

## LATER BRONZE AGE AND EARLY IRON AGE SETTLEMENT IN THE LOWER TEST VALLEY

Evidence from excavations and finds 1981–9

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### ABSTRACT

*Small excavations and watching briefs carried out in the lower Test Valley during the last two decades have produced some evidence of occupation of the later Bronze Age and early Iron Age periods. In the Nursling area, this consisted largely of isolated features, although a badly-truncated early Iron Age settlement was excavated at Nursling Gravel Quarry. In Romsey, evidence of the ancient course of the river Test, in the form of infilled stream channels, was recovered. This occupation produced small but varied finds assemblages, including pottery, metalwork and metalworking waste, querns, worked flint, animal bone and human bone. A larger sample of finds of the early Iron Age retrieved from a further stream channel at La Sagesse Convent, Romsey, is to be published separately. The purpose of this paper is to draw attention to the importance of this material, given the lack of large scale excavation in the area.*

### INTRODUCTION

In recent years, much attention has been given to the later prehistory of the northern part of the Test Valley. This has been partly due to extensive redevelopment of the town of Andover and the resulting information from rescue excavations (see eg Wainwright 1969; Davies 1981; Dacre & Ellison 1981; Bellamy 1992; Dacre & Gardiner in prep). Rescue considerations have played a lesser part in the research of the hillfort at Danebury and its environs (see eg Cunliffe 1984), and both projects have contributed significantly to general understanding of the archaeology of the Wessex chalklands.

That the Hampshire Basin deposits of the lower Test Valley are also relatively rich in prehistoric finds is perhaps less fully appreciated. Two factors may account for this. Firstly, part of the record comprises finds made during the nineteenth and

earlier parts of the twentieth centuries (information from the District Sites and Monuments Record, not usually published in any other form). Secondly, more recent excavations have been carried out on a very small scale. It is the aim of the present writer to discuss the evidence for settlement during the later Bronze Age to early Iron Age period recorded during some of these excavations. The fact that sites of this date range are relatively common may be fortuitous, rather than representative of a particular settlement pattern, as the sample is small.

The sites under consideration were in the two modern parishes of Nursling and Romsey (Fig 1). In Nursling, the circumstances of recovery were less than ideal. The material was of necessity rapidly and sketchily recorded in advance of gravel quarrying. More controlled conditions prevailed in Romsey, where evidence of prehistoric activity was confined to the earliest contexts on urban sites, or was manifested by residual pottery. The stratigraphy in Romsey is shallower than that recorded for many urban sites due to extensive truncation in relatively recent times. It is, however, deeper than that encountered on rural sites in the area.

Excavation and recording was carried out by the Test Valley Archaeological Trust, often with substantial help from the Lower Test Valley Archaeological Study Group. The Nursling gravel quarry excavation was largely the work of the latter organisation. Machinery was supplied free of charge by the developer of the site at Church Lane, Nursling. With the exception of the Newton Lane site in Romsey and the Adanac site in Nursling, which were fully developer funded, resources for post excavation analysis and publication were provided by English Heritage.

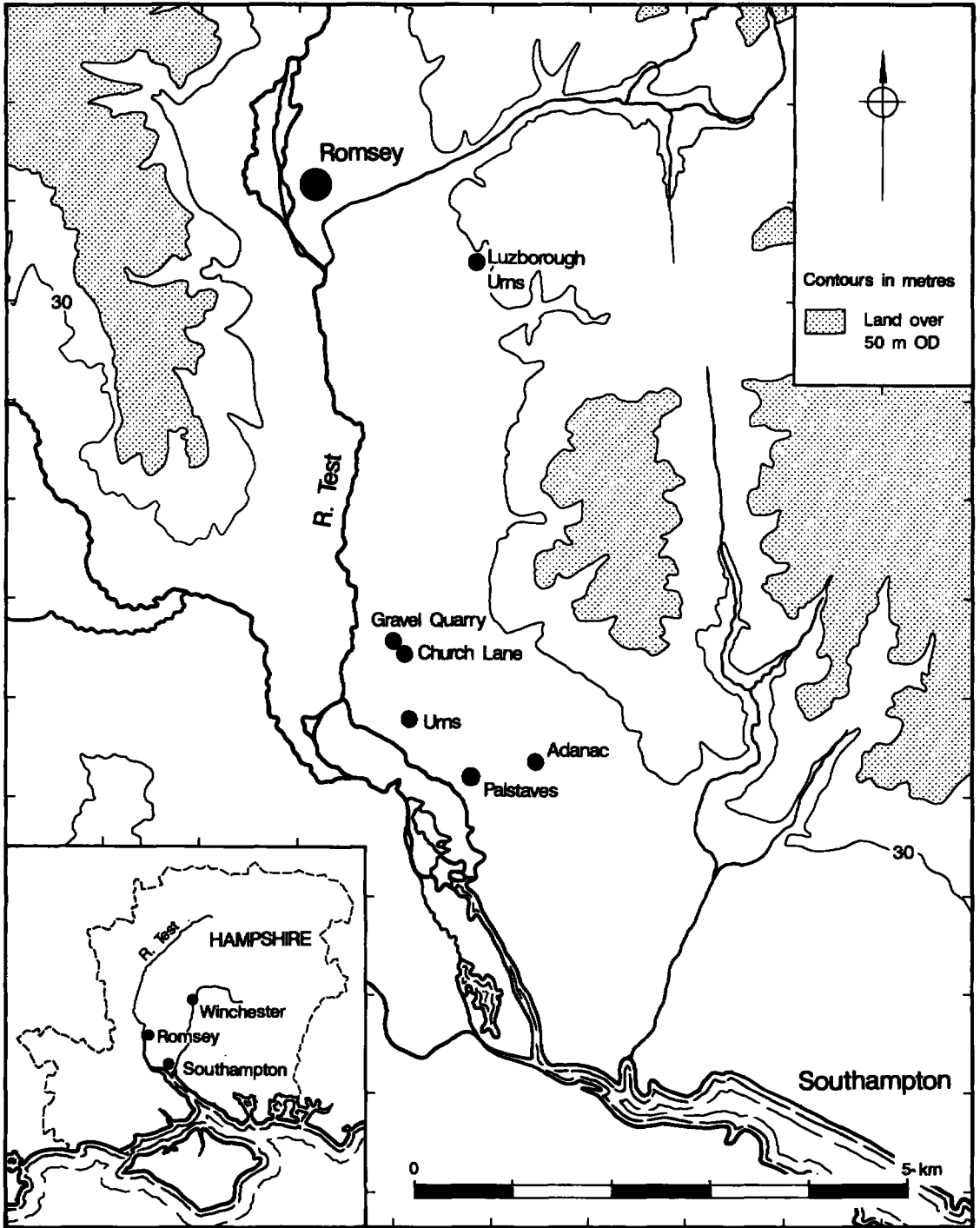


Fig 1. Lower Test Valley: Topography showing site locations.

Some classes of data were too small to warrant full publication, as specialist analysis could add nothing further to the fact of their presence. The reader is therefore referred to the archive for details absent from this report. This is deposited with the Hampshire County Museum Service. Detailed research on finds of the later Bronze Age and early Iron Age in the lower Test Valley made prior to 1970 was beyond the scope of the project.

Frequent reference is made in this report to the site at La Sagesse Convent, Romsey, which produced a large enough sample of finds to warrant separate publication (Green *et al*, forthcoming). There, excavation revealed a well preserved stream channel deposit containing a high density of early Iron Age pottery and animal bone, together with human remains and some fired clay artefacts.

## SITE LOCATION AND SETTING

The River Test in draining the chalklands of Wessex passes through an area characterised by alluvium, river gravels with some brickearth and London clay, and sandy uplands before reaching Southampton Water (Fig 2). All of the sites under discussion were located on the valley gravels and below the 30 m contour line (Figs 1 & 2). The ancient course of the river may have been quite different in detail from that of today, especially in Romsey, where it has been extensively canalised in relatively recent times. Similarly, the overall height of the water table may have changed. Some evidence for this has been recovered from sites in Church Street (Newman, in prep), where the shallowness of the medieval wells suggests that the water table was once higher than at present.

The name of Romsey may provide a clue to its topography in recent antiquity since it implies that early historic settlement took place in an area of slightly higher ground set amidst a low-lying marshy landscape. There is certainly a concentration of early historic sites to the west of The Hundred, in an area roughly defined to the north by Romsey Abbey and to the south by Newton Lane (Scott, forthcoming). It is likely that

this 'island' of land favourable to settlement existed in some form during the prehistoric period. Indeed, the abandoned river channels recovered at Bell Street and Newton Lane (see below), and at the early Iron Age La Sagesse site may have defined its eastern and western boundaries (Fig 2).

The modern soils in the Nursling area are largely deep, well-drained brickearths, or loamy, permeable soils, both suitable for growing cereals and horticultural crops. Others are less permeable or waterlogged and better-adapted for dairying, permanent grassland and rough grazing (see Soil Survey of Great Britain, sheet 6, The Soils of South East England; Romsey not surveyed). There is some evidence that the woodland cover in the lower Test Valley was not as extensive as might be expected during the late Mesolithic period (F J Green, pers comm), although the implications for the environment of the later sites under discussion are not known.

It may be concluded that, potentially, the Bronze Age and early Iron Age inhabitants of the lower Test Valley enjoyed the benefits of a varied landscape, with easy access to riverine resources and to the coast and the possibility of both arable and pastoral farming. It may have been necessary to locate permanent settlements with care to avoid seasonal flooding.

## THE SITES (Figs 1 & 2)

*Nursling Gravel Quarry* (Figs 1, 2C, 3 & 4) (accession code A:1984.24)

This site was apparently very badly truncated, as none of the features was deeper than c 0.8 m and most were around 0.5–0.6 m deep. One of the ditches was recorded as appearing merely as a stain that was removable by light trowelling, and the finds were generally in poor and badly abraded condition.

