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(Vol. LXXXI, pp. 39–49)

Paul E. Firman was the author of the drawings for the report.
The Field Group wishes to thank him, and also the late Kenneth Kenham
for his contribution to the documentary research.

Archaeological Excavations at Little Paxton, Diddington, Cambridgeshire, 1992–3: First Interim Report; The Romano-British Period.

Alex Jones & Iain Ferris
with contributions from Lynne Bevan, Jane Evans, Stephanie Pinter-Bellows & Rebecca Roseff

Introduction

This report presents an interim summary of the results of the first phase of an ongoing programme of archaeological investigations at Little Paxton Quarry, Diddington, Cambridgeshire (Fig.1A–B; centred on TL202651), undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of English China Clays Quarries Ltd. Archaeological work at the quarry has identified a number of more-or-less discrete settlement foci, and finds of the Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age, Middle and Late Iron Age, and Romano-British period have been made. The work described here involved the evaluation of a mainly Romano-British cropmark complex, which was under threat, and was followed by an area excavation in advance of gravel quarrying in accordance with a brief agreed with Cambridgeshire County Council. Results of these two campaigns of work are here conflated to form a synthetic account.

The Site and its Setting

The Little Paxton site lies on river terrace deposits consisting of bands of sands and gravels that become finer in texture in the uppermost 0.75 m., below the topsoil. The classification into first, second and third river terrace given in the geological literature[1] is by no means certain and ongoing research seeks to clarify the chronology, development and sequence of these deposits. It is possible that the uppermost finer bands were deposited in the Postglacial Period, and that they represent dramatic flooding events that would have had great significance for any settlement here at the time.

It will be important to consider in the future the flooding patterns of the river, as a change in the river regime might have led to a change in settlement patterns in the vicinity and might account for what appears to be a shifting of settlement foci at different periods across a relatively small area.

The excavations were located in an arable field to the west of the present quarry workings, and lying to the east of the village of Diddington (Fig.1C). This area lies at 13 m. O.D., and is located 0.7 km. to the west of the River Great Ouse. A 'ladder' enclosure of the Romano-British period was the main cropmark feature here (Cambridgeshire SMR 2482b), located on a slight gravel ridge and following its alignment, with lower-lying pasture to either side. In addition to this enclosure traces of contemporary settlement and activity, including the remains of a temple, have been found nearby during quarrying.

The Excavation

The results of an integrated programme of site evaluation[2] indicated that the 'ladder' complex represented a largely complete settlement focus of the Romano-British period, and that, in addition, parts of other

1 E.A. Edmonds and C.H. Dinham, *Geology of the Country around Huntingdon and Biggleswade* (London 1965).

2 P.J. Leach, 'Little Paxton quarry, Diddington, Cambridgeshire: archaeological assessment phase 1', *BUFAU Report* 219 (1992).

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Figure 1. A) *Little Paxton and the Great Ouse Valley;* B) *Little Paxton and the site;* C) *The site: areas of archaeological investigation.*

settlement enclosures, first recognised as cropmarks, were also present. Excavation was subsequently targeted on an open area measuring 180 m. by 110 m., to include the majority of the 'ladder' complex, and the cropmark settlement complexes defined to the south of the ladder (Fig.1C).

Excavation was intended to define the settlement origins, to establish the chronology of activity, and to determine the site's function and economy. Given the relative lack of field-work on gravel terraces in the area and the extensive destruction of the archaeological resource by quarrying in the near vicinity between Buckden and St Neots, these and subsequent investigations were also intended to contribute towards a wider understanding of the patterns of human settlement in the Great Ouse valley and beyond in other river valley environments.

Within the excavated area, the ploughsoil was removed by Euclid box-scraper, under archaeological supervision, to expose the upper gravel horizon, and was later cleaned by JCB excavator, or by hand, to define the archaeological features cut into the gravels. Work was concentrated on the 'ladder' and the other enclosures, where intersections between ditched features were excavated by hand to determine the chronological sequence of activity, further ditch lengths were also dug to define the form of the features, and to sample and recover artefactual and ecofactual evidence. Particular emphasis was placed throughout upon the definition of internal structures within the 'ladder': its entire interior was cleaned manually in an attempt to define any structures present. Pits and post-holes were examined in half-section. Samples for ecofactual analysis were taken from all sealed datable contexts.

