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Archaeological Field Evaluation

Tomack Developments
Land at Western Way Dymock
Gloucestershire

June 2013



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Frontispiece: Trench 1 View looking north showing ditch [1006] cutting earlier feature [1014]

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1 Executive Summary

No features were identified on the western side of the site, although sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from both trenches in this area during machine excavation. This lack of features may possibly be accounted for with reference to the sporadic occurrence of archaeological features demonstrated on the remainder of the site.

The fills of ditches on the site were derived from the surrounding natural material, suggesting gradual silting with use for disposal of waste while the silting process was taking place. Two pits of Roman date, [2005] and [2008], may have been filled over a shorter period, possibly in a single episode.

Although a little iron slag was found on the site there was no evidence for structures associated with ironworking or evidence that this took place in the near vicinity.

It is thus more likely that the small amount of slag from the site was associated with a process based elsewhere in Dymock. The intermittent occurrence of features on the site suggests that it was peripheral to occupation, including industrial activity, known to have existed to the north.

No evidence was found for medieval features and no finds of medieval date were recovered from the site. It is probable that the site lay at some distance to the rear of medieval burgage plots fronting onto the road.

The proximity of the site to the Roman features previously identified on Kyrleside meant that it was highly probable that archaeological features would be encountered on the site and this was, indeed, the case.

Features included pits and ditches of similar form to those found during excavations in 2009 at Kyrleside, which adjoins the study area to the north. However, the fills of the two pits [2005] and [2008] contained domestic refuse and probably implied occupation fairly close to the site. Pottery from (2006), representing the material contained within the pit, included a number of large sherds thought likely to be from the same vessel and which may have been deposited more or less immediately after breakage.

Among the pottery recovered from this feature were examples of 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware. The presence of 'Belgic wares' overall on the site was found to be high for the region at eight per cent; no equivalent fabrics were reported from excavations at Stallards Place, Dymock, in 2007, where the ceramic evidence suggested that occupation started later than at previously excavated sites at Dymock, perhaps representing a westward expansion of the original settlement, and continued in use after some other areas had been abandoned (Simmonds 2010). This would be unusual even given the Late Iron Age to 1st century AD focus of activity on the site and it is possible that the inhabitants of the site may have been an outlying cultural group with links to the Belgic pottery using groups of the Cotswolds.

An unidentified amphora sherd from context (2006) was noted and is in line with a basic level rural settlement (Evans 2001). In this respect, the site has parallels with the low (0.4 per cent) proportion of amphorae from Stallards Place (Booth 2010). The relatively low frequency of Severn Valley wares generally across the site is again consistent with early 2nd-century abandonment.

No Roman tile or other indication of structures was recovered from the site. Tile would normally be associated with high-status buildings and, at present, evidence points to the site as being peripheral to a focus of activity taking place elsewhere.

The lack of archaeological evidence on the western side of the site (Trenches 3 and 4) may result from the apparently sparse distribution of the features identified on the remainder of the site. Although features of Roman date were seen on the eastern side of the site (Trenches 1, 2 and 5) they did not appear to include evidence for structures.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Tomack Developments to undertake a programme of archaeological field evaluation of land at Western Way Dymock (NGR SO 69989 31051) in advance of development comprising affordable and open-market homes together with a village car park & children's play area (Revised description) (Planning Ref. P1219/12/FUL) (*fig. 1*). The work was undertaken in late May and early June 2013.

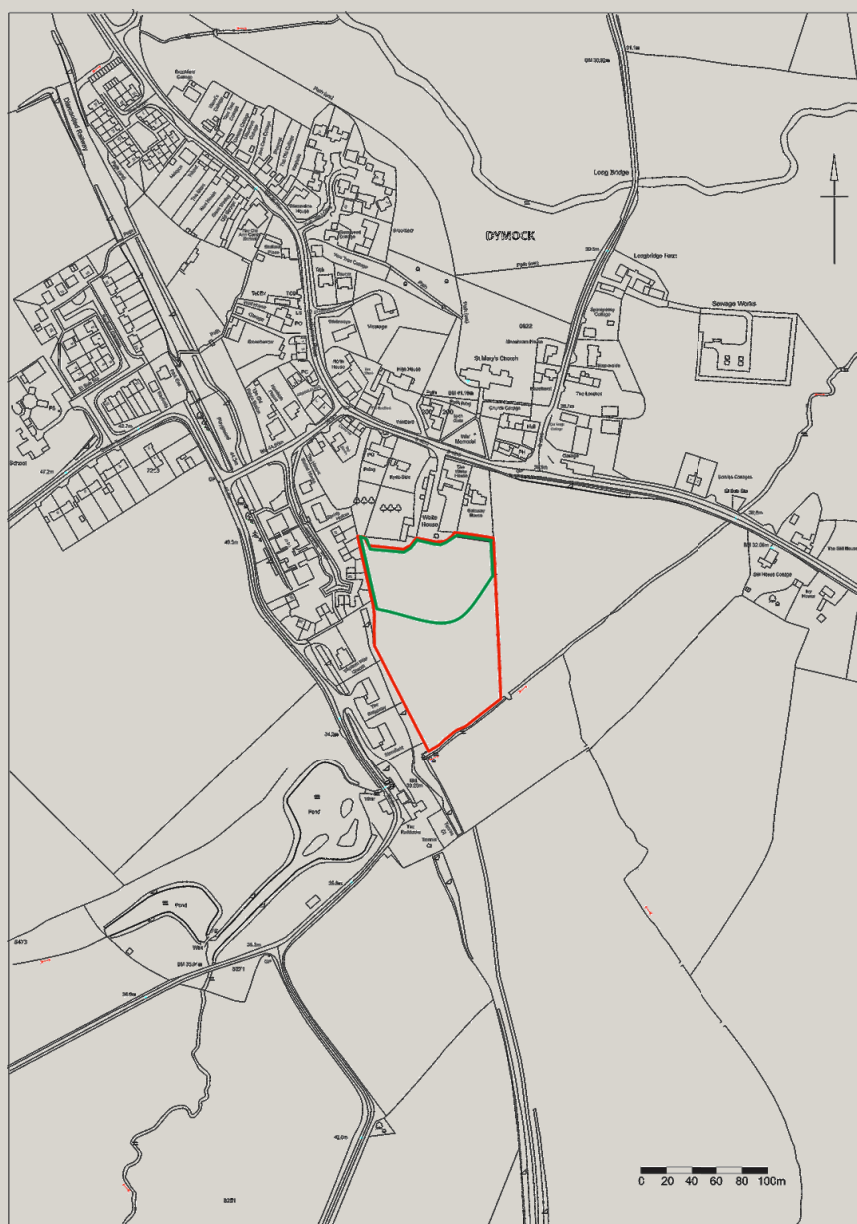


Fig. 1: Site location plan (evaluation area shown in green) (based on plan supplied by Quattro Architects for information)

This Report presents the full and detailed results of the field evaluation and follows an earlier Summary Report supplied upon request to Charles Parry Esq Senior Archaeological Officer Gloucestershire County Council on June 5th 2013 to confirm his recommendation that,

given the presence of significant Roman archaeology, the provision for undertaking full excavation should be activated, as per paragraph 5.7 of the Written Scheme of Investigation.