The two concentric rings of postholes 902, 903, 953, 955, 960, 961, 1000 and 1001 have been interpreted as forming the elements of a roundhouse. It is also possible that postholes 1007, 1009 and 2021 were associated, and that

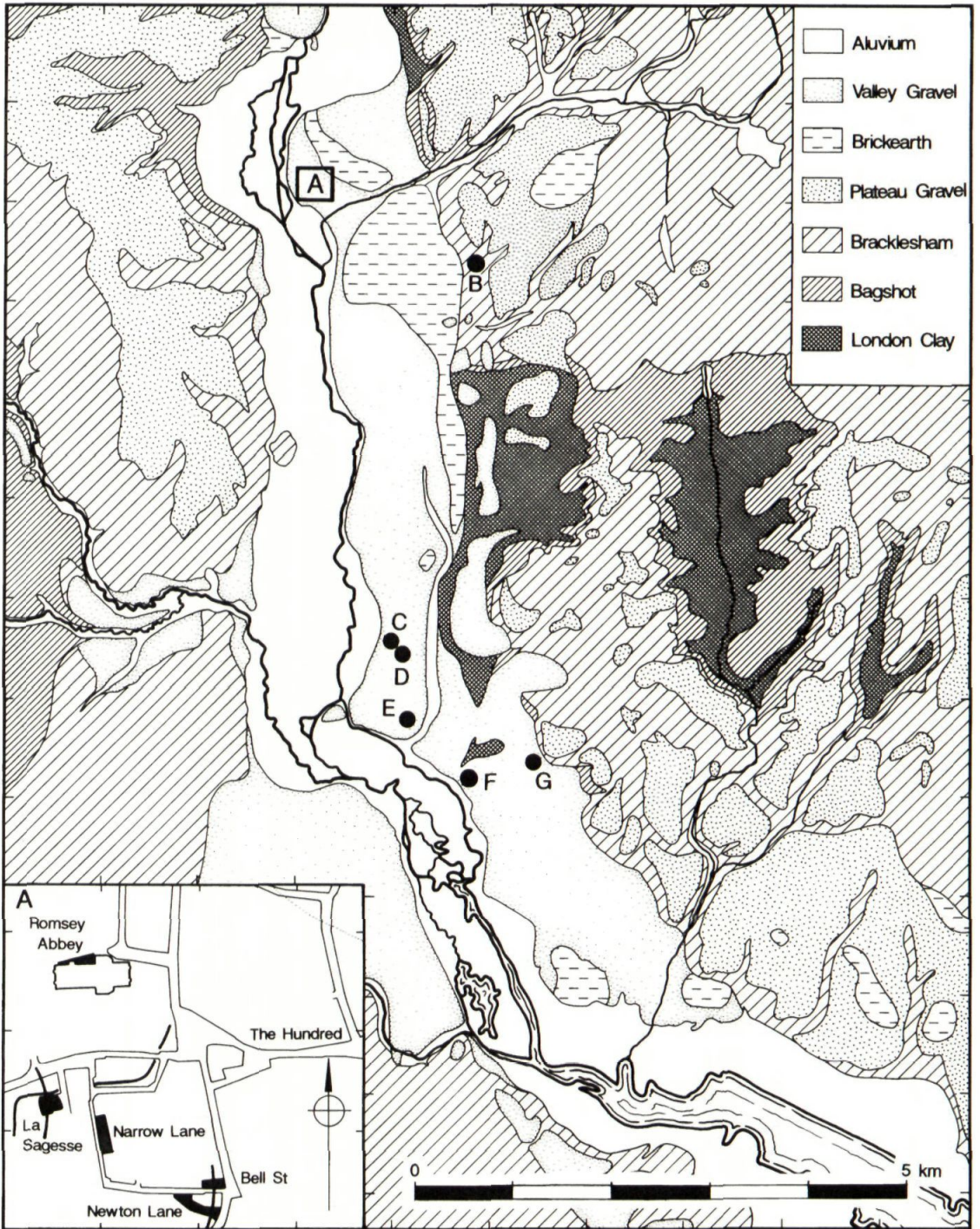


Fig 2. Lower Test Valley: Drift geology showing site locations. (Insert: showing Romsey stream channels). A Romsey; B Luzborough (urns recorded in SMR); C Nursling Gravel Quarry; D Church Lane; E Nursling (urns recorded in SMR); F Nursling palstave find; G Adanac Park.

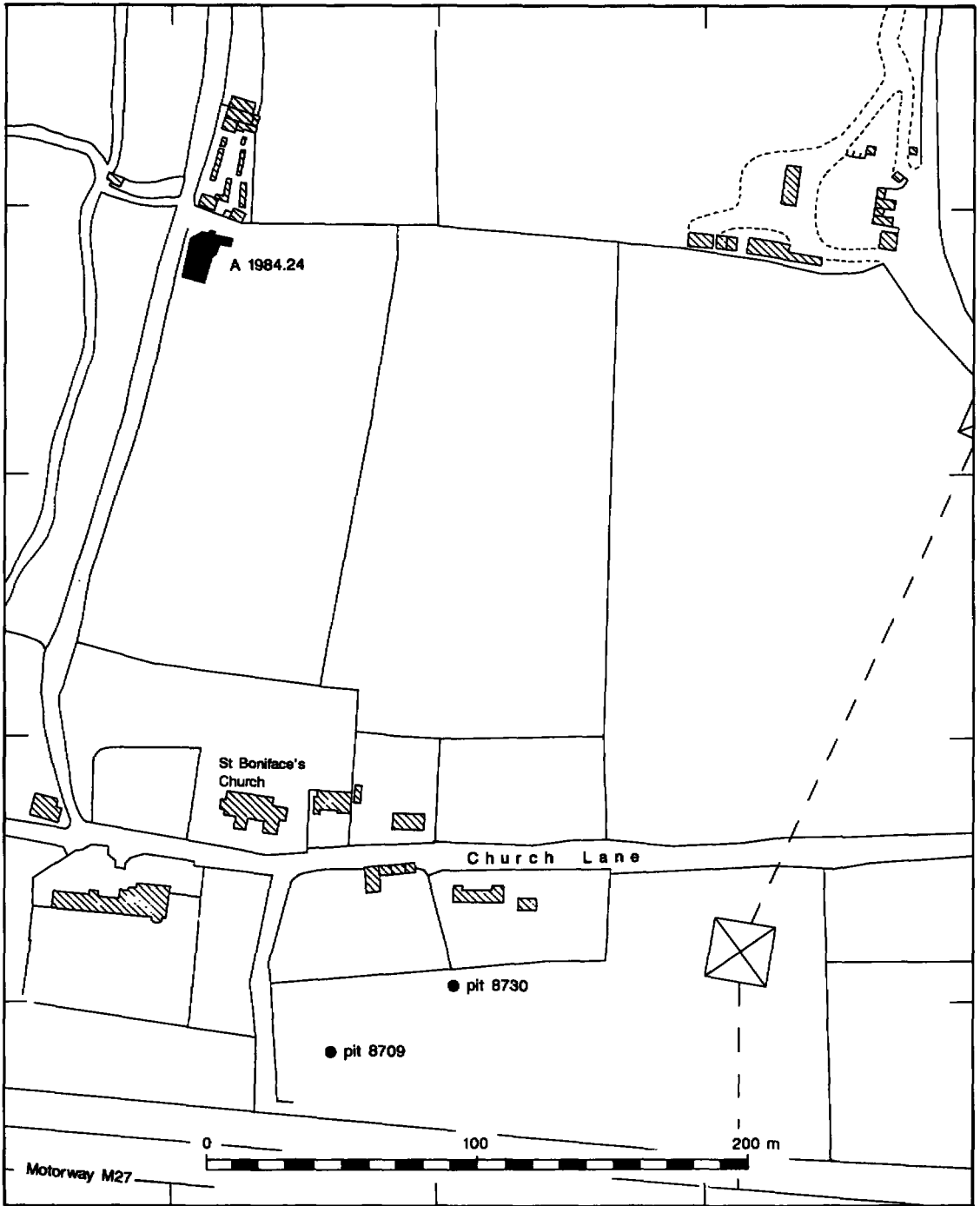


Fig 3. Nursling: Site locations.

postholes 1011, 1020 and 1021 represent the truncated remnants of a south-east facing entrance. It may seem that the eye of faith has played an overactive part in this reconstruction. However, the existence of further postholes, forming a larger arc, was noted at the time of excavation but these were rapidly removed by the machine before they could be properly recorded (Cooper 1984, 31).

The pits largely respect the roundhouse and are spatially isolated or cluster in intercutting groups. It was not always possible to determine the stratigraphic relationships between individual pits in the same group. One pit (180) contained an area of burnt clay and charcoal, with burnt clay and burnt flint at its edge (1004), which was interpreted as a hearth during the excavation. Pits were the only feature type to produce finds, of which the datable examples were of the early Iron Age (see below). It seems likely that the roundhouse, if such it be, was of similar date. Where the ditches intersected groups of intercutting pits, they were either earlier or later than all of the pits in that group. In addition, the ditches intersecting the roundhouse structure were stratigraphically earlier. Neither can any of the ditches be associated with the pits and the roundhouse on spatial grounds: none is aligned in such a way as to enclose the settlement, even where there are no intersections between ditches and other features. The ditch alignments must therefore represent at least two separate phases, one earlier than the pits and the roundhouse structure and one later. These phases cannot be dated, as finds were absent, but the site seems to have been on the edge of a Bronze Age field system noted in the district SMR. This may provide a context for the earlier phase.

*Church Lane, Nursling* (Figs 1, 2D, & 4) (accession code A:1987.1)

Two small pits on this site (referred to in Tables 1 and 4 and in Fig 3 as 8709 and 8730; diameters around 0.8 m and 0.9 m respectively) were of late Bronze Age date. Notable finds included pottery, fragments of metalworking moulds and a socketed axe.

*Adanac Farm, Nursling* (Figs 1 & 2G) (accession code A:1989.6)

Topsoil stripping revealed a partially ploughed out feature, oval in shape and around 1.4 m long, which contained sherds from a single large pot of late Bronze Age date.

*Nursling palstave find* (Figs 1 & 2F) (accession code A:1984.12)

This site produced a hoard of metalwork, which was dispersed by workmen before it could be properly recorded. Seven palstaves were subsequently retrieved and are reported on below. The complete assemblage comprised at least sixty pieces, all palstaves (F J Green, pers comm).

*Bell Street, Romsey* (Figs 1, 2A & 5) (accession code A:1981.126)

The stratigraphically earliest levels on this site comprised tufaceous gravels, interpreted as the fill of an abandoned stream channel.

- 327 White tufaceous gravel
- 365 grey brown silt, with charcoal and peat
- 320 fine grey soil with flint gravel
- 321 tufaceous marl

The pottery of later Bronze Age date, a relatively large flint assemblage and animal bone were found in fine soil and gravel layer 320. Pottery and some animal bone was also recovered from layer 327.

*Newton Lane, Romsey* (Fig 2 inset) (accession code A:1989.16)

A deposit (Contexts 303 = 376 & 380) similar to that found on the Bell Street site. A much truncated stream channel was excavated here. Amongst the finds was a pot of the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age.

