

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE ROMAN 'SMALL TOWN' OF *DUROBRIVAE* (WATER NEWTON)



ASSESSMENT REPORT



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Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this Report:

| | |
|------|--|
| AA | Albion Archaeology |
| CIfA | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists |
| CU | Cardiff University |
| HE | Historic England |
| HER | Peterborough Historic Environment Record |
| NVAT | Nene Valley Archaeological Trust |
| PIRP | Post-Industrial Roman Pottery |

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Eleven trenches were excavated in July 2019 within the 'small town' at *Durobrivae* (Water Newton), to evaluate the condition of the underlying archaeological remains and to provide information in advance of a possible larger-scale research project. This was the first time since the 1820s that archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken within the walled area of one of the largest and best known 'small towns' in Roman Britain. The total area examined by the evaluation trenches (112m²) was a small fraction of the total size of the walled area (equivalent to less than 0.05%).

The evaluation trenches were located for two main reasons:

1. to provide a spatial spread across the walled area of the town, often targeting anomalies identified by earlier geophysical surveys;
2. to investigate the damage being caused in the centre of the site by rabbits.

The evaluation revealed:

- a previously unknown public building in the town's centre with one wall surviving 2m in height. This was probably a bath-house, perhaps associated with the adjacent putative *mansio* and, if proved correct, would be the only baths known within the town;
- the interior of the Romano-Celtic temple was provided with a tessellated floor and was in use into the early 5th century;
- possibly contemporary with the temple is an east-west aligned 'church-like' building with well-preserved walls;
- most buildings examined had been extensively robbed;
- the depth of topsoil across the site varies considerably, but the tessellated floor of the temple was only 0.30m below ground level;
- in general, the latest archaeological deposits survive well beneath the field;
- rabbit burrowing is a significant and on-going threat to the archaeological resource, particularly along the former field boundary which crosses the entirety of the walled area.

Project Partners and Acknowledgements

The evaluation was a partnership project involving the Nene Valley Archaeological Trust, Cardiff University and Albion Archaeology, as well as The British Museum and Barbican Research Associates. The fieldwork was directed by Prof. Stephen Upex (NVAT), Dr Peter Guest (CU) and Mr Michael Luke (AA).

The directors would like to thank Ian Wright for making the fieldwork possible, Debbie Priddy of Historic England for her support, Sacrewell Farm for the excellent camping facilities (including peacocks), Bob, Dawn and their colleagues at the Stibbington Café for providing the heartiest of meals every evening, and Wayne, David and Steve Waite for looking after everyone so well. The fieldwork was funded by Cardiff University, the NVAT and by Dr Mike Watts, to whom we are most grateful. Finally, wholehearted thanks to the entire dig team (see Appendix 6.3) for making the month so rewarding and enjoyable.

1. INTRODUCTION

This assessment report summarises the results of the 2019 evaluation and is based on Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).¹

1.1 Site Location

The small Roman town of *Durobrivae* is situated in the modern parish of Chesterton in northern Cambridgeshire (centred on TL 121969), close to the river Nene and the line of the modern A1 trunk road and some 8 km to the west of Greater Peterborough (Figure 1).

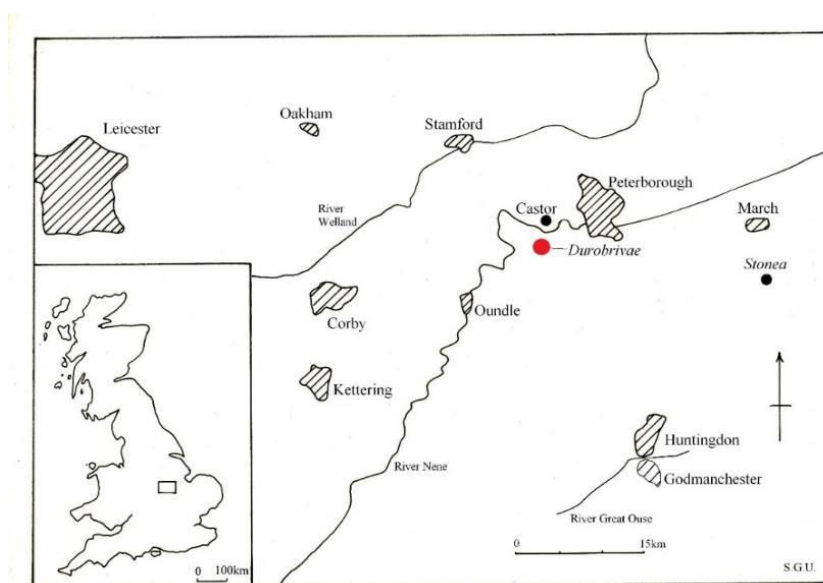


Figure 1. Location of *Durobrivae*

1.2 Project Aims and Objectives

The principle aim of the evaluation was to inform and improve our knowledge of the archaeological remains at *Durobrivae*.

The objectives were to recover information about the condition and nature of *Durobrivae*'s archaeological remains, specifically:

- Depth of the topsoil overlying the extant archaeological deposits;
- Condition of the underlying archaeological deposits;
- Date of the underlying archaeological deposits;
- Function of buildings and other structures exposed in the evaluation trenches;
- Effects of any previous and on-going degradation of the archaeological resource, including rabbit burrowing in the centre of the town.

¹ The report was prepared and written by P. Guest, M. Luke and S. Upex.

All aims and objectives were successfully achieved (see Sections 2 and 3).

The new information generated by the evaluation has greatly improved our understanding of the archaeological resource at the site and will contribute to several objectives and priorities set out in the research agenda for Roman Britain (Millett and James 2001), as well as the regional research frameworks for Eastern England (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011)², and the East Midlands (Cooper 2006; Knight *et al* 2016). The project also supported the ambitions set out in Historic England's *Research Strategy* and *Research Agenda* documents (2016 and 2017).³

1.3 Methodology

The methodology for the evaluation was described in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Guest and Upex 2019) and is therefore only summarised below. The locations of the 11 evaluation trenches are indicated on Figure 2 (the precise locations of all trenches are shown in Appendix 6.1).



Figure 2. Location of the 2019 evaluation trenches within the walled area of *Durobrivae*.

² Also, the documents produced for the workshops held in late 2018 as part of the review of the regional research framework sponsored by ALGAO/HE, particularly the 'Late Iron Age and Roman' overview by Christopher Evans (see <http://eaareports.org.uk/alga-east/regional-research-framework-review/>).

³ Available at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/research-strategy/> and <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/he-research-agenda/>

The evaluation trenches included:

1. One 10m by 6m trench (Trench 1) in the central part of the walled town, deliberately targeted on an area known to be subject to disturbance by rabbits in the vicinity of a large 'public' building (possible *mansio*);
2. Ten 5m by 1m trenches (Trenches 2 to 11) to provide a spatial spread across the walled area of the town, often targeting anomalies identified by geophysical survey. The trenches were located to sample a range of buildings identified on the geophysical surveys, including the 2 large 'public-buildings' (possible forum and *mansio*), roadside strip-buildings, boundary ditches, a probable temple or shrine, as well as structures that could have had industrial functions. With the approval of HE and the farm manager, Trench 8 was extended by 2m to include part of the *cella* of the Romano-Celtic temple as well as the ambulatory.

The fieldwork took place between 2nd and 28th July 2019. The field team consisted of a core staff of 6 (directors and supervisors), two metal detectorists, and 27 student archaeologists from Cardiff University.

The trenches excavated a total area of 112m² (equivalent to less than 0.05% of the walled area). All trenches were entirely excavated by hand to the first significant archaeological deposits or to a safe working depth (generally never more than 1.2m with the exception of Trench 1 whose edges were stepped to enable safe excavation of the late pits and rabbit disturbance to a greater depth). All obviously post-Roman intrusive features, such as robber trenches, pits and animal burrows, were fully excavated. Excavated spoil was scanned by metal-detector and the bases of all trenches were checked at the end of each working day.

The trenches were excavated and recorded according to current best practice for university training excavations. Students were supervised at all times by professional archaeologists and the directors and supervisors were responsible for on-site and finds recording. Artefacts were collected and treated in accordance with ClfA's *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014), and *First Aid for Finds* (no finds identified as Treasure, as defined in the 1996 Treasure Act and the 2003 extension of definition, were recovered).

The trenches were backfilled by hand and machine and appropriately re-seeded.

The evaluation produced 785 registered 'small finds' and over 1 tonne of bulk finds, generating 118 context records, 32 plans and sections and 220 digital photographs.

The post-fieldwork tasks completed include:

- Digitisation of context records and preparation of trench stratigraphic narratives;
- Digitisation of plans and sections;
- Assessments of registered artefact assemblages;
- Assessments of the pottery, animal bone and other bulk finds assemblages;
- Preparation of this Assessment Report.

1.4 Outreach

It was agreed with HE that the evaluation trenches would not be open to the general public. The NVAT arranged two guided tours for their members and the Bedford Young Archaeologists Club also visited the site. These visits have provided a useful insight into the level of interest in the site and the logistical arrangements required should further work be undertaken and open to the public.

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The 'small towns' of Roman Britain are one of the most enigmatic categories of settlement in the province. Our knowledge of 'small towns', either individually or collectively, is very limited and there is much to discover about these sites. Often on important communication routes, 'small towns' include a range of sites that exhibit some characteristics of Roman urbanism (for example, concentrations of population, formal boundaries, evidence for industrial production, or religious functions), although they lack certain other important features that we expect from towns and cities in the Roman Empire (notably a planned layout based on a street grid and public buildings where administrative, legal and commercial activities took place). Little work has taken place on 'small towns' since the publication by Burnham and Wachter of *'Small Towns of Roman Britain'* (1990) and Brown's volume on *'Roman Small Towns in Eastern England'* (1995) and, since the completion of the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain project, more is now known about the Romano-British countryside than these important urban places.

Durobrivae is one of the largest and most familiar of the Romano-British 'small towns', with the area contained within its walls covering approximately 23 hectares. This contrasts with its extensive industrial suburbs that extend to approximately another 100 hectares. The site, lying close to the River Nene in northern Cambridgeshire, is perhaps best known for the cropmarks revealing the street pattern and stone buildings shown on aerial photographs (Figure 3), as well as the Water Newton Treasure; the earliest known collection of Christian silver and gold liturgical objects from the Roman Empire currently in The British Museum (Painter 1977; Painter 2006). The town was an important place in eastern Roman Britain and pottery vessels produced in its many kilns (known as Nene Valley Colour-Coated Ware) were traded widely across the province, benefitting no doubt from *Durobrivae's* position astride a major road (Ermine Street) and above the floodplain of the navigable Nene.

The name *Durobrivae* means 'settlement/fort by the river crossing/bridges' (Rivet and Smith 1979; Rivet 1980), and a small fort was identified from aerial photographs in the 1930s. Excavations in 2012 of the fort's timber remains indicate that it was occupied for a very short period of time in the early decades of Roman Britain, possibly after the Boudican Revolt when the bridge was constructed (Upex 2013; Upex 2014). The construction of the town wall indicates the town enjoyed a formal legal status in Roman Britain, perhaps becoming a 'civitas capital' from which the surrounding region was administered. The very large and imposing building complex at nearby Castor is thought to have been a palace, or to have served some official public function. Whatever its purpose, the building was situated to overlook the Nene valley and *Durobrivae*, while its construction in the third century supports a late date for the town's elevation in legal status (Upex 2011). This might explain the absence of public buildings in *Durobrivae* like those found in

other Romano-British towns (notably the forum-basilica), that were typical of the major programme of urban expansion in the first and second centuries.

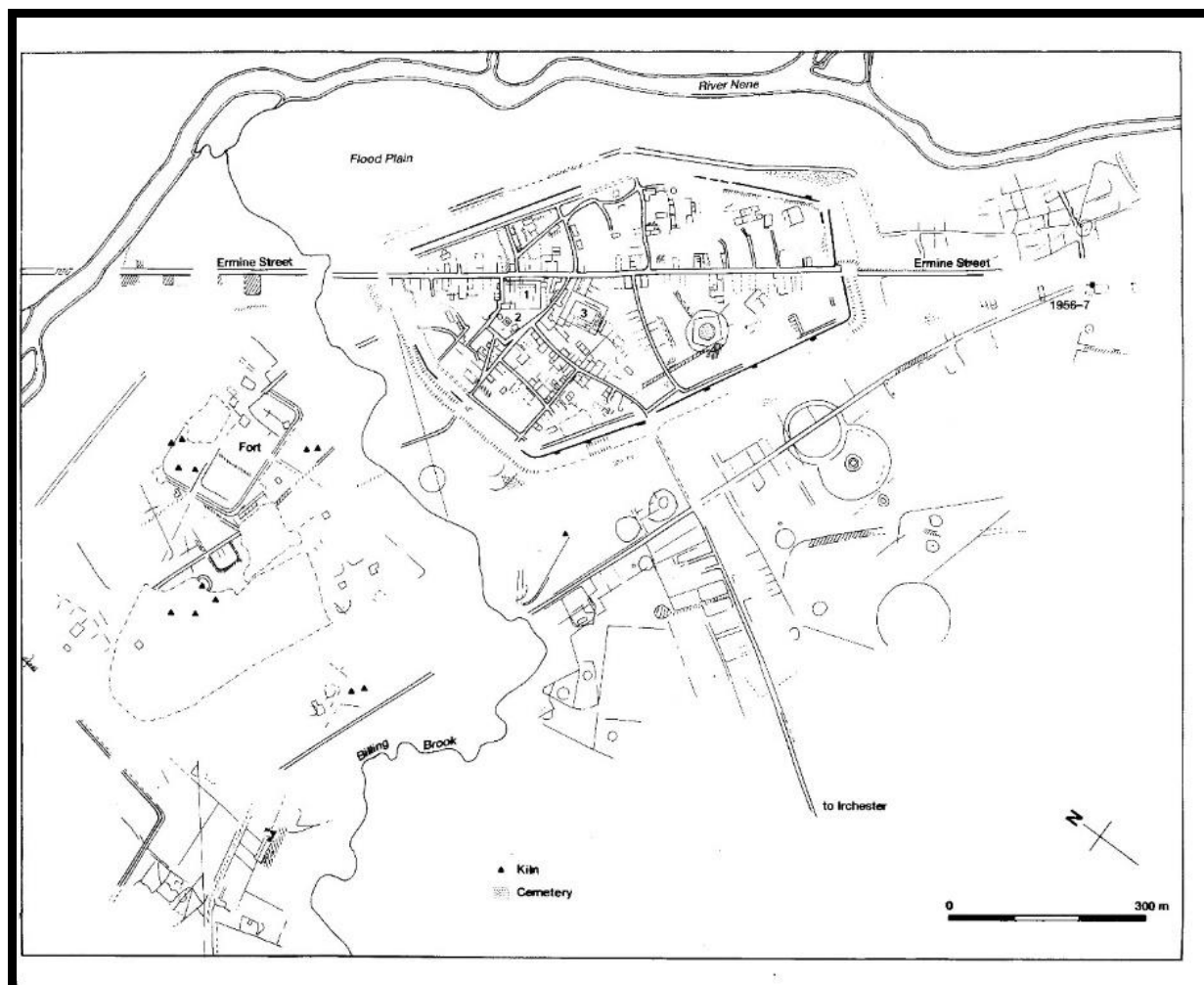


Figure 3. Plot of the cropmark features within the walled area of *Durobrivae* and the south western suburbs.

