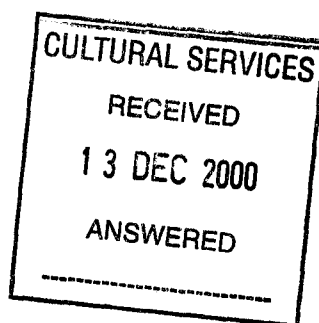


SOU
981

Southampton City Council
Archaeology Unit
Report 282

**Archaeological excavation at land adjacent to 20. Eastfield
Road, St Denys, Southampton**
SOU 981
MP Smith BA MIFA

2000



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Report on the archaeological excavation at land adjacent to 20 Eastfield Road, St Denys, Southampton.

By MP Smith BA MIFA

With contributions by: P Andrews BSc MIFA, S Hamilton-Dyer BSc AIFA, and AD Russel BA PhD MIFA.

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Archaeology Unit report	282
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1. Summary.

An excavation produced remains of a settlement of early-Roman date. A large quantity of iron slag was recovered suggesting that it was an iron working site, though no definite iron working structures were found. The site may have been given over to agriculture in the later Roman period. Three articulated pig burials, of possible Roman date, were found.

2. Introduction

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out an archaeological excavation at land adjacent to 20 Eastfield Road, St Denys, Southampton (fig 1) on behalf of Roxan Construction Ltd. The excavation was carried out between 28th June 1999 and 28th July 1999. A watching brief on further groundworks was held between 1st September 1999 and 4th November 1999. The project was managed by MP Smith BA MIFA. The illustration was prepared by MP Smith BA MIFA. The pottery was scanned by AD Russel BA PhD MIFA, the worked flint was scanned by MF Garner BA AIFA, and the clay tobacco pipe was scanned by JG Vincent. A report on the slag was prepared by P Andrews, and another on the animal bone by S Hamilton-Dyer.

An evaluation excavation (SOU 960) had previously been carried out on the site. This was reported on separately (Cottrell 1999a).

The site lay in Area 6b of the Local Areas of Archaeological Importance as defined in policy ENV4 of the Southampton Local Plan. This includes the area possible Roman waterfront activity.

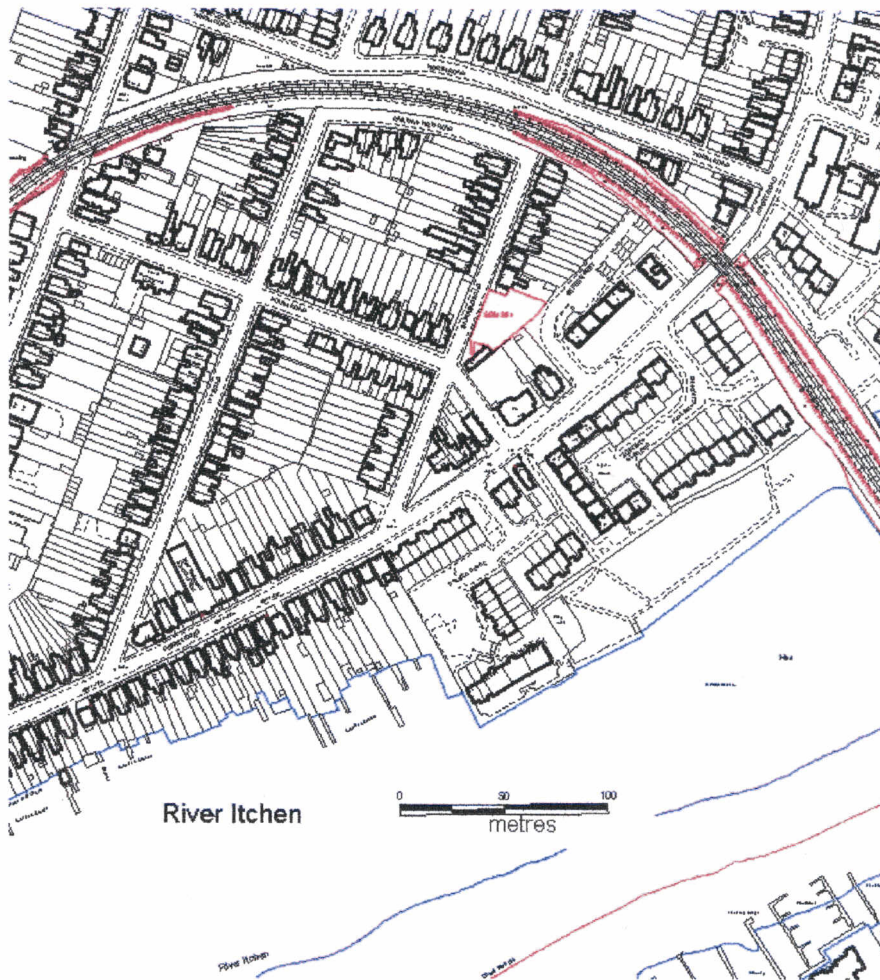


Fig 1. Site location plan.

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3. Excavation methodology.

The scheme of investigation (Roxan 1999) allowed for the archaeological excavation of all archaeologically significant deposits likely to be threatened by groundworks. Archaeologically significant deposits were defined as those relating to pre-19th century human use of the area, though post-medieval plough soils did not need to be treated as significant.

The footings of the new buildings were excavated (fig 2). Individual wall runs were assigned trench numbers 1 – 9. Modern overburden, and the underlying plough soil were removed by mechanical excavator to a depth of about 850mm. In practise this involved mechanically excavating the site to the top of the natural soils. All features cutting into the natural were hand excavated by archaeologists. The trenches were mechanically excavated to a nominal width of 1m. Hand excavation was restricted to a 0.6m wide trench centred on the centre line of the new footings. Features outside this inner trench were recorded in plan, though were only investigated if they were considered to be of extreme importance for understanding the site (e.g. posthole 208 in the north-east corner of the site).

Towards the end of the excavation Roxan Construction Ltd obtained the agreement of Southampton City Council Building Control that the footing trenches need not be excavated to a greater depth as they had been excavated to a greater width than was originally proposed. They also agreed that the remaining archaeological features need not be deemed to be “soft spots”, and so did not need to be removed. Accordingly Roxan obtained the agreement of Southampton City Council Conservation Unit that the excavation could cease. In practise this meant that only the complex of intercutting features in trench 8 were not fully excavated.

Prior to the start of the excavation, it was expected that a large area of diesel contaminated soil would need to be removed from near the southern end of the site. It was therefore expected that a larger open area would be examined. In practice, the amount of contamination prove to be less than expected, and Building Control agreed that the contaminated soil need not be removed.

The scheme of investigation required that an archaeological watching brief be held on the service connections. It included an option to archaeologically excavate any significant features that were encountered. Most of the runs did not go below the level of the plough soil (shown on fig 2 for reference), though archaeologically significant deposits were encountered in a drain run to the south of the main excavation (trench 10, fig 2). Deposits of Roman date were encountered at the base of trench 10. It was sufficient to record them in plan without excavating them.

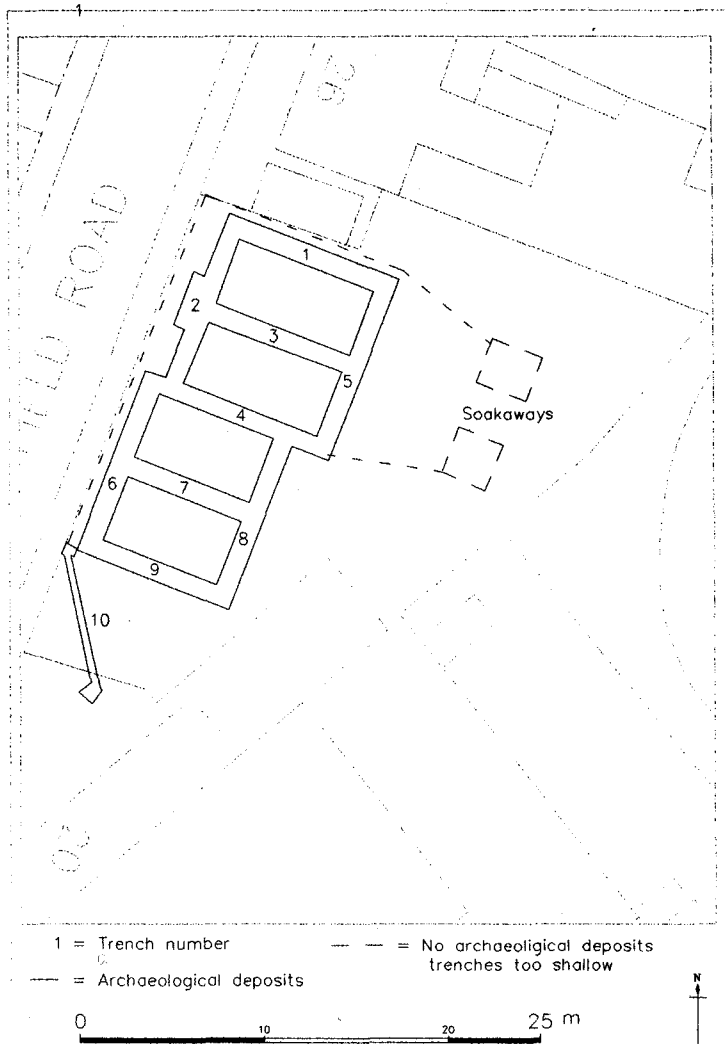


Fig 2. Location of trenches.

All archaeological records were made using the Southampton City Council archaeological recording system (SMART system). The context numbers 1 to 34 were used on the evaluation, SOU 960. The context numbering on SOU 981 was therefore started at 100 in order to avoid confusion with the earlier investigation on the same site. The archive is stored on Southampton City Council premises.

4. Site location and topography.

The site was located in the St Denys area of Southampton. It lay on the east side of Eastfield Road just to the north of its junction with South Road. The western shore of the River Itchen lay about 200m to the east.

The River Itchen flows generally from north to south, but forms a loop around the Bitterne Manor promontory to the east of the site.

The geological survey map (Ordnance Survey 1987) shows the site to lie on river terrace deposits (mainly gravel). The natural topography was obscured by urban development, but the ground surface was fairly level. Spot heights of 3.7m OD were recorded on the Ordnance Survey map both to the south and east of the site on Priory Road.

5. Historical and archaeological background.

The site lies on the west bank of the River Itchen, across the river from the known Roman defended settlement at Bitterne Manor, which can almost certainly be identified with the place name Clausentum mentioned in *Iter VII* of the *Antonine Itinerary* (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, 6). Recent archaeological investigations in the St Denys area have shown that Roman occupation was present on the west bank as well. They include two sites in Dundee Road (SOU 794, SAS 1997; SOU 807, Kavanagh 1997) about 250m to the north. Roman features were also found at 154 – 172 Priory Road (SOU 822, Cottrell 1999b) 100m to the south-west of SOU 981. Investigations in the inter-tidal muds to the south of Priory Road have found the remains of three Roman timber jetties (SOU 881, Russel *pers com*). A timber from one of them has been dated by tree ring dating to 201 AD. A watching brief at 106 Priory Road (SOU 1044, Russel *pers com*) which lay 120m to the west of SOU 822 did not produce any evidence for Roman occupation. This might suggest that the limit of Roman occupation lay between SOUs 822 and 1044.

The site was abandoned, probably before the end of the Roman period. It presumably became agricultural land. It is shown as such on a map of the Priory of St Denys and the Manor of Portswood prepared in 1658. It remained agricultural land until the area was developed for housing from the mid-19th century. Houses were not built on the site of SOU 981 until the present development. It was used, from at least the early-20th century, as a builders yard (as recorded by various Kelly's street directories). This lack of development means that archaeological remains on the site were potentially relatively undisturbed.

The Augustinian priory of St Denys lay 300m to the north of the site of SOU 981. It was founded by 1127 (Blake 1981). It was dissolved in 1536. The site almost certainly lay within the bounds of the Priory estate. The estate map of 1658 probably shows the site as part of a field called "Horslease Field".

6. Results of the excavation.

The site produced a wide spread of features, but there were few direct stratigraphic relationships between them. The pottery evidence would suggest a focus of occupation in the 1st and 2nd centuries. No coin sequences were recovered. It is therefore difficult to identify phases of activity by period. The evidence has therefore been divided into functional phases, which do not necessarily have a direct temporal relationship to each other. That said, the

phases have been arranged in chronological order as far as the available evidence allows. For example, one phase 6 post-hole was cut by one phase 7 possible bedding trench. Therefore the presumed sill-beam structures can be shown in one case to be later than the post-built structures. However, that does not rule out the possibility that the sequence could be reversed with other structures. The north arrows on the phase plans point to site north. This lies slightly north-west of Ordnance north (compare fig 2 with fig 3 etc).

6.1. Phase 1. Natural deposits.

Description.

The earliest deposit exposed in the excavation was a layer of gravel in a matrix of olive grey sandy, clay loam (222). It was only exposed in a sondage dug in the south-west corner of the site in trench 6. Its top was at 2.6m OD. It was overlain by a 0.13m thick layer of brown, clay sand (300). Layer 300 was in turn overlain by an intermittent layer of gravel in a matrix of olive brown to dark olive grey, sandy clay loam (223). Layer 223 was overlain by a 0.25m thick layer of yellowish brown, silty clay loam (187). Its top ranged from 3.00m OD at the west end of trench 9, to 3.08m OD at its east end. All of these layers had been contaminated by diesel. These layers were given different context numbers in the uncontaminated areas to the north of trench 9.

The earliest exposed deposit to the north of trench 9, was a layer of gravel in a matrix of light olive brown, fine sand (238). It was only observed in the sides of later features. It was overlain by a 0.60m thick layer of brownish yellow clay loam (194). Its top ranged from 2.96m OD near the south end of trench 6, to 3.32m OD at the north end of trench 5. A layer of black gravel (318) was observed in the edge of the incompletely excavated feature 277 in trench 8. Its colour may have been due to diesel contamination seeping through the gravel beds. A layer of very dark grey, sandy loam (319) was observed in the base of feature 292 just to the west of it at the junction of trenches 7 and 8. Its top was at 2.96m OD.

A layer of brown, sandy clay (322) was found at the base of trench 10 to the south of the main excavation.

No finds were recovered from any of these layers.

Interpretation.

These layers are interpreted as being natural gravels and brickearth. The brickearth was in general above the gravel, though layers 223 and 318 indicate that there were lenses of gravel within the brickearth. There was a general slope in the top of the natural from north to south of about 0.3m.

6.2. Phase 2. Early features.

Description.

The phase 1 layer 194 was cut in trench 3 by an oval feature with a flat bottom (195). It was 0.47m wide and 0.26m deep. It was at least 0.40m long, though its southern end extended beyond the limit of excavation. It had a single fill of dark orangey brown, silty clay (196). Two fragments of burnt flint and a small sherd of flint tempered pottery were recovered from it. A second feature (197) cut layer 194 0.18m to the west of feature 196. It was circular and tapered to a point. It had a diameter of 0.15m, though its southern part lay beyond the limit of excavation, and was 0.23m deep. It had a single fill of dark yellowish brown, silty clay (198). No finds were recovered from it.

Interpretation.

These features were probably tree root disturbance.

6.3. Phase 3. Weathered brickearth.

Description.