*Narrow Lane, Romsey* (Fig 2 inset) (accession code A:1981.125)

This site was in use during the late Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods. However, two of the

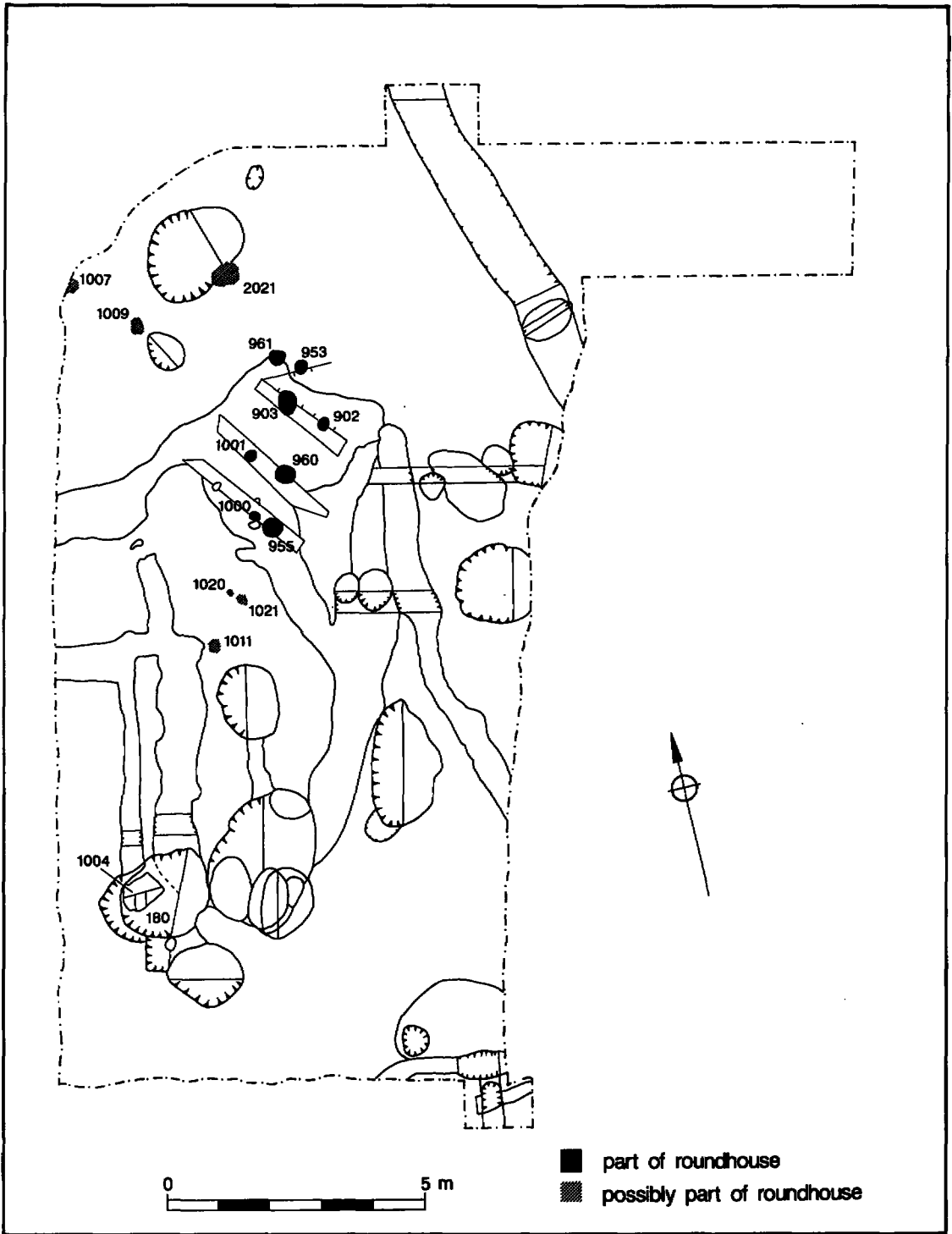


Fig 4. Nursling Gravel Quarry: Site plan.

*Table 1* Nursling sites: Summary of finds.  
Weights are in grams (g).

material	Gravel Quarry A1984.24	Church Lane A:1987.1	Adanac Park A1989.6	Palstaves A1984.12
animal bone	5 fragments sheep/goat	2 fragments cattle/large ungulate (8709)	—	—
charcoal	122g	—	—	—
copper alloy	1 fragment	1 socketed axe*(8709)	—	7 palstaves*
fired clay	1943g; featureless pieces – daub?	479g*(8709 8730)	15g featureless pieces	—
flint, burnt	8644g pebbles potboilers?	60g (8730)	13g	—
flint, worked	4 fragments flakes	23 fragments flakes 2 cores? (8730)	2 fragments flakes	—
iron	1 fragment nail	—	—	—
pottery	1211g*	2842g* (8709 & 8730)	3487g*	—
tile	9g	—	—	—
stone	2 pieces*	2 pieces*	—	—

Finds which are the subject of a specialist report are indicated \*

Roman features also contained large and well-preserved fragments of early Iron Age 'haematite-coated' ware.

*Romsey Abbey* (Fig 2 inset) (various accession codes; see Scott, forthcoming)

A few sherds of 'haematite-coated' and other early Iron Age wares occurred residually in Saxon deposits at the Abbey.

## THE FINDS

Since not all of the finds have been subject to specialist analysis, a summary of the contents of the Level 2 archive is published in Tables 1 and 2. The sites at Narrow Lane and at the Abbey have been excluded from this summary as their early Iron Age finds were unstratified.

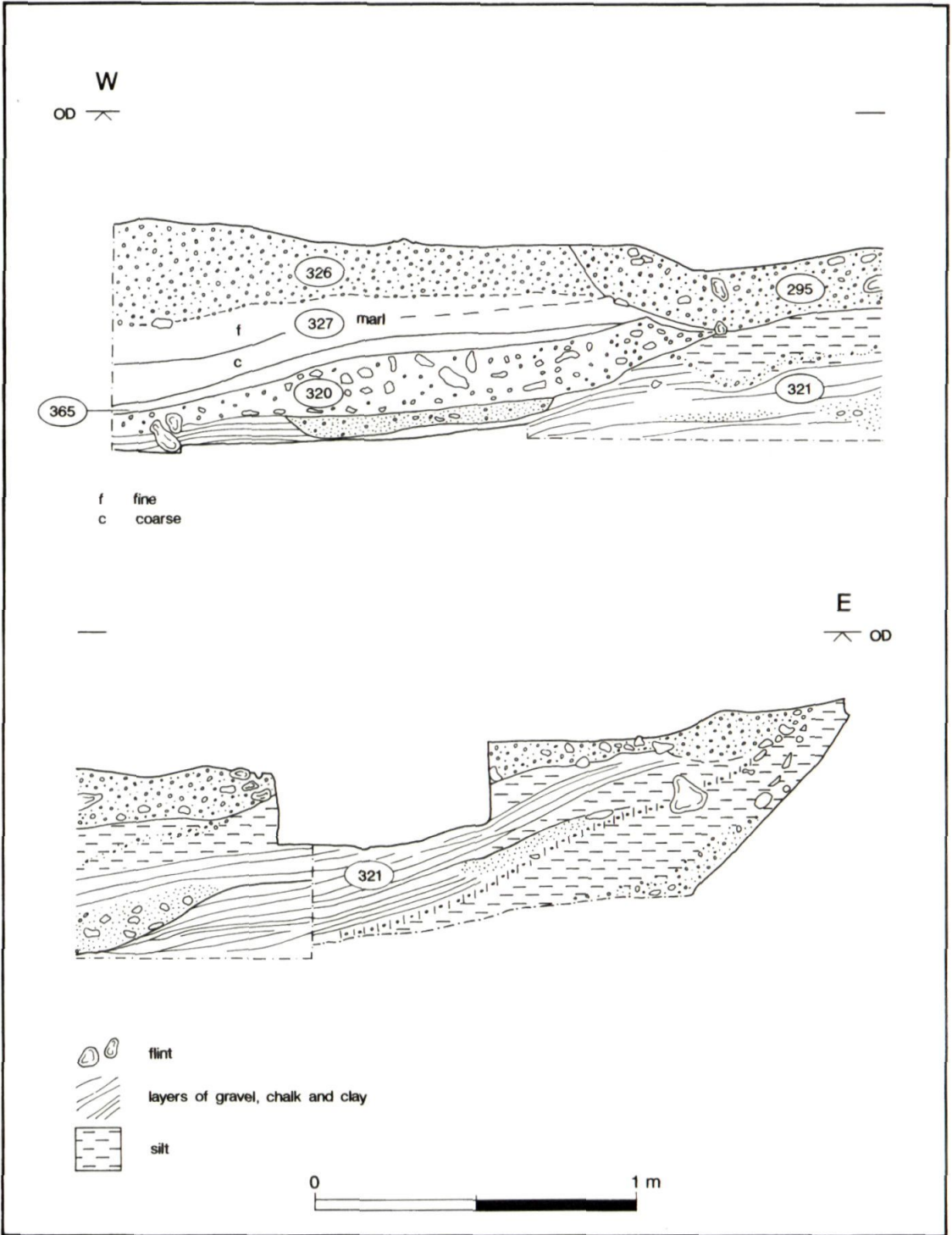


Fig 5. Bell Street: Section through the stream channel.

*Table 2 Romsey sites: Summary of finds*  
Weights are in grams (g).

material	Bell Street A:1981.126	Newton Lane A1989.16
animal bone	46 fragments*	82 fragments*
human bone	—	2 skull fragments
flint burnt	—	285g
flint worked	64 fragments*	—
pottery	519g*	261g*

Finds which are the subject of a specialist report are indicated \*

*The Nursling metalwork hoard* (Fig 6)

Of the seven palstaves available for analysis, four were of the transitional type and one was of the early midribbed type (Burgess 1969, 1974). The typology of the remaining two is uncertain, as they were incomplete, but they may belong to the low flanged group. Thus, the Acton Park, possibly the Taunton, and the Penard phases were represented. With the exception of the early midribbed type, all of the pieces showed a lack of finishing. One of the possibly low flanged palstaves and two belonging to the transitional group displayed heavy pitting and bubbling, as if the metal had blown in the mould. The early midribbed axe was finished but broken. Given the wide date-range represented and the poor condition of the palstaves, it seems likely that this was a founder's hoard.

1. Group 2, early midribbed palstave; Acton Park phase. With one broken flange and part of the haft missing.
2. Group 3, low flanged palstave?; Taunton phase? With broken flanges and slightly pitted haft. The casting flashes are extant and there is no sign of a loop.
3. Group 3, low flanged palstave?; Taunton phase? With two round depressions low on the side of the blade, which may be the remains of a loop. The casting flashes are extant and the haft broken and bubbled.
4. Group 4, transitional palstave; Penard phase.

With incomplete haft and extant casting flashes. The loop is blocked with metal.

5. Group 4, transitional palstave; Penard phase. With marked pitting and incomplete haft.

6. Group 4, transitional palstave; Penard phase. With extant casting flashes and incomplete haft.

7. Group 4, transitional palstave; Penard phase. With incomplete haft and extant casting flashes. The haft is pitted and the loop blocked with metal.

*The socketed axe* (Fig 7)

This object was retrieved from pit 8709 at Church Lane (Fig 4). In its general size and shape, it would appear to belong to the Ewart Park phase of the later Bronze Age. However, the type appears to be rather unusual, in that the ribs curve outwards, unlike the majority of the ribbed socketed axes of the Carp's Tongue Complex. A similar axe with curving ribs formed part of a late Bronze Age hoard from Watford, Hertfordshire (Coombs 1979, 199, fig 11.1, no 1, 214). The Devizes Museum Catalogue also supplies a parallel (Annable & Simpson 1964, 70, 131 no 610).

*The pottery* (Figs 8 & 9)

*Description*

The fabrics from each site have been incorporated into one overall series, of which brief descriptions are given below. Fabrics are described in more detail in the archive. Overlaps between these fabrics and those in the large and well-preserved early Iron Age assemblage from the site at La Sagesse, Romsey (Morris, in Green *et al*, forthcoming) are noted.