The town wall survives as a low earthwork forming an irregular polygon in plan, with gates known on its northern, southern and western sides (the enclosed area measures approx. 800 m north-south and 450m east-west). Antiquarian investigations in the 1820s by Edmund Artis uncovered several buildings within the walled town and its suburbs, including a large public-like building as well as numerous kilns (Artis 1828). In the 20th century, aerial photographs revealed at least two sizeable courtyard buildings on the north-western edge of the town's centre that are likely to have served public functions, perhaps those performed in more classically designed forum-basilicas or a *mansio* (accommodation for officials visiting or travelling through *Durobrivae*) (Upex 2008).

Excavations by Ernest Greenfield in 1956, conducted on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments in advance of the A1 widening, uncovered parts of the wall on the southern side (Perrin 1999, 46-52). Other than the 1820s and 1950s excavations, *Durobrivae* has not been investigated archaeologically and this important site remained largely unknown.

The aerial photographic evidence suggests that the town grew rather spontaneously through time, without any of the regular planning that is more often found in other Roman towns. In a sense the town may be unplanned in not having a rectilinear layout, but it does indicate organic growth that followed a logical pattern of expansion. The main street within the town was based on a section of Ermine Street, from which side roads lead away, sometimes at right angles and in other cases more obliquely. Only in one area, on the western side of the town, is there a block of streets which could form a rough *insula*, although this may just represent some form of small but deliberately planned extension to the town. However, the general view is of spontaneous growth with more side roads being added as the town grew in size. The early core of the town was presumably at the north-west end of the urban area, just above the flood plain of the Nene and the Billing Brook. From this it can be assumed that the south-easterly delineation along Ermine Street is later in date and extended as the town continued to expand.

The overall impression of the town is that of a densely packed urban area with the short axis walls of buildings fronting onto Ermine Street and lining the side roads. Between some of the buildings there appear to be lanes or surfaced paths leading beyond the building lines to provide access to the backyard areas. Most of the structures seem to be of a fairly simple rectilinear plan and must represent shops and houses of quite modest form. There are exceptions to this general view and in the south-eastern section of the town there appears to be a more elaborate structure, set around a courtyard. On the eastern side of the town there is a circular building and this may be a small temple or a round house with a stone foundation.

Four large and important buildings and areas can also be identified within the town and these may show something of the town's growing importance as it expanded. The legal status of the town we know to be that of *vicus*, the lowest level of government (a mortarium made in the suburban potteries bears the legend CUNOARDA [FECIT] VICO DUROBRI[VIS] – 'Cunoarda (made this) at the Vicus of *Durobrivae*'). This *vicus* status may have dictated that the town had by this time a *mansio* built within it, which would have provided accommodation for government officials and couriers travelling along Ermine Street. If the plan of *Durobrivae* is examined closely, one large building is shown lying just to the south of Ermine street and at a slight angle to it. The building measures some 22x36 metres and contains blocks of rooms on all of its four sides. This could be interpreted as a *mansio* as it matches the architecture of buildings in other towns which have been interpreted in this way.

Another large and unified structure lies to the north of this possible *mansio* building and appears to be aligned directly onto the west side of Ermine Street. It occupies a large part of a single *insula* with what could be a temple complex on its western side. Without excavation the exact function of this large building is difficult to determine but it is possible that it was a forum for the town during a later stage of its growth and legal elevation. Admittedly, the air photographic interpretation does not exactly match the regular forum plans found in other towns, but its position within *Durobrivae* is central, with roads surrounding it on two sides, and some irregularities might be expected when fitting a forum into such an unplanned and spontaneously expanded town. If this building does eventually prove to be a forum, then it would fit with the suggestion that the town may eventually have become a *civitas capital* (Stevens 1937; Rivet 1964, 135).

In addition to the two major buildings and the temple complex can be added one more enigmatic structure within the town. This large, circular feature in the southern part of the town is some 75

metres across and has within it an inner circle and a sub-rectangular feature. Artis showed on his 1828 plan of *Durobrivae* (Figure 4) that the area covered by this feature was then partly mounded, which he indicated by hachuring. This has now been almost flattened by modern ploughing although the feature still stands to a height of 1.2m. One possible explanation for this feature is that it related to the series of very large circles to the south of the walled area of the town and shown on air photographs, probably Neolithic henge-type monuments (see Figure 3 and Upex 2018).



Figure 4. Plan of *Durobrivae* by Edmund Artis, showing the lines of the ramparts and Ermine Street running through the town. He also shows buildings in red and a large circular feature that he marks as 'E', which in other references he calls a 'tumulus'.

The major Roman buildings and the urban sprawl of the organic, unplanned development of the town were walled at some stage in their history. It may be that some of the large public buildings are contemporary or even later than the defensive circuit. Edmund Artis appears to have carried out some excavation over the lines of the defences of the town in the 1800s, but our main source of information comes from aerial photography and the two sections through the western wall line cut in 1956 by Greenfield (Perrin 1999, 46-52). The aerial photographs show the entire circuit of the defences, which are especially clear on the northern, western and southern sides but masked by an ancient tree line on the side that borders the river Nene. Greenfield's work revealed that the stone wall on this western side rested on a drystone foundation backed by a clay ramp which was constructed in the 2nd century. It is unclear if the wall was inserted into the front face of an earlier earthen rampart, or the wall and bank should be seen as contemporary. Behind this wall and ramp and running parallel to them he found evidence for a road which had 6 distinct phases in its construction. The rampart/walls may in fact have separated the intramural area from suburbs which already existed when the boundary was built. For example, on the western and southern sides of the circuit it looks as if settlement along both Ermine Street and the road heading towards Ircchester could have been truncated by the line of the rampart/wall.

It is possible to detect what appear to be towers projecting from the walls on some aerial photographs, which could be later additions added perhaps in the 4th century. The road, which follows the entire inner circuit of the town wall, must clearly imply some form of planning meant to unify the communications within the town and presumably improve the defensive capabilities of the wall should the town have come under attack.

There appear to be at least 4 or 5 gateways into the town, of which those on the northern and southern side town were probably the most substantial (and possibly the earliest). Nothing is known of the Durobrivean gates, although air photographs suggest that the southern (London) gate along Ermine Street was set at right angles to the main wall line, in a dog-leg fashion, perhaps designed to give greater defensive strength to the entrance. This off-set gate design is also probable at the western (Irchester) gate where the wall is also clearly staggered. A fourth gate is likely at a point on the north-western side of the town facing the fort area. Here an internal road appears on a similar alignment outside of the town and leading down to the Billing Brook. This either shows the position of a minor gateway or indicates that the wall truncated this road. Another possible gate is likely where a wide section of road is seen heading for the wall circuit on the northern side of the town. Nothing is known or indicated on the air photographs of any gates on the eastern side of the wall's circuit facing the Nene flood plain, although a postern gate along this section could be expected.

A massive ditch outside the wall line on the western side of the town appears to skirt around the southern and northern defences. On aerial photographs this always shows as a broad green strip due to the moisture still contained within the underlying buried ditch. Greenfield's section over this ditch, which he calculated to be 10 metres wide, filled with water when he reached a depth of about one and a half metres and we know nothing of the depth of the town ditch, other than to say that it was probably deep and was certainly wet.

Whether the defences were maintained into the late 4th and early 5th centuries is unknown; all we can be certain of is that the wall, which was seen in the Greenfield excavations of 1956, was substantially robbed and at present stands to a height of just over a metre. Some of the gates may have been blocked in the later Roman period as an additional tightening of the defences against attack - this is a feature of other town defences within the province at this period.

To provide new and reliable information with which to better understand *Durobrivae* and its surroundings, the NVAT recently initiated an ambitious programme of extensive geophysical surveys of the town, using magnetometers, targeted resistivity and ground-penetrating radar.⁴ The results reveal a remarkably clear picture of *Durobrivae*'s internal layout and organisation, particularly roads, stone buildings (including the two central complexes, numerous houses and workshops), trackways, ditched enclosures and possible hearths, ovens, kilns or furnaces. The town wall (with towers) and its ditches have also been identified, while the magnetometer results have shown that the enigmatic large circular-feature in the southern part of the site, believed to be prehistoric, remained largely clear of buildings in the Roman period (Figure 5 and Figure 6).

⁴ This follows the excavation and publication of the early auxiliary fort and a resume of the palatial remains at Castor.

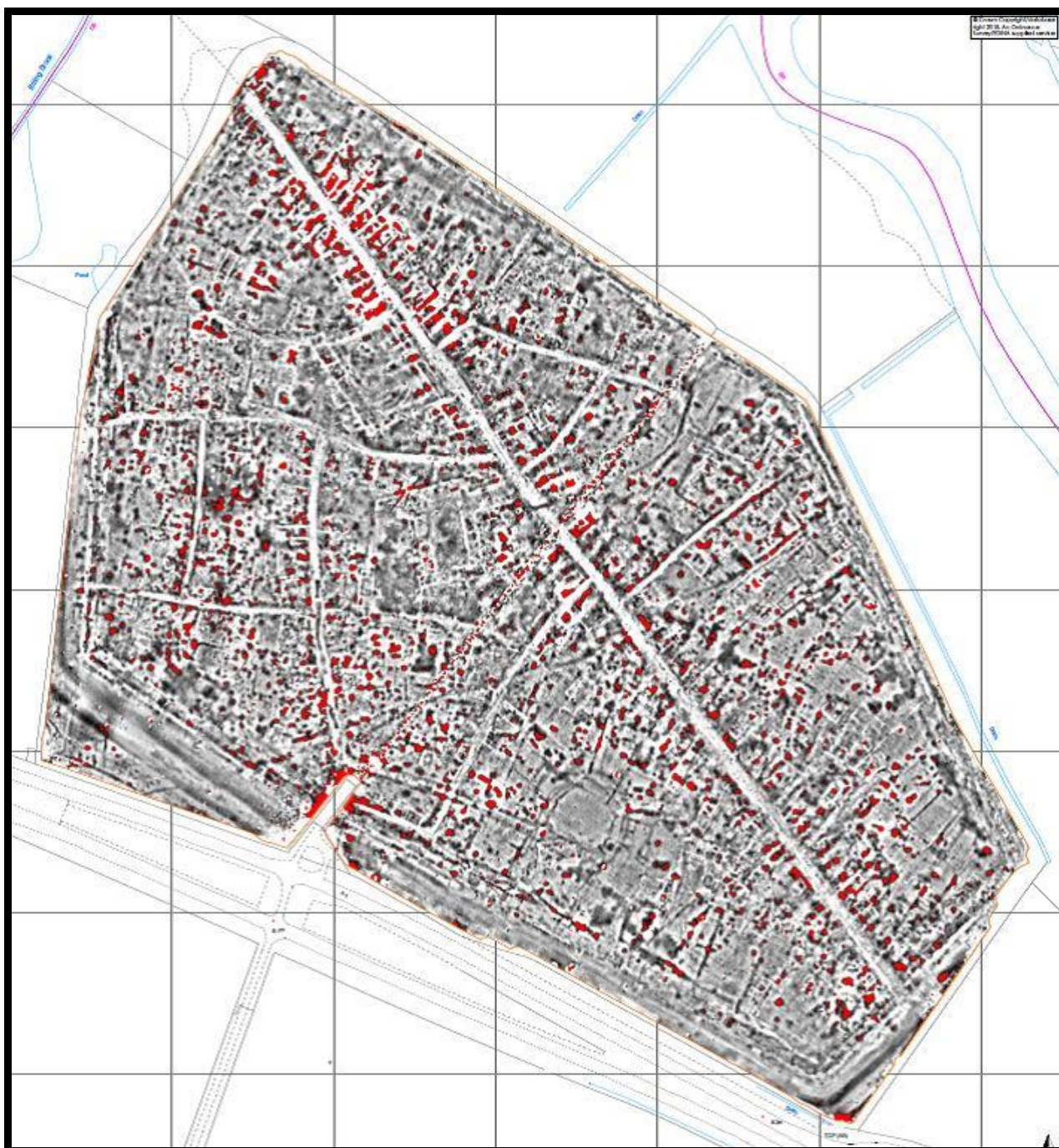


Figure 5. Results of the 2018 magnetometer survey of Durobrivae (magnetically enhanced areas shown in red). (© Archaeological Services Durham University).



Figure 6. Interpretation of the 2018 magnetometer survey of *Durobrivae*
(© Archaeological Services Durham University)

The pilot resistivity survey produced astonishingly distinct results showing a probable Romano-Celtic temple or shrine within an enclosure that apparently cuts across earlier pathways (Figure 7). Further geophysical surveys are planned for the interior of the town as well as its suburbs.

