The Villa and Temple at Cosgrove, Northamptonshire

by

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with contributions by

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The main villa house, incorporating a bath suite, was built during the mid-second century, together with a timber shrine and various agricultural buildings. There may have been an earlier phase, represented in the area excavated, by a single-roomed house which was extended in the mid-second century building phase. The baths, and probably the main house, fell into disuse in the late second century and were demolished. The site was reorganised with the construction of a temple of Romano-Celtic plan and of a new agricultural building late in the second century; the original simple house may now have been the only residence. Around AD 280 there were alterations to the temple, possibly related to a large pit group of pottery and coins of this date. The simple house and agricultural buildings fell into progressive disuse during the third and fourth centuries, but the temple may have been standing after AD 400. The function of religious foci on rural estates is discussed. Some sixth and seventh century pottery indicated Saxon activity.

Late Neolithic/Beaker occupation was found beneath one of the Roman buildings.

INTRODUCTION

The villa and other Roman buildings at Cosgrove, Northants (SP 7947 4212) are situated between the Great Ouse and the Tove, 800 m west of their confluence. The site lies in the angle formed by the junction of the Grand Union Canal and the Buckingham Branch Canal (now disused). North west of the villa is a spring, once enclosed in a Roman masonry cistern. From this a small stream had flowed around the north and east of the buildings into the Ouse, until it was piped underground during the construction of the Buckinghamshire Canal. The villa (FIG 1) lies about one mile east of Watling Street and directly adjacent to the suggested Roman Road 171 running down the Ouse valley (Viatores 1964, 321).

The Main House was built at about 75 m (240 ft) OD on a slight eminence caused by the outcrop of the Great Oolite Limestone (FIG 2) and faced toward the Ouse. The ground drops slightly as the bedrock changes to the Upper Estuarine Series silts and clays which are largely masked by the gravels of the Ouse second terrace (Geological Survey Sheet 202, 1969). The remaining Roman structures were built on the second gravel terrace. Excavation showed that both the solid and drift deposits were covered by about a metre of brown clay with rolled limestone pieces. The site lies on Grade 3 agricultural land.

The first record of Roman material at Cosgrove occurred in 1801 and was recorded in *The Gentleman's Magazine* (I,76): 'Some workmen in front of Major Maunsel's house (Cosgrove Hall) found an urn containing 60 silver denarii 1½ feet underground. A few weeks before they dug up a human skeleton near the same place'. This hoard, 'silver medallions' of Constantine I, Valentinian II and Magnus Maximus, and coins of Diocletian, Constans, Magnentius, Julian, Valens and Gratian were probably found during the construction of the Buckingham Branch Canal about 1800 AD (RCHM(E) 1982, 34) and the possibility of a Roman villa was soon suggested (Baker 1836–41, 136). Nothing further was found until 1956, when a drain was cut across the villa field prior

to its conversion from pasture to arable. Roman tile fragments and pottery were brought to the attention of the late Charles W Green. He started excavations with the encouragment of the then landowner, the late Major the Hon J B Fermor Hesketh, and during 1957 and 1958

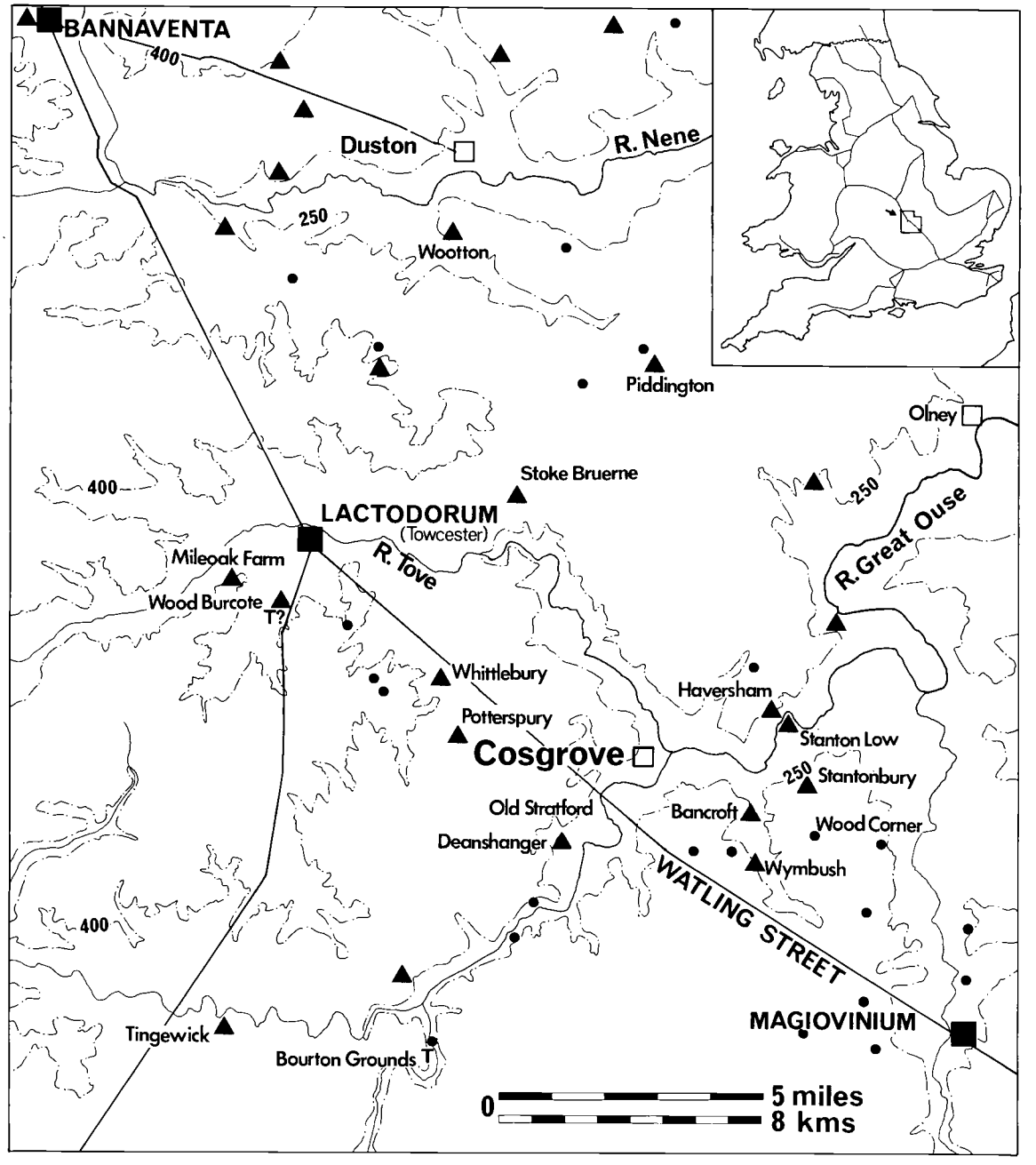

Fig 1 The location of Cosgrove and Roman occupation in its vicinity. Contours at 250 and 400 ft. Triangles—villas. Circles other buildings. T—temples.

cleared the villa Bath House completely. Green also recorded other spreads of building material ploughed up in the field.

Charles Green's excavations were confined to the Bath House, from which he removed all stratified deposits down to surviving floor or sub-floor level, to the adjacent Room XIII and to the clearance of the cistern north of the Canal. His excavations did not extend more than *c.* 0.3 m outside the walls of these structures, of which he published notes and a generalised plan (Green 1958; 1959). The tile arch between the *tepidarium* and the *caldarium*, found collapsed, was rebuilt. Room XIII was backfilled but the Bath House was covered over by a corrugated iron shed, and passed over by Major Hesketh to the Wolverton and District Archaeological Society for safekeeping. Green generously passed the finds, a typescript account of his work and a series of photographs to the author for incorporation in the present report and inclusion in the site archive. His

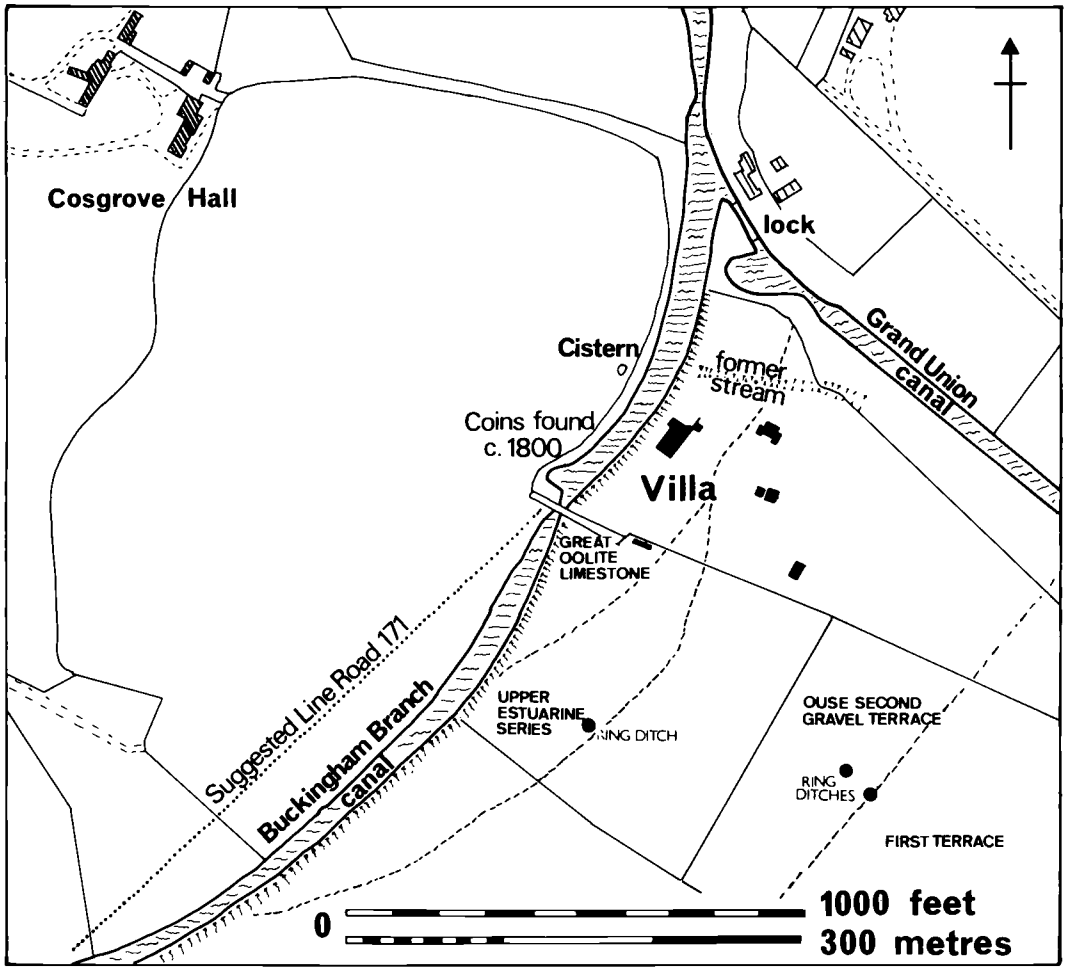

Fig 2 The immediate environment of the Cosgrove villa.

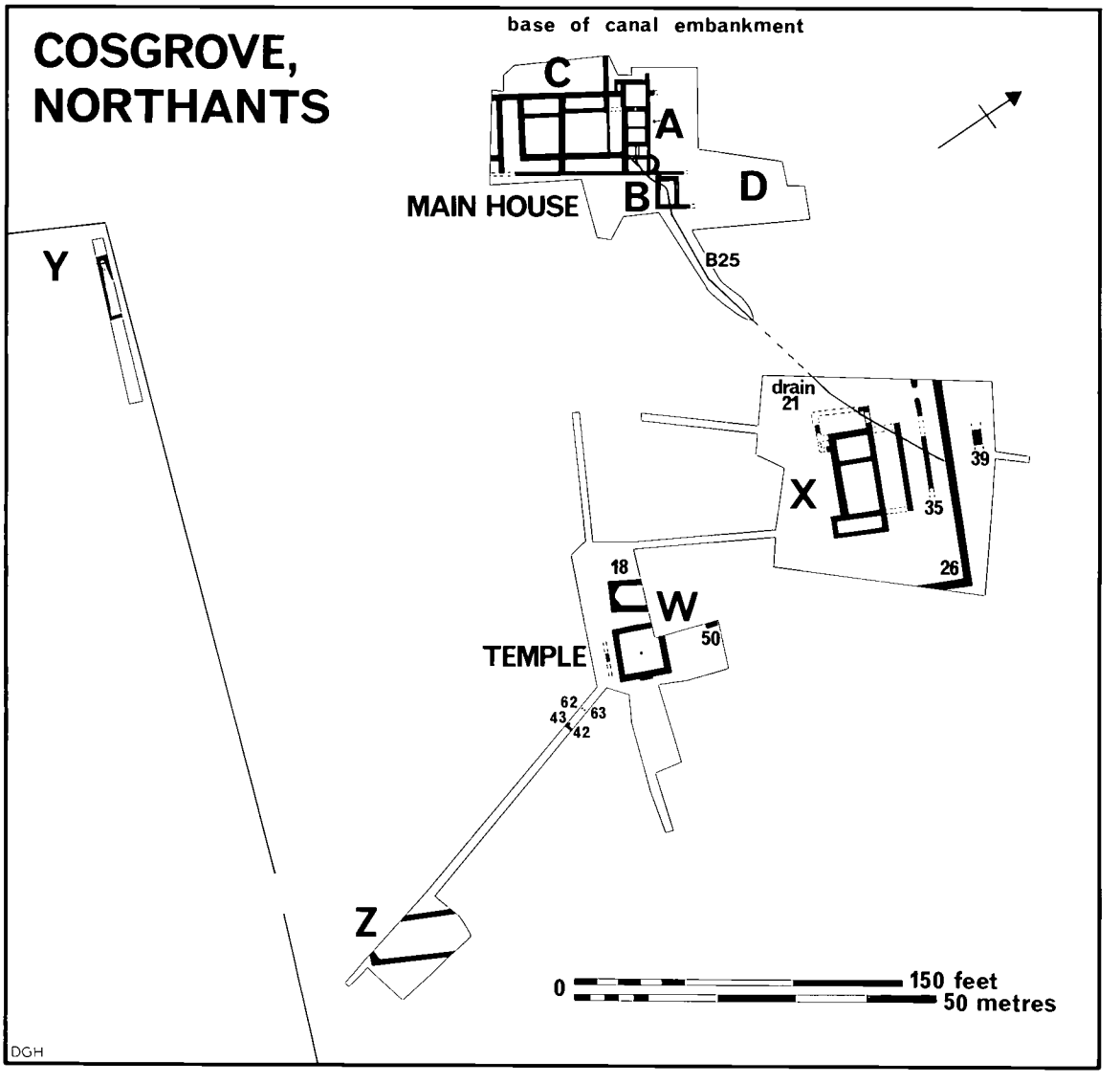

Fig 3 Cosgrove: location of Roman buildings and excavation trenches.

record makes it clear that he had kept a close watch on the area, and probably knew more about possible material than he recorded in detail; for example he notes the line of Roman Road 171 in a gas pipe line trench near Cosgrove. Green died in 1972, before the present author started work on this report, so that consultation on the site and its environs was not possible.

During the 1960's the site, which had been scheduled as an Ancient Monument, was badly eroded by ploughing. The author was requested by the then Ministry of Public Building and Works to undertake excavations, which took place for six weeks in September and October 1969, by kind permission of the owners, the Radcliffe Trust, and of the tenant, Mr R H Maycock. During these excavations the corru-

gated structure protecting the Bath House was removed and afterwards the site was backfilled, as the tenant wished to have the field clear for cultivation.

The aims of the 1969 excavations were (1) to fully investigate and record the Bath House, to allow its backfill and destruction (2) to establish the extent of Roman buildings on the site. Unfortunately funding did not permit full achievement of the latter aim as the spread of buildings was wider than anticipated.

The main part of this report was compiled in 1985/6. Its completion owes much to the help of those working in the area (see acknowledgments). The author accepts responsiblity for any flaws which may be due to the lapse of time between the excavation and report preparation and to her lack of detailed first-hand knowledge of the most recent research in the Milton Keynes/Northampton area.

The finds and site archive have been deposited at Northampton Borough Museum. The archive is copied on microfilm at the National Monuments Record (RCHM(E)), and includes longer versions of the glass, pottery and bone reports.

THE EXCAVATION

THE MAIN HOUSE AND BATH HOUSE

THE MAIN HOUSE AREAS A–D (FIGS 4–8)

The 1969 excavation commenced with the mechanical stripping of those areas, either side of the Bath House already cleared by Green, which had concentrations of building debris showing in the ploughsoil.

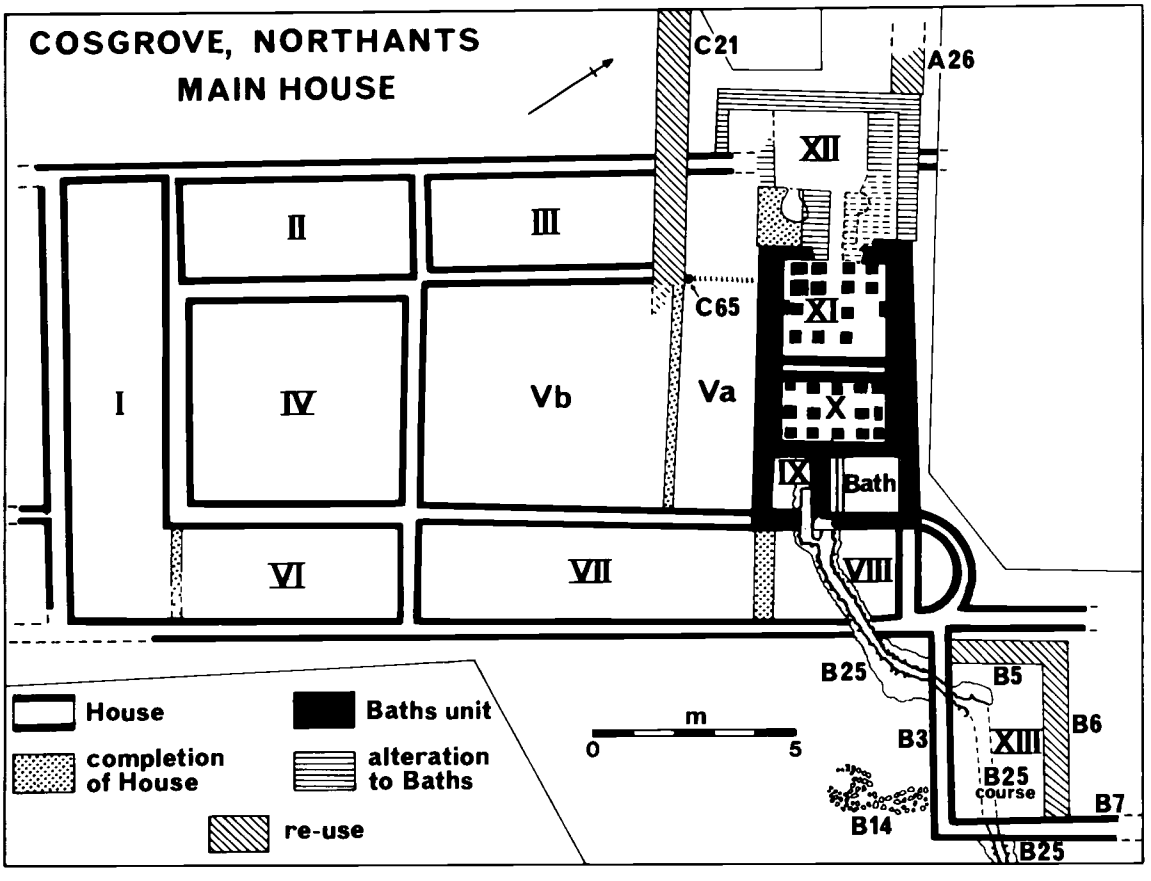

Fig 4 Cosgrove: the Main House, Areas A to D.

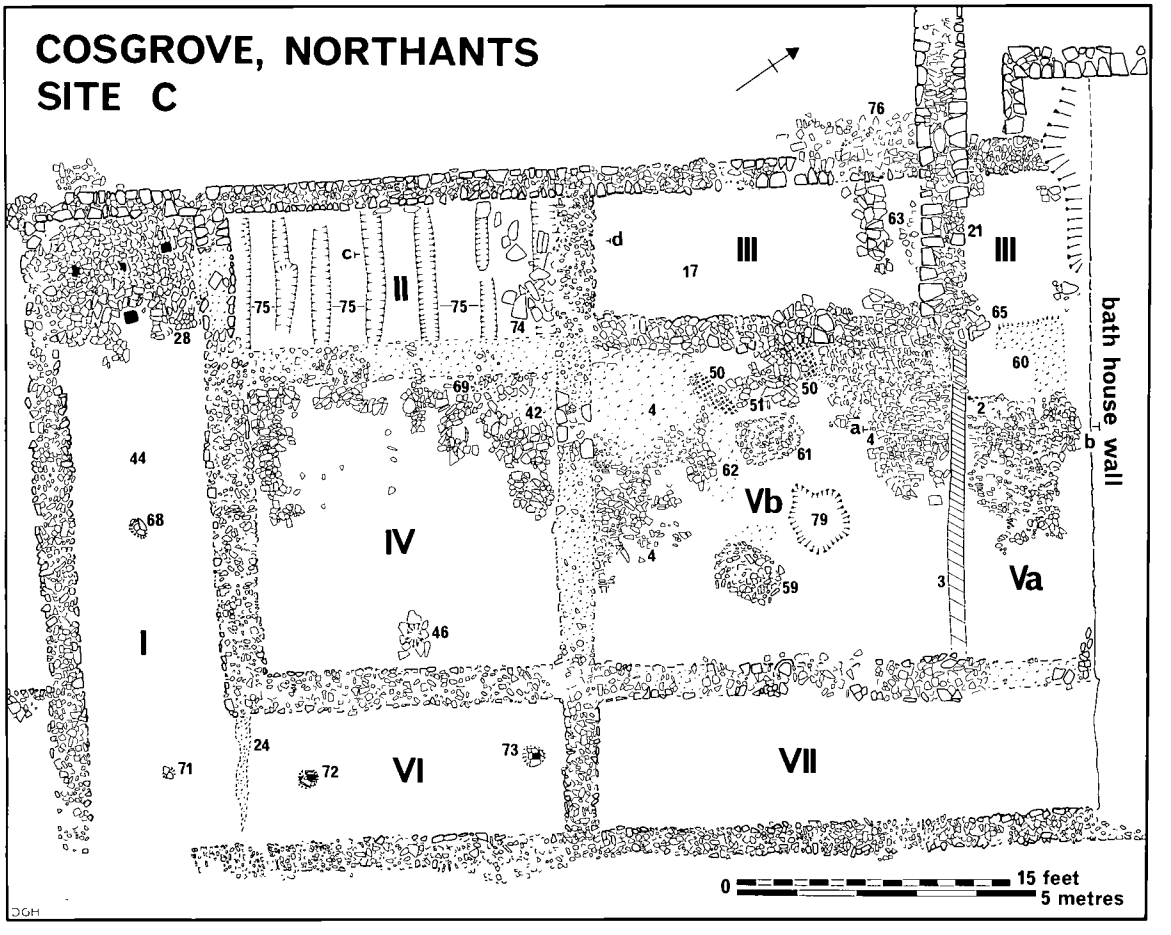

Fig 5 Cosgrove: plan of the Main House Area C.

Area C was fully excavated but funds did not permit further work on Area D, where the position of debris suggested that the Main House may not have been a straight range, with a few projections, but a more complex shape. A continuation to the south west was demonstrated by walls extending from Area C, although here no building rubble was noticed in the ploughsoil. The House faced south east towards the Ouse. It must be stressed that the sequence of building phases may have been more complex than that presented here as plough damage had badly affected all but the infill of the Bath House sub-floors.

THE MAIN HOUSE AREA C (FIGS 4–6)

The House here extended at least 18 m south west of the Bath House, and was 12 m wide externally. It was tripartite in plan; although the layout was irregular in detail, the central rooms were roughly twice the width of those on the exterior. A dark brown soil C58 merged down into the subsoil beneath the House. As only patches survived, topsoil was probably stripped before building work started; only beneath Room Vb did this soil contain artefacts. The foundations were trench-built, of limestone set in brown clay, and all wall junctions (except those of C3, dividing Rooms Va and Vb,) were bonded. Extensive plough damage had removed almost all walling above foundation level, except from the external north west wall; this was 0.40

to 0.50 m wide, of limestone ashlar bonded with yellow mortar. Plough damage was increasingly severe towards the south east side of the House, and had badly affected or completely removed floors. Only Room II and the north west parts of Rooms Va/b provided stratigraphic evidence for alteration to the original building. Where no associations for contexts are given below none survived because of plough damage.

ROOM I ran the full width of the House and was 10.5 by 2.4 m internally. Its north west end was covered by C28, small limestone blocks set on edge with some yellow mortar, which may have been the base for a mortar floor. C28 had an edge, possibly a step, on the line of the north west wall of Rooms IV and V. The remainder of Room I was covered by C44, 0.07 m thick, soil coloured dark red by small tile fragments. Four posts had been set in a line centrally down the room; two of these, and two further posts not on this line, were set with their packing continuous with C28; the other two were set in post-holes C68 and C71, both 0.12 m deep. The relationship of the posts to the floor suggests contemporaneity with the House though their function can not be explained (see Room VI). Floor C28 ended with a neat edge of yellow mortar on the line of the wall foundation between Rooms I and II, perhaps indicating the position of a wooden door sill.

ROOM II (FIG 6, c–d) was 4.4 by 2.5 m internally. Seven slots C75 *c.* 0.1 m deep ran across its width and may have held supports for a timber floor. The slots were partly burnt around their tops and their dark soil fill contained many nails, charcoal, tile and wall plaster fragments. A spread of rubble C74 filled and overlapped the slot at the north east end. C74 was covered by a thin soil C57 which extended all over the Room. There would appear to have been a fire, at least in this part of the House; elsewhere any contexts with evidence for a fire had been removed by the plough. An upper flooring C47 (not on plan), laid over soil C57, consisted of pitched limestone with yellow mortar on top; it formed a continuous surface with the mortar around the suggested door sill between Rooms I and II, and was roughly level with flooring C28 in Room I; it contained tiles of Milton Keynes Tile Fabric 2 and one piece of Fabric 5 (p 51).

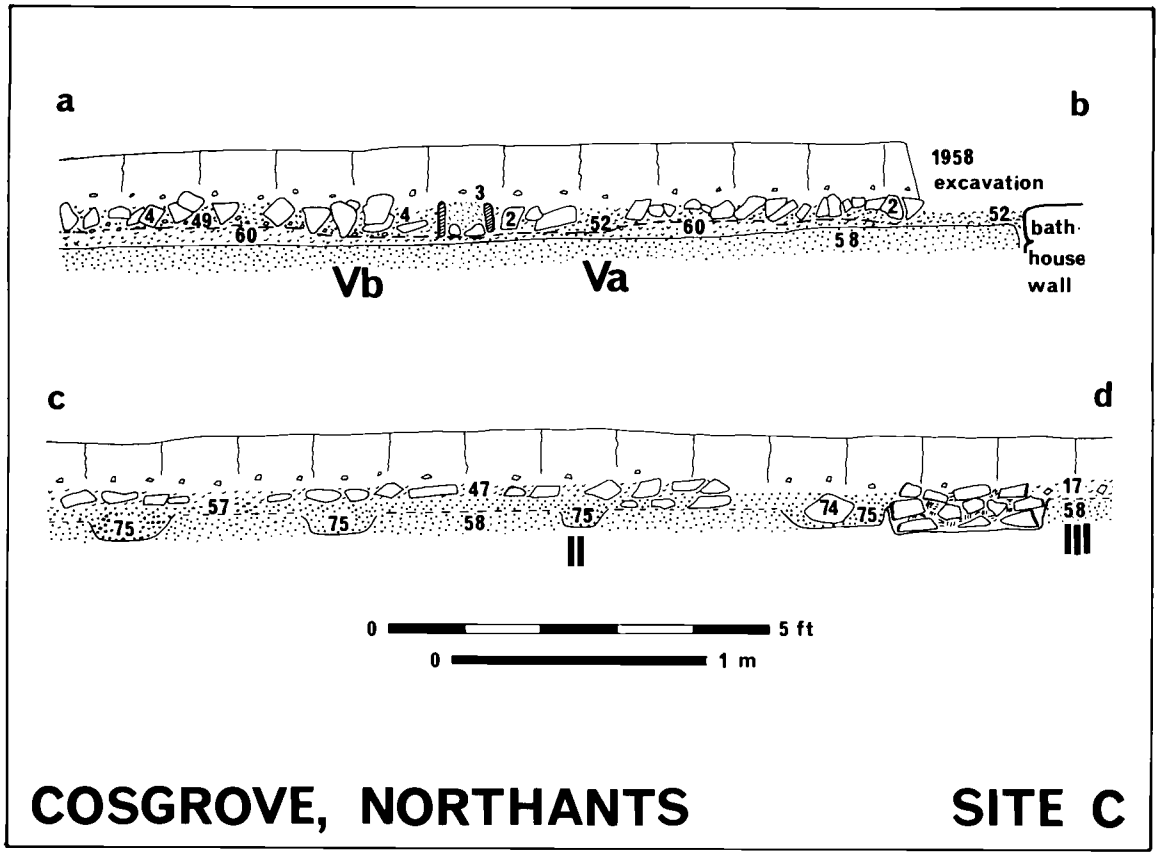

Fig 6 Cosgrove: the Main House Area C, sections.

ROOM III was 2.1 m wide and 8 m long internally. The interior was covered with C17, brown soil mixed with rubble and building debris of all kinds, tile, plaster and mortar. C63, flat-laid limestone slabs and yellow mortar, filled a depression in C17, and may indicate that Room III originally had a floor with a base of mortared limestone. The foundation trench of the later wall C21 cut into C17, deeply on the north west but becoming shallower across the Room.

ROOM IV was square, 4.75 m internally. Flooring C42 survived along the north west side, and consisted of flat-laid limestone set in soft yellow mortar, with traces of a harder pebbly mortar surface. Post-hole C69 (0.2 m deep) was set contemporaneously with floor C42. Post-hole C46 (0.25 m deep) had apparently held a squared timber on the south east side of the Room.

ROOMS Va and Vb (FIG 6 a–b) were divided by wall C3 at a late stage in the original construction sequence. Their interiors contained a series of features linked to the construction of the House, limestone spreads C51, C61 and C59, hard blue-green clay C50, pink mortar C62 and pit C79. These overlaid, or were cut into, the best preserved area of old land surface C58 beneath the House. These features were covered by mixed soil and mortar C60, which in turn in Room Vb was covered with red soil and tile mix C49. C49, surviving over the north west part of the Room, was sealed over only about half its extent by overlying flooring C4.

Wall C3 was built directly on the soil and mortar mix C60. The wall consisted of a reddish comminuted tile and soil mixture plastered pink on both faces, above a basal layer of limestone blocks set in yellow mortar. Room Va, 5.2 by 2.1 m, was covered by thick pink mortar C52 which formed the base for floor C2 of pitched limestone topped with yellow mortar. Floor C2 was definitely constructed against the Bath House wall. Post-hole C65 (0.25 m deep) may have related to a door or screen between Rooms Va and III. Room Vb, 6 by 5.2 m, was floored with C4, similar to C2 in Va but lacked a basal mortar layer equivalent to C52. As in all other Rooms, floor levels were not continuous because of plough damage.

ROOM VI, 5.5 by 2.1 m, may originally have been continuous with Room I, as the division between them C24 consisted only of a yellow mortar trace on the subsoil. Two post-holes C72 and C73 survived 0.1 m deep; like those in Room I they may have been for scaffolding (R Zeepvat *per. comm.*).

ROOM VII, 8 by 2.1 m, was too damaged for any internal features to survive.

