

Roman Wells

Well 1

The relationship between Well 1 and Grubenhau 58 is very confused. It is unclear whether Grubenhau 58 really is a Grubenhau, or whether it is merely the top fill of Well 1. Saxon pottery could come from Grubenhau 59 next to Well 1 [and not from GH 58 as initially assumed??].

Well 1 was at least 4.88m deep, with a timber frame of approximately 1.22m square. This well cuts F59.

There was not a large quantity of pottery recovered, but of note was a late possibly North African amphora found at the c.0.36-0.41m level. Other materials discovered in the well were stone, tile, animal bone (representing horse, ox, pig and sheep), C.C. [colour coated pottery?] and T.S. [Terra sigillata?].

Well 3 is therefore dated to the mid to late 3rd century AD.

Well 2. 160N/530E

There is considerable confusion over the co-ordinates of Well 2 and nearby Grubenhau 62. Pottery labelled 165x525 was altered to 170x525. However, it is known that Well 2 was at least 1.37m deep, and had no timber frame.

There was very little pottery in Well 2, although other materials recovered include stone, tile, animal bone and flint. However, this feature remains undated.

Well 3. 182N/554E

The relationship between Well 3 and Grubenhau 63 is very confused. The excavator believed that Well 3 was cut by Grubenhau 63, and the well was noted later out of the two features. There was very little pottery found, and therefore the date of the well is difficult to determine. Other materials recovered were stone, animal bone, part of a lava stone quern, and tile.

Well 3 was at least 2.90m deep, and the lack of timbers makes it uncertain whether it had a frame.

According to the excavator, the material from within this well “need not be later than the late 2nd century AD” (NB 68.81). The well is thought to have been initially dug around c.AD100-120. At around AD120-160, it appears that more materials may have been thrown into the well to level the ground surface.

Well 4 (Atlas 11). 1050N/635E

This well was dug into Thanet sand, measured approximately 0.76m by 0.18m and was at least 11m deep. It was one of two wells in the Double-Ditched Enclosure. Well 4 was cut by a modern ditch.

This was excavated to a depth of *c* 13m. The shaft was sub-rounded, but the wall lining was timber lined, *c* 4'8" x 4'3". The weathering cone of the well (15286) was unusually extensive, *c* 8m in width (see plate 000), suggesting that the feature may have been cleared, or used as a hollow, perhaps a pond, in the later Roman era. This work appears to have resulted in the truncation of one of the possible timber uprights of the aisled barn (15248; see above). The backfilling of the well appears to have been under way for some considerable time before it was finally chosen as the place to dump the burnt remains of what must have been a substantial dwelling. Over a tonne of daub was thrown into it, together with a substantial assemblage of Samian (all but 4 of which can be assigned to potters from Lezoux), coarse wares, and ironwork (see section III, below).

Date of backfill:

The shaft and weathering cone contained an enormous assemblage of pottery (the Samian above totalling over 30 EVES), much of which was burnt. Together with the structural daub (see below) this material filled the well shaft. It is not entirely clear whether the main shaft material was burnt, but it is probable that 1) either the well was backfilled and *then* used as a dump for the burnt debris, or 2) the burnt debris was all shot into the well. ??? suggests that the top metre or so was filled with burnt pottery, therefore the main backfilling had been carried out prior to this date. This is almost certainly in fact the case: though by how much the backfilling, it is impossible to guess.

Much of the pottery dates from around the 2nd century AD, with some forms also in use until the 3rd or even 4th centuries AD.

(A[rchive]V[essels]547-562; 532-546; 563-583; 584-602; 603-615.
470-482; 483-492; 493-505;)
(Get AV Nrs off drawing index)

Well 5. 570N/693E

The excavation of Well 5 was carried out rather hastily after dragline cleaning, using forks and shovels to excavate in 6" spits.

The well has a gully running into it on its [?] side, giving it a rather irregular shape in section as well. Well 5 was at least 2.13m deep, with two wood stains at this level which suggest it had a timber frame in the narrow well shaft.

Finds include a bronze bracelet, flint flakes, fired clay, tile, animal bone, and pottery (some of which was decorated).

Well 5 appears to have had steps cut into one side of its opening, perhaps to serve as access to the water hole.

Well 6 (Area 737E x 942N) Atlas 11

Description

Well 6 (15450) lay in a hollow (15452) in the brickearth area in the SE subdivision of the DD Enc, at a point some 15' from the inner ditch 63(((?)))98. It was excavated to a depth of: ...

Dating & disuse: Well 6, like well 4 (above), contained a substantial assemblage of pottery which had been shot into the shaft (Archive vessels 1331-3, 1335-1497), often in layered pieces. The presence in the shaft fill of flange-rimmed bowls (AV 1371, 1385 (most at 72-84"), 1411, 1420, 1428, 1457, 1464, 1467, 1478, 1484-5 and, unlocated 1496) suggests that the filling did not occur until some time around very shortly after the mid-third century. The form range was not as wide as that for Well 4, beakers being hardly at all represented (AV 1462, 1341, 1390). The weathering cone produced some later 4th century material but this is probably derived from makeup in the slumping shaft. There was little early material in the shaft – era late 2nd century. Samian?

Cutting of the well?:

Well 7 190S 420E (NB 361.81)

See Plans 4065, 4078 for details

Well 8 105S, 505E (NB 362.56)

See Plan 4078 for details