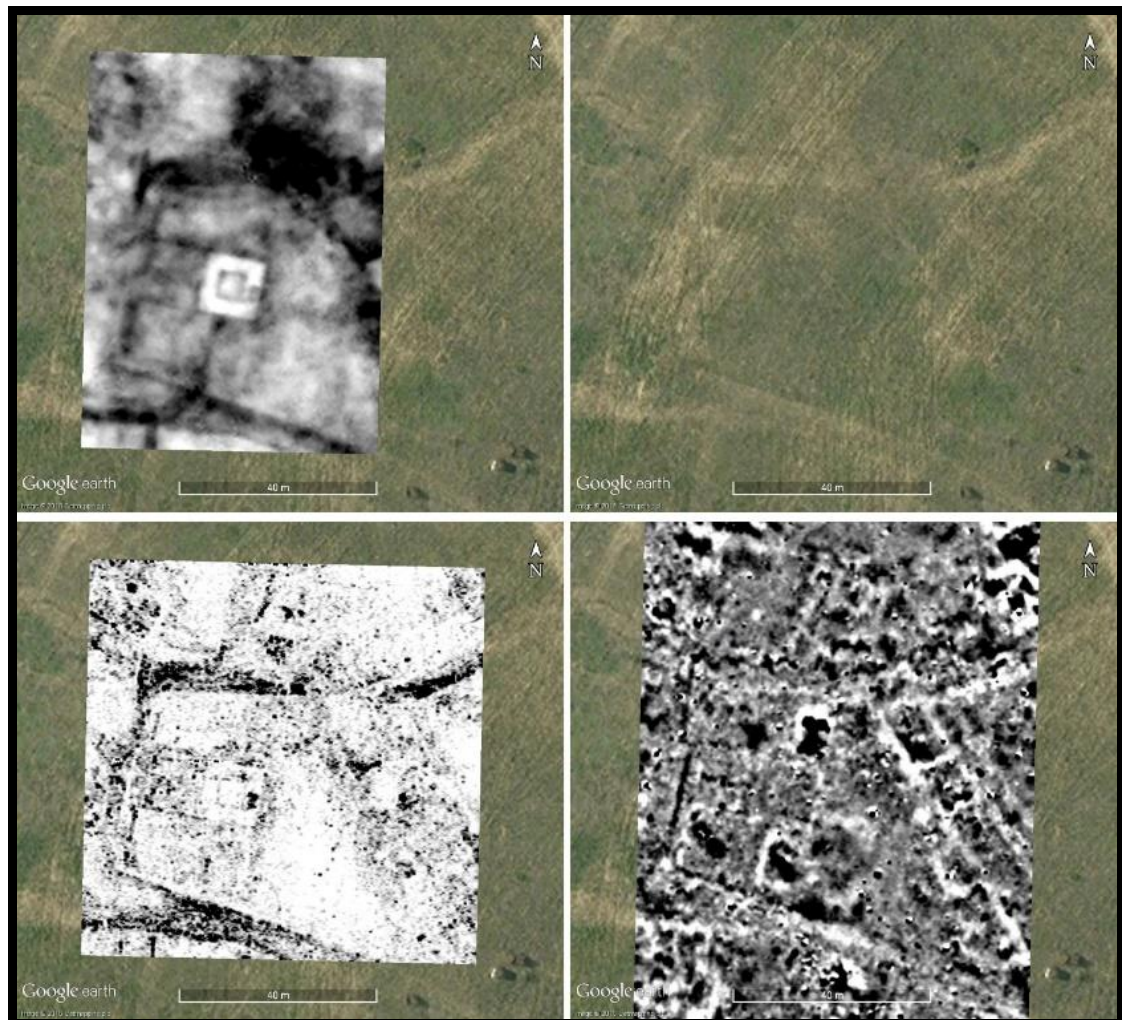


Figure 7. The Romano-Celtic temple complex shown from the earth resistance survey (top left), Google Earth (top right), GPR (bottom left) and magnetometer survey (bottom right). (© Sensing the Iron Age and Roman Past project)

It is possible that the building within Trench 1 was associated with the *mansio* to the northwest. The quality of the walling, the provision of *opus signinum* and tiled floors, and the likelihood of heated rooms certainly point to a public building, most likely a bath-house. Given its central location within the town and adjacent to Ermine Street, it may have been attached to the *mansio* but could also have been part of a separate bath complex.

2.1.2 Walls 122 and 133

Wall 122 in the central part of the trench had been partially robbed by trench 140 and also had been truncated by pit/ditch 129 (described below). Under the former field boundary, however, it survived to an impressive height of over 2m (Figure 9). The wall's foundations, as much as it was possible to observe them, consisted of mortar-bonded pitched limestones, above which a wide faced-wall had been constructed, crudely rendered with a plaster/mortar mix. After some 7 courses (approximately 1m in height), this lower wall was capped with 2 levelling courses of tile, from the middle of which a narrower upper wall was built (leaving offsets to either side). The mortared and faced walls were very well built and there was evidence that the surviving 5 courses of the upper wall had been roughly plastered (although there was no evidence of any colour).



Figure 9. Photograph of Trench 1, western sondage looking north. Wall 122 is shown right-centre. To the left of this wall and under the ranging poles are pit 125, *opus signinum* floor 126 and its foundation 128.

The second wall 133 within this trench would have been immediately adjacent to Ermine Street. It had been truncated to the north by pit 111 (described below), while to the south the surviving length had been consistently truncated by robber trench 135 to a level mortar course (Figure 10). The flat nature of the latter could suggest that this was a stylobate wall supporting a row of columns (a large fragment of sandstone stone left within the robber trench could have been a broken stylobate block), although there is insufficient evidence for this to be anything other than informed speculation.



Figure 10. Photograph of Trench 1, eastern sondage looking north. Robbed and levelled wall 133 is bottom right, with lowest *opus signinum* floor 136 in the corridor to the left. Extensive rabbit damage is visible in the uppermost sealed archaeological deposits.



Figure 11. Photograph of Trench 1, eastern sondage looking west. Although heavily disturbed by pits 111 (to right) and 137 (to left), a stratigraphic sequence was identifiable within the corridor. The earliest layer identified and just visible in this photograph was the pitched stone foundations 139 onto which the *opus signinum* floor 136 was laid. Two further concrete floor levels were identified in the section. Extensive rabbit damage is visible in the section especially in the side of pit 137 (to the left of the photograph).

2.1.3 The 'corridor'

The space between walls 122 and 133 would have created a corridor-like space c. 3.6m wide (Figure 11). Within the trench it had been largely destroyed by pits 111 and 137, and had also been heavily disturbed by rabbit burrowing. However, there was a zone underneath the former field boundary that was undisturbed that, together with the layers visible in the sides of pits, provided an insight into the stratigraphic sequence within the corridor (which was not excavated). The earliest deposit observed was a pitched limestone bedding layer 139, which was overlaid by *opus signinum* floor 136. Above this were at least two later concrete floors (117).

2.1.4 Interior room to south-west

The latter pitting and rabbit disturbance also provided a valuable opportunity to examine the stratigraphic sequence within this room (Figure 12). The earliest deposit was a bedding layer of pitched limestone 128, onto which *opus signinum* floor 126 was laid. The latter only survived as 'islands' between the different pits (see below). In contrast to the 'corridor', there was no evidence for re-surfacing or replacement floors. This, along with the uniform nature and thickness of the in-situ layer 113 above 126, may suggest that 126 was actually the sub-floor for a hypocaust, although there is no firm evidence for this.



Figure 12. Photograph of Trench 1, western sondage looking north-west. Wall 122 with *opus signinum* floor 126 in the centre. Pit/ditch 129/137 is visible in the section to the left and has partially dug through the wall.

2.1.5 Pits

Several pits were visible below the rabbit-disturbed overburden. Although not all were fully excavated due to their depth, they were very extensive and most continued beyond the limits of the trench (their looser fills had been burrowed into by rabbits).

Pit 111 was located in the northern corner of the trench, while pits 118 and 125 were found in the west. These contained Theodosian coins and late pottery including late Oxford ware products and

PIRP, but noticeably no post-Roman material. While pit 111 was not bottomed, pits 118 and 125 appeared to stop when they reached the *opus signinum* floor 126 and its bedding 128.

Another extensive cut occurred in the southern part of the trench, recorded at either end of the trench as 129 and 137. Because this was more linear than the other pits, it was speculated that this might be a ditch associated with the former field boundary, but the limited extent of the trench and absence of post-Roman finds means this is uncertain.

2.1.6 Overburden

The maximum depth of topsoil, in the eastern part of the trench where it was close to Ermine Street, was 1.2m (Figure 13). Presumably this exceptional depth of overburden has been caused by medieval and post-medieval ploughing, with Ermine Street possibly forming a headland against which the ploughs were turned and cleaned. The division of the interior of the town into two separate fields by a relict field boundary might have caused additional build-up of topsoil in the area of Trench 1 if the hedge had also acted as a turning (and plough cleaning) point for post medieval ploughing in the field.

2.1.7 Rabbit disturbance

Considerable rabbit damage was identified in Trench 1 (Figures 10, 11, 12 and 13). Although this was found mainly in the upper archaeological layers, in places the burrows penetrated to 2.3m below the modern surface. Over what period of time these disturbances had taken place is unclear, but the rabbits were particularly fond of the loose material that filled various post-Roman pits (the former field boundary appears to have protected burrows from yearly ploughing and encouraged rabbits to shelter along this line).



Figure 13. Photograph of Trench 1, looking north-west showing extensive rabbit burrows in the topsoil.

2.1.8 Dating

Very few sealed deposits were excavated within this trench and the majority of the finds came from pit fills and overburden. The pottery assemblage included examples of mid-2nd century local coarseware vessels with some earlier samian, but the main assemblages from the trench were all of the later 3rd and 4th centuries. All of the pits were filled with late Roman wares and these, as well as the robber trenches, did not contain any post-Roman material.

2.2 TRENCH 2

2.2.1 Overview

This trench was located adjacent to Ermine Street over a large magnetic anomaly. The most significant discovery within this trench was the remains of a hearth or furnace.

2.2.2 Hearth or furnace

Two areas of burnt clay 204, apparently lined and associated with limestone blocks 205, are likely to have been part of a hearth or furnace. This continued beyond the limit of the trench and was not excavated. Therefore, its overall plan and purpose is uncertain, but it is possible that it was associated with a shop or workshop fronting Ermine Street.

2.2.3 Overburden

Topsoil 201 and 202 overlay a layer of mixed soil and gravel 203.

2.2.4 Dating

The pottery from the trench was exclusively late 2nd and 3rd / 4th century in date.

2.3 TRENCH 3

2.3.1 Overview

This trench was located away from Ermine Street over a wall-like geophysical anomaly, although no evidence for a wall or robber trench was identified.

The deposits within the trench comprised either rubble layers like 302 or silty loams (303, 304 and 305), some of which contained ash and charcoal flecks.

There was some residual late-2nd century pottery but the majority of the ceramic assemblage was late 3rd and early 4th century in date, including some very late Oxfordshire wares and local PIRP.

2.4 TRENCH 4

2.4.1 Overview

This trench was located adjacent to Ermine Street and over a wall-like geophysical anomaly. The wall had been extensively robbed, although its lower courses were found at the bottom of a robber trench. It is presumed that this was part of a strip building fronting onto Ermine Street.

2.4.2 Wall and robber trench

A mortared wall 409 survived at the bottom of robber trench 406, although it was too deep to fully expose. The trench fill 407 contained rubble, tile, pottery and some ash.

2.4.3 Other layers

On the southern side of the robber trench was a mortar / rubble layer 403. 404 was found at the same stratigraphic level in the northern part of the trench, which contained quantities of charcoal and broken tile and is likely to have been the interior of a building.

2.4.4 Dating

Much of the pottery assemblage seemed residual in that the sherds were small in size and ranged in date from the late 2nd century to the late 4th century with Oxford ware sherds and PIRP sherds present.

2.5 TRENCH 5

2.5.1 Overview

This trench was located over a wall-like anomaly on the geophysical survey, which proved to be an upstanding wall. The survey suggests this was one of four parallel walls that were part of a rectangular building with a central 'nave' and two 'aisles'. It is the only building with such a distinctive layout so far identified within the town and its east-west alignment is also highly unusual. The building appears to partly overlie the outer ditch of a circular feature referred to by Artis as a 'tumulus', which may have been a prehistoric monument similar to others visible on aerial photographs to the west of the A1.

Although little evidence was found to indicate the function of the building, its layout and orientation leads to the possibility that it may have been a church. Few purpose-built churches have been identified in Roman Britain and the *Durobrivae* building is of considerable interest (particularly considering the discovery in the 1970s of a hoard of early-Christian silver vessels from the town). This building is also unusual because it was one of the few within the town that had not been robbed, suggesting perhaps that it remained in use when other buildings had been abandoned and were being robbed, or that it was viewed as too significant a building to be robbed.

2.5.2 Wall

A well-constructed mortared limestone wall 504, 0.65 m wide, was found 0.5m below the ground level. Curiously the north face of the wall comprised 4 courses whereas the south face comprised only 2 courses plus a foundation of pitched rubble. The reason for this difference is uncertain but it may suggest that the surfaces on either side of the wall were at different levels.



Figure 14. Photograph of Trench 5, looking east showing wall 504.

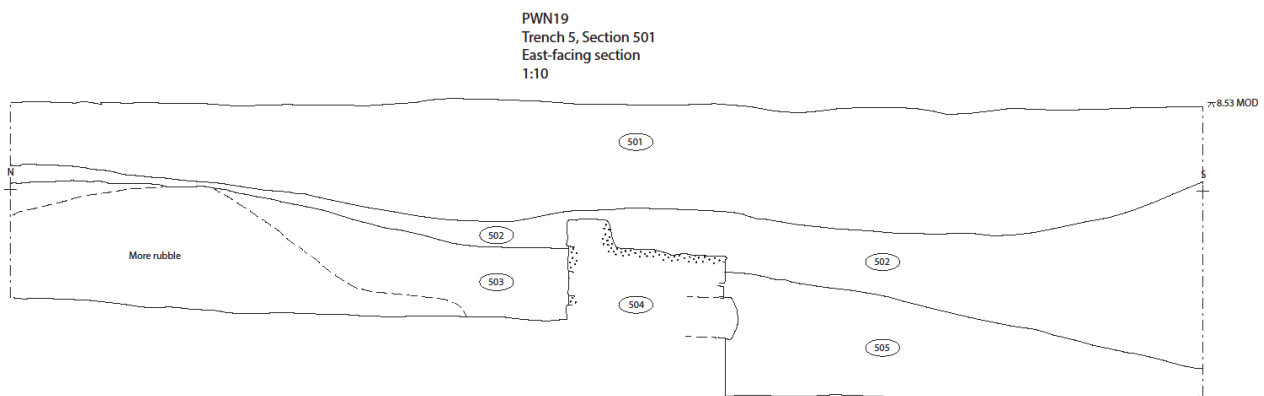


Figure 15. Section of Trench 5, showing wall 504 and deposits to either side.

2.5.3 Other layers

The deposits on either side of the wall were different, but none had the obvious appearance of floor make up layers. On the northern side 505 contained noticeably more stones, CBM and mortar fragments than 503 to the south.

2.5.4 Dating

The pottery from the trench contained some residual late 2nd century material but was mainly late 3rd and 4th century in date.

2.6 TRENCH 6

2.6.1 Overview

This trench was located away from Ermine Street to investigate a wall-like geophysical anomaly. No evidence for a wall was found, although a cut 605 at the eastern end might be part of a robber trench. The cut's fill, 603, produced a large assemblage of animal bone including a cow skull, as well as fragments of human bone.

