

CAMBRIDGE INDEPENDENT ARCHAEOLOGY - CIA4 (NWBV10)

Revised 2026

Report on a limited evaluation excavation of a Roman temple at Nine Wells, Whittlesford in 2010

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(with contributions from Archaeology RheeSearch Group, William Hughes, Peter Cornelissen, Stephen Reed and Robert Skeen)

1. Summary

Another limited excavation was undertaken in 2010 of the site centred on TL 452 475, which has now been extensively surveyed by the Archaeology RheeSearch Group. The area includes the assumed location of tumuli known as the Chronicle Hills that were levelled in the early 19th century and lies north of a scheduled site in the adjacent field. The focus of attention was a rectangular feature lying amidst an area of much geophysical disturbance that is just to the south of the U-shaped feature excavated in 2009, which has been interpreted as a Roman temple. Its foundations comprised flint pebbles.

Initial indications were that this area of disturbance marked the site of a substantial Roman building, with the rectangular feature being a possible bathhouse. For example, a concentration of tile has been found by field walking.

Trenches were placed over and around the rectangular area. All the trenches yielded building demolition material comprising brick, roof and hypocaust tile, mortar/plaster, opus signinum and tesserae. The edge of a tessellated floor was uncovered at the considerable depth of just over a metre. From the small areas excavated, a considerable quantity of material was recovered. For example, the total weight of roof tile amounted to 69 kilograms.

The result of some limited metal detecting on nearby higher ground is reported.

2. Updated trench identities and context numbers

The whole Nine Wells site trench and context numbering identifications prior to 2014 have been normalized to make the identification of trenches easier. This also applies to the test pits in 2010. It is possible that some references to the new numbering have been missed in cases of finds or records etc. so the following cross-reference table should be used if anomalies are found.

Normalized test pit	Original test pit
TP1	A1011
TP2	A1213
TP3	A1415
TP4	A215225
TP5	AYZ6580
TP6	B205215
TP7	B235345
TP8	C89
TP9	C1213
TP10	E78
TP11	E1718
TP12	I1516
TP13	YX234245
TP14	Z56

3. Background

In 2002, the Archaeology RheeSearch Group commenced surveying the field that lies east of the Hoffer Brook and near its source, the springs called Nine Wells in the parish of Whittlesford. One of the aims was to locate the remains of tumuli known as the Chronicle Hills (see references 1 and 2). In 2009, the excavation team explored a U-shaped feature, revealing the foundations of a building believed to be a Roman temple or mortuary enclosure. A report (see reference 3) was written and a copy deposited with the Heritage and Environment Record (HER) at Shire Hall. In 2010, further surveys were made, revealing an even more extensive area of features including a possible villa complex, trackways and, tentatively, what may be the location of the tumuli. However, the excavation in 2010 was to explore the feature to the south of the temple site, centred on the rectangular area of high resistance (see figure 1). Surface finds of roof and hypocaust tile suggested that a substantial Roman building had stood at this location. Supporting evidence was provided by a vertical “slice” resistivity plot across the rectangular area (see figure 2). A steep-sided feature with a high resistance fill is clearly seen.

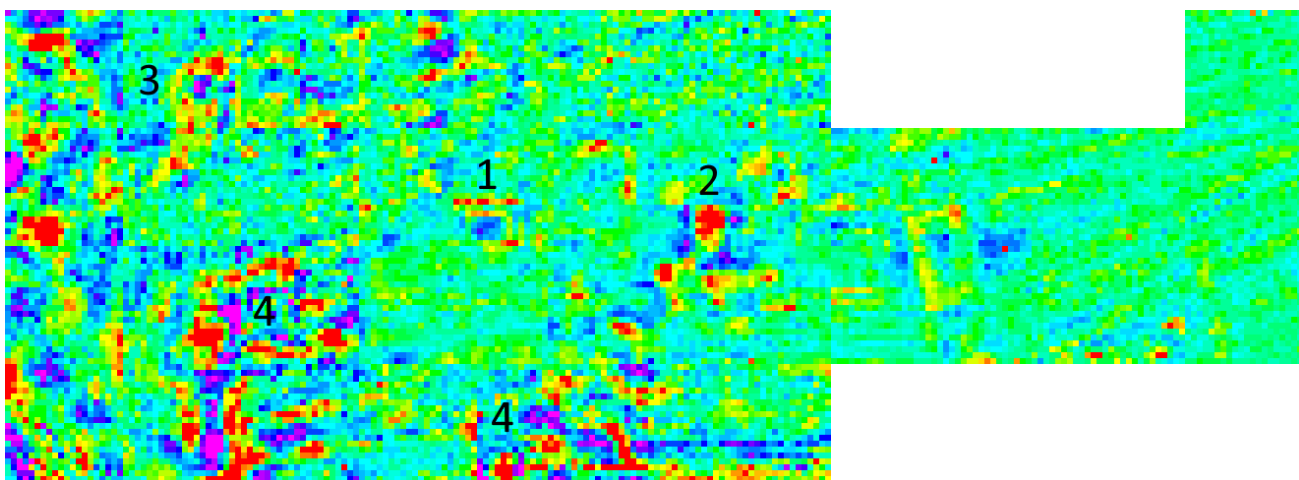


Figure 1 – Resistivity survey

- 1 = temple site excavated in 2009 & 2010
 - 2 = site excavated in 2010
 - 3 = possible site of the tumuli
 - 4 = further areas of disturbance revealed in 2010.
- Survey area = 225 by 82 metres. North is to the left, at an inclination of ca. 30 degrees)

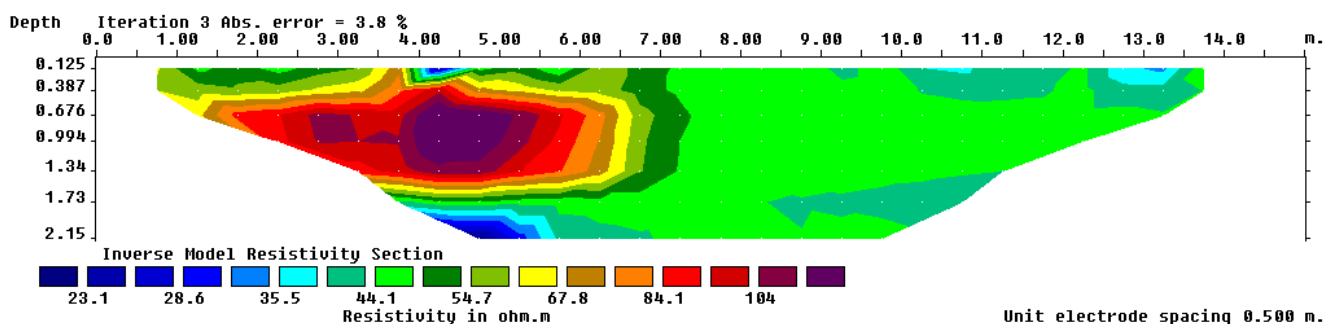


Figure 2 – A vertical “slice” resistivity plot across the rectangular showing in high resistance

4. The Excavation

The strategy was to dig one by one metre square trenches over the area of disturbance seen on the resistivity survey, focussing on the high resistance rectangular feature. The trenches might then be extended as necessary, within the time and resource limitations of the small team. The site was given the code NWBV10.

The same datum points that had been established by the survey group were used to lay out base lines, i.e. the x- and y-axes of a grid. Figure 3 shows this grid and the trenches that were dug, superimposed on the resistivity survey. The trenches could then be designated as per the following example.

Trench TP1 (A 10-11):- a 1 by 1 metre trench in the “A” column and from 10 to 11 metres along the y-axis.

GPS readings for the trenches were taken and their grid references are given in table 1.

An initial mistake was made interpreting the scale of the survey (1 metre survey squares were incorrectly taken as 0.5 metre squares). As a result, the first trenches dug (phase 1 trenches) were further away from the high resistance target than planned. This was rectified by digging the phase 2 trenches.

Note: As no survey equipment was available to the group, all measured depths are relevant to the individual test pits rather than a single datum point.

Trenches and spoil heaps were checked with a metal detector. Finds were bagged, washed and sorted (see tables 2 – 7).