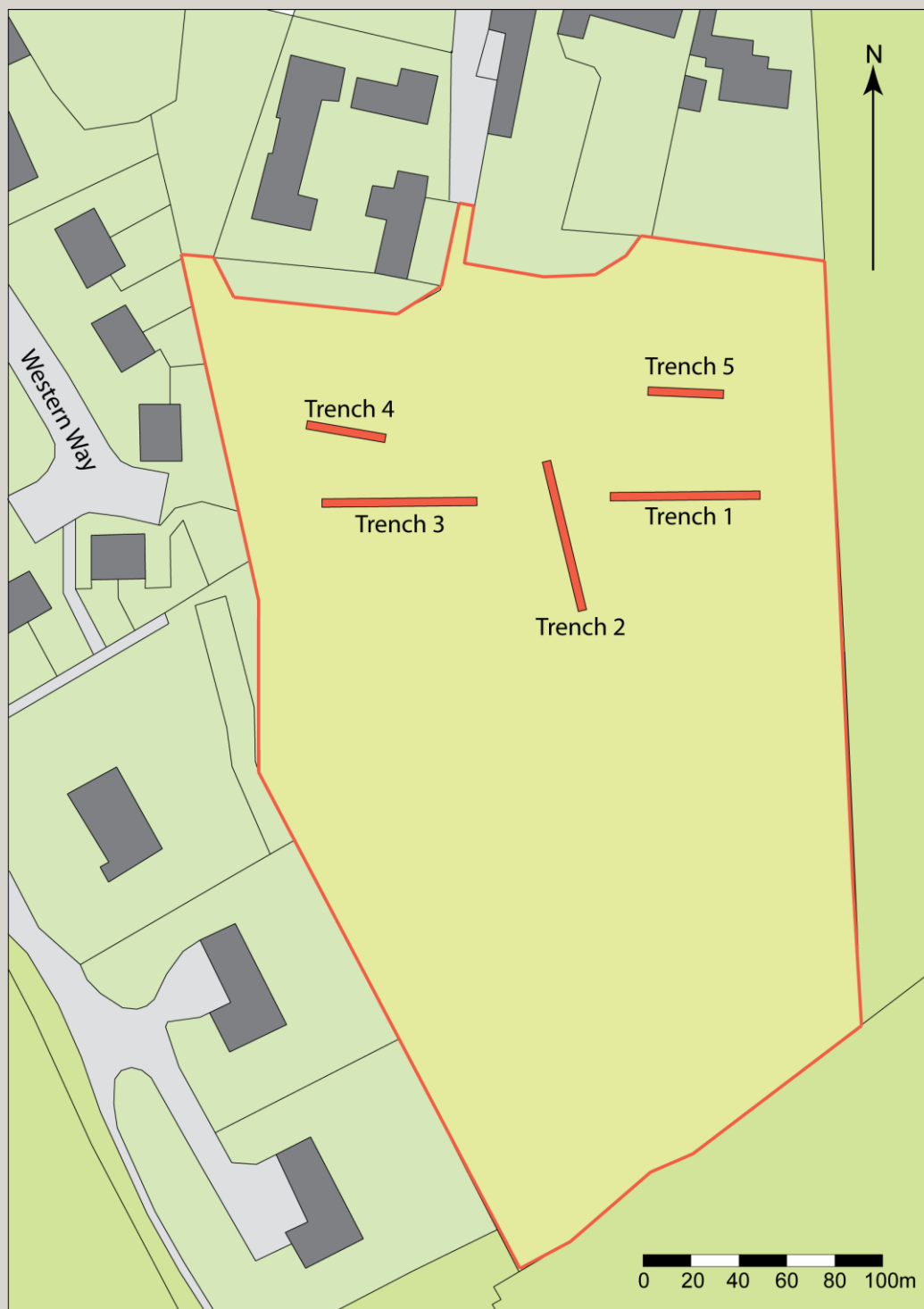


Fig. 2: Trench locations

2.1 Soils, geology & topography

The soils in the vicinity of the site are predominantly typical argillic brown earths of the BROMYARD series. These comprise well-drained reddish fine silty soils over shale and siltstone. Some similar soils with slowly permeable sub-soils and slight seasonal waterlogging also occur, with some well drained coarse loamy soils over sandstone. These soils overlie Devonian reddish silty shale, siltstone and sandstone (SSEW, 1983).

The site (*fig. 1*) lies on the southern edge of Dymock, some 21km NW of Gloucester. It is currently open pasture and lies at a height of approximately 38.5mOD.

3 Methodology

Field work was undertaken with reference to *Management of Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (English Heritage 2009), *Standard and Guidance for archaeological geophysical survey* (Institute for Archaeologists 2011), *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Institute for Archaeologists 2008a) and *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (Institute for Archaeologists 2008b). Border Archaeology adheres to the Institute for Archaeologists *Code of conduct* (2013) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in archaeology* (2008c).

Archaeological geophysical survey (see Appendix 3) using non-intrusive and non-destructive techniques was undertaken initially to determine the presence or absence of anomalies likely to be caused by archaeological features, structures or deposits within the specified development area. The results of geophysical survey were used to formulate the details of the archaeological field evaluation by means of trial trenching.

Five trenches were placed consistent with identified geophysical targets. Trenches 1-3 measured 30m x 2m whilst Trench 4 and Trench 5, which were intended as a control in an area where no features were identified by the geophysical survey, were 15m in length (*fig. 2*). Trenches were opened by machine using a wide un-toothed bladed ditching bucket or similar, as specified in the Gloucestershire County Council's generic *Brief*. Only undifferentiated topsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by machine. Once the first significant archaeological horizon (i.e. this being defined as that producing evidence relating to occupation of Roman date) was reached, excavation proceeded by hand.

The aim of the evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed development. A total of 3% representative sample of all areas where such remains are potentially threatened was studied and attention given to sites and remains of all periods (including evidence of past environments).

The evaluation sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion and assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

3.1 Recording

Modern and late post-medieval material was machine-excavated under archaeological supervision, and associated spoil scanned for artefacts. All significant archaeological deposits were excavated by hand.

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Institute for Archaeologists 2008a) and Border Archaeology's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2012). The written record comprised detailed stratigraphic information using a context numbering system.

The drawn record was produced on gridded, archive-stable polyester film at scales of 1:50, 1:20 or 1:10, as appropriate. Representative measured sections were prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits, where practicable and strictly within established safety parameters. A temporary benchmark (TBM) was established at an appropriate location and plans, elevations and sections contained level information relative to OS data. All drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

A photographic record was made using a high-resolution digital camera, comprising photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph was an appropriate scale and all photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view will be maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

3.2 Sampling

Samples were taken where contexts were deemed to have potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis (i.e. high organic content, peat etc.), that contained occupation material, were datable and had a stratigraphic/contextual relationship with other contexts so as to facilitate interpretation.

Samples were taken from deposits & fills of pits believed not to be contaminated or of mixed/secondary origin (e.g. backfills or deposits with a high degree of residual/intrusive artefactual material), those thought or known to contain well-preserved biological remains, deposits likely to be closely datable and those interpretatively important at the context or site level.

