

## Romano-British Structures

### The Structures.

Twelve clear or near certain structures were excavated within the enclosure. These ranged from the most ephemeral traces to substantial signs of earthfast buildings. The penumbra of post holes which crossed the site clearly denote the existence of others, but in view of the fact the time was short, these have been omitted, but the possibility that there are a number of missing components to this picture is stressed here.

#### Structure 1 (Fig 00). Atlas 14 (1200N/710E)

The structure survives as five parallel beam slots (6525, 6263, 6502, 6504 and 6508) – the southern two being truncated by an oval (modern) pit (6506). The slots are into the natural, and giving the structure an approximate dimension of 14 by 28 feet. Within the slots there were clear traces of several post ‘ghosts’, set into the ends of each slot, which indicate the presence of a substantial timber superstructure. The building type is most uncommon on civilian rural sites, but has a number of early military parallels (e.g. Usk), where they are interpreted as granaries; as such this is also the suggested function of the building here.

#### Structure 2; the long house (Fig 00). Atlas 14 (1190N/760E)

To the north of the gateway (just to the west of Structure 1) was a rectangular building set in a foundation trench (6486, 6500, and 6531). The eastern end of the building was not well preserved but traces of a possible return were noted close to its possible south east corner, which indicates that it had overall dimensions of *c.* 17 x 8m. Stake holes, probably the remains of wattle uprights, were observed in the wall trenches on three of the four sides of the building, being particularly clear at the western end of the structure (as multicut 6510). On three of its four sides the wall trench was surrounded by a shallow second trench (6488, 6537), with a rounded western end and traces of a curve at the eastern end. It seems likely that the feature was an eavesdrip gully, its rounded ends suggesting that the building itself had been thatched rather than tiled. Certain features of the gully, however, are enigmatic. A series of staggered stakeholes were noted at its northwest corner, almost certainly indicating uprights of one or more wattle hurdles. It is difficult to see the purpose of such fitments – either they were added to the building to form some kind of reinforcement at its northwest corner, or the gully itself may have been a fence line of some kind.

Internal structure features are hard to identify: the building was later the site of a Saxon post hole building (PHB 37; Hamerow forthcoming), and there is nothing which can be definitively related to it save, perhaps, post holes 13270 and 6478, which may have been part of some internal porch.

#### *Dating Evidence*

Dating evidence is extremely scant. Pottery recovered from both the **gully(?)** and the main foundation trenches is no later than the Antonine period, and in the absence of demonstrably later material it should probably be dated to the time of the main occupation of the enclosure, which is essentially Hadrianic to later Antonine.

#### Structure 3 (DWD 8). Atlas 14 (1170N/790E)

Post-dating Structure 2 was foundation trench (6482). The 8m long feature lay at right angles to a similar trench (6402), *c.* 12.5m in length, with a projecting linear feature to the south (6446) some 4m in length. Trench 6402 was aligned perpendicular to the enclosure ditch. Details of the structure are extremely scant, but the two foundation trenches together form two sides of a rectangle measuring *c.* 11 x 14m. Trench 6482 contained a series of post holes, but no other details of construction were observed at the time of the excavation, and it is not possible to add much to the details given here.

#### *Dating evidence*

This structure appears to date from the mid second century onwards, on the basis of pottery found in the foundation trenches. 6482 contained a second century grey ware jar base fragment and some tile, 6402 also contained some pottery and tile fragments from the first and second centuries, and 6446 contained plain and bead-rimmed grey ware dishes which are Antonine or later.

#### **Structure 4 (SQ 00). Atlas 14 (1200N/650E)**

This structure comprises two parallel foundation trenches each *c.* 4m long (15007 and 15082) constructed over Round House 68, just to the west of the fence line 15048. No sign of foundations were noted on the east and west sides but there seems to be little doubt that the slots were the ends of a small (4 x 5.5m) rectangular shed-like structure, possibly a lean-to constructed hard against the fence line dividing the north subdivision of the enclosure.

#### **Structure 5 (Fig 00). Atlas 11 (1080N/660E)**

Immediately to the north of Well 4, a building identified as an aisled barn was found and excavated. It comprised two rows of substantial pits identified as five paired timber uprights of an aisled barn. The post holes are paired up as follows – 15104/6 and 15031, 15027 and 15032, 15330/2 and 15306; 15322/4 and 15308, and finally 15316/8 and 15310. At the north and south ends single post holes were noted on the same alignment, which may be the survivors of three further pairs, giving seven or eight bays in all, each *c.* 1.22m in width. The southern end of the building appears to have been truncated by a recent ditch but just to its north it is clear that the weathering cone of Well 4 was enlarged, truncating it. No traces were noted of walling, either foundations or otherwise, but the dimensions of the aisle posts confirm a building of at least *c.* 21 x 7m. No traces of internal divisions were seen, but their former existence cannot be discounted. Evidence of burnt daub and other material recovered from Well 4 may be associated with this building.

