

ANALECTA
PRAEHISTORICA
LEIDENSIA



2000



ANALECTA PRAEHISTORICA LEIDENSIA

PUBLICATION OF THE FACULTY OF ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF LEIDEN

DIEKE A. WESSELINGH

NATIVE NEIGHBOURS

LOCAL SETTLEMENT SYSTEM AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE IN THE ROMAN
PERIOD AT OSS (THE NETHERLANDS)



UNIVERSITY OF LEIDEN 2000

Editors: Harry Fokkens / Corrie Bakels

Copy editors of this volume: Dieke Wesselingh / Harry Fokkens

Copyright 2000 by the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden

ISSN 0169-7447

ISBN 90-73368-17-0

Also appeared as doctorate thesis, Leiden, November 9, 2000.

Subscriptions to the series *Analecta Praehistorica Leidensia*
and single volumes can be ordered exclusively at:

Faculty of Archaeology
P.O. Box 9515
2300 RA Leiden
the Netherlands

contents

1. Introduction 1

1.1 Oss in context 1

1.1.1 Provincial-Roman archaeology in the Netherlands 1

1.1.2 Theoretical framework and research goals of the present study 3

1.2 Long term and large scale: history and strategy of the Ussen excavations 5

1.2.1 Analysis and interpretation 7

1.2.2 Landscape and location 7

1.2.3 Prehistoric and medieval traces 11

1.3 Chronology and typochronology 14

1.3.1 Dating methods 14

1.3.2 The association of finds and features 15

1.3.3 The Oss-Ussen typology of structures 16

1.4 Defining settlement 16

1.5 Methodology of the present study 21

2. The Vijver settlement 25

2.1 House plans 26

2.2 Granaries and *horrea* 30

2.3 Pits and wells 31

2.4 Finds 32

2.4.1 Pottery 32

2.4.2 Clay objects 35

2.4.3 Tephrite objects 35

2.4.4 Stone objects 35

2.4.5 Building materials 36

2.4.6 Glass objects 37

2.4.7 Metal objects 38

2.4.8 Leather objects 41

2.4.9 Wooden objects 41

2.4.10 Faunal remains 41

2.4.11 Botanical remains 41

- 2.5 Analysis 42
- 2.5.1 Size and date 42
- 2.5.2 Layout and periodisation 44
- 2.5.3 Development and nature of the settlement 44

3. The Zomerhof settlement 47

- 3.1 House plans 49
- 3.2 Outbuildings 53
- 3.3 Granaries and *horrea* 58
- 3.4 Pits and wells 59
- 3.5 Palisades and ditches 59
- 3.6 Finds 60
 - 3.6.1 Pottery 60
 - 3.6.2 Clay objects 63
 - 3.6.3 Tephrite objects 63
 - 3.6.4 Stone objects 63
 - 3.6.5 Building materials 63
 - 3.6.6 Glass objects 63
 - 3.6.7 Metal objects 63
 - 3.6.8 Leather objects 65
 - 3.6.9 Faunal remains 65
 - 3.6.10 Botanical remains 65
- 3.7 Analysis 66
 - 3.7.1 Size and date 66
 - 3.7.2 Layout and periodisation 66
 - 3.7.3 Development and nature of the settlement 69

4. The Westerveld settlement 71

- 4.1 House plans 71
- 4.2 Outbuildings 107
- 4.3 Granaries and *horrea* 112
- 4.4 Pits and wells 114
- 4.5 Palisades and ditches 117
- 4.6 An open-air sanctuary? 126

- 4.7 Finds 128
 - 4.7.1 Pottery 128
 - 4.7.2 Clay objects 132
 - 4.7.3 Tephrite objects 132
 - 4.7.4 Stone objects 132
 - 4.7.5 Building materials 133
 - 4.7.6 Glass objects 136
 - 4.7.7 Metal objects 144
 - 4.7.8 Leather objects 154
 - 4.7.9 Wooden objects 154
 - 4.7.10 Faunal remains 157
 - 4.7.11 Botanical remains 157
- 4.8 Analysis 158
 - 4.8.1 Size and date 158
 - 4.8.2 Layout and periodisation 159
 - 4.8.3 Development and nature of the settlement 160
- 5. The Schalkskamp settlement 171**
 - 5.1 House plans 172
 - 5.2 Granaries 173
 - 5.3 Pits and wells 174
 - 5.4 Palisades and ditches 174
 - 5.5 A grave 175
 - 5.6 Finds 177
 - 5.6.1 Pottery 177
 - 5.6.2 Clay objects 178
 - 5.6.3 Tephrite objects 178
 - 5.6.4 Stone objects 179
 - 5.6.5 Glass objects 179
 - 5.6.6 Metal objects 179
 - 5.6.7 Wooden objects 180
 - 5.6.8 Faunal remains 180
 - 5.6.9 Botanical remains 180
 - 5.7 Analysis 180
 - 5.7.1 Size and date 180
 - 5.7.2 Layout and periodisation 180
 - 5.7.3 Development and nature of the settlement 181
- 6. Oss in the Roman period 183**
 - 6.1 The Roman period cemetery (by W.A.M. Hessing) 183
 - 6.1.1 Cemetery and settlements 188

6.2	Roman period sites outside Ussen	189
6.3	The area between and around the settlements	193
6.4	Occupation at Oss from 100 BC to AD 225	195
7.	The Maaskant region and beyond	201
7.1	Research history and physical boundaries of the Maaskant region	201
7.1.1	Sites from the Maaskant	201
7.1.2	Analysis	204
7.2	Beyond the Maaskant	206
7.2.1	Sites from a larger region	206
7.2.2	A wider scope: Oss and the events of the Roman period	208
8.	Oss: settlement system and social structure	213
8.1	Settled settlements	213
8.2	Boundaries and ordered space	214
8.3	Settlement hierarchy at Oss	217
8.4	Local group, segmented society?	221
8.5	The limits of the possible	223
	references	227
	appendix I Pottery from the Westerveld settlement	237
	samenvatting (Dutch summary)	243
	acknowledgements for the figures	251
	afterword	253

enclosed separately:

appendix II – IV Maps of the four Roman period settlements (scale 1:550)

5.

