



# BURTON LATIMER BUNGALOW (BL1744)

## Introduction

An open area excavation was carried out at The Bungalow; Higham Road, Burton Latimer between 28<sup>th</sup> March and 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012 after trial trenching revealed the presence of significant archaeological features. Due to lack of space the site was excavated in two parts. Initially the northern area of site was machine excavated down to the depth of the archaeological deposits. On the completion of excavations at the northern end the top and subsoil were reinstated and the southern end stripped and excavated.

## Chronological summary

See figure for Phase, Landuse and G assignments.

- **Phase 4** (later Romano-British): settlement
- **Phase 5** (medieval): open fields
- **Phase 6** (modern): ditches and tree-throws holes

## Late Romano-British

### Rectilinear enclosures L29/L15

All the features at the northern end of the site produced pottery of Roman date, mostly 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century. Indicating the site to be a continuation of the settlement examined to the north in previous excavations BL1725.

The major boundary ditch G32 previously identified in the area to the north continues to the southwest G104 and G114 (L15). A smaller ditch G104 possibly represents an earlier phase of the boundary. It was heavily truncated and contained no artefacts. The profile of the later larger boundary ditch G114 varied from V to U shaped with consistently steep sides. It was between 2.2m and 2.5m wide and between 0.9m and 1.05m deep. A single sherd of 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery was recovered, along with a fragment of roof tile (tegula) and three iron hobnails dated to the Roman period RAs 16 and 17.

NE-SW aligned enclosure ditch G103 and re-cut G113 (L29) which was the continuation of G33 in the previous excavation was also revealed. The south-eastern side of the enclosure was defined by large boundary ditch G104/G114. It enclosed an area of c.1345sqm. The depth and profile of the ditches varied considerably with shallow concave profiles meeting in the western corner and deeper V shaped profiles, 0.88 and 0.95m in depth, towards the northern and southern corners respectively. Enclosure ditch G103 contained a relatively large amount of pottery and building material, consisting mostly of roof tile fragments. The pottery dates largely to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Three Iron nails, an iron staple, part of a lead alloy strip and a copper alloy coin fragment, were also recovered. Two glass items, a red ring setting and the rim and neck of a clear flask were dated to the 1st/2<sup>nd</sup> centuries and the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> centuries respectively.

A small rectangular sub-enclosure G101, identified in the NE corner of enclosure L29 was made up of at least four shorter steep sided ditch segments forming the SW and NW sides. The south eastern limit of enclosure is again marked by the major boundary ditch G104/G114. Presuming the extent of the area enclosed is visible in



the site to the north it enclosed an area of c.530sqm. Ditch G101 contained pottery, building material, two iron nails and two hobnails, all Roman with a slight bias in the pottery towards the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century. A fragment of iron knife and two copper alloy coins, one of which also dates to the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century, were also recovered. The only feature located within the enclosures was a small gully G119 revealed during trial trenching. However, its extent was not visible in the open area excavation.

#### Adjacent activity foci L34

Two areas of inter-cutting pits G105 and G106 were located to the south of enclosure L29. G105 included an upper fill which contained a large amount animal bone (264 fragments) possibly the disarticulated remains of a horse. Pottery and building material were also present in both the upper and lower deposits. G106 consisted of similar inter-cutting pits some taking a more shallow linear form apparently respecting boundary G104/G114.

Four postholes G102 were located in the northern corner of the excavation, just outside enclosure L29. One contained a small amount of Roman building material.

A number of features at the southern end of the site produced no dating evidence. A short gully G107 aligned NE-SW contained 120 fragments of animal bone but no datable artefacts. Although a cluster of two pits and three postholes G108 produced only a single sherd of abraded Roman pottery and an undated flint, it is likely, given their proximity to the Roman settlement that they are of similar date.

Similarly, single pit G109 produced no artefacts. It was distinctive in shape with a steep V-shaped profile. It measured 1.3m in length, 0.7m in width and 1m deep.

## **Medieval**

### Furrows

The site was heavily truncated in places by medieval furrows G112 (L41). These were aligned NW-SE and spaced c. 8m apart. They were between 0.8m - 3m wide and 0.05m and 0.2m deep. Furrows on the same alignment were found within the previous excavation area to the north.

## **Modern**

### Tree-throws holes

Several irregular features were identified across the excavation area interpreted as tree-throws holes: G110, G111, G115 and G120. There is a possibility that some of these features represent hedge-lines. To the south east of this a small patch of rooting produced a single sherd of very heavily abraded pottery of pre-Roman date.



Group	Group Short Description	Landuse Area	Landuse Short Description
101	Gully	29	Rectilinear enclosure
101.1	Sole fill of gully G101	29	Rectilinear enclosure
102	Four postholes	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
102.1	Sole fill of postholes G102	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
103	Enclosure ditches	29	Rectilinear enclosure
103.1	Sole fill of enclosure ditches G103	29	Rectilinear enclosure
104	Main boundary ditch	15	Main rectilinear 'ladder' enclosure system
104.1	Sole fill of main boundary ditch G104	15	Main rectilinear 'ladder' enclosure system
105	Quarry pits	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
105.1	Initial fill of quarry pits G105	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
105.2	Final fill of quarry pits G105	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
106	Quarry pits	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
106.1	Sole fill of quarry pits G106	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
107	Short gully	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
107.1	Sole fill of short gully G107	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
108	Cluster of two pits and three postholes	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
108.1	Sole fill of pits and postholes	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
109	Large pit	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
109.1	Sole fill of pits G109	34	Associated activity outside the enclosures
110	Tree-throws holes to west	33	Treethrows
110.1	Sole fill of tree-throws G110	33	Treethrows
111	Tree-throw hole	35	Treethrows
111.1	Sole fill of tree-throw G111	35	Treethrows
112	Furrows	41	Ridge and furrow
112.1	Sole fill of furrows G112	41	Ridge and furrow
113	Re-cut of enclosure ditch G103	29	Rectilinear enclosure
113.1	Sole fill of enclosure ditch re-cut G113	29	Rectilinear enclosure
114	Recut of main boundary ditch	15	Main rectilinear 'ladder' enclosure system
114.1	Sole fill of main boundary ditch recut G114	15	Main rectilinear 'ladder' enclosure system
115	Central tree-throw holes	33	Treethrows
115.1	Sole fill of tree-throw G115	33	Treethrows
116	Overburden	42	Overburden
117	Natural	-	
118	Modern	38	Modern ditches
119	Unexcavated ditch	29	Rectilinear enclosure
120	Tree-throw holes to east	35	Treethrows
120.1	Sole fill of tree-throws G120	35	Treethrows

