

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Sea Mills, Bristol: the 1965-1968 excavations in the Roman town
of Abonae**

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1987, Vol. 105, 15-108

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Sea Mills, Bristol: the 1965–1968 excavations in the Roman town of Abonae

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Summary

The excavation of two sites in Sea Mills in the 1960s is described. At Abon House a road was superseded at the beginning of the 2nd century AD by a street which was initially fronted by timber-framed buildings, and in the 3rd and 4th centuries by stone buildings. Third and 4th-century levels were extensively cleared and two complete building plans were recovered and parts of others. At 87 Sea Mills Lane a 1st/2nd-century ditch was excavated and part of a 3rd-century building, with burials later than the building but still 4th-century.

Evidence from the finds suggests an initial military presence at Sea Mills; although possibly not before AD60 on the sites examined, an initial occupation in the mid-50s is likely, and a departure by the mid-80s. Finds of stamped brick and tile suggest that Sea Mills was a 2nd Augustan Legion police, frontier, and supply post in the 2nd century. While there is evidence of 4th-century expansion, there are indications also of a lessening of urban organization.

Full publication of the finds provides the first corpus of material found within the town, and all the known evidence for the Roman occupation at Sea Mills is summarized and referenced.

Introduction (FIGS. 1 and 2)

Between 1965 and 1968 Bristol City Museum undertook an intensive campaign of rescue excavation at Sea Mills, Bristol (NGR ST 551758), of which only a short account has hitherto been available (Hebditch and Grinsell 1974). The excavations were directed by Max Hebditch, then Assistant Curator of Archaeology and History, on behalf of the then City and County of Bristol and the then Ministry of Public Building and Works. The main focus of attention was the Abon House site lying between Roman Way and Sea Mills Lane, which was progressively excavated by paid volunteers and by members of the local archaeological society, the Bristol Archaeological Research Group (BARG), over two seasons in 1965 and 1966. Members of BARG undertook further work at weekends, continuing both seasons of excavation into the early months of the following years. Further excavations on a smaller scale were carried out at 5 and 28 Hadrian Close in 1965, 87 Sea Mills Lane in 1967, and 51 Roman Way in 1968. The Abon House excavations are described below in Section A, 87 Sea Mills Lane in Section B, and the remaining sites in Section C. An appendix to Section C lists all the known structural evidence for the town.

Previous excavations at Sea Mills took place in 1911–13 (Hurry 1912 and 1913) and in the '20s and '30s (Martin and Tratman 1923; Dobson 1937; Dobson and Walker 1939), and a watching-brief was undertaken in 1945 (Boon 1945). A small-scale excavation took place in 1954 (Nightingale 1954). In 1972 further excavations were carried out to the south-east of the Roman town at Nazareth House (Bennett 1985). In the latter report the existing information about Sea Mills was discussed. In addition to the evidence from excavations, many chance finds and

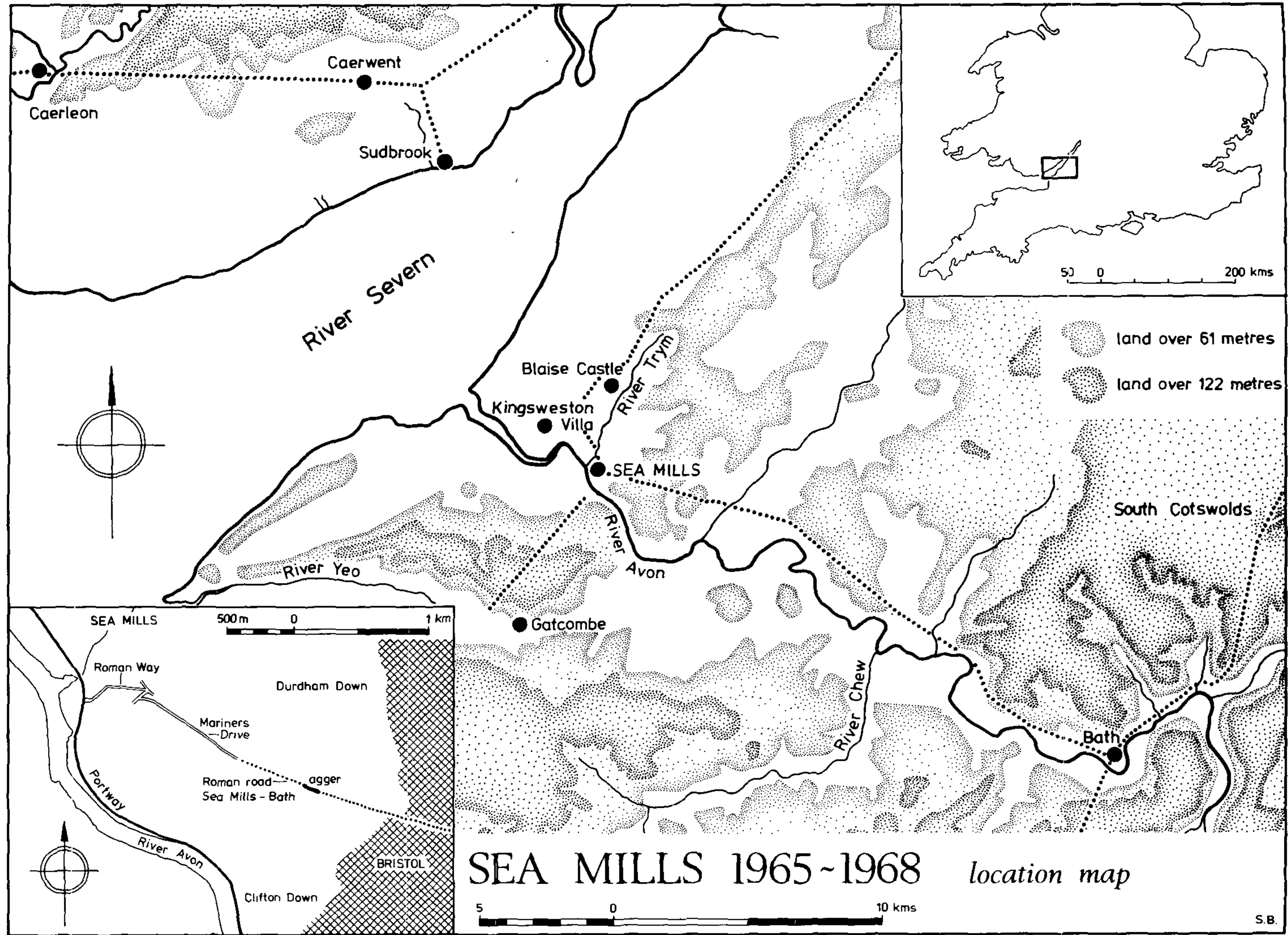


FIG. 1 Sea Mills: general location maps. Drawn by S. Banks.

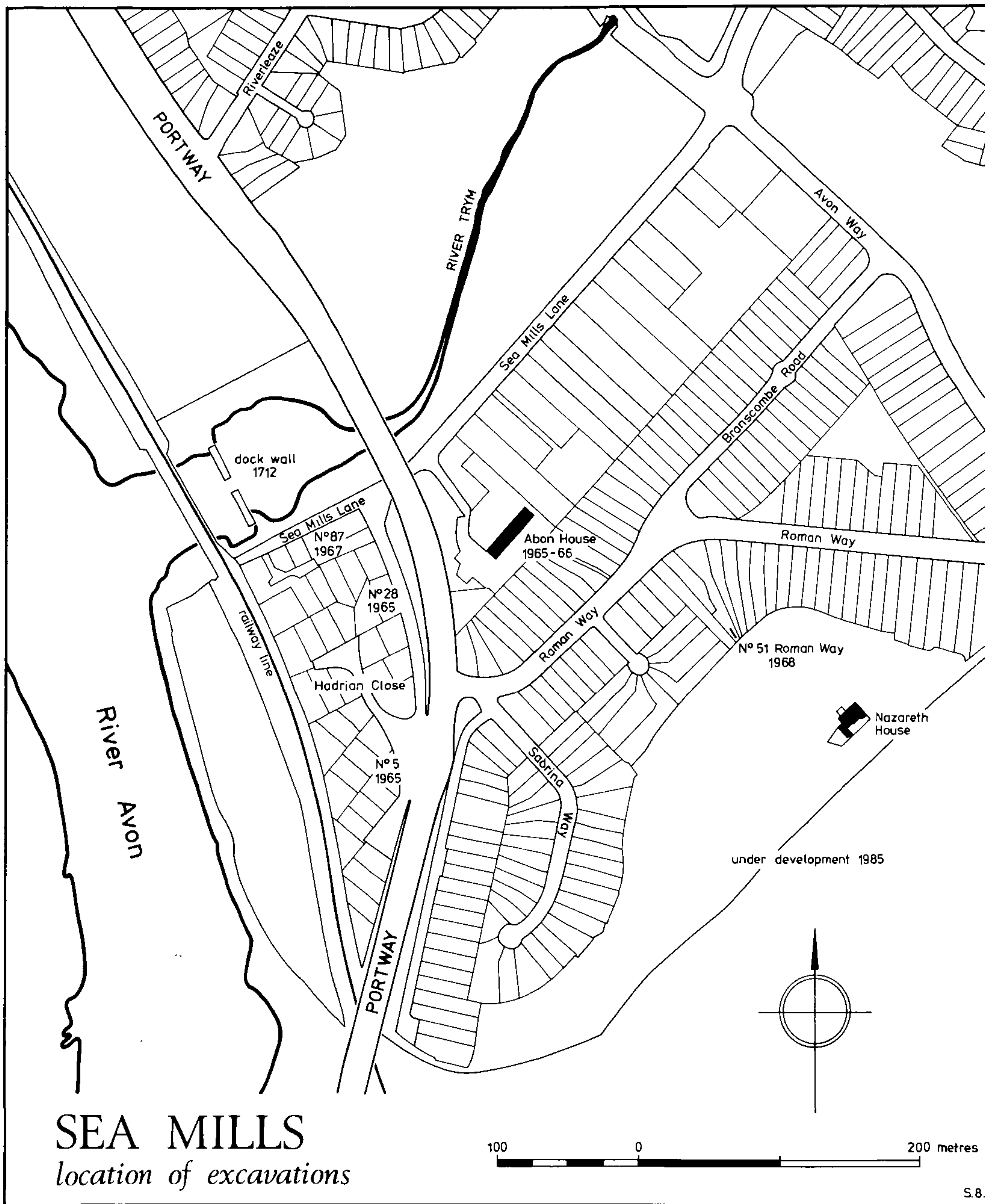


FIG. 2 Sea Mills: site locations. Drawn by S. Banks.

structures were recorded between 1890 and 1968 (Section C, Appendix).

Publication of the 1960s excavations has been the purpose of an Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission-funded project based at Bristol City Museum during 1985/6, within the context of a programme to publish, or make accessible for study, excavations undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Public Building and Works prior to 1973. The project has comprised an analysis of the paper record of the excavations by the author, and processing of the finds by a team of specialists. The record of the excavations was variable in quality and some evidence had been lost from the archive. The periodization and interpretation presented here is almost entirely the result of the 1985/6 project.

A. ABON HOUSE: 1965/6

An area of land about 60 m by 60 m became available for archaeological excavation prior to development. The site was bounded by the rear of properties fronting on Sea Mills Lane and Roman Way and by the Portway to the south (FIG. 2). Within this area two seasons of excavations were undertaken and a total of about half the area was cleared to the Roman levels. As noted above, in both seasons excavation continued at weekends into the following year but for convenience the excavations, which are described separately, are dated to 1965 and 1966. The site is now occupied by the flats and garages of Abon House.

The excavation record comprised two plans of the main excavated buildings (3 and 6) at 1:48 scale, drawn from 1:24 scale field-drawings, of which only that for 1966 survives. No sections were available for the 1965 excavation and only three (all illustrated as FIG. 10) for 1966. The layers indicated on the sections were not correlated with the written layer record. The stratigraphic record comprised three notebooks containing locational sketch plans and sections and a list of contexts, generally with a brief description and a record of the overlying layer. Only Building 6 in the 1966 excavation had a record of its datum level, from which the 1966 levels are derived. Volunteers had continued to mark the pottery until the commencement of this project and there is a possibility of some errors of assignment as a result.

Some assistance in interpreting the sites was given by the photographs which were primarily of the 1966 excavation, with only a handful for 1965. A sequential description of the excavated features in each trench by the excavator was available. The site interpretation offered here is largely based on a reconstruction of the stratigraphic sequence from the notebooks, but is not supported in every case by measured drawings.

The Romano-British street and house alignments were at about 45 degrees to the cardinal compass points and for ease of reference the street (F70) is described as running north-south and the buildings as lying east-west.

ABON HOUSE 1965 (FIGS. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 11)

The excavation strategy comprised the following. Initial trial trenching using a machine was undertaken (FIG. 3). In the first trench (I) a road and building were located. A second trench (II) was cut to the south of and parallel with I and carried to the site limits to the west. Trench I was then opened up to the south, using a bulldozer, and boxes were cleared across the located building (III, IV, V and VI), which were subsequently amalgamated to form an area excavation of the whole building, with the exception of the south-west room, rendered inaccessible by a contractor's crane, and in the centre where a baulk was partially retained. Further trenches (VII, VIII, IX and XII) were opened up to answer specific problems of site usage in relation to the building. An exploratory unnumbered trench was opened to the south at the end of the season's

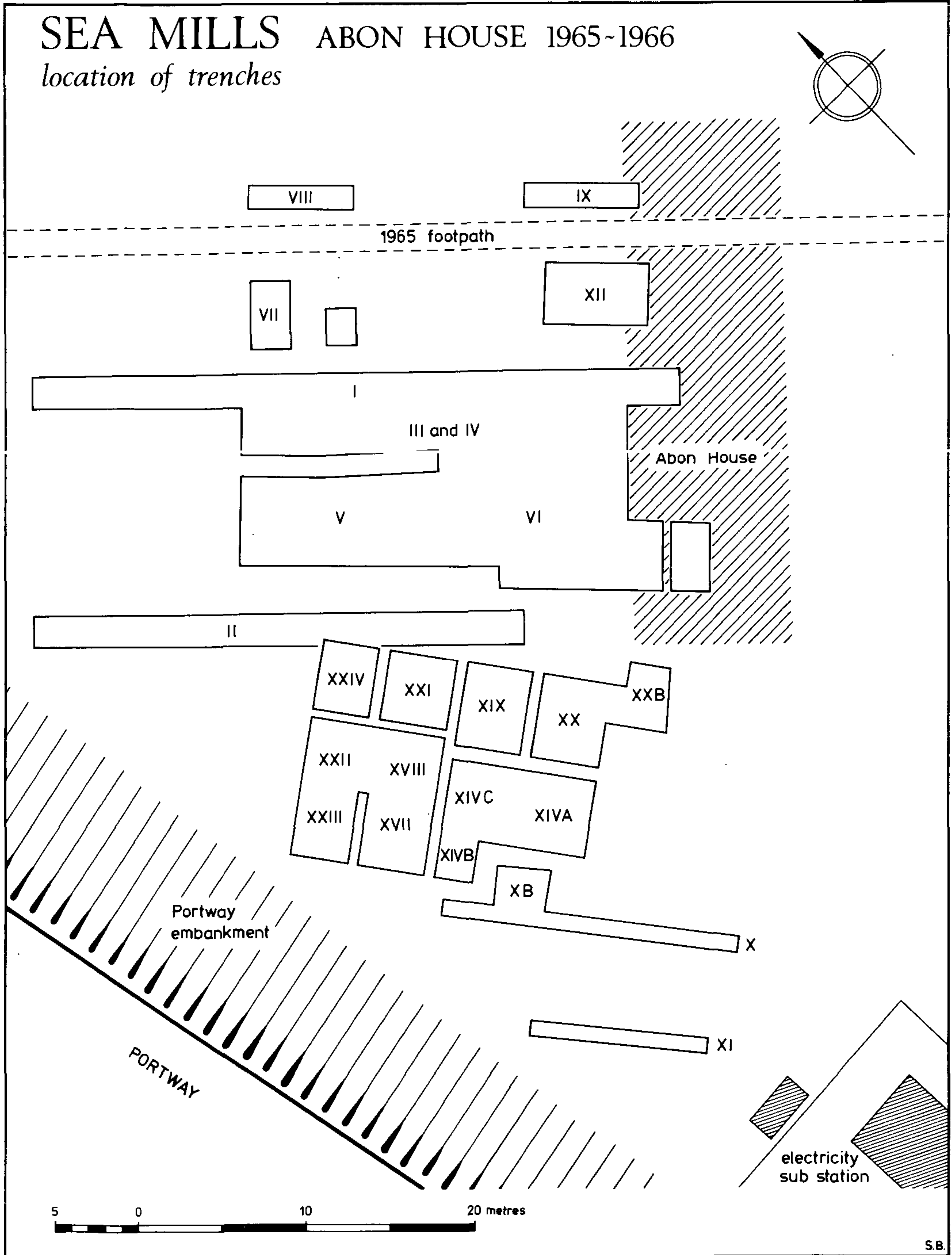


FIG. 3 Abon House 1965-66: trench locations. Drawn by S. Banks.

excavation, which located the building excavated in 1966. Only Trenches II and VI were carried down to the level of natural clay, and then only partially.

Periodization of the excavated features cannot be fully illustrated since some of the stratigraphic evidence was available only in the written record. The features can, nevertheless, be assigned to four Roman and two post-Roman periods (see FIG. 11, to which reference should be made for the location of the various buildings described in the following paragraphs).

Period 1

In Trenches II and VI the natural subsoil was located, comprising a grey clay devoid of natural or artificial inclusions. Layers immediately above the natural surface were uniformly described as red claysoils, some with charcoal inclusions (II,3 and 6; VI,32). These layers may be interpreted as evidence of soils which developed prior to the first recorded Romano-British occupation of the area, presumably associated with 1st-century occupation to the south-west. However, 2nd-century pottery in the Trench II layers with Antonine samian in II, 6 suggests contamination or that the underlying layer was wrongly identified as natural. Layer VI, 32 contained samian dated AD80–100.

Period 2 (FIG. 11)

A layer of worn cobbles (VI,25) was recorded in Trench VI overlying the Period 1 buried soil. This layer may be interpreted as a trackway. It was superseded by a more carefully constructed and founded street, F70, following the same alignment, in a trench (4 m wide and 0.1 m deep) cut into the natural surface. Large stones (VI,23) bedded in red clay (VI,24) placed in the trench formed the foundations of a primary metalled surface (VI,21). The street was retained on its west side by a kerb of stone slabs (VI,26 and 29) set vertically into natural. The relationship of the street F70 and its apparent predecessor (VI,25) was not clear, and it may be that the latter was simply remnants of construction material. However, on balance the written evidence suggests that F70 cut and post-dated VI, 25.

On both sides of the street in Trench VI, groups of features are described which may relate either to F70 or to the earlier track. To the east a hearth, F20, and a timber slot, F103 (VI,18) (Building 2), were noted. Their stratigraphic position is not clearly described but they must be presumed to lie on the Phase 1 layers. West of the street a linear feature F102 (VI,22), was recorded as a ditch, but its plan suggests that it too may represent a timber beam-trench (Building 1). A posthole F104 was located at the same horizon. Thus two timber structures (Buildings 1 and 2) are possible on either side of, and closely adjacent to the early street F70. Although Flavian samian was found in VI,29, a few 2nd-century crumbs in VI,21 and early 2nd-century pottery in the timber slot VI, 18 indicate an early 2nd-century date for Period 2.

Period 3

The street was further metalled by layers VI,20 and 16. In Trenches V and VI apparently contiguous levels were described as red clay containing large stones (V,10 and 12; VI,28). The layers may be interpreted as evidence of a phase of stone building, development, and levelling, accompanied by renewed street metalling. No plans were recovered. The layers sealed the Period 2 kerb features. Antonine samian in V,10, and late 1st- to mid-2nd-century samian in VI,20, point to a later 2nd-century date for the period.

Period 4A (FIG. 4)

The main focus of the 1965 excavation was the recording of a stone building fronting on the street F70. Building 3 was initially 16 m long and 8 m wide. The walls (F2, F6, F11, and F17) were founded on horizontally-laid blocks set within foundation trenches (F25, 24, 23, and 26 respectively). The building was constructed 2.5 m west of F70. Evidence for the corresponding phase of street construction at which it was built can only be inferred. The excavation record described layers of red soil with crumbled mortar inclusions (V,9; VI,17), which were located in places between Building 3 and F70 and on the south side of Building 3 in the western extension of Trench VI. These layers were recorded as being contiguous with the level of the interface between the Period 3 street layer VI,16 and a further layer of remetalling VI,14. They may be interpreted as a construction level containing builders' debris associated with Building 3. More secure identification of the stratigraphic position of Building 3 is not possible. It may be that its position west of F70 implies that a ditch lay between it and the street, removing the stratigraphic relationship.

The initial above-ground course of Building 3 (FIG. 4) was 0.6 m wide and above this subsequent courses were constructed with a width of 0.46 m, leaving both an external and internal offset. The upper courses above the offset only survived in the eastern part of the building. Subsequent development of the building made secure identification of the primary features of the building difficult to achieve but a cross-wall (F3) to the west was constructed with an offset in the

same fashion as the main walls. This would have provided a room 7.4 m by 4 m to the west (Room 1). An original entrance to the main room to the east (Room 2) may have been located on the north side at the mid-point of the northern wall. Later features had cut across the wall here but a line of vertically set stones outside the building (F8) may mark an entrance 2.5 m wide. A concentration of small portable finds located here may indicate where rubbish was swept out through an entrance. An internal feature which may be assigned to the construction phase of Building 3 comprised an oven, F16, with a below-ground flue, set to the south-west of the main eastern room. Burnt debris was recorded here overlying an apparent clay floor (V,8).

Building 3 would appear from the surviving construction evidence to have been built of stone to eaves level. Stone roofing-slates recorded in the overburden indicate a roof construction of considerable weight, reinforcing this suggestion of stone construction. The building may have been deliberately constructed to the length-width proportions of 2:1. There was no evidence of window glass. The only indication of function is provided by the suggestion of an initial division at the west end which may have comprised domestic occupation, and by the oven and flue which indicate a commercial or agricultural use. The size of the hypothetical entrance to the north indicates access for commercial rather than domestic usage. The upright stones (F8) may mark a kerb either to a street or to the courtyard at the entrance point. They may equally mark an eaves drip gully which would have run as a drain under the entrance threshold.

Associated external layers comprised a courtyard layer recorded to the north (I,12 and 14) and an accumulation of dark soil (V,13) between Building 3 and F70 overlying the construction layer V,9.

On the east side of the street F70 there was evidence of a drain constructed at the same time as Building 3. A stone retaining wall, F19, 0.5 m wide, was recorded overlying the street metalling VI,16. The wall apparently ended to the north within the excavated area. A layer of red clay (VI, 8) represented a surface to the east. Although F19 could represent the wall of a building, evidence to the south suggests that it represents the east side of a drain, and that the west side may have collapsed. The street, F70, was re-metalled with layers VI,14, 13, 12, and 10 and I,21, 16, 17, and 15, which though not directly related indicate four further re-metallings in this phase. Street layers I,16 and 21 were cut by a drain, F18, running east-west and along a trackway, F43, north of Building 3. The drain was stone-sided and based and was capped by large slabs subsequently sealed by renewed metalling I,17 and 15. The track, F43, joined F70 directly to the north of Building 3, and may have been created in this phase to allow access to the hypothesized entrance on the north side. Whether the track continued westward is not clear.

A coin of AD259–268 was found in the gully marked by the upright stones F8. It may be argued that it marks the end of the first phase of Building 3 use, when the entrance was blocked and the possible eaves drip gully presumably silted. However, the evidence is too slight to ascribe a definite date for the building's construction though an early to mid-3rd-century date is likely.

Period 4B (FIGS. 4, 5, and 6)

Building 3 was extended eastwards to the edge of F70. The east wall, F17, of the building was demolished to first course offset level and additional north-south walls F36 and F37 were straight-jointed on to F17. The building was newly fronted to the east by a wall (F12), which was not aligned exactly parallel to its predecessor. The eastern wall of the extension was pierced by a 3 m wide entrance set almost centrally. A flight of three steps (F32) with a splayed socket for a stone door jamb led from the street down into the building. A similar doorway arrangement was found at the Kingsweston villa (Boon 1950a, 27). A paved stone floor (F33) survived in parts within the threshold overlying the building's earlier east wall. A division may be indicated in the north-east corner of the building by stones (F41 and F42) set vertically enclosing an area paved by large stones (F31).

There are indications of supports for a cross-wall (F30, F38) 4.5 m west of F12. Part of a paved floor (F35) was recorded within this newly defined area along its south wall. The T-shaped stone setting, F30, on the centre line of the building indicates not only the position of this hypothetical internal wall, but also that of a central east-west division toward the entrance. To the west the oven and flue F16 were filled in and sealed by a rough cobble and flagstone floor (V,6). On the northern wall a second oven, F14, was constructed with the flue and aperture facing west. Its position indicates that the primary entrance to the north was closed at the same time. F14 may well represent a chimney-stack placed against the side wall and its presence could indicate an upper floor added in this phase. East of F14 a quern lower-stone (FIG. 33, 11) was located. Room 1 in the west part of the building, hypothesized in Period 4A, was divided by a stone wall, F13, making two rooms (1A and 1B) of 2.8 by 4 m and 3.5 by 4 m.

Externally an annexe to Building 3 was located on the north side. Walls F9 and F15 were straight-jointed on to F2. Trenches VII and VIII were excavated to trace the walls northward, and while they were found in the former, it is not clear from the record of Trench VIII whether the walls had terminated or whether they continued north in the form of robbed wall lines. This additional building would have closed any hypothetical Period 4A street running to the north of Building 3. The street F70 was further re-metalled with layer VI,4, at the level of the upper step from Building 3, and with layer VI,1a. The latter formed one or more road levels, according to the excavation record, of rough stone with some slag. It was recorded overlying the upper step from Building 3.

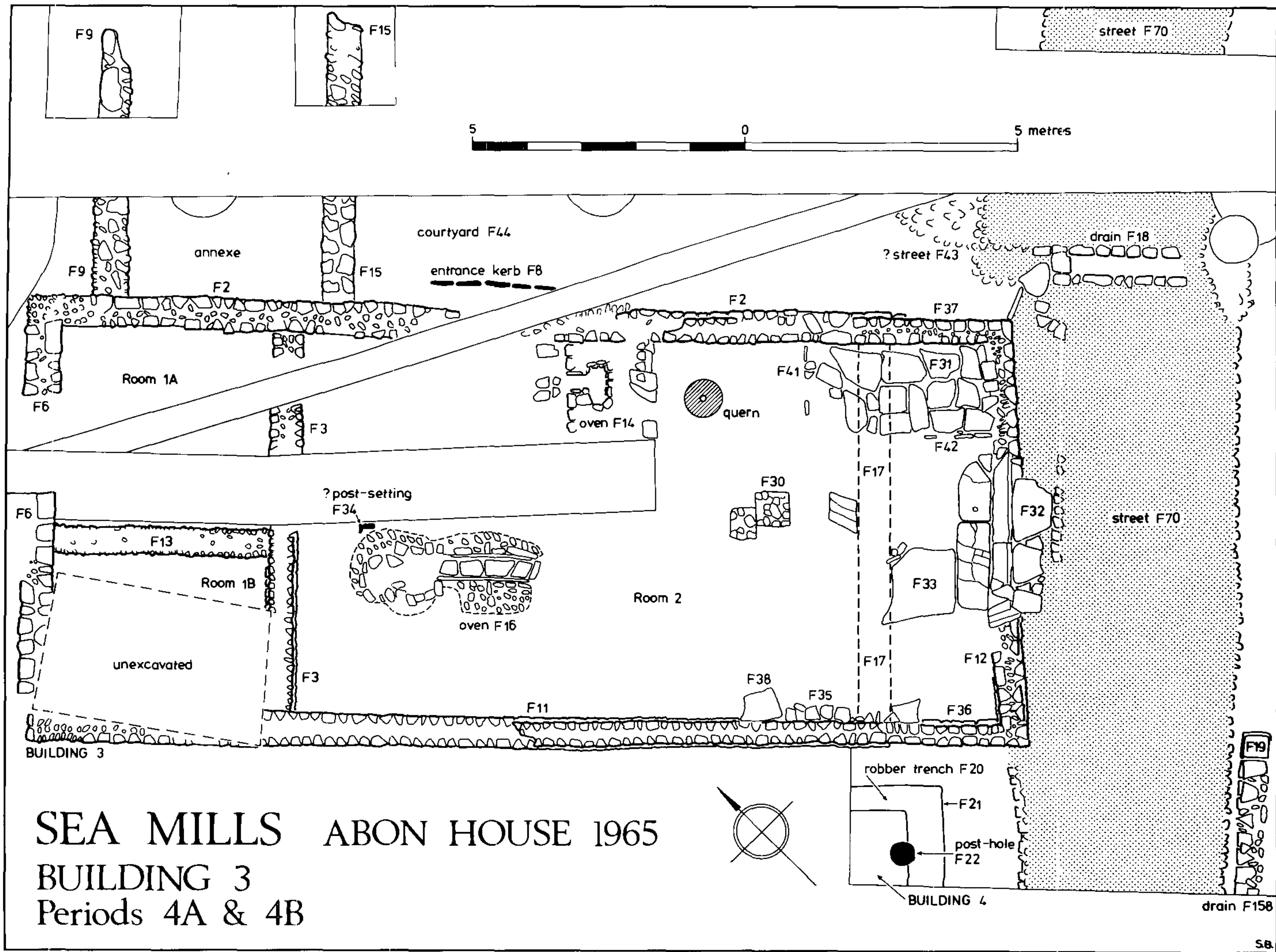


FIG. 4 Abon House 1965: Building 3, Periods 4A and 4B. Drawn by S. Banks.



FIG. 5 Abon House 1965: Building 3 viewed from the south-east. Scales in 1 ft. divisions.

To the east of F70 the drain appears to have gone out of use by the time the penultimate layer of remetalling VI,4 was laid, since the northern part of its east side, F19, was presumably removed in this period. A contiguous layer of dark soil (VI,6) overlay the drain and sealed a layer of red brown claysoil (VI,7), which in turn overlay the Period 4A layer VI,8.

To the south of Building 3 and west of F70 a possible building, Building 4, was located in the form of a slight rubble-filled foundation trench forming its north-east corner (F20 and F21; FIGS. 4, 6, and 11). The trench cut the suggested construction layer associated with the first phase of Building 3. A hearth or burnt stone rubble located in Trench II may be associated with the building, but the plan recorded this as part of a linear feature and the hearth may be better interpreted as a post-pit, indicating a possible internal division of Building 4. Building 4 may be associated with Building 7 recorded in 1966.

While there are few indications of the function of Building 4, Building 3 in this phase would appear to have been changed to a shop with an entrance fronting directly on to the street (FIGS. 4 and 6). The small rooms to the west can still be interpreted as for domestic use. The excavation notes recorded, and the photographs demonstrate, that the stone threshold F32 was more worn on the south than on the north side. There are indications of an east-west lengthways division of Building 3 in this phase both in the rooms to the north and in the T-shaped central stones (F30). It is possible that the threshold width and differential wear indicate the entrance to two separated areas. In the southern area a stone

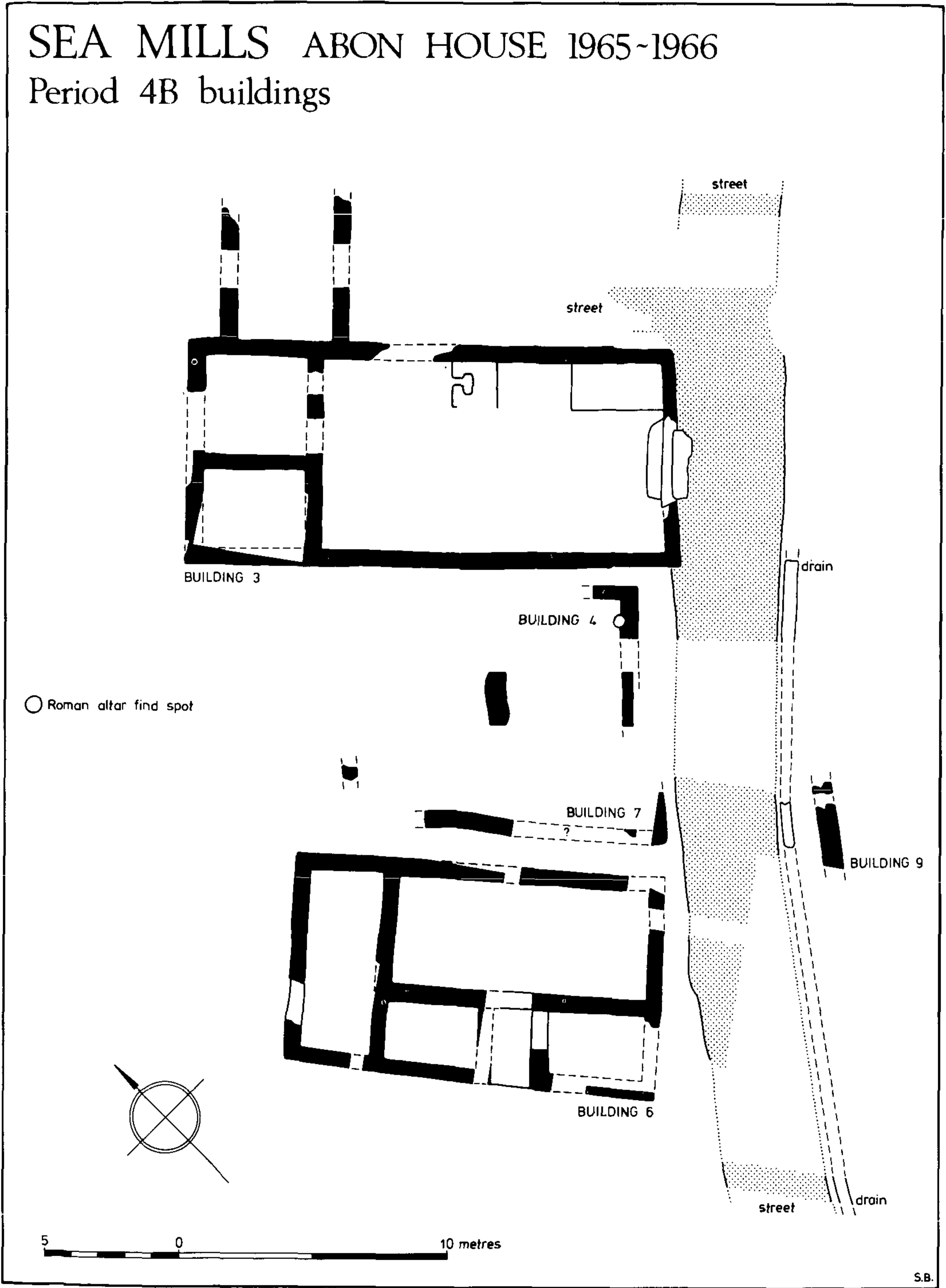


FIG. 6 Abon House 1965-66: Period 4B buildings. Drawn by S. Banks.

floor F35 survived along the south wall, while in the northern area lay the oven F14, the millstone, and the enclosed area, F31, possibly a grain bin, in the north-east corner. There is no evidence for the functions of the southern area; the northern area may have been a bakery. The lengthways division may suggest that ownership of the building was divided. The implications of this are discussed below.

Coin evidence of this phase is available for Building 3 and for the street. Associated with the floor V,6 overlying the oven F16, were two coins dated 313 and 316–317. Floors V,3 and III,3 contained coins respectively dated to the 1st century and to 318–9. It is not clear where exactly the coins were located horizontally, and the implication of their excavation record is that they were present in the material forming the floors of Building 3 in its second phase. The Period 4B street level VI,4 contained two coins, one of 298, the other of 303–5. An early 4th-century date may be suggested for the building's expansion in this phase, and the absence of later coins may only indicate that the rooms were kept clean. Layer VI,4 represents the penultimate Roman metalling of the street F70, probably contemporary with the extension to Building 3. If the coins are taken to indicate fairly closely the date at which the street was in use, then it is clear that it was remetalled only once in the 4th century, and to a lower standard than formerly.

Period 5

The subsequent decline and collapse of the Period 4B buildings were evidenced by layers of rubble overlying the remains of walls, floors, and external areas. The rubble and other material within these layers must be presumed to derive from the buildings and be directly associated with their use. An altar found during site clearance to the west of Trench II (FIG. 6) may represent the location of a building with a religious function west of the excavated site, though the altar may have been displaced from an original location in some other section of the town.

A general 4th-century date is suggested for the latest use of Building 3 by the coins found in the associated rubble layers. Seven 4th-century coins, none later than 350–3, were found, as well as two 3rd-century and one 1st-century coins.

Period 6 (FIG. 4)

Some evidence of post-medieval activity was found in the form of a ditch (F5) running diagonally across Building 3 and a number of pits recorded both in Trench I (F45, F7, and F4) and to the east of and cutting the street F70 (F46, 47, and 48). These features have not been numbered on FIG. 4 to avoid over-referencing the illustration.

ABON HOUSE 1966 (FIGS. 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11)

The indications of a further building south of the 1965 excavation found in an unnumbered 1965 exploratory trench led to the clearance of a 12 m by 20 m area which was laid out in a boxed excavation with 1 m wide baulks retained across the area (Boxes XIV, A, B, and C; XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII, and XXIV; FIG. 3). Two trenches were cut to the west (X and XI) to section the road located in both seasons' work. Trench X was later extended (XB) as was area XX (XXB). Finds were recorded from Trenches XV, XXV, and XXVI but the positions of these trenches cannot now be located. They may have lain to the east.

The excavated features were assigned to similar periods as for the 1965 excavation but they are not necessarily contemporaneous. The relationship between the phasing of the two excavated areas is discussed below.

Period 1A

Overlying the natural surface of grey clay, layers of red claysoil were recorded where the cuttings penetrated to the natural surface. Layers X,19, 34, and 44; XIVA,15; and XIVC,27 were all of red claysoil and may, as with the similar 1965 layers, be interpreted as buried soils formed prior to occupation of the area in the Roman period. Neronian samian was found in XIVA,15.

Period 1 B (FIG. 7)

The earliest feature located was a road F78 running north to south in the south and western part of the excavated area. The road was noted in Trench X and was located in plan in Trenches XB and XVII. In the latter area a cambered stone surface (XVII,12) was found, sealed by a layer of silt (XVII,11). Only the western side of the road was located and a length of ditch, F80, was suggested running along its western side (XVII,15). In Trench XB a layer of compacted stone

(XB,10) was found overlying 'natural', sealed or cut by later features. The road was recorded in Trench X as formed of large stones (X,30, 35, 44, and 46), overlain by a layer of silt (X,25). A width of *c.* 4 m can be suggested if its alignment with the section found in Trench XVII is projected. The road therefore appeared to have been constructed on an area stripped of the Period 1A soils or alternatively set in a slight trench, with a marked camber and a ditch to the west. Though not recorded as such in 1966, Section 1 (FIG. 10) may record part of the north side of the road.

To the east of the road a line of three post-holes was recorded (F154, 155, and 156). The post-holes were not excavated. Their alignment was at right angles to the road and they may represent a boundary line though their size suggests part of a timber structure of some substance.

Pottery from Period 1 contexts suggested a 1st-century date for the road and associated structure. Flavian samian was found in association with the road with a group dated AD70-90 in X,30. Silts overlying the road and the upper layer of the ditch also contained Flavian samian. An imitation Claudian coin was found in layer XVII,11 at the edge of the road. A road make-up layer (X,35) contained a fragment of a glass bowl of a type generally associated with pre-Flavian sites.

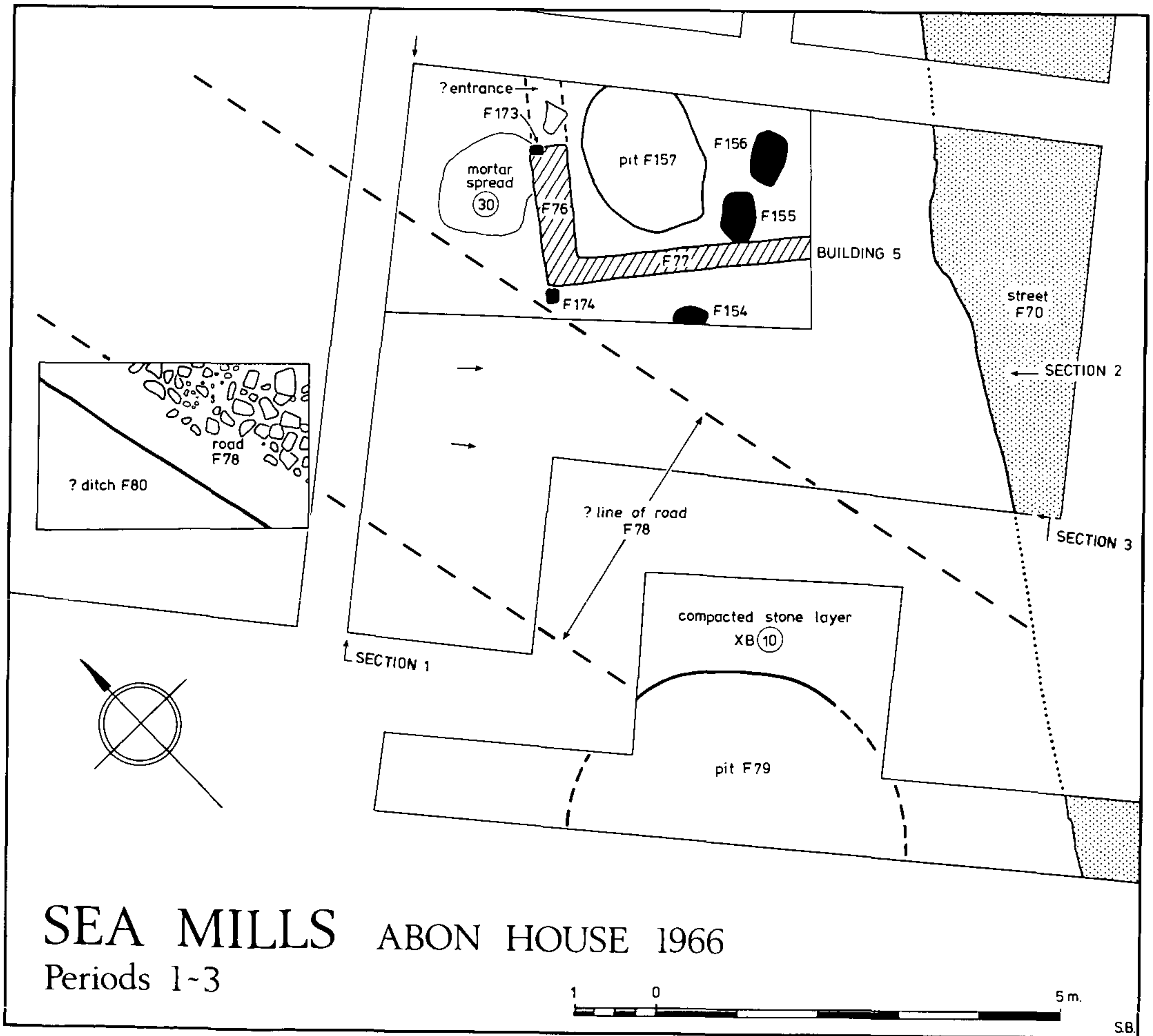


FIG. 7 Abon House 1966: Periods 1-3. Drawn by S. Banks.

Period 2 (FIGS. 7 and 11)

A second road overlay F78 in Trench X representing the continuation south of the street excavated in 1965. It was constructed in the same manner and has been allotted the same feature number (F70). A slight foundation trench appeared to cut F78. The trench was filled with large stone blocks set in red clay supporting an initial metalling (X,21 and 22). Later activity may have removed a retaining kerb to the west.

Part of the foundations of a structure, Building 5, was located in plan in Trench XIV. The evidence suggests that the two adjoining alignments of a trench (XIV,32; F76 and F77), cut into the Period 1 layer XIV,29 and cutting the post-hole F155, may be interpreted as the remains of sill-beams of a timber structure. The building was aligned with the street F70. A break in the western trench may indicate an entrance where a layer of flat stones was located. Outside the building to the west was a layer of fine mortar flooring (XIV,30). Two rectangular postholes F173 and F174 were also noted.

The initial street metalling X,22 contained samian and other pottery datable to the early 2nd century. It may be significant that layers XIVA,14 and 16 and XIV,30 associated with Building 5 were all noted to contain samian of a Neronian/Flavian date, and other fabrics were all current in the 1st century. An alternative interpretation of the sequence is discussed below.

Period 3 (FIG. 7)

The street F70 continued to be remetalled (X,17). Layers (XIVA,15; XIVC,17; and XVII,9) were recorded to the west of the street, of clay and loamy clay representing a 0.4 m accumulation of mixed occupation material (FIG. 10, Sections 1, 2, and 3). The presence of stone in some of these layers suggests the presence in Period 3 of buildings partly in stone replacing the Period 2 timber structures. The stone may represent the demolition remnants of structures or possibly *in situ* foundations. No building plans were recovered, though the sections show possible foundation trenches (FIG. 10, section 2, F176 and F175). The layers in this stratigraphic position above Building 5 were removed unrecorded. A possible stone drain F153 alongside F70 may belong to this phase.

In Trench X the Period 1 road F78 was cut by a large vertical-sided pit F79, which was not fully excavated. There was a distinct difference between the composition of the upper and lower fills of the pit. Layers X,42, 40, 39, 41, 38, and 37 were interleaving layers of grey silt and red clay but above this level silt layers X,28 and 29 were interlaced with dark occupation soil (X,36, 31, and 32). While the former layers were relatively free of inclusions the latter contained pottery and bone. The evidence suggests that the lower layers reflect a fairly rapid redeposition of material in the pit while the upper layers may represent either a more gradual accumulation over the subsidence of the earlier layers, or the fills of a second shallower pit cutting the first.

