

Interim Report on
Archaeological Excavations at
Sudbrooke (Roman Villa)
Lincolnshire

(SUD08)

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(Please note that to obtain further information on any aspect of the site, finds or environmental records please contact the author at Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln where the site archive is available for public consultation by appointment. This is an interim arrangement prior to the deposition of all project materials with the Lincolnshire archaeological archive, City and County Museum, following the completion of all fieldwork activities and post-excavation analyses – global accession number 2005.58).

SUMMARY

- During July and August 2008 controlled open area excavations were undertaken on arable land immediately to the north of New Ten Acre Wood, Sudbrooke, near Lincoln, Lincolnshire. This fieldwork was part of a broader multi-season programme of activities encompassing research, training, public archaeology and education activities that commenced in 2005.
- Earlier investigations – including geophysical survey, metal detector survey and trial trenching – indicated the presence of a complex series of features suggestive of a Romano-British settlement dating from the 1st to 4th centuries.
- During the first three seasons of open area excavation between 2005 and 2007 a number of features were revealed, recorded and investigated including a post and stake alignment, building debris dumps, construction/demolition features and in-situ masonry structures comprising limestone foundation walls and the floors of two hypocaust (under-floor heated) rooms, additionally evidence for later demolition and robbing of walls was also revealed. A further *opus signinum* lined feature was interpreted as the base of a plunge-pool or room. There was also evidence for a further partially robbed out masonry building of later date. An earlier refuse-filled large ditch and an infant burial were also recorded. Artefacts recovered included pottery, iron nails, metal artefacts, painted wall plaster and quantities of redeposited tesserae and some very small displaced elements of mosaic.
- During 2008 further archaeological features were revealed, recorded and investigated including building debris/demolition dumps, additional extents of the principal masonry building including a ‘stoke-hole’ or furnace room associated with the hypocaust rooms, the full extents of the *opus signinum* lined plunge-pool or room complete with an intact stone and tile-lined drainage channel. The alignment of several robber trenches indicated the further southerly extents of the principal masonry structure and also further elements of the later robbed out westerly building. Additional evidence was recovered including the continuation of the early refuse-filled large ditch and further fragmentary infant burials. To the west of the main excavation area evidence was recovered for a roundhouse structure, and associated features, of probable Iron Age date. Artefacts recovered included pottery, iron nails, metal artefacts, painted wall plaster and quantities of redeposited tesserae.
- The project was initiated by the Department of Cultural and Environmental Studies at Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln and facilitated by the heritage services company Lindum Heritage.

1. INTRODUCTION

The 2008 excavations were the fourth season of work within a multi-season campaign of controlled investigations. The project was devised and initiated by the staff of Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln. Both the University College and Lindum Heritage provided excavation and post-excavation management services. This season’s fieldwork was funded primarily through attendance fees paid by the ‘trainee/volunteer’ excavators and Field School students; additional income was derived from ‘HEIF3 Enterprise’ funding and commercial sponsorship. Significant further funding and resources, especially for post-excavation activities, came from Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln.

The project has four key purposes:

1. To address a set of research driven objectives concerned with enhancing knowledge of rural/villa settlement during the Roman period within the hinterland/*territorium* of the Roman city of Lindum Colonia (Lincoln) and its surviving archaeology.
2. To provide a properly managed training excavation open to undergraduate archaeology students and interested amateurs, both local and international, through the provision of an Archaeological Field School delivered and accredited by Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln.
3. To provide an opportunity for community archaeology through organised site tours, talks and educational activities for local children.
4. To investigate the impact that previous and current farm management practice has had on the condition of the buried archaeology and the methods that might be employed to assess such impacts. To provide information on which to base future conservation management of the archaeological resource.

With reference to point 1 above the following statement was presented within the original research design and project specification:

There have been previous excavations of Roman villa sites in Lincolnshire but the overwhelming majority of these took place during the 18th, 19th or early 20th centuries; as a result it is thought that more ephemeral evidence of timber structures and related features have been poorly recorded, if at all.

Generally it is assumed that villas in Lincolnshire were built and occupied between the late 2nd and 4th centuries. Little is known of the possible Iron Age to Roman transition of rural settlement sites; the Sudbrooke site is of particular interest in this regard given the ceramic material of high quality and dated earlier than the late 2nd century that has been recovered at Sudbrooke previously.

A further research focus is in connection with our knowledge of the relationship between the city of Lincoln and the surrounding hinterland, and the potential extents of the *territorium*; the Sudbrooke site is likely to contribute to this question. Any information that might be gained in relation to the late Roman-Saxon transition would also be of value.

The site has been known of since the 1980s, if not before, yet despite the high quality of recovered finds cultivation has continued since that date. The current excavation will allow an investigation into the extent of plough damage in relation to presumed archaeological survival, the effectiveness of evaluation trenching as a means of resource assessment, and will allow informed comment to be made on issues of future land-use and archaeological conservation.

The fieldwork, reporting methodologies and post-excavation procedures employed throughout this project are fully consistent with the recommendations and principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage, 2005), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IFA, 2001), and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire*

Archaeological Handbook: a Manual of Archaeological Practice (LCC, 1998). Despite the current project falling outside of the remit of planning controlled archaeological fieldwork due reference, where relevant, has been given to the principles of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990) and more importantly to *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance* (English Heritage, 2008).

Copies of this report will be deposited with the Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln library and the Historic Environment Record for Lincolnshire. In the longer term reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for future storage and curation. Making this report available in an on-line format through the University College's website will fulfil a further level of public dissemination (see www.bishopg.ac.uk/field-school). All these steps address the need to provide public information in a readily available form as an interim step prior to the completion of all fieldwork, followed by a period of advanced post-excavation analysis leading to final publication.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The village of Sudbrooke is situated approximately 7 km north-east of central Lincoln. The site occupies a rectangular field (approximately 530m x 130m), to the north of New Ten Acre Covert, a wooded area immediately north of the village, on the east side of Scothern Lane. The field slopes very gently downwards from an average height of 14.30m OD by the road to c.12.50m OD adjacent to the excavated areas. Cultivated land bounds the field on the north while on the south and east sides there are woodland. During the 2008 season the field contained a mature crop of wheat.

The site lies on a geological boundary, with Cornbrash towards the west side of the site, and Kellaways Formation sandstone to the east (British Geological Survey, 1999).

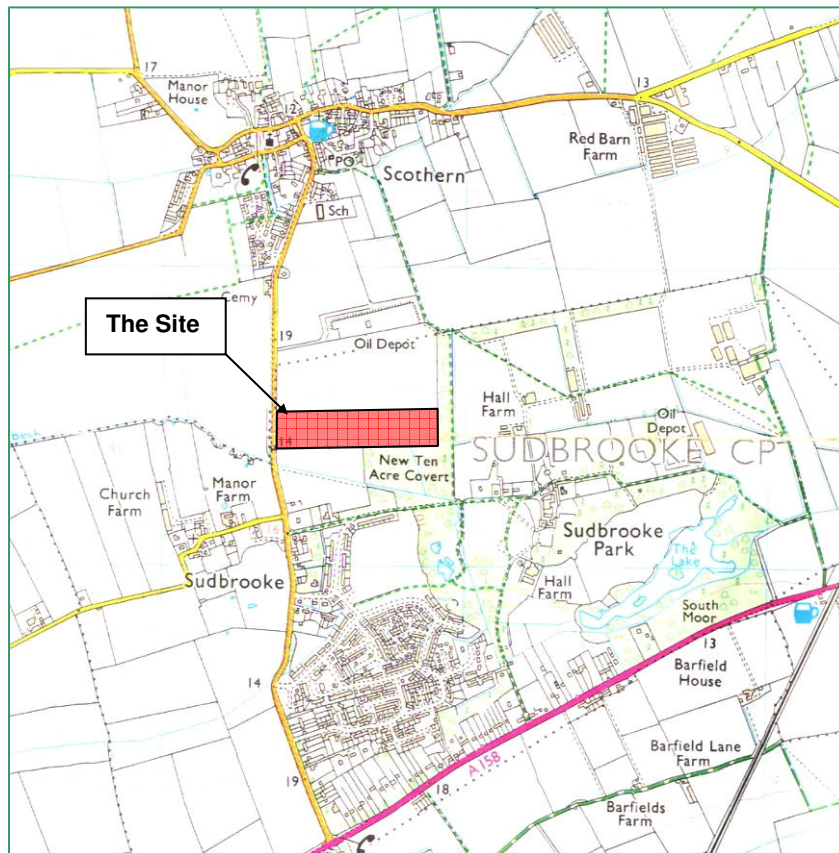


Fig.1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)

National Grid Reference TF 03700 76500

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3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 PRIOR OBSERVATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS

There is limited evidence of pre-Roman activity in the vicinity of the site. A number of Neolithic polished stone and flint axes have been found in the area; one from Scothern, one from the fields to the east of the village, and two from Sudbrooke Park (HER refs. 53105, 50991, 53059, 53063). These were high value objects, and the number recovered from this area is unlikely to represent casual loss in every instance, more likely they represent deliberate deposition in a ritual context. Cropmarks to the south of the village, partially obscured by medieval ridge and furrow, are indicative of prehistoric field systems (HER refs. 52962, 54171, 54174, 54175).

The A158, to the south of the site approximately marks the line of the Roman road running from the *colonia* of Lincoln to the coast. This route runs north-east from Lincoln, through the Wolds to the north of Horncastle, before turning to the south-east and passing through Burghle-Marsh, finally reaching the Roman coastline at a now lost settlement which may have occupied a ferry point across the Wash (Whitwell, 1992).

In the early medieval period, Sudbrooke and Scothern appear to have been closely related, as the land attached to both villages forms a single entry in the Domesday Survey, under the ownership of St. Peter's of Peterborough, and Kolsveinn, who paid dues on the land to St. Peter's (Foster & Longley 1976). Sudbrooke was without a parish church until 1860 (Pevsner & Harris, 1989). Furthermore, the place name evidence closely links the two villages. Sudbrooke is a derivation of the Old English *suth* and *broc*, meaning, 'the brook to the south', a name derived from its geographical relationship with Scothern (Cameron, 1998).

Prior to the current project, the site has been investigated on a number of occasions. The Historic Environment Record lists the site as a location of a possible Roman villa (HER ref. 50991). The entry for this site lists a number of fieldwalking projects that recovered a wide range of Roman domestic pottery and building material, it also mentions a bronze hand, possibly from a statue of Mars or Minerva recovered during the cleaning of a dyke running along the field boundary. A further entry suggests that the find of a Claudian coin originated from the project field (HER ref. 53065).

Between 1994 and 1998 a small number of geophysical and trial trenching interventions were undertaken, seemingly accompanied by ad hoc fieldwalking activities (Lyll & Clemence, 1994; Bee, 1998). These clearly demonstrated the archaeological potential of the site and confirmed its predominantly Roman dating. The 1998 report also includes a description of a stone column reportedly found within the field during the 1930s (during the course of the current project the present location of the column, now in private ownership, was ascertained).

More recently, a metal detector survey was carried out on the site under the guidance of the Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire. A total of 276 artefacts were recovered, of which many were undiagnostic scrap lead and iron. The dateable finds were dominated by objects of Romano-British date, and were concentrated in the eastern half of the field. These included two brooches of 1st/2nd century date, twenty-nine 3rd/4th century coins, four copper alloy pin-heads, a rare lead lamp holder, and 109 iron nails of probable Roman date. A limited number of the finds were of medieval or post medieval date (Daubney, 2004).

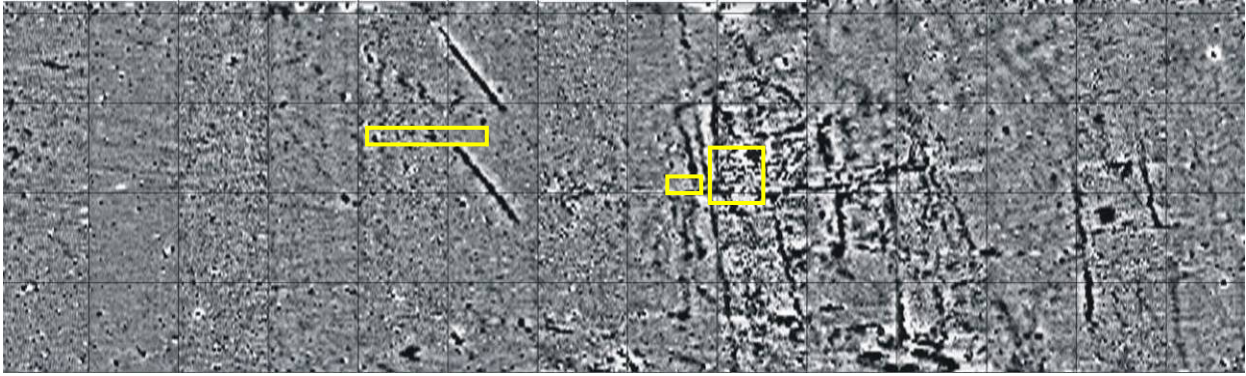


Fig. 2: Site Magnetometer Survey Results

Also showing approximate extents of excavation Areas F, G & H (SUD08).

(Geophysics undertaken by PCG reproduced with permission - PCG & Lincolnshire County Council)

A subsequent geophysical survey, commissioned by Lincolnshire County council, identified a large number of archaeologically significant anomalies (Fig. 2). These were interpreted as evidence of ditched enclosures and possible building remains of Romano-British date. The distribution of the anomalies paralleled that of the metal detector finds, being largely in the eastern half of the field (Bunn, 2005).

In early 2005 Pre-Construct Archaeology rapidly excavated a small number of trial trenches on the site for Lincolnshire County Council. Several linear slots and gullies, a number of small pits or postholes, and a single-coursed diagonally pitched roughly dressed limestone foundation feature were recorded. Dating was uniformly Roman – predominantly 1st-2nd century – while environmental analysis suggested the site was ‘calcareous grassland’ during its earliest phase (Clay, 2005, and *pers comm*).

During July 2005 a number of crop marks were observed across the field, which was planted with wheat at the time. Of particular note were indications of a large angular double ditched enclosure to the west of the present excavation area that was poorly indicated on the earlier geophysics plot (Spence, 2006).

(The foregoing text partially draws upon research originally conducted by Chris Clay of Pre-Construct Archaeology for Lincolnshire County Council; his work in this context is fully acknowledged).

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS SEASON'S FINDINGS

The 2005 season of open area excavation provided excellent results upon which a number of interim observations and conclusions can be drawn. It is clear that the lower extents of the plough-soil remain generally undisturbed by modern ploughing, though there have clearly been episodes of damage and disturbance in the past. Some evidence was found for modern damage at a lower level (approximately 350mm below the current topsoil surface) caused by drainage improvement works using a 'flat-lifter'. This damage was not however uniform across the site, was no closer together than 800mm spacings, and penetrated only the upper levels of the Roman period stratification.

In Area A the presence of negative features within the lower levels of the topsoil, in the form of postholes and stakeholes, was of great interest. Although these features could not be firmly dated they were clearly not recent in origin, indeed the differential decay associated with the fence line in the northern half of the area suggest an early date(?) The fence line is of interest and is thought to represent either a reuse of the site for purely agricultural activities post the destruction of the earlier buildings or evidence for open-area activities to the immediate north of any constructional land-use, and hence contemporaneous with that use. The fence was not substantial and was likely to have been a short-term structure used for penning animals or to divide off a horticultural area.

The southern part of Area A provided evidence for, at this stage, three distinct phases of activity. Earliest was the laid-mortar floor, though fragmentary this was clearly of Roman date and most likely represented a good quality floor surface [excavation during 2006 confirmed this as the floor of a hypocaust system]. Convex moulded fragments of *op. sig.* found elsewhere on the site suggest the presence of features such as tanks or pools amongst the original buildings. It was difficult, given the area investigated and time available, to ascertain the true relationship between this flooring and surrounding contexts, but it was clear that damage and destruction had occurred at some point in the past. This damage may have been the result of earlier plough damage, however given the evidence for systematic demolition in Area B, it is possible that destruction was deliberate and involved the robbing of walls and foundations [again excavation during 2006 confirmed that the latter interpretation was primarily correct].

To the north of the mortar floor there was some rather weak evidence for what may have been an east-west orientated shuttered clay wall, or similar constructional feature, possibly with associated flooring (or sub-flooring) deposits. This feature had also suffered a robbing action but some time after disuse (destruction?), in particular after a deposit of soil-like material had formed over/around it ('dark-earth'?). At the eastern end of this feature a substantial post-pit had been dug.

In Area B two significant deposits of building material were revealed; deliberately dumped in this area they can have only been moved a short distance from their original structure, and indicate the intentional demolition of a once standing building. The northernmost dump contained significant quantities of painted wall plaster with a wide range of colouring and some evidence for figurative work and small-scale geometric pattern work. It was not possible on site to identify the plaster as having either an interior or exterior origin, though some substantial pieces with red and white colouration are suggestive of a possible external use.

Initial analysis of the recovered ceramics gave an indication of occupation at the site between the first and the later third centuries. In more detail the assemblage included a reasonable content of first to second century pottery, such as south Gaulish Samian, but also a sherd of Iron Age tradition gritty ware. A significant proportion of the pottery indicated dates between the second and early third century, and displayed a range of forms appropriate to most

functional categories. Notably there were no sherds for which a fourth century date was applicable. Combined with the coin evidence gathered during the metal detecting survey it would not be unreasonable to suggest early occupation of the villa site during the first century with perhaps abandonment and demolition at some point during the later third, however it would seem that activity at the site – possibly robbing – continued into the fourth century on the basis of coin evidence.

The second season of excavation activity at Sudbrooke during 2006 provided substantive evidence for the presence on the site of a masonry building of Roman date. In area C a group of limestone wall footings, and associated robber-trenches, formed the walls of a square room equipped with an under-floor heating system or hypocaust. Finds evidence gathered from a sequence of robbing actions indicate that the room (or adjacent rooms) were furnished with (monochrome?) mosaic pavements and painted wall plaster. The deeper nature of the wall foundation trench to the north suggested that was an external wall of at least ten metres in length. This wall alignment was on an identical orientation to the fence alignment found some eleven metres further north during 2005. Close inspection of the various wall footings suggest that further internal rooms extend to both the south and east of the room uncovered during 2006, and which therefore lay beyond the limits of excavation during 2006.

