

Section 32

Cut features: wells, tanks, cisterns, pits, ponds, small quarries, and drains

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Cross-references to Digital Supplement in red
Cross-references to Printed Synthesis in brown

More than 80 small- to medium-sized cut features (CF), mostly designed to hold water, were excavated/constructed and recorded with various degrees of certainty as to their function. These included unlined drainage gullies, wooden pipes encased in clay lining, gullies lined and roofed with slabs of stone, stone tile, ceramic roof tile, or a mixture of materials, elaborately constructed stone lined drains and sluice gates, and ditches of varying capacity [32.01]. A number of sunken features such as wells, tanks, and cisterns were excavated, with a variety of pits, ponds, and quarries. A notable feature of the site overall was the lack of rubbish pits and middens.

Associated Structure	CF	Function	Period built	Out of use by
2 & 3	28	Ditch	2	2/3
	68	Fence line	3	3
7	1	Gullies	5.1	5.1-2
7	7	Quarry	5.1	5.2
7	61	Gully	4.2	5.1-2
16	60	Drain	5.2	5.4
16	69	Ditch	5.2	5.3
17	3	Drain	5.2	5.3
17	4	Drain	5.4	5.4
17	5	Well	5.4	5.5
17	6	Drain	5.4	5.6
19	17	Drains	5.3	5.5
19	44	Gully	5.2	5.3
19	48	Pit	5.6	6.1
19	71	Drain	5.6	6.1
21	8	Quarry	5.1	5.2
22	46 ¹	Latrine	5.2	5.4
23	9	Tank	5.2	5.3 re-used 5.6
23	10	Gully	5.2	5.5
23	11	Drain	5.3	
27	11/12	Drain	5.2	5.3
27	12	Latrine	5.6	5.6
28	13	Drain	5.3	5.3
28	14	Gully & drain	5.5	6.1
37/38	55	Quarry	5.4	5.4
38	47 ²	Gully	5.3	5.3
41	50	Drain	5.4	5.5
42	62	Drain	5.4	5.5
42	51	Drain	5.5	5.6
43/53	15	Quarry	6.1	6.1
50	16	Well	5.3	6.1
50	52	Trial well	5.3	5.3
51	56	Drain	5.3	5.6/6.1

¹ Editor's note: two instances of CF46 were described. The other was an enclosure ditch, see [14].

² Editor's note: two instances of CF47 were described. The other was an enclosure ditch, see [14].

Associated Structure	CF	Function	Period built	Out of use by
54	18	Drain	5.4	5.6
54	19	Cistern	5.5	6.1
54	53	Ditch	5.3	5.3
54	54	Drain	5.4	5.6
56	2	Pond	4.1	5.3
60/61	20	Quarry/pit	5.6	6.1
60/61	21 ³	Quarry	6.1	6.1
63	22	Cess pit	6.1	6.2
65	23	Well	6.1	6.1
65	24	Cistern	6.1	6.1/2
65	63	Barrel void	6.1	6.1/2
77	25	Drain	5.3	5.3
96	8	Quarry	5.2	5.2

32.01 Table giving cut features by associated Structure, function, and phasing

Thirty-six single and complex items are presented according to the nearest associated Structure and in construction date order.

Structures 2 and 3 CF68

Cut Feature 68
Type: Fence line

S2 & S3

Constructed P3

Destroyed P3

Materials Timber

[32.01]

A fence line of sixteen large post pits ran at 45° to the sunken-floored buildings and ran parallel to the base of Bank 12.

Structure 7 CF1, CF7, CF61

Cut Feature 1
Type: Gullies

S7A Context T13/1539, 1547, 1285

Constructed P5.1

Destroyed P5.1-5.2

Materials N/A

[4.01=16.08, 32.01, 32.02]

A series of gullies drained into the partially-backfilled north arm of the Period 4 boundary ditch. They were more than 23m long but not identified in Trench 30 to the south. Their width varied between 0.25m and 0.6m, with about 0.25m depth, the south end being recut at least once. They were associated with an area of iron panning caused by flooding close to S7, held back by a narrow bank contemporary with the building.

³ Editor's note: the distinction between CF20 and CF21 seems to have become blurred, and elsewhere in the publication the quarry dating from phase 5.6 and cutting the latrine block drain is described as CF21.

