

**Summary Assessment Report for
Caistor Roman Project's
Excavations at the Roman Temple to
the north-east of *Venta Icenorum* at
Caistor St Edmund, Norfolk.**

August-September 2019



Event No: ENF146438

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CRP Excavations at the Romano-Celtic Temple to the north-east of *Venta Icenorum* at Caistor St Edmund in 2019

Location	Temple Field, Caistor St. Edmund, Norfolk.
Grid Reference	c. TG 2398 0389
Scheduled Monument No.	SMNF244, HA 1003954
Norfolk Historic Environment Record	NHER 9787
Historic England Section 2 Ref.	S00221819
Pre-trenching Geophysical Survey	September 2017 & August 2020
Dates of Fieldwork	August 16 th - September 2 nd 2019.
Norfolk Historic Environment Event No.	ENF146438

1.0 Project Background

This interim assessment report has been prepared as part of the Caistor Roman Project's agreed commitments, following successful application for trial excavations at Temple Field, Caistor St. Edmund, Norfolk (Historic England ref. S00221819 & site ref. SM/NF/244/A/1003954). A final report will be submitted following the completed programme of post-excavation analysis. The final report will be suitable for archive and further dissemination and will include a range of commissioned professional reports.

The site, known to the project as Temple Field (NHER 9787), lies c.700m to the north east of the walled Roman town of *Venta Icenorum* (Fig. 1). The field is currently under pasture and has an established use as a horse field. The remains of a 'Romano-Celtic' temple and an associated large rectilinear building have been recognised since the 1930s and various features have been identified as cropmarks and parchmarks (Fig. 2). In terms of its size (c. 3680 square feet/ 342m²), the temple is one of the largest Romano-Celtic temples known in Britain (Lewis 1966, 25). Furthermore, the temple sits within a large walled enclosure that seemingly possessed at least one monumental entrance on its western side. What is clear is that this site was deemed important enough to become the focus for a very large walled *temenos* with one, or possibly two opposing gateways, incorporating both a temple and a large ancillary building (measuring c. 35m by 15m). The alignment and position of the temple does not reflect that of the surrounding *temenos*, which may point to the presence of an earlier feature that informed the orientation of the temple.

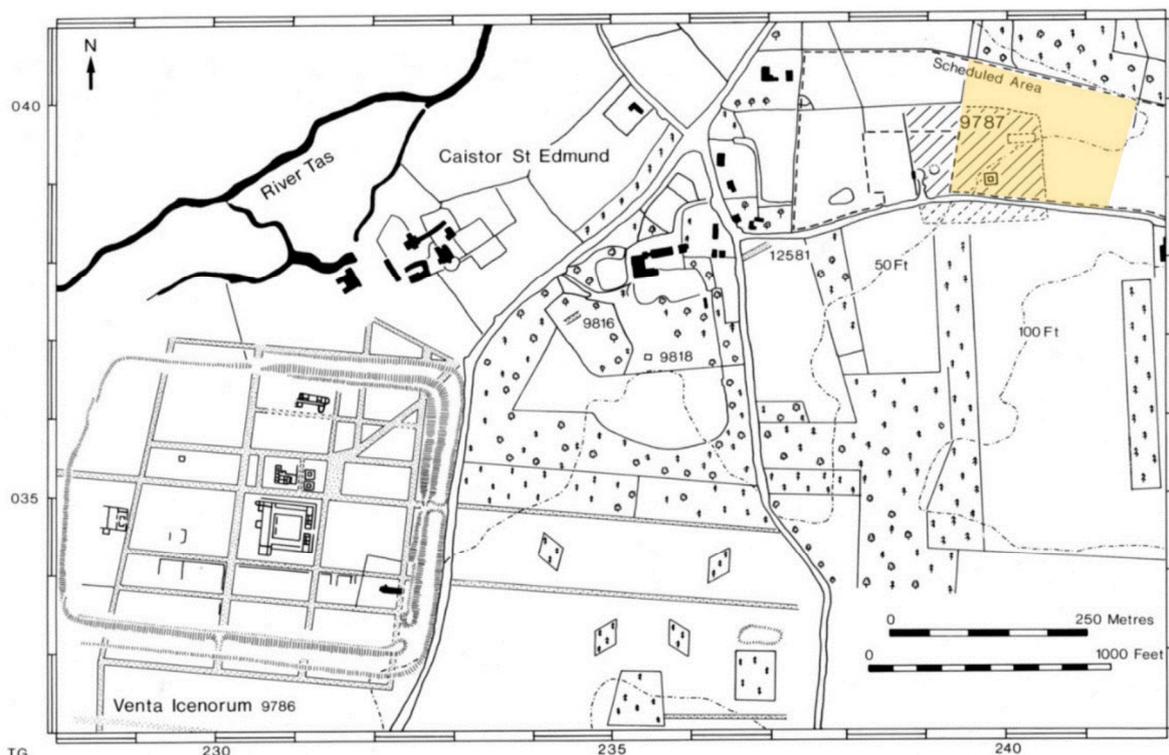


Fig. 1. Location of Temple Field shown in orange (part of NHER 9787) in relation to *Venta Icenorum* (from Gurney 1986)

2.0 Summary Historic and Archaeological Background

In the 1950s and 1980s, several small-scale excavations were undertaken for which known information was collated and published by Gurney (1986, 42-5). These can be summarised as follows:

- 1950 Foundations of a monumental west gate were revealed by R. R. Clarke and G. P. Larwood for the Norfolk Research Committee in 1950, continued by Group Captain G. M. Knocker and R. G. Hughes later in the same year on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments of the Ministry of Works.
- 1956 The *temenos* wall was traced by A. P. Baggs for the Norfolk Research Committee via a series of small trenches running north from the Gateway.
- 1957 The temple was investigated by Miss A. S. Mottram for the Norfolk Research Committee and conducted as a training exercise for senior pupils from local schools. The excavation established that the temple was of the 'most commonly encountered'; square within a square style consisting of a central *cella* rising above an ambulatory. Lewis (1966) concluded that the building was likely to have been of a tower type with a tiled roof. He further states that the area within the *temenos* wall, approaching 2.6 ha, makes it one of the larger *temenoi* known in Britain.
- 1984 The *temenos* wall was investigated by D. Gurney at one of the points examined previously by Baggs to establish the line of the wall and evaluate its construction and survival.
- 1984-5 D. Gurney investigated the possible line of the *temenos* wall in Friston Field (to the south of Caistor Lane) following a report by Mr C. Skinner, the tenant farmer. Excavation revealed what was interpreted as a probable ploughed-out base of the wall.
- 2018 Trial excavations conducted by the Caistor Roman Project led by Dr. Will Bowden, to assess the ancillary building within the Temple enclosure. Ground penetrating radar work was also carried out on the temple and building by Dr Tim Dennis. Interim report submitted to Historic England in 2019 (Pinner, M., Emery, G. & Jackson, I. 2019).

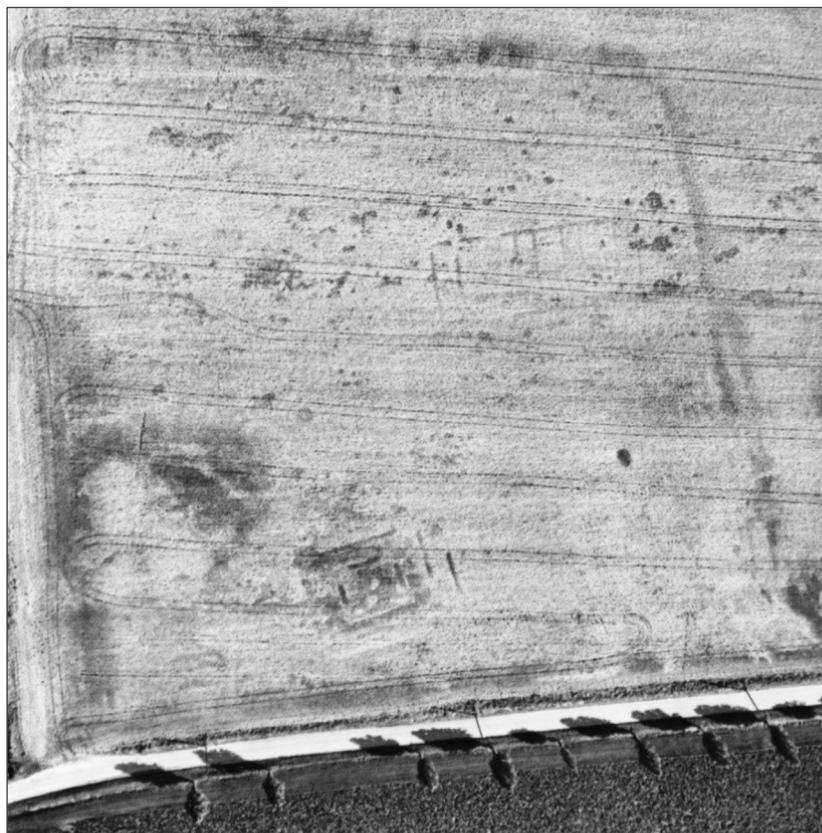


Fig. 2. Vertical aerial photograph of temple complex cropmarks
 c. 1980. ©Derek Edwards

Previous understanding of the temple

The aerial photograph evidence from the site (Fig. 2) and Mottram's excavations (summarised in Gurney 1986) indicates a Romano-Celtic temple with a square *cella* contained within an ambulatory. Mottram's excavations were undertaken in a single week in January 1957 in atrocious weather conditions. The outer ambulatory wall was exposed in five places to the north, east and west with the southern side unexposed. At most places where the ambulatory wall was exposed, only the top of the wall appears to have been excavated. The excavator suggested that the ambulatory had a floor of red brick tesserae but none appear to have been found in situ. All four corners of the *cella* walls were excavated but no attempt was made to uncover the foundations of the wall. Parts of the *cella* interior were exposed and areas of white tesserae, apparently in situ, were revealed as well as two possible altar bases composed of compacted rubble. Mottram found what appeared to be stake-holes on the interior of the *cella* wall, which she took to represent some kind of wattle or stud work, although the nature of this is not clear.

A small trench (Mottram's Trench 3) was opened to the north-west of the temple and the density of finds led the excavator to suggest the presence of a large rubbish pit. Excavation was undertaken to a depth of 0.6m but, since no features were defined, the trench was backfilled without further exploration.

Within the finds recovered from Miss Mottram's excavation (NCM acc. No. 19.957), only one potentially stratified and dateable artefact was found. This was a Constantine I *Follis* SOL INVICTO COMITI dating to AD 306-308 (Gurney 1986, 45). Even this item was deemed to be possibly intrusive, owing to it having been found in soft sand in the foundation trench of the robbed west wall of the ambulatory. Lewis places the extra mural temple within a date range of late 2nd to mid/late 4th, i.e. potentially later but probably no earlier than the two temples which lie within the nearby walled town. The latter temples were excavated by Donald Atkinson in 1929 (Atkinson 1930; Atkinson 1931).

Field walking in May 1984 recovered 85.5 kg of building materials from an area of 600m². The materials recovered suggest that the temple walls were built of flints in mortar, with a tiled roof of imbrexes and tegulae, and that there was at least one floor composed of red brick tesserae. The high density of building materials was in sharp contrast to the amount of domestic occupation debris recovered. Only 34 fragments of pottery were recorded, with small numbers of oyster shells, iron nails and animal bones. The only small finds of note were part of a shale armlet and a fragment of flat tile with part of a letter M in low relief stamped on it (NCM acc.no. 179.985). Numerous episodes of metal detection of the field, alongside various casual surface finds, have recovered a range of finds including Roman coins, brooches and pottery (see NHER 9707 for details of recorded events and finds).

Approximately 40m to the north-east of the temple building, and within the *temenos* wall, a large 'ancillary building' exists at TG 2402 0395 (Fig 3). Cropmarks, aerial photography and recent geophysical survey indicate the building to be approximately 35m long by 15m wide with recent radar survey revealing an apsidal northern face to the building. On the southern side, a corridor appears to run the full length of the building and this continues along the western side where it borders a large square room. In the centre of the building there are a number of smaller rooms, whilst at the east end, another area of rooms was investigated in 2018 where several internal divisions were revealed along with part of an in-situ tesserae floor. Prior to the CRP investigations there had been no physical evidence as to the purpose of the building, which has been loosely interpreted as a guest house, priest's or custodian's residence or even a bath house, although the latter was considered the least likely.



Fig. 3. Schematic overview of site created by D.Bescoby (2017), showing the *temenos*, position of the two gates, temple, ancillary building and ?yard area – subsequently proved to be an area of natural sand

Due to growing concerns in the 1980s over repeated instances of illegal metal detecting, Gregory (1991) oversaw organised detection in Temple Field and the adjacent fields. This exercise produced 164 coins of Iron Age and Roman date from Temple Field alone and, when added to earlier data, produced a total of 221 identifiable coins (Davies and Gregory 1991). A more recent CRP Research Project (Jackson 2017) involved the transcription of almost 8,000 individual Roman coins listed in the Norfolk HER from *Venta* and the surrounding area, including data from this field. Although the number of coins retrieved from Temple field is relatively small, analysis of the data points to a peak in coin loss during Reece Period 4 (AD 69 – 96) that is not seen elsewhere in and around *Venta*. It has been tentatively suggested that this might point to activity in this area of Caistor that pre-dates the establishment of the town (e.g. Creighton 2006, 142-5). Furthermore, the very high peaks in coin loss witnessed from the other Caistor sites in Reece Period 17 (AD 330 – 348) is much less pronounced in the Temple Field.

In 1938, Surgeon Commander F R Mann conducted excavations between the civitas capital and its extra-mural temple in the grounds of what is now the Caistor Hall Hotel, c. 450m south-west from the temple site (NHER 9816). The work discovered an ashy layer sealed by a Roman road which contained fragments of moulds, crucibles and metal scrap, along with hearths, a kiln and a furnace. Manufacture of razors, brooches, bracelets and pins at the site was demonstrated by failed castings and mould fragments. This evidence has been interpreted as a bronze-casting workshop (Tylecote 1969). Recent re-evaluation of the finds has provided additional evidence in support of the theory that the area to the north-east of the walled town was a focus of activity that pre-dates the foundation of the Roman town, possibly even occurring in the Client Kingdom period of the Iceni (Harlow 2021). This assessment is based on the presence of both Iron Age and Roman crucible forms alongside lost-wax investment moulds and evidence for the casting of two early brooch types; namely an unfinished forged Drahtfibel brooch (mid to late 1st Century), and a cast Colchester derivative Harlow brooch, (peak production circa AD 40 – 70 but running on into the later 1st Century).

3.0 The Geophysical Survey

A geophysical magnetometry survey of Temple Field including the temple area was undertaken in September 2017 by members of the Caistor Roman Project led by Dr Dave Bescoby who has been responsible for extensive survey work in and around the Roman town (Section 42 Licence Case No. SL00155544). The full results have been produced in a detailed and illustrated report for the CRP (Bescoby, D. 2017, Romano-Celtic Temple Site, Caistor St Edmund: A Geophysical Investigation).

In advance of the geophysical survey, a detailed study was conducted of the extensive aerial photographic record held within the Norfolk HER. This data was used to inform the nature and extent of the survey conducted in Temple Field. Reference was also made to digitised crop mark data available via the National Mapping Programme. The principal aim of the study was to assess the survival of sub-surface features, appearing with clarity as cropmarks within earlier aerial images, taken when the area was still under plough. It was also hoped that a wider survey of the entire field would help to further contextualise the temple complex within its setting (Fig. 4). Both magnetometry and resistivity methods were used for the survey.



Fig. 4. Overall plan of the extra mural temple showing evidence from all geophysical surveys, aerial photographs (mapped by National Mapping Programme) and excavation – image created by W.Bowden (2020)

The main observations relating to the subsequent CRP excavation of the Temple are summarised here:

The temple building itself was defined by a central complex of high amplitude anomalies forming a square measuring c. 9m along each side, interpreted as the temple *cella* and associated wall footings. Very little internal structure could be discerned from the magnetic data. It was hoped that the survey would further elucidate features in the interior of the *cella*, partially excavated and visible from the air as distinctive parch marks and interpreted as possible altar bases, but any such features were masked by noise from building debris in the overlying topsoil. The ambulatory was defined by a concentric area of quieter magnetic responses c.5 m wide surrounding the *cella*. Evidence for the enclosing ambulatory walls was detected on the eastern side as a somewhat intermittent linear response of both positive and negatively anomalous readings. Possible sections of the ambulatory wall were also detected

to the north and south, although here these are less well defined magnetically. The corners of the temple building are also less clearly visible, in common with the corresponding cropmark data, and it has been suggested that this may indicate that they were more heavily robbed than the surrounding walls.

