

Archaeological Excavations at  
Sudbrooke (Roman Villa)  
Lincolnshire

(SUDA05)

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**Craig Spence**  
BSc, MA, MIFA  
Senior Lecturer  
Bishop Grosseteste College  
Lincoln, LN1 3DY

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## SUMMARY

- During July and August 2005 controlled open area excavations were undertaken on arable land immediately to the north of New Ten Acre Wood, Sudbrooke, near Lincoln, Lincolnshire. This fieldwork was part of a broader multi-season programme of activities encompassing research, training and public archaeology.
- Earlier investigations – including geophysical survey, metal detector survey and trial trenching – indicated the presence of a complex series of features suggestive of a Romano-British settlement.
- During 2005 a number of features were revealed, recorded and investigated including a post and stake alignment, building debris dumps, construction/demolition trenches and an in-situ masonry surface. Artefacts recovered included pottery, iron nails, painted wall plaster and quantities of redeposited tesserae.
- The project was initiated by the Heritage Studies Department of Bishop Grosseteste College Lincoln and facilitated by the heritage services company Lindum Heritage.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The 2005 excavations were planned as the first part of a multi-seasonal campaign of controlled investigations. The project was devised and initiated by staff of the Heritage Studies Department of Bishop Grosseteste College Lincoln (a college of Higher Education). Excavation and post-excavation management services were provided Lindum Heritage. The project was primarily self-funded through attendance fees paid by the ‘trainee/volunteer’ excavators; further funding came from Bishop Grosseteste College and HEIF2 (‘enterprise’) funding.

The project has three key purposes:

1. To address a set of research driven objectives concerned with enhancing knowledge of rural/villa settlement during the Roman period within the hinterland/*territorium* of the Roman city of Lindum Colonia (Lincoln), and its surviving archaeology.
2. To provide a properly managed training excavation open to both archaeology students and interested amateurs, both local and international. (This builds on an earlier proposal by Lincolnshire County Council).
3. To provide an opportunity for public archaeology through organised site tours, talks and activities for local children.

With reference to point 1 above the following statement was presented within the original research design and project specification:

There have been previous excavations of Roman villa sites in Lincolnshire but the overwhelming majority of these took place during the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; as a result it is thought that more ephemeral evidence of timber structures and related features have been poorly recorded, if at all.

Generally it is assumed that villas in Lincolnshire were built and occupied between the late 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Little is known of the possible Iron Age to Roman transition of rural settlement sites; the Sudbrooke site is of particular interest in this regard given the ceramic material of high quality and dated earlier than the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century that has been recovered at Sudbrooke previously.

A further research focus is in connection with our knowledge of the relationship between the city of Lincoln and the surrounding hinterland, and the potential extents of the *territorium*; the Sudbrooke site is likely to contribute to this question. Any information that might be gained in relation to the late Roman-Saxon transition would also be of value.

The site has been known of since the 1980s, if not before, yet despite the high quality of recovered finds cultivation has continued since that date. The current excavation will allow an investigation into the extent of plough damage in relation to presumed archaeological survival, the effectiveness of evaluation trenching as a means of resource assessment, and will allow informed comment to be made on issues of future land-use and archaeological conservation.

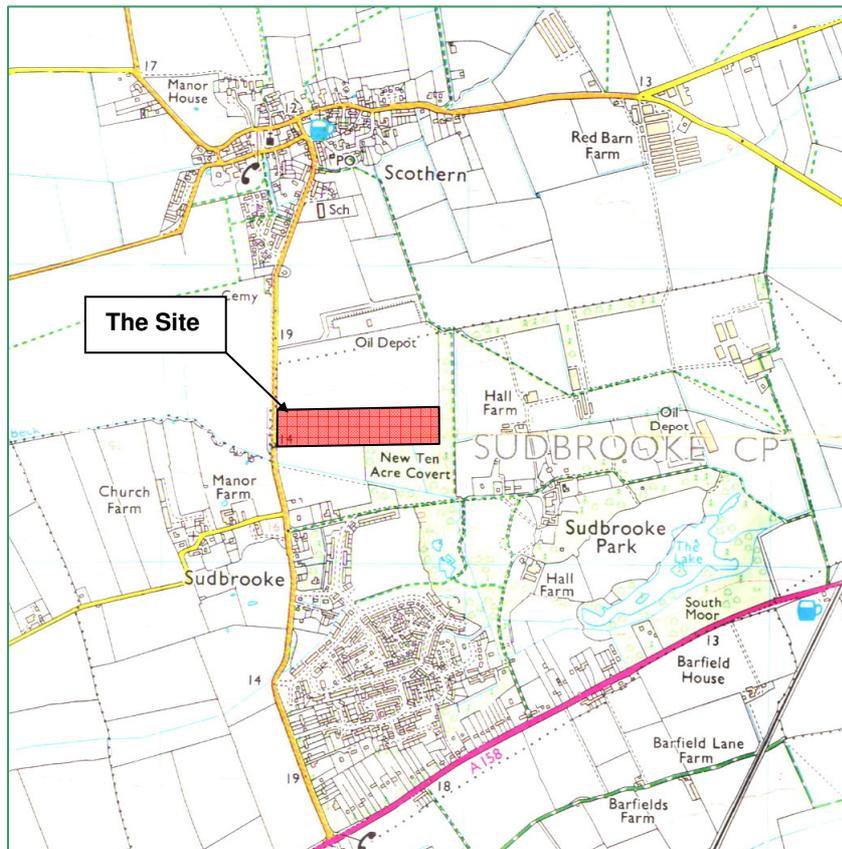
The fieldwork, reporting methodologies and post-excavation procedures employed throughout this project are fully consistent with the recommendations and principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage, 2005), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IFA, 2001), and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998). Despite the current project falling outside of the remit of planning controlled archaeological fieldwork due reference, where relevant, has been given to the principles of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990).

Copies of this report [when out of draft] will be deposited with the Bishop Grosseteste College library and archive, and the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation. Making this report available in an on-line format will fulfill a further level of public dissemination.

## 2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The village of Sudbrooke is situated approximately 7 km north-east of central Lincoln. The site occupies a rectangular field (approximately 530m x 130m), to the north of New Ten Acre Covert, a wooded area immediately north of the village, on the east side of Scothern Lane. The field slopes very gently downwards from an average height of 14.30m OD by the road to c.12.50m OD adjacent to the excavated areas. Cultivated land and woodland on the north, south and east sides bound the field. During the 2005 season the field contained a mature crop of wheat.

The site lies on a geological boundary, with Cornbrash towards the west side of the site, and Kellaways Formation sandstone to the east (British Geological Survey, 1999).



**Fig.1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)**  
(National Grid Reference TF 03700 76500.)

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There is limited evidence of pre-Roman activity in the vicinity of the site. A number of Neolithic polished stone and flint axes have been found in the area; one from Scothern, one from the fields to the east of the village, and two from Sudbrooke Park (SMR refs. 53105, 50991, 53059, 53063). These were high value objects, and the number recovered from this area is unlikely to represent casual loss in every instance, more likely they represent deliberate deposition in a ritual context. Cropmarks to the south of the village, partially obscured by medieval ridge and furrow, are indicative of prehistoric field systems (SMR refs. 52962, 54171, 54174, 54175).

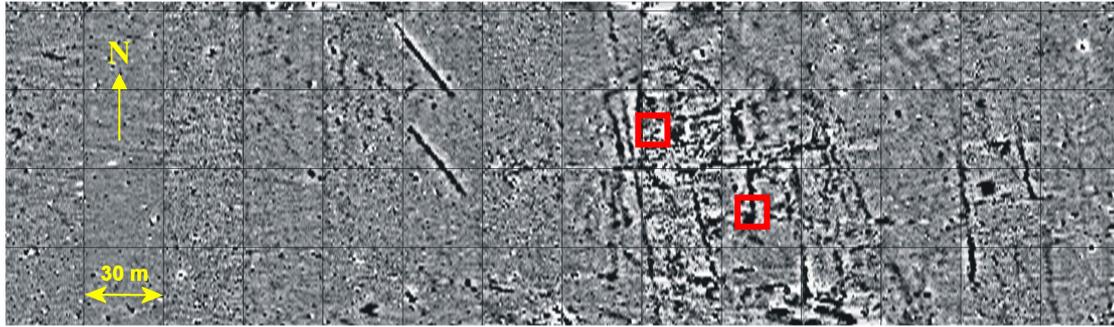
The A158, to the south of the site approximately marks the line of the Roman road running from the *colonia* of Lincoln to the coast. This route runs north-east from Lincoln, through the Wolds to the north of Horncastle, before turning to the south-east and passing through Burghle-Marsh, finally reaching the Roman coastline at a now lost settlement which may have occupied a ferry point across the Wash (Whitwell, 1992).