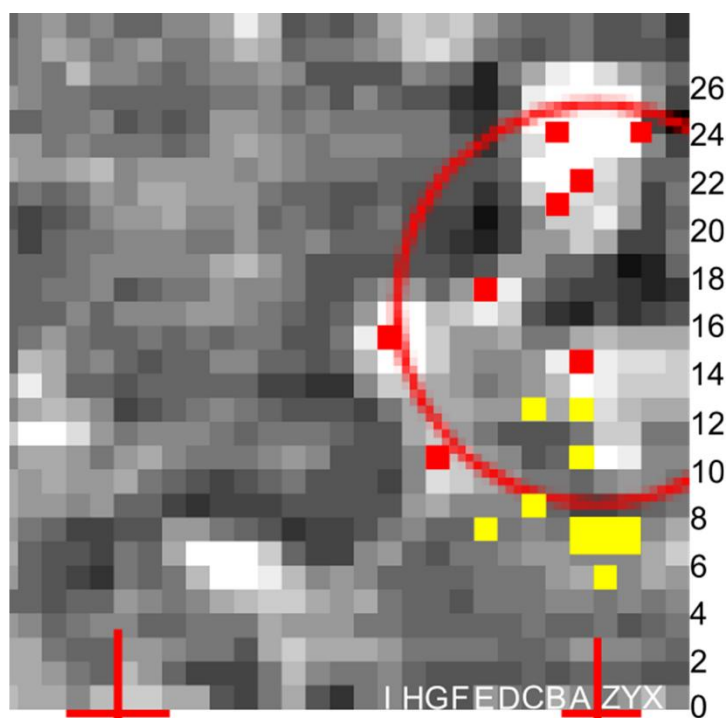


Figure 3 – Trench plan (yellow – 1st phase, red – 2nd phase)

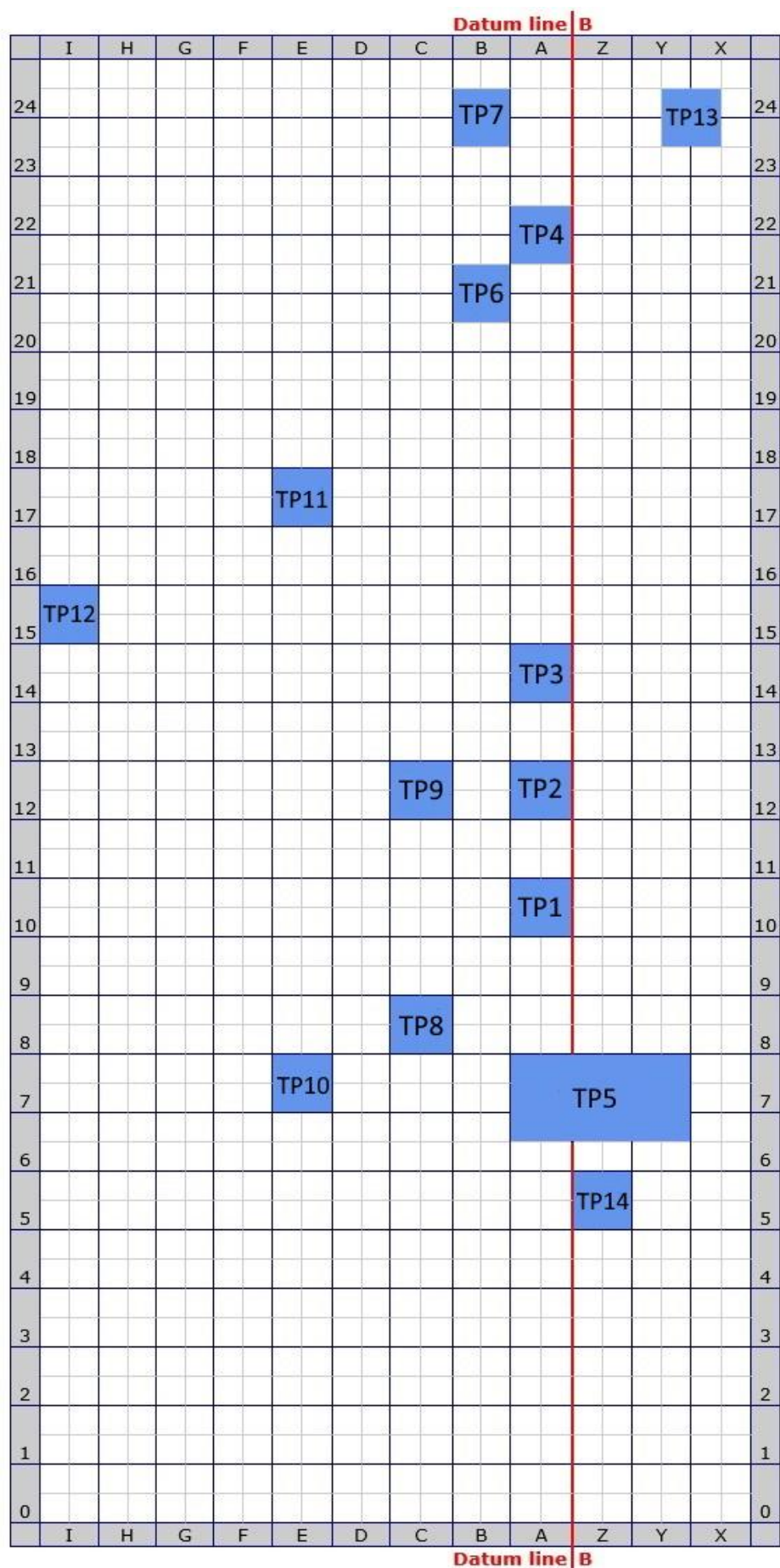


Figure 4 – The test pit grid

5. Trench TP1 (A 10-11)

This trench was planned to be placed on the edge of the high reading area of the geophysical survey at A 20-11, but due to the mistake that was made interpreting the scale of the survey, where the 1 metre survey squares were incorrectly taken as 0.5 metre squares, it actually covered a low reading area. It was however adjacent to a high reading area at Z 10-11.

Plough earth had depth of 0.30 to 0.32 metres, then below, down to the natural, was a high density of demolition building materials:- mortar, opus signinum, roof tile, flue tile, brick, 24 tesserae and 15 pieces of painted plaster, with just 2 pieces of pottery. Significantly, one of these pieces was identified as a square gaming counter. Note should be made that two other gaming counters were found in the nearby trench C 12-13. See discussion section for the significance of these gaming counters. Other finds included fragments of stone tile, charcoal, bone and nail.

The trench was partially excavated to natural chalk at a depth of 1.11 metres (context 305)

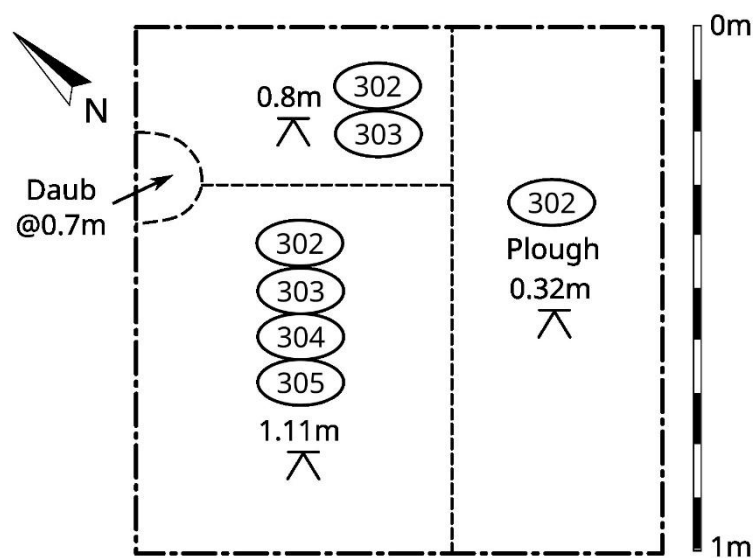


Figure 5 – Plan 1007 of TP1

6. Trench TP2 (A12-13)

This trench was excavated down to a general depth of 0.6 metres, with a sondage (0.25 x 0.25 metres) dug in the western corner, in which natural chalk (a Roman floor level?) was encountered at a depth of 1.13 metres (context 311).

Below the plough soil of depth 0.30 to 0.34 metres was a *demolition* layer extending down to 0.6 metres. This comprised soil lightened in colour by the admixture of degraded mortar and opus signinum, and with incorporation of tile, brick and tesserae. Some burnt patches in the northern segment of the trench were seen at depth 0.45 to 0.50 metres. From 0.6 metres down to natural, there was another demolition layer, but of a darker colour.