THE BATH HOUSE AREA A (FIGS 4, 7, 8; PLS I–V)

The Bath House appears to have been built as an integral part of the Main House but with subsequent alterations. The *frigidarium* (IX), *tepidarium* (X) and *caldarium* (XI) were built as one unit with walls of limestone set with pink gravelly mortar, set symmetrically within the Main House. The subsoil beneath it had been dug out to a depth of 0.85 m to accommodate the hypocaust system and plunge bath, and also the *praefurnium* (XII) which in its surviving form was a structural addition. The south east corner of the *frigidarium* formed a straight joint with an internal wall of

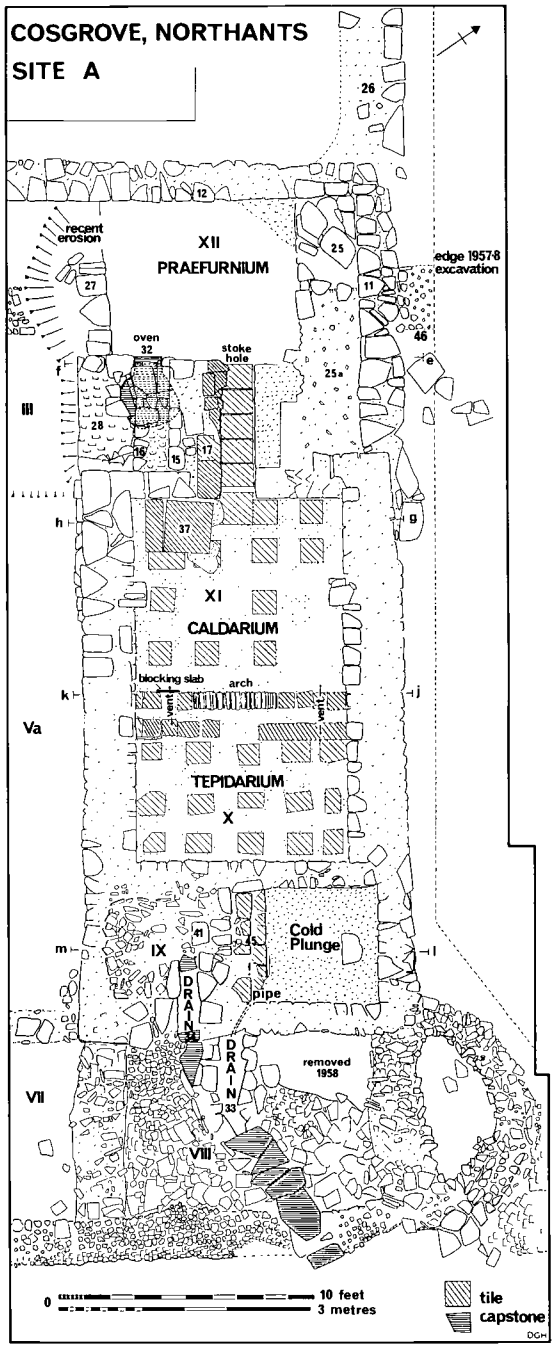

Fig 7 Cosgrove: plan of Bath House (Area A) within the Main House.

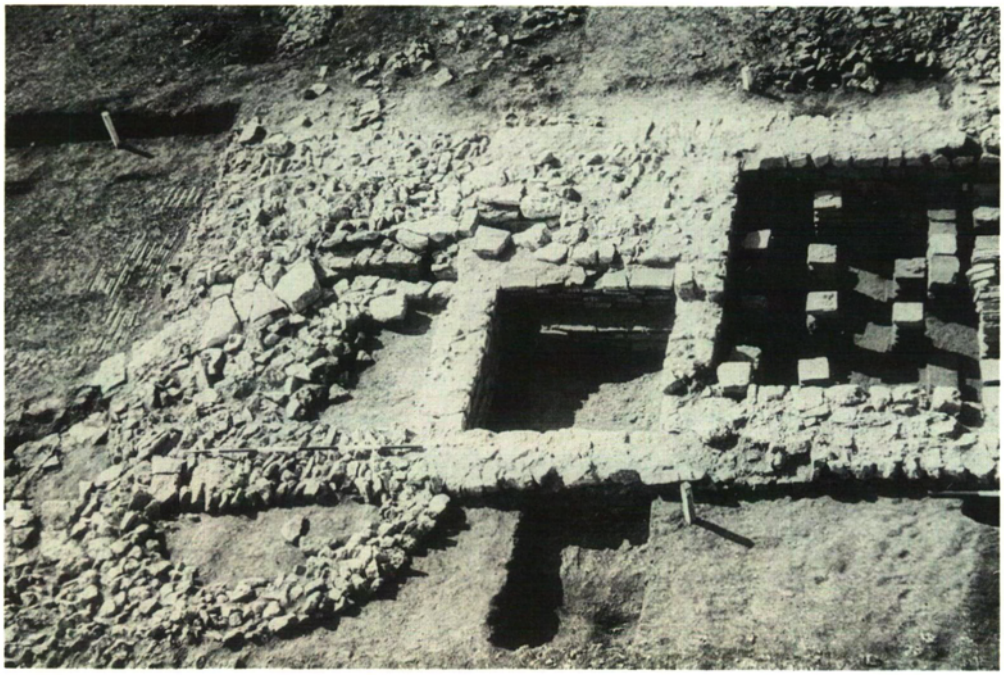

Plate 1 Cosgrove: Bath House in 1969, *apodyterium*, plunge bath and *tepidarium* from north east. Photo: author.

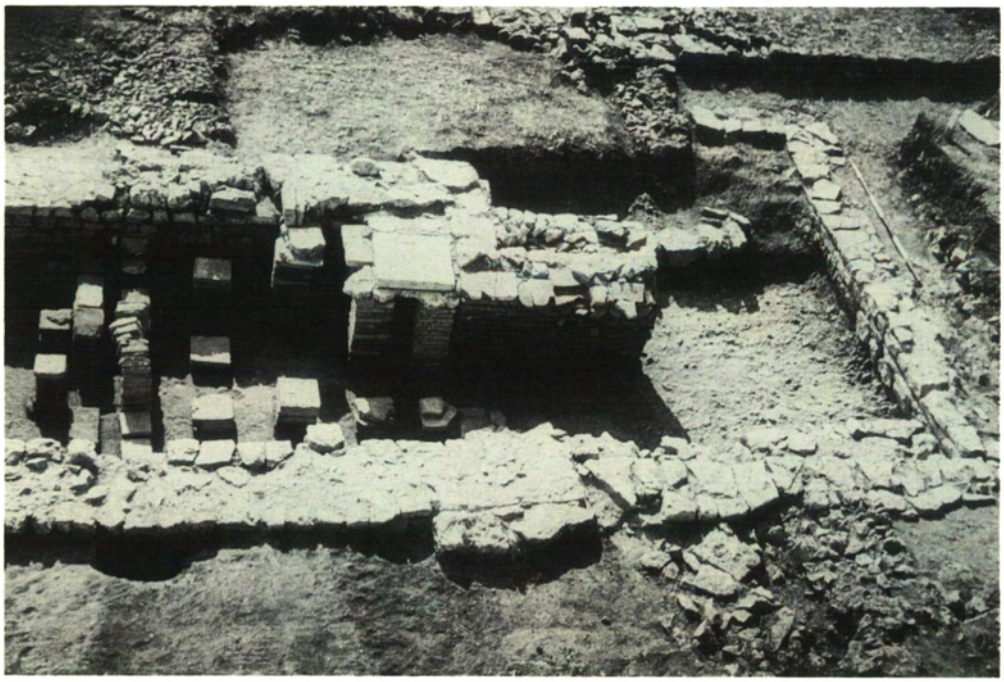

Plate 2 Cosgrove: Bath House in 1969, *caldarium* and *praefurnium* from north east. Photo: author.

the Main House; probably the Bath House unit was constructed first, so that this internal wall was built as a tight straight joint against it. Floor C2 of Room Va was built up against the Bath House. The *praefurnium*, and possibly the *apodyterium* (VIII), were later additions. All tile used structurally was of Fabric 2 (p 51).

THE APODYTERIUM ROOM VIII (FIG 7) was 3 by 2 m internally, with a small apsidal extension on the north east. All its walls were built with yellow gravelly mortar in the foundations; the outside wall of the Main House changed its build here. The junction of the apsidal extension (gravelly mortar) with the Main House wall had become very eroded since Green's 1958 work and the precise nature of the joint could not be determined. The Main House wall continued into Area D on a clay and limestone foundation. The surviving evidence would best support a sequence in which the Bath House Unit of *frigidarium* etc was first constructed, then the walls of the Main House and finally the *apodyterium*. Its south west wall formed a straight joint with the outer wall, but was of similar build with yellow mortar; it predated the internal floor. This floor was of pitched close-set limestone in brown clay, constructed with drain A33 which ran across the room; Green noted an 'overall crumble of red' on its surface, which he interpreted as the remnants of a deliberately removed tile floor. Green also recorded 'wood stains and nails' on the wall in the east corner of the room, which he thought were the remnants of a wooden threshold. The apparent anomaly of the south west wall with its straight joint predating the internal floor can not be explained.

THE FRIGIDARIUM AND PLUNGE BATH ROOM IX (FIGS 7, 8 l–m) were together 3 by 1.4 m internally. The plunge bath, 1.7 by 1.35 m and 0.65 m deep, was lined with hard gravelly pink mortar and approached by two steps (PL V) set with tile (Fabric 2) pieces. Its floor, with a single limestone slab set in the mortar, sloped slightly toward the south corner where a lead pipe 0.06 m in diameter gave access to the drain A33. The mortar of the bath was finished with a smooth thin pink plaster which contained a few nails *in situ*. Green referred to rows of nails and presumed there had been a lead lining.

The subsoil in the *frigidarium* outside the plunge bath had only been removed to a depth of 0.5 m. The inner edges of the walls, at the foundation level at which they survived, had been left ragged, including the rear of the bath steps. The space so formed *c.* 1.35 m across had been carefully infilled by A41 (FIG 8 l–m). This consisted of A41a, a mixture of brown soil and red tile fragments placed around the sides, then A41b, flat limestone slabs in yellow mortar across the bottom. These were covered by A41c, more slabs in an orange mortar and topped by A41d, pitched limestone in yellow mortar with traces of a pink mortar surface. This filling A41 was contemporary with drain A34 which ran from its centre. Drain A34 started 0.18 m deep, dropped 0.22 m along its length and a further 0.14 m as it joined drain A33 with which it was bonded. The plunge bath drain, A33 0.5 m deep, had five courses below its capstones, the lower with pink mortar, the upper with yellow. It appears to have been a watertight channel, rather than a setting for a pipe. (Pink mortar appears to have been used in the Bath House where masonry was required to be watertight.) Beyond the Bath House this drain was traced for 60 m (see B25, X21) until its end was cut away by wall X26. A large quantity of loose pink mortar was found in its fill along the whole length.

The two drains A33 and A34 suggest that a continuous supply of water was piped through the Bath House from the cistern located by Green (FIG 2, PLS VI & VII and p 17). The water would have run into the plunge bath from which A34 would have provided an overflow arrangement, with the possibility of some additional fitments. A33, leading from the bottom of the bath, would have allowed the bath to be drained for cleaning.

THE TEPIDARIUM ROOM X (FIGS 7, 8 j–k). The sub-floors of the *tepidarium* (2.5 by 1.5 m) and the *caldarium* (XI) were made up of hard pink gravelly mortar 0.05 m thick before the wall dividing them was built. This wall was hollow; it consisted of two rows of tiles flat-set in pink mortar 0.12 m apart. Both rows had had a central tile arch with triangular vents on either side (PL IV). The north west arch was found collapsed by Green and rebuilt (FIG 8 j–k; PLS I, III). There were 15 *pilae*, in three rows of five, which survived to varying heights. Their bases were formed by tiles trimmed down to *c.* 0.25 m squares, above which the standard smaller sized tile 0.22 m square was used with a distinctive pink-white flecked mortar. No raised flooring remained. The partition wall and the north west row of *pilae* were smoke-blackened.

THE CALDARIUM ROOM XI (FIGS 7, 8 g–h) was 2.5 by 2.3 m. There had been 16 *pilae* set in four rows of four; of these 13 survived. These were built of tiles 0.3 m square with mortar visually identical to that in the *pilae* of the *tepidarium*. Part of the raised floor survived in the west corner, showing the sub-floor cavity to have been 0.73 m deep (FIG 8 g–h). The raised floor was formed by capping each *pila* with a larger tile, on which limestone slabs 0.58 m square and 0.08 m thick were set in pink mortar. Green records a covering of 'chalky marl' on these slabs, and chunks of *opus signinum* from the sub-floor infill, together with quantities of broken box-flue tiles. There was a gap *c.* 0.073 m wide between the surviving raised floor slabs and the side wall, and projections of similar width on both side walls; the projections may indicate a median rib in a vaulted roof. It is presumed that this gap would have been infilled by a jacket of box-flue tiles on the walls. The *pilae* were smoke-blackened. A little stratigraphy had been left *in situ* by Green in the west corner. This consisted of a bank of rubble A47a, covered by smooth green-brown clay coated with pink-white mortar A47b (FIG 8 g–h). This bank had been placed against a vertical limestone slab blocking the south vent to the *tepidarium* (PL III) and was noted by Green all along the south west *caldarium* wall. The bank and blocking slab suggest some adjustment to the hypocaust system after its initial construction.

THE PRAEFURNIUM ROOM XII (FIGS 7, 8 e–f). This area had formed the access to the structure protecting the Bath House between the 1957/8 and the 1969 excavations, and consequently had become very eroded. The *praefurnium* walls were bonded with gravelly yellow mortar; they formed straight joints with those of the *caldarium* unit, appeared on the north west to cut through the outer wall of the Main House and on the south west to abut it. Its sub-floor formed a continuous level with that of the *caldarium*. The *praefurnium* projected beyond the Main

Plate 3 Cosgrove: Bath House during 1957/8 excavations. Arch between *caldarium* and *tepidarium*, with blocking stone across vent; from north west. Photo: C W Green.

Plate 4 Cosgrove: Bath House in 1969. Vent between *caldarium* and *tepidarium*, from south east. Photo: author.

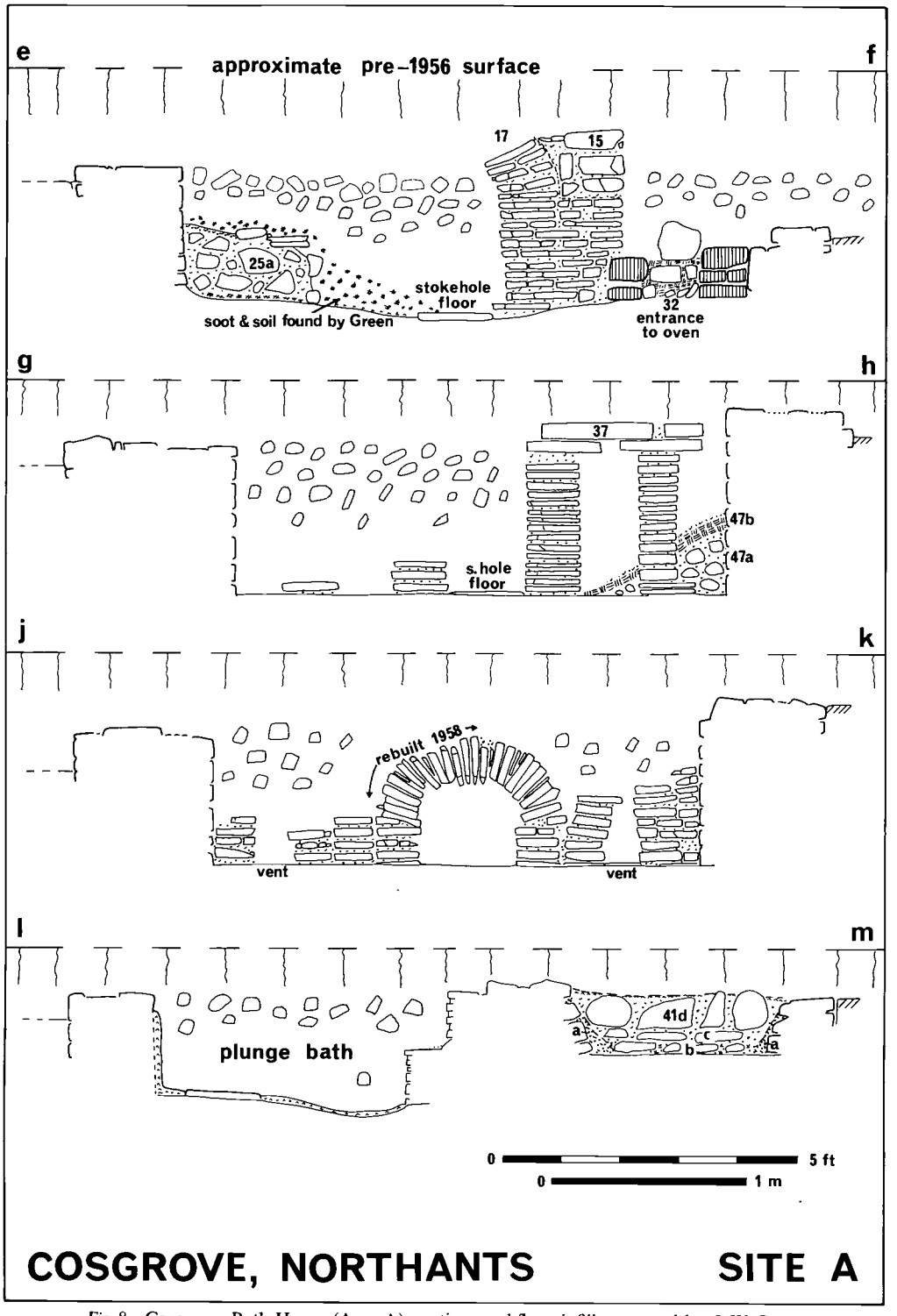

Fig 8 Cosgrove: Bath House (Area A), sections; subfloor infills removed by C W Green.

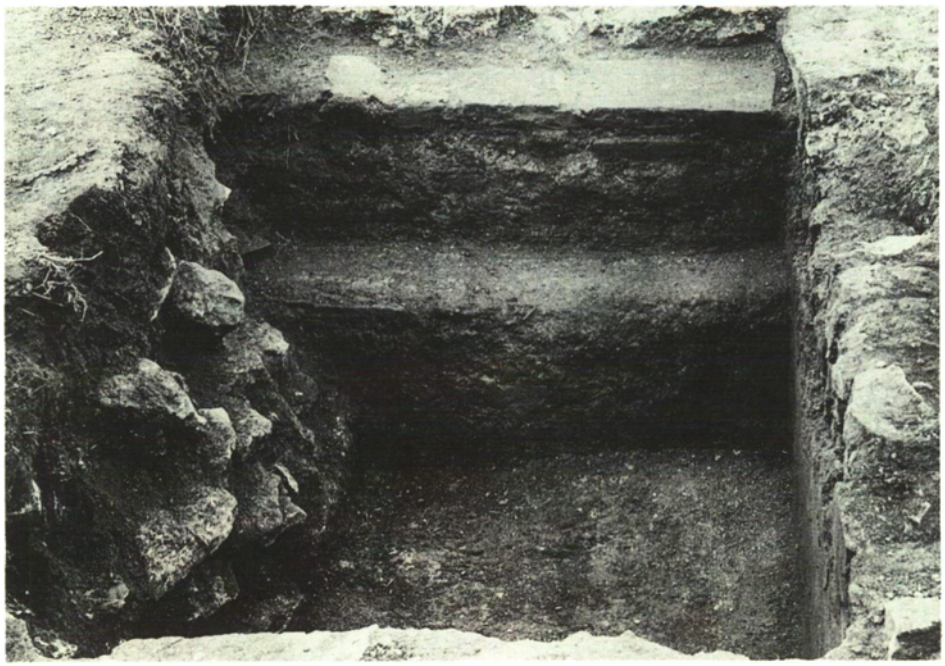

Plate 5 Cosgrove: Bath House during 1957/8 excavations. Plunge bath steps with infill in section, from north east. Photo: C W Green.

Plate 6 Cosgrove: cistern cleared in 1959, from south. Photo: C W Green.

Plate 7 Cosgrove: cistern cleared in 1959, from west showing start of conduit to Bath House. Photo: C W Green.

House asymmetrically. It seems probable that, in its suviving form, it was a later alteration to the original Bath House. Probably the only features of the original *praefurnium* are walling A28 with an *unmortared* rubble core and oven A32 constructed with 28. Oven A32 was nearly circular, *c.* 0.6 m across, with its floor, at the same level as the *praefurnium* floor, covered with clay which had burnt bright red; after a period of use it was blocked with rubble and the surviving stoke hole wall built over it. It can only be suggested that the original *praefurnium* was smaller than the rebuild and totally removed by the latter; it must have projected beyond the Main House to allow room for access to oven A32.

The later *praefurnium* was probably entered from the south west through a small antechamber and down steps; A27 butted onto A28 and the wear on its level surface suggested a step. The sub-floor had not been surfaced and was very worn. The stoke hole was 1.55 m long, 0.4 m wide, and floored with heavily burnt tile. It had been robbed out on its north east side. Its south west wall A15/17 survived 0.9 m high and showed the base of the covering arch. This wall A15/17 formed a butt joint with the *caldarium*. Its north east side A17 lining the stoke hole was built of tile but bonded with A15 of limestone which formed the south west face and was built over the blocking of A32. In the north corner of the *praefurnium* was platform A25, set on a 0.25 m step left in the subsoil; it was surfaced by yellow mortar with a skim of white. South east of A25, at sub-floor level, A25a consisted of thick wodges of pink mortar with traces of burning, and may have been the setting for some fixture. The reconstruction of the *praefurnium* may be linked with the alteration inside the *caldarium* suggested by blocking/ bank A47a/b.

THE CISTERN (FIG 2 and PLS VI–VII), west of the Buckingham Branch Canal, was located and cleared by Green in 1959. It was of ashlar limestone, D-shaped, about 2 m long, 1.5 m wide, and survived about 0.7 m deep. A stone-lined and capped channel led from it towards the Main House. Around the cistern was a courtyard of 'rammed rubble and pebbles'. When the cistern was excavated 'the clear spring water bubbled up from its crevices as in Roman days'. The feature has been marked as a pond on the 1970 OS 1:2500 map.

MAIN HOUSE AREA B (FIG 4)

The interior of Room XIII and a considerable, though undefined, area to its south, had been cleared by Green, who removed much of the subsoil so that wall foundations were left upstanding.

The south west and south east walls of Room XIII were built of yellow-mortared ashlar over limestone and clay foundations. The junction of the south west wall with the main outer House wall was eroded in 1969, but the scrappy remains suggested a bonded joint. Both walls incorporated B25, the continuation of the Bath House drain A33, the base of which was level with the bottom of the foundations. Room XIII was 4.5 m wide; its full length was not excavated. The interior had been excavated by Green to a depth below any sensible floor level, and he records finding no trace of the drain running across the Room.

Walls B5 and B6, bonded, were, though wider, of similar construction to the original walls on to which they butted. Their construction reduced the size of the Room to 3.3 by 2.1 m. It can only be presumed that the Main House was no longer standing, as the proximity of wall B5 to its outer wall makes no structural sense. Green (1959) records finding drain B25 blocked with a vertical stone as it entered the room. A blocking stone was found mortared in position on the other side of the wall in 1969. It seems probable that the drain was removed inside the Room when it was rebuilt because of the care with which the inlet was blocked. Green records the Room filled with building rubble; it seems quite possible that he did not distinguish between rubble infill and rubble flooring base. He further states that a coin of Claudius II (AD 278–80) was found in this rubble.

Outside in the angle between Room XIII and the main range, an area of plough-scraped rubble was found resting directly on the subsoil. Part of this had been removed by Green who recorded a quarter circle of four steps set in the angle (1959, 116 & FIG 12). It seems probable that the 'steps' were a misinterpretation of the drain, which as it curves across the angle was built up on its outer side because of a fall in the ground. In 1969 the drain was found covered by rubble undisturbed by Green, and with its fill B25 intact. An area of rough pebble surfacing B14 was the only other feature found in this area. East of Room XIII the drain B25 was traced and its intact fill excavated for 20 m; only a few of the capstones had been removed, but its mortary soil fill contained many pot sherds.

BUILDING MATERIALS AND THE STRUCTURE OF THE HOUSE

The House was built, as were all structures on the site, of the local Great Oolite Limestone. The comparatively slight foundations suggested a timber framed house, with the Bath House stone built, as indicated from the rubble infilling the sub-floor cavities.

Tile fragments, *imbrices, tegulae* and box flues all of Fabric 2, were numerous among the rubble. A single fragment of purple slate, similar to the Swithland Precambrian slates of Charnwood Forest, came from C2 the floor in Room V (identified by M Owen, Geological Museum). Swithland slate was used in the fourth century at Bancroft (R Zeepvat *per comm*). Tufa fragments were recorded by Green in the plunge bath infill, and limestone voussoirs from the *praefurnium*. Tufa outcrops about two miles down the Ouse at Haversham; tufa was used in the roof of the southern bath suite at Bancroft (R Zeepvat in Mynard 1987, 107) and a piece of tufa was found in Building IV (not baths) at the Stanton Low villa (C Woodfield *per comm*). It may be suggested that the Main House was tiled, but that a single barrel vault of tufa (with some limestone ?) roofed the baths.

There were numerous small fragments of wall plaster from C, mostly yellowish with a white surface and traces of red, green and black paint, sometimes mixed to give a marbled effect, some sealed by the upper floor in Room II. In the Bath House pinkish wall plaster surfaced with white was found in 1969 in the drain fills and on the *praefurnium* floor; this had red, or less frequently, green or black paint. Green noted quantities of wall plaster and commented that those found in the *tepidarium* were green-painted, while those in the *praefurnium*, presumed to derive from the *caldarium*, had white stripes on a red background.

Window glass (p 34) came from contexts in the Bath House and from the Main House; these included rare triangular shaped quarries. A quantity of glass from Bath House contexts was examined for Green by Dr D B Harden; it appears to have been of similar type to that described in the present report but can not now be located.

DATING OF THE FLORUIT OF THE MAIN HOUSE AND BATH HOUSE

Samian (p 36) sealed beneath the Main House suggests that it was constructed at least after *c.* AD 138. Samian in building level C49 (p 9) may indicate a date after AD 160–192. There is no direct evidence for the Bath House, but this is argued above to have been built with the House. Pottery associated with the later floor levels in Room II would be consistent with a date in the later second century, as is the incorporation of a piece of Fabric 5 tile, the production of which is now seen to start in the late second/early third centuries (p 51). Rubbish dumped in the *praefurnium* after it ceased to be used should not date beyond the end of the second century. These date brackets allow only some thirty to forty years for the use of the Bath House, including the alterations to the *praefurnium*. This range may be considered too short. The plan of the House and Bath House is more typical of the late first and early second centuries than of a later period (p 58), and it is to this early date that glass vessel No 1 from floor C4 is likely to belong. It is just possible that the pottery from C49 is intrusive, as that level was only sealed around its edges by the overlying floor; elsewhere the floor had been removed by the plough. This would extend the range for the use of the Baths and the House together to possibly sixty years.

THE END OF THE BATHS AND SUBSEQUENT USE OF THE MAIN HOUSE AREA

As Green had removed all non-structural levels (except A47a/b) from the Bath House, the interpretation of its later history depends entirely on his records. He found on the *praefurnium* floor a 'trampled and gritty' layer of soot 0.12 m thick. From this, and from a sooty soil extending over platform A25, a quantity of domestic rubbish, food bones, oyster shells and pottery were retrieved. Green considered that this material indicated that the Bath House had stood unused for a while. The pottery is here published as A47 (late second century); the large size of many pieces support its deposition in midden conditions. (All the pottery passed by Green to the author was grouped as coming from this context; it is quite possible that this pottery A47 does in fact contain a little material from other Bath House contexts.) After this period of disuse Green suggested that the Bath House had partly collapsed, evidenced by the large number of voussoirs on the *praefurnium* floor. It had then been demolished, all useful material such as the floor slabs in the *caldarium* removed, and the sub-floor cavities and plunge bath carefully packed with debris. Green's photographs show the plunge bath filled with large chunks of building material but the infill in other areas seems largely soil and small fragments. There seems no reason to doubt Green's broad interpretation, although no explanation is apparent for the demolition of the Baths after only, possibly, forty years.

Wall A26, which butted the north corner of the *praefurnium*, was 0.75 m wide and was of ashlar masonry with yellow mortar. It was similar in all respects to wall C21, and parallel to it. The foundation trench of C21 cut right through Room III; there were four above-ground courses surviving on the edge of the excavated area, but its height decreased and even its foundation trench could not be traced far into the area of Rooms Va/b. Wall A26 could have been contemporary with the Baths, but if it is accepted that it and C21 together formed a major structural alteration, this would have meant substantial modification of the the Main House in C. It seems likely that such a modification would have occured after a change in use, such as the demolition of the Baths. Otherwise the change has to be fitted into the short timescale proposed for the Baths and House as a single unit.

If it is accepted as probable that walls A26 and C21 formed part of a major structural alteration after the demolition of the Baths, it is probable that some walls at least of the original House and Bath House were still in use because A26/C21 aligned with its layout. No details can be suggested because of the extent of plough damage.

The rebuild phase in Room XIII Area B could be contemporary with the major structural alteration involved with walls A26/C21. This rebuild, with walls B5 and B6, implies that the outer wall of the Main House was no longer standing in this area, and was subsequent to the blocking of the Bath House drain. As it is suggested that the Bath House relied on a continually flowing stream of cold water, it seems reasonable to suggest that this stream was diverted on the demolition of the building, and that any structure post-dating the disuse of the drain could post-date the very late second century. The disused drain material ranged from the second to the fourth centuries.

Whatever the plan of the Main House after the demolition of the Baths, it seems improbable that it represented a residence with the degree of sophistication suitable for the centre of a villa estate. Finds are sparse and there is no evidence for interior fitments or for alterations. The extant evidence is so scanty that no definite interpretation can be proposed.

A little of the pottery found in C could be third century. A coin of Claudius II AD 278–280 from the rubble infill of the re-used Room XIII Area B may indicate a late third century date for its final disuse. Building rubble over Areas C and B contained no pottery later than the late third century (P Marney *per comm*, not published), and only a little Fabric 5 tile. Some pottery dating into the fourth century had been dumped in the drain probably as capstones became dislodged. The dumps in the drain provide the only evidence for fourth century activity in both the Main House Area and in Area X; in both cases the nature of this activity can not be ascertained. A single Saxon seventh century sherd from ploughsoil over C (p 51) points to some later use of this area, as of W and Z.

AREA Y (FIG 3)

Permission was given for a single trench in the field to the south of the main excavations to check the extent of Roman buildings. The trench revealed a stone structure, partly robbed out with eighteenth century material in the rob trenches. The structure, very much plough damaged,

included a passage-like room 1.6 m wide, which was part of a building continuing to both south west and north east. The nature of the foundations suggest that the structure was of Roman date, and a few Roman sherds were recovered.

BUILDING X AND ADJACENT STRUCTURES (FIGS 3, 9)

The Building was situated on a slight eminence (0.5 m) and was consequently badly plough damaged. It was underlain by a brown soil X32, the removal of which, restricted to a single trench ('fully dug' FIG 9), produced no features and very few artefacts.

The initial structure was a simple rectangle, 4.5 by 10.1 m internally, of which only the trench-built limestone and clay foundations remained. The flooring survived as a disturbed spread of limestone and pebbles X24. There may have originally been only one room. The wall dividing Rooms I and II butted the outer walls, was not trench-built and its relationship to flooring X24 was unclear; it was of similar construction to the north east wall of Room III which also lacked a foundation trench. (The similarity of these walls, and their difference in construction to the trench-built wall around Rooms I/II is the reason for assuming a difference in date. This reason may be considered insufficient; if so Building X was three-roomed from the start and, because of the contemporaneity of the outer wall of Room III with drain X21, the continuation of the Bath House drain, X would have been built at the same time as the Bath House.) It is likely that the division of Rooms I and II and the addition of Room III, symmetrical with the original structure, formed the first phase of alteration; it is possible that Room III was open at either end and was some form of veranda, unless its side-walls were not trench-built and therefore did not survive. The flooring of Room III, X37, was similar to X24. Outside spreads of limestone X22 formed a rough and discontinuous surface extending to the edges of the excavated area.

Drain X21, the continuation of the Bath House drain, appeared to have been constructed as part of the Room III wall. North of Building X wall X35 also appeared to be of one build with this drain. Wall X35, surviving only as a trench-built foundation ploughed away at its south east end, contained five post sockets, two either side of an entrance gap 0.9 m wide. It may have formed a boundary, perhaps for the whole villa complex.

A second phase of alteration to Building X was the addition of the symmetrical, projecting Rooms IV and V; their trench-built walls butted those of the original Building. The relationship of Room V to the drain X21 was unclear becaue of the shallow depth of the foundations here and a modern disturbance; however sufficient of the drain survived to show that it had been a functioning structure, and that therefore Room V should have been built before the sealing of the drain which followed, perhaps sometime later, the demolition of the Bath House. Rooms IV and V were floored with limestone and pebbles, on which survived one small area X3 of flat-laid limestone and tile paving. Room VI probably represented a third stage of alteration as its badly damaged trench-built foundations butted those of Room V.

On the north east of the area wall X26 (FIG 3) was a comparatively late insertion, cutting the rubble paving X22 and the end of drain X21. This was 1.1 m wide of well-dressed but clay-bonded limestone over a clay and rubble trench-built foundation. X26 was the most substantial wall on the site, and may have replaced X35 as a boundary wall. It had been robbed out for 8 m at its north west end, and the surface of its rob trench fill of compact clay and rubble was worn level with the rubble surface X22 on either side. North east of wall X26 a short length of foundation X39 (FIG 3) was located but nothing could be ascertained of its phasing.

No mortar was found in any part of Area X (except in drain X21), suggesting that the walls may have supported a timber-framed structure. Scraps of *tegulae* and *imbrices* (mainly of Fabric 2 p 52) may indicate a tiled roof. A few fragments of cast glass window panes (p 34) indicate some glazed windows.

Building X is probably, on balance, to be interpreted as a simple residence, because in its successive phases it adheres to plans normally accepted as those of houses and because its interior entirely lacked features such as those in Building Z which may relate to craft activities connected with the running of an estate.