In the early medieval period, Sudbrooke and Scothern appear to have been closely related, as the land attached to both villages forms a single entry in the Domesday Survey, under the ownership of St. Peter's of Peterborough, and Kolsveinn, who pays dues on this land to St. Peter's (Foster & Longley 1976). Sudbrooke was without a parish church until 1860 (Pevsner & Harris, 1989). Furthermore, the place name evidence closely links the two villages. Sudbrooke is a derivation of the Old English *suth* and *broc*, meaning, 'the brook to the south', a name derived from its geographical relationship with Scothern (Cameron, 1998).

Prior to the current project, the site has been investigated on a number of occasions. The Sites and Monuments Record lists the site as a location of a possible villa (SMR ref. 50991). The entry for this site lists a number of fieldwalking projects recovering a wide range of Roman domestic pottery and building materials, and also mentions a bronze hand, possibly from a statue of Mars or Minerva recovered during the cleaning of a dyke running along the field boundary. A further entry suggests the find of a Claudian coin originated from the project field (SMR ref. 53065).

Between 1994 and 1998 a small number of geophysical and trial trenching interventions were undertaken, seemingly accompanied by ad hoc fieldwalking activities (Lyll & Clemence, 1994; Bee, 1998). These clearly demonstrated the archaeological potential of the site and confirmed its predominantly Roman dating. The 1998 report also includes a description of a stone column reportedly found within the field during the 1930s (during the course of the current project the present location of the column, now in private ownership, was ascertained).

More recently, a metal detector survey was carried out on the site under the guidance of the Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire. A total of 276 artefacts were recovered, of which many were undiagnostic scrap lead and iron. The dateable finds were dominated by objects of Romano-British date, and were concentrated in the eastern half of the field. These included two brooches of 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> century date, twenty-nine 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century coins, four copper alloy pin-heads, a rare lead lamp holder, and 109 iron nails of probable Roman date. A limited number of the finds were of medieval or post medieval date (Daubney, 2004).



**Fig. 2: Site Magnetometer Survey Results**

Also showing excavation Areas A and B, to the west and east respectively.

(Courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council)

A subsequent geophysical survey, commissioned by Lincolnshire County council, identified a large number of archaeologically significant anomalies (Fig. 2). These were interpreted as evidence of ditched enclosures and possible building remains of Romano-British date. The distribution of the anomalies paralleled that of the metal detector finds, being largely in the eastern half of the field (Bunn, 2005).

Most recently in early 2005 Pre-Construct Archaeology rapidly excavated a small number of trial trenches on the site for Lincolnshire County Council. Several linear slots and gullies, a number of small pits or postholes, and a single-coursed diagonally pitched roughly dressed limestone foundation wall were recorded. Dating was uniformly Roman – predominantly 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century – while environmental analysis suggested the site was ‘calcareous grassland’ during its earliest phase (Clay, 2005, and *pers comm*).

(The foregoing text partially draws upon research originally conducted by Chris Clay of Pre-Construct Archaeology for Lincolnshire County Council; his work in this context is fully acknowledged).

## 4. METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 THE EXCAVATION

The excavation methodology was based upon a careful review of all available prior evidence concerning the site's archaeological potential, together with the key objectives to undertake a multi-season programme of research investigation in concert with fieldwork training. Prior to initiating the project various discussions took place with the land-owner (the late Mr Owen-Day), the county archaeological planning officer, the Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire, the City of Lincoln Archaeologist and other interested parties, most notably Mr Bill Bee, a well respected local amateur archaeologist who had conducted previous work on the site, and representatives from Sudbrooke Parish Council. A 'project specification' was drawn up and made available to interested parties.

Drawing on evidence from the geophysical surveys, metal-detector survey and the most recent trial trenches it was decided to open two trenches of 10 x 10 m. The most northerly of these (Area A) was positioned immediately west of the PCA trial Trench 1, which had shown evidence for a stone rubble foundation wall. In order to further establish the relationship between Area A and Trench 1 the latter was partially re-opened and re-investigated. The second trench (Area B) was positioned some ten metres to the south of PCA Trench 2, with the intention to explore a specific group of anomalies which seemed to form the boundary between possible internal and external areas.

Fieldwork began with topsoil clearance using a wheeled 'JCB' type excavator equipped with a 1.2m toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil was carefully removed in 10cm spits to a total depth of between 25-30cm in Area A, and 20-30cm in Area B. All excavation following clearance was conducted by hand, principally by trowelling. Prior to further excavation, and at regular intervals during the course of the fieldwork, an experienced metal detector operator scanned the surfaces of the trenches tagging the position of all signals to ensure object recovery during stratigraphic excavation. All excavated deposits were systematically dry-sieved using a 4.0mm mesh.

Single context recording was employed throughout the stratigraphic excavation of the site (see, Spence, 1990). For planning purposes a 5.0m survey grid was used that was common to both excavated areas. All vertical measurements were made to Ordnance Datum using a localised TBM. The author, who holds membership of the IFA, directed the excavation with the assistance of two experienced field archaeologists. An experienced archaeological student acted as on-site finds assistant supported by Roman ceramic specialists Barbara Precious and Maggie Darling who made weekly training and review visits. On-site conservation advice was obtained from Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services. A full photographic record was compiled under the supervision of a professional and appropriately experienced photographer.

Excavation proceeded at a sufficiently slow pace to allow suitable time for training activities and considered decision-making prior to each stage of excavation. Given the resources and time available during the current season decisions were made once in each area to reduce the area of excavation and focus on features of specific interest, care was taken to thoroughly record such changes and to prevent any disturbance to the subsequently unexcavated areas. Where significant archaeological features were uncovered they were either systematically sampled (such as the painted plaster dump in Area B) or preserved in-situ (such as the mortar floor surface in Area A).

At the end of the 2005 season an extensive planning and recording exercise was undertaken in order to provide a complete record of the site as it was left, the intention being to return to

continue the fieldwork during 2006. On completion the deeper areas of excavation were covered in a semi-permeable membrane and backfilled by hand using sieved sub-soil up to the level of the base of the surrounding topsoil. The same mechanical excavator used to open the site was employed to conduct further backfilling and making-good.

Machine clearance was undertaken on 11 July, controlled excavation commenced on 18 July. Recording ended on 10 August with machine backfilling completed on 11 August. In all eighteen days were spent on site in excavation and recording activities.

## 4.2 TRAINING ACTIVITIES

One of the key objectives of the project was to provide a well-structured programme of fieldwork training. The training excavation was devised and delivered in accordance with the 'EAA Code of Practice for Fieldwork Training' (2000). The nature of the archaeology and stratification on the site was considered both suitable and appropriate to the level of training offered. Prior to the project commencement appropriately qualified and suitably experienced archaeologists or specialists were secured to deliver each aspect of the training programme.

All trainees were assessed for previous fieldwork experience before joining the excavation; a number were found to have had useful previous experience while others were currently studying archaeology at undergraduate or other levels. On arrival all trainees were issued with a training folder that included background information, including the project research design, information on fieldwork methods and the recording system, health and safety information, and a personal journal.

Each week of the excavation repeated a pattern of training that ensured that all new arrivals received the same level of formal instruction. Trainees were strongly encouraged to undertake independent recording and planning activities under close supervision and guidance – the integrity of the site record was protected by immediate record checking and, if necessary, correction. The site director or his assistants made all decisions concerning the course of stratigraphic excavation and the deployment of trainees.

**TABLE 1**  
*Weekly Programme of Training Activities*

<b>Training Activities</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Morning</b>	Induction Health & Safety Site History Site Procedures	Surveying Levelling  <i>Excavation</i> <i>Finds Processing</i>	Roman Ceramics Workshop  <i>Excavation</i> <i>Finds Processing</i>	Photography Workshop  <i>Excavation</i> <i>Finds Processing</i>	<i>Excavation</i> <i>Finds Processing</i>
<b>Afternoon</b>	Recording System Excavation Finds Processing	<i>Excavation</i> <i>Finds Processing</i>	<i>Excavation</i> <i>Finds Processing</i>	<i>Excavation</i> <i>Finds Processing</i>	<i>Excavation</i> <i>Finds Processing</i>

The training programme covered a variety of areas from fieldwork induction through instructional learning, such as recording and planning methods, to practical activities, including excavation and surveying (Table 1 shows the weekly pattern of the programme). In addition to basic fieldwork skills volunteers also participated in specialist led workshops on Roman ceramics and archaeological photography.

