

## BAL-45 ARCHIVE REPORT

### 1: General Background to the Excavation at 20/22 Icknield Way East, Baldock

Discoveries of a number of burials have been rumoured from the area between Royston Road, Icknield Way East and North Road (known locally as *The Triangle*) in the past and a skeleton in Bedford Museum is said to have come from this area, but these were thought to have been isolated finds in an area where dispersed burials of the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and Roman period are to be expected. This led to an interest being taken in the site when redevelopment of a property formerly known as 5a Royston Road, now 20 and 22 Icknield Way East, began on 29 February 1988. An initial brief inspection of the footings for number 22 seemed to bear out the impression of scattered burials: a single inhumation was identified, as was one possible pit. The next morning, however, when more time was available to clean the faces of the footings trenches, it became clear that a large number of inhumations had been disturbed and that it was going to be necessary to record them rapidly before the concrete was poured later in the day. The work took place at a time when excavation work was also being started in Royston and Knebworth. With a staff of only seven this stretched resources to the full.

It was decided to investigate several areas of the site more thoroughly and the developer, Shepherd Homes (Welwyn) Ltd, kindly agreed a timetable whereby a team from North Herts Museum Service's Field Archaeology Section could undertake small-scale excavation in advance of footings for two double garages and in the area between the double garage and house number 20. These were accomplished between March and June 1988 and revealed not only more Romano-British burials but also high status Late Pre-Roman Iron Age cremations, some of which were possibly in a burial enclosure.

#### Watching Brief [House 1/22 Icknield Way East]

Generally there was about 0.3 m of topsoil over the chalk (or, where a subsoil existed over the chalk, over the subsoil) except to the north-east, near the barn, where considerable disturbance down to the level of the chalk and, in places, into it, had taken place. There was also a service trench containing a 1' diameter pipe, perhaps a water or gas main, which crossed the site obliquely. Little disturbance seemed to have been caused by the foundations of the demolished house or by the demolition itself. The chalk had a number of small solution features, some of which were initially recorded as being possibly archaeological in origin.

A number of inhumations displaying typical late Romano-British burial rites (decapitation, pronation etc.) was identified, some graves cutting others, arguing for use of the site over a long period. Nails from at least one grave indicate the possibility of some inhumations being in coffins, while potsherds and calcined bone recovered from grave fills pointed to the probability of earlier cremations on the site. Interestingly, traces of a ditch running on the same alignment as an adjacent grave (NNE on the site grid) suggested that some burials were in ditched enclosures.

#### Features

- 3805 Inhumation grave
- 3806 Inhumation grave
- 3809 Inhumation grave
- 3812 Inhumation grave
- 3817 Inhumation grave
- 3822 Inhumation grave
- 3827 Inhumation grave
- 3869 Ditch or gully, possibly grave enclosure around 3805

#### Watching Brief [House 2/20 Icknield Way East]

The time allowed for recording in the second set of house footings trenches was very limited, and as a result some features were not recorded as fully as would have been liked. There was also slightly more disturbance to the ground here as a result of the building work of 1927, and the chalk seemed to have more solution features than to the north.

In addition to the inhumations found there were at least two cremations, one of which could be partially excavated in plan, as it was on the very edge of the footings trench. A second was disturbed by the JCB before its position could be determined accurately, but one vessel was recovered intact. One cremation appeared to be very early in the Roman period and the other third century to judge from the vessels.

#### Features

- 3814 Inurned cremation
- 3823 Possible ditch: part of Iron Age burial enclosure?
- 3831 Inhumation grave
- 3850/3851 Inurned cremation
- 3854 Inhumation grave [same as 7018, excavation area 3]
- 3857 Inhumation grave [same as 7033, excavation area 3]
- 3860 Inhumation grave
- 3863 Inhumation grave

#### Watching Brief [Drains 1]

The drains and soakaways to the east of the houses were mostly cut through ground disturbed by the footings of the demolished house [the former 5a Royston Road] and by a variety of pits and depressions filled with topsoil. A number of these were perhaps the result of root action, but others were definite pits. No disturbance definitely attributable to the former Anderson Shelter in the southern corner of the site was noted.

To the east of 22 Icknield Way East the ground was very disturbed; this disturbance had already been noted in the north-eastern footings of number 22, and continued for some distance along one of the service trenches. At its easternmost edge this probable quarrying activity had cut into a group of three intercutting graves. Between the two houses the service trench crossed the line of an earlier service trench, the fill of which contained redeposited human bone, presumably from an inhumation; the new trench itself cut into three inhumations.

To the south of number 20 Icknield Way East only one Romano-British feature was encountered, an inhumation grave which had been partly truncated by a feature filled with topsoil, either a tree root hollow or a modern rubbish disposal pit. This had disturbed the contents of the grave.

#### Features

3829 Inhumation grave

3830 Modern pit

3833 Modern pit or quarrying

3835 Inhumation grave

3837 Inhumation grave

3842 Inhumation grave

3844 Inhumation grave

3879 Inhumation grave

#### Excavation Area 1 [Garage 1/20 Icknield Way East]

Immediately below the turf line a layer of coal resting on tamped-down chalk was noted. Below this were two subsoils, the lower of which produced nothing of post-Roman date and perhaps corresponds to the post-Roman ploughsoil (?) encountered elsewhere on the site, the upper perhaps being a medieval or later topsoil/ploughsoil. Several post-medieval pits were sealed by the chalk but cut the upper subsoil, but all other archaeological features were sealed by both subsoils.

The geology of the area was complex; to the south a series of periglacial features of roughly rectangular shape and about 1.8 to 2 metres long were initially misinterpreted as inhumations; the richest of the Iron Age cremations from this area cut one such feature. North of this the chalk was more solid, although there were several areas of looser chalk which were not archaeological in origin.

The location of a number of rich Later Iron Age cremations in this area raises several important questions. Was there an enclosure? One of the ditches/gullies to the north is certainly too late to be directly associated with the burials, but the northernmost is Late Iron Age in date. Neither was certainly encountered in the excavation or the house footings to the east, suggesting that they either have butt ends or turn to form enclosures. It is however possible that feature 3823, with its U-shaped section, is a ditch since it does not appear to be a grave or of natural origin. If we do therefore have an enclosure, have we located the primary burial? The difference in status of the two richest burials is not very great, and it is possible that they are both satellites of an even richer cremation, perhaps equalling the so-called "Chieftain's" burials of 1980 or even 1968.

If this is an enclosure type burial with satellites, is it connected with the enclosed high-status burials to the south-east? The four already identified are to the north of a road whose projected line runs just to the south of the area currently under consideration. The possibility of a linear cemetery of enclosed burials resembling the King Harry Lane cemetery at St Albans should not be ruled out. On the other hand, an isolated and more open cemetery (presumably lacking a central mound) along the lines of the Wallington Road cemetery [Area XI], but using cremation rather than inhumation as a rite is possible.

#### Features

3890 LPRIA cremation

3897 Pit/infant inhumation?

3900 LPRIA cremation

3903 LPRIA cremation

3905 LPRIA cremation

3907 Post-medieval pit

3908 LPRIA cremation

3915 LPRIA cremation

3917 Cremation

3923 Disturbed inhumation?

3924 Ditch

3930 Ditch

#### Watching Brief [Drains 2]

A second drain dug into the strip of land between the two sets of footings disturbed at least two adult burials, bones from which were found in the spoil at the sides of the trench. It was not possible to record any grave cuts however, and the exact locations of the graves must remain unknown. It is possible that at least one of the collections of bone belongs to a body recorded from the foundation trenches of House 2/20 Icknield Way East, although the plan of the features does not tend to support this; what is perhaps more likely is that two graves on the same alignment as 3831 (which would not necessarily have been cut by either set of house foundations) have been completely destroyed by the widening out of the trench towards the north-west.

#### Features

[3875] Inhumation disturbed by JCB

[3876] Cremation disturbed by JCB

[3877] Inhumation disturbed by JCB

## Excavation Area 2 [Garage 2/22 Icknield Way East]

There was very little topsoil above a layer of coal resting on tamped-down chalk to the north end of the area, as noted in other areas, but to the south the soil was very mixed and full of animal bone, much of it showing cleanly sawn breaks, suggesting that slaughtering and/or butchering of animals [mostly cows and pigs to judge from the bones] had taken place in the area. The sections showed that from the modern surface down to the bedrock over the whole area of the site the soil consisted entirely of redeposited material showing very clear tip lines. Victorian pottery indicates a date for this activity; surprisingly no such disturbance was noted only 1.5 m to the south, in the footings of House 1. It is perhaps explained by reference to the chalk pits across the Royston Road, the likelihood being that this site was stripped over a limited area to investigate the possibility of quarrying, but that the condition of the chalk prevented this from being an economic proposition. A date for this activity may be indicated by a potsherd from the redeposited material commemorating the Suez Canal. Only in the extreme south-west of the excavation area was any of the subsoil noted two metres to the south surviving, and this was only to a depth of two or three centimetres. As in the watching brief, this sealed a Romano-British inhumation.

During stripping of the topsoil by JCB using a two-metre wide ditching bucket a large rectangular area of redeposited chalk was seen from just below the modern ground surface to the level of the undisturbed natural chalk. This proved to contain large quantities of animal bone and nineteenth century pottery. Investigation of the feature indicated that it was a cess pit, probably dating originally from the turn of the twentieth century. The pit had been recut on at least one occasion [see profile 3932], and the skeleton of a cow was found in the bottom of the earlier cut together with a quantity of still rank smelling vegetable matter. It was apparently common to start the biological activity in cess pits by the introduction of decaying animal matter, often dead rats. The suggestion of butchering on the site raises the possibility that a diseased or otherwise unusable cow carcase was deposited as it was readily obtainable.

The adult inhumation in grave [3955] was sealed by a subsoil of presumably post-Roman date. It had disturbed an earlier cremation, large parts of the vessels and some bone being redeposited in the grave backfill. No trace of the pit could be found, and it was presumably smaller than the grave and completely obliterated by it. Two types of vessel were recognised during excavation: one had a very soft red fabric with a highly burnished exterior surface, the other a finer and harder cream coloured fabric with rouletted decoration. After washing, it became clear that the second fabric included material from at least three vessels. Two of these were in a finer ware and were distinguishable by different rim diameters and by the presence or lack of a cordon above the uppermost band of rouletting; the third was in a rather coarser and greyer fabric. These three vessels are butt beakers, the two finer being Romano-Gallic imports, the coarser being a "local" imitation.

The infant inhumation in grave [3960] was a most impressive burial. The *Dea Nutrix* (the name means 'Nursing Goddess') figurine found with the body seems to be one of the best examples known, and more than one box was in the grave. Inside the coffin, there was a small casket on the chest of the child. It is unclear what, if anything, this box contained, but it was presumably organic, and may have been a set of clothes for the child. The *Dea Nutrix* figurine seems to have been leaning against this, and to have fallen backwards either when the small casket decayed or to have been knocked over

when the coffin lid collapsed. There are indications of a second box by the feet of the child, and of a third behind its head.

A densely-packed group of nails to the north-east of the coffin is not part of it, and cannot be part of a box. From their position, it is clear that the nails were banged into a piece of wood up to about 0.1 m in diameter, set vertically into the ground, and there can be little doubt that they are part of a timber upright intended to project above ground level. The likelihood that two nails to the south-east of the coffin represent a second upright and that an otherwise unexplained “step” in the chalk cut of the grave was intended to hold some kind of support indicate that this is more than a grave with marker-post, and they are perhaps structural.

A roughly circular pit 3947, heavily disturbed by a later pit containing two sherds of probably fifteenth-century green-glazed pottery, contained a little pottery including sherds from a Late Iron Age vessel and a white butt beaker. The presence of a few scraps of cremated bone suggests that this is a virtually destroyed cremation of the Conquest period.

#### Features

3939 Cess pit [modern]

3941 Modern pit

3942 Modern pit

3943 Medieval pit

3945 Modern pit

3946 Modern pit

3947 LPRIA cremation

3952 Modern pit

3955 Inhumation grave

3960 Inhumation grave

3962 Modern pit

3963 Modern pit

3964 Modern pit

3971 Inhumation grave

3972 Infant inhumation

3975 Modern pit [fill]

3976 Modern pit [fill]

3979 Modern pit [fill]

### Excavation Area 3

An area not due to be disturbed by foundations was excavated between the first excavation area and the second set of house foundations (i.e. between the garage and house of 20 Icknield Way East) in the hope of identifying a return of one or other of the ditches identified in the first excavation and the relationship between what appeared to be predominantly pre-Roman cremations on one side and late Roman inhumations on the other. In this the excavation proved inconclusive.

Definition of features was not easy in this area because of the number of solution features in the bedrock, but after repeated cleaning there was no trace of the expected ditch, nor of many inhumations. Four more Late Iron Age cremations were identified, as well as a number of Romano-British cremations, of which at least two were fourth century, one probably being very late in date. Only three inhumations were found, two of which had been truncated by the house foundations and recorded there; these were all disturbed by a large pit containing a great deal of redeposited human bone. There was no real relationship between the Iron Age cremations to the north-west and the later Roman inhumations to the south-east, and it is possible that the two cemeteries were largely distinct.

The burials in this area showed a number of interesting features; in addition to the LPRIA cremations there were two fourth century cremations, one possibly late in the century, both immediately adjacent to each other and to a LPRIA cremation but without actually touching, suggesting that knowledge of the earlier burial prevented it from being disturbed. The three inhumations had all been disturbed, partly by intercutting but also as a result of a large pit containing redeposited bone also cutting them. The latest grave in this group appears to be later fourth or early fifth century, judging from the pottery, so the pit would be fifth century in date, if not actually post-Roman.