Subsequent Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) work by Dr. Tim Dennis was undertaken over the Temple during the 2018 excavation (sanctioned by the visiting Historic England inspector). This survey first revealed the possibility of a two-phase temple complex. Combined with the previous geophysical results this allowed for a re-assessment of Mottram's 1957 work on the temple, the records of which have been synthesised by Gurney for publication in *East Anglian Archaeology* No.30 (Gregory & Gurney, 1986). The following main three new observations/interpretations were able to be made:

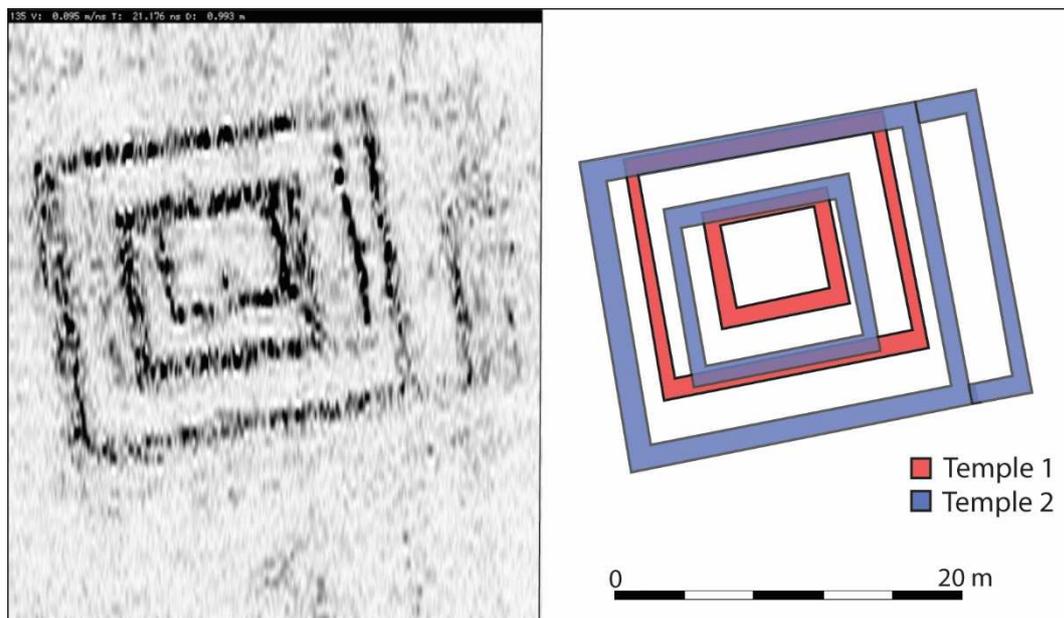


Fig. 5. Example Radar signal at c.0.9m depth shown alongside schematic of Phase 1 and Phase 2 masonry – image created by W.Bowden (2020)

1. An extension to the building, suggested to be a portico on the eastern side of the temple, is recognised from cropmarks and is indeed present within the radar investigation and this masonry structure had not been previously ground tested.
2. GPR indicated what appears to be a smaller rectangular enclosure inside the *cella* of the temple that had not been previously recognised. This was cautiously suspected to indicate a multi-period development of the temple, which is particularly interesting given the possibility of a pre-Roman use of the site (see Fig.5).
3. GPR also indicated a possible rubble filled ditch or line of rubble encircling the temple complex. It sits on a line with Mottram's abandoned T3 (dug in search of walls but not taken below 0.6m depth despite the recovery of bone and pottery).

The proposed objectives for the CRP 2019 investigation of the Temple

Mottram's initial work was carried out as a training excavation for senior pupils of local schools and was conducted in short-order in wet winter weather conditions in January 1957. The new CRP trenches were chosen to minimise re-excavation of the 1957 work but did allow for a re-evaluation of Mottram's work and the creation of a more detailed investigation and archive to modern standards, while also investigating uncertain features within the complex identified through cropmarks and the recent GPR survey (see Figure 6). The work also offered the

opportunity to provide updated information on the current state of preservation of the monument, which is known to be at relatively shallow depths below the topsoil/ploughsoil.

Considerable thought was given to any perceived benefits of targeting Mottram's excavation trenches against pursuing a fresh research agenda through the investigation of previously undisturbed archaeology. It was agreed that further unnecessary intrusion to the monument could be limited by targeting a smaller area than Mottram dug in the most sensitive area of the monument (i.e. the *cella*) with other resources aimed at examination of possible features surrounding the temple.

A source of cultural material, apparently uncovered by Mottram to the north of the building (T3), was also included within the modern excavation area, with the intention that potential dating evidence for the temple's form, longevity and use could be gained.

Opportunities to check uncertain elements of the 1950s generated plan, evidence for multiple phases of construction/use and associated features to the north and south of the building remain key elements in understanding the nature of the site. It was also hoped that dating of the ancillary building in 2018 could be matched against any similar phasing of the temple. The radar results show that both the temple and the large ancillary buildings investigated in 2018 (TEM1) share similarly impressively deep footings (down to c. 1.8m below current ground levels), which hints at a contemporary phase of construction. Provisional dating of the ancillary building dates it to the around the mid-2nd century, falling out of use by the mid to late 3rd century AD at which point (perhaps in tandem with the temple) it was subject to large scale stone and tile robbing.

The temple is situated in a prominent position within the temenos but does not appear to be central to it. Coin evidence from the overall field suggests that the site may have attracted late Iron Age to Early Roman votive activity and an early phase of religious site or temple may pre-date the creation of the temenos and ancillary building. The early square feature identified by GPR which had the potential to represent a possible early temple phase was therefore also included within the excavation area.

A review of the new geophysical and GPR data allowed for a series of proposed main objectives for revisiting the temple with a series of three targeted excavation trenches:

- To seek a dating sequence for the temple complex and define the nature and extent of the structure on the eastern side of the temple.
- To investigate the existence of a potential Phase 1 Temple
- To re-test the dimensions of the building plan without repeating Mottram's excavation.
- To search for possible associated cultural material/dating evidence in areas surrounding the temple complex.

The general overarching aim of all three trenches was to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological deposits or features encountered. The field has been subject to ploughing until relatively recently and this work also aimed to determine the depth of ploughsoil and the level of modern plough damage disturbance to surviving archaeological deposits/masonry to better inform future management strategies. The placement of each trench and any specific aims are described below in more detail.

4.0 Original Project Aims & Objectives

The investigation proposal agreed with Historic England in the accepted Project Proposal (Bowden et al 2019) involved the excavation of all three targeted trenches, two partly over the footprint of the temple and one just to the south (Figure 6). The position of the Trenches (TEM5, TEM6 & TEM7) was confirmed on the ground by a pre-excitation resistivity survey carried out by Dr D.Bescoby to ensure the accuracy of trench positioning on the ground.

4.1 Methods and Trenches

The Caistor Roman Project excavation was led by Rhiane Keeley and Mike Pinner with support and professional oversight from Professor Will Bowden of Nottingham University and Giles Emery of Norvic Archaeology. Additional professional supervision was provided by Andy Barnett and Neil Moss, with trench positions set out by Dr D. Bescoby. Each trench was assigned a CRP supervisor responsible for daily running of the trench and oversight of the trench records; Tony Morter (TEM5), Linda Richmond (TEM6) and Wendy Shanks (TEM7). Chrissy Sullivan managed the finds processing and site logistics (CRP Site Coordinator). Site work was undertaken by a daily team of between 35 to 40 CRP members with overall site participation of c.65 different members (including excavation teams, sieving teams, finds processing, logistical support and supervisory team). CRP members have been part of an ongoing training programme to undertake a large range of archaeological skills, which continued throughout the fieldwork.

Placements were provided for eight students from the University of East Anglia, who took part in all aspects of the excavation and received support and tuition in fieldwork techniques from experienced volunteer members and archaeological professionals. A professional archaeologist (Neil Moss) was assigned to the students to provide archaeological skills training and guidance.

The work was carried out over 18 continuous days, starting in late August 2019, with the support of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In addition to site visits by a range of supportive professionals, over 300 members of the public visited the excavations during the course of two open days.



Plate 2. TEM6: Machine reduction of topsoil. (looking ENE) [2x2m Scales]

4.2 Trench 5: TEM5

This trench measured 5m by 8m and was positioned off the north-west corner of the ambulatory to investigate a possible 'rubbish rich' ditch/pit uncovered by Mottram in 1957 (T3) along with the north-west ?tile-robbed corner of the ambulatory wall. Previous records reveal some uncertainty concerning the exact placement of the wall (see Mottram's T1) and this work would also allow for a re-evaluation of the flooring within the ambulatory.



Plate 3. TEM5: Initial work reducing ploughsoil, assisted by a Young Archaeologist's Club member (looking N)

4.3 Trench 6: TEM6

This was the largest trench and measured 3.5m by 15m. It was located on the eastern side of the temple allowing for the investigation of a portico extension to the building, seen previously as a cropmark and further defined by geophysical and GPR survey. The trench was placed to extend into the temple from east to west, exposing the ambulatory wall and extending partly into the *cella*. This trench also provided the opportunity to investigate the postulated 'Phase 1 rectangular masonry feature' within the *cella*, revealed by recent radar work. The true width of the *cella* wall (uncertain according to Gurney) could also be re-evaluated as well as the nature of the *cella* floor, where previous examination by Mottram appears to have been superficial.



Plate 4. TEM6: Initial spit reduction of ploughsoil (looking ENE)

4.4 Trench 7: TEM7

This trench measured 3m by 8m and was placed just to the south of the temple to evaluate a possible rubble spread or infilled ditch indicated here by the GPR survey. It had the potential to uncover associated features or demolition material which could offer a *terminus ante quem* for the temple).



Plate 5. TEM7: Spit reduction of ploughsoil (looking SE)

5.0 Assessment

The following sections present an assessment of the large volume of archaeological data collected during the programme of archaeological work and of the artefactual and material recovered. This assessment considers the potential of the dataset to address any specific research aims and sets out areas where further analysis work or research is required to meet those aims.

5.1 Factual Data

The provisional table below summarises the general material that forms the documentary archive generated by the fieldwork.

Current Factual Archive	Totals
Context Sheets	178
Drawn Plans	30
Drawn Sections	28
Monochrome Prints*	2
CRP Digital Record Images*	316
CRP Digital Working Images*	231
Norvic Archaeology Images*	269
Norvic Archaeology Black & White images	36
Image register	3
Trench Context Index Folders	3
Context Register Sheets	6
Plan register sheets	3
Section register sheets	3
CAD dwg file: Plans and sections***	1
Digital matrices	3
Post-ex Excel Spreadsheets **	2

*Pre-rationalised

**Not including various finds assemblage spreadsheets

***Draft drawings presented as Figures 6 to 17 to the rear of this report

5.2 The Historic Periods

The following historic periods have currently been identified within the artefactual assemblage:

Period	Name	Date Range
1	Prehistoric	c. 10000 to 800 BC
2	Iron Age	c. 800 BD to 43 AD
3	Romano-British	43 AD to 410 AD
4	Early Saxon (x2 pottery sherds only)	411 AD to 650 AD
5	Medieval	12 th to 15 th centuries
6	Post-medieval	16 th to 18 th centuries
7	Late Post-medieval	19 th centuries
8	Modern	C20 th to present

NB: Refinement of the finds analysis may produce additional periods or sub-periods.

6.0 Preliminary Results

The main archaeological features currently identified from data collected during the fieldwork are discussed briefly here, in order to assess the significance of the evidence recovered. No reliable phasing has yet been finalised for all contexts and all interpretation remains provisional, to be superseded and refined by further post-excavation analysis. Supporting draft illustrations are presented to the rear of this report (Figures 6 to 17).

6.1 Trench 5: TEM5 (Figures 7, 8, 14 and 15)

This trench measured 5m by 8m and was positioned off the northwest corner of the ambulatory to investigate a possible 'rubbish rich' ditch/pit uncovered by Mottram in 1957 (T3) along with the north west ?tile-robbed corner of the ambulatory wall. The ground surface here slopes gently from north to south.

The modern ploughsoil proved to be between c. 0.2m and 0.3m deep, with Roman deposits and features directly below. They include the footings for the north-western corner of the Phase 2 Temple Ambulatory.



Plate 6. TEM5: NW corner of the Phase 2 Temple ambulatory.
(looking SE) [1x1m & 2x2m Scales]

Phase 2 Temple Ambulatory

Just 150mm of flint and mortar work survives of the c. 0.95m wide ambulatory wall structure here, which also contained occasional large building tiles (5013); possibly the remnants of a mostly robbed out string course. This construction lift rested upon a thin core of reused *opus signinum*, with inclusions of tesserae noted within the mix (5025). The masonry was constructed upon a particularly hard footing of Roman concrete (5027) with a minimum depth of 1.3m. The concrete had been roughly poured and layered into a construction trench dug into soft natural sand. This footing method was very reminiscent of that used within the ancillary building investigated in 2018.

Evidence for extensive robber disturbance of the masonry fabric was recorded in the form of damage to the wall masonry and shallow linear trenches following the wall line. As a result of this robbing activity, the corner masonry was entirely missing. This confirms the long-held suspicion, derived from surface parchmark patterns, that the masonry corners were all but

quarried out. A few tiles and broken tiles in the remaining wall fabric leading up to the wall corner suggests that tile may have formed a significant part of the bonding material for the temple corners. A very large and deep robber pit ([5021]) was focused over the whole wall corner, where all of the masonry material had been removed down to the rough concrete. On the western side of the wall the robber cut stepped down to a considerable depth of c. 1.3m, presumably to assess the footings for any further material worth robbing, although it is also possible that the particularly fine quality sand here proved worthwhile for opportunistic extraction.

Phase 2 Ambulatory walkway and Phase 1 Temple Ambulatory wall footings

The walkway floor surface inside the Phase 2 Temple Ambulatory seemed to have been totally robbed out with only a cobbled bed for the floor remaining (remarkably similar to that used in the nearby ancillary building, which supported an *opus signinum* layer for a tessellated floor).

Sealed below this floor bed were the 0.7m wide footings for an earlier phase of walling of a very different nature than that of the Phase 2 Temple walls. This took the form of a very sandy and degraded mortar with flint cobbles (5056) estimated to have



Plate 7. TEM5: Temple 1 ambulatory footings
(Temple 2 ambulatory wall in foreground)
(looking S) [1x0.5m & 2x2m Scales]

a depth of c. 0.4m. Parallel to either side of the masonry was a firm chalky clay (5053 & 5054), with a spread of similar clay debris on its eastern side (5055). This may be the remains of either a clay bed for a timber sill beam or a clay lump wall. It shared the same alignment as the western wall of the Phase 2 Temple and its position compared with the Phase 1 *cella* and the radar survey confirms this as the western part of the Phase 1 Temple Ambulatory wall.

The Phase 1 wall was partially sealed by mortar spill from the Phase 2 wall construction and an anomaly seen in the foundations of the Phase 2 northern wall of the ambulatory is currently interpreted as the result of partly incorporating earlier masonry footings. This could well be the partial remains of the northern wall of the Phase 1 Ambulatory, which the radar survey also seems to indicate runs on the same alignment as the Phase 2 wall (see Figure 5).

A small 1.3m long elongated oval pit was recorded which abutted the footings of the Phase 2 Ambulatory wall ([5051]), formed from two fairly flat based conjoined cuts. It survived to a depth of c. 0.2m and contained a soft greyish-brown silty-sand (5052) from which pottery sherds of Late 1st to 2nd century AD date were collected, along with several fragments of painted wall plaster, a few abraded pieces of tile and a small quantity of animal bone. This feature has the potential to date to the demolition of the Phase 1 Temple and its position and its form is suggestive of a large scaffold post setting.

Mottram's trenches and Roman feature [5042]

No truly convincing trace of the edge of Mottram's Trench 4 was identifiable in the south-east corner of TEM5, although records indicate that her team uncovered a rough cobbled 'floor' within the ambulatory walkway. This matches well with the cobbled bed for a robbed-out floor surface described previously.

No obvious trace of Mottram's Trench 3 was initially identified, thought to be the result of modern mixing in the ploughzone. The 'rubbish rich' ditch or pit encountered by Mottram can now be interpreted as the upper fill of a large but shallow Roman feature or group of features covering an area of up to 1.7m wide encountered in the same approximate location. Further excavation here defined the base for a very square edged cut of only a few centimetres depth which matches the approximate dimensions and orientation of Mottram's Trench 3. Although Mottram's investigation trench had unfortunately obscured the true form of any features here part of a wide and shallow pit-like feature of c. 0.2m deep may be discernible ([5042]), with shallow scars for other pit like features also noted adjacent to it ([5048]). The undisturbed deposits show a sequence of thin silty-sand layers which were relatively rich in finds. The first of these was a brown sandy-silt layer (5041), followed by an ashy charcoal laden layer (5036). Above this was an oyster rich layer (5044) and a very ashy charcoal rich layer (5040).

Together these deposits produced 158 sherds of Roman pottery with a likely date range for discard of late 2nd up to a to a mid-3rd century date. A good assemblage of food waste was also collected including 276 oyster shells, over 800 pieces of animal bone (including a significant high quantity of bird bones) several pieces of mortar and tile rubble and a very small quantity of painted wall plaster. The most surprising find was of a near complete copper-alloy twisted torc bracelet (SF19042), which was found within ashy layer (5036). The discovery of such objects on other archaeological sites are usually interpreted as evidence for possible votive activity.

