

TRIAL EXCAVATIONS AT
DERBY RACECOURSE PARK

by

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the excavation of trenches across the north end of Derby Racecourse Park in September - November 1990, to assess the impact on archaeological remains of a proposed planning application to construct car parking, all weather football pitches and a pavilion in this area.

The Roman road between Little Chester and Sawley crosses this area east-west, and its line is known from previous excavations which have sampled an industrial settlement and cemetery extending along its north side (Brassington 1971, Brassington 1980, Dool, 1985, Wheeler, 1985).

The present investigation began with a resistivity survey of a 200m square area, to be followed by trial trenching to assess the archaeological significance and quality of anomalies. This approach was abandoned after ground conditions were found to be unsuitable for geophysical survey methods. Twenty trenches were then dug to assess the extent and survival of the archaeological remains. Areas on both sides of the road were sampled at three points along its length in order to determine the probable extent north, south and east from the previously known area of occupation, testing the assumption that occupation in this area was a ribbon development in which the densest occupation was expected in the immediate roadside area with possible field systems beyond. Each trench was 2m wide and 20m long. Topsoil was stripped by machine down to archaeological levels and all but Trench 012 were then cleaned by hand. Test pits were excavated at a number of points to establish that subsoil had not been redeposited above archaeological deposits.

Features were allocated context codes but not excavated beyond surface cleaning. Finds recovered during cleaning were coded according to the underlying context.

SUMMARY

TRENCHES 002-012

Trenches 002-012 formed the western line of trenches. Trenches 004-009 produced evidence of the Roman road and roadside industrial activity at depths below the present ground surface between c. 0.15m (Trench 007) and c. 0.45m (Trench 005). Trenches 002, 003, 010, 011 and 012 were truncated by recent levelling and no archaeological levels have survived in these areas.

TRENCHES 013-019

The central line of trenches, 013-019, was also disturbed by recent activity but archaeological levels remained at a slightly greater depth, between c. 0.20m (Trench 017) and c. 0.70m (Trench 019). The metalled surface of the Roman road occurred in trench 018. Cremation and inhumation burials were found in Trench 017, east of the previously known extent of the Roman cemetery, and also south of the road in Trench 019. A rubble foundation found south of the road in Trench 019 may represent a funerary structure of the type previously found on the north side of the road (Wheeler, 1985). Field boundary ditches occurred in the northern trenches 014 and 015.

TRENCHES 021-022

Trench 021 revealed the Roman road continuing east but greatly disturbed by modern features. To the south Trench 022 was disturbed by modern features and there was no evidence of Roman activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Modern agricultural activities have damaged but by no means destroyed the archaeological remains, which are as shallow as c. 0.20m below the ground surface on the west side of the park. The most sensitive area lies between 80m north and 20m south of the Roman road and it is recommended that any building or landscaping should be sited beyond this area. To minimise damage, construction should be on raft foundations rather than breaking the surface, and services should be routed to avoid the sensitive roadside area. Landscaping should not include treeplanting within this area and any embankments should be created with imported material and not impinge on the roadside zone. Care should be taken that this area is not in any other way disturbed by contractors' plant. Any works carried out should be monitored to allow for salvage recording of any unforeseen archaeological features.

Interpretation of the site would enhance the amenity of this development and its setting. Advice on the form and content of site interpretation is available from English Heritage, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust and Derby City Museum.

Any development proposals remain subject to the granting of Scheduled Monument Consent, the requirements of which may vary these recommendations.

References

- Brassington, M., 1971 'A Trajanic kiln complex near Little Chester, Derby, 1968'
Antiqu. Journ. 51, 36-69
- Brassington, M., 1980 'Derby Racecourse kiln excavations 1972-3'
Antiqu. Journ. 60, 8-47
- Dool, J., 1985 'Derby Racecourse, excavations on the Roman industrial settlement, 1974'
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- Wheeler, H., 1985 'The Racecourse industrial area 1969 and 1973'; 'The Racecourse cemetery'
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TRENCH 002

The modern ground surface is 47.42-47.36m OD. Below topsoil, a wide, shallow, flat bottomed bowl shaped rubbish pit [100], 9m wide x 0.6m deep, was located at a level of 46.93-48.27m O.D. The fill comprised grey/brown earth and ash with late 19th C glass and pottery fragments. This area was otherwise featureless alluvial subsoil.

TRENCH 003

[Drawing 8]

The modern ground surface is 47.40-47.36m OD. Below topsoil, a subsoil of homogenous yellow brown alluvial clay [403] was located at a general level of approximately 46.78-46.45m OD.

This was cut by [202] a 0.22m deep layer of close packed pebbles and brick, which was cambered up to 46.99m OD. This appeared to form a path running east-west. The brick and pottery indicate an 18th-19th C date.

TRENCH 004

The modern ground surface is 47.40-47.23m OD. A featureless subsoil of yellow brown alluvial clay [300] was located below topsoil. A test pit was excavated at the south end, where the clay extended to a depth of 0.60m above dirty river gravel.

TRENCH 005

[Drawing 2]

The modern ground surface is 47.26-47.23m OD. Below topsoil, the alluvial clay subsoil [403] was located at a general level of approximately 46.80m OD. This was featureless apart from a roughly oval feature [402], 0.15-0.30m diameter, at the north end O.D.46.79. The fill was slightly darker than the natural clay and included large blocks of stone. Small abraded sherds of Roman pottery were found underneath the stones.