On the phasing suggested, the original building would predate the Main House, and would have been a single room 'cottage'. There is no direct indication of its date. The addition of Room III and boundary wall X35 would be contemporary with the Main House because of the relationship with the Bath House drain; they would thus have been built in the mid-second century. The 'wing' rooms, IV and V, may have been added during the later second century. Pottery from X32 (p 43), in soil which passed beneath the last addition Room VI, is late second to early third century. This would suggest that the Building was finally altered at, or later than, the time of the demolition of the Baths and alterations to the Main House. The addition of a new substantial boundary wall, at a time when the Bath House drain was out of use, indicates major alteration in the layout of the whole complex; this date could again be late second to early third centuries. Pottery (p 42) from both the internal and external surfaces of the building is second and third century in date, so that Building X may have continued in use well into the third century. The only possible fourth century pottery comes, as with the Main House, from dumps in the drain. The context for the wear on the surface of the rob trench fill of X26 is unknown, but must be late in the overall sequence on the site. The only dateable artefacts (apart from pottery and those in drain X21 fill) were the first century Hod Hill type brooch (No 1 p 28), found residually on the top of wall X26, and two probable second century glass vessels (p 34).

AREA W THE TIMBER SHRINE AND STONE TEMPLE (FIGS 10, 11, 12)

THE TIMBER SHRINE (FIGS 10, 11)

The features relating to this suggested shrine were masked by dark brown soil W22. This soil, up to 0.20 m thick, merged down into the clay subsoil, and was sealed by floor W14 of the later stone Temple, beyond which it extended

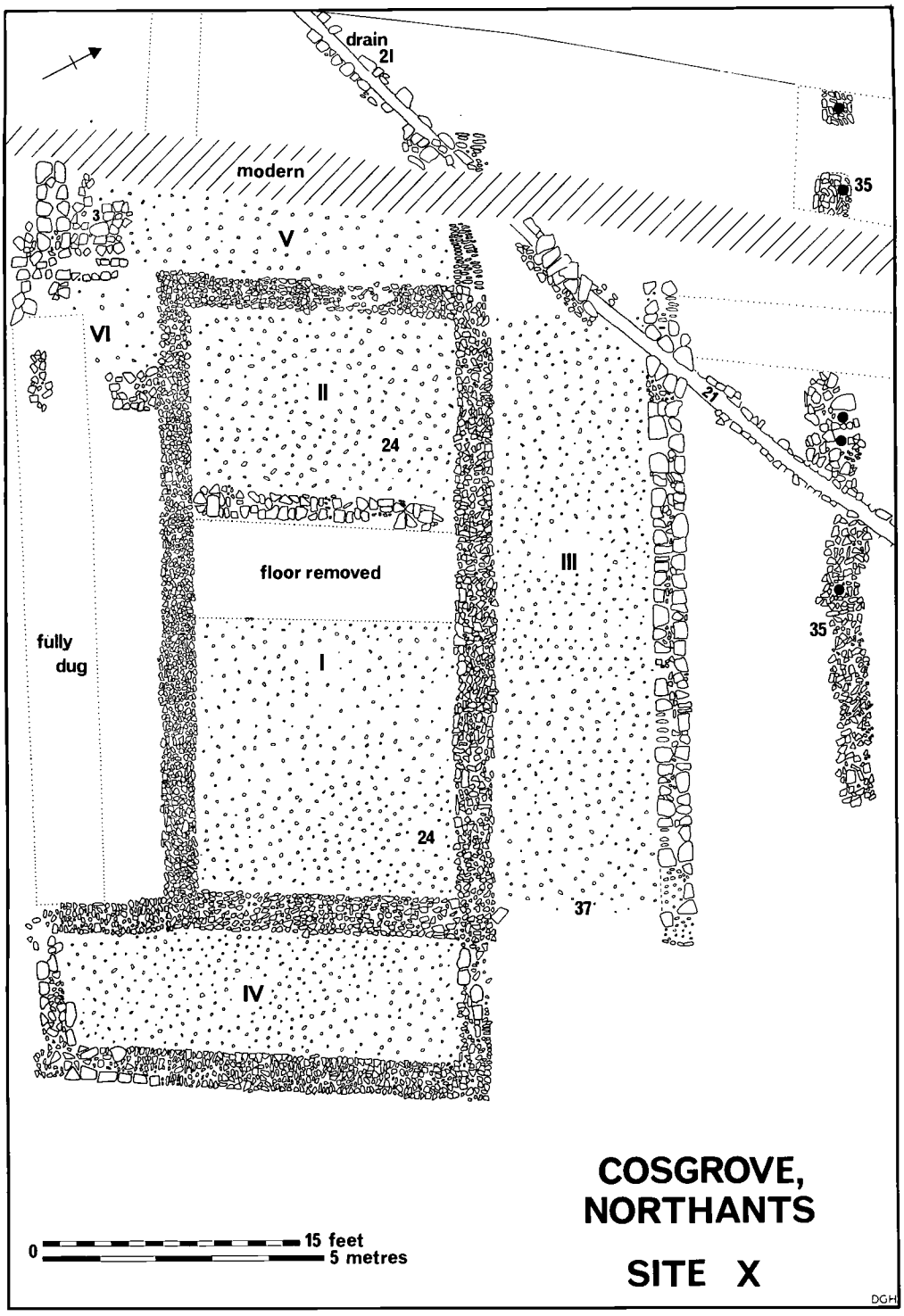

Fig 9 Cosgrove: plan of Building X.

only two to three m. The outlines of the features, mainly post-holes, gradually emerged as soil W22 was removed; the features were presumably dug originally from the top of soil W22 and so they would all have been more substantial than appeared during excavation. None of the features had a clearly defined post-pipe, but brown clay packing with occasional stones merged into central pockets of darker, softer soil. The presumed post-holes formed a slightly irregular square 2.5 m across with W46, W27, W53 and W35 at the corners; these holes survived 0.10 to 0.20 m deep. W47 and W48, larger and 0.35 m deep, were set symmetrically outside the square to the south east. A line of four features, W41 to W38 (0.05–0.2 m deep), may have belonged to an outer wall on the south west. Other features such as W33–W53 may have formed part of a rather irregular structure, but the proximity of others such as W31 and W34 may indicate some rebuilding. A little second century pottery (p 43) and a worn coin of Hadrian (p 27) came from the post-holes; this material would allow construction of the shrine contemporary with the Main House. The interpretation of the features as a timber shrine is based on its plan, a squarish structure with an entrance to the south east, either with a slightly constructed ambulatory or set within a fenced enclosure. The interpretation is supported by the position of the structure beneath the later stone Temple and its alignment with it.

Soil W22 contained second century pottery including a little post-dating *c.* AD 160/170. The sealing of this soil allows for the construction of the stone Temple in the late second century. The symmetry of the plans of the timber and stone phases suggests immediate replacement, yet the features of the timber shrine were blurred and lost in soil W22 as though there had been a time lapse and movement within this soil, perhaps through cultivation. The difficulty could be met had the site been deliberately dug over after the demolition of the timber shrine, perhaps as a religious act of site preparation.

THE STONE TEMPLE (FIGS 11, 12)

The cella was square, about 6.15 m internally, with an orientation of 106°. The complete circuit of trench-set foundations survived, but only parts of one course of dressed limestone remained on the south and east sides. A central, and possibly elaborate, entrance in the east side was indicated by broader walling, with scrappy limestone paving W6 just outside. Just north of the entrance parts of two human skulls (p 53) had been set in the wall foundation. Wall W25 of a possible ambulatory only survived for a short distance on the south; it did not have trench-set foundations. If its circuit were complete and symmetrical the temple would have had an overall diameter of 11 m. The internal floor W14 of small pebbles and compact dark soil was slightly plough damaged. A late second century date for the stone temple is suggested by the range of pottery sealed in soil W22 beneath its floor.

A single large post-hole W17 was set centrally in the cella. It had held a squared timber 0.22 m across in a pit 1.0 m deep packed with brown clay and stones. The top of the packing projected a little above the cella floor. The post appeared to have decayed *in situ*. Three coins from the packing Nos 15–17 indicate a date in the late third century (p 27); No 17 was embedded right at its base. The post was therefore an addition, about a century after the Temple's construction, and may indicate a phase of alteration contemporary with 'clearance pit' W21 (see below).

Pottery in floor W14, in rubble W7 over the Temple and its surrounds, ranged from second to fourth century in date. Rubble W7 produced 14 coins, from mid-second to late fourth century dates, together with a triple candle holder (No 3 FIG 17). The Temple may have remained in use until the end of the fourth century, although the pottery does not date as late as the coins.

Tegulae and *imbrices* suggest a tiled roof for both the timber shrine and the Temple. The contexts of window glass would also allow glazing of both (material from the Temple found in 'clearance pit' W21). Wall plaster from pit W21 provides the only indication that the Temple was plastered.

An extended human burial W13 (FIG 12) lay in or over the south east corner of the Temple, only 0.3m below the present surface, much plough-disturbed and without a definable gravepit. The main body had been laid on its back with its head, which did not survive, to the south. Hand bones from more than one individual were present. It was not possible to relate these remains to either of the skulls W4 buried in the Temple foundations (p 53). As the skeleton lay across the line of the suggested ambulatory but was roughly aligned with the building, it may have post-dated the collapse of the ambulatory wall but have been buried while the more substantial cella was still standing. The presence of sixth and seventh century Saxon sherds from W, including some intrusive in soil W22 outside the cella, provides an alternative post-Roman context for this burial.

BUILDING W18, PIT W21, WALL W50 (FIG 12); Z42 ETC SOUTH OF TEMPLE (FIG 3)

W18 was only represented by scrappy foundations. It would have measured about 4 m across internally and have been more than 5 m long, with corners strengthened by diagonal thickening of the foundations. This building did not align precisely with the Temple, and, assuming that the Temple had had a symmetrical ambulatory, would have overlapped it. It can not therefore have been standing at the same time as the Temple. There were no associated finds, even from the soil above it. The similarity of its foundations to those of other buildings on the site suggest a Roman date. As the Temple may have remained throughout the fourth century, it is most likely to have been contemporary with the second century shrine, a structure with which few finds were associated; in view of this propinquity a religious use for W18 is a possibility.

PIT W21 (FIG 12), 0.3 m deep and 4 m across, lay west of Building W18. Its fill contained large quantities of limestone, tile, pottery, ironwork, 39 coins, glass including window pane fragments, and wall plaster with a yellow matrix similar to those beneath the upper floor in Main House Room II. The probable date of the pit, based on the coins (p 27), is in the early 280s. Its most likely function is for clearance, the burial of material removed during a stage of shrine refurbishment; the most likely context for this is the late third century alterations connected with the insertion of the post in W17. (The lower part of the pit was differentiated as W21A in site records, but the distinction has only been retained in the coin report).

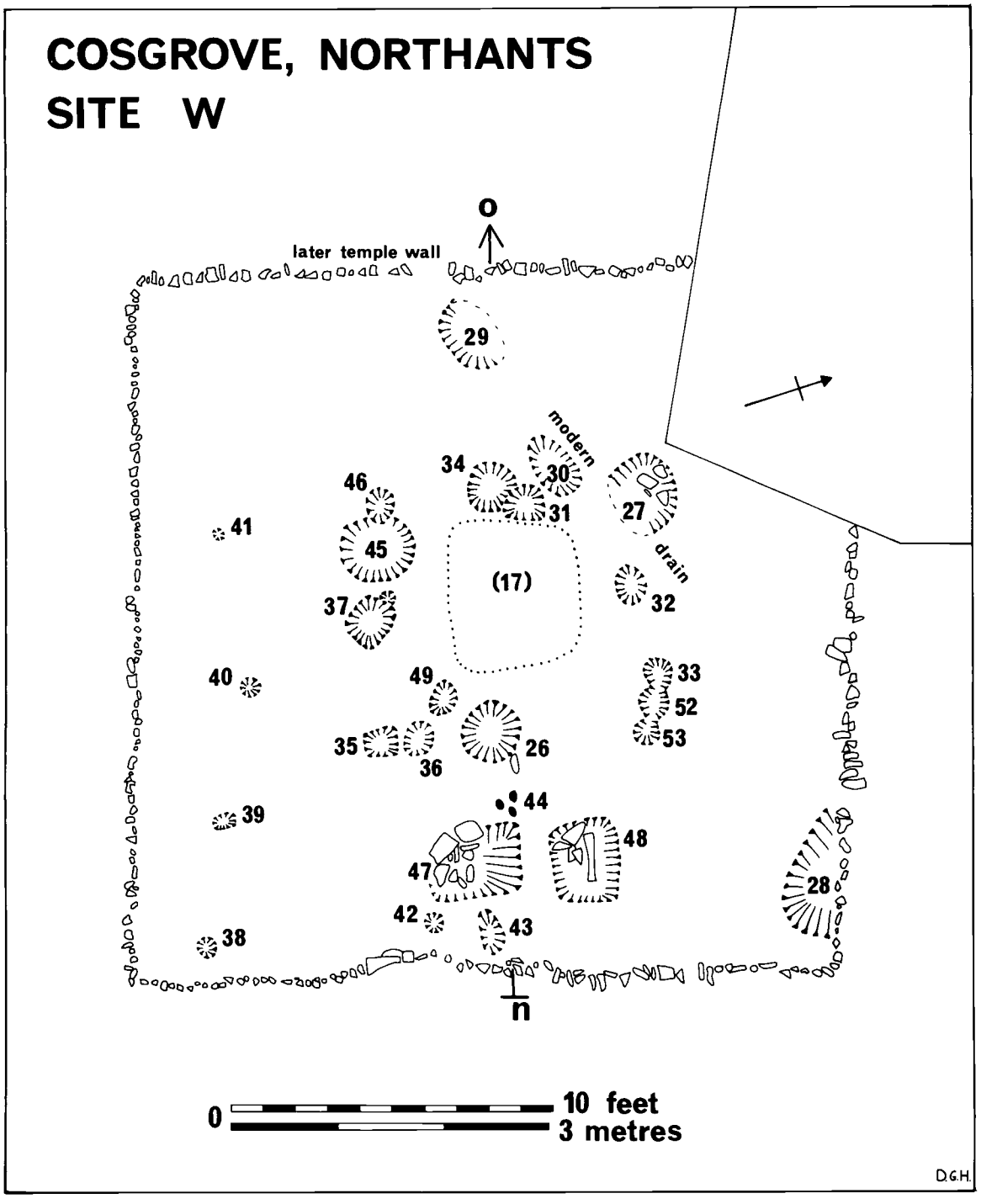

Fig 10 Cosgrove: plan of timber shrine Area W.

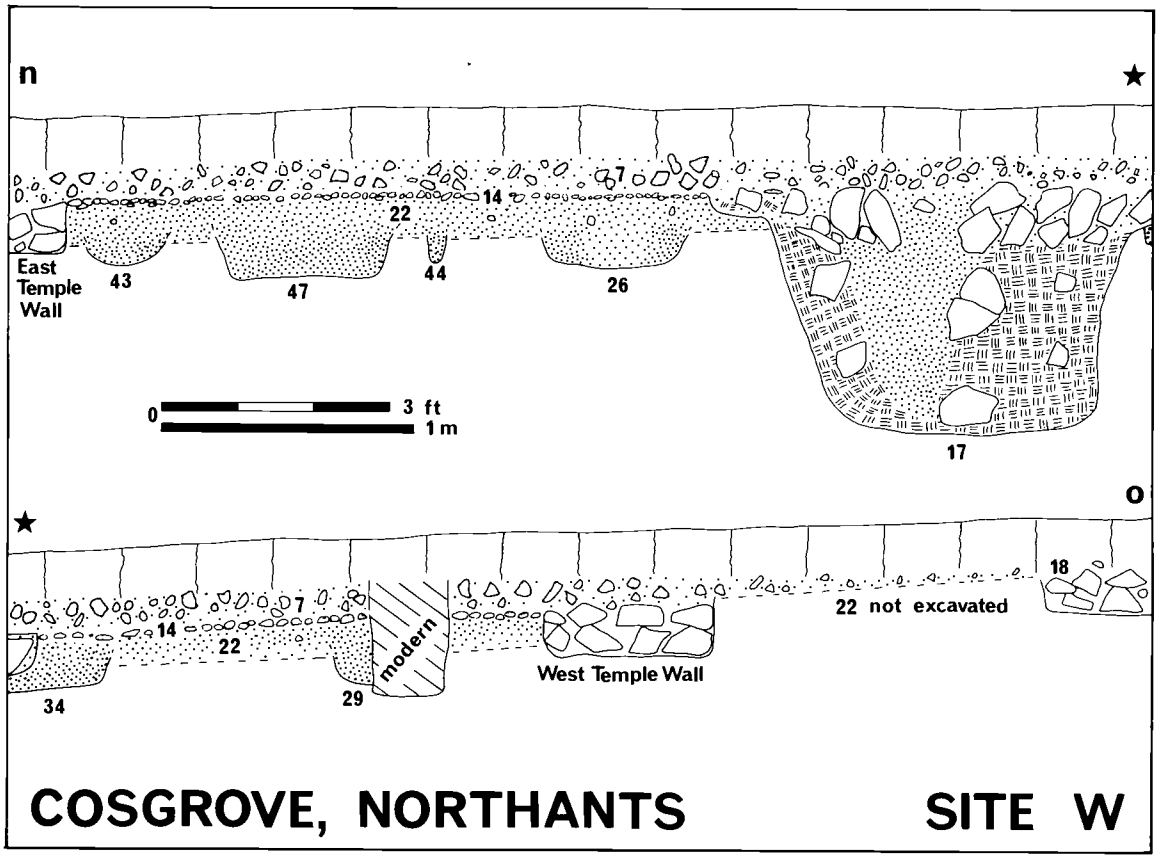

Fig 11 Cosgrove: Temple and timber shrine Area W, sections.

WALL W50 (FIG 12) north of the Temple consisted only of a fragment of undated plough-eroded foundation.

GULLEY Z42, POST-HOLES Z43, Z62, Z63 (FIG 3), just south of the Temple, were the only features encountered in the trial trenches outside the main excavation areas. These could not be dated.

BUILDING Z AND LATE NEOLITHIC OCCUPATION BENEATH (FIGS 13, 14)

LATE NEOLITHIC OCCUPATION (FIG 13)

Dark brown soil Z32 had been protected from plough erosion by floor levels and debris from Building Z; this contained Late Neolithic flints and pottery and sealed features of this date. The soil,labelled Z30 outside the Building, survived best beneath the Building itself, but extended 25 m to the north before fading out and at least 5 m to its east. Z32 was removed in an irregular strip inside the Building, and Z30 outside to the north, until it faded out along the trial trench. Prehistoric features and pottery were only found beneath the Building.

Soil Z32 faded down gradually into the standard brown clay subsoil on the site, and was removed to the depth at which there appeared to be no admixture of dark, humic matter. Prehistoric soils and feature fills excavated south of the Ouse in the Milton Keynes area are described as reddish-brown and 'typical of archaeological sites of Sub-Boreal age located on sub-soils of or containing limestone' (Green 1975, 11). Re-examination of colour slides of Cosgrove suggest that all the subsoils and prehistoric feature fills were similar and should have been recorded as '(dark) reddish-brown', but the publication descriptions have been left in uniformity with the archive record.

Eleven probable post-holes and a small gulley were found cut into the subsoil beneath soil Z32. Although only two, Z45 and Z54, contained prehistoric material, the features are considered to be approximately contemporary because of the similar nature of their fills, the similar depths at which they were detected and lack of other associated artefacts. All the features were detected at the point where Z32 merged with the subsoil, and all fills were of dark

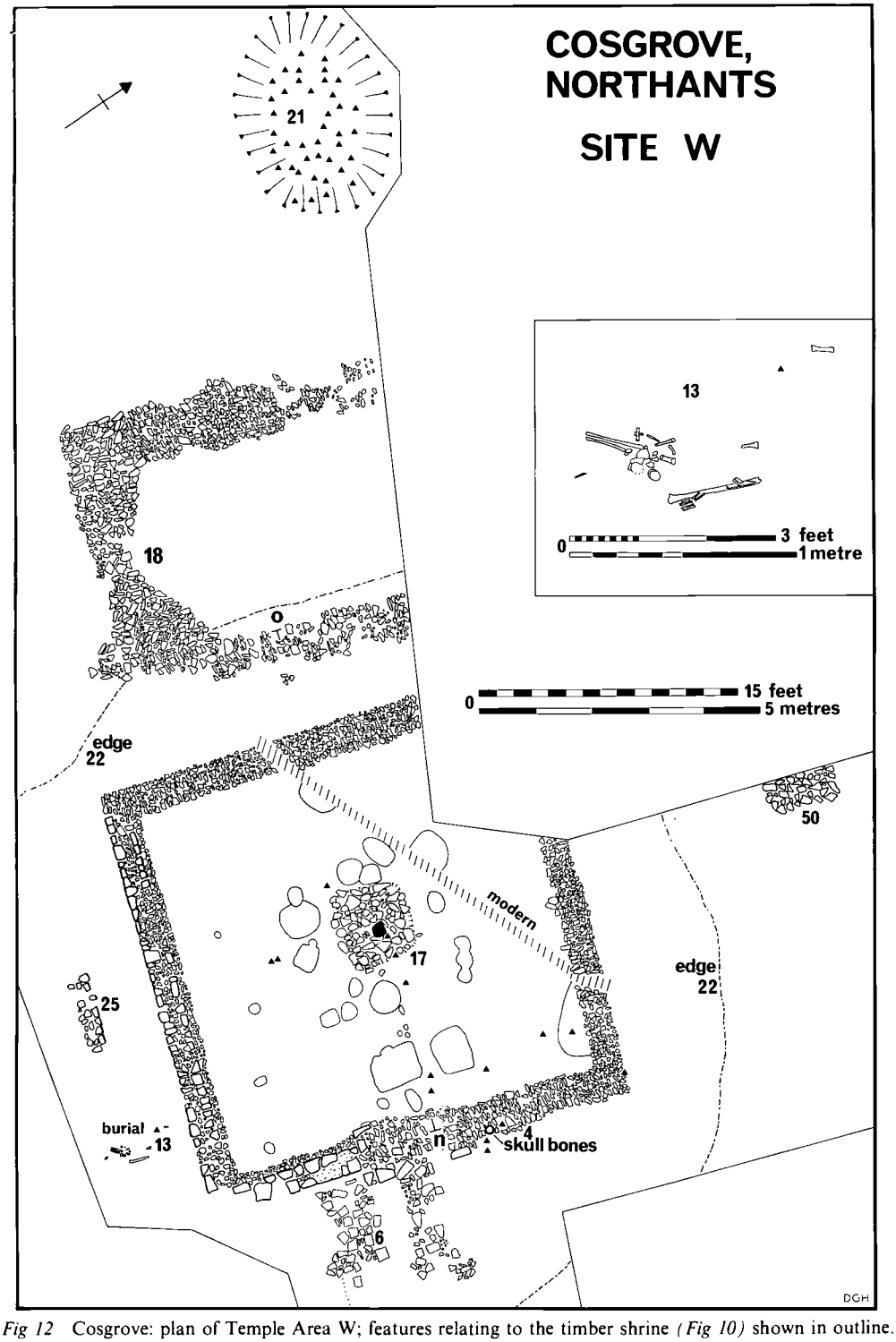

Fig 12 Cosgrove: plan of Temple Area W; features relating to the timber shrine *(Fig 10)* shown in outline. Triangles indicate coin findspots.

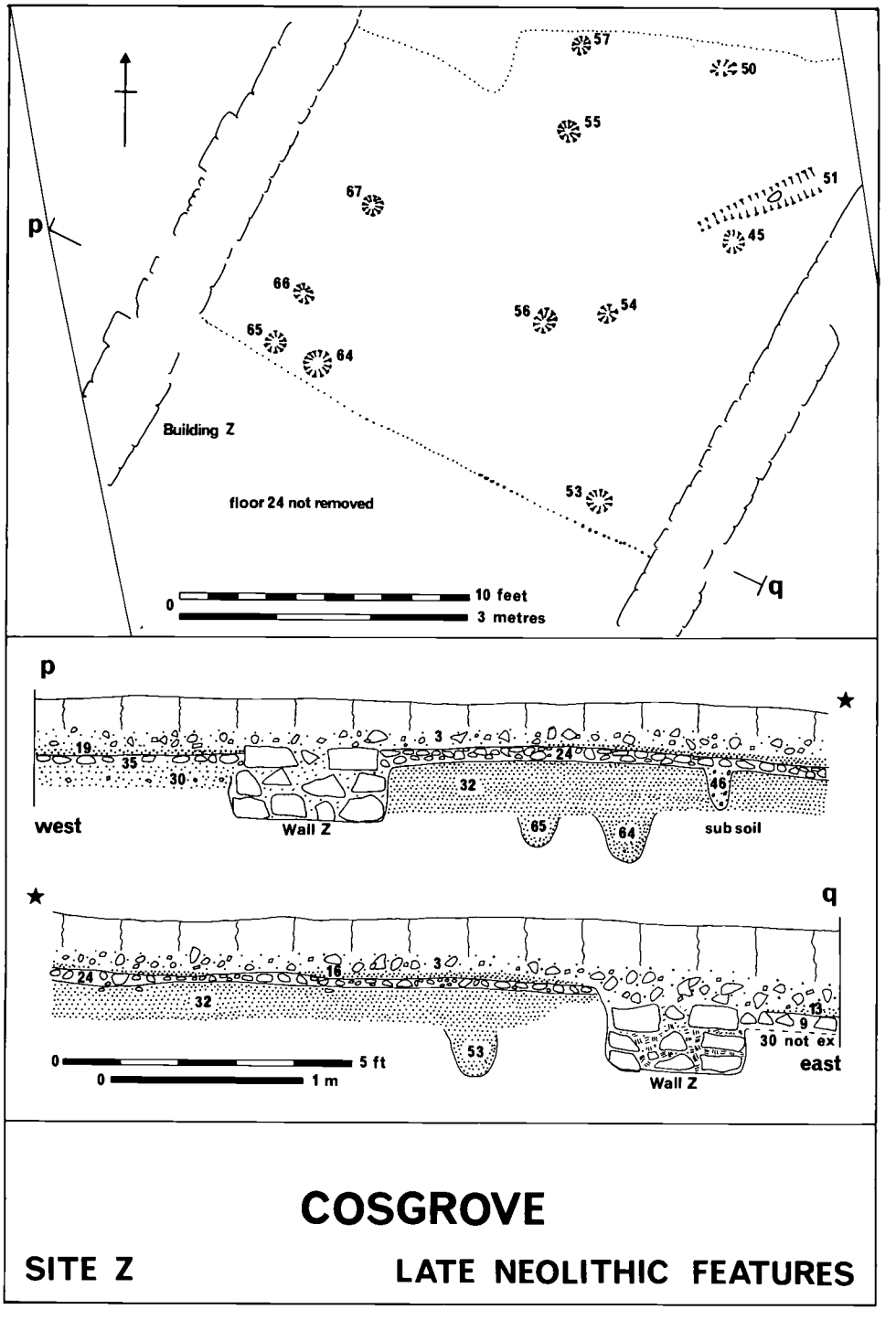

Fig 13 Cosgrove: Late Neolithic features Area Z; sections Area Z.

brown clay soil. There were no distinct post-pipes, but fills became darker and softer towards the centre of features. The upper part of soil Z32 contained Roman material, but only prehistoric artefacts were found in its lowest 0.10 m. The survival of fragile Neolithic pottery, even in small fragments, suggests that there had been little subsequent disturbance of this lowest part of the soil. Because of the limited area, no structural interpretation of the features can be attempted. Surviving depths were: Z45 0.20 m, Z50 0.12 m, gulley Z51 0.10 m (containing a single limestone block on edge), Z53 0.25 m, Z54 0.30 m, Z55 0.30 m, Z56 0.12 m, Z57 0.12 m, Z64 0.23 m, Z65 0.15 m, Z66 0.15m, Z67 0.10 m.

BUILDING Z (FIGS 13, 14)

The Building, 5.3 m wide internally and at least 14 m long, was built of limestone set in brown gravelly mortar which survived in a few places above trench-set foundations. A patch of hard-packed rubble Z9 with a worn surface outside the south east wall may have formed the approach to a doorway, connected with post-hole Z25 inside the Building. A possible doorway nearly opposite in the north west wall was indicated by a slight thickening of the wall and internal post-hole Z59. Both doorways would have been *c.* 2.5 m wide. The upper part of soil Z32 was compact and contained pottery and fragments of building material and features, found only where part of the internal floor Z24 was removed. (No features were found beneath Z35 outside the Building despite its complete removal). The features inside the Building (underlined on FIG 14) showed no apparent pattern; Z33, Z36, Z46, Z47, and Z58 were post-holes or settings; Z48 (stone-filled), Z49, and Z50 were depressions. It appears that the surface of Z32 was used as the internal floor for some time. The small quantity of pottery in the body of underlying soil Z32 suggests a construction date in the late second century.

The Building was subsequently floored internally with Z24, a mixture of small limestone and sandstone fragments and some pebbles which had become worn. A heavily burnt area Z28 may have formed a hearth. Two post settings, Z7 and Z68, were incorporated 4.5 m apart in the floor on a line axial and almost central to the Building; they could have held ridge posts. The only other features in the floor were post-hole Z69 and large pit Z27 0.20 m deep. Outside a considerable quantity of pottery, dating mainly to the late third century (p 50), accumulated in the top of soil Z30 which was very compacted. This suggests that the yard surface Z35 was not laid for perhaps a century after the construction of the Building. Yard surface Z35 was similar

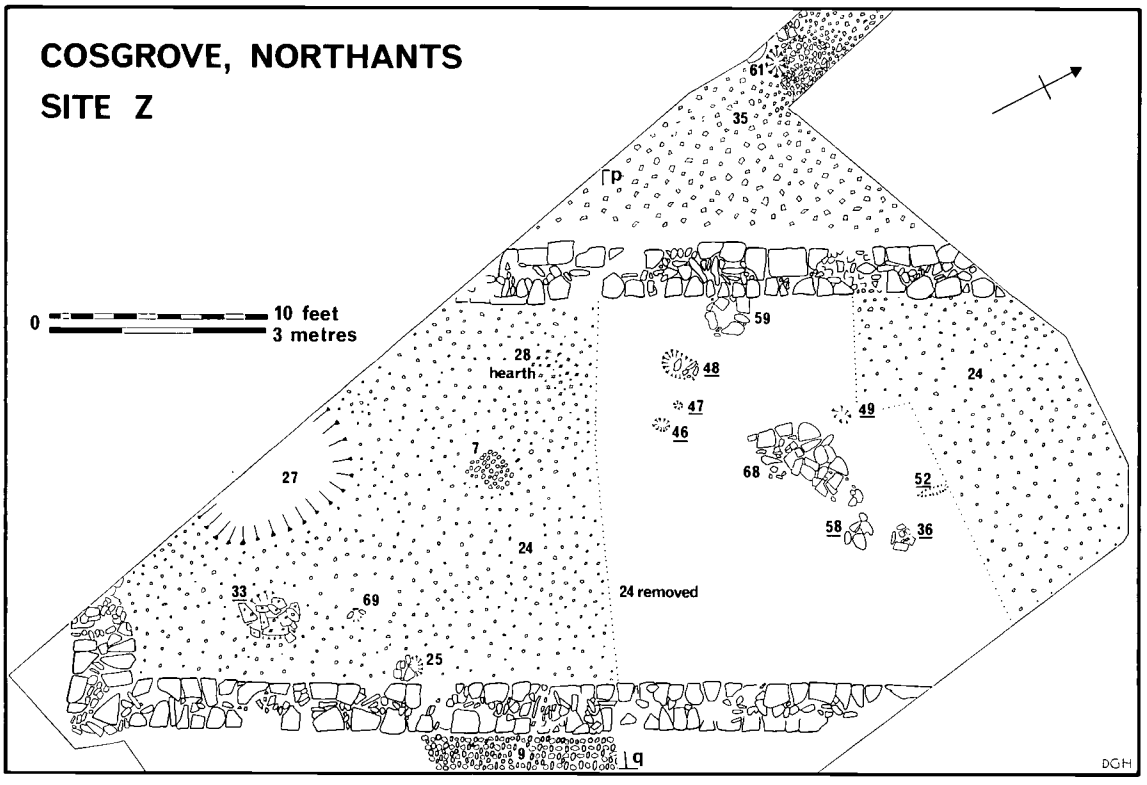

Fig 14 Cosgrove: Building Z; underlined feature numbers sealed by floor 24.

to internal floor Z24; it contained post-hole Z61. A thin layer of dark brown soil had accummulated on internal floor Z24; there were similar soils Z13 and Z19 on the external surfaces.

Tegulae and *imbrices* fragments (mostly of Fabric 2 p 52) indicate a tiled roof, but there was no trace of window glass or of wall plaster. Most pottery forms (p 48) were for storage or for eating off, not for cooking. The Building is more likely to have been some form of work place than a dwelling, consistent with the two large opposed doorways which seem unlikely for a domestic structure.