### Features

3984 Modern pit [fill]

3986 Modern pit [fill]

3987 Modern pit [fill]

3988 Modern pit [fill]

3991 RB cremation

3995 LPRIA cremation

3997 RB cremation

7003 LPRIA cremation

7005 RB cremation

7008 LPRIA cremation

7009 RB cremation

7010 Plough rut

7012 RB cremation

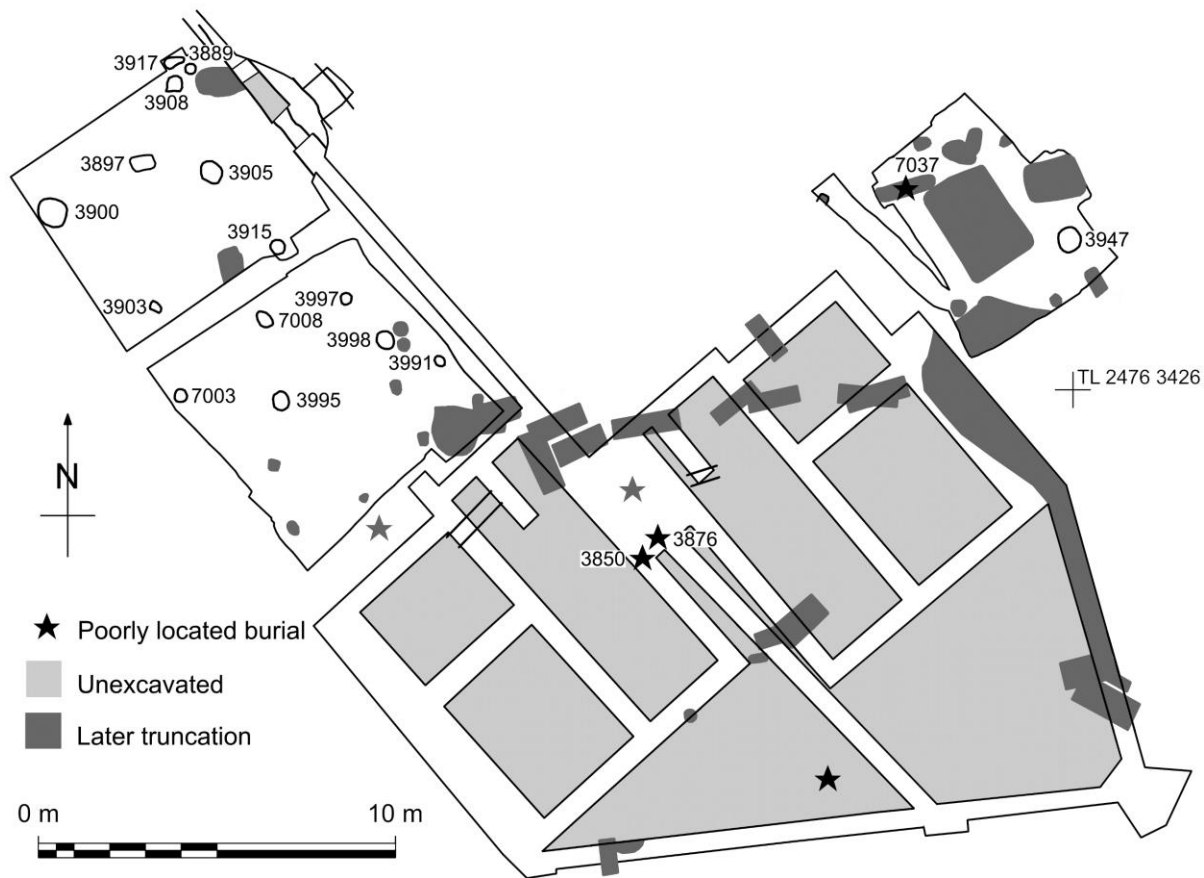
7018 Inhumation grave [same as 3854]

7023 Charnel pit

7028 Inhumation grave

7033 Inhumation grave [same as 3857]

## 2: The Burials 1: The Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and Early Roman Cremations



### 3850/3851

3850 and 3851 were two virtually intact vessels disturbed by the JCB, but probably belonging to the same burial group. 3850 consists of a flask or flagon of Romano-British type, while 3851 is a jar of early post-conquest date, suggesting a mid to late first-century date for the burial.

### 3890

A burial in a badly-smashed but almost complete vessel 3889. Associated with the vessel, and probably contained within it was a fragmentary, possibly burnt, bronze brooch. Also within the vessel were a pottery loom weight, a bronze stud, fragments of melted glass and a small iron shank, perhaps from a stud. No cut was identified for this burial, but the maximum surviving depth of the deposit was 0.07 m.

Fill 3890 was a friable mid to light yellowish brown sandy silt with 10% chalk fragments (<70 mm diameter).

### 3900

A vertically-sided sub-square pit 0.85 by 0.79 m and cut 0.17 m partly into solution material and partly into weathered chalk and containing six vessels 3902; vessel 1 is a pedestalled bowl to the north-east, vessels 2 to 5 are pedestalled jars, vessel 5 being central to the pit, 2 to its south, 3 to its south-west and 4 to its west, and vessel 6 is a carinated cup to the north-east of 2. 2, 5 and 6 partially overlay cremated bone, while overlying the pedestal foot of 5 was an iron object, probably a razor. More cremated bone was found to the north of the vessels, spreading across the entire floor of the pit south of a pig carcase to the north-east of vessel 1. Some pottery from this burial was disturbed by the JCB during the cutting of the footings for the garage of 20 Icknield Way East including the lid of a vessel, the complete rim circuit of one and several fragments of rim of other vessels. On the northern edge of the cut a small fragment of bronze was found, and with the cremated bone some melted glass and burnt iron objects were recovered.

This is a LPRIA cremation of typical Aylesford-Swarling type which, although not as wealthy as a Welwyn type or bucket burial nevertheless indicates very high status. There is a possibility that this burial is the central burial in a squared enclosure, although it is perhaps more likely that this is a subsidiary burial close to a chieftain's burial [see features 3823 and 3930 for a discussion of the possibilities].

Fill 3901 was a friable mid reddish brown silty clay (30/70%) with about 5% chalk fragments (<10 mm diameter).

### 3903

A steep-sided pit with flat bottom, poorly defined towards the north, 0.40 m by 0.28 m and cut 0.16 m into solution material. It contained a smashed but almost complete vessel 3886 showing some banded burnished decoration. The vessel had been pushed or dragged towards the north-east as a result of ploughing. The cremated bone was found outside and below the vessel, but this does not appear to be the result of plough damage, and the surrounding fill was patchily carbon-stained.

Fill 3895 was a friable mid yellowish brown sandy clay containing 30% chalk lumps (<50x30x20 mm) and 10% grit.

### 3905

A sub-square cut 0.67 m by 0.60 m with steep sides and a flat bottom cut 0.20 m into the chalk bedrock. It contained a group of six vessels 3896; vessels 1 and 2 are wide-mouthed carinated bowls, stacked with 1 above 2 and to the west of vessel 4; vessels 3 to 5 are pedestalled jars, vessel 3 being to the north of vessel 4, and vessel 5 to the north-west of vessel 4; vessel 6 is an elaborately cordoned pedestalled jar to the north-west of vessel 5. Vessels 3 to 6 were all damaged by plough action, but were nevertheless virtually complete. After washing, bone - possibly perinatal human - was found in vessel 2 and a broken bone object in vessel 4.

To the west of vessel 5 a dark rectangular soil stain about 0.26 m long by more than 0.10 m wide and partly underlying vessels 1 and 5 was found to surround cremated bone and probably represents the

remains of a wooden box. Vessel 5 was perhaps originally sitting on the lid of this box until it decayed; over the pedestalled foot of vessel 5 were two (?) iron objects, possibly brooches, while to the north of the box and west of vessel 6 was a whetstone. Below vessels 3, 5 and 6 and to the north-east of the box the foreleg of an animal has been placed as a food offering. After washing, a melted bronze object and three burnt iron studs were found in the fill.

A high status LPRIA cremation of Aylesford-Swarling type; although not as rich as 3900 it is sufficiently close to it in status to argue that the latter is not the central burial if we are dealing with an enclosure here, as seems likely.

Fill 3904 was a friable mid reddish brown clayey silt (40/60%) containing 5% chalk (<10 mm diameter).

### 3908

A roughly square pit 0.85 by 0.80 m cut 0.25 m into weathered chalk and solution material containing two badly-smashed but almost complete vessels 3898; vessel 1 is a jar and vessel 2 a carinated cup broken and mended with a rivet in antiquity. The entire assemblage appears to have been crushed, resulting in the dispersal of the cremated bone towards the north-west; one part of the bowl overlies the base end of the urn, while the other major part lies to the south-west of it. A possible whetstone was also found to the north-west of the urn, and after washing unburnt (human?) bone was identified in the pit fill.

Fill 3906 was a friable mid yellowish reddish brown sandy clay containing chalk flecks (<10 mm diameter) and stones (<20x10 mm).

### 3915

Although no cut was recorded at the time of excavation, the plans suggest that this burial occupied an oval pit 0.38 m by 0.33 m cut 0.14 m partly into weathered chalk and partly into solution material. It contained an almost complete but smashed jar 3882 which appeared to have fallen in upon itself and which was leaning towards the north; much of the damage appeared to be the recent result of machine action while cutting garage foundations. Within the vessel was cremated bone.

Fill 3915 was a friable yellowish reddish brown silty sand containing stones (<10 mm diameter), chalk (<20x20 mm diameter), chalk flecks and 5% grit.

### 3917

A burial partially truncated by the foundations of the garage of number 20 Icknield Way East, and badly smashed largely as a result of the machine damage. It was not possible to define a cut for this cremation, which comprised two vessels 3917; the bone appears to have been contained originally within the black vessel.

Fill 3918 was a friable mid yellowish brown silty sand containing 10% flints (<60x40x30 mm) and 10% chalk (<40x30x20 mm).

### 3947

A well-defined sub-circular pit 0.78 by 0.70 m cut 0.11 m into the chalk bedrock. The contents of the pit had been badly disturbed both by a medieval (15<sup>th</sup> century?) pit as well as by the stripping of topsoil from this part of the site during the nineteenth century as an intended prelude to quarrying.

Three sherds of a LPRIA vessel, a white butt beaker and a grey carinated vessel as well as a little cremated bone were found in the pit fill, suggesting that this is a cremation dating to the Conquest period.

Fill 3932 was a friable to firm mid yellowish brown silty clayey sand containing 5% grit and 5% chalk fragments (<30x20 mm).

### 3991

An irregular, poorly-defined pit, about 0.38 m by 0.30 m cut 0.09 m into solution material. It contained a smashed but virtually complete urn 7000; there was cremated bone placed apparently deliberately outside the urn, and the base of the urn was surrounded by chalk rubble, perhaps used as packing. The cremated bone accounted for perhaps 5 to 10% of the surrounding fill and was in fragments up to 20x10 mm.

Fill 7001 was a friable to firm mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty clay (5/5/90%) containing 15% chalk lumps (<30x30x20 mm) and 20% flints (<80x50 mm).

### 3995

A roughly circular pit 0.50 by 0.45 m cut 0.19 m into solution material, truncated on its north-western side by the JCB during topsoil stripping. It contained a butt beaker 3996 used as an urn, which has been smashed and pushed towards the north-west although it is virtually complete. A bronze object and a heat-crazed flint were recovered from the urn, the latter presumably collected up from beneath the funeral pyre with the cremated bone.

Fill 3982 was a firm brownish red sandy silt.

### 3997

An ovate pit, 0.34 m by 0.26 m with fairly steep sides and rounded bottom, the pointed end facing south-east, cut 0.10 m into the natural. It contained a very poorly-preserved vessel 3994 of a soft and crumbly brown shell and grog tempered fabric; large areas of the vessel appear to be missing, possibly decayed, since it was possible only to deduce the shape of the vessel from its contents. The vessel appears to have been rather plough-damaged, but cremated bone from outside the vessel appears to have been deliberately deposited there. The cremated bone accounts for about 30% of the fill and occurs in pieces up to 60 mm long. With the material assigned to the contents of the vessel two fused iron nails and an iron pin were identified.

Fill 3980 was a friable mid reddish brown clayey sandy silt (5/20/75%) containing 5% chalk lumps (<10 mm diameter), chalk flecks and occasional flints (<40 mm diameter).

### 3998

A roughly circular pit, slightly flattened to the west, about 0.55 m in diameter with steeply-sloping sides cut 0.19 m into very weathered chalk and solution material. The base of the cut slopes slightly down towards the east north-east. The burial has been truncated by a plough rut which crosses its centre in an east-west direction and which has introduced sherds from the vessel into the surrounding fill. The vessel 3993 is a trumpet pedestalled jar which although it was smashed and fell apart on lifting, is almost complete; it was extensively sooted on the outside, suggesting that it was originally

used in a domestic context. The pedestal, which was lying in pieces beneath but south of the centre of the vessel, appears to have been detached before deposition.

Fill 3992 was a firm dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay (10/30/60%) containing 5% chalk and flints (<30 mm diameter).

#### 7003

A roughly circular pit 0.31 m in diameter cut 0.19 m into solution material. It contains a badly damaged but almost complete jar 7004 tilted considerably (towards the north-west?), probably as a result of plough action. When emptied, the vessel was found to contain a thistle brooch.

Fill 3983 was a firm to friable brownish red sandy clayey silt.

#### 7008

An ovate pit 0.48 m by 0.36 m with pointed end towards the north-west with steep sides to the north and shallow sides to the south and a flattish base cut 1.2 m into weathered chalk. It contained two vessels 7002; vessel 1 was an almost complete large jar smashed and tipped by plough action while vessel 2 was a complete hybrid cup/flask with a small part of the rim missing, apparently broken off prior to deposition.

Fill 3981 was a friable mid reddish brown clayey sandy silt (5/20/75%) containing 5% chalk lumps (<10 mm diameter), chalk flecks, occasional flints (<30 mm diameter) and occasional other stones (<20 mm diameter).

#### 7037

The existence of this burial has been deduced solely from the presence of sherds representing a complete lid-seated jar, rim and body sherds of two butt beakers and a small quantity of cremated bone from 3949 (the fill of grave 3955).

### 3: The Burials 2: The Romano-British Cremations

#### 3814

A pit truncated by the foundations of number 20 Icknield Way East, 0.30 m wide at the point of truncation and cut 0.20 m into a chalky sand subsoil at this point. Traces of perhaps six vessels 3819 were recovered from this feature; the main urn of second to third century date was badly smashed, vessel 2, a Samian bowl, was found to the south-east of this, tilting downwards towards the north-west, while the third vessel appears to have been a red-painted cup or beaker which fell apart on lifting; a sherd of a Samian cup was found nearby and sherds of a third Samian vessel and another vessel were also recovered. Although the first three vessels were certainly part of the cremation group, the status of the remaining three is less certain. With the vessels were found a hobnail shank and a fragment of laminated glass, perhaps the remains of a vessel.

Fill 3818 was a yellowish brown silty sand containing 10% chalk (<20 mm diameter).

3876

A Samian dish, form Dr.18/31, found in material disturbed by the JCB alongside the north-eastern footings of 20 Icknield Way East; associated with this was a large sherd of a dark grey ware vessel and some cremated bone. It appears very likely that these represent a single inurned burial group which can be assigned to the second or third century.

7005

A sub-triangular pit 0.43 m by 0.41 m cut 0.16 m into extremely weathered chalk. It contained fragments of cremated bone (mainly <40 mm in length) and there were traces of carbon staining in the soil. The size of the bone suggests that this is an adult burial. This was the only unurned cremation from the site, and although it produced no dating evidence, it is perhaps more likely to be Romano-British than LPRIA.

Fill 3985 was a light brown clayey sandy silt (15/30/55%) containing 10% chalk and 5% flints.

7009

An oval pit 0.30 m by 0.25 m cut 0.13 m into a periglacial subsoil containing chalk pebbles. The pit contained a badly damaged fourth-century pottery vessel 7006 which had been smashed into two main pieces by plough action; one part, including 50% of the rim diameter lay beneath the contents with the neck end facing west while the other, including the remaining half of the rim, was to the west, overlying the first half, and with its rim pointing downwards. A large proportion of the contents of the urn had been scattered by ploughing.

Fill 3990 was a friable mid yellowish brown sandy silt containing 5% chalk and flints (<10 mm diameter).