TRENCH 006

[Drawings 1 & 5]

The modern ground surface is 47.49-47.26m OD. Below topsoil, subsoil of alluvial clay was located at a level of 47.08m OD at the north end but levels rose to 47.25m OD at the south end. Near the south end a semicircular feature [501] extending from the eastern edge of the trench, 3.0m in diameter, was packed with pebbles and stones. Except at the outer edge, these were covered by fired red clay with lumps of charcoal [502]. A hollow [504] extending across the trench for more than 9.0m was filled with dirty brown yellow clayey loam. This was cut by four circular pits c0.60m diameter with a slightly darker fill. Finds came only from the areas above the small pits and 501/502. These included Roman and post medieval material.

TRENCH 007

[Drawings 4 & 6]

The modern ground surface is 47.49m OD. Below topsoil, features were located at a general level of approximately 47.18-47.35m OD. A roughly circular feature [602], diameter 0.20m, with a dark yellow brown fill included crushed pot and calcined bone; these were removed by vandals. A linear feature 0.80m wide extending east-west across the trench [603] was filled with brown clayey soil including crushed ironstone and scattered pebbles throughout. A linear feature [605] running north-south was filled by dirty grey-brown loamy soil with charcoal flecks. This was cut by a pit [604] filled with dirty brown clayey loam including large fragments of 19th C brick and cement. [605] also appeared to be cut by a linear feature [606] running east-west with a fill of dark grey-brown loam with orange ironstone flecks.

TRENCH 008

[Drawings 3 & 7]

The modern ground surface is 47.35-47.49m OD. Features were located at a general level of 47.14-47.34m OD. A series of parallel lines 0.01m wide [704] running east-west appeared to be ploughmarks. A band of dark brown earth lay across the south end of the trench, partly covered by an area of densely packed pebbles [702]. A spread of brown and yellow clay [701] was burnt red around large stone. A linear feature 1.20m wide running north-west to south-east [703] contained a brown earthy fill with orange flecks and scattered pebbles. Extending over the northern 6.0m of the trench on the projected line of the Roman road, [705] was medium brown clayey silt with rounded pebbles 0.01-0.08m diameter, possibly a disturbed remnant of the road surface. This surface is slightly cambered from 47.2m at the southern edge to 47.34m at the northern limit of excavation.

TRENCH 009

[Drawing 9]

The modern ground surface is 47.26-47.36m OD. Below topsoil, features were located at a general level of 46.97-47.05m OD.

A feature crossing the north end of the trench [801] was filled with dark brown clay, rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. This appeared to cut [802] a semi-circular hearth of clay and packed pebbles, diameter 2.4m, extending from the eastern edge of the trench. The centre was burnt dark brown clayey loam with charcoal flecks, burnt pebbles and brick. [803-809] was a series of irregular pits or post holes, 0.30-0.40m diameter, filled with yellow-brown clayey loam. A linear feature 1.0m wide [810] extended east-west at the centre of the trench. This was filled by dark brown clay with occasional pebbles, charcoal flecks and brick fragments. Dark yellow brown clay and loam with occasional charcoal brick flecks [811] extended over the southern half of the trench.

TRENCH 010

The modern ground surface is 47.26-47.31m OD. A featureless subsoil of alluvial clay was located at a general level of approximately 46.89m OD. This area appears to have been truncated by recent levelling; there is 0.30m of topsoil at the north end, but the turf directly overlies subsoil [900] at the south end.

TRENCH 011

The modern ground surface is 46.79-47.31m OD. Below topsoil, featureless subsoil of alluvial clay was located at a general level of approximately 46.86m OD. Truncated by recent levelling.

TRENCH 012

The modern ground surface is 46.79-46.98m OD. Below topsoil, featureless subsoil of alluvial clay was located at a general level of 45.84-46.61m OD. Truncated by recent levelling, as in the adjacent trenches

TRENCH 013

[Drawing 10]

The modern ground surface is 47.03-47.11m OD. Featureless subsoil of alluvial clay lay below a shallow depth of topsoil; alluvial deposits [121 122 123] were investigated to a depth of approximately 45.80m OD.

TRENCH 014

[Drawing 14]

The modern ground surface is 46.99-47.03m OD. Features were located at a general level of approximately 46.45-46.56m OD. A possible ditch [134], 0.70m wide, crossed the trench north-west - south-east. This was filled with silt and gravel, and one large stone block [132]. At the centre of the trench a semi-circular feature [133], diameter 2.2m, extending from the eastern limit of excavation was filled with silt and angular pebbles. A series of four post holes [135 136 137 138], diameters 0.50-0.70m, was cut into this; [135 and 136] included packing stones.

TRENCH 015

[Drawings 20, 21, 28, 29]

The modern ground surface is 47.01-46.99m OD. Below topsoil, features were located at a general level of approximately 44.16-44.19m OD. A modern cable trench crossed the southern 3.0m of the trench at 44.32m OD.

A 1.2m wide ditch [1431] extended east-west across the centre of the trench. The fill was dark brown silt including charcoal and fired clay flecks. Compacted gravel and pea-grit with occasional charcoal lumps [1432] extended through the trench, apparently overlain by dirty yellow brown clay [1433] on the west side of the trench. [1433] lay below darker clayey soil [1434] including Roman pottery, charcoal and fired clay flecks. This did not extend to the east side of the trench.

TRENCH 016

[Drawings 11, 12, 22, 23]

The modern ground surface is 47.01m OD. Below topsoil, features were located at a general level of 46.38-47.80m O.D.

