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**Iron-Age, Romano-British and Medieval Occupation at Bishop's  
Cleeve, Gloucestershire: excavations at Gilder's Paddock 1989  
and 1990-1**

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## Iron-Age, Romano-British and Medieval Occupation at Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire: excavations at Gilder's Paddock 1989 and 1990–1

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### *Introduction*

The village of Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire, lies within the Severn Vale *c.* 4 km due north of Cheltenham (Fig. 1). The village lies on flatish ground between the 55-m and 65-m contours and is situated on drift deposits of Fan Gravel approximating to the 2nd terrace of the River Avon (Worssam and Barron 1983, 5–6). This report concerns two episodes of excavation at Gilder's Paddock, Bishop's Cleeve, in 1989 and 1990–1 which were undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council's Archaeology Service in connection with residential development. In 1989 the site (centred on O.S. Nat. Grid SO 9589627730) was located in an area of grassland known as Gilder's Corner. This name was applied to excavation records deriving from the 1989 and 1990–1 phases of work, but following completion of development the new housing was named Gilder's Paddock, and this name is used throughout the report.

### *The 1989 and 1990–1 Excavations*

In September 1989 a watching brief was undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council's Archaeology Service to observe the construction of housing at Gilder's Paddock. The development site was located *c.* 95 m west of the medieval parish church, fronting onto Evesham Road—historically the main N–S route through the village until recently superseded by the Bishop's Cleeve bypass—and it was suspected that archaeological deposits relating to medieval settlement were present. Topsoil stripping unexpectedly revealed numerous linear soil marks and an inhumation burial, and associated finds suggested that the site contained archaeology dating to the Iron-Age and Romano-British periods. In view of the importance of these features the developer, Bovis Retirement Homes Ltd., agreed to fund an archaeological excavation, which was undertaken within the site's eastern sector while development continued elsewhere. The area of excavation covered *c.* 780 square metres and was investigated over a period of four weeks during September and October.

In May 1990 further development adjacent to the 1989 excavation area was proposed by Bovis Retirement Homes Ltd. to provide garages for the new houses. The area of proposed development was a lawned garden belonging to Old Farm, a private house. Planning permission was granted in August 1990 with a condition that archaeological recording should precede construction. The excavation was carried out over four weeks during December 1990 and January 1991,

# Gilder's Paddock Bishop's Cleeve

*excavations 1989 & 1990*

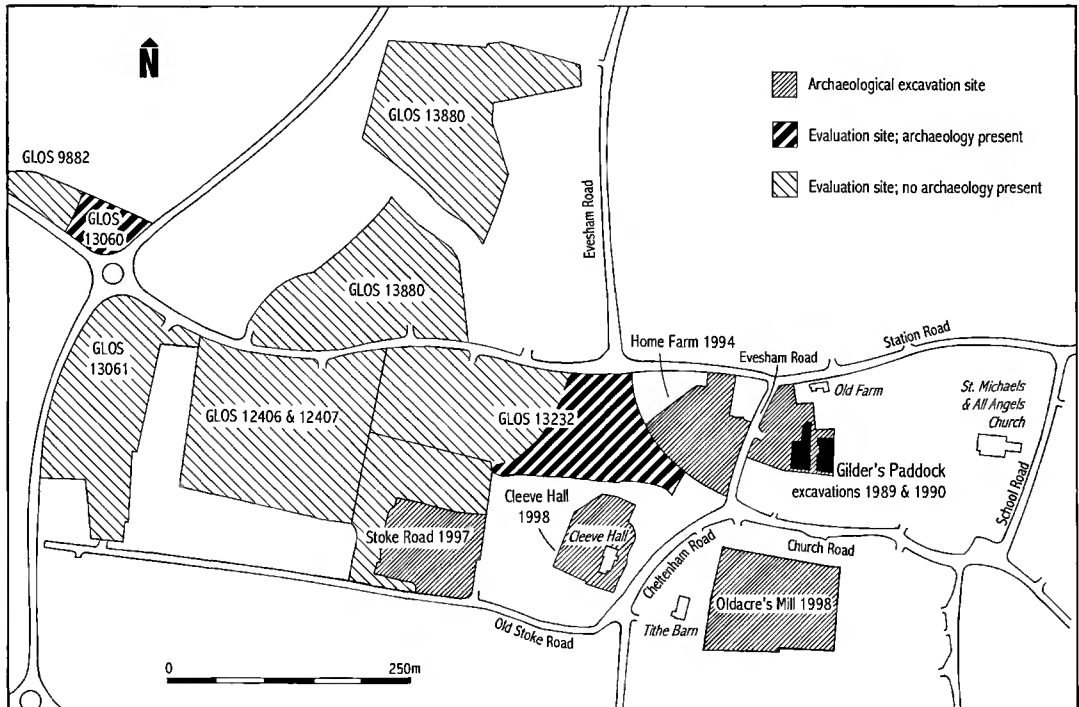
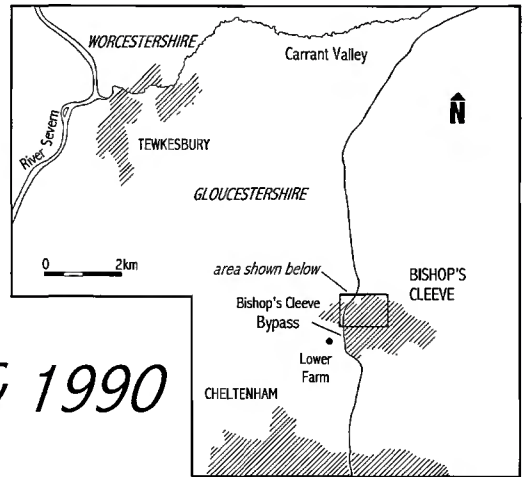


Fig. 1. Location of Gilder's Paddock, Bishop's Cleeve, and other sites in the locality.

some 560 square metres being examined. The work commenced with the machine removal of a *c.* 0.5-m depth of overburden under archaeological supervision. A space measuring 2.5–5.0 m wide separated the 1990–1 excavation from the area examined in 1989; this ground was undeveloped in order to preserve a dry-stone boundary wall.

During both phases of work identical excavation strategies were adopted. Initially the areas were cleaned by trowelling to reveal archaeological features as dark soil marks against the sandy

natural subsoil. All features were then planned and most were excavated (a few obviously post-medieval features and disturbances were not investigated). A plan showing significant features and deposits is presented on Fig. 2. Several linear features discovered in 1989 also ran across the 1990–1 area of investigation. These are referred to using the context numbers assigned in both periods of work, separated by an oblique (e.g. 47/210).

The majority of soils encountered during excavation were derived from the sand and gravel subsoil. Basal deposits often comprised redeposited sand and gravel eroded rapidly from the edges of features when they were newly constructed. The upper fills of ditches and pits were usually composed of sandy silts. These were found to be very similar in texture and ranged in colour from yellowish brown (Munsell 10YR 4/4) to very dark grey (Munsell 10YR 4/1). During excavation in 1989 the weather was hot and dry and the site exceedingly dusty, and these conditions made differentiation of soil colours difficult. In contrast heavy rain throughout most of the 1990–1 phase of work allowed more subtle variations in soil colour to be observed. However, even in optimum conditions most contrasts in soil colour and texture were subtle and were usually best observed in section.

The work revealed three periods of activity (Fig. 2). The earliest period was mainly represented by ditches and pits dating to the Middle Iron Age. The Romano-British period was mainly represented by a ditch and a group of seven inhumations. Evidence for the third, medieval, phase was sparse, with only two ditches being present. These features will now be described.

### Excavations: Description

#### *Period 1: Iron Age*

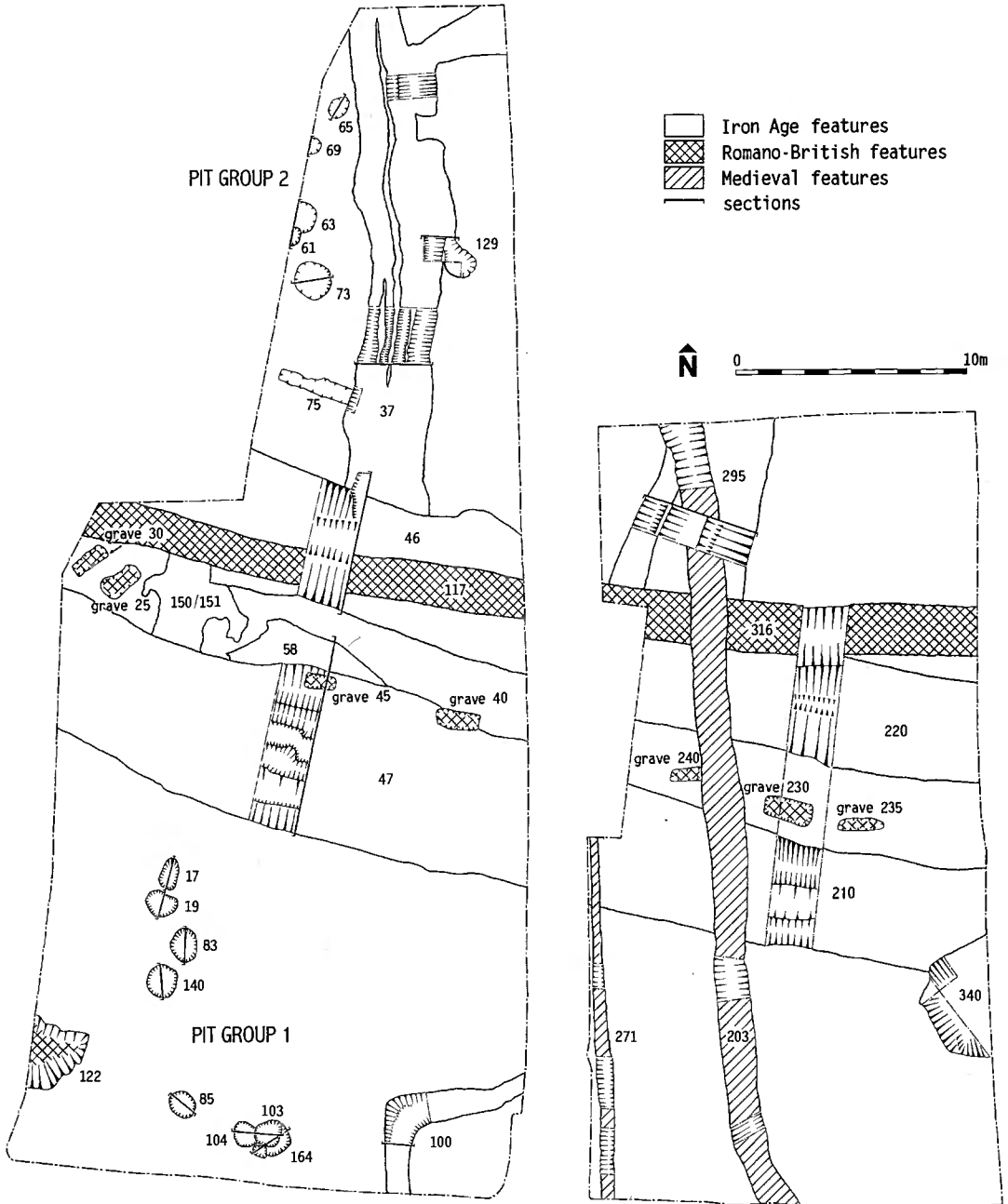
##### *Features 37 and 129*

Feature 37 was observed in 1989 as a 22-m long soil mark measuring *c.* 3.5 m wide, aligned N–S. A section across its width (Fig. 3) demonstrated that the feature comprised four ditches representing a boundary cut and recut over a period of time. The largest of the four was ditch 6 (which measured 1.5 m wide by 0.95 m deep), the smallest was ditch 9 (0.4 m wide by 0.55 m deep). Ditches 7 and 9 had similar profiles, being narrow and steep-sided; ditches 6 and 11 had broader, more irregular profiles. Ditch 7 cut ditch 6; the relationship between ditches 9 and 11 could not be established. Close to the northern end of feature 37, a narrow entrance causeway measuring 0.95 m wide interrupted ditch 6. Approximately 3 m north of the causeway, ditch 6 returned sharply eastwards. The other ditches forming feature 37 continued northwards beyond the limit of excavation. To the south, feature 37 was cut by the construction of feature 46/220. The absence of evidence for a continuation of feature 37 to the south of feature 46/220 indicates that it must have terminated or returned at this point.

