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Northern Archaeological Associates

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

at

SCOTCH CORNER HOTEL

on behalf of

FRIENDLY HOTELS PLC

REPORT
NAA 95/13

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
SCOTCH CORNER HOTEL, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief of a development to the west of the Scotch Corner Hotel. Evidence for a previously unknown settlement of early Romano-British date was recorded and two curvilinear foundation slots, the boundary ditches of two rectilinear enclosures and several other associated features were sample excavated and recorded. Although small in size the pottery assemblage was of a high quality and mostly of 1st century AD date. From the pottery evidence the date for the origin and abandonment of the settlement remains uncertain but it seems likely that the occupation of the site was well established during the Flavian period. Environmental analysis indicated that the majority of the cereal grains consisted of barley, and the high ratio of chaff to grains pointed to the processing of locally grown crops on the site. Spelt and bread wheat were also present.

Parallels for Scotch Corner are drawn from other settlement sites in the area, including Melsonby and Rock Castle, and its relationship with the major site of Stanwick is examined.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief of a development at Scotch Corner, 7km north-east of Richmond in North Yorkshire (Fig 1). The work was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates on behalf of Friendly Hotels Plc in March 1995. No previous assessment or field investigation had been undertaken prior to the commencement of the work and a watching brief condition was placed on the development by the local planning authority. It was believed that the site's location at the junction of two major Roman roads was of potential archaeological significance. The finds and archive relating to the site have been donated by Friendly Hotels Plc to the Richmondshire Museum.

LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site was situated in the grounds of the Scotch Corner Hotel complex to the west of the main building (Fig 2), on an area of rough pasture (OS field number 2821,