The phase 2 features were recorded as being beneath a layer of yellowish brown, silty clay up to 0.36m thick (102). It also overlay the phase 1 layer 194 in most trenches. Its top was at 3.48m OD in trench 1 in the north, and at 3.26m OD in trench 6 in the south. One burnt flint, two worked flints, two sherds of Spanish amphora, and one sherd of grog tempered pottery were recovered from it. A layer of dark greyish brown, sandy clay loam (291) was found in the same stratigraphic position in trench 7. A fragment of slag and a sherd of early Roman greyware pottery were recovered from it. A layer of olive brown, loamy sand (276) was found in trench 8. Two burnt flints, a secondary flint flake, and six fragments of slag were recovered from it. This horizon was not found in trenches 8 and 10. The southern limit of layer 102 in trench 6 was defined by the phase 4 linear feature 210.

A small irregular depression (139) had been cut into the surface of layer 102 in trench 4. It was filled with dark yellowish brown silty clay with abundant greyish brown mottles (134). Burnt flint, slag and three sherds of a Roman flagon, probably a first century import, were recovered from it.

Another shallow feature (131) cut layer 102 near the west end of trench 3. It was possibly sub-oval in plan. Its north and south ends continued beyond the limit of excavation. It measured 1m by at least 0.6m, but was only 0.13m deep. It had near vertical edges and a flat bottom. It had a single fill of dark yellowish brown silty clay (132). A primary flint flake and three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it. One was flint tempered, one was a sherd of Spanish amphora, the third was a fragment of abraded New Forest colour coat beaker, suggesting this feature dates to after 370AD.

Interpretation.

These layers were the disturbed top of the phase 1 natural brickearth. They are stratigraphically insignificant, as they may have been caused by disturbance at any time during the occupation of the site.

6.4. Phase 4. Road and property boundaries.

Description.

Three shallow features (241, 258, and 260) cut the phase 1 layer 187 in trench 9. Feature 241 was a possible linear feature, at least 1m wide and 0.06m deep. Its southern end continued beyond the southern limit of excavation, and its north end had a rounded terminal. It had a single fill of gravely very dark greyish brown, sandy silt loam (242). Thirteen burnt flints and one burnt flint flake fragment were recovered from it. Fill 242 was cut by a circular tapering stakehole (246) of 0.09m diameter, and 0.17m deep. It had a fill of dark greyish brown, sandy clay loam (247). It is possible that fill 242 formed around the stake whilst it was in place, rather than the stake being driven through the fill. Another circular stakehole (239) was found 0.05m to the north-east. It had a diameter of 0.08m, its depth was not recorded. It had a fill of dark greyish brown, silty clay loam (240). A possible third stakehole was observed in section on the eastern edge of feature 241. Its fill was identical to that of fill 242.

Another feature (258) was found 1.13m to the east of feature 241. It extended beyond the northern and southern limits of the trench. It was 2.6m wide and had gently sloping sides. It was a maximum of 0.1m deep. It had a fill of reddish brown, sandy loam (259).

A small linear feature (260) was found between the two larger features. It continued beyond the southern limit of excavation, and had a rounded northern terminal. It was 0.24m wide and 0.08m deep. It had a triangular profile in section. It had a fill of brown, sandy clay loam (261).

In trench 9 by a ditch (199) cut the natural brickearth. It had a west-north-west alignment, and a roughly bowl shaped profile. It was 1m wide and 0.25m deep. It had a single heavily diesel contaminated fill of very dark grey, sandy silt loam with lenses of gravel (200). One burnt flint and 42 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it. The pottery included a few sherds from a grog tempered bead rim jar, but was mostly the remains of three pots in the same sandy fabric. The pots were a straight-sided jar, a bead rim jar (heavily sooted) and an everted rim bowl with holes drilled through its lower parts.

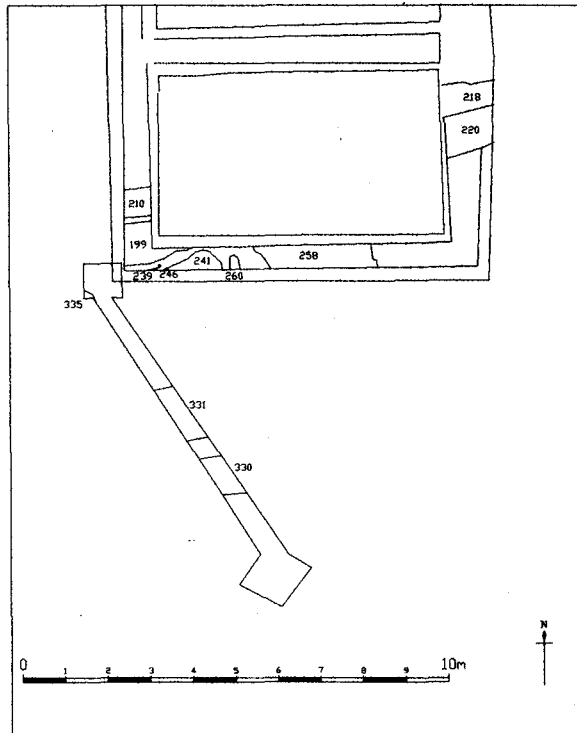


Fig 3. Plan of phase 4 features.

Another ditch (220) was found in trench 8 on roughly the same alignment. It was 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep. It had a fill of gravely, black, sandy clay loam (221). One iron nail, four fragments of slag and the majority of a large Roman pottery vessel, of jug or jar form, together with a single sherd of a white flagon were recovered from it. The large jar was probably a continental import, possibly from the Low Countries. It is probable that features 199 and 220 were parts of the same ditch.

A second ditch (210) was found 600mm to the north of, and roughly parallel with, feature 199. It cut into the natural brickearth, and was 0.87m wide and up to 0.25m deep. It had a heavily diesel contaminated fill of dark grey, silty clay loam (211). Five fragments of slag and a sherd of a probably imported white Roman flagon were recovered from it. Another ditch (218) continued its line in trench 8. Its southern edge cut fill 221, and its northern edge the natural brickearth. It had a bowl shaped profile, and was 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep. It had a fill of very dark grey, sandy silt loam (219). One fragment of slag, two sherds of Roman pottery, and two fragments of Roman brick/tile were recovered from it. Features 210 and 218 were almost certainly parts of the same ditch.

Ditch (331) was found to the south of layer 333. It was not excavated, but was 1.4m wide in plan. It had a fill of dark grey, sandy clay (332). A fragment of a flanged roof tile was recovered from its surface. Another probable ditch (330) was found immediately to the south of it. It was not excavated, but was 1.4m

wide in plan. It had two fills in plan. The lowest was a very dark greyish brown, sandy clay loam (327). A fragment of slag and two sherds of a grog tempered bead rim jar were recovered from it. Fill 327 was overlain by a fill of dark grey, silty clay loam (329). One sherd of Dorset Black Burnished ware was recovered from it. Such pottery is normally not found outside Dorset until the beginning of the 2nd century AD. The relationship between the two features could not be established due to lack of excavation.

A feature of uncertain size and form (335) cut layer 333. Only one edge of it was found in the north-west corner of trench 10. It was not excavated. Its upper-most fill was a dark grey, silty clay loam (336). No finds were recovered from it.

Between the ditches were layers of gravel. A layer of gravel in a matrix of olive brown, silty clay loam (192) was found in trench 9 and sealed features 241, 258, and 260. It faded out towards the north side of the trench. It was 0.03m thick on the north side of the trench, but up to 0.13m thick on its south side. Eight burnt flints, seven fragments of slag, and a brick fragment were recovered from it. The nature of the gravel was different to the west. It was originally thought that its west end was cut by a small gravel filled feature (188), but it was subsequently considered more likely that its fill (189) was merely a variation within the gravel surface. It was a patch of gravel in a matrix of dark greyish brown, silt loam, and was 1.8m wide. Two layers of gravel were identified at the west end of the trench. The lowest layer was a gravel in a matrix of dusky red, silty clay loam (186). It extended over feature 199, but did not extend as far as feature 210 (see below). Layer 192 in the east did not extend as far north as feature 220. Three burnt flints and one burnt possible worked flint were recovered from layer 186. The southern edge of layer 186 was overlain by a layer of gravel in a matrix of greyish brown, sandy silt loam (180).

Another layer of gravel in a matrix of yellowish brown, clay loam (333) was found in trench 10. It was present in the northern end of the trench, its southern end corresponding with feature 331 (see below).

Interpretation.

This phase was a roughly east to west aligned road with ditches on either side. The ditches had silted and been recut, and the road had possibly been remetalled a number of times.

Features 241, 258, and 260 may have been very early activity (see phase 2) which pre-dated the laying out of the road. However, they were quite shallow, and may not have been deliberately dug. They perhaps rather represent wear on an initial unmetalled road line.

The road was subsequently metalled with gravel (layers 180, 186, 189, and 192). However, layer 186, at least, post-dated the backfilling of the northern ditch, 199, and probably was a repair to the surface.

Ditch 199/200 formed a roadside ditch to the north of the road. Its backfill (200/221) was gravelly, but contained few finds other than pottery. It was recut slightly to the north by ditch 210/218. Its fills (211/219) were more silty and had fewer finds. The ditches would probably have formed a boundary marking the southern edge of a property to the north. It may have been recut in order to widen the road.

A similar sequence of ditches was observed to the south of the road (330 and 331). As they were not excavated it is not possible to define their relationship with each other or the road surface, 333. They probably mark the northern end of a property to the south of the road. None of this postulated property was excavated within the confines of SOU 981.

6.5. Phase 5. Linear feature.

Description.

A linear feature (111) cut the brickearth in trench 1. It was aligned approximately north to south, and was 1.7m wide and 0.48m deep. It had a fairly irregular profile. The bottom 0.3m had a roughly V-shaped, 0.7m wide, profile, a ledge was present on either side at this level, with fairly steep edges rising from them. Its base was at 2.93m OD. It had eight fills. The lowest fill was a dark greyish brown, sandy clay with yellowish brown lenses (167). It filled the bottom V of the feature. Four fragments of slag were recovered from it. Fill 167 was overlain by a fill of very dark greyish brown, silty clay loam with common charcoal flecks, and a large lens of yellowish brown, sandy clay (160). A large finds assemblage was recovered from it. This included large quantities of slag (including hearth bottoms), and burnt brickearth. Twenty sherds of Roman pottery were also found. Two were Samian, the others local wares including a beadrin jar and a native copy of a terra nigra platter. Fill 160 was overlain by a fill of gravel in a matrix of yellowish brown, sandy clay (159). No finds were recovered from it. It was overlain by two small fills which did not physically touch each other. One of these was a fairly gravelly, very dark grey, silty clay (154), and the other a gravel in a matrix of very dark greyish brown, silty clay loam (172). Burnt flint, slag, and Roman pottery were recovered from fill 154. The pottery included local sandy and flint tempered wares, together with a sherd of possible terra nigra. These two fills were overlain by a fill of very dark grey, silt loam with abundant charcoal (153). A large finds assemblage which included burnt flint, slag, burnt brickearth and Roman pottery was recovered from it. The pottery was all locally made apart from two sherds of 1st century Samian, and included a beadrin jar form and a dish. Fill 153 was overlain by a fill of very dark grey silt loam (112). Two iron nails, slag and 17 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it. The pottery was mostly local sandy wares including a beadrin jar and a copy of a TN platter, but included four sherds of grog tempered ware and a fragment from the neck of a Spanish amphora. Fill 112 was overlain by a gravel in a matrix of very dark grey, silt loam (113). One sherd of a locally made, sandy, bead rim jar and a fragment of slag were recovered from it.

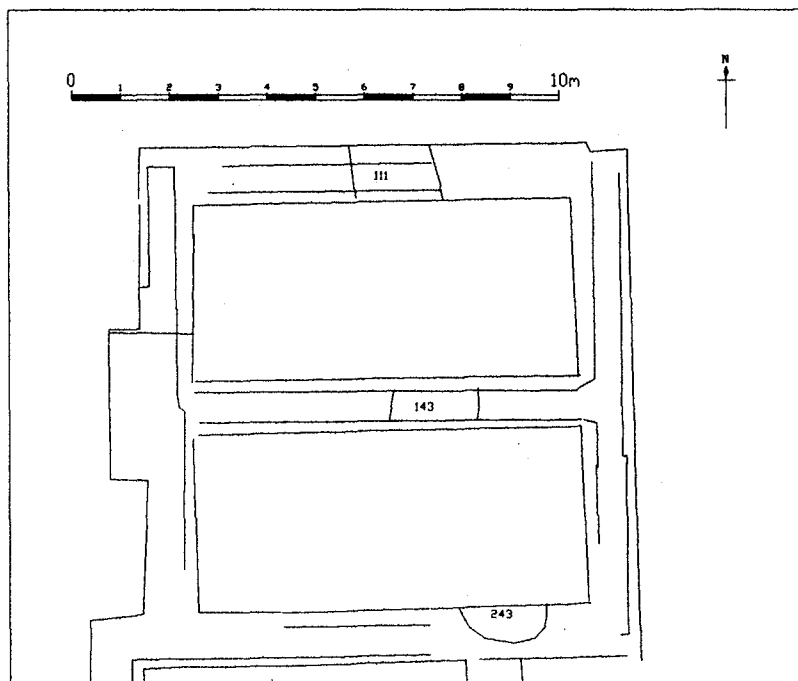


Fig 4. Plan of phase 5 features.

Another linear feature (143) was found to the south of 111 in trench 3. It also cut the brickearth layer 102. They were roughly on the same alignment as each other. Feature 143 had a similar, though less regular, stepped profile to that of feature 111. Its base was flat rather than forming a V. It was 1.8m wide at its top, and 0.53m deep. Its base was at 2.85m OD. It had four fills. The lowest fill was a dark greyish brown, silty clay loam with brown mottles (163). It was very similar to fill 167 at the base of feature 111. Slag and burnt flint were recovered from it. It was overlain by a fill of very dark grey, silt loam with abundant charcoal and some ash (144). A large finds assemblage was recovered from it, which included eight iron nails, 3380g of slag, burnt brickearth, a piece of Roman brick, and Roman pottery. The pottery consisted of sherds of four vessels in local fabrics, all copying Gallo-Belgic forms, a sherd from a Gallo-Belgic platter together with a flint tempered beadrin jar, and two sherds of Dorset Black Burnished ware, possibly intrusive. Fill 144 was overlain by a fill of dark yellowish brown, silty clay (149). Five fragments of slag were recovered from it. It was overlain by a fill of black, silt loam (152). Slag, three small sherds of Roman pottery, including a piece of Samian dated 50-85AD, and decayed limestone blocks were recovered from it.

A third feature (243) was found cutting the brickearth layer 102 in trench 4. It consisted of the rounded terminal of a feature which entered the trench from the north. Its west edge was stepped like features 111 and 143, but it had a gently sloping edge to the east. It was 1.75m wide and 0.35m deep. Its base was at 2.88m OD. It lay slightly to the east of the projected line of the two northern features. It had a single fill of dark yellowish brown, silt loam (244). It had a large finds assemblage which included iron and lead objects, 3000g of

slag, and Roman pottery. The pottery included local grey ware jars, and copies of Belgic platters in red and black fabrics. The imports included sherds from white flagons, Spanish and French amphorae (of G4 type of the later 1st century onwards), a Terra Nigra platter of form Camulodunum 16 (50-70AD), a Gallo-Belgic beaker and Samian. The Samian consisted of a rim sherd of a form 27 and a fragment of a pre-Flavian Ritterling 8 stamped OFPRM. The more complete pots had been apparently deliberately deposited with their rims downwards near the centre of the fill (plate 1).