On the eastern side of feature 37, and cut by it, was a protruding terminal of a ditch, feature 129. It appears to have run northwards and may have terminated against the causeway described above; however, its former alignment was not ascertained.

##### *Feature 46/220*

A *c.* 39-m length of feature 46/220 was defined as a broad soil mark aligned WNW–ESE across the 1989 and 1990–1 excavation areas, continuing beyond the limits of excavation. Where sectioned in 1989 (Fig. 3) it was represented by a ditch measuring 5.1 m wide by 1.6 m deep, with an irregular 'U'-shaped profile. A 0.3-m thick basal deposit of sand and gravel with clay (context 119) lay within a rounded base (context 120), and this may represent the bottom of a large ditch recut by feature 46/220. Above context 119 the ditch was infilled by a homogeneous light brown sandy silt (context 118). Where sampled in 1990–1, 46/220 measured *c.* 4.6 m wide by 1.7 m deep and had a profile and infilling sequence similar to that previously observed.



1989 EXCAVATIONS

1990-91 EXCAVATIONS

Fig. 2. Phased plan of Iron-Age, Romano-British and medieval features.

*Feature 47/210*

Feature 47/210 was parallel with, and *c.* 3 m south of, feature 46/220. It was represented by a linear soil mark measuring over 7 m wide. Sectioning proved that the feature was composed of small ditches cut and recut over a period of time. Where sampled in 1989 (Fig. 3) six intercutting ditches were present, the largest measured *c.* 2 m wide by 1.3 m deep. A range of profiles was represented: one ditch (175) had a flat base, and several (174, 176 and 177) had basal cleaning slots. Where sectioned in 1990–1 feature 47/210 measured 4.1 m across and only four ditches were present. It was not possible to correlate any of the ditches found in 1989 with those sampled in 1990–1. The lower number of ditches found in 1990–1 indicates that episodes of recutting were discrete and not undertaken along the whole of the feature's length.

*Ditch 100*

Ditch 100 was observed in the south-eastern corner of the 1989 excavation area as a linear ditch forming a right-angle. The ditch was sectioned at the angle of the return where it had a 'U'-shaped profile and measured 1.35 m wide by 0.67 m deep (Fig. 3). To the south and east the ditch continued beyond the 1989 limits of excavation. No trace of the feature was observed within the 1990–1 area of excavation.

*Feature 295*

Feature 295 was observed in the 1990–1 area of excavation as a broad soil mark measuring 5.15 m wide, aligned SW–NE. The section (Fig. 3) demonstrated that a number of intercut ditches was present. On the western edge was ditch 333, which measured 1.05 m wide by 0.55 m deep. Approximately 0.2 m to the east lay ditch 298 (measuring 0.85 m deep, with an estimated width of 2 m), the eastern side of which had been truncated by ditch 299. This ditch measured 1.05 m deep, and its width can be estimated as 2.7 m (the western side had been truncated by a medieval ditch, 203, discussed below). Ditches 298 and 299 had broad, open profiles, with square cleaning slots dug through their bases. The relationship of feature 295 with feature 46/220 to the south was not established. It is, however, likely that feature 295 terminated or returned on the alignment of feature 46/220, since no southward continuation was observed.

*Pits*

Thirteen pits (Figs. 2 and 4) were found in the 1989 excavation area, where they formed two clusters. Eight pits (designated Group 1) were located in the south-western sector of the excavation area and five pits (Group 2) were located to the north-west.

The Group 1 pits were situated in an area south of feature 47/210, where they occupied a space measuring *c.* 14 m across (north to south). Four pits (17, 19, 83 and 140) formed a sub-group lying close together. A second sub-grouping of four pits (85, 103, 104 and 164) was present to the south. There, pit 103 had been cut into pits 104 and 164 after these adjacent pits had become infilled. Most of the Group 1 pits were circular or oval in plan except for pit 17 which was elongated in shape. The pits had very similar profiles, all examples having flattish bases and steep edges. In size, they ranged between 1.2 and 1.48 m across and between 0.2 and 0.57 m deep. Pits 85, 104 and 164 appeared to form a distinct sub-group by virtue of their comparatively narrower widths and greater depths. Pits 19, 83, 140 and 103 each had a single infilling of compact silty sand, grey or greyish brown in colour. In addition, laid flat on the base of pit 19 was a large block of oolitic limestone (0.55 m long by 0.1 m thick). The deposits probably represent episodes of deliberate backfilling when the pits individually went out of use. Silty-sand fills were also present within pit 17, where they sandwiched a secondary deposit of redeposited natural sand. Three pits contained a more varied sequence of infilling. At the base of pit 164 was a 0.1-m thick layer of compact, olive-grey silty clay; a similar (but siltier) deposit formed the basal fill of pit 104. In pit 85 the basal fill (context 96) and secondary fills (contexts 95 and 94) were redeposited natural sands. A similar sandy deposit (context 106) formed a secondary deposit within pit 104; its upper surface was tinged red, and copious rounded fragments of burnt clay on the surface suggested burning *in situ*. Most of the pits incorporated quantities of pottery and animal bone, suggesting a secondary use for rubbish disposal. The basal fill of pit 164 and the uppermost fill of pit 17 contained large quantities of pottery; pottery was absent from the fill of pit 140, this being the only pit of Group 1 to contain no dating evidence.



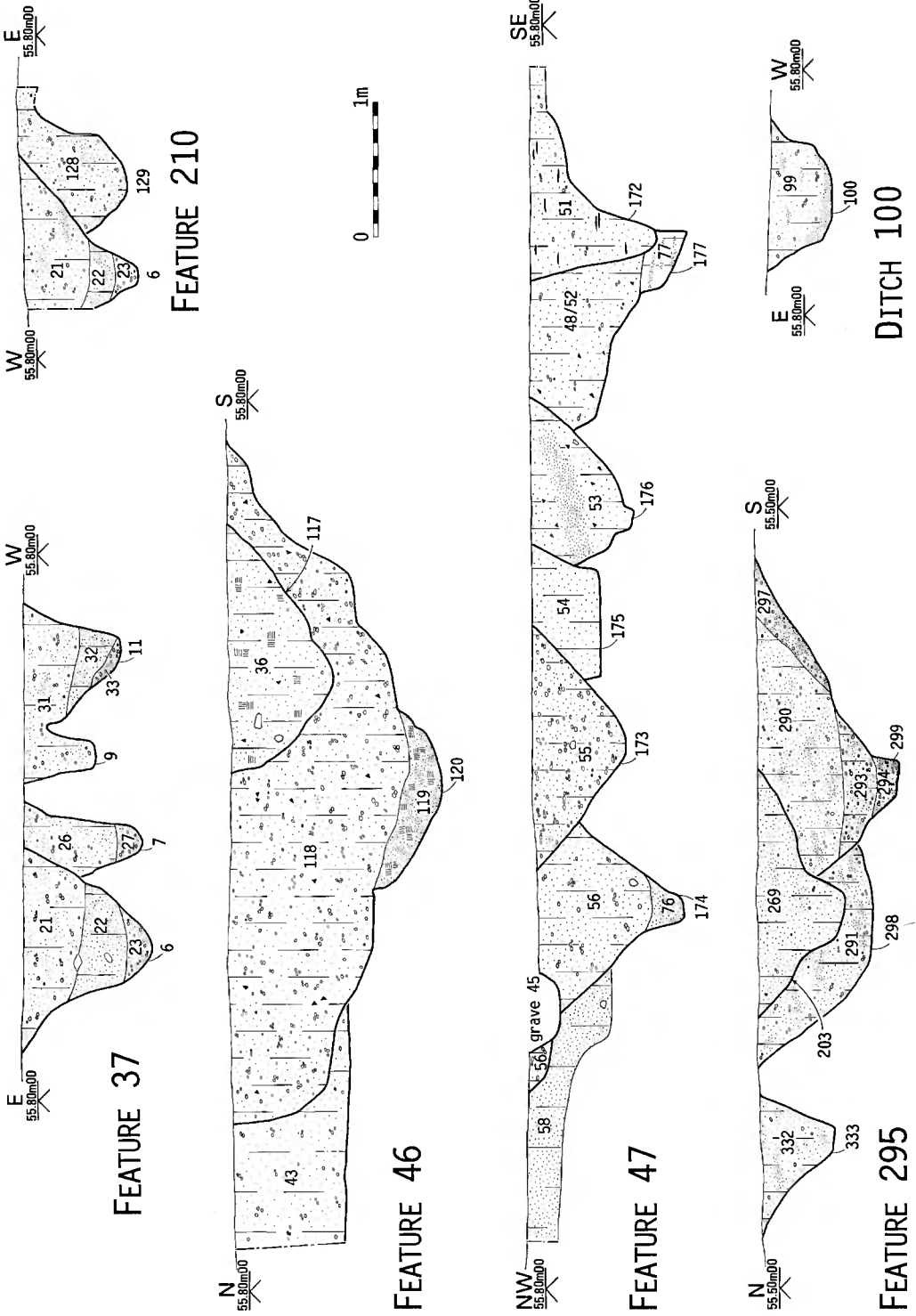
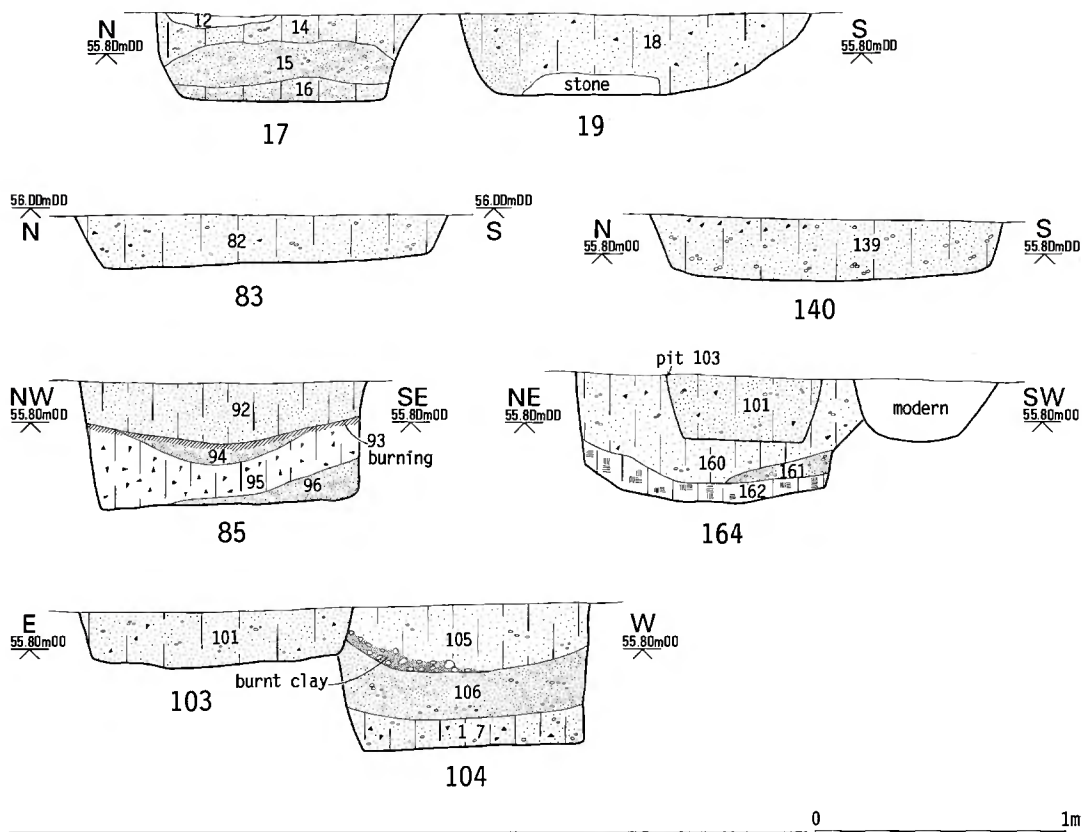


Fig. 3. Ditches: selected sections.

