

Sites and
Office

CHER ARCHIVE COPY
PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE

SCB 18733

Do Not Remove

Romano-British Temple & Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Gallow's Hill, Swaffham Prior



Cambridgeshire
County Council

- no. 100 -

A Romano-British Temple and Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Gallows Hill, Swaffham Prior

Simon Bray and Tim Malim

1998

Illustrators Caroline Gait BA PGCE MPhil, &
Jon Cane BA

With Contributions by C. Duhig, L. Higbee and G. Lucas

©Archaeological Field Unit
Cambridgeshire County Council
Fulbourn Community Centre
Haggis Gap, Fulbourn CB1 5HD

Tel. (01223) 881614



Report No 100 The site looking northeast

Photograph Simon Bray



SUMMARY

In February and March, and September 1993 the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council completed two phases of excavations of rectilinear cropmark enclosures on a chalk hill in the parish of Swaffham Prior. The site, located 350m to the south-west of Devil's Dyke and overlooking a Roman Villa, is in plan suggestive of Romano-British religious complexes found elsewhere in Britain. The archaeological evidence suggests that the cropmark complex dates mainly to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, with further use as a cemetery, in the early pagan Saxon period of the 6th century.

The main cropmark features are derived from ditched and fenced enclosures. Square in plan, the main enclosure was formed by a large flat-bottomed, straight-sided ditch, possibly representing a palisade trench which appears to have been abandoned by the late 1st or 2nd centuries AD.

Excavations within the western area of the main enclosure revealed a single-celled building, 3m square, with substantial plastered clunch and flint walls: the size and location of the structure within the complex suggests that it functioned as a shrine. Within the demolition deposits of the structure, however, was the skeleton of an adult, which may suggest an alternative function as a mausoleum.

Evidence for seven other inhumations were recorded. On the basis of associated grave goods at least two were identified as Anglo-Saxon; the remaining graves were unexcavated but by their relationship to earlier Roman features they would appear to be either later Roman or Anglo-Saxon in date.

Two isolated stratified "votive" objects were also found within the confines of the main enclosure: a small Anglo-Saxon cup was recovered from a small pit, and an early-Roman miniature iron sickle was found within the fill of a large square-cut pit.

Two postholes, 25 and 38, cutting through ditches of a later Roman or Anglo-Saxon date were recorded. If they continue along the line of the ditch they could represent later replacement of the enclosure; if however they are isolated features then they could be associated with an entranceway, or represent markers for burials. Further work would be needed to determine the nature of the postholes.

Located within the northern corner of the cropmark complex and main enclosure, a well-defined square double enclosure surrounds the foundations of a central square structure, 4.5m x 4.5m, with walls 1m wide. The outer enclosure was defined by a deep, flat-bottomed, straight-sided ditch. The inner enclosure appeared to be defined by a substantial wooden structure on three sides and on the north-eastern side of the enclosure by a single shallow fenced ditch. The double enclosure and internal structure possibly represents the site of a Romano-British Temple.

Material recovered during the excavation suggests that the main and the north-eastern enclosures were contemporary and that both were reorganised by the 3rd century AD.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY

1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	1
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	4
4 STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY OF EXCAVATION AND SURVEY	6
4.1 Strategy of Excavation	6
4.2 Methodology	7
5 RESULTS	7
5.1 Summary of Results	7
5.2 Romano-British Activity	9
5.2.1 Trench 1	9
5.2.2 Trench I, Area A	11
5.2.3 Trench I, Area B	11
5.2.4 Trench II	11
5.2.5 Trench III	12
5.2.6 Trench IV	13
5.2.7 Trenches VIII to XIII	14
5.2.8 Trench VIII	14
5.2.9 Trenches IX, X, and XIII	16
5.3 Anglo-Saxon Cemetery	17
5.4 Undated Features	21
5.5 Trench V, The Lynchet	22
5.6 Fieldwalking, Geophysical and Metal Detector Survey	22
6 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS	24
6.1 Phase 1 - The Prehistoric	24
6.2 Phase 2 - Romano-British	25
6.3 Phase 3 - Anglo-Saxon	27
6.4 Continuity of Use	28
7 CONCLUSION	29
8 RECOMMENDATIONS	30
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	31
BIBLIOGRAPHY	32
LIST OF FIGURES	
Figure 1 Site location plan	3
Figure 2 Plan showing the location of villa in relation to temple enclosure and other finds recorded on the County's Sites and Monuments Record	5
Figure 3 Cropmarks and general plan of features in Trenches I to IV, VIII to XIII	8
Figure 4 Plan and section of building 374	10
Figure 5 Section and plan of pit 338	12
Figure 6 Section through ditch 39 and posthole 340	13
Figure 7 Section through ditch 5 and posthole 25 and pit 379	14
Figure 8 Section through outer ditch 400 of double enclosure	15

Figure 9	Section through outer ditch 404 of double enclosure	15
Figure 10	Section through inner ditch 402 of double enclosure	16
Figure 11	Plan of burial 1	18
Figure 12	Plan of burial 2	19
Figure 13	Plan of burial 4	21
Figure 14	Illustration of the small finds from the excavations & metal detector survey	23

LIST OF PLATES

Cover	Working in the Snow	
Plate 1	Aerial photograph and enhancement showing rectilinear cropmarks and traces of archaeological features	2
Plate 2	Roman building 374 with internal burial 339	12
Plate 3	Excavated burial 1, 26	17
Plate 4	Excavated burial 2, 36	20

APPENDICES

Appendix A	- Pottery Report by Gavin Lucas	34
Appendix B	- Human Bone - Skeletal analysis by Corinne Dubig	36
Appendix C	- Faunal remains analysis and potential for analysis by L. Higbee	38
Appendix D	- Catalogue of finds from the evaluation	40

A ROMANO-BRITISH TEMPLE AND ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT GALLOWS HILL, SWAFFHAM PRIOR

1 INTRODUCTION

A recent survey of the archaeology on Cambridgeshire County Council's Farmland identified sites of archaeological interest and made recommendations for their future management (Malim 1990). The survey highlighted those sites vulnerable to ploughing, and those that required further evaluation before management schemes could be implemented. During this survey a complex system of rectilinear cropmarks was recorded on Gallows Hill in the parish of Swaffham Prior (*Figures 1 and 2; Plate 1* TL578643). The survey recognised the potential significance of these cropmarks which appeared linked by a trackway to a large Roman villa a kilometre to the North (Scheduled Ancient Monument Camb. 32; *Figure 2*). As the sites appeared to be inter-connected it was postulated that the cropmark site might represent a contemporary ritual centre.

The cropmarks (*Figure 2; Plate 1*) define a large square enclosure surrounding an area approximately 100m x 100m, within which are a series of smaller inter-linking squared enclosures. Two small square enclosures in the north and the north-east of the main enclosure suggest the presence of buildings. A plethora of dark spots visible within the enclosed area possibly indicates the location of pits and/or graves.

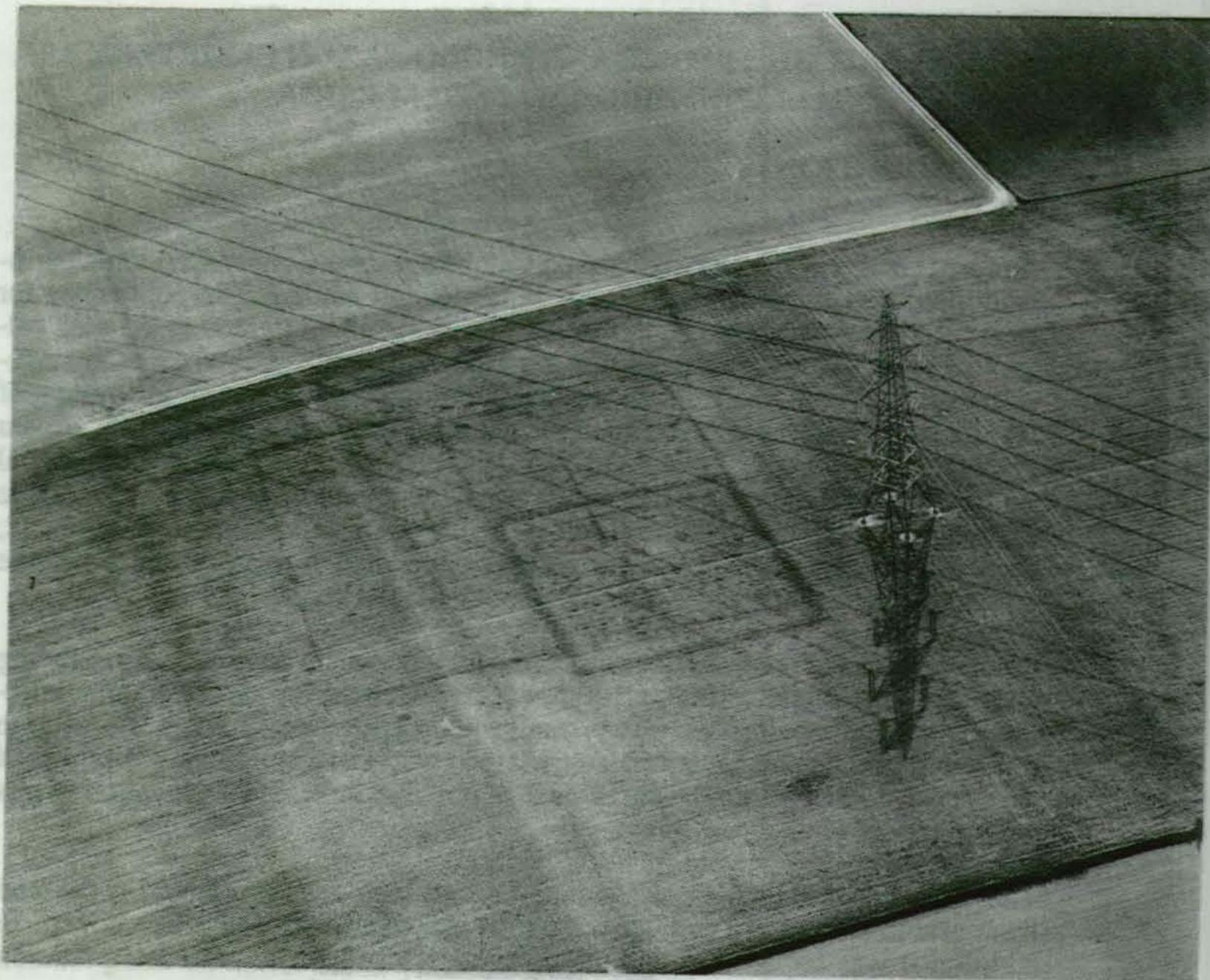
The initial outlined land management proposals included the removal of the land from arable agriculture and conversion to grassland with some tree cover. In addition it was hoped to promote public access to the site with interpretation boards describing the site and the surrounding historic landscape.

A three-week field assessment was funded by English Heritage and was conducted during the last two weeks of February and the first week of March 1993 by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council. A secondary phase of the assessment was completed during September 1993 on areas of the field unavailable during the initial work because of a wheat crop on the land. The primary research objectives of this assessment were to determine:

- 1) The extent and state of preservation of any surviving archaeological deposits and their depth below the ground surface. This information could then be used to suggest how the remains might be affected by continued cultivation and/or any of the proposed changes in land use.
- 2) The period, morphology and function of the site.

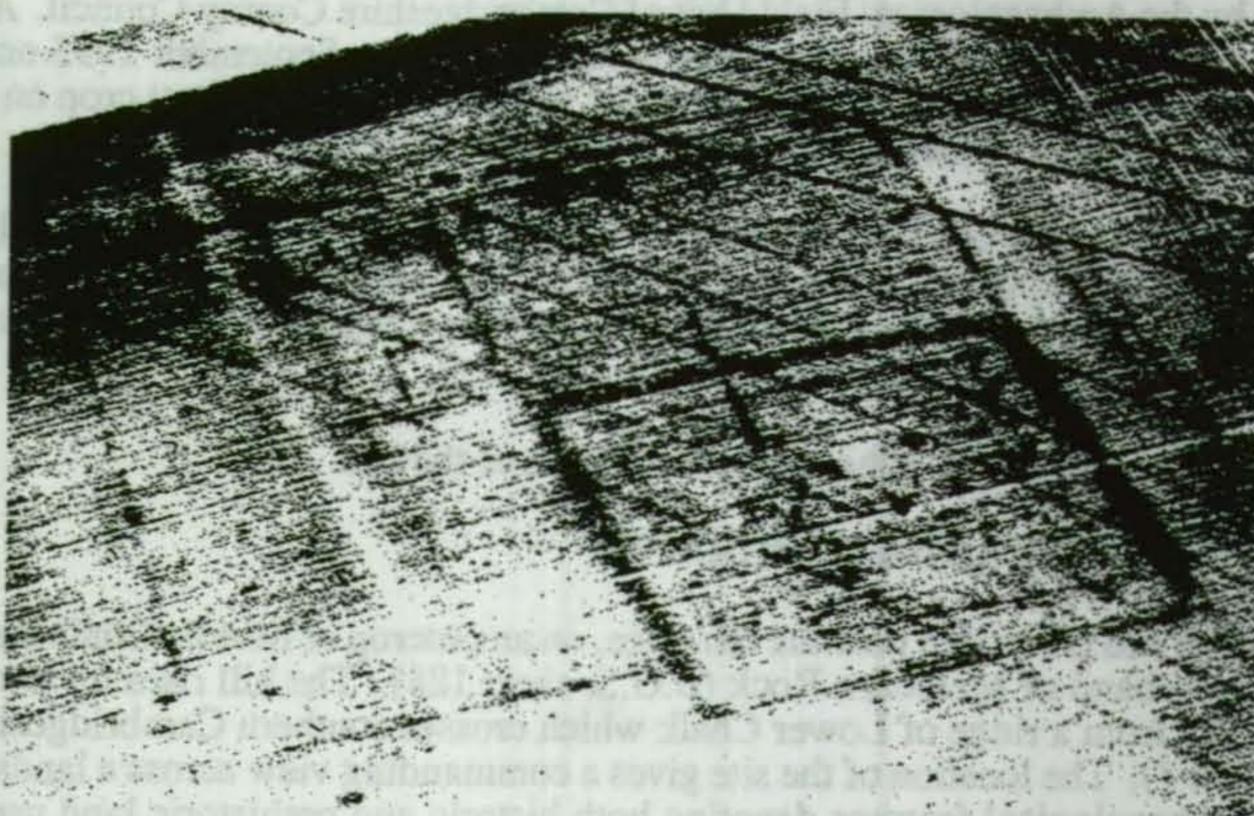
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is situated near the fen-edge, on an outcrop of Middle Chalk surrounded by a band of Melbourn Rock (B.G.S. sheet 188). The hill rises up to over 35m OD from a ridge of Lower Chalk which crosses southern Cambridgeshire (*Figure 1*). The location of the site gives a commanding view across a landscape, the archaeological features denoting both historic and prehistoric land use. To the north-west the land drops away sharply into the fens; to the south and south-east the land gradually falls away from the chalk ridge to the gently undulating chalkland of southern Cambridgeshire. Devil's Dyke, lying approximately 350m to the north-east of the site, runs from Reach in a south-easterly direction for 12km, abruptly terminating on the Boulder Clay plateau of south Cambridgeshire between the villages of Stetchworth and Wood Ditton.



boards describing the site and its surrounding historic landscape.

