4007	4007	4011	4011	4017
Sample number	194	196	161	171	99	100	203	23	24	21	22	31
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	+	+	—	—	+
Oak												
Maloideae	—	—	+	+	—	—	+	—	—	(+)	—	—
Hawthorn group												
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i> L.	—	(+)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dogwood												
<i>Acer campestre</i> L.	+	+	—	—	(+)	+	—	—	—	+	+	—
Field maple												
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.	—	—	—	—	+	+	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ash												

+ = trace presence; () brackets denotes cf. identification

Heartwood was identified by the presence of multiple tyloses across more than one growth ring and sapwood was identified by the absence of tyloses. In the absence of pith and/or bark, roundwood was attributed to fragments which exhibited strong or moderate ring curvature. Classification and nomenclature follow Stace (1997).

Results

The results for the full analysis are presented in Table 5.7 and the results from selected scanned samples in Table 5.8. On examination it became clear that there were no significant differences between samples from the same feature; consequently, the results have been amalgamated by feature in Table 5.7. Preservation was generally good; firm and clean. Some moderate levels of vitrification were recorded which inhibited positive identification. Vitrification relates to the condition of the wood prior to burning.

Eight taxa were positively identified, all of which are consistent with native species:

ULMACEAE: *Ulmus* sp., elm
 FAGACEAE: *Quercus* sp., oak
 BETULACEAE: *Corylus avellana* L., hazel
 ROSACEAE: Maloideae, hawthorn group: comprising *Malus* (apple), *Pyrus* (pear), *Sorbus* (rowan/service/whitebeams), *Crataegus*, (hawthorn)
 CORNACEAE: *Cornus sanguinea* L., dogwood
 AQUIFOLIACEAE: *Ilex aquifolium* L., holly
 ACERACEAE: *Acer campestre* L., field maple
 OLEACEAE: *Fraxinus excelsior* L., ash

The anatomy of some of the identified *Acer* fragments in cremation burial 6116 was atypical, exhibiting shorter or wider rays than normal. Confusion with other taxa, such as *Ilex*, *Cornus* and *Frangula* is possible, but these were ruled out as other diagnostic characteristics (e.g. scalariform plates) were not present. Numerous small, round insect tunnels were recorded in fragments of *Acer* from natural hollow 6043 and also in some Maloideae from cremation burial in pit 6118 and possible cremation-related deposit in pit 6465. Additionally, some of the *Acer* fragments in hollow

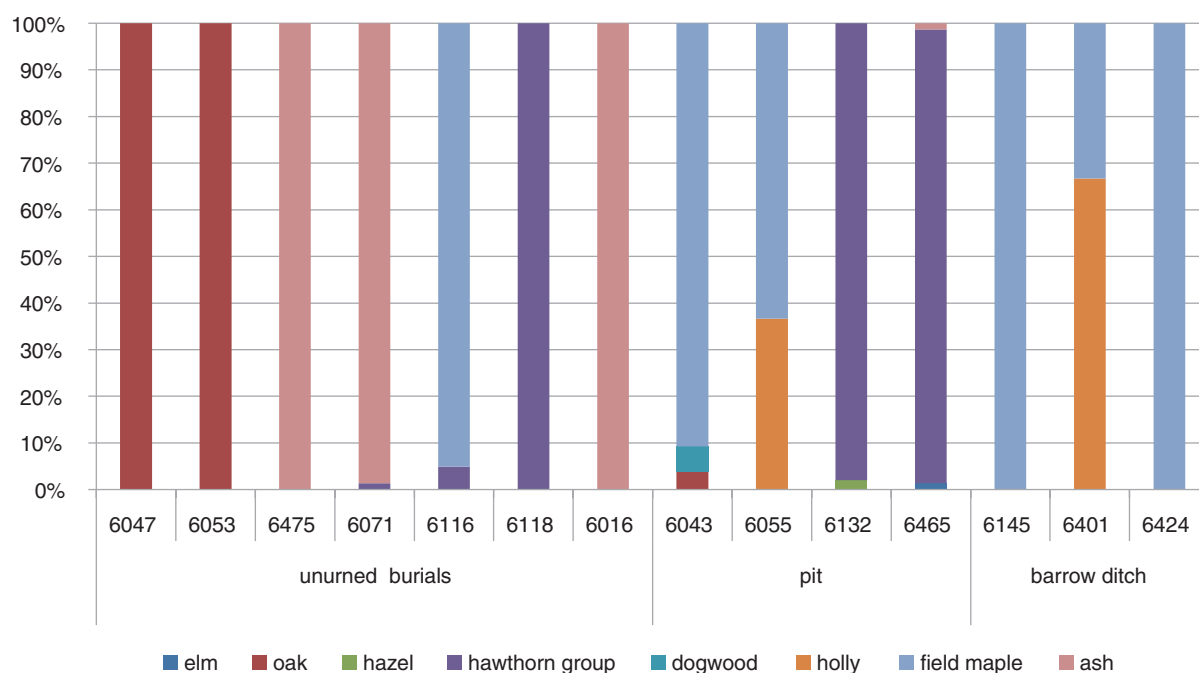


Figure 5.1 Selected charcoal assemblages

6043 appeared slightly curved (but was not roundwood), but the evidence was too unsubstantial to be conclusive.

Discussion

Of the 14 analysed features in Area 6, only seven contained actual burials of cremated human bone. All of these produced charcoal assemblages dominated (>90%) by a single taxon (Fig. 5.1), albeit the dominant taxon varied: urned burials 6047 and 6053 in Barrow 6002 were composed of oak; urned burials 6475 (Barrow 6004) and 6071 (Barrow 6005) were dominated by ash, along with urned burial 6016 (Stake circle); and the two burials between Barrows 6004 and 6005 comprised field maple (Burial 6116) and hawthorn group (Burial 6118). Oak was commonly used for pyre fuel in the Early Bronze Age, providing the high and sustained heat necessary to achieve efficient cremation. In her examination of Early Bronze Age cremation assemblages at Raunds, Northamptonshire, Campbell (2007, 33) suggested that the choice of fuel may be related to age or gender and that the selection of fuel would need to take into account the specific combustion potential of the deceased, i.e. body fat and size. Two of the Picket Twenty urned burials were of children, 6071 and 6118, and these were cremated with ash and hawthorn group respectively, but there was no age (or gender) data for the two oak-dominated burials in Barrow 6002. Urned burial 6016 – a possible male – was also dominated by ash, as was burial 6475 which was tentatively female (the other, 6116 was dominated by field maple); this indicates that there is no clear pattern between the choice of fuel and age/gender. All of the taxa utilised in the cremations were hardwoods, which would provide adequate heating capacity if sufficient fuel was used. Certainly, the evidence

from the human bone suggested effective cremation had occurred (see Clough, Chapter 3).

Deposits of charcoal in the barrow ditches and associated pits are highly likely to represent re-deposited pyre debris, perhaps deliberate burials of individual pyres. The assemblages are consistent with those of the human bone burials in both the single-taxon dominance and the selection of species; three were dominated by field maple (6043, 6145 and 6424) and two by Maloideae (6132 and 6465). Two assemblages from pits 6055 and 6401, however, were more mixed, comprising field maple and holly. Holly is not commonly found in Bronze Age cremation assemblages, it makes a short-lived firewood (Edlin 1949), which would not be suitable as pyre fuel. Likewise, the traces of elm, dogwood and hazel found in natural hollow 6043, and pits 6465 and 6132 are unlikely to represent firewood, but may be pyre goods or the remnants of kindling.

The general paucity of oak in the Early Bronze Age cremation burials at this site is rather unusual. Analysis by the author of more than 50 Early Bronze Age cremation burials in England has shown that 75% were dominated by oak. Traces of oak were also recorded in one of the Middle Bronze Age cremation burials (4016) and pit 4006 which may have been associated with the funerary activity in Area 4, although burial 4010 contained field maple and probable hawthorn group. Interestingly, the only other ash-dominated burial of Early Bronze Age date was from another Hampshire site at Beggarwood Lane, Basingstoke (Challinor 2019). There are, however, several examples of ash-dominated cremation assemblages from Middle Bronze sites, such as Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire (Challinor 2018). Burials dominated by hawthorn group are more frequent, in both Early and Middle Bronze periods, but cremations fuelled by field maple are particularly rare. Beggarwood

Lane produced unurned burials dominated by hawthorn group and an urned burial dominated by hazel. As with Picket Twenty, there was no evident correlation with age or gender to explain the fuelwood selection.

The presence of insect tunnels in several samples offers another potential insight into cremation rites. Of the two main families of wood boring beetles found in England, the Cerambycidae (long-horned beetles) tend to inhabit dead wood with the bark attached, whereas the Anobiidae (wood borers) prefer structures and artefacts. The tunnels observed in the Picket Twenty charcoal were all of a round shape, characteristic of those made by the Anobiidae. This suggests that some of the charcoal in natural hollow 6043 and cremation-related pit 6465 and unurned burial 6118 derived from structural or artefactual wood rather than firewood – either re-used timbers or specific pyre structures/goods. The field maple in natural hollow 6043 was particularly riddled with wood worm, and the large quantity of charcoal suggests a larger item than a grave good. Moreover, the slight possibility that some of the charcoal derived from worked wood supports this hypothesis. In any case, it is highly likely that the wood used for cremation purposes would need to be dry and well-seasoned to achieve the high temperatures required and the presence of wood boring beetles certainly suggests that long-dead wood had been utilised. That said, it is also interesting to note that ash wood has long been considered a superior firewood for its high calorific potential and ease of burning green. It is plausible that re-used timbers or ash wood was used when existing supplies of seasoned firewood were unavailable at the time of cremation.

In conclusion, the charcoal assemblages from Picket Twenty conform to the general Bronze Age pattern of single-taxon dominance, although the species selected were not all typical. It is striking that similar results were found at Beggarwood Lane, Basingstoke, less than 20 miles away. Neither site has corroborating evidence from which to assess the availability of local woodland supplies (i.e. whether there was in fact a paucity of oak in the Early Bronze Age), but it is also likely that other functional (and possibly ritual) factors influenced the fuelwood selection. While there is no clear or easy interpretation relating to age or gender, the evidence is typically incomplete or tenuous. There is also some suggestion that some of the charcoal may not represent fuelwood, but other elements of the cremation rites or rituals.

Molluscan analysis

by Sarah F. Wyles and Agata Kowalska

Introduction

A series of 43 small samples were taken in sequences from the barrow and C-shaped enclosure ditches for the recovery of molluscan remains. It was hoped that these would provide some information on the nature of the general landscape

and whether this changed over time. In addition to the mollusc samples, 127 bulk environmental samples were processed from a range of feature types, mainly cremation-related deposits of Early Bronze Age date, across the site. The presence of molluscs was noted within these samples.

As a result of the assessment, the mollusc assemblages from 26 of the mollusc samples and three of the bulk samples were selected for further analysis. These are shown in Table 5.9.

Methodology

The mollusc and bulk samples were processed following standard flotation methods, using a 0.25mm mesh sieve size for the flot and 0.5mm for the residue for the bulk samples, and 0.5mm mesh sieve size for both flot and residue for the mollusc samples.

For the samples selected for analysis, the apical and diagnostic mollusc fragments >0.5mm were identified using a x10–x40 stereo-binocular microscope. Nomenclature follows Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Evans (1972), Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008). The results are presented in Tables 5.10–5.13 and histograms of relative abundance produced (Figs 5.2–5.5) with *Cecilioides acicula* being plotted over and above the assemblage. Some species were grouped in the histograms. The mollusc assemblages from the samples assessed but not selected for further analysis have been considered within this report and the assessment results of these unanalysed samples are recorded in Tables 5.14–5.26.

Area 2

Phase 1: Chalcolithic/Beaker

Hazelnut shell fragments from fill 2019 of pit 2010 were radiocarbon dated (SUERC-82092 2356–2198 cal BC (90.1%) at 95.4% probability). The large molluscan assemblage (over 400 shells) was recovered from this pit and included shells of the open country (51% of the assemblage), intermediate (26%) and shade-loving species (23%) (Table 5.10, Fig. 5.2). Fill 2019 has been described as a dark brownish black clayey silt, with loose structure with <20% <70mm subangular flint.

The assemblage was dominated by the open country species *Pupilla muscorum*, and *Helicella itala*, and the intermediate species *Pomatias elegans*. *Pomatias elegans* is a species which favours broken earth and can be seen as indicative of areas of clearance or trampling in the vicinity, while *Pupilla muscorum* and *Helicella itala* can thrive in areas of short-turfed grassland. The presence of a few shells of *Helicodonta obvolvata* and *Acanthinula aculeata* is noteworthy. *Helicodonta obvolvata* is a rare species with a restricted distribution. It is a 'very local species of chalk beech woods' and is also recorded from mature ash woods and from old ash/hazel scrub' (Kerney 1999, 199). *Acanthinula aculeata* is mainly a species of open deciduous woodland environments.

Table 5.9 Breakdown of analysed and assessed mollusc assemblages from mollusc and bulk samples by area and phase

Area	Date	Mollusc samples assessed	Mollusc samples analysed	Bulk samples assessed	Bulk samples analysed	Feature types
2	Beaker/Early Bronze Age	—	—	3	—	Possible structure
	Chalcolithic/Beaker	—	—	—	1	Pit
3	Undated	—	—	2	—	Row of postholes
4	Beaker/Early Bronze Age	—	—	12	—	Cremation burial and possible cremation-related deposits
6	Early Bronze Age	8	—	27	—	Barrow 6002 – possible cremation-related deposits + ditch
		—	8	4	—	Barrow 6003 – pits + ditch
		—	9	18	—	Barrow 6004 – cremation burials, possible cremation-related deposits, pits, posthole + ditch
		9	—	5	1	Barrow 6005 – cremation burial + ditch
		—	4	19	1	C-shaped enclosure 6348 – possible cremation-related deposits + ditch
		—	—	15	—	Cremation burials between Barrows 6004 + 6005 + undated pits
		—	—	12	—	Stake circle + western edge – cremation burials, possible cremation-related deposits + stakeholes
	Undated	—	—	4	—	Posthole alignment 6030, pit
7	Early Bronze Age	—	5	2	—	Barrow
	Undated	—	—	1	—	Ditch
	Total	17	26	124	3	

Table 5.10 Area 2 Chalcolithic/Beaker pit 2010 and Area 6 Early Bronze Age C-shaped enclosure 6348 and Barrow 6005 analysed mollusc assemblages