Pottery on the internal and external surfaces continued through to the later fourth century and was found (not published) in Z3, the plough dragged rubble over the Building, which also produced three mid or late fourth century coins. In some places the walls did not survive into the overlying rubble and some stone robbing may have taken place. A single Saxon seventh century sherd points to some later use of the site.

THE FINDS

Coins

by

RICHARD BRICKSTOCK (1985)

Sixty one coins (Table 1) were found in the course of the 1969 excavation, 39 of them in Pit W21. Of the remaining 22, ten are of the fourth century (latest AD 388–402), attesting a late presence somewhere on the site, but most come from effectively unstratified contexts — either from rubble over the Temple or from soil among the collapse of Building Z.

No 57 is an interesting coin, an example of the first coin to depict Britannia, minted in AD 119–122 under Hadrian and found slightly worn/worn. Coming from W26, one of the post-holes of the timber shrine, it provides a *terminus post quem* for that structure.

Three coins came from W17. Two are from the rubble packing at the top of the central post-hole in the stone Temple, one of Salonina, slightly worn, (No 15, minted in AD 256–7), the second of Carausius (No 16, AD 287–93). The third, a radiate copy of a large module, (No 17, 20 mm diameter, worn), was found at a lower level among the packing of the same post-hole. It can probably be placed close to the date of its prototype (AD 270–73). The coin of Carausius is the latest from a surviving stratified context in the Temple, though coins of Valens (No 13, AD 367–78) and Arcadius (No 14, AD 383–95) were found on the paving outside and the sequence in the rubble over the structure concludes with the House of Theodosius (No 12, AD 388–402).

Pit W21 provides the site's main numismatic interest. Three coins are regular issues: a slightly worn Postumus (No 18, AD 258–68), an unworn Claudius II (No 52, AD 269), and a very worn Tetricus I of 20.5 mm module (No 51, AD 270–73). 36 other coins are all radiate copies, either of types of the two Tetrici or of the posthumous Altar type of Claudius Gothicus (or a combination of the two). All must therefore belong to the period AD 270+ and, as Table 2 shows, they are mostly very small in module, down to 6 mm across. Nine are of 7.5 mm diameter: the average size is a

Table 2 Diameters of Radiate Copies from Pit W21/21A.

(The stars, two for each coin, represent quantities graphically.)

Diameter mm	Number of coins
15	0
14.5	1 **
14	1 **
13.5	0
13	0
12.5	1 **
12	0
11.5	2 ****
11	0
10.5	0
10	2 ****
9.5	3 ******
9	1 **
8.5	3 ******
8	3 ******
7.5	9 **********
7	2 ****
6.5	7 **********
6	1 ****
5.5	0

little under 8.5 mm. In view of these small modules the copies probably belong to the late 270s/early 280s AD, the later stages of a gap in the regular coinage supply *c.* AD 273–287 before coins of the usurper Carausius began to circulate. They are mostly little worn, so the probable date for their deposition is in the early 280s AD.

It has been noted in the past that temple sites are common amongst those on which small module copies have been found—examples are Brean Down (Somerset) and Lydney Park (Glos). These coins may have been intended for votive use, although their occurrence in abundance on other types of site, such as the town of Silchester and the baths at Canterbury, precludes the idea that this was their sole function.

The discovery of an obverse die-link between coins Nos 41 and 43 is a pointer towards local production of such copies. Both are very small — 6.5 and 7.5 mm respectively — but the obverse type, probably intended for Claudius II, is quite well produced. No 43 has a creditable attempt at a Salus type of the Tetrici, while No 41 has what is probably a crude version of the Altar type of Claudius II (posthumous). There are no more die-links here, but a number of coins show marked similarities: Nos 35 and 39, for example, have very similar obverses, likewise Nos 25 and 46.

Many of this group are of suprisingly good quality for such small modules. This applies especially to the obverses, in particular those of Nos 25, 30, 31, 32, 41, 49 and 54. Some of the reverses were much less carefully produced, so that in a number of cases the identification of a prototype was largely a matter of guesswork.

Two other coins are perhaps worthy of notice: a quinarius of Allectus (No 58, AD 293–96), from soil over a room in the north range of the Main House, and a FEL TEMP REPARATIO copy of 10.5 mm diameter (No 60), belonging to the period *c.* AD 353–64, the only example of a series of copies very common on many mid-fourth century sites.

Brooches

by

S A BUTCHER (1983)

(Fig 15)

1. Length as found: 55 mm. A Hod Hill brooch, badly twisted and corroded. The upper bow has longitudinal ribs and there is a projecting lug in the centre of each side of this panel. The lower bow is plain and ends in a small foot-knob. The pin was hinged in the folded-back top of the bow. Justine Bayley (AM Laboratory) reports that the bulk of the metal of the brooch is brass and that the front of it was tinned. Hod Hill brooches show many variations in details but the general type with lateral side-knobs is widespread in southern Britain and Gaul. Its *floruit* was *c.* AD 40–60 (Ettlinger 1973, 101). *On wall X26.*

2. Diameter 24 mm. Small disc brooch, now in three pieces. The plate has a flat rim within which is a recessed centre containing the remains of relief decoration. This consists of a gilded repoussé plate on which the only pattern discernible is a row of fine beading immediately inside the rim. At the back there is an unusually shaped lug with a hole where a spring was presumably attached, and also the remains of a long narrow catchplate.

Justine Bayley reports as follows: 'The back plate, which was leaded bronze, was continued upward to form a flat rim that slightly overhung the central depression. In this central space was a repoussé plate of copper alloy which was gilded. The gold was probably applied as leaf as no mercury was detected by XRF. The space between the back plate and the applied plate was filled with a lead-rich material which suggests that the two parts of the brooch were 'soldered' together, either with pure lead or with a lead-tin alloy. The centre of the back plate has a hole drilled through it with traces of a ?copper alloy rivet. This may have held a decorative stud in the centre of the brooch or may have had some function in attaching the repoussé plate

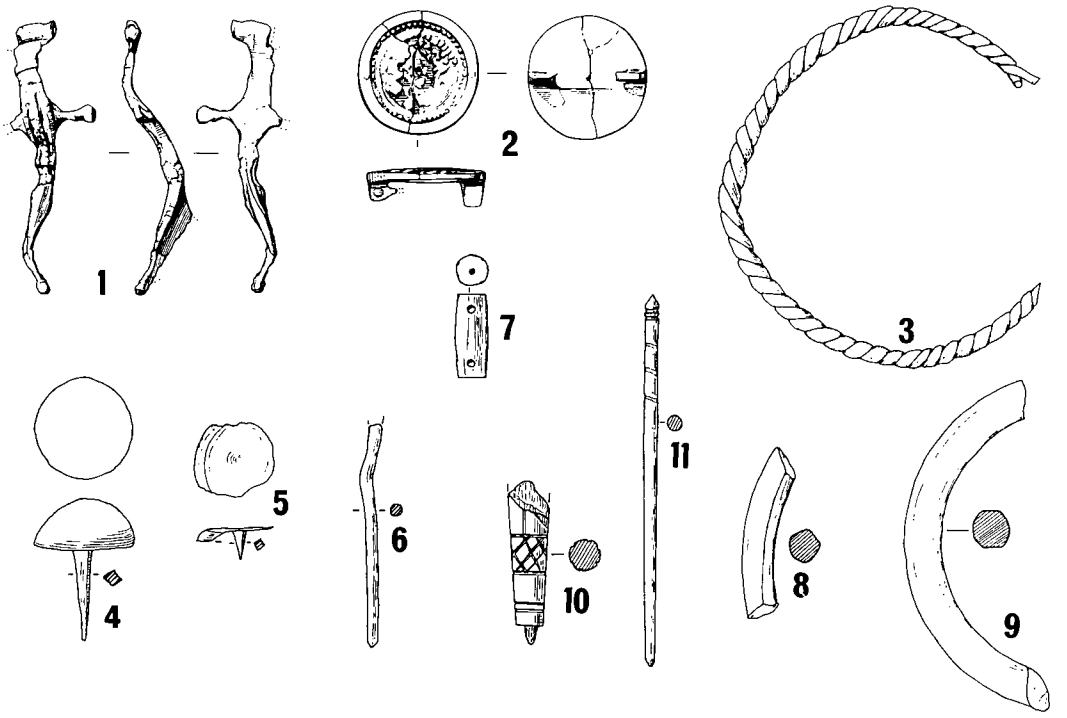

Fig 15 Cosgrove: brooches and other small artefacts. No 1 tinned brass, 2 leaded bronze, 4–6 copper alloy, 7 jet, 8–9 shale, 10–11 bone. All 2/3.

(which unfortunately does not survive in the centre of the brooch)'.

A number of disc brooches with applied plates are known from Roman Britain, but the broad rim of the present example seems to have no parallel in this province. It almost certainly belongs to a type common on the German/Rhaetian *limes*, illustrated by many examples from the Saalburg and Zugmantel forts (Böhme 1972, FIG 28 Nos 1070–1116). These also have mostly lost their decorative plates, but surviving fragments show circles of beaded decoration and they are usually gilded. They also show the unusual hook-shaped lug and long catch-plate. Two examples with busts in relief were found at Regensburg (Mackenson 1973). These resemble Antonine coin types and were found with pottery of the later second century. Böhme suggests that the type appears in the middle of the second century. *From A47 soot and soil level excavated by C Green in the Praefurnium.*

Copper Alloy Objects

(Fig 15)

3. Bracelet of two rounded strips twisted together. Diameter 70 mm. Terminals broken. *Pit W21.*
4. Stud with domed head 30 mm diameter. *Soil Z13 on floor outside Building.*
5. Stud with flat head 15 mm diameter. *In drain fill X21.*
6. Pin shaft. *On surface X22 outside Building.*

Shale and Jet Objects

(Fig 15)

7. Jet bead 16 mm long, 6 mm diameter. Bored once longitudinally and twice across. *Pit W21.*
8. Shale bracelet fragment. Original diameter 50 mm. *Pit W21.*
9. Shale bracelet fragment. Original diameter 58 mm. *Pit W21.*

Bone Objects

(Fig 15)

10. Decorated bone peg, broken. *Pit W21.*
11. Pin, head decorated with spiral grooving. Crummy's (1979, 160) Type 2 with postulated life-span of *c.* AD 50–200/250. *In drain fill X21.*

Iron Objects

(Fig 16)

About 50 objects and fragments were found, together with over 500 nails. 160 nails were associated with flooring slots C75 in Main House Room II, and pit W21 contained a quantity of ironwork. Otherwise the objects were sparsely scattered. Professor W H Manning kindly examined the ironwork and identified distinctive pieces. His reports in S S

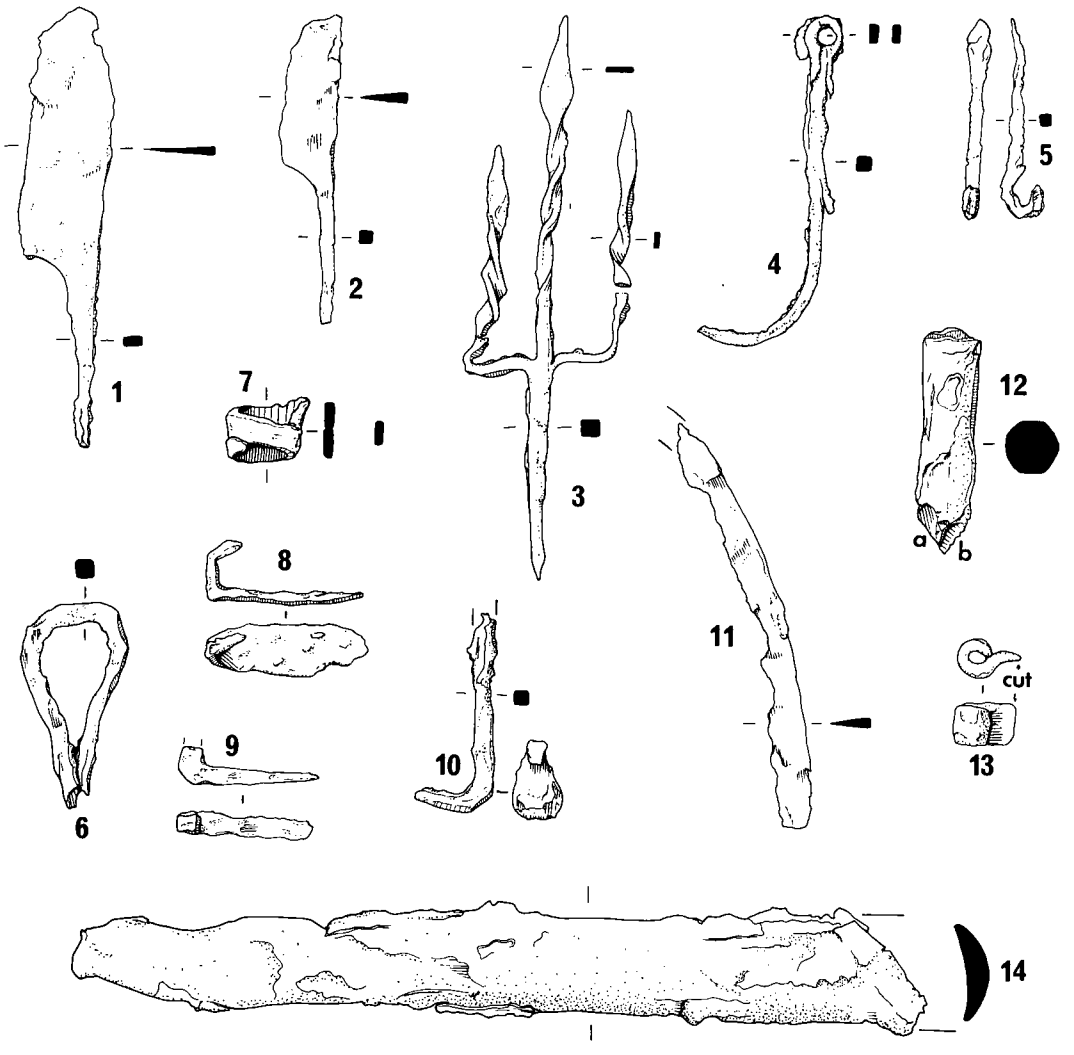

Fig 16 Cosgrove: ironwork. 1/3.

Frere *Verulamium Excavations I* 1972, *Verulamium Excavations III* 1984, and D S Neal *Gadebridge Park* 1974, are used for reference.

Many of the fragments were parts of bindings, bars or plate. Several had been cut, wrenched apart or thinned for welding, suggesting that objects were adapted on site to new uses, to make simple fitments or artefacts. This activity is hardly to be described as smithing; no slag or hammer scale were identified. The site's occupants appear to have maintained simple ironworking techniques among their range of agricultural skills. A number of reworked pieces were found in the rubble over the buildings and may have post-dated the Roman use of the site. Some reworking of iron, with scavenging for usable materials, might be linked to the Saxon sherds found (p 51).

1. Tanged knife. Length 175 mm. Straight back and convex tip. A common type (*cf Verulamium* III, FIG 40, No 62). *Soil/rubble over Main House C.*

2. Tanged knife. Length 122 mm. Back slightly arched (*cf Gadebridge Park*, FIG 72, No 418). *Pit W21.*

3. Triple candle holder. Length 228 mm. W H Manning writes: 'It consists of a central rod, spiked at its lower end, with the upper half twisted spirally and ending in a pointed, leaf-shaped head. On either side of this generally similar, but shorter, arms are welded to the main stem. It is a relatively rare form of candle holder intended for soft wax or tallow candles which were impaled on the leaf-shaped tips of the arms. The basal spike enabled it to be set either in a wooden block or a beam, most probably the former. Despite its simplicity it is a relatively rare form, although a

number of similar but simpler examples from Silchester, Hants are in Reading Museum.' *Building rubble W7 over Temple.*

4. Hook, possibly from steelyard. Length 135 mm. Square-sectioned, but with top flattened and bent back and welded to form a loop. *Pit W21.*

5. Hook. Length 78 mm. Square-sectioned but flattened at upper end to form a tang. *Rubble D2 over Main House.*

6. Split-spike loop. Length 80 mm, but ends much corroded. Made from square-sectioned bar. (*cf Verulamium* I, FIG 68, No 90). *Pit W21.*

7. Ferrule; internal diameter narrows from 26 mm to 22 mm. Made from single flat-sectioned strip. (*cf Verulamium* I, FIG 69, No 123). *Pit W21.*

8. Joiner's dog. Length 54 mm, one spike missing. Square-sectioned strip flattened between the spikes. (*cf Verulamium* III, FIG 44, No 131). *Pit W21.*

9. Masonry L-hook. Length 52 mm. Spike flattened from bar, hook end broken. (*cf Gadebridge Park*, FIG 74, Nos 520–1). *Rubble over Building X.*

10. Foot, support or handle, broken at top. Length 75 mm. Square-sectioned bar flattened to form foot, possibly for a welded joint. (*cf Verulamium* I, FIG 71, No 147). *Flooring X3.*

11. Sickle blade. Length 165 mm. Much corroded. Either originally tangless or else tang has been cut off. Probably either from a balance sickle Rees Class IIb or from a long bladed non-balance version Rees Class IId (Rees 1979, 458). *Flooring X24.*

12. Large chisel, possibly a small smith's set. Length 85 mm. (*cf Verulamium* I, FIG 60, No 3). The tip has been removed by a hot chisel leaving facet (a) and causing break (b). *Surface of soil Z30 outside Building.*

13. Drop hinge. Height 18 mm. Welded from strip. Strap end has been cut off. (*cf Verulamium* III, FIG 42, No 97). *On paving W6 outside Temple.*

14. Bar of plano-convex section. Length 165 mm. End broken. Possibly part of hinge but X-ray revealed no nail holes. *On wall of Building X.*

Roman Glass

by

JENNIFER PRICE (1985)

(Fig 17)

Sixty one fragments of Roman vessel glass, one bead and 31 fragments of window glass were found. The vessel glass has been divided into two categories, tablewares (44 fragments from a minimum of eleven vessels) and containers (17 fragments from an unknown number of square and cylindrical bottles). (A fuller report is filed with the archive).

Although the group is rather small, there is a strong suggestion that glass was reaching the site mainly, if not exclusively, during the second century. All the colourless tablewares (13 fragments) were probably in use in the second century, though the cast bowl (No 1) is not easy to date and may have been made in the late first century AD, and cylindrical bowls with fire rounded rims and horizontal trails (Nos 5 & 6) were produced into the early third century. The strongly coloured vessels (22 fragments) were probably also in circulation in the early to mid second century. In general, strongly coloured glass is rarely found after the Neronian-early Flavian period, but yellow-brown and yellow-green jugs (Nos 8 & 9) sometimes occur in mid second century deposits and peacock blue pieces (cf No 7) have occasionally been noted on second century sites.

The virtual absence of blue-green table and household wares at Cosgrove (seven fragments) is most strange, as this is usually the commonest colour of glass on Romano-British sites. The only vessel identified, a jug with a pouring spout (No 10), is likely to have been made in the later second or perhaps early third century. There is also comparatively little evidence for square and cylindrical bottles (17 fragments), which is noteworthy as pieces of these vessels are usually found in large quantities on sites in Roman Britain, whether military, civilian, or native, from the Neronian period to the end of the second century.

The window glass fragments come from cast panes, some of which have been shaped into triangular quarries (Nos 13 & 14). Cast window glass was produced in the first and second centuries, and may have continued into the third, though blown window glass was also being made in the third and fourth centuries in Roman Britain.

With the exception of No 1, the colourless cast bowl, none of the vessel glass is of great luxury or in any way exceptional in a second century context. The presence of triangular quarries among the window glass is, however, quite unusual, and the findspots for this window glass suggest glazed windows in both Area C of the Main House and in the Bath House, presumably in the *caldarium*.

CAST AND GROUND VESSELS

No 1. *C4 floor in Main House Room V.* Fragment, rim and upper body, bowl. Colourless; pitted surfaces, strain cracks.

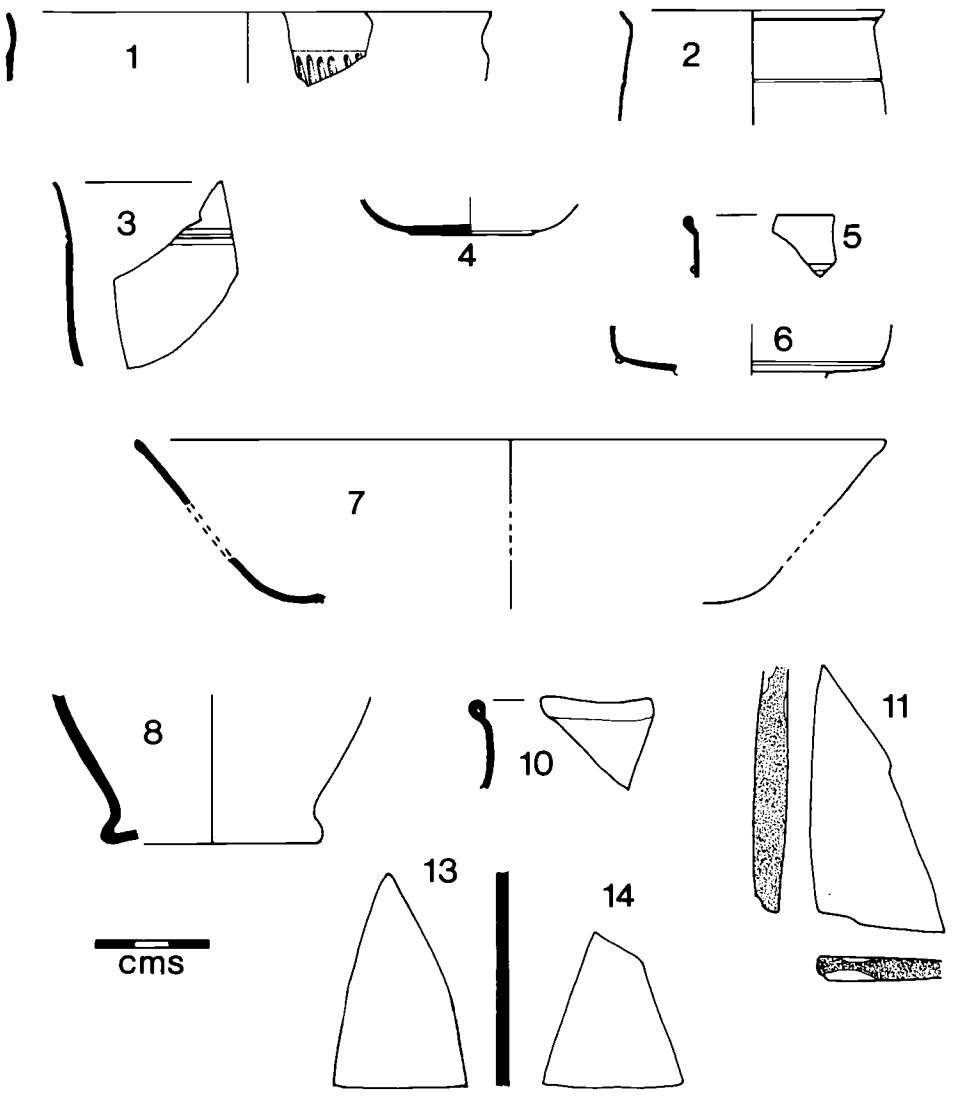

Fig 17 Cosgrove: glass. 1/2.

Slightly everted rim, edge ground and polished, straight side tapering inwards. Outside surface below rim ground away; raised surface on upper body with parts of six narrow, almost vertical, wheel-cut grooves, closely set. Rotary polishing marks visible on inside and outside surfaces.

This, the only fragment of cast glass from the site, is from a most unusual very good quality vessel, probably decorated with a closely set pattern of wavy vertical wheel-cut grooves. It may be compared with a similarly cut fragment from a cast handled cup from Fishbourne (Harden and Price 1971, FIG 138, 32 & PL XXVI), with another from Tarragona, north east Spain (Price 1981, 204–5, 728 & FIG 25, 40), and with a shallow bowl and a *trulla* (dipper) from Begram, Afganistan (Hamelin 1953, PL VIa; Hamelin 1954, 174). Wheel-cutting of this kind also occurs on a few blown vessels, such as the two tall footed ovoid beakers from Luxemburgerstrasse, Köln, and on a fragment of a similar vessel from Pettau, Yugoslavia (Fremersdorf 1967, 117 & PL 126). There is little close dating evidence for any of these vessels, but No 1 was very probably in use in the late first or early second century, as colourless glass cast vessels are not commonly found after that time.

BLOWN VESSELS

Colourless

No 2. *X21 continuation of Bath House drain, sealed by capstones.* Fragment, rim and upper body, drinking cup. Dull, some iridescence. Everted curving rim, edge cracked off and ground, straight side expanding out. One horizontal wheel-cut line on rim, one on upper body. Very thin glass, probably reduced by weathering. Two similar fragments, one with three close-set wheel-cut lines, one with one, from same context as No 2; four very small plain fragments of carinated drinking cup from A47.

No 3. *X21 as No 2.* Two joined body fragments, bowl or drinking cup. Some small bubbles, dull. Part of convex side below rim (missing). Two V-sectioned horizontal wheel-cut lines, closely set to produce a central rib. Outside surface lightly wheel-polished.

Nos 2 & 3 are from thin-walled colourless drinking cups decorated with horizontal wheel-cut lines, though it is not possible to reconstruct the exact form of either. Cups of this kind may have curving rims with ground edges, cylindrical, biconical or barrel shaped bodies and a variety of bases, ranging from the simple flat or concave to tubular base rings and blown feet. They are frequently found on Romano-British sites in late first to mid second century contexts, as in a late first to early second century pit at Wroxeter (Bushe-Fox 1916, 34 & PL XXIII); in mid-second century levels in Insula XIV at Verulamium (Charlesworth 1972, 206–8 & FIG 77, 43–4); and in a mid-second century pit at Towcester (Price 1980, 63–4 & FIG 14, 4–5).

No 4. *A47 infill of praefurnium.* Fragment, lower body and base, bowl or drinking cup. Some bubbles, little visible weathering. Convex curved side, concave base. Basal disc formed by grinding outside surface. Rotary polishing marks visible on side and base.

No 4 is a base fragment of a vessel formed by grinding away the outside surface. This technique was often used to produce the outsplayed base ring on facet-cut beakers, but low bases of this kind are less frequent; one is known from an early second century context at Verulamium (Charlesworth 1972, 330–2, FIG 137, 24), others occur at Shakenoak (Harden 1971, 101 & FIG 43) and from a cast vessel at Fishbourne (Harden and Price 1971, 330–2, FIG 137, 24).

No 5. *X21 Bath House drain continuation, not sealed by capstones.* Fragment, rim and upper body, cylindrical bowl or drinking cup. Few bubbles, wear on rim edge. Fire rounded and thickened rim, vertical side. Unmarvered horizontal trail on upper body.

No 6. *B25 Bath House drain sealed by capstones.* Fragment, body, cylindrical bowl or drinking cup. Dull. Part of vertical side, carination and wide slightly convex curved lower body. One unmarvered horizontal trail at carination, one on lower body.

Colourless cylindrical bowls and cups with fire rounded rims were in widespread use in the north west provinces during the later second and early third century (dated examples listed in Isings 1957, Form 85). In Britain the undecorated form, with a vertical or slightly inturned rim and a tubular and trailed double base ring is very common indeed. A complete example comes from Airlie, Angus (Thorpe 1935, 39, PL VIb); and there are fragments on most settlement sites of this period eg Fishbourne (Harden and Price 1971, 352–5, FIG 141, 74–5), Verulamium (Wheeler 1936, 186 & FIG 29, 24; Charlesworth 1984, 156–8, FIG 64, 62–9), and York (Harden 1962, 137, FIG 88, no. HG 202.6). Nos 5 and 6 come from another widely known version, with a slightly out-bent rim, horizontal trails on the body and a variety of base rings. Similar fragments come from a wide range of military and civilian sites, as at Shakenoak on period B.4 floor (third century) (Harden 1971), at Verulamium in late second and third century contexts (Charlesworth 1972, 213, & FIG 79, 69; Charlesworth 1984, 158–9, FIG 64, 70 & FIG 65, 71–74), at Ringstead in a second century pit (Charlesworth 1980, 31 & FIG 11, 12), and a complete example from a burial dated *c.* AD 200 at Baldock (Westell 1931, 276, FIG 6, 4828 G104).

Coloured vessels

No 7. *W22 soil beneath, but outside, temple; W21 pit; X21 continuation of Bath House drain not sealed by capstones; X30 soil outside building; X ploughsoil over.* Nineteen fragments, some joined, rim and body, shallow bowl or plate. Strong green blue (peacock blue); small black specks, many small round bubbles throughout, some elongated bubbles in upper body, aligned parallel to rim. Dull, weathering streaks on outside surface. Rim edge fire-rounded and thickened, upper body tapering in, rounded angle to lower body, applied base ring (missing).

This vessel appears to be a fairly large bowl or plate probably similar to Isings Form 47 (1957).

This form has not often been noted in Roman Britain, though there is a piece from a yellow brown example from Welbeck Street, Castleford (unpublished), and some dark blue fragments from Caerhun may come from a similar vessel (Baillie Reynolds 1936, 226–8 & FIG 54, 1).

No 8. *B25 Bath House drain, unsealed.* Fragment, body and base, jug or jar. Yellow brown; some small bubbles, usage scratches on base ring. Part of narrow convex lower side, constriction above open base ring and concave base. Melted fragment of another yellow brown vessel from A47.

No 9 (not illus.). *C38 soil outside House.* Fragment, body, perhaps jar or jug. Light yellow green; some small bubbles. Small part of large convex body with terminal of one rib.

Nos 8 and 9 belong to vessels, globular jars or long necked conical and globular jugs, which are well known in Britain and elsewhere in the north west provinces in later first and early second century contexts, and were produced in the region, probably at centres in the lower Rhineland (for dated examples see Isings (1957) Forms 52, 55 & 67C). Long necked jugs with open base rings have been considered in connection with a yellow brown example from a Hadrianic or later pit at Enfield (Price 1977, 155–8, FIG 27, 2 & PL 8), and five yellow green and yellow brown examples from a mid second century pit at Towcester (Price 1980, 66, FIG 15 & FIG 16, 10–11). Globular jars also occur very frequently in Flavian to early Hadrianic contexts in Britain eg at Silchester (Boon 1974, 230–1, FIG 36, 5), Verulamium (Charlesworth 1972, 204–5, & FIG 76, 25–6), Colchester (Thorpe 1935, 28 & PL IIIb) and Thornborough (Price 1975, 21–2, & FIG 10, 3). Both forms are found occasionally until the third quarter of the second century.

Blue green vessels

No 10 *Ploughsoil over House Area C.* Fragment, rim and

neck, jug with pouring spout. Black specks, elongated bubbles. Part of asymetrical rim, tubular edge bent out and in, short cylindrical neck. Two body fragments from oven infill A32, four on platform A25, one from drain X21.

Jugs with pouring spouts are known from the first century onwards, though they are not very common in Britain except in the later second and early third centuries. Two forms of mouth occur—the trefoil mouth as at Verulamium (Charlesworth 1972, 204 & FIG 76, 24) and Skeleton Green (Charlesworth 1981, 271 & FIG 106, 12), and the elongated oval mouth with a pointed end, as at Colchester (Thorpe 1935, 21 & PL VIIIa) and Ospringe (Whiting, Hawley and May 1931, PL XVII, 154). No 10 probably comes from a trefoil-mouthed jug, though the fragment is too small for certain indentification.

Containers

No 11. *B25 Bath House drain, sealed by capstones.* Fragment, body, large prismatic bottle. Blue green; some bubbles, many usage scratches. Triangular piece of thick vertical wall. Two edges polished smooth with regular use for some secondary purpose after the vessel was broken. Secondary use of the fragment may have been as a palette, or for some industrial purpose such as the preparation of hides; pieces of plate glass were similarly used in the tannery at Rhyader, Powys, now displayed at the Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans.

Other fragments of prismatic bottles from *W12, A47, soil over C, Z16.*

Fragments of cylindrical bottles from *A47, soil over W, X37.*

Fragments of bottles from *A47, soil over W, W22, W21 pit, soil over* X.

The 17 fragments of containers come from prismatic (probably square) and cylindrical bottles. These vessels, produced in very large quantities during the first and second centuries, were made primarily for the transport of liquid and semi-liquid substances (for dated examples see Isings 1957, Forms 50 & 51; for square bottles Charlesworth 1966, 26–40; for cylindrical bottles Charlesworth n.d., 6–8).

OBJECT

No 12 (not illus.) *W21 pit.* Shattered fragments, small bead. Opaque mid blue.

WINDOW GLASS

No 13 *A47 infill of praefurnium.* Triangular piece of window glass, blue green; some small round bubbles, dull. Flat fragment with three straight sides, edges scored and cracked away. One surface glossy, one surface matt.

No 14 *A47 infill of praefurnium.* Triangular piece of window glass as No 13, one angle missing.

Other fragments of glossy/matt window glass, uniform thickness, one angle surviving, from *soil over Bath House, A47 (four), soil over B, W22, X36.* Similar fragments, but without angle, from *A47 (three), soil over D, Pit W21, soil over* X.