- F1 Moderate to abundant coarse to very coarse flint and sand. La Sagesse fabric F1.
- F2 Moderate to abundant coarse to very coarse flint.
- F3 Moderate to abundant medium to coarse flint, with slightly sandy texture.
- F4 Moderate to abundant medium to coarse flint, with soapy texture.
- F5 Moderate to abundant fine to medium flint, with slightly sandy texture.

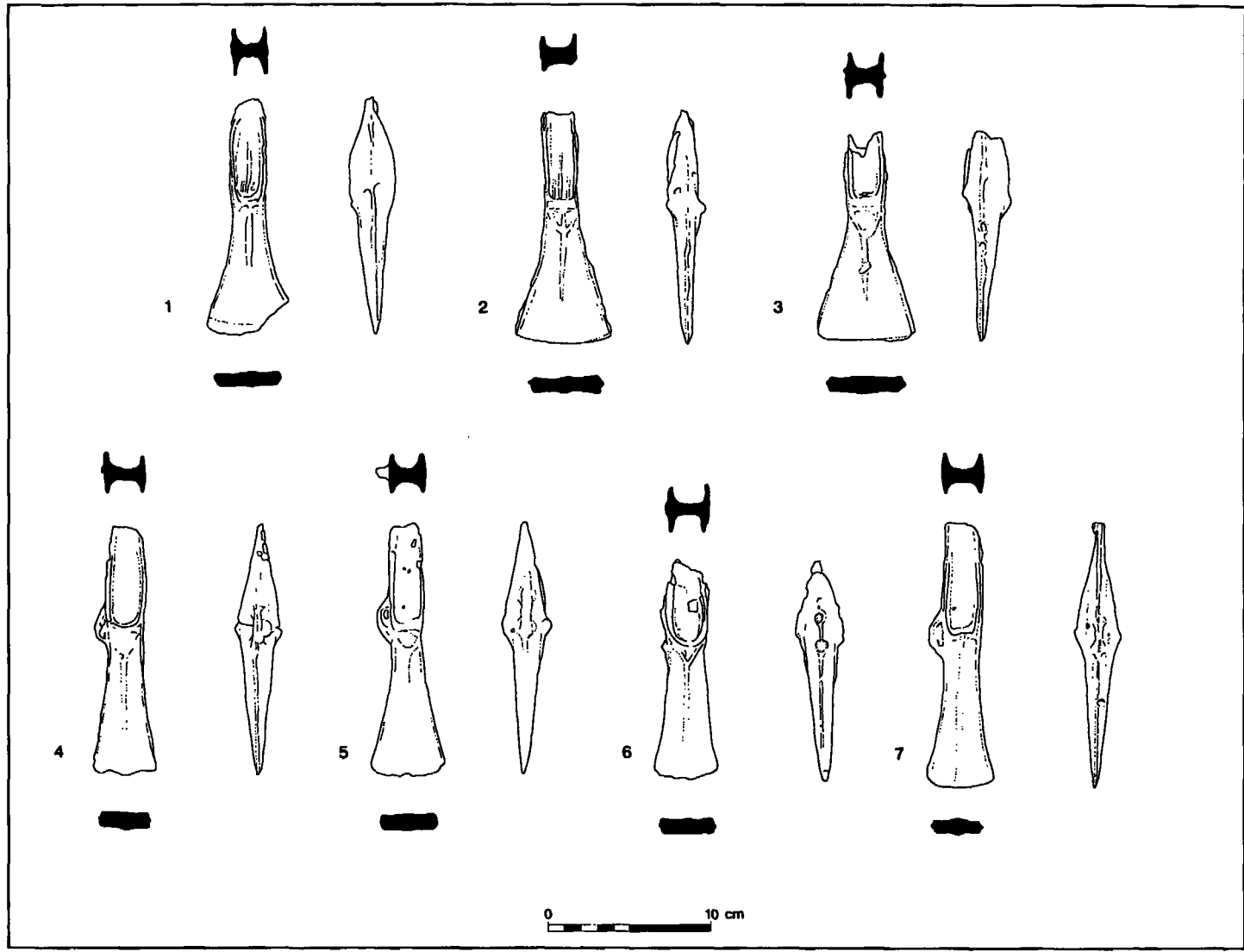


Fig 6. Nursling palstave hoard.

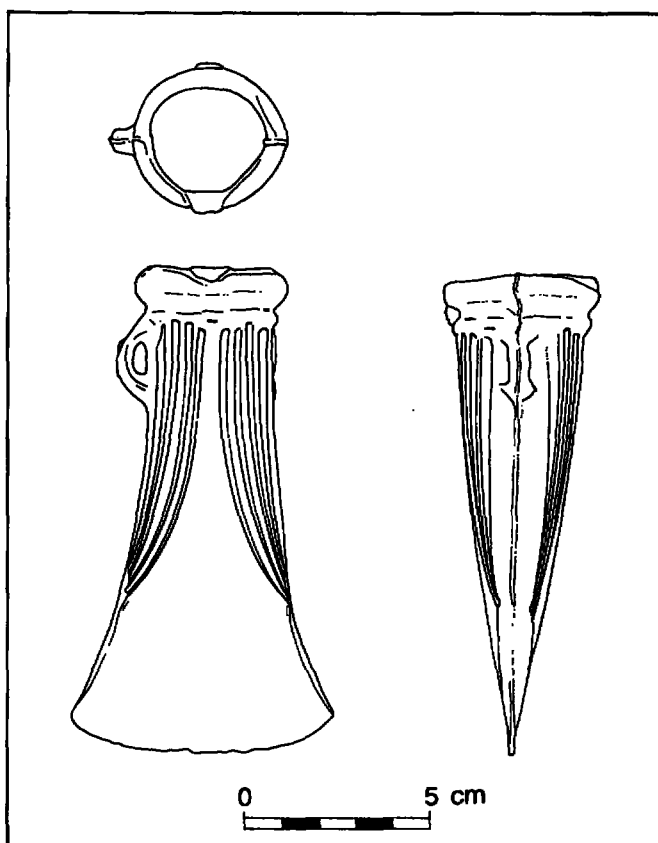


Fig 7. Nursling Church Lane: the socketed axe.

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| F6 | Moderate to abundant fine to medium flint, with soapy texture.                        | Q2 | Very fine silty fabric, with sparse fine carbonaceous material.                          |
| F7 | Sparse fine flint, with soapy texture.  | Q3 | Fine to medium sandy fabric, with occasional large detrital flint. La Sagesse fabric Q3. |
| F8 | Moderate medium flint and grog.   | Q4 | Fine sandy fabric, with occasional large detrital flint.                                 |
| F9 | Moderate medium to coarse flint and abundant fine shell.                              | Q5 | Fine soapy fabric, with occasional large detrital flint.                                 |
| C1 | Abundant carbonaceous material with moderate medium flint and very vesicular texture. |    |  |
| C2 | Abundant carbonaceous material with moderate medium sand and very vesicular texture.  |    |  |
| C3 | Abundant carbonaceous material, with soapy very vesicular texture.                    |    |  |
| Q1 | Fine silty fabric with few large inclusions. La Sagesse fabric Q1.                    |    |  |

The salient characteristics of each site assemblage are discussed below. Tables 3–7 present quantified statistics. The material from Romsey Abbey and Narrow Lane, Romsey has not been quantified, as the pottery was unstratified and only distinctive sherds were recognised as being of

early Iron Age date. The Narrow Lane material included some featured sherds, which have been illustrated.

### *Nursling Gravel Quarry*

Pits were the only pottery-producing features. As there was no apparent change in the pottery typology throughout any of the stratigraphic sequences, the material has been treated as a single group. 361 sherds weighing 1211 g were recovered. The material was in very poor condition, giving an average sherd weight of 3.4 g and a total E.V.E. of 0.2. Sandy and silty fabrics (here, fabrics Q2, Q4 and Q5) predominated. Fine silty fabric Q2 often bore a red surface slip or 'haematite coating'. Two sherds in this fabric exhibited traces of scratched, cordoned decoration and a further two had applied and incised motifs, the full designs of which were uncertain due to poor preservation.

Red surface slip was also present in flint tempered fabric F6 and carbonaceous fabric C2. Both sandy and carbonaceous fabrics (Q4, C2 and C3) were decorated with fingertip, fingernail and stabbed impressions. The range of forms was uncertain as the sherds were very

*Table 3* Nursling Gravel Quarry: Quantity of pottery & proportions by fabric. Weights are in grams.

fabric	no	wt	%no	%wt
F1	1	2	0.3	0.2
F2	2	5	0.6	0.4
F6	6	26	1.7	2.1
F7	8	31	2.2	2.6
F8	2	4	0.6	0.3
F9	4	24	1.1	2.0
C1	1	1	0.3	0.1
C2	11	40	3.0	3.3
C3	40	78	11.1	6.4
Q2	238	810	65.9	66.9
Q4	37	130	10.2	10.7
Q5	11	60	3.0	5.0
Total	361	1211		

small. However, to judge from the position and nature of the surface treatment, coarse bowls or jars occurred in carbonaceous fabrics C2 and C3, whilst fine silty fabric Q2 and fine soapy fabric Q5 were reserved for fine bowls.

### *Church Lane, Nursling (Fig 8, nos 1-5)*

This site produced 159 sherds weighing 2842g, of which 155 sherds were from pit 8730. The material was in quite good condition, giving an average sherd weight of 17.9 g, but the E.V.E. was low, at 0.25. Flint tempered fabrics predominated. Rims or complete profiles in flint tempered fabric F2 were from coarse jars, the range including both carinated and ovoid profiles. One rim from a coarse jar or bowl and one rim possibly from a fine bowl were present respectively in flint and shell tempered fabric F9 and in flint tempered fabric F4. Surface treatment was confined to finger-wiping (flint tempered fabrics F2 and F4 and carbonaceous fabric C1) and smoothing/burnishing (flint tempered fabrics F2, F3, F4 and F7 and sandy fabric Q2). Only one sherd, from a carinated vessel in carbonaceous fabric C1, bore finger-impressed decoration. The character and frequency of the surface treatment suggests that flint tempered fabrics F3 and F7 and sandy fabric Q2 could be regarded as fine wares, whereas flint tempered fabric F2 and carbonaceous fabric C1 were usually coarse wares. Flint tempered fabric F4 bore all types of surface treatment in equal measure.

#### *Illustrated sherds - context 8730*

1. Coarse carinated jar in fabric F2, with finger wiped surface and expanded base.
2. Small rim sherd probably from a coarse jar with ovoid profile, in fabric F2.
3. Rim sherd, probably from a fine bowl, in fabric F4 with burnishing on both surfaces.
4. Rim sherd from a large carinated coarse jar or bowl in fabric F9.
5. Slightly expanded base from a large vessel in fabric F2, with finger wiped surface.

### *Adanac Farm, Nursling (Fig 8, no 6)*

The partially ploughed out pit on this site contained 655 sherds weighing 3487 g, apparently all from the same vessel: a finger wiped coarse ovoid jar with inturned rim in flint tempered fabric F2. The surviving sherds were in very poor condition, giving an average sherd weight of 5.2 g, presumably due to damage in relatively recent times.