Phase	Area 2		Area 6					
Feature group	Chalcolithic/Beaker		Early Bronze Age					
Feature type			C-shaped Enclosure 6348			Ditch		Barrow 6005
Feature	Pit	Ditch					Ditch	
Context	2010	6424					6491	
Sample	2019	6426	6415	6416	6416	6416	6495	
Depth (m)	5	179	144	145	146	147	222	
Volume (litre)/weight (g)	spot	spot	0.31–0.41	0.23–0.30	0.13–0.20	0–0.13	spot	
	20 l	10 l	1500 g	1500 g	1500 g	1500 g	20 l	
Mollusc species								
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller)	90	257	10	70	162	52	1435	
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller) operculum	1	2	1	16	27	6	374	
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i> (Risso)	4	405	5	46	120	13	400	
<i>Carychium</i> spp.	5	124	9	29	42	6	362	
<i>Azeca goodalli</i> (Férussac)	–	3	–	–	–	–	2	
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Müller)	2	28	1	3	8	48	35	
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i> (Porro)	1	12	1	1	6	18	22	
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	2	16	2	8	19	24	30	
<i>Truncatellina cylindrica</i> (Férussac)	–	15	–	2	3	–	36	
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> (Draparnaud)	5	2	–	1	1	12	10	
<i>Vertigo</i> spp.	–	1	–	1	1	8	2	
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linnaeus)	89	277	12	46	134	303	681	
<i>Vallonia costata</i> (Müller)	27	340	31	63	124	228	275	
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki	18	125	12	29	58	187	63	
<i>Vallonia</i> spp.	–	3	3	2	7	3	3	
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i> (Müller)	3	32	–	12	15	3	69	
<i>Ena montana</i> (Draparnaud)	–	5	–	–	1	–	13	
<i>Merdigera obscura</i> (Müller)	–	3	–	–	1	–	8	
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i> (Draparnaud)	–	27	3	9	10	6	49	
<i>Discus rotundatus</i> (Müller)	33	230	4	23	44	9	256	
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i> (Müller)	–	5	–	2	3	1	–	
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.	6	65	4	17	26	1	118	
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i> (Ström)	2	14	–	11	8	3	26	
<i>Aegopinella pura</i> (Alder)	7	66	4	34	21	5	187	
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> (Draparnaud)	29	114	4	33	40	1	256	
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i> (Müller)	5	39	–	6	15	2	64	
<i>Deroceras/Limax</i>	–	–	1	1	–	3	–	
<i>Euconulus fulvus</i> (Müller)	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i> (Müller)	416	11	2	2	9	14	3	
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i> (Montagu)	1	5	1	3	2	2	11	
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i> (Ström)	7	14	–	4	9	6	33	
<i>Balea perversa</i> (Linnaeus)	–	1	–	1	2	2	2	
<i>Candidula gigaxii</i> (L. Pfeiffer)	14	–	–	–	–	–	1	
<i>Cermuella virgata</i> (Da Costa)	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linnaeus)	63	50	2	11	19	75	191	
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i> (Linnaeus)	17	33	–	16	34	23	99	
<i>Helicodonta obvolvata</i> (Müller)	1	1	–	–	–	–	2	
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i> (Linnaeus)	–	1	+	1	3	+	8	
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i> (Linnaeus)	–	3	–	–	2	–	2	
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i> (Müller)	–	1	–	1	2	–	3	
<i>Cepaea/Arianta</i> sp.	2	3	–	12	26	3	18	
Taxa	23	30	16	26	28	26	31	
Total	439	2320	109	498	968	1047	4774	
% Open country species	50.569	35.043	55.0459	31.1245	35.8471	77.937	26.4349	
% Intermediate species	26.424	17.198	16.5138	26.9076	28.9256	17.287	36.0494	
% Shade-loving species	23.007	47.759	28.4504	41.9679	35.2273	4.7855	37.5157	

+ = fragment

Table 5.11 Area 6 Early Bronze Age Barrow 6004 analysed mollusc assemblages

Phase Feature group Feature	Area 6								
	Early Bronze Age Barrow 6004 Ditch 6304								
Context	6309	6308	6308	6307	6307	6307	6307	6306	6305
Sample	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
Depth (m)	0.94–1.12	0.85–0.94	0.74–0.85	0.64–0.74	0.54–0.64	0.44–0.54	0.34–0.44	0.28–0.32	0.11–0.21
Weight (g)	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Mollusc species									
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller)	1	49	132	116	47	19	13	12	3
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller) operculum	–	4	24	23	4	2	–	–	–
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i> (Risso)	1	14	46	33	10	–	1	–	–
<i>Carychium</i> spp.	4	4	53	15	7	–	1	–	–
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Müller)	1	2	5	31	26	21	2	1	–
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i> (Porro)	–	1	3	8	9	7	–	–	–
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	2	13	26	41	43	21	13	7	1
<i>Truncatellina cylindrica</i> (Férussac)	–	5	21	2	1	–	–	–	–
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> (Draparnaud)	–	–	4	20	26	16	11	–	–
<i>Vertigo</i> spp.	–	–	–	6	4	1	2	–	–
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linnaeus)	5	69	140	453	642	429	920	196	2
<i>Vallonia costata</i> (Müller)	4	132	198	241	250	58	15	6	4
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki	1	28	63	176	228	109	27	11	4
<i>Vallonia</i> spp.	–	4	5	8	7	–	1	–	–
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i> (Müller)	1	–	9	4	1	–	–	–	–
<i>Merdigera obscura</i> (Müller)	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i> (Draparnaud)	–	1	14	5	5	–	–	–	–
<i>Discus rotundatus</i> (Müller)	2	4	15	16	2	–	–	–	–
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i> (Müller)	1	7	4	1	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.	1	–	5	2	–	–	–	1	–
<i>Nesovitreia hammonis</i> (Ström)	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Aegopinella pura</i> (Alder)	1	2	5	6	1	–	–	–	–
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> (Draparnaud)	–	4	26	11	7	–	–	–	–
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i> (Müller)	1	–	5	1	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Deroceras/Limax</i>	1	–	8	22	30	3	15	–	–
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (Müller)	2	1	3	2	3	2	3	5	11
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i> (Montagu)	–	1	2	3	2	–	–	–	–
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i> (Ström)	–	10	4	8	10	2	2	1	–
<i>Balea perversa</i> (Linnaeus)	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
<i>Cernuella virgata</i> (Da Costa)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	–
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linnaeus)	1	47	28	84	146	76	19	22	–
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i> (Linnaeus)	–	6	4	4	5	–	2	3	–
<i>Helicodonta obvolvata</i> (Müller)	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i> (Linnaeus)	–	1	1	1	+	–	–	–	–
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i> (Müller)	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
<i>Cepaea/Arianta</i> sp.	–	3	5	6	6	1	3	1	+
Taxa	14	19	24	26	21	11	13	11	6
Total	28	407	831	1329	1516	763	1048	268	14
% Open country species	39.286	70.02	55.23	74.49	86.02	90.3	94.943	90.3	71.43
% Intermediate species	21.429	20.15	24.19	17.76	11.35	9.436	4.5802	8.955	28.67
% Shade-loving species	39.286	9.828	20.58	7.75	2.739	0.262	0.4771	0.746	0

+ = fragment

The assemblage may be indicative of an open landscape of short-turfed grassland and areas of trample in the vicinity of the pit with some woodland in the wider area.

Phase 3: Middle Bronze Age

Moderate numbers of mollusc shells were recovered from postholes 2002, 2005 and 2006, part of the round post structure (Table 5.14). These assemblages included shells of the open country, intermediate and shade-loving species and may be indicative of a generally open landscape.

Area 3

?Phase 3: Middle Bronze Age

The moderately small mollusc assemblages recovered from postholes 3001 and 3002 included shells of the open country and intermediate species (Table 5.15) and may be indicative of a well-established open landscape.

Area 4

Phase 2: Beaker/Early Bronze Age

A series of 12 samples were taken from five cremation-related deposits or associated features (4002, 4006, 4008, 4010 and 4016) in this area. Upon further examination pit 4006 was found not to contain cremated human bone but is located within this group of features. The samples generally contained moderately low numbers of mollusc shells. These included those of the open country, intermediate and shade-loving species in the assemblages from cremation-related deposits 4002 and 4010, those of the open country species and shade-loving species from pit 4006 and cremation burial 4008 and those of the open country and intermediate species from cremation burial 4016 (Table 5.16). These may be indicative of a generally open landscape.

Table 5.12 Area 6 Early Bronze Age Barrow 6003 analysed mollusc assemblages

Phase Feature group Feature Context Sample Depth (m) Weight (g)	Area 6 Early Bronze Age Barrow 6003 Ditch 6236							
	6253	6252	6252	6252	6251	6251	6237	6237
	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138
	0.77–0.85	0.67–0.77	0.57–0.67	0.47–0.57	0.37–0.47	0.30–0.37	0.20–0.30	0.10–0.20
	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Mollusc species								
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller)	+	5	120	74	18	51	16	10
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller) operculum	–	2	30	23	5	6	3	1
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i> (Risso)	1	9	50	119	8	–	–	–
<i>Carychium</i> spp.	–	5	153	63	4	–	–	–
<i>Azeca goodalli</i> (Férussac)	–	–	–	1	1	7	–	–
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Müller)	–	2	6	3	7	21	19	18
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i> (Porro)	–	–	2	2	4	13	8	9
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	1	3	10	7	29	31	23	43
<i>Truncatellina cylindrica</i> (Férussac)	1	6	9	12	8	–	–	–
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> (Draparnaud)	–	–	–	3	5	7	19	16
<i>Vertigo</i> spp.	–	–	–	–	–	4	4	12
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linnaeus)	8	30	35	64	214	307	487	567
<i>Vallonia costata</i> (Müller)	2	17	69	87	118	97	148	59
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki	3	4	38	32	74	120	241	104
<i>Vallonia</i> spp.	–	–	10	2	4	3	4	2
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i> (Müller)	–	–	17	21	9	4	–	–
<i>Ena montana</i> (Draparnaud)	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
<i>Merdigera obscura</i> (Müller)	–	–	2	6	–	1	–	–
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i> (Draparnaud)	–	1	12	51	6	1	4	–
<i>Discus rotundatus</i> (Müller)	+	+	62	63	9	1	9	–
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i> (Müller)	–	–	1	1	1	–	–	–
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.	–	1	25	21	2	1	–	–
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i> (Ström)	–	–	4	8	1	3	–	–
<i>Aegopinella pura</i> (Alder)	–	1	20	22	3	6	1	1
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> (Draparnaud)	1	–	31	37	4	6	1	–
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i> (Müller)	–	–	5	6	2	1	1	–
<i>Deroceras/Limax</i>	–	–	3	2	7	2	8	15
<i>Euconulus fulvus</i> (Müller)	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i> (Müller)	3	–	2	3	1	4	10	7
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i> (Montagu)	–	–	1	2	–	1	–	–
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i> (Ström)	–	–	8	5	3	3	1	1
<i>Candidula gigaxii</i> (L. Pfeiffer)	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–
<i>Ceriuella virgata</i> (Da Costa)	–	–	–	–	3	–	5	2
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linnaeus)	2	4	5	6	13	42	79	69
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i> (Linnaeus)	–	–	24	7	5	3	1	2
<i>Helicodonta obvolvata</i> (Müller)	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i> (Linnaeus)	–	–	3	2	+	+	–	–
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i> (Linnaeus)	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i> (Müller)	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
<i>Cepaea/Arianta</i> sp.	+	1	4	5	2	1	3	–
Taxa	11	13	26	29	25	23	20	13
Total	19	89	730	739	564	737	1085	930
% Open country species	84.211	68.54	22.74	27.88	77.84	78.7	91.2	89.35
% Intermediate species	5.4632	13.48	25.62	22.06	14.18	17.1	7.56	10.43
% Shade-loving species	10.626	18.08	51.64	50.07	8.079	4.306	1.29	0.215

+ = fragment

Area 6

Phase 2: Beaker/Early Bronze Age

C-shaped Enclosure 6348

Pomoideae roundwood fragments from possible cremation-related deposit 6465 was radiocarbon dated (SUERC-82093 2020–1876 cal BC (86.5%) at 95.4% probability). High numbers of mollusc shells were noted in the sequence of four mollusc samples from ditch section 6414 (Table 5.10, Fig. 5.2) and in the bulk samples from ditch sections 6424 and 6499 (Tables 5.10 and 5.23, Fig. 5.2). These ditch sections included shells of the open country, intermediate and shade-loving species.

The sediments of the sampled ditch (6348) sections 6414 and 6424 are described below:

Ditch 6414

0–0.31m context 6416. Mid grey brown clayey silt. Friable. Occasional flint and chalk flecks
0.31–0.41m context 6415. Light grey brown clayey silt. Friable. Common chalk and rare flint

Ditch 6424

0.27–0.47m context 6426. Light greyish brown clayey silt. Compact. 1% subangular flint <60mm and 10% subangular chalk <40mm

The assemblage (109 shells) from basal fill 6415 of ditch 6414 was dominated by the open country species *Vallonia costata* and the ditch appears to have been dug in an open downland landscape with possibly some longer grass in the vicinity.

Table 5.13 Area 7 Early Bronze Age analysed mollusc assemblages

Phase Feature group Feature	Area 7				
	Early Bronze Age				
	Barrow 7003				
	Ditch 7039				
Context	7040	7040	7040	7041	7041
Sample	117	118	119	120	121
Depth (m)	0.45–0.55	0.35–0.45	0.27–0.35	0.15–0.27	0.05–0.15
Weight (g)	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Mollusc species					
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller)	8	2	1	25	26
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller) operculum	1	2	1	1	1
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i> (Risso)	2	–	2	–	1
<i>Carychium</i> spp.	–	–	2	–	2
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Müller)	2	3	1	6	7
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i> (Porro)	2	2	–	3	6
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	2	1	3	14	7
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> (Draparnaud)	–	1	–	1	2
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linnaeus)	16	10	27	77	91
<i>Vallonia costata</i> (Müller)	41	15	30	123	127
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki	26	8	12	54	68
<i>Vallonia</i> spp.	5	–	2	1	1
<i>Discus rotundatus</i> (Müller)	–	–	1	3	–
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i> (Müller)	–	1	3	–	–
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.	–	–	1	–	–
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (Müller)	5	1	1	2	6
<i>Cermea virgata</i> (Da Costa)	–	–	1	1	1
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linnaeus)	4	4	8	15	9
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i> (Linnaeus)	2	–	3	2	2
<i>Helicogona lapicida</i> (Linnaeus)	+	–	–	–	–
<i>Cepaea/Arianta</i> sp.	1	2	–	1	2
Taxa	11	10	13	12	12
Total	111	49	97	326	352
% Open country species	82.88288	77.55102	82.47423	83.43558	84.94318
% Intermediate species	15.31532	22.44898	11.34021	15.64417	14.20455
% Shade-loving species	2.702703	0	6.185567	0.920245	0.852273

+ = fragment

Shell numbers increase greatly from approximately 500 shells to 1050 shells, going up the sequence within deposit 6416. The shade component in the lowest sample (145) within 6416 has increased to 42% from 28% in sample 144 from the basal fill 6415. It declines to only 5% in the upper sample (147) within 6416. This is mirrored by an initial decline then rise within the open country species. The predominant species within these assemblages were *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Pomatias elegans* and *Carychium tridentatum*. Shells of the rarity *Truncatellina cylindrica* (an obligatory xerophile), and the woodland favouring species *Ena montana*, *Merdigera obscura* and *Acanthinula aculeata*, were present in the lower part of 6416. There is an indication of some possible stabilisation at the lower part of 6416 and these assemblages may be indicative of an open landscape with longer grassland along and/or within the ditch and some local woodland in the vicinity at the base of context 6416. By the top of context 6416, the landscape appears to be open downland with probably varying levels of grazing in the vicinity.