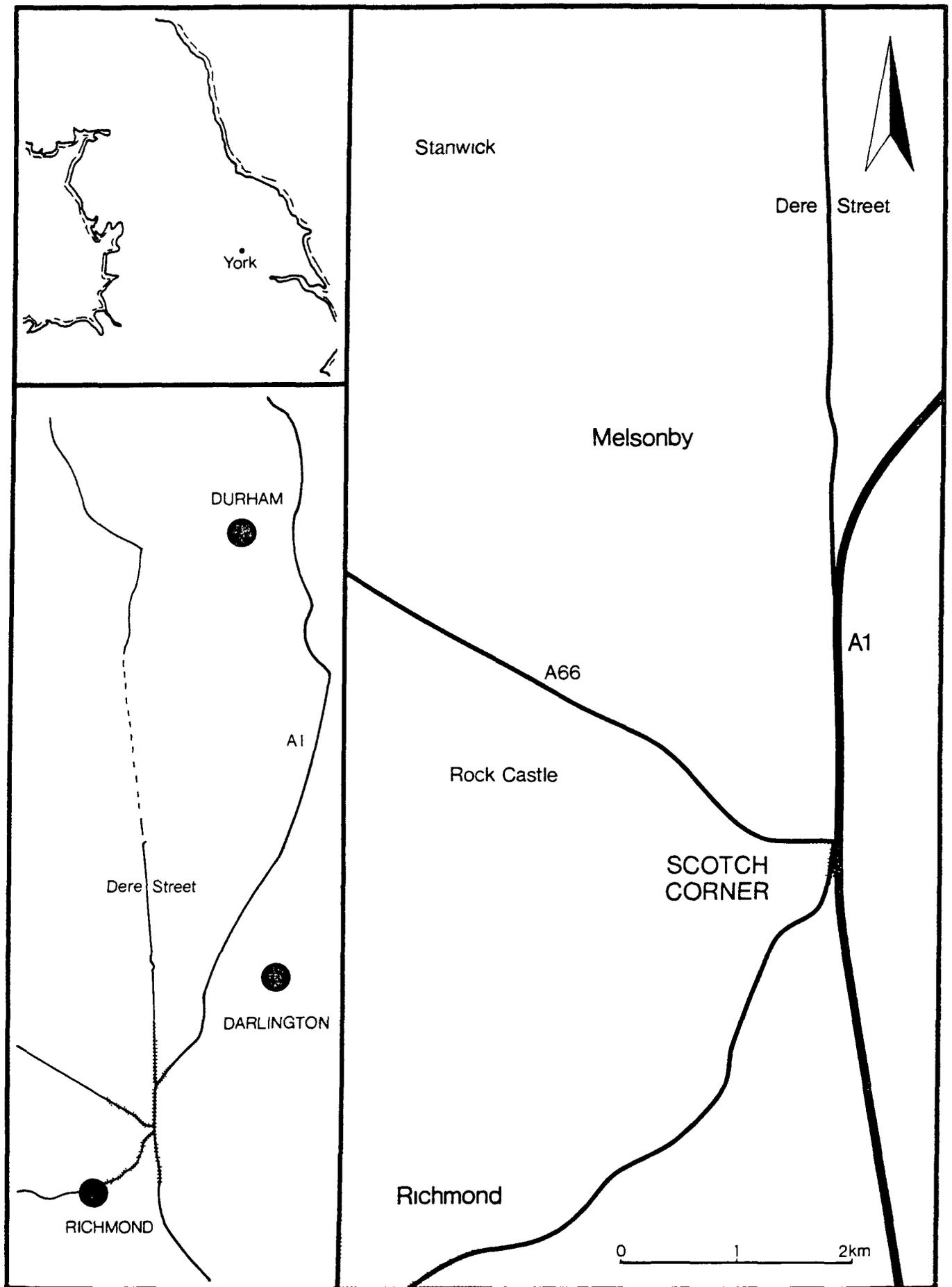


Fig 1 Location map and sites referred to in the text

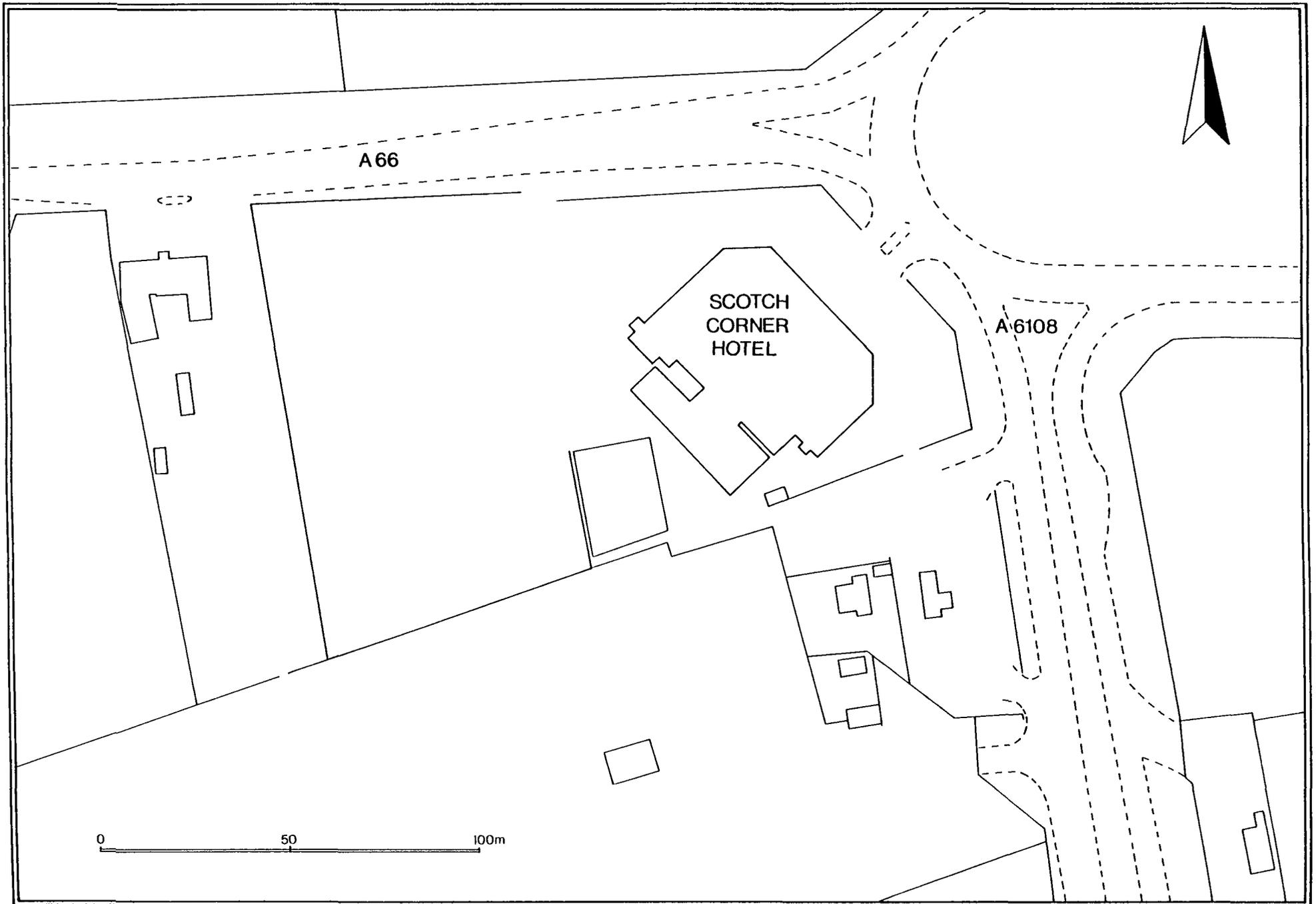


Fig 2 Site location plan

Middleton Tyas) The field was immediately adjacent to, and south of, the A66 trunk road at the Scotch Corner junction with the A1 and the field was centred on NZ 2127 0527

Scotch Corner is situated centrally between the Tees Valley and Swaledale at a height of 150m AOD, overlooking the western area of the Tees lowland, as defined by the 100m contour (Beaumont 1970) The site lies at the junction of two important communication routes, east to west across the Pennines via the Stainmore Pass and north to south along the Vale of York The undulating landscape of the region has been formed as a result of glacial activity and the underlying boulder clay seals carboniferous sedimentary limestone and millstone grit

BACKGROUND

Cropmarks recorded in the field to the north of the A66 (OS field number 3340), show a linear ditch aligned north-east to south-west in association with three small circular features, possibly ring ditches or roundhouses (ANY 43/5, 6) At its south-western end the ditch is little more than 50m from the area of the watching brief and may be associated with features recorded on the site Cropmarks of rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures in the north-west corner of the field c 200m to the north of the Scotch Corner site probably relate to a Romano-British settlement The intersection of the east to west Roman Road with the A1 is recorded as being c 250m to the north of the site, close to Crookacre Plantation (NZ 214 056), indicating that the course of the present day A66 is unrelated to its Roman counterpart

In an early survey of Middleton Moor (Neesham 1726), the area of the site was included within an enclosure of 122 acres and it is likely that the present day field layout originates to this period A tithe map entry for 1841 describes the state of cultivation of the field as being meadow By 1857 (OS 1st edition 6" map) the Three Tuns Public House is shown occupying the position of the present day hotel at the junction of Scotch Corner and Middleton Tyas Lane End

METHODOLOGY

Topsoil was stripped of the complete area of the site using a 360° excavator with a toothless bucket The topsoil stripping was at all times carried out under archaeological supervision All features of archaeological significance were

recorded and sample excavation was undertaken where appropriate Bulk soil samples were collected for palaeoenvironmental assessment at the laboratories of the Department of Archaeology, University of Durham

RESULTS

Archaeological features were recorded at the northern end of the development area where a series of intercutting roundhouse slots and enclosure ditches pointed to at least three phases of Romano-British settlement activity (Fig 3) Features were cut into the clay sub-soil and waterlogging was recorded below a depth of c 0.50m Coarse and fine ware pottery recovered from contexts within each phase suggested that the site was occupied in the 1st century AD Eleven bulk samples were taken for environmental assessment and further analysis

Phase I

Structure 200

A curvilinear foundation slot (45) at the western end of the site, was 0.30m deep with a flat base and steeply sloping sides (Fig 4, S 2) The primary fill (108) consisted of a mid-grey clay with medium sized packing stones and above this, the surface fill (46) was a looser clay, again with packing stones The slot was truncated to the south and formed a semi-circle c 10m in diameter No internal features associated with the roundhouse were recorded, other than a small posthole (106) which may have supported a central post Wall sherds of a vessel recovered from the primary fill may have been incorporated at a later date into the ditch fill (97) of enclosure 210 No dateable pottery however was recovered from the structure

On its eastern side the slot was cut by the southern ditch (155) of enclosure 205 and a second curvilinear slot (43), cut across its northern side From its relationship to both these later features it was established that structure 200 was the earliest feature recorded on the site

Phase II

Enclosure 205

Two ditches (150 and 155), formed the eastern and southern boundary ditches of a possible enclosure (205) which cut through the slot of the phase I structure 200