The trench was disturbed by modern pits [1520 1540 1550] with ashy fills. A semi-circular area of burnt red clay [1530] extending from the eastern side of the trench, diameter 1.70m, was similar to the hearths found in trenches 006 [501/2] and 009 [802]. Finds from cleaning this feature were all modern. Two roughly parallel ditches [1570 1580] crossing the south end of the trench, 1.2-1.5m wide, were filled with yellow brown clayey loam with flecks of fired clay and charcoal. Loose dirty gravel and pea grit [1581] at north end of the trench may correspond with [1432] in Trench 015.

TRENCH 017

[Drawing 17]

The modern ground surface is 47.17-47.01m OD. Features were located at a general level of 46.50-46.81m OD. In the northern half of the trench three features [1610 1620 1634] are interpreted as graves aligned east-west. The grave cuts were round ended, up to 0.75m wide but of uncertain length. They were filled with charcoal flecked dark grey brown clayey soil; crushed bone occurred on the surface of [1620]. The graves lay between two parallel features, 0.70-0.80m wide, extending east-west. To the south [1630] was filled with yellow-brown clayey loam with charcoal flecks and many pebbles. 6.3m to the north, [1635] was filled with brown soil with fired clay fragments and pebbles. A cremation burial [1631] was found near the north end of the trench, comprising a circular area of dark grey-black burnt crumbly soil 0.40m in diameter, including fragments of burnt bone and charcoal. A narrow linear feature [1632] extended north-east from [1631]. This was 0.20m wide and filled by red-brown clay with flecks of fired clay and charcoal. The south-western end was lined with unfired red clay.

TRENCH 018

[Drawings 18 & 24]

The modern ground surface is 47.33-47.17m OD. Below topsoil, features were located at a general level of approximately 46.63-46.79m OD. On the projected line of the Roman road was a fragmentary surface of packed medium to large (0.02-0.10m) pebbles set in dark grey brown clayey soil with orange sandy patches, up to 4.0m wide [1732]. This was bounded on the south side by a 0.30m wide gulley [1734] filled with clayey loam. The road was cambered from 46.67m OD on the south edge to 46.79m OD at its highest point. The north side of the road surface was cut by an irregular pit [1735] filled with mid-brown clayey soil with occasional pebbles and charcoal. Finds from cleaning included a brown saltglaze inkpot. The pit was cut by one of a row of eight modern postholes [1736] extending down the east side of the trench. A modern pit [1738] lay in the north end of the trench.

TRENCH 019

[Drawings 19, 25, 26]

The modern ground surface is 47.12-47.33m OD. Below topsoil and tree root disturbance [1810], features were located at a general level of 46.66-46.75m OD.

Two graves were identified at the north end of the trench, both aligned north-south. [1863] possibly was cut by [1864] and both were cut by small modern pit [1865]. The roughly rectangular cuts were 1.9m and 2.0m long and more than 0.60m wide; both had similar fills of brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks and long bone fragments lying in the upper fill. 3.0m to the south smashed pelvis fragments [1862] lay on the surface but no grave cut was determined. A cremation burial in a pot [1850] was found at the south end of the trench, and one other pot scatter may represent a disturbed burial. Close to the south end of the trench was a spread of rubble partly covered by of dark brown grey silty clay with flecks of fired clay [1860], 1.80m wide. This included bone fragments, a fragment of burnt tegula, and a stone with a worked, grooved face. The feature is possibly the foundation of a funerary structure of the type found in the 1979 excavations (Wheeler, 1985). To the north lay an area of mixed dark sandy soil with charcoal flecks, tile and bone fragments [1861]. Similar dark soil extended north along the western edge of the trench. Buff clayey soil lay at the south end and the centre of the trench. Modern features included two postholes [1820 1840].