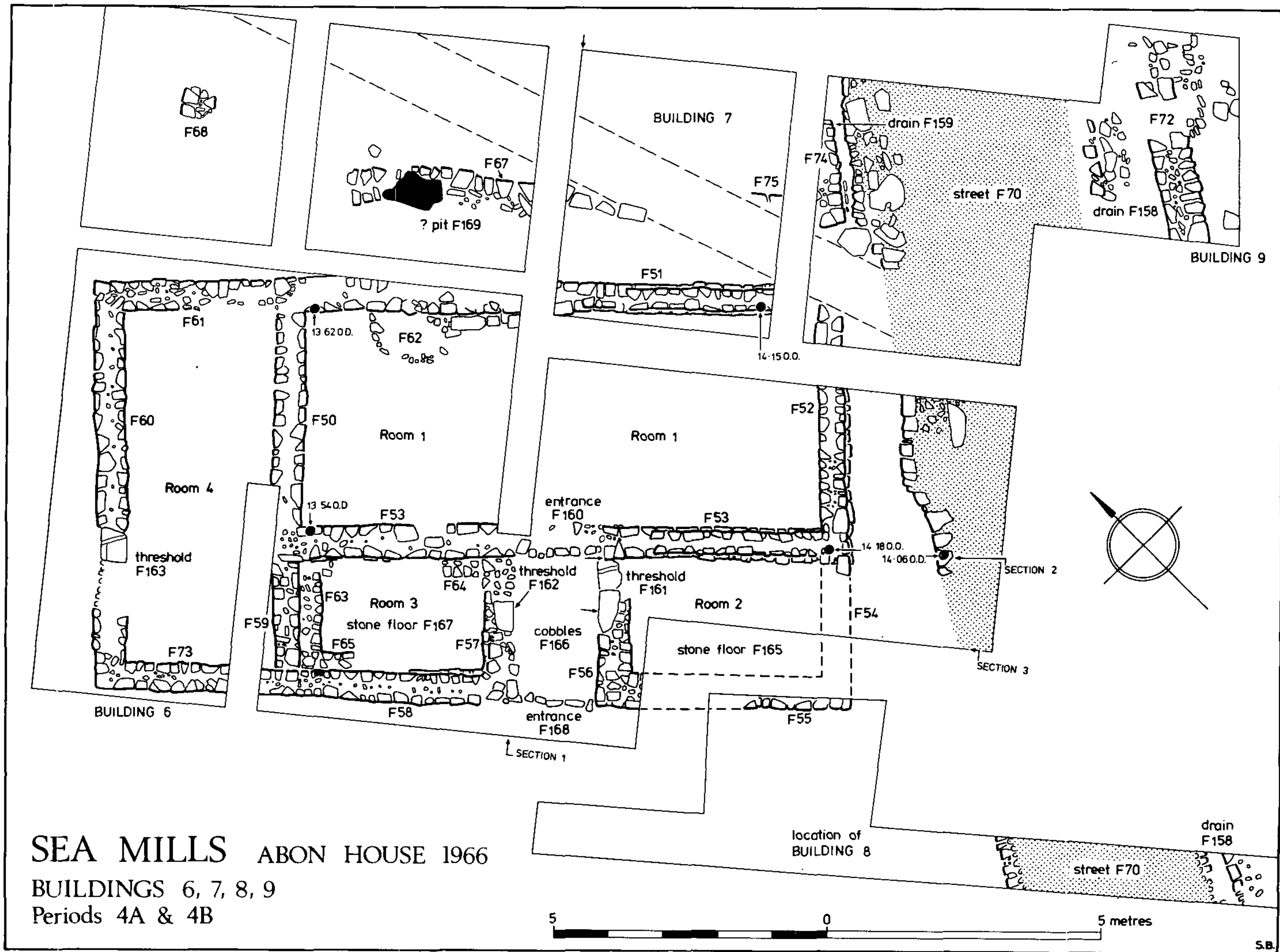
A further pit F157 to the north of F79 may be suggested by a shallow declivity in the Period 2 levels in Trench XIV, presumably representing its base. Intermittent layers of carbon (XIV,13 and 19; FIG. 10, Sections 1, 2, and 3) were recorded, perhaps representing destruction and levelling prior to a new phase of building. The pottery assemblage associated with Period 3 was overwhelmingly 1st or early 2nd century, but layers X,28 and 39 contained 2nd-century and X,7 Antonine samian. A few large sherds of 3rd-century or later Oxfordshire pottery were found in the lower level of pit F79.

Period 4A (FIGS. 8, 9, 10 and 11)

A levelling of Period 3 features, with the exception of the street F70, and an infilling of the ditch F153, may be assumed, prior to the construction of a building in stone. Building 6, represented by walls F50, F51, F52, and F53, was 10.6 m long and between 5.1 and 5.25 m wide, narrowing slightly to the west. The foundations were of herringbone construction, unmortared and set in trenches F74, 75, 76, and 77 with two courses of stone pitched in a contrary direction. The foundations supported a first-course offset, varying in width from 0.55 to 0.65 m. Above this initial course the walls varied in width from 0.4 to 0.5 m. In places an offset was apparent both externally and internally but this seemed confined to the side walls. The east wall was set flush with the primary course internally, with a wider offset externally. The primary course alone survived at the west end. The above-ground courses were set in mortar and contained a rubble core. There was more constructional variation in the basic design than in the comparable Building 3. There was no direct stratigraphic relationship between Building 6 and the street F70, but the base course was level with a point represented by c. 0.5 m of street metallings already *in situ*.

The street appeared to have been provided in Trench X with a stone-lined drain F158 on the east side in this phase. A line of vertically-set stone slabs ran parallel with the street and soft fills between the stones and the street must represent silting (X,2, 4, and 5). On the west side the street was retained by a kerb or wall of stone.

The function of Building 6 in its first phase does not appear to be domestic. There were no indications of entrances with the exception of the mid-point of the south wall where an entrance is possible but not defined by jambs (F160).



SEA MILLS ABON HOUSE 1966
 BUILDINGS 6, 7, 8, 9
 Periods 4A & 4B

FIG. 8 Abon House 1966: Buildings 6-9, Periods 4A and 4B. Drawn by S. Banks.

S.B.



FIG. 9 Abon House 1966: Building 6 viewed from the south-east. Scales in *c.* 0.2 m divisions.

Entrances are not possible elsewhere without stipulating an exterior surface higher than the interior at the time of occupation, a surface which subsequently must have been lowered. An opening to the south is therefore hypothesized. No internal divisions were recorded, though possible. Other internal features are discussed under Period 4B. The building would have supported stone walls to eaves height, and a stone-tiled roof may be assumed. The absence of door apertures suggests a primarily commercial function. The building plan has similarities with Roman barns excavated at the rural site of Catsgore, Somerset (Leech 1982b).

North of Building 6 and on the same alignment as its east wall, was a stretch of wall foundation F74, and indications of the south-east corner of a possibly contemporary building, Building 7. Two metres of its east wall were uncovered and indications either side of the baulk between Trenches XIX and XX of a south wall F75 with an estimated width of 0.5 m. The 1965 trial trench had removed any stratigraphic relationships between Buildings 6 and 7 but their similarly aligned plans suggest contemporaneity. If this is the case a narrow 1 m wide gap existed between the two.

To the west further sections of walling (F67) were recorded. A pit-like feature (F169) was noted in plan but not otherwise recorded and this may represent the remnants of tree rooting and offer a possible explanation for the irregular and disturbed nature of the walling. A section of north-south walling (F68) was recovered in Trench XXIV. All these sections of stone walling, though assigned to one building, may represent rebuildings or parts of different structures. A relationship is likely with Building 4 to the north, though the latter's east wall does not align with F74. It is possible that the Building 4 robber trench represents an extension northward, perhaps in wood, of the stone-built Building 7.

South of Building 6 evidence of a building, 8, was noted in Trench X overlying pit F79. A linear feature to the east may represent the wall of the structure about 3 m west of F70. Stone floors were recorded (X, 18 and 20) and layers of plaster and *opus signinum* were noted in a general site description by the excavator. These layers may represent a reflooring or the presence of separate rooms otherwise unidentified within Trench X. It may be significant that a layer of plaster was recorded in the later Trench XB thinning out to the north and unrelated to a structure. The evidence can be interpreted alternatively as demolition material forming a level across F79.

East of Building 7 a drain or retaining wall F159 may have been constructed in this period defining a narrow gap between the building and the street. To the south no such drain was recorded, though the Period 4B ditch F151 may have replaced one.

On the opposite side of the road from Building 7, a further stretch of wall foundation was excavated representing the north wall of a presumed building – Building 9. The wall, F72, was 0.76 m wide and the most substantial section of wall located in the two seasons' digging. Within its presumed interior a disturbed stone floor was located with suggestions of a pitched stone floor superseded by flagstones.

Between Building 9 and the street a stone-sided drain F158 was recorded. In Trench X to the south a similar feature was noted and both these drain sections are likely to represent the southward continuation of the drain (F19) noted in 1965.

At the eastern end of Trench X a mass of collapsed roofing tile was located and this was suggested by the excavator to represent demolition rubble associated with a building to the south-east of the site, noted beneath the electricity sub-station earlier in the 1960s (FIG. 17,14).

Period 4B (FIGS. 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11)

Southward and westward extensions were made to Building 6 in this phase, more than doubling its floor space. Demolition of Building 8 would have preceded this extension. Three rooms were added to the building, two small ones on the south side (2 and 3), divided by an entrance way, and one larger one (4) across the new full width of the west side. The walls were straight-jointed on to the walls of Building 6 and, where excavated in Trench XIV, were constructed on similar herringbone footings. Room 2 was only partially excavated but parts of three walls (F54, F55, and F56) were uncovered, and floors, initially of mortar and later of stone (F165), were sectioned in the initial site clearance (FIG. 8). The section (FIG. 10, Section 3) demonstrates that the floor was lower than the entrance way and Rooms 1 and 3. A stone threshold (F161) led from Room 2 to the entrance way where a cobbled surface (F166) overlay the exterior wall indicating access across the full east-west width (F168). This area 1.8 by 2.8 m wide is best interpreted as a covered entrance-way to the building. A further entrance (F162) to Room 3 to the west was apparent, defined by walls F57, F58, and F59. Room 3 was roughly paved with reused stone roofing-tiles (F167) and stone benches or floor joists (F63, F64, and F65) had been constructed later around the north, west, and south walls, overlying the floor. Walls F60, F61, and F73 were constructed to the west of the newly extended building, and the new room (Room 4) was provided with access from the west, where a threshold stone (F163) with a splayed groove indicated the position of a northern stone jamb similar to F32 in Building 3. The floor of rough stone sloped down from north to south in the angle of F60 and F73, possibly representing subsidence into the Period 1B ditch F80.

Buildings 7 and 9 must be presumed to have continued in use in this phase, but no elements of a secondary phase were securely identified. There was evidence of a ditch (F151) in this phase between Building 6 and F70.

If the Period 4A Building 6 is interpreted as a barn then it would seem possible that an access or covered yard was associated with it. The two rooms on either side were possibly for associated use, the stone benches in Room 3 may indicate a store or have acted as supports for a timber floor. There was no access from Room 3 and Room 1 to Room 4, its entrance being sited in the west wall. It may be that Room 4 was a secondary addition following Rooms 2 and 3. A domestic function may be assigned to Room 4.

Coin evidence from this phase is not helpful. The floors of Room 2 contained a coin of 199–200, while a soil layer (X,8) sealing Building 8 contained a 3rd-century coin, a coin of 307–317, and a coin of 336. A 4th-century date seems likely for the enlargement of Building 6, since Building 8 overlay the late 3rd-century pit F79 and must have been demolished to allow for the southward expansion of Building 6. A coin of 350–353 was found in layer XB2 east of the road.

Period 5

Layers of rubble across the recorded buildings were noted overall, though separately numbered, and must relate to the destruction of the buildings in this area.

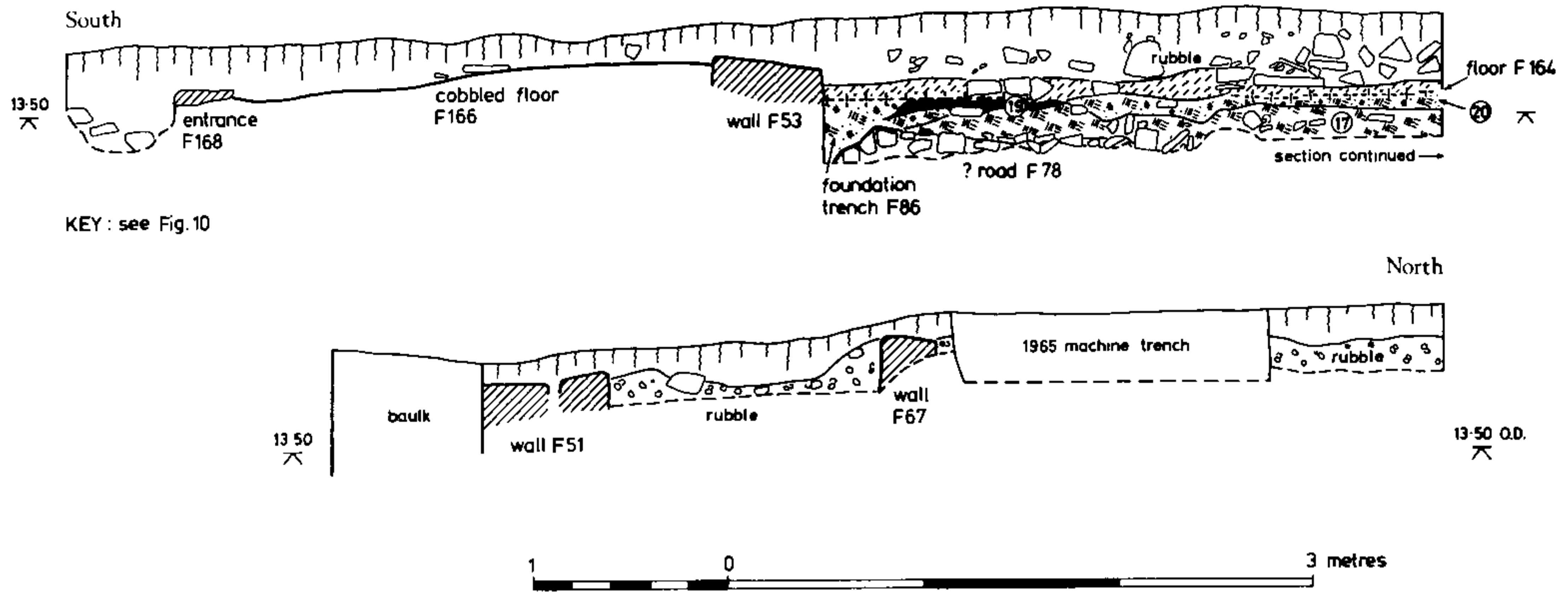
Period 6

No post-medieval features were located in the excavation, with the exception of the outer limits of the Portway embankment. Layers of soil sealed the Period 5 rubble layers.

DISCUSSION (FIG. 11)

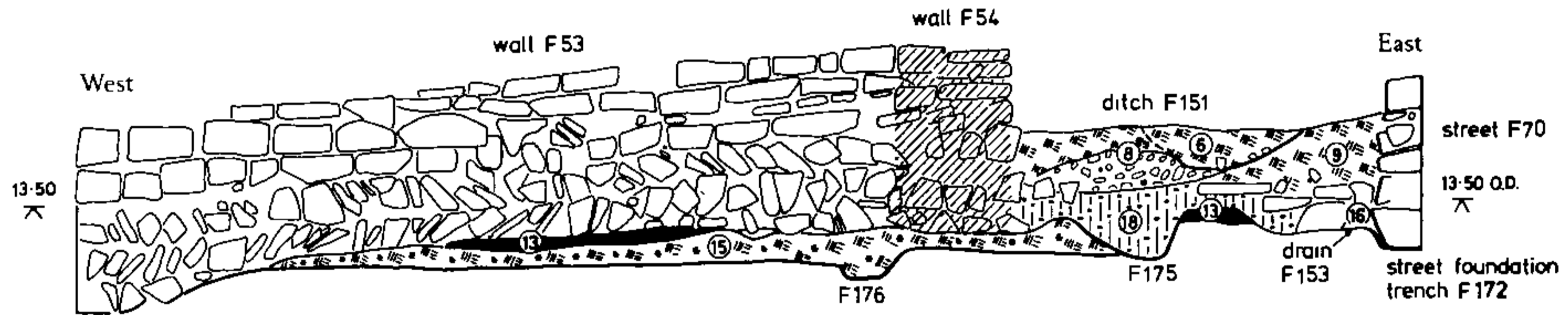
Aside from the road, F78, located in 1966, the site evidence from the Abon House excavations suggests no fundamental change of settlement plan in this area throughout the Romano-British occupation. The earlier road must from its alignment have been constructed outside the earliest

SECTION 1, Buildings 6 & 7

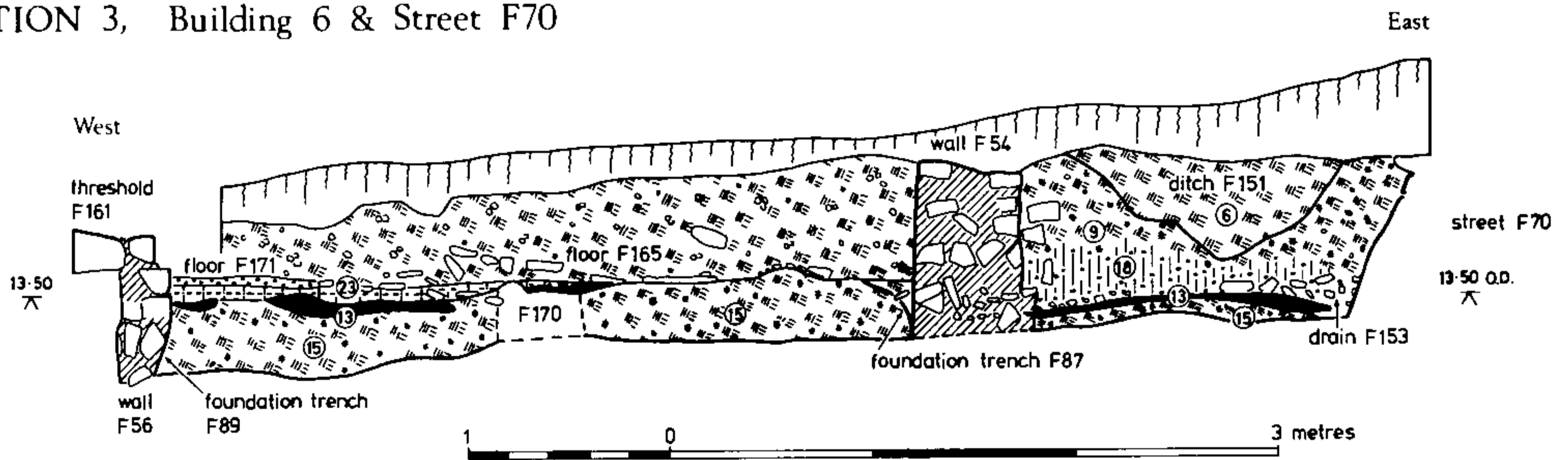


KEY: see Fig. 10

SECTION 2, Building 6 & Street F70



SECTION 3, Building 6 & Street F70



SEA MILLS ABON HOUSE 1966

5B.

FIG. 10 Abon House 1966: sections 1-3. Drawn by S. Banks. For key to conventions used see FIG. 12.

settlement and the implications of this are discussed below. The subsequent street F70 represents a route sustained over a long period, associated throughout with structures on either side, and with an apparently uniform drainage system. The accumulated road depth was *c.* 0.8 m and would have built up *pari passu* with structures and their associated accumulations of occupation material on either side.

The development of the town in the area examined comprised a phase of timber building, only partially recognized, followed by successive phases of building, partly at least in stone, apparently overlying the levelled remains of earlier phases. The sequence culminated in a phase of expansion marked by the final stone-built phases.

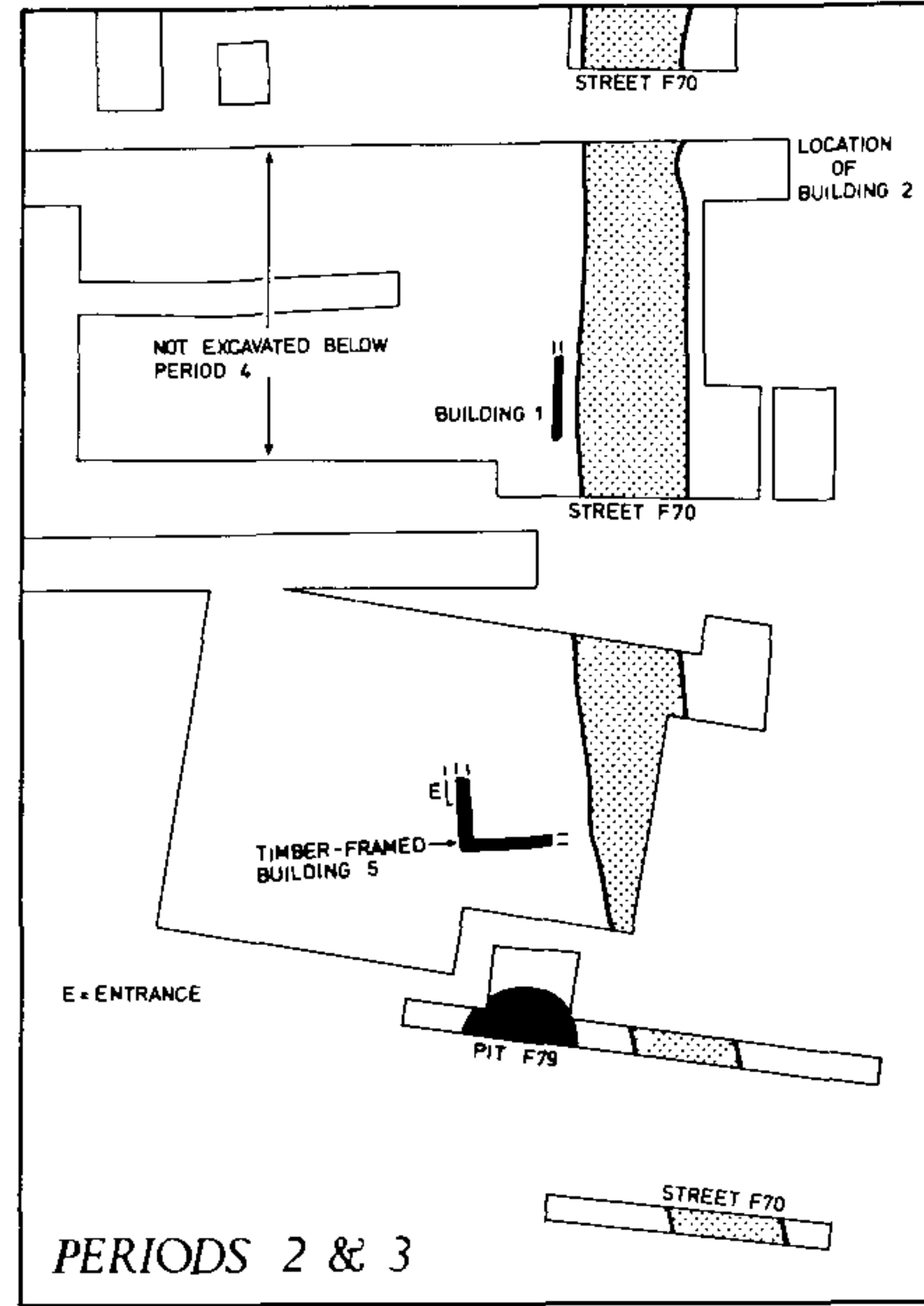
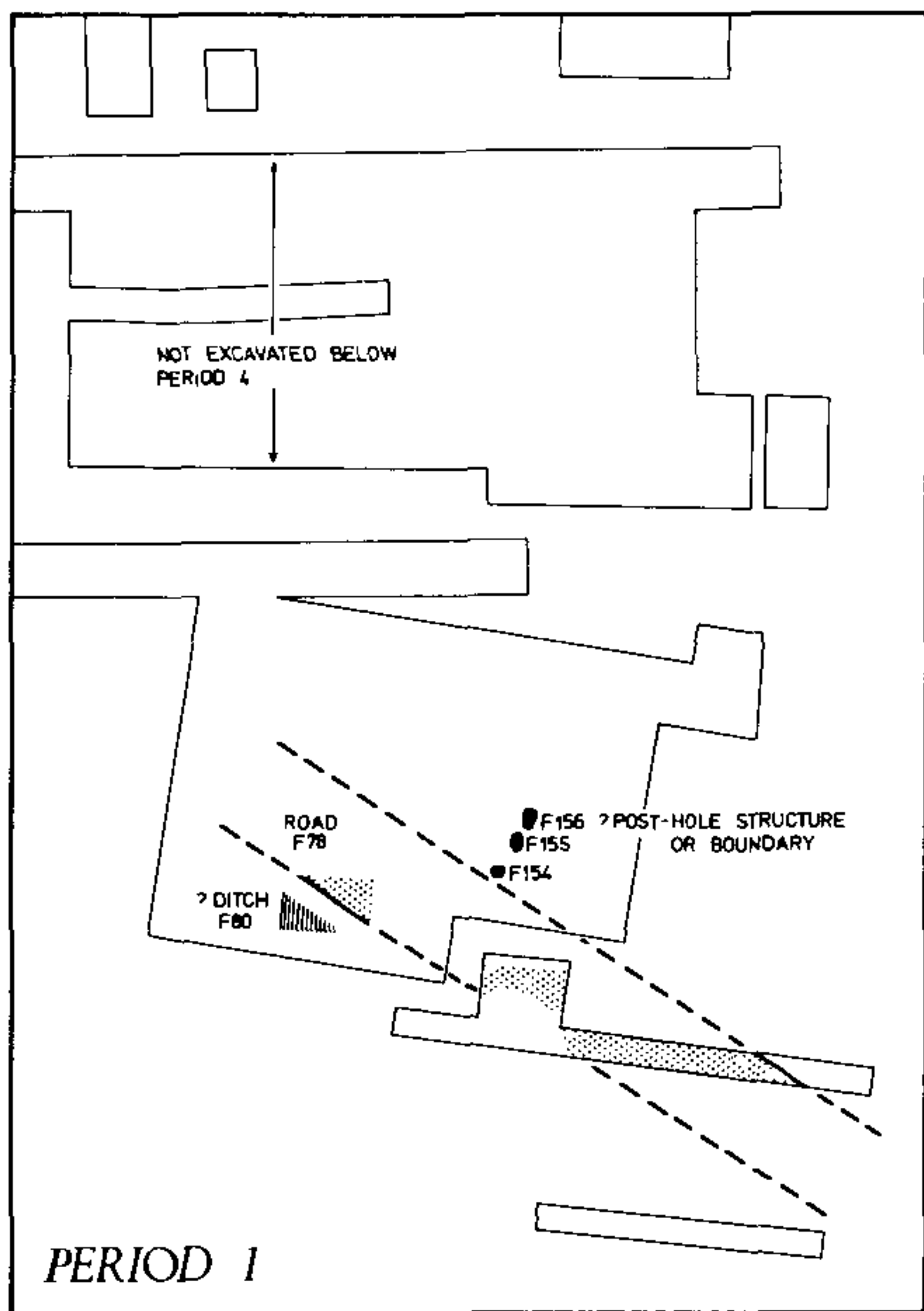
With the exception of a single coin in a 1966 Period 1B layer there is no coin dating evidence for the two sites before Period 4A. The samian does offer some indicators of dating and from this evidence the early road F78 may well belong to the period of 1st-century military occupation. The second road F70, however, seems to be later than the early 2nd century. The only dating evidence for the suggested timber buildings is the Neronian/Flavian samian associated with Building 5, but, if an alignment with F70 is taken to indicate contemporaneity, this cannot indicate its date of occupation. As noted previously, the layers beneath the floor of Building 6 in this trench were removed unrecorded. While the evidence outlined above is a summary of that recorded at the base of the archaeological succession, it may be mistaken. The possible identification of F78 in Section 1 (FIG. 10) would certainly fit better if Building 5 were earlier. It must remain a possibility that Building 5 is associated with the postulated military occupation to the south-west, rather than with F70.

While both sites present a picture of some uniformity in the general outline, there is no direct stratigraphic link between the two except via the street F70. What evidence there is suggests that the phases of rebuilding and development of the two areas cannot be exactly matched, representing a continuous occupation process in this area of the town as a whole.

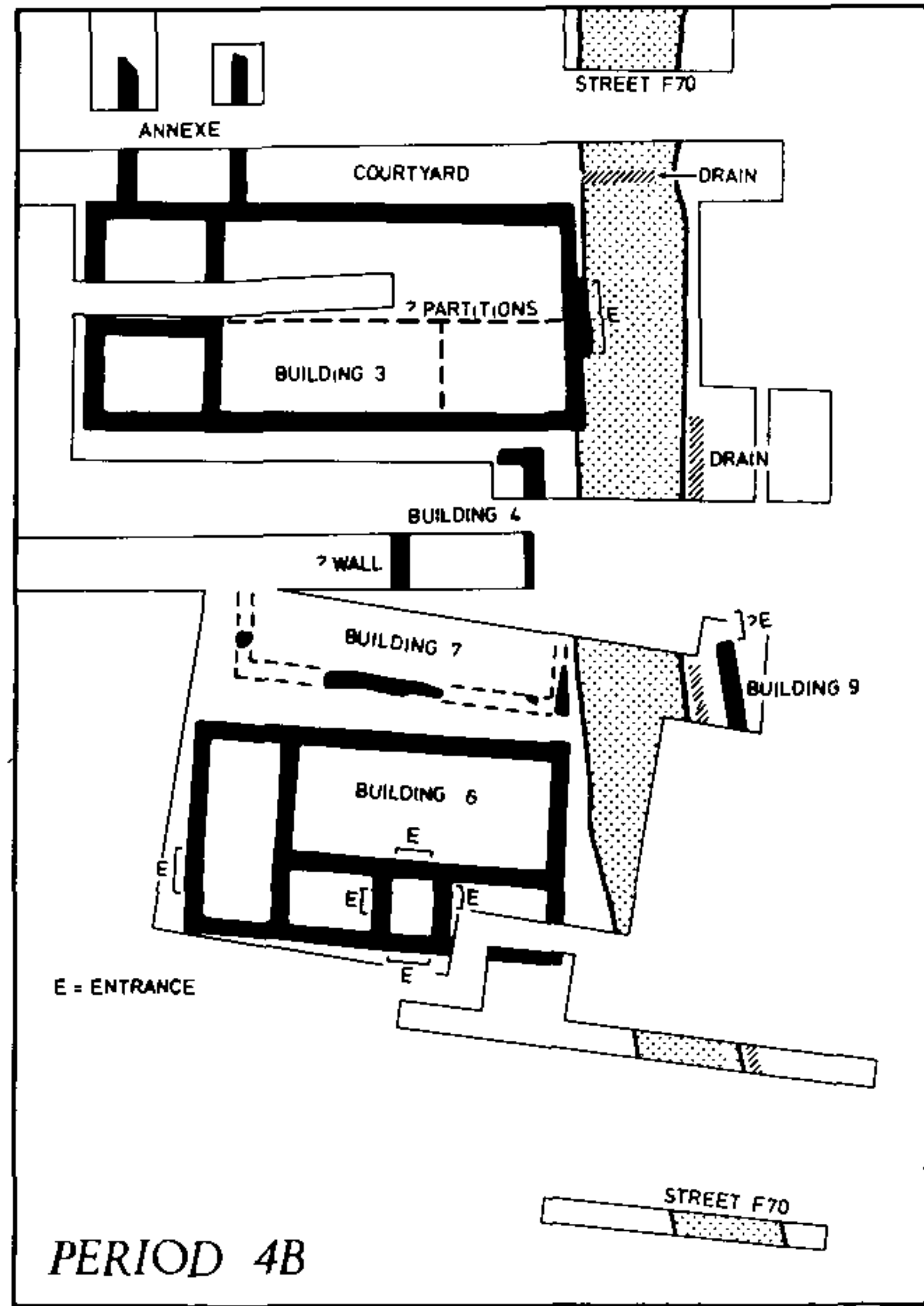
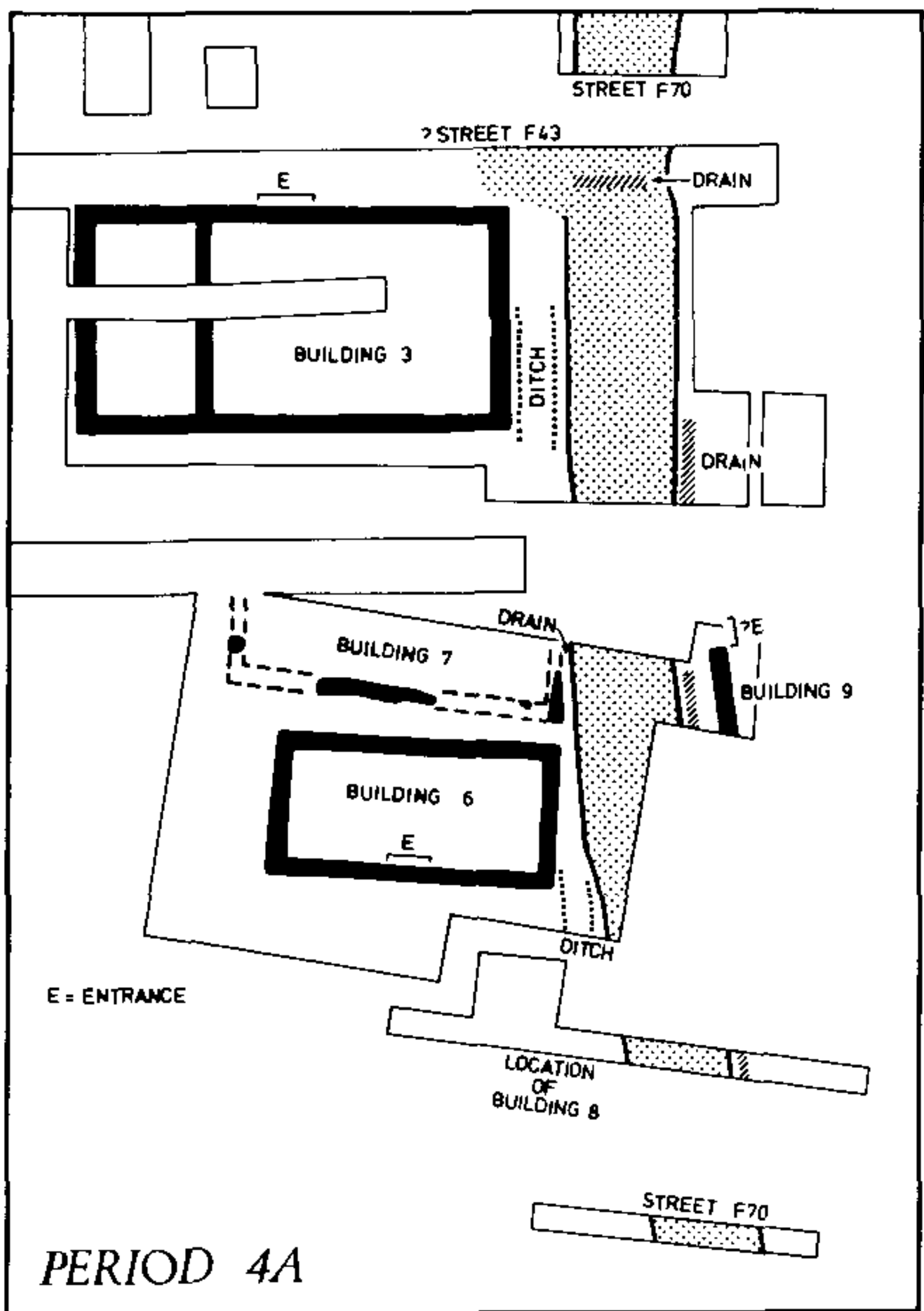
The crucial relationship between buildings and street cannot be fully realized, partly because ditches at different phases have interfered with the stratigraphic sequence and partly because the record was inadequate. Thus while for the 1966 area phase levels can be demonstrated, the 1965 levels depend on an analysis of the numbers of different street remetalings recorded and the establishment of a hypothetical level.

Though the timber phase and the evidence of an initial stone phase appear to have occurred at the same stratigraphic position on both sites, there are indications of differential development between the excavated structures from the later Roman period. Building 6 was constructed when at least 0.5 m of street metalling was *in situ*. If its construction level has been correctly identified, Building 3, however, could belong earlier in the sequence. The associated construction level of Building 3 appears to occur at, or just before, the mid-point of road accumulation, though this is judged only by the numbers of layers not by their depth. This should be at a road height of *c.* 0.4 m. Further evidence that Building 3 is earlier than 6 is provided by its position separated from the street by a probable ditch. Buildings 6 and 7 appear to be forward of this position, nearer the road and with no evidence of a ditch in period 4A. The coin evidence suggests a construction date for Building 3 prior to 260, while the pottery evidence suggests that Building 6 was constructed not earlier than the end of the 3rd century.

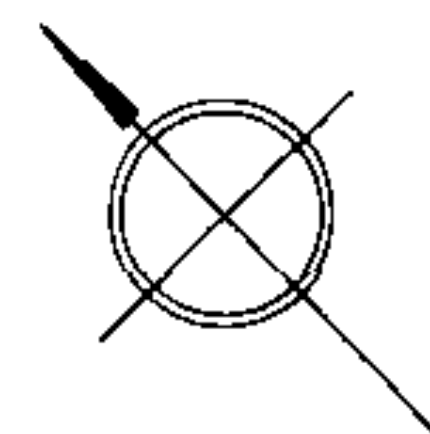
Whatever the exact sequence the implication of successive structures and their shape is that by the mid-3rd century at the latest, land was divided into narrow strips with pressure on street access lengths. The fact that Building 6 was widened in Period 4B to 8 m, the same width as Building 3, might imply that this together with a narrow unbuilt area between buildings was the property width. A width of 9.5 m per property would allow a similar sized property between Buildings 3 and 6, though individual properties may have differed within a larger framework



5 0 25 metres



SEA MILLS ABON HOUSE 1965-1966
Periods 1-4B



SB

FIG. 11 Abon House 1965-66: phase plans for periods 1-4B. Drawn by S. Banks.

(Walthew 1978). If a street existed north of Building 3 then its disuse might lead to the construction of the northern extension of the building.

The initial phases of Buildings 3 and 6 face in opposite directions and there is an implication that access roads met F70 at right angles, making an *insula* approximately 30 m wide. The depth of stratigraphy on the site lessens considerably to the west and it is probable that until Buildings 3 and 6 were constructed, occupation took the form of structures lengthways on to the road frontage, which did not extend far to the rear. There were no indications from the excavation of a road or associated structures parallel to F70 forming the west side of the suggested *insula*.

The suggestion that Building 3 was divided longitudinally and that dwellings may have been added to a barn (Building 6), carries with it interesting implications for the social structure of the later Roman town. The division of Building 3 may well have been central to the decision to extend to the street frontage and produce a wide access there. It could be that the extension and divisions were carried out in order to accommodate two family units succeeding one, a succession implying the principle of partible inheritance. To the south, Building 6, if correctly interpreted as a barn, must have been owned initially with other property by a landlord living elsewhere. The addition of domestic structures to the building implies new ownership by a family unit living in annexes to the main building, its presumed source of income. It may be that the evidence suggests not only 4th-century expansion but also the accession to property ownership of a class or sub-class, whose cultural roots were essentially non-Roman.

Building 6 is interpreted as a barn and resembles similar structures found in rural or village situations elsewhere (cf. Leech 1982b). The kilns, bins, and benches of Building 3 are similarly paralleled on rural sites. It appears that only in its secondary phase as a ?shop can Building 3 be described as an urban building, though all the structures located are related primarily to the street.

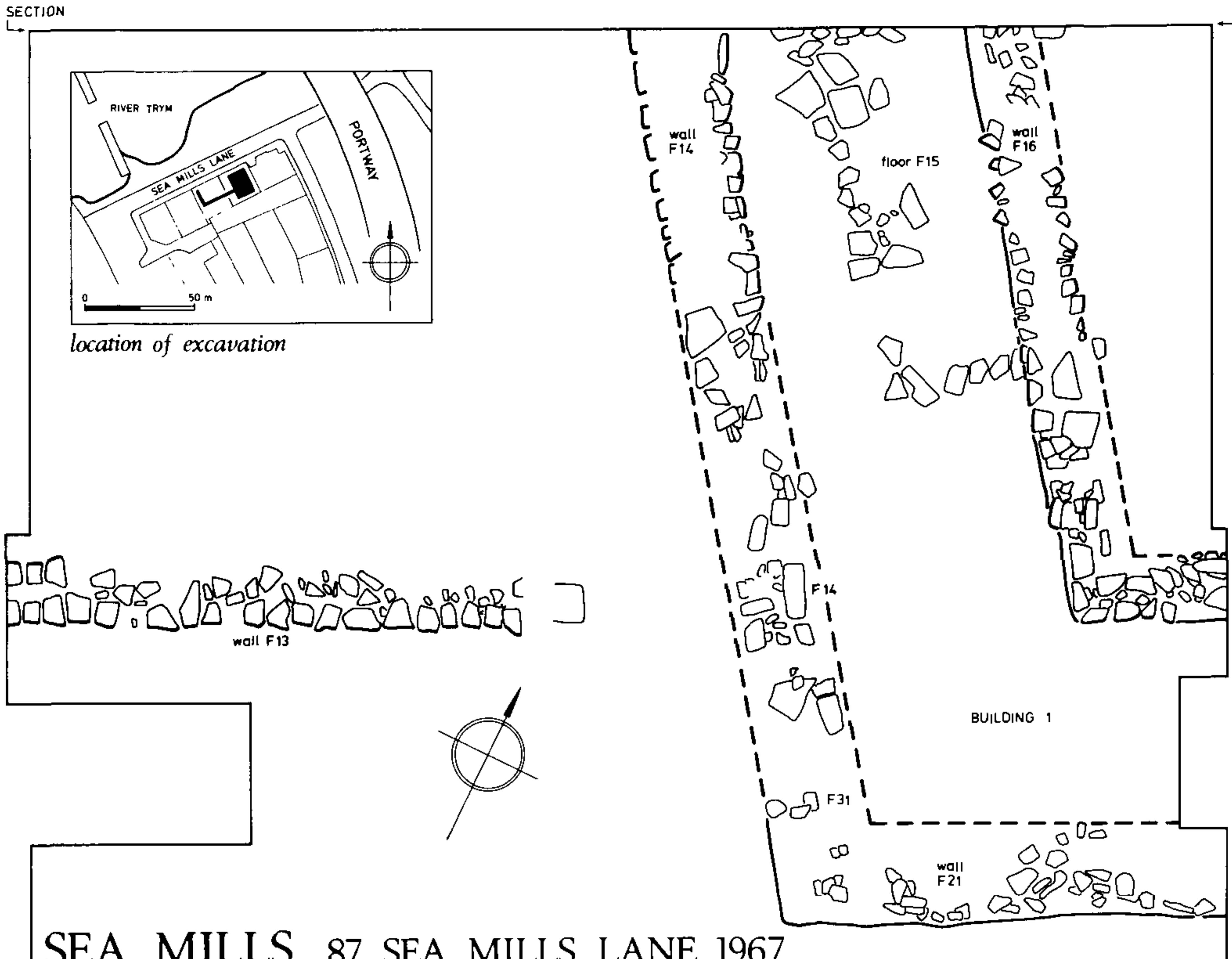
The end of the Roman town as evidenced in this area was a long process of progressive dereliction. The collapse of walls and roofs appears to have occurred naturally and the destruction levels must have been spread by later agricultural processes.

B. 87, SEA MILLS LANE: 1967/8

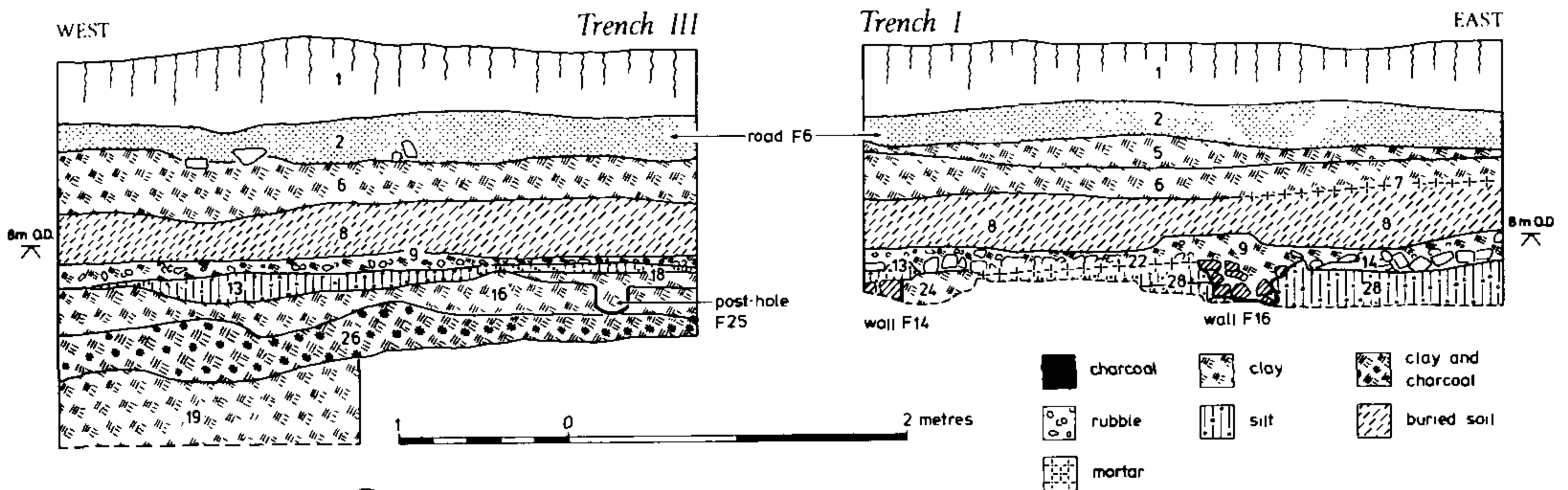
Rescue excavations were undertaken in advance of development of a site on Sea Mills Lane, over a period of 16 months between April 1967 and August 1968. The excavations were undertaken in the main by volunteer workers at weekends, on behalf of Bristol City Museum and the Ministry of Public Building and Works, and under the overall direction of Max Hebditch. Some excavation was undertaken by workmen during the week. On-site recording and the main onus of excavation were the responsibility of Jim Constant, Elizabeth Adams and Reg Jackson.