A three-week field assessment was funded by English Heritage and was conducted during the last two weeks of February and the first week of March 1993. A second assessment was conducted in May 1993. A third assessment was conducted in August 1993. The results of the assessments are described in the report.



deposits
to be used
the way

archaeological features described both in the report and in the accompanying map. To the north-west the land drops away sharply into the forest; to the south and south-east the land gradually falls away from the chalk ridge to the gently undulating chalkland of southern Cambridgeshire. Devil's Ditch, lying approximately 350m

Plate 1 Aerial photograph (a) and enhancement (b) of cropmarks on Gallow's Hill from the south-east. (Cambridge University collection of air photographs: CUCAP BFE 60: copyright reserved)

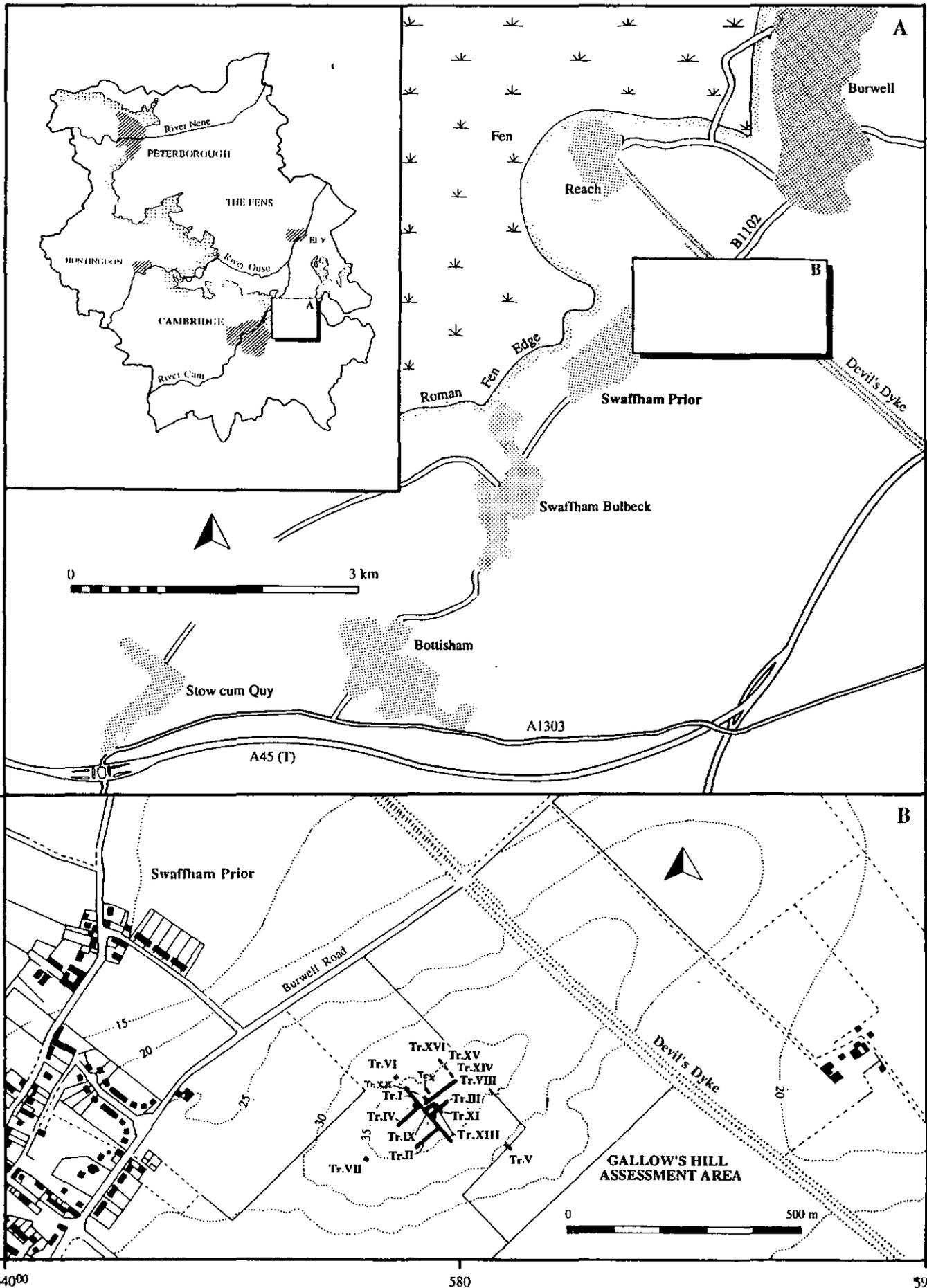


Figure 1 Location of the site and trenches

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 History of Site and surrounding area

The archaeology and history of the immediate surrounding area is reasonably well known, with numerous find spots representing all periods recorded on Cambridgeshire County Council's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR *Figure 2*). The site is situated near the fen-edge, a part of the landscape that has long provided a focus for settlement and activity with the attraction of the combined resources of the fen and the upland chalk grassland.

Known locally as 'Gallows Hill' and situated on a prominent chalk hill the site is set back from the fen-edge on a prominent chalk hill. Immediately to the south of the hill the SMR records the presence of five ring-ditches, possibly the site of prehistoric burial mounds (*Figure 2*). To the north of the site, on the fen-edge are the locations of an Iron-Age settlement (SMR 6768), and Iron-Age inhumations (SMR 6442; *Figure 2*)

During the construction of Swaffham Prior's bypass in the mid 1970s the remains of six burials (SMR 6427) were uncovered (*Figure 2*). Consultation with workers involved in the construction suggests that bronze rings were found with the burials, and that one inhumation had been buried in an iron casket. Although examined by the County Archaeologist no dating evidence was recorded for these burials. Their description as Anglo-Saxon in the Sites and Monuments Record appears based on their proximity to Devil's Dyke rather than associated artefacts or scientific techniques.

The name "Gallows Hill" may reflect the site of a medieval gibbet, although there are no documented records for it having performed such a function and it might instead reflect the site's history as a burial ground. Apart from the name, there was no other indication of archaeological activity there until 1977 when aerial photographs were taken which revealed the complex cropmarks (*Plate 1*).

The aerial photographs show a well defined square cropmark enclosing an area of approximately 10,000 square metres (*Figure 3; Plate 1*), with the corners orientated to the cardinal points of the compass. In the northern corner of the main enclosure a similarly well defined, small double enclosure contains numerous dark spots and a lighter central square, possibly representing pits and/or graves, and a building respectively. A vague circular structure can also be seen.

Identifiable from the aerial photographs there appears to be three entrances to the complex: one on the south-east side, one on the eastern side leading into the double enclosure, and one on the north-west side, where a well-defined trackway, six metres wide, leads down the slope to the site of the Roman villa (*Figure 2, Plate 1*). Partially excavated in 1992 during the construction of an N.R.A pipeline the more western of the two flanking ditches of the trackway had a V-shaped profile; whilst the eastern ditch was roughly U-shaped (Robinson, 1992).

Atkinson partially excavated the villa (SAM Camb 32) in 1892 and found it to be a large aisled building of the winged-corridor type with substantial walls of flint and Barnack sandstone quoins, and apsidal ends (Atkinson 1893; Browne 1978). The villa is one of a group forming a line on the fen-edge from Reach to Hunstanton, parallel to the course of the Icknield way and the Roman road, Peddars way (Margary 1967). The style of the Reach villa, together with the fact that there were remains of two tessellated pavements and a hypocaust beneath the floor, suggests that it was the home of a wealthy local individual or high ranking official which would have been likely to have had its own temple and cemetery, similar to the example found at the site of Lullingstone villa in Kent

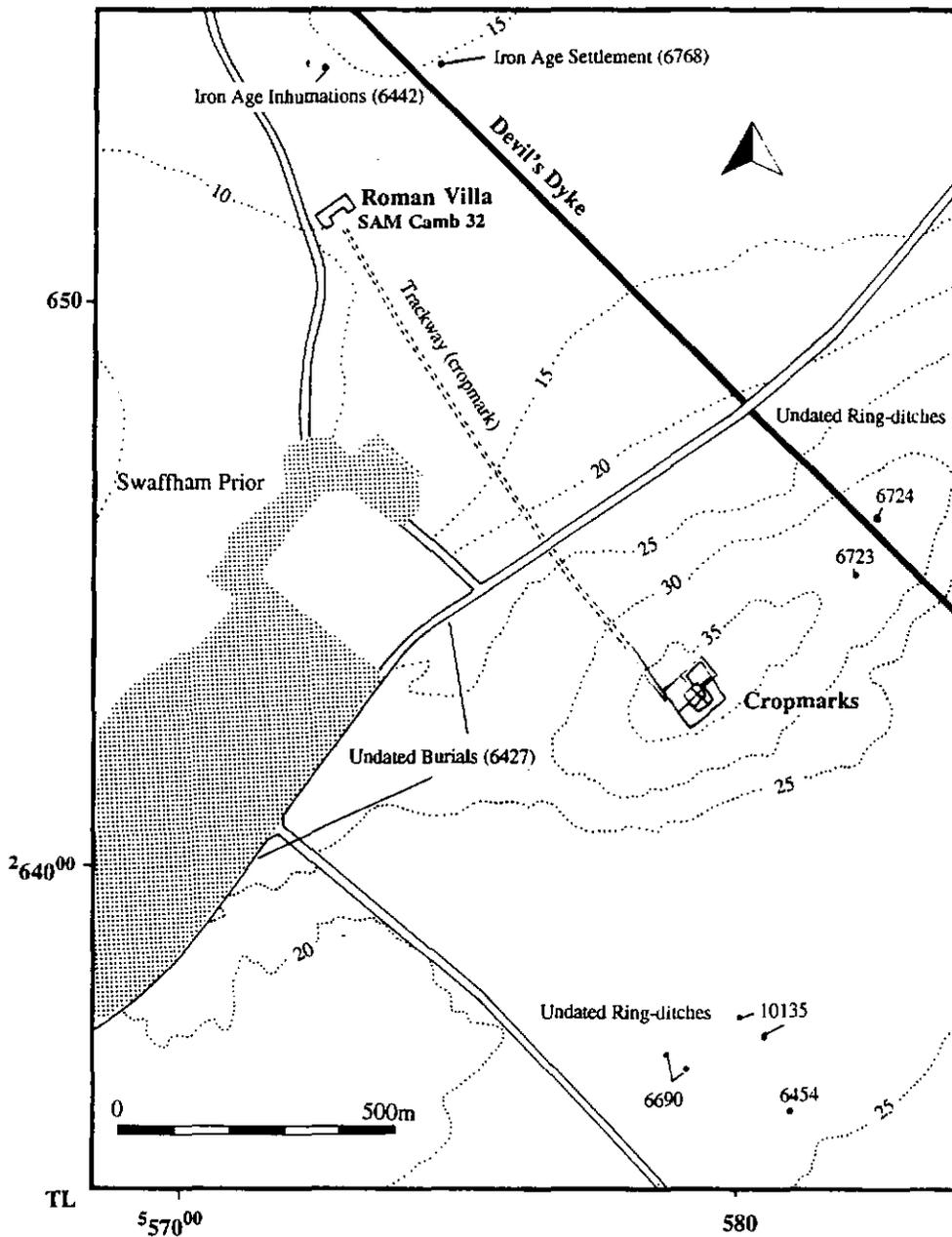


Figure 2 Plan showing location of villa in relation to square cropmark enclosure

(Meates G. 1979). To the immediate north and north-east of the villa is an Iron Age settlement (SMR 6768) and burial ground (SMR 6442; *Figure 2*) located on what appears to be the boundary of two Iron Age tribal groups, the Catuvellauni and the Iceni (Fox 1923, pp87-90).

To the north-east of Gallows Hill is Devil's Dyke (*Figures 1 & 2*), the longest and most massive of a series of four dykes in southern Cambridgeshire. Traditionally Devil's Dyke has been seen as a defensive earthwork against attacks from the south-west, during the turbulent early 7th century, when conflict occurred between the expanding Midlands kingdom of Mercia under King Penda, and the Anglians under Sigebert, Egric, and later Anna (Wait 1992). Certainly this monument was in existence by c. AD 902-905, when it was mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, in reference to the conflicts between Edward the Elder and Aethelwold. The colossal nature of these monuments, however, would have made permanent defence very difficult. An alternative explanation for the dykes,

which represent considerable obstacles across established routes, is that they acted as a deterrent against cattle rustling, controlling trade, and/or as a prestigious statement of political control of the landscape. In Cambridgeshire all are aligned north-west to south-east, crossing the land between the fens, the chalk hills, Roman roads and the ancient Icknield Way. At their western ends all have the fens, rivers or meres as natural defences; to their south-east the possibly forested clay plateaus may similarly have acted as a defensive feature.

Excavation through Devil's Dyke in 1973 (Hope-Taylor 1976) confirmed a post AD 350 date of construction. More recently, in 1991, an excavation through Fleam Dyke provided material for a sequence of radio-carbon dates which showed that construction and use of the monument occurred in the immediate post Roman period (Malim *et al* 1997, p.71, pp95-98). While this may therefore offer evidence suggesting that at least one of the dykes, if not all, was built in the decades following the withdrawal of Roman rule the exact date of construction and the precise function of the Cambridgeshire Dykes remains a question for debate.

3.2 The Swaffhams

The place name 'Swaffham' derives from the Old English 'Swafham' meaning 'the Swabian Home - the tribal land of the Swaefe, a tribe from eastern Germany' (Ekwall E 1991). The earliest documented reference to the settlement dates to circa AD 907 (Reaney 1943, p133), and it is recorded again in Domesday Book (1086). The two villages were formally recognised as separate settlements when the more southern of the two took its name from the feudal landlord, the De Bolebec family, in 1086. The second village may have received the name of Swahham Prior after a Priory of Benedictine nuns founded a priory at Swaffham in the late twelfth century, when the Prior of Ely became its landlord.

4 STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY OF EXCAVATION

4.1 Strategy of Excavation

A total of sixteen trenches were excavated over and around the area defined by the cropmarks (*Figure 1*). These trenches were opened using a 360° tracked excavator with a two metre wide toothless ditching bucket.

Trench I, aligned north-west/south-east, was 144m long and was positioned to cross most of the major linear features depicted in the aerial photographs (*Figure 3*).

Trenches II, III & IV, each approximately 50m long, were positioned at right angles to Trench I (*Figure 3*) to attempt to locate the return of the enclosure and to test for any internal features.

Two open areas (Areas A and B; *Figure 3*) were extended adjacent to Trench I to allow clarification of specific features identified in the initial machining.

Two further trenches, VI and VII, each 10m long, were located away from the known areas of activity to ascertain whether the absence of cropmarks a short distance outside the enclosures corresponded with a lack of archaeological deposits (*Figure 1*).

Trench V was positioned through a lynchet, down slope and to the south of the chalk hill (*Figure 1*) to determine its antiquity and possibly provide additional environmental information. The trench was hand-excavated and measured 2m x 1m.

During September 1993, a further week's work completed the assessment over areas that had previously been unavailable for evaluation during the initial programme of work, due to a wheat crop on that part of the field. This phase involved opening six trenches, VIII to XIII, over the north-eastern area of cropmarks to define the nature of the double enclosure (*Figures 1, 3*). An additional three trenches, XIV to XVI, were opened at this time to the north of the cropmarks in an area identified as being of interest by illicit activity of metal detectorists.

The trenches were opened using a self-drive, three-ton, 360° tracked excavator with a metre wide, toothless ditching bucket.

4.2 Methodology

The trenches were initially cleaned by hand, photographed, and a 1:100 pre-excavation plan prepared. A representative selection of the features was excavated and recorded using the standard single context recording system employed by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council. Post-excavation plans and sections of features were completed at 1:20 and 1:10. Selected inhumations were excavated and lifted for analysis by an osteologist. Soil samples for dry sieving were taken from these inhumations to aid artefact retrieval, and samples taken from the chest and pelvic areas for pollen assessment. The soil, however, was not conducive to the preservation of pollen. Further soil samples from features were not taken due to the absence of suitable deposits.

A structured fieldwalking and metal detector survey was completed over the parts of the field containing cropmarks (*Figure 2*): an area of approximately 10,000 square metres. The survey was completed after the programme of excavation and final ploughing and harrowing of the site. It was designed to identify the nature of any metalwork within the ploughsoil to assess any potential future threat from metal detectorists and to generally identify the quantity of material within the ploughsoil to help determine the extent of plough damage. In addition a resistivity survey was conducted in 1997 to try and supplement the information derived from air photography.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Summary of Results

The ploughsoil in all the trenches was found to be between 0.25m and 0.30m deep, overlying the natural chalk geology.

The enclosures identified in the aerial photographs were found to consist mainly of ditches. Where excavated, they were found to be fairly shallow (**5, 29, 39, 67, 106, 171, 190, 290, and 373** (*Figure 3 and 5*)) and appear to have been abandoned by the late 1st or 2nd centuries AD. More substantial ditches, **400, 404, 406, 409 and 420** (*Figures 8, 9, 10*) were found forming the outer boundary of the double enclosure.

A large square cropmark enclosure, measuring 100m x 100m, was found to be represented by straight-sided and flat-bottomed ditches (**5, 29, 39, 171 and 373** (*Figure 3*)). In Trench IV the ditches, **5, 67 and 106** were recorded and found to correspond with linear features visible on the aerial photographs at a point where the trackway joined the main enclosure. From comparison of profiles and the alignment of the ditches it is possible that **67 and 106** are the drainage ditches for the trackway, and ditch **5** represents the enclosure.