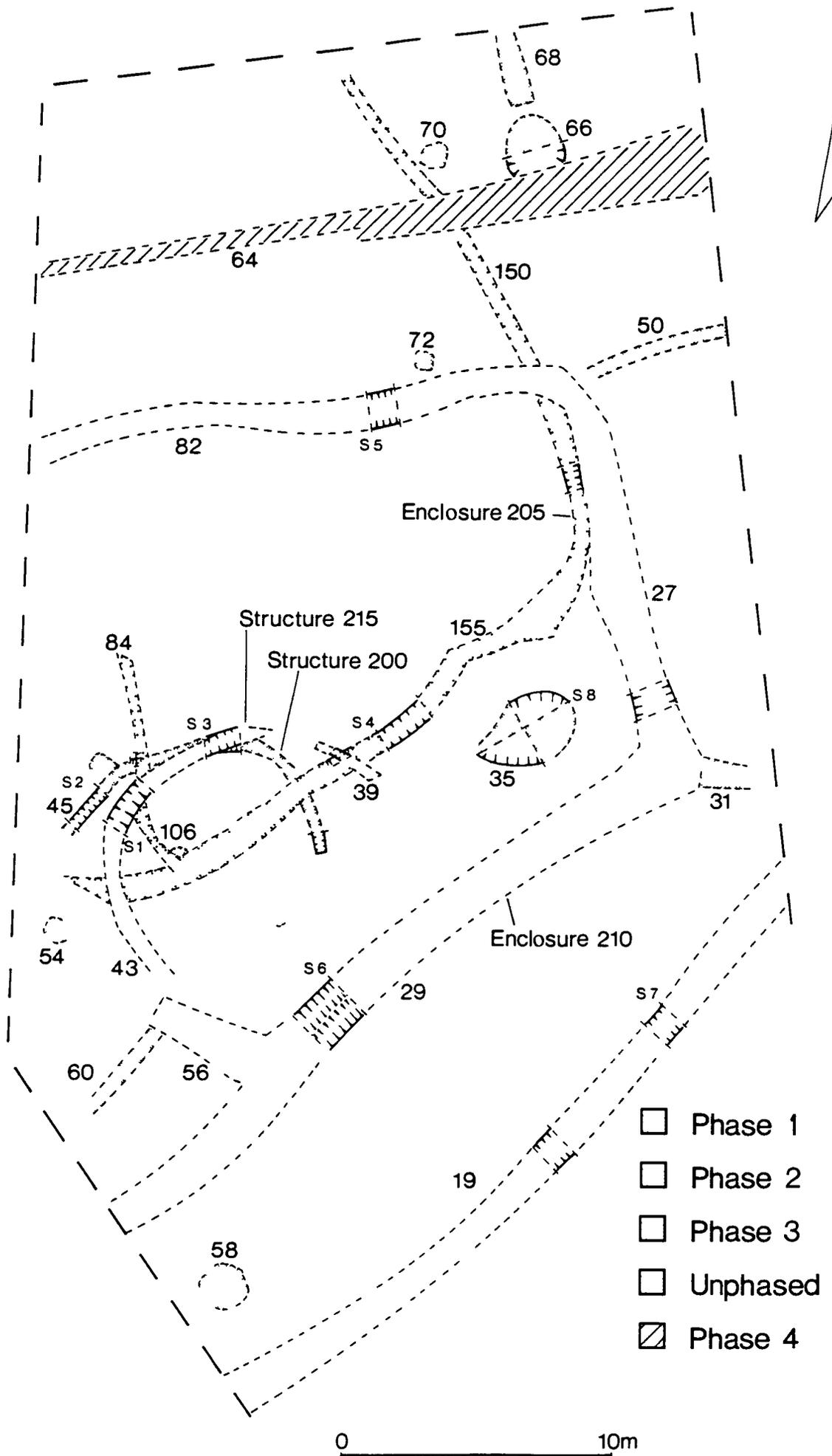


Fig 3 Phase plan of the Scotch Corner site

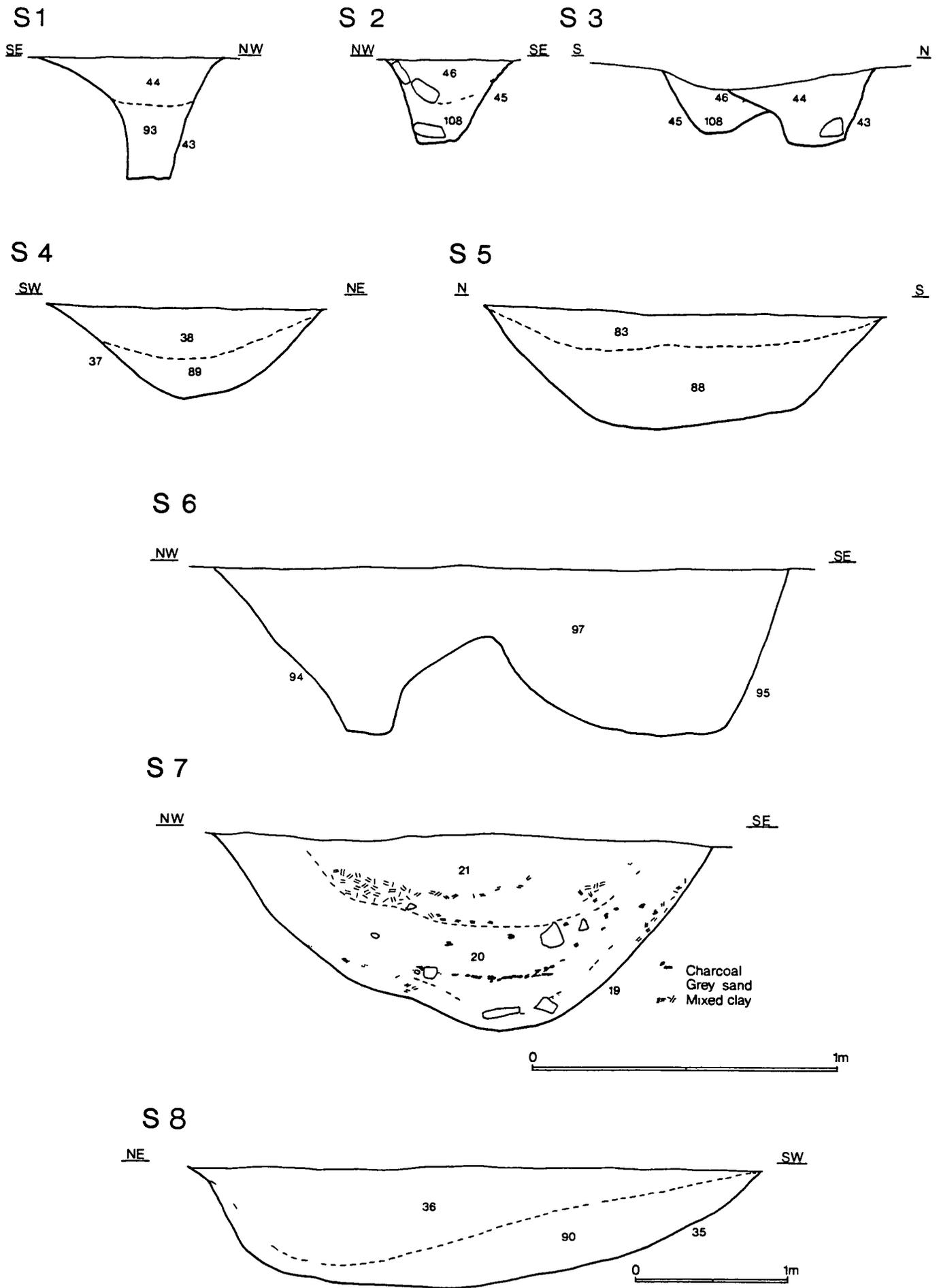


Fig 4 Sections S 1 - S 3, foundation slots, S 4 - S 5, enclosure 205 ditches, S 6, enclosure 210 recut south ditch, S 7, trackway ditch, S 8, elliptical pit

The north to south aligned ditch (150) was 20m long and continued beyond the northern edge of site. The ditch was sectioned in two places and had shallow sloping sides with a rounded base and was a maximum of 0.20m deep. The fill (63/79) consisted of a friable, charcoal rich, black silt clay. Environmental analysis identified the charcoal as being wood and a single large fragment of industrial waste was also recovered from the bulk sample. Cereal grains and chaff were also present. The ditch turned westwards to form the southern boundary ditch (155) of the enclosure. The east to west aligned ditch (155) was c 22m long and 0.25m deep and terminated close to the western edge of site at a possible entrance gap. A section across the ditch (Fig 4, S 4) displayed a profile similar to ditch 150 although two fills were identified. The primary fill (89) was a compacted mixed yellow and grey clay which was sealed by a mid-grey silt similar in texture to the fill of the north to south ditch 150. Pottery from this fill was of Neronian to early Flavian date.

This ditch cut through the phase I roundhouse (structure 200) but was cut by a later roundhouse (structure 215). A short curvilinear slot (84) butted against ditch 37 and continued northwards, cutting through the slot of the earlier roundhouse.

Phase III

Enclosure 210

A large enclosure, comprising three ditches (82, 27 and 29) on the north, east and south sides respectively, was recorded cutting through the eastern boundary of the phase II enclosure 205. An east to west ditch (19) which ran parallel to the southern ditch of the enclosure has been included within this phase of activity.

The north ditch (82), was 0.45m deep with gradually sloping sides and a flattened base (Fig 4, S 5). The surface fill (83) was a dark grey humic rich silt, similar to the fill of ditches 150 and 155 of the earlier enclosure (described above). A small abraded sherd of south Gaulish samian ware (Dr 24/25) of late Tiberian to early Flavian date and sherds of coarseware pottery were recovered from the ditch and environmental analysis identified cereal chaff, spelt grain and weed seeds. Charcoal of wood and heather was also present, the former possibly being used for an industrial process and the latter as a floor covering or thatch.

Ditches 27 and 29 on the east and south side of the enclosure respectively were both c 0.75m deep, with the wider southern ditch producing evidence of having been recut (Fig 4, S 6). It was not possible to distinguish the sequence of cuts in the undifferentiated organic-rich clay silt fill of ditch 29, although the quantity of cereal grains recovered from cut 95 was greater than the amount from cut 94. Pottery of Neronian to early Flavian date was recovered from the fill of recut 94 and the surface deposit (30) of the ditch.

The enclosure measured 32m along its east to west axis and continued beyond the western edge of the site. At its eastern end the enclosure was 14m wide but its width broadened to 24m at its western end. At its north-eastern corner the enclosure cut through the ditch (150) of the earlier phase II enclosure (see 205 above).

Ditch 19 ran parallel to the southern ditch of the enclosure and may have defined the edge of a trackway running to the south of, and adjacent to the large enclosure. The ditch had shallow sloping sides with a rounded base and was 0.60m deep (Fig 4, S 7). Access to the enclosure from the trackway may at one time have been through an entrance created by a short spur that extended northwards from ditch 29 for 4m.

Structure 215

A curvilinear foundation slot (43) within the western area of the enclosure was 0.40m deep with a flat base and sides which flared outwards to a maximum width of 0.55m at the surface (Fig 4, S 1). The primary fill (93) consisted of a compacted brown clay which contained charcoal of oak and heather with chaff and arable weed seeds. Pottery from the fill may have been from the same vessel as sherds recovered from the southern ditch of enclosure 210 and an elliptical pit (35) at the eastern end of the site.

