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COUNTY COUNCIL

*The completion of the post-excavation
analysis and reporting of archaeological
evaluation and excavation at*

**Greet Road
Winchcombe
Gloucestershire**

Project Number 6476MAIN

Paul Nichols

with contributions by
Ian Baxter, Alan Clapham, Hilary Cool, Malin Holst
Jon Hoyle, Jane Timby and Felicity Wild



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Author:	Paul Nichols Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service Shire Hall GLOUCESTER GL1 2TH
Contributors:	Ian Baxter, Alan Clapham, Hilary Cool, Malin Holst, Jon Hoyle, Jane Timby and Felicity Wild
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Summary

The following report comprises the post-excavation analysis of archaeological investigations at Greet Road, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, adjacent to and within the scheduled monument of the Romano-British Villa, 170m southwest of Winchcombe School, SM 21700 (OS NGR 402464 229206 and OS NGR 402357 229341, Fig 1).

The report includes the analysis of the results of an excavation undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service between November 2007 and March 2008. The report also reviews the results of a geophysical survey undertaken by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy in March 2009 and an archaeological evaluation undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services in April and May 2009 on the adjacent site which has since been designated as a scheduled monument (SM number 21700)

The site produced evidence for several phases of middle to late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement. Initial Iron Age activity was characterized by small scale ditched enclosures. These were superseded by a larger ditched enclosure, interpreted as a typical late prehistoric farmstead type settlement. Recurrent ditch alignments and the presence of grog-tempered pottery suggest an element of continuity from the late Iron Age to the early Roman period. In the mid 2nd century AD parts of the site were terraced to create level platforms for a series of buildings, with evidence for reordering and rebuilding into the early 3rd century. At least some of these buildings had stone foundations with ceramic tiled roofs, opus signinum floors and painted walls, but the lack of evidence for features associated with grander Roman villas, such as hypocausts and mosaics, suggests that this was a less well-appointed villa or farmstead. The pottery assemblage shows that the site was in decline by the second half of the 3rd century and that it had been abandoned by the 4th century. Later activity relates to the agricultural use of the site, in the form of medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, some of which had truncated the Iron Age and Roman features

1 Introduction

Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS) were commissioned by English Heritage to carry out a project known as *The completion of the post-excavation analysis and reporting of archaeological evaluation and excavation at Greet Road, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire*.

An archaeological excavation and a programme of archaeological monitoring were carried out by GCCAS to the rear of 56-70 Greet Road between November 2007 and March 2008 (in the following report this area is referred to as Area A). The works were commissioned by David Payne Homes Ltd, as a requirement of a planning condition, prior to the construction of a housing development (Tewkesbury Borough Council planning ref: 05/11668/1551/OUT). The excavation was carried out in line with the requirements of the brief issued by the Senior Archaeological Officer of Gloucestershire County Council (Parry 2007). Specific requirements for the excavation and watching briefs were detailed in the project design (Vallender 2007). The work was in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001 and 2008). GCCAS is an Institute for Archaeologists, Registered Organisation (IfA RO 42).

Prior to the completion of the post-excavation analysis the developer and funding body David Payne Homes Ltd were declared bankrupt and the analysis was halted.

In 2009 prospective developers of the field to the north of the GCCAS excavations were advised that archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to assess the extent and significance of the presumed continuation of the archaeological remains already identified. A geophysical survey was undertaken by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy in March 2009 and evaluation trenching was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) in April and May 2009 (in the following report this area is referred to as Area B). An unusually well preserved stratified sequence was identified and was of sufficient importance for the site to be recommended for designation by Gloucestershire County Council. The site was subsequently scheduled as a Romano-British Villa (SM 21700).

In September 2012 GCCAS put forward a proposal for the completion of the post-excavation analysis of the 2007-8 excavation and a review of the results of the evaluation to the north, in order to create a more complete statement of the character and significance of the archaeology of the site as a whole. The proposal was accepted by English Heritage and a project design, outlining the scope of the project, was produced in March 2013 (Nichols 2013).

The archive from the GCCAS excavation will be deposited with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, under accession number CAGM 2008.26.

2 Site location, topography and geology (Figs 1 and 2)

Winchcombe lies in northern Gloucestershire about 10km to the north-east of Cheltenham, at the foot of the Cotswold escarpment and in the southern, upper part of the Isbourne Valley. The Greet Road site is located at the northern edge of Winchcombe. The excavation area (Area A) was within the former rear gardens of eight properties (numbers 56-70) fronting Greet Road, centred on OS NGR 402464 229206. Following the completion of the housing development this area was named Chedworth Drive. The evaluation took place within two cultivated fields to the north (Area B), bounded to the north by agricultural land, to the east by Greet Road, to the west by Gretton Road, and to the south by housing fronting onto Greet Road, Gretton Road and Godwin Road, centred on OS NGR 402357 229341. The topography of the site comprises ground sloping from a high point of c.108m AOD, at the western edge of the evaluation area, towards Greet Road, which lies at a height of c.93m AOD. The underlying solid geology comprises mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2013); a natural geology of mid yellow-brown Lias clay was recorded during the excavation and a mottled orange-brown to grey clay during the evaluation.

3 Background to the project

3.1 There have been a number of phases of archaeological work at Greet Road, Winchcombe (NGR 402464229206), undertaken by three separate archaeological organisations, and all in response to development proposals.

3.1.1 110 Archaeology (GHER 29076)

Outline planning applications were made to Tewkesbury Borough Council for housing development to the rear of 56-70 Greet Road in 2005 and 2006. Given the evidence recorded in the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (GHER) for Roman activity in the vicinity the GCCAS planning adviser recommended that archaeological evaluation should be undertaken prior to the determination of the applications. The evaluation was undertaken in February 2007 by 110 Archaeology who were commissioned by CgMs Consulting (CgMs Consulting and 110 Archaeology 2007). Seven trenches were excavated and a pit containing Romano-British pottery and building material, an undated ditch and a gully containing a single sherd of medieval pottery were recorded. Plough furrows from medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow were also recorded across the site.

3.1.2 Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (Area A; GHER 30058)

The results of the evaluation were reviewed by the Senior Archaeological Officer of Gloucestershire County Council and it was recommended to the local planning authority that a condition should be attached to any planning permission given for development on this site to secure mitigation of the archaeological impact. Accordingly a condition was attached to the planning permission (TBC ref: 05/11668/01551/OUT, condition no 17), and a brief for archaeological excavation was subsequently issued.

GCCAS field team were commissioned by the developer (David Payne Homes Ltd) to undertake an excavation in advance of the housing development to the rear of 56-70 Greet Road. The work was undertaken between November 2007 and March 2008. Evidence for middle and late Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval to early post-medieval activity was recorded. Following preliminary post-excavation assessment the developer was declared bankrupt and the post-excavation analysis was not completed. This report details the completion of the post-excavation analysis.

3.1.3 John Moore Heritage Services (Area B; GHER 33712)

In 2009 prospective developers of the field to the north of the GCCAS excavations were advised that archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to assess the extent and significance of the presumed continuation of the archaeological remains already identified.

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy in March 2009 which identified ditches, enclosures, pits and other features consistent with the presence of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement remains and confirming that the archaeological site excavated to the south continued into this area (Bartlett 2009).

In April and May 2009 thirty evaluation trenches were excavated by John Moore Heritage Services revealing evidence for middle to late Iron Age and Romano-British activity.

The sequence identified during the evaluation was complex and difficult to interpret in detail given the limited amount of excavation undertaken. The unusually well preserved stratified sequence was, however, of sufficient importance for the site to be recommended for designation by Gloucestershire County Council and it was subsequently scheduled as a Romano-British Villa (SM 21700).

The post-excavation analysis of this evaluation has been completed and a typescript report produced and submitted to the Gloucestershire HER (Hammond *et al* 2009). The archive has been deposited with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum under Accession Number CAGM 2009.68.

3.2 Scheduled Monument (SM 21700)

The eastern part of the evaluation area (Area B) was assessed as being of national importance by the English Heritage Designation Team and was scheduled as *Romano-British villa 170m south-west of*

Winchcombe School, Greet Road, Winchcombe, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire (SM 21700; see Fig 1). Key to the assessment of significance was the presence on the site of not only two phases of Roman activity (possibly a villa, with well-preserved structural remains) but also earlier, Iron Age, activity. This stratified sequence, including Iron Age settlement sealed by Roman terracing and buildings, is extremely unusual in a rural context in Gloucestershire, where the majority of such sites have been adversely affected by subsequent cultivation; where Iron Age - Roman sequences exist they are more usually truncated with no remaining vertical stratigraphy.

4 GCCAS excavation (Area A; GHER 30058)

4.1 Archaeological work commenced on 28th November 2007 and continued until 7th March 2008. This comprised two distinct episodes of archaeological intervention. Immediately after the demolition of the dwellings at numbers 62 and 64 Greet Road, a watching brief was undertaken to monitor the grubbing up of the foundations and the clearance of the gardens to the rear of the remaining properties. No archaeological deposits were encountered during this work. Following this the main excavation commenced.

4.2 The area of excavation comprised the whole of the new development site measuring approximately 100m by 60m. The site was stripped down to the level of the natural clays by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, the machine being under constant archaeological supervision.

4.3 A series of deep plough furrows were present across the site (Fig 2), orientated from east to west, within which were laid a number of later land drains. Where possible machine excavation followed the contour of the furrows in order to expose the natural clays and any underlying archaeology. This resulted in undulating levels, particularly across the northern portion of the site. However, for much of the site it was not possible to remove the furrows entirely due to the presence of the live land drains. The Senior Archaeological Officer agreed that they should be left in place and these areas were only machine excavated to a level just above the land drains.

4.5 Previous evaluation of the site (CgMs Consulting and 110 Archaeology 2007) had not accounted for the undulating levels of the surviving natural resulting from the plough damage, and the trenches tended to have been excavated deeper than the base of the furrows. This resulted in truncation of archaeological deposits in the northern-most portion of the site during the evaluation.

4.6 Following machine stripping the whole of the excavation area was cleaned, photographed and then planned at a scale of 1:50. The sampling levels set out in the brief stated that 100% of deposits relating to ritual and funerary deposits, floor surfaces and domestic/industrial activity should be excavated and that 50% of pits and post holes and 20% of linear features should be excavated. All excavation of features was by hand.

4.7 The single context recording system was used, and each cut and deposit was given an individual context number and recorded on a pro-forma context sheet. Individual cuts were planned at a scale of 1:50 and cuts and deposits were drawn in section or profile at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was compiled of all deposits, consisting of black and white prints and digital images. The Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Survey Datum were used for recording purposes.

4.8 Results of the excavation

4.8.1 The results of the excavation are outlined below. In the text cut numbers are shown in square brackets [] and fill, deposit and structure numbers are shown in rounded brackets ().

4.8.2 The natural geological deposit (11), consisting of a mid yellow-brown clay, was encountered at a depth of between 0.39m and 1.25m below ground level, a height of between 94.43m and 100.51m AOD. The archaeological deposits consisted of features cut into the natural substrata, along with stone-walled structures and evidence for a terrace deposit overlying earlier features. The archaeological features had been truncated by ploughing and later activity, consequently no ground surfaces associated with the archaeological features had survived.

4.8.3 In some cases the cutting of furrows and land drains had caused significant disturbance to the archaeological levels, resulting in a lack of clarity. However, despite this and some contradictions between the ceramic and stratigraphic phasing, 56 features dating to four periods were recorded (Fig 3). Twenty-eight features dated to the mid to late Iron Age, three features were of late Iron Age/early Roman date, 17 features dated to the Romano-British period and a single feature was tentatively dated to the Anglo-Saxon period. Seven features were undated, but are most likely to relate to the Iron Age or Romano-British activity. In addition 12 furrows, derived from medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity, were present across the site. Aside from the furrows, the archaeological deposits were concentrated in the northern part of the site. The features are discussed by period below.

4.8.4 Middle to late Iron Age (Fig 4)

The earliest features recorded on site dated to the middle to late Iron Age. A total of 28 features of this date were recorded comprising 16 linear ditch or gully features, nine pits and three post holes. Several phases of Iron Age activity are represented as evidenced by inter cutting features and the identification of two ceramic phases. The Iron Age features are described below in sequence, based on ceramic and stratigraphic phasing.

4.8.4.1 Middle to late Iron Age: Ceramic Phase 1

The ceramic sequence (Timby 6.1, below) suggests that the earliest features (Ceramic Phase 1) were ditches [33] and [44] and pits [71], [131] and [152]. Two undated ditches, [31] and [46], running parallel to ditches [33] and [44], are likely to have been contemporary, as is a pit, [74], adjacent to pit [71].

Parallel ditches [31] and [33] were orientated north north-east to south south-west, c.1m apart and measured at least 6m in length with widths of between 0.27m and 0.6m and depths of between 0.14m and 0.22m. The continuation of ditches [31] and [33] to the south was unclear due to the presence of a Roman ditch [5/105], a furrow and an evaluation trench, but they may have continued as a second set of parallel ditches, [44] and [46].

Ditches [44] and [46] were also orientated north north-east to south south-west, c.0.8m apart and measured at least 12m in length with widths of between 0.25m and 0.9m and depths of between 0.12m and 0.48m (Figs 7.3 and 7.4). Both were cut by Iron Age ditch [85] and by Roman ditch [48].

Pit [71] measured 0.7m in diameter and 0.27m in depth and had a smaller, intercutting pit, [74], on its western side, 0.55m in diameter by 0.21m in depth, which may have been part of the same feature. Pit [131] was considerably larger, 2.8m by 1.5m and 0.24m deep, but was heavily truncated by Iron Age ditch [129] and Roman ditch [120]. Pit [152] measured 0.3m in diameter by 0.2m in depth and was cut to the south by ditch [80]. The pits produced noticeably more pottery than the ditches, with 42 sherds from pit [71] and 63 sherds from pit [152].

4.8.4.2 Middle to late Iron Age: Ceramic Phase 2

Features which fall into Ceramic Phase 2 comprise ditches [103], [92], [16], [51/101], [115/116], [129], [154] and [158], post hole [7] and pits [159] and [167]. Ditch [122] produced no dateable finds, but appeared to be related to ditch [92]. Ditch [156] was a probable re-cut of [158] and these features are also described here, as are two undated post holes, [9] and [61], which are associated with post hole [7].

Stratigraphically ditches [103] and [92] are earlier than ditches [51/101] and [115/116]. Ditch [103] was orientated north north-east to south south-west and measured 1.3m in width and up to 0.84m in depth, but was only visible for a length of c.4m between the terminals of ditches [51/101] and [115/116] and was also cut by Roman ditch [5/105].

L-shaped ditch [92] measured between 1.6m and 0.3m wide and up to 0.45m deep and was orientated north north-east to south south-west, turning at the southern end to run east south-east to west north-west. A probable related ditch, [122], merged with the north north-east to south south-west section of ditch [92] and may have represented a later phase of activity. Ditch [92] was cut by Iron Age ditch [51/101] and Roman ditches [120] and [5/105]. Ditch [92] also cut [107], a heavily truncated feature, presumably of Iron Age date.

Ditch [16] was orientated north to south and measured at least 6m in length, 0.8m in width and up to 0.43m in depth. The feature was truncated by Roman ditch [5/105] and by a furrow and cut undated ditch [18].

Ditches [92] and [16] may have formed three sides of an enclosure, although ditch [5/105] and a furrow truncated the features at the point at which they would have joined. Assuming ditches [92] and [16] were part of the same feature, they would have enclosed an area measuring at least 15m from north north-east to south south-west and between 15m and 18m from east south-east to west north-west.

Ditches [51/101] and [115/116] were orientated north north-east to south south-west and comprised two ditch terminals either side of a 3.4m wide entrance (Figs 7.1 and 7.2). Ditch [51/101], to the south of the entrance, measured at least 30m in length by 5m in width and up to 1.6m in depth and contained a series of fills suggesting slumping of the ditch sides as well as deliberate infilling. Ditch [115/116], to the north, measured at least 10m long by 4.7m wide and up to 1.8m deep and had a double-ditched profile with a series of shared fills. Both terminals cut ditch [103] and ditch [51/101] also cut ditch [92]. Ditch [51/101] was cut by Roman ditch [48] and by a series of furrows, and was probably also cut by late Iron Age/early Roman ditch [80/85] although this could not be established due to truncation by one of the furrows. Ditch [51/101] had also been identified in an evaluation trench (CgMs Consulting and 110 Archaeology 2007), where it was recorded as a large pit. Ditches [51/101] and [115/116] were interpreted as the south-eastern boundary of an enclosure which extended to the north and west and which was recorded in the geophysical survey and evaluation to the north.

Curvilinear ditch [129] measured 11m in length by 1.7m in width and 0.5m in depth and produced a relatively large assemblage of pottery, including a semi-complete vessel, dating to Ceramic Phase 2. Four joining fragments from a human skull were also retrieved from the feature. The feature cut pit [131] and was in turn truncated by several later features: late Iron Age/early Roman ditch [139] and Roman ditches [120] and [169]. A possible terminal [141] appears to be a continuation of ditch [129] on the eastern side of [139].

Ditches [154] and [158] were orientated east south-east to west north-west and measured at least 19m in length with widths of between 0.27m and 1.5m and depths of between 0.1m and 0.3m (Fig 7.6). A third ditch, [156], on the same alignment is likely to have been a re-cut of [158]. These ditches followed the slope of the ground and formed part of a series of parallel ditches along with ditches of potential late Iron Age/early Roman date (in the case of [165]) and Roman date (in the case of [163], [169] and [120]), which lay to the immediate south. The shared alignments of these features could suggest a level of continuity between the late Iron Age and early Roman periods. However, it should be noted that dating evidence from [154] and [158] was limited to ten Iron Age sherds making their dating to Ceramic Phase 2 tentative and the potential that the Iron Age finds were residual cannot be ruled out.

The post hole and two pits dated to Ceramic Phase 2 were similarly limited in terms of ceramic finds. Post hole [7], on the western side of the site, and truncated by Roman ditch [5/105], measured 0.2m in diameter by 0.13m in depth. Two undated post holes, [9] and [61], of a similar size, may have formed an east west alignment with post hole [7]. Pit [159] cut ditch [158] and was in turn cut by Roman ditch [163] and was 1.03m in diameter by 0.8m in depth. Pit [167] was c.2m to the south of [159], was truncated by ditch [165], and measured 0.58m in diameter by 0.36m in depth.

4.8.4.3 Middle to late Iron Age: other features

Features [39], [56], [89] and [148/150] date more broadly to the Iron Age on ceramic grounds. Two undated ditches, [18] and [107], of probable Iron Age date, were cut by Ceramic Phase 2 features and are also described here.

Ditch [39] was orientated east-west, measured at least 23m in length by 1.6m in width and was 0.15m deep. The feature was heavily truncated and its continuation to the west was obscured by a tree bole and a furrow. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was retrieved from the feature making dating tentative and it is possible that it was actually later in date and contemporary with, for example, late Iron Age/early Roman ditch [80] or Roman ditches [48] and [5/105] which were on the same alignment.

Pit [56] measured 1.12m in diameter by 0.4m in depth. Pit [89] was a very shallow, roughly square, feature measuring 1.48m by 1.42m and 0.1m in depth and may have been the remnants of a truncated ditch rather than a pit. A burnt deposit (91), interpreted during excavation as a possible hearth, was

recorded below cut [89], but may have actually been a fill within the feature. Pit [148/150] measured 1.1m by 0.65m and up to 0.72m in depth

Ditch [18] was orientated north-west to south-east and measured at least 2.8m in length and 0.5m in width. Although the feature was undated it was cut by Ceramic Phase 2 ditch [16] to the north-west and was presumably also of Iron Age date. The continuation of the ditch to the south-east was unclear.

4.8.5 Late Iron Age/early Roman: Ceramic Phase 3 (Fig 4)

The evidence for a late Iron Age/early Roman transition phase at Greet Road is limited. Ceramic evidence suggests that three features, ditches [80/85], [78/139] and [165], may be of this date, although quantities of pottery are small and stratigraphic evidence for [165] is somewhat inconclusive.

Ditch [78/139] was orientated north north-east to south south-west and measured at least 22m in length by up to 2m in width and 0.6m in depth. The feature appeared to terminate at the northern end, to the immediate north of the point at which it was truncated by Romano-British ditch [120]. To the south the feature was truncated by a furrow and its continuation to the south of Romano-British ditch [48] was not established. Ditch [78/139] was also cut by ditches [80/85], [82] and [5/105] and cut Iron Age ditch [129/141].

Ditch [80/85] ran the length of the site, on an east south-east to west north-west alignment, and measured at least 53m in length by 1.3m in width and up to 0.54m in depth. The ditch cut Iron Age ditches [44], [46] and [51/101], although the latter relationship was obscured by one of two furrows which truncated [80/85]. The ditch also cut pit [152] and ditch [78/139]. Ditch 80/85 ran parallel to Roman ditches [5/105] and [48] and this shared alignment may be further evidence for continuity.