PIT GROUP 1



PIT GROUP 2

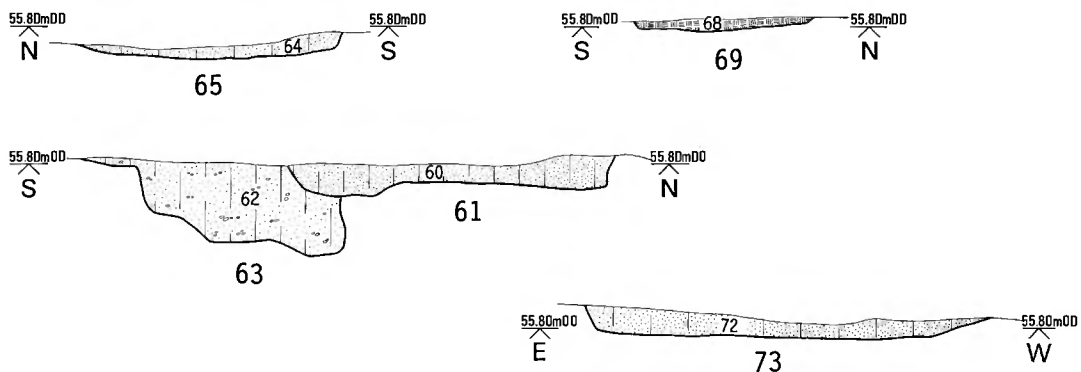


Fig. 4. Iron-Age pits (Groups 1 and 2): sections.



The Group 2 pits were situated in a space west of feature 37 occupying an area measuring *c.* 9 m across. Three pits (61, 63 and 69) lay partly beyond the limit of excavation. Each pit was no more than 2 m from its closest neighbour. The pits appeared to be circular or oval in plan. Most, with the exception of pit 63, had flat bases and, although generally shallow, all appeared to have steep edges. In size, the pits ranged between 0.8 and 1.64 m wide and between 0.05 and 0.35 m deep. All had a single infilling. Pits 65, 61 and 73 contained compact greyish brown silty sands, pit 69 a light grey clayey silt, and pit 63 a compact, olive grey sandy silt. With the exception of pit 69, all of the pits incorporated finds of Iron-Age pottery.

#### *Other deposits (Fig. 2)*

Immediately north of feature 47/210 careful cleaning led to the definition of small areas of greenish silty sand, virtually stone-free and very compact. Three such deposits were sampled. Context 58 was cut by the construction of ditch 174 (part of feature 47/210). The section (Fig. 3) suggested that the deposit lay within a 0.6-m deep hollow. Sparse finds (a burnt stone and a fragment of animal bone) did not provide dating evidence. The nearby context 150/151 was very similar in character, and indeed may represent the same deposit. It contained small sherds of Iron-Age pottery. Like 58, context 150 was cut by feature 47/210, and it was of comparable depth. The nature of these deposits and the function of the hollows in which they lay is uncertain.

On the western side of feature 37 was a linear gully, 75. The gully measured a maximum of 3.22 m long by 0.7 m wide; it had a flattish base and near vertical sides, but was preserved to a depth of no more than 0.15 m. To the west the gully had a squared end; to the east it was cut by, and so earlier than, the westernmost ditch (11) of feature 37 (section not illustrated). The level of preservation of the gully was similar to that observed for Pit Group 2, which lay *c.* 3.5 m to the north: there was, however, no evidence to indicate whether the gully and the pits functioned contemporaneously.

On the eastern limit of the 1990–1 excavation area, and continuing beyond it, lay feature 340 (section not illustrated). The feature had gently sloping sides and measured a minimum of 4.5 m wide by 0.9 m deep. A basal fill (341) of redeposited sand and gravel lay below siltier upper fills incorporating quantities of burnt limestones, Iron-Age pottery, and animal bones. The function of the feature is uncertain but it would appear to represent a discrete feature, such as a pit or sand quarry; it cut into, and so was later than, feature 47/210.

#### *Period 2: Romano-British*

##### *Features 117/316 and 122 (Figs. 2–3)*

Feature 117/316, a ditch aligned approximately E–W, cut through the Iron-Age ditch 46/220. In 1989 it was defined as a 1.85-m wide by 0.78-m deep ‘U’-profiled cut into 46/220’s upper fill (Fig. 3). In 1990–1, the feature was observed as a 2.3-m wide by 0.72-m deep cut into the northern edge of boundary 46/220 (section not illustrated).

Feature 122 lay on the western limit of the 1989 excavation area where a section (not illustrated) was obtained. The feature measured 2.9 m across by 1.1 m deep, and had a broad, open profile and a rounded base. The basal fill of hard, greyish brown silt (context 168) incorporated a quantity of large oolitic limestones. Above lay looser deposits of sandy silt. The feature projected *c.* 2 m into the excavation area, and it had irregular sides. The latest finds obtained from the fills were Romano-British in date, but its function is uncertain. It may represent the terminal of a boundary ditch; alternatively, it could represent a discrete feature such as a sand quarry.

##### *Inhumations*

Seven inhumations were excavated (Fig. 5). A report on the human skeletal material (Wiggins and Roberts below) has estimated that four adults (in graves 40, 230, 235 and 240) and three sub-adults (in graves 25, 30 and 45) are represented.

Two graves (25 and 30) lay parallel with one another and 0.8 m apart, their long axes aligned SW–NE. These graves lay *c.* 8 m west of a group of five graves in a line running WNW–ESE. The five graves were spaced irregularly. The minimum space (between graves 230 and 235) was 1.16 m; the maximum space

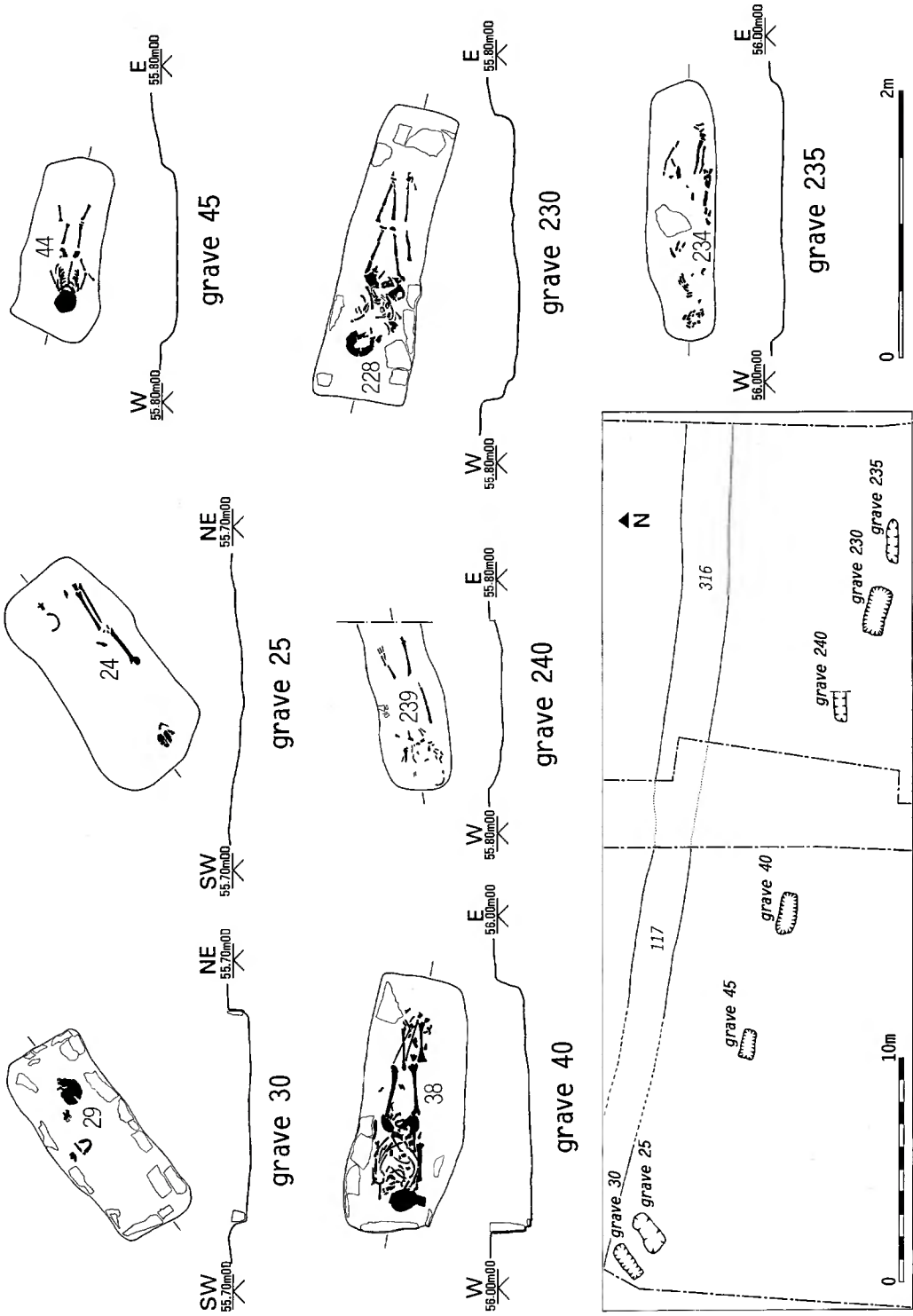


Fig. 5. Romano-British graves: plans and profiles.

(between graves 40 and 240) was 8.6 m. It is possible that another burial may have been present in the unexcavated area between the 1989 and 1990–1 excavations, so reducing the maximum interval. The positioning of the known graves suggests that they were broadly contemporary with one another. Indeed, the discrete locations of all seven graves suggests that the position of each one may have been marked in some way, although no evidence for such markers was found. In terms of the overall distribution it may be worth noting that the four easternmost graves contained only adult inhumations, whilst the three westernmost graves contained sub-adults.

Within most graves the inhumations had been placed supine with their heads in the westernmost part. The five easternmost burials were arranged in this fashion, and the inhumation in grave 25 was placed with the head to the south-west. Within grave 30 the remains of a skull and lower mandible lay in the north-eastern part, but this burial had suffered disturbance and the original position of the skeleton is unknown.

The graves were approximately rectangular in plan, although all had rounded corners and somewhat irregular edges. As might be expected the shortest grave (45) contained the youngest interment (a 3–4-year-old sub-adult); the three completely preserved adult graves were not less than 1.92 m in length, the longest sub-adult grave (25) being 1.75 m long. No grave was preserved to a depth of more than 0.3 m and five examples (25, 30, 45, 235 and 240) were 0.15 m deep or less. The original depths of the graves is difficult to estimate. However, given that the shallowest grave (25) measured only 0.07 m deep it is evident that severe truncation of the ground surface contemporary with the graves had taken place.

The sides of three of the graves were partly lined with blocks of oolitic limestone measuring up to 0.3 m long by 0.1 m thick, set on edge. Grave 30, which contained the remains of a 10–11-year-old sub-adult, had the most complete lining with stones being present around all four sides, although not set contiguously. The adult graves 40 and 230 were only partly lined. Surrounding and above the skeletal material in each grave was a backfill of compact, dark greyish brown sandy silt incorporating lenses and patches of redeposited sand and gravel. The backfill of grave 40 incorporated an accumulation of oolitic limestones lying within the backfill *c.* 0.15 m above the skeleton. A large, roughly-tooled, block of oolitic limestone measuring a maximum of 1.35 m long by 0.49 m wide by 0.25 m thick was found in close proximity to grave 45, but whether this was originally associated with the grave in some way could not be established.