The Archaeological Sequence (Figs 2–5)

Elements of three distinct phases of Romano-British activity were provisionally identified during the excavation and subsequent post-excavation analysis which provided spot-dating of the pottery and coins. The sequence of activity is defined as follows:

Phase 1: Early Romano-British field system
Phase 2: Enclosures A, B, D and E
Phase 3: Enclosure C

Phase 1: Early Romano-British Field System

The earliest group of features comprised curvilinear or linear field boundaries. A small group of shallow curvilinear ditches was located in the northeastern corner of the excavation. These boundaries measured a maximum of 0.10 m. in width, and were very shallow. One was cut by a Phase 2 enclosure ditch (F305), but this group remains otherwise undated.

The linear field boundaries orientated east-southeast–west-northwest were more extensive, and measured between 0.1 m.–0.3 m. in width, and between 0.01 m.–0.70 m. in depth. Examination of the ground plan of intersecting boundaries recovered here suggests that more than one phase of activity could be represented. Subsequent plough truncation makes the identification of individual fields or plots difficult. Ditches following this alignment are recorded in the extreme south-east and centre of the site, and appear to define the bounds of small fields or market garden plots. Ditches were also cut in this phase on north–south alignments to drain the low-lying land on the west bank of a stream (Fig.1C).

The morphology of the curvilinear ditches suggests they could be Iron Age in date, although their relationship with the linear ditches was not established. These ditched field boundaries were cut by later enclosure ditches, and by post-holes cut within the interior of the Phase 2 Enclosure A. The fills of the Phase 1 ditches suggest their gradual infilling after abandonment, and contained fragmentary sherds of pottery which were not closely datable within the Romano-British period.

Phase 2: Enclosures A, B, D and E

Enclosure A

The cropmark 'ladder' Enclosure A, measuring between 26 m.–28 m. in width and over 180 m. in length, was composed of double and triple parallel ditches, respectively defining its northern and southern limits. The orientation of the ladder respected the predominant alignment of the Phase 1 linear field boundaries.

The northern side of Enclosure A was defined by two roughly parallel linear ditches, cut approximately 4.5 m. apart (measured centre to centre), aligned east-southeast–west-northwest. The northernmost ditch (F305) was V-shaped in profile and measured an average of 2.5 m. in width, and 1.2 m. in depth. Traces of partial recutting were recorded along part of its length. The