7012

A roughly circular pit about 0.40 m in diameter with steep sides cut about 0.23 m into solution material. It contained two vessels 7013; one was a large jar, with its rim detached for about half the diameter of the vessel, the second was a folded beaker of unusual form with a pedestal and wide-mouthed trumpet neck for which no parallels seem to be available, but which is probably of late fourth-century date.

Fill 7011 was a friable mid yellowish brown clayey sandy silt (5/25/70%) containing chalk flecks, occasional chalk lumps (<5 mm diameter), occasional flints (<20 mm diameter) and two larger flints (60x30 mm).

7038

The existence of this burial has been deduced solely from sherds representing large portions of four third-century vessels in the fill 3801/3865 of grave 3806/3843 and presumably therefore destroyed by it. The burial group seems to have consisted of a jar, a second vessel (possibly a flagon), a colour-coated ?beaker and a Samian vessel (possibly of form Dr 37). Some cremated bone from the grave fills probably also belongs with this burial.

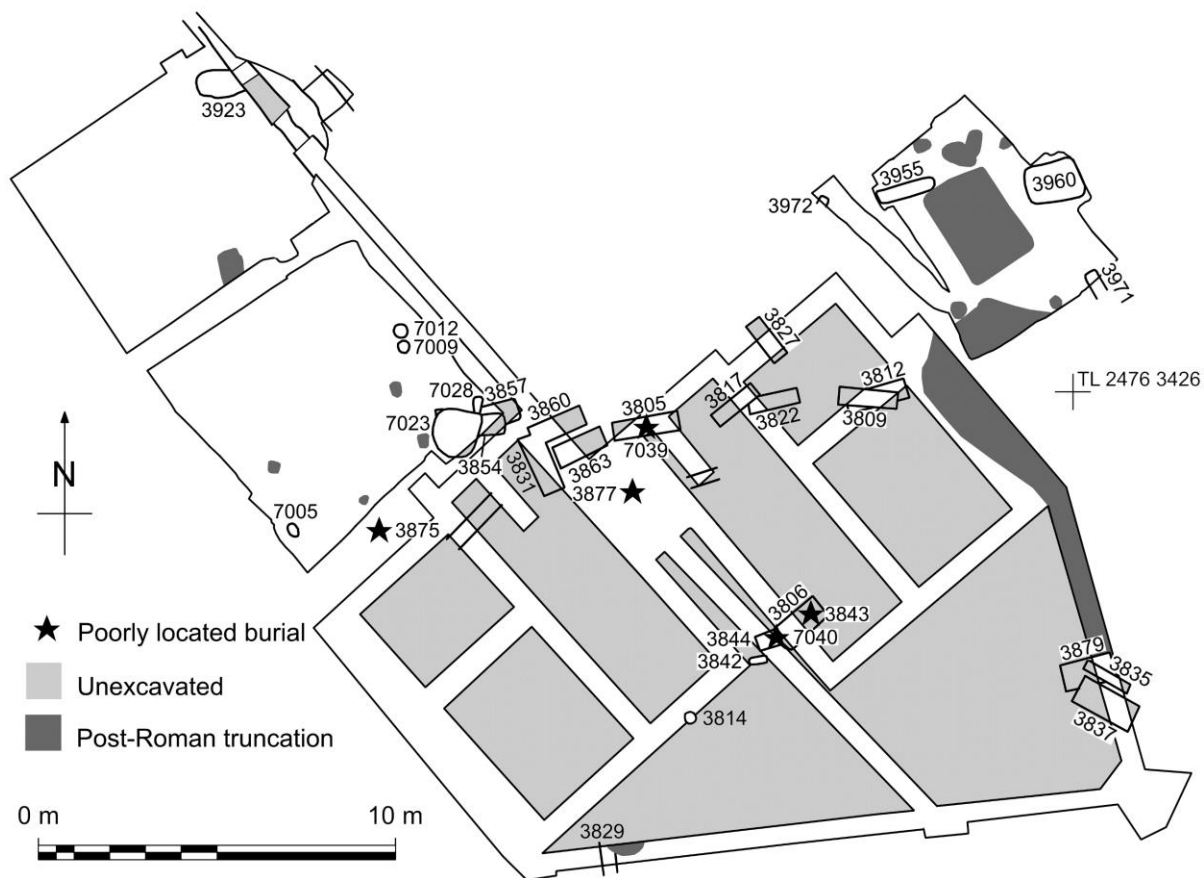
7039

The existence of this burial has been deduced solely from sherds representing portions of two mid to late second-century vessels in the fill 3802/3870 of grave 3805/3872 and presumably therefore destroyed by it. The burial group seems to have consisted of a jar and a Samian dish of from Dr 18.

7040

The existence of this burial has been deduced solely from sherds representing parts of three possibly third-century vessels including two jars found in fill 3840 of grave 3844 and presumably therefore destroyed by it.

#### 4: The Burials 3: The Romano-British Inhumations



3805/3872

A grave >1.80 m by 0.57 m truncated by the footings of 22 Icknield Way East and cut 0.55 m into the chalk bedrock. The grave is aligned west south-west to east north-east with the head to the west; parts of both legs of an adult were recovered as 3804 and parts of the skull and the distal end of a humerus were recovered as 3871. The body was laid in an extended supine position.

See 3869 for the suggestion that this grave was surrounded by a small enclosure with a gully. An iron nail head or hobnail was recovered from the fill of this grave. Sherds of a mid to late second-century

jar and a Samian dish (form Dr.18) from the fill probably derive from a disturbed cremation, which has now been assigned context number 7039.

Fill 3802/3870 was a mid yellowish brown clayey sand containing 10% chalk gravel (<10 mm diameter).

### 3806/3843

A grave 0.82 m wide truncated by the footings of 22 Icknield Way East, by a service trench and by an earlier drain 3961 connected with the former property, and cut 0.30 m into the chalk bedrock. It cuts an earlier grave 3844 to the west. The grave is aligned north-east to south-west and the distal end of an adult femur recovered as 3803 indicates that the body was in a supine position with the head to the north-east. Two iron nails recovered from the grave suggest that the body was in a nailed coffin.

There was a great deal of pottery in the grave backfill, much of which came from a limited number of vessels; there were a number of sherds from a third-century jar, many from another large vessel, three sherds from a colour-coated vessel and two from a Samian vessel probably of form 31. Sherds were recovered from both the foundation trench and the service trench and are thus divided between contexts 3801 and 3865; they indicate that the grave disturbed a cremation of third-century (or later) date, which has now been assigned context number 7038.

Fill 3801/3865 was a light yellowish brown silty sand containing 20% chalk gravel (<10 mm diameter).

### 3809

A grave about 1.80 m long and 0.48 m wide truncated by the footings of 22 Icknield Way East and cut 0.20 m into the chalk bedrock. It also truncates an earlier grave 3812 on a slightly different alignment without apparently disturbing the skeleton. 3809 is aligned almost east to west with the head at the east end; a fragment of the left scapula including the acromial process and parts of the right foot and heel of an adult were recovered as 3808. Their position indicates that the burial was in an extended supine position.

Fill 3807 was a light reddish brown sandy clay.

### 3812

A grave about 1.70 m long and 0.42 m wide truncated by the footings of 22 Icknield Way East and cut 0.36 m into the chalk bedrock. It is also truncated by a later grave 3809 on a slightly different alignment without apparently disturbing the skeleton. 3812 is aligned west south-west to east north-east with the head to the west; much of both legs, fragments of vertebrae and the distal end of the left radius of an adult were recovered as 3811. Their position indicates that the burial was in an extended prone position.

Fill 3810 was a light reddish brown sandy clay.

### 3817

A grave 0.40 m wide truncated by the footings of 22 Icknield Way East and cut 0.44 m into the chalk bedrock; the top 0.20 m of the grave fill consisted of redeposited chalk, making the cut hard to define. To the north-east it clips an earlier grave 3822. 3817 is aligned north-east to south-west with the head to the north-east; the pelvis, sacrum and the left lower arm (including wrist bones) of an adult female

were recovered as 3816. Their position indicates that the burial was in an extended supine position with the left arm folded over the abdomen; the apparent absence of the right arm may indicate that it was folded over the torso higher up the body.

Fill 3815 was a light yellowish brown sandy clay containing 50% weathered chalk lumps; above this the grave was backfilled entirely with redeposited chalk.

### 3822

A grave about 0.42 m wide truncated by the footings of 22 Icknield Way East and cut 0.40 m into the chalk bedrock. To the west it is clipped by a later grave 3817. 3822 is aligned approximately east north-east to west south-west with the head to the north-east; the proximal end of the right tibia of an adult was collected as 3821. Its position indicates that the body was in a supine position, probably extended.

Fill 3820 was a mid reddish brown clayey sand.

### 3827

A grave about 0.50 m wide truncated by the footings of 22 Icknield Way East and cut 0.34 m into the chalk bedrock. It is aligned north-west to south-east with the head end of the body to the north-west, although skull fragments found in the south-eastern end of the grave suggest that the burial was decapitated with the head placed at the feet; fragments of skull were found to the south-east while to the north-west the proximal end of the left humerus (the arm pointing south-east), some vertebrae and ribs of an adolescent or child were recovered as 3826. Their position indicates that the body was in a supine position, possibly flexed in view of the apparent shortness of the grave, and decapitated with the head at the feet.

Fill 3825 was a mid brown sandy clay containing 10% chalk grit.

### 3829

A grave more than 0.50 m long, 0.40 m wide truncated by a service trench to the east of 20 Icknield Way East cut 0.20 m into the chalk bedrock. To the north-east it has been truncated by a shallow U-shaped cut 3830 containing topsoil, perhaps the result of modern root activity or connected with the former house which stood on the site. The grave is aligned north north-west to south south-east but the bone was disturbed and disarticulated, so the head end is not certain but possibly to the north north-west; the skull, some ribs, some vertebrae and the sacrum of an adult were recovered as 3878. It is not possible to indicate position, but the narrowness of the grave makes it likely that the body was extended.

Fill 3828 was a firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt containing 20% chalk and flint rubble (<20 mm diameter).

### 3831

A grave around 1.75 m long and about 0.65 m wide truncated by the footings for 20 Icknield Way East cut 0.15 m into the chalk bedrock. It probably had a relationship with grave 3860, but since the point at which they met was removed by the JCB, the stratigraphic sequence could not be established. The grave is aligned north-west to south-east with the head to the north-west; the proximal end of the left femur, the proximal ends of a tibia and fibula and both feet of an adult were recovered as 3856. Their position indicates that the burial was in an extended supine position.

Fill 3848 was a mid yellowish brown sandy silt containing 10% chalk lumps.

### 3835

A cut about 0.30 m wide and over 1.10 m long truncated by a service trench to the east of 22 Icknield Way East and cut 0.26 m into the chalk bedrock. The grave is sealed by a subsoil 3838, and both are cut by a large area of disturbance 3833 filled with modern débris; 3835 also cuts an earlier grave 3879. 3835 is aligned roughly west north-west to east south-east although as no skeletal material was recovered, it is not possible to say which end the head was placed.

Fill 3834 was a mid yellowish brown clay/silt containing chalk lumps.

### 3837

A grave over 1.30 m long and around 0.80 m wide truncated by a service trench to the east of 22 Icknield Way East and cut 0.08 m into the chalk bedrock. This grave is the earliest of a series of three intercutting graves, being cut to the north-east by grave 3879. It is aligned north-west to south-east, with the head towards the north-west; the left radius and the proximal end of the left tibia were recovered as 3880. Their position indicates that the burial was in an extended supine position, perhaps with the left arm flexed over the lower abdomen.

Fill 3836 was of a mid brown colour and contained chalk lumps.

### 3842

A grave 0.49 m long and 0.20 m wide partially truncated to the east by a service trench running between the two houses and by an earlier drain 3961 belonging to the former property, and cut 0.15 m into the chalk bedrock. It is aligned east north-east to west south-west with the head to the east; fragments of skull, four teeth, some ribs and the femurs of an infant were recovered as 3873. The burial appears to have been in an extended supine position.

Fill 3841 was a firm mid reddish brown silty clay containing 5% chalk (<20 mm diameter) and other stones (<20x10 mm).

### 3844

A grave over 0.70 m but less than 1.35 m long and 0.40 m wide truncated to the west by a service trench running between the two houses and cut 0.24 m into the chalk bedrock. The grave is also cut by grave 3806/3843 to the north-east. It is aligned east north-east to west south-west with the head to the east north-east; the ilia, ball-joint of a femur, distal end of the left humerus, proximal end of the left ulna and some hand bones of an adult male were recovered as 3866. Their location indicates that the burial was in a supine position perhaps either flexed or with the knees raised in view of the shortness and apparent narrowness of the grave; one hand was close to the right-hand side of the pelvis. Sherds of three possibly third-century vessels, including two jars, from the fill probably derive from a disturbed cremation, which has now been assigned context number 7040.

Fill 3840 was a friable light yellowish brown sandy silt.

### 3854/7018

A grave 1.96 m long and 0.57 m wide partly truncated to the east by the footings of 20 Icknield Way East but otherwise excavated in plan as part of Area 3 and cut 0.42 m into the chalk bedrock. This

grave was cut by a later charnel pit 7023 which did not disturb the body; however, the two were dug in the wrong stratigraphic order, resulting in a great deal of confusion in the recording. Much of what was removed as grave fill was in fact part of the fill of the charnel pit. The grave also cuts an earlier infant grave 7028 and has thoroughly disturbed the contents of a yet earlier grave 3857/7033. The grave is aligned almost east to west with the head to the east; the entire skeleton of an adult female was recovered as 7016. The burial was in an extended supine position with the right arm bent to place the hand on the left shoulder.

Fill 3852 was a light yellowish brown silty sand.

### 3857/7033

A grave over 1.50 m long and about 0.65 m wide partly truncated to the east by the footings of 20 Icknield Way East and cut 0.54 m into the chalk bedrock. This grave is the earliest of a series of four intercutting features, being immediately cut by an infant grave 7028, but more thoroughly disturbed by a later grave 7018. The grave is aligned east north-east to west south-west, with the head probably to the east north-east; towards the east north-east, where 7018 cuts this grave the scapula, clavicle and pelvis of an adult were recovered as 7031, while at the extreme north-east end of the grave, where it is truncated by the house footings, the skull, mandible and some vertebrae of an adult were recovered as 3849. These almost certainly belong to a single individual, and the shape of the grave suggests that the burial was originally in an extended position.

Fill 7029 was a friable mid brown silty clay containing flints (<20 mm diameter) and chalk flecks; below this 3855/7030 was a mid yellow-brown silty sand containing much chalk (<40 mm diameter) and some flints (<50x20 mm); below the skeleton was a thin layer 7032 of chalk and decayed chalk containing flints (<135x120 mm).