The surface fill (44) of the foundation slot was a dark grey silt clay with discrete areas of charcoal and burnt daub fragments. Unlike the primary fill of the slot, no environmental evidence was recovered from fill 44 although daub was also recorded from the surface fill of the enclosure's eastern ditch. The distinctive fill of the slot contrasted with the clay and stone packing of the earlier foundation slot of structure 200, and a section was recorded at their point of intersection (Fig 4, S 3).

The slot formed a semi-circle, which was 10m in diameter, with an entrance gap on its northern side. No internal features were recorded.

Unphased Romano-British

Several postholes and pits of probable Romano-British date recorded on the site but could not be incorporated into a specific phase. Amongst these was a large elliptical pit (35), measuring 3.60m east to west and 2.70m north to south situated in the north-eastern corner of the enclosure (Fig 4, S 8). The lower fill of charcoal stained clay silt (90), was sealed by a mid-grey silt sand with numerous daub fragments (36). Excavation of the pit was abandoned at a depth of 0.80m due to waterlogging. Pottery from the pit was dated to the Claudio-Neronian period and environmental evidence included heather twigs, weed seeds and spelt glumes. Romano-British pottery was recovered from several other unphased features, indicating their likely association with one or more of the phases described above.

Phase IV

An east to west aligned ditch running parallel to the northern edge of site (64/74) was likely to have been a field boundary of post-medieval date. The ditch cut through enclosure ditch 150 and ran parallel to the present day A66.

DISCUSSION

The newly discovered site at Scotch Corner is part of a Romano-British settlement of 1st century AD date, the full extent of which could not be established during the watching brief. This was due to the A66 trunk road immediately to the north of the site and standing buildings to the east and west. The absence of further features immediately to the south of the site was, however, ascertained during the watching brief.

The phasing of the site was established by the stratigraphic relationships recorded between the two roundhouses and enclosure 205. The primary roundhouse slot (context 45) was cut by the southern ditch (155) of enclosure 205. This ditch was in turn cut by the second roundhouse slot (43) and the ditch of enclosure 210. The intercutting relationship between the two roundhouse gullies was also demonstrated. It appeared from the dateable component of the pottery assemblage that all three phases are of 1st century AD date.

The pottery assemblage was relatively small in size and the overall high quality of the range of vessels was in contrast to the seemingly low status of the site. Besides

the 'native' coarse ware component there were sherds of early and mid-1st century date, which predate the arrival of the Roman army in the region, and sherds of possible early Flavian date from contexts within phases II and III. There was a noticeable absence of dateable pottery from phase I contexts. On balance therefore, it seems likely that the settlement was established prior to the conquest of the region and continued to be occupied until at least the later part of the 1st century AD. Because the dating evidence for the site was restricted to pottery it remains uncertain as to whether the absence of later Flavian pottery is a result of the abandonment of the site in the 70s AD, or whether it reflects a decline in the availability of high quality pottery once the army had moved from the area.

Many of the features were filled with a moist, charcoal stained silt/clay, which on analysis proved to contain rich environmental evidence. The high ratio of chaff to cereal grains within many of the samples points to the site being used for crop processing and, by extension, suggests that cereal fields were being cultivated nearby. Abundant charcoal in many of the samples and a fragment of industrial waste also points to a manufacturing process taking place on the site. Other evidence of burning included fragments of daub in the foundation slot of the later of the two structures and in the large elliptical pit at the eastern end of the site.

The deposits at Scotch Corner share similar characteristics to features recorded at other nearby settlements of a similar period. Three kilometres to the north of Scotch Corner, at Melsonby, geophysical survey followed by trial excavations revealed evidence of an unenclosed structure constructed in the Iron Age tradition. The structure comprised a penannular drainage gully surrounding a continuous outer slot and a ring of stakeholes set within it (Haselgrove and Willis 1994). Two parallel gullies of Romano-British date cut through the roundhouse subsequent to its abandonment. The period of occupation was judged to stretch from before the arrival of Roman commodities in the region until before the 2nd century AD.

At Rock Castle, 3.5 km to the west of Scotch Corner, cropmarks of a rectilinear enclosure with internal ring ditches were recorded bordering the southern side of the Roman road over Stainmore (now the A66). Two phases of circular structure were identified, and, as at Melsonby, they comprised a series of concentric penannular gullies with an entrance to the east. Although Rock Castle produced more bread wheat than Scotch Corner there is a high degree of similarity between the two environmental assemblages.

Recent work at Stanwick (Haselgrove *et al* 1990), 8km north-west of Scotch Corner, has demonstrated that the site was occupied prior to the construction of the earthworks in the 1st century AD. In order to erect such 'defences' in a relatively short period of time, a central authority would have needed control over the resources available in its hinterland. Furthermore, it is likely that a social and economic inter-relationship evolved between Stanwick and sites such as Scotch Corner and that such a relationship may partially explain the presence of high quality pottery in a settlement of seemingly low status. It may also be significant that the probable abandonment of the Scotch Corner site towards the end of the 1st century AD coincides with the decline of Stanwick.

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Text Philip Abramson

Illustrations D. Ronan

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Roman period pottery

by

J N Dore

DISCUSSION

Cat No	Context	Phase	Feature	TPQ
33	89	II	Ditch 37	Neroman-E Flav
8	30/96	III	Recut of ditch 29	Neroman-E Flav
27	83	III	North Ditch 82	Late Tiberian
45	97	III	Recut of Ditch 29	Tib-Neroman
37	90	R-B	Fill of pit 35	Post AD 43
11	36	R-B	Fill of pit 35	Claudio-Neroman

Table 1 Dated pottery sherds from the site

The assemblage is heavily biased towards tableware (the jars 3 and 5 are small enough and of sufficient quality to have been used as tableware rather than for storage), and much of it is of high quality. The amphora (no 13) is likely to have carried wine (in its original function, at least). Although generalisations from a small data set must be treated with caution there appears to be a discrepancy between the quality of a large part of the pottery assemblage and the structures in the immediate vicinity of where it was found.

CATALOGUE

Minimum Vessel Counts

Samian

- 1 Dr 29 (2 sherds)
- 1 Dr 24/25 (1 sherd)

Coarseware

- 1 amphora
- 2 flagons
- 1 butt beaker
- 1 CAM 120 beaker
- 3 jars
- 3 vessels (form slightly indeterminate, pre-Roman Iron Age style)

* denotes illustrated sherd

- 1 1 wall sherd hand-made 'native' ware (or possibly daub), possible organic temper *Context 023 AA, phase III*
- 2 1 wall sherd orange ware, fabric as 44 *Context 023 AA, phase III*
- 3 1 sherd hand-made native ware, probably same fabric as 34 *Context 028, phase III*
- 4 3 fragments ? abraded daub *Context 028 phase III*