Cut Feature 7
Type: Quarry pit

S7A Context T13/1563
Constructed P5.1
Destroyed P5.2
Materials n/a

[4.01=16.08, 32.01, 32.02]

A pit 4.2m by 2m was excavated to a depth of 1.2m–1.4m into natural sandy brickearths, through the platform built up to take **S21**. The feature was steep sided; its base was stepped in two stages to achieve maximum depth without collapse. It was infilled with a series of similar deposits of grey, gritty, sandy clays, the upper fills contaminated by loams, charcoal, mortar, and shell derived from construction of industrial feature (possible mortar mixer) **SS8** associated with **S96** [28.02].

Cut Feature 61
Type: Gully

S7A Context T13/903
Constructed P4.2
Destroyed P5.1–2
Materials BA2

[3.18=16.06, 3.21=19.06, 3.22=16.07, 32.01]

To the east of **S7** was a large curved gully, the main part of which was 5.6m long and about 1.3m wide. The north part was rounded and cut less deep than the main feature which was about 0.4m deep. It tailed off at its south end as two shallow gullies cut to drain excess water. The main body of the gully was lined with heavy blue clay.

Structure 16 CF60, CF69

Cut Feature 69
Type: Ditch

S16 Context T13/590
Constructed P5.2
Destroyed P5.4
Materials earth cut, possibly stone lined

[4.40, 32.01]

A drainage ditch about 16.5m long was cut from the south-west corner of **S16** forming the west boundary to the cemetery. It was 1.20m wide and a maximum of 0.56m deep with sloping sides and a flat bottom 0.5m across. The southern annexe was built partly over its north end and the drain **CF60** emptied into it. It may have been stone lined for part of its length. It was backfilled to take a substantial phase 5.4 cemetery wall; its backfill contained hanging lamp [41.01/109].

Cut Feature 60
Type: Drain

S16 Context T7/F56
Constructed P5.2
Destroyed ? P5.4
Materials Clay tile RM3
[4.40, 20.10, 32.01, 32.06]

A drain c 3.5m long was placed along the exterior south wall to **16**'s south porch, draining into partly-filled ditch **CF69** that formed the western boundary to the cemetery. It was lined with limestone slabs and had a limestone cover.

Structure 17 CF3, CF4, CF5, CF6

Cut Feature 3

Type: Drain

S17 Context T13/387

Constructed P5.2

Destroyed P5.3

Materials Limestone BM4 and clay tile RM3

[4.11, 32.01, 32.03]

A limestone drain with tile additions was built to the north of S17. It was 4m long with stone floor and stone capping, but was badly robbed. There were slight traces of yellow mortar. It predated the expansion north of S17 but may not be contemporary with the initial construction date. It was replaced by CF6 on an identical alignment immediately to the north.

Cut Feature 4

Type: Drain

S17 Context T13/386

Constructed P5.4

Destroyed P5.4

Materials Clay tile RM3

[4.52, 20.15, 32.01, 32.03, 32.04]

Approximately 4m of tile drain was seen to the south of the phase 5.4 replacement north wall to S17. It was within the expanded building, and was capped. Well built, with base and sides comprising clay roof tiles, it ran diagonally across the north-west corner of the building. Whatever its precise function, it replaced a similar feature CF3 made of stone which lay outside the line of the original north wall. Seated on the drain, against the inside of the north wall, was a small carstone and tile hearth SS32 [29.06].

Cut Feature 5

Type: Well or cistern

S17A Context T13/526

Constructed P5.4

Destroyed P5.5

Materials Carstone blocks BM1, and timber BM6

[4.49=16.12, 8.12, 32.01, 32.03]

A sub-rectangular shaft lined with carstone was cut into phase 5.2 cultivated soils to the south of S17. It was associated with the east end of S30, but showed no indication of superstructure or associated building except for a single post pit which may have held a winding mechanism. A pathway of clunch, carstone, and pebble led to it through loamy soils from the south entrance to S17.

It was a well or cistern constructed from shaped carstone blocks laid in courses, interspersed with small amounts of clay roof tile. The nearly-vertical shaft was 1.4m diameter at the base and about 1.10m wide at a point 0.4m from the top. The east edge of the stonework slumped over the mouth of the well.