The very large assemblage recorded from ditch section 6424 was dominated by the shade-loving species. The predominant species within the assemblage were *Carychium tridentatum*, *Discus rotundatus*, *Aegopinella nitidula*,

Pomatias elegans, *Vallonia costata*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia excentrica*. There were also shells of the rarities *Truncatellina cylindrica*, *Helicodonta obvolvata* and *Azeca goodalli*, and the woodland favouring species *Ena montana*, *Merdigera obscura* and *Acanthinula aculeata*. *Azeca goodalli* is a species that is shade demanding, preferring light shade environments and is typically found in leaf litter and moss environments in deciduous woodland, hedgerows and undisturbed scrubby places. It avoids both the extremes of open ground and dense woodland (Kerney 1999, 80; Davies 2008, 174). This assemblage appears to be reflective of an open landscape with longer grassland along and/or within the ditch and some local woodland, similar to that indicated by the assemblage from the base of context 6416 in ditch section 6414.

Low to high numbers of mollusc shells were recovered from the possible cremation-related deposits and undated features within the C-shaped enclosure and included shells of the open country, intermediate and shade-loving species (Table 5.23).

Barrow 6005

A very high number of mollusc shells was recovered from lower secondary fill 6495 (sample 222) of barrow ditch section 6491.



Figure 5.2 Selected Phase 1 and 2 features Areas 2 and 6 histogram of relative abundance of molluscs

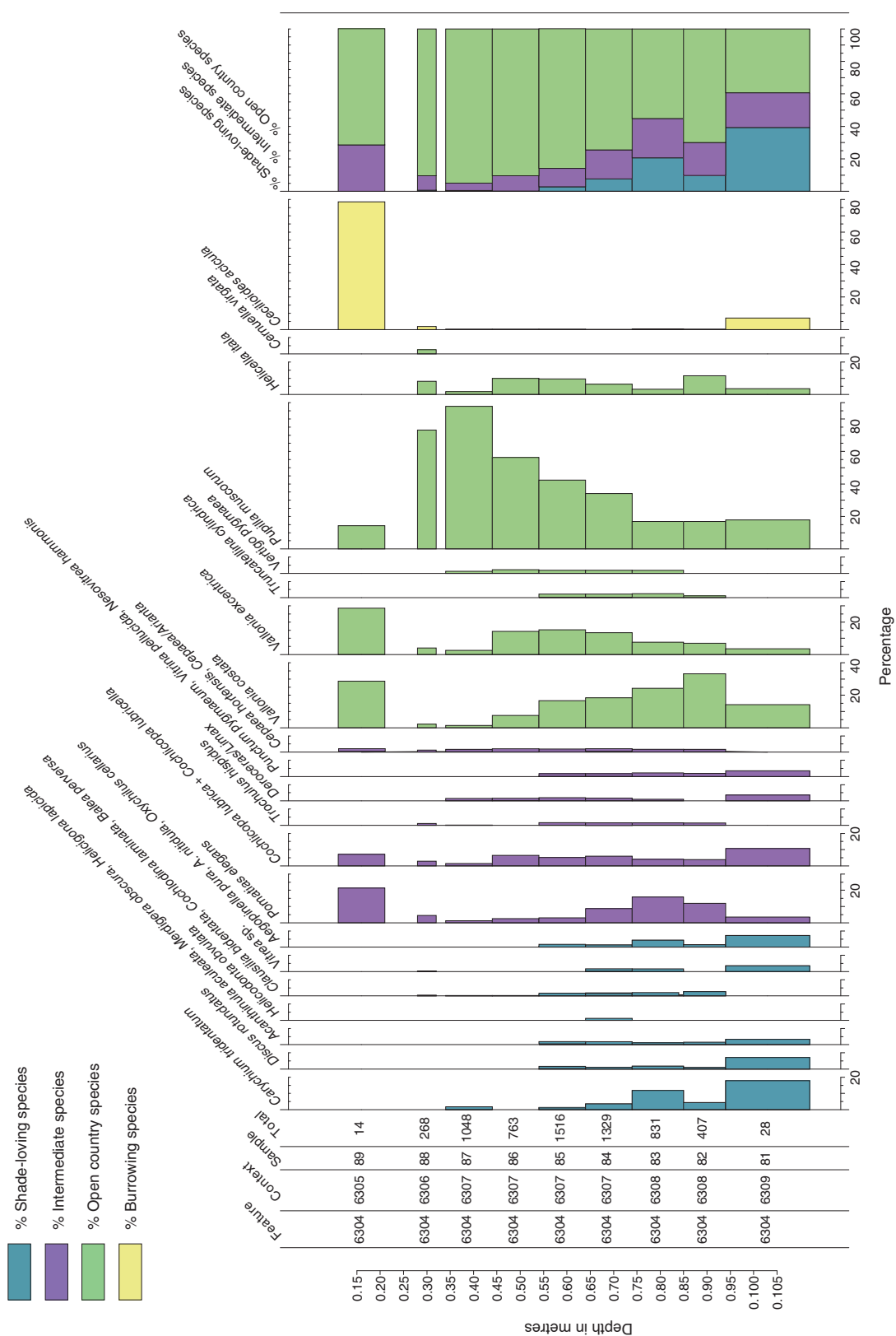


Figure 5.3 Barrow 6004 section 6304 histogram of relative abundance of molluscs



Figure 5.4 Barrow 6003 section 6236 histogram of relative abundance of molluscs

Table 5.14 Assessed molluscs from Area 2

Phase Feature label Feature type Cut number Context Sample Volume (litre)	Area 2 Middle to Late Bronze Age Possible structure Postholes		
	2002	2005	2006
	2016	2022	2015
	2	7	1
	5	1	6
Open country species			
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	X	X	X
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	X	X	X
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	X	–	X
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	X	–	X
<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	X	X
Introduced helicellids	–	X	X
Intermediate species			
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	X	–	X
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	X	X	X
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	X	–	X
Shade-loving species			
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	X	–	X
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	X	–	–
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	X	–	–
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	–	–	X
Burrowing species			
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	X	X	X
Total	***	***	***

* = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items;
***** = >100 items; X = present

Table 5.15 Assessed molluscs from Area 3

Phase Feature label Feature type Cut number Context Sample Volume (litre)	Area 3 Undated Post alignment Postholes	
	3001	3002
	3005	3003
	13	11
	2	19
Open country species		
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	X	X
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	X	–
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	X	X
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	X	X
<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	X
Introduced helicellids	X	X
Intermediate species		
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	X	–
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	X	X
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	–	X
Burrowing species		
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	X	X
Total	**	***

* = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items;
***** = >100 items; X = present

Table 5.16 Assessed molluscs from Area 4

Phase Feature type Cut number Context	Area 4 Beaker/Early Bronze Age Cremation burials and possible cremation-related deposits											
	4002		4006		4008	4010		4016		4021		4021
	4003	4003	4007	4007	4009	4011	4011	4017	4017	4021	4021	4021
	4003	4003	4007	4007	4009	4011	4011	4017	4017	4021	4021	4021
Spit	1	2	1	2		1	2	1	2	1	2	3
Sample	26	27	23	24	25	21	22	28	31	53	54	68
Volume (litre)	8	6	4	2	3	10	6	4	4	2	2	2
Open country species												
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	–	–	–	–	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	–
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	–
<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Introduced helicellids	X	X	X	X	–	–	X	X	X	X	–	–
Intermediate species												
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X	–
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	X	X	–	–	–	X	X	X	X	X	X	–
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X	–	X	–	–
Shade-loving species												
<i>Carychium</i> sp.	–	–	–	–	–	–	X	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	–	X	X	X	–	X	X	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	–	X	–	–	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Virrea</i> sp.	–	–	X	–	–	X	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Burrowing species												
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total	**	**	***	**	**	***	***	**	**	***	***	*

* = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items; X = present

Table 5.17 Assessed molluscs from Area 6 Barrow 6002 cremation burials and possible cremation-related deposits

Phase Feature label Feature type Cut number	Area 6																									
	Early Bronze Age																									
	Barrow 6002																									
	Cremation burials and possible cremation-related deposits																									
Context	6043						6047						6051						6053						6055	
Spit	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	6	6524	6151	6048	6150	6160	6528	6527	6526	6525	6052	6146	6054	6056				
Sample	188	225	189	226	190	227	191	228	192	193	55	56	57	58	59	194	195	196	197	49	50	51	52			
Volume (litre)	6	5	5	2	12	2	8	2	9	12	4	10	4	4	5	10	16	19	4	5	19	22	10			
Open country species	<i>Papilio muscorum</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	<i>Vertigo pignacae</i>	-	X	X	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-			
	<i>Vallonia costata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Introduced helicellids	<i>Truncatellina cylindrica</i>	X	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-			
	Introduced helicellids	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-			
Intermediate species	<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	<i>Cepaea</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-			
	<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	-	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Shade-loving species	<i>Vitrina pellucida</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	<i>Carychium</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	X	X	-	X	-	-			
	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-			
	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-			
Burrowing species	<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	<i>Helicigona lapicida</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-			
	<i>Azeca goodalli</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Burrowing species	<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	Total	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***			

* = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items; X = present

Table 5.18 Assessed molluscs from Area 6 Barrow 6002 ditch

Phase Feature label Feature type Cut number	Area 6 Early Bronze Age Barrow 6002 Ditch										
	6164										6183
	6144	6162	6165	6162	6162	6162	6163	6163	6163	6163	6185
	6145	6162	6165	6162	6162	6162	6163	6163	6163	6163	6185
Context	6144	6162	6165	6162	6162	6162	6163	6163	6163	6163	6185
Depth (m)	–	–	0.76–0.86	0.66–0.76	0.56–0.66	0.44–0.56	0.34–0.44	0.24–0.34	0.14–0.24	0.04–0.14	–
Sample	47	156	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	223
Volume (litre)/weight (g)	13 l	18 l	1500 g	1500 g	1500 g	1500 g	1500 g	1500 g	1500 g	1500 g	10 l
Open country species											
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	X	X	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	X
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	X	–	C	–	–	–	C	C	A	A	X
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	X	X	B	C	B	A	B	A	A	A	X
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	X	X	B	C	B	A	B	A	A	A	X
<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	X	–	C	C	B	C	A	A	A	X
<i>Truncatellina cylindrica</i>	–	–	–	C	C	C	–	C	–	–	–
Introduced helicellids	–	–	–	–	–	C	–	–	–	–	–
Intermediate species											
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	X	X	–	–	–	C	C	A	C	C	X
<i>Cepaea</i> sp.	X	–	–	–	–	C	C	–	–	–	X
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	X	X	–	–	–	C	A	A	C	C	X
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	X	X	–	C	C	B	A	B	A	A	X
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	–	X	–	–	–	C	C	C	–	–	X
Shade-loving species											
<i>Carychium</i> sp.	X	X	C	C	–	B	C	C	–	–	X
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	X	X	–	–	C	A	B	B	–	–	X
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	X	X	–	–	–	C	C	C	–	C	X
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>	X	X	–	–	–	C	C	C	–	C	–
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	X	X	–	–	–	–	C	C	–	–	X
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.	X	X	–	–	C	–	B	C	–	C	X
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	X	X	–	–	–	–	C	C	–	–	X
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	X	X	–	–	–	–	C	–	–	–	X
<i>Merdigera obscura</i>	–	X	–	C	–	–	–	C	–	–	X
<i>Ena montana</i>	–	X	–	–	–	–	–	C	–	–	X
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i>	–	X	–	–	–	–	C	–	–	–	X
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>	X	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X
<i>Helicodonta obvoluta</i>	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X
<i>Azeca goodalli</i>	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	C	–	–	X
Burrowing species											
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i>	X	X	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	B	X
Total	*****	*****	30	25	40	100+	100+	100+	100+	100+	*****

For bulk samples * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items; X = present

For mollusc samples C = 1–4, B = 5–9, A = 10+

Ditch 6491

0.61–1.02m context 6495. Grey brown clayey silt. Firm.
15% chalk inclusions

This assemblage was dominated by *Pomatias elegans*, which represented 30% of the assemblage. Other species, present in significant numbers, included *Carychium tridentatum*, *Discus rotundatus*, *Aegopinella nitidula*, *Aegopinella pura*, *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia costata* and *Helicella itala*. There were also smaller numbers of shells of the rarities *Truncatellina cylindrica*, *Azeca goodalli* and *Helicodonta obvoluta*, and the woodland favouring species *Ena montana*, *Merdigera obscura* and *Acanthinula aculeata*. *Pomatias elegans* and *Pupilla muscorum* may have been exploiting areas of bare earth around or within the ditch. This assemblage may be indicative of an open landscape with some areas of longer grassland and of bare earth along and/or within the ditch and some local woodland in the vicinity.

Moderate to high numbers of mollusc shells from the sequence of nine mollusc samples from ditch section 6437 and a large amount from spot sample 115 from the sample section. These samples included open country, intermediate and shade-loving species (Table 5.22). The rarity *Truncatellina cylindrica* was present. There is a change within the assemblages within the sequence of samples from barrow ditch section 6437, with a decline in the levels of shade-loving species. These assemblages may be reflective of an open landscape with some woodland in the vicinity that appears to decrease over the history of the ditch. It is likely that the assemblages from the upper samples are indicative of open downland with probably both pasture and arable in the vicinity, as seen in the upper assemblages from the nearby C-shaped enclosure.

High numbers of mollusc shells were also recovered from cremation burial 6071 (samples 92–95) within Barrow 6005. Shells of the open country, intermediate and shade-loving species were present and included those of the

Table 5.19 Assessed molluscs from Area 6 Barrow 6003

Phase Feature label Feature type	Area 6 Early Bronze Age Barrow 6003			
	Pit	Posthole	Ditch	
Cut number	6041	6317	6236	6289
Context	6042	6138	6252	6292
Sample	69	80	139	219
Volume (litre)	17	20	18	20
Open country species				
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Truncatellina cylindrica</i>	X	–	–	X
Introduced helicellids	X	–	–	–
Intermediate species				
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	X	–	X	X
<i>Cepaea</i> sp.	X	–	X	X
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	X	X	X	X
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	–	–	X	X
Shade-loving species				
<i>Carychium</i> sp.	–	X	X	X
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	X	–	X	X
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	X	–	X	X
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>	–	–	X	X
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	–	–	X	X
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.	–	–	X	X
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	X	–	X	X
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	–	–	X	X
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i>	X	–	–	X
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>	–	–	X	X
<i>Helicodonta obvoluta</i>	–	–	X	–
Burrowing species				
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i>	X	X	X	X
Total	*****	****	*****	*****

For bulk samples * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items;
**** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items; X = present

rarity *Helicodonta obvoluta* and woodland loving species *Acanthinula aculeata*, *Merdigera obscura* and *Ena montana* (Table 5.22).

Barrow 6004

A radiocarbon date was obtained on cremated bone from cremation burial 6505 within the barrow (SUERC-82123 1764–1622 cal BC 95.4% probability).

High numbers of mollusc shells were noted in seven of the nine mollusc sequence samples from ditch section 6304 (Table 5.11, Fig. 5.3) and in the bulk samples from ditch sections 6308, 6333 and 6401 (Table 5.20). These ditch sections included shells of the open country, intermediate and shade-loving species.