The site lies toward an area where the Roman port may be expected at the junction of the Trym and Avon (FIG. 2). An area of 350 sq. m was available for examination and within this four boxes, each measuring 5 m by 4 m, were partially excavated representing just under a quarter of the threatened area. The boxes were opened up to form an area excavation and a machine trench was excavated across the unexamined western part of the site toward the end of the excavation period (see FIG. 12, inset).

The excavation was necessarily piecemeal and dislocated and this is reflected in the site record which comprised 1:20 scale sections and plans on A4 sheets, a site notebook, and colour and monochrome photographs. Planning was confined to the four boxes with the exception of sketches made when the baulks were removed. Features recorded then were not fully related to the previously excavated levels. Some of the section drawings were only partially completed.



SEA MILLS 87 SEA MILLS LANE 1967
Period 5 building plan and section



SEA MILLS 51 ROMAN WAY 1968

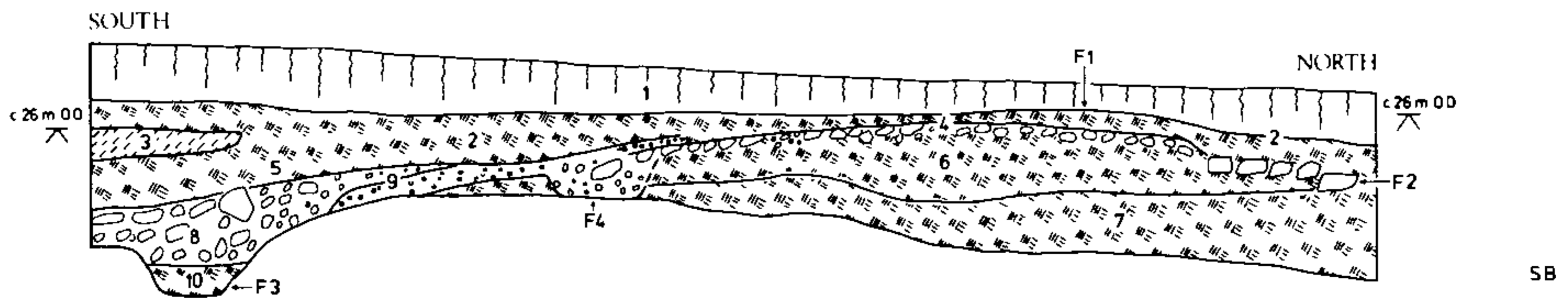


FIG. 12 87 Sea Mills Lane 1967: plan and sections; 51 Roman Way 1968: section. Drawn by S. Banks.

Much of the material in Trenches II to IV was removed unrecorded by workmen who inadvertently cut into the Romano-British levels. Only Trench I was excavated stratigraphically and its lower levels were excavated as Trench VIII.

Work undertaken on this project in 1985/6 involved the preparation of a pro forma recording system to analyse the stratigraphic relations noted from different graphic and written sources, and a description of the excavated features in each trench. A synthesis is presented here.

THE EXCAVATION (FIGS. 12 and 13)

The features recorded are divided into eight periods: seven Romano-British and one post-Roman, the latter sub-divided into four phases.

Period 1

The lowest excavated layer comprised a grey clay (III, 19), the surface of which was located in all the cuttings. Up to 0.5 m of this layer was removed in Trench III by machine. Pottery associated with it suggests a late 1st- or early 2nd-century date for its deposition.

Period 2

A ditch (F33) was recorded cut into III, 19. The graphic and textual record of this feature is confused. In the written record it was described as a ditch with sloping sides and a shallow concave base, with a bank on its south side. A V-sectioned recut was described in Trench VIII. The sections showed two possible profiles of the ditch in Trench III where it was *c.* 1.6 m wide and 0.4 m deep, both with a shallow concave profile. In the machine trench the ditch was partially sectioned some 15 m to the west and a width of 0.7 m was recorded, its lower profile not being exposed. A possible bank was recorded to the south of F33 in Trench IV, where the Period 2 layer was shown containing stone. The ditch was filled with red silty clay containing charcoal flecks.

The position of F33 is indicated on FIG. 13. It may represent a boundary or drainage ditch. Its location running parallel with the Trym and the suggestion that it is narrower to the west, supports the former interpretation. A coin of 69–79 was found in the fill of F33, together with pottery current in the late 1st or early 2nd centuries, and a small disc brooch.

Period 3

Layers of red silty clay (FIG. 12: III, 26) containing charcoal were recorded overlying III, 19 and the ditch F33. These deposits were of an average depth of 0.2 m with a maximum of 0.4 m. Some stone was recorded in the sections though it is possible that later features may not have been recognized. Possible post-holes and a suggested beam-slot were noted in section at this horizon in Trench III, and the sections show possible features cut from the upper levels of the silts. These silts also sealed the earlier boundary or drainage arrangements, demonstrating the loss in Period 3 of this division. Second-century pottery was found in the Period 3 layers.

Period 4

The Period 3 silts were sealed beneath layers of brown claysoil (FIG. 12: I, 28 and III, 16), up to 0.2 m deep, containing occupation material, which included pottery and animal bone. Post-holes were also recorded in these layers, most in section (F25; FIG. 12: III) and few in plan, but no coherent pattern can be formulated.

These layers were cut by a pit F22, which was not fully excavated, its greater part lying to the east of the excavated area (FIG. 13). A second pit, F23, occupies the same general stratigraphic position and though its vertical location was not precisely established the two pits are allocated to the same phase. F23 was sub-rectangular in plan, with near vertical sides but collapsed upper edges, and was excavated to a depth of 1.2 m. Its fills comprised silty brown claysoils and there is a suggestion that the sides were, at least partially, lined with stone. F22 was steep-sided and was excavated to a depth of 0.8 m, its fills comprising red-coloured silty claysoils. The pits and Period 4 occupation layers possibly indicate a phase of structure not otherwise recognizable within the limits of the excavation.

The overall layers are not dated later than the 2nd century from their pottery inclusions, and a coin of 70–72 was found in layer I, 20. However, pottery not earlier than the mid-3rd century was found in F23.

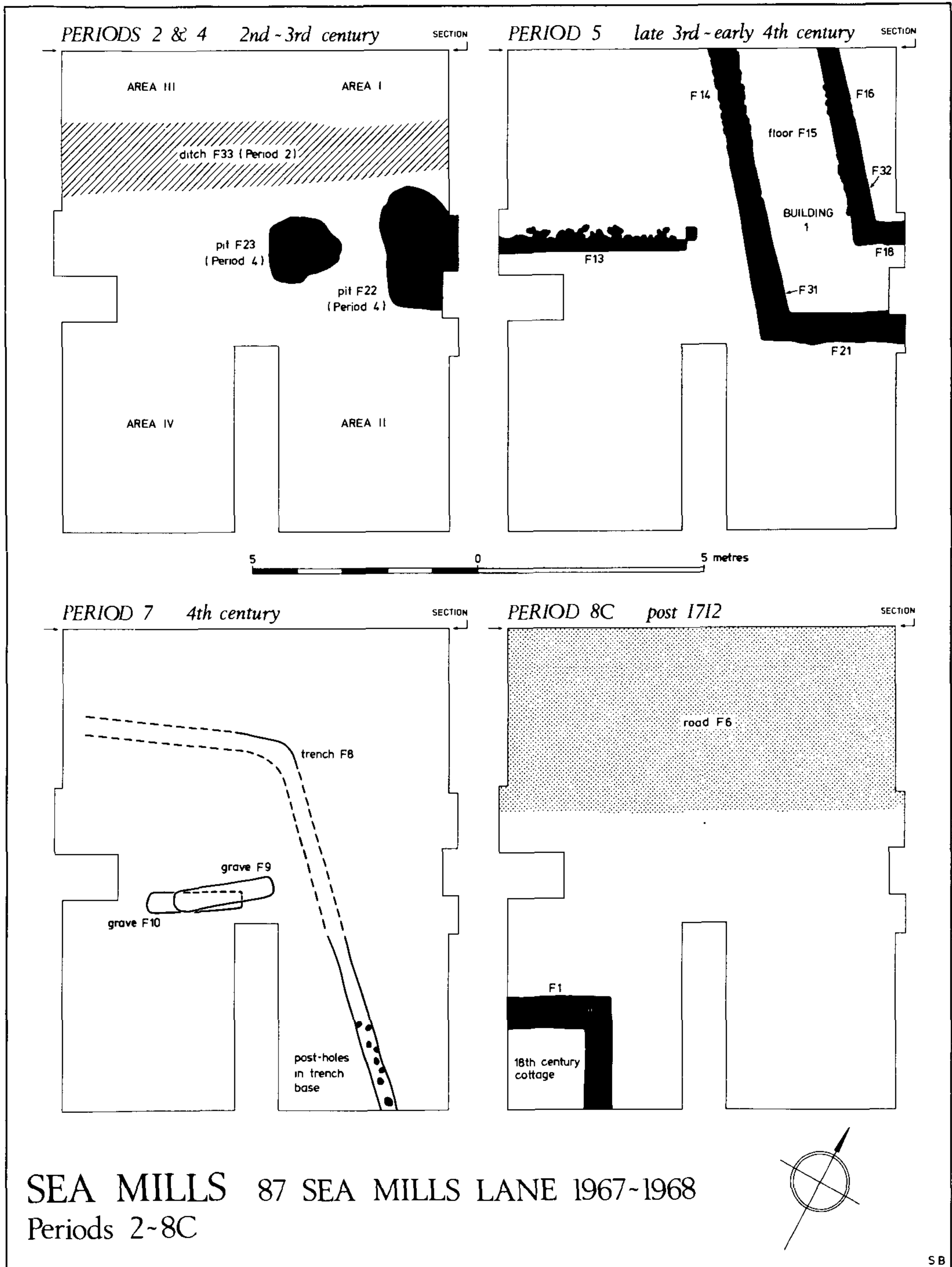


FIG. 13 87 Sea Mills Lane 1967-68: phase plans for Periods 2-8C. Drawn by S. Banks.

Period 5 (FIGS. 12 and 13)

A group of partially robbed stone foundations was recorded in the north-east part of the area examined, with trenches cut into, and remnants of floors overlying, the Period 4 layers. Two parallel walls 1.7 m apart were recorded running north-south, F14 to the west was laid in a foundation trench F11, 0.8 m wide and 0.2 m deep, while F16 occupied a trench, F12, 0.6 m wide and of the same depth. These wall lines were extensively robbed to the south by trenches F31 and F32 respectively. The eastern wall (F16), however, was seen to turn to the east at a point directly overlying the Period 4 pit F22. The foundations here were built down into the pit fills to a depth of at least 0.8 m. The western wall F14 was recorded as not being traceable in the south part of Trench I though, where it crossed the Period 4 pit F23, it too was constructed on deeper foundations recorded within the pit confines. A corner was recorded in plan in Trench II aligned with a southward projection of F14, and the record suggests a robbed wall foundation running from the corner (F21). The corridor created by these two sets of wall alignments, north-south, and east-west, was 1.7 m wide.

The walls were composed of mortared and coursed facing stones containing a mortared rubble core. Mortar levels (I,22) between F14 and F16 suggest a floor base and there are indications that the mortar supported a stone floor from the remnants of stone slabs laid horizontally which were recorded in Trench I (F15). No floors were recorded to the east of F16.

The site records suggest that the south-west corner of a large building (Building 1) with a corridor on its west and south side, lay within the excavation area. The building must be presumed to have been of stone in view of its solid foundations, particularly across the two earlier pits. No evidence survived to suggest the material used as roofing, and there are no records of wall plaster or window glass in the destruction levels.

A wall was recorded in Trench III to the west of Building 1 (FIGS. 12 and 13). The wall (F13) ran parallel with the latter's south wall and was set 2.2 m to the north of its line. A dressed stone face was recorded to the south with rubble to the north. In the site sections there is evidence of a ditch (F34) apparently parallel to and directly north of F13.

The stratigraphic relationships suggest that F13 is later than Building 1. It is recorded at a higher level than the floor layers associated with that building, though this may alternatively indicate that the building's floor levels were set at a lower level than its exterior level. The alignment of F13 is, however, clearly related to Building 1. There is a suggestion that the wall terminated 1.4 m from the building and a pit (F24) may indicate a post-pit marking an entrance. A ditch (F34) may be later than F13, and may be a robbed-out foundation for the wall. Alternatively it represents a boundary ditch with a south-facing stone kerb. F13 may mark the southern limit of a courtyard, in which case Building 1 may be interpreted as the eastern wing of a building lying to the north and west of the excavated area. In the machine trench to the west indications of possible stone structures and rubble layers were recorded 11 m west of Building 1, apparently running north-south, but the trench width of 0.5 m clearly rendered recording of the section difficult.

A coin of AD65 was found in an exterior layer associated with the building.

Period 6

Extensive layers of rubble (I,9 and 14; III,9) were confined to Trenches I and III, overlying and related to Building 1 (FIG. 12). The wall foundations had been subsequently robbed in places, the southern part of F14 and the whole of F21 being represented either by disturbed stone or by a trench line with soil fills (F31). A late 3rd-century coin was found in layer IV,9.

Period 7 (FIGS. 13, 14, and 15)

A trench, F8, was recorded running north-south across Trench II. The trench was seen to turn west under the baulk between Trenches I and III, but there is no clear indication of it in the section of the west side of Trench III, though an area of uncertainty indicated by dotted lines on the section may indicate its western extension. Post-holes were recorded at the base of F8 in Trench II where a steep-sided concave-based profile was recorded. Other post-holes were recorded at the north-east angle of F8; but these appear to cut its fills. F8 was seen to cut through the Period 6 layers of rubble and the robber trenches of Building 1.

Two intercutting graves were recorded in the baulk between Trenches III and IV. In the earlier grave, F10, the skeleton, an adult, was recorded as extended face-up with head toward the north-east (FIG. 14). The later grave, F9, contained an extended burial of an adult male, face-up with hands crossed over the pelvis and with the head also toward the north-east (FIG. 15). There was evidence of coffin nails and hobnails were recorded in the areas of the feet. Two brooch fragments were recorded in association with F9. A disturbed foetal or neo-natal skeleton was found to the east of the graves. The excavation record indicates that the graves were cut through the demolition layers of Period 6, and that backfilling with similar material made the exact level from which the graves were cut difficult to define. The graves and the trench F8 therefore occupy the same stratigraphic position and F8 may form some kind of boundary to which the burials relate.



FIG. 14 87 Sea Mills Lane 1967: burial F10, viewed from the north-west. Scale in 1 ft. divisions.



FIG. 15 87 Sea Mills Lane 1967: burial F9, viewed from the south-east. Scale in 1 ft. divisions.

Period 8A

A buried soil (I,8; III,8) up to 0.4 m deep was recorded in all the cuttings overlying the Period 7 destruction layers and Period 8 burials (FIG. 12). Ceramic inclusions and fragments of clay pipe indicate a post-medieval date for the latest accumulation of this horizon.

Period 8B

An extensive layer of clay (I,6; III,6) was deposited on the Period 8A soil. There were no artefacts found in association with the clay which was recorded as a uniform deposit presumably levelled across the area excavated and for some way beyond its limits. There is little doubt that this deposit can be identified as that originating from the construction of the Sea Mills wet dock in 1712 (Buchanan and Cossons 1969). It must in part represent material excavated to form the dock basin but may also be seen as the establishment of a level above that of the highest tides on which dock facilities could be constructed.

Period 8C (FIGS. 12 and 13)

A road, F6, of stone with a marked camber was recorded running east-west across the north part of the site (FIG. 13). A ditch is indicated in section along its southern limit, though further stone deposits are recorded on the same horizon to the south, between the road and the second main component of this phase, the house, evidenced by foundations of stone recorded in Trenches II and IV. These features may well be dated to 1712 or soon after, but there was no internal dating evidence for them. The road continues west where it was recorded in 1965 by Eric Mines and Russell Davies and an account and photographs are available in the Bristol Museum Sea Mills archive.

The final deposition preceding the excavation of the site took the form of a layer of topsoil spread across the Period 8C features, indicating their abandonment and removal. The Period 8C road is presumed to be the direct precursor of the modern Sea Mills Lane running to the north of the site. The repetition of this road at a higher level may indicate that flooding was taking place and was a factor in the reconstruction of Sea Mills Lane, an event which may be dated to the late 19th century. The building represented by F1 is likely to be one of the cottages recorded here until earlier this century.

DISCUSSION

The excavation at 87 Sea Mills Lane provides a limited view of the stratigraphy in this part of the Roman town. The area excavated does not allow for conclusive identification of site use in the Romano-British period and the record is difficult to interpret. The site is likely to be near the waterfronts and port facilities of the town. Where the waterfronts lie may indirectly be indicated by analysis of the contemporary ground levels in the different periods. It should be noted that the levels discussed here have been inferred from a pavement level taken in 1986, no record of levels surviving from the excavation. The lowest point excavated lay at 6.8 m above Ordnance Datum, ditch F33 was cut at 7.2 m, and Building 1 lay at 7.8 m OD. This evidence may be used to suggest the maximum possible levels of waterfronts established in the late 1st and the late 3rd and 4th centuries, since they are unlikely to be higher than contemporary levels away from the waterfront. The tops of the 3rd-century waterfronts at Caerleon lie at 6.5 m OD (Boon 1978), and this would suggest that the 1967 excavation levels lie about 1 m higher than their contemporary waterfronts. However, modern experience of the Avon shows that high tides combined with flooding push its levels higher than the 6.9 m OD spring tide maximum at Avonmouth. The highest level recorded upstream at Bristol in modern times is 8.8 m OD and the 1967/8 excavation record notes that in 1968 the Avon broke its banks at Sea Mills, flooding the excavation trench at 9 m OD. It is likely that the Roman river regime was similar, in which case the Sea Mills waterfront levels may have been higher than those at Caerleon. In any event the Roman port levels cannot be far below and certainly not more than a metre below those recorded in the excavation.

There is further indirect evidence for the location of the port. Examination of the phased plan (FIG. 13) shows that in this area two slightly differing alignments of Romano-British features

appear to relate to each other over a long period. The line of ditch F33 differs by *c.* 20 degrees from the predominant axis of the Roman town and it may be supposed that this line, parallel as it is with the present bank of the Trym, reflects the layout of the presumed Roman port. The Period 2 ditch alignment, though not represented in Periods 3 and 4, was repeated in Period 5 by the wall F13 and by the line of the south side of Building 1, and less securely in Period 7 by the ditch F8. A second dominant land division is represented in Period 5 by the west wall of Building 1 and in Period 7 by the ditch F8. This latter alignment differs by only 10 degrees from the axis of the town to the south and may represent its north-west to south-east orientation. It may be suggested that port and town maintained distinct alignments reflecting their origins from different entities. The town may have been based upon a military supply base and the port aligned to the Trym, or the town was based on an initial fort and the port on a secondary military supply base. Although there are fewer coins from this site than from the Abon House excavations, more than half are of the 1st century. This is likely to indicate that the site lies within the area of early occupation in contrast with the sites to the east.

In the small excavated section Building 1 combines both the alignments discussed above. It may be that the excavated area represents a point where the differing town and port alignments met in the late 3rd and 4th centuries. If this is so then the position of Building 1 might indicate an encroachment of the town into an area formerly dominated by the port, although the layout of the latter still remained to the west. Although little of the building was excavated the unusual apparent corridor on its exterior requires comment. It could represent the ambulatory of a temple and in this context the burials may be significant, although the site records indicate that they are later than the building. Whatever its functional interpretation, enough was excavated to demonstrate that the building's plan is unusual and that it represents a structure intended for a specialized purpose.

The burials recorded in Period 7 are probably better understood when compared with those recorded by Boon (1945) to the south. There was no indication that the 1967 burials were not Roman and the presence of hobnails indicated a possible 4th-century context. It is also likely that the burials recorded in 1945 belong within the late Roman period and their presence could indicate a change of status for this area, perhaps linked with a decline in centralized administrative and legislative control later in the 4th century, for which there are parallels in other Roman towns.

C. SMALL-SCALE EXCAVATIONS IN SEA MILLS: 1962–68

Concurrent with the Bristol Museum excavations described above, three small-scale excavations at 5 and 28 Hadrian Close and 51 Roman Way were undertaken by two schoolboy members of BARG, Eric Mines and Russell Davies. The opportunity has been taken to publish briefly their work. In addition an intensive programme of recording evidence of structures and collecting chance finds was carried out by the boys, and property owners in Hadrian Close, Newcombe Drive, Roman Way, and Sabrina Way were all contacted (Mines and Davies 1965). The structural evidence from the survey is presented on FIGS. 16 and 17 and in the appendix.

5 Hadrian Close, 1965 (FIG. 16, 5; FIG. 17, 32)

Burnt remains of a rectangular timber-framed building, 10.7 by 3 m were found associated with an unworn coin of AD69–79. A two-roomed stone building 12.2 by 6.1 m overlay the earlier structure. The building was separated by a ditch from a street consisting of 0.25 m of metalling overlying brown clay. To the north of the building was a 3.7 by 3.3 m area of cobbling and an eaves-drip gully was located along the west wall. Fourth-century coins were found in association

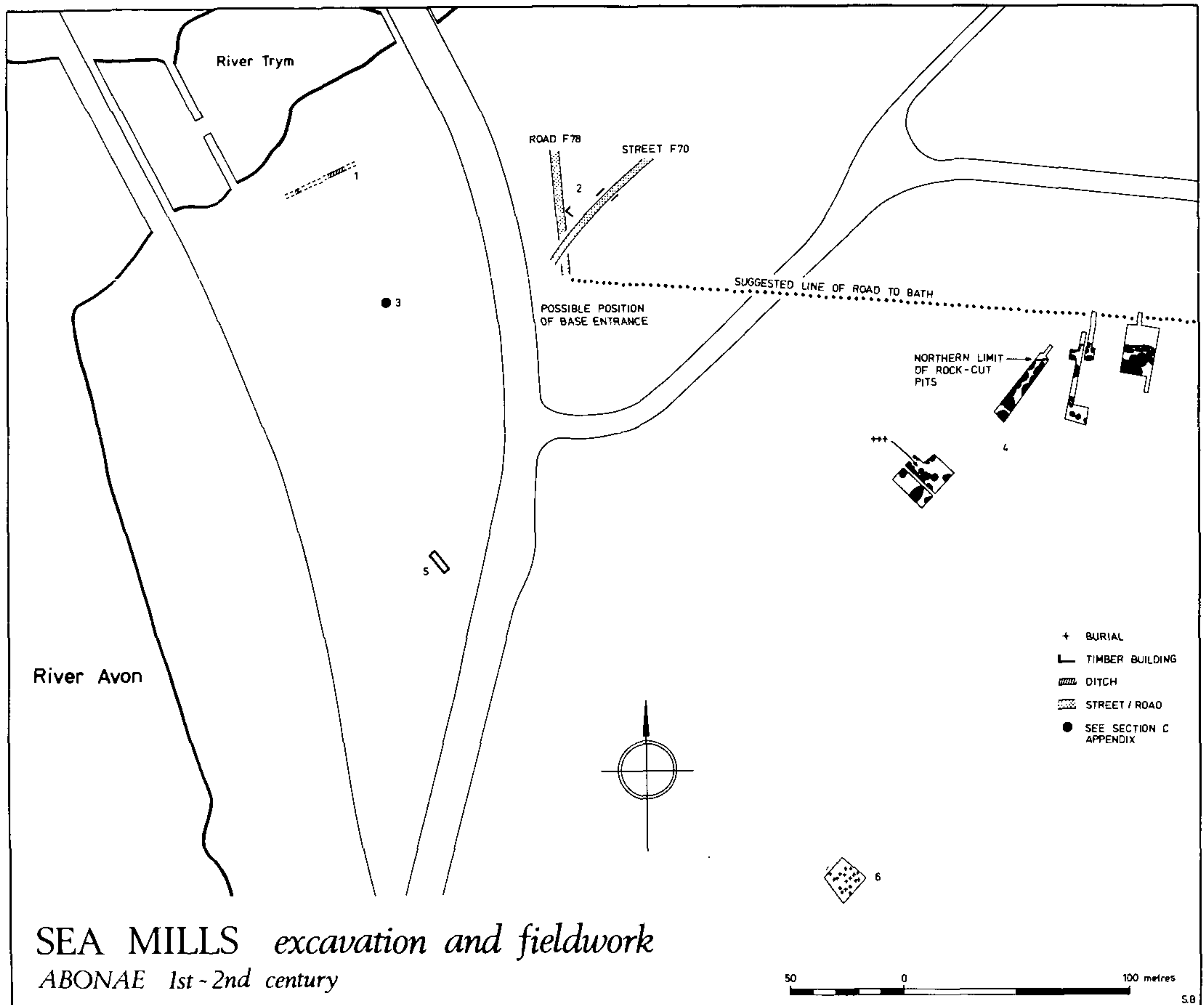


FIG. 16 Sea Mills: location of 1st/2nd-century evidence from excavation and fieldwork. Drawn by S. Banks.

with the stone building. The timber-framed building is likely to represent a military structure associated with the 1st-century occupation.

28 Hadrian Close, 1965 (FIG. 17, 18)

Three rooms of a stone building measuring at least 6 by 6 m were excavated. Though the sketch plan is not to scale and unoriented, the walls appear to be aligned parallel with the modern buildings on this site.

51 Roman Way, 1968 (FIG. 12 and FIG. 17, 20)

A layer of red clay (7) was located on bedrock. A possible ditch, F3, filled with clay (10) and rubble (8) was cut 0.5 m into the rock. Over layer 7 was a layer of clay (6) with a single thickness of stone, F1, on its surface related to a layer of more substantial stone, F2, to the north. A ditch-like disturbance, F4, was located. A second layer of finer stone (9) overlay F1 and F4. These features were sealed by clay layers 5 and 2 in which a lens of loam (3) was noted lying beneath a topsoil containing builders' rubble. There was no dating evidence.

The excavated features were initially interpreted as evidence for the Roman road to Bath but excavation in 1972 failed to locate any eastward continuation (Bennett 1985, 7). An association with the post-medieval trackway located in 1972

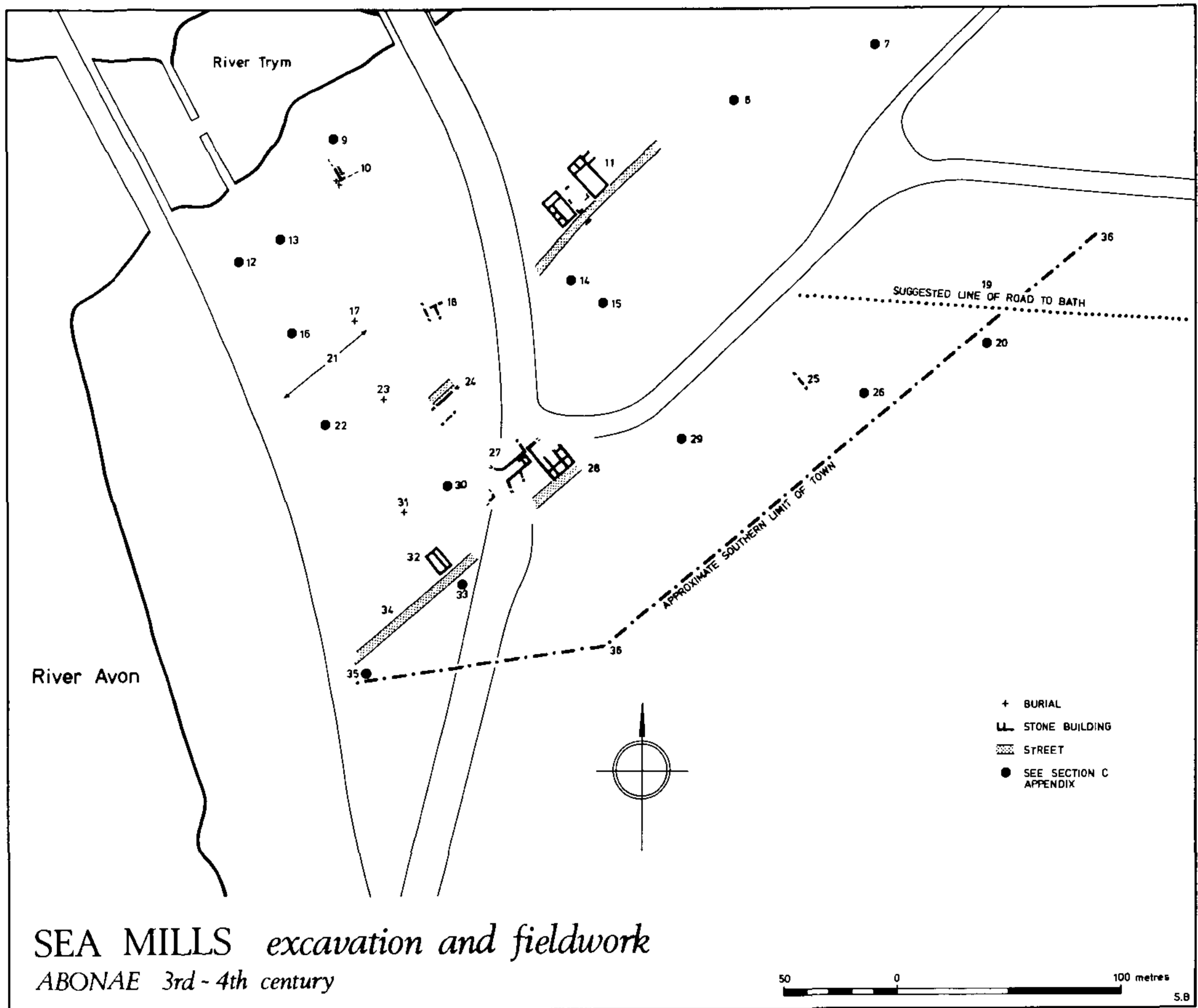


FIG. 17 Sea Mills: location of 3rd/4th-century evidence from excavation and fieldwork. Drawn by S. Banks.

(*ibid.* 11 and 21) is possible but a sharp turn to the west would be required to match the two sightings, and would be contrary to the map evidence (Martin 1888, 58). The ?ditch F3 may represent a westward extension of the quarry pits excavated in 1972, but alternatively the excavation trench lay partially across the Romano-British town defences. Such a hypothesis would see F3 as the north-western edge of an outer ditch, and layers 6, F1 and F2 as levelled and slighted elements of an accompanying rampart and ?later wall.

APPENDIX

The following list of the excavated and observed elements of the Romano-British town has been compiled from the published sources and from the Bristol Museum Sea Mills archive. The numbered references are located on FIGS. 16 and 17.

- 1 87 Sea Mills Lane, excavation 1967, see section B.
- 2 Abon House, excavations 1965/6, see Section A.
- 3 27 Hadrian Close, 1945, *c.* AD120 burnt strata (Boon 1945, 246).
- 4 Nazareth House, excavation 1972, 1st/2nd-century quarry pits (Bennett 1985).
- 5 5 Hadrian Close, excavation 1965, see section C.
- 6 Nazareth House, excavation 1972, 1st/early 2nd-century cremation cemetery (Bennett 1985).

- 7 32 Branscombe Road, building remains noted, Bristol Museum plan, 1967.
- 8 75 Sea Mills Lane, building remains reported (Mines and Davies 1965).
- 9 Sea Mills Lane, Romano-British pits (Pritchard 1900).
- 10 87 Sea Mills Lane, excavation 1967, see section B.
- 11 Abon House, excavation 1965/6, see section A.
- 12 Rear of Sea Mills station and railway cutting, building remains and finds noted (Ellis 1893, 159 and 1897).
- 13 Sea Mills Farm, excavations 1912–1913: 'numerous foundations of a rough description' in fields behind railway station (Hurry 1912 and 1913).
- 14 Roman Way electricity sub-station, building remains noted in 1940 by George Boon.
- 15 74 Roman Way, rough stone paving reported (Mines and Davies 1965).
- 16 21 Hadrian Close, hypocaust and tessellated pavement reported (Mines and Davies 1965).
- 17 Hadrian Close, Romano-British burial cutting Roman street (Boon 1945, Fig. 1, and 1950b).
- 18 28 Hadrian Close, excavation 1965, see section C.
- 19 43, 45, 47, and 49 Roman Way, 'Roman road' reported (Mines and Davies 1965).
- 20 51 Roman Way, excavation 1968, see section C.
- 21 20, 21, 22 and 23 Hadrian Close, wall reported, ?post-Roman (Mines and Davies 1965).
- 22 18 Hadrian Close, stone floor reported (Mines and Davies 1965).
- 23 Hadrian Close, Romano-British burial (Boon 1945, Fig. 1).
- 24 32 Hadrian Close, excavations 1937 (Dobson 1937).
- 25 65 Roman Way, excavation 1962, wall foundations found, Bristol Museum Sea Mills archive.
- 26 3 Newcombe Drive, stone threshold 1.52 by 0.61 m found (Mines and Davies 1965).
- 27 Portway, excavation 1923 (Martin and Tratman 1923).
- 28 Portway, excavation 1934 (Selley 1935).
- 29 75 Roman Way, walls and floors aligned with above (Boon 1950b).
- 30 31 Hadrian Close, excavation 1954 (Nightingale 1954).
- 31 Hadrian Close, Romano-British burial (Boon 1945, Fig. 1).
- 32 5 Hadrian Close, excavation 1965, see section C.
- 33 Portway, excavation 1938 (Dobson and Walker 1939).
- 34 7, 8 and 9 Hadrian Close, road reported (Mines and Davies 1965).
- 35 9 Hadrian Close, building remains noted, Bristol Museum plan, 1967.
- 36 Southern limit of Romano-British occupation (Boon 1945, Fig. 1).

THE FINDS

To assist understanding of the finds section, the following points should be noted.

- 1 The site record for the finds was a site code, year, trench, and context number, e.g. SM65 I 8. These are given here for the illustrated finds together with the period to which the context has been allocated. (U/S = unstratified.)
- 2 The allocation of site small find numbers was incomplete. They are not used here.
- 3 The number in brackets at the end of each object description is one of a consecutive sequence allocated in 1985/6 to all the small finds with the exception of some iron objects which are grouped under a single number. These numbers correspond to a card index in the archive.
- 4 The coins have been stored in numbered bags. The number is noted at the end of each item in the coin list and is prefixed CS.
- 5 Some of the finds, in particular some of the featured pottery sherds, were registered into the Museum finds system. This BRSMG number has been given here where it has been assigned.
- 6 The post-medieval pottery and the clay pipes are the subject of specialist reports by Les Good which are available in the archive.
- 7 The animal bones were briefly examined by Bruce Levitan. The assemblage comprised c. 3000 bones of which over half were from post-Roman or unstratified contexts. In view of

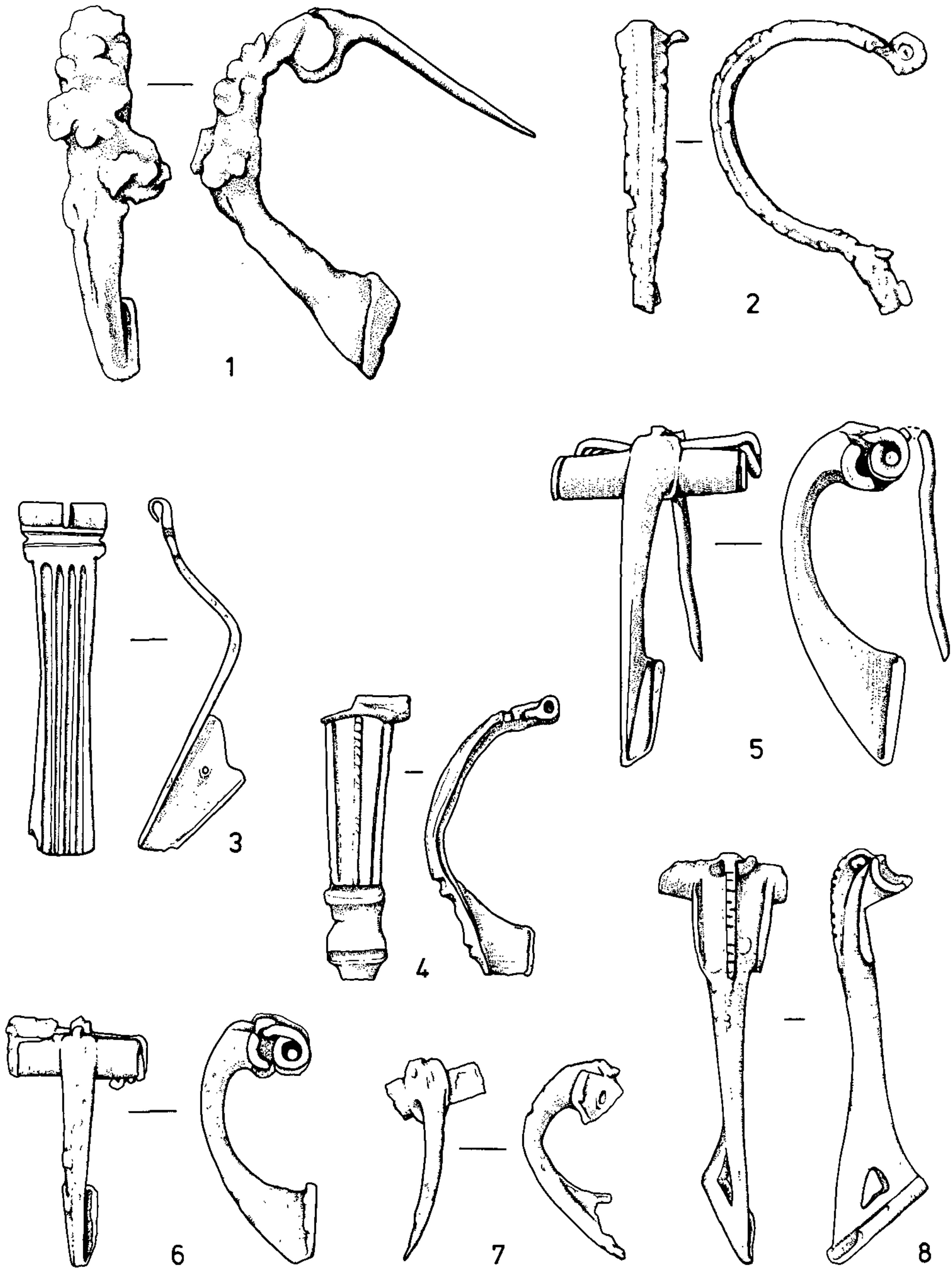


FIG. 18 Brooches, 1-8. Scale 1:1. Drawn by L. Induni.

this and the absence of significant, well-stratified groups, it was felt that a detailed analysis of the bone was not justified.

8 The finds are presented in the following sequence:

	page
The brooches	46
Copper alloy objects	48
Iron objects	56
Lead alloy objects	56
The coins	60
Bone objects	63
The beads	63
The Sea Mills altar	65
Other stone objects	65
Shale objects	68
The samian pottery	68
Other Roman pottery	77
Clay objects	92
The Roman glass	92
The human bones	99

THE BROOCHES (FIGS. 18 and 19) by **Sarnia Butcher**

There are too few brooches for any general conclusions to be drawn, although even within this small group there is a high proportion of brooches with south-western affinities, suggesting that most were manufactured within the region. A fuller catalogue with description of the objects and references for parallels is available in the site archive.

Early hinged brooches (FIG. 18)

- 1 An iron brooch; the head is obscured by corrosion but it probably belongs to the type of which several examples from Alveston, Avon, were published by Mackreth (1976) and which occurs at sites in Dorset, Somerset, and Wiltshire. A probable parallel from Maiden Castle should date it to the first half of the 1st century AD (Wheeler 1943, fig. 85, no. 35). SM65 VI 33, Period 4A (382).
- 2 Although badly damaged this is a typical Aucissa brooch. It is a continental type which occurs on sites in Britain occupied in the first half of the 1st century AD and also on some post-conquest sites. SM67 IV 11, Period 4 (90).
- 3 A strip-bow brooch with pin hinged in a narrow tube formed by the top of the bow rolled back. Although differing in details it is probably to be grouped with brooches of the first half of the 1st century AD such as Hod Hill nos. C30 and C31 (Brailsford 1962, fig. 7). SM65 II U/S (108).
- 4 A brooch of Hod Hill type with a close parallel from Camerton (Wedlake 1958, fig. 55, no. 32A). The type is continental in origin but many occur in southern Britain in pre-Flavian contexts. SM65 V 4A, Period 5 (135).

Colchester derivatives (FIG. 18)

- 5 and 6 Two brooches of similar form: they are very plain and have a spring secured on a lug behind the head as in the 'two-piece Colchester brooch', Camulodunum type IV (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 310–311). This form, with arched tapering bow from which the catchplate expands, seems to be native to Wiltshire or neighbouring counties. There is no firm dating evidence but typologically they should belong to the second half of the 1st century AD. 5: SM66 XVII 11, Period 1B (59); 6: SM67 I 14, Period 5 (104).
- 7 Small brooch of same general type, but too damaged for close identification. SM65 V 6, Period 4B (276).
- 8 The survival of a fragment of wire (the chord) passed through a hole in the crest shows that this was a sprung brooch, and it is most likely to have belonged to the 'Polden Hill' type since there is no lug behind the head to hold the spring, while the ends of the crossbar are missing. The shape is paralleled by several brooches, one with a central lug for the spring, others with a spring attached in the Polden Hill manner. Typologically this brooch should belong to the second half of the 1st century AD. SM66 XII 3 U/S (4).

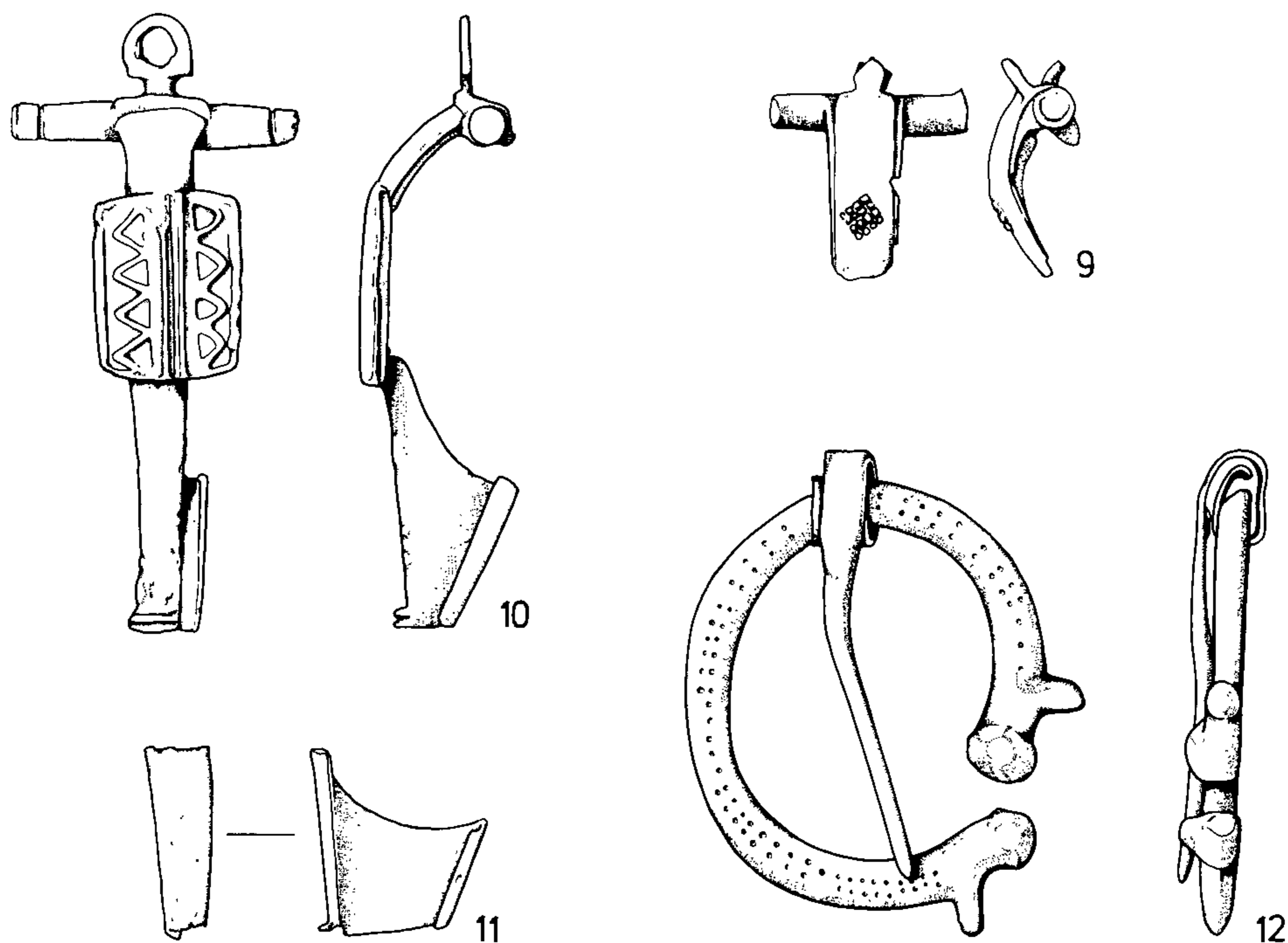


FIG. 19 Brooches, 9-12. Scale 1:1. Drawn by L. Induni.

T-shaped brooches (FIG. 19)

This classification was employed by M.R. Hull in his unpublished corpus 'Ancient Brooches in Britain' and although it covers a great diversity of types they do have some common features. Their distribution shows a strong concentration in the south-western counties of England.