Plate 1. Pottery deposit in fill 244.

Interpretation.

These features may have been part of the same linear feature. The alignment and shape of features 111 and 143 are close enough to each other to make this suggestion fairly certain. Feature 243 was slightly off their alignment, but its shape and size make it possible that it was part of the same feature.

The base levels did not indicate that its base sloped, but the irregular profiles might indicate that the features were open for a considerable time, so any levels recorded in the excavation need not reflect those when they were originally dug. It is likely that the features originally had V-shaped profiles, but the upper slopes had eroded away to form the stepped profile that was excavated. The flat base to feature 143 might indicate a period of cleaning out of accumulated deposits during the Roman period.

The nature of the lowest fills of 111 and 143 (167 and 163), and the small quantity of finds recovered, indicate that they were probably silting deposits. The upper deposits, and those of feature 243 would appear to be rubbish deposits, perhaps deliberately dumped in order to fill in the feature. The different horizons might indicate that this process was periodically repeated as earlier deposits subsided. The large quantity of slag and burnt brickearth recovered from several fills would indicate iron working in the near vicinity, though there is no indication that this feature was itself used for any iron

working process. The pottery dump in fill 244 was almost certainly a deliberate deposit.

It is not clear what function the linear feature served. It may have been a drainage gully, but no perceptible slope was observed. Its south end terminated within the property at about 5.5m north of the road at the southern boundary of the property (phase 4). It would have been large enough, at nearly 2m wide and 0.5m deep to have created a considerable obstacle within the property, or even to have formed a boundary between two properties.

6.6. Phase 6. Post-built structures.

Description.

A complex of fourteen stakeholes (features 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 281, 283, 285, 287, 294, 296, 298) cut the natural brickearth 276 at the south end of trench 8 (not shown on fig 5). They were sub-circular to sub-oval in plan, and generally had a tapering profile, though some had rounded bases. They were between 0.05m and 0.13m across in plan, and between 0.04m and 0.12m deep. They had single fills (263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 282, 284, 286, 288, 295, 297, 299). One burnt flint and a tertiary worked flint were recovered from fill 295, and a burnt flint from fill 299. No pattern could be discerned in their arrangement.

The brickearth layer 102 was cut in trench 4 by a probably oval feature (289). Its southern end continued beyond the limit of excavation. It had fairly steep sides and a flat bottom. It was at least 0.4m long, and was 0.45m wide, and 0.19m deep. It had a single fill of dark brown, silt loam (290). Three sherds of early Roman pottery, including a copy of a Gallo-Belgic butt beaker, Cam 113, and 20g of slag were recovered from it.

Three sub-circular features (161, 170, and 181) cut the brickearth layer 102 in trench 3. The south end of feature 170 continued beyond the limit of excavation. It had near vertical edges and a flat bottom. It had a diameter of 0.44m and a depth of 0.15m. It had a fill of brown, silty clay (171). No finds were recovered from it. Another sub-circular feature (181) was found 0.19m to the north-west. It had vertical edges and a flat bottom. It had a diameter of 0.5m and a depth of 0.3m. It had a fill of very dark greyish brown, silty clay (182). One sherd of local sandy ware, two sherds of imported North Gaulish pottery and 250g of slag were recovered from it. The north end of feature 181 was cut by another circular feature (161). It had steeply slopping edges and formed a blunted point at its base. It had a diameter of 0.5m, and was 0.44m deep. It had a fill of very dark greyish brown, silty clay with iron and ash-like staining (162), which included eight sherds of early Roman pottery, mostly local but including one sherd of North Gaulish white ware.

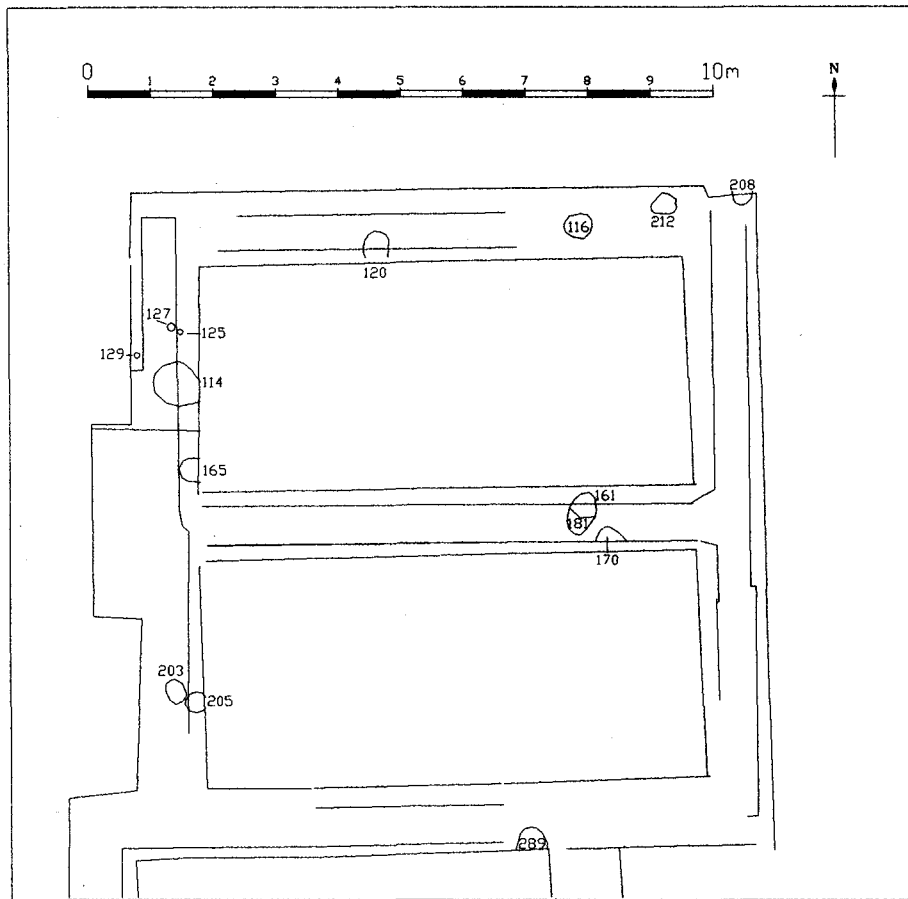


Fig 5. Plan of phase 6 features, excluding the stakeholes in trench 8.

Four sub-circular features (114, 165, 203, and 205) cut the brickearth layer 102 in trench 2. Feature (203) was found near the south end of the trench. It had a bowl-shaped profile. It had a diameter of 0.40m, and a depth of 0.07m. It had a single fill of dark brown, sandy loam (204). A fragment of an iron nail was recovered from it. Another circular feature (205) was found 0.02m to the south-east. It had an irregular profile, tapering to a point at near centre. It had a diameter of 0.35m and a depth of 0.2m. It had two fills. The first was a column of very dark grey, silt loam (206) with a diameter of 0.09m in the centre of the feature. A fill of dark brown, sandy loam (207) was packed around fill 206. No finds were recovered from either of these fills.

Feature 165 was found 3m to the north of 203. It was a shallow sub-circular feature with a bowl shaped profile. It had a diameter of 0.36m and a depth of 0.09m. It had a fill of dark brown, silty clay loam (166). No finds were recovered from it. Another circular feature (114) was found 0.82m to the north of feature 165. Its top was bowl-shaped, though a vertical sided shaft with a

flat bottom extended below the base of the bowl to west of centre of it. The top of the feature was 0.64m in diameter, and the shaft 0.1m. The whole feature was 0.47m deep, the bowl being 0.25m deep. The north end of the feature, including the shaft, was filled with a dark greyish brown, silty clay loam (140). A second fill of brown, silty clay (141) filled the southern part of the feature. The top of fill 140 was capped by a small patch of very dark grey, silty clay loam with burnt clay inclusions (115). Burnt brickearth, 2210g of slag, and an iron nail were recovered from it.

Three stakeholes (125, 127, and 129) were found to the north of feature 114. They were about 0.3m to 0.4m from the edge of it. They were between 0.10m and 0.13m in diameter, and 0.13m and 0.20m deep. They had fills of dark to very dark greyish brown, silty clay loam (126, 128, 130).

Four circular features cut the brickearth layer 102 in trench 1. A circular feature (120) was found to the west of the phase 5 feature 111. Its southern end continued beyond the limit of excavation. It had sloping edges and a rounded base. It had a diameter of 0.33m and a depth of 0.23m. It had a fill of brown, sandy loam (121). A fragment of burnt brickearth and a sherd of Roman grog tempered pottery were recovered from it.

Three further features (116, 208, and 212), probably postholes, were found to the east of the phase 5 linear feature 111, and formed an approximate straight line. The centre of each post-hole was about 1.3m from the centre of its neighbour. Feature 116 had sloping north and west edges, but was vertical on the south and east. It had a rounded bottom. Its diameter was 0.40m, and its depth was 0.26m. It had a fill of gravely, very dark grey, silt loam (117). Most of the stones were concentrated towards the bottom of the fill. Two fragments of roof tile, an animal tooth, four sherds of pottery (two grog tempered and two Samian) and 600g of slag were recovered from it. Feature 212 was to the east of 116. It had sloping edges and a fairly flat base. It had a diameter of 0.38m and a depth of 0.21m. It had a fill of very dark greyish brown, sandy loam (213). A fragment of iron nail and burnt daub were recovered from it. Feature 208 was to the east of 212 at the east end of trench 1. Its northern end continued beyond the limit of excavation. It had concave sides and a rounded base. It had a diameter of 0.32m and a depth of 0.30m. It had a fill of very dark greyish brown, silt loam (209). Seven sherds of pottery, which included local wares as well as imported flagon and Spanish amphora, and 80g of slag were recovered from it.

Interpretation.

The stakeholes in trenches 8 and 2 may have been parts of flimsy structures or fence lines, but no obvious patterns were definable. It could not be shown whether or not any or all of them were contemporary with each other.

The remaining features were probably post-holes, though post-pipes were only present in two of them (114 and 205). It is not clear whether they were parts of buildings or fence lines. The only certain stratigraphic sequence was that feature 161 was later than 181. It was not possible to tell if their relative

positions were fortuitous, or if 161 was a deliberate renewal of 181. It was not possible to identify patterns linking the post-holes in the confines of the excavated trenches, except for the probable line in trench 1 represented by 116, 208 and 212. Feature 120 to the west of the phase 5 ditch 111 was on approximately the same line, but was not spaced at a multiple of 1.3m from 116, as were features 208 and 212.

The presence of the post pipes in features 114 and 205 could indicate that the posts were left to rot in-situ.

6.7. Phase 7. Possible beam-slot structures.

Description.

A shallow north-west to south-east aligned linear feature (173) cut the brickearth layer 102 in trench 5. It had gently sloping concave sides, and a flat bottom. It was 0.7m wide, at least 3.2m long, and 0.15m deep. Its north end continued beyond the limit of excavation, and its south end was cut by the phase 9 feature 175. Seven stakeholes (230, 232, 301, 303, 305, 307, and 311) were cut into its base. They were probably contemporary with feature 173. They formed a rough line running down its length. They were between 0.06m and 0.10m in diameter, and 0.06m and 0.15m deep. They had brown to dark greyish brown loamy fills (231, 233, 302, 304, 306, 308, and 312). An iron object was recovered from fill 233. Another stakehole (feature 234, fill 235) was found immediately to the east of feature 173. It may have been associated with it.

Feature 173 had two fills. The lowest was a 0.04m thick brownish silty clay (224). A fairly small finds assemblage datable to the Roman period was recovered from it. The finds included 100g of slag, and two fragments of burnt brickearth. Five more stakeholes (248, 250, 252, 254, 256) cut fill 224. They were of similar size to the earlier stakeholes. Stakeholes 250 and 254 were in the same position as 303 and 305, and so were probably double numbering of the same feature. They had very dark greyish brown fills (249, 251, 253, 255, and 257). One sherd of Roman pottery from an imported white flagon, and 10g of slag were recovered from fill 257. These secondary stakeholes and fill 224 were sealed in by a fill of very dark grey silt loam (174). A large finds assemblage datable to the Roman period was recovered from it. It included 1640g of slag, and brick/tile fragments. The 53 pottery sherds were mostly early Roman local wares, but included three sherds of flavian Samian. The ten sherds of grog tempered pottery however included an everted rim, normally considered third or fourth century in date, and two sherds of Dorset Black Burnished ware from a flat rimmed bowl of probably mid-2nd century date.

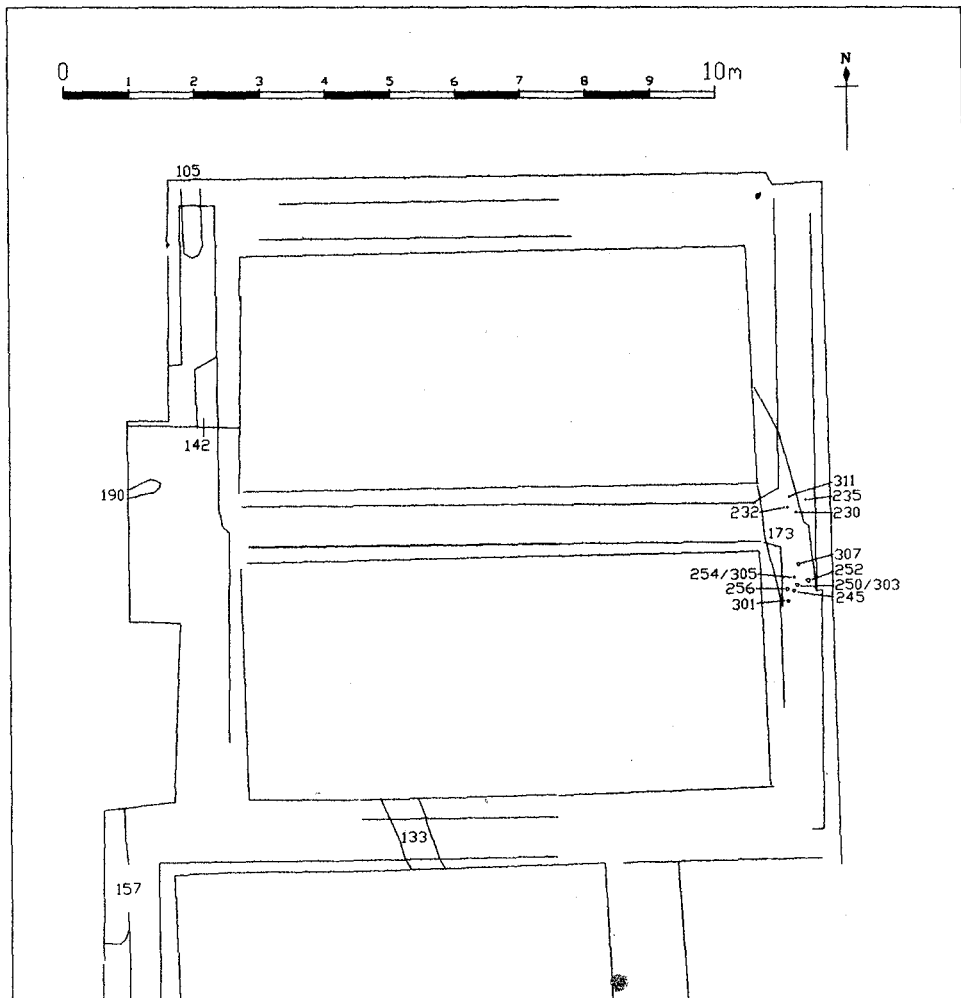


Fig 6. Plan of phase 7 features.