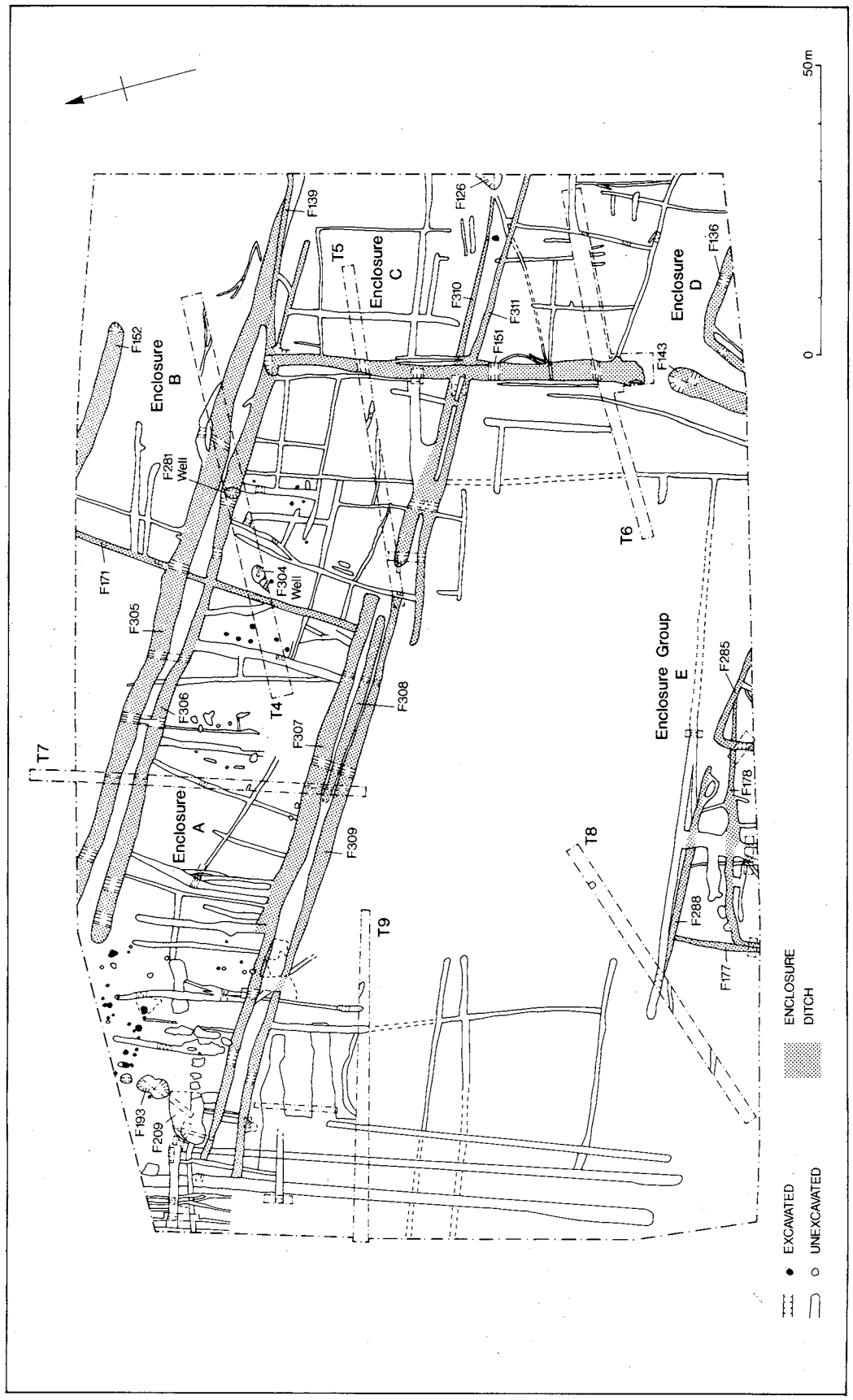

Figure 2. *Simplified plan of the main features of all periods.*

southernmost ditch (F306) was U-shaped in profile, and measured an average of 2.0 m. in width and 0.8 m. in depth. The latter terminated in a round end just inside the northwestern corner of the excavation. There was no trace of either an internal or external bank.

The southern limit of Enclosure A was defined by a parallel double or triple ditched arrangement, cut parallel to the northern pair of ditches, and interrupted by an entry gap, six metres wide. It is possible that the central ditch (F308) of this group, cut to the west of this entrance, might have been a Phase 1 field boundary. The outer ditches of this southern group were cut to a U-shaped profile along most of their length, and measured an average of 2 m. in width and 0.6 m. in depth: notably shallower than their northern equivalents. This difference probably reflects their original size and possibly their function, since plough truncation was probably uniform throughout Enclosure A, except where deeper soil to the east and west seems to have afforded some protection from the plough. Again, no trace of a bank was visible on the southern side of the enclosure.

The fill sequence of both northern ditches suggests gradual infilling with soft sands and gravels, rather than deliberate backfilling. The infilled northernmost ditch (F305) was cut by the western ditch of Enclosure B and was, in turn, later truncated by a late, shallow recut (F170) of ditch F305. The bulk of the 335 sherds of pottery from the northern pair of ditches dated to the late-third to fourth century, although small quantities of residual second- and third-century pottery were present.

The fill sequence of the southern ditch group also suggested gradual infilling. Pottery from here, totalling 96 sherds, notably fewer in quantity than the assemblage from the northern ditches, provides a *terminus* for their abandonment dating between the later third century and the early fourth century. Two coins, one a barbarous radiate dating approximately 270–90 AD, the second an issue of Crispus (320–6 AD), were recovered from ditch F310.

Within Enclosure A, the main focus of activity was located in the northwestern corner of the excavated area. Although no complete structure ground-plans could be recovered, a dense concentration of post-holes measuring an average of 0.5 m. in diameter probably defined one or more possibly rectangular timber-framed buildings, aligned parallel to the main axis of the enclosure, and located adjoining the northern entry-gap. Hearths and a rubbish pit (F193), containing a large pottery assemblage, were also found in this area. Of particular interest was a flat-based, steep-sided cut, rectangular in plan (F209). This feature, interpreted as a tank for water-storage, might have been lined with clay. It was cut below the level of the contemporary water-table, and might have been positioned to receive water channelled along the line of ditch F307. Traces of repeated recutting were recorded in the upper fills of the tank. Samples of the organic fills of this feature contained charred plant material.