Two small pits, or postholes, positioned above the inner faces of both the north and south walls of the hypocaust room – and which can be inferred to post-date the major phase of robbing activity – may be tentative evidence for some sort of structural re-use of the site.

In area D a substantial diagonal cut trench was found to contain a relatively modern field drain, however the material it principally cut through – extensive building material demolition dumps of Roman date – mirrored the findings in area B of the 2005 season. No evidence was found for any underlying in-situ constructional features and it is therefore believed that the deposits were formed by material taken from another part of the site. Two linear cut features of interest were found to contain material that was on the whole absent of finds. These later features were tentatively interpreted as having a possible horticultural function.

During 2007 work concentrated on a single larger trench; Area E. The presence of a substantial masonry structure (mainly robbed out) to the west of the excavated area was identified. This was evidenced by a large north-south orientated wall footing which, as an entirely robbed out feature, was found to turn to the west at the southern limit of Area E. The relationship of this structure to the masonry building revealed in 2006 was not entirely clear but it seemed, on the current evidence, to post-date it. The principal building of Roman date to the east was also investigated with further rooms and structures associated with the building being delineated. The structure was found to comprise at least two rooms which were equipped with under-floor heating or hypocaust systems, a room or area associated with furnace or stokehole activity, and possibly an adjacent external area. Finds evidence gathered from a sequence of robbing actions indicate that the rooms were furnished with (monochrome?) mosaic pavements and painted wall plaster. The deeper nature of the wall foundation trench to the north suggests that this was likely to have been an external wall. The alignment of this wall was on an identical orientation to the fence alignment found some eleven metres to the north during 2005. To the south of Area E a further masonry structure was interpreted as a plunge-pool, the structure is likely to have been contemporary with the hypocaust rooms to the north. This building seemed to have been damaged, or destroyed by fire and subsequently demolished.

Evidence was also found for activities that both pre- and post-date the masonry structures. The later activity concentrated on various robbing actions, particularly the removal of wall footings. The earlier activities were evidenced by the burial of an infant to the north of the site and the cutting and backfilling of a large ditch-like feature to the south which contained notable ceramic material, most significantly Lyon ware, of 1st century date.

Overall the excavations between 2005 and 2007 have demonstrated what is likely to be early Roman settlement at the site as evidenced by infant burial. There is also positive evidence for the subsequent presence of two substantial masonry built villa-type structures of Roman date, at least one of which was provided with mosaic pavements, painted plaster walls, hypocaust system(s) and what appears to be a tank or pool; together suggestive of a bath-house. A series of post and stake features to the north indicate external activity on a similar alignment to the masonry structure. The building was, at some time in antiquity – probably during the late-Roman period – deliberately demolished. There is further evidence for some continuity of activity at the site that may have involved agricultural/horticultural use, and certainly included the systematic robbing of masonry. Other activity may have included later squatting or scavenging actions, though the current evidence for particular activities is weak.

METHODOLOGY

4.1 THE PROJECT

The project methodology was based upon a careful review of all available prior evidence concerning the site's archaeological potential, together with the key objectives to undertake a multi-season programme of research investigation in concert with fieldwork training. Prior to initiating the project various discussions took place with the land-owner (the late Mr Owen-Day), the county archaeological planning officer, the Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire, the City of Lincoln Archaeologist and other interested parties, most notably Mr Bill Bee (a well respected local amateur archaeologist who had conducted previous work on the site), and representatives from Sudbrooke Parish Council. A 'project design' was drawn up and made available to interested parties. Prior to each season's activity the project design is reviewed and where necessary revised.

Immediately prior to the 2006 season of excavation it became apparent that the landowner had placed his land under Defra's environmental stewardship scheme. This meant that the archaeology present on this land required management within the limitations of the scheme's directives. It was therefore necessary for the landowner to obtain derogation from the scheme before the excavation could proceed – failure to gain derogation would have resulted in financial penalties being imposed against the landowner's grant income. Following negotiations with the Rural Development Agency, and approval of the Project Design, derogation was granted for the period of the 2006 season's excavation and for the area of the field. This process of approval and derogation will be repeated each year for the duration of either the project or the scheme.

4.1.1 THE 2008 EXCAVATION

Drawing on evidence from the geophysical surveys, metal-detector survey, the trial trenches and the results of the project's previous investigations it was decided to open three trenches during 2008. The main trench was 17.4 x 17.3 m (Area F) and was positioned to include the principal extents of Area E (2007) while extending beyond that area to the east and south (Area F topsoil surface height was +12.65 m OD). The intention was to reinvestigate the stratification of Area E and ascertain the position and form of any other structural elements associated with it which ran beyond the limits of the 2007 excavation. A subsidiary trench of 9.0 x 3.0 m (Area G) was opened immediately to the west of Area F in order to investigate the western return of the later masonry structure first revealed in 2007 (Area G topsoil surface height was +15.68 m OD). The third trench of 32.0 x 1.0 m (Area H) was positioned some seventy metres to the west of the main excavation area with the intention of exploring a number of geophysical anomalies and crop mark features identified in earlier stages of the project (Area H topsoil surface height was +15.40 m OD). (See Fig.3 for location of excavation areas).

Fieldwork began with archaeologically supervised topsoil clearance using a wheeled 'JCB' type excavator equipped with a 1.2m toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil was carefully removed in 10cm spits to a total depth of 25-30cm. All excavation following clearance was conducted by hand, principally by trowelling. Prior to further excavation, and at regular intervals during the course of the fieldwork, an experienced metal detector operator scanned the surfaces of the trenches tagging the position of all signals to ensure enhanced object recovery during stratigraphic excavation. All excavated deposits were systematically dry-sieved using a 4.0mm mesh.

Single context recording was employed throughout the stratigraphic excavation of the site (see, Spence, 1990). For planning purposes a 5.0m survey grid was used that was unique to

the 2008 season although sufficient measurements were taken to relate this grid with the grids used during previous seasons. The survey grid was located to the UK National Grid (OSGB36) using a survey-grade DGPS (see Fig.3). All vertical measurements were made to Ordnance Datum using a localised TBM. All plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, all sections and elevations at a scale of 1:10.

The author directed the excavation with the assistance of a professional Excavation Supervisor (Jenny Ryder) and two professional Excavation Assistants; in addition a professional Finds Supervisor (Diana Blumberg) managed all aspects of artefact and environmental processing. Four experienced archaeology students also acted as on-site field and finds assistants. A full-time Site Manager (Samantha Gordon) was employed to oversee operational aspects of the excavation and Field School delivery. Roman ceramic specialist Ian Rowlandson (Lindsey Archaeological Services) conducted ceramics training and review. Archaeological osteology specialist Jen Wood conducted osteological training and review. David Hibbitt (Grid Nine Survey) conducted geophysical surveying and training. Artefact conservation advice was obtained from Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Laboratory. A full photographic record was compiled under the supervision of a professional and appropriately experienced photographer, Lynne McEwan. Human osteological advice and analysis was provided by Maria Leroi, a qualified human osteologist. Adam Daubney, Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire, provided additional advice on identifiable small finds.

Excavation proceeded at a sufficiently slow pace to allow suitable time for training activities and considered decision-making prior to each stage of excavation. Where significant archaeological features were uncovered they were either systematically sampled or preserved in-situ.

At the end of the 2008 season an extensive checking and review of the site records was undertaken to ensure that a sufficiently complete record of the site as it was left was available with the intention to return to continue the fieldwork during 2009. On completion the excavated areas were covered in a semi-permeable membrane and backfilled by hand using sieved sub-soil up to the level of the base of the surrounding topsoil. Where appropriate inert sand was used as a protective marker over higher elements of the surviving stratification, in particular over the walls and floor of the hypocaust. The same mechanical excavator used to open the site was employed to conduct further backfilling and making-good of the agricultural topsoil.

Archaeologically supervised machine clearance was undertaken on 26 June and controlled excavation commenced on 7 July. Recording ended on 8 August, followed immediately by manual backfilling of the subsoil, machine backfilling of the topsoil was completed on 8 September (after harvesting). In all 25 days were spent on site in excavation and recording activities.

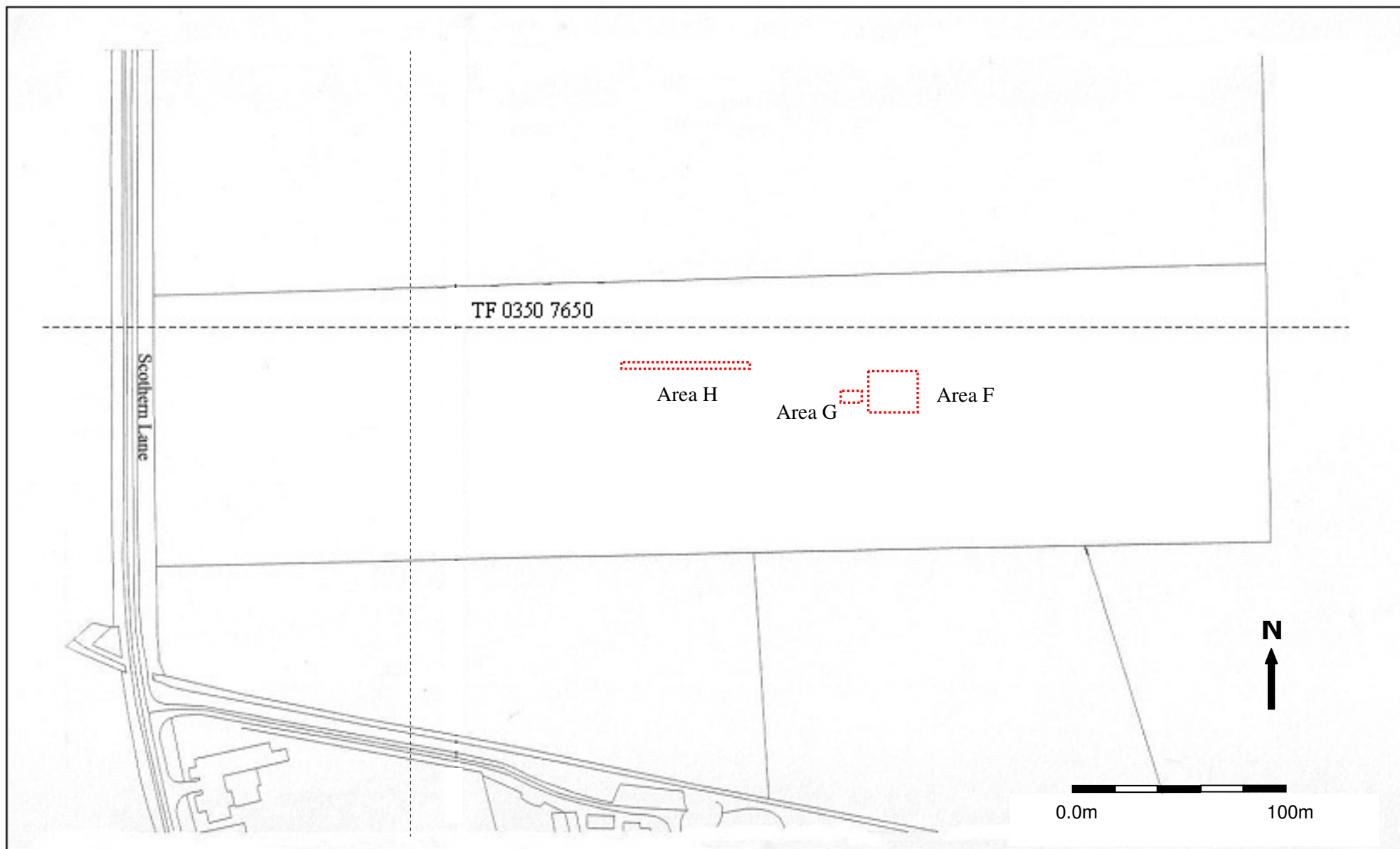


Fig. 3: Site location plan showing Areas F, G & H (2008). (Scale 1:2500)
 (Location data: SUD08 Area F & G grid-points 100/200 [OS TF 03705/76455];
 120/200 [OS TF 03725/76455]; Area H grid-points 100/200 [OS TF 03603/76478];
 125/200 [OS TF 03628/76478])

4.1.2 TRAINING ACTIVITIES

One of the key objectives of the project is to provide a well-structured programme of fieldwork training. The training excavation was devised and delivered in accordance with the 'EAA Code of Practice for Fieldwork Training' (2000). The nature of the archaeology and stratification on the site are considered suitable and appropriate to the level of training offered. Prior to the project commencement appropriately qualified and suitably experienced archaeologists or specialists were secured to deliver each aspect of the training programme. During 2008 the Lincoln International Archaeological Field School was inaugurated, providing four weeks of structured and accredited training for undergraduate students studying archaeology or classics. During 2008 Field School students were recruited from nine different UK and US universities.

All students and trainees were assessed for previous fieldwork experience before joining the excavation; a number were found to have had useful previous experience either at Sudbrooke or elsewhere. On arrival all students and trainees were issued with a training folder with background information, including the project research design, information on fieldwork methods and the recording system, health and safety information, and a personal journal. Training was delivered through the medium of on-site lectures and practical instruction, and off-site workshops which took place in the Archaeology Lab at Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln.

On-site training covered initial site prospection,* site surveying and levelling, recording and planning methods, excavation techniques and finds processing. Workshops included; Roman ceramics, small finds and metal-work, site and artefact photography, archaeological bones identification and analysis, environmental processing, and post-excavation methods.

Trainees and students were strongly encouraged to undertake independent recording and planning activities under close supervision and guidance – the integrity of the site record was protected by immediate record checking and, if necessary, correction. The site director or other professional staff made all decisions concerning the course of stratigraphic excavation and the deployment of trainees.

Fifty-two volunteer trainees attended for five or more days, in addition eight Bishop Grosseteste students and nine international students attended the full Field School. A further eight archaeology undergraduate students also participated for various periods of time. Inclusive of staff the 2008 season accommodated some eighty-six excavation participants.

4.1.3 PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The excavation site is well known within the immediate local community and it was recognised that the excavation itself would generate considerable interest, as it had done in previous seasons. It was therefore decided to continue to offer a range of public archaeology activities commensurate with the level of resources available during the 2008 season of fieldwork. Contact was made initially with local archaeology and heritage groups to provide information about the excavation. Following a successful bid for HEIF3 'enterprise' funding ten undergraduate students taking the Heritage Studies degree programme at Bishop

* International Field School students undertook a geophysical survey at a suspected Roman site at Riseholme Park to the north of Lincoln – the results of this survey are the subject of a separate report.

Grosseteste University College Lincoln were recruited to devise and deliver the public archaeology programme working in partnership with Lindum Heritage.

The core elements of the programme were:

1. The production of a leaflet publicising the excavation and giving information about activities at the site.
2. The review and re-erection of the three display boards from previous seasons.
3. Special 'hands-on' tours of the excavation for local schools.
4. A public 'Archaeology Day' event during National Archaeology Week.
5. Weekly public site tours.

Leaflets were distributed through schools, local libraries and public venues in Lincoln (including The Collection) and at other urban centres around the Lincoln area, thus reaching a wide section of the local community. The display boards focused on three themes; the history of the Sudbrooke site, archaeological excavation techniques, and the nature of Roman villas in Britain (it is planned that additional display boards will be produced in 2009 to reflect the discoveries of the current project).

The special 'hands-on' tours were particularly targeted at children attending local schools – including nearby Nettleham Junior School whose annual visit to the excavation has become an established curriculum activity for their year 5 children. The 'enterprise' students constructed a 'digging pit' filled with clean sieved topsoil and seeded with clearly marked unstratified pottery from a small handling collection. An additional area was made available for metal-detecting activities with clean sieved topsoil seeded with clearly marked replica metal artefacts. A key element of the metal detecting activity was to explain 'responsible detecting' thus each child was given a leaflet explaining this approach and the nature of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The children were also shown how to sieve for finds, and wash and draw finds. A group of older children with significant learning disabilities and a group of 'gifted and talented' sixth-formers from a number of local schools also made special visits. The latter group were given one-to-one mentoring by Field School students allowing them to engage in a variety of 'real' excavation activities.

On Saturday 19 July the students organised a well-publicised Archaeology Day as part of National Archaeology Week. With the support of Sudbrooke Parish Council the event took place on the football pitch adjacent to the excavation site. The family focused event included public information about the Sudbrooke excavations and archaeology in general, together with timed site tours. In addition there were opportunities to explore the 'digging pit', try out responsible metal detecting, sieve for finds, record skeletons, and art activities such as mosaic making and creating painted wall plaster. The Lincolnshire Finds Liaison Officer, Adam Daubney, was also present and was able to record a number of finds brought to him by members of the public. There were also demonstrations of flint knapping, Roman cooking and a small group of Roman re-enactors explained Roman military life and organised army drills for children. The day was a great success with some 460 visitors of all ages, and was supported by four commercial sponsors.

Further public site tours were scheduled for each Thursday afternoon of the two remaining weeks of the excavation, which were both well attended. Bishop Grosseteste University College brought a group of forty-eight prospective students on a special site visit during the final week of the excavation. The Heritage Studies students, assisted by Field School students, undertook all general guiding activities, though archaeologists were on hand to

answer questions from each group. In total some 100 members of the public participated in these tours with numerous others making casual visits to the site at other times.



Fig. 4: ‘The Romans are coming!’
Children join the re-enactors at Sudbrooke Archaeology Day 2008

The 2008 season saw two further visits of note. During the second week of the excavation staff of the Lincolnshire County Council Heritage Service brought a small group of international visiting archaeologists and antiquities workers on an extended site visit. The archaeologists in question came from Iraq, Iran and the Sudan and were extremely impressed with the work being undertaken. Another visit brought some twenty-five year 11 students to the excavation to undertake a brief geophysics survey as part of a Bishop Grosseteste Summer School aimed at encouraging school leavers to consider studying at university – in this case we were pleased to be able to promote archaeology as a possible subject choice.

