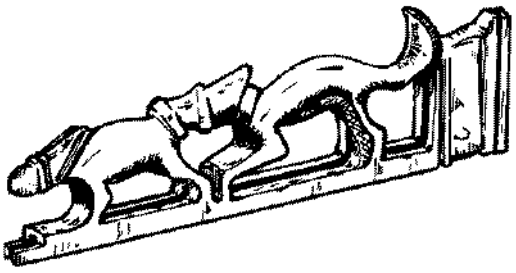
Ampthill & District Archaeological



& Local History Society

Roman Ruxox:
Excavations in the Garden of Woburn Lodge Farm House and the Adjoining Field 1966-1974.
TL 051 364

Kevan J. Fadden. FSA
2022
www.adalhs.org.uk

Roman Ruxox.

The area known as Ruxox, in Bedfordshire, covers many acres and extends over three parishes, Flitwick, Maulden, and Greenfield. We have no idea what it was called during the Roman period, but it takes its present name from an Augustine priory cell founded about 1150, for elderly monks with a chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas, surrounded by a large moat. It is believed the derivation of Ruxox was from land cultivated by a Saxon called Hroc, by an oak tree, "Hroces ac" i.e. the oak of Hroc: this became Ruxox. It lies on the dip slope of the Lower Greensand Ridge which runs roughly east west through the county. The River Flit follows the line of the ridge and it is the alluvium from this river which helps to make the area so fertile and suitable for market garden produce.
This paper is intended to summarise the work the Ampthill And District Archaeological and Local History Society (ADALHS), inspired by the finds by the farmer Mr. John Course. See (Summary of important artefacts found on the surface in the area of Ruxox Farm, Maulden on the Society's web site).

Site R.

It started in 1966 with field walking, followed by an exploration of an area where a cremation pot had been smashed by the plough and scattered across the field (Map 1 No 8). This produced signs of burning and more pot sherds of 1st & 2nd century AD. Further work was impossible on the site due to the intensive market gardening. The site is now covered by the Ampthill bypass.

Site 2 R.

In 1967 a trial trench was possible in a field near Woburn Lodge Farm in New Road, Maulden. Designated 2 R the site was chosen as traditionally Roman coins and pottery had been found in the area, but more importantly it was a corner of a field which was not being cropped at the time. This was unusual as it lay in an intensive market gardening area. Mr. John Course took a great interest in archaeology and was very supportive. The first trench (2 RT) produced mainly 3rd / 4th century pottery, and coins of similar date, together with cattle bones and several interesting artefacts. These included a bronze cloak pin and a bronze zoomorphic clasp knife handle in the shape of a dog chasing a small boar, the ferrous blade had rusted away but the pivot pin was still evident. (A drawing of the knife handle has been adopted as the Society's logo).

At the north end of 2 RT an apparent floor or cobble yard was found at a depth of 1 foot 8 inches from the surface with a sharp edge before tapering down to natural bedrock at 2 feet 5 inches. A possible sandstone foundation wall rested on the cobbles, 1 foot 6 inches wide running into the trench wall. In the following season an excavation nearby was started with 10-foot square boxes (2 RB's), unfortunately Mr. Course's tenancy came to an end and his successor who appeared sympathetic at first, suddenly changed his mind and the dig was abandoned when signs of structures were becoming evident.

This report, prepared in 2021, has incorporated where possible, drawings, photographs and notes recorded at the time of the excavation. A few descriptions are missing, marked (?) as it is impossible to revisit every item after such a long time.

Subsequent work carried out by the Society when the Ampthill bypass crossed the Ruxox area, and by Albion Archaeology who excavated in advance of a second water pipeline is referred to as it helps to understand the area. See www.adalhs.org.uk/reports.

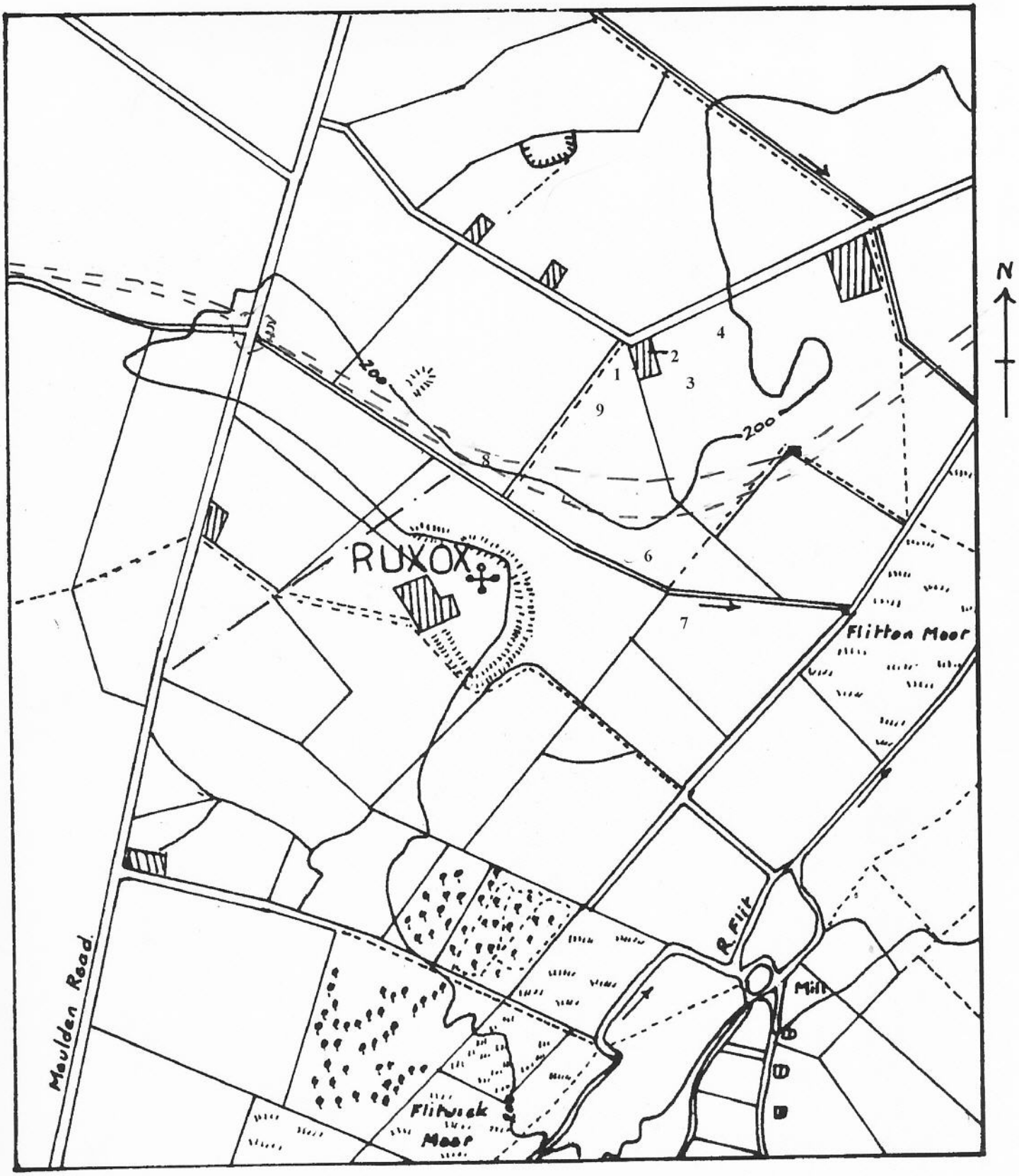
While Site 2 R was being excavated, the Society organised an aerial survey of the area, **Ph 1**. Woburn Lodge Farm can be seen in the left hand corner with an uncultivated patch nearby where the dig took place and some interesting crop marks where it was hoped further investigation would be possible between crops.

A very quick trial excavation by an Ampthill WEA tutor at the time concentrated on the crop mark to the east of the ADALHS excavation (Map 2 No. 8), it revealed a considerable amount of 3rd and 4th century coarse pottery which appeared to contain wasters, indicating a possible kiln nearby. No further information is available.



Ph. 1. Aerial photo taken during the excavation of 2 RT on the uncultivated area to the west of Woburn Lodge Farm, bottom left. The moat is at the top of the picture.

Of interest is the brook, running right to left of **Ph. 1.**, it previously fed the massive moat which surrounded the Mediaeval Augustine Priory of Ruxox. The crop marks in the adjoining field show its course, other photographs (not illustrated) show the out flow before joining the River Flit. The size and shape of the moat may suggests a pre-Mediaeval date.



500 yards.

Area of land taken by the Ampthill Bypass.

Legend.

1 Site 2 R, original trial trench and aborted excavation.
2 Site 3 R, Woburn Lodge Garden.
3 Large area of natural gravel Ph 37.
4 Roman cemetery Ph. 38.
5 Hertfordshire pudding stone quern in river bank.
6 Pottery scatter on river bank.
7 Silver Denarius of Faustina Senior AD 141.
8 Site R, initial investigation of shattered cremation.
9 WEA tutors trial trench, possible kiln.

Map 1. Site Locations

Significant artefacts from site trial trench 2 RT.

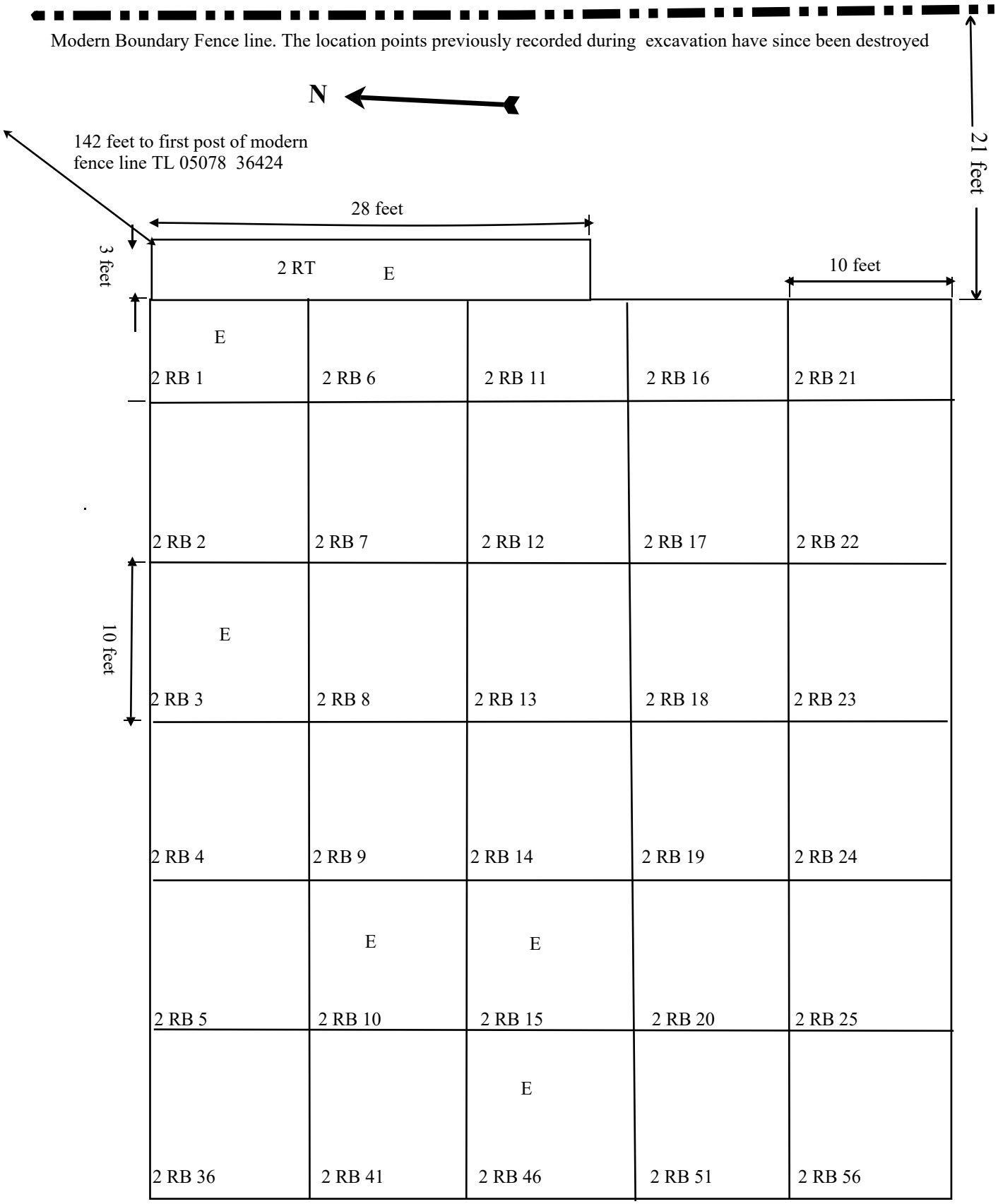


Ph. 2. Bronze 4 th. century cloak pin 2 RT.
Bronze zoomorphic clasp knife handle. Dog chasing a small boar 2 RT.



Ph. 3. View of knife handle showing the slot for blade, and the remains of the corroded blade and pivot pin.

Woburn Lodge Farm House & Buildings



Legend.
The boxes and trench marked E were in progress when the excavation was stopped.

Fig. 1. Proposed Box Layout for Site 2 R.

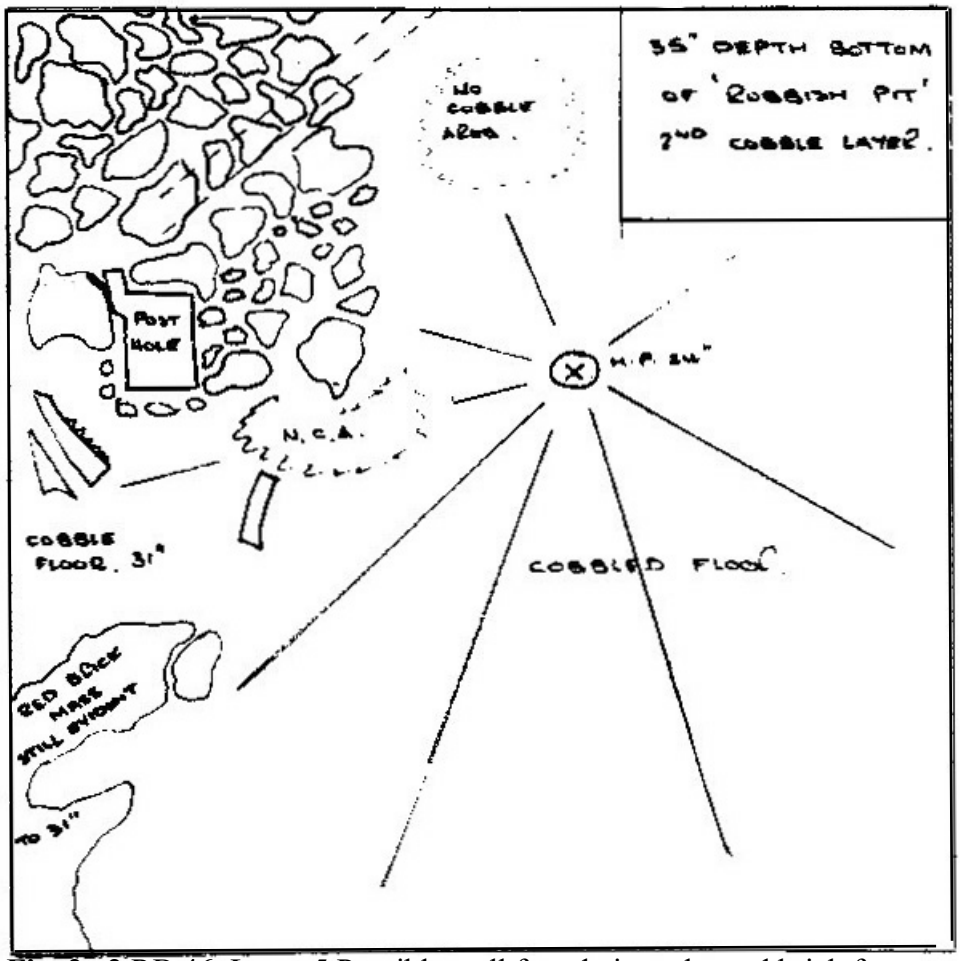


Fig. 2. 2 RB 46. Layer 5 Possible wall foundation, also red brick fragments in northeast corner that were evident in level 4. (Not illustrated). Note. **Fig. 2,3 & 4** are sketches from site note books, levels equal layers.



Ph. 4. 2 RB 46. Substantial sandstone rubble from a possible wall in south east corner.



Ph. 5. 2 RB 46. South face showing "cobble floor" with pit which contained 2nd. & 4th. Century pottery, roof tile and cattle bones.



Ph. 6. 2 RB 46. West face.