Some of the post-holes were cut into infilled Phase 1 boundary ditches. The rubbish-pit F193 contained 512 sherds of pottery, including a number of near-complete vessels. Although it is difficult to distinguish clearly between earlier and later fourth-century assemblages, a number of factors suggested a mid-fourth century or possibly later date for the group. Nene Valley wares characteristic of the later period were present: for example a bead rimmed bowl with white painted arcs,[3] and a colour-coated plain rimmed dish.[4] A number of body sherds also had the characteristic metallic sheen of the later series, resulting from overfiring. The proportion of shell-tempered ware, which at 14.4% was the highest among the groups studied, supported this later date, as does the presence of shell-tempered *tegulae*.[5] This feature might well have continued in use later than other elements of the Phase 2 complex and might also have been contemporary with activity in Phase 3.

Two further foci of activity were noted in the centre of the enclosure. One comprised a scatter of post-holes, suggesting the location here of a possibly rectangular timber-framed building, with its long axis positioned perpendicular to the axis of Enclosure A. A second occupation area to the east included two wells (F281, F304). Part of a rectangular timber-framed building was also defined here, along with post-holes belonging to other structures. Well F304, cut within the interior of the enclosure, measured 3 m. in diameter, and 1.5 m. in depth. A second well (F281), dug into the infilled inner ditch F306, suggested that this area continued in occupation after the inner ditch ceased to be maintained. The well became

3 M.D. Howe, J.R. Perrin and D.F. Mackreth, *Roman Pottery from the Nene Valley: a Guide* (Peterborough 1981) Fig.7 (85).

4 *Ibid.* Fig.7 (87).