Ditch [165] was orientated east south-east to west north-west and measured at least 19m in length by 1.2m in width and 0.8m in depth (Fig 7.6). The ditch was parallel with both a series of Iron Age ditches ([154], [156] and [158]) and a series of Romano-British ditches ([163], [169] and [120]) and this shared alignment may support the case for continuity. However, although ditch [165] was cut by [163] its relationship with ditch [169] was less clear and a later date for ditch [165] than that suggested by the pottery cannot be ruled out.

4.8.6 Romano-British (Fig 5)

As with the Iron Age features, evidence of Romano-British activity was confined to the northern half of the site. Seventeen features of this date were recorded comprising 11 ditches, two pits, a terrace deposit, two phases of a building and a possible hearth feature. A number of distinct phases of Romano-British activity were present and three ceramic phases have been identified. Features from Ceramic Phase 4, dating to the later 1st century AD, included ditch [48] and a series of parallel ditches [163], [120] and [169]; Ceramic Phase 5, dating to the 2nd century AD, included ditches [133], [135] and [5/105] and pits [87] and [161], as well as terrace deposits (40) and (41) and features cut into the terrace, comprising ditches [19] and [27] and foundation cuts [21] and [23], for walls (20) and (22); Ceramic Phase 6, of 2nd to later 3rd century AD date, comprised a single deposit (24). The features are described below chronologically, based on stratigraphic and ceramic phasing.

4.8.6.1 Romano-British: Ceramic Phase 4

Ditch [48] ran the length of the site on an east south-east to west north-west alignment, cutting Iron Age ditches [44] and [51/101]. The feature measured at least 53m in length by 1.1m in width and up to 0.4m in depth. Two ditches, [80/85] and [5/105], dating to Ceramic Phases 3 and 5, respectively, were parallel with ditch [48] and whilst this shared alignment may suggest continuity it is equally possible that all three ditches were contemporary and dated to the 2nd, rather than the 1st, century AD.

Parallel ditches [163], [120] and [169] were orientated east south-east to west north-west (Fig 7.6). Ditch [163] measured at least 26m in length by 1.5m in width and up to 0.7m in depth and cut features [158], [159] and [165]. It also cut pit [161] which produced slightly later pottery. Ditches [120] and [169] measured at least 17m in length with widths of 1m and 1.5m and depths of up to 0.43m and 0.6m, respectively. Ditch [120] cut features [92], [129] and [139]. Ditch [169] also cut feature [129], but had an unclear stratigraphic relationship with ditch [165], to the north, which dated to Ceramic Phase 3. To the east south-east ditches [120] and [169] appeared to continue as ditches [144] and [146], neither of

which contained dating evidence. However, both [144] and [146] cut ditch [133], which was tentatively dated to Ceramic Phase 5 (see below). Ditches [163], [120], [169], [144] and [146] were also parallel with a series of Iron Age ditches ([154], [156] and [158]) and late Iron Age/early Roman ditch [165], perhaps reflecting continuity of use from the late Iron Age into the Roman period.

4.8.6.2 Romano-British: Ceramic Phase 5

Curving ditch [133] measured 15m in length by up to 0.75m in width and 0.25m in depth and at its western end joined ditch [135] which was at least 5m in length, 0.4m wide and 0.25m in depth. The amounts of pottery from the two features were small, so their dating to Ceramic Phase 5 is tentative and the fact that they were cut by several features, including ditches [144], [146] and [5/105], could suggest that they are earlier in date. The two ditches were interpreted as having formed a possible enclosure, with ditch [133] curving around the southern and eastern sides and linear ditch [135] forming the western side.

Ditch [5/105] was orientated east south-east to west north-west and extended across the excavated area, measuring at least 56m in length by up to 2.4m in width and 0.8m in depth (Fig 7.5). It cut a number of Iron Age and earlier Roman features, including ditches [16], [92], [103], [139] and [133] and Ceramic Phase 5 pit [87]. Ditches [80/85] and [48] of Ceramic Phases 3 and 4, respectively, were parallel with ditch [5/105] and whilst this could be evidence for late Iron Age/early Roman continuity it is possible that all three ditches were contemporary and dated to the 2nd century AD.

Two pits, [87] and [161], were dated to Ceramic Phase 5. Pit [87] measured at least 1.3m in diameter and 0.42m in depth and was cut by ditch [5/105]. Pit [161] measured at least 0.9m by 0.6m and 0.7m in depth and was cut by ditch [163] (Fig 7.6). The latter was thought, from ceramic evidence, to be of later 1st century AD date, but the fact that it cut [161] may suggest it dated to the 2nd century.

The latest phase of activity dated to Ceramic Phase 5 comprised the terrace deposits and features cut into the terrace (Fig 6), all of which were at the northern edge of the site, extending beyond the limit of excavation. The terrace covered an area measuring 26m by 8.5m and was made up of deposits (40) and (41), which were up to 0.56m in depth, becoming shallower where they met the higher ground to the west. Pottery suggests a Trajanic-Hadrianic date for the deposit. Two ditches and two phases of a building were cut into deposits (40) and (41) and the terrace appears to have been deliberately created as a level surface for construction.

The earliest phase of construction comprised a rectangular stone-walled building (22) (foundation cut [23]) on a north-south/east-west alignment enclosing an area of 4.2m east to west and at least 4.1m north to south. A rubble foundation, 0.6m wide and up to 0.4m deep, was present on the eastern and southern sides. The western wall appears to have been demolished and the foundation partially robbed of stone, leaving mortar rich deposit (77). Following this demolition the building was reordered and an extension was constructed to the west, extending the building by at least 9m. The extension comprised an east-west orientated wall (20) (foundation cut [21]) with a shallower but more substantially built foundation, measuring 0.35m in depth and utilizing limestone blocks laid at a 45 degree angle. A probable hearth (84) was recorded within the interior of the earliest building. Pottery from the earliest phase of construction dates to the mid 2nd century. A fragment of vessel glass from foundation cut [21] was of a type most likely to have been in use during the later 2nd to 3rd centuries and may date the reordering of the building.

Two ditches, [19] and [27], were recorded to the south and east of the building. These ditches may have enclosed the first phase of the building, but ditch [19] was cut by wall (20) and must have been filled in prior to the building's extension. Ditch [19] measured at least 18m in length by up to 1.2m in width and 0.4m in depth and contained a large assemblage of mid 2nd century pottery along with a Polden Hill brooch and a lunate harness pendant of similar date. Ditch [27] measured at least 8m in length by 1.4m in width and 0.7m in depth and was orientated approximately north-south, parallel with the eastern wall of building (22). Like ditch [19], ditch [27] had a large ceramic assemblage dating to the mid 2nd century.

4.8.6.3 Romano-British: Ceramic Phase 6

A single deposit, (24), which sealed the features on the terrace, was dated to Ceramic Phase 6 (2nd to later 3rd century) and may represent activity on this part of the site after the buildings went out of use.

4.8.7 Anglo-Saxon: Ceramic Phase 7 (Fig 5)

A single sherd of Saxon pottery (Ceramic Phase 7) was the only dating evidence recovered from ditch [63], in the north-western corner of the site and, although the evidence is limited, this may suggest a phase of post-Roman activity on the site.

4.8.8 Medieval/ post-medieval (Figs 2 and 3)

Medieval and post-medieval activity was apparent throughout the site in the form of furrows derived from a ridge and furrow field system. Twelve furrows were recorded in total, following an approximate east to west orientation, and those at the north end of the site had truncated the earlier archaeological features. Ridge and furrow has been recorded on the same alignment across the fields to the north and west of the site during the English Heritage National Mapping Programme.

4.8.9 Modern

Modern activity on the site relates to its use as farmland, as evidenced by the land drains exposed during the excavation, and the site's later use as the back plots of the gardens fronting onto Greet Road. There was little evidence of modern truncation in the northern part of the site, probably as a result of the deep subsoils. Further to the south, where the subsoils were more shallow, several modern features were recorded resulting from rubbish disposal, tree planting and fence lines.

4.8.10 Undated features (Fig 4)

A number of features had no dateable finds and no obvious relationships with other features, although they are most likely to have related to either the Iron Age or Romano-British settlement.

A pit, [14], and two post holes, [59] and [65], were recorded in the north-west corner of the site. The pit was irregular in shape and measured 1.2m by 0.7m and 0.38m in depth. The post holes were between 0.18m and 0.28m in diameter and between 70mm and 0.17m in depth and may have been associated with an alignment of three post holes, [7], [9] and [61], one of which contained Iron Age pottery.

Two other post holes, [35] and [137], were recorded to the south of ditches [39] and [129], respectively, and a further post hole, [124], which was originally thought to be a continuation of ditch [122], was recorded on the southern side of ditch [5/105]. Post holes [35] and [137] had diameters of 0.28m and 0.42m and depths of 0.12m and 0.33m. Post hole [124] was 0.53m in diameter by 0.38m deep.

A section of curving ditch [82] was undated, but cut late Iron Age/early Roman ditch [78/139] and was most likely to have been Romano-British in date. The feature was aligned approximately east-west and measured at least 12m in length by 1.5m in width and 0.2m in depth. It was truncated to the west by a furrow.

5 Review of the results of the 2009 evaluation (Area B) (Fig 8)

In 2009 archaeological evaluation comprising geophysical survey and trenching were undertaken, by John Moore Heritage Services and Bartlett-Clark Consultancy, within the two fields to the north of the GCCAS excavation (Area B). The results of this work have been reviewed in relation to the features recorded in Area A and are summarised below. The identification of archaeological features from the geophysical survey was hampered by the presence of later agricultural activity while the sequence identified during the trenching was complex and difficult to interpret in detail given the limited amount of excavation undertaken. Therefore, when compared to the conclusions drawn from the excavation, those drawn from the evaluation will inevitably be more limited.

Features in both the geophysical survey and evaluation were concentrated on the eastern side of Area B, and particularly in the southern field.

The earliest activity recorded was the apparent continuation of the Iron Age enclosure ditch, [51/101] and [115/116], from Area A, to the south. Geophysical survey recorded anomalies on an east south-east to west north-west and a north north-east to south south-west alignment forming two further sides of the enclosure. Two parallel evaluation trenches (23 and 23A) intersected these anomalies and,

although a complex sequence of archaeology was identified, both trenches appeared to contain large features on the line of the enclosure ditch ([23/20] and [23A/28]). One of these features, [23A/28], was in excess of 13m in width and it seems likely that this was actually the intersection of multiple features, the Iron Age enclosure being cut by later ditches, possibly including the continuation of ditches [154], [156], [158], [163], [165], [169] and [120]. The evaluation produced very little Iron Age pottery, but a single middle Iron Age sherd was retrieved from the earliest recorded fill of feature [23A/28] and shell-tempered ware came from another ditch [23/05], inside the enclosure. The two parallel ditches of the enclosure were between 52m and 54m apart and although the south-western extent of the enclosure is unknown, it is possible to say that the interior covered an area of at least 0.25ha.

Gilbert (Hammond *et al* 2009) speculated that the Iron Age enclosure may have had a defensive or ritual function. However the evidence for this, and especially the latter, is tenuous and the enclosure would seem to have more in common with small household-sized enclosures, which are a common feature of mid to late Iron Age settlement in the region (Moore 2006, 69).

Evidence for other Iron Age features was limited and this was no doubt partly due to the masking of early features by buried soils and later features of Roman date. A possible double enclosure, identified from geophysical survey, was attributed to the Iron Age and although dating evidence was not conclusive, with just two Iron Age sherds from a feature in Trench 24, the enclosure was on a similar alignment to the Iron Age enclosure formed by ditches [92] and [16] recorded in Area A. If this enclosure was of Iron Age date it could be suggested that there were a series of these smaller enclosures pre-dating the large enclosure ditch.

Buried soils and terrace deposits were recorded over much of the south-eastern part of Area B (Trenches 21, 22, 25, 26, 27 and 28). The excavators made a distinction between the two deposits: the buried soils were thought to seal the Iron Age features and were interpreted as late Iron Age/early Roman agricultural soils, which were cut by all the Roman features; the terrace deposits were interpreted as a deliberate leveling of the ground in limited areas prior to construction of buildings. The terrace deposits recorded in Area A did not appear to extend into Area B (they were not present in the nearest evaluation trench, Trench 24) and on the basis of this evidence it was suggested that each building had been constructed on its own individual terrace. Whilst this may have been the case, and does seem to apply to the building recorded in Area A, further investigation would be required to confirm that this layout was consistent across the evaluated area. The terrace deposits recorded in Area B were broadly dated to the mid 2nd century AD, although some may have dated to as late as the mid 3rd century. The latest pottery from the terrace in Area A was of Trajanic-Hadrianic date (98-138 AD), and these deposits may therefore have been slightly earlier than those to the north.

Geophysical survey identified five dense concentrations of magnetic disturbance, possibly representing structures, in association with negative linear anomalies, which may represent wall lines. The evaluation verified the presence of structures in three of these areas (Trenches 22, 25 and 26) and structural evidence was recorded in a further four trenches (Trenches 11, 21, 27 and 28). With the exception of magnetic disturbance and a possible wall recorded in Trench 11 the structural evidence was concentrated in the eastern half of the southern field, corresponding with the areas of terracing. There was no evidence for the continuation of the wall identified in Area A into Area B, although it almost certainly extended into this area, and a trench located closer to the field boundary would have no doubt picked this up.

The layout of the Roman buildings is difficult to establish. The negative geophysical anomalies suggested walls on the same north-south and east-west alignment as the walls recorded in Area A. Whilst some of the walls recorded in the evaluation were on this same alignment (one in Trench 22, almost on the line of a linear geophysical anomaly, one in Trench 25 and two in Trench 26) the majority were not. The excavators acknowledged that, due to later activity including robbing and the limited exposure of wall lines within trenches, the recorded alignments were not necessarily accurate, but there is also evidence for more than one phase of building and the differing wall alignments may reflect multiple phases of construction.

The features identified in Trenches 25 and 26 were interpreted as the remnants of a main building and here there was evidence for at least two phases of construction; earlier walls robbed of stone; and floor surfaces which had apparently suffered subsidence, had been in-filled with rubble and re-surfaced. The evaluation report interprets this as a major phase of rebuilding, suggesting, from the presence of a possible post pad, that much of the second phase may have been in wood. However, there is little

evidence to support this interpretation and the rebuilding may have been no more than a re-ordering of existing structures similar to that seen in the building recorded in Area A, to the south.

The extent of the building complex, the contemporaneity of the buildings and their status are open to question. With the exception of the magnetic disturbance and a possible wall recorded in Trench 11 the buildings are located in the eastern half of the southern evaluation field and on the very northern edge of Area A, an area of approximately 115m north to south and 90m east to west. There is insufficient evidence to say whether this was one complex, but the large area over which the buildings were spread may suggest two or three distinct groups of buildings rather than a single establishment. Pottery from the terrace deposits recorded in Area B suggests that the earliest buildings here were constructed in the mid 2nd century and that construction may have continued into the 3rd century. This suggests a degree of contemporaneity with the structures in Area A where the terraces dated to the Trajanic-Hadrianic period (98-138 AD) and pottery from the earliest wall, and the ditches adjacent to it, dates them to the mid 2nd century.

At least some of the buildings had features which may suggest a relatively high status. The buildings displayed a number of characteristic villa features, with those in Areas A and B having stone walls and evidence for ceramic tiled roofs and some buildings in Area B having *opus signinum* floors and walls decorated with painted plaster. However, the lack of evidence for features such as mosaics and hypocausts suggests a less well-appointed villa or a farmstead

In addition to the buildings a number of ditches dating to the Romano-British period were recorded in the geophysical survey and evaluation and at least some appear to either form ditched enclosures or to define trackways. None of the ditches recorded in Area A can be seen to obviously continue into Area B, although some of the series of ditches ([154], [156], [158], [163], [165], [169] and [120]) recorded below the terrace in Area A may be present in Trenches 23 and 23A, cutting the Iron Age enclosure ditch.

A series of parallel north-south orientated ditches were recorded by geophysics on the eastern side of Area B and may have formed a series of trackways, possibly defining the eastern extent of the settlement. The clearest pair of parallel ditches was recorded in Trench 29, where one ditch contained pottery of mid to late 1st century date, and these ditches would have defined a trackway of approximately 8m in width. Spreads of stone recorded in Trenches 13 and 28 were interpreted as deposits used to consolidate soft ground and these could have been associated with the trackway.

Enclosure plans could be seen most clearly in the northern evaluation field. An enclosure measuring 35m east to west and at least 42m north to south, with early 2nd to late 3rd century pottery was recorded in Trenches 13 and 14 and an L-shaped anomaly, in Trench 12 to the south, on a similar alignment, may have been an extension of this enclosure. A third enclosure with a narrower ditch was recorded in Trenches 6 and 7. These features appear to be contemporary with the buildings and are most likely to have been fields or stock enclosures, suggesting that the main function of the Roman settlement was an agricultural one.

6 The finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material by Jane Timby with a report on the samian by Felicity C. Wild

6.1.1 Introduction and methodology

The GCCAS excavation in Area A resulted in the recovery of some 1,692 sherds of pottery weighing 22kg accompanied by a small quantity of briquetage (salt container), fired clay and ceramic building material. Most of the pottery dates to the middle to later Iron Age and early Roman periods, with a small amount of later Roman and a single Saxon sherd.

The assemblage was sorted into fabric groups based on the quantity and type of inclusion in the fabric and by firing colour and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context (Table 1). Where relevant sherds were coded using the National Roman reference series (Tomber and Dore 1998) or the Gloucester City type fabric series. The data was entered onto as MS Excel spreadsheet, a copy of which is deposited with the site archive.

Pottery was recovered from 57 individual contexts, mainly fills from ditches. The assemblage was of very mixed condition. The nature of much of the material, handmade, low fired, well-tempered ware, makes it very friable with a predisposition to crumble. There is thus a mixture of very small sherds with a few larger pieces and clearly in a few cases numerous sherds from single large vessels. The mixture is reflected in the overall average sherd size of 13g.

In the following report the fabrics and associated forms are briefly described followed by a review of the potential of the group both locally and regionally.

Table 1: Quantified pottery by fabric

	Fabric	Description	No	No %	Wt	Wt %	EVE	EVE%
Iron Age/ Native	SHELL1	coarse fossil shell tempered	318	36.1	5063	45.1	100	27.6
	SHELL2	finer fossil shell and other matter	72	8.2	459	4.1	6	1.7
	LIME1	oolitic limestone-tempered	11	1.2	71	0.6	0	0.0
	ORFE	organic and iron-tempered ware	6	0.7	61	0.5	0	0.0
	GROG	Gloucester TF 2A-C	92	10.4	2308	20.6	37	10.2
	MAL REA	Malvernian rock-tempered	153	17.4	1425	12.7	59	16.3
	MAL REB	Palaeozoic-limestone ware	229	26.0	1841	16.4	160	44.2
Total			881	100.0	11228	100.0	362	100.0
Import	LGF SA	South Gaulish samian	16	2.0	96	0.9	24	1.8
	LEZ SA	Central Gaulish samian	13	1.6	95	0.9	68	5.2
	MDV SA	Les Martres de Veyre	10	1.2	79.5	0.7	29	2.2
	CNG CC	Central Gaulish colour-coat	4	0.5	11	0.1	23	1.8
	BAT AM	Baetican amphora	2	0.2	407	3.8	0	0.0
	AMP	South Spanish amphora	1	0.1	21	0.2	0	0.0
	AMOLID	amphora lid	1	0.1	6	0.1	18	1.4
Regional	DOR BB1	Dorset black burnished ware	219	27.0	3215	29.6	370	28.3
	MAH WH	Mancetter-Hartshill whiteware	1	0.1	20	0.2	0	0.0
	OXF OX	Oxfordshire oxidised ware	1	0.1	40	0.4	17	1.3
	OXF WH	Oxfordshire whiteware	3	0.4	8	0.1	5	0.4
	SAV GT	Savernake ware	7	0.9	177	1.6	3	0.2
	SOW WS	Southwest white-slipped ware	4	0.5	77	0.7	0	0.0
SVW	SVW 17	charcoal tempered Glos TF17	5	0.6	32	0.3	0	0.0
	SVW 11D	early SVW variant Glos TF 11D	19	2.3	165	1.5	36	2.8
	SVW OX	oxidised Severn Valley ware	244	30.1	3575	33.0	422	32.3
	SVW RE	reduced Severn Valley ware	49	6.0	437	4.0	31	2.4
Other local	BW	black sandy ware/ BB1 copies	12	1.5	118	1.1	27	2.1
	BWFMIC	fine black micaceous ware	8	1.0	56	0.5	6	0.5
	BWGROG	black grog-tempered ware	1	0.1	30	0.3	10	0.8
	CC	misc colour-coated ware	5	0.6	38	0.4	39	3.0
	GREY	grey sandy wares	15	1.9	256	2.4	24	1.8
	GYGROG	grey grog-tempered	14	1.7	219	2.0	11	0.8
	GYF	fine grey ware	70	8.6	1267	11.7	109	8.3
	MAL RO	Malvernian Roman ware	2	0.2	33	0.3	0	0.0
	MORT	miscellaneous mortarium	1	0.1	67	0.6	0	0.0
	OXID	misc oxidised ware	8	1.0	84	0.8	27	2.1
	WSOXID	white-slipped oxidised ware	2	0.2	41	0.4	0	0.0
	WW	whiteware	1	0.1	38	0.4	0	0.0
	MISCSY	miscellaneous sandy	18	2.2	83	0.8	7	0.5
	OO	crumbs	54	6.7	52	0.5	0	0.0
Total			810	100.0	10844	100.0	1306	100.0

6.1.2 Description of fabrics and associated forms

6.1.2.1 Iron Age – early Roman native wares

Pottery belonging to the Iron Age phases broadly divides into five ware groups; fabrics with fossil shell or limestone tempering of Jurassic origin; fabrics with Malvernian igneous rock; those containing Palaeozoic limestone; organic tempered with ironstone and grog-tempered wares.