### 3860

A grave seen only in only one section of the footings of 20 Icknield Way East and consequently not fully located; it is cut 0.34 m into the chalk bedrock, so that it cannot have been destroyed in the opposite section by grave 3831 which is only 0.15 m deep. A relationship must have existed between this grave and 3831, however, before the footings were cut; there may also have been a relationship with 3863, seen next to it in the footings, but it was not possible to establish this. That some vertebrae and ribs were recovered from the section does indicate that the head must have been removed by the footings trench, so it must therefore have been to the south or west of the grave, possibly to the west-south west in a grave aligned west south-west to east north-east.

Fill 3858 was a mid yellowish brown sandy silt.

### 3863

A poorly-defined grave visible in only one section of the footings of 20 Icknield Way East and consequently not fully located; it is cut 0.72 m into the chalk bedrock and the fill contains a high proportion of redeposited chalk. A relationship may have existed between this grave and 3860 seen next to it in the footings, but it was not possible to establish this. The proximal end of the right humerus, the right scapula, some vertebrae and ribs of an adult were recovered as 3862, and they indicate that the head was to the west and suggest that the alignment of the grave was approximately west south-west to east north-east. The body appears to have been in a supine position.

Fill 3861 was a reddish yellow silty sand containing 50% chalk lumps.

[3875]

Fragments of an ilium, the distal end of the left humerus, proximal end of the left radius and proximal end of the left ulna of an adult disturbed by JCB digging a service trench to the north-west of 20 Icknield Way East. The trench was backfilled before more bone or a cut could be recorded. The bone cannot belong in any of the graves recorded on this side of the house, and since the position of the trench was not recorded, it is impossible to suggest a location of the grave or even whether this was simply previously disturbed bone dragged from the topsoil.

If this bone were from a grave, the alignment would have been roughly east north-east to west south-west, as no trace of the grave was found either in the footings of 20 Icknield Way East or in Excavation Area 3; any other alignment would have projected through to one or both of the areas.

[3877]

Fragments of the cranium, the right humerus, left arm and scapula, some ribs, some vertebrae, the right ilium and right femur of an adult female found in spoil from a service trench cut between the two houses. The trench was backfilled before any grave could be recorded, but since no trace of the grave was seen in the footings of either house, it must have run approximately north-west to south east; the bone cannot have been derived from graves 3860 or 3863 since these were not disturbed by the service trench.

3879

A cut about 0.50 m wide truncated by a service trench to the south-east of 22 Icknield Way East. It is cut by a later grave 3835 and itself cuts an earlier grave 3837. No bone was found, probably as a result of truncation by 3835, and since the cut was visible in one face only of the trench, it is impossible to suggest an alignment with confidence; the narrowness of the cut as seen probably indicates that the service trench cut it at not too oblique an angle, suggesting an alignment of roughly east south-east to west south-west.

Fill 3839 was of a light brown to light yellow-brown colour and contained some chalk lumps.

3897

A subrectangular cut 0.67 m long and 0.45 m wide cut 0.12 m into weathered chalk. It contained no bone or pottery but appeared to be too regular in shape to be geological in origin and is aligned approximately east north-east to west south-west, roughly the same as 3923, only four metres distant. It is possible that an infant inhumation has decayed completely.

Fill 3897 was a friable to firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay containing chalk pieces (<30x20 mm) and some weathered chalk.

3923

A subrectangular grave 1.31 m long and 0.85 m wide cut 0.26 m into weathered chalk. It is cut to the east by a later gully 3924. The grave is aligned approximately east north-east to west south-west; the inhumation 3919 was extremely disturbed, only the left leg remaining *in situ* (although the foot was disturbed by metal detector users), with parts of the pelvis, the proximal and of an ulna, cervical

vertebrae, the left side of the mandible and two teeth of an adult male being scattered around the grave. No disturbance was detected during excavation and the gully merely clipped the eastern end of the grave, but the articulation of the left leg strongly suggests that this was originally a conventional extended supine inhumation.

Fill 3919 was a firm to friable mid reddish brown silty sand containing 10 to 15% chalk fragments (<30 mm diameter).

### 3955

A subrectangular grave 1.81 m long and 0.38 m wide cut 0.39 m into the chalk bedrock. It is aligned east north-east to west south-west with the head to the east north-east; it contained the skeleton 3953 of an adult female with the head facing right (to the north) and the mouth open. The left arm is folded across the abdomen and the left hand rests on the lower right forearm. The legs are flexed, the left slightly more than the right, and the left knee is below the lower right femur; the position is supine. The teeth are worn, and some are missing (including all the lower left molars) with traces of abscesses on both jaws.

The fill contained sherds representing a complete lid-seated jar, rim and body sherds of two butt beakers and a small quantity of cremated bone no doubt from a disturbed LPRIA cremation, now assigned the number 7037.

Fill 3949 was a friable mid yellowish brown silty sand (10/90%) containing 50% chalk rubble (<100 mm diameter) and 5% flints (<80x30x10 mm).

### 3960 [The "Figurine Grave"]

A subrectangular grave 1.65 m long and which tapered slightly from a width of 1.25 m at the east north-east (head end) to 1.05 m wide at the west south-west (foot end). It survives to a depth of 0.28 m into the chalk. The cut is fairly steep-sided with a more gentle slope to the south. There is a small ledge about 0.10 m high in the northern corner of the grave which has no immediately obvious function.

The presence of a coffin was assumed initially on the basis of a group of nails which appeared to define a roughly rectangular shape. In some places it was possible to determine the existence of decayed wood as a slight greenish staining of the soil, which has been recorded in plan, while in some cases, particularly along the western edge, the position of the wood has been determined by texture, being more sticky or tenacious than the surrounding soil. Without these indications the exact shape of the coffin would have been less easy to define since there are many more nails in the grave than can have belonged to the coffin. It is tapered, being wider at the head end than at the foot end (0.60 m as opposed to 0.45 m) and 1.05 m long. The top had been destroyed by the nineteenth-century quarrying works, so it is not possible to suggest a depth.

The coffin contained an extended supine infant inhumation. The bone is in fair condition, and very dark. The skull was crushed, and the facial bones were not identified during excavation, although the mandible was present. Both humeri were found although the forearms and hands were not; some ribs are broken and the spine is preserved only patchily while the vertebrae themselves are very small. Neither the pelvis nor the sacrum were found. Both femora were present and both tibiae were identified, but neither fibulae nor feet were found.

A superficial examination of the body shows that some teeth have erupted [lower left first molar, upper incisor and lower left (?) canine]. No bones have visible epiphyses and the spine seems slightly underdeveloped in comparison with the long bones. The right humerus measures 79 mm, the left femur 95 mm and left tibia 51 mm. An age of a little over one year at death may be indicated.

The coffin also contained the pipeclay figurine of a seated woman suckling two infants (a *Dea Nutrix* figurine) and a smaller casket on the chest of the child. The dimensions of this casket are reasonably certain, nails having been preserved from all the corners; it was 0.22 m long, 0.13 m wide and 0.07 m deep. It is unclear what, if anything, this casket contained, but it was presumably organic, and may have been a set of clothes for the child. The *Dea Nutrix* figurine seems to have been leaning against this, and either to have fallen backwards when the small casket decayed or to have been knocked over when the coffin lid collapsed. Falling from any other position would either have damaged the figurine or have been physically impossible.

There are indications of a second casket by the feet of the child, although only four nails can be assigned to this with any certainty. In the vicinity of this second casket five hobnails were found, which were certainly not part of shoes on the child's feet, being some 0.08 m higher in the grave than the tibiae, and these may have been either on top of the box or inside it. The casket appears to have been about 0.20 m long and 0.10 m wide; if the shoes were on top, it could have been up to 0.08 m high, whereas if they were inside, it could have been considerably taller. These dimensions are very similar to those of the casket on the child's chest, and they may therefore have been of similar design: in this case, it is more likely that the shoes were in fact on the lid.

In the eastern corner of the coffin another group of nails may well represent a third casket, although this was not recognised at the time of excavation; the positions of the nails suggest dimensions of around 0.16 m by 0.10 m with a depth of at least 0.07 m. If the nails accurately reflect the position and shape of a casket, then it would appear to have been slightly smaller than the others. Presumably all three caskets were partly dowelled and jointed, since in all cases there are many nails inexplicably lacking; there are a number of parallels for this type of construction in Baldock where soil staining has been unequivocal yet few if any nails have been recovered.

A densely-packed group of nails to the east of the coffin is not part of it, and cannot be part of another box. From their position, it is clear that the nails were banged into a piece of wood about 0.1 m in diameter, set vertically into the ground, and there can be little doubt that they are part of a timber upright intended to project above ground level. The possibility that two nails to the south-east of the coffin represent a second upright suggest that this is more than a grave marker-post, and they are perhaps structural.

Evidence for the structure over this grave remains indirect and circumstantial. There are traces of two timber uprights, one by the head of the coffin to the east and the other by the foot. These are almost certainly not conventional marker posts, and the size of the grave in relation to the coffin it contains requires some explanation. The most reasonable seems to be that a structure larger than the grave cut was placed over the grave to serve as some kind of memorial or shrine. Evidence for structures from the St Stephen's cemetery in St Albans provides parallels with four-post and six-post structures erected over a number of cremations.

The width of the grave might lead us to postulate that the walls of the structure were larger than the grave, which indicates a much larger shrine than those from St Stephen's. The apparent lack of post-holes from the area around the grave is probably a result of the depth of overburden at this point, some 0.8 m; possibly the quarrying activities in the nineteenth century also removed some of the chalk into which post-holes might have been cut.

Another possible explanation for the lack of structural evidence exterior to the grave cut is that any superstructure might have been erected on sill-beams. Because the underlying natural is often chalk which provides a firm base for timber-framed structures, there is no need to sink foundations into it nor are post-holes always necessary. Later ploughing has often obscured if not actually destroyed a great deal of the evidence for these sill-beams except in those instances where they have been sunk slightly into the chalk.

A structure built over the grave would have to be slightly over two metres in length and a little under 1.5 metres wide; it rested either on sill beams laid around the edges of the grave or, if the comparisons with the St Stephen's cemetery are valid, was supported by uprights set into post-holes now destroyed. The uprights set inside the grave itself would have provided additional support for the roof.

Eleven sherds of pottery were recovered from the grave, six from the backfill and five from the coffin. Those from the grave fill were all of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age date, while those from the coffin ranged from Grooved Ware through Late Iron Age to third century AD in date. All the pottery was abraded and presumably therefore residual, and the total weight was a mere 21g.

Fill 3937 was a very firm mid to light yellowish reddish brown silty clay containing 25% chalk lumps, 5% stones and 5% flints; this was later recognised to comprise more than one layer, being the backfill of the grave and the unrecognised coffin fill; fill 3954, the grave backfill, was a firm mid to light yellowish reddish brown silty clay containing 25% chalk lumps (<50x30 mm), 5% stones (<20 mm diameter) and 5% flints (<50x30 mm); fill 3956, the coffin fill, was a friable mid yellowish brown silty clay (30/70%) containing 25% chalk (<25 mm diameter); fill 3959, part of the grave backfill, was a friable to firm light yellowish brown sandy clay containing 30% chalk (<50x40x40 mm) and occasional small flints and stones.

### 3971

A grave over 0.81 m long and 0.71 m wide cut into the chalk bedrock; only the north-western portion of the grave was available for excavation, the remainder being beneath the barn belonging to the adjacent property to the north-east, known as Hillcrest. The grave is aligned roughly north-west to south-east with the head to the north-west; the crushed skull, some vertebrae and the left humerus of a child were recovered as 3978. The burial was in a supine position in a nailed coffin 0.47 m wide internally, and probably therefore extended. Ten coffin nails were recovered from the short length of grave exposed.

Fill 3969, the coffin fill, was a friable mid yellowish reddish brown silty clay containing 5% stones (<80 mm diameter), 20% chalk flecks and occasional flecks of carbonised wood.

### [3972]

Several long bones and ribs of an infant resting directly on the chalk, with no trace of a grave cut.

## 7028

A grave over 0.38 m long and 0.32 m wide cut 0.28 m into the chalk bedrock. Although interpreted at the time as a possible post-hole, the presence of redeposited child bone 7034 in the charnel pit 7023 makes it possible that this is part of a child grave truncated by 3854/7018; it is certainly not a natural feature since it cuts grave 3857/7033. The grave is aligned almost directly south to north, with the head probably to the south, since skull fragments were found redeposited in the charnel pit; no bone was recovered directly from this feature.

Fill 7026 was a firm mid brown clay containing flints (<60x20 mm); fill 7027 was a light brown silty layer.

## 5: Other Iron Age and Romano-British Features

### 3823

A U-shaped cut over 1.70 m long, 0.65 m wide and 0.32 m deep containing a mid brown sandy silt fill and no evident human bone truncated by the footings of 20 Icknield Way East; it is aligned approximately south-west to north-east. The only find was a piece of cut and polished bone.

This would appear to be a gully running at right angles to 3924 and 3930 and possibly represents a return of one of them; it was not noted further to the north-east because graves 3831, 3860 and 3863 would have destroyed all trace of it. If it is the return of ditch 3930 this raises the possibility that the features are two sides of a burial enclosure of LPRIA date.

If this be accepted as a possibility, then the size of the enclosure must be at least 16 m square since the north-west side of it was not identified in excavation area 1; the south-eastern corner will have been in square 114/108 of the site grid. A line projected at 45° from this corner should pass through the central burial, but no excavated burial of sufficiently high status falls on this line, 3900 being over four metres away. This suggests that the central burial - if the hypothesis is correct - remains undiscovered beneath the garage or front garden of number 18 Icknield Way East.

Fill 3824 was a mid brown sandy silt containing 10% chalk pieces.

### 3869

A V-shaped linear gully at least 0.80 m long and 0.40 m wide cut 0.20 m into the chalk bedrock and aligned east north-east to west south-west. No bone or pottery was recovered from the feature, which appears to be archaeological rather than geological in origin. It runs parallel to grave 3805, raising the possibility that it formed part of an enclosure around this grave.

Fill 3868 was a light yellow silty sand.

### 3924

A steep-sided flat-bottomed cut 0.40 m wide and 0.25 m deep running north-west to south-east for a distance of over 5 m. A service trench was later cut exactly along the line of this gully, but no evidence for a butt end or turn could be seen. The gully cuts an earlier grave 3923, although it cannot be responsible for the considerable disturbance to the grave's contents. It appears to be a late Romano-British boundary, aligned on a LPRIA gully 3930, slightly to the north-east.

Fill 3923 was a firm mid reddish yellowish brown sandy silty clay containing 10% chalk fragments (<20 mm diameter) and 5% flints (<80 mm diameter); fill 3929 was a friable mid brown silty clay (40/60%) containing 25% chalk (<20 mm diameter) and occasional flints (<50x20x20 mm).

### 3930

A steep-sided flat-bottomed cut 0.45 m wide and 0.15 m deep running north-west to south-east for a distance of over 1.04 m. It appears to be of LPRIA date, and is probably therefore connected with the cremation cemetery, most of the burials of which lie to its south-west. This raises the possibility of it being part of a burial enclosure similar to those found a few hundred metres to the south-east on areas I and X. For a discussion of the possibilities, see above, gully 3823.