- 9 The upper part only of a hinged brooch with unpierced tab on the head and a raised cross-hatched lozenge on the bow. Close parallels come from religious contexts at Nettleton (Wedlake 1982, fig. 53, no. 58) and Nornour (Hull in Dudley 1968, fig. 11, no. 6). The other parallels are all from the West Country. There is no dating evidence; typologically this might be *c.* AD 100. SM 65 VI 33, Period 4A (380).
- 10 A more developed brooch in which the central part of the bow is replaced by a rectangular plate with enamelled decoration. The closest parallel is from Nornour (Hull in Dudley 1968, fig. 18, no. 120). Probably 2nd century. SM 65 VI 31, Period 4A (55).
- 11 Although only the lower part survives, the catchplate is sufficiently distinctive to place the brooch within a group of large bow brooches, most of which come from the West Country. Two examples are published from Chew Valley Lake (Rahtz and Greenfield 1977, fig. 114, nos. 13 and 15). These are from contexts in the late 3rd to mid-4th century and the presence of one in the Chepstow hoard suggests a date in the later 2nd or early 3rd century AD. SM 65 VI U/S (267).

Penannular brooch (FIG. 19)

- 12 The terminals of this rather crudely made brooch have the 'duck's head' outline discussed by Savory (Harden 1956, 48). In closeness to his suggested iron age origin it comes between the Llanferres brooch, found in a burial of the 1st or 2nd century AD, and an undated brooch from Lydney (Wheeler and Wheeler 1932, fig. 14, no. 40). SM65 VI 10, Period 4B (105).

Disc brooch (not illustrated)

- 13 A very small disc brooch with rounded outer ring enclosing a dished central field which may have held a decorative plate; there is a central rivet and some traces possibly of mastic. The pin is hinged between two lugs. Copper alloy; the rim appears to be tinned.

A similar though slightly larger brooch was found in the pre-AD 75 first period at Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 106, no. 42). There is another from the Jewry Wall site at Leicester (Kenyon 1948, fig. 82, no.1, and p.251). SM67 III 20, Period 2 (541).

Analytical Results (Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report No. 4900) by **Justine Bayley**

All the brooches (except 13) were analysed qualitatively by energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence (XRF); the results are given in Table 1.

Table 1 Brooches: XRF results

<i>No</i>	<i>Brooch type</i>	<i>Alloy</i>	<i>Illus. no.</i>
4	Polden Hill?	Leaded gunmetal	8
55	T-shaped	Leaded bronze (enamelled)	10
59	Colchester derivative	Leaded bronze	5
90	Aucissa	Brass	2
104	Colchester derivative	Bronze	6
105	Penannular	Leaded gunmetal	12
108	Early hinged	Brass	3
135	Hod Hill	Brass (tinned)	4
267	T-shaped	Bronze	11
276	Colchester derivative	Gunmetal?	7
380	T-shaped	Leaded gunmetal	9
382	Early hinged	Iron	1

Note: Brasses are alloys of copper and zinc, bronzes contain mainly copper and tin, while gunmetals contain significant amounts of both tin and zinc in addition to copper. Leaded alloys contain more than a few per cent of lead.

The Aucissa, Hod Hill and early hinged brooches were all brass which is the normal alloy for these types.

Colchester derivative and Polden Hill brooches are mainly leaded bronzes so the compositions of the Sea Mills examples are slightly unusual but far from unique.

T-shaped brooches are usually leaded bronze but occasionally leaded gunmetal so the examples here do not have unexpected compositions. No. 55 is enamelled, that in the outer triangles originally being turquoise while that in the inner ones was probably red.

The penannular brooch is unusual in that it is made from a heavily leaded alloy. This was possible because it had a relatively massive form and was cast. Most penannulars are made of low-lead or lead-free alloys because they were wrought rather than cast.

COPPER ALLOY OBJECTS (FIGS. 20–24) by **Peter Ellis**

- Hairpin, grooved spiral below conical, faceted head, length 55 mm. SM66 XIX 5, Period 5 (52).
- Hairpin, tip missing, globular head with incised vertical lines above collar of two conical reels, length 96 mm (cf. Cunliffe 1979, fig. 50, no. 5). SM65 VIII U/S (115).
- Pin or nail, spherical head and rectangular body. SM67 III 15, Period 6 (152).
- Pin or nail, spherical head and rectangular body. SM67 III 15, Period 6 (144).
- Toilet instrument, ?nail cleaner, flattened spatulate head and slightly faceted body, length 68 mm. SM66 X U/S (54).
- Toilet instrument, end missing, incised decoration on both sides of body, length 42 mm. SM65 VI 15, Period 4A (106).
- Toilet instrument, tip of head and body missing, conical head and two beads separated by a groove. SM67 I 10, Period 3 (88).
- Spatula, both ends missing. SM65 I 8, Period 4A (357).
- Tweezers, blades taper from head, length 35 mm. SM66 XXII 2, Period 5 (22).

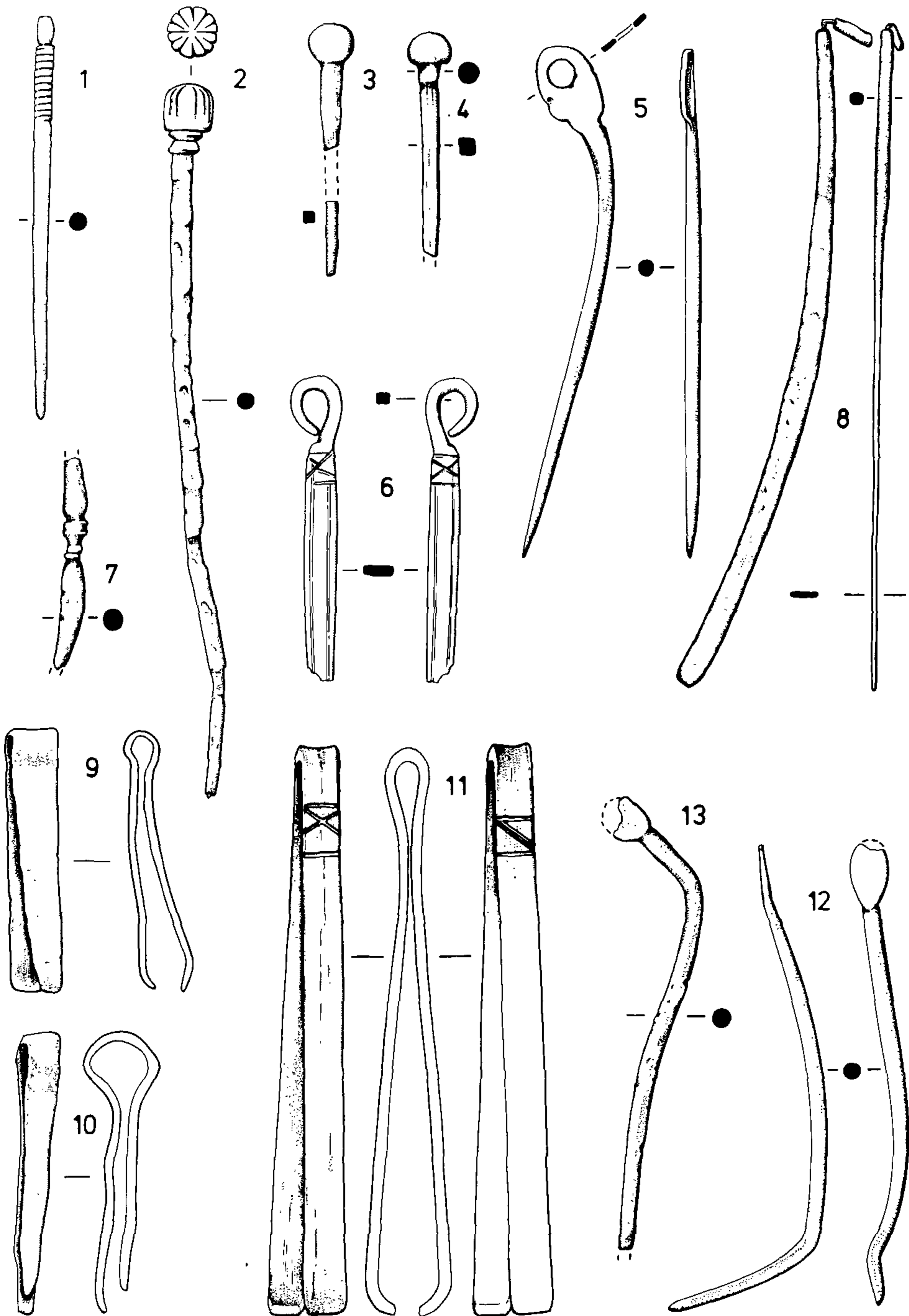


FIG. 20 Copper alloy objects, 1-13. Scale 1:1. Drawn by L. Induni.

- 10 Tweezers, tips missing, blades taper from head, length 38 mm. SM65 U/S (102).
- 11 Tweezers, parallel sided blades, incised decoration at neck on both sides, length 75 mm. SM65 VI U/S (279).
- 12 Toilet spoon, end missing, flat scoop, length 74 mm. SM66 XXIV 1A, Period 6 (64).
- 13 Toilet spoon, both ends missing. SM65 V U/S (97).
- 14 Toilet spoon, incised spiral groove below flattened scoop, length 115 mm. SM65 II 5, Period 4B (275).
- 15 Toilet spoon, part of body and tip missing, flat scoop. SM65 VI 33, Period 4A (377).
- 16 ?Toilet spoon, both ends missing. SM66 XIVC 27, Period 1A (78).
- 17 ?Nail cleaners, apparently with tip only missing, incised vertical decoration on rounded beads separated by a reel, length 45 mm. SM65 XI U/S (111).
- 18 Spoon-probe, scoop missing, incised decoration on faceted body at spoon end. SM66 XVII 8, Period 1B (1).
- 19 Spoon (*ligula*), handle missing from pear-shaped bowl (Crummy 1983, 69, type 2), max. diam. of bowl 28 mm. SM66 XXII 3, Period 5 (2).
- 20 Spoon (*cocleare*), fragmented round bowl (Crummy 1983, 69, type 1). SM65 II 6, Period 1 (107).
- 21 Finger-ring fragment, int. diam. 15 mm. SM66 XXIII 4, Period 5 (49).
- 22 Finger-ring, plain with overlapping terminals, int. diam. 20 mm. SM65 II 3, Period 1 (93).
- 23 Finger-ring, setting missing, double incised groove finely rouletted in parts, int. diam. 17 mm. SM65 IV 1, Period 6 (101).
- 24 Finger-ring, incised decoration on terminals bent out of true, ?originally overlapping. SM65 III 4, Period 6 (266).
- 25 Harness or junction ring, plain, int. diam. 12 mm. SM65 II 2, Period 5 (277).
- 26 Ring, plain, internal diam. 12 mm. SM65 II 1, Period 6 (113).
- 27 Harness or junction ring, internal diam. 19 mm. SM66 XIX 3, Period 5 (20).
- 28 ?Finger-ring, broken, of twisted wire. SM66 X 25, Period 1B (314).
- 29 Bracelet, three strands of wire and hook clasp. SM65 VI 33, Period 4A (378) and (381).
- 30 Bracelet, fragment of terminal and body with incised decoration. SM65 I U/S (100).
- 31 Bracelet, incised decoration at terminal and on body. SM65 II U/S (119).
- 32 Bracelet fragment, three strands of rectangular section wire. SM67 I 8, Period 8A (87).
- 33 Bracelet fragment, ring and dot decoration at terminal and deeply incised decoration on body. SM66 XXIV 1A, Period 6 (50).
- 34 Pendant or strap end, incised decoration at broken end, ?military fitting, length 43 mm, width 22 mm. SM66 VI 32, Period 1 (61).
- 35 Balance arm, circular hole at end, opposing end missing, length 81 mm, hole diam. 1 mm. SM66 XXB U/S (62).
- 36 ?Brooch clasp, length 40 mm. SM66 XIX 3, Period 5 (21).
- 37 Pin or nail, tip missing, incised decoration round head edge, length 49 mm. SM65 VI U/S (272).
- 38 Chain fragment, double looped, length 45 mm. SM66 XXB 2, Period 4B (76).
- 39 Boss, plain, diam. 23 mm. SM65 VI 4, Period 4B (133).
- 40 Boss, fragment, radiating decoration, moulded (cf. Rahtz and Greenfield 1977, fig. 112, no. 23). SM65 VIII 2, Period 6 (117).
- 41 Stud, military fitting, diam. 21 mm. SM65 I 12, Period 4B (114).
- 42 Stud, plain, diam. 21 mm. SM65 VI 33, Period 4A (379).
- 43 Stud, plain, diam. 19 mm. SM67 I 64, Period 4 (86).
- 44 Stud, concentric rings and slight asymmetric groove on head, diam. 15 mm. SM66 XIVC 34, Period 2 (77).
- 45 ?Box fitting, corner brace, broken at angle. SM66 XB, Period 1B (18).
- 46 Fragment of sheet, punched hole in corner. SM65 II U/S (278).
- 47 Binding, flattened folded sheet. SM66 X 37, Period 3 (58).
- 48 Object, apparently complete, punched hole, sheet folded over. SM65 I 8, Period 4A (384).
- 49 Fragment of bowl, two bands of moulded decoration below single incised band. SM65 III 3, Period 4B (265).
- 50 Cast object, fragment of ?terret ring. SM66 XB 10, Period 1B (56).
- 51 Hollow cast object, probably human great toe, life size from statue of a god or a deified emperor. SM66 XVII 3, Period 4B (57).
- 52 Pendant or strap end. SM65 V 2, Period 5 (326).
- 53 Pin. Silver. SM 65 I 3, Period 5 (134).

Figured objects of copper alloy (FIGS. 24–25) by Martin Henig

- 54 Mask, clean-shaven with surround of curls; pupils of eyes outlined; head is hollow behind. The object is presumably an appliqué, possibly from a casket. A close parallel from Ilchester has been published (Leach 1982, 255, no. 156, fig. 123). Also note a mask from Coventina's Well, Carrawburgh (Allason-Jones and McKay 1985, 21, no. 36). Masks of

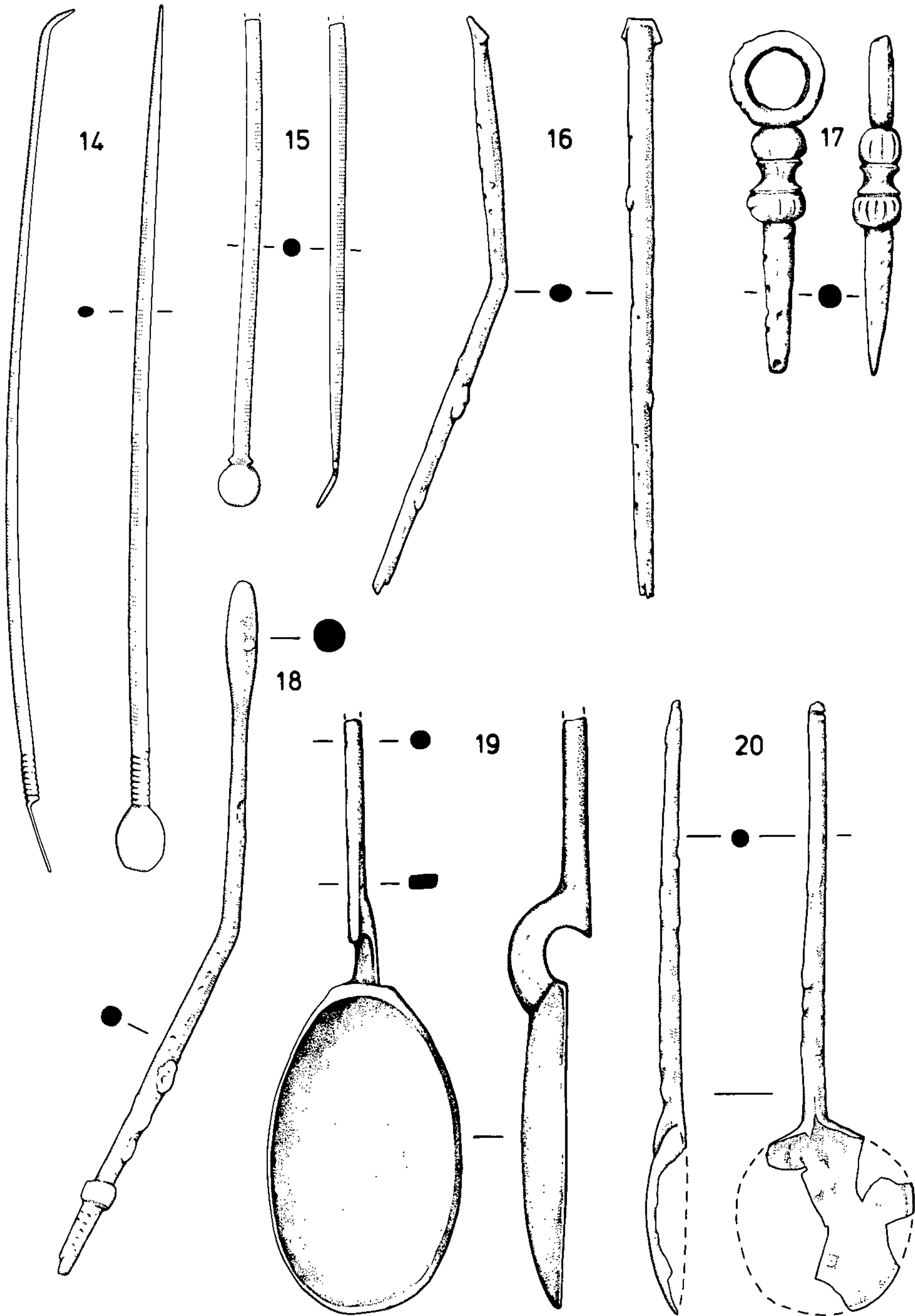


FIG. 21 Copper alloy objects, 14-20. Scale 1:1. Drawn by L. Induni.

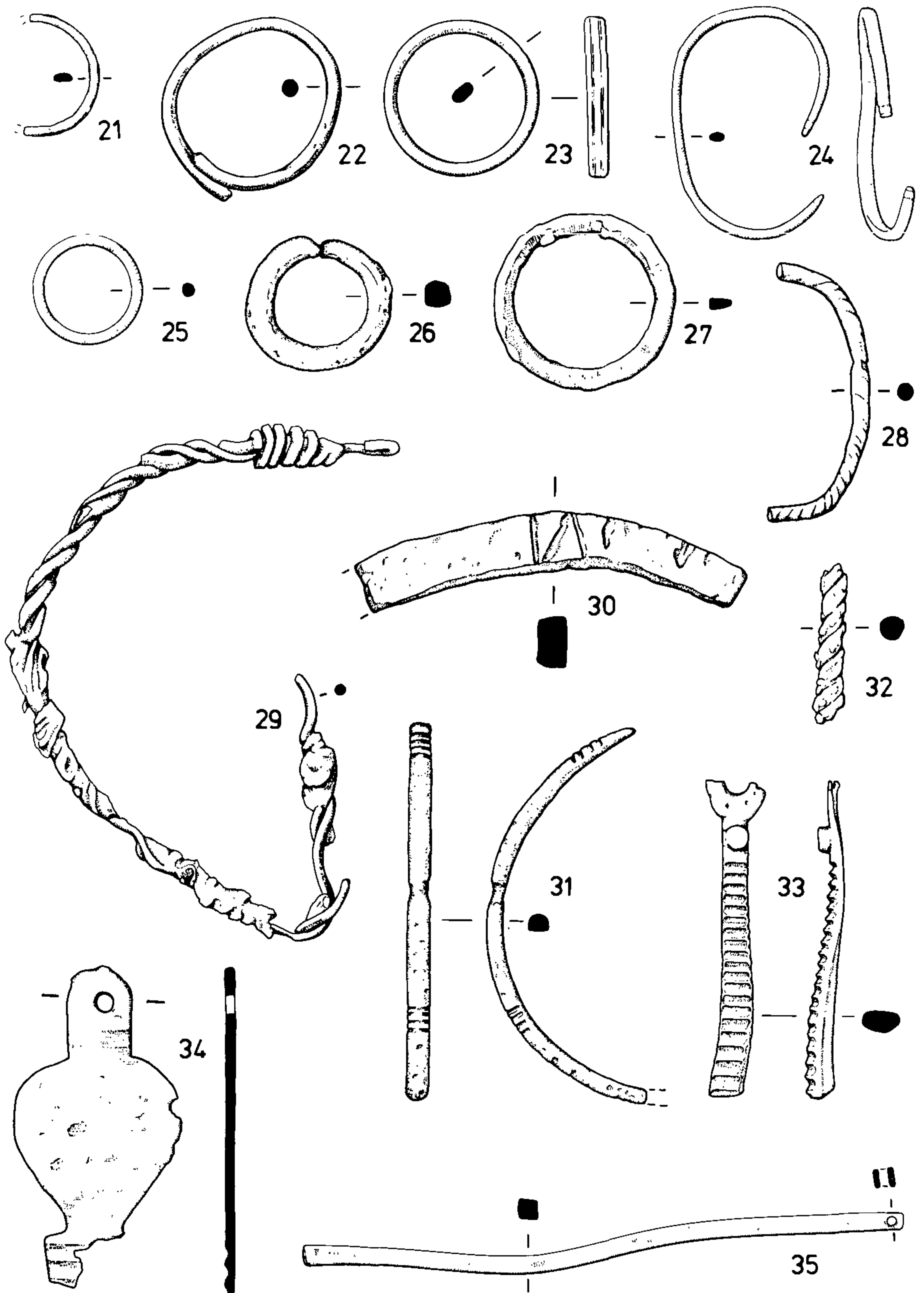


FIG. 22 Copper alloy objects, 21-35. Scale 1:1. Drawn by L. Induni.

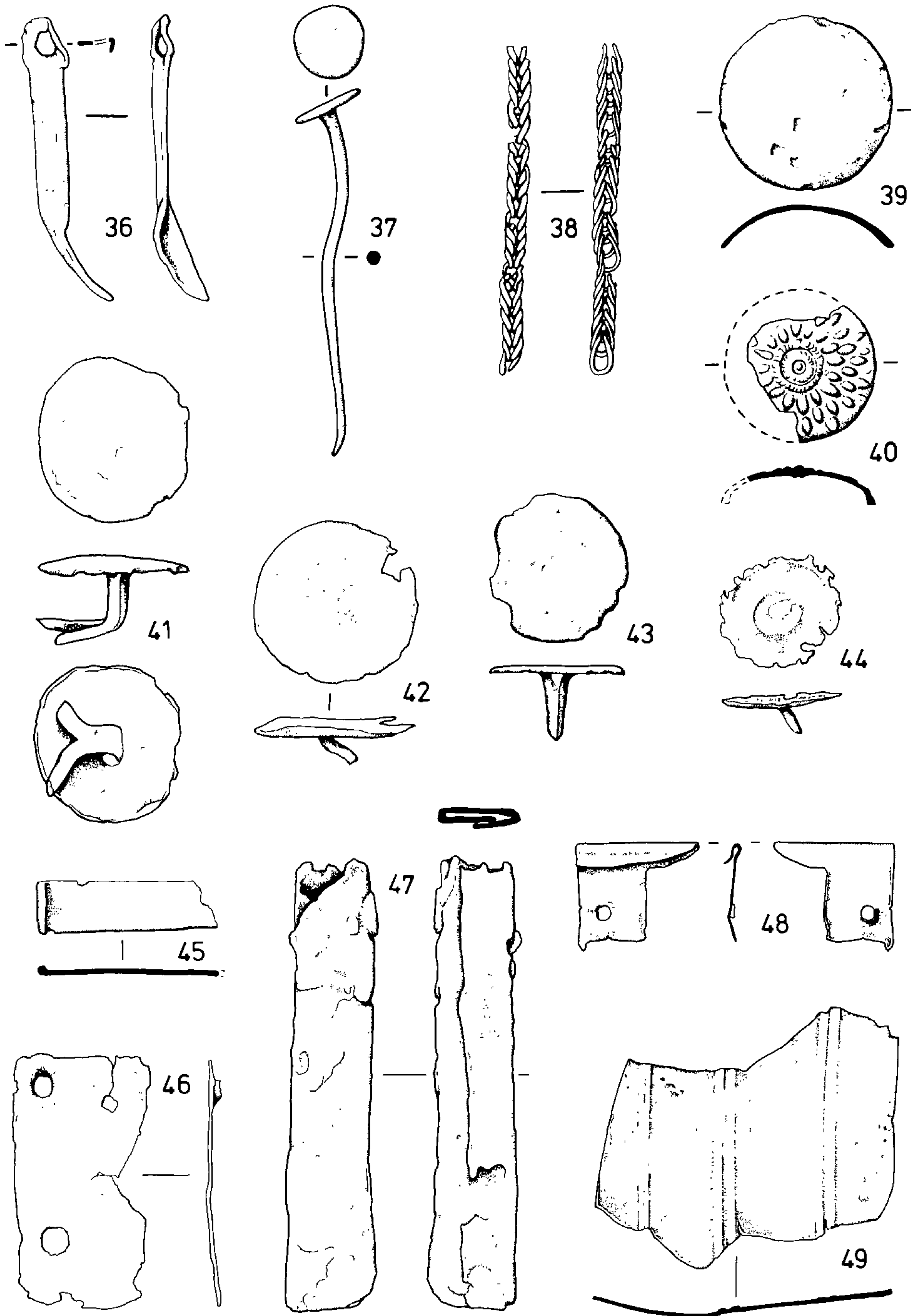


FIG. 23 Copper alloy objects, 36-49. Scale 1:1. Drawn by L. Induni.

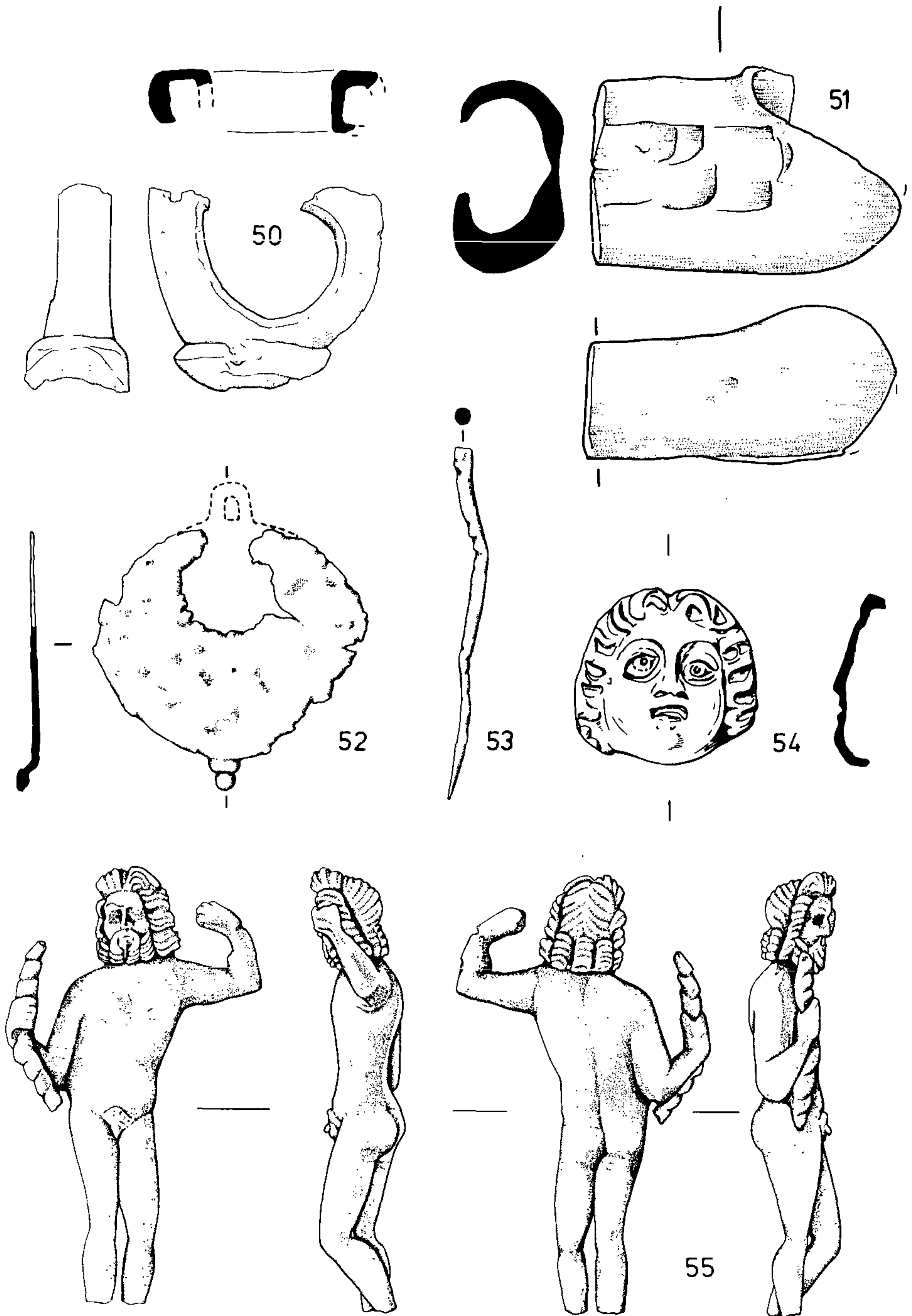


FIG. 24 Copper alloy objects, 50–55. Scale 1:1 (50–54); scale 1:2. (55). Drawn by L. Induni

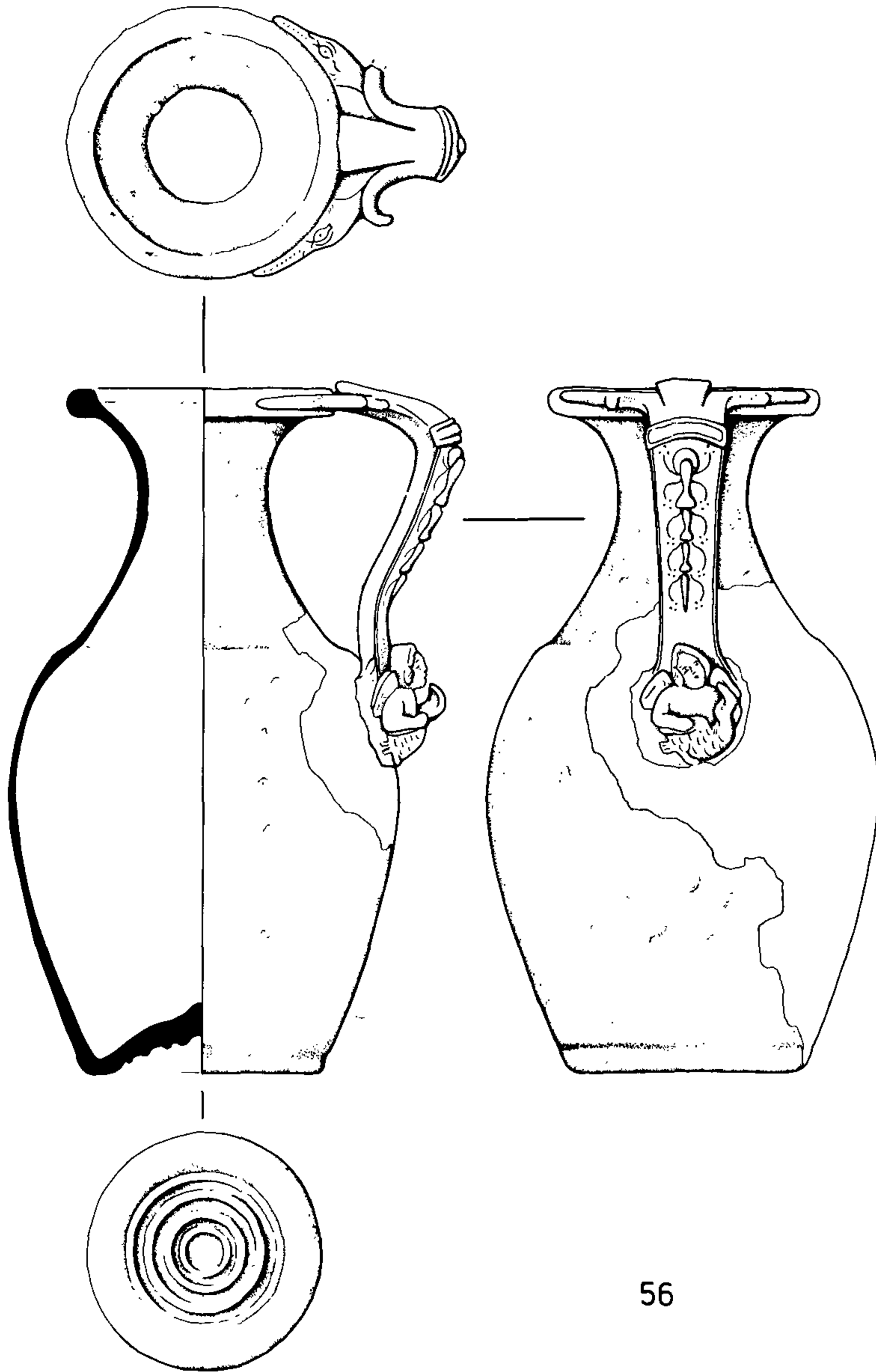


FIG. 25 Copper alloy jug, 56. Scale 1:2. Drawn by L. Induni.

this type are found widely through the Empire and we may note other examples from Trier (Menzel 1966, 59, fig. 14, no. 127), Nijmegen (Zadoks-Josephus Jitta *et al.* 1973, 69, nos. 115–7) and Volubilis (Boube-Piccot 1975, 222, no. 354, pl. 156). The mask is Bacchic and probably had a protective property. Length 23 mm, depth 10 mm. SM 65 I 11, Period 5 (127).

- 55 Figurine of Jupiter. The god, who is shown nude, stands with his weight on the right leg, his left is relaxed. He has an elaborate coiffure, his face being framed by luxuriant hair. Three locks hang down from the back of his head to the nape of his neck. His left arm is raised and presumably he held a sceptre in his left hand (now lost). In his right hand he clutches his *fulmen* (thunderbolt), portrayed as a corrugated bar of metal. The feet are lost.

The figurine is derived from the Zeus of Brontaios of Leochares (cf. Boucher 1976, 67–80, esp. pls. 23–5). Fine examples of bronzes of the type from Augst (Kaufmann-Heinimann 1977, 18, no. 1, pl. 1) and Avenches (Leibundgut 1976, 17, no. 1, pl. 1) are ascribed to Antonine times. The Sea Mills specimen, while less assured than these, is more competent than its best parallel from Britain, the figurine from Hibaldstow, Lincolnshire (Pitts 1983). Like the Hibaldstow bronze it may be of British manufacture and this possibility is strengthened by the bold and linear treatment of the hair which has a certain resemblance to that of the bronze figure of Vulcan from Catterick (Henig 1985, 11, pl. II c), almost certainly an insular piece. Ht. 118 mm, found in 1966 at 65 Roman Way and donated to Bristol Museum (539).

- 56 Jug (*lagoena*) with waisted neck and continuous moulding around the lip. The vessel was probably cast. Its base is concave and exhibits deep grooving, the evidence of turning on a lathe (Brown 1976, 35, ill. 36). Much of the jug has corroded away but the form of the body can be reconstructed with certainty.

The handle was cast separately. At the top, duck's-head arms attach it to the moulding; a figured escutcheon at its base marks the point of attachment to the body. The decoration of the handle, apart from the duck's-heads, consists of a small horizontal label below which is a stylised vegetal device. The escutcheon exhibits the protome of a winged boy (Cupid) holding a goose.

In its general form the vessel resembles one from the 2nd-century tumulus at Vorsen, Limburg, where the body of the handle carries a dolphin and trident device and the escutcheon bears the protome of an old man holding a mask (Faider-Feytmans 1979, 177, no. 362, pl. 140). A jug from a burial of similar type from Thornborough, Buckinghamshire is analogous but the handle exhibits a number of objects and the escutcheon a full-length figure, possibly of Cupid (Liversidge 1953–4, 30, pl. 3a). For other figured jug-handles from Britain see Toynbee 1964, 322–6.

The theme of Cupid with a goose is a common one in ancient art and the subject of a celebrated statue by Boethos to which Pliny refers (*Nat. Hist.* XXXIV, 84 and see Richter 1970, 235). It is the subject of a small bronze figurine from the Lexden tumulus, Colchester (Laver 1927, 249, pl. 57, fig. 4) and a garnet intaglio set in a gold ring, presumably from the later *colonia*, also shows Cupid accompanied by a goose (Henig 1978, 199–200, no. 112, pl. xxxiv). E.A. Gardner, in a study of the theme of boy and goose, reminds us that the reputation of the goose in antiquity was rather different from that which it has today: 'The goose was considered valiant, and also, from its domesticated habits, the very model for a good house-wife' (Gardner 1885, 11). It was closely associated with children and, it would seem, with Cupid (*ibid.* 7, no. 46 and 8, no. 49 for two figurines of Cupid with a goose).

I have not been able to parallel the theme upon a jug. It seems fairly clear that the jug comes from a mid-3rd-century context but it was probably at least a century old when it came to be deposited in its pit. The jug is presumably an import. Ht. 155 mm, ht. of handle 87 mm. SM 67 I 34, Period 4 (280).

IRON OBJECTS (FIGS. 26 and 27) by Peter Ellis

- 1 Knife blade, part of handle and end of blade missing, length 150 mm. SM65 I 8, Period 4A (354).
- 2 Fragment of binding. SM66 U/S (436).
- 3 ?Buckle. SM67 I 10, Period 3 (524).
- 4 Stylus, tip missing, length 113 mm. SM65 II 2, Period 5 (412).
- 5 Fragment of ?vessel. Iron suspension loop riveted to copper alloy body. SM66 XIV 16, Period 2 (53).
- 6 Chisel, blade end missing. SM66 X 21, Period 2 (431).
- 7 Plate, one end missing, two holes containing copper alloy rivets. SM67 III 14, Period 5 (475).

Nails (not illustrated). All were rectangular-sectioned with rounded heads. 112 complete nails were found occurring in early and late periods. Three were between 100 mm and 110 mm in length and nine between 20 and 30 mm in length. The majority (61) were between 40 mm and 60 mm in length. Ten hobnails were found.

LEAD ALLOY OBJECTS (FIG. 28) by Peter Ellis

- 1 Fitting, sheet rolled over. SM66 XVII 5, Period 4B (69).
- 2 Disc, ?post-Roman. SM65 VI U/S (73).

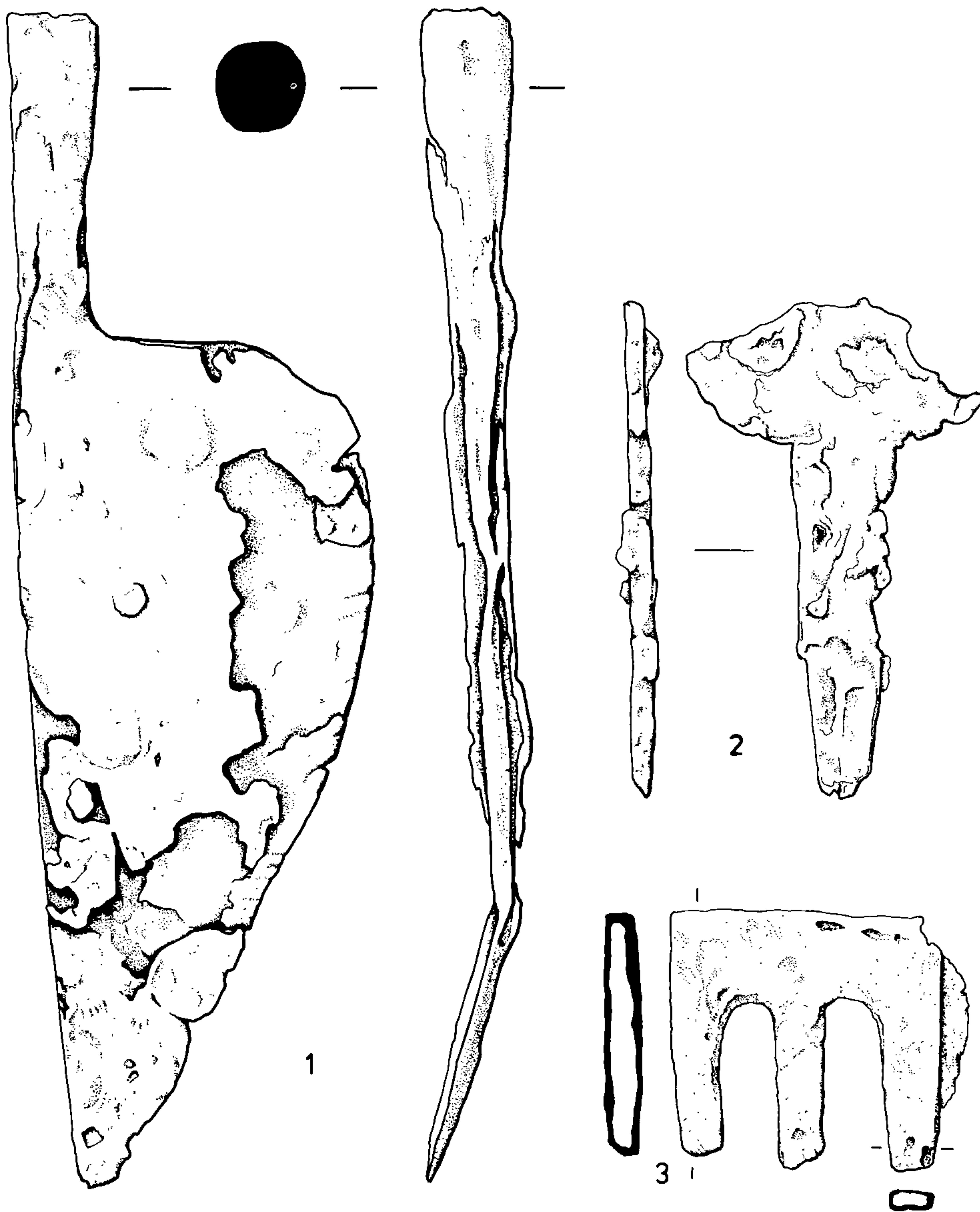


FIG. 26 Iron objects, 1-3. Scale 1:1. Drawn by L. Induni.

- 3 Tag, 173 on face and W on reverse, 18th century. SM66 X 1, Period 6 (103).
- 4 Spindlewhorl, punched hole through centre. SM65 II 5, Period 4B (129).
- 5 Fragment of sheet, grooved decoration. SM67 I 8, Period 8A (12).
- 6 Piece of lead waste. SM65 II 5, Period 4B (99).
- 7 Repair strip from pottery vessel. SM65 I 9, Period 4A (269).
- 8 Fragment of sheet, raised edge on two sides. SM65 V 6, Period 4B (540).

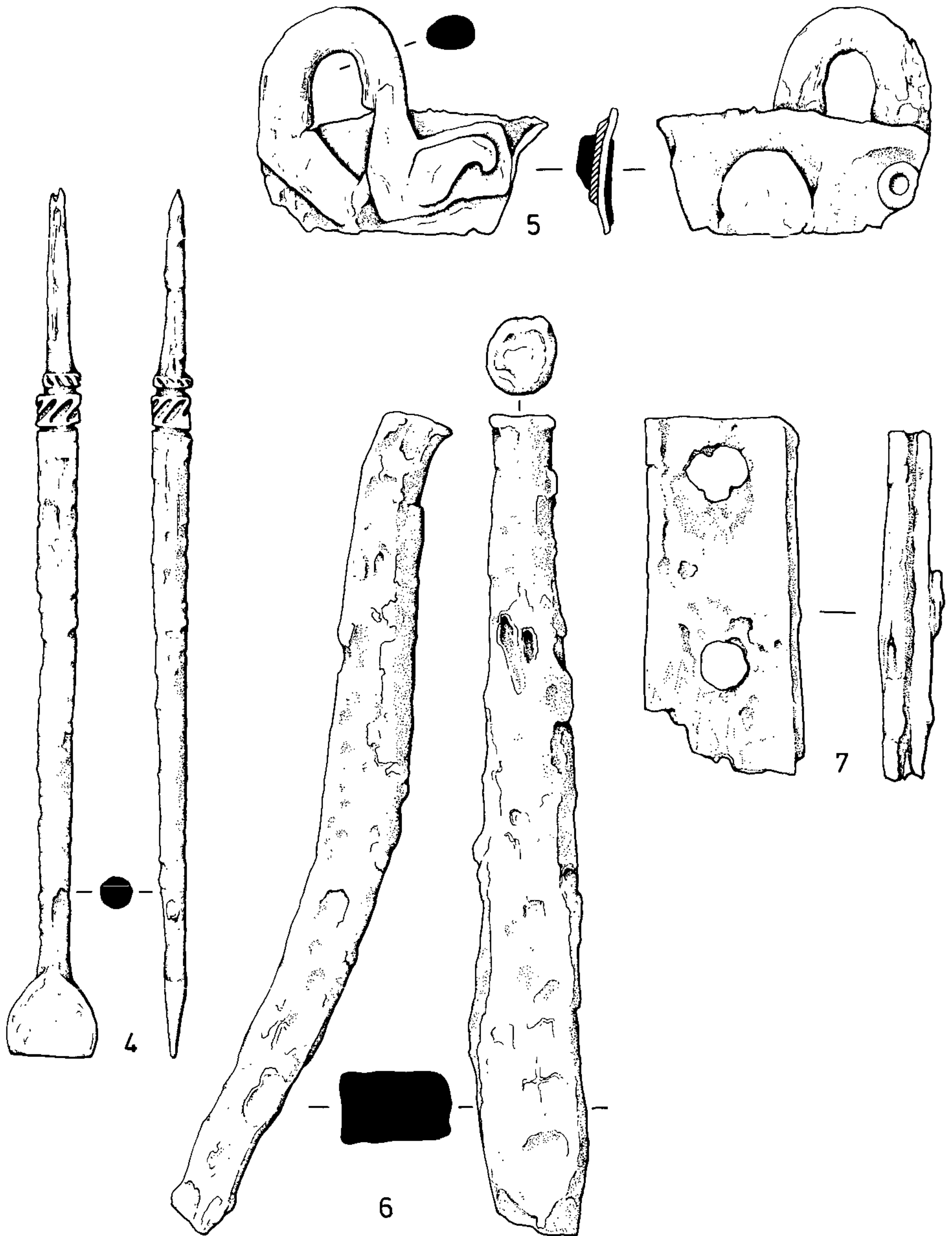


FIG. 27 Iron objects, 4-7. Scale 1:1. Drawn by L. Induni.