A north-north-west to south-south-east aligned linear feature (133) cut the brickearth layer 102 in trench 4. It was 0.5m wide and 0.17m deep. It had fairly steep sides and a flat bottom. Its base was at 3.08m OD. Corresponding features were not found in trench 3 to the north, or trench 7 to the south. It would therefore seem to have been a fairly short feature; less than 9m long. It had a single fill of very dark greyish brown silty clay loam, with occasional dark yellowish brown mottles and common charcoal flecks (135). Slag, ten sherds of Roman pottery, including a sherd from a Spanish amphora, and a rim from a jug in a sandy fabric, and animal bone were recovered.

Another linear feature (157) cut layer 102 at about 4m to the west, in trench 6. It was aligned north to south. It had a similar profile to feature 133. Its western edge lay beyond the limit of excavation, but it was at least 0.37m wide and 0.09m deep. Its southern end had a rounded terminal, but its northern end continued beyond the limit of excavation. It was only investigated in two slot trenches excavated across its width. It was at least 2m long. Its base was at

3.17m OD at its south end, and at 3.25m OD near the north end of trench 6. It had a single fill of brown clay loam (158). One fragment of slag and a burnt flint were recovered from it.

A north to south aligned linear feature (105) cut the brickearth layer 102 at the north end of trench 2. Its north end continued beyond the limit of excavation. It had near vertical edges, with a rounded southern terminal, and a flat base. It was at least 1.04m long, 0.26m wide, and 0.12m deep. It had a fill of very dark grey sandy silt loam (106). Two sherds of Roman pottery, one grog tempered and one sandy, were recovered from it.

Another north to south aligned linear feature (142) cut the phase 6 post-hole 114. Its north end coincided with the north end of feature 114. Its south end had been removed during the mechanical excavation of the site. Its eastern edge lay beyond the limit of excavation. It had near vertical edges, and a flat bottom. It was at least 1.05m long, a minimum of 0.32m wide, and 0.08m deep. It had a fill of dark brown clay (124). No finds were recovered from it.

A roughly east to west aligned linear feature (190) cut the brickearth layer 102 about 1m to the south-west of feature 142. Its west end continued beyond the limit of excavation. It was at least 0.5m long, 0.1m wide, and 0.07m deep, though its top had been truncated by the machine excavation of the site. It had a U-shaped profile. It had a single fill of very dark greyish brown silty clay loam (191). 30g of slag were recovered from it.

Interpretation.

Feature 173 probably contained a staked fence, or similar structure. It is possible that the stakes were renewed after fill 224 had been deposited. It may have been associated with the iron working process (see phase 9). The large quantity of slag from fill 174 indicates that the feature was infilled after the industrial process had started on site. It is possible that the slaggy material was backfilled around the stakes to help give them stability.

The other features were less clear. They did not form coherent patterns. They were probably too short to be drainage gullies. Similar discontinuous trenches excavated at other Roman sites (e.g. Neatham, Hants: Millett and Graham 1986) have been interpreted as being the bedding trenches for sill beams of timber-framed structures.

None of these features could be proven to be contemporary with each other. Feature 142 certainly post-dated the phase 6 post-hole 114, though no other stratigraphic relationships with the post-holes existed. It is possible that sill beam structures replaced those with ground set post-construction. A similar sequence has been noted at Cirencester where post-built structures were replaced by buildings with "intermittent foundation trenches" (Wacher and M^oWhirr 1982, 39).

There is a faint possibility that features 105, 142 and 190 form the south-east corner of a building. The difference in dimensions between 105 and 142 is

negligible. The greater difference with 190 might be explained by most of that feature having been removed in the machine excavation of the site.

6.8. Phase 8. Pits and other features.

Description.

The phase 7 feature 157 was cut by a circular feature (155). It had a diameter of 0.75m and was 0.86m deep. It had steep sides, though the top was less so, and a fairly flat base. It had a single fill of very dark greyish brown sandy loam (156), though it gradually lightened to brown at its base. No clear contextual boundary could be defined. 860g of slag, twelve sherds of Roman pottery including a native copy of a terra nigra platter of form Camulodunum 16, a sherd from a grog tempered bead rim jar, a sherd of Dr 29 Samian dated 50-85AD, and a sherd from a flagon, were found, together with burnt flint, and a fragment of stone.

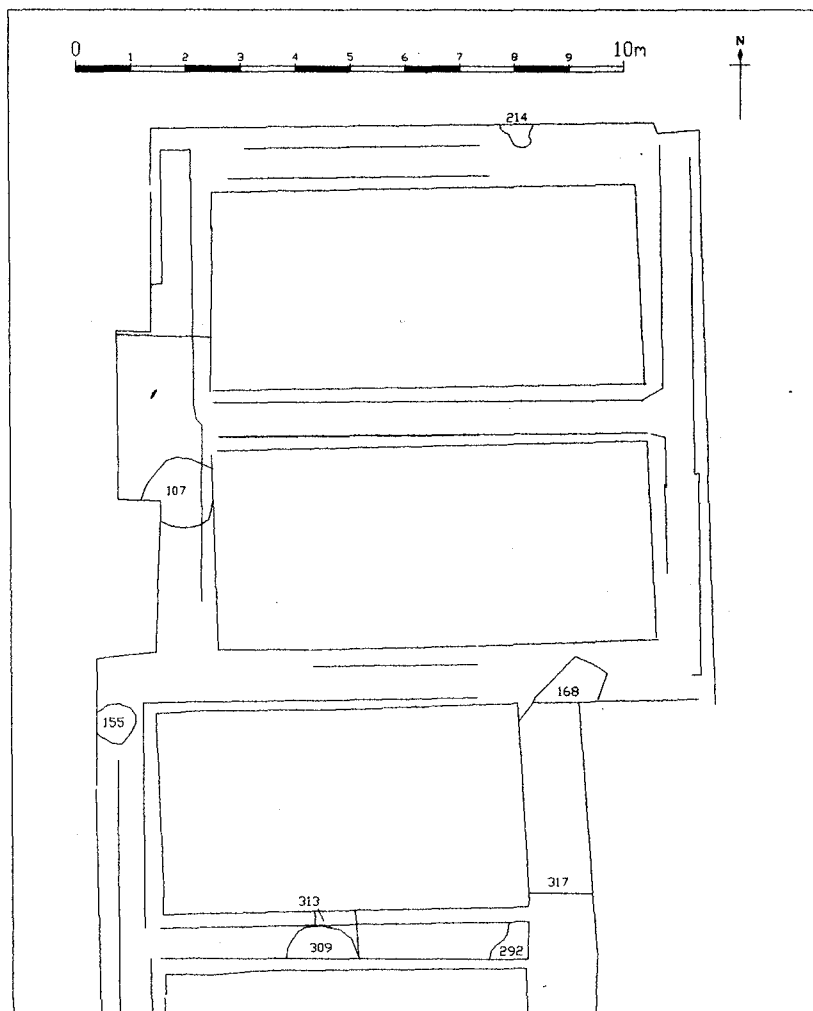


Fig 7. Plan of phase 8 features.

A feature of uncertain form (292) cut the brickearth layer 291 in trench 7. Only a small part of its western edge was excavated, as the excavation was ceased before it could be completed. The excavated edge was very irregular in shape. Its relationships to the east, north and south were not firmly established. Photographic evidence suggests that its northern edge in trench 8 was just to the north of trench 7. Its relationship with the phase 4 feature 218 to the south was not established. It had a fill of very dark grey silt loam (293). Five burnt flints and three sherds of a whiteware flagon were recovered from it. It is not known if the feature contained further fills.

The brickearth layer 291 and feature 292 in trench 7 were overlain by a 0.07m thick layer of gravelly clay loam with iron staining (225). Its top was at 3.32m OD. An iron nail, two burnt flints, 350g of slag, and six sherds of first century pottery were recovered from it. No comparable layers were identified in any other trench.

Layer 225 was cut by a very shallow feature (313). It had been truncated to the south by feature 309, and to the east by the phase 10 feature 226. Its north end continued beyond the limit of excavation. It survived to a width of 0.56m and was 0.16m deep. It was not possible to define its original shape in plan. It had a fill of light yellowish brown sandy clay loam (314). No finds were recovered from it.

The south end of feature 313 was cut by a possibly circular feature (309). Its southern end continued beyond the limit of excavation. The excavated northern end was bowl shaped in plan, and was 1.3m in diameter and 0.19m deep. It had a single fill of dark brown sandy clay loam (310). Five burnt flints and three large sherds of a grog tempered everted-rim jar, suggesting a late Roman date were recovered from it.

A feature of uncertain form (168) cut the phase 5 feature 243 in trench 4. It continued southwards into trench 8, but was only excavated in trench 4. The excavated north end in trench 4 seemed to form a north-east to south-west aligned linear feature, with a shallow V-shaped profile. It was 1m wide and 0.25m deep. It had four fills. The lowest was a dump of 34 sherds of Roman pottery (228). Twenty two of the sherds were from three jars in a sandy fabric, four were a local copy of a TN platter, four were from a pink flagons, and one was a sherd of Gaulish TN, probably from a form 16. Several sherds of the sandy fabric cross-fitted with sherds from the phase 5 fill 244. They may therefore have been disturbed from the earlier feature when 168 was dug through it. Pottery 228 was at the base of, and within a fill of dark olive grey silty clay with charcoal flecks (229). No finds were recovered from it. It was overlain by a fill of very dark grey silt loam (245). No finds were recovered. It was overlain by a fill of dark greyish brown silt loam (169). A fragment of whetstone, two iron objects, two burnt flints, animal bone, and forty four sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it. The pottery was mostly local sandy wares including copies of Gallo-Belgic carinated bowls together with TN copies, whiteware flagon sherds and Spanish amphora. A sherd of Samian from 37 could be dated to 65-80AD. Fill 169 appeared to fill the northern end of trench 8. As that end was not excavated, it is possible that this was several

features that could not be differentiated in plan. The southern end of this complex was identified just to the north of the junction of trench 8 and trench 7. The southern end of this feature was assigned the context number 317. Its fill (316) was described as being identical to fill 169.

A possible linear feature (277) cut fill 316. It was aligned east to west. It had concave sides and a flat base. It was 1.1m wide and 0.11m deep. It had a single fill of dark yellowish brown loamy sand (278). An animal tooth, one iron nail, one fragment of slag, three burnt flints and 46 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it. The pottery was mostly low fired grog tempered ware, but included a sherd in a soft red soapy fabric of a girth beaker, a rim sherd from a ring neck flagon, and a sherd of Samian form 29 which was not made after 85AD.

A sub-circular pit (107) cut the brickearth layer 102, at 0.48m north of the phase 22 post-hole 203. It had an inverted bell-shaped profile. It was a maximum of 1.4m across at its top, but reduced to a vertical-sided pit of 0.85m diameter at about 0.6m below the top. It was 1.1m deep. It had nine fills. The lowest was a dark greyish brown clay with preserved organic material (185). No finds were recovered from it. Fill 185 was overlain by a dark grey clay (184). It was contaminated with diesel, which presumably had travelled through the phase 1 gravel from the contaminated area in the south-west corner of the site. Three sherds of Roman pottery, one sandy, two flavian Samian, were recovered from it. Fill 184 was overlain by a 0.5m thick yellowish brown sandy clay with ash-like inclusions, especially near the top (145). Burnt brickearth, 40g of slag, and 14 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it. The pottery was mostly low fired grog tempered fabric from a bead rim storage jar, but included a local sandy copy of a Gallo-Belgic platter and a sherd of Samian form 29 dated 50-85AD. A fill of very dark greyish brown sandy loam (164) was deposited around the north and west edge of the pit above fill 145. Seven sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it including grog tempered and 1st century Samian. Fill 145 was overlain by a mixed fill of black, red, and very dark grey clay (138). It appeared to contain burnt material, which formed a burnt lens on its surface. There was no scorching of the surrounding deposits, so it is unlikely to represent "in situ" burning. Burnt brickearth, 420g of slag, and 13 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it. The pottery included grog tempered, sandy, and 1st century Samian wares. Fill 138 was overlain by a gravel in a matrix of very dark greyish brown sandy clay (137). Its edges extended up towards the top of the pit, its upper surface forming a bowl-shaped hollow. A fill of dark yellowish brown sandy silt loam (136) filled the base of the hollow in the top of fill 137. No finds were recovered from it. It was overlain by a very dark grey silty sand with abundant charcoal and ash-like lenses (109). Burnt brickearth, 90g of slag a fragment of an iron nail, and eight sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it. Of note was a sherd from a North Galuish whiteware flagon, and large sherds of a 'Hampshire bowl'. Fill 109 was overlain by a gravel in a matrix of very dark greyish brown sandy silt loam (108). Nineteen sherds of Roman pottery, including some 25% of a Gillam 238 mortaria, probably produced in the Pas de Calais region and dated to 55-100AD, and 1010g of slag were recovered.

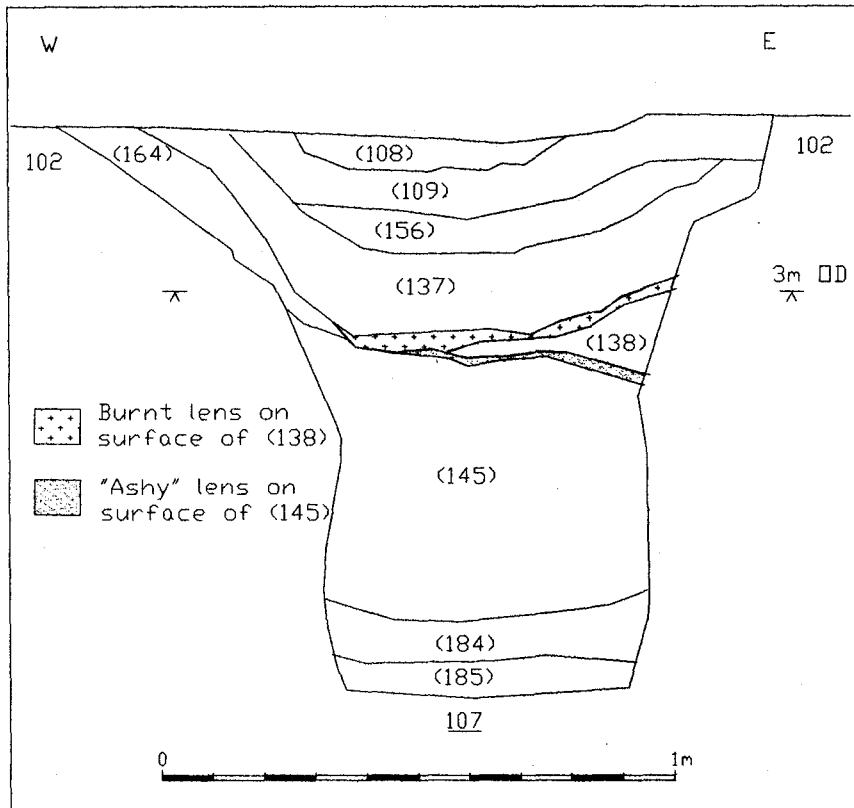


Fig 8. South facing section through pit 107.