Roman make-up and subsoil layers

Directly below the ploughsoil, the northern half of the trench comprised of a complex sequence of interleaving make-up layers rich in mortar debris, flint cobbles and abraded tile rubble. A few distinct patches of sand, cobbles, mortar and crushed ceramic tesserae were noted within this sequence. These rubble laden layers appear to represent a consolidation event adjacent to the temple, which also had the effect of raising the level of the gradually sloping ground here. Given the pressures of time on site, the majority of this sequence was left intact. However, an investigation sondage excavated along the eastern baulk of the trench revealed that the make-up measured up to 0.3m deep and sealed a cleaner greyish-brown silty-sand layer (5047). This measured c.0.2m deep and was mixed with occasional rubble pieces, lumps of chalky-clay (a similar clay to that used within the structure of the Phase 1 Ambulatory structure) and a small quantity of painted wall plaster fragments. Below this was a seemingly sterile lower subsoil of orangey-brown to grey silty-sand (5050) of c. 0.2m depth with natural yellow sand below (5037).

Overall, the sequence suggests that the subsoil here became gradually mixed with construction/demolition material during the lifespan of the Phase 1 Temple. The subsoil was then sealed below a large quantity of rubble laden make-up of up to c. 0.3m depth. This may relate to either the construction and use of the Phase 2 temple or perhaps more likely its demolition. A review of the building materials incorporated into these layers should help to refine this interpretation. Residual pottery sherds from the rubble laden make-up range in date from c. early 2nd century to the 3rd century.

Main observations

- The heavily robbed out corner of the ambulatory may have made use of large quantities of bonding tile
- The area immediately adjacent to the Phase 2 ambulatory comprised of a sequence of interleaving make-up layers rich in mortar debris, flint cobbles and abraded tile rubble which contained residual pottery of early 2nd century to the 3rd century, associated with the various destruction/construction phases of the temple buildings
- Mottram's T3 was sited over an area of ash laden deposits rich in finds associated with food consumption and disposal of late 2nd to mid 3rd century date, which includes

the possible votive burial of a near complete copper-alloy twisted torc bracelet (SF19042)

- The remains of the Phase 1 Ambulatory wall were uncovered below the cobble bed for a robbed out tessellated floor serving the Phase 2 Ambulatory.
- The Phase 1 Ambulatory wall was of a much lighter construction and may have made use of clay lump.
- The northern wall of the Phase 2 Ambulatory wall appears to have overlain the original position of the Phase 1 wall.
- A possible scaffold pit containing late 1st to 2nd century pottery may date to the demolition of the Phase 1 Temple

6.2 Trench 6: TEM6 (Figures 9 to 12 and 16)

This was the largest trench, measuring 3.5m by 15m and located over the eastern side of the temple. Its position allowed for the investigation of a portico extension to the building, a chance to expose parts of the subsurface walls last seen by Mottram and the opportunity to investigate the postulated 'Phase 1 Temple masonry features' interpreted from the results of the ground penetrating radar survey, which shows what appeared to be an earlier and smaller *cella*, with traces of a matching ambulatory (Figure 5). Information gained on the layout and dimensions of the Phase 2 Temple building gave clear indications of a portico or entrance on its eastern side. The radar work also showed that the Phase 2 Temple was slightly larger than recorded by Mottram, with substantial wall footings reaching down to c. 1.8m below the current land surface.

The 2019 excavation successfully elucidated further on the wall dimensions and the nature of their surviving fabric. Most significantly, masonry was uncovered sealed below the level of the Phase 2 Temple which confirmed the presence of the earlier Phase 1 Temple beyond any doubt. The details of both phases of temple are summarised below, along with descriptions of associated stratigraphy.

Ploughsoil and Mottram's Trenches

The upper c.150mm of plough soil was removed in careful spits by machine under constant archaeological supervision. Where the line of masonry walls was expected to be close to the surface, hand cleaning quickly exposed the top of the Temple walls (Phase 2), intact but notably scarred by 19th to 20th century ploughing. The *cella* and ambulatory walls survived at c. 150mm below the modern surface, with the Portico wall at just 80mm down, whilst the archaeological deposits in between them lay below c. 0.2m to 0.25m of plough soil. This contrasts to the depths recorded by Mottram in January 1957, where variable soil depths were recorded overlaying the masonry ranging up to as much as 0.5m; demonstrating that ploughsoil depth on this gradually north to south sloping ground has reduced significantly over the last sixty years.

In the south-west corner of TEM1, the shallow scar from the base of part of Mottram's Trench 1 was tentatively identified ([6043]). Frequent 19th to 20th century plough scarring (including post 1957 activity) was recorded within the surface of the archaeological layers, with specifically c. E-W scarring present on all three Temple walls.



Plate 8. TEM6: Temple masonry uncovered just below the topsoil

Chris Skinner, who has been tenant on the farm for many years, tells us that he and his father learned to lift the plough above the walls to avoid breaking them on the solid Roman masonry.

A shallow rubble rich pit or hollow ([6037]) was the first cut feature to be identified, found in the south-east corner of the trench and notably truncated by plough levels.



Plate 9. TEM6: Working shot (Portico wall in foreground)



Plate 10. TEM6: 'Temple 2' progress shot (Portico wall in foreground)

Robbing of the Phase 2 Temple

Robbing disturbance was identified over the *cella* and ambulatory walls ([6041], [6079] & [6049]). Damage to the *cella* wall included the near total removal of the lowest tile course,

with fragmentary pieces remaining along with scars from the robbed tiles. Where the eastern wall ran to the south-east corner of the *cella*, the robbing was more extensive and deeper ([6057]), possibly where tile quoin work making up much of the corner had been totally removed.

Phase 2 Temple walls

The walls of the *cella* and ambulatory were found to have survived here to a maximum height of c. 0.5m and were constructed from a similar hard mortar and flint bond, with level tile coursing. Both walls made use of faced and unfaced flints.

The *cella* masonry measured c.1.2m wide, while the ambulatory measured c.1m. The corridor in between measured 3.8m in width. Although the full extent of the concrete footings for both walls were not exposed, the radar data confirms that both were of a similar depth, amounting to c. 1.3m of concrete footings below the depth of the wall bases.



Plate 11. TEM6: Ambulatory wall of the Phase 2 Temple
(looking W) [1x0.5m & 1x1m]

Phase 2 Temple floor levels

Records of Mottram's trenches across the *cella* and ambulatory show the exposed pads for two altars and a few patches of in-situ chalk tesserae, along with a rough cobbled 'surface' within the ambulatory (now believed to be the bedding layer for a tessellated floor). By contrast, in TEM6 no surviving floor surfaces were found within either the *cella* or ambulatory walkway, with the level of the floor calculated to have lain at a slightly higher level than the current ploughsoil.

An extensive make-up of a 0.3m deep imported sand and gravel lay within the *cella* walls and the ambulatory (6035/6044/6073), mostly sterile of finds aside from a few mid-2nd to 3rd century pot sherds. This material was found to have sealed trampled demolition layers and the remains of the walls and floor horizon for the Phase 1 Temple. A broken and folded copper-alloy Torc-twisted bracelet (SF19041) was found within the sand and gravel in the ambulatory, seemingly placed here during the process of building-up the various sand and gravel layers. This is a remarkably similar object to the near complete Torc-twisted bracelet (SF19042) recovered as a possible votive object from within a possible feature in TEM5.

Portico

The portico wall was slightly narrower than the Phase 2 Temple walls at c.0.75m wide. The wall fabric differed from the ambulatory and *cella* constructions in having a rougher mortar build with mostly unfaced flints constructed over a footing of large coarse flints set in hard mortar. The base for a small plinth was recorded on the internal side of the wall (6078).

No evidence for a surviving floor surface was present within the porch corridor where instead of a make-up of sand and gravel, a build-up of soil was recorded, from which a small quantity of late 2nd to 3rd century pottery was recovered.

A large and deep pit ([6078]) was partly investigated which lay partially below the portico wall and may be responsible for a settling crack across the wall. The pit contained a silty-sand with moderate inclusions of building rubble and small quantities of Roman pottery of mid 2nd century or later date.

A small oval pit ([6071]) of c.0.8m length was found below a layer buried soil (6063), just to the east of the ambulatory wall. The pit measured c. 0.25m deep and contained a yellowish-brown silty-sand (6072), which contained only a fragment of cattle mandible.

Phase 1 cella wall footings

The wall footings for the earlier temple (6074) measured c.0.6m wide and were constructed of pebble rich concrete with chalk pieces. The east-west wall retained a smooth surface with a clear sill-beam impression with a width of c.0.4m. A linear deposit of dense, chalk flecked clay along its internal side (6093) is believed to derive from demolished clay block work or perhaps some other form of structural material. A similar clay deposit was noted associated with the Phase 1 ambulatory wall remains in TEM5.



Plate 12. TEM5: SE corner of the Temple 1 *cella* footings, laying alongside the eastern wall of Temple 2 (looking ENE) [1x1m and 2x2m scales]

Phase 1 ambulatory wall footings

The ambulatory corridor space measured c.3.4m wide, with the 0.8m wide ambulatory wall constructed of flint and mortar with fragmentary remains of a robbed-out tile levelling course.



Plate 13. TEM6 'Temple 1' ambulatory wall footings buried below the 'Temple 2' ambulatory corridor (looking SW) [1x0.3m & 2x2m Scales]

Phase 1 Temple floor surfaces

A partial layer of degraded pink *opus-signinum* (6064) was all that remained of the robbed-out floor surface of the Phase 1 ambulatory floor, buried below thin layers of mixed demolition trample. A fair quantity of painted wall plaster was recovered from this horizon, giving some indication of the Phase 1 temple's internal decor. The mixed debris lay above a smooth cobble and mortar bedding layer (6065) within the walkway. No such layer was present within the exposed corner of the Phase 1 *cella*, although the presence of numerous loose mosaic tiles mixed in with the trample layers here indicates a thoroughly robbed out floor.

A group of nine mid-1st to early 2nd century Roman coins was recovered from on top of the eastern wall of the Phase 1 *cella*, from below a layer of trample debris (6062 & 6067). None of the coins were buried in direct contact with one another, although three to four clusters were recorded within a 1.2m long stretch of the wall, with some coins within just centimetres of one another. Although each coin was seemingly buried on its own within three possible clusters, together they appear to represent a single deliberate motive for deposition. The coins represent a series of Emperors from Nero through to Hadrian, with the exception of Titus. The date range represented by these coins is provisionally AD 66 to AD 123 (representative of just under 60 years of Roman rule in the region), which may prove useful when considering the lifespan of the Phase 1 Temple. It is a reasonable possibility that the coins represent votive objects disturbed during the rebuilding work which were consequently reburied by their Roman period finders.

Below the level of the robbed out *cella* floor was natural sand, within which an archaic tree-throw was identified ([6081]/[6082]). A small number of Iron Age pottery sherds were found within the top few centimetres of its fill, along with several prehistoric flints.

Two objects were discovered inserted at separate times into the natural sands below the floor at similar depths of c.100mm, with no intrusive material to indicate that either was placed within any form of cut through a pre-existing floor surface. One is a copper alloy Colchester Derivative brooch dating to the mid-1st century CE (SF19054) and c.0.85m away from it was a Trinovantian gold quarter stater (SF19047) in near uncirculated condition and likely to have been deposited in the 50s BCE or soon after.

It seems very likely that the brooch represents votive deposition that either pre-dates the Phase 1 temple construction or is coeval with its foundation, while the stater may either represent the burial of a curated object or pre-Roman votive deposition.

A cluster of three sub-circular small posthole bases of Roman date filled with a mixture of burnt chalk, mortar waste and small tile pieces ([6086], [6088] and [6090] cut into the natural sand here. The purpose of these features is unclear, but it is feasible that they could be associated with scaffolding erected during construction phase of the temple. Alternatively, they could be minor evidence for structural features within the *cella* area. Mottram reported two similar features as stake-holes filled by decayed mortar on the interior of the Phase 2 *cella*'s northern wall and set within a shallow gully, which she took to represent some kind of wattle or stud work, although the nature of this is not clear.

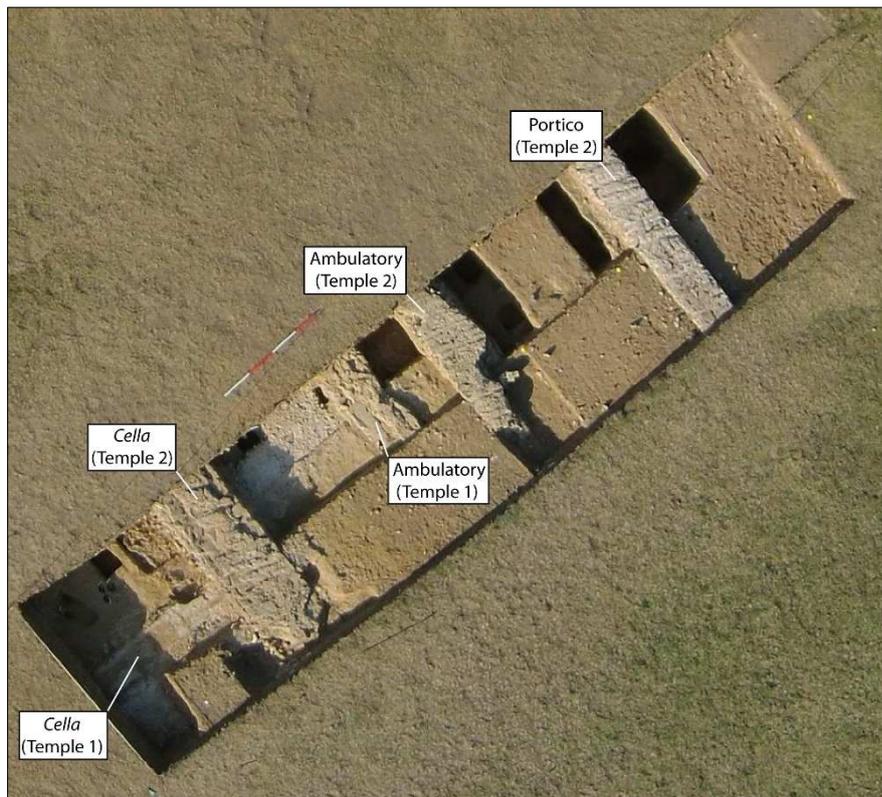


Plate 14. TEM6: Post excavation drone shot (R.Bylett)

Main observations relating to the Phase 1 Temple

- The Phase 1 Temple *cella* made use of light footings with clay residues indicating possible clay lump walling and the clear impression of a timber sill beam.
- The Phase 1 ambulatory floor made use of a neatly laid cobbled bedding layer, with traces of *opus signinum* (postulated to have supported a tessellated floor).
- The Phase 1 *cella* floor was entirely robbed away as part of its demolition, although further evidence for a mainly chalk mosaic floor was recorded in the form of residual finds
- A group of nine mid-1st to early 2nd century Roman coins was recovered from on top of the eastern wall of the Phase 1 *cella*, from below a layer of trample debris. It is a possibility that the coins represent votive objects disturbed during the rebuilding work which were consequently reburied by their Roman period finders.
- A Colchester Derivative brooch (SF19054) dating to the mid-1st century CE recovered from the natural sand below the level of the Phase 1 Temple *cella* floor could be a votive deposit which either predates the temple or is coeval with its foundation.

- A Trinovantian gold quarter stater (SF19047) in near uncirculated condition and likely to have been deposited in the 50s BC or soon after was also found to have been inserted into the natural sand below the level of the temple floor and could be evidence of pre-Roman votive activity at the site.
- A small number of residual Iron Age pottery sherds were recovered from the surface of an archaic tree throw within the natural sand below the *cella* area, which also contained several prehistoric flints.

Main observations relating to the Phase 2 Temple

- A shallow scar relating to the very base of Mottram's Trench 1 was tentatively identified;
- The ploughsoil in the area of TEM6 appears to be around half the depth of that recorded in 1957, with plough scarred walls between c. 80mm and 150mm below the surface and archaeological deposits between them sealed by between 0.2 m to 0.25m of soil;
- Robbing disturbance included the removal of tile coursing and appears to have targeted bonding tiles at the corner of the *cella*;
- Unlike the patchy areas of chalk tesserae exposed by Mottram within the *cella*, no surviving floor surfaces were found within either the *cella* or ambulatory walkway, with the level of the floor calculated to have lain at a slightly higher level than the current ploughsoil;
- An extensive make-up of 0.3m deep sand and gravel lay within the area of the *cella* and the ambulatory, mostly sterile of finds aside from a near complete Torc-twisted bracelet (SF19042) recovered as a possible votive object and few mid 2nd to 3rd century pot sherds;
- The imported sand and gravel sealed demolition trample and the remains of an earlier and smaller 'Phase 1' Temple;
- The portico was constructed in slightly different materials than the Phase 2 temple walls, with no concrete footings, and appears to span a pre-existing deep pit containing pottery of mid 2nd century or later date.

General comments on the basic layout and form of the two Romano-Celtic temples

The Phase 1 'Smaller Temple'

The Phase 1 Temple made use of much slighter flint and mortar footings than its larger replacement, measuring 0.6m to 0.8m wide. The *cella* wall footings made use of a timber sill beam and may have also incorporated clay lump within its structure. This method of construction is reminiscent of buildings revealed beneath the forum in the walled town of Venta Icenorum in 2011 (Will Bowden *pers comm*). Those structures, which dated to between the late 1st and mid 2nd century AD, were also built of clay and timber on masonry foundations and were interpreted as a probable early forum.