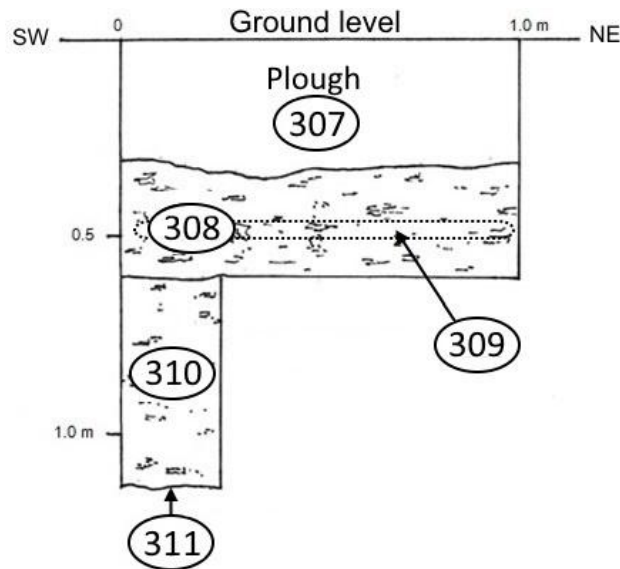


Figure 6 – Section 1002 of TP2 viewed from SE looking NW

7. Trench TP3 (A 14-15)

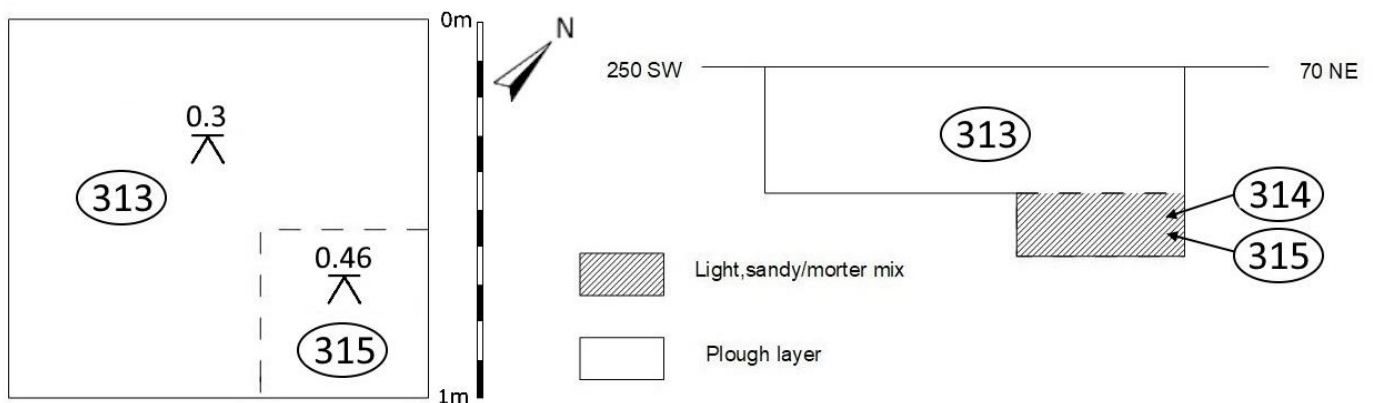


Figure 7 – Plan 1008 and Section 1003 of TP3

This trench was only excavated down to 0.46 metres. A few finds were found including tesserae, plaster, CBM and lead.

8. Trench TP4 (A 21.5-22.5)

This was only excavated through the plough soil at depth of 0.3 metres with no recorded finds.

9. Trench TP5 (AZY 6.5-8.0)

This became the largest of the trenches excavated following the extension and amalgamation of adjacent 1.0 x 1.0 metre trenches (A 6.5-7.5 and Y 6.5-7.5). Within the footprint, four sondages were dug to establish the natural chalk below the demolition layers. See the trench plan, figure 5.

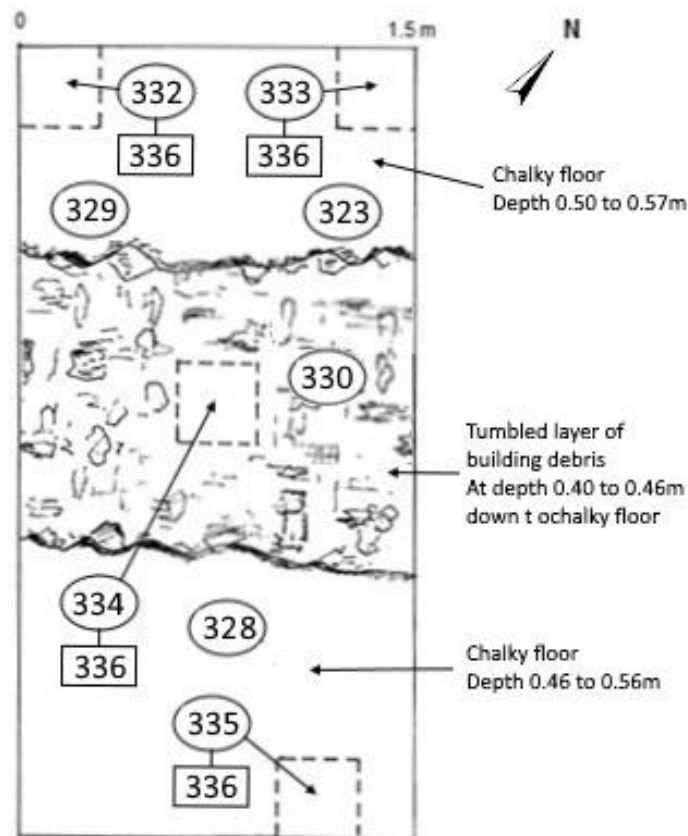


Figure 8 – Plan 1009 of TP5 (3.0 x 1.5m) detailing sondages

Depth of sondages 332 = 0.76m, 333 = 0.64m, 334 = 0.55m and 335 = 0.77m

Below the dark plough soil of depth 0.25 to 0.30 metres, lighter coloured brown and orange-brown demolition layers were again encountered down to a natural chalk (floor?) level at 0.46 to 0.58 metres depth. However, the fill from the south western sector of the trench appeared darker, which was attributed to a greater organic content. The fill in the eastern part of the trench was noticeably more compact.

The concentration of the building debris varied across the trench, as shown in the plan and trench sections, figures 6 and 7. Notably, a densely packed tumble of roof and flue tile and brick fragments stretched in a layer across the central section of the trench from a depth of 0.40 to 0.45 metres down to the natural chalk. Degraded opus signinum and mortar, with plastered mortar fragments, in considerable quantities, were incorporated into these demolition layers. Plastered mortar was found at 0.42 to 0.58 metres depth, with a large section of red plaster in the south eastern corner and with smaller pieces in the north eastern corner, mainly white. Of note was the residue of a mortar overcoat on some of the plastered surfaces, suggesting that the walls had been refurbished at some stage. A small number (12) of tesserae were recovered. Some of the flue tile shows evidence of smoke/burning. Some flecks of charcoal were found at 0.30 to 0.42 metres depth in the southern part of the trench.

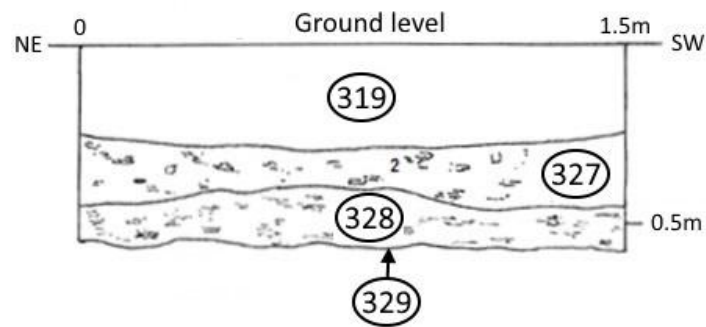


Figure 9 – Section 1004 of TP5 viewed from NW, looking SE

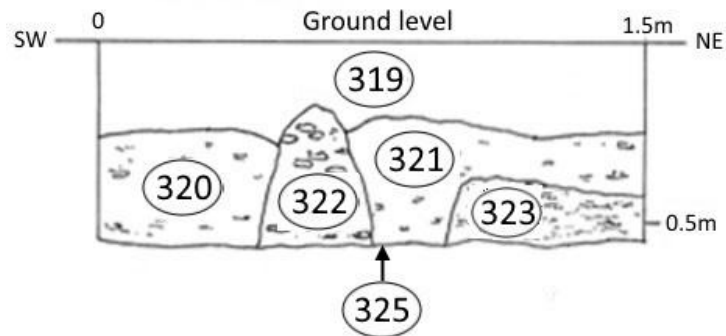


Figure 10 – Section 1005 of TP5 viewed from SE, looking NW

10. Trench TP6 (B 20.5-21.5)

This trench was only partially excavated with a small area down to 75cm. Apart from light sandy soil with broken mortar, no other features were recorded.