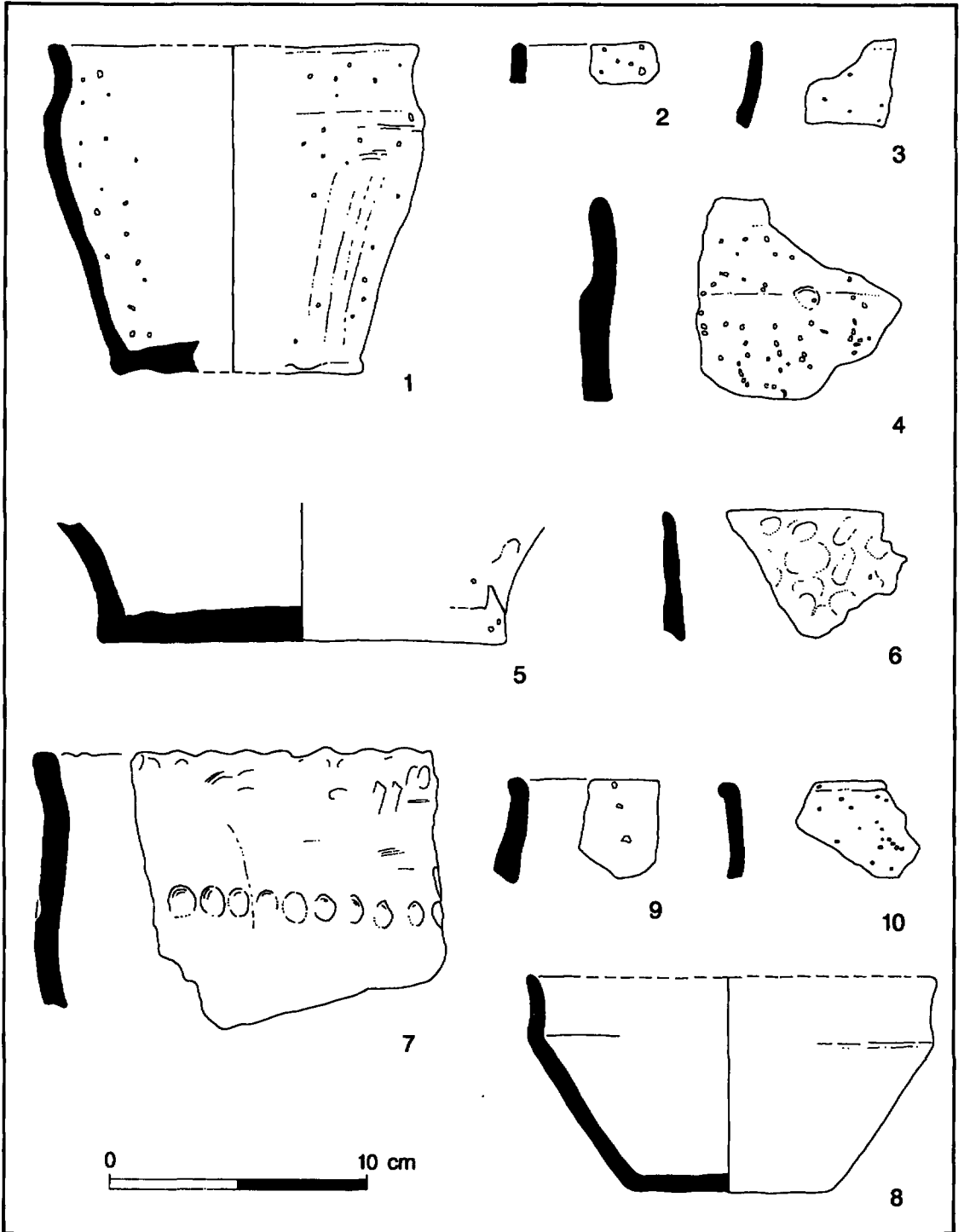


Fig 8. The pottery from Nursling: Church Lane, Adanac Park; and Romsey: Bell Street.

**Table 4** Church Lane, Nursling: Quantity of pottery by fabric and context. Weights are in grams.

fabric	context				total	
	8709		8730		no	wt
	no.	wt	no	wt		
F1	—	—	9	94	9	94
F2	—	—	41	1656	41	1656
F3	1	9	—	—	1	9
F4	2	12	37	335	39	347
F7	—	—	4	55	4	55
F9	—	—	41	558	41	558
C1	1	2	9	49	10	51
C3	—	—	6	36	6	36
Q2	—	—	6	31	6	31
Q5	—	—	2	5	2	5
Total	4	23	155	2819	159	2842

**Table 5** Church Lane, Nursling: Proportions by fabric of pottery. Weights are in grams

fabric	%no	%wt
F1	5.6	3.3
F2	25.8	58.3
F3	0.6	0.3
F4	24.5	12.2
F7	2.5	1.9
F9	25.8	19.6
C1	6.3	1.8
C3	3.8	1.2
Q2	3.8	1.1
Q5	1.3	0.2

*Illustrated sherd*

6. Rim from a large, thin-walled, coarse jar, with ovoid profile and finger wiped surface in fabric F2.

*Bell Street, Romsey (Fig 8, nos 7–10)*

The most complete vessels in this group were a jar with a rather slack shoulder and two rows of finger impressions and a fine carinated bowl, in flint tempered fabrics F1 and F5 respectively. Two small rim sherds, one perhaps from a coarse jar (fabric F1) and one possibly from a fine bowl (flint and shell tempered fabric F9) were also present.

*Illustrated sherds*

7. Jar with rather slack-shouldered profile and two rows of finger impressions in fabric F1. Context 320.

8. Fine carinated bowl, with smoothed, possibly slightly burnished surfaces, in fabric F5. Context 327.

9. Rim possibly from a coarse jar in fabric F1. Context 327.

10. Rim possibly from a fine bowl in fabric F9. Context 320.

**Table 6** Bell Street, Romsey: Quantity of pottery by fabric

Weights are in grams.

fabric	no	wt	EVE
F1	4	316	0.11
F5	14	154	0.1
F9	4	49	—
Totals	22	519	0.21

*Newton Lane, Romsey (Fig 9, no 11)*

This assemblage comprised roughly half of a vessel in flint tempered fabric F3, with some loose sherds in flint tempered fabrics F5 and F8, and sandy fabric Q3. Two sherds in fine silty fabric Q1 occurred residually in a medieval context. The complete profile was from a coarse carinated jar decorated with two rows of fingernail impressions.

*Illustrated sherd*

11. Coarse carinated jar in fabric F3, with two rows of fingernail impressions.

*Narrow Lane, Romsey (Fig 9, nos 12–14)*

Eight sherds from a minimum of four vessels were recognised as being of early Iron Age date, as they

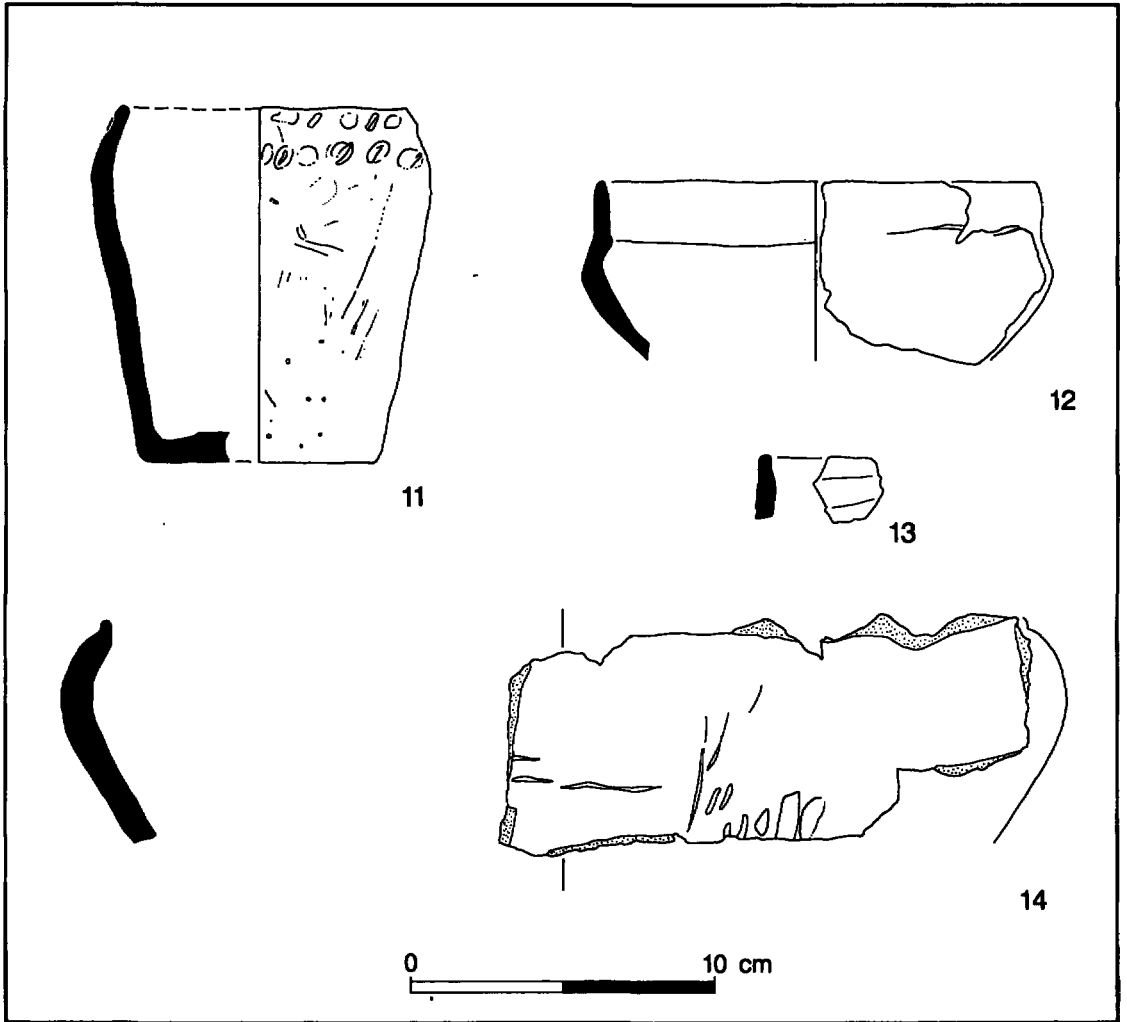


Fig 9. The pottery from Newton Lane, and Narrow Lane, Romsey.

occurred in fine silty fabric Q1. Vessels of discernible form were two carinated or round bodied fine bowls and one fine jar. All of the sherds bore traces of a red surface slip.

*Illustrated sherds*

12. Fine round bodied bowl in fabric Q1, with red slipped surface.

13. Sherd from a fine round bodied or carinated bowl in fabric Q1, with red slipped surface.

14. Body sherds from a fine jar in fabric Q1, with red slipped surface.

*Romsey Abbey*

A few sherds in flint tempered fabric F5 and fine silty fabric Q1 occurred residually.