Fill 3926 was a friable greyish reddish brown sandy silt containing 5% chalk pieces (<30x20 mm); below this fill 3927 was a friable to loose yellowish reddish brown sandy silt containing 10 to 15% chalk lumps (<30x20 mm) and 5% flints (<80x40 mm).

### 7023

A large, roughly circular pit 1.30 m in diameter and cut 0.46 m into the chalk bedrock. This is the latest in a group of four intercutting features, the three earlier all being inhumation graves. Unfortunately the series was excavated in the wrong stratigraphic order, 3854/7018 being excavated first although it was later found that the charnel pit cut into it, so that most of the material removed as if the fills of grave 3854/7018 in fact belonged to the pit. From the section drawn of the southern edge of the grave it can also be seen that the pit was underdug when excavated, a layer of redeposited chalk on its eastern side being mistaken for natural.

The pit contained a great deal of disarticulated human bone (recovered as 3989, 7015 and 7034) belonging to at least two adults and one child. It would therefore appear that the pit is a charnel pit and possibly of sub- or post-Roman date, the pottery recovered from its fill including some later fourth-century sherds. From the five-metre grid square in which it was situated a sherd of sub-Roman pottery [fabric 52/53] was recovered unstratified during trowelling; it is quite possible that this, the only sub-Roman material from site, is in fact connected with the charnel pit.

Fill 7019 was a firm sandy silt containing flints (<100x80 mm) and chalk (<20 mm diameter); below this fill 7007/7020 was a friable light brown clayey silt containing 80% chalk (<20 mm diameter) and 10% flints; below this fill 7014/7021 was a firm to friable light brown sandy silt containing loose chalk (<20 mm diameter) and flints (<30x25 mm); below this fill 7022 consisted largely of redeposited chalk (<20 mm diameter) and flints (<80x75 mm) with some silty matrix.

## 6: Post-Roman Features

### 3813

A twentieth-century gas pipe trench 0.50 m wide and running for over 13 m across the site, cut 0.45 m into the chalk bedrock and truncating grave 3809. Not excavated.

The fill consisted of a firm dark greyish brown loamy topsoil.

### 3830

A shallow U-shaped cut about 0.55 m wide when seen in section in a service trench to the south-east of 20 Icknield Way East. It contained topsoil and was either the result of modern tree root action or in some way connected with the former property on this site. It truncates grave 3829.

The fill consisted of a firm dark greyish brown loamy topsoil.

### 3833/3964

A cut up to 1.10 m deep running for a distance of around 11 m in a roughly north-south direction to the east of 22 Icknield Way East. It cuts through a subsoil to the south which seals three graves (3835, 3837 and 3879), while to the north it was visible in the south-eastern section of excavation area 1 where the tip lines of the material used to backfill it are clearly visible.

That it post-dated the railway coal-yard known to have existed here during the nineteenth century is clear from the streaks of coal dust in the back-fill whereas on the rest of the site the coal forms a discrete layer resting on a layer of redeposited chalk; it may be connected with the abortive quarrying activity known to have been carried out on the site also during the nineteenth century.

Fill 3832/3950 was a friable to firm mid greyish brown loam containing lumps of chalk (<30x30x20 mm), flints (<20 mm diameter) and coal lumps (<50x40x30 mm).

### 3838

A dark brown subsoil, sealing three graves (3835, 3837 and 3879), perhaps the same as 3847 and 3944.

### 3847

A mid yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil containing 10% chalk grit, perhaps the same as 3838 and 3944.

### 3907

A pit over 0.86 m long, 0.64 m wide and cut 0.50 m through a subsoil and into the chalk bedrock. The pit is sealed by a subsoil which is in turn sealed by a layer of redeposited chalk which is then beneath a thin layer of topsoil mixed with large quantities of coal dust, this latter being derived from the nineteenth-century railway coal yard. This is a post-medieval rubbish pit containing tile fragments, clay pipe, some bone and some iron nails.

Fill 3883/3899 was a loose to friable mid greyish brown sandy clay/clayey silt containing 5% chalk fragments (<30 mm diameter) and occasional flints.

### 3939

A pit 2.80 m long and 2.00 m wide cut 0.95 m into the chalk bedrock but visible from just below the modern ground surface and therefore about 1.70 m deep. A section running north-east to south-west was cut across the middle of the feature, which indicated that the pit had been recut, the north-eastern part, 1.05 m wide being the later of the two. This side was excavated to its full depth, and found to contain, near the bottom, cess, a cow carcase and decaying vegetable matter covered by alternating layers of chalk and grey/brown soil. The south-western side was only investigated in part

and found to consist largely of redeposited chalk; excavation ceased when a layer of cess and a large iron hoop about 0.40 m in diameter were encountered.

This is clearly a series of cess pits belonging to the later nineteenth or earlier twentieth centuries, perhaps connected with the former "Tollbar" public house, now a residential house known as "Hillcrest". The cow carcass was evidently used to start bacteriological activity within the pit to assist in degrading the cess.

#### 3941

A subrectangular pit 0.80 m long, 0.42 m wide and cut 0.12 m into the chalk bedrock. It truncates pit 3946. It was found to contain tile and coal, and therefore represents a modern rubbish pit.

Fill 3934 was a friable mid greyish brown clayey sand (20/80%) containing 5% flints (<30x20x20 mm) and 5% chalk (<20 mm diameter).

#### 3942

A pit 1.44 m long and 0.90 m wide cut 0.10 m into a subsoil 3944; the pit contained small tile fragments, lumps of coal and coke, one sherd of nineteenth-century (?) pottery and some animal bones and iron objects. It is a modern rubbish pit.

Fill 3938 was a firm mid greyish brown sandy silty clay containing 15% chalk pebbles (<20 mm diameter), 5% flints (<30x10x10 mm) and 5% coal and coke (<20x20x10 mm).

#### 3943

A poorly defined pit about 0.42 m long and 0.35 m wide cut 0.11 m into the top of a LPRIA cremation 3947; it contained one sherd of thirteenth to fifteenth-century green glazed pottery, and is probably a medieval or later pit.

Fill 3931 was a friable dark yellowish brown clayey sandy silt containing 10% chalk, 5% small stones and 5% grit.

#### 3944

A firm mid to light yellowish brown silty clay subsoil containing 15% chalk (<25 mm diameter), cut by 3942, and perhaps the same as 3838 and 3847.

#### 3945

A subrectangular cut with sloping sides and a flattish bottom 0.47 m long and 0.39 m wide cut 0.10 m into the chalk bedrock; it contained tile, a sherd of a willow pattern plate and some coal, and is therefore a modern pit.

Fill 3936 was a loose to friable dark grey clayey sand (20/80%) containing 10% flints (<60x30x30 mm) and chalk flecks.

#### 3946

A well-defined ovoid cut 0.90 m long and 0.50 m wide cut 0.36 m into the chalk bedrock. It is truncated by pit 3941, and is probably a modern rubbish pit.

Fill 3935 was a friable mid to light yellowish reddish brown containing chalk lumps (<20 mm diameter), small stones and grit.

### 3952

A steep-sided, almost conical, oval pit 0.50 m long and 0.30 m wide cut 0.16 m into the fill of grave 3960. It is probably a modern rubbish pit.

Fill 3951 is a friable mid greyish brown clayey sandy silt containing 15% chalk lumps (<30 mm diameter) and 5% flints (<40 mm diameter).

### 3961

A trench with vertical sides and flat bottom containing disarticulated human bone and truncating graves 3843 and 3842. It contained a drain connected with the former property on the site, 5a Royston Road. The bone in fill 3846 includes a humerus, ribs, vertebrae and possibly foot bones of an adult (or possibly more than one burial).

Fill 3846 consisted of a firm dark greyish brown loamy topsoil.

### 3962

A sub-circular pit with a diameter of about 0.52 m cut 0.08 m into the chalk bedrock and excavated only in section. Probably a modern rubbish pit.

Fill 3933 was a friable mid yellowish brown clayey sand (30/70%) containing 10% chalk lumps (<30x20x20 mm).

### 3963

A roughly oval pit 0.66 m long and 0.46 m wide cut 0.19 m into the chalk bedrock. This pit cuts into the northern edge of the quarry area 3833/3964, and is a modern rubbish pit.

Fill 3940 was a friable to firm mid to light brown clay/silt containing chalk lumps (<30x20x20 mm), small flints (<20 mm diameter) and grit.

### 3979

The fill of a modern rubbish pit containing the carefully reburied skull of an adult complete with lower jaw (3968) as well as skeletal fragments (including more skull fragments) from at least one other individual. This appears to be the reburial of skeletal material disturbed during earlier work on the site, probably in connection with the construction of the barn belonging to "Hillcrest", the next property to the north-east.

### 3984

The fill of an unexcavated feature, possibly a post-hole 0.35 m long and 0.32 m wide, containing coal probably redeposited from the nineteenth-century coal yard and therefore belonging to a structure of nineteenth or early twentieth-century date.

3986

The fill of an unexcavated feature, possibly a post-hole 0.28 m long and 0.20 m wide, containing coal probably redeposited from the nineteenth-century coal yard and therefore belonging to a structure of nineteenth or early twentieth-century date.

3987

The fill of an unexcavated feature, possibly a post-hole 0.34 m long and 0.32 m wide, containing coal probably redeposited from the nineteenth-century coal yard and therefore belonging to a structure of nineteenth or early twentieth-century date.

3988

The fill of an unexcavated feature, possibly a post-hole 0.40 m long and 0.26 m wide, containing coal probably redeposited from the nineteenth-century coal yard and therefore belonging to a structure of nineteenth or early twentieth-century date.

7010

A linear cut with steep sides excavated for a distance of 1.13 m but traced further, with a maximum width of 0.15 m and 0.08 m deep, although this was very variable. It cuts through two Romano-British cremations (3998 and 7009), one of fourth century date, and has smashed and tipped the vessels concerned. It is a plough rut of probably medieval date.

Fill 3999 was a firm mid brown to mid reddish brown sandy silt (25/75%) containing 20% flints and chalk pebbles (<30x20x20 mm).

## 7: Earlier work in the Area

Applebaum (1932) publishes a location map of Baldock as part of an appendix "to summarise the increasing number of finds at Baldock, as distinct from those in Walls Field" (p.256), and among the items in the list are the following:

"1 Station master's house, Baldock; Jug c.A.D., 200 (in Letchworth Museum).

13 Mr. Walker's garden, California; Pit 35 ft. deep and 3 ft. 6 in. in diameter, from which came fragments of Dr. 33, A.D. II. Much pottery near, A.D. I and II, including A.D. II Samian. Coin of Nero, reverse Temple of Janus A.D. 62. I have seen the finds.

14 Mr. Lee's house, Royston Road; Pottery, of which the following pieces are preserved by Mr. Lee, Junr., of 9, Icknield Way :-

I. Smooth black globular urn with girth cordon and lattice decoration. Probably A.D. 50-100.

II. Small carinated jar with bead rim, coarse light grey, handmade. La Tène III.

III. Fragments of Samian and Castor, including Dr. 31.

IV. Coarse tilered bottle neck A.D. II.

V. Fragment of tilered olla, ? Antonine.

VI. Top of handled ewer of Castor fabric with heavily beaded lip. Probably late.

Presented by Mr. Lee, junr., to Letchworth Museum :-

VII. Small jar of thin brown coarse clay, smooth reddish surface; beadrim with groove at top, which indicates Roman influence, though the general shape is typically late Belgic. About A.D. 40-50.

Preserved by Mr. Crawshaw, of 43, Mons Avenue, Baldock :-

VIII. White butt beaker cordoned and rouletted, c. A.D. 50

IX. Small grey urn with black burnished surface, A.D. 50-100.

X. Tall slender buff jug, neck missing.

XI. Dr. 31, Lezoux or East Gallic manufacture. Stamp apparently MARCALUVII, perhaps Marcellini of Rheinzabern. (On 18/31 at Guildhall with N retro.)

XII. Fragment of Dv. 37, lion running right, Antonine.

In January, 1933, during building operations immediately west of site (14) a ditch 8 feet wide running east-west was noted by the writer, and an inhumation lying north-south, accompanied by a beaker of 2nd or 3rd century date, found to the west.

22 Five piece burial group found by Mr. Widger in field of present excavations (B and C), early A.D. II. Iron shield brace and spearheads by pavement of cobbles between our sites B and C.

23 Found by Mr. Widger in Mr. Newbery's hen-runs to the north of site B, a store jar A.D. 50-80, carinated beaker A.D. 45-70, and painted bowl A.D. I-II. (The last two in the British Museum.)

24 Pottery in Mr. Baker's garden reported by Mr. Veasey.

25. Mr. Stamford reports pottery from the footings of "Eastholm" on the west of Clothall Road, opposite (24).

26. Heavy cobble pavement 6 inches thick cut through in October, 1932, in making "The Graphery," south of (25). Much pottery, including the top of an amphora (Lon. Mus. Guide, Plate LV, No. 6), 2nd century. Also part of a Belgic tazza I B.C.-A.D. I.

29. Site B, present excavations.

30. Site C, present excavations.

31. Cobble pavement found at the south-west corner of Mr. Baker's garden, under Clothall Road, in 1930. It ran east-west and may be connected with (26), also with roads found on Site C...."

Some of these finds are amplified by notes in the museum archive, largely in W P Westell's handwriting, and there are some items in the SMR which refer to this area. The jug from the station master's house was the only vessel from Baldock to be published before Westell's excavations; it is part of the Museum collection, accession number 1157. It seems likely that, as a complete vessel, this formed part of a cremation group, although there is no record of cremated remains being found with it. In the vicinity, but on the opposite side of the Roman Road (probably called *Brune Street* in this area), a group of four vessels, probably of mid first-century date, was found during building work in 1957 in Icknield Way. These finds perhaps indicate the presence of an early Roman cemetery in the area.

The well in Mr Walker's garden is said to have been excavated by Mr Widger in April 1932 and to have been 36' [11 m] deep and 3.6' [1.05 m] in diameter; it was cut through solid chalk, with opposite step holes all the way down, and to be completely dry. The well produced quantities of animal bone and some Romano-British pottery, seen by W H Lane on 24 April 1932. In 1928 an inhumation had been found in the same garden and was examined by Westell; there were no associated objects by which to date it. This falls roughly mid-way between the cemeteries on area 45 and area 1; whether we are to regard it as an outlier of either, as an isolated burial, or as part of a hitherto undiscovered cemetery is not possible to decide.

Both Applebaum's plans and Westell's notes (including annotated Ordnance Survey 6" maps) make it clear that Mr Lee's house was in fact 5a Royston Road and that the finds were found during foundation digging, which gives us a date of 1927 for its construction (the S.M.R. dates the discoveries to 1928 and 1933, apparently in error). In addition to the pottery listed by Applebaum, Westell's notes and publications mention an inhumation and a bronze brooch with blue paste stone, the latter still in Letchworth museum, accession number 21.1979P. It is further stated in a published note by Westell that the bronze brooch was associated with cremated remains. The SMR gives the accession number for one of the burial groups as LM 5063. The dating given for the material, from the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age to the second-century, if correct, fills a large gap in the material recovered during the 1988 works. One of the annotated maps incorrectly locates the material from this site (SMR number 114) in the garden of *March Wood* (10 Icknield Way East).