5 Don Mackreth, personal communication.

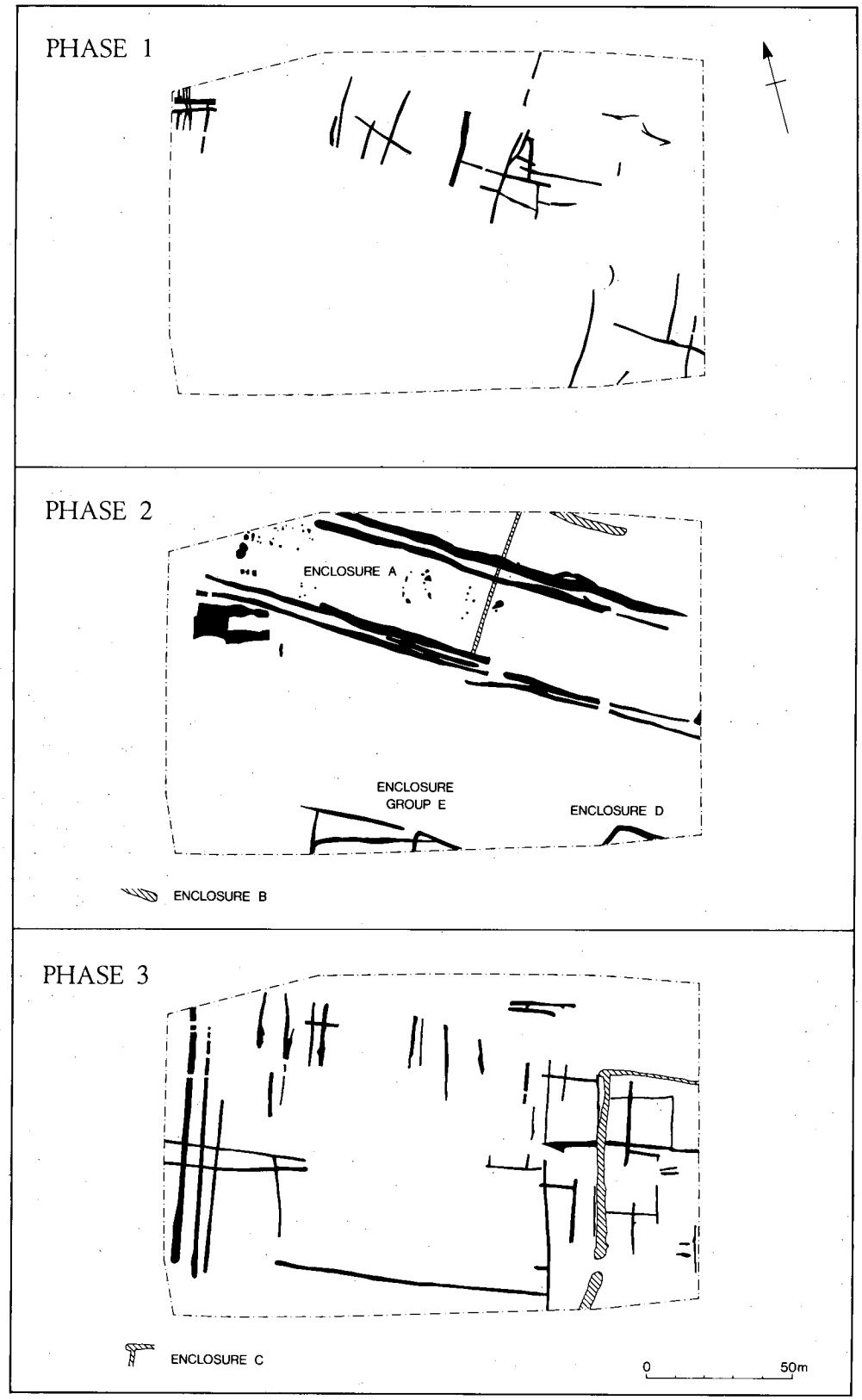

Figure 3. *Simplified phase plans of the main features.*

rapidly infilled with sands and gravels after abandonment. Its lower organic fills were sampled and charred plant material and beetles were recovered.

Pottery from the two wells dated from the late third and fourth centuries.

Enclosure B

Enclosure B was formed by two perpendicular ditches: its western side was defined by ditch F171, cut across the full width of Enclosure A, and extended to the northern edge of the excavated area. The northern side was formed by a ditch (F152), cut perpendicular to the former ditch. Although the point of the convergence of the ditches was beyond the excavated area, the cropmark evidence indicates a right-angled junction. There was no trace of the eastward continuation of the northern side beyond ditch F152, nor of the eastern ditched limit: both limits were perhaps defined by a fence, since obliterated by ploughing.

The pottery assemblage from the fills of ditches F152 and F171 was, at 30 sherds, much smaller than for Enclosure A. It was dated to the mid-third century or later, suggesting that Enclosures A and B could have been approximately contemporary.

Enclosures D and E

Parts of two further enclosures were also recorded. The extreme northwestern corner of Enclosure D was defined in the extreme southeastern corner of the excavation. This comprised two straight-sided ditches, both V-shaped in profile, joining at a right-angle. The fills indicated gradual infilling after abandonment. Only 15 sherds of pottery were recovered from the ditch fills, broadly dated to the third century. The right-angled northwestern corners of three intercutting enclosures were recorded just inside the southern limit of excavation (Enclosure Group E). Although not investigated in detail, sample sections of the ditches were excavated to establish their profile and fill sequences, and to recover dating evidence. Rather more pottery was recovered from these fills (67 sherds). A high proportion of residual first- to second-century grey and shell-tempered wares were noted, although once again a later third- to fourth-century *terminus post quem* was indicated. The pottery was notably very fragmentary.

Phase 3: Later Field System and Enclosure C

The latest phase of Romano-British activity was marked by the abandonment of the predominant orientation established in Phase 1 and subsequently respected by the Phase 2 enclosure. In Phase 3, a grid field system was laid out on a new, north–south alignment, and a ditched enclosure (Enclosure C) was constructed in the east of the site.

The pattern of field boundaries, aligned north–south and east–west, was most distinct in the east of the site, where the bounds of one complete rectangular small field or market garden plot, measuring 15 m. by 18 m., were defined and parts of other plots of similar size were recorded in plan. This group of ditched boundaries was cut by the northern and western ditches of Enclosure C.

The western limit of Enclosure C was marked by a shallow north–south ditch (F151), 0.5 m. in depth, and cut to a U-shaped profile north of a four-metres-wide entrance. South of this entrance, the west side continued on a west-southwesterly–north-northeasterly alignment. The north side was formed by a ditch (F139), cut east–west, joining ditch F151 at a right-angled corner. The eastern and southern sides of this enclosure lay beyond the excavated area.

