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Wessex
Archaeology

ROMANO-BRITISH SITES OBSERVED ALONG THE CODFORD-ILCHESTER
WATER PIPELINE

By MICK RAWLINGS

with contributions by LORRAINE MEPHAM, ELAINE MORRIS and
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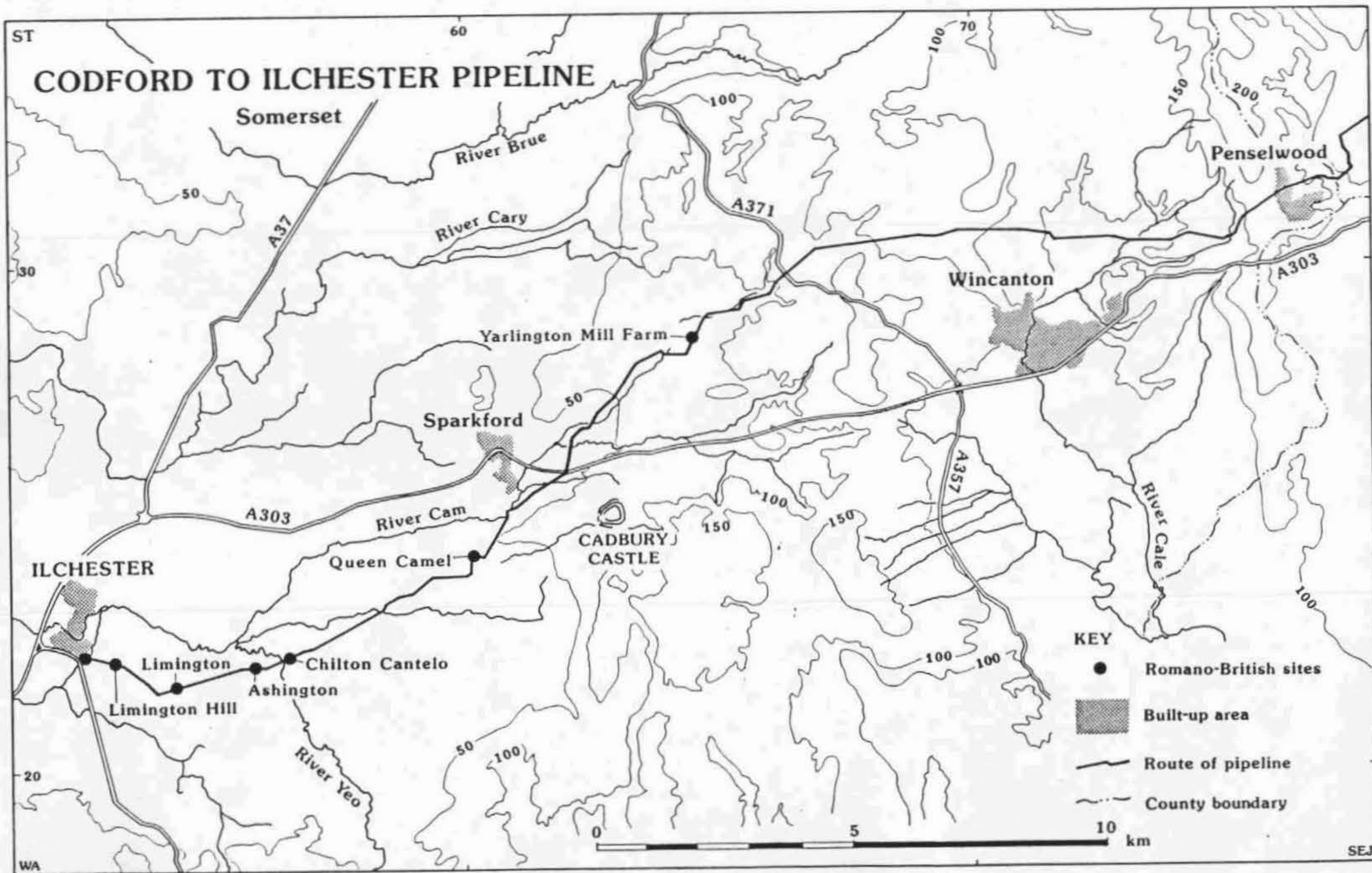
SUMMARY

In the winter of 1989/90 Wessex Archaeology undertook a continuous watching brief during the construction of a new 700mm water main by Wessex Water PLC. This report contains details of seven Romano-British sites which were recorded in Somerset. Five of these were only observed during pipe-laying operations, two were seen in advance and some slight preliminary examination was possible. A gazetteer of isolated features and finds of all periods along the pipeline is included as an appendix to the report.

INTRODUCTION

The Wessex Water pipeline runs from Ilchester in Somerset (ST 523223), to Codford in the Wylve valley, Wiltshire (ST 954400), a total distance of 61.5km. The western end starts just south of the town of Ilchester (Roman Lindinis), adjacent to the road leading south to Dorchester. It runs generally north-east, rising gradually from the alluvial clays and gravels of the Yeo

Fig. 1 Location of pipeline and Romano-British sites discussed in the text



floodplain onto the undulating Jurassic clays north-west of Wincanton (Fig. 1). From here it turns east and runs up onto the escarpment of Cretaceous greensand close to Penselwood before entering Wiltshire.

A continuous watching brief was maintained during all relevant stages of pipeline construction. Initial field survey work allowed an opportunity to locate any previously unrecorded earthworks and, where appropriate, to recommend adjustment of the pipeline route or to carry out an excavation of the pipe trench. All topsoil along the route was stripped using heavy plant and the resulting surface was not usually ideal for the recognition of archaeological features, although occasionally this was possible. Some areas were searched more thoroughly, usually after the discovery of significant quantities of artefacts on the spoil heaps or on the stripped surface of the subsoil.

Observation during the machine excavation of the pipe trench resulted in the discovery of the majority of the archaeological features encountered along the pipeline route. Sites found at this stage were identified and recorded as concentrated feature groups; the amount of time spent on cleaning and examining these features was dictated by the timetable of construction and in many cases by the high water table. The inevitable result of these conditions is that a site is recorded as a multitude of often undated features, usually seen as oblique cross-sections, with no associated plans.

THE SITES

SIR FREN: 56892

Ilchester ST 523223

The pipeline route lay to the south of the present town, aligned east-west between the Bearley Brook and the modern flood bank and terminating adjacent to the Roman road which leads south to Dorchester (Fig. 2A). Previous excavations around the walled Roman town (Leach 1982) revealed a substantial amount of extra-mural settlement concentrated along the roads leading into the town.

The pottery collected from the spoil heaps and the subsoil surface following initial stripping of topsoil was predominantly of 3rd-4th centuries AD date, together with medieval and post-medieval wares.

Three test-pits were hand-excavated in an attempt to examine the underlying stratigraphy. The test-pits could only be excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m due to the high water table, but this was enough to show the presence of a thick layer of dark grey soil (2603, 2604, 2610) which contained a large number of sherds of Romano-British and medieval pottery. The large size and unabraded nature of the sherds indicates that the soil layer represents a dump of occupation material from elsewhere, possibly from within the town. This layer seemed to start at a point about 50m to the west of the eastern field boundary (the Bearley Brook) and extended over all of the area to the west. It effectively sealed any surviving in situ Romano-British material in this area.

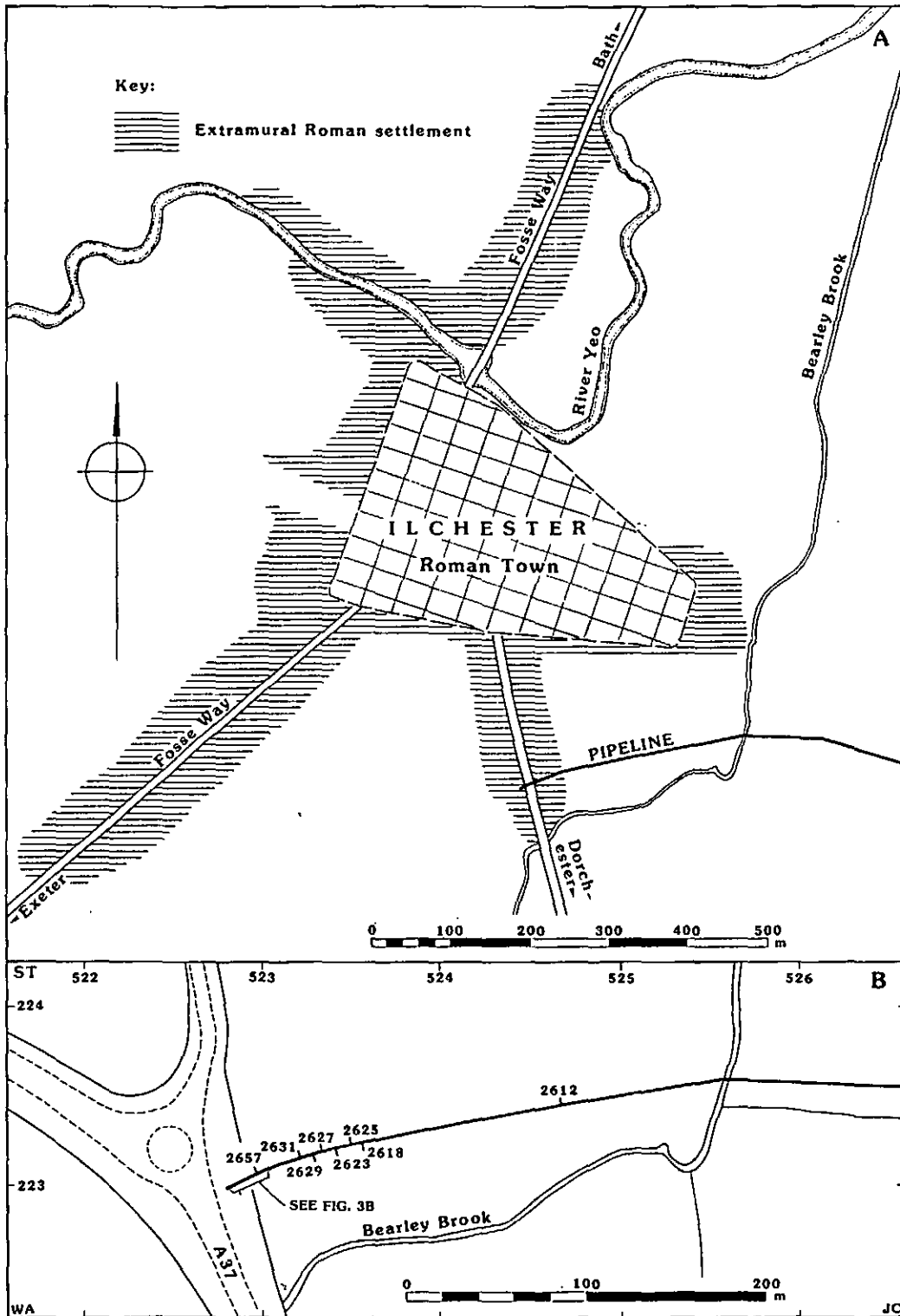


Fig. 2A Location of pipeline south of Ilchester

Fig. 2B Location of features at Ilchester

In the eastern part of the field (Fig. 2B) the pipe trench cut through the south-east corner of a stone-founded structure (2612), within which traces of an internal gravel surface were observed. On the gravel was a Roman coin of the House of Valens (AD 364-378). This structure was sealed by a spread of alluvium (2616, 2652) which was 0.3m deep.