Jurassic fossil shell-tempered (SHELL1): a moderately hard black or brown ware containing a sparse to moderate frequency of coarse fossil shell, with fragments up to 6-8 mm in length. Vessels are handmade and generally quite thick-walled with simple rims (Fig. 9. 1-2, 8-9). Some sherds are sooted from use. This is quite a common fabric accounting for 18.8% count, 22.9% weight of the total assemblage and 45.1% by weight of the Iron Age assemblage.

Jurassic fossil shell and limestone-tempered (SHELL2): A generally dark brown ware with a black inner core. Smooth soapy feel with quite a soft fabric. The paste contains a sparse to moderate frequency of ill-sorted fossil shell with limestone and other fossiliferous detritus with rare rounded grains of iron. Fragments range from very fine up to 7 mm linear. Vessels are handmade and include one piece with incised decoration (Fig. 9.4).

Oolitic-limestone-tempered (LIME1): A fairly soft, brown fabric with a black core and interior surface. The paste contains a moderate to common frequency of very fine oolitic limestone, mainly as discrete ooliths but with rare conglomerated up to 3 mm in size. Occasional fragments of calcite are also visible at x 20 magnification. Vessels include globular bodied jars and beaded rim jars (Fig. 9.13).

Organic and ironstone-tempered ware (ORFE). A red-brown to mid brown ware with a brown interior and dark grey core. The finely micaceous clay contains sparse linear voids, a sparse to moderate frequency of ill-sorted, round quartz sand up to 1 mm in size and less and rare angular ironstone inclusions up to 5 mm across. Handmade, moderately thick-walled (9 mm) vessels. No featured sherds.

Palaeozoic limestone-tempered ware (MAL RE B) (Peacock 1968, Group B1). A distinctive limestone-tempered ware originating from May Hill, the Malvern Hills, or the Woolhope Hills. The latter is suspected as the most likely source at present (Morris 2005a, 119). This fabric accounts for 13.5% by sherd count of the total assemblage but only 8.3% weight. Featured sherds include various jars with everted, bevelled or rolled rims (Fig. 9.6, 7, 10, 12, 14). Some vessels are burnished. Two sherds are decorated; one with impressed S (duck) -stamps identical to the Malvernian rock-tempered examples (Fig. 9.5) and one with simple impressions (Fig. 9.7).

Malvernian rock-tempered ware (MAL RE A) (Peacock 1968, fabric Group A). A distinctive fabric containing weathered fragments of metamorphic and igneous rocks which originate from the Malvern Hills. Vessels in this ware account for 9% by count, 6.5% by weight of the total recovered assemblage. Vessels are mainly jar forms. Two sherds from ditches [15/11] and [129] have S (duck)-stamped decoration. One vessel has an angular moulded rim (Fig. 9.3) but most are simple tubby-shaped jars (Fig. 9.23) and simple everted rim forms (Fig. 9.15). One sherd from ditch [51] has internal residue.

Grog-tempered wares (Gloucester TF 2A-2C). Handmade, smooth soapy ware, variously black or brown containing grog. Mainly features as jars dating from the early 1st century AD continuing into the early Roman period including two rims from large wide-mouthed hammer-rim jar/bowl types. A single beaded rim bowl (Fig. 9.28) came from ditch [19] and one jar from ditch [19] has a sooted exterior. This ware is quite well represented contributing 5.4% to the total assemblage by count and 20.6% of the Iron Age assemblage.

6.1.2.2 Continental imports

6.1.2.2.1 Samian ware by Felicity C. Wild

The site produced 39 sherds of samian ware, badly fragmented and in small pieces, from a maximum of 19 vessels. The degree of fragmentation is perhaps best illustrated by the ten sherds of South Gaulish decorated bowl (No. 1 below), which were scattered between the fills of the linear features [5], [105] and the adjoining pit [87].

Origins and forms were as follows:

South Gaulish: 30, 37, 27 (2), 18 (2)

Central Gaulish (probably all Les Martres-de-Veyre): 37, 27, 18 (3), 18 or 18/31, cup

Central Gaulish (probably all Lezoux): 37, 33 (2), 18/31, 18/31R or 31R, 38

The group is too small for reliable statistics, but on the evidence of the above, decorated ware amounted to 21% of the total assemblage, a high proportion for a rural site, if the statistics are to be believed. The earliest samian ware to reach the site was Flavian. By this time, town dwellers as well as

the military were accustomed to its use, and its appearance on a rural site would not be surprising. The main samian-using period was clearly the first half of the 2nd century AD, with the bulk of the Central Gaulish material dating to the Trajanic-early Antonine period. The latest pieces from the site, forms 33, 18/31R or 31R and 38, are likely to date to around the middle of the 2nd century. If the present assemblage is typical of the site as a whole, it might appear that by the later 2nd century samian ware was barely reaching the site, if at all.

The decorated ware (Fig 11)

Figure types are quoted from Oswald 1936-37 (O.)

1. Form 37, South Gaulish. Ten sherds of a bowl, fragmented and flaked on both surfaces. Panels show a pair of gladiators (O.1020, O.1022), satyr (O.597) in one case over a hound (O.2004), in another over a stylised grass tuft, and Diana with hind (O.104B). A sherd of ovolo with trident tongue, not joining, but similarly flaked, clearly belongs to the same bowl. The style is that of Biragillus of La Graufesenque, who used both the ovolo and the various types. The ovolo, Diana and grass tufts all appear on a bowl with his mould-signature (Mees 1995, Taf. 11, 3), the hound, gladiator (O.1020) and satyr on bowls with his stamps (*ibid.*, Taf. 12, 1, 2, 4 respectively). c.AD 90-110. (6), (88), (104), (147)

2. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Small bowl showing panels with a medallion containing the hare (O.2116) and a festoon (Rogers 1974, F37). The row of small circles replacing the ovolo occurs on work in the style of X.13. A sherd from London (Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pl. 45, 521) shows the circles, festoon and similar medallion. The hare also occurs on his style (*ibid.*, pl. 48, 571). X13 worked at Les Martres-de-Veyre c.AD 100-120, then moved to Lezoux, where he was at work during the AD 120s. The present piece is likely to be from Les Martres-de-Veyre. There is a small sherd from an unstratified context from the same bowl. c.AD 100-20. (12), U/S

Catalogue by context

Fill of ditch [5]:

Form 37, South Gaulish. Seven sherds, four joining, but probably all from the same bowl (No. 1 above). c.AD 90-110. (6) (147)

Fill of pit [87]:

Form 37, South Gaulish. Another sherd from the same bowl. c.AD 90-110. (88)

Fill of ditch [105]:

Form 37, South Gaulish. Two more sherds from the same bowl, including an ovolo. c.AD 90-110.

Form 33, Central Gaulish. Three non-joining sherds, probably all from the same cup.

The form is typically Antonine and the cup likely to date to the mid-2nd century AD. (104)

Deposit (24):

Form 37 base and form 18, both South Gaulish and Flavian.

Form 37, Central Gaulish. Two chips, with most of the decoration missing. Too little survives for certain identification, but probably not from No. 2 above. Probably Hadrianic or early Antonine.

Scrap of unstamped cup base, Central Gaulish, in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre.

Trajanic or Hadrianic.

Forms 18 and 18 or 18/31, Central Gaulish, both probably in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic or Hadrianic.

Fill of ditch [19]:

Form 18 and two non-joining fragments of form 27, South Gaulish, Flavian or Trajanic.

Form 37, Central Gaulish, from Les Martres-de-Veyre (No. 2 above). c.AD 100-120.

Form 27, Central Gaulish, from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Four joining fragments. Trajanic or Hadrianic.

Form 18, Central Gaulish, from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Rims probably from two different dishes. Trajanic or Hadrianic.

Form 33, Central Gaulish, Antonine. (12)

Fill of ditch [27]:

Form 27 and a rim sherd of form 30 showing an incomplete ovolo. Both South Gaulish and Flavian. (29)

Form 18/31, Central Gaulish, probably Hadrianic. (28)

Cut for wall for the extension of stone building [21]:

Form 18/31 R or 31R, Central Gaulish. Two non-joining sherds, but probably from the same dish. Antonine.

Unstratified:

Form 37, Central Gaulish (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Small sherd with circles replacing the ovolو, from No. 2 above.

Form 38 flange, Central Gaulish, Antonine.

6.1.2.2.2 Other continental imports

Central Gaulish colour-coated ware (CNG CC2) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 53). A beaker with barbotine decoration consisting of 'hairpin' and overlapping 'teardrop' motifs (Fig. 9.25) was recovered from ditch [19] and a sherd with roughcast decoration from ditch [27]. The style of the former is characteristic of Flavian-Trajanic beakers.

Baetican amphora (BAT AM) (ibid, 84). Just two bodysherds were recovered.

South Spanish amphora. A single bodysherd with pale whitish surface and pale pinkish orange sandy textured sherd came from ditch [19].

Amphora lid. A fragment of an *operculum* was recovered from layer (24) (Fig. 9.19).

6.1.2.3 Regional imports

Dorset black burnished ware (DOR BB1) (ibid, 127). This ware was quite well-represented at 12.9% of the total assemblage by count, 27% of the Roman component. Most of the vessels are characteristic of the 2nd century including jars with acute lattice or diagonal burnished line decoration (Fig. 10.29), flat-rim bowls and dishes (Fig. 10.30-2) and several lids (Fig. 10.33) including a knob from ditch [19]. Two flanged-rim bowl sherds came from deposit (24) more typical of the later 3rd-4th century. Overall on the basis of rim estimated vessel equivalents (EVE), jars account from 37.3% of the DOR BB1 assemblage, bowls/dishes for 41% and lids for 21.6%

Mancetter-Hartshill whiteware (MAH WH (ibid, 189). A single mortarium sherd came from deposit (24).

Oxfordshire wares (OXF OX; OXF WH) (ibid, 174). A small group limited to a single sherd of oxidised ware and two of white ware. The oxidised ware is a flanged bowl with white-painted arcading (Fig. 9.20). The white ware includes a copy of a Dr 30 bowl (Fig. 9.27) and a bowl sherd with orange-red painted arcading; the latter two sherds came from ditch [19].

Savernake ware (SAV GT) (ibid, 191). Seven sherds all from large jars.

Southwest white-slipped ware (SOW WS) (ibid, 192). Four unfeatured sherds.

6.1.2.4 Local wares

Severn Valley ware (oxidised) (SVW OX) (ibid, 148-9). A total 244 sherds of standard SVW OX were recorded, 30.1 % by count of the Roman assemblage. Vessels mainly include carinated cups (Fig. 9.22), tankards and jars. A further 49 sherds occur in the reduced variant (SVW RE) with further examples of jars and tankards. In addition there are four sherds of the charcoal-tempered variant (Gloucester TF 17) typical of earlier assemblages and 19 sherds of the earlier grog- and /or organic-tempered, occasionally black surfaced variant (TF 11D) including a simple cup (Fig. 9.16).

Various sandy wares: *black* (BW); *grey* (GREY) and *oxidised* (OXID). A total 53 sherds of sandy ware of unknown provenance were recorded. These included black ware copies of BB1 forms which might originate from the Worcestershire region and black and grey sandy copies of platters (Fig. 9.21, Fig. 10.34). The oxidised wares include a collared flagon (Fig. 9.17) and a bowl with a cordon neck (Fig. 9.18). This latter vessel resembles early North Wiltshire oxidised ware.

Fine black micaceous ware (BWF). A small group of eight sherds which includes one bowl sherd with an *in-situ* lead rivet.

Black and grey grog-tempered wares (BWGROG; GYGROG). A small group of a single black grogged beaded rim jar (Fig. 9.11) and 14 sherds of grey grogged ware. These sherds resemble similar wares from the Wiltshire region in the early Roman period.

Miscellaneous colour-coated ware (CC). Five sherds from three vessels of unknown provenance but probably British. Three sherds come from a roughcast cornice-rim beaker (Fig. 9.26) with a matt red-brown colour-coat. Similar sherds have been documented from the Worcestershire region. One sherd from deposit (24) comes from a flanged hemispherical bowl.

Fine grey ware (GYF). A moderately large group of material including jars with rusticated (Fig. 9.24) and barbotine decoration and beakers including some with barbotine dots. Again this ware is quite common in the Worcestershire region suggesting a relatively local source.

Miscellaneous mortarium (MORT). A single internally abraded pale orange mortarium sherd containing rare calcareous inclusions, sparse fine quartz (both clear and iron-stained grains) fine mica and rare dark orange ferruginous inclusions. Unstratified.

White-slipped oxidised ware (WSOXID). Two sherds in a fine dark orange oxidised ware with a thin white slip were noted. This fabric greatly resembles Gloucester TF 7 made in Gloucester largely in flagon forms in the 1st and early 2nd centuries.

Whiteware (WW). A single, wide, four-rib flagon handle in a sandy white ware was recovered from ditch [19]; source unknown but probably British.

6.1.2.5 Forms

Table 2 summarises the main forms. Coarse ware jars dominate the group at 52.3% EVE followed by bowls and dishes at 20.9%. Collectively samian table wares (bowls, dishes and cups) contribute 7.3%. Drinking vessels are also quite well represented at 11.7%, over half of which are tankards, but flagons are quite poorly represented. Lids form 5% of the assemblage and are almost exclusively DOR BB1 apart from the one amphora lid. Mortaria and amphorae do not feature at all in terms of rim EVEs and, although present in terms of bodysherds, are very minor parts of the assemblage.

Table 2: Quantified pottery by form

	Form	EVE	% EVE
Tableware	dish	75	4.5
	bowl	20	1.2
	cup	26	1.6
Dispensing	flagon	37	2.2
Drinking	cup	13	0.8
	beaker	67	4.0
	tankard	115	6.9
Storage	jar/large bowl	13	0.8
Cooking/serving	jar	875	52.3
	bowl/dish	349	20.9
	lid	83	5.0
Total		1673	100.0

6.1.3 Phasing and site distribution

The pottery assemblage appears to span the middle to later Iron Age through to the mid-later 2nd century with sporadic later material. Precise dating of the start of occupation based on the pottery alone is problematical as close dating of middle to late Iron Age pottery in Gloucestershire is still rather approximate and may be better understood when the Beckford assemblage is published. A further problem lies in the size of the groups at Winchcombe which are generally quite small. As noted by Morris (2005a, 136) any later prehistoric ceramic phasing has to be based on an established minimum

quantity of material, which she calculated as 25 sherds. Seven ceramic phases have been defined here (Ceramic Phases 1 to 7).

On ceramic grounds the earliest features at Winchcombe appear to be those exclusively containing Jurassic fossil shell-tempered wares. The vessel forms are simple, undecorated slack-sided jars. Features which fall into Ceramic Phase 1 include ditches [33] and [44] and pits [71], [131] and [152]. Ditch [139] also contained a single shell-tempered sherd, but this may be redeposited as the ditch cut curvilinear ditch [129] which has a more mixed assemblage and is thus theoretically later. Ditch [33] also yielded a single sherd and ditch [44] just nine sherds. The pits were more productive with 42 sherds including two jar rims from [71] (Fig. 00. 8); just five sherds from [131] but 63 sherds, including three rims, from pit [152].

Stratigraphically the following group of features (Ceramic Phase 2) appears to be those containing Jurassic wares with sherds of Malvernian rock-tempered ware (MAL REA) and / or Palaeozoic limestone (MAL REB). The sites at Conderton Camp, Worcestershire (Morris 2005a), Aston Mill Farm, Kemerton (Dinn and Evans 1990) and Beckford (forthcoming) have all been subjected to ceramic phasing based on the relative proportions of local (Jurassic series material) versus regional (Malvernian and Woolhope series) wares. The quantities are small at Winchcombe but features belonging to this second phase include ditches [103], [92], [51/101], [115], [154], [158] and [16]; curvilinear ditch [129] and pits [7], [159] and [167].

Ditch [103] cut by ditches [51/101] and [115/116] produced just three shelly wares and one tiny sherd of MAL REA but ditch [92] produced 40 sherds including two ironstone and organic-tempered sherds, shelly wares and the Malvernian wares. Also present is a single DOR BB1 piece, presumably intrusive. Ditch [16], perhaps part of the same feature as [92], produced seventeen shelly wares, three of MAL REB and one MAL REA.

Ditch [51] produced 59 shelly wares, 62 MAL REB (Fig. 9.6-7) and three sherds of MAL REA along with a fragment of loom-weight, to which can be added a further four sherds of shelly ware and 23 sherds of MAL REB from cut [101]. Opposing ditch terminal [115/116] produced 14 shelly wares, 19 MAL REB and 23 sherds of MAL REA. One of the latter sherds had S-impressed decoration. Curvilinear ditch [129] also produced quite a large assemblage with 88 shelly wares, 56 MAL REA and a single sherd of MAL REB. The group includes three decorated pieces (Fig. 9.3-5) and one semi-complete vessel (Fig. 9.1). Sherds are moderately large with an average weight of 16g. Much less material came from ditch [158] with just seven sherds and ditch [154] with three sherds from a tubby MAL REA jar. Pits [7] and [159] produced one and two sherds of MAL REB respectively and pit [167] eight sherds of MAL REB.

Pit [56] could belong to the earliest, or a subsequent phase, as it produced just four sherds of fabric FEOR. Pit [89] is also similarly less easy to phase as this produced a single fragment of briquetage.

Ceramic Phase 3 embraces those features containing grog-tempered sherds with any of the above wares. At most sites in Gloucestershire where there is a late Iron Age/early Roman transition there is clear evidence of an increasing presence of grog-tempered wares from the early 1st century AD along with 'proto' Severn Valley wares. Although the quantities are small, ditches [80/85], [139] and [165] appear to fall into this phase.

The fourth ceramic phase includes Roman wares proper and is likely to date to the later 1st century AD. This includes ditches [48], [120], [163] and [169]. Native pre-Roman wares still dominate in most cases but are accompanied by wheel made Severn Valley wares including the early variants, black and grey grog-tempered ware, black sandy ware and Savernake ware. The largest group came from ditch [120] with 59 sherds including four beaded rim jars.

Ceramic Phase 5 is the largest pottery assemblage dating to the 2nd century with some 821 sherds, 48.5% of the total assemblage. At least 19% of this comprises residual pre-Roman native wares (SHELL, GROG and MAL REB). Ditches belonging to this group include ditch [5/105] which produced 84 sherds weighing 1012g. The latest samian is dated to the Hadrianic or Antonine period. Dorset BB1 accounts for 22.6% of the group, mainly jars with acute latticing.

Curvilinear ditch [133] produced just four sherds, two Iron Age and two DOR BB1 loosely dating it to the 2nd century, whilst ditch [135] contained a single sherd of white-slipped ware, probably 2nd century.

Linear [163], which must stratigraphically predate the terrace deposits, produced just 11 sherds, mainly native wares but with a single grey ware in a brittle, sandy well-fired paste which is probably Roman.

Two pits seem to belong to this phase of activity: pit [161] dating to the later 1st or early 2nd century and pit [87] cut by linear [105] but dating to around the mid 2nd century or later. A samian sherd from this pit joins two recovered from ditch [5] and [105] respectively. The pit also contained 10 sherds of DOR BB1.