- Large animal bone fragments, mollusc shells and carbonised materials were recovered by hand-collection and recorded through the finds system.
- Fish, insects, small mammals and parasites, mineralised and carbonised seeds and chaff etc., together with potential industrial residues, will be recovered from samples by fine-mesh sieving and flotation separation (to be undertaken by ASUD).
- Faunal and floral microfossils will be recovered from specialist sub-samples, where appropriate, with pollen analysis potentially providing evidence of background flora to compare with local flora from plant macrofossil evidence and insect (e.g. beetle) remains.

Samples were assigned sample numbers which were entered into a sample register and cross-referenced with record sheets

3.3 Recovery, processing and curation of artefactual data

Artefacts were retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001). The aim was to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research (IfA 2008).

All artefacts were bagged and labelled with the site code and context number before being removed off-site. Each assemblage will be examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified.

4 Results

4.1 Trench 1 (fig. 3)

The trench measured a total of 30m in length and was aligned E-W. It lay on the eastern side of the site and was situated in order to investigate anomalies, thought to be ditches, identified in the geophysical survey (Appendix 2).

Topsoil (1001) in the trench was a firmly compacted but friable mid greyish-brown silty clay 0.20m deep. It was present over the full area of Trench 1, with an identical deposit present in the remaining trenches (2-5). Beneath it was (1002), this being a firm reddish-brown fairly clean silt clay with frequent manganese flecks. The subsoil was 0.20m deep and sealed the Roman archaeology on the site. Throughout the work, the similarity of the fills to the surrounding natural clays meant that, as with previous work in Dymock (Williams 2011; Catchpole 2007, 138), the edges of features proved difficult to define.

Three features of Roman date were present in Trench 1, all ditches being aligned N-S. The largest of these, at the western end of the trench, was ditch [1005] (fig. 3)

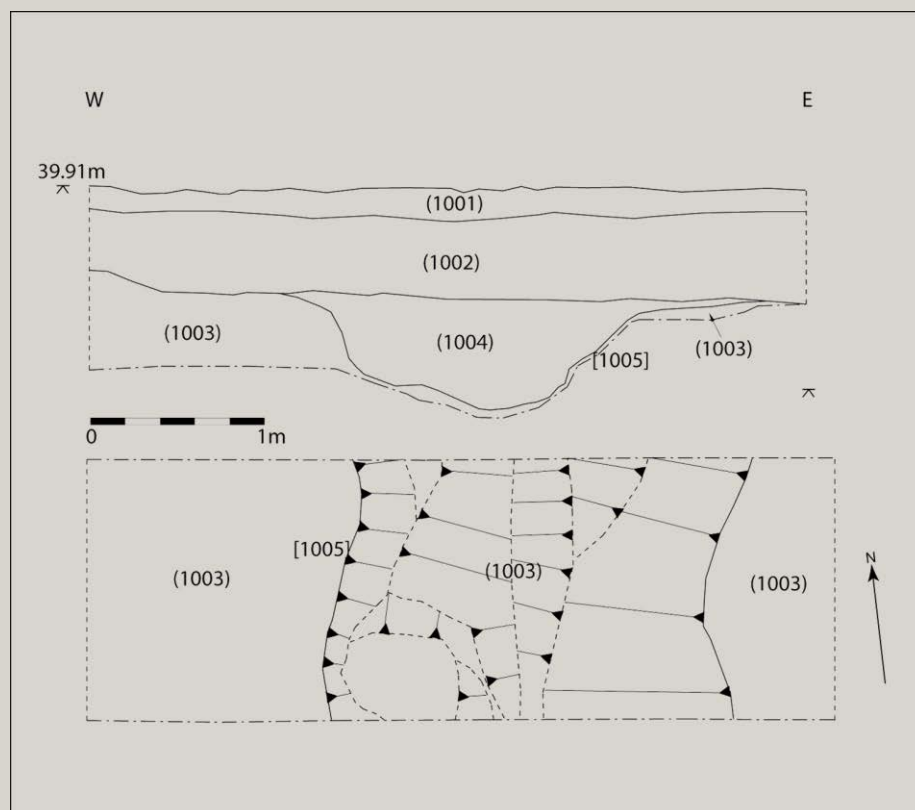


Fig. 3: Ditch [1005] located at the western end of Trench 1

At the northern side of the trench the ditch was 1.3m wide and about 0.30m deep, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. To the S, the feature was narrower, with the sides sloping at a steeper angle. The single fill (1004) was a firm red clay flecked with manganese and containing charcoal. This deposit was found, during excavation, to be firmer and more water-saturated than the background natural (1003). Pottery from (1004) included a single sherd of Samian ware and a quantity of Severn Valley ware. Also in the fill, found in close proximity to the pottery and therefore possibly suggesting discrete tipping events, were four large lumps of furnace slag.

Some 10.5m to the E of [1005] was a further ditch, [1014] on a similar alignment.

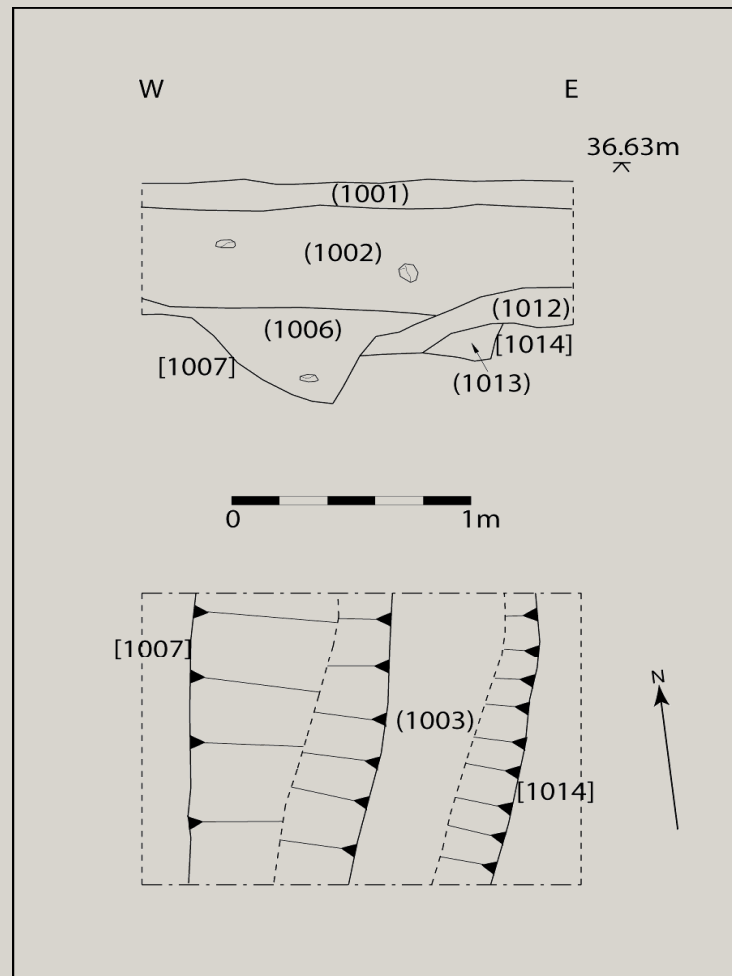


Fig. 4: Cuts [1007] and [1014]

It had a flat base and the western side sloped steeply. The ditch survived to a depth of 0.20m and a width of 0.90m. The primary fill was a compact mid brown silty clay with darker brown patches and occasional charcoal flecks. Above it was a light reddish-brown clay with occasional small fragments of gravel (1012), which probably resulted from a period of silting. The ditch was subsequently recut on its western side [1007] (fig. 4).