The radar data combined with information from excavated areas reveal a *cella* with external dimensions of c. 7.5m, surrounded by an ambulatory corridor of 3.4m width. The ambulatory walls had external dimensions of c. 15.6m, with tile coursing within at least the lowest courses.

The ambulatory floor was robbed out but included a bed of *opus signinum* over a neatly mortar set cobble surface. The *cella* floor was also robbed out, down to the natural sand but certainly included a mosaic surface which was very likely recycled for the Phase 2 Temple floor.

The Phase 2 'large Temple'

The Phase 2 Temple made use of deep concrete footings installed for both the *cella* and ambulatory walls.

The *cella* measured c. 11m by 10m, with flint and mortar walls of 1.2m wide, certainly robust enough to carry more than a single storey. The base of the eastern *cella* flint and mortar masonry survived to a depth of c. 0.4m and incorporated courses of large tiles and occasional rough faced flint cobbles.

The ambulatory measured c. 19m by 18m with a corridor width of 3.8m. It had rough faced flint and mortar walls measuring c. 1m wide, with tile levelling courses. The northern wall of the Phase 2 ambulatory was constructed over the line of the previous temple's ambulatory wall. On its eastern side was an exterior portico of around 2.8m wide, with flint and mortar walls of 0.75m width. It is not clear whether this was a later addition or constructed at the same time as the temple (although a later addition is suggested by the differing fabric-type used and the lack of deep concrete footings installed for both the *cella* and ambulatory walls).

The heavily robbed out corners of the ambulatory and *cella* walls are very likely to have made use of tile quoins.

No in situ evidence for the flooring was present aside from a cobbled bed within the ambulatory postulated to have supported a tessellated floor set into mortar/*opus signinum*. Rubble believed to be from its deconstruction included concrete and *opus signinum* floor fragments and large numbers of tesserae.

6.3 Trench 7: TEM7 (*Figures 13 and 17*)

TEM7 was positioned immediately south of the temple, just less than 1m from the position of the ambulatory wall. It measured 3m by 8m and was located to evaluate a possible rubble spread or infilled linear ditch-like feature indicated by radar work.

Rubble-infilled hollow way

Below c.0.3m of modern ploughsoil, a dense spread of Roman tile and mortar rubble was uncovered, focused at the northern end of the trench (7011 & 7012). Numerous tesserae were collected from this material. These were mainly of chalk with a dense patch of several hundred tesserae representing a discrete dump (7013).

Careful spit reduction resolved this rubble into both a diffuse spread and the rapidly deposited infill of a broad but shallow feature interpreted as a hollow way at the northern end of the trench ([7019]), bordering the edge of the temple. A denser linear spread of rubble no deeper than 150mm was defined within the subsoil, approximately 1.3m south from the hollow way on the same WSW to ENE orientation. No truly distinct cut was identified for this second feature and the material may indicate the former presence of a very shallow linear feature or slight hollow.

The southern part of the exposed hollow way [7019] stretched to a distance of c.3m and measured 0.3m deep with a gently sloping profile, graduating to a slightly concave base. It contained a well compacted primary fill of plaster debris and large fragments of roof tile with occasional building flints (7017). A fragmented cluster of painted wall plaster and numerous smashed pottery sherds from a single large burnished greyware dish were recovered from the very base of the hollow way (RF7022). Above this was a similar deposit of mortar debris



Plate 15. TEM7: Rubble infilled Hollow way [7019] (looking E)
[1x0.5m & 1x1m]

with frequent Roman concrete fragments and yet more discarded broken roof tile (7011). This rubble seemed to rise slightly above the profile of the hollow way, suggesting that the dumping of material here entirely filled the hollow before creating a linear rubble heap.

It is worth noting that, during Mottram's investigations, a 1.3m wide linear arrangement of flint rubble with frequent tile was uncovered (but not investigated deeper) running parallel to the western side of the temple c.4m out. Both this, and the material infilling the hollow way, indicate a concerted episode of deconstruction and sorting of materials.

The rubble infill of the hollow way contained large volumes of rubble sourced from a mixture of flooring, wall render and roofing, currently believed to derive from the sorting of demolished materials robbed out from the Phase 2 Temple. Pottery sherds collected from amongst the rubble and the associated spread are of 3rd or possibly 4th century date. A single House of Constantine coin was collected from the rubble spread (SF19057) with an issue date of 330-335 AD, although caution must be exercised in dating the rubble to the early part of the 4th century on this coin alone, due to the presence of plough scarring at the interface of the ploughsoil with this layer.

The hollow way [7019] was formed via the erosion of a pre-existing subsoil, which measured 0.3m thick and may have originally formed from a colluvium. This fine mid-orangey-brown silty-sand contained occasional abraded rubble pieces and Roman pottery sherds but became cleaner with depth with the lowest excavated spit containing far fewer finds. The Roman pottery recovered from the subsoil may indicate mid to late 3rd century activity contemporary with the active life of the temple. A coin (SF19063) thought to be of Tetricus (Emperor of the Gallic Empire from 271 to 274AD) was collected from this same horizon, with a mid 4th century coin (SF19038) recovered from the very top level of the subsoil.

Earlier hollow way

Subtle evidence for a possible earlier linear hollow ([7026]) was partially revealed by sondages in the southern end of the trench. It contained a fill similar in nature to the subsoil but with occasional inclusions of Roman tile and flint cobbles (7027). This feature shared a similar orientation to the larger hollow way ([7019]) but stratigraphically appeared to be of an earlier phase and was certainly not an open feature at the time that the rubble rich material was dumped within the larger hollow. The linear concentration of rubble noted previously seems to match the same line as this earlier feature and may simply indicate that a slight hollow was still present long after it fell out of use and became filled.

Residual evidence for Iron Age activity

The largest number of residual Iron Age pottery sherds was collected from TEM7, amounting to c.66% of the assemblage of 98 sherds collected from across all three trenches. Aside from five sherds collected from the hollows described previously, the remaining 60 sherds were all collected from the lower subsoil, which also yielded 3rd century AD Roman pottery. This indicates some active mixing of the soils here, such as through early plough activity or animal disturbance. The Iron Age pottery is primarily of Later Iron Age date with only a single Early Iron Age sherd. A single silver Iceni early pattern horse unit (SF19056) was retrieved from the lowest spit of the lower subsoil. The unit has a date range of approximately 5AD to 20AD (SF19056).

Below the subsoil, the natural was a gently sloping clean yellow sand (7024), which lay at c.0.75m below the modern ground surface at the southern end of the 8m long trench and c.1m at its northern end.

Main observations

- A rubble infilled hollow way ran parallel with the southern wall of the Phase 2 Temple Ambulatory which contained large volumes of waste from flooring, walling and roofing, currently believed to be derived from converted demolition/robbing of the Phase 2 Temple in the 3rd to 4th century;
- A subsoil contemporary with part of the lifespan of the temple contained mid to late 3rd century pottery;
- Evidence for an earlier hollow way was also identified;
- Residual Iron Age pottery collected from the lower subsoil was primarily of Late Iron Age date, although a single Early Iron Age sherd was also found;
- A single silver Iceni early pattern horse unit (SF19056) was retrieved from the lowest spit of the lower subsoil, which can be given a date range of approximately 5AD to 20 AD (SF19056).

7.0 Artefactual Assessment

The finds material from the site is discussed in separate assessment summaries below, supported by basic quantitative information where required. Where currently possible, the significance of each assemblage is assessed below both in relation to the site itself and any wider importance. All reference to context spot dates is provisional and subject to revision following more detailed stratigraphic analysis. Details of any appropriate further analysis required to meet the aims of the project are also presented in this section.

The table below summarises the finds that form the artefactual assemblage recovered from the CRP19 excavation.

CRP19 Temple Finds Assemblage			
<i>Type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Weight (kg)</i>	<i>No. of Contexts</i>
Animal bone	2224	4717	67
Ceramic Building Material (Romano-British)	10434	830.752	112
Clay tobacco pipe	22	0.030	13
Coal/Coke/Charcoal	58	81.38	18
Coinage	28	0.129	21
Fe nails	263	-	54
Fe objects (currently not Small Finds)	37	-	21
Flint - burnt	28	0.658	20
Flint - worked	153	-	43
Glass	50	0.105	11
Metal Working Debris	33	0.432	14
Mortar	1141	67.360	50
Opus signinum	496	28.854	37
Pottery – Iron Age	98	0.705	17
Pottery – Romano-British	739	4.500	68
Pottery- Post-Roman	107	0.243	32
Small finds (Various material types not inc. coins)	37	0.127	29
Shell - oyster	488	4.132	24
Shell – cockle/mussel/winkle	15	0.016	6
Shell – land snail	99	0.092	14
Stone	20	12.566	17
Tesserae – large ceramic type	936	17.923	63
Tesserae – small mosaic type	3330	9.953	60
Wall plaster (Roman)	814	7.300	41

7.1 Animal Bone

Introduction

A total of 2,224 individual pieces of animal bone were collected from across all three trenches, with a combined total weight of 4.717kg. The bone was collected by both hand excavation and sieving of individual contexts. Much of the assemblage is highly fragmentary and the majority was collected as residual material from Roman period contexts, with an overall mean weight per item of under 3g. Over half (57.4%) of these were fragments that could not be ascribed to any particular taxon. The remainder were larger fragments of bone; only a few whole bones were recovered.

The bone has been subject to analysis by dedicated CRP members, making use of knowledge gained from training sessions with experienced archaeological osteologist Paul Clarkson. Guidelines provided follow a methodology based on Albarella & Davis (1994). The work was overseen, and data compiled and analysed by CRP members Lynda Bradley and Roger Burnett.

The bone has been quantified on a database by context and where possible the bone element and taxa identified, alongside any evidence for pathology, morphology and butchery. Each trench has a large number of particularly small fragments which remain unidentifiable. A provisional catalogue of the bone by context and trench has been prepared, finalised versions of which will be included in the final report.

A further categorisation was also performed to assist in interpretation and analysis with fragmentary bones designated as being from a medium animal added to the count for pig, and those considered to be from a small animal added to the count from sheep/goat (as presented in Table 1 below). The identified bones were also evaluated by body region, Core (pelvis, scapula, and ribs), Limb bone (including foot bones), Jaw bones, Teeth and Skull bones.

Trench	Cattle	Horse	Pig	Sheep or Goat	Bird	Very Small Animal	Undefined Fragments	Count	Wt (g)
TEM5	21		112	288	147	90	821	1479	2071g
TEM6	17	1	25	39	23	6	311	422	749g
TEM7	45	2	8	73	3	3	189	323	1897g
Grand Totals	83	3	145	400	173	99	1321	2224	4717

Table 1. Quantification by species

Initial Observations by Trench

TEM5

Within TEM5, 1479 pieces of bone were recovered with a total weight of 2071 grams, by far the largest assemblage by count of all three trenches. However, of these, 791 (55%) are mostly small and undefinable fragments (neither taxa nor bone type defined). The count also includes a relatively large number of fragments deposited purposefully within a single feature (Pit [5042]), which account for just over half of the assemblage and discussed further below.

Sheep/goat bones were the most common species when combined with bones from small animals. These were mainly represented by limb bones and teeth. The pig elements, in combination with medium animals, mainly teeth, were noted in this trench. Only a limited number of bones considered to be from cattle were noted. The number of bird bones was the second highest percentage, most of these coming from two contexts 5036 (18 pieces) and ashy deposit 5041 (84 pieces); both fills of Pit [5042]. Many were noted as being from small birds and were mainly limb/wing bones. These contexts are both fills of a Roman feature notable for containing large quantities of oyster shell and a possible votive object in the form of a copper alloy bracelet (SF19042).

The smallest non-avian bones were considered to be from ?rabbit and/or other small mammals.

A few bones showed signs of charring and some showed weathering, having been left on the surface for some time. A large number of the bones showed signs of butchery (chop or cut marks) including some of the bird bones.

TEM5: Main deposit sources	Count	c.% of count
Topsoil/ploughsoil	165	11%
Fills of Robber cuts	96	6.5%
Roman pit fills*	914	62%
Roman make-up layers	291	19.5%
Other	13	1%
Total	1479	100%
<i>*x831 pieces from Pit [5042] (c. 56% of count)</i>		

TEM6

A total of 422 pieces of bone were recovered with a total weight of 749g. Of these 331 (76%) are undefined fragments. Sheep bones, limb, rib and teeth were the most numerous elements, followed by bird limb/wing bones and pig teeth. The bird bones were mainly noted as from small birds, with some noted as being of a size similar to that of a hen. Some cattle bones were noted, very small animal bones and a horse phalanx. Many samples showed signs of butchery and many show signs of weathering.

TEM6: Main deposit sources	<i>Count</i>	<i>c.% of count</i>
Topsoil/ploughsoil	182	43%
Fills of Robber cuts	9	2%
Roman pit fills	40	9.5%
Roman debris/trample layers (?residue of Ph.1)	36	8.5%
Buried soil build-up/layers	111	26.5%
Lower subsoil	1	0.25%
Ph2. Sand/gravel make-up over Ph.1	39	9.25%
Other	4	1%
Total	422	100%

TEM7

A total of 323 pieces of bone were recovered with a total weight of 1897g. Of these 189 (59%) are undefined fragments. The assemblage from this trench had more rib and limb bones from the sheep and cattle limb bones as seen by the total weight. Many showed signs of butchery and were not noted as being weathered.

TEM7: Main deposit sources	<i>Count</i>	<i>c.% of count</i>
Topsoil/ploughsoil	11	3.5%
Rubble debris spread	56	17.5%
Rubble rich fills of Hollow way [7019]	53	16.5%
Fill of ?Hollow way [7026]	21	6.5%
Lower Subsoils	182	56%
Total	323	100%

Further observations and recommendations for further work

The majority of the assemblage is representative of highly fragmentary background waste from Roman dated contexts associated with the lifespan of both phases of Temple. Although the fragmentary nature of the assemblage has only allowed for partial identification by species, the most common elements of mammal bone appear to be from sheep/goat species, followed by pig and cattle, with only a few examples of horse. Butchery, seen as chop or cut marks, is common on elements from the larger species and methods of butchery seem to have been typical of the Roman period in all cases, a cleaver being used to chop bones in varying directions to disarticulate and often to remove marrow.

Although trends in animal husbandry and butchery at the nearby town, recognised through the analysis of recently excavated material, may suggest an initial preference for sheep/goat moving over to cattle by the later Roman period any interpretation of this small assemblage from the Temple is of limited potential to further elaborate on local consumption preferences,

particularly given that consumption associated with the Temple could be subject to a differing set of cultural rules or motivations (such as offerings, feasting or augury). However, it should be noted that examples of ritual deposition of 'killed' pottery vessels alongside animal bone (including wild species) have been recognised within the town, excavated close to the diagonal road which links the temples there to the complex in Temple Field. In addition, some form of ritual deposition appears to occur within the town's enclosure ditches, with the burial of a whole foal alongside smashed vessels found within the base of such a ditch by the CRP in 2016 (Emery 2021).

A detailed stratigraphic analysis of the distribution of the animal bone by context and period will be made following final phasing of the archaeological features and deposits within all three trenches. Further refinement of the analysis work on the physical assemblage will be undertaken in consultation with external faunal remains specialists, to review the current identification of the bone (to include a check for any non-domestic species) and to assist in any interpretation on processing and consumption trends that could relate to activity associated with the life of the Temple, be it representative of ritual activity or otherwise. In particular, the bird bone assemblage is suspected to have particular significance given the religious aspect of the site and it is hoped that specialist examination of these particular bones may clarify the species present, which appear to include Galliformes but has the potential to include other small bird species. The majority of the bird bone was collected from a single feature which may contain waste relating to feasting and votive activity.

There are known examples of similar deposits at temple sites with a similar occurrence of bird (chicken) bones in similar numbers (88 in total) collected from excavation within the temple complex at Heybridge, Essex where almost all of the bones were collected from just two pits and suggested to be evidence of sacrificial offerings (Johnstone, C. & Umberto, A. 38, 2020). Within Norfolk, the temple at Sawbench Wood in Hockwold-cum-Wilton (NHER 5367) also produced possible ritual deposits of animal bone, with pig bones and a skull placed around pillar bases and an arrangement of small pits or postholes containing bird bones, each with a bronze coin at the base (Gurney 1995).

According to Anthony King in his article *Animal Remains from Temples in Roman Britain* (King 2005), only a relatively small number of excavations of religious sites have yielded significant assemblages of animal bones, at that time around 20, and all from Romano-Celtic temples in southern Britain, with the exception of four shrines for eastern cults. Evidence for ritual activity based on analysis of deposition selection and form is present at some sites, such as Uley or Hayling, where sacrifices were probably an important part of the rituals, and the animals carefully selected. At other temples, animals had a lesser role, with little evidence of selection. At healing shrines, such as Bath and Lydney, animal sacrifices are not clearly attested, and would probably have taken place away from the areas used for healing humans (King *ibid*). Where possible, the bone assemblage from Temple Field at Caistor St Edmund will be compared to published assemblages from other Romano-British temple sites of a similar Romano-British period

A detailed finalised report of the animal bone assemblage will be produced by CRP members in consultation with specialist contributors. This will include further tables and catalogues of the assemblage by context and species, with any details of disease, age range, morphology, butchery, scavenger damage etc. also presented. Within the limitations of the datable data set this will include a discussion of the evidence for any distinct phases of animal husbandry, consumption, butchery and disposal patterns at the site.