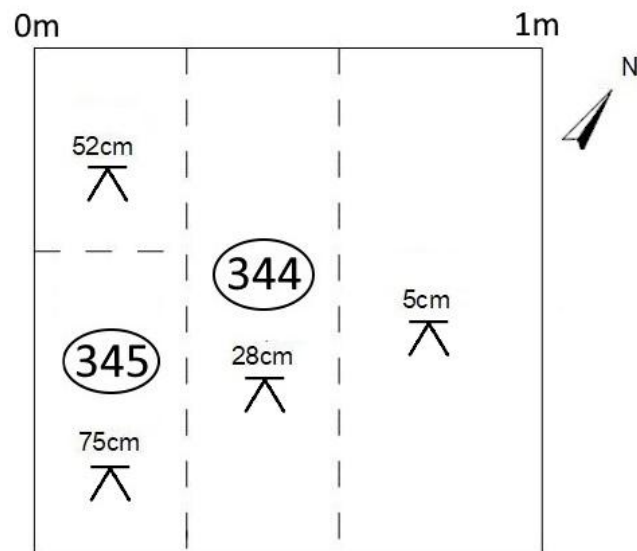


Figure 11 – Plan 1010 of TP6

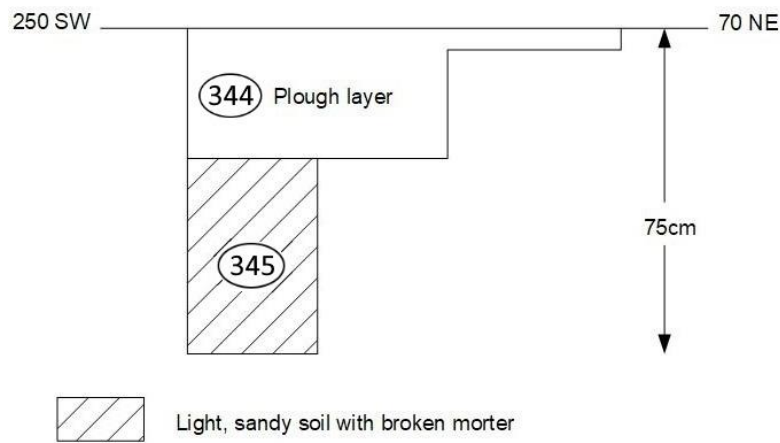


Figure 12 – Section 1006 of TP6 Looking NW

11. Trench TP7 (B 23.5-24.5)

From below the plough layer this trench exhibited evidence of a slip or infill of a deeper cut or hollow. Defined layers are evident in the profile (see figure 8). Generally, the fill comprised a loose mix down to 1.10 metres depth where a possible surface was identified, but it was very friable. However, the most interesting feature was the gully or cut into the (probably) natural chalk, 0.15 metres from the northern edge of the trench, from 1.10 metres depth down to 1.50 metres (see figure 9). Finds included 52 large red tesserae with a mix of tile and opus signinum, concentrated at 0.90 to 1.10 metres depth. Some tesserae were found in small groups of 3 or 4.

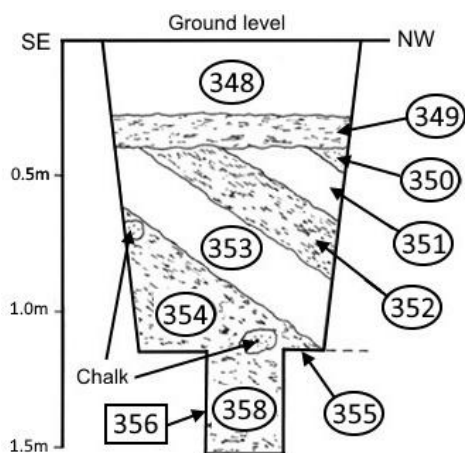


Figure 13 – Section 1007 of TP7 Looking SW

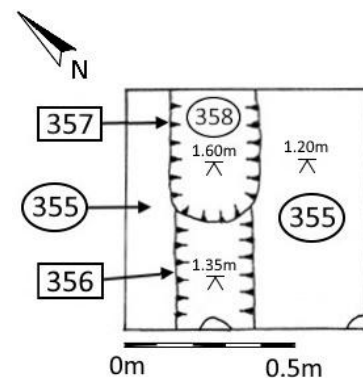


Figure 14 – Plan 1011 of TP7



Figure 15 – View of TP7 Looking SW

12. Trench TP8 (C 8-9)

This trench was not fully dug down to natural, but again was found to contain building debris below plough soil (see figure 10).

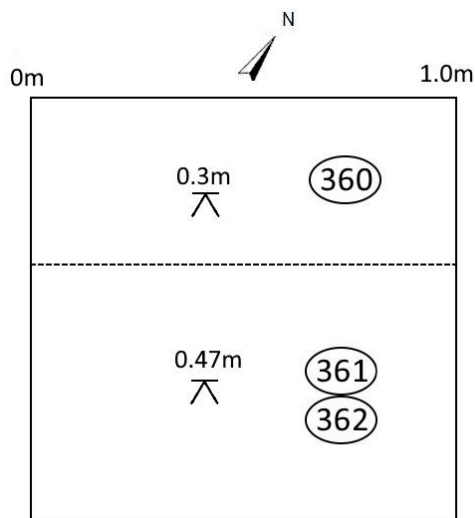


Figure 16 – Plan 1012 of TP8

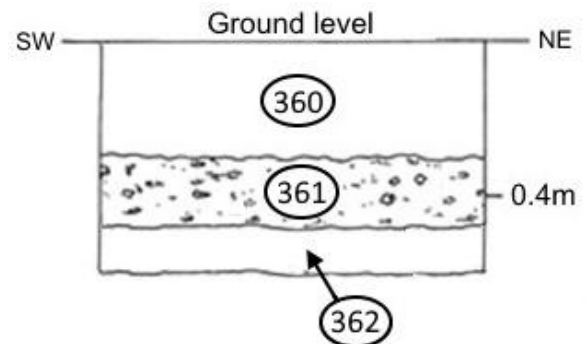


Figure 17 – Section 1008 of TP7 Looking NW

13. Trench TP9 (C12-13)

This trench was excavated in a similar manner to that of the adjacent trench TP2, with again a sondage placed in the western corner (see figure 11).

The demolition layers below the plough soil were also of similar composition and appearance to those in trench TP2. However, the concentration of building debris was lower and no burnt patches were seen.

Two sherds of pottery were found, which may have been fashioned for use as gaming counters. Intriguingly, one piece, found at a depth of 0.6 metres, comprises a dark fabric with a thin, dark green glaze on one side. An “X” had been scored into the glazed face, with an “A” scored into the unglazed face. A sherd of buff coloured mortarium was also recovered.

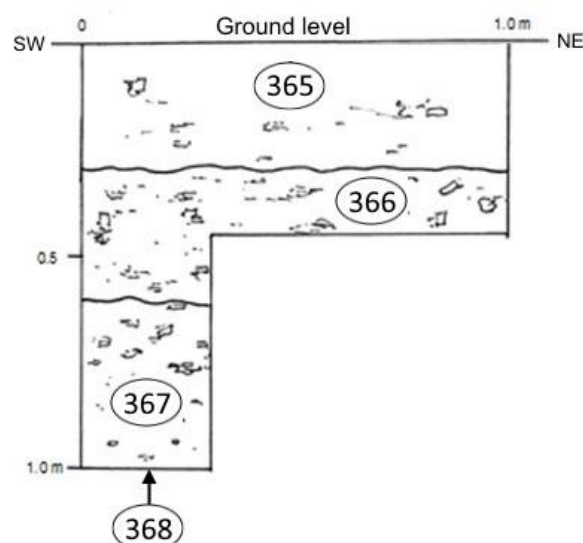


Figure 18 – Section 1009 of TP9 Looking NW

14. Trench TP10 (E 7-8)

This was one of the first series of trenches. The excavation followed the standard approach of a one metre square test pit. Soon after digging through the plough layer (which extended to 0.30 metres depth) a number of large broken roof and box flue tiles were found in the northern corner. The pit was taken down to a depth of 0.40 metres, at which point the tiles appeared to have been deliberately stacked together and began to look like a potential pillar, possibly supporting a hypocaust (see figure 12).

The test pit was therefore extended to create a further one metre square extension overlapping (by 0.5 metres) into the northern corner. The extended pit was excavated to a depth of 0.52 metres, at which point it became evident that the main cluster of tiles was loose and not mortared together. Further tiles lay at the northerly edge of the extended trench. At 0.52 metres depth the soil had a chalky clay appearance and seemed to be the natural ground surface.

The only other find of significance was a well preserved metal pin or nail. This was found just below the plough layer in the trench extension.

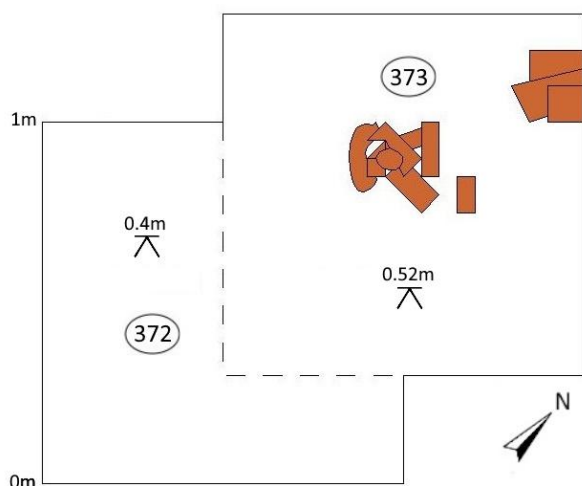


Figure 19 – Plan 1013 of TP10

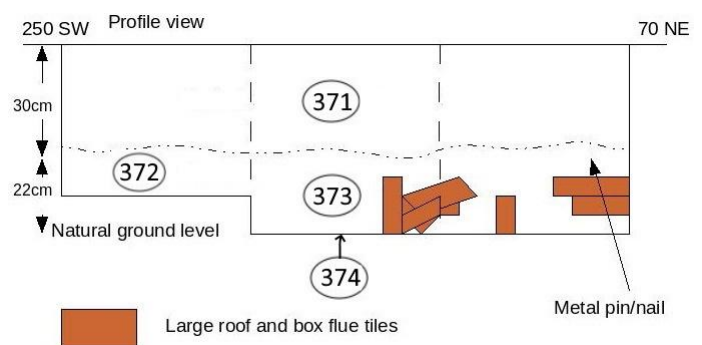


Figure 20 – Section 1010 of TP10 Looking NW

15. Trench TP11 (E 17-18)

This 1.0 by 1.0 metre trench was excavated to a general level of 0.3 metres, with a 0.5 by 1.0 metre sondage to depth of 0.7 metres along the eastern side, and a further 0.5 by 0.5 metres sondage to 1 metre depth in the north-eastern corner. The excavated material contained undifferentiated demolition debris (tile, stone, degraded mortar, opus signinum and plaster). At the bottom of the latter sondage a tessellated area with mostly small white tesserae was found (see figure 13). This was left in situ. Loose tesserae were found in the adjacent area.