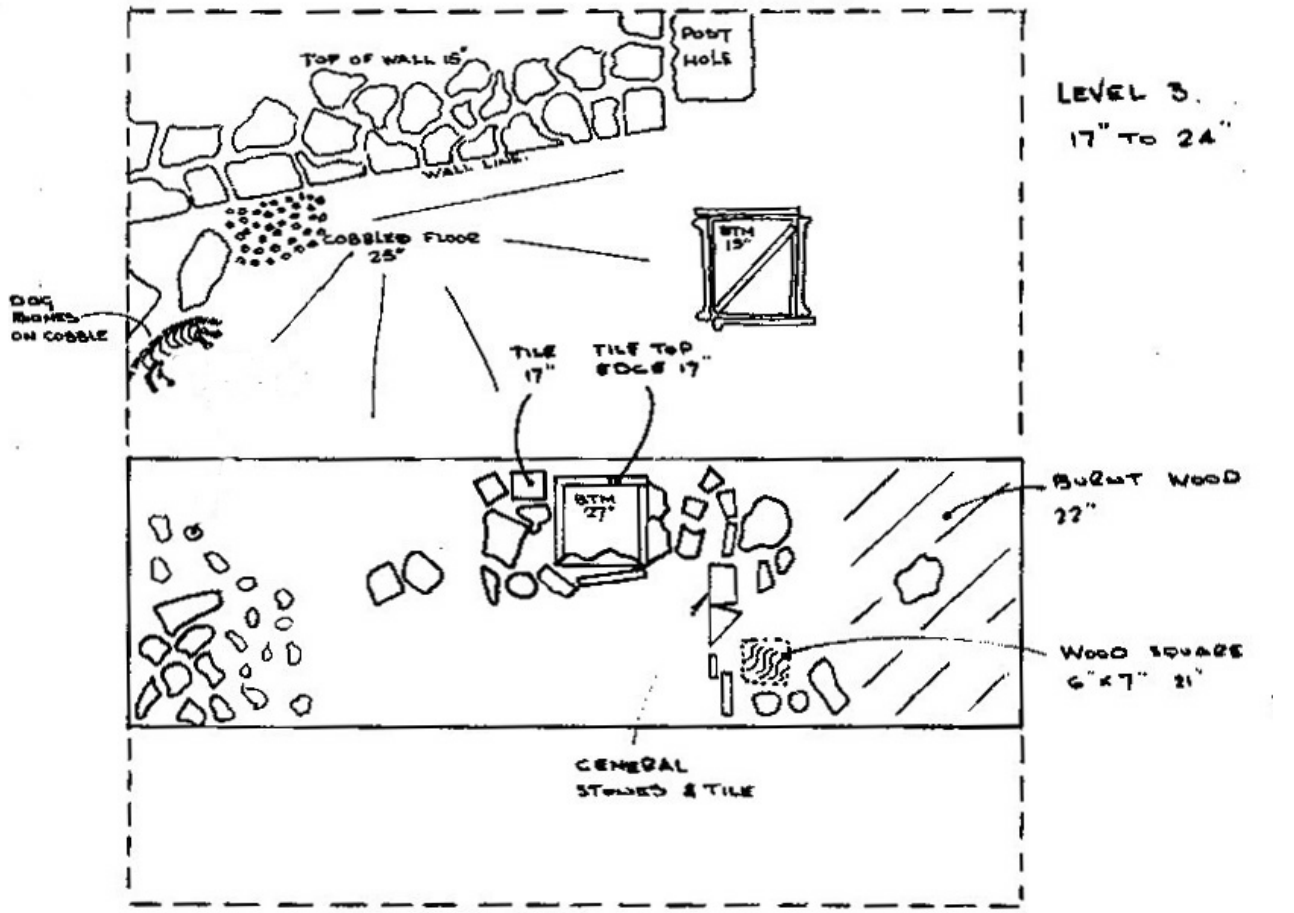


Fig. 3. 2 RB 15. Layer 3 bounded by dotted line, Layer 4 below with solid line.

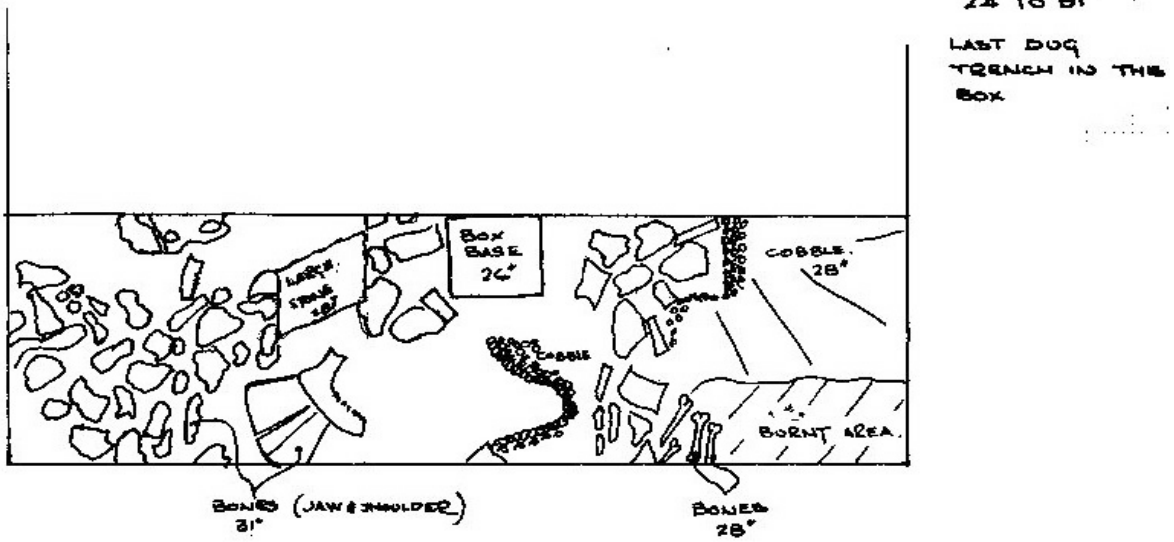


Fig. 4. 2 RB 15. Layer 4.



Ph. 7. 2 RB 15. Two Child burial cysts.



Ph. 8. 2 RB 15. Close up of cyst, note base tile.



Ph. 9. 2 RB 15. Relative position of child cysts with possible wall foundations.

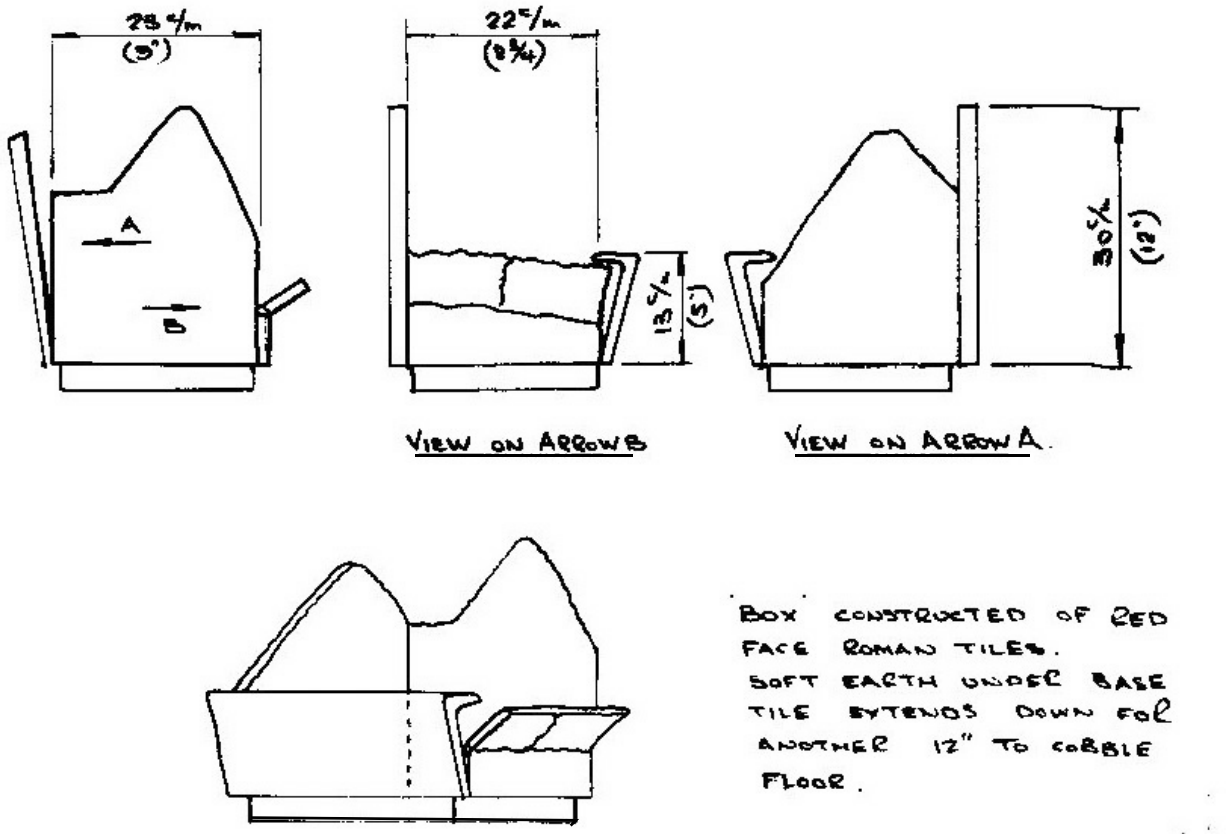
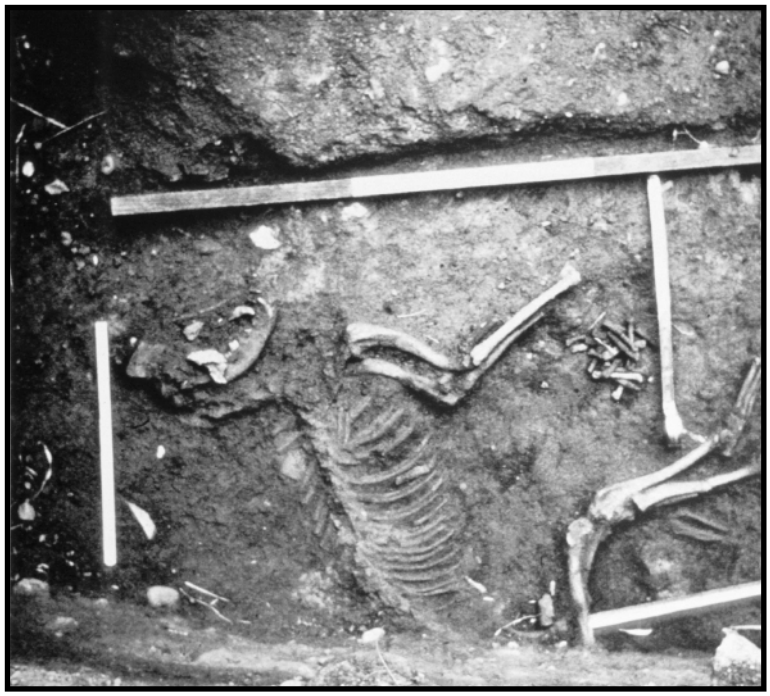


Fig. 5. 2 RB 15. Detail of burial cysts constructed from Roman tiles (Tegulae).



Ph. 10. 2 RB 15. Dog skeleton.

Summary for 2 R.

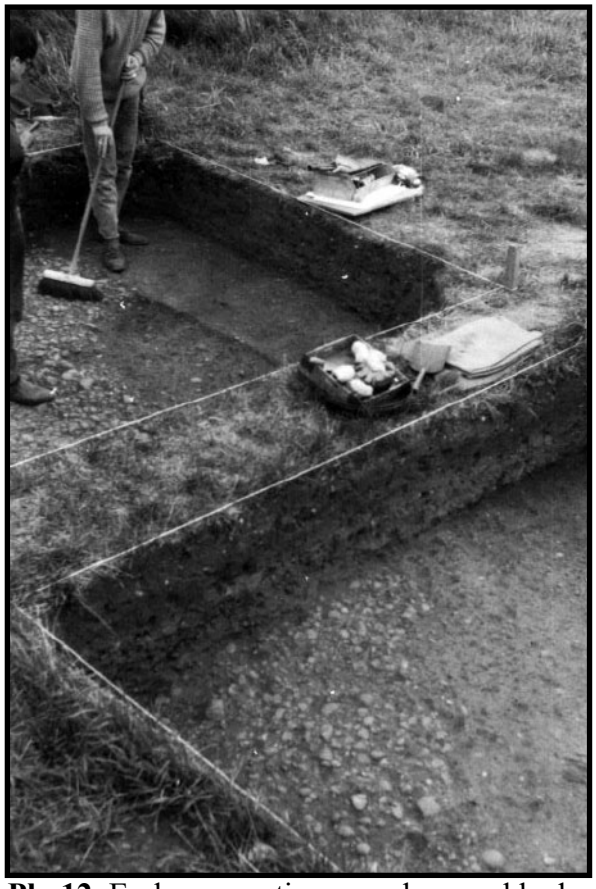
Started in the autumn of 1968 this site showed promise of possible structures, but the excavation was suddenly halted in the Spring of 1969 before they could be confirmed. The designation of box numbers was planned before the excavation was started, in the event only the trial trench and three boxes were taken down enough to give positive results. It seemed quite obvious that the area to the west of Woburn Lodge Farm had great potential.

The Society moves to site 3 R in the garden of Woburn Lodge

nt
or-



Ph. 11. First tentative exploration of the overgrown garden.

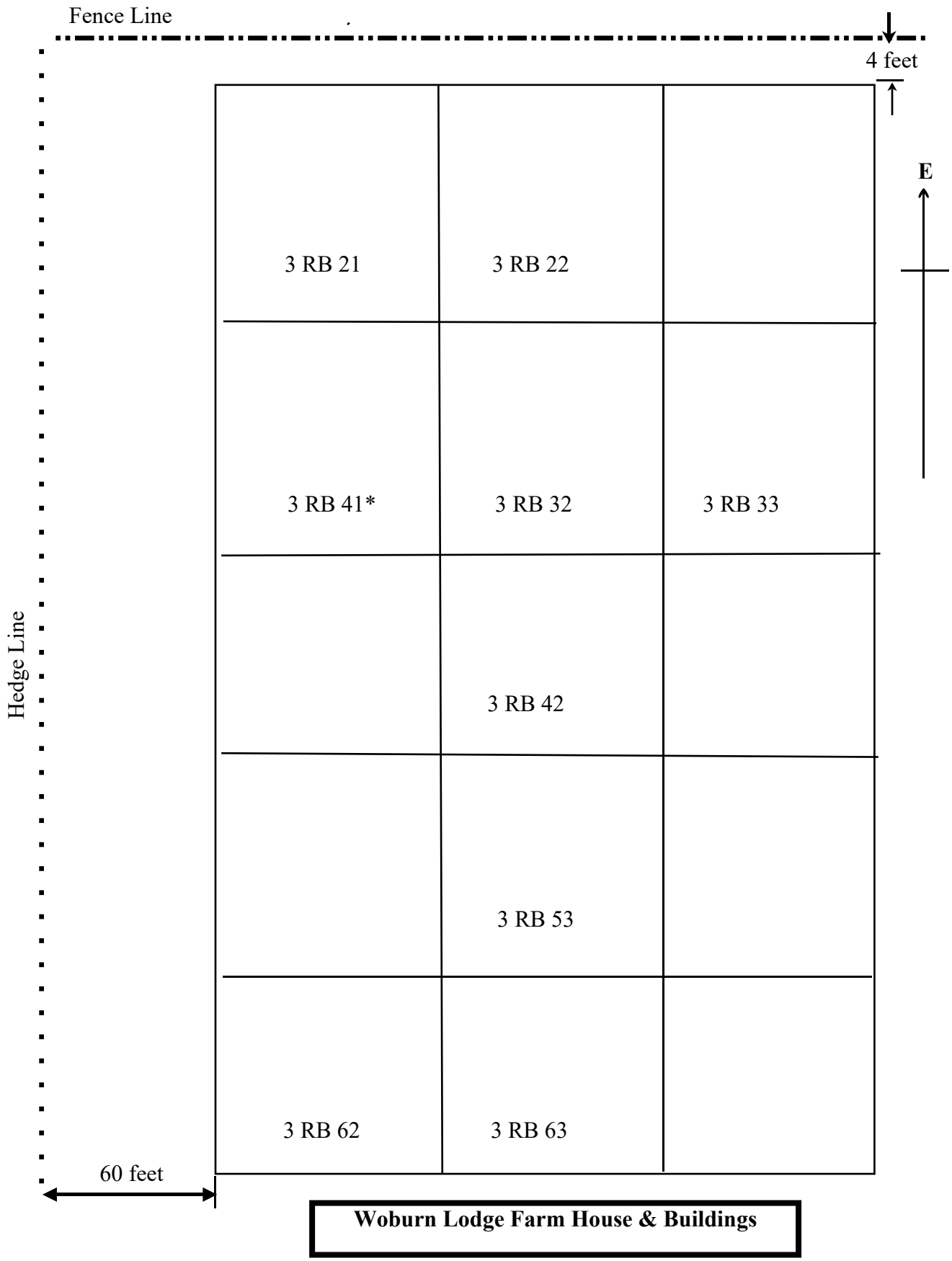


Ph. 12. Early excavation reveals gravel bed mistaken for floors or cobbled yards.

In 1970 the excavation moved to the garden of Woburn Lodge Farm, the owner Mr. Deas was aware that Roman artefacts occasionally came to the surface and kindly gave permission.

This continued for three seasons, all work was carried out by hand and artefacts were washed and marked. Unfortunately, no in situ evidence for structures were found but expectations were high with the appearance of gravel layers in all the boxes. When cleaned up they were flat and even. Initial interpretations suggested they were man made floors for a building or a courtyard. In the event the "floors" turned out to be a natural gravel bed which clearly showed up later in an aerial photograph taken by the author in advance of the Ampthill bypass **(Ph. 53).** Most of the archaeology came from holes cut through the gravel prior to the occupation, presumably as the result of gravel extraction. When viewed in retrospect all the boxes in both 2 R and 3 R suggest that the site

Fig. 6. Box Layout Site 3R in Woburn Lodge Garden



Legend

Only boxes numbered were excavated.

3 RB 41* should have been 3 RB 31, all markings on artefacts appertain to that area.

was an open quarry, later used for rubbish disposal from a nearby settlement, this was not obvious at the time of the excavation.

Artefacts from the two sites, mainly pottery are described in this paper.



Ph. 13. 3 RB 41 A typical box partly excavated. The edge of the natural gravel (bottom right) cut through when quarrying.



Ph. 14. 3 RB 23 Similar layout in this box.

Box 3 RB 21 West Face.

Box 3 RB 22 West Face.

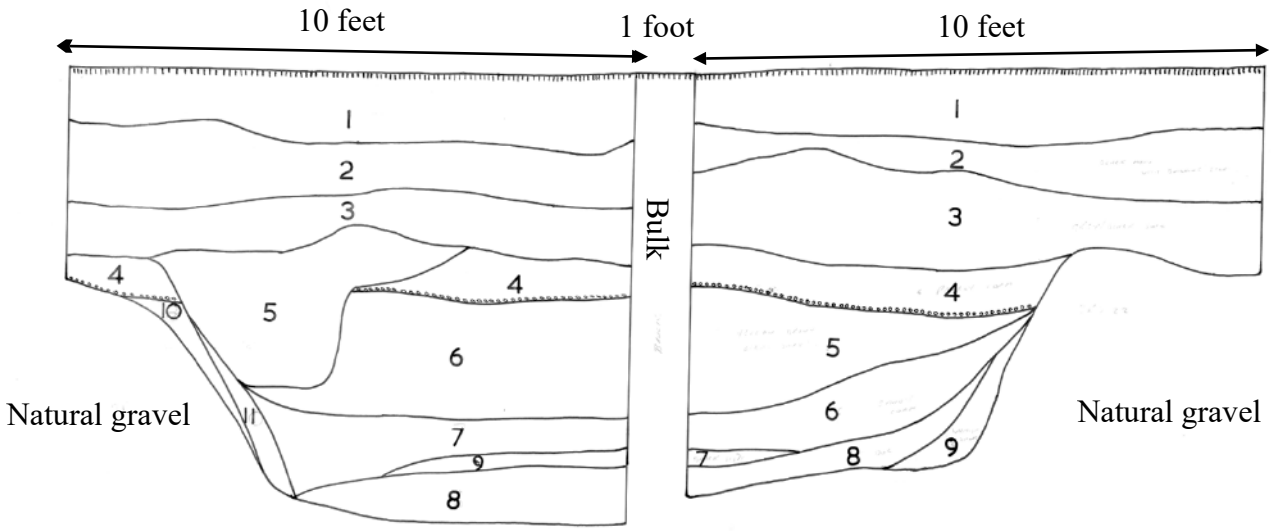


Fig. 7. Comparison of two adjoining boxes 3 RB 21 & 22
As each box was excavated separately the layer numbers do not tally exactly, layer 4 in box 21 was cut through giving a number 5 which did not appear in box 22, therefore layer 6 in 21 is layer 5 in 22. Similarly layer 7 in box 21 matches with 6 in box 22 and 9 with 7. Layer 8 in box 21 is still 8 in 22. Layers 9, 10, & 11 are not necessarily contemporary.