Across the whole of the base of the evaluation trench was a gritty, sandy yellow gravel (607) occurring to a depth of 1.2m, which was thought to be redeposited natural.

The pottery from this trench was entirely late 3rd and early 4th century in date.

2.7 TRENCH 7

2.7.1 Overview

This trench was located away from Ermine Streets across a wall-like geophysical anomaly. No walls or robber trenches were identified.

A post hole 707 at the northern end of the trench, which included three pieces of limestone as packing, was the only cut feature present.

Most of the other deposits within the trench (704, 705 and 706) were interpreted as levelling layers which will have increased the ground level by at least 1m. They comprised redeposited natural gravels containing some mortar and flecks of ash and charcoal.

The pottery assemblage included early examples of Nene Valley colour-coated ware but also included examples of late locally-produced 'London ware'.

2.8 TRENCH 8

2.8.1 Overview

This trench was located away from Ermine Street across two wall-like geophysical anomalies which appeared to be part of a Romano-Celtic temple. The trench was positioned to investigate the ambulatory on the eastern side and the remains of two walls were exposed at the bottom of robber trenches. Unusually for a Romano-Celtic temple, the outer wall was wider than the inner one.

Remains of a crude tessellated floor in the ambulatory survived only 0.3m below modern ground level.

The geophysical survey indicates that the temple was located in the centre of a large open precinct or compound and was adjacent to one of the towns major public buildings (the possible forum), suggesting a possible connection between the two building complexes.

2.8.2 Walls and robber trenches

The two robber trenches (806 and 808) corresponded exactly with the wall-like anomalies on the geophysical surveys that, it can be confirmed, define a 2.8m wide ambulatory around a central *cella*. The foundations and lower courses of these walls were visible at the base of the later robber trenches and both were mortared and faced with squared limestone. The inner (west) wall 813 was 0.76 m wide whereas the outer (east) wall 814 appeared to be slightly wider at 0.89m wide.

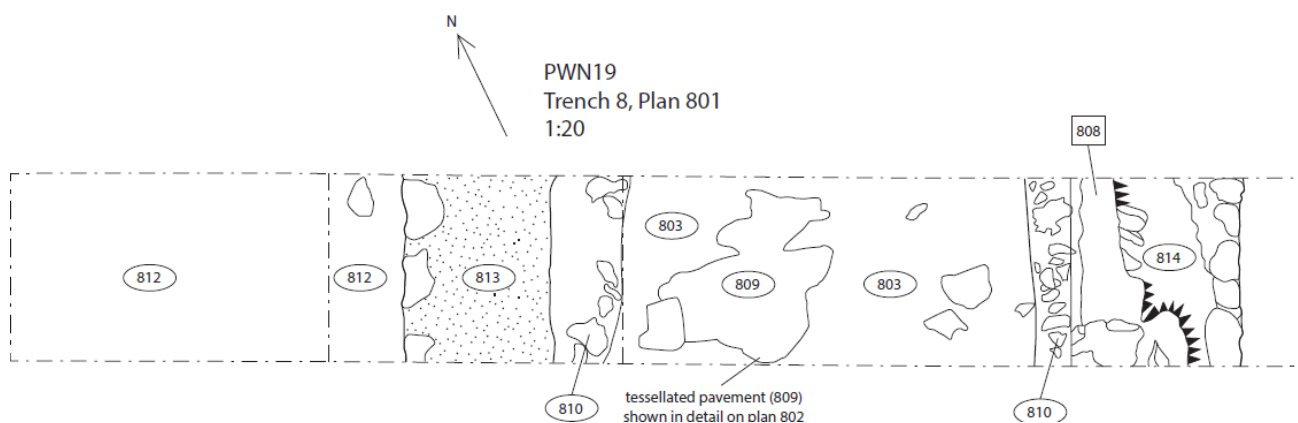


Figure 16. Plan of Trench 8, showing walls 808 and 813 defining the temple ambulatory (*cella* to the left).

2.8.3 Tessellated floor

Tessellated floor 809 survived over a 0.9m by 0.8m area in the ambulatory only 0.3m below the present ground level (presumably the rest had been damaged by later ploughing). It was made of whiteish limestone tesserae approximately 20 x 20mm and appears to have been heavily patched or repaired with smaller tesserae of terracotta tile. The floor was laid on a layer of fine yellow mortar 803, which in turn sat on a bedding layer of pitched medium-sized limestones 810.

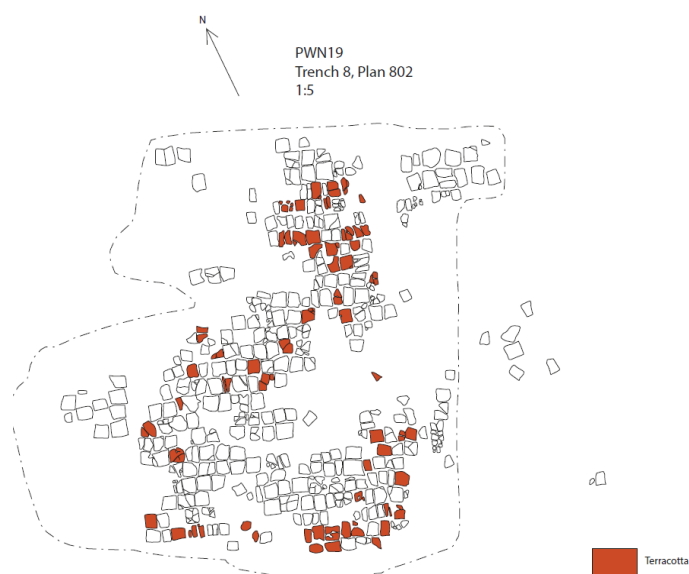


Figure 17. Detail of Trench 8, showing the patch of surviving tessellated floor in the temple ambulatory.

2.8.4 Finds and dating

All indications are that the temple was roofed with ceramic tiles. One fragment of a possibly carved stone might indicate that the structure was decorated with architectural embellishments.

The pottery assemblage included Oxford ware of late 3rd - late 4th century date, while a coin of the House of Theodosius (AD 388-402) found lying directly on the tessellated floor, suggests that the building was still in use in the early part of the 5th century.

2.9 TRENCH 9

2.9.1 Overview

This trench was located adjacent to Ermine Street to investigate a wall-like geophysical anomaly, possibly part of a strip building. A trench was located that would appear to have robbed the external wall of this building.

2.9.2 Robber trench

Robber trench 903 was 0.9m wide and over 1.2m deep (no wall remnants were visible but the robber cut was not bottomed for health and safety reasons). The robber trench was filled with large quantities of limestone, CBM and Collyweston roof tiles. Much of the stone and tile showed signs of having been burned or otherwise subjected to very high temperatures.

2.9.3 Other layers

Although not excavated, the layers visible on either side of the robber trench were noticeably different in nature: to the north layer 905 contained mortar and fragments of painted wall plaster (red), while layer 904 to the south contained large stones and CBM. This difference suggests the interior of the building was on the north side of the robbed-out wall.

2.9.4 Dating

The pottery from this trench was exclusively late 3rd - late 4th century in date.

2.10 TRENCH 10

2.10.1 Overview

This trench was located to investigate a wall-like geophysical anomaly belonging to a range of rooms considered to be part of one of the public buildings in the town, possibly the forum. Robber trenches were excavated at either ends of the trench, between which was a small room or narrow corridor surfaced with cobbles. Part of a polygonal base or plinth constructed from faced limestone was found against the robbed western wall, which could have supported a column or some other feature. The archaeological remains uncovered within the trench indicate that this was a large building, although it is not possible to be certain if it was the town's forum. The building could have been partially excavated in the 1820s and it is possible that part of it is shown on Artis' plan of 1828.



Figure 18. Photograph of Trench 10, looking south showing cobbled surface 1002 in centre, part of hexagonal base 1013 on right and robber trench 1008 on left.

2.10.2 Robber trenches

Trench 1008 at the eastern end of the evaluation trench and trench 1009 at the western end were excavated to depths of 1.2m from the modern ground surface. No remains of either of the robbed walls or their foundations were encountered, though the trenches suggest that these would have been very substantial indeed.

2.10.3 Floors/surfaces

Between the two robber trenches was a solid surface of large cobbles on a mortar bedding (1012) that butted against the outer edge of a polygonal structure 1013. The lower course of this feature was built using faced limestones with decayed sandstone blocks above, and it may have been a base or plinth to support a column or perhaps a container of some kind. The surface and plinth were sealed by a thick deposit of decayed mortar / plaster with CBM (1011).

2.10.4 Overburden

Layers 1002, 1003 and 1004 were quite mixed in nature and thicker than those encountered in other trenches. These contained a handful of modern finds (including clay-pipe) and might be the backfills of an antiquarian trench dug by Artis in the early 19th century.

2.10.5 Dating evidence

The pottery from this trench was almost exclusively late 3rd and 4th century in date, much of it residual at the time of deposition. Three sherds of sand-tempered, handmade Saxon pottery came from 1003. The wall robbing was thought to be late Roman in date.

2.11 TRENCH 11

2.11.1 Overview

This trench was located to investigate a wall-like anomaly on the geophysical survey that appears to have been part of a range of rooms on the east side of a courtyard. This is one of the two large public buildings within the town and it has been suggested that it may have been a *mansio*. A robber trench was found which corresponds with the geophysical anomaly.

Whether this building represents a *mansio* was impossible to determine from a single evaluation trench. However, large quantities of box-flue tile were recovered which suggests the presence of hypocausted rooms and possibly even a bath-house nearby (both elements to be expected with a *mansio*).

2.11.2 Robber trench

Robber trench 1102 which was 2m wide at the top was excavated down to a depth of 1.2m. It was not bottomed for health and safety reasons and any remains of the wall or its foundations must lie below this depth.

2.11.3 Layers

The layers on either side of the robber trench were not fully excavated. Both contained larger stones, CBM and mortar, but it is unclear if they represent demolition/collapse, levelling or floor make-up.

2.11.4 Dating evidence

The pottery from the trench was exclusively late 3rd and 4th century in date and it is likely that the robbing of the wall occurred in the late Roman period.

2.12 SMALL FINDS ASSESSMENT

(Peter Guest)

The evaluation produced 785 registered 'small finds', of which 595 are coins (Table 1).

Trench 1 produced most small finds overall, which is expected given that it covered 12 times the area of the other individual trenches (Trench 1 represents 54% of the total area excavated in 2019, whereas the other 10 trenches each represent less than 5%). Significant concentrations of small finds from the trenches include:

- Trench 1 - coins (78% of total), worked bone (83%) and worked stone objects (80%);
- Trench 3 - iron objects (19%);
- Trench 4 - glass vessel fragments (25%);
- Trench 8 - copper-alloy objects (33%);
- Trench 9 - lead objects (16%);
- Trench 10 - worked bone (17%) and vessel glass (16%)

Of the 595 coins recovered, all but one were struck during the Roman period (the exception is a 14th century farthing). The Roman coins include four 1st to early 3rd century silver *denarii*, but the

vast majority are *radiates* and low-value bronzes dating from the later-3rd and 4th centuries. Approximately one-third of the coins could be identified to an emperor's reign or 4th-century issue period and it is notable that the assemblage includes large quantities of issues of the House of Constantine (especially 330-360), the House of Valentinian (364-378) and the House of Theodosius (388-402). Theodosian coins were recovered from all trenches, indicating that people in all areas of the town appear to have used and lost coins in the late 4th and early 5th centuries.

The rest of the small find's assemblage contains relatively few personal items – including only 4 brooches, 2 finger rings, an enamelled chatelaine, two glass beads and 9 bone hair pins. Other notable registered artefacts are an enamelled copper alloy seal-box lid, a ceramic lamp and an iron stylus. Window glass was concentrated almost exclusively in Trench 1, while the relatively large quantity of copper alloy objects from Trench 8 is explained by a concentration of tacks and fragments of thin sheet found directly overlying the tessellated floor that probably derive from a decayed box or small chest.

| | T 1 | T 2 | T 3 | T 4 | T 5 | T 6 | T 7 | T 8 | T 9 | T 10 | T 11 | Total |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| CuA | 30 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 73 |
| | 41% | 4% | 3% | 4% | 0% | 3% | 1% | 33% | 1% | 10% | 0% | |
| Coins | 465 | 32 | 18 | 15 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 18 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 595 |
| | 78% | 5% | 3% | 3% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 3% | 1% | 2% | 1% | |
| Fe | 13 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 27 |
| | 48% | 4% | 19% | 0% | 4% | 0% | 4% | 7% | 11% | 0% | 4% | |
| Pb | 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 19 |
| | 58% | 0% | 5% | 0% | 5% | 0% | 5% | 5% | 16% | 5% | 0% | |
| Bone | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 18 |
| | 83% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 17% | 0% | |
| Glass | 9 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 43 |
| | 21% | 5% | 9% | 26% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 9% | 5% | 16% | 2% | |
| Stone | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| | 80% | 0% | 10% | 0% | 10% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Total | 551 | 38 | 31 | 29 | 15 | 9 | 10 | 49 | 16 | 27 | 10 | 785 |
| | 70% | 5% | 4% | 4% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 6% | 2% | 3% | 1% | |

Table 1. Small Finds by material from the evaluation trenches

It is also instructive to consider what categories of objects are not represented in the PWN19 small finds assemblage. The relative paucity of personal objects has already been mentioned, but there are also very few agricultural implements and tools, or weights and measures, or the brackets, hooks, hinges and keys etc that would be expected in the fabric of most buildings, or the furniture and household utensils that people would have used in their everyday lives. We must assume that these objects would have existed in the town of *Durobrivae*, but that for some reason they did not become incorporated into the archaeological record. It is highly doubtful that they could have been removed so thoroughly after the Roman period, in which case it would seem most likely that they never became archaeological artefacts in the first place – i.e. they had been taken away by their owners during the town's abandonment. This explanation assumes that the inhabitants stripped any reusable items from their buildings, suggesting a process of abandonment that was relatively gradual.