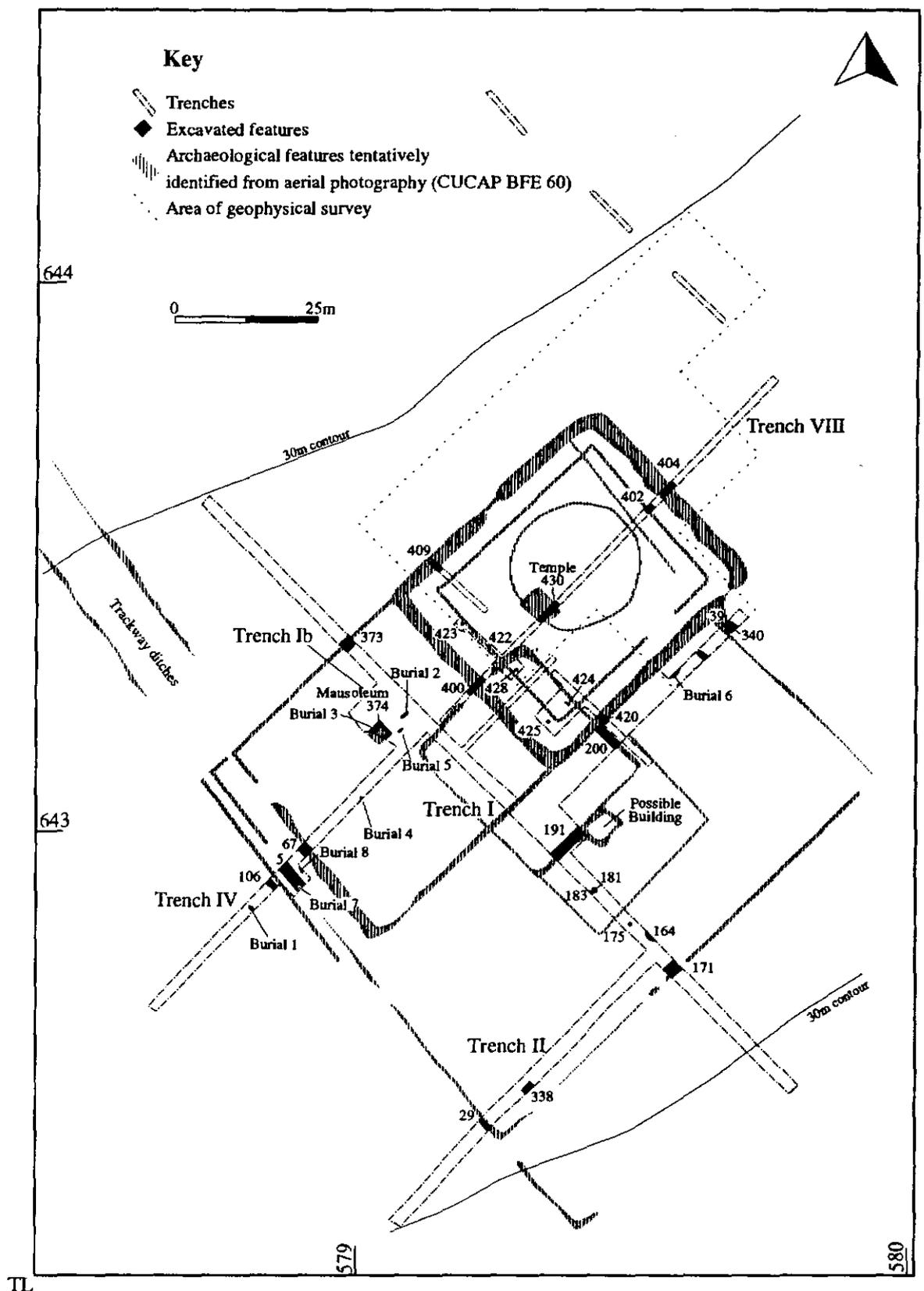


Figure 3 Cropmarks and general plan of features in Trenches I to IV and VIII to XIII

Within the western side of the main enclosure a single-celled Romano-British building was uncovered 374 (Figures 3, 4, Plate 2) which had not been previously identified through cropmark analysis. The structure contained an inhumation 339, Burial N^o 3 (Figure 4).

In the area immediately around the building a further seven inhumations were recorded, two of which, by the associated artefacts, have been attributed to the pagan Anglo-Saxon period (Burial Nos 1 and 2, 26 and 36, *Figures 3, 11, 12*). The remainder of the burials did not have any associated grave goods but from their relationship with earlier ditches could either be later Roman or Saxon in date.

The initial cleaning of the trenches revealed a number of features in each trench and to fulfil the limited aims of the project a selective sampling strategy was adopted. A significant percentage of the features were filled by a homogeneous mid-orange sand and were devoid of artefacts. Additionally they were found to have uneven bases and irregular undercut sides, and by comparison with features found on sites in similar locations and geology at Worsted Street Roman Road (Wait 1991) and Great Wilbraham Borrow Pits (Bray 1992) were interpreted as naturally-occurring anomalies caused by periglacial action.

Grave cut 362 (Burial No 4; *Figure 13*), however, was found to be aligned within one of these anomalies.

The second phase of the evaluation, completed during September 1993, produced results which added significantly to the interpretation of the site. The area under investigation was visible as a double enclosure in the northern corner of the cropmarks complex (*Figure 2*). From excavated evidence this was found to consist of an outer deep-ditched enclosure, 400, 404, 409 and 420 with possibly a substantial internal wooden enclosure along three sides, suggested by postholes uncovered on the southern and eastern sides, 422, 423, 424, 425 and 428, while the limited area of trenching on the western side probably fell between postholes. On the fourth, northern side, a shallow ditch with stakeholes was recorded, 402, the presence of which suggests a ditch for a fence, completing the internal enclosure.

Within the centre of the enclosure the foundations of a substantial square building, F430, with tiled roof were discovered (*Figure 3*).

Trenches VI, VII, XIV, XV and XVI (*Figure 1*) were positioned outside the area of the cropmarks and slightly off the top of the hill. These trenches yielded no archaeological features, suggesting that the cropmarks do accurately reflect the nature of the archaeological remains.

Both evaluations also demonstrated that irreparable damage has been inflicted on the archaeological remains by the farming regime, most notably on the Roman buildings 374 and 430 so that all that remained was the base of the foundations.

5.2 Romano-British Activity

5.2.1 Trench I (*Figures 1, 3*)

At the south-east end of the trench several features were noted and recorded, but remained unexcavated due to time constraints. A linear feature, 171, aligned north-east/south-west across the trench, was found to be on the same alignment as the main enclosure seen on the aerial photographs (*Figure 3; Plate 1*) and probably represents a ditch. A circular feature, 164, was recorded to the immediate north-west of 171 (*Figure 3*).

Cut 171. Fill 170. *Unexcavated*. Linear in plan, orientated north-east/south-west the feature was found to be 2.20m wide. The upper fill, 170, was a firm dark brown homogeneous silt with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts were recovered. The feature has been interpreted as a ditch, forming the external boundary of the main enclosure visible from aerial photographs. Cut 373. Fill 372. *Unexcavated*. Linear in plan, 2.20m wide, and orientated approximately north-east/south-west filled by 372, a dark brown homogeneous silt fill with occasional small angular stones and a few medium sized sherds of 1st century pottery (Appendix A, 372). The

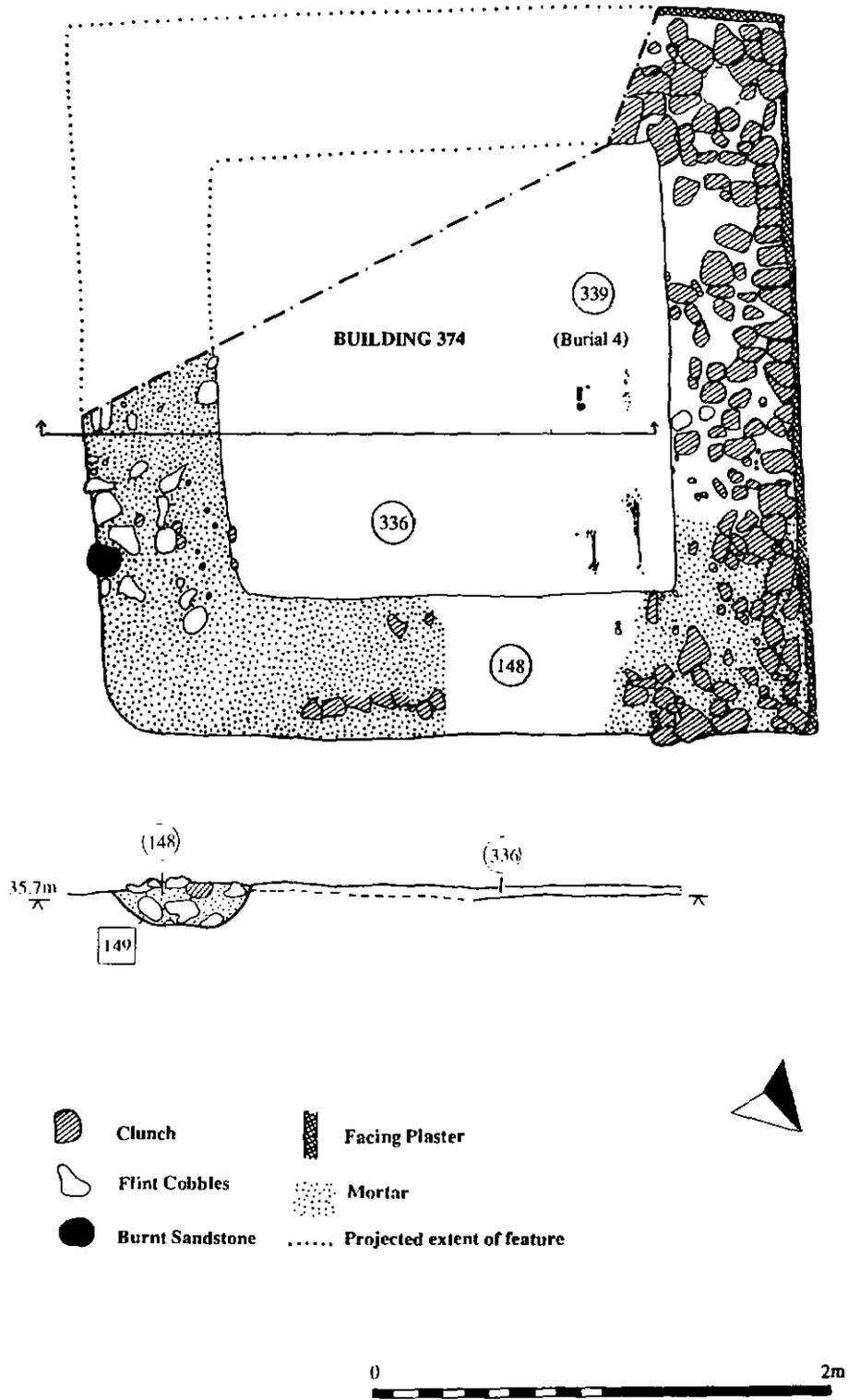


Figure 4 Plan and section of building 374

feature has been interpreted as a ditch forming the external boundary of the main enclosure visible from aerial photographs.

5.2.2 Trench I, Area A (Figure 3)

Because of the initial complexity of the archaeology within the trench a larger area was opened. Upon excavation the majority of the features in Area A proved to be naturally occurring anomalies caused by periglacial action. The exception was a linear 191 that represents one of the many internal divisions visible from the aerial photographs (Plate 1).

Cut 191. Fill 190. A linear feature 1.3m wide and 0.45m deep, orientated northeast/southwest with gently sloping sides and a flat base filled by 190, a loose mid-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and a few small, abraded sherds of 1st century pottery (Appendix A, 190) and some fragments of cattle bone, (Appendix C).

5.2.3 Trench I, Area B (Figure 3)

Located towards the northern end of Trench I, Area B proved more productive. The main feature was a square single-celled building, 374, containing the remains of an adult burial, 339 (Burial N^o 3 (Figure 4; Plate 2; Appendix B), orientated north-east/south-west. Positioned with its corners orientated on the cardinal points of the compass the building was of a substantial construction, with walls 0.5m thick made of clunch and flint blocks enclosing an area approximately 2.5m square.

Burial N^o 3, 339. The fragmented remains of an adult individual were recovered from within structure 374 (Figure 4; Plate 2). Inhumed in a supine and extended position no grave cut was apparent. It was found within the demolition deposits of a building of a fairly secure Roman date, and in the absence of a grave cut it seems likely that the burial is of a similar date. A single bronze fitting (Figure 14:5) of probable Roman date (Bartlett, pers comm) recovered from the ploughsoil over the building could represent the remains of associated grave goods. Given the extent of the plough disturbance, however, it is difficult to definitely assign the burial to any specific period.

F374. Cut 149. Fill 148. (Figure 4). The foundations of a square building measuring 3m x 3m, badly truncated by ploughing. The walls were contained by a shallow cut 149, 0.2m deep and 0.53m wide with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The walls 148, consisted of a compact sandy mortar with frequent small and large clunch and flint blocks. There were remnants of plaster on the outer facing indicating rendering. A demolition deposit, 336, containing building material including tegula roof tiles and iron nails sealed the internal area of the building. Cleaning from over this layer, 22, recovered shattered fragments of Roman fine wares; this deposit extended 4 to 5 metres outside the structure (Appendix A, 22, 336). On the basis of the overwhelming material of a late 1st century to early 2nd century AD date associated with the structure it is possible that the building is of a similar date.

Cut 19. Fill 21 (feature not shown on plan as interpreted as natural). Irregular in plan, 3.5m long, 0.2m wide and 0.15m deep, with steep and irregular sides and an uneven base. It was filled by 21, a dark brown firm homogenous silty sand with occasional small angular stones and a few sherds of late 1st century/early 2nd century pottery, a small sherd of post-medieval glazed ware, frequent fragments of Dressel 20 amphora (Appendix A, 21), and a few medium fragments of slag and kiln lining, and a few fragments of cattle bone (Appendix C). This feature was interpreted during excavation as a roothole which being in an intensive area of activity collected material from neighbouring features.

5.2.4 Trench II (Figure 3)

Cut 29. Fills 30, 31. A linear feature, 1.10m wide and 0.50m deep, orientated north-west to south-east, with steep sides and a flat base. The primary fill 31, was a mid-grey loose chalky silt representing the initial weathering of the ditch sides, from which came a few small abraded sherds of late 1st century pottery (Appendix A, 31). This was sealed by 30, a dark brown firm silt with occasional angular stones and fragments of cattle rib (Appendix C). This feature has been interpreted as defining the main enclosure visible on the aerial photographs.

Cut 11. Fill 10 (Figure 5). Oval in plan, >2m long, >1.1m wide and 0.45m deep the feature had gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Filled by 10, a light brown, homogenous compact silt with occasional small angular stones. A few artefacts were recovered; small abraded sherds of late 1st century pottery (Appendix A, 10) and animal bone fragments representing sheep and/or goat and Red deer (Appendix C). A miniature iron sickle (Figure 14:3 (SF No. 7)) was recovered from the interface between 11 and 338. The feature forms a re-cut of a rectangular pit, 338.



Plate 2 Roman building 374 with internal burial 339

Cut 338. Fills 337, 375 (Cut 61. Fill 60; not shown on plan as interpreted as natural). Rectangular in plan, 1.8m long, 1.20m wide and 0.80m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. Filled by 337, a mixed white and brown firm chalk rubble with occasional small flecks of charcoal, and frequent medium chalk lumps, and a few large unabraded sherds of 1st century pottery was recovered (Appendix A, 337), and a few cattle bone fragments. The primary fill, 375 was 0.40m deep and was very similar to 337 other than it contained frequent large chalk blocks. Truncated by an oval pit 11. Before excavation the pit seemed to truncate another feature, 61, which upon investigation was found to be a natural anomaly and is not shown on the site plan included in the report.

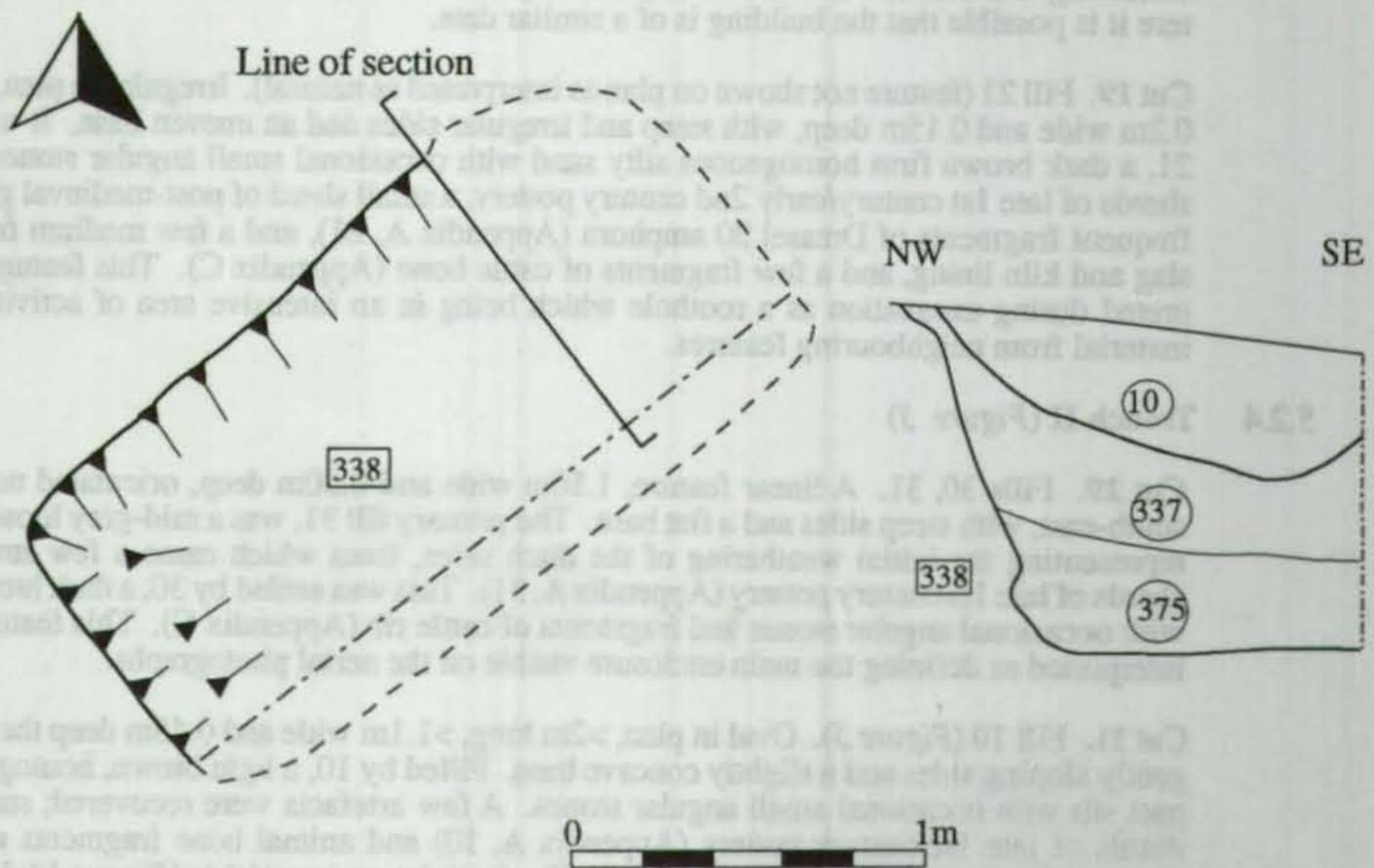


Figure 5 Section and plan of pit 338

5.2.5 Trench III (Figure 3)

Cut 39. Fill 38 (Figure 6). A linear feature, 1.20m wide and 0.55m deep, with steep sides and a slightly concave base, it was orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Filled by 38, a mid brown compact silty sand with occasional small gravel and small abraded late 1st or early 2nd century pottery sherds (Appendix A, 38) and sheep and cattle bone fragments (Appendix C). To the East the feature cuts into a possible posthole 340. The fills were very similar, as were the recovered artefacts possibly suggesting that the features represent a palisade trench. This ditch or palisade trench can be seen to correspond with the outer enclosure visible on the aerial photographs.