Further west the alluvium overlay a layer of dark grey soil (2620) which contained late Romano-British pottery, a quantity of oyster and mussel shells, a large amount of charcoal, and a Roman coin of the House of Constantine (AD 320-330). This layer may have been a midden or part of an occupation deposit and it sealed a series of features (Fig. 3A). The most easterly of these was a V-shaped ditch (2618) which was 1.5m wide at the surface and 1m deep. A few metres to the west of this was a larger U-shaped ditch (2625) with a flattish base. This was 4m wide at the surface and 1.7m deep and within the fill sequence was a lining of mudstone slabs which were bedded onto sand. It is likely that the ditch had been recut prior to the stone lining being inserted and that any fills below the sand were remnants of an earlier ditch fill sequence.

Ditch 2625 was located at the eastern edge of a soil layer (2623) which was visible in the section for a continuous length of 14m and was slightly mounded in the centre. The layer could be split into two components, a lower one of grey/brown clay (2639) up to 0.6m thick and an upper one of yellowish gravel (2653) up to 0.1m thick. Cutting the western edge of this layer was another

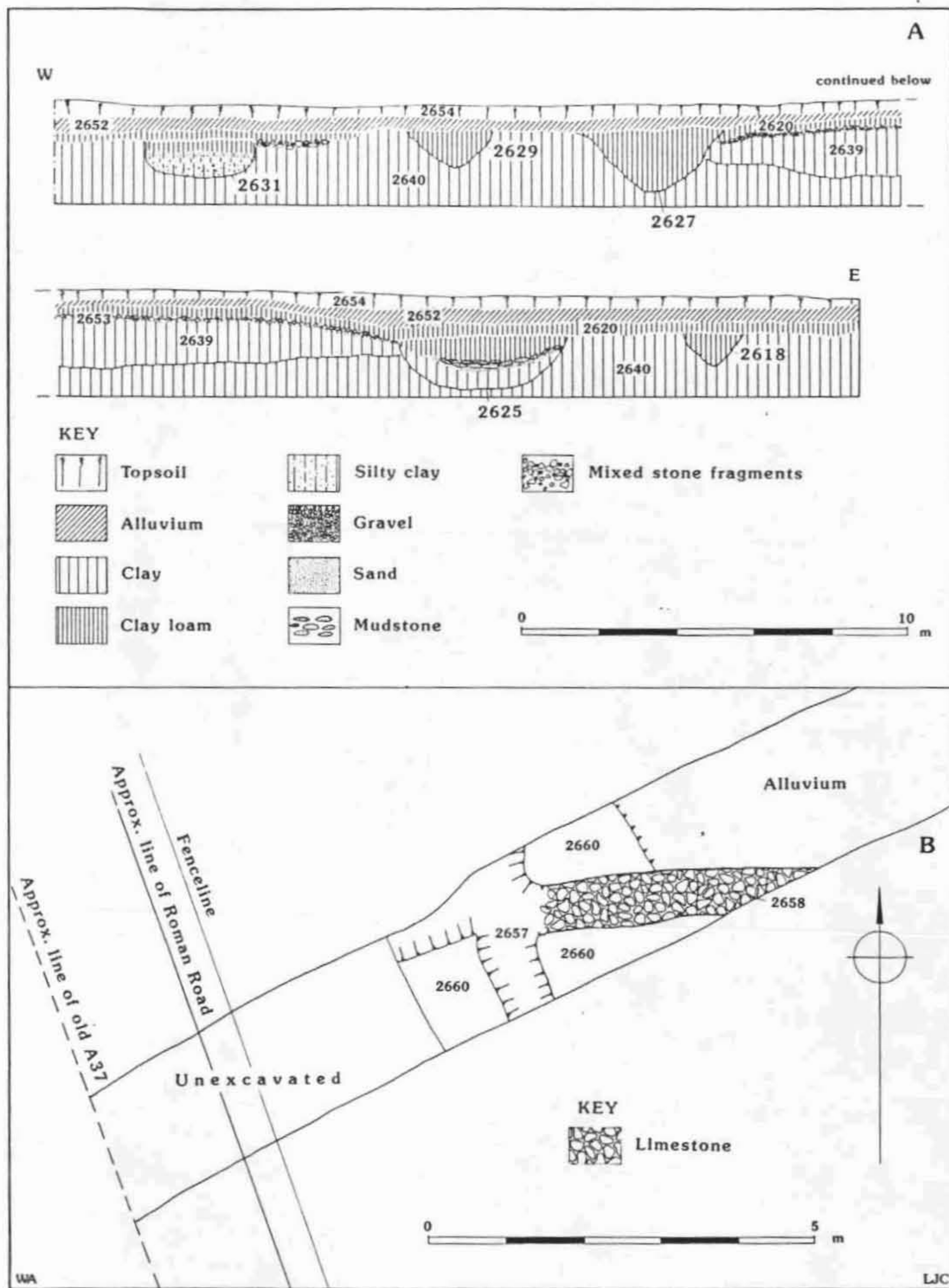


Fig. 3A Section through features at Ilchester

Fig. 3B Location of features adjacent to Roman Road

ditch (2627) which also cut the overlying dark soil 2620. This ditch was more V-shaped in profile and was 3.2m wide at the surface and 1.7m deep.

A smaller V-shaped ditch (2629) was located 2m to the west of ditch 2627. The final feature recorded in this area was a pit (2631) which was 3m in diameter and 1m deep. This sequence of features is interpreted as a courtyard with robbed-out wall-footings along each side.

Prior to the final linking of the pipeline to the existing water main adjacent to the modern A37 road, there was an opportunity to carry out a more detailed investigation of the area close to the Roman road. The remaining topsoil and the modern road embankment were removed by machine, leaving a trench, 20m long and 2m wide, to be investigated. This was cleaned by hand and all finds were recovered as a bulk context (2655). The pottery ranged from Romano-British to medieval in date.

A series of test-pits revealed that the alluvium (2616, 2652) seen further to the east extended at least this far. Here the alluvium (2656) was recorded in the eastern part of the trench and directly overlay the natural clay. In the western part of the trench the upper layer was a dark grey/brown soil (2657) which was interpreted as a dump of occupation material owing to the wide range of pottery which was found within it. Also found within this layer were two Roman coins; a sestertius of Faustina I (AD 141-161) and an antoninianus of Gallienus (AD 260-268).

This layer sealed two intersecting linear features (Fig.

3B), each of which was 0.8m wide. One of the features (2657) was aligned north/south, the other one east-west. The upper fill (2659) of these features was removed, revealing in one part a layer of limestone blocks (2658), some of which were dressed. This was probably a wall footing and the features here were almost certainly foundation trenches. The wall footings in other parts of the features had been robbed out; this is indicated by the ragged nature of the upper part of the features and also by the predominance of medieval pottery in the upper fill. A few sherds of Romano-British pottery and a Roman coin of Constantine II (318-324 AD) were also found within 2659.

The linear features cut through a clean layer of yellow clay (2660) and an underlying dark brown silt (2661). Pottery from these layers was exclusively from the late 1st-2nd centuries AD. Excavation ceased at this level due to the high water table.

The final stage of fieldwork within this area consisted of observation of the trenching through the modern embankment of the A37 roundabout. At the base of the embankment was the metalled surface of the previous A37 road which lay almost directly on the line of the Roman road south to Dorchester. No direct evidence of the Roman road was recorded, the old A37 was bedded immediately on a layer of alluvial clay. A layer of grey silty clay (3139) which formed the basal part of the road make-up was seen to contain a substantial quantity of limestone blocks, many of which seemed to have been dressed. These blocks could represent re-use of blocks from either the road itself or from adjacent buildings.

South of the current observations a similar sequence was recorded by Leach (1982, 109 and fig. 59) in a section across the same road; the Roman road at this point was 0.5m below the make-up of the more modern road and was sealed by the alluvial clay. The high water table encountered during the most recent work prevented the opportunity to confirm this sequence.

Limington Hill ST 53062221

SIVR PRN:

56893

The site is located south-west of the village of Limington, 0.8km to the east of Ilchester (Fig. 4A). It is situated at the crest of a gentle west-facing slope overlooking the floodplain of the river Yeo. Following the initial machine clearance of the topsoil from within the easement a few sherds of Romano-British and medieval pottery were recovered from the spoil heaps (2725).

Features were located in the section of the pipe trench at the top of the slope, in the central part of the field. They are described below, in order from east to west:

2727 - a small V-shaped ditch with steep sides.

2733 - a larger ditch with a more rounded profile, 1.1m wide at the surface and 0.7m deep.

2744 - a small pit 0.8m deep and at least 0.45m deep.

2730 - a 5m long spread of grey/brown soil which was 0.5m thick and which contained flecks of charcoal and some bone.

2728 - a shallow scoop 1.2m in diameter and 0.4m deep. A lower fill of dark grey soil (2736) contained burnt flint, charcoal, and small slabs of stone along with some pieces of reddish fired clay and yellowish sandy unfired clay. A few of the pieces of fired clay had more than one baked surface within the

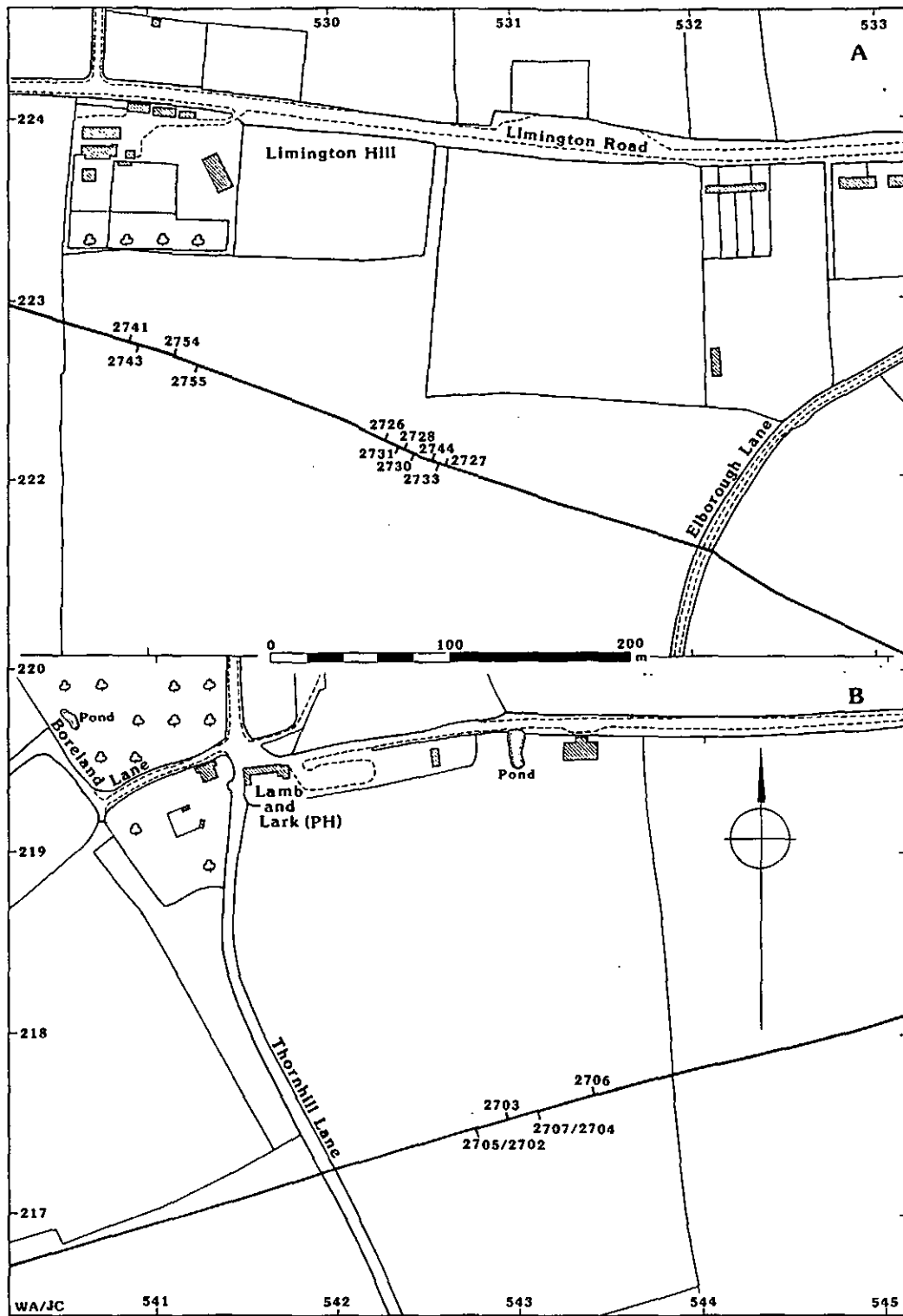


Fig. 4A Location of features at Limington Hill

Fig. 4B Location of features at Limington

laminated structure of the fabric.