- 5 17 wall-sherds, hand-made native pottery, brown or dark brown, gritty, probably the same fabric as 9 *Context 028 AA phase III*
- 6 5 wall sherds hand-made 'native pottery, same fabric as 38, there is the same possibility that it is daub rather than pottery, but there is more likelihood that these sherds are pottery *Context 028 AA, phase III*
- 7* 1 rim sherd, 19 wall sherds of jar or large beaker, orange, with grey core, badly abraded, appears to have had one if not two girth constrictions and rouletted decoration The imported Gallo-Belgic prototype for this ovoid beaker with fine everted rim (see *Camulodunum* form 112 and Stead & Rigby GB 24) goes back to the Augustan period, it seems to have been imported until at least the Claudian period and imitations and derivatives continued to be produced throughout the 1st C AD *Context 030/096 phase III*
- 8* 1 rim sherd from a beaker, possibly (though not certainly) a *Camulodunum* form 120, grey with darker grey core, abraded surface, at *Camulodunum* this form is common in deposits from the Claudio-Neronian period, it does not occur at the *Verulamium* King Harry Lane cemetery, in the Roman north it still occurs on military sites of the Flavian period, it seems likely that it should therefore be dated Neronian-early Flavian Possibly from the same vessel as no 46 *Context 030/096, phase III*
- 9* 1 rim sherd and at least 6 wall sherds from a hand made native vessel *Context 030/096 phase III*
- 10 1 rim sherd and at least 1 wall sherd from a hand made native vessel *Context 030/096 phase III*
- 11 1 wall sherd samian, the fragment is very abraded, but it could be from the carination of a Dr 29, possibly the same vessel as 35 *Context 036 unphased R-B*
- 12 1 rim sherd jar, almost certainly same vessel as 37 *Context 036 unphased R-B*
- 13* 1 rim sherd jar, possibly hand-made, dark orangey brown, gritty, contains inclusions of quartz, possibly grog/clay pellets, and flint, Rigby (1980) comments that these type of jars occur on a number of sites in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire in the late 1st - early 2nd century AD *Context 036 unphased R-B*
- 14 3 wall sherds, white fabric, possibly from a flagon *Context 036, unphased R-B*
- 15 1 wall sherd possible jar or flagon, probably the same fabric/vessel as 41 *Context 038 phase II*
- 16 2 wall sherd hand-made 'native ware, fabric possibly the same as 34 *Context 044, phase III*
- 17 3 small wall sherds from a jar or beaker, orange, possibly same fabric as 7 *Context 046 phase I*
- 18 1 small wall sherd, buff fabric with dark grey core, probably same fabric as 37 *Context 046 phase I*
- 19 6 wall sherds hand-made native ware, dark orangey brown, vesicular, probably same fabric as 34, there are suggestions of grooved decoration on surface of several sherds *Context 046 phase I*
- 20 2 wall sherds hand-made native ware, dark grey-brown, vesicular, fabric as 9, 5, 28 *Context 063 phase II*

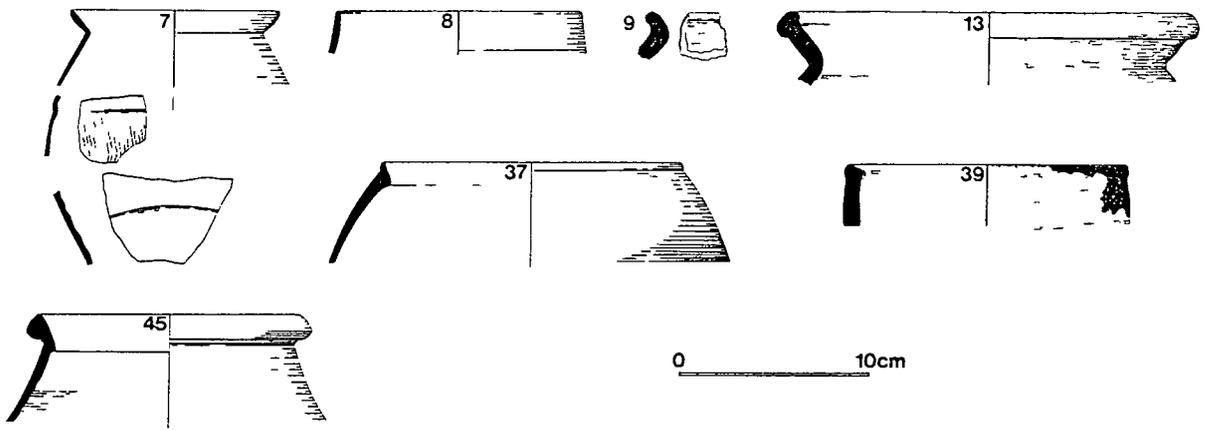


Fig 5 Roman pottery

- 21 1 other sherd *Context 063 phase II*
- 22 3 wall sherds, possibly from a flagon, orange fabric, cream slip on outer surface, large flakes of golden mica in the fabric *Context 071 unphased R-B*
- 23 1 wall sherd micaceous grey ware, possibly a sherd from similar vessel to nos 8 and 33 *Context 073 unphased R-B*
- 24 1 base sherd from a large jar or possibly an amphora, the fabric is pinkish brown with a brown core, it contains inclusions of quartz, mica, feldspar and vitreous accessory minerals, the size and shape suggest one of the Gauloise series of wine carrying amphorae (Peacock and Williams Classes 27-30) *Context 079 phase II*
- 25 2 wall sherds jar or beaker, pale yellowish brown fabric, rouletted decoration, just possibly the same fabric as 7 *Context 079 phase II*
- 26 1 other wall sherd *Context 079 phase II*
- 27 1 samian rim sherd Dr 24/25, south Gaulish, the form dates from the late Tiberian to the early Flavian periods *Context 083 phase III*
- 28 3 wall sherds hand-made native ware, fabric as 9 & 5 *Context 083 phase III*
- 29 1 wall sherd hand-made 'native' ware, fabric as 34 *Context 085 phase II*
- 30 1 rim sherd same vessel as 37 *Context 088 phase III*
- 31 1 wall sherd hand-made native ware, fabric as 34 *Context 088 phase III*
- 32 1 base sherd jar or large beaker, orange with grey core, may well be part of the same vessel as 37 *Context 089 phase II*
- 33 6 wall sherd ?beaker, orange with dark grey core, abraded but quite fine, the curvature on 2 of the sherds suggests a vessel of similar shape to no 8 *Context 089 phase II*
- 34 4 wall sherd hand-made 'native' ware, dark orangey brown vesicular ware, fabric as 20 *Context 089, phase II*
- 35 1 Samian wall sherd heavily abraded, just enough of the relief remains to suggest that it is from the carination of a Dr 29, one can just about see the medial ridge on the carination, the sherd may have been burnt, the general curvature of the sectional profile (ie quite rounded) suggests a Claudio/Neronian rather than a Flavian date *Context 090, unphased R-B*
- 36 1 sherd from a flagon handle, broad, strap, with three grooves on outer surface, fine, buff fabric *Context 090 unphased R-B*
- 37* 6 rim sherds, 9 wall sherds, almost certainly from the same vessel jar, pale orange, dark grey core, fine, smooth, slightly micaceous surface, this form a globular bead-rim jar with a small foot, is Gallo-Belgic in origin, though devolved derivatives continue in a variety of fine fabrics into the Flavian period. The prototype is *Camulodunum* Type 91A/B. See also Stead and Rigby p 162 *Verulamium* KHL Globular Beaker 1A2. The *Camulodunum* type occurred in fine TR and it is possible that the fabric of our vessel though obviously coarser (and now burnt), was originally aiming for the same effect. The suggested date for the *Camulodunum* prototype is Tiberio-Claudian, though it does not occur at the *Verulamium* KHL cemetery which leads Rigby (op cit) to suggest that its importation (ie the importation of the prototype) post-dates AD 43 *Context 090 unphased R-B*

- 38 1 wall sherd coarse gritty ware, this is very soft so it may be daub rather than pot *Context 090 phase IV*
- 39* 1 rim sherd small bowl or jar, hand-made 'native' ware *Context 092, unphased R-B*
- 40 2 wall sherds in a similar fabric to that of no 24, possibly the same vessel as 24 *Context 092, unphased R-B*
- 41 1 wall sherd possible jar, appears Roman *Context 092, unphased R-B*
- 42 1 wall sherd, orange fabric grey core, possibly same vessel as 37 or 7 *Context 093, phase III*
- 43 1 wall sherd hand-made native ware, fabric as 34 *Context 097 phase III*
- 44 4 wall sherds orange ware, quite heavily abraded *Context 097 phase III*
- 45* 1 rim sherd from a Butt beaker, pale yellow fabric with smooth brownish yellow surface, 41 and 15 are probably wall sherds from this vessel, the prototype of this type was imported from North Gaul, beginning in the Augustan period and continuing until the Claudio-Neronian period (see Stead & Rigby 1989 136 ff) Our example could actually be a North Gaulish import since both form and fabric are close to that of the prototype, Rigby (op cit) discusses the typological development of the prototype in detail, in our example insufficient of the profile survives to allow us to make full use of this typology (the hollow shoulder cordon, a useful chronological indicator, does not survive on our example) but the rim-form is certainly not one of the earliest, a date somewhere in the range Tiberius-Nero would seem reasonable *Context 097 phase III*
- 46* 1 rim sherd beaker, pale grey, dark grey core, dark grey surface, possibly from the same vessel as no 8 *Context 097 phase III*
- 47 1 other wall sherd, pale yellow fabric, possibly a jar *Context 097, phase III*
- 48 1 rim sherd hand-made 'native' ware, diagonal slashed decoration on outer hp *Context 108, phase I*
- 49 2 other wall sherd, possibly from same vessel as 47 *Context 108 phase I*
- 50 2 fragments from a handle (or possibly a footring), pale greenish yellow fabric, possibly an amphora or flagon *Context 109 phase III*

The carbonised plant remains

by

Jacqueline P Huntley

Introduction

This analysis report follows from an assessment of 11 bulk samples submitted to the laboratories of Durham University Department of Archaeology (Huntley 1995). The samples were manually floated in the laboratory with both float and residue retained upon 500 μ mesh. After drying the floats were examined at magnifications of up to x50 and the carbonised seeds identified by comparison with modern reference material.