Aside from the human skeletal material and small fragments of intrusive animal bone no finds were recovered from any of the graves. Relative dates for three graves are provided by stratigraphic evidence. Graves 40 and 45 cut into, and so post-dated, the Middle Iron-Age feature, 47/210. Grave 240 was cut by, and so earlier than, the medieval (12th-century) ditch, 203. This evidence, and structural parallels for stone lining within the graves (discussed below), indicate that the inhumations belong to the Romano-British period.

### *Period 3: Medieval (Figs. 2–3)*

Two medieval ditches, 203 and 271, were located in the 1990–1 area of excavation. A 34-m length of ditch 203 was defined running S–N. The width of the ditch (1.4 m) was fairly constant, but it was deepest (0.8 m) against the northern limit of excavation, and much shallower (as little as 0.35 m) to the south. The ditch had a flattish base with fairly steep edges and was filled with a hard, dark grey sandy silt incorporating large quantities of gravel pebbles scattered throughout. A *c.* 15-m length of ditch 271 was defined running S–N; the ditch measured a maximum of 0.6 m wide and 0.63 m deep and had a rounded base and fairly steep sides. It was filled with a compact grey sandy silt incorporating patches of redeposited sand and large quantities of burnt limestones. The functions of the medieval ditches are uncertain. Pottery from both gave a late 11th/12th-century *terminus post quem* for their infilling.

### *Dating; Site Layout*

Pottery dating to the Middle Iron Age indicated a *terminus post quem* for the formation of deposits infilling most Iron-Age features. The exception, feature 46/220, incorporated a quantity of Middle Iron-Age pottery and also a single sherd (Fig. 7, no. 5) best paralleled within latest

Iron-Age pottery assemblages. No deposits earlier than the Middle Iron Age were identified, although a few sherds of Early Iron-Age pottery (Fig. 8, nos. 40–1) and a probable Early Iron-Age penannular brooch (Fig. 6, no. 1) were found incorporated in Middle Iron-Age deposits. These finds were sparsely distributed, and there was no evidence to indicate that the Early Iron-Age activity was intensive or widespread.

An attempt to date the Iron-Age features relatively has been made by comparing the range of pottery fabrics incorporated within them (Hancocks below). Briefly, the results indicate that Pit Groups 1 and 2 were probably out of use before the construction of the major boundaries 46/220 and 47/210. On the evidence of the pottery fabrics, the Iron-Age occupation at Gilder's Paddock would appear to have been most intense towards the end of the Middle Iron Age, with features 46/220 and 47/210 apparently belonging to the Middle–Late Iron-Age transition.

It seems probable therefore that many of the Iron-Age features examined during the excavation would not have been in use contemporaneously. In addition, the layout of the occupation is difficult to interpret from the small area examined. All of the Iron-Age boundary ditches continued beyond the excavation areas, and the limited view obtained precludes a detailed assessment of their pattern and extent. Bearing this in mind, the plan of the Iron-Age phase of activity (Fig. 2) suggests a site divided by enclosure boundaries into discrete zones. Features 46/220 and 47/210 were the largest boundaries observed during excavation, and their sizes alone suggest that they functioned as important land divisions. The multiple recutting of the ditches of features 37, 47/210, and 295 indicates that these boundaries developed over a period of time. Feature 37 produced evidence for an entrance causeway and this represents the only point of access into an enclosure observed during excavation.

The Iron-Age pits are of the type commonly associated with later prehistoric settlements. These are conventionally interpreted as food-storage containers having a secondary use as convenient repositories for rubbish. In Gloucestershire only two such groups of pits—at the Cotswold sites of Guiting Power (Saville 1979) and Birdlip (Parry 1998)—have been published in detail.

Large areas of the excavation appeared to be devoid of any features associated with the Iron-Age occupation, suggesting that activity within the enclosures was discrete. However, extensive truncation of Iron-Age deposits by later activity could have removed shallow features normally associated with domestic occupation (e.g., postholes and hearths), and the absence of such evidence is not necessarily conclusive. Ground truncation can also be presumed to have removed any banks accompanying the boundary ditches. No evidence for such banks was observed, and their positions, if ever present, are uncertain.

The small Roman pottery assemblage spans the 2nd–4th centuries (Hancocks below), but it is difficult to date any feature precisely within that period. Features 117/316 and 122 were the only Romano-British features in which finds of pottery were made. The latest stratified sherds (white ware from ditch 117/316; Oxfordshire colour-coated ware from feature 122) indicate that both features could have become infilled and disused by the 3rd century. The fact that ditch 117/316 ran on an alignment oblique to the line of graves forming the cemetery suggests that the ditch may not have been contemporary with the graves. No evidence was found to indicate whether the cemetery was in existence before or after the construction of ditch 117/316. The linear arrangement of the graves suggests that they were approximately contemporary and formed a cemetery constructed alongside a boundary for which no evidence was found.

### *General discussion*

Few archaeological sites were known in Bishop's Cleeve or its locality before the commencement of excavation at Gilder's Paddock in 1989. Four sherds of Middle Iron-Age pottery had been

found in the village during sand quarrying close to the parish church *c.* 1928 (Cheltenham Museum accession record 1976: 128: 1–4; Saville 1984, 158), and approximately 1.5 km west of the village, at Lower Farm, an Anglo-Saxon cemetery of the 6th century had been excavated in advance of quarrying during the 1960s (Wilson and Hurst 1970, 156).

The results of the work at Gilder's Paddock were timely in that they coincided with the commencement of extensive new development on the western side of Bishop's Cleeve. Numerous archaeological investigations have been undertaken in response to the programme of construction (Fig. 1). These include large-scale excavations at Home Farm—now Budgen's supermarket—(Barber and Walker 1998), Oldacre's Mill—now Tesco's supermarket—(Anon. 1999), Cleeve Hall (King and Langton 1999) and Stoke Road (Langton 1997; Enright and Langton 1998). Archaeological evaluation to the west of these sites has mainly produced negative results, although an evaluation on land to the west and south of Home Farm (Hart 1992 and 1993) revealed Roman enclosure ditches and traces of a possible building. The accumulated evidence from these investigations indicates that Bishop's Cleeve contains areas of Iron-Age and Roman occupation covering in total a minimum of 9.5 hectares.

The Iron-Age phase of activity at Gilder's Paddock is interpreted as evidence for an agricultural settlement, and much of the excavated evidence can be related directly to the production of food. Storage pits and quernstones imply the growing and processing of grain or other food-stuffs. The presence of farm livestock can be presumed from the animal bone assemblage (not analysed), and livestock management may also be implied by the large sizes of some of the boundary ditches, particularly feature 46/220. Similar enclosure boundaries and pits dating to the Middle Iron Age have been found *c.* 80 m south of Gilder's Paddock at Oldacre's Mill. However, no trace of Iron-Age activity has been found at Home Farm, Cleeve Hall and Stoke Road. The western limit of the Iron-Age occupation appears therefore, to be approximately represented by the line of Cheltenham Road/Evesham Road immediately west of Gilder's Paddock and Oldacre's Mill. This route was historically the main N–S road through the village, and this raises the possibility that it represents (or derives from) a significant and ancient feature in the landscape, which may have influenced the development of the surrounding area.

The Iron-Age occupation is comparable to extensive Middle and Late Iron-Age agricultural settlements excavated *c.* 8 km north of Bishop's Cleeve at Aston Mill (Dinn and Evans 1990) and Beckford (Oswald 1974; Wills forthcoming) in the Carrant valley, south Worcestershire. In common with the Carrant valley sites and many other rural settlements and hillforts of the area, the Iron-Age settlement at Gilder's Paddock received a range of artefacts from the surrounding region, implying a variety of contacts in a later prehistoric network of trade and/or exchange involving salt, quernstones and pottery (Morris 1981). The sherds of briquetage found in Pit Groups 1 and 2 (Hancocks below) indicate that salt arrived from Droitwich (*c.* 40 km to the north). Querns from May Hill (*c.* 28 km to the south-west) were present (Roe below). Pottery from the Malvern area (*c.* 25 km or more to the north-west) comprised approximately half of the total amount recovered during excavation (Hancocks below), suggesting that the site was heavily dependent on this source for its ceramic goods.

No similar Iron-Age settlement has been excavated locally in Gloucestershire, although finds salvaged earlier this century from the nearby sites at King's Beeches and Stables Quarry (Gray and Brewer 1904; Marshall 1978; Saville 1984) may indicate the presence of Middle Iron-Age settlements located on the Cotswold escarpment. The Iron-Age sites excavated in south Worcestershire appear to form part of a complex, integrated system of rural settlement attested by widespread cropmark evidence over the sand and gravel terraces of the Carrant valley (cf. Dinn and Evans 1990, figs. 1 and 3). In contrast, the gravel terraces of the Gloucestershire Severn Vale generally do not produce good cropmark evidence (since historically the area has been



predominantly pasture) and the pattern of later prehistoric occupation in the locality of Bishop's Cleeve is uncertain.

The Roman features excavated at Gilder's Paddock can be identified as elements of an agricultural settlement, perhaps a villa. The precise location of the settlement nucleus and its character have not been established, but both Home Farm and Cleeve Hall have produced evidence to suggest the former presence of masonry buildings. However, the majority of features investigated at all sites relate mainly to an extensive system of agricultural enclosure boundaries extending over many hectares on land to the east and west of the line of Evesham Road, although perhaps more complex and developed on its western side. The western limit of the enclosure system is indicated by the results of archaeological evaluations (see Fig. 1), which suggest that the system extended *c.* 300 m to the west of Home Farm and Cleeve Hall.

The evidence from Home Farm indicates that discrete zones within the enclosures were utilized for a variety of purposes including horticulture and small-scale industrial activity relating to iron smithing and perhaps tanning or flax-retting (Barber and Walker 1998, 135–6). Evidence for smithing and other minor industrial processes has also been found at Stoke Road and Cleeve Hall. In contrast no evidence for intensive Roman activity was found at Gilder's Paddock, and the burials found there would therefore appear to have been sited well away from the domestic and industrial focus of occupation. Two burials were also found at Stoke Road, again well away from the presumed settlement nucleus. A local parallel for the marginal siting of burials is provided by Roughground Farm, Lechlade, where small groups of inhumations were located discretely amongst the enclosures surrounding the villa, but 200 m or more distant from it (Allen *et al.* 1993, 95–101 and 192–3). At Gilder's Paddock and Stoke Road some graves were partly lined with stones. Such linings are common in graves of the later Roman period in the region, where they are interpreted as supports for unnailed coffins (Philpott 1991, 61–6). No such grave linings were found at Roughground Farm, and there are no other well documented rural cemeteries of Roman date with such linings within the county. However, late Roman graves with stone linings are common in urban cemeteries at Cirencester (Viner and Leech 1982, 92–7) and Gloucester (Atkin and Garrod 1988, 209–10).

The Roman occupation at Home Farm is dated to the 2nd–4th centuries A.D. However, an assemblage of 1st-century pottery more recently found at Cleeve Hall indicates a slightly longer span of occupation. The new dating evidence also raises the possibility that there may have been continuity between the Iron-Age and Roman settlements, even though a westward shift in the focus of occupation appears to have occurred after the Iron Age.

Looking further afield it is clear that the Roman settlement at Bishop's Cleeve is one of a number of small agricultural settlements liberally scattered on the gravel terraces of the Severn Vale (Barber and Walker 1998, 137–8). The closest known example is situated only *c.* 700 m west of Gilder's Paddock (Parry 1992; Fig. 1, Glos. 13060), and this proximity may reflect the overall density of the distribution of these sites in the Roman landscape. On the evidence of Bishop's Cleeve it can also be suspected that more examples of Iron-Age and Roman settlements lie undetected below existing settlements, whose origins can presently be traced no earlier than the medieval period. In this respect it is of some interest that prehistoric occupation has been found underlying the medieval centre of Cheltenham (Wills 1987). Any correspondence in settlement location need not necessarily imply continuity of occupation, since this could be accounted for by topographically favoured locations being reutilized over time.