The northern and western ditches of Enclosure C were cut into the infilled northern and southern ditches of Enclosure A, and into infilled Phase 1 and 2 field boundaries. The ditch fills suggested gradual abandonment after disuse. Finds from the ditch backfills included pottery, roof tiles, ironworking slags and animal bone. The pottery assemblage comprised 510 sherds. As with the rubbish pit F193, a mid-fourth century or later date seems most likely. Later Nene Valley forms included a pentice moulded beaker. and heavily fired body sherds with a metallic sheen were also present. This group also had a relatively high proportion of shell-tempered ware (10% as compared with 4% in Enclosure A) and once again shell-tempered tile was present. A coin of Valens (364–78 AD) was recovered from the northern ditch (F139) and supported this mid-fourth century date.

The Finds

A total of 3298 sherds of Romano-British pottery was recovered. Of these, 1678 sherds from key contexts were studied for the purposes of this initial report. The majority comprised

Figure 4. *The site looking northwest. (Photo: E. Newton)*

locally produced grey wares, followed by Nene Valley grey and colour-coated wares and late-Roman shell-tempered wares. Other wares represented included an imitation Black Burnished ware vessel, probably locally produced; abraded flakes of Samian; and occasional sherds of Horningsea ware. The latter is found as far afield as Hadrian's Wall and might well have been traded as a container for some other product.[6] Surprisingly, no Oxford wares were present, though the site is within the distribution area of this ware.

All of the pottery was spot dated by Don Mackreth, except that from the rubbish pit F193. The most useful dating evidence was provided by Black Burnished ware copies and diagnostic Nene Valley ware forms. The presence of shell-tempered wares supported a later third- or fourth-century date. The quantities of this ware varied from enclosure to enclosure. In Enclosure A, for example, the low proportion (4.4%) supported an early-to-mid fourth-century cut-off date for activity, whereas in pit F193 (14.4%) and Enclosure C (10%), the proportions supported a mid-to-late fourth-century date.

Other characteristic later features of the assemblage were sherds of overfired Nene Valley ware with an almost metallic sheen to the colour coat; and fragments of shell-tempered imbrex and *tegula*. Only one context (1259), which contained approximately half of a mid-to-late second-century Samian bowl and second-century imitation Black Burnished ware, was attributed an earlier date, although occasional sherds of residual pottery were present in most groups.

The range of forms included jars, bowls, dishes and mortaria. Relatively few beakers were included, however, and no 'Castor boxes'.

Almost 30 kg. of tile were also recovered, the majority of which was shell-tempered. Metalwork was not common and small quantities of iron smithing slag and iron nails probably do not represent metalworking activity of any importance on or near the site, though the concentration of the slag in one area might have some significance. Iron knives, a cleaver and a copper alloy bracelet and 15 coins were among the few smaller items recovered.

Environmental Evidence

One of the most important aspects of the project was the recovery of environmental

6 *Ibid.*

Figure 4. *The site looking northwest. (Photo: E. Newton)*

data which will allow a further dimension to be brought to the study of the Romano-British activity here. Every layer was sampled initially and information from sample processing was fed back rapidly to allow a targeted strategy to be worked out. Twenty-three individual features contained a small number of charred cereal grains, and 11 others contained moderate to large amounts of grain, the majority of these more prolific samples coming from the northwestern part of the Phase 2 'ladder' enclosure where there was a greater density of activity.

Ground conditions were also suitable for some sampling for pollen, beetles and molluscs, and some waterlogged wood was also recovered. Initial analysis of the beetles showed that they were species typical of an open pastoral environment where grazing animals were present.

Animal bone was also recovered during excavation and sampling. For the purposes of this interim report, samples representing approximately 50% of the main stratified groups were briefly examined. The assemblage was dominated by the usual domesticates: cattle and sheep/goat (only sheep was identified at this time) were the most common; horse and pig were scarcer. Bones representing all parts of the skeleton were found. Two partial skeletons and several single bones of dogs were identified. One red deer bone and two fragments of antler, one with saw marks, and one goose bone were noted. Also present was the distal half of a humerus from a human foetus/infant, found in the backfill of the north ditch of Enclosure C.