2731 - an irregular ditch 0.5m deep and 0.8m wide at the surface.

2726 - a V-shaped ditch 0.6m deep and 0.5m wide at the surface.

Features 2727, 2733, 2728, and 2744 contained pottery of mixed Romano-British date and a single sherd of later prehistoric date was also recovered from 2727.

A second group of features was located on the flatter ground at the western side of the field, over 100m from the group described above. From east to west, they were as below:

2755 - a small irregular ditch 0.75m wide and 0.75m deep.

2754 - a large ditch or hollow 6.5m wide at the surface. The basal fill contained a large amount of burnt flint.

2743 - a large ditch or hollow 5m wide at the surface.

2741 - a U-shaped ditch 0.55m wide and 0.55m deep.

No datable artefacts were recovered from any of the features within the group described above.

All the ditches within this field were aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.

Limington ST 54292175

SMR

56894

The site is located to the south of the village of Limington, east of Ilchester (Fig. 4B). The ground is fairly level although some traces of ridge and furrow are visible. Subsequent to the machine stripping of the topsoil from within the easement area some artefacts were recovered from the spoil heaps (2709). The

pottery was predominantly Romano-British in date although some early medieval and post-medieval wares were also present.

The features recorded in the section of the pipe trench are listed below, in order from east to west:

2706 - a shallow U-shaped ditch 0.8m wide at the surface and 0.3m deep.

2707 - a U-shaped ditch 1.3m wide at the surface and 0.7m deep. The western edge of this feature was cut by:

2704 - a V-shaped ditch 1.8m wide at the surface and at least 0.8m deep.

2703 - a 7.5m long uneven spread of very dark grey soil.

2702 - a steep sided V-shaped ditch 1.3m wide and 1.2m deep. The western edge of this feature was cut by:

2705 - a U-shaped ditch 1.6m wide at the surface and 0.8m deep.

The soil spread (2703) contained pottery of Romano-British date, also a sherd of later prehistoric pottery and four sherds of early medieval type. Ditches 2702 and 2704 contained sherds from the 1st-2nd centuries AD but some sherds of later Roman pottery was present in 2702 and one sherd of early medieval pottery in 2704.

All of the ditches described above were aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.

Ashington ST 55802211

SMAC 56895

The site is located to the north of the village of Ashington, south and west of the river Yeo. The immediate subsurface geology consists of a thin spread of fluvial gravels which seal the underlying head deposits. During pipeline construction, a programme of aerial photography carried out by Devon County Council revealed cropmark features within this field (Fig. 5). Possible features within adjacent fields were not revealed due to variation in current land use.

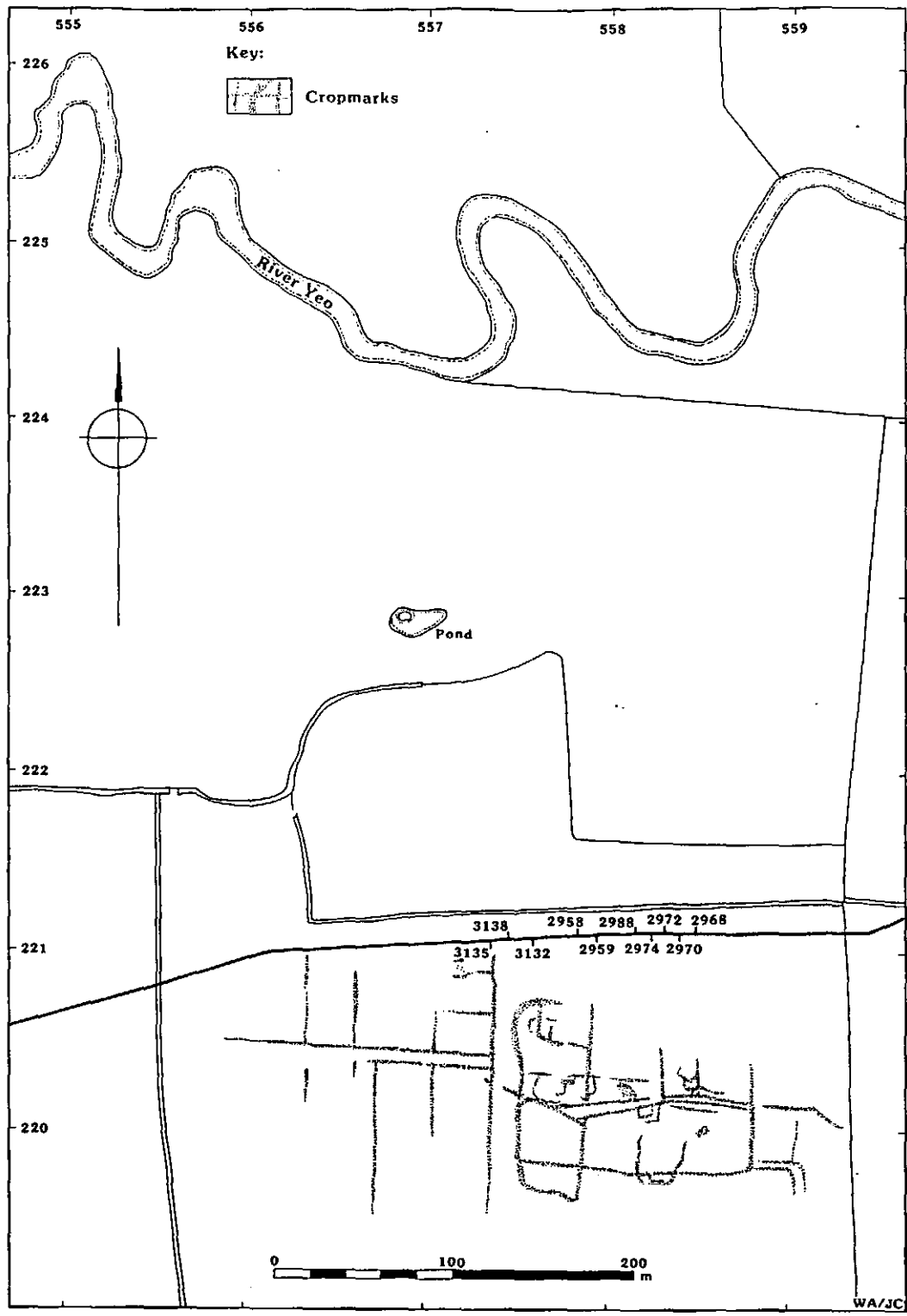


Fig. 5 Location of features at Ashington

Following the machine-stripping of the topsoil from within the easement area, pottery was recovered from the spoil heaps (2954). Most of this was of later Roman date, including sherds of a single Dressel 20 amphora. Two small spreads of rubble (2955) which included dressed limestone blocks, fragments of burnt limestone, ceramic roof tiles and Romano-British pottery were located in the central part of the field.

Two test-pits were excavated in the area around the rubble spreads and these indicated that between the topsoil and the natural gravel was a layer of occupation material (2963, 2966) which contained charcoal and burnt stones. The rubble spreads were contained within this layer, and no structural remains were uncovered. The pottery from this occupation material included a sherd of later prehistoric date although the remainder of the sherds were later Roman.

To the east of this area a further spread of rubble was noticed, along with some mortar and a small patch of burnt soil. Finds recovered from around this area were recorded as contexts 2955 and 2956 and again included a single sherd of prehistoric date (1st millennium BC) amongst the Romano-British pottery. The spread of mortar (2959) was investigated; it was found to be very shallow and directly overlay a spread of charcoal.

A further sherd of later prehistoric pottery was found in the adjacent patch of rubble (2958), which appeared to be a badly damaged wall-footing of limestone blocks. To the north of the wall a group of three shallow intercutting pits contained a fill

of charcoal-rich silt (2990, 2992, 2994) from which pottery of mainly later Roman date was recovered.

Following intensive cleaning the patch of burnt soil was found to be a linear baked clay trough (2988) about 1.5m long. A section of this feature was excavated and it was shown to be 0.6m wide, 0.3m deep and U-shaped in profile. The sides and base were of reddish baked clay, up to 130mm thick, which was more of a yellow colour at the inner surface. This feature appears to be some form of flue or oven but no evidence was recovered which might have indicated what type of production was being undertaken.

Around this feature were several other spreads of material which remained unexcavated. One was a discrete patch of charcoal (2976) and another seemed to represent an area of demolition rubble (2983).

Several features were recorded during trenching within this plot. They are described below, from east to west:

2968 - a bowl-shaped pit 1.2m in diameter and 0.5m deep.

2970 - a pit almost identical to 2968.

2972 - a shallow ditch 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.

2974 - a larger ditch 1.2m wide and 0.45m deep, aligned north-east/south-west.

3132 - a U-shaped ditch 3.5m wide and 1.3m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.

3138 - a U-shaped ditch 5.0m wide and 2.0m deep, aligned as 3132.

3135 - a V-shaped ditch 2.0m wide and 1.0m deep, aligned as 3132.

A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from pit 2968.

Chilton Cantelo ST 56502234

The site is located west of the village of Chilton Cantelo and immediately east of the river Yeo. As at Ashington the glacial head deposits in this area are sealed by fluvial gravels. Cropmarks recorded on aerial photographs are shown on the site location plan (Fig. 6). Following machine stripping of the topsoil from within the easement, finds were recovered from the spoil heaps (2777).