The sediments of the sampled ditch section 6304 are described below:

Ditch 6304

0.11–0.21m context 6305. Pale greyish white silt. Friable. abundant chalk <50mm

0.28–0.32m context 6306. Dark blackish brown sandy silt. Friable

Table 5.20 Assessed molluscs from Area 6 Barrow 6004 ditch

Phase Feature label Feature type	Area 6 Early Bronze Age Barrow 6004		
	Ditch		6401
Cut number	6304	6333	6401
Context	6308	6337	6407
Sample	90	221	91
Volume (litre)	15	20	7
Open country species			
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	X	X	X
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	X	X	X
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	X	X	X
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	X	X	X
<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	X	X
<i>Truncatellina cylindrica</i>	X	X	X
Intermediate species			
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	X	X	X
<i>Cepaea</i> sp.	X	X	–
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	X	X	X
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	X	X	X
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	X	–	X
<i>Vitrea pellucida</i>	–	–	X
Shade-loving species			
<i>Carychium</i> sp.	X	X	X
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	X	X	X
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	X	X	X
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>	X	–	–
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	X	X	–
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.	–	X	X
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	X	–	X
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	X	–	–
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i>	X	X	X
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>	X	–	–
<i>Helicodonta obvoluta</i>	X	–	–
Burrowing species			
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i>	X	X	X
Total	*****	*****	****

For bulk samples * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items;
**** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items; X = present

0.32–0.74m context 6307. Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Friable. 10% rounded and subrounded chalk and rounded and subangular flint <100m

0.74–0.94m context 6308. Mid whitish grey clay. Compact. 40% chalk >100mm

0.94–1.12m context 6309. Light greyish white silt with large amount of redeposited chalk rubble

The small assemblage (28 shells) from basal fill 6309 of ditch 66304 was dominated by the open country species *Vallonia costata* and *Pupilla muscorum*, and the shade-loving species *Carychium tridentatum*. The barrow ditch may have been dug in an open downland landscape with some longer grass and possibly woodland in the vicinity.

Shell numbers are much higher (268 to 1516 shells) in the rest of the sequence with the exception of the uppermost fill 6305 where only 14 shells were recovered. The sample from the lower part of 6308 is dominated by the open country species, which represent 70% of the assemblage, with *Vallonia costata* being the predominant species within this assemblage. The sequence of samples up through 6307 show a gradual rise in the open country species

Table 5.21 Assessed molluscs from Area 6 Barrow 6004 internal features

Phase	Area 6														
Feature label	Early Bronze Age														
Feature type	Barrow 6004														
	Possible cremation-related deposits					Cremation burials						Pits		Posthole	
Cut number	6132		6320	6475			6505			6120		6122	6473	6099	
Context	6133		6321	6476			6506			6121		6123	6474	6100	
Spit	1	2	–	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	–	–	–	
Sample	180	181	79	124	125	126	127	158	159	160	161	199	186	116	215
Volume (litre)	6	4	3	10	10	5	7	7	7	7	10	10	10	9	1
Open country species															
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	–	X	–	X	X	–	–	X	–	–	–	–	X	X	–
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	X	X	X
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	X	X	X
<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Truncatellina cylindrica</i>	–	–	–	–	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X
Introduced helicellids	X	X	–	X	–	–	–	X	–	X	X	–	–	X	X
Intermediate species															
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	X	X	–	X	X	X	–	X
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	–	X	–	X	X	X	–
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	X	–	X	X	X	X	X	–
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	–	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Shade-loving species															
<i>Carychium</i> sp.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X	X	X
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	–	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X	X	X	–
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	–	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X	–	X	–
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X	–	–	–
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X	–
<i>Ena montana</i>	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X	–	–	–
Burrowing species															
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total	***	***	***	***	***	***	**	***	***	***	***	***	****	*****	***

* = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items; X = present

from 74% to 95%, with a decline in the intermediate and shade-loving species. There may be some stabilisation in the lower part of 6307. The predominant species within these assemblages is *Pupilla muscorum*, which increases in number greatly rising to 920 shells (88% of the assemblage) at the top of the sequence. This superabundance of *Pupilla muscorum* has been seen in other assemblages of this date on the chalk downland, such as at King Barrow Ridge, Wiltshire (Allen and Wyles 1994). It is a species which favours bare earth patches in open short grassland, indicative of intensive grazing, and does not thrive in arable environments. *Truncatellina cylindrica* is also present in the assemblages from 6308 and the lower part of 6307. There is a woodland component with the presence of *Acanthinula aculeata*, *Merdigera obscura* and *Helicodonta obvolvata* to the assemblages from the top of 6308 and the bottom of 6307. The assemblages from 6306 and 6305 are also dominated by the open country species. These assemblages may be indicative of an open landscape with some longer grassland along and/or within the ditch and some local woodland, with the woodland element probably disappearing towards the top of 6307. It appears that the surrounding downland may have become increasing intensively grazed.

The moderate number of mollusc shells were recovered from two possible cremation-related deposits (6320 and

6132) and two cremation burials (6475 and 6505) and posthole 6099 in Barrow 6004 were dominated by those of the open country and intermediate species, with very few shells of shade loving species noted (Table 5.21). The samples from pits 6120, 6122 and 6473 in Barrow 6004 produced moderate numbers of mollusc shells of the open country, intermediate and shade-loving species.

Barrow 6003

A radiocarbon date was obtained on bone from skeleton 6294 from within the barrow ditch (SUERC-82087 1624–1508 cal BC 95.4% probability).

A series of eight mollusc samples were analysed from ditch section 6236 (Table 5.12, Fig 5.4).

The sediment descriptions are below:

Ditch 6236

0.1–0.3m context 6237. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.

Friable. Very rare subangular stone and flint <30mm

0.3–0.47 context 6251. Light greyish brown clayey silt. Friable. Common subangular flint <20mm and chalk <30mm

0.47–0.77 context 6252. Mid whitish grey chalk rubble (v. common chalk < 40mm) and silt

0.77–0.85 context 6253. Light greyish white silty redeposited chalk (50% chalk >40mm)

Table 5.22 *Assessed molluscs from Area 6 Barrow 6005*

Phase	Feature label	Feature type	Cur number	Area 6																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
				Early Bronze Age Barrow 6005																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
Context	Depth	Sample	Volume (litre/weight (g))	Cremation burial 6071				Ditch 6437				6441	6441	6442	6450																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
				6072 spit 1	6072 spit 2	6072 spit 3	6072 spit 4	6439	6438	6439	6439					6440	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441	6441

Table 5.23 Assessed molluscs from Area 6 C-shaped enclosure 6348

Phase	Area 6															
Feature label	Early Bronze Age															
Feature type	C-shaped Enclosure 6348															
Cut number	Internal features including possible cremation-related deposits															
Context	6461															
Spit	6462															
Sample	6463															
Volume (litre)	6464															
Open country species	6465															
<i>Papilla muscorum</i>	6466															
<i>Verrigo pignuaca</i>	6467															
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	6468															
<i>Vallonia exenrica</i>	6469															
<i>Helicella itala</i>	6470															
<i>Truncatellina cylindrica</i>	6471															
Introduced helicellids	6472															
Intermediate species																
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>																
<i>Cepaea</i> sp.																
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>																
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.																
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>																
<i>Virrina pellicula</i>																
Shade-loving species																
<i>Carychium</i> sp.																
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>																
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>																
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>																
<i>Oscobolus cellarius</i>																
<i>Virrea</i> sp.																
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>																
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>																
<i>Ena montana</i>																
<i>Helicogona lapicida</i>																
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>																
<i>Helicodonta obsoleta</i>																
Burrowing species																
<i>Cerillioides acicula</i>																
total																

Large mollusc assemblages were recovered from six of these and smaller numbers from the lowest two samples. The basal sample from 6253 was dominated by the open country species, in particular *Pupilla muscorum*, and the assemblage from the lower part of 6252 was dominated by *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia costata* and *Carychium tridentatum*. There were also a few shells of the obligatory xerophile *Truncatellina cylindrica*. This appears to suggest that the barrow was likely to have been constructed within an open landscape and that a small amount of longer grass may have grown alongside and within the barrow ditch.

There is a significant change between these assemblages and the samples from the upper part of 6252. The shade-loving element rose to 52% of the assemblage from 18% in the lower part of 6252. The intermediate species also increased to 26% for 13%. These increases were mirrored by a decline in the open country species. Within the upper part of 6252, there was a minor fluctuation, with the open country species increasing slightly. These assemblages were dominated by *Carychium tridentatum*, *Pomatias elegans* and *Vallonia costata*. There were also shells of the rarities *Truncatellina cylindrica*, *Azeca goodalli*, and *Helicodonta obvolvata*, and the woodland loving species *Acanthinula aculeata*, *Merdigera obscura*, and *Ena montana*. These assemblages may be indicative of an open environment with areas of bare earth, longer unkempt grass (alongside and within the ditch) and some woodland in the vicinity.

There is another major change at the bottom of 6251, where the open country element represented 78% of the assemblage and the shade-loving element formed 8% of the sample. The open country element increased even further up the sequence in 6251 and 6237. These assemblages are dominated by *Pupilla muscorum*, which increased up the sequence to 61%. There are minor fluctuations within these assemblages, with species such as *Cochlicopa*, *Pomatias elegans*, *Vallonia costata* and *Vallonia excentrica*. This may be reflective of an open increasingly intensively grazed downland, with possibly some arable activity in the wider vicinity, with a declining woodland element, probably disappearing by the time the ditch had silted up.

High numbers of mollusc shells were recorded in the bulk samples from posthole 6317 and pit 6041 from within Barrow 6003 and from barrow ditch sections 6236 and 6289. These features included shells of the open country, intermediate and shade-loving species (Table 5.11). The assemblages from the ditch sections appears to be similar in composition to that from the upper part of 6252 in the mollusc sample sequence from ditch section 6236, whilst those from the pit and posthole are more suggestive of an open environment, such as indicated by the assemblage from the lower part of 6252.

Barrow 6002

A series of 24 samples were processed from five possible cremation-related deposits (6043, 6047, 6051, 6053 and 6055) within Barrow 6002. Cremated bone from natural hollow 6043 was radiocarbon dated (SUERC-82122 1774–

1628 cal BC (85.9%) at 95.4% probability). Moderate to high numbers of mollusc shells, including those of the open country, intermediate and shade-loving species (Table 5.18), were recorded from these possible cremation-related deposits. The presence of the rarity *Truncatellina cylindrica*, an obligatory xerophile, within 13 of the assemblages from three of these deposits (6043, 6047 and 6051) is noteworthy. *Azeca goodalli*, another species rarely found in archaeological assemblages, was recorded in one of the samples from deposit 6043.

The sequence of eight contiguous samples taken specifically for the recovery of mollusc shells from ditch section 6164 contained moderate to high numbers of shells and in addition high numbers of mollusc shells were recorded in the bulk samples from barrow ditch sections 6145, 6183 and 6164. The ditch sections included shells of the open country, intermediate and shade-loving species (Table 5.18). There appears to be fluctuations within the mollusc sequence assemblages. It seems that there is an increase in both the shade-loving species and *Pomatias elegans*, an intermediate species which favours broken earth and can be seen as indicative of areas of clearance or trampling in the vicinity, in the lower part of context 6163. It then becomes more open towards the top of this context.

There are a number of noteworthy species within some of these assemblages including *Truncatellina cylindrica*, *Azeca goodalli* and *Helicodonta obvolvata*. A number of the other shade loving species within the assemblage, such as *Ena montana* and *Acanthinula aculeata*, are typical of woodland environments. These assemblages may be indicative of an open landscape with some woodland in the vicinity. There appears to be a possible increase in shady environments, possibly long grass, as the barrow ditch fills up before it becomes more open again.

Central-related feature within Stake circle

Mollusc shells were recovered in a high number from cremation-related deposit 6012 and in small numbers from stakeholes 6622, 6664 and 6666. The assemblages contained open country, intermediate and shade-loving species (Table 5.24), with both *Truncatellina cylindrica* and *Azeca goodalli* being present in the assemblage from cremation-related deposit 6012.

Cremation burial on the western edge of Stake circle

Cremated bone from cremation burial 6016 was radiocarbon dated (SUERC-82121, 1744–1529 cal BC 95.4% probability). Mollusc shells were present in high numbers in all seven samples. The assemblages included shells of open country, intermediate and shade-loving species (Table 5.24), with both *Truncatellina cylindrica* and *Azeca goodalli* being present in this deposit.

Pits south-east of Barrows 6004 and 6005

The low to moderate numbers of mollusc shells recorded within undated pits 6006, 6008 and 6517 were dominated by the open country species (Table 5.24).

Table 5.25 Assessed molluscs from Area 6 cremation burials between Barrows 6004 and 6005 and undated features

	Area 6															
Phase	Early Bronze Age												Undated			
Feature label	Between Barrows 6004 and 6005												Post alignment 6030			
Feature type	Cremation burials												Postholes			Pit
Cut number	6116				6118								6152	6022	6018	6035
Context	6117				6119	6507							6153	6023	6019	6545
Spit	1	2	3	4	Upper	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	–	–	–	–
Sample	182	183	184	185	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	61	65	67	200
Volume (litre)	4	4	7	5	22	7	6	6	5	6	4	5	3	5	7	17
Open country species																
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	X	X	X	–	X	X	X	–	X	–	–	X	–	X	–	–
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	X	X	X
Introduced helicellids	–	–	–	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X	X	X
Intermediate species																
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	X	X	X
<i>Cepaea</i> sp.	–	–	–	–	X	X	–	–	–	–	–	X	–	–	–	–
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	X	–	X
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	–	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	X	X
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	–	–	–	–	–	X	X	X	–	–	–	X	–	–	–	–
Shade-loving species																
<i>Carychium</i> sp.	–	X	–	–	–	X	X	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	–	–	–	–	X	X	–	X	–	–	–	–	X	–	X	–
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	–	–	X	–	X	X	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>	–	–	–	–	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	–	–	–	–	X	X	–	X	–	–	–	X	–	–	–	–
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	X	–	–	–	X	–	–	–	–
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	–	–	–	–	–	X	X	–	–	X	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	–	–	X	–	–	X	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i>	–	X	–	–	X	X	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Burrowing species																
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total	***	***	***	***	*****	*****	***	***	***	***	***	***	**	***	**	***

For bulk samples * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = > 100 items; X = present

Cremation burials Barrows 6004 and 6005

The cremation burials 6116 and 6118 contained high numbers of mollusc shells which included those of open country, intermediate and shade-loving species (Table 5.25).

Posthole alignment group 6030 and pit 6035

These features contained moderate numbers of mollusc shells, which were predominantly those of the open country species (Table 5.25).

Area 7

Phase 2: Early Bronze Age

Barrow 7003

A sample from the fragmentary right humerus of the central inhumation burial 7057 within the barrow was radiocarbon dated (SUERC-82088 2200–2030 cal BC 95.4% probability).