No 15 (Not illus.) *X37 floor of Room III.* Fragment of window glass. Blue green; some small round bubbles and black specks. Part of rounded edge, top surface uneven and glossy, bottom surface flat and matt. Patches of mortar adhering to bottom surface.

Other fragments of uneven thickness matt/glossy window glass from *A47 (five), C2, soil over D, rubble over Bath House, C4, soil over C (two).*

All the fragments come from blue green window panes, which were probably formed by pouring glass in to flat trays. The edge fragments, which sometimes have traces of mortar attached, are characteristically thick, uneven and rounded (No 15), but many of the inside pieces have uniform surfaces and are quite thin. Both the edge and the inside fragments have one glossy and one rather pitted surface, and in the absence of any evidence for elongation of the bubbles in the fragments, it seems unlikely that they come from blown window panes (see Harden 1961; Boon 1966; Harden 1974). The dating evidence for the window glass at Cosgrove also suggests that the panes were cast rather than blown, as the former technique is almost universal in the first and second centuries AD. It is, however, noteworthy that some fragments said to have been blown occurred in construction levels of the Basilica at Exeter around AD 80 (Charlesworth 1979, 229).

Several of the inside fragments have at least one scored and cracked off edge, and two (Nos 13 & 14) are shaped into small triangular quarries. Triangular quarries have seldom been recorded in Roman Britain, though shaped pieces were found at Gadebridge Park (Charlesworth 1974, 203–4).

Earlier Prehistoric Pottery

by

I F SMITH (1985)

29 small sherds were recovered, of fabrics similar to those described below. Post-holes Z45 and Z54 each produced one sherd, the remainder came from soil Z32. The small assemblage, combining Beaker and Peterborough elements, may be tentatively dated to *c.* 2000–1700 bc, as may most of the flint. Gibson (1982, 76) has demonstrated that, in domestic contexts, material of the Beaker and Peterborough traditions are regularly associated before the evolvement, perhaps around 1700 bc, of Food Vessels and Collared Urns.

DECORATED SHERDS (NOT ILLUS.): ALL FROM SOIL Z32.

No 1. Peterborough tradition. Small body sherd carrying closely spaced parallel whipped cord impressions. 'Greasy', laminated fabric contains rare grains of coarse sand.

No 2. Peterborough tradition. Small sherd, possibly from a simple rim with short internal bevel; both form and decoration are partly obscured by a ferruginous deposit. Apparent indications of one line of internal decoration just below bevel, perhaps fingernail impressions. External

decoration consists of a zone of deep, slightly oblique impressions or furrows. 'Greasy', laminated fabric; no obvious inclusions.

No 3. Domestic Beaker? Small body sherd carrying part of a zone or column of fingernail impressions. Both surfaces well smoothed and oxidised; compact fabric contains sand, occasional angular particles (up to 2 mm) of clear quartz, flint or chert, and possibly grog.

Apart from one piece which may come from the base of a second beaker, the remaining sherds are too small and featureless for classification.

Iron Age Pottery

by

P MARNEY AND T PEARSON (1987)

'Belgic' Grogged Fabric (Milton Keynes Fabric 46). Contains abundant pieces of crushed pottery, usually black or dark grey, sparse quartz, sparse soft reddish flecks and sparse fossil shell; the surface colour is usually orange or orange/brown. On the north side of the Chilterns oxidised vessels are more common and are essentially a late 'Belgic' phenomenon (Thompson 1982, 652). Body sherds from *C58 soil under House, post-hole W27 of timber shrine*, and *W14 temple floor* (two).

Coarsely flint tempered fabrics. The technology of manufacture and the flint temper suggests an Iron Age date. In overall character the fabrics compare with shell-tempered wares of this period from south Northants. Flint tempered Iron Age fabrics do occur in south Northants (eg at Brackley, T Pearson *per comm*), but normally in small quantities compared to shell-tempered wares. From *W7 rubble over temple, Z32 soil beneath building, Z13 surface outside building.*

Fine flint/chert tempered fabric. A single sherd as above but finer from *Z24 floor of building.*

The lack of decoration, surface finish and form makes close dating of the Iron Age material difficult.

Romano-British Pottery

Figs 18–28:

by

The Coarse Pottery PAULINE MARNEY (1987)
The Samian BRENDA M DICKINSON (BMD) (1980)
The Mortaria KATHARINE F HARTLEY (KFH) (1980)

Those groups properly contexted and important for the dating of the site have been selected for publication. A few pieces have been published for their intrinsic interest, but details of poorly stratified groups and those from the topsoil are described in the archive. The samian and mortaria have been grouped with the coarse pottery under context to allow the total ceramic evidence for each to be considered together. The pottery has been categorised according to the sequence established for Milton Keynes (Marney 1989), in which full descriptions are given. The brief descriptions below emphasise important points about each fabric at Cosgrove. *Abbreviations*: Fab = Fabric; bs = body sherd; cent. = century.

SAMIAN *FIGS 18–19*

(Milton Keynes Fabric 20). Figure types are prefixed D. from Déchelette 1904, and Rogers from Rogers 1974. Descriptions for material from surface contexts are included in the archive. Main stratified pieces S1 C52, S2 C47, S3 A47, S4 W21, S5 W7, S6 C20. (BMD).

MORTARIA *FIGS 23, 25*

Fabric 1 (Milton Keynes 4p) Colchester (Hull 1963). Soft, fine-textured, cream fabric with little if any tempering; the trituration grit is mostly flint with a little quartz (X32 soil beneath exterior of Building X, P50 FIG 23).

Fabric 2 (Milton Keynes 4a) Oxford (Cowley, Headington, Sandford etc) (Young 1977). Slightly sandy, off-white, occasionally with pink core; distinctive, mixed transparent, pinkish and brownish quartz trituration grit (exterior surface X18; X21 Bath House drain; rubble over X; W14 temple floor; Pit W 21 P93 FIG 25 and another; rubble over W; Z16 soil on internal floor).

Fabric 3 (Milton Keynes 4ba) Dorchester, Baldon, Cowley, Sandford etc (Young 1977). A fine-textured slightly micaceous, orange/brown fabric, sometimes with a grey core, and a thin cream or white slip; abundant trituration grit identical with that of Fabric 2. (Rubble over X; rubble over W).

Fabric 4 (Milton Keynes 4b) Oxford workshops (Young 1977). Fabric and grit as Fabric 3 but with a red-brown,

Fig 18 Cosgrove: samian stamps. S1 C52, S2 C47, S3 A47. 1/1.

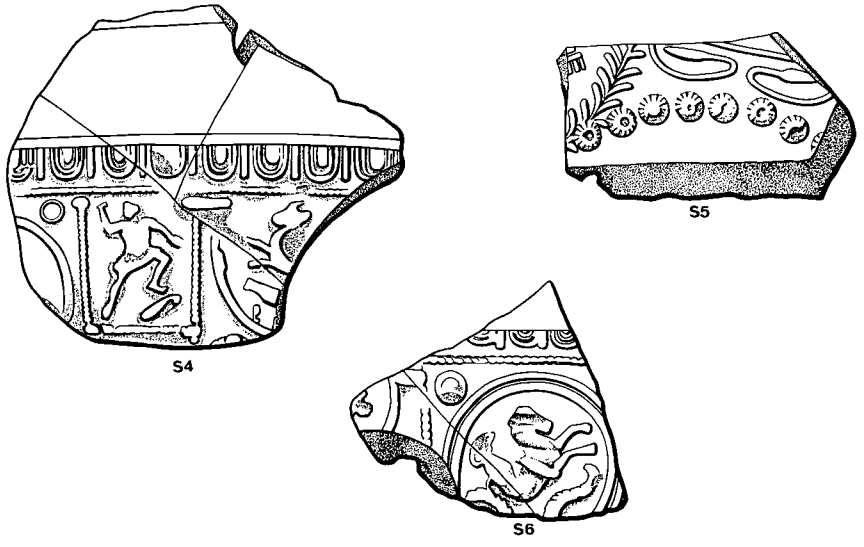

Fig 19 Cosgrove: samian. S4 W21, S5 W7, S6 C20.

samian-like slip (Pit W21 P94 FIG 25; rubble over W).
Fabric 5 (Milton Keynes 4e) Upper Nene Valley or Much Hadham? Single example slightly abrasive, orange-brown fabric with thick dark grey core; fine temper of similar type to the trituration grit; slight traces of red-brown slip. The trituration grit consists largely of transparent, pinkish and brownish quartz mixed with white quartz and opaque red-brown particles. Distinctly coarser than Oxford fabrics 3 and 4. (Pit W21 P95 FIG 25).
Fabric 6 (Milton Keynes 4f) Lower Nene Valley. Hard, orangey-buff fabric with a little very fine tempering; abundant ironstone grit. One of the fabrics produced in the Lower Nene Valley. (X26 soil over Building X).
Fabric 7 (Milton Keynes 4c) Mancetter-Hartshill. Fine-textured, creamy-white fabric with red-brown or/and dark grey trituration grit. (Pit W21; also rubble over Z).

At least 15 mortaria are represented, ten from the Oxford potteries, two from Mancetter-Hartshill, and one each from Colchester, Upper Nene Valley (? or Much Hadham), and the Lower Nene Valley. Where mortaria occur in surface contexts not presented in the report, details may be found in the archive. (KFH).

COARSE POTTERY FABRICS

Fabric 1a Shell-tempered. Possibly products of the Harrold kilns, Beds, functioning from 1st to 4th cents. AD (Brown 1970). The dominant form is the wide-mouthed everted rimmed necked jar or bowl with a variety of rim profiles. Lid-seated jars, storage jars, bowls and straight-sided dishes are also represented eg FIG 21 P20, FIG 27 P145–P149.
Fabric 1b Shell-tempered. Source unknown. Date range late 2nd to early 3rd cents. Forms are necked jars of simple S shape and, unusually, a bowl eg FIG 23 P49 P51, FIG 28 P167 P168.
Fabric 1c Shell-tempered. Source unknown. Body sherds only from pit W21 late 3rd cent.
Fabric 2a Soft pink grogged ware. Source not traced, but a major component of assemblages in 3rd and 4th cents. from S Northants and N Bucks (cf Mynard and Woodfield 1977). Most are sherds from wide-mouthed jars and necked bowls with a variety of rim forms eg FIG 28 P175; storage jar body sherds and, unusually, a devolved reeded rim (FIG 28 P169) also occur.
Fabric 2b Soft pink grogged variant with more quartz. May be mid 2nd to early 3rd cents. though mostly late 2nd to early 3rd.
Fabric 3a Local grey sandy. Precise source not located. Date range late 1st to 4th cents. Most vessels copy the more popular BB1 forms—triangular-rimmed bowls and dishes (FIG 22 P40), flanged bowls (FIG 27 P155) and grooved-

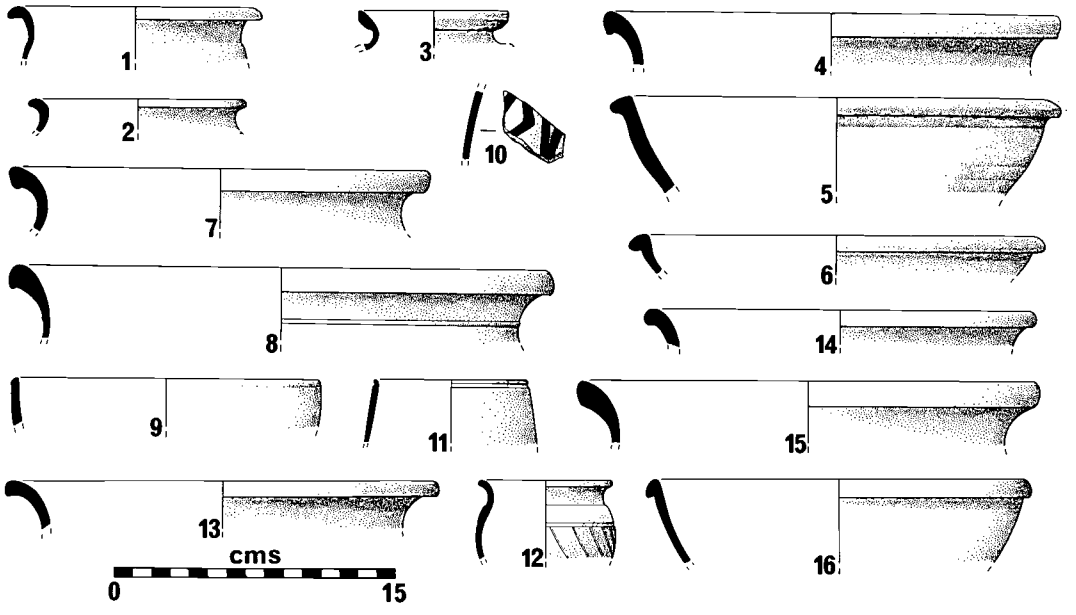

Fig 20 Cosgrove: pottery Main House Area C. P1, 2 C44 Room I floor; P3 C75 timber slot fill Room II; P4–6 C57 Room II upper floor makeup; P7–12 C47 Room II upper Floor; P13 C49 floor makeup Room Vb; P14–16 C4 floor Room Vb. 1/4.

rimmed bowls (FIG 22 P41). There are also wide- and narrow-mouthed jars that are not BBl in style (FIG 27 P143), FIG 26 P127).

Fabric 3k Finer local grey sandy. Precise source not located. Date range late lst to 2nd cents. Vessel forms are varied; bowls and dishes with triangular rims (FIG 20 P16), reeded rims (FIG 24 P87), copy of a Gallo-Belgic moulded platter (FIG 21 P26) and a possible poppy-head beaker (body sherd).

Fabric 4a etc see Mortaria report p 35.

Fabric 6 Nene Valley colour-coated ware. Date range mid-2nd to early 5th cents. (Howe et al 1980). Beakers are the dominant form eg FIG 22 P42; a heavy straight-sided dog-dish is also present (FIG 24 P88).

Fabric 8 Black-burnished ware 1. From Purbeck in Dorset (Farrar 1973). Forms range from late 2nd to early 3rd into 4th cents. types (FIG 22 P44, FIG 24 P89, FIG 27 P139 P158).

Fabric 9a Local black sandy. Precise source not located. The date range, composition of fabric and most forms are as Fabric 3a, but dog-dishes (shallow dishes with plain rims) eg FIG 26 P118 are the most common.

Fabric 9f Finer local black sandy. Precise source not located. Date range lst and 2nd possibly extending into 3rd cents. Only form shallow triangular-rimmed dishes (FIG 23 P62).

Fabric 9xy Local black and red sandy. Precise source not located. Date range late 1st and 2nd cents. Only vessel FIG 21 P28.

Fabric 12 Lower Nene Valley greyware. Date range c. AD 125–150 into 3rd cent. (Howe et al 1980, 7). Only forms wide- and narrow-mouthed necked bowls and jars (FIG 20 P3, FIG 23 P63, FIG 28 P170), and a pie-dish (FIG 23 P64).

Fabric 14 ?Upper Nene Valley greyware. Predominantly 2nd in date but range may extend late lst to early 3rd cents. Wide-mouthed jars or bowls (FIG 27 P162), triangular-rimmed pie-dishes and beakers (FIG 23 P55 P56) and a narrow-necked globular jar or flask (FIG 21 P30).

Fabric 16/17f ?Northants painted ware. Possibly relates to Fabric B at Brixworth, where dated to very late 2nd and 3rd cents. (Woods 1970, 37). Only sherd FIG 20 P10.

Fabric 17 ?Upper Nene Valley oxidised wares.

17a Mainly 2nd, perhaps early 3rd cent. in date. Beaker forms eg FIG 20 P12.

17c Probably late lst and 2nd cents. Carinated bowl FIG 23 P76.

17d Date range 2nd to early 3rd cents. Beaker forms eg FIG 21 P32.

Fabric 18a Fine white ware. Source(s) not located. Date range throughout Roman period. Flagon forms (FIG 21 P33, FIG 23 P65, FIG 24 P92) and a small wide-mouthed jar or bowl (FIG 27 P163).

Fabric 18b Medium white ware. Source not located. 2nd cent., possibly mainly late 2nd. Bowl FIG 23 P58.

Fabric 18c Coarse sandy white ware. Possibly Northants/ Upper Nene Valley or Verulamium product. Mainly 2nd cent., but possible range late lst to early 3rd cents. Vessels include lid-seated jar (FIG 21 P34), lid (FIG 23 P80), and possibly a wide-mouthed jar or necked bowl (FIG 21 P31).

Fabric 22 Amphora—Spanish Dressel 20. From Guadalquivir region of Spain. Locally appears to be a largely 2nd cent. occurrence (Marney 1989). Body sherds and a handle (not illus).

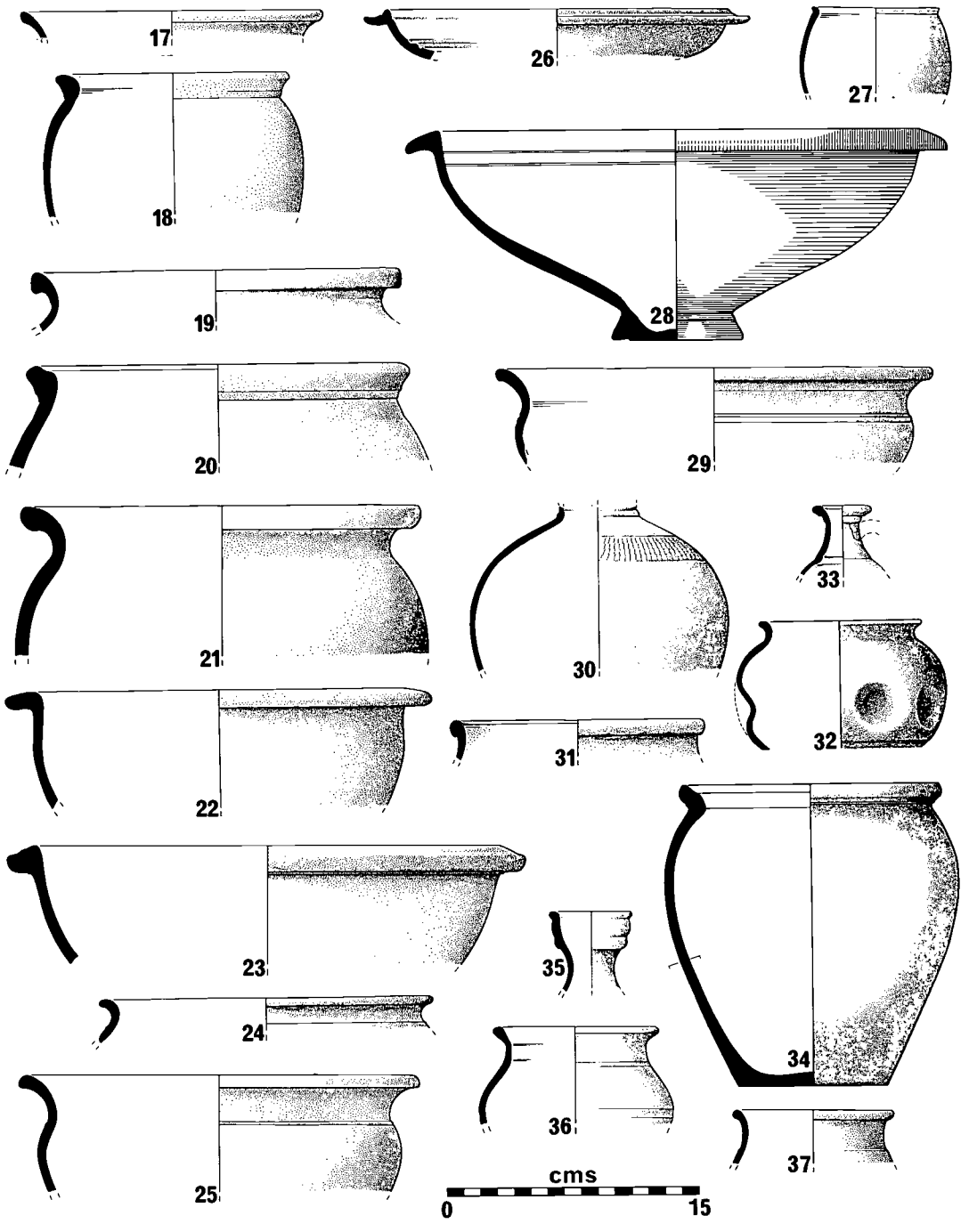

Fig 21 Cosgrove: pottery Bath House Area A. P17 oven infill A32; P18, 19 on A25; P20–36 *praefurnium* infill (Green); P37 A33 drain. 1/4.

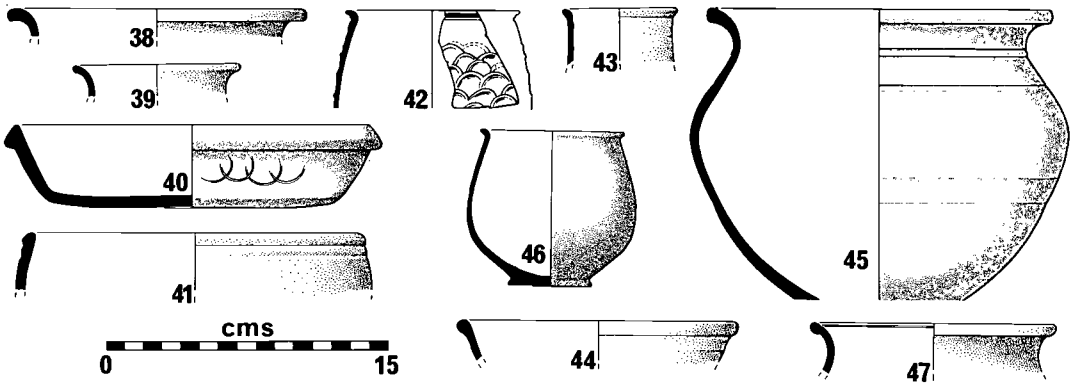

Fig 22 Cosgrove: pottery Bath House drain B25 P38–47. 1/4.

Fabric 23a Colchester colour-coated ware. Most local examples from 2nd cent. contexts. FIG 23 P66 only example.
Fabric 23b ?Lower Rhineland Fabric l (Anderson 1980, 14). Cornice-rimmed bag-beaker (FIG 23 P77) current after AD 70 to end of 2nd cent.
Fabric 24 Oxfordshire red-and-brown colour-coated ware. Date range from mid-3rd to early years of 5th cent. Flagons, beakers, narrow-necked jars (FIG 27 P164), mortaria and bowls copying samian forms.
Fabric 28 Minor greyware. Source not located. Date range from sometime in 2nd until late 4th or possibly early 5th cents. Wide-mouthed jars eg FIG 22 P45, and a flanged narrow-necked jar FIG 26 P137.
Fabric 25/30 Soft fine greyware. Source(s) not located. Occurs throughout Roman period. Carinated bowl FIG 23 P81.
Fabric 37 Orange/red Hadham ware. The Hadham kilns operated on a fairly localised basis from late lst to late 3rd cents. (Going unpublished lecture), although material from Woughton, Milton Keynes indicates a low level of trade into the area in mid to late 2nd cent. (Marney 1989); however majority of traded Hadham ware is 4th cent. Only sherd from a Dr 38 copy (not illus).
Fabric 38 Orange/buff. Source not located. Found in 2nd and ? early 3rd cent. contexts. Bag-shaped beaker FIG 22 46.
Fabric 41 Orange wares (mixed). Sources not located. Date range late lst to 4th cents. Beakers (FIG 20 P11), wide-mouthed jars or necked bowls (FIG 22 P47), a flagon (FIG 21 P35) and a small narrow-necked jar (FIG 21 P37).
Fabric 43 ac Coarse fabric with quartz and ? ironstone temper. Sources not located. Date range late lst to mid 2nd cent. Wide-mouthed jars with simple everted rims and lid-seated jars (FIG 24 P82), FIG 23 P67).
Fabric 43d As 43ac but lacking quartz. Source not located. 2nd cent. Forms as 43ac (FIG 23 P59 P68).
Fabric 43f Finer version of 43ac with same date range. Everted rimmed jars and necked bowls (FIG 21 P36, FIG 24 P90) and a handle (not illus).

MAIN HOUSE AREAS C AND B, BATH HOUSE AREA A. FIGS 20–22.

Samian sealed beneath the building (C58) suggests that the House was built after AD 138. As A47, the deposit accumulated/dumped in the praefurnium, contains only second century material, it would appear that the whole use of the House, including any alterations to the Bath House was confined to the second century. The main use of the House and Bath House lasted perhaps less than 50 years. Later alterations (wall C21 etc) indicate another building phase perhaps from the end of the second century through much of the third.

Soil under Main Building
C 58 After AD 138 ?
Samian (fab 20) one rim of Dr 18/31 Central Gaulish early Antonine approx AD 138–150 (BMD). Fab 3a two bs. Fab 46a one bs (see Iron Age Pottery p 35).

Room I.
C44 floor level. Early to late 2nd cent.
P1 Wide-mouthed jar or bowl soft pink grogged ware fab 2b.
P2 Beaker or small jar rim ? Upper Nene Valley oxidised ware fab 17d.
Fab 1a one bs. Fab 2a two bs. Fab 3a one bs. Fab 43d four bs.

Room II
C75 slots for early timber floor. Early to late 2nd cent.
P3 Narrow-necked jar, burnished, ? Lower Nene Valley grey ware fab 12. Although the form is long-lived it occurred commonly in 2nd cent. (Woods 1970, FIG 22).
Fab 1a one bs. Fab 2a one bs. Fab 25/30 one bs. Fab 38 one bs.

C57 make-up for upper floor 47. Early to late 2nd cent.
Samian (fab 20) rim of Dr 33 cup from Les Martes-de-Veyre, Trajanic or Hadrianic AD 98–138; one bs Ludowici Tg, mid-late Antonine approx AD 160/170–192 (BMD).
P4 Wide-mouthed jar or necked bowl soft pink grogged ware fab 2a (and two bs). Probably after AD 160/170.
P5 Pie-dish, remnants of thick black slip, local grey sandy ware fab 3a.
P6 Pie-dish finer local black sandy ware fab 9f.
Fab 1a two bs. Fab 6 five bs, mainly from beakers; form

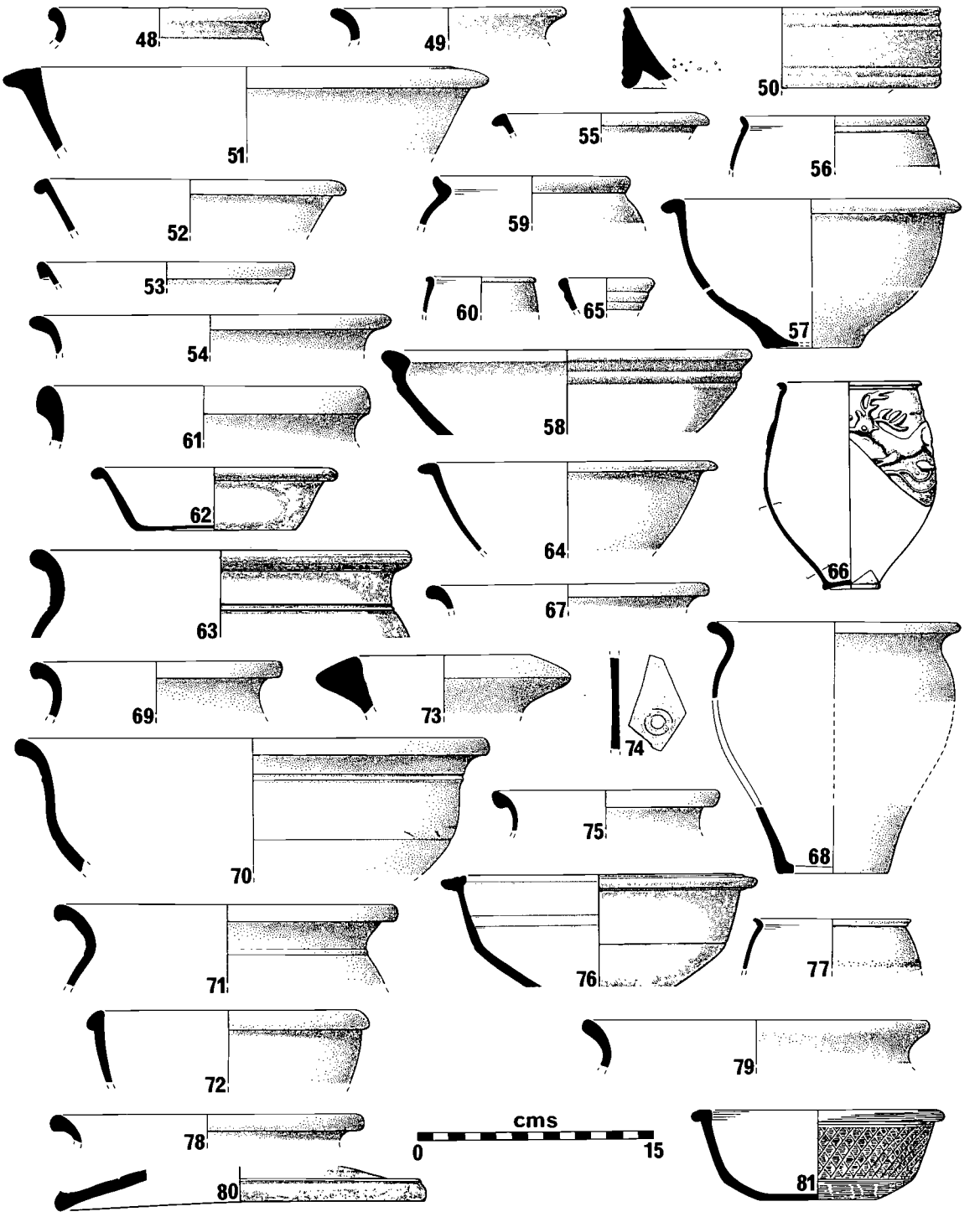

Fig 23 Cosgrove: pottery Area X. P48–50 X32 soil below building; P51–59 X37 Room III floor; P60 X3 Room V floor; P61–68 X17 Room VI floor; P69–73 X22/36 external surface; P74–79 X21 Bath House drain; P80, 81 soil over X. 1/4.

and decoration suggest later 2nd cent. Fab 9a one bs. Fab 12 two bs. Fab 14 one bs. Fab 18a one bs.

C47 upper floor. Late 2nd to early 3rd cents.
Samian S2 (FIG 18) Greater part of a dish of form 79, stamped B∃LSVS C by Belsus of Rheinzabern, where the stamp (1a) is known. The base is unusual in having two circles inscribed on it, one round the stamp, the other mid-way across the base. Belsus's decorated ware shows that he was not one of the later Rheinzabern potters, although his output includes the later plain forms 32 and Ludowici Tb. *c.* AD 180–220. Two bs Dr 31 Central Gaulish Antonine AD 138–192, one bs Dr 33 Les Martres-de-Veyre Trajanic-Hadrianic AD 98–138 (BMD).
P7 Wide-mouthed jar or bowl shell-tempered ware fab 1a (and 19 bs).
P8 Wide-mouthed bowl with single thin cordon soft pink grogged ware fab 2a (and 15 bs).
P9 Small upright straight-sided dog-dish, both surfaces black-slipped, local grey sandy ware fab 3a (and 7 bs).
P10 Body sherd with dark brown painted decoration, ? Northants painted ware fab 16/17f, very late 2nd or 3rd cents.
P11 Beaker rim orange ware fab 41 (and one bs).
P12 Beaker with thin brown wash and incised diagonal line decoration, ? Upper Nene Valley oxidised ware fab 17a (and 9 bs).
Fab 6 two bs barbotine decoration late 2nd to early 3rd cents. Fab 12 neck of jar, cordoned/rilled (cf Howe et al 1980, FIG 1, 5) and one bs. Fab 14 two bs. Fab 18a 31 bs of jar/flagon base. Fab 18b one bs.

Room Va.
C52 level under floor C2. 2nd quarter to mid 2nd cent.
Samian S1 (FIG 18) Dr 18/31R, burnt, stamped ΔNNIOZF by Annios ii of Lezoux (Die 1b). Although Annios may also have worked at Les Martres-de-Veyre, all the fabrics associated with this stamp belong to the Lezoux range. The stamp has been noted in the Birdoswald alley and at Maryport, and there are many examples from the Rhineland. *c.* AD 125–145 (BMD).

Room Vb.
C49 level under floor C4. Early to late 2nd cent.
Samian (fab 20) rim Dr 79, Central Gaulish, mid- to late-Antonine AD 160–192 (BMD).
P13 Wide-mouthed jar or bowl soft pink grogged ware fab 2a. Post AD 160/170.

C4 floor. Late 2nd to early 3rd cents. (most material from disturbed surface).
P14 Jar or necked bowl shell-tempered ware fab la (and ten bs).
P15 Jar or necked bowl soft pink grogged ware fab 2b (and one bs).
P16 Pie-dish finer local grey sandy ware fab 3k.
Fab 2a one bs. Fab 9f two bs. Fab 12 four bs.