Features were recorded along for a distance of 320m along the trench and are described below in order from north-east to south-west:

- 2762 - asymmetrical ditch 3.0m wide and at least 1.3m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.
- 2763 - asymmetrical ditch 2.0m wide and 1.3m deep, aligned north/south.
- 2764 - irregular ditch 1.1m wide and at least 1.4m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.
- 2765 - shallow pit 1.4m wide and 0.45m deep.
- 2766 - V-shaped pit 1.2m wide and 0.8m deep.
- 2767 - large ditch 4.0m wide and 0.85m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.
- 2768 - asymmetrical ditch 2.0m wide and 1.2m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.
- 2769 - shallow pit 1.0m wide and 0.3m deep.
- 2770 - large ditch 4.0m wide and at least 1.6m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.
- 2778 - U-shaped ditch 1.0m wide and 0.6m deep, aligned north-north-east/south-south-west.
- 2781 - irregular pit 2.0m wide and 0.9m deep.
- 2785 - a 2.5m wide spread of dark grey soil containing specks of charcoal and fragments of baked clay. This was only 0.08m thick but directly below it was a 0.4m thick spread of yellow-brown clay.
- 2786 - shallow bowl-shaped pit 1.2m wide and 0.4m wide.
- 2788 - large pit 3.6m wide and 0.9m deep.

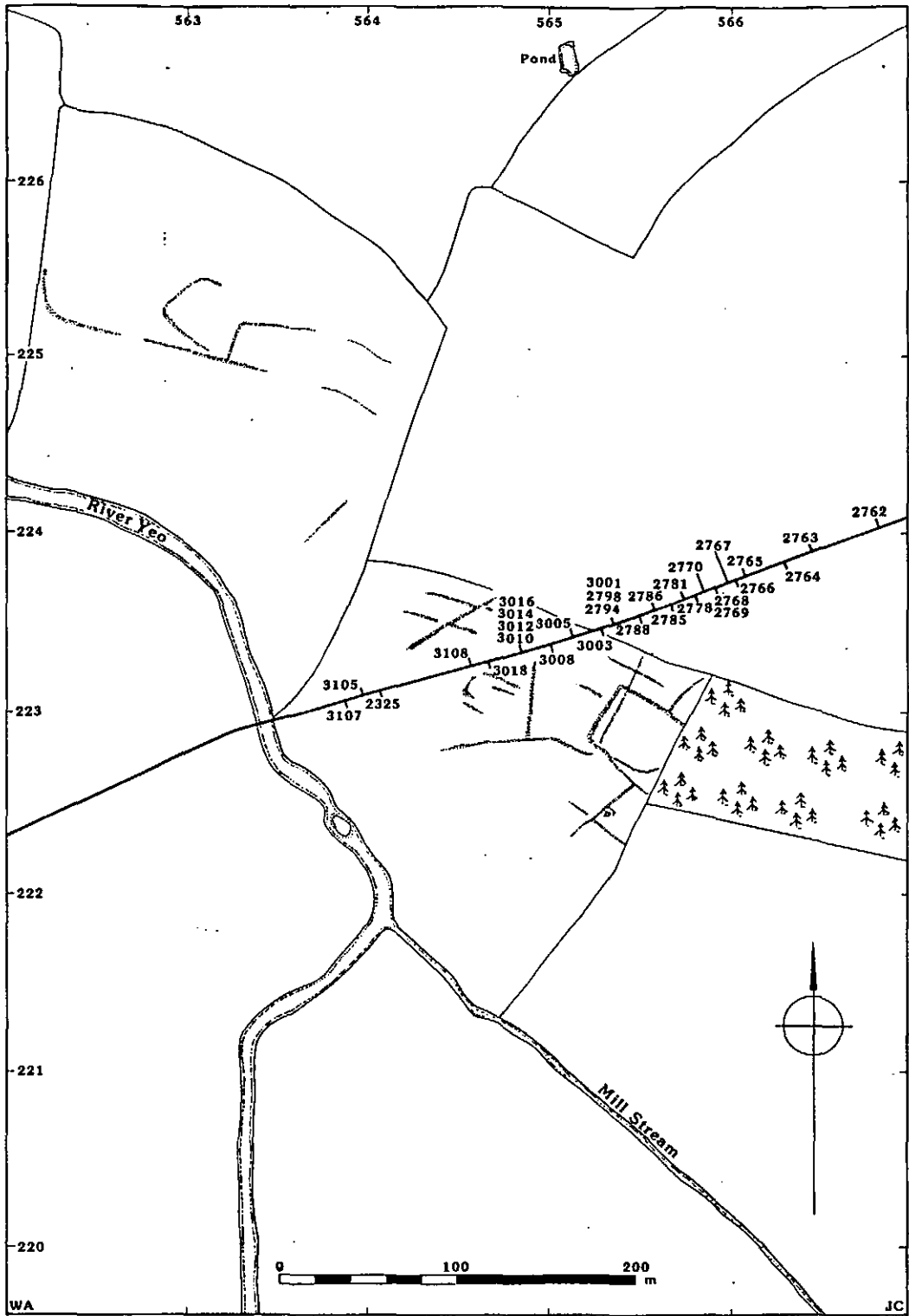


Fig. 6 Location of features at Chilton Cantelo

2794 - U-shaped ditch 3.8m wide and 1.4m deep, aligned north-west/south-east.

2798 - U-shaped ditch 1.0m wide and 0.5m deep, aligned as 2794.

3001 - U-shaped ditch 1.0m wide and 0.5m deep, aligned as 2794.

3003 - irregular ditch 2.7m wide and at least 1.3m deep, aligned as 2794.

3005 - U-shaped ditch 2.0m wide and 1.0m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.

3008 - shallow ditch 3.9m wide and 0.55m deep, aligned north-west/south-east.

3016 - irregular ditch at least 1.1m deep, this was the earliest in a sequence of four intercutting ditches aligned north/south.

3014 - U-shaped ditch 0.85m deep.

3012 - U-shaped ditch 1.0m deep.

3010 - U-shaped ditch 2.4m wide and 0.8m deep.

3018 - small ditch 1.3m wide and 0.3m deep, aligned north-west/south-east.

3108 - steep-sided pit at least 2m wide and 1.5m deep.

2325 - irregular ditch 2.0m wide and 1.0m deep, aligned north-east/south-west.

3105 - small pit at least 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep.

3107 - a 4m wide spread of grey silty clay up to 0.35m deep.

Pit 3105 and layer 3107 contained exclusively pottery of the 1st millennium BC. Pottery of similar date formed the greater part of that recovered from ditch 2325, along with two sherds of early Roman date, and ditch 2762 contained a further sherd of possible 1st millennium BC date as well as three sherds of Romano-British date. Features containing exclusively Roman material included pits 2766, 2769 (3rd-4th centuries AD), 2781, 3108 (early Roman) and ditches 2778, 2794, 3010 (later Roman). Pit 2765 contained pottery predominantly of later Roman date along with some medieval and post-medieval types.

SMR PRN:

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Queen Camel ST 60132432

The site is located to the east of the village of Queen Camel, immediately to the north of the road to Sutton Montis (Fig. 7A).

The features were recorded in the section of the pipe trench, which was made more complicated at this point by the addition of a valve-cutting. Finds collected from the spoil heaps following topsoil clearance were recorded as bulk context 3113 and included a sherd of Savernake ware (1st-2nd centuries AD).

Features were observed over a total area of 13m but may have extended further to the east. There was a build-up of archaeological deposits to a total depth of 0.8m and several negative features which cut into the underlying sand.

The negative features represent the earliest activity on the site. A small irregular ditch (3121) was aligned north/south and was around 0.5m deep. To the east was a deep posthole (3130) 0.9m deep and 0.15m in diameter, probably the result of a stake being driven into the soft sand. These features were sealed by a layer of pale grey soil (3114) above which was a series of soil layers, some containing blocks of dressed limestone.

The lowermost of the soil layers was a thin pale grey clay loam (3125) which contained specks of charcoal and fragments of baked clay. Above this a yellow sandy loam (3128) sealed a small V-shaped posthole (3131). One of the upper layers comprised a spread of limestone blocks (3118), some of which were dressed and others were burnt.

The site was sealed by a layer of silty clay (3112) which covered the entire area and within which was found a sherd of Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (AD 240-400).

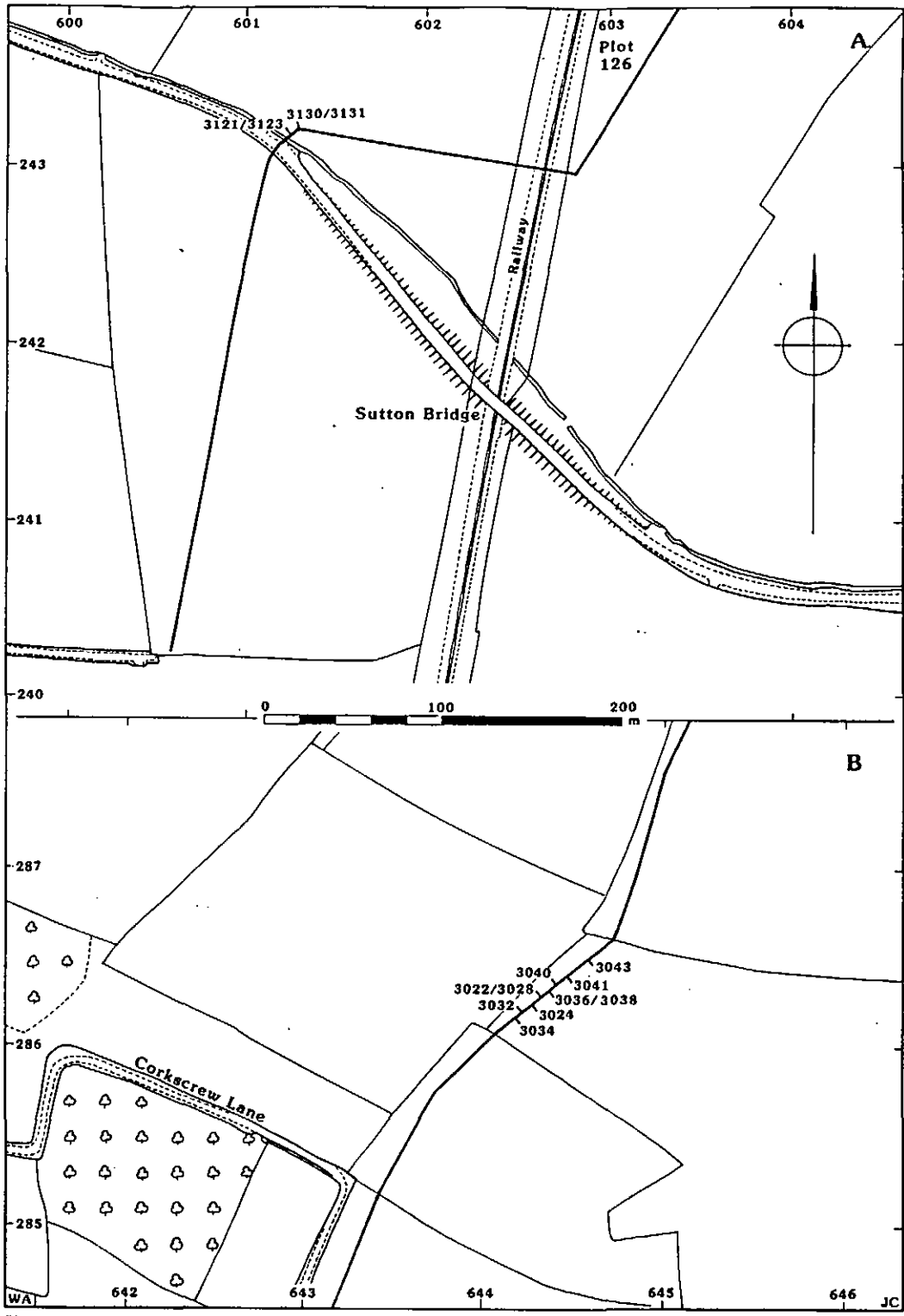


Fig. 7A Location of features at Queen Camel

Fig. 7B Location of features at Yarlinton Mill Farm

Yarlington Mill Farm ST 64442864

56898

The site is located between the villages of North Cadbury and Yarlington, to the north of Corkscrew Lane (Fig. 7B). Following machine-stripping of the topsoil from within the easement area, a sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the spoil heap (3021).