*Discussion*

It is quite possible that all of the pottery was of local manufacture. The raw materials for the non-plastic inclusions are either universally available (the carbonaceous material and grog), or to be found within the lower Test Valley area

*Table 7* Newton Lane, Romsey: Quantity of pottery by fabric and context  
Weights are in grams.

fabric	no	wt	context
F3	40	234	stream channel
F5	1	8	stream channel
F8	1	5	stream channel
Q1	2	14	residual
Q3	2	10	stream channel
Roman	2	4	stream channel
Totals	46	261	stream channel
	2	14	residual

(flint and sand from the gravels, and shell from the Bracklesham Beds). Local deposits of brickearth and London Clay would also have been suitable for potting (see Fig 2). However, since the geology is not distinctive of this area alone, the possibility exists that at least some of the pottery was imported. The best case for this has been made for the scratched cordoned bowls (here from Nursling Gravel Quarry), which may originate from the Salisbury area of Wiltshire (Cunliffe 1984, 245). In general, examination of the preparation of fabrics allows a distinction between fine silty wares with few inclusions and coarse wares with abundant flint or carbonaceous material. The distinction becomes a little blurred, however, when the finishing of individual vessels is taken into account, since fabrics tempered with medium to coarse flint may be burnished or smoothed and fine flint tempered fabrics are often so. Fine to medium sandy fabrics are also difficult to classify according to a strict dichotomy between coarse and fine wares. It has been observed elsewhere that flint tempering is invariably associated with the earliest late Bronze Age forms in southern England, giving way to sand and other locally available materials throughout the period of transition from the late Bronze Age to the early Iron Age (see eg Needham & Longley 1980,

413; Russell 1989, 21ff). It therefore seems likely that the observed technology of pottery production is due not only to the function of particular vessels, but is susceptible to changes in time.

One further point concerning the fabrics may be of interest: carbonaceous wares are uncommon in Hampshire during this period, and where they occur, organic material is usually present in moderate rather than abundant quantities. A parallel for the Nursling pottery is however to be found at Regents Park in Southampton (Champion, in Cottrell 1987, 28–31), where the assemblage was initially thought to be of Saxon date, as much of the material appeared to be grass tempered (Cottrell 1987, 23).

The slack shouldered jar from Bell Street (no 7) is somewhat unusual. In the relative thickness of its walls and the rows of finger impressions on the top of the rim and part way down the wall, it is reminiscent of the Deverel–Rimbury tradition. However, it is not easily classifiable according to Ellison's (1975) regional assemblages and may be of a later date. If so, it may belong to the 'decorated' tradition of the late Bronze Age (Barrett 1980a).

The remainder of the pottery bears all the characteristics of the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age tradition of southern England (Barrett 1980a). The contrast in the frequency of flint tempering and decoration between individual assemblages, and the change in surface treatment from burnishing or smoothing to haematite coating amongst wares at the finer end of the spectrum, suggest that the pottery from Bell Street and Church Lane is of earlier date than that from Nursling Gravel Quarry, Narrow Lane and the Abbey. The Adanac pot may belong in time with Bell Street and Church Lane, since it was flint tempered and undecorated. The best preserved vessel in the collection from Newton Lane, with its double row of fingernail impressions, is paralleled in the Barrett's later, 'decorated' phase (Barrett 1980a). However, the fact that it is flint tempered may indicate a slightly earlier date than the other late material.

*Table 8* Church Lane, Nursling: Quantity of fired clay moulds by fabric and context  
Weights are in grams.

fabric	context				total	
	8709		8730		no	wt
	no	wt	no	wt	no	wt
1	–	–	29	264	29	264
2	52	29	37	186	89	215
Totals	52	29	66	450	118	479

*The metalworking moulds* (Fig 10, nos 1–4 and Table 8)

The site at Church Lane produced 118 pieces of fired clay weighing 479g. Two fabrics were represented:

1. A fairly fine grained silty fabric, reminiscent of pottery fabrics Q1 and Q2.
2. A fabric of similar texture to fabric 1, but with a softer, more friable and more loosely constructed clay matrix.

Pieces of recognisable function occurred only in fabric 1 and only in pit 8730, but it is possible that fabric 2 was employed for the manufacture of clay wrappings for the moulds (for a general discussion of the morphology of this type of material, see Needham 1980). Four fragments bore traces of the form of the object for which the mould was used, but none was sufficiently distinctive to allow precise recognition of that object. Three of these fragments, of which two are illustrated (nos 1 and 2), possibly represented the manufacture of a spearhead, whilst the fourth may have been from the same mould or may have been from a pin mould (no 3).

Two fragments were perforated, either because they had functioned as pin moulds, or more likely, to allow the insertion of wooden splints in order to support the mould during drying (see eg Tylecote 1986, 89). One other of the fragments had a recognisable outer edge, whilst layering was apparent in the section of a further fragment, suggesting that moulds were sometimes merely

sealed with a thin layer of clay rather than being fully wrapped.

When subjected to XRF, the residue on the surface of one further piece proved to be from a low leaded bronze. This fragment was possibly from a crucible with very thick walls, similar to the one recovered from Mucking North Ring (Needham and Bayley, in Bond 1988, 22, no 5).

1. Fragment in fabric 1 with deep, possibly slightly tapering groove in the upper surface. One side of the upper surface appears to be slightly higher than the other, although this may be the result of post-depositional abrasion. Oxidised, with a zone of reduction around the groove, penetrating the fabric to a maximum depth of *c* 6 mm. Possibly from the same mould as no 2. The asymmetry in section and the position of the zone of reduction suggests that the fragment might be from a mould for a channel bladed spearhead broken longitudinally in half, but this would result in unusually broad and pronounced channels (S Needham, pers comm).
2. Fragment in fabric 1 with deep, wide groove in upper surface and with part of one edge surviving. Oxidised with zone of reduction around the groove, penetrating the surface to a maximum depth of *c* 5 mm. Possibly from the same mould as no 1.
3. Fragment in fabric 1 with deep, narrow groove in upper surface. Oxidised with zone of reduction around the groove, penetrating the fabric to a maximum depth of *c* 7 mm, the position of which suggests that the fragment may have been broken longitudinally. Possibly a pin mould, or from the same mould as nos 1 and 2.
4. Fragment in fabric 1 with the residue of a low leaded bronze on the surface, possibly from a very thick-walled crucible.

*The stone* (incorporating information from an archive report by David Williams, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton).

Four pieces of stone were present, of which two were recovered from Nursling Gravel Quarry, and two from Church Lane (context 8730). Both

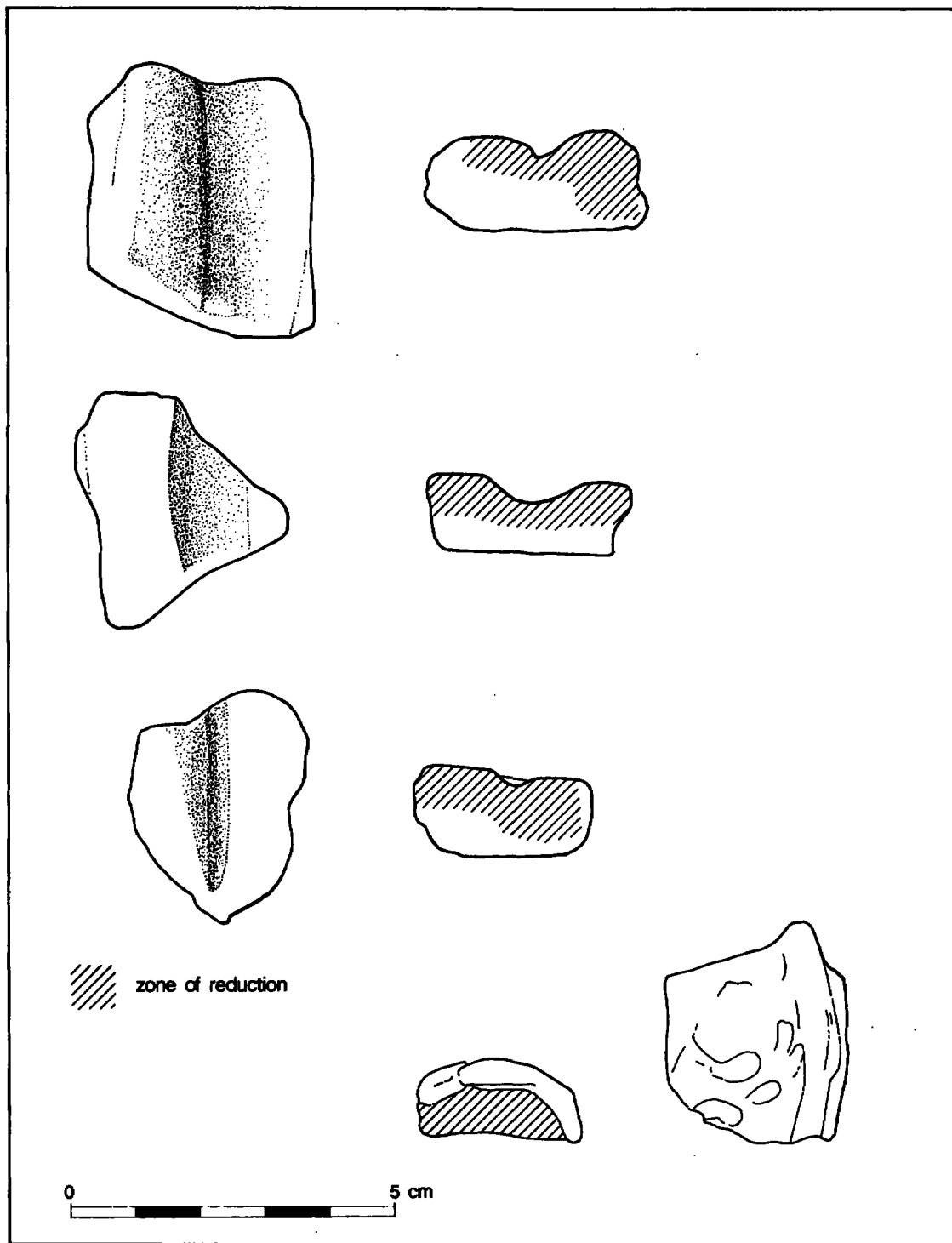


Fig 10. Nursling Church Lane: the fired clay moulds.

pieces from the gravel quarry site were probably derived from the Tertiary of the Hampshire Basin, and one was recognisable as a saddle quern.

The fragments from Church Lane both originated from further afield. One was of Pennant Sandstone from the Bristol and South Wales region and the other was Millstone Grit from Derbyshire or Yorkshire, or from the West Country or South Wales. The Pennant Sandstone fragment may have been from a quern.

*The Worked Flint from Context 320, Bell Street, Romsey*  
by W A Boismier (Tables 9–11)

Excavation of context 320 produced an assemblage of 64 pieces of recognisably worked flint and one piece of burnt flint. Table 9 presents the major artefact classes of the worked flint assemblage with percentages relative to the total number recovered. Various classes of debitage, or waste, account for the entire assemblage. No retouched tools were recovered.