Legend 3 RB 22.

Bedrock Natural gravel	
Layer 1.	Top Soil
Layer 2.	Black soil with building rubble.
Layer 3.	Grey/black soil.
Layer 4.	Pearly loam soil.
Layer 5.	Yellow/brown light sandy soil.
Layer 6.	Sandy loam.
Layer 7.	Black silt.
Layer 8.	Dark sandy.
Layer 9.	Whitish sand.
Layer 10	Light sand.
Layer 11	Light sand.

Box 3 RB 53 South Face

Box 3 RB 53 West Face

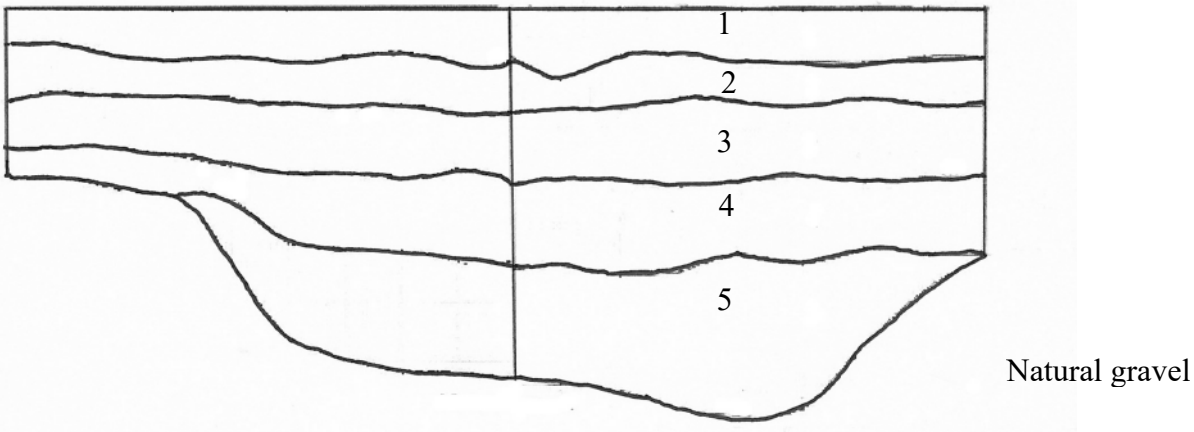


Fig. 8. Two Faces of 3 RB 53
3 RB 53 was at least 30 feet from 3 RB 23, this gives an indication of the terrain at the time when the site was first used. The bedrock was natural gravel which must have been quarried away in the late Iron Age or early Roman period and left open, gradually filling up into the fifth century.

Legend 3 RB 53.
Bedrock. Natural gravel
Layer 1. Top soil
Layer 2. Light sandy soil with pebbles
Layer 3. Black soil (occupation)
Layer 4. Light grey sandy soil
Layer 5. Reddish coarse sandy soil

Coarse Pottery.

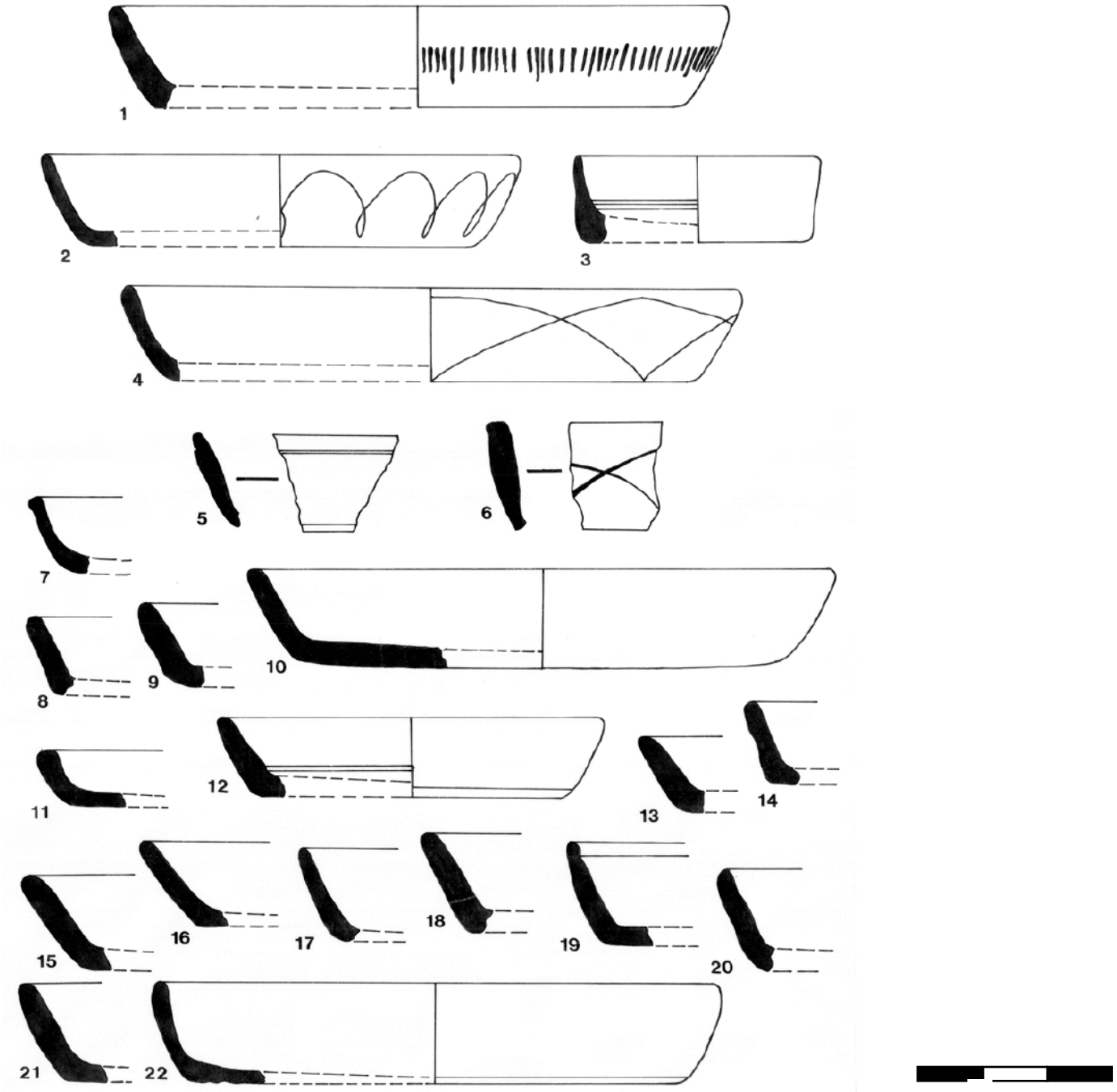


Fig. 9.

Fig. 9. Note items marked ? full designation not known.

All examples found occurred in layers 1-6 and would appear to indicate that they were deposited from the Antonine period until the final filling in the late fourth century. This type of coarse pottery is notoriously difficult to date. The fabric was restricted to either coarse grey or black burnished ware, mainly plain in appearance but a few (types 1, 2, 4, 6) bore burnished patterns. Externally chamfered bowls (type 5, 9, 12, 22) were deposited in all layers and do not appear to be restricted to any particular period.

1. Black gritty ware, crude scored burnished pattern externally. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
2. Black ware, decorated with loops. 3 RB 22 Layer 4.

3. Small dish, blue-grey ware, scored internal decoration. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
4. Black ware, decorated with intersecting arcs. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
5. Grey ware, with chamfered base, scored rim (10 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
6. Black ware, curved line decoration. (9 inch dia.). 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
7. Grey ware, shallow dish with slight indication of rim. (9 inch dia.). 3 RB 22 Layer 2.
8. Grey ware, shallow. (8 inch dia.). 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
9. Grey ware, shallow (7 inch dia.). 3 RB 41 Layer 2.
10. Grey ware, curved base. 3 RB 32 Layer 2.
11. Black ware, shallow (6 inch dia.). 3 RB 33 Layer 3.
12. Grey ware, shallow (5 inch dia.). Chamfered base, internal score at junction between base and wall. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
13. Black ware, shallow (9 inch dia.). 3 RB 22 Layer 4.
14. Grey ware, shallow (7 inch dia.). 3 RB 41 Layer 6.
15. Grey ware, (9 inch dia.). 3 RB 41 Layer 3.
16. Grey ware, (9 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
17. Grey ware, (7 inch dia.). 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
18. Blue grey ware, (11 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
19. Grey Ware, (11 inch dia.). Internal rim. 3 RB 41 Layer 2.
20. Grey ware, (8 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 3 & 3 RB 21 Layer 4.
21. Black ware, (7 inch dia.) 3 RB 41 Layer 3.
22. Grey ware, circular scoring on base, chamfered, 3 RB 22 Layer 3.

Fig. 10.

The majority of this mixed collection of dishes and bowls were concentrated in the layers dated from 200 AD, many of the larger vessels had been used for cooking purposes and in the main were well fired, appearing similar to those at Brixworth excavations. The dish found in the Antonine layer (33) could have been residual. Very few dishes or bowls were found in the black ware when compared with Shakenoak excavations but this is not considered significant.

23. Grey ware, shallow pie dish, externally sooted (9 inch dia.). 3 RB 41 Layer 3.
24. Grey blue ware, shallow pie dish. 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
25. Grey ware, pie dish externally sooted (8 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
26. Blue grey ware, shallow pie dish with unusual base, bands of burnishing below rim 3 RB 41 Layer 4.
27. Grey ware, pie dish with chamfered base (8 inch dia.). 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
28. Smooth black ware, pie dish (7 inch dia.). 3 RB 33 Pit 1. Layer 3.
29. Blue grey ware, straight sided bowl. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
30. Buff brown ware, dish externally sooted (5 inch dia.). 3 RB ? Layer 6.
31. Blue grey ware, large dish externally sooted (10 inch dia.). 3 RB 41 Layer 5, 3 RB ? 32. Layer 4, 3 RB 23 Layer 4.
32. Blue grey ware, small bowl (6 inch dia.). 3 RB ? Layer 6.
33. Blue grey ware pie dish (10 inch dia.). 3 RB ? Layer 7.
34. Grey ware, deep straight sided dish externally sooted, chamfered base, cordon under rim. 3 RB ? Layer 6.

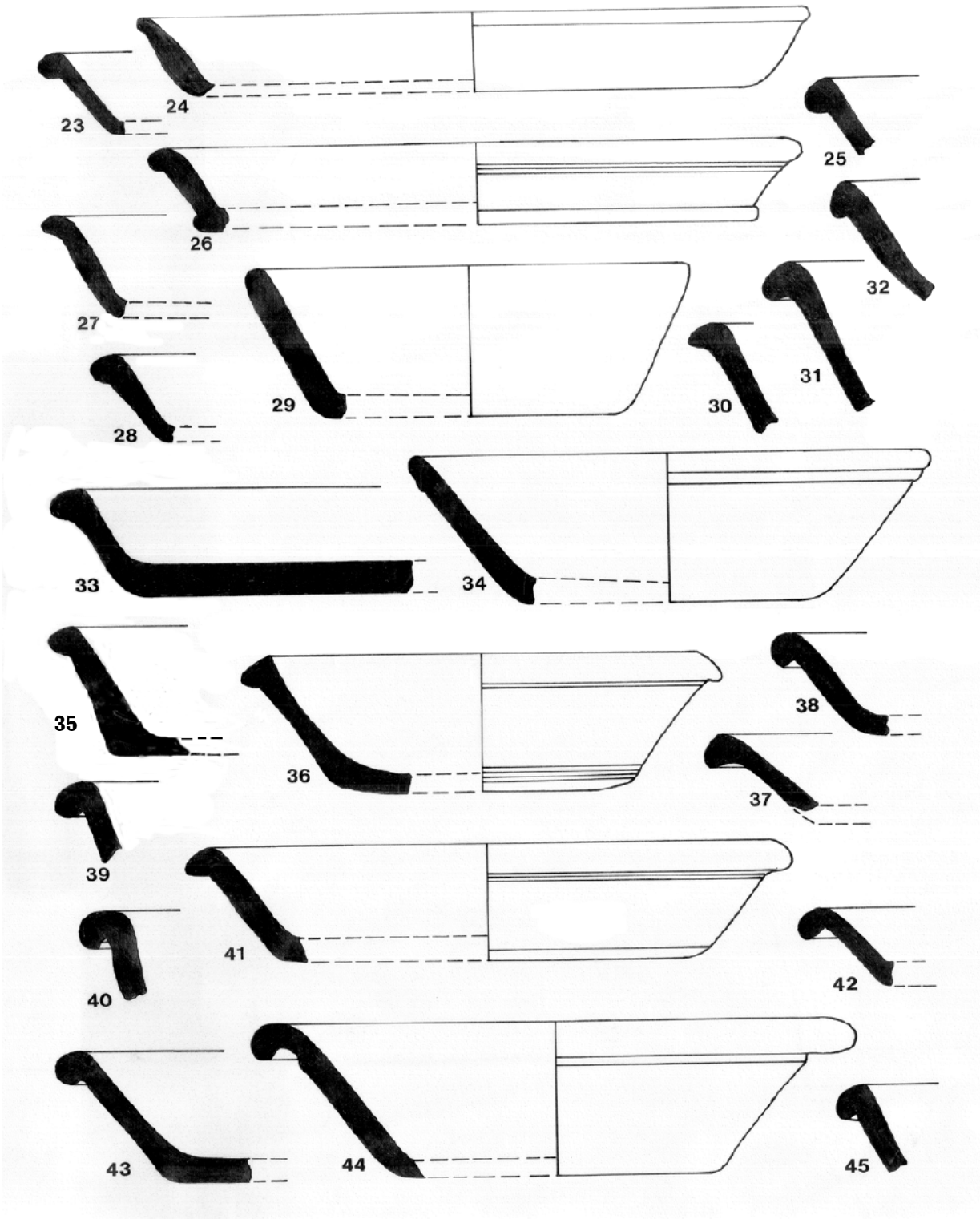


Fig 10.

inches

35. Blue grey ware, pie dish (6 inch dia.). 3 RB Layer 5.
36. Blue grey ware, pie dish bands of burnishing at base. 3 RB Layer 6.
37. Grey ware, pie dish (10 inch dia.). 3 RB Layer 6.
38. Grey ware, pie dish (10 inch dia.). 3 RB 41 Layer 2.
3 RB 22 Layer 3.
39. Blue grey ware, bowl (9 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
40. Gritty grey ware, bowl (9 inch dia.). 3 RB Layer 6.
41. Grey ware, pie dish slightly chamfered base, bands of burnishing. 3 RB ? Layer 3.

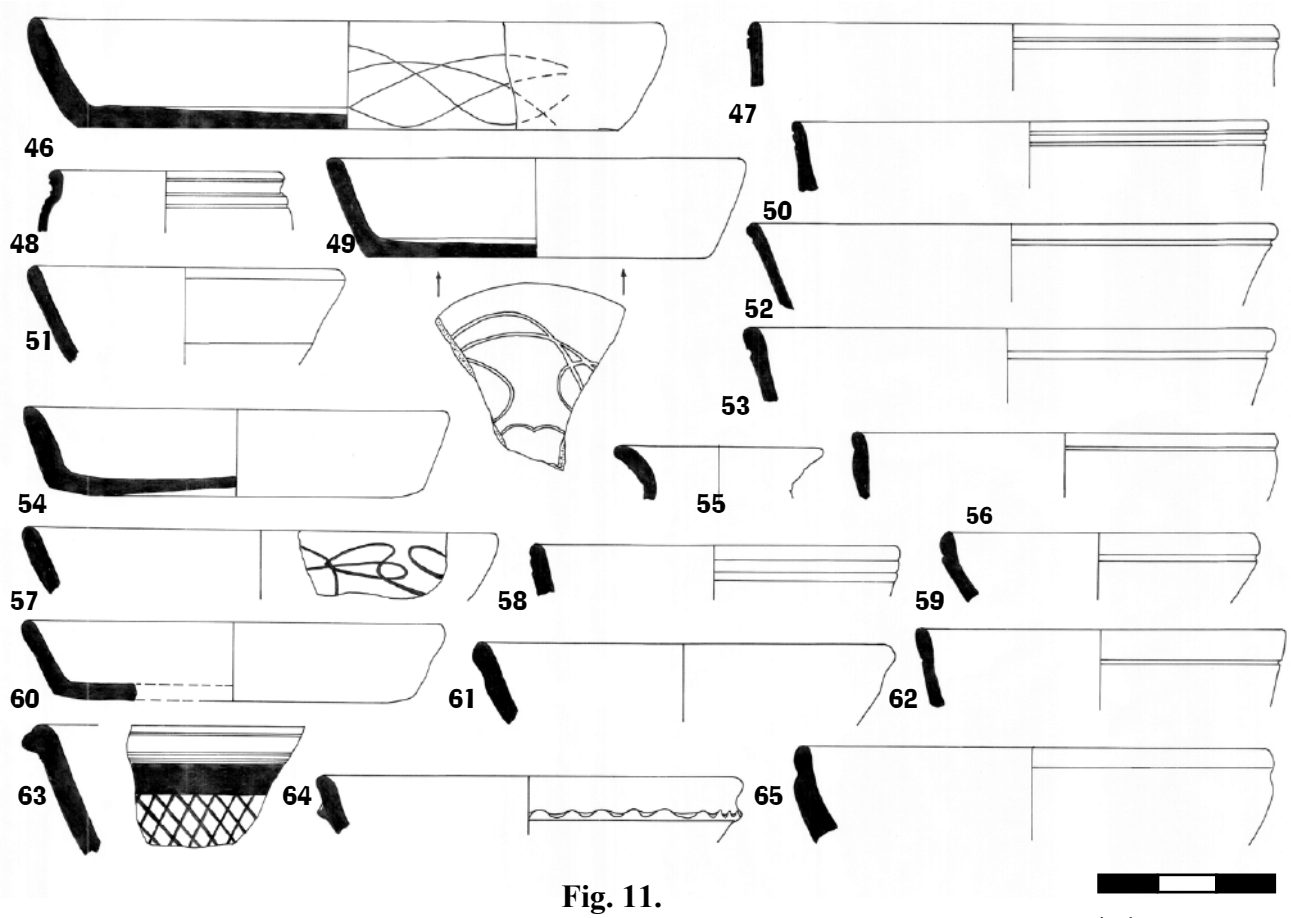


Fig. 11.