Cut [1007] was fairly substantial, measuring c. 1.0m in depth and about 2m wide. It appeared to become more rounded in profile to the S, while to the N, the edges sloped more steeply. The fill (1006) was a firm mid brown clay with occasional gravel patches and charcoal flecks. It contained burnt animal bone and sherds of pottery and probably accumulated through a combination of dumping of domestic rubbish and natural silting. Fill (1006) also contained cinder and undiagnostic ironworking slag

At the E end of Trench 1 was a third feature, [1010] (fig. 5), probably the terminus of another linear feature. It was oriented NE-SW, was more than 0.80m in length, extending beyond the southern section, 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base. The fill, (1011) unfortunately considerably disturbed by tree-rooting, was an orange-brown silty clay with charcoal and occasional small rounded stones. Pottery, animal bone and a single iron nail were found in it

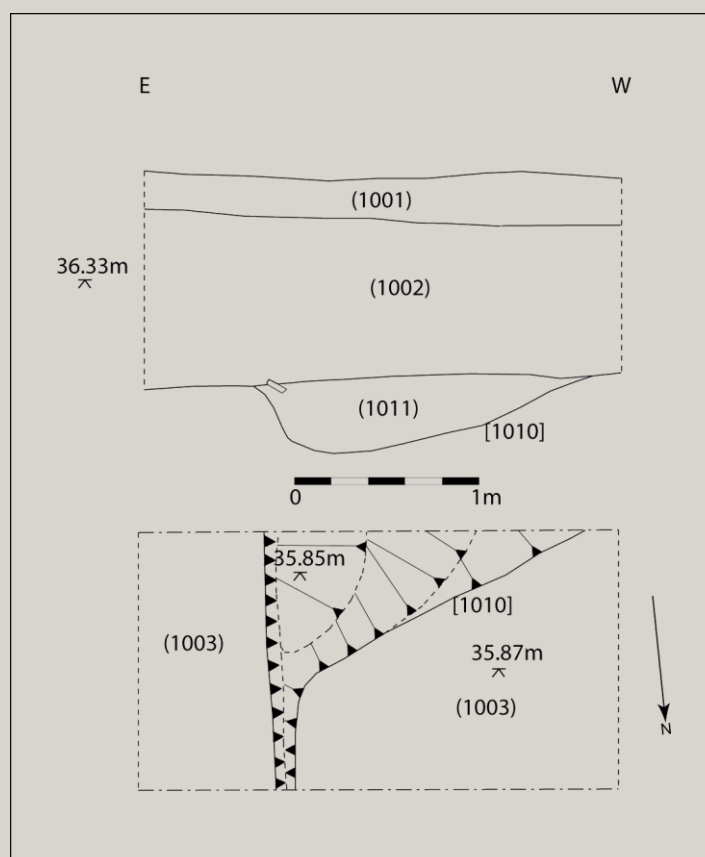


Fig. 5: Probable terminus [1010] of linear feature running NE-SW

In terms of faunal remains, contexts (1004), (1006) and (1011) gave larger and more diverse assemblages, with horse, cattle, *caprovid* and pig remains identified. Mandibles, particularly of *caprovid* (1011), and isolated teeth (1004) and (1006) were prevalent. Split cattle humerus (1006) and metapodial (1011) fragments were noted, possibly indicating marrow extraction. Small burnt fragments were recovered from both (1006) and (1011).

4.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 30m in length and was aligned N-S. It lay to the W of Trench 1. Two pits of Roman date were identified in Trench 2, together with a further feature (2010) at the southern end of the trench, which, on investigation, proved to be animal disturbance of recent date.

Topsoil (2001) in the trench was 0.13-0.20m deep and was similar to that recorded in Trench 1. It lay above (2002), a reddish-brown subsoil with manganese flecks, 0.20m deep, also of similar composition to the subsoil in Trench 1. Beneath the subsoil, in the vicinity of the Roman features only, was a slightly 'dirtier' subsoil (2003), containing occasional sherds of Roman pottery. It was visible for only a short time after machining and was indistinguishable from (2002) after weathering. It may have resulted from activity during excavation of the pits or from overflow or spillage of the pit fills.

The northernmost of the pits [2005] (fig. 6) was roughly circular in form, 1.08m in diameter with steeply sloping sides and a generally flat base.

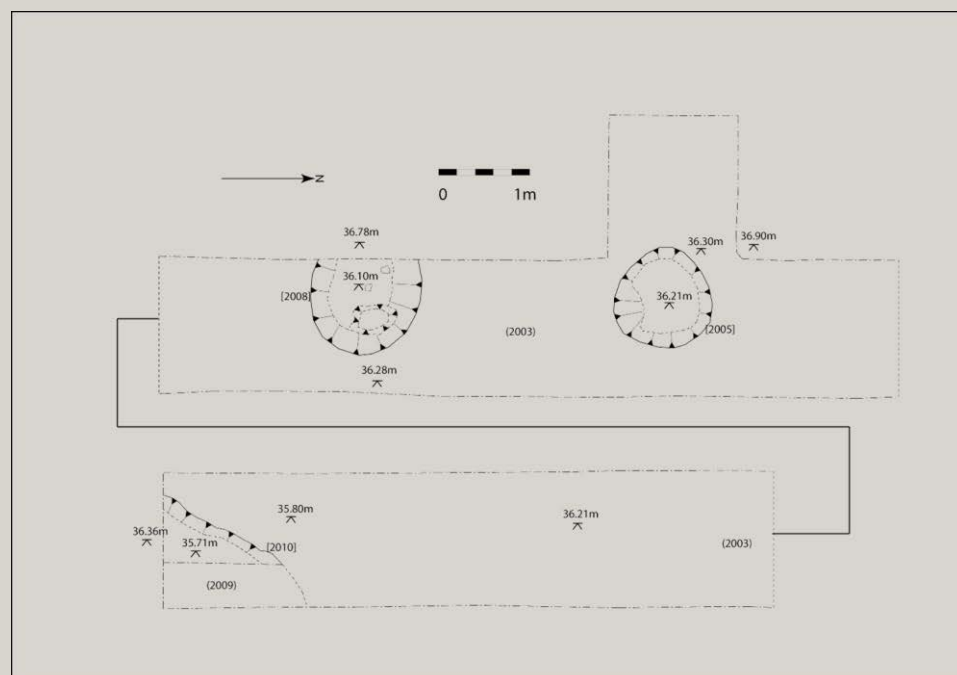


Fig. 6: Features identified at the southern extent of Trench 2

On its southern side, it had been considerably disturbed by animal burrowing. The fill (2006) was a compact greyish-brown, charcoal-rich silty clay, containing a considerable amount of pottery. The pottery, mainly grey wares, appeared to be deposited mostly on the southern side of the feature. A number of the sherds were from the same vessel, suggesting deposition shortly after breakage and that there was activity in the immediate area. It is noteworthy that, unlike the other features on the site, the pit contained little or no animal bone.