VISITOR NUMBERS FOR 2008

Archaeology Day	460
Public Tours etc.	141
School visits etc.	117
TOTAL	718

RESULTS

Note: Given the seasonal nature of excavation the following text is generally presented in reverse stratigraphic order, commencing with the latest unit of stratification. The context descriptions in the following text are mainly presented in an abridged form; the results section should therefore be read in conjunction with Appendix 1, which provides the full context descriptions, and the stratigraphic matrices of Appendix 2. Context numbers are to be found in square brackets.

5.1 SITE WIDE INVESTIGATIONS

Throughout the course of the excavation a number of unstratified finds were recovered occasionally from the surface of the field, these were allocated the general context number [200]. During the topsoil clearance of area F unstratified finds, derived from the ‘plough soil’, were systematically collected and given the context number [201]; such finds from area G were given the context number [214]. These finds included pottery and tile fragments, tesserae, iron nails, glass, copper alloy objects and a single unidentifiable coin. No unstratified finds were identified during the clearance of area H.

5.2 AREA F

Excavation in Area F began with the hand-excavated removal of an area-wide deposit of loosely compacted mid-brown sandy-silt; this was interpreted as the lower levels of the plough-soil at the interface with the underlying archaeological stratification ([202] to [213]). The deposit contained a range of inclusions but principally occasional to moderate medium fragments of limestone and ceramic building material, assumed to have derived from intermittent plough disturbance of the underlying stratification, and had an upper height of between +12.26 and +12.45 m OD. In order to affect more efficient excavation and to allocate finds to more closely defined spatial locations the deposit was divided into twelve contexts according to grid square (see Fig. 5). In addition a small number of interface deposits ([217], [232] and [233]) were removed from the area to the south of the SUD07 excavation but within SUD08 grid squares (115/210 and 120/210).

Grid Square 115/215 SUD07: Area E	Grid Square 120/215 SUD07: Area E	Grid Square 125/215 Context [211]	Grid Square 130/215 Context [212]
Grid Square 115/210 SUD07: Area E	Grid Square 120/210 SUD07: Area E	Grid Square 125/210 Context [213]	Grid Square 130/210 Context [210]
Grid Square 115/205 Context [203]	Grid Square 120/205 Context [205]	Grid Square 125/205 Context [207]	Grid Square 130/205 Context [209]
Grid Square 115/200 Context [202]	Grid Square 120/200 Context [204]	Grid Square 125/200 Context [206]	Grid Square 130/200 Context [208]

Fig. 5: The allocation of context numbers to grid squares in Area F. North to the top

The stratigraphically latest features comprised a small circular post-hole (190mm diameter and 90mm deep) [219] that had been backfilled with a loose brown silty-sand [220], and a large modern field-drain [291]. The regularly (machine?) cut field-drain, aligned north-west by south-east, was 950mm wide and 1220mm deep. It was backfilled with a primary deposit of a ceramic pipe (not excavated) covered by a mixture of gravel, sand and clinker, with a secondary backfill of light brown mixed sand and gravel [264].

A number of deposits were excavated to reveal the underlying structures and features. These deposits were all, to varying degrees, disturbed by modern ploughing, but were likely to have been associated originally with demolition and disuse of the site. Defining clear limits to their extents was made very difficult as a result of the ploughing damage. Most of these deposits overlay various elements of the masonry structures to the north-west of area F ([227], [230], [246], [267], [268] and [301]) but some extended toward the southern limit of excavation ([241] and [243]). These deposits were almost uniformly described as a loosely compacted light to mid-brown silty sand with moderate inclusions of small to medium fragments of tile, mortar and limestone. An additional small deposit of similar composition was excavated in an exploratory 'sondage' to the east of area F [286]; however no further excavation occurred in this particular area.



Fig. 6: General view of area F looking toward the west at the start of excavation. Area G is seen behind the barrier tape whilst the position of Area H can be seen in the distance (Area E [SUD07] occupies the north-west quarter of Area F).

Removal of the above deposits revealed a number of features which provide evidence for actions associated with robbing of the principal masonry structure, which formed a small group of linked hypocaust rooms (see Fig. 7; also see SUD07). The latest episode of robbing appeared to be represented by a shallow rectangular cut [258] to remove the footings of an internal wall and the cutting of a pit [222] at the junction of two external walls at the north-east corner of the masonry structure. The first of these actions comprised a regular 100mm deep cut with vertical sides and a smooth flat base that appeared to have removed the footings of an internal north-south orientated wall. This cut was backfilled with a loosely compacted mid-brown to black clayey medium sand [237]. The other feature appeared to be a robbing pit that was slightly oval in plan (1110 by 1020mm) with steeply sloping sides that met an irregular base, formed in part by the underlying in situ masonry, with a depth of 370mm [222]. The pit was backfilled with loose brown clayey sand [221].

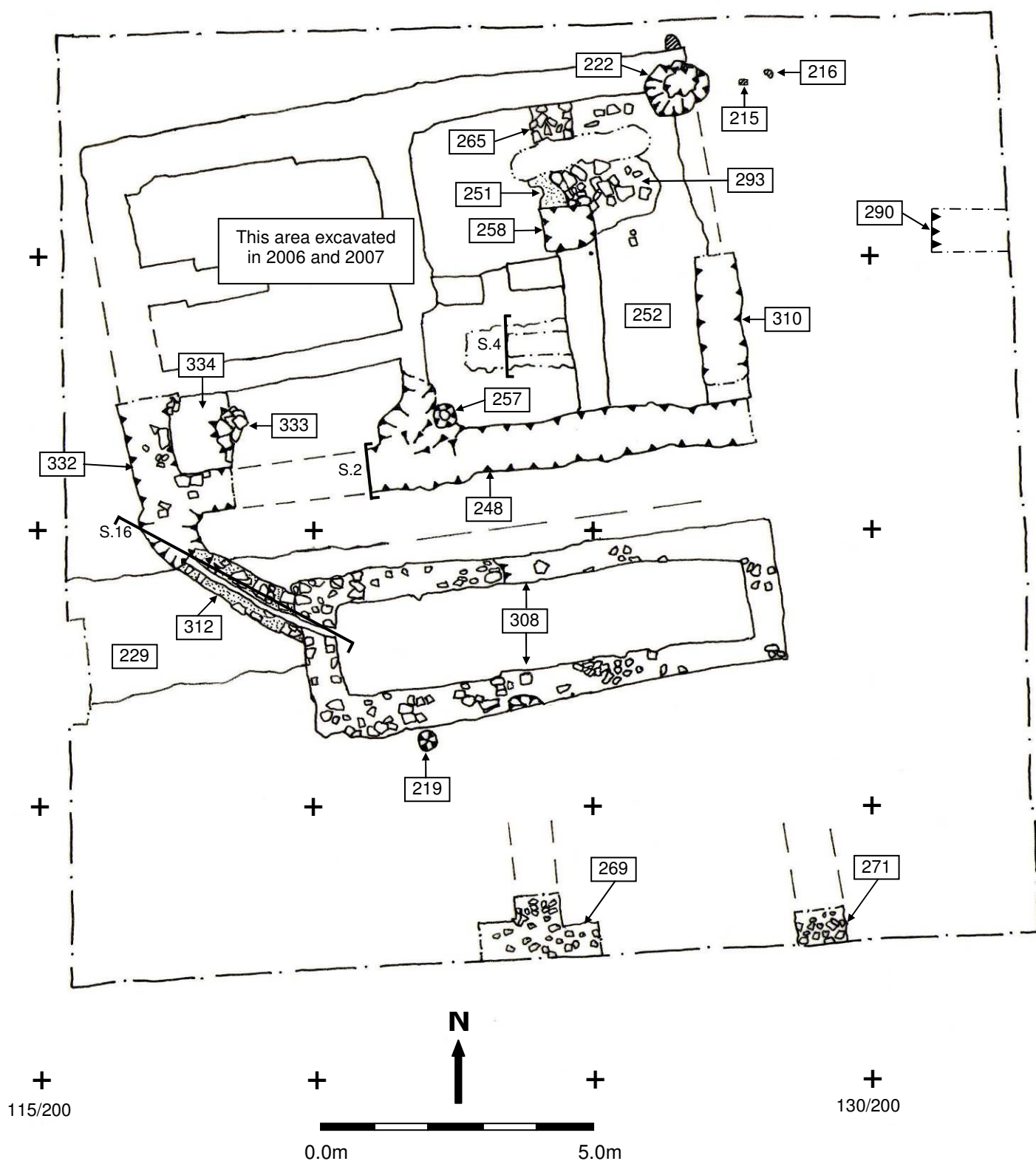


Fig. 7: Plan showing principal features excavated in Area F, and the outline of major structural features recorded during the 2006 and 2007 seasons
Scale 1:100

Evidence for the robbing of the main eastern, southern and western external walls of the masonry structure was provided by cuts [248], [310] and [332]. The eastern wall was robbed by a regular linear cut at least 800mm wide with vertical sides and a flat base, with a depth of 330mm. This trench was backfilled with loosely compacted dark brown medium to coarse sand with frequent inclusions of building material fragments [270]. The southern wall was robbed by the cutting of regular linear trench with a width of 790mm, steeply sloping to vertical sides, and an uneven though generally flat base, with a depth of 340mm [248]. It appeared that a small part of the adjacent demolition rubble (to the north) had tumbled into the open trench prior to backfilling (see Fig. 8, Section 2). This material comprised compact yellow medium sand with very frequent inclusions of large and medium fragments of limestone, mortar and tile [247]. The subsequent backfilling of trench [248] was undertaken with a deposit of weakly cemented dark-yellow brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of large and medium fragments of limestone [225] and [236]. The north-south orientated western external wall of the building was robbed by a linear cut with regular parallel sides, approximately 900mm wide with vertical sides and a flat but irregular base. Maximum depth of the cut was 300mm. The cut appeared to follow the line of the wall but was extended in a curving irregular manner to the south where it appeared to incorporate the robbing of the western end of the stone-lined drain [312]. The robbing cut was backfilled with loosely compacted brown silty-sand, with inclusions of moderate medium pebbles and occasional small fragments of building material [262] and [283].

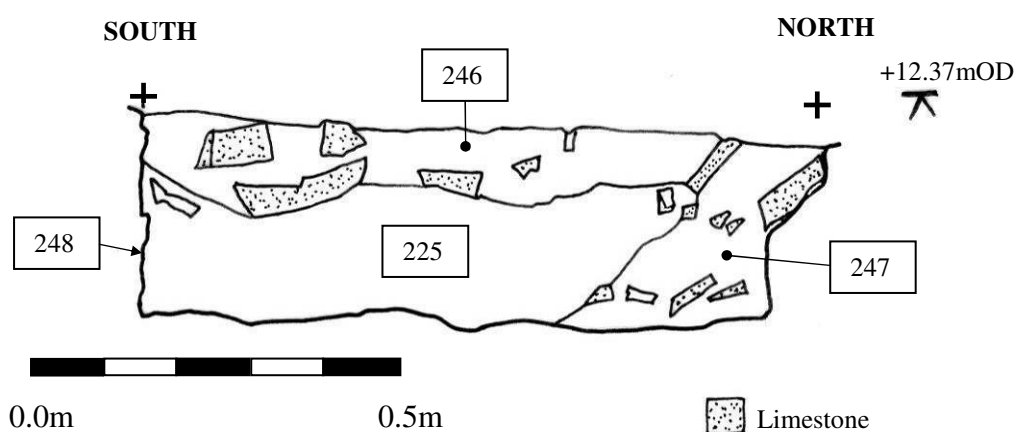


Fig. 8: East-facing section (S.2) through backfill of robber-trench [248]. (Scale 1:10).

At the western end of the large op. sig. lined masonry feature, interpreted as a plunge-pool or water tank [308] evidence for a smaller robbing actions was found. A relatively small sub-rectangular cut [226], with a maximum length of 700mm, was found to have cut into the top of the stone-lined drain [312] at its junction with the western wall of the plunge-pool [308]. The cut had concave sides which merged imperceptibly with a flat base, with a maximum depth of 80mm. This was interpreted as a failed attempt to remove the lead-pipe (SUD07 [188]) which was found in situ within wall [308]. The cut was backfilled with compact brown silty sand with frequent small angular pebbles [218].

Evidence for the destruction of the masonry buildings within area F was investigated in a number of discreet positions. Perhaps the latest elements of the disuse were represented by apparent demolition debris overlying earlier structural elements to the east [231] and west [298] of the main masonry structure. To the east a small area of the general demolition debris was removed to help define the edges of robber trench [310], this material – a loosely compacted brown sandy silt with frequent fine to medium angular pebbles and small fragments of building material – had been disturbed and intermixed with the robber trench backfill [270] by ploughing action. In the south-west corner of the structure a loosely

compacted deposit of yellow-brown sandy silt with frequent large fragments of limestone was excavated [298], immediately beneath this and intermixing with it was a group of roughly hewn limestone blocks that appeared to form a loosely set circular arrangement [333]. This feature, which sat directly on the underlying *opus signinum* surface [334], was only partially exposed during 2008 and will be further investigated during 2009, (see Fig. 9).



Fig. 9: The *opus signinum* floor [334] with stone feature [333] on its surface (beyond the scale), robber trench [332] is in the foreground, the larger stones in its base represent remnants of the original wall [335]. On the far right is the southerly extension of the robber trench cut to remove part of the stone-lined drain [312]. Looking east. (Scale: 0.5m).

Three further elements of late or post disuse were investigated. A small post-hole like feature was identified in the south-west corner of the room delineated by the *opus signinum* hypocaust sub-floor [234]. The cut was circular in plan with a diameter of 420mm and a depth of 280mm. The sides were vertical to steeply sloping with a concave base, within which there was a smaller circular depression [257]. The cut was backfilled with loosely compacted light yellow-grey silty-sand, with frequent fine angular pebbles and pea-grit [256]. This feature was interpreted as a demolition-related action to remove a structural element from the corner of this room. The plunge-pool structure was found to be backfilled with primary deposit of loosely compacted very dark brown silty sand, with frequent medium fragments of op. sig. and moderate flecks of charcoal [285]. This was interpreted as a burnt waste deposit placed in the base of the drained plunge pool at the time of demolition. The more extensive secondary back-filling deposit was compact, light yellow-brown, silty sand, with notable inclusions of moderate small and medium fragments of painted wall plaster [245]. This appeared to be a disuse or demolition deposit with significant quantities of painted wall plaster discarded into the drained structure of the plunge-pool. The final group of deposits to represent the disuse of the masonry structures was found within the gully of the stone-lined drain [312]. The earliest of these was a softly compacted very light brown silty-sand with occasional flecks of charcoal [315] (possibly derived from primary disuse deposit [285] within the main structure of the plunge-pool being washed(?) into the drain). Above this was a secondary fill of very softly compacted dark brown sandy-silt [311], and overlying that a tertiary deposit of loosely compacted brown silty-sand [224].

A small collection of contexts were interpreted as possibly representing use of the main masonry structure. In the north-east corner of the masonry structure and associated with what has been interpreted as a furnace room for the hypocaust system (see Spence, 2008) two deposits were recorded. The earlier of these was a loosely compact deposit of interlensing thin

layers of very dark-grey to brownish black ash and yellow-grey medium sand [251], this was interpreted as rakings from the furnace room to the west. The later deposit comprised loose to compact, light to mid yellow brown, sandy silt, with frequent small fragments of tile [252]. This deposit was interpreted having been principally demolition debris but intermixed with a silty (refuse?) matrix perhaps forming an external surface deposit to the east; unfortunately this deposit was very disturbed by ploughing activity, hence much of the ‘mixing’ could have taken place a much later date than use or disuse.

A number of contexts represented various constructional aspects of the masonry structure to the north of area F, the plunge-pool structure in the centre of the area and rubble wall footings to the south of the area. The main structure to the north of the area was principally excavated during 2007 however a number of further investigations were undertaken during 2008. To the east of the structure and associated with the furnace room was a small element of masonry interpreted as a wall footing [265]. This context comprised a very short length (680mm) of roughly hewn limestone blocks, randomly set and uncoursed, with a pinky yellow-brown coarse sandy mortar. The wall appeared to represent a probable later insertion at right angles to the main north wall (SUD07 [138]) immediately to the north, but which was later truncated by the cutting of a pit (SUD07 [147]) immediately to the south. Further south but still associated with this room was an irregularly arranged group of very roughly hewn limestone slabs positioned within a loose brown-black silty-sand matrix [293]. This deposit appeared to represent an attempt to provide a consolidated floor surface within the furnace room. The furnace rakings deposit [251] directly overlay this surface (see Fig. 7).

In the south-west corner of the northerly masonry structure remnants of the north-south western wall were revealed at the base of robber trench [332] and hence within the original construction cut. The wall remnants consisted of a small number of very roughly hewn limestone blocks and fragments [335] within the flat base of construction cut [336]. Within the masonry structure but still in the south-west corner an area of op. sig. floor was uncovered that was interpreted as the sub-floor of a hypocaust ‘room’. This floor comprised a strongly cemented, mid-pinky red crushed tile and sand mortar (*opus signinum*), with a small raised (30mm) concave edge along its northern limit and a mortar impression (scar) of two adjacent tile settings at its southern edge [334] (see Figs. 7 & 9).

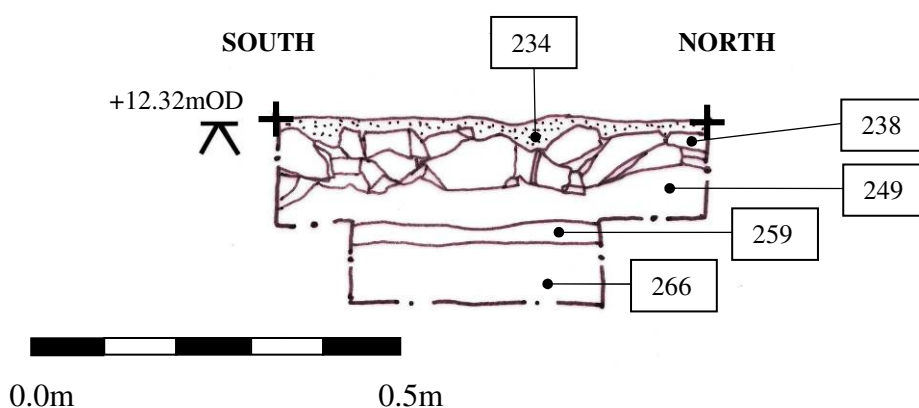


Fig. 10: East-facing section (S.4) through construction sequence for hypocaust sub-floor [234]. (Scale 1:10)

To the east of this the *opus signinum* hypocaust sub-floor first identified in 2007 was further investigated. Selective excavation was made through the centre of the floor in order to elaborate the constructional sequence (see Fig. 10, Section 4 and Fig. 11). At the base of the sequence was a deposit of loosely compacted, mid-brown yellow, silty coarse sand, with occasional small sub-angular pebbles [259]. This was interpreted as re-deposited natural

which by inference is represents disturbance by the primary construction cut for hypocaust base. Above this was a well compacted, mid yellowish-pink, crushed tile and silty-sand deposit [249], interpreted as a bedding or levelling layer. Overlying this deposit was a constructional raft comprising angular limestone stones laid in a herringbone style at approximately 30-40° from the horizontal. The stones overlapped by some 25-50%, were clearly laid from east to west and set within a light yellow-brown soft dry sandy mortar [238]. A small patch of dark red discolouration in north-east corner of the excavated area was interpreted as evidence of in situ burning during construction. Finally a light pink *opus signinum* deposit [234] was poured over this raft to form the levelled sub-floor of the hypocaust (same as SUD07[127]).