The mosaic floor found at 1 metre depth consists mainly of white tesserae, with a small section of red border. It appears to extend beyond the edge of the excavation. The mortar presumably originally present has almost completely decayed. Adjacent to the well-preserved area there is a high concentration of similar disordered tesserae. The tesserae are 10-15 mm square and are composed of hard chalk, with an applied cap (see Figure 23).

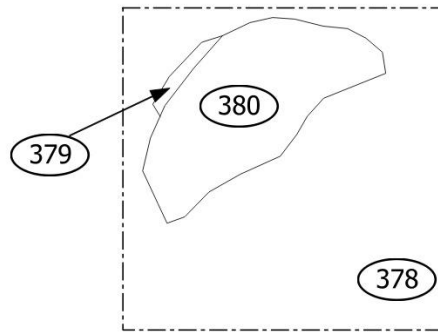


Figure 21 – Plan 1014 of TP11

Stone occurs amongst the demolition debris in the form of broken roof tiles and other fragmentary building material. These consist of grey sandstone with wavy cleavage. Microscopic thin-section examination reveals quartz grains of fairly uniform 0.1-0.2 mm dimensions, with calcite cement shown by a chemical stain test to be of a ferroan (iron-containing) type.



Figure 22 – Tessellated floor found at a depth of 1 metre at the bottom of trench TP11



Figure 23 - Examples of the loose tesserae from trench TP11 (note the “capped” tesserae)

16. Trench TP12 (I 15-16)

The plough soil included 17 large red tesserae. The general consistency of the fill below the plough layer was relatively loose and below 0.60 metres depth opus signinum and plaster were incorporated, but there were no distinguishable contexts. Finds were sporadic throughout the trench and at varying depths, with a large sherd of Hadham ware mortarium in the south western corner. It would appear that this trench was on the edge of the main demolition area and it can therefore be assumed that this marks the northern edge of the building. A sondage in one corner eventually reached 1.30 metres in depth without reaching natural.

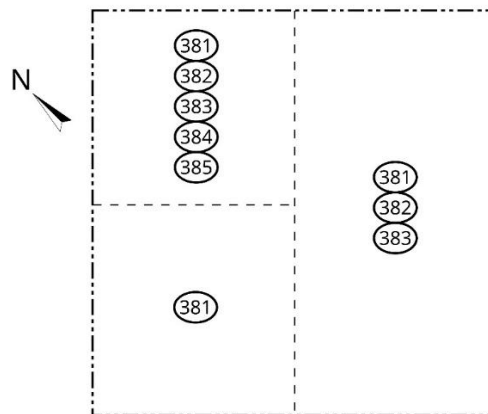


Figure 24 – Plan 1015 of TP11

17. Trench TP13 (YX 23.5-24.5)

This trench was placed at the edge of the high reading area astride the 24 metre line along which a resistivity section survey was made (see figure 2).

After the usual plough earth with a depth of approximately 0.3 metres there were successive demolition layers of building material, first a horizontal layer about 0.20 metres thick, then layers laid at a downwards angle of approximately 25 to 30 degrees from the surface down to a flat layer of mortar at a depth of 1.04 to 1.09 metres across the trench. These contained many kilograms of mortar, opus signinum, roof tile, flue tile, brick, plus 69 tesserae, 13 pieces of painted plaster and 8 pieces of pottery (see figure 15). The mortar layer at the bottom was only approximately 1 cm thick and underneath was natural chalk at 1.05 to 1.10 metres.



Figure 25 –TP13 Looking SW



Figure 26 –TP13 Looking NW

It is presumed that this was a floor level, possibly the base for a mosaic floor or hypocaust floor. (However, see discussion paragraph for a fuller review including the significance of the sloping demolition layers and flat mortar floor). There was one small piece of black pottery embedded in the “floor” surface at a depth of 1.04 metres. Other finds included 15 oyster shells, 2 nails, 1 bone, charcoal, and a much corroded radiate

coin of the 3rd century whose issue was not discernible. Although this coin was found on the spoil heap it was known that it was within 5-10 cm from the bottom of the trench.

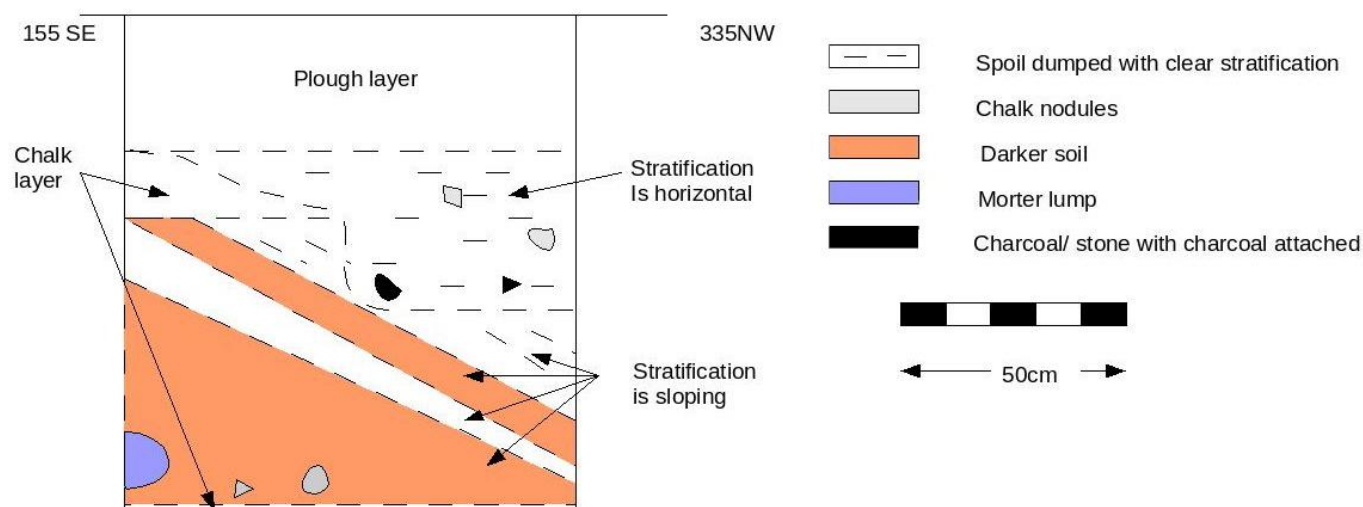


Figure 27 – Section 1011 of TP13 Looking SW

18. Trench TP14 (Z 5-6)

This was the most westerly of the trenches dug. Below the plough soil of depth 0.28 metres, the brown layer containing building debris was again encountered. At a depth of 0.4 metres, this layer became very dark. A sondage was dug into the dark layer down to 0.65 metres, where natural chalk was encountered (see figure 16). This dark layer comprised organic matter that had accumulated in wet conditions and contained some charcoal and chalk.

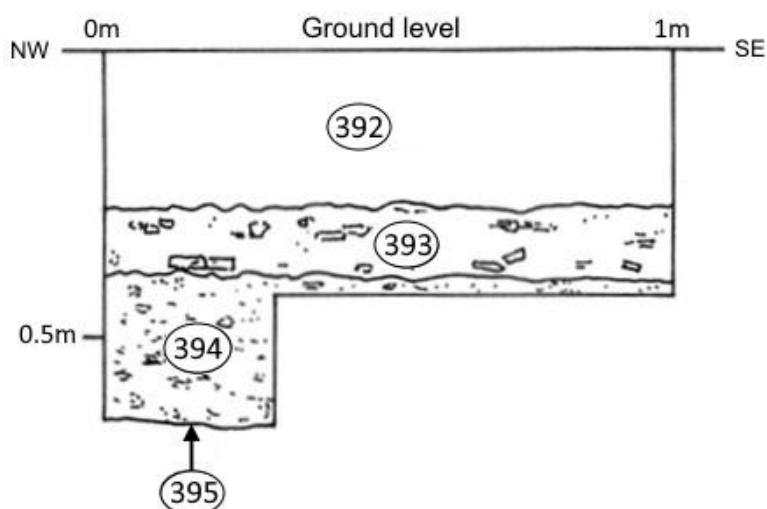


Figure 28 – Section 1012 of TP14 Looking NE

19. Finds by Metal Detectorists

A team of metal detectorists, independent of the excavation team, obtained permission to search in the same field. Their finds were handed over for evaluation and subsequent recording by the local Finds Liaison Officer. Although precise locations are not known, the items were found on the higher part of the field to the east and north of the excavation, where the survey found indications of trackways.