A series of five mollusc samples were analysed from ditch section 7039 (Table 5.26, Fig. 5.5). The sediment descriptions are below:

Ditch 7039

0.05–0.27m context 7041. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Friable. <10% subangular chalk <30mm. <1% <40mm subangular flint

0.27–0.55m context 7040. Light brownish white redeposited chalk. Compact. 40% subangular chalk <50mm

Mollusc assemblages of between 49 and 352 were recovered from this sequence, with the larger assemblages coming from the upper context 7041 and the smallest assemblages from the upper part of 7040. These assemblages were dominated by the open country species, which represented between 78 and 85% of the shells. The predominant species were *Vallonia costata*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia excentrica*. There were some fluctuations within these assemblages, which may be reflecting changing levels in the intensity of grazing. The small shade loving element (a high of 6%) mainly comprised shells of *Carychium tridentatum* and *Discus rotundatus*. *Carychium tridentatum* and *Discus rotundatus* thrive in leaf litter and under logs but can also exploit the shady environment provided at the base of long unkempt grass. These assemblages appear to

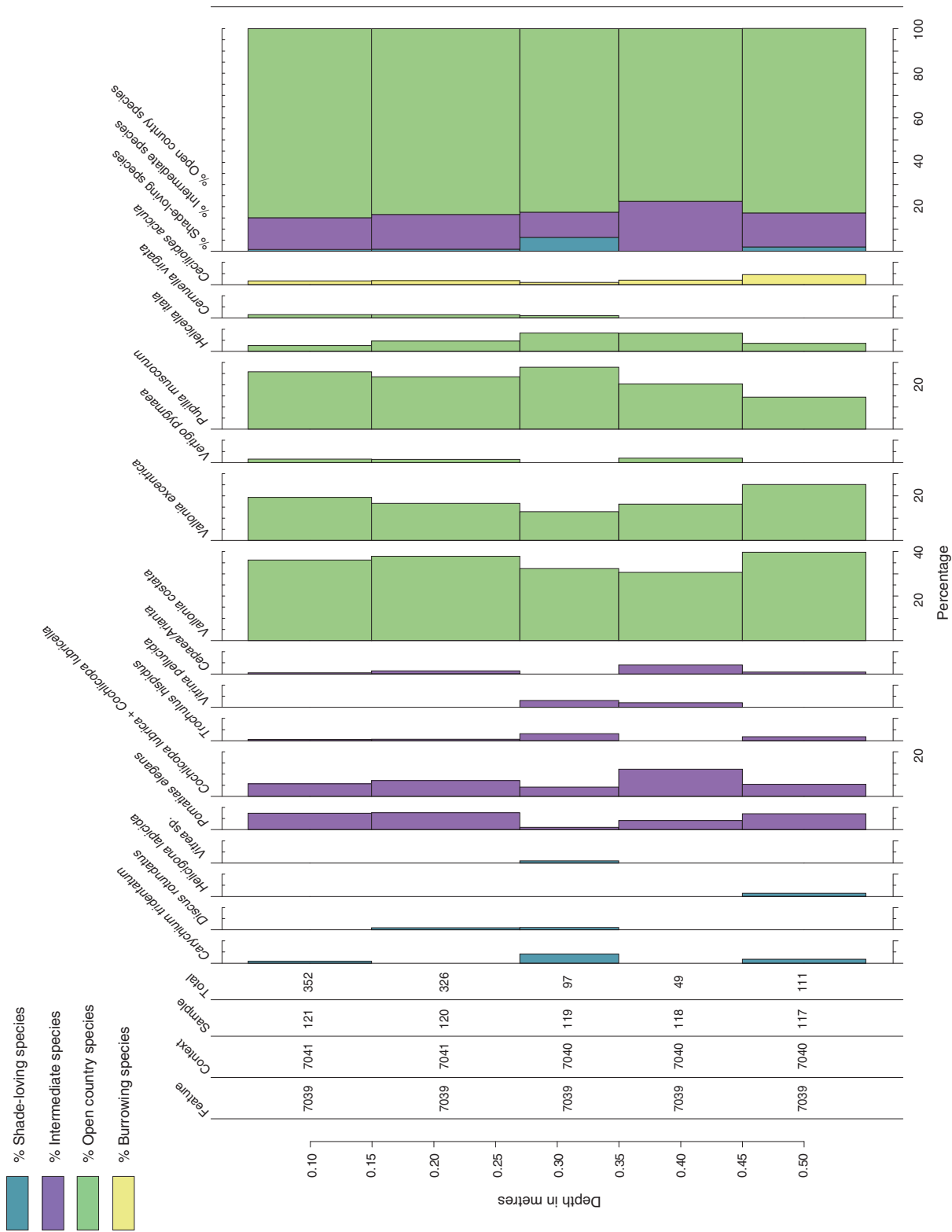


Figure 5.5 Barrow 7003 histogram of relative abundance of molluscs

Table 5.26 Assessed molluscs from Area 7

Phase Feature label Feature type Cut number Context Sample Volume (litre)	Area 7		
	Early Bronze Age Barrow	Early–Middle Iron Age Ditch	
		Ditch	Ditch
Cut number	7039	7053	7026
Context	7040	7056	7027
Sample	123	224	35
Volume (litre)	20	20	3
Open country species			
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	X	X	X
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	–	–	X
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	X	X	X
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	X	X	X
<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	X	X
Intermediate species			
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	X	–	X
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	X	X	X
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	X	X	X
Shade-loving species			
<i>Carychium</i> sp.	X	–	–
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	X	–	–
<i>Ena montana</i>	–	X	–
Burrowing species			
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i>	X	X	X
Total	*****	***	***

For bulk samples * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items;
 ***** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items; X = present

indicate that the barrow ditch was dug in an open grazed grassland environment and that at times the area became more intensively grazed. There is also an indication of a small amount of long unkempt grass alongside/within the ditch.

The moderate numbers of mollusc shells recorded in the bulk samples from barrow ditch sections 7039 and 7053 were also dominated by the open country species and appear to reflect a similar environment (Table 5.26).

Phase 4: Early–Middle Iron Age

Ditch 7026

A moderate number of mollusc shells were recovered from ditch 7026 (part of ditch 7002; Fig. 2.2, Table 5.26). These shells are those of the open country and intermediate species and may be indicative of a well-established open landscape.

Discussion and summary

In the Chalcolithic/Beaker period, in Area 2 the local landscape appears to be one of short-turfed grassland and areas of trample, with some open deciduous woodland in the wider area.

The Early Bronze Age landscape in Area 6 appears to be one of well-established open downland, when the C-shaped enclosure and barrows were constructed. The land-use history around these barrows appears to be one of pasture, with varying intensities of grazing. There is also an indication of small areas of longer unkempt grass along/within some of the barrow ditches and some open deciduous woodland nearby. There is no evidence for any regeneration of scrub after the barrows fell out of use,

rather the immediate area appears to have remained grazed. Heavy grazing would have created areas of unstable bare earth, prone to erosion. Although there is no clear evidence for arable activity within these mollusc assemblages, there would have been some in the vicinity in the later (?Roman and later) periods. The barrows at the nearby site at Walworth Industrial Estate, Andover (King 2015) were covered by later hillwash and the mollusc assemblages from this colluvial deposit were restricted in species diversity and typical of those related to arable activity. At Picket Twenty, it seems that the likely colluvial deposit covering these barrows had been truncated.

The assemblages from the barrow in Area 7 appear to indicate that the barrow ditch was dug in an open grazed grassland environment and that at times the area became more intensively grazed. There is also an indication of a small amount of long unkempt grass alongside/within the ditch, but not for open deciduous woodland in the immediate area. It appears that the area of open deciduous woodland was likely to be near Area 6. There is no evidence for it in the samples from Area 7 and 4.

There were a number of noteworthy rarities recorded within the assemblages at Picket Twenty. The xerophile *Truncatellina cylindrica* has been recorded in some other Bronze Age assemblages from other sites locally such as Walworth Industrial Estate, Andover (King 2015) and further afield such as Old Dairy Amesbury (Wyles and Mulhall 2017), investigations in south-east Amesbury (Wyles in prep.), Barrow Clump Salisbury Plain (Campbell *et al.* 2019), King Barrow Ridge (Allen and Wyles 1994) and Twyford Down (Allen 2000). It appears that *Helicodonta obvoluta* is now only found in a very restricted small area of Hampshire and Sussex in old-woodland habitats although it was a little more widespread in southern England in earlier times (Davies 2008; Cameron 1972). It has been recorded from Bronze Age deposits at Easton Down, Winterslow Wiltshire (Stone 1933) about 15 miles away from Picket Twenty. Although it is a species which thrives in chalk beech woods, it is also found in mature ash woods and in old ash/hazel scrub. No beech charcoal was identified from the site, but ash charcoal was present in some of the Early Bronze Age assemblages (see Challinor, above). This could mean that there were no beech trees in the immediate area at this time or it could suggest that any local beech wood was not being selected for the funerary activities. There is an indication though, for some local ash and hazel. Although *Azeca goodalli* is a rarity within mollusc assemblages, it has a wider distribution than *Helicodonta obvoluta*. The presence of it within some of the assemblages from Picket Twenty suggests that there was some relict open deciduous woodland in the vicinity, within a well-established open grassland environment, during the Bronze Age.

A similar picture of barrows being constructed in an area of well-established open grassland was recorded at the nearby site on the Walworth Estate in Andover (King 2015). The molluscan evidence from the barrows suggested a history of grazed grassland, again with different intensities, and

some arable activity in the later period. It also showed no evidence for woodland or regenerated scrub in the vicinity. The molluscan assemblages from Andover airfield, Penton Mewsey also appear to be dominated by the open country species and indicative of grazed grassland during this period (Pipe 2019).

This seems to be a localised landscape picture. The molluscan evidence from a barrow on Twyford Down, for example, indicated that area was one of locally cleared ancient woodland when the barrow was constructed (Allen 2000), whilst the mollusc sequence from an Early Bronze Age ring ditch at the Old Dairy, Amesbury indicated a local

landscape of well-established short-grazed grassland, then arable, then back to short grazed grassland with possibly some arable in the vicinity (Wyles and Mulhall 2017). The molluscan evidence from Barrow Clump, Salisbury Plain shows an episode of tree cover prior to the construction of the barrow, followed by well-drained short-turfed chalk grassland during the Bronze Age (Campbell *et al.* 2019).

The picture of an open landscape mainly used as long term pasture during the Bronze Age but with a small amount of relict woodland, as reflected by the mollusc assemblages, would indicate a well-established and managed area of downland during this period.

Chapter 6

Discussion

Alistair J. Barclay and Philippa Bradley

Introduction

The excavation strategy at Picket Twenty acknowledged that associated features can occur between, around and at some distance from known monuments as has long been realised (e.g., Barrow Hills, Radley, Oxon: Barclay and Halpin 1999). Much the same is true of contemporary Beaker and Bronze Age settlement, which can be small-scale and scattered across a landscape (Brück 1999, 53), and this is certainly true of the Wessex Chalklands (Lawson 2007, 260–265). Although some evidence for Early Bronze Age buildings is known (Lawson 2007, 261 and fig. 8.27), these are quite rare in the archaeological record and the same is true of ditched enclosures and fields with much of the evidence appearing to belong within the Middle Bronze Age. In many ways the findings at Picket Twenty are typical of the Wessex Chalkland as a whole. However, more unexpected was the later use of the barrows during the Roman period possibly into the medieval period.

The early landscape

Unlike excavated barrows and barrow cemeteries recorded elsewhere (e.g., Salisbury Plain to the west) there was little evidence for Neolithic activity from the site and, therefore, no evidence that the barrows were sited on monuments or burials of earlier date. The earliest feature recorded is of early Beaker or Chalcolithic date, a period at the end of the Neolithic when new forms of burial, a return to single inhumation, appear attached to what is widely termed the Beaker Culture with continental connections at or around 2400 BC and before the wider take up of Bronze metalwork at about 2150 BC. The earliest feature took the form of a single isolated pit that contained a large fragment from a sinuous Beaker of early form that falls within the category of early Beaker domestic ware that is to say vessels with aplastic decoration that appear to predate the later rusticated wares (see Clarke 1970; Gibson 1982). As well as

the Beaker vessel the pit contained a high number of cereal remains, mostly barley, weed seeds, hazelnut shell and crab apple. The presence of charred cereal grain is important as this along with quernstones is all but absent in the wider archaeological record from southern England during the Grooved Ware-associated Late Neolithic period (see Stevens and Fuller 2012; Barclay and Bradley 2017).

The molluscan and plant remains indicate a landscape of open grassland, with areas of cultivation and also some woodland. This would point to a local landscape established perhaps in earlier Beaker times if not before that was largely open and into which the first barrows were constructed at the start of the Early Bronze Age or the closing centuries of the 3rd millennium cal BC.

Barrow forms and the structure of the cemetery

The barrows formed a small linear cemetery that perhaps centred or focused on either one or possibly two smaller barrows. One possibility is that this cemetery had a single ‘founder’ barrow with Beaker burial associations.

Of the five barrows that make up the cemetery most were typical round barrows (6002, 6003 and 7003) but one was more complex and multi-phased (6005) and another (6004) was a possible twin barrow. No central mounds or banks had survived nor had any evidence for preserved ground surfaces that could have contained additional funerary evidence such as an *in situ* pyre site. Only one of the barrows (7003) contained a single inhumation as a primary central burial for certain and this was the only known Beaker burial within the excavated area of the cemetery. This was typically a smaller barrow and the one placed furthest to the east (see Fig. 6.2) and, on a slight rise. Little is known of the one complex barrow (6005) as this was partially within an area of tree preservation and thus half was preserved *in situ*. This had clearly been developed over a number of phases and had, what appeared to be,

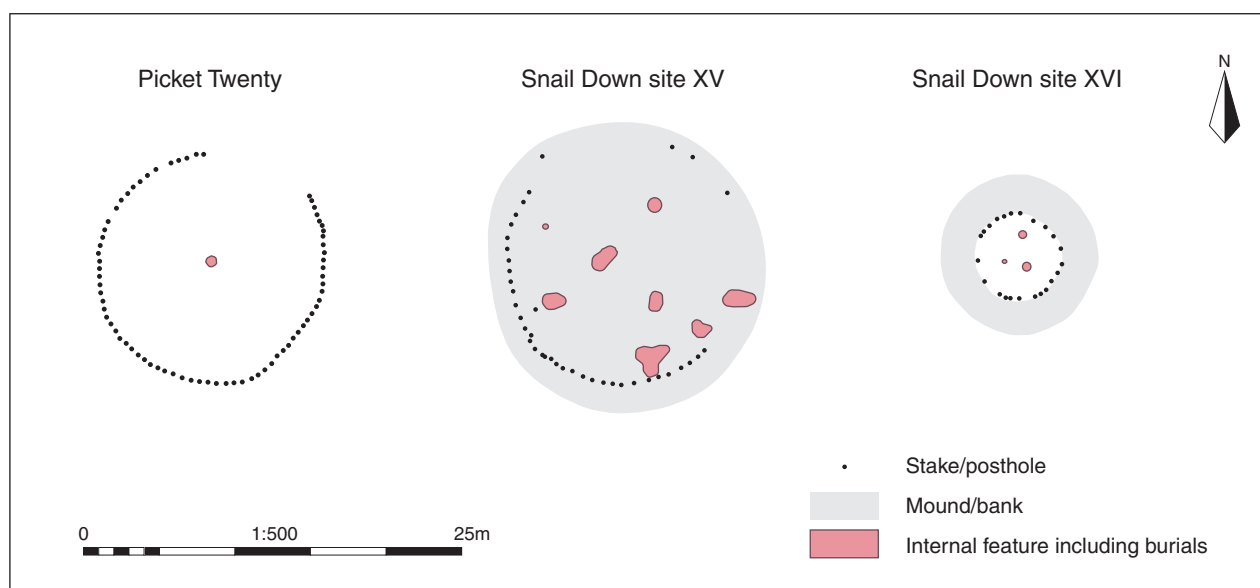


Figure 6.1 Comparative plans of stake and post circles. *Snail Down after Thomas (2005)*

a large central grave, the enclosing of an earlier enclosure, and a large outer ditch. Although the cemetery is relatively small, comprising just six barrows at most, it does exhibit a range of forms. In addition, there are the ‘flat’ graves (cremation burial pits) outside the barrows as well as stake and timber structures – stake circle and post alignments. A small number of cremation graves were placed outside of the barrow ditches and at least one was placed some distance away. It is possible that such graves were marked in some way, either with a post or stone marker and/or by a small turf mound that have otherwise left no trace in the archaeological record.