Features were recorded over a distance of 55m and are listed below in order from north-east to south-west:

3043 - shallow asymmetric ditch 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.

3041 - U-shaped ditch 0.45m wide and 0.25m deep, aligned west-north-west/east-south-east. This was sealed by:

3040 - a 5m wide spread of yellow sandy clay up to 0.25m thick.

3036 - U-shaped ditch 1.8m wide and 0.8m deep, aligned north-north-west/south-south-east.

3038 - U-shaped ditch 0.4m wide and 0.25m deep, aligned as 3036.

3022 - asymmetrical ditch 1.2m wide and 0.65m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench and cut to the south-east by:

3026 - a small posthole or stakehole 0.08m wide and 0.2m deep.

3028 - a small ditch 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench and cut by:

3030 - small posthole 0.04m wide and 0.12m deep.

3024 - shallow pit 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep, cutting:

3045 - earlier pit almost totally removed by 3024.

3032 - irregular ditch 1.1m wide and 1.3m deep, aligned perpendicular to the pipe trench.

3034 - irregular pit 1.15m wide and 0.65m deep.

Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from ditch 3022.

THE POTTERY

by R.H. Seager Smith

This report concerns the material recovered from the seven Romano-British sites found at the western end of the Wessex Water pipeline. There were 2050 sherds (17,696g) from the sites which included a suburb of Ilchester, where much previous work has been carried out (Leach 1982) and six small, previously unrecorded rural sites. The assemblage includes pottery ranging in date from the 1st millennium BC until the 19th century AD. Overall, it is dominated by products of Romano-British date.

The Nature of the Assemblage

The total number and weight of the sherds recovered from the seven Romano-British sites in Somerset are shown in Table 1. Sherds were recovered by surface/spoil heap collection after machine stripping and by rapid manual excavation of the features revealed in the section of the pipe trench. The majority are comparatively small (average sherd weight 8.6g), although this cannot be taken as indicative of the condition of the assemblage as a whole, which contains both highly abraded and very freshly broken sherds, and is merely a reflection of the speed and nature of recovery. The main aim of the ceramic analysis was to provide a chronological framework for all of the archaeological features observed during trenching for the pipeline.

Methodology

The assemblage was recorded using an abbreviated version of the Wessex Archaeology pottery recording system (Morris 1991) on a context by context basis.

Thirty-eight fabrics were identified from the Somerset Romano-British sites. The fabrics were described using the system of 'established' wares coupled with the definition of additional fabrics by predominant inclusion type. Only brief fabric descriptions are included in this report although full details can be found in the archive. The majority of fabrics were represented by only a few sherds, and the total quantities recovered from each site have been summarised by fabric group in Table 1, whilst the total number and weight of sherds of the individual fabric types are listed in the archive.

Where possible, the reference numbers describing variables such as vessel form and decoration were taken from established type series (Fulford 1975; Young 1977; Davies and Seager Smith forthcoming) but where these were not available (ie. for the prehistoric and medieval periods) reference numbers have been assigned on a site specific basis. These, together with descriptions of new forms, are summarised below while full details can be found in the archive. The range of vessel forms present by site is summarised in Table 2.

Prehistoric Pottery (Fig. 8, nos. 1-3)

by E.L. Morris and R.H. Seager Smith

Nine fabrics were identified amongst the prehistoric material (38 sherds; 203g) from the Somerset sites. The majority of sherds were featureless body sherds derived from thick-walled, coarseware vessels, although three vessel forms were identified (Fig. 8, nos. 1-3). No traces of decoration or special finishes were noted on any of the prehistoric sherds.

Although no prehistoric material was found during the investigations under discussion at Ilchester, the range of prehistoric fabrics present at the other six Romano-British sites can be broadly paralleled by those already known from the earliest Iron Age activity at this site (Ellison 1982, 125), and from earlier to later Iron Age sites elsewhere in Somerset.

The shell-tempered fabric (S51) is the most common prehistoric fabric type (Table 1); however, shell-tempered fabrics are uncommon in the assemblage from Ilchester (0.6%) where the flint- (fabric A; 47.8%) and sand- (fabric D; 32.1%) tempered fabrics predominate (Ellison 1982, 125). A similar predominance of shell-tempered wares amongst the earlier Iron Age pottery does however occur at Ham Hill (Ellison and Pearson 1977; Morris 1987) and South Cadbury (Alcock 1980), both situated on limestone which contains suitable fossil shell for tempering (Ellison 1982, 125; Morris 1987). Interestingly, the areas along the pipeline where the shell-tempered wares are most numerous, at Ashington and Chilton Cantelo, are themselves situated on the

fluvial gravels of the Yeo floodplain, perhaps indicating that the pottery was not produced from immediately local resources.

Fabrics R51 and R52, which contain igneous rock fragments, are not paralleled at Ilchester although a single sherd containing quartz sand and igneous rock fragments is known from Meare Village East (Orme et al. 1983, 66, sherd no. 65). These fabrics are also not local in origin.

The grog-tempered fabric (G52) is similar to Fabric 3 at Meare Village East (Orme et al. 1983, 48). The majority of later prehistoric fabrics were thus not necessarily of local origin. The production of pottery in the earlier Iron Age in Somerset has been shown to be a localised activity. This system changed in the middle and late Iron Age periods when a mixed system of both local production and traded pottery occurred (Ellison 1982; Morris 1987 and 1988). The investigation of the fabrics therefore suggests that the pottery is likely to be middle to late Iron Age in date.

This fabric evidence is supported by the two diagnostic vessel forms which are middle to late Iron Age types (Fig. 8, nos. 1-2). These vessels are not dissimilar to forms identified at Meare Village East (Orme et al. 1983, fig. 39, no. 2301) and Ham Hill (Morris 1987, fig. 3, no. 23).

Thus the later prehistoric pottery fabrics and forms identified from these Romano-British sites in Somerset are likely to represent middle to late Iron Age activity at these same locations. There is possibly an indication that slightly earlier

Iron Age activity, represented by shell-tempered fabric body sherds and the undiagnostic rim from Chilton Cantelo (Fig. 8, no. 3), could also have occurred but this is far from certain.

Fabric descriptions

Fabric F51: Hard, sparsely tempered fabric containing large crushed flint grits and occasional iron oxides in a very fine sand or micaceous clay matrix; probably local; 1st millennium BC.

Fabric G51: Soft, variably fired grog-tempered fabric; possibly 1st millennium BC.

Fabric G52: Soft, highly calcareous fabric, sparsely tempered with irregular grog fragments; voids apparent especially on surfaces; 1st millennium BC and possibly of middle to late Iron Age date (Fig. 8, no. 2)

Fabric G53: Oxidised grog tempered fabric, also containing rare, probably naturally occurring quartz grains and red iron particles; 1st century BC/1st century AD.

Fabric I51: Hard, fine-grained fabric containing red iron particles; second half of the 1st millennium BC.

Fabric Q51: Hard, sparsely tempered fabric containing quartz and mica with occasional iron oxides and white, non-calcareous particles; 1st millennium BC.

Fabric R51: Harsh, fairly fine fabric tempered with igneous rock fragments and occasional iron oxides; not local; middle to late Iron Age.

Fabric R52: Hard, mainly reduced fabric tempered with irregularly shaped probably igneous rock fragments; not local; middle to late Iron Age.

Fabric S51: Soft, variably fired shell-tempered fabric; 1st millennium BC.

Vessel Forms

Type 1000: Ovoid jar with a simple, upright bead rim; middle to late Iron Age; Fabric G52; Fig. 8, no. 1.

Type 1001: Necked jar with a plain, upright rim; middle to late Iron Age; Fabric R52; Fig 8, no. 2.

Type 1002: Indeterminate rim, probably from jar form; 1st millennium BC; fabric S51; Fig 8, no. 3.

Romano-British Pottery (Fig. 8, nos. 4-11)

Twenty fabrics were identified amongst the Romano-British material recovered (1382 sherds, 12,554g). The majority of fabrics were represented by only one or two sherds each. Given the nature of the assemblage, most sherds were undiagnostic body fragments but the bulk of the material appears to date from the later Roman period (3rd-4th centuries AD), with occasional sherds indicating activity during the 1st-2nd centuries AD.

The assemblage is dominated by the products of the Black Burnished ware industry, which represents 80% of the total number of Romano-British sherds. Both the Wareham/Poole Harbour (fabric E101) and the variant fabric (fabric E102) groups were identified. Of the other coarsewares, a range of sandy greyware fabrics (fabric Q100), some of them wheel-thrown and probably representing the products of several centres, are the most numerous, with the rest of the assemblage consisting of orange/buff and other greyware fabrics.

Finewares were largely confined to the products of the Oxfordshire (fabrics E170 and 172) and New Forest (fabrics E161 and E162) kilns, which occur in approximately equal quantities. Samian (fabrics E301-303) was present at Ilchester and also in small quantities at several of the more peripheral sites (Table 1) including Limington Hill, Limington, Ashington and Chilton Cantelo. The absence of samian at Queen Camel and Yarlinton

Mill Farm is probably a reflection of the small numbers of sherds recovered from these sites (which produced 31 and 3 sherds respectively) rather than the restricted availability of samian to rural communities or the distance of these sites from the major market centre of Ilchester. However, samian is present amongst the similarly small assemblage (33 sherds) recovered from Limington Hill and this is probably due to the very close proximity of this site (only 0.8km) to Ilchester.

Only one other sherd of imported fineware, from a Central Gaulish roughcast beaker (fabric E122), occurred at Ilchester itself. This reflects not only the date of the assemblage as a whole, which post-dates the majority of imported finewares, but also the circumstances under which it was recovered, the small, delicate sherds of the early Roman finewares being much more difficult to recover using rapid excavation techniques. Amphora sherds, probably from a single Dressel 20 vessel, occurred only at Ashington while examples of another, specifically Roman form, mortaria, occurred at Ilchester and Limington.

Amongst the Romano-British fine and coarse wares, 23 vessel forms were recognised. As might be expected, given its dominance in the assemblage as a whole, the widest range of forms occurred amongst the Black Burnished wares (Types 1-62; Davies and Seager Smith forthcoming) (Fig. 8, nos. 4-9), although Oxfordshire (Types C14-M22; Young 1977) (Fig. 8, no. 10) and New Forest (Types 1/10-63; Fulford 1975) forms were also present. Not surprisingly, most of these occurred at Ilchester itself and with

the exception of the New Forest indented flagon (Fulford 1975, 44, Type 1/10.11) (Fig. 8, no. 11), all the forms present can be paralleled by those already known from this site (Leach 1982, figs. 67-79).

Despite the smaller assemblage size, the range of vessel forms present from the Romano-British rural sites is also broadly comparable with those from Ilchester. From Table 1, it is clear that the New Forest and Oxfordshire 'fineware' fabrics are present amongst these assemblages, albeit in fairly small quantities. It is likely therefore, that the paucity of recognisable fineware vessel forms on these rural sites is largely a result of smaller assemblage size, rather than a reflection of the restricted availability of these wares during the Romano-British period.