TRENCH 021

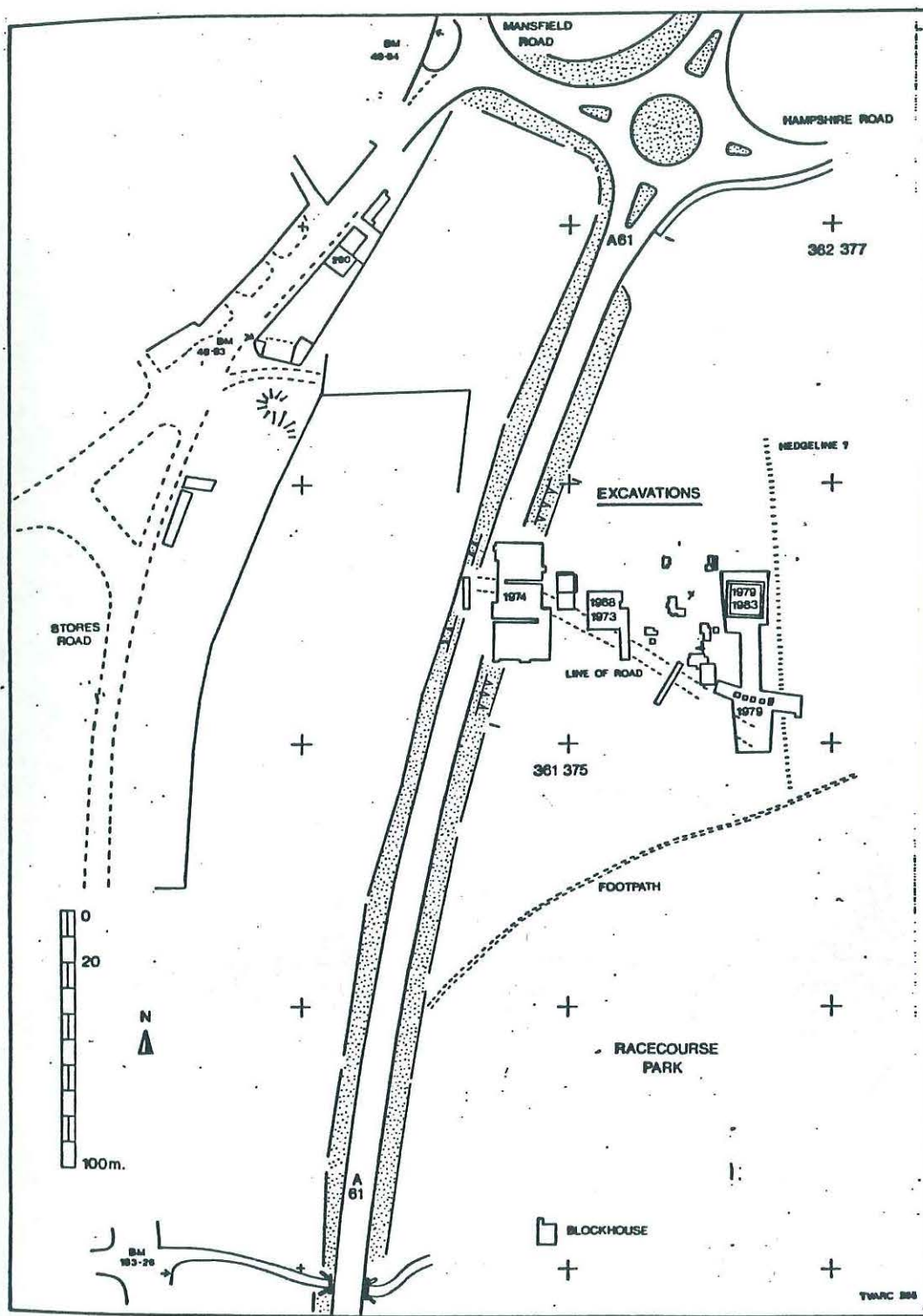
[Drawings 15 & 30]

The modern ground surface is 46.98-46.82m OD. Features were located at a level of 46.60-46.69m OD. Top of camber 46.69m O.D., north edge at 46.60m O.D. south edge at 46.67m. In the southern half of the trench, on the projected line of the Roman road, was a surface of medium (0.03-0.05m) and small (0.02-0.03m) pebbles compacted into a dark brown clayey soil with orange sandy patches [2002]. This appeared to be bounded on the south side by a 0.30m wide gully [2001], separated from [2002] by a patch of orange sandy soil. There was slight evidence of camber, levels varying between 46.60m OD on the north edge, 46.67m OD on the south edge and 46.69m OD at the centre. A large modern feature [2003] cut the north side of the road surface and the area was also disturbed by land drains.