Although stratigraphically later, the deposits associated with the structures at the north end of the site contained very similar pottery to that from the other Ceramic Phase 5 features. Terrace deposit (40/41) sealing the earlier ditches produced 108 sherds weighing 1751g. There was no samian present, the latest sherds being a DOR BB1 jar and an Oxfordshire oxidised flanged-bowl with white painted decoration. This might indicate a Trajanic-Hadrianic date for this deposit which contained a few residual sherds. Cut into the terrace were ditches [19] and [27]. Ditch [19] produced a very large and quite diverse assemblage of 368 sherds, 6393g. The group includes a number of continental and regional imports, samian, Central Gaulish colour-coated ware, amphorae, Oxfordshire white ware and Dorset black burnished ware. This latter ware accounts for 21% by count and is dominated by flat-rim bowls/dishes and lids with a few jars. Most of the samian dates to the Hadrianic period with one Hadrianic/Antonine piece. Ditch [27] similarly contained quite a large assemblage of 167 sherds, 1709g but in slightly more fragmented condition with an average sherd weight of 10g compared to 17g for ditch [19]. The latest samian is probably Hadrianic and DOR BB1 makes up 18% of the assemblage by count suggesting a date of mid 2nd century onwards with examples of jars, flat-rim dishes and lids. A further sherd of Central Gaulish colour-coat beaker is also present. The two ditch assemblages are thus quite similar.

Wall foundation [23] produced eleven sherds, of which eight are probably redeposited. The latest sherd is a black micaceous ware probably of later 1st or early 2nd century date. Foundation [21] produced 47 sherds, including two sherds of Hadrianic or Antonine samian and 20 sherds of DOR BB1, which support a mid 2nd century date. The robbing (77) contained 21 sherds also of 2nd century currency.

Ceramic Phase 6 comprises exclusively the material from deposit (24) which yielded 105 sherds. Most of these are 2nd century, or earlier, but there are two pieces of DOR BB1 conical-flanged bowl dating from the later 3rd century onwards and the only piece of Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria which might also be later.

The final phase, Ceramic Phase 7, is Saxon. A single sherd of organic-tempered handmade jar was recovered from ditch [63] in the north-west corner of the site.

6.1.4 Comparison of the GCCAS (Area A) assemblage with the JMHS (Area B) assemblage

The JMHS evaluation in Area B (Hammond *et al* 2009) produced a smaller assemblage of 676 sherds (10.6kg) of pottery, mostly Roman in date. An assessment of the pottery (Booth 2009) involved the quantification of the sherds by context accompanied by notes of fabrics and forms present but not individually quantified.

The assemblage from Area B has a higher overall average sherd size of 15.6g compared to 13g from Area A but this is more likely to be a reflection of a greater Roman component in the former with better fired, more robust, wares. The GCCAS pottery assemblage appears to span the middle to later Iron Age through to the mid-later 2nd century with sporadic later material; by contrast the JMHS assemblage produced very little Iron Age material, approximately 10 sherds, and negligible 1st century finds, but shows an emphasis on wares dating from the 2nd century through to the late 3rd century. On both sites many of the groups are quite small making precise dating difficult in many cases.

On ceramic grounds the earliest features are those from Area A and appear to be those exclusively containing Jurassic fossil shell-tempered wares. The vessel forms are simple, undecorated slack-sided jars. This phase is succeeded by features containing Jurassic limestone-tempered wares with sherds of Malvernian rock-tempered ware and / or Palaeozoic limestone. The assemblage from Area B contains just one feature with fossil shell-tempered ware, a barrel-shaped jar which could potentially be middle Iron Age but also some sherds in both Palaeozoic limestone and Malvernian igneous rock-tempered ware which could be late Iron Age or early Roman. A third phase has been defined in Area A with the appearance of grog-tempered sherds with any of the above wares, which does not appear to be present in Area B.

By the early Roman period native pre-Roman wares still dominate in most cases in Area A but are accompanied by wheel-made Severn Valley wares including the early variants, black and grey grog-tempered ware, black sandy ware and Savernake ware. There are at least 17 sherds of South Gaulish samian present which are likely to be 1st century arrivals compared to just a few possible sherds from Area B. This amount of early samian is unusual on a rural site effectively accounting for 2.1% of the Roman assemblage and may indicate a more unusual aspect to the settlement such the presence of a temple for example. Although there are odd sherds of Savernake ware and early Severn Valley ware from Area B, these appear to be very sparse.

Just under half the Area A assemblage (48.5%) comes from contexts dating to the 2nd century although at least 19% of this comprises residual pre-Roman native wares. The latest samian is dated to the Hadrianic or early Antonine period. Overall Dorset BB1 accounts for 12.9% of the total Area A group compared to 25% from Area B. However, if the quantity is taken as a percentage of the Roman wares only this rises to 27% for Area A. Similarly Severn Valley wares accounted for 38.9% of the Area A Roman assemblage compared to 41.5% of the Area B group making the two assemblages very similar in fabric composition.

Other similarities are shown in the low incidence of amphorae, other continental fine ware imports and regional imports such as Oxfordshire wares. There is only a single sherd of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware and one white ware mortarium from Area B, a facet of the industry that developed from around AD 240 and none from Area A, suggesting that the settlement was in decline or abandoned in the second half of the 3rd century in both areas.

In conclusion, Area A, excavated by GCCAS, appears to show a more extended history of occupation ranging from the middle to late Iron Age through to the later 2nd to early 3rd century. Area B, evaluated by JMHS, hinted at earlier activity nearby dating to the later Iron Age or early Roman period through the presence of occasional sherds but the focus of activity appears to be in the middle of the 2nd century into the later 3rd century so perhaps slightly later than the occupation in Area A, but the evidence is quite slight. Both assemblages show a complete absence of 4th century activity.

6.1.5 Regional comparisons

Winchcombe joins an increasing number of middle to late Iron Age sites known in this region, notably Aston Mill Farm, Kemerton (Dinn and Evans 1990), Gilders Paddock, Bishop's Cleeve (Hancocks 1999), Conderton (Morris 2005a), Childswickham (Timby 2004), Dean Farm, Bishop's Cleeve (Timby 2008), Birdlip (Parry 1998), Highgate House (Timby 1999) and Guiting Power (Morris 2005b). Table 3, originally prepared for the analysis of the Dean Farm assemblage, compares the pre-Roman wares from these sites against the figures from Winchcombe. The assemblages are summarized as totals and not by individual phases thus minor chronological changes are probably masked. Geographically Winchcombe is placed mid way between Bishop's Cleeve and Guiting Power with Childswickham to the north. The fabric profile from Winchcombe is slightly different to many of the other sites shown in Table 3, in that whilst the Jurassic source wares dominate, with figures broadly comparable say to Dean Farm, it has significantly less Palaeozoic limestone-tempered ware which is compensated for by higher levels of grog-tempered ware. Malvern rock-tempered fabric levels are fairly consistent across most of the sites but markedly higher from Aston Mill and Conderton both to the west.

Radiocarbon dates associated with assemblages at Dean Farm, Highgate House and Birdlip all broadly lie between the 4th and 2nd centuries BC; all these sites share a higher proportion of Jurassic wares. This raises the question as to whether occupation at Winchcombe was continuous or whether there might be a slight hiatus in the 2nd to 1st century BC with reoccupation in the early 1st century AD. The higher levels of grog-tempered ware might support this suggestion.

Most of the sites mentioned above had subsequent continuous or intermittent Roman activity, whilst at others like Dean Farm, the focus of occupation shifted to other parts of Bishop's Cleeve. Childswickham, north-east of Beckford, was occupied from the middle to late Iron Age through to the later Roman period. The earlier assemblage comprised only some 76 sherds provisionally dated to the middle to late Iron Age. Grog-tempered wares account for 14% reflective of the later Iron Age/early Roman use of the site. The range of Roman wares at Childswickham in the early Roman period is very similar to those found at Winchcombe with a few sherds of imported fine ware and amphorae. Samian accounts for 1.8% (by count) of the Childswickham assemblage compared to 4.8% at Winchcombe which is quite high for a rural site and may indicate a more specialized role or component to the site.

Wild (above) also notes a relatively high percentage of decorated wares present. Another major difference is seen in the percentages of DOR BB1 which are quite high at Winchcombe at 27.9% of the Roman assemblage compared to just 6.1% overall at Chidswickham. Unlike Winchcombe occupation continued at Chidswickham through to the later 4th century. There does appear to be some variability in the quantities of DOR BB1 across the various sites in the areas. Distributional mapping of DOR BB1 in the region shows that levels of less than 10% would be typical (Allen and Fulford 1996, fig.1). These figures would match with those from Home Farm, Bishop's Cleeve, where occupation dated from the later 1st to early 2nd century through to the later 4th century AD and there was around 12% DOR BB1 (Timby 1998, 127). Figures from Tewkesbury are also within the expected limits where it comprised c.11% (McSloy 2008, 37).

Quantities of Severn Valley ware are slightly lower than expected at Winchcombe as such wares usually dominate the Roman assemblages of this area and, although it is the commonest single ware group, it only accounts for 38.8% weight, compared to 46% weight at Home Farm and 42% at Chidswickham. This may be a reflection of an earlier apparent date of abandonment, reflect the function/status of the site or may point to different marketing mechanisms for the two industries.

Table 3: Summary of pre-Roman pottery from selected sites in Gloucestershire and south Worcestershire by fabric

Key to sites:- DF – Dean Farm; AM – Aston Mill; GiP – Gilder’s Paddock; Ch – Chidswickham; Co – Conderton; HH – Highgate House; Bi – Birdlip (Phase 1); GuP – Guiting Power; Wi – Winchcombe

Description	DF Wt %	AM Wt %	GiP Wt %	Ch Wt %	Co Wt %	HH Wt %	Bi Wt %	GuP Wt %	Wi Wt %
Calcite tempered	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Jurassic limestone/shell	53.6	28.4	44.2	6.3	28.3	51.3	90.0	54.8	49.8
Fossil shell and grog	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Palaeozoic-limestone	29.7	9.5	46.3	73.4	17.2	41.9	10.0	43.9	16.4
Malvernian rock-tempered	12.9	43.8	7.9	10.1	49.5	1.2	0.0	0.0	12.7
Mixed inclusion with sandstone	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0
Sandy	1.0	2.0	1.4	1.3	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Quartz and clay pellets	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ferruginous ware	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grog	0.1	13.7	0.0	7.8	0.1	3.9	0.0	0.0	20.6
Mudstone	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Organic	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Micaceous silty	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous prehistoric	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	99.6	99.9	99.8	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.1.6 Catalogue of illustrated sherds (Figs 9 and 10)

- 1-2. Plain-walled, handmade jars with undifferentiated rims. Fabric: SHELL1. Vessel no. 1 is sooted down one side with a blackened interior, whereas vessel no. 2 has a generally sooted exterior. Ditch [129] (127).
3. Moulded rim jar decorated with a single line of impressions. Fabric: MAL RE A. Ditch [129] (127).
4. Rim fragment with vertical incised decoration. Oxidised with a grey core. Fabric: SHELL2. Ditch [129] (127).
5. Rim fragment with impressed S-shaped decoration. Fabric: MAL RE B. Ditch [129] (127).
6. Flared rim jar with a narrow girth groove at the base of the neck. Fabric: MAL RE B. Burnished exterior. Ditch [51] (53).
7. Bodysherd from a globular jar decorated with a line of impressions set between two parallel lines. Fabric: MAL RE B. Ditch [51] (53).
8. Plain-walled, handmade jar with an undifferentiated rim quite crudely formed. Fabric: SHELL1. Pit [71] (73).
9. Plain-walled, handmade jar with an undifferentiated rim. Fabric: SHELL1. Posthole [152] (153).
10. Barrel-shaped, handmade jar with a simple rim. Fabric: MAL RE B. Smoothed, sooted exterior. Ditch [101] (97).
11. Beaded rim round-bodied jar. Wheel made. Black with a buff core and grog temper. Fabric: BWGR. Ditch [120] (121).

12. Simple everted rim, handmade jar. Burnished exterior. Fabric: MAL REB. Ditch [120] (121).
13. Beaded rim, handmade jar. Fabric: LIME1. Ditch [120] (121).
14. Very wide diameter storage jar with a rolled rim. Fabric: MAL REB. Ditch [120] (121).
15. Jar with a simple rim. Smoothed interior and burnished exterior. Fabric: MAL REA. Ditch [154] (155).
16. Simple, handmade, cup-shaped vessel in an orange grog-tempered fabric, possible proto-Severn Valley ware. Fabric: SVW 11D. Ditch [80] (81).
17. Collared-rim flagon. Dark orange, fine sandy fabric. OXID. Linear [27] (29).
18. Wheel made bowl with a cordoned neck. Very pale orange sandy fabric. Fabric: OXID, possibly a Wiltshire ware. Deposit (24).
19. Amphora lid. Fine cream fabric. Deposit (24).
20. Flanged bowl with white-painted decoration (Young 1977, O39). Fabric OXF OX.
21. Platter imitating a moulded imported form. Fabric: GREY. Possibly a North Wiltshire or an early Oxfordshire product. Linear [27] (28).
22. Carinated cup. Fabric: SVW OX. Ditch [19] (12).
23. Handmade, tubby jar with vertical burnished line decoration. Fabric: MAL REA. Ditch [19] (12).
24. Everted rim jar with rusticated decoration. Fabric: GYF. Ditch [19] (12).
25. Central Gaulish colour-coated beaker with barbotine decoration. Fabric: CNG CC2. Ditch [19] (12).
26. Roughcast beaker. Matt red-brown exterior with black interior and blue-grey inner core. Roughcast decoration. Fabric: CC. Ditch [19] (12).
27. Bowl imitating samian Dr 30 (Young 1977, form W53.1). Fabric: OXF WH. Ditch [19] (12).
28. Beaded rim shallow bowl with burnished interior and exterior surfaces. Fabric: GROG. Ditch [19] (12).
29. Short everted rim jar with diagonal burnished lines. Fabric: DOR BB1. Ditch 19 (12).
30. Deep, flat-rim bowl with a chamfered base and burnished line decoration. Fabric: DOR BB1. Ditch [19] (12).
31. Slightly dropped flat-rim dish with burnished line decoration. Fabric: DOR BB1. Ditch [19] (12).
32. Flat-rim dish decorated with burnished line latticing. Fabric: DOR BB1. Ditch [19] (12).
33. Lid decorated with burnished line squiggles on the interior. Fabric: DOR BB1. Ditch [19] (12).
34. Wheel made internally stepped dish. Black, sandy ware. Fabric: BW. Ditch [19] (12).

6.1.7 Fired clay

In addition to the pottery at least three fragments of briquetage and 44 fragments of fired clay were recovered from Area A. Most of the fired clay comprises amorphous fragments but there are two shaped pieces and probably at least two bits come from triangular loom-weights, one from ditch [51], the other from ditch [129]. Of the shaped fragments one from early ditch [44] has a curvilinear shape and a moulded bead edge (Fig. 12), perhaps forming a lining. The other from ditch [19] is shaped over a right-angle. Most of the fired clay has a fine micaceous paste with only sparse mixed inclusions.

6.1.8 Ceramic building material

In total 167 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 20.5kg were recovered from Area A. Most of the fragments were one of four fabrics, the first two of which may in effect be differently fired batches from the same source:

Fabric 1: A moderately soft, pale orange, slightly streaky clay with a scatter of red-orange, rounded ferruginous pellets up to 2-3 mm and a very sparse scatter of rounded to sub-angular quartz sand and fine white mica. Some pieces have a very pale upper surface. One tegula fragment from ditch [12] has leaf (?oak) impressions on the lower face where the wet tile has been laid on a bed of leaves.

Fabric 2: A harder, dark orange ware, slightly sandy with a scatter of dark orange ferruginous pellets. The surface colour varies from dark red-orange to a brownish-red.

Fabric 3: A mid orange, finely micaceous, quite clean clay with few inclusions.

Fabric 4: A very hard-fired dark red ware with a blue-grey core. Probably from the Minety kilns.

The assemblage mainly comprised fabrics 1 and 2 which were present in approximately the same amounts. There are just 17 fragments in fabric 3 and three Minety types.

With the exception of one very small, perhaps intrusive, fragment from ditch [165] (Ceramic Phase 3), most of the pieces came from Ceramic Phase 5 contexts dating to the 2nd century with a smaller quantity from Ceramic Phase 6. Just over half the assemblage by weight, 38% by count, came from

ditch [19] and was almost exclusively roofing material, (*tegulae* and *imbrices*) with one or two possible *pila*e fragments. A further 17.5% by weight, 8.4% by count, came from ditch [27]. Deposit (24) also contained a significant quantity of material, albeit it in a more fragmented state, with 41 fragments, 24.5% by count but only 18.4% by weight. This also included mainly roof tile with one probable fragment of combed box-flue which was in fabric 2.

6.2 Metalwork and other small finds by H.E.M. Cool

6.2.1 The majority of the metalwork which has a useful role to play in understanding the site came from three main features of different dates. The material is therefore discussed by context rather than as a single assemblage.

6.2.2 Ditch [51]

Of the Iron Age contexts metalwork was only found in the fill of ditch [51]. Little can usefully be said about the ring fragment (no. 1) as simple rings such as this, and no. 6, can serve a variety of purposes and are not inherently dateable. Of much more interest is the fragment (no 2) which shows many features suggesting that it is waste from the casting of copper alloy objects. The X-radiograph clearly shows that it is very vesicular, and the slightly dished appearance of the upper face and the irregular ridge on the underside might perhaps suggest it came from a sprue. The identification of this piece is useful as over two kilogrammes of fuel ash slag was recovered from the site, some of which came from the same context as no. 2. Such slag can arise from a variety of high temperature industries, and the recovery of no. 2 suggests that here it could be the by-product of the casting of copper alloy items.

- 1 Ring. Copper alloy. D-sectioned, approximately one half extant. Diameter 14mm, section 13 x 3mm. (53), sf 3.
- 2 Casting waste. Copper alloy; vesicular. Approximately oval with irregular surfaces; upper surface slightly sunken, irregular meandering ridge on under surface. All edges broken. Dimensions 17.5 x 12mm, maximum thickness 4mm. (53), sf 6.

6.2.3 Ditch [19]

The fill of ditch [19] was the single most prolific context. Two items (nos. 5 and 12) came from the lower fill and the rest from the upper.

Many of the details on the brooch (no. 3) are obscured by corrosion but it is possible to see that it is a Polden Hill brooch of Mackreth's variant 8 (Mackreth 2011, 80). Originally it may have been enamelled. These were in existence by the early second century and continued in use into the middle part of it. Whilst the form is widespread, Gloucestershire is central to its heartlands, so the recovery of an example here is unsurprising.

A slightly less common find is the lunate harness pendant (no. 4; Fig 13) with knobbed conjoined terminals. These were in use from the 2nd to 3rd centuries and are not uncommon on military sites (Oldenstein 1977, 163-4, Taf. 45). As with all harness equipment, it is difficult always to be certain that a particular piece definitely belongs to the cavalry, but this piece does suggest some form of military presence. Typical military equipment of the mid 2nd to 3rd century is not uncommon on rural sites in this region (see Cool 2007, 348), and it is tempting to associate this piece with that. The proposed pottery dating for the fill is of early to mid 2nd century which might suggest a degree of contemporaneity. The number and types of sites producing the equipment suggests that not all need have been the result of an active military involvement in the form of policing activities. The possibility that some at least related to retired military men could also be considered. The small fragment no. 5 might also hint at a military connection. It is not possible to identify what it came from, but treating the surface to white metal is a quintessentially military fashion of the 1st century and such equipment was often inlaid with niello for a colour contrast.

The condition of the iron does not allow much to be said about the pieces which are not nails. The hook (no. 7; Fig 13) could have been a wall hook or part of a suspension fitting, but it lacks the lower part shank which would have shown how it was used. The rod (no. 8) might have been a tool like a paring chisel. The head appears to be original so the likelihood that it is a shank fragment from a very large

nail seems unlikely. The other nails present both from this context (nos. 10-13) and elsewhere (no. 18) all appear to be the standard joinery nail size (55-60mm in length), which again suggests this is not a nail shank. The head is slightly concave which rules out the identification of a smith's punch.