Fabric Descriptions

Black Burnished Ware

Fabric E101: Black Burnished ware; Wareham/Poole Harbour region of Dorset; 1st-4th centuries AD.

Fabric E102: Variant Black Burnished ware fabric group; several centres, exact location unknown but probably outside Wareham/Poole Harbour region; 1st-late 2nd or 3rd centuries AD.

Sandy Grey Wares

Fabric Q100: Sandy grey coarseware fabric group; various sources but probably fairly local; some wheel-thrown; late 1st-2nd centuries AD onwards but with greater abundance in the 3rd-4th centuries AD; similar to Ilchester fabric Gi (Leach 1982, 141).

Other Grey Coarsewares

Fabric E185: Savernake ware; Savernake Forest area, south of Marlborough, Wiltshire; second half of the 1st

century AD-2nd century AD (Hodder 1974; Swan 1975).

- Fabric F100: Coarse, harsh-textured, flint tempered fabric; probably local; broadly similar to Ilchester fabric CW, dated from the end of the 2nd century AD (Leach 1982, 142).
- Fabric M100: Micaceous grey ware; probably of fairly local origin; similar to Ilchester fabric Gii, dated to the 1st-2nd centuries AD (Leach 1982, 141).
- Fabric Q101: Rough, moderately coarse fabric containing a very wide range of detritus not all of which are recognisable in the hand specimen. Inclusions include quartz, clay pellets, flint, iron oxides, mica, unidentified rock fragments and possibly glauconite; source and date range unknown.
- Fabric R100: Hard, moderately coarse fabric containing rounded rock fragments, some grog, red iron particles, mica and quartz/quartzite; source unknown; probably early Roman.

Orange/Buff Wares

- Fabric M101: Smooth, micaceous orange/buff ware; also containing red iron oxides and hard, white, non-calcareous grains; source and date range uncertain.
- Fabric Q102: Moderately coarse orange/buff ware containing abundant quartz sand and mica; source uncertain; similar to Ilchester fabric CBii, dated from the later 1st century AD onwards (Leach 1982, 140).
- Fabric Q103: Hard, sandy fabric, also containing mica and iron oxides; source and date range unknown.

Imported Finewares

- Fabric E122: Central Gaulish roughcast colour-coated ware; c. AD 70-150 (Greene 1978, 17).
- Fabric E301: Southern Gaulish samian; pre c. AD 110.
- Fabric E302: Central Gaulish samian; c. AD 100-200.
- Fabric E303: Eastern Gaulish samian: c. AD 125-250.

Romano-British Finewares

- Fabric E161: New Forest Red Slipped ware; c. AD 270-400+ (Fulford 1975, 25, fabrics 1b and c).
- Fabric E162: New Forest Colour-Coated ware; c. AD 270-400+ (Fulford 1975, 24, fabric 1a).

Fabric E170: Oxfordshire Red Slipped ware; c. AD 240-400+ (Young 1977, 123).

Fabric E172: Oxfordshire White ware; c. AD 240-400+ (Young 1977, 56).

Amphora

Fabric E256: Dressel 20 amphora; from Baetica in southern Spain; Augustan period until late 3rd century AD but most frequently imported between the mid 1st and mid 2nd centuries AD (Peacock and Williams 1986, 136).

Mortaria

Fabric E200: Corresponds to one of the fabrics used for Hartley's Group 1 and 2 mortaria (1977, 11); from north-east France or Kent; c. 60-150 AD.

Fabric I100: Soft, iron-rich mortaria fabric containing red iron oxides, some mica and hard, non-calcareous white particles; source and date range unknown.

Vessel forms

Black Burnished Ware and Sandy Grey Wares

Type 1: Upright rimmed cooking-pot or storage jar; 1st-early 2nd centuries AD; Fig. 8, no. 4.

Type 2: Everted rim cooking-pot/storage jar; rim diameter less than maximum diameter of body; 2nd century AD onwards; Fig. 8, no. 5.

Type 3: Everted rim cooking-pot or storage jar; diameter of rim greater than that of body; 3rd-4th centuries AD; not illustrated.

Type 2/3: Everted rim but insufficient present to be able to compare with body diameter; 2nd century AD onwards; not illustrated.

Type 7: High-shouldered, bead rim jars; 1st-late 2nd/early 3rd centuries AD; not illustrated.

Type 8: High-shouldered, 'pulled' bead rim jars; 1st - late 2nd/early 3rd centuries AD; not illustrated.

Type 12: Large storage jar with slightly everted pie-crust rim; late 3rd-4th centuries AD; not illustrated.

- Type 13: Round-bodied open bowl; 1st-2nd centuries AD; Fig. 8, no. 6.
- Type 20: 'Dog-dish' - shallow, straight-sided dish (or lid), with plain rim; late 1st century AD onwards but increasingly common after the end of the 2nd century AD; Fig. 8, no. 7.
- Type 22: Flat-, or flange-, rimmed dishes or bowls; 2nd century AD; Fig. 8, no. 8.
- Type 24: Flat-, or flange-, rimmed dishes or bowls with incised groove on top of rim; 'incipient flanged bowls/dishes'; mid 2nd-3rd centuries AD; not illustrated.
- Type 25: Dropped flanged bowls/dishes; late 3rd-early 5th centuries AD; Fig. 8, no. 9.
- Type 40: Rounded, carinated open bowls with externally beaded rims; 1st-early 2nd centuries AD; not illustrated.
- Type 62 : Globular-bodied jar with narrow neck, an everted rim and a pronounced lid-seating groove in the inner lip; 2nd century AD onwards; not illustrated.

Oxfordshire Wares

- Type C14: Handled jar or jug with pulley-wheel rim; AD ?350-400 (Young 1977, 150, fig. 54); not illustrated.
- Type C51: Flanged bowl copying Drag.38; AD 240-400+ (Young 1977, 160, fig. 59); not illustrated.
- Type C75.17: Necked bowl with out-turned rim and curved body; AD 325-400+ (Young 1975, 165, fig. 62); not illustrated.
- Type C84: Wall-sided, bead-rimmed, carinated bowl, cordon mid-way down wall, rouletted and stamped decoration; AD 350-400+ (Young 1977, 170, fig. 65); Fig. 8, no. 10.
- Type M22: Mortarium with upright rim and squat flange folded close to body; AD 240-400+ (Young 1977, 76, fig 23); not illustrated.

New Forest Wares

- Type 1/10.11: Globular body of an indented flagon; spout and upper part neck missing; white painted decoration; probably c. AD 300-330 (Fulford 1975, 44, fig. 9); Fig. 8, no. 11.
- Type 63: Externally flanged bowl; resembles Drag.63; c. AD 270-400+ (Fulford 1975, 64, fig 50); not

illustrated.

Mortaria

Type 334: Mortarium with a small, upright bead and a thin, horizontal flange, tightly down-turned at terminal; insufficient preserved for grits to be present; origin and date range unknown; not illustrated.

Other Fabrics

Type 403: Handled jug or flagon; inturned, wedge-shaped rim; origin and date range unknown; not illustrated.

Medieval Pottery (Fig. 8, nos. 12-18)

A total of 465 sherds (3465g) of medieval pottery was identified. Most of this material (428 sherds, 3226g) was recovered from Ilchester which continued as an important regional centre well into the medieval period (Victoria County History, Somerset 111 1975, 179-203; Leach 1982). Small quantities were also found in surface clearance deposits at Limington Hill, Limington and Ashington while 32 sherds from surface clearance or the upper fills of a pit (2765), otherwise likely to be of late Roman date, were found at Chilton Cantelo. The small quantities of medieval sherds probably indicate later agricultural activity in these areas rather than continued, or renewed, occupation of the small Romano-British settlements.

Four fabrics were identified. The bulk of the medieval assemblage (60% of the sherds) consists of a variable flint-

tempered fabric (fabric F400), generally used for cooking pot forms (Fig. 8, nos. 12-15) and almost certainly produced in the environs of Ilchester during the late 12th-13th centuries. (Pearson 1982, 171-2, fabric group 18). A small number of sherds (4 sherds, 34g) in a coarse, harsh-textured sandy fabric (fabric Q400) may also belong to this group of locally-produced wares although these are possibly earlier in date, perhaps beginning in the 11th century. A similar earlier medieval date may also be indicated by the single sherd of limestone-tempered ware (fabric C400) occurring at Ilchester. A wide range of sandy fabrics (fabric Q401) used for both cooking-pot and jug/pitcher forms were also present amongst the pipeline material. Numerous sandy fabrics, dated from the 12th-14th centuries, were identified at Ilchester (Pearson 1982, 171-6), and it is likely that the pipeline material contains a similar range of products.

Six medieval vessel types were identified, representing the range of cooking pots, bowls and jugs/pitchers. All occurred at Ilchester and the forms are well-paralleled amongst the medieval assemblage already known from this site (Pearson 1982, figs. 80-102). Generally, the cooking-pots occurred in the locally-produced flint tempered fabrics (fabric F400) while the 'fineware' vessels, the bowls, jugs and pitchers were found in the sandy range of Q400 (Fig. 8, nos. 16-18). The majority of sherds of this date, however, were plain body sherds, although occasional examples of deeply burnished line decoration were noted on the flint-tempered wares (fabric F400). Incised

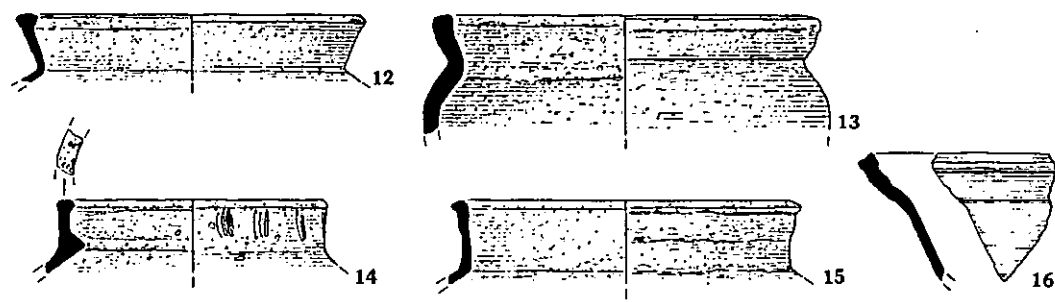
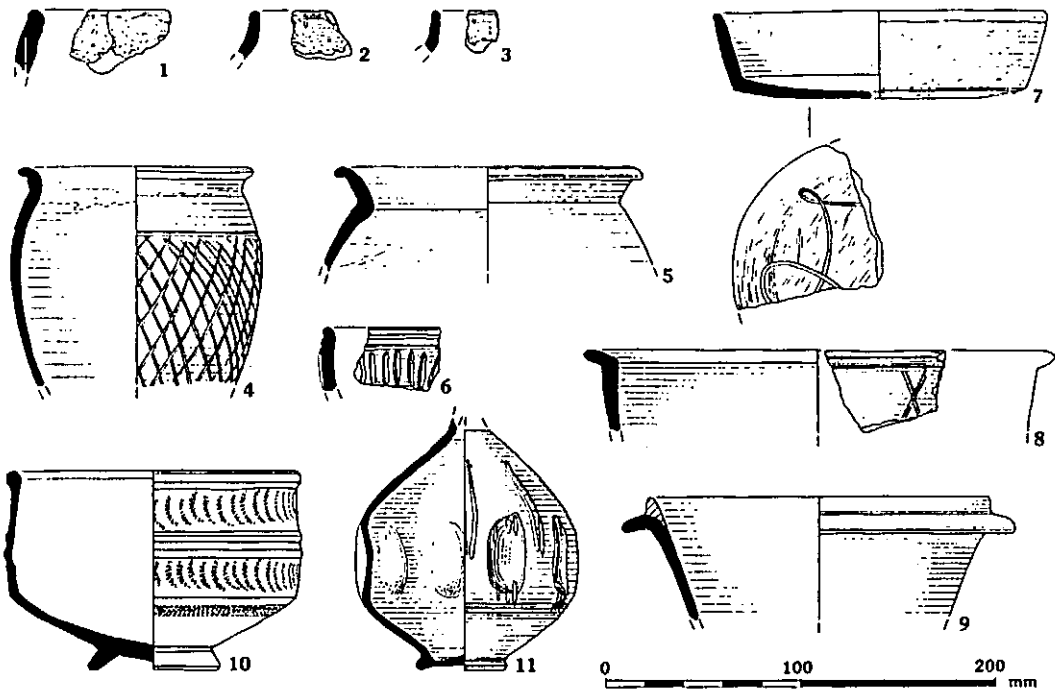
slashes, thumb-impressed decoration and traces of glaze, on the other hand, were confined to sherds of the sandy fabrics (fabric Q400).