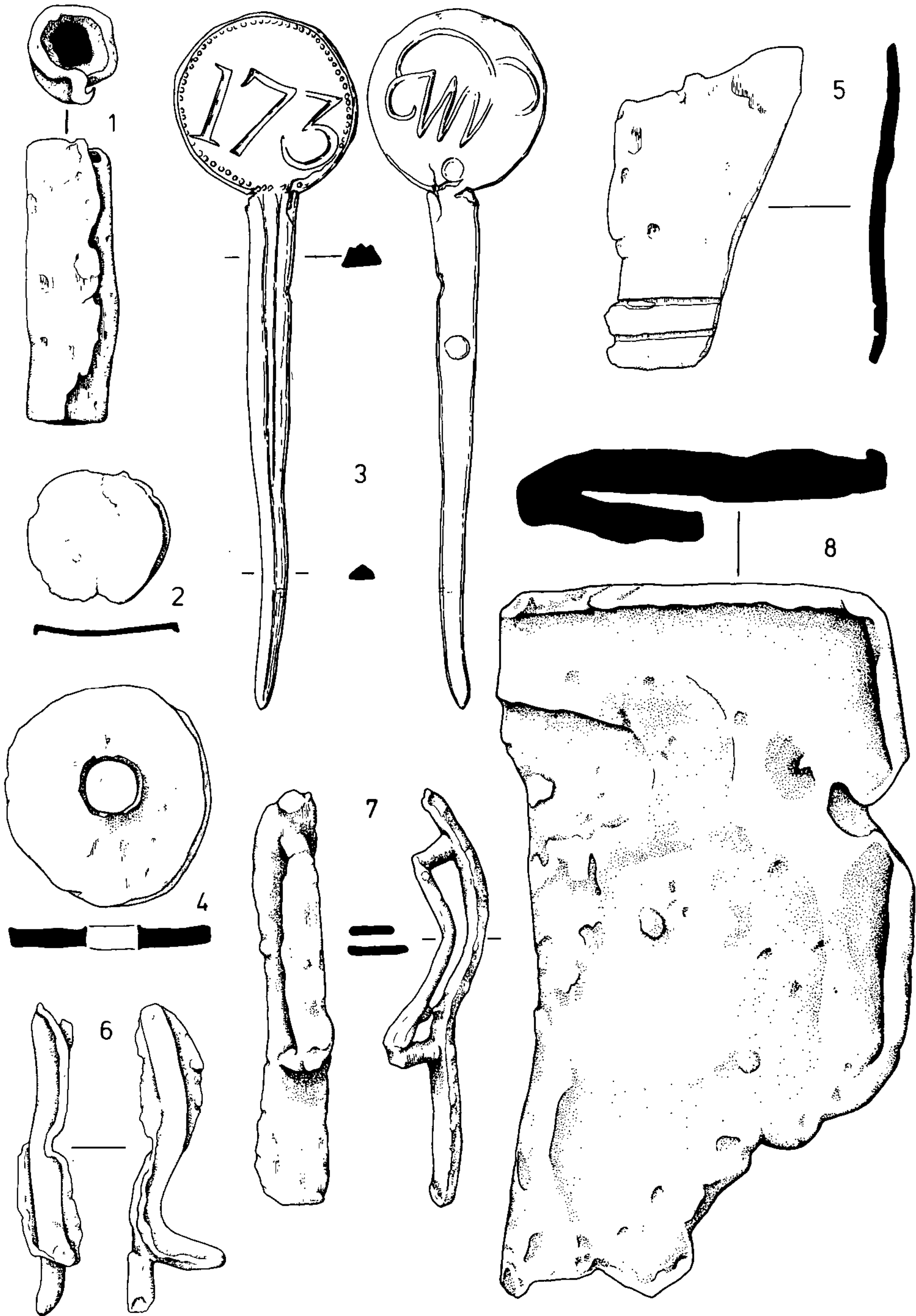


FIG. 28 Lead objects, 1-8. Scale 1:1. Drawn by A. Linge.

THE COINS by David Dawson

A total of 86 coins was examined. Most are in fair condition though much of the 1st/2nd-century coinage is worn. Only two coins (uncatalogued) are entirely unidentifiable. The chronological incidence of these coins is summarized in Table 4. The series begins with four imitation Claudian *asses*. Similar coins found elsewhere at Sea Mills have been linked to other evidence of 1st-century military occupation and suggested as indicators of a Claudian military fort which later developed as a supply base. Apart from the two post-medieval pieces, the sequence ends in the 350s with an example of the FEL TEMP REPARATIO fallen horseman type. In Table 5, the catalogued coins are compared with the scanty sequence from the excavations at Nazareth House and the substantial series recorded from earlier fieldwork (Reece 1966; Dawson 1985). The number of Claudian imitations recorded now stands at 103, but apart from these it can be seen that the pattern of the chronological incidence of coins has not been altered by the series from the 1965–67 excavations.

Table 2 Chronological list of the coins from Abon House 1965–1966 and Sea Mills Lane 1967

RIC refers to the series *Roman Imperial Coinage*. The editions current in 1986 were used. CS indicates the series number by which the coins are identified at Bristol Museum.

- 1 Imitation Claudian *as*, CERES type. SM66 XVII 10, CS61.
- 2 Imitation Claudian *as*. SM66 XXIV 1, CS69.
- 3 Imitation Claudian *as*. SM67 IV 19, CS106.
- 4 Imitation Claudian *as*. SM67 V U/S, CS104.
- 5 *Dupondius* of Nero, issue III of Lyons, obv. 30G (about 65). SM67 VIII 2, CS103.
- 6 *As* of Nero, RIC revised 422 (about 65). SM66 XIV 6, CS62.
- 7 *Dupondius* probably of Vespasian (69–79), Victory with shield inscribed SPQR. SM67 III 20, CS96.
- 8 *Denarius* of Vespasian, IUDAEA type (70–72). SM67 I 20, CS98.
- 9 *As* of Domitian, FORTUNAE AUGUSTI, RIC 299 variant (85). SM65 VI 6, CS68.
- 10 *As* (late 1st century). SM67 III U/S, CS100.
- 11 *Sestertius*, very worn (1st-2nd century). SM65 V 5, BRSMG:F4001, CS15.
- 12 *Sestertius* (1st-2nd century). SM65 VIII 2, BRSMG:F4058, CS16.
- 13 *Sestertius* of Trajan (probably 98–103). SM66 U/S, CS63.
- 14 *Sestertius* of Hadrian, RIC 784 (134–138). SM66 XVIII U/S, CS57b.
- 15 *Sestertius*, probably of Commodus (177–192). SM65 I 24, BRSMG:F16, CS76.
- 16 *Denarius* of Caracalla, VICT AETERN, RIC 47a (199–200). SM66 XIV 6, CS41.
- 17 *Antoninianus* of Gallienus (253–268), FORTUNA REDUX type. SM66 XIV 3, CS71.
- 18 *Antoninianus* probably of Gallienus (253–268). SM67 I 8, CS97.
- 19 *Antoninianus* of Postumus (259–268), IOVI STATORI, RIC 310. SM65 I 8, BRSMG:F4003, CS25.
- 20 *Antoninianus* of Victorinus (268–270). SM65 IV 4, BRSMG:F4050, CS13.
- 21 *Antoninianus* of Tetricus I (270–273), PAX AUG, RIC 103. SM65 III 5, BRSMG:F3985, CS4.
- 22 *Antoninianus* of Tetricus I (270–273). SM65 III 5, BRSMG:F3980, CS20.
- 23 *Antoninianus* of Claudius II, CONSECRATIO type, RIC 261 or 262 (270). SM66 XIV 3, CS72.
- 24 *Antoninianus* of Carausius (287–293), Laetitia type. SM67 III 8, CS99.
- 25 *Antoninianus* of Carausius (287–293), SECURITAS AU of Colchester, RIC 406 variant. SM66 XVIII 2, CS34.
- 26 *Antoninianus* of Carausius (287–293), VICTORIA AUG type. SM66 X U/S, BRSMG:F4060, CS18.
- 27 *Antoninianus*, possibly of Carausius (287–293). SM66 XXIV 1, CS75.
- 28 *Antoninianus* (late 3rd century). SM65 V 6, BRSMG:F4059, CS7.
- 29 *Antoninianus* (late 3rd century). SM65 III 2, BRSMG:F3967, CS26.
- 30 *Antoninianus* (late 3rd century), PAX AUG. SM65 V 2, BRSMG:F4007, CS3.
- 31 *Antoninianus* (late 3rd century). SM65 V U/S, BRSMG:F3996, CS2.
- 32 *Antoninianus* (late 3rd century), ANNONA AUG. SM65 V U/S, BRSMG:F3999, CS52.
- 33 *Antoninianus* (late 3rd century). SM66 XIX 2, CS28.
- 34 *Antoninianus* (late 3rd century). SM66 XVIII 2, CS32.
- 35 *Antoninianus*, UBERITAS AUG type. SM66 X 1, CS48.
- 36 *Antoninianus*. SM66 XVII 1, CS70.
- 37 *Antoninianus*. SM67 III/IV 8, CS64.
- 38 *Antoninianus* (late 3rd century). SM67 IV 9, CS102.
- 39 *Quinarius* (late 3rd century). SM67 II 8, CS105.
- 40 Barbarous radiate. SM65 II U/S, BRSMG:F3928, CS23.

- 41 Barbarous radiate. SM66 X 8, BRSMG:F4152, CS49.
- 42 Barbarous radiate. SM66 XVIII 2, CS33.
- 43 Barbarous radiate. SM66 XVIIIA U/S, CS38.
- 44 Possible barbarous radiate. SM66 XXIV 1, CS50.
- 45 *Follis* of Maximianus, GENIO POPULI ROMANI of Lyons, RIC 44b (about 298). SM65 VI 4, BRSMG:F4062, CS11.
- 46 *Follis*, GENIO POP ROM (307–317). SM66 X 8, BRSMG:F4170, CS107.
- 47 *Follis* of Constantius I Caesar, GENIO POPULI ROMANI (about 303–305). SM65 VI 4, BRSMG:F4061, CS22.
- 48 *Follis* of Constantine I, GENIO POP ROM of London, RIC 103 (307–310). SM66 XXII 2, CS59.
- 49 *Follis* of Constantine I, SOLI INVICTO COMITI of London, RIC 121a (mid–310). SM66 XIV 4, CS29.
- 50 *Follis* of Constantine I, SOLI INVICTO COMITI (307–312). SM66 XIV U/S, CS74.
- 51 *Follis* of Constantine I, SOLI INVICTO COMITI of Lyons, RIC 4 (313–314). SM65 V 6, BRSMG:F4030, CS21.
- 52 *Follis* of Constantine I, SOLI INVICTO COMITI of London, RIC 88 variant (316–317). SM65 V 6, BRSMG:F4031, CS9.
- 53 *AE4*, early 4th century. SM65 I 20, BRSMG:F4153, CS35.
- 54 *AE4*, VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP type of Trier (318–319). SM65 III 3, BRSMG:F3972, CS10.
- 55 *AE4*, of Constantine I, probably irregular VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC P type (319–320). SM66 XIV 3, CS73.
- 56 *AE3/4* of Constantine I, VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP type (319–320). SM66 X 1, BRSMG:F4054, CS5.
- 57 *AE4*, VOT/X in wreath (320–321). SM65 I 3, BRSMG:F3961, CS27.
- 58 *AE3* of Constantine I, BEATA TRANQUILLITAS VO/TIS/XX of Lyons, RIC 125 (321). SM66 X 1, BRSMG:F4051, CS12.
- 59 *AE3* of Constantine II Caesar, BEATA TRANQUILLITAS VO/TIS/XX of Trier, RIC 327 (321). SM65 V U/S, BRSMG:F4025, CS8.
- 60 *AE3*, BEATA TRANQUILLITAS VOT/IS/XX (321–324). SM65 IV 2, BRSMG:F3988, CS14.
- 61 *AE3*, of Constantine II Caesar, PROVIDENTIAE CAESS of Lyons, RIC 230 (324–325). SM65 V U/S, BRSMG:F4026, CS57a.
- 62 *AE4* CONSTANTINOPOLIS type of Trier, RIC 523 (330–331). SM66 XB 2, CS44.
- 63 *AE3* CONSTANTINOPOLIS type of Trier, RIC 530 (330–331). SM66 XB 3, CS46.
- 64 *AE3* of house of Constantine, URBS ROMA type. SM66 X 1, BRSMG:F4055, CS1.
- 65 *AE4* URBS ROMA type (330–337). SM66 XB 2, CS58.
- 66 *AE4* of Constantine II Caesar, GLORIA EXERCITUS 2 standards of Trier (330–334). SM66 X 1, BRSMG: F4052, CS19.
- 67 *AE4* of GLORIA EXERCITUS 2 standards type (330–334). SM66 X U/S, BRSMG:F4157, CS39.
- 68 *AE4* of GLORIA EXERCITUS 1 standard type of Trier (335–337). SM66 X U/S, BRSMG:F4156, CS40.
- 69 *AE4* of GLORIA EXERCITUS 1 standard type (335–341). SM66 X 1, CS30.
- 70 *AE4* CONSTANTINOPOLIS type of Lyons, RIC 279 (336). SM66 X 8, CS51.
- 71 *AE4* of Theodora, PIETAS ROMANA (337–340). SM66 X U/S, CS31.
- 72 *AE4* of Theodora, PIETAS ROMANA (337–340). SM66 X U/S, BRSMG:F4154, CS56.
- 73 *AE4* of Theodora, PIETAS ROMANA (337–340). SM66 X 1, BRSMG: F4158, CS45.
- 74 *AE4* of Constantine II Caesar, GLORIA EXERCITUS 2 standards (337–340). SM66 XB 2, CS60.
- 75 *AE4* of Constantius II (337–340), barbarous copy of FEL TEMP REPARATIO fallen horseman type. SM65 IX 2, BRSMG:F4163, CS27.
- 76 *AE4* of Constantius II, GLORIA EXERCITUS 1 standard of Lyons, RIC 27 (337–340). SM66 X 1, BRSMG:F4160, CS55.
- 77 *AE4* of Constans, GLORIA EXERCITUS 1 standard type (337–341). SM66 X 1, BRSMG:F4053, CS17.
- 78 *AE4* of Constans, VICTORIAE D AUGG Q NN of Trier, RIC 185 (347–348). SM66 X 1, BRSMG:F4159, CS53.
- 79 *AE4* of Constans, VICTORIAE DD AUGG Q NN of Trier, RIC 199 (347–348). SM66 XB U/S, CS43.
- 80 *Aes* of Magnentius (350–353), VICTORIAE DD NN AUG ET CAES of Trier, RIC 312. SM66 XB 2, CS101.
- 81 *AE3* of Constantius II, FEL TEMP REPARATIO fallen horseman type of Trier, RIC 359 (353–355). SM66 X 1, BRSMG:F4161, CS47.
- 82 *AE4* unidentified. SM66 XII U/S, CS37.
- 83 *Bristol farthing*, 1662. SM65 V U/S, CS24.
- 84 Probable *token*, 1799. SM65 VI U/S, CS6.

Table 3 List of coins by period (numbers refer to Table 2)

Abon House 1965

Periods 1–3:	none
Period 4A:	19 Postumus, <i>antoninianus</i>
Period 4B:	9 Domitian, <i>as</i>
	11 1st/2nd, <i>sestertius</i>
	28 late 3rd, <i>antoninianus</i>
	45 Maximianus, <i>follis</i>
	47 Constantius I Caesar, <i>follis</i>
	51 Constantine I, <i>follis</i>
	52 Constantine I, <i>follis</i>
	54 318–319, <i>AE4</i>
Period 5:	15 ?Commodus, <i>sestertius</i>
	29 late 3rd, <i>antoninianus</i>
	30 late 3rd, <i>antoninianus</i>
	57 320–321, <i>AE4</i>
Period 6:	12 1st/2nd, <i>sestertius</i>
	21 Tetricus I, <i>antoninianus</i>
	22 Tetricus I, <i>antoninianus</i>
	53 early 4th, <i>AE4</i>
	60 321–324, <i>AE3</i>
Unstratified:	20 Victorinus, <i>antoninianus</i>
	31 late 3rd, <i>antoninianus</i>
	32 late 3rd, <i>antoninianus</i>
	40 barbarous radiate
	59 Constantine II Caesar, <i>AE3</i>
	61 Constantine II Caesar, <i>AE3</i>
	75 Constantius II, <i>AE4</i>
	83 1662, <i>Bristol farthing</i>
	84 1799, ?token

Abon House 1966

Period 1A:	none
Period 1B:	1 Claudian imitation <i>as</i>
Period 2–4A:	none
Period 4B:	6 Nero, <i>as</i>
	16 Caracalla, <i>denarius</i>
	41 barbarous radiate
	46 early 4th, <i>follis</i>
	62 CONSTANTINOPOLIS, <i>AE4</i>
	63 CONSTANTINOPOLIS, <i>AE3</i>
	65 URBS ROMA, <i>AE4</i>
	70 CONSTANTINOPOLIS, <i>AE4</i>
	74 Constantine II Caesar, <i>AE4</i>
	80 Magnentius, <i>aes</i>

Period 5:	17 Gallienus, <i>antoninianus</i>
	23 Claudius II, <i>antoninianus</i>
	25 Carausius, <i>antoninianus</i>
	33 late 3rd, <i>antoninianus</i>
	34 late 3rd, <i>antoninianus</i>
	42 barbarous radiate
	48 Constantine I, <i>follis</i>
	49 Constantine I, <i>follis</i>
	55 Constantine I, <i>AE4</i>
Period 6:	2 Claudian imitation <i>as</i>
	27 ?Carausius, <i>antoninianus</i>
	35 late 3rd, <i>antoninianus</i>
	36 late 3rd, <i>antoninianus</i>
	44 ?barbarous radiate
	56 Constantine I, <i>AE3/4</i>
	58 Constantine I, <i>AE3</i>
	64 330–337, <i>AE3</i>
	66 Constantine II Caesar, <i>AE4</i>
	69 335–341, <i>AE4</i>
	73 Theodora, <i>AE4</i>
	76 Constantius II, <i>AE4</i>
	77 Constans, <i>AE4</i>
	78 Constans, <i>AE4</i>
	81 Constantius II, <i>AE3</i>
Unstratified:	13 Trajan, <i>sestertius</i>
	14 Hadrian, <i>sestertius</i>
	26 Carausius, <i>antoninianus</i>
	43 barbarous radiate
	50 Constantine I, <i>follis</i>
	67 330–334, <i>AE4</i>
	68 335–337, <i>AE4</i>
	71 Theodora, <i>AE4</i>
	72 Theodora, <i>AE4</i>
	79 Constans, <i>AE4</i>
	82 ?early 4th, <i>AE4</i>

87 Sea Mills Lane 1967

Period 2:	7 ?Vespasian, <i>dupondius</i>
Period 4:	8 Vespasian, <i>denarius</i>
Period 5:	5 Nero, <i>dupondius</i>
Period 6:	38 late 3rd, <i>antoninianus</i>
Period 8A:	18 ?Gallienus, <i>antoninianus</i>
	24 Carausius, <i>antoninianus</i>
	37 late 3rd, <i>antoninianus</i>
	39 late 3rd, <i>quinarius</i>
Unstratified:	3 Claudian imitation <i>as</i>
	4 Claudian imitation <i>as</i>
	10 late 1st, <i>as</i>

Table 4 Summary of the 1965–1967 coins

	<i>number</i>	<i>%</i>
1st/2nd century	16	19
<i>Antoniniani</i> etc. (250–300)	23	27
barbarous radiates	5	6
<i>Folles/laes</i> (300–360)	38	44
post-medieval	2	2
unidentified	2	2

Table 5 Summary of the complete Sea Mills coin sequence

	<i>To 1966</i> (Reece 1966)	<i>Hoard</i> (Reece 1966)	<i>1972</i> (Dawson 1985)	<i>1965–7</i> (this report)	<i>Totals</i>
pre-Claudian	13	3	–	–	16
Claudian	89	8	2	4	103
other 1st/2nd century	70	–	3	12	85
3rd century	92	–	–	28	120
4th century	400	–	–	38	438
<i>Totals</i>	664	11	5	82	762

BONE OBJECTS (FIG. 29) by Peter Ellis

- 1 Hairpin, end missing, conical head; for type see Crummy 1983, 21, type 3. SM66 XIVA 6, Period 4B (29).
- 2 Hairpin, end missing, single groove below conical faceted head (Crummy 1983, 21, type 2). SM65 II 5, Period 4B (39).
- 3 Hairpin, tip missing, knobbed reel set in from body above three incised grooves (Crummy 1983, 24, type 6). SM65 V U/S (91).
- 4 Hairpin, three grooves below conical faceted head, length 65 mm (Crummy 1983, 21, type 2). SM65 VI 15, Period 4A (95).
- 5 Needle, head missing above circular eye. SM65 V U/S (92).
- 6 Counter, flat with central incision, diam. 20 mm. SM67 I 51A, Period 5 (8).
- 7 Counter, convex with central incised hollow, diam. 13 mm. SM67 I 29, Period 3 (9).
- 8 Counter, flat with central incision on upper side and bevelled lower edge, diam. 19 mm. SM67 I 13, Period 6 (10).
- 9 ?Furniture inlay, pear-shaped with incised hole, length 64 mm. SM65 II 3, Period 1 (122).
- 10 Domino, 23 mm by 13 mm by 4 mm deep, 16th century (cf. Macgregor 1985, 141). SM66 XXII 3, Period 5 (42).

THE BEADS (FIG. 29) by Margaret Guido

Glass beads

- 1 Blue translucent, square sectioned. Common type in the later Roman period. SM66 XXIV 1A, Period 6 (317).
- 2 Very small translucent blue annular. Not datable within the Roman period. SM65 I 8, Period 4A (316).
- 3 Possibly a local production. Badly made and perhaps a poor attempt at making a biconical bead. Late Roman. Bottle glass. SM66 XXIV 1A, Period 6 (322).
- 4 Annular, opaque golden yellow glass. This is a native rather than a Roman type, though often lasting into the 1st century or rather later, but residual after that. SM 67 I 30, Period 3 (319).
- 5 Irregular blob of bottle glass. Undatable. SM67 III 8, Period 8A (318).
- 6 Three segments of a bright translucent bluish-green segmented bead. These, either pinched or wound, are commonest in the 3rd and 4th centuries (Guido 1978, 91–93). SM66 XXIV 1, Period 6 (320).
- 7 About a quarter of a faience melon bead. Common throughout Roman times. SM65 VI 9, Period 4A (321).
- 8 Core of bottle glass with opaque red and white stripes down the length of the cylindrical bead. Trade bead of the 17th century. Such beads were extensively made for traders of the Dutch East India Company and have frequently been dredged from the canals at Amsterdam where they must have been made (Van der Sleen 1963, 260–263 and colour plate). SM67 U/S (251).

Jet bead

- 9 Roughly rectangular with double perforation. A large number of jet beads in various shapes come from notably Silchester (Lawson 1976) and South Shields. See also late 3rd-century examples from Lydney (Wheeler and Wheeler 1932, fig. 1, nos. 76–79), 3rd-century examples from Verulamium (Wheeler and Wheeler 1936, fig. 47, nos. 68–9) and early 2nd-century examples from Brough on Humber (Wacher 1969, fig. 46, no. 12). These beads are likely to have been made at Whitby, where the jet was found off the shore and where there was a thriving industry during the Roman period. SM XXIV 1A, Period 6 (28).

There is a slight sign of native presence in the vicinity of the Roman site. It is reflected in the whirl or ray bead found previously (Guido 1985, fig. 25, no. 3) and in the early Romano-British annular bead (no. 4 above). The remaining beads are probably all late Roman except for the trade bead no. 8.

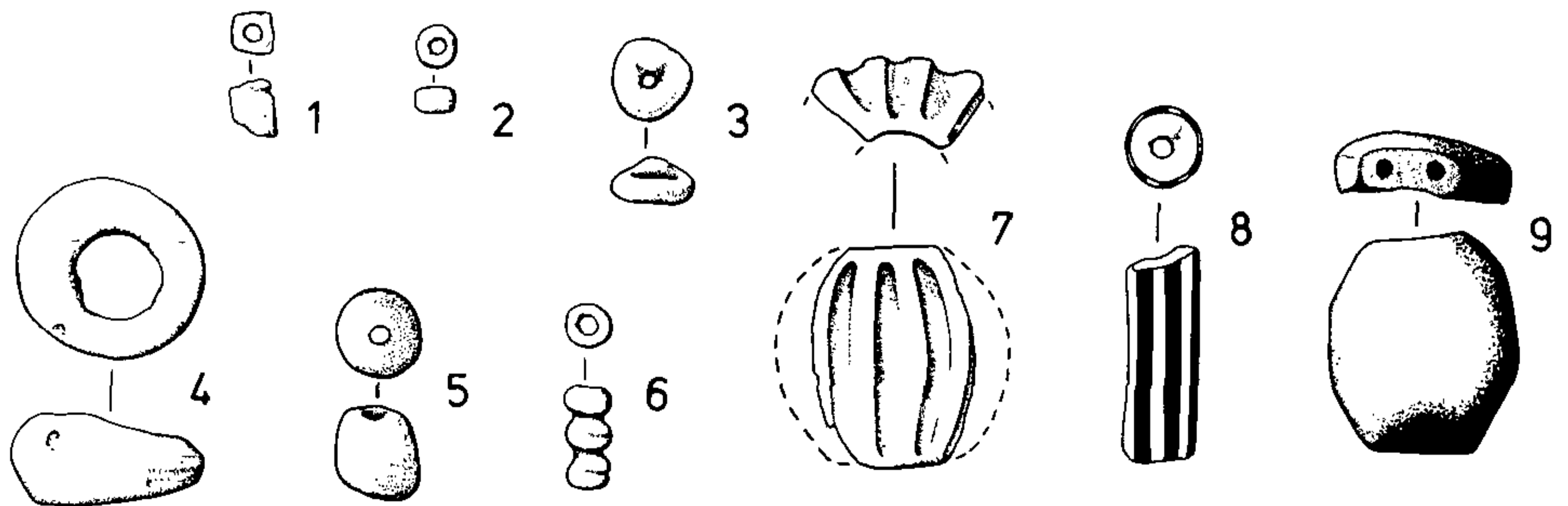
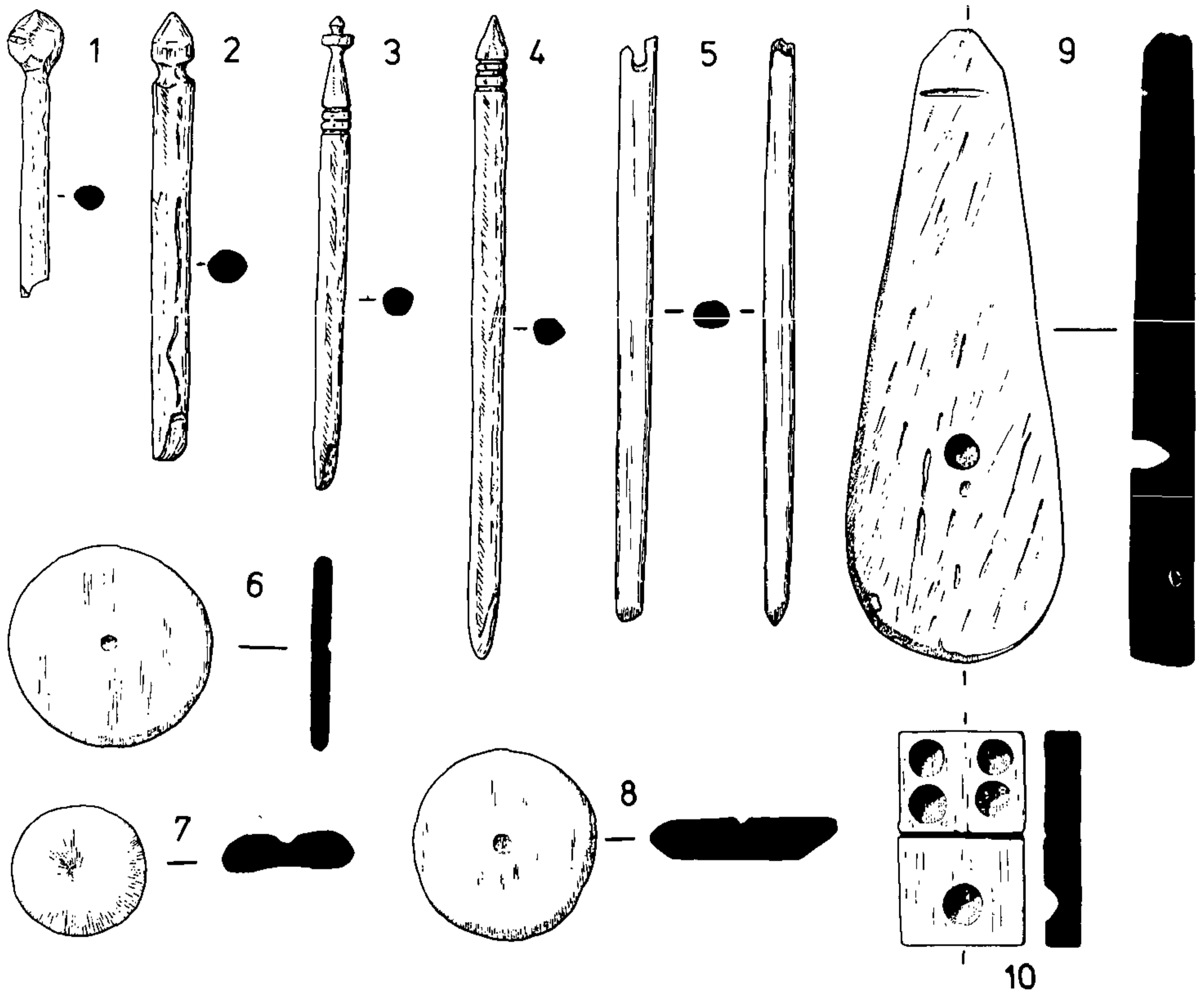


FIG. 29 Upper: bone objects, 1-10. Scale 1:1. Lower: beads, 1-9. Scale 1:1.
 Drawn by A. Linge and L. Induni.

THE SEA MILLS ALTAR (FIG. 30 A-D) by **Martin Henig**

The altar, which is carved from oolitic limestone, is 440 mm in height, 290 mm in breadth and 240 mm from front to back. Its *focus* is approximately square and is flanked by an undecorated bolster on each side. Above one of the principal faces (A) is a roughly globular or perhaps slightly pear-shaped projection; a similar embellishment above the other major face (C) is now largely missing. A heavy moulding runs above all four sides of the altar. Beneath this are carved panels which may be described as follows.

- A: an eagle stands to the right, its wings partially displayed. It is perched upon a globe and faces a large cornucopia.
- B: a patera with a long handle and a jug.
- C: a herm upon a pedestal, a bucranium (bull's head) and a sacrificial knife.
- D: a trident between two columns with bases and simple capitals (tuscan order).

The altar was described by the late Jocelyn Toynbee (1976, 77–8) in her review of Gloucestershire sculpture and is included in the *Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani* (Cunliffe and Fulford 1982, 29, no. 106, pl.28). The 'ball' between the bolsters was described by Toynbee as being a human head. This is possible but remains uncertain. The shape of the *focus*, incidentally, may be compared with that of an altar from Nettleton Shrub (Wedlake 1982, 135–6, no.1).

Face A. Although Toynbee was slightly hesitant in describing the object on the right as a cornucopia because no fruit is shown emerging from the top, there does not seem to be any difficulty to me: this is Amaltheia's horn with which she nurtured the infant Jupiter (M. Henig, 'Amaltheia', *LIMC* I, 582–4). The eagle stands for Jupiter (and Rome) while the globe signifies world rule.

Face B. The patera and jug were standard equipment for libations, which preceded sacrifice. They frequently occur on altars (e.g. Phillips 1977, 16, no. 47, pl.13; 61–2, no. 186, pl.46).

Face C. The herm is to be associated with the god Terminus, who guarded boundaries or with Jupiter Terminalis who had the same function. Jupiter Terminalis is depicted on coins of Pompey struck in 49 BC (Crawford 1974, no.447, pl.iii). The only epigraphic reference from Britain was a stone from Caerleon, now lost, reading TERMIN(us) (*RIB* 325). The bull's head and knife denote sacrifice (cf. Phillips 1977, 16–17, no.49, pl.14) and are the counterparts of the jug and patera.

Face D. The two columns, as so often in Roman religious art, are indicative of a little shrine or *aedicula* (cf. Henig 1984, 40, pl.4). The fact that Neptune is indicated by his emblem rather than by an image of the deity is of a piece with the symbolic nature of the iconography. We may note an altar from Newcastle upon Tyne depicting a trident and dolphin and dedicated to Neptune (*RIB* 1319; Phillips 1977, 71–2, no.213, pl.55). Closer to hand is part of a relief from Box, Wiltshire showing a hand, presumably Neptune's, holding a trident (Cunliffe and Fulford 1982, 30, no.110, pl.29).

In a letter Jocelyn Toynbee made the important point that 'the altar could be thought of as dedicated to the twin powers of sky and ocean'. Certainly the possibility that the herm is a boundary stone is an appropriate touch for a dedication at a port on the boundary between two realms. We may recall the Chichester temple-dedication (*RIB* 91) to Neptune (god of the sea) and Minerva (a land goddess), as an analogy. A precedent may also be found in the sacrifices of Alexander the Great at the mouth of the river Indus in 325 BC: 'Understanding that the expedition which he had undertaken had reached its limit, he also raised altars in honour of Tethys and Ocean' (Diodorus Siculus XVII, 104). This is the event that the *grammaticus* Demetrius of Tarsus recalled in a dedication on a bronze plaque found at York (*RIB* 663), presumably after exploring the very boundaries of Britain. Toynbee dated the altar to a time 'when Abona was a major civilian settlement, a township and a port' (1976, 78) and a date in the 2nd or 3rd century would certainly be appropriate to the style of the carving.

Abbreviations

- LIMC* Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae I. 1981. Zurich and Munich.
RIB Roman Inscriptions of Britain (Collingwood and Wright 1965).

OTHER STONE OBJECTS (FIGS. 31–33) by **Peter Ellis** with stone identifications by **Andrew Mathieson**

- 1 Spindlewhorl, diam. 28 mm, hole diam. 7 mm. Pale grey siltstone. SM65 V 9, Period 4A (38).
- 2 Spindlewhorl, diam. 35 mm, hole diam. 8 mm. Brown-grey micaceous sandstone. SM 65 II 1, Period 6 (124).
- 3 Fragment of worked stone, not quite rectangular corner of three-stepped ?statuette base. Pale grey oolitic limestone, Jurassic, ?Great Oolite. SM66 XXIII 2, Period 5 (311).
- 4 Hone stone, both faces and one side scored by a variety of different uses, surfaces partially flaked (cf. Barton 1964, fig. 10, no. 33). Brown micaceous sandstone, ?Pennant. Deep transverse score on the upper part of the drawn stone is a probable fossil plant mould. SM66 XVIII 2, Period 5 (532).



FIG. 30A–D The limestone altar. Photos: copyright Bristol Museum.

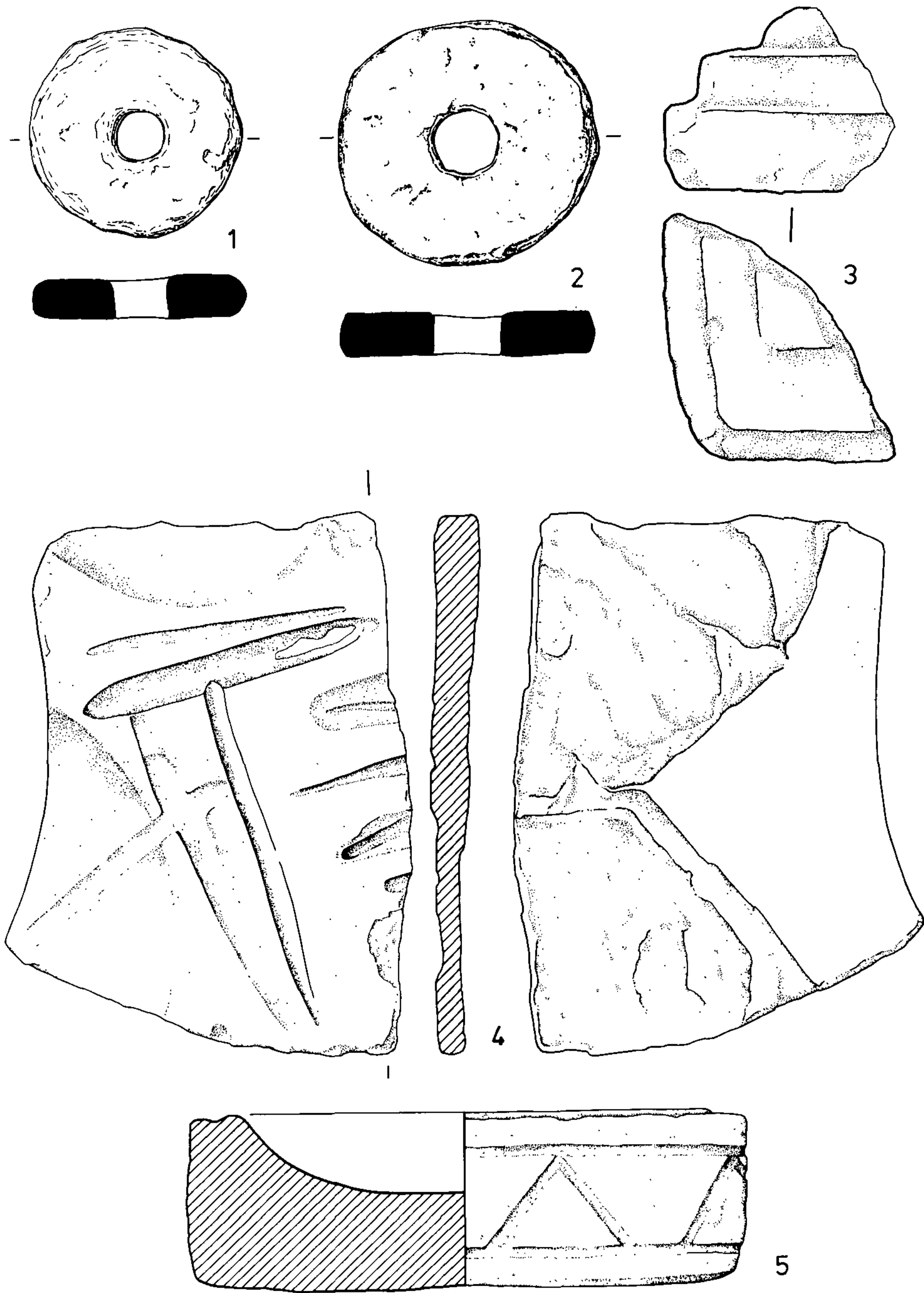


FIG. 31 Stone objects, 1-5. Scale 1:1 (1-3); scale 1:4 (4-5). Drawn by A. Linge and L. Induni.

- 5 Mortar fragment, concave base, groove on rim and upper side with chevron decoration below, projected diam. 340 mm, height 86 mm, bowl depth 32 mm. Reddish-brown sandstone, ?Old Red Sandstone. SM65/6 U/S (531).
- 6 Architectural fragment, moulded ridge on upper surface, moulding on side, sides slightly chamfered, 220 mm by 203 mm by 65 mm deep. Pale grey oolitic limestone with broken fossil shell fragments; and vertical burrow, Jurassic, ?Great Oolite. SM66 XVIII 2, Period 5 (526).
- 7 Quern fragment, upper stone with raised rim above and scoring below. Grey vesicular basalt with some green crystals (?olivine) with one large milky-coloured crystal occupying a vesicle. SM66 U/S (527).
- 8 Quern fragment, upper stone, grooved. Brown quartzitic sandstone with white quartz pebbles, ?Old Red Sandstone. SM66 XXIII 2, Period 5 (528).
- 9 Quern fragment, upper stone, grooved. Sandstone as 8. SM66 XXIV 1A, Period 6 (529).
- 10 Quern fragment, lower stone, grooved. Sandstone as 8. SM66 XXIV 1, Period 6 (530).
- 11 Quern, lower stone, grooved on convex upper surface, diam. 710 mm, hole diam. 72 mm, thickness 72 mm to 108 mm at centre. Sandstone as 8. SM65 V 6. Period 4B (536).
- 12 Counter, roughly worked to seven-sided disc, diam. 65 mm, thickness 13 mm. Brownish-grey micaceous sandstone, ?Pennant. SM XXII/XXIII 2, Period 5 (312). (Not illustrated.)
- 13 Counter, circular, roughly worked, diam. 55 mm, thickness 11 mm. SM66 XXII/XXIII 2, Period 5 (313). (Not illustrated.)
- 14 Perforated disc, 15 mm diam., thickness 2 mm, hole not central, diam. 2.5 mm. Stone not identifiable. SM66 XVII 7, Period 4A (80). (Not illustrated.)
- 15 ?Counter, polished flat-based pebble, fine central incision in base. Greenish-black basalt or dolerite. SM66 XVII 3, Period 4B (16). (Not illustrated.)

SHALE OBJECTS (FIG. 33) by Peter Ellis

- 1 Dish, fragmented, possibly oval. SM65 III 5, Period 6 (315).
- 2 Armlet fragment, internal diam. 81 mm. SM66 XI U/S (323).

THE SAMIAN POTTERY (FIGS. 34–37) by Warwick Rodwell

The excavations of 1965–67 yielded a substantial quantity of samian pottery, the great majority of which is in the form of small sherds. A very large number of vessels is represented – certainly to be counted in hundreds – and even among the decorated ware there are few instances where two or more sherds can be positively attributed to the same vessel. Evidence for abrasion subsequent to fracture is sparse, from which it may be deduced that the pottery did not reach its present fragmented condition through prolonged exposure to weather, trampling, or churning by the plough.

Some ninety per cent of the samian pottery dates from the Flavian period, but less than twenty sherds have actually been recovered from Flavian levels. Similarly, the incidence of 2nd-century samian in contemporary contexts is very rare: of the total samian assemblage, all but about five per cent was excavated from 3rd-century or later levels. The evidence of the pottery points firmly to great activity in the Flavian period, followed by a marked decline throughout the 2nd century, and well into the 3rd (by which time the use of samian ware dwindled). Then, in the late Roman period, a spate of fresh building activity must have occasioned the wholesale disturbance of deposits which had remained more or less intact since the Flavian era.

In view of the sheer quantity and the consistency of its own internal evidence, the samian pottery can, however, tell us a certain amount about the nature and chronology of settlement at Sea Mills in the early Roman period, a subject upon which there has been keen discussion in recent years. First, there can be little doubt that the pottery is derived from a military installation, either a fort or, especially in view of the riverine location, more likely a supply base. Small towns and other civilian sites, even in the more rapidly romanized South-East, seldom yield very much samian ware of Flavian date. By contrast, the 1st-century ware from Sea Mills not only represents a large number of vessels, but also exhibits a broad range of forms (including some of the less common ones, such as form 22) and a good proportion of decorated pottery. Moreover, the samian shows very little evidence of wear (especially on footrings) and repair (by rivetting or strapping) during use. In sum, the appearance of the collection is characteristically military.