*Description*

**Condition:** Post-depositional edge damage is minimal for all classes of artefacts recovered with most pieces still retaining relatively sharp edges. Patination is largely absent and occurs as a light film on only a few pieces.

**Raw material:** All pieces recovered were flint. No other isotrophic stone was present in the material recovered. Three possible sources of raw material are indicated by cortex characteristics: 1) river gravel; 2) derived material from surrounding tertiary areas, and 3) chalk.

Forty-one of the pieces (64.4%), including a number

*Table 9* Bell Street, Romsey: Worked flint assemblage composition

Artefact class	No	Percentage
Core	8	12.5
Core rejects	2	3.13
Shatter	8	12.5
Flakes	46	71.87
Total	64	

of recognisably sub-angular (ie, core rejects, cores, shatter), indicate that river gravel was a major local source of raw material. A further 8 (12.5%) were identified as being either from the local river gravel or from sources within the tertiary areas surrounding Romsey. Further distinction within this group was not possible. One piece (1.56%) was recognisably from chalk sources. It was not possible to determine any potential source for the remaining 14 pieces (21.87%) of the assemblage. The large number of non-concoidal fractures and irregular fracture planes present on a number of pieces recovered suggest the exploitation of surface exposures, or near surface deposits, for all identified sources of raw material.

**Cores:** A total of 8 cores were identified in the assemblage. Four of the cores consist of cortical shatter lumps with their fracture surfaces utilised as striking platforms for flake removal. Two cores are relatively small river gravel nodules. One core exhibits localised battering indicating its subsequent use as a hammer stone. The remaining core is a larger river gravel nodule worked in alternating directions. Two of the eight cores have 25% or less remanent cortex, three 50% or less surviving cortex, and three 75% or less cortex remaining. Seven of the cores can be described as single platform types with flakes taken off in one direction only with the remaining core a joint or keeled platform type with flakes removed in two directions. The number of platforms per core follows a similar pattern with five having only one platform, one possessing two platforms, and one with more than two platforms. The last core consisting of a single joint-type platform with flakes removed along both sides. Platform position is similar to the pattern of platform number with six cores, counting the single joint-type platform core, possessing a single platform and two cores with platforms at right angles to each other. Core characteristics are summarised in table 10.

**Core rejects:** Two core rejects occur in the assemblage recovered. One is best described as a 'tested' nodule discarded after initial platform preparation and the removal of a single flake. The other is a flawed river gravel nodule exhibiting a number of irregular fracture planes on its worked face.

**Shatter:** Eight pieces of irregular, largely nondescript, struck pieces were recovered. One piece was burnt prior to its deposition in context 320. All eight pieces may be described as cortical lumps.

**Flakes:** The flakes recovered comprise 46 complete pieces. One flake was found to be slightly burnt along its edges. No fragments of flakes occur in the assemblage. Flake characteristics are summarised in table 11. The 46 flakes were divided into primary (dorsal surface > 90% cortical), secondary (dorsal

Table 10 Bell Street, Romsey: Core characteristics

Cortex	no.	Platform Types	no.	Number of platforms	no.	Platform position	no.
<25%	2	single	7	1	5	single	5
<50%	3	joint	1	2	1	right angle	2
<75%	3			>2 joint	1	joint: single	1
					1		

Table 11 Bell Street, Romsey: Flake characteristics

Flake class	non-cortical	cortical	prepared platform	no.	percentage
Primary	2	4	4	10	21.74
Secondary	1	6	8	15	32.61
Tertiary	5	5	11	21	45.65
Total	8	15	23	46	100.00

surface 10–90% cortical), and tertiary (dorsal surface < 10% cortical) flake classes. Primary flakes account for 21.74% of the total, secondary 32.61% and tertiary 45.65%. Nine of the tertiary flakes possess cortical edges. Length : width index values for the flakes show that 43.48% (n=20) are squat flakes with index values less than 1.0, 52.17% (n=24) have values between 1.0 and 1.99 with 18 of them possessing values less than 1.5, and 4.35% (n=2) having values for the index greater than 2.0. The two flakes with index values greater than 2.0 are incidental knapping by-products with blade-like dimensions rather than true blades. Twenty-three of the flakes (50%) possess flat prepared striking platforms. The remaining 50% of the assemblage (n=23) comprising flakes with unprepared striking platforms. Out of the flakes with unprepared platforms, 8 are non-cortical and 15 cortical. Hinge terminations occur on 32.61% (n=15) of the total number of flakes recovered.

Refitting: Only two flakes were found to fit together. Several other pieces in the assemblage appear to be from the same nodule, but cannot be refitted due to missing flakes in the reduction sequence.

### Discussion

The presence of cores, largely cortical flakes, nondescript shatter and core rejects discarded

because of internal flaws, indicates that the assemblage recovered is largely the debris output from primary knapping activities associated with core preparation and initial reduction. Their occurrence in context 320, suggests that they were probably collected together from another location nearby and subsequently dumped as secondary rubbish.

The Bronze Age date for the assemblage is indicated by the lack of refined knapping technique as reflected in the number of squat flakes and hinge terminations, unprepared striking platforms, and the dominance of single platform cores. The pattern of working in alternating directions in core reduction found on one of the cores also suggests a Bronze Age date for the assemblage (cf Fasham and Ross 1978). Further refinement of the date for the assemblage is not possible on the basis of the material recovered.

### The Animal Bone

*The assemblage from context 320, Bell Street by J Coy (HBMCE Faunal Remains Unit, University of Southampton)*

*This text is taken from an archive report and was not originally intended for publication, as the sample of bones recovered from Bell Street may be too small to be reliable. The present writer has included it in order to provide a comparison with the larger assemblage from Newton Lane.*

A small collection of animal bones was retrieved from three layers above silt and peat layers in a river channel. The bones were recorded and measured.

The lowest layer (320) contained the 42 fragments listed in Table 12. Most of the bones were fragmentary and provided little evidence for age size and usage. The horse, cattle and pig represented were probably all domestic and the large and small artiodactyl bones (labelled LAR and SAR, respectively, in Table 12) probably came from these species.

All the pig bones probably came from the same animal and may have been a burial rather than food remains (although there was possible evidence of the use of an implement on one of the thoracic vertebrae). Fragmentary cranial remains matched the mandibles in age, showing wear on the first deciduous incisor, fourth deciduous premolar, and first molar. The second molar was erupted but not worn and the second permanent

incisor and canine was not erupted. The mandibles represented a stage of tooth wear with a Grant numerical value of 15 (Grant 1975) and, together with the state of fusion of the long bones and vertebrae, suggest an immature pig aged between six months and one year.

There was a single fragment of red deer, *Cervus elaphus* and the ulna of a mature beaver *Castor fiber* with both ends of the bone fully fused. The greatest length of the ulna was 124 mm and its distal end showed marks which might have been made during skinning (Fig 11). Beaver has been found from several Wessex locations and survived in the region at least until the Middle Saxon period (Coy 1980). A small fragment of mammalian long bone in the same layer could belong to beaver.

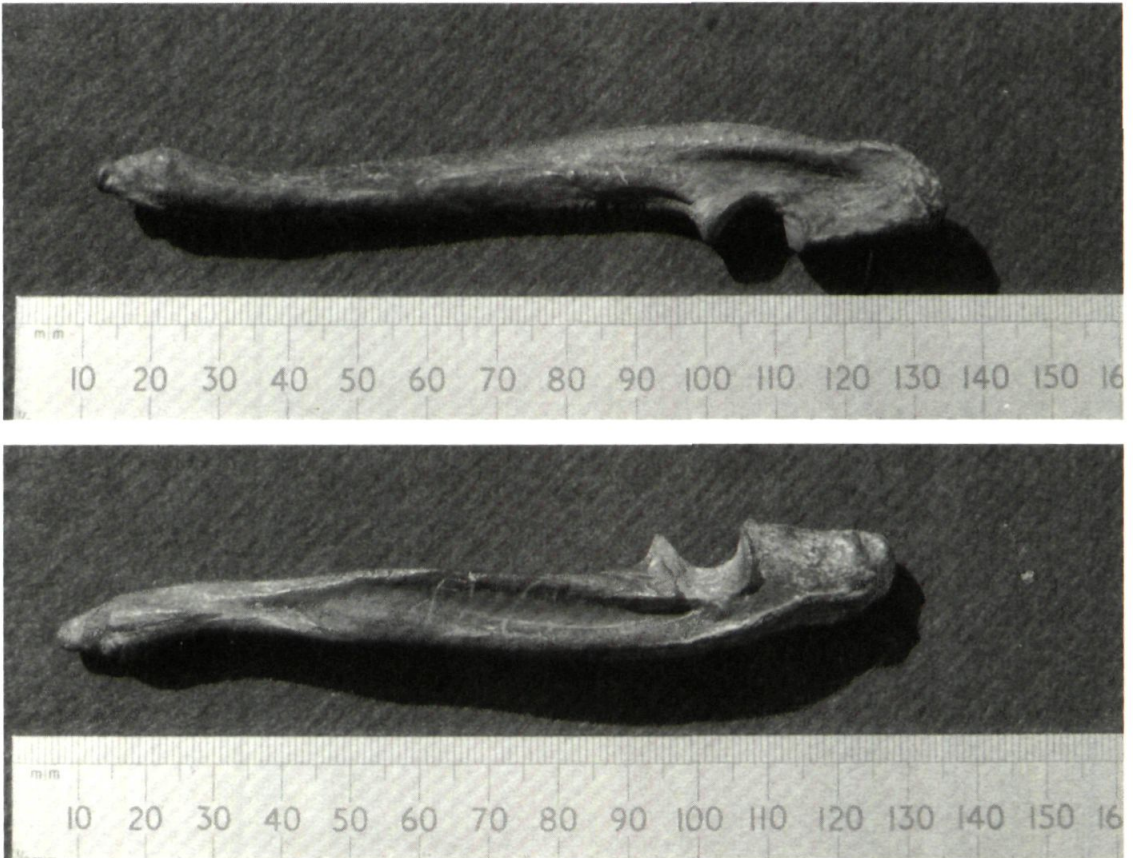


Fig 11. Ulna of a beaver *Castor fiber*.

Table 12 Bell Street, Romsey: Animal bones in Layer 320

	Horse	Cattle	Pig	Cervus	Castor	LAR	SAR	Total
horn core	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
cranium	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
mandible	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
vertebrae	1	—	6	—	—	1	—	8
rib	—	—	6	—	—	1	—	7
radius	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
ulna	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
pelvis	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
femur	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
tibia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
calcaneum	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
metapodial	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
loose teeth	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
l.b.fragments	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4
fragments	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Total	1	3	23	1	2	10	2	42

The tufaceous marl layer (327) above this contained the femur of a small piglet, a cattle upper premolar, and a small artiodactyl rib. The coarser sand layer (328) above contained a slightly fossilised fragment of large artiodactyl tibia.

*Animal Bone from Newton Lane* by J Egerton and C Gamble (Centre for Human Ecology and Palaeoeconomy, University of Southampton)

#### Introduction

A small collection, 82 specimens in total, of material, dating to the Bronze Age came from an abandoned stream bed filled with tufaceous gravel deposits. The bones came from a single context, but included three successive spits from within it.