Fabric Descriptions

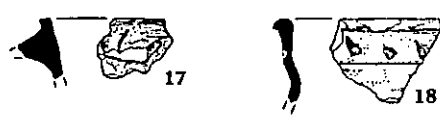
- Fabric C400: Limestone tempered cooking-pot fabric, iron oxides also present; source uncertain; probably 13th-14th centuries.
- Fabric F400: Flint tempered cooking-pot fabric group; probably from several sources spanning fairly wide date range; corresponds to Fabric Group 18 at Ilchester (Pearson 1982, 172).
- Fabric Q400: Coarse, harsh textured, sandy fabric; source uncertain; probably c. 11th-13th centuries; similar to Ilchester fabric B/BB (Pearson 1982, 172).
- Fabric Q401: Sandy fabric group; various sources, dated from 12th-13th centuries (Pearson 1982, 171-6).

Vessel forms

- Type 1500: Cooking-pots; thickened and flattened everted rim, usually internally bevelled; considerable variety within this basic description; 12th-13th centuries; Fig. 8, nos. 12, 13.
- Type 1501: Cooking-pot with comparatively narrow mouth, upright, internally bevelled rim and a pronounced internal lid seat; one example has groups of three closely spaced incised lines on exterior of rim; 12th-13th centuries; Fig. 8, no. 14.
- Type 1502: Cooking-pot; upright, externally bevelled rim with a flattened top; 12th-13th centuries; Fig. 8, no. 15.
- Type 1503: Bowl, with an everted T-headed rim; 12th-13th centuries; Fig. 8, no. 16.
- Type 1504: Jug/pitcher; externally bevelled rim; applied handle with scored and thumb-impressed decoration; 12th-13th centuries; Fig. 8, no. 17.
- Type 1505: Jug/pitcher; externally bevelled rim with incised slashes and patches of pale green glaze on the outer surface; 12th-13th centuries; Fig. 8, no. 18.



 Extent of slip
 Extent of glaze



WA LIC
Fig. 8

Post-medieval Pottery

A total of 165 sherds (1474g) of post-medieval pottery was recovered. Most of the sherds were from Ilchester (Table 1) although small quantities were also recovered from surface clearance contexts at Limington and Chilton Cantelo. Four broad fabric groups were identified (earthenwares, slipwares, white wares and stonewares) but neither the fabrics or the vessel forms were described in detail as the bulk of this material is unstratified or from surface collection. The presence of featured sherds amongst the assemblage from each context is, however, noted in the archive.

At Ilchester, the plain earthenwares of this period (16th-19th centuries) are dominated by products of the Donyatt kilns although sherds from the 17th century Wanstrow pottery, near Shepton Mallet (Pearson 1982, 176), were also identified. Similarly, the slipwares were predominantly from the Bristol and Staffordshire areas and are of 17th-18th century date (Pearson 1982, 176). It is likely that the material recovered from the route of the pipeline includes a very similar range of types.

Fabric descriptions

Fabric E600: Plain earthenwares - various red, pink/buff and white firing fabrics; various sources; 15th-19th century.

Fabric E680: Unspecified slipwares; various sources, mainly 17th-18th centuries.

Fabric E740: Unspecified fine white wares, including blue and white wares; 18th-19th centuries.

Fabric E770: Unspecified stonewares; 17th-19th centuries.

Table 1: Quantification of the major fabric groups present, by site.

Site	Prehistoric						Roman									
	F	G	I	Q	R	S	E101	Q100	G'W	O/B	Mort	Oxf	NF	Sam	F'W	
Amph																
	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt	no/wt
Ilch							713/4364	30/215	4/39	4/44	1/180	31/653	45/416	12/78	1/1	
L.Hill				1/8			19/ 109	4/ 48				5/ 5		2/ 4		
Lim		3/16					63/ 345	20/ 75	2/52		1/ 86	6/ 69		2/ 8		
Ash					1/ 8	2/ 4	103/1039	6/ 33	7/78	1/28		1/ 13	2/ 11	5/95		18/2689
C.C.	1/4	1/ 4	1/5		7/21	21/133	176/1007	50/282	3/13			5/ 57	3/ 40	3/33		
Q.C.							24/ 168	3/ 32	3/84			1/ 3				
Y.M.F.							1/ 2	2/ 56								

Total	1	4	1	1	8	23	1099	115	19	5	2	49	50	24	1	18
Weight	4g	20g	5g	8g	29g	137g	7034g	741g	266g	72g	266g	800g	467g	218g	1g	2689g

Site	Medieval				Post-Medieval				TOTAL
	C400	F400	Q400	Q401	E600	E680	E740	E770	no/wt
Ilch	1/39	281/2113	1/15	145/1059	135/1117	5/88	6/35	3/32	1418/10488g
L.Hill				2/ 6					33/ 180g
Lim			2/12		7/ 53				106/ 716g
Ash			1/ 7						147/ 4005g
C.C.		4/ 24		28/ 190	8/ 126	1/23			312/ 1962g
Q.C.									31/ 287g
Y.M.F.									3/ 58g

	1	285	4	175	150	6	6	3	2050
	39g	2137g	34g	1255g	1296g	111g	35g	32g	17696g

Table 2: Vessel forms present, by site (not including prehistoric types).

site	Romano-British														Medieval														
	Coarsewares							Finewares																					
	1	2	2/3	7	8	12	13	20	22	24	25	40	62	334	403	C14	C51	C75	C84	M22	1/10	63	1500	1501	1502	1503	1504	1505	
Ilch	7	1	23	2	1		1	17	2		14	1			1		2	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	1	1	1	1	1
L.Hill									1																				
Lim	3			1				2			1			1															
Ash	2	1	3	7				1	1	2	4					1													
C.C.	1	1	3	1							1	1		1															
Q.C.	No vessel forms present																												
Y.M.F.	No vessel forms present																												

OTHER FINDS

by L. Mepham.

Finds other than pottery were recovered from all seven of the Romano-British sites, and are summarised briefly here. More detailed descriptions are located within the site archive.

Key for all tables:

AB=animal bone, HB=human bone, CP=clay pipe, FC=fired clay, F=flint, G=glass, OS=opus signinum, She=shell, Sha=shale, Sl=slag, St=stone, Cu=Copper alloy, Fe=Iron.

Ilchester

AB	CBM	CP	FC	F	G	She	Sl	St	Cu	Fe	Sha									
558	5681g	120	3384g	46	144g	35	226g	7	20g	18	107g	85	2000g	6	198g	54	2186g	13	133	2

One of the Cu alloy objects was a bracelet fragment, with two strands of circular section twisted together to form a clasp. This is probably late Roman (see Crummy 1983, fig. 43, no. 1656).

Limington Hill

AB	HB	FC	Sl	St	Cu
----	----	----	----	----	----

12 508g 24 968g 4 101g 1 1g 1 6g 1

The human bones found within the fill of pit 2744 comprised parts of the lower portion of a single young adult male, no abnormal conditions were noticed.

Limington

AB	FC	Sl	St
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41 409g 35 215g 9 102g 1 49g

Ashington

AB	CBM	FC	G	OS	She	Sl	Cu	Fe	Sha
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88 570g 4 285g 16 82g 1 1g 5 69g 27 446g 3 176g 2 9 1

The shale object was a spindle whorl of oval section with cylindrical perforation and single groove decoration on each face. These objects cannot be intrinsically dated within the Romano-British period (see Lawson 1976, fig. 14, no. 108e).

Chilton Cantelo

AB	CBM	CP	FC	F	G	She	Fe
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33 255g 1 6g 1 10g 2 29g 1 1g 1 1g 1 27g 1

Queen Camel

AB FC F

38 234g 1 1g 1 3g

Yarlington Mill Farm

F Cu

1 3g 1

The Cu alloy object was a post-medieval buckle.

DISCUSSION

Ilchester

The archaeological work along Wessex Water's pipeline at Ilchester has added to our knowledge of the extra-mural development of the Roman town. Much of the previous work has already been published (Leach 1982) and this most recent work is complementary to it. In the extra-mural suburbs along the road leading south to Dorchester (Dorset), Roman Durnovaria, the wall-footings which were recorded during the pre-construction works confirmed that the suburbs extended at least this far south of the town. Activity recorded beyond these footings shows that the suburbs consisted of more than frontages along the roadside. The possible courtyard (2623) seen in the section of the pipe trench is similar in size to one previously recorded on the opposite side of the road (Leach 1982, fig. 60).

The stratigraphy and chronology encountered immediately east of the road closely paralleled that already recorded on the western side (Leach 1982, 109). The lower alluvial silts (2660, 2661) appear to have accumulated during the late 1st-2nd centuries AD and the overlying stone-founded structure (2658) was of 3rd-4th century AD date. The courtyard and associated features beyond the frontages produced few diagnostic sherds but a post-2nd century AD date is indicated.

The presence of a stone-founded structure (Fig. 2, 2612) in the eastern part of the site may indicate the existence of scattered isolated buildings, possibly single farmsteads, in the immediate vicinity of the town. This structure is tentatively dated to the later 4th century AD on the basis of a coin of the House of Valens (AD 364-378) found on the internal gravel surface within the structure.

Pottery recovered from both the topsoil and the underlying dark subsoil layer (2603, 2604, 2610) was unabraded and many large sherds were present (including an almost complete indented flagon in New Forest colour-coated ware). One third of this pottery was medieval or post-medieval in date, although no post-medieval pottery was found in the subsoil layer. It is likely that the subsoil layer is a form of medieval secondary midden, with material being cleared from Roman deposits elsewhere and dumped in this area. The material could have come from the suburbs to the west, along the Dorchester road, where medieval pottery was found in the robbed-out wall-footings (2659) of the

frontage, or it could have come from within the town.

The rural sites

As with the investigations at Ilchester, the rural sites located during pipeline construction enhance the current published evidence of settlement in this area (Leech 1976; 1977; 1982b; Leech and Leach 1982). The limited scope of the work, mainly involving observation and recording of features seen in section, meant that few details concerning the nature of the settlements were recovered and any discussion has to be at a general level.