The vexed question of dating the military occupation may next be considered since the samian ware, despite its stratigraphic deficiencies, still constitutes the bulk of the evidence. First, it should be observed that there is nothing from the 1965–67 sites which is attributable to the 'Arretine' or earliest South Gaulish factories; nor is there any material certainly of Claudian date (the only possible candidate is the decorated sherd, FIG. 35,1). Equally certainly, there is very little samian ware datable to the earlier part of the Neronian period: the fine quality, high-gloss bowls of forms 29 and 30, so characteristic of the period, are entirely absent and contemporary plain forms are only sparsely represented. With one or two possible exceptions, the first group of samian vessels belongs to the 60s. A date before *c.* AD 55 cannot be

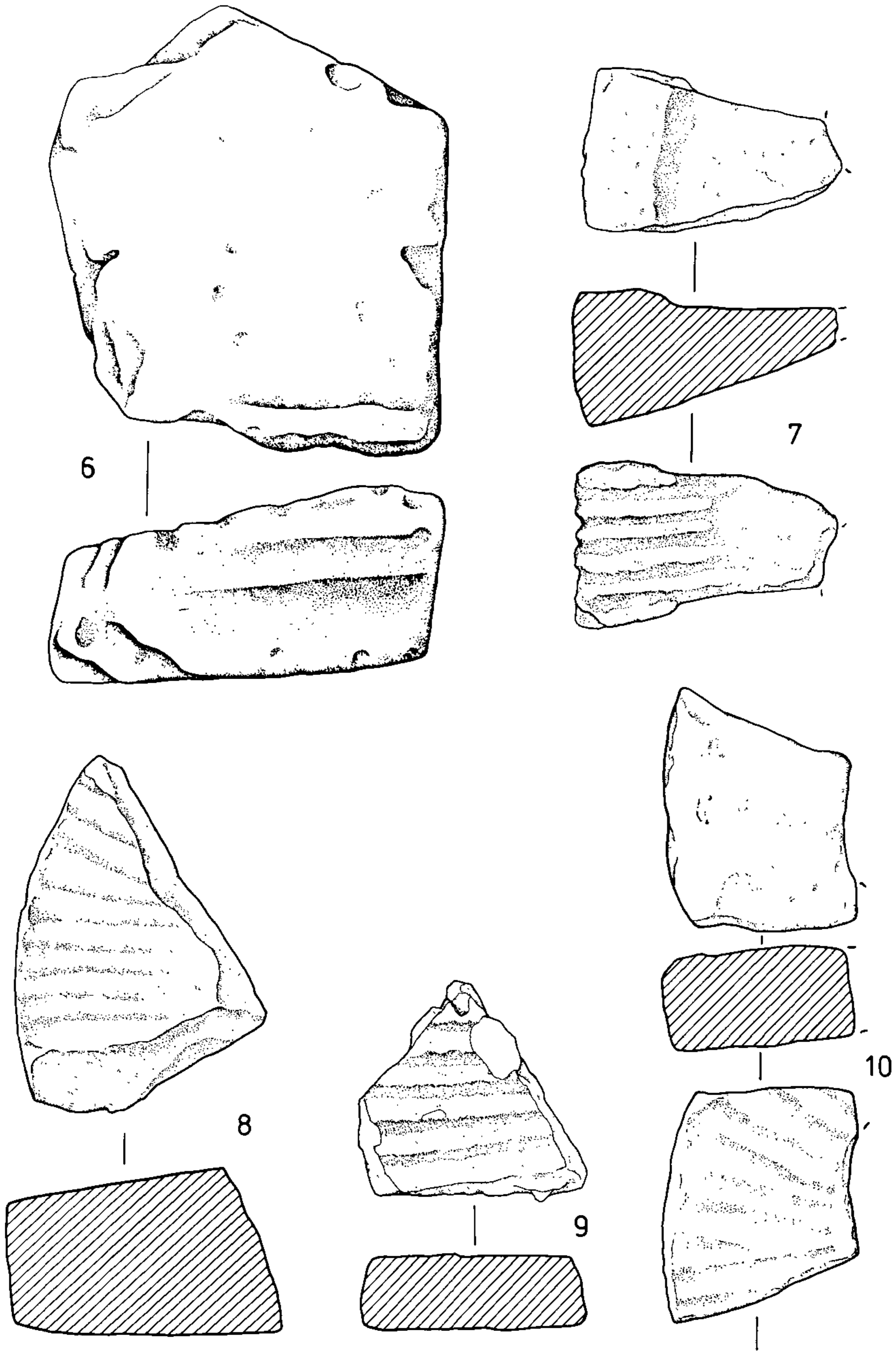


FIG. 32 Stone objects, 6-10. Scale 1:4. Drawn by L. Induni.

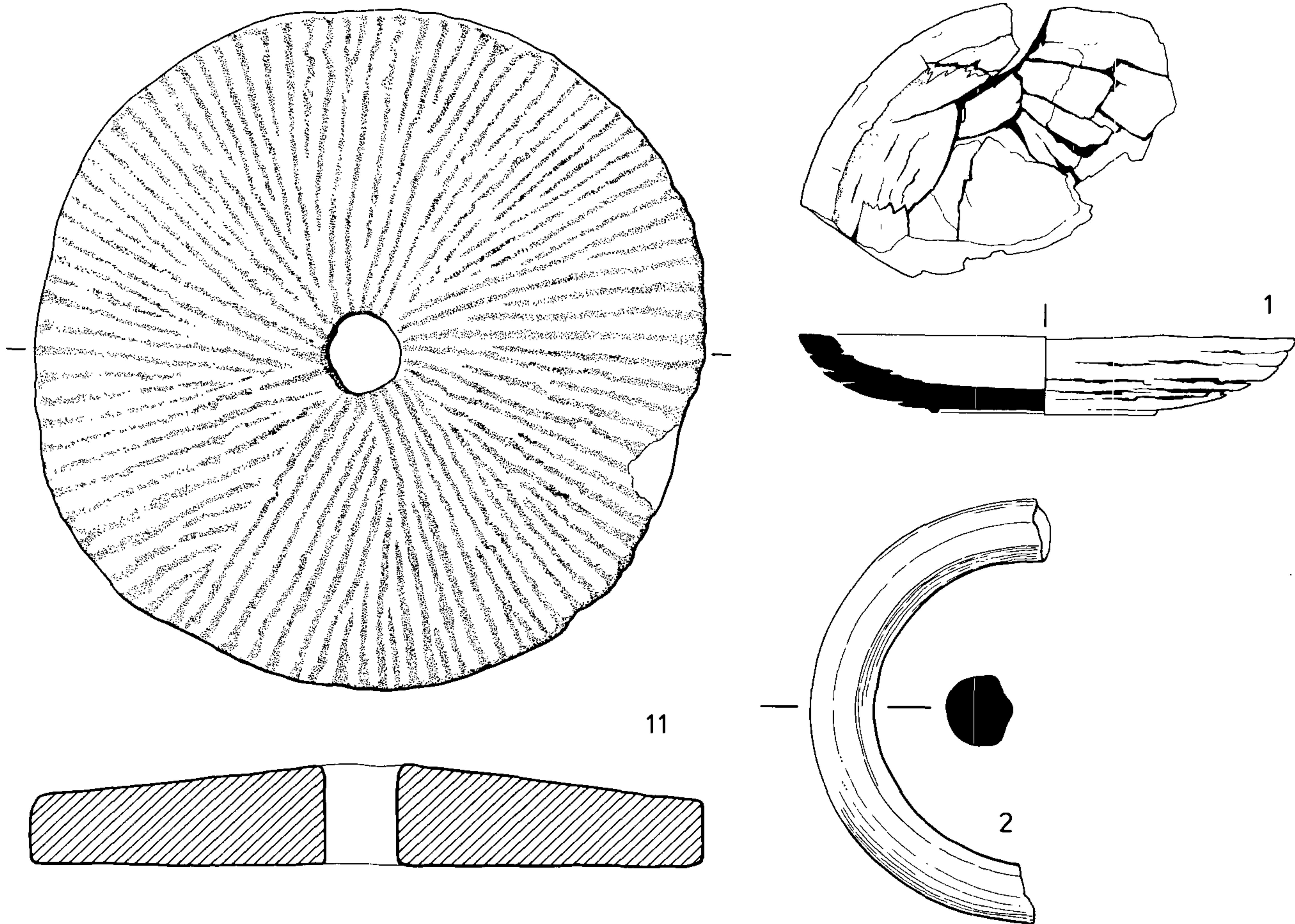


FIG. 33 Quernstone, 11. Scale 1:8. Shale objects, 1-2. Scale 1:2. Drawn by L. Induni.

sustained, and one nearer to *c.* 60 may be more likely in view of the fact that most military-derived assemblages yield a small proportion of pottery which was 'old stock' when it arrived on site. The 1st-century samian ware from the Nazareth House excavation fully supports this dating (Detsicas in Bennett 1985).

Difficulty arises in reconciling this evidence with that published by Mr George Boon. In the account of his excavations of 1945–46 in the centre of Sea Mills is a report by G.R. Stanton on seven decorated samian bowls, recovered from various locations. Stanton concluded that these were essentially Flavian in date (Stanton in Boon 1945, 294–5). Prompted by a suggestion from Felix Oswald that five of the published vessels were Claudian, Boon reconsidered the origins of Sea Mills (Boon 1949). He was also able to list no fewer than 104 Republican and Claudian coins (the majority being British copies) which, together with the redated samian, appeared to provide irrefutable evidence for the Claudian origin of Sea Mills.

The coin assemblage alone – as with the samian ware discussed in this report – provides overwhelming confirmation of an early military presence on the site. But the coinage can only be used to date this presence to the pre-Flavian period, since copies of Claudian bronze were still being minted down to the late 60s (Kenyon 1985; Reece 1985). Thus dating the foundation of Sea Mills to the Claudian era – that is before 55 – rather than to the middle part of Nero's reign, say *c.* 60 (as argued above), rests on five pieces of samian. These must be briefly reconsidered in the light of current knowledge, since Oswald sometimes tended towards an earlier dating than the material can support.

The vessels in question were published in Boon 1945, figs. 3A, B, C and 4D, E.

- 3A Form 29, early Lezoux ware in the style of Atepomarus. This, and other material of similar origin, has been discussed separately by Boon (1967), who recorded a second sherd (Ritt. 12) from Sea Mills. A third piece can now be added to the list, a basal fragment of form 15/17 or 18 from the 1967 excavation. Early Lezoux ware cannot be closely dated at present; it is generally found in small quantities on pre-Flavian and early Flavian military sites. The bulk of this ware in Britain is probably Neronian.
- 3B Form 29, stamped by Primus ii of La Graufesenque, a pre-Flavian potter. This example is Neronian.
- 3C Form 29, stamped by Matugenus of La Graufesenque. This vessel is almost identical to one from Hofheim, and is certainly pre-Flavian. Date: *c.* AD 55–70.
- 4D Form 29. Oswald attributed this to the work of Masclus of La Graufesenque. It is probably the earliest piece of samian ware so far recorded from Sea Mills, *c.* AD 50–65.
- 4E Form 29. Oswald attributed this to the work of Labio of La Graufesenque, on whose signed bowls the decoration can be closely matched. Labio was primarily a Neronian potter, and a plain form bearing his stamp was found in the 1966 excavation. Date: *c.* AD 55–70.

None of these five vessels needs be earlier than *c.* 60, and thus cannot be used to support a Claudian date for the military occupation of Sea Mills: they are entirely consistent with the larger assemblage discussed in this report.

Comparison of the Sea Mills assemblage with other assemblages from the South-West reinforces the conclusions reached here. Recent publication of the considerable quantity of samian pottery from the pre-Flavian military levels at Cirencester (Hartley and Dickinson 1982) provides a striking contrast: the Claudian and early Neronian material will not bear comparison with the samian from Sea Mills. Ilchester, on the other hand, provides an acceptable parallel (Rodwell 1982). This is another instance where the samian pottery pointed clearly to a military presence, beginning in the 60s.

The homogeneity of the 1st-century samian ware suggests that the military occupation of Sea Mills was abruptly terminated, and was not replaced by civilian occupation for two or three decades. The first point to note is that late south Gaulish wares, both plain and decorated, of the type manufactured at various centres in the period *c.* AD 85–110 are entirely absent. The rather ungainly bowls of form 37 produced in this period are invariably found in large numbers on military sites occupied in the last two decades of the 1st century. Next it should be recorded that the composition of the decorated assemblage from the 1965–67 excavations provides a further indication of date. Forms 29 and 37 are present in roughly equal numbers; there are also a few fragments of form 67, and one of a rare 'Sabinus-type' jug, while the later Flavian form 78 is not represented. Since form 37 began to appear *c.* AD 70 and form 29 went out of production *c.* AD 85, there is a strong case for dating the military occupation to the 70s and perhaps the early 80s. In sum, the bracket *c.* AD 55–85 should cover the maximum likely extent of the military phase.

Second-century samian ware is very poorly represented on the sites examined here. The distinctive products of the period *c.* AD 100–125 from the kilns at Les Martres-de-Veyre are sparsely represented: FIG. 37, 35–40; and also, not illustrated, are several small pieces of standard bowls in the style of Drusus I. Hadrianic and early Antonine wares are equally sparse, which is not especially meaningful; the surprise comes with the later Antonine period, the quantity of samian of this date from these sites may be described as virtually insignificant. The especially late Antonine forms, 31R, 45, 79, Lud. Tg, etc., are represented by about half-a-dozen sherds; and the showing made by East Gaulish wares (as opposed to Central Gaulish) is numerically even lower. However, the virtual absence of late Antonine material from the sites examined here is not paralleled in the general collection of Sea Mills samian held at Bristol Museum, where the proportion of 2nd-century samian is not out of the ordinary for a small settlement. (I am grateful to Mr George Boon for drawing this fact to my attention.)

A catalogue of all the samian pottery from the 1965–67 excavations is included with the site archive. A full list of the

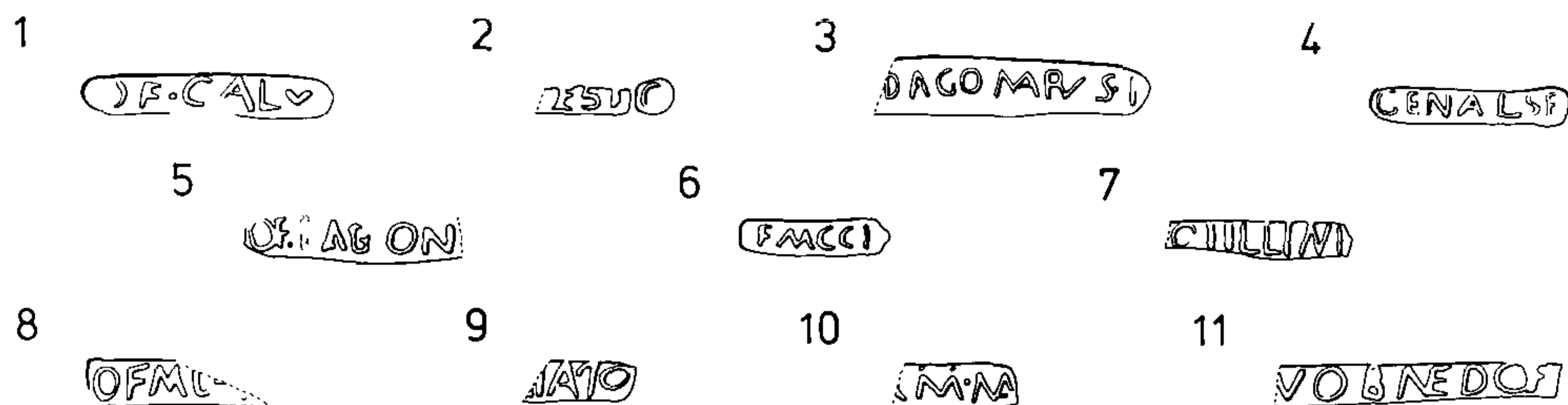


FIG. 34 Samian stamps. Scale 1:1. Drawn by A. Linge.

pottery stamps is given here, and about one-third of the total number of decorated sherds is illustrated (FIGS. 35–37) and described. The material selected for illustration covers the full range from the site and includes all the larger and intrinsically significant pieces, whether stratified or not.

The potters' stamps (FIG. 34)

Twenty stamps, whole or fragmentary, were found. These were submitted to Mr B.R. Hartley, who kindly supplied details of the dies and potters for the following thirteen stamps which could be positively identified.

- 1 Calvus i of La Graufesenque^a. Form 29, die 5tt, reading OF.CALV[I]. *c.* AD 70–85. 1965 I (25).
- 2 Crestio of La Graufesenque^a. Form 29, die 5b reading [OFCR]ESTIO. *c.* AD 45–60. 1967 IV (9).
- 3 Dagomarus of Les Martres-de-Veyre^b. Form 18/31, die 4c, reading DAGOMARVS.F. *c.* AD 100–125. 1965 I (11).
- 4 Genialis i of La Graufesenque^a. Form 33a, die 2a, reading GENIALISF. *c.* AD 50–70. 1967 XXB U/S.
- 5 Labio of La Graufesenque^a. Form 15/17 or 18, die 1a, reading OF.LABION[IS]. *c.* AD 50–70. 1966 X (30).
- 6 Maccarus of La Graufesenque^b. Form 27g, die 13e, reading (O)FMACCA(R). *c.* AD 40–65. 1967 IV (9).
- 7 Marcellinus i of Les Martres-de-Veyre^a. Form 33a, die 1c, reading [MAR]CILLINI. *c.* AD 110–140. 1967¹ I (13A).
- 8 Mont. Cr. of La Graufesenque^a. Form 15/17 or 18, die 3a, reading OFMO[NTI.CR]. *c.* AD 60–75. 1967 I (19A).
- 9 Pass(i)enus of La Graufesenque^b. Form 27g, die 13a, retrograde reading OPAS[SIINVS]. *c.* AD 55–75. 1967 VIII (1).
- 10 Primus iii of La Graufesenque^a. Form 27g, die 30b, burnt, reading [PR]IMI.MA. *c.* AD 60–80. 1967 VIII (3).
- 11 Suobnedo of Lezoux^b. Form 33, die 2b, reading [S]VOBNEDOF. Antonine. 1965 VII (1).
- 12 Divixtus of Lezoux^a. Form 30, die 9d, reading DIV[IX.F]. *c.* AD 150–180. 1965 I (8). (Not illustrated.)
- 13 Marcellinus i, as above. Form 18/31, die 1c, reading [MAR]CILLINI. 1967 U/S. (Not illustrated.)

Note: the superscript letters following the name of the factory indicate the following: a) stamp attested at the pottery in question; b) stamp not yet attested at the pottery, though the potter is known to have worked there.

The Decorated Samian (FIGS. 35–37)

- 1 SM65 V 8, Period 4A. Form 29, South Gaulish. Remains of a scroll in the lower zone, now badly excoriated. Dull brownish slip. May well be Claudian.
- 2 SM65 V U/S; and another sherd from Trench I, 12 (not illustrated). Form 29, South Gaulish. Running scroll in the upper zone. *c.* AD 60–75.
- 3 SM66 XVII 8, Period 1B. Form 29, South Gaulish. Upper zone, divided into panels filled with arrows, probably alternating with animals: cf. Nos. 9 and 12. *c.* AD 60–75.
- 4 SM66 XXB 2, Period 4B. Form 29, South Gaulish. Lower zone with a wreath under the carination, and traces of a running scroll below. *c.* AD 60–75.
- 5 SM65 VI 2, Period 5. Form 29, South Gaulish. Upper zone with small fragment of running scroll. *c.* AD 60–75.
- 6 SM65 VI 28, Period 3. Form 29, South Gaulish. Rim and upper zone, divided into panels by groups of wavy lines; alternate panels filled by arrows and groups of figures. The central feature a bearded mask (approximating to H.298), flanked by pairs of small birds (not closely matched by Hermet or Oswald). A similar mask was commonly used by Daribitus, but is not exclusive to him. *c.* AD 65–80.
- 7 SM66 X 25, Period 1B. Form 29. South Gaulish. Lower zone, with a wreath under the carination, and probably a winding scroll below. *c.* AD 60–75.
- 8 SM 66 XXIV 5, Period 4B. Form 29, South Gaulish. Upper zone with a running scroll; paired tendrils. *c.* AD 65–80.

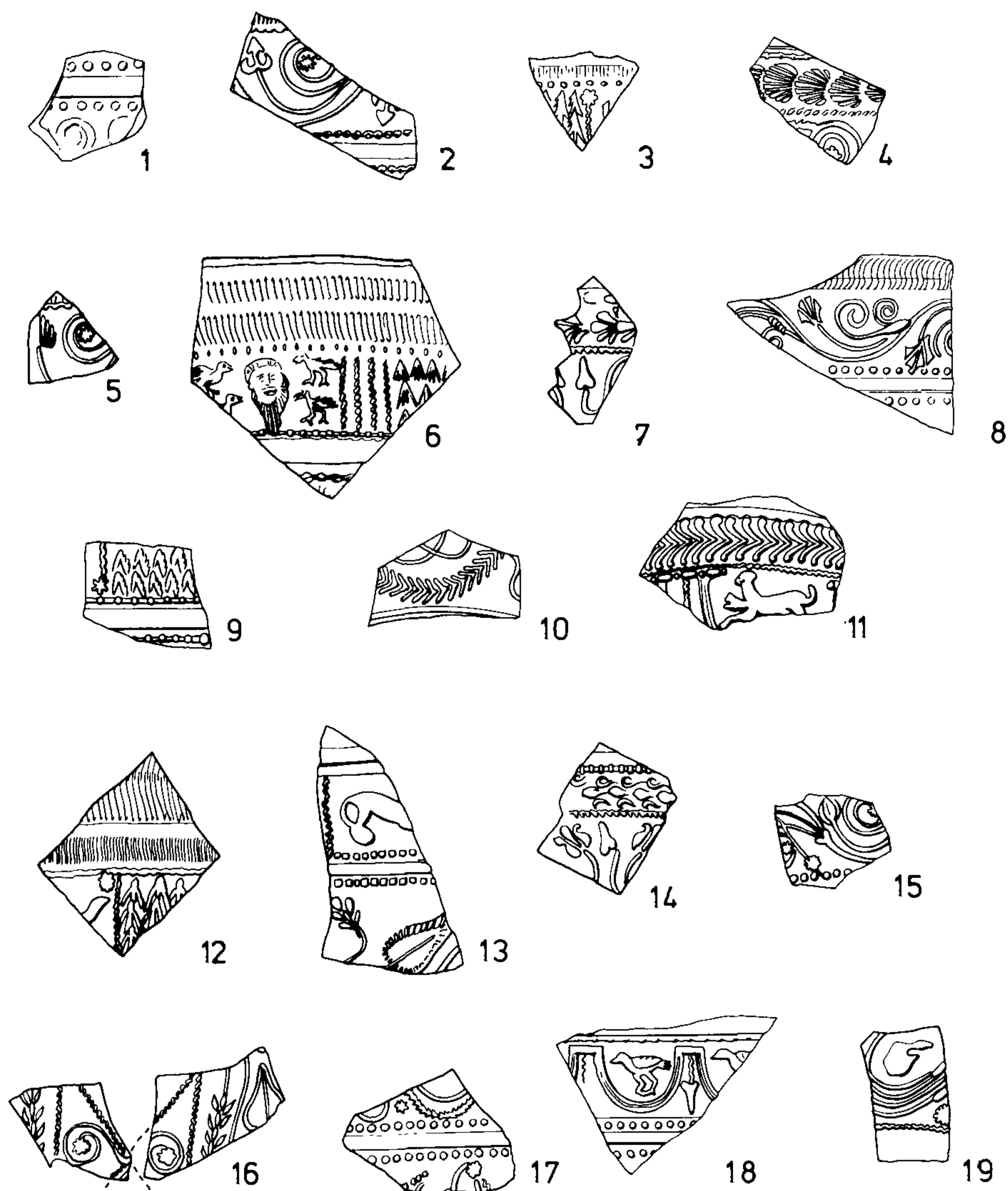


FIG. 35 Decorated samian pottery, 1-19. Scale 1:2. Drawn by L. Induni.

- 9 SM 67 I 9, Period 6. Form 29, South Gaulish. Upper zone, showing a panel of arrows (cf. Nos. 3 and 12). *c.* AD 65-80.
- 10 SM67 III 22, Period 4. Form 29, South Gaulish. Lower zone with a wreath-like winding scroll, containing pairs of leaves with crossed-over stems. *c.* AD 60-75.
- 11 SM67 III 51A, Period 5. Form 29, South Gaulish. Lower zone with wreath beneath carination, and series of festoons containing animals below. Small lion to left, not closely identifiable. *c.* AD 70-85.
- 12 SM65 I U/S. Form 29, South Gaulish. Upper zone with alternating panels of animals and large arrows. Tail of lion to left. *c.* AD 70-85.
- 13 SM65 II 5, Period 4B. Form 29, South Gaulish. Upper zone panelled, showing lion to right (Hermet, pl. 25.25). Lower zone contains a common form of winding scroll. *c.* AD 65-80.
- 14 SM65 II 5, Period 4B. Form 29, South Gaulish. Lower zone wreathed beneath the carination, and probably a winding scroll below. *c.* AD 70-85.

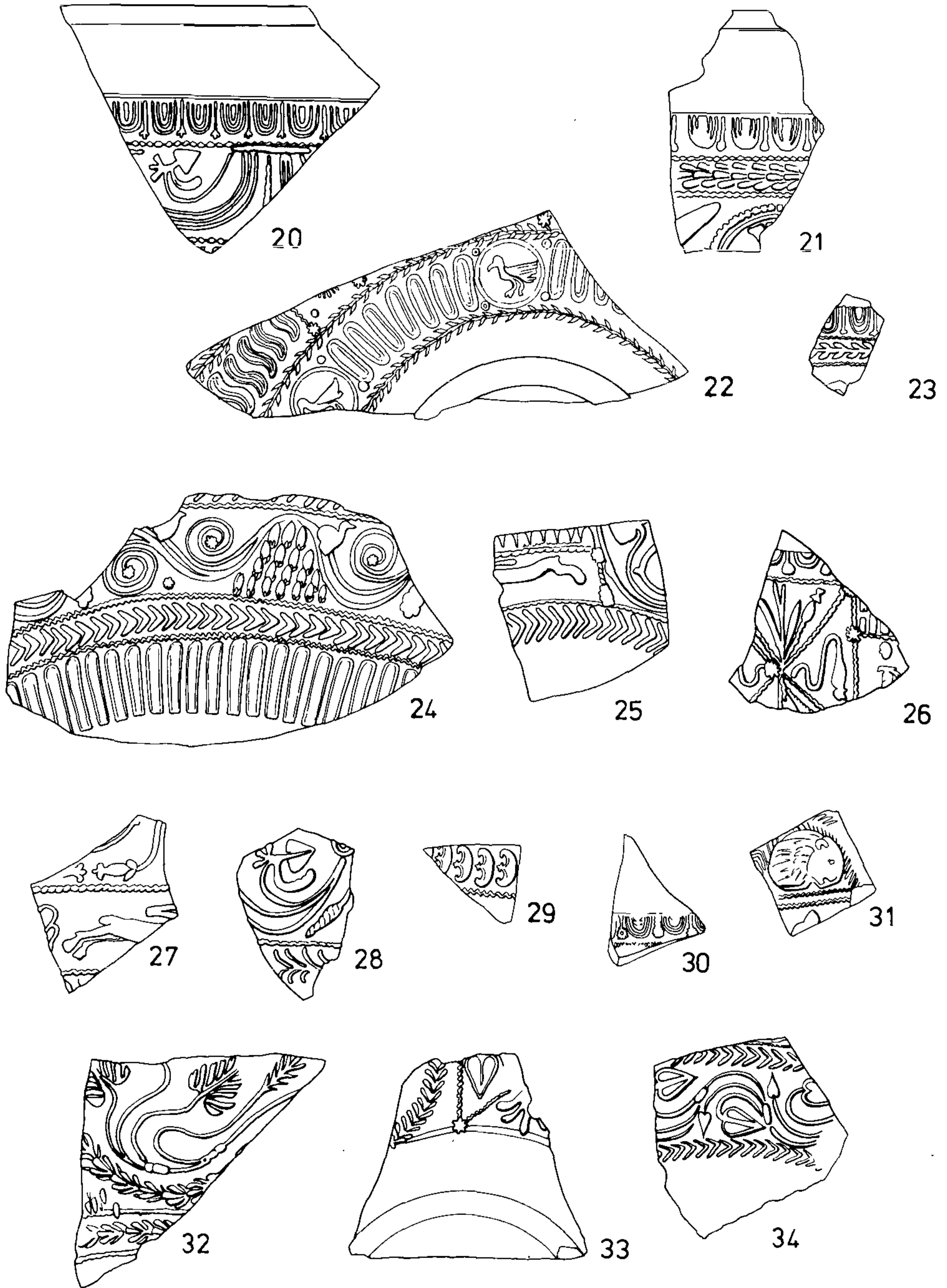


FIG. 36 Decorated samian pottery, 20-34. Scale 1:2. Drawn by L. Induni.

- 15 SM66 XI 6 U/S. Form 29, South Gaulish. Upper zone with neat running scroll. *c.* AD 60–75.
- 16 SM66 XV 'Pit' U/S. Form 29, South Gaulish. Lower zone divided into panels: St Andrew's cross and leaf motifs. *c.* AD 70–85.
- 17 SM66 XVIII 1, Period 6. Form 29, South Gaulish. Upper zone with wreathed running scroll; traces of leaf and ?panel decoration in lower zone. *c.* AD 60–75.
- 18 SM67 VIII 9, Period 3. Form 29, South Gaulish. Upper zone with a series of festoons containing small birds, similar to 0.2268. *c.* AD 70–85.
- 19 SM66 X 22, Period 2. Form 30, South Gaulish. Lower part with winding scroll containing a tiny bird, 0.2244. *c.* AD 60–75.
- 20 SM65 II U/S. Form 37, South Gaulish. Double-bordered ovolo with trifid tongue; band of festoons containing formal leaf motif below. Cf. bowl from the Pompeii hoard, attributed to Mommo (Atkinson 1914, pl. XI.57). *c.* AD 75–90.
- 21 SM65 VI 28, Period 3. Form 37, South Gaulish. Poorly moulded. Double-bordered ovolo and trifid wreath below; beaded festoon containing a bird (head to left) and leaves between. *c.* AD 75–90.
- 22 SM65 VI 33, Period 4A. Form 37, South Gaulish. Horizontally banded decoration divided by small wreaths. The lowest band contains groups of short godroons separated by small birds (generally similar to 0.2270) in single-bordered medallions. The next band contains groups of S-godroons separated by small beaded medallions. *c.* AD 75–85.
- 23 SM66 XIV 16, Period 2. Form 37, South Gaulish. Another vessel in generally similar style to no. 22, with a neat double-bordered ovolo and small wreath below. *c.* AD 75–85.
- 24 SM66 XIV 29, Period 3. Form 37, South Gaulish. Horizontally banded bowl with V-shaped wreaths separating the ovolo (missing) and the two main zones of decoration. The upper zone a winding scroll enclosing groups of arrows, the lower zone filled with godroons. Cf. bowl from the Pompeii hoard (Atkinson 1914, pl. IX.49). *c.* AD 75–90.
- 25 SM66 XIV 29, Period 3. Form 37, South Gaulish. Large winding scroll enclosing small running animals (hare, 0.2129) and groups of arrows. V-shaped basal wreath. *c.* AD 75–90.
- 26 SM66 XV U/S. Form 37, South Gaulish. Panelled bowl with St. Andrew's cross motif, and trace of a small unidentified figure, facing left. *c.* AD 75–90.
- 27 SM66 XXB 2, Period 5. Form 37, South Gaulish. Horizontally banded bowl: basal wreath; lower band containing running animals (hare, 0.2072) between tufts of vegetation; upper band a series of festoons. *c.* AD 75–90.
- 28 SM66 XXV 1 U/S. Form 37, South Gaulish. V-shaped basal wreath and large winding scroll. *c.* AD 75–90.
- 29 SM67 I 51A, Period 5. Form 37, South Gaulish. Band of pelta ornament. *c.* AD 75–90.
- 30 SM67 I 51A, Period 5. Form 37, South Gaulish. A small, neat, double-bordered ovolo with rosette-ended tongue. An early example of form 37. *c.* AD 70–80.
- 31 SM67 I 13, Period 6. Form 37, South Gaulish. A hare (not matched by Oswald) is tightly crouched under a wreathed arcade. *c.* AD 75–90.
- 32 SM65 I 2A, Period 6. Form 37, South Gaulish. Large winding scroll. *c.* AD 70–85.
- 33 SM65 VI 31, Period 4A. Form 37, South Gaulish. Panelled bowl with wreathed festoon and St. Andrew's cross motif. *c.* AD 75–90.
- 34 SM66 XV 'Pit' U/S. Form 37, South Gaulish. Running scroll between V-shaped wreaths. An early example of form 37. *c.* AD 70–85.
- 35 SM65 I 14, Period 4B. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Pronounced scrolls in the characteristic 'Ranto-Silvio style' (cf. Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pl. 33). *c.* AD 100–130.
- 36 SM65 I 25 U/S. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Similar to no. 35, but not the same vessel.
- 37 SM66 X 22, Period 2. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Fragment of double-bordered ovolo, with rosette-ended tongue; also a V-shaped motif carried on the back of an acanthus leaf. Probably a product of Les Martres-de-Veyre. *c.* AD 100–125.
- 38 SM66 U/S. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Large swirling vine scroll, characteristic of the Donnaucus-Ioenalis group of potters at Les Martres-de-Veyre: cf. for example, Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pls. 41.447, 41.483 and 49.478. *c.* AD 100–120.
- 39 SM67 I 51A, Period 5. Form 37, Central Gaulish, fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. Fragment of large winding scroll. *c.* AD 100–125.
- 40 SM66 XIV U/S. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Style of the X₂ Potter of Les Martres-de-Veyre; his characteristic ovolo, single-bordered with rosette-ended tongue. He also frequently projected his figures slightly into the ovolo band. Male dancer, 0.365. *c.* AD 100–120.
- 41 SM65 I 8, Period 4A. Form 30, Central Gaulish. Stamped in the mould by Divixtus of Lezoux. This is an unusual piece in that the panels are defined by wavy-line borders, rather than the more normal bead-rows. The name stamp has been pressed into a panel already containing a figure, a caryatid on a mask (0.1201). Stag in the medallion (0.1704A); panther (0.1518) in the panel below. For the work of Divixtus in this general style see Stanfield and

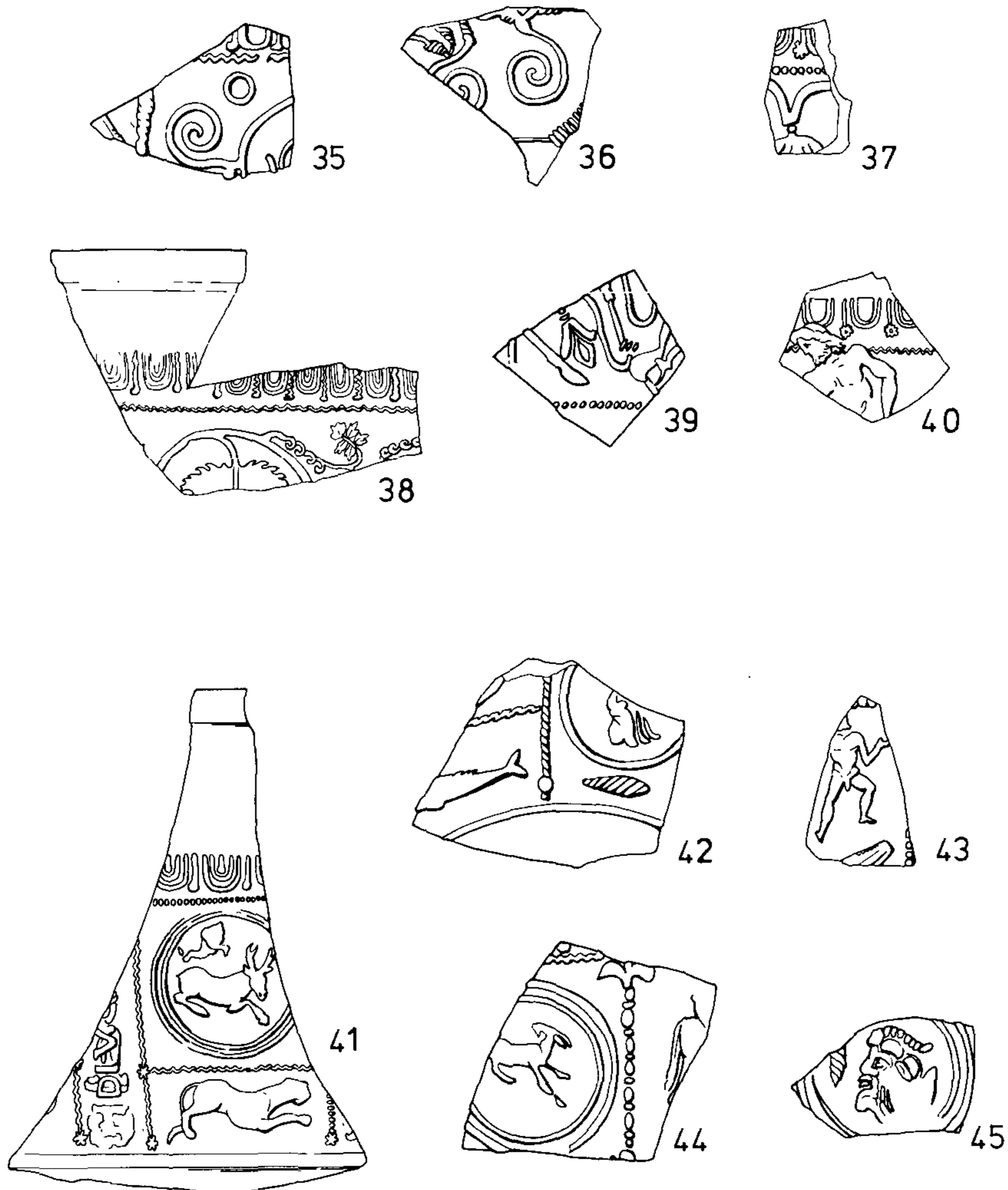


FIG. 37 Decorated samian pottery, 35–45. Scale 1:2. Drawn by L. Induni.

Simpson 1958, pl. 116. *c.* AD 160–195.

- 42 SM65 V 8, Period 4A. Form 37, Central Gaulish, burnt. Trace of a single-bordered festoon, with a fish in the panel below (0.2418); a single-bordered medallion contains a mask (0.1214), with a rope-twist below. The style suggests Paternus of Lezoux, or one of his close associates. *c.* AD 160–190.
- 43 SM65 V 10, Period 3. Form 30, Central Gaulish. Pigmy, 0.687, with kite-shaped motif below; borders of large, square bead-rows. Probably the work of Iullinus of Lezoux. *c.* AD 160–190.
- 44 SM65 V 2, Period 5. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Panelled bowl with astragalus and wavy-line borders. Goat (0.1834) in double-bordered medallion. The damaged figure to the right is probably Venus, but is too badly damaged for certain identification. The style is suggestive of Albucius of Lezoux. *c.* AD 160–190.
- 45 SM67 V 6, Period 4B. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Mask (0.1214) and rope twist in double-bordered medallion; cf. no. 42. Style of Paternus of Lezoux. *c.* AD 160–190.

Note: numbered figure-types refer to the catalogues published by Hermet (1934) and Oswald (1936–7).

OTHER ROMAN POTTERY (FIGS. 38-41) by Jane Timby

Introduction

This report deals with the Roman pottery (excluding samian) recovered from the 1965-1967 excavations. Detailed fabric analysis and quantification was restricted to material that could be related to stratified Roman levels. This amounted to c. 106 kg (c. 8,500 sherds). The remaining material, which probably accounts for between one or two times as much again, includes Roman pottery derived from post-Roman levels, material from contexts that could not be located in the stratigraphic sequence due to poor recording, and pottery amalgamated from various contexts with illegible or abraded marking. The unrecorded material was briefly assessed for any unusual pieces or potters' stamps.

The basis for the primary classification of the pottery was a type fabric series (Table 13). Ascription of pieces to the series was based primarily on macroscopic examination of the sherds, sometimes aided by the use of a binocular microscope to help identify inclusions and look at the general composition of the clay matrix. Further subdivisions were made on the basis of texture and finish. For ease of identification, reduced and oxidized coarsewares were recorded as separate fabrics and cross-referenced where relevant. The fabric designation used is based on an alphabetical sequence in which a letter denotes the main fabric/form category and the numbers the fabrics within that category. Thus A = Amphorae, B = Dorset Black Burnished ware, C = Colour-coats, D = Oxidized wares, E = Reduced wares, F = Native wares, G = Glazed wares, M = Mortaria, and Ox = products of the Oxford industry (excluding mortaria).

Once divided into recognizable fabrics, details of form, manufacture, and occurrence, both chronologically and geographically, were noted. A quantitative assessment of the fabrics from every excavated context was made by weighing and by counting the number of sherds in each fabric group (Tables 6-12). Featured sherds such as rims, bases, handles, etc. were recorded separately. In the cases of rims the diameter and the percentage present were recorded in order to provide an estimate of vessel equivalents (Orton 1980, 164-167). The estimated vessel equivalent figures listed in the Tables are percentages, thus only when these figures exceed 100 is more than one vessel indicated. This statistic offers a useful alternative to sherd number/weight for comparing fabric presence.

In Tables 6-12 the numerical data for each fabric are listed in the following sequence: wt. = weight in grams; no. = number of sherds; and EVE = estimated vessel equivalent (percentage). These Tables provide a quantitative summary of the Sea Mills assemblage and are accompanied by an index to the type fabrics represented (Table 13). A more extensive report, containing detailed descriptions of the type fabrics, is included with the excavation archive at Bristol Museum.