The assemblage will also be considered in a wider context in comparison to other past and recently collected assemblages at the Roman town, and the results of analysis on the material collected from the ancillary building in 2018 (which notably also included a small number of bird bones) will also be included in any discussion.

A selection of animal bone elements may be photographed to provide general illustrative material for the overall report and as reference material for the CRP.

7.2 Burnt Flint

A total of just 28 pieces of burnt flint with a combined weight of 658g were collected from across the three trenches. The majority of flint by both weight and count was found in TEM6 and is mainly small fragments, while those from TEM5 were notably larger in size. The burnt flint ranged from heavily calcined and fire-cracked to scorched, heat reddened and granulated. No distinct concentrations of burnt flint were recorded and the material is mainly residual within source contexts. The material represents minor evidence of localised hearth or bonfire activity of uncertain date.

Recommendations for further work

A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP members Keith Bowen and John Davies and a finalised version incorporating stratigraphic analysis will be presented within the final report.

7.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

Methodology

A total of 7,035 pieces of CBM were recorded with a combined weight of 830.752kg. The vast majority of the CBM appears to be from the Romano-British period, collected as both residual material within the topsoil/ploughsoil and in much higher volumes from Roman deposits across all three trenches. A large amount of the material was sorted, weighed and identified on site so that it could then be returned to the same source trenches. On-site processing was accomplished by a team overseen by CRP members experienced in CBM processing and identification.

All marked or shaped pieces were retained, and all pieces were counted, weighed, measured and sorted into a previously established CRP type-series for form and fabric (established in consultation with Alice Lyons). Any examples that were too damaged for clear identification were categorised as undiagnostic, although it should be noted that the majority of such fragmentary pieces are likely to derive from Roman brick and tile. Once the material was recorded and catalogued it was stored separately according to Trench for reburial during backfilling. The CBM was placed within each respective trench as a single dump of material wrapped within a geo-textile fabric.

The remaining material that was still to be catalogued by the end of the fieldwork and all pieces selected for retention were taken to the project's storage barn for processing and cataloguing by CRP members, overseen by the designated CBM team. This included a selection of good 'Type-examples', which will be incorporated into the *CRP CBM Reference Collection*.

Full catalogues for the assemblage include details on weights, size ranges, fabric type, measurable dimensions, abrasion, impressions, markings, modification and any other notable features. Finalised versions of these catalogues will be presented with the final report. The CBM assemblage for each trench is summarised by main forms below.

TEM5 CBM Assemblage Summary								
Forms	<i>Imbrex</i>	<i>Tegula</i>	<i>Ridge tile</i>	<i>Brick/Tile</i>	<i>Column wedge</i>	<i>Box flue tile</i>	<i>Undiag.</i>	TOTALS
Count	219	96	-	309	-	3	2149	2776
Wt (kg)	26.298	27.273	-	74.526	-	0.211	112.808	251.116

TEM6 CBM Assemblage Summary								
CBM Type:	<i>Imbrex</i>	<i>Tegula</i>	<i>Ridge tile</i>	<i>Brick/Tile</i>	<i>Column wedge</i>	<i>Box flue tile</i>	<i>Undiag.</i>	TOTALS
Count	56	26	1	203	6	1	1979	2272
Wt (kg)	5.100	6.689	0.545	65.944	4.684	0.006	95.216	178.184

TEM7 CBM Assemblage Summary								
CBM Type:	<i>Imbrex</i>	<i>Tegula</i>	<i>Ridge tile</i>	<i>Brick/Tile</i>	<i>Column wedge</i>	<i>Box flue tile</i>	<i>Undiag.</i>	TOTALS
Count	267	266	-	231	1	1	1221	1987
Wt (kg)	216.98	33.743	-	78.508	0.648	0.046	71.527	401.452

Summary Observations

Fragments of brick and tile make up the majority of the CBM assemblage and are mainly recorded as undiagnostic because of the poor and fragmentary condition of the material. There are also lesser quantities of confirmed *Imbrex*, *Tegula* and a very small number of examples from flue tile, column wedges, and a single clearly defined ridge tile.

A comparison of ratios of CBM collected as residual material from the ploughsoil compared to material collected from stratified archaeological deposits demonstrates that the majority of the overall assemblage by both count and weight was well-stratified. TEM7 produced by far the highest percentage of stratified material by count and weight (much of it collected as large fragments of roof tiles from a single rubble filled hollow way).

Trench	Topsoil/ploughsoil/post-Roman upper-subsoil		Other deposits	
	Count	Wt (kg)	Count	Wt (kg)
TEM5	914	57.214	1862	188.065
<i>c. % by count/wt</i>	33%	23%	67%	77%
TEM6	1113	64.806	1159	113.378
<i>c. % by count/wt</i>	49%	36%	51%	64%
TEM7	481	13.513	1506	387.939
<i>c. % by count/wt</i>	24%	4%	76%	96%

CBM distribution comparison – stratified vs. unstratified

TEM5

CBM was collected as residual rubble debris from robber cuts (which may well have targeted a tile constructed corner to the Phase 2 Temple Ambulatory wall). Make-up layers that form possible levelling and surface material associated with the Phase 2 Temple also account for a similar quantity of material, with the potential to include demolition material from either phase of temple. Two Roman pits also contained rubble material alongside pottery sherds and other finds, one which appears to pre-date the Phase 2 temple while the other may be of Phase 2 or later date.

TEM5: Main deposit sources	Count	c.% of count
Topsoil/ploughsoil	914	33%
Fills of Robber cuts	490	18%
Roman pit fills	511	18.5%
Roman make-up layers	670	24%
Phase 2 Ambulatory wall	6	0.2%
Cobble bed for Ph.2 Ambulatory	2	0.1%
Other	183	6.2%
Total	2776	100%

TEM6

The CBM assemblage from TEM6 includes a relatively small but significant collection of fragmentary material from debris rich layers that appear to have formed during the demolition of the Phase 1 Temple. Material from Roman pits and robber cut fills of the Phase 2 Temple walls account for much of the remaining material. A small quantity of material was collected from Roman soil layers with the potential to date to the construction of the Phase 1 Temple.

TEM6: Main deposit sources	<i>Count</i>	<i>c.% of count</i>
Topsoil/ploughsoil	1113	49%
Fills of Robber cuts	255	11%
Roman pits	383	17%
Ph2. Sand/gravel make-up over Ph1	167	7%
Rubble/debris layers (?residue of Ph1)	84	4%
?Roman soil layers	186	8%
Other	84	4%
Total	2272	100%

TEM7

The CBM assemblage from TEM7 is the smallest by count but has by far the highest trench assemblage weight due to the collection of numerous large fragments of broken roof tile from the mortar and concrete rubble filled hollow way ([7019]). This excavated material represents only a sample of the material dumped within the linear feature.

Smaller quantities of material were also collected from an associated rubble spread and it should be noted that large numbers of tesserae were also found within these deposits, along with painted plaster fragments. This indicates that the rubble is sourced from a mixture of flooring, wall render and roofing. The rubble is currently thought to derive from the demolition of the Phase 2 Temple, although more detailed pottery and stratigraphic analysis is required to confirm this. A smaller possible hollow way and lower subsoils also produced CBM, which may date to either phase of the temple or possibly a mix of both.



Plate 16. TEM7: Broken tiles dumped into Roman Hollow way [7019]. (looking W) [1x0.5m & 2x2m Scales]

TEM7: Main deposit sources	<i>Count</i>	<i>c.% of count</i>
Topsoil/ploughsoil	145	7%
Post-Roman subsoil	336	17%
Rubble rich fills of Hollow way [7019]	666	33.5%
Rubble debris spreads	119	6%
Fill of ?Hollow way [7026]	132	7%
Lower Subsoils	589	29.5%
Total	1987	100%

Other noteworthy comments

Much of the CBM from soil horizons was abraded and in poor and fragmentary condition and this may be due to historic ploughing of the site.

Seven column wedge pieces were collected, six from TEM6 and the other from TEM7. The piece from TEM7 was from the upper fill of the hollow way [7019], while those from TEM6 were all from the topsoil/ploughsoil. Given the discovery of such wedges at the Temple site, it seems likely that the temple incorporated ceramic built columns, although it remains open to discussion if these architectural features were present in both incarnations of the Temple.

It is worth noting that seventeen pieces of column wedges were also collected in 2018, all from TEM1 on the ancillary building. Of these, one piece was collected from a lower subsoil (1046) which may pre-date the construction of the ancillary building and another piece was from a trampled residue of (1072) sealed by the construction of one of its floors. This appeared to indicate that while most of the wedge pieces had been used with the fabric of the demolished building some pieces of the column debris may have been recycled from an earlier building phase or structure, with the early temple offering one possible source.



Plate 17. Ridge tile.



Plate 18 (right) Column wedge

Beyond the usual wipe marks and incidental impressions from drying on an external ground surface, only a handful of retained CBM pieces have markings on them and following full recording will be added to the CRP CBM reference collection. These include the markings from a pig/wild boar footprint and finger/thumb marks.

Only five small pieces of flue tile from heating systems were collected, spread across all three trenches. This adds to the 17 pieces collected from the excavation on the ancillary building. Currently there is no convincing evidence for extensive heating systems within the masonry buildings and the exact source of these pieces remains uncertain.

Recommendations for further work

A detailed catalogue has been prepared by CRP member Chrissy Sullivan which will form the basis of further stratigraphic analysis of the material following final dating of



Plate 19. Tegula with
 ?wild boar/pig foot impression

all source contexts. Finalised versions of these catalogues and the CBM analysis report will be presented as an appendix in the final report. Where necessary further tables to assist in analysis of the data showing fabric and forms by trench and context may be produced.

Following detailed stratigraphic analysis, a further discussion on the significance and date of the assemblage by context will be produced and also a discussion in terms of the assemblage's contribution to further interpretation of the two phases of temple building. The assemblage will also be considered in a wider context in comparison to other past and recently excavated assemblages at the Roman town in consultation with Professor Will Bowden and regional Roman-British specialists, to include Alice Lyons.

A very small number of pieces have been selected for possible illustration (photo/drawing), they include a selection of column wedges, a crested roof tile and a tile with the clear impression of a pig/wild boar footprint.

7.4 Chalk rubble

A total of 41 pieces of chalk building rubble were collected from across the three trenches, with a total weight of 3.720 kg. Only larger pieces were collected during the excavation as baulk finds for closer inspection and it should be noted that much smaller chalk pieces were ubiquitous within the Roman deposits. The recorded chalk rubble was very fragmentary with no clear signs of shaped blocks recorded. Although much of the larger pieces of chalk were collected from the ploughsoil it was also found alongside CBM rubble within Roman period make-up layers, a pit fill and within robber cuts. Chalk rubble and roughly shaped block pieces were present in the wall construction witnessed by Mottram in the 1957 trenches and the collected pieces can be interpreted as masonry rubble from the demolition of the temple walls.

Although each piece has been fully catalogued none are worthy of retention as part of the finds archive.

7.5 Clay Tobacco Pipe

Given the size of the three trenches opened on Temple Field in 2019, the volume of clay tobacco pipe (CTP) recovered was small, amounting to a total of 22 fragments, with a total weight of 30.68g. All pieces were stem fragments, ranging in size from 1.2cm up to a maximum length of 4.5cm. None exhibited any markings and all but two of the pieces were found in topsoil and subsoil layers. A single small intrusive piece was found within a Roman pit in TEM5 and another intrusive piece from a sandy-gravel layer in TEM6. Extensive scarring of exposed wall areas in the temple highlights significant ploughing activity in the 20th century and earlier. It seems likely that the background scatter of pipe fragments comes from discard by ploughmen over the years

Recommendations for further work

A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Linda Richmond and a finalised version will be presented within the final report.

7.6 Coal, Coke and Charcoal pieces

A total of 58 small pieces of fuel waste in the form of charcoal, coke and coal were collected across the three trenches. These were mainly retrieved during the sieving process on site, which maximised recovery of such small pieces. Whilst flecks of charcoal were commonly seen whilst excavating the trenches, no extensive deposits of burnt material were located.

Some isolated larger fragments of coal, coke or charcoal were recovered, but none were in particularly large quantities.

TEM5 produced 21 pieces (19.33g), TEM6 12 pieces (27.52g) and TEM7 25 pieces (44.53g). Of this assemblage, 23 pieces were coke fragments (45.15g), 16 were coal (41.05g) and the remaining 19 are small pieces of charcoal (5.18g).

The most productive context was the subsoil of TEM7 (7010), which produced a total of 14 fuel waste pieces (24.81g), over a quarter of the total. This was mostly coal & coke, with one very small piece of charcoal. It may or may not be significant that the trench was located towards the field edge.

Most of this fuel waste was collected from the subsoil layers of the trenches and can be discarded as residual material of post-medieval to modern date and provenance. In TEM5, there were a few pieces found in the upper contexts, but 11 pieces of charcoal were collected from the fill of Roman pit [5042], which also contained ashy deposits and discarded oyster shell.

Recommendations for further work

A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Linda Richmond and a finalised version will be presented within the final report.

7.7 Coinage

Analysis by CRP coin specialist Ian Jackson

Introduction

A total of 28 coins were collected during the course of the excavation. Each has been issued with a unique Small Finds number. By trench, this amounts to 3 coins from TEM5, 17 from TEM6 and 8 from TEM7. The coinage has been analysed by CRP member and numismatist Ian Jackson with consultation from Andy Barnett (professional archaeological numismatist) and initial advice and consultation with Dr Andrew Brown of The British Museum (Assistant Finds Adviser and Treasure Curator for Iron Age and Roman coins). The Iron Age coin identification was carried out in consultation with Dr Daphne Nash Briggs of Oxford University.

With the exception of a badly worn penny from Trench 7, all of the coins were either Iron Age or Roman. The Roman coins ranged in date from Nero AD 54 – 68 through to c. AD 350. The later Roman coins are in generally poor condition but typical of those found in significant numbers in and around Caistor. The assemblage is primarily of copper-alloy but also includes one silver Iron Age unit (SF19056) and one Iron Age gold quarter stater (SF19047). The coins are discussed below by trench.

TEM5

The 3 coins collected from TEM5 (SF19014, SF19019 and SF19030) were from topsoil/ploughsoil layers and are of late 3rd to 4th century date. One is a House of Constantine nummus showing Victory and dates to c. 343-348AD (SF19014), one is a nummus of Theodora issued between 337-340AD (SF19019) while the other is a radiate of late 3rd century date (SF19030).

TEM7

Of the 8 coins from TEM7, four were from the topsoil/ploughsoil. One of these is a well-worn penny of probable 19th century date (SF19002). The other three from the topsoil/ploughsoil are Roman of late 3rd to 4th century date (SF19001, SF19003 & SF19004). Two can be assigned to the House of Constantine (313 to 364AD). They include a nummus with GLORIA EXERCITVS on the reverse which has an issue date of 330-335AD (SF19003).



Plates 20 & 21. SF19038 (7020): Constans AD 348-350 (reverse shows soldier with captive).

A House of Constantine nummus (SF19057) from the mortar rubble spread (7018) associated with the rubble infill of the broad hollow way ([7019]), has a similar GLORIA EXERCITVS on the reverse and can also be dated to 330-335AD. Another House of Constantine nummus was found within a lower subsoil layer (SF19038), although this could have been introduced at his depth through later mixing of the soils. This one is a Constans (r.337-350) and has an issue date from 348-350 (SF19038). A late 3rd century radiate (possibly of Tetricus r.271-274) was also found within the lower subsoil (SF19063).



Plate 22. Silver Iceni Early Pattern Horse Unit (SF19063) from TEM7 (shown here at c. 3 to 1 Scale)

A single silver Iceni early pattern horse unit (SF19056) was found from the lowest spit of the lower subsoil, which can be given a date range of approximately 5 to 20 AD (*Iceni Silver Unit. ABC 1591; Talbot Early Pattern Pattern Horse (B) Unit (Mint C).*)

TEM6

Nine of the 16 Roman coins recovered from TEM6 form a group of coins with a shared deposition history and are discussed in their own section below.

Of the remaining 7 Roman coins, four were from topsoil/ploughsoil layers, one was collected from material thought to form part of the backfill for Mottram's trenching and another was recovered from the spoil heap. A single Roman coin was collected from a buried soil layer. Aside from a single As of Flavian (AD69-96) from the ploughsoil (SF19027) these are all of a very similar date range attributable to the House of Constantine and in some cases more specifically the Emperor Constans. Five of the coins can be dated to 343-348 AD (SF19010; 19011; 19026; 19035 & 19064) and one commemorative coin to 330-335 AD (SF19049).

A single Trinovantian gold quarter stater type-ABC2350 (SF19047) was found from below the level of the robbed-out Phase 1 Temple *cella* floor, inserted into the natural sand fill (6068) of an archaic tree-throw. This stater is in near uncirculated condition and likely to have been deposited in the 50s BCE or soon after, at a time when the Trinovantes were under pressure from Cassivellaunus (Sills 2017). It seems highly likely that this represents votive deposition that pre-dates the Phase 1 temple construction.