42. Grey ware, shallow pie dish 9 inch dia.). 3 RB 42 Layer 6.
43. Blue grey ware, pie dish (6 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
44. Black ware, flanged dish burnished, cavetto shaped rim. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
45. Smooth blue grey ware bowl. (9 inch dia.). 3 RB 32 Layer 4.

Fig. 11.

46. Black ware pie dish, decorated. 3 RB 33 Layer 3.
47. Black ware bowl. 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
48. Grey ware jar. 3 RB ?
49. Grey ware pie dish, burnished pattern on underside while leather hard. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
50. Grey ware bowl. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
51. Grey ware bowl. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
52. Grey ware dish. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
53. Blue grey ware bowl. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
54. Grey ware dish. 3 RB ?
55. Grey ware jar. 3 RB ?
56. Grey ware bowl. 3 RB 41 Layer 2.
57. Grey ware dish, whorl pattern burnish on outer surface. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
58. Blue grey ware, rough surface. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
59. Black ware bowl. 3 RB 21 Layer 2.
60. Grey ware dish. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
61. Grey ware dish, signs of blue grey colour on outer surface. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
62. Grey ware bowl. 3 RB 33 pit 1,
3 RB 41 Layer 4.

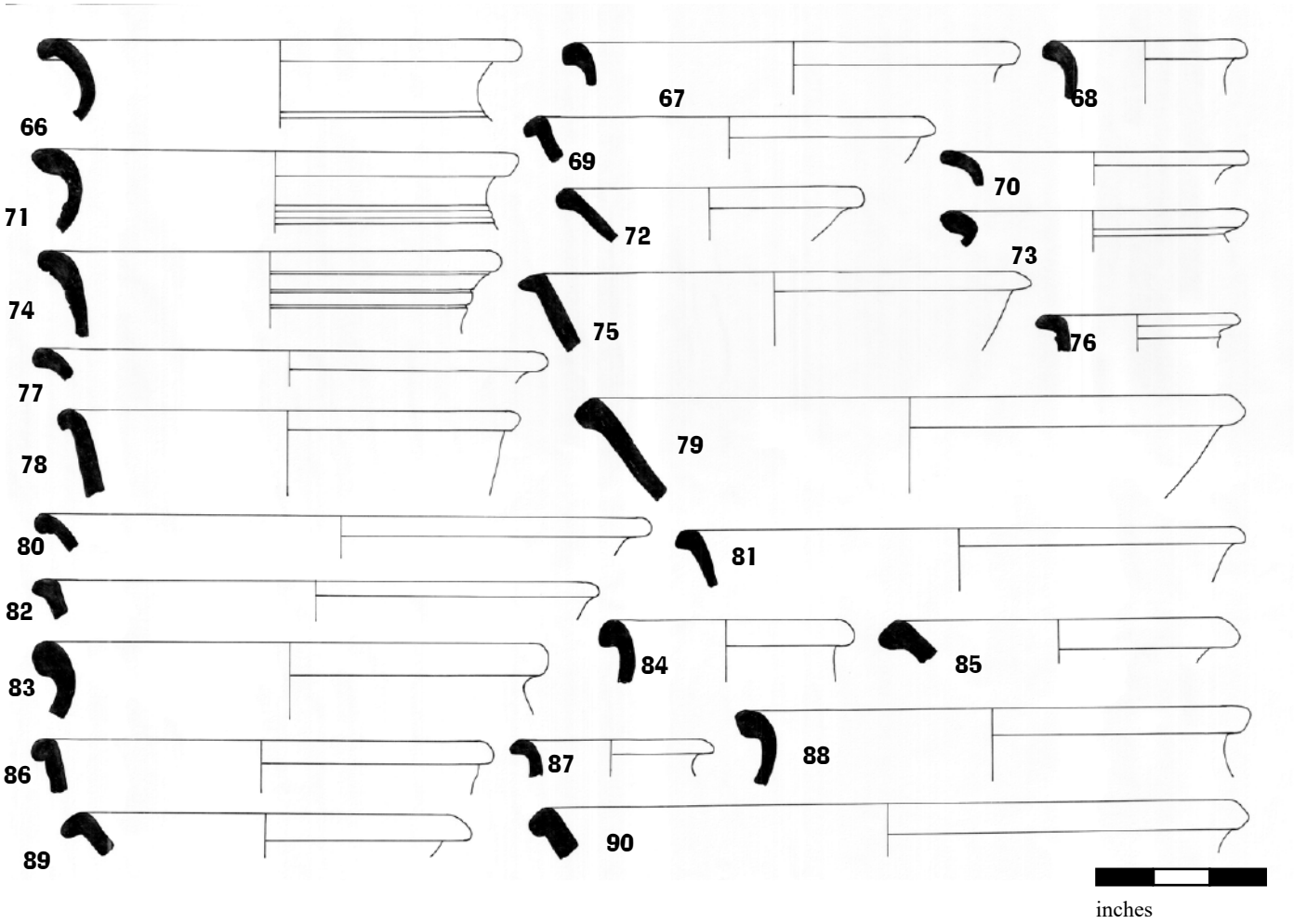


Fig. 12.

63. Dark grey ware bowl burnished pattern on outer surface. (12 inch dia.). 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
64. Blue grey ware jar with pastry edge, badly worn. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
65. Grey ware dish. 3 RB 32 Layer 3.

Fig 12.

66. Grey ware jar, buff slip. 3 RB 22 Layer 4.
67. Light grey ware bowl. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
68. Rough grey ware jar. 3 RB 53 Layer 3.
69. Smooth black ware bowl. 3 RB 33 Pit 1.
70. Gritty comb ware jar, combed under rim. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
71. Wide mouth grey Nene ware jar with dark grey on rim. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
72. Gritty grey ware jar. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
73. Gritty grey ware. 3 RB 22 Layer 4.
74. Medium wide mouth jar, pale blue grey Nene, rough finish. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
75. Smooth blue grey ware bowl. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
76. Light grey jar, orange streaks. 3 RB 41 Layer 3.
77. Smooth grey ware jar. 3 RB 41 Layer 3.
78. Rough grey ware bowl. 3 RB 21 Layer 3, RB 22 Layer 3.
79. Gritty black ware bowl. 3 RB 41 Layer 2.
80. Black ware jar, combed under rim. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
81. Blue grey Nene ware bowl. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.

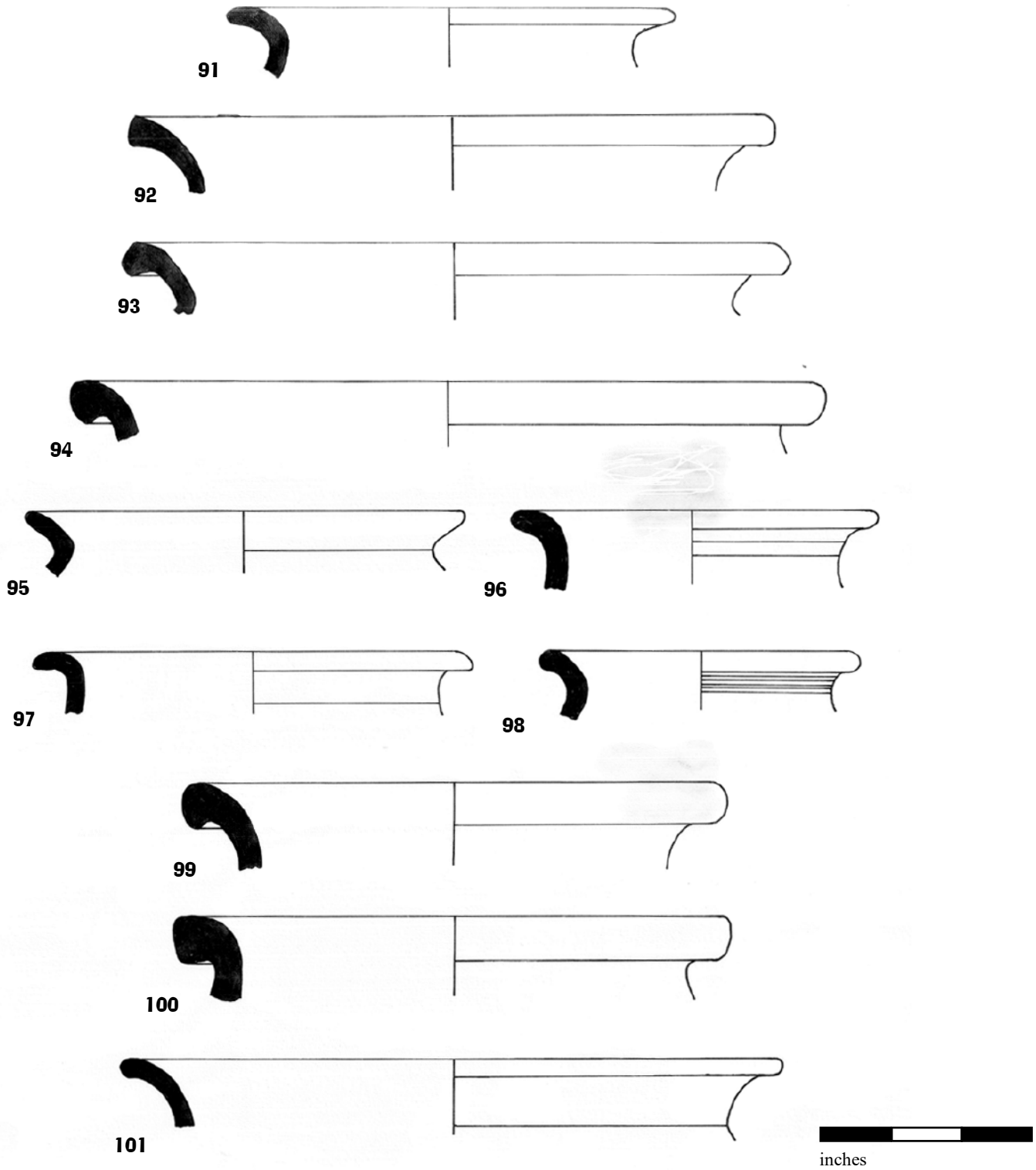


Fig. 13.

82. Rough black ware bowl. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
83. Black ware jar. 3 RB 62 Layer 2
84. Rough grey ware jar. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
85. Light grey gritty ware jar. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
86. Blue grey ware bowl. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
87. Rough black ware bowl. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
88. Black ware jar, smooth surfaces, external sooting. 3 RB 63 Layer 2.
89. Black gritty ware bowl. 3 RB 32 Layer 2.
90. Grey ware bowl, sooted. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.

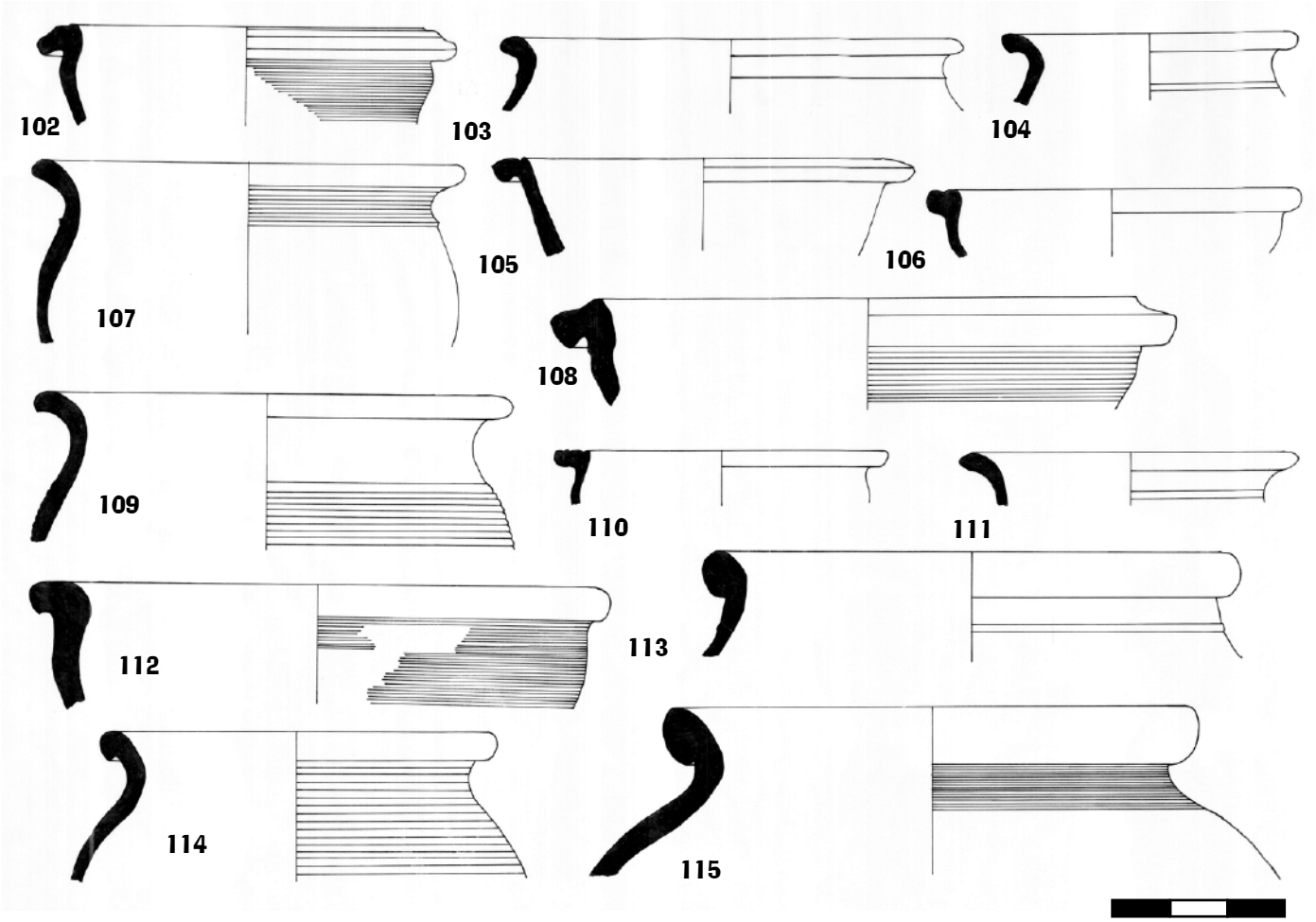


Fig. 14.

Fig. 13.

91. Grey ware jar, traces of soot (6 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
92. Gritty grey ware jar, orange brown streaks (9 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
93. Blue grey ware, traces of sooting (9 inch dia.) 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
94. Wide mouth bowl, dull red slip, heavily sooted. 3 RB ?
95. Smooth black ware jar (6 inch dia.). 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
96. Grey ware jar, burnished shoulder (5 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
97. Red ware jar. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
98. Rough finish light brown ware, heavily sooted. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
99. Grey brown jar, ore, rose pink slip. 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
100. Grey jar, light pink slip, over fired. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
101. Grey ware jar, external band of darker colour extending from rim. (9 inch. Dia.) 3 RB 21 Layer 3.

Fig. 14.

102. Gritty orange brown ware bowl, combed external, sooted. 3 RB 32 Layer 3.
103. Rough calcite gritted ware jar, orange. 3 RB 32 layer 2, 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
104. Dull reddish Brown ware jar, bands of burnishing. 3 RB 22 Layer 2.
105. Description lost.

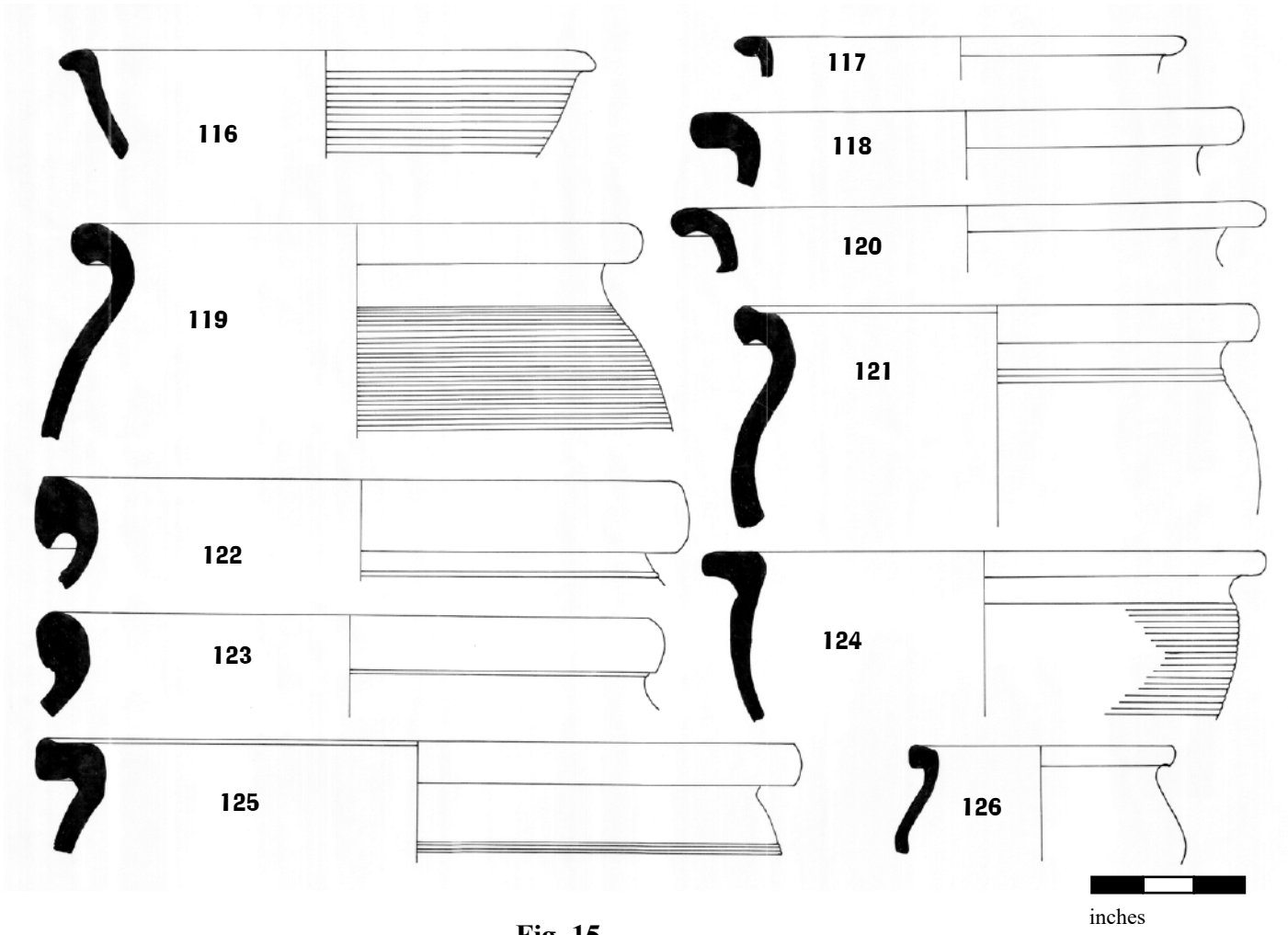


Fig. 15.