There is, however, some tenuous evidence for settlement continuity at Bishop's Cleeve from the Roman into the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. A small assemblage of Anglo-Saxon pottery recovered during the excavation at Home Farm has been interpreted as evidence for occupation there continuing beyond the end of the Roman period (Barber and Walker 1998,



136). The pottery is assigned to the 5th–7th centuries (Timby 1998, 134) and the assemblage is therefore broadly contemporary with the 6th-century cemetery at Lower Farm. A monastic establishment at *Clif* is mentioned in Anglo-Saxon charters of the 8th and 9th centuries; the earlier charter implies that there was also a village and lands in the same area, called Timbingctun (Grundy 1935, 71–90; Elrington 1968, 3). During the late Anglo-Saxon period the manor of Cleeve was appropriated by the bishopric of Worcester, and in the later medieval period the bishops maintained a manor house at Bishop's Cleeve (periodically used by them as a residence), which later became the parish rectory, now Cleeve Hall.

Given the function of Cleeve Hall as an estate centre during the later medieval period, and bearing in mind the probable location of a Roman settlement nucleus somewhere in the vicinity, it is tempting to identify this site as the focus of an estate centre continuously occupied during the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods (and perhaps represented during part of this period by the Anglo-Saxon monastery documented in the charters?). In Gloucestershire the existence of such estate centres has long been postulated, both from studies of topographical and documentary evidence (e.g. Finberg 1955; cf. Heighway 1984, 232), and also from sites where continuity of occupation is indicated by archaeological evidence (e.g. King's Stanley: Heighway 1989).

It must, however, be emphasized that the evidence for continuity at Bishop's Cleeve is scant, especially since the earliest firm evidence for medieval occupation in the village is provided by the structure of the 12th-century parish church of St. Michael and all Angels (Verey 1980, 104–7), situated c. 400 m north-east of Cleeve Hall. In addition, it should be noted that Anglo-Saxon features and pottery have been found at Stoke Road and Oldacre's Mill, demonstrating that Anglo-Saxon activity was not confined to the Cleeve Hall/Home Farm sites.

The evidence for medieval activity at Gilder's Paddock perhaps relates to occupation focused on the church. No evidence was found to indicate the precise functions of the two ditches revealed during excavation, although the size of the larger example, ditch 203, suggests that it may have been a property division. Nothing, however, is known of the extent and layout of any settlement associated with the 12th-century church and this interpretation must remain uncertain. In addition, it is worth noting that at Stoke Road evidence has been found for discrete medieval settlement, possibly of high status, occupied during the 12th–14th centuries. This indicates that settlement in the later medieval parish was not focused on the parish church and Cleeve Hall alone.

To conclude, the results of excavations undertaken at Gilder's Paddock and nearby sites have revealed that Bishop's Cleeve has been occupied since the later prehistoric period, and there is some reason to think that this occupation could have been continuous. However, the archaeological evidence is by no means conclusive and more work is required to elucidate the development of the settlement and the relationship between the various phases of occupation.

## The Finds

### *Introduction*

Following quantification, categories of finds were selected for further analysis and these are reported on below. Categories not selected for detailed reporting include worked flint (five waste flakes weighing 14 gm), animal bone (an assemblage weighing some 28.248 kg, of which less than 20% belonged to stratified Iron-Age contexts), and ceramic material other than pottery (comprising a few small fragments of possible loomweight or daub, and a quantity of burnt clay fragments).

## COPPER-ALLOY OBJECTS

Fig. 6, no. 1. Penannular brooch . . . Diameter 24 mm. Context 4 (fill of ditch 6, feature 37).

The wire is round in section and measures *c.* 2 mm thick away from the terminals, one of which is corroded. The intact terminal is slightly expanded with two incisions. The brooch is most closely paralleled within Fowler's Type Aa (Fowler 1960, 150 and fig. 3). An almost identical brooch has been found at Meare Village East, Somerset (Coles 1987, 76: fig. 3.15, EE32), and a similar but smaller version from Maiden Castle, Dorset, has been identified as potentially Early Iron Age (Sharples 1991, 154–5 and fig. 130, no. 5). Few type Aa brooches are known from Gloucestershire, and the only other published example appears to be one found at Uley Bury hillfort (Saville 1983, fig. 13, no. 3; Fowler 1983).

Fig. 6, no. 2. Needle. Length 43 mm. Context 57 (unstratified).

The shaft (measuring 25 mm long) is round in section, tapering to a point. The head is flattened. Romano-British?

Fig. 6, no. 3. Pin. Length *c.* 109 mm (bent and in two fragments). Context 121 (fill of feature 122).

The incised cordons and concave moulding on the head of the pin indicates that it belongs to Cool's group 13 (Cool 1990, 164). The type was current in the 2nd century A.D., if not later, and many examples have been found in Cirencester.

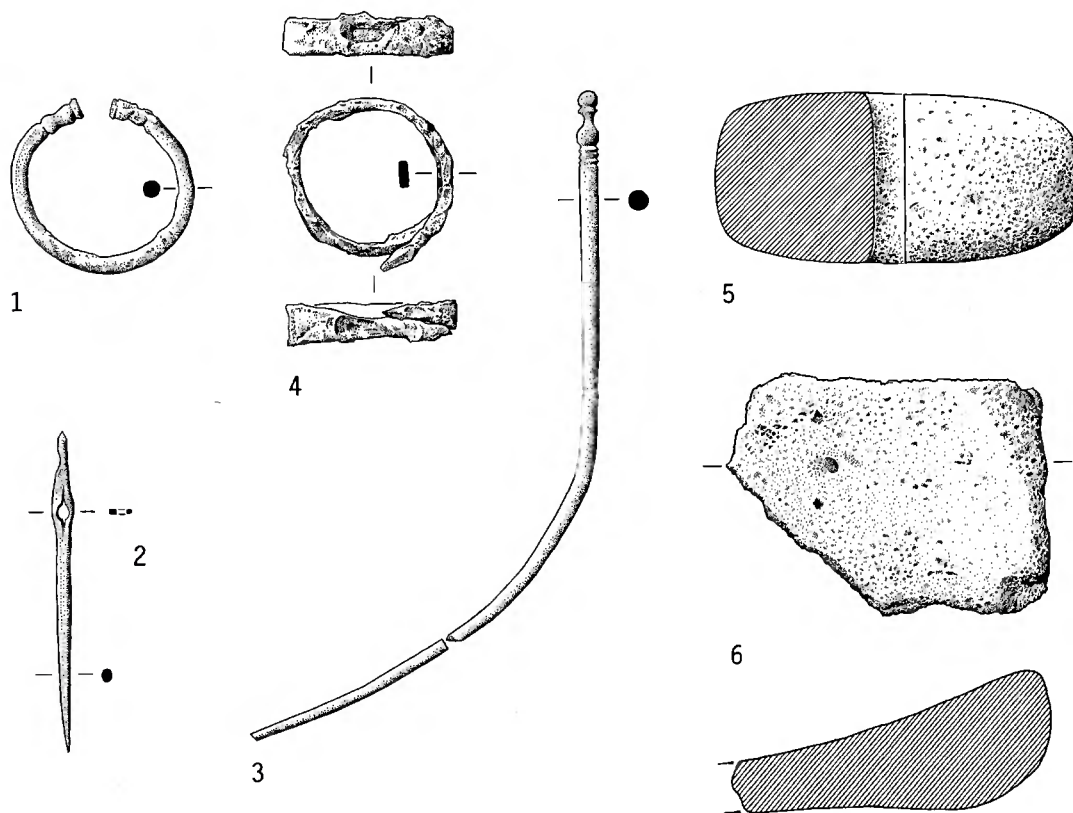


Fig. 6. Objects of: copper-alloy (nos. 1–3, scale 1:1), iron (no. 4, scale 1:1) and stone (nos. 5 and 6, scale 1:1 and 1:4 respectively).

## IRON OBJECT

Fig. 6, no. 4. Finger or toe ring. Internal diameter *c.* 19 mm. Unstratified.

Formed from a flat strip measuring 2 mm thick. The 5.5-mm broad bezel tapers to overlapping pointed terminals. An indentation on the bezel may indicate the former presence of a mount. Date uncertain.

## THE POTTERY by Annette Hancocks

*Introduction*

All pottery from the 1989 and 1990–1 excavations at Gilder's Paddock was quantified by count and weight (gm). A total of 1,212 sherds weighing 14,721 gm was recovered. Pottery fabrics were differentiated macroscopically and with the aid of a  $\times 8$  hand-lens. Some 22 fabrics dating to the Iron-Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods were recognized and cross-referenced with the Hereford and Worcester type fabric series (Hurst and Rees 1992, 200–9). The incidence of fabrics within the total pottery assemblage is presented in Table 1, and the incidence of pottery by period is summarized in Table 2. With an average weight per sherd of only 12.1 gm it may be appreciated that the pottery is very fragmentary: no complete vessel profile was preserved from any of the periods represented. It was, therefore, decided to restrict further analysis to a discussion of the character and date of the Iron-Age pottery (which comprised *c.* 70 % of the total assemblage) and to provide summaries of the Roman and medieval material.

*Iron-Age pottery: quantification*

The Iron-Age pottery assemblage comprises 872 sherds weighing 10,233 gm (Table 3). Approximately 76% (by weight) of the assemblage was recovered from stratified deposits (638 sherds weighing 7,858 gm: Table 4). Of the stratified material, 20% by weight was found incorporated in the fills of ditches (Table 5); 76% by weight was found incorporated in the fills of Pit Groups 1 and 2 (Table 6) and slightly less than 4% by weight came from other features. Some 234 sherds weighing 2,375 gm were either unstratified or incorporated as residual material within features of later date.

*Iron-Age pottery: the fabrics*

Seven fabrics were identified (Tables 1 and 3). The fabric types have been characterized from previous work undertaken in the region, and detailed descriptions have been published elsewhere. Fabric 1 (igneous and metamorphic temper) and Fabric 2 (palaeozoic limestone temper) are Peacock's (1968) A and B1 fabrics respectively, with sources of origin in the Malvern area. Fabric 3 (oolitic limestone and/or fossil-shell temper) is Peacock's (1968) B2 fabric, which originated locally from the Cotswolds. Fabrics 4.1 (sandy) and 4.2 (organic) represent types of briquetage salt-container fabric originating in the locality of Droitwich, Worcestershire (Morris 1985). Fabric 5 (sand-tempered ware) has close parallels to fabric 5.1 in the Hereford and Worcester type series (Hurst and Rees 1992). Fabric 22 (mudstone-gritted ware) was first recognized by Morris (1982), and has been observed at the south Worcestershire sites of Beckford (Wills forthcoming: fabric BD 27) and Aston Mill (Dinn and Evans 1990, 33: fabric 9R).

The local Fabric 3 and the Malvernian Fabric 2 were present in roughly equal proportions. Each accounted for over 40% of the Iron-Age pottery by count and weight, and they together formed approximately 90% of both the total and stratified Iron-Age assemblages. The Malvernian Fabric 1 (with *c.* 7%) was the next best represented fabric type. Only 16 sherds of sand-tempered ware, seven sherds of briquetage and a single sherd of mudstone-gritted pottery were found: these fabrics do not form significant elements of the Iron-Age assemblage.

*Iron-Age pottery: dating*

A selection of sherds from the Iron-Age assemblage is illustrated on Figs. 7–9. Several demonstrate form or decoration most closely paralleled with Early Iron-Age pottery of the region (cf. Elsdon 1994), and all of these belong to the local Fabric 3. In this category are sherds decorated with finger-nail impressions (Fig. 8, nos. 27, 40 and 41), and a sherd from a shouldered vessel with an expanded rim (Fig. 7, no. 2). A sherd with a shouldered profile (Fig. 8, no. 31) and a sherd with an expanded rim (Fig. 9, no. 46) could also belong to the Early Iron-Age tradition.