1.50m below the top was a level ring of eight evenly-placed square voids within the masonry, possibly, but not probably, putlog holes. These were all 0.20m by 0.20m by 0.20m deep, and could have held a horizontal timber construction shaped like a wheel. This would have obstructed buckets or jugs being lowered to fetch water unless the feature was full. It may have held a mechanism for an ornamental feature such as a fountain. The well was not fully excavated, and was in excess of 3.10m deep. There was no indication of construction pit, and the lining was built against the shaft walls.

The lowest excavated fills comprised sandy and clay loams in tip lines. They were sealed by a dump of carstone rubble. Rubble deposits including tile and carstone characterised many of the remaining fills which had the appearance of deliberate backfilling. An articulated head and neck of a horse was introduced into the feature in one of the final

fills, sealed by material which contained much less rubble, mainly consisting of sandy and gritty clays and loams. The top had been damaged by late robbing.

Cut Feature 6
Type: Drain

S17 Context T13/386

Constructed P5.4

Destroyed P5.6

Materials Limestone BM4, carstone BM1 and clay tile RM3.

[32.01, 32.03]

A replacement drain for **CF3** was immediately north. It was 3.8m long, the south-west corner having been robbed. A well-constructed feature, it had vertical or near-vertical sides of limestone, carstone, and ceramic tile, with a limestone tile base and carstone capping. The chamber was 0.40m wide and 0.20m deep. A small hearth **SS32** [29.06] was built over it.

Structures 19, 54A, 58 CF17, CF44, CF48, CF71

Cut Feature 17
Type: Drains

S54A Contexts T30/152,160

Constructed P5.3

Destroyed P5.4

Materials Carstone BM1 and clay BA2

[32.01, 32.05]

Two associated drains forming a right angle were on the northern limit of the main buildings complex, on the north-east corner of **S19**. The east-west length measured 4.60m, while the north-south part was just over 3m before forming an unlined gully just over 2m long. The drain had stone sides which alternated between vertical or V-shaped. They were set in a construction trench about 0.10m to 0.15m wider which had a clean clay base. The drain was only 0.20m deep, but its top was paved with carstone slabs, many of which survived *in situ*.

Cut Feature 44
Type: Boundary ditch

S19 Contexts T6/59, 110, 23/235

Constructed P5.2

Destroyed P5.3

Materials Clay BA2

[4.14=16.10, 4.16, 4.24=16.11, 20.21, 32.01]

A right-angled ditch ran from the centre of **S19**'s north wall, enclosing an area about 7.50m by 6.50m, Yard 5. The west boundary comprised **CF11**; **S32** bridged the ditch. The ditch varied in width from its narrowest point against **CF11** of 0.50m to over 1.50m in the north-south arm; it was between 0.50m to 0.75m deep and had been recut. The north-west corner was truncated in phase 5.4 when it was backfilled and replaced by masonry walls positioned within the space the ditch enclosed. This east wall was later cut by **CF71**.

Cut Feature 48
Type: Robbing pit

S54A Contexts T6/18/54/55

Constructed P6.1

Destroyed P6.1

Materials Carstone BM1 and clay BA2

[32.01]

A large irregular pit cut through the south-east corner of the building; its fill contained rubble and stone blocks. Its function was to recover larger blocks of carstone.



Cut Feature 71
Type: Drains

S19, S58 Contexts T30/38

Constructed P5.6

Destroyed P6.1

Materials Carstone BM1 and clay BA2

[20.21, 32.01]

Contemporary with the last stages of the building's life were the remains of a shallow ditch, that crossed the wall enclosing Yard 5, feeding into the hollow left by **CF11** via the passage entrance in bridge **S58**. It may have continued further east into Trench 1.

Structures 21/96 CF8

Cut Feature 8
Type: Pit

S21/96 Context T13/1326

Constructed P5.2

Destroyed P5.2–5.3

Materials n/a

[32.01, 32.05]

A large circular pit with a surface diameter of 1.50m had steep sides and a level base. It had a maximum depth of 1.70m, and was directly beneath the east wall of **S28**. The base and north side of the feature were characterised by a deep iron-pan staining from standing water. Its lowest deposits consisted of green clays which were overlain by a stone spread. Two deposits of green clays, brown loams, and sandy lenses were confined to the edge of the feature and may suggest constriction of the pit during the period of use; they produced comparatively large quantities of pottery and bone. Upper fills consisted of clay loams which were cut by the foundation trench for the overlying wall of **S28**.