In all 32 trainees attended for five or more days, 5 trainees attended for between three and five days. While it was not possible at this point in time to provide institutional accreditation all participants were offered the opportunity to receive a 'letter of participation' outlining the activities undertaken.

### **4.3 PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY**

The excavation site was well known within the immediate local community and it was recognised that the excavation itself would generate considerable interest. It was therefore decided to offer a range of public archaeology activities commensurate with the level of resources available during 2005, the first season of fieldwork. Contact was made initially with local archaeology and heritage groups to provide information about the excavation. Following a successful bid for HEIF2 'enterprise' funding four undergraduate students taking the Heritage Studies degree programme at Bishop Grosseteste College were recruited to devise and deliver the public archaeology programme working in partnership with Lindum Heritage.

The core elements of the programme were:

1. The production of a leaflet publicising the excavation and giving information about activities at the site. (See Appendix 5)
2. The production of three display boards to be erected on site. (See Appendix 5)
3. Activities for children during National Archaeology Week.
4. Weekly public site tours.

The display boards focused on three themes; the history of the Sudbrooke site, archaeological excavation techniques, and the nature of Roman villas in Britain. The National Archaeology Week activities were particularly targeted at children attending the two local primary/junior schools – Ellison Boulter School in Scothern and Nettleham Junior School. Leaflets were distributed through the schools and the local libraries thus reaching a wide section of the local community. The students constructed a 'digging pit' filled with clean sieved topsoil and seeded with clearly marked unstratified pottery from a small teaching collection. This proved extremely popular with the children who ranged in age from approximately five to twelve. The children were also shown how to sieve for finds, and wash and draw finds. In all some 40-50 children attended the NAW session.

General public tours were scheduled for each Thursday afternoon throughout the course of the excavation. The demand for these was such that several additional tours were organised. The Heritage Studies students undertook all general guiding activities, though archaeologists were on hand to answer questions from each group. In total some 250 members of the public participated in these tours with numerous others making casual visits to the site at other times.

## 5. RESULTS

*Note: The context descriptions in the following text are generally presented in an abridged form; the results section should therefore be read in conjunction with Appendix 1, which provides the full context descriptions. Context numbers are to be found in square brackets.*

### 5.1 SITE WIDE INVESTIGATIONS

During the topsoil clearance unstratified finds, derived from the ‘plough soil’, were collected in both Area A [2] [3] and Area B [31]. Throughout the course of the excavation a number of unstratified finds were recovered from the surface of the field in the general area of the site, these were allocated the general context number [1]. Such finds included pottery and tile fragments, a fragment of marble, tesserae, iron nails, glass and a worked flint – probably a small blade of Neolithic date.

During the first week of the excavation the conditions were such that a number of highly visible crop marks appeared. The more visible of these were plotted and an attempt was made to arrange aerial photography. The resulting photographs provided important information even though they were not of the highest quality. (The photographs were taken independently by Mr Bill Bee, remain his property, and do not form part of the project archive).



**Fig. 3: Aerial photograph of the site looking south (21 July 2005)**  
(Image courtesy of Mr Bill Bee)

Approximately 120 metres to the east of Area A a north-south aligned crop mark interpreted as a possible double ditch was discernable, this ran from beyond the northern boundary of the field for approximately 108 metres, (Fig.3). At that point the mark turned through 90 degrees to the west and continued for some five metres before it appeared to cease for three-four metres before commencing again and running west for a further forty to fifty metres; the break was interpreted as a possible entrance, (Fig.4). A number of other less distinct crop marks were also apparent. It is interesting that the data from the geophysical survey show only the slightest traces of these large features, and that they consequently received very limited attention in the interpretative analysis within the geophysics report.



**Fig. 4: Near vertical aerial photograph of crop marks (21 July 2005)**

North at top: the double ditch and possible entrance break can be clearly seen.  
(Image courtesy of Mr Bill Bee)

A further feature of excavation activity was the re-opening of part of Trial Trench 1 dug by PCA earlier in the year (see Clay, 2005). The purpose of this action was to expose the west facing section of the trench in the area of the limestone rubble foundation previously recorded, in the hope that if the wall turned and ran through Area A – as the original excavator believed it did – we would be able to connect the two interventions. The upper backfill of the trench was clearly composed of disturbed topsoil [3]. Beneath this – and with a very poorly defined upper horizon – was an extensive layer of redeposited sub-soil [4]. A further mid-dark brown mixed layer of clay and silty-sand was excavated in a smaller (1x1m) area within the re-opened trench [51]. This showed some signs of being undisturbed; suggesting the edge of the trench might have been found at a lower level though it was impossible to be certain of this. Interestingly the original excavator of the trench visited and investigated the re-opened area but was not able to confirm the nature of the material as either *in-situ* archaeology or backfill. This may have wider implications for the accurate identification of back-filled trial trenches in cultivated land subjected to later larger scale excavation; alternatively it might be found that the conditions on this particular site are poorly replicated elsewhere. Caution was observed and no further excavation took place within the trial trench.

## 5.2 AREA A

Excavation in Area A began with the hand-excavated removal of an area-wide deposit of softly compacted mid-dark brown silty-sand, this was interpreted as the lower levels of the current top-soil [5]. The deposit was well mixed and had an upper height of between 12.48 and 12.51mOD. The removal of this deposit effectively cleaned the underlying archaeological material, which showed evidence for an extensive and noticeably compact mortar and limestone ‘stain’ [8] running from east to west across the southern half of the area. As the edges of this ‘stain’ were poorly defined it was decided to remove the underlying deposits in two arbitrarily separated contexts; one, of predominantly mid-dark brown silty-sand [6], to the south of the ‘stain’ and the other, of predominantly dark brown clayey-sand [7], to the north. On excavation it became clear that context [8] had no greater substance and despite the differential compaction and colouring equated in simple stratigraphic terms with contexts [6] and [7].

At the southern limit of Area A beneath context [6] a small but clearly defined rectangular posthole, 130mm deep, [15] was found to cut into the underlying deposit ([34]). On excavation it was found to have been backfilled with loose brown silty sand [13]. Some seven metres to the north of this posthole a small stakehole, triangular in plan with a sharply pointed base and 180mm deep, was excavated [27]. It showed some evidence that the stake occupying the hole had been removed by being pulled towards the southwest, or had fallen in that direction. The stakehole was backfilled with softly compacted mid-brown fine silty sand [26].

A stratigraphically complex substantial posthole, with packing deposit, was excavated some two metres from the western limit of excavation in Area A. In the centre of the feature was an irregular post-pipe, 270 x 190mm, (the shape in plan suggests it may have represented the setting for two adjacent small posts?) [14]. The post(s) was interpreted as having possibly decayed *in situ*; the post-pipe being filled with a loosely compacted dark-brown silty-sand [12]. The setting for the post(s) was created by a posthole packing deposit of small to large angular limestone fragments and smaller sub-rounded pebbles set within a loosely compacted dark-brown silty-sand matrix [17]. The post-pit was oval in plan, 470 x 690mm and 140mm deep. It had stepped sides that broke imperceptibly to a shallow concave base [16].

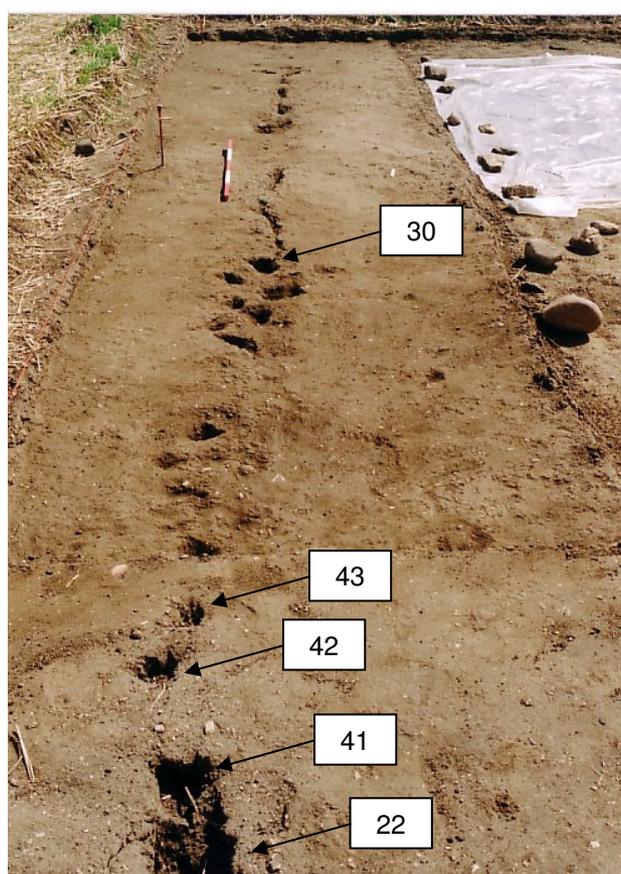


**Fig. 5: Western side of Area A looking east and showing linear (robber) trench [40] with postpit feature at its eastern end; note the slot running along the northern side of the cut**  
Scale = 0.5m

On further excavation it became clear that the post-pit [16] was positioned at the terminus of an earlier backfilled east-west aligned linear trench, which ran out of the area of the excavation to the west (see Fig. 5). The trench had an average width of 525mm with steeply sloping sides

breaking sharply with a flat base, 200mm in depth [40]. Running along the northern edge of the base was a linear slot 25-30mm in width with regular vertical sides 20-40mm deep. The trench was backfilled with loosely compacted grey-brown clayey medium sand [28]. The trench was interpreted as a backfilled robbing cut associated with the removal of a wooden plank set on edge – represented by the linear slot – possibly derived with an earlier shuttered clay wall. Further interpretation suggests that the post-pit and robbing trench comprise an associated feature, probably representing the robbing and rebuilding (in a different form) of an earlier structure or more simply the continuity of use of an earlier structural alignment.