- 3 Polden Hill brooch. Copper alloy, highly corroded. Short spring cover with perforated end plate on one side, other end broken. Perforated lug on head retaining cord of spring of four turns on one side and two on other, pin broken. Spring now bent towards front of bow. Shallow 'D'-sectioned tapering bow; upper part has shallow diamond-shaped boss; middle part of bow has serrated edge; traces of row of beading across bow at base of serration; small rounded foot-knob on front of bow with rib above; trapezoidal catch-plate. Length 45mm, present width of wings 18mm. (12), sf 1.
- 4 Lunula pendant. Copper alloy; much corroded. Convex front, hollow-backed; broken pendant loop at top; double-knotted junction at base, shape of latter obscured but clearly visible on X-radiograph. Present length 35mm, width 29mm, thickness 2mm. (12), sf 11. (Fig 13)
- 5 Fragment. Copper alloy. Rectangular strip with one short broken end; underside slightly concave; upper face retains white metal coating on either side, centrally two small dots may be inlaid with another material as they appear as voids on the X-radiograph. Length 24mm, width 8mm, thickness 1mm. (68), sf 10.
- 6 Ring. Copper alloy. Tall, slightly faceted section. Diameter 22mm, section 4 x 3mm. (12), sf 2.
- 7 Hook. Iron. Square-sectioned shank, expanding to rectangular section before forming 'U'-shaped hook, possibly with slight terminal knob. Present length 73mm; depth of hook 22mm. (12), sf 20. (Fig 13)
- 8 Tool? Iron, surfaces much exfoliated. Square-sectioned with slight concave head, other has a chisel end. Length 85mm, head section 8 x 7mm. (12), sf 21.
- 9 Nailed plate. Iron. Approximately square with small rivets or nails in two opposite corners. Dimension 24 x 22mm, thickness 2mm. (12), sf 18.
- 10 Nail, head and shank, probably complete. Iron. Length 55mm. (12), sf 14.
- 11 Nail, head and shank fragment. Iron. (12), sf 22.
- 12 Nail shank. Iron. (68), sf 7.
- 13 Nail shanks. Iron. (12), sf 8.
- 14 Sheet fragment. Copper alloy. All edges broken, slightly convex. 10 x 8mm, thickness 0.5mm. (12), sf 9.

6.2.4 Terrace deposit (41)

A second Polden Hill brooch was found in the terrace deposit. It is fragmentary and damaged and is likely to have been residual in the context. The poor state of its preservation means that it cannot be more closely identified, and only the general date of the family as a whole, the last third of the 1st century to mid 2nd century, can be suggested as the date that the brooch would originally have been in use.

- 15 Polden Hill brooch; spring, lower bow and foot missing. Copper alloy, badly corroded. Short wings with damaged ends, each wing has two diagonal grooves, more complete wing has vertical groove near break; lug skeuomorphing forward facing hook on head, fragment of chord preserved in perforation; pair of diagonal grooves on each side of head forming V-shape with point towards wings; band of at least five grooves on upper circular-sectioned bow, surface below damaged. Present length 25mm, present wing width 22mm. (41), sf 4.

6.2.5 Other contexts

The other contexts produced little that requires particular comment. Another iron rod might be a tool (no. 17), and a fragment of colourless Roman vessel glass (no. 20) is of good quality and on a rural site such as this is most likely to have been in use during the later 2nd and 3rd centuries.

- 16 Brooch pin; both ends. Copper alloy. Circular-sectioned tapering shank; upper end bending over to spring. Present length 45mm, maximum section 3mm. (24), sf 5.
- 17 Punch or chisel. Iron. Square-sectioned rod tapering to rectangular-sectioned broken end. Present length 83mm, head section 8 x 7mm. (24), sf 21.
- 18 Nail, head and shank fragment. Iron. (24), sf 15.
- 19 Shale or coal, unworked. Now laminated and fragmented. (77), sf 12.
- 20 Body fragment. Colourless glass. Straight side. (20), sf 13.
- 21 Rod. Iron. Possibly originally square-sectioned, now bent. Present length 95mm, section c.9mm. (88), sf 17.
- 22 Bar. Iron. Present length 92mm, maximum section 26 x 17mm. (29), sf 19.

6.3 Slag by Jon Hoyle

6.3.1 A total of 82 fragments of slag, weighing 2.2kg, was recovered from six Iron Age contexts and four Romano-British contexts. The vast majority of the slag by weight (over 1.7kg) came from a single context (95), the fill of the large Iron Age ditch [101]. The remainder was predominantly from Iron Age contexts with small quantities from Romano-British contexts.

6.3.2 All of the slag is very aerated and extremely light. The slag does not have a magnetic response, confirming that it cannot be the result of either iron smelting or smithing. It is most likely that the assemblage represents quantities of fuel ash slag i.e. highly vitrified material with a high silica content.

6.3.3 Fuel ash slag is commonly encountered on sites of Iron Age date and although it can be formed during some metalworking processes, other high temperature processes can also produce it. In this case the evidence from the slag itself, the lack of contamination from either ferrous or non-ferrous metals and the lack of large amounts of other metallurgical debris on the site may suggest that the majority of this material was not produced as a result of metalworking.

6.3.4 It is likely that the fuel ash slag was formed during the Iron Age, the later material being residual. Fuel ash slag normally occurs as small pieces (up to 50mm in length) often with a vitrified surface. Much of the Winchcombe material occurs in larger pieces, e.g. 150mm and contains inclusions of foreign material (e.g. pebbles) and is likely to have resulted from a high temperature reaction between fuel ash and the soil or subsoil rather than a reaction in a hearth, furnace or kiln.

6.4 Flint

Fourteen flakes of flint were recorded from contexts of Iron Age to Romano-British date suggesting they survive as residual finds in later deposits. All appear to be simple flakes with no signs of re-touching.

7 Environmental evidence

7.1 The human remains by *Malin Holst*

Four fragments of human bone were recovered from deposit (127) within Iron Age ditch [129]. The four fragments fit together and represent the left side of the skull, the parietal bone. The front part of the bone and the part that attaches with the temporal bone are represented. No diagnostic criteria suggesting age or sex were identified. However, the thickness of the bone suggests that it probably belonged to an older adolescent or to an adult rather than a younger child. No evidence for pathology was noted.

7.2 Faunal remains by *Ian L. Baxter*

7.2.1 Introduction

A small assemblage of animal bones dating from the middle to late Iron Age, late Iron Age/early Roman and Romano-British periods was recovered from the GCCAS excavation in Area A. It was possible to identify a total of 164 countable animal bone fragments (Table 4).

7.2.2 Methods

All of the animal bones from Area A were hand-collected. Consequently an under-representation of smaller bones from the main domestic species and bones from small wild mammals, birds and amphibians is to be expected. The bones were recorded on an Access database following a modified version of the method described in Davis (1992) and Albarella and Davis (1994). In this method all teeth (lower and upper) and a restricted suite of parts of the skeleton are recorded and used in counts. These are: horncores with a complete transverse section, skull (zygomaticus), atlas, axis, scapula (glenoid articulation), distal humerus, distal radius, proximal ulna, carpal 2+3, distal metacarpal, pelvis (ischial part of acetabulum), distal femur, distal tibia, calcaneum (sustenaculum), astragalus (lateral side), centrotarsale, distal metatarsal, proximal parts of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd phalanges.

For birds the following were always recorded if present: scapula (articular end), proximal coracoid, distal humerus, proximal ulna, proximal carpometacarpus, distal femur, distal tibiotarsus, and distal tarsometatarsus.

The separation of sheep and goat was attempted on the following elements: horncores, dP₃, dP₄, distal humerus, distal metapodials (both fused and unfused), astragalus, and calcaneum using the criteria described in Boessneck (1969), Payne (1969 and 1985) and Schmid (1972). The shape of the enamel folds (Davis 1980; Eisenmann 1981) was used for identifying equid teeth to species. Equid postcrania were checked against criteria summarised in Baxter (1998).

Wear stages were recorded following Grant (1982) for all P₄s and dP₄s as well as for the lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles. These are retained on the database.

Measurements are recorded on the database. These in general follow von den Driesch (1976). All pig measurements follow Payne and Bull (1988). Humerus HTC and BT and tibia Bd measurements were taken for all species as suggested by Payne and Bull (1988) for pigs. The crown heights of equid teeth were measured following Levine (1982). SD on dog long bones is measured as suggested by Harcourt (1974) and represents the midshaft diameter (msd).

7.2.3 Provenance and preservation

In general the preservation of the animal bone is fairly good and ranges from good to poor. Much of the bone was highly fragmented and could not be counted using the methodology outlined above. Most of the animal bone was recovered from ditches, but a much smaller amount was also found in other linear features, pits, wall foundations and deposits.

7.2.4 Frequency of species

The animal bone assemblage is dominated by the remains of the main domestic mammals - cattle, sheep, pig and horse (Table 4). Domestic birds (fowl) are uncommon although their numbers are liable to under-estimation due to a recovery bias against smaller bones. Wild animals are absent and birds scarce, suggesting that hunting played a minimal role in the provision of food.

Cattle were the most common taxon by number of identified fragments (NISP) in all periods, followed by sheep/goat (Table 5). This pattern is similar to that recorded for the JMHS evaluation in Area B, to the north (Table 5).

Table 4: Number of hand-collected Identified Specimens (NISP).

Taxon	Period			Total
	Iron Age	Late IA/early Roman	Romano-British	
Cattle (<i>Bos f. domesticus</i>)	32	14	25	71
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovis/Capra f. domesticus</i>)	27	2	24	53
Sheep (<i>Ovis f. domesticus</i>)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(4)
Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	10	1	8	19
Horse (<i>Equus caballus</i>)	7	-	6	13
Dog (<i>Canis familiaris</i>)	3	1	1	5
Fowl (<i>Gallus f. domesticus</i>)	-	1	1	2
Dove (<i>Columba livia/oenas</i>)	-	1	-	1
Total	79	20	65	164

Sheep/Goat also includes the specimens identified to species. Numbers in parentheses are not included in the total of the period.

7.2.5 Cattle

Cattle are the most frequent taxon by NISP throughout the Iron Age and Roman periods at Greet Road accounting for 46% of identified fragments overall. Three complete cattle limb bones were recovered which enable withers heights to be calculated following the method of Matolcsi (1970). From Iron Age pit [159] (160) a radius and ulna came from a beast approximately 0.98m high at the shoulder. A metatarsal found in late Iron Age/early Roman ditch [139] (140) came from an animal of 1.1m and a metacarpal recovered from Roman ditch [19] (12) a beast 1.26m high. This latter bone has a broadened distal epiphysis typical of draught animals (Bartosiewicz *et al.* 1999). Although the evidence is limited, it conforms to a general trend of increase in cattle size during the Roman period observed on other British sites.

7.2.6 Sheep/Goat

The remains of sheep/goats are the next most frequent taxon by NISP at Greet Road after cattle, accounting for 34% of fragments overall. No suitable bones were sufficiently complete to calculate the size of the sheep/goats for any period and there are insufficient mandibles to plot age profiles. Four of the 53 fragments recovered can be confidently attributed to sheep (8%) and nothing typical of goat was seen.

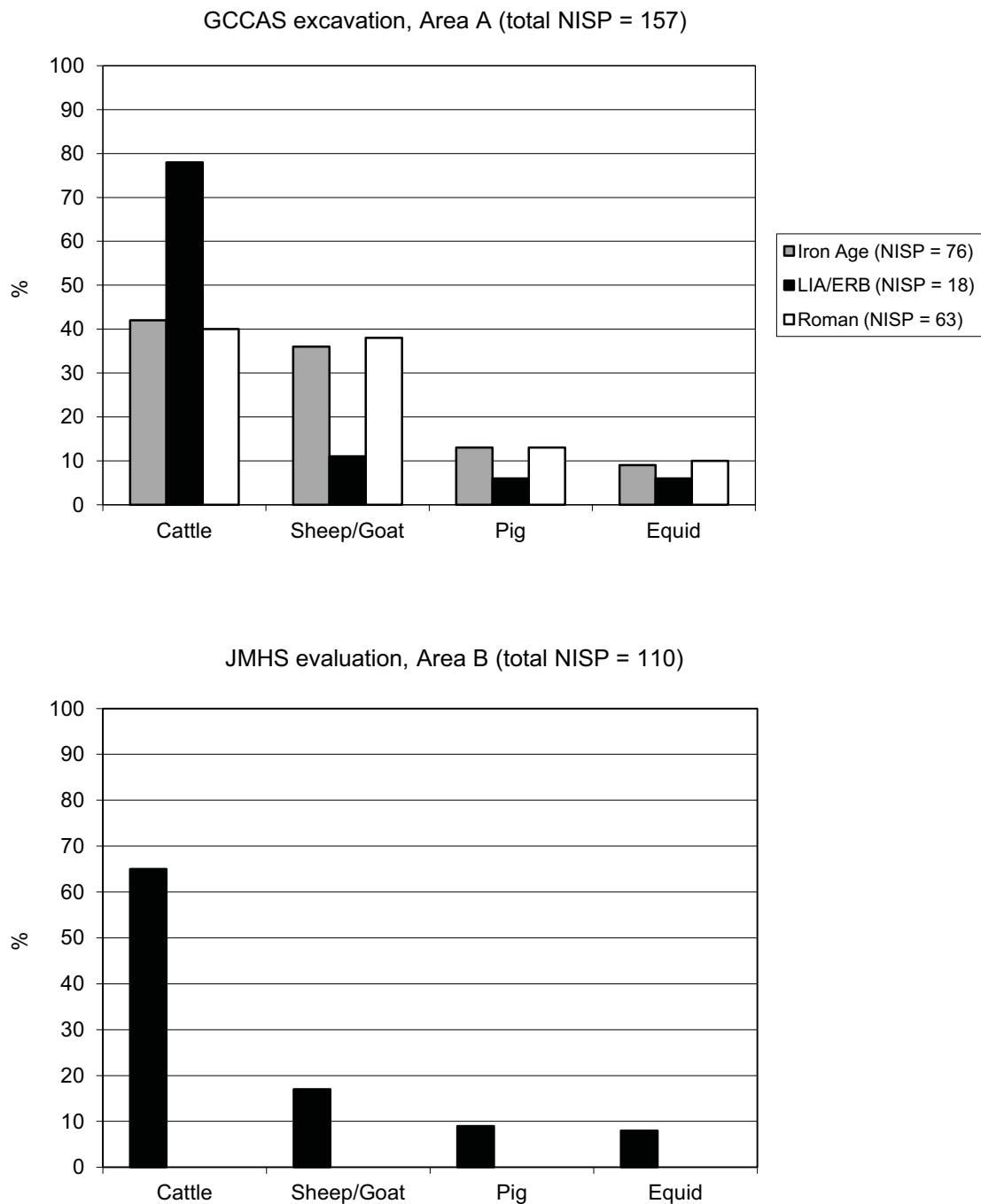
7.2.7 Pig

Pig remains constitute the third most frequent domestic species overall accounting for 12% of the major domesticates.

7.2.8 Equids

Nothing that could be confidently attributed to either donkey or mule was seen among the equid material, although a tibia fragment found in Iron Age ditch [51] (53) is donkey sized. A metacarpal found in Roman ditch [48] (50) came from an animal 1.36m or 13 hands at the withers based on the multiplication factors of May (1985). Ages of the horses range between seven and more than nineteen years based on incisor wear (Barone 1980) and the comparative wear curves of grinding teeth (Levine (1982).

Table 5: Frequency by NISP of the main domestic mammals by period. (JMHS data based on Grzybowska 2009).



7.2.9 Canids

Isolated teeth of domestic dogs occurred sporadically in deposits of all periods. A complete humerus found in late Iron Age/early Roman ditch [80] (81) came from a dog around 0.36m high at the shoulder. This bone has a mid shaft diameter index ($msd.100/tl$) of 9.3 which suggests that it came from a chondrodystrophic dwarf hound. These small dogs were common in the Roman period and may have been used for herding (Baxter 2006; 2010).

7.2.10 Birds

The remains of domestic fowl (*Gallus f. domesticus*) occurred at very low frequency in Roman features. A humerus of a dove, probably either a rock dove (*Columba livia*) or a stock dove (*Columba oenas*) was found in late Iron Age/early Roman ditch [85] (86).

7.2.11 Discussion and summary

This is small assemblage of animal bones but, combined with the limited information available from Area B, to the north, an attempt can be made to elucidate some aspects of the local economy during the Iron Age and Roman periods. Cattle were the main domestic species during all periods of occupation. There is limited evidence to suggest that larger cattle were present during the Roman period. This development has been observed at many sites in England and is probably due to a combination of improved stock and husbandry. Cattle were most probably kept primarily for draught purposes. Sheep and pigs were also kept. There is some evidence to suggest an increase in the size of horses during the Roman period. These and dogs would have been used in herding the domestic food stock.

7.3 Charred plant macrofossils by Alan Clapham

7.3.1 Introduction

Nineteen environmental samples were taken during the excavation and of these seven were discounted due to insufficient dating evidence or potential contamination. Assessment was carried out on the remaining 12 samples.

The samples comprised six contexts of middle to late Iron Age date, pit fills (58), (72), (130), (149) and (168) and ditch fill (52); one late Iron Age to early Roman ditch fill (166); and five Romano-British deposits, terrace deposits (40) and (41), ditch fills (12) and (121) and pit fill (162). A summary of the site information can be found in Table 6.

The environmental project conforms to relevant sections of *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2002) and *Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations* (Association for Environmental Archaeologists 1995).

Table 6: Details of the environmental samples selected for assessment

Context	Sample	Sample type	Type	Descrip.	Period	Sample volume (l)	Res assessed (l)	Flot assessed (ml)
52	1	General	Fill	Ditch	M-LIA	10	1.6	10
58	15	General	Fill	Pit	M-LIA	11	1.1	5
72	2	General	Fill	Pit	M-LIA	6		2.5
130	11	General	Fill	Pit	M-LIA	15	1.8	2.5
149	13	General	Fill	Pit	M-LIA	22	2.1	15
168	18	General	Fill	Pit	M-LIA	20	2.0	5
12	7	General	Fill	Ditch	R-B	17	2.15	5
121	10	General	Fill	Ditch	R-B	26	4.0	2.5
40	6	General	Dep	Terrace	R-B	16	2.6	25
41	19	General	Dep	Terrace	R-B	27	3.2	15
162	16	General	Fill	Pit	R-B	20	2.15	20
166	17	General	Fill	Linear	LIA-ERO	19	1.8	15

The aims of the assessment were to determine the state of preservation, type and quantity of environmental remains recovered from the samples and information provided. This information has been used to assess the importance of the environmental remains.

7.3.2 Methods

7.3.2.1 Fieldwork and sampling policy

Samples were taken by the excavator from deposits considered to be of high potential for the recovery of environmental remains. For this assessment 12 samples were chosen by the excavator from the contexts described above.

7.3.2.2 Processing and analysis

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (WCCHAS), and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the *New Flora of the British Isles*, 2nd edition (Stace 1997).

The presence and abundance of animal bone and charcoal in the samples was recorded but the material was not identified.

7.3.3 Results

7.3.3.1 Charred plant macrofossils

Ten of the samples produced charred plant macrofossils. Two of the Iron Age pit fills (58) and (130) did not produce any charred plant macrofossils (seeds). All contexts produced charcoal except the Iron Age pit (168). Overall the Roman contexts were richer in plant remains than the Iron Age ones. The preservation of the charred material was adequate in most cases to allow identification to species where possible. Both cereal remains and weed seeds were present with weed seeds dominating the samples both in terms of numbers and species. The assessment results are detailed in Table 7.

Iron Age

Cereals

The cereal remains were few in the Iron Age contexts and consisted of a small number of hulled barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare*) from pit fill (72) and a glumed wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.) from pit fill (149). No chaff was recovered from any of the Iron Age samples apart from a grass culm base from context (149).

Weeds

Again, very few weed seeds were recovered from the Iron Age contexts, and mainly consisted of single finds of taxa. These include dock (*Rumex* sp.) from (168), field pansy (*Viola arvensis*) from (149), clover (*Trifolium* sp.) from (52), greater plantain (*Plantago major*) from (72), red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*) from (72) and (149), a sedge nutlet (*Carex* sp.) from (149), a fescue seed (*Festuca* sp.) from (72), and meadow grass seeds from (52) and (72).

Roman

Cereals

Five of the Roman contexts contained identifiable cereal remains with context (166) recording a fragment of indeterminate cereal grain. Both wheat and hulled barley grains were identified from the remaining five contexts and in terrace deposit (41) they were recorded in greater numbers. Oats (*Avena* sp.), a possible crop or wild species, was identified from terrace deposit (40). Again, as for the Iron Age no chaff remains were recovered.

Other crops

Two finds of garden pea (*Pisum sativum*) were identified from ditch fills (12) and (121).

Crop weeds

A greater number of weed taxa were recovered from the Roman occupation of the site and the majority of these can usually be found growing with the crops, although other habitats are represented (see below). The majority of the remains were found in the ditch fills (12) and (121) and terrace deposits (40) and (41).

The majority of the weed taxa recovered from the Roman contexts can be found associated with agricultural activity and disturbed ground. Buttercup was found in ditch fill (121) and poppy (*Papaver* sp.) in ditch fill (12) and terrace deposit (40). Terrace deposit (41) contained small nettle (*Urtica urens*), and fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) was found in context (40) and ditch (121). Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), and dock were found in terrace deposit (41). The low growing parsley-piert (*Aphanes arvensis*) was identified from terrace deposit (40) and ditch fill (121). Vetch/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) was found in both terrace deposits (40) and (41). The taxa which occurred in the most contexts, apart from the cereal remains, was clover (*Trifolium* sp.) which was found in deposits (12), (121) (40) and (41). Overall, the commonest find was that of red bartsia which was found in contexts (12), (40) and (41). Scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*) was recovered from ditch fill (12) and the two terrace deposits. A large number of brome grass seeds (*Bromus* sp.) were identified from the terrace deposit (41), as was Darnel (*Lolium temulentum*), usually regarded as a medieval introduction, and therefore suggesting some possible later contamination.