The site immediately west of Mr Lee's house is a now-demolished building approximately on the site of the current 18 Icknield Way East, and the alignments given for the features are probably wrong. The account of Applebaum's 1932 excavations makes it clear that he misunderstood the true direction of north; a footnote states that when he refers to north, he means north-east, but a site photograph looking east (by which he should therefore mean south-east) is in fact looking north-east. What seems to have happened is that he regarded Royston Road as running approximately east-west as it leaves the crossroads with Clothall Road, Whitehorse Street and Station Road, and used this for his alignments. The ditch running east-west will therefore have been running north-east to south-west and the inhumation north-west to south-east. Despite the stated width of this ditch (8', i.e. 2.4 m), it is on the projected line of our postulated burial enclosure, and quite possibly is part of it. If not, it may be a roadside ditch for the Icknield Way.

The five-piece burial group excavated by Mr Widger in Mr Newbery's meadow is referred to nowhere else; the pavement of cobbles is perhaps part of a road running south-west to north-east across the meadow, found in Stead's 1969 excavations on the site of the telephone exchange in Clothall Road [Area 34] and in Applebaum's Area C [Area 27], which would put the finds in the garden of number 2 Grosvenor Road. This is too far from Area 45 even to be considered an outlier of the site; it may be that this burial and the two inhumations (one of which was accompanied by a third- or fourth-century beaker but which apparently predates an occupation layer) from Applebaum's Area B (the south-western corner of the garden of 1 Grosvenor Road West) are part of a hitherto unrecorded cemetery.

Additional material has been found on the south side of the junction of California with Royston Road; in 1962 fragments of the skull of a juvenile were identified, and one map annotation implies that pottery was also found. The SMR card (98) gives the current location of the finds as Letchworth

Museum. It should be noted that one annotated six-inch map gives the location of this incorrectly, and that the grid reference on the SMR card is also wrong.

Work in much the same place in 1970 during the building of a garage at the back of the garden of 29 Grosvenor Road uncovered two inhumations. The only record of this is from a newspaper cutting in the Museum archive. There is also a report of a skeleton having been found during the cutting of the foundations of *Hannafore* (4 Icknield Way East), communicated by the owners to Robert Driver of 2 Icknield Way East.

In 1984 a small-scale excavation [Area 21] was undertaken at the north-western end of California, on the north side of the lane, opposite the 1962 and 1970 discoveries. It was hoped to locate the junction of a line of the Icknield Way projected from aerial photographs with the line of a road projected from Area 1. The entire site had been quarried during the nineteenth century, destroying any earlier features, and no conclusions can be drawn about earlier activity in the area. This was probably slightly earlier than the aborted quarrying undertaken on Area 45 during the 1880s or 1890s.

The evidence here assembled suggests that the cemetery of which area 45 formed a part was extensive, stretching across the line of the modern Royston Road at least as far as the north-western end of California and perhaps extending as far south-west as the Roman road now called Station Road. Some of the burials to the south, such as those from California, lie directly on the projected line of one phase of the Icknield Way; as this line has only been shown by aerial photography, it is undated, but as the cemetery as a whole was in use from the first century BC to the fifth century AD, this suggests expansion across a former line or contraction allowing the road to cross it later, at an unknown date.

It is clear, then, with the benefit of hindsight, that the existence of the cemetery could have been predicted; it is the scattered and disparate nature of the evidence for earlier discoveries which created the impression that the burials were similarly scattered. This highlights a general problem with the Museum's SMR, since there are no resources to update and maintain it to a standard whereby all isolated discoveries can be set into their wider context by a work of synthesis, thus pinpointing areas of likely archaeological sensitivity where none has yet been recognised.

## 8: Discussion

### The Iron Age Cemetery

The main area with evidence for LPRIA burials comes from the north-west of the site [excavation areas 1 and 3] where a group of thirteen cremations in an area of roughly 140 m<sup>2</sup> gives a fairly high density of burials (about one burial per 11 m<sup>2</sup>); no burials of this date were encountered in the watching brief, but evidence for one in excavation area 2 gives a lower density (one burial per 30 m<sup>2</sup>) for this part of the site, although the post-medieval features here could well have destroyed others. While it is tempting to project a similar density across the whole site because of the unfavourable recording conditions of the two sets of house footings, it is remarkable that no evidence at all for cremations of this date was encountered; only a few residual scraps of pottery from grave fills were found. Applebaum's notes on the pottery recovered from the foundations of the 1927 house include two supposed LPRIA vessels, which raises the possibility of a further concentration towards the south of the site.

What makes the north-western area the more interesting is the existence of a ditch or gully 3930 which contains pottery of the period c1-50AD. Although it was traced for only a very short distance on excavation area 1, it was thought that it might be part of a burial enclosure around 3900; when excavation area 3 was opened it was hoped to find out if the ditch turned through a right angle and continued in a south-westerly direction. This was not found to be the case, which either argues against 3900 as the central burial or against the existence of the enclosure.

There was, however, a feature noted in the watching brief as a possible gully, 3823, which is at right angles to 3930 and which could be part of the postulated enclosure. It would not have shown up in the footings to the north-east since graves 3831, 3860 and 3863 which fall on its projected line would have destroyed all trace of it. Unfortunately the only material recovered from this feature was a scrap of worked bone. Applebaum also observed a length of ditch 8' [2.4 m] wide in January 1933 during building operations on the site of what is now 18 Icknield Way East; he states that this ran east-west, by which it is apparent that he means parallel to Royston Road, and therefore on the same alignment as the enclosure. Although his dimensions do not tally with those observed in 1988, it is likely that what he observed was in fact part of the same ditch system or else a road ditch for a line of the Icknield Way, perhaps running parallel to the enclosure at this point.

If this is an enclosure, then the north-western side of it was not encountered during the excavation of area 1, which would suggest that it is over 16 m square, a large but not impossible size for an enclosure of this type. Sizes in Baldock seem to range up to about 12 m square for smaller enclosures, and from 20 m to 40 m square for the larger types. Since the gully here is small, this perhaps argues for a size closer to 20 m than to 40 m square.

Projecting a line at 45° from the postulated corner of the enclosure in site grid square 114/108 should pass through, or very close to, the central burial. It does not, however, pass through any excavated high status burial, 3900 being over four metres distant from the line, which suggests either that the central burial remains undiscovered beneath the front garden of number 18 Icknield Way East, that the area within the ditches is simply an enclosed cemetery, or that the enclosure is not real after all.

In support of the enclosure hypothesis are the number and status of burials within an apparently square area bounded by ditches, the two "richest" being some distance from the proposed corner, although no definite relationship between evident wealth and distance from the edge of the enclosure can be shown. There are, moreover, other burial enclosures of this date known in Baldock, and these all fall roughly in line; Icknield Way East is over 200 m north-east of those already known, but as the area between has never been surveyed, it is not known whether this is a genuinely blank zone or not.

It seems rather unlikely that this is an enclosed cremation cemetery of Late Iron Age date, since no parallels are known from Baldock. Most cemeteries here appear to have been open during the Iron Age and only enclosed after the conquest period, but the dating of the ditch indicates that silting began in the first half of the first century AD. Nor is it likely that there is no enclosure, since the ditch very clearly defines the north-eastern limit of pre-conquest burials with few exceptions, which appear to be scattered burials around the main area, which was perhaps marked by a barrow and would thus attract burials of individuals not entitled to a place inside the enclosure.

## The Romano-British Cemetery

The Romano-British cemetery seems to have developed largely to the south and east of its Late Iron Age predecessor, with cremations tending to cluster to the south and the inhumations to the east. There is clear evidence that a number of inhumations disturbed earlier cremations, demonstrating that inhumation becomes increasingly popular with time, as might be expected, although cremations were still being performed late in the fourth century.

Pottery dates for the cremations have been used in the catalogue to divide the material into two separate groups: Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and Early Romano-British (roughly mid first century BC to mid first century AD) and Later Romano-British (late second to late fourth or fifth century AD); no burials excavated seem to belong to the earlier second century AD, nor is there any redeposited material of this date, although Applebaum dates some of the 1927 material to this period. It may be that the focus of the cemetery shifted with time, and that the first and second-century cremations await discovery to the south-east, below the back gardens of the properties.

Not many of the inhumations can be dated by pottery, largely due to the method of recording, and of those which can, the dating is relative since much of the pottery incorporated appears to derive from destroyed (or at least disturbed) cremation groups. Nevertheless, there does appear to be some correlation between grave alignment and the dating obtained in this way [see table 1].

The most obvious contrast is between heads to the east (as a general direction) and to the west; in both cases where relationships exist for graves where the head is to the west, they are earlier than those with heads to the east. At a more detailed level, those with heads to the east north-east are always earlier than those with heads to the east or north-east.

Why this should be the case is not clear. It is frequently stated that in Christian burials the alignment is always east to west with the head to the east, but there are no grounds for believing this cemetery to have been used by Christians in the later fourth century, whatever the official religion of the province. Indeed, rites such as decapitation and pronation are a distinctly non-Christian practice.

It is evident that, despite the changes in alignment, fairly well-defined rows were being followed throughout the period of use of the cemetery and that these rows were aligned roughly east north-east to west south-west; the most fully represented is that which has grave 3812 to the east and 3854/7018 to the west (and this seems to include the earliest inhumations), but others can be postulated. 3960, 3955 and 3972 form a single row, with 3923 and 3897 possibly also being part of it; a third row may be represented by the group 3835, 3837 and 3879 with 3806/3843, 3844 and 3842, while 3875 may also belong in this group; the grave reported by Applebaum from the building works in January 1933 to the south-west could have been an outlier of this row. A possible fourth row is represented solely by 3829, no other graves in this row having been disturbed during building work; the skeleton reported by Westell from the 1927 building works would have been in this vicinity, and could be part of the same row. Only three graves do not fall into this pattern, viz. 3827, 3877 and 3971, although they may be infilling between the defined rows or rows at right angles to the main alignment.

It may be suggested that the best-represented row (3854/7018 to 3812) with the only third-century inhumations known from the site is in fact the original core area of the inhumation cemetery. It is situated to the north-east of the contemporary cremation cemetery, possibly because the new burial

rite was seen as something exotic and therefore made peripheral to the 'orthodox' cremation burial ground. As the rite became more popular the inhumation cemetery expanded, initially around the core area and still on the edge of the cremation cemetery, but by the time inhumation burial had become the norm, burials are found over the greater part of the site, arranged once again into neat rows. During the late fourth and early fifth centuries there appears to have been some contraction back towards the core.

It is possible that the cemetery layout initially dictated the alignment of individual graves, and that this layout owes nothing to the earlier Late Iron Age cemetery to the north-west: it may have been taken over from the Romano-British cremation cemetery, although too few burials survive from this to prove that such an ordered layout existed.

Indeed, the variations in alignment may be connected with the existence of rows; after a brief period of aligning graves with heads to the north-west, the alignment becomes east-north-east to west-south-west, which exactly matches the alignment of rows. The variability in later phases between east and north-east may be due to a less-rigidly applied row system or an indication that the rows or graves were no longer clearly marked: this could well account for the high number of intercutting graves. Similarly, the inhumations may not have been arranged in rows until the fourth century, which perhaps indicates that the layout was not taken over from the layout of the cremation cemetery but which was imposed at a time when inhumation was much more popular than previously.

The number of burials in each phase - and, by implication, generation - show a variability which confirms the impression of expansion during the fourth century alluded to above [see Table 2]. Even allowing for the very incomplete nature of the data, the number of burials per generation (which are mostly of mature adults) suggests that this is more than a family cemetery, assuming that only a small proportion of the total number of burials has actually been recorded. It is certain that the cemetery extends into both neighbouring properties, and across the modern Royston Road to the north-western end of California; it may extend as far south-west as Brune Street (now Station Road).

It is curious that the later cemetery does not respect the LPRIA cemetery, with burials being made inside the south-eastern part of the probable enclosure during the fourth century; that the north-west side had continued to be recognised as a boundary until the very end of the cemetery's use is shown by the cutting of ditch 3924 immediately south-west of, and parallel to, the original enclosure ditch towards the end of the fourth century. Nor do inhumation graves respect cremations or each other. This may indicate that some of the graves were not marked in any way, although at least one had a substantial superstructure, and another seems to have been set inside a small enclosure marked by a gully.

## Conclusions

With a site excavated only partially over a very limited area, it is difficult to reach any firm conclusions about its nature, and in the case of a cemetery such difficulties are increased. It is impossible, for instance, to establish the size of the community using the cemetery, to be certain that the material excavated is a representative sample or to determine whether periods of increased and decreased activity relate to the cemetery as a whole or to the specific areas investigated.

Several points do emerge, however. An early group of cremation burials dating to the last century before the Roman Conquest existed to the north-west of the site, partly under the garage of the new

number 20 Icknield Way East and partly under the front garden of number 18. There is evidence to suggest that these burials are subsidiary burials within an enclosure around a high status cremation (usually referred to as a “chieftain’s” burial).

The pottery indicates that the burials were not all contemporary, while the characteristics of individual burials make it clear that a wide social range was being buried here. This rules out the likelihood of the cemetery being used by a single family group, suggesting rather that the retainers of the original burial (and possibly also of his descendants) were seeking to be buried near their former patron, perhaps to share part of his prestige in the afterlife.

Although no material dating to the period from the later first to the later second centuries was found, the existence of material evidently of second-century date from the 1927 building works on the site should warn us that to draw conclusions from its apparent absence in 1988 would be very dangerous. It is possible that the focus of the cemetery shifted; indeed, the cremations of the Roman period do seem to be largely confined to the south of the postulated enclosure. Perhaps a barrow originally covered the high-status Iron Age burial, and this would have formed a convenient focal point for the later burials, especially in view of the continuing tradition of barrow-building during the Roman period.

On the other hand, if a mound had existed within the enclosure and early Romano-British cremations were placed in the top of this, they would have been destroyed without trace. This might well account for the apparent dearth of early Romano-British burials. That the Romano-British cremation cemetery does not appear to have respected the earlier enclosure, with burials encroaching into its south-eastern part, which perhaps indicates some discontinuity of tradition.

Towards the end of the second century, inhumation was becoming a popular burial rite amongst certain social groups. The older view that this indicates the growing influence of Christianity cannot be upheld for rural communities such as Baldock, and alternative explanations must be sought. While it is true that inhumation had been practised during the late pre-Roman Iron Age, it was never a dominant rite, and was totally overshadowed by cremation in popularity; the location of the early inhumations here, on the north-eastern edge of the cemetery, implies a peripheral rôle for the rite. Whether this reflects a social distinction during life or one which only came into play after death is not clear. The explanation that those who could not afford a cremation - paying for the pyre and cremation technicians - were simply buried ignores the fact that some inhumations, including early examples, were provided with coffins and other complex grave furniture, and that a greater investment in land space and manpower for grave-digging is needed to inhume than to cremate: the cost in labour terms and cemetery space would have more than offset the savings on fuel.