Dating Considerable amounts of **early medieval greywares** suggested infilling during the later 12th to early 13th centuries.

Structure 22 CF46⁴

Cut Feature 46⁴
Type: Drain

S22 Context T13/814

Constructed P5.2

Destroyed P5.3

Materials ?BM6

[4.14=16.10, 21.03, 32.01]

Within **S22** was a post and stakehole arrangement from which led a narrow drain, possibly wood lined. It ran south, beyond the line of the building, and discharged into a shallow sump.

⁴ Editor's note: two instances of CF46 were described. The other was an enclosure ditch, see [14].

Structure 23 CF9, CF10

Cut Feature 9 Type: ?Tank SS11

S23 Context T23/82
Constructed P5.2
Destroyed P5.3 reused
Materials Clunch blocks BM3
[4.21=21.04, 30.01, 32.01]

This complex feature is described in detail in the section on hearths. Its purpose is uncertain, and it is possible that it could have been water filled and used as a fish reservoir before being utilised as a rake-out pit for later hearths.

Cut Feature 10 Type: Gully

S23 Context T23/81
Constructed P5.2
Destroyed P5.6
Materials clay BA2
[4.21=21.04, 4.26=21.05, 32.01, 32.06]

On the south side of S23 was a gully about 4.25m long and 0.70m wide. There was some stone lining on the south side, and the north side butted up to the south wall of the main structure. It had a shallow, curving profile, about 0.15m deep; the base was thickly lined with clean green clay. Probably the feature held a timber pipe which drained west into the adjacent fishpond. An entranceway crossed it.

Structure 27 CF11, CF12

Cut Feature 11 Type: Latrine drain

S27 Contexts T23/147, 134, T13/1262
Constructed P5.3
Destroyed P5.5
Materials carstone
[4.24=16.11, 4.31=21.12, 4.49=16.12, 32.01, 32.07]

This drain sequence falls broadly into three sections: 1) wooden pipe in clay lining to the north, 2) stone-lined drain with sluice gates, centre portion, and 3) stone-lined and paved gully to the north draining into a sump. The whole was cut into a Period 4 ditch.

Cut Features 11.1 & 11.2 Type: Latrine gullies

Section 1 T23/147; BA2, BM6
At least 13.50m of gully CF11.1 was seen to the north of S27 before it was destroyed by later activity, particularly quarrying by CF21. There was some masonry indicating that the upper sides of the gully were lined or revetted, but this is uncertain due to heavy robbing. The base of the gully was about 0.60m wide, lined with clean, green clay. Nearly 7m of its length showed the imprint of a wooden pipe of 0.20m diameter. The line was not straight, and the pipe must have been joined in sections. Clay lining and pipe were replaced by another near-identical sequence CF11.2 laid on top. The flow was to the south where it met the sluice gate in the north wall of S27.

Cut Feature 11.3
Type: Latrine gully

Section 2 T23/134; BA2, BM6, BM1, BA5

The middle section ran through the east part of S27, entering the chamber by means of a well-built sluice gate constructed within a gully over 2.20m wide and 1m deep. The channel had vertical sides 0.40m high made from squared blocks of carstone set in yellow mortar; it was filled with silt and sand. It was between 0.35m and 0.40m wide. Masonry started to curve to form a vaulted roof, and filled the space between the drainage channel and the east wall of the building. The west edge of the gully was slightly stepped, with loose masonry clinging to the sides, sufficient to indicate that it had once been stone lined but had been thoroughly robbed. The structure had first carried a clay-lined channel for a wooden pipe, with a modification to stone lining.

The channel through the chamber was 8.5m long and 0.40m wide, surviving to a depth of 0.60m. The whole of the 2m-wide gully in which it was constructed was filled with masonry. The channel showed three distinct fills: clay at the base under silty clay and finally a clay loam. The carstone floor was seated in clean clay, possibly the remnant of a wood and clay channel. The sluice at the south end was well preserved with a channel comprising up to six vertical courses of bonded carstone blocks seated on a carstone slab floor.