However, the majority of the sherds find parallels in the range of globular/barrel-shaped jars or bowls characteristic of the Middle Iron Age of the region. From this period are the Malvernian vessels (Fabrics 1 and 2) decorated with tooled and impressed designs typical of these wares (cf. Peacock 1968, figs. 3–4). The most elaborate decoration is on a large barrel-shaped jar with a zone of tooled and impressed decoration below its lid-seat rim (Fig. 8, no. 18), and several other decorated Malvernian sherds are present (Fig. 7, nos. 7 and 10; Fig. 9, nos. 42 and 44). One Malvernian sherd (Fig. 7, no. 9) has an unusually wide oblique incision just below the rim. Of the local pottery (Fabric 3) only one sherd (Fig. 7, no. 8) has an oblique incision just below the rim, and the remainder showed no signs of decoration. Two sherds (Fig. 7, no. 5; Fig. 9, no. 53) assigned to the Malvernian Fabric 2 have flanged rims. The form is paralleled by storage vessels of the same fabric from the late Iron-Age/early Romano-British phase at West Hill, Uley (Leech 1993, fig. 164, nos. 32, 34 and 35). No other pottery from this period is present in the Gilder's Paddock assemblage.

In the vicinity of Bishop's Cleeve the sites of King's Beeches, Stables Quarry, and Oxenton (Saville 1984, 166–8 and fig. 2; Marshall 1978, figs. 1 and 3) have provided small pottery assemblages which are broadly comparable to the Middle Iron-Age pottery from Gilder's Paddock. Larger assemblages of the same period have been excavated in south Worcestershire at the defended sites of Bredon Hill (Hencken 1938) and Conderton (Thomas 1959), and at agricultural settlements examined at Beckford (Wills forthcoming) and Aston Mill (Dinn and Evans 1990). As at Gilder's Paddock, regionally-produced pottery (Malvernian A and B1 wares and briquetage) formed a significant proportion of the pottery assemblages found at these sites, and the material has been interpreted as evidence for a pattern of trade and/or exchange over a wide region including eastern Wales and the west Midlands, and extending southwards to Gloucestershire (cf. Peacock 1968; Morris 1981 and 1985; Saville 1984, 156–7). In addition, analysis of the assemblage excavated from Beckford (Wills forthcoming) suggests that the Middle Iron Age of the area saw an increase in the proportion of regional to local wares, and that at some point during the later Iron Age local pottery production ceased entirely and was replaced by Malvernian B1 pottery. This model of ceramic development has been applied to the pottery assemblage from the settlement at Aston Mill (Dinn and Evans 1990, 31–7) in an attempt to refine the phasing of the site.

In this context it is interesting that Gilder's Paddock has the highest incidence (46% by weight) of Peacock's B1 fabric pottery recorded from any site in Gloucestershire and south Worcestershire (Table 13). This suggests that the area investigated by excavation was most intensively occupied late in the Iron-Age period. Applying the model to individual features and feature groups (Tables 5–12), some relative chronology between these may also be indicated. The pits assigned to Group 2 incorporated less than 12% by weight of B1 pottery (Table 12), suggesting that they were among the earliest features sampled during excavation. Interestingly, sherds of finger-nail impressed pottery (Fig. 8, nos. 40 and 41) characteristic of the Early Iron Age came from pit 65 in this group. A relatively later date for Pit Group 1 may be indicated by a higher B1 pottery content (c. 39% by weight: Table 11), and the very high proportions of B1 pottery obtained from features 47/210 and 46/220 (c. 69% and 76% by weight respectively:

Tables 8–9) suggest that these functioned later than Pit Groups 1 and 2. In the case of feature 46/220, the supposition is supported by the presence of a rim form (Fig. 7, no. 5) noted above.

*Romano-British pottery*

A small and fragmentary Romano-British assemblage comprising 139 sherds weighing 1,582 gm was recovered, and ten fabrics were identified (Table 1). Severn Valley ware (Fabrics 6.1 and 6.2) was dominant (amounting to 64% by weight of the assemblage), with a limited range of other wares being present. The assemblage appears to span the 2nd to early 4th centuries A.D. and is similar in character to a much larger assemblage of Roman pottery excavated at the nearby site of Home Farm (Timby 1998). The Home Farm pottery spanned a wider date range since it contained shell-tempered ware characteristic of the later 4th century, which was absent from Gilder’s Paddock.

*Medieval and post-medieval pottery*

The medieval pottery assemblage comprised 144 sherds. Five fabrics were identified (Table 1) with a date range spanning the late 11th to 15th century. Only two medieval features (dating to the late 11th/early 12th century) were excavated and most of the medieval pottery was unstratified. The 53 post-medieval sherds were recovered from intrusive features, and no fabric identification of this material was undertaken.

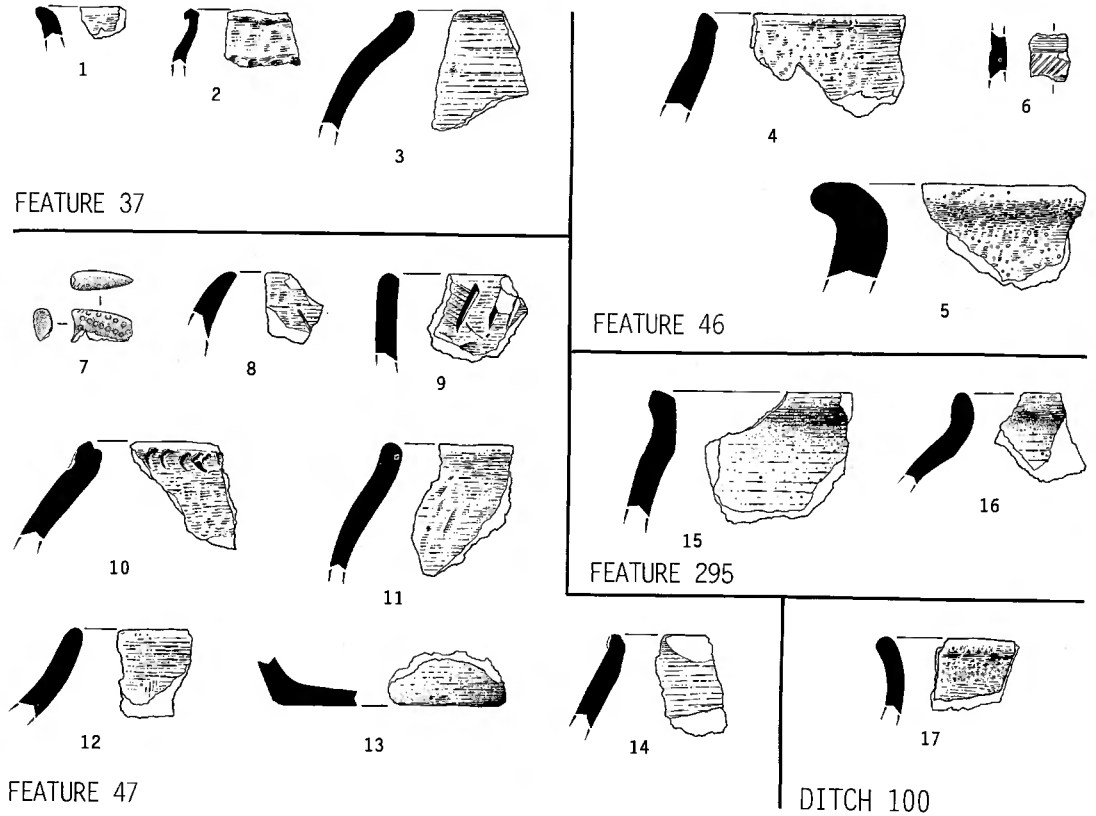
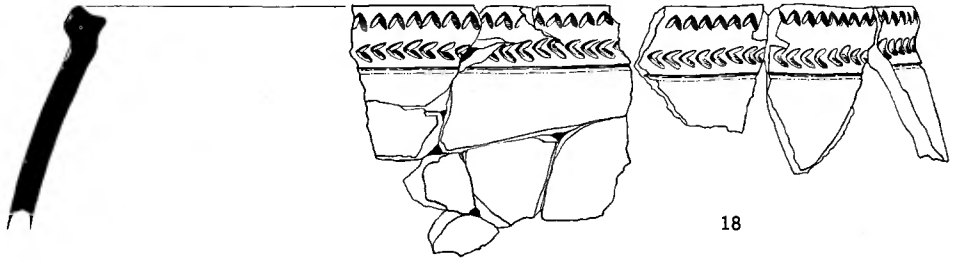


Fig. 7. Pottery from Iron-Age ditches (scale 1:3).



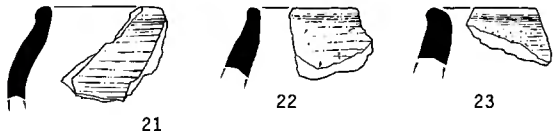
PIT GROUP 1



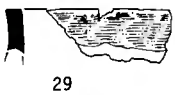
PIT 17



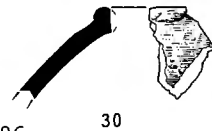
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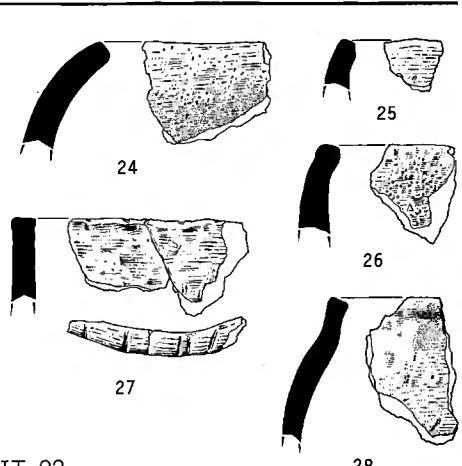
PIT 85



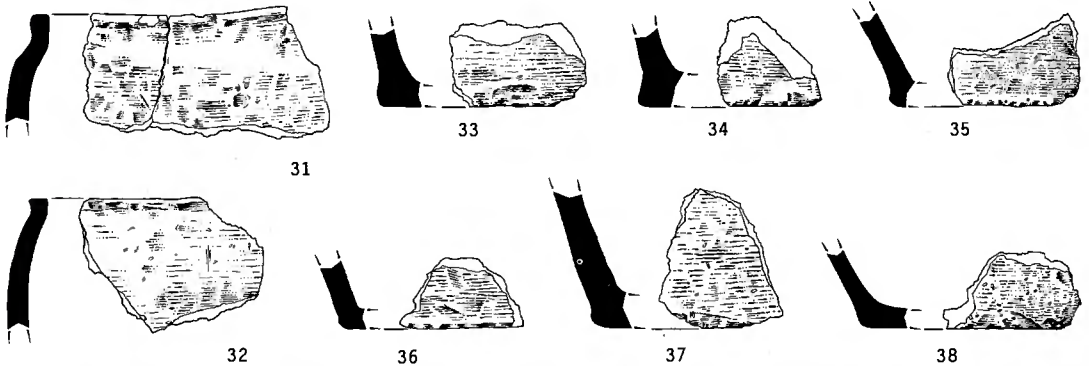
PIT 106



PIT 83



PIT 164



PIT GROUP 2

PIT 63



PIT 65



Fig. 8. Pottery from Iron-Age Pit Groups 1 and 2 (scale 1:3).