Some two metres to the north of this feature and near the western limit of excavation a small group of three postholes were identified. These comprised one large rectangular cut with sharp corners, 270 x 160mm and 180mm deep [25], a slightly smaller but also rectangular cut 200 x 160mm and 130mm deep [24], and finally a cut of similar size, 180 x 160mm, but more irregular in shape, this posthole was 170mm deep [23]. All three had near vertical sides with flat or concave bases, and were backfilled with a similar material; loosely compacted brown silty sand – contexts [20], [19] and [18] respectively.



**Fig. 6: Northern limit of Area A looking east and showing postholes [22], [41], [42], [43] and (at a lower level) [30]. Also shown, beyond the immediate foreground, is the associated – yet stratigraphically earlier – fence alignment [45].**

Scale = 1.0m

In the northwest corner of Area A were a number of associated postholes and stakeholes (see Fig. 6). The largest, and westernmost, of these was of an irregular angular shape in plan, 370 x 170mm and 130mm deep. This posthole had a near vertical northern side while the others sides were noted as steeply sloping but concave, the base had two concave depressions suggesting this may have been the setting for a double post [22]. The posthole was backfilled with soft and friable brown sandy silt [21]. Immediately adjacent to [22] was a more regular

square cut posthole, 95 x 100mm and 85mm deep. The posthole had vertical sides, which broke sharply with a flat base [41]. The posthole was backfilled with soft friable brown sandy silt [9]. Some twenty centimetres to the east were two smaller postholes; the first of these was circular in plan and 90mm in diameter. The posthole had steeply sloping sides that tapered to a blunt-rounded base, 95mm deep [42]. The cut was filled with soft friable brown sandy silt [10]. The second posthole was oval in plan 60 x 70mm and 140mm deep; it had vertical sides that broke gradually with a rounded concave base [43]. This posthole was filled by soft brown sandy silt [11]. Two metres to the east was a further oval shaped posthole 100 x 130mm, which was 135mm deep. The side of the cut were generally steep and broke gradually with a rounded concave base [30]. The posthole was filled by soft and friable brown sandy silt [29]. All eight of the preceding postholes cut through deposit [33].

The underlying deposit extended across the entire area; in order to affect more efficient excavation and to allocate finds to more closely defined spatial locations the deposit was divided into four contexts according to grid square (see Fig. 7). The deposit consisted of compact mid-greyish brown clayey fine sand with moderate small angular fragments of limestone [32], [33], [34] and [35]. There was a noticeable increase in the quantity of redeposited tesserae recovered from the southeastern corner of Area A, (context [35]). The deposit lacked a strongly differentiated horizon with the earlier stratigraphy toward the northern and eastern parts of Area A; this was felt to be the result of plant and worm actions in antiquity. As such these contexts were interpreted as a much-reworked levelling deposit formed following the demolition/destruction of earlier masonry buildings.

Grid Square 100/265	Grid Square 105/265
Context [33]	Context [32]
Grid Square 100/260	Grid Square 105/260
Context [35]	Context [34]

**Fig. 7: The allocation of context numbers to grid squares in Area A. North to the top.**

Contexts [32] and [33] overlay an east-west aligned feature comprising a series of stake and postholes interlinked by a narrow irregular linear cut, 3890 x 50mm, depth varies between 120-160mm (see Fig. 6). This was interpreted as the traces of a fence alignment, possibly constructed using wattle hurdles. The physical and spatial relationship between this feature and the group of postholes [22], [30], [41], [42] and [43] strongly suggests that were part of the same structure, despite their apparent stratigraphic separation. It is thought that differential removal and/or decay of the structure, combined with soil formation actions and earlier cultivation activity, helps to explain the stratigraphic situation.

Whilst context [34] remained un-excavated, and [32] only partially excavated, the removal of contexts [35] and [33] – albeit within a reduced area of excavation – revealed a number of contexts apparently related to earlier structural activity. (It should be noted that none of the following contexts were excavated before the end of the 2005 season).

In the northerly part of the excavated area moderately compact dark grey-brown silty-clay sand was exposed with frequent inclusions of small angular limestone pebbles, moderate medium sized fragments of tile [64]. This was interpreted as a well-sorted spread of

demolition/destruction debris. Immediately to the south (and with an uncertain/un-investigated stratigraphic relationship to [64]) was a moderate to loosely compacted deposit of mid-orangey brown medium sandy clay, with frequent small angular pebbles and flecks of charcoal [62]. This deposit seemed to extend further south and possibly either side of a linear feature [63]. Context [62] was tentatively interpreted as sub-floor surfaces composed of heavily re-worked natural material. Context [63] was a well-compacted dark brown-grey silty clay. It was an east-west aligned linear deposit of 260mm width; the context was clearly bounded on its southern edge by the linear plank-slot found in the base of cut [40]. The northern edge of the feature was less well defined but was associated with a distinct east west aligned indentation and stain. There was good evidence that the feature extended further east than the extent of the robbing trench [40]. Context [63] was tentatively interpreted as the remnants/base of an east west aligned shuttered clay wall.

At the very southwest limit of excavation in Area A a small area of level mortared flooring was exposed [59]. This consisted of an uppermost dark grey smooth surfaced 'cement' mortar skim with moderate inclusions of medium sized fragments of tile and angular pebbles. The upper skim, at 12.35m OD, was laid onto a light brown hard-set mortar some 30mm deep. This overlay a moderately compact bedding deposit of pinky brown mortar mixed with very frequent medium fragments of tile and pea-grit sized crushed tile and stone fragments, this deposit had a minimum depth of 70mm. The surface was truncated on all exposed edges – it ran out of the limit of excavation to both the south and west – making detailed interpretation difficult, its general character however suggested it was either a good quality primary floor surface or the base of a pool or tank, (see Fig. 8).



**Fig. 8: The mortar floor surface [59] revealed in the south-westernmost corner of Area A.**

Scale = 0.2m

Immediately north of this deposit [59] two associated deposits were revealed, both were disturbed either by robbing/demolition activities in antiquity or possibly by more recent deep ploughing/drainage actions. Context [60] comprised a very loose dark brown to light grey mixed coarse sand and crushed mortar with very frequent medium fragments of stone, tile and mortar. The context is the more likely of the two to have been disturbed and as such had poorly defined stratigraphic relationships with both context [59] and [61]. It was broadly

interpreted as a wall foundation bedding deposit probably disturbed during robbing. Context [61] was a more extensive deposit of well-compacted light pinky grey well sorted crushed mortar with frequent small and medium fragments of mortar. This was interpreted as a sub-floor foundation bedding deposit with some degree of disturbance caused by demolition or robbing. No further excavation took place in Area A.

### **5.3 AREA B**

Excavation in Area B began with the hand-excavated removal of an area-wide deposit of softly compacted mid-dark brown silty clayey-sand, with frequent inclusions of small angular pebbles of limestone. This was interpreted as the lower levels of the current topsoil [36]. The deposit had an upper height of between 12.00 and 12.07mOD. The removal of this context effectively revealed an area-wide deposit of loose mid-yellow brown silty fine sand [37]. This was interpreted as the lowest levels of the modern topsoil however at a depth that was not disturbed by modern seasonal ploughing. Adding support to this interpretation was the presence of a single small posthole near the centre of the area [39]. This posthole was circular in plan with a diameter of 240mm and depth of 80mm. It had gradually sloping sides that tapered to a blunt base. The cut was filled by loose dark brown grey silty sand [38].