Stake circles are occasionally found inside barrows (Ashbee 1960; Lawson 2007, 245–7; Fig. 6.1), although their absence from areas between monuments could reflect a lack of excavation outside of and between barrows and certainly could be the case with many of the earlier barrow excavations (e.g., *Snail Down*: Thomas 2005; Amesbury: Powell and Barclay in prep.). Stake circles may have served a variety of functions and not least for constructing small dwellings from the Mesolithic onwards, although relatively few examples are known from the Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age perhaps not surprising given their ephemeral nature (Gibson 1996). There could have been two broad types – those that were part of the construction of the barrow and those that relate to a free-standing stake-built structure. Ashbee (1960, 62–63) also notes that stake circles may have been related to more substantial post-circles as well as the use of both stakes and posts in the same structure. Some stake structures may have served as wattle fences to demarcate areas reserved for mortuary practice and separate out those performing ceremonies and attending the dead from those that were there to witness the funeral. As well as keeping people out they could have been intended to protect any exposed or freshly buried human remains from animals either those likely to scavenge including pigs or

incidental damage from wandering cattle (see also Allen *et al.* 1995).

In other cases, the stakes may have indicated a wattle revetment to support banks or mounds made of chalk, soil and/or turf. Stake circles can occur in a variety of forms from single and double circles, concentric circles and more complex patterns as seen at Arretton Down on the Isle of Wight (Alexander and Ozanne 1960). Some appear to have been near perfect circles, others were laid out in arcs, some are not-true circles and some have probable entrances.

Some stake circles are complete and others are penannular suggesting they were intended to serve as an enclosure with a point of access. Others occur as closely and widely spaced concentric circles, whilst others are less coherent in plan and may relate to pre-barrow and settlement activity. Their date appears to fall within the Early Bronze Age and closely tied to relatively large barrow construction in a period mostly of post-Beaker date.

No other stake circles were found within the excavated barrows. The Stake circle had a small central feature and other features containing cremated bone were located just outside to the west/south-west. What is not known as nothing had survived above the level of the natural chalk surface is whether the centre was open and the Stake circle revetted an outer bank or whether it served to revet an inner mound or was set within an earthwork. The position of the post alignment to the north-east and the possible entrance may favour the latter explanation, although the possible entrance is not without ambiguity as the ditches from a much later trackway may have removed some of the stake hole evidence (Fig. 2.23). At the *Snail Down* cemetery on Salisbury Plain a number of barrow structures with stake circles occurred (Thomas 2005; Fig. 6.1). At Site XVI a shallow central hollow or pond was surrounded by a stake circle and annular bank (Thomas 2005, 89 and fig. 27) and at Site XV, which was actually a post rather than a stake

circle, where it was argued that the circle possibly stood with the edge of a mound rather than acted as a revetment (Thomas 2005, 86–87 and fig. 25).

In addition to the stake circle was the alignment of posts that appeared to have been constructed to connect the stake circle and the ditch of Barrow 6003. The post alignment is not precisely dated but its spatial position suggests that it was constructed whilst the stake circle or any associated earthwork was still extant. Its purpose may have been to link the two funerary monuments either during use or not long after their primary use. It would certainly have been contemporary if the stake circle had no associated earthwork. Whether the second post alignment is contemporary or not is a moot point and it was similarly imprecisely dated, although their broad similarity in length and number of posts makes this quite likely. The function of such an alignment of posts is uncertain. It could have held free-standing posts and presented a permeable barrier or more of a screen. It did not align on the centre of the barrow or that of the stake circle but instead seemed to link the inner edge of the barrow with the entrance of the stake circle. Assuming the stake circle had an outer annular bank that the post line respected.

Beaker burial and related activity

Two features of Beaker date were identified during the excavation. A single isolated pit of Early Beaker date was located some 300m from the group of barrows. This pit contained a large fragment of a sinuous Beaker with unusual decoration along with some worked and burnt flint, animal bone and charred plant remains including cereal grain and hazelnut shell. Pits associated with early Beaker pottery are generally quite rare both regionally and nationally and reflect the equally sparse funerary evidence. Later Beaker pits and burials being far more common in comparison. The pit falls within the very earliest Beaker phase within what is termed the British Chalcolithic (see above) and is of broadly similar date to the rich early Beaker graves at Chilbolton (Russell 1990), just south of the site (Fig. 1.1).

The Beaker barrow (7003) was typically small and slightly asymmetrical in plan, giving the appearance that the ditch had been constructed from three intersecting arcs, each approximately 10m in length. Its central flat grave aligned north–south with the body placed head to the north, lying on its left side and in a crouched position that is typical of many Beaker burials. The orientation is common to male burials in particular. The substantial grave cut with possible box lining is also something that is found with some Beaker graves both locally and more widespread (Fitzpatrick 2011). The grave group, comprising token rusticated Beaker sherds, a flint scraper, a copper alloy awl and a boar's tusk (Fig. 2.6), is slightly unusual as a group, although graves of this date sometimes produce no artefacts and/or may have contained organic items that have simply not survived. When they occur, Beakers tend to be complete

or near complete, but here the vessel represented is of a type not commonly found in a grave (see Clarke 1970). The reason for placing just token sherds could suggest vessels were fragmented with other elements kept, circulated and/or dispersed and may have been buried elsewhere (Brück 2019, 74). One possibility is that the rusticated vessel was more of a communal pot, and therefore, it was only appropriate to bury a portion of this vessel and in contrast to the generally smaller individual vessels commonly placed with such burials.

The person buried in the Beaker grave was an adult male aged between 40 and 50 years (see Clough, Chapter 3) and as well as the common signs of aging and changes in health for a person of this age, the most notable feature is that they had lost part of their left thumb, although whether this was accidental or an amputation was difficult to say. The only other matter to note is that the date on this burial is very similar to the earliest of the cremation burials (see below). That the rite of inhumation was dominant during the Beaker period and replaced by cremation during the last quarter of the 3rd millennium is well understood and a feature within the funerary record at Picket Twenty.

Development of the cemetery

The development of the cemetery is based on an interpretation of the radiocarbon results that were obtained on charred plant material, inhumed and cremated human bone and to a lesser extent the occurrence of diagnostic material culture, mostly pottery. Figures 6.2 and 6.3 show this interpretive development but as noted in Chapter 3, the radiocarbon dating of cremated human bone is not unproblematic with recent concerns around the possibility of carbon transfer from timber, especially from any mature wood used in the pyre and affecting the measurement (see below). The possibility that some cremated bone dates are slightly older than their true age must be taken into account, although the paired dates (possible pyre material and bone) carried out on one of the burial deposits indicated no evidence for an offset.

Structurally the cemetery appears to have developed over much of the Early Bronze Age period from the 22nd century BC to the 16th century BC, although the earliest activity is marked by the isolated Beaker pit (2010) in Area 2, which belongs to the Chalcolithic (2400–2150 BC) that saw the adoption of a new set of values and social practices including single inhumation that also marked the end of the Neolithic. The barrow cemetery was certainly not short-lived as its development occurred between 500 and 700 years or 20 to 30 human generations or approximately one monument every century or so. It is possible to place the development of the linear cemetery into four broad phases (1–4, Figs 6.2–6.3). The first covers the occurrence of Beakers and the start of the Early Bronze Age (2400–2050 BC) and is characterised by small monuments, the

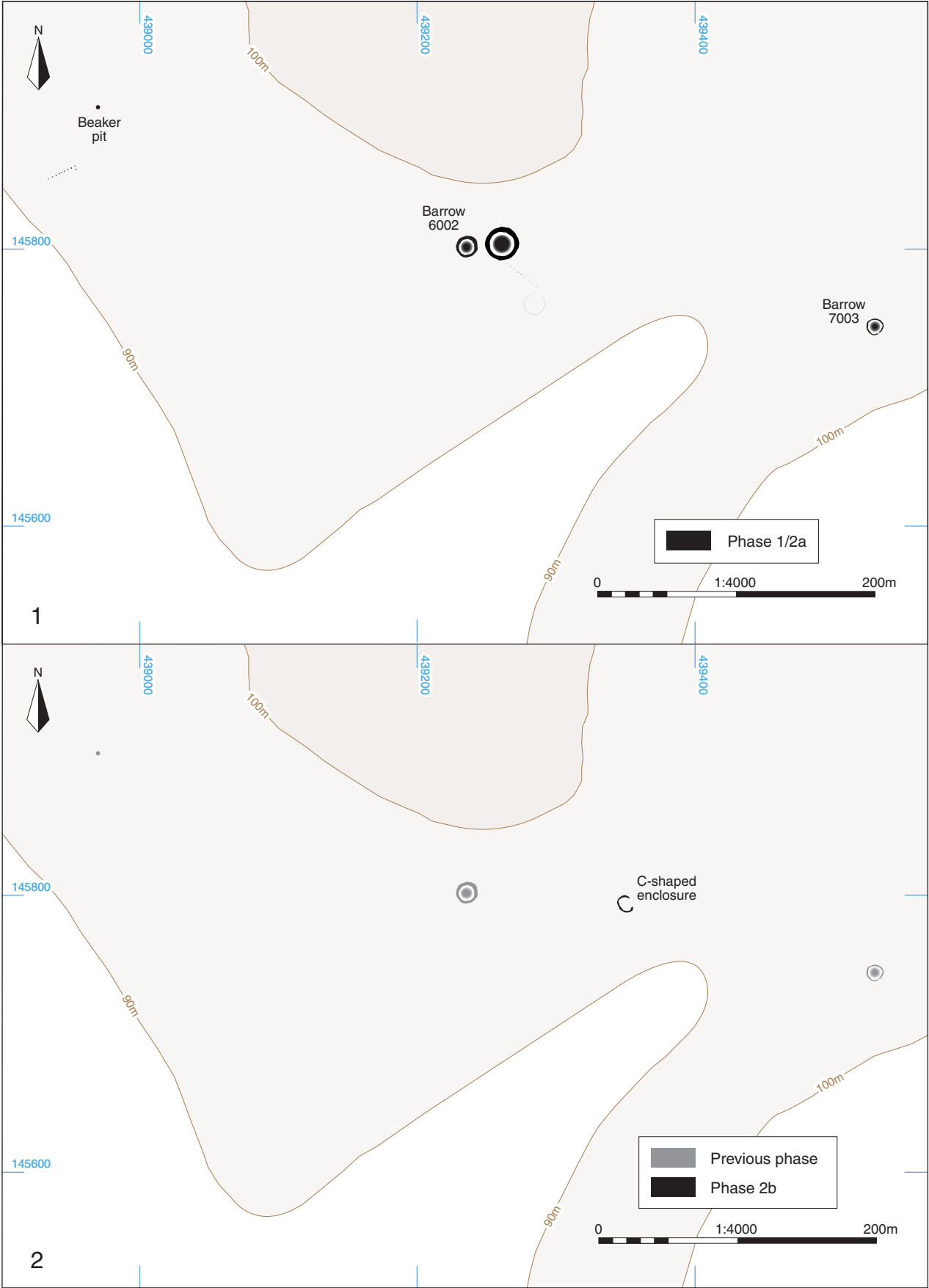


Figure 6.2 Development of the barrow cemetery

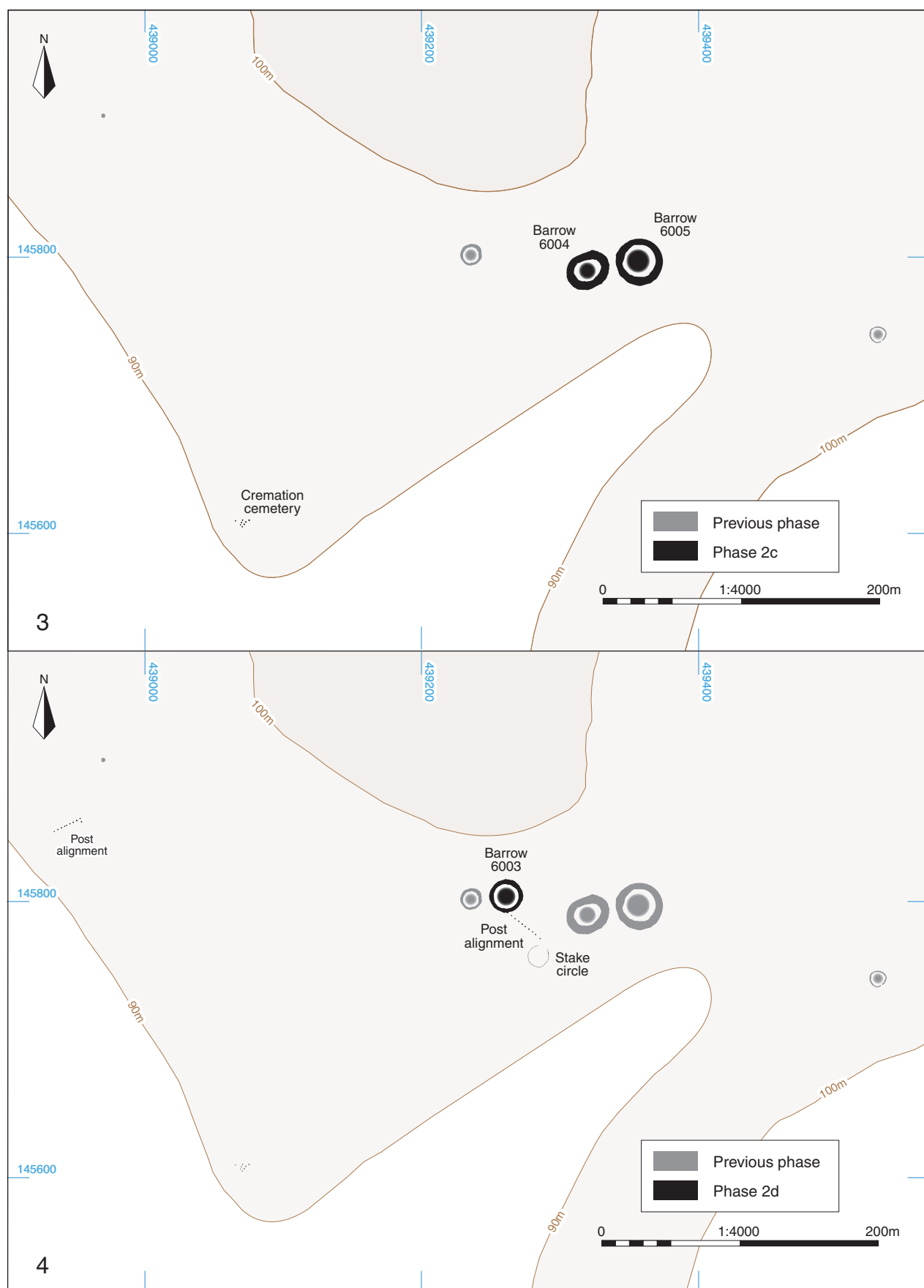


Figure 6.3 Development of the barrow cemetery

second phase is characterised by a single small enclosed cremation cemetery within the C-shaped enclosure (Fig. 6.2, 1–2; 2050–1900 BC), the third phase is characterised by the largest barrows and of different forms (1900–1700 BC), and a final phase (Fig. 6.3, 3–4; 1700–1500 BC) in which barrow building came to an end but also saw the construction of an ancillary structure built from stakes and possibly wattle and was linked by a fenceline to a new barrow. Whilst the period of barrow building came to an end, the cemetery saw a period of secondary use during the Middle Bronze Age (1500–1150 BC) with the occurrence of additional secondary burials, votive deposits and the deposition of domestic refuse.