Table 6 Incidence of imported fine wares (wt. - no. - EVE)

<i>Fabrics</i>	<i>C1</i>	<i>C3</i>	<i>C5</i>	<i>C12</i>	<i>C13</i>	<i>E33</i>	<i>E35</i>	<i>G1</i>
SM65 Phase 1 4b 5	1-1-0	42-7-0	4-1-0 3-1-0		9-1-0			
SM66 Phase 1b 2 3 4a 4b		3-1-0 53-2-0 3-2-0		4-2-0	2-1-0	23-3-13 13-2-2 43-1-17 15-1-0		
SM67 Phase 3 4 5 6			3-1-0 26-3-0 23-3-16		1-1-0	23-2-4	1-1-0	3-1-0
<i>Totals</i>	1-1-0	101-12-0	59-9-16	4-2-0	12-3-0	117-9-36	1-1-0	3-1-0

Table 7 Incidence of mortaria (wt. - no. - EVE)

Fabrics	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M10	M11	M12	M13	M14	M15	M16	M18
SM65 Phase 2 3 4b 5	81-3-10 25-1-7	56-1-4 14-1-2		16-1-4	10-1-10	30-1-3	48-1-9	26-1-7	148-4-10			374-2-20	30-1-0	44-1-8	65-1-9	
SM66 Phase 1b 2 3 4a 5	4-1-0	156-5-6	8-1-0	21-1-0			14-1-0 243-2-29	21-3-0	17-1-0		32-1-0 26-1-0 68-1-10	319-1-13	711-2-28	8-1-0		104-1-9
SM67 Phase 2 3 4 5 6	8-1-0	9-2-0	14-1-4	50-1-10 28-1-0							137-2-11 72-2-8	31-1-6				
Totals	118-6-17	235-9-12	22-2-4	115-4-14	10-1-10	30-1-3	305-4-38	47-4-7	292-10-15	126-3-10	209-4-19	724-4-39	741-3-28	52-2-8	65-1-9	104-1-9

Table 8 Incidence of amphorae (wt. - no. - EVE)

Fabrics	A1	A2	A3	A4	A7	A10	A13	A14	A15	A18	A20	A21	A22
SM65 Phase 1 3 4a 4b 5	182-4-100 1019-18-0 1692-11-0 3052-42-0 818-7-0	22-1-0	76-2-0 24-1-0 331-20-22 380-7-0	54-2-0		43-1-0 63-2-4		25-1-0	166-3-0		499-1-100		77-1-0
SM66 Phase 1a 1b 2 3 4a 4b 5	668-4-0 2446-19-12 1930-21-0 1315-17-0 1416-14-20 910-11-0 520-1-0	151-7-0 27-1-0 110-3-0 177-3-0 313-7-0 76-2-0	307-20-0 25-2-0 10-1-0 211-7-15 81-6-0	60-1-0	5-1-14		62-1-9 5-1-0	62-3-0 71-4-0 26-4-0 18-1-0 384-11-0	45-1-19				
SM67 Phase 3 4 5 6 7	299-5-0 1441-28-12 686-10-13 710-12-0 327-2-0	30-4-0 235-6-0 125-4-0 49-3-0	45-2-0 174-10-0 84-4-0 78-7-0 21-3-0					10-1-0 21-2-4		103-1-0		9-1-0	
Totals	19431-226-157	2056-47-0	1847-92-37	114-3-0	5-1-14	106-3-4	67-2-9	629-28-4	211-4-19	103-1-0	499-1-100	9-1-0	77-1-0

Table 9 Incidence of native wares (wt. - no. - EVE)

<i>Fabrics</i>	<i>F1</i>	<i>F2</i>	<i>F3</i>	<i>F4</i>	<i>F5</i>
SM65 Phase 1	3-1-0	4-1-0			
3	44-3-0	8-1-0			
4a	16-2-4	40-3-0			
4b	107-9-39	28-6-0	11-2-0	9-2-0	30-3-0
5	23-1-4	88-2-25	17-1-0	9-1-0	
SM66 Phase 1a	7-1-0				16-1-0
1b	192-16-18	52-5-0			180-8-23
2	274-58-14	74-7-4	58-6-0		
3	71-7-0	10-1-0	63-2-0		
4a	189-17-21	206-10-21			29-4-0
4b	118-12-2	29-3-0		71-1-0	24-4-0
5					4-1-0
SM67 Phase 3	40-3-0				14-2-0
4	82-6-28	41-2-5			168-12-42
5				50-1-10	34-5-0
6	45-7-16				7-1-3
<i>Totals</i>	1211-143-146	580-41-55	149-11-0	139-5-10	506-41-68

Table 10a Incidence of local wares: micaceous and limestone-tempered (wt. - no. - EVE)

<i>Fabrics</i>	<i>E1</i>	<i>E2</i>	<i>E15</i>	<i>E3</i>	<i>E31</i>	<i>D2</i>	<i>D5</i>
SM65 Phase 1	36-5-18	73-14-20	205-20-29				42-1-0
2			144-2-36	1-1-0		105-4-60	
3	103-4-2	109-10-5	180-22-34	10-1-0	132-1-8		
4a	404-69-45	541-47-124	1123-110-180	54-4-7	55-1-0	29-2-10	4-1-0
4h	1442-162-270	632-86-134	1612-156-157	41-3-19	5-1-0	64-3-15	16-3-0
5	234-24-38	435-48-135	196-21-35	14-4-0		7-1-0	9-1-0
SM66 Phase 1a	11-2-0	6-1-0		5-1-0			
1b	120-10-8	122-27-34	194-20-6				44-5-27
2	100-62-18	16-3-0	23-2-0				
3	431-52-56	144-17-54	322-30-54	10-1-0		45-3-0	5-1-0
4a	136-21-49	407-36-53	207-31-26	9-1-0		30-3-0	26-4-0
4b	485-68-98	700-77-130	1568-125-83			5-1-0	37-4-0
5		48-4-6	95-17-30				5-1-0
SM67 Phase 2	11-1-0	1-1-0	13-1-15				
3	5-1-0	75-7-10	74-8-0				
4	119-18-11	204-34-20	441-40-9	15-2-0			13-1-0
5	84-7-10	193-30-69	430-34-25	15-2-0	13-1-9		
6	43-4-0	266-30-10	480-49-35	12-4-1	7-1-4		
7	31-2-12		129-6-0				
<i>Totals</i>	3795-512-635	3972-472-804	7436-694-754	186-24-27	212-5-21	285-17-85	201-22-27

Table 10b Incidence of local wares: grog/clay pellet-tempered (wt. - no. - EVE)

Fabrics	E4	E5	E12	E13	E14	D17
SM65 Phase 1			96-4-0	96-5-14	57-5-0	
2		36-8-4	3-1-0	11-1-6		
3	25-2-0	58-8-21	173-12-0	60-3-0	11-1-8	24-2-6
4a	78-4-23	152-22-38	69-5-14	7-1-0		66-2-0
4b		31-4-7	175-30-25	160-8-26	14-1-0	
5			396-16-0	89-4-8	11-1-5	23-1-0
SM66 Phase 1a		15-1-0				
1b	25-2-14	45-8-11	36-6-0	191-11-7	10-1-0	
2	87-5-5	38-6-16	102-10-0	274-16-7		
3		10-1-2	108-8-6	103-6-21	44-1-0	
4a	44-3-10	13-3-11	120-7-10	112-11-19		
4b	16-1-0	81-10-9	240-22-18	61-4-0	6-1-3	150-3-0
5		3-1-0	40-1-11			
SM67 Phase 1				152-2-0		
2			11-1-0	29-1-0	8-2-0	
3		63-6-0	45-5-4		4-2-0	
4	9-2-0	32-7-0	8-1-0	8-1-0		
5		19-4-0	44-5-0	18-2-7		
6	8-1-4	3-1-0		20-1-10		
Totals	292-20-56	599-90-119	1666-134-88	1391-77-125	165-15-16	263-8-6

Table 10c Incidence of local wares: sandy (wt. - no. - EVE)

Fabrics	E6	E7	E8	E10	E11	E16	E19	E21
SM65 Phase 1	137-11-37	14-2-7	83-3-0	163-13-12	15-1-7			
2	36-6-0			6-1-0				
3	357-36-72	12-1-9	25-2-0	32-2-0			4-1-0	
4a	491-59-134	178-6-9	60-13-11	121-13-19	45-4-17	67-9-18		
4b	1213-181-208	223-15-28	367-31-88	528-74-67	3-1-3	320-27-61	29-4-0	33-7-0
5	195-16-69	38-3-23	51-6-41	316-15-41	129-4-29	182-10-19		6-1-0
SM66 Phase 1a	164-9-6	9-1-0		4-1-0	6-1-4			
1b	644-68-83	124-21-0	172-26-3	200-18-41		138-10-7	9-2-9	
2	381-61-45	198-15-0	40-3-21	19-1-0		47-5-6		74-3-6
3	419-37-68	127-5-5	155-11-71	115-19-30	8-2-0	143-13-20	18-2-0	28-3-6
4a	338-47-79	67-7-0	148-12-28		14-2-3	191-18-49		27-2-0
4b	289-50-47	154-9-48	340-47-41	109-9-3	20-3-0	491-36-57	129-13-34	28-5-0
5			33-3-0	12-2-11		39-1-7	20-3-0	
SM67 Phase 2				4-1-0				
3	41-6-0			138-14-11		79-9-0		
4	387-64-51	8-2-16	176-17-36	259-20-8		324-28-16	22-2-4	14-1-0
5	105-15-23		42-2-40	100-6-12		105-10-0		7-1-0
6	177-25-46		19-2-0	81-6-12		246-11-18		
7	7-2-0			12-2-0		54-5-0		
Totals	5381-693-968	1152-87-145	1711-178-380	2219-217-267	240-18-63	2426-195-278	231-27-47	217-23-12

Table 10d Incidence of local wares: sandy and flint-tempered (wt. -- no. -- EVE)

Fabric	E24	E27	E28	E29	E32	D4	D6	D9	D10	D12	D13	D15	D18	D19	D20	D22	D25	E23
SM65																		
Phase 1	20-3-0	5-1-12		13-1-6		32-6-0				2-1-0	31-3-34 41-9-0			16-3-0		3-1-0		
2		79-7-0		31-6-0		77-5-14	6-1-5	14-3-0			9-2-0	45-7-22		16-3-0				
3		16-3-0			3-1-6	9-2-0		29-4-17	10-1-0	93-8-9	32-7-0	28-5-0		32-5-10		18-3-0		
4a	19-3-0	248-22-34	10-1-0	46-6-0	21-1-0	216-30-11	9-1-0	49-10-60	46-8-0	398-78-57	36-8-13	42-9-12		111-15-4	45-9-0	89-4-0		
4b	215-35-65	53-2-10	16-2-0	26-2-0		14-4-5	10-1-0	13-2-5	107-8-0	15-2-0	21-1-6	5-2-10		6-1-0				
5	43-2-0																	
SM66																		
Phase 1a		268-12-36	21-1-0			6-1-0	15-1-0	32-4-0	30-3-0	17-3-0	141-29-34	101-5-0	17-1-0	15-1-0		9-3-0		
1b		836-48-104	11-1-0	53-3-0		147-16-10	20-1-0	33-5-0		34-5-0	16-3-8	4-1-0		2-1-0	11-1-0	358-28-33		
2		119-10-0				50-8-0	67-11-5	88-6-0		155-20-22	41-6-0	25-8-6		86-6-20	15-3-0	20-3-12		
3	295-26-73	189-14-32		7-1-0		180-14-52	27-3-0	1-1-10	11-3-0	89-13-25	25-4-0	10-5-1		11-1-5	13-3-3	59-15-0		
4a		121-11-11		89-5-0		91-12-1	5-1-0	34-5-4	12-2-0	153-47-9	36-8-3	259-4-60	2-1-12	26-5-0	7-1-5	50-10-0		5-1-0
4b		135-11-5	70-4-0	132-11-9	44-1-0	107-9-3	5-1-0	41-8-9	5-1-0	63-18-0	4-1-0			6-2-0		13-4-0		6-1-0
5								2-4-4	3-1-0									
SM67																		
Phase 1																		
2		5-1-0																
3		38-5-0																
4		235-23-7		65-1-12		30-6-0		24-4-10	20-3-0	31-1-0	3-1-0			19-4-0		9-2-0		
5		42-4-0		7-1-0	11-2-0	442-72-8		58-7-16		6-3-0	40-11-0	24-4-0		26-4-0	7-1-0	32-10-0		
6		60-5-0		10-1-0	10-1-0	21-3-0		20-3-7	16-2-0	34-7-0	13-1-0	4-2-0		10-2-0		23-3-0		
7				52-7-6		132-13-0		16-1-0	5-1-0	28-3-22	21-3-25	33-1-0		51-5-7		22-2-0		
Totals	592-69-138	2449-179-251	129-10-0	521-44-33	89-6-6	1566-204-104	159-20-10	454-67-142	265-33-0	1118-209-144	510-97-123	580-53-111	19-2-12	433-58-46	98-18-8	705-88-45	5-1-0	77-5-7

Table 11 Incidence of Severn Valley type wares and unclassified fabrics (00) (wt. - no. - EVE)

<i>Fabrics</i>	<i>D1</i>	<i>D11</i>	<i>D21</i>	<i>00</i>
SM65				
Phase 1	181-19-24		15-2-0	18-5-0
2	1-1-0			
3	150-10-0	13-1-0	17-2-0	
4a	538-39-29	44-5-10	62-3-0	34-2-0
4b	1037-94-20	97-10-0	251-23-25	7-2-0
5	95-9-17	56-6-0	19-2-0	10-1-10
SM66				
Phase 1a	37-6-0			4-1-0
1b	392-51-83	116-6-0	298-13-16	2-1-0
2	78-14-0	70-8-0	172-16-0	
3	248-24-0	6-1-0	79-7-0	
4a	174-37-14	50-5-0	50-3-0	
4b	468-52-46		84-8-15	68-5-11
5				
SM67				
Phase 1				
2	10-3-0		65-1-0	
3	181-17-0		115-8-0	
4	502-70-3	41-5-9	223-8-14	43-6-0
5	65-10-14	15-1-0		3-1-0
6	369-41-27		345-9-24	38-3-8
7	16-3-0			
<i>Totals</i>	4542-500-277	508-48-19	1795-105-94	227-27-29

Table 12 Incidence of non-local wares (wt. - no. - EVE)

Fabrics	E34	E17	E25	E30	D3	D7	D16	G1	B	Ox1	Ox2	Ox3	C2	C6	D14	D27	D24	D26
SM65 Phase 1																		
2			30-5-0	47-2-22	63-3-0 1-1-0				605-55-65					7-1-0	6-2-0			
3		181-8-8		241-20-17	316-19-28			3-2-0	311-14-15									
4a	6-1-0	137-5-20	16-1-0	263-26-12	172-16-31				2086-160-325	47-4-3				52-9-0	11-2-23		16-1-0	
4b		411-21-27	322-14-14	24-3-5	476-47-33	11-1-0	3-1-0		5053-527-648	406-30-50		13-1-0						
5		29-2-0	223-2-0		61-7-21				1332-115-345	52-5-11								
SM66 Phase 1a																		
1b				4-1-0	4-1-0				9-1-0									
2		714-21-63	239-14-5	6-2-0	66-7-0	16-2-7	7-1-0		273-38-10						2-1-0		6-1-0	
3		26-1-0	64-3-0	19-2-7	9-1-0	18-1-16			157-18-10						2-1-0		13-1-0	
4a	37-3-11		260-14-0	26-2-0	125-19-0		6-1-0		1650-159-175	36-4-0				4-2-0				7-1-13
4b	13-1-7	30-2-0	83-6-6		165-14-5		10-1-0		990-113-161	58-3-17	25-1-7			10-3-16				2-1-0
5			417-15-0		103-13-19				2441-252-203	84-25-16				6-1-0				
					2-1-0				350-50-68	121-14-22								
SM67 Phase 1																		
2					17-1-0				60-3-4									
3		31-3-0	32-1-0	26-1-0	8-1-10		5-1-0		108-11-3	5-1-5								
4	19-1-0	204-16-0		19-3-4	4-1-0				201-26-15	24-2-8					68-1-0			
5		33-2-0	21-1-0	43-2-13	58-5-0				96-5-13	6-1-0								
6		66-4-0	372-1-0	5-1-0	11-1-1				423-29-58	10-1-0				2-1-0		26-1-0		
7			30-1-0		30-3-0				35-4-0					11-2-0				
Totals	75-6-18	1862-85-118	2109-78-25	723-65-80	1691-161-148	45-4-23	31-5-0	3-2-0	16200-1580-2118	849-90-132	25-1-7	13-1-0	73-15-7	92-19-16	107-11-23	26-1-0	35-3-0	11-3-13

Table 13 Index of type fabric (TF) numbers used in this report (in the order described in archive) with suggested dating and comparative types.

<i>Category</i>	<i>TF No.</i>	<i>Name/description</i>
I	IMPORTS	
I.1	Samian –	
I.2	Other finewares (Table 6)	
	C7	Lyons ware, pre-Flavian (Greene 1979, 13)
	C3	North Gaul colour-coat 1, AD 70/80 – 135/150 (Anderson 1980, fabric 1)
	C5	North Gaul colour-coat 2, AD 70/80 – 135/150 (Anderson 1980, fabric 2)
	C12	Central Gaulish colour-coat, pre-Flavian and Flavian-Hadrianic (Greene 1979, 43)
	C13	Lower Rhineland colour-coat, pre-Flavian to 3rd century (Anderson 1980, 14)
	C1	Rhenish colour-coat, Antonine – mid-3rd century
	E33	<i>Terra nigra</i> , AD 40 – 70/75
	E35	Black egg-shell ware, ?pre-Flavian
	G1	St Rémi glazed ware, pre-Flavian (Greene 1979, 86ff)
I.3	Mortaria (Table 7)	
	M4	NE Gaul/SE England, 1st century
	M11	Central/South Gaul, 1st century
	M13	Q Valerius Veranius, AD 65–100 (Hartley 1977, group II)
	M14	Q Valerius Secundus, AD 50–85 (Hartley 1977, group I)
	M18	?North Gaul, Claudian-Neronian
	M19	unknown, ?Claudian
I.4	Amphorae (Table 8)	
	A1	Dressel 20, pre-Conquest onward (Peacock 1981, 201)
	A2	South Spanish unfeatured
	A3	Pélichet 47, Flavian – 3rd century
	A4	unknown
	A7	stopper
	A10	unknown
	A13	Camulodunum 186A, 1st century (Peacock 1981, 202)
	A14	unknown
	A15	Rhodian, Augustan to Flavian (Peacock 1977, fabric 1)
	A18	unknown
	A20	?Pélichet 47 variant
	A21	unknown
	A22	unknown
II	COARSEWARES: native (Table 9)	
	F1	calcite tempered, 1st century
	F2	grog tempered
	F3	limestone tempered, 1st century
	F4	organic tempered
	F5	grog/clay pellets
III	COARSEWARES: local (Tables 10a–d)	
III.1	E1	micaceous ware, late 1st/early 2nd century (Leach 1982, fabric Gii; Leech 1982b, 156)
	E2	micaceous ware, 1st–3rd century
	E15	micaceous ware
III.2	E3	limestone tempered
	E31	limestone tempered
	D2	limestone tempered, 1st century
	D5	limestone tempered, Flavian – 2nd century
III.3	E4	grog/clay pellet tempered
	E5	grog/clay pellet tempered
	E12	grog/clay pellet tempered, 3rd–4th century (Fowler 1968, fabrics 8,9; Branigan 1977, fabric 4)
	E13	grog/clay pellet tempered
	E14	grog/clay pellet tempered
	D17	grog/clay pellet tempered

III.4	E6	sandy ware, 1st–3rd century
	E7	sandy ware, 1st–3rd century
	E8	sandy ware, 1st–4th century
	E10	sandy ware, 1st–4th century
	E11	sandy ware
	E16	sandy ware, ?2nd–4th century
	E19	sandy ware, 3rd–4th century (Usher and Lilly 1964)
	E21	sandy ware, ?2nd–4th century
	E24	sandy ware
	E27	sandy ware
	E28	sandy ware
	E29	sandy ware, 3rd–4th century (Branigan 1977, fabric 5; Fowler 1968, fabric 18)
	E32	sandy ware, ?3rd–4th century
	D4	sandy ware, ?1st–2nd century
	D6	sandy ware, ?1st–2nd century
	D9	sandy ware, ?1st–3rd century
	D10	sandy ware, 2nd century onward (Ireland 1983, 101; Leach 1982, fabrics CCv, Mi; Branigan 1977, fabric 20)
	D12	sandy ware
	M7	sandy ware
	D13	sandy ware, late 1st–2nd century
	D15	sandy ware, late 1st–2nd century
	D18	sandy ware, ?1st–2nd century
	D19	sandy ware, ?1st century
	D20	sandy ware, 2nd century onward
	D22	sandy ware, 1st–2nd century
D25	sandy ware	
III.5	E23	flint tempered
IV	COARSEWARES: Severn Valley types (Webster 1976) (Table 11)	
	D1	Severn Valley type, late 1st–4th century
	D11	Severn Valley type, late 1st–4th century
	D21	Severn Valley type, 1st–2nd century
V	COARSEWARES: non-local (Table 12)	
V.1	E17	Savernake ware (Annable 1962)
	E25	Savernake ware, 1st–2nd century
	E30	Wiltshire grey sandy ware, 2nd century (Anderson 1979, 9)
	D3	Wiltshire oxidized ware, late 1st century (Anderson 1978)
	D7	Wiltshire mica slipped ware, ?late 1st–2nd century (Green 1973)
	D16	Wiltshire white ware, ?2nd century
	G2	Wiltshire green glazed ware, Flavian-Trajanic (Arthur 1978, 319)
V.2	D27	?Brockley Hill, Verulamium, late 1st/early 2nd century
	M16	G Attius Marinus, Radlett, AD 90–110 (Hartley 1984, 283)
V.3	B	Dorset black-burnished ware, 1st–4th century
V.4	Ox1	Oxford red colour-coat, mid 3rd–4th century (Young 1977)
	M1	Oxford red mortaria, mid 3rd–4th century (Young 1977)
	Ox2	Oxford parchment ware, AD 240–400+ (Young 1977)
	Ox3	Oxford white ware, 2nd–4th century
	M5	Oxford white ware mortaria, 2nd–4th century
V.5	C2	Nene Valley colour-coat, 3rd–4th century
V.6	E36	Alice Holt grey ware, 1st–4th century
V.7	D14	source unknown, late 1st–2nd century
	D24	source unknown, ?1st century
	D26	source unknown, ?1st century
V.8	E34	Late shell-tempered ware, 4th/5th century (Leach 1982, group 11; Branigan 1977, fabric 57; Leach 1981, 238)
V.9	C6	Unprovenanced colour-coat, ?2nd–4th century (Leach 1982, CCii/iv)

VI BRITISH MORTARIA (Table 7)

M2	'local' orange sandy
M3	'local' sandy
M6	Mancetter-Hartshill, 2nd century onward
M8	Caerleon type, AD 115–180 (Boon 1966)
M10	'local'
M12	?SE England
M15	?SW England

Figure catalogue (FIGS. 38–41)

The vessels selected for illustration present a representative selection of the stratified assemblage together with any unusual or stamped pieces from the unstratified contexts. Types that are well documented elsewhere, in particular products of the Dorset black burnished and Oxford industries are not included. The figures are arranged in the order of the fabric index (Table 13). The rather mixed nature of the assemblage and the moderately low occurrence of large rimsherds militates against a more detailed chronological approach. Notes on the two amphorae stamps (FIG. 38, 11–12) were provided by Dr Toby Parker.

- 1 SM67 I 21, Period 5. Cornice rim beaker with roughcast decoration, fabric C5.
- 2 SM65 unstrat., Fb 6273. 1st century mortarium stamped Q Valerius Veranius (Hartley 1977, Group II), fabric M13.
- 3 SM65 VI 28, Period 3, Fb 6233. 1st-century mortarium with part of a lead rivet attached, fabric M13.
- 4 SM66 X 27, Period 2, Fb 6229. 1st-century mortarium (Hartley 1977, Group II variant), fabric M14.
- 5 SM66 XVII 11, Period 1B, Fb 6201. AD 50–85, fabric M14 (Hartley 1977, Group I, type as made by Q Valerius Secundus).
- 6 SM66 X38 or 39, Period 3, Fb 6151. As 5, fabric M14.
- 7 SM66 unstrat., Fb 6200. Wall-sided mortarium of Claudian date. Part of a lead rivet attached. Source unknown. Fabric M19.
- 8 SM67 I 23, Period 5. Rimsherd from a Dressel 20 amphora, fabric A1.
- 9 SM66 XIV 27, Period 1A. As 8.
- 10 SM66 XVII 11, Period 1B. As 8.
- 11 SM66 XIV 5, Period 5. Dressel 20 amphora handle stamped LIBER[], reading downwards to the right, fabric A1. To be identified with Callender (1965) no. 865, from Rome (the other stamps cited under this entry by Callender are probably distinct). In the present case, enough survives of the stamp to show it reads in full LIBERALIS; several examples of this stamp, together with variations such as LIBERALINIS, have been found at an amphora pottery at El Temple, 4 km E of Almodóvar del Rio (Chic García 1985, 9, and pl. nos. 43–48). Other examples, from Vienne, Geneva, Fos, and off Marseilles, are cited by Amar and Liou (1984, no. 144); they suggest a 1st-century date.
- 12 SM66 X 26, Period 4A. Dressel 20 amphora handle stamped ROMANI, reading downwards to the right, fabric A1. Callender (1965), no. 1541; it very likely originates from an amphora pottery at la Huerta de las Delicias, near Écija (Chic García 1985, 33). Additional examples to those given by Callender are cited (from Morocco, France, and Switzerland) by Chic García (1985) and Amar and Liou (1984, no. 201). A Flavian date is well attested (e.g. by Schüpbach 1983), and some examples may be as early as c. AD 50 (Martin-Kilcher 1983, 344).
- 13 SM65 I 12, Period 4B. Rimsherd from a Pélichet 47, fabric A3.
- 14 SM66 XVII 11, Period 1B. As 13.
- 15 SM65 II 3, Period 1. Rimsherd from an amphora, possibly a variant of the Pélichet 47 type, fabric A20.
- 16 SM65 unstrat. Unclassified amphora handle, fabric A22.
- 17 SM67 VIII 3, Period 4. Bead rim jar, fabric F1.
- 18 SM67 VIII 3, Period 4. Bead rim jar, fabric F2.
- 19 SM66 XVII 11, Period 1B. Bead rim jar, fabric F5.
- 20 SM65 II 3, Period 1. Bead rim jar, fabric F5.
- 21 SM66 XVII 8, Period 1B. Bowl with a convex lip decorated with simple rouletting on the interior, fabric E1.
- 22 SM67 I 51, Period 5. High shouldered beaker, fabric E1.
- 23 SM65 VI 7, Period 4A. Straight-sided flat rim dish, fabric E2.
- 24 SM67 I 67, Period 4. Flat rim hemispherical dish, fabric E2.
- 25 SM66 X 41, Period 3. Beaded rim jar with a light 'scalloping' on the top of the rim. Fabric E2.
- 26 SM66 XVII 8, Period 1B. Beaker with a short everted rim, fabric E2.
- 27 SM65 II 6, Period 1. Simple rim beaker, fabric E2.

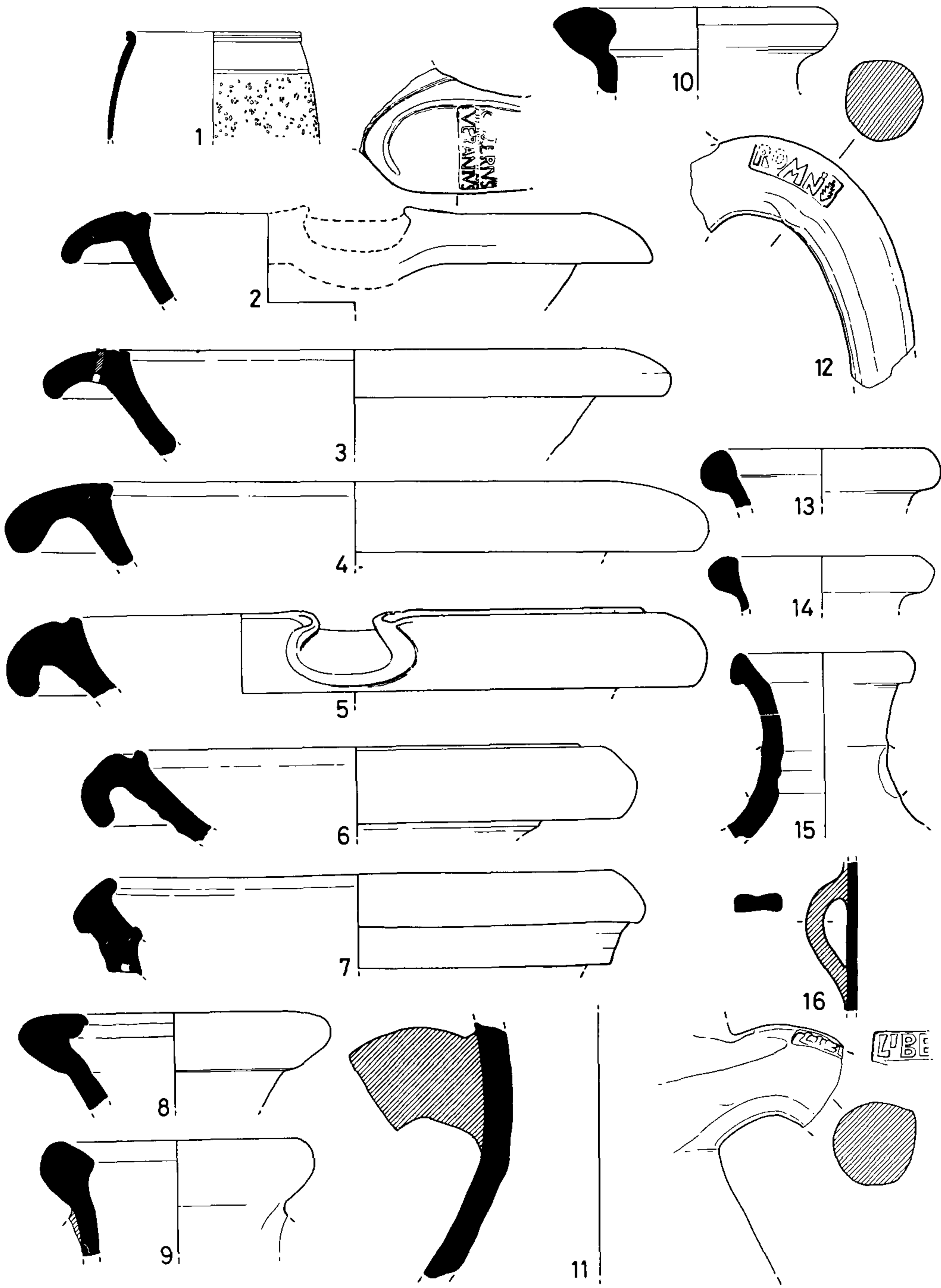


FIG. 38 Romano-British pottery, 1-16. Scale 1:4. Drawn by L. Induni.

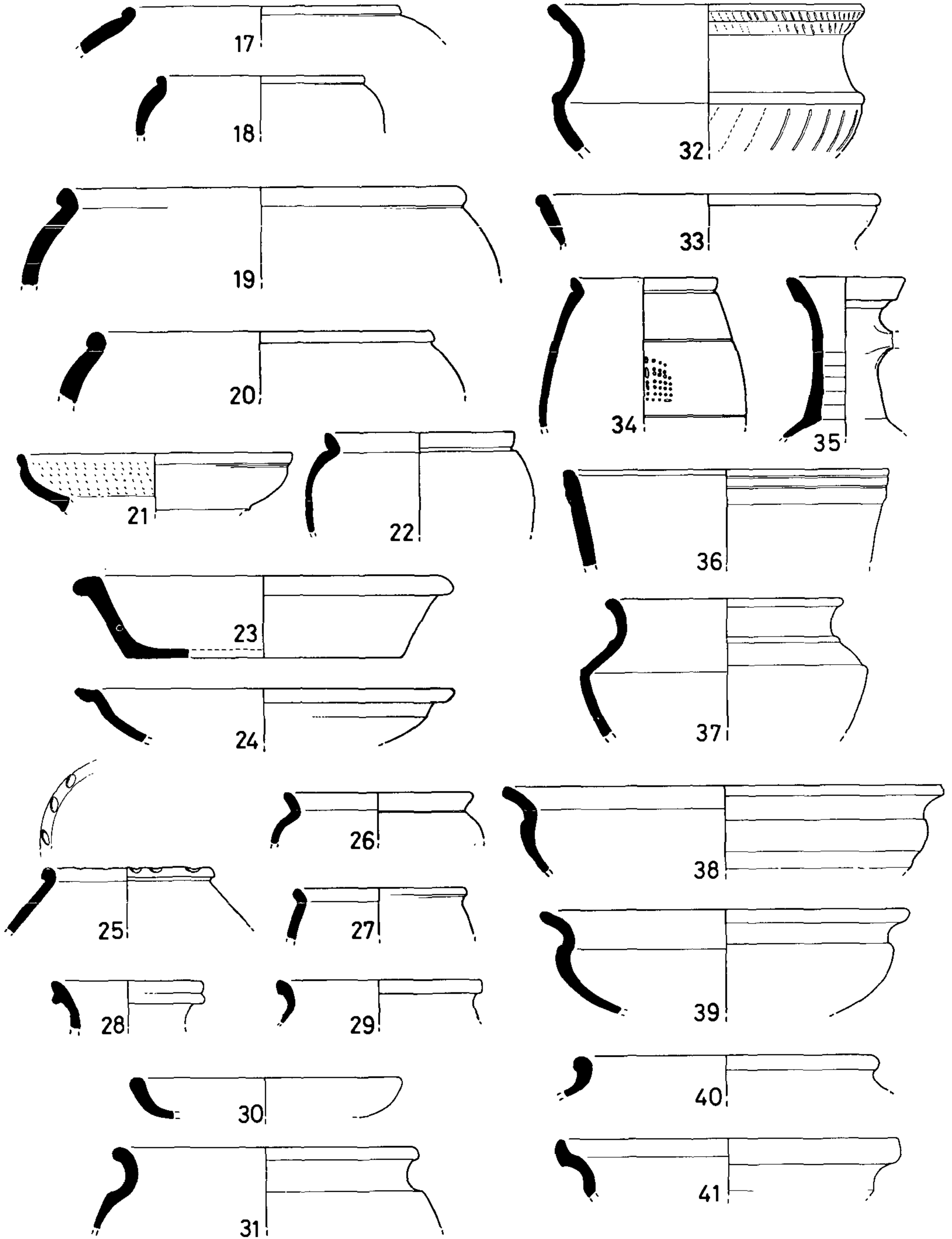


FIG. 39 Romano-British pottery, 17-41. Scale 1:4. Drawn by L. Induni.

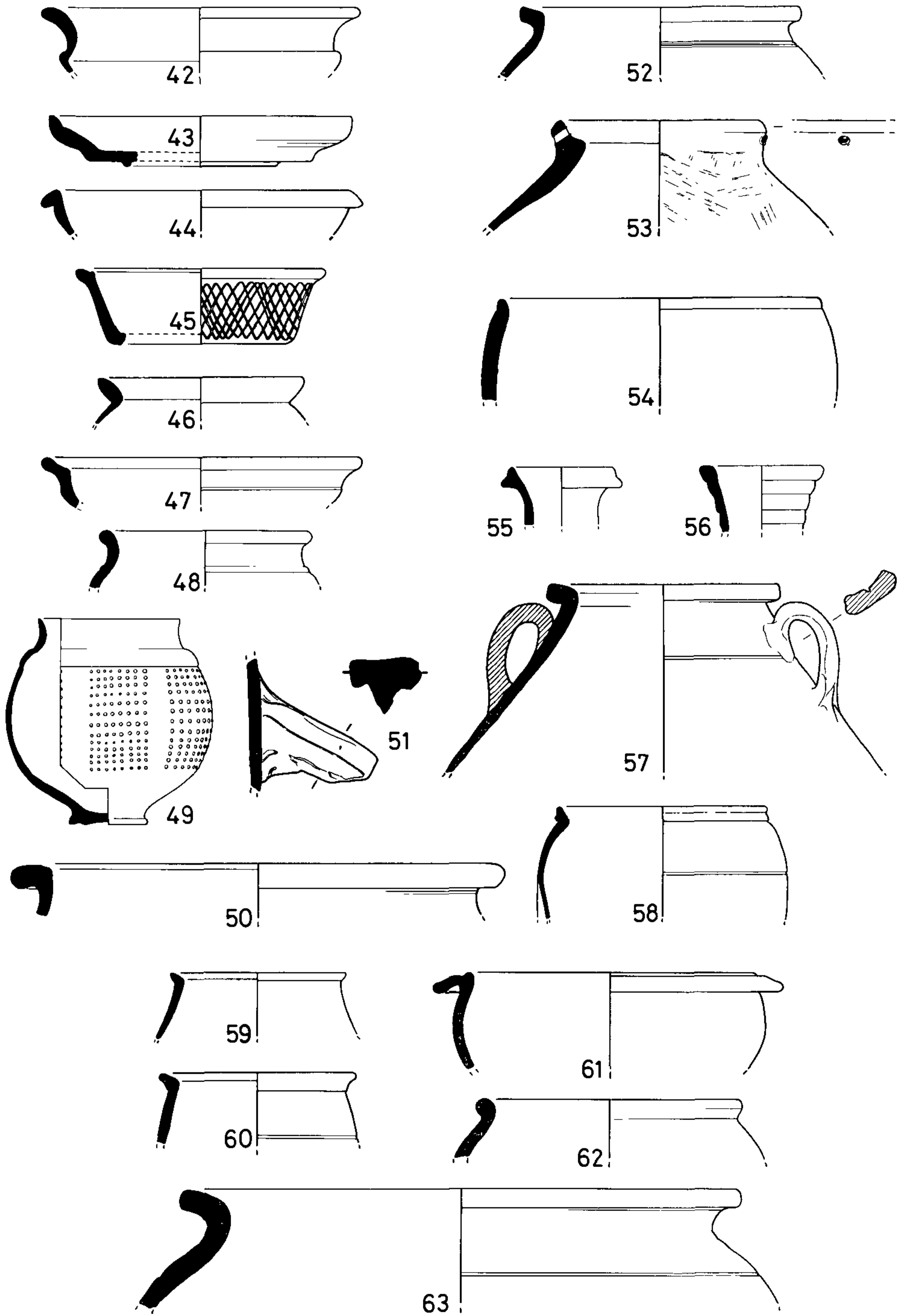


FIG. 40 Romano-British pottery, 42-63. Scale 1:4. Drawn by L. Induni.

- 28 SM66 X 42, Period 3. Flagon with a bifid rim, fabric E2.
- 29 SM67 I 21, Period 5. Jar with a small triangular rim, fabric E2.
- 30 SM65 II 6, Period 1. Shallow curved wall platter, fabric E2.
- 31 SM66 X 36, Period 3. High shouldered jar with a simple everted rim, fabric E15.
- 32 SM65 V 10, Period 3. A carinated, cordoned bowl with lightly incised line decoration, fabric E15.
- 33 SM65 VI 7, Period 4A. Everted rim bowl, fabric E15.
- 34 SM65 VI 7, Period 4A. Beaker with barbotine dot panel decoration, fabric E15.
- 35 SM65 VI 29, Period 2. Collared rim flagon, fabric D2.
- 36 SM65 II 5, Period 4B. Tankard/straight-sided bowl, fabric D5.
- 37 SM65 VI 31, Period 4A. Everted rim jar with a sharply carinated body and a cordon at the base of the neck, fabric E6.
- 38 SM66 X 36, Period 3. Everted rim hemispherical bowl, fabric E6.
- 39 SM66 X 35, Period 1B. Everted rim hemispherical bowl, fabric E6.
- 40 SM66 X 36, Period 3. Beaded rim jar, fabric E6.
- 41 SM65 I 6, Period 5. Carinated bowl with a convex rim, fabric E6.
- 42 SM65 II 6, Period 1. Everted rim carinated bowl, fabric E6.
- 43 SM65 I 3, Period 5. Platter with a footring imitating Camulodunum form 14, fabric E6.
- 44 SM67 III 15, Period 6. Curved wall dish with a triangular rim, fabric E6.
- 45 SM65 VI 28, Period 3. Low beaded flanged dish with burnished lattice decoration, fabric E6.
- 46 SM66 XIVB 25/26, Period 4A. Beaker, fabric E6.
- 47 SM65 II 5, Period 4B. Everted rim carinated bowl, fabric E6.
- 48 SM65 II 5, Period 4B. Everted rim cordoned jar, fabric E6.
- 49 SM67 I 65, Period 4. Poppyhead beaker with panels of barbotine dot decoration, fabric E8.
- 50 SM66 XB 7, Period 3. Jar with a flat slightly thickened rim, fabric E16.
- 51 SM67 III 13A, Period 6. Handle, fabric E16.
- 52 SM67 III 15, Period 6. Jar with a squared rim, fabric E19.
- 53 SM66 X 19, Period 1A. Jar with a convex rim pierced by two, sometimes three suspension holes. The exterior surface shows characteristic scratch marks. Fabric 27.
- 54 SM67 I 60, Period 3. Beaded rim jar, fabric E29.
- 55 SM67 III 13, Period 6. Flagon with a triangular rim, fabric D12.
- 56 SM65 II 3, Period 1. Ring-necked flagon, fabric D13.
- 57 SM66 XXIV 5, Period 4B. Two-handled honey jar, fabric D15.
- 58 SM66 XVIII 9, Period 3. Indented, cornice rim beaker, fabric D19.
- 59 SM66 XVII 11, Period 1B. Beaker with a triangular rim, fabric D1.
- 60 SM66 X 41, Period 3. Beaker, fabric D1.
- 61 SM67 I 9, Period 6. Hemispherical bowl with a downward pointing flanged rim, fabric D1.
- 62 SM66 X 35, Period 1B. Beaded rim jar, fabric D21.
- 63 SM67 III 13, Period 6. Everted rim storage jar, fabric D21.
- 64 SM66 XIV 25/26, Period 4A. Everted rim storage jar, fabric E25.
- 65 SM66 XVII 11, Period 1B. Narrow-necked cordoned jar, fabric E25.
- 66 SM65 VI 28, Period 3. Bowl imitating samian form Drag. 29. The moulded design shows a repeating pattern of motifs in the upper zone with possibly a free style design in the lower half, fabric D3.
- 67 SM65 II 3, Period 1. Bodysherd from a bowl decorated with lightly incised wavy lines and an impressed broken circle, fabric D3.
68. SM66 X 41, Period 3. Small cup imitating Drag. form 27, with a thin micaceous slip, fabric D7.
- 69 SM65 I 11, Period 5, Fb 4020. Flange fragment of a mortarium bearing a bordered double-line stamp belonging to G Attius Marinus (identification by Kay Hartley), fabric M16.
- 70 SM66 XVIII 2, Period 5, Fb 6227. Oxfordshire red colour-coated mortarium with a moulded face mask acting as a pseudo spout, fabric M1.
- 71 SM65 unstrat. Oxfordshire whiteware mortarium, Young (1977) type M17, with an illegible potter's stamp, fabric M5.
- 72 SM65 VI 5, Period 4B, Fb 6163. Mortarium, fabric M7.
- 73 SM65 I unstrat., Fb 3937. Mortarium with a potter's stamp, fabric M8.

Discussion of the Roman pottery from Sea Mills

A complete understanding of the chronology of the pottery from this series of excavations is hampered by a number of factors. First is the almost complete absence of independent dating by a coin series or a clear stratigraphic sequence with

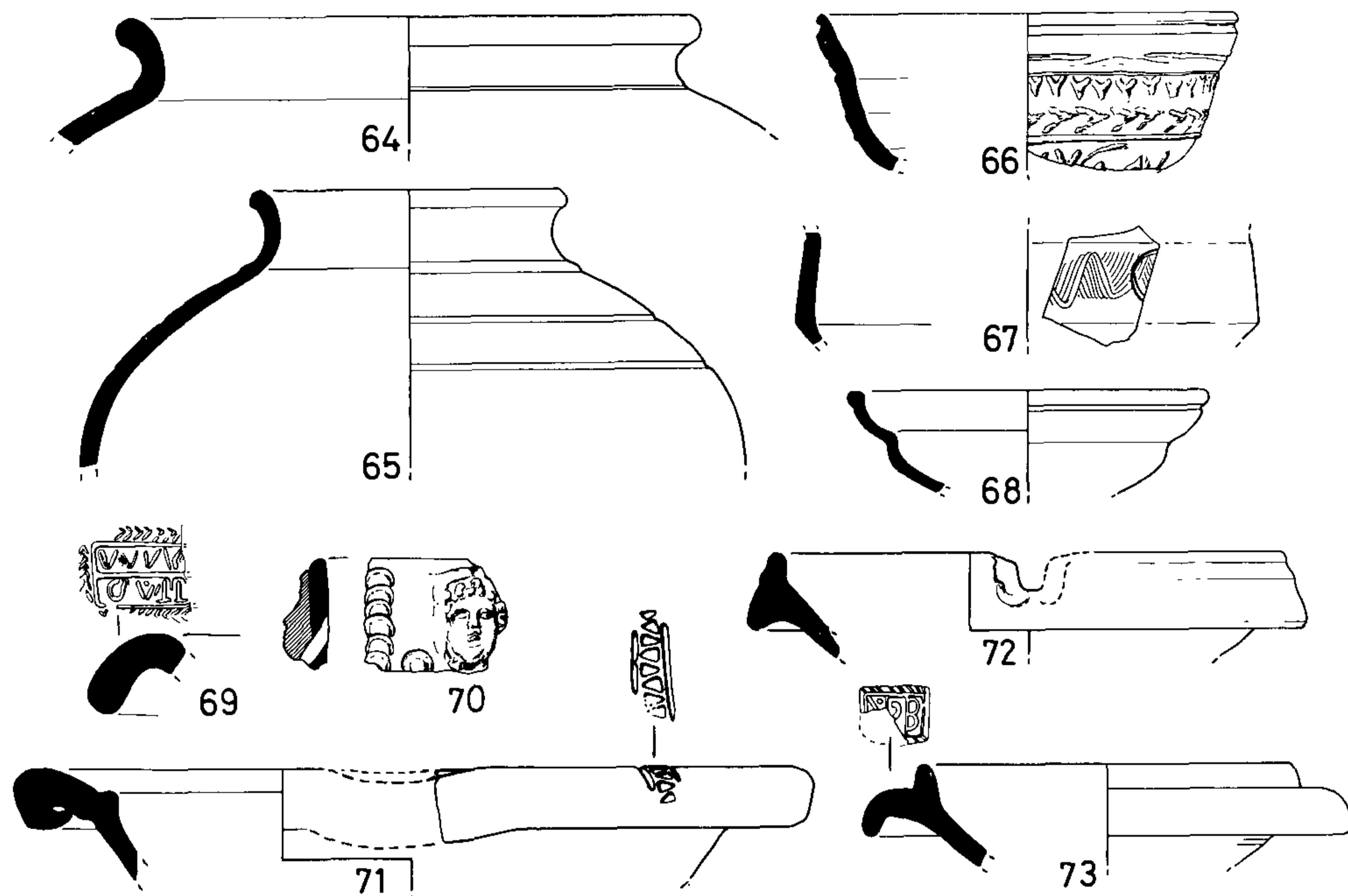


FIG. 41 Romano-British pottery, 64-73. Scale 1:4. Drawn by L. Induni.

large groups of pottery. Second there is a very high percentage (41%) of wares considered to be of 'local' origin. Little detailed work is available on pottery from other sites in the area which can demonstrate occupation from the 1st through to the 4th century and thus the development of the local styles. A third problem is the very nature of the pottery assemblage itself with its mixed composition, reflecting a complex history of redeposition and disturbance. Many of the sherds which can be independently dated by evidence from elsewhere appear to be residual at Sea Mills. The recovery and post-excavation treatment of finds may be a contributory factor in the mixing of deposits since several groups contain intrusive medieval or post-medieval sherds in apparently sealed Roman layers. With such constraints the usefulness of the assemblage as a whole is naturally diminished and it is impossible to do much more than provide a basic descriptive account of the evidence.

The assemblage as a whole is very much biased towards the earlier Roman period, particularly the later 1st and early 2nd centuries. The presence of pre-Flavian and early Flavian imports including finewares (*terra nigra*, Lyons ware, St

Table 14 Summary of the main fabric/form groups from the Sea Mills excavations 1965-67

Pottery groups	No.	%	Weight (gms)	%
Fine wares	44	<1	344	<1
Amphorae	411	5	25154	24
Mortaria	59	<1	3192	3
Native wares	237	3	2585	2
Coarsewares: local	4937	58	43716	41
Black burnished ware	1580	19	16200	15
Wiltshire wares	400	5	6454	6
Severn Valley wares	653	8	6840	6
Oxford wares	92	1	837	<1
Non-local wares	46	<1	365	<1
Unclassified	27	<1	227	<1
Totals	8486		105914	

Rémi glazed ware), mortaria, and amphorae hint at a substantial early occupation during which time there was access to such imported items. The genre of these early wares, particularly the Rhodian amphorae and finewares, is suggestive of a military presence. Early occupation at, or near, the sites excavated is further attested by the substantial number of 1st-century native wares present. Many of the other coarsewares of local origin typologically fit into this period.

The later part of the Roman period is not so well represented. Colour-coated wares, although present, are not prolific. Oxford products, usually prominent in 3rd- and 4th-century assemblages in the region constitute less than 1 per cent by weight here (see Table 14). New Forest products, also popular elsewhere, appear to be absent. There are no late amphorae or other imports although examples are well represented at Gloucester to the north (Ireland 1983, 109). Furthermore, only five sherds of the ubiquitous late 4th-century shell-tempered wares were recovered. Black burnished wares of the later period are also poorly represented.

It is clear, therefore, that much of the Sea Mills pottery belongs to the earlier Roman period, and that this material has been considerably disturbed, seemingly by processes/activities which did not themselves result in the deposition of much pottery within the excavated area. It is not possible to detect any hiatus in the assemblage and it is therefore impossible to say whether it represents a period of continuous occupation or whether there were breaks. There is only slight evidence of a later period of occupation up to at least the late 4th century.

In view of the depositional history of the site it is difficult to speculate on the economic or social status of the site through time. Access to imported items seems to have diminished after the end of the 1st century with a greater reliance being placed on local products. Early contact with the Wiltshire region to the east is attested by a range of wares from the 1st century. Later phases are increasingly dominated by Dorset black burnished ware and north Somerset grey wares. This follows a similar pattern to other domestic sites in the region, notably Gatcombe, Avon (Branigan 1977, 93) and Ilchester, Somerset (Leach 1982, 143).

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to all those who have commented on individual sherds or allowed me access to unpublished material. In particular thanks are extended to Dr M. Fulford, Dr D.P.S. Peacock and Dr D. Williams, Mr P. Leach, Miss J. Evans, and Mr M. Lync. Much of the information on the mortaria has been collated from notes made by Mrs K. Hartley. I am also indebted to Mr P. Ellis and Dr T. Darvill for help and comments during the preparation of this report.

CLAY OBJECTS (FIGS. 42 and 43) by Peter Ellis

Fabric designations are as given in the preceding pottery report.