20. Finds Summary (see figures 17 and 18 for images of some of the items)

- Coins, tokens and jettons (27) including a corroded tribal bronze coin of the Catuvellauni (Spink S.272), bronze and silver Roman coins of the 3rd and 4th centuries, medieval silver hammered coins, a silver sixpence of Elizabeth I and a 17th century trade token
- Bronze items – a Roman brooch, a Saxon pin, foot of a pot, handles, buckle, hinged tab, crotal bell, ring(?) and miscellaneous pieces of thin sheet
- Buttons (16)
- Thimble
- Iron hook with ring
- Lead – lead weight, lead shot (45 grams), miscellaneous pieces (334 grams)



Figure 17 Detector finds – Catuvellaunian bronze coin of Rues (left) and 4th century Roman coins, House of Constantine (right)



Figure 18 Detector find – Saxon pin

21. Discussion

The excavation confirmed that a substantial building of high status stood on the site. It had been comprehensively demolished at some time (or times) and the ground levelled. The building must have been one of several at this strategic Roman site near a track of the Icknield Way where it both fords the Hoffer Brook and meets another track running north-south. This can be deduced from the known history of the site (the levelling of the tumuli and sepulchres in the 19th century) and the geophysical surveys. Indeed, the resistivity surveys undertaken in 2010 suggest that there may be an even more extensive complex of buildings in the field. The trackways must have been in use over a very long time, into the medieval period and beyond, judging by the finds from the detectorists.

One theory proposed by Mark Hinman, who gave professional advice during the excavation, was that the building had been demolished sometime in the third century as the climate became wetter. The settlement

was then moved to the higher ground in the field to the south, which has been scheduled as a villa site based on aerial photography.

Although the small areas afforded by the trenches provided no clues as to the layout of the building, the evidence does suggest that it may have been a bathhouse. This evidence can be summarised as:-

- The quantity and type of building debris, particularly the hypocaust tile, the tesserae, the plaster and opus signinum. Opus signinum forms a water-resistant layer and some of the plaster and tesserae were found bonded to this material. Fragments of blue painted plaster suggest a watery context (see figure 19). However, no evidence of the hypocaust itself was found.
- The sloping tip lines of the building debris seen in trenches placed over the high resistance rectangular feature could be the result of the filling up of the bath during levelling operations.
- The depth of the natural chalk below current ground level varied. For trenches placed over lower resistance areas, the depth was approximately 0.6 metres. For trenches placed over high resistance areas, the depth was below 1 metre, suggesting that this may have been the level of the bath floor. The portion of tessellated floor uncovered was at this lower level.
- The amount of pottery recovered was low, suggesting an essentially non-domestic function. Two small sherds may have been used as gaming counters, which might tenuously be taken as evidence of leisure activity around the bath (refer to the discussion below).



Figure 19 Examples of painted wall plaster fragments (plaster was applied to mortar or opus signinum)

Some plaster fragments showed signs of being over coated with mortar. This might be interpreted as some repair or refurbishment or, perhaps, a change of use of the building, to some lower status function.

So far, the site has yielded limited dating evidence. A surface find of an East Gaulish Samian pot sherd near the high resistance rectangular area provides a date of AD 160 – 200. A single coin found in trench YX 23.5-24.5 provides a date of about AD 270. Therefore, the building may have been in use until the late third century.

Layers of building debris were encountered in all the trenches, whether over high or low resistance areas. Over 120 kilograms in total were recovered. Although the concentrations and constitution of the debris

varied, little more can be deduced other than the demolition had been thorough, without any signs of the building having burnt down.

22. 'Gaming counters' from Trench C 12-13

As reported in the excavation section of the report, two pottery sherds, which had been fashioned for use as gaming counters, were found in trench C12-13. Both are around 2mm by 2mm. One is buff ware and is definitely a Roman fabric. The other is green glazed and marked with a scratched 'X' on the glazed side and an 'A' scored into the unglazed face. It is impressed or scored with a line pattern. The fabric is grey and appears slightly oxidised near the surfaces (see figure 20).

The glazed piece was initially identified by the pottery specialist at Oxford Archaeology East as possibly medieval, 13th to 15th century. However, it would be unusual to find two gaming counters in the same context originating from widely different periods. Other options have been reviewed. Glazed Roman period ware is not common but there are several possibilities (see references 4 and 5). These include, for example:

- Lyon ware (AD 43-70). This usually has a lustrous dark greenish-brown colour coating and can have decoration formed from plastic clay.
- Central Gaulish glazed ware (also AD 43-70) has a shiny, consistent glaze from yellow to brown but usually green. Decoration is varied but can include lines. It is finer than Romano-British glazed ware.
- Romano-British glazed ware. The South East group is the most widely distributed of all Romano-British wares and extends from the Thames Valley to cover Cambridgeshire. The fabric is generally a medium grey, sometimes partly oxidised red-brown, fairly hard with some quartz and mica. One example was found in Cambridge (a cremation burial with Samian which indicated a date probably around the middle of the second century). It is described as soft medium grey fabric, with medium olive-green glaze.

While the piece in question is too small to easily identify, it seems to have a glaze consistent with these Roman period examples, particularly the Romano-British glazed ware whose fabric also appears to offer a close match.



Figure 20 Glazed ware "gaming counter"

There is considerable scope for further excavation of the site. In particular, the edge of the tessellated floor, aligned east-west, needs chasing and its relationship to any nearby wall foundations needs establishing. Further evidence for the function (bathhouse?) of the building needs to be sought.

23. References

1. Cambridge Chronicle, November 13, 1818
2. Taylor, C and Arbon, A in P.C.A.S. XCVI, 21-40
3. Hughes, W and Scarle, R, "Report on a limited excavation of a Roman temple at Nine Wells, Whittlesford" (copy submitted to the H.E.R. at Shire Hall)
4. Green, Kevin, "Imported fine wares in Britain to AD 50", BAR 57, 15-30
5. Arthur, Paul, "The lead glazed wares of Roman Britain", BAR 57, 293-356

24. Acknowledgements

To Quinton Carroll and Cambridgeshire County Farms for granting permission to excavate.

To farmer Leslie Harrison for allowing ready access to the site and for his interest throughout.

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25. Contexts list

Recorded context	Context	Same As	Original trench code	Trench	Length	Width	Depth	Description
x	301		x	Villa	1m	1m	0 - 0.32m	Villa area plough layer
1/0-32cm	302	301	A10-11	TP1	1m	1m	0 - 0.32m	Plough layer
x/2	303		A10-11	TP1	<u>1m</u>	<u>1m</u>	0.32m - 0.8m	Assumed to start below plough and recorded separately as finds found. Inc. finds apart from those recorded as down to natural.
0.30m - nat	304		A10-11	TP1	1m	1m	0.32m - 1.11m	Demolition down to natural. Report and find records do not clarify location of finds
x	305		A10-11	TP1	1m	1m	1.11m	Natural chalk
1	307	301	A12-13	TP2	1m	1m	0-.3m	Villa area plough layer
2	308		A12-13	TP2	1m	1m	0.3m - 0.34m	Lighter layer with degraded mortar, tile fragments, tesserae
x	309		A12-13	TP2	1m	1m	0.45m - 0.5m	Burnt patches found in northern segment (not recorded as separate context), but embedded in 308
3	310		A12-13	TP2	1m	1m	0.45m -0.9m	Darker layer to natural (a Roman floor level?)
x	311		A12-13	TP2	1m	1m	0.9m-1.13m	Dark silt
x	312		A12-13	TP2	1m	1m	1.13m	Natural chalk
x	313	301	A14-15	TP3	1m	1m	0.25m	Villa area plough layer
x	314		A14-15	TP3	1m	1m	0.25m-0.35m	Just below plough layer
x	315		A14-15	TP3	1m	1m	0.35m-0.4m	Light, sandy/mortar mix
	317	301	A21.5-22.5	TP4	1m	1m	0.3m	Villa area plough layer
1	319	301	AZY6.5-8.0	TP5	3m	1.5m	0 - 0.25m	Villa area plough layer