Slightly to its N was cut [2008], which extended beyond the section to the W. The fact that its sides had begun to curve inwards at the point where they were intersected by the edge of the trench suggested that the feature was a pit rather than the terminus of a ditch; however, this is, at present, uncertain. The excavated part of the feature was fairly regular in form with steeply sloping sides curving to a flat, slightly undulating base. The fill (2007) was a firm greyish-brown mottled clay containing ash. Unlike fill (2006), a moderate amount of burnt animal bone was recovered from this material. Pottery from the pit included Severn Valley wares, grey wares and black burnished ware.

4.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 lay on the western side of the site; it was aligned E-W and was 30m in length. It was generally excavated to a depth of some 0.60m, with *sondages* to 1.2m dug at the E and W ends. The trench was positioned in order to investigate a curvilinear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey. As no sign of this feature was identified during excavation, it is possible that it may have been geological in origin. No features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 3, although a substantial sherd of a Roman storage jar recovered during machine excavation indicated activity in the near vicinity. A ceramic land drain, aligned N-S was seen in the topsoil at the eastern end of the trench.

The following deposits were present in Trench 3.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(3000)	Firm but friable mid dark greyish-brown silty clay agricultural soil; extended trench-wide to 0.25m deep. Overlies (3001)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Topsoil; identical deposit present in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5</i>
(3001)	Firm reddish-brown clay silt with manganese flecks; 1 × sherd of Roman pottery (generally fairly clean); extends trench-wide to 0.3m Underlies 3000, overlies (3002)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Subsoil in Trench 3. Similar to subsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5</i>
(3002)	Hard reddish-brown clay silt; patches of green marl, flecks of manganese, occasional slabby stone; extended trench-wide. Underlies (3001).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Natural in Trench 3</i>

4.4 Trench 4

The trench was excavated as a control in an area showing no features on the geophysical survey. It lay on the NW part of the site and was the closest trench to the Roman activity identified during Gloucestershire Council's previous work on Kyrleside.

Trench 4 was 15m in length and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m. As in the case of Trench 3, a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil during machine excavation but no features of archaeological significance were present in the trench.

The following deposits were identified in Trench 4.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(4000)	Firm but friable mid dark greyish-brown silty clay agricultural soil; extends trench-wide to 0.25m deep. Overlies (4001)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Topsoil; identical deposit present in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5</i>
(4001)	Firm red brown clay silt; manganese flecks, 1 × sherd of Roman pottery (but generally fairly clean); extends trench-wide to 0.3m deep. Underlies (4000), overlies (4002).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Subsoil in Trench 4. Similar to subsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5. Animal burrow present at NW end of the trench</i>
(4002)	Hard red brown clay silt; patches of green marl, flecks of manganese, occasional fragments of shale; extends trench-wide. Underlies (4001).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Natural in Trench 4</i>

4.5 Trench 5

The trench lay on the NE part of the site, and, as in the case of Trench 4, was intended as a control in an area where no features were identified by the geophysical survey. However, it was also positioned with the intention of confirming whether ditches identified in Trench 1 to the S continued northwards.

The topsoil (5001) in Trench 5 was as described for Trenches 1-4. The subsoil (5002) was a reddish-brown silt clay with manganese flecks, similar to that identified in Trenches 1-4, with the exception that, at the western end of the trench the deposit contained a considerable amount of Roman pottery, including Severn Valley wares and grey wares, and two small fragments of indeterminate slag. Two features were present in the trench, a ditch [5005] and a shallow feature of irregular form [5007].

Ditch [5005] (*fig. 7*) was aligned N-S and appeared to continue the alignment of ditch [1014], with the mid brown silty clay fill (5004) similar to (1013) in Trench 1. However, it is not, at present, certain that [5005] does indeed represent a continuation of [1014]. The ditch was clearly visible on the southern side of the trench, where it was 0.70m wide and 0.17m deep, with a shallow 'U' -shaped profile. Although still present at the northern side of the trench, it was much shallower and appeared to be petering out at this point, being only c. 20mm deep.

In the SE corner of the trench was a shallow feature [5007], measuring 0.50m in length. It was 0.16m deep and extended outside the trench to both S and E. Its irregular form and the fact that the fill (5008), a reddish-brown clayey silt was indistinguishable from the subsoil (5002), suggested that it may have been simply a hollow in the natural. A single sherd of grey ware was found in the fill.

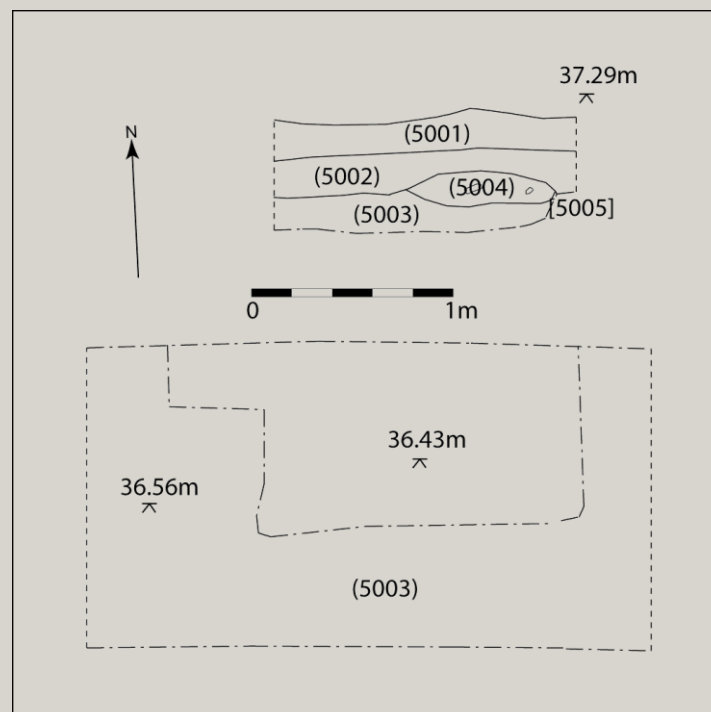


Fig.7: Ditch [5005]

5 Conclusion

The proximity of the site to Roman features previously identified at Kyrleside in 2009 strongly suggested that archaeological features would be encountered on the site and this was, indeed, the case.

Features included pits and ditches of similar form to those found on the earlier site (Williams 2011). The fills of the ditches were derived from the surrounding natural material, suggesting gradual silting, with use for disposal of waste while the silting process was taking place. The two pits [2005] and [2008] may have been filled over a shorter period, possibly in one episode.

The fills of [2005] and [2008] contained domestic refuse and probably implied occupation fairly close to the site. Pottery from (2006), the fill of [2005], contained a number of large sherds thought likely to be from the same vessel and which may have been deposited more or less immediately after breakage.

Among the pottery recovered from this feature were examples of 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware and Malvernian reduced ware. The presence of 'Belgic wares' overall on the site was found to be high for the region at eight per cent; no equivalent fabrics were reported from Stallards Place, Dymock, in 2007, where the ceramic evidence suggested that occupation started later than at previously excavated sites at Dymock, perhaps representing a westward expansion of the original settlement, and continued in use after some other areas had been abandoned (Simmonds 2010). This would be unusual even given the Late Iron Age-to-1st-century AD focus of activity on the site and it is possible that the inhabitants of the site may have been an outlying cultural group with links to the Belgic pottery using groups of the Cotswolds.