The Schalkskamp settlement

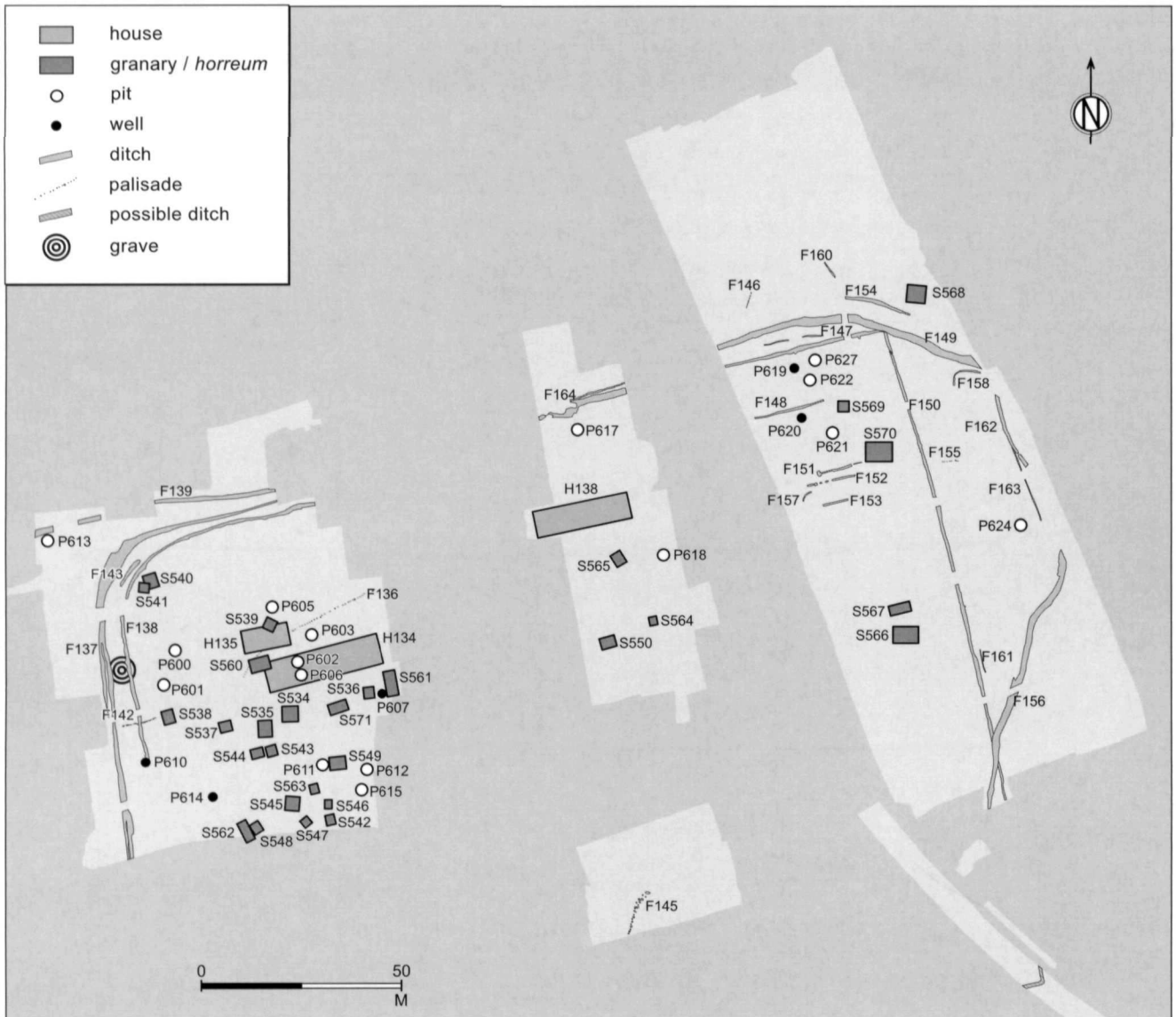


Figure 193. The Schalkskamp settlement.

The most recently discovered Roman period settlement, named Schalkskamp after the field toponym, was excavated during three consecutive summer campaigns (1990-1992). Half of the Schalkskamp settlement is situated on the eastern side of the Kennedybaan, and strictly speaking belongs to the 'Mettegeupel' housing estate instead of Ussen. The western part of Schalkskamp is in the north-westernmost corner of Ussen (fig. 193).¹ The excavated area covers c. 2.8 ha, of which the Kennedybaan and a sewer trench are the largest disturbances. Due to modern roads the southern boundaries could not be excavated. Even so, the Schalkskamp settlement seems to be fairly complete. Features include three house

plans, 29 granaries, 21 pits and wells and 23 fragments of ditches and palisades. Since Late Iron Age occupation is also found in the same area, some of the undated features will have to be placed in the Iron Age. Since the Schalkskamp excavations took place after 1986, the data are not included in Schinkel's dissertation (1994). Several preliminary reports have appeared (Fokkens 1991a, 1991b and 1992).

5.1 HOUSE PLANS

For the Roman period, three house numbers were given out in Schalkskamp (table 49). One of these plans, H135, could possibly be regarded as an outbuilding.

No.	type	length (m)	width (m)	orientation	date	dendro
H134	9B	28.1	6.8	W-E	RP Ia	(AD 17±5)
H135	6A?	11.6	5.6	W-E	LIA/RP	
H138	8B	23.2	6.0	W-E	RP IA	

Table 49. House plans from the Schalkskamp settlement. Date: LIA = Late Iron Age, RP = Roman period.