Results

Nine of the 11 samples analysed did contain some identifiable plant remains with cereal chaff being much more common than cereal grain (table 1). Of the cereal grains barley was the most commonly represented. The majority were hulled but many were poorly preserved. No naked grains were recorded. Both straight and twisted embryo grains were present although preservation was not good enough, nor indeed numbers high enough, to suggest reliably the proportion between 6-row and 2-row, if both were present. At least some of the barley must have been the 6-row, *Hordeum vulgare* which is not unexpected for samples of this date. Barley rachis internodes were present in moderate numbers and a selection were clearly from the 6-row variety. They exhibited a range of widths and lengths indicating a mixture of dense-eared and lax-eared forms.

Wheat was clearly present and it is suggested that spelt and bread wheat, with, possibly emmer, were probably represented by the grains although distinction to species is unreliable without accompanying chaff. Some moderate numbers of wheat glumes were present. From a combination of their morphology and their measurements (graph 1) all are considered to represent spelt, *Triticum spelta*. Rachis fragments of the free-threshing bread wheat (*T. aestivum*) were present in low numbers in context 97.

Two fragments of rye chaff, *Secale cereale*, were recorded although no grains seen. Oat (*Avena* sp.) grains were present in one context but no chaff and it would seem likely that they represent a weed. This species is not commonly recorded as a cultivar in 1st century deposits although may have been a crop in its own right by the end of the Roman period.

With respect to the weed seeds recovered, brome-grass (*Bromus* spp), sedges (*Carex* spp) and the heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*) are the most common. The overall combination of weeds represented suggests that cultivation was on both wet, clay soils and drier, sandy soils.

The fact that wheat chaff is more than four times as common as wheat grain suggests that much of the material in these samples represents processing debris from, probably locally grown, wheat crops. The accompanying weed seeds support this suggestion in that they are easily separated from the threshed crop by sieving. The brome-grass seeds probably remained as a contaminant in the grain since their seeds are of a similar size to the grain and, consequently, would need removing by hand. Given that they, too, contain starch-rich endosperm they would have been as useful as wheat, although with more "husk", for food.

Barley grain and rachis fragments are almost equally common but it still seems most likely that barley, too, was a local crop.

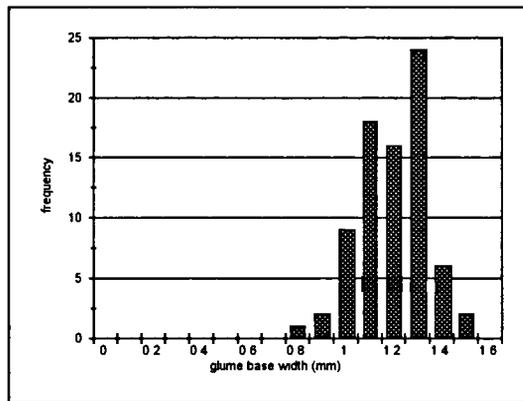
Discussion

From the nature of the material and the fact that the site remained in occupation over a rather short period of time it seems reasonable to suggest that the occupants were, at least in part, local arable farmers. They clearly had access to a range of crops although the hulled, 6-row barley and spelt were favoured. The assemblage is very similar to that of the site at Rock Castle, only a few kilometres away (Fitts *et al* 1994) and the two may be seen as relating to the major site of the presumed elite at Stanwick (Haselgrove 1990). Rock Castle produced more bread wheat and it may be that Scotch Corner remained a farmstead with more traditional views although this has to remain pure speculation. What is important about this site is that it adds further to our capability to interpret much more widespread social and economic pressures within the region at a time of great change.

Table 2 Botanical data from samples that were analysed

phase	II	II	II	II	III	III	III	III	III	total
context	38	89	63	79	93	96	97	88	20	
vol proc										
Cerealia indet		4	17	13			7	3		44
Hordeum undiff		1	2	12		3	5			23
Hordeum (hulled)			7	17		3	8	1		36
Triticum sp			2	21		1	5			29
Triticum cf dicoccon			2							2
Triticum cf spelta		1	4					2		7
Triticum cf aestivum								1		1
cf Avena							5			5
T spelta spikelet			2		3	1	4			10
T spelta glumes		4	1		3	11	86	15	3	123
Triticum sp glumes			5	9		6				20
Triticum basal rachis			1	3			4	1		9
Triticum bnttle rachis				2			5			7
Triticum aestivum rachis internode							6			6
Hordeum rachis internode				13			32	2		47
Secale rachis internode							2			2
Avena/Helictotrichon awn							1			1
culm node		1	2			1				4
Linum usitatissimum							1			1
Bromus sp		4	5	100	6	4	46	15	2	182
<4mm Gramineae				2		2	4			8
Raphanus raphanistrum pod				2						2
Danthonia decumbens			10	12	5	3	27	5	1	63
Polygonum convolvulus				3						3
Rumex obtusifolius-type					1		4		1	6
Anthemis cotula				1				4	1	6
Malus fragment				1						1
Corylus nut fragment						1				1
Plantago lanceolata	1							1		2
Tnfolium sp					1					1
indet tuber fragments			7							7
Carex (Ingonous)		2	3	12	2	4	10	7	2	42
Carex (lenticular)				1			1	2		4
Eleocharis palustris				1						1
Scirpus lacustris							1			1

Table 3 Triticum glume base widths (all samples)



CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Phase I

Structure 200

Slot 045

A curved slot, 0 40m wide at the surface, 0 30m deep with a flat base 0 20m wide. The curvature of the slot would have created a structure 10m in diameter. The slot represented a phase I roundhouse and was filled with 046 and 108. The slot either cut, or butted against posthole 047.

Fill 108

A compacted mid grey clay, 0 10m thick, with packing stones intruding from deposit 046 above. The deposit was the primary fill of slot 045.

Fill 046

A soft mid grey clay silt, 0 15m deep with packing stones. The deposit was the surface fill of phase I roundhouse slot 045 and sealed the primary fill 108. The fill was cut by phase II roundhouse slot 043, ditch 037 and slot 076/084.

Posthole 047

A square posthole, 0 50m long and wide with a large packing stone on its north-west side. Filled with 048. The posthole either butted against, or was cut by, slot 045.

Fill 048

A soft grey brown silt with a large packing stone on the surface.

Posthole 106

A circular posthole, 0 35m in diameter, and situated at the intersection of slot 084 and ditch 037. The posthole may have been associated with roundhouse slot 045, as it appears to be close to the centre of the roundhouse. The posthole was not excavated but contained surface fill 107.

Fill 107

A mid grey clay silt with two packing stones protruding from the surface. The deposit was not excavated but was the surface fill of posthole 106.

Phase II

Enclosure 205

Ditch 150

The main north-west to south-east orientated ditch of enclosure 205. The ditch encompasses segments 062/078/080.

Ditch 062

A linear north to south ditch, 19m long, 0 6m wide and 0 2m deep. The excavated section of the ditch revealed gradually sloping sides with a rounded bottom. The ditch was filled with deposit 063, which was cut by the eastern ditch 027 of enclosure 200. The ditch is the same as 078 and 080, and is probably the same as east to west aligned ditch 033/037.