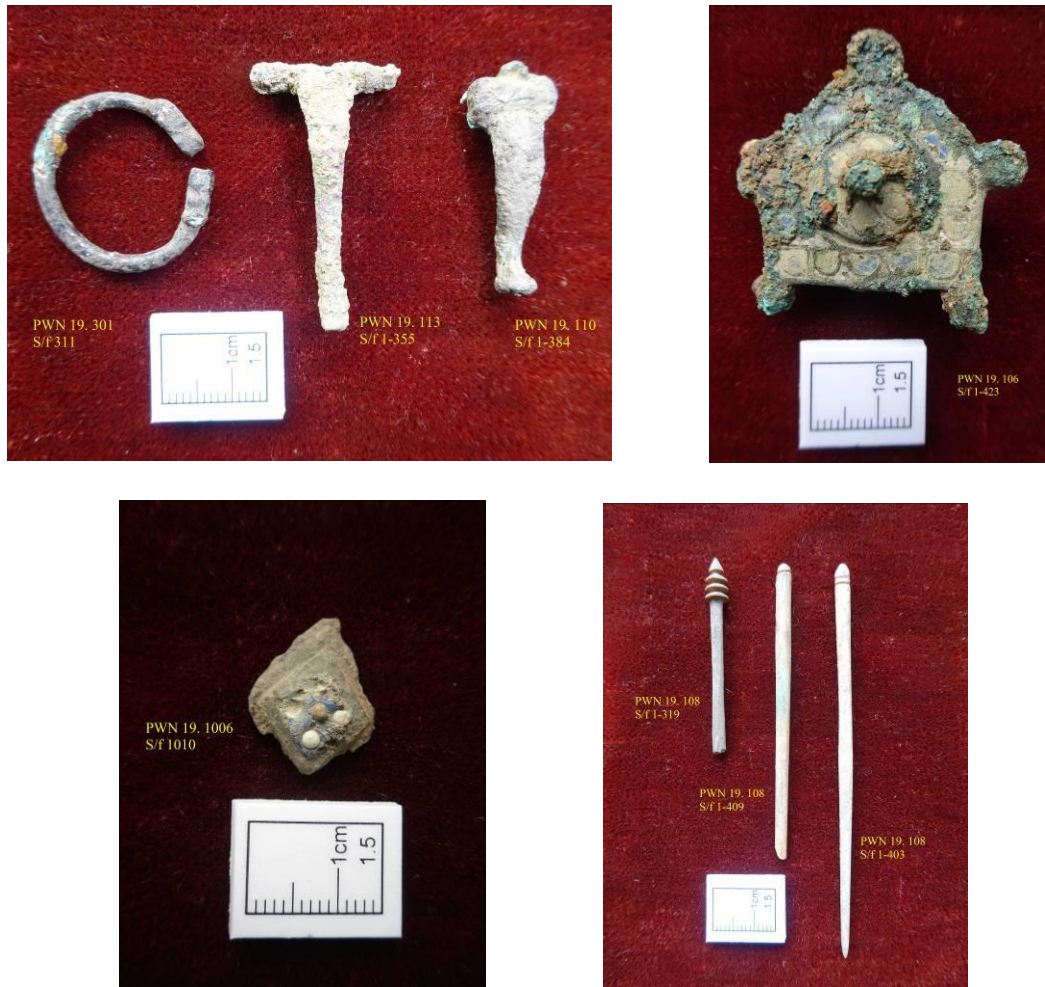


Figure 19. Selection of Small Finds (brooches top left, enamelled chatelaine top right, enamelled seal-box lid bottom left, bone hair pins bottom right).

It is recommended that 375 of the coins and 26 copper alloy and iron small finds would benefit from conservation (cleaning and stabilisation) prior to final identification. Another 36 very fragmentary small finds are not considered sufficiently significant to be retained in perpetuity. Lists of objects that require cleaning or that are recommended for discarding are included in the site archive.

2.13 BULK FINDS ASSESSMENT

(Peter Guest)

The evaluation produced just over 1 tonne of artefacts classed as 'bulk finds', of which the majority consists of broken Ceramic Building Materials (bricks and tiles). The distribution of these bulk finds between the trenches is shown on Table 2.

Significant concentrations of bulk finds from the trenches include:

- Trench 1 - CBM (96% of total), lead fragments (96%), oyster shell (88%), broken *opus signinum* flooring (77%) and modern glass (96%);
- Trench 6 – animal bone (9%), wall plaster (27%) and clay pipe (32%);
- Trench 8 - tesserae (62%);
- Trench 10 – animal bone (13%) and metallurgical slags (39%);
- Trench 11 – broken *opus signinum* flooring (23%).

| | T 1 | T 2 | T 3 | T 4 | T 5 | T 6 | T 7 | T 8 | T 9 | T 10 | T 11 | Total |
|----------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|------------------|
| Pottery | 67,275 | 3,925 | 6,155 | 3,690 | 1,295 | 2,815 | 6,740 | 2,084 | 2,420 | 4,145 | 1,426 | 101,970 |
| | 66% | 4% | 6% | 4% | 1% | 3% | 7% | 2% | 2% | 4% | 1% | |
| Animal bone | 44,245 | 0 | 0 | 484 | 0 | 5,681 | 2,344 | 874 | 1,680 | 8,143 | 785 | 64,236 |
| | 69% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 9% | 4% | 1% | 3% | 13% | 1% | |
| CBM | 738,275 | 510 | 4,270 | 240 | 440 | 5,705 | 780 | 380 | 4,155 | 5,320 | 11,390 | 771,465 |
| | 96% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 2% | |
| Pb | 2,287 | 14 | 10 | 25 | 16 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 2,381 |
| | 96% | 1% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% | |
| Oyster | 48,446 | 335 | 1,065 | 226 | 39 | 2,205 | 1,131 | 227 | 178 | 1,308 | 81 | 55,241 |
| | 88% | 1% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 4% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 0% | |
| Fe nails | 1,051 | 180 | 43 | 27 | 14 | 122 | 166 | 55 | 58 | 134 | 19 | 1,869 |
| | 56% | 10% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 7% | 9% | 3% | 3% | 7% | 1% | |
| Tesserae | 953 | 23 | 42 | 85 | 0 | 337 | 0 | 3,124 | 0 | 149 | 287 | 5,000 |
| | 19% | 0% | 1% | 2% | 0% | 7% | 0% | 62% | 0% | 3% | 6% | |
| Opus signinum | 1,095 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 328 | 1,423 |
| | 77% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 23% | |
| Plaster | 2,003 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 772 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 64 | 2,871 |
| | 70% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 27% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 2% | |
| Slag | 128 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 125 | 23 | 323 |
| | 40% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 14% | 0% | 39% | 7% | |
| Glass - modern | 220 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 229 |
| | 96% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 1% | |
| Clay pipe | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 25 |
| | 56% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 32% | 0% | 0% | 6% | 5% | 0% | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 1,007,032 |

Table 2. Bulk finds from the trenches (by weight in g)

The pottery and bone assemblages are discussed separately below, but it is instructive to examine where important groups of the other categories of bulk finds were recovered.

It is clear that the building excavated in Trench 1 was provided with a terracotta roof, which appears to have collapsed into the interior of the building at some point in the late or post-Roman period (see Table 3). The Romano-Celtic temple partially revealed in Trench 8 was also almost certainly roofed in the same way too. All other trenches produced CBM, though never in large

quantities and, with the exception of Trench 8, it is likely that these generally small fragments of brick and tile had been moved around the site and their presence should not be taken to indicate that all buildings had tiled roofs. The presence of Collyweston stone roof-slates from Trenches 9, 10 and 11 suggests that the buildings in these parts of the town, including the possible *forum* and *mansio*, had stone rather than terracotta roofs (at least in their later histories).

| | TEGULAE | | IMBRICES | | BRICKS | | BOX FLUE | | BRIQUETTES | |
|--------------|---------|----------------|----------|----------------|--------|---------------|----------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| Trench | No. | weight (g) | No. | weight (g) | No. | weight (g) | No. | weight (g) | No. | weight (g) |
| T 1 | 242 | 142,820 | 238 | 96,045 | 210 | 83,395 | 249 | 78,685 | 246 | 141,410 |
| T 2 | 1 | 510 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| T 3 | 6 | 1,720 | 9 | 1,670 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 280 | 0 | 0 |
| T 4 | 1 | 140 | 1 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| T 5 | 1 | 440 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| T 6 | 1 | 140 | 3 | 290 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 1,825 | 0 | 0 |
| T 7 | 1 | 120 | 1 | 260 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| T 8 | 1 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| T 9 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 455 | 2 | 3,440 | 3 | 225 | 0 | 0 |
| T 10 | 4 | 1,110 | 7 | 1,430 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 420 | 0 | 0 |
| T 11 | 6 | 940 | 6 | 750 | 7 | 3,060 | 12 | 2,310 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 148,080 | | 101,000 | | 89,895 | | 83,745 | | 141,410 |
| | | 19% | | 13% | | 12% | | 11% | | 18% |

Table 3. Ceramic Building Material by category from the evaluation trenches

Trench 1 produced large amounts of box-flue tile and briquettes, most of which also came from fill 105, which is very good evidence for the building having been a bath-house provided with heated rooms. The two rooms revealed in the trench were furnished with *opus signinum* floors (explaining the presence of broken flooring), although the discovery of so many briquettes suggests that some rooms may have had herringbone tiled floors as well (3 different sizes of briquette were recorded).



Figure 20. A selection of briquettes from Trench 1.

The quantities of oyster shell also from Trench 1 might have been consumed in the bath-house, although they could also have been dumped here once the building had fallen into disrepair.

Similarly, the metallurgical slag from Trench 10 could have been produced in workshops contained in the building, or been discarded there at some later date.

2.14 POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Samian ware

(Geoffrey Dannell and Brenda Dickinson)

In total 67 separate vessels were recovered from the evaluation weighing total of 1.325 kg (see Appendix 6.2). The individual pieces were not weighed but were identified by form, kiln site and the date. 28 vessels came from Trench 1 and by contrast no pieces were found in Trenches 5 and 6. There was only one stamped sherd.

The overall sample is small with fewer vessels present than one might expect. The date range is interesting as it clearly shows a Flavian presence implying that the town was well established by the end of this period and there is a strong bias to products from the Antonine period.

Coarse Pottery

(Stephen Upex)

The eleven trenches produced 68 contexts containing 5,982 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 101.97 kg (see Table 2 and Appendix 6.2). There was considerable variation between the contexts from the various trenches both in terms of the numbers of sherds and by their weight. Trench 1, context 101 produced 1,718 sherds, although this was from a topsoil context. However, Trench 1 also produced 587 sherds from the pit fill 108. This contrasted with Trench 8, context 803 which only produced one sherd. Similarly, there was great variation between the total amounts of pottery produced from each individual trench - largely reflecting their individual trench sizes (Trench 1 produced 67.275 kg of pottery, for example, while Trench 11 produced only 1.426 kg).

Early fabrics from the Flavian or Hadrianic periods produced within the Nene valley area are at present poorly understood and, although they may be present within the total assemblage from 2019, they have not been recognised (against other fabric groups from other sites) in this report. The earliest recognisable forms of vessels are a series of cordoned slashed jars of early to mid-2nd century date from various trenches (those from Trench 1 and 7 are shown in Figure 21). Similarly dated sherds of so-called 'London Ware', almost certainly from local Nene valley kilns, were also present (shown in Figure 22).



Figure 21. Slashed cordoned jars from Trenches 1 and 7



Figure 22. Sherds of London Ware from Trenches 1 and 7

One point of interest overall was the dominance of residual material from most trenches excavated. This point was especially marked when referenced against mid-2nd to 3rd century beakers or various forms, types and decorative registers (Figure 23).



Figure 23. Beakers from Trenches 1, 2 and 8

Later wares are typified by a heavy local presence of products from the Stibbington kilns which are operating in the late 3rd and early 4th centuries, producing typical colour-coated overpainted bowls

with a running arched pattern, and late-4th century colour-coated and overpainted platters with a variety of decorative elements including wheels, and decorative motifs (Figure 24).



Figure 24. Colour-coated sherds with over-painting dating to the late fourth century

Later in date still are a series of Roman vessels (Post-Industrial Roman Pottery – PIRP) which seem to post-date the late Stibbington wares. These are typified by having Roman forms (dishes, flanged bowls and jars) but using debased clay sources containing sand and shell as a temper (Figure 25). How long these types of vessels were used locally is difficult to say at present but they appear to go past the very latest coin sequences and probably extend well into the 5th century.

Only 4 fragments of post Roman pottery of the early medieval period were identified. The sherd shown in Figure 26 is typical of local sand tempered wares with a rounded base and thick wall. Such early Saxon sherds probably date to the earliest migration settlement within the area and are 5th 6th century.

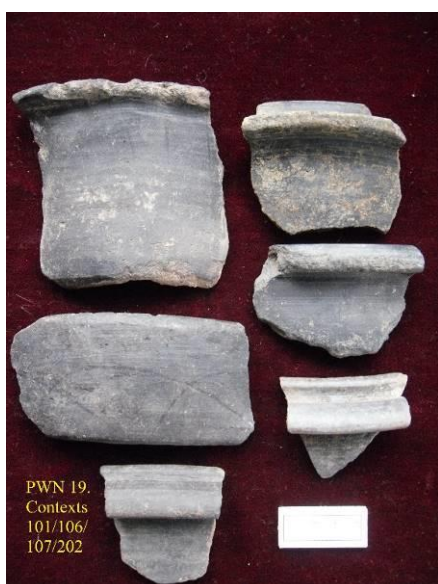


Figure 25. Roman vessels dating to the fifth century.



Figure 26. Sherd of early-medieval pottery

Overall there are several aspects of the assemblage which stand out as interesting or significant within the limited scope of this assessment. Many of the deposits appear to be entirely residual in nature consisting of small weight groups but with high sherds counts. To this can be added the fact that many of these deposits also have a very large date range, with the earliest sherds perhaps dating to the (later) 2nd century while the latest sherds are late 4th century.

The lack of significant numbers of mortaria is interesting and might be linked with the equally interesting lack of quern stones – perhaps indicating that the inhabitants were importing their flour into the town rather than importing grain to grind or pound down into edible forms.

Also noteworthy are the high numbers of residual colour-coated beakers found in many of the deposits and the lack of both coarseware jars and calcite or shell tempers jars. What this may represent is at present uncertain, but it might reflect the use of higher status wares in an urban rather than a rural context - from which our comparative assemblages exclusively come from. There is also a general absence of specialist vessels such as cheese presses and colanders, and only a single fragment of amphora, which considering that we are in an urban context is odd.

2.15 BONE ASSESSMENT

(Bethan Upex)

All of the eleven trenches excavated during the 2019 season produced animal bone and one trench (Trench 6) produced fragments of human bone. In total 64kgs of bone were recovered from the evaluation with a breakdown of the amount of bone from each trench shown in Table 2 above.