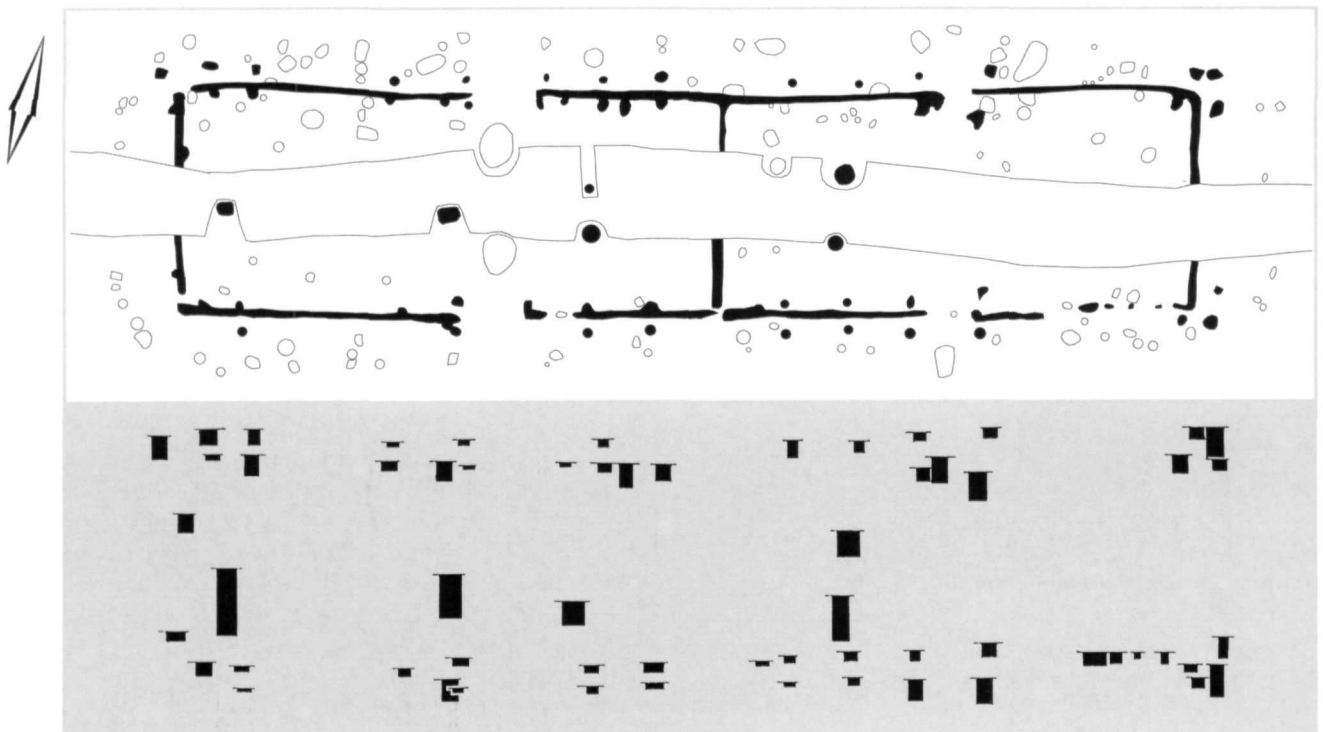


Figure 194. House 134. Scale: plan 1:200, posthole depths 1:100.

House 134

House 134 is disturbed by a recent ditch, which splits the plan in half lengthways (fig. 194). Two sets of entrances, set opposite each other in the long walls, separate the two-aisled parts from the three-aisled part. Possible entrances in the short walls are concealed by the recent ditch. A remarkable feature is a small trench, which seems to divide the three-aisled part, and therefore the whole plan, in half. Due to the recent ditch, it is not clear whether or not there was an opening in this partition.

This type-9B plan is deviant in several ways. Usually the combined two/three/two-aisled layout is associated with extremely long house plans, ranging from 36.0 to 42.3 m. H134 is only 28.3 m long. If the three-aisled part is interpreted as a byre, the question remains whether the two other parts were both living areas. In the longer western part two pits were situated just inside the walls, opposite the entrances. They were similar in location, size, shape and fill. Both no deeper than approx. 10 cm, they contained some pottery and a lot of charcoal. An interpretation as hearth-pits seems possible, but is difficult to support because of the location. And as the original Roman period surface has been disturbed, shallow features like hearths would normally have disappeared. These pits were originally at least 40 cm deep. They are certainly associated with H134: perhaps they did hold a fire and functioned in some kind of craft.

Unfortunately no traces of special activities were found. Even so, an interpretation of this part of the building as a kind of crafts-area seems likely: activities such as weaving, production and repair of tools could have concentrated around a source of light and heat.

The 285 pottery fragments derived from this plan were all identified as handmade material, including some coastal ware. Further finds consisted of tephrite, a fragment of a triangular clay loomweight, and a small fragment of calcinated bone. This finds complex seemed to date the plan to the Late Iron Age (Oss-Ussen phase K/L, analysis by P. van den Broeke). However, dendrochronological research of the wooden remains of one of the western central roof-bearing posts yielded an absolute date of AD 17 ± 5 (see 1.3).

House 135

The plan of House 135, a one-aisled building, lies alongside that of H134. The walls are marked by a single row of posts, and in some places fragments of a foundation trench are present (fig. 195). Possibly the complete wall originally consisted of a foundation trench. In that case, H135 could be classified as a type 6A. The only parallel for a wall made up of a single row of posts can be found at Oss-Zaltbommelseweg (Van der Sanden 1990, 99-101; see 6.2). Although this building is of an unknown type, Van der Sanden considers it a proper house plan. It is, however,

larger and of a later date than the one in Schalkskamp. An interpretation of H135 as an outbuilding rather than a house can therefore not be precluded. The pottery from H135, consisting of 109 fragments of handmade ware, dates the plan to the Late Iron Age or the early Roman period. Other finds include a nearly complete triangular clay loomweight, a small piece of calcinated bone, and a fragment of a blue glass *La Tène* bracelet (Haevernick type 7a).

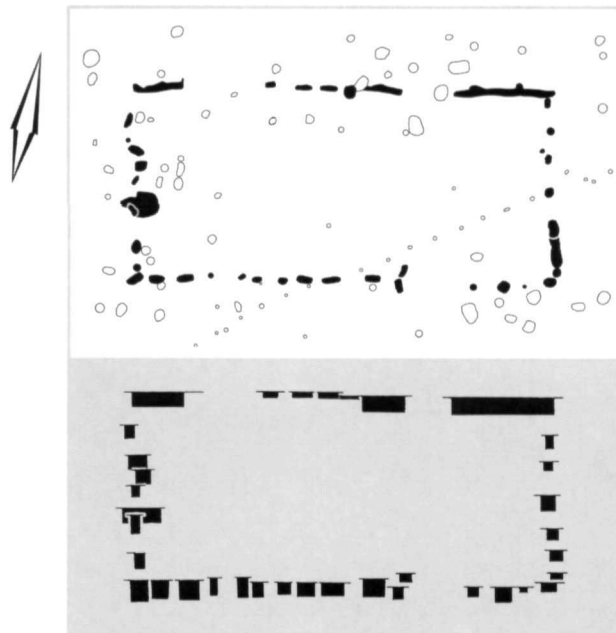


Figure 195. House 135. Scale: plan 1:200, posthole depths 1:100.

House 138

The eastern central roof-bearing post of H138 is placed outside the short wall, while external posts are lacking (fig. 196). Apart from the usual set of entrances opposite each other in the long walls, a third (byre) entrance may have been situated in the northern long wall, c. 2 m away from the corner. Remnants of oak central roof-bearing posts were found in four postholes, but the number of tree-rings was too small for dendrochronological research. The 120 pottery fragments derived from the features of H138 were all identified as handmade ware. Following the criteria of the Oss-Ussen pottery dating scheme (Van den Broeke 1987b), the pottery and therefore the house plan was dated to phase M (AD 0-50, see 1.3).

5.2 GRANARIES

The Schalkskamp excavations yielded 29 small outbuildings, interpreted as granaries (table 50). The majority of these (n=22) could not be dated. Two granaries, both of the larger nine-post type IIA, could be dated in the