Soil and rubble over Main Building C20.
Samian S6 (FIG 19) Dr 37, Central Gaulish, with panels: (1) a single festoon; (2) a double festoon containing a sea-horse (a smaller version of D.35) over two cornucopias (Rogers U261). Most of the details, including the ovolo (Rogers B160) and beaded ring (Rogers E54) were used at Lezoux by Do(v)eccus i. The single festoon is not common in his work. It tends to be used in conjunction with his small label stamp, on bowls in a style rather earlier than those with his large label stamp. *c.* AD 165–185.
Dr 18/31–31 Central Gaulish, late Hadrianic or early Antonine; Dr 18/31 Central Gaulish, Hadrianic (BMD). (Coarse pottery in archive).

Bath House A.
A32 blocking of oven in praefurnium. ? 2nd cent.
P17 Flared rim of a wide-mouthed bowl or jar finer local grey sandy ware fab 3k.
Fab 1a two bs. Fab 9a one bs.

A25 layer on platform in praefurnium. Late 2nd cent. (with late 3rd/4th contamination).
P18 Totally evolved 'lid-seated' jar fab 1a shell-tempered ware.
P19 Wide-mouthed jar or necked bowl fab 2a soft pink grogged ware.
Fab 24 Oxford rim of form C8 flagon dated AD 240–400+ (Young 1977).

A47 material removed by Green from praefurnium. Predominantly early to late 2nd cents.
Some of the material is burnt to varying degrees.
Samian S3 (FIG 18) Dr 38 or 44, stamped BRICCIM, with Die 3d of Briccus of Lezoux. Although Briccus made other forms, his output consists mainly of form 38. This is one of his less common stamps, recorded on forms 80(2) and 27. His work occurs in Period 11d at Verulamium, and at Mumrills. The footring is of a type used on form Curle 11 in Central Gaul and the glaze is good. Vessel slightly burnt, but scarcely worn. *c.* AD 150–165.
The remaining samian is nearly all Lezoux ware of the mid- to late-Antonine period. It includes forms 18/31R or 31R, 31(6), 31R (joining flake from X22), 33(2), 36, 38 or 44, and Ludowici Tx (further sherd A topsoil). There are three earlier sherds (i) Curle 11 in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre, Trajanic or early Hadrianic, footring hardly worn (ii) and (iii) forms 18/31 and 35 or 36 flange, both central Gaulish and Hadrianic or early Antonine (BMD).
P20 Evolved lid-seated jar shell-tempered ware fab 1a.
P21 Jar shell-tempered ware fab 1a.
P22 Bowl shell-tempered ware fab 1a.
P23 Bowl with drooping rim shell-tempered ware fab la (and ten bs).
P24 Small bowl or jar rim soft pink grogged ware fab 2a.
P25 Wide-mouthed bowl soft pink grogged ware fab 2a (and 30 bs).
P26 Platter with internal moulding as found on Gallo-Belgic vessels, and a flange perhaps more reminiscent of samian Curle 11; traces of thin black/dark grey wash, finer local grey sandy ware fab 3k.
P27 Cornice-type rimmed beaker; white with an orange to dark red-brown colour-coat Nene Valley fab 6.
P28 Wide-mouthed bowl with pedestal foot. Possibly a hybrid form between the Gallo-Belgic pedestalled copies of Sigillata form 29 (Camulodunun form 72A and B) and copies of Sigillata form Ritt. 12 (Camulodunum form 46)

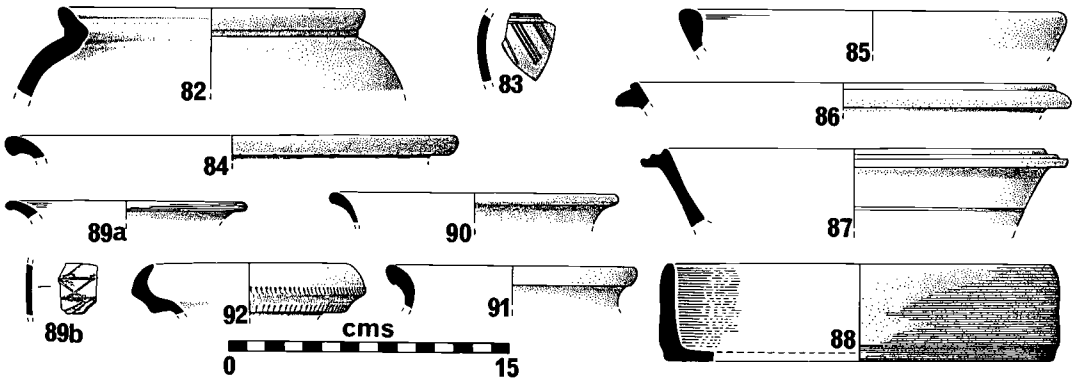

Fig 24 Cosgrove: pottery Area W timber shrine and Temple. P82 W28 timber shrine post-hole; P83 W22 soil under Temple; P84 with W4 skulls; P85–88, 89b W14 Temple floor; P89a, 90 W17 central post-hole; P91 with W13 burial; P92 soil over W. 1/4.

(cf Hawkes and Hull 1947, PLS LII and LIV), burnished black surfaces, local black and red sandy ware fab 9xy. Late Ist to early 2nd cents. ?

P29 Wide-mouthed everted rim jar or bowl, ? Lower Nene Valley grey ware fab 12 (and two bs).

P30 Globular, rouletted, narrow-necked flask, possibly with rilled or cordoned neck, ? Upper Nene Valley greyware fab 14 (and two bs).

P31 Jar or necked bowl rim coarse sandy white ware ? fab 18c (and one bs).

P32 Fairly large squat beaker with circular indentations, base of body sharply carinated, burnished on interior and exterior of rim and shoulder and exterior of base, ? Upper Nene Valley oxidised ware fab 17d. ? 2nd to early 3rd cents.

P33 Flagon rim with handle scar, thin pinkish-orange wash fine white ware fab 18a.

P34 Lid-seated jar coarse sandy white ware fab 18c. Late Ist to 2nd cents. AD (cf Woods 1970, FIGS 25–29).

P35 Flagon rim with fairly flat 'rings' and a single handle scar, thick black slip, orange ware fab 41 (and 4 bs).

P36 Small everted rim jar or necked bowl, compact and sandy fab 43f (one handle and 6 bs).

Fab 3a/9a 13 bs. Fab 10 one bs (see Saxon pottery p 52). Fab 24 one Oxford bs probably from form C51 (Young 1977). Fab 43ac 4 bs.

A33 plunge-bath drain. Late 2nd cent.

P37 Small narrow-necked jar fab 41 orange ware late 2nd cent.

B21/25 Bath House drain mainly sealed by cover slabs. 2nd to 4th cents.

P38 Wide-mouthed everted rim jar or bowl shell-tempered ware fab 1a (another not illus. and 13 bs).

P39 Everted rim jar or bowl fab 2a soft pink grogged ware (and eight bs).

P40 Shallow triangular-rimmed dish, thick black slip with lightly incised 'arcs', fab 3a local grey sandy ware.

P41 Round-bodied bowl with a grooved rim, remains of off-white slip, possibly copying Gillam 1976, FIG 4, 51 dated mid 2nd cent, fab 3a local sandy grey ware.

P42 Beaker with a late devolved cornice-type rim, reddish-brown colour-coat and underslip applied scale decoration, fab 6 Lower Nene Valley colour-coat. Late 2nd to early 3rd cents.

P43 Beaker rim, black colour-coat, fab 6 Lower Nene Valley colour-coat; upright form may relate the vessel more closely to later Nene Valley beaker types (cf Howe et al 1980, FIG 5, 57 which is 4th cent.); (and three bs).

P44 Pie-dish rim fab 8 BB1 (and one bs).

P45 Wide-mouthed jar fab 28, minor greyware, late 2nd to 4th cents.

P46 Small bag-shaped beaker with simple everted rim, very eroded with traces of red-brown slip, fab 38 orange/buff ware, 2nd to early 3rd cents.

P47 Jar or necked-bowl rim fab 41 orange ware.

Fab 11 (medieval) one bs. Fab 14 one bs. Fab 17c 3 bs. Fab 17e one bs. Fab 24 Oxford one bs. Fab 43ac two bs. Fab 43f three bs.

BUILDING X AND AREA FIG 23

Building X was badly plough-damaged and even floor levels such as 37 can not be regarded as completely sealed. No soil was removed from under the primary part of the structure. The date range of the pottery taken as a whole suggests that the original structure was built during the second century, earlier than or contemporary with the Main House (C, A), but that additions and use continued through the third, but not the fourth, centuries.

X32 soil beneath building (only removed along east outer side and under Room VI). Late 2nd to early 3rd cents.

P48 Everted rim of jar or wide-mouthed bowl shell-tempered ware fab 1a.

P49 Simple fairly crude jar or bowl rim shell-tempered ware fab 1b.

P50 Mortarium rim from the Colchester workshops fab 4p (KFH fab 1), soft fine-textured cream fabric with little if any tempering; trituration grit is mostly flint with a little quartz AD 180–200/250. This wall-sided type was first made *c.* AD 160/170 by potters Martinus, Acceptus and others (Hull 1963, FIG 64, FIG 107, Type 501). The form continued into 3rd cent. unstamped, and this example probably post-dates the practise of stamping. (KFH).

X24 primary floor in Room I. 2nd to 3rd cents.
Fab 6 one bs. Fab 12 one bs. Fab 17 ? one bs.

X37 floor in extension Room III. Largely 2nd to 3rd cents.
P51 Bowl rim, unusual form in shell-tempered fabric 1b (and two bs).
P52 Pie-dish or bowl (one of two) finer local black sandy ware fab 9f.
P53 Square-rimmed bowl fab 9f as P52.
P54 Large wide-mouthed bowl or jar Lower Nene Valley greyware fab 12 (cf Howe et al 1980, FIG 1, 7 and 10) (and two bs).
P55 Small smooth pie-dish rim, ? Upper Nene Valley greyware fab 14.
P56 Beaker, differentially fired black and off-white slip as P55 fab 14.
P57 Bowl with everted pie-dish type rim ? Upper Nene Valley oxidised ware fab 17c.
P58 Wide-mouthed bowl with slight over-hanging lip and deep grooves beneath rim, medium white ware fab 18b. 2nd cent.
P59 Lid-seated jar fab 43d.
Fab 2a three bs. Fab 3a one bs. Fab 9a one bs. Fab 17d two bs of a rouletted beaker base. Fab 18c one bs. Fab 24 Oxford one bs. Fab 30 two bs. Fab 41 two bs. Fab 43ac one bs.

X3 floor in extension Room V. 2nd and 3rd cents.
P60 Beaker rim, ? Upper Nene Valley oxidised ware fab 17.
Fab 3a one bs. Fab 12 one bs. Fab 18a one bs. Fab 28 one bs. Fab 41 one bs.

X17 floor in extension Room VI. 2nd and 3rd cents.
P61 Jar rim shell-tempered ware fab 1a (and six bs).
P62 Shallow triangular-rimmed bowl finer local black sandy ware fab 9f, an undecorated BB1 copy probably 2nd to mid-3rd cents.
P63 Wide-mouthed jar with upright neck and cordon Lower Nene Valley greyware fab 12, later 2nd to 3rd cents. (cf Howe et al 1980, FIG 1, 4).
P64 Pie-dish or bowl (cf Howe et al 1980, FIG 2, 18) fab 12 (and six bs).
P65 Ring-necked flagon rim fine white ware fab 18a (and one bs).
P66 'Hunt-cup' with cornice rim, black colour-coat with underslip barbotine Colchester fab 23a. Mid to late 2nd cent.
P67 Everted-rimmed jar fab 43ac (and six bs).
P68 Everted-rimmed jar fab 43d.
Fab 4a Oxford mortarium rim Young M11 AD 180–230. Fab 14 three bs. Fab 28 six bs. Fab 41 two bs.

X22 surface outside building. Essentially 2nd to mid/late 3rd cents.
Samian Dr 31R bs Central Gaulish, mid-late Antonine *c.* AD 160/170–192 (from same vessel as in praefurnium A47) (BMD).
Mortaria fab 4a (Fab 2 KFH) Oxford four bs type M17 (Young 1977) AD 180–230 (KFH).
P69 Jar or necked bowl fab 1a shell-tempered ware (and two bs).
P70 Wide-mouthed bowl fab 2a soft pink grogged ware.
P71 Wide-mouthed bowl or jar fab 2a soft pink grogged ware (and eleven bs).
P72 Pie-dish, remains of off-white slip, fab 3a local grey sandy ware (and two bs).
P73 Amphora rim fab 22 Spanish Dressel 20 probably 2nd cent.
Fab 8 three bs. Fab 12 one bs. Fab 18 one bs. Fab 28 one bs. Fab 30 one bs. Fab 41 one bs.

X21 Bath House drain in X, lower levels not sealed by capstones. Largely 2nd cent.
Samian Dr 18/31 or 31 Hadrianic or early Antonine *c.* AD 117–150 (BMD).
P74 Sherd decorated with two impressed/stamped concentric circles, finer local grey sandy ware fab 3k.
P75 Jar or necked bowl rim finer local black sandy ware fab 9f.
P76 Carinated bowl with reeded rim, ? Upper Nene Valley oxidised ware fab 17c. First half 2nd cent. (cf Woods 1970, FIG 13, 72). Part of P76 from B21 drain fill in area B.
P77 Cornice-rimmed beaker decorated with clay roughcasting, fine white fabric with patchy orange/brown colour-coat (Anderson 1980, FIG 7, 1–3) Lower Rhineland Fabric 1, fab 23b.
Fab 1a one bs. Fab 2b 14 bs. Fab 3a one bs. Fab 6 one bs. Fab 18a 1 bs. Fab 18c one rim and ten bs.

X21 Bath House drain, upper levels not sealed by capstones. 2nd to late 3rd/4th cents.
Mortaria fab 4a (Fab 2 KFH) Oxford one bs probably type M22 (Young 1977) AD 240–400 (KFH).
P78 Jar or necked bowl fab 1a shell-tempered ware (and one bs).
P79 Wide-mouthed bowl or jar fab 2a soft pink grogged ware (and 16 bs).
Fab 3k one bs. Fab 8 three bs. Fab 12 one bs. Fab 18 one handle. Fab 18c/g two bs. Fab 24 Oxford beaker rim type C22 or variant (Young 1977) dated AD 240–400. Fab 30 one bs. Fab 37 one rim. Fab 41 two bs.

Rubble and soil over building 2nd to early 3rd cents.
P80 Lid fab ? 18c local coarse sandy white ware 2nd cent. (cf Woods 1970, FIG 42, 315).
P81 Carinated bowl, decorated on outer face with burnished lattice, fab 25/30 soft fine sandy greyware late 2nd or first half 3rd cents. (cf Woods 1970, FIG 11, 49).

THE SUCCESSIVE TEMPLES IN AREA W FIG 24

The timber shrine was built in the early second century, probably in the second quarter contemporary with the Main House C. After *c.* AD 160/170 the stone temple was built; this was re-roofed in the late third century to which the substantial post-hole W17 dates. The temple continued in use in the fourth century, small quantities of fourth century pottery being worked into the floor W14 and occurring in the overlying rubble.

W27 and 28 post-holes of the timber shrine.
(Both features had been disturbed by a recent drain; intrusive material is marked ⁂.) The ceramic evidence, together with a coin from undisturbed post-hole W26, is

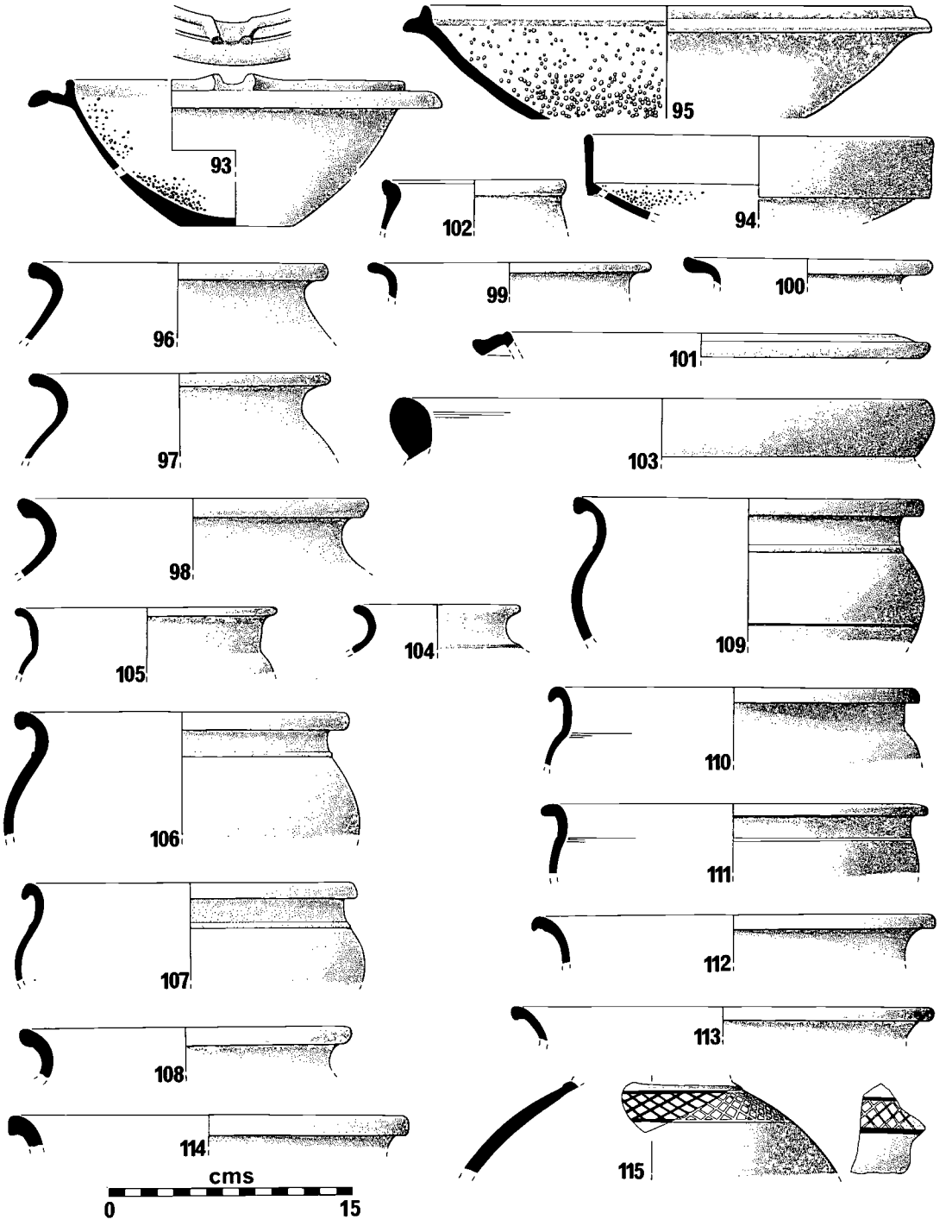

Fig 25 Cosgrove: pottery pit W21. P93 Fab 4a; P94 Fab 4b; P95 Fab 4e; P96–103 Fab 1a; P104–115 Fab 2a. 1/4.

consistent with a date in the second quarter of the second century for the shrine.
Samian ⁂ body sherd from late 2nd cent. mortarium, Central or East Gaulish (BMD).
P82 Lid-seated jar, sandy fabric with large orange and white inclusions fab 43ac. Early to late 2nd cent.
Fab 1a two bs. ⁂Fab 2a one bs. Fab 3a one bs. Fab 46 one bs.

W22 soil level sealing timber shrine but underlying stone temple floor. Late 2nd cent.
The presence of fab 2a suggests a date post AD 160/170.
P83 Body sherd decorated with incised diagonal and horizontal lines, Lower Nene Valley greyware fab 12 (and one bs).
Fab 2a two bs. Fab 3k one bs. Fab 9f one bs.

W4 with skull in temple foundations.
P84 Everted rim jar shell-tempered ware fab 1a. Also fab 37 one bs orange-red Hadham ware possibly mid to late 2nd cent.

W14 flooring in stone temple. 2nd to 4th cents.
Samian Dr 31R bs (other sherds of same vessel in rubble over temple) (BMD).
Mortaria Sherd fab 4a (fab 2 KFH), Young M17 with bead-turned spout AD 240–300 (KFH).
P85 Dish or bowl shell-tempered ware fab 1a (and 16 bs). 4th cent. (cf Woodfield 1984, FIG 30, 255).
P86 Flanged bowl local grey sandy ware fab 3a/9a and (eight bs). Late 3rd to 4th cents.
P87 Reeded rim bowl finer local grey sandy ware fab 3k. 2nd cent. ?
P88 Straight-sided dish with basal outer groove, black colour-coat Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware fab 6. 4th cent. (Howe et al 1980, FIG 7, 87). Also one bs of rouletted beaker.
P89 Cooking pot with flared rim and lattice decoration, BB1 fab 8. Late 3rd to 4th cents. Pieces of same vessel in W17.
Fab 2a 14 bs. Fab 12 two bs. Fab 14 eight bs. Fab 18 two bs. Fab 24 one bs. Fab 28 two bs. Fab 41 two bs. Fab 43ac two bs. Fab 46a two bs (see Iron Age pottery p 35).

W17 central post-hole in stone temple. 2nd to 4th cents.
All significant sherds come from stone layer on top of post-hole.
P89 see W14
P90 Everted rim jar sand-tempered fab 43f. 2nd cent.
Fab 1a 15 bs. Fab 2a 15 bs. Fab 12 one bs. Fab 14 two bs. Fab 24 Oxford three bs. Fab 28 two bs. Fab 25/30 three bs. Fab 37 one bs.

Soil on paving W6 outside temple. 2nd to 4th cent.
Fab 2a one bs. Fab 6 two bs from 4th cent. bowl (cf Howe et al. 1980, FIG 7, nos 85–6). Fab 3a 11 bs. Fab 18a/b one bs. Fab 25/30 one bs.

W13 burial pottery. Early to mid 2nd cent.
P91 Everted rim jar shell-tempered ware fab 1a.

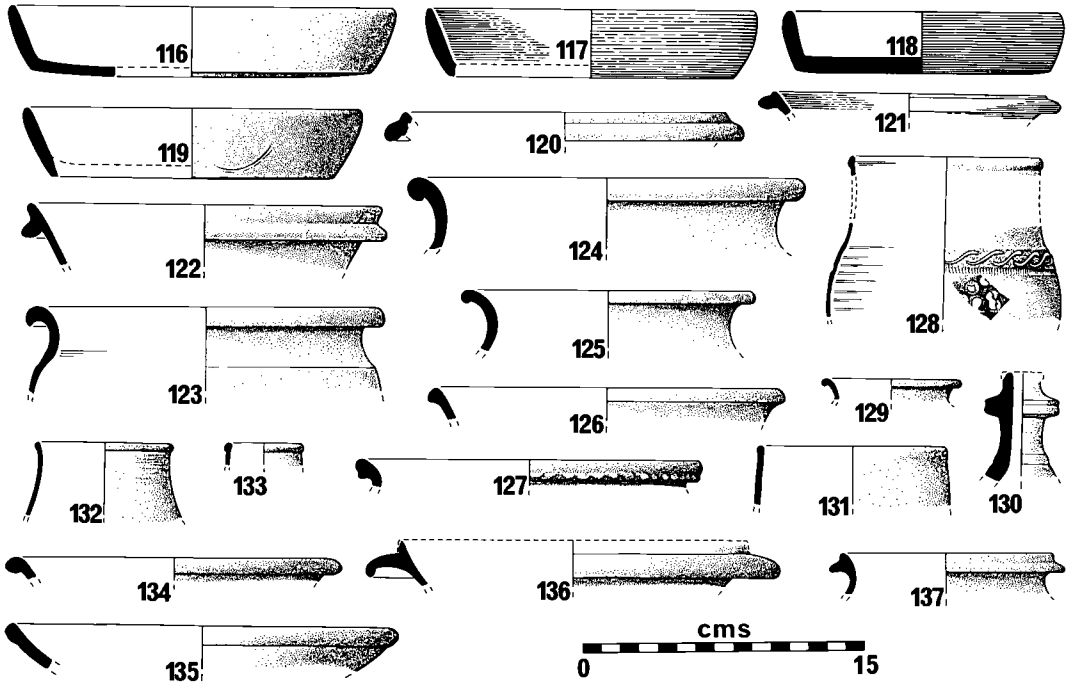

Fig 26 Cosgrove: pottery pit W21. P116–127 Fabs 3a and 9a; P128 Fab 6; P129 Fab 12; P130–136 Fab 24; P137 Fab 28. 1/4.

Table 3 Percentages of pottery fabrics among sherds in Pit W21 and soil Z30

PIT W21
Total sherds 981
Date: late third century, with coins of c. AD 280

Fabric	Sherd Nos	Percentage
1	271	27.62
2	408	41.59
3/9	154	15.69
4a	16	1.63
4b	3	0.3
4c	2	0.2
4e	9	0.92
6	24	2.44
8	2	0.2
10	—	—
12	6	0.61
14	2	0.2
17	3	0.3
18	2	0.2
20	3	0.3
22	1	0.1
24	35	3.56
25/30	4	0.4
28	26	2.65
37	4	0.4
38	—	—
41	6	0.61

SOIL Z30 BENEATH YARD Z35
Total sherds 237
Date: predominantly late third century with a small % of both earlier and later pottery.

Fabric	Sherd Nos	Percentage
1	67	28.27
2	97	40.92
3/9	18	7.59
4a	4	1.69
4b	—	—
4c	—	—
4e	—	—
6	6	2.53
8	13	5.48

Fabric	Sherd Nos	Percentage
10	2	0.84
12	4	1.69
14	8	3.37
17	—	—
18	3	1.26
20	2	0.84
22	1	0.42
24	6	2.53
25/30	—	—
28	3	1.26
37	1	0.42
38	1	0.42
41	1	0.42

Fab 3a one bs. ? Upper Nene Valley greyware one base in a coarse version of fab 14 probably early 2nd cent.

W7 soil and rubble over temple. Late 2nd to 4th cents. and Saxon.
Samian S5 (FIG 19) Dr 37, South Gaulish, grooved for a rivet. A scroll of large chevrons, with the lower concavity closed by a series of finely-petalled rosettes. Presumably La Graufesenque ware, though there are no close parallels. The general style is reminiscent of Germanus i or one of his associates *c.* AD 70–90. And other sherds (BMD).
P92 Large flagon, cup-mouthed moulded rim with stabbed decoration, fab 18a fine white ware, possibly Oxford type W17 (Young 1977) dated AD 240–300. And other wares. (See Saxon Pottery p 51).

PIT W21 FIGS 25, 26

This is a late third century pit group containing 981 pot sherds, thirty-nine coins closely dated to the AD 280s, fragments of bronze, iron, jet, shale, bone and some residual second century glass. The pit appears to have been dug to hold rubbish from the clearance of the temple, probably at a phase of reconstruction. The pottery is almost wholly of late third century date, but with earlier pieces inevitable on a site with a long previous occupation. Residual pieces include some samian, an amphora sherd (generally second century in this area) and a lid-seated shell-tempered jar P102 FIG 26.

Fabric 2 'soft pink grogged ware' is dominant within the group, comprising 41.59% of the sherds. Apart from P104 FIG 25, a narrow-necked jar, it is represented entirely by wide-mouthed necked bowls or jars, some 27 vessels eg P109 FIG 25.

The second dominant fabric, 27.62%, is fabric 1 'shell-tempered ware'. This is represented by a slightly wider range of forms, although the wide-mouthed necked bowl or jar is still predominate with about 18 examples. There is also a single large storage jar rim P103 FIG 25, a reeded rim bowl P101 FIG 25, and the residual lid-seated jar P102 (see above).

The sand-tempered fabrics 3 and 9, 15.69%, are the third largest group, composed largely of dog-dishes (ten examples eg P116 FIG 26), with four flanged bowls (eg P120–P122 FIG 26), four plain jars or necked bowls (P123–P126 FIG 26) and one frilled jar P127 FIG 26.

These three major groups are local products. The fourth major ware, 5.49%, is regional, from the Oxfordshire kilns. The percentage is made up of both mortaria (three examples eg P93–P94 FIG 25) and colour-coated wares; the latter comprise five shallow bowls eg P134–P135 FIG 26, three beakers P131–P133 FIG 26, one deep-flanged bowl P136 FIG 26, and a flagon P130 FIG 26—the only flagon in the pit group.

Fabric 28, 2.65%, is a greyware of unknown origin, possibly local, certainly regional. Only body sherds are present, apart from P137 FIG 26 a rim from an interesting form, a narrow-necked flanged jar.

The Nene Valley colour-coated wares, 2.44%, comprise five vessels, all beakers. The low percentage reinforces the dating of the pit prior to the fourth century expansion of this ware (Howe et al 1980, 10).

Other fabrics form only a fraction of a percentage and are all body sherds, the most interesting of these being 0.2% of BB1 and 0.4% of orange/red Hadham ware. The latter is especially noteworthy as by about AD 270/280 Hadham was only just beginning the market expansion of its late oxidised ware (Going 1987, 118), which links well with the coin dating for the pit group of the early 280s.

In total the regional wares—Hadham, Dorset BB1, Mancetter-Hartshill, the Lower Nene Valley and Oxford—form 9.34% of the group, in contrast to 86.32% for local products (fabs 1, 2, 3/9, 4e, 14, 17). Continental wares are represented by 0.4%, all residual, while the remaining 3.94% come from unlocated sources.

The number of vessels in the pit group was 100 (approx), with the wide-mouthed jar or necked bowl accounting for half of these. There are roughly 14 shallow bowls, eight beakers, six deep neckless bowls, five mortaria, two narrow-necked jars, one large storage jar and one flagon. The remaining number of vessels has been determined by distinctive body sherds. The dominance of the wide-mouthed jar or necked bowl, believed to have been containers, and small storage jars, *may* indicate a major use of food stuffs—all in cheaper locally made pots—as propitiatory offerings at the temple, although in all respects the pottery percentages of the group are typical of late third century *domestic* contexts in this area.

Samian

S4 (FIG 19) Three bs ? residual from Dr 37, Central Gaulish, with panels: (1) a single medallion; (2) a kilted figure (D.103); (3) a sea-cow (D.29) over a fish. All the figure types and the ovolo were used at Lezoux by members of the Cerialis ii—Cinnamus ii group of potters, whose work occurs in large quantities in an early Antonine context at Castleford. The small rosettes at the panel junctions make this almost certainly the work of Paulus iv *c.* AD 140–170. (Similar sherds from plough soil Area D.) (BMD).

Mortaria (KFH) FIG 25

Fab 4b (KFH fab 4) Oxford orangeware

P94 Rim of form C97 (Young 1977) AD 240–400+; two bs.

Fab 4c (KFH fab 7) Mancetter-Hartshill

Two bs.

Fab 4ed ? (KFH fab 5) local

P93 Rim with remains of spout and bs. Sherd of this vessel from W14. Form resembles, and may copy, Oxford M22 AD 240–400+ (Young 1977, 76), but fabric suggests local production, probably from the Ecton area (Johnston 1969, 91, M10–15). Manufacture of mortaria at Ecton sometime within period AD 150–270 (Johnston op cit, 92).

Coarse Pottery Fabrics

Fab 4a (KFH fab 2) Oxford whiteware

P95 Rim of form M18 (Young 1977) AD 240–300 and another not illus. probably from same workshop; eleven bs.

Fab 1a Shell-tempered; rim sherds from 21 vessels, 231 bs. FIG 25

P96 Jar or necked bowl with rounded everted rim (five others not illus.).

P97 Jar or necked bowl with rounded everted rim (seven others not illus.).

P98 Jar or necked bowl with everted slightly undercut rim (another not illus.).

P99 Jar or necked bowl with finer everted rounded rim.

P100 Jar or bowl rim with thin neck walls.

P101 Ridged or reeded bowl rim. Possibly 2nd cent. residual.

P102 Lid-seated jar rim. Probably 2nd cent.residual.

P103 Storage jar rim from large spoon headed vessel.

Fab 2a soft pink grogged; rim sherds from 28 vessels, 373 bs. FIG 25

P104 Narrow-necked jar with a rounded everted rim.

P105 Small jar or necked bowl with a rounded everted rim.

P106 Wide-mouthed jar or necked bowl.

P107 Necked bowl with a triangular undercut rim (two others not illus.).

P108 Jar or necked bowl with a rounded everted rim (three others not illus.).

P109 Necked bowl with a triangular rim (nine others not illus.).

P110 Jar or necked bowl with a triangular undercut rim (another not illus.).

P111 Necked bowl with a flattened outturned rim.

P112 Necked bowl or jar with a thin triangular rim (two others not illus.).

P113 Necked bowl or jar with an outwardly angled neck and triangular rim.

P114 Heavy jar or necked bowl with a triangular rim.

P115 Two bs with reddish-brown painted decoration.

Fab 3a local grey sandy and fab 9a local black sandy; rim sherds from nineteen vessels, 96 bs. FIG 26

P116 Shallow dog-dish fab 3a (three others not illus.).

P117 Dog-dish, fine burnished outer surface fab 9a.

P118 Shallow heavy-rimmed dog-dish, highly burnished outer surface fab 9a. Mid to late 3rd cent., copying BB1 (cf Gillam 1976, FIG 5, 80).

P119 Dog-dish, traces of wavy line/continuous arc decoration fab 3/9a (three others not illus.).