106. Gritty Orange brown ware bowl, sooted. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
107. Wide mouth grey ware bowl. Antonine. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
108. Calcite gritted brown ware bowl, externally combed. 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
109. Calcite gritted red brown ware bowl, combed ext., heavily sooted. 3 RB 32 layer 2, 3 RB 41 layer 3.
110. Gritty Pink brown ware large bowl. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
111. Calcite gritted rose pink ware jar. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
112. Gritty red brown ware bowl, finely combed exterior. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
113. Terra cotta calcite gritted jar. 3 RB 21 Layer 7.
114. Calcite gritted buff brown bowl, sooted. 3 RB 21 Layer 2, 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
115. Calcite gritted buff brown wear jar. 3 RB 21 Layer 7.

Fig. 15.

116. Calcite gritted ware bowl, sooted. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
117. Calcite gritted ware, reddish brown jar. 3 RB ?
118. Calcite gritted ware bowl, buff brown, sooted. 3 RB 23 Layer 4.
119. Calcite gritted ware jar, buff. 3 RB 21 Layer 7.
120. Calcite gritted ware jar, orange brown. 3 RB 21 layer 3, 3 RB 22 Layer 3, 3 RB 32 layer 4.
121. Calcite gritted ware jar, orange brown, wide mouth, sooted. 3 RB 32 layers 3 & 4, 3 RB 22 Layers 3 & 5, 3 RB 41 Layers 3 & 4.

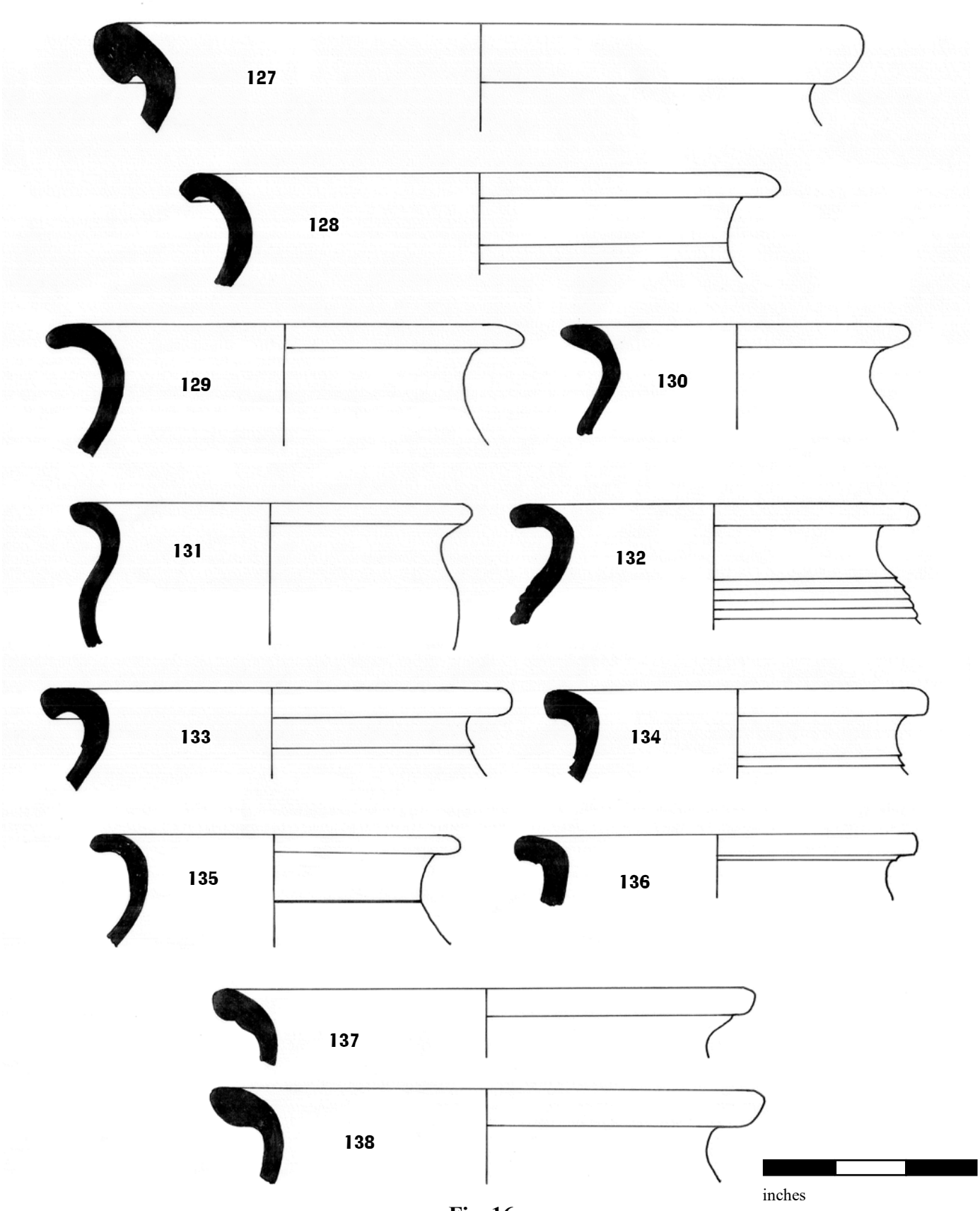


Fig. 16.

122. Calcite gritted ware jar, buff orange, heavily sooted. 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
123. Calcite gritted ware jar, buff orange. 3 RB 32 Layer 2.
124. Calcite gritted Nene ware bowl, orange brown combed exterior. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
125. Calcite gritted large bowl, pinkish brown combed exterior. 3 RB 41 Layer 4.
126. Course ware jar, oyster shell binding. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.

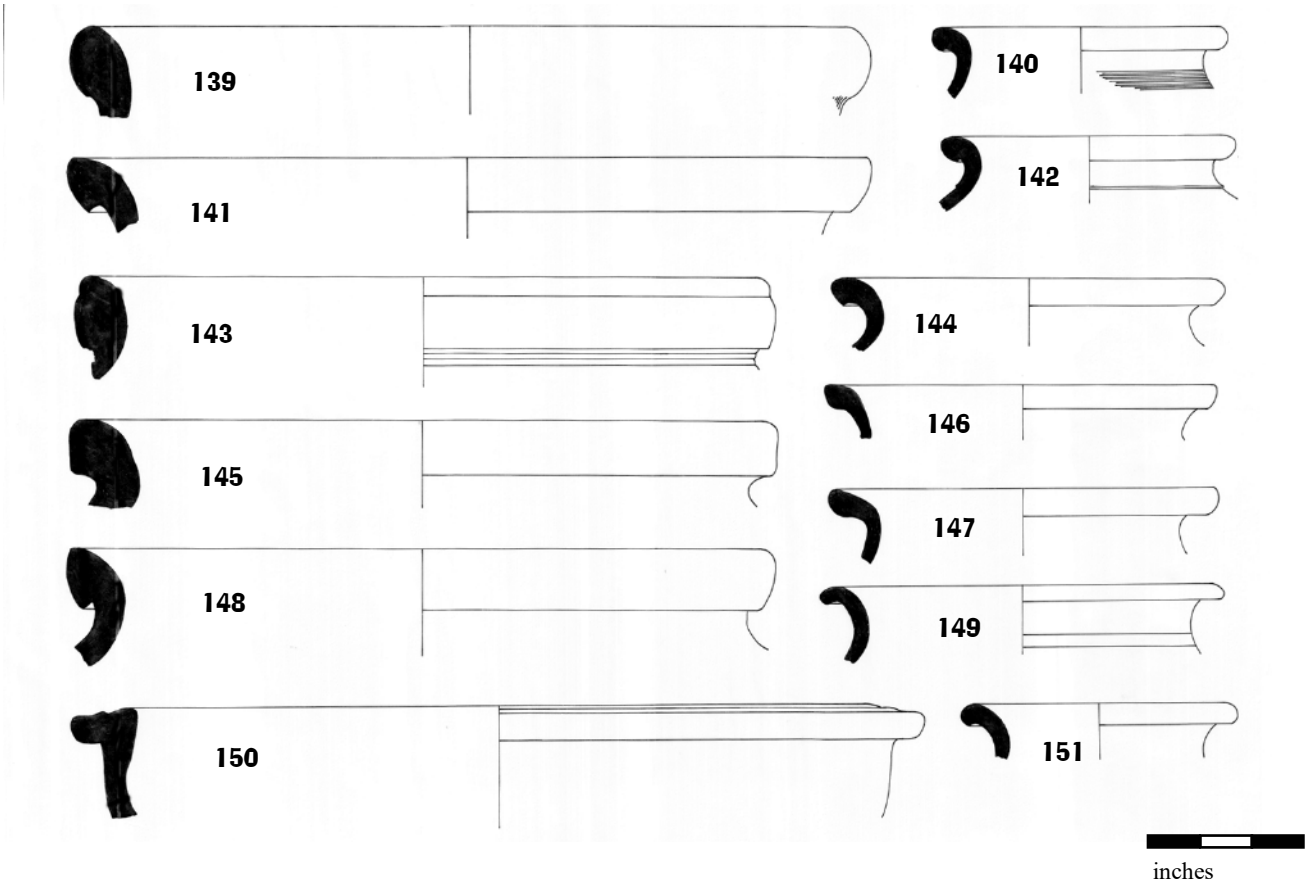


Fig. 17.

Fig. 16.

127. Calcite gritted ware jar, buff orange, sooted. 3 RB ?
128. Calcite gritted ware jar, brown biscuit, scored rings. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
129. Calcite gritted ware jar red brown, heavily sooted. (6 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
Similar size and type pots identified in boxes 3 RB 22 Layers 4
& 5, 3 RB 32 Layers 2 & 3, 3 RB 41 Layers 3 & 4.
130. Rough calcite gritted ware jar, reddish brown sooted. 3 RB 21 Layer 4.
3 RB 32 Layer 4.
131. Calcite gritted ware jar, reddish brown, heavily sooted. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
132. Calcite gritted ware jar, brown, sooted. 3 RB 53 Layer 2,
3 RB 41 Layer 3.
133. Calcite Gritted ware jar. 3 RB 33 Layer 3,
3 RB 23 Layer 4.
134. Calcite Gritted ware jar, rose pink. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
135. Calcite gritted ware jar, brown heavily sooted. 3 RB 21 Layer 6,
3 RB 22 Layer 4. 3 RB 41 Layer 4.
136. Calcite Gritted ware jar, brown. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
137. Calcite gritted ware jar, brown, over fired. 3 RB ?
138. Calcite gritted ware jar, buff brown, heavily sooted. 3 RB 23 Layer 4,
3 RB 53 layer 2.

Fig. 17.

139. Calcite gritted ware jar, pink (16 inch. dia.). 3 RB 41 Layer 2.

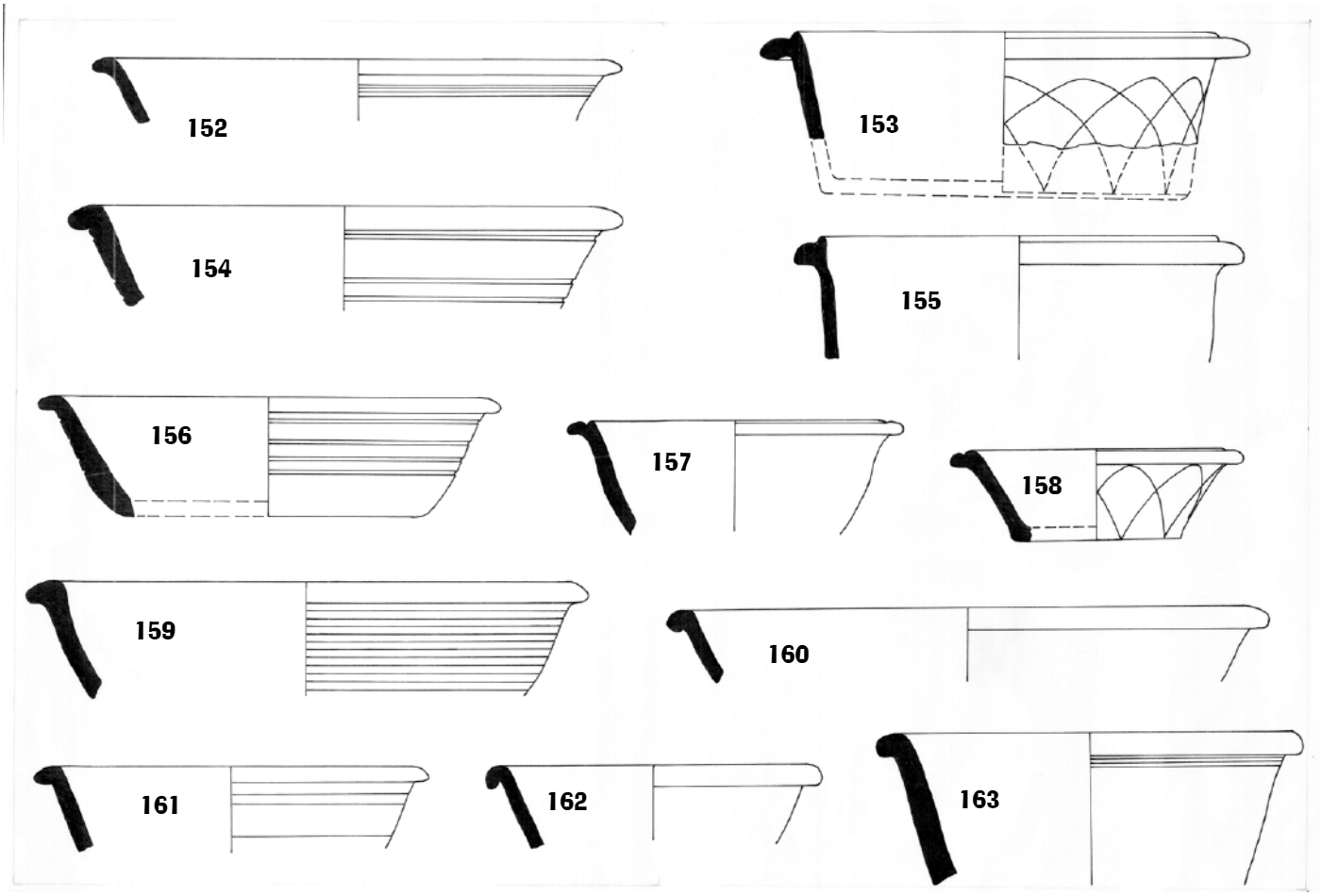


Fig. 18.

140. Calcite gritted ware jar, orange brown, sooted. 3 RB 32 Layer 6.
141. Grey ware jar, pink slip (16 inch dia.). 3 RB 32 Layer 2.
142. Very rough brown ware jar, sooted. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
143. Calcite gritted orange brown ware jar. (14 inch dia.). 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
144. Calcite gritted brown ware jar. 3 RB 32 Layer 2.
145. Soft grey ware, roe red slip, (14 inch dia.). 3 RB 32 Layer 2.
146. Calcite gritted brown ware jar. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
147. Calcite gritted orange brown ware jar, 3 RB 23 Layer 4, 3 RB 22 Layer 3, 3 RB 32 Layer 2, 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
148. Calcite gritted buff brown ware jar, (14 inch dia.). 3 RB 33 Pit 1.
149. Calcite brown biscuit ware jar, scored rings on outside. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
150. Calcite gritted grey ware cooking pot, (17 inch.) 3 RB 21 Layer 5.
151. Calcite gritted rose red ware jar, 3 RB 41 Layer 3.

Fig. 18.

152. Smooth black ware pie dish, bands of burnishing below rim, (10 inch dia.). 3 RB 23 Layer 4.
153. Blue grey ware flanged pie dish, decorated with curved lines. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
154. Grey ware pie dish, scored bands of curved lines, (10 inch dia.). 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
155. Grey ware flanged dish. Straight sided, rough finish. 3 RB ? Layer 3.
156. Grey ware pie dish, scored bands of decoration. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
157. Flanged grey ware bowl, rough finish, (6 inch dia.). 3 RB 41 Layer 2.
158. Small black coated ware with burnished pattern. 3 RB 22 Layer 6.