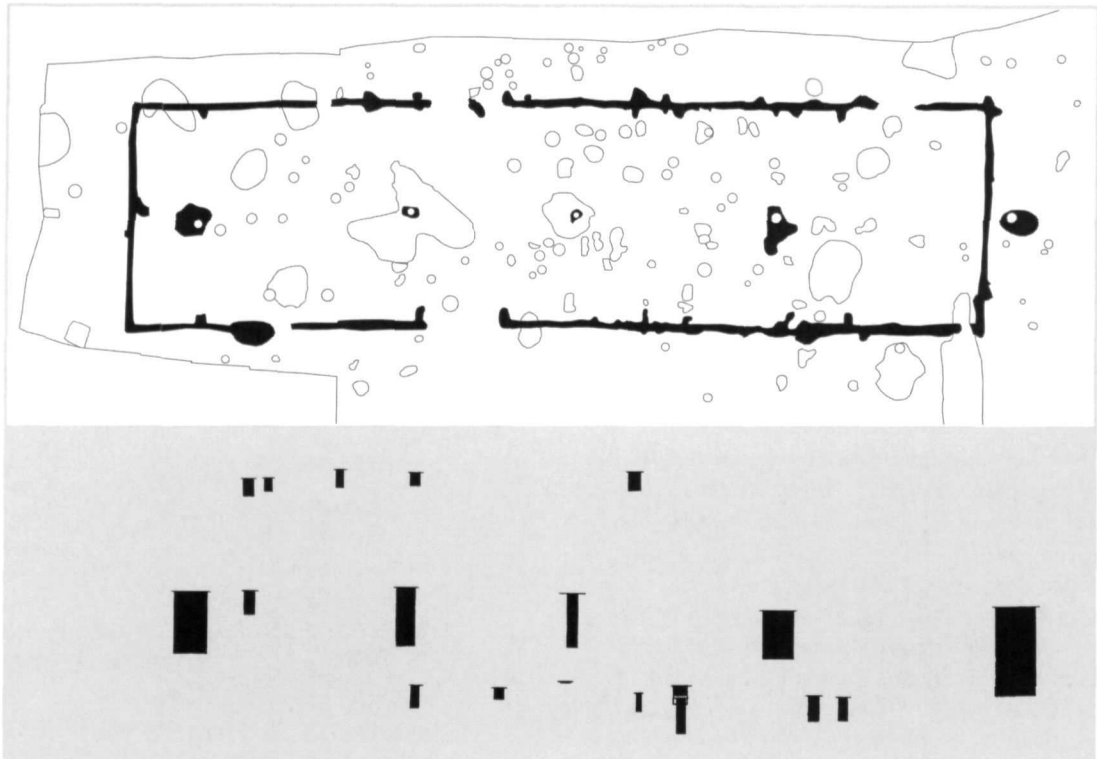


Figure 196. House 138. Scale: plan 1:200, posthole depths 1:100.100.

Roman period (S566 and S570). Their ground plans are very similar: both buildings seem to have had a small, step-like entrance construction on the east side (fig. 197). Five other storage structures could be dated to the Late Iron Age, which fits in with the occupation history of the Schalkskamp area. At least a number of the remaining undated granaries will have been contemporaneous with the Roman period houses.

5.3 PITS AND WELLS

A total of 25 pits and wells were excavated in Schalkskamp (table 51).² Four of these formed part of the Late Iron Age occupation phase, while seven could be dated to the Roman period. Of these seven, four contained a wooden lining, indicating a well. In all four cases the lining consisted of wattlework (type A1), once in combination with horizontal planks (type A5), and once combined with both horizontal planks and a hollowed-out tree-trunk (type A3).

The remaining three Roman period pits all had a distinct function: two are the supposed hearth-pits of H134 (P602 and P606), and the last one (P618) may have served as a forge, laid out in a dry ditch from the Late Iron Age (Fokkens 1993, 63). The exact date of this forge is not

certain, it could have been used in the Late Iron Age too. The location of the pit could throw some light on this question. Because of the heat and the debris, bronze casting is an activity that would preferably be carried out on the edge of or outside a settlement. If this fireplace was in use during the Iron Age, it would have been situated on the edge of the settlement, but rather close to a farmhouse (Fokkens 1992, 161-162). Unless this building was directly connected with the activities around the forge, this is not a likely situation. If bronze was cast here during the Roman period, it would have happened inside the settlement enclosure and not far from one of the farmhouses, but in an area which was otherwise empty. Since the fireplace was probably used for a few days only (Fokkens 1993, 63), it is difficult to reach a conclusion on its date.

5.4 PALISADES AND DITCHES

Of the 29 palisades and ditches documented in Schalkskamp (table 52), only five were rows of posts (type IA). None of these fences could be dated, and only in one case (F136) does a connection with another structure (H134) seem possible. Three of the remaining 21 ditches (F141, F142 and F144, all type IIIA) could be dated to the Late Iron Age

No.	type	length/width (cm)	date
S534	IB	340/320	-
S535	IC	260/320	-
S536	IA	230/180	-
S537	IA	240/170	-
S538	IA	230/230	-
S539	IB	200/180	-
S540	IA	280/240	-
S541	IA	220/200	-
S542	IB	200/180	-
S543	IA	180/180	LIA phase J-L
S544	IA	210/200	-
S545	IA	240/200	-
S546	IA	160/120	LIA
S547	IB	180/160	-
S548	IA	220/180	-
S549	IA	280/170	LIA phase J-K
S550	ID	320/250	-
S560	IB	400/300	-
S561	IE*	620/220	-
S562	ID*	560/180	LIA
S563	IA	200/160	-
S564	IB	200/140	-
S565	IA	300/220	IA
S566	IIA	460/380	RP
S567	IC	500/160	-
S568	IIA	360/360	-
S569	IB	210/200	-
S570	IIA	400/340	RP
S571	IB	500/250	-

Table 50. Storage buildings from the Schalkskamp settlement. Date: (L)IA = (Late) Iron Age, RP = Roman period. * = plan is incomplete.

(phase K), and probably formed part of a ditch system, enclosing the Late Iron Age settlement.

Two fragments of ditches (F156 and F164) yielded Roman period material.³ Together with several undated ditch-segments (F137, F138, F139, F149, F150, F162 and F163) they enclose the settlement. Since this ditch system is divided over different parts of the excavation, the exact connection between the various ditches is not always clear. On the basis of sections and the scarce finds it can be concluded that the enclosure has at least two phases, both probably not later than the first century AD. One of the ditches (F137 or F138) might have been connected to the ditched enclosure around the Westerveld settlement (Fokkens 1991b, 131). A series of parallel ditches (numbered F159) is of medieval date, but seems to enclose the same area as the Roman period ditches, following them on exactly the same track.

In an area c. 250 m to the north-east of the Schalkskamp settlement (Mettegeupel/Almstein, see 6.2) a number of

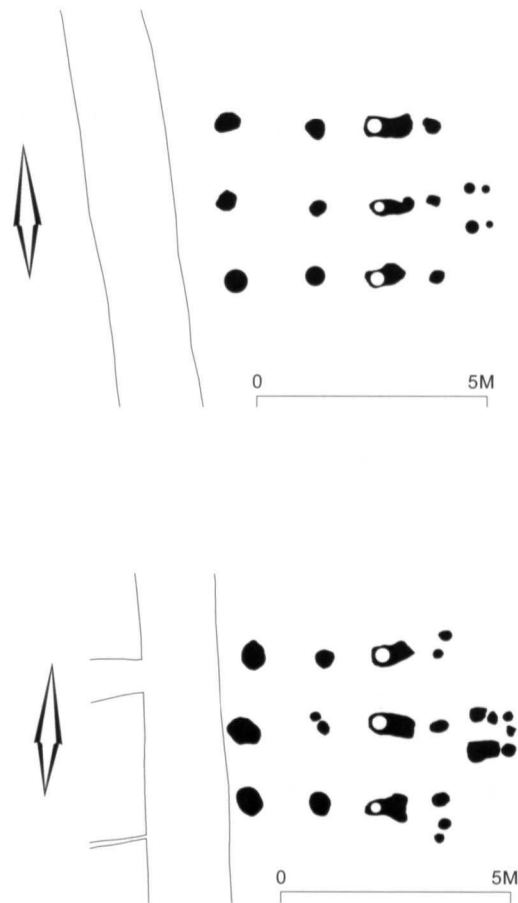


Figure 197. Two granaries with 'steps' (S566 and S570).

ditches and palisades were excavated which probably date to the Roman period. This hypothesis was based on the finds, relative dates derived from intersecting features, and the orientation of the ditches, which seems to fit in with the Schalkskamp enclosure. The ditches may have been part of a field system (see chapter 6).