P120 Bowl with level 'bead' and flange fab 9a. Mid to late 3rd cent., copying BB1 (cf Gillam 1976, FIG 3, nos 43–44).

P121 Flanged bowl with low 'bead' fab 9a (another not illus.).

P122 Flanged bowl with high 'bead' fab 3a, copying BB1 (cf Gillam 1976, FIG 4, nos 45–9, dated late 3rd to mid 4th cents.).

P123 Wide-mouthed bowl or jar, overhanging rim fab 3a.

P124 Wide-mouthed bowl or jar with heavy undercut rim fab 9a.

P125 Wide-mouthed bowl or jar fab 9a.

P126 Wide-mouthed necked bowl or jar with triangular rim fab 9a.

P127 Necked jar with frill fab 3a. cf Shakenoak (Brodribb, Hands and Walker 1971a, nos 345–6) there dated late 3rd cent.

Fab 3k finer local sandy eleven bs.

Fab 6 Nene Valley colour-coated rim sherds from one vessel and 23 bs. FIG 26

P128 Beaker with slight bead rim, with white barbotine scroll and solid circle decoration over black colour-coat. Probably 3rd cent. (cf Howe et al 1980, FIG 5, no 49).

Fab 8 BB1 two bs.

Fab 12 Lower Nene Valley greyware one rim and five bs. FIG 26
P129 Small jar. Probably 2nd cent. and residual (cf Howe et al 1980, FIG 1, nos 5 & 6).

Fab 14 ? Upper Nene Valley greyware two bs.

Fab 17 ? Upper Nene Valley oxidised wares three bs.

Fab 18 fine white ware two bs.

Fab 22 Spanish Dressel 20 amphora one bs probably residual.

Fab 24 Oxford red-and-brown colour-coated ten rim sherds and 25 bs. FIG 26.
P130 Flagon rim with grooved 'box' flange, colour-coat eroded. ? form C10 (cf Young 1977, FIG 53). The only dated example is late 3rd cent. but the date range could be AD 240–400+.
P131 Funnel rim from beaker, colour-coat eroded. Possibly C20 (cf Young 1977, FIG 55) AD 270–400+.
P132 Beaker with long sloping neck and slight bead rim, colour-coat eroded. Possibly form C22 or variant (cf Young 1977, FIG 55) dated AD 240–400+.
P133 Small bead rim beaker with dark brown colour-coat. Form may relate to C37, an uncommon and undated form (cf Young 1977, FIG 56).
P134 Shallow bowl with triangular rim, reddish-orange colour-coat. Form possibly variant of C44 (cf Young 1977, FIG 57) dated AD 270–350.
P135 Shallow bowl copying samian Dr 31 with a bead rim, dark brown colour-coat.Type C45 dated AD 270–400+ (cf Young 1977, FIG 58). (Three others not illus.).
P136 Flanged bowl copying samian Dr 38, traces of red-brown colour-coat. Type C51 dated AD 240–400+ (cf Young 1977, FIG 59).

Fab 25/30 soft fine sandy greyware four bs.

Fab 28 minor greyware rim sherd and 25 bs. FIG 26.
P137 Narrow-necked jar with a short neck and flanged rim; reduced. Similar reduced vessels from an Oxfordshire kiln site dated AD 250–400 (cf Young 1977, FIG 76, R18).

Fab 37 Orange Hadham ware four bs.

Fab 41 Orange wares (mixed) six bs.

BUILDING Z FIGS 27, 28

Building Z appears to have been constructed in the late second century as soil Z32 beneath it contains material which did not begin until AD 160/170 ie fab 2a. Pottery found on floor Z24 is also largely late second century; some of it may reflect the building phase, such as the BB1 vessel found *above* and *below* floor Z24. There was little domestic refuse inside the building, but a fair amount of pottery late second to late third centuries in date, although predominantly late third, was found outside in soil Z30, under surface Z35. Most of the pots are jars for storage or bowls and dishes for eating off, not cooking pots, suggesting that the building may have been a workplace rather than either a barn or a dwelling. Yard surface Z35 was laid in the late third century; from this date onward pottery from both inside and outside contexts is scarce, perhaps suggesting a change in building use. Pottery mixed in the rubble/collapse dates up to the mid fourth century.

Z32 soil sealed under floor Z24. Late second century and prehistoric.
Samian Central Gaulish sherd, first half 2nd cent. (BMD).
P138 Wide-mouthed jar or bowl rim soft pink grogged ware fab 2a, late 2nd cent.
Fab 1a three bs. Fab 12 three bs.

Z33 cut into soil Z32 under floor Z24. Later 2nd cent.
Samian. Dr 33 cup rim, Central Gaulish, AD 138–192 (BMD).

Z48 cut into soil Z32 under floor Z24. Late 2nd to early 3rd cents.
P139 Dog-dish, upright walls, sagging base, BB1 fab 8, late 2nd to early 3rd cents. (cf Gillam 1976, FIG 5, 78); sherds of this vessel also occur in soil Z16 on floor Z24.

Z16 soil on internal floor Z24. Predominantly late 2nd cent, but through to 4th cent.
Samian sherd, Central Gaulish, Curle 11, probably from vessel found in A47 in praefurnium, approx. AD 98–125 (BMD).
Mortarium Fab 4a (KFH fab 2) Oxford bs AD 100–400+ (KFH).
P140 Rim of large jar shell tempered ware fab 1a (and nine bs).
P141 Everted rim jar or bowl fab 1a.
P142 Wide-mouthed jar or bowl soft pink grogged ware fab 2a (and seven bs).
P143 Globular-bodied narrow-necked jar with a wide neck cordon, girth groove, fab 3a, greyish-white slip, single thin orange line painted on rim interior. Probably 2nd cent. (cf Woods 1970, FIG 22, 145–147) although the type was known throughout the Roman period (Young 1977, R15, 212) (and one bs).
P139 Part of vessel in Z48.
Fab 6 bs of underslip scroll decorated barbotine beaker late 2nd to early 3rd cents. Fab 9a two bs. Fab 14 five bs. Fab 17d one bs with rouletting.

Z27 pit cut into floor Z24. Late 2nd cent. or later.
P144 Everted rim jar or bowl shell-tempered ware fab 1a late 2nd to 4th cents. (and 13 bs).
Fab 2a two bs. Fab 8 one bs. Fab 12 one bs. Fab 18b one bs.

Z30 soil beneath yard Z35. Predominantly late third cent.
Table 3 (p 46) shows that percentages of fabrics are generally similar to those in pit W21, and a date in the late third century is probable for most of the material.

Samian
Dr 31R, East Gaulish, with an internal double groove at the junction of base and wall, late 2nd to early 3rd cents (BMD).

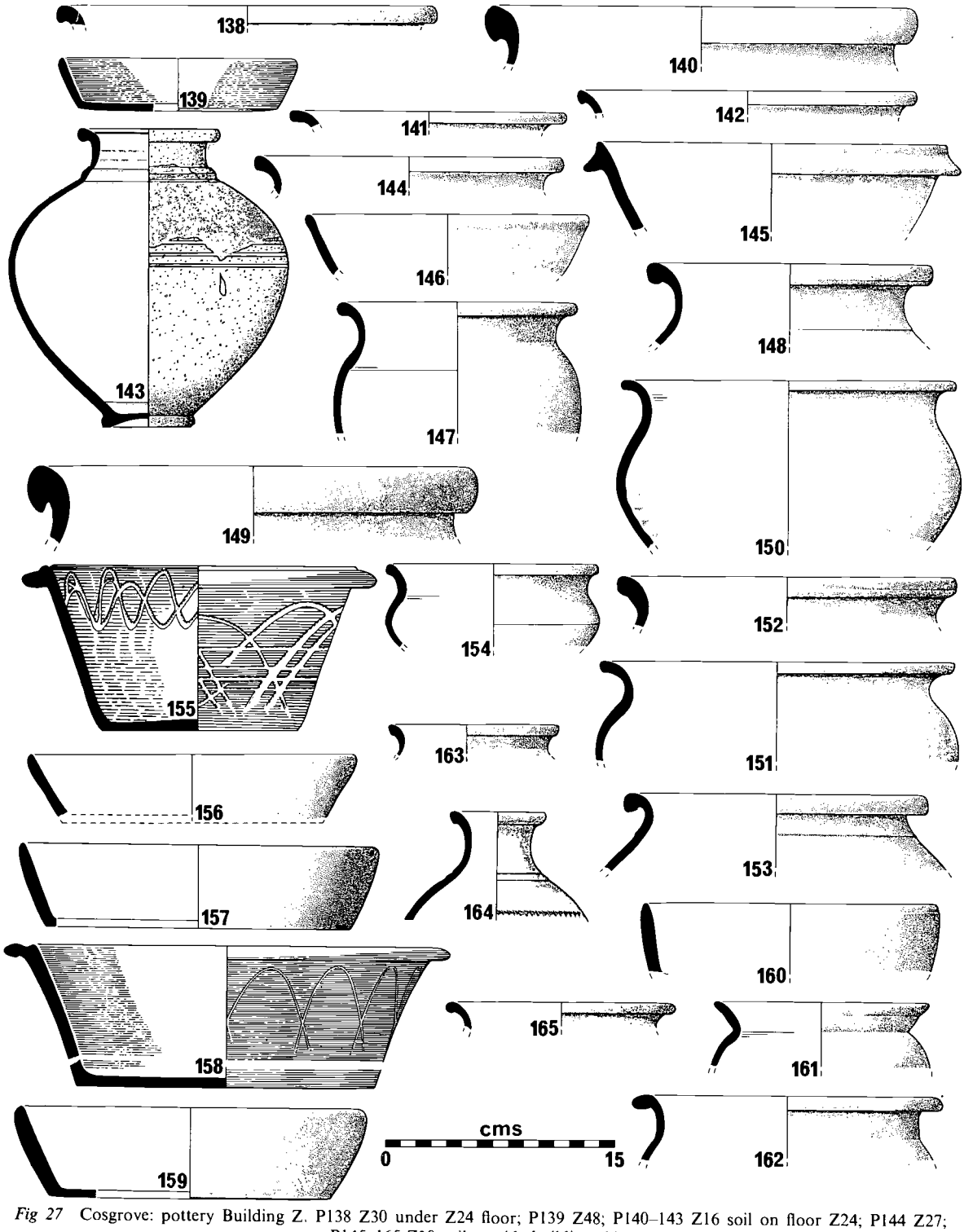

Fig 27 Cosgrove: pottery Building Z. P138 Z30 under Z24 floor; P139 Z48; P140–143 Z16 soil on floor Z24; P144 Z27; P145–165 Z30 soil outside building. 1/4.

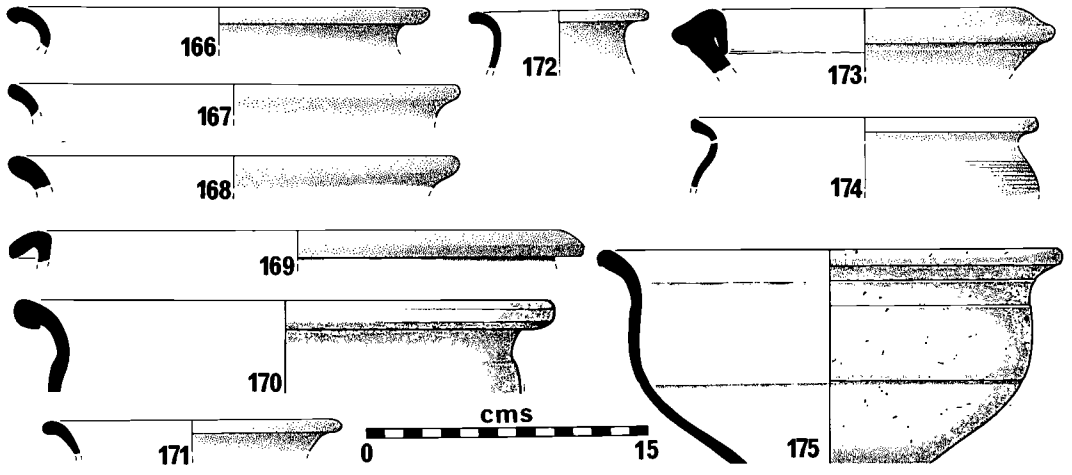

Fig 28 Cosgrove: pottery Building Z. P166–174 yard surface Z13; P175 soil over Z. 1/4.

Mortaria
Fabric 4a (fab 2 KFH) Oxford white ware four bs.) (KFH).
Coarse Pottery Fabrics
Fab 1a shell-tempered; rim sherds from nine vessels, 57 bs.
P145 Flanged bowl.
P146 Straight-sided dish.
P147 Everted rim jar (three others not illus.).
P148 Jar with heavy square rim (another not illus.).
P149 Storage jar with undercut hooked rim.

Fab 2a soft pink grogged ware; rim sherds from 14 vessels, 69 bs.
P150 Wide-mouthed jar or bowl (two others not illus.).
P151 Wide-mouthed jar or bowl (two others not illus.).
P152 Jar or bowl rim (another not illus.).
P153 Hooked jar rim (another not illus.).
P154 Small necked bowl (three others not illus.).

Fab 3a local grey sandy ware; rim sherds from three vessels, four bs.
P155 Flanged bowl with internal and external burnished decoration. Internal decoration is rarely found on vessels of this type; it is more common on 'Crambeck' types where it is incised rather than burnished. This decoration *may* indicate an awareness of the Crambeck style, thus post-dating the start of Crambeck production in first half of the 4th cent. If so the vessel is intrusive.
P156 Fairly large deep straight-sided dish.
P157 Straight-sided dish, traces of whitish slip.

Fab 6 Nene Valley colour-coated ware; one beaker base, four bs.

Fab 8 BB1.
P158 Grooved rim bowl, arc decoration (cf Gillam 1976, FIG 3, 42) late 2nd to early 3rd cents.

Fab 9a Local Black Sandy Ware.
P159 Large deep straight-sided dish.
P160 Straight-sided dish.

Fab 9f ? finer local black sandy ware; rims from two vessels.
P161 Cavetto type rimmed jar, black slip (other rim fragmentary).

Fab 10 two bs Saxon ware (see Saxon Pottery p 51).

Fab 12 Lower Nene Valley greyware; four bs.

Fab 14 ? Upper Nene Valley greyware; rim sherd and seven bs.
P162 Wide-mouthed bowl or jar.

Fab 18a fine white ware; rim sherd and three bs.
P163 Small wide-mouthed bowl or jar, traces of orange slip.

Fab 22 ? Amphora Spanish Dressel 20; one bs.

Fab 24 Oxford red-and-brown colour-coated ware; rim sherds from two vessels, one bs.
P164 Narrow-necked jar with cordon at base of neck and rouletted shoulder, dark orange slip. Type C16 dated AD 270–400+ (Young 1977, 150). Also a fragmentary Type C51 AD 240–400+.

Fab 28 minor greyware; rim and two bs.
P165 Everted jar or bowl rim, remnants of black slip.

Fab 37 orange/red Hadham ware; one bs.

Fab 38 orange/buff ware; one bs.

Fab 41 orange wares; one bs.

Z19 soil over yard Z35. Late 2nd to 4th cents.
Fab 2a one bs. fab 6 one bs.

Z13 soil outside building to east. Predominantly later 2nd to 4th cents.
Samian two Dr 33 cups and a dish, all Central Gaulish, mid to late Antonine *c.* AD 160–198; the dish has lost its internal glaze,probably through use (BMD).
P166 Jar with a slightly hooked, triangular undercut rim, shell-tempered ware fab 1a, typical of mid 4th to early 5th cents. (cf Brodribb et al complete) (and six bs).
P167 Simple everted jar rim shell-tempered ware fab 1b, typical late 2nd to early 3rd cents. (and four bs).
P168 Simple everted jar rim shell-tempered fab 1b, fabric typical of late 2nd to early 3rd cents.
P169 Bowl with drooping rim soft pink grogged ware fab 2a, an unusual form in this fabric (and 11 bs).
P170 Wide-mouthed necked bowl with undercut rim Lower Nene Valley greyware fab 12, ? 3rd cent. (cf Howe et al 1980, FIG 1, 8) (and one bs). Part of P170 from topsoil over X.
P171 Simple everted rim jar ? Upper Nene Valley greyware fab 14 (one bs with lattice, two plain bs).
P172 Narrow-necked jar ? Upper Nene Valley oxidised ware fab 17d.
P173 Rim from Amphora Spanish Dressel 20, fab 22.
P174 Jar or bowl rim, rilled body sherds, thin black/dark grey wash minor greyware fab 28.
Fab 3a one bs. Fab 6 one bs probably a beaker. (See also Earlier Prehistoric Pottery p 34).

Z3 soil and rubble over building.
P175 Wide-mouthed necked bowl fab 2a soft pink grogged ware-late 2nd to 4th cents. And other wares.

Saxon Pottery

(Fig 29)

by

T PEARSON (1987)

About ten sherds were identified; all would be grouped under Milton Keynes Fabric 10. Full descriptions are given in the archive report. Distinctive sherds are presented chronologically; the latest may belong to the seventh century.

LATE ROMAN ?
P176 (not illus) Body sherd, limestone-tempered from a plain domestic jar, coil/hand-made. The fabric and manufacture of this sherd do not fit readily into the repertoire of known Anglo-Saxon potting techiques; they suggest rather the late Roman 'Huntcliffe' type wares. If so it is the only Roman handmade sherd identified at Cosgrove. From *A47 praefurnium infill.*

GROG-TEMPERED FABRIC, POSSIBLY SIXTH CENTURY.
P177 (not illus) Base/body sherd from a plain domestic jar; mixed temper of grog, quartz and ironstone, and calcined bone/shell; coil-made. Grog-tempered pottery of sixth century date has been found in the Northampton area. From *topsoil over temple in W.*

QUARTZ-TEMPERED, SIXTH TO SEVENTH CENTURIES.
P178 (FIG 29) Rim sherd of small plain burnished bowl; fine quartz temper with sparse limestone grits; coil-made, rim finger-moulded. The small bowl form appears to have been more common in the sixth than in the seventh centuries, and was used in a variety of ways, for cooking, storage, fire-pots and lamps; unburnt. From *W7 rubble over temple.*
P179 (FIG 29) Rim sherd from large plain domestic jar; fine quartz temper with larger sandstone and limestone fragments; coil-made, well-finished. Fabric and form suggest a sixth to seventh century date. From *W22 soil beneath temple, but outside, in area of burial W13; intrusive.*
P180 (not illus) Body sherd from large plain domestic jar; fine quartz temper with isolated ironstone inclusions; coil-made, external surface smoothed. Similar examples from Northamptonshire suggest a sixth to seventh century date. From *W22 soil beneath temple, but outside building.*

QUARTZ TEMPERED FABRICS, PROBABLY SEVENTH CENTURY.
P181 (not illus) Body sherd with coarse temper, from large plain domestic jar, coiled, hand-made. From *soil over Room II in Main Building C.*
P182 (not illus) Base sherd from globular jar, with fine temper of quartz and some larger limestone inclusions; the vessel appears to have been coil-made over a mould and matches very closely examples from Raunds (Foard and Pearson 1985, 12–13) and Stanton Low (Pearson 1989). Globular storage jars date at Raunds from the mid seventh century into the late eighth or early ninth; the fabric of P181 compares well with the earliest examples from Raunds. From *topsoil over temple in W.*
P183 (not illus) Lower body/base sherd from a globular storage jar; fabric and manufacture as P182. From *Z30 continuation of soil beneath building but outside it.*
P181–P183 are all early in the series of globular jars and probably seventh century in date.

Tile

The tile has been classified according to the Milton Keynes Tile Fabric types fully described by Zeepvat (1987). Fabric 1 has large fragments of crushed fossil-shell tempering; Fabric 2 has fine sand tempering, Fabric 3 is similar to 2 but with less temper; Fabric 4 has numerous red ironstone inclusions in a cream/pink matrix; Fabric 5 contains grog. All sandy fabrics have here been described as the coarser Fabric 2, but odd sherds of the finer Fabric 3 may be present. Detailed quantifications have not been produced because so much tile was removed in topsoil stripping and the proportion of tile C W Green retained from his excavations is unknown.

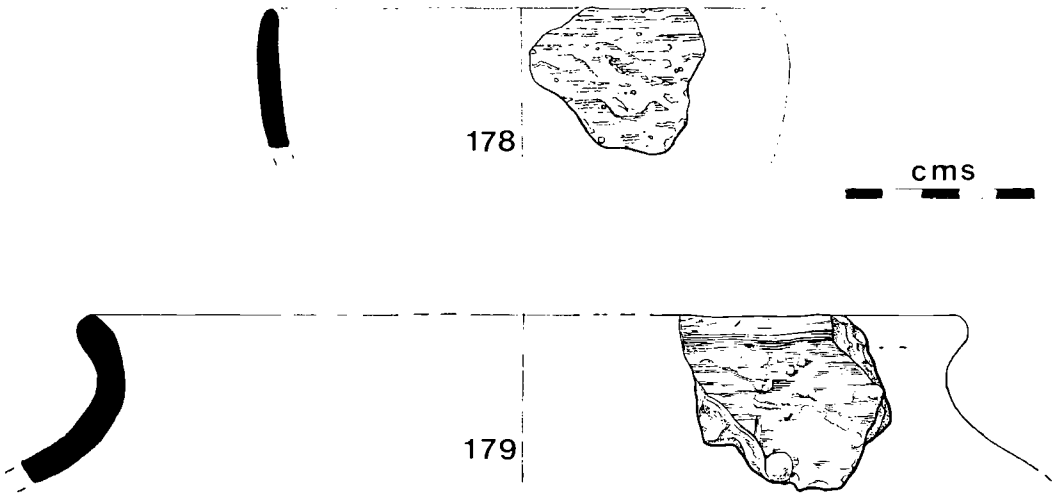

Fig 29 Cosgrove: Saxon pottery. 1/2.

MAIN HOUSE AND BATH HOUSE, A–C
All tile from the Bath House was of Fabric 2, presumed to be of second century date; this applied both to structural elements *in situ* and material in the infill. The only exception was small pieces of the little known Fabric 4 in the rebuilt stoke hole. Fabric 4 should be of Late Antonine or possibly Severan date (information C Woodfield). Fabric 2 was used for *tegulae*, *imbrices*, box flue tiles, and tiles used structurally in *pilae*, raised floor, and in structural units such as the wall between the *caldarium* and *tepidarium*. In Area B again virtually all was Fabric 2, except for Fabric 4 *imbrices* fragments in drain B25, and a Fabric 5 *imbrex* fragment from topsoil. In Area C, C47, the upper floor in Room II, yielded a single fragment of Fabric 5, but all other tile in floor or sealed levels was Fabric 2. Small quantities of tile were examined from the plough damaged levels over the Building; about half was of Fabric 2, the remainder of Fabrics 1, 4 and 5. Fabric 4 may be of Late Antonine/possibly Severan date, Fabric 5 starts in the later second/early third centuries (information P Marney; Woodfield 1983 Microfiche 0) but Fabric 1 is generally mid to late third centuries.

BUILDING X
The majority of fragments were of Fabric 2, but with odd scraps of Fabrics 1 and 4, while pieces of the Fabric 5 were found in the floors of Rooms III and V.

SHRINE AND TEMPLE IN AREA W
Only small pieces of Fabric 2 and Fabric 4 were associated with features connected with the shrine and the soil beneath the Temple. Packing of post-hole 17 contained Fabric 5 material, while both the Temple floor W14 and rubble/destruction levels contained a mix of Fabrics 1, 2, 4 and 5, in which 5 predominated.

PIT W21
Fabric 2 accounted for about three quarters of the fragments, the remainder comprising 4, 5 and 1 in descending order.

BUILDING Z
Most of the tile was of Fabric 2, including combed fragments presumably re-used. There was a little of each of the other Fabrics 1, 4 and 5, especially in soil Z 30.

Human Bones

by

JULIET ROGERS (1978)

The skeletal remains, although sketchy, consisted of parts of at least two persons labelled as three different sets of bones.

Age. Only one loose tooth was present with some skull bones, so that aging by the degree of attrition (Brothwell 1972) was not possible. None of the bones displayed unfused epiphyses, which means that they were all adult. No vertebrae were present so that no accurate assessment of the incidence of osteophytes or arthritis could be made for assigning the skeleton

to an older age group (Bourke 1967). *Sex* was assessed where possible from the skull and pelvic morphology, and the size of the head of the femur (Genoves 1969). *Stature* was estimated from one long bone maximum length (ulna) using Trotter & Gleser's (1958) regression equation.

Skull 192 from W4 set into temple wall. Possible male. Adult. Consists of fragments of occiput, parietal, frontal, zygoma and the pertrous part of the right temporal.

Skull 142 from W4 set into temple wall. Male. Adult. Fragments of frontal, zygoma, parietal, and pertrous parts of right temporal. Loose upper third molar.

Post cranial bones 215. W13 burial south of temple. Possible male. Adult. Stature from maximum length of left ulna 1639 mm (5ft 4½ins approx.). No vertebrae. Pelvic fragments only. Fragments of all other long bones except both humeri and right forearm. The hand bones were from two individuals. *Pathology.* A bony union exists between the distal ends of the left tibia and fibula, probably an after effect of injury. No fracture was present. One finger had a bony lump upon its surface, also an after effect of a sharp blow or other injury.

Conclusion. There are scanty remains of at least two individuals, both male, but it is not possible to assign any of the material for certain to either group of skull fragments.

Animal Bones

by

B WESTLEY (1977)

The collection is a small one, consisting almost entirely of the bones of the main domestic animals:

Cattle	135 fragments
Sheep	137 fragments
Pig	17 fragments
Horse	30 fragments
Deer (Red)	1 fragment (doubtful)
Hedgehog	1 fragment
Bird	6 fragments
Total	327 fragments

The material is entirely fragmentary, the food bones chopped up as is general in Romano-British material. One cattle humerus is complete enough for measurement and is 241 mm overall, indicating a fairly small animal. The horse fragments are more numerous than is usual in such a collection; this is because they are mostly teeth and probably represent no more than two animals, perhaps only one. Although they are with fragments of food animals, it is not suggested that horse was eaten.

Two bird bones are probably domestic fowl, but they are not complete. Other bird bones might be duck (?wild) but this is not certain.

A faunal list is filed with the excavation archive.

Molluscs

177 oyster shells, 2 mussels, 2 whelks and 2 cockles were recorded.

Flint

Figs 30, 31

Flints occurred sparsely over the whole villa field (Table 4), but were only found stratified below Building Z, in contexts where prehistoric pottery also occurred; worked flints were also noted on the surface of the two fields immediately west of the villa.

The flint was probably all of local origin, from the Ouse gravel terraces. In quality it varied from opaque white or iron-stained orange to the fine translucent grey-black which was used for the majority of artefacts and retouched pieces. Most were not noticeably patinated, but a few heavily patinated pieces had been reworked, suggesting a component earlier in date than the main assemblage.

Table 4 Analysis of flints by findspot; r = retouched.

Location	Flakes	Broken Flakes	Cores	Broken Cores & Core Preparation	Artefacts	Totals
A	2					2
C	(2r) 3	9	1	7		20
B & D	(1r) 2	3				5
X	(1r) 5	1		3	2	11
W	(7r) 10	9		11	6	36
Z32 soil	(11r) 26	9		4	4	43
Z45 post-hole	1					1
Z other	(8r) 14	5	4	9	4	36
Villa field	(3r) 4	4	2	12		22
Y field	(2r) 2					2
Totals	69	40	7	46	16	178

The length to breadth ratios of complete flakes (both retouched and unretouched) are plotted in FIG 31. Length is generally slightly greater than breadth, and thus the shape of the

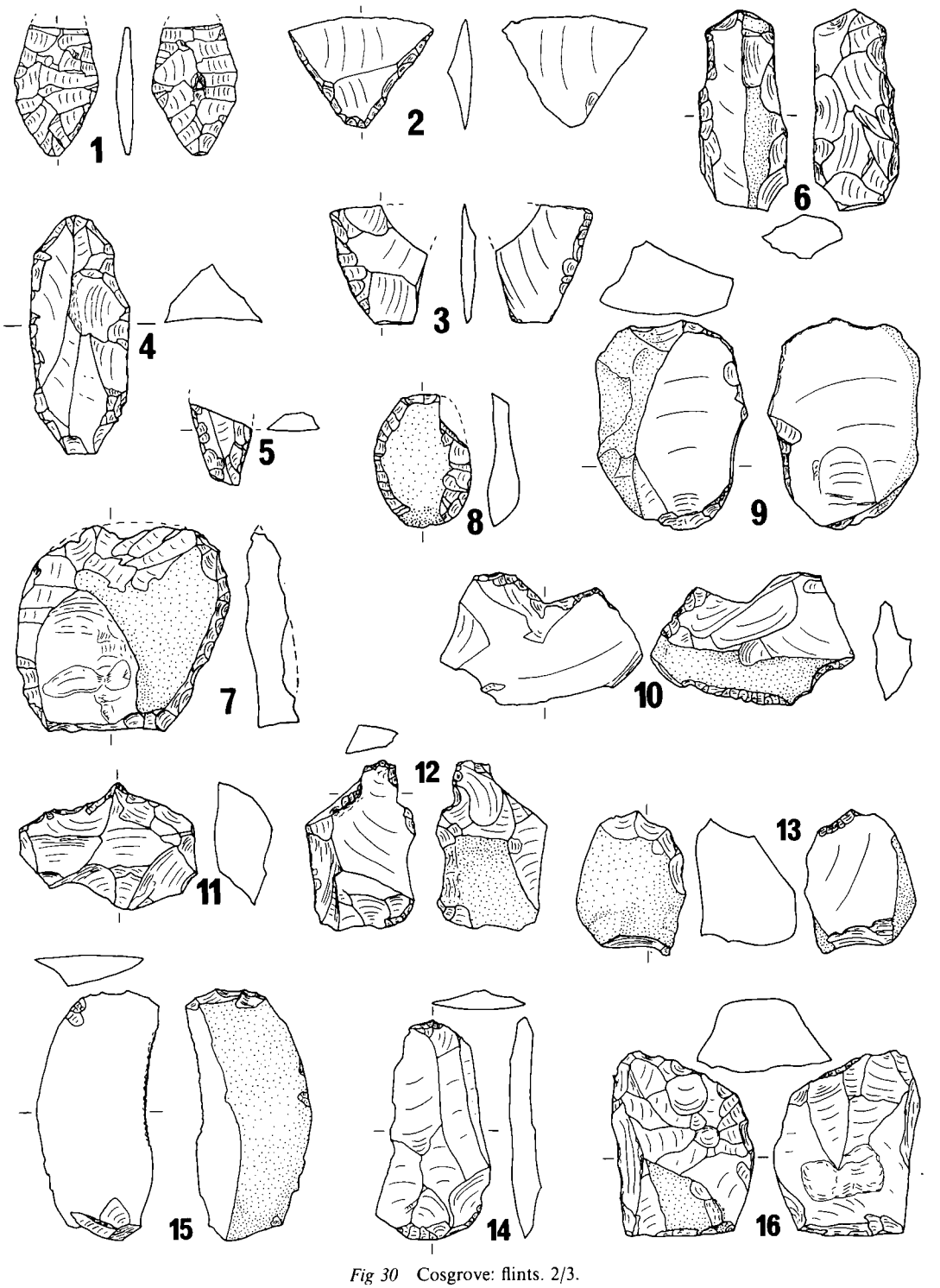

Fig 30 Cosgrove: flints. 2/3.