There was some degree of organisation to the cemetery which arranged the inhumations, at least, in rows; this becomes particularly noticeable during the fourth century, the period when the greatest number of burials per generation was being made in this part of the cemetery. However, the burials do not always respect each other, which may indicate that many graves were unmarked or marked in such a way that it was impossible to know in which direction from the marker the grave lay. Unlike area 1, where graves tend to be disturbed for re-use, here the disturbance seems to be purely accidental and perhaps a consequence of a rigidly-applied layout.

The status of the cemetery during the Romano-British period is difficult to assess with only a few graves excavated in their entirety. At least one grave was provided with a wooden superstructure, presumably some sort of shrine or mausoleum, which indicates the presence of wealthy individuals with aspirations to a Romanised lifestyle and another was possibly surrounded by an enclosure ditch. These may be exceptions: no other Romano-British burial produced even a single item of jewellery, although this must be qualified by the incomplete nature of most of the grave excavations, and it is quite possible that a wide social spectrum was using the cemetery. Access to the cemetery may have been via kinship group or religious belief rather than by wealth or status, and it may be that the child burial with the wooden shrine was the heir of a wealthy family residing not in Baldock, but on one of the villa estates known to exist locally.

The cemetery continued to be used into the fifth century, although there are no indications of an end date; the last feature to be dug in antiquity was a large charnel pit, something not typically Romano-British and perhaps sub- or post-Roman in date. It may be of significance that the only sherd of sub-Roman pottery from the site came - typically unstratified - from the same 5 m grid square as this pit. The bones had not apparently come from any burials investigated in the immediate vicinity of the pit, and were probably derived from activity - not necessarily grave-digging - elsewhere on the site. It may even be that the desire to return the bones of the dead to the ground is a Christian practice, which would perhaps imply a later post-Roman date for the feature.

There seems to have been little other post-Roman activity on the site until the fifteenth century, with evidence of ploughing and the formation of several areas of subsoil (and, in places, of two subsoils). A pit containing fifteenth-century pottery and an early post-medieval pit were made on what was still largely agricultural land well into the nineteenth century: a document in the County Records Office covering the period 1851 to 1868 detailing recent purchases in Clothall and Bygrave parishes includes a map of the area between Icknield Way East and Royston Road, showing only three buildings, one of them a toll gate, on the Royston Road side. From this it may be deduced that this area was known as Upper Roots Furlong.

It was probably after the land was purchased in 1852 that it was taken over by the railway as a coal yard. The surface of this survives over most of the site as a layer of tamped-down chalk and a spread of coal dust on its surface. This was superseded by the attempted quarrying which took place on the site, which certainly cuts through the chalk surface; the backfill includes a sherd of pottery commemorating the opening of the Suez Canal, which perhaps indicates a date in the 1880s or 1890s for the activity. It involved the stripping of topsoil over an area of unknown extent to the east of the site, probably disturbing a number of burials in the process. The quarrying never took place, perhaps because of the periglacial weathering of the chalk, although the Crown still reserves mineral rights to the land (personal communication from the former owner of number 18 Icknield Way East).

In the backfill of the quarry a large quantity of butchered animal bone attests to the sale of meat as a side-line for the "*Toll Bar*" ale house in the former toll gate building; pits cut through the backfill also contained large quantities of animal bone, indicating the continuation of the practice. Possibly also contemporary with the existence of the ale house was the series of cess pits to the north-east of the site; the presence of a cow carcase in the bottom of the latest pit suggests that animal butchery was still taking place in the vicinity. There was no dating evidence for the pit, but recognisable vegetable

matter and active cess imply a fairly recent date, although it is almost certainly earlier than the former property, 5a Royston Road, which was built in 1927.

The site demonstrates that while a great deal of worthwhile information can be obtained from watching-briefs, the limited investigation of a site in this way can never match full-scale excavation. Much potential evidence has been lost because no provision was made for investigation of the site prior to redevelopment and because of the developer's timetable. It is especially annoying to see that the houses, which were finished according to the timetable, have not yet been sold, some eight months after their completion. [Number 20 Icknield Way East was eventually sold in early March 1989, and number 22 in early April of the same year.]

Keith Matthews

North Herts Museums Service

February 1989

## Tables

Grave	Pottery Date	Cut by	Cuts	Alignment	Date
3805/3872	Mid-late C2		7039	WSW-ENE	C3
3806/3843	C3		3844, 7038	NE-SW	C4/5
3809			3812	E-W	C4/5
3812	LPRIA	3809		WSW-ENE	C3
3817			3822	NE-SW	C4/5
3822		3817		ENE-WSW	C4
3827				NW-SE	C3/4
3829	RB	3830		NNW-SSE	C3/4
3831				NW-SE	C3/4
3835		(3833)	3879	ESE-WNW?	C4/5
3837		3879		NW-SE	C3/4
3842	C4	3961		ENE-WSW	C4
3844	C3	3806/3843	7040	ENE-WSW	C4
3854/7018		7033	7028	E-W	C4/5
3857/7033		7028		ENE-WSW	C4
3860				WSW-ENE?	C3
3863				WSW-ENE	C3

[3875]				ENE-WSW?	C4
[3877]				NW-SE?	C3/4
3879		3835	3837	ENE-WSW?	C4
3897				ENE-WSW	C4
3923	C3/4	3924		ENE-WSW	C4
3955	LPRIA		7037	ENE-WSW	C4
3960	C3			ENE-WSW	C4
3971				NW-SE	C3/4
[3972]				NE-SW?	C4/5
7028		7018	7033	S-N	C4/5

Table 1: Suggested dates for graves

Phase	Number of burials	Burials per generation	Inhumations
I	14	3.5	0
II	3	3	0
III	1	1	0
IV	8	4	4
V	6	3	6
VI	11	5.5	10
VII	8	4	7
Total	51	2.5	27

Table 2: Variations in numbers of burials

## Context Index

Context	Grid square	Part of	Feature	Burial	Fill	
3801	120/105	3806			Grave fill [same as 3865]	
3802	115/105	3804			Grave fill [same as 3870]	
3803	120/105	3806		Adult, supine		Coffin

3804	115/105	3805		Adult, supine	[same as 3871]	
3805	115/105		Grave [same as 3872]			
3806	115/105		Grave [same as 3843]			
3807	115/110	3809			Grave fill	
3808	115/110	3809		Adult, supine		
3809	115/110		Grave			
3810	115/110	3812			Grave fill	
3811	115/110	3812		Adult, prone		
3812	115/110		Grave			
3813	115/110		Gas pipe trench			
3814	120/105		Cremation pit			
3815	115/110	3817			Grave fill	
3816	115/110	3817		Adult, supine		
3817	115/110		Grave			
3818	120/105	3814			Fill of cremation	
3819	120/105	3814		Inurned cremation [3 vessels]		
3820	115/110	3822			Grave fill	
3821	115/110	3822		Adult		
3822	115/110		Grave			
3823	115/100		Ditch?			
3824	115/100	3823			Ditch fill?	
3825	115/110	3827			Grave fill	
3826	115/110	3827		Adolescent, decapitated, supine		
3827	115/110		Grave			
3828	120/100	3829			Grave fill	
3829	120/100		Grave			

3830	120/100		Modern cut			
3831	110/105		Grave			
3832	125/115	3833			Modern quarry backfill [same as 3950 and 3976]	
3833	125/115		Modern quarry [same as 3964]			
3834	125/115	3835			Grave fill	
3835	125/115		Grave			
3836	125/115	3837			Grave fill	
3837	125/115		Grave			
3838	125/115				Subsoil	
3839	125/110	3879			Grave fill	
3840	120/105	3844			Grave fill	
3841	120/105	3842			Grave fill	
3842	120/105		Grave			
3843	120/105		Grave [same as 3806]			
3844	120/105		Grave			
3845	115/105 ?				Isolated potsherd	
3846	120/105	3961			Fill of modern drain	
3847	115/110				Subsoil [same as 3944?]	
3848	110/115	3831			Grave fill	
3849	110/115	3857		Adult [same as 7031]		
3850	115/105				Flagon	
			Cremation_			
3851	115/105				Urn	
3852	110/115	3854			Grave fill [same as 7007]	

3853	110/115	3854		Inhumation [same as 7016]		
3854	110/105		Grave [same as 7018]			
3855	110/115	3857			Grave fill [same as 7030]	
3856	110/115	3831		Adult		
3857	110/115		Grave [same as 7033]			
3858	110/105	3860			Grave fill	
3859	110/105	3860		Adult		
3860	110/105		Grave			
3861	110/105	3863			Grave fill	
3862	110/105	3863		Adult		
3863	110/105		Grave			
3864	115/105	3867			Natural?	
3865	120/105	3843			Grave fill [same as 3801]	
3866	120/105	3844		Adult f, supine		
3867	115/105		Periglacial fissure			
3868	115/105	3869			Natural?	
3869	115/105		Periglacial fissure			
3870	115/105	3872			Grave fill [same as 3802]	
3871	115/105	3872		Adult [same as 3804]		
3872	115/105		Grave [same as 3805]			
3873	120/105	3842		Infant, supine		

3874	115/105				Subsoil	
3875	110/100			?Adult, disturbed by JCB		
3876	115/105			Cremation [2 vessels], disturbed by JCB		
3877	115/105			?Adult, disturbed by JCB		
3878	120/100	3829		Adult, supine		
3879	125/110		Grave			
3880	125/115	3837		Adult		
3881	125/115	3835		Inhumation?		
3882	105/100	3915		Inurned cremation [1 vessel]		
3883	105/100	3907			Post-med pit fill [same as 3899]	
3884	105/100				Subsoil	
3885	105/100				Natural	
3886	105/095	3903		Inurned cremation [1 vessel]		
3887	105/110				Piece of carbonised wood!	
3888	100/100	3900			[Disturbed part of pot. ass. 3902]	
3889	100/105	3890		Inurned cremation [1 vessel]		
3890	100/105				Cremation fill	
3891	100/100				Natural	
3892	100/100	3897			Pit fill	

3893	100/100				Natural	
3894	100/100				Natural	
3895	105/095	3903			Cremation fill	
3896	100/100	3905		Inurned cremation [6 vessels]		
3897	100/100		Pit			
3898	100/100	3908		Inurned cremation [3 vessels]		
3899	105/100	3907			Post-med pit fill [same as 3883]	
3900	100/095		Cremation pit			
3901	100/095	3900			Cremation fill	
3902	100/095	3900		Inurned cremation [6 vessels]		
3903	105/095		Cremation pit			
3904	100/100	3905			Cremation fill	
3905	100/100		Cremation pit			
3906	100/100	3908			Cremation fill	
3907	105/100		Post-medieval pit			
3908	100/100		Cremation pit			
3909	105/095	3903			Cremation fill	
3910	100/100				Natural	
3911	100/095				Natural	
3912	100/100				Natural	
3913	100/100	3923		Disturbed inhumation, adult		
3914	100/100				Natural	
3915	105/100				Cremation fill	

3916	100/100				Natural	
3917	095/100			Inurned cremation [2 vessels]		
3918	095/100	3917			Cremation fill	
3919	100/100	3923			Grave fill	
3920	105/095				Natural	
3921	095/100				Natural	
3922	100/100	3924			Ditch fill [same as 3929]	
3923	100/100		Grave			
3924	100/105		Ditch ?recut			
3925	100/105				Natural	
3926	100/105	3930			Ditch fill	
3927	100/105	3930			Ditch fill	
3928	100/105				Natural	
3929	100/105	3924			Ditch fill [same as 3922]	
3930	100/105		Ditch			
3931	115/120	3943			Medieval pit fill	
3932	115/120	3947			Cremation fill	
3933	110/115	3962			Modern pit fill	
3934	110/120	3941			Modern pit fill	
3935	110/120	3946			Modern pit fill	
3936	110/120	3945			Modern pit fill	
3937	115/120	3960			Grave fill	
3938	110/115	3942			Modern pit fill	
3939	115/115		Large modern cess pit			
3940	115/115	3963			Modern pit fill	
3941	110/120		Modern pit			

3942	110/115		Modern pit			
3943	115/120		Medieval pit			
3944	110/115				Subsoil [same as 3847?]	
3945	110/120		Modern pit			
3946	110/120		Modern pit			
3947	115/120		Cremation pit			
3948	115/120	3947		Inurned cremation [3/4 vessels]		
3949	110/115	3955			Grave fill	
3950	115/115	3964			Modern quarry fill [same as 3832 and 3976]	
3951	115/120	3952			Modern pit fill	
3952	115/120		Modern pit			
3953	110/115	3955		Adult f, flexed supine		
3954	115/120	3960			Grave fill	
3955	110/115		Grave			
3956	115/120	3960			Coffin fill	
3957	115/120	3960			Coffin	
3958	115/120	3960		Infant, supine		
3959	115/120	3960			Grave fill	
3960	115/120		Grave			
3961	120/105		Modern drainage trench			
3962	110/115		Modern pit			
3963	115/115		Modern pit			
3964	115/115		Modern quarry [same as 3833]			
3965	115/120	3960			Small casket	

3966	115/120	3960			Small casket	
3967	115/120	3960			Wooden upright	
3968	115/120	7041		Disturbed skull in modern pit		
3969	115/120	3971			Coffin fill	
3970	115/120	3971			Grave fill	
3971	115/120		Grave			
3972	110/115			Infant		
3973	115/115				Natural	
3974	115/115				Natural	
3975	115/115				Modern pit fill	
3976	115/115	3964			Modern quarry fill [same as 3832 and 3950]	
3977	115/120	3971			Coffin fill	
3978	115/120	3971		Infant, on left side in coffin		
3979	115/120	7041			Fill of modern pit	
3980	105/100	3997			Cremation fill	
3981	105/100	7008			Cremation fill	
3982	105/100	3995			Cremation fill	
3983	105/095	7003			Cremation fill	
3984	110/095				Modern pit fill	
3985	110/095	7005		Unurned cremation, adult		
3986	110/100				Modern pit fill	
3987	110/100				Modern pit fill	
3988	110/100				Modern pit fill	

3989	110/100	7018		Redeposited skeletal material		
3990	105/100	7009			Cremation fill	
3991	110/100		Cremation pit			
3992	105/100	3998			Cremation fill	
3993	105/100	3998		Inurned cremation [1 vessel]		
3994	105/100	3997		Inurned cremation [1 vessel]		
3995	110/105		Cremation pit			
3996	105/100	3995		Inurned cremation [1 vessel]		
3997	105/100		Cremation pit			
3998	105/100		Cremation pit			
3999	105/100	7010			Plough-rut fill	
7000	110/105	3991		Inurned cremation [1 vessel]		
7001	110/105	3991			Cremation fill	
7002	105/100	7008		Inurned cremation [2 vessels]		
7003	105/095		Cremation pit			
7004	105/095	7003		Inurned cremation [1 vessel]		
7005	110/095		Cremation pit			
7006	105/100	7009		Inurned cremation [1 vessel]		