- 1 Spindlewhorl, fabric E16, diameter 45 mm, hole diameter 5 mm. SM66 XIX 5, Period 5 (27).
- 2 Spindlewhorl, fabric E2, diameter 42 mm, hole diameter 5 mm. SM66 XXIV 1, Period 6 (26).
- 3 Counter, roughly worked, fabric A1, diameter 60 mm. SM65 I 11, Period 5 (96).
- 4 Counter, slightly convex, fabric E6, diameter 24 mm. SM65 II 5, Period 4B (112).
- 5 Counter fragment, convex, fabric ?D21, diameter 33 mm. SM66 XXIV 1, Period 6 (25).
- 6 Counter fragment, incised decoration, fabric E2, diameter 31 mm. SM65 II 5, Period 4B (94).
- 7 Counter, fabric D12, diameter 39 mm. SM66 XVII 8, Period 1B (533).
- 8 Spindlewhorl, fabric B, diameter 31 mm, diameter of hole 7 mm. SM66 XXB 2, Period 4B (415).
- 9 Toy or votive pot, height 9 mm (cf. Green 1981, 261, fig. 4, 3C). SM66 XVII 5, Period 4B (74).
- 10 Brick fragment, red sandy fabric, incuse stamp with raised lettering: *LEG*[], 182 mm by 148 mm by 75 mm deep; for type see Boon 1984, type A.i. SM67 U/S (538).
- 11 Tile fragment, red sandy fabric, incuse stamp with raised lettering: *LEG.II.A*[], 145 mm by 117 mm by 27 mm deep (Boon 1984, type A.i.4). SM67 I 9, Period 6 (537).

THE ROMAN GLASS (FIG. 44) by H.E.M. Cool and Jennifer Price

The Roman glass found during the excavations at Sea Mills in 1965–67 consisted of 104 fragments from vessels, 6 fragments from windows, 1 finger ring, and 2 counters. The vessel glass came from a minimum of 21 vessels of which the majority would have been in use during the 1st or early 2nd centuries.

Ten fragments from pillar-moulded bowls (Isings 1957, Form 3) were found (nos. 1–6e) representing one dark yellow/brown (no. 1), at least one light yellow/brown (nos. 2 and 3) and probably at least two blue/green bowls (no. 4–6e). Pillar-moulded bowls are a very common 1st-century form. Strongly coloured monochrome ones such as nos. 1–3 began to go out of use in the middle of the 1st century and do not occur very frequently on sites occupied during the Flavian

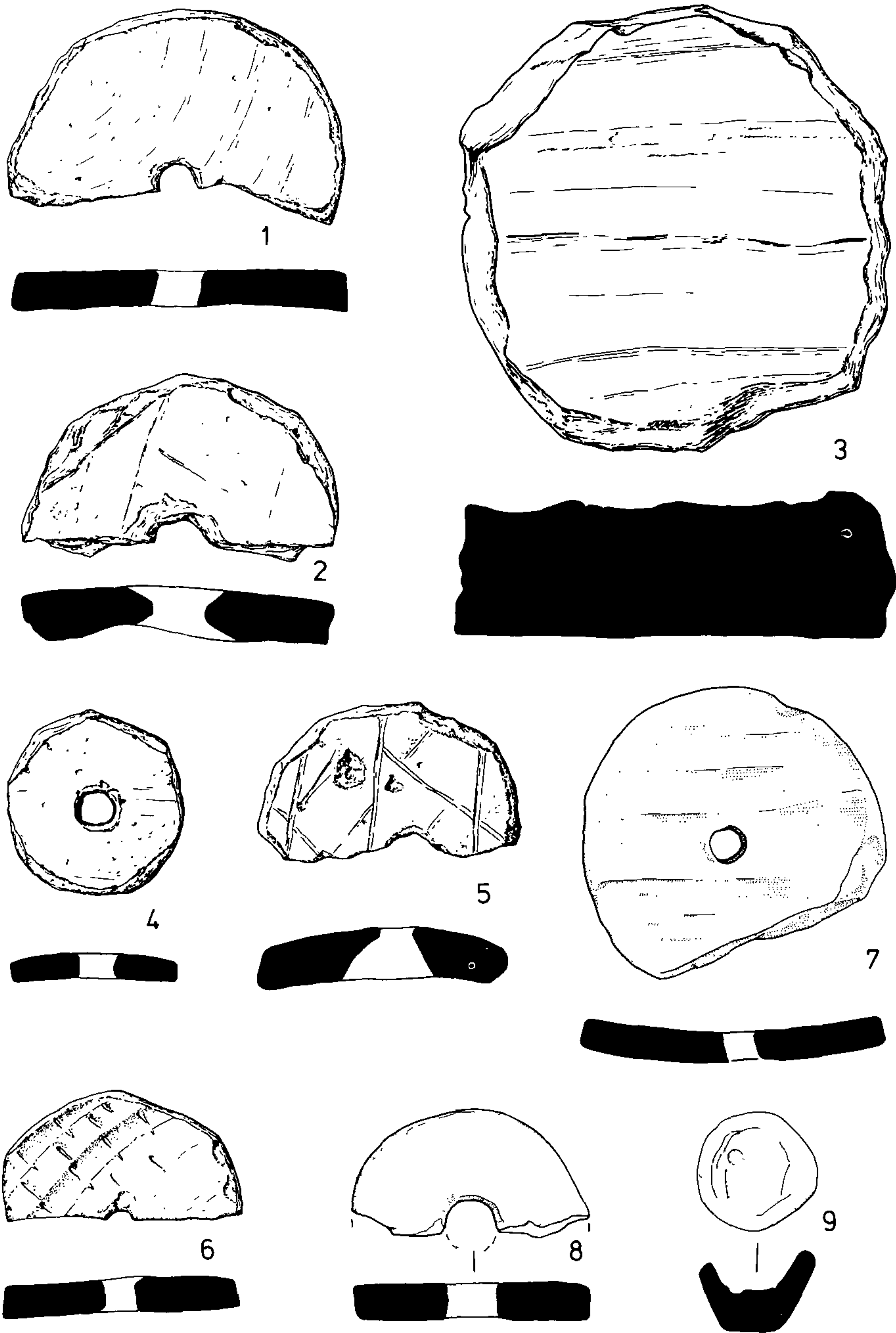


FIG. 42 Clay objects, 1-9. Scale 1:1. Drawn by A. Linge and L. Induni.

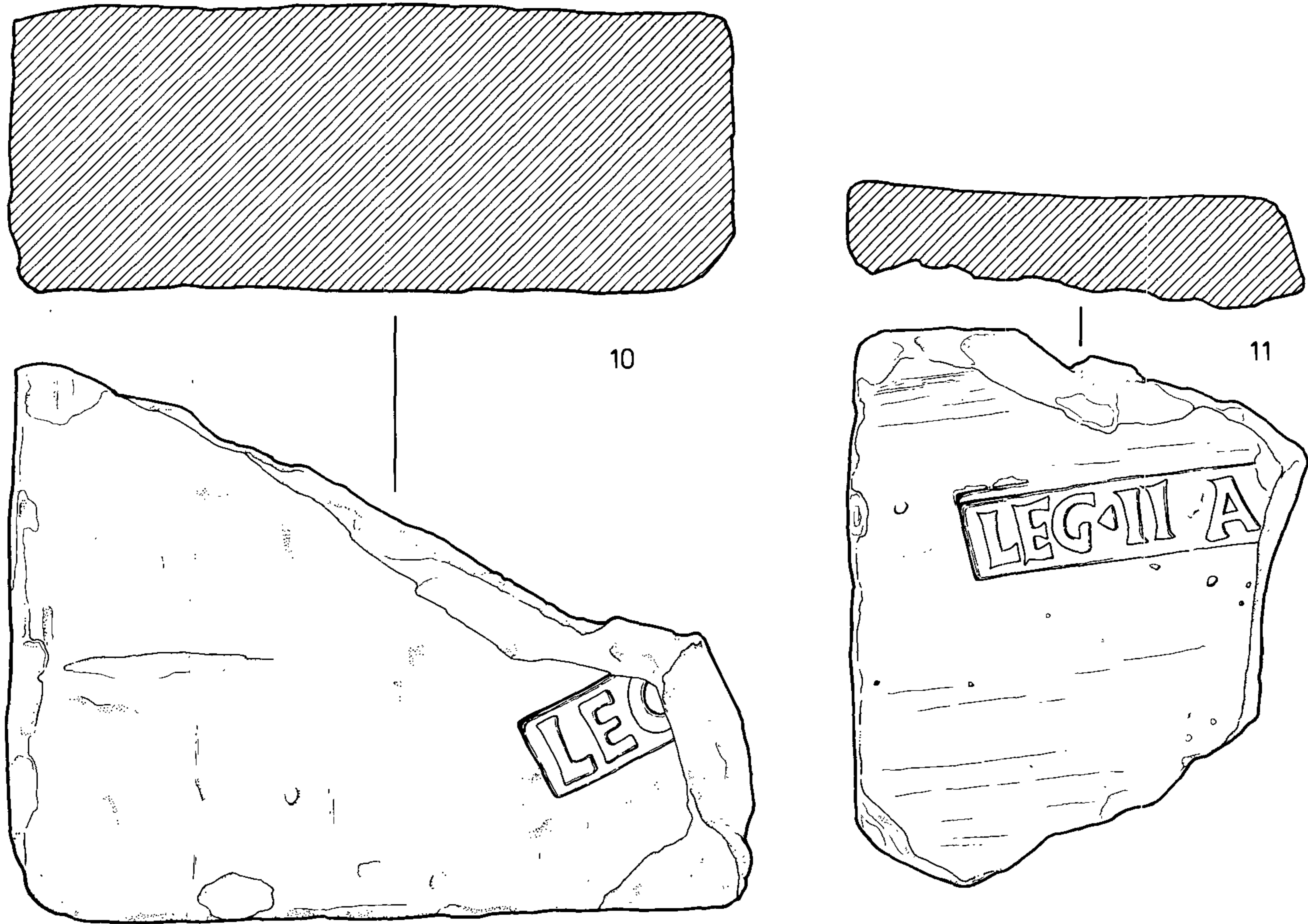


FIG. 43 Clay objects (stamped brick and tile), 10–11. Scale 1:2. Drawn by L. Induni.

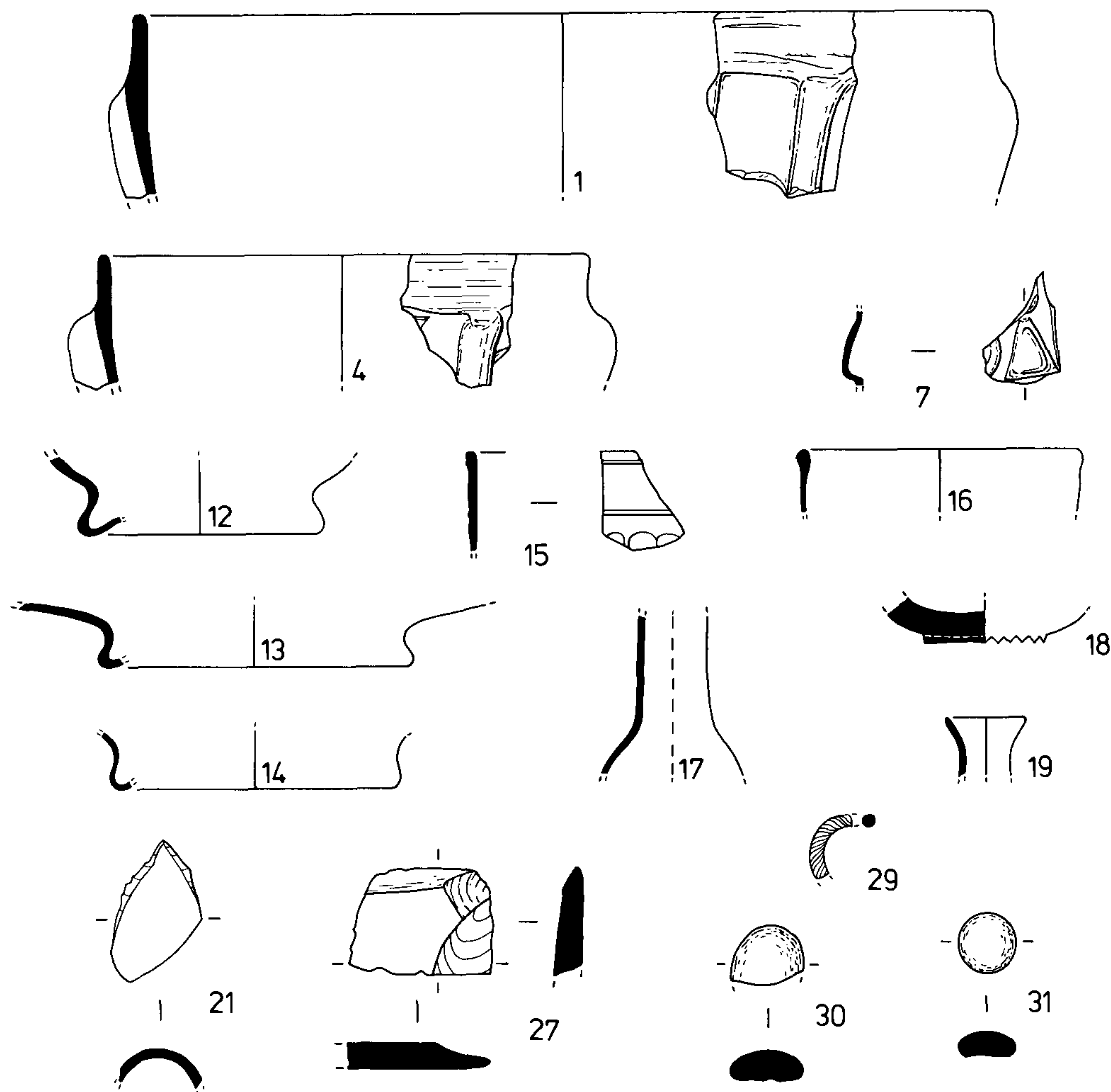


FIG. 44 Roman glass. Scale 1:2. Drawn by A. Linge.

period. The production of blue/green bowls by contrast probably ceased during the Flavian period and their use continued until the late 1st century. No. 1 is noteworthy because of the poor quality of the finishing on the exterior of the rim. This is a feature that is encountered occasionally on these bowls but more often on the blue/green ones than the strongly coloured ones. It may be significant that several of the other poorly finished strongly coloured monochrome bowls known to us including one from Kingsholm, Gloucester (Price and Cool 1985, fig. 17/3) and two from Colchester (Cool and Price forthcoming a) are also dark yellow/brown and similar to no. 1. We do not know whether this is fortuitous or represents the practice at particular glass houses.

The small blue/green mould-blown fragment no. 7 is most interesting. The decoration preserved is a large triangular boss, part of a ring, and the edge of a moulding of indeterminate shape. Though it is not possible to reconstruct the form of the vessel from the fragment, it clearly belongs to the range of mould-blown vessels in use during the Neronian and early Flavian period of which the best known are sports cups (Price 1978, 73), almond knob beakers, and small ribbed bowls (Charlesworth 1972, fig. 74/2 & 3). No. 7 clearly comes from a much less common variety. The closest parallel would seem to be with a small group of ovoid jars decorated with triangular bosses such as the one found in a context dated to AD 55-75 at Fishbourne (Harden and Price 1971, fig. 138/37) but no. 7 differs from them because on it the triangular bosses were combined with mouldings of other patterns.

The blue/green rim fragment no. 19 comes from a tubular unguent bottle with a sheared rim such as the many examples found at the Neronian site at Kingsholm, Gloucester (Price and Cool 1985, 44, figs. 19/39 and 20/69 – 71 & 77). These were a common 1st-century form which went out of use in the Flavian period.

Thirty-one per cent of the assemblage (nos. 24–28) is made up of fragments from blue/green square and cylindrical bottles (Isings Forms 50 and 51). It is not possible to estimate usefully the minimum numbers of vessels represented. Both types of bottle came into use during the Claudian period and became very widespread and common during the later 1st century. Cylindrical bottles went out of use during the Trajanic period but square bottles continued to be very common until the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries. During these excavations 33 fragments were found and of these 18 per cent can definitely be identified as coming from cylindrical bottles and are, therefore, of 1st- or very early 2nd- century date.

Three other vessels which may be dated to the second half of the 1st century or the first half of the 2nd are represented by the light green base fragments nos. 12 to 14. These all have open pushed-in base rings and the lower bodies, where present, are convex-curved. Their forms cannot be securely identified but they are most likely to come from collared jars of Isings Form 67b or c (see for example ones from Verulamium – Charlesworth 1972, fig. 76/25 & 26), or from globular jugs of Isings Form 52 (such as the one from Littleton, Cambs. – Thorpe 1935, p1. IIIb). Both of these types were very common and widespread in Roman Britain.

Rim fragments from two colourless drinking vessels can be identified. No. 15 is from a facet-cut beaker of Isings Form 21. It preserves a rib in shallow relief above its facet-cut zone and thus belongs to Oliver's Group II (1984, 36). Beakers of this form were in use during the last third of the 1st century and into the early 2nd. They were a very widespread form and, in the north-western provinces at least, appear to be more commonly found on military sites than on civilian ones (Welker 1974, 59), a point not without interest considering the early military activity at Sea Mills. No. 16 comes from the other drinking vessel which was a cylindrical cup of Isings Form 85. These were the dominant drinking vessel in the north-western provinces in the late 2nd and 3rd centuries and are very common (Cool and Price forthcoming b).

None of the other vessels can be identified with any certainty. At least one blue/green jug (nos. 20 – 21), one deep blue jug or flask (no. 8), and one small colourless flask or jug (no. 17) are represented. Ribbed body fragments in light yellow/brown (no. 9), yellow/green (nos. 10 and 11), and blue/green (nos. 22 and 23) glass were also found. The only indications of date for these, apart from their contexts, are provided by their colours. Vessels in strong deep blue and yellow/brown glass go out of use by the Flavian period, so nos. 8, 8b and 9b are likely to be of 1st-century date. The paler shades of yellow/brown, yellow/green and light green continued to be used until the middle of the 2nd century, thus nos. 9, 10, and 11 are unlikely to be later than that. Blue/green glass was the main colour used between the 1st and 3rd centuries and so provides no useful indication of date for the vessels made of it. Vessels of good quality colourless glass such as no. 17 are most likely to be of 2nd- or 3rd- century date. This date may also be suggested for the colourless body fragment no. 18. It has a very thick body and a separately blown foot-ring that has now been grozed away. The vessel form is unclear but it has been suggested that a similar fragment with a wheel-cut line from Towcester (Price and Cool 1983, fig. 46/1) could have been related to the range of colourless wheel-cut beakers which were in use during the first two-thirds of the 2nd century (Cool and Price forthcoming a). Unfortunately both no. 18 and the Towcester fragment were found in residual 4th-century contexts so neither provide any useful evidence for their date.

The excavations also produced two plano-convex glass counters, one black (no. 30) and one opaque white now appearing greyish blue (no. 31). Such counters cannot be closely dated within the Roman period but they are often numerous on early Roman military sites and several other examples of counters of this sort have been found at Sea Mills during earlier excavations (Boon 1945, 289, no. 47).

No. 29 is the hoop fragment from a colourless glass finger-ring decorated with opaque yellow spiral threads. When complete the ring would probably have had a setting of glass in a contrasting colour on the bezel. Ones found at Smithfield and Moorgate in London had green bezels (Wheeler 1930, fig. 30/21 & 22), while a ring with this type of hoop from Kirkbride, Cumbria had one of opaque turquoise glass set in opaque yellow (Charlesworth 1975, 88). Other fragments from rings of this sort have been found elsewhere in Britain: at Caerleon associated with Hadrianic pottery (Charlesworth 1975); Chichester in a grave with 2nd-century pottery (Down and Rule 1971, fig. 15.7/228H); Manchester (Price 1974, fig. 48/91); Berkeley St., Gloucester (Price *et al.* forthcoming); and Abbey Green, Chester (unpublished). The examples from Caerleon and Chichester would suggest they were in use during the 2nd century, when they came into use, however, is not clear.

Two fragments of vessel glass also had a secondary use as objects. They are no. 21 which is part of a cylindrical neck which has been grozed to a point, and no. 26 which was originally from the side of a prismatic bottle and which has been flaked along two adjacent sides to form a sharp edge. Fragments of glass re-used in this way and resembling flint tools are not common but a small number of them are known.

A small quantity of window glass was also found during the excavations (no. 32). It was all of the cast matt/glossy variety in use mainly during the 1st to 3rd centuries.

As will be clear from the detailed discussion of the vessel types, the majority of the assemblage may be dated to the 1st or early 2nd centuries and all of the glass found in the 3rd- and 4th-century contexts could be residual. Much of the glass could have been associated with the early military presence, though as the forms found often continued in use over a

period that went later than the withdrawal in *c.* AD 85, this cannot be proved. What is certain is that these excavations have produced very little glass necessarily associated with the later civilian occupation. Only no. 16 and probably also nos. 17 and 18 fall into this category.

Catalogue of the Roman glass (FIG. 44)

Abbreviations used: PH.. present height; RD.. rim diameter; BD.. base diameter; WT.. wall thickness; Dim.. dimensions. All measurements are in millimetres.

Pillar-moulded bowls

These fragments are fire-polished externally and wheel-polished internally. When the rim is present it is wheel-polished internally and externally.

- 1 Rim fragment. Dark yellow/brown. Part of one rib with tooling marks on top and edge of second. Exterior of rim only lightly wheel-polished. PH 44, RD 208, rim thickness 4. SM66 X 35, Period 1B (283).
- 2 Rim fragment. Light yellow/brown with edge of one rib. PH 29, rim thickness 5. SM65 I 12, Period 4B (256).
- 3 Lower body fragment. Light yellow/brown. Part of two ribs. Two horizontal wheel-cut grooves on interior. Dim. 21 × 12. SM66 X 12, Period 4A (180).
- 4 Rim fragment. Blue/green. Part of one rib with tooling marks on top and top edge of rib cut by exterior polishing on rim. PH 28, RD 120, rim thickness 4. SM65 VI 4, Period 4B (259).
- 5 Lower body fragment. Blue/green. Part of one rib. Abraded horizontal band on interior. Dim. 22 × 19. SM67 I 14, Period 5 (249).
- 6 Lower body and base fragment. Blue/green. Slightly convex curved base. Parts of two ribs running towards centre of base. PH 13. SM66 U/S (239).

Also (no. 6b) one other blue/green lower body fragment and (nos. 6c – d) three other blue/green body fragments, all with part of one rib.

Mould blown

- 7 Body fragment. Blue/green; some bubbles; weathered surfaces. Convex-curved side. One triangular boss, part of one curved moulding and broken at edge of third moulding. Dim. 24 × 18, WT 2–2.5. SM66 U/S (560).

Blown

Deep Blue

- 8 Neck fragment of jug or flask. Occasional small bubbles; weathered surfaces. Cylindrical neck. Dim. 14 × 13, neck thickness 2. SM65 I 23, Period 4B (188).

Also (no. 8b) one undecorated deep blue body fragment

Yellow/Brown

- 9 Three joining body fragments. Light yellow/brown; some small bubbles; streakily weathered surfaces. Convex side. One thick vertical rib. Dim. 27 × 19, WT 2.5. SM66 U/S (205).

Also (no. 9b) one dark yellow/brown undecorated body fragment

Yellow/Green

- 10 Two body fragments. Small bubbles; dulled surfaces. Convex side. Two shallow vertical ribs, probably optic blown, on both fragments. Dim. 33 × 28, 32 × 27, WT 1. SM66 XXIV 5, Period 4B (234).
- 11 Body fragment. Occasional small bubbles. Straight side. One vertical rib in high relief. Dim. 30 × 16, WT 3. SM66 XIVc 33, Period 2 (227).

Also (no. 11b) one undecorated yellow/green body fragment

Light Green

- 12 Two joining lower body and base fragments of jar or jug. Small bubbles; iridescent surfaces. Convex side curving in shallowly to open pushed-in base ring; concave base mostly missing. PH 18, BD 60, WT 2. SM66 XIVc 29, Period 3 (235 and 237).
- 13 Two joining lower body and base fragments of jug or jar. Small bubbles; iridescent surfaces. Side sloping in shallowly to open pushed-in base ring; base missing. PH 20, BD 75, WT 2. SM65 I 4, Period 6 (232).
- 14 Base fragment of jug or jar. Some small bubbles. Side sloping in to open pushed-in base ring; base missing. PH 14, BD 70, WT 1.5. SM66 XVII 6, Period 4A (222).

Also (no. 14b) one undecorated light green body fragment

Colourless

- 15 Rim fragment of facet-cut beaker. Occasional small bubbles; strain cracks. Vertical rim, edge cracked off and ground; straight side. Exterior ground and wheel-polished to leave one horizontal rib below rim edge with plain zone below; horizontal rib in shallow relief above facet-cut zone, upper part only of top row of oval facets (three extant) remains. PH 25, WT 2. SM66 X 12, Period 4A (179).
- 16 Rim fragment of cylindrical cup. Streakily weathered surfaces, vertical rim, edge fire rounded. PH 15, RD 70, WT 1.5. SM66 XX U/S (562).
- 17 Neck and body fragment of globular flask. Some small bubbles; dulled surfaces. Cylindrical neck; convex body. Dim. 40 × 27. SM66 X 1, Period 6 (258).
- 18 Lower body and base fragment. Slightly green-tinged; occasional small bubbles; dulled surfaces; strain cracks. Thick convex-curved lower body with flat base; separately blown foot ring. Foot ring grozed. Present base diameter c. 30, WT 6. SM65 II 5, Period 4B (163).

Also (nos. 18b & c) two undecorated colourless body fragments.

Blue/Green

- 19 Rim fragment of unguent bottle. Dulled surfaces. Out-turned rim with sheared edge; cylindrical neck. PH 16, RD 20, neck thickness 2. SM65 U/S (262).
- 20 Neck and handle fragment of jug. Elongated bubbles. Cylindrical neck; part of folded handle attachment. Dim. 17 × 14, neck thickness 3. SM67 III 14, Period 5 (363).

Also (no. 20b) one other cylindrical neck fragment and (no. 20c) one fragment from the edge of a ribbon handle.

- 21 Neck fragment of jug or flask. Elongated bubbles. Cylindrical neck; fragment grozed to point on one side. Dim. 35 × 23, neck thickness 2.5. SM66 XIVa 7, Period 4B (154).
- 22 Body fragment. Some small bubbles. Convex side. One optic blown rib. Dim. 37 × 23, WT 2. SM66 X 30, Period 1B (293).
- 23 Body fragment. Some bubbles; dulled surfaces. Slightly convex side. Two vertical ribs. Dim. 42 × 28, WT 1.5. SM66 X 35, Period 1B (299).

Also (nos. 23b – ae) 31 undecorated blue/green body fragments

- 24 Rim and neck fragment of bottle. Rim bent out, up, in and flattened, outer edge missing; cylindrical neck. RD c. 50. SM66 XIVc 29, Period 3 (295).

Also (no. 24b) one cylindrical neck and shoulder fragment with tooling marks at base of neck, (no. 24c) one shoulder and side fragment from prismatic bottle broken at base of neck, (no. 24d) one shoulder and side fragment from a square bottle, (nos. 24e to h) nine shoulder fragments and (nos. 24i to k) three reced handle fragments, all from bottles.

- 25 Base fragment of prismatic bottle. Base design – at least one circular moulding. Dim. 29 × 22, diameter outer circle 60–70. SM65 II 5, Period 4B (169).

Also (nos. 25b & c) two other base fragments from prismatic bottles, each with part of one raised moulding and (no. 25d) one fragment from a lower corner of a square bottle.

- 26 Six flat body fragments from prismatic bottles.
- 27 Body fragment of prismatic bottle. Now of approximately rectangular shape and flaked along two sides to produce a sharp edge. Dim. 34 × 25. SM66 XIVc U/S (562).
- 28 Six body fragments from cylindrical bottles with vertical scratch marks.

Objects

- 29 Finger ring. Part of circular-sectioned hoop of colourless glass with eight close-set opaque yellow spiral trails marvered smooth. Diameter c. 20, section 3. SM65 VI U/S (225).
- 30 Counter. Approximately two-thirds of an irregular plano-convex counter of 'black' glass; base very irregular and pitted. Diameter c. 18, thickness 7. SM65 I 14, Period 4B (304).

- 31 Counter. Complete; opaque greyish blue white; plano-convex; base pitted and worn. Diameter 14, thickness 6. SM65/6 U/S (563).

Window Glass

- 32 Five fragments of cast matt/glossy window glass, blue/green.

THE HUMAN BONES by **Juliet Rogers and Lynne Bell**

Bones from two separate skeletons were examined for evidence of age, sex, dental health, and disease or other anomalies. The criteria used are those stated in Brothwell (1981).

Skeleton 1, grave F9 (FIG. 15)

Complete except for skull, atlas vertebra, left clavicle, some ribs, and most foot bones. Bone in good condition.

Age: adult

Sex: male

Dentition: absent

Disease or anomalies: 2 ribs with healed fractures. Depression anterior right quadrant of upper surface of the tenth thoracic vertebra; might be due to a crush fracture. Osteophytic change and joint surface irregularities of right apophyseal joint of lumbar 4/5 indicating osteoarthritis of this joint. Also a minor degree of osteophyte formation on the superior margin of the body of lumbar 5.

Stature: Estimation using maximum lengths of the femur and fibula: 173.09 cm. SM 67 F9, Period 7.

Skeleton 2, grave F10 (FIG. 14)

Only the skull present and this is damaged and incomplete.

Age: 17–25 according to degree of attrition of teeth. Probably upper end of this range.

Sex: Unknown.

Disease or other anomaly: the only abnormality apparent was the presence of a minor degree of enamel hypoplasia in the teeth. SM67 F10, period 7.

Note: photographs in 1967 show that both skeletons were found complete. The skull of skeleton 1 was stolen from a Museum display in 1970. Skeleton 2 was missing in 1985 with the exception of the fragments submitted to Dr Rogers. (P.E.)

THE ROMAN TOWN OF ABONAE (SEA MILLS)

An assessment of the chronology, function, and status of the town from the evidence of excavation and fieldwork.

The first and second centuries

Examination of the early Roman levels at Sea Mills has either been on a very small scale (FIG. 16, nos. 1, 2, and 5) or has taken place under difficult watching-brief circumstances (Boon 1945). There is, nevertheless, enough evidence to present a working hypothesis for the 1st-century occupation bearing in mind that the Abon House and Sea Mills Lane sites probably lay outside the main occupied areas, and that the pottery assemblages from which the evidence partly derives are almost wholly residual.

It seems clear from the pottery and from the Claudian copy coins found elsewhere in the town, that the initial occupation was by the army. The dating evidence provided by the samian from the sites reported on here has to be stretched a little to support a date much earlier than AD 60 for this occupation but it is possible that the samples from Abon House and Sea Mills Lane may not be truly representative. A slightly earlier date can be inferred from the coins collected from the town as a whole. The Claudian coins, partly from a hoard (Boon and Hassall 1982, 7), are an

indicator of payments to troops (Kenyon 1985) and were not in circulation after the mid-60s. They indicate a military presence from at least AD 60 and most likely from the mid-50s (Boon and Hassall 1982, 13 and pers. comm.). Other evidence supports a Neronian date for Sea Mills. The pottery reported on here bears many of the characteristics of a pre-Flavian military presence, with a multiplicity of local wares alongside imported fine wares (Hurst 1985, 124). A Neronian presence at Abonae matches the evidence of Neronian occupation at the Sudbrook, Gwent end of the ferry terminal (Manning 1981, 41), on the route from Silchester serving Bath and the Foss Way. A military route has been suggested between Sea Mills, Kingsholm, and Metchley (Hurst 1985, 122), which must have been established prior to the abandonment of Kingsholm in 66/67. The presence of a fort at Sea Mills from about the mid-50s seems probable. An earlier date is not supported by the evidence and so the suggestion of a Claudian origin for Sea Mills (Boon 1949, Bennett 1985, 3) must now be discounted.

There is plentiful pottery evidence from the sites examined here for military occupation from the mid-60s. This is likely to indicate an expansion of the military presence from the core area of the suggested fort. This expansion may reflect a greatly increased military build-up at this time leading to the campaign of Julius Frontinus, Governor in 74, against the Silures (Salway 1981, 137). If this is so then Sea Mills can be added to the growing number of military placements and movements known in this period (Bidwell and Boon 1976; Manning 1981). It is possible, too, that this mid-60s activity may be indicative of a radical change in the nature of the military presence from a fort to a supply base.

Although there is as yet no excavated evidence, the location of the early military installations should be suggested by the alignments of the primary routes to Sea Mills. A reconsideration of the Nazareth House evidence suggests that the excavator may have been mistaken in rejecting the possibility that the Bath to Sea Mills road (Margary 1973, no. 54) ran across the north part of the site. It is clear that beneath the post-medieval trackway found in areas A and E (Bennett 1985, figs. 4 and 13), there remained an area unused in the Romano-British period. To its south the 2nd-century quarry pits excavated there are abruptly curtailed and this unused area is very likely to represent the line of the Bath road. Continuity in this position is indicated from at least the 2nd century, possibly until the trackway shown on 19th-century maps (Martin 1888, 58). A second route is suggested by the road F78 excavated at Abon House, which was superseded by the early 2nd century and is markedly out of alignment with the later town layout. The junction of these two roads would lie under the modern Portway to the south of the 1966 excavations, and the entrance either to a fort or a supply base may be suggested to be located here.

There are indications, discussed below, that streets and walls in the later Roman period reflect the influence of two slightly differing alignments. These could have had their origin in a supply base laid out alongside the Trym and a possibly earlier fort established on higher ground to the south-east.

To return to the dating evidence, the samian indicates that the end of the presumed military occupation had taken place by AD 85 at the very latest. Coin lists (Reece 1966; Dawson 1985 and this report) show 28 Neronian and 23 Vespasianic coins followed by none of Titus and 10 of Domitian. The two forms of evidence are in reasonably convincing agreement and the departure date, if a little late, can be understood in terms of the completed pacification of Wales in 78. The samian from the sites examined here suggests that the termination of military occupation was not followed by civilian occupation until the lapse of several decades (Rodwell this report). This appears to be supported by other site evidence, but is unlikely to be true for the core areas occupied in the 1st century. It is hard to see why the needs of the South Wales route and the legionary fort at Caerleon should have been curtailed for a period.

At Abon House the first identifiable elements of civilian occupation do not appear to be datable

earlier than the beginning of the 2nd century. This date is suggested by pottery from the primary street levels of F70 at Abon House and from the associated Period 2 layers. It is likely that the street excavated in 1937 to the south-west (FIG. 17, no. 24). represents the continuation of F70 and therefore probably shares its early origin, while the road to the south located in 1965 (FIG. 17, no. 32) represents an alignment continuously maintained from the period of the timber-framed building suggested to date from the military occupation, and must lie within an area of unbroken occupation. The fact that this latter alignment continued from the 1st century suggests that the outline of the ?fort had not been obliterated by the time of this hypothesized layout of streets. Further evidence of civilian occupation in the early 2nd century comes in the form of the cremation cemetery excavated in 1972 (Bennett 1985, 25). The pottery evidence from the cremations does not suggest a date before AD 85 and the presence of a bracelet is additional evidence that it should be assigned to the later civilian phase.

A continuing association with the army in the 2nd century is indicated by the stamped tiles and brick of the 2nd Augustan Legion (FIG. 43), found in 1934 and 1967. Tiles with these stamps are paralleled at Caerleon and elsewhere in South Wales where they are found from c. AD 100 well into the 2nd century (Boon 1984, 16). Most finds outside Caerleon are associated with military structures such as bath houses at forts dependent on the Legion (Boon 1984, 52). They may indicate a frontier police post controlled by the Legion, as possibly at Loughor (*ibid.*); and this function may also at Sea Mills have included duties of controlling and supervising supplies to Caerleon from the south side of the Severn. It has been suggested (George Boon, pers. comm.) that at Sea Mills they represent evidence of the quarters of a *beneficiarius consularis*. *Beneficarii consulare* appear to have been posted elsewhere in the province at frontier and supply control points (Frere 1967, 195). The brick and tile findspots in Sea Mills may be significant. While the 1934 tile has no close provenance, the 1967 findspots, though in a post-Roman context, may indicate the position of official port buildings in this area not far from the confluence of the Trym and the Avon. It is tempting to speculate that a 2nd-century expansion of civilian occupation at Sea Mills was given its initial impetus and subsequently sustained by the establishment of a legionary control post.

There is further evidence for 2nd-century construction work from the 1972 Nazareth House excavations. Pits in trenches A, D, and E were interpreted as quarries for stone subsequently fired for mortar. Although an early 2nd-century date was suggested by the excavator (Bennett 1985, 26), stratified samian from areas A and D is ascribed a general 2nd-century date, while late 2nd-century samian was found at the base of the archaeological sequence in area E (*ibid.*, 33). Whatever their exact date in the century the pits are, nevertheless, strong evidence of buildings in stone in this period.

Special finds from the 1965–7 excavations indicate an occupation at Sea Mills in the 2nd century of some sophistication, with the imported jug predominant (Henig, this report). There is evidence of a life-size imperial cult bronze statue, and the altar with its multiple dedications demonstrates a sense of urban self-awareness. All this material, though found in later contexts, is from the 2nd or possibly early 3rd centuries. It is likely to have been associated with a structural phase which so far has eluded archaeological detection, except in the form of overall layers sandwiched between early timber-phase buildings (possibly military) and the excavated later 3rd and 4th-century buildings.

Despite the lack of excavated buildings of this period, the apparently uninterrupted maintenance of streets evidenced at Abon House suggests that their alignments may reflect the pattern of early phases of occupation. The turn to the south in the Abon House street may reflect the joining of different sections across the perimeter of the supply base. Alternatively the turn may be explained by the dominant position of a building or an open area. A third hypothesis is

suggested by the sections of walling located at 28 Hadrian Close (FIG. 17, no. 18). Though the record is extremely sketchy it does seem that the walls are not aligned with streets and walls to the south but on the contrary with the 87 Sea Mills Lane alignment, suggested above to represent the area of the port. It is possible that a second layout representing the port facilities extended as far south as here, thus explaining the turn in F70 to avoid the possible position of the south-east corner of the port area already allotted in the early 2nd century.

An undoubted problem in assessing and interpreting the Sea Mills evidence for the earlier Roman period is the discrepancy between the physical evidence for 2nd-century occupation of some substance in the form of maintained streets and an overall accumulation of occupation deposits, and the apparent scarcity on the other hand of later 2nd-century material, particularly in the coin lists and the samian assemblages but also in the pottery in general. While this may be attributed to the small scale of the sampling so far carried out at Sea Mills, it can also be suggested that the imbalance between the 1st- and 2nd-century finds reflects the large scale of activity in the 1st century rather than the absence of activity in the 2nd century.

The third and fourth centuries

The occupation layers at Abon House were 0.8 m deep, at Sea Mills Lane 0.7 m, and excavation reports elsewhere indicate at least this amount of stratigraphy over the central core of the town. The buildings excavated in plan under the Portway in the '20s and '30s are likely to belong to the 3rd and 4th centuries simply on the grounds that the location of earlier structures would have required the removal of a quantity of stratification and there is no evidence that this took place. The same must be true for the other records of buildings noted in the appendix to Section C (above). The plan of the building excavated in the '30s (FIG. 17, no. 28) suggests an official function with offices off a central area. Those structures excavated in the '20s were of different builds but the most substantial was noted to display a curved wall at its west end, which suggests a bath house. While the public buildings may have lain in this area, it is clear from the Abon House excavation that buildings of a mixed agricultural and commercial function lay to the north. Whatever the interpretation of the 1967 Building 1, it was clearly a building of some distinction. The street at Abon House was regularly remetalled and its line maintained and there is also evidence for the renewal of drainage systems. If this is true for an area outside the main core of the town it must also apply for other streets. In addition to those known from excavation others may be added. In the watching-brief maintained during the construction of the Hadrian Close prefabs, Boon observed gravel areas (Boon 1945). In his unpublished typescript in the Bristol Museum archive (Boon 1950b) it is clear that he later considered these as streets.

By the third century, therefore, it may be justifiable to see Sea Mills as a small port and town. The altar can only be seen in an urban context, as too can the evidence of maintained streets. The Sea Mills hinterland appears to have been an economically flourishing area with a wide range of agricultural zones exploited, as well as other commercial enterprises such as mining, salting, and potteries (Branigan 1977, 161–213; Russell and Williams 1984). Sea Mills must have played an important role in supplying raw material and luxury goods and acted as a market place for food surpluses. The port would have represented the link for this area with sea routes to other parts of the Empire as well as South Wales. Its position on the Avon is clearly dictated by the presence of the Trym, and the Trym basin would have represented then, as now, a safe beaching site. Parallels to the position of Sea Mills can be noted at the suspected Roman ports at Crandon Bridge (Leech 1982a, 222) and Combwich (Dewar 1940), Somerset.

The port must have been affected by flooding and sea level changes in the later Roman period. At Bath it seems that the Avon was becoming increasingly liable to flood (Cunliffe 1984, 208).

Changes in the Roman sea level are well documented (Milne 1985; Thomas 1985) and there is evidence for the burying of Roman levels on both banks of the Bristol channel in the 4th century (Boon 1980; Leech 1981; McDonnell 1985). However, this was not an abrupt inundation and it would seem likely that the port survived the difficulties, presumably by a raising of the waterfront levels. It is possible that the Avon and Trym may well have slightly redefined their channels since, and perhaps during, the Roman period; this, together with the 1712 wet dock works, may have obliterated Roman waterfront structures.

A minimum of 10 hectares for the total occupied area is indicated by the structural findspots made in recent times (FIGS. 16 and 17). As yet unrecognized occupation may continue to the north-east and there may be occupation on the further side of the Trym. It is possible too that there was occupation on the south bank of the Avon at the head of the road from Abbots Leigh, still visible in the 18th century (Barrett 1789, 20). Town defences perhaps defined originally by a late 2nd-century ditch and rampart and possibly a later addition in stone, are likely to have been provided for a town of this size and apparent sophistication. The south-east side is suggested by the position of contrasting intramural and extramural features, and a ditch and rampart is suggested at 51 Roman Way (FIGS. 12 and 17, no. 20). It is possible that the north-west defences were removed in the 18th-century wet dock works and the account of the finding of an 'arched gateway' and foundation may be confirmation of this (Barrett 1789, 12). Given the position of Sea Mills on the Avon it is likely that stone defences would be robbed at some point following their abandonment, and prior to the 18th century.

There are some indications of changes in the social and economic structure of the town in the 4th century. The expansion of the Abon House buildings in Period 4B has been argued above to represent a change in property ownership from persons living elsewhere to ownership by the occupants. This is tentatively dated to the early 4th century and was perhaps more widespread than just this area of the town. Road remetalling and the maintenance of the street drainage system may, on the admittedly slim Abon House evidence, have almost terminated by the same period. It may be significant that the fragment of a bronze imperial cult statue (noted above) with indications that the statue was sawn into pieces, was found in a Period 4B context. The burials located in 1945 and 1967 have already been argued to indicate a loosening of administrative and legislative control. Although the evidence is slight, it may be possible to link these changes with the end of legionary occupation at Caerleon *c.* 290 (Boon 1972, 65). If this is so, it may indicate that the link with Caerleon marked by the stamped tiles and discussed above may have been of crucial importance to the status of the town.

It is not necessary to see these changes outlined for the 4th-century town as evidence of economic decline (Salway 1981, 372), and the 4th century may have represented a period of some prosperity. This is indicated directly by the Abon House Period 4B expansion, and indirectly by the Gatcombe evidence if the suggested links between the estate and Sea Mills are accepted (Branigan 1977, 210). The low percentage of 4th-century pottery in the assemblages studied (Timby, this report) could be argued to represent economic decline, but especially in view of the evidence of importation of pottery to Gatcombe (Branigan 1977, 96), is more likely to be a factor resulting from the analysis only of the stratified levels, biased as they are to the pre-4th-century periods.

It has been suggested that later in the 4th century the Avon and north Somerset area was affected by the events of 367–9 (Branigan 1972 and 1977, 211; but see also Todd 1981, 233). There is no evidence of the events in the archaeological record. The levels above the final Roman horizon in the Abon House area bear every indication of having resulted from a gradual process of decay and collapse. On the 1967 site a cultivation horizon was sealed beneath the 18th-century overburden and this must represent the end of a long period of agricultural landuse over the

Roman town which would inevitably have contributed to its destruction.

It is to be hoped that the publication of this report and that for Nazareth House will place the archaeology of Sea Mills upon a firmer footing, and provide a stimulus for further research into Abonae. Many of the hypotheses proposed are tentative, and there is an urgent need to pursue and redefine many of the problems posed by this site, not least in any attempts to preserve what still remains. There is still work to be done on material excavated or discovered prior to 1965, but, should they arise, opportunities for further fieldwork and research into what is still a relatively little known Roman town must not be missed.

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks are due to the staff of the Department of Archaeology and History of Bristol City Museum. The project was administered by Michael Ponsford, and assistance and support were kindly provided by him and by Susan Giles, Georgina Plowright, Nick Dixon, Les Good, and Eric Boore. Jim Constant was most helpful with regard to the 1966 Abon House and 87 Sea Mills Lane excavations and provided numerous photographs. Jennifer Gill provided information about the 1965 Abon House excavation. Conservation of the finds was undertaken by Liz Robertson and Sarah Pollard and the photographs were prepared by Gordon Kelsey, Ron Mason, and Jim Hancock. The site drawings are the work of Susan Banks and the finds were drawn in the main by Lizzy Induni, with additional drawings by Ann Linge. Successive drafts of the text were typed by Melanic Evans. The contributing specialists are gratefully thanked for their reports. Martin Henig most kindly provided critical comments on the author's own contributions to the finds section. Initial drafts of the text were commented on by Michael Ponsford, Max Hebditch, Martin Henig and Toby Parker. I am very grateful to them and to Peter Leach, George Boon, and Tim Darvill for their perceptive and helpful comments on the penultimate draft. The text has benefitted greatly from the painstaking editing of Alan Saville. The author, however, is alone responsible for any infelicities or errors that may remain.

English Heritage and in particular Sarnia Butcher, the project officer, are warmly thanked for sponsoring and supporting the project.

Archive data

The site records and finds are located at Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery. Microfiche copies of selected data are held by the Museum and by the National Monuments Record. The general index headings are as follows: A. site notebooks, loose site notes; B. field and post-excavation illustrations; C. records of small-scale excavation, surveys, etc. 1962–8, unpublished Sea Mills data; D. stratigraphic records (1985/6); E. finds primary data (1985/6); F. miscellaneous.

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June 1986

The Society is grateful to the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England for a grant towards the cost of publishing this report.