Other habitats

Several other habitats are also indicated within the contexts assessed. These include grassland which is indicated by the presence of caryopses of fescue and meadow-grass which were identified from the terrace and ditch deposits. The other habitat identified was wetland and these taxa, spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), bristle club-rush (*Isolepis setacea*) and sedge were all found in ditch fill (12), which may suggest that at some stage parts of the area were wet. The only other damp habitat loving species found was that of blinks (*Montia fontana* ssp. *chondrosperma*) which was found in terrace deposit (40) and ditch (121), suggesting that there may have been trampled muddy areas in the vicinity.

7.3.4 Discussion

The assessment identified the presence of charred plant remains in 10 of the 12 selected samples but, with the exception of terrace deposit (41), the number of charred plant remains was low.

The Iron Age contexts contained very little in the way of charred plant material and the remains present appear to represent a background flora in features most likely used for rubbish disposal.

In the Roman contexts, the richest sample with regards to charred plant macrofossils was terrace deposit (41), which contained the largest number of cereal remains (in the form of grain) and weed taxa.

The absence of cereal chaff in both the Iron Age and Roman deposits is most likely to be a reflection of the small sample size, but it may suggest that the site was a consumer, not a producer, site and imported cereals in an already cleaned state with no chaff or weed seeds. Alternatively cereal chaff may not have been used for fuel, but rather used as animal fodder, and would therefore not have entered the archaeobotanical record. The seeds of crop weeds that were present do, however, indicate an arable environment in the vicinity, and that the main crops being cultivated were wheat and barley. The type of wheat was difficult to determine due to the lack of chaff remains. Other possible minority crops grown were peas and possibly oats, although this taxon could well have been a cornfield weed.

Table 7: Charred plant remains from Iron Age and Roman contexts

Latin name	Common name	Habitat	52	72	149	168	12	121	40	41	162	166	
Period			M-LIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	LIA-ERO	
Feature type		Ditch	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Terr	Terr	Pit	Ditch		
Charred													
Cereals													
<i>Triticum</i> sp grain	wheat	F			+		+	+	+	++	+		
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain (hulled)	barley	F		+			+	+	+	++	+		
Cereal sp indet grain (fragment)	cereal	F										+	
<i>Avena</i> sp grain	oat	AF								+			
Poaceae sp culm base	grasses	AF			+								
Weeds													
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	buttercup	CD						+					
<i>Papaver</i> sp	poppy	ABF					+		+				
<i>Urtica urens</i>	small nettle	AB									+		
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	fat hen	AB						+		+			
<i>Montia fontana</i> ssp <i>chondrosperma</i>	blinks	AE						+	+				
<i>Stellaria media</i>	common chickweed	AB									+		
Caryophyllaceae sp indet	pinks	ABCDEF					+						
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	black bindweed	AB									+		
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	sheep's sorrel	ABD									+		
<i>Rumex</i> sp	dock	ABCD				+					++		
<i>Viola arvensis</i>	field pansy	AB			+								
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	parsley-piert	AB						+	+				
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp	vetch/pea	ABCD							+	+			
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	garden pea	AF					+	+					
<i>Trifolium</i> sp	clover	ABD	+				+	+	+	+			
Apiaceae sp indet	carrot family	ABCDEF					+						
<i>Plantago major</i>	greater plantain	ABD		+									
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	red bartsia	ABD		+	+		++		+	++			
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	scentless mayweed	AB					+		+	+			
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp	spike-rush	E					+						
<i>Isolepis setacea</i>	bristle club-rush	E					+						
<i>Carex</i> spp (3-sided)	sedge	CDE			+		+						
<i>Festuca</i> sp	fescue	ABCD		+			+				+		
<i>Lolium cf temulentum</i>	darnel	AB									++	+	
<i>Poa</i> sp grain	meadow-grass	ABCD	+	+				+	+	+			
<i>Bromus</i> sp grain	brome grass	AF						+		+++	+		
Poaceae	grasses	E						+					
Habitat		Quantity											
A= cultivated ground		+ = 1 - 10											
B= disturbed ground		++ = 11- 50											
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc		+++ = 51 -100											
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland		++++ = 101+											
E = aquatic/wet habitats													
F = cultivar													

8 Discussion

Excavation and evaluation at Greet Road has established the presence of settlement dating to the middle to late Iron Age and Romano-British periods, with some evidence for late Iron Age/early Roman continuity. Initial middle to late Iron Age activity was characterized by small scale ditched enclosures, perhaps stock enclosures or early settlement boundaries. These were superseded by a larger ditched enclosure, interpreted as a typical late prehistoric farmstead type settlement. Recurrent ditch alignments and the presence of grog-tempered pottery suggest an element of continuity from the late Iron Age to the early Roman period, but the main phase of Romano-British activity dates to the mid 2nd century AD when areas of the site were terraced to create level platforms for the construction of buildings. The buildings had stone foundations and evidence for ceramic tiled roofs, *opus signinum* floors and painted walls, and are perhaps best interpreted as the remnants of a less well-appointed villa. The buildings appear to have been reordered and expanded in the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries, but the settlement was in decline by the second half of the 3rd century and abandoned by the beginning of the 4th century.

The earliest Iron Age features, stratigraphically, are ditches defining what may have been stock enclosures. Three sides of a rectangular enclosure [92]/[16] are present in Area A and a possible double enclosure, on the same alignment, was recorded in Area B (Trench 24). This earliest phase of activity was replaced by a larger enclosure, with an interior covering an area of at least 0.25ha., which was defined by a large ditch with an entrance on the eastern side ([51/101] and [115/116] in Area A). Ditches on the same alignment as this large enclosure suggest that its boundaries may have originally been on a smaller scale: the south-eastern side of the earliest perhaps defined by a pair of parallel ditches ([31], [33], [44] and [46]); and the south-eastern side of a second defined by a ditch [103], on the same line as [51/101] and [115/116].

Precise dating of middle to late Iron Age ceramics in Gloucestershire is somewhat problematic (Timby, 6.1 above), but the earliest features on ceramic grounds (Ceramic Phase 1) appear to be those which contained exclusively Jurassic fossil shell-tempered wares: limited to a small number of features in the excavation area (Area A). Ceramic Phase 2 sees the introduction of regional Malvernian rock-tempered ware and / or Palaeozoic limestone wares and again these wares are more common in Area A and the paucity of Iron Age material from Area B emphasises the fact that the Iron Age settlement was concentrated in the area of the large Iron Age enclosure, to the south.

The enclosure is typical of middle to late Iron Age settlements in the region and particularly in the north Cotswolds, the Severn Valley and south Worcestershire and falls into the category of what Moore has called small, household-sized enclosures (Moore 2006, 69 and Fig 5). These typically cover an area of less than 1ha., have rectilinear plans and often have entrances on the east or south-east side. They appear from the 4th century BC onwards, with many occupied until the 1st century AD. Comparable sites have been investigated in the area around Guiting Power, at Guiting Manor Farm (Saville 1979; Vallender 2005; and Nichols 2010), The Park and The Bowsings (Marshall 2004); at Birdlip (Parry 1998); and along the route of the Wormington to Tirley gas pipeline at Elm Farm, Beckford, Bank Farm, Dumbleton and Wormington Farm, Aston Somerville (Coleman *et al* 2006). The frequency of these sites in some areas, such as around Guiting Power in the Cotswolds and in the Carrant Valley in south Worcestershire, has led to suggestions that they were clustered to form larger communities or that they occasionally shifted across the landscape (Moore 2006, 69).

Although there are suggestions that some of these enclosures, such as that at The Bowsings (Marshall 2004), had a defensive function most are interpreted as late prehistoric farmsteads. Investigation of the interiors commonly reveal discrete clusters of pits, used for grain storage, and the post holes of structures. At Greet Road only a limited area (c.0.03ha.) of the interior of the enclosure fell within the excavation area and although pits and post holes were present in small numbers, and no doubt represent typical domestic and agricultural activity, no coherent plans were formed by these features and they had no clear relationship with any of the contemporary ditches. Whilst further discrete features may have been present in Area B, to the north-west and below what is now housing on Godwin Road, it could be the case that pits in particular were under represented and that cereal production was not a major part of the economy of the site. The environmental evidence may add tentative support to this with a lack of cereal chaff within the charred plant macrofossils suggesting that the site may have been a consumer, importing rather than producing cereals. The faunal remains for the Iron Age are similarly limited, but they suggest that cattle were the most commonly exploited taxon, followed by sheep and it is possible that the agrarian economy of the site was a mainly pastoral one.

Although there is little here to indicate production of items other than those associated with agriculture during the Iron Age, the presence of a waste fragment, a possible sprue, from the casting of copper alloy objects (Cool, 6.2 above) may indicate metalworking at the site. The large quantities of fuel ash slag could also be the by-product of metalworking, but their lack of contamination from either ferrous or non-ferrous metals may favour an alternative high temperature process for the production of this material. Evidence for bronze working has been recorded at a range of Iron Age sites in Gloucestershire, including Ditches, Bagendon, Frocester and Uley Bury suggesting that metalworking was not restricted to any one particular site type (Moore 2006, 81-2).

Trade and exchange networks were well established by the middle Iron Age with pottery, quernstones and salt being traded across the region (Morris 1983; Morris 1994; Peacock 1968). The ceramic assemblage shows that Greet Road was receiving at least some of these commodities with regional wares, emanating from either May Hill, the Malvern Hills or the Woolhope Hills, appearing in the later Iron Age features. Quantities are small but some features, and notably the large Iron Age enclosure ditch, have a higher proportion of these wares than local Jurassic material. The location of the site, overlooking the River Isbourne, could have been an important factor in its ability to acquire goods and the valley may have formed a natural route on to the Cotswold uplands from the Vale of Evesham and areas to the north.

The presence of four fragments from a human skull in Iron Age ditch [129] may be of note. While this could have been an accidental inclusion, the deliberate deposition of disarticulated human bone, as well as complete skeletons, in Iron Age features is well documented and may represent special or structured deposition (Hill 1995). Human remains are often associated with other artefacts or animal bone and it may be significant that the ditch also contained one of the largest assemblages of pottery, including a semi-complete vessel, and a fragment of loomweight.

Activity at the site following the infilling of the farmstead enclosure ditch is difficult to characterise, but there is both stratigraphic and ceramic evidence for a late Iron Age/early Roman transition phase. At most sites in Gloucestershire where there is late Iron Age/early Roman transition there is clear evidence for an increase in grog-tempered wares from the early 1st century AD and on this basis at least three features in Area A are attributed to this transitional phase (Ceramic Phase 3). Timby (6.1 above) does add a note of caution suggesting from comparison with other sites, where radiocarbon dates have been obtained, that there may have been a hiatus in the 2nd to 1st centuries BC at Winchcombe with reoccupation in the 1st century AD. However, despite this note of caution a number of shared ditch alignments suggest a transitional phase. Ceramic Phase 3 ditch [165] formed part of a series of parallel ditches in the north-western corner of the excavation area, along with ditches of middle to late Iron Age and late 1st century Romano-British date, and Ceramic Phase 3 ditch [80/85] was aligned with two Romano-British ditches. These ditches provide some evidence for continuity, but whether they relate to occupation or are agricultural in nature is uncertain. There was no evidence for a transitional phase in Area B and here buried agricultural soils were interpreted as evidence for a period of abandonment at the end of the Iron Age.

Evidence for late Iron Age to early Roman continuity elsewhere in Gloucestershire is limited. At Birdlip evidence for middle Iron Age settlement and plentiful finds, but few structures, of 1st century AD date, suggests a hiatus between the two periods or a shift in the focus of the settlement (Parry 1998) and at the Bowsings the enclosed settlement appears to have been abandoned in the latest Iron Age or early Roman period prior to a phase of intensive Romanised farmsteading (Marshall 2004). Pre-Roman reorganisation is implied at Arle Court, Cheltenham by the presence of early 1st century AD grog-tempered ware in the lower fills of a Romano-British ditch (Cuttler 2010), but only a small area, with a low density of both Iron Age and Romano-British features, was examined here and the form and function of the settlement is not clear.

Reviewing sites at Bishop's Cleeve Parry (1999, 101) speculated that there may have been continuity between Iron Age and Roman settlements, but sites such as Gilder's Paddock (*ibid.*) and Dean Farm (Timby 2008) show a shift in the focus of the settlement between the two periods. Parry also notes that a correspondence in settlement location need not necessarily imply continuity of occupation and it may be that aspects, such as favourable topography, resulted in particular areas being reutilized over time. In the absence of evidence to show that the occupants of the 2nd century Roman buildings at Greet Road were descended from the inhabitants of the Iron Age enclosure a similar reutilization of a favourable site may have been the key factor here. This may also be the case on sites to the north of

Winchcombe where the middle to late Iron Age enclosures at Elm Farm and Bank Farm appear to have been occupied more or less continuously until the late 1st century AD, but were then abandoned and new enclosures constructed. At these two sites the abandonment of the earlier enclosures has not been viewed as an abandonment of the site itself but more as a change in the layout of the settlement possibly relating to changing patterns of land tenure or ownership (Coleman *et al* 2006, 93).

Towards the middle of the 2nd century AD (Ceramic Phase 5) the north-eastern corner of Area A and much of the south-eastern part of Area B was terraced to create level platforms for buildings. With the exception of the features in evaluation Trench 11 the buildings are located in the eastern half of the southern field of Area B and on the very northern edge of Area A, an area of approximately 115m north to south and 90m east to west. From the available evidence it is not possible to say how extensive the building complex was at any given period or whether we are looking at a single complex or multiple establishments. The large area over which the buildings are spread may favour the view that this was more than a single complex and the evaluation report suggests that the building recorded in the excavation was completely separate from those recorded to the north. There may have been two or three distinct groupings of buildings: one around Trenches 25 and 26, interpreted by the excavators as the main building, where the majority of the *opus signinum* and wall plaster was recorded; one around Trench 22; and a third on the northern edge of Area A and spreading into the area in the centre of the Iron Age enclosure (magnetic anomalies were recorded here but no walls were present in evaluation Trenches 23 and 23A). The last group may include stone foundations, reported during development at number 32 Godwin Road (GHER 7527), which apparently extended under the hedge at the north-west corner of the garden and into the southern field of Area B. Roman finds, including a coin, tile, pottery and tesserae, were recovered during this work.

Whether or not the buildings formed a single complex the ceramic evidence suggests that they may have been contemporary. Pottery from the terrace recorded in Area A provides a Trajanic-Hadrianic date (98-138 AD) for the deposit and pottery from the earliest wall (22), and adjacent ditches [19] and [27], dates them to the mid 2nd century. A fragment of vessel glass from the extended wall (20) gives a likely later 2nd to 3rd century date for the reordering of the building. The majority of the terrace deposits recorded in Area B were of mid 2nd century date, but some were later, suggesting that while the earliest buildings were of mid 2nd century date construction continued into the 3rd century. Both areas would therefore appear to have an earlier and later phase of construction which may reflect an expansion and reordering of the buildings over time.

The available evidence does not allow for detailed interpretations of the functions of any buildings and the status of the buildings is also open to interpretation. In a discussion of Roman rural settlement in Gloucestershire Holbrook (2006, 101) distinguishes villas from farmsteads, with the former usually stone built, rectangular in plan and having characteristic features such as hypocausts, mosaics, baths and architectural ornamentation. At Greet Road geophysical anomalies hint at a rectangular alignment which may be suggestive of a villa, but the excavated evidence shows wall lines on numerous alignments and this apparently random layout may be more typical of a farmstead. Excavation revealed buildings with stone foundations, at least some of which had ceramic tiled roofs, *opus signinum* floors and walls decorated with painted plaster, but only two possible *pilae* fragments and one fragment of box-flue tile were recovered and there were no tesserae. This perhaps suggests that we are looking at a less well-appointed villa, which has some, but by no means all, of the characteristic villa features. Alternatively we may be looking at only part of a wider complex. The presence of stone foundations and finds including tesserae, in the garden of number 32 Godwin Road (GHER 7527), to the west of Area A, suggests the possibility for grander villa style buildings to have been present here or in other areas which have not been archaeologically investigated. Elements of the pottery assemblage and two of the metal finds, the lunate harness pendant and a fragment of copper alloy with a white treated surface, may also point to a higher or military status and hint at a more unusual facet to the Roman settlement. The high percentage of early samian, on a rural site such as this, would normally be indicative of a specialised function and would be more in keeping with a high status villa, a temple or a military site. The pendant and the technique used to treat the surface of the copper fragment may also indicate a military presence and, although Cool (6.2, above) points out that this could relate to a retired soldier, some form of military involvement at the site cannot be ruled out.

Despite the evidence for possible specialised functions at the site most of the evidence points to it serving an agricultural function. A number of ditches dating to the Romano-British period were recorded and in Area B at least some of these appear to either form ditched enclosures or to define trackways. A series of enclosed areas, in the northern part of Area B, were contemporary with the buildings and were

most likely to have been fields or stock enclosures. Cattle were the main domestic species in the Roman period and appear to be generally larger than those of the Iron Age, a development observed elsewhere and probably a result of both improved stock and husbandry. There is some evidence from seeds of crop weeds, recorded on the terrace deposits in Area A, that crops were being produced at the site in this period, and this may be suggestive of a mixed farming economy.

The Romano-British landscape around Winchcombe is less well understood than many other areas of Gloucestershire. Roman pottery has been found over much of the area of the modern town, including at North Street (Saville 1985) and during excavations at Cowl Lane and Back Lane (Ellis 1986) and although no definite features have been recorded there is a suggestion of Roman settlement during the 2nd to 4th centuries. To the south of the town at Almsbury Farm, c.1.3km south of Greet Road, cropmarks and field evaluation have recorded a possible Roman farmstead with at least one stone building (Samuels *et al* 2000). Further investigation would be required here to establish how similar this settlement is to the site at Greet Road. Villas are recorded at Wadfield, Sudeley, 3km to the south and Spoonley Wood, Sudeley, 4km to the south-east and Roman buildings, perhaps including a villa, and settlement are recorded at Millhampost Farm, Stanway, 2km to the north-east. In the immediate vicinity of Greet Road wall foundations and chance finds of coins, pottery and tesserae from Godwin Road (GHER 2181 and 7527) are no doubt related to the Greet Road settlement as are ditches recorded to the east during recent investigations. This recent work, to the north and south of Winchcombe School, has recorded only a low level of archaeological activity (Joyce 2011a, GHER 43353; Joyce 2011b, GHER 42079), but includes a possible Roman trackway which appears to run east, from Area A, before turning to the north. The limited evidence for archaeological features in the area to the east reinforces the impression that the trackway recorded on the eastern side of Area B marks the eastern extent of the Roman settlement.

The suggestion that the settlement may have occupied an advantageous location for trade between the Cotswold uplands and the Vale of Evesham during the Iron Age is perhaps equally valid for the Roman period, although if this was a major Roman route the corresponding road has yet to be found and the site's position in relation to the known Roman road system may suggest that it was less well connected. The nearest known road, Margary's route 55 (Margary 1957, 133), runs from Cirencester to Hailes, passing c.2.5km to the east of Greet Road.

The pottery assemblage shows a possible shift in the focus of activity, towards Area B, in the 3rd century but the settlement was in decline by the second half of the 3rd century and the complete absence of material dating to the 4th century is evidence for the abandonment of the settlement by this date. Whether this abandonment relates to local factors or is a more regional trend is unclear. Limited evidence from Area B suggests that at least one phase of rebuilding may have been carried out following subsidence of the terrace deposits in the late 2nd century and it is possible that further instability of these deposits in the 3rd century led the inhabitants to abandon the settlement and move elsewhere. A coin of Constantine II, dating to the 330s, from 32 Godwin Road (GHER 7527) may suggest that the wall foundations there were of a slightly later date and, although further dating evidence would be required, it is possible that rather than the settlement being completely abandoned its focus simply shifted to the south-west in the 4th century.

Similar 3rd century abandonment is a feature elsewhere in the region. There is a lack of 4th century activity at non villa settlements in the Severn Vale (Holbrook 2006, 108-110) and all four Roman sites recorded on the route of the Wormington to Tirley pipeline had been abandoned by the 3rd or early 4th century and here it was suggested that the abandonment reflected a reorganization of the countryside in the late Roman period with small farms subsumed within larger villa estates (Coleman *et al* 2006, 93-4).

Evidence for post-Roman activity on the site is limited to a single sherd of Saxon pottery from a ditch in the north-western corner of the excavation area and it is most likely that the site was in agricultural use in this period. Ridge and furrow cultivation, evident across the whole site, shows that the area remained as agricultural land into the medieval and post-medieval periods.