2 (SW)	320	321	A6.5-7.5	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.22m - 0.57m	Lighter brown layer with building debris (probably same as 142). Slightly darker towards SW corner with some charcoal flecks
2 (NE)	321	320	A7.5-7.5	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.22m - 0.57m	Lighter brown layer with building debris (probably same as 141). For finds, may cover unclear contexts for 143 and 144
3	322		A6.5-7.5	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.2m - 0.57	Area of higher concentration building debris.
4	323		A7.5-8.0	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.38m - 0.57	Concentration of degraded mortar.
x	325		Y6.5-8.0	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.46m - 0.57m	Chalk floor, not natural.
2	327		Y6.5-8.0	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.25m - 0.4m	Lighter brown layer with building debris
3	328		Y6.5-8.0	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.4m - 0.57m	Orange-brown layer with degraded mortar and opus signinum
x	329		A6.5-7.5	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.46m - 0.57m	Chalk floor, not natural.
x	330		Z6.5-8.0	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.40m - 0.46m	Area in centre of trench with tumbled layer of building debris down to chalky floor, possible remains of wall
S1	332		Sondage 1	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.76m	Sondage 1
S2	333		Sondage 2	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.64m	Sondage 2
S3	334		Sondage 3	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.55m	Sondage 3
S4	335		Sondage 4	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.77m	Sondage 4
x	336		AZY6.5-8.0	TP5	3m	1.5m	0.55m - 0.77m	Natural chalk in sondages
x	338		A6.5-8.0	TP5	3m	1.5m	0 - 0.77m	For unstratified finds from TP5 in the area of A6.5-8.0
x	339		Z6.5-8.0	TP5	3m	1.5m	0 - 0.77m	For unstratified finds from TP5 in the area of Z6.5-8.0
x	340		Y6.5-8.0	TP5	3m	1.5m	0 - 0.77m	For unstratified finds from TP5 in the area of Y6.5-8.0
x	341		AZY6.5-8.0	TP5	3m	1.5m	0 - 0.77m	For unstratified finds from TP5 in the area of AXY6.5-8.0
x	344	301	B20.5-21.5	TP6	1m	1m	0 - 0.28m	Villa area plough layer
x	345		B20.5-21.5	TP6	1m	0.3m	0.28 - 0.75m	Light, sandy soil with broken mortar
x	346		B20.5-21.5	TP6	1m	0.3m	0 - 0.75m	For unstratified finds from TP6
1	348	301	B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m	0 - 0.25m	Villa area plough layer
2	349		B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m	0.25m – 0.4m	Horizontal stratum lighter layer with degraded mortar
x	350		B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m	0.4m – 0.5m	Sloping fill layer (unidentified in section)
3	351		B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m	0.4m – 0.7m	Sloping fill darker layer
2	352		B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m	0.4m – 0.9m	Sloping fill lighter layer with degraded mortar layer
3	353		B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m	0.4m – 1.2m	Sloping fill darker layer
2	354		B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m	0.62m – 1.6m	Sloping fill layer with degraded mortar. Note that this almost certainly also starts

								at 0.4m but this is not visible in test pit.
2	355		B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m	1.2m	Natural chalk
x	356		B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m	1.2m -1.35m	Cut in natural chalk
x	357		B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m	1.2m - 1.6m	Cut in natural chalk
x	358		B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m	1.2m - 1.6m	Fill in cut in natural chalk
x	359		B23.5-24.5	TP7	1m	1m		For unstratified finds from TP7
x	360	301	C8-9	TP8	1m	1m	0 - 0.3m	Villa area plough layer
1	361		C8-9	TP8	1m	1m	0.3 - 0.47m	Soil with building debris
2	362		C8-9	TP8	1m	1m	0.47m - 0.60m	Redeposited chalk? Chalky surface explored down to 0.6m but not confirmed as natural.
x	363		C8-9	TP8	1m	1m		For unstratified finds from TP8
1	365	301	C12-13	TP9	1m	1m	0 - 0.3m	Villa area plough layer
2	366		C12-13	TP9	1m	1m	0.3m - 0.6m	Light brown with building debris
3	367		C12-13	TP9	1m	1m	0.6m -1.0m	Darker brown with building debris reducing with increased depth
x	368		C12-13	TP9	1m	1m	1.0m	Natural gravel? Note this is gravel rather than chalk as elsewhere. (During NWW14 excavations, this was confirmed to be the wall foundation trench and likely to be degraded mortar)
x	369		C12-13	TP9	1m	1m		For unstratified finds from TP9
x	371	301	E7-8	TP10	1.5mm	1.3m	0 - 0.3m	Villa area plough layer
1	372	373	E7-8	TP10	1.5mm	1.3m	0.3m - 0.4m	Building debris inc. Roof and box flue tiles
2	373	372	E7-8	TP10	1.5mm	1.3m	0.4m - 0.52m	Stacked tiles, possibly pilae
x	374		E7-8	TP10	1.5mm	1.3m	0.52m	Natural chalky clay. Natural described as having a chalky clay appearance

26. Table 1 - GPS readings of trench positions

TRENCH		02-Oct	03-Oct	09-Oct	21-Oct	31-Oct	GPS @	CENTRE OF	TRENCH		
TP5	EASTING	45178	45181	45181	45182	45180	MIN	MAX	AVERAGE	STD	
Y 6.5-7.5	NORTHING	47474	47472	47469	47471	47470	47469	47474	47471.2	1.92	
TP5		45178	45180	45179	45180	45179	45178	45180	45179.2	0.84	
A 6.5-7.5		47472	47473	47471	47470	47472	47470	47473	47471.6	1.14	
TP1		45178	45183	45184	45182	45182	45178	45184	45181.8	2.28	
A 10-11		47476	47475	47473	47474	47475	47473	47476	47474.6	1.14	
TP2		45183	45183	45182	45184	45184	45182	45184	45183.2	0.84	
A 12-13		47475	47476	47472	47474	47477	47472	47477	47474.8	1.92	
TP8		45179	45179	45179	45180	45180	45179	45180	45179.4	0.55	
C 8-9		47475	47476	47473	47474	47478	47473	47478	47475.2	1.92	
TP10		45177	45177	45178	45177	45178	45177	45178	45177.4	0.55	
E 7-8		47476	47477	47475	47475	47478	47475	47478	47476.2	1.30	
TP14				45178	45179	45179	45178	45179	45178.7	0.58	
Z 5-6				47469	47471	47472	47469	47472	47470.7	1.53	
				45183	45182	45183	45182	45183	45182.7	0.58	
C 12-13				47475	47478	47478	47475	47478	47477	1.73	
TP3					45184	45186	45184	45186	45185	1.41	
A 14-15					47477	47478	47477	47478	47477.5	0.71	
TP12					45182	45180	45180	45182	45181	1.41	
I 15-16					47485	47484	47484	47485	47484.5	0.71	
TP11					45185	45185	45185	45185	45185	0.00	
E 17-18					47482	47484	47482	47484	47483	1.41	
TP6			B		45189	45190	45189	45190	45189.5	0.71	
B 20.5-21.5					47483	47484	47483	47484	47483.5	0.71	
TP7					45192	45192	45192	45192	45192	0.00	
B 23.5-24.5					47485	47487	47485	47487	47486	1.41	
TP13					45193	45193	45193	45193	45193	0.00	
YX 235245					47481	47482	47481	47482	47481.5	0.71	
								AVERAGE	STD	1.05	
baseline		12-Nov	15-Nov								
A	EASTING	45160	45162								
	NORTHING	47480	47484								
B	EASTING	45175	45174								
	NORTHING	47469	47469								

27. Table 2 - Trench finds

Site Code NWBV10			NINE			WELLS	2010								
Trench	Context	Mortar Wt.g	Opus Sig. Wt.	Flue Tile No.	Tile Wt.	Roof Tile Wt.	Brick Wt.	Tesserae No.	Col.	Pottery No.	Wt.	Plaster No.	Other/Notes		
TP1	0-0.32m	85	55			1150		4	red			4	2 oyster shell		
A 10-11													plaster - 3 on opus sig., 1 on tile; chalk 160g		
	0.32-nat.	6871	721	2	232	8970	830	19	red	2	22	11	plaster wt. 160g; stone tile 245g		
								1	black				roof tile includes imbrex, wt.680g		
													1 stone roof tile 1570g, 22x13x1.7cm		
													1 bone; 3 daub? 193g; charcoal		
													stone tile 12x14x5cm		
													chalk 3788g		
													1 nail		
TP2	0-0.3m	85	18	1	30	780		8	red				1 lead 13g; 1 oyster shell; 1 stone tile 40g		
A 12-13								1	grey						
	below 0.3m	70	390			470	73	2	red			1	plaster 5x5 cm		
													charcoal at 0.7m		
(Surface)										1	1		surface find approx. 20m from A 12-13		
													Samian pot frag with potter's stamp		
													DAGODUBNVS		
													from East Gaul (Rheinzabern) AD 160-200		
TP3	0-0.25m		8			60		7	red				roof tile frags - very small		
A 14-15								1	grey				5 small tesserae		
	0.25-0.3m														
		25	7			183		4	red				roof tile frags - very small; square stone 28g		
	0.3-0.35m														
		70		3	312	142	1340					1	x2 brick, approx. 10x10 cm each		
													1 plaster on tile?		
	0.4m												metal detector finds, x2 lead 143g		
TP5	0-0.29m	120	8	5	340	600	120	1	red				stone tile 50g		
A 6.5-7.5	0.29-0.40m												1 stone (tufa quern?) 13x8x5cm, 660g		
		1150	210	16	1250	8650	610	3	red			1	imbrex 510g		
													1 small tess 1.2x1cm; stone tile 150g; 1 chalk		
													1 daub? 1 small piece flat glass		
	0.4m +	125	173	11	1145	5148	373						2 hypocaust tiles? mortar both sides 405g		
													imbrex 1100g; stone tile 45g		
													1 mussel		
	?			4	3120	2452				3	22	18	2 bone; 1 red stone (heat crazed?) 670g		
													2 oyster shell; imbrex with mortar 75g		
													6 pieces flue tile rejoined 270X180cm		
													3 pieces flue tile rejoined 170X100-170cm		
													2 pieces roof tile rejoined		
													5 pieces grey plaster overlain by mortar		
TP5	0.3-0.4m			2	363	112							1 oyster		
A 7.5-8.0															
													*trenches A 6.5-7.5 and A 7.5-8.0 formed		
													part of the large trench AZY 6.5-8.0		
TP8															
C 8-9	0-0.3m			3	590	60	560	1	red				stone tile 70g		
	0.3m+	170	230	2	230	3950	2910	1	red				stone tile 2100g; roof tile inc. imbrex 740g		
													1 flat glass frag.		
	?		250			2167	2162						1 brick plus opus sig. on one face 12x14x3.5cm		
TP9													7 stone tile 9070g, largest 30x30cm		
C 12-13															
	0-0.3m			3	160	360	125	7	red	5	24		4 Roman and 1 modern pot		
													1 metal button		
	0.3-0.6m	8	115	2	110	130		5	red	1	1	2	2 tesserae joined; 1 tile with plaster		
						80							imbrex 80g		
	0.6-0.8m		60			65	323	1	red	1	60		pot is buff mortarium		
										1	2		gaming counter ca. 13-15mm square		
													dark green glaze one side scored with X		
										1	2		square gaming counter, grey fabric		
												1	plaster has possible black line on white		