Plate 23 (left) and Plate 24 (right) showing both sides of the Trinovantian gold quarter stater SF19047 from TEM6 (shown here at c. 3 to 1 Scale)

TEM6: Roman coin group (see Figure 10)

A group of nine mid-1st to early 2nd Century coins were found in an approximately north-south line along a 1.2m stretch of the eastern footings of the Phase I Temple *cella*, buried within and below a thin layer of demolition trample (6062 and 6067). No two coins were found in direct contact with each other, and the coins were found to have been buried at varying depths. Although each coin was seemingly buried on its own within three possible clusters, together they appear to represent a single deliberate deposition. A segment of copper-alloy wire in three pieces (SF19061) was also found alongside these coins.

The coin assemblage has been x-rayed, with four requiring more detailed follow up examination owing to the degree of wear (SF19048; 19-51; 19052 & 19053). The remaining five coins (SF19048, SF19051, SF19052, SF19053 and SF19058) exhibit varying degrees of wear but as a group are in excellent condition overall. The accompanying table lists these coins with minimal description and provisional identifications. A comprehensive catalogue of the entire assemblage will be presented within the final report.

Ctxt No.	SF No.	Metal	Denomination	Ruler	Reign date	DESCRIPTION	Provisional Date Range
6062	19043	Cu Alloy	As or Dupondius	Flavian	AD 69 - 96	Obv. Radiate? bust right. Rev. standing figure left? SC	Mid to late 1st
6062	19048	Cu Alloy	As	Nero	AD 54 - 68	Nero. Obv. IMPNEROCAESARAVGPMAXTRPPP. Bare head right, globe at point of bust. Rev. S C to left and right of Victory flying left. Mint Lyon RIC 543.	?AD 66
6062	19050	Cu Alloy	As	Flavian	AD 69 - 96	Obv. Head or bust right. Vespasian? Rev. No detail visible	Mid to late C1st AD
6062	19051	Cu Alloy	As	Domitian	AD 81 - 96	Domitian. Obv IMPCAESDOMIT[.....] Rev. [.....] AVGVST SC standing figure left holding cornucopiae in left hand. Possible Fortuna?	AD 81-96
6067	19052	Cu Alloy	As	Hadrian	AD 117 - 138	Hadrian. Obv. IMP [CAE]SAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG. Rev. [.....] COS III FORT RED in exergue. Fortuna seated left, holding rudder and cornucopiae. RIC 617. Rome	AD 123
6067	19053	Cu Alloy	As	Nerva	AD 96 - 98	Obv. [DIVVS] AVGVSTVS. Rev. [IMPNERVA]CAES AVG REST, altar with SC in exergue. RIC 133 or 135. Minted in Rome.	AD 97
6067	19058	Cu Alloy	As	Nerva	AD 96 - 98	Obv. [IMP]NERVACAES AVGP[PM TRP COS III PP]. Rev. [NEPT]VNO C[IRCENS CONSTIT]VT SC. Neptune standing right holding acrostolium in right hand and trident in left hand; to left small figure half-emerging from the ground. Minted in Rome. BMV 3 (1966) Nerva No. 132 and p. 553	AD 96-98

Ctxt No.	SF No.	Metal	Denomination	Ruler	Reign date	DESCRIPTION	Provisional Date Range
6067	19059	Cu Alloy	Dupondius?	Flavian	AD 69 - 96	Radiate head right. Obverse [IMP CAES DIVI VES]P F D[OMITIAN AVG PM] Rev. no visible details. Rome. RIC 235, Sear 2794.	AD 81
6067	19062	Cu Alloy	As or Dupondius	Trajan	AD 98 - 117	Heavy corrosion products adhering	AD 98 - 117

Table to show coin group inserted above Phase 1 Temple *cella* wall footings with provisional identifications

The coins represent a series of Emperors from Nero through to Hadrian, with the exception of Titus. In itself, this suggests the coins were deliberately selected prior to deposition/re-deposition. Aside from the Nero, the coins were all lying with their Reverse uppermost when found, which may also point to a carefully considered approach to their burial/re-burial here.

The coin of Hadrian is a particularly fine example, its condition suggesting that it could not have been in circulation for very long before it was deposited. At this early stage it is also pertinent to highlight the relative rarity of the Neptune Reverse and the previously documented association of this Reverse type with the games held at the Circus Maximus (Elkins 2017), reputed to have been re-instated during Nerva's brief reign.



Plate 25. SF19058:
 Nerva Neptune
 (Reverse) from TEM6



Plate 26. SF19048:
 Nero from TEM6



Plate 27 & 28. SF19052: Hadrian from
 TEM6 (obverse left) showing Fortuna



The date range represented by these coins is provisionally AD 66 to AD 123 (representative of just under 60 years of Roman rule in the region), which may prove useful when considering the possible lifespan of the Phase 1 Temple. Given the date range of the coins and the fact that they were buried during the demolition of the Phase 1 temple, which also included the thorough robbing out of the mosaic flooring, it is a possibility that the coins represent votive objects disturbed during the rebuilding work and consequently reburied by their Roman period finders.

Interestingly, whilst this assemblage of coins was discovered lying broadly on the alignment of the east wall of the *cella*, no coins were retrieved from the exposed length of the south wall. One possible explanation is that the coins were replaced close to their original deposition site, just within the entrance to the *cella*.

Dr Andrew Brown of the British Museum was consulted initially with particular regard to the rare Nerva with the Neptune reverse. Two of the nine coins (i.e. the aforementioned Nerva and the Hadrian Fortuna Redux reverse) are recognised as coins of British Association, i.e. coins produced wholly or predominantly for circulation within Britain (Andrew Brown *pers comm*).

Summary of main observations

- Multiple coins of a similar 330s to 350 AD date range were recovered which require further discussion in relation to a possible episode of later activity at the site;

- A group of 9 coins were recovered from above the demolished footings of the Phase 1 *cella*. They appear to represent the deliberate burial/reburial of selected coins with a range of Emperors from Nero to Hadrian (excluding only Titus);
- The coin group of 9 range in date from 66 AD to 123AD, which reflects at least part of the lifespan of the Phase 1 Temple;
- The coin group includes coins of British association which include a rare coin of Nerva and several coins in particularly good condition. This indicates that these particular coins were taken out of circulation soon after their production;
- Two Iron Age coins were found which pre-date the Roman temple but which suggest a long tradition of votive activity at the site; a single silver Iceni early pattern horse unit and a gold Trinovantian gold quarter stater.

Recommendations for further work

The draft report and detailed catalogue prepared by CRP member Ian Jackson will be finalised in collaboration with Dr Andrew Brown following a reappraisal of each individual coin. A wide range of further reference material will be researched as required. Further identification may also be assisted by the review of the x-ray plates of the assemblage, particularly for those coins in poorer states of preservation.

Alongside the pottery assemblage, the coin dating will make a significant contribution to dating the recorded stratigraphy. Parallels for the Roman coin group from the Phase 1 Temple *cella* will be sought and the interpretation and significance of this unusual discovery at Caistor discussed in both a regional and national context. The fact that we have an associated group of deliberately buried coins representing a near complete sequence of Emperors from Nero to Hadrian, possibly of rediscovered votive offerings disturbed during the temple rebuild, is highly unusual and certainly worthy of further research and discussion. Further research will be conducted to establish if precedents exist elsewhere on Romano-British temple sites.

Following more detailed stratigraphic analysis, a further discussion on the significance and date of the Roman coin assemblage will be produced and also a discussion in terms of the assemblage's contribution to further interpretation of Romano-British activity associated with the temple complex.

The overall coin assemblage will also be considered in a wider context in comparison to other past and recently collected assemblages from phases of archaeological work at Temple Field and at the Roman town, with trends in coin losses discussed in further detail. In terms of the pattern of coin loss this small assemblage is characterised by the range of mid-1st to early 2nd century coins recovered from the area of the phase I *cella*. This feature is redolent of the pattern exhibited by the coins recovered during the mid-1980's metal detecting survey referred to elsewhere which is unique to the area in and around the temple. Whilst the assemblages from both 2018 and 2019 are small, and thus any interpretation must be tempered with a degree of caution, the AD 330s to 350 date of the coins from the Temple excavation are perhaps indicative of a significant development in terms of later activity within the temple precinct around that date. Several coins of similar issue dates were also recovered during the 2018 work, including the possible votive placement of a coin below an arrangement of oyster shells.

Temple Field was the subject of severe nighthawking during the 1980's which led to a concerted effort under the direction of the late Tony Gregory, to remove, with the assistance of local metal detectorists, as much of the remaining cultural material from the field as possible (Gregory 1991). The survey produced one Gallo-Belgic stater from Police House Field c. 60 – 50 BC, one Gallo-Belgic quarter stater c. 65 – 50 BC and a total of eleven Iron Age units. The latest finds of Iron Age coins will be examined in the wider context of these

previous finds and also in reference to the recovery of Iron Age pottery sherds from the 2019 excavation at the Temple.

Appropriate site figures will be presented in the final report to illustrate the position of the coin group. A selection of coins will be photographed to provide a source of illustrative material for the final report.

More specific dissemination relating to the coin group at the temple site may be sought in order to broadcast the discovery to relevant archaeological groups within the field of the Roman archaeology of Britain.

7.8 Ferrous Objects (non-small found)

All ferrous items collected by context were catalogued and assessed as possible objects requiring Small Finds status. Cataloguing and initial analysis was carried out by CRP volunteers Janet Christmas and Andy Woodman. The detailed catalogue (which includes weights, forms size ranges) will be presented as an appendix in the final report

A total of 301 ferrous objects/fragments were collected from across all three trenches, nearly all of which have not been recorded as small finds. Of these, 263 have been classified as iron nails and the remaining as fragmentary objects. Of the nails, 42 can be identified as modern (19th to 21st century), the remainder are currently believed to be of Romano-British date, although those collected from ploughsoil layers have the potential to be of post-Roman date. A small number of modern objects (such as nuts, bolts and electrical screws) were identified from the ploughsoil for immediate discard. A few examples of iron plough share tips were collected from ploughsoil layers as possible testament to the damage done to the top of the Temple walls.

TEM 5 produced 101 nails plus 11 other objects totalling a weight of 1,155g. Of these objects, 55 were collected from the topsoil/ploughsoil, with the remaining 57 from archaeological deposits which include the fills of robber cuts, Roman make-up layers and pit fills. Aside from the Roman period objects, only a small number of iron objects were identified as Roman by either form or context. They include a near complete Roman key (SF19028) recovered from the fill of a Robber pit and the tip of another ?Roman key (SF19028) from the ploughsoil. A possible hobnail was identified from Roman make-up layer (5033). A split ring of uncertain date (SF19017) which may be from a horse harness was recovered from the ploughsoil.

TEM6 produced 68 nails plus 26 other objects totalling a weight of 745g. Just 29 of these were sourced from archaeological deposits, 18 of which were well-corroded nails. Of the remainder several ferrous like masses may in fact be slag waste and require reclassification. Amongst the rest are corroded iron plate fragments, a triangular shaped fragment and a small iron-ring which has currently been classified as a possible finger ring (SF19039). Two ferrous objects were collected from the ploughsoil of uncertain date; a possible blade fragment (SF19018) and a fine but corroded iron pin (SF19023). A roughly circular concave disc with a diameter of 30mm with traces of a broken shaft was also collected from the ploughsoil and currently remains unidentified.

TEM7 produced 94 nails (weighing 428g) and no objects earlier than modern in date were identified. Of these nails 42 were collected from Roman period contexts in the form of dumped rubble spreads and hollow way fills and within lower subsoils.

Recommendations for further work

A very small selection of ferrous objects may benefit from X-ray to assist in their interpretation. Specialist finds identification advice will be sought to further identify these objects and any relevant parallels will be sought. The few more complete examples of Roman period nails will

be reassessed to confirm their potential uses as carpentry, masonry or other forms of nails. A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP members Janet Christmas and Andy Woodman. A finalised version will be presented within the final report, which will discuss the ferrous assemblage further in relation to Roman period activity.

7.9 Worked Flint

Analysis by Sarah Bates BA MCIfA

A total of 153 flints were recovered from Trenches TEM5, TEM6 and TEM7. The flint has been subject to an initial analysis and assessment prior to recommendations for further analysis work. The assemblage has been quantified and catalogued by context and is summarised in the table below. No significant concentrations of flint were identified within individual contexts. A summary of the flint assemblage by type is given here, followed by a summary by trench. A more detailed catalogue table of the worked flint by context has been prepared and will be presented in the final analysis report.

Type	Count
Flake	100
Blade-like flake	10
Bladelet	1
Spall	14
Retouched flake	18
Retouched blade	1
Utilised flake	8
Utilised blade	1
Total	153

Summary of worked flint by type

TEM5

Eight pieces of flint were recovered from TEM5. Most of these are quite thin flakes, three, all from upper robber-trench fill (5017), are the same slightly brownish grey flint and two of these are of a slightly 'flattish' nature and two have pronounced ripple on their ventral surface. A similar flake (with a tiny area of probable mortar adhering) and another irregular long flake of dark grey flint (which has some possible 'splashes' of mortar or lime) were from an underlying spit of the same robber-trench fill (5020). Flakes are slightly edge damaged although quite sharp in nature. A thick flake or fragment with heavily abraded dorsal face has blade-type scars and may be from a blade core but its ventral face has a patchy cream-coloured accretion. A small primary flake is edge retouched with small indentations.

TEM6

A total of 86 flints came from TEM6, the largest trench. These are mainly unmodified flakes most of which are sharp although some pieces are edge damaged. There are twelve spalls. Various flakes are present including a small number catalogued as blade-like flakes although these are irregular. Three very sharp quite small longish flakes (two of them blade-like) with cortex along one side but not at their dorsal face came from robber-disturbance fill (6045). They are all similar (although one has slightly thinner cortex) but the pieces do not refit. Another similar flake, this with small patches of a cream-coloured accretion, came from Roman pit fill (6059) along with a narrow splinter of flint with probable mortar adhering to it. Part of a small blade/bladelet was found in the lower ?pre-Temple subsoil layer (6070) and is probably earlier Neolithic. Several flakes have a cream-coloured surface accretion, some of which appears to be mortar e.g. from topsoil (6023) and very sharp pieces from plaster rich debris layer (6066). Four pieces, a blade and three flakes, have slight retouch or possible retouch of their edges and four have utilised edges (also a blade and three flakes).

TEM7

A total of 59 struck flints were recovered from TEM7. Mostly these were unmodified flakes with three of them blade-like in nature. Most of the flakes are small and there are two spalls. Flint ranges from very sharp to slightly edge damaged in nature. A few flakes are of a smooth rather opaque light grey flint. Fourteen flakes, in total, have evidence of retouch and five appear to be edge-utilised. One large quite thick flake has multi direction dorsal scars and some slight edge retouch although the piece is edge damaged and abraded (from topsoil 7004). Its proximal end is irregular, probably mishit from a thicker flake or multi -platform core. Three other large flakes have probable slight edge retouch although all are edge damaged so this is uncertain. These are; an irregular long flake from lower subsoil (7020), and two large wide flakes from cleaner lower subsoil (7023); one thin and flattish, the other thick with a pronounced percussion cone and repeatedly struck platform edge. Both have multi direction negative scars at their dorsal faces. A small very thin flake fragment, of opaque near white flint possibly from the surface of a flaked tool has very slight likely edge retouch which could indicate reuse, from lower subsoil (7020). Another large wide flake with multi directional dorsal scars has at least one slightly utilised edge (one edge may be slightly retouched) again from (7020); the hinge fracture of its distal edge makes it easy to hold so, although a waste flake, it was eminently suitable for use. Of note from this trench are the several really quite large flakes some of which are modified by slight retouch or use of an edge although they appear to be waste flakes from reducing cores or tools; they have been struck from flaked surfaces.

Context and discussion

Much of the flint was collected from Roman dated contexts, with some flints also collected from lower subsoil horizons of possible pre-Roman date. There are several quite regular thin flakes which may represent prehistoric knapping but the presence of probable mortar or similar material, including on one of those, as well as the sharpness of the flakes, their nature, and the fact that three of them from one deposit appear to be of the same flint might suggest that they are of a later date, although this is uncertain.

In TEM6, two or three prehistoric flints came from an archaic tree-throw (6081 & 6082) sealed by the construction of the Phase 1 Roman Temple floor. They include a utilised flake from (6082) but the pieces are not closely dateable, although those from (6082) particularly are slightly glossy in surface appearance compared to many of the flints from the site indicating slight abrasion. It is noted that none of these pieces has any of the cream surface accretion that is noted, mostly on sharp flakes, in several other contexts most of which are topsoil layers or fills of robber trenches relating to Roman walls – (but also two pieces from deep Roman pit [6076]. This accretion is particularly notable on some pieces from ‘plaster-rich demolition layer’ (6066) suggesting it could be due to that material. Possibly some of the flint from this trench (and the other trenches) derived from building materials, or, if prehistoric, had been in contact with the plaster or mortar or substances washing from it. The very sharp nature of some flakes, e.g. topsoil (6035) and robber trenches [6036] and [6045], and their presence in the Roman contexts, especially in the robber trenches where soils seem likely to have included remnants of flint from wall, could suggest the former. There is a discernible difference in the surface appearance of some of the sharp flint and some slightly abraded and ‘glossier’ pieces. This may help differentiate between prehistoric and, possibly, later flint.