7007	110/100	7018			Grave fill [same as 3852]	
7008	105/100		Cremation pit			
7009	105/100		Cremation pit			
7010	105/100		Plough rut			
7011	105/100	7012			Cremation fill	
7012	105/100		Cremation pit			
7013	105/100	7012		Inurned cremation [2 vessels]		
7014	110/100	7023			Grave fill	
7015	110/100	7023		Redeposited skeletal material		
7016	110/100	7018		Adult f, supine [same as 3853]		
7017	110/100				Grave fill	
7018	110/100		Grave [same as 3854]			
7019	110/100	7023			Pit fill	
7020	110/100	7023			Pit fill	
7021	110/100	7023			Pit fill	
7022	110/100	7023			Pit fill	
7023	110/100		Charnel pit?			
7024	110/100	7025			Natural?	
7025	110/100		Natural fissure?			
7026	110/100	7028			Grave fill	
7027	110/100	7028			Grave fill	
7028	110/100		Grave			
7029	110/100	7033			Grave fill	
7030	110/100	7033			Grave fill	

7031	110/100	7033		Disturbed adult [same as 3849]		
7032	110/100	7033			Grave fill	
7033	110/100		Grave			
7034	110/100	7033		Redeposited infant skeletal material		
7035	115/120	3960			Small casket	
7036	110/100	7018		Grave fill		
7037	110/115			Redeposited cremation group [in fill 3949 of grave 3955]		
7038	120/105			Redeposited cremation group [in fills 3801 + 3865 of grave 3806/3843]		
7039	115/105			Redeposited cremation group [in fills 3802 + 3870 of grave 3805/3872]		
7040	120/105			Redeposited cremation group [in fill 3840 of grave 3844]		
7041	115/120		Modern pit containing redeposited skull			

## Index of Features [Phased]

### Phase XI [Modern]

- 3813 Gas pipe trench Cuts 3809
- 3830 Pit Cuts 3829
- 3833 Pit Cuts 3838
- 3939 Cess pit
- 3941 Pit Cuts 3946
- 3942 Pit Cuts 3944
- 3945 Pit
- 3946 Pit Cut by 3941
- 3952 Pit Cuts 3960
- 3961 Drain Cuts 3806/3843 and 3842
- 3962 Pit
- 3963 Pit Cuts 3964
- 3964 Pit Cut by 3963
- 3984 Pit
- 3986 Pit
- 3987 Pit
- 3988 Pit
- 7041 Pit Contains redeposited skull 3968

### Phase X [Post-Medieval]

- 3907 Pit

### Phase IX [Medieval]

- 3943 Pit Cuts 3947
- 7010 Plough rut

### Phase VIII [Sub-Roman?]

- 3838 Subsoil Cut by 3833, seals 3835
- 3944 Subsoil Cut by 3942, seals 3955
- 7023 Charnel pit Cuts 3854/7018

### Phase VII [4th/5th Century]

- 3806/3843 Grave Cut by 3961, cuts 3844, 7038

3809 Grave Cut by 3813, cuts 3812

3817 Grave Cuts 3822

3835 Grave Sealed by 3838, cuts 3879

3854/7018 Grave Cut by 7023, cuts 7028

[3972?] Grave?

3924 Ditch Cuts 3923

7012 Cremation

7028 Grave ? Cut by 3854/7018, cuts 3857/7033

#### Phase VI [4th Century]

3822 Grave Cut by 3817

3842 Grave Cut by 3961

3844 Grave Cut by 3806/3843; cuts 7040

3857/7033 Grave Cut by 7028

[3875?] Grave ?

3879 Grave Cut by 3835, cuts 3837

3897 Grave ?

3923 Grave Cut by 3924

3955 Grave Sealed by 3944; cuts 7037

3960 Grave Cut by 3952

7009 Cremation Cut by 7010

#### Phase V [3rd/4th Century]

3827 Grave

3829 Grave Cut by 3830

3831 Grave

3837 Grave Cut by 3879

[3877?] Grave ?

3971 Grave

#### Phase IV [3rd Century]

3805/3872 Grave Cuts 7039

3812 Grave Cut by 3809

3814 Cremation

3860 ? Grave

3863 ? Grave

3869 ? Burial enclosure ?

3876 Cremation

7038 Cremation Cut by 3806/3843

7040 Cremation? Cut by 3844

### Phase III [Late 2nd Century]

7039 Cremation Cut by 3805/3872

### Phase II [Later 1st Century AD]

3850/1 Cremation

3948 Cremation Cut by 3943

7005 ? Cremation

### Phase I [Late Pre-Roman Iron Age]

3823 ? Ditch? (part of burial enclosure??)

3890 Cremation

3900 Cremation

3903 Cremation

3905 Cremation

3908 Cremation

3915 Cremation

3917 Cremation

3930 Ditch (part of burial enclosure?)

3991 Cremation

3995 Cremation

3997 Cremation

3998 Cremation

7003 Cremation

7008 Cremation

7037 Cremation Cut by 3955

## Index of Small Finds

Find number	Context	Object type	
B300	U/S	Fe object	
B301	3802	Fe nail head/hobnail	
B302	3803	2 Fe coffin nails	
B303	3819	Fe hobnail shank	
B304	3876	Fe object	
B305	U/S	Æ bangle?	
B306	3819	Laminated glass fragment	
B307	3876	Dr 18/31 stamped Samian [AVVCCIIIIO] ?	
B308	3824	Cut & polished bone	
B309	3888	2 Fe coffin nails ?	
B310	U/S	Æ coin	
B311	3889	Æ fibula	In LPRIA pedestal urn
B312	3889	Pottery loom weight	
B313	3902	Fe razor	
B314	3889	Æ stud/attachment	In urn fill
B315	3889	Melted glass	In urn fill
B316	3889	Waste flake	In urn fill
B317	3889	3 micro flakes	In urn fill
B318	3889	Fe hobnail shank ?	In urn fill
B319	U/S	2 struck flakes	
B320	U/S	Backed flake	
B321	U/S	Side scraper	
B322	3901	4 micro flakes	
B323	3901	3 pressure flakes	
B324	3901	2 micro flakes	
B325	3901	4 micro flakes	
B326	3901	Burnt Fe fragment	

B327	3901	3 micro flakes	
B328	3901	6 pressure flakes	
B329	3901	Micro flake	
B330	3901	Melted glass	
B331	3901	7 pressure flakes	
B332	3901	Micro spall	
B333	3901	5 micro flakes	
B334	3901	3 pressure flakes	
B335	3901	3 micro flakes	
B336	3901	Burnt Fe nail	
B337	3901	Micro spall	
B338	3901	Waste flake	
B339	3901	Backed waste flake	
B340	3901	8 pressure flakes	
B341	3901	Æ object	
B342	3904	Melted Æ object	
B343	3904	2 burnt Fe hobnails	
B344	3904	Burnt Fe hobnail	
B345	3904	Waste flake	
B346	3904	2 micro flakes	
B347	3904	Micro spall	
B348	3904	5 pressure flakes	
B349	3904	2 pressure flakes	
B350	3906	5 waste flakes	
B351	3906	Flint spall	
B352	3906	Waste flake	
B353	3906	4 micro flakes	
B354	3906	8 pressure flakes	
B355	3906	Waste flake	
B356	3906	Micro spall	

B357	3906	Worn scraper	
B358	3906	6 micro flakes	
B359	3909	Waste flake	
B360	3909	2 pressure flakes	
B361	3909	Broken backed microblade	
B362	3909	Waste flake	
B363	3918	Waste flake	
B365	3882	3 pressure flakes	
B366	3882	Micro flake	
B367	3904	Fe brooch	
B368	3904	Fe brooch	
B369	3927	Æ object	
B370	3902	Micro core	
B371	3904	Whetstone	
B372	3896	Broken bone object	In fill of vessel 4
B373	3896	Flint flake	In fill of vessel 6
B374	3895	2 waste flakes	
B375	3895	2 micro flakes	
B376	3895	2 pressure flakes	
B377	3940	Broken metal object	
B378	3932	Micro flake	
B379	3932	Micro flake	
B380	3932	Micro flake	
B381	3932	Waste flake	
B382	3932	3 micro flakes	
B383	3932	2 waste flakes	
B384	3932	Struck micro flake	
B385	3932	4 micro flakes	
B386	3932	Pressure flake	
B387	3932	3 micro flakes	

B388	3932	Micro flake	
B389	3932	2 micro flakes	
B390	3957	Fe coffin nail [1]	
B391	3957	Fe coffin nail [2]	
B392	3957	Fe coffin nail [3]	
B393	3957	Fe coffin nail [4]	
B394	3957	Fe coffin nail [5]	
B395	3957	Fe coffin nail [6]	
B396	3957	Fe nail [7] (Casket 3)	
B397	3957	Fe coffin nail [8]	
B398	3957	Fe nail [9] (Casket 3)	
B399	3957	Fe nail [10] (Casket 1)	
B400	3957	Fe nail [11] (Casket 1)	
B401	3957	Fe nail [12] (Casket 1)	
B402	3957	Fe nail [13] (Casket 1)	
B403	3957	Fe nail [14] (Casket 1)	
B404	3957	Fe nail [15] (Casket 1)	
B405	3957	Fe nail [16] (Casket 1)	
B406	3957	Fe nail [17] (Casket 3)	
B407	3957	Fe coffin nail [18]	
B408	3957	Pipeclay <i>Dea Nutrix</i> figurine	
B409	3957	Fe coffin nail [19]	
B410	3957	Fe nail [20] (Casket 2)	
B411	3957	Fe nail [21] (Casket 2)	
B412	3957	Fe coffin nail [22]	
B413	3957	Fe coffin nail [23]	
B414	3957	Fe nail [24] (Casket 3)	
B415	3957	Fe coffin nail [25]	
B416	3957	Fe nail [26]	
B417	3957	Fe coffin nail [27]	

B418	3957	Fe coffin nail [28]	
B419	3957	Fe nail [29] (SW upright)	
B420	3957	Fe coffin nail [30]	
B421	3957	Fe coffin nail [31]	
B422	3957	Fe nail [32] (SW upright)	
B423	3959	Fe nail [33] (SE upright)	
B424	3959	Fe nail [34] (SE upright)	
B425	3959	Fe nail [35] (SE upright)	
B426	3959	Fe nail [36] (SE upright)	
B427	3959	Fe nail [37 & 38] (SE upright)	
B428	3959	Fe nail [39] (SE upright)	
B429	3959	Fe nail [40] (SE upright)	
B430	3959	Fe nail [41] (SE upright)	
B431	3959	Fe nail [42] (SE upright)	
B432	3958	5 Fe hobnails	
B433	3959	Fe nail [43] (SE upright)	
B434	3959	Fe nail [44] (SE upright)	
B435	3959	Fe nail [45]	
B436	3959	Fe nail [46]	
B437	3959	Fe nail [47]	
B438	3959	Fe nail [48]	
B439	3959	Fe coffin nail [49]	
B440	3959	Fe coffin nail [50]	
B441	3959	Fe nail [51] (Casket 1)	
B442	3959	Fe nail [52] (Casket 1)	
B443	3959	Fe nail [53] (Casket 1)	
B444	3959	Fe coffin nail [54]	
B445	3959	Worn scraper	
B446	3959	Fe nail	
B447	3959	2 Fe nails	

B448	3959	Fe hobnail	
B449	U/S	Fe object	
B450	3969	Fe coffin nail [1]	
B451	3970	Fe coffin nail [2]	
B452	3970	Fe coffin nail [3]	
B453	3970	Fe coffin nail [4]	
B454	3970	Fe coffin nail [5]	
B455	3970	Fe coffin nail [6]	
B456	3970	Fe coffin nail [7]	
B457	3970	Fe coffin nail [8]	
B458	3970	Fe coffin nail [9]	
B459	3970	Fe coffin nail [10]	
B460	3969	Micro flake	
B461	U/S	Waste flake	
B462	U/S	Backed blade	
B463	U/S	Waste flake	
B464	U/S	Waste flake	
B465	7007	Male & bird flint	
B466	7007	Waste flake	
B467	7007	Waste flake	
B468	3999	Waste flake	
B469	U/S	Barbed & tanged arrowhead	
B470	3993	Micro flake	
B471	U/S	Backed flake	
B472	3994	2 fused Fe nails	In urn fill
B473	3996	Heat crazed flint	In urn fill
B474	3992	Waste flake	
B475	3992	4 struck flakes	
B476	3992	5 micro flakes	
B477	3992	4 micro flakes	

B478	3992	2 pressure flakes	
B479	3992	2 struck flakes	
B480	3992	3 waste flakes	
B481	3992	2 struck flakes	
B482	3992	Broken backed bladelet	
B483	3992	Struck flake	
B484	3992	Waste flake	
B485	3992	3 waste flakes	
B486	3992	3 micro flakes	
B487	3992	Micro spall	
B488	3992	2 micro flakes	
B489	3992	Backed microblade	
B490	3992	2 struck flakes	
B491	3992	Waste flake	
B492	7014	Waste flake	
B493	7014	End scraper	
B494	7014	Waste flake	
B495	7004	LPRIA Æ thistle brooch [see also B781]	In urn fill
B496	U/S	Æ object	
B497	7020	Struck flake	
B498	7020	2 waste flakes	
B499	7029	2 waste flakes	
B760	7030	Worn scraper	
B761	7030	Waste flake	
B762	7032	Struck flake	
B763	7032	Side scraper	
B764	7007	Waste flake	
B765	U/S	Worked flint	
B766	3996	Pressure flake	
B767	3996	Struck flake	

B768	3996	4 micro flakes	
B769	3996	Æ object	In urn fill
B770	7006	2 micro flakes	
B771	7013	3 micro flakes	
B772	3980	2 micro flakes	
B773	3994	Fe pin	In urn fill
B774	7002	Micro flake	
B775	7002	Micro flake	
B776	3981	4 micro flakes	
B777	3981	Micro flake	
B778	3981	4 waste flakes	
B779	3981	2 struck flakes	
B780	7000	Struck flake	
B781	7004	LPRIA Æ thistle brooch pin [see also B495]	In urn fill
B782	7004	Waste flake	
B783	3993	Struck flake	
B784	3993	3 micro flakes	
B785	3993	2 waste flakes	
B786	3980	4 micro flakes	
B787	3980	Waste flake	
B788	3980	Micro flake	
B789	3982	Micro flake	
B790	3983	Waste flake	
B791	3983	2 micro flakes	
B792	3983	Struck flake	
B793	3983	2 micro flakes	
B794	3983	Waste flake	
B795	3985	Pressure flake	
B796	3985	3 struck flakes	
B797	3985	Waste flake	

B798	3985	Micro flake	
B799	7011	Waste flake	
B806	7011	Waste flake	
B807	7011	Struck flake	
B808	7011	Struck flake	
B809	3990	3 pressure flakes	
B810	7001	Waste flake	
B811	7001	2 micro flakes	
B812	7001	2 waste flakes	
B813	7001	5 micro flakes	
B814	7001	Struck flake	