An irregularly shaped feature (214) cut the brickearth layer 102 in trench 1. It had near vertical sides, and a flat bottom. Its north end continued beyond the limit of excavation. It measured at least 0.36m long, by 0.5m wide, by 0.16m deep. It had a fill of gravely very dark grey loam (215). A bashed flint core or hammer was recovered from it.

Interpretation.

These features were probably rubbish pits. The complex of intercutting features in the south-east corner of the site (trenches 4, 7, and 8) show that the features were probably dug throughout the roman occupation of the site. Unfortunately this area was not fully excavated, so its full complexity cannot be defined. However, the presence of layer 125 suggest that a larger scale excavation would have revealed evidence of occupation horizons associated with the use of these features. Layer 125 was probably an area of hard standing.

Feature 107 in trench 2 may have been dug as a rubbish pit. The irregular shape of its top was probably due to erosion, indicating that it was left open for a considerable time. However, the small quantity of finds recovered from

its lowest fills make it difficult to substantiate this theory. It is possible that organic rubbish was deposited in it that had rotted away, but the leaves and twigs from the bottom-most fill, 185, suggest that such remains ought to have been preserved if they had been present. The ash-like material from the top of fill 145, and the burning and large quantity of slag from 138 would have been derived from the iron working site. It may have been deposited in order to cap off a noisome rubbish deposit. The bowl-shaped gravel fill 137 may have been deliberately deposited in order to complete the capping. The lack of finds would further suggest that it was not a rubbish deposit. Its bowl-shape would indicate that it had subsided after the underlying deposits had contracted through rotting of its organic content. Fills 108, 109, and 136 may represent infilling, either deliberate or accidental, of the subsidence hollow as it formed.

6.9. Phase 9. Pit possibly associated with iron working.

Description.

The south end of the phase 7 feature 173 was cut by a large, probably rectangular feature (175). Only its north-west corner was found in the south end of trench 5. It was at least 4m long and 1.1m wide. It was 0.45m deep. Its west edge sloped at about 70 degrees, and it had a fairly flat base. It had two fills. The lowest fill was a 0.15m thick black silt loam with very common iron staining (193). It produced a large finds assemblage datable to the Roman period. It included 9200g of slag, a piece of Roman brick and 117 sherds of pottery. The pottery was of interest in that the majority of it was a group of 80 sherds from at least three pulley wheel flagons in North Gaulish whiteware. Also present was a large sherd from a Spanish amphora, a copy of a whiteware Gallo-Belgic beaker of form Cam 113, five sherds of flavian Samian, and sherds of a roughcast beaker. A rare find for this site was a sherd from a 1st/2nd century glass bottle. Fill 193 was overlain by a black silty clay loam with abundant iron staining (176). The boundary between fills 176 and 193 varied between being sharp and diffuse. A large finds assemblage datable to the Roman period was recovered from fill 176. It included 36,910g of slag, brick/tile fragments (including a sherd possibly from a flue tile), 125 sherds of pottery, 15 small flint flakes and debitage, and 15 iron objects. The pottery included more sherds of pulley wheel flagons which cross-fitted with those in 193; sandy dishes and jars; two sherds of two 'London' ware vessels, one with inscribed decoration; flavian Samian, and grog tempered pottery. There was also five sherds of late Roman pottery (New Forest, Oxford, and Dorset Black Burnished) either from the soil above the feature, or possibly from a feature not seen during the excavation.

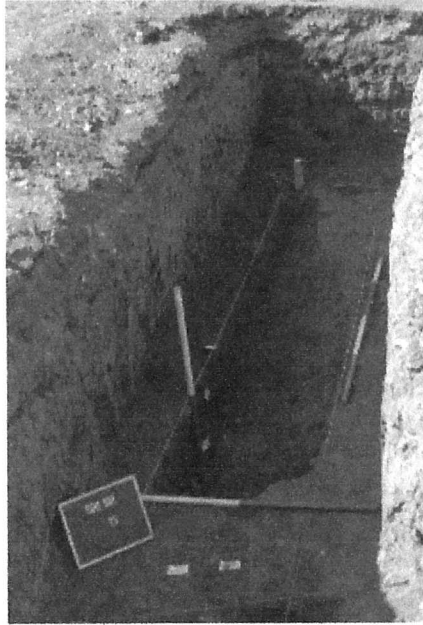


Plate 2. Feature 175 looking south.

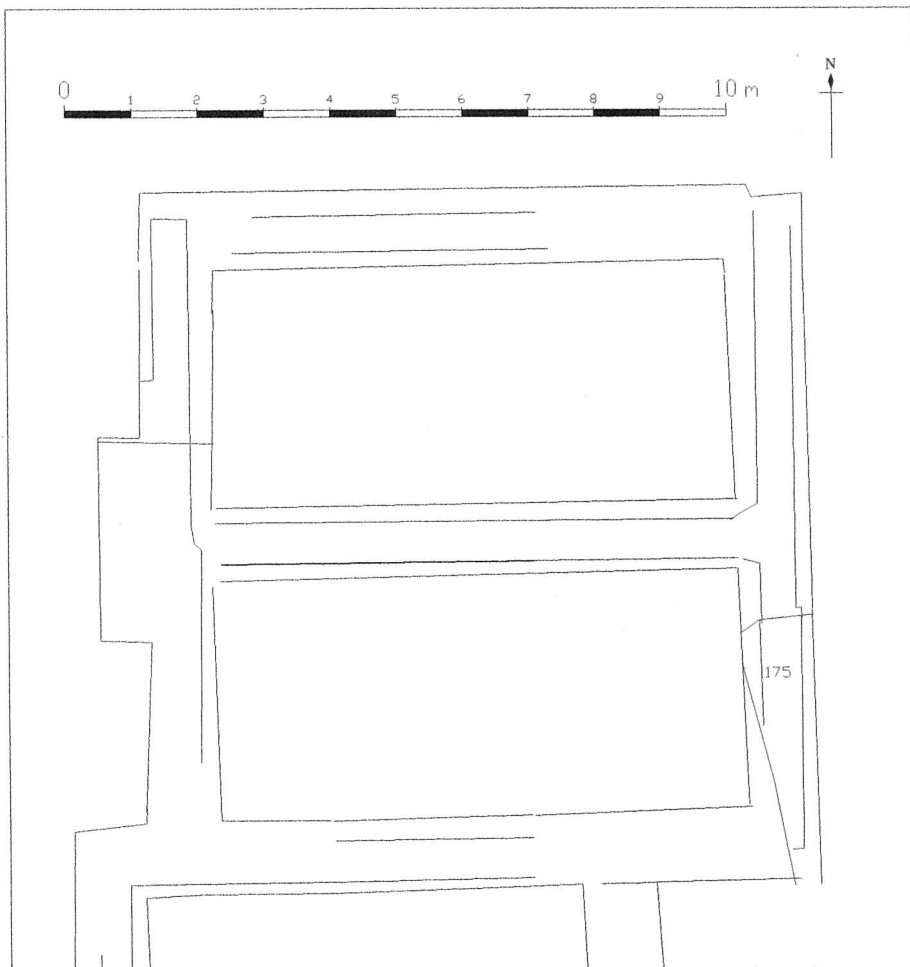


Fig 9. Plan of the phase 9 feature.

Interpretation.

This feature seems to have been used for the disposal of waste from iron working. The large quantity of slag (46,110g) recovered from a relatively small area (about 2 cubic metres), together with the 1740g from the phase 7 feature 173, suggests that the iron working site was very close to this feature. The quantity of slag recovered from deposits declined rapidly to the west and south (see Andrew's slag report). There was no evidence of burning or scorching within feature 175, so it is unlikely to be associated with the actual iron working process.

6.10. Phase 10. Pig burials.

Description.

The phase 8 feature 313 was cut by feature (226). Feature 226 cut the phase 8 layer 225. It was possibly oval in plan, and had a U-shaped profile. Its northern end continued beyond the limit of excavation. It was a minimum of 0.61m long, 0.81m wide, and 0.38m deep. It had four fills. The lowest fill was a dark grey silt loam with very common iron staining (315). No finds were recovered from it. A 0.05m thick and 0.33m wide fill of very dark brown sandy loam (237) was deposited over the centre of fill 315. Seven piglet bones and one sherd of early Roman pottery were recovered from it. A void, roughly triangular in section, was found above fill 237. It appeared to be contained within the fills of the feature, and did not seem to be a later disturbance. A fill of dark brown loamy sand with some iron staining (236) was found around the void. No finds were recovered from it. The top of feature 226 was filled with an iron stained brown sandy loam (227). One burnt flint and two iron objects were recovered from it.

An irregularly shaped feature (146) cut the brickearth layer 102 and the east edge of the phase 5 feature 111 in trench 1. It was 0.54m long, 0.43m wide, and 0.11m deep. An articulated pig skeleton was found at its base (148). The skeleton was covered by a very dark greyish brown silty clay loam (147). Five sherds of Roman pottery, all small and undiagnostic, stray pig bones, 1725g of solidified lime, and 50g of slag were recovered from it. Four lumps of limestone were laid over the pig skeleton.

A second irregular feature (217) cut the phase 8 feature 292. It may have been sub-circular in plan, but its eastern edge continued beyond the limit of excavation. It was 0.81m long, at least 0.26m wide, and 0.20m deep. An articulated pig skeleton (202) was found at the base of this feature. It was overlain by a fill of black silt loam (201). A sample of the soil was taken and it yielded burnt brickearth, eleven small sherds of abraded Roman pottery, and a fragment from a flint flake. Dating evidence was provided by five fragments of West country slate, imported into Southampton from the 12th century onwards.

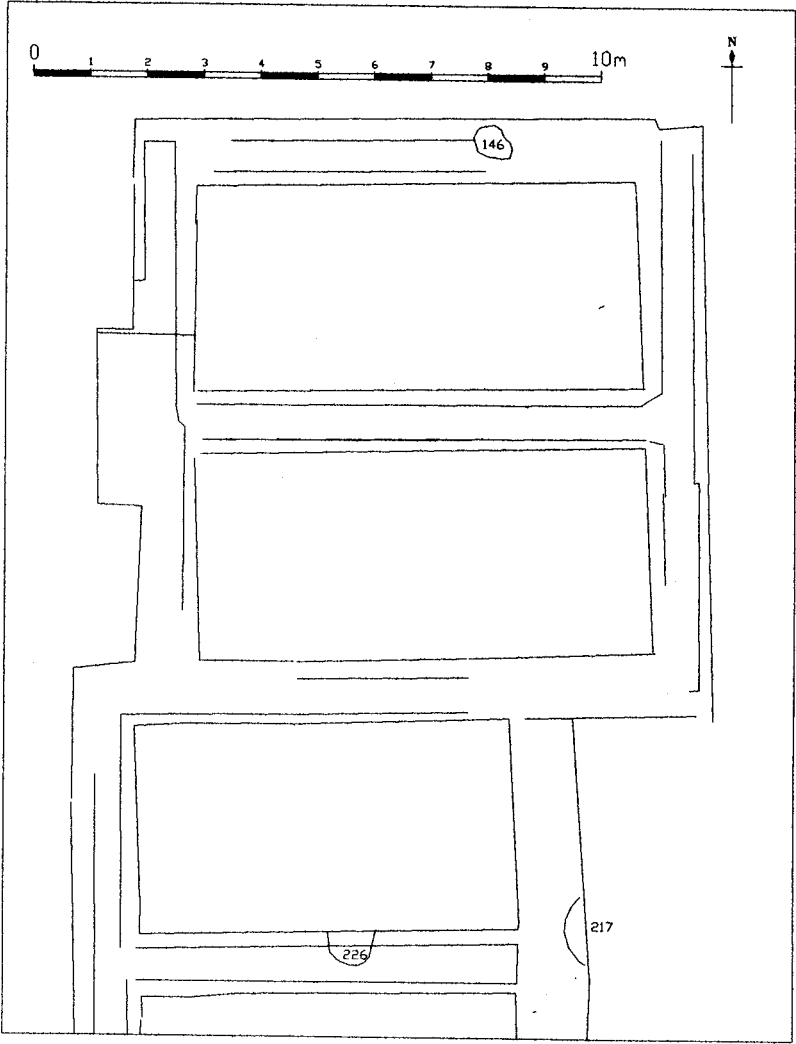


Fig 10. Plan of phase 10 features.



Plate 3. Pig skeleton in fill 148 overlain by limestone blocks.



Plate 4. Pig skeleton 202.

Hamilton-Dyer concludes that the piglets were interred as articulated carcasses, and that the example from feature 217, at least, showed clear signs of a systemic disease which caused abnormalities to the skeleton.

Interpretation.

These three features were deliberately dug in order to bury young, probably diseased, pigs. At least one had lime scattered over the carcass. The date of this episode is uncertain. They were stratigraphically late, and the presence of West Country slate suggests after 1200AD.

6.11. Phase 11. Agricultural soil.

Description.

A 0.15m thick layer of very dark grey silty clay loam (179) overlay the eastern end of the phase 4 road surface and boundary ditches in trench 9. Its northern edge butted against the brickearth layer 102. Burnt brickearth, 710g of slag, brick and roof tile, animal bone, and 18 sherds of pottery, including Antonine Samian and 3rd/4th century New Forest ware, were recovered from it. A small layer of dark grey silty clay loam (334) overlay a small area of the phase 4 layer 333 at the north end of trench 10. Three fragments of roman brick and a fragment of flanged roof tile were recovered from it.

A small irregular feature (122) cut the brickearth layer 102 in trench 1. Its fill (123) was described as being the same as the overlaying layer 104. Another similar feature (177) was found in trench 1. It had a fill of very dark grey silty clay loam (178). Rotted fragments of tree root were found in it. An irregular, 0.03m deep, depression (150) cut layer 102 in trench 4. It had a fill of dark greyish brown silty clay loam (151).

A 1.5m long and 0.05m thick layer of olive brown silty clay (216) overlay layer 102 near the north end of trench 5. Seven sherds of Roman pottery, including Spanish amphora and a sandy biconical jar, and three burnt flints were recovered from it. A 0.43m thick layer of dark greyish brown silty clay loam (104) developed over all the earlier deposits in trenches 1 to 9. The base of this layer represented the bottom of the deposits excavated by mechanical excavator. Some finds were retrieved from the sections. Twenty burnt flints, five sherds of early Roman pottery, and two flint flakes were recovered from it. A 0.1m thick layer of very dark grey silty clay (326) developed over the entire length of trench 10. It overlay the phase 4 and 11 deposits. A reasonably large finds assemblage datable to the Roman period was recovered from it, including late Roman New Forest pottery and roman tile and brick. Layer 326 was overlain by a 0.3m thick layer of very dark greyish brown silty clay loam (323). Roman pottery, including late Roman New Forest wares, and Roman brick were recovered from it.

Interpretation.

These layers formed as an agricultural soil which developed over the Roman site. It probably started to develop in the Roman period, and may have been contemporary with the phase 10 pig burials. Only objects datable to the Roman period were recovered from them, but the method of excavation did not allow for full finds collection. It is therefore likely that this soil continued to develop into the medieval and post medieval periods. The three features probably represent natural variations in the brickearth surface, or animal or root disturbances.