#### *Dating Evidence*

If the burnt building materials in Well 4 are from this building, it suggests it was destroyed by fire towards the close of the 2nd century.

#### **Structure 6. Atlas 11 (1080N/645E)**

Also to the immediate north of Well 4 is another, smaller, aisled building. It shares some post holes with Structure 5, although their relationship is unclear. The post holes are paired as follows – 15322/4 and 15326/8, 15316/8 and 15320, 15314 and 15334, and finally 15312 and 15336. These post holes taper inwards at the north end of the building, although the western row of post holes has the same alignment as the western row in Structure 5. The post holes form a line 12m long and a central aisle that would have been 4m wide. However, the actual building itself would have been wider, with 2 further aisle external to the remaining columns of post holes.

#### **Structure 7; the entrance structure (Fig 000). Atlas 14 (1110N/805E)**

The main entrance to the enclosure was a timber flanked gateway, which consisted of a nine post structure, comprising two rows of three post-settings flanking the entrance (the central posts being paired) – on the south side, 6382, 6384/6386, 6388; on the north side, 6410, 6390 and 6372. There is also a single (unnumbered) post-hole in the middle of the carriageway, confirming that the gate itself was two-leaved. It almost certainly was designed to admit wheeled traffic (the granary alone would have required frequent access by vehicles).

#### **Structure 8. Atlas 14 (1250N/710E)**

A little to the north east of the granary (Structure 1), a single short (4m) length of a foundation trench was excavated (6571). This is thought to be the southern end of a small rectangular shed or lean-to. The northern end of this structure may have been dug into the tail of the earthwork backing the north enclosure

ditch, and is thus missing, having been truncated. If this is the correct interpretation of feature 6571, the structure measured some 4 x 5-6m.

#### **Structure 9 (PG 71). Atlas 14 (1240N/670E)**

Just to the west of the fence line (mc 15048), with its entrance abutting it, was a roundhouse (PG 71) with a wall trench (15003) and a substantial eavesdrip gully (15001). The structure was *c.*2.91m in diameter.

#### *Dating evidence*

Dating evidence from the wall trench is scant, but material from the eavesdrip gully includes substantial quantities of Antonine and later Antonine pottery. It was thus clearly used as a refuse tip well into the second century.

#### **Structure 10. Atlas 7 (210N/460E)**

Just to the S of NW/SE trending ditch 201 and its recut 654, at a distance of *c.* 10' and running parallel to it are two small slots. The northern slot (680) is some 33' long, and the southern slot (677) is shorter. They diverge slightly to the north. The structure is cut on its northern side – across slot 680 – by SFB (((GH)))38, and the SE end of the structure is destroyed by the modern field ditch 1072.

The N end of the structure was not fully explored, the area being partially obstructed by the July 68 position of the gravel conveyor.

While some pits (662, 664, 666) lie within the two slots, it is not certain whether they are connected with the structure itself.

The slots possibly represent the foundation of a shed-like structure.

#### **Structure 11; Prehistoric stake-built rectangular building (PHB 55). Atlas 3 (320N/250E)**

(Planned by photographs also)

Aligned with its narrow end (8490) on the Bronze Age ditch 8464 are six shallow gullies, marked by post holes (8485, 8503, 8490, 8493 and 8500). It is uncertain whether the structure pre-dates the outer ditch of the south rings (ditch 310), but it clearly pre-dates the modern field ditch 317. A short length of the NE side (8485) is visible to the NE of this ditch but little of the S end of this structure is discernable. Two larger gullies, on the same general alignment (8506, 8517) *may* be connected into the structure but it would seem more likely that gully 13465, with its 9 post holes is probably the southern end.

#### *Dating evidence*

Excavation in this area unfortunately approached salvage conditions and it is impossible to be more precise about the date of this structure, which measures *c.* 25' x 60'.

Add, please, something about the enigmatic curved structures to the NE of this feature (8479, 8482). Are they roundhouses, or what?

8485:

8503:

8490:

8500:

13465:

Slot 686:

Slot 677:

#### **Structure 12. Atlas 6 (520N/350E)**

Some 85' to the NE of structure 11 above, a pair of linear slots (4902 – the other is not numbered) run on a converging course for some 40' before terminating in a pair of post holes. On the N side they run into a small slot at right angles.