Cut Feature 11.4
Type: Latrine gully

Section 3 T13/1262; BM1, BA5

On leaving the southern sluice gate the channel turned diagonally south-west as a stone-lined drain for 9m before debouching into a shallow sump to the west of S28. The drain was well made of carstone blocks set in yellow mortar, floored with slabs; rubble coursing survived to a height of 0.45m. The channel was 0.40m wide at the base, swelling to 0.60m at the top which was paved with large flat slabs of carstone up to 0.70m long. [See Robinson in [64] on plant and invertebrate remains, which describes silicified plant remains as well as charcoal from hazel and alder/oak].

Cut Feature 12
Type: Latrine pit

S27A Context T13/175/475

Constructed P5.6

Destroyed P6.1

Materials n/a

[5.01=16.14, 32.01, 32.09]

A large oval pit, with surface dimensions of 3.80m by 2.20m and 1.55m deep, cut into demolition deposits and walls of S27. It had steep sides and a flat base. Lowest fills were alternate deposits of green clay and sands, and pebbles and clean clay. The pit was cleared out and backfilled with rubble and clay before being capped with ash and rubble. More mixed deposits built up over these.

The stone-lined drain CF13 which originated from the modified S28 to the south appeared to be contemporary with this latter phase. The pit was again partially cleared out, the cut accumulating deposits of rubbly clay loams with charcoal, ash, and shell.

Structure 28 CF13, CF14

Cut Feature 13

Type: Drain

S28 Context T13/64, 195

Constructed P5.3

Destroyed P5.5

Materials Carstone BM1

[4.24=16.11, 4.49=16.12, 4.32=21.13, 32.01, 32.08]

The remnant of a well-constructed stone-lined drain cut the north wall of S28. A length of about 4m was recorded, heading for the drain complex of S27. The masonry within the wall and immediately outside comprised small rubble. This changed character further north-west when it comprised large flat slabs for channel floor, with more substantial blocks forming the southern chamber wall. It was replaced by CF14.

Cut Feature 14

Type: Gully & drain

S28 Context T13/188

Constructed P5.5

Destroyed P6.1

Materials Clay tile RM3

[5.01=16.14, 21.15, 32.01, 32.08]

A narrow gully, possibly containing a wooden pipe, entered the north wall of S28 via an arrangement of pitched clay tiles cutting through the masonry. The gully extended for about 6m before merging with the drainage complex of S27. The relationships were uncertain, but it replaced stone drain CF13.

Structure 38 CF47

Cut Feature 47⁵

Type: Gully

S38 Context T30/ 404,425

Constructed P5.3

Destroyed P5.3

Materials carstone

[4.24=16.11, 32.01, 22.13, 32.08]

A shallow gully 14.80m long was cut into the floor of S38, east of the building's centre line. It varied in width between 0.60m and 1.50m, and was between 0.25m and 0.13m deep. At its south end it turned at right angles for 1.60m before it turned south again for a further 1.50m. Cut into the angle of the dogleg was a shallow pit, probably a sump. This lay to the west of the probable south entrance. The gully was backfilled with copious quantities of carstone and was probably stone lined. It probably carried effluent.

⁵ Editor's note: two instances of CF47 were described. The other was an enclosure ditch, see [14].

Structure 41A CF50

Cut Feature 50 Type: Drain

S41A Context T30 /818, 878

Constructed P5.4

Destroyed P5.5

Materials lined with carstone BM1, 2

[4.49=16.12, 23.02, 32.01, 32.10]

A gully 11m long, 0.50m deep and up to 1.80m wide was constructed in the centre of the building. There were traces of mixed tile and carstone lining along its length and the east part which still had the remains of a stone wall on its east and south edges, opposite the east entrance. A number of compartments lay to the south, and the drain probably carried effluent. The drain flowed under the west wall into the walled yard beyond but no western extension was seen. It was deliberately backfilled to take an earth floor and hearths situated at either end.

Structure 42 CF51, CF62

Cut Feature 62 Type: Drain

S42 Context T30/19

Constructed P5.4

Destroyed P5.5

Materials BM2

[32.01, 23.04]

The remnants of a drain and soakaway were an integral part of the original building; carstone cobbling made up the initial floor of **S42** built around it. The drain comprised a shallow channel about 0.20m wide and 0.15m deep, lined with small carstone fragments heading north, running partly down the slope and into the pond **CF2**⁶. It was replaced by **CF51**.