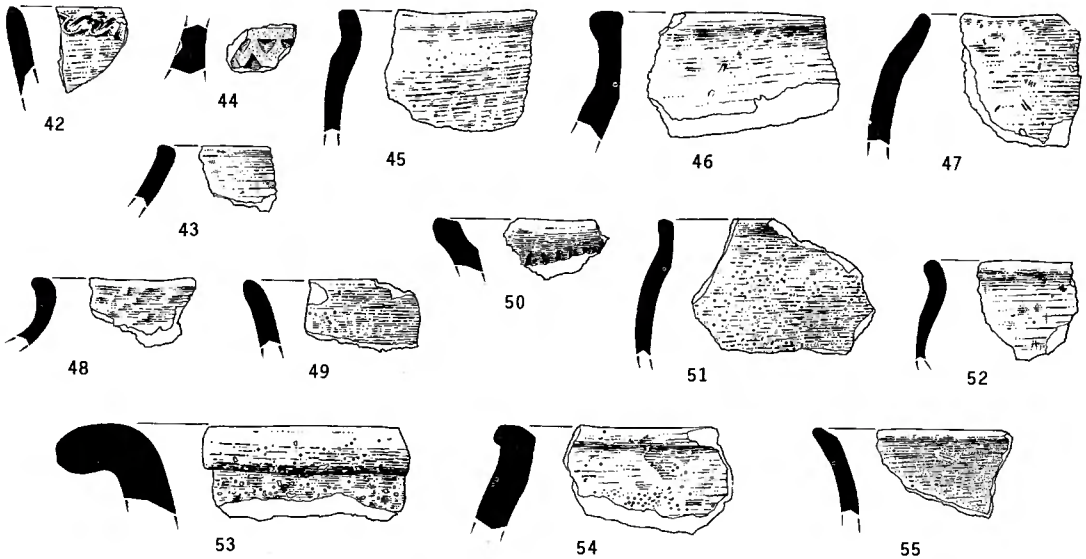


Fig. 9. Unstratified Iron-Age pottery (scale 1:3).

*Catalogue of illustrated pottery*

*Fig. 7. Pottery from Iron-Age ditches*

1. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 3 (upper fills of ditches 6 and 7, feature 37).
2. Rim. Fabric 3. Context 10 (ditch 11, feature 37).
3. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 128 (ditch 129).
4. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 34 (feature 46/220).
5. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 34 (feature 46/220).
6. Decorated sherd. Fabric 1. Context 34 (feature 46/220).
7. Decorated sherd. Fabric 1. Context 35 (feature 47/210).
8. Rim. Fabric 3. Context 35 (feature 47/210).
9. Rim. Fabric 1. Context 35 (feature 47/210).
10. Rim. Fabric 1. Context 35 (feature 47/210).
11. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 35 (feature 47/210).
12. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 35 (feature 47/210).
13. Base. Fabric 2. Context 35 (feature 47/210).
14. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 48 (ditch 177, feature 47/210).
15. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 290 (ditch 299, feature 295).
16. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 290 (ditch 299, feature 295).
17. Rim. Fabric 5. Context 99 (ditch 100).

*Fig. 8. Pottery from Iron-Age Pit Groups 1 and 2*

18. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 12 (pit 17).
19. Rim. Fabric 3. Context 13 (pit 17).
20. Base. Fabric 3. Context 16 (pit 17).
21. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 18 (pit 19).
22. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 18 (pit 19).
23. Rim. Fabric 2. Context 18 (pit 19).
24. Rim. Fabric 3. Context 82 (pit 83).

25. Rim Fabric 3. Context 82 (pit 83).
26. Rim. Fabric 3. Context 82 (pit 83).
27. Rim. Fabric 3. Context 82 (pit 83).
28. Rim. Fabric 5. Context 82 (pit 83).
29. Rim. Fabric 3. Context 84 (pit 85).
30. Rim. Fabric 3. Context 106 (pit 104).
31. Rim. Fabric 3. Context 159 (pit 164).
32. Rim. Fabric 3. Context 159 (pit 164).
33. Base. Fabric 3. Context 159 (pit 164).
34. Base. Fabric 3. Context 159 (pit 164).
35. Base. Fabric 3. Context 159 (pit 164).
36. Base. Fabric 3. Context 159 (pit 164).
37. Base. Fabric 3. Context 162 (pit 164).
38. Base. Fabric 3. Context 162 (pit 164).
39. Base. Fabric 3. Context 62 (pit 63).
40. Finger-impressed ?rim (four similar sherds unillustrated). Fabric 3. Context 64 (pit 65).
41. Finger-impressed body sherd. Fabric 3. Context 64 (pit 65).

*Fig. 9. Unstratified Iron-Age pottery*

42. Rim. Fabric 1.
43. Rim. Fabric 2.
44. Decorated sherd. Fabric 2.
45. Rim. Fabric 2.
46. Rim. Fabric 3.
47. Rim. Fabric 3.
48. Rim. Fabric 1.
49. Rim. Fabric 2.
50. Rim. Fabric 2.
51. Rim. Fabric 2.
52. Rim. Fabric 2.
53. Rim. Fabric 2.
54. Rim. Fabric 2.
55. Rim. Fabric 2.

SPINDLE WHORL

Fig. 6, no. 5. Spindle whorl. Diameter 49 mm. Oolitic limestone. Context 160 (fill of pit 164). Similar Iron-Age whorls have been found locally at Bredon Hill (Hencken 1938, fig. 11).

QUERNSTONES by Fiona Roe

Not illustrated. Context 1 (unstratified). May Hill sandstone.

A fragment from a probable saddle quern, with one worked surface which is worn smooth towards the centre of the quern. The underside seems to have been pecked to produce a curved shape and the edge has also been trimmed.

Fig. 6, no. 6. Context 82 (fill of pit 83). May Hill sandstone.

A fragment from a saddle quern with a concave worked surface, worn smooth from grinding, particularly towards the centre of the quern. The underside and edge seem to have been pecked to shape.

These two pieces come from saddle querns made from May Hill sandstone. One was unstratified, the other was excavated from a Middle Iron-Age pit. The May Hill sandstone is a fairly coarse-grained gritstone, with distinctive clasts of salmon-pink feldspar scattered throughout. It occurs

in the Silurian Upper Llandovery series, but is of limited extent, with the main outcrop on the top of May Hill itself, while it is also found in the Malverns (Lawson 1955).

The two pieces from Gilder's Paddock have a greater significance when viewed in a wider context, since saddle querns made from May Hill sandstone are increasingly being recognized in the region (Roe 1998, 63). These querns seem particularly common in Gloucestershire, where they are known from 19 or so Iron-Age sites. There are significant collections from Crickley Hill (Dixon forthcoming) and Salmonsbury (Dunning 1976). A total of eight sites in south Worcestershire have produced similar querns, and there Beckford (Roe 1990; Wills forthcoming) is a key site. In Oxfordshire (Roe 1996, 84) nine sites with May Hill sandstone querns are known, and they are particularly numerous at Gravelly Guy (Lambrick *et al.* forthcoming). Research continues, and it is likely finds from Herefordshire will be added to the list.

Sites with May Hill sandstone querns commonly attest the presence of other regionally-traded artefacts, such as Malvernian pottery and Droitwich briquetage salt containers, and Gilder's Paddock is no exception. Peacock's (1968) Malvernian A and B1 pottery fabrics have source areas which could coincide with possible sources for May Hill sandstone. Fabric A incorporates temper originating in the Malverns. Stratigraphically, the Upper Llandovery series lies just below the Silurian Woolhope limestone of the Wenlock series, the palaeozoic limestone identified as the temper in the B1 fabric (Peacock 1968, fig. 2; Morris 1983a, 120 and table 4.6). Morris favours the Woolhope area as the source of the B1 pottery. This need not, however, exclude the possibility of other sources and the proximity of Woolhope limestone and May Hill sandstone both at May Hill and the Malverns suggest that these areas too may have supplied pottery tempering as well as querns.

Whether or not this was the case, both varieties of pottery and the querns unquestionably originate from a limited region, suggesting that the distribution systems for these commodities were linked. This seems to presuppose the existence of good routeways, whether for use by pack-horses or wheeled vehicles. Thus the occurrence of May Hill sandstone at Gilder's Paddock can be seen as part of a Middle Iron-Age distribution system pattern used to ensure supplies of essential goods.

#### HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS by Rebecca Wiggins and Charlotte Roberts

##### *Summary*

Seven inhumations were submitted for examination. Four individuals from the group were assessed as adults, three as sub-adults. Three of the adults are estimated as female; the fourth adult was too fragmentary to assess. The absence of any identifiable males amongst the adult skeletons might indicate that the area of burial was reserved for women and sub-adults. The skeletons were generally in a fragmentary state and much information concerning their metrical, non-metrical and pathological status was not preserved. A detailed report on the human skeletal material (Wiggins and Roberts 1992) has been deposited with the site archive.

##### *Catalogue of the skeletal material*

Abbreviations: /= post-mortem tooth loss; × = ante-mortem tooth loss; -= jaw not present; E = erupting; D = deciduous; U = unerupted

*Skeleton 24.* Age: 15–20 years; Sex: indeterminate. Preservation: poor, very little remaining and quite fragmentary. Bones present: upper right femur, right tibia, fibula, some right foot bones, some ribs, right petrous temporal, L3 and L4. Associated bones: animal bones.

Dentition: E 7 6 -----  
 -----

Dental pathology: none observed. Skeletal pathology: none observed.

*Skeleton 29.* Age: 10–11 years. Preservation: poor, very fragmentary. Bones present: most of the skull, calcanea, some left metatarsals, right ulna, some vertebrae (thoracic), some ribs. Associated bones: postcranial skeleton possibly associated with cranial.

Dentition: U76DE/// //34D67U  
U76D432/ 1234D67U

Dental pathology: lingual calculus (slight). Skeletal pathology: marked cribrotic lesions in both orbits, raised and trabecular. No pitting to skull vault. Enamel hypoplasia to permanent canines.

*Skeleton 38.* Age: young/middle-aged adult. Sex: female. Stature: 1.53 m (humerus). Bones present: all except some sections of the frontal, parietal, occipital and temporal bones, some scapula body, some phalanges, sternum. Associated bones: animal bones.

Dentition: 87654321 12345678  
87654321 12345678

Dental pathology: calculus. Skeletal pathology: slight depression of the 5th lumbar vertebral body on the left side; also osteophytes on the superior surface. Mid ribs bilaterally, slight osteophytes on the costal facets. Slight eburnation on lateral condylar surface of left femur. Non-metric traits: mandibular torus.

*Skeleton 44.* Age: 3–4 years. Preservation: fair to good; missing tarsals, metatarsals, carpals, metacarpals; otherwise fairly complete. Associated bones: animal bones.

Dentition: U U D D / / D D D D D U  
U U D D D D D D D D U U

Dental pathology: caries (small) on mandibular 1st molars and left maxillary 2nd molar. Skeletal pathology: none observed.

*Skeleton 228.* Age: mature adult. Sex: female. Stature: 1.56 m (ulna). Preservation: fair, a substantial amount preserved but eroded and fragmentary. Associated bones: none.

Dentition: --//////// - - - - - - - -  
-//////// /////x x--

Loose teeth: maxillary M1 ?side, 4 mandibular premolars, 2 incisors maxillary or mandibular ?side, mandibular M2 ?side. All teeth have marked attrition; siding and identifying teeth proved difficult.

Dental pathology: severe attrition, calculus, periodontal disease. Skeletal pathology: joint disease inferior articular surface of L5 and superior surface of S1. Slight osteophytes T1 and T2 vertebral bodies. Non-metric traits: none observed.

*Skeleton 234.* Age: adult. Sex: undetermined. Preservation: poor, fragmentary and very little remaining. Associated bones: none. Dentition: none. Skeletal pathology: osteochondritis dissecans of left tibial condyle.

*Skeleton 239.* Age: young/middle aged adult. Sex: ?female. Stature: not possible to assess. Preservation: poor, only fragments remaining. Associated bones: none. Dentition: none. Skeletal pathology: osteophyte formation on superior articular surface of the sacrum, also new bone formation on superior body. Non-metric traits: none observed.

### *Acknowledgements*

I am grateful to Bovis Retirement Homes Ltd. for funding the excavations at Gilder's Paddock, and for contributing towards the cost of publication of this report. Jan Wills (County Archaeological Officer) provided advice and encouragement throughout the project and especially during

the programme of post-excavation analysis. Annette Hancocks is grateful to Elaine Morris for commenting on a draft of her report on the pottery. Figs. 2-7 were drawn by Nigel Harris, with additions by Jon Hoyle who also drew Fig. 1.