The animal bone from all trenches consisted of large proportions of what appear to be residual material from contexts that suggest re-deposition. Thus, there is little of archaeological significance that can be gleaned from a study of such material other than to say that the whole assemblage represents a typical profile of animal bone from settlement sites within the east midlands in that all of the main domesticates are present. There are fragments of deer antler which show that non-domesticates are present, but such material may have been brought onto the site for some semi-industrial production rather than be food related. Much of the main bone assemblage could in fact be part of the discard policy proposed for the whole collection of material from the 2019 season due to the insecure contexts from which the material is derived. Of the remainder of the bone assemblage from sealed contexts then the actual quantities by weight and number of fragments are very small and thus statistically insignificant at present. There is evidence of cut marks on some of the bone which is derived either from the butchery of the animals or the consumption of the various cuts of meat at table.

Only Trench 6 produced evidence of human bone and this consisted of fragments of the lower jaw of possibly an adult male with small fragments from neck, finger and forearm. The assemblage was recovered from context 603 which was a pit fill at the east end of the trench. Clearly the bones were not articulated and the deposition within context 602 was probably derived from residual material.



Figure 27. Human bone from Trench 6 (context 602).

3. DISCUSSION

Despite the relatively small-scale of the 2019 project, the evaluation trenches generated important new insights regarding the archaeological remains at *Durobrivae*. The main results are discussed below against the project's stated objectives.

3.1 Review of evaluation objectives

Depth of the topsoil overlying the extant archaeological deposits

The evaluations demonstrated that the depth of the topsoils overlying the extant archaeological deposits varies considerably across the site, from relatively shallow levels in Trenches 2, 8 and 9, to up to 1.2m in the eastern part of Trench 1 (Table 4).

| T 1 | T 2 | T 3 | T 4 | T 5 | T 6 | T 7 | T 8 | T 9 | T 10 | T 11 |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 0.65m - 1.2m | 0.35m | 0.55m | 0.85m | 0.55m | 0.70m | 0.45m | 0.30m | 0.35m | 0.65m | 0.70m |

Table 4. Depth of topsoil encountered in the evaluation trenches (maxima)

Condition of the underlying archaeological deposits

The uppermost sealed archaeological deposits in all trenches date to the late-Roman or immediately post-Roman periods. Generally, these deposits were well preserved, but particularly so in Trench 1 where wall 122 stood to a height of over 2m, and in Trench 5 where four courses of a wall survived. The discovery in Trench 8 of part of a tessellated floor, only some 30cm below the modern ground surface, was remarkable. Elsewhere systematic robbing of buildings and floors had occurred and some plough damage was noted.

Several of the town's public and domestic buildings appear to have been systematically dismantled in the later Roman period (or later). This is true of all buildings investigated in 2019, other than those in Trenches 1 and 5 where walls had not been robbed. For example, the walls of the forum and *mansio* in Trenches 10 and 11 respectively had been completely removed, and even the walls of 'domestic' strip-buildings in Trenches 4 and 9 had been thoroughly robbed. Whether this robbing was to provide stone to strengthen the walled circuit around the town or for some other purpose, is a point to explore in any further work at the site, especially on the walls and gates themselves.

Date of the underlying archaeological deposits

The ceramic and coin evidence indicate that there was very late Roman activity in all of the evaluation trenches, with this occupation most likely extending into the 5th century. There was, however, a near total absence of post-Roman pottery from the site (4 possible Saxon sherds were recovered), including medieval ceramics, which is surprising given that the fields had long been cultivated. Extensive pitting was found in Trench 1 along the line of the relict field boundary that it is assumed must have occurred relatively recently, though the lack of any post-Roman material from the pit fills means that it is difficult to date this activity with any precision.

Stone-robbing in the town appears to have occurred in two phases. The first seems to have taken place during late Roman period (4th-5th century), possibly associated with the construction or strengthening of the town's walls and towers, while further robbing is likely to have removed stone for the building of Peterborough Abbey and the maintenance of the Great North Road during the medieval and later periods (dating these robbing phases is problematic given the overwhelmingly residual nature of the finds from all robber trenches).

Function of buildings and other structures exposed in the evaluation trenches

Trench 1 revealed the remains of a previously unknown public-building in the central part of the town that, considering the size and quality of surviving walls and floors, was probably a bath-house. If this proves to be the case, then it is possible that the structure was part of, or was connected to, the *mansio* to the north (examined in Trench 11), although it could also have been a separate bath complex. The forum and *mansio* explored in Trenches 10 and 11 respectively were clearly very substantial buildings, but it is not possible at this stage to identify their precise functions with any degree of certainty.

The building in Trench 8 can be confirmed as a Romano-Celtic temple with a tessellated ambulatory around a central *cella* (where a floor did not survive). Although the walls of the temple had been partially robbed (their lower courses and foundations remained *in situ*), the survival of the latest tessellated floor was excellent and occupation of the building seems to have continued into the 5th century.

The wall encountered in Trench 5, which survived to the lowest four courses of stone above the foundations, was on a different alignment to other buildings within the town. The building was oriented east-west and appears to overlie part of the large, mounded, circular-feature referred to by Artis as a 'tumulus', that is likely to have been a prehistoric ring-ditch or barrow. Earlier prehistoric sites and their links to later Romano-British religious buildings are not without parallel and the orientation and late survival of the structure encountered in Trench 5 is of considerable interest, especially considering the discovery of the Water Newton Treasure of early Christian liturgical silver objects from the town. Perhaps this building could have served as a 'church' for the Christian community in *Durobrivae* and it would certainly warrant further exploration in the future.

The buildings investigated in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 appear to have been less substantial than those in the centre of the town, or the temple and possible 'church'. The evaluation did not examine the earlier histories of the buildings, but the latest archaeological deposits within them suggest a mixture of domestic and industrial functions (the furnace or hearth excavated in Trench 2 indicates that this roadside building had an industrial function of some kind).

The range of material culture recovered from the evaluation trenches raises several important questions. There was a general lack of shell-tempered wares in the ceramic assemblage, which also produced only one piece of amphora and a limited assemblage of samian. This is surprising when compared to collections of material from other, albeit mainly rural, Romano-British sites in the Nene valley, and this difference to the regional pattern is also noticeable in the absence of mortaria and quern stones (which might indicate corn was not being brought into the town in any quantity, or that it was being milled outside the walls and imported as flour).

The limited range of small finds is also noteworthy. The general absence of personal items and household utensils, or the fittings etc that would be expected in the fabric of most buildings, perhaps suggests that the population of *Durobrivae* abandoned the town over an extended period of time, rather than being forced to leave suddenly.

Effects of any previous and on-going degradation of the archaeological resource, including rabbit burrowing in the centre of the town.

Rabbit damage was limited to the area within Trench 1, but here previous burrowing had caused considerable damage to the underlying archaeological remains, in places to a depth of 2.3m. Rabbit burrowing was observed away from the evaluation trenches in several other areas of the town and represents a serious threat to the archaeological resource at *Durobrivae*.

Although metal detecting has been a problem at the site in the past, the numbers of coins and other metal artefacts from the evaluation trenches suggest the impact of this illegal activity is perhaps more limited than was expected. Most trenches produced metal objects from their topsoils, while coins were found lying directly on top of the tessellated floor in Trench 8 which was only 0.3m below the modern ground surface.

3.2 Assessment of Potential

The evaluation project has provided valuable new information on the depth, nature and condition of the archaeological remains within the walled area of the town. This will be useful for the management of the archaeological resource at *Durobrivae*, as well as for the planning of fieldwork in the future. Although the project's Written Scheme of Investigation stated that an Updated Project Design would be included in this Assessment Report, the evaluation produced such good potential to answer key research questions about the later history of the town that a separate Outline Proposal for further archaeological excavations at *Durobrivae* will be submitted together with this Report. Therefore, instead of including an Updated Project Design here, the results of the 2019 evaluation will be integrated, where appropriate, into the results of this longer-term project.

The evaluations demonstrated that the depth of the topsoils overlying the extant archaeological deposits varies from 0.30m to 1.20m (see Table 4). These deposits were very mixed and often contained large quantities of residual Roman material. Therefore, any further excavations in the parts of the town examined by evaluation trenches could be safely opened by machine, under archaeological supervision, to a depth just above the known levels of the surviving archaeological remains.

The archaeological deposits encountered in 2019 generally consisted of the latest Roman buildings' occupation levels, or were derived from their subsequent abandonment and robbing. The evidence suggests that the town was abandoned (and perhaps dismantled) over time in the late-Roman and/or immediately post-Roman periods (late 4th and 5th centuries). There is no evidence for widescale destruction and it seems that *Durobrivae* was not widely re-occupied by Anglo-Saxon inhabitants. Any future work at *Durobrivae* should consider a systematic programme of carbon-dating to examine the town's history in the 4th and 5th centuries and beyond.

The recovery of large quantities of artefacts and animal bone, albeit from disturbed topsoils and pit fills, suggests that the site has excellent potential to improve our understanding of the material culture and economy in this part of Roman Britain. Comparison of ceramics and small finds from *Durobrivae* with other excavated assemblages in the region will have much to tell about pottery production in the Nene valley, as well as late Romano-British society and culture.

Finally, it has been demonstrated that rabbit burrowing is a serious and on-going threat to the archaeological resource at *Durobrivae*, particularly in the centre of the town along the line of the relict field boundary.

4. ARCHIVES AND DEPOSITION

The site code is **PWN19**, for **Peterborough Water Newton 2019**. The excavation archive (physical and digital) will be transferred to Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery in due course. Barbican Research Associates is registered with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations project (OASIS). The OASIS ID number for this archaeological evaluation is: **barbican1-376750**.

Other than significant individual items (i.e. diagnostic sherds or bone with cutmarks), it is recommended that only the pottery and animal bone from sealed Roman contexts should be retained and kept with the site archive (16% and 6% of the assemblages respectively). Lists of bulk finds groups that should be kept, or are recommended for discarding, are included in the site archive.

It is recommended that 375 of the coins and 26 copper alloy and iron small finds would benefit from conservation (cleaning and stabilisation) prior to final identification. Another 36 very fragmentary small finds are not considered sufficiently significant to be retained in perpetuity. Lists of small finds that require cleaning or that are recommended for discarding are included in the site archive.

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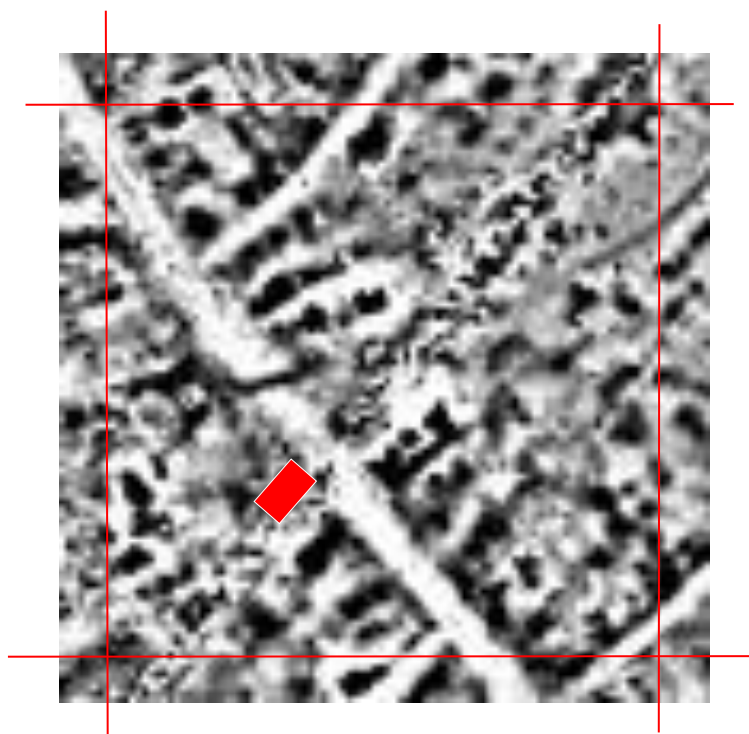
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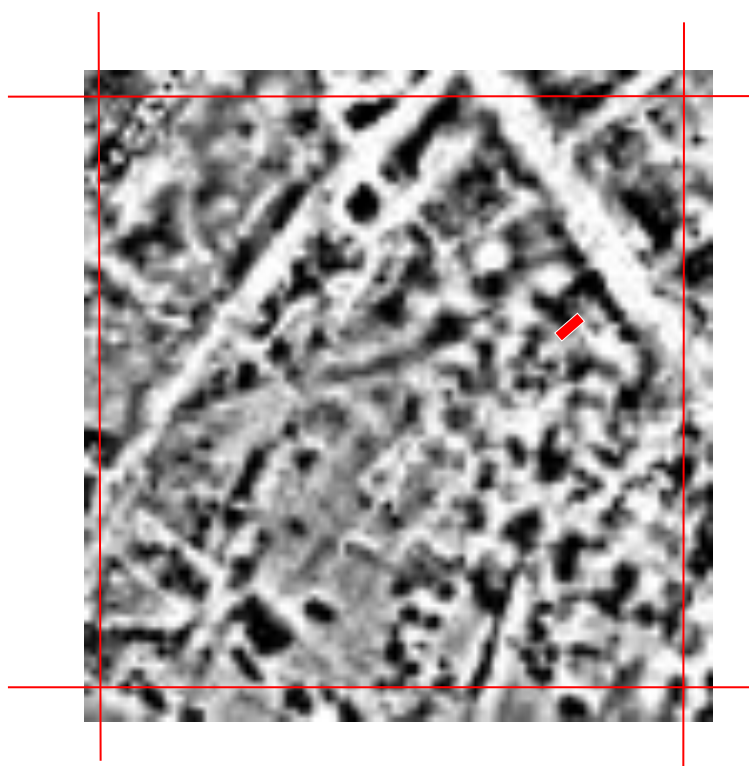
6. APPENDICES