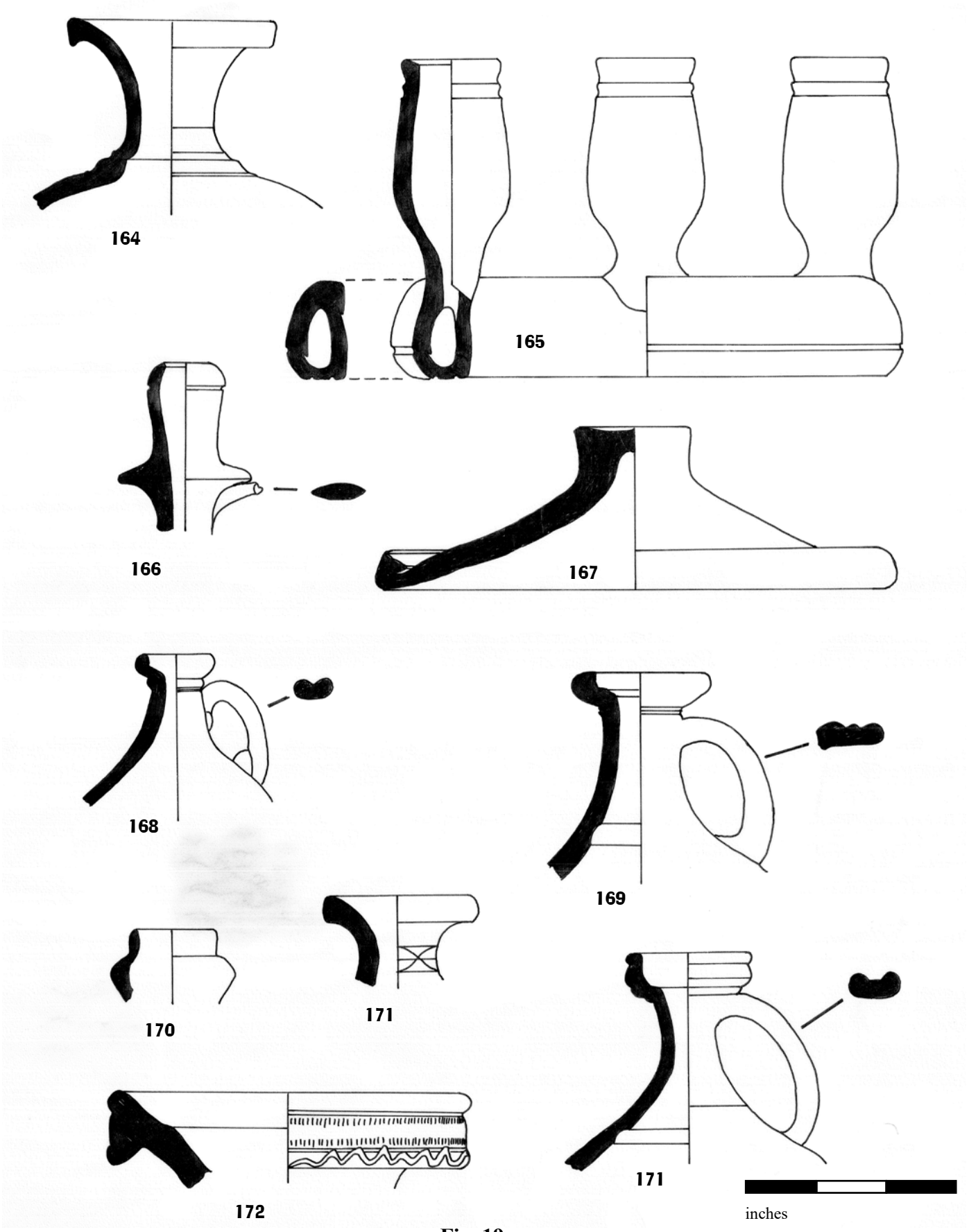


Fig. 19.

159. Brown calcite gritted ware plain rimmed pie dish, bands of burnishing, sooted. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.

160. Grey ware pie dish. 3 RB 23 Layer 4.

161. Gritty brown ware bowl, bands of burnishing, sooted. 3 RB 21 Layer 3.

162. Grey ware pie dish, sooted, (6 inch dia.). 3 RB 41 Layer 4.

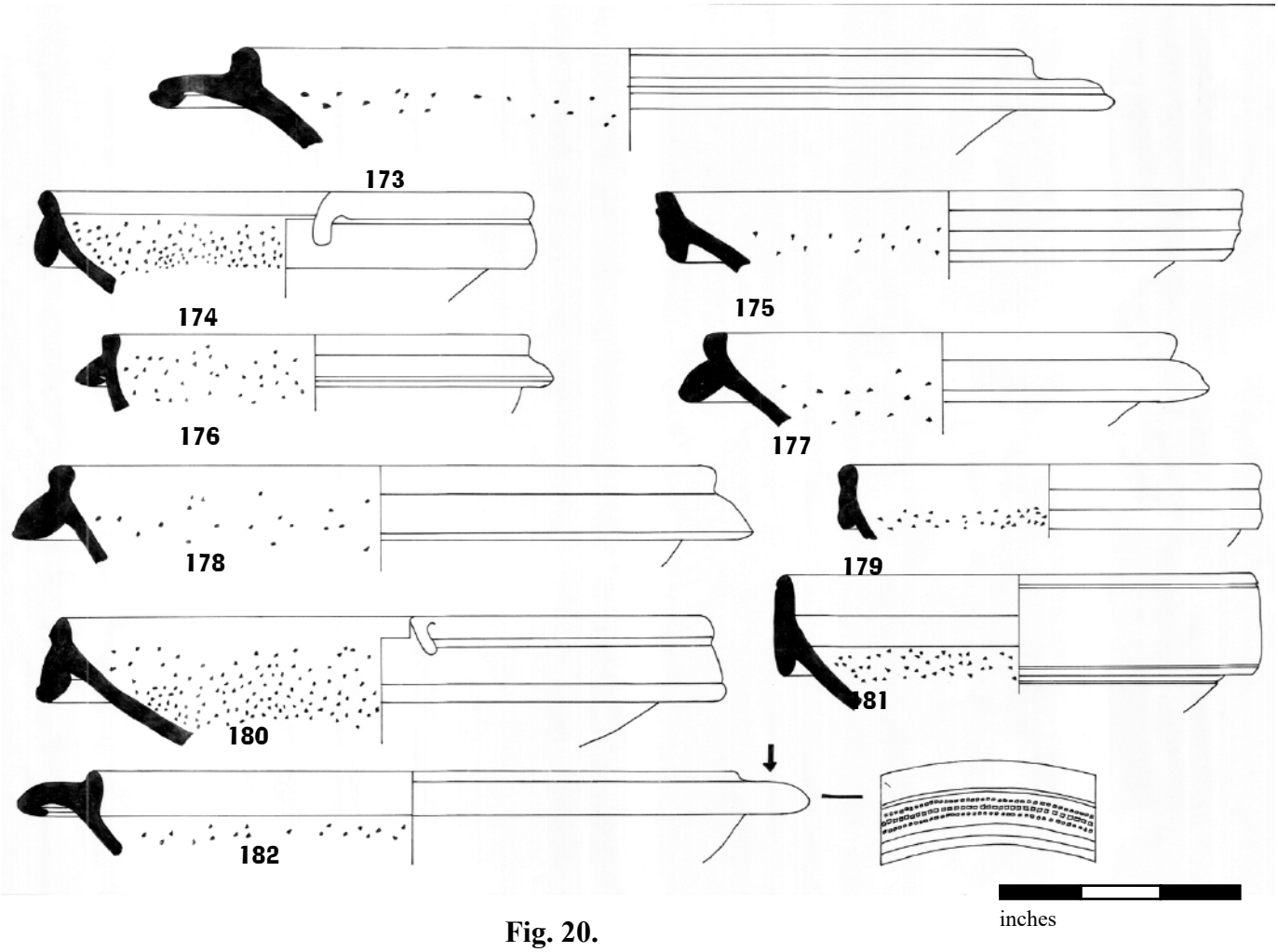


Fig. 20.

163. Blue grey ware bowl, bands of burnishing below rim. 3 RB 23 Layer 4.

Fig. 19.

164. Narrow necked grey ware flagon, burnished below line on neck. 3 RB 22 layer 4.
165. Triple vase grey ware. 3 RB 22 Layer 4, base 3 RB 32 Layer 2.
166. Terra-cotta paste flagon, white slip. RB 21 Layer 7.
167. Brown ware cooking pot lid, heavily sooted, used in damaged condition. 3 RB 21 Layer 4, 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
168. White pipe clay flagon. 3 RB 23 Layer 4.
169. Buff paste flagon. 3 RB 53 Layer 4.
170. Blue grey ware, ugent jar. 3 RB 41 Layer 3.
171. White paste flagon, terra-cotta colour coat. 3 RB 21 Layer 7.
172. Unknown vessel, red paste with white slip, stained black on inside. 3 RB 53 Layer 4.

Fig. 22.

173. Oatmeal paste mortarium. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
174. ?
175. Terra-cotta paste mortarium, orange slip. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
176. Oatmeal paste mortarium, light blue slip. Oxford ware. 3 RB 22 Layer 5.
177. Oatmeal paste mortarium, pale blue slip. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.

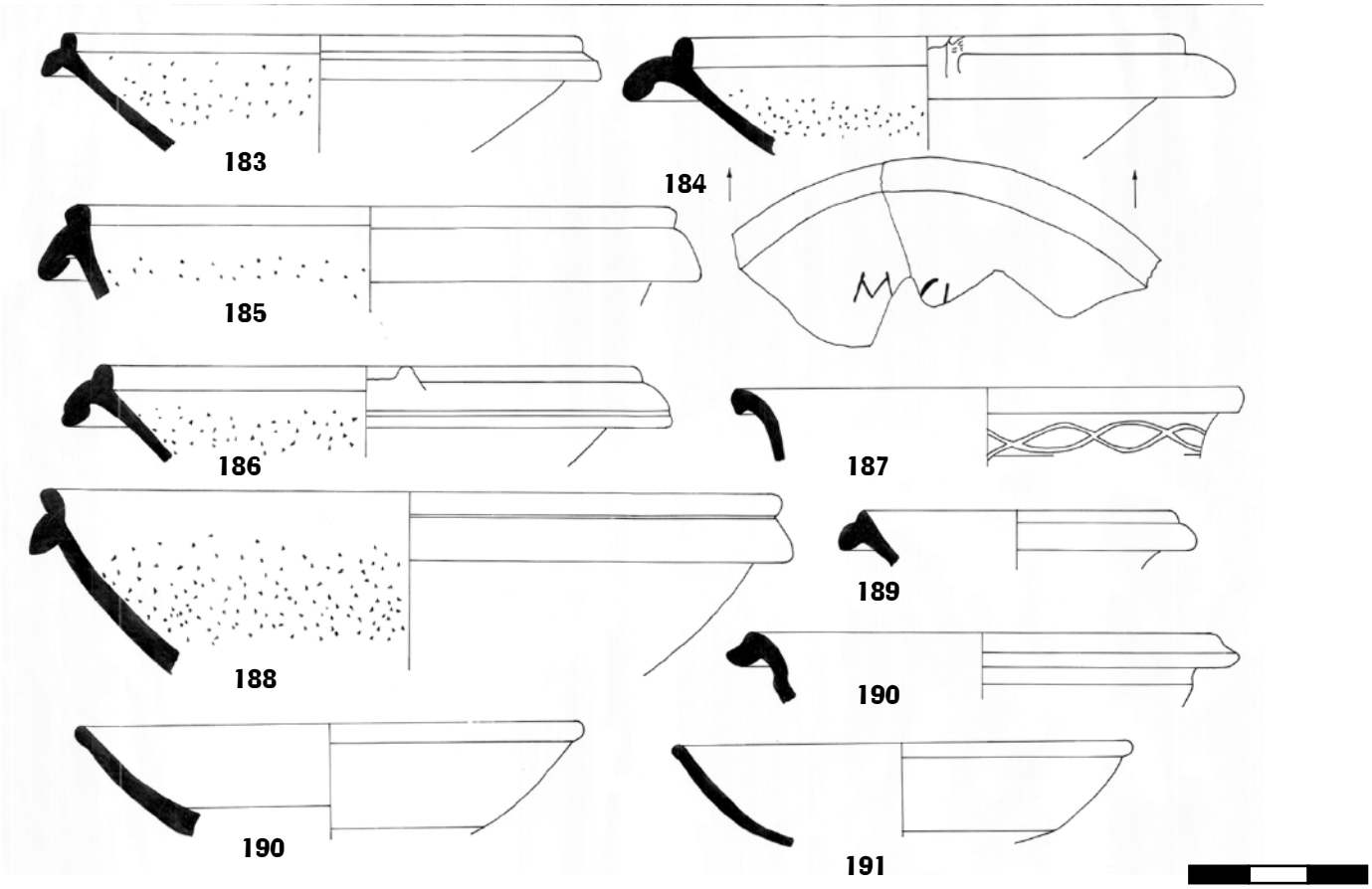


Fig. 21.

178. Oatmeal paste mortarium. 3 RB 22 Layer 4.
180. Oatmeal paste mortarium. 3 RB 23 Layer 4, 3 RB 33 Pit 1.
181. Samian form mortarium, considerable wear from constant use. 3 RB ?

182. Oatmeal paste mortarium with pattern on rim. 3 RB 22 Layer 4.

Fig. 21.

183. Pseudo Samian mortarium, terra cotta red colour coat. Oxford ware? 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
184. Oatmeal paste mortarium, graffiti on underside (initials of owner?). 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
185. Oatmeal paste mortarium. 3 RB 21 Layer 7.
186. Oatmeal paste mortarium, some dark staining. 3 RB 21 Layer 7.
187. Grey ware bowl, burnished line under rim. 3 RB 23 Layer 4.
188. Oatmeal paste mortarium. 3 RB 31 Pit 1.
189. White ware mortarium with brown slip. 3 RB 32 Layer 2.
190. Bowl Samian ware form copy. 3 RB 22 Layer 6.
191. Terra cotta fine paste bowl. Burnished dark red/brown colour coat, Samian form copy. 3 RB ?

Fig. 22.

192. Oatmeal buff paste mortarium. 3 RB 41 Layer 5.
193. Terra cotta mortarium, Oxford ware red colour wash, pseudo samian. 3 RB 21 Layer 3.

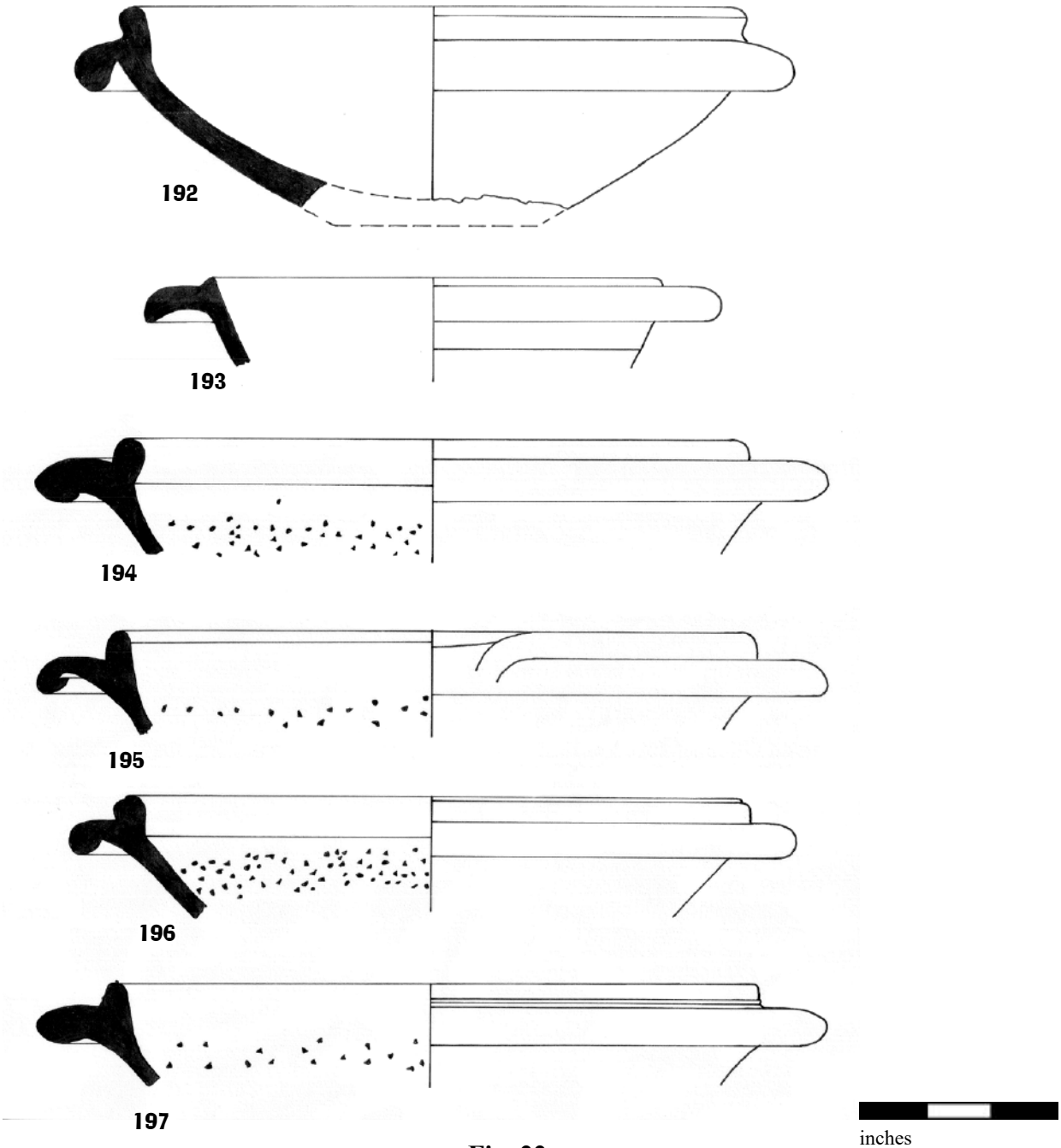


Fig. 22.

194. Oatmeal paste mortarium. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
195. Oatmeal paste mortarium. 3 RB 22 Layer 3
196. Orange paste mortarium, light blue slip. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
197. Oatmeal paste mortarium. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.

Fig. 23.

198. Fine ware grey white paste vase, brown colour coated slip. 3 RB 32 Layer 4, 3 RB 33 Pit 1.
199. Folded ware 5 sided vase. 3 RB ?
200. Folded, grey coarse ware pot 6 sided, signs of burning. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
201. Fragment of buff paste flagon, terra-cotta wash with red discoloration. 3 RB 21 Layer 9.