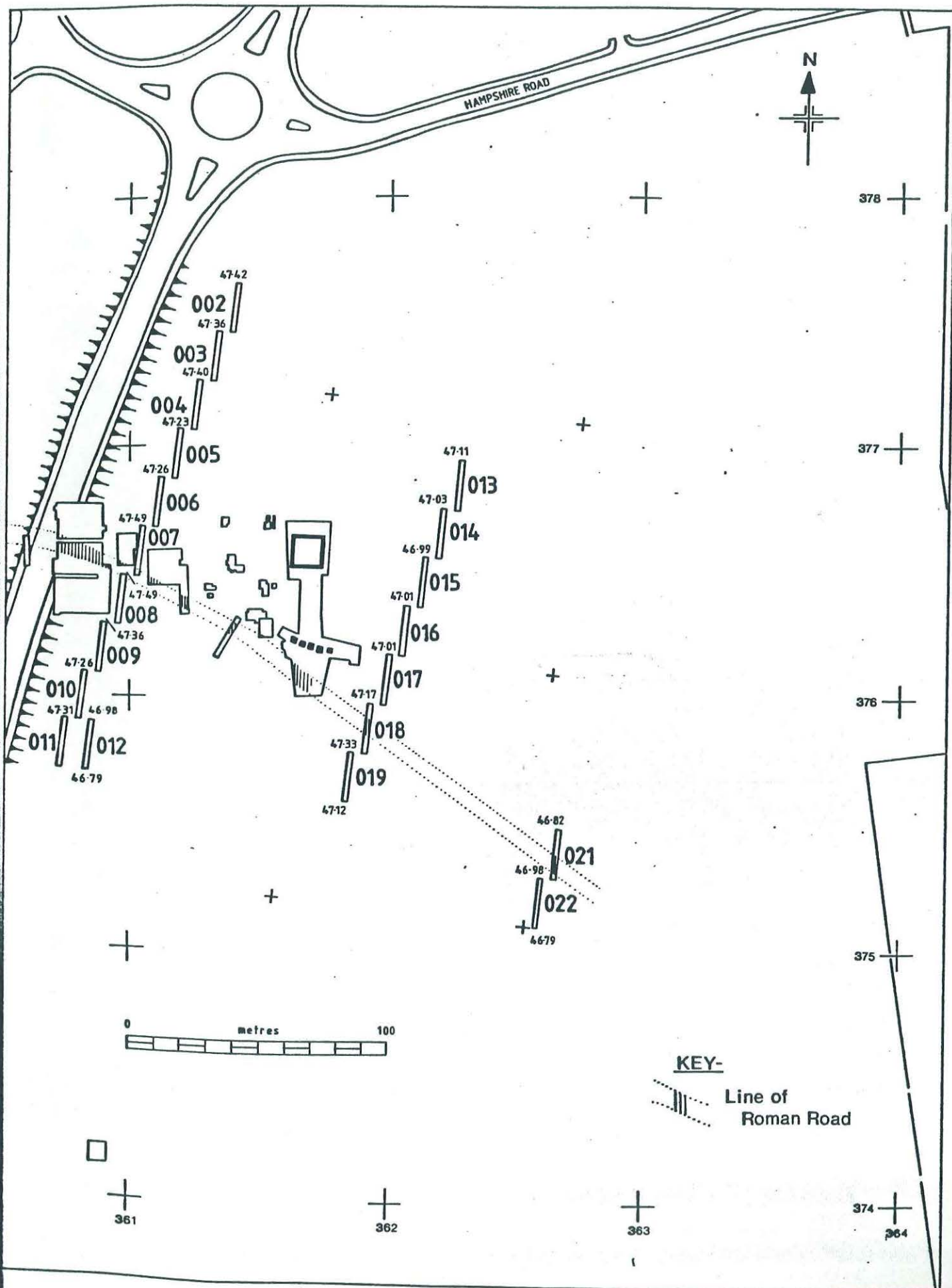
TRENCH 022

Drawing No.31

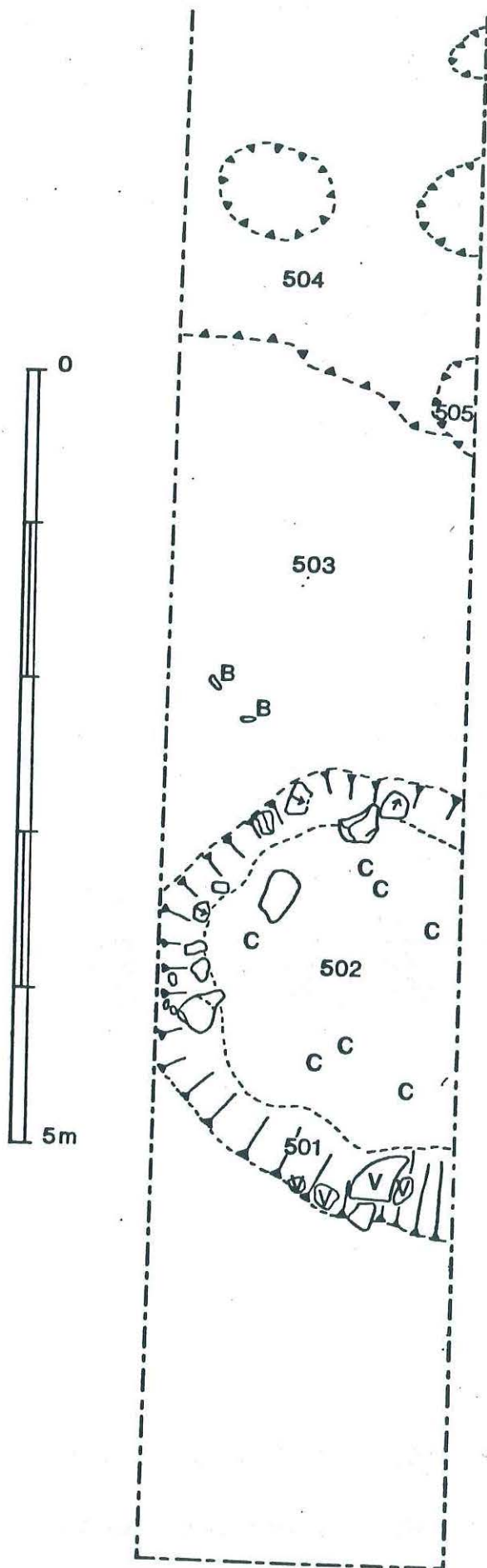
The ground surface is 46.98-46.79m OD. Modern features were located at a general level of 46.67-46.83m OD. A drain [2011] extended north-south, and an area of burnt stone and clay associated with 19th C finds [2012] lay on the east side of the trench. Featureless subsoil was excavated to a level of 46.24m OD at the north end of the trench.