Cut 340. Fills 341, 342 (Figure 6). The feature extended beyond the edge of the trench but appeared to be rectangular in plan, 1m wide and 1m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill 342, was a mid brown firm slightly silty sand with frequent small angular chalk fragments and moderate small and large late 1st or 2nd century pottery sherds (Appendix A, 342) and red deer, cattle and sheep and/or goat bone fragments. This was sealed by 341, a compact mid brown silty sand with occasional small gravel inclusions and small and medium abraded sherds of 1st century pottery (Appendix A, 341) and cattle bone fragments (Appendix C). Found within the line of the ditch 39, the feature possibly represents a posthole, perhaps suggesting a palisade function for the two features.

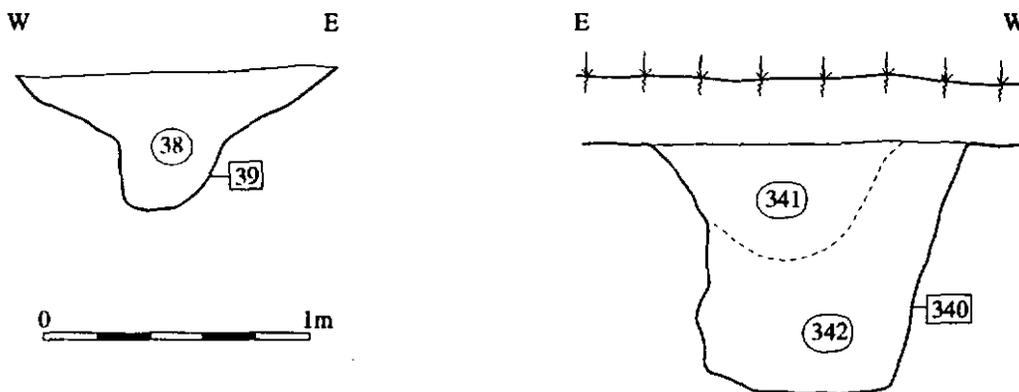


Figure 6 Section through ditch 39 and posthole 340

Cut 261. Fill 260 (Figure 3). Rectangular in plan, 2m long, 1m wide and 0.5m deep the feature had vertical sides and a flat base. Filled by 260, a dark brown firm silt with occasional small angular stones and medium, unabraded late 1st century AD pottery sherds (Appendix A, 260) and frequent large fragments of cattle, immature cattle, horse, sheep and/or goat bone (Appendix C). The feature has been interpreted as a pit.

Cut 290. Fills 289, 365. A linear, 1.6m wide and 0.62m deep, orientated north-west to south-east with steep sides and a flat base. The primary fill 365, was a light brown firm sandy silt with occasional small angular stones. This was sealed by 289, a dark brown firm homogenous silt with occasional small angular stones. The feature corresponds with one of the internal divisions visible of the main enclosure.

5.2.6 Trench IV (Figure 3)

Cut 5. Fills 4, 32, 33 (Figures 3, 7). A linear feature orientated north-west/south-east, 1.60m wide and 0.60m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The primary fill 33, was a mid grey/brown loose clayey silt with occasional small, angular stones and no artefacts. This was sealed by 32, a mid brown compact clayey silt with occasional angular stones. This was sealed by 4, a mid greyish brown compact clayey silt with occasional small angular stones, small abraded 1st century AD sherds (Appendix A, 4) and occasional cattle and dog bone fragments (Appendix C). The feature was cut by a large posthole 25, and an Anglo-Saxon inhumation 386. This ditch has been tentatively interpreted as part of the main enclosure seen on aerial photographs.

Cut 25. Fills 23, 24, 28. Oval in plan, 2.2m long, 1.2m wide and 1.13m deep with vertical sides and a flat base interpreted as a posthole. The primary fill 28, was a dark brown loose silt with frequent small, angular stones. Finds recovered include medium-large, unabraded sherds of late 1st or early 2nd century AD pottery and fragments of sheep and goat bones. The packing of the post, 24, was a light brown compact clayey silt with occasional small angular stones, no arte-

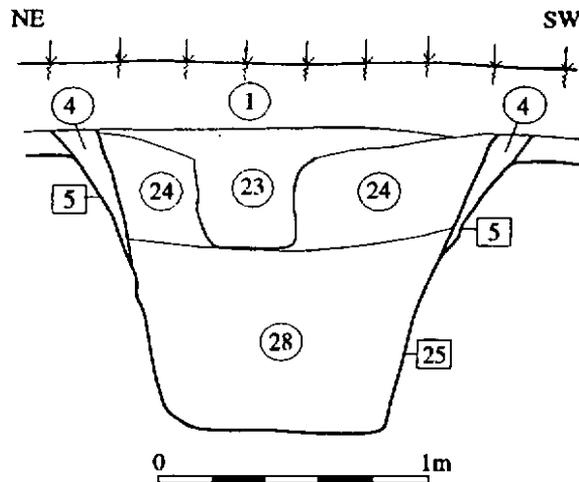


Figure 7 Section through ditch 5 and posthole 25.

facts. The postpipe 23, was found to be circular and 0.42m in diameter, with vertical sides and a flat base; the fill was a mid grey brown clayey silt (re-deposited ditch fill) with occasional small angular chalk fragments and a few medium sherds of late 1st or early 2nd century pottery. Truncates ditch 5.

Cut 67. Fills 66, 367. A linear feature, 1.50m wide and 0.10m deep, orientated north-west/south-east with steep sides and a slightly concave base. The primary fill 367, was a light grey loose silty chalk with frequent small-medium angular stones. Sealed by 66, a light brown firm silt with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts were recovered from either of the fills but from comparison with the aerial photographs it would seem to form part of the trackway and as such contemporary with the main enclosure.

Cut 106. Fills 105, 107. A linear feature, 1.49m wide and 0.70m deep, steep-sided with a flat base, orientated north-west/south-east. Primary fill 107, was a light brown loose silt with frequent small-medium angular stones and no artefacts. Sealed by 105, a mid brown loose silt with occasional small angular flints, no artefacts. The feature has been interpreted as a ditch forming one of the drainage ditches for the trackway connecting the cropmark complex to the villa.

5.2.7 Trenches VIII to XIII (Figure 3)

The second phase of the evaluation was completed in September 1993 and was concentrated within the northern corner of the area of cropmarks in an area defined by a distinct double enclosure, measuring 50m x 50m.

5.2.8 Trench VIII & Trench XII (Figure 3)

Trench VIII was positioned to cross the double enclosure from the south-west to north-east in order to examine the outer enclosing features, and a central anomaly that is evident as a lighter area of cropmarks, measuring 4.5m x 4.5m (Figure 3; Plate 1).

Within the trench the outer enclosure was found to be represented by deep linear features 400 and 404. The inner enclosure is thought to have consisted on the eastern, western and southern sides of a wooden palisade. This is suggested by two separate alignments of postholes in trenches VIII and XIII, 422, 423, 424, and 425, and 428. The postholes were found to be spaced at 5m intervals, parallel to the outer ditches. On the northern side the inner boundary was found to be defined by a shallow ditch, 402.

Cut 422. Fill 427. Sub-circular in plan, 0.76m long, 0.66m wide and 0.25m deep. (Figure 3). Filled by 427, a grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts.

Cut 423. Fill 426. *Unexcavated.* Sub-circular in plan, 0.76m long, 0.66m wide. Filled by 426, a grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts.

Cut 428. Fill 429. *Unexcavated.* Sub-circular in plan, 0.70m long, 0.63m wide. Filled by 429, a grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts
The central anomaly was found to be an area of compact sand, gravel and mortar, 430. Narrow features were recorded on the south and north sides of 430 which have been interpreted as foundation trenches, 438 and 431. The whole feature has been interpreted as the remains of a build-

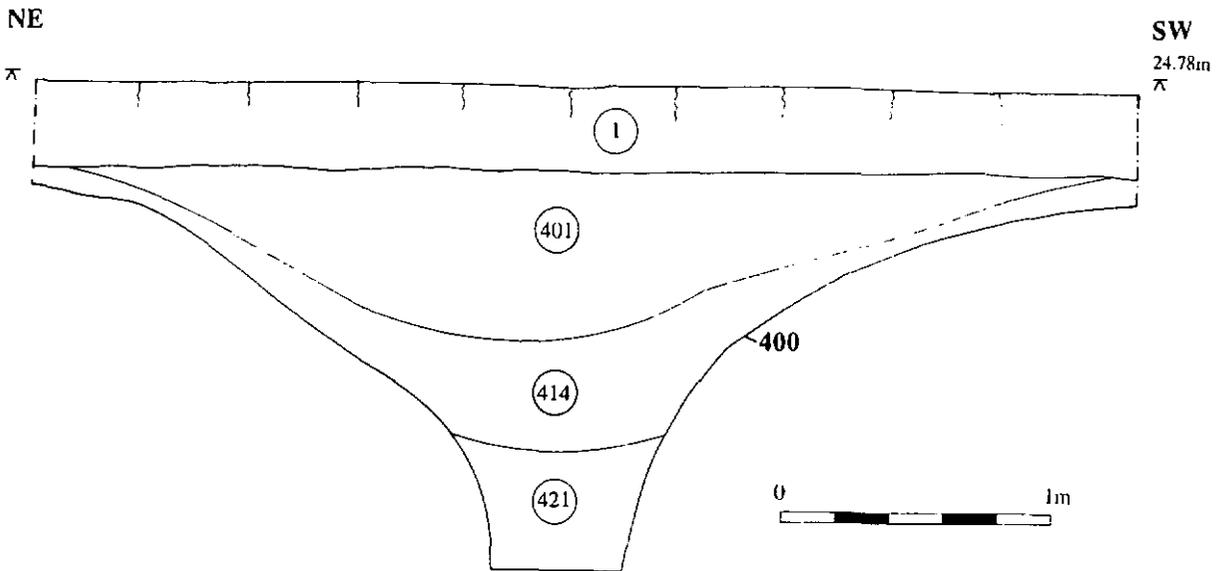


Figure 8 Section through 400, outer ditch of double enclosure.

Cut 400. Fills 401, 414, 421 (Figure 8). A linear feature, 4m wide at top, and 0.45m wide at the base, 1.5m deep, steep-sided with a flat base, orientated north-west/south-east. The primary fill 421, was a light grey brown sandy silt with frequent small-medium chalk inclusions and medium-large unabraded late 1st or early 2nd century AD pottery sherds (Appendix A, 421) and a few oyster shells.

This was sealed by, 414, a light grey brown firm sandy silty clay with frequent medium-large chalk inclusions and medium sized sherds of the early to mid 2nd century AD (Appendix A, 414) and horse bone fragments and a few oyster shells. The final fill 401, was a dark grey brown compact silty sandy clay with frequent small chalk inclusions containing cattle bone fragments, and a few slag fragments. The feature has been interpreted as a ditch forming the outer boundary of the double enclosure in the northern corner of the main complex.

Cut 402. Fills 403, 417, 418 (Figure 9). A linear feature, 1.5m wide and 0.60m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a flat base, orientated north-west/south-east. Primary fill 418, was a mid brown firm chalk and flint rubble with occasional cattle, sheep/goat and red deer bone fragments (Appendix C) and a few pieces of alien, dressed stone (possibly ?building material). Sealed by 417, a dark brown homogeneous silt with occasional angular stones, plaster or daub, flint flakes, fragments of cattle and sheep or goats, and a mixture of varying sizes of late 1st or early 2nd century Romano-British and Gallo-Belgic pottery including at least two beakers (Appendix A, 417). The final fill 403, was a mid brown compact homogeneous silt with occasional small angular stones and medium-large, unabraded late 1st century pottery sherds (Appendix A, 403) and occasional fragments of pig, sheep and/or goat bones.

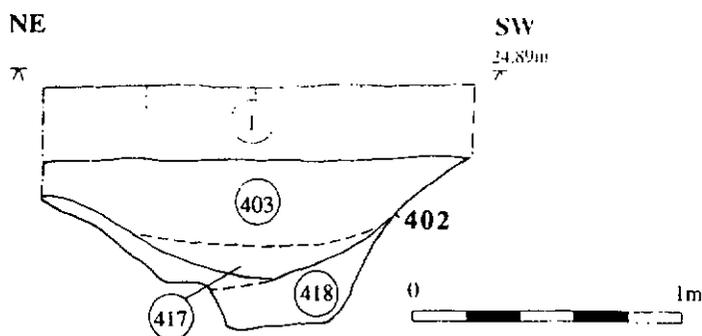


Figure 9 Section through inner ditch 402, of double enclosure.

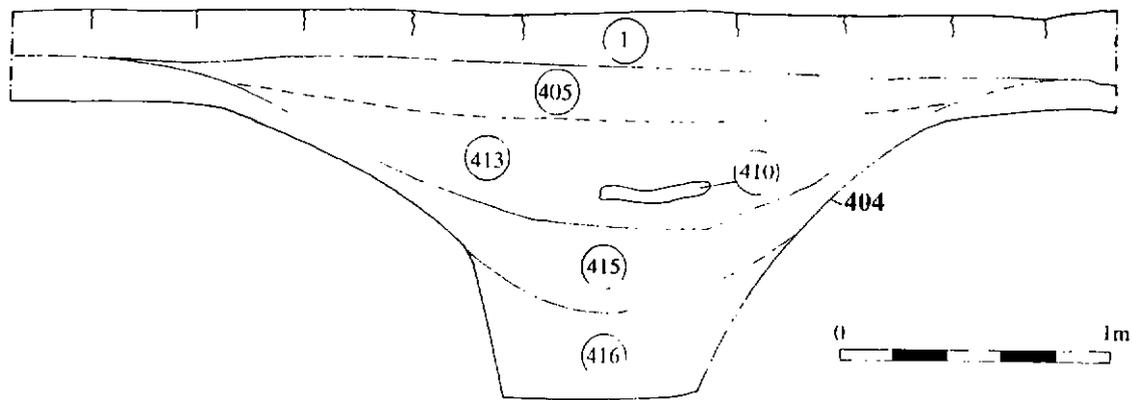


Figure 10 Section through outer ditch 404, of double enclosure.

A line of stakeholes were recorded along the western edge of the ditch suggesting the presence of a ?protective internal fence aligned parallel to ditch 404 forming the inner line of the double enclosure.

Cut 404. Fills 405, 410, 413, 415, 416 (*Figure 10*). A linear feature, 2.8m wide at the top and 0.75m at the base, 1.5m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, orientated north-west/south-east. The primary fill 416, was a light brown firm chalk rubble with frequent large cattle bone fragments. This was sealed by 415, a mid brown compact homogeneous chalky silt with occasional small angular stones and a tile, amphora and pottery fragments (Appendix A, 415). Sealing this was 413, a mid brown compact clayey silt with occasional small angular stones and a lens of unidentifiable burnt animal bone, 410. The final fill 405, was a dark brown homogeneous compact chalky silt with occasional small angular stones, a single small abraded sherd of late 1st century Romano-British pottery (Appendix A, 405) and cattle bone fragments (Appendix C).

This feature has been interpreted as a ditch aligned parallel to 402 and forming the outer boundary of the double enclosure visible in the north-eastern section of the cropmarks.