The flint from TEM7 is all from Roman contexts or from topsoil or subsoil and apart from three small sharp pieces from mortar layer 7011 which have some surface accretion (like that seen in TEM6) and might relate to building flint, however most of the flint (although varying in nature) appears to be prehistoric. The several large flakes mentioned above are all from lower subsoil contexts (7020) and (7023) and in one case from the topsoil. There are no closely dateable pieces but the large flakes, probably representing preparation of flaked tools, are

likely to be Neolithic and a small thin flake is probably from the surface of a flaked tool. The presence of light grey 'opaque' flint has previously been associated with Neolithic axe manufacture at another Caistor (CRP) site (Wymer Field CRP 16; Emery 2021) and there, also, were found some large thick flakes with multi direction negative scars on their dorsal faces. Although the present assemblage is smaller and mostly residual in its context it is possible that some of it is of a similar nature.

Interim Conclusions

Flint was recovered from all three trenches and included prehistoric material which is likely to date from several different periods and represents activity in the vicinity from the earlier Neolithic onwards. No closely dateable tools are present and a small number of large flakes are notable as probable evidence of Neolithic working, perhaps in the preparation of axes. They can be compared to similar pieces found during CRP excavations in 'Wymer Field' just to the northeast of Caistor Old Hall where a much larger, although residual, assemblage was recorded.

Many flakes have a cream-coloured surface accretion which may have derived from contact with mortar rich building waste in their proximity. Some flakes (including most of those with the surface accretion) are very sharp, and their presence in Roman contexts suggests that some of the flint can be considered as building debris.

Further work

The worked flint assemblage will be reconsidered following stratigraphic analysis of the site and where possible prehistoric activity more clearly identified from flint debris produced from building materials. The occurrence of Iron Age pottery at the site will be also be taken into consideration, along with small quantities of worked flint listed within NHER 9787 recorded as surface finds from this field (which include flakes, a scraper and a double-platform core classed as Neolithic). The overall assemblage will also be discussed in relation to material reported on from the excavation of the Ancillary Building here in 2018 and earlier phases of excavation at the Roman town and its immediate landscape.

7.10 Glass

Analysis by Dr Harriet Foster

Introduction

The assemblage comprises 50 small fragments with a combined weight of just 105.7g, one complete bead (SF19055) weighing 2.06g and one 'blob' of glass weighing 0.92g. The vast majority of the material is post-medieval or modern in date, and this is marked in the catalogue as such and not discussed here any further. However, there are six fragments from a minimum of one, possibly two, vessels that can be dated as Roman and a small number of other pieces from well stratified Roman contexts that could also be Roman.

Discussion

The bead from Roman make-up layer (5033), SF 19055, as noted above, is complete. It is an annular translucent cobalt blue bead with an opaque white wave pattern running around the outside of the bead. It falls neatly into Group 5A published by Guido (1978, p. 63, and see Plate 1 no. 10d) and is Iron Age/Roman in date with use into the 6th-7th centuries not unknown, although Guido notes that the stronger (cobalt) blue beads are more associated with the Roman period. These beads seem to be found far more commonly in Romano-British contexts than in Roman contexts on the continent. For further discussion and photographic illustration see the Small Finds section (7.18).

The black blob of glass from fill (6032) of a shallow pit/hollow, SF 19032, looks to be waste material, possibly from a high temperature industry, but cannot be dated on its characteristics alone or without further contextual information.

Six small fragments of glass Roman vessel pieces are of very similar type and form. Of these, three were collected from the topsoil/ploughsoil (5010) and three from the fills (5036) & (5041) of Roman pit [5042] (which contained ashy material and a ?votive twisted torc bracelet) and include SFs 19044 and 19045. The three from the topsoil/ploughsoil weigh 3.62g while those from the pit weigh 3.02g.

This vessel form was a barrel-shaped cylindrical bottle with a corrugated body (Isings 1957, forms 89, 128; Price & Cottam 1998: 209-211). These vessels feature an out-turned rim with the edge folded or rolled in, a short cylindrical neck, a horizontal shoulder, vertical sides that are ribbed in two bands and usually divided by a plain section and then a concave base. They can have one or two reeded or ribbed angular ribbon handles. Some examples feature initials on their base, e.g. FRO (as well as others), which has led to them being nicknamed 'Frontinus' bottles.

Interestingly, a couple of the body fragments seem to show warping from heat after the vessel was broken. This vessel type was blown into a mould and the mould seam is still visible on one of the warped fragments. Two fragments come from the shoulder of the bottle where it is curving to join the side of the vessel. At least one bottle is represented as the colour, quality and thickness of the fragments is very consistent. It is possible that a second bottle is present as the ribbing on one fragment is slightly more condensed than that seen on the others, but as some heat damage may have occurred and altered their original shape, this observation is made very tentatively.

Barrel-shaped bottles (usually in blue-green glass) are usually recovered from late 1st and 2nd century contexts, and then it seemed the vessel type went out of production only to be reintroduced in the late Roman period. Those found in later 3rd and 4th century contexts tend to be shades of pale green, yellow green or greenish colourless. On this basis alone the fragments recovered from Caistor would be classified as 4th century in date, possibly towards the mid/latter end of the century given their colour and very bubbly nature of the glass. Given the source of some of the glass from a pit which also contained Roman pottery and other artefacts, a careful comparison of spotdates should be made to confirm this conclusion, as pottery currently suggests a spot date of Late 2nd to mid 3rd century AD.



Plate 29. Six pieces from barrel-shaped glass vessels from (5010) (5036) (5041), including SF19044 & SF19045

Many parallels exist in Britain as it was a common form (Price & Cottam 1998: 210-211). Where bottles have been found in high densities with designs in relief on their bases, it is suggestive of different locales of manufacture; 'ECVA' on bottles from locations around Cologne, Bonn, Krefeld and Jülich are thought to have been made at glass production sites west of Cologne, at 'Hambach 132' (e.g. Follmann-Schulz 1999) and bottles with basal stamps or variations of 'FRO' tend to be found in concentration in Normandy (e.g. Arveiller-Dulong et al. 2003).

A small number of small glass fragments are not easily characterised as Roman but are sourced from well stratified Roman deposits. They include a further two piece of possible bottle glass in pale green from the fill (5041) of Roman pit [5042] and a basal piece of colourless glass from a thick-walled vessel from a sandy/gravel layer sealing the Phase 1 Temple remains (6044). Three pieces from a Roman make-up layer (5035) should be considered with caution due to possible plough scar disturbance.

Recommendations

The full analysis report and finalised catalogue will be included within the overall excavation report. The glass will be referenced to a published summary of glass from excavations at Temple Field in EAA30 by J.Price and H.E.M.Cool (recovered from investigations of the west gate, temple and temenos walls) and the glass assemblage recovered during the 2018 excavation of the ancillary building. The temple assemblage will be discussed in terms of its significance to past activities at the site, as well as within a wider framework with regards known Roman glass assemblages at Caistor (one of a handful of sites nationally where Roman glass furnaces have been discovered).

The bead and barrel-shaped bottle are both worthy of publication in any report covering the corpus of finds from the site. No further assessment should be necessary as a detailed identification and report has been provided above. Further contextual information about the 'blob' of glass and any high temperature industry potentially nearby may aid in its interpretation. Given the source of some of the glass from a pit which also contained Roman pottery and other artefacts, a comparison of spotdates should be made to confirm the date of the glass vessel fragments. The presence of the glass here should be included in any discussion of the pit fill in relation to the presence of a possible votive deposit. A small number of pieces may be worthy of further classification as Roman following a review of their stratigraphic context.

7.11 Metal Working Debris (MWD)

In total, 33 pieces of Metal Working Debris (MWD) weighing a total of 432g were collected from deposits within all three trenches (see tables below). The range of slag types present appear to be sourced from iron bloomery smelting furnaces, including amorphous slags and possible lining pieces.

No features or deposits clearly associated with metal working were uncovered during the excavation. Three pieces of slag were collected from contexts of Roman date, suggesting some localised metalworking of Roman or earlier date in the general vicinity. No major concentrations of metal working debris were collected on site and this small assemblage is mainly derived from ploughsoil horizons. If the activity were taking place within the areas of the trenches, a far greater volume of debris would be expected

TEM5				
Context	Context Type	Count	Wt (g)	Comments
5010	Spit of ploughsoil	4	60g	Slag
5029	Cobble rich layer	2	10g	Possible kiln lining
5052	Fill of Roman pit [5051]	1	5g	Slag
<i>Totals</i>		7	75g	

TEM6				
Context	Context Type	Count	Wt (g)	Comments
6000	Topsoil/ploughsoil	1	9g	Slag
6002	Topsoil/ploughsoil	1	8g	Slag

TEM6				
Context	Context Type	Count	Wt (g)	Comments
6018	Lower spit of ploughsoil	2	19g	Slag
6019	Lower spit of ploughsoil	5	148g	Slag
6023	Lower spit of ploughsoil	2	48g	Slag
6024	Lower spit of ploughsoil	1	6g	Slag
6027	Lower spit of ploughsoil	1	20g	Slag
6027	Lower spit of ploughsoil	1	13g	Possible kiln lining
6029	Lower spit of ploughsoil	7	60g	Slag
6033	Lower spit of ploughsoil	4	15g	Lighter brown, kiln lining?
		25	346g	

TEM7				
Context	Context Type	Count	Wt (g)	Comments
7013	Tess. dump	1	11g	Slag
	<i>Totals</i>	1	11g	

Recommendations for further work

A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Andy Woodman and a finalised version incorporating any further classification of the slag forms, further stratigraphic analysis and an overall discussion of the metal working debris assemblage in relation to those produced from other seasons of excavation at the site will be presented within the final report.

7.12 Mortar rubble

A total of 1141 fragments of mortar rubble were collected from across the three trenches, with a total weight of 67.360 kg. Only the larger well consolidated pieces were collected during the excavation as baulk finds for closer inspection and it should be noted that mortar debris was relatively ubiquitous within the Roman deposits. The majority of the mortar collected by both count and weight was from TEM5 (530 pieces, weighing 44.406kg), with 326 pieces from TEM6 (9.069kg) and 285 from TEM7 (13.885kg).

Just over 50% of the mortar from TEM5 was from the fills of robber cuts, with the remainder from make-up layers, pit fills and the ploughsoil. Larger mortar pieces from TEM6 were only present within the ploughsoil and in TEM7 the most pieces were from the rubble filled hollow way ([7019]) and its associated spread of rubble.

In general, the mortar was of a slightly calcareous gritty sandy yellow fabric with variable inclusions of small to medium sized flints. Some pieces were clearly from walling fabric while others are from render and flooring and together the assemblage represents a mix of residual and dumped mortar debris from the demolition of the temple buildings.

Although each piece has been fully catalogued, none are worthy of retention as part of the finds archive, although a sample of material may be retained for reference.

7.13 *Opus signinum*

A total of 496 fragments of *opus signinum* rubble were collected from across the three trenches, with a total weight of 28.854kg. The majority was from TEM6 (weighing 11.442kg), although the 138 fragments from TEM5 were on average larger (weighing 11.973kg). TEM7 produced 81 fragments (5.439kg).

The pattern of distribution within all three trenches was very similar to the mortar rubble discussed above, although more *opus signinum* was collected from make-up and debris rich layers than from robber cuts in TEM5.

The *opus signinum* fragments indicate residual waste, although the relatively small volume compared with what could be expected from demolished floor material may be the result of robbing out for reuse within building material elsewhere. This appears to be borne out within the archaeological stratigraphy, where the floor levels of both Temple phases were shown to have been thoroughly robbed away. It should be noted that *opus signinum* rubble was used within the foundations of the Phase 2 ambulatory masonry, where traces of it were recorded as a core to the wall, resting directly upon the Roman concrete footings. It seems highly likely that this material was sourced from the demolition of the Phase 1 Temple.

Although each piece has been fully catalogued none are worthy of retention as part of the finds archive, although a sample of material may be retained for reference.

7.14 **Painted wall plaster** *Analysis by Chrissy Sullivan*

Introduction

A total of 814 painted wall plaster fragments (with a combined weight of c.7.3kg) were collected by context during the excavation. The material was carefully dry-cleaned of adhering soil and then allowed to dry thoroughly with the help of silica. Each individual fragment was given a unique identifier (Plaster Sample No.) Following supportive packing, the assemblage was then examined in detail and sorted into the range of similar painted colours and designs on each fragment, although only a very few fragments could be connected by colour or design. A dedicated group of the CRP Finds Processing team then attempted to match and refit pieces that shared any common designs or pigmentation. The colours, weight and dimensions were recorded for each individual piece and attached mortar was also assessed and recorded. Painted pieces have each been photographed for reference purposes only at present, selected images of which are presented here.



Plate 30. Example of a Painted Plaster record shot

Pigments

Although some pieces are well preserved with good, coloured plaster surviving, the majority of the fragments recovered are relatively small and many of them are worn with only a small amount of pigmentation adhering to the mortar. For classification, the discrimination of the colours was problematic. Pinks, Reds, Purples and Browns were often difficult to distinguish between as were Buff, Cream and White which could be classed as different shades of similar colours. Greens and Blues were also similar as are the Yellows. A choice was made as to which colour or colours could be observed in a natural light and this is the colour that has been recorded against each fragment.

Examples of each of these colours can be found on at least the following number of fragments (see table below). Many fragments are polychrome, although by far the largest number of pieces are in the red range of colours.

Colour	Count
Orange/'terracotta'	458
Red/'terracotta'	542
Dark Red	170
Pink	133
Blue	85
Pale Purple	43
Mid-Purple	39
Dark Purple	13
Dark Purple/Brown	67
Green	159
Brown	32
Yellow	331
Buff	30
Cream	77
White	40
Grey	175
Black	253

Plaster pigmentation variations

Decorative patterns

From the high percentage of red toned pieces, we can surmise that some walls (if not all) contained plain areas/panels. Linear features/borders also appear on several fragments and we have a couple that can be refitted together (Plate: PS428/429) but as they are all small, they grant only limited information about the overall panel designs.

There are several notable fragments that give an indication of how the walls were decorated. The most striking features found on the plaster are designs of flora. There are some pieces that clearly show leaves and flowers but again these are only fragmentary glimpses of what the decorated walls may have looked like overall (Plate: PS 431/432/435).

Also, on many of the fragments one colour has been applied on top of another either by design to mask earlier paint or in the process of building up a design (Plate: PS327).

Although some pieces stand out as well preserved, much of the paint is in a poor condition. Evidence of some scoring across the surface of a small number of pieces was noted in what appears to be a purposeful arrangement of lines (Plate: T5 (5020)). This could be a technique to prepare the surface for painting, although closer study may suggest other reasons.

The Mortar

The mortar render supporting the plaster was recorded and classified based on a defined criterion dividing the material by the size, type and abundance of inclusions. Details of the

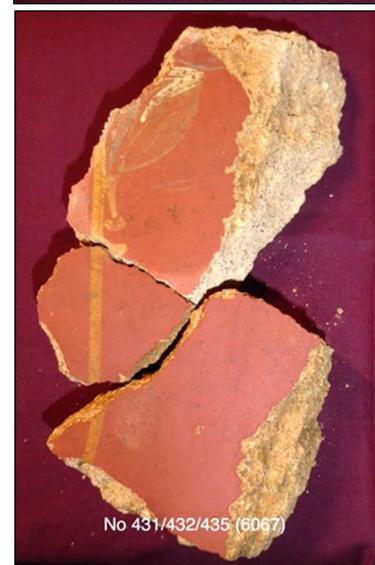


Plate 31. Painted plaster refits

mortar classification will be presented in the final report. In general, the sandy and slightly calcareous mortar mixes used range from fine and gritty to coarser and stonier types and includes a few examples of painted *opus signinum*.



Plate 32. Layered pigments and line marked plaster

TEM5

A total of 141 fragments of Painted Plaster were recovered from TEM5, weighing 2247.02g (see accompanying table). Approximately thirteen differing main colours were found but some of these were identified as being not a clear example of colour, whether because the pigment had faded or the design called for a less definite application of colour. Of these, 85 fragments were in the red range of colour either in full or as part of the colour range present on a fragment. Other colour ranges collected were wide ranging and a small number exhibited lines/borders. One fragment with a purple to brown tone is clearly painted with foliage in a dark cream paint (TEM5/PS14).

Of this material, the majority appears as residual fragments rather than concentrated deposits representative of demolition rich material. The largest number of fragments were collected from Robber cuts associated with the Phase 2 Temple masonry (65 pieces / 46%), with other pieces collected from make-up layers and pits.