While this was a relatively small assemblage, its study will give some idea of the relative frequency of the different animals represented. Individual points of interest worth noting include a horse proximal phalanx found to have an unhealed layer of periostitis covering the diaphysis. A small amount of gnawing and secondary butchery marks were present, though no primary ones were examined in the sample.

While the finding of a single bone of a human foetus or infant might not have any great significance (finds of full infant burials are relatively common on Romano-British rural sites), it might represent more than simple redeposition of material from a disturbed burial. It has been argued by Eleanor Scott that there is an indisputable concordance between such burials and agricultural

features or buildings at villa sites,[7] and that behind this might lie the control of parts of the agricultural domain by women through manipulation of symbols and actualities of reproduction and fertility, both agricultural and human. The deposition at Little Paxton in a boundary or enclosure ditch of a single infant bone, or a full burial of which only a single bone remained, might represent a symbolic marker.

Discussion

Area excavation has greatly enhanced our understanding of this complex Romano-British enclosure group. The majority of the cropmark features were identified in plan and three main phases of Roman activity were defined. In addition, many smaller features such as narrow field boundaries and individual post-holes not apparent from the air were also identified. Of particular importance were the definition and excavation, along the eastern and western margins of the site, of features sealed beneath a deeper overburden that masked them from detection by aerial photography, and the identification of a stream-course running along the western margin of the site and forming a boundary to Romano-British activity. The results of such an extensive programme of area excavation will allow a critical examination of the data which have been provided, and will help to devise an informed strategy for any further work in the area.

The survival of archaeological deposits was confined to 'negative' features cut into the natural sands and gravels. Features such as banks or floors were not identified; ploughing from the medieval period onwards had caused severe truncation of the cut features and might have obliterated slighter features such as post-holes or beam-slots. Despite this truncation, it is important to emphasise the richness and variety of the artefactual, faunal and ecofactual evidence obtained during excavation, especially from the waterlogged deposits.

During the earliest period of Romano-British activity at Little Paxton, small fields or plots were laid out following common alignments. Perhaps the earliest arrangement was represented by the curvilinear ditched field boundaries, which might be from their morphology, of Iron Age origin. These features were limited in extent, possibly as a result of truncation. The rectilinear pattern of field boundaries was defined more widely. This might have defined small fields or plots, possibly laid out in *half-actus* units (18 m.). Such small plots, possibly used for market gardening, have been recognised elsewhere, as at, for instance, Brockworth, Gloucestershire.[8]

The alignment of the Phase 2 Enclosure A represented a degree of continuity with the alignments established by the Phase 1 field system, although the ditched enclosure probably reflected a marked change in site function. The northern and southern ditched limits of this enclosure were found, but its eastern and western sides lay beyond the excavated area. The two double ditches appeared to be broadly contemporary, but their differing morphologies could suggest different uses. In particular, the shallower depth of the southern ditch on its northern side could suggest a function as a palisade trench, although no evidence of the post-holes for timber uprights was found. It is possible that the slighter pair of ditches cut to the south contained a palisade, although no evidence of this structure was found during excavation. Some attempt had been made to keep the northern pair of ditches clean after their infilling. Enclosure B might have been laid out during the lifetime of Enclosure A, and could have formed a compound or stockade.

Three small foci of activity were defined within the interior of Enclosure A. It is possible that other internal features might have been ploughed out. Remains of a number of presumably timber-framed structures were recorded in the centre and west of the enclosure. No complete ground plan of any of these structures was recovered. The central occupation included a well, which might indicate settlement here, although the interior buildings could alternatively have been barns or stables. The tank might have been cut as a drinking trough for animals.

The third and last phase of Romano-British activity, after the abandonment of Enclosure A, was marked by the laying out of a field system, following a new east–west alignment, in turn superseded by Enclosure C to the east. Pottery from the ditches of this enclosure provided a *terminus* for its use in the fourth century, although no trace of structures was found within the interior. This evidence suggested that use of the site

7 Eleanor Scott, 'Animal and infant burials in Romano-British villas: a revitalization movement', in P. Garwood, D. Jennings *et al.* (eds), *Sacred and Profane* (Oxford 1991) pp.115–21.

8 B. Rawes, 'The Romano-British site at Brockworth, Gloucestershire', *Britannia* 12 (1981) pp.45–77.

might have continued to the end of the Romano-British period, and further analysis could provide valuable information concerning sub-Roman activity. Finds from the ditch fills indicated the presence of a settlement nearby, including, it would seem, buildings roofed with *tegulae*.