5.5 A GRAVE

On the western side of the settlement a single grave was found, intersected by the settlement enclosure. It consisted of the remains of an urn containing cremated bones, surrounded by a circular ditch with a diameter of c. 5 m (fig. 198). The bones were found to be those of one individual, at least older than 18. Mixed with the human remains were the calcinated bones of an animal, possibly a sheep. More faunal remains, which could not be determined, were found in the circular ditch. The dating of this grave remains problematic: the vessel is handmade and cannot be dated more precisely than

No.	type	depth (cm)	diameter (cm)	diameter lining	wood	date
P600	F	25	125	-	-	LIA/RP
P601	E	30	90	-	-	LIA/RP
P602	H	10	100	-	-	RP IA
P603	I	10	100	-	-	-
P604	B	75	470	-	-	LIA
P605	E	45	95	-	-	LIA/RP
P606	H	10	105	-	-	RP IA
P607	A1/5	140	380	140	A F Q	RP IA
P608	A1	80	260	100	A Q	LIA phase I
P609	B	100	440	-	Q	LIA
P610	A-I	-	200	-	-	-
P611	F	45	160	-	-	-
P612	E	60	110	-	-	-
P613	E	70	240	-	-	-
P614	A1	105	240	35	A Q R S	RP
P615	G	20	110	-	-	-
P617	E	70	240	-	-	LIA/RP
P618	E	80	380	-	-	RP?
P619	A1/3/5	100	410	30	Q	RP
P620	A1	100	220	70	-	RP
P621	E	20	80	-	-	-
P622	B	60	200	-	-	-
P624	I	30	180	-	-	-
P627	F	60	280	-	-	-
P635	G	90	40	-	-	LIA phase I

Table 51. Pits and wells from the Schalkskamp settlement. Wood: A = *Alnus* (alder), F = *Fraxinus* (ash), Q = *Quercus* (oak), R = *Rhamnus Catharticus* (purging buckthorn), S = *Salix* (willow). Date: LIA = Late Iron Age, RP = Roman period.

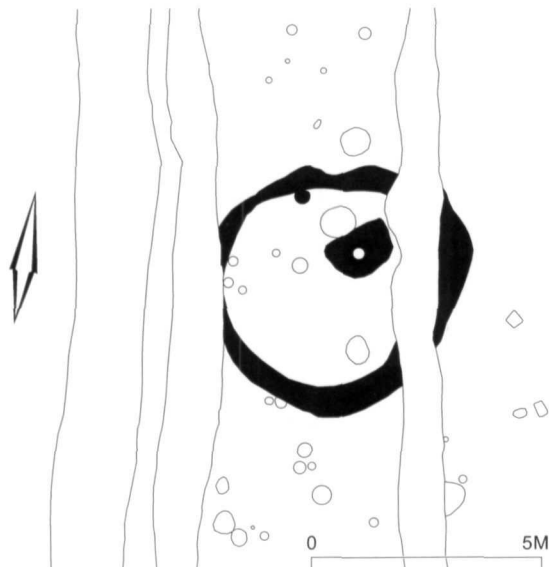


Figure 198. Grave.

<i>terra sigillata</i>	1	+
Belgic ware	4	+
cork urn	1	+
colour-coated ware	-	-
smooth-walled pottery	3	+
<i>mortaria</i>	-	+
<i>dolia</i>	6	+
<i>amphorae</i>	3	+
<i>Waaslands</i>	-	-
coarse ware	-	-
grey ware	2	+
handmade pottery	2026	99
indeterminable	2	+
total	2048	100%

Table 53. Wheel-thrown and handmade pottery from the Schalkskamp settlement: number of sherds and percentages.

No.	type	length (m)	width (cm)	orientation	date
F136	IA	35.0	-	NE-SW	-
F137	IIIA	90.0	120	N-S/E-W	RP?
F138	IIIA	72.0	120	N-S/E-W	RP?
F139	IIIA	60.0	120	E-W	-
F140	IIIA	72.5	120	NE-SW	LIA phase K
F141	IIIA	45.0	120	NE-SW	LIA phase K
F142	IA	8.4	-	E-W	-
F143	IIIA	7.5	120	NE-SW	-
F144	IIIA	125.0	250	N-S/NW-SE	LIA phase K
F145	IA	10.0	-	NE-SW	-
F146	IA	4.0	-	NE-SW	-
F147	IIIA	15.0	25	E-W	-
F148	IIIA	17.5	60	E-W	-
F149	IIIA	60.0	120	N-S/E-W	RP?
F150	IIIA	135.0	100	NE-SW/N-S	RP?
F151	IIIA	10.0	50	NE-SW	-
F152	IIIA	12.5	50	NE-SW	-
F153	IIIA	6.0	50	NE-SW	-
F154	IIIA	20.0	100	E-W	-
F155	IA	5.0	-	E-W	-
F156	IIIA	70.0	160	NE-SW	RP I
F157	IIIA	3.6	30	-	-
F158	IIIA	9.2	40	N-S/E-W	-
F159	IIIA	225.0	500	NE-SW/NW-SE	ME
F160	IIIA	5.0	40	-	-
F161	IIIA	5.8	20	-	-
F162	IIIA	20.0	80	NW-SE	-
F163	IIIA	20.0	30	NW-SE	-
F164	IIIA	23.0	120	E-W	RP

Table 52. Palisades and ditches from the Schalkskamp settlement. Date: LIA = Late Iron Age, RP = Roman period, ME = medieval.

No.	t.s.	BW	cork	smooth	<i>dolia</i>	<i>amph.</i>	grey	indet.	total
P607	-	2	1	3	2	3	1	-	12
P614	-	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	6
F156	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
F164	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
total	1	4	1	3	6	3	2	2	22

Table 54. Structures from the Schalkskamp settlement with wheel-thrown pottery (number of sherds).

to the Late Iron Age or Roman period. The find spot of the only other find, a bronze wire-brooch, does not shed any light on this problem either: it was found exactly on the division between the circular grave-ditch and one of the enclosure ditches that cuts through it. For the grave, a date in the Late Iron Age or in the early Roman period both remain possible. In the latter case, the grave monument would have

been destroyed by the digging of the enclosure ditch, shortly after it was constructed.