Beneath context [37] and within the northwestern part of Area B was a loosely compacted dump of large, medium and small fragments of Roman painted wall plaster, set within a mid-grey silty fine sand matrix [48]. The wall plaster fragments, which were coloured red, yellow, white, blue and green, would appear to have been transported a short distance before being deliberately dumped. The deposit was partially excavated using a 200mm gridded sampling pattern. Beneath the sampled area of [48] a small sequence of contexts was investigated and recorded but not excavated. To the north of the area a short length of what was interpreted as a beam-slot or gully was revealed. This was filled with loosely compacted dark orangey brown clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular pebbles and flecks of charcoal [56]. This deposit filled what appeared to be a shallow linear (possibly curving) slot, gully or trench 220mm wide, with seemingly gently sloping sides [49]. Context [49] was found to cut through a deposit of moderate to loosely compacted dark grey black medium clayey sand with inclusions of frequent flecks and small fragments of charcoal, [47] and [55], respectively to the north and south of cut [49]. These deposits were interpreted as a possible external refuse/tread layer.

To the south of Area B was an extensive deposit of compact to loose dark grey brown sandy clay [46]. This context appeared to form an interfacing deposit between the later 'soil-like' material [37] and earlier demolition deposits, the interface with the earlier deposit [52] was particularly clear with interleaving lenses of pea-grit. Context [52] comprised a moderate to well-compacted mid-grey, flecked white (limestone/mortar), clayey silty sand matrix containing frequent large angular fragments of limestone and small sub-angular pebbles. This was a very mixed and 'dirty' deposit with many other smaller quantities of inclusions derived from structural destruction/demolition materials. Context [52] was thus interpreted as a tread layer overlying an earlier extensive dump of demolition rubble [53]. Contexts [52] and [53] were only excavated in a small 1.1 x 1.1m keyhole during the final stage of the 2005 excavation.



**Fig. 9: Keyhole excavation in Area B looking south and showing the building demolition debris dump [53] and the underlying heavily indented grey-green sandy clay deposit [54].**  
Scale = 0.2m

Beneath context [52] lay a compact to loose very light grey white to mid-yellow brown coarse sandy mortar with frequent inclusions of large, medium and small fragments of limestone, ceramic building material and *op. sig.* [53]. This deposit was interpreted as a substantial and homogeneous dump of building demolition debris. Beneath this dump in the small area investigated was found a compact to firm deposit of grey green fine sandy clay with frequent flecks and small fragments of mortar and ceramic building material [54]. The upper surface of this deposit was heavily indented with impressions of the overlaying rubble dump, perhaps suggesting that the material was damp or waterlogged when [53] was deposited; the surface had an average height of 11.70m OD. This earliest deposit was interpreted as reworked and redeposited natural; no further excavation took place during the 2005 season. (See Fig. 9).

Deposits [48] and [52] were also found to overlay a deposit of loosely compacted dark brown sandy clay which extended to the north and east of the area [57]. This was interpreted as an extensively reworked deposit of early soil or sub-soil-like material; this deposit was not excavated and thus its relationship with [53] and [54] remains unknown. Further to the east was an isolated deposit of compact mid-light brown sandy clay, interpreted as probably being redeposited natural [58]. No further excavation took place in Area B.

## 6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The first season of excavation provided excellent results upon which a number of interim observations and conclusions can be drawn. It is clear that the lower extents of the plough-soil remain largely undisturbed by modern ploughing, though there have clearly been episodes of damage and disturbance in the past. Some evidence was found for modern damage at a lower level (approximately 350mm below the current topsoil surface) caused by drainage improvement works using a 'flat-lifter'. This damage was not however uniform across the site, was no closer together than 800mm spacings, and penetrated only the upper levels of the Roman period stratification (see Fig.10).



**Fig. 10: Area B looking east and showing the linear indentations caused by modern sub-soiling drainage activities using a 'flat-lifter'.**

Scale = 1.0m

In Area A the presence of negative features within the lower levels of the topsoil, in the form of postholes and stakeholes, was of great interest. Although these features could not be clearly dated they were clearly not modern in origin, indeed the differential decay associated with the fence line in the northern half of the area suggest an early date(?) The fence line is of interest and is thought to represent a reuse of the site for purely agricultural activities post the destruction of the earlier buildings. The fence was not substantial and was likely to have been a short-term structure used for penning animals or to divide off a horticultural area.

The southern part of Area A provided evidence for, at this stage, three distinct phases of activity. Earliest was the laid-mortar floor, though fragmentary this was clearly of Roman date and most likely represented a good quality floor surface or perhaps the base of a pool or tank. Convex moulded fragments of *op. sig.* Found elsewhere on the site suggest the presence of such features amongst the original buildings. It was difficult, given the area investigated and time available, to ascertain the true relationship between this flooring and surrounding contexts, but it was clear that damage and destruction had occurred at some point in the past. This damage may have been the result of earlier plough damage, however given the evidence for systematic demolition in Area B, it is possible that destruction was deliberate and involved the robbing of walls and foundations.

To the north of the mortar flooring evidence was found for an east-west orientated shuttered clay wall, possibly with associated flooring (or sub-flooring) deposits. This feature had also suffered a robbing action but some time after disuse (destruction?), in particular after a deposit of soil-like material had formed over/around it ('dark-earth'?). The robbing action seemed focused on the shuttering, however it may alternatively have been part of re-use or rebuilding on the same alignment. At the eastern end of the robbing(?) trench a substantial post-pit had been dug, possibly near contemporary with the cutting of the trench.

In Area B two significant deposits of building material was revealed. Deliberately dumped in this area they can have only been moved a short distance from their original structure, and indicate the intentional demolition of the once standing building. The northernmost dump contained significant quantities of painted wall plaster with a wide range of colouring and some evidence for figurative work and small-scale geometric pattern work. It was not

possible on site to identify the plaster as having either an interior or exterior origin, though some substantial pieces with red and white colouration are suggestive of an external use. The fact these dumps had been laid directly on earlier external surfaces and were essentially undisturbed indicates a strong possibility that earlier internal floor surfaces, and especially hypocaust structures, may survive (numerous flue-tile fragments have been recovered from the site).

Overall the site has provided evidence for the presence of a substantial masonry built villa structure of Roman date, which was provided with mosaic pavements, painted plaster walls, hypocaust system(s) and possibly tanks or pools, together suggestive of a bath-house. The building was, at some time in antiquity – late or post-Roman period – deliberately demolished. There is further evidence for some continuity of settlement, or at least agricultural use, on the site; this may have involved squatting or scavenging, though the current evidence for particular activities is relatively weak. This is an interim conclusion based upon one season's excavation.

## **7. REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE WORK**

### **7.1 EXCAVATION METHODS**

The excavation methods were appropriate for the work undertaken. The careful and methodical manual excavation technique generated a great deal more information than previous excavators had been able to gather, especially in relation to the lower levels of the plough-soil and archaeological activity within it. The systematic dry sieving of all spoil from the site was a fruitful procedure with large quantities of tesserae, small ceramic fragments and bones, including two human metatarsals, being recovered. The protection and preservation of in-situ structural remains combined with sampling of other significant deposits will remain central to the excavation strategy.

Work during the 2006 season will concentrate on re-opening the western halves of both areas A and B, thus allowing further investigation of the in-situ remains in Area A and the demolition dumps in Area B, and the continuation of recording and excavation of earlier stratification. In both cases the trenches will be extended by between 5-10 metres to the west and south to further elaborate the nature of the archaeology in plan. In the case of Area A this may extend far enough to take in the line of an earlier field boundary, now ploughed out, and so investigate its origins and possible relationship to the Roman stratification.

A limited trial investigation of the crop-mark 'ditches' may also be undertaken in order to elaborate their character and date; this will however be wholly dependant upon the availability of suitable resources, and may be better conducted during the 2007 season.

### **7.2 TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

The training activities were very successful providing an excellent introduction to modern archaeological excavation and recording methods for a suitable number of trainees. Many of the trainees have already expressed a keen interest and intention to return for a further season or more of work.

The recognised success of the training excavation has provided an impetus for Bishop Grosseteste College to further the provision of archaeology on its undergraduate degree programmes. Following discussions within the College, and with the University of Lincoln, a decision has been taken to extend the training activities further and develop a formal archaeological 'field-school'. The field-school will provide an academically validated, credit-bearing course particularly targeted at undergraduate archaeology students, though a proportion of places will remain available for amateur participation. It is hoped elements of the field-school can be tested during 2006 and the field-school formally launched in 2007. We already have a strong expression of interest from the University of Dallas, USA, for a number of their students to spend up to four weeks each year on the excavation.