Fig. 11: Constructional sequence through the *opus signinum* hypocaust subfloor [234]. Showing, from left to right, the primary working surface [259] (scale 0.2m), levelling layer [249] (scale 0.2m), and the limestone foundation raft [238] (scale 0.5m). Looking west.

To the south of the main masonry structure was the masonry feature interpreted as a large plunge-pool or water tank. The principal element of this structure was a rectangular wall footing constructed of roughly hewn limestone blocks, irregularly laid and set in a light brown medium sandy mortar with frequent angular pebbles [308]. The longest sides of the structure were orientated roughly east-west, the shorter sides orientated roughly north-south. External dimensions comprised a maximum length of 8600mm and a maximum width of 3000mm. The internal faces of the walls were lined with an *opus signinum* deposit, as was the base of the structure, to form a watertight facing (see SUD07 [179]). The internal dimensions of the structure had a maximum length of 5300mm and a maximum width of 1700mm. The entire structure was inferred to have been inserted within a large construction trench (SUD07 [181]). At the western end of the structure a drainage hole had been formed the first part of which was lined with a lead pipe (SUD07 [188]).

During 2008 the external drainage structure to the west of the plunge-pool was investigated. This was found to have comprised a free-flowing stone-lined drain [312]. The construction sequence was as follows: an initial linear construction trench was excavated with parallel edges, sides that were steeply sloping to vertical and a flat base [338]. The trench was orientated north-west-west by south-east-east and had a maximum length of 3100mm, width of 700mm and a depth of 550mm. In this trench the stone-lined drain was constructed [312]. The drain consisted of roughly hewn limestone blocks formed into two parallel 'walls' with

the internal faces supplied with a single well cut rectangular face which formed the opposing sides of the drain. The sides were laid in two regular level courses with no differentiated bonding pattern and set in a mid-brown sandy mortar. The base comprised a mortar bedding layer that spanned the entire width of the trench. (See Figs. 12 and 13, Section 16).



Fig. 12: The stone-lined drain [312] that discharged water from the *opus signinum* lined ‘plunge-pool’ [308]. The cascade of inverted imbrices tiles can be seen clearly within the central channel of the drain. Looking south-east. (Scales 0.2m).

The central channel between the two side walls was lined at the base with inverted imbrices with each tile’s western end overlapping the eastern end of the succeeding tile to form a drain cascade that flowed from east to west with a downward slope of 10°. Three tiles showed signs of re-use having white paint(?) on their inner surfaces extending some 100mm from their eastern ends. The central void between the drain walls averaged 120mm in width and 300-350mm in height below the capstones [292]. The capstones comprised a single course of roughly hewn and squared limestone blocks laid in semi-irregular linear pattern bonded with a moderately compact brown-orange coarse sandy mortar (see Fig. 14). (The western end of drain was removed by later wall robbing actions to the north [332]). The drain was sealed with a constructional backfilling deposit of soft to compact, brown, medium sand with some silt and frequent small angular pebbles [242].

Some four metres to the south of the plunge pool evidence was found for further wall footings on the same general alignment. These comprised two intermixed deposits of loosely compacted, grey to grey-brown sand with frequent medium and large fragments of limestone and round/sub-rounded cobbles [269] and [284]. These deposits formed a T-shape possibly indicating the junction of three regularly aligned walls at the south of a further range of rooms, with the north-south element positioned centrally with regard to the plunge-pool. Further to the east and closely following the north-south alignment of the main hypocaust structure's eastern external wall was a compact deposit of light brown silty-sand with frequent medium to large fragments of limestone and occasional large cobbles [271]. This deposit was orientated north-south and had a well defined width of 900mm. All three of these deposits were greatly disturbed by later ploughing actions.

A number of contexts and features represented activity on the site that pre-dated the construction of the masonry structures. The partial remains of two neonate or infant inhumations were excavated; both were very badly disturbed by later activity including modern ploughing.¹ They were located near to each other (500mm apart), just to the east of the line of the north-south external wall of the main masonry building and some two metres from the neonate burial excavated in 2007. Inhumation [215] comprised fragmentary evidence for cranial plates and one, possibly related, long bone; inhumation [216] comprised a smaller group of fragmentary cranial bones; both sets of bones were in a reasonable state of preservation. In the same part of Area F a number of apparently associated deposits were recorded which seemed to represent surface levelling activity of some kind. Contexts [260], [296], [305], [306] and [307] consisted of soft to firmly compacted brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of large and medium fragments limestone (some burnt) with occasional patches of dark brown clay. All these contexts overlay an extensive deposit that included a certain amount of organic refuse-type material [288]. The deposit consisted of softly compacted dark grey-brown sandy-silt, with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks and animal bone fragments. It appeared that skeletons [215] and [216] had originally been interred in this material.

In the north-east corner of area F further investigation was undertaken which revealed a short sequence of thin and interlensing deposits combined with possible cuts. The latest deposit was a loosely compacted dark-brown to black silty-sand with occasional lenses of light yellow medium sand, moderate large to medium fragments of limestone, occasional medium and small fragments of tile and bone; this deposit was similar in composition to deposit [288]. Beneath this deposit was a layer of well compacted light-brownish yellow silty-sand [250], this was interpreted as possibly representing the upper-fill of the underlying shallow cut [290]. Deposit [250] overlay a compact dark brown fine sandy-silt with few inclusions [263] and was interpreted as the primary fill of cut [290] which was only partially excavated. The cut was found to have a single north-south orientated straight edge with vertical sides and a flat base, with a truncated depth of 150mm.

A large east-west ditch was identified running across the central part of area F predating the construction of the plunge-pool structure. The ditch was not excavated during 2008 but its fill was observed in plan and section where robbing actions had cut into it. The fill comprised a firmly compact dark brown to brownish-grey silty-sand with frequent flecks of charcoal and moderate small fragments of oyster shell [229]. This ditch was also identified to the west in area G. Where constructional activity had cut deeply enough it was possible to identify the undisturbed natural deposit. This consisted of a loosely compacted mid-brown yellow clayey-silty-sand with very occasional fine rounded pebble inclusions [266] and [337].

¹ Excavation of the human remains took place after an appropriate exhumation licence had been granted by the Ministry of Justice. Recording and excavation was conducted by a qualified human osteologist.

WEST

EAST

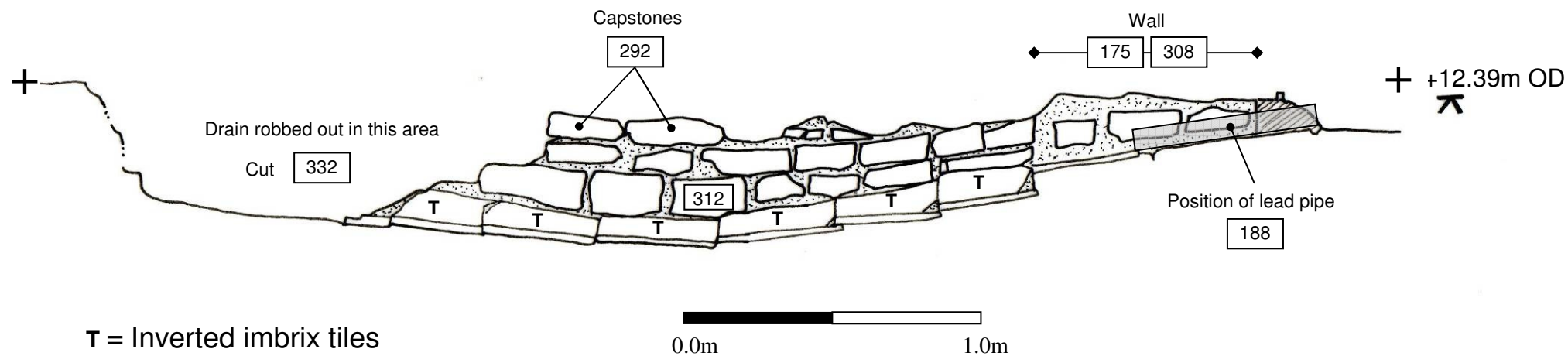
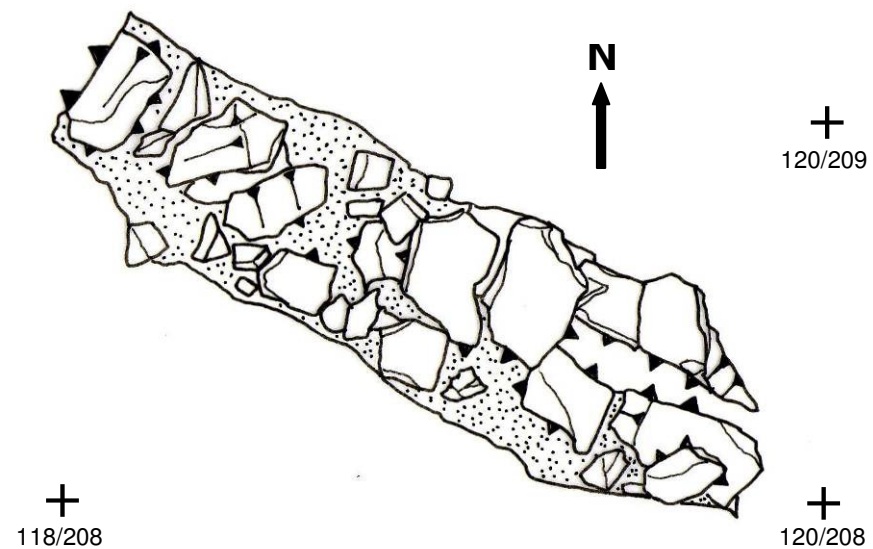


Fig. 13: South-facing elevation (S.16) showing internal face of stone-lined drain [312]

Scale 1:20

Fig. 14: Plan of the capstones [292] sealing the stone-lined drain [312]

Scale 1:20



5.3 AREA G

Excavation in Area G began with the hand-excavated removal of an area-wide deposit of loosely compacted mid-brown sandy-silt; this was interpreted as the lower levels of the plough-soil at the interface with the underlying archaeological stratification ([214] and [223]). The deposit contained a range of inclusions but principally occasional small fragments of limestone and ceramic building material assumed to have derived from occasional plough disturbance of the underlying stratification and had an upper height of between +12.35 and +12.50 m OD. In order to affect more efficient excavation and to allocate finds to more closely defined spatial locations the deposit was divided into two contexts according to grid square; [223] 100/205 and [214] 105/205.

Beneath this initial interface layer a small number of further deposits were removed in order to properly reveal the underlying stratification. Two small areas to the east of Area G, approximately one metre apart, were delineated and excavated; the deposits in these areas comprised loosely compacted dark yellow-brown mixed sand silt with moderate inclusions of small fragments of limestone and small angular pebbles [239], [240] and [244]. Beneath deposit [244] two post or stake holes were revealed. The larger post-hole was sub-oval in plan, with dimensions 220mm by 230mm, the sides were steeply sloping with the north-west side slightly undercutting. The base of the cut formed a tapered rounded point with an overall depth of 670mm [254]. This posthole was filled with very loose, dark grey brown, sandy silt [255]. The smaller posthole was sub-circular in plan, with dimensions 160mm by 80mm, vertical sides, a flat base and a maximum depth of 140mm [261]. This posthole was filled with loosely compacted, dark brown, silty sand [253]. (See Fig. 16).

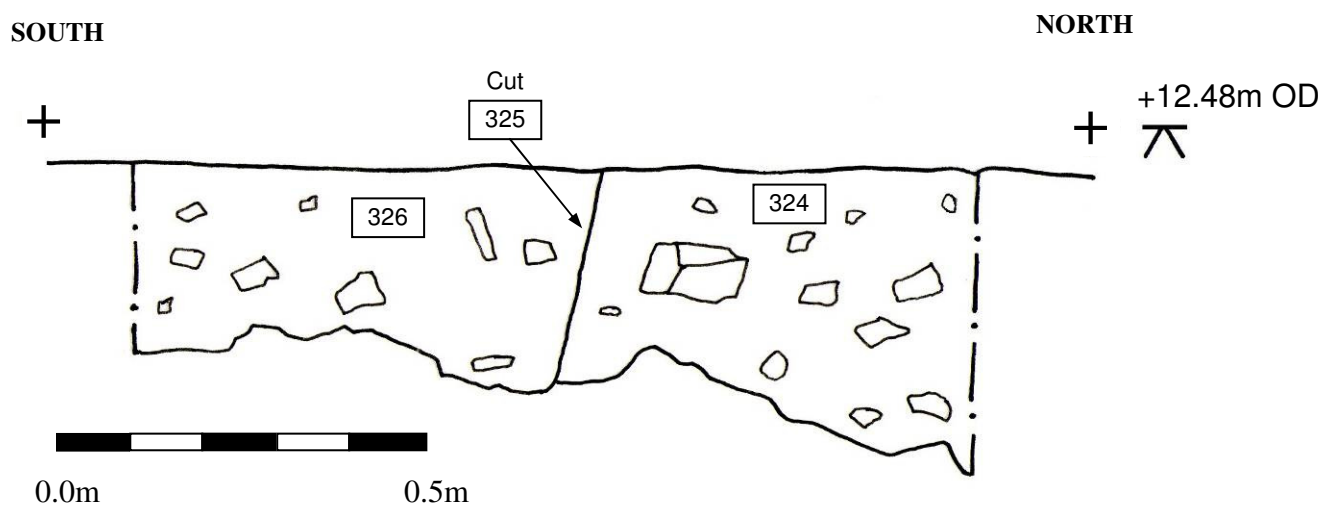


Fig. 15: East-facing section (S.15) through robber trench backfills [324] & [326].
(Scale 1:10)

The smaller posthole [261] cut into the backfill of a substantial east-west aligned robber trench. In order to clarify the relationship between this trench and an associated back-filled robber trench running north-south a small area of the upper backfill was removed from both trenches (see Fig.15). This material had an indurated upper surface while its lower levels were loosely compacted, the deposit comprised mid-brown to yellow, coarse sand, with frequent inclusions of large angular limestone fragments and moderate medium to small fragments of tile [297]. On investigation it became clear that the earlier robbing action was associated with the north-south (internal?) wall, the backfill of which was cut through by the later robbing

action associated with the east-west (external?) wall (see Fig. 15 – Section 15). This later east-west aligned robber trench was only very partially excavated however the following description was ascertained; the robber trench comprised a linear cut with parallel sides, the identifiable length over which the trench could be traced in area G was 2850mm, the minimum width was approximately 1000mm. Where investigated the trench was found to have a maximum depth 330mm with steeply sloping sides and an irregular base [325]. The trench was backfilled with loosely compacted, dark grey brown, sandy silt [326]. The north-south aligned robber trench consisted of a linear cut with parallel sides and a minimum length of 1400mm. The trench had a minimum width of 900mm; the sides were vertical with a generally flat base. Where excavated the cut was found to have a maximum depth of 400mm [323]. The robber trench was backfilled with loosely compacted, dark grey brown, sandy silt [324] (see Fig. 16).

Whilst there was no evidence in the north-south trench [323] for the original wall footings the base of the east-west trench was found to have some in situ foundation remnants; although these were only visible in a very small investigative excavation. The footings comprised a small group of roughly hewn medium and large limestone fragments [328] set within the base of what was interpreted as the original construction trench [327]. This construction trench was inferred to have been an east-west aligned linear cut with parallel sides and a minimum length of 2850mm. The trench would have had a maximum width of 1000mm, and was likely to have possessed minimum depth 330mm. The sides were steeply sloping but the base remained unseen beneath the unexcavated remnants of wall footings [328].

In the western part of Area G a small area of what was interpreted as plough disturbed destruction debris was removed to expose the extents of a north-south orientated wall footing [309]. The destruction debris deposit consisted primarily of loosely compacted, dark yellowish-brown, silty medium sand [287]. The wall footing comprised roughly hewn irregularly shaped limestone stones, randomly set and uncoursed forming a short segment of wall footing orientated north-south [309]. The minimum length of the exposed footings was 1800mm, with a width of 600mm. The stones were set within a creamy yellow sandy mortar. The wall footings were interpreted as a right-angled northerly return associated with the larger east-west wall [327] which appeared to run across this area to the south. The alignment of wall footing [309] appears to be parallel to robber trench [323] which was located some three metres to the east; it may therefore represent the remnants of a further north-south aligned internal wall (see Figs. 16 & 17).