5.6 FINDS

5.6.1 Pottery

The structures from the Roman period settlement contained 2048 pottery fragments (table 53), of which only 1% is

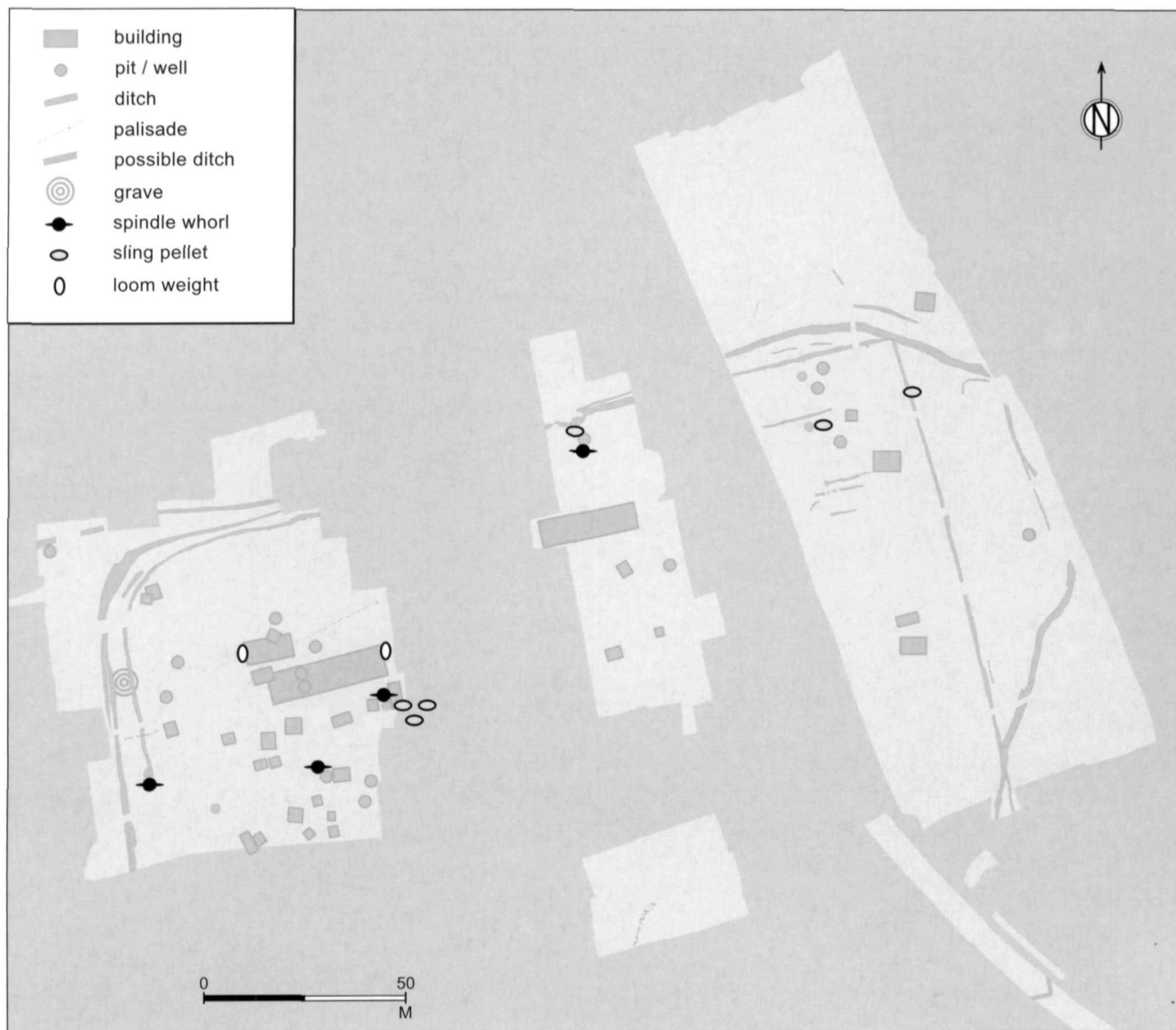


Figure 199. Distribution of clay objects in the Schalkskamp settlement.

wheel-thrown ($N = 22$) while the other 99% are handmade ($N = 2026$). The majority of the wheel-thrown pottery ($N = 12$) was found in one well (P607) (see table 54). Although the finds from the structures that could be dated to the Iron Age were omitted, some of the remaining assemblages containing only handmade pottery might have to be dated to the Iron Age too. Since the Roman period occupation only lasted until AD 50, the small amount of wheel-thrown pottery is not surprising. On the other hand that date is based mainly on the (lack of) wheel-thrown pottery, so a circular argument should be taken into account.

5.6.2 Clay objects

Four pits (P607, P610, P611 and P617) contained (fragmented) spindle whorls, all of them conical in shape. Clay sling pellets were found in P607 (three), P617, P620 and F150. Two triangular loomweights were found in house plans (H134 and H135). Figure 199 shows the distribution of clay objects.

5.6.3 Tephrite objects

At least ten structures contained fragments of tephrite, but none included recognisable quern fragments or other artefacts.