LOCATION MAP OF PREVIOUS EXCAVATIONS



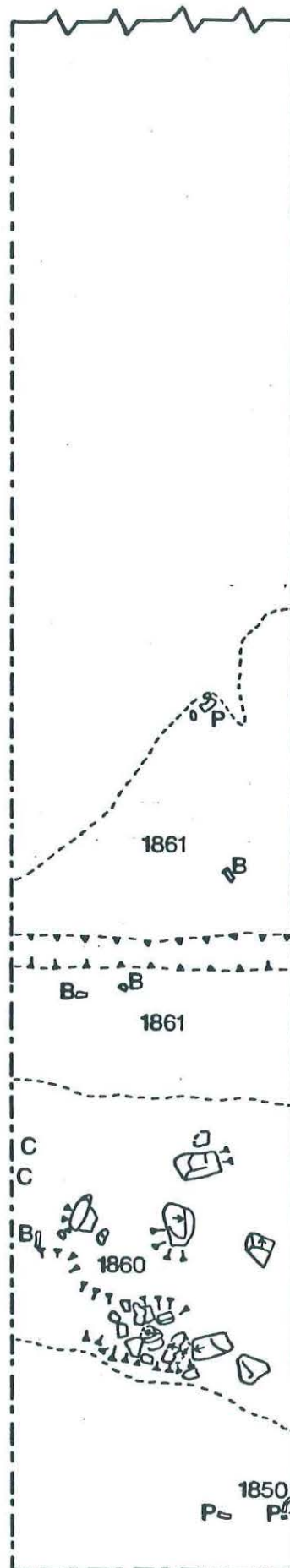
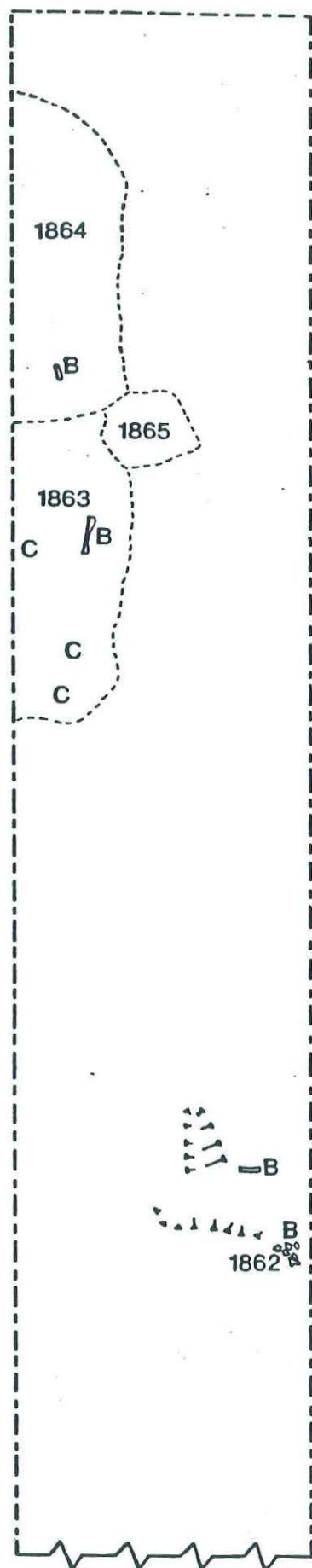
PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF TRENCHES



KEY-

- B Bone
- C Charcoal
- ↘ Direction of Dip
- V Void

SOUTH END OF TRENCH 06



KEY-

- B Bone
- C Charcoal
- P Pottery
- ▷ Direction of Dip

The Roman Pottery. By T.S. Martin.

This report is confined to a trench by trench assessment of fabrics and dating. A summary of fabrics found in each trench is to be found in Table 1. Detailed discussion of unusual forms is given in Appendix 1. Comment on the dating of the locally produced pottery, particularly Derbyshire Ware is to be found in Appendix 2. A total of 1633 sherds (12081 g) were recovered from 12 trenches. All of the pottery is unstratified, though finds from directly above features identified after surface cleaning were kept separate, and provide tentative indications of date. All dates are A.D. No pottery is illustrated.

Trench 003.

A single sherd of Grey Ware was recovered from the layer of close packed pebbles and brick [202]. Other finds suggest that this was a Post-Medieval feature.

Trench 005.

Context [400], a layer of dirty yellow-brown clay produced 26 sherds of Roman pottery. The range of fabrics included Grey and Oxidised Wares, BB1, Derbyshire Ware, and Nene Valley Colour-coat (abraded). The only identifiable form was a Derbyshire Ware lid-seated jar (Kay 1962 type A). Context [401] contained two sherds of Roman pottery, including a single sherd of Derbyshire Ware. No pottery was recovered from contexts [402] and [403].

Dating: The character of the pottery from [400] indicates a late 1st/2nd century date range, though the Derbyshire Ware form is one that continued into the second half of the 4th. [401] produced insufficient dating evidence. Both contexts contained Post-Roman pottery.

Trench 006.

A group of 75 sherds were recovered from above the hearth [501]. These included a sherd of Dressel 20 Amphorae, Nene Valley Colour-coat beaker with barbotine decoration and a flange-neck flagon, Oxidised Ware carinated and flanged bowls, a Grey Ware neckless everted rim jar, BB1 sherds with obtuse lattice, and Derbyshire Ware. Context [502], a layer of fired red clay with lumps of charcoal, produced a group of 160 sherds. Datable forms included a Samian form 37 (decorated sherd) bowl, Derbyshire Ware lid-seated jars, a BB1 jar with obtuse lattice decoration, and a Grey Ware neckless everted rim jar. The hollow [504] filled with dirty brown yellow clayey loam contained 74 sherds, the mass of which were Grey and Oxidised wares; forms included jars and a flanged bowl, and a Derbyshire Ware Hooked rim jar.

Dating: The range of pottery from [501] indicates a late 1st to 4th century date range. [502] exhibited a comparable date range, but also contained Post-Roman pottery. The bulk of the pottery

Table 1. The Range of Fabrics (by sherd count) for each Trench.