F430. An area of very compact mid yellow sandy gravel/mortar mix, 0.25m deep, 4.5m wide and >1m long. Feature is flanked on the western and eastern sides by ?foundation trenches 431 and 438 and has been interpreted as the foundations of a structure within the centre of the double enclosure (*Figure 3*).

Cut 431. Fill 432. A linear feature, 0.30m wide and 0.20m deep, orientated approximately north-west/south-east. Filled by 432, a mid brown, semi-compact chalky silt with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts. Interpreted as a foundation trench for structure F430.

Cut 433. Fill 434. Circular in plan, 0.20m in diameter and 0.40m deep with straight sides and a 'V' shaped base. Filled by 434, a mid brown, semi-compact chalky silt with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts. Interpreted as a posthole cut into the base of 431.

Cut 438. Fill 437. *Unexcavated.* A linear feature, 0.30m wide, orientated approximately north-west/south-east. Filled by 437, a mid brown, semi-compact chalky silt with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts. Interpreted as a foundation trench for structure F430.

5.2.9 Trenches IX, X, and XIII (For Trench XII description see 5.2.8 (*Figure 3*))

These trenches were opened to locate the east and west sides of the double enclosure. As in Trench VIII the outer enclosure was found to be represented by wide linears, 409 and 420. The inner enclosure appeared to be represented by alignments of postholes in trenches XII and XIII, with 424 and 425 positioned 5m apart in Trench XIII and parallel to the outer boundary ditch, 420 (*Figure 3*).

Cut 424. Fill 436. *Unexcavated.* Sub-circular in plan, 0.76m long, 0.66m wide. Filled by 436, a grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts.

Cut 425. Fill 434. *Unexcavated*. Sub-circular in plan, 0.76m long, 0.66m wide. Filled by 434, a grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional small angular stones. Numerous large tegula fragments, and a single sherd of a fine hemispherical bowl or beaker datable to the late 1st or early 2nd century AD were recovered from this feature.

The enclosing ditch of the double enclosure was noted and recorded in Trenches IX, X and XI as features, 406, 409 and 420 but was not excavated, (Figure 3).

5.3 Anglo-Saxon Cemetery

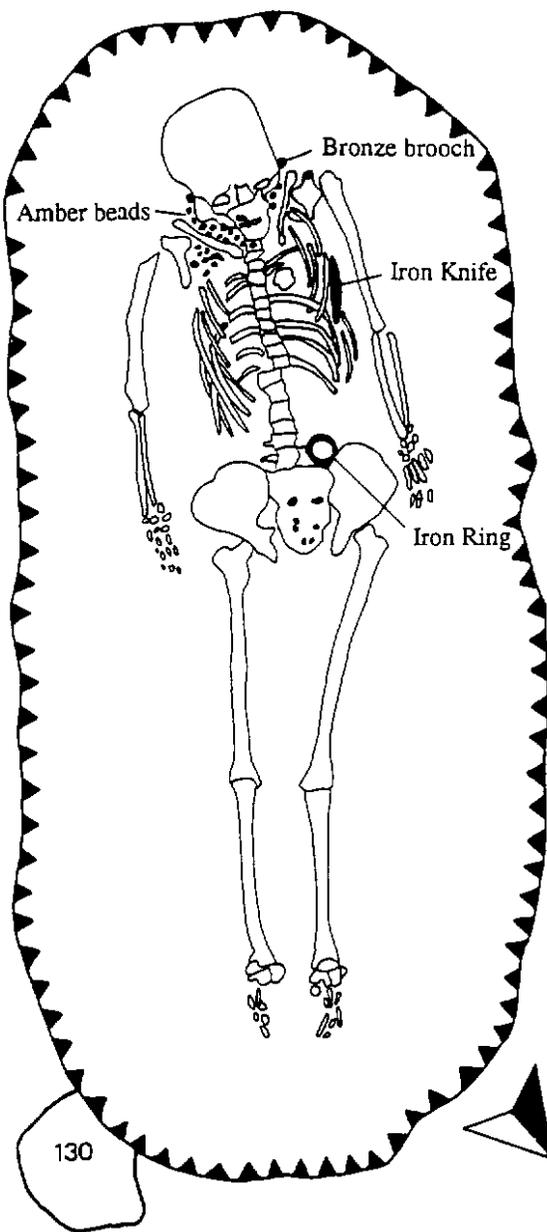
The excavation produced evidence for a previously unrecorded Anglo-Saxon cemetery. In the area examined two definite and a further three probable Anglo-Saxon burials were identified. A further two inhumations, 362 and 263, were identified but were undated. All the burials are located on the top of the hill, a position similar to that of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Edix Hill in Barrington parish (Malim 1992). Three of the burials were excavated and were found to be in well-defined, deep graves. Two of the graves, 26 and 36, were found to have associated grave goods of Anglo-Saxon type (Appendix D).

Cut 26. Fill 27. (Burial N^o 1 (Figure 11; Plate 3). Sub-rectangular in plan, 1.5m long, 0.60m wide and 0.50m deep, orientated north-west/south-east with vertical sides and a flat base. Feature contained a young, 11years old (± 30 months) immature individual of indeterminable sex. Filled by 27, a mid grey brown firm chalky silt with frequent small-large angular stones. A single inverted broken bowl (Appendix A, Trench IV, 26) was found covering the left innominate and left hand.



Plate 3 Excavated Burial N^o 1, 26

BURIAL #2.



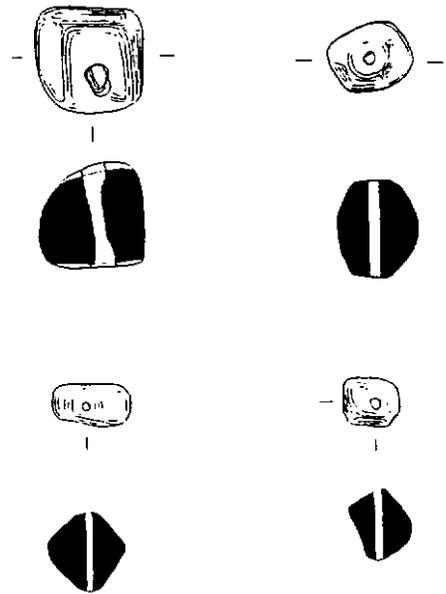
BONE ANALYSIS

AGE 25-35

SEX Female

HEIGHT

COMMENTS Stains on jaw, neck and shoulder indicate presence of copper alloy objects. Similar skeletal traits suggest a familial relationship with burial 1



GRAVE GOODS

- 113 Amber beads
- 2 coloured glass beads
- 2 silver beads
- 1 bronze toggle
- Bronze small-long brooch**
- Iron knife
- Iron ring

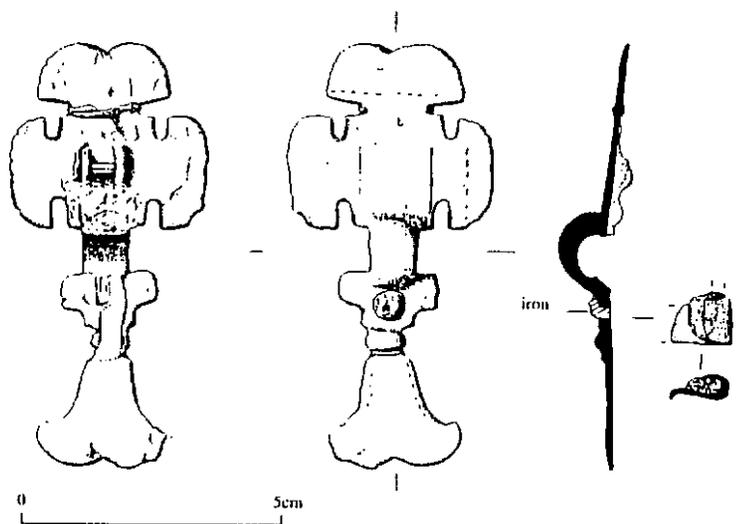


Figure 11 Plan of Burial N° 1

BURIAL 21

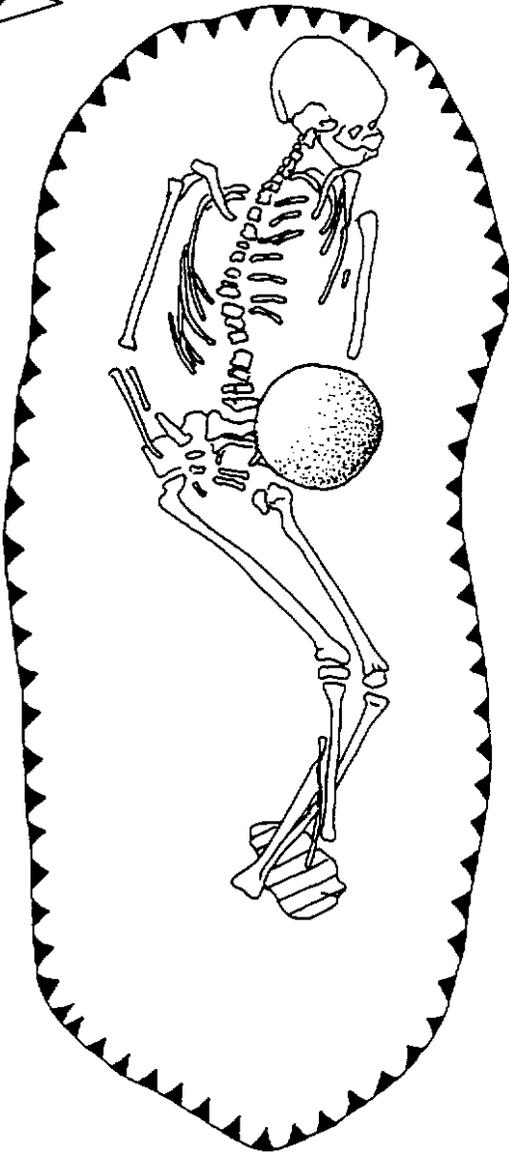
BONE ANALYSIS

AGE 11

SEX Female

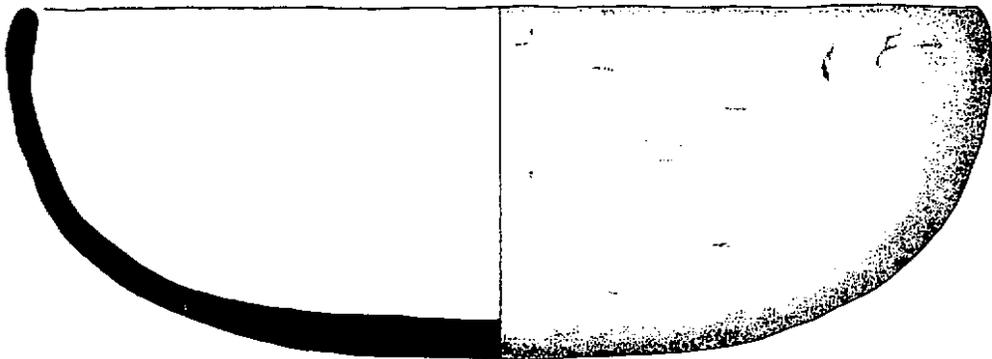
HEIGHT

COMMENTS Similar skeletal traits suggests a familial relationship with burial 2



0 50cm

GRAVE GOODS



0 5cm

Figure 12 Plan of Burial 2



Plate 4 Excavated Burial N° 2, 36

Examination of the skeletal remains identified the condition of *cribra orbitalia* in the right orbit which is thought to indicate iron deficiency. In addition and of particular interest an eighth cervical, and a thirteenth thoracic vertebra were present. This can sometimes be used to indicate family relationships and it is therefore significant that similar anomalies are present in the skeletal evidence of burial 2, 36 (Appendix B).

Cut 36. Fill 37 (Figure 12; Plate 4). Sub-rectangular shallow grave-cut (Burial N° 2), orientated south-west/north-east. The feature had steep sides and a flat base, 1.6m long, 0.85m wide and 0.20m deep. Filled by 37, a mid brown compact chalky silt with frequent small angular stones. Feature contained a single inhumation with associated grave-goods that indicate an Anglo-Saxon date (Appendix D). A posthole 130, at the foot of the burial, possibly represents a grave marker. From the grave fill fragments of sheep and/or goat and dog bone were recovered.

The inhumation was found to be an adult female of between 25 to 35 years old. In a shallow, well-defined grave cut, 0.20m deep, the inhumation was supine and extended (Figure 12; Plate 4). The burial contained : a small iron knife and an iron ring, possibly part of a belt; a double looped necklace consisting of 113 amber beads, 2 small silvered beads, 2 coloured glass beads and a small bronze toggle; a bronze small-long brooch with surviving thread around one end suggesting that the fastener had broken, the brooch having been sewn on a garment. Bronze staining on the right clavicle suggests that the burial had a second, possibly matching, brooch which has since disappeared (Appendix D).

Already referred to is the skeletal analysis which provided evidence for the burial having an eighth and thirteenth thoracic vertebra, suggesting a family relationship with burial 1, 26. In addition, the condition of the teeth of the burial are noteworthy with almost complete dentition present. The dental evidence also suggested, however, that the teeth and gums had been subjected to severe stress in life, which could have led to a "constellation of problems" making it

surprising that more teeth had not been lost (Appendix B).

Cut 130. Fill 129. Circular in plan, 0.20m in diameter and 0.20m deep the feature had vertical sides and a flat base. Filled by 129, a dark brown homogeneous compact silt, the feature truncates 36. Interpreted as a posthole, the feature possibly represents a grave-marker. No artefacts were recovered.

Cut 35. Fill 34. Square-cut shallow pit, 0.50m wide, 0.50m long and 0.05-0.10m deep, with vertical sides and an irregular base, sloping eastwards. The majority of the feature was 0.05m deep but deepens on northern side where a small, complete cup of probable Anglo-Saxon date (Appendix D; SF. 1; *Figure 14:4*) was found. Filled by 34, a mid brown compact clayey silt with occasional small angular stones. Truncates upper fill of ditch 5.

5.4 Undated Features

5.4.1 Trench I (*Figure 3*)

Cut 164. Fill 163. *Unexcavated*. ?Circular in plan, 2.9m wide and >0.85m in length the feature extended beneath the edge of the trench and was not exposed. Filled by 163, a dark homogenous silt with occasional small angular stones and no artefacts the feature could represent a pit although it could be the terminus of a ditch, which does not appear as a cropmark.

Three rectangular postholes all measuring 0.40m x 0.30m, 175, 181 and 183, were recorded further to the west of 164 (*Figure 3*). Excavation of one these, 181, revealed the remains of a circular postpipe, 0.20m in diameter.

Cut 175. Fill 174. *Unexcavated*. Rectangular in plan, 0.40m long and 0.30m wide. Filled by 174, a dark brown homogeneous silt with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts.

Cut 181. Fills 180, 358. Rectangular in plan, 0.40m long and 0.30m wide and 0.17m deep. The packing of the feature 180, was a mid brown, firm homogenous chalky silt with moderate small angular stones. A postpipe was recorded as 358, which was found to be 0.25m in diameter and consisted of a dark brown firm homogenous silt with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts. The feature has been interpreted as a posthole and postpipe forming part of a group, 175 and 183, which form one of the internal divisions of the main complex visible on the aerial photographs.

Cut 183. Fill 182. *Unexcavated*. Rectangular in plan, 0.40m long and 0.30m wide. Filled by 174, a dark brown homogenous silt with occasional small angular stones. No artefacts.

5.4.2 Trench I, Area B (*Figure 3*)

Cut 132. Fill 131 (Burial N° 5). *Unexcavated*. Sub-rectangular in plan, 1.4m long, 0.70m wide and orientated approximately south-west/north-east. Filled by 133, a mid brown compact chalky silt. Although unexcavated the machining had uncovered the skull of the individual and the

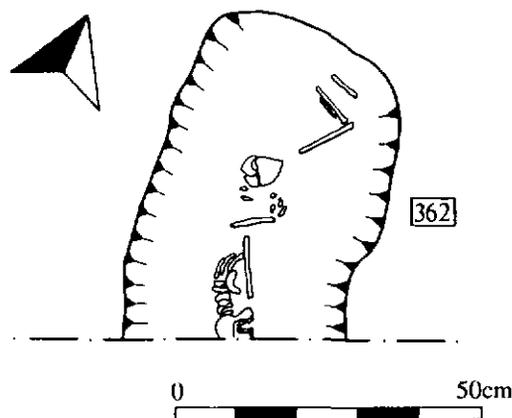


Figure 13 Plan of Burial 4

shape of the feature suggested that the feature represents a grave. No artefacts were recovered, although a part of a silver 6th century wrist clasp was recovered from spoil from over the grave (Appendix D; *Figure 14.6*).

5.4.3 Trench III (*Figure 3*)

Cut 263. Fill 262. (burial N^o 6). *Unexcavated*. Sub-rectangular in plan, 1.5m long, >0.3m wide, orientated south-west/north-east. Filled by 262, a dark brown compact sandy silt with frequent small angular stones. No artefacts recovered but articulated human bone noted on the surface of feature suggests a function as a grave.