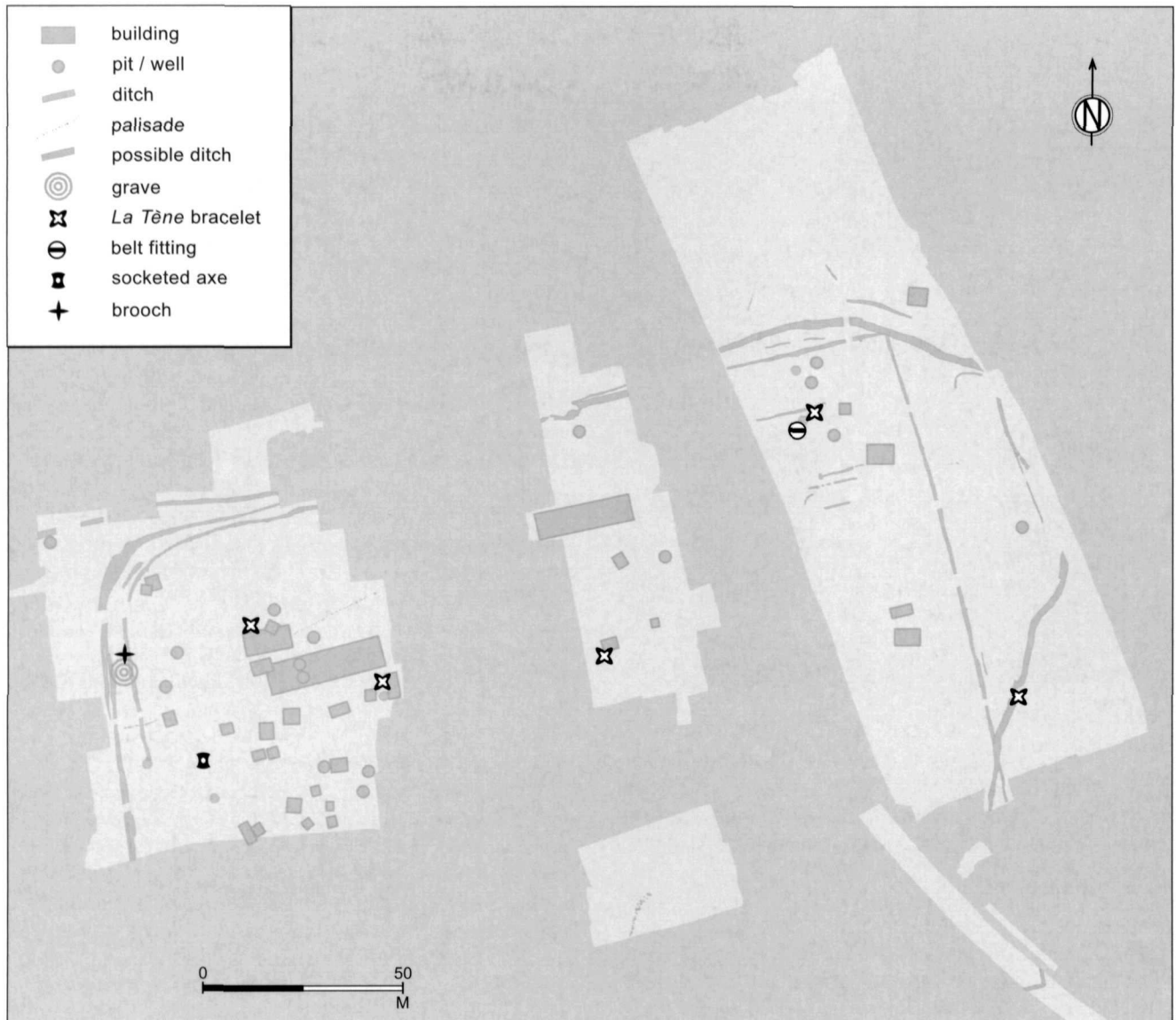


Figure 200. Distribution of glass and metal objects in the Schalkskamp settlement.

5.6.4 Stone objects

Although small quantities of stone were found in several places, no stone artefacts were documented.

5.6.5 Glass objects

Five fragments of glass *La Tène* bracelets were found (fig. 200), one of which was a purple type 3b that was bent to form a ring or a pendant (S550). The four other fragments included two blue type-7a fragments (H135 and P607), a purple type 3b (P620) and a purple type 7b (F156). There is no evidence for glass vessels in the Schalkskamp settlement.

5.6.6 Metal objects

Three metal objects were found in the Schalkskamp settlement (fig. 200). One was a forged iron socketed axe (fig. 201), found in a small pit that contained no other finds and was not part of a structure. This type of axe was in use around the start of the first century AD (pers. comm. D. Fontijn). A fragment of a bronze wire-brooch was found on the intersection of the circular grave-ditch and F136. The third metal find is a bronze object, possibly a belt fitting or a bridle fitting (dated IA). The object, found in P620, shows traces of silver or tin plating (fig. 202). Iron slag was found

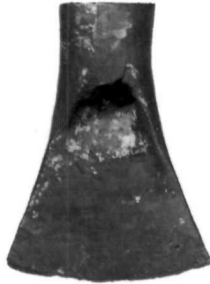


Figure 201. Iron socketed axe (stray find). Scale 1:3.

in a few features (P618, P620, S570 and F156). No coins or iron nails were documented.

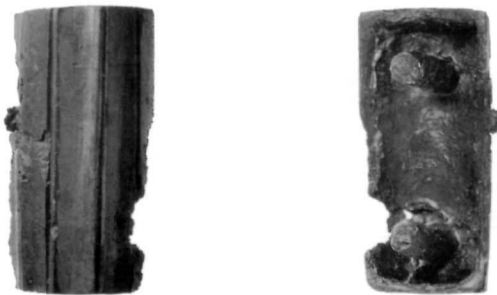


Figure 202. Bronze bridle fitting (P620). Scale 1:1.

5.6.7 *Wooden objects*

Apart from wood used in the construction of wells and remains of posts in house plans, no wooden artefacts were found.

5.6.8 *Faunal remains*

Animal bones and teeth were found in several deep pits and wells and also in ditches, but none of this has been analysed yet. The only faunal remains that were studied are the calcinated bones from the grave. Of the 11 fragments found in the ditch one could be identified as sheep or goat, the other ten could not be identified. Mixed in with the human remains were at least three bone fragments belonging to a sheep or goat, the other 42 could not be identified at all.⁴

5.6.9 *Botanical remains*

Several samples for botanical research were taken from Roman period features, but the majority are still awaiting analysis.⁵

5.7 ANALYSIS

5.7.1 *Size and date*

Ditched boundaries clearly define the limits of the Roman period settlement, with only one (undated) granary lying

outside the enclosure. A modern road and a sewer trench prevented two areas in the middle from being excavated, while the southern part was already built over. The settlement covers an area of at least 2.6 ha, of which c. 1.6 ha was excavated. The enclosure ditches could not be followed to the south, but an estimate of the original total size of the hamlet can be made. During a rescue excavation a ditch section was found that might form the possible south-eastern corner of the enclosure. Based on intersections, it was interpreted as a medieval feature. If this ditch actually indicated the corner, or if we picture the enclosure completed as a square, the remaining unexcavated area within the enclosure is relatively small. A maximum of two more farmyards could be fitted into it. Including the other unexcavated parts, the complete settlement would then cover approximately 3.8 ha.

Combining the dendrochronological date with the scarcely datable finds and the small number of houses, we arrive at a use-period of no more than 50 years. Only the supposed second phase of the enclosure can be dated to the second half of the first century AD; a date based on a single pottery fragment. Since there is continuity from the Late Iron Age onwards, it is difficult to pinpoint the exact start of the Roman period occupation. Theoretically this should be 15 BC (see 1.3.1), but since the earliest structure (H138) was dated with the Oss-Ussen pottery scheme, the first 50 years of the Christian era will be used. The Schalkskamp settlement was thus in use between AD 0-50.

Whether there was continuity in occupation from the Late Iron Age is uncertain. During the Late Iron Age, two small farms were occupied. The pottery from the youngest house plan (H139) is dated to phase K-L (150 - 0 BC). According to Fokkens (1992, 162), who bases this on an intersection with a phase-K ditch, this farm was probably in use during the first decades of the first century BC at the latest. That would leave a 'gap' of at least 75 years before the Roman period settlement was built. The intersection is uncertain however, and that leaves space for a date in phase L. Moreover, the fact that the enclosures from both periods partly follow the same track suggests that there was a form of continuity.