The size of the area examined at Little Paxton and the sample of deposits excavated should allow some degree of spatial analysis to be carried out on the finds that have been recovered. While this analysis must await for full post-excavation study to be completed, some valid on-site observations of finds patterning can be made here.

Rubbish dumping in the Phase 2 and Phase 3 enclosure ditches was common but no classic rubbish pits as such were encountered. The shallow, elongated pit F193 might, however, have been used for this purpose. The finds were generally concentrated in the lower ditch fills, with the exception of Enclosure E where dumping was associated with the upper fills. There was a marked difference between the scale of dumping into the northern and southern boundary ditches of Enclosure A, with many more finds coming from the former, which might suggest that the main settlement focus lay outside the enclosure to the north. Again, the cluster of features in the northwestern part of this enclosure, especially, the ovoid 'pit' F193, contained significant numbers of potsherds and other finds. Perhaps some reflection of the presence of distinct 'activity areas' nearby can be seen in the distribution of animal bone and iron smithing slag, with more bone being found away from the western end of Enclosure A and slag being found largely along, and in the northern terminal of, north–south ditch F151 of Enclosure C.

In Enclosure C, notable concentrations of finds largely came from the ditch terminals, while in ditch F311 of Enclosure A the burial of a complete sheep's skull might again be of some significance. Given the sometimes 'ritual' disposal of rubbish so well attested for the Iron Age in Britain, the study of the data of the distribution of finds from the Romano-British site at Little Paxton needs to be undertaken with an open mind towards the continuation of such practices.

Conclusion

Rural sites of the Romano-British period are seriously under studied in Britain as a whole and pleas have recently been made for a realignment of national research priorities and strategies to restore the study of such sites to the place it deserves in the discipline.[9] These non-villa establishments would have played a vital role in the rural economic and social system and their designation as being low in the hierarchy of settlements in Roman Britain belies their sheer ubiquity and variety.

The scale of archaeological investigations on the Roman site at Little Paxton has allowed the collection of a good quality data set, including environmental evidence, whose study should allow a significant contribution to be made to local, regional and national research. The archaeology of the Ouse Valley is at present receiving a great deal of attention from archaeologists, and the wider Little Paxton area, with three large sites of different broad chronological periods located here within a relatively small area, should be able to answer many questions about the economic exploitation of the valley environment. These three large sites, theRomano-British site, a mainly Middle Iron Age site to the west, and a Late Iron Age site, possibly of the so-called Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA) period, to the north, obviously represent a shifting of settlement focus, perhaps as a result of hydrological fluctuation and change. Continued archaeological work will, we hope over the next few years, allow a *longue durée* view to be taken of the environment of the valley, and will contribute in particular to the recent debate on levels of agricultural exploitation and intensification from the Iron Age onwards into the Roman period.[10]

One of the most interesting potential avenues of future research concerns the function and status of the LPRIA site at Little Paxton and its place in the network for receiving imported wares in the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age: the presence of possibly Gallic mica-dusted ware and Samian, recovered during

9 R. Hingley, *Rural Settlement in Roman Britain* (London 1989); R. Hingley, 'The Romano-British countryside: the significance of rural settlement', in R.F.J. Jones (ed.), *Roman Britain: Recent Trends* (Sheffield 1991) pp.75–80; R. Hingley, 'Past, present and future: the study of the Roman period in Britain', *Scottish Archaeological Review* 8 (1991) pp.90–101.

10 M. Jones, 'Agriculture in Roman Britain: the dynamics of change', in M. Todd (ed.), *Research on Roman Britain 1968–1989* (London 1989) pp.127–34; M. Fulford, 'The landscape of Roman Britain: a review', *Landscape History* 12 (1990) pp.25–31.

trial excavation here, intriguingly group this site with high status sites as discussed by Trow[11] and suggest that this site was not merely of simple farming establishment or community. The presence of two adjacent sites of seemingly the LPRIA and the Romano-British period raise many questions about their temporal as well as their spatial and functional relationships.

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11 S. Trow, 'By the northern shores of ocean: some observations on acculturation process at the edge of the Roman world', in T. Blagg and M. Millett (eds), *The Early Roman Empire in the West* (Oxford 1990) pp.103–19.

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