#### Description

The bones were in good condition many showing evidence of their waterlogged deposit. Only a few

bones were weathered (n=5) and several showed signs of stream rolling. Two bones from pit 376 and two from 380 had white surface concretions indicating a similar local environment which had led to their fossilisation.

One cattle tibia had a number of fine cutmarks on the proximal end of the shaft. One proximal cattle metatarsal was gnawed, presumably by a dog.

Species: The proportions of animals represented were as follows:

Cattle	16
Sheep/Goat	4
Pig	2
Horse	34
Red Deer	1

Although the number of horse bones dominates, most of these came from one fragmented

mandible. More than one horse is however indicated by the ageing data of the teeth. These showed one maxillary tooth in heavy wear and six mandibular teeth in wear, but not heavily so. Detailed ageing was established using Levine (1982) crown heights in mm (Table 13). The upper third premolar gives an estimated age of 14 years and the lower second premolar to lower third molar give ages of between 4–5 years.

*Table 13* Newton Lane, Romsey: Crown height and other measurements

	Crown ht mm	Length *	Breadth *
Upper 3rd premolar	34.87	29.73	16.07
Lower 2nd premolar	49.15	29.73	16.07
Lower 3rd premolar	79.66	26.87	17.38
Lower 4th premolar	70.38	27.77	16.8
Lower 1st molar	68.38	25.48	15.46
Lower 2nd molar	77.6	26.16	13.88
Lower 3rd molar	64.28	28.94	11.99

\*Measurements after Driesch 1976

#### *Summary and Comparison*

Although a small sample, the collection from Newton Lane is not without interest (Table 14). The number of species, five, is worth noting for a sample of 82 specimens, even though the wild species are represented only by one tooth. The predominance of horse is uncharacteristic for this period although its importance is clearly inflated by the fragmentation of the mandible. However, a minimum number of individuals of two for this species is established while all other species are probably represented by no more than a single animal. No dog was identified apart from a single gnawed bone. The impression is that the assemblage was formed from food waste and then rapidly deposited as shown by the low incidence of gnawing and weathering.

In all the above comments this small sample is

similar to that reported by Bourdillon (1990; and Green *et al*, forthcoming) from the early Iron Age site at La Sagesse Convent, Romsey.

## DISCUSSION

The study of the later Bronze Age has developed rapidly in relatively recent years. The well established typology for the metalwork is traditionally believed to represent substantial contact between British and continental smiths (see eg Burgess 1969, & 1974, 199–214). Research by Rowlands (1980) and Barrett (1980b) has led to an emphasis on the importance of coastal and riverine settlement from the middle Bronze Age onwards, and given us a picture of a highly specialised society, its subsistence base in the rich environments of the river basins of southern England and its economic pre-eminence over upland areas resulting from the location of settlement to benefit from long distance trade.

It has also been suggested that complex systems of exchange existed within southern Britain as well as with external areas (Ellison 1980) and that the economy of individual settlements like the one at Runnymede Bridge in the Thames Valley would have been intensively specialised (Needham 1991). The excavation of two sites on the Kennet gravels at Knights Farm and Aldermaston Wharf, Berkshire has prompted a review of the later Bronze Age in that area, with the resulting implication that some settlements were reserved for a specific range of activities and that not all settlements were permanent (Bradley *et al* 1980).

Perhaps most important of all, the establishment of a relative chronology for the pottery has enabled changes in settlement throughout the period to be assessed (Barrett 1980a), although the understanding of the link between metalwork and pottery typologies is not yet as comprehensive as might be desired.

These ideas have resulted largely from detailed examination of the contrasts and similarities in settlement and material culture between the Thames Valley and its tributaries and the Wessex chalklands. As part of the Hampshire Basin, one might expect the lower Test Valley to conform to models

Table 14 Newton Lane, Romsey: Animal bones

	<i>Domestic</i>		Pig	horse	<i>Wild</i> Red Deer	<i>Unidentified animals</i>			Total
	Cow	Sheep/ goat				Large	small	unx	
Skull	3								3
Mandible	2			25					27
Thoracic vertebrae	2								2
Lumbar vertebrae		2							2
Rib	1								1
Femur	1								1
Tibia	3	2							5
Radius	1			1					1
Main metatarsal ung.	1			1					1
2nd metatarsal			1						1
4th metacarpal				1					1
incisor				1					1
lower 2nd premolar				1					1
lower 3rd premolar				1					1
lower 1st molar	1			1					2
lower 2nd molar				1					1
lower 3rd molar				1					1
lower molar			1						1
upper third premolar				1					1
upper 2nd molar	1				1				2
bone fragments						4	1	21	26
Totals	16	4	2	33	1	4	1	21	82

established for the Thames Valley, given the general similarity of the topography (Barrett 1980b), but it must be apparent at the outset of this discussion that the amount of evidence available from the sites described here is too small for certainty.

Amongst our sample of sites, the middle to late Bronze Age is certainly represented only by the palstave hoard, although the unusual vessel from Bell Street (no 7) may also be of this date.

Sites of the middle Bronze Age are better attested by early finds, such as the group of Deverel Rimbury urns recovered from Plaitford parish in the Blackwater Valley (Grinsell 1938, 20) and the bucket urns observed in a gravel pit in Nursling and at Luzborough (information from district SMR; see Figs 1 and 3).

For the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age, the pottery is the best relative dating evidence, and

type fossils representing the whole of the period are present. At Church Lane, Nursling only one sherd out of 159 was decorated, suggesting a dating early in the sequence. The vessel from Adanac Farm is also paralleled amongst other plain assemblages from southern England, whereas the best preserved pot from Newton Lane can be viewed as a 'decorated' vessel. Narrow Lane, the Abbey and Nursling Gravel Quarry all produced haematite coated wares, considered to be typologically late (Barrett 1980a). The occurrence in very small quantities of scratched cordoned bowls at Nursling Gravel Quarry suggests that the site immediately predates the earliest phases at Danebury, where scratched cordoned bowls were apparently very common (Cunliffe 1984). Nevertheless, it is also possible that the balance of the assemblage might be affected by the function of the site, or the distance from the source of manufacture (Hawkes, 1985, 68-9), rather than being a direct chronological indicator. The contrast in the total amount of pottery from Nursling Gravel Quarry and from Danebury also must be borne in mind; the small quantity of material from the former site may mean that dating based on proportions of types present is unreliable. The dating of the Bell Street assemblage is more equivocal, since 'plain' ware is associated with a decorated vessel of uncertain date.

The presence of pottery suggests domestic occupation close to each of the sites, but the only structural evidence for permanent or semi-permanent settlement is the presence of a roundhouse at Nursling Gravel Quarry and the fact that many of the pits on that site were re-dug within a relatively short space of time. Apart from the activity indicated by residual pottery, the other sites are either isolated pits or stream channels. Whilst it would be premature to attach any significance to the nature of the sites, the option that the settlements were not always permanent remains open on the present evidence.

After the Deverel Rimbury period (above), there is also no indication that human burial was carried out as a rite separate from everyday life. The presence of the two skull fragments at Newton Lane reminds us, however, that features may be dug and finds deposited for more than

strictly utilitarian purposes. This impression is reinforced by the recovery of skulls in a more complete state of preservation from the La Sagesse site.

The assessment of systems of exchange is normally approached both by determination of the origins of artefacts and by the definition of typological 'style zones' which may reflect the distribution of artefacts from a common source. Obviously the assessment is more reliable if both methods produce similar results. Ironically, since metal objects are difficult and expensive to provenance, the stone from Church Lane gives the best evidence from this group of sites for long distance trade. What little evidence there is for even regional exchange in pottery comes from the very end of the period under discussion. However, the indication from the fabrics that the vast bulk of the pottery was locally made may mask an arrangement more complicated than mere household production (Peacock 1982) whereby travelling specialists used local sources of raw materials. In the future, the 'style zone' approach may help to resolve this, but a larger amount of material would be required to produce reliable results.

Evidence for the production of metalwork in the southern part of our area during the earlier part of the period is less equivocal, although on what sort of scale this was carried out remains an open question. There is also a hint that the Nursling sites had greater access to metalwork than the Romsey sites, since the latter, including the La Sagesse site, produced no metalwork at all. Taking the relatively large quantity of flint from Bell Street into account, it may be suggested that flint tools were more commonly used in Romsey (the ratio of flint to pottery at Bell Street is around 10:1, whereas at Church Lane, which appears to be of fairly similar date, it is around 1:10; see Tables 1 and 2).

If this pattern is genuine, rather than due to the random variability inherent in small samples, the location of the Nursling sites closer to the mouth of the river and having greater access to the coast, may account for it. However, an alternative or complementary interpretation is that the pattern is the result of functional factors.

The picture is further complicated by the

recovery of a large and substantial tuyere possibly of early Iron Age date from La Sagesse, suggesting that smelting of iron took place there (Green *et al*, forthcoming). It is therefore possible that if the Nursling area was predominant over the Romsey area in the production of metalwork during the earlier part of the period, this situation had reversed by its end. This may also provide a context for the deposition of the palstave hoard, since it is believed that the coming of iron would have destroyed existing mechanisms for the exchange of bronze artefacts (Rowlands 1980, 45–6).

The environmental record for the sites is particularly slender. Despite samples being taken, few plant microfossils such as charred cereals were recovered, although the presence of querns at Church Lane and Nursling Gravel Quarry suggests that cereals were processed there. Only two of the sites, Newton Lane and Bell Street in Romsey, produced meaningful quantities of animal bone. This is probably due to differential preservation, since the stream channels contained redeposited chalk, whereas acid soil conditions prevail on the other sites.

The small sample showed the exploitation of a normal range of wild and domestic species, with an emphasis on horse which is worth noting, as this is unusual for this early date. Future studies may show that horses were an important factor in the regional economy, but not without the recovery of larger assemblages of animal bone.

In conclusion, recent excavations have demonstrated the potential of the lower Test Valley

area for the study of the later Bronze Age to early Iron Age period, but have as yet, produced too little evidence for the nature of the settlement to be assessed in detail. More comprehensive research into the finds made earlier in the century, an increase in the area of study to include the rest of the Hampshire Basin and, where appropriate, larger scale excavation of key deposits, might produce more reliable results in the future.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Justine Bayley and Stuart Needham for much-needed guidance on the mould fragments and to Elaine Morris for information on the pottery from La Sagesse. David Williams kindly identified the stone. Ian Scott supervised the project, provided advice on the metalwork and, with Frank Green, read and commented on the text. Initial assessment of the finds, including the contents of the soil samples, was also carried out by Frank Green, sometimes with the assistance of Tim Champion. Karen Nichols, Nick Instone and Robert Davis drew the figures.

It would be difficult to acknowledge the contribution of all of the excavators as some of them are long-departed from TVAT and their names are unknown. It was however largely due to the energy and commitment of Frank Green that the evidence was recorded at all, given the slenderness of the available resources. I would also like to single out Steve Cooper, who gave his time to discuss the Nursling Gravel Quarry site during its post excavation stages. The author retains responsibility for any mistakes or omissions encountered in this report.

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