An unidentified amphora sherd from context (2006) was noted and is in line with a basic level rural settlement (Evans 2001). In this respect, the site has parallels with the low (0.4 per cent) proportion of amphorae from Stallards Place (Booth 2010). The relatively low frequency of Severn Valley wares generally across the site is again consistent with early 2nd-century abandonment.

No Roman tile or other indication of structures was recovered from the site. Tile would normally be associated with high-status buildings and, at present, evidence points to the site as being peripheral to a focus of activity taking place elsewhere.

Although a small quantity of iron slag was found on the site, there was no evidence for structures associated with ironworking or evidence that this took place in the near vicinity. It is thus more likely that the small amount of slag from the site was associated with a process based elsewhere in Dymock. The intermittent occurrence of features on the site suggests that it was peripheral to occupation, including industrial activity, known to have existed to the N.

The lack of archaeological evidence on the W side of the site (Trenches 3 and 4) may result from the apparently sparse distribution of the features identified on the remainder of the site. Although features of Roman date were seen on the eastern side of the site (Trenches 1, 2 and 5) they did not appear to include evidence for structures.

No features or finds of medieval date were identified on the site, which probably lay beyond the southern limits of medieval burgage plots fronting onto the street.

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8 Appendix 1: Context Register

8.1 Trench 1

(1001)	Firm but friable mid dark greyish-brown silt clay agricultural soil. Extends over area of trench to 0.25m deep. Overlies (1002)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Topsoil; identical deposit present in Trenches 2-5</i>
(1002)	Firm reddish-brown clay silt; manganese flecks, Roman pottery (but generally fairly clean). Underlies 1001, extends across the entire excavated area of Trench 1 by 0.2m. Overlies (1004) (1006) (1001)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Subsoil in Trench 1. Similar to subsoil in Trenches 2-5</i>
(1003)	Hard reddish-brown clay silt; patches of green marl, flecks of manganese & occasional slabby stone. Present over full area of T1; archaeological features cut into this deposit.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Natural clay in Trench 1; similar to natural in Trenches 2-5</i>
(1004)	Well compacted reddish-grey clay; charcoal, pottery animal bone and slag; measured >1.5m × 3.55m × 0.61m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Fill of ditch [1005]; contained frequent Roman waste material dumped in discrete areas. Firmer than surrounding natural material</i>
[1005]	Linear cut; oriented N-S, extends >1.5m × 3.55m × 0.61m. Break of slope (top) gradual. Sides gently sloping. Break of slope (base) gradual. Base undulating. Filled by (1004). Cuts 1003
INTERPRETATION	<i>Roman single phase ditch eventually used to deposit waste materials</i>
(1006)	Compact mid to dark brown silty clay with some gravel and patches greenish clay. Contained pottery and burnt animal bone. Discrete patches of finds. Fill of [1007], underlies (1002).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Fill of Roman ditch [1007]</i>
[1007]	Linear cut; oriented N-S >1.5m × 2.0m × 0.5m. Break of slope (top) gradual Sides gently sloping and concave. Break of slope (base) flat. Filled by (1006) Cuts (1003)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Shallow, probable boundary ditch</i>
1008	VOID
1009	VOID
[1010]	Probable linear cut; aligned NE/SW. >0.70m × >0.80m × 0.20m deep. Sloping sides and flat base. Much root disturbance. Cuts (1003) filled by (1011)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut for Roman ditch</i>
(1011)	Firmly compacted orange-brown silt clay with moderate charcoal flecks, pottery and animal bone. Fills [1010], below (1002). Heavy root disturbance
INTERPRETATION	<i>Greatly disturbed fill of Roman ditch</i>
(1012)	Compact light reddish-brown clay, some silt, occasional small gravel. Unclear in plan but visible in section; measured >1.5m × 0.90m × 0.20m. Seals (1013). Below (1006).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Possible dump of material from re-cut of [1007]</i>
(1013)	Firm mid brown clay, darker patches; occasional charcoal flecks; measured 0.10-0.20m deep (visible only in section). Fill of [1014], sealed by (1012).
[1014]	Cut; linear; measured 0.18-0.19m deep, full extent not known (defined in section only). Filled by (1013). Cuts (1003).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut of Roman ditch</i>

Trench 2

(2001)	Firm but friable mid dark greyish-brown silty clay agricultural soil. Extends over area of trench 0.13 to 0.25m deep. Overlies (2002)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Topsoil; identical deposit present in Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5</i>
(2002)	Firm reddish-brown clay silt with manganese flecks; occasional sherds of Roman pottery (generally fairly clean). Underlies (2001); extends across the entire excavated area of Trench 2 to 0.3m deep.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Subsoil in Trench 2. Similar to subsoil in Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5</i>
(2003)	Firm yellowish-brown silty clay; moderate manganese flecks, occasional Roman pottery. Below (2002). Overlies (2006) (2007).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Layer sealing Roman features - very ephemeral and seen adjacent to features only</i>
(2004)	Hard red brown clay silt with patches of green marl, flecks of manganese and occasional slabby stone. Present over full area of T2; cut by [2005], [2008]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Natural in Trench 2</i>
[2005]	Cut; sub-circular; measured 1.08m x 0.20m; sides near vertical, base flat. Animal disturbance at eastern side. Cuts (2003), filled by (2006)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut for shallow pit.</i>
(2006)	Firm dark brown silt clay; frequent charcoal, occasional burnt stone, frequent Roman pottery (no animal bone). Below (2003), fill of [2005].
INTERPRETATION	<i>Fill of shallow Roman pit; rich in domestic refuse.</i>
(2007)	Firm grey brown mottled clay/ash; frequent charcoal flecks, burnt stone & manganese flecks, moderate pottery; measured 1.26m x 0.23m. Underlies (2003), fills [2008]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Fill of shallow Roman pit, rich in domestic refuse</i>
[2008]	Cut; circular/sub-circular (extending beyond section to W); measured 1.26m x 1.04m x 0.23m; sides steeply sloping sides, base undulating, rounded. Cuts (2003), filled by (2007).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut for shallow pit. Appeared to be curving inwards so thought unlikely to be ditch terminus.</i>
(2009)	Firm, mottled brown silty clay; frequent manganese flecks, modern/post-medieval finds; measured 1.3m x 0.80m x 0.18m. Below (2002), fills (2010).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Fill of animal burrow</i>
[2010]	Irregular 'cut' of animal burrow