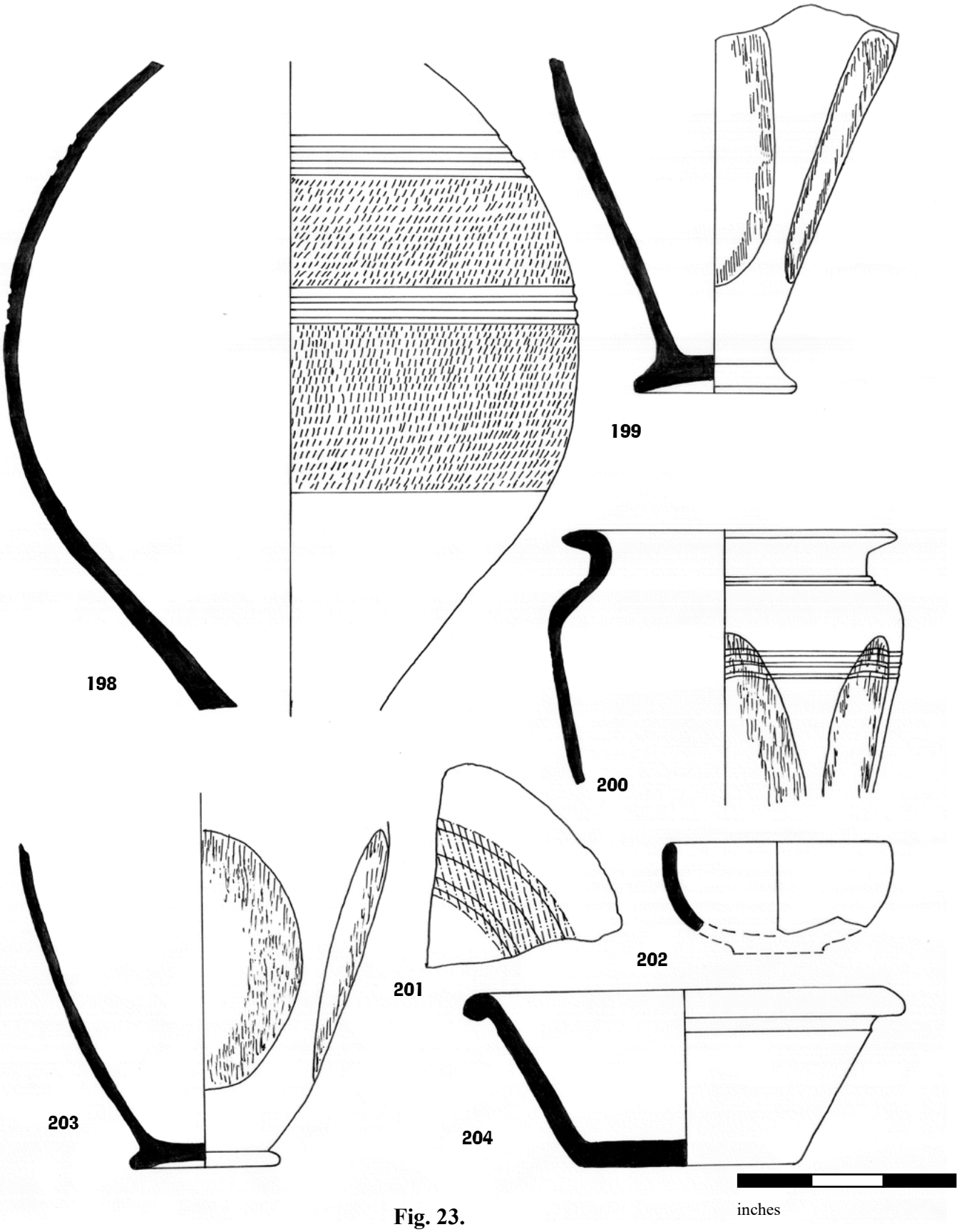


Fig. 23.

202. Orange brown paste small black bowl, glazed slip. 3 RB 22 Layer 4.
203. Folded grey coarse ware pot, 5 sides, full profile illustrated. 3 RB ?
204. Light brown paste bowl, mica gilt surface, black stain. 3 RB 21 Layer 7.

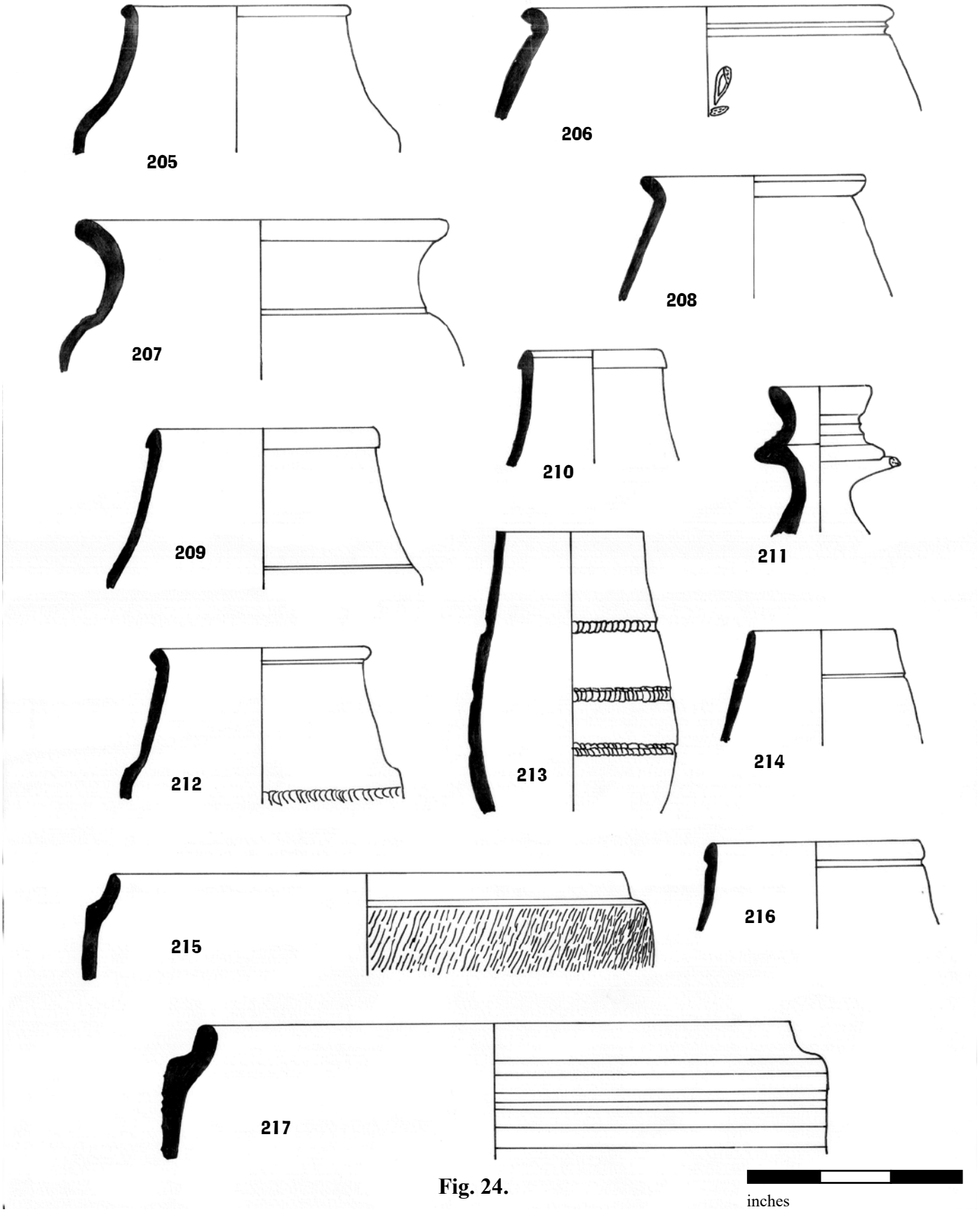


Fig. 24.

Fig. 24.

205. Folded pink paste beaker, dark brown colour coat. 3 RB 41 Layer 4.
206. Dark brown caster ware pot, trace of relief pattern. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.

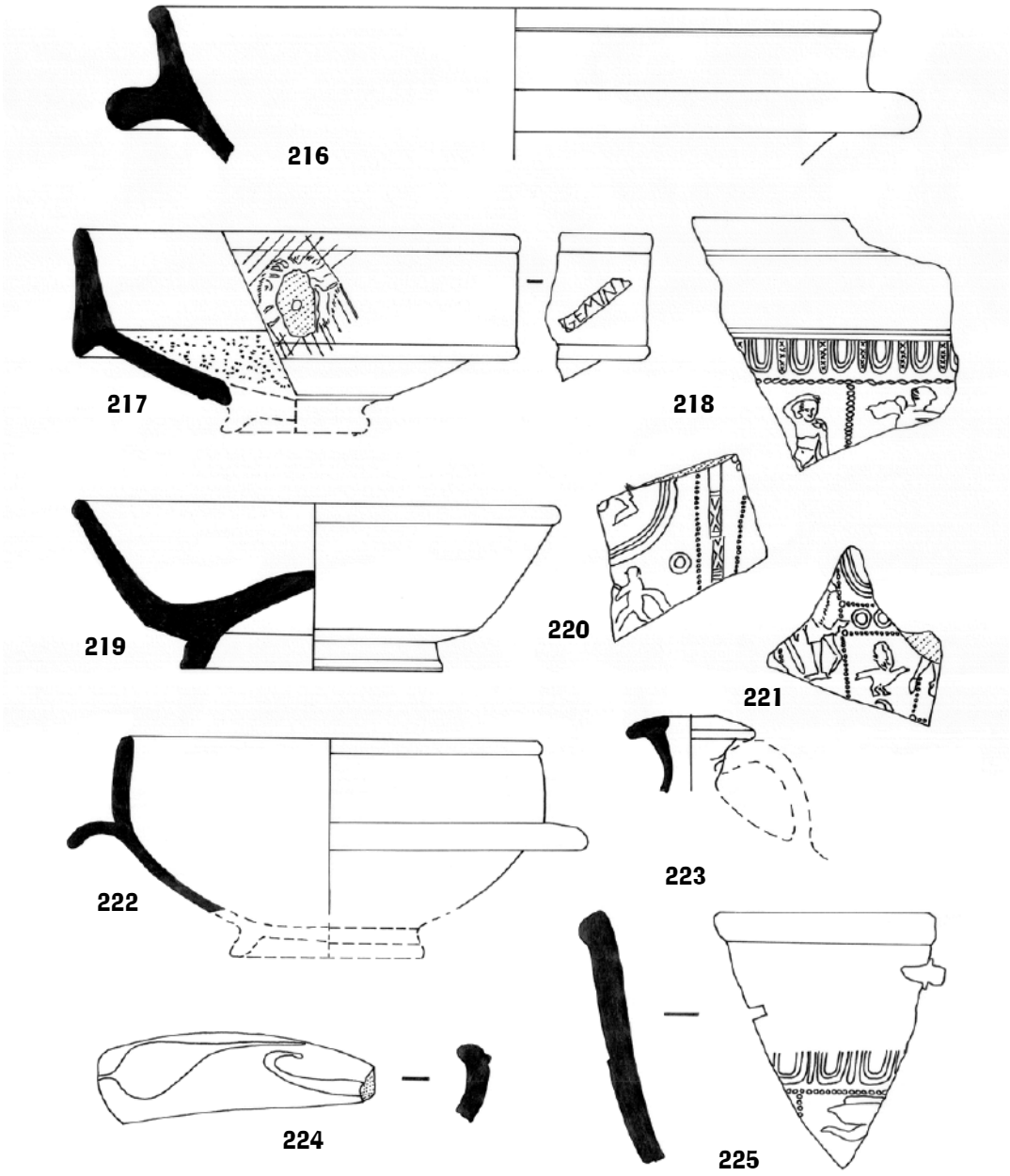


Fig. 25.

207. Light grey brown ware, slight burnish. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
208. Terra cotta pot, red brown colour. 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
209. Folded pink paste beaker, dark brown colour coated. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
210. Pink paste beaker. Dark brown colour coated. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
211. Terra cotta coarse ware handled jug. 3 RB 33 Pit 1.
212. Folded pink paste beaker, dark brown colour coated. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.
213. Fine white paste beaker, brown colour coated. 3 RB 33 Pit 1.
214. Terra cotta mottled red brown fired beaker. 3 RB 33 Pit 1.
215. Base of pink paste castel box, dark red colour coat. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.

Fig. 25.

216. Flanged buff paste bowl, red slip, copy of Samian Dragendorff form 38. 3 RB 22 Layer 3.
217. Samian mortarium Dragendorff form 45, stamped Gemini, trace of lions head spout, late 2nd century, Lezoux pottery, Central Gaul. **Ph. 17-19.** 3 RB T1.
218. Samian rim fragment Dragendorff form 37, potter possibly Cinnamus of Lezoux, Apollo with lyre and cupid driving chariot AD. 20/160. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
219. Samian bowl, Dragendorff form 31. 3 RB 41 Layer 2.
220. Samian bowl fragment, Dragendorff form 33. 3 RB 53 Layer 2.
221. Samian fragment. 3 RB 33 Pit 1.
222. Samian Dragendorff form 38. 3 RB 32 Layer 4.
223. Neck of flagon, run of slip visible inside. 3 RB 22 Layer 4.
224. Samian rim with curle pattern. 3 RB 41 Layer 4.
225. Fragment of Dragendorff form 37 rim, repaired in Roman period with one lead rivet still in position. **Ph. 15.** 3 RB 53 Layer 4

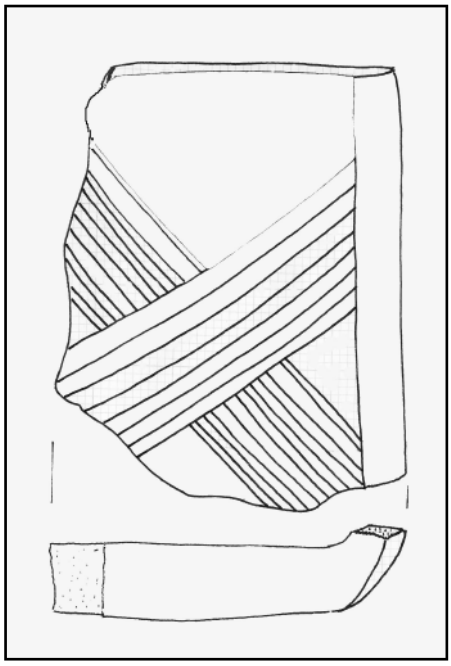


Fig. 27. Calcite tempered red box tile fragment 3 RB 32 Layer 2.

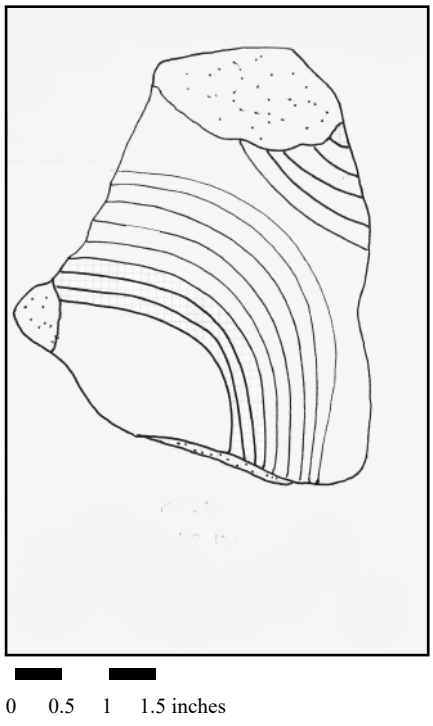


Fig. 28. Calcite tempered red box tile fragment 3 RB 32 Layer 3.

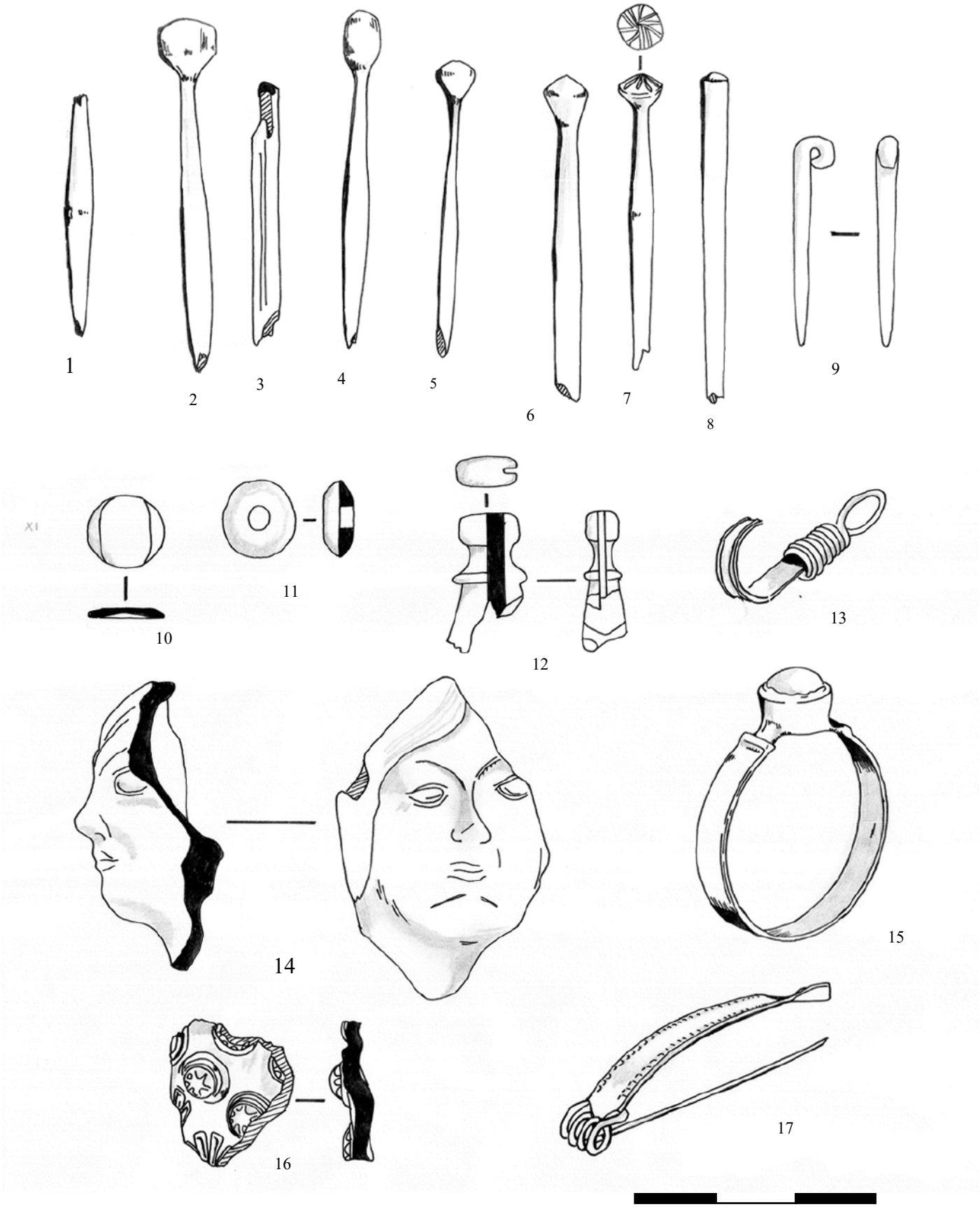


Fig. 26.