Site Code NWBV10					NINE	WELLS	2010						
Trench	Context	Mortar Wt.g	Opus Sig. Wt.	Flue Tile No.	Tile Wt.	Roof Tile Wt.	Brick Wt.	Tesserae No.	Col.	Pottery No.	Wt.	Plaster No.	Other/Notes
TP10	0-0.3m			2	130	320							2 oyster shell
E 7-8	0.3m+			8	1110	7000	690	1	red				roof tile inc. imbrex 680g
TP11	0-1.02m	152	172	1	20	680		16	red				4 oyster shell; 1 flint
E 17-18								23	white				N.B. 1 thin white on tile and brown stone
								1	black				
TP12	0-0.3m			1	20	455	158	17	red	2	20		1 oyster shell; 1 sandstone 35g; 1 pot rim
I 15-16								1	buff				
								1	orange				
	0.3-0.6m	210	295	4	110	1055		4	red	3	90	15	1 mortarium rim, Hadham ware
								1	white				imbrex 60g; stone tile 95g
	0.6-1.3m	10	5			175		3	red	2	8	2	1 plaster on opus sig.; 2 oyster shell
								3	white				1 small frag. Samian pot
TP5													
Y 6.5-7.5	0-0.25m	30		1	18	630	180	2	red				
						85							imbrex
	0.25-0.30m												
		210	290	1	48	1060		1	grey			3	stone tile 440g; 1 nail; 1 horse tooth
	0.30-0.45m												
		208	43	7	365	1470	340	1	red	1	10	2	1 plaster with mortar coat
													1 oyster shell; charcoal; stone tile frag. 60g
	?	3310	255	3	155	2330	220	3	red				1 oyster shell; daub 200g; charcoal; stone tile
								1	grey				
						68						23	3 grey/white plaster
													imbrex
TP5		720	40			210	390					5	some plaster with mortar coat 340g
Y 7.5-8													
													* trenches Y 6.5-7.5 and Y 7.5-8 formed
													part of the large trench AZY 6.5-8.0
TP14	0-0.3m	165		3	110	1240		1	red				
Z 5-6	0.3m+	270	130	10	990	6080	1440	1	red	6	40		4 Roman pot inc. 1 rim, 1 modern pot;
													2 nail; 4 oyster shell; charcoal 20g; 1 bone;
													stone tile 710g; quernstone frag. ? 170g
TP5	0-0.3m			5	255	1400	360						
Z 6.5-8						180							imbrex
	0.3-0.57m												
		225	205	9	875	3160	1950					38	roof tile inc. imbrex 690g;
													2 stone floor tiles? 2350g; chalk 240g
TP4	0-0.3m												
A21.5-22.5		570				1610		8	red	3	25		3 stone tile 270g; 1 charcoal; 1 nail
												1	plaster at 0.8m
TP7	0.3-0.9m												
B23.5-24.5				1	55	500		12	red				1 piece of flat glass at 0.7m
								1	white				
	0.9-1.1m	50				280		37	red				stone tile plus mortar
								1	white				
	1.1-1.5m	51				160		3	red				stone tile frag?
TP13													
YX23.5-24.5													
	0-0.3m					1480	560	10	red	1	35		stone tile 210g; 1 daub 90g; 2 chalk 740g;
													4 oyster shell; roof tile inc. imbrex 220g
	0.3-0.8m	5185	383	1	15	1655	1250	56	red	9	78	13	charcoal; 15 oyster shell; plaster 390g;
								1	grey				stone tile 300g; bone; 2 nails; 2 flint; 1 daub?;
													roof tile inc. imbrex 370g
													1 bronze 3rd C radiate coin
	0.8-1.05m	1680		1	130	245	170	2	red	2			1 pot at 1.04m; bone at 0.9m 17g;
													charcoal at 0.99m; 1 red stone 210g

Note: Test pits A6.5-7.5, A7.5-8.0, Y6.5-7.5, Y7.5-8.0 and Z6.5-8.0 were extended forming a single trench Tp5

28. Table 3 - Total of the finds for all trenches

Total finds - all trenches												
Revised Tr	Original Tr.	Mortar Wt.g	Opus Sig. Wt.	Flue Tile No.	Flue Tile Wt.	Roof Tile Wt.	Brick Wt.	Tesserae No.	Tesserae Col.	Pottery No.	Pottery Wt.	Plaster No.
TP10	E 7-8	0	0	10	1240	7320	690	1	RED	0	0	0
TP8	C 8-9	170	480	5	820	6177	4832	2	RED	0	0	0
TP5	A 6.5-8	1395	391	38	6218	16935	1103	4	RED	3	22	19
TP5	Z 6.5-8	225	205	14	1130	4740	2310	0		0	0	19
TP5	Y 6.5-8	4478	628	12	586	5853	1130	6	RED	1	10	33
								2	GREY			
TP14	Z 5-6	435	130	13	1100	7320	1440	2	RED	8	50	
TP1	A 10-11	6896	776	2	232	10120	830	23	RED	2	22	15
								1	BLACK			
TP2	A 12-13	155	408	1	30	1250	73	10	RED	1	1	1
								1	GREY			
TP3	A 14-15	95	15	3	312	385	1340	11	RED	0	0	1
								1	GREY			
TP9	C 12-13	8	175	5	270	635	448	13	RED	9	89	3
TP6	B20.521.5	570	0	0	0	1610	0	8	RED	3	25	1
TP13	YX23.524.5	6865	383	2	145	3380	1980	68	RED	12	?	13
								1	GREY			
TP7	B23.524.5	101	0	1	55	940	0	52	RED	0	0	0
								2	WHITE			
TP11	E 17-18	152	172	1	20	680	0	35	RED	6	70	14
								4	WHITE			
								1	BLACK			
TP12	I 15-16	220	300	5	130	1735	158	24	RED	7	118	17
								4	WHITE			
								1	BUFF			
								1	ORANGE			
	SUM	21765	4063	112	12288	69080	16334	278		52	407	136

List of Figures

Figure 1 – Resistivity survey.....	2
Figure 2 – A vertical “slice” resistivity plot across the rectangular showing in high resistance.....	2
Figure 3 – Trench plan (yellow – 1 st phase, red – 2 nd phase)	3
Figure 4 – The test pit grid.....	4
Figure 5 – Plan 1007 of TP1.....	5
Figure 6 – Section 1002 of TP2 viewed from SE looking NW.....	6
Figure 7 – Plan 1008 and Section 1003 of TP3.....	6
Figure 8 – Plan 1009 of TP5 (3.0 x 1.5m) detailing sondages	7
Figure 9 – Section 1004 of TP5 viewed from NW, looking SE.....	8
Figure 10 – Section 1005 of TP5 viewed from SE, looking NW.....	8
Figure 11 – Plan 1010 of TP6.....	8
Figure 12 – Section 1006 of TP6 Looking NW.....	9
Figure 13 – Section 1007 of TP7 Looking SW.....	9
Figure 14 – Plan 1011 of TP7.....	9
Figure 15 – View of TP7 Looking SW	9
Figure 16 – Plan 1012 of TP8.....	10
Figure 17 – Section 1008 of TP7 Looking NW.....	10
Figure 18 – Section 1009 of TP9 Looking NW.....	10
Figure 19 – Plan 1013 of TP10.....	11
Figure 20 – Section 1010 of TP10 Looking NW.....	11
Figure 21 – Plan 1014 of TP11.....	12
Figure 22 – Tessellated floor found at a depth of 1 metre at the bottom of trench TP11	12
Figure 23 - Examples of the loose tesserae from trench TP11 (note the “capped” tesserae).....	12
Figure 24 – Plan 1015 of TP11.....	13
Figure 25 –TP13 Looking SW	13
Figure 26 –TP13 Looking NW	13
Figure 27 – Section 1011 of TP13 Looking SW.....	14
Figure 28 – Section 1012 of TP14 Looking NE	14