TEM5 – Painted Plaster			
Context	Type	Count	Wt (g)
5010	Topsoil/Ploughsoil	17	87.97
5016	Upper fill of demolition disturbance [5021]	2	12.12
5017	Same as (5016)	3	51.88
5019	Fill of deep Robber Cut [5021]	31	599.98
5020	Fill of deep Robber Cut [5021]]	4	71.15
5023	Fill of Robber Cut [5022]	1	10.7
5028	Primary fill of Fill of deep Robber Cut [5021]	23	293.36
5029	Cobble rich mortar waste layer	11	117.08
5033	Mortar waste layer	20	261.79
5035	Mixed make-up/trample layer	4	56.5
5036	Fill of Roman pit [5042]	12	59.5
5038	Layer	8	68.9
5039	Layer	2	4.22
5041	Fill of Roman pit [5042]	6	37.25
5043	Mortar waste layer	13	352
5045	Fill of Robber Cut [5046]	1	1.24
5047	Layer	4	24.13
5048	Renumbered as (5049)	1	5.56
5049	Fill of Pit [5048]	1	2.11
5052	Fill of Pit [5051]	12	115.86
	Total	141	2247.02g

TEM6

A total of 468 fragments of Painted Plaster were recovered from TEM6, weighing 3361.53g (see accompanying table). This trench was the largest of the trenches and uncovered the ambulatory and *cella* areas of two separate phases of temple. These pieces showed more variation in their designs and application of pigments with many pieces exhibiting multiple pigments. Approximately 15 main colour types were identified in similar ranges to those recovered in TEM5 but with the addition of many more decorated pieces showing linear bands and decorative foliage (c. 45 pieces). The assemblage also includes several individual pieces of much larger size collected from plaster debris rich layers. An initial view of the source contexts shows that the vast majority of this plaster material (455 pieces / 97%) was collected from layers associated with the demolition of the Phase 1 Temple.

TEM6 – Painted Plaster			
Context	Type	Count	Wt (g)
6020	Phase 2 Temple <i>cella</i> wall	1	2.33
6027	Ploughsoil	1	2.94
6035	Sand/gravel layer sealing Phase 1 temple	5	22.07
6036	Fill of Robber Disturbance [6049]	12	96.85
6042	Backfill of Mottram's T7	1	8.83
6044	Sand/gravel layer sealing Phase 1 temple	9	17
6056	Soil build-up/make-up	6	21.26
6059	Upper fill of Roman pits [6080] & [6076]	1	14
6062	Demolition layer containing Phase 1 Temple material	66	371.34
6063	Roman soil horizon	8	41.64
6066	Plaster debris rich demolition layer containing Phase 1 Temple material	299	2163.31
6067	Demolition layer containing Phase 1 Temple material	45	535.47
6075	Fill of Roman pit [6075]	1	3.79
u/s	Spoil finds	5	18.1
Total		468	3361.53g

TEM7

A total of 205 fragments of Painted Plaster were recovered from TEM7, weighing 1678.93g (see accompanying table). Apart from one fragment (which has blue pigment) all the fragments fell into only two main colour groups, one being red tone pigments and the other white tone. The red pigments ranged between pink, red, terracotta, brown to dark red. The other was made up of white, cream and buff. The vast majority of the single tone plain fragments are in red 'terracotta' tones. The largest individual fragments collected were from this trench, recovered from the rubble infill of a hollow way. It was the infills of this hollow way that produced the vast majority of the painted plaster (c. 182 pieces / c. 89%), alongside tile and mortar debris currently suspected to represent demolition material from the Phase 2 Temple.

Context	Type	Count	Wt (g)
7011	Mortar & cbm rich Rubble debris upper fill of ?hollow way [7019]	5	141.06
7012	Rubble debris spread	2	3.75
7017	Tile rich rubble fill of ?hollow way [7019]	83	658.05
7021	Lower subsoil	13	33.03
7023	Lower subsoil	3	18.96
7027	Fill of poss. hollow way?	1	6.37
U/S	Spoil – mainly generated from fills of [7019]	94	668.53
Total		205	1678.93

Summary of initial observations

As with the painted plaster assemblage from the 2018 excavation of the ancillary building, the evidence for overall decorative themes is limited due to the fragmentary nature of the pieces. However, it currently appears that the painted walls used within both phases of the temple may have been predominantly of plain coloured areas (dominated by red tones) with narrow coloured borders and areas within the Phase 1 temple at least also including floral decorations and possibly a much wider variation in colours. During the 1st and 2nd Centuries, it was usual for decorated wall surfaces to have an evenly applied base colour, and this is what has been found on this site as opposed to 3rd and 4th century methods when surface colours were usually applied directly on to the white plaster.

When compared to the painted plaster collected from the ancillary building in 2018, the fragments from the Temple are less faded and worn in comparison. Both assemblages have some depiction of nature, being birds from the auxiliary building and plants from the Temple. Thus, both fauna and foliage are depicted and may be a theme of the wall decoration in the buildings on this site, both designs being ubiquitous themes throughout the Roman period.

Recommendations for further work

Although fragmentary, this assemblage of painted wall plaster forms a highly significant new data set of secure provenance, deriving from two phases of the Romano-British temple. The 1957 excavation produced 40 recorded painted fragments, while this new investigation provides an additional 814 pieces with an even greater array of colours and patterns.

This initial assessment report and catalogue will contribute to further analysis of the assemblage and a finalised report incorporating further stratigraphic details, interpretation and any further analysis work supported by a detailed catalogue to be presented within the final excavation report.

This will include reference to the painted wall plaster pieces recovered from the temple excavations by Mottram; the published account in EAA30 reports that 24 pieces of these were painted in red tones, three in brownish-yellow and two in black which have been used to suggest that the predominant colour was red, perhaps surrounded by polychrome borders. A piece with an unidentifiable motif is also mentioned. They were found scattered outside the temple and in the ambulatory and are currently assumed to relate to the Phase 2 Temple.

The work in 2019 has revealed two phases of temple and a large percentage of the painted plaster collected can be assigned to the Phase 1 temple, which can be contrasted to the plaster collected from deposits derived from the demolition of the Phase 2 temple.

A review of the designs and colouring patterns will be made for stylistic parallels, although styles and patterns must be deduced with caution within this fragmentary assemblage. Davey & Ling's classifications and style trends for British wall patterns will be consulted (Davey.N & Ling. R. 1982) to allow for some discussion on possible design elements for expected zones of decoration i.e. the dado, main zone and frieze. This may assist in general dating by trend, but the main dating will rely on the stratigraphic data of the site, unless charcoal or other organic elements with the potential for Radiocarbon dating can be identified within the make-up of the plaster.

A selection of pieces will be subject to further photographic, hand-drawn and computer aided illustration. Any further examination of the pigments and designs would need to be expertly undergone using macro photography, magnification using polarising light methods, X-radiography and thin section analysis techniques. Chemical analysis of the pigmentation is also possible through sampling and scientific analysis, such as X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry. External advice and potential analysis are yet to be secured but may include the resources of Nottingham University. The temple assemblage may be amalgamated with the ancillary building assemblage for such a study.

Parallels for other painted wall plaster of similar form/date from religious contexts within the region will be researched in consultation with Professor Will Bowden and a network of Romano-British specialists. The discovery here will be discussed within its implications for interpretation of the building and in the context of the regional significance of such a discovery where only a limited number of Roman sites have produced painted plaster.

7.15 Pottery – Prehistoric

Analysis by Sarah Percival, BA MA MCIFA

A total of 98 sherds weighing 705g were collected from nineteen contexts across three trenches (Table 1). The majority of the sherds date to the Later Iron Age 350BC-50BC; 78 sherds, 608g) and Late Iron Age (50BC-70AD; fifteen sherds 77g). Three sherds (16g) are Early Iron Age (650BC-350BC). One sherd, 2g is not closely datable. The assemblage is relatively fragmented and poorly preserved with an average sherd weight of 7g.

Trench	Feature no.	Feature type	Context	Pottery period	Pottery date	Qty	Wt (g)
5	5009	Unstratified	5009	Later Iron Age	C1BC	1	5
	5010	Topsoil/ploughsoil	5010	Late Iron Age	LC1BC-MLC1AD	6	42
				Later Iron Age	C1BC	6	29
				Late Iron Age	LC1BC-MLC1AD	1	15
	5021	Robber trench	5021	Late Iron Age	LC1BC-MLC1AD	1	2
	5022	Robber trench	5023	Late Iron Age	LC1BC-MLC1AD	1	1
	5033	Layer	5033	Later Iron Age	350BC+	1	5
5042	Pit	5036	Late Iron Age	LC1BC-MLC1AD	5	14	
6	6019	Subsoil	6019	Later Iron Age	350BC+	1	9
	6034	Ploughsoil	6034	Late Iron Age	LC1BC-MLC1AD	1	4
	6062	Layer	6062	Later Iron Age	350BC+	1	4
	6077	Subsoil	6077	Early Iron Age	650BC-350BC	1	6
	6081	Natural feature	6083	Later Iron Age	350BC+	1	12
	6082	Natural feature	6068	Early Iron Age	650BC-350BC	1	5
				Later Iron Age	350BC+	2	5
				Late Iron Age	LC1BC-MLC1AD	2	10
Not closely datable				1	2		
7	7019	Holloway	7011	Iron Age	650BC-350BC	1	2

Trench	Feature no.	Feature type	Context	Pottery period	Pottery date	Qty	Wt (g)
			7017	Later Iron Age	350BC+	1	20
	7020	Subsoil	7020	Early Iron Age	650BC-350BC	1	5
				Late Iron Age	LC1BC-MLC1AD	1	14
				Later Iron Age	350BC+	17	115
	7021	Subsoil	7021	Later Iron Age	350BC+	2	12
	7023	Subsoil	7023	Later Iron Age	350BC+	5	26
				Late Iron Age	LC1BC-MLC1AD	3	20
	7025	Subsoil	7025	Later Iron Age	350BC+	30	308
	7026	Holloway	7027	Later Iron Age	350BC+	4	13
Totals						98	705

Table 1: Quantity and weight of pottery by trench, feature, context and date.

Methodology

The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the guidelines for analysis and publication recommended by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Vessel form was recorded and the sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration, condition, food residues and sooting were also noted.

Assemblage description

TEM5

No Early Iron Age pottery was encountered within this trench. Later Iron Age pottery came from topsoil/ ploughsoil (5010), Roman make-up layer (5033) and unstratified context (5009). The Later Iron Age sherds are all handmade of reduced sandy fabrics and include two very small rim fragments of undiagnostic form and seven undecorated body sherds. Thirteen Late Iron Age sherds weighing 59g in slow wheel finished/ wheel thrown Early Sandy Greyware and grog tempered ware came from topsoil (5010), robber trenching [5021] and [5022], and Roman pit [5042] (Table 1). These include a rounded everted rim from pit [5042] and a simple base from topsoil [5010].

Feature type	Qty	Wt (g)	% weight
Roman make-up layer	1	5	4.4%
Roman Pit	5	14	12.4%
Robber trench	2	3	2.7%
Unstratified	1	5	4.4%
Topsoil/ploughsoil	13	86	76.1%
Total	22	113	100.0%

Table 2: Quantity and weight of pottery by feature from TEM5.

TEM6

Early Iron Age body sherds in coarse flint-tempered fabric were recovered from the fill of a natural ?treethrow feature [6082] and also from subsoil (6077). Later Iron Age body sherds in sandy fabrics and with fine flint temper came from subsoil (6019), Roman debris/trample layer (6062) and natural feature [6082]. A rounded everted rim came from natural feature [6081]. The rim is from a jar with sinuous profile. The diameter at the rim is 130mm. A body sherd in Late Iron Age Early Sandy Greyware came from ploughsoil layer (6034).

Two Late Iron Age sherds in sandy sandwich ware came from natural feature [6082] mentioned previously, which was noteworthy for also having produced a Trinovantian gold quarter stater (SF19047) and an early Roman brooch (SF19054) from its upper fill.

Feature type	Qty	Wt (g)	% weight
Layer	1	4	7.0%
Natural feature	7	34	59.6%
Subsoil	2	15	26.3%
Ploughsoil	1	4	7.0%
Total	11	57	100.0%

Table 3: Quantity and weight of pottery by feature from TEM6.

TEM7

The majority of the sherds recovered from TEM7 came from lower subsoil layers (Table 4). These include a mix of Iron Age sherds of which one, in flint-tempered fabric is probably Early Iron Age and one, a stepped base sherd in sandy fabric, is Late Iron Age. The remainder of the pottery from the subsoil dates to the Later Iron Age in a range of sandy and sandy with flint fabrics. These include a direct flat rim from a slack shouldered jar and a rounded everted rim from a round bodied bowl. Also included in the subsoil assemblage are four sherds in shell-tempered fabric which may be from a storage jar.

Feature type	Qty	Wt (g)	% weight
Roman Hollow way	6	35	6.5%
Subsoil	59	500	93.5%
Total	65	535	100.0%

Table 4: Quantity and weight of pottery by feature from TEM7.

The rubble filled Roman Hollow way [7026] produced four sherds, 13g. These include a small fragment from a rounded everted rim in sandy fabric with sparse fine flint inclusions.

Discussion

The assemblage is mostly highly fragmented and abraded, commensurate with a largely redeposited and disturbed context of recovery with over 86% being recovered from topsoil, subsoil and plough soil. Two thirds of the pottery was collected from TEM7 just to the south of the temple, the majority from lower subsoils.

Despite the residuality of the finds, this assemblage demonstrates sustained Iron Age activity at the site beginning in the Early Iron Age and continuing through to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman transition. The forms and fabrics of the Later and Late Iron Age assemblage in particular compare well with those indicative of occupation found locally at Harford Park and Ride (Percival 2004), and represent utilitarian vessels used for food preparation cooking and storage. This assemblage builds upon on the recovery of 34 sherds of Iron Age pottery collected as residual finds from the excavation of the Ancillary Building here by the CRP in 2018.



Plate 33. Late Iron Age rim sherd (7025)

Recommendations for further work

This is a small but significant residual assemblage of Iron Age pottery, found in an area where evidence of Iron Age occupation activity has often been presumed but rarely proven through

the archaeological record. The Iron Age pottery will be subject to further discussion within the final report in relation to local evidence for pre-Roman activity at Caistor St Edmund and the site itself, where some form of late Iron Age activity has previously been identified through the discovery of possible votive coinage and the establishment of a Romano-British temple.

A selection of pottery may be photographed/illustrated to provide general illustrative material for the overall report and as reference material for the CRP

Fabric Descriptions

Date	Fabric	Description	Qty	Wt (g)
Early Iron Age	F1	Pale angular abundant medium flint	2	11
	QF1	Sandy with moderate small to medium angular flint	1	5
Iron Age	Q1	Sandy with common rounded quartz sand in fine clay matrix	1	2
Later Iron Age	Q1	Sandy with common rounded quartz sand in fine clay matrix	11	71
	Q1fine	Fine quartz sand in fine clay matrix	1	6
	Q1FISF	Sandy with moderate small angular flint	20	146
	Q1OXS	Sandy with common rounded quartz sand in fine clay matrix and oxidised surfaces	31	305
	QF1	Sandy with common rounded quartz sand in fine clay matrix and rare to moderate medium flint	3	15
	Qqu	Sandy with common white rounded quartz	6	31
	Sh1	Common shell and plate shaped voids	4	24
Late Iron Age	EGTW	Early grog tempered ware	1	1
	ESGW	Early Sandy Grey Ware	13	62
	Q1	Sandy with common rounded quartz sand in fine clay matrix	1	14
	Q1sandwich	Sandy with common rounded quartz sand in fine clay matrix reduced core and pale oxidised surfaces	2	10
Not closely datable	QOXS	Sandy with common rounded quartz sand in fine clay matrix and oxidised surfaces	1	2
Total			98	705

Table 4: Fabric descriptions.

7.16 Pottery – Romano-British

Analysis by Alice Lyons BA MA MCIfA

Introduction

A total of 739 sherds, weighing 4.5kg, of Roman pottery was recovered during the second season of trench excavations at the Caistor Temple Site (RB pot table 1). The pottery is similar in character to the material reported on previously as it comprises locally produced coarse wares, traded fine table wares and some specialist vessels, largely characteristic of the mid-to-late Romano-British era (Lyons 2019).

Trench	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
TEM5	445	2947	65.49

TEM6	95	527	11.71
TEM7	199	1026	22.80
Total	739	4500	100.00

RB pot table 1. The Temple Site pottery by excavation area

The assemblage represents a minimum of 266 fragmentary vessels. No complete vessels were found and none of the pottery was deliberately placed. Indeed, a significant part of the pottery assemblage was recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits (39% by weight) and due to post-depositional disturbance has an average sherd size of only 6g. The pottery is severely abraded and surface residues (such as soot or limescale) were rarely recorded.

Structure of the report

A full report has been submitted by the author to the CRP to contribute to the post-excavation analysis and to be presented in full within the final excavation report. The following information summarises the assemblage as a whole. A more detailed breakdown, analysis and discussion of the dated assemblage by context, ware-type, fabric and form and by trench will appear in the final report, along with accompanying tables and a detailed catalogue listed by Trench and context.

The pottery is summarised here briefly by trench, followed by an overview of the whole pottery assemblage.

TEM5

A total of 445 pottery fragments, weighing 2947g (65.5% of the assemblage by weight) which represent a minimum of 136 vessels, was recovered during excