ILCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGY: EXCAVATION ON THE WESTERN DEFENCES AND SUBURBS, 1985

PETER LEACH *and* PETER ELLIS
with contributions by SARNIA BUTCHER, BRENDA DICKINSON, STEPHEN MINNITT, ALAN SAVILLE, DAVID WILLIAMS *and* ANN WOODWARD

CONTENTS

Summary 13
Introduction and Acknowledgements 13
Castle Farm: Results and Discussion 14
Pill Bridge Lane: Results and Discussion 33
Finds Reports (Various Authors) 41
Pottery: Prehistoric Pottery (Ann Woodward) 52
Roman Pottery (Peter Leach) 54
Post-Roman Pottery (Peter Ellis) 64
Appendix (*see below*) 71
References 83

APPENDIX (REDUCED TEXT)

Index of Stratigraphy: Castle Farm 71
Index of Stratigraphy: Pill Bridge Lane 71
Tables 2–3: Occurrence of Prehistoric Pottery, Castle Farm and Pill Bridge Lane 72
A Note on the Petrology of Some Iron Age Pottery from the 1985 Excavations at Ilchester (David Williams) 74
Samian Ware from Castle Farm and Pill Bridge Lane (Brenda Dickinson) 75
Tables 4–6: Occurence of Roman Pottery, Castle Farm and Pill Bridge Lane 78
Tables 7–10: Occurence of Post-Roman Pottery, Castle Farm and Pill Bridge Lane 81

FIGURES AND TABLES

Fig. 1. Location of Ilchester
Fig. 2. Excavations 1985 and historic features
Fig. 3. Castle Farm 1985: Cutting A, period plans
Fig. 4. Castle Farm 1985: Cutting A, south section
Fig. 5. Castle Farm 1985: Cutting H, sections 1–3
Fig. 6. Castle Farm 1985: Cuttings B, D & F, sections

Fig. 7. Castle Farm 1985: Cuttings F & H, plans
Fig. 8. Castle Farm 1985: Cuttings A–H, Roman and Post-Roman layouts
Fig. 9. Castle Farm 1985: Cuttings A, C & D, sections
Fig. 10. Pill Bridge Lane 1985: Cutting J, Periods 1–3 plan
Fig. 11. Pill Bridge Lane 1985: Cutting J, later Romano-British and medieval plan
Fig. 12. Pill Bridge Lane 1985: Cutting J, sections
Figs 13–17. Finds
Fig. 18. Prehistoric pottery
Fig. 19–21. Roman pottery
Fig. 22–23. Medieval pottery

Table 1. Roman Coins
Tables 2–3. Occurrence of Prehistoric Pottery (*see* Appendix)
Tables 4–6. Occurrence of Roman Pottery (*see* Appendix)
Tables 7–10. Occurrence of Post-Roman Pottery (*see* Appendix)

ILCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGY, 1985

INTRODUCTION

SUMMARY

Archaeological excavations at Ilchester were undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in 1985 to evaluate the archaeological potential of two areas designated for future development. At Castle Farm, the Roman fort, town, and medieval town defences were located and sectioned; there was evidence of pre-Roman Iron Age settlement, and areas of the western suburb and (?)port facilities were sampled. At Pill Bridge Lane areas of the south-western suburbs behind the Foss Way were examined, supplementing details of prehistoric and 1st century (?)military settlement evidence, as well as later Roman civil development, obtained in earlier campaigns of excavation. The results from both sites are presented and assessed in the context of an extended archaeological research project at Ilchester, the substance of which has been published primarily in two monographs (Leach 1982 and 1992).

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the request of Somerset County Council and the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, England (the principal sponsor), Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit carried out an archaeological evaluation of two areas adjacent to the modern settlement of Ilchester (Fig. 2). The field work was undertaken over six weeks in May and June 1985 by a team of paid volunteers under the direction of Peter Leach (BUFAU) and Peter Ellis. Both areas were the subject of planning applications for building development, and an archaeological assessment was required to estimate the potential impact of such proposals (Leach 1985). Overall, the direction and co-ordination of this project at excavation and post-excavation stages was the responsibility of Peter Leach. Supervision of the excavations in Cuttings A–D, and preparation of all the first draft excavation reports was undertaken by Peter Ellis.

We are grateful to all those who participated in the field project and its subsequent preparation for publication. In particular we wish to thank Trinity College Cambridge and their tenant in Ilchester, Mr David Burke, for access to the areas involved; Somerset County Council and their officers, Dr Ian Burrow, and Stephen Minnitt, for support and advice; Paul Gosling, HBMC (England) Inspectorate; Mr and Mrs Mike Penn and other local volunteers and residents for all their help and support; Nick Card, Nigel Nayling, Isobel Rogers and Alan Williams for supervision on site; Trevor Pearson for the illustrations, and not least our colleagues in BUFAU for their contributions and advice at all stages of the project. *This report is published with the aid of a grant from English Heritage.*

CASTLE FARM

THE SITE (Figs. 2 and 8)

That area requiring an archaeological evaluation at Castle Farm comprised a walled garden of the former farmhouse, and the surrounds and paddocks of farm outbuildings designated for conversion to residential properties. An additional area for development, located between the farm outbuildings, a modern flood alleviation bank and the Priory Road housing estate, could not be examined in 1985. This area formed the subject of a further archaeological assessment undertaken by BUFAU in 1987 (Leach 1987), the results of which will be published fully in a separate paper. Despite the proximity of sites, there was little general correspondence between the areas examined in 1985 and 1987, although references in this report are made to information recovered in 1987 where appropriate.

Approximately 7000 m^2 was available for examination in 1985, located at the north-west perimeter of modern settlement at Ilchester (ST 521228). Topographically, the area occupies the interface between the raised plateau of the historic settlement core, and lower-lying flood plain meadows known as Great Yard on the south bank of the River Yeo. Relatively little archaeological information was available for this area prior to the evaluation, although documentary, cartographic and archaeological salvage records provided valuable clues.

The origins and early development of settlement, and the human exploitation of Ilchester and its region, as revealed primarily by archaeological research, are chronicled more fully elsewhere (Leach 1982 and 1992). From this and the information already available pertaining to this area, it was possible to anticipate the general pattern of archaeological data preserved here. The principal feature was the zone of urban defences, first established (?)late in the 2nd century AD and maintained until the early post-medieval period. The need to clarify its exact course and character along Ilchester's western perimeter formed one of the principal objectives of the 1985 evaluation. To the west of its supposed course, observations and records made by James Stevens Cox in the late 1940s and early 1950s suggested the former presence of an important western suburb of the Romano-British town (Leach 1992, I, illus. 20–26). Historical references and chance discoveries (Cox 1950 and 1984) indicated that one of medieval Ilchester's former religious houses, the Augustinian Whitehall Nunnery, lay beneath the yards and outbuildings of Castle Farm. Some of these features are depicted on the earliest available map of Ilchester (Stukeley 1724), which also shows an extra-mural street (Yard Lane) running parallel with the former defences, a street (Shire Path Lane) crossing the defences, and what appear to be Civil War fortifications close to the river here.

PROCEDURE

Given the size of the area required for evaluation and an imprecise knowledge of the scale and location of disturbances to be anticipated arising from its modern development, a sampling strategy was applied to anticipate the latter where possible and to investigate archaeological hypotheses. Whenever possible, a series of machine-excavated transects was cut through modern and post-medieval overburden to permit the exposure and sampling by hand of surviving earlier features and deposits (Fig. 8). The two exceptions to this procedure were Cuttings A and B within the walled garden, where machine access was not possible. These, and the


Location of Ilchester
ILCHESTER
SEVERN ESTUARY
SEA MILLS
BRISTOL
R. Avon
HENLEY WOOD
CADBURY CONGRESBURY
BATH
R. Avon
BREAN DOWN
CAMERTON
R. Axe
CHARTERHOUSE
SOMERSET
MENDIP HILLS
WEDMORE
WELLS
R. Brue
SHEPTON MALLET
SALISBURY
LEVELS
CANNINGTON
GLASTONBURY
COLD KITCHEN HILL
BRIDGWATER
LAMYATT BEACON
R. Parrett
R. Cary
QUANTOCK HILLS
DUNDON
PLAIN
SOMERTON
R. Tone
LANGPORT
CATSGORE
SOUTH CADBURY
TAUNTON
R. Isle
R. Yeo
R. Parrett
Ilchester
HAM HILL
BLACKDOWN HILLS
YEOVIL
SHERBORNE
HOD HILL
R. Axe
WADDON HILL
PILSDON PENN
R. Stour
POOLE HARBOUR
DORCHESTER
R. Frome
MAIDEN CASTLE
WEYMOUTH
5 0 25 Kms
5 0 15miles

Fig. 1

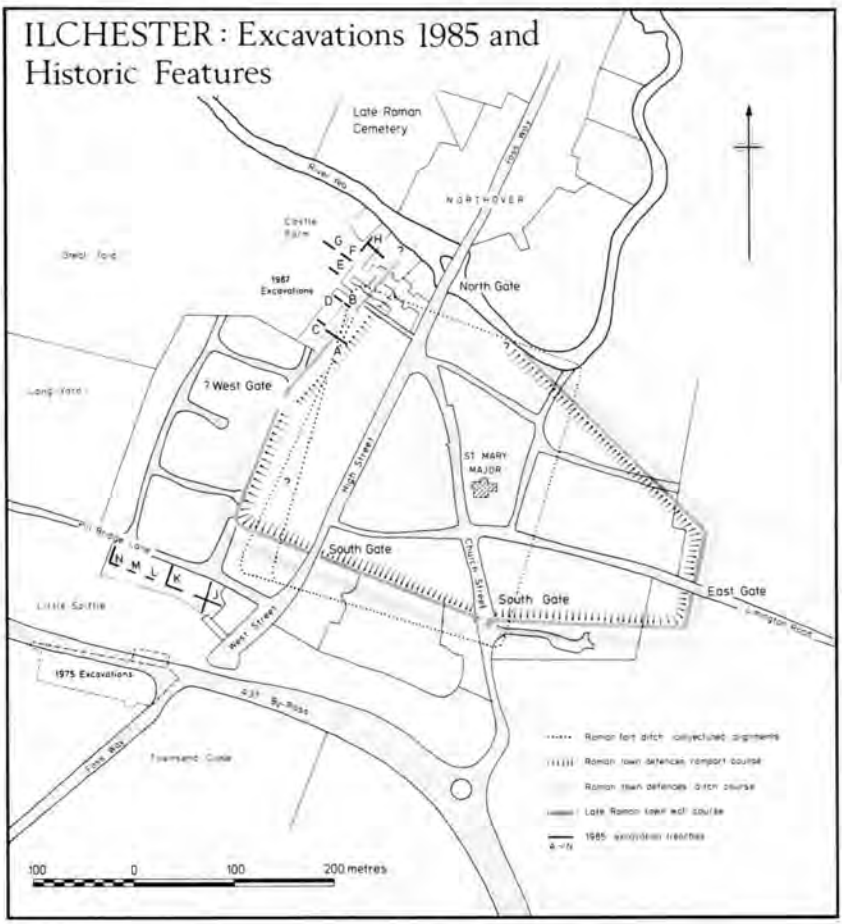


Fig. 2

corresponding machine-excavated trenches C and D outside the garden perimeter, were located to investigate the modern break of slope and a long-established property boundary here defining the rear of urban tenements to the east. Experience elsewhere in Ilchester suggests that the break of slope corresponds approximately to the zone of former town defence alignments. A series of machined trenches further north, Cuttings E–H, sampled parts of Ilchester's former suburbs.

With one or two exceptions, total excavation of the archaeological deposits encountered in the trenches was not achieved. In many instances this was a quite deliberate policy, the prime purpose being an assessment of the nature and preservation of evidence rather than its total removal from each sample transect. The expediencies imposed by physical constraints such as depth of deposit in restricted circumstances, high water tables, or limited time and labour resources, are also relevant. In Cutting A, where excavation by hand was necessary throughout, it was not possible to remove the full depth of stratigraphy encountered, notably that within the late 2nd century town defences ditch below

the water table. No attempt to remove pre-medieval deposits was made in Cutting B, while Cuttings C and D were not taken below the present water table. Cuttings G and F were fully excavated to natural alluvium, while Cutting E could not be completed. In Cutting H only the greater depth of deposits to the east, above a potential continuation of the town defences, prevented completion here.

By their nature, these excavations were for the most part long, narrow and relatively deep, and are best presented with an emphasis upon the sectional record of archaeological sequence, rather than upon elements recorded in plan. To achieve a balance between the requirements of publication and the constraints of space, plans and sections are presented at differing scales, namely 1:100 for plans and 1:50 for sections. To assist the reader, all the sections are presented facing north, with west to the left. This has been achieved by the reversal of some sections as drawn originally in the field. It should also be noted that to avoid subdividing the cardinal compass points, and thus to aid comprehension, directions WNW or ENE are described respectively as W or E. Thus, Cuttings A to G are referred to as being aligned E–W, and the town defences are deemed to run N–S.

The Evidence

In the account which follows, archaeological evidence recorded from each individual trench is presented within a framework encompassing the whole. The definition of archaeological *contexts* (component or individual deposits) and *features* (or events) was achieved within an overall system of unique number allocation, the features being distinguished by the prefix F. It should be noted that those features and contexts originally enumerated between 1 and 99 in Cuttings E–H have, for the purposes of this published account, been assigned within the range 501–599. All these elements have been ordered with reference to the principles of stratigraphic succession and (where available) datable contents, to construct a diachronic events sequence across the site. Eight broadly-defined *periods* of activity are perceived within this system, to which all recorded elements are, if possible, assigned. On this site, the majority of such *periods* relate in some way to the development of the town defences sequence, from its inception through to its ultimate eclipse. Further clarification and verification of this construct is provided by the context of previously published excavations at Ilchester, primarily in Leach (1982) and Leach (1992).

The events sequence is defined as follows:

Period 1: Roman military, later 1st century AD, and (?)2nd century civil occupation
Period 2: late 2nd/early 3rd century AD town defences
Period 3: late 2nd–4th century AD urban occupation
Period 4: 4th century AD town defences
Period 5: post-Roman/early medieval, to new medieval town wall construction (*c.* 1200)
Period 6: later medieval, to removal of town wall (*c.* 1500)
Period 7: 16th–17th century AD
Period 8: 18th–20th century AD

The evidence for these periods is presented below, although it should be stressed that the nature of the surviving evidence, often recovered in restricted circumstances and particularly where not closely related to the town defences sequence,

sometimes presents difficulties. Precise chronological attribution of certain events or sequences is not always clear-cut and the evidence of certain periods may be uncertain or overlap. Despite the presence of a small quantity of prehistoric pottery, no corresponding phase of contemporary activity was detected *in situ* on this site. This topic is considered further with reference to material published elsewhere in this report (Woodward and Williams) in the *Discussion* below.

Period 1 (Figs. 3, 4 and 9)

In Cutting A, the earliest defined feature was a V-sectioned ditch with a narrow flat bottom (F28), cut through the mantle of alluvium into the valley-bottom gravels beneath. It survived to a width of 4 m and a depth of 1.3 m, and was aligned approximately N–S, although this could not be determined precisely over so short an exposed length. To the east, and separated by a narrow berm, a truncated clay bank (F38) apparently related to the ditch. Above a suspected buried soil (435), three slightly variable dumps of alluvial clay (430, 433 and 434) survived as components of a bank at least 4.6 m wide and reduced to a height of 0.3 m. Linear gullies (F34 and F35) were seemingly cut into the truncated bank surface and sealed beneath a further clay layer (418). Within the clay and silt fills of the ditch F28 (404, 409 and 431) were some large fragments of Ham Hill stone, lias fragments, shell, charcoal, pottery and gravel, probably accumulating during this period. Similar layers (94 and 401) above appeared to be the result of later sinkage over the ditch rather than to lie within a recutting.

The ditch and bank are interpreted as elements of the west defences of a fort, already postulated from similar evidence recognised early in the stratigraphic succession elsewhere in Ilchester. The uniformity of the ditch fills and the absence of a recutting suggest deliberate backfilling, which seems, from the relatively unweathered ditch profile, to have taken place quite rapidly. Owing to the removal of the rampart front as a result of later pit cutting, the existence or size of a berm could not be verified. Although little remained of the rampart, enough survived to suggest a layered construction, possibly of turves. The features (F34 and F35) cut into these levels were interpreted during excavation as the remains of overlying later-period structures, but an alternative interpretation would be that they were the stained marks left by a timber interlacing. The rectilinear layout of F34 and F35 thus represents the alignment of the rampart, and a projection of this line would agree with the other sightings of the fort defences. Postholes and the layer 418 may represent the abandonment and levelling of the defences, but too small an area was cleared to gain a clearer picture.

A small assemblage of finds associated with the layers of the truncated bank, in particular samian pottery and an unworn coin of AD 67 found in layer 430, suggest a late Neronian/early Flavian date for construction.

To the north further features of the early Roman period were found, which would have lain outside the fort confines (Fig. 8). In Cutting F two intercutting pits may belong to this period (Fig. 6). The earlier pit, F521, had only partly survived later pit cutting, its west side having been completely removed by a large pit (F511), whose fills suggest that some collapse of the sides was followed by a deliberate infilling. Further north in Cutting H two parallel ditches were excavated: F503 was a V-sectioned ditch slighter in scale than F517, in the base of which was cut a clearance channel (Figs 5 and 7). These ditch features are potentially of military origin and may represent river-front installations. An elongated (?)post pit (F514) appears also to belong to this phase of arrangements. The pits in Cutting F may have originated as gravel quarries, a phenomenon observed elsewhere around Ilchester. Whether or not some or all of this activity had a military background,

pottery in the fills of these features suggests their abandonment by or soon after the end of the 1st century AD.

Period 2 (Figs 4 and 9)
In Cutting A, a major discontinuity in the natural alluvial surface took the form of the west and east sides of a broad cut (F31) *c.* 12.0 m wide. The base of this intervention was established with some confidence by a series of augered profiles through the unexcavated silts to its base in natural gravel, at a uniform depth 2.3 m below the natural alluvium surface and 1 m below the limit of excavation. In relatively restricted circumstances its depth and waterlogged lower fills inhibited total excavation, but its general character and identity were clearly established. Layers 412, 413, 414 and 415 on the west side and 405, 424 and 425 on the east were primarily silt deposits, containing in addition some stone rubble. The manner in which certain large blocks lay directly on the profile suggests the possibility of a deliberate ditch lining, while some of the remainder may represent the collapse of ditch lining. To the west, the horizontal layers 86, 96, 97 and 98 seal the ditch fills, and may belong to Periods 3 or 4.

A similar discontinuity was suggested in the east arm of Cutting H (Figs 5 and 7). Excavation here did not penetrate below the medieval levels within what was evidently a deep (?)linear feature, F538. A machined cutting east of Cutting H showed silt layers continuing at 2 m below the modern surface, but unfortunately no eastern edge could be established. Excavation by hand of Cutting H could not be completed because of its depth and the appearance of the water table.

Given the uncertainties of an incomplete excavation, it is not unreasonable to suggest a continuation northward of the ditch (F31) towards Cutting H and the river, albeit sealed deeply beneath subsequent deposits. This supposed alignment of ditches is interpreted as part of the circumambient ditch which, with an accompanying inner rampart, was established as the first phase of urban defences at Ilchester in the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries AD. This interpretation is borne out by its position on the perimeter of the town, although with an alignment somewhat closer to the Foss Way than was suspected prior to excavation. The evidence for an accompanying rampart is considered in the *Discussion* section below, but within Cutting A there were no indications of a rampart east of the ditch.

Period 3 (Figs 3, 4 and 9)
East of the Period 2 ditch in Cutting A were the remains of pitched stone footings for buildings, together with superimposed floor levels, which, although much mutilated, suggest a relatively long-established continuity of occupation. At least three floor levels were recorded. The first clear surface (F30) was composed of Ham Hill stone cobbles in a clay matrix with, beneath the floor, layers of clay and stone representing a make-up level. Three stone-lined post-holes (F27, F29 and F37) were noted, as well as a burnt area (F50) which possibly indicated a hearth. Of the post holes, F37 was the most substantial (its position is shown on Fig. 3, Period 1 plan), and possibly represented the line of a wall re-created later in stone. F30 was superseded by a second floor (F19) again of Ham Hill stone cobbles, though of smaller size. This floor was probably related to a wall (F17) surviving only as a single block of above-ground stone coursing abutted by F19, and resting on pitched stone footings (neatly cut down their centre by a later pit).

A second wall, on a slightly different alignment to F17, was suggested by the survival of a foundation trench (F15) filled with substantial pitched stone footings, (F24). The construction level for this wall had been removed by later activity, but it is unlikely to have a relationship with a third recognised floor (F18), which lay at

too high a level. The latter floor comprised a thick band of clay overlain by a gravel surface, with a layer of rubble, clay and burnt material separating F18 from F19 beneath.

Given the small area excavated it is difficult to suggest a clear sequence, although at least three building phases must be represented. There were no clues to building functions, although stone-founded structures of relatively good quality are indicated. Dating is equally imprecise although associated finds, primarily pottery, suggest that the sequence post-dates the first phase of the town defences.

In the area to the north were further Romano-British features of the 3rd and 4th centuries (Fig. 8). Cutting E was excavated to below the expected depth of the natural alluvium without encountering that horizon. The lowest level reached appeared to dip from south to north, suggesting the possiblility of a ditch running exactly on the alignment of the trench. This alignment would be at right angles to the line of the town defences established in Cutting A, and it could be that ditch divisions represent allotted land on the further side of the town ditch. Against this is the evidence for alignments closer to a truer north–south axis recorded nearby in 1987 (Leach 1987, and forthcoming).

Further north in Cutting F a group of pits overlying the earlier pits F521 and F511 was recorded (Figs 6 and 7). No relationship was established between three of the pits, F514, F515 and F516, but a fourth (F512) appeared to be cut by F514. There was little sign of corresponding activity further west in Great Yard, although only a single narrow sample was obtained by Cutting G. Similarly, there were no indications of structures or pits associated with the pottery kiln documented somewhere to the south of Cutting E (Leach 1987, and forthcoming). One other feature possibly of this period was located in Cutting H (Figs 5 and 7). The evidence (incompletely revealed) suggested a well from which a stone lining may have been removed (F536). Excavation could not be continued below 2.2 m from the modern ground surface in a constricted space. Later Roman pottery and a 4th century coin in its upper fills may be some clue to the currency, and, more reliably, to the period of abandonment of this well.

Period 4 (Figs 3, 4 and 9)

Within the confines of the Period 2 town defences ditch (F31), a later (medieval) cut (F13) defined the outline of a sloping-sided and flat-based trench (F22) with slightly deeper trenches to west and east along its axis. Further to the west was a rectangular cut (F25) into the ditch silts beneath. Nothing remained to suggest the original function of this trench excepting the fragments of wood preserved in the outlying pit (F25) and an area of gravel (78) on the trench bottom. The fact of medieval excavation on this scale, the trench's robbed form at the base, and the presence in it of rubble and mortar, suggest the former presence of a substantial mortared stone structure. It is hypothesised that what has been removed from here are the foundations of the later Roman town defensive wall, identified elsewhere around the town in more positive form (Leach 1992, II, 1–4). Such an interpretation provides a context for the clay and rubble platform (F14) located above the east side of the ditch as a contemporary feature. Although there are no parallels for this positioning of the later wall in the earlier ditch elsewhere at Ilchester – the later wall fronts the first-phase clay rampart at other localities – the absence of any other potential candidates for the wall here tends to confirm this identification.

The evidence suggests a wide foundation placed centrally in the ditch, comprising a core of (?)rubble contained within an outer coursed- or pitched-stone facing marked by the shallow outer trenches. The pit to the front with its suggestion of a timber placement is not readily explicable but may represent a timber bracing or

some additional foundation support for the wall above. Behind the wall, the platform F14 indicates that the structure was stabilised from the rear by the placement of a clay and rubble foundation at its base. Layers surviving in front of the wall (60 and 85) may also represent support for the foundations or may be a post-wall accumulation rather than part of the earlier ditch silts.

Period 5 (Figs 3–5, 9 and 7)

If the identification of the site of the late-Roman town wall is correct, it appears that some 800 years elapsed before this structure was removed and replaced. Within the areas excavated there are few archaeological indications of site use and history for this period. In Cutting H an overall layer of brown clay (506) lay directly upon the natural alluvium, sealing the Romano-British features of Periods 1 and 3. This layer may be paralleled in Cutting G by a similar deposit (523) sealing unexcavated features. These deposits may well equate to the post-Roman flood alluvium located in 1975–6 (Leach 1982, 107).

In Cutting H the layer 506 is cut by a number of medieval features, most without stratigraphic relationships one to another. Three pits (F519, F532 and F533) were excavated for which there were ceramic indications of an earlier medieval date. F519 was a deep oval post-pit containing the stone residue of its post packing. F532 was only partly excavated but appeared to have been dug to dispose of a group of smashed cooking pots, while F533 was a shallow-profiled pit, again only partly excavated.

In Cutting A, a steep-sided and flat-bottomed pit (F16) to the east contained an exclusively early medieval pottery assemblage (pre-13th century). The robber trench (F13) for the suggested Roman town wall, already discussed under Period 4, contained numerous interleaving tips of spoil. Although slightly obscured by later activity, a more vertical cut to the east than to the west was clear, and within the trench the primary backfills formed a central core (68, 69, 77, 71, 70, 76), with a secondary filling to the west (51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 58, 421, 66, 75). To the east, the clay layer 62 appeared during excavation to have been secondary to layers 70 and 76 at least. The central and western deposits were slightly different. The central core contained much rubble, silt and mortar, while the layers to the west were interleaved, predominantly of gravel and clay with rubble.

Layers 45, 46 and 50 represent a difference again, with a soil content higher than in the layers below. West of this robbing trench, a vertical-sided and flat-based cutting (F21) was found at the base of a later robbing trench (F11). Although only partly excavated and mainly below the water table, enough was cleared to indicate a substantial foundation trench, negatively defined by robbing, at a depth of *c.* 2 m below the natural alluvium surface horizon. Its equivalent continuation (F303) was located further north in Cutting B (Fig. 6).

Without reference to, or knowledge of, the medieval defensive arrangements elsewhere at Ilchester, these two features, the Roman wall-robbing trench and the later robbed foundation trench to the west, would have been difficult to interpret. Since it is known from elsewhere that Ilchester's medieval town wall runs parallel to and immediately outside the Roman wall line, it is also clear that construction of the medieval wall was undertaken *de novo*, almost certainly contemporaneously with the robbing of the Roman wall (doubtless using the latter's material).

The sequence in Cutting A can therefore be interpreted as follows. The sloping west side of the wall-robbing trench (F13) may have facilitated the extraction of Roman wall stone, rather than representing the original morphology of the Roman wall trench. Its primary backfills of dense stone rubble suggest discarded stone from the possible foundation core of the Roman wall discussed above. The secondary

filling with its tips of gravel may derive in part from the excavation of the medieval foundation trench to the west, in part to infill and level up the robber-trench void. It is clear also that the medieval trench was deliberately cut through the underlying Roman ditch silts in F31 until a firm base in the gravels was obtained. Despite the the fact that not a single stone survives *in situ* in either the late Roman or medieval town walls circuit at this point, this interpretation of their existence and sequence is offered with some confidence.

Pottery from the backfilling layers in robber trench F13 suggests a date for the robbing of the Roman wall and, by inference, for the construction of the medieval wall in the late 12th or early 13th century. The position of the medieval wall was also suggested by its robbing trench in Cutting C to the west. This was difficult of access in Cuttings C or D, but in the former was apparently located as the western edge of a ditch (F104) beneath the existing post-medieval boundary wall (Fig. 9). The presence of the post-medieval wall and the level of the water table permitted only very limited excavation here.

Period 6 (Figs 3, 4 and 9)

In Cutting A, a ditch (F12) was located cutting across the top of the backfilled robbing trench F13. There was no evidence of weathering, and its back-fill of mixed clays and stone seems to have been deliberately deposited rather than to have resulted from silting. On the newly levelled layers obliterating this ditch line, a group of cut features (F6, F7, F8, F9 and F26) was recorded. These shallow gullies and scoops were apparently related and contained similar soil fills. The level from which these features were cut may well have been truncated by later activity. On broadly the same stratigraphic horizon, two further pits were recorded at the east end of the cutting. F10 cut through the floors of the Period 3 Romano-British buildings and was filled with burnt clay and stone, while F33 was only partially visible at the extreme east end of the cutting.

The ditch F12 is difficult to interpret, functioning perhaps as a drain immediately behind the medieval town wall, or marking the end of burgage plots stretching down from the High Street. The original intention may have been to define an area immediately behind the wall under municipal control, perhaps for use as an access route. Infill appears to have been fairly rapid and the ditch was soon obliterated. The gullies and features which partially overlie this ditch may represent building foundations, perhaps for a slight timber-framed structure, although as noted above the remains may be truncated.

In cuttings to the north, in Great Yard, several disparate and probably chronologically unconnected features were recorded (Figs 5, 7 and 8). In Cutting H a steep-sided foundation trench (F520), its context obliterated by later robbing, may be of this period, as may other hints of occupation sealed beneath post-medieval horizons here. A further robbed-out trench (F531) may accompany F520, and a spread of rubble (F529) to the north indicates a possible further structure. Stone-lined postholes (F527, F534, F530) and a clay filled post-pit (F528) located in the machined trenches could not be related to the overlying post-medieval surface, but are likely to be medieval. Finally, two pits (F504 and F505) containing later medieval pottery were also located in this cutting, F504 cutting F505. In Cutting G a curvilinear gully (F507) was excavated (Fig. 8). A similar gully to the west (F506) and an unexcavated feature to the east (F508) may be related to F507. These features were not comprehensible in such a limited exposure, but may have some relationship with medieval waterfront facilities on the Yeo. Late medieval pottery was collected from F505, from four of the postholes and from F507.

As noted in Period 5 (*above*), at the western ends of Cuttings A and B the

eastern edge of a trench intended to rob the line of the medieval wall was clear (F11 and F303). Its west side may be represented by an almost unexcavated cut (F104) into the natural alluvium surface at the east end of Cutting C (Fig. 9). The best exposure of this trench and sample of its fills was in Cutting A, where layers of clay and rubble indicate a rapidly backfilled trench. In Cutting H, the eastern arm showed a rubble-filled cut (F525) in a primary stratigraphic position to post-medieval features and deposits but later than F538: this feature may just possibly represent the west side of the medieval wall-robbing trench on a continuing alignment towards the river from Cuttings A and B. In this waterfront area the evidence is ambiguous and it may be erroneous to see the town wall extending this far. Further information is required in this area in order to establish the course of the medieval defences here and their relationship to the Whitehall Nunnery precinct or potential waterfront installations.

Period 7 (Fig. 6)

Perhaps the most coherent elements of this period are recorded in Cuttings C and D, outside the walled garden. No medieval features were excavated here except the western edge of the medieval wall-robbing trench in Cutting C. In both cuttings the excavation of a broad ditch or hollow-way is clear (F107 and F209), its inner side marked by cuts at the west end of Cuttings A and B (F4 and F302). Within the ditch/hollow-way, excavation was not completed in both sections, but in Cutting D a layer of lias cobbles was found at the base of the sequence, sealed beneath a second stone surface (F208). To the west of this second level a stone-lined culvert was recorded in both cuttings (F108 and F207). The culvert was waterlogged, preserving a timber lining, and still carried a flow of water. In Cutting D, on the east side of the upper stone-cobbled surface and partly overlying it, were the lower courses of a well-built mortared wall (F206). Two base courses with slight offsets supported four further courses of stonework. In Cutting C only the line of this wall in the form of a slight robbing-trench was recorded. In Cutting A to the east of ditch F107 a succession of backfill layers was recorded tipped from the south, and a similar backfilling was clear in Cutting B. The successive layers of stone cobbles (F208) in Cutting D are clearly road surfaces, and a track here is depicted as 'Yard Lane' lying within a ditch on Stukeley's map of Ilchester (1724). The apparent absence of road surfaces in Cutting C may be due to incomplete excavation of strata there. The wall is clearly a later (?18th century) addition following two phases of road refurbishment, a process which appears to have ceased following construction of the wall.

In Cutting H (Figs 5 and 7), the same ditch, though east of a direct projection of its line, may be marked by a ditch (F544) cutting the possible medieval wall-robbing trench F525. To the west was an overall layer of stone and rubble (504) 0.3 m thick, encountered generally in Cutting H and again in Cutting G. It may be that ditch and stone spread are contemporary, the latter sealing many of the medieval features recorded in Cutting H (*above*). A more substantial part of this spread was noted in the north arm, where a hard standing may be indicated (F518). The evidence of a road running towards the river (Yard Lane), of the wall, of the hardstanding area and of a culvert system, probably reflects post-medieval arrangements associated with the Yeo waterfront. There were no indications of the Civil War defences plotted in this area by Stukeley (1724) if such they were, but any such remains could have been swept away in subsequent reorganisations.

Period 8 (Figs 5, 6 and 7)

In Cutting A, the latest phases of activity represent a recent build-up of soil associated with this former kitchen garden area of Castle Farm. Immediately prior

to this, part of a steep-sided and deeply-cut pit (F2), its lower sides and base well baked by heat, and containing deposits of charcoal and slaked lime, suggests an early 19th century lime-burning pit.

In Cuttings C and D, the shallow ditch/hollow way (F107/F209) and its features were deliberately filled in. The sequence is clearest in Cutting D. Dumps of clay (216 and 217) directly upon the road surface sealed no intervening layer, which might imply long abandonment or disuse of the road. On the upper clay surface was a spread of rubble (213) and mortar (212 and 211). These layers are likely to represent demolition of the wall (F206), with rubble spread over the filled-in ditch and mortar perhaps suggesting the residue of the reuse of some of the stone. Subsequently a further clay spread (209) formed the surface from which the present Castle Farm garden wall was constructed. The foundation trench (F205) was clear, as too was a layer of knapped lias (202) sealing it, presumably resulting from the stone mason's dressing work. Finally, cut into these layers of rubbish were modern service trenches for water and drainage pipes.

In Great Yard, Cuttings E, F and G revealed a topsoil sealing earlier features, with the exception of a sewer pipe in F (F513) and a foundation trench (F522), the latter almost certainly belonging to a relatively recent farm building here, now demolished. In Cutting H was evidence of the attested use of the river waterfront into recent times. Of some interest is the robber trench F543 which cut through the Period 7 rubble-spread layer 504. If the foundation trench F520 is medieval in origin then part of a medieval stone structure may have stood here until quite recent times. In the east arm of the trench a wall (F502) and associated stone drain (F501) were set within the line of the ditch F544. Layer 519 represented the upper fill of that ditch but excavation was carried no lower than its surface. On layer 519 on the east side of F501 and F502 was a succession of dumps of clay, coal and lime. It may be that here were covered areas for the temporary storage of materials prior to or following their shipment. All the Cutting H sections were sealed by a considerable overburden of soil and rubbish (502 and 503), clearly modern in origin, while two service trenches were recorded alongside the Yeo (F540 and F541).

Discussion

The excavations at Castle Farm have made an important new contribution to our understanding of the archaeology of Roman and medieval Ilchester, and in particular of its character and development through time in this north-western sector. New information has been gained concerning prehistoric settlement, the initial Roman military phase, the Roman and medieval town defences sequence, and medieval occupation; the excavations have also focused attention upon Ilchester's post-Roman extra-mural waterfront facilities.

Prehistoric Settlement

As is so often demonstrated at Ilchester, evidence for pre-Roman settlement is derived primarily from secondary contexts, in the form of residual ceramics (Table 2). It was unfortunate that no contemporary prehistoric features appear to have been located, although discoveries in Cutting H in particular suggest their close proximity. Of particular interest is the suggestion that for the most part the Castle Farm pottery assemblage represents Middle Iron Age settlement. This is in contrast to previous assemblages of predominantly Early Iron Age character (Ellison in Leach 1982, 124–6; and 1992, III, 3(a)), and is seen again at Pill Bridge Lane

(Woodward, *below*). Several sherds of Glastonbury-style wares were present (Fig. 18, no. 1), two of which were identified by petrological examination (Williams, *below*); this is the first positive identification of such material at Ilchester. The pottery at Castle Farm is closely paralleled by the assemblage from the Late Iron Age enclosure in the flood plain south of the town (Leach 1992, II, 10; and forthcoming), and suggests that there is more than one focus for what may be a complex sequence of pre-Roman Iron Age settlement beneath Ilchester.

The Fort

If indeed the evidence of Period 1 from Cutting A (reviewed above) has resulted in the establishment of a west alignment for the military fort defences at Ilchester, a summary of the installation as currently perceived can be made. Based upon ditch perimeters, sides of *c.* 285 m north–south and of *c.* 250 m east–west can now be postulated, giving a total area of 7.1 ha. There are now three sections of bank identified (Leach 1992, I, iii), in two of which timber lacing is suggested, namely here and at Ivel House (Cox 1982). From the ditch sections excavated here and in 1974 (Leach 1982, 21–2) it is clear that these at Ilchester are relatively slight, in contrast with the generality of Roman fort defensive ditches. The reason may lie in the nature of local conditions at Ilchester, where, once the alluvial mantle has been penetrated, the high water table renders excavation of the underlying gravel difficult to any significant depth, and induces instability. It should be emphasised that the fort postulated on Fig. 2 is based upon very limited observations, and that a more precise determination of its size, shape, history or structural details would require a much-expanded data base.

In addition to the postulated fort rampart and ditch, other discoveries in 1985 hint at the possibility of further military facilities in Great Yard associated with river transport via the Yeo. A two-way traffic may be suggested by the second half of the 1st century AD, supplies from the Somerset Levels area being brought to the Foss Way, while from the 70s AD, supplies (notably food) from the Ilchester region could have been transported across the Severn Estuary to the newly-founded army base at Caerleon or forts further west, in support of forces engaged initially in the pacification of Wales.

The Romano-British Town Defences

The pattern of Ilchester's urban defences has now been clearly established. In their primary phase, a broad ditch and accompanying clay rampart are assigned to the late 2nd or early 3rd century. In the later 3rd or early 4th century, these defences were refurbished by the addition of a stone wall cut into the face of the rampart, but with no sign of a ditch re-cut.

The picture at Castle Farm is somewhat different. Cutting A provided what is, to date, the best record and profile of the primary ditch. The existence of a broad, flat-based, sloping-sided ditch cut is clearly established, with the possibility of a stone lining to counter the problems of instability resulting from a cut through clay into waterlogged gravel. It is very likely that this ditch was water-filled from the beginning, and would thus have functioned as an important component of the local land drainage regime. The surprise at Castle Farm was the position of this ditch some 30 m or so east of a line that might be expected, a) from the position of the rampart located by Casey to the south west (Leach 1992, II, ii), and b) from the line and proximity of the Foss Way (Figs 1 and 8). The accompanying rampart was not encountered in excavation here, and in 1985 its apparent absence seemed something of a mystery. In 1987, observations during landscaping of the walled garden area as part of building operations almost certainly located the rampart along the

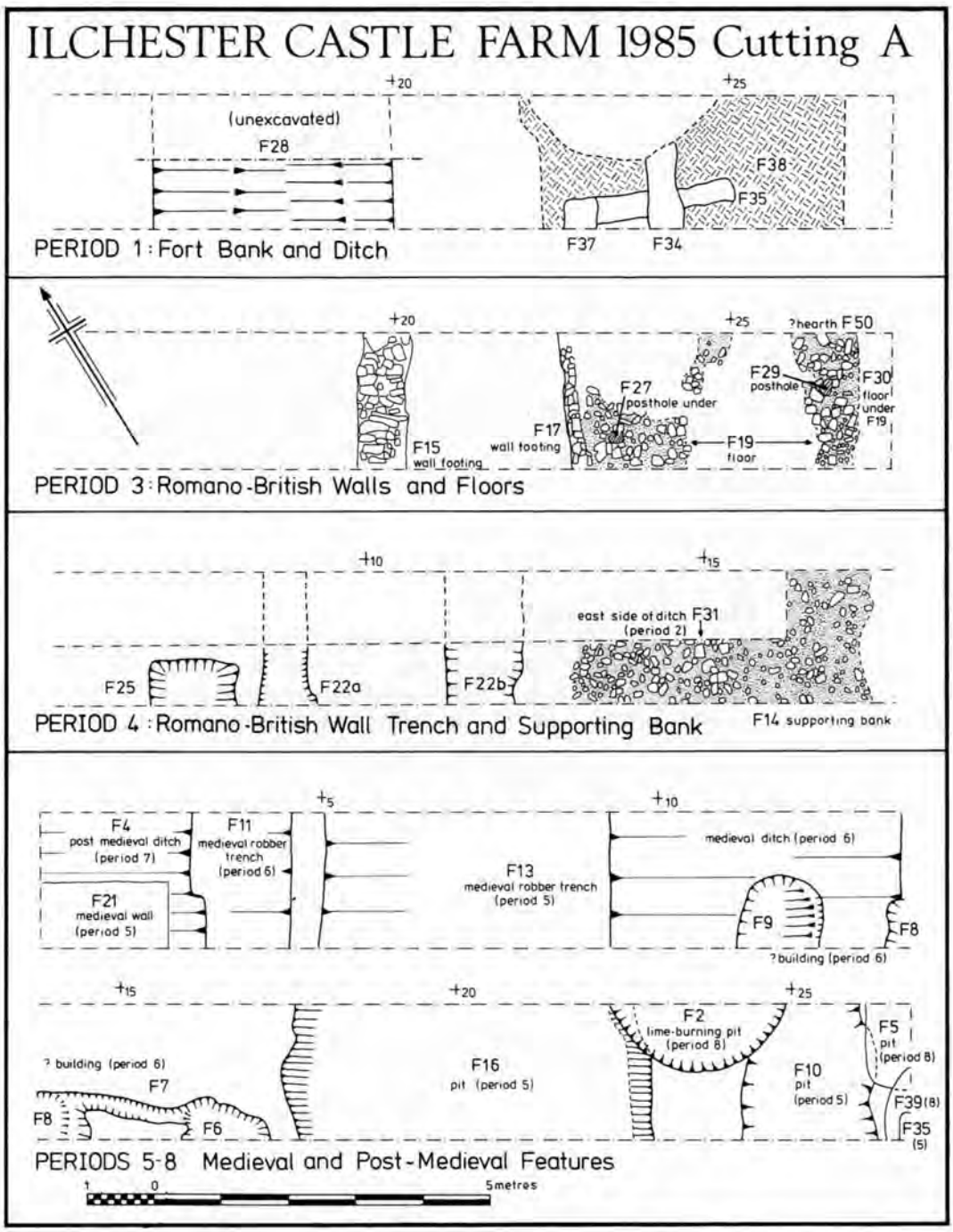

ILCHESTER CASTLE FARM 1985 Cutting A
+20
+25
(unexcavated)
F28
F38
F35
F37
F34
PERIOD 1: Fort Bank and Ditch
+20
+25
?hearth F50
F29
posthole
F30
floor under F19
F27
posthole under
F17
wall footing
F15
wall footing
F19
floor
PERIOD 3: Romano-British Walls and Floors
+10
+15
east side of ditch F31
(period 2)
F25
F22a
F22b
F14 supporting bank
PERIOD 4: Romano-British Wall Trench and Supporting Bank
+5
+10
F4
post medieval ditch
(period 7)
F11
medieval robber trench
(period 6)
F21
medieval wall
(period 5)
F13
medieval robber trench
(period 5)
medieval ditch (period 6)
F9
F8
? building (period 6)
+15
+20
+25
? building (period 6)
F7
F8
F6
F16
pit (period 5)
F2
lime-burning pit
(period 8)
F10
pit
(period 5)
F5
pit
(period 8)
F39(8)
F35
(5)
PERIODS 5-8 Medieval and Post-Medieval Features
1
0
5metres

Fig. 3

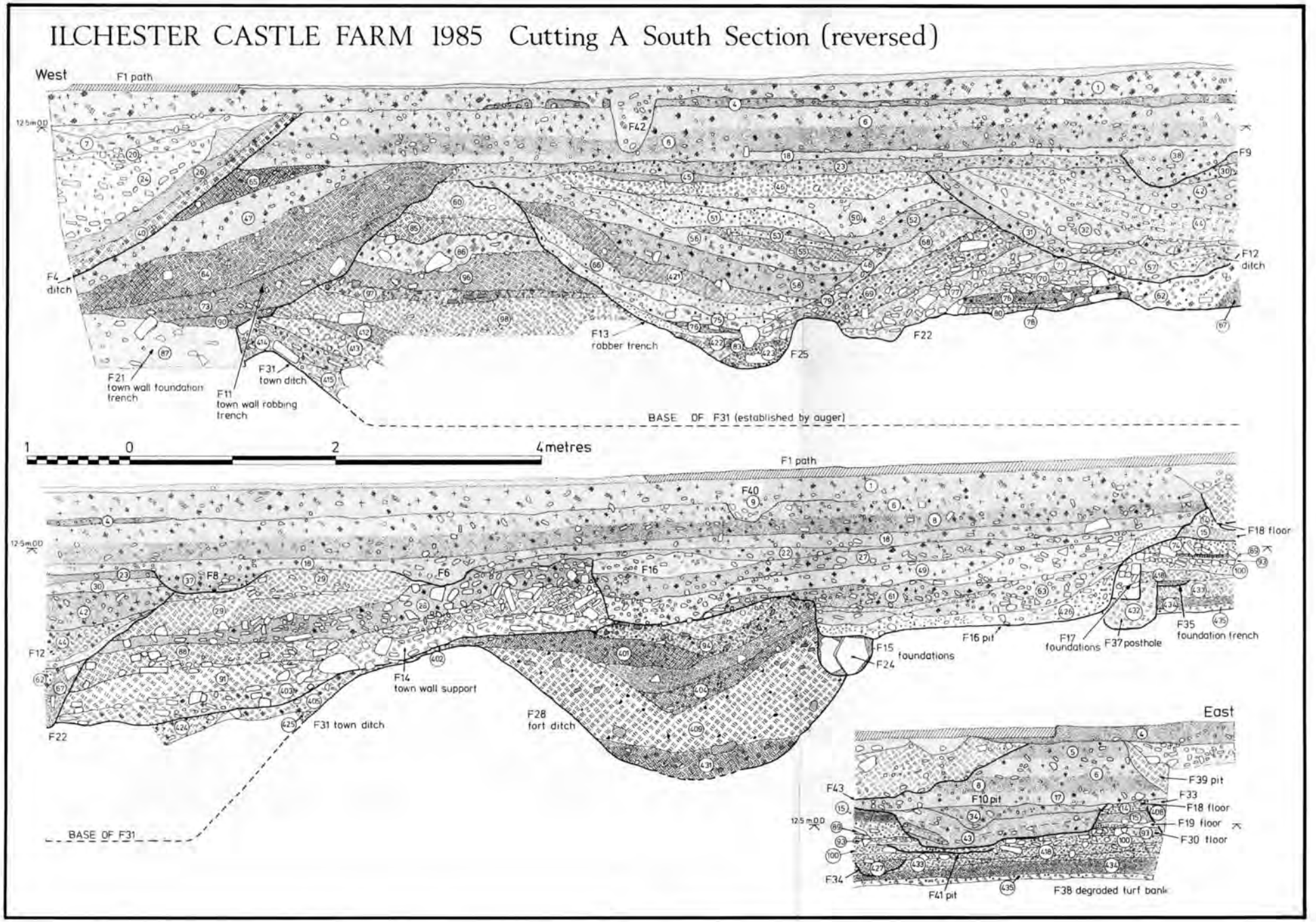

ILCHESTER CASTLE FARM 1985 Cutting A South Section (reversed)
West
F1 path
12.5m OD
F42
F9
F12 ditch
F4 ditch
F13 robber trench
F22
F25
F21 town wall foundation trench
F11 town wall robbing trench
F31 town ditch
BASE OF F31 (established by auger)
1 0 2 4metres
F1 path
F40
F18 floor
F8
F6
F16
F12
F16 pit
F17 foundations
F37 posthole
F35 foundation trench
F15 foundations
F24
F14 town wall support
F28 fort ditch
F31 town ditch
F22
East
F39 pit
F43
F10 pit
F33
F18 floor
F19 floor
F30 floor
F34
F41 pit
F38 degraded turf bank
BASE OF F31

Fig. 4

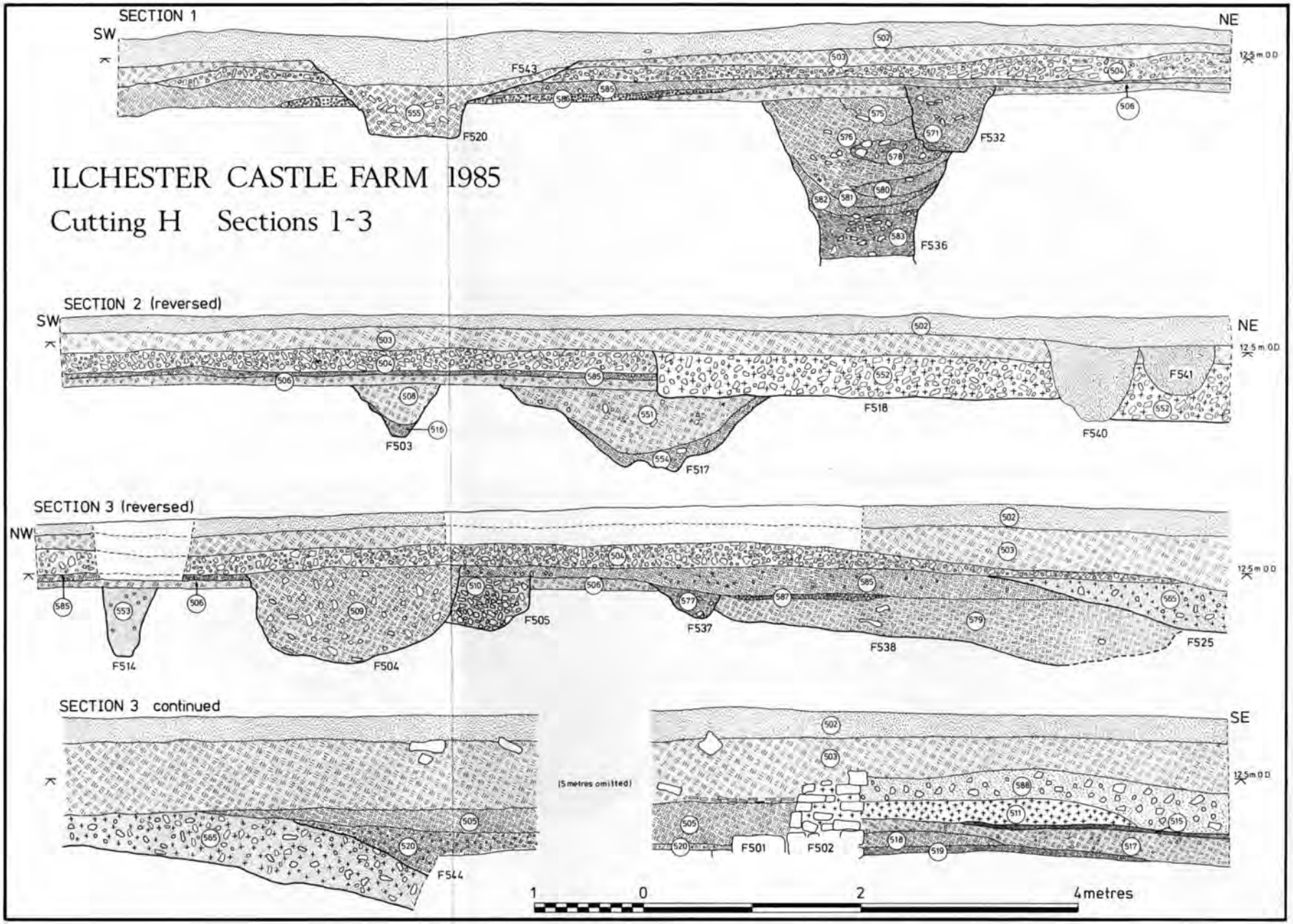

SECTION 1
SW
NE
12.5m OD
F543
F520
F532
F536
ILCHESTER CASTLE FARM 1985
Cutting H Sections 1-3
SECTION 2 (reversed)
SW
NE
12.5m OD
F503
F517
F518
F540
F541
SECTION 3 (reversed)
NW
12.5m OD
F514
F504
F505
F537
F538
F525
SECTION 3 continued
SE
12.5m OD
(5 metres omitted)
F544
F501
F502
1
0
2
4 metres

Fig. 5

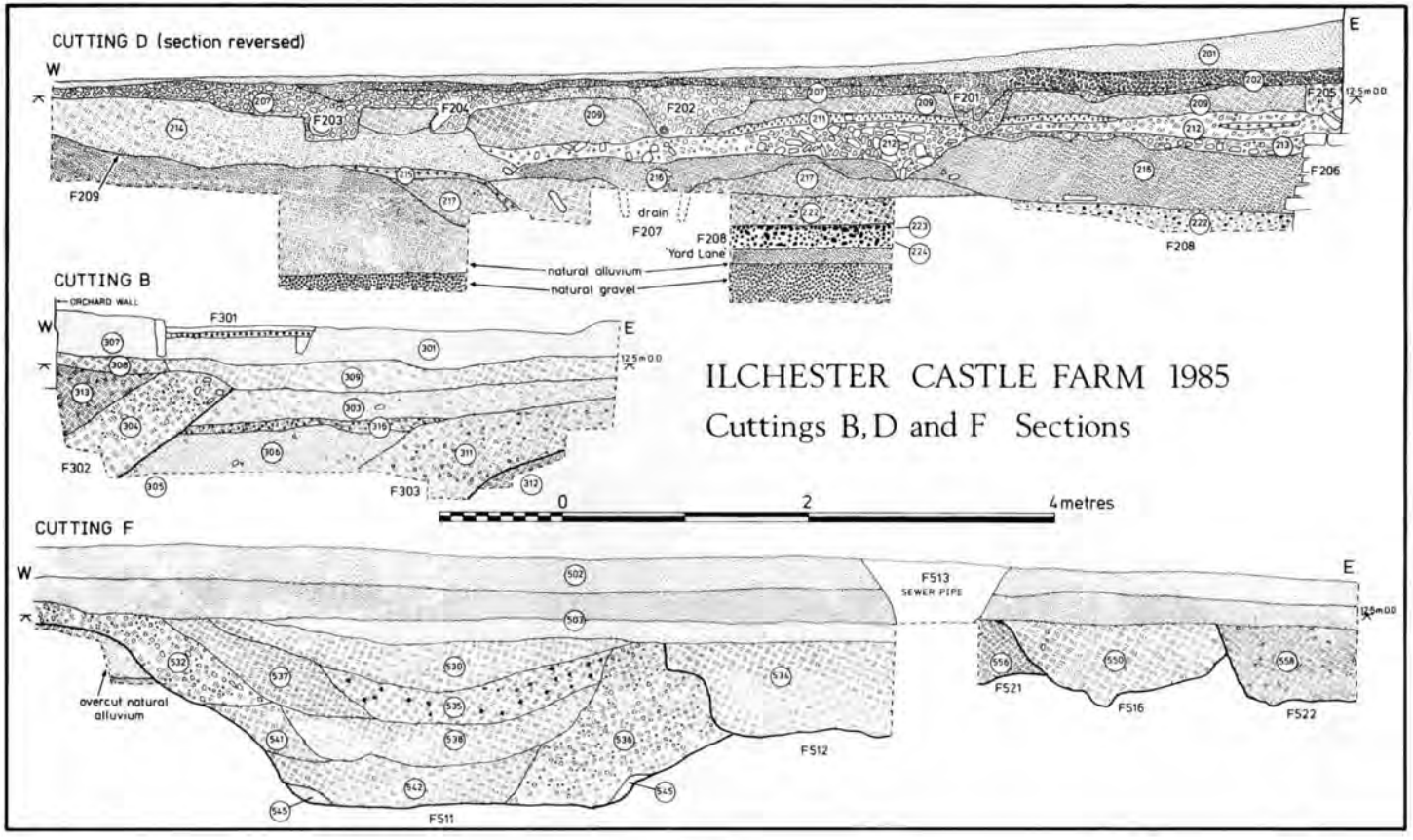

CUTTING D (section reversed)
W
E
F209
F203
F204
F202
F201
F205
F206
F207
drain
F208
Yard Lane
natural alluvium
natural gravel
CUTTING B
ORCHARD WALL
F301
F302
F303
ILCHESTER CASTLE FARM 1985
Cuttings B, D and F Sections
0
2
4 metres
CUTTING F
F513
SEWER PIPE
overcut natural alluvium
F512
F511
F521
F516
F522

Fig. 6

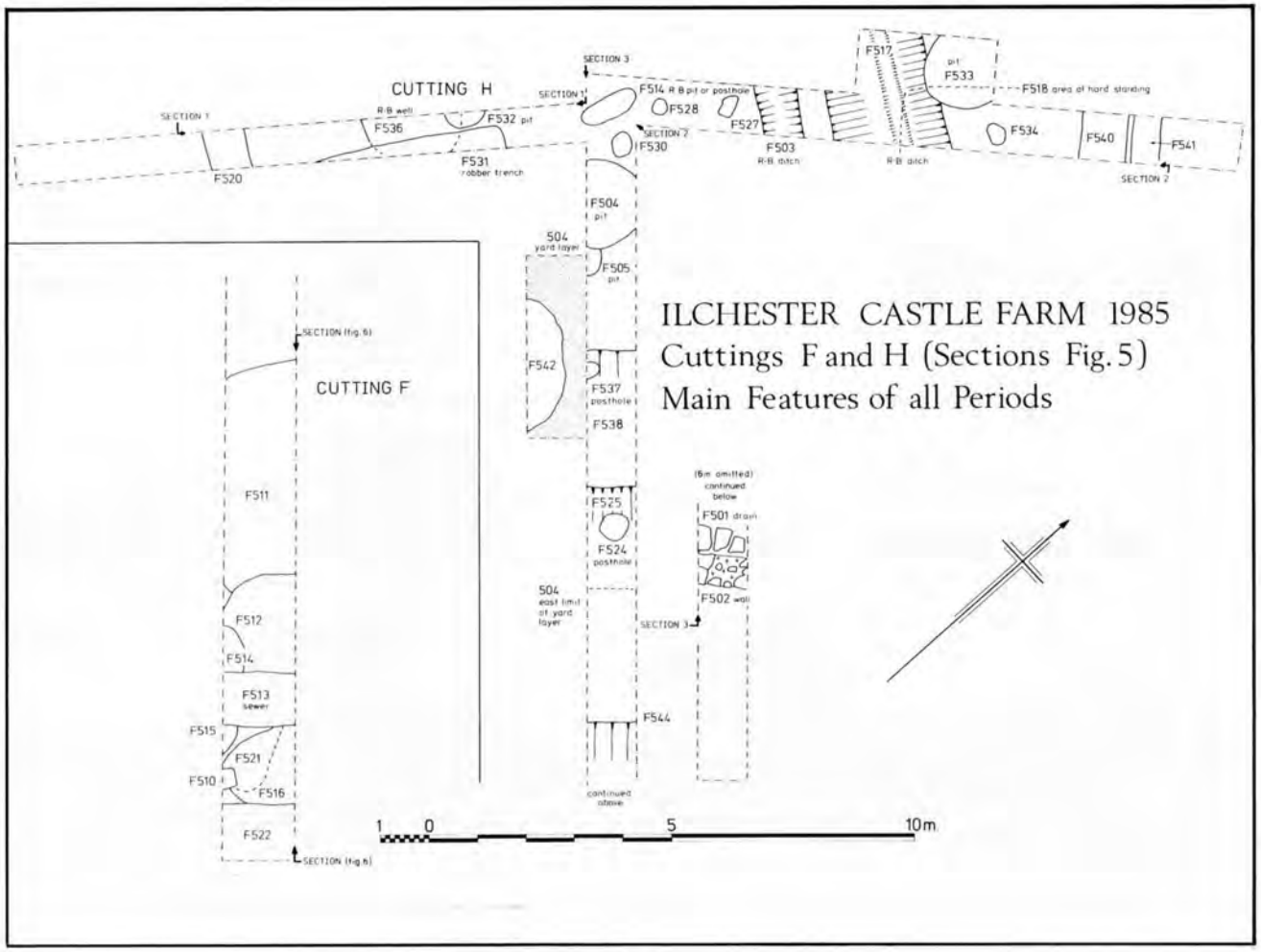

ILCHESTER CASTLE FARM 1985
Cuttings F and H (Sections Fig. 5)
Main Features of all Periods
CUTTING H
CUTTING F
SECTION 1
SECTION 2
SECTION 3
F514 R B pit or posthole
F528
F532 pit
F536
F531 robber trench
F520
F527
F503 R-B ditch
F530
F517
pit F533
F518 area of hard standing
F534
F540
F541
F504 pit
504 yard layer
F505 pit
F542
F537 posthole
F538
F525
F524 posthole
504 east limit of yard layer
(6m omitted) continued below
F501 drain
F502 well
F544
continued above
F511
F512
F514
F513 sewer
F515
F521
F510
F516
F522
SECTION (fig. 6)
SECTION (fig. 8)
1 0 5 10m

Fig. 7

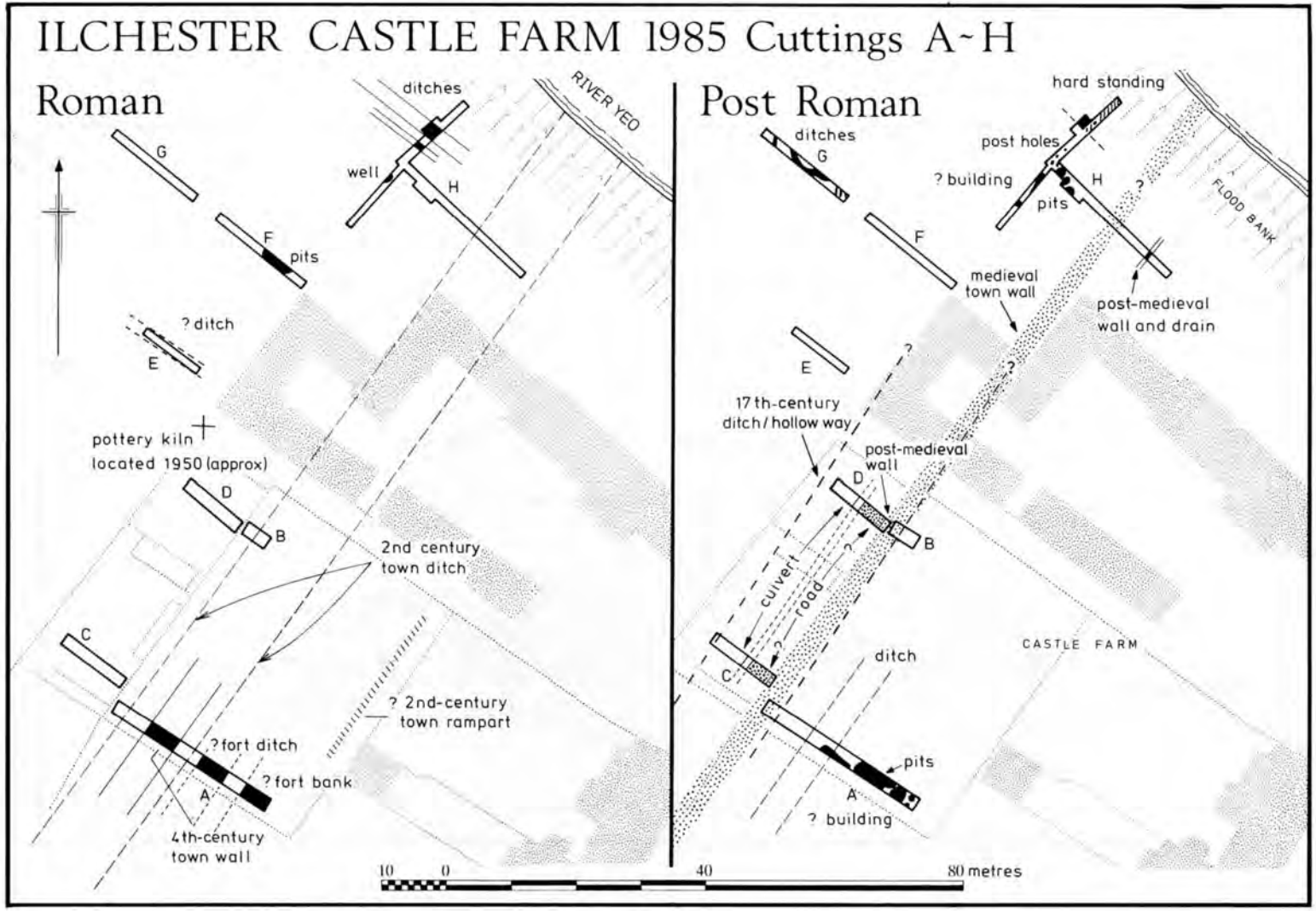

ILCHESTER CASTLE FARM 1985 Cuttings A~H
Roman
ditches
RIVER YEO
well
H
G
F
pits
? ditch
E
pottery kiln
located 1950 (approx)
D
B
2nd century
town ditch
C
? 2nd-century
town rampart
? fort ditch
? fort bank
A
4th-century
town wall
Post Roman
hard standing
post holes
? building
H
pits
FLOOD BANK
ditches
G
F
medieval
town wall
post-medieval
wall and drain
E
17th-century
ditch / hollow way
post-medieval
wall
D
B
culvert
road
C
CASTLE FARM
ditch
pits
A
? building
10 0 40 80 metres

Fig. 8

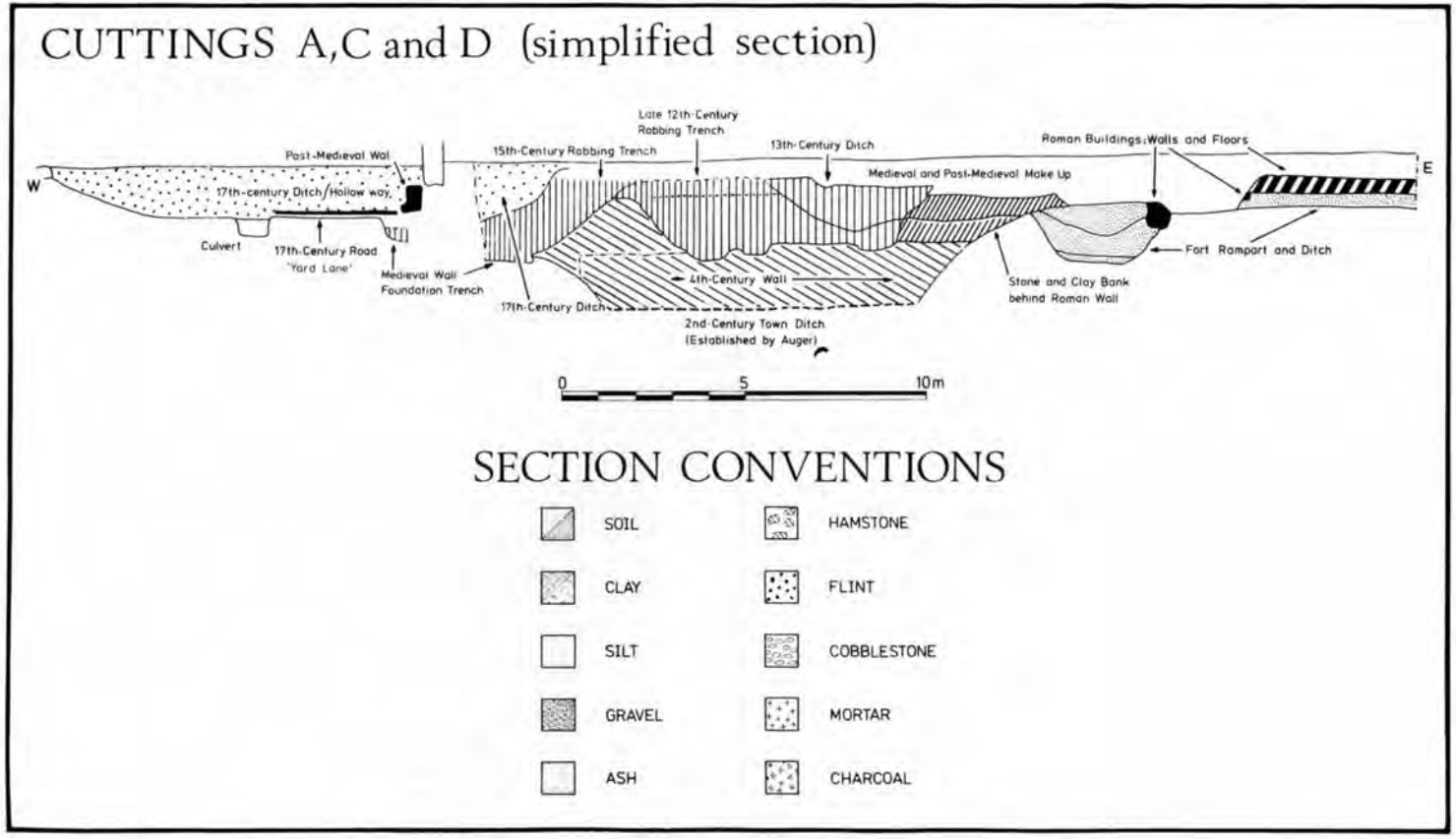

CUTTINGS A,C and D (simplified section)
W
E
Post-Medieval Wal
17th-century Ditch/Hollow way
Culvert
17th-Century Road
'Yard Lane'
Medieval Wall
Foundation Trench
15th-Century Robbing Trench
Late 12th-Century
Robbing Trench
13th-Century Ditch
Medieval and Post-Medieval Make Up
Roman Buildings, Walls and Floors
Fort Rampart and Ditch
Stone and Clay Bank
behind Roman Wall
4th-Century Wall
17th-Century Ditch
2nd-Century Town Ditch
(Established by Auger)
0
5
10m
SECTION CONVENTIONS
SOIL
CLAY
SILT
GRAVEL
ASH
HAMSTONE
FLINT
COBBLESTONE
MORTAR
CHARCOAL

Fig. 9

eastern boundary of the garden. No archaeological excavation was possible here, but the observations made and the correspondence of the clay bank seen, with a marked rise in the modern ground level (a feature observed elsewhere around Ilchester), reinforce this claim. At least 15 m of berm separate the eastern edge of the ditch from the suspected bank: this is in contrast to the position recorded elsewhere, a separation of 10 m or less having been found around the south and east defences (Leach 1992, II, 1–4). Alternatively it is conceivable that some of the truncated building remains recorded in the berm area post-date the rampart and involved its partial removal. Without further excavation it is impossible to speculate more precisely upon the rampart remains located here and their relationship to the ditch or phases of urban building.

Whatever the precise circumstances, there are still problems with regard to the location of the ditch. It is now clear that there must be two slightly different alignments to the western defences of the town to account for this newly recognised ditch line, the change to a more southerly alignment occurring somewhere beneath Priory Road a short distance to the south west. Two reasons for this particular ditch alignment at Castle Farm are suggested. It is possible that the ditch followed a pre-existing watercourse opening into the river, which was enlarged. Alternatively, since by the late 2nd century AD some kind of port facilities were almost certainly functioning in Great Yard, these and the existing urban development layout to the east acted as a constraint on the siting of the town defences. These two explanations are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

Whether or not the waterfront facilities would have been divided from the town by defences in this north-west corner is difficult to determine. It is possible that the port facilities and western suburbs at Ilchester were defined by the large bank still just visible running west from the town, interpreted as a possible routeway (Leach 1982, 6–7). This would have defined a large area of *c.* 13.5 ha beside the river, not very much less than that of the town itself. Excavations in 1987 gave for the first time a more coherent picture of this western suburb in Great Yard (Leach 1987). The course of one street was determined extending out northwards from the town towards the river. This may also have served the river waterfront, but its course towards the town is also worthy of note. A southward projection of its alignment intersects the town defences at a point where the postulated change in their alignment should occur. Together these factors strengthen the argument in favour of a West Gate somewhere in this locality (Fig. 2).

The position of the second phase of town defences is also in contrast to arrangements recorded elsewhere at Ilchester. The front of the earlier clay rampart was not used and the siting of the late Roman wall along the line of the infilled ditch was clearly a major engineering achievement. The builders were certainly aware of the position of the ditch, since the wall foundations are placed centrally and given extra support. What is of interest is the profile offered by the robbing trench, which suggests that the foundation raft may well have tilted forward to the west during the long period it supported the mass of the Roman wall above, on what was an inherently unstable clay base. The provision of the clay and rubble bank to the rear may be seen both in terms of additional stability, but also as a substitute backing for the earlier clay rampart present elsewhere on the circuit. Buildings immediately to the rear of this bank at Castle Farm indicate encroachment across the earlier defensive circuit, at least as far as the ditch, and thus perhaps the need to site the wall within it. The pressure of development was probably quite intense in this area of the town, hence the encroachment; siting the wall above the former ditch would cause a minimum of disruption to existing property.

The Medieval Town Wall

The virtual contemporaneity of construction of the medieval town wall with the robbing of the Roman wall seems beyond doubt, and confirms the picture recorded at other sites on Ilchester's defences (Leach 1992, II, 1, 3 and 4). The choice of a line alongside the earlier wall suggests the latter's use as both a marker and a source of material. At Castle Farm, the medieval foundation trench is more detached from its predecessor than elsewhere (where the two normally abut), and it seems likely that its excavation was carried down to the natural gravel for a firmer base.

The rationale behind the medieval builders' choice of ground for their wall has never hitherto been apparent. The logical and normal pattern recorded in medieval towns with Roman antecedents is to reuse and rebuild the Roman walls, and the failure to follow this course at Ilchester has always been a mystery. At Castle Farm we may at last have an answer, and furthermore the suggestion that work upon the medieval defences began in this sector. The medieval builders were evidently faced with an unstable wall (possibly collapsed) set into a ditch, and decided therefore to resite their new wall as near to the former as possible while avoiding the unstable wall footings and fills of the Roman ditch. Subsequently on the circuit, finding that the ditch had shifted, was no longer occupied by the Roman wall, and now ran beneath their chosen line, they had no alternative but to build as close to the Roman wall as possible in order to keep on the inner side of the ditch. Were this the only record of Roman and medieval engineering on Ilchester's town walls we might have a higher opinion of the medieval builders than of their predecessors. It is still something of a mystery, however, why the surviving Roman wall line was not then adopted where circumstances were more appropriate.

The Medieval Town

Thus far, excavations in Ilchester have not succeeded in locating clearly stratified medieval deposits and sequences for the town. Cutting A proved no exception to this general rule. Pits and other cuts were only readily distinguishable when penetrating Roman levels, and the ambiguous and often slight evidence of structures was lost in almost featureless bands and dumps of dark stony soil. The reason must in part be subsequent land use which has totally disturbed the medieval stratigraphy, although their origin and character, arising primarily from rubbish and spoil disposal, is also a factor. The picture is rather different outside the town defences line. Our information on the archaeology of the Great Yard area derives from very small areas cleared in plan, and primarily from the sections. More extensively cleared areas, particularly towards the waterfront, would have better demonstrated the arrangments here and their sequence. What the Castle Farm excavations have shown is a well-preserved and widespread survival of occupation evidence which must surely reflect a similar complexity within the town wherever the circumstances for survival are favourable.

The evidence in Cutting H could all relate to river-waterfront activities and need not necessarily be connected with the later medieval nunnery, apparently on the opposite side of the town defences. Ilchester's medieval role in local water transportation systems may be difficult to imagine today, but would surely have assumed as great an importance in the town's economy as it did for its Roman predecessor. There are indications that this role continued until recent times, and for the post-medieval period the trackway, hard standings and yards signify continued activity here. Although the town declined from the 14th century, its significance as a trading point and depot at the head of a navigable river and at the junction of major land routes, was maintained from the Middle Ages until the 19th century.

PILL BRIDGE LANE

THE SITE (Fig. 2)

Concurrent with the evaluation of Castle Farm, an archaeological assessment was made of an area proposed for development on the south side of Ilchester (Fig. 2). The site lay immediately to the south of Pill Bridge Lane in the field 'Little Spittle' (ST 519225), and to the rear of existing properties fronting on to West Street (the Foss Way). In the course of previous excavations further to the south (Leach 1982, and 1992, II, 7f) a sequence of Romano-British suburban occupation outside the town walls was represented by properties and enclosures formerly fronting the Foss Way. A recent use of the land for allotments had produced Roman pottery, coins and human remains from hand-digging of the plots. In 1985, a series of machine-cut trenches (J–N) was excavated parallel to Pill Bridge Lane in an interrupted line of 10 m-length trenches, alternating with undug 10 m sections. Three trenches were also cut at right angles from the main trench line towards Pill Bridge Lane. These trenches revealed a wide (?)post-medieval depression running parallel to the lane on its south side, thus eliminating evidence for any earlier archaeological potential over approximately half of the site (Fig. 11 inset). Work was therefore concentrated upon the trench exposures within an area *c.* 120 m long by 20 m wide towards the east and south. Here the machine-cut trenches were widened by hand and the most easterly cross trench was extended south to the site boundary.

THE EVIDENCE

The quantity of archaeological features thus revealed precluded their total excavation, although pre-Roman horizons of natural alluvium were reached in most areas and most of the features were extensively sampled. Post-excavation analysis of the results suggests that the evidence can be grouped into a prehistoric phase, four broad phases of Romano-British activity, and one broadly post-Roman phase. In outline, and by analogy with evidence recovered in more extensive excavations adjacent to the south (Leach 1982, and 1992, II, 7f), the earliest indentifiable period was dated to the pre-Roman Iron Age. An initial Roman phase of the later 1st century is represented by the remains of possible military buildings. Subsequently the area was in part used for gravel and rubbish pits before the appearance of an enclosure ditch, a later wall and a possible stone building. Other post-hole and pit features could not be securely allotted to any period. Further west, Roman land use throughout is likely to have been agricultural, since there was evidence of ditched fields to the rear of road-frontage properties and buildings, and some evidence for presumed later Roman burials. The post-Roman sequence was represented by medieval and post-medieval pits, ditches and a well. These chronological sub-divisions are summarised as follows:

Period 1: pre-Roman Iron Age
Period 2: 1st century AD (?)military structures
Period 3: 1st/2nd century AD gravel extraction and rubbish pits
Period 4: (?)2nd/3rd century enclosure ditch and later structures
Period 5: field boundary ditches and burial, (?)2nd–4th century AD; undated Romano-British features
Period 6: post-Roman

Period 1 (Fig. 10)
The earliest phase on the site was detected primarily through the presence of prehistoric ceramics among later context assemblages. These are reported on in more detail by Dr Ann Woodward (*see below*), and with reference to the material recovered in similar circumstances to the south in 1975 (Leach 1982, 59–61). Much of this pottery would seem to be of the 6th/7th century BC, although the presence of diagnostically later pre-Roman Iron Age sherds here and at sites elsewhere around Ilchester (e.g. Castle Farm, *above*), suggests a more complex story. Only one feature, an incompletely excavated pit (F53) in the east arm of Cutting J, can be definitely identified as a feature of this period. Its definition and excavation were much hindered by a partial cover and fill of alluvium, a problem commonly encountered at Ilchester with remains of this period. What may have been the fill of another pit (33) was also partly excavated but was difficult to define within the surrounding natural alluvium. It was cut by a Period 2 feature (F16) and contained a considerable assemblage of early Iron Age pottery. The wider aspects and implications of alluviation in the Yeo valley at Ilchester, particulary in relation to pre-Roman sites and activity there, are reviewed more fully elsewhere (Leach 1987(a); and Thew in Leach 1992, III, 5).

Period 2 (Figs 10 and 12)
A considerable period may have elapsed between the end of Period 1 and the activity taken to represent Period 2. In Cutting J, several short lengths of similarly aligned, shallow linear trenches were revealed, where excavated, as steep-sided and flat-based cuts, none deeper than 0.27 m. These comprised the following: F20 (0.1 m deep); F24, only excavated to the east where it was 0.09 m deep; F14, also 0.09 m deep; F39 (less than 0.05 m deep), which appeared to turn to both north and south at each end; F3, 0.27 m deep, with vertical rather than steeply-sloping sides; F52, up to 0.16 m deep, becoming shallower and perhaps terminating to the west; F56 (0.09 m deep); and finally F16, which was 0.2 m deep but considerably wider than the others, varying from 0.7 m to 1.4 m from west to east.

The designation of these features to a primary phase of Roman activity on the site was made principally on the grounds of their stratigraphic position. The trench F3 cut the prehistoric pit F53, and F16 cut the (?)fill 33 of Period 1, while many of the trenches were themselves cut by later features. Datable material from their fills was sparse but included one sherd of South Gaulish/Neronian or early Flavian samian (J28 in F16) and Black Burnished pottery which need be no later than the end of the 1st century AD.

The most likely context for this period is once again to be found in evidence recovered in 1975 further south in this field and east of the Foss Way in Townsend Close (Leach 1982, III). A series of similar rectilinear cuts recognised there were identified as the sill-beam trenches for timber-framed buildings. Given the limited exposures in 1985, it is difficult to identify buildings, but it is noteworthy that they seem to be confined to the east end of the site. None were located south of F16, which might represent a boundary on the north side of an access route through from the Foss Way. The western extent of these buildings cannot be located far west of the foundation trench F14, although later features and disturbances may have removed the evidence. The evidence on this site locates these structures up to 50 m from the Foss Way, whereas their apparent counterparts to the south were recorded no further west than 23 m from the Foss Way and were bounded there by a ditch (Leach 1982, Fig. 36, F21).

Period 3 (Figs 10 and 12)
A number of pits were located within the trenches of Cutting J to the east of the site. In some instances their backfills of redeposited natural clay made identification difficult and it is not certain that all those present were found. Of the pits investigated, some may be identified as gravel quarry pits cut through the alluvial mantle into the natural gravel beneath. Here and elsewhere in Ilchester's suburbs these are found consistently as a group of features distinguished by a relatively early Roman ceramic assemblage, by the not-infrequent presence of charred plant remains (often from cultivated crops) interleaved with the redeposited clay, and by their steep and sometimes overhanging sides penetrating into natural gravel. Such pits at Pill Bridge Lane were comprised by F5, F28, F29, F35 and F36; in addition, F10, F23, F43/50 and F55/57 also seem to belong to the type category.

This particular group of pits is closely paralleled by a more extensively sampled set excavated to the south in 1975 (Leach 1982, III, 71). A possible military context would be the laying out of gravel streets within the fort, construction of the Foss Way, and later the use of gravel in the urban streets and other building activities of the civilian settlement. In 1975 some of these pits seemed to be clearly associated with suburban buildings and properties fronting the Foss Way, occupying a zone behind the road which continued northward toward the South-West Gate, and which sets the 1985 group in context.

Period 4 (Figs 11 and 12)
A subsequent and wholly different phase of use was testified by a ditch and stone building foundations. These features, as recorded in the trenches of Cutting J, were aligned with those of the earlier Period 2 military phase. It is unclear what significance attaches to this since the line of the Foss Way is clearly a no less dominant influence upon orientation; however, the implication may be that Period 4 arrangements follow those of Period 2 at no great interval. A deep and broad ditch alignment (F15 and F47), orientated NNE–SSW and interrupted by a gap, cut both Period 2 and Period 3 features. Part of an enclosure ditch with an entrance gap is suggested here, particularly in view of its subsequent use. The backfill of F47 comprised bands of clay, (?)mortar, charcoal and gravel, which may indicate the clearance of a structural phase. The line of the ditches and the gap were perpetuated in a later phase as a (?)wall (F4), of which only the pitched drystone footings survived. A second gap in the wall foundations to the north may be the result of robbing, but that to the south was clearly intentional. While the remains of a building here is quite possible, the length of wall footings found makes an exterior enclosure wall more likely. To the west, a pair of parallel wall footings (F8 and F42) could represent a building within such an enclosure, but no evidence for floor levels or associated surfaces survived. None of the pottery or other finds securely associated with contexts of this period suggest its currency much beyond the beginning of the 3rd century.

Period 5 (Figs 11 and 12)
A substantial ditch (F49) was recorded west of the Cutting J trenches at a very oblique angle in Cuttings K and L. Despite this, enough was cleared of areas to the north and south of the ditch to suggest that the ditch was cut through otherwise undisturbed alluvium. To the east, at the south end of Cutting J, two ditches (F17 and F18) on a slightly different alignment to features of Periods 2 and 4 may be associated with the ditch F49, and may also be contemporary with a ditch (F34) to the north east, which lies at right-angles.

This new alignment of ditches may represent the boundaries of plots or fields to

the rear of suburban properties presumed to front on to the Foss Way further east, and would be comparable with the similar and more extensively exposed system of later Roman boundary ditches and fields located to the south in 1975 (Leach 1982, III). The discovery of a disturbed human burial just to the south of the ditch F49 in Cutting K also finds a parallel in the earlier excavations. Part of an extensive late Roman pagan cemetery was located just to the south in Little Spittle in 1975, many of the burials apparently relating to the layout of the enclosure boundaries. This burial, and earlier discoveries of human remains within the former allotments, suggest the extent of this cemetery northwards (Leach 1982, III, 82–8).

There remains a further group of features which cannot be allotted confidently to any specific period, and may indeed not even be Roman in origin. Some features may result from recent allotment use or earlier post-Roman activity. Amongst these, F13 and F33 were shallow scoops, F37 a pit, while F54, F11, F25, and F38 were possible postholes.

Period 6 (Figs 11 and 12)

Relatively few features could be assigned to this period in the areas uncovered, and the majority were identified from the presence of post-Roman ceramics. It was not considered worthwhile to subdivide such sparse evidence into phases of medieval or post-medieval activity since so little was readily comprehensible in such terms.

Identifiable post-Roman features were encountered principally in the trenches of Cutting J, comprising pits (F12 and F32), gullys or ditches (F1 and F31), stakeholes (F9) and other post or animal burrow holes; to the east was a spread of compacted stone, gravel and brick rubble (5), representing part of a post-medieval yard or track behind West Street. A partly-excavated rectangular (?)well pit containing collapsed limestone steining (F40) appeared typologically post-Roman, although since no medieval or later pottery was recovered from its upper fills, it could belong to Period 5 or earlier. Small quantities of post-Roman ceramics were found within the upper fills of certain features which were otherwise assigned to the periods of Roman activity on the site. These finds may be explicable as a result of the recent intensive cultivation of the area as allotments, activity which had undoubtedly disturbed and truncated the upper horizons of many earlier features here, penetrating to the natural alluvium in places. The process may have originated much earlier than this, since the remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation earthworks survive nearby in Little Spittle field. It should also be noted that certain miscellaneous features allotted to Period 5 (*see above*) could equally belong to the post-Roman episode.

Perhaps the most outstanding post-Roman element on the site was the broad depression (F45) running parallel to, and possibly beneath, Pill Bridge Lane to the north. A steep southern edge was encountered as a cut into the alluvium in the northern parts of Cuttings J, K and N, and a flat base was revealed below the water table within underlying natural gravel at *c.* 1 m below the top edge. Finds of medieval and later date, and the relationship of the depression with earlier Roman features, suggest the Period 6 attribution. Its presence was already evident as a modern topographic feature which can be traced further for a considerable distance along the south side of Pill Bridge Lane. It effectively destroyed all continuation northwards of earlier features or deposits in a zone 20–25 m wide south of the lane.

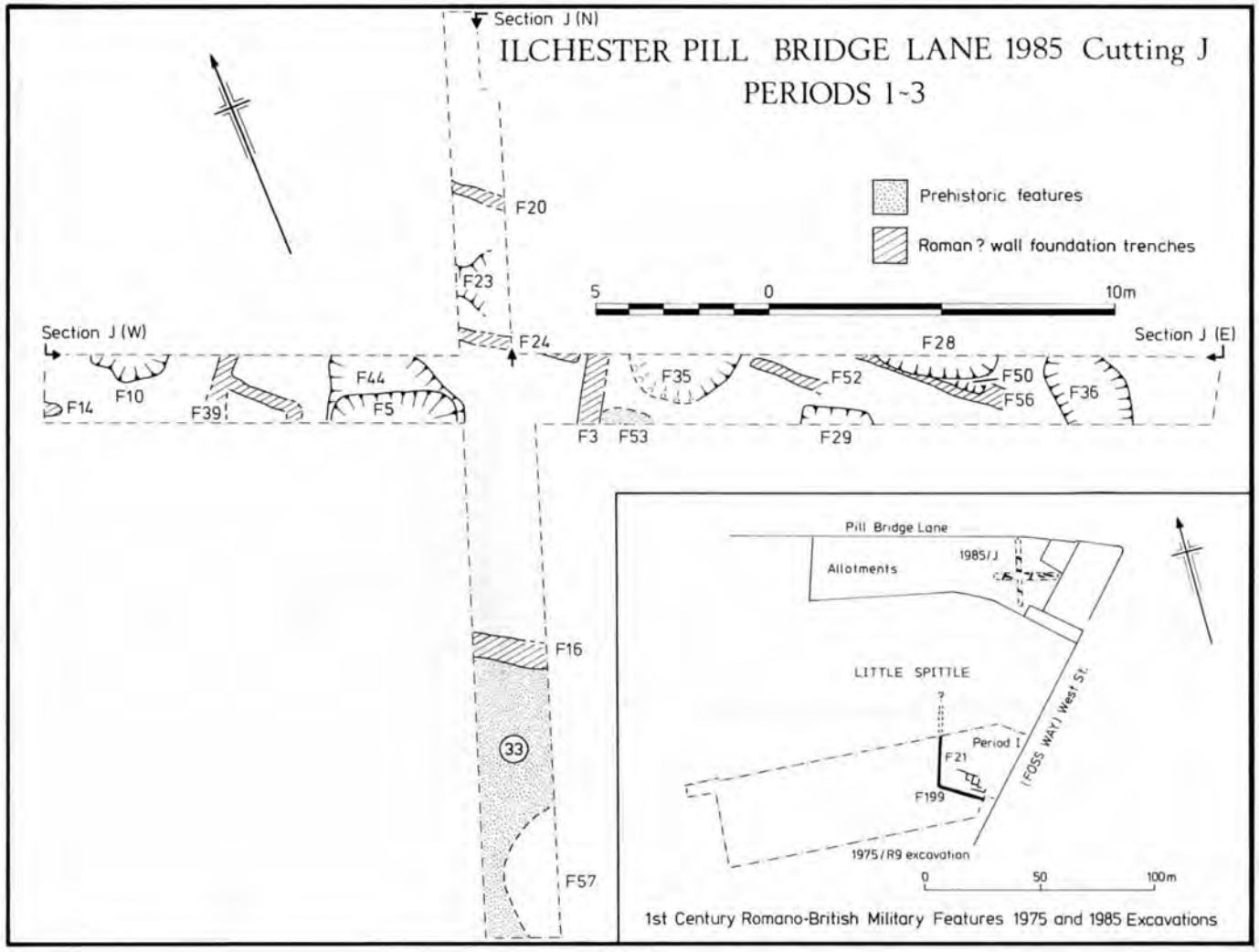

Section J (N)
ILCHESTER PILL BRIDGE LANE 1985 Cutting J
PERIODS 1-3
Prehistoric features
Roman ? wall foundation trenches
5 0 10m
Section J (W)
Section J (E)
F20
F23
F24
F28
F14
F10
F39
F44
F5
F35
F52
F50
F56
F36
F3
F53
F29
F16
33
F57
Pill Bridge Lane
Allotments
1985/J
LITTLE SPITTLE
Period 1
F21
F199
(FOSS WAY) West St.
1975/R9 excavation
0 50 100m
1st Century Romano-British Military Features 1975 and 1985 Excavations

Fig. 10

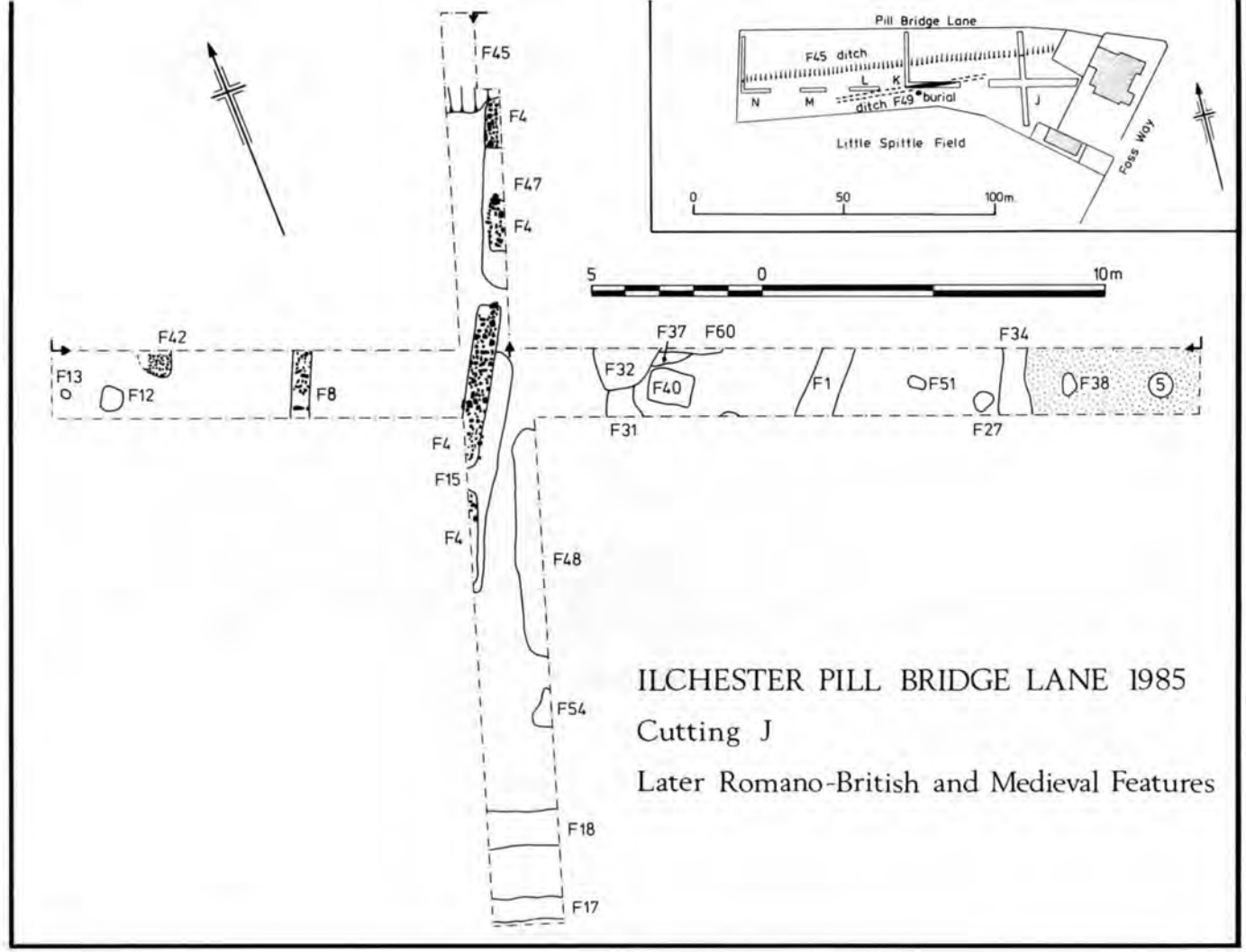

Pill Bridge Lane
F45 ditch
L
K
N
M
ditch F49
burial
J
Little Spittle Field
Foss Way
0
50
100m
5
0
10m
F45
F4
F47
F4
F42
F13
F12
F8
F37
F60
F32
F40
F1
F51
F34
F38
5
F31
F27
F4
F15
F4
F48
F54
F18
F17
ILCHESTER PILL BRIDGE LANE 1985
Cutting J
Later Romano-British and Medieval Features

Fig. 11

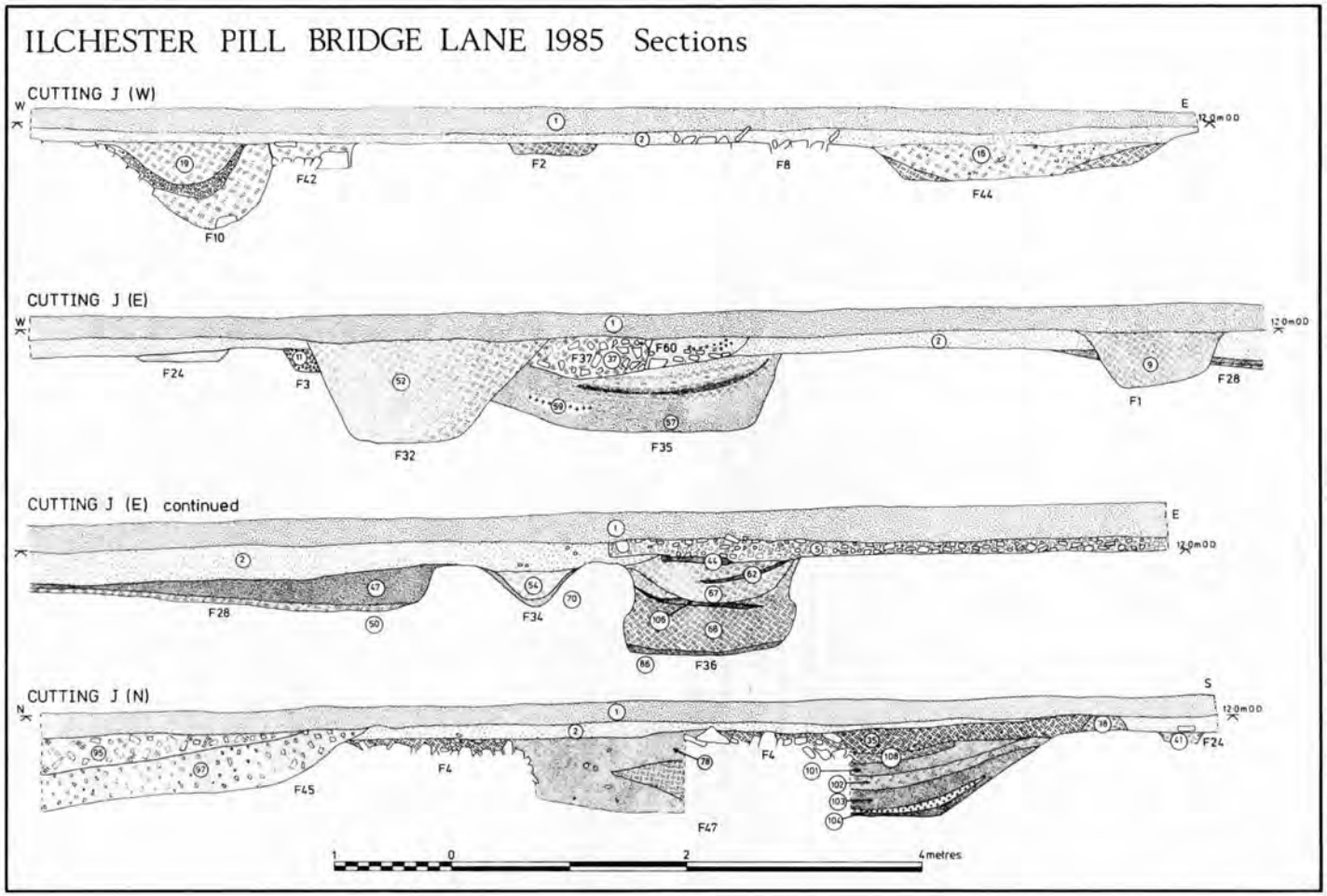

ILCHESTER PILL BRIDGE LANE 1985 Sections
CUTTING J (W)
W
E
12.0m OD
F42
F2
F8
F44
F10
CUTTING J (E)
W
E
12.0m OD
F24
F3
F60
F37
F28
F1
F32
F35
CUTTING J (E) continued
E
12.0m OD
F28
F34
F36
CUTTING J (N)
N
S
12.0m OD
F24
F4
F45
F47
1
0
2
4metres

Fig. 12

Discussion

Much of the value and significance of the results from excavations at Pill Bridge Lane derive from the context provided by a more extensive excavation campaign undertaken nearby in 1975 in advance of construction of the Ilchester by-pass A37 slip road (Leach 1982, III). Both areas lie to the south-west and adjacent to the Roman town of Ilchester (*Lendiniae*) and its medieval successor, alongside a major and historic route to the south-west – the Foss Way. From their proximity (within 100 m) in a common post-medieval enclosure – Little Spittle – it is to be expected that the data recorded from the two sites will in many instances be complementary.

Prehistoric (Period 1)

As was demonstrated in 1975, the prehistoric phase of the site's archaeology was revealed (through the presence of ceramics) chiefly by the activity of later phases. Although at least one contemporary Iron Age feature was revealed, subsequent alluviation has obscured much of the evidence for prehistoric settlement at Ilchester. More often than not, it is only the penetration of alluvial deposits by Roman and later features which brings the prehistoric to light. As has been noted before, it is difficult if not impossible to gain any comprehensible picture of the extent, character or history of pre-Roman settlement at Ilchester. Once again, evidence on this site testifies to the extent of such settlement beneath settlements of later periods, and the exploitation of this locality at least since the middle of the first millenium BC. The apparent contrast here between a predominantly Early Iron Age pottery assemblage and the later group at Castle Farm (*see above*) has already been noted.

Early Roman (Periods 2 and 3)

The earliest recognisable structural phase here and in the earlier excavations has been interpreted as having a Roman military origin. The traces of timber-framed building layouts on both sites (Fig. 10) are associated with Neronian and Flavian samian, among other material. Whether such buildings can be interpreted as having had an original military function is more problematic, since they do not appear to have been enclosed within a defensive perimeter of the type normally associated with forts of the period. A ditched boundary was in fact located in 1975 (F21 and F199) (Leach 1982, Fig. 36), which may have continued north to enclose the structural remains revealed in 1985. Beneath the town there is rather more convincing evidence for a contemporary fort (Leach 1982, 5–7; and 1992, I, iii). Whatever the status of this extra-mural settlement beside the Foss Way – military depot or early civil *vicus* – it does not appear to have been directly followed by the subsequent civil suburban development here.

The possible function and chronology of pits assigned to Period 3 at the Pill Bridge Lane site have already been considered above. There is little reason to doubt their close similarity to the series revealed further south in 1975, as well as the likelihood that some are contemporary with, and linked to, the activities of Period 2. Signs of similar excavations at Castle Farm, beyond the fort defences, were seen in 1985 (*see above*) and again in 1987 (Leach 1987), and it is perhaps worth drawing attention to the particular significance and potential of their contents. In many instances their artefactual content has a late 1st century/Flavian character, and it is legitimate to speculate that much of it originated during or at the end of the military occupation. If so, these pits are a valuable source of quite closely datable, and chronologically almost uncontaminated, finds assemblages relating to what is nearly the earliest phase of Roman Ilchester.

Later Roman (Periods 4 and 5)
By analogy with the evidence recovered in 1975, it is evident that the area investigated beside Pill Bridge Lane lay some way back from a suburban frontage of Romano-British buildings and enclosures on the Foss Way. From what could be deduced of the evidence recorded in 1985, Cutting J was sampling an area to the rear of this frontage, where ditched boundaries, ancillary buildings and other activities relating to those road-frontage properties were located. Much of this activity was underway by the 2nd century, and continued well into the 4th century. It may be that the intensity of suburban occupation increased towards the South-West Gate and that these Foss Way suburbs eventually merged with those which developed west of the town (Leach 1992, I, vi).

Further back from the road, the landscape was subdivided by a series of long linear ditched (and (?)hedged) boundaries, much as today. This arrangement was well seen in 1975 (Leach 1992, Fig. 35) and at least one other of these field divisions was encountered again in 1985 (F49), orientated at almost 90 degrees to the Foss Way. Similar field layouts have been recorded elsewhere around Ilchester, representative no doubt of a highly organised agricultural economy. Also in association with these boundaries were the burials of an extensive late Roman pagan cemetery (Leach 1992, Figs 40 and 41). One disturbed representative was encountered in 1985, providing confirmation that the cemetery extended north at least to this point.

Post-Roman (Period 6)
Little can be made of post-Roman evidence from the site, particularly since there was virtually no sign of medieval or later suburban development on the site excavated in 1975 (Leach 1992, III, Period VI). Any such remains closer to the town will have lain beyond the area sampled in 1985, and only peripheral and fragmentary traces were detected. By far the most substantial feature was the broad depression (F45) flanking the south side of Pill Bridge Lane. The function and origin of this feature are somewhat mysterious, although one possibility is that it was a pond or watercourse linked with a former medieval mill site located somewhere 'next the West Gate' (*VCH*, **3** ,191).

THE FINDS

INTRODUCTION by Peter Leach

The recovery of artefactual and ecofactual remains from these excavations is the subject of a series of reports which follow here, accompanied by selected illustrations. Their presentation is based upon a system of thematic classification which departs somewhat from more conventional approaches which use classifications defined more strictly on material grounds. A thematic approach to material remains is particularly relevant to large Roman or post-Roman assemblages, so that the functional significance and role of defined groups can be emphasised with greater coherence. This system is slowly gaining favour as an appropriate means of presentation in artefact reports from archaeological excavations (Crummy 1983; Woodward and Leach forthcoming), and has been adopted for Ilchester in the second volume of reports on excavations and fieldwork (Leach 1992, III). The system outlined in Leach 1992 requires some expansion here to include further thematic categories, but should encompass the full range of site discoveries. The only significant exceptions are the prehistoric finds, to which such a classificatory system is less usefully applied, and the pottery, which is presented together as a series of chronologically arranged reports.

The entries relating to illustrated finds are presented in the following order: illustration number, description, find number (except pottery), site context and site period.

The Thematic Groups
The eight groups defined in outline below provide the basis for further discussion of the material recovered in 1985 from all the sites excavated. The commentary and description of illustrated material is by Peter Leach except where attributed to other specialists:

Group I *Personal: ornaments, dress fittings and accessories*
Group II *Toilet, surgical and pharmaceutical instruments*
Group III *Tools (including coins), and weapons*
Group IV *Fittings and furnishings*
Group V *Religious, funerary and votive objects*
Group VI *Buildings, materials and accessories*
Group VII *Industrial evidence*
Group VIII *Environmental data*

PREHISTORIC FINDS

THE FLINT ARTEFACTS by Alan Saville

A total of seventeen pieces of flint was recovered during the 1985 excavations. These flints are described individually in the archive catalogue. Excluding the two natural and unmodified flakes, the collection can be summarized as follows:

Type	*No.*	*Weight (gm)*
Unretouched flakes	9	25.5
Arrowheads	2	3.6
Knife	1	5.6
Miscellaneous retouched pieces	2	7.9
Unclassified burnt piece	1	7.8
Totals	15	50.4

The most distintive artefacts are the two arrowheads. One of these is fashioned on an unusually symmetrical flake, which has required only minimal peripheral retouch to produce a leaf-shaped form, now slightly damaged at the tip and on one lateral edge. The other arrowhead is only a medial fragment, but has extensive bifacial retouch and is also probably from a leaf-shaped, rather than a barbed-and-tanged, arrowhead. It is of interest to note that the 1975 excavations in Townsend Close produced two almost complete leaf-shaped arrowheads (Leach 1982, 225 and Fig. 111, 4–5). The incomplete knife is represented by the distal tip fragment of a pointed form, similar in type to a plano-convex knife. One of the miscellaneous pieces is a medial flake segment with shallow invasive retouch on one edge, and is probably also part of a flake knife. The other miscellanous piece is probably a piercer, originally with a distal spurred point which is now broken away.

This collection of flints appears an arbitrary one, and is mixed in age, with a likely range from Mesolithic (two of the unretouched flakes), through Neolithic (the leaf-shaped arrowheads), to Early Bronze Age (the knife and the knife-like miscellaneous fragment). As might be expected, the raw material also varies, with at least three different flint colours and two different cortex types, one of which suggests a gravel source. Such a collection cannot reveal much about the nature of prehistoric occupation in the area, but it does at least point to the presence of sporadic prehistoric activity of some sort across a considerable period of time.

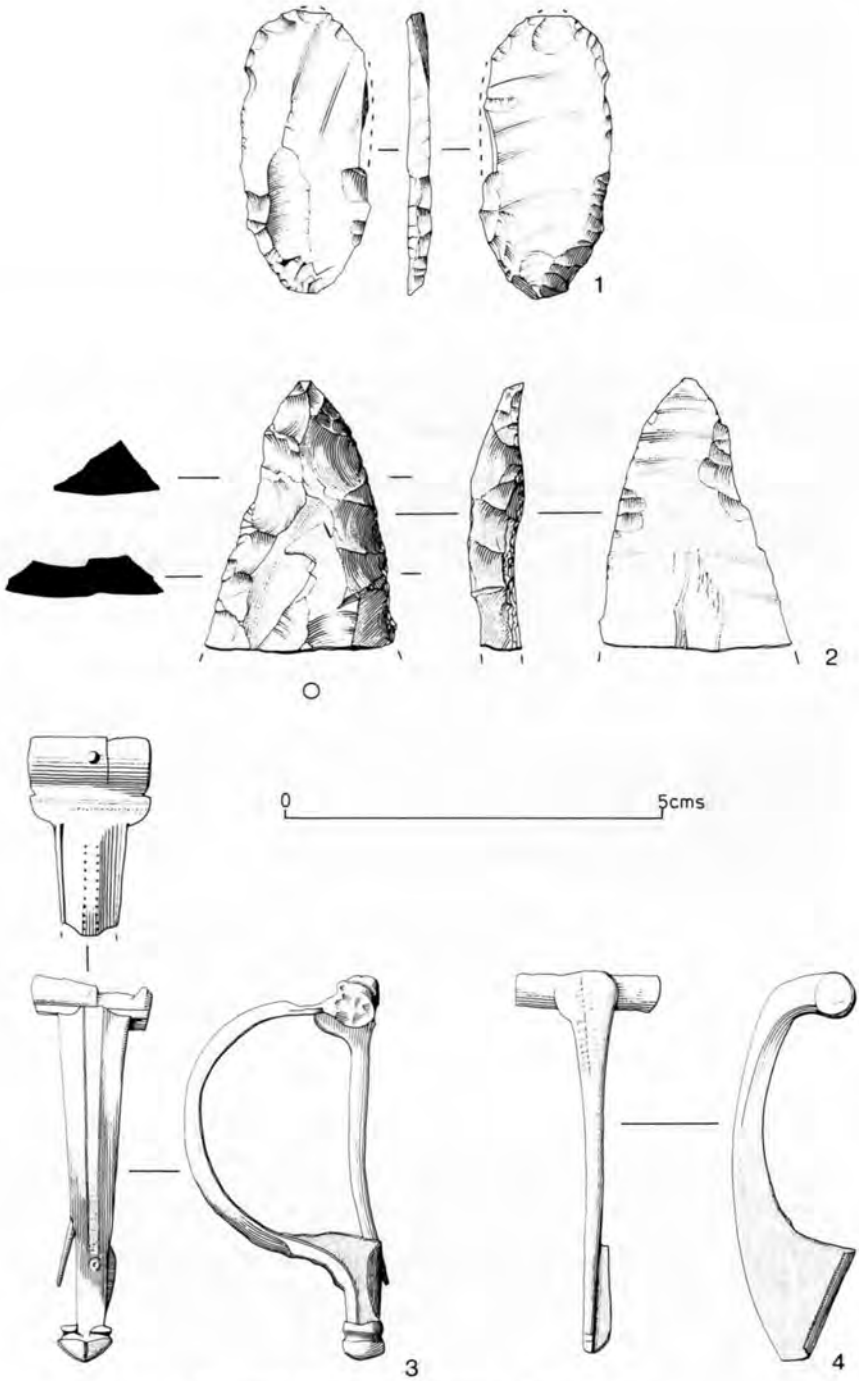


Fig. 13 Prehistoric Flint, Copper Alloy Brooches

Catalogue of Illustrated Flint Artefacts (Fig. 13, nos 1 and 2)

1. Leaf-shaped arrowhead. Minimal peripheral retouch type, broken at tip and on one side. 1237, J/33, Period 1.
2. Broken knife. The pointed distal tip of a flake with shallow bilateral retouch. 0773, J/F36.68, Period 3.

THEMATIC GROUPS I–VIII

GROUP I *Personal: Ornaments, Dress Fittings and Accessories* (Figs 13–14, nos 3–6)

Artefacts classified within this category were primarily worked bone and metalwork finds of Romano-British origin. A selection of the most readily identifiable pieces are illustrated and described here. The remainder are catalogued in the archive.

The Roman Brooches by Sarnia Butcher (Figs. 13–14, nos. 3–6)

3. Standard Aucissa brooch with hinged pin and highly arched ribbed upper bow: no inscription is visible on the head. A separate knob is attached at the foot. Length 51 mm. Brass alloy. Aucissa brooches are found on sites occupied in the first half of the 1st century AD in southern Britain (cf. Camulodunum, Hawkes and Hull 1947, 321, type XVII, and Hod Hill, Brailsford 1962, 8, Fig. 8, C46–52), and they are common throughout the Roman Empire. 0905, H/F536.575, Period 3.
4. Plain T-shaped brooch with pin hinged in a narrow cast tube. The bow has a knurled groove near the head but is otherwise plain and tapers to a very narrow foot; the plain catchplate is continuous with the bow. Length 51 mm. Leaded bronze/gunmetal. Similar brooches with grooved head can be quoted from the Chew Valley (Rahtz and Greenfield 1978, 294, Fig. 114, 17, in contexts dated late 3rd to mid 4th century) and from Ham Hill (County Museum, Taunton). Without the groove many more can be cited from central southern Britain, where they seem to centre in Dorset. None is from a well-dated context, but typologically they should date from the later 1st century. 1243, J/F20.36, Period 2.
5. The upper bow is a broad arched strip with longitudinal grooves, wider at the head, which is turned under to hold a (missing) axial rod for a hinged pin. Below some crude cross-grooves there is a very narrow foot with a slight terminal moulding. Length 47 mm. Bronze alloy. The type is clearly related to the Aucissa and is found on southern sites in the first half of the 1st century AD: cf. Hod Hill (Brailsford 1962, 10, C84 and 86), Maumbury Rings (Bradley 1976, 67, Fig. 20, 8), Cold Kitchen Hill (Nan Kivell 1925, 181, Plate 1, E) and Ham Hill (St George Gray 1910, 55, no. 9). 1244, J/F36.69, Period 3.
6. Small complete brooch with head rolled back to form tube for rod of (missing) hinged pin. Upper bow straight-sided, arched and with central knurled rib; the lower bow has several cross-mouldings, some knurled, and covers a plain triangular catchplate. Length 37 mm. Tinned brass alloy. This undoubtedly belongs to the type known in Britain as the 'Hod Hill' brooch. The decoration is very variable but examples showing the main features of the Ilchester brooch can be quoted from Hod Hill itself (Brailsford 1962, 9, Figs 8 and 9, C 57, 62 and 67), and from Colchester (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 324, Plate xcvii, 148, from context *c.* AD 61–5; Niblett 1985, Fig. 75, 32, from context *c.* AD 48–61). The type as a whole is most common in the mid 1st century AD and is thought to have originated in Gaul: cf. Rieckhoff 1975, 51-57. 0359, J/29, Period 5.
7. Plain crescentic belt buckle, bar and pin missing. Copper alloy. (?)Medieval. 0125, A/4, Period 8.
8. Turned bone pin, point missing, Romano-British (Crummy 1979, type 3). 0765, J/F15.26, Period 4.

9. Turned bone pin, point missing. Romano-British (Crummy 1979, type 6). 0764, J/F15.26, Period 4.

GROUP II *Toilet, Surgical and Pharmaceutical Instruments*

No such items were identified among the assemblages recovered from any of the areas excavated in 1985. Fragmentary pieces may be present unrecognised, but there are no examples for illustration.

GROUP III *Tools (including Coins) and Weapons* (Figs. 14–15, nos. 10–21)

This category covers a wide spectrum of material and where appropriate may be capable of breakdown into sub-classes according to function, origin, material, etc. This is not worthwhile for such a small assemblage and the items selected for illustration are identified individually. Within the system of functional thematic classification, pottery is classed as a tool or utensil, although as explained above, its presentation is reserved until the final part of this report. The coins, as perhaps primarily 'tools', also belong within this category.

10. Needle, complete, bent shaft. Copper alloy. 0767, J/F35.67, Period 3.
11. (?)Needle shaft. Copper alloy. 1002, A/100, Period 3.
12. Drill-bit or punch, square-sectioned socket tang. Copper alloy. 0804, J/F18.32, Period 5.
13. (?)Part of a bolt or hasp plate, rectangular nail hole, splaying out at the broken end. Iron. 0622, J/F35.57, Period 3.
14. Tanged arrowhead, (?)socketed tang, badly corroded. Iron. Medieval. 0565, A/F13.69, Period 5.
15. Small cylindrical sub-rectangular hone or whetstone; fine, pale grey banded sandstone. 0656, J/F10.19, Period 3.
16. Part of a large rectangular whetstone; fine red-brown sandstone. 1060, A/F28.409, Period 1.
17. (?)Weaving shuttle or awl, highly polished surfaces lightly grooved on one side towards the pointed tip. Animal bone. 0531, A/F12.57, Period 6.
18. (?)Part of a weaving shuttle or awl, highly polished surfaces, broken off. Animal bone. 0128, A/5, Period 8.
19. Circular bone spindlewhorl, re-utilizing a femur ball joint. 0844, A/86, Period 2–3.
20. Circular spindlewhorl, re-utilizing a decorated sherd of Black Burnished pottery (Fabric 18). 0774, J/F23.39, Period 3.

The Coins identified by Stephen Minnitt (Table 1)
A small group of largely unexceptional coins must be viewed within the context of Ilchester and its coin assemblages as a whole (Minnitt in Leach 1992, III, 2).

GROUP IV *Fittings and Furnishings* (Figs 15–17, nos 21–31)

A selection of the material assigned to this category has been illustrated here. The remainder, principally objects which are not always readily classifiable, are catalogued in the archive.

21. Small shield-shaped stud, face decorated with a rampant lion or leopard in dark blue enamel. Copper alloy. 1241, J/u/s, (?)medieval.
22. Circular sheet disc with rivet holes, folded. Copper alloy. 0117, A/1, Period 8.
23. Small stud or rivet. Copper alloy. 0766, J/F36.67, Period 3.
24. Small decorated stud, damaged, with remains of a mineralised organic mounting or washer. Copper alloy. 0127, A/4, Period 8.
25. Small weight or button. Lead with copper alloy. 0968, H/59, unphased.

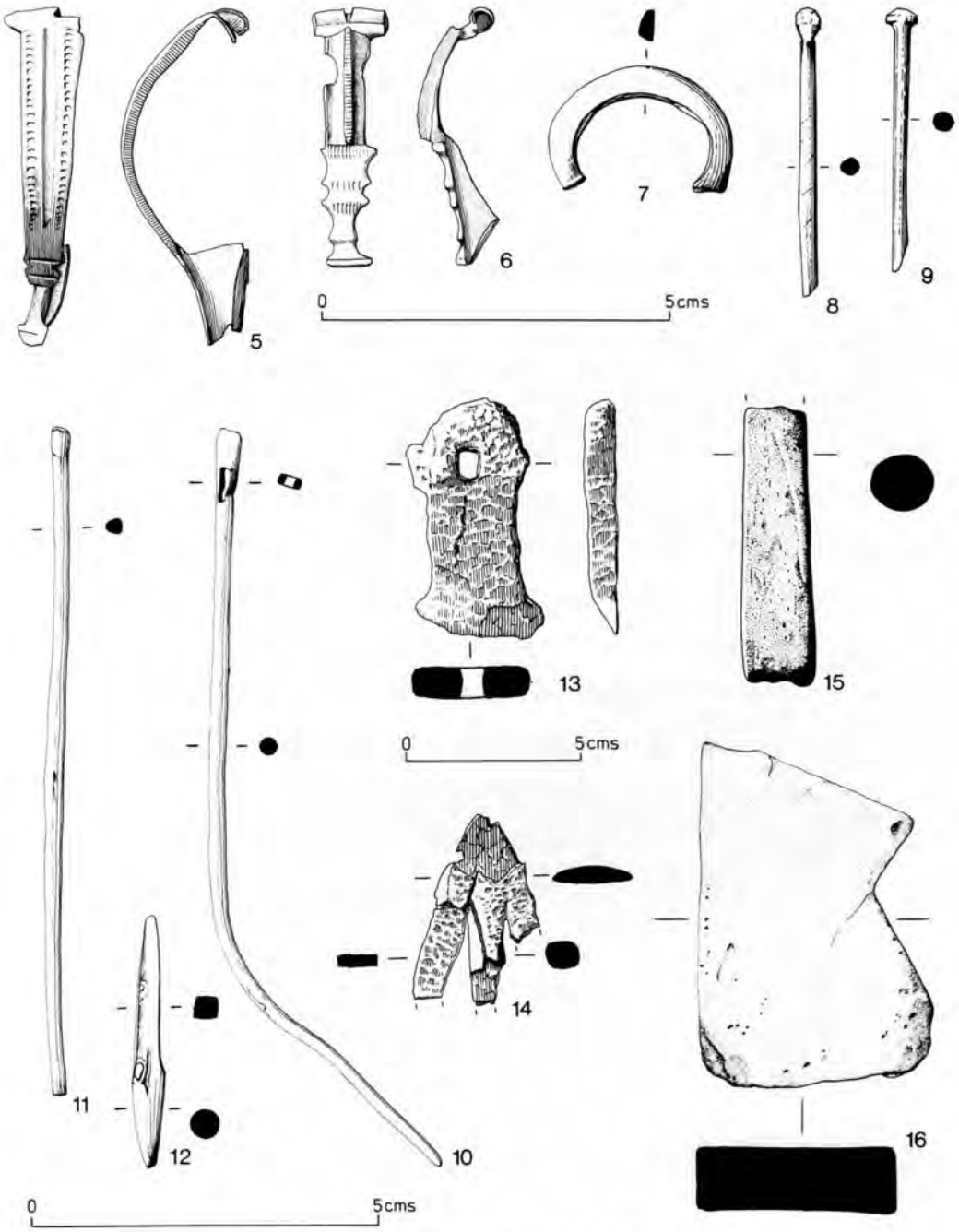


Fig. 14 Artefacts of Copper Alloy, Iron, Bone and Stone

Table 1: Roman coins from Castle Farm and Pill Bridge Lane, 1985

Issuer	*Reverse*	*Mint*	*Denomination*	*Date*	*Reference*	*Find No.*	*Context*	*Period*
1. Nero	S.C. Victory flying left	Lyon	as	67	RIC 605	1027	A/F38.430	1
2. Claudius II (deified)	CONSECRATIO		ant	270	RIC 266	0354	J/1	6
3. Victorinus	PIETAS AVG	Southern	ant	268–270	RIC 58	0301	J/u/s	–
4. Constantine II	GLORIA EXERCITVS 2 standards	Trier		330–335	LRBC I, 56	0352	J/u/s	–
5. Urbs Roma	Wolf and twins	Trier		330–335	LRBC I, 59	0969	H/F536.578	3
6. Constantinopolis	Victory on prow			330–335		0239	G/u/s	–
7. Constantine II	GLORIA EXERCITVS 1 standard	Lyon		337–340		0358	J/25	5
8. Constans	FEL TEMP REPARATIO	Trier		348–350	RIC 228	0101	A/1	8
9. Magnentius clipped coin				350–353		0344	J/1	6
10. Irregular	Fallen horseman			350+		0357	J/2	6
11. Theodosius	VICTORIA AVGGG			388–395		0326	J/9	6
12. Arcadius	VICTORIA AVGGG			388–402		0240	G/u/s	–
13. Irregular	uncertain			4th century		0197	A/u/s	–

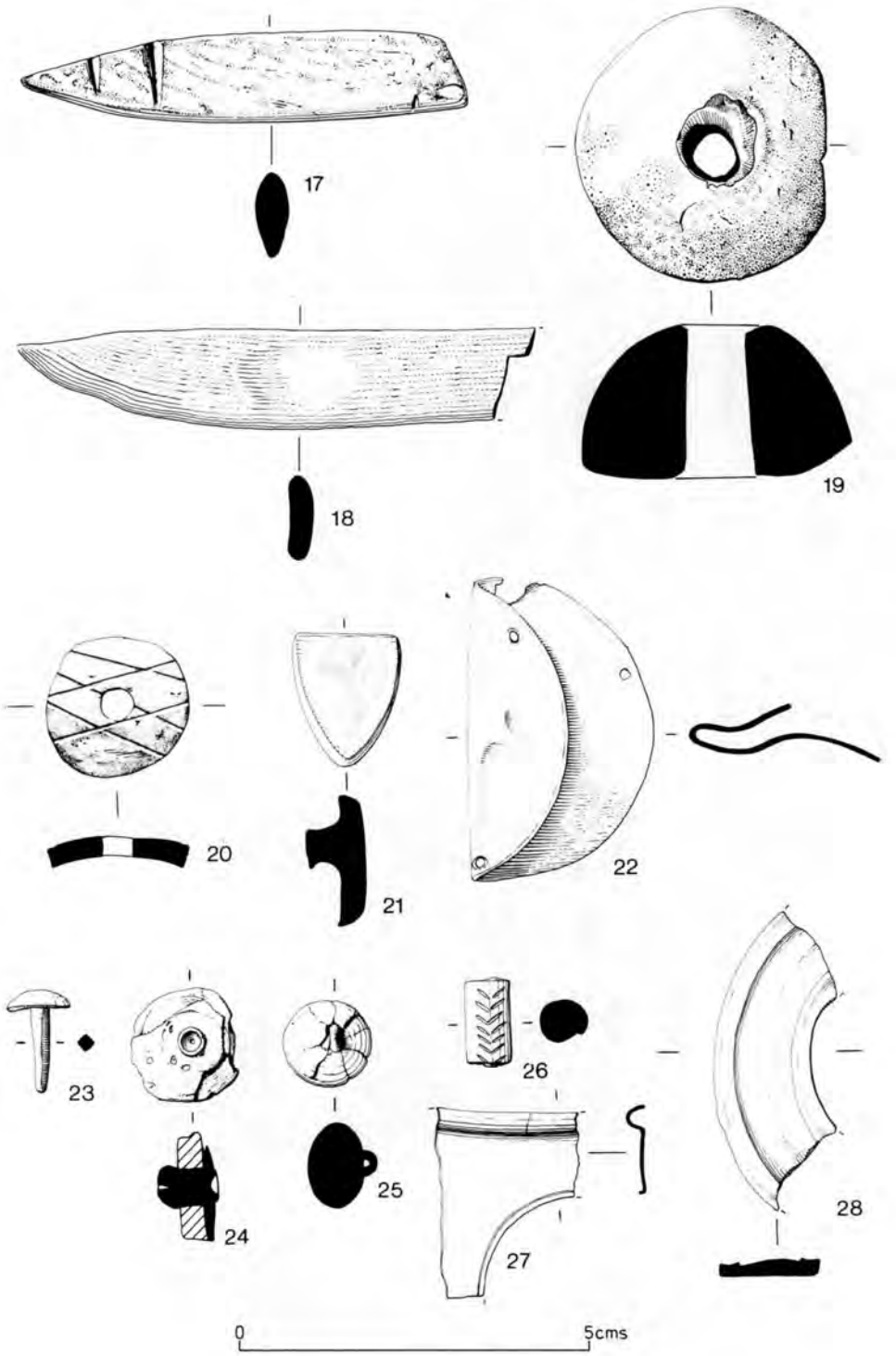


Fig. 15 Artefacts of Copper Alloy, Lead, Bone and Fired Clay

26. Short cylinder of chevron-decorated copper alloy around an iron rod. 0241, G/u/s, unphased.
27. Fragment of copper alloy plate, moulded and cut. 0302, J/u/s, (?)Roman.
28. Segment of a (?)circular copper alloy plate with a large central aperture and raised borders. 1064, A/F38.433, Period 1.
29. Hipposandal, front hook loop corroded away. Iron (Manning 1985, 62–4, type 1). 0278, E/F545.544, Period 3.
30. Curved iron rod, (?)bucket handle, suspension loops missing (Manning 1985, 102–3). 1234, J/F36.67, Period 3.
31. Iron riding spur, (?)post-medieval. 0210, E/512, Period 8.

GROUP V *Religious, Funerary and Votive*

No material which could be assigned to these categories was recognised among the finds assemblages, with one exception at Pill Bridge Lane (Cutting K). The remnant of an adult human burial here, primarily the skull, is almost certainly a representative member of the more extensive late Roman suburban cemetery known from this area by other casual discoveries, and in more detail by the excavations of 1975 (Leach 1982, II).

GROUP VI *Building, Materials and Accessories* (Fig. 17, no. 32)

A moderate quantity of portable material belonging to these categories was recovered, although with one exception none has been illustrated. The bulk comprised fragments of clay roof and flue tiles, for the most part in a very fragmentary and worn condition. It is still unclear at Ilchester what were the sources and periods of manufacture of such material in the Roman period. Stone roof and floor tile fragments were also recognised on some sites, the majority in Romano-British contexts, although the example illustrated may be medieval. Lias limestone flagstone was most commonly employed, although a purple-red sandstone, probably from the north Somerset coal measures, is also found occasionally. These stone types, along with clay tiles, chalk and other stone, were also used in tessellated pavements. None were found *in situ* but a few tesserae were recovered from most areas. Painted wall plaster or mortar was rarely recovered and the general sparsity of building materials probably reflects the virtual absence of evidence for *in situ* buldings, excepting some timber structures, from the excavated sites.

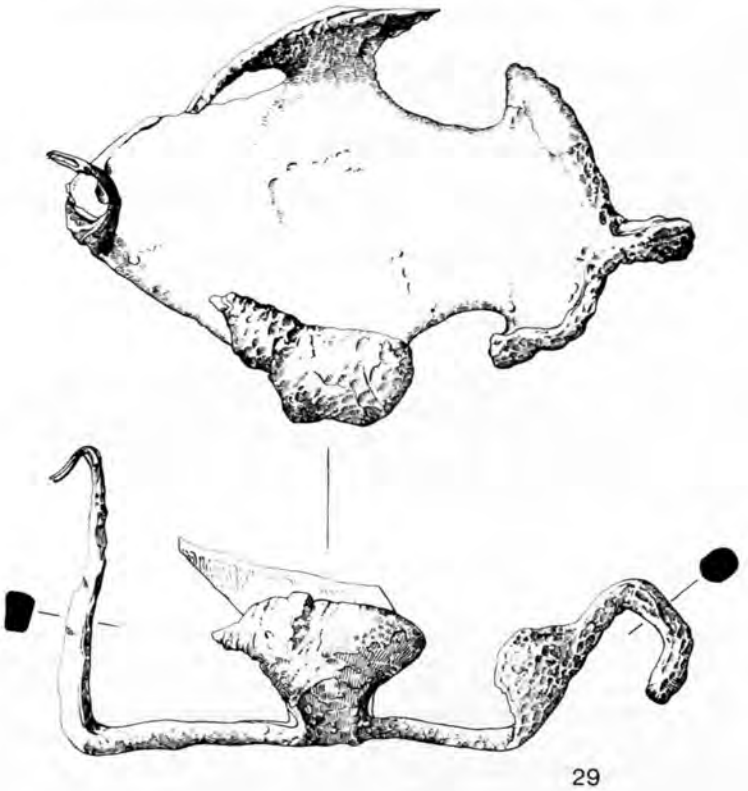
Iron nails of all periods were widespread among the deposits excavated, although not especially numerous, and none has been illustrated. Other iron fragments such as cleats or cramps are barely represented. Occasional small offcuts and melts of lead were probably associated with roofing, pipes or containers.

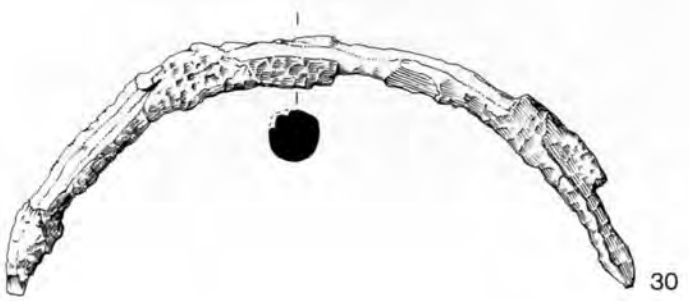
All this material is catalogued in archive, while other evidence for buildings and structures themselves is reviewed in the foregoing discussion of the sites.

32. Lias limestone rooftile, one corner broken, (?)medieval. 0149, A/5, Period 8.

GROUP VII *Industrial Evidence*

No material of this category has been illustrated or analysed. A small quantity of suspected iron smelting slag was present in deposits of most periods on all the sites, and a sample was retained. There was little evidence for industrial processes taking place on any of the sites, or for tools and accessories. In Cutting A, however, a relatively recent pit (F2) was interpreted as part of a lime-burning kiln, its clay base and sides having been well fired, and both charcoal and slaked lime deposits surviving in the bottom. This feature was probably created early in the 19th century.





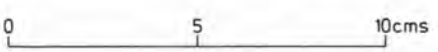


Fig. 16 Artefacts of Iron

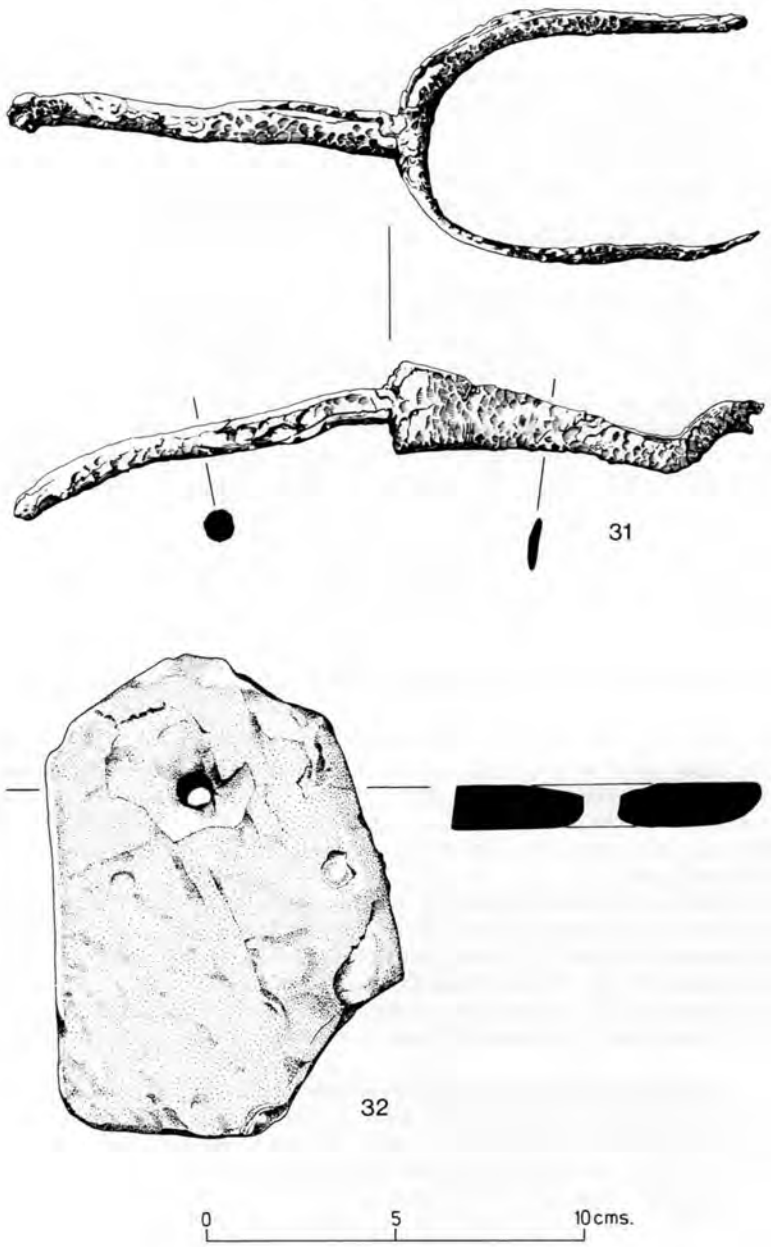


Fig. 17 Artefacts of Iron and Stone

GROUP VIII *Environmental Data*

Regrettably, funding was not available to permit the analysis of a considerable quantity of environmental material recovered on all the excavated sites. Animal bone is particularly well preserved in most archaeological environments encountered at Ilchester and was collected from all periods, except the post-medieval. The small sample size and its likely contamination, particularly in many of the deposits excavated at Castle Farm, were the major factors considered in deciding not to carry out an analysis. Further work in the vicinity may lead to a revision of this policy and make some identification and analysis of a larger sample more worthwhile.

This may be of particular importance at Pill Bridge Lane, where apparently uncontaminated and important early Roman (?)military assemblages were sampled and still survive. Associated with these were considerable deposits of carbonised plant remains, also sampled at the time of excavation. Analysis of similar material in 1975, excavated on adjacent areas of this Foss Way-side site, suggested some of the crops in cultivation at Ilchester in the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD (Murphy in Leach 1982, 286–90). There is also the potential for the discovery of some waterlogged environmental and artefactual remains here, and the recovery of further samples for analysis, along with those collected in 1985, would be highly desirable.

POTTERY

THE PREHISTORIC POTTERY by Ann Woodward (Petrology by David Williams)

A total of 138 sherds of prehistoric pottery was recovered during the 1985 excavations at Ilchester. Of these, eight were of Early Bronze Age fabric type and the rest belonged to the pre-Roman Iron Age. Few prehistoric features were located or excavated, most of the ceramic material occurring as residual items in contexts throughout the Roman and post-Roman sequences. The distribution of prehistoric pottery by site, fabric and period is shown in Tables 2 and 3.

The pottery fabrics represented could be classified into seven groups, A to G. These were identified macroscopically, and groups A to F equate to the six fabrics defined in the report on Iron Age pottery from the 1975 excavations (Ellison in Leach 1982, 125). Ten sherds were analysed petrologically by David Williams (*see below*), who was able to confirm the macroscopic identifications, defined one further type, and provided discussion of the likely sources of raw materials. The main attributes of the fabric groupings are as follows:

Type A: a medium density of moderately sized flint gravel angular inclusions.
Type B: sparse inclusions of platy fossil shell of varying size, and some calcite; derived from local Jurassic and Lias deposits. (Williams, groups 3 and 4.)
Type C: dense quartz sand and mica flecks. (Williams, group 5.)
Type D: a hard fabric with sparse fine sand inclusions.
Type E: densely occurring voids of small to medium size, probably represent the former presence of limestone inclusions.
Type F: soft fabrics, pale in colour, tempered with grog inclusions.
Type G: dense quartz sand, mica flecks and sparsely distributed sandstone fragments. Equivalent to Peacock's (1969) Group 2 Glastonbury Ware. (Williams, group 1.)
Williams, Group 2: densely filled with ooliths, derived from the local Middle Jurassic deposits.

Pill Bridge Lane (Table 3)
Eight plain sherds in grogged fabric F are probably of Early Bronze Age date. They may be compared with similar material, which included sherds of urns and Beakers, identified from sites slightly further to the north (Ellison in Leach 1992, III, 3(a)). Amongst the remaining

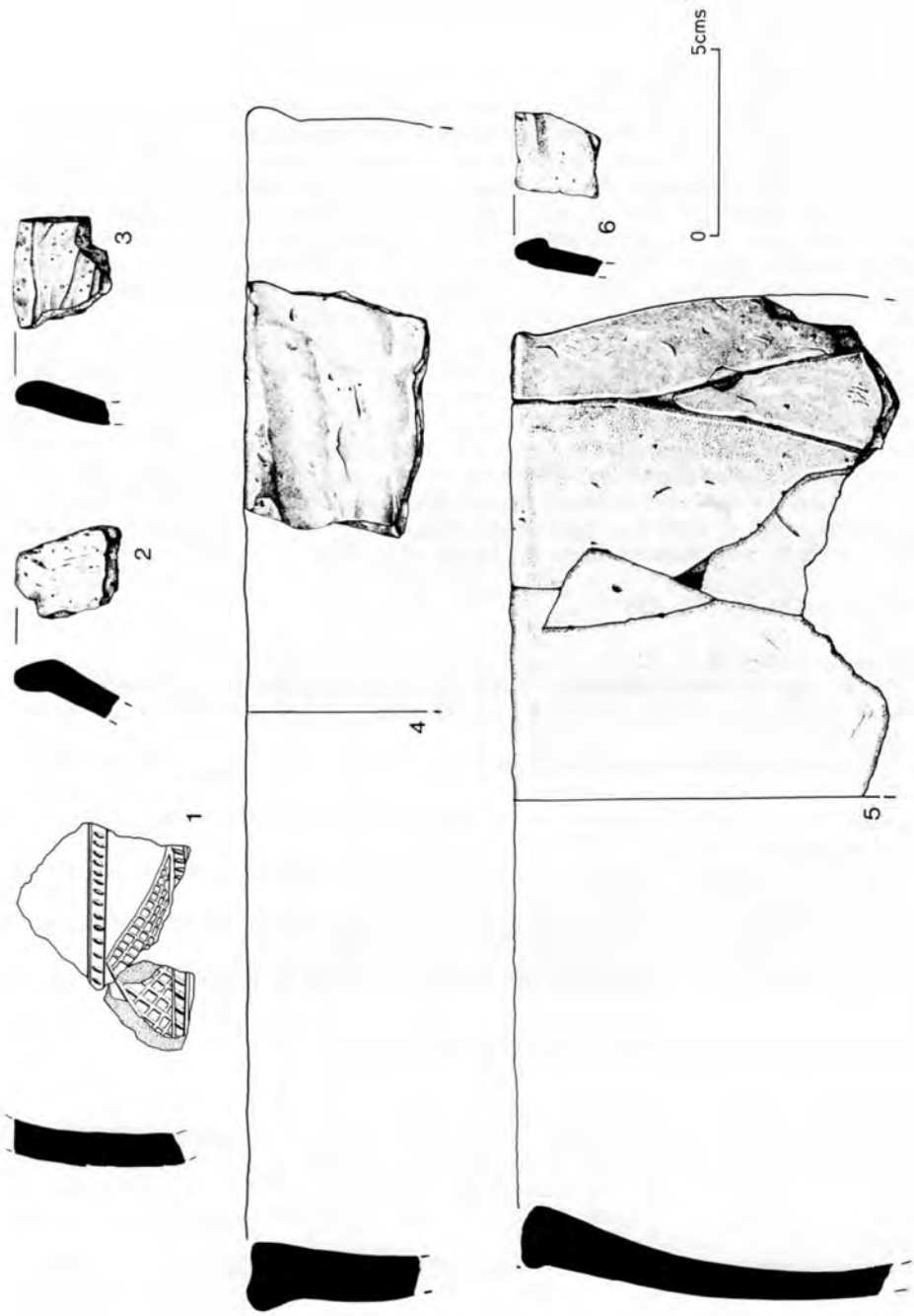


Fig. 18 Prehistoric Pottery

28 sherds, fabrics A, C and E predominate. Although few diagnostic sherds are present, this combination of fabric types is similar to that displayed by the Early Iron Age assemblage from beneath the Roman suburbs excavated in 1975 (Ellison in Leach 1982, 125), and one rim in fabric E can be matched by a shouldered jar within that assemblage (Ellison in Leach 1982, Fig. 61b, no. 55).

Castle Farm (Table 2 and Fig. 18)
A residual assemblage of 102 sherds bears little resemblance to the Early Iron Age groups described above. Fabrics A, C and E occur rarely and most sherds contain inclusions of fossil shell or calcite (fabric B). The rims and decorated fragments present indicate the existence of a Middle Iron Age assemblage, although no *in situ* deposits or features were located. Forms included round-bodied jars or bowls with simple or flattened rims. Some were plain (Fig. 18, 4 and 5), while others were decorated with simple geometric grooves (Fig. 18, 3) or more complex incised motifs of 'Glastonbury' type (Fig. 18,1). The latter sherd is made from fabric G, identified by David Williams as belonging to Peacock's Group 2 of Glastonbury Wares, and some of the fabric B sherds may relate to Peacock's Group 3.

Somerset Glastonbury wares have been discussed most recently in relation to the analysis of assemblages from the Meare Village Estate settlement (Rouillard in Coles 1987, 185–217). The forms represented at Castle Farm equate to the jars and bowls of Rouillard's Type C (e.g. Coles 1987, Fig. 5.3, JC2.1, or Fig. 5.5) and the motifs of her geometric Group A surviving on the sherd illustrated in Fig.18, 1 are paralleled also at Meare (Coles 1987, Fig. 5.21, P71 for the nicked border, and P240 with the cross-hatched wide-based triangle). Our fabrics G and B are equivalent to Meare fabrics 1 and 2c respectively. At South Cadbury, the corresponding style of pottery is 'Cadbury 8'. This is tempered most commonly with shell and would equate with Ilchester fabric B (Alcock 1980, 696).

The Illustrated Sherds (Fig. 18)

Castle Farm, Cutting H
1. Two joining wall sherds, decorated with an incised cross-hatched triangle between two horizontal borders, each containing a row of diagonal nicks. Fabric G. Context 504, Period 7.
2. Plain rim sherd with vertical rim termination and flat top. Fabric B. Context 541, Period 1.
3. Simple rim fragment decorated with horizontal and diagonal grooving immediately below the rim. Fabric B. Context 551, Period 1.
4. Expanded flat-rimmed sherd from a jar, decorated with diagonal finger-smearing on the exterior surface. Fabric B. Context 551, Period 1.
5. Joining wall and rim sherds from the upper portion of a plain round-bodied bowl with a flattened, slightly bevelled rim. Fabric B. Context 578, Period 3.
6. Plain rim sherd with external and internal grooves. Fabric B. Context 551, Period 1.

THE ROMAN POTTERY ASSEMBLAGES by Peter Leach

Introduction
Assemblages of Roman and Romano-British ceramics were recovered from all the cuttings investigated in 1985. These varied in scale and character according to the different areas but are most conveniently discussed by considering the Pill Bridge Lane site as a whole, and by sub-dividing Castle Farm into two groups: the Town Defences Zone (Cuttings A–D) and the Western Suburbs (Cuttings E–F).

A common analytical procedure was adopted, based upon the classification applied to assemblages examined previously at Ilchester (Leach 1982, 127–168; and 1992, III, 36). Briefly, this comprises a system of macroscopically-defined fabric types by which all the pottery is characterised and quantified according to forms, chronology and spatial incidence; by sherd number, weight and minimum vessel equivalents. The pottery was sorted and quantified by this method and the data recorded on pro formas as part of the excavation

archive. This is summarised in Tables 4 and 5 by sherd numbers and weight; the comparatively small sample size of each assemblage suggested that quantification by m.v.e. was not worthwhile.

A summary and full catalogue of the Samian pottery recovered in 1985, by Brenda Dickinson, is to be found as an appendix to this Report. The type fabric classification adopted is based upon a system devised originally in 1974 (Leach, 1982), but is now superseded by a numerical classification which has refined and extended that originally proposed. This report has adopted the new nomenclature, although data is recorded in archive according to the original system. A concordance is provideed here between the two and I am very grateful to Rachel Edwards, as the author of this revision (Edwards 1988), for her invaluable contribution towards the study of Ilchester's Roman pottery. It is intended that a fuller exposition of the revised type fabric series be presented in a forthcoming publication.

The Ilchester Roman Pottery Fabric Series (revised Edwards 1988).
An index and concordance with Leach (1982) of type fabrics arranged by groups.

Fabric	*Common Name*	*Original Fabric*	*Group*
Group 1: Imported Wares			
12.	Thin-walled colour coat (Gaulish)	CCiii	(4)
13.	Rhenish: Trier	CCvi	(4)
14.	Rhenish: Central Gaul	CCvii	(4)
22.	Fine white ware	W	(5)
30.	Samian wares (Terra Sigillata)	S	(3)
31.	Terra Nigra	TN	(3)
32.	N. Gaulish Mortarium ware	C	(6)
33.	Amphorae (various sources)	A	(2)
56.	Central Gaulish colour coated	–	–
57.	Lower Rhineland ware	–	–
58.	Roughcast ware	–	–
61.	Lyon ware	–	–
Group 2: British Colour Coat Wares (Various Sources)			
10.	Nene Valley ware	CCi	(4)
11.	Fine colour coated (Rhenish style)	CCii	(4)
15.	Mica-dusted ware	GM	(4)
16.	Lead-glazed wares	RG	(4)
17.	White colour coated	CCv	(4)
19/45.	Fine stoneware, buff-orange/colour coat	GM	(4)
29.	Plain colour coated, medium fine	–	–
41.	Shepton Mallet 'Severn Valley' c.c.	CCiv	(4)
42.	Fine reduced stoneware c.c.	CCiv	(4)
45/19.	Grey/buff stoneware c.c.	GM	(4)
53.	Thinly colour coated ware	–	–
59.	White colour coated pink fabric	–	–
Group 3: British Mortaria and Plain Fine Wares (Various Sources)			
23.	Hard, oxidized Shepton Mallet ware	CBi	(5)
24.	Soft, oxidized Shepton Mallet ware	CBii	(5)
25.	Shepton Mallet mortarium ware	CBii	(5)
34.	White colour coated mortarium (cf. fabric 17)	Mi	(6)
35.	Pink-buff Shepton Mallet fabric	CBii	(5)
36.	Shell-tempered Shepton Mallet fabric	CBii	(5)
37.	Thin-walled Shepton Mallet fabric	CBii	(5)
38.	(?)Limestone-tempered Shepton Mallet fabric	CBii	(5)

Fabric	*Common Name*	*Original Fabric*	*Group*
39.	Oxidized sandy ware	CBi	(5)
40.	Caerleon red mortarium ware	MM	(6)
46.	Orange-buff impressed ware	–	–
47.	Oxidized plain ware	CCV (some)	(4)
48.	Micaceous buff ware (?Severn Valley type)	GM (some)	(4)
49.	Pale buff micaceous ware (?Severn Valley type)	GM (some)	(4)
50.	Hard orange-red stoneware	–	–
51.	Pink oxidized ware	–	–
52.	Buff stoneware	–	–
54.	Campanulate bowl ware	–	–
55.	Hard-fired grey/buff ware	–	–
60.	Fine cream-coloured ware	–	–
62.	Smooth-surfaced rough ware	–	–
63.	Buff mortarium ware	–	–
Group 4: Oxfordshire Wares			
1.	Oxfordshire red & brown colour coats	CCviii	(7)
2.	Oxfordshire white colour coats	Mii	(7)
3.	Oxfordshire mortarium ware	Mii	(7)
4.	Oxfordshire parchment ware	Pi	(7)
Group 5: New Forest Wares			
5.	New Forest colour coat (enclosed forms)	CCix	(8)
6.	New Forest colour coat (open forms)	CCx	(8)
7.	New Forest parchment ware	Pii	(8)
8.	Parchment ware? New Forest	Pi (some)	(7)
Group 6: Dorset Black Burnished Wares			
18.	Black Burnished ware (BB1)	BB	(10)
Group 7: Coarsewares (Mainly Reduced Fabric)			
9.	Savernake ware	Giii	(9)
20.	Shell Tempered ware	ST	(11)
21.	Alice Holt ware	–	–
26.	Medium-coarse greywares	Gi	(9)
27.	Fine micaceous greywares	Gii	(9)
28.	Very coarse greywares	CW	(9)
43.	Coarse sandy ware, black coated	–	–
44.	Coarse oxidized ware (cf. fabric 28)	CW(some)	(9)

A system whereby the range of pottery fabrics is grouped according to origin or common characteristics has also been adopted, a modification of that originally proposed (Leach 1982). As applied here, these Groups are arbitrarily defined as a device to sub-divide the individual Type Fabrics into diagnostic families for convenience of analysis and discussion. This also varies somewhat from a system proposed by Edwards (1988, appendix 7) according to broad origins, and clearly alternative schemes of sub-division could be applied with equal validity as required. The designation of certain Type Fabrics may be subject to uncertainty within such systems, but the type definitions themselves are devised wherever possible as constants. This scheme of fabric classification is capable of infinite expansion as necessary and it is to be hoped that future analyses of Roman pottery assemblages from Ilchester will adopt the new nomenclature.

Detailed analyses of the 1985 assemblages are clearly inappropriate on an individual basis, given their size and the character of the sites from which they were derived. As the tables demonstrate, a high proportion of the material was residual, particularly in Cuttings A–D relative to the Town Defences, where post-Roman deposits formed the bulk of those

excavated. In broad terms the samples are a further contribution to inter-site comparative studies of ceramic assemblages at Ilchester, and comments are offered below within such a framework. Two different suburban areas were sampled, and their assemblages are to an extent comparable with each other and with other collections.

A relatively restricted range of the pottery recovered has been illustrated with this report, the selection determined by reliability of context and chronology (i.e. where contamination and residuality were deemed to be minimal), and the existence of a considerable corpus of types already published (notably Leach 1982, Figs 62–79; and 1992, Figs 48–50). The emphasis lies very much upon the earliest phases in each area, and the significance of these assemblages, particularly from Cutting J, is considered further at the end of this report.

Castle Farm, Town Defences (Cuttings A–D)

Attention has already been drawn to the volume of post-Roman deposits excavated in these cuttings and thus a relatively high incidence of residuality in the assemblage. Almost 50% of the pottery was obtained from such deposits. Since the total of recorded sherds was only just over 800 (*c.* 8.7 kg) the sample from phased Romano-British contexts is clearly insufficient to draw anything but very broad conclusions (Table 4).

Other than the overwhelming predominance of Dorset Black Burnished ware (over 70% of the assemblage as a whole), a factor common to every site analysed so far at Ilchester, it is difficult to perceive a distinctive ceramic 'fingerprint' for this site assemblage. The earlier periods contribute the bulk of the material from phased contexts, primarily those which pre-date the town defences sequence commencing at the end of the 2nd century. This is also reflected within the sample of vessels selected for illustration (Fig. 19, nos 1–13), the bulk of which are late 1st and 2nd century forms (whether or not from approximately contemporary contexts). Third and 4th century material is markedly under-represented, although this is to some extent compensated for by its presence in post-Roman contexts.

Almost all these factors and characteristics are of course a function of the site's identity and its scale of excavation. Areas located within the zone of Ilchester's town defences will inevitably have been subjected to several phases of fairly massive disturbance. Earlier pre-defensive phases will sometimes have been preserved fairly well from later disturbance and contamination. The later periods are likely to be under-represented ceramically by virtue of their essentially non-domestic site character. Excepting the earliest periods, the opportunities for recovery of extensive and representative pottery assemblages which are broadly contemporary with the events discerned will not be high on such a site. Despite this, the data from Castle Farm has a validity in comparison with similar 'defences' sites excavated at Ilchester, and contributes to the broader picture of ceramic representation and its significance in the Roman period.

Castle Farm, Western Suburbs (Cuttings E–H)

In contrast to the sample obtained in association with the town defences sequence at Castle Farm (*see above*), Cuttings E–H were mainly located beyond that zone within a western suburb. In the event, this very limited sample provided no coherent picture of Romano-British suburban developments but shed most light upon the earliest (?)military phase of Roman activity on the one hand, and upon post-Roman developments, particularly those relating to a riverside waterfront, on the other. Once again the Roman ceramic sample thus obtained was limited in size and scope (less than 700 sherds, weighing *c.* 6.2 kg), limiting in turn its analytical significance (Fig. 19, nos 14–15). The rather incomplete ceramic 'fingerprint' for this area is once again biased towards the early phases of Roman occupation at Ilchester and thus is comparable with the predominantly later 1st and 2nd century assemblage from the town defences (Table 5). The later periods are represented almost exclusively by material residual within the post-Roman features and deposits. This factor was rather less pronounced here than in Cuttings A–D, well under 40% of the pottery deriving from post-Roman contexts. The pattern of fabric occurrence is again dominated by Dorset Black Burnished ware, which forms well over 70% of the total assemblage and is present in even higher proportions in the early periods. The range of early pottery fabrics is relatively restricted in the 1st and 2nd centuries, a picture repeated by the evidence from Cuttings A–D (*see above*). Excepting imported Samian and a few amphorae, a group of

reduced coarsewares, some of which were very probably local products, make up most of the remaining assemblage. This picture is almost certainly not a true reflection of the position in relation to early Roman ceramic assemblages at Ilchester, particularly in the 1st century. Recent analysis of more extensive groups recovered in the western suburbs in 1987 suggests a much wider range of products (Leach 1987). The under-representation of later Roman pottery, even residually within the post-Roman phases of the site, is once again a reflection of the character of the areas investigated. Medieval and post-medieval activities were pre-eminent in the majority of cuttings, and where investigated, most of the Roman contexts appeared to be of the earlier periods.

It is apparent that, as it stands, this assemblage will have a limited validity in representing the ceramic spectrum for the western suburbs as a whole or even for their early phases. The availability and analysis of larger samples from this area of the town will nevertheless enhance its value, and broaden the scope of Roman pottery studies at Ilchester, in particular for the 2nd century and before.

Castle Farm Roman Pottery, the Illustrated Sherds (Fig. 19)

No.	*Description*	*Context*	*Site Period*
Cuttings A–D			
1.	Cook-pot jar, decorated. Fabric 18(BB) (cf. 1982, Fig. 75)	A/100	3
2.	Cook-pot jar, decorated. Fabric 18(BB) (cf. 1982, Fig. 75)	A/100	3
3.	Cook-pot jar, decorated. Fabric 18(BB) (cf. 1982, Fig. 75)	A/F35. 418/428	1
4.	Shallow bead-rim bowl. Fabric 18(BB) (cf. 1982, Fig. 77)	A/1	8
5.	Lid, plain Cook-pot jar, decorated. Fabric 18(BB) (cf. 1982, Fig. 76)	A/416	3
6.	Jar rim, 'Severn Valley' type. Fabric 23 (CBi) (cf. 1982, Fig. 72, no. 229)	A/43	3
7.	Globular jar, roulette decoration. Fabric 27 (Gii)	A/417	3
8.	Flange-rim bowl, orange colour coat. Fabric 19 (GM) (cf. 1982, Fig. 67, 49, 51 & 52)	A/43	3
9.	Beaker rim, red-brown lustrous colour coat. Fabric 41 (CCiv) (?) 'Severn Valley' type (cf. 1982, Fig. 67, 7 & 8)	C/F108	7
10.	Dressel 20 amphora handle segment with a worn stamp 'CE–' possibly CEER or CEFP (Callendar 1965, 289/290, Fig. 5, 19–21). Fabric 33 (A)	A/45	6
11.	Form 33, stamped QVINTI [M]: Quintus v of Lezoux, *c.* AD 160–200. Fabric 30 (S)	A/F16.49	5
12.	Form 29, South Gaulish, lower zone fragment from a bowl of Labio *c.* AD 50–65. Fabric 30 (S)	A/F11.90	6
13.	Form 33, stamped ADVOCISI OF: Advocisus of Lezoux, Die 1b. *c.* AD 160–90. Fabric 30 (S)	A/F31.414	2/3
Cuttings E–H			
14.	Flat-rim bowl, decorated. Fabric 18 (BB) (cf. 1982, Fig. 77)	H/F525.61	6
15.	Small jar/cup, decorated. Fabric 18 (BB) (cf. 1982, Fig. 76)	H/F525.61	6
16.	Dressel 20 amphora rim. Fabric 33 (A)	H/F536.82	2/3

Pill Bridge Lane, South-Western Suburbs (Cuttings J–N).

The Roman pottery assemblage at Pill Bridge Lane exceeded in quantity those from both areas together at Castle Farm, although a total of 1658 sherds weighing in excess of 18 kg is not particularly large by the standards of Romano-British urban sites, Ilchester included (Table 6). The great bulk of this was recovered from Cutting J, and specifically from features and deposits on the periphery of suburban occupation flanking the west side of the Foss

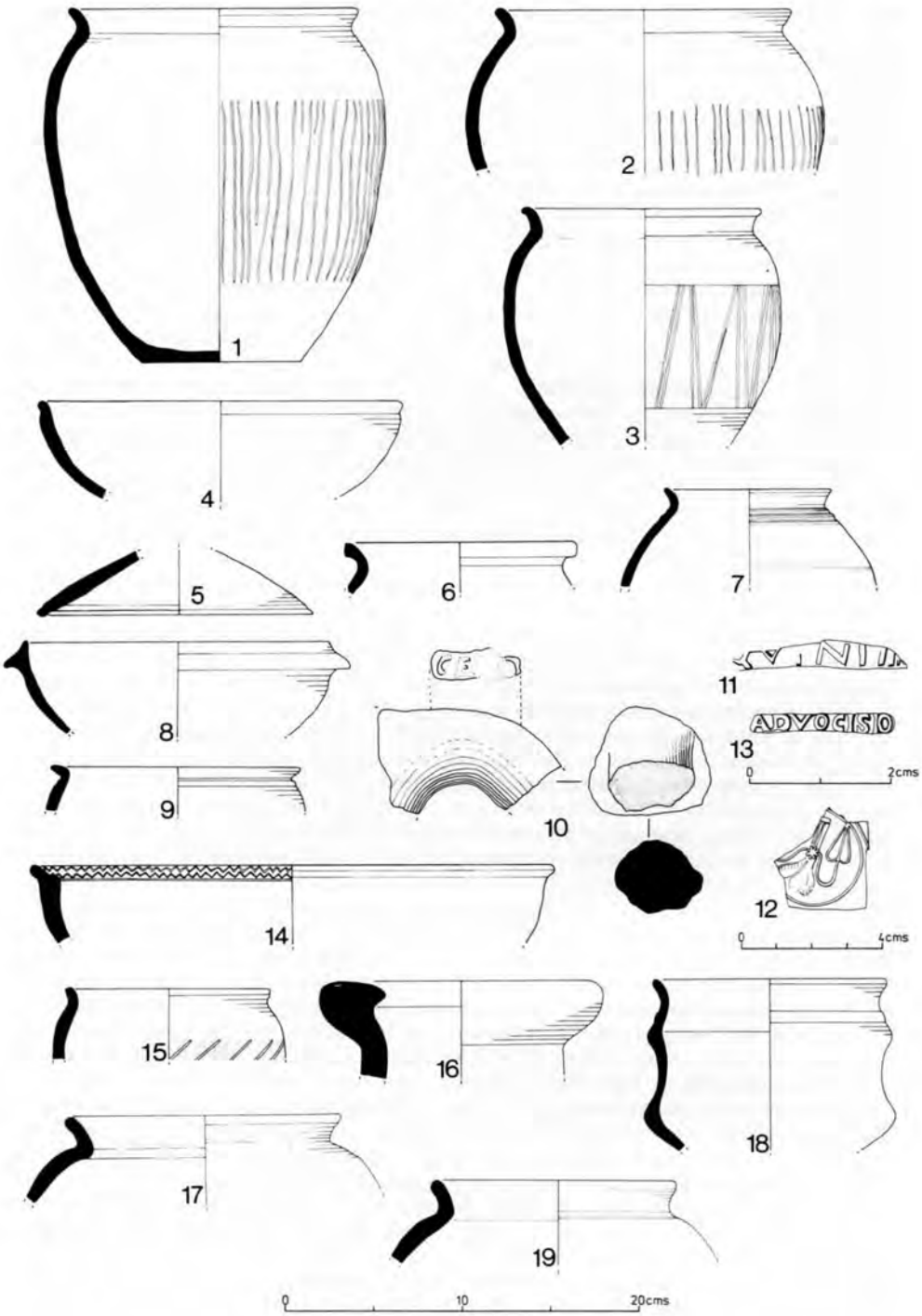


Fig. 19 Roman Pottery, 1–19

Way. While valid comparisons can be made between this and the Castle Farm assemblages, particularly in the 1st and 2nd centuries, the closest parallels are to be expected among the material recovered in the adjacent excavations of 1975 (Leach 1982, III), a much more extensive sample (over 12,000 sherds) from these same suburbs.

A little over 40% of the pottery from Pill Bridge Lane was derived from the earliest phases of occupation, that is from the timber-framed building foundations and pit excavation backfills of Periods 2 and 3. These equate almost exactly with Periods I and II in 1975 (*c.* 30% of the 1975 assemblage) and with Period 1 at Castle Farm. The later Roman elements of the site contributed over 30% of the pottery (Periods 4 and 5), equating with Periods III–V in 1975 (which contributed over 58%) and Periods 2–4 at Castle Farm. Pottery which was wholly residual in origin from post-Roman contexts contributed over 20% of the total assemblage. This was a considerably lower proportion than demonstrated at Castle Farm, although rather higher than the *c.* 11% which made up the total from the 1975 excavations.

Pottery representation in 1985 is once again a function of the site and its archaeological character. In an area where the stratigraphic sequences were generally simple and of no great depth, the majority of features and deposits were relatively uncontaminated by intercutting; pottery groups of the earliest phases at least can thus be readily distinguished. Situated well to the rear of the Foss Way road frontage, the area sampled did not include the sequence of buildings known to occupy that position (cf. excavations 1975), hence the quantitative contrast in percentage terms in ceramic representation between Periods 4 and 5 (1985) and III–V (1975). Post-Roman disturbances were more in evidence in the 1985 sample and account for a higher proportion of residual pottery in such contexts than was the case further south in 1975.

No detailed comparative analysis has been attempted here between the two assemblages of 1975 and 1985. To be worthwhile, this would require some re-working of the primary data relating to the earlier assemblage and a broader range of analysis for both assemblages. Such procedures would be more appropriate within the framework of a specific and more comprehensive study of Ilchester's Roman pottery, not an objective to be contemplated within the parameters of this report! Of possibly greater relevance here is the illustration of a selection of pottery form and fabric types (Figs 19–21, nos 17–46), typifying the earliest phases of Roman occupation on this site (later 1st and 2nd centuries) and expanded with reference to comparable material recovered in 1975. The predominance of Dorset Black Burnished wares (Fabric 18 (BB)) is everywhere apparent, even from the earliest phase, and the variety of forms produced is noteworthy. Some of these are illustrated (Figs 19–21, nos 17–26, 31–2 & 36–40), along with a selection of other contemporary pottery. The bulk of this was obtained from the Flavian or early 2nd century deposits of Periods 2 and 3 (nos 17–35), and has been referenced in this presentation to contemporary illustrated material from comparable contexts in both the adjacent Foss Way-side suburbs published in 1982. A further selection of material (nos 34–44) from later contexts should upon stylistic grounds also be assigned to the 1st or 2nd centuries. Assuming early Flavian military contexts for much of the pottery associated with the earliest phases recognised at Castle Farm, and more especially at Pill Bridge Lane, these groups can be usefully compared with similar and contemporary military assemblages from southern Britain (Darling 1977). Of particular note is the Durotrigian/Dorset Black Burnished industry's contribution (Fabric 18), evidently the major component in these assemblages by the last quarter of the 1st century AD at Ilchester. The range of forms comprises styles of purely native Durotrigian origin (e.g. Figs. 19–20, nos 1–4, 17, 19, 21, 23–4, 32–3), including Gallo-Belgic influenced styles (nos 18, 25 and 26), and more conscious imitations of Roman styles (e.g. nos 20, 22 and 31, and from later contexts but possibly contemporary, nos 14, 36, 37 and 39). The bowls nos 20 and 22 seem to follow the Samian forms Dr. 18 and Dr. 30 fairly closely, the latter emphasising this imitation further by means of burnished red oxidized surfaces inside and out. The range of such imitations at Ilchester, as well as that of the native Durotrigian styles, is much extended by previously published material (e.g. Leach 1982, Figs 74–77).

Attention has been drawn to a similar range of native pottery, originating from or influenced by Durotrigian sources, from 1st century military contexts at Exeter (Bidwell 1977). The repertoire of forms and the proportion of Dorset-derived products is somewhat higher at Ilchester, doubtless a function of its proximity to the Dorset supply source relative to

Exeter. Between 80 and 85% of the total pottery from the late 1st century phases at these Ilchester sites was Dorset Black Burnished ware, compared with up to 52% at Exeter, while at Waddon Hill the estimate was also about 80% (Webster 1960, 93). At least one other competitive native product was contributing to the Ilchester assemblages, a fine grey micaceous ware (Fabric 27) whose styles follow closely some of the Black Burnished Durotrigian and Roman imitation forms (Figs 19–21, nos 7, 33 and 41; and a more extensive range in Leach 1982, Fig. 72). The pit group from F36 at Pill Bridge Lane (not all illustrated) demonstrates some of the range of products in use by Ilchester's (?)Flavian military garrison (Fig. 20, nos 19–30). Among the predominant Dorset Black Burnished products (Fabric 18) are representatives of the (?)local greyware (Fabric 27), Savernake-type ware (Fabric 9, no. 28), a Severn Valley related fabric, probably originating from kilns at Shepton Mallet (Fabric 23), mica-dusted and related stoneware (Fabrics 19/45), and more obvious imports including glazed vessels (Fabric 16, no. 27), mortaria (Fabric 32, no. 29), Dressel 20 amphorae (Fabric 33, no. 30) and South Gaulish Samian (Fabric 30) – Neronian and Flavian fragments (Dickinson, *see* appendix). The recovery of further and contemporary ceramic groups in similar circumstances at Great Yard in 1987 (Dickinson, *see* appendix) will eventually provide a more extensive corpus of pottery associated with Ilchester's 1st century military origins.

Pill Bridge Lane Roman Pottery, the Illustrated Sherds (Figs 19–21)

No.	*Description*	*Context*	*Site Period*
	Cutting J, Periods 2 and 3		
17.	Cook-pot jar, plain (cf. 1982, Figs 74–5). Fabric 18 (BB)	F52.81	2
18.	Carinated butt beaker/tazza (cf. Wheeler 1943, Fig 74, 214; Brailsford 1958, Fig 1, 10). Fabric 18 (8B) (*Quarry Pit Group, F36*)	F16.28	2
19.	Cook-pot jar, plain (cf. 1982, Figs 74–5). Fabric 18 (BB)	F36.67	3
20.	Shallow bowl/dish, footring; ?imitating Samian Dr.18. Fabric 18 (BB)	F36.69	3
21.	Plain, globular, bead-rim bowl (cf. 1982, Fig. 77). Fabric 18 (BB)	F36.67	3
22.	Decorated bowl copying Samian Dr. 30, the imitation emphasised by unusual burnished, red-orange, oxidized surfaces (cf. 1982, Fig. 77 for unoxidized black burnished examples). Fabric 18 (BB)	F36.67	3
23.	Plain, bead rim bowl (cf. 1982, Fig. 77). Fabric 18 (BB)	F36.67	3
24.	Decorated jar, twin countersunk handles (cf. 1982, Fig. 74). Fabric 18 (BB)	F36.69	3
25.	Carinated butt beaker/tazza (cf. Wheeler 1943, Fig. 74, 217 & Fig. 75, 231; Brailsford 1958, Fig. 1, 10)	F36.67	3
26.	Carinated butt beaker/tazza (cf. Wheeler 1943, and Brailsford 1958). Fabric 18 (BB)	F36.67	3
27.	Small cup/beaker, fine cream-white fabric, pale green glazed surfaces (cf. 1982, Fig. 67, 53–4). Fabric 16 (RG)	F36.44	3
28.	Plain storage jar, Savernake type (Swann 1975; cf. 1989, Fig. 50, 82). Fabric 9 (Giii)	F36.62	3
29.	Mortaria, fine cream-buff fabric, white flint trituration grits, (?)Gaulish (Hartley 1977, Group II; & cf. 1989, Fig. 49, 61–6). Fabric 32 (C)	F36.44	3
30.	Amphora neck & handles, Dressel 20 (Peacock & Williams 1986, 136–40). Fabric 33 (A)	F36.68	3
31.	Small cook-pot jar, lattice decoration (cf. 1982, Fig. 75). Fabric 18 (BB)	Pit F44.13	3
32.	Large cook-pot jar, hatched decoration (cf. 1982, Fig. 75). Fabric 18 (BB)	Pit F23.39	3

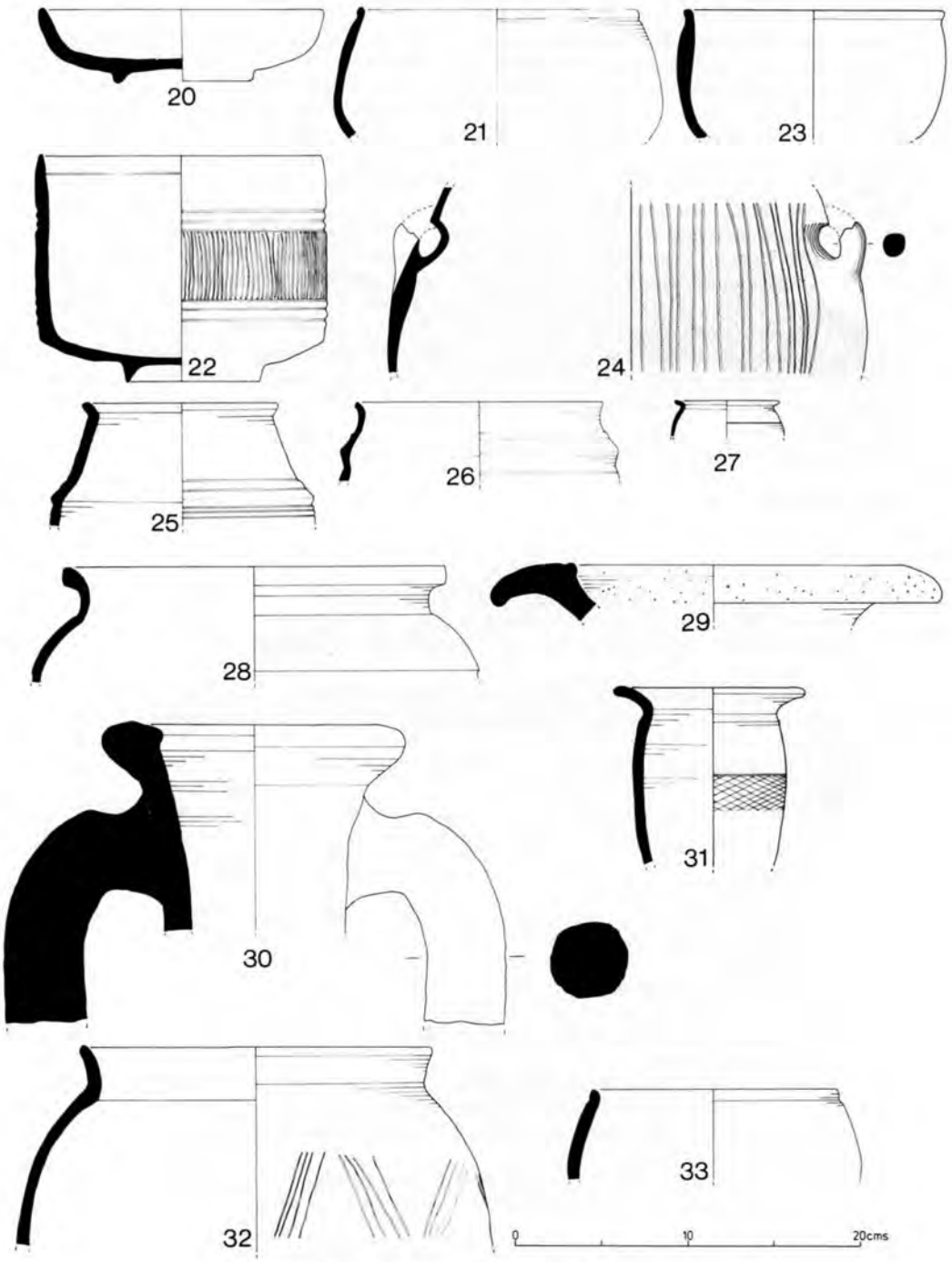


Fig. 20 Roman Pottery, 20–33

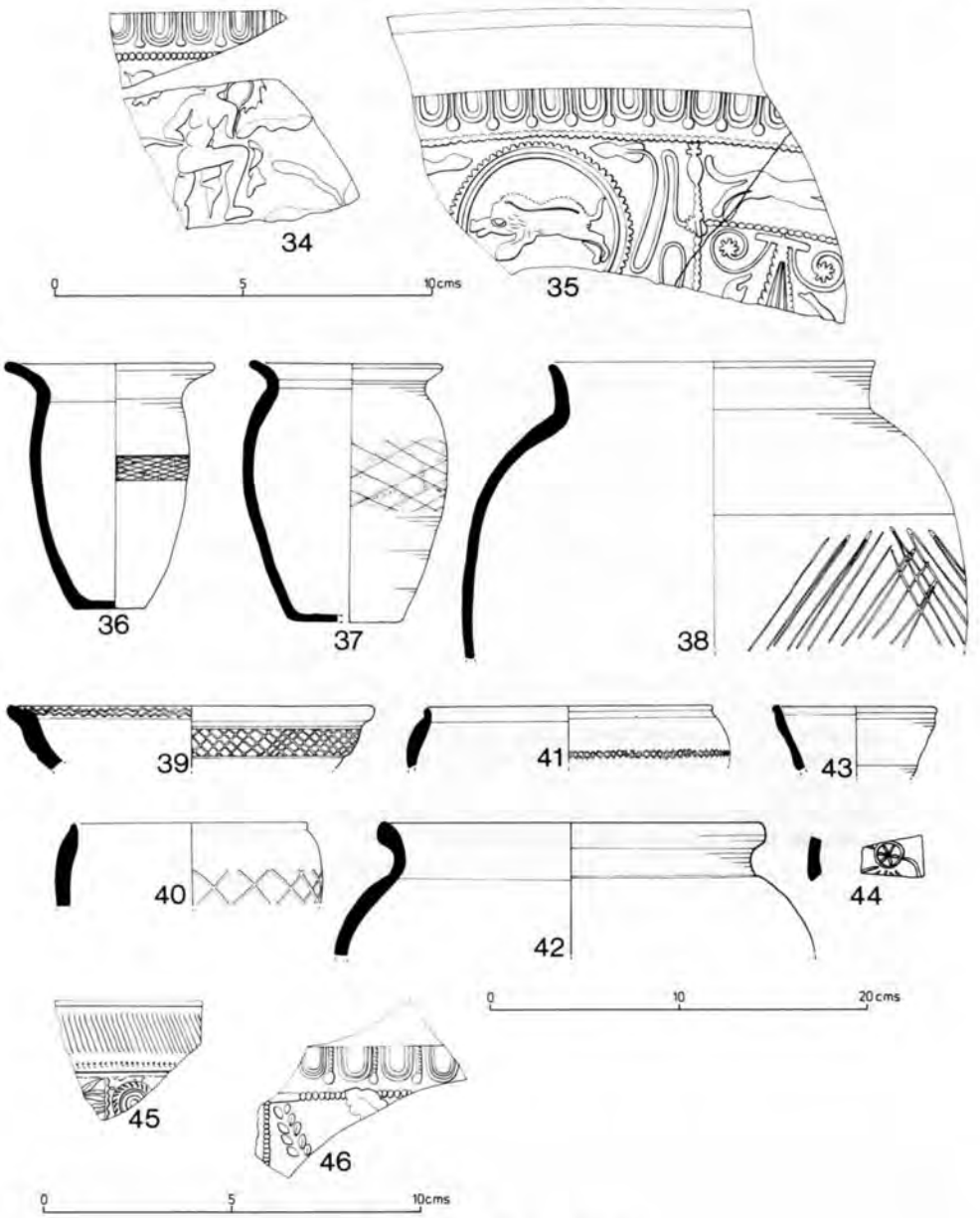


Fig. 21 Roman Pottery, 34–46

33.	Plain bowl, bead rim (cf. 1982, Fig. 72, 240). Fabric 27 (Gii)	Pit F10.19	3
34.	Form 37, South Gaulish, La Graufesenque by (?)Frontinus, *c.* AD 75–95. Fabric 30 (S)	Pit F55	30/3
35.	Form 37, Central Gaulish, Lezoux by Servus ii; early to mid-Antonine. Fabric 30 (S)	Pit F55.30, F17.31, & .3	3 & later

Cutting J, Periods 4–6

36.	Small cook-pot jar, lattice decoration (cf. 1982, Fig. 75). Fabric 18 (BB)	F37.55	5
37.	Small cook-pot jar, lattice decoration (cf. 1982, Fig. 75). Fabric 18 (BB)	F34.54	5
38.	Large cook-pot jar, hatched decoration (cf. 1982, Fig. 75). Fabric 18 (BB)	F47.76	4
39.	Flat-rim bowl, incised decoration (cf. 1982, Fig. 77). Fabric 18 (BB)	-.2	6
40.	Bead-rim bowl, hatched decoration (cf. 1982, Fig. 77). Fabric 18 (BB)	-.29	5
41.	Bead-rim bowl, lattice decoration (cf. 1982, Fig. 72, no. 247). Fabric 27 (Gii)	F47.78	4
42.	Plain jar, Savernake type (Swann 1975; cf. 1982. Fig. 73, no. 270, & 1989, Fig. 50, no. 82). Fabric 9 (Giii)	-.6	5
43.	Flask or flagon rim, 'Severn Valley' type (cf. 1982, Fig. 68, no. 64). Fabric 47 (CBii)	-.2	6
44.	Bowl sherd, reduced stoneware fabric, buff-orange surfaces with applied decorative motif; probably from a vessel imitating Samian form Dr 29. Further more extensively surviving examples were recorded from a late 1st century assemblage excavated in the western suburbs in 1987 (Leach 1987). Fabric 19/45 (GM)	F37.55	5
45.	Form 29, South Gaulish; *c.* AD 55–65 (cf. Hartley & Dickinson 1982, Fig. 45, 43). Fabric 30 (S)	-.2	6
46.	Form 31, Central Gaulish, Saceri-Attianus ii group; *c.* AD 125–45. Fabric 30 (S)	F1.9	6

The Post-Roman Pottery Assemblages by Peter Ellis

Medieval Pottery

Introduction

Medieval pottery from Castle Farm and Pill Bridge Lane totalled 2660 sherds weighing a little over 30 kg. Work to date on Ilchester's post-Roman pottery has resulted in the definition of a type fabric series, based upon a study of the assemblages collected in 1974 and 1975 and previously by J. Stevens Cox (Pearson 1982), with modifications and re-arrangements of the system in the light of smaller assemblages excavated since 1975 (Ellis in Leach 1992). While Ilchester's medieval pottery is of considerable regional interest by virtue of a large corpus from an important former county town of Somerset, flourishing from the late Saxon period up to the 13th or 14th century, secure dating and a fuller understanding of the pottery is frequently hampered by the conditions of its recovery. As discussed previously (Leach 1982, 33–5, and Ellis in Leach 1992) extensive horizons, effectively comprising largely undifferentiated layers of dark soil (averaging 1 m deep and sealing the Roman levels) incorporate much of the medieval pottery so far recovered from the town. It is generally difficult to distinguish layers or pit cuts in these disturbed levels and there are very few occupation horizons. Pottery in these layers occurs predominantly in the form of small abraded sherds, while the presence in the ceramic assemblages recovered of up to 50%

Romano-British pottery is further witness to the degree of disturbance. Medieval pottery is thus frequently difficult to isolate into datable groups given the high probability of residuality in such assemblages, and dating from the pottery must often depend on *termini post quem* offered by perhaps a handful of the most recent sherds, or with far less security by *termini ante quem* deriving from the absence of otherwise datable fabric groups. For advice concerning the medieval pottery I am grateful to Chris Gerrard, and for the post-medieval pottery Les Good, Vince Russett, Rod Burchill and Steve Minnitt.

Ilchester's Medieval Pottery: a Summary of the Dating

Work so far has recognised several late Saxon pottery types including one ware (B), commencing production in the 11th century, which dominates the majority of post-Roman assemblages and which is assumed with some confidence to be a local product. This ware has been recognised in the Ilchester hinterland, and other find spots further afield indicate that it was traded northward by river (Pearson 1982, 180). Marginally distinct fabrics (BB, B/BB) are taken to be a development of the same type, probably from the kiln or kilns which continued to produce B ware and its derivatives well into the 13th century. Further wares (D and E) in dish, bowl and cooking pot forms have been recognised together with tripod pitchers in fabrics and quantities which also suggest local products. The latter (fabrics G24 and G25) have a wider currency than B, and have been noted at Exeter (Allan 1984, fabric 60) as well as at other Somerset sites. From the 13th century, imported jugs and other vessels from Bristol and Wiltshire (especially Laverstock) enter the assemblages. Among these is an apparently local jug product (G1) which seems to foreshadow the South Somerset Donyatt output. A wider range of Donyatt products then provides an imprecisely dated ceramic horizon from the 14th century and marks the beginnings of a dominance of that industry's products at Ilchester and commonly elsewhere in Somerset (e.g. Taunton; *see* Pearson in Leach 1984). The relative paucity of South Somerset pottery nevertheless is perhaps some reflection of the historically attested decline of Ilchester commencing from around this period.

Analysis: 1985

Work on the 1985 pottery assemblages allocated the sherds to the fabric groups identified by Pearson (Pearson in Leach 1984). Numbers and weights of sherds were recorded as well as the estimated vessel equivalents. The latter are an indication of the number of complete vessels present, based upon a summing of the proportions of surviving rims and bases expressed as a percentage. These are not individual vessels but give some idea of the recognisable total. That the assemblages are not a truly representative sample is indicated by the proportions of rim and base sherds which vary from 2:1 upward. The tables (7–10) show the numbers and weight of the pottery sherds in grouped contexts by period, and indicate the total vessel equivalents as well as the proportions of the fabrics and fabric groups for the stratified material (*see* appendix). The full data is available in the site archive.

Modifications to the system outlined in 1982 are pricipally to the dates of fabrics D, E, G24 and G25, which are clearly earlier than originally suggested and are better considered as 12th/13th century wares. The tables (7 and 8) present the data from the Castle Farm intra- and extra-mural excavations. Groups 12, 13 and 14 (Pearson 1982, 169) are subsumed into an overall group of fabrics A4 and A5B; the derivatives of B (Group 18) are all subsumed into fabric B/BB, and the heading *Donyatt* includes fabric G23 and other South Somerset medieval products identified in the report on pottery at Taunton (Pearson 1984, fabric types 5, 11, 131, 168, 209 and 212).

There is little to be said with regard to the Pill Bridge Lane assemblage (Table 9). Only 76 sherds weighing just under 0.5 kg were collected, 14 from possible medieval contexts (Period 6), four intrusive sherds from probable Roman contexts, and 58 from post-medieval layers. On the other hand, the Castle Farm assemblages provide, for almost the first time at Ilchester, meaningful groups of pottery from successive episodes of activity, and pit groups which may be contemporary.

Castle Farm, Cuttings A–D

Small groups of medieval pottery were recovered from three features or groups of features which demonstrably followed each other, and which were collected with some confidence

that contamination was minimised. The earliest feature was the robbing trench for the Roman town wall (F13) where 162 sherds were recovered (Fig. 22, 6–7), later horizons provided a further 544 sherds, and 103 sherds were recovered from the medieval town wall-robbing trench (F11) which terminated the medieval stratigraphic succession. In addition, pit F16 produced 117 sherds (Fig. 22, 1–5 and 9). The data from these four groups is shown in Table 7.

The robbing of the Roman town wall, and by inference the construction of the medieval wall, cannot be closely dated from the small number of sherds found. The presence of three sherds of orange-glazed pottery (fabric G5) and seven of G24 and G25 should, however, indicate a 13th century date for this episode. The greater quantity of seemingly earlier pottery could indicate that the source of the backfilled material included earlier deposits disturbed in the digging of the medieval wall-foundation trench. The subsequent ditch F12, followed by a possible building marked by F6–F9 and F26, seem also to be of the 13th century rather than later, although there is a little 14th century pottery in the sealing layers. The removal of the medieval wall (robbing trench F11) again cannot be closely dated, but the fact that Donyatt products form the largest single group may well indicate a 15th or 16th century date. There were no diagnostic sherds, and a late medieval date is better supported by the stratigraphic information. The pottery in pit F16 suggests an 11th rather than a 12th century assemblage, which, if this is the case, provides evidence of the earlier forms and treatment of B ware.

Castle Farm, Cuttings E–H

The assemblage from the western suburbs at Castle Farm was recovered from the fills of ten features, of which eight were pits or post-holes. Table 8 indicates that the pottery found in F519 and F532 may represent contemporary groups of material in current use at the time of their deposition. F532 contained the greater part of four vessels in four different fabrics (Fig. 23, 12–15), that in fabric B (14) being a new vessel type not hitherto recorded. The indications are that this was material broken and buried near the place of abandonment, the large container vessels found suggesting that they were in transit when broken. Pottery from Pits F519, F532 and F533 suggests a late 12th or early 13th century date, but in most other instances there is too little pottery available to indicate more than a similar date for the other features. Exceptions may be the pit F504 and the ditch F507, both likely to be of the 14th century, while the (?)robbing trench for the medieval town wall (F525 in Cutting G) containing a high proportion of Donyatt pottery, suggests a late-medieval date which accords well with its interpretation.

Conclusions

The pottery from Castle Farm, in particular Cutting A, is one of the best groups yet to be collected at Ilchester from well-understood, stratigraphically-related contexts. It is gratifying to see that, overall, the hypothesis for a chronological development of Ilchester medieval pottery types is broadly confirmed. The material from Cuttings E–H is more ambiguous but does supplement, with further contemporary groups, the pottery assemblage from Rivermead, Northover (Ellis in Leach 1992, III, 4, Figs. 52–3, 34–50). A closer and more detailed chronology and characterisation of Ilchester's pottery is still dependent upon the discovery of further groups and stratified sequences. The evidence for medieval trading patterns and economic structure implicit in the types of pottery used has been discussed before (Pearson 1982; Ellis in Leach 1992). To this discussion can now be added the evidence, albeit tenuous, of a medieval port in the area of Cuttings E–H, functioning at least by the later 12th century. There is also some suggestion that specialised products were made locally to act as containers for transported material. Hypotheses arising from the study of Ilchester's medieval pottery are still too dependant upon substantial but frequently ill-stratified groups, and thus the discovery and presentation of more reliably provenanced material must remain the priority.

POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

The post-medieval pottery collected comprised *c.* 500 sherds weighing just over 6.5 kg. The assemblage derived principally from the hand-excavated upper levels of Cuttings A and B.

Castle Farm, but also from the levels at the base of the ditch in Cuttings C and D (F107/F204), and from post-medieval features in Cutting H and at Pill Bridge Lane (Table 10). The pottery was primarily small sherds with few adjoining pieces; none merited illustration. In most cases it was not possible to identify forms, so that identification of the types of pottery present was largely limited to fabric differentiation. The great majority of the sherds (81% by weight of the total) were recognised as products of the Donyatt kilns. Although close dating was limited by the nature of the assemblage, a distinction could be made between 17th and 18th century products. Some 16th century South Somerset products could also be recognised, and there is, of course, an overlap with some of the Donyatt material allocated to medieval assemblages and not capable of designation more accurately than to the 14th to 16th centuries.

The pottery was divided visually into 18 type fabrics or fabric groups (labelled PMF 1–18) of which eight were Donyatt products. The full data on the fabrics is available in the archive, but a summary of the types is provided below. Two of these (PMF 2 and 7) are possibly 16th century, four (PMF 1, 3, 4 and 5) are 17th century, and two further are 18th century fabrics (PMF 6 and 9). Also present in smaller quantities were sherds from the Bristol or Staffordshire potteries (feathered slip wares, PMF 8), from Westerwald (PMF 17), a German stoneware probably from Cologne (PMF 12), British stonewares (PMF 13), Wedgwood basalt ware (PMF 11), and modern earthenwares and transfer-printed wares (PMF 14–16). Two sherds of Wanstrow pottery were identified (PMF 10). Dating for the Donyatt pottery was determined with reference to material published from Taunton (Pearson 1984), and a correlation between the types found at Ilchester and Taunton was readily apparent. Cutting A produced a usefully stratified group from the robbing trench F4 and from the deposits preceding it. A few sherds were found in association with the trackway F208 in Cutting D. Examination of the distribution of the fabrics (Table 10) showed that layers 6, 8 and 9 and F4 in Cutting A, and the trackway in Cutting D, were all 17th century in origin, although closer dating was hampered by the absence of diagnostic pieces or forms.

There was insufficient pottery from features in Cutting H to make much use of it for dating purposes, and the picture is further distorted by the initial machine excavation of the trenches. At Pill Bridge Lane it was clear that most of the latest features were relatively recent, the presence of occasional late pieces testifying to the residual nature of the earlier pottery.

Index of Ilchester Post-Medieval Pottery Type Fabrics

PMF 1. Dense grey paste with occasional white (limestone) inclusions, internal green glaze and oxidised red external surface with green glaze splashes; = Taunton PT 7 (Pearson 1984), 17th century.
PMF 2. Light grey and pink micaceous fabric, no other visible inclusions, external green glaze; = Taunton PT 6 (op. cit.), 16th century.
PMF 3. Pink-red paste with orange/clear glaze externally and internally. Jars, cups, (?)chafing dishes; = Taunton PT 10 (op. cit.), 17th century.
PMF 4. Dark grey and red fabric with ironstone inclusions, fire-blackened externally and with internal orange glaze; = Taunton PT 24 (op.cit.), 17th century.
PMF 5. Sandy grey fabric, dull green glaze ext. and int., thumbed decoration below rim; = Taunton PT 12 (op. cit.), 17th century.
PMF 6. Cream & pink fabric with red inclusions, orange/yellow glaze and sgraffito decoration internally; = Taunton PT 8 (op. cit.), 18th century.
PMF 7. Sandy grey fabric, green glaze ext. and int; = Taunton PT 4 (op. cit.), 16th century.
PMF 8. Cream with black inclusions, feathered slipware, Bristol/Staffs; = Taunton PT 73/74 (op. cit.), 18th century.
PMF 9. Grey paste, black & white incs., oxidised red ext. and green & yellow glaze over trailed slip internally; = Taunton PT 8 (op. cit.), 18th century.
PMF 10. Red paste, black external surface, Wanstrow, 18th century.
PMF 11. Wedgwood basalt ware, 18th century.
PMF 12. German stoneware, (?)Cologne, 16th/17th century.
PMF 13. British stoneware, 18th/19th century.

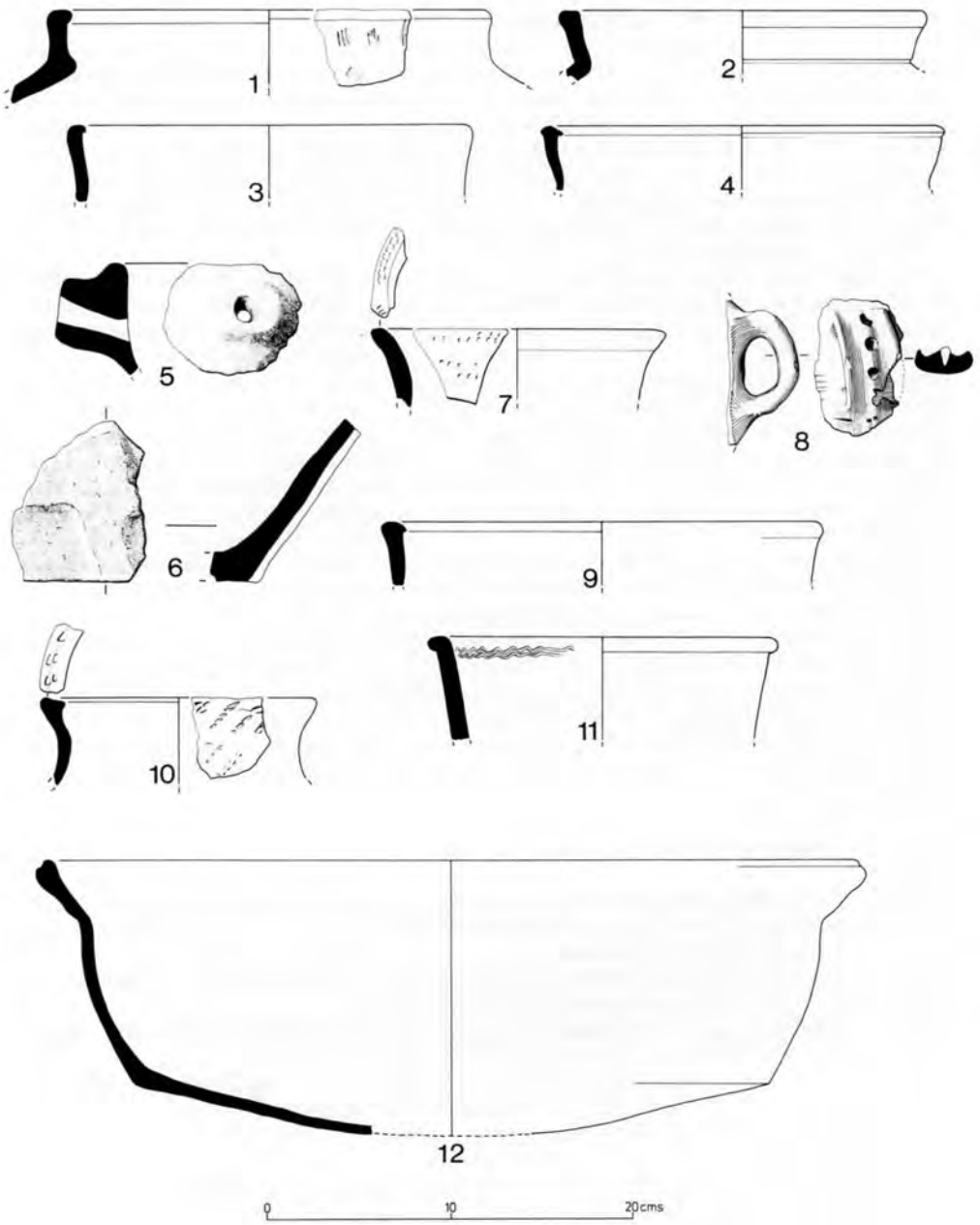


Fig. 22 Medieval Pottery, 1–12

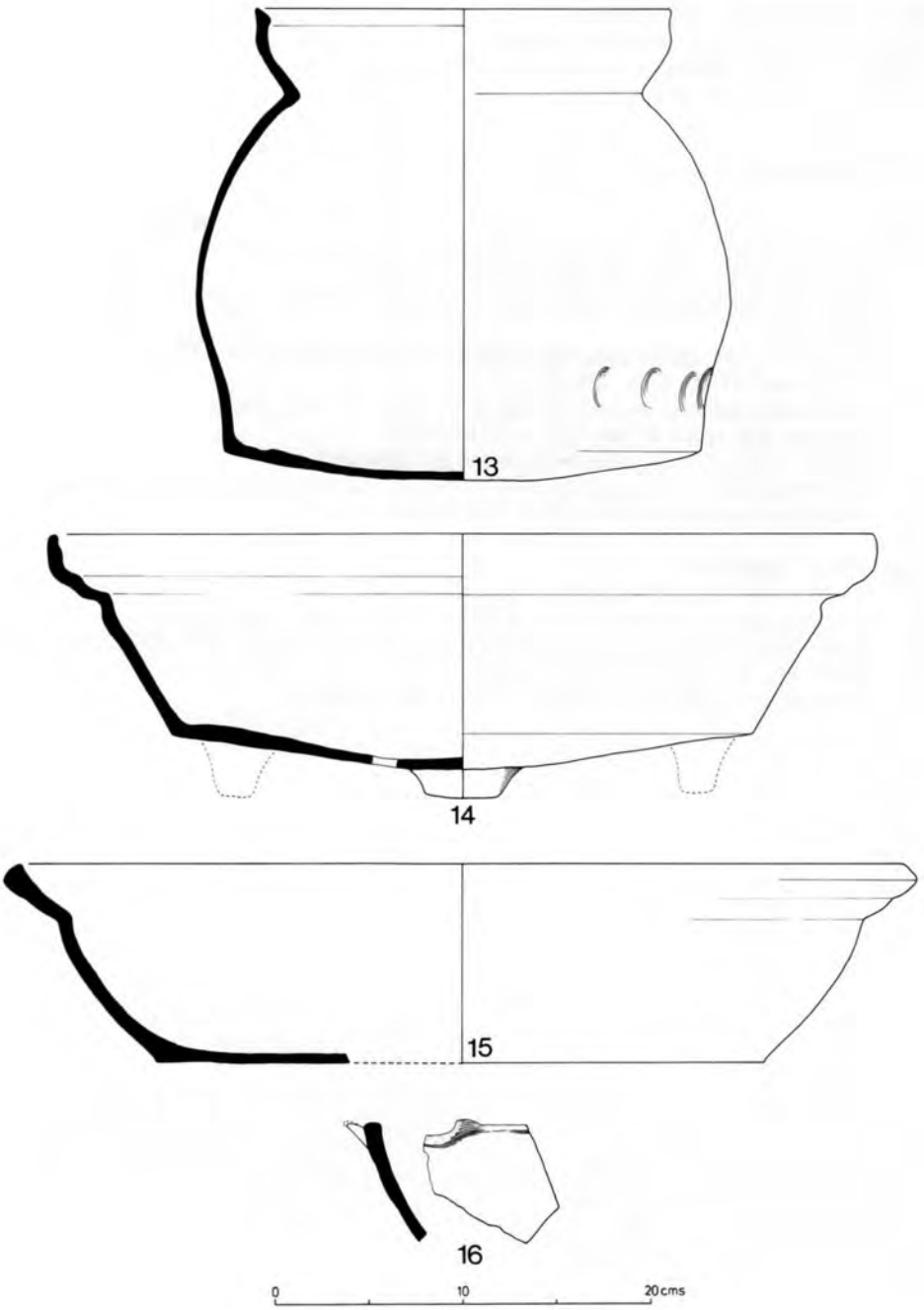


Fig. 23 Medieval Pottery, 13–16

PMF 14. Chinaware, 19th century.
PMF 15. Earthenware, 18th/19th century.
PMF 16. Transfer-printed and delftware, 19th century.
PMF 17. Westerwald, 18th century.

The Illustrated Sherds (Figs 22–23)

Castle Farm, Cutting A

1–4. Cooking pots, fabric B; pit F16, nos 1 & 2, A27; nos 3 & 4, A63, Period 5.
5. Spouted pitcher, fabric B; pit F16, A27, Period 5.
6. Base of storage jar, fabric B, lattice decoration in roughly applied strips, F13, A48, Period 5.
7. Jug, fabric G25, green glaze externally and over internal rouletting (cf. Pearson 1982, Fig. 99, no. 1179); F13, A69, Period 5.
8. Jug handle, stabbed decoration, fabric B; ditch F12 A57, Period 6.
9. Cooking pot, fabric B; pit F16, A27, Period 5.
10. Pitcher, fabric B, rouletted decoration; A1, Period 8.
11. Jar, fabric G13, patchy green glaze externally and internally over stabbed rim and rough chevron pattern below rim; A6, Period 7.

Castle Farm, Cutting H

12. Bowl, fabric D; Pit F532, H571, Period 5.
13. Cooking pot or container, fabric B/BB; pit F532, H571, Period 5.
14. Bowl, fabric B, lid seating, tripod feet and pierced base; pit F532, H571, Period 5.
15. Bowl, fabric E; Pit F532, H571, Period 5.
16. Spouted bowl, fabric D; posthole F527, H566, Period 5.

APPENDIX

INDEX OF STRATIGRAPHY

ILCHESTER CASTLE FARM 1985; CUTTINGS A-D: PHASING

Period 1: C1st AD fort, bank & ditch
F28,F38,404,409,430,431,433,434,435,
C1st structures
F32,F34,F35,F36,F37,94,401,418,419,427,428,429,432.

Period 2: C2nd/3rd AD town ditch
F31,86,96,97,98,405,406,412,413,414,415,424,425.

Period 3: C2nd-4th AD structures
F15,F17,F18,F19,F24,F29,F30,F41,F27. 14,15,41,43,74,81,82,84,89,
92,93,99,100,407,410,411,416,417,420,436.

Period 4: Late Roman town wall
F14,F22,F25,28,29,60,78,80,83,85,88,91,95,312,402,403,422,423,405.

Period 5: Medieval town wall
F13,F16,F21,27,46,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,58,59,61,62,63,66,67,
68,69,70,71,75,76,77,79,421,426,437,438.

Period 6: Medieval occupation
F6,F7,F8,F9,F10,F12,F26,F33,23,30,31,32,34,35,36,37,38,42,44,45,57,
72,408.
Late medieval robbing
F11,F104,F303,17,18,22,47,64,65,73,87,90,130,131,303,305,306,310,
311,316.

Period 7: C17th features
F4,F40,F106,F107,F108,F206,F207,F208,F209. 3,6,7,8,9,13,20,24,25,
26,33,40,221,222,223,224.

Period 8: C19th infilling & pitting
F2,F3,F5,F39,F302. 4,5,10,11,12,16,19,39,107,111,112, 115, 116,117,
118,119,120,121,122,123,124,125,128,129,207,209,211,212,213,214,215,
216,217,304,308,309,313,315.
Modern
F1,F101,F102,F103,F104,F105,F201,F202,F203,F204,F205,F301,F304.
1,2,101,102,103,104,105,106,108,109,110,113,114,127,201,202,203,204,
205,206,208,210,301,302,307,314.

ILCHESTER CASTLE FARM 1985; CUTTINGS E-H : PHASING (AS PER CUTTINGS A-D)

Period 1: C1st AD Military
F503,F511,F517,F521,508,516,530,532,535,536,537,538,541,542,545,
551,554,556,557

Period 3: C2nd-4th AD civil
F512,F514,F515,F516,F536,F545, 534,539,540,543,544,546,547,549,550,
575,576,578,580,581,582,583

Period 4-5: ?Post-Roman
506

Period 5: Medieval occupation
F504,F505,F506,F507,F508,F519,F526,F527,F528,F529,F530,F531,F532,
F533,F534,F535,F537,F538,F543, 509,510,525,526,527,528,553,563,
564,566,567,568,569,570,571,572,
573,574,577,579,584

Period 6: Late medieval town wall robbing
F523,F525,561,565

Period 7: Early post-medieval
F518,F544,504,519,520,522,552

Period 8: Later post-medieval/modern
F501,F502,F510,F513,F520,F522,F524,F541,F542,502,503,505,511,515,
517,518,521,531,555,558,560,562

PILLBRIDGE LANE 1985; CUTTINGS J & K: PHASING

Period 1 F53,92; 33

Period 2 F3, F14, F16, F20, F24, F39, F52, F56, (trenches), 11, 23, 28, 3
41, 58, 81

Period 3 F5, F10, F23, F28, F29, F35, F36, F43, F44, F50, F51, 7F55, F5
(pits), 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 30, 39,43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 50, 5
59, 61, 62, 63, 66, 67, 68, 69, 73, 77, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 106,
111, 113

Period 4 F15, F47, (ditches) 26, 76, 78, 101, 102, 103, 104, 107, 108,
F4, F8, F42, (foundations) 12, 17, 35, 37, 38, 64, 65, 75, 79, 80

Period 5 F11, F13, F17, F18, F25, F27, F33, F34, F37, F38, F48, F5
(miscellaneous, pits, ditches, p-hs, etc) 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 20,
22, 24, 29, 31, 32, 33, 42, 46, 53, 54, 55, 56, 70, 87, 110, 112,
114, 115, 116

Period 6 (medieval) F12, F39, F40, F45, 21, 58, 60, 71, 72, 96, 97, 98, 99
100, 105

(Post-medieval) 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 18, 49, 51, 52, 95, F1, F9, F31, F32

Cutting K F41, F46, F49, 74, 82, 83, 84, 88, 89, 109

Table 2 : Ilchester 1985, Occurrence of Prehistoric Pottery

Castle Farm : Cuttings A, E, F & G

Context	Find No.	Site Period	Fabric A	B	C	D	E	F	G
A 409	1028	(1)						3	
E 544	0901	(3)		1					
E 546	0923	(3)		5 plain, 1 grooved dec, 2 base, 2 plain rims, joining					
F 513	0211	(mixed)		1 out-turned rim					
F 530	0260	(1)		1					
F 536	0295	(1)		1					
F 548	0908	(mixed		1					
F 557	0935	(1)		2+1 rim					
F 558	0981	(8)		1					
G 528	0252	(5)		1			3		
		Totals		20			3	3	26

Castle Farm, Cutting H

Context	Find No.	Site Period	Fabric A	B	C	D	E	F	G
504	0945	(7)							2 dec
506	1128			1					Fig.18,1
508	0222	(1)						1?EBA	
520	0228	(7)		2+1 bowl rim				(grog&shell)	
551	0927	(1)		16+5 rims Fig.18,2-4 and 6		1 rim		2	
554	1130	(1)		5	1				
555	0916	(8)		1					
561	0975	(6)	1						
571	0994	(5)		2					
574	0986	(5)		1		1 dec, ?Glastonbury			
576	1105	(3)		9+2 base (flaring)					
578	1101	(3)		11+2 rims, Fig.18,5 + 1 loom-weight frag. (I.A.)	5			2 joining	
579	1119	(5)		1+1 rim					
582	1114	(3)		1					
	Totals		1	60	6	2	5	2	76

Table 3 : Ilchester 1985, Occurrence of Prehistoric Pottery

Pill Bridge Lane : Cuttings J & K (None illustrated)

Context	Find No.	Site Period	Fabric A	B	C	D	E	F	
J 26	0760	(4)			2				
J 28	0745	(2)	1+1 base		2 rims			3 ?EBA	
J 29	1213	(5)	2						
J 33	0744	(1)	6		2		6+2rims joining	4 ?EBA	
J 63	0698	(3)	1						
J 75	1207	(4)	1						
J 87	1239	(5)						1 ?EBA	
K 88	0793	(5?)		1+1 rim (burnt)					
	Totals		12	2	6		8	8	36

A NOTE ON THE PETROLOGY OF SOME IRON AGE POTTERY FROM THE 1985 EXCAVATIONS AT ILCHESTER by David Williams

Introduction

A small number of Iron Age sherds from the 1985 excavtions in and around Ilchester were submitted for a detailed fabric examination in thin section under the petrological microscope. The main object of the analysis was to confirm the validity of a provisional identification of sherds in the hand-specimen and allocation to fabric groups. Ilchester is situated on alluvium deposits closeby to the Lower and Middle Lias (Lower Jurassic) (Geological survey 1" Map of England Sheet no. 312).

Petrology

On the basis of the range of non-plastic inclusions present in the Ilchester sample sherds, a number of fabric divisions are suggested here. The original fabric lettering of some of the samples has been retained.

(1) 'Glastonbury ware'

H(4) 0945 Fabric G. Two small curvilinear decorated sherds.

Frequent discrete subangular grains of quartz ranging up to 0.80mm in size, flecks of mica and a number of fragments of sandstone, all set in a darkish reddish-brown anisotripic clay matrix. A comparison with thin section slides quoted in Peacock's (1969) Group 2 (sandstone) Glastonbury ware division shows a virtually identical match in composition and texture of the inclusions. There seems little doubt that the Ilchester vessel can be placed in Peacock's (1969) Group 2 Glastonbury ware with a proposed origin in the Mendip Hills, some 15 miles to the north of Ilchester.

(2) Oolitic Fabric

T(19)

Heavily charged throughout with ooliths, and in many cases it is possible to see the concentric structure within the limestone body. This fabric undoubtedly derives from the Jurassic, possibly from the Oolite Series of the Middle Jurassic, deposits of which are situated some 6/7 miles to the east and southwest of Ilchester (Wilson et al, 1958).

(3) Calcite Fabric

T(3) 0021 Fabric H. Small bodysherd with faint ?lattice decoration.

The most prominent inclusions consist of large white crystals of calcite, often rhombular in shape with sharp angles displaying no signs of rounding. The large size, comparatively fresh condition and angularity of the calcite strongly suggests that it was deliberately crushed and added to the clay as a tempering agent. Calcite is not an uncommon mineral, and can be found in the local Lias deposits in the Ilchester region (Wilson et al, 1958). However, in view of the presence of 'Glastonbury ware' at the site, it may possibly be worth noting that one of Peacock's (1969) fabric groups for this pottery was also calcite tempered. A tentative origin in the Mendips was suggested, the same area as the 'Glastonbury ware' Ilchester vessel above.

(4) Shelly Limestone Fabric

T(3) 0021 Fabric B

T(3) 0020 Fabric B

T(3) 0021 Fabric B

Fragments of shell and shelly limestone are common throughout the fabric, together with some small pieces of calcite and a few grains of quartz. The shell involved is fossiliferous, since some recrystallization of calcite can be seen in a number of places. In the absence of any further information, a fairly local source seems likely, with the inclusions probably deriving from the Jurassic formations around Ilchester.

(5) Sandy Fabric

T(14) 0058) Ilchester Fabric C

T(3) 0021) Durotrigian? (B-B Fabric BB (18))
T(14) 0077)

All four sherds contain frequent grains of quartz, easily identifiable in the hand specimen. In the first two sherds the quartz grains are quite large, up to 1.80mm across, and also contain flecks of mica, quartzite and a little sandstone. In the other two sherds the quartz grains are of a smaller size-range and are accompanied by a few flecks of mica.

It has been suggested that these sherds represent 'Durotrigian' ware. In this writer's opinion the first two sherds are almost certainly not, at least not the Durotrigian fabric associated with the Wareham - Poole Harbour region of Dorset (Williams, 1977). The texture of the fabric and the surface finish of the two Ilchester sherds do not compare favourably with material from the former area. The remaining two Ilchester sherds are more problematical, especially T(3) 0021. However, both sherds are not large and so are unsuitable for heavy mineral separation, a technique which in the past has proved useful for characterizing the Durotrigian wares of the Wareham - Poole Harbour production centre (Williams, 1977). It is, therefore, difficult to decide if these two sherds are 'Durotrigian' or not.

Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 88/88

SAMIAN WARE FROM CASTLE FARM AND PILL BRIDGE LANE, ILCHESTER 1985

by Brenda Dickinson

CASTLE FARM

Context	Find no.	
A1	no no.	Scrap, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
A4	0110	i) Form 18/31, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic. ii) Form 35 and a scrap, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
A5	0119	Forms 31 and 36, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
A6	0114	Form 35 or 36, from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic.
A7	0160	Cup, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
A8	0142	i) Form 37 base, very worn, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine. ii) Forms 31 and 80, Central Gaulish. Mid- to late-Antonine.
A9	0138	Form 31, East Gaulish, probably from Rheinzabern. Late second- or early third-century.
A10	0178	i) Form 37 (2), South Gaulish. Flavian-Trajanic. ii) Three Central Gaulish scraps. Second-century. iii) Forms 36(?) and 37, Central Gaulish. Antonine. iv) Form 45, EG, Trier ware. Late second- or third-century.
A34	0463	i) Four fragments from a South Gaulish dish of form 42, with others in A43 (8), A84, A100 (2), A411, A416, A417 (3), A418 and J75. This particular version of the form has an upturned flange, decorated *en barbotine*, and a groove at its inner edge, as on form 36. Oswald & Pryce 1920, pl.LIV, 2 is generally similar, though the Ilchester piece has a clubbed footring. The dish, although almost unworn, has been riveted. Flavian or Flavian-Trajanic. ii) A colour-coated cup, apparently imitating form 33.
A42	0458	i) Dish, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine. ii) Form 38, with downcurving flange, EG, from Rheinzabern. Late second- or early third-century.
A43	0819	i) See A34. ii) Form 18/31, from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic.
A45	0512	Form 18/31 or 31, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.
A47	0510	Missing.
A48	0500	Missing.
A49	0507	Form 33, stamped QVINTI(M): Quintus V of Lezoux, where the die (5a) is known to have been used. The stamp is widespread on Hadrian's Wall and there are several examples from Pudding Pan Rock. It was used on some of the later Antonine forms, such as 31R, 79 and 79R. c.A.D.160-200.
A52	0524	Jar, South Gaulish. Flavian or Flavian-Trajanic.
A56	0535	Form 36, from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic.
A59	0549	Scrap, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.
A63	0558	Form 30, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.
A84	0875	See A34.
A90	0639	Form 29, South Gaulish. A fragment of the lower zone. A single medallion, containing a composite motif of leaves attached to a pillar, sits in the lower concavity of a scroll bound with beads. The trifid leaf, ten-petalled rosette and medallion are on bowls stamped by Labio; the leaf occurs at Fishbourne (Dannell 1971, no.6) and Cologne (Knorr 1952, Taf.32A). The other motifs are on a bowl from London (formerly in the Guildhall Museum), which perhaps also has the heart-shaped leaf. Many of Labio's scrolls have beaded bindings (*ibid.*, Taf.32). c.A.D.50-65.
A93	0849	Form 30 or 37 footring, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
A100	1001	i) See A34. ii) Scrap, South Gaulish. First-century. iii) Scrap, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.
A401	0865	Two Central Gaulish flakes, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
A403	0881	Form 31, Central Gaulish. Mid- to late-Antonine.
A404	1047	i) Dish, South Gaulish. First-century. ii) Form 18/31, South Gaulish. Flavian-Trajanic. iii) Form 38, burnt, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
A409	1028	Flake, heavily burnt, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.
A411	1072	i) Joins A416 and see A34. ii) Form 37, South Gaulish. Flavian-Trajanic. iii) Flake, slightly burnt, South Gaulish. First-century.
A414	1073	Form 33, stamped ADVOCISIOF: Advocisus of Lezoux, Die 1b. This stamp was used on forms 79 and 80, neither of which was made before A.D.160 or so, and his record in general suggests that he did not start work before then. c.A.D.160-190.
A416	1056	See A34.
A417	1068	See A34.
A418	1041	i) Form 29 rim, South Gaulish. Neronian or early-Flavian. ii) Two joining sherds of form 33, South Gaulish. Flavian. iii) See A34. iv) Form 37, South Gaulish. Flavian-Trajanic. v) Scrap, from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic. vi) Form 27, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
A430	1025	Form 18 or 18/31, South Gaulish. Flavian or Flavian-Trajanic.
A434	1052	Form 35 flange, South Gaulish. Flavian or Flavian-Trajanic.
E12	0267	Form 36, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.
E39	0285	Form 15/17, South Gaulish. Flavian.
E40	0277	Form 31, Central Gaulish. Mid- to late-Antonine.
E44	0901	Form 27(?), Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
E46	0922	i) Form 18/31(?), Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine. ii) Form 31 and a scrap, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
F30	0259	i) Form 24, with rivet-hole, South Gaulish. Neronian. ii) Form 29 rim, South Gaulish. c.A.D.70-85.

F34 0368 Form 29, South Gaulish. The upper zone shows two rows of partly-impressed leaves, stamped horizontally. For a generally similar type of leaf, see Knorr 1919, Taf.12, 4 and Textbild 9. Similar leaf-tips are arranged vertically on a bowl from Cologne, stamped by Macer of La Graufesenque (*ibid.*, Taf.48i, c.A.D.55-70.

F41 0282 Form 18, South Gaulish. Flavian.

G28 0245 Scrap, burnt, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.

H4 0945 Form 45, Central Gaulish. Antonine.

H8 0222 Terra nigra.

H20 0228 Footring, in Lezoux or Rheinzabern fabric. Antonine or early third-century.

H53 0939 Form 27, South Gaulish. Flavian or Flavian-Trajanic.

H61 0978 Form 18, South Gaulish. Neronian or early-Flavian.

H65 0990 Scrap, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.

PILL BRIDGE LANE

J1 0350/ i) Form 29 rim, South Gaulish. Pre-Flavian.
0309 ii) Scrap, Central Gaulish. Late-Antonine.

J2 0311 i) Cup, heavily burnt. Probably South Gaulish and first-century.
ii) Scrap, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
iii) Flange, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.

J2 0335 i) Form 29 South Gaulish. The upper zone has a panel with two rows of leaf-tips impressed horizontally, with wavy line between. This arrangement, with a variety of motifs, occurs mainly in the Neronian period. Cf a bowl from the Cirencester Fort Ditch hoard of c.A.D.55-65 (Hartley & Dickinson 1982, fig.45, 43). The adjacent panel contains a motif of concentric striated and plain medallions, with a rosette in the middle. c.A.D.50-65.
ii) Scrap, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
iii) Dish, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.

J2 0342 i) Form 33, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
ii) Orange colour-coated ware.

J3 0316 i) Forms 18/31 or 31 and Curle 11, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
ii) A burnt sherd from the decorated bowl in J30.

J9 0322 i) Form 31, Central Gaulish. A bowl by a member of the Sacer i-Attianus ii group, though not attributable to any particular potter. The ovolo (Rogers B231) is on a stamped bowl of Sacer from Leicester (unpublished). The leafy festoon (Rogers F8) is on a stamped bowl of Attianus from London (S.& S.1958, pl.85, 9) and a signed mould of Drusus ii from Lezoux (unpublished). The crouching panther in the festoon (O.1566) is on one of Drusus's signed bowls, from Lancaster (May 1907, pl.2, 116). c.A.D.125-145.
ii) Orange colour-coated ware.

J13 0630 i) Form 33, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
ii) Form 37, in the style of Do(v)eccus i of Lezoux, with his ovolo 2 (S.& S.1958, fig.44, 2). The surviving panel contains a double medallion and a beaded ring in one of the top corners (Rogers E58). c.A.D.165-200.
iii) Form 45 collar, Central Gaulish. c.A.D.170-200.

J24 0366 Form 18/31 and a cup, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic.

J26 0730 Scrap, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.

J28 0747 Form 27, South Gaulish. Neronian or early-Flavian.

J30 0645 i) With other sherds in J3 and J31. Form 37, Central Gaulish. The trident-tongued ovolo (Rogers B17), here very blurred, was used at Lezoux by Servus ii (Rogers's Servus III); cf. S.& S.1958, pl.138, 1. The bestiarius is a larger version of O.1075A, with added drapery. The small leaf, perhaps Rogers J168, is probably the companion to Rogers H167, used by Casurius ii, with whom, though somewhat earlier, this Servus has stylistic connections. Early- to mid-Antonine.
ii) Modern?

J31 0649 i) Form 33, unstamped, South Gaulish. Flavian or Flavian-Trajanic.
ii) Form 27(?) and a scrap, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
iii) Two scraps, one burnt, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.
iii) See J30.

J32 0799 Form 35 flange, South Gaulish. Flavian-Trajanic.

J44 0839 i) Form 27, South Gaulish. Flavian.
ii) Form 67, South Gaulish, with a basal chevron wreath. Flavian or Flavian-Trajanic.

J45 0670 Bead-lip, from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic.

J46 0392 Scrap, South Gaulish. Neronian or early-Flavian.

J47 0394 i) Form 27, South Gaulish. Neronian or early-Flavian.
ii) Form 18, South Gaulish. Flavian.
iii) Form 30 or 37 base(?), from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic.

J48 0297 Rouletted dish, South Gaulish. Flavian.

J49 0606 i) Scrap, South Gaulish. Probably pre-Flavian.
ii) Form 18(?), South Gaulish. Flavian.

J55 0626 Form 30 or 37 rim and a flake, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.

J57 0624 i) Form 18, South Gaulish. Flavian.
ii) Form 37, South Gaulish. The ovolo, with large rosette displaced to the right of the tongue, was used at La Graufesenque by both Frontinus and Paullus iii, but the style is closer to that of Frontinus. The ovolo and medallion are on a stamped bowl from Silchester (May 1916, pl.XXV, 33). The boar, which is not illustrated by Oswald, is on a stamped bowl from Rochester (unpublished). The dog (Hermet 1934, pl.26, 18) and trifid motif (*ibid.* pl.14, 46) are on a bowl from Vroxeter with both mould-stamp and cursive signature (Atkinson 1942, pl.68, 36A). The Nile geese are Hermet, pl.28, 68. c.A.D.75-95.

J58 0651 Form 37, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.

J60 0705 Flake, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.

J61 0713 Form 18, South Gaulish. Neronian or early-Flavian.

J62 0716 Dish, South Gaulish. First-century.

J63 0697 Form 18, South Gaulish. Flavian.

J67 0719 i) Forms 18 and Ritterling 8, South Gaulish. Neronian.
ii) Form 30 or 37 rim, South Gaulish. Neronian or early-Flavian.
iii) Dish, South Gaulish. First-century.

J75 1206 See A34.

J76 0779 Form 29, South Gaulish. The type of scroll in the upper zone, with bud-cluster in the upper concavity, is a common one and cannot be assigned to a particular potter. Neronian or early-Flavian.

J78 0782 i) Forms 27 (3 sherds) and 29, South Gaulish. Neronian or early-Flavian.
ii) Form 29, South Gaulish. The lower zone has a straight wreath over another zone. The trifid motif in the leaf (Knorr 1919, Taf.82, 10) is on a bowl from Nijmegen stamped by Vitalis II (*ibid.*, B). c.A.D.70-85.
iii) Form 37, South Gaulish. Flavian.

J80 0778 Form 27, from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic.

J (U) U/S 0634 Form 18/31, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic. N.B. Listed as K U/S.

K83 0794 Form 30 or 37, Central Gaulish, with a beaded ring (Rogers C8) used at Lezoux by the Quintillianus I group. c.A.D.125-150.

K88 0801 Cup or bowl, from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic.

T3 0200 Flake, from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic.

T10 1323 Form 31, burnt, Central Gaulish. Mid- to late-Antonine.

SUMMARY

The quantity of samian recovered from this excavation is too small for reliable statistical analysis but, for what it is worth, similar fluctuations in supply or use are reflected at many Romano-British sites with no apparent break in occupation over a long period of time.

The main sources of supply are La Graufesenque in the first and early second centuries A.D. and Lezoux in the Hadrianic and Antonine periods. There is a little Trajanic material from Les Martres-de-Veyre and a few late second- or third-century pieces come from the East Gaulish factories of Rheinzabern and Trier.

The earliest material to reach the site, probably in the late 50s or early 60s, includes two cups, of forms 24 and Ritterling 8, and three Neronian decorated bowls. By the Flavian period the quantities of discarded samian had doubled, but dropped again in the later first century. It is only in the Antonine period that significant quantities of samian are again in evidence and the supply reached a peak at this time. The only closely-dated Antonine pieces are after c.A.D.160; these include the two stamped cups, a gritted samian mortarium and a decorated bowl in the style of Do(Vieccus I.

A vessel from Trier suggests that samian may still have been in use on or near the site in the third century, and the Rheinzabern ware could also belong to this period.

Table 4 : Incidence of Roman Pottery from phased contexts by sherds and (weight) gms.

Castle Farm : Cuttings A-D

	Pottery Fabrics	Period 1	Periods 2/3	Period 4	Post-Roman	TOTALS	% sherds	% weight
Group 1	33 (A)	2 (57)	4 (355)	1 (8)	3 (356)	9 (768)	1.1	(8)
	30 (S)	15 (73)	23 (188)	- -	37 (266)	76 (525)	9.2	(6)
	31 (TN)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
	13 (CCvi)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
	12 (CCiii)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
Group 2	16 (RG)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
	15/19 (GM)	1 (13)	2 (64)	- -	- -	3 (77)	0.3	0.1
	11 (CCii)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
	41/42 (CCiv)	- -	- -	- (4)	1 (10)	2 (14)	0.1	(0.2)
	17 (CCv)	- -	- -	- -	1 (11)	1 (11)	0.1	(0.1)
Group 3	23 (CBi)	- -	18 (295)	- -	- -	18 (295)	2.2	(3.4)
	24/35-8 (CBii)	2 (30)	- -	- -	1 (6)	3 (36)	0.3	(0.4)
	25/32 (C)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
Group 4	1 (CCViii)	- -	2 (19)	2 (16)	33 (286)	37 (321)	4.5	(3.7)
	3 (Mii)	- -	- -	4 (143)	6 (66)	10 (209)	1.2	(2.4)
Group 5	5 (CCix)	- -	- -	- -	1 (27)	1 (27)	0.1	(0.1)
	6 (CCx)	- -	- -	- -	3 (24)	3 (24)	0.3	(0.2)
	7 (Pii)	7 -	- -	- -	1 (31)	1 (31)	0.1	(0.3)
Group 6	18 (BB)	117 (1097)	205 (1869)	6 (47)	304 (2918)	632 (5931)	76.5	(68)
Group 7	26 (Gi)	1 (15)	- -	- -	8 (95)	9 (110)	1.1	(1)
	27 (Gi)	2 (10)	5 (36)	- -	4 (24)	11 (70)	1.3	(1)
	9 (Giii)	1 (8)	- -	- -	- -	1 (8)	0.1	(0.1)
	28 (CW)	1 (17)	2 (83)	- -	6 (154)	9 (254)	1.1	(3)
Totals		142	261	14	409	826	100	(100)
gms		(1320)	(2909)	(218)	(4264)	(8711)		

Table 5 : Incidence of Roman Pottery from phased contexts by sherds and (weight) gms.

Castle Farm : Cuttings E-H

	Pottery Fabrics	Period 1	Periods 2/3	Post-Roman	TOTALS	% sherds	% weight
Group 1	33 (A)	- -	3 (322)	1 (107)	4 (429)	0.6	(5.3)
	30 (S)	5 (19)	7 (32)	7 (52)	19 (103)	2.8	(1.7)
	31 (TN)	1 (7)	- -	- -	1 (7)	0.1	(0.1)
	13 (CCvi)	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
	12 (CCiii)	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
Group 2	16 (RG)	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
	15/19 (GM)	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
	11 (CCii)	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
	41/42 (CCiv)	1 (4)	2 (7)	- -	3 (11)	0.4	(0.1)
	17 (CCv)	- -	- -	1 (4)	1 (4)	0.1	(0.1)
Group 3	23 (CBi)	- -	- -	1 (10)	1 (10)	0.1	(0.1)
	24/35-B (CBii)	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
	25/32 (C)	- -	3 (31)	- -	3 (31)	0.4	(0.5)
Group 4	1 (CCViii)	- -	- -	- -	16 (128)	2.4	(2.1)
	3 (Mii)	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
Group 5	5 (CCix)	- -	- -	2 (19)	2 (19)	0.2	(0.3)
	6 (CCx)	- -	- -	1 (4)	1 (4)	0.1	(0.1)
	7 (Pii)	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
Group 6	18 (BB)	245 (2255)	92 (752)	220 (1736)	557 (4743)	83.5	(76.8)
Group 7	26 (Gi)	4 (53)	3 (22)	13 (136)	20 (211)	2.9	(3.4)
	27 (Gii)	1 (30)	- -	2 (29)	3 (59)	0.4	(1.0)
	9 (Giii)	13 (318)	2 (35)	8 (54)	23 (407)	3.4	(6.6)
	28 (CW)	- -	- -	3 (106)	3 (106)	0.4	(1.7)
Totals		270	112	259	667	100	(100)
gms		(2686)	(1201)	(2257)	(6172)		

Table 6 : Incidence of Roman Pottery from phased contexts by sherds and (weight) gms.

Pill Bridge Lane : Cuttings J-N

	Pottery Fabrics	Period 2/3	Periods 4/5	Post-Roman	TOTALS	% sherds	% weight
Group 1	33 (A)	8 (1769)	9 (246)	1 (37)	18 (2025)	1.1	(11.1)
	30 (S)	23 (172)	24 (103)	20 (91)	67 (366)	4.0	(2.0)
	31 (TN)	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
	13 (CCvi)	- -	1 (3)	1 (4)	2 (7)	0.1	(0.1)
	12 (CCiii)	1 (4)	- -	1 (24)	2 (28)	0.1	(0.2)
Group 2	16 (RG)	1 (4)	- -	- -	1 (4)	0.1	(0.1)
	15/19 (GM)	- -	1 (7)	- -	1 (7)	0.1	(0.1)
	11 (CCii)	- -	- -	1 (1)	1 (1)	0.1	(0.1)
	41/42 (CCiv)	2 (4)	- -	- -	2 (4)	0.1	(0.1)
	17 (CCv)	3 (66)	4 (46)	6 (28)	13 (140)	0.8	(0.8)
Group 3	23 (CBi)	10 (237)	4 (63)	4 (34)	18 (334)	1.1	(1.8)
	24/35-8 (CBii)	2 (9)	4 (49)	- -	6 (58)	1.1	(0.4)
	25/32 (C)	4 (241)	1 (24)	- -	5 (265)	0.3	(0.4)
Group 4	1 (CCViii)	- -	10 (48)	25 (152)	35 (200)	2.1	(1.1)
	3 (Mii)	- -	- -	2 (46)	2 (46)	0.1	(0.3)
Group 5	5 (CCix)	1 (4)	1 (7)	3 (37)	5 (48)	0.3	(0.3)
	6 (CCx)	1 (21)	4 (61)	3 (19)	8 (91)	0.5	(0.5)
	7 (Pii)	- -	1 (24)	- -	1 (24)	0.1	(0.2)
Group 6	18 (BB)	562 (5822)	476 (4640)	339 (2481)	1377 (13003)	83.0	(71.6)
Group 7	26 (Gi)	5 (49)	14 (134)	23 (189)	42 (372)	2.5	(2.0)
	27 (Gii)	10 (74)	6 (65)	3 (15)	19 (154)	1.1	(0.8)
	9 (Giii)	17 (394)	7 (158)	1 (23)	25 (575)	1.5	(3.2)
	28 (CW)	1 (15)	3 (93)	4 (305)	8 (413)	1.5	(2.3)
Totals		651	570	437	1658	100	(100)
gms		(8885)	(5711)	(3486)	(18165)		

Table 7 : Castle Farm, Cuttings A-D. Occurrence of medieval pottery by number of sherds and weight (in grams)

Type fabric or fabric group (Pearson 1982)

	A4 & A5B Late Saxon	B C11-13th	B/BB C12-13th	D & E C12-13th	G24/25 C12-13th	Group 19 C12-13th	Group 20 C13th	D1 C13th	G1 C13th	Donyatt C14th-16th	Total
Period 5											
F16	4/20	108/1760	5/100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	117/1880
F13	2/25	107/1420	11/85	32/690	7/205	-	3/15	-	-	-	162/2440
Period 6											
F12	2/15	141/1470	23/285	52/650	5/50	4/50	8/120	-	1/10	-	236/2650
F6,F9,F26	1/5	29/240	1/10	5/30	3/25	2/100	1/15	-	-	-	42/425
F11	-	34/335	1/10	28/435	7/65	6/60	4/65	-	7/40	46/520	103/1530
Other layers	4/135	113/1025	42/325	37/445	34/555	8/110	13/95	1/150	4/25	10/155	266/3020
% of Periods 5 & 6 by weight	2	52	7	19	7	3	2	1	1	6	100
Period 7 & 8 All contexts	15/185	328/2750	90/770	155/1085	77/565	19/110	59/640	-	61/665	61/1065	865/7835
Total	28/385	860/9000	173/1585	309/3335	133/1465	39/430	88/950	1/150	73/740	117/1740	1821/19780
Total estimated											

Table 8 : Castle Farm, Cuttings E-H. Occurrence of medieval pottery by numbers of sherds and weight (in grams)

	A4 & A5B Late Saxon	B C11-13th	B/BB C12-13th	D & E C12-13th	G24/25 C12-13th	Group 19 C12-13th	Group 20 C13/C14th	G1 C13th	Donyatt C14-16th	Total
Period 5										
F538 (579)	1/10	18/195	4/15	10/85	-	1/5	-	-	-	34/310
F537 (577)	-	-	-	1/5	-	-	1/5	-	-	2/10
F527 (566)	-	12/150	-	5/25	-	-	-	-	-	17/175
F519 (553)	-	18/240	34/250	-	-	-	-	-	-	52/490
F532 (571)	-	47/630	112/2345	33/2090	2/15	-	-	-	-	194/5080
F504 (509)	4/15	64/445	9/60	13/365	14/190	7/100	36/395	-	10/80	157/1650
F533 (569 &572)	1/5	6/50	20/205	6/40	1/5	-	-	-	-	34/305
F531/535 (570&574)	-	1/10	-	1/15	1/5	-	-	-	-	3/30
F507 (528)	3/20	13/85	4/20	5/35	-	-	1/5	3/20	-	29/185
Total	9/50	179/1805	183/2895	90/2660	18/215	8/105	38/405	3/20	10/80	538/8235
Period 6 F525(565)	-	3/15	-	-	-	-	-	-	72/610	75/625
% of Periods 5 & 6 by weight	1	20	33	30	2	1	4	1	8	
Other contexts	3/60	44/440	14/105	27/270	3/70	11/240	43/435	1/5	20/220	166/1845
Total	12/110	226/2260	197/3000	101/2930	21/285	19/345	81/840	4/25	120/910	763/10705
estimated vessel equivalents (%)	7	40	213	73	-	25	65	-	32	455

Table 9 : Pill Bridge Lane, Cuttings J-N. Occurrence of medieval pottery by numbers and weights of sherds (in grams)

	B	B/BB	D & E	G24 & 25	Group 19	Group 20	G1	Donyatt	Total
J F15 (26)	-	-	1/10	-	-	-	-	-	1/10
F23 (30)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/15	1/15
F29 (48)	-	-	-	-	1/15	-	-	-	1/15
F38 (56)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/25	-	1/25
F12 (21)	-	-	5/25	-	-	-	-	-	5/25
F39 (58)	-	1/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/5
K F41 (74)	-	-	1/5	-	-	-	3/60	-	4/65
F49 (88)	-	-	1/5	-	-	-	3/20	-	4/25
Period 7									
All contexts	6/35	2/10	21/75	5/30	5/30	9/55	8/50	2/15	58/300
Total	6/35	3/15	29/120	5/30	6/45	9/55	15/155	3/30	76/485

Table 10 : Ilchester 1985. Occurrence of post-medieval pottery by number and weight of sherds (in grams)

	PMF2,7 Donyatt 16th century	PMF1,3,4,5 Donyatt 17th century	PMF12 German stone-ware	PMF6,9 Donyatt 18th century	PMF10 Wanstrow	PMF17 Wester - wald C18th	PMF8 Bristol/ Staffs C18th	PMF11 Wedgwood basalt ware	PMF13 English stone-ware's	PMF14,16 C19th pottery	Total
Cutting A layers 6, 8, 9.	3/15	125/1525	1/15	3/90	1/5	-	-	-	-	-	135/1650
Cutting A P4	31/405	54/650	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85/1055
Cutting D layers 220, 221	2/40	29/340	1/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32/385
Cuttings A-D Other contexts	11/225	52/855	-	20/435	1/10	1/10	-	1/5	6/345	31/650	123/2535
Cutting H layer 504	2/50	3/20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5/70
Cutting H other contexts	5/35	6/80	1/5	3/50	-	-	2/25	-	-	-	17/195
Cuttings J all contexts	13/30	49/260	-	12/250	-	-	4/35	-	8/45	17/70	103/690
Total	67/800	320/3730	3/25	38/825	2/15	1/10	6/60	1/5	14/390	48/720	500/6580

REFERENCES

Alcock, L., 1980. 'The Cadbury Castle Sequence in the First Millenium BC', *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies*, **28**, 656–718.

Allan, J.P., 1984. *Medieval and Post Medieval Finds from Exeter 1971–1980* (Exeter Archaeological Reports 3, Exeter).

Atkinson, D., 1942. *Report on Excavations at Wroxeter, 1923–1927* (Oxford).

Bidwell, P., 1977. 'Early Black Burnished Ware at Exeter', in J. Dore and K. Greene (eds), *Roman Pottery Studies in Britain and Beyond* (BAR Supplementary Series, Oxford), 189–98.

Bradley, R., 1976. 'Maumbury Rings, Dorchester: the Excavations of 1908–1913', *Archaeologia*, **105**, 1–97.

Brailsford, J.W., 1958. 'Early Iron Age 'C' in Wessex', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, **24**, 101–9.

Brailsford, J.W., 1962. *Antiquities from Hod Hill in the Durden Collection* (British Museum Publications).

Callendar, M.H., 1965. *Roman Amphorae*.

Coles, J.M., 1987. *Meare Village East* (Somerset Levels Papers 13).

Cox, J.S., 1950. 'Whitehall, Ilchester', *Ilchester Historical Monograph 6* (Ilchester).

Cox, J.S., 1982. 'The Roman Site at Ivel House Lawn, Ilchester: Excavations by J. Stevens Cox 1948–1950', *Ilchester and District Occasional Papers* (Guernsey), **32**, 57–76.

Cox, J.S., 1984. 'Whitehall Hospital, Nunnery, Free Chapel, 12th–18th Century, by Thomas Hugo', *Ilchester and District Occasional Papers* (Guernsey), **52**, 45–84.

Crummy, N., 1979. 'A Chronology of Bone Pins', *Britannia*, **10**, 157–64.

Crummy, N., 1983. *Colchester Archaeological Report 2: the Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971–9* (Colchester).

Dannell, G.B., 1971. 'The Samian Pottery', in B.W. Cunliffe, *Excavations at Fishbourne 1961–1969* (Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London 28), 260–318.

Darling, M.J., 1977. 'Pottery from Early Military Sites in Western Britain', in J. Dore and K. Greene (eds), op. cit., 57–100.

Edwards, R.E., 1988. *The Ilchester Pottery* (unpublished MA thesis, University of Birmingham).

Hartley, B.R., and Dickinson, B., 1982. 'The Samian', in J. Wacher and A. McWhirr, *Cirencester Excavations I: Early Roman Occupation at Cirencester* (Cirencester).

Hartley, K.F., 1977. 'Two Major Potteries Producing Mortaria in the First Century AD', in J. Dore and K. Greene (eds), op. cit., 5–17.

Hawkes, C.F.C., and Hull, M.R., 1947. *Camulodunum* (Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London 14, Oxford).

Hermet, F., 1934. *La Graufesenque (Condatomago)* (Paris).

Knorr, R., 1919. *Töpfer und Fabriken verzierter Terra-Sigillata des ersten Jahrhunderts* (Stuttgart).

Knorr, R., 1952. *Terra-Sigillata-Gefässe des ersten Jahrhunderts mit Töpfernamen* (Stuttgart).

Leach, P.J., 1982. *Ilchester Volume 1: Excavations 1974–5* (Western Archaeological Trust, Monograph 3, Bristol).

Leach, P.J., 1984. *The Archaeology of Taunton* (Western Archaeological Trust, Excavation Monograph 8, Bristol).

Leach, P.J., 1985. *Ilchester, Archaeological Excavations 1985: an Interim Report* (Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit).

Leach, P.J., 1987. *Ilchester, Great Yard 1987: an Archaeological Evaluation* (Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit).

Leach, P.J., 1987a. 'The Ilchester Hinterland: Archaeology, Alluviation and Ancient Landscapes', in N.D. Balaam, B. Levitan, and V. Straker (eds), *Studies in Palaeoeconomy and Environment in South West England* (BAR British Series 181, Oxford), 115–24.

Leach, P.J., 1992. *Ilchester Volume 2: Archaeology, Excavations and Fieldwork to 1984* (Sheffield Excavation Reports 2).

Manning, W.H., 1985. *Catalogue of the Romano-British Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum* (British Museum Publications).

May, T., 1907. 'The Ornamented Terra Sigillata (Samian) Pottery Found at Lancaster', *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, **24**.

Nan Kivell, R. de C., 1925. 'Objects Found During Excavations on the Romano-British Site at Cold Kitchen Hill, Brixton Deverill, 1924', *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*, **43**, 180–91.

Oswald, F., and Pryce, T.D., 1920. *An Introduction to the Study of Terra Sigillata.*

O. = Figure in F. Oswald, *Index of Figure-Types on Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware)* (Liverpool).

Peacock, D.P.S., 1969. 'A Contribution to the Study of Glastonbury Ware from South Western Britain', *Antiquaries Journal*, **49**, 41–61.

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

Pearson, T., 1982. 'The Post-Roman Pottery', in Leach 1982, 169–217.

Pearson, T., 1984. 'Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramics in Taunton', in Leach 1984, 142–4 and microfiche.

Rahtz, P., and Greenfield, E., 1978. *Excavations at Chew Valley Lake, Somerset* (Department of the Environment Archaeological Reports 8).

Rieckhoff, S., 1975. 'Münzen und Fibeln aus dem Vicus des Kastells Hüfingen', *Saalburg Jahrbuch*, **32**, 6–104.

Rogers = Motif in G.B. Rogers, 'Poteries Sigillées de la Gaule Centrale', *Gallia Suppl.* (1974), **28**.

St. George Gray, H., 1910. 'Notes on Archaeological Remains Found on Ham Hill, Somerset', *PSANHS*, **56**, 50–61.

Stukeley, W., 1724. *Itinerarium Curiosum.*

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

Swann, V.G., 1975. 'Oare Reconsidered and the Origins of Savernake Ware in Wilts', *Britannia*, **6**, 39–61.

VCH, 3, 1975. 'Ilchester', *Victoria County History of England: Somerset*, **3**, 179–201.

Webster, G., 1960. 'The Discovery of a Roman Fort at Waddon Hill, Stoke Abbot, 1959', *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeology Society*, **82**, 88–108.

Wheeler, R.E.M., 1943. *Maiden Castle, Dorset* (Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London 12, Oxford).

Williams, D.F., 1977. 'The Romano-British Black Burnished Industry: an Essay on Characterization by Heavy Mineral Analysis', in D.P.S. Peacock (ed.), *Pottery and Early Commerce*, 163–220.

Wilson, V., Welch, F.B.A., Robbie, J.A., and Green, G.W., 1958. *Geology of the Country around Bridport and Yeovil.*

Woodward, A.B., and Leach, P.J., forthcoming. *The Uley Shrines: Excavation of a Ritual Complex on West Hill, Uley, Gloucestershire, 1977–9* (HBMC Archaeological Reports Series 17).