6.12. Phase 12. Modern deposits.

Description.

The phase 11 layer 104 was overlain by a 0.43m thick layer of mixed modern deposits (103). Its top was at 4.23m OD in the north by trench 1, and at 3.99m OD in the south by trench 8. Two worked flints and five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it. The phase 11 layer 323 in trench 10 was overlain by a 0.4m thick layer of very dark grey silty clay loam (321). It was cut by a service trench (feature 324, fill 325). The trench was overlain by a concrete path and its bedding material (320).

Interpretation.

These were 20th century deposits laid over the phase 11 agricultural soil. Those in trenches 1 to 9 were associated with the use of the builder's yard; those in trench 10 to the garden of 20 Eastfield Road.

6.13. Phase 13. Stratigraphically insignificant contexts.

Description.

Contexts 100, 101, 110, 183, 279, and 328 were context numbers assigned to unstratified finds. Their locations are summarised as follows:

- 100 Machining at north end of site
- 101 Machining of diesel contaminated area at south end of site
- 110 From over and around feature 111 (phase 5)
- 183 From contaminated area at south end of site
- 279 From cleaning of layers 225 and 280 (phase 3 and 14)
- 328 From trench 10

Contexts 118 and 119 were voided.

Context 100 produced a rim sherd from a 4th century glass beaker.

7. Conclusions.

The modern St Denys area was occupied during the Roman period. It may have formed a suburb to the defended settlement on the opposite bank of the River Itchen, usually identified as Clausentum. The present site was almost certainly an iron working site during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Andrews is of the opinion that the site was used to produce iron in bulk, rather than the production of finished artefacts. It may have been supplying a need for raw materials during the establishment of Clausentum during the early Roman period. There was no evidence to suggest whether its market was military or civil, or a combination of the two.

The site was possibly given over to agriculture, including pig breeding, during the later Roman period. This may have been associated with the contraction of Clausentum. As the main settlement became smaller, there would probably be less requirements for ancillary services. It is possible that the change at the present site was due to factors independent of events across the river.

The site has shown that there was a metalled road running at an approximate right angle from the river (phase 4). It was bounded on either side by a boundary ditch. That on the northern side was redug, and resulted in a widening of the road. The same sequence was possibly also observed to the south. A research priority for this area would be to investigate whether other roads exist, and whether or not they form a grid.

The disjointed nature of the excavation means that it is difficult to define overall patterns of settlement. At least one property was investigated to the north of the road. The phase 5 north to south linear feature may have formed a boundary between two properties, though it may have had a functional purpose within a single property.

Remains of timber-framed structures were found. There was some stratigraphic evidence to suggest that the phase 6 post-built structures may have been replaced by the phase 7 possible beam-slot structures. However, no certain building plans were identified. Indeed, it is not even certain that the phase 7 features were bedding trenches for timber sill beams.

Associated rubbish pits were found (phase 8). The objects recovered from them would perhaps be associated with domestic, rather than industrial use of the site. This does not detract from the evidence that the site was used for iron working. Rather they indicate that domestic activities would have taken place on site too. A pit used for disposal of iron working residues was found on the eastern edge of the site (phase 9). The concentration of iron working residues in its vicinity might indicate that the actual iron working was centred on an area to the east of the excavated trenches.

Appendix 1. Context list.

Number/letter codes (e.g. 10YR 3/1) = Munsell soil colour codes.

sa = stone abundance (0 = virtually stone free → 5 = gravel)

Context	Trench	Type	Description
100	-	Unstrat	From machining of N end of site
101	-	Unstrat	From diesel contaminated area at S end of site
102	-	Layer	10YR 5/4 silty clay loam, sa 1, very mottled
103	-	Layer	Modern overburden = tarmac over dark soil, over clinker, over sandy gravel with brick rubble
104	-	Layer	10YR 4/2 silty clay loam, sa 2
105	1-2	Feature	Linear feature with near vertical edges, rounded terminal at S end
106	1-2	Fill of 105	10YR 3/1 sandy silt clay, sa 3
107	2	Feature	Roughly circular in plan. Top = moderate – steep concave edge, bottom near vertical shaft
108	2	Fill of 107	10YR 3/2 sandy silt loam, sa 5
109	2	Fill of 107	10YR 3/1 – 7.5YR 2/- silty sand, sa 1. Abundant charcoal & ash at base
110	1	Unstrat	Finds from clean up over & around 111
111	1	Feature	Linear, sloping sides, rounded bottom
112	1	Fill of 111	10YR 3/1 silt loam, sa 2
113	1	Fill of 111	10YR 3/1 silt loam, sa 5
114	2	Feature	Circular in plan, V-shaped profile
115	2	Fill of 114	10YR 3/1 silty clay loam, sa 0. Burnt clay
116	1	Feature	Circular in plan, Sloping on NW, vertical on SE, rounded bottom
117	1	Fill of 116	10YR 3/1 silt loam, sa 4
118	-	Void	
119	-	Void	
120	1	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, sloping sides, rounded base
121	1	Fill of 120	10YR 4/3 sandy loam, sa 1. Charcoal flecks & some burnt clay
122	1	Feature	Small dip
123	1	Fill of 122	No description
124	2	Fill of 142	10YR 3/3 clay, sa 0
125	2	Feature	Circular in plan, vertical sides tapering to blunt point
126	2	Fill of 125	10YR 4/2 silty clay loam, sa 2. Very few charcoal flecks
127	2	Feature	Circular in plan, vertical sides tapering to blunt point
128	2	Fill of 127	10YR 4/2 silty clay loam, sa 2
129	2	Feature	Circular in plan, vertical sides tapering to sharp point on S edge
130	2	Fill of 129	10YR 3/2 silty clay loam, sa 2
131	3	Feature	Irregular
132	3	Fill of 131	10YR 3/4 silt clay, sa 2
133	4	Feature	Linear, fairly steep sides, flat bottom
134	4	Fill of 139	10YR 4/6 silty clay, sa 2. Abundant 10YR 5/2 silty clay mottles
135	4	Fill of 133	10YR 3/2 silty clay loam, sa 2-3. Occasional 10YR 4/4 mottles, common charcoal flecks
136	2	Fill of 107	10YR 4/6 sandy silt, sa 2
137	2	Fill of 107	10YR 3/2 sandy clay, sa 5
138	2	Fill of 107	2.5YR 4/6 burnt clay, 5YR 3/1 clay, 10YR 2/1 charcoal, 10YR 7/6 – 7/4 clay, sa 1
139	4	Feature	Irregular depression
140	2	Fill of 114	10YR 4/2 silty clay loam, sa 1

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Context	Trench	Type	Description
141	2	Fill of 114	10YR 4/3 silty clay, sa 1
142	2	Feature	Linear, straight sides, flat bottom
143	3	Feature	Linear, Convex sides, top = gradual, bottom = steeper
144	3	Fill of 143	10YR 3/1 silt loam, sa 3 Abundant charcoal, some ash near centre
145	2	Fill of 107	10YR 5/4 sandy clay, sa 1. Abundant ash, common charcoal flecks
146	1	Feature	Irregular
147	1	Fill of 146	10YR 3/2 silty clay loam, sa 1. 10YR 4/6 sandy clay mottles
148	1	Fill of 146	Articulated skeleton
149	3	Fill of 143	10YR 4/6 silt clay, sa 2
150	4	Feature	Shallow dip
151	4	Fill of 150	10YR 4/2 silty clay loam, sa 3
152	3	Fill of 143	10YR 2/1 silt loam, sa 3. Ash, degraded lump of sandy limestone
153	1	Fill of 111	10YR 3/1 silt loam, sa 1-2. Abundant charcoal
154	1	Fill of 111	10YR 3/1 silty loam, sa 4. Common charcoal
155	6	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, Top slopes, bottom near vertical, fairly flat base
156	6	Fill of 155	10YR 3/3 sandy loam, sa 1
157	6	Feature	Linear, edges gently slope, terminal at S
158	6	Fill of 157	10YR 4/3 clay loam, sa 1
159	1	Fill of 111	10YR 5/4 sandy clay, sa 5
160	1	Fill of 111	10YR 3/2 silty clay loam, sa 1. Common charcoal, large lens of 10YR 5/4 sandy clay
161	3	Feature	Oval in plan, vertical sides, tapering base
162	3	Fill of 161	10YR 3/2 silty clay, sa 3
163	3	Fill of 143	10YR 4/2 & 5/3 silty clay loam, sa 1
164	2	Fill of 107	10YR 3/2 sandy loam, sa 1
165	2	Feature	Circular in plan, smooth sides, flat bottom
166	2	Fill of 165	10YR 3/3 silty clay loam, sa 0. Charcoal
167	1	Fill of 111	10YR 4/2 & 5/4 sandy clay, sa 2
168	4	Feature	Linear?, U-shaped profile, terminus to N
169	4	Fill of 168	10YR 4/2 silty loam, sa 1
170	3	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, vertical sides, flat base
171	3	Fill of 170	10YR 5/3 silty clay, sa 2
172	1	Fill of 111	10YR 3/2 silty clay loam, sa 5
173	5	Feature	Linear, broad U-shaped profile
174	5	Fill of 173	10YR 3/1 silty clay loam, sa 2. Common CBM fragments
175	5	Feature	Rectangular, steeply sloping sides, fairly flat base
176	5	Fill of 175	10YR 2/1 silty clay loam, sa 3. Abundant iron staining, very common slag, common CBM
177	1	Feature	Irregular
178	1	Fill of 177	10YR 3/1 silty clay loam, sa 1
179	9	Layer	10YR 3/1 silty clay loam, sa 2. Diesel contaminated
180	6-9	Layer	10YR 5/2 & 3/2 sandy silt loam, sa 4
181	3	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, vertical sides, flat base
182	3	Fill of 181	10YR 3/2 silty clay, sa 3
183	-	Unstrat	From contaminated area
184	2	Fill of 107	5Y 4/1 clay, sa 2. Diesel contaminated
185	2	Fill of 107	2.5Y 4/2 clay, sa 1
186	9	Layer	2.5YR 3/2 silty clay loam, sa 5. Diesel contaminated
187	9	Layer	10YR 5/6 & 2.5Y 5/2 sandy clay loam, sa 2
188	9	Feature	Shallow depression
189	9	Fill of 188	10YR 4/2 sandy clay loam, sa 5
190	2	Feature	Linear, U-shaped profile, terminal to E
191	2	Fill of 190	10YR 3/2 silty clay loam, sa 0
192	9	Layer	2.5Y 4/4 sandy clay loam, sa 5

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Context	Trench	Type	Description
193	5	Fill of 175	5Y 5/1 silt loam, sa 2. Very common iron staining, common slag
194	3	Layer	10YR 6/8 clay, sa 2
195	3	Feature	Oval in plan, concave sides, flat base
196	3	Fill of 195	Dark orangey brown (no Munsell) silty clay, sa 2
197	3	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, vertical sides tapering to a point
198	3	Fill of 197	Brownish orange (no Munsell) silty clay, sa 2
199	6-9	Feature	Linear, U-shaped profile
200	6-9	Fill of 199	5Y 3/1 sandy silt loam, sa 2-5. Diesel contaminated
201	8	Fill of 217	10YR 2/1 silty loam, sa 1. Surrounds skeleton 202, contact with bone = bright blue
202	8	Fill of 217	Articulated pig skeleton
203	2	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, bowl-shaped
204	2	Fill of 203	10YR 3/3 sandy loam, sa 1-2
205	2	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, bowl-shaped profile with dip near centre
206	2	Fill of 205	10YR 3/1 silty loam, sa 0. Vertical column near centre of feature
207	2	Fill of 205	10YR 3/3 sandy loam, sa 1, surrounds 206
208	1-5	Feature	Oval in plan, U-shaped profile
209	1-5	Fill of 208	10YR 3/2 silty loam, sa 2
210	6	Feature	Linear, U-shaped profile
211	6	Fill of 210	10YR 4/1 silty clay loam, sa 1-2. Diesel contaminated
212	1	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, fairly steep sides, flat base
213	1	Fill of 212	10YR 3/2 sandy loam, sa 1
214	1	Feature	Irregular
215	1	Fill of 214	10YR 3/1 loam, sa 4
216	5	Layer	2.5Y 4/4 silty clay, sa 2
217	8	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, U-shaped profile
218	8	Feature	Linear, gently sloping sides, flattish base
219	8	Fill of 218	5Y 3/1 sandy silt loam, sa 2
220	8	Feature	Linear, N edge = concave, S edge = steeper, flat base
221	8	Fill of 220	10YR 2/1 clay loam, sa 4-5
222	6	Layer	5Y 4/2 sandy clay loam, sa 5. Diesel contaminated
223	6	Layer	2.5Y 4/4 & 5Y 3/2 sandy clay loam, sa 5
224	5	Fill of 173	No Munsell, silty clay, sa 2
225	7	Layer	No Munsell, clay loam, sa 4. Iron staining
226	7	Feature	Circular in plan, steep sides, flat base
227	7	Fill of 226	10YR 4/3 sandy loam, sa ?
228	4	Fill of 168	Pottery dump
229	4	Fill of 168	5Y 3/2 silty clay, sa 0
230	5	Feature	Circular in plan, tapering to sharp point
231	5	Fill of 230	10YR 4/3 silt loam, sa 2
232	5	Feature	Circular in plan, tapering to a point, slightly undercut to N
233	5	Fill of 232	10YR 4/2 silt loam, sa 3
234	5	Feature	Circular, not excavated
235	5	Fill of 234	10YR 4/2 silt loam
236	7	Fill of 226	10YR 3/3 sandy loam, sa ?
237	7	Fill of 226	10YR 3/1 sandy loam, sa ?
238	3	Layer	2.5Y 5/4 fine sand, sa 5
239	9	Feature	Circular in plan, vertical sides
240	9	Fill of 239	10YR 4/2 silty clay loam, sa 1
241	9	Feature	Irregular
242	9	Fill of 241	2.5Y 3/2 sandy silt loam, sa 4
243	4	Feature	Linear, V-shaped profile, terminal at S
244	4	Fill of 243	10YR 3/4 silty loam, sa 3. Includes pottery dump
245	4	Fill of 168	10YR 3/1 silt loam, sa 0. Charcoal
246	9	Feature	Sub-circular
247	9	Fill of 246	10YR 4/2 sandy clay loam, sa 1