5.4.4 Trench IV (*Figure 3*)

Cut 362. Fill 361 (burial N^o 4; *Figure 13*). Sub-rectangular in plan, 0.80m long, 0.50m wide and 0.25m deep, steep-sided and flat based. Filled by 361, a light brown, sandy silt with occasional angular stones. Feature contained the remains of a badly deteriorated inhumation of an infant approximately 4 years old. The burial was found in a semi-flexed position and without grave goods. The date of the burial is uncertain, although it seems probable, given the proximity to other burials of Anglo-Saxon date, that it is from a similar period.

Skeletal analysis recognised an infection of the skull which could suggest meningitis (Appendix B).

Cut 386. Fill 385 (burial N^o 7). *Unexcavated*. Sub-rectangular in plan, >1.25m long, >0.5m wide, orientated south-east/north-west. Filled by 385, a mid greyish brown compact clayey silt with occasional small angular stones. Interpreted as a burial on the basis of skull and upper torso being exposed by machine. Truncates upper fill 4, of ditch 5.

Cut 387. Fill 388 (burial N^o 8). *Unexcavated*. Sub-rectangular in plan, >0.6m long, 0.3m wide, orientated south-east/north-west. Filled by 385, a mid greyish brown compact clayey silt with occasional small, angular stones. Interpreted as a burial on the basis of skull and upper torso being exposed by machine.

During the fieldwalking and metal detector survey 2 iron angular spearhead (Swanton type E2 & GI) (*Figures 14:1 & 14:2*) were recovered from the plough soil above the location of burials 386 and 387, suggesting a possible relationship between these artefacts and the burials.

5.5 The Lynchet Trench V (*Figure 1*)

A hand-dug section was excavated through a lynchet located at the base of the eastern slope of the hill. The work demonstrated the movement of ploughsoil down the slope. Three distinct layers, 2, 3 and 6, were recorded in section. An extant turfline, 2, was found sealing layer 3, a mid brown loose sandy silt with very occasional angular stones and no artefacts. This sealed 6, a mid brown compact sandy silt with moderate small angular stones, a layer which was similar to 3, the difference is an absence of stones in the upper layer and reflects worm sorting. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered.

5.6 Fieldwalking, Geophysical and Metal Detector Survey Results

A metal detector survey was completed over the site during October 1993 after the field had been ploughed and harrowed. The survey produced little artefactual evidence other than a dense scatter of iron nails over the area delineated by the cropmarks, the density of which increased slightly over the locations of the structures recorded during the excavation.

Two iron Anglo-Saxon spearheads (Swanton types E2 and GI (*Figures 14.1 & 14.2*) were recovered from the ploughsoil roughly located over the positions of two graves, 386 and 387, in trench IV. These artefacts may provide a date for these inhumations, reinforced by the fact that 386 truncated the backfill of the Roman ditch 5.

A random survey at the base of the hill resulted in a notable increase in the non-ferrous material including part of a Roman bronze brooch and several indistinguishable bronze fragments. In consideration of these results it appears that the less well protected Roman remains have suffered severely from plough damage.

The deeper features, in particular the graves, have been afforded better protection and are only now suffering damage through the erosion of ploughsoil and the continued cultivation, which is also bringing material to the surface.

A fieldwalking survey was carried out simultaneously with the metal detector survey using the same grid. This produced similarly negative results, with only a general scatter of pottery recorded over the site including the only piece of decorated Samian (Appendix A). Over and

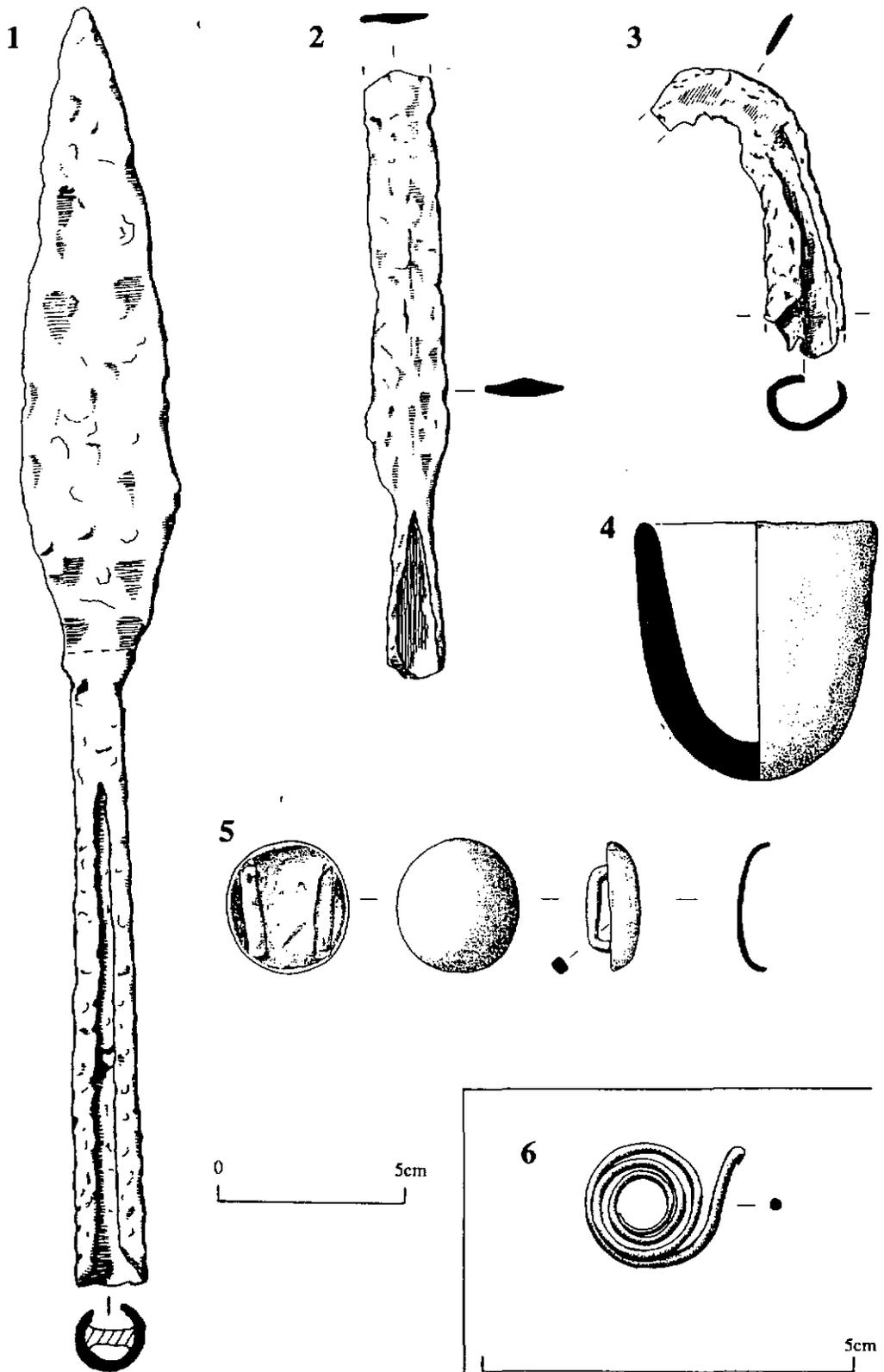


Figure 14

Illustrations of the small finds from excavation and metal detector surveys
 1 Iron Spearhead from Field Survey; 2 Iron Spearhead from Field Survey; 3 Iron Sickle from Pit 11; 4 Pot from Pit 35; 5 Bronze Fitting from Building 374; 6 Silver Wrist Clasp from Burial 5, 132

adjacent to the locations of the structures a scatter of roof tile was noted and a few fragments of dressed clunch.

The resistivity survey undertaken in 1997 produced plots that were too faint to reproduce in this report, and the results added little to what had been visible as cropmarks.

6 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The evaluation at Gallow's Hill was successful on a number of counts. Firstly it demonstrated the survival of archaeological remains and their correlation with the very clear crop marks; as well as hitherto unrecorded features. Secondly, it established that within the area evaluated there were at least two main periods of activity, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon, forming part of a landscape that appears to have been continually occupied or re-used from the prehistoric period. Thirdly the work also suggested a function for the site as a ritual centre.

The site is located on the top of a chalk hill, in the lee of Devils Dyke. It was first noted in aerial photographs and appears as a large square enclosure, 100m x 100m (*Plate 1*). Within the main enclosure there are a series of inter-linked squared enclosures and in the north-eastern corner a clearly-defined double enclosure with a lighter square in the centre, which has been shown to be the location of a structure (*Plate 1*). The whole complex appears connected to the villa at Reach by a trackway linked to the western corner of the main area (*Plate 1*; *Figure 2*). The aerial photographs suggest that there are three main entrances to the complex: one on the eastern side leading into the double enclosure, one on the south-eastern side and a third on the north-western side (*Plate 1*). Time constraints meant that the entrances were not examined during the evaluation.

This discussion will examine the results chronologically to compare the excavation results from Gallows Hill chronologically to those generated by other sites in Britain and Europe.

6.1 Period 1 - The Prehistoric

A prehistoric stage of development is indicated both from the county's Sites and Monuments Record and also by the findings of this evaluation. The SMR contains the location of seven undated ring ditches, possibly the sites of burial mounds, 500m to the South and North-east of the site (*Figure 2*).

The SMR also records the locations of an Iron-Age settlement and burials one kilometre to the north of the site, and on the fen-edge at Reach (*Plate 1*; *Figure 2*).

Although no specifically Iron-Age features were encountered during the evaluations the pottery assemblage (Appendix A) is of a 1st and 2nd century date but largely of a Late Iron Age and Belgic tradition in nature. Iron-Age religious centres were commonly located near woods, lakes or pools and often on the boundaries of Iron Age tribal areas. It has been suggested that such sites had an integral role within society as regulators of trade, social contact and the administration of justice (Woodward 1992).

The site at Gallows Hill is located on a chalk hill overlooking the fenland wilderness. Its overall square shape conforms to other Iron-Age religious centres and it lies on the boundary between two tribes, the Iceni and the Catuvellauni. Finally, the aerial photographs seem to indicate that there could be several phases of development, one of which could be prehistoric, such as the circular feature in the centre of the double enclosure (*Figure 3*). So considering this evidence it would not be unreasonable for there to be prehistoric origins for the site.

The trackway was located in Trench IV and seemed to be represented by two steep-sided and flat bottomed ditches, **67** and **106**, which seem to be overlaid by the main enclosure ditch **5**. The trackway is possibly contemporary with the earlier phase, connecting the Iron Age settlement and burials at Reach to the temple site (*Figure 2*), and later continuing to form the link between the villa and temple.

6.2 Period 2 - Romano-British

The main development of the site at Gallows Hill appears from the artefactual evidence to be Romano-British in date, between the late 1st and 2nd centuries. The main enclosure was found to be represented by linears, **5**, **29**, **39**, **171**, and **373**. Those that were excavated were found to be steep-sided, flat bottomed ditches (*Figures 6 & 7*), possibly representing palisade trenches. Within the main enclosure are several smaller, interlinking enclosures seen on the aerial photographs and, where excavated, represented by flat bottomed ditches, **191**, and **290**. Additionally, a group of undated postholes, **175**, **181**, and **183** form either another internal division of the main complex or a structure.

The double enclosure in the north-eastern corner of the complex was found to be represented by wide linears **400**, **404**, **406**, **409** and **420**, forming the outer boundary of the enclosure. Where excavated, **400** and **404**, was found to be between 3m and 4m wide and 1.5m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The internal boundary, despite showing on the aerial photographs as a linear, was found to be represented on two sides by an alignment of large circular post-pads, **422**, **423**, **424**, **425** and **428**, arranged parallel to the external ditches and at 5m intervals. Large unabraded sherds of tegula roof tiles were found from one of the post-pads, **425**, indicating a roofed structure. On the eastern side, the internal division was found to be represented by a shallow, steep-sided and flat bottomed linear, **402**, the western side of which was found to contain a line of stakeholes suggesting an internal fence line.

Within the centre of the double enclosure the remains of a structure were identified. This consisted of compact gravel foundations, **430**, 4.5m wide and 0.25m deep, flanked by two foundation trenches, **431** and **438**. The excavation revealed only the foundations of the building but in consideration of the aerial photographs it seems to enclose an area of 5m x 5m. The centre of the structure was not examined.

The double enclosure and structure has striking similarities to Romano-Celtic temples found elsewhere in Britain, Gaul and Roman occupied Germany. The defining characteristics of such temples are an internal *cella*, often a high rising tower, with a concentric ambulatory. This is either defined by a colonnade or roofed, walled walkway, and it is assumed that it would provide shelter for ritual processions and for the attachment and display of votive objects. The absence of a colonnade on the eastern side at Gallows Hill again has similarities with other temple sites, at Hayling Island (James 1993) and at Wood End Lane, Hemel Hempstead (Black 1986) which also face east and the rising sun. The most common form for Romano-Celtic temples is rectangular, found mainly in rural locations, sizes of which vary in Britain between 25 square metres to 790 square metres with the temple of Claudius at Colchester (Blair 1995).

A second clunch-built structure, **374**, was found within the main enclosure directly to the South-west of **430** (*Figure 3*). It was a smaller structure, square in plan and was found to contain the remains of an inhumation within the demolition deposits. Both the structure and the burial had been badly truncated by ploughing, but from the pottery recovered from the demolition deposits both have been assigned a Romano-British date and the structure interpreted as a

mausoleum. Considering the presence of neighbouring Anglo-Saxon burials the inhumation could however, equally be an Anglo-Saxon burial that reused an earlier structure which then collapsed. Large unabraded sherds of tegula roof tiles were found directly around both of the structures suggesting that they had a tiled roof.

A greater quantity of larger, unabraded animal bone and pottery fragments was recovered from the ditches of the double enclosure than from features in the main enclosure. The bone from the ditch enclosing the temple was found to be mainly cattle bone, consisting mainly of ankle bones (Appendix C) with little meat value suggesting butchery on site separating those of most meat value as sacrificial offerings or for use by the priest. Moving away from the double enclosure into the main enclosure the quantity of artefacts recovered from features diminished substantially, and those that were found were generally small and abraded. This indicates that the main area of activity was located within the double enclosure. During the Iron-Age deposition of cattle and human bone was common, along with pottery vessels and ash reflecting the Celtic ritual emphasis on fertility and the natural world. During the Romano-British period the deliberate deposition of objects within pits, shafts, wells and ditches became more widespread (Woodward 1992). Likewise the variety of objects deposited increased, incorporating tools, pig and cow bones, votive objects and oyster shells. The ritual placing of human bone and ash became less common and limited to civilian sites (Woodward 1992). Thus the recovery of quantities of animal bone, oyster shells and pottery from the ditches of the double enclosure reinforces the supposition that the site represents a temple.

Isolated features were recorded in Trenches II and III within the main compound, these were in the form of two rectangular pits, straight-sided, deep and flat bottomed, **11** and **261**. From **11** a miniature iron sickle and a few unabraded sherds of late 1st century pottery were recovered. From **260** a high percentage of cow bone and a few unabraded sherds of late 1st century pottery. The general paucity of material from **11** seems to discount a function as a rubbish pit but could allow a religious function. This idea is reinforced by the miniature iron sickle which could conceivably form part of some religious regalia (Green 1976). The deliberate deposition of miniature objects is not an uncommon phenomenon on native Romano-British and Celtic sites (Bartlett, pers comm). Such offerings have been interpreted as replicas of implements used by a specific deity with the aim of enhancing skills and promoting commerce (Green 1976).

The second pit, **260**, with its greater recovery of material could have functioned as a rubbish pit. The presence of bones of high meat value and some immature animals (Appendix C) indicate sacrificial offerings (Woodward 1992). The closeness of it to the double enclosure may indicate that the animal bone and pottery is related to specific rituals, or that it was a rubbish pit used by the priests of the compound; examples of which have been recorded at Uley (Woodward 1992).

The material recovered from the main enclosure was found to be attributable to the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD and was generally found to be small and abraded. This would suggest that the main enclosure is of a contemporary date in the 2nd century to the double enclosure and that it was formed by a palisade thus not allowing any later material to be deposited.

Some limited evidence for industrial processes was found on the site, in particular in area 1b and Trench VIII. namely, a few pieces of slag and a large piece of kiln lining. The majority of the evidence came from a natural hollow in area 1b, which was also found to contain large amounts of Romano-British pottery, in particular the broken base of an amphorae. The location of the kiln was not identified during the evaluation. The presence of metal working on religious

sites is not an uncommon occurrence. At Nettleton, Wilts for example, remains of both iron and pewter working have been identified (Woodward 1992). It has been suggested that any material generated on a ritual site must remain within its confines (Green 1976).