6.1 TRENCH LOCATIONS

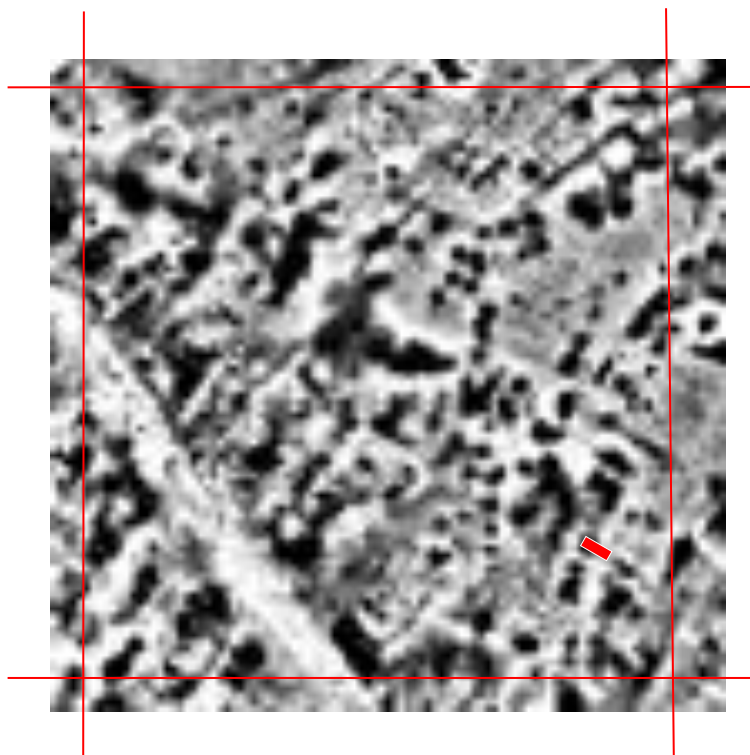




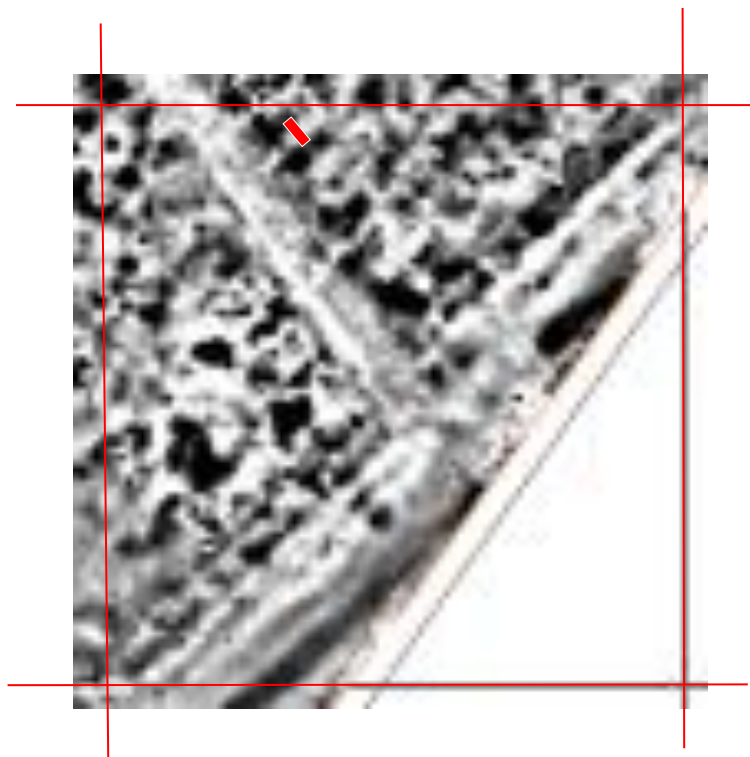
Trench 1: 10m by 6m in centre of town. Located to encompass main area of rabbit disturbance against relict fence line. Within area between Ermine Street and putative *mansio*.



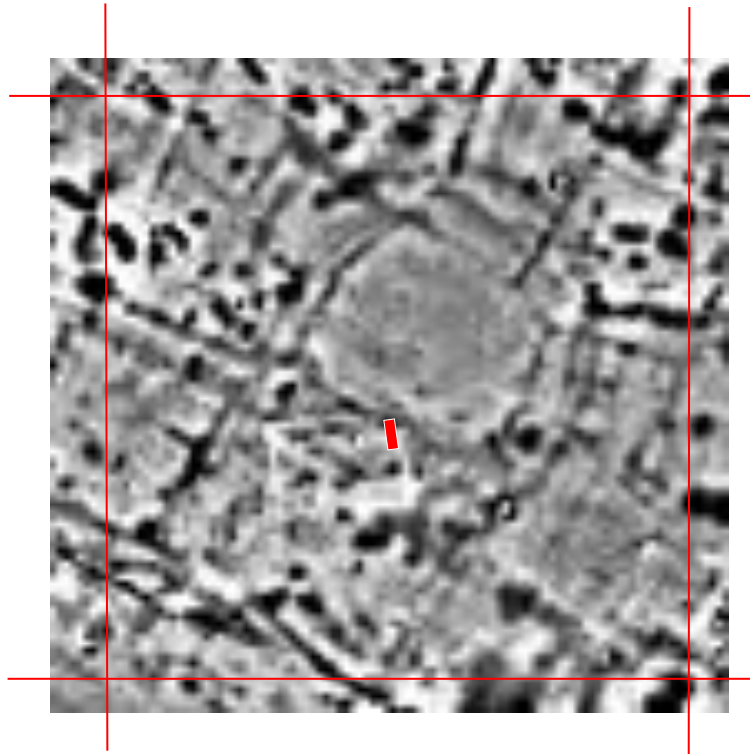
Trench 2: 5m by 1m in centre of town. Located adjacent to Ermine Street over magnetic anomaly.



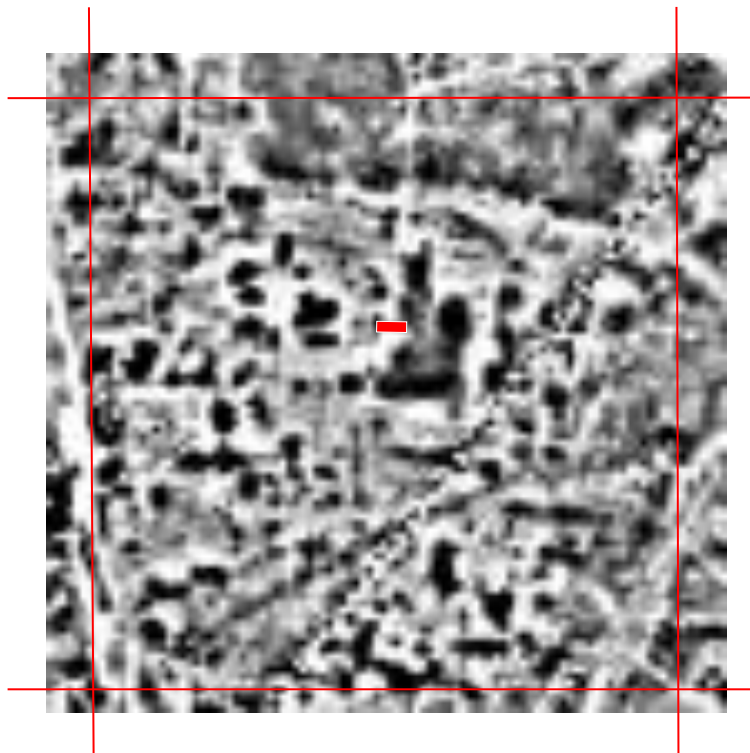
Trench 3: 5m by 1m in SE of town. Located away from Ermine Street over robber trench / wall-like anomaly.



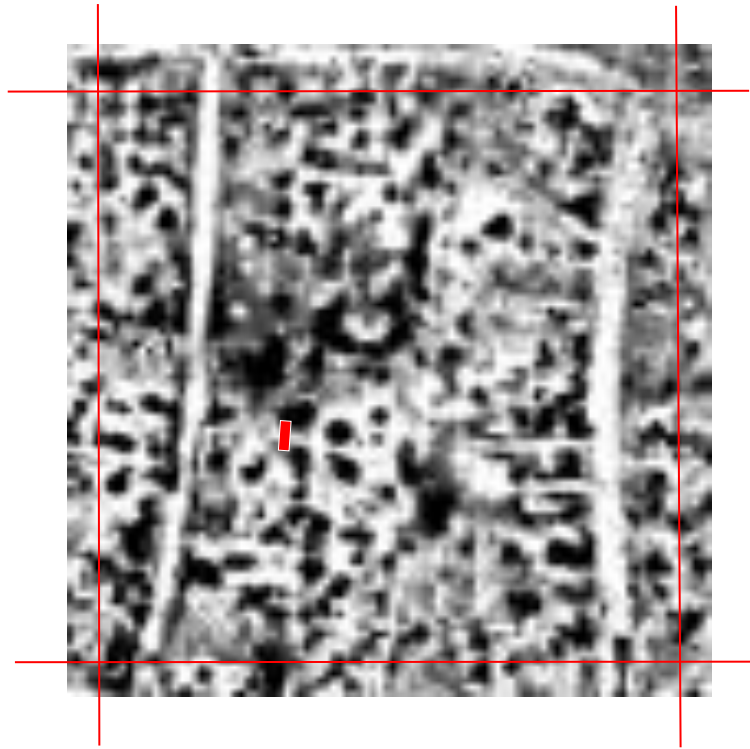
Trench 4: 5m by 1m in S of town. Located adjacent to Ermine Street over robber trench / wall-like anomaly. Strip building?



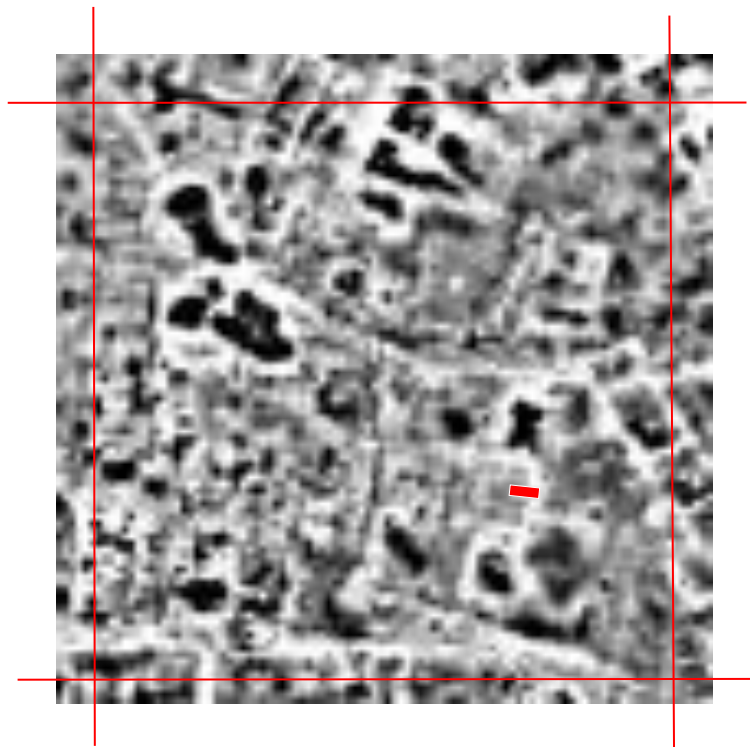
Trench 5: 5m by 1m in SW of town. Located away from Ermine Street over robber trench / wall-like anomaly and possible earlier ring ditch



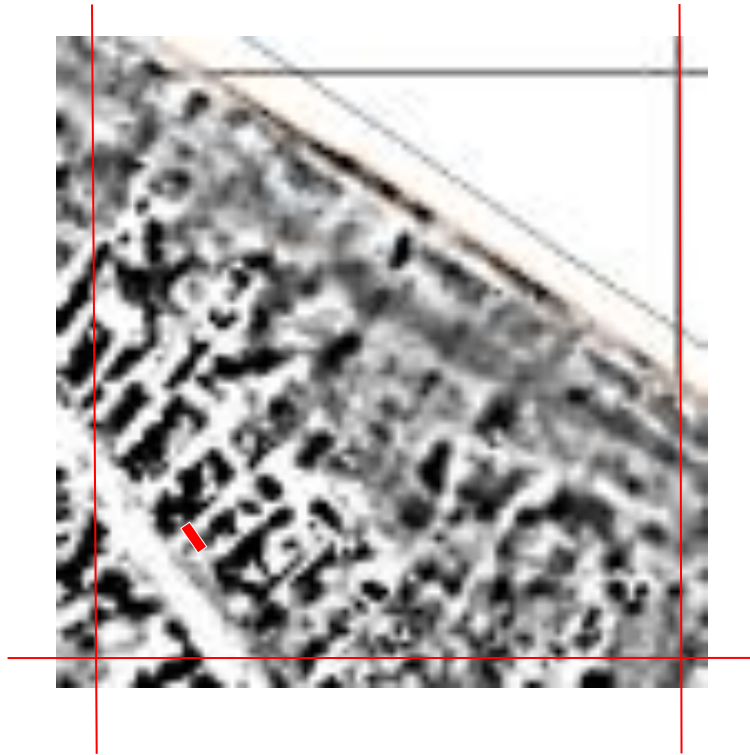
Trench 6: 5m by 1m in centre of town. Located away from Ermine Street over robber trench / wall-like anomaly



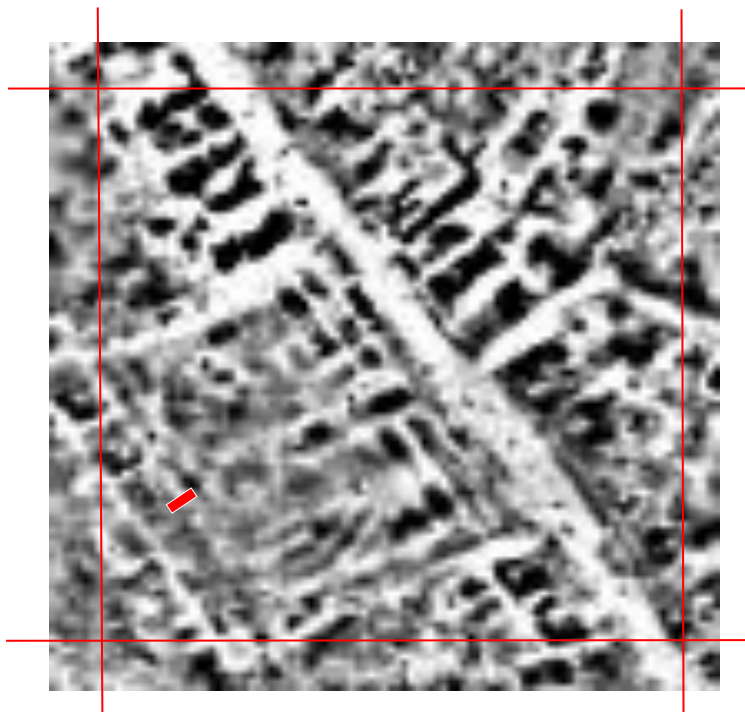
Trench 7: 5m by 1m in W of town. Located away from Ermine Street over robber trench / wall-like anomaly (within rows of equally-sized spaces, some of which produce very high readings?)