Cut Feature 51 Type: Drain

S42 Context T30/ F489

Constructed P5.5

Destroyed P5.6

Materials carstone BM1

[32.01, 23.05]

CF62 was replaced by a more substantial gully which comprised carstone slabs placed edgewise into the earlier feature. It coincided with an entrance from the north since it crossed the north wall line before emptying into the slope leading to the pond **CF2** below⁷. Fresh flooring was built around and partially over it. The drain may have run down the slope, but was indistinguishable from the rubble, including possible steps, that covered the outside surfaces of the building to the north. **CF2**, at the base of the slope, would have acted as a soakaway.

⁶ Editor's note: the drain cannot have run into the pond **CF2**, as this had gone out of use by phase 5.4. **S56** had been built over the pond **CF2** by this time.

⁷ Editor's note: the drain cannot have run into the pond **CF2**, as this had gone out of use by phase 5.4. **S56** had been built over the pond **CF2** by this time, and was still standing in phase 5.5.

Structure 43/53 CF15

Cut Feature 15

Type: ?Quarry

S43A Context T30/11, 30/127.2

Constructed P6.1

Destroyed P6.1

Materials n/a

[5.03=16.15, 23.06, 32.01, 32.09]

A small quarry pit undercut and exploited the sides and base of part of the fishponds at a point south of the former location of S53. The feature was around 2m deep and had gentle sloping sides and a flat base. Its continuation beyond the confines of the fishpond ensured the truncation of much of the north-west edge of S43. The fills were primarily silts and clays. The base of the feature contained much charred grain, mostly wheat, together with arable weed seeds. These deposits were capped by silts and clays, which were sealed by substantial deposits of rubble derived from the demolition of nearby structures. Rubble may have been deliberately introduced torevet the fishpond at this point. The build-up of deposits created a ford across the partially-backfilled fishpond at the point where S53 had stood. The pond itself may have been dry since the base of the pit showed a worn track-like deposit leading up to the north end of S43. The excavation of the quarry appeared to respect SS22.

Structure 50 CF16, CF52

Cut Feature 16

Type: Well

S50 Context T30/151

Constructed P5.3

Destroyed P6.1

Materials Carstone BM1, 2

[4.24=16.11, 4.49=16.12, 4.75=16.13, 24.01, 32.01, 32.11]

A well, probably barrel-lined, was built within a construction pit. Carstone rubble deposits were in the base of the feature, almost certainly the remains of robbed carstone superstructure. It was excavated to a depth of 3.10m, the shaft measuring 0.9m at the top and widening to 1.40m at the base. The lowest fills comprised gritty clay layers which were sealed by carstone rubble dumps. Carstone rubble, some roof tile, and clunch in a matrix of clay loams were the remaining fills. The upper part was cut by a wider bowl shaped feature, a recutting or robbing which remained unlined. The well was in direct association with a floor level and remains of walling, and was part of a roofed complex. A short way to the east was what appeared to be a failed well CF52.

Structure 51 CF56

Cut Feature 56

Type: Drainage duct

S51 Context T8/40

Constructed P5.3

Destroyed P5.6-6.1

Materials BM1, 2

[4.46-4.48=24.02, 32.01]

A narrow drainage duct was built integrally with the structure footing, passing through the entire 1.50m thickness before debouching into a gully leading to major boundary ditch CF38 to the east. The external buttress respected its line, continuing its slight splay. The carstone floor of the drain was contiguous with the floor of the main

structure. One to two courses survived, being the remnant of the wall footing; it was up to 0.30m wide.

Structure 54 CF18, CF19, CF53, CF54

Cut Feature 18

Type: Drain

S54 Context T7/F40

Constructed P5.4

Destroyed P5.6

Materials Carstone BM1, limestone BM4 and clay roof tiles RM3

[24.06, 32.01, 32.12]

A substantial stone-lined drain, complete with capping, was constructed within a foundation trench to the north of S16, east of S54. It was nearly 6m long, up to 0.90m wide and about 0.30m deep, constructed mainly of limestone tiles, with a solid floor 0.30m wide. Considerable quantities of tile were seen in association, some of which appeared to have been used in levelling up the walls of the structure prior to capping with limestone roofing tiles. The west end was obliterated by the external chimney base constructed for S54, and was probably cut by cistern CF19.