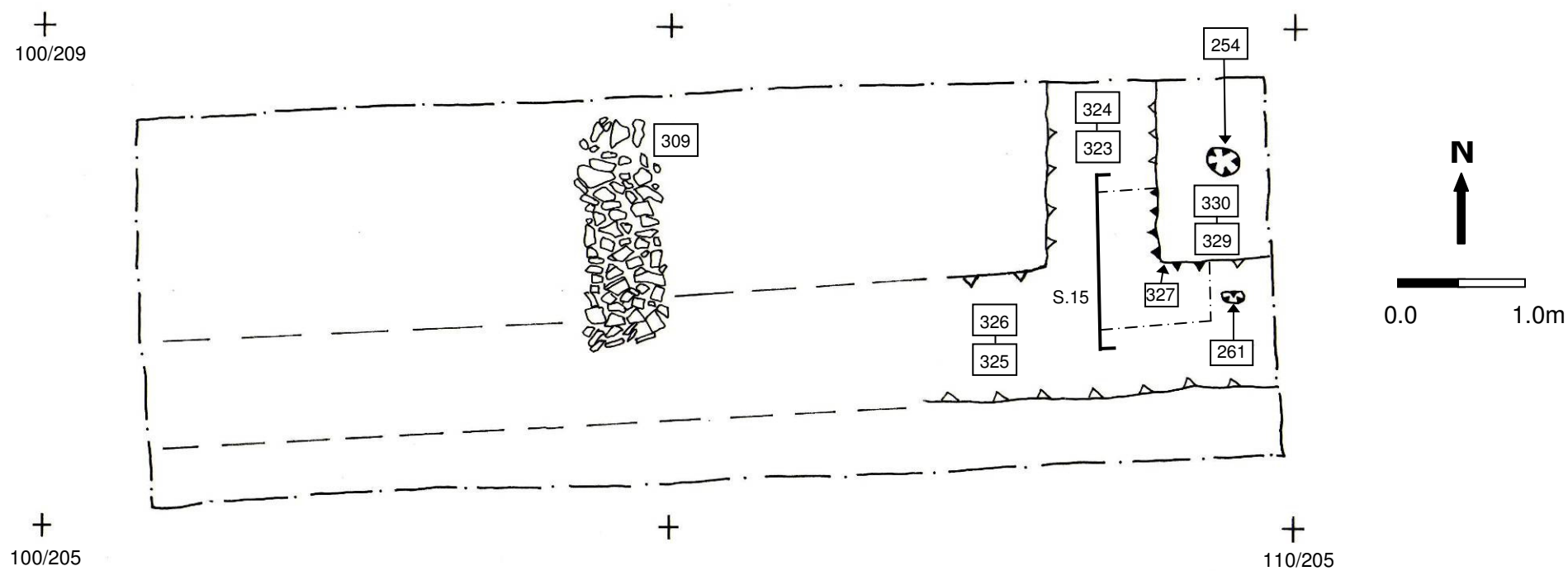


Fig. 16: Plan showing principal features excavated in Area G

Scale 1:50



Fig. 17: North-south aligned wall footings [309] excavated in the western half of Area G, looking south. The scale (0.5m) is resting on the unexcavated backfill [326] of the large east-west aligned robber trench [325].

Posthole [254], robber trench [323] and construction trench [327] were all found to cut into a large east-west aligned ditch fill. Although not excavated the ditch fill was described as loosely compact, very dark grey, sandy silt with a somewhat organic character [330]. This deposit was interpreted to have been contained by an east-west aligned ditch cut [329]; tentatively described as a linear cut with parallel sides and a minimum width of approximately two metres. The ditch fill (and hence ditch) was observed to run across the extents of both Area G and Area F to the east (see [229]) and was interpreted as a large boundary or enclosure ditch. No further excavation took place in Area G during 2008.

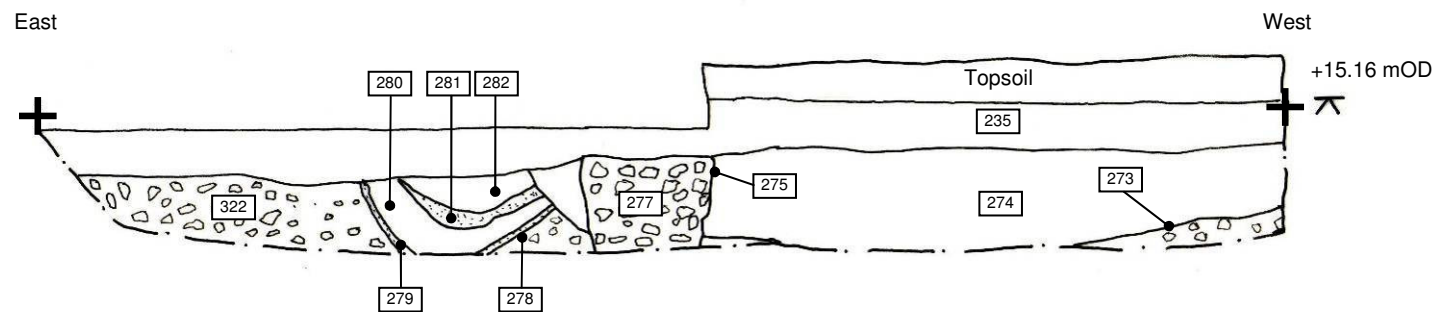
5.4 AREA H

Excavation in Area H began with the hand-excavated removal of an area-wide deposit of softly compacted dark yellow-brown coarse sandy-clay; this was interpreted as the lower levels of the plough-soil at the interface with the underlying archaeological stratification [235]. The deposit had an upper height of between +15.00 and +15.11 m OD. Three further interface deposits were removed in order to either expose underlying archaeological features to confirm the absence of such features. These deposits were all found to have a very similar composition of softly compacted, dark grey-brown, clayey sand [289], [294] and [295]. At the very western limit of Area H evidence for a modern north-west to south-east aligned field drain was observed, primarily in Sections 5 and 6 (see Fig. 18). The field drain comprised a linear cut with parallel sides with a width of 460mm and a maximum depth of 300mm [275], there were two fills a primary fill of loosely compacted very dark brown clayey silt [276] (observed in plan) and a secondary fill of loosely compacted pale brown sandy silt, very frequent medium sub-rounded limestone cobbles [277].

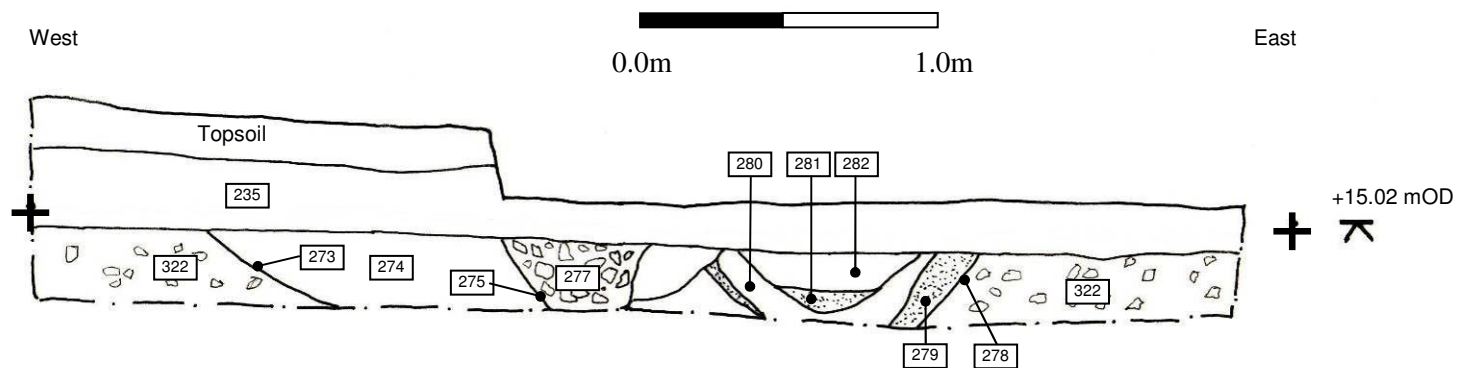
Field drain [275] was found to cut into an earlier north-south orientated ditch [273] (see Fig. 18). This wide ditch cut was linear in plan with an observed length 500mm and upper width of 2550mm, the ditch sides sloped gradually to a wide flat base with a maximum depth of 390mm. The ditch was backfilled with loosely compacted, dark grey-brown, silty clay [274]. This ditch in turn cut into an early group of associated contexts that was interpreted as a bowl-shaped hearth-like feature. The feature comprised a primary cut which was oval in plan with a narrow linear extension orientated north-north-east [278]. The maximum width of the cut was 900mm, its maximum depth was 260mm. The sides were concave, although the linear extension demonstrated more gradually sloping sides; the base was generally concave or bowl-shaped although somewhat uneven across its extents. The cut appeared to have been lined with a thin deposit of compact, grey, slightly sandy clay [279]. Above this was a fairly sterile deposit of loosely compacted, light yellow-brown sand [280]. A smaller deposit overlay this sand that consisted of loose reddish brown, very slightly clayey fine sand (this deposit had an appearance of having been burnt although there was no evidence to suggest that the burning was in-situ or at least undisturbed, the material was interpreted as a waste deposit) [281]. Sealing this sequence of contexts was a deposit of loosely compacted, grey, slightly sandy clay [282]. This was given a tentative interpretation as the collapse, or 'disuse', of a superstructure associated with the feature's wider interpretation as a bowl-hearth or similar.

Slightly to the east of this feature a spread of loosely compacted, brown, clayey sand, with frequent inclusions of small and medium angular pebbles and fragments of limestone was observed [313]. This deposit was possibly associated with the hearth-like feature described above, although no direct stratigraphic association could be established.

Within the central part of Area H a further north-west to south-east aligned ditch or early field drain cut was observed. This cut was linear in plan with parallel sides that gradually sloped to a generally flat base [316]. The cut was observed over a length of 1100mm and had a width of 1150mm. This ditch cut was backfilled with softly compacted, dark grey brown, slightly clayey sand [317]. In the same area a small angular pit was excavated. It had minimum dimensions in plan of 600mm by 850mm with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base with a depth 350mm [318]. The pit was backfilled with a loose to softly compacted, dark grey brown, slightly clayey sand [319].



Section 5



Section 6

Fig. 18: North-facing section (S.5) and south-facing section (S.6) at western end of area H
Scale 1:25

The angular pit cut into the back fill of a north-south aligned boundary ditch [303]. The ditch was linear in plan with roughly parallel sides, minimum (observed) length of 1000mm and width of between 900-1260mm. The sides were slightly concave, the base generally flat, and a maximum depth of 350mm. The ditch was backfilled with a loosely compacted, dark grey brown, silty sand [299]. This deposit significantly contained some sizeable fragments of roughly made pottery with evidence for external burning and sooting; the pottery was identified as mid to late Iron Age in date (*pers. comm.* Ian Rowlandson). Within the base of the ditch a posthole was identified, this was oval in plan, 280mm by 200mm but seemed truncated. The sides were vertical sides with a sharp break of slope to a flat base and a maximum depth of 280mm [320]. It was not possible to be sure if the posthole predated or was contemporaneous with ditch [303]. The posthole was backfilled with softly compacted, dark grey brown, sterile clayey sand [321] (see Fig. 20).



Fig. 19: The curving drip-gully [302] looking north, the vertical scale (0.2m) rests against an unexcavated segment of the backfill [300] filling the terminus of the gully. Horizontal scale 0.5m.

Ditch cut [303] was found to cut into the backfill [300] of a further curving ditch [302] which ran from south-west to north-east where it terminated with a simple rounded end. The backfill comprised a loosely compacted, black, silty sand, with very frequent inclusions of flecks and small fragments of charcoal [300]; the fill was interpreted as domestic-type refuse. The ditch itself was curvilinear in plan with a rounded terminus to the north-east, its width was 830mm, and it was excavated over a length of 1250mm. The sides of the cut were concave with a gradual break of slope to a flattened concave base, with a maximum depth 830mm [302]. This cut was interpreted as the drip-gully for a round-house with the terminus forming the southern side of the structure's entrance (see Figs. 19 & 20). Some eleven metres to the west a further section of gully was identified and excavated [304]. This cut was also curvilinear, aligned south-east to north-west, with a width 940mm, and an excavated length 400mm. The cut had slightly concave sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a curved concave base; the maximum depth was 270mm. Again this was interpreted as a continuation of the round-house

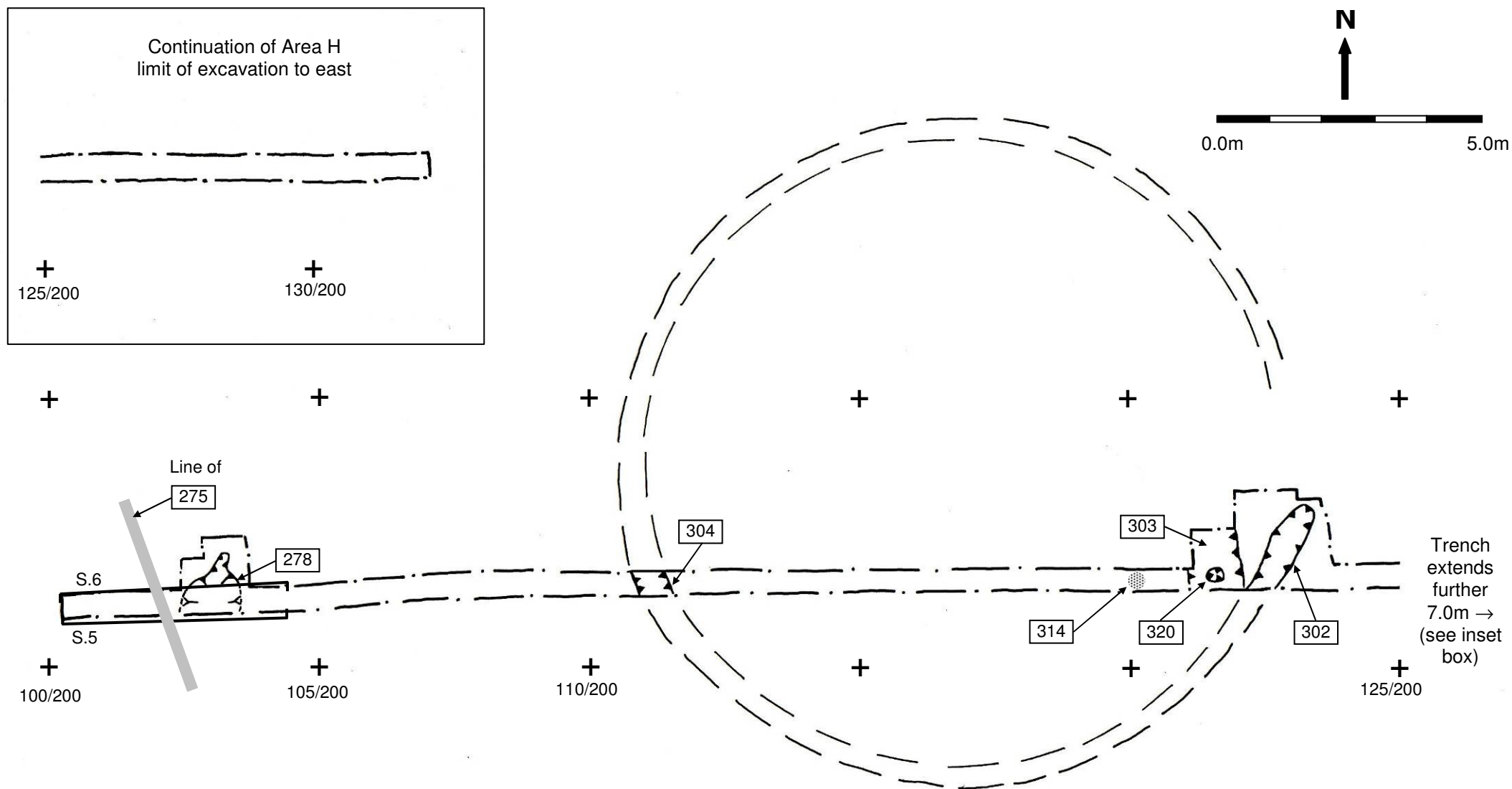


Fig. 20: Plan showing principal features excavated in Area H, including projected dimensions of roundhouse.
Scale 1:100

drip-gully, with both elements coinciding well with a large circular anomaly originally identified in the geophysics data. Cut [304] was backfilled with stiff fine-grained dark brown clayey coarse sand, with moderate flecks of burnt stone and charcoal, moderate small burnt sub-angular stones and fragments of charcoal, also further medium fragments of mid to late Iron Age pottery [272]. Again this was interpreted as evidence for domestic burning debris or waste. Having identified these curvilinear cuts as representing the drip-gully of a round-house it became possible to suggest that post-hole [320] might have represented the truncated base of a timber post setting for the structure, and thus would be contemporaneous with the cutting of the drip-gully. This interpretation however was based upon the spatial positioning of the posthole rather than any demonstrable stratigraphic relationship between it and the drip-gully. Finally a small patch of clayey sand with a reddish brown central area surrounded by yellow sand and fringed by grey clay appeared to represent an in situ burnt deposit approximately 300-400mm in diameter [314]. Its position would have placed it within the internal area of the round-house and a tentative suggestion is that it may represent the remnants of a small domestic hearth or fire-setting within that structure (see Fig.20).

Across the extents of Area H natural was recorded as having a varied compaction from extremely soft to compact. Its composition also varied from orange to mottled blue/yellow sand with no inclusions to dark orange sand with moderate small angular pebbles and fragments of limestone. There were also occasional patches of bright orange sandy clay with no inclusions.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The fourth season of excavation activity at Sudbrooke was very successful and produced evidence for masonry buildings of Roman date, early Roman period activity and prehistoric activity, including evidence for a round-house structure.

The earliest activity on the site was found in Area H where evidence for a round-house dating to the mid to late Iron Age was revealed. This structure was found to have an entrance that faced east as indicated by the southern terminus of the drip-gully and an inferred diameter of around twelve metres. To the west of, and possibly associated with, this structure but undated was a small oval shaped bowl-hearth or similar fired structure, there was insufficient evidence to assign the hearth a function. At some stage the round-house was demolished and a north-south boundary ditch was cut which ran through the location. Although this ditch respects the alignments of Roman structures found elsewhere on the site no material of Roman date was recovered from Area H.

In the main trench, Area F, the earliest activity was represented by the cutting and subsequent backfilling of a large east-west aligned ditch, also observed in Area G (ceramic dating from partial investigation of this feature in 2007 indicates a noticeably early backfilling date from the mid to late 1st century into the early 2nd century, see Darling, 2009). To the north of the area a number of intermixed deposits were interpreted as refuse type layers into which two neonate or infant inhumations had been made. Previous evidence from 2007 suggests that these deposits and the inhumations predate the construction of the main masonry building with hypocausts located immediately to the west.