### **7.3 PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY**

The public archaeology activities were clearly successful with some 250 members of the public visiting the site. The provision of information for visitors through tours and display boards was felt to have been particularly successful. The children's activities, which focused on National Archaeology Week, were also successful though limited in scope. Press interest

in the site was good with both local and national newspapers running associated stories. Follow-up talks to local groups were well received.

Following on the success of the activities organised by the Bishop Grosseteste College Heritage Studies students a further bid was made for continuing HEIF2 Enterprise funding. The bid was successful and an increased level of funding has been made available which will be used to repeat the public tours and NAW activities but which will also support a more structured educational programme. Contact will be made directly with the two local primary/junior schools and Education Studies students will be engaged to provide planned educational visits within the scope of the school's curriculum activities.

## **8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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The excavation would not have taken place without the hard work of the following site and finds assistants, and technicians – thanks are extended to them all: Iris de Boer, Fred Coupland, Oliver Harder, Gwen Green, Richard Whatling, William McAulay, Lynne McEwan and Karl Wilkinson. Particular thanks go to Anthony Bevan, farm manager, for both facilitating our time on site and providing much useful information about the agricultural regime the field has been, and is, subjected to. The smooth running of the excavation as a whole was the responsibility of one person, Zoë Tomlinson (Lindum Heritage), her dedication to the project is beyond thanks.

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## **9. SITE ARCHIVE**

The documentary and physical archive for the site is currently in the possession of Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln. This will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum in due course. Access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number 2005.58.

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# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Archaeological Context Descriptions

### General contexts

Context	Type	Description
1	Finds	Allocated to unstratified surface finds collected across an area 50-100m to the east, west and south of areas A & B.
50	-	Not used.

### Re-investigation of PCA Trial Trench 1 (SUD05)

Context	Type	Description
3	Deposit	Topsoil: Mid-dark brown silty-clayey (40) sand (60), frequent. small angular pebbles of limestone, moderate medium fragments tile, (approximate depth 200-300mm)
4	Deposit	Moderately compact, mid-dark brown, silty (20) sand (80), frequent. small stones and pebbles, moderate small fragments tile and BM, moderate flecks charcoal. {Probably redeposited trial trench backfill?}
51	Deposit	Moderately compact, mid-dark brown, silty (20) sand (80), occasional lenses of compact grey clay. {Possibly disturbed by earlier trial trench excavation}.

### SUDA05 - Area A

Context	Type	Description
2	Deposit	Topsoil: Mid-dark brown silty-clayey (40) sand (60), frequent. Small angular pebbles of limestone, moderate medium fragments tile, (approximate depth 200-300mm) [Removed by machine during clearance]
5	Deposit	Softly compacted, mid-dark brown, silty (30) clayey (10) Sand (60), frequent small angular pebbles of limestone, mode small and med fragments tile. {Lower level of modern topsoil}.
6	Deposit	Hard to soft compaction, mid-dark brown, silty (40) sand (60), frequent small angular to sub-rounded pebbles, mode to occasional small and medium fragments tile (including

		moderate tesserae). {Lowest levels of topsoil – ‘arbitrary’ extent to the south of context [8]}
7	Deposit	Hard to soft compaction, mid-dark brown, silty (40) sand (60), frequent small angular to sub-rounded pebbles, moderate to occasional small and medium fragments tile (including moderate tesserae). {Lowest levels of topsoil – ‘arbitrary’ extent to the north of context [8]}
8	Deposit	Compaction varied from loose to very compact, mid-brown, silty (40) sand (60), moderate small fragments tile and limestone, occasional medium to large fragments limestone, linear stain of light yellow-brown friable mortar {Lowest level of topsoil - ‘arbitrary’ extent to preserve integrity of linear mortar stain and area of greater compaction, otherwise probably = [6] + [7]}
9	Fill	Soft-friable, brown, sandy silt (50/50), occasional small irregular stones and fragments oyster shell. {Backfill of stakehole [41]}
10	Fill	Soft-friable, brown, sandy silt (50/50), occasional small stones. {Backfill of stakehole [42]}
11	Fill	Soft, brown, sandy silt (50/50), frequent small stones. {Backfill of stakehole [43]}
12	Fill	Loose, dark brown, silty (30) medium sand (70), frequent medium sub-angular & sub-rounded stones (stones decrease towards bottom of fill), occasional lenses of clay (near base) {Backfill of post-pipe [14]}
13	Fill	Loose, brown, silty sand (50/50), frequent med to small stones. {Backfill of posthole [15]}
14	Cut	Irregular (figure of 8) shape, corners rounded, 270 x 190mm, depth 140mm, sides slightly concave and stepped (includes packing stones), sharp break of slope with base which is flat {Probable post-pipe backfilled by [12]}.
15	Cut	Roughly rectangular in plan with rounded corners, 150 X 180mm, depth 130mm, sharp Break of slope at top with steeply sloping sides – north & east sides slope vertically, sharp Break of slope at base which is stepped. {Posthole backfilled by [13]}.
16	Cut	Round to oval in plan, 470 x 690mm, depth 140mm, sharp break of slope at top, irregularly concave sides, imperceptible break of slope at base, base shallow concave with a central tapered blunt hollow. {Posthole (pit) containing post packing material and stones [17]}.
17	Fill	Loosely compacted, dark brown silty sand (40/60), frequent angular to sub-rounded pebbles, occasional medium and large angular limestone fragments. {Packing material set

		around post represented by post-pipe [14] and its backfill [12]}.
18	Fill	Soft to loose compaction, brown, silty fine sand (50/50), occasional small stones (sub-angular pebbles). {Backfill of posthole [24]}.
19	Fill	Soft to loose compaction, brown, silty fine sand (50/50), occasional small very smooth stones (pebbles). {Backfill of posthole [23]}.
20	Fill	Loose compaction, brown, silty soft sand (50/50), very occasional small stones (sub-angular pebbles), occasional small lenses of clay. {Backfill of posthole [25]}.
21	Fill	Soft and friable compaction, brown, sandy silt (50/50) (increased compacted clay component near base of deposit), very occasional small fragments tile, oyster shell and clay lenses. {Backfill of posthole [22]}.
22	Cut	Irregularly shaped cut, north side straight, south/east and south/west sides irregular curve to join in flattened triangular shape, corners rounded, max. dimensions 370 x 170mm depth 130mm, break of slope at top sharp, northern side steep to vertical, other sides steeply concave with small step near base, Break of slope at base sharp to north gently sloping on other sides, base irregular with two deeper areas (east and west) separated by a slight ridge. {A posthole, possibly two side-by-side, filled by [21]}.
23	Cut	Irregular trapezoid shape, SE & SW corners 90 degree angle, NE, N & NW corners 120 degree angle, dimensions 180 x 160mm, depth 170mm, sharp break of slope at top, all sides vertical, break of slope at base sharp, base flat and slightly sloping down from south to north. {Posthole backfilled by context [19]}.
24	Cut	Broadly rectangular in plan, N/W & S/W corners approx. 90 degrees, other corners rounded, 200 x 160mm, depth 130mm, sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping to vertical sides, break of slope at base relatively sharp, base concave. {Posthole backfilled by [18]}.
25	Cut	Broadly rectangular in plan, N/W & S/W corners approx. 90 degrees, other corners rounded, 270 x 160mm, depth 180mm, sharp Break of slope at top, generally vertical sides – especially N side, small step in S side, Break of slope at base gradual, base concave. {Posthole backfilled by [20]}.
26	Fill	Soft, mid-brown, fine grained silty sand (20/80), moderate very small rounded pebbles. {Backfill of stake hole [27]}.
27	Cut	Elongated triangle in plan, sharp corners, Break of slope at top sharp, corners relatively sharp, 350 x 200 mm, depth 180mm, sides steeply sloping on all sides except S which is