Running east-west, it turned north to respect the north annexe to S16, and narrowed after 4m, when it petered out into dumped gravel spreads. These dumped layers were deliberately placed over a considerable period to counteract backing up of water in the underlying Period 4 ditch CF29, whose flow was interrupted by the construction of the east wall of S54. A possible tributary drain was seen coming in from the north. The drain may have had up to three purposes: to carry waste or overflow water from the cistern CF19, to take effluent from an upper chamber, and to assist the drainage of a wet area due to the underlying ditch.

Cut Feature 19

Type: Cistern

S54 Contexts T7 F40/625

Constructed P5.5?

Destroyed P6.1

Materials Carstone BM1, mortar BA5, clay roof tile RM3

[4.75, 24.06, 32.01, 32.12]

A rectangular stone-lined cistern was constructed at the east end of the northern annexe to S54. It was attached to, and possibly cut, drain CF18 to the east, but the west part and its relationship to S54 was destroyed by the phase 5.5 external chimney. The cistern, constructed of carstone bonded with yellow mortar, had only about 0.20m depth remaining.

Cut Feature 53

Type: Drains

S54 Contexts T13/368,363

Constructed P5.4

Destroyed P5.4?

Materials Carstone BM2 and clay BA3

[24.06, 32.01, 32.12]

A U-shaped gully replaced the east wall of the demolished south wing of the building. It also drained the south annexe of S16; there may have been a sump in the south-east corner. In turn it was built over by a substantial wall marking the western boundary of the cemetery.

Cut Feature 54

Type: Drains

S54A Contexts T13/438, 439

Constructed P5.4

Destroyed P5.6?

Materials Limestone BM4

[24.05, 32.01, 32.12]

The remains of a T-shaped junction lay in the corridor between the northern and central chambers. Only limestone blocks laid on edge remained; it probably lay beneath the floor surfaces.

Structure 56A CF2

Cut Feature 2

Type: Pond/Quarry

S59 Context T30/160

Constructed P4.1

Destroyed P5.3

Materials n/a

[3.10=16.05, 3.18=16.06, 3.22=16.07, 4.01=16.08, 4.10=16.09, 4.14=16.10, 4.24=16.11, 32.01, 32.13]

A large sub-circular pit measuring about 13m diameter and 3m deep cut through subsoil within the south court. It had sloping sides at about 45°. The earthwork to the south, lying beneath S42, was investigated to determine whether it was the upcast from the excavation of the pond; there was no old ground surface visible, and the gravels and sandy clays appeared to be naturally deposited.

The feature had six principal fills and remained open until the early to mid-13th century when it was partially backfilled to take the yard wall for S56; it was reduced in area to 9m by 12m and about 1m deep. It was filled with homogenous silts at the base and produced early Saxon finds. The upper parts were rubble filled, partly from the revetting and steps constructed on the north side of S42. The feature was still visible as a hollow at the time of excavation.

Structure 61 CF20, CF21

Cut Feature 20^s

Type: Quarry pit/refuse pit

S61 Context T23/129/195

Constructed P5.6

Destroyed P6.1

Materials n/a

[32.01, 32.14]

The quarry had an irregular profile and plan. It was 7.50m wide, excavated 3m deep into the underlying natural sandy brickearths; it cut and partially destroyed the drain CF30 belonging to S27. The likely depth of minerals was known from the excavation of the void for the drain. The random plan appears to be the result of first undercutting the sides of the earlier feature and then expanding the excavation piecemeal. At least ten greatly-differing fills and tip lines were identified within it, mostly loams, but including some rubble and much domestic rubbish, which demonstrate infilling to be contemporary with the widespread demolition of much of the site at the end of Period 5 and the early part of Period 6. The quarry was served by a gravel and cobble trackway Route U, coming up from the south-west. It was cut by CF21.

^s Editor's note: the distinction between CF20 and CF21 seems to have become blurred, and elsewhere in the publication (eg [5]) the quarry dating from phase 5.6 and cutting the latrine block drain is described as CF21.