The earliest barrows are two of the smallest (6002 and 7003) and were set approximately 300m apart and on a WNW–ESE alignment. The early Beaker pit (2010) was almost a further 300m to the WNW of Barrow 6002 (Fig. 6.2). Whether there was any underlying reason for this approximate alignment is a moot point, although one possibility is that the two barrows and pit were placed near a path or routeway than ran through some lower ground within the gently undulating chalkland hills. It is within this early aspect of the local funerary and ritual landscape that a small linear cemetery developed.

Placed between the two small barrows and not quite equidistant was the small penannular ditched enclosure (6348) that contained cremation-related deposits, although only a single burial was present (Fig. 2.11). The enclosure had a distinct elongated C-shaped plan with a wide entrance to the NE and contained two cremation-related deposits in discrete pits and a small number of other pits. A small Collared Urn, a possible pyre good, came from one of these pits (Fig. 4.2, 5). Outside its entrance was the large grave-like feature at the centre of later Barrow 6005. This was the largest barrow within the group, although with an internal diameter of approximately 25m, it is certainly not remarkable within the wider region where barrows up to 50m in size are recorded (Palmer 1984, 78). It is not unusual for later larger barrows to enclose and/or incorporate earlier monuments and indeed earlier burials. Certainly, this larger barrow with assumed central mound would have closed off the entrance and entombed much of the interior of the enclosure. Perhaps constructed at the same time or within the same phase was the oval-shaped Barrow 6004. This may have been intended as a twin barrow – a monument designed to enclose a pair of centrally placed burials that in terms of spatial importance were perhaps given equal status. Unfortunately, no evidence for centrally placed burials survived, although two secondary cremation pits were recorded. The long axis of this monument was positioned approximately NE–SW and was set roughly perpendicular to that of the nearby C-shaped enclosure (6348). The oval shape of the second barrow may have been a conscious choice to replicate the plan of the enclosure, albeit on a grander scale. This pairing of barrows within the third phase of the cemetery's development was mirrored by the addition of a second, slightly larger, barrow (6003) adjacent

to the early small barrow 6002. This barrow appears to have become the focus of funerary activity at the end of the Early Bronze Age. An inhumation burial was dug into its ditch in the NE segment and a stake circle was constructed 40m to its SE. The Stake circle had a single wide entrance, a central burial and opposed to the entrance an arc of ditch and a tangential ditch, and two satellite cremation pits. The form of the Stake circle is uncertain and it could have revetted an interior bank or mound, or an exterior concentric bank – the position of the satellite cremation pits, the ditch arc and the end of the adjacent posthole alignment may indicate the latter. Linking the stake circle and Barrow 6003 was an alignment of nine equally spaced postholes. These could have contained free-standing posts or formed a fence or screen. The referencing of earthen and chalk barrows with timber structures is discussed above and appears to be a feature of the Early–Middle Bronze Age. This elaboration of a barrow is a timely reminder of how linear barrow cemeteries developed and the importance of looking between and beyond the more obvious monuments.

After 1500 BC no new barrow building took place at Picket Twenty and this change in activity coincided with a wider period of social and cultural change with a more settled type of organisation and the appearance of more permanent settlement of open and enclosed form such as those found at Boscombe Down East near Amesbury, Thorny Down (Winterslow) and Twyford Down south of Winchester (Lawson 2007; Walker and Farwell 2000). At Picket Twenty domestic activity was limited to a single post-built roundhouse (Area 2), the remains of a second building (Area 5) and a line of posts – possibly a fence (Area 3) as well as a four-post-structure found during the evaluation (see Chapter 1).

The linear barrow cemetery in its wider funerary landscape

The area surrounding Picket Twenty to the east of modern-day Andover contains over 30 possible round barrows spaced between a kilometre or so apart (King 2015, fig. 14) (Fig. 1.1), although others may be lost under the suburbs of Andover and in areas of woodland (e.g. Harewood Forest). Some are represented by single monuments and other sites by pairs of barrows. Within this distribution area are a small number of barrow cemeteries including one to the west of Picket Twenty at the Walworth Industrial Estate (the London Road barrows) (King 2015) and another to the south cut through by the present line of the A303 and where it intersects the line of the Roman road (Palmer 1984). A further unnamed cemetery is known from cropmarks some 3km to the south-west and this pattern of barrows is replicated across to the westside of Andover and also to the south and at least as far as Chilbolton (Russell 1990, fig. 1) where the river Anton flows into the Test. Other

small barrow cemeteries include the excavated Portway (Cook and Dacre 1985, fig. 2 and pl. I) and the Andover Airfield (Howell with Blackmore *et al.* 2019) both of which are less than 2km apart and situated on the west side of Andover (Figs 1.1 and 6.4).

As discussed above for Picket Twenty, little is known of the preceding Neolithic landscape, although most studies set these barrows and cemeteries in open grassland. Known Neolithic monuments are also quite scarce with the Nutbane long barrow to the north of Andover being an outlier from the main distribution across the Hampshire Uplands (Ashbee 1984, fig. 5). Most of the evidence for Neolithic activity comes from collected lithics and material recovered as residual finds in barrow ditches and more rarely pits (Cook and Dacre 1985, 10; Howell with Blackmore *et al.* 2019, 37).

This spread of barrows and small cemeteries occupies the upper catchment of the Test Valley and gives an indication of the scale of activity during the Beaker and Early Bronze Age period. The river Test connecting this area of chalk upland to the Solent and the Channel and south coast some 40km to the south. Whilst the cemeteries in the upper reaches of the Test Valley catchment are quite small a number of larger cemeteries are known to the south (see Palmer 1984 and map 1) including three close to the site of the Danebury hillfort and not far west from the course of the river Test and another just to the east on the same ridge as the Woolbury hillfort (Historic England list entry 1013639).

Burial rites and grave assemblages

Like many barrow cemeteries of Beaker and Bronze Age date there is a sequence and change in predominant burial rite from inhumation to cremation, although a relatively small number of early secondary cremation deposits and later inhumation burials do still occur. As a caveat to the number of burials recorded, all of the barrows had been completely truncated so that no earthworks (mounds and ditches) or buried ground surfaces survived. It is therefore possible that an unknown number of secondary burials were lost and this could explain why not all barrows produced central burials, although it is equally possible that no central burial was ever placed. In addition, the assumed central burial in the large partially excavated barrow was preserved *in situ* due to a tree preservation order. It has long been known that burials – single graves and cremation pits – can occur outside and beyond round barrows (see Barrow Hills, Radley, Oxon as a case study: Barclay and Halpin 1999) and this was taken into account in the excavation strategy.

The cemetery contained two inhumation burials – the earliest was of typical Beaker type and placed in a more elaborate grave. In contrast, the later burial was a less structured affair and placed in a barrow ditch and not necessarily placed in a carefully constructed grave or grave position. Unusually, the body had also been placed prone

into the grave within the ditch at a time when most burials were crouched.

The earliest burial is the Beaker inhumation burial (SK7057, grave 7015) in Barrow 7003, which was typical of its type having been placed in a central grave with the body in a crouched position, on the lefthand side and with the head to the north. Four items were placed with the body: a flint thumbnail scraper, a boar's tusk, a copper/bronze awl and some sherds of rusticated Beaker. Of these objects, the boar's tusk is a rare occurrence as noted by Collier-Jones (see Chapter 4), although items such as this, some modified, occur in Britain as far back as the Neolithic and in a Beaker context across mainland Europe. Suggestions for their inclusion include 'hunting trophies' and to symbolise the hunting of wild animals and the importance this still played within society. The scraper and the awl are more common associations from a Beaker grave. The inclusion of the rusticated Beaker sherds is more unusual and although not every Beaker burial contained a whole or near complete vessel the inclusion of token sherds is more unusual but not without parallel as Woodard has discussed (2002). However, the sherds derive from a coarse thick-walled rusticated vessel and as such are of a type that tends not to get placed in burials. Such vessels can be very large and oversized when compared with those more commonly found in graves. One possibility is that whole pots were seen as belonging to an individual, whilst the larger rusticated vessels may have been associated with more communal use. Therefore, the inclusion of a token amount of a communal pot may represent the person's link to a wider group. Barclay and Bradley (2017) have noted the inclusion of rusticated vessels in Beaker burials.

Beaker burials within the area of Andover are notably rare and low in number in contrast when compared to parts of the adjacent county of Wiltshire, especially the areas of Salisbury Plain and Avebury. The Andover area as noted above is linked to the south coast by the Test Valley, the river flows into the Solent some 40km away. Clarke noted a number of Beaker burials in this area of Hampshire but the number is relatively small (1970, 482–483 and maps 2–5, 8). The one significant grave is the double inhumation burials placed in sequence within a central grave at Chilbolton, where the primary burial, that of an adult male, was associated with two pairs of gold 'hair' ornaments, a rolled gold bead, a copper dagger, a fine low carinated Beaker, stone beads, and worked flint (Russel 1990). This burial is one of a small number of rich Beaker graves that are found in Britain (Fitzpatrick 2011) that are accompanied by personal ornaments of gold and copper, copper daggers, unusual objects and fine Beakers. They are often but not always adult males – occasional richly furnished child burials and adult females can also occur. There are certain similarities between the Chilbolton burials and those of the 'Amesbury Archer' and 'Companion' that Fitzpatrick has noted and emphasised the rarity of some of the objects and the clear connections with continental Europe (2011, 235–6). The status of the individual, perhaps exemplified

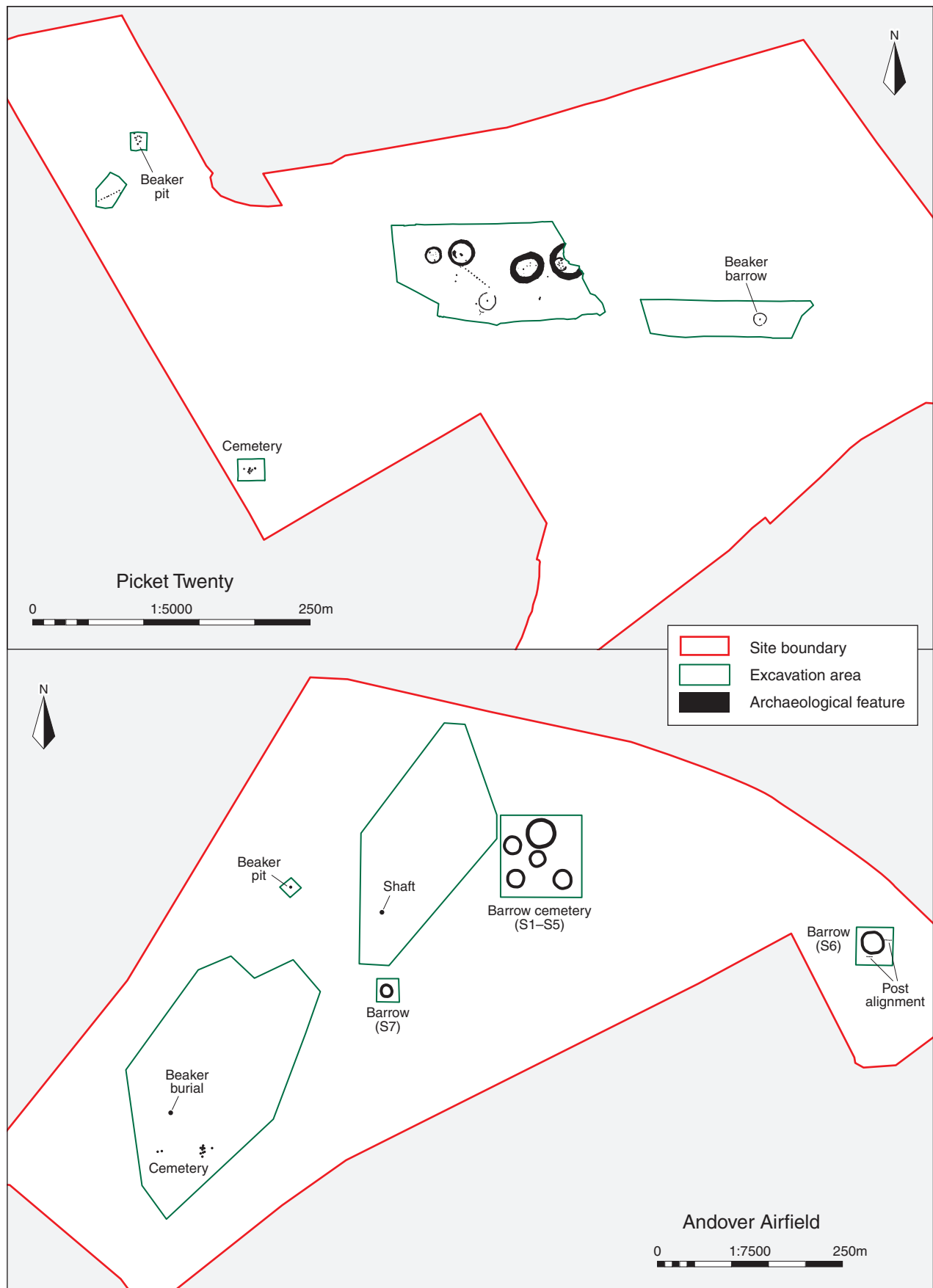


Figure 6.4 Comparative plans of Picket Twenty and Andover Airfield barrow cemeteries (after Howell with Blackmore et al. (2019))

by the 'Amesbury Archer' was certainly intended to make a statement about the person through the act of burial and at a time of significant changes from what had gone before. What links the Andover Beaker burial to this group of early Beaker burials is not only the replication of the mortuary rite but also the occurrence of the boar's tusk (interpreted by some as tools used to planish or burnish fine sheet metal, although Woodward and Hunter (2015, 143) found little evidence for wear associated with this possible use) if this is accepted as a symbol of a 'metalworker' or knowledge of metalworking (see Fitzpatrick 2011; Collier-Jones, Chapter 4). Although it should be noted that the Andover Beaker burial is much later in date than the burials mentioned above.

Although Beaker burials are rare in the Andover area, Beaker graves have been recorded at Andover Airfield (Howell with Blackmore *et al.* 2019) and Balksbury Camp (Wainwright and Davies 1995). Both are female burials in possible 'flat' graves. The burial at the Andover Airfield contained two similar mid carinated Beakers with bands of impressed comb decoration and occurred away from a group of barrows in an area of Beaker pits. The Beaker burial at Balksbury Camp was found in a deep grave with a low bellied Beaker of early type. Both sites also produced small-scale domestic activity including isolated pits and possible hearths (Wainwright and Davies 1995, Wainwright 1969).