The two sites closest to Ilchester, at Limington Hill (Fig. 4A) and at Limington (Fig. 4B), are very similar in form. Each appears to be a single enclosed farmstead, although it is possible that the pipeline route was located along the edge of a small village, similar to Catsgore (Leech 1982a) or Gatcombe (Branigan 1977). At both of the pipeline sites the enclosed areas were about 40m wide and some evidence of internal occupation was recovered. Unfortunately the pottery from Limington Hill was not chronologically diagnostic, but at Limington the assemblage was predominantly of later Roman date with a few sherds of the 1st-2nd centuries AD also present.

Indications of earlier activity were found at both sites; at Limington Hill a sherd from the 1st millennium BC was found in the fill of ditch 2727 whilst at Limington part of a small ovoid bead-rimmed jar (Fig. 8, no. 1) of the later Iron Age was recovered from the central occupation layer 2703.

Aerial photography has enhanced the observations made during construction work at Ashington (Fig. 5) and Chilton Cantelo (Fig. 6) and reinforced the indication that these sites are much more extensive than those discussed above. Ashington is particularly interesting in that the cropmarks show two distinct forms; the western part is a planned rectilinear field system whereas the eastern part is less regular and includes small enclosures, some of which may be buildings. Elements of the regular western part of the site certainly continue into the eastern part, and both parts are laid out on the same alignment.

Pottery recovered from the observations and excavations along the pipeline route at Ashington was predominantly 3rd-4th centuries AD in date, although small quantities of earlier Roman material were also found. The close proximity of the market at Ilchester is indicated by the presence of imported finewares and also fragments of a Dressel 20 amphora, a type commonly found at Ilchester (Leach 1982, 129). The excavations produced tentative evidence of stone-founded buildings and a possibility of small-scale industrial activity.

Across the river Yeo at Chilton Cantelo (Fig. 6) the cropmarks are not quite as informative as at Ashington, partly due to differences in land use leading to an absence of cropmarks. Observations during pipeline construction indicate that the Romano-British activity extends over a large area, a view reinforced by the cropmark evidence. Again most of the pottery was 3rd-4th centuries AD in date, although two features

produced pottery that was exclusively of the 1st-2nd centuries AD. However, 10% of the total assemblage from this site dated from the 1st millennium BC, as did a single sherd from the Ashington site. Both of these sites are situated directly on fluvial gravels close to the present course of the river Yeo. This land is much more free-draining than the alluvial clays within the rest of the floodplain and it may be that this better drainage is the crucial factor in determining site location and continuity from the prehistoric period onwards.

Neither of the sites at Queen Camel (Fig. 7A) and Yarlington Mill Farm (Fig. 7B) produced enough chronologically diagnostic pottery to allow a clear date range. It was evident at Queen Camel that some form of structure had been located, but the view available was too limited to permit any conclusive interpretation or discussion. It was clear, however, that the archaeological deposits were lying directly on top of the natural sand, thus indicating the possibility of the area having been cleared prior to occupation. Yarlington Mill Farm is not well-dated at all, only three sherds of pottery were recovered from this site in total. It could be a single building or enclosure, similar to the sites at Limington Hill and Limington.

Overall, the location and typology of these Romano-British sites along the pipeline is in accordance with recent research and debate on this subject (Hingley 1989); a high density of small settlements located fairly close together on the better-drained land around and within the floodplain. Continuity of this

location type is identified here by the presence of prehistoric pottery on most of these Romano-British sites and elsewhere by the existence of Romano-British sites below medieval settlements (Leech 1982b). Too few sites were investigated and in too little detail for discussion of the overall Romano-British settlement and history in the Ilchester area. However, the information retrieved should form a valuable addition to an expanding database which will enable others to undertake such analysis.

Acknowledgements

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APPENDIX A

GAZETTEER OF SITES NOTED ON THE SOMERSET SECTION
OF THE CODFORD-ILCHESTER PIPELINE

PARISH	NGR NO	GEOLOGY
Ilchester	ST 523223	Recent alluvium over Lower Lias clay

DESCRIPTION

Evidence of late Roman extra-mural settlement along the road south from the Roman town of Ilchester (see Ilchester, this report).

Limington	ST 52762232	Lower Lias clay with marls and mudstones
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Flat-bottomed U-shaped ditch 0.55m deep and 0.55m wide at the surface. Undated.

Limington	ST 53062221	Lower Lias clay with marls and mudstones
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Small Romano-British settlement (see Limington Hill, this report).

Limington	ST 53292211	Lower Lias clay with marls and mudstones
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Group of five sherds of post-medieval pottery recovered from the topsoil following easement clearance. This field contains well-preserved ridge-and-furrow, aligned north-east/south-west.

Limington ST 53502200 Lower Lias clay with marls and mudstones

Small irregular ditch containing some pieces of mudstone and slate. Six sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from within the ditch fill and the feature is probably a collapsed field drain.

Limington ST 53452203 Lower Lias clay with marls and mudstones

Group of sherds recovered from the topsoil following easement clearance. The group includes five sherds of Roman pottery and thirty-three sherds of post-medieval pottery.

Limington ST 53592195 Lower Lias clay with marls and mudstones

Group of ten sherds of post-medieval pottery recovered from the topsoil following easement clearance.

Limington ST 53772179 Undifferentiated head deposits

Group of thirty-four sherds of post-medieval pottery recovered from the topsoil following easement clearance. Slight traces of ridge-and-furrow were noted within this field.

Limington ST 54132170 Undifferentiated head deposits

Large U-shaped ditch 1.5m deep and 2.3m wide at the surface. Undated.

Limington ST 54292175 Undifferentiated head deposits

Small Romano-British settlement (see Limington, this report).

Chilton Cantelo ST 55802211 Undifferentiated head deposits

Small Romano-British settlement (see Ashington, this report).

Chilton Cantelo ST 56502234 Recent alluvium over undifferentiated head deposits

Romano-British settlement (see Chilton Cantelo, this report).

West Camel ST 57852303 Undifferentiated head deposits

Two small parallel ditches 10m apart. Each one contained some slabs of local stone within the fill and are interpreted as field drains. Sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from both features.

West Camel ST 57922306 Undifferentiated head deposits

Shallow U-shaped ditch 0.4m deep and 2.1m wide at the surface. Undated.

Queen Camel ST 59872390 Lower Lias clay with marls and mudstones

Group of four sherds of post-medieval pottery collected from topsoil following easement clearance. This field contained well-preserved ridge-and-furrow, aligned north-south.

Queen Camel ST 60132432 Lower Lias clay with some limestone

Small Romano-British settlement (see Queen Camel, this report).

Sparkford ST 60672487 Lower Lias clay with some limestone

Group of five sherds of post-medieval pottery recovered from topsoil following easement clearance.

Sparkford ST 60722495 Lower Lias clay with some limestone

U-shaped ditch 1.1m deep and 2.6m wide at the surface. Undated.

Sparkford ST 60982538 Alluvium over Lower Lias clay

Irregular-profiled ditch 1.0m deep and 1.8m wide at the surface. The fill of the ditch contained three sherds of Roman pottery.

Sparkford ST 61052544 Alluvium over Lower Lias clay

Group of three postholes with remnants of timber posts still in situ. The posts had been driven through a thin layer of dark soil and a sherd of post-medieval pottery was found within the fill of one of the postholes.

Sparkford ST 61142550 Rhaetic clay

Large ditch 1.0m deep and 2.8m wide at the surface. The fill contained three sherds of pottery of early Iron Age date.

Sparkford ST 61172552 Rhaetic clay

Irregular-profiled ditch 1.0m deep and 1.8m wide at the surface. The profile indicates that this is a palisade ditch. Undated.

Sparkford ST 61262558 Rhaetic clay

Shallow scoop 0.12m deep and 0.9m wide. The fill contained burnt material and fragments of baked clay. Undated.

North Cadbury ST 625272 Lower Lias clay with some limestone

Group of four sherds of post-medieval pottery recovered from topsoil following easement clearance.

North Cadbury ST 643284 Middle Lias silt and clay

Group of five sherds of Romano-British pottery recovered from topsoil following easement clearance.

North Cadbury ST 64442864 Middle Lias silt and clay

Small Romano-British settlement (see Yarlinton Mill Farm, this report).

North Cadbury ST 64742909 Middle Lias silt and clay

A layer of stones set in a matrix of grey clay was located 1.5m below the present surface of Stoke Lane. This is definitely an earlier road surface but no dating evidence was recovered.

Yarlinton ST 64812910 Middle Lias silt and clay

Group of two early medieval sherds recovered from topsoil following easement clearance.

Yarlinton ST 65732945 Upper Lias - Midford Sands

Shallow scoop containing much charcoal and patches of burnt red clay. Undated.

Yarlinton ST 65872949 Upper Lias - Midford Sands

Earthen bank 0.7m high aligned north/south across the valley. Undated but probably related to medieval or post-medieval water management.

Bratton Seymour ST 66342997 Fullers Earth

Large lynchet towards the top of the slope - undated. There are also several other indistinct earthworks in this field.

Pitcombe ST 66553013 Fullers Earth Rock

Two parallel ditches located ten metres apart, each one had been recut at least once. The fill of one of the ditches contained a sherd of Romano-British pottery.

Pitcombe ST 667302 Fullers Earth Rock

Group of six sherds of Romano-British pottery recovered from topsoil following easement clearance.

Charlton Musgrove ST 68913064 Fullers Earth

Limited spread of darker soil located below the plough-soil. Two sherds of early/middle Bronze Age pottery were recovered from this layer.

Shepton Montague ST 69793072 Fullers Earth

Bowl-shaped scoop 0.35m deep and 1.3m wide at the surface. Undated.

Shepton Montague ST 69913072 Fullers Earth

Shallow bowl-shaped scoop 0.6m deep and 2.6m wide at the surface. Undated.

Shepton Montague ST 70363072 Forest Marble

Large ditch, full dimensions not seen but at least 2m deep and 6m wide. Undated.

Charlton Musgrove ST 70543071 Cornbrash

Small flat-bottomed pit filled with charcoal and fragments of burnt bone. Undated.

Charlton Musgrove ST 71353065 Cornbrash

Group of sherds of pottery recovered from topsoil following easement clearance. The group included four sherds of Romano-British pottery and fifteen sherds of post-medieval pottery.

Charlton Musgrove ST 72783052 Oxford Clays and Kellaways Beds

A V-shaped ditch 0.75m deep and 1.25m wide at the surface. The fill contained sixty-eight sherds of Romano-British pottery. Twenty metres to the east was an irregular pit which was 0.6m deep. The fill of this feature contained thirty-two sherds of Romano-British pottery. Twenty metres to the east of the pit was a 10m spread of soil which was 0.4m thick and was sealed below the topsoil. The soil layer contained thirteen sherds of Romano-British pottery. Artefacts recovered from the topsoil in this area include forty-one sherds of Romano-British pottery and a Neolithic leaf-shaped flint arrowhead.

Penselwood ST 75763122 Upper Greensand

Large ditch 1.7m deep and 2.7m wide at the surface. Undated. Six sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil following easement clearance within this field.

Penselwood ST 76143147 Upper Greensand

Quarry pit filled with small greensand blocks. The pit did not actually reach the greensand so the backfill must have come from a nearby pit. This is one of the Pen Pits and was undated. Artefacts recovered from the topsoil following easement clearance in this field include two sherds of post-medieval pottery.

Penselwood ST 76463163 Upper Greensand

Group of three sherds of post-medieval pottery recovered from topsoil following easement clearance.

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