Fill 063

A loose dark grey/black clay silt, 0 20m thick, with organic staining and abundant charcoal fragments. The deposit was excavated and was the same as 079 and 081.

Ditch 078

A linear ditch, 0 35m wide and 0 10m deep The ditch is a continuation of ditch 062 and is situated to the north of the enclosure 200 A section of the ditch was hand excavated and was filled with 079

Fill 079

A loose dark grey/black sand silt, 0 10m thick and charcoal stained throughout The deposit was the only fill of ditch 078 and was the same appearance as fill 063

Ditch 080

A linear north to south ditch situated to the north of, and cut by, post-medieval boundary 064 Ditch 080 is continuation of ditch 062/078

Fill 081

Same as fills 063 and 079 Not excavated

Ditch 155

Overall number for the mam north-east to south west aligned ditch of enclosure 205 The number encompasses segments 033/037/052

Ditch 033

Same as 037

Fill 034

Same as 038

Ditch 037

A linear ditch 0 90m wide running in an east to west direction across the middle of enclosure 200 for a distance of c 22m The course of the ditch was erratic and deviated considerably from being straight A sample section was excavated and revealed a rounded profile, 0 25m deep It was likely to have been related to north to south ditch 063 which had been cut by a ditch of enclosure Ditch 037 cut through the fill of the phase I Roundhouse, but was cut by the slot of the phase II Roundhouse The ditch was filled with 038 and 089 The ditch is the same as 033 and 052

Fill 089

A compacted mixed yellow and grey silt clay 0 10m thick The deposit was the primary fill of ditch 037 and was sealed by fill 038

Fill 038

A soft mid to dark grey clay silt, charcoal stained throughout, 0 15m deep in the excavated sample section The deposit was the surface fill of ditch 037 and sealed primary fill 089 The deposit is the same as 034 and 053

Ditch 052

A short stretch of ditch, to the west of, and cut by, roundhouse slot 043 The section of the ditch is the same as ditch 037 Filled with 053

Fill 053

The surface fill of ditch 057 Unexcavated, but the same as 038

Slot 076

Part of slot 084

Fill 077

Same as fill 085

Slot 084

A curvilinear slot, orientated in a north to south direction and situated at the western end of the site The slot was approximately 8m long, 0 3m wide and 0 30m deep The V shaped sides and rounded

base were observed in section. The slot cut through the phase I roundhouse 045 and was cut by the phase II roundhouse 043. It appeared to butt against the ditch 037. The slot was the same as 076 and was filled with 085.

Fill 085

A moderately compacted mottled grey silt, c 0.30m thick. This deposit was the only fill of slot 084 and was cut by roundhouse slot 043.

Phase III

Enclosure 210

Ditch 019

A linear V-shaped ditch orientated east to west, 1.1m wide and 0.60m deep. The ditch was parallel to, and south of, the southern ditch 028 of enclosure 210. Two sections of the ditch were cut by machine.

Fill 020

A compacted grey sand silt with abundant charcoal inclusions. The fill was 0.20m thick and was the primary fill of ditch 019 in section 1. The deposit was sealed by surface fill 020. A sherd of pottery was recovered from the deposit.

Fill 021

A mixed grey/yellow clay, 0.40m thick. The deposit was the surface fill of ditch 019 in section 1 and sealed fill 020.

Fill 022

A compacted mottled sand silt with occasional charcoal fragments. The deposit was 0.18m thick and was the primary fill of ditch 019 in section 2. The deposit was sealed by fill 023.

Fill 023

A mid grey clay silt with abundant charcoal fragments. The fill was similar to fill 020 in section 1. A sherd of pottery was recovered from this deposit. The deposit was sealed by fill 024.

Fill 024

A compacted brown/grey silt clay, 0.19m thick. The deposit was the surface fill of ditch 019 in section 2.

Ditch 027

A V-shaped linear ditch, with a probable rounded bottom, 1.6m wide and 0.75m deep. The ditch was c 14m long, orientated north to south and was the eastern side of enclosure 210. A section was excavated by hand, but due to waterlogging at 0.75m the bottom was not ascertained. The sides of the ditch were not distinct, but the profile appeared to be different than that of the southern ditch of the enclosure (029). The fills were clayey, and differed from the humic rich fills of the southern enclosure ditch. The ditch was filled with deposits 028 and 091 and cut through slot 062/078.

Fill 091

A compacted mid-brown clay with occasional pale grey patches and a small amount of charcoal. The deposit was 250mm thick and was probably the primary fill of the ditch. The ditch was not fully excavated due to waterlogging. The deposit was sealed by 028.

Fill 028

Compacted mixture of mottled yellow-grey clay, 0.50m deep. This formed the surface fill of the ditch and had been truncated by the machine during topsoil stripping. Pottery was recovered from the deposit. Seals fill 091, and sealed by topsoil 003.

Ditch 029

A recut linear ditch running in an east to west direction for c 32m and forming the southern boundary of enclosure 210. The ditch was 1.8m wide at the surface and a sample section towards the western end of the ditch indicated that it had been recut. The depth of the recuts was c 0.55m. The recut on the north side of the ditch (094) had a more V-shaped profile than the recut (095) on the southern side of the ditch.

Fill 030

A soft, mid to dark grey clay silt with a moderate abundance of charcoal and filling both of the recuts. Fineware from this deposit was of Romano-British date. The fill is the same as 096 and 097.

Recut 094

A V-shaped cut within ditch 029, with a flat bottom and filled with 030/096. The depth of the recut was 0.30m.

Fill 096

A soft, mid to dark grey clay silt with a moderate abundance of charcoal and filling both of the recuts. Fineware from this deposit was of Romano-British date. The fill is the same as 030 and 097.

Recut 095

A recut of ditch 029 with a rounded bottom and filled with 097/030. The depth of the recut was 0.30m.

Fill 097

A soft, mid to dark grey clay silt with a moderate abundance of charcoal and filling both of the recuts. Fineware from this deposit was of Romano-British date. The fill is the same as 096 and 030.

Ditch 056

A slightly curved ditch, 1.7m wide and 4m long extending northwards from the southern enclosure ditch 029. The ditch may have been an intumed entrance to the enclosure. Filled with 057.

Fill 057

The unexcavated surface fill of entrance spur 056. The fill was similar in appearance to deposit 030 which filled ditch 029.

Ditch 082

An east to west aligned ditch 19m long, 1.1m wide and 0.43m deep. The ditch was the northern boundary of enclosure 210, and cut through ditch 062/078. The 1m hand excavated section indicated that the ditch had gradually sloping sides and a rounded base with two were fills, 088 and 083. The profile of the ditch differed significantly from the profile of the southern ditch (029) of the same enclosure.

Fill 088

A compacted mixed, yellow/grey clay silt, 0.30m thick and sealed by fill 083. This deposit was the primary fill of ditch 082.

Fill 083

A soft dark grey silt, 0.14m thick, with an abundance of dark organic staining throughout. The deposit was the surface fill of ditch 082 and sealed primary fill 088.

Structure 215

Slot 039

A small section of slot, 2.4m long and 0.40m wide cutting through ditch 037. The slot is a continuation of the phase II roundhouse slot 045 after a possible entrance gap. The slot was filled with 040.

Fill 109

A compact grey clay, 0.18m thick and sealed by deposit 040. This deposit was the primary fill of slot 039.

Fill 040

A soft blue-grey clay silt with a moderate abundance of charcoal. The deposit was 0.20m thick in the excavated section at the point where it cut through ditch 037. The deposit sealed fill 109.

Slot 043

A curved slot, 0.55m wide at the surface and tapering to a flat base, 0.20m wide and 0.40m deep. The curvature of the slot was 10m, and an entrance gap was recorded at the north-east quadrant. The slot continued as 039. It was evident from the excavated sections and from the plan view of intercutting layers that this slot represented a second phase of roundhouse construction. The slot was filled with primary deposit 093 and a surface deposit 044. The slot cut through the fill (046) of ditch 045, the fill (038) of ditch 037 and the fill (085) of slot 076/084.

Fill 093

A compacted grey brown clay, 0.20m thick, with a moderate abundance of charcoal. The deposit was the primary fill of slot 043 and was sealed by deposit 044.