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Appendix: Context table

Phase: - **IA** – Middle to late Iron Age; **LIA/ERO** – Late Iron Age/early Roman; **RB** – Romano-British; **AS** – Anglo-Saxon; **PM** – Post-medieval; **Mod** – Modern; **nd** – No date

Ceramic Phase (CP):- **CP 1** – Middle-late Iron Age; **CP 2** - Middle-late Iron Age; **CP 3** – Late Iron Age/early Roman; **CP 4** – Later 1st century AD; **CP 5** – 2nd century AD; **CP 6** – 2nd-late 3rd century AD; **CP 7** – Anglo-Saxon

Context	Description	Phase	CP	Notes
(1)	Topsoil	Mod		
(2)	Garden soil	Mod		
(3)	Plough soil	Mod		
(4)	Furrow	PM		
[5]	Cut of ditch	RB	CP5	
(6)	Fill of [5]	RB	CP5	
[7]	Cut of posthole	IA	CP2	
(8)	Fill of [7]	IA	CP2	
[9]	Cut of posthole	nd		Possibly IA, based on alignment with [7] and [61]
(10)	Fill of [9]	nd		
(11)	Natural	Nat		
(12)	Fill of [19]	RB	CP5	
(13)	Fill of [14]	nd		
[14]	Cut of pit	nd		
(15)	Fill of [16]	IA		
[16]	Cut of linear	IA	CP2	Associated with 92
(17)	Fill of [18]	IA		
[18]	Cut of ditch	IA		
[19]	Cut of ditch	RB	CP5	Later RB phase on terrace
(20)	Wall foundation	RB		Later RB phase on terrace
[21]	Cut for wall	RB	CP5	Later RB phase on terrace
(22)	Wall foundation	RB	CP5	Later RB phase on terrace
[23]	Foundation cut for wall	RB	CP5	Later RB phase on terrace
(24)	Deposit	RB	CP6	Latest RB phase
25	VOID			
26	VOID			
[27]	Cut of linear	RB	CP5	Later RB phase on terrace
(28)	Fill of [27]	RB	CP5	
(29)	Fill of [27]	RB	CP5	
(30)	Fill of [31]	IA		
[31]	Cut of linear	IA		Parallel to IA ditch [33]
(32)	Fill of [33]	IA	CP1	
[33]	Cut of linear	IA	CP1	
(34)	Fill of [35]	nd		
[35]	Cut of posthole	nd		
36	VOID			
37	VOID			
(38)	Fill of [39]	IA		
[39]	Cut of ditch	IA		
(40)	Deposit on terrace	RB	CP5	Terrace deposit, later RB
(41)	Deposit on terrace	RB	CP5	Terrace deposit, later RB
42	VOID			
43	VOID			
[44]	Cut of linear	IA	CP1	
(45)	Fill of [44]	IA	CP1	
[46]	Cut of linear	IA		
(47)	Fill of [46]	IA		
[48]	Cut of ditch	RB	CP4	
(49)	Fill of [48]	RB	CP4	
(50)	Fill of [48]	RB	CP4	
[51]	Cut of ditch	IA	CP2	Same as [101]
(52)	Fill of [51]	IA	CP2	
(53)	Fill of [51]	IA	CP2	
(54)	Fill of [51]	IA	CP2	
(55)	Fill of [51]	IA	CP2	
[56]	Cut of pit	IA		
(57)	Fill of [56]	IA		
(58)	Fill of [56]	IA		
[59]	Cut of posthole	nd		
(60)	Fill of [59]	nd		
[61]	Cut of posthole	nd		Possibly IA, based on alignment with [7] and [9]

Context	Description	Phase	CP	Notes
(62)	Fill of [62]	nd		
[63]	Cut of ditch	AS	CP7	Only AS feature, single AS sherd
(64)	Fill of [63]	AS		
[65]	Cut of posthole	nd		
(66)	Fill of [65]	nd		
(67)	Fill of [16]	IA	CP2	
(68)	Fill of [19]	RB	CP5	
[69]	Cut of linear	nd		
(70)	Fill of [69]	nd		
[71]	Cut of pit	IA	CP1	
(72)	Fill of [71]	IA	CP1	
(73)	Fill of [71]	IA	CP1	
[74]	Cut of pit	IA		
(75)	Fill of [74]	IA		
76	VOID			
(77)	Backfill	RB	CP5	Backfill from robbed out (22)
[78]	Cut of ditch	LIA/ ERO		Same as [139]
(79)	Fill of [78]	LIA/ ERO		
[80]	Cut of ditch	LIA/ ERO	CP3	Same as [85]
(81)	Fill of [80]	LIA/ ERO	CP3	
[82]	Cut of ditch	RB?		No dating, but cuts [139]
(83)	Fill of [82]	RB?		
(84)	Hearth	RB		Later RB phase on terrace
[85]	Cut of ditch	LIA/ ERO	CP3	Same as [80]
(86)	Fill of [85]	LIA/ ERO	CP3	
[87]	Cut of pit	RB	CP5	
(88)	Fill of [87]	RB	CP5	
[89]	Cut of pit?	IA		Uncertain shallow feature
(90)	Fill of [89]	IA		
(91)	?Hearth below [89]	IA		
[92]	Cut of ditch	IA	CP2	Associated with [16] and [122]
(93)	Fill of [92]	IA	CP2	
(94)	Fill of [92]	IA	CP2	
(95)	Fill of [101]	IA	CP2	
(96)	Fill of [101]	IA	CP2	
(97)	Fill of [101]	IA	CP2	
(98)	Fill of [99]			
[99]	Recut in ditch			
(100)	Fill of [101]	IA	CP2	
[101]	Cut of ditch	IA	CP2	Same as [51]
(102)	Fill of [103]	IA	CP2	
[103]	Cut of ditch	IA	CP2	
(104)	Fill of [105]	RB	CP5	
[105]	Cut of ditch	RB	CP5	
(106)	Fill of [107]	IA		
[107]	Cut of ditch	IA		
(108)	Fill of [115] & [116]	IA	CP2	
(109)	Fill of [115] & [116]	IA	CP2	
(110)	Fill of [115] & [116]	IA	CP2	
(111)	Fill of [115] & [116]	IA	CP2	
(112)	Fill of [115] & [116]	IA	CP2	
(113)	Fill of [115] & [116]	IA	CP2	
(114)	Fill of [115] & [116]	IA	CP2	
[115]	Cut of ditch	IA	CP2	Same as [116]
[116]	Cut of ditch	IA	CP2	Same as [115]
(117)	Fill of ditch [103]	IA	CP2	
(118)	Fill of ditch [103]	IA	CP2	
(119)	Fill of ditch [103]	IA	CP2	
[120]	Cut of ditch	RB	CP4	Same as [144], which cuts ditch [133] of tentative CP 5 date, so this may be later than CP 4
(121)	Fill of [120]	RB	CP4	
[122]	Ditch cut	IA		Associated with [92]
(123)	Fill of [122]	IA		
[124]	Cut of posthole	nd		
(125)	Fill of [124]	nd		
(126)	Fill of [129]	IA	CP2	
(127)	Fill of [129]	IA	CP2	
(128)	Fill of [129]	IA	CP2	
[129]	Cut of ditch	IA	CP2	Same as [141]
(130)	Fill of [131]	IA	CP1	
[131]	Cut of pit	IA	CP1	
132	VOID			

Context	Description	Phase	CP	Notes
[133]	Cut of ditch	RB	CP5	Pottery assemblage is small and CP 5 date is tentative. [133] and [135] are potentially earlier in date.
(134)	Fill of [133]	RB	CP5	
[135]	Cut of ditch	RB	CP5	
(136)	Fill of [135]	RB	CP5	
[137]	Cut of posthole	nd		
(138)	Fill of [137]	nd		
[139]	Cut of ditch	LIA/ ERO	CP3	Same as [78]
(140)	Fill of [139]	LIA/ ERO	CP3	
[141]	Cut of linear terminus	IA		Same as [129]
(142)	Fill of [141]	IA		
(143)	Fill of [144]			
[144]	Cut of ditch	RB		Same as [120]
(145)	Fill of [146]	RB		
[146]	Cut of ditch	RB		Same as [169]?
(147)	Fill of [5]	RB	CP5	
[148]	Cut of pit	IA		Same as [150]
(149)	Fill of [148]/ [150]	IA		
[150]	Cut of pit	IA		Same as [148]
(151)	Fill of [148]/ [150]	IA		
[152]	Cut of pit	IA	CP1	
(153)	Fill of [152]	IA	CP1	
[154]	Cut of ditch	IA	CP2	
(155)	Fill of [154]	IA	CP2	
[156]	Cut of ditch	IA		
(157)	Fill of [156][158]	IA	CP2	
[158]	Cut of ditch	IA	CP2	
[159]	Cut of pit	IA	CP2	
(160)	Fill of [159]	IA	CP2	
[161]	Cut of pit	RB	CP5	
(162)	Fill of pit [161]	RB	CP5	
[163]	Cut of ditch	RB	CP4?	Cuts CP 5 pit [161], so may be later than CP 4
(164)	Fill of [163]	RB	CP4?	
[165]	Cut of ditch	LIA/ ERO?	CP3?	Uncertain relationship with CP4 ditch [169], so potential for this to be later than CP3.
(166)	Fill of [165]	LIA/ ERO?	CP3?	
[167]	Cut of pit	IA	CP2	
(168)	Fill of [167]	IA	CP2	
[169]	Cut of ditch	RB	CP4	Same as [146]?
(170)	Fill of [169]	RB	CP4	
(171)	layer	RB		

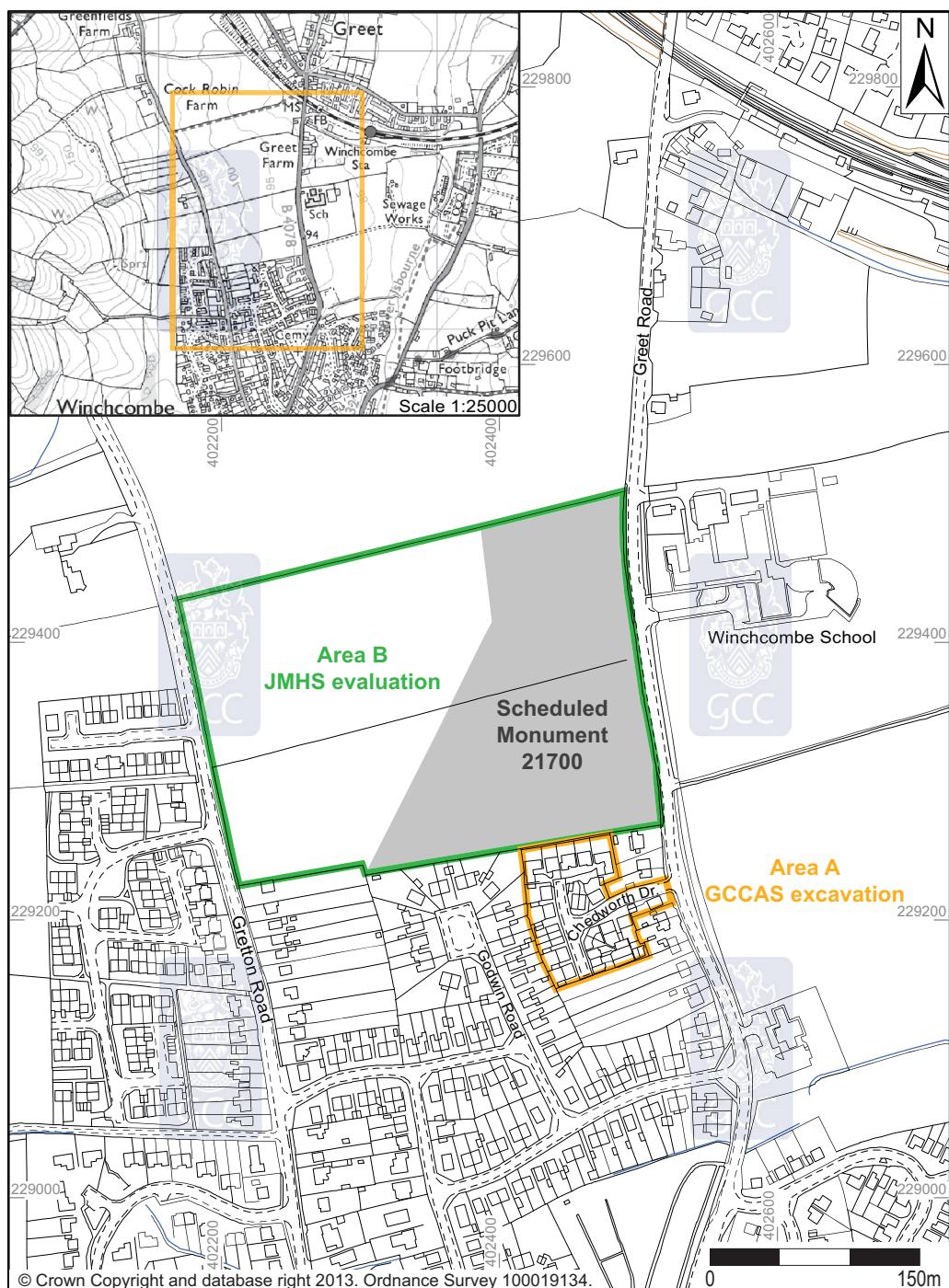


Fig 1: Site location plan. Scale 1:5000



Fig 2: Area A location plan, showing limit of excavation and furrows. Scale 1:1250.

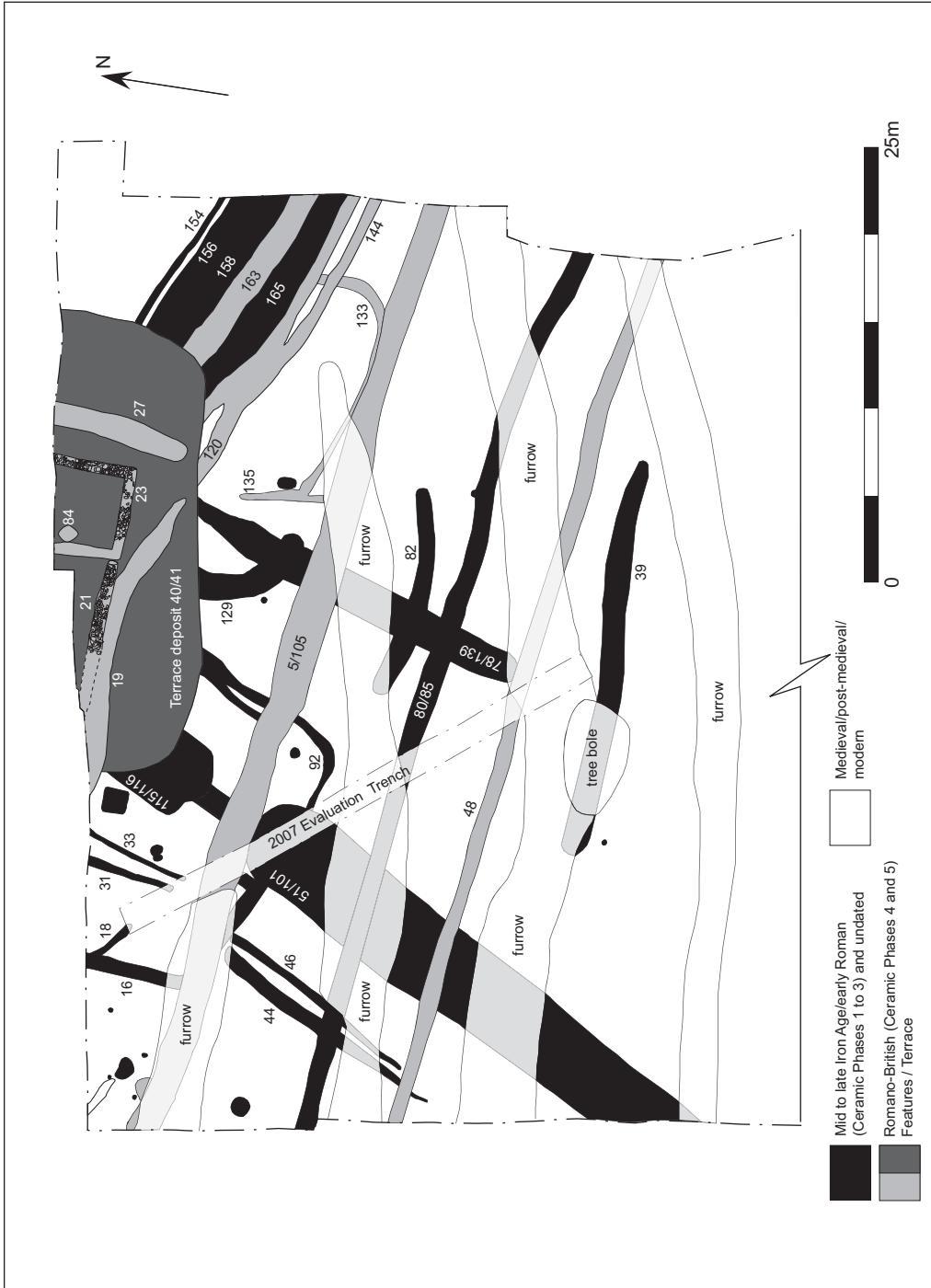


Fig 3: Area A. Plan of all features showing later intrusions. Scale 1:400



Fig 4: Area A. Middle to late Iron Age and late Iron Age/early Roman features. Scale 1:400

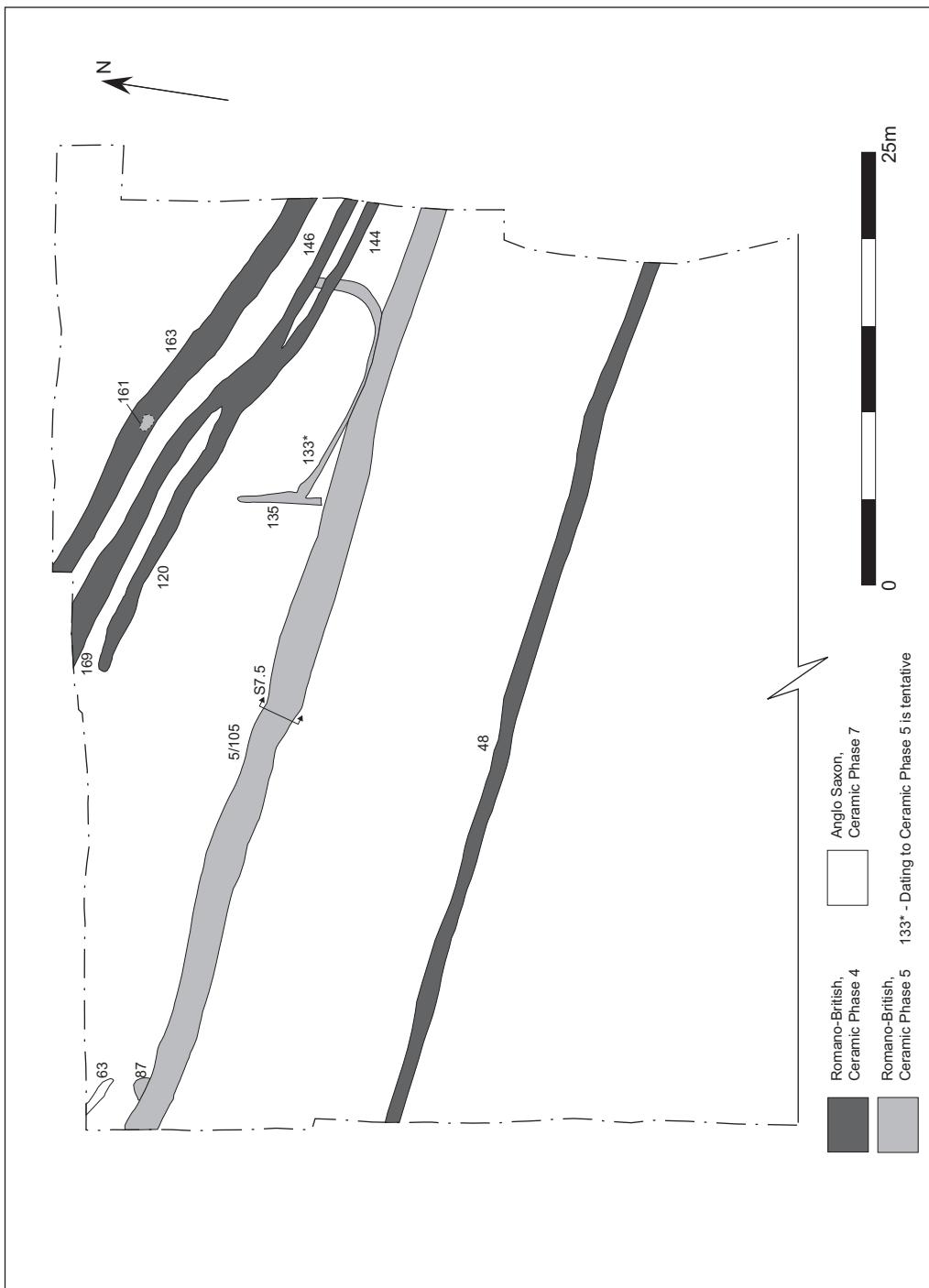


Fig 5: Area A. Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon features (excluding terrace features). Scale 1:400