Further investigation of that building was undertaken during 2008; in particular the full extents of the robber trenches associated with the buildings external walls were delineated. The evidence appears to suggest that the southern wall of the structure was an external wall and hence that this suite of heated rooms was not contiguous with the structures to the south. Nonetheless there are significant spatial patterns in terms of alignments and orientations that suggest that the two buildings were closely related, and were in any case no more than 1.5m apart. A further focus of investigation was the furnace room area which appeared to demonstrate a partial attempt at re-surfacing the space with flat limestone fragments. Additionally the opportunity was taken to investigate the constructional sequence for the *opus signinum* hypocaust subfloor within the south-eastern room. Analysis of the ceramics recovered during 2006 and 2007 locates the construction and use of this building firmly in the 2nd century (Darling, 2009).

Immediately to the south of this structure the full extent of the *opus signinum* lined 'plunge-pool' structure was revealed and a proportion of its demolition derived backfill sampled. This backfill was found to include a quantity of painted wall plaster, principally representing geometric border designs but in a range of colours together with plaster painted with a dark-green marble effect. (The wall plaster will form the subject of specialist study and report to be undertaken once all fieldwork at the site has been completed). The 'plunge-pool' was found to have an internal length of just over five metres and a width of 1.7m. At the west end of this masonry structure the outfall related to the lead pipe excavated in 2007 was further investigated. This comprised a stone-lined drain with a row of inverted imbrix tiles sealing its base, unfortunately its western terminus had been removed by later stone robbing.

To the south of this structure there was partial evidence for at least two, and probably three, north-south aligned roughly cobbled wall footings which carried the floor-plan of this building further to the south. These walls will be subject to fuller investigation during the 2009 season of excavation. Too the west of this part of Area F a smaller trench was opened, Area G. This area demonstrated evidence for two significant features. The earliest of which was a continuation of the large east-west aligned ditch noted above of possible 1st century

date. The later feature comprised an arrangement of three partially robbed out wall footings that are associated with the large westerly masonry structure first identified in 2007. The main east-west wall line appeared to extend across the entire length of the trench and was complimented with two north-south wall footings that may have represented internal walls.

The 2008 excavation has significantly supplied evidence for pre-Roman occupation of the site with the round-house structure of mid to late Iron Age date some ninety metres to the west of the later Roman buildings. These Roman buildings were further investigated and provided additional evidence for floor-plans and constructional details. It is clear the northerly building, probably a baths suite, was a substantial masonry structure with at least three linked heated-rooms; the structure also contained a furnace room with associated working space. The notably large water-containing masonry feature, interpreted as a 'plunge-pool', was also investigated and found to have been physically separated from the northerly building, although probably attached to a more southerly range or rooms. The water outfall system was investigated and found to comprise a stone-lined drain. It seems likely that these structures were decorated with mosaic pavements and painted plaster walls – although all evidence for these aspects is derived from demolition material. To the west a further large masonry building was indicated by a series of robber trenches. The Roman period occupation of the site appears to have begun in the mid to late 1st century (a significantly early date for high-status Roman rural settlement in Lincolnshire) with the main period of use focused on the 2nd and probably early to mid 3rd century. The building was, at some time – probably during the 3rd century – destroyed or damaged and subsequently demolished deliberately. Later activity on the site (at least within Area E) appeared to focus on the systematic robbing of masonry, particularly walls and is dated to the late 3rd century. This is an interim conclusion based upon four seasons' excavation.

7. REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE WORK

7.1 EXCAVATION METHODS

The excavation methods were appropriate for the work undertaken. The careful and methodical manual excavation technique generated a great deal more information than previous excavators had been able to gather. The systematic dry sieving of all spoil from the site was a fruitful procedure with quantities of tesserae, small ceramic and bone fragments being recovered. The protection and preservation of in-situ structural remains combined with sampling of other significant deposits will remain central to the excavation strategy. In future the three-dimensional plotting of all registered finds, and other key features, will be enhanced by the routine use of high-precision DGPS equipment.

Work during the 2009 season will concentrate on re-opening and extending Area F. This will allow final investigation of the southernmost elements of the in-situ masonry remains in area F. By extending the excavation area some five metres to the south investigation of wall footing continuations and adjoining rooms or structures will be possible. Dependant upon a suitable level of resources Area G will be reopened and extended northward by some five metres in order to further elaborate the extents of the later Roman building. Finally, and again dependant on suitable resources, the round-house will be the focus of more investigation with a narrow trench to be positioned across its extents at ninety degrees to this season's trench.

7.2 TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The training activities were very successful providing an excellent introduction to modern archaeological excavation and recording methods for a suitable number of trainees including university students. Many of the trainees have already expressed a keen interest and intention to return for a further season or more of work. Further to this a community/student group known as the 'Friends of Sudbrooke' Roman villa (FoS) have been formally constituted to participate in post-season finds processing, the delivery of education and public archaeology activities and fund-raising. The circulation of a newsletter together with a website and Facebook page will enhance communication between one season and the next.

During 2008 the Lincoln International Archaeological Field School operated and validated by Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln ran for the first time. The Field School successfully underwent both internal and external scrutiny with regard to syllabus, delivery and quality assurance; this included detailed review by Harvey Sheldon of Birkbeck College, University of London, acting as external examiner. The Field School underwent further routine operational and financial scrutiny by the University College during the autumn/winter of 2008 and was approved to continue in operation during 2009 and beyond. The 2008 season also welcomed a group of University College students to the excavation as part of an 'Archaeological Methods and Techniques' module, an element of their BA (Hons) Heritage Studies programme. The field school is being developed as part of wider research proposal addressing the character of the territorium of Lindum Colonia (Lincoln). As usual a proportion of places on the excavation will remain available for amateur participation. These developments have resulted in a significant increase in available resources for the project.

7.3 PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The 2008 season public archaeology activities were clearly successful with over 700 members of the public visiting the site. The provision of information for visitors through tours and display boards continued to be successful. The children's activities were also successful. The site featured prominently (though obviously anonymously) in the publication of the Oxford Archaeology 'Nighthawking Survey' published in early 2009; unfortunately the site itself continues to be attacked by antiquities thieves with little public evidence of steps being taken to address the problem by either the responsible agencies or in particular the police within Lincolnshire. Follow-up talks to various community groups continue to be made. The value of such talks in raising the profile of archaeology and enhancing community engagement with the subject is very great.

Following on the success of the 2008 activities organised by the Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln students a further bid was made for continuing HEIF3 Enterprise funding. The award was confirmed and an increased level of funding has been made available by the University College which will be used to repeat the highly successful 'Sudbrooke Archaeology Day' on Saturday 18th July as part of the UK-wide 'Festival of Archaeology'. It is planned that structured site visits by children from local schools (junior/primary and secondary) will once again take place; at least 40 such schools have been invited to participate in archaeology workshops and/or visits to the excavation during 2009.

The University College's Business Development Manager has again initiated a drive for commercial sponsorship of aspects of the excavation programme which has been greeted with a positive response by local companies. Some small scale sponsorship has already been secured and discussions have taken place with a potential major sponsor.

8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would all like to thank Mr Ralf Day, the landowner, for enthusiastically allowing access to his land for the purposes of the project, and for his continuing support. Once again we received much useful advice and genuine encouragement from figures within the Lincolnshire archaeological community, in this regard particularly thanks go to Susan Hardwick (Natural England), Adam Daubney (Finds Liaison Officer), Mick Jones (City of Lincoln Archaeologist), Anthony Lee and Dawn Heywood (City and County Museum), and Pearl Wheatley (Chair of the Lincolnshire Historical and Archaeological Society). Special thanks go to Bill Bee for practical assistance and his continuing enthusiasm. Also acknowledged is the contribution made by Karen Dennis and Beryl Lott (Lincolnshire County Council) toward the administrative process associated with derogation.

The excavation would not have taken place without the hard work of the following professional archaeological staff – thanks are extended to them all: Jenny Ryder, Maria Leroi, Diana Blumberg, Iris de Boer, Fred Coupland, Richard Whatling, Lynne McEwan, and Sam Cocks. Thanks are also extended to Alan Watts, Colin Savill and Pat Gregory for their important contribution to the smooth running of the project and especially the Field School. Particular thanks go to Anthony Bevan, farm manager, for continuing to support and facilitate our time on site. The smooth running of the excavation as a whole was the responsibility of Zoë Tomlinson; her contribution to the project continues to be immeasurable.

Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln supported the project directly with both staff and resources, and continues to do so with enthusiasm. In particular the support of the College Principal, Professor Muriel Robinson, Head of School Sally Bentley and Head of Department Jean MacIntyre is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also extended to Harvey Sheldon of Birkbeck College, University of London, for his detailed yet positive assessment of the Field School in terms of both content and quality. This season's Heritage Studies students were, as always, enthusiastic and committed and thanks are extended to them all for consistently doing so much more than was asked of them. There were a number of other students and volunteers who contributed to the project in differing but equally important ways. To mention just a few; Paul Berry, Ann Ford, Keith Kelway, Sharon MacFarlane, Anna and Michael Peacock. And of course my apologies to anyone I may have omitted.

Finally thanks are extended to this season's generous sponsors: Lindum Construction Ltd, Topps Tiles, and United Fillings. Also to Sudbrooke Parish Council, especially Stuart Curtis, Martin Dickie and Christine Myers, for their continued interest in the project and in particular for their support with regard to the Archaeology Day.

9. SITE ARCHIVE

The documentary and physical archive for the site is currently maintained in appropriate secure archival conditions at Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln for ongoing cataloguing and analysis. Access to this material is available on request to the project director at the University College. The full archive will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum (The Collection) following the conclusion of all seasonal investigations and the production of project-wide specialist reports. Once with the City and County Museum access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number 2005.58.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Archaeological Context Descriptions

SUD08 - General contexts

Context	Type	Description
200	Finds	Unstratified finds from across the full extents of the field and more than 5m from the edges of excavation areas.
201	Finds	Unstratified finds from the topsoil clearance of area F and G, and surface finds recovered within a 5m margin around the excavation trenches.
331	-	Not used

SUD08 - Area F

Context	Type	Description
202	Deposit	Loose to moderate compaction, dark grey-brown, silty (20) medium sand (80), occasional small angular pebbles, small fragments mortar and tile. {Base of topsoil/upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 115/200}.
203	Deposit	Well compacted, light-brown, sandy (40) silt (60), moderate small angular pebbles, occasional small fragments of tile. {Base of topsoil/upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 115/205}.
204	Deposit	Loose to compact, dark yellow-brown, sandy (50) silt (50) – occasional small fragments of shell, occasional large fragments of tile and limestone, frequent small fragments of tile. {Base of topsoil/upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 120/200}.
205	Deposit	Loose compaction, dark grey-brown, sandy (50) silt (50), frequent medium angular pebbles and occasional small fragments of tile. {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 120/205}.
206	Deposit	Loose compaction, dark grey-brown, sandy (50) silt (50), occasional to moderate fine to medium angular pebbles, occasional small fragments of tile. {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 125/200}.

207	Deposit	Loose compaction, dark grey-brown, sandy (40) silt (60), occasional medium angular pebbles and occasional small fragments of tile and mortar. {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 125/205}.
208	Deposit	Loose to compact, dark grey-brown, sandy (50) silt (50), occasional to moderate small sub-angular pebbles and occasional small fragments of tile. {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 130/200}.
209	Deposit	Weakly cemented, dark grey-brown, sandy (30) silt (70), moderate small angular pebbles, occasional small fragments tile and limestone. {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 130/205}.
210	Deposit	Compact to weakly cemented, very dark grey-brown, sandy (50) silt (50), moderate small angular pebbles, occasional small fragments tile and limestone. {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 130/210.}.
211	Deposit	Weakly cemented, dark-brown, sandy (50) silt (50), occasional sub-angular fine pebbles of limestone, occasional small fragments tile and mortar. {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 125/210}.
212	Deposit	Loose to compact, mottled brown to dark grey, mixed silty (50) sand (50), occasional small angular pebbles of limestone and small fragments of tile, moderate flecks of charcoal (some evidence for plough damage). {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 130/215}.
213	Deposit	Weakly cemented, dark grey-brown, sandy (30) silt (70), moderate sub-angular fine pebbles of limestone. {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 125/215}.
215	Skeleton	Highly disturbed (probably by ploughing) fragments. Only cranial plates remain in-situ, one possibly related long bone also recovered; the bones that survive were in a reasonable state of preservation. (No evidence for grave cut defined during excavation – probably as a result of disturbance of deposit interfaces by later agricultural activity). {Burial of a neonate/infant}.
216	Skeleton	Highly fragmented human skeletal remains. Only cranial bones survived, but in a fair to reasonable state of preservation. (No evidence for grave cut defined during excavation – probably as a result of disturbance of deposit interfaces by later agricultural activity). {Burial of a neonate/infant}.
217	Deposit	Weakly cemented, brown, silty (40) clay (60), occasional small angular pebbles. {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological

		stratification. Number allocated to grid square 115/210, south of area E (SUD07)}.
218	Deposit	Soft to compact, brown, medium sand (90) some silt (10), frequent small angular pebbles, occasional small fragments of tile and oyster shell. {Post-robbing? make-up levelling deposit, above stone-lined drain [312]}.
219	Cut	Circular in plan, diameter at top 190mm. Break of slope at top gradual (truncated?), steeply sloping and uniformly tapering to a rounded point. Break of slope with base gradual, base concave, maximum depth 90mm. (Filled by [220]). {Shallow posthole}.
220	Fill	Loose, brown, silty (20) coarse sand (80), occasional small angular pebbles and fragments tile. {Backfill of posthole [219]}.
221	Fill	Loose, brown, clayey (20) sand (80), occasional small angular pebbles, small and medium fragments of limestone. {Backfill of robbing pit [222]}.
222	Cut	Oval in plan, maximum length 1110mm (E-W), maximum width 1020mm (N-S). Generally sharp break of slope at top (truncated), northern and eastern sides steeply sloping, other sides are irregular (a result of cutting through masonry or robber trench backfill). Break of slope with base varies from sharp to gradual, irregular flat base, maximum depth 370mm. (Filled by [221]). {Robbing cut associated with junction of E-W masonry footing (SUD07[138]) and earlier robber trench backfill [270]. This cut the same as (SUD07 [193]}.
224	Fill	Loose to soft compaction, brown, well sorted silty (30) medium sand (70), occasional small fragments of tile. {Final post-disuse backfill deposit within stone-lined drain [312]}.
225	Fill	Compacted but weakly cemented, dark yellow-brown, fine sand (10) silt (90), frequent large fragments of limestone, occasional fragments of oyster shell and tesserae, increase in sand and pea-grit at base of deposit (=30). {Backfill of robber trench [248], some intermixing with deposit [247]?}.
226	Cut	Sub-rectangular in plan, corners rounded, maximum length 700mm (E-W), maximum width 450mm (N-S). Sharp break of slope at top on southern side more gradual on northern side, concave sides. Break of slope with base imperceptible, flat base (partly formed by masonry of stone-lined drain [312]), maximum depth 80mm. (Filled by [218]). {Robbing cut apparently formed by failed attempt to remove the lead-pipe (SUD07 [188]) that fed into the stone-lined drain [312]}.
227	Deposit	Loosely compacted, brown, silty (50) medium sand (50) frequent medium and small fragments of tile and limestone, moderate medium and small fragments of painted wall plaster. {Building material deposit removed to clear the extents of 'wall plaster dump' [245] to the north and centred over the southern wall line of

		[308] with grid square 120/205 }.
228	Deposit	Interlensing deposit of loosely compacted dark-brown to black, silty (80) medium to coarse sand (20) with occasional lenses of light yellow medium sand, moderate large to medium fragments of limestone, occasional medium and small fragments of tile and bone. Truncated. {General context of interlensing deposits, probably associated with external (refuse?) dumping actions in grid square 130/215 in the north-east corner of trench F, (later disturbed by ploughing?)}.}
229	Deposit	Medium compaction, dark brown to brownish-grey, silty (30) sand (70), frequent flecks of charcoal, moderate small fragments of oyster shell, occasional lenses of blue-grey clay. {Backfill of large east-west aligned linear ditch}. <i>Not excavated</i> .
230	Deposit	Varying from firm to loose compaction, light brown, silty (30) sand (70), frequent small to medium fragments of limestone, tile, op.sig. and wall plaster. {Possible destruction debris associated with room directly to the south (eastern end) of the 'plunge pool' southern wall [308]}. <i>Only partially excavated</i> .
231	Deposit	Varying from firm to loose compaction, brown, sandy (30) silt (70), frequent fine to medium angular pebbles, small fragments of tile, mortar and limestone. {Disturbed destruction debris removed to determine the edges of robber trench [310] to the east and 'rubble' deposit/surface ([190] SUD07) to the south}.
232	Deposit	Weakly cemented to compact, grey-brown, clayey (50) silt (50), occasional to moderate small pebbles, fragments of limestone and tile. {Cleaning interface deposit – same as [217] and [233] – removed to determine the southern edge of robber trench [248]. Number allocated to grid square 120/210, south of area E (SUD07)}.
233	Deposit	Weakly cemented, grey-brown, clayey (40) silt (60), occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments. {Cleaning interface deposit – same as [217] and [232] – removed to determine the southern edge of robber trench [248]. Number allocated to grid square 125/210, south of area E (SUD07). This context same as [213] but only within extents of area E}.
234	Deposit	Compact surface hard beneath, light pinky red, crushed tile and sand mortar – <i>opus signinum</i> – (100), occasional fine pebbles, poorly sorted. {Surface layer hypocaust sub-floor comprising poured and levelled deposit of op. sig. (same as ([127] SUD07))}.
236	Fill	Weakly cemented, brown, sandy (30) silt (70), moderate fine to medium pebbles and fragments of limestone and tile, occasional large fragment of limestone. {Backfill of robber trench [248]}.
237	Deposit	Loosely compacted, mid-brown to black, clayey (35) medium sand (65), frequent small to medium fragments of limestone, tile and mortar. {Backfill of robbing/scavenging cut [258]}.