8.2 Trench 5

(5001)	Firm but friable mid dark greyish-brown silty clay agricultural soil. Extends over area of trench to 0.25m deep. Overlies (5002)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Topsoil; identical deposit present in Trenches 1-4</i>
(5002)	Firm reddish-brown clay silt; manganese flecks; extends across the entire excavated area of Trench 5 to 0.2m deep. Underlies (5001), overlies (5003), seals (5004).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Subsoil in Trench 1. Similar to subsoil in Trenches 1-4</i>
(5003)	Hard red brown clay silt; patches of green marl, flecks of manganese & occasional slabby stone. Present over full area of T5; underlies (5002), cut by [5005], [5007].
INTERPRETATION	<i>Natural in Trench 5</i>
(5004)	Compact mid brown silt clay, darker brown patches; frequent small flecks of charcoal, occasional pottery. Fill of ditch [5005]. Underlies (5002)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Domestic waste rich fill of Roman ditch</i>
[5005]	Cut; linear; N-S aligned; >1.5m x 0.54m x 0.17m. Peters out to N, though present in N section. Filled by (5004), cuts (5003).
INTERPRETATION	<i>N-S aligned ditch - possible continuation of [1014].</i>
(5006)	VOID
[5007]	Cut; irregular (SE corner of Trench 5); sides gently sloping, base rounded; measured >0.3m x 0.5m x 0.16m. Cuts (5003), filled by (5008)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Possible feature, although may also be a hollow in natural. Extends outside trench.</i>
(5008)	Firm reddish-brown clay silt; frequent manganese flecks. Indistinguishable from (5002)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Fill of diffuse feature or possible subsoil slumping into hollow in natural</i>

9 Appendix 2 Pottery table

Dr Jane Timby

A total of 321 sherds, weighing 2.926 kg with an MNR of 20 were recovered during the evaluation phase of the project including a single sherd of CG samian, catalogued by J. Timby. This material was subsequently assessed by P. Mills and J. Evans as part of the final site assemblage following full excavation; it was not included in the quantitative part of their assessment but was qualitatively referred to as appropriate. The evaluation pottery catalogue is reproduced with a fabric concordance in the following table

Context	Fabric	Equivalent	Form	Wt	No	Rim	Comment
2006	AMP	A01		26	1	0	
1004	DORBB1	B01	dish	32	1	2	
1006	LIME	C00		4	1	0	
1011	MALREB	C22	jar	59	11	1	
5002	MALREB	C22		6	2	0	
5004	MALREB	C22		6	1	0	
2006	GROG	E00?		2	1	0	
2003	GABTR1C	F00	C8	7	0	1	
2006	OXIDFCC	F00		8	2	0	
1006	OXIDCC	F06	CUP	2	0	1	as C56 black int slip
1006	MALREB	G44	jar	67	77	1	
2006	MALREB	G44		19	4	0	
2007	MALRT	G44	bowl?	65	17	1	voids
1004	SVWOX	O20	jar	80	10	1	
1006	SVWOX	O20	jar	146	19	1	
1011	SVVWOX	O20	tankard	89	2	1	
2003	SVWOX17	O20		75	5	0	
2003	SVWOX	O20		75	6	0	
2006	SVWOX	O20		126	8	0	
2007	SVWOX	O20	car bowl	171	18	1	
5002	SVWOX	O20	tankard	43	6	1	
5002	SVWOX	O20	jar	6	0	1	
5004	SVWOX	O20		41	4	1	
1006	GYMISC	R00		5	1	0	
5004	SVWRE17	R00		64	4	0	
1004	SVWRE17	R20	stor jar	135	2	1	Glos TF17
1006	SVWRE17	R20	jar	176	25	1	
1006	SVWRE17	R20		10	1	0	
1011	SVWRE17	R20		393	18	0	
1011	SVWREGR	R20		128	2	0	
2006	SVWRE17	R20		123	15	0	
2007	SVWRE17	R20	car bowl	138	1	3	

2007	SVRE17	R20		244	20	0	
3000	SVWRE17	R20	stor jar	144	7	1	
5002	SVWRE17	R20		203	27	0	
1006	SAVGT	R71		7	1	0	
1004	LEZSA	S20		1	1	0	

10 Appendix 3 Assessment of vertebrate remains

*Dr Deborah Jaques
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Kingston-upon-Hull*

Details of the vertebrate material recovered from the evaluation, by context, can be found in Table 3. Approximately one third of the remains were identifiable, with those of *caprovids* the most commonly occurring. Probable cattle tooth enamel fragments provided the bulk of the identified remains from (2007), with the unidentified component being burnt fragments, most of which represented medium-sized mammals. Vertebrate remains from (5004) were also mainly unidentified, with medium-sized mammal shaft fragments being most common. A single *caprovid* maxillary third molar was identified.

Contexts (1004), (1006) and (1011) gave larger and more diverse assemblages, with horse, cattle, *caprovid* and pig remains identified. As seen from some of the Roman deposits from the excavation phase, mandibles, particularly of *caprovid* (1011), and isolated teeth (1004) and (1006) were prevalent. Split cattle humerus (1006) and metapodial (1011) fragments were noted, possibly indicating marrow extraction. Small burnt fragments were recovered from both (1006) and (1011).

Context	Context description	Date	Total fragments
(2007)	Fill of shallow Roman pit, rich in domestic refuse	-	34
(5004)	Domestic waste rich fill of Roman ditch	-	11
(1004)	Fill of ditch [1005]; contained frequent Roman waste material dumped in discrete areas.	-	12
(1006)	Fill of Roman ditch [1007]	-	63
(1011)	Heavily disturbed charcoal-flecked fill of Roman ditch [1012] containing pottery and animal bone.	-	50

Species		2007	5004	1004	1006	1011	Total
<i>Equus f. domestic</i>	horse	-	-	1	-	-	1
<i>Sus f. domestic</i>	pig	-	-	-	2	-	2
cf. <i>Bos f. domestic</i>	?cow	19	-	-	-	-	19
<i>Bos f. domestic</i>	cow	-	-	3	2	8	13
Caprovid	sheep/goat	1	1	1	11	11	25
Unidentified		14	10	7	48	31	110
Total		34	11	12	63	50	170

11 Appendix 4 Palaeoenvironmental Assessment

*Dr Carrie Drew
Archaeological Services
University of Durham*

11.1 Summary

11.1.1 The project

This report presents the results of palaeoenvironmental assessment of six bulk samples taken during archaeological works at Western Way Dymock Gloucestershire.

The works were commissioned by Border Archaeology, and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

11.1.2 Results

A small assemblage of charred botanical remains was present, comprising cereal grains, hazel nutshell and low quantities of weed seeds. Pottery fragments, bone and fired clay were also present in the samples, indicative of domestic waste.

11.1.3 Recommendations

No further analysis is required for the plant macrofossils due to their low numbers and poor preservation. If additional work is undertaken at the site, the results of this assessment should be added to any further palaeoenvironmental data produced.

The flots should be retained as part of the physical archive of the site. The residues were discarded following examination.

11.2 Project background

11.2.1 Location and background

Archaeological works were conducted by Border Archaeology at Western Way Dymock Gloucestershire. This report presents the results of palaeoenvironmental assessment of six bulk samples comprising the fills of ditch and pit features of Roman origin.

11.2.2 Objective

The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the palaeoenvironmental potential of the samples, establish the presence of suitable radiocarbon dating material, and provide the client with appropriate recommendations.

11.2.3 Dates

Samples were received by Archaeological Services on 11th July 2013. Assessment and report preparation was conducted between 23rd July and 27th August 2013.

11.2.4 Personnel

Assessment and report preparation was conducted by Dr Carrie Drew. Sample processing was by Cameron Clegg and Stephanie Piper.

11.2.5 Archive

The site code is **WWD13**. The flots and finds are currently held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University awaiting collection. The charred plant remains will be retained at Archaeological Services Durham University.