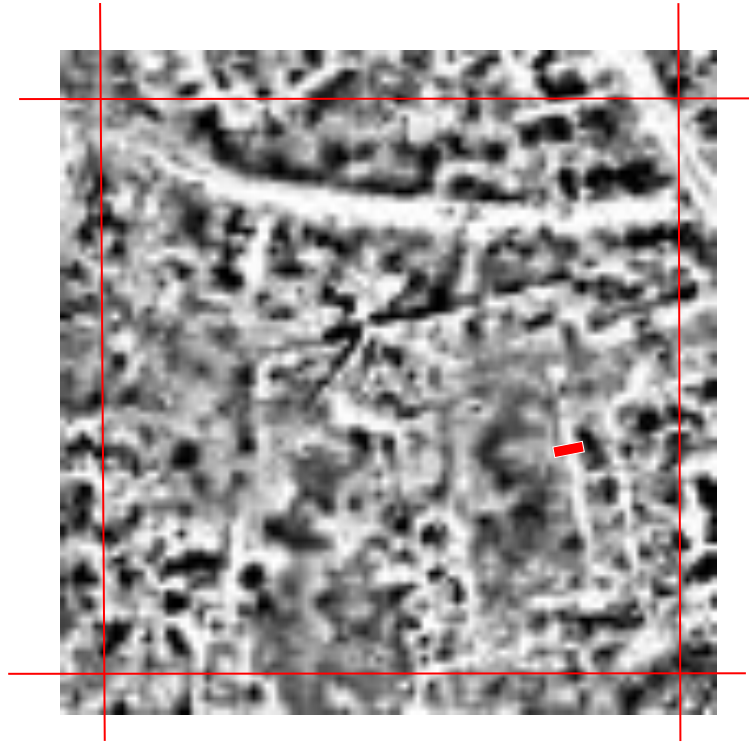
Trench 8: 5m by 1m in NW of town. Located away from Ermine Street over robber trench / wall-like anomaly. Identified as a possible temple / shrine on resistivity survey (western end of Trench 8 was extended by 2m during the season)



Trench 9: 5m by 1m in N of town. Located adjacent to Ermine Street over robber trench / wall-like anomaly. Strip building? Area thought to have suffered an intense and extensive burning event.



Trench 10: 5m by 1m in N of town. Over robber trench / wall-like anomaly belonging to rear range of northern large courtyard building (putative forum?), and possible Artis antiquarian 'trench'



Trench 11: 5m by 1m in centre of town. Located over robber trench / wall-like anomaly belonging to large courtyard building (possible mansio?)

6.2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT CATALOGUES

Samian ware

| Context | Form | Kilnsite | Date | Notes |
|---------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------|
| 101 | 45 | CG | 160-190 | |
| 101 | 33 | CG | Antonine | |
| 101 | Dish | SG | Flavian | |
| 101 | 37 | CG | after 150 | Identifiable |
| 102 | Dish | CG | Antonine | |
| 102 | Pedestal | EG | C3 | |
| 102 | 37 | CG | Mid Antonine | |
| 102 | 35/6 | CG | Mid Antonine | |
| 106 | 33 | CG | Antonine | |
| 106 | 33 | CG | Antonine | |
| 106 | 33 | CG | Antonine | |
| 106 | Jar | CG | Antonine | |
| 106 | 33 | CG | Antonine | |
| 106 | DishR | CG | 160-190 | |
| 106 | 33 | CG | Antonine | |
| 106 | 36 | SG | Flavian | |
| 106 | 37 | CG | 130-160 | Identifiable |
| 108 | 45 | CG | 160-190 | |
| 108 | Decorated bowl rim | CG | Antonine | |
| 108 | 35 or 36 | SG | Flavian | |
| 108 | Dish or bowl | CG | Antonine | |
| 108 | 31? | CG | Antonine | |
| 108 | 37 | MdV | Antonine | |
| 109 | 37 | CG | Antonine | |
| 117 | Dish? | CG | Antonine | |
| 202 | 38 or 44 | CG | Antonine | |
| 202 | 42 | CG | Mid Antonine | Burnt |
| 203 | 31? | CG | Antonine | |
| 203 | 37 | SG | Flavian | Identifiable |
| 302 | 79 | CG | 160-190 | |
| 304 | 31R | CG | 160-190 | |
| 304 | 31 | CG | Antonine | |
| 304 | Cup | CG | Antonine | |
| 306 | 38 or 44? | CG | Antonine | |
| 402 | 18/31 | MdV | Trajanic | |
| 402 | 79 | CG | 160-190 | |
| 402 | 31R | CG | 160-190 | |
| 402 | 36 | CG | Antonine | |
| 402 | Dish | MdV | Trajanic/Hadrianic | |

| Context | Form | Kilnsite | Date | Notes |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|--|
| 402 | Dish | SG | Flavian | |
| 402 | 37 | CG | after 150 | |
| 704 | 42* | SG | Flavian | Maybe same vessel |
| 705 | 42* | SG | Flavian | Maybe same vessel |
| 705 | 27 | SG | Flavian | |
| 705 | 29 | SG | c. 75-90 | |
| 803 | 31R | CG | 160-190 | |
| 803 | Dish | CG | Had/Antonine | |
| 1003 | 18 | SG | Flavian | |
| 1003 | Cup | SG | Flavian | |
| 1005 | Dish | SG | Flavian | |
| 1005 | 18 | SG | Flavian | |
| 1005 | 37 | CG | C2 | |
| 1011 | 36 | SG | Flavian | |
| 1011 | Dec. bowl | CG | Antonine | |
| PWN 19 (108) (pottery marked) | 31 (2) | CG | Antonine | |
| PWN 19 (108) (pottery marked) | 31 | CG | Antonine | |
| PWN 19 (114) / SF 1-365 | 18/31R | CG | c. AD 130-150 | Stamped by Pater ii, who worked at MdV and Lezoux. |
| PWN 19 (703) | 18/31R | CG | Hadrianic | |
| PWN 19 (703) | 18/31 | CG | Hadrianic | |
| PWN 19 (703) | Dish | SG | Flavian | |
| PWN 19 (703) | Flange | CG | C2 | |
| PWN 19 (704) | 31R | CG | 160-190 | |
| PWN 19 (704) | 31 | CG | Antonine | |
| PWN 19 (704) | Bowl | CG | Antonine | |
| PWN 19 (704) | 35 | SG | Flavian | |
| PWN 19 (704) | cup or bowl | MdV | Trajanic | |
| PWN 19 (704) | cup or bowl | SG | Flavian | |

CG= Central Gaulish

SG= South Gaulish

MdV= Les Martres de Veyre

Coarse Pottery

| context | weight | sherd # | spot date | Notes |
|---------|--------|---------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 101 | 24.295 | 1718 | 2nd-late 4th | Oxford. PIRP/London/waster |
| 102 | 1.2 | 115 | 3rd/4th | Oxford. |
| 103 | 2.8 | 142 | late 4th | Oxford/PIRP/ |
| 104 | 2.31 | 89 | late4th | Oxford.waster/PIRP |
| 105 | 3.5 | 152 | 2nd-late 4th | Residual OXFD/PIRP |

| context | weight | sherd # | spot date | Notes |
|---------|--------|---------|--------------|--|
| 106 | 8.945 | 457 | late 4th | PIRP/Oxford/imported mort. |
| 107 | 0.495 | 26 | late 3d/4th | |
| 108 | 12.39 | 587 | 2nd-late 4th | Oxford. Impt mort.PIRP |
| 109 | 2.51 | 112 | 3rd/4th | |
| 110 | 2.53 | 129 | late 4th | PIRO/Oxford. |
| 112 | 0.78 | 21 | late 3rd | Residual |
| 113 | 2.42 | 91 | mid 3rd | |
| 114 | 0.23 | 20 | 3rd | |
| 117 | 0.71 | 44 | 3rd/4th | |
| 119 | 0.84 | 27 | 3rd/4th | PIRP/Residual beakers |
| 120 | 0.05 | 5 | 3rd/4th | |
| 121 | 0.21 | 9 | 3rd/4th | |
| 124 | 0.62 | 26 | 2nd/3rd | no cc |
| 131 | 0.44 | 20 | 2nd/3rd/4th | |
| 201 | 0.5 | 29 | 3rd/4th | |
| 202 | 2.675 | 177 | 2nd/late 4th | PIRP/Stib painted ware/Stib mort |
| 203 | 0.75 | 70 | 3rd/4th | |
| 301 | 1.44 | 121 | late 4th | PIRP/Oxford. |
| 302 | 0.81 | 45 | 3rd/4th | |
| 303 | 0.88 | 30 | 3rd/4th | |
| 304 | 2.305 | 107 | 2nd - 4th | Greyware +1 sherd of cc 2 cream fabric |
| 306 | 0.72 | 26 | 2nd/3rd | |
| 401 | 0.65 | 26 | late 4th | PIRP |
| 401 | 0.72 | 62 | 4rd/4th | Oxford |
| 402 | 0.86 | 89 | 2nd/3rd/4th | PIRP |
| 402 | 0.8 | 42 | 3rd/4th | |
| 404 | 0.045 | 3 | 3rd? | |
| 405 | 0.4 | 13 | 3rd/4th | 2 frags oxford/1- oxford mort |
| 407 | 0.015 | 2 | ? | |
| 409 | 0.1 | 4 | 2nd/3rd? | |
| 409 | 0.1 | 4 | 2nd/3rd? | |
| 501 | 0.085 | 9 | 2nd-4th | |
| 502 | 0.22 | 13 | 3rd+ | |
| 503 | 0.44 | 21 | 3rd/4th | |
| 503 | 0.105 | 6 | 3rd/4th | |
| 504 | 0.1 | 2 | ? | |
| 505 | 0.1 | 7 | 2nd/3rd/4th | |
| 509 | 0.245 | 12 | 3rd/4th | Res. |
| 601 | 0.49 | 41 | 3rd/4th | Oxford. |
| 602 | 0.42 | 58 | 3rd/4th | |
| 603 | 0.38 | 12 | 3rd/4th | |
| 603 | 0.66 | 11 | 3rd/4th | Oxford Res. |
| 604 | 0.845 | 27 | 3rd/4th | |
| 604 | 0.02 | 7 | 3rd/4th | |
| 701 | 1.82 | 153 | 3rd/4th | |

| context | weight | sherd # | spot date | Notes |
|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 703 | 0.18 | 38 | 2nd/3rd/4th | |
| 703 | 1.04 | 105 | 3rd/4th | Res |
| 704 | 1.6 | 89 | 3rd | early cc |
| 705 | 1.81 | 59 | 2nd /3rd | london/Grey ware dominant |
| 706 | 0.29 | 19 | 3rd? | |
| 801 | 0.34 | 65 | 3rd/4th | Res |
| 801 | 0.1 | 11 | 3d/4th | |
| 802 | 0.005 | 2 | ? | |
| 802 | 0.71 | 38 | 3rd/4th | Oxfd |
| 803 | 0.003 | 1 | ? | |
| 803 | 0.1 | 15 | 3rd/4th | Oxfd. |
| 803 | 0.51 | 45 | 3rd | |
| 805 | 0.12 | 14 | 3rd/4th | |
| 807 | 0.041 | 8 | ? | |
| 807 | 0.11 | 15 | 3rd/4th | |
| 812 | 0.045 | 7 | 3rd/4th | |
| 901 | 0.92 | 98 | 3rd/4th | PIRP |
| 902 | 1.5 | 36 | 3rd/4th | PIRP. Oxfd. |
| 1001 | 0.36 | 42 | 3rd/4th | Oxfd/res. |
| 1002 | 0.185 | 21 | 3rd/4th | |
| 1003 | 1.01 | 35 | 3rd/4th/Saxon | Saxon/Oxfd. |
| 1005 | 1.19 | 41 | 3rd/4th | |
| 1005 | 0.03 | 11 | 3rd/4th | |
| 1006 | 0.4 | 11 | 3rd/4th | |
| 1007 | 0.01 | 1 | 3rd? | |
| 1011 | 0.64 | 33 | 3rd/4th | |
| 1011 | 0.11 | 6 | 3rd | |
| 1012 | 0.21 | 21 | 3rd/4th | Res |
| 1101 | 0.59 | 34 | 3rd/4th | |
| 1101 | 0.106 | 12 | 3rd/4th | |
| 1102 | 0.6 | 18 | 3rd/4th | |
| 1104 | 0.01 | 6 | 3rd? | |
| 1104 | 0.12 | 6 | 3rd/4th | |
| | 101.97 | 5982 | | |

*NB

1. Some contexts produced multiple bags of material

2. PIRP= Post Industrial Roman Pottery

Oxfd= Oxford ware pottery

Res= Residual

London= London ware

Mort= mortaria

Stib= Stibbington

cc= Colour-coated pottery

6.3 FIELDWORK TEAM

The team consisted of: 3 site directors; 2 trench supervisors; 1 finds supervisor; 27 undergraduate archaeologists from Cardiff University; 2 volunteer archaeologists and 2 experienced metal-detectorists.

| Position | Name | Organisation |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Directors | Peter Guest | Cardiff University |
| | Stephen Upex | NVAT / University of Cambridge |
| | Mike Luke | Albion Archaeology |
| Trench Supervisors | Berber van der Meulen | Cardiff University |
| | Derek Roberts | Pre-Develop Archaeology |
| Finds Supervisor | Christine Waite | Independent |
| Metal detectorists | Archie Gillespie & Mike Head | Independent |
| Excavators | Xavier Adams | Cardiff University |
| | Katrina Allan | Cardiff University |
| | Rachel Barrett | Cardiff University |
| | Johanne Brekke | Cardiff University |
| | Andrew Broadley | Cardiff University |
| | Katie Brown | Cardiff University |
| | Eleanor Chadd | Cardiff University |
| | Phineas Elmore | Cardiff University |
| | Hannah Farnell | Volunteer |
| | Mia Gadsby | Cardiff University |
| | Aaron Girdlestone | Cardiff University |
| | Tommie Griffin-Bloomfield | Cardiff University |
| | Rory Gudgeon | Cardiff University |
| | Ruan Hallett | Cardiff University |
| | Emilia Hawthorne | Cardiff University |
| | Kezia Kirtland | Cardiff University |
| | Alexander Lymboura | Cardiff University |
| | Luke Martin | Cardiff University |
| | Callum Nixon | Cardiff University |
| | Isabel Paisey | Cardiff University |
| | Jessica Pearson | Cardiff University |
| | Ariel Ramchand | Cardiff University |
| | Andy Roberts | Volunteer |
| | Iwan Sutton | Cardiff University |
| | Jennifer Van Der Weijden | Cardiff University |
| | Rowan Williams | Cardiff University |
| | Thomas Williams | Cardiff University |
| | James Windsor | Cardiff University |
| | Sophie-Marie Woolgar | Cardiff University |



Figure 28. The Durobrivae 2019 Excavation Team