Tr.	Fabrics													
	Sam	C	LG	Mo	Am	WW	WS	OW	Gr	BBT	BB1	DBY	CG	I/A
003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
005	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	-	1	11	-	-
006	18	19	-	-	1	12	2	93	79	3	53	66	-	-
007	24	16	-	1	1	2	-	116	92	-	23	138	13	-
008	5	4	1	2	10	24	8	94	215	6	1	48	15	8
009	16	16	-	12	4	11	2	65	46	-	3	78	2	1
010	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
016	-	5	-	1	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	14	-	-
017	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	8	-	-
018	6	6	-	2	-	2	-	2	6	-	-	29	-	-
019	-	5	-	2	-	-	-	3	15	-	1	14	-	-

Abbreviations: Sam: Samian. C: Colour-coat. LG: Lead Glazed. Mo: Mortaria. Am: Amphorae. WW: White Ware. WS: White Slipped Ware. OW: Oxidised Ware. Gr: Grey Ware. BBT: Grey Ware/ Black-burnished Type Ware. BB1: Black-burnished Ware 1. DBY: Derbyshire Ware. CG: Calcite Gritted Ware. I/A: Possible Iron Age Sherds.

from [504] consisted of Oxidised Wares which may be dated to the late 1st to the first half of the 2nd century. Post-Roman pottery was not recovered from this context or [501].

Trench 007.

The top soil [600] produced a group of 93 sherds. The bulk comprised of Grey and Oxidised fabrics. Identifiable forms included jars and bowls. The range of decorated sherds included barbotine dots, acute angled lattice, and rustication. The Derbyshire Ware included both the lid-seated and the hooked rim jar (Kay 1962 types A and B). The other pieces of note are a Samian form 37 decorated bowl sherd, a number of Calcite Gritted sherds reminiscent of Harrold (Beds) fabrics (though these may have been Racecourse products (Brassington 1971). Of the 117 sherds from [601] (cleaning at south end of trench) the bulk of the pottery consisted of Derbyshire Ware. The range of Samian forms included Drag. 30, 37 and ?18/31 R; a sherds also had a rivet hole. The Grey Ware vessel forms included neckless everted rim jars. Other forms included a Dales Ware jar rim, Nene Valley Colour-coat beakers, and two undecorated BB1 plain-rimmed dishes. The circular feature [602], a possible cremation destroyed by vandals, contained a mid to late 2nd century BB1 flat-rimmed dishes and a jar in Oxidised Ware (abraded). [603] a linear feature produced a large group. Included were a BB1 flat and plain-rimmed dishes, Derbyshire lid and hooked rim jars, Nene Valley Colour-coat beakers ('hunt cup' and indented types), a Samian Drag.37 bowl and a number of bowls and jars in Grey and Oxidised fabrics. The pit [604] produced Derbyshire, Grey and Oxidised Wares, but no diagnostic forms.

Dating: The pottery recovered from [600] was primarily 2nd century, with nothing characteristically later, though Post-Roman material was present. [601] produced pottery of a wider date range; this included a number of typically 3rd century pieces. Post-Roman pottery was again present. The BB1 flat-rimmed dish in [602] is a type dated to the mid to late 2nd century. This was the latest pottery from the context. The mass of the pottery from [603] belongs to the 2nd century, though the beaker forms and the Derbyshire Ware continue into the 3rd and beyond. [604] contained little dating evidence. Both [603] and [604] produced Post-Roman pottery.

Trench 008.

[700] the top soil, produced 436 sherds and a wide range of vessels; these included Samian forms 37, 29, and ?18/31, Colour-coated beakers (including an imported vessel possibly from the Trier workshops), a sherd of lead glazed Ware (a ?Racecourse product, Brassington 1971), Dressel 20 Amphorae, White and White Silpiped Ware ring-neck flagons, Oxidised Ware jars and bowls, Grey Ware jars, dishes, a strainer and a wine cooler, Derbyshire Ware jars, and Dales Ware jars. Much of the pottery exhibited an abraded appearance. Context [703] a linear feature, produced 5 sherds of Derbyshire Ware.

Dating: The range of pottery from [700] can be dated to the late 1st to the 3rd century. This context also produced a number of possible Iron Age sherds and Post-Roman pottery. [701] produced pottery datable to the period c.140-375.

Trench 009.

The top soil [800] produced a group of 146, mostly abraded sherds. The range of fabrics and vessels included Samian forms 30 or 37, 733, and 718/31, Nene Valley Colour-coat beakers, a Mancetter/Hartshill 'hammerhead' type Mortarium rim, White and White Slipped Ware flagons, Oxidised Ware neckless everted rim jars and a flanged bowl, Grey Ware bead and flange dish, a plain rimmed dish, and a number of jars (including neckless everted rim types), a few 881 sherds, and several Derbyshire Ware lid-seated jars. The linear feature [801] produced a group of 78 sherds. The diagnostic pottery included Samian forms 37 and 44, Nene Valley Colour-coat beakers, Dressel 20 Amphorae, a Verulamium region White Ware ?flagon, Oxidised Ware jars, and Derbyshire Ware lid-seated jars. This group also contained a large proportion of abraded sherds. The semi-circular hearth [802] (13 sherds, including Derbyshire Ware), and the second linear feature [810] (9 sherds) both produced small groups with no identifiable forms. Context [811] produced a group of 10 sherds that included a White Ware Drag. 44 imitation and two sherds of Derbyshire Ware.

Dating: The pottery from [800] may be dated to the late 1st to 4th century. The group from [801] may be dated to the 2nd century, though several pieces continue into the 3rd. Both of these contexts contained Post-Roman pottery. Contexts [802] and [810] contained largely 2nd century material, but nothing necessarily later. [810] also contained a possible Iron Age sherd. The pottery from [811] was also largely 2nd century in character, but contained Post-Roman material.