To summarise, the main compound seems to be broadly contemporary with the double enclosure which seems to represent a Romano-Celtic temple and features a *cella* and an ambulatory open to the east. The main compound may have served as a *temenos*, intended for congregational worship, with people making their vows individually. The deity at the temple at Goodwin was not identified. At more fully excavated sites at Woodeaton and Lanyatt Beacon the recovery of miniature tools and weapons was taken to reflect the worship of Mars. Alternatively, the recovery of a high percentage of animal bones could indicate the cult of Mercury (Woodward 1992). However, the very limited nature of the work makes it hard to ascertain whether the percentages recovered allow an accurate interpretation. The lack of evidence for the use of the site in the later 2nd, 3rd or 4th centuries is particularly conspicuous and of interest, especially as later Anglo-Saxon use would suggest the site retained its significance over a long period.

Continuity and re-use of religious sites during the Roman period is not an uncommon archaeological phenomenon, perhaps reflecting an attempt to assimilate the religious beliefs and practices of the defeated tribes.

The complex at Gallows Hill does have certain similarities with other sites, such as those at Kings Harry Lane, St. Albans and Wederath, 40 km north-east of Trier. Both of these have been interpreted as ditched funerary enclosures (Black 1986). Although Gallows Hill is similar in plan, and also possesses a series of rectangular and square enclosures, the fact that it lacks significant numbers of Roman inhumations does raise a question over this interpretation. The limited nature of the evaluation may have affected the results and further work may reveal a Romano-British cemetery. In the light of the current evidence it seems most probable that the site represents the location of a merger of Roman-Celtic temple with a funerary enclosure, reinforced by the early date of the pottery assemblage (Appendix A).

6.3 Period 3 - Anglo-Saxon

The work has identified a previously unrecorded Anglo-Saxon cemetery, with seven inhumations noted. Of these two were definitely identified as Anglo-Saxon, **26** and **36**, by associated grave goods. A further inhumation, **386** was found to truncate an earlier ditch, **5**, of probable Romano-British date, suggesting that this too is of an Anglo-Saxon date. This interpretation is further reinforced by the recovery of two Anglo-Saxon spearheads from the ploughsoil directly above this and another burial, **387** suggesting a direct relationship between the two.

Another unexcavated burial, **132**, in Trench I, Area 1b, is probably of a contemporary date because a 6th century silver wrist clasp was recovered during machining from directly above the burial and has tentatively placed in association with the burial.

An isolated burial, **362**, of an infant was excavated in Trench IV remains undated as no grave goods were recovered.

The remaining burial, **263**, was not excavated and no finds were recovered from the surface or ploughsoil and must remain undated.

Additionally, a small square cut shallow pit, **35**, was found cut into the upper fill of a ditch, **5**. The pit was found to contain a small complete cup (SF No. 1)

which has been dated to the Anglo-Saxon period.

Two further features were found to truncate Romano-British features, these were postholes, **25** and **340**, which were found to cut through ditches **5** and **39** respectively. On the line of the earlier ditches these may represent replacement of the ditch by a fence line. Alternatively, they could be isolated focal features for the orientation of later burials, examples of which have been recorded at Yeavinger (Blair 1995). Certainly, this supposition is supported by the presence of two inhumations, **386** and **387**, directly around the posthole **25**. Alternatively, they are located near to postulated entrances to the site (*Plate 1*), and the postholes could represent part of an entranceway. However, the general absence of any material other than 1st century pottery from the postholes and the main enclosure, and its abraded nature might suggest a late 2nd century date for the construction of the main enclosure and possibly also suggests a palisade function.

Of particular interest is that no Anglo-Saxon graves were recorded within the double enclosure. Whether this was a true representation, or merely reflected the narrowness of the evaluation trenches further work would have to determine. Certainly, if the Romano-British temple area is devoid of later inhumations it is important as it demonstrates continuance of activity, respect and maintenance of earlier beliefs.

It is becoming increasingly recognised that Anglo-Saxon religious sites are frequently constructed on top of prehistoric and Roman monuments. At Gallow's Hill the re-use of the site during the Saxon period is clearly, represented by the presence of securely dated graves. The possible construction of a square-plan fenced enclosure is suggested by the postholes, **25** and **340**, cutting an earlier ditch. Examples of Anglo-Saxon replacement shrines on top of earlier monuments have been found at Uley and Gournay-s-Aronde (Blair 1995). Recent work has allowed a typology to be compiled of the various redevelopment of earlier monuments. If the postholes do form an alignment following the earlier ditched enclosure it fits with Blair's type 'E', an altogether 'monumental' class of Anglo-Saxon shrine, rather than functional grave enclosures, imposed on the top of earlier religious monuments (Blair 1995). Blair argues that the development of these large ritual monuments is linked to a specific stage of development of a culture, when an emerging elite seeks legitimacy by identifying itself with former rulers and power centres.

6.4 Continuity of Use as a Ritual Site and/or a Cemetery

The site at Gallow's Hill provides a unique opportunity to examine an area which has experienced cultural change over 3,000 years.

Prior to our analysis of the morphology of the cropmarks, the site had been recorded on the SMR as a series of enclosures, with fieldwalking suggesting a mainly post-medieval date. In advance of the excavation, reinterpretation of the cropmarks suggested that they represented a contemporary religious centre serving the nearby Roman villa at Reach and surrounding community. It is apparent, however, that whilst the site certainly had major Roman activity including a Romano-Celtic temple, mausoleum and votive pits it also now seems to have had an earlier prehistoric phase, represented by the seven undated ring ditches surrounding the hill and a square enclosure underlying the main enclosure. The site also played an important role during the sixth century as an Anglo-Saxon cemetery and a possible shrine.

Thus it is possible that there could be continuity of ritual use, or alternatively it could be because of the site's commanding topographic location that it was re-used in several periods. Certainly elsewhere in the country it has been recog-

nised that barrow cemeteries are located on the edges of tribal boundaries (Bradley 1984) on higher marginal ground in veneration of ancestors and dividing tribal boundaries. Gallows Hill, lying as it does on the borders of the Catuvellauni and Icenii may have thus defined their borders and may have had some influence over trade and commerce as earlier suggested.

The work to date has indicated that the site has undergone several changes under the influence of several groups, suggesting that once established the religious site adapted and grew to accommodate new ideas and cultures whilst maintaining its sacred significance. The site continues into the 20th century with folklore apparently generating the name "Gallows Hill", which does not seem to relate to any evidence of a gibbet and seems to be purely in remembrance of a previous function as a burial ground. Indeed, during the excavation local visitors to the site told a tale of their grandparents seeing people swinging from gibbets on the site from as far away as Burwell, which is located out of site behind Devil's Dyke. In reality this would have been impossible.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological evaluation at Gallows Hill, Swaffham Prior has provided the first clear insight into the archaeology of a site previously recorded only as cropmarks; it has also revealed that the site has suffered considerably from agricultural activities. It is clear that the development at Gallow's Hill represents an important site, representing two major periods of activity and forming part of a cultural landscape spanning some 3,000 years.

The work has provided the first clear insight into the nature of the site and allowed for comparison of various archaeological techniques against excavation. The analysis of cropmark evidence was proven to have great accuracy. During the programme of evaluation two further archaeological non-destructive techniques were employed, a fieldwalking and metal detector survey directly over the area delineated by the cropmarks. The results were disappointing, with no notable concentrations of artefacts recorded over the area delineated by cropmarks, concentrations of bronze fragments and pottery sherds were recorded at the base of the slope demonstrating the damage that continued ploughing has caused, reflected in the movement of soil and material downslope.

The overall site seems to fit into a now established and accepted pattern of continued occupation of a site, building over old monuments as emerging elites seek to legitimise themselves by identifying themselves with former rulers and power centres.

Environmental sampling was not really appropriate on this site as it is located on chalkland and under continued agriculture for the past 40 years resulting in the loss of cover and leaching from phosphates.

The animal bone assemblage (Appendix C), while being too small to warrant detailed analysis does indicate the high quality of material still preserved in the vicinity. Mainly represented by cow, horse, pig and some red deer it is important as few Roman rural animal bone assemblages have been excavated, and a well preserved assemblage from a religious centre increases the potential for analysis. The pottery retrieved during the evaluation is representative of locally made wares of mostly late 1st and early 2nd centuries AD, with later activity during the sixth century. Further work is needed to elaborate on whether the period unrepresented artefactually (3rd to 5th centuries) is in reality a period of inactivity.

7.1 Management Proposals

The results from the limited evaluation at Gallow's Hill, Swaffham Prior have

been excellent. The primary reason for the archaeological work was to advise the owners, Cambridgeshire County Council, on changes to the tenancy agreement, if required, in the advent of a proposed change in tenant farmer.

The work has succeeded in ensuring that the site has been put into the Countryside stewardship scheme, initially for ten years but with an option to extend an additional ten years. In addition the scheme to plant trees has been abandoned in consideration of the results of the excavation. There is however, no statutory protection for the site, and management relies on the goodwill of the owners. It is felt therefore, that the site is of sufficient importance to be included in the scheduling of the villa. The site also provides an excellent viewpoint from which to examine a complete landscape and it is also hoped to promote public access to the site with interpretation boards. In addition the importance of the landscape area, incorporating Devils Dyke, Gallows Hill and the villa at Reach should be recognised as an area of particular archaeological importance, as an example of how a landscape has changed over three millennia.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

As with so many cases the restrictions imposed on the evaluation of time and money has resulted in only achieving a tantalising glimpse at the site. It has answered the basic interpretation of the site: being a native religious centre but set a host of other questions on the site itself and in the surrounding area :

- where the trackway meets the main enclosure on the South-west corner of the main compound the ditch was found to be cut by a posthole, 25. Further work to identify whether this feature represents part of an entranceway into the enclosure; or whether it represents an Anglo-Saxon replacement of the enclosure by a fence, or just an isolated post providing a focus for burials.
- The possible linear alignment of postholes viewed in Trench I warrants examination to determine whether they represent an earlier phase to the complex
- The relationship between the main enclosure and the double enclosure, to determine whether the main compound and the temple site are contemporary
- Examine a larger area within the double enclosure to determine the nature of structure in the centre, whether there are any other internal features such as a shrine or pit. Also the plethora of activity indicated around the main structure is worthy of further investigation to determine whether they represent pits or graves; and finally to determine whether there are any Anglo-Saxon inhumations within the double enclosure.
- Examine the sites of ring ditches located on the SMR and aerial photographs to ascertain whether these represent the sites of prehistoric burial mounds or house sites or cattle enclosures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge : the financial support of English Heritage and Cambridgeshire County Council; Philip Walker, English Heritage, for visiting the site and without whose understanding and support the project would have been impossible; the County Farms Managers Jon Megginson and Karen Greenleaves for their enthusiastic support; Mr Andrew Hill, the farmer, for his interest and patience during the fieldwork and for allowing access to the site. In addition : Mr R. Bartlett, Harlow Museum, for advice and comments regarding phasing and identifying artefacts from the site; Ian Meadows, Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit, for helpful comments on the interpretation of the site. Corinne Duhig for examining the human skeletal remains and Lorrain Higbee for the animal bone analysis. Helen Bailey, Crane Begg, Caroline Gait, Jennifer Goode for assisting the authors with the illustrations included in the report. Christine Sheard for producing the finds illustrations, to Caroline Gait for overseeing the production, to Jon Cane for the DTP work, and to Stephanie Leith for providing the rectified plots of the cropmarks. Gavin Lucas for identifying the pottery recovered from the site; Chris Montague for completing the Metal Detector survey of the site and Dan Smith for undertaking the resistivity survey. Paul Spoerry, the Project Manager for his help and advice during the fieldwork and post-excavation. Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs for permission to reproduce plate 1 in the report. Last but not least the excavation staff, however briefly they worked on site: Mary Alexander, Crane Begg, Pete Emberson, Caroline Gait, Gavin Lucas, Stephanie Leith, Stephen Macaulay, Chris Montague, David Mitchell, Judith Roberts, Paul Spoerry, Charles Rowland-Jones, Ken Welsh and Skip.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Alcock J. P, 1980, Classical Religion and Burial Practice in Roman Britain, *The Archaeological Journal*, 137
- Atkinson T.D, 1893, A Roman House at Swaffham Prior, *P.C.A.S.*, XXXV, p16
- Bartlett R., forthcoming, Harlow Temple Report on Excavations, *Harlow Museum/Essex County Council*
- Bass, W.M. 1987. Human Osteology: A Laboratory And Field Manual, *Columbia, Mo.: Missouri Archaeological Society (Special Publication No. 2)*.
- Black E.W, 1986, Romano-British Burial Customs and Religious Beliefs in South-East England, *The Archaeological Journal*, 143
- Blair J, 1995 Anglo-Saxon Pagan Shrines and their Prototypes, in Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History No 8, *Oxford University Committee for Archaeology*
- Bradley R, 1984 The Social foundations of prehistoric Britain: themes and variations in the archaeology of power, *Longman*
- Bray S, 1992 Great Wilbraham Borrow Pits - An Archaeological Assessment, *Cambridge shire County Council*
- Brothwell, D.R. 1972 Digging Up Bones. London, *British Museum (Natural History)* (second ed.)
- Browne, D. M., 1978 Settlements, in J. J. Wilkes and C. R. Elrington eds.: Cambridge and the Isle of Ely, *VCH*, VII,29-59
- Ekwall E., 1991 The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names, *Oxford University Press*
- Fox C, 1923, Archaeology of the Cambridge Region, *Cambridge University Press*
- Green M. J, 1976 The Religions of Civilian Roman Britain, *B.A.R Series 24*
- Hope-Taylor B & Hill D. 1976 The Devil's Dyke Investigations 1973, *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. Vol. XXX*
- James S, 1993 Exploring the World of the Celts, *Thames & Hudson*
- Lewis M.J.T, 1966 Temples in Roman Britain, *Cambridge University Press*
- Malim T., 1990 Archaeology on the Cambridgeshire County Farms Estate, *Cambridgeshire County Council & English Heritage*
- Malim T, 1992 Barrington Anglo-Saxon Cemetery, 1989, *PCAS Vol. LXXIX*
- Malim T., et al, 1996 New evidence on the Cambridgeshire Dykes & Worsted Street Roman Road, *Proceedings of the Cambridgeshire Antiquarian Society, Vol. LXXXV, 1996, P.26*
- Meates G. W, 1979, The Lullingstone Roman Villa: Vol. 1 The Site, *Kent Archaeological Society*
- Margary I.D, 1967 Roman Roads in Britain, *John Baker, London*

- Reaney P.H., 1943, *The Place-names of Cambridgeshire & The Isle of Ely*, *Cambridgeshire University Press*
- Robinson B., 1992 *An Archaeological Investigation of Dullingham to Swaffhams Pipeline*, *Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Report No. 65*
- Rodwell W., 1980 (ed.) *Temples, Churches & Religion in Roman Britain, part II*, *BAR British Series 77(ii)*
- Steele, D. Gentry & Claud A. Bramblett. 1988 *The Anatomy And Biology Of The Human Skeleton* *College Station, Texas: Texas A & M University Press*
- Swanton M J, 1973 *The Spearheads of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements*, *The Royal Archaeological Institute*
- Taylor A, Malim T & Evans C, 1995 *Fieldwork in Cambridgeshire October 1993 to September 1994*, *PCAS LXXXIII*
- Ubelaker, Douglas H. 1989 *Human Skeletal Remains: Excavation, Analysis, Interpretation*, *Washington: Taraxacum for Smithsonian Institution (Manuals on Archaeology 2)*.
- Wait G., 1992 *Fleam Dyke 1991: Interim Report*, *Cambridgeshire County Council, Archaeology Report No. 49*
- Wait G, 1992 *Devils Dyke Excavations*, *Cambridgeshire County Council, Archaeological Report No. 52*
- Wickenden N., 1988 *Excavations at Great Dunmow, Essex*, *East Anglian Archaeology No. 41; Archaeology Section, Essex, County Council; Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report No. 7*
- Woodward A., 1992 *Sacrifice & Shrines*, *B.T. Batsford/English Heritage, London*
 1994 *Sites and Monuments Record*, *Cambridgeshire County Council, Archaeology Section*

Appendix A - Ceramics Report

By G. Lucas

Early Romano-British Pottery From The Excavations On Gallows Hill, Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire 1993

The pottery is listed below by trench and context with selective comments; it is by no means an exhaustive description of the recovered material. Approximate date ranges are given at the end of each context. A brief discussion on the assemblage follows.

Trench I

(9) Small, abraded sherds : greywares, Central Gaulish Samian and tegula. Second century AD

(20) Medium-small, fairly abraded sherds : greywares, including triangular-rimmed bowl lattice-decorated jar and combed jars, and tegula. Mid-late second century AD

(21) Medium-small, fairly abraded sherds : Dressel 20 amphora (includes some large fragments), cornice-rimmed beaker and folded beaker with roughcast decoration from Colchester or Eastern Gaul, Hofheim flagon, and greywares including square-rimmed jar, rilled jar and combed jar. 1 small sherd of post-medieval glazed earthenware may be intrusive. Late first/early second century AD

(22) Medium, slightly abraded sherds : Central Gaulish Samian, Drag.18/31 bowl, tegula. Late first/early second century AD

(23) Medium-large, slightly abraded sherds : greywares, including cordoned jar from Horningsea and a chamfered grooved-rim bowl. Mid-late second century AD

(37) Small, abraded sherds : greywares and a local Gallo-Belgic fineware. First/second century AD

(190) Small, abraded sherds : flint-tempered ware and black sandy ware. First century AD

(336) Tegula

(343) Small, fairly abraded green-brown mottled glazed sherd. First century AD ?