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Context	Trench	Type	Description
248	5	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, vertical sides tapering to a point
249	5	Fill of 248	10YR 3/2 silty loam, sa 2
250	5	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, vertical sides tapering to a point
251	5	Fill of 250	10YR 3/2 silty loam, sa 1
252	5	Feature	Sub-square in plan, vertical sides tapering to a point to W
253	5	Fill of 252	10YR 3/2 silty loam, sa1
254	5	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, sides taper to a point
255	5	Fill of 254	10YR 3/1 silty loam, sa 1
256	5	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, vertical sides, flat base
257	5	Fill of 256	10YR 3/2 silty loam, sa 2
258	9	Feature	Irregular
259	9	Fill of 258	2.5YR 4/4 sandy loam, sa 2-3
260	9	Feature	Sub-rectangular in plan, gentle slope to E, steep to W
261	9	Fill of 260	10YR 4/3 & 2.5Y 4/4 sandy clay loam, sa 1
262	8	Feature	Oval in plan, vertical → sloping sides tapering to pointed base
263	8	Fill of 262	10YR 4/1 sandy clay loam, sa 1
264	8	Feature	Circular in plan, tapering sides, rounded base
265	8	Fill of 264	10YR 4/1 sandy loam, sa 1
266	8	Feature	Circular in plan, steep tapering sides to pointed base
267	8	Fill of 266	10YR 4/1 sandy clay loam, sa 1
268	8	Feature	Circular in plan, near vertical sides, rounded base
269	8	Fill of 268	10YR 4/1 sandy clay loam, sa 0
270	8	Feature	Circular in plan, steep tapering sides to pointed base
271	8	Fill of 270	10YR 4/1 sandy clay, sa 0
272	8	Feature	Circular in plan, steep tapering base to pointed base
273	8	Fill of 272	10YR 4/1 sandy clay loam, sa 0
274	8	Feature	Circular in plan, near vertical sides, rounded base
275	8	Fill of 274	10YR 4/1 sandy clay loam, sa 0
276	8	Layer	2.5Y 4/4 & 5/6 loamy sand, sa 1
277	8	Feature	Uncertain form due to limited excavation
278	8	Fill of 277	Brown (no Munsell) loamy sand, sa 3
279	7	Unstrat	From cleaning 225 & 280
280	7	Layer	10YR 4/2 sandy clay loam, sa 3. Abundant 10YR 3/2 mottles
281	9	Feature	Circular in plan, sides taper to point
282	9	Fill of 281	10YR 4/2 sandy clay loam, sa 0
283	9	Feature	Circular in plan, vertical sides, rounded base
284	9	Fill of 283	10YR 4/3 sandy clay loam, sa 0
285	9	Feature	Circular in plan, sides taper to a point
286	9	Fill of 285	10Yr 4/2 sandy clay loam, sa 0
287	9	Feature	Circular in plan, sides taper to a point
288	9	Fill of 287	10YR 4/3 sandy clay loam, sa 0
289	4	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, slightly sloping sides, flat bottom
290	4	Fill of 289	10Yr 3/3 silty loam, sa 1
291	7	Layer	10YR 4/2 sandy clay loam, sa 3
292	7	Feature	Unknown shape due to lack of excavation
293	7	Fill of 292	10YR 3/1 silty loam, sa 2
294	8	Feature	Circular in plan, vertical sides, rounded base
295	8	Fill of 294	5Y 4/2 sandy loam, sa 1
296	8	Feature	Circular in plan, near vertical sides, rounded base
297	8	Fill of 296	2.5Y 4/4 sandy loam, sa 0
298	8	Feature	Sub-oval in plan, tapering sides to a point
299	8	Fill of 298	2.5Y 4/4 sandy loam, sa 1
300	6-9	Layer	10YR 4/3 clay sand, sa 0. Diesel contaminated
301	5	Feature	Sub-oval in plan, sides taper to blunt point
302	5	Fill of 301	10YR 4/3 sandy silt, sa 4
303	5	Feature	Sub-oval in plan, sides taper to a point
304	5	Fill of 303	10YR 4/3 silt loam, sa 4

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Context	Trench	Type	Description
305	5	Feature	Circular in plan, sides taper to a point
306	5	Fill of 305	10YR 5/3 silty clay, sa 3
307	5	Feature	Circular in plan, sides taper to a point
308	5	Fill of 307	10YR 5/3 sandy silt, sa 3
309	7	Feature	Sub-circular in plan, bowl shaped
310	7	Fill of 309	10YR 3/3 sandy clay loam, sa 3. Common iron staining
311	5	Feature	Circular in plan, not excavated
312	5	Fill of 311	10YR 4/3 silt loam, sa 2
313	7	Feature	Uncertain form
314	7	Fill of 313	2.5Y 6/4 sandy clay loam, sa 2
315	7	Fill of 226	10YR 4/1 silt loam, sa 3. Very common iron staining
316	8	Fill of 317	Same as 169
317	8	Feature	Same as 168
318	8	Layer	10YR 2/1, no texture, sa 5
319	7-8	Layer	10YR 3/1 sandy loam
320	10	Layer	Modern concrete path over mixed soil with building rubble & gravel
321	10	Layer	10YR 3/1 silty clay loam, sa 3
322	10	Layer	10YR 5/3 – 5/6 sandy clay, sa 0
323	10	Layer	10YR 3/2 silty clay loam, sa 1. Charcoal flecks
324	10	Feature	Cut for drain
325	10	Fill of 324	10YR 3/1 silty clay loam, sa 3
326	10	Layer	10YR 3/1 silty clay loam, sa 3
327	10	Fill of 330	2.5Y 3/2 sandy clay loam, sa 2
328	10	Unstrat	From trench 10
329	10	Fill of 330	10YR 4/1 – 3/1 silty clay loam, sa 1
330	10	Feature	Linear? – not excavated
331	10	Feature	Linear in plan – not excavated
332	10	Fill of 331	10YR 4/1 – 5Y 2.5/2 sandy clay, sa 2. Charcoal flecks
333	10	Layer	10YR 5/8 & 5/2 clay loam, sa 5
334	10	Layer	10YR 4/1 silty clay loam, sa 2-3. Brickearth mottles
335	10	Feature	Circular in plan
336	10	Fill of 335	10YR 4/1 silty clay loam, sa 1

Appendix 2. Iron working debris report.

Report written by P Andrews BSc MIFA.

A significant amount of evidence for iron working on or in the immediate vicinity of the site can be assigned to the early Romano-British period, and all appears to be associated with iron smithing. No evidence for iron smelting was recovered, or for other metalworking activities.

Approximately 70.3kg of certain or probable smithing slag was collected from a variety of features, few of which were fully exposed and excavated within the narrow confines of the builder's trenches investigated. This total includes a comparatively small number of complete hearth bottoms (approximately a dozen examples) which are likely to have formed in the bases of smithing hearths. However, a considerable number of fragments exhibit hemispherical undersides, often with hearth lining adhering, suggesting that they are likely to be fragments of broken hearth bottoms. Much of the remainder of the debris is of irregular form and varying density, ranging from material which is very dense (only a few pieces) to very vesicular, sometimes with a glassy surface. Some of the latter material might be classified as fuel-ash slag which may not necessarily have derived from iron working, though this is likely here. One fragment (from feature 175), with hearth lining attached, shows clear evidence of part of a tuyère hole. None of the material exhibits the "platey" nature with surface runs and dribbles which is characteristic of tap slag derived from iron smelting. Some plate hammerscale was recovered from sieving, but not in the large quantities often found on smithing sites. It remains uncertain whether the slag was derived from primary (bloom) smithing, or secondary smithing (i.e. the production of artefacts), but the substantial quantity recovered from a restricted area suggests that the former is more likely.

Despite the restricted nature of the excavations, some useful observations can be made about the distribution and nature of the iron working activity. It is clear that feature 175, which produced more than 50% of the debris (46.11kg from c 2m³ of fill), lay close to the focus of iron working activity. Small sections excavated through linear feature 111/143/243 to the west produced 9.89kg of debris, and linear feature 173 to the north of 175 produced a similar quantity. Post-hole 114 (2.12kg) and pit 107 (1.47kg) were the only other features to produce more than 1kg of debris. Very little came from the south in the vicinity of the road.

There is no clear evidence that feature 175 which appears to have been a sub-rectangular, flat bottomed pit was associated with iron working, and there was no evidence for any burning or scorching of the sides. However, the form of the pit was different to any other features excavated on the site. It is clear that it was rapidly infilled with a substantial quantity of iron working debris. There is some indication from the limited evidence available that the iron working activity was restricted to one area, perhaps a single property, and may have continued throughout the use of the site in the 1st century AD. Some evidence was recovered from linear feature 173 that was cut by pit 175.

Further evidence can be expected to lie to the east of the area investigated. The distribution of material suggests that it probably tapers out in other directions, where any debris may simply represent residual material.

Overall, the iron working debris has the potential to make a significant contribution to understanding the character of this, as yet little understood, Romano-British settlement on the west bank of the River Itchen. Perhaps the bloom smithing, a “dirty” industry, was carried out here away from the main site at Bitterne Manor, and the relatively pure iron in the form of bars, rods, etc taken elsewhere for the manufacture of artefacts. It is quite possible that the iron working may have been associated with military activity, and the need for iron in some quantity during the early stages of the Roman occupation of Britain.

Appendix 3. Animal bone report.

Report written by S Hamilton-Dyer BSc AIFA.

Introduction

Animal bones were recovered from 19 contexts of 17 features and layers. The excavation of the footings encountered several linear features, layers and pits. The nature of the excavation resulted in the recovery of small samples of bones rather than complete collections from features. Preservation is variable with most bone slightly eroded, the condition of some bones is poor.

Methodology

Species identifications were made using the modern comparative collections of S. Hamilton-Dyer. Some fragments could be identified only to the level of cattle/horse-sized and sheep/pig-sized. Other small, indeterminate, fragments were recorded as mammalian only. The archive contains further details including data on anatomy, fragmentation and ageing.

Results

Overall a total of 460 individual bones was recorded. A large number of these (392) are from two pig skeletons. The taxa identified are horse, cattle, sheep/goat and pig. Dog bones were not identified but indirect evidence for their presence is attested by gnaw marks on six bones. Almost 89% of the bones could be identified to taxon, although exclusion of the pig skeletons reduces this to 34%, a relatively low level of identifiability for Southampton material. Counting the two pig skeletons as single bones, pig remains are still the most frequent of the identified bones. Most of the unidentified fragments are cattle/horse-sized. Three of the four sheep/goat remains are loose teeth, the most resistant parts of the skeleton, reflecting the condition of the material.

The most significant features for animal remains are 146, 217 and 226.

Pit 146 at the northern limit of the excavation contained 287 bones of pig, representing all parts of the body. Many small epiphyses and peripheral toes are present but head bones are absent, bar a recently broken left mandible. It is highly likely that these represent the burial of a single piglet, the remainder of the head being in the unexcavated portion of the feature. All the bones have unfused epiphyses and the first molar is not fully erupted. There is some wear on the 4th premolar, indicating that this was not a stillbirth but probably was a piglet of two or three months. Several pieces of limestone had been laid over the body, for what purpose is unclear as soil would have provided

adequate cover for this small carcass. No butchery marks were observed and it is likely that the remains represent the burial of a natural mortality.

Some metres to the south, feature 217 contained the skeleton of an older pig, though still immature. This was very clearly deposited as an articulated carcass, although most of the ribs and the right foreleg were not recovered - these would have been in that portion of the feature beyond the eastern limit of excavation. The carcass was deposited on its left side with the head thrown back.

The bones are all dark brown to black and have a curious odour similar to that of a garden bonfire. This sulphurous smell can also be encountered in material from anaerobic deposits such as those which are, or have been, waterlogged. The bones were very well preserved in comparison with the remainder from the site, an effect also seen in material from both burnt and anaerobic conditions. None of the bones showed significant loss or calcining as from fire damage and, although no vivianite deposits were observed (this blue iron compound can be common on bones from anaerobic contexts), at least one bone was noted to have a bright blue colour on excavation. It is likely, therefore, that the carcass was in anaerobic conditions during, at least the early part of, its depositional history.

All the epiphyses were again unfused but this animal was much older than the previous piglet, having the first molar in wear and the second molar already visible in the crypt. This equates to an animal of approximately six months old. This young pig has an unusual, pathologic, conformation. The bones are all broader than expected in relation to their length, most notably in the major long bones. The skull and mandibles also have a grossly swollen appearance. This is particularly noticeable in the molar area of the mandible and also results in a slight doming of the frontal area of the skull. Some of the longbones, the femur for example, also have some porosity near the articulation. These abnormalities are likely to have been caused by a systemic disease of unknown aetiology. Again no butchery marks were observed and this pig may have died of the disease which caused the abnormalities. It is also interesting to note the extreme torsion of the neck, this can be a symptom of certain diseases.

The nearby pit 226 also contained part of a piglet, in this case just the pelvis and upper part of the hind legs, with no other animal bones. This feature is also truncated by its position at the edge of the excavation area and it is likely that the rest of the skeleton was present, but in that part not excavated. A void was discovered in the overlying deposit: it is not clear whether this represents the decaying body or some other organic object.

As indicated above, other contexts contained few bones, summarised in Table 1. The 17 bones identified to taxon are of the expected main domestic ungulates. Cattle/horse-sized fragments of rib, vertebra and limb bone accounted for 21 bones, nine were classified as sheep/pig-sized and a further 22 small fragments were indeterminate even to this level. There are no bird or fish bones in this small collection. Two cattle-sized rib fragments had been

sawn. These were recovered from the unstratified machining context 100 and it is probable that they are modern or recent. No other butchery marks were observed.

Discussion

This assemblage is clearly too small for detailed analysis of the local animal economy. A number of observations can be made however: the presence of the domestic ungulates is expected and these few fragments can be regarded as background noise. The preservation in most contexts at this site is not as good as at other sites in Southampton, resulting in a lower level of identifiability. In contrast the pig from pit 217 is extremely well preserved, and is unusual in other respects. Further investigation by a palaeopathologist might be warranted if the skeleton can be reliably assigned to the Roman period and, at the least, photography of the most distinct bones.

The presence of three piglet burials in a relatively small area almost certainly indicates pig breeding in the vicinity. Pigs can be raised easily even in an urban context and the bones can be frequent at some Romano-British sites (King 1988, Maltby 1993). The disposal of complete carcasses, however, may indicate peripheral, even rural, activity.

In contrast with Saxon material there are few Roman assemblages in Southampton and therefore even this small addition to the database is welcome. Cattle, horse, sheep, pig, and indications of dog have been found in other Roman material from Southampton. A well preserved assemblage from Stueart Road also included a wide range of birds fish and other small animals (Hamilton-Dyer 1998).

Table 1. Species totals.

Context	Horse	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	pig	Cattle- size	Sheep- size	Mam mal	Total
100	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
117	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
135	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	4
144	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	5
148	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
				(287)				
153	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
160	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	5
169	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3
174	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	7
176	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	5
179	-	-	-	1	-	2	11	14
183	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
193	2	1	2	-	3	-	-	8
202	-	-	-	1(96)	-	-	-	1
237	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	7
244	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	7
278	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
323	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
326	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	4
Total	6	6	4	11	21	9	22	79
				(392)				(460)
%	7.6	7.6	5.1	13.9	26.6	11.4	27.8	
% cattle, sheep, pig		28.6	19	52.4				

Appendix 4. Pottery report.

Report written by Dr AD Russel BA PhD MIFA.

The pottery from SOU 981 is an interesting assemblage that warrants detailed study in relation to the settlement at Clausentum across the river, and the other Roman sites on the St Denys peninsula. Until a fabric and form type series is constructed from all the Roman sites in the area only broad conclusions can be drawn.

The pottery mostly dates to the second half of the first century AD. Where second century types are present, such as Dorset Black Burnished ware, it is found in the upper layers of features. Late roman pottery, that is of the 3rd and 4th centuries, was only found in the soil levels that overlay the site, suggesting the focus of settlement moved away from this area, probably by 150AD.