Cut Feature 21⁸

Type: Quarry

S60 Context T30/129

Constructed P6.1

Destroyed P6.1

Materials n/a

[5.01=16.14, 5.03=16.15, 32.01]

A second large extraction pit was cut to the east of S60 and S61, cutting through CF20 and the remains of kiln SS19 and the northern stretch of the stone-lined ditch with S27 (CF11). It was up to 8m across and over 2.50m deep, and had an irregular shape. It was backfilled with deposits of loam and rubble mixed with a quantity of finds.

Structure 63 CF22

Cut Feature 22

Type: Cess pit

S63 Context T13/390/5

Constructed P6.1

Destroyed P6.2

Materials Carstone BM1 and mortar BA5

[5.03=16.15, 5.08=25.04, 10.17=32.16, 32.01, 32.15, 32.16]

A rectangular stone-lined cess pit had a clean sandy clay bottom. It was 2m across at the top, narrowing to 1.60m at the base, and 1.05m deep. The tank had an internal measurement of 0.90m by 1m, a ragged foundation, and a well-built superstructure with walls up to 0.50m wide. It was constructed of close-set mortared carstone rubble, and there were vestiges of a substantial paved floor set in yellow mortar laid onto the natural sand. The floor had been levelled up with quantities of clay roof tile. The tank survived to a depth of 0.50m, and there was no outlet visible. Filled with layers of ash and charcoal at the bottom, it was then deliberately backfilled with a deposit of clean mortar up to 0.50m thick topped with rubble and clay tile. The report on plant and invertebrate remains indicates the presence of many small, semi-digested bone fragments and calcium phosphate replacement of some organic remains [64].

Structure 65 CF23, CF24

Cut Feature 23

Type: Well

S65 Context T7/645

Constructed P6.1

Destroyed P6.1

Materials Carstone rubble BM2

[5.03=16.15, 5.12=25.05, 5.14, 32.01, 32.15]

A well or cistern immediately to the north of S65 was irregular in plan and poorly constructed. Its mouth measured 1.10m by 0.80m and was surrounded by a patchy masonry footing about 0.40m wide. It was excavated to a depth of 1.40m, where its width was only about 0.55m. It appeared to have no construction trench, the walls being built up on the edge of the shaft from the base up. Three sides appeared to be vertical, and comprised neat coursed rubble, while the fourth was irregular. Fills were clay loam and rubble; it is likely that any superstructure was pushed into the feature when it was demolished.

Cut Feature 24
Type: ?Cistern

S65 Context T13/414
Constructed P6.1
Destroyed P6.1-6.2
Materials BM1, 2

[5.12=25.05, 32.01, 32.15]

An irregular pit with a pointed profile was located in the south-east corner of **S65**. Approximately 2.30m deep, it was about 2m wide at its mouth, and lined with irregular pieces of carstone on its west side. On the west side of its retaining wall, also structural to the main building, was **CF63**. After the lining was mostly robbed it was deliberately backfilled with layers of sand, mortar, clay, and carstone rubble, including stoup **AF Cat 2**.

Cut Feature 63
Type: Barrel void

SA65 Context T7/⁹
Constructed P6.1
Destroyed P6.1-6.2
Materials n/a

[5.12=25.05, 32.01]

Circular void about 1m diameter set in the south room to the west of **CF24**.

Structure 77 CF25

Cut Feature 25
Type: Drain

S77 Context T30/239
Constructed P5.3 (disuse)
Destroyed P5.5
Materials Carstone BM1, BA5

[4.49=16.12, 4.75=16.13, 32.01, 32.11, 32.17]

The south end of **S77** terminated in a well-constructed stone-lined drain set into the backfilled eastern arm of the Period 4 ditch **CF29**. It took water from the north part of the site to the east of the main buildings, carrying it down the boundary ditch towards the Cocklake Stream. The drain was 5.80m long, possibly truncated at its southern end. The chamber was 0.40m wide and 0.70m deep, having up to six courses of carstone in its sides. The drain was bonded with yellow mortar; in places the sides were levelled up with roof tiles. The sides sat upon carstone slabs; the top surface was level, and a number of adjacent pieces of masonry indicated that it had been capped with large slabs.

The drain had silted up by phase 5.6 when at least some of the capping was removed to insert the pitched walling for **S62**.

⁹ Editor's note: no context number given, possibly none assigned to a 'void'.