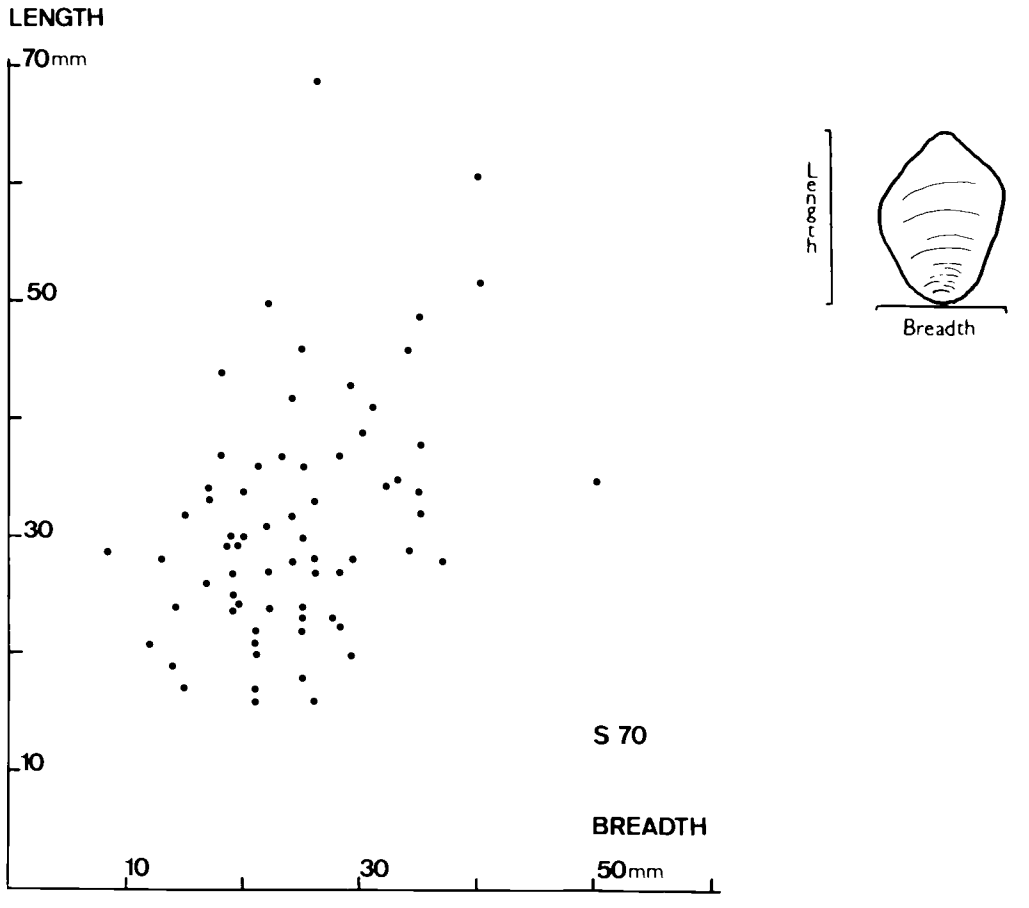

Fig 31 Cosgrove: length to breadth ratios of flint flakes, both retouched and unretouched.

flakes is consistent with that of Late Neolithic assemblages (eg Wainwright 1979, 151). Half the flakes had identifiable retouch, including notches. The large number of broken flakes and cores is probably due to later disturbances, consistent with the residual contexts of most of the assemblage. The seven cores comprise one single-platform worked right around its perimeter, one just started, and five multi-platform cores very much worked down. All identifiable artefacts have been illustrated: three arrowheads, two plano-convex knives, four scrapers (including a hollow version), four awls, one fabricator, one strike-a-light (?) and a serrated flake. The range, given the small assemblage, is consistent with that found on sites with Peterborough or Beaker pottery. Green (1980, 84) notes a mixture of leaf and chisel arrowheads on Peterborough sites, though at Cosgrove the single leaf arrowhead No 1 came from the Bath House drain infill and could be an earlier stray.

ARTEFACTS

No 1. Leaf arrowhead, tip broken, good quality grey flint; invasive retouch completely covering both faces. Most probably of Green's 'kite-shaped' type, which are usually of large size (Green 1980, 74 & FIG 28). *X residual.*

No 2. Transverse arrowhead, good quality grey flint; Green's 'chisel' type (1980, 37 & FIG 37). *Soil Z32.*

No 3. Transverse arrowhead, good quality grey flint, corner broken; Green's 'chisel' type as No 2. *Soil Z32.*

No 4. Plano-convex knife, good quality grey flint. *Soil Z32.*

No 5. Broken plano-convex knife, good quality grey flint. *Z residual.*
No 6. Fabricator, tip worn, edges battered, mottled cortical flint. *W residual.*
No 7. Discoidal scraper, burnt, patinated, surfaces partly shattered, mottled cortical flint. *W residual.*
No 8. Ovoid discoidal scraper, mottled cortical flint. *Soil Z32.*
No 9. Cortical flake, tip retouched to form slight point, inverse retouch forming ? scraping edge on base. *Z residual.*
No 10. Hollow scraper on cortical flake. *Z residual.*
No 11. Awl on broad thick flake, mottled cortical flint. *W residual.*
No 12. Awl on cortical flake. *X residual.*
No 13. Awl on cortical flake. *Z residual.*
No 14. Awl, one edge heavily worn, patinated grey flint. *W residual.*
No 15. Finely serrated-edged flake, end retouched; patinated cortical flint. *W residual.*
No 16. Thick cortical flake, bulbar surface flattened, roughly trimmed around edge, one side battered. ? strike-a-light. *W residual.*

Discussion

LATE NEOLITHIC

Recent work is beginning to show evidence of considerable use, during the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, of the gravel terraces of the Great Ouse and its tributaries. This work consists both of aerial survey (Field 1974), and of the systematic fieldwork undertaken in the area of Milton Keynes New Town. Three ring-ditches revealed in air photographs are close to the findspots of prehistoric material at Cosgrove (FIG 2) at SP 79564190, 79584188 and 79394193 (NAR Records SP SE 35). One of the photograph series with ring-ditches (RAF 1066/UK 1562, 4249–50, 1946) also shows other marks of possible archaeological significance in their vicinity. A further six ring-ditches occur within a mile at Old Stratford (NAR SP 74 SE 13) and two more at Potterspury (RCHM(E) 1982, 118). Four ring-ditches have been excavated just south of the Ouse within Milton Keynes; from these the earliest material was an E/WMR Beaker from Little Pond Ground (SP 80124053) with an association date of 1720 ± 80 bc (HAR-340) (Green 1974, 125). The nearby ring-ditch at Warren Farm (SP 80334074) may originally have been a house site (Green 1975, 5). Warren Farm produced a variety of pottery including Beaker and possible Fengate sherds with a date of 1500 ± 90 bc (I-7148: Green 1974, 125). The Milton Keynes ring-ditch (SP 88183864) had a scatter of Beaker sherds of varying styles in its immediate vicinity, while worked flints were found in the environs of all the excavated ring-ditch sites as well as elsewhere in the Milton Keynes area (Green 1974, passim). Environmental evidence from Warren Farm (Green 1974, 100) indicated that the site had stood on land long cleared and probably grazed, while that from Little Pond Ground (Green 1974, 116) suggested open grassland. A Grooved Ware settlement site at Stacey Bushes, Milton Keynes (SP 820543992), 1830 ± 150 bc (HAR-858), produced a group of pits and post-holes which, like those at Cosgrove, formed no recognisable structure in plan (Green 1976). The Stacey Bushes settlement was situated in the vicinity of woodland, and was interpreted as used for seasonal autumn grazing (Green 1976, 32). Green (1976, 19) makes the cogent point, based on his work at Milton Keynes but backed by data from sites like Fengate, that the sites of ring-ditches may be close to contemporary settlements. This seems to be the case with the close proximity of ring-ditches and settlement at Cosgrove.

The cumulative evidence of work at Milton Keynes shows extensive and increasing clearings along the south of the Great Ouse valley during the second millennium bc. Little is known by comparison of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age settlement along the north of the Great Ouse. Worked flint is recorded from Stony Stratford at SP 795405 (NAR SP 74 SE 31) and axes and other worked flint from Potterspury (RCHM(E) 1982, 118). It seems probable that, with intensive survey, a density of material would be found comparable to that on the south of the Ouse. A chance discovery, as at Cosgrove, can be seen as a window on an extensive concealed prehistoric landscape, which during the second millennium bc would have consisted of a mosaic of woodland, fields and pasture along the Great Ouse and its tributaries.

LATE IRON AGE

The presence of a few sherds of very late Iron

Age pottery (p 35) suggests occupation in the vicinity somewhere around the time of the Roman Conquest. A chance find of a piece of Late Iron Age enamelled copper alloy (p 67) just south of the site confirms this suggestion. The situation is similar to that at Bancroft (Zeepvat and Williams 1986, 2), and Mileoak Farm (Green and Draper 1978, 33), while at Deanshanger (Wilson, 1973, 293–4), Stanton Low (C Woodfield *pers comm*) and Wood Burcote (RCHM(E) 1982, 156) Roman buildings were erected on the actual sites of immediately preceding settlements. Recent fieldwork, summarised in RCHM(E) 1980, has greatly increased the number of known Iron Age sites in Northamptonshire, to over 200, and presents a picture of intensive usage of most soil types and areas, supported by work south of the Ouse in the Milton Keynes area (Zeepvat in Mynard 1987, 8).

THE ROMAN SETTLEMENT

Cosgrove was situated within the *civitas* of the Catevellauni (Rivet 1958, 146), probably in a *pagus* centered on Lactodorum (Towcester). The *pagus* to the south across the Ouse, centred on Magiovinium (Dropshort), has been the focus of a recent study (Mynard 1987) drawing together the results of the extensive archaeological work occasioned by the construction of the new town of Milton Keynes. This study includes the scantier data for the Lactodorum *pagus* and so provides a comprehensive background for the local aspects of the Cosgrove villa and temple.

Detailed comment on the site is restricted, even for those buildings excavated, by the sparsity of sealed stratigraphy, and by the extensive plough damage which makes the later phases of structures difficult to define and date. The excavated structures were probably the most substantial on the site, but other stone buildings are indicated by walling such as W50, and slighter constructions, either of stone or timber, may be assumed for the unexcavated parts of the site. There is also the possibility that, either at times or throughout the use of the site, the main focus was to the north of the excavated area on slightly higher ground; this may have been destroyed by the construction of the Buckingham Branch Canal or may still exist in the parkland of Cosgrove Hall. The structural complexity revealed by large scale excavation, for example at Bancroft (Zeepvat and Williams 1986) and at Gorhambury (Neal in Frere 1983, 307), shows the futility of attempting any comprehensive interpretation of a villa site on partial evidence.

The sequence on the site may be briefly summarised and presented graphically (FIG 32), with the *caveat* that most dates are derived from imperfect data and should not be quoted as definite. Possible use before the first main building phase is indicated by the earliest element, the first simple structure in the Building X sequence, by artefacts such as glass No 1 and brooch No 1 from the late first or early second centuries, and by the presence of samian in the soil beneath the Main House. This material might relate to an early focus to the north of the excavated site, or occupation may have centred on Building X. The Main House and its Bath House were constructed around the mid second century; the timber shrine may have been contemporary, as may additions to Building X and the construction of an enclosure wall X35 (FIG 32A). From their general plan and the comparisons given below, the construction date for the Main House and Baths may appear much earlier, late first or early second centuries, than the mid second century date indicated by the small amount of pottery in the soil preceding the House. A mid second century date is preferred here because this pottery is unlikely to have been intrusive, but the earlier alternative should be borne in mind.

The Bath House became disused before AD 200, and its demolition after a short period of midden dumping may have coincided with major alterations to the Main House. The plan of the Main House after this date can not be reconstructed, but the fragmentary nature of the later walls and sparsity of artefacts suggests that it ceased to function as a residence of any status; its function after c. AD 200 is unknown. During the late second century, the timber shrine appears to have been replaced by the stone-built Temple, Building Z was built, and a new substantial enclosure wall X26 replaced X35 (FIG 32B). If all these alterations and additions took place at one time, a major

replanning is indicated. All that is lacking is a residence. A so-far unlocated building to the north is possible, or else Building X, or even the late stages of the Main House, provided unsophisticated domestic accomodation. By around AD 300 use both of the Main House site and of Building X probably finally ceased. Building Z continued and the Temple was altered, in the 280s?, by the addition of a major central post (FIG 32C). Use of Building Z continued into the mid or late fourth century; the Temple may, on coin evidence, have continued late in that century (FIG 32D) or even into the fifth. Saxon pottery indicates sporadic later use.

The major phase of construction in the mid second century fits well with an intensification of local settlement and land use in the Roman period (RCHM(E) 1982, 156), peaking during the second century in the Milton Keynes area (Zeepvat in Mynard 1987, 9). We have, on present knowledge, a fairly even spacing of Roman style buildings along the north side of the Ouse (FIG 1) with Deanshanger the nearest site upstream; further north on higher ground are Potterspury (RCHM(E) 1982, 118) and Whittlebury (RCHM(E) 1982, 169), neither known from modern excavations, while Wood Burcote (RCHM(E) 1982, 156) and Mileoak Farm (Green and Draper 1978) lie close to Towcester. South of the Ouse are Bancroft, Stantonbury, Stanton Low and Wymbush, all about a mile apart (Zeepvat in Mynard 1987, 9, FIG 4). Of all these sites, only Bancroft (Zeepvat and Williams 1986), Deanshanger (Monk unpub), Stanton Low (C Woodfield *pers comm*) and Stantonbury (R Zeepvat *pers comm*) appear, on the current evidence, to have been occupied as villas from the second to the fourth centuries; whether Cosgrove should be included depends on the likelihood of a yet-to-be-discovered residence, amd the status to be afforded to Building X.

The Main House at Cosgrove was externally 40 *pedes* wide (12 m). (A value of 0.296 m has been taken for the *pes*; the author is aware of the difficulties involved in the mensuration of plans in Roman units.) The central rooms were 20 *pedes* wide, flanked symmetrically by rooms 10 *pedes* in width. (These comments ignore the possible irregularity of plans suggested by building debris in Area D: tile fabrics in D are largely second century). The closest comparison in plan is with Mileoak Farm (Green and Draper 1978, 41, FIG 3), probably built around AD 65–75 and demolished by AD 150, although there is third/fourth century pottery nearby (C Woodfield *pers comm*). Another building similar to the Cosgrove Main House is that at Deanshanger, the date of construction of which is unclear but may be late first century (Monk unpub., 53). Both Mileoak Farm and Deanshanger were wider than Cosgrove (16 m overall) and 33 m and 40 m long respectively. Both have a central range of rooms double the width of the flanking corridors or rooms on either side; the walls for the central range at Deanshanger were described as being 'more strongly founded than those outside them' (Monk unpub., 53). A timber framed superstructure for Cosgrove has already been suggested. The internal walls are marginally wider than those on the outside, allowing for the possibility of a clerestory. Posts could have been set on the walls at five *pedes* intervals, for example on the corners of Room IV and in the centres of its south east and north west walls. If the roof were carried on a timber superstructure, the slight irregularity of the wall lines would have been immaterial.

The Bath House, with its simple, regular progression of rooms and facilities, is typical of the first and second centuries. It may be compared to the first baths at Bancroft (Zeepvat and Williams 1986, 4, FIG 2). These, although larger and more irregular in plan, had much the same layout, and some similar structural details; they were built on to the outside of a late first to early second century structure, and were demolished in the late second century. The Bath House may also be compared with the simple freestanding Period I Baths at Gadebridge Park, Herts (Neal 1974, 6) dated *c.* AD 75, though those lack a cold plunge.

Building X, in its earliest form, was a simple building 40 by 20 *pedes*; its additions were made in regular *pedes* units: Room III 12 by 40, Rooms IV and V 10 by 18 externally. As there was no evidence such as hearths for domestic use, it may have served as a farm building rather than a dwelling. Its dimensions are

almost identical with those of the suggested 'farm bailiff's office' at Stanwick, Northants (Neal in Frere 1988, 452 and FIG 19). The timber shrine in Area W, contemporary with the second century buildings, may be of the type described by Rodwell (1980a, 233–4) as a 'proprietary shrine' and is further discussed below.

Some decline at Cosgrove towards the end of the second century is suggested by the disuse of the Bath House. This may have been due to problems within the estate, but there is accumulating evidence that the *pagi* of Lactodorum and Magiovinium suffered some form of crisis during the later second century. Mileoak Farm was demolished *c.* AD 140–60 (Green and Draper 1978, 42), Wood Burcote seems to have had major readjustments towards AD 200 (RCHM(E) 1982, 156). The interior of Towcester/Lactodorum appears to have undergone a period of decline in the later second century, although the suburbs expand, to decline in their turn during the third century (RCHM(E) 1982, 150; *pers comm* C Woodfield). Deanshanger seems to have continued without noticeable change though all the data for its chronology is very imperfect (Monk unpub.). South of the Ouse, Stanton Low suffered a fire in the late Antonine period (C Woodfield *pers comm*), and Bancroft was also partly destroyed by fire *c.* AD 170 (Zeepvat in Mynard 1987, 65). All these substantial sites, except Mileoak Farm, continued and some expanded. The recent study of Roman Milton Keynes (Mynard 1987) presents a balanced picture of the current evidence; more sites of all levels of sophistication were occupied during the second century than at any subsequent time, with the number declining at the end of that century. The sites which survived the decline continued for a long period. Stresses caused by local expansion of population and settlement may have been compounded by outside political factors. The end of the second century is seen (Zeepvat in Mynard 1987, 10) as a 'clear watershed between an early period of expanding rural settlement, and a late period of settlement stasis.'

The rebuilding in the late second century at Cosgrove included Building Z, the stone temple, a new boundary (?) wall, as well as uninterpretable structures on the Main House site. Building X continued in use, possibly with some addition at this time or later.

Building Z is the only major structure on the site not laid out in regular units of *pedes*. It included a hearth, but the pottery suggests a workplace rather than a domestic unit (p 48). Unpretentious rectangular buildings without obvious indications of function frequently occur on villa sites. About sixty sites with such simple farm buildings have been listed in a recent study (Morris 1979), and the 5.3 m internal width of Cosgrove is amongst the narrowest recorded. In the Milton Keynes area, Holne Chase Building I was 4.5 m wide, probably of fourth century date, and may have formed an agricultural outbuilding on a small farm (Williams in Mynard 1987, 32). Building 10 at Bancroft, 6 m wide, is dated to the second century (Zeepvat and Williams 1986, 24). Building 2 at Wymbush, 6 m wide and probably open on one side, was a second century farm outbuilding (Zeepvat in Mynard 1987, 87). A common feature of these buildings is their flooring of packed stone rubble, the surface of which was heavily used. The lack of drains or worn hollows does not support their use as byres. At Cosgrove the variety of interior features (FIG 14) may indicate a variety of activities connected with the running of a farm. Basic smithing (p 30) was the only on-site activity definitely identified at Cosgrove, and evidence for this was widely scattered, not concentrated on any one area.

Building X could have continued as a simple house, or, following the possible comparison with Stanwick, have been the focus for estate/farming activities; however the Stanwick 'bailiff's office' never seems to have been subdivided and altered as was X (Neal in Frere 1988, 452). The function of structures on the Main House site is unknown. If neither X nor the Main House site was domestic, a residence, whether simple or sophisticated, must be presumed somewhere else on the site. The building of the substantial wall X26, which admittedly makes little sense in relation to the layout of the buildings located, suggests a major investment in the site, apart from the provision of the Temple.

Shrines and temples are being increasingly

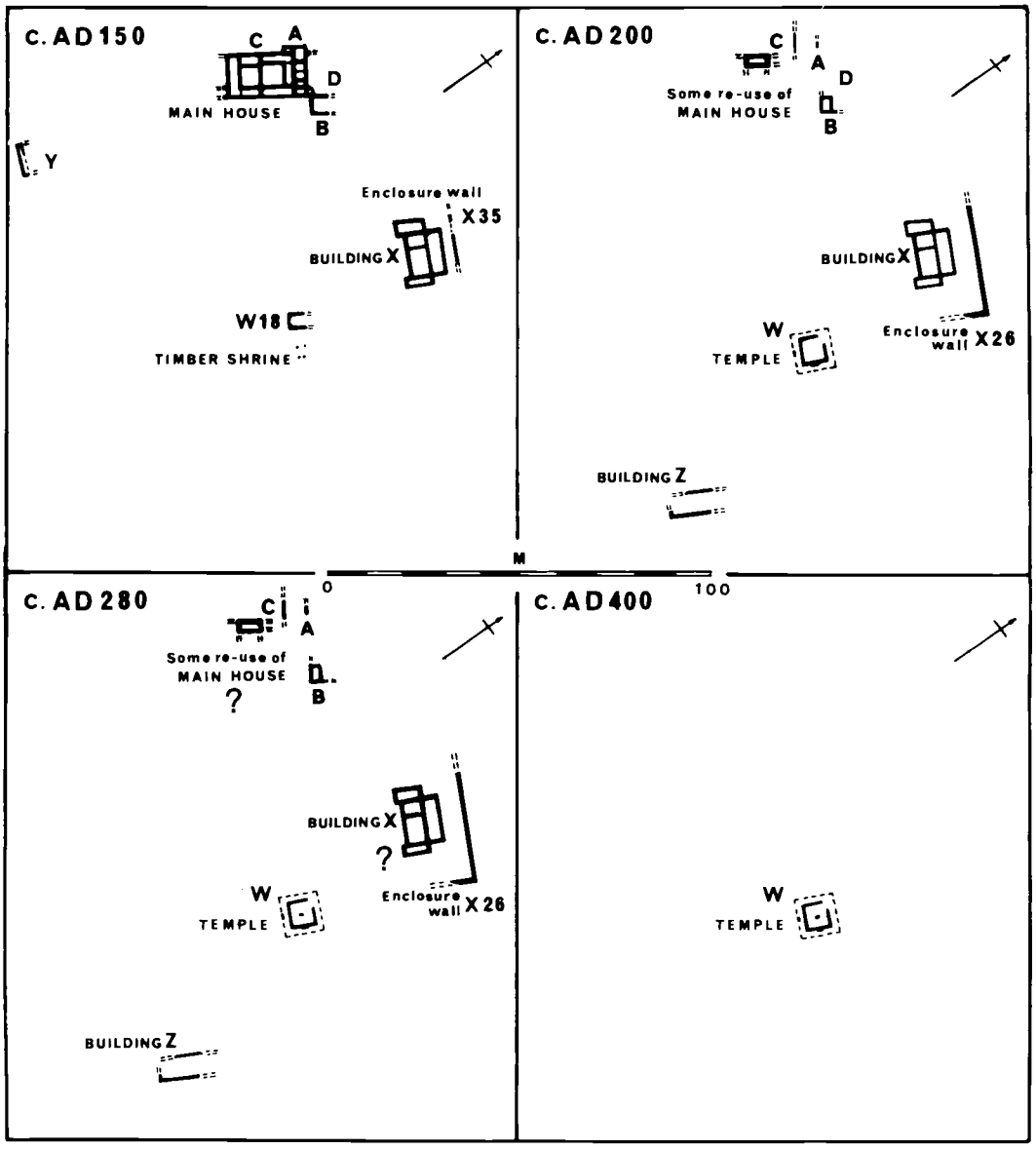

Fig 32 Cosgrove: plans showing possible site layout at successive chronological stages.

recognised as integral parts of Romano-British urban house, villa, and rural settlement complexes, with a variety of structural forms (eg Boon 1983). Rodwell (1980a, 233–4) has identified a number of different rural categories or 'Types' in an overall classification of Romano-British religious sites. Of these his Type 3 'Proprietary Shrine' is apt for Cosgrove: *'A distinct and usually detached...building in a villa or farmyard complex, with access from the yard. Presumably used communally by the resident family and retainers'.* Rodwell gives as examples the nymphaeum at Chedworth, the polygonal buildings at Stroud and Petersfield, and the circular Lullingstone temple. The fourth century octagonal Building 5 at Bancroft

(Zeepvat in Mynard 1987, 74) might also be interpreted in this way. It is not known whether a proprietary shrine would have been serviced by a priest or by the *paterfamilias*.

The timber structure in W is identified as a shrine, because of its plan and its situation beneath, and alignment with, the later Temple. This interpretation can not be definite, but the lack of direct parallels may reflect the emphasis on masonry structures in publications on Roman rural sites. It is unclear whether the shrine was the *cella* of a wooden rectangular Romano-Celtic temple; the outer row of posts found only on the south side seem too slight to have held a superstructure, but, like all the other features of this phase, they would originally have been deeper had their tops not been removed by disturbance in soil W22. If the posts were continuous around the building, they could have provided an ambulatory; the overall dimension of the timber shrine would then have been about 5.5 m.

Timber-built shrines and temples are being increasingly recognised. Those of Romano-Celtic plan include the first century phases of Temple 4 and the (?) late second century Temple 5 at Colchester (Crummy 1980, 256), the second century temple at Coleshill, Warks (Magilton 1980), the timber-framed structure at Hockwold, Norfolk (Wilson 1963, 138), second century Godmanchester (Green 1975, 201) and possibly the early third century building at Ware (Partridge in Grew 1981, 347). Simple rectangular timber shrines are also being identified, as at Great Dunmow, Essex (Drury in Wilson 1973, 304) with first and fourth century phases, and possibly at Uley, Glos (Rodwell 1980, 216). All these can be seen as a continuance of the British pre-Roman timber shrine/temple tradition. Is it of any significance that, except at Cosgrove, none of the Roman period timber temples have been found on villa estates? If timber shrines should be demonstrated to be rare on such estates, this would imply that the status represented by the construction of Roman style residential buildings also normally required the building of a shrine or temple in masonry.

There appears no other recorded instance of the suggested digging over of the site between the demolition of the timber shrine and the erection of the Temple.

The Temple had a cella 26 *pedes* square, with a possible ambulatory 36 *pedes* across if complete and symmetrical. Its construction was dated to the late second century by pottery in the soil beneath its floor. It was simply built, possibly timber framed, with a tiled roof. The surviving remnant of the ambulatory was slight; this may have been enclosed, an open portico, or even unroofed. Skull fragments W4 appear to have been built into the wall as a foundation deposit. Their source is unknown; they can not certainly be related to the bones in burial W13 which are likely to post-date the Temple because of their relative depth and position. The skulls could have been cult objects in the timber shrine. Human sacrifice or foundation burials of human bones are considered 'rare in the Romanised Celtic world' by Lewis (1966, 76–7), who instances only Springhead and the possible religious site of Lowbury Hill, Berks. Infant burials as foundation deposits at Uley in the late first century AD represent a continuance of pre-Roman traditions (Ellison 1980). At the late third century temple at Bourton Grounds, seven miles upstream along the Ouse, excarnate bones were buried in the ambulatory, possibly as a foundation deposit (Green 1965, 366). Another is suggested by the shallow burial of cremated bones in the north ambulatory of the Bancroft mausoleum (Zeepvat and Williams 1986, 29).

The central square post in the large post-hole W17 dates from the late third century; coin No 17, deep in the packing, provides a *post quem* date of after AD 273. The packing stones for the post projected above the surrounding floor, and the post-hole appeared to be stratigraphically later than floor W14; (coins Nos 15 and 16 need not relate to the actual erection of the post as they were found among the stone packing at floor level). As the post was deeply set, it may, uniquely, have supported the roof apex; in this case the Temple must have been reroofed about a century after its construction.

If not, the central post was not structural; it may reflect some of the shaft/pit beliefs inherent in much Celtic religion and especially evidenced in parts of the East Midlands (Ross 1967, 27–8). It is possible that the cella no longer existed by the time the post was inserted and

wall W25 could represent the remnant of an enclosure wall around it. This suggestion would meet the difficulty of inserting a substantial post into a standing building and also the problems with wall W25, which, if originally symmetrical as an ambulatory wall around the cella, is both unusually close to it and strangely absent in the area where paving survives outside the cella entrance.

Central pits, as opposed to common masonry settings for altars (Lewis 1966, 44), are unusual in temples; they appear only to have been recorded at Colchester Temples 4 and 5, possibly for sacred trees (Lewis 1966, 44), at Coleshill (Magilton 1980), and at Uley where the central hole 'may have held a sacred tree, a large post or a container for water' (Ellison 1980, 310). If the post at Cosgrove was not structural, it must have been an object of religious veneration and for this Uley so far provides the only possible parallel.

Pit W21 contained a group of 39 coins closely dateable to around AD 280. This was the only 'rubbish pit' on the site, on which, in other areas coins were not common. The pit may be connected with a reconstruction of the Temple and the insertion of the post W17, perhaps a ritual clearing and burying of remnants of building material and of rubbish. The coins form a tight group in date and can not represent clearance of accumulated deposits. The pottery contains a little residual material (p 46), but most is consistent with the range found locally in late third century *domestic* contexts; the dominance of containers and small storage jars could reflect offerings of food in suitable pottery vessels, but, as with the coins, these offerings should fall within a narrow date range. The pit could contain a form of 'foundation deposit' in which scraps of building materials, either from the structure before alteration or left over from the alteration itself, were buried with coins, pottery and other artefacts resulting from a ceremony (and feast) connected with the rebuild. The fourth century circular shrine at Bancroft (Zeepvat and Williams 1986, 30) had a central pit with a group of coins and an animal burial. Lewis (1966, 44) lists a small number of temples where pits have been assigned some ritual significance — Colchester 2, Lancing, Chedworth and Worth, but nothing quite like the Cosgrove pit has to date been noted elsewhere. This may be because our present knowledge of the rites connected with proprietary shrines is very limited.

The second century timber shrine at Cosgrove can be interpreted as 'proprietary' because it was contemporary with a substantial house; the building complex as a whole will have formed the focus of a farm and estate. The Temple could also be interpreted as a proprietary shrine, if, from the late second century, Cosgrove continued as the focus of an estate, either with an unlocated main residence or with Building X fulfilling this function. If Cosgrove was no longer the main focus of an estate, a number of alternatives are worth exploring. Most simply, the main residence and focus may have shifted within the estate, or possibly the estate could have been run on behalf of an absentee owner which would imply a suitable house for a manager, possibly Building X. In either case the Temple could be interpreted as Rodwell's (1980a, 233) Type 4 of Romano-British religious sites, the Estate Temple: *'Located a little distance from the villa but presumably still on its estate or on its boundary. This type may have been for communal use and may also have been proprietary, perhaps being shared by the retainers of more than one estate or group of farmsteads'*. An Estate Temple was intended primarily to serve its workers and was ancillary to the estate as a whole. Lullingstone (Meates 1979, 24) is a good example of this Type. Other Estate Temples suggested by Rodwell (1980a, 219) are Chedworth, and Titsey (Graham 1936), half and one mile respectively from their villas. These three temples are of Romano-Celtic plan. The Bancroft mausoleum with its accompanying circular shrine, 300 yards from the villa, could have funtioned as an Estate Temple as well as a burial monument.

If there were no substantial residence at Cosgrove from the second century onward, the estate could have been merged with that of an adjoining villa. Potterspury, about three miles away, has not been excavated but has produced tesserae and dressed limestone, suggesting a building of some sophistication, though of unknown date. Amalgamation of Potterspury

with Cosgrove would have formed an estate perhaps four miles across; the addition of the Cosgrove land would have provided extensive meadows along the Ouse and Tove suitable for fodder production; X could still have been in use as the farm office. In this case, the Cosgrove Temple would still have functioned as an Estate Temple, virtually on the boundary, a location specified by Rodwell (see above) in his definition of the Type. This suggestion must of course be tentative; apart from all the other imponderables, other potential villa *foci* may still be identified in the area.

The Cosgrove Temple needs also to be assessed as a possible example of Rodwell's Type 5: Local Cult Centre. '*A rural or semi-rural temple... where there may be ancillary buildings such as a guest house or baths... sites will vary in size, importance and the provision of facilities.*' Rodwell (1980a, 233) further suggests that such cult centres might provide *foci*, for a sector of a tribal area, for religious activities and fairs, the category into which most rural religious sites of the Roman period fall. Cosgrove is unlikely to have served as a Local Cult Centre before the late second century rebuild, because the timber shrine is so close to the main residence. After the rebuild, the site lacks the relevant ancillary buildings, and produced no *votae* which such *foci* attracted. The two obvious candidates for Local Cult Centres on the south edge of the Lactodorum *pagus* are at Old Stratford and Bourton Grounds. Religious activity at Old Stratford, a mile away on the Watling Street crossing of the Ouse, is indicated by the Stony Stratford hoard (Ross 1967, 51, 198; but there is now some doubt about the findspot, G Foard *pers comm*). Bourton Grounds, seven miles up the Ouse, is adjacent to the Thornborough mounds with a range of buildings and burials nearby (Green 1965), and was probably a popular Local Cult Centre. Cosgrove by comparison does not seem a likely Local Cult Centre.

The farm complex at Cosgrove appears to have declined in importance through the third and fourth centuries. By around AD 300 Building X went out of use, and activity probably ceased in the area of the former Main House. Building Z survived through much of the fourth century. Zeepvat (in Mynard 1987, 10) points out that the social organisation of the late Roman Empire resulted in an increasingly feudal society, with additional wealth restricted to those already wealthy. Sites such as Bancroft and Whittlebury flourished; at Stanton Low (C Woodfield *pers comm*) there was large scale rehabilitation in the late third/early fourth centuries, replaced by an 'industrial slum' in the 340's. Cosgrove obviously falls into the less favoured group. The Temple, on coin evidence, may have survived until at least the end of the fourth century, well after any evidence for domestic occupation or for husbandry. Its cella may have remained standing for some time and attracted the occasional burial, as evidenced by W13. This undated but probably late burial may have affinities with the possible fifth century group outside the Bancroft mausoleum (Zeepvat and Williams 1986, 31).

The scattered sixth and seventh century sherds concentrate on Area W, (five out of seven), raising the possibility that either the Temple was still standing as late as *c.* AD 600, or that its site was remembered as of special significance. Indications of Saxon use of late Roman sites are becoming increasingly common; at Bancroft (Zeepvat and Williams 1986, 45) a fifth century sunken building has been located, while sherds of similar date to those at Cosgrove occur at Stanton Low and Hunsbury (T Pearson *pers comm*). Given the amount of plough damage it is impossible to say whether the Saxon material at Cosgrove indicates some form of continuous occupation into the seventh century, with fifth century activity not identified, or whether the sherds merely indicate sporadic re-use of the site from a settlement somewhere in the vicinity.

Despite heavy plough damage, the Cosgrove excavation provided a considerable body of data. Although a complete picture, particularly of the later stages, could never have been obtained, a much fuller understanding of the building complex would have been gained if funding had allowed more extensive excavation. Well preserved sites are now a rarity, and most of our future information is going to come from full excavation of partly damaged sites. The evidence from sites such as Cosgrove should alert us to the potential for extensive excavation

of plough-damaged sites and the need for appropriate funding.

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