		more gradual, sides taper to a rounded/blunt pointed base. {Stake hole with evidence of the stake/post having been removed by pulling from the south, backfilled by [26]}.
28	Deposit	Loose, grey/brown, clayey medium sand (20/80), occasional small fragments tile {Backfill of linear construction(?) slot [40], following robbing action?}.
29	Fill	Soft and friable, brown, sandy silt (50/50), occasional small irregular stones {backfill of posthole [30]}.
30	Cut	Oval in plan, 100 x 130 mm, 135mm depth, sharp break of slope at top, steep sides to W & S, E & N side(s) slightly more gradually sloping, Break of slope at base gradual, base rounded/concave. {Posthole backfilled by [29]}.
32	Deposit	Compact, mid greyish brown, clayey fine sand (30/70), occasional small angular limestone fragments, small flint pebbles, small and medium fragments of tile & mortar, moderate small angular fragments of limestone, (poorly differentiated with lower/earlier deposit). {Same as contexts [33], [34] & [35], these context assigned to separate adjacent grid squares across full extents of area A; context [32] = grid square 105/265. Interpreted as a levelling deposit formed by plant & worm action following demolition/destruction of earlier masonry buildings, later reworked as early 'topsoil'?).
33	Deposit	Compact, mid greyish brown, clayey fine sand (30/70), occasional small angular limestone fragments, small flint pebbles, small and medium fragments of tile & mortar, moderate small angular fragments of limestone, (poorly differentiated with lower/earlier deposit). {Same as contexts [32], [34] & [35], these context assigned to separate adjacent grid squares across full extents of area A; context [33] = grid square 100/265. Interpreted as a levelling deposit formed by plant & worm action following demolition/destruction of earlier masonry buildings, later reworked as early 'topsoil'?).
34	Deposit	Compact, mid greyish brown, clayey fine sand (30/70), occasional small angular limestone fragments, small flint pebbles, small and medium fragments of tile & mortar, moderate small angular fragments of limestone, (poorly differentiated with lower/earlier deposit). {Same as contexts [32], [33] & [35], these context assigned to separate adjacent grid squares across full extents of area A; context [34] = grid square 105/260. Interpreted as a levelling deposit formed by plant & worm action following demolition/destruction of earlier masonry buildings, later reworked as early 'topsoil'?).
35	Deposit	Compact, mid greyish brown, clayey fine sand (30/70), occasional small angular limestone fragments, small flint pebbles, small and medium fragments of tile & mortar, moderate small angular fragments of limestone, occasional lenses of bluish grey and yellowish-brown clay, increasing quantity of tesserae in the S/E corner of this grid square.

		{Same as contexts [32], [33] & [34], these context assigned to separate adjacent grid squares across full extents of area A; context [35] = grid square 100/260. Interpreted as a levelling deposit formed by plant & worm action following demolition/destruction of earlier masonry buildings, later reworked as early 'topsoil'?).
40	Cut	Linear in plan with rounded eastern end (associated with posthole cut [16]?), 2300 x 500-550mm (runs out of western limit of excavation), depth 200mm, Break of slope at top sharp – occasionally gradual, upper 100-150mm of sides steeply sloping, initial break with base relatively sharp, base gradually sloping to centre-line of cut where it breaks again sharply with a narrow (25-30mm wide) linear slot with vertical sides and a flat base. {Complex linear trench probably resulting from the robbing/removal of an on edge plank which formed part of an earlier structural feature; also associated with the later(?) post-pit feature [16]}.
41	Cut	Square in plan with sharp corners, 100 x 95mm, depth 85mm, Break of slope with sides sharp, sides generally vertical, Break of slope with base sharp, flat base, {Posthole backfilled by [9]}.
42	Cut	Circular in plan, 90mm diameter, depth 95mm, Break of slope with sides sharp, sides steeply sloping, tapers to a gradual Break of slope with the base which is rounded and concave. {Posthole backfilled by [10]}.
43	Cut	Oval in plan, 60 x 70mm, depth 140mm, Break of slope with sides gradual, sides vertical, gradual Break of slope with the base which is rounded and concave. {Posthole backfilled by [11]}.
44	Fill	Loosely compacted, dark brown, sandy silt (30/70), moderate small fragments of tile, medium to small angular and sub-angular pebbles. {Backfill of linked group of postholes and irregular linear slot [45]}.
45	Cut	Complex grouping of small round and sub-square cuts linked by an irregular linear narrow cut, linear cut 3890 x 40-60mm (associated cuts extend this length up to about 7400mm), depth varies between 120-160mm, break of slope at top sharp, sides generally steeply sloping to vertical, Break of slope with base relatively sharp tapering to a rounded base. {Associated arrangement of small post/stakeholes and a linear slot – possibly representing the remnants of wattle fencing (?), probably disturbed by early ploughing/soil formation activity which has confused the stratigraphic relationship between this feature and deposits [32] & [33], in this regard also see cuts [22], [30], [41], [42] & [43].}
59	Masonry	Dark grey, 'cement' mortar skim, inclusions: moderate small and medium fragments of tile and medium angular pebbles. Smooth upper surface. This skim laid over a light brown hard

		set mortar 30mm deep which in turn overlays a moderately compact bedding layer of pinky brown mortar mixed with very frequent medium fragments of tile and pea-grit sized crushed tile and stone fragments, this layer was min. 70mm deep. Extant dimensions 300 x 700 mm. {In situ smooth mortar floor (or possibly pool/tank?) surface}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
60	Deposit	Very loose, dark brown to light grey, mixed coarse sand and crushed mortar (20/20) and very frequent medium fragments stone, tile and mortar (60), frequent small fragments stone, tile and mortar. {Wall or floor foundation bedding deposit disturbed as a result of robbing (or ploughing?) activity. Associated with surface [59]}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
61	Deposit	Well-compacted, light pinky grey, well sorted, crushed mortar (100), frequent small and medium fragments mortar, moderate small and medium fragments tile and stone. {Possibly a sub-floor or bedding deposit for a demolished floor or wall, probably disturbed by later activity; associated with [60]}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
62	Deposit	Moderate to loose compaction, mid orangey brown, medium sandy clay (50/50), frequent small angular pebbles and flecks of charcoal, occasional medium and large fragments of limestone and flint. {Possible sub-floor surfaces either side of shuttered wall line [63]; possibly reworked natural material? Uncertain relationship with [64]}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
63	Deposit	Well compacted, dark brown grey, silty clay (40/60), moderate small and medium fragments of stone and tile. Linear deposit 260 mm width and orientated E-W. {Possibly lowest remnants of a shuttered clay wall? Associated with linear 'plank' slot in the base of cut [40]}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
64	Deposit	Moderately compact, dark grey brown, silty clay (40/60), frequent large fragments stone and tile, moderate medium fragments stone and tile, occasional oyster shell and small fragments and flecks of tile and sub angular pebbles. {Possibly spread of demolition debris. Uncertain relationship with [62]}. <i>Not excavated.</i>

### SUDA05 - Area B

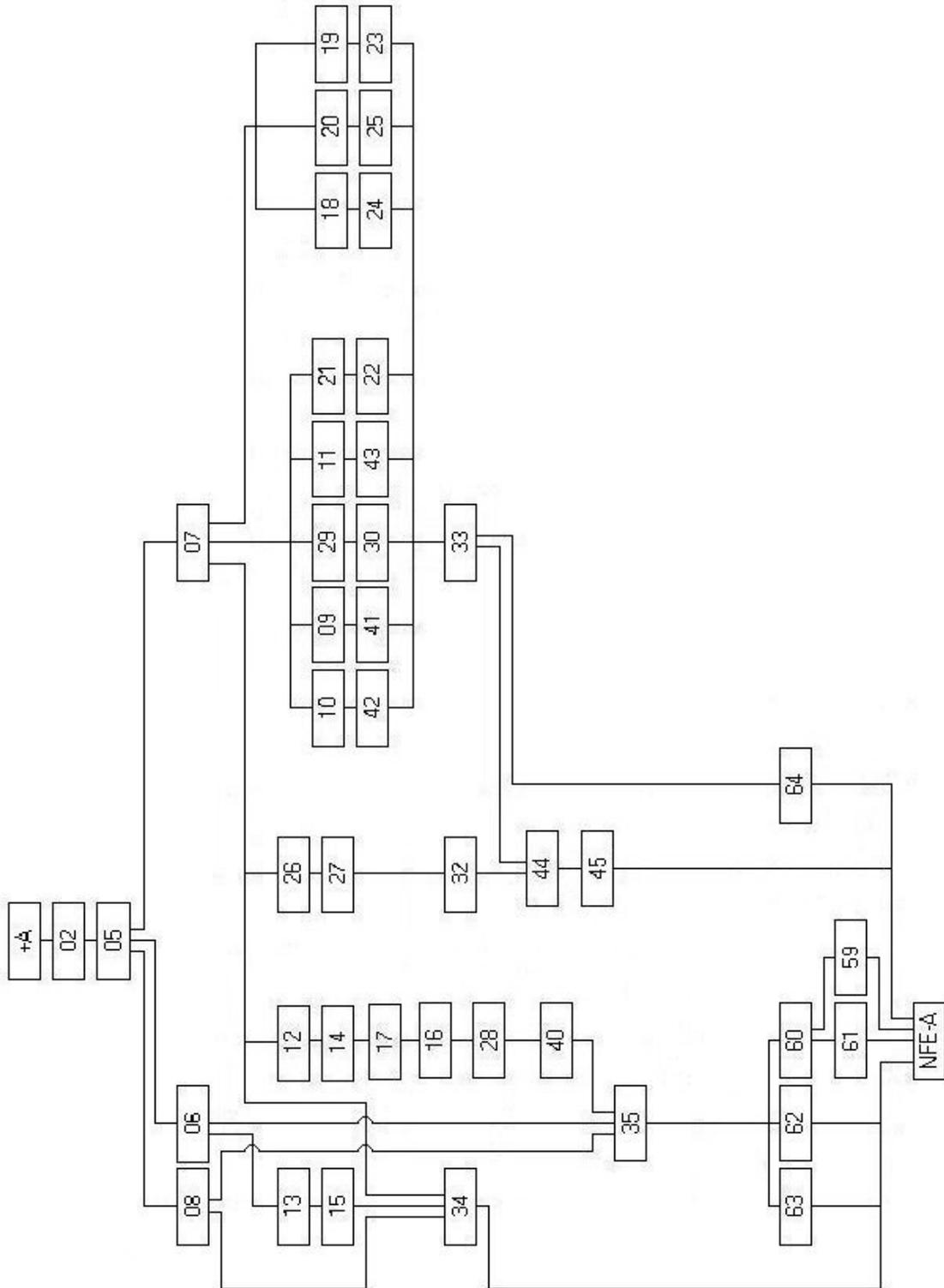
Context	Type	Description
31	Deposit	Topsoil: Mid-dark brown silty-clay (40) sand (60), frequent small angular pebbles of limestone, moderate medium fragments tile, (approximate depth 200-300mm) [Removed by machine during clearance]