The structure ?post dates the BA ditch (4922?) but appears to be cut by ?early Roman ditch 4876. It is impossible to be more specific about what this structure actually represents as the ditches are separated, at their widest, by only 3-4'. The pits and post holes to the south do not appear to form a clear pattern of any kind and few produced finds.

#### **Structure 00. Atlas 7 (000N/000E)**

This is one of a number of enigmatic and extremely fragmentary structures in the enclosure 201/1226/3960/1009. Much activity clearly occurred here in the LPRIA – early Roman era and beyond but excavation records here approach the skimpy.

The enclosure appears to be divided up on its N/S axis into linear parcels of land by fenced gullies 283/281, and by (((page ends here)))

(((Is this data referring to the RBII Annexe which is formed by ditches with those numbers listed? Or is this about a structure *within* the RBII Annexe?)))

#### **Undated structures (but not AS)**

##### **Structure a. Atlas 8 (570N/480E)**

Just to the east of PG 113 lies a rectangular structure 17'x 35'. The northeastern end is not clear, and the structure is cut by two large pits. (((No finds information or further description on plan – are there any notebook references?))).

##### **Structure b. Atlas 10 (970N/220E)**

To the southeast of Grubenhau 83 lies a set of post holes which appear to indicate a structure. Only the southern corner is clear, since the rest is obscured by a series of large pits and many other post holes.

There were very few finds in the post holes of this structure. There was some fired clay, animal bones and some (((unspecified – more info in notebooks?))) pottery, as well as (((unidentified))) iron.

##### **Structure c. Atlas 13 (1340N/250E)**

This structure lies to the north of PG 69 and the 'Banjo' Enclosure. It appears to be a small (c.13' x c.27') rectangular building, which was given the label 'mc [multicut] 12661. No finds were associated with any of the post holes from which it is formed.

##### **Structure d. Atlas 13 (1325N/270E)**

Immediately to the south of Structure c, lays this Structure. It is a small, almost square (c.5m x c.5m), post hole building with the number mc12663.

##### **Structure e. Atlas 13 (1360N/240E)**

This structure lies north of ditch 5639. Only the northeastern wall and part of each short end appear to survive, with the remaining walls having possibly been destroyed by ditch 5639. This structure is c.28' long, with the width unknown.

##### **Structure f. Atlas 16 (1570N/370E)**

This structure is almost in between PGs 82 and 85. It has the number mc6182, and is a clear rectangular structure, c.45' x 25', which appears to cut ditch 10026 in two places (((check on CAD drawing))). The only finds were fired clay and (((unidentified))) pottery.

**Structure g. Atlas 18 (1770N/952E)**

This structure (mc11846?) is within the North Enclosure. It is 5m x 10m.

**Structure h. Atlas 20 (1995N/675E)**

This structure, mc10392, lies to the east of PG 102. It is sandwiched between two Anglo-Saxon PHBs (32 and 35). It is c.8m x c.4m, although the western edge is missing.

**Structure i. Atlas 20/22 (2095N/623E)**

This structure has the number mc25071. It is 22' long, by 13' wide. The post holes which make up the southern side cut into ditch 10446.

The finds include fired clay and pottery. (((No further detail of finds on illustration, but it says see Notebook)))

**Structure j. Atlas 22 (2180N/605E)**

This structure appears to have the number 25025 attached to it in the Atlas. It is a trapezoidal structure, tapering to its northeastern end. Its dimensions are c.8m x c.5m. Finds included charcoal and (((unidentified))) pottery.

**Structure k. Atlas 22 (2310N/730E)**

This structure has the number mc25200. It is c.4m wide, but its length is uncertain. It is at least 5m long, but if it continues with post holes to the southwest and other post holes shared with ka, it could be as long as c.9m.

The finds were sherds of FG (flint gritted) and ST (sand tempered?) pottery from the post holes.

**Structure ka. Atlas 22 (2320N/720E)**

This is an interesting feature. It may be a separate structure, or perhaps a lean-to attached to Structure k. It is c.4m square, and just to the northwest of Structure k.

**Structure l. Atlas 23 (2325N/920E)**

This is a difficult to interpret structure. The MPX phase illustrations suggest that it is a small, narrow structure (c.4m x c.2m) along a similar alignment to ditch 25718. However, closer investigation of the Atlas shows that this may be just the northeastern end and part of an internal division or rebuilding event for a larger structure (c.8m x c.4m).

**Structure m. Atlas 8 (680N/510E)**

This is a long thin structure (c.9m x c.4m). It is east of PG 39, and on the outskirts of Anglo-Saxon cemetery II.

**Structure n. Atlas 10 (1060N/300E)**

To the northwest of PHB 53 lies another post hole building. It is c.5m wide, but its length is difficult to determine due to the proliferation of pits and post holes at its southwestern end.