11.3 Methods

The bulk samples were manually floated and sieved through a 500 μ m mesh. The residues were examined for shells, fruitstones, nutshells, charcoal, small bones, pottery, flint, glass and industrial residues, and were scanned using a magnet for ferrous fragments. The flots were examined at up to x60 magnification for charred and waterlogged botanical remains using a Leica MZ6 stereomicroscope. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997). Habitat classifications follow Preston *et al.* (2002).

Selected charcoal fragments were identified, in order to provide material suitable for radiocarbon dating. The transverse, radial and tangential sections were examined at up to x600 magnification using a Leica DMLM microscope. Identifications were assisted by the descriptions of Schweingruber (1990) and Hather (2000), and modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University.

The works were undertaken in accordance with the palaeoenvironmental research aims and objectives outlined in regional resource assessments (Webster 2007).

11.4 Results

All of the samples contained fragments of pottery, with unburnt or calcined bone also present in many of the samples. Low quantities of charcoal, clinker/cinder and coal/coal shale were also noted. The identified charcoal species were oak and hazel. Small numbers of uncharred seeds including bramble, elder, goosefoots, buttercup, thistles and nettles were present in the samples. The non-waterlogged nature of the site and the presence of modern roots suggest that these are recent intrusions.

Charred plant macrofossils were noted in three of the six samples (1006, 1011 and 2006). These remains include hazel nutshell fragments in all three samples. Context (2006) also contained four indeterminate cereal grains, a wheat grain and a grass caryopsis and context (1006) contained a vetch seed and a wheat glume base.

Material suitable for radiocarbon dating is available for three of the samples (1011, 2006 and 2007), although there may be insufficient weight of carbon for contexts (1011) and (2006). The results are presented in Appendix A.

11.5 Discussion

The presence of low quantities of charred plant remains, calcined and unburnt bone, fired clay and pottery fragments indicates the remains of domestic waste. While few charred plant macrofossils were recovered from the samples, the macrofossil assemblage present indicates that wheat was one of the crops used at the site during the Roman period. The few cereal grains were in poor condition, with many of them exhibiting puffing and pitting, possibly as a result of intense heat (Boardman & Jones 1990). The poor condition of the grains and the general absence of diagnostic chaff prevented further differentiation of the species present. Charred fragments of hazel nutshell from (1006), (1011) and (2006) suggest wild-gathered foods were also utilised at the site.

11.6 Recommendations

No further analysis is required for the plant macrofossils due to their low numbers and poor preservation. If additional work is undertaken at the site, the results of this assessment should be added to any further palaeoenvironmental data produced.

The flots should be retained as part of the physical archive of the site. The residues were discarded following examination.

11.7 Sources

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11.8 Appendix A: Data from palaeoenvironmental assessment

Sample		1	3	4	5	6	7
Context		1006	2006	1011	1004	2007	5004
Feature		boundary ditch	pit	ditch terminus	ditch	pit	ditch
Material available for radiocarbon dating		-	(✓)	(✓)	-	✓	-
Volume processed (l)		18	17	9	9	19	8
Volume of flot (ml)		40	140	70	30	180	80
<i>Residue contents</i>							
Bone (burnt)	indet. frags	-	-	+	-	-	-
Bone (calcined)	indet. frags	(+)	++	+	-	(+)	+
Bone (unburnt)	indet. frags	++	+	++	-	-	++
Charcoal		-	+	-	-	-	-
Fired clay		-	+	(+)	-	+	+
Pot (number of fragments)		9	17	3	1	15	3
Tooth	animal enamel	+	+	-	-	++	-
<i>Flot matrix</i>							
Bone (calcined)	indet. frags	(+)	-	(+)	(+)	(+)	-
Bone (unburnt)	indet. frags	-	-	++	-	-	+
Charcoal		+	++	+	-	++	-
Clinker / cinder		+	-	-	-	(+)	+
Coal / coal shale		(+)	-	+	-	+	(+)
Earthworm egg case		(+)	-	-	-	-	-
Heather twigs (charred)		-	-	-	-	-	(+)
Insect / beetle		-	-	-	-	(+)	-
Roots (modern)		-	+++	++	+	++	++
Shell (freshwater / terrestrial)		(+)	-	-	-	-	-
Uncharred seeds		(+)	(+)	+	(+)	(+)	-
Uncharred vegetative material		-	-	-	-	-	(+)
<i>Charred remains (total count)</i>							
(c) Cerealia indeterminate	grain	-	4	-	-	-	-
(c) <i>Triticum</i> sp (Wheat species)	glume base	1	-	-	-	-	-
(c) <i>Triticum</i> sp (Wheat species)	grain	-	1	-	-	-	-
(t) <i>Corylus avellana</i> (Hazel)	nutshell frag.	1	2	2	-	-	-
(x) Poaceae undiff. >1 mm (Grass family)	caryopsis	-	1	-	-	-	-
(x) <i>Vicia</i> sp (Vetches)	seed	1	-	-	-	-	-

[c-cultivated; t-tree/shrub; x-wide niche

(+): trace; +: rare; ++: occasional; +++: common; ++++: abundant

(☐) there may be insufficient weight of carbon available for radiocarbon dating]

12 Appendix 5 Assessment of metalworking debris

David Starley

12.1 Summary

Archaeological investigations produced a total of c. 1.6kg of metalworking debris. Assessment showed that all diagnostic material derived from the smelting of iron using a slag tapping furnace consistent with the Roman date of most archaeological features on the site.

12.2 Excavation background

Dymock has an abundance of evidence for Romano-British settlement, lying on a Roman Road, but with evidence of continued occupation through the Anglo-Saxon and medieval period (Williams 2008), although no finds or features from this excavation are considered to be of medieval date.

Material examined in this assessment represents the entire assemblage of bulk finds recovered from the archaeological investigation. The debris had been washed prior to being seen by the assessor.

12.3 Methodology

The material was bulk slag were visually examined and classified into the standard categories based on those used by the former English Heritage Ancient Monuments Laboratory. Visual observation of the exterior was supported by examination of fresh fracture surfaces, the use of a geological streak plate and magnet.

Some visually categorised types of slag are diagnostic, providing unambiguous evidence for a specific metallurgical process. At Dymock, the only industry identified in this way was iron smelting. However, other material is less clear as to its process of origin. Depending on the level of inference, this was classed as un-diagnostic ironworking debris or possible metalworking waste. Some of this might derive from another activity, such as iron smithing, but without unambiguous evidence for such an activity, it would seem most likely that the bulk of this, at least, is also the waste product of iron smelting.

12.4 Results

Context	Trench	Slag type	Mass (g)	Comments	Provisional Phase
(1004)	1	Dense slag	970		Roman
(1004)	1	Undiagnostic ironworking slag	480		Roman
(1006)	1	Cinder	25		Roman
(1006)	1	Undiagnostic ironworking slag	105		Roman
		Total	1580		

13 Appendix 3 Magnetometer and Earth Resistance Survey Report

PLEASE REFER TO ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Report title: Archaeological Field Evaluation of Land at Western Way Dymock Gloucestershire		Report Ref: BA1123LWWD	
Draft report written by	Katherine Crooks BA		
Reported edited by	George Children MA MifA		
Issue No.	Status	Date	Approved for issue
1	Final	June 2013	Neil Shurety

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