36	Deposit	Softly compacted, mid-dark brown, silty (30) clayey (10) Sand (60), frequent small angular pebbles of limestone, moderate small and medium fragments of tile. {Lower level of modern topsoil}.
37	Deposit	Loose, mid-yellow brown, silty (30) fine sand (70), occasional patches of clay, well sorted, moderate small flint and limestone fragments, occasional medium flint and limestone fragments – all irregular and angular in shape, occasional small fragments of charcoal, occasional small lenses of grey silt, (diffuse boundary with next layer, some evidence of modern worm action). {Lowest levels of modern topsoil, but not disturbed by modern seasonal ploughing}.
38	Fill	Loose, dark brown grey, silty sand (30/70), occasional small sub-angular stones (mainly limestone), very occasional medium fragments stone. {Backfill of posthole [39]}.
39	Cut	Circular in plan, 240mm diameter, depth 80mm, sharp break of slope at top, gradually sloping sides, sides taper to a sharp break with the tapered blunt base. {Posthole, backfilled by [38]}.
46	Deposit	Compact to loose, dark grey brown, sandy clay (50/50), moderate small angular stone pebbles, small fragments tile, occasional very small fragments op sig and plaster. (Clear division with earlier deposit with interleaving extensive lenses of pea-grit). {Mixed deposit at the interface of the later soil-like deposit [37] and the earlier extensive dump of building/demolition rubble [52]/[53]}.
47	Deposit	Moderate to loose compaction, dark grey-black, medium clayey sand (20/80), frequent flecks and small fragments charcoal, moderate small pebbles, flecks and fragments of mortar, occasional small fragments of limestone and tile, very occasional medium to large fragments limestone and tile. {Refuse/tread deposit beneath plaster/rubble dump [48]. Probably the same as [55], also similar to [54]?} <i>Not excavated.</i>
48	Deposit	Loosely compacted, mid-grey, silty fine sand (40/60), frequent small, medium and occasional large fragments painted wall plaster (red, yellow, white, blue, green), occasional small and medium fragments tile and op. sig., well sorted. {Dump of demolition debris, comprising a significant quantity of painted wall plaster}. <i>Partially excavated using a grid of 200 x 200 mm squares.</i>
49	Cut	Linear (gently curving?) slot, gully or trench, approx. 220mm wide, sharp break of slop at top, apparently gently sloping sides, possibly with a concave base?? Orientated n-w/s-e. {A linear (curving?) slot, gully or trench, filled by [56]}. <i>Not excavated.</i>

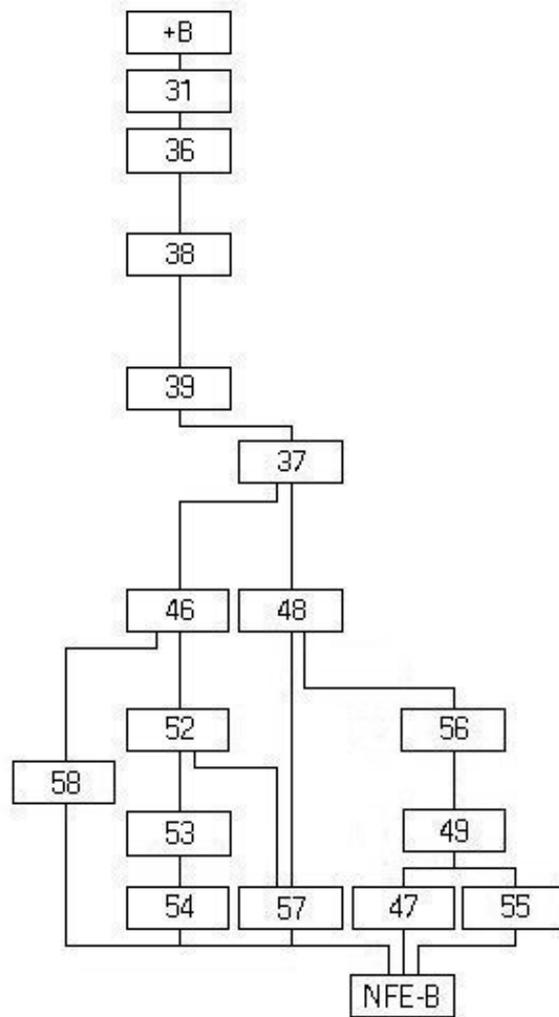
52	Deposit	Moderate to well compacted, mid grey with flecks of white (limestone/mortar), clayey silty sand (10/30/60), frequent large – mainly angular – fragments of limestone, small sub-angular pebbles, moderate large and medium fragments of tile, occasional small and medium fragments of plaster, medium fragments op. sig., occasional tesserae, well sorted, (very clear horizon with lower/earlier deposit). {Very mixed 'dirty' deposit probably a tread/soil layer overlying an extensive dump of building demolition debris [53]}. <i>Excavated within a 1.1 x 1.1 m keyhole (s/w co-ordinates = 135.96/226.47).</i>
53	Deposit	Compact to loose, very light grey to white (when dry) – mid-yellow brown (when wet), coarse sandy mortar (100), frequent large, medium and small fragments limestone, tile, op. sig., occasional small, medium and large fragments painted wall plaster. {Homogeneous and relatively 'clean' dump deposit of building demolition debris}. <i>Partially excavated within a 1.1 x 1.1 m keyhole (s/w co-ordinates = 135.96/226.47).</i>
54	Deposit	Compact to loose/firm, grey green, fine sandy clay (30/70), frequent flecks and small fragments mortar & tile, occasional medium pebbles/limestone fragments, surface very uneven. {'Surface' of redeposited natural (?) onto which rubble deposit [53] was dumped, possibly wet at time of event as numerous deep impressions made in [54] by stones etc. from [53]}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
55	Deposit	Moderate to loose compaction, dark grey-black, medium clayey sand (20/80), frequent flecks and small fragments charcoal, moderate small pebbles, flecks and fragments of mortar, occasional small fragments of limestone and tile, very occasional medium to large fragments limestone and tile. {Refuse/tread deposit beneath plaster/rubble dump [48]. Probably the same as [47], also similar to [54]?} <i>Not excavated.</i>
56	Deposit	Loosely compacted, dark orangey brown, clayey sand (40/60), frequent small sub-angular pebbles, flecks of charcoal, occasional medium pebbles and small fragments bone. {Fill of small slot or gully [49]}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
57	Deposit	Loose to firm compaction, dark brown, sandy clay (40/60), moderate small angular pebbles, small flecks and fragments of tile, occasional medium angular limestone fragments, occasional medium fragments of tile. {Probably extensive deposit of redeposited and 'reworked' early soil/sub-soil}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
58	Deposit	Compact, mid-light brown, sandy clay (50/50), moderate small and medium angular pebbles of limestone and flint, occasional small fragments of tile. {Probably redeposited natural(?)}. <i>Not excavated.</i>

## Appendix 2: Context 'Harris' Matrices

SUDA05 - Area A



## SUDA05 - Area B



## SUDA05 – Trial Trench 1