238	Masonry	Layer of angular limestone stones (average dimensions 40mm x 100mm x 150mm), laid in a herringbone style at approximately 30-40° from the horizontal. The stones overlap by some 25-50% and were clearly laid from east to west and set within a light yellow brown soft dry sandy mortar. Patch of dark red discolouration in north-east corner of excavated area, interpreted as evidence of burning during construction. {Hypocaust sub-floor foundation raft for op. sig. deposit [234]}.
241	Deposit	Loose to firm compaction, dark grey, sandy (40) silt (60), occasional fragments of ceramics and painted wall plaster, frequent small to medium fragments of tile and limestone. {Interface layer – upper surface of archaeological deposits – some evidence for plough damage. Same as [243]}. <i>Partially excavated.</i>
242	Fill	Soft to compact, brown, medium sand (90) some silt (10), frequent small angular pebbles, occasional small fragments of tile and oyster shell. {Post-construction backfilling over capstones [292] of drain [312]}.
243	Deposit	Medium to firm compaction, brown (some yellow sand), silty (30) sand (70), moderate small and medium fragments of limestone and tile. {Interface layer – upper surface of archaeological deposits – some evidence for plough damage. Same as [241]}. <i>Partially excavated.</i>
245	Fill	Compact, light yellow-brown, silty (40) sand (60), moderate small sub-rounded pebbles, small fragments of limestone and tile, moderate small and medium fragments of painted wall plaster, occasional large fragments limestone and tile. {Backfill/destruction deposit within ‘plunge pool’ walls [308]}. (Note: Gridded into a series of approx. 750 x 750mm squares – alternate squares excavated and assigned letters A-I, from east to west). <i>Selective excavation.</i>
246	Fill	Compact, dark grey-brown, silty (30) sand (70), moderate small angular pebbles, occasional medium and large fragments of limestone and tile. {Upper backfill of robber trench [248] – recorded in Section 2}.
247	Fill	Compact and strongly cemented, yellowish, coarse sand (20) medium sand (80), very frequent large and medium fragments of limestone and mortar, moderate medium fragments of tile. {Tumbled-in rubble to the northern side of robber trench [248], probably forms primary fill immediately post-robbing – recorded in Section 2}.
248	Cut	Linear cut orientated east-west, width 790mm, minimum length 10.90m (although may extend further east?). Break of slope at top generally sharp, sides vertical to steeply sloping with a sharp break of slope with uneven though generally flat base. Maximum depth 340mm. {Robber trench related to a non-extant east-west wall footing, possibly forming southern wall of ‘bath-house’ suite?} <i>Western extents not fully excavated.</i>

249	Deposit	Well compacted, mid yellowish pink, crushed tile (30) and silty (10) medium to coarse sand (60). {Bedding/levelling layer beneath limestone rubble foundation raft [238] for hypocaust floor [234]}.
250	Deposit	Well compacted, light-brownish yellow, silty (30) sand (70), well sorted with occasional large irregular fragments of limestone. {Nondescript layer of sand in region of underlying ditch [290], possibly represents base of upper fill?}
251	Deposit	Loose friable compaction, interlensing thin layers of very dark-grey to brownish black ash (40) and yellow-grey medium sand (60), moderate medium fragments of limestone and tile, occasional small fragments of oyster shell and sub-angular pebbles. {Possibly rakings from the 'furnace' area immediately to the west and associated with the hypocaust to the south [234]}.
252	Deposit	Loose to compact, light to mid yellow brown, sandy (10) silt (90), occasional large fragments of limestone, moderate small to medium fragments of limestone, moderate large fragments of tile and frequent small fragments of tile. {Extensive spread principally comprising building material debris but within a silty (refuse?) matrix to the east of the presumed 'furnace' area; an external surface deposit?}
256	Fill	Surface compact underneath loose, light yellow grey, silty (30) fine sand (70), frequent fine angular pebbles and pea-grit, occasional medium and large fragments of op-sig, sandy mortar and limestone. {Destruction/robbing debris filling posthole [257]}.
257	Cut	Circular in plan, diameter 420mm, depth 280mm. Break of slope at top sharp, sides initially vertical then steeply sloping, break of slope with base stepped and gradually sloping to central circular depression in concave rounded base. {Posthole cut into south-west corner of hypocaust floor [234] backfilled by demolition/robbing debris [256]}.
258	Cut	Rectangular cut, 680 x 900mm, maximum depth 100mm. Break of slope at top sharp, sides vertical with a sharp break of slope at the base which is flat. {Robbing cut to remove wall or plinth(?) footings; backfilled by [237]}.
259	Deposit	Loosely compacted, mid-brown yellow, silty (20) coarse sand (80), occasional small sub-angular pebbles. {Disturbed redeposited natural beneath bedding/levelling deposit [249] for hypocaust foundation raft [238]; possibly represents disturbance by primary construction cut for hypocaust base}.
260	Deposit	Loose to moderate compaction, dark brown, clayey (10) silt (90), frequent large and medium fragments limestone (some burnt), moderate small fragments limestone, shell and bone. {Oval (sub-linear?) shaped deposit of mixed rubble set in a cohesive matrix; possibly equates to [307] and also associated with [296], [305] and [306]}.

262	Fill	Loosely compacted, brown, silty (30) fine sand (70), frequent small and medium sub-angular pebbles, occasional small fragments of mortar and limestone. {Upper fill of robber trench to west of suite of hypocaust rooms – extents at surface poorly defined}.
263	Fill	Compact, dark brown, fine sandy (10) silt (90), moderate sub-angular pebbles and medium fragments limestone, moderately well-sorted. {Fill of shallow cut [290].
264	Fill	Loose to soft compaction, light brown/tan, mixed fine and coarse sand 100% with frequent small and medium pebbles and occasional small and medium fragments of tile and limestone. At base narrow gully is filled with fine gravel, sand and clinker mix over segments of ceramic pipe. {Backfill of modern field-drain, cut [291]}.
265	Masonry	Roughly hewn limestone blocks, randomly set and uncoursed forming a short segment of foundation wall, 740mm x 680mm (length truncated). Blocks set within a pinky yellow-brown coarse sandy mortar. {Short remnant of foundation wall footing between the main north wall (SUD07 [138]) and the cut of the dumb-bell shaped pit (SUD07 [147])}. <i>Not fully excavated.</i>
266	Deposit	Loosely compacted, mid-brown yellow, clayey (10) silty (20) sand (70), very occasional fine rounded pebbles. {Natural}.
267	Deposit	Moderately compacted, pale brown, silty (20) sand (80), moderate small and medium fragments of limestone, occasional small and medium fragments of wall-plaster, poorly sorted. {Post-destruction deposit removed – cleaned – above line of northern wall [308] of ‘plunge pool’ to delineate its extents}.
268	Deposit	Varies from compact to loose, yellow brown, silty (20) sand (80), frequent small and medium fragments of limestone, occasional small and medium fragments of wall-plaster, poorly sorted. {Post-destruction deposit removed – cleaned – above line of southern wall [308] of ‘plunge pool’ to delineate its extents}.
269	Deposit	Loosely compacted, grey-brown sand (100), frequent medium and large fragments of limestone and round/sub-rounded cobbles. {Possible remnants of a wall or floor foundation deposit heavily disturbed by later destruction, robbing or plough damage}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
270	Fill	Loosely compacted, dark brown, medium to coarse sand (100), moderate to frequent small and medium fragments of limestone, tile and op. sig. {Backfill of robber trench [310]}.
271	Deposit	Compact to loose, light brown, silty (20) sand (80), frequent medium to large fragments of limestone, occasional large cobbles; deposit ‘width’ 900mm. {Appears to represent the base elements of a north-south orientated wall footing (only 600mm of length delineated) at southern limit of area F}.

283	Fill	Loosely compacted, brown, silty (30) coarse sand (70), moderate medium pebbles and small fragments of limestone, occasional small and medium fragments of mortar. {Backfill of robber trench [332] to west of suite of hypocaust rooms}.
284	Deposit	Loosely compacted, grey silty (20) sand (80), frequent small and medium fragments of limestone. {Possible remnants of a wall or floor foundation deposit heavily disturbed by later destruction, robbing or plough damage}.
285	Deposit	Loosely compacted, very dark brown, silty (40) sand (60), frequent medium fragments of <i>opus signinum</i> , moderate flecks charcoal. {Burnt deposit on surface of plunge pool floor (SUD07 [179])}.
286	Deposit	Compact to soft, yellow brown to dark-grey brown grey, silty (50) sand (50), occasional small fragments of bone, tile and shell, and flecks of charcoal. {Interface deposit removed in small exploratory trench at eastern limit of area F}.
288	Deposit	Softly compacted, dark grey-brown, sandy (20) silt (80), occasional small fragments of tile and limestone fragments, also charcoal flecks and animal bone fragments. {Interpreted as a refuse type deposit. It appeared that skeletons [215] and [216] had been interred within this material – but had been disturbed by later actions including ploughing}. <i>Not excavated</i> .
290	Cut	Linear with single straight edge, exposed min. length 800mm, exposed min. width 1350mm. Break at top sharp (truncated), sides vertical, break at base sharp. Base flat, depth 150mm. {Poorly defined shallow cut feature of unknown purpose, possibly base of ditch?}.
291	Cut	Linear with generally straight sides, exposed max. length 1400mm, width 950mm. Break of slope at top sharp (truncated), sides generally very steeply sloping or vertical but with small step within 80mm of the top and a fairly sharp break of slope at the base; total depth 1220mm. Base sides flat dropping to a central rounded gully running the length of the cut; depth 170mm. {Deep ‘modern’ field drain (mechanically cut?), base gully filled held segments of ceramic pipe and was filled with clinker, see [264]}.
292	Masonry	Roughly hewn and squared limestone blocks, 200-250mm x 100-150mm x 400mm. Single course laid in a semi-irregular linear pattern, bonded with a moderately compact brown-orange coarse sandy mortar. Overall length 2000mm x width 600mm. {Capstones sealing stone-lined drain [312]; outfall from ‘plunge pool’ [308]}.
293	Deposit	Irregularly arranged group of very roughly hewn limestone slabs (dimensions range from 90mm x 60mm x 50mm to 300mm x 250mm x 60mm). Set within a loose brown-black silty (50) sand (50), with moderate small pebbles and occasional small fragments of tile. {Probably a consolidated floor(?) surface}.
296	Deposit	Firmly compacted, brown, sandy (35) silt (65), frequent medium

		and large fragments of limestone (some fragments appear burnt). {Possible structural/levelling deposit; similar to [260] to south}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
298	Deposit	Loosely compacted, yellow-brown, silty (10) medium sand (90), frequent large fragments of limestone, occasional small fragments of wall plaster. {General demolition debris overlying <i>opus signinum</i> floor [334] in south-west corner of hypocaust 'building'}. <i>Partially excavated.</i>
301	Deposit	Loosely compacted, dark brown, sandy (40) silt (60), moderate large, medium and small fragments of limestone, occasional large rounded cobbles and small angular pebbles, poorly sorted. {Further interface/cleaning deposit removed above line of eastern wall of 'plunge pool' [308]}.
305	Deposit	Softly compacted, brown, sandy (30) silt (70), moderate small fragments of limestone and fine angular pebbles. {Possible structural/levelling deposit}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
306	Deposit	Soft to firm compaction, dark reddish brown, sandy (30) silt (70), with very frequent large patches of very dark grey brown clay. {Circular area (diameter approx. 300mm) – possibly fill of posthole or other circular depression?} <i>Not excavated.</i>
307	Deposit	Firmly compacted, brown, sandy (40) silt (60), moderate small and medium fragments of stone. {Possible structural/levelling deposit; possibly continuation of [260] to east}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
308	Masonry	Rectangular linear masonry structure comprising roughly hewn limestone blocks, ranging in size from 100mm x 100mm x 50mm to 200mm x 150mm x 120mm, irregularly laid and set in a light brown medium sandy mortar with frequent angular pebbles. Width 500-750mm. Longest sides orientated roughly east-west; shorter sides orientated roughly north-south. External dimensions maximum length (north and south elements) 8600mm, maximum width varying from 2500mm (east end) to 3000mm (west end). Internal dimensions maximum length (east-west) 5300mm, maximum width (north-south) 1600-1700mm. Evidence for increasing levels of disturbance (plough-damage and/or robbing) toward central and eastern end. {Foundation walls for east-west aligned <i>opus signinum</i> lined 'plunge-pool' room or building; also see (SUD07 [175]) for description of western end. Formed within construction cut earlier described as (SUD07 [181]) but with dimensions extended as above}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
310	Cut	Linear cut, parallel sides, minimum length (not fully excavated) 2500mm x minimum width (west side not fully exposed) 800mm, maximum depth 330mm. Break of slope at top sharp, sides vertical with a sharp break of slope at the base which is flat (describes east side only). North-south orientation. {Robbing cut to remove wall footings; backfilled by [270]; associated with cut [222] to the north which robbed the northern terminus of this wall alignment, and linear cut [248] which formed the east-west return of the wall

		300mm to the south of the excavated extents of [310]}.
311	Fill	Very soft compaction, dark brown, sandy (40) silt (60) with occasional fine angular, flecks of charcoal and small fragments of mortar. {Immediate post-use backfill of stone-lined drain [312]}.
312	Masonry	Linear masonry structure (with curving eastern end) in plan, comprising roughly hewn limestone blocks. Facing blocks provided with a single well cut rectangular face to form two opposing sides of a stone-lined drain. Laid in two courses, upper course block dimensions L.200-350mm x H.80mm x D.20mm, lower course L.180-300mm x H.100mm x (D.20mm?). Laid in regular level courses with no differentiated bonding pattern, (northern side has rubble infill inserted behind facing blocks to an average depth of 100mm). Set in a mid-brown sandy mortar. Extant length 2400mm (probable original overall length approximately 3000mm), width on north side 350mm, south side 270mm, maximum height approximately 350mm (not including capstones [292] – total minimum height therefore approximately 450mm including capstones). Orientated north-west-west by south-east-east; slopes down from east to west at an angle of 10°. Central void between walls averaged 120mm in width and 300-350mm in height below capstones [292]. Base lined with inverted imbrices with each tile's western end overlapping the eastern end of the succeeding tile to form a drain cascade that would flow from east to west; (eight extant tiles, inferred ninth tile at western end probably robbed out by wall robbing actions to the north). Three tiles show signs of re-use having white paint(?) on their inner surfaces extending some 100mm from their eastern ends. {Stone lined drain taking outflow from plunge-pool(?) structure to the east [308] (= SUD07 [175]), directly related/connected to the lead pipe (SUD07 [188]) that was set within the wall footing to the east). Western end of drain removed by later wall robbing actions to the north}. <i>Recorded and sampled but structural elements not excavated.</i>
315	Fill	Softly compacted, very light brown, silty (40) sand (60) with occasional flecks of charcoal and very occasional small fragments of mortar and tile. {Primary backfill of stone-lined drain [312]}.
332	Cut	Linear cut, parallel sides (with small right-angled return – partially excavated), southern end extended to form an irregular curving terminus, minimum length (not fully excavated to north) 3000mm, minimum width (west side not fully exposed) approximately 900mm, maximum depth 300mm. Break of slope at top sharp (truncated), sides vertical with a sharp break of slope at the base which is flat but irregular. Southern terminus sides irregular and gradually sloping, gradual break of slope with an irregular concave base. North-south orientation, with east-west return running to the east. {Robbing cut to remove wall footings; extended to south to remove western end of stone-lined drain [312]. Backfilled by [283]; associated with cut [248] to the east}.
333	Deposit	Apparently circular (or curving) arrangement of large limestone blocks/fragments set directly on op. sig floor [334]. Inferred

		diameter 1000mm; height 230mm. {Unknown structural feature associated with hypocaust structure, or incidental grouping of stones derived from demolition activity}. <i>Not fully excavated.</i>
334	Deposit	Strongly cemented, mid-pinky red crushed tile and sand mortar – <i>opus signinum</i> surface. Small raised (30mm) concave edge along northern limits of deposit. Mortar impression (scar) of two adjacent tile settings at southern limit of deposit (north-south 330mm x east-west 500mm). {Poured and levelled <i>opus signinum</i> sub-floor within hypocaust structure}. <i>Partially excavated.</i>
335	Masonry	Very roughly hewn limestone blocks and fragments (200-350 x 200 x 100mm) laid in base of construction cut [336]. {Remnants of wall footings for north-south (and east-west) orientated wall in base of robbing cut [332]}. <i>Partially excavated.</i>
336	Cut	Linear cut, parallel sides (with small right-angled return – partially excavated), minimum length (not fully excavated to north) 2200mm, minimum width (west side not fully exposed) approximately 900mm, maximum depth 300mm. Break of slope at top sharp (truncated), sides vertical with a sharp break of slope at the base which is flat. North-south orientation, with east-west return running to the east. {Construction trench cut for wall footings [335]}. <i>Partially excavated.</i>
337	Deposit	Loosely compacted, mid-brown yellow, clayey (10) silty (20) sand (70), very occasional fine rounded pebbles. {Natural}.
338	Cut	Linear cut (with curving eastern end) in plan, parallel sides narrowing to the western end, length approximately 3100mm, width 700mm. Break of slope at top sharp, sides steeply sloping to vertical, break of slope with base sharp, base flat. Depth 550mm. Orientated north-west-west by south-east-east. {Construction cut for stone lined drain [312]; probably formed at the same time the main ‘plunge pool’ construction trench (SUD07 [181]) was cut to the east. Western end of cut partially removed by later wall robbing actions to the north}. <i>Recorded but not excavated.</i>

SUD08 - Area G

Context	Type	Description
214	Deposit	Compact to loose, dark grey-brown, silty (40) sand (60), occasional sub-angular pebbles of limestone, occasional small fragments of tile. {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 105/205}.
223	Deposit	Compact to loose, dark grey-brown, silty (35) sand (65), occasional sub-angular pebbles of limestone, occasional small fragments of tile. {Base of topsoil upper interface of archaeological stratification. Number allocated to grid square 100/205}.