5.7.2 *Layout and periodisation*

The settlement may have consisted of one to three farmyards, in use at the same time. This depends on the contemporaneity of H134 and H135, and on the presence of more farms in the unexcavated parts of the settlement. An important aspect of the layout is the ditched enclosure, which has a Late Iron Age predecessor. During the first phase of the Roman period occupation, at least one corner of this ditch showed a 90° angle, laid out with the same orientation as the house plans. After re-digging the enclosure was more

irregularly shaped. If the Schalkskamp settlement consisted of one farmstead only, the enclosed territory around it was relatively large. The possible link between the enclosure with the one around the Westerveld settlement gives an extra dimension to this structuring of space. It is however important to realise that the areas between the other Ussen settlements were not systematically excavated and shallow ditches were easily missed. Thus, connecting ditch systems might not have been an exception.

There are only a few indications of areas being delimited within the enclosure. A fence (F136) north of H134 could be marking the limits of a farmyard, and in the north-eastern corner of the settlement there is a cluster of ditch-fragments that may have had a similar function. There seems to be a clustering of granaries and pits and wells in the western half of the settlement, but this is partly caused by the fact that the Iron Age occupation was situated in this area and many of the undated structures could stem from that period. Even so, the eastern and southern part of the settlement contain less structures. Since the number of contemporaneous farmsteads is unknown, it is difficult to establish any phasing within the period of *c.* 50 years during which the settlement was in use. The enclosure was re-dug once; since the ditch was shallow it would have needed re-cutting after 15-20 years. One rebuilding phase for the houses seems plausible, but whether H138 succeeded H134 or vice versa cannot be established.

5.7.3 *Development and nature of the settlement*

Combining the information derived from structures and layout, it is possible to sketch the development of the Schalkskamp settlement (fig. 193). Around the start of the Christian era a shallow straight ditch is dug, enclosing an area of approximately 3 ha. The western half of this area was already occupied during the Late Iron Age, when the settlement was also surrounded by a ditched boundary. The old enclosure may still be visible, since a forge is laid out in the eastern ditch. On the western side the new ditch is dug through a small barrow, which may not have been visible anymore. This stretch of ditch is connected to a larger ditch system, which encloses another settlement further south and is constructed at about the same time. Within the Schalkskamp enclosure at least one, possibly two, farmsteads are built aligned with the northern side of the enclosure ditch. Situated around the farms are several small granaries, some pits and at least one well, lined with wattlework. One of the farmyards is fenced off. Near the eastern edge of the settlement are two large storage buildings, the raised floors of which can be reached by a set of steps. The inhabitants of the Schalkskamp settlement are farmers, and they have close contacts with the neighbouring Westerveld settlement.

After approximately 20 years the enclosure is re-dug, this time less regular in shape than the original version. Maybe

one of the farms is replaced by a new building, but it is possible that the settlement goes out of use before this is necessary. Occupation in the Schalkskamp settlement is of short duration: around AD 50 it comes to a halt. At that time other settlements in Ussen are thriving or have not even started to be built. It is possible that the discontinuity of this farmyard and settlement was connected to some form of social discontinuity: a family line ran out or was taken up in another family and hence in another settlement location. That would imply that, as in the Iron Age, the notion of (social) durability was not yet linked to the *farmyard* but to the *farmhouse* (Gerritsen 1999; see also 8.1). East of the derelict hamlet are plots of arable land: perhaps this was also the designated function for the area of the former Schalkskamp settlement.

The find material basically supports the impression created by the features: the Schalkskamp settlement is a small, briefly inhabited hamlet, with no apparent signs of social stratification. It is possible that we are dealing with a single-farm settlement⁶, in which case internal social hierarchy would not be applicable. Only 1% of the pottery is wheel-thrown, and is found in some ditches and in two wells (P607 and P614). This small amount mainly reflects the early date of the occupation. Even though the majority of the imported ware is found in the two wells, the numbers are too small to indicate social differences. No glass vessels, coins, Roman building materials or leather shoes were found. Instead the features yielded relatively large quantities of clay sling pellets, spindle whorls and loomweights, as well as five fragments of glass *La Tène* bracelets. The only exceptional find is the bronze belt or bridle fitting with silver or tin plating. It was found in P620, a well that also contained 91 fragments of handmade pottery, a clay sling pellet and a fragment of a *La Tène* bracelet. These other finds can be considered 'normal' refuse.

An interesting phenomenon is the grave found on the western side of the settlement. The construction of a barrow in this particular location is an exception in Ussen: during both the Late Iron Age and the Roman period, graves are situated well away from the farmyards (Schinkel 1994, part I, 264).⁷ In the Roman period a single grave next to a settlement would be an even greater exception, since all known graves are clustered within a large cemetery (see 6.1). The fact that a Roman period ditch was dug through the remains of the barrow seems to point to a date in the Late Iron Age. This is based on the assumption that a certain respect for ancestors existed: a grave that was still visible or still known of would not be deliberately destroyed. On the other hand, it might have been a meaningful act. Hingley (1990, 99) believes that on continuously occupied sites, any action with regards to enclosure ditches should be seen as a conscious, intentional act, undertaken with a knowledge of

previous acts. The intersection of this grave by a Roman period enclosure ditch can be considered in this light, as can the construction of a forge in one of the ditches of the Late Iron Age enclosure (see 8.2).

The Schalkskamp settlement differs from the rest of Oss in several ways. It is small and short-lived but nevertheless starts out promising, with a large enclosed area and a relatively large farmhouse. The impression of a different type of settlement is further created by the possible link with the Westerveld enclosure, the nearby grave, the lack of wheel-thrown pottery combined with the presence of an exceptional bridle fitting. The short use-period of this hamlet probably emphasizes all these characteristics since none of them are wiped out or mixed up with features and debris from younger phases. The question is what would have happened if the location stayed in use for a longer period.

notes

1 Co-ordinates 163.35/420.72 (Topographical map of the Netherlands, sheet 45E).

2 Eleven pits and wells dating to the Bronze Age will be left out of consideration here.

3 F156 contained one fragment of a grey ware vessel type Stuart 210, next to four sherds of handmade pottery and a fragment of a glass *La Tène* bracelet. F164 yielded 52 fragments of handmade pottery and three wheel-thrown sherds, one of which was classified as *terra sigillata* (see table 54). It should be noted that only some sections of these ditches were dug out to look for finds.

4 The faunal material was analysed by M. Marinelli, as part of a student project.

5 Carbonised seeds and plant remains from one of the Iron Age granaries (S562) were published earlier (Fokkens 1991a, 9; Schenk 1993, 17). The sample was studied by W.J. Kuijper.

6 Research in the British Fenland area (Hingley 1989, 75) showed that 70% of the so-called single-farm compounds dated to the first century AD. This would agree with the Schalkskamp situation.

7 In the southern part of the Schalkskamp settlement some cremation remains were found, without an indication for a grave monument (pers. comm. H. Fokkens).