The archive of records and finds deriving from the excavations at Gilder's Paddock has been deposited with Cheltenham Museum.

## TABLES

Table 1. Incidence of pottery fabrics, all periods (HW=Hereford and Worcester type fabric series).

| fabric           | description                     | HW   | count | %     | gm    | %     |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Iron-Age</b>  |                                 |      |       |       |       |       |
| 1                | Peacock A                       | 3    | 112   | 9.24  | 798   | 5.42  |
| 2                | Peacock B1                      | 4.1  | 412   | 33.99 | 4701  | 31.93 |
| 3                | Peacock B2                      | 4.3  | 324   | 26.73 | 4473  | 30.38 |
| 4.1              | briquetage (sandy)              | 1    | 6     | 0.50  | 75    | 0.51  |
| 4.2              | briquetage (organic)            | 2    | 1     | 0.08  | 35    | 0.24  |
| 5                | sandy ware                      | 5.1  | 16    | 1.32  | 146   | 0.99  |
| 22               | mudstone-gritted ware           | 9    | 1     | 0.08  | 5     | 0.03  |
| <i>sub-total</i> |                                 |      | 872   | 71.95 | 10233 | 69.51 |
| <b>Roman</b>     |                                 |      |       |       |       |       |
| 6.1              | Severn Valley ware              | 12   | 82    | 6.77  | 1013  | 6.88  |
| 6.2              | Severn Valley ware, reduced     | 12R  | 2     | 0.16  | 13    | 0.09  |
| 7                | fine sandy greyware             | 14   | 5     | 0.41  | 28    | 0.19  |
| 8                | black burnished ware            | 22   | 5     | 0.41  | 48    | 0.33  |
| 9                | Oxfordshire colour-coated ware  | 29   | 3     | 0.25  | 10    | 0.07  |
| 10               | Severn Valley mortarium         | 37   | 1     | 0.08  | 11    | 0.08  |
| 11               | unprovenanced white ware        | 41   | 1     | 0.08  | 14    | 0.10  |
| 12               | amphorae                        | 42.6 | 8     | 0.66  | 244   | 1.66  |
| 13               | samian                          | 43   | 11    | 0.91  | 34    | 0.23  |
| 20               | miscellaneous Roman             | 98   | 21    | 1.73  | 167   | 1.13  |
| <i>sub-total</i> |                                 |      | 139   | 11.47 | 1582  | 10.76 |
| <b>medieval</b>  |                                 |      |       |       |       |       |
| 14               | Worcester-type unglazed ware    | 55   | 5     | 0.41  | 103   | 0.70  |
| 15               | Malvernian unglazed ware        | 56   | 97    | 8.00  | 1050  | 7.13  |
| 16               | Cotswolds unglazed ware         | 57   | 16    | 1.32  | 119   | 0.81  |
| 17               | glazed oolitic limestone        | 65   | 11    | 0.91  | 176   | 1.20  |
| 18               | oxidised glazed Malvernian ware | 69   | 15    | 1.24  | 201   | 1.37  |
| <i>sub-total</i> |                                 |      | 144   | 11.88 | 1649  | 11.21 |
| 19               | post-medieval fabrics           | —    | 53    | 4.37  | 1220  | 8.29  |
| 21               | miscellaneous fabrics           | —    | 4     | 0.33  | 37    | 0.25  |
| <i>totals</i>    |                                 |      | 1212  | 100   | 14721 | 100   |

Table 2. Summary of pottery, by period.

| period        | count       | %          | gm           | %          |
|---------------|-------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Iron-Age      | 872         | 71.95      | 10233        | 69.51      |
| Roman         | 139         | 11.47      | 1582         | 10.76      |
| medieval      | 144         | 11.88      | 1649         | 11.21      |
| post medieval | 53          | 4.37       | 1220         | 8.29       |
| other         | 4           | 0.33       | 37           | 0.25       |
| <i>totals</i> | <i>1212</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>14721</i> | <i>100</i> |

Table 3. Iron-Age pottery: incidence of fabrics.

| fabric        | description          | count      | %          | gm           | %          |
|---------------|----------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| 1             | Peacock A            | 112        | 12.84      | 798          | 7.80       |
| 2             | Peacock B1           | 412        | 47.25      | 4701         | 45.94      |
| 3             | Peacock B2           | 324        | 37.16      | 4473         | 43.71      |
| 4.1           | briquetage (sandy)   | 6          | 0.69       | 75           | 0.73       |
| 4.2           | briquetage (organic) | 1          | 0.12       | 35           | 0.34       |
| 5             | sandy ware           | 16         | 1.84       | 146          | 1.43       |
| 22            | mudstone-gritted     | 1          | 0.12       | 5            | 0.05       |
| <i>totals</i> |                      | <i>872</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>10233</i> | <i>100</i> |

Table 4. Stratified Iron-Age pottery: incidence of fabrics.

| fabric        | description          | count      | %          | gm          | %          |
|---------------|----------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| 1             | Peacock A            | 72         | 11.28      | 430         | 5.47       |
| 2             | Peacock B1           | 286        | 44.83      | 3461        | 44.04      |
| 3             | Peacock B2           | 261        | 40.91      | 3786        | 48.18      |
| 4.1           | briquetage (sandy)   | 4          | 0.63       | 51          | 0.65       |
| 4.2           | briquetage (organic) | 1          | 0.16       | 35          | 0.44       |
| 5             | sandy ware           | 14         | 2.19       | 95          | 1.21       |
| <i>totals</i> |                      | <i>638</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>7858</i> | <i>100</i> |

Table 5. Iron-Age ditches: incidence of pottery fabrics.

| fabric        | description | count      | %          | gm          | %          |
|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| 1             | Peacock A   | 42         | 24.41      | 292         | 18.42      |
| 2             | Peacock B1  | 106        | 61.63      | 1053        | 66.44      |
| 3             | Peacock B2  | 18         | 10.46      | 218         | 13.75      |
| 5             | sandy ware  | 6          | 3.49       | 22          | 1.39       |
| <i>totals</i> |             | <i>172</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>1585</i> | <i>100</i> |

Table 6. Iron-Age pits (Groups 1 and 2): incidence of pottery fabrics.

| fabric        | description          | count      | %          | gm          | %          |
|---------------|----------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| 1             | Peacock A            | 13         | 3.07       | 97          | 1.62       |
| 2             | Peacock B1           | 164        | 38.68      | 2291        | 38.14      |
| 3             | Peacock B2           | 236        | 55.66      | 3481        | 57.95      |
| 4.1           | briquetage (sandy)   | 4          | 0.94       | 51          | 0.85       |
| 4.2           | briquetage (organic) | 1          | 0.24       | 35          | 0.58       |
| 5             | sandy ware           | 6          | 1.40       | 52          | 0.87       |
| <i>totals</i> |                      | <i>424</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>6007</i> | <i>100</i> |



Table 7. Feature 37: incidence of pottery fabrics.

| <b>fabric</b> | <b>description</b> | <b>count</b> | <b>%</b>   | <b>gm</b>  | <b>%</b>   |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1             | Peacock A          | 7            | 21.88      | 59         | 23.51      |
| 2             | Peacock B1         | 14           | 43.75      | 86         | 34.26      |
| 3             | Peacock B2         | 6            | 18.75      | 93         | 37.05      |
| 5             | sandy ware         | 5            | 15.62      | 13         | 5.18       |
| <i>totals</i> |                    | <i>32</i>    | <i>100</i> | <i>251</i> | <i>100</i> |

Table 8. Feature 46/220: incidence of pottery fabrics.

| <b>fabric</b> | <b>description</b> | <b>count</b> | <b>%</b>   | <b>gm</b>  | <b>%</b>   |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1             | Peacock A          | 21           | 33.87      | 129        | 21.86      |
| 2             | Peacock B1         | 40           | 64.52      | 453        | 76.78      |
| 3             | Peacock B2         | 1            | 1.61       | 8          | 1.36       |
| <i>totals</i> |                    | <i>62</i>    | <i>100</i> | <i>590</i> | <i>100</i> |

Table 9. Feature 47/210: incidence of pottery fabrics.

| <b>fabric</b> | <b>description</b> | <b>count</b> | <b>%</b>   | <b>gm</b>  | <b>%</b>   |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1             | Peacock A          | 14           | 18.92      | 104        | 14.67      |
| 2             | Peacock B1         | 50           | 67.57      | 490        | 69.11      |
| 3             | Peacock B2         | 9            | 12.16      | 106        | 14.95      |
| 5             | sandy ware         | 1            | 1.35       | 9          | 1.27       |
| <i>totals</i> |                    | <i>74</i>    | <i>100</i> | <i>709</i> | <i>100</i> |

Table 10. Feature 295: incidence of pottery fabrics.

| <b>fabric</b> | <b>description</b> | <b>count</b> | <b>%</b>   | <b>gm</b> | <b>%</b>   |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 2             | Peacock B1         | 2            | 50         | 24        | 68.57      |
| 3             | Peacock B2         | 2            | 50         | 11        | 31.43      |
| <i>totals</i> |                    | <i>4</i>     | <i>100</i> | <i>35</i> | <i>100</i> |

Table 11. Iron-Age pits (Group 1): incidence of pottery fabrics.

| <b>fabric</b> | <b>description</b> | <b>count</b> | <b>%</b>   | <b>gm</b>   | <b>%</b>   |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| 1             | Peacock A          | 10           | 2.61       | 72          | 1.25       |
| 2             | Peacock B1         | 159          | 41.51      | 2261        | 39.30      |
| 3             | Peacock B2         | 204          | 53.26      | 3317        | 57.66      |
| 4.1           | briquetage (sandy) | 4            | 1.04       | 51          | 0.89       |
| 5             | sandy ware         | 6            | 1.57       | 52          | 0.90       |
| <i>totals</i> |                    | <i>383</i>   | <i>100</i> | <i>5753</i> | <i>100</i> |

Table 12. Iron-Age pits (Group 2): incidence of pottery fabrics.

| <b>fabric</b> | <b>description</b>   | <b>count</b> | <b>%</b>   | <b>gm</b>  | <b>%</b>   |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1             | Peacock A            | 3            | 17.32      | 25         | 9.84       |
| 2             | Peacock B1           | 5            | 12.20      | 30         | 11.81      |
| 3             | Peacock B2           | 32           | 78.05      | 164        | 64.57      |
| 4.2           | briquetage (organic) | 1            | 2.44       | 35         | 13.78      |
| <i>totals</i> |                      | <i>41</i>    | <i>100</i> | <i>254</i> | <i>100</i> |

Table 13. Incidences of Peacock's (1968) Malvernian pottery fabrics A and B1 from selected Iron-Age sites in Gloucestershire and south Worcestershire (percentages by weight in each assemblage).

| site                | source                  | A      | B1       |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------|----------|
| Aston Mill          | Dinn and Evans 1990     | 43     | 9        |
| Beckford            | Wills forthcoming       | 17     | 30       |
| Birdlip             | Parry 1998              | absent | 10       |
| Claydon Pike        | Saville 1984            | 0.1    | ?        |
| Gilder's Paddock    | This report             | 7.7    | 45.9     |
| Guiting Power, 1974 | Saville 1984            | 1.5    | 15.4     |
| Guiting Power, 1997 | J. Vallender pers. com. | absent | 43.9     |
| Ireley Farm         | Saville 1984            | 4.6    | 2.5      |
| King's Beeches      | Saville 1984            | 6.6    | 2.4      |
| Leckhampton         | Saville 1984            | ?      | dominant |
| Oxenton             | Saville 1984            | 16.5   | 44.2     |
| Salmonsbury         | Saville 1984            | 3      | 8.6      |
| Spratsgate Lane     | J. Vallender pers. com. | 0.6    | absent   |
| Uley Bury           | Saville 1984            | absent | 3.7      |

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