239	Deposit	Loosely compacted, yellow-brown, silty (40) sand (60), moderate medium fragments of limestone to south, moderate small to medium limestone fragments and small fragments of tiles to the north. {Upper surface of archaeological deposits, some plough disturbance}.
240	Deposit	Loose to compact, dark yellow brown, sandy (40) silt (60), occasional small angular pebbles and small fragments tile and limestone. {Upper surface of archaeological deposits, some plough disturbance}.
244	Deposit	Loose compaction, dark brown, sandy (50) silt (50), moderate small sub-rounded pebbles and occasional small fragments of tile. {Upper surface of archaeological deposits, some plough disturbance}.
253	Fill	Loosely compacted, dark brown, silty (30) sand (70). {Backfill of small post/stakehole [261]}.
254	Cut	Sub-oval in plan, top 220 x 230mm. Break of slope at top sharp (truncated?), steeply sloping – north-west side slightly undercutting. Break of slope with base gradual, base forms a tapered rounded point, maximum depth 670mm. (Filled by [255]). {Post/stakehole}.
255	Fill	Very loose, dark grey brown, sandy (35) silt (65), very occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of shell. {Backfill of post/stakehole [254]}.
261	Cut	Sub-circular in plan, top 160 x 80mm. Break of slope at top sharp (truncated?) northern side more gradual, smooth vertical sides, break of slope with base gradual, base flat, maximum depth 140mm. (Filled by [253]). {Small post/stakehole}.
287	Deposit	Loosely compacted, dark yellowish-brown, silty (20) medium sand (80), occasional patches of clay and whole oyster shells {clearance layer removed from above wall footings [309], probably represents (truncated) destruction level}.
297	Fill	Upper surface indurated, lower levels loose, mid brown to yellow, coarse sand (100), frequent large angular limestone fragments, moderate medium and small fragments of tile, occasional small fragments of wall plaster and tesserae. {Material excavated while investigating relationship between the backfills [326] and [324] of robber trenches [325] and [323] respectively}.
309	Masonry	Roughly hewn limestone stones (irregular shapes between 100mm and 300mm in size), randomly set and uncoursed forming a short segment of wall footing orientated north-south. Minimum length 1800mm, width 600mm. Stones set within a creamy yellow sandy mortar. {Short remnant of (possibly internal?) foundation wall footing. Probably a northerly return associated with the larger east-west wall [327] which is assumed to run across this area to the south. This wall alignment appears parallel to the robber trench

		[323] located some 3.0 metres to the east}. <i>Not fully excavated.</i>
323	Cut	Linear cut, parallel sides (although only eastern side exposed), minimum length (not fully excavated) 1400mm x minimum width (west side not exposed) 900mm, maximum depth 400mm. Break of slope at top sharp (truncated), east side vertical with a sharp break of slope at the base which is generally flat. North-south orientation. {Robbing cut to remove (internal?) wall footings; backfilled by [324]; associated with east-west wall [328] to south}.
324	Fill	Loosely compacted, dark grey brown, sandy (50) silt (50), occasional large fragments of limestone. {Backfill of robber trench [323]. (Finds from this context assigned to context number [297])}. <i>Limited excavation.</i>
325	Cut	Linear cut, parallel sides (although only northern side exposed), minimum length (not fully excavated) 2850mm x minimum width (south side not exposed) 1000mm, maximum depth 330mm. Break of slope at top sharp (truncated), north side very steeply sloping with a sharp break of slope at the base which is irregular. East-west orientation. {Robbing cut to remove (external?) wall footings [328]; backfilled by [326]; associated with north-south wall [324] to north}. <i>Limited excavation.</i>
326	Fill	Loosely compacted, dark grey brown, sandy (50) silt (50), occasional large fragments of limestone. {Backfill of robber trench [325]. (Finds from this context assigned to context number [297])}. <i>Limited excavation.</i>
327	Cut	Linear cut, parallel sides (only partially exposed), minimum length (not fully excavated) 2850mm x minimum width (south side not exposed) 1000mm, minimum depth 330mm. Break of slope at top, steep sides and break of slope at base unknown. Base unseen beneath un excavated remnants of wall footings [328]. East-west orientation. {Construction trench cut for wall footings [328]}. <i>Limited excavation.</i>
328	Masonry	Roughly hewn medium and large limestone fragments, ranging in size from 40-150mm. Small area of extant wall footings exposed in base of exploratory investigation within robber trench [325]. Maximum possible length within current trench (not exposed) 2850mm x maximum possible width 1000mm {East-west masonry footings, forming southern external wall of large rectangular(?) building; set within construction trench [327]}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
329	Cut	Linear, east-west aligned cut with parallel sides. Not excavated but observed within Area G (and also seen running across extents of Area F). Minimum width approximately 2000mm. Filled by [330]. {Large east-west boundary (or enclosure?) ditch}. <i>Not excavated.</i>
330	Fill	Loose compaction, very dark grey, sandy (40) silt (60), (apparently organic in character). {Fill of ditch cut [321]}. <i>Not excavated.</i>

SUD08 - Area H

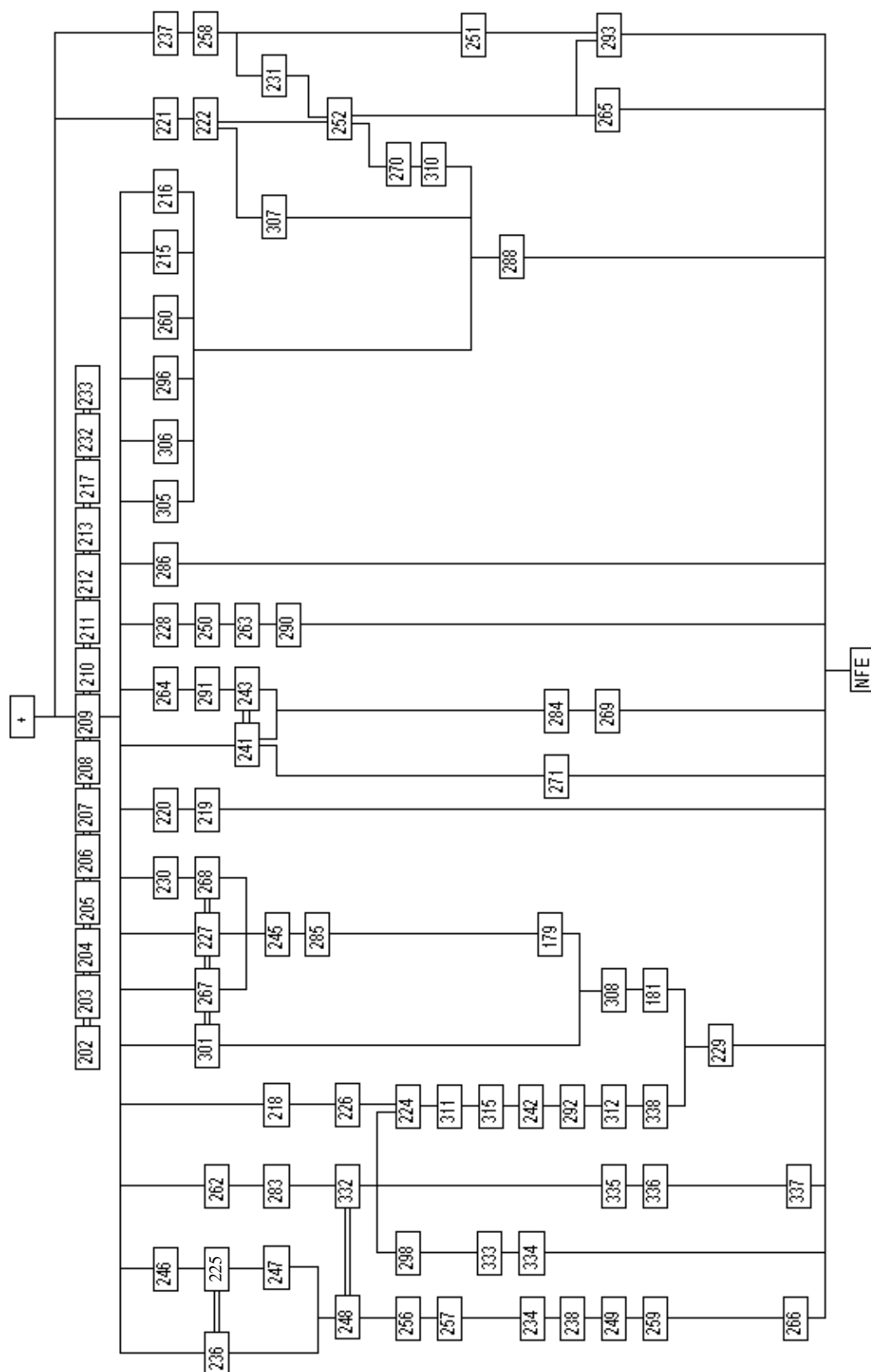
Context	Type	Description
235	Deposit	Very softly compacted, dark yellow-brown, coarse sandy (40) clay (60), moderate flecks of charcoal, occasional medium angular pebbles, well sorted. {Interface layer, base of topsoil/upper surface of sub-soil/potential archaeological layers}.
272	Fill	Stiff fine-grained sediments, dark brown, clayey (20) coarse (80), moderate flecks of burnt stone and charcoal, moderate small burnt sub-angular stones and fragments of charcoal, occasional medium fragments of pottery. {Backfill of gully cut [304]}.
273	Cut	Probably linear – from crop-marks and geophysics (only observed in sections 5 & 6) – observed length 500mm, width 2550mm, max. depth 390mm, break of slope at top sharp (truncated), moderately steeply sloping (approx. 45°) partially concave on eastern side. Break of slope with base gradual, wide flat base. (Filled by [274]). {Ditch cut}.
274	Fill	Loose compaction, dark grey-brown, silty (30) clay (70), very occasional fine rounded pebbles. {Backfill of ditch cut [273]}.
275	Cut	Probably linear – from crop-marks and geophysics (only observed in sections 5 & 6) – observed length 500mm, width 460mm, max. depth 300mm, break of slope at top sharp (truncated), steeply sloping (approx. 30°); not observed/excavated to full depth. (Filled by [276] and [277]). {Modern (?) field drain cut}.
276	Fill	Loose compaction, very dark brown, clayey (20) silt (80). {Primary fill of (modern?) field drain [275]}. <i>Not excavated</i> .
277	Fill	Loose compaction, pale brown, sandy (40) silt (60), very frequent medium sub-rounded limestone cobbles. {Backfill of (modern?) field drain [275]}.
278	Cut	Appeared oval in plan (only northern part exposed in plan otherwise observed in sections 5 & 6) with a narrow linear extension orientated NNE. Observed E-W max. width approx. 900mm, max. depth 260mm, break of slope at top sharp (truncated), E-W cross section shows concave sides, NNE extension shows much more gradually sloping sidesn both cases the break of slope with the base is imperceptible, the base appears generally concave or bowl-shaped although uneven across extents. (Filled by [279], [280], [281] and [282]). {Cut for bowl-shaped hearth-like feature}.
279	Fill	Compact, grey, sandy (10) clay (90), thin deposit with frequent small angular fragments of flint. {Base or lining deposit of hearth-like feature (cut [278])}.
280	Fill	Loose compaction, light yellow-brown, sand (100), thin lens of

		material. {Primary 'fill' (working surface?) of hearth-like feature}.
281	Fill	Loose compaction, reddish brown, clayey (5) very fine sand (95). {Secondary 'fill' of hearth-like feature – apparently burnt deposit (in situ waste?)}.
282	Fill	Loose compaction, grey, sandy (10) clay (90), occasional small to medium angular pebbles. {Tertiary and final 'fill' of hearth-like feature – possibly collapsed 'roof'?}.
289	Deposit	Soft compaction, dark greyish-brown, clayey (40) sand (60), occasional small angular pebbles. {Deposit removed to clarify relationship of deeper pit and ditch fills [319] and [317]; probably same as [235], seen mainly in section}.
294	Deposit	Softly compacted, dark grey-brown, clayey (40) coarse sand (60), occasional small angular pebbles. {Lowest level of sub-soil-archaeological stratification interface layer; same as [235], [289] and [295]}.
295	Deposit	Softly compacted, dark grey-brown, clayey (30) sand (70), occasional small angular pebbles. {Lowest level of sub-soil-archaeological stratification interface layer; same as [235], [289] and [294]}.
299	Fill	Loosely compacted, dark grey brown, silty (20) sand (80), occasional charcoal flecks. {Fill of ditch cut [303] (contained pottery fragments of probable Iron Age date)}.
300	Fill	Loosely compacted, black, silty (20) sand (80), very frequent flecks and small fragments of charcoal. {Burnt material backfilling round-house drip gully(?) [302]}.
302	Cut	Curvilinear with rounded terminus to north-east, width 830mm, excavated length (minimum) 1250mm. Sharp break of slope at top, sides concave with a gradual break of slope to a flattened concave base, maximum depth 830mm. Orientated north-east to south-west. {Terminus of round-house drip gully(?), possibly represents south-west side of entrance. Interpreted as the continuation of gully [304] found some eleven metres to the west}.
303	Cut	Linear in plan with roughly parallel sides, excavated length (minimum) 1000mm, width 900-1260mm. Sharp break of slope at top, sides slightly concave, gradual break of slope with the base which is generally flat, depth 350mm. Orientated roughly north-south. {North-south boundary/enclosure ditch}.
304	Cut	Curvilinear, width 940mm, excavated length (minimum) 400mm. Sharp break of slope at top, sides 45° slope slightly concave with a gradual break of slope to a curved concave base, maximum depth 270mm. Orientated south-east to north-west. {Round-house drip gully(?) Interpreted as the continuation of gully [302] found some eleven metres to the east}.

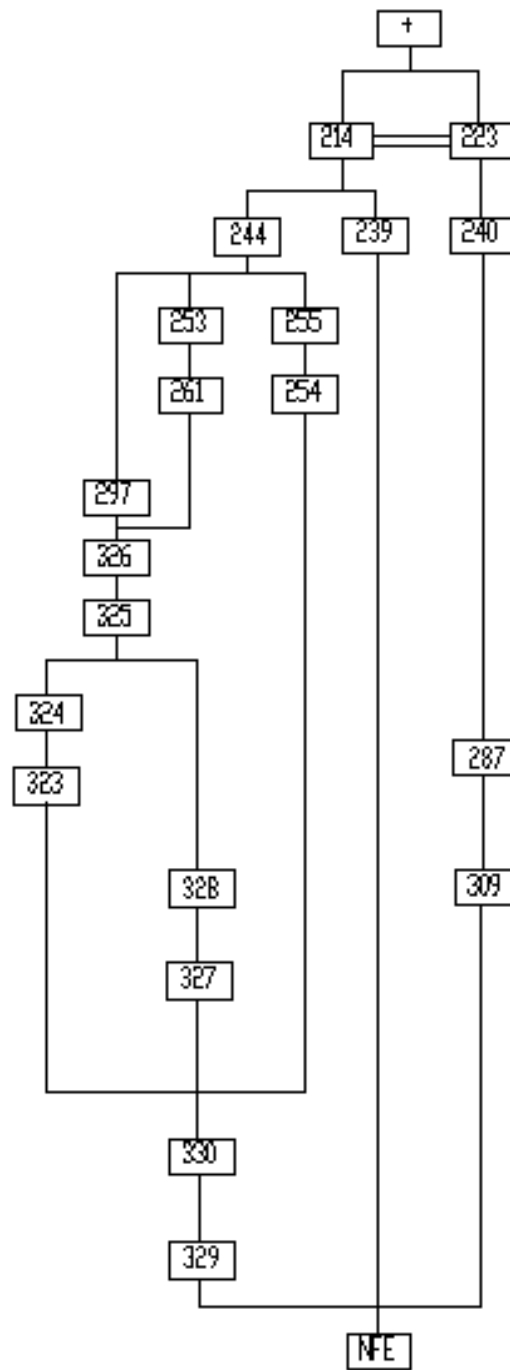
313	Deposit	Loosely compacted, brown, clayey (5) sand (95), frequent small and medium angular pebbles and fragments of limestone. {Spread of stones possibly associated with 'hearth' feature [278] and disturbed by ploughing}. <i>Not excavated</i> .
314	Deposit	Reddish brown central area surrounded by yellow sand in turn fringed by grey clay, clayey (20) sand (80), apparent in situ burnt circular deposit, approximately 300-400mm in diameter in plan. {Possible evidence for a burning related deposit or (small structure?) potentially within the extents of the supposed 'round house' structure. Similar in character to larger hearth type feature [278] to the west}. <i>Not excavated</i> .
316	Cut	Linear in plan with apparently parallel sides. Approximate width 1150mm, excavated length 1100mm. Sharp break of slope at top (truncated), sides flat but sloping at 40°, gradual concave break of slope with base, which appears generally flat; depth 200mm. Orientated south-east north-west; filled by [317]. {Poorly defined and truncated (boundary or enclosure) ditch cut}.
317	Fill	Softly compacted, dark grey brown, clayey (20) sand (80), occasional small pebbles. Very poorly defined during excavation due to mixing/disturbance with surrounding material. {Backfill of ditch cut [316]}.
318	Cut	Probably angular (square?) in plan. Eastern edge excavated length approximately minimum 600mm, western edge excavated length approximately minimum 850mm. Break of slope at top sharp (truncated), steeply sloping sides (35°-45°), slightly concave. Sharp break of slope with base on western side, break of slope with base on eastern side not perceptible. Base is rounded with a depth 350mm. Filled by [319]. {Poorly defined and truncated pit cut}.
319	Fill	Loose to soft compaction, dark grey brown, clayey (20) sand (80), occasional small burnt pebbles and small to medium sub-angular limestone fragments. Very poorly defined during excavation due to mixing/disturbance with surrounding material. {Backfill of pit cut [318]}.
320	Cut	Oval in plan, top 280 x 200mm. Break of slope at top sharp; truncated. Vertical sides with a sharp break of slope with the base which was flat; maximum depth (truncated) 280mm. (Filled by [321]). {Base of posthole in base of ditch cut [303]; may be contemporary with or pre-date ditch cut}.
321	Fill	Soft compaction, dark grey brown, clayey (35) sand (65), no inclusions. {Backfill of posthole [320]}.
322	Deposit	Varied compaction across excavated extents from extremely soft to compact. Composition varied from orange to mottled blue/yellow sand with no inclusions to dark orange sand with moderate small angular pebbles and fragments of limestone, also occasional areas of bright orange sandy clay with no inclusions. {Natural}.

Appendix 2: Context ‘Harris’ Matrices

SUD08 - Area F



SUD08 - Area G



SUD08 - Area H