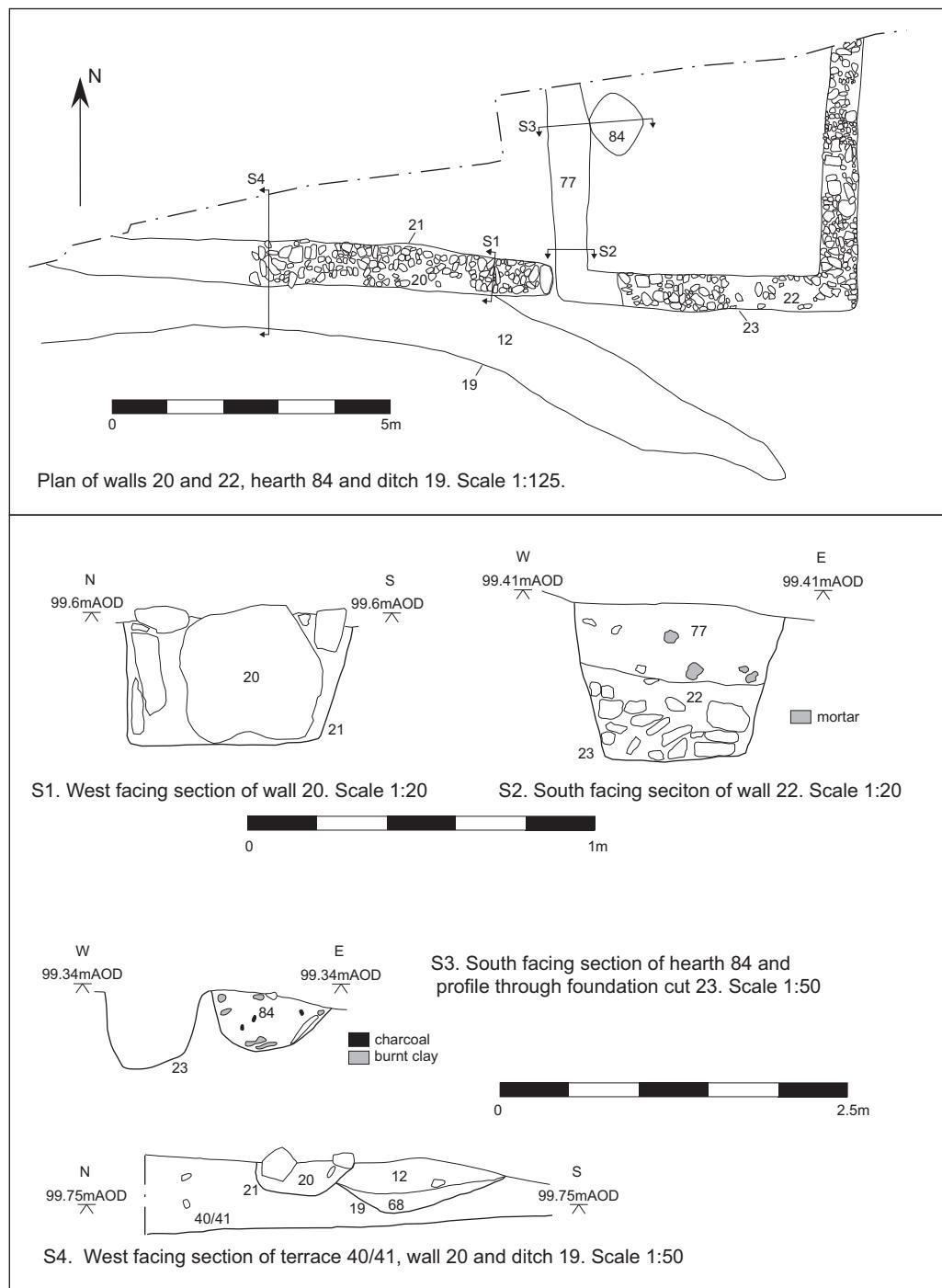


Fig 6: Plan and sections of Romano-British walls and other features cutting the terrace deposits.

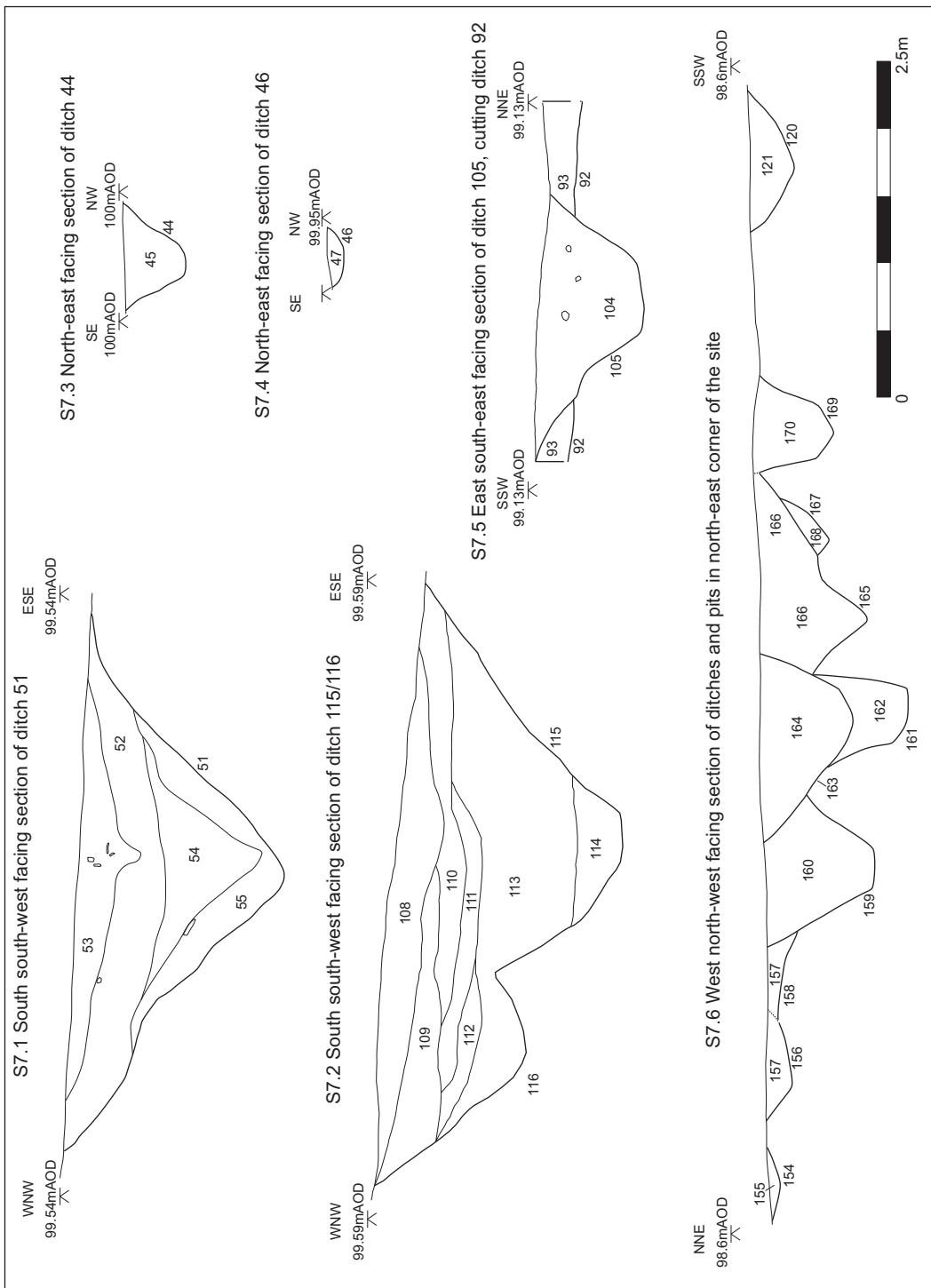


Fig 7: Sections. Scale 1:50

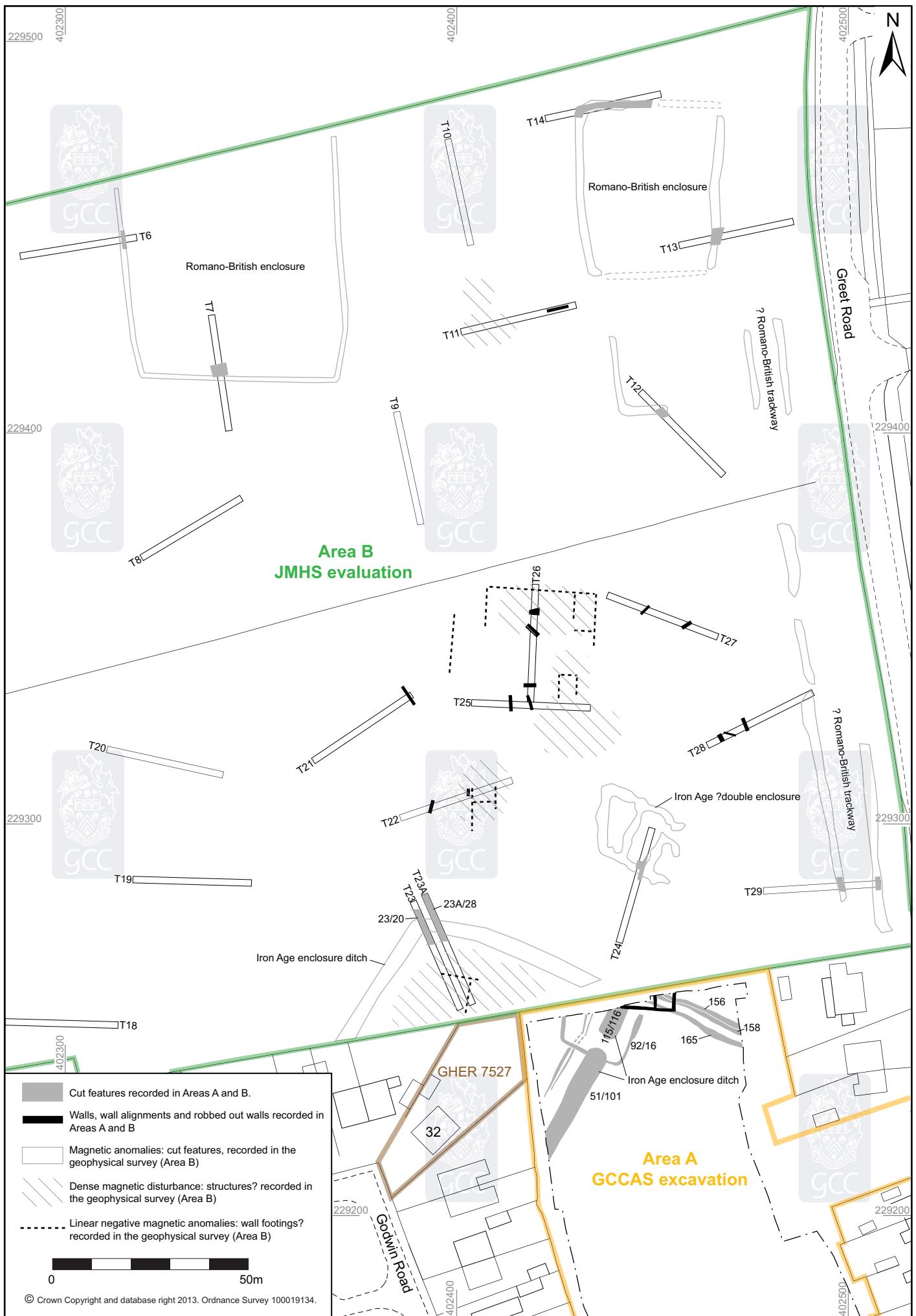


Figure 8: Plan of key features recorded in the excavation, evaluation and geophysical survey. Scale 1:1250

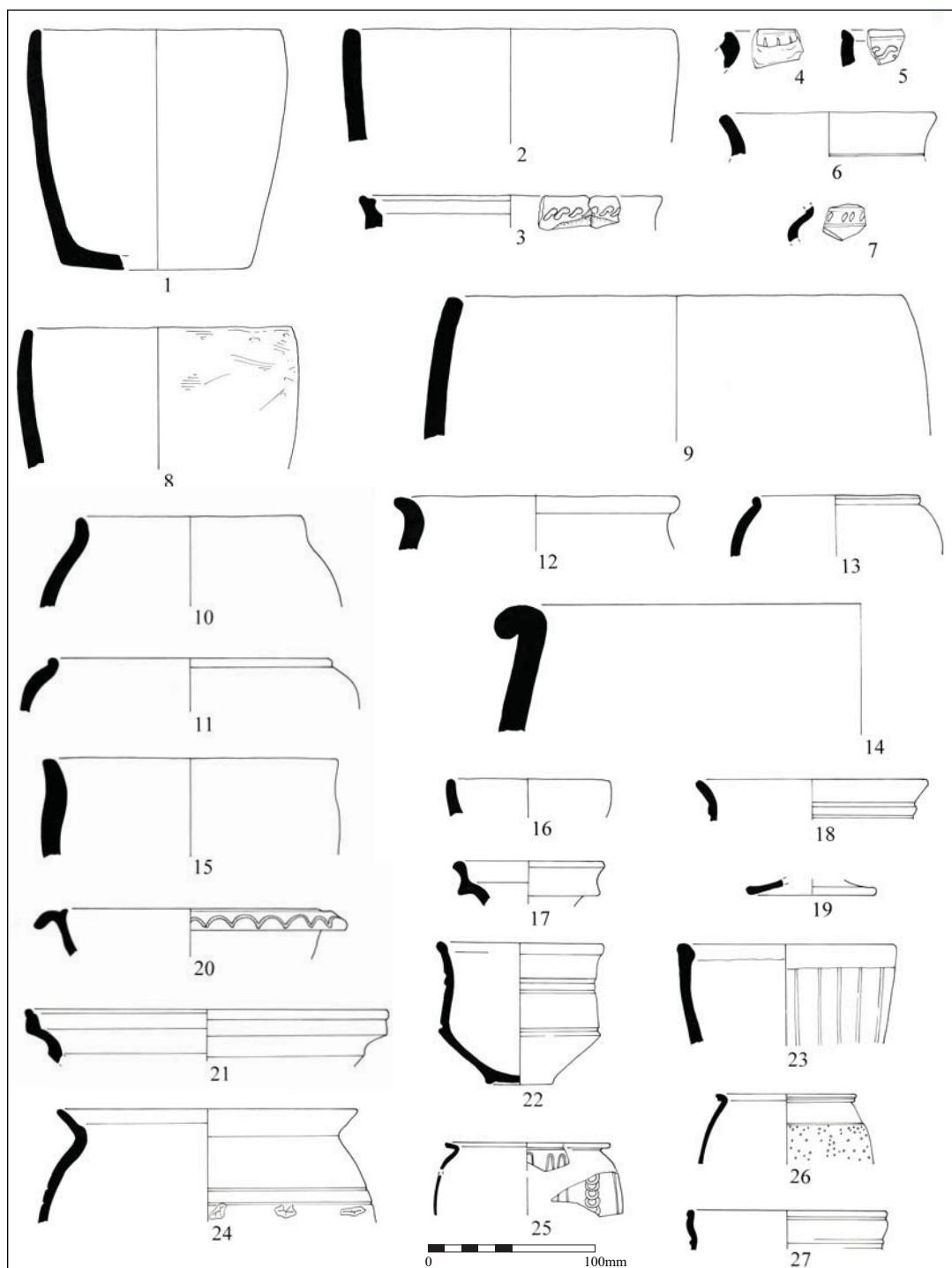


Fig 9: Pottery (1-27). Scale 1:4

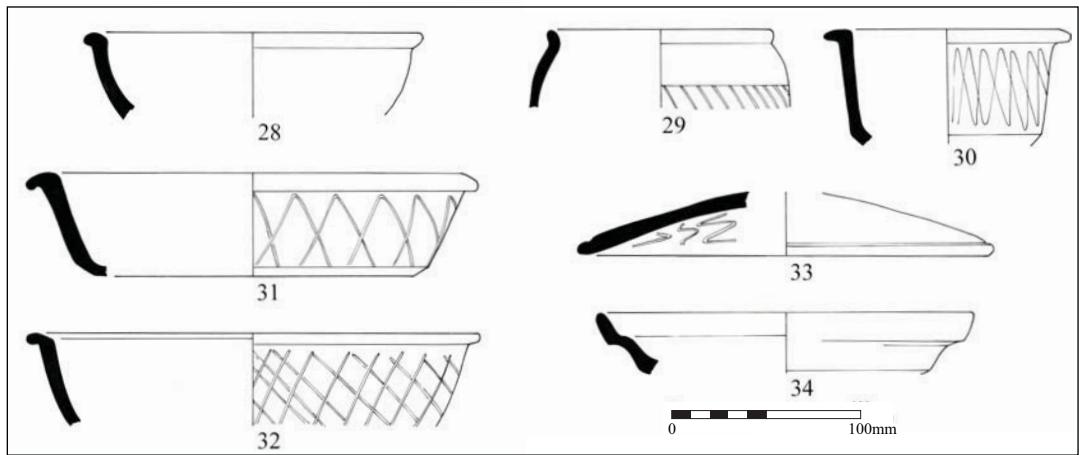


Fig 10: Pottery (28-34). Scale 1:4

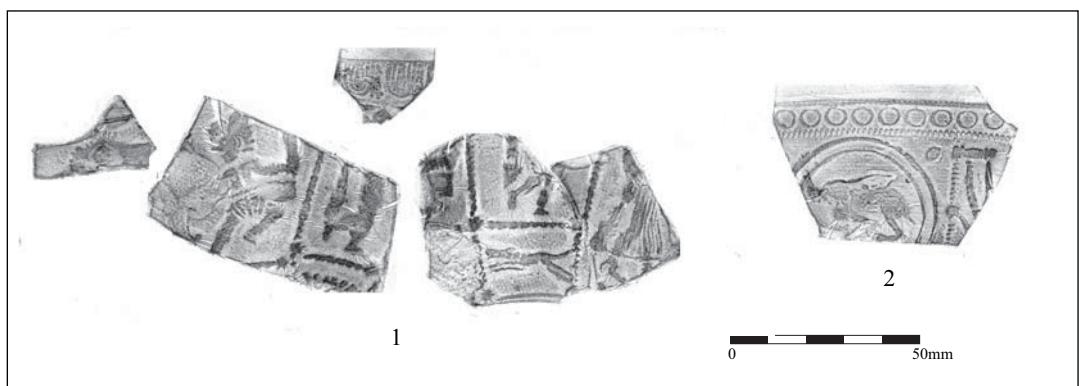


Fig 11: Samian ware pottery. Scale 1:2

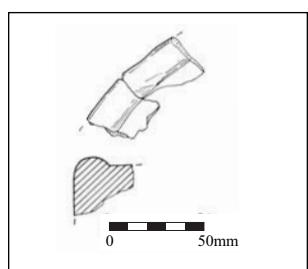


Fig 12: Fired clay. Scale 1:4

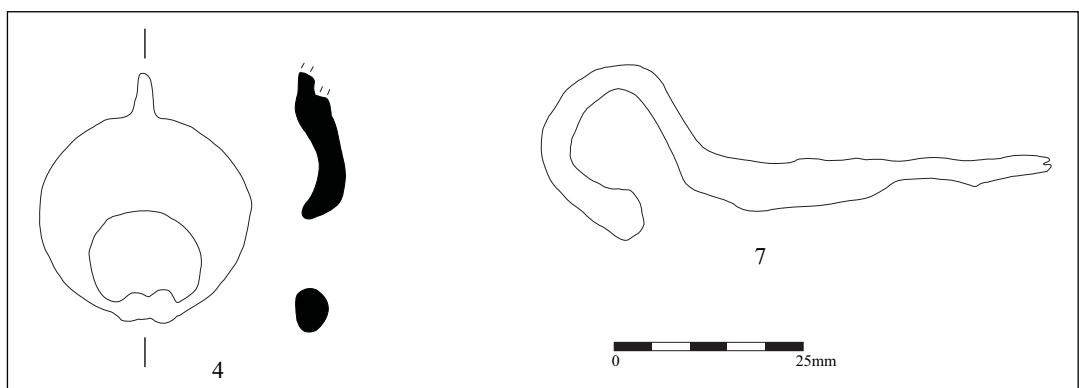


Fig 13: Copper alloy pendant (no. 4) and iron hook (no. 7) (drawn from x-radiographs). Scale 1:1