Fill 044

A soft dark grey clay silt with discrete areas of orange burnt daub and charcoal. The deposit was 0.15m deep and occupied the surface fill of slot 043. The deposit sealed primary fill 093. Pottery was recovered from the fill.

Romano-British unphased

Slot 031

A linear ditch 0.80m wide running in a north-west to south east direction from the south-east corner of enclosure 210. The slot was not excavated and was not easily defined. The slot was filled with deposit 032.

Fill 032

A moderately compacted mid-grey silt. The surface fill of unexcavated slot 031.

Pit 035

An elliptical pit measuring 3.60m east to west and 2.7m north to south and situated at the eastern end of the site within enclosure 210. The south-west and north-east quadrants were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m before excavation was abandoned due to waterlogging. Two deposits, 036 and 090 were encountered within the pit.

Fill 090

A soft, dark grey to black clay silt charcoal staining throughout. The maximum excavated depth of the sample was 0.35m but excavation was abandoned due to waterlogging. The deposit may have been the primary fill of the pit and was sealed by 036.

Fill 036

A moderately compact mid-grey sand silt with a moderate abundance of burnt daub fragments. The maximum depth of the deposit was 0.40m. The deposit was the surface fill of elliptical pit 035 and sealed deposit 090.

Slot 041

A shallow curved slot, 6.3m wide which upon cleaning resolved into a row of postholes, 98, 100, 102 and 104 (see below). The slot was situated to the south of the roundhouse slots, but was not of the same circumference as the roundhouse slots. The slot was filled with 042.

Fill 042

A compacted mid grey silt. The deposit was the fill of faint slot 041

Stone setting 049

A setting of stones distributed over an area 5m north to south and 2.3m east to west and 0.4m deep. The stones were in a shallow scoop in the clay natural and also set within soil 092. The setting was situated close to the spur entrance on the south side of enclosure 210. None of the stones appear to have been shaped and comprised large, unshaped faceted sandstone blocks.

Deposit 092

A soft (when moist), grey brown clay silt, a matrix for stone setting 049

Slot 050

A narrow east to west aligned slot. The slot was indistinct and extended from the north-east corner of enclosure ditch 027. Not excavated. Filled with 051

Fill 051

The unexcavated surface fill of slot 050

Pit 054

An elliptical pit, 1m north-west to south-east and 0.75m north-east to south-west. The pit was located at the extreme western end of site and contained surface fill 055. Not excavated

Fill 055

The surface fill of pit 054. Unexcavated

Pit 058

A circular pit, 2m in diameter, situated at the south-western corner of the site, in between the two ditches 019 and 029. Filled with surface deposit, 059. Not excavated

Fill 059

A compacted mid grey clay, the unexcavated surface fill of pit 058

Ditch 060

A faint, east to west orientated ditch running from the ditch spur 056. The ditch was not excavated. Filled with surface deposit 061

Fill 061

A blue grey clay silt, the unexcavated surface fill of pit 060

Pit 066

A circular pit, 2m in diameter and c 1.2m deep situated at the north-eastern corner of the site adjacent to linear feature 068. The pit was sectioned by machine and contained three fills, 086, 087 and 067. The pit was also cut by the possibly post-medieval ditch 064

Fill 086

A sticky grey clay 0.4m thick with an abundance of charcoal. The deposit was the primary fill of pit 066 and was sealed by fill 087

Fill 087

A moderately compacted mottled grey clay with weathered sandstone, 0.35m thick. The deposit was the middle fill of pit 066 and sealed primary fill 086

Fill 067

A loose, dark grey sand silt 0.4m thick with an abundance of humic staining throughout. The deposit was the surface fill of pit 066 and sealed fill 087

Ditch 068

A linear ditch or pit 3m long and 1m wide orientated north to south at the extreme north-east corner of the site. The feature was adjacent to, and north of, the circular pit 066. Not excavated but contained surface fill 069.

Fill 069

A loose, dark grey sand silt with an abundance of humic staining. The deposit was the surface fill of linear feature 068.

Posthole 070

A circular posthole 0.75m in diameter, situated immediately adjacent to, and east of, slot 080. Filled with surface deposit 071. Not excavated.

Fill 071

A friable mid to dark grey silt with black organic staining. The deposit was the surface fill of posthole 070 and was not excavated. A large sherd of Roman pottery was however recovered from the surface of the fill.

Posthole 072

A circular posthole, 0.75m in diameter and 0.28m deep and situated immediately adjacent to, and north of, the northern ditch (082) of enclosure 210. The sides sloped gradually and the base was rounded. The posthole was sectioned and contained fill 073.

Fill 073

A compressed dark grey clay silt with large packing stones within. The deposit was the only fill within posthole 072.

Posthole 098

A circular posthole 0.40m in diameter and 0.15m deep, situated within the faint curvilinear slot 041. The posthole was the most easterly in a row of four such features, 098, 100, 102 and 104. Posthole 098 was sectioned and was a shallow feature with gradually sloping sides and a rounded base filled with deposit 099.

Fill 099

A moderately compacted mid grey clay silt, 0.15m thick, with a lens of charcoal rich soil at the base. The only fill of posthole 098.

Posthole 100

A circular posthole 0.6m in diameter within faint slot 041. The feature was not excavated and contained surface fill 101. Associated with postholes 098, 102 and 104.

Fill 101

The surface fill of posthole 100. The same as 099.

Posthole 102

A circular posthole 0.45m in diameter within faint slot 041. The feature was not excavated and contained surface fill 103. Associated with postholes 098, 100 and 104.

Fill 103

The surface fill of posthole 102. The same as 099.

Posthole 104

A circular posthole 0.5m in diameter within faint slot 041. The feature was not excavated and contained surface fill 105. Associated with postholes 098, 100 and 102.

Fill 105

The surface fill of posthole 104. A friable brown-grey silt.

Phase IV

Ditch 064

A linear ditch, 24m long and 1m wide, orientated east to west and dividing into a narrower slot 074. The feature cut through ditch 078/080 and the colour of the fill was noticeably at variance from the majority of the fills of archaeological features. Although the ditch was cut by a French drain, it is likely to be a post-medieval feature - possibly an enclosure boundary ditch. The ditch was not excavated but contained surface fill 065.

Fill 065

A moderately compacted mid-brown clay silt surface fill of ditch 064. The same as 075. Not excavated.

Ditch 074

Part of ditch 064.

Fill 075

Same as fill 065.

FINDS CONCORDANCE TABLE

Context	Feature	Phase	Group	Pottery	Bulk Samples	Flint	Bone	Metal
046	Slot 045	I	Structure 200	Coarse				
108	Slot 045	I	Structure 200	Fine and coarse				
038	Ditch 037	II	Enclosure 205	Fine	Upper fill			
089	Ditch 037	II	Enclosure 205	Fine & coarse				
063	Ditch 062	II	Enclosure 205	Coarse	Primary fill			
079	Ditch 078	II	Enclosure 205	Fine & coarse	Upper fill & charcoal			
085	Slot 084	II		Coarse				
044	Slot 043	III	Structure 215	Coarse	Upper fill of slot			
093	Slot 043	III	Structure 215	Fine	Primary fill of slot			
109	Slot 039	III	Structure 215	Fine				
028	East ditch 027	III	Enclosure 210	Coarse				
030/096	Recut of ditch 029	III	Enclosure 210	Fine & coarse	Primary fill		Calcined	Fe nail
030/097	Recut of ditch 029	III	Enclosure 210	Fine & Coarse	Primary fill			
083	North ditch 082	III	Enclosure 210	Sanuan & coarse	Primary fill			
088	North ditch 082	III	Enclosure 210	Fine	Primary fill			
021	Ditch 019	III	Trackway		Primary fill			
020	Ditch 019	III	Trackway	Coarse				
023	Ditch 019	III	Trackway	Coarse				
036	Upper fill in pit 035	R-B		Coarse		Blade		
090	Lower fill in pit 035	R-B		Fine & coarse	?Primary fill		Calcined	
071	Posthole 070	R-B		Colour coated				
073	Posthole 072	R-B		Fine				
092	Stone setting 049	R-B		Coarse				