Fig. 26. Small Finds.

Bone Pins **(1).** 3 RB 41 Layer 3, **(2)** 3 RB 53 Layer 3, **(3).** 3 RB 22 Layer 3, **(4).** 3 RB 53 Layer 3, **(5).** 3 RB 53 Layer 3, **(6).** 3 RB 53 Layer 2, 7.& 8. not provenanced. Drawn 2 x full size.

(9). Iron pin 3 RB 21 Layer 3. Drawn full size. **Ph. 46.**
(10). Bone counter disk. Drawn full size.
(11). Bone disk with hole. 3 RB 21 Layer 2. Drawn full size.
(12). Unknown bone object. 3 RB 21 Layer 3. Drawn 2 x full size.
(13). Gold necklace hook (crushed). Drawn x 5 x full size. 3 RB 21 Layer 6. **Ph. 24.**
(14). Fragment of face jug. White clay with red/brown wash, (hair, eyes, mouth). Drawn full size. 3 RB 21 Layer 3.
(15). Bronze ring with glass or quartz stone. 3 RB 64 Layer 4. Drawn 4 x full size.
(16). An unusual pot sherd, almost certainly from the Stibbington Kilns in the Lower Nene Valley where pottery with the characteristic chocolate colour coat was produced. The rosette and boss patterns have been found from different kilns but not on a single pot. This suggests a link between the two traditions. Drawn full size. 2 RB T. **Ph. 16.**
(17). Fibula, badly bent 3 RB 32 Layer 4. Drawn 2 x full size. **Ph. 42.**



Ph. 15. Repaired Samian pot **Fig. 25.** no. 225. 3 RB 53 Layer 4.



Ph. 16 . Unusual pot sherd from Nene Valley. **Fig 26.** No. 16.



Ph. 17. Samian lion head spouted mortarium **Fig. 25.** no. 217 3 RB T1.



Ph. 18. Same mortarium showing the makers name stamp *Gemini.* Dragendorff form 45 Lazoux pottery late 2nd century.



Ph. 19. All the sherds from the lion head mortarium, show considerable wear from use. It must have been a prized possession.



Ph. 20. A possible Roman pestle (pestillum) for use with mortaria, note polish on bottom surface. Field walking find. (Map 1 No 7) with scattered 1st - 2nd C. pot sherds.



Ph. 21. Boot hob nails solidified in soil. 3 RB 22 Layer 4



Ph. 22. Part of a bone instrument together with an unidentified portion of bone with unmistakable signs of lathe turning 3 RB 21 Layer 2.



Ph. 23. Opus signinum and possible tesserae found in later deposits.



Ph. 24. Gold necklace hook Fig. 26. No. 13. 3 RB 21 Layer 6.



Ph. 25. Broken Hertfordshire Puddingstone rotary quern (view i) found in brook. **(Map 1 No.5),** showing "funnel" for grain and hole inside for turning handle.



Ph. 26. Base of quern (view ii) showing convex grinding surface. It would have been used with a similar material base with a slightly rounded surface to allow the flour to spill out the sides.

Hertfordshire Puddingstone is a geological conglomerate of very well rounded flint pebbles, embedded in a matrix of fine pale coloured sand, all bound together by hard natural silica cement. The resulting quern is ideal for grinding corn but was difficult to shape and very brittle when struck.



Ph. 27. Pudding Stone quern found in excavation 3 RB partly shaped view (i).



Ph. 28. View (ii) showing partly shaped funnel.



Ph. 29. Second quern fragment found in 3 RB excavation. Partly shaped not thought to be broken from the first. This suggests they were manufactured on site.



Ph. 30. RB 21 layer 6. Shards of moulded glass.



Ph. 31. 3 RB 21 layer 7. Lumps of mortar.



Ph. 32. 3 RB 21 layer 7 Unidentified iron objects & pottery.



Ph. 33. 3 RB 21 layer 7. Tegular tile.



Ph. 34. 3 RB 41 layer 5. 10 ins diameter neck cordoned bowl. Not shown in drawings, discovered when this report was written up.



Ph. 35. 3 RB 41 layer 5. Same pot as **Ph. 34.** Showing profile of rim and neck with shell temper, possible Belgic date.

Phs. 30 - 35 are a selection of items from earliest deposits in 3 RB boxes. Together they indicate habitation and good quality buildings in the vicinity when the gravel quarry was first excavated.



Ph. 36. Woman's neck and top of chair from a Dea Nutrix (Mother Goddess) 3 RB 32 Layer 4, above a fragment chair back which may be from another artifact 3 RB 22 Layer 3.

Ph. 37. Model of a Dea Nutrix found at Baldock Herts.

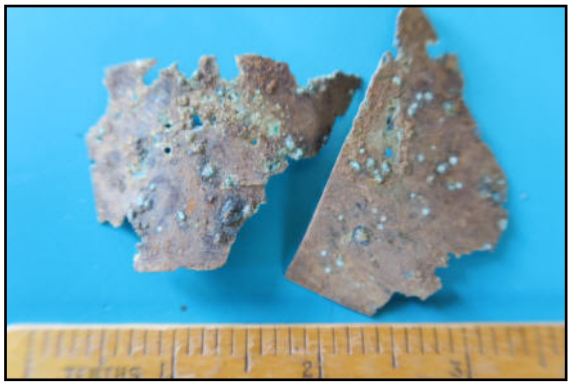




Ph. 38. Twisted bronze wire 3 RB 21 Layer 4



Ph. 39. Bronze vessel foot 3 RB 21 Layer 4



Ph. 40. Fine sheet bronze 3 RB 53 Layer 4



Ph. 41. Crushed sheet lead 3 RB 34 Layer 4



Ph. 42. Bow brooch La Tene 3 RB 32 Layer 4



Ph. 43. Bronze chain 2 RT



Ph. 44. Iron object 3 RB 32 Layer 4



Ph. 45. Iron key 3 RB 53 Layer 3



Ph. 46. Iron pin with loop for chain 3 RB 41 Layer 4



Ph. 47. Iron knife blade 3 RB 22 Layer 3



Ph. 48. Iron knife blade 3 RB 21 Layer 5



Ph. 49. Tanged iron blade 3 RB 21 Layer 5



Ph. 50. Tanged sickle blade 3 RB unknown.

Coins found on sites 2 R & 3 R deposited in Bedford Museum.

Ruxox Excavations. Site 2 R.

1. 2 RB 10 Tetricus 11 (273-4) Type illegible.
2. 2 RT 4 Uncertain imitation of a late third century coin. AD 270-85.
3. 2 RT 4 " " "
4. 2 RT 4 Crispus, as Caesar. LRBC 1, 30. C 324-326.
5. 2 RT 3 Constantinopolis. LRBC 1, 71. AD 330-5.
6. 2 RB 10 " LRBC 1, 71. AD 330-5.
7. 2 RB 3 Urbs Roma. LRBC 1, 58. AD 330-5.
8. 2 RB 10 Imitation of Constantine 11, Gloria Exercitus. C. AD 330-40.
9. 2 RB 10 Constantine 11, as Caesar. Gloria Exercitus (2 standards). AD 330-5.
10. 2 RT 3 Theodora. LRBC 1, 129. AD 337-41.
11. 2 RB Imitation of Magnentius. AD 352.
12. 2 RB 10 Valens (364-78). Securitas Reipublicae. As LRBC 11, 725.
13. 2 RB 3 Theodosius 1 (379-95). Victoria Auggg. LRBC 11, 565.
14. 2 RB 10 Valentinian 11 (375-92). Victoria Auggg. LRBC 11, 546.

Ruxox Excavations Site 3 R.

1. 3 RB 22 (9) Vespasian (69-79). RIC 528b. **Ph. 52.**
2. 3 RB 21 (5) SF 47 M. Aurelius (161-180). Sestertius. RIC 960.
3. 3 RB 21 (5) SF 50 Crispina, wife of Commodus 9(180-192). Sestertius. RIC Comm. 665
4. 3 RB 32 (2) SF 118 Maximus (235-8). Copper core from plated denarius, as RICC 1.

The following coins are all Antoniniani: -

5. 3 RB 21 (3) SF 29 Gallienus (253-68). RIC 283.
6. 3 RB 53 (3) SF 69 Claudius 11. (268-70). RIC 261.
7. 3 RB 21 (4) SF 31A Claudius 11. Type illegible.
8. 3 RB 21 (1) SF 9 Claudius 11. Type illegible.
9. 3 RB 22 (3) Postumus (260-69). RIC 318 var. (=Elmer 566).
10. 3 RB 41 (4) Victorinus. Type illegible.

11. 3 RB 21 (4) SF 31 Victorinus. Type Illegible.

12. 3 RB 53 (2) SF 20 Tetricus 1. (271-4). RIC 100.

13. 3 RB 53 (3) SF 73/7 Tetricus 1. RIC 100.

14. 3 RB 21 (4) SF 37 Tetricus 1. RIC 100.

15. 3 RB 53 (3) SF 66 Tetricus 1. RIC 126.

16. 3 RB 53 (2) SF 44 Tetricus 11. RIC (273-4). 259.

17. 3 RB 53 Illegible late third century.

18. 3 RB 53 (1) SF 6 Imitation Claudius 11. RIC 261 AD 270-85

19. 3 RB 21 (2) SF 10 Imitation of Claudius 11. RIC 261 AD 270-85.

20. 3 RB 21 (3) SF 30 Imitation of Tetricus 1. RIC 130. AD 270-85.

21. 3 RB Imitation of Tetricus 11. Type of Spes. AD 270-85.

22. 3 RB 64 (2) SF 45 Imitation of late third century AD c. 270-85.

23. 3 RB 21 (5) SF 48 " " "

24. 3 RB 64 (3) SF 73/6 " " "

25. 3 RB 53 baulk " " "

26. 3 RB 53 (2) SF 64 Carausius (286-273). RIC 284.

27. 3 RB 53 (2) SF 33 Carausius. RIC 300.

28. 3 RB 41 (3) Carausius RIC 396.

29. 3 RB 22 (3) Maximian (286-305). Struck by Carausius. RIC 34 with obv. legend 1.

30. 3 RB 41 (3) Allectus (293-96). RIC 86.

The denominations of the following fourth century coins are uncertain: -

31. 3 RB 64 SF 73/1 Licinius 1. (308-24). RIC VII Trier 56.

32. 3 RB 22 (3) Constantine 1. (306 -37). RIC VII Trier 209. C. AD 318.

33. 3 RB 64 62 Constantine 1. RIC VII Trier 368. C. AD 320.

34. 3 RB 53 (2) SF 13 Constantine 11. As Caesar. RIC VII Lyon 148. C. AD 320.

35. 3 RB 53 (2) SF 42 as Caesar. Gloria Exercitus (1 standard). LRBC 1, 110. AD 335-37.

36. 3 RB 64 (2) SF 38 House of Constantine 1. Gloria Exercitus (1 standard). Mint mark and obverse illegible. AD 330-41.

37. 3 RB 64 SF 58. Constantinopolis. Mint mark illegible. AD 330-41.

38. 3 RB 64 49 Imitation of Fel Temp falling horseman of Constantius 11. AD 534-58. (the other two coins with the same SF number are both illegible fourth century coins).

39. 3 RB 53 SF 3/8 Imitation of Fel Temp falling horseman of Constantius 11. AD 354-58.

40. 3 RB 64 SF 68 Valentinian 1 (364-75). Securitas Reipublicae. Mint of Lyon or Arles.

41. 3 RB 64 SF 39 Valens (364-78). Gloria Romanorum. LRBC 11, 534.

42. 3 RB 64 SF 56 Gratian (367-83). Securitas Reipublicae. LRBC 11, 534.

43. 3 RB 64 SF 46 Gratian. Gloria Novi Saeculi. LRBC 11, 503ff.

44. 3 RB 64 Gratian. " " LRBC 11, 503.

45. 3 RB 64 (4) Valentinian 11 (375-88). Salus Reipublicae. LRBC 11, 1105.

46. 3 RB 53 (2) SF 60 Theodosius 1 (379-95). " " "

47. 22 (3) House of Theodosius. " " " AD 388-95.

48. 3 RB SF 73/3 Theodosius 1. Victoria Auggg. Cf. LRBC 11, 163.

49. 3 RB 21 (3) SF 17 Illegible fourth century coin.

50. 3 RB 64 (3) SF 73/5 Illegible third or fourth century coin.

Carolyn's Observation

Although the coins from the site are not sufficiently numerous to permit any detailed or precise comment, a few general comments may be found helpful.

1. Circulation lifetime. As a general guide to the dating of the various levels it is fairly sure that the four earliest coins (1-A) were lost by about AD 270; that the mass of the antoniniani (5-50) by about AD 300; and the fourth century coins (55-48) by the late fourth or early fifth centuries.

2. The general pattern of coins and mints seems fairly typical for a Romano-British site. The small number of first and second century coins cannot be used as evidence for activity on the site during that period, since the coins circulated much longer. Similarly, the late fourth century coins are compatible with the continuing use of the site into the fifth century (British sites never have later coins), although they do not of course demonstrate it. Activity before the third century and after the fourth century must therefore remain an open question on numismatic grounds.

On the other hand there is a rather heavier concentration of coins of the period AD 285-320 than one might normally expect, and very tentatively one might say that the coins do suggest a period of particular activity then. This suggestion should not, however, be given much credence unless other evidence is forthcoming, as it is very difficult to base any firm conclusions on so few coins.

Coin found by K. Fadden when field walking in the 1960's Map 1 No. 7, passed to Longsand's School.

In Roman Coin Tray (Longsands) . 1991/19 (Bedford Museum Reference)

Silver Denarius of Faustina Senior Wife of Antoninus Pius. She died in AD 141 and her husband issued an extensive commemorative coinage (many designs) in her honour. This denarius belongs to the commemorative issue of AD 141 or just after.

Obverse: DAVA FAUSTINA

Bust facing right, draped with hair coiled and waved on head.

Reverse; AUGUSTA

Ceres veiled, standing left and holding torch and sceptre.

RIC Roman Imperial Coinage reference: - RIC volume 111 p. 70 no 356 denarius.

Carolyn Wingfield. June 1991.



Ph. 51. Aerial photograph, reference 7 on **Map 1,** where the denarius was found "**C**". The crop mark left by the 1965 pipe line runs close to a possible Roman building.



Ph. 52. Earliest coin found in excavation Vespasian (69-79).
3 RB 22 (9).



Ph. 53. Aerial view of field adjacent to Woburn Lodge (**Map 1** No. 3) taken while the Ampthill Bypass was being constructed, it clearly shows the area of natural gravel. At the bottom of picture, the course of the water pipe line of 1965 runs to the pumping station, cutting through apparent archaeology. This photograph was used in a bid for the grant which financed Albion Archaeology in an excavation prior to laying a second pipeline by Anglian Water shown in **Ph. 54**.



Ph. 54. Cemetery site (**Map 1** No 4) unearthed by Albion Archaeology in advance of the second pipe line. June 1991.



Ph. 55. Inhumation in a wooden coffin, from cemetery excavated by Albion Archaeology. (**Map 1** No 4).

Conclusions.

All the work carried out was by hand trowel in individual boxes, and the artifacts were marked or labelled. What appeared to be a cobbled yard or building floors turned out to be a natural deposit of gravel which in hindsight can be seen in aerial photographs, not available at the time. The most likely explanation is that the site was an area used for quarrying the the gravel for building work, and the resulting pits used for disposing domestic rubbish. The quantities of pottery and domestic artifacts together with building materials confirm that a building or buildings of high status must have been close by. The forms of the pottery indicate trade from Northampton, St. Albans and Oxford. The pipe clay Dea Nutrix figurines and the zoomorphic clasp knife handle almost certainly came from the Continent. The clearly defined layers in the boxes indicate the pits were left open. The earliest artefacts dating from the first century, and the latest early fifth. Coins and domestic goods have a potentially long usage, but, it still represents a considerable period.

In 1972 it was announced that a long awaited bypass for the town of Ampthill was going ahead. The details of the route were published and the Society responded by dropping the work in the Woburn Lodge garden to concentrate on the areas affected. Extensive field walking and aerial surveys were made, only to find the direction of the route changed from north-south to east-west. This brought the road through Ruxox farm and confirmed occupation in the Belgic or Late Iron Age period, see "An Overview of the Ampthill Bypass Archaeology" on the Society's website.

It became obvious that further excavation of site 3 R was unlikely to reveal a building due to the confines of the garden and the farmhouse itself, excavation of site 2 R was not allowed, so a resistivity survey was attempted to the west of Woburn Lodge Farm using the Martin Clarke Meter which had successfully located a ditched enclosure containing a corn drying oven in Manor Way, Flitwick. This proved to be a lengthy exercise but the results were inconclusive. The pattern of readings were very difficult to interpret, as the only way to illustrate them at the time was by allocating a colour to a value, and plotting them. The results did not show any firm lines we would expect from building foundations.

In 2021 the opportunity arose to survey the area again using the Society's TR/CIA Resistivity Meter, the report can be seen on the ADALHS website. In brief the results appear to confirm what was found before, but with much better definition when plotted by a computer.

Photographs.
Ph. 2, 3, 11, 16, 22, 23, 52. Society member B. D. Lazelle.
Ph. 7, 8. Society member M. Warland.
Others by the author.

Pottery drawings and legend. Society members K. Bailey, W. Langridge.

Coin Report Carolyn Wingfield, Bedford Museum.

References.

Brixworth Excavations Vol. 1 The Romano British Villa. 1965-1970. Part 1 The Roman Coarse Pottery and Decorated Samian Ware. P. J. Woods.

Excavations at Shakenoak Farm, Near Wilcote, Oxfordshire. A. C. Brodribb A. R. Hands D. R. Walker 1968.

Cambourne New Settlement: Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement on the Clay Uplands of West Cambridgeshire. J. Wright , M. Leivers, R. Seager Smith, C.J.Stevens.

Reports from the Society's website www.adalhs.org.uk.

A group of possible Iron Age/Early Roman pits adjacent to the Ampthill Bypass.

An Overview of the Ampthill Bypass Archaeology 2011 updated 2021.

Report on Romano British Artefacts found on the surface of Ruxox Farm in the County of Bedfordshire. TL 047 359.

Resistivity Survey at TL 0508 3642 in an area partially excavated by the ADALHS in 1967 to the West of Woburn Lodge Farm. 2021.

Materials.

Deposited at the Higgins Art Gallery & Museum Bedford.