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**Cressing, Dovehouse Field, Cressing Temple (TL 8016 8620)**

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The 2003 season excavation of the County Council's annual Field Archaeology School was situated in the eastern part of Dovehouse Field, to the immediate north of the 2002 area and incorporating the large Late Iron Age ditch previously investigated in 2002.

The earliest feature identified was a pond or large pit located in the southeastern corner of the site that contained pottery dating to the Middle Iron Age.

Further investigation of the large east-west orientated LIA enclosure ditch part-excavated in 2002 included the identification of a north-south return and the full extent of the slot feature in its base established - believed to represent the foundation of a timber fence or gate blocking a short gap in the ditch. A smaller north-south ditch, first identified in 2002, continued northwards across the full extent of the excavation area.

Various features, probably dating to the early Roman period, were found to overlay and cut the infilled large Late Iron Age ditch described above. Further parts of a metalled-hollow cut in the top of the were excavated and areas of shallow pebbly silt deposits overlying/infilling depressions upon both east-west and north-south ditch arms found to contain a wide range of finds dating to the 1st century AD. The horse burial cut into the corner of the infilled Late Iron Age ditch, first found in 2002, was fully excavated. Two human infant burials (perhaps stillbirths) were excavated in the southeast corner of the site. A number of further features were found to date to the late 1st to 2nd century AD. In the north of the site, a possible well with an adjacent flint metalled surface was excavated along with a very large pit that contained quantities of Roman tile and painted plaster. Neither was bottomed. Both continued to accumulate material into the late Roman period

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