Trench II

(10) Small, abraded sherds : flint-tempered ware, greyware. Later first century AD

(337) Medium-large, slightly abraded sherds : sandy ware and grog-tempered ware. First century AD

Trench III

(500) Small, abraded sherds : flint-tempered and greyware. Late first century AD

(38) Small-medium, fairly abraded sherds : flint-tempered and greywares, including shouldered and carinated jars. Late first/early second century AD

(260) Medium, slightly abraded sherds : greywares, including grooved tall-necked jar flint-tempered jar with corrugated neck, and Hadham? flagon. Late first/early second century AD

(261) Small-medium, fairly abraded sherds : sandy greywares, including dark rilled jar, and flint-tempered ware. First century AD

(341) Small-medium, abraded sherds : sandy wares, including cordoned jar, and combed jar, flint-tempered ware. First century AD

(342) Various sized and abraded sherds : sandy wares including jar with stepped shoulder and brown burnished surface from Horningsea rilled jar, and carinated jar. Late first/early second century AD

(366) Small-medium, fairly abraded sherds : flanged bowl in sandy black ware. Third century AD

Trench IV

- (4) Small, abraded sherds : rilled jar. First century AD
- (7) Medium-sized, abraded sherds : greywares. Late first/second century AD
- (8) Small, abraded sherds : greyware. Second century AD
- (26) Large handmade bowl with plain, slightly incurved rim in a dark, sand and grog-tempered fabric. Fifth/sixth century AD
- (28) Medium-large, little abraded sherds : greywares, including combed jars and rilled jars, and local Gallo-Belgic fineware - Butt beaker? Late first/early second century AD
- (34) Small, closed cup with plain rim in dark grey sandy fabric. Fifth/sixth century AD?

Trench VIII

- (403) Medium-large, fairly unabraded sherds, including : greyware jar, buff combed storage jar with exterior black slip and burnished inside the rim, belgic carinated jar with neck grooves (mid-late 1st century AD), well-made Terra Nigra platter (fabric similar to a platter from Harston), and flagon handle. Later 1st century AD.
- (414) Medium-sized sherds, some abrasion with oyster shell fragments; carinated greyware bowl with flattened rim (internally-ledged), black slip extant on upper half, rilled greyware jar and belgic carinated jar with shoulder cordons. Early-mid 2nd century AD.
- (415) Tile fragment, greyware sherd and amphora sherd (Dressel 20).
- (417) Various sized and abraded, with fragments of plaster/daub (1 piece with smoothed surface) : belgic carinated jar with cordons (1st century AD), local Gallo-belgic fineware vessel (cup or beaker ?), greyware jars including one with stepped neck (cf. Hinxton), and greyware angular ?beaker. Late 1st/2nd century AD.
- (421) Medium-large, fairly unabraded sherds with oyster and mussel shell fragments and pieces of tile : greyware jar with grooved shoulder, plus other greywares. Late 1st/2nd century AD.
- (434) Numerous, mostly large tegula fragments, with a single sherd from the base of a fine hemispherical bowl or beaker in a deep orange fabric and brown matt colour-coat (possibly from Central Gaul or lower Rhineland). Late 1st/early 2nd century AD.

Surface finds from Fieldwalking

Pottery collected from fieldwalking revealed nothing extraordinary - apart from the occasional post-mediaeval sherd, most were coarseware sherds in similar fabrics recovered from the excavations, though a decorated piece of Samian from a Drag.37 bowl was a nice find - the figures were difficult to identify, possibly a hare, and the sherd was in a deep brick red fabric with thick gloss; possibly from Central Gaul.

Transects

A0,46.5	Post-mediaeval oxidised sherd
B10,73	Rim of RB greyware jar
B10,86.5	2 unident.sherds
B10,70.5	Rim of RB greyware large jar
B10,101	Tile fragment
B10,50	2 sherds, incl. post-mediaeval glazed bowl
B10,47	2 sherds, incl. post-mediaeval glazed
B112,14	1 coarseware sherd
C30,30	Rim of large RB greyware jar
C35,40	Rim of RB greyware jar, Samian Drag.37 bowl
H70,1	Large tegula fragment

DISCUSSION

The ceramic assemblage from Gallows Hill produced about 27 identifiable fabric types, but most of the pottery derives from just a few of these, which consist chiefly of fairly local wares in the

Latest Iron Age or Belgic tradition. They tend to be in dark sandy fabrics, often with burnished surfaces, and the vessels seem to be carinated or round-shouldered open jars with cordons, grooves or rilling. A finer ware with a grey slip also occurs in similar forms, while a flint and chalk-tempered fabric, though common, is usually residual and had no recoverable forms. Much of the pottery consists of small, abraded sherds and is probably residual, which clearly has consequences for the dating of the features. The more familiar Romano-British greywares are not very common, yet their presence does indicate second century activity, though there are none of the typical Romano-British fine wares such as Nene Valley colour-coated vessels; however Samian, local Gallo-Belgic and Colchester wares do occur on the site though in small quantities. In general, the pottery dates to the first and earlier half of the second century AD with strong pre-Conquest origins.

Apart from one feature, 366, nothing later than the earlier third century AD was identified, except two complete vessels of the fifth/sixth century: a small cup which came from a pit is probably of Anglo-Saxon date, as is an open bowl which accompanied an inhumation.

The pottery assemblage from the second phase of excavations at Gallow's Hill through the north-eastern enclosure similarly found this part of the site to be contemporary with the remaining enclosures. The Belgic dark carinated jars are frequently the best surviving forms, along with other greywares also present such as necked jars and the flat-rimmed bowl. Most of the pottery seems to be of fairly local manufacture, though a bowl/beaker in (425), TN platter (403), and amphora (415) demonstrate the presence of imported vessels, perhaps suggesting something about the status of the site. The only notable absence was of Samian (in stratified contexts) though it did occur in the previous collection.

The overall date from the contexts suggests a range of mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD, nothing conspicuously later (or earlier, though pre-conquest origins should not be ruled out), again agreeing with the previous assemblage, though there was the occasional feature which was dated to the later 2nd/early 3rd century in the latter. Also, the condition of pottery from the previous collection was generally more abraded and consisted of smaller sherds, whereas there appeared to be a greater proportion of unabraded material in the present assemblage, perhaps reflecting proximity to the enclosure.

Undoubtedly this remains an extremely interesting site, given its date and location, and the lack (on present evidence) of late or even any substantial middle Roman pottery on the site. Combined with early Anglo-Saxon use this absence is very curious, but not unknown elsewhere in the region, e.g. at Barrington. Clearly the function of the site will have much to do with this, and the presence of some fine pottery does suggest that it is of a special nature.

Appendix B Skeletal Material From Gallow's Hill, Swaffham Prior

By Corinne Duhig

Four groups of remains were examined, of which two (26 and 36) are almost complete skeletons, 339 consists mainly of some leg fragments, and 362 is the skull and some post cranial bones from a child. All the bones were eroded and fragmented. General methods used are those of Bass (1987), Steele and Bramblett (1988), and Ubelaker (1989)

Trench IV, Burial 1 (context 26)

This skeleton is complete apart from the sternum, both pubic bones and most of the bones of the feet; the less-dense parts of the long bones, for example the humeral and radial heads, are highly eroded or absent. Some epiphyses were recovered but are unfused in all cases. The sex cannot be determined as this was an immature individual.

Although the skull was crushed into small pieces, the vault is complete. Two fragments of maxilla survived, and a whole mandible, so it is possible to estimate age from the condition of eruption and formation of the permanent teeth, using Ubelaker's (1989) method. The canines are half erupted, roots incomplete on canines, premolars and second molars, and the unerupted crowns of the second molars are present in their crypts, giving an age range of 11 years (\pm 30 months).

The condition of *cribra orbitalia* is visible in the right orbit (the left was too eroded and fragmented to examine). This condition is thought to indicate iron-deficiency anaemia. An eighth cervical and a thirteenth thoracic vertebra are present, variations of no clinical significance, but sometimes indicating a familial relationship, and this is noteworthy because similar anomalies are present in the individual number 36, described below.

Trench I, Area B, Burial 2 (context 36)

This is the skeleton of an adult, determined as a female from various diagnostic features of the

pelvis and skull. It is in better condition than the others from this site, the skull being only slightly broken and almost all bones present except a few of the smaller bones of the feet. Stains on the jaw, neck and shoulder indicate the position of brooches or other artefacts of copper alloy. An almost complete dentition is present. The attrition of molar crowns gives an age estimate of 25–35 years (Brothwell 1972), but the crowns of the upper incisors had already been completely worn away, one premolar had been lost and the socket obliterated, and the supporting bone of the molars had resorbed to below the division of the tooth roots — clearly, the teeth and gums had been subject to severe stresses in life, which could have led to a constellation of problems: teeth loosened in their sockets, infections in the pulp cavity, abscesses and ultimate tooth loss. It is, in fact, surprising that more teeth had not been lost given the severe attrition on the anterior teeth.

Various conditions are present in this skeleton which are not strictly 'pathological', but are interesting and sometimes significant anatomical variations. The spine has an anomalous number of vertebrae, with 13 thoracics, only four lumbar, and a partially lumbarised first sacral segment. A pair of ribs has been preserved for each of the thoracic vertebrae. As mentioned above, the previously described individual (26) also has 13 thoracic vertebrae and another vertebral anomaly. These traits have some familial tendency, although it cannot be put more strongly than that; if the archaeological evidence suggests contemporaneity, a family relationship with individual 26 can be suggested, but only DNA studies could confirm the suggestion.

The deltoid tuberosities on the humeri are marked, indicating strong development of this muscle which raises the arm from the side during many lifting movements. There is an 'Inca bone' — a large triangular bone at the back of the skull, at the intersection of the lambdoid and sagittal sutures — which is another skeletal variant with some familial tendency; it is relatively uncommon in European populations.

Within the skull vault, in the frontal bone, are slight changes of *hyperostosis frontalis interna*, a condition of poorly understood aetiology but connected with obesity in older women.

Trench I, area B, Burial 3 (context 339)

These more than 100 small fragments represent one radius, one finger phalanx, a femur, tibia and two fibulae. On excavation, the leg bones could be seen to be in anatomical position, so it is assumed that all the fragments come from one skeleton. No information can be gleaned from them apart from the recognition of an adult individual.

Trench IV, Burial 4 (context 362)

This skeleton of a child consists of a complete calvarium, badly fragmented and severely eroded, two small fragments of maxilla, a mandible, and portions of the post cranial skeleton including seven complete long bones. Fortunately, a complete immature dentition with permanent teeth in process of development and eruption has been recovered; the permanent lower central incisors and first molars are erupted to near the alveolar margin, the molars have only a small part of the root developed and the permanent second molars are within their crypts, a stage defined by Ubelaker (1989) as corresponding to 4 years ± 12 months.

On the inner table of the occipital bone there is a small area of pitting and extra-cortical new bone, indicating a focus of infection. It has been suggested that these changes within the skull vault could indicate meningitis (Schultz n.d.), which would need to have been of sufficiently long standing to produce these changes. However, meningitis would, in pre-antibiotic times, almost certainly have caused death in a short time, particularly in a child, so it is debatable whether survival would have been long enough to allow any bone changes at all.

Four additional burials were identified during the evaluation but were not excavated.

Burial No.5, 132. This burial was identified in Trench I, Area B orientated approximately south-west to north-east. It was identified by the presence of a human skull protruding from the surface of the feature. Although the feature was not excavated it has been tentatively assigned an Anglo-Saxon date by the recovery of a 6th century silver wrist clasp in the spoil from over the grave (Appendix D; *Figure 14:6*).

Burial No.6, 263. This burial was identified in Trench III orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Positioned along the length of the trench edge and as was not excavated it was identified by the presence of human bone protruding from the surface of the feature. It remains undated.

Burial No.7, 386. This burial has been assigned an Anglo-Saxon date by its association with an earlier Roman ditch, 5, and by the presence of an Spearhead recovered from the ploughsoil directly above.

Burial No.8, 388. This burial was found near to Burial 7, but had no direct relationship with the

Roman ditch. However, a second Saxon speahead was found in its vicinity and a similar date has been tentatively suggested for this inhumation.

Appendix C An assessment of the faunal remains recovered from Gallows Hill, Swaffham Prior.

By Lorrain Higbee

A selection of faunal remains from two phases of excavations of a Romano-British religious site at Gallows Hill, Swaffham Prior. The material was examined for general quality, species present, butchery marks and potential for analysis.

Quantity of Material

A total of 5369g (2 boxes) of animal bone was recovered from hand excavated features.

Preservation of Material

Although much of the assemblage has survived as large calcified fragments, it has suffered severely from chemical weathering and root etching. The combination of these taphonomic processes has made it virtually impossible to see surface detail such as cut marks and/or pathology.

Species Present

Of the identifiable part of the assemblage (92 fragments out of a total of 134) cattle bones are the most common, followed by sheep/goat, horse, pig, deer and finally dog.

The age of the cattle is between 24-42 months of age. This is by no means mature, but is significantly older than the sheep/goat present on the site. These have been aged at between 3 and 9 months. None of the pig bones facilitated age estimates. The horse and dog bones present represented mature individuals and the horse could be estimated at +42 months. Exploitation of wild ?red deer appears to be of some significance.

Butchery and Pathology

As already indicated no evidence of butchery or pathology could be detected due to the weathering of the bone surfaces by chemical and biological agents in the burial environment.

Potential for Further Analysis

The assemblage has limited potential for further analysis unless increased by further excavation of the site. As it stands, little can be estimated about the husbandry of the principal stock animals (cattle, sheep/goat and pig), utility or the relative importance of wild deer to the site economy.

Categ.	Skeletal Element	Use? Function
A	mandible, loose tooth, maxillar & skull frags.	little meat value, however can be boiled for brawn
B	scapular, humerus, pelvis & femur	most meat value, however scapular & pelvis can be treated as waste
C	radius, ulna, tibia	meat bones of less quality
D	metapodials & horn cores	bone tool & ornament manufacture
E	carpels & tarsals	little value except for brawn
F	phalanges & sesamoids	glue production
G	atlas, axis, sacrum, patellas & fibula	little meat value

Tr No.	Cxt. No.	No. UID	Mammal	Cat.	Comments
IV	4	8	Cattle	A D	1 charred >2.5 years >2.5 years
II	10	1	sheep/goat Red deer	D A	6 months upper molar
II	16	7	Cattle	A, C	humerus & radius frag.
IV	24	15	sheep/goat	D	Frag.
Ib	20	20	sheep/goat	D	Very badly weathered frags
Ib	21		cattle	A B C	
Ib	22	1	horse	A	upper molar
IV	28	9	sheep/goat cattle	C E	
II	30	8	dog	A	mandible frag
Ib	36		cattle	C	rib frags.
			sheep/goat	A	upper incisor
			dog	B	femur
III	38		cattle	A	loose molars
			sheep	B	vertebrae, molar, incisor
I	190		cattle	B	>3.5years
III	260		sheep/goat	B	
		cattle	B	<3.5years	
		cattle	C	immature	
		horse	C	>3.5years	
		sheep	B	immature	
II	337	cattle	A	Frag.	
III	341	cattle	A	upper incisor	
III	342	cattle	C, G	patella, ulna	
		cattle	B	humerus	
		sheep/goat	A	mandible	
		red deer	A	D.premolar	
VIII	401	cattle	A	upper molar	
VIII	403	pig	E		
		sheep/goat	A	D.premolar	
VIII	405	cattle	E		
VIII	410			charred bone frags.	
VIII	414	horse		calcareous	
VIII	416	cattle	A, B, C, D		
		horse	A	upper molar	
VIII	417	cattle	B		
		sheep/goat	A, E		
VIII	418	cattle	D		
		sheep/goat	A, D		
		Red deer	A	Frag.	

Appendix D Catalogue of Small Finds from Evaluation

Ctx. No.	SFNo.	Description of Find	Description of Context
34	1	Complete A.S? Cup	Small pit on edge of Roman ditch cut 5
	2	Bronze tube	Metal detector find
	3	Half roll of bronze	Metal detector find
	4	3/4 century coin	Fieldwalking find
9	5	Circular bronze belt? fitting?	Spoilheap - Area B (poss. assoc. with burial 339)
9	6	Silver wristclasp - 6th? century	Spoilheap - Area B (poss. assoc. with burial 132)
10	7	Miniature iron sickle	Square cut pit

Burial 1

Ctx. No.	SFNo.	Material	Description
26	1	Pottery	+cond; large hand made bowl (mainly complete)

Burial 2

Ctx. No.	SFNo.	Material	Description
36	45	Iron	Knife
	125	Iron	Ring

Also; 2 glass beads
4 silver in glass beads
113 amber beads



Archaeology Field Office
Fulbourn Community Centre
Haggis Gap
Fulbourn
Cambridge CB1 5HD
Tel. (0223) 881614

The Archaeology Office
Rural Management
Department of Property
Shire Hall
Cambridge
Tel. (0223) 317312