Trench 010.

Context [900] produced a total of six sherds (3 Oxidised, 3 Derbyshire Ware). No identifiable forms were present. An Oxidised sherd was decorated with rouletting.

Dating: A 2nd century date for this group seems probable, though [900] also contained Post-Roman pottery.

Trench 015.

Context [1400] produced two Grey Ware sherds; the only identifiable form was an everted rim beaker with rouletted decoration.

Dating: A 2nd century date for this group is probable, though [1400] contained Post-Roman pottery.

Trench 015.

The layer of general cleaning [1500] produced 13 sherds; including Derbyshire Ware and Oxidised Ware lid-seated jars, and a Nene Valley Colour-coat beaker rim. All the pottery had an abraded appearance. The two parallel ditches, [1570] and [1580], produced small groups of pottery. Only [1570] provided any dating evidence, a Mancetter/Hartshill Mortarium rim.

Dating: The pottery from [1500] lies in the late 1st to 3rd century plus; the bulk, however, belongs to the 2nd. This group also contained Post-Roman pottery. The Mortarium from [1570] is of a type normally dated to the 3rd century. Context [1580] also contained Post-Roman pottery.

Trench 017.

The grave [1620] an abraded group of 13 abraded sherds; this included Derbyshire Ware and a possible Grey Ware platter.

Dating: This group probably belongs to the 2nd century, it contained no Post-Roman material.

Trench 018.

The top soil [1700] produced a group of 43 small and abraded sherds. Forms included an indented beaker (Nene Valley Colour-coat), a White Ware flagon neck, and two Derbyshire Ware lid-seated jars and a hooked rim jar. The pit [1735] produced 5 Roman sherds; a Nene Valley Colour-coat beaker base, a Grey Ware sherd with rouletted decoration, and a Derbyshire Ware base comprised the diagnostic pottery.

Dating: The range of pottery from [1700] indicates that the bulk belongs to the 2nd century onwards, but with no exclusively late forms. This context also produced Post-Roman material. [1735] produced pottery likely to be of 2nd century date.

Trench 019.

Context [1800], top soil, produced 2 sherds; included was a very abraded lower body Nene Valley beaker sherd. The circular feature [1810] produced a wider range of pottery (19 sherds). The assemblage comprised of an abraded Nene Valley Colour-coat bowl or dish, a flanged Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium, an Oxidised Ware flanged bowl and a Derbyshire Ware lid-seated jar. [1860] produced a group of 17 largely abraded sherds. The identifiable forms were confined to Grey Ware and included plain-rimmed and bead and flange dishes. Derbyshire Ware was also present.

Dating: [1800] produced insufficient evidence for dating but included Post-Roman material. The date ranges of [1810] and [1860] lie in the 2nd to 4th centuries. No Post-Roman pottery was recovered from these contexts.

Summary.

The spatial distribution of sherds indicates linear occupation following the course of the Roman road running east from Little Chester. The lower density of Roman pottery in Trenches 013-019, and its absence from Trenches 021 and 022 indicates that the settlement is unlikely to have extended much beyond the 1974 excavations, though this may be due to its use as a cemetery. Because the pottery is largely unstratified, its value as dating evidence is restricted. A number of the features located are clearly modern; others may be tentatively assigned to the Roman period. The range of fabrics is broadly comparable with that reaching Little Chester. The date range of the pottery indicates a 2nd century hiatus in occupation. After this date occupation continued on a much diminished scale. The Possible Iron Age sherds in Trenches 003 [700] and 009 [1310] is further evidence to that located in 1974 (Dool 1985; 208) of settlement in the area prior to the Roman conquest.

Appendix 1. The Wine Cooler.

Two 'lid' sherds belonging to a class of vessel described by Gillam (1970; No.349) as a 'wine Cooler' were found in Trench 008 Context [700]. The sherds, in Grey Ware, are from a narrow vessel with a fixed lid. They are perforated by numerous holes and include part of a narrow raised central rim. This is the first example to be found at Derby.

This type of vessel is found in both fine and coarse fabrics. It is not common in Britain, but is found on both civilian (eg London, Green 1978) and military (eg High House milecastle, Simpson 1913) sites. At Lilington Cambridgeshire an example appears to be derived from a cemetery (Kemp 1836; Fox 1923). It is known to have been produced at West Stow (West 1953) and Holt (Grimes 1930). This type of vessel probably has continental origins, examples are known at Nijmegen (Holverda 1941) and Heidelberg (Heukemes 1964).

Dating: The Continental Vessels are ascribed to the late Flavian to Hadrianic period (May 1916); the British examples appear to date from the same period (Marsh 1978), though the vessel from High House milecastle was dated to the period 160-200 by Gillam (1970).

Appendix 2. The Locally Produced Pottery: its dating.

Two local industries supplied Little Chester. The Racecourse kilns, producing mainly Grey and Oxidised Wares, supplied the bulk of the coarse wares from the late 1st century until the end of the Hadrianic. The Grey and Oxidised Wares in fabric and form are comparable to the material from the kilns excavated by Brassington (1971 and 1980). The first appearance of Derbyshire Ware can be dated to c.140 (Webster 1961, Birss 1985, Martin forthcoming). There are, however major difficulties in establishing the chronology of this industry. The two main forms, the lid-seated and the hooked rim

jar (Kay 1962 types A and B) appear to have undergone no typological change throughout their production. These forms were current until the second half of the 4th century.

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