The inhumation burial placed in the ditch of Barrow 6003 belongs to a period when cemeteries were largely going out of use and when barrow building was coming to an end or taking on a new form (e.g., cremation enclosures). Inhumations placed in monument ditches take many forms and are not restricted to a single temporal horizon. Some early Beaker burials were placed in the ditches of Neolithic monuments and others may have been inserted into accompanying banks (see Lawson 2007). One group belongs to what can be termed the Early/Middle Bronze Age transition around the 16th to 15th centuries BC and at a time of widespread social change. Whilst only a single burial was recovered at Picket Twenty, three of the five barrow ditches at the Andover Airfield cemetery had inhumation graves nearly all of which were female and all were unaccompanied by grave goods (Howell with Blackmore *et al.* 2019, 40–42; Fig. 6.4) and those directly radiocarbon dated fall approximately within the 16th to 14th centuries BC and at a possible time of transition when barrows were no longer constructed in any great number, more permanent settlement started to appear alongside cremation cemeteries either open or enclosed.

Cremation burials

Cremation burials were found across the site and with the exception of the Beaker barrow in the interiors of many of the barrows. The burials were mostly unurned and not associated with any pyre and/or grave goods. As no preserved land surfaces survived within the barrow interiors there was no evidence for *in situ* pyres. Such evidence is

rarely found under barrows (see Barclay and Halpin 1999; Thomas 2005) with the suggestion that many pyre sites were located away from the place of burial (Brück 2019, 40). Thus, the process of cremation may have been a drawn out process that took place in more than one location and involved a number of steps. The performance of cremation involved the preparation of the pyre, and the destruction and transformation of the corpse as part of this spectacle, the cleaning, selection and collecting of the bone and other remains (votive offerings and pyre goods), the possible storage and dispersal of these remains, and then the transportation of those remains that required a burial along with any container and added grave goods. The recovery of segregated pyre-related remains, cremated bone and pyre goods sometimes burial in the same feature either discretely or mixed or in separate features suggests a certain degree of complexity in whatever rituals and ceremonies were involved. At Picket Twenty it is possible to recognise both mixed deposits and single elements resulting from a cremation ceremony.

The evidence that is found includes burial pits that contain deposits of cremated human bone, pits with possible pyre debris, and pits with pyre goods (see Chapters 3 to 5) – occasionally the evidence is found in a single deposit and others in separate deposits where a degree of separation has taken place. Pyre sites when encountered can include areas of reddened soil, postholes and very rarely remains of the actual pyre structure (Brück 2019, 40–41 and fig. 2.8). There are also features that are more ambiguous that only contain token deposits of cremated bone, artefact fragments, and/or charred plant material and/or charcoal. At Picket Twenty many of the barrows contained pits, some of which were sterile and others that had only small traces of charcoal. A good example of this is the C-shaped enclosure, which contained a dozen similar features.

At Picket Twenty a total of 15 cremation burials and one cremation-related deposit were recorded, although there were many more similar pits, some of which contained no material and others simply charcoal. Some features recorded as containing charcoal in the field were found upon analysis not to contain any charred material. Only two cremation burials were associated with pottery (Collared Urn) of which only one was urned (4016, Ra. 4, Fig. 4.2, 4) and the other was represented by sherds (6016). A small Collared Urn (Ra. 24, Fig. 4.2, 5), which had been heat damaged is likely to be a pyre good but came from a pit without a burial. The bone from these burials varied in quantity from token amounts (4002, 4008, 6012 and 6071) up to substantial deposits (6016, 6049 and 6053), although all exhibited that the pyre technology was good and efficient. Nearly all of the burials were of adults, whilst two were the remains of children. Clough notes that only three could be tentatively sexed – one was that of a man and two were female. She also notes that the possible females were found adjacent to the two children (see Chapter 3).

A small number of other artefacts were associated with the cremation burials (see Chapter 4), an unburnt

perforated bone pin (Ra. 26; Fig. 4.7, 2) from cremation burial 6016, seven possibly burnt copper alloy fragments (Ra. 25) perhaps originally from one object were recovered from burial 6049, a burnt bone object, possibly originally a spatula from burial 6051 (Fig. 4.7, 3) and a piece of flattened copper alloy wire from burial 6475. Some of these items may have accompanied bodies on the pyre but the unburnt items may have been added to the graves as part of the funerary rituals. Elm, dogwood and hazel charcoal from the natural hollow 6043 in Barrow 6003 and pits 6465 (C-shaped enclosure) and 6132 (Barrow 6004) may be the remains of pyre goods or the remnants of kindling (see Challinor, Chapter 5). No cremated human remains were recovered from these features but pits 6465 and 6132 may have been associated with the funerary activities (see Chapter 2).

Later activity

The after-life of the barrow cemetery

Like some other round barrow cemeteries, no further earthworks appear to have been built after 1500 BC and at a time of transition in which there was a change to a more settled way of life and one that had a greater emphasis on building more permanent structures and occasional farmsteads and settlements. The timings of such changes are not clear cut as elements of this new way of life can appear early in some areas with overlap occurring with the use of barrows. Barrows can survive in the landscape to the present day and were often avoided and occasionally appropriated by later communities.

Post-built structures and later prehistoric activity

The area around the barrows was a place of small-scale settlement with the construction of one or two small buildings in Areas 2 and 5. Neither was well dated, although both possibly belong to the later Bronze Age in terms of plan and size. That in Area 2 was found close to a Beaker pit, although this could just be coincidence (Fig. 2.27). Beaker structures dating to just before 2000 BC are known from Britain but they remain quite rare. Some are of post-built roundhouse type including the example from Sutton Hoo and others from East Anglia (Jezz Meredith pers comm; Antrobus and Mortimer (2025), whilst others are light in design, less coherent in plan and constructed from wattle stakes (Bradley 2007, 151 and fig. 3.27: Snail Down and Belle Tout). The same is true of roundhouse building in the Early Bronze Age, although some early examples are known they tend to be isolated and single dwellings such as the example from Yarnton, Oxon where a single post-built house was excavated (e.g. Yarnton, Oxon: Hey *et al.* 2016), although a possible pair of structures were

found at Amesbury adjacent to MOD Boscombe Down in association with Collared Urn pottery (Lawson 2007, 261 and fig. 8.17). Similar structures to the two recorded at Picket Twenty occur at Twyford Down (Walker and Farwell 2000, 23–32) and were equally dispersed in nature and possibly strung out in a broad linear band. Their dating was less ambiguous as they occurred alongside discrete features with Middle and Late Bronze Age pottery and close to an enclosed cemetery of Middle Bronze Age date. Whilst at Picket Twenty a small flat grave cemetery was excavated in Area 4 its date is ambiguous. Although one burial was urned and directly associated with a Collared Urn of Early Bronze Age date, its radiocarbon dating is problematic and the cemetery could be earlier in date. The smaller structure in Area 5 was less well defined and consisted of an arc of postholes close to what could have been a central pit if a complete circular structure is projected (see Chapter 2 and Fig. 2.25) but its layout recalls those structures at Amesbury and Sutton Hoo that are mentioned above.

Other structures include the two alignments of postholes in Areas 3 and 5, both of which are undated but could recall free standing posts to guide movement especially in the case of the one in Area 6 that appeared to link the barrow with the Stake circle. There is a good local parallel for these at Andover Airfield where two east–west alignments, each comprising five posts, occurred outside a barrow one of which was perpendicular to the ditch. The latter also contained a cordoned Bucket Urn and a deposit of cremated bone indicating a probable Middle Bronze Age date (Howell with Blackmore *et al.* 2019, 29 and fig. 25). The barrow contained a substantial Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery, although the earliest burial was of Early Bronze Age date and part of a ridged Food Vessel was found in a pit near the other post alignment just south of the barrow (Howell with Blackmore *et al.* 2019, 22–23 and fig. 21).

Roman, Saxon and medieval

It would appear that the landscape remained largely unchanged after the Iron Age with little evidence for any reorganisation or change in landuse during the Roman and Saxon periods. The course of a Roman road that intersects with the Portway ran south across the landscape to the west of the barrows and to Winchester. Roman settlement and burial activity were found near to the junction of the two roads at Eastanton 3km to the north-west (Cook and Dacre 1985, 3). Other traces of Roman activity are summarised in Chapter 1 (see also Allen *et al.* 2016).

Despite a lack of contemporaneous features of Roman date on the site, an unusual feature of the barrow cemetery was the deposition of Roman material in the barrow ditches. Most of this material occurred as multiple deposits within Barrow 6003 with much smaller quantities occurring in three other barrows (6002, 6004 and 6005). Some 11,000 sherds of mostly greyware came from the ditch of Barrow 6003 along with small amounts of animal bone,

building material and metalwork including coins. This type of deposition would not be unusual if the barrows were situated close to an area of Roman settlement but that appears not to be the case from the known evaluation and other local excavations. Very little Roman material came from the excavations at the Walworth Industrial Estate just to the north of Picket Twenty (King 2015), whilst the same is true of the more extensive Picket Twenty investigations conducted by Wessex Archaeology (Ellis and Chaffey 2014). That the Roman refuse was repeatedly brought into the site and dumped over a period time from a nearby but as yet unidentified settlement is a possible explanation for this material. However, it is also possible that this material results from repeated acts of deliberate deposition made in a more structured manner and not just rubbish disposal (cf. Smith 2018, 160). It has long been known that prehistoric monuments, including Bronze Age barrows, were revisited in the Roman and later periods (see for example, Williams 1998; Hutton 2011). This material ranges from a few pottery sherds, single objects such as the votive 'leaf' from Whiteleaf Hill, Buckinghamshire (Crerar 2007, 56–58) or more complex re-use including the placing of Roman inhumation and cremation burials at a range of Neolithic and Bronze Age sites (Williams 1998, 75). It is clear that the picture is complex with numerous factors being involved.

Sacred geographies and memories of the past have been explored in a number of studies, prehistoric monuments forming a powerful link with the past and ritual activity and deposition in the Roman period (see Kamash 2016). Smith's survey (2018, 160) revealed that 80% of sites with such an association between Roman sacred spaces and prehistoric monuments occurred in non-settlement rural contexts.

The assemblage from Picket Twenty is generally quite broken up with a mean sherd weight of 8g (see Marsden and Sommerville, Chapter 4), and although the condition was not systematically recorded, the material is moderately abraded. Jars comprise just over 78% of the assemblage but dishes, platters, bowls, beakers/cups and flagons were present. Only a single mortarium was identified. The only finewares are New Forest colour coated wares, and only a few continental imports identified, chiefly samian but also two sherds of Central Gaulish black-slipped ware. It is possible that this material is the result of repeated feasting episodes in which vessels were deliberately smashed and placed into the ditches of the earlier monuments as acts of commemoration (Hutton 2011). A parallel can be drawn to a grave at Pepper Hill, Kent where a 2nd century inhumation burial was accompanied by seven pottery vessels but also a mass of fragmented pottery deposited at the foot end of the grave (Biddulph 2015, 41), that was interpreted as the remains of feasting.

Whether the dumping of refuse into the barrow ditch was anything more than a convenient place to offload unwanted material or a more deliberate and conscious act

is a matter of debate. However, the sheer quantity of late Roman pottery may indicate the former, the metalwork from Barrow ditch 6003 in particular and a deposit within Barrow 6005 as well appear to suggest otherwise (see Walton, Chapter 4). The date and composition of the assemblage indicates deposition over a considerable period of time. The composition of the metalwork group that included personal objects and tools, carpentry nails, and coins may hint at votive deposition rather than casual loss or the simple dumping of refuse. The barrows were perhaps recognised as belonging to an older and other world (cf. Kamash 2016).

Beyond the Roman period there was no signs of Saxon activity and very little trace of medieval activity apart from the recovery of a couple of metal objects (see Walton, Chapter 4). The recovery of a small quantity of post-medieval finds, some intrusive in the barrow ditches, indicate episodic activity.

Destruction of the barrows

It is uncertain when the barrow mounds were totally denuded. Certainly little survived beyond the medieval period, although the position of the later trackway along the line of the barrows that also ran over the top of the Beaker barrow, along with a few later finds may indicate that something survived into more recent times or at least into the post-medieval period. The absence of field names and map references to barrows can be noted too. It therefore seems likely that nothing of the barrows survived above ground by the 20th century or that anything that had survived was removed by the intensification of agriculture after the second world war.

Conclusion

The excavation of a small linear barrow cemetery at Picket Twenty has added to an emerging pattern of Bronze Age burial and settlement activity in the Andover area of the upper Test Valley river catchment. Whilst the general sequence is familiar and similar to other known sites, the Picket Twenty cemetery also adds some unusual details to the regional burial record, in particular that stake circles are not always part of a barrow construction sequence but can sit as separate and structurally independent monuments in their own right. In addition are the elaboration of barrows with a line of posts, something again that has been rarely seen elsewhere but is now replicated at two local sites, reinforcing the need to dig outside and between barrows. Finally, the appropriation of barrows as a place of deposition, whether ritual or mundane, in the Roman period is something rarely encountered in the absence of immediate traces of settlement.

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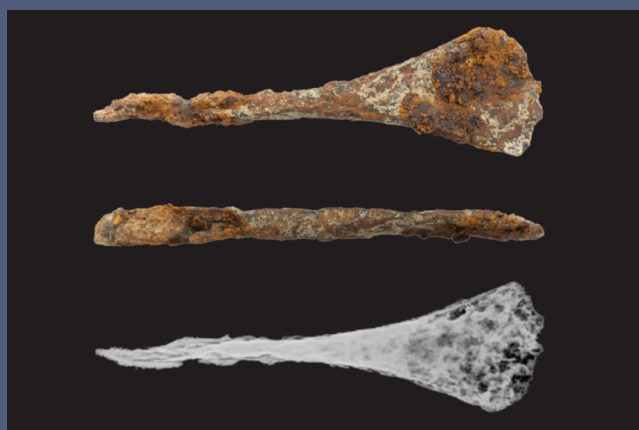
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Archaeological excavations in 2017 and 2018 at Picket Twenty, Andover, in advance of a housing development, revealed the remains of a barrow cemetery of Early Bronze Age date (2150–1500 BC). The cemetery lies within the upper reaches of the Test Valley, an area of chalkland known as the Hampshire Downs. The earliest barrow contained a Beaker burial, a possible ‘founder’ monument for the cemetery. The barrows had suffered plough damage and no mounds or earthworks had survived into modern times although the barrows were still extant during the Roman and medieval periods, as evidenced by extensive deposits of Roman refuse in the ditches, and also a few medieval finds.

The barrow ditches ranged in size and form and, whilst most were round, there were two unusual oval examples. More unusual was a post alignment and stake circle, of uncertain but perhaps Early Bronze Age date, outside the barrows. Most of the monuments were associated with the burial of cremated remains, some of which occurred with Collared Urn pottery. Pyre goods were occasionally present but no evidence for *in situ* pyre sites was identified.

The earliest settlement evidence included a Beaker pit of Chalcolithic date (2400–2150 BC) and a small number of later dispersed timber structures comprising a roundhouse and a fenceline, indicating small-scale open settlement across the landscape during the later Bronze Age (1500–1150 BC).