A number of coarseware pottery types were present on this site that do not seem to be found at the main settlement across the river, in particular the most common coarseware, a well made sandy fabric, used for jars and bowls. At the same time, the common native first century coarse ware at the main settlement, flint tempered beadrims jars, is almost absent at the Eastfield Road site. This raises questions in terms of the relative dates of the settlements and the status of the people who used and deposited the pottery.

The standard imports of the second half of the first century were well represented at SOU 981. Samian bowls and cups, Terra Nigra platters, whiteware flagons, North Gaulish mortaria and Spanish olive oil jars show that the inhabitants of this settlement had access to traded goods. The high numbers of local copies of Gallo-Belgic and early Roman forms suggests that there was a demand for the imports that could not be met.

Of the Samian forms present some occur usually in pre-Flavian deposits in this country, in particular the Ritterling 8, and the form 24/25 cups. The stamped Ritterling cup is by the potter PRIMI and examples are known from Boudiccan fire deposits in Colchester.

In conclusion if one were pushed for a start date for the Eastfield Road ironworking settlement it would be a pre-Flavian date. Phase 4 saw the establishment of a road and its ditches. They silted up with deposits that included slag, but no Samian, which first appears in phase 5. This would be at odds with the main Clausentum settlement where little evidence of pre-Flavian pottery has been found. However the Hawkeswood Road site (SOU 857) would seem to show that there was a military phase dated 43-70AD, marked by an absence of rubbish, followed by the handing over of the peninsula to civilian occupation. Perhaps at Eastfield Road we have the original civilian settlement, with a strong native potting tradition but ready access to imports from their military neighbours, which moves to the better defended site once the military move out, about 70AD.

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Context no	Wgt(gm)	No of frag	Description	Fab code	Form code
100	8	1	beaker		bekr
100	211	2		BAT AM 1	Dressel 20
100	10	2		ERSGW	
100	6	2	flint	FLINT	
100	3	1	fine sandy grog	FSMG	
100	47	2		FSMG	
100	41	3		GROG	
100	8	2		NOG WH2	
100	6	1	white slipped	RSOX 2	
100	6	1		SBIS	
100	34	2		SBIS	
100	10	1	RIM	TS	DR 24/25
100	57	6	decorated	TS	DR29
101	25	3		ERSGW	
101	10	1		ERSGW	
101	84	8		ERSGW	
101	6	1		ERSGW	
101	206	10		GROG	
101	4	1		NFOCC	
101	3	1		SBIS	
102	270	2		BAT AM1	Dressel 20
102	12	1		GROG	
104	3	1		ERSGW	
104	3	2		RSOX 1	
104	22	2	1 rim sherd	TS	DR 24/25
106	12	1		ERSGW	
106	9	1		GROG	
108	27	4		ERSGW	
108	28	3		ERSGW	
108	32	1		ERSGW	
108	81	3		GROG	
108	362	8	mortaria	NOG WH4	Gillam 238
109	71	2		ERSGW	
109	4	1		FSMG	
109	91	4		GROG	
109	14	1	base sherd	NOG WH2	flagon
110	14	1		ERSGW	
110	145	9	includes three base sherds	GROG	
110	79	5	includes a rim sherd and two bases sherds	NFOGW	
110	8	1	rim	TNCY 1	Com 16
110	7	1	Lezoux, dec	TS	DR 37
110	6	1		TS	Misc
112	2	1	pink		
112	10	1	white slip		flagon
112	49	1		BAT AM1	Dressel 20
112	23	1		ERSGW	
112	20	2		ERSGW	
112	31	3		ERSGW	
112	5	1		ERSGW	

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Context no	Wgt(gm)	No of frag	Description	Fab code	Form code
112	4	1		ERSS	
112	41	5		GROG	
113	10	1		ERSE	
114	5	1	rough cast beaker - British copy	RSM 1	
117	8	2		GROG	
117	3	2		TS	misc
121	7	1		GROG	
132	6	1		BAT AM1	Dressel 20?
132	4	1		FLINT	
132	3	1		NFOCC	
134	6	3		NOG WH2	flagon?
135	49	2		BAT AM1	
135	93	7		ERSGW	
135	36	1	base sherd	FLINT	
137	11	1		ERSGW	
138	32	9			
138	8	1		ERSGW	
138	19	2		GROG	
138	3	1	rim	TS	DR 18?
144	25	2	includes base sherd	BB1	
144	32	7		ERSGW	
144	63	3		ERSGW	
144	105	4	sherds join to form profile from base to rim	ERSGW	
144	32	2	includes rim sherd	FLINT	
144	138	4	fine sandy - 2 adjoining rim sherds	FSMG	
144	13	1	platter foot rim	GAB TN1	platter
144	14	2	includes rim sherd	TNCY	
145	10	1	base sherd	ERSGW	
145	8	2		ERSGW	
145	4	1		ERSS	
145	85	9	includes rim sherd	GROG	
145	5	1		TS	DR 29
147	5	1		BB1?	
147	4	1		FLINT	
147	2	1		FRS	
147	5	1		GROG	
147	1	1		RSOX 1	
152	2	2		RSOX 1	
152	9	1		TS	misc
153	9	2			
153	43	2		ERSGW	
153	31	6		ERSGW	
153	3	1		TS	Dr 18/31?
153	15	1		TS	DR 15/17
154	25	12			
154	84	10		ERSGW	
154	39	1		FLINT	
154	4	1	decorated	TS	Dr 30
156	5	1	ring neck white slip		flagon
156	31	2		ERSGW	
156	26	1		ERSGW	

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Context no	Wgt(gm)	No of frag	Description	Fab code	Form code
156	16	1		ERSS	
156	19	1	rim sherd	GROG	
156	9	2	fine sandy - resin coated	RSOX 2	
156	14	3		TNCY 2	
156	5	1	decorated	TS	DR 29
160	3	4			
160	101	7	bead rim, platter	ERSGW	
160	25	4		ERSS	
160	18	3		FSMG	
160	6	2		TS	misc
162	21	3		ERSGW	
162	4	1	rim	ERSGW	
162	6	1		FLINT	
162	9	1		GROG	
162	1	1		NOG	
162	2	1		RSOX 1	
164	4	1		ERSGW	
164	5	1		ERSGW	
164	29	2	two base sherds	GROG	
164	7	3	1 base sherd, 1 rim sherd	TS	DR 15/17
169	3	1	fine sandy		
169	2	1	pink		
169	8	1	greyware		
169	6	1		AH?	jar
169	161	1		BAT AM 1	Dressel 20
169	59	4		ERSF	
169	76	7		ERSGW	
169	10	2		ERSGW	
169	128	11		ERSGW	
169	5	1	sandy - burnt after breakage	ERSGW	
169	22	1	flagon, gritty pink white streaks	ERSGW	flagon?
169	46	2		FLINT	
169	19	3		GROG	
169	1	1	mortaria/flagon?	NOG WH	
169	13	4		NOG?	
169	11	1		TNCY 1	
169	11	1	rim	TNCY 2	
169	30	1	decorated rim sherd	TS	DR 37
174	3	1	pink		
174	19	8			
174	1	1	colour coat		
174	4	1	buff		flagon?
174	8	1	white slip		flagon
174	32	1	rim sherd	BB1	
174	3	1		BB1	
174	14	1		ERSF	
174	5	1		ERSGW	
174	31	5		ERSGW	
174	11	2		ERSGW	
174	14	1	rock temper?	ERSGW	
174	31	4		ERSGW	
174	15	2		FLINT	
174	5	1		FSMG	

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Context no	Wgt(gm)	No of frag	Description	Fab code	Form code
174	84	10	includes one rim and one base sherd	GROG	
174	1	1		NOG	
174	19	1		NOG WH4	mortaria
174	10	4		SBIS	
174	10	3		SBIS	
174	8	2	decorated	TS	Dr 29
174	3	1	rim sherd	TS	DR 27
176	74	18	fine ware - Dutch?		
176	23	23			
176	4	1	fine		
176	3	1	fine sandy		
176	27	2	includes rim sherds from two different pots	BB1	
176	9	2	sandy	ERSF	
176	428	35	includes base and rim sherds from several different vessels	ERSGW	
176	6	2	burnt	ERSGW	
176	2	1		FSMG	
176	3	1		FSMG	
176	92	7		GROG	
176	33	2	includes rim sherd	LON FR?	
176	5	1	rim sherd	NFOCC	
176	6	1		NFPAR	
176	143	16	pulley wheel flagon, includes rim sherds	NOG WH4	flagon
176	17	1	dec	OXCC	
176	3	1	micaceous rough cast	RSM 1	
176	157	1		sandy	storage jar
176	14	1	decorated	TS	DR 37
176	41	4		TS	DR27
176	8	3		TS	Dr 78
176	21	2	rim	TS	DR 18/31?
179	24	1	rim sherd	BB1	
179	109	5		ERSGW	
179	11	2	black spot m. q.	ERSGW	
179	20	2		GROG	
179	43	2	includes base sherd	NFOCC	
179	24	3		NOG WH2	flagon
179	32	1		TS	Dr 31R
179	12	2		TS	Dr 18/31?
182	1	1		ERSGW	
182	6	2		NOG	
183	12	2	includes base sherd	NFOGW	
184	5	1		ERSGW	
184	6	2	1 rim sherd	TS	DR 27
193	13	1	white slip		flagon?
193	9	5			
193	3	1	pink, fine		
193	28	1	fine sandy		
193	389	1		BAT AM1	Dressel 20
193	5	1		ERSE	

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Context no	Wgt(gm)	No of frag	Description	Fab code	Form code
193	12	1		ERSF	
193	10	1	wheel made early roman sandy	ERSGW	
193	5	2		ERSGW	
193	20	2		ERSGW	
193	6	1		ERSGW	
193	128	4		ERSS	
193	6	1		ERSS	
193	48	3		GROG	
193	66	3		NOG WH	Cam113
193	568	80	at least 3 pulley wheel flagons represented	NOG WH4	flagon
193	15	2	rough cast beaker	RSM 1	
193	7	1	rim sherd	TS	misc
193	3	1		TS	misc
193	8	2	one base, one rim sherd	TS	Dr 30
193	28	1		TS	DR37
193	72	2	decorated	TS	DR 29
196	7	1		FLINT	
200	9	3			
200	6	1		ERSF	
200	802	33		ERSGW	
200	140	5		GROG	
201	13	11			
209	31	1		BAT AM 1	
209	2	1		ERS	
209	10	2		ERSGW	
209	1	1		ERSS	
209	1	1		NOG WH4	
209	7	1		SBIS	
211	31	1	flagon? handle	NOG WH2	flagon
216	5	1		BAT AM 1	
216	8	2		ERSE	
216	44	4		ERSGW	biconical jar
219	2	1	fine		
219	4	1		GROG	
221	1525	75	fine sandy - Dutch?		
221	12	1	rim	NOG WH2	flagon
224	11	2	resin coated?	RSOX 2	
225	12	1		ERSGW	
225	10	1		ERSGW	
225	45	1		ERSGW	
225	28	1		GROG	
225	2	1		NFSE	flagon
225	10	1		TS	Dr 24/25var
228	15	1	pink		
228	47	1	pink		flagon
228	620	23		ERSE	
228	56	5		ERSGW	
228	57	3		ERSGW	
228	10	1	terra nigra sandy	TN 2	Cam 16?
232	9	1			
237	4	1		ERSGW	
244	6	1			
244	3	1			flagon
244	2	1		BAT AM 1	Dressel 20?

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Context no	Wgt(gm)	No of frag	Description	Fab code	Form code
244	30	5		ERSE	
244	788	38		ERSF	
244	122	5		ERSGW	
244	93	7		ERSGW	
244	14	2	platter	ERSGW	platter
244	556	37		ERSGW	
244	108	5		FLINT	
244	13	2		FLINT	
244	55	1		FSMG	
244	32	1		GAL AM	G4?
244	4	1	pipeclay?	NOG	
244	28	5	fineware	NOG	
244	60	5		NOG WH2	flagon
244	6	1		sandy	
244	66	2	red spot rim	SRS	
244	88	6		TN 1	Cam 16 ac
244	13	1		TNCY 2	
244	64	1	stamped OFPRM	TS	Ritt 8
244	27	1	large rim sherd	TS	DR 27
257	3	1		NOG WH2	
278	8	1	ring neck		flagon
278	17	2		ERSE	
278	3	1		ERSGW	
278	1	1		GROG	
278	472	36	soft reddish fabric	GROG	
278	6	2	beaker	RSOX 2	Curle 2
278	5	1		TNCY 2	Cam 16?
278	6	2	decorated	TS	DR 29
279	13	1	base sherd	ERSGW	
290	1	1		ERSGW	
290	4	1		ERSGW	
290	12	1	grey sandy copy	TNCY	Cam 113?
291	3	1		ERSGW	
293	5	3		NOG WH2	
310	192	3		GROG	
323	9	1	sandy		
323	14	1		BB1	
323	60	3		ERSGW	
323	201	7		GROG	
323	2	1		NFCC	
323	26	1		NFCC	Mortaria
323	27	1		NFPAR	Flanged bowl
326	6	1			beaker?
326	10	2			flagon
326	10	2	pink		flagon
326	6	1	col coat		beaker?
326	9	2		ERSF	
326	9	2		ERSF	
326	15	4		ERSGW	
326	14	4		ERSGW	
326	4	1		GROG	
326	37	1	bottle/flask	NFCC	
326	10	2		NFGW	
326	13	1	cup, stamped "materi..."	TS	DR 33
327	22	2	early roman bead rim jar	GROG	

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Context no	Wgt(gm)	No of frag	Description	Fab code	Form code
327	4	1		SIS	
327	4	1		SIS	
328	15	1	IA/Roman fine tempered		
328	8	2		BB1	
328	6	1	heavily burnt	CHINA	
328	9	1		GROG	
328	17	1		GROG	
328	4	1	beaker	NFCC	folded
328	40	3		NFGW	
328	9	1	flagon	NFSE	flagon
328	2	1	moulded body sherd - burnt	TS	
329	17	1		BB1	

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Peckham, Ingrid

From: Smith, Michael P.
Sent: 26 May 2006 11:53
To: Peckham, Ingrid
Subject: RE: SOU 981

Dear Ingrid

The evidence was not conclusive, but I think we eared on the side of post-Roman. They were later than certain Roman remains in the stratigraphic sequence. We didn't mention the pigs in the Hampshire Studies ²⁰⁰²~~2000~~ report on the Roman remains. Might make more sense as medieval or even post-medieval agricultural activity.

Hope this rather ambiguous answer helps you sort it out.

Mike

From: Peckham, Ingrid
Sent: 26 May 2006 11:26
To: Smith, Michael P.
Cc: Morton, Alan
Subject: SOU 981

Hi Mike,

I've been doing SMR records for SOU 981 – interesting stuff! However your report seems to give contradictory interpretations of the dating of the pig burials. The summary, phase 11 interpretation and conclusions (on pages 1, 30 and 32 respectively) suggest a Roman date, although the section on the burials themselves (page 27/8) suggests a date after 1200AD, because of the presence of West Country slate in the fills (generally assumed to have been imported into Southampton from the 12th century onwards). I wondered whether you would like to comment further on this, before I add a note to the SMR.

Best wishes,
Ingrid

Ingrid Peckham
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IP 26/5/06 = Note that the final SOU 981 report in Hampshire Studies 2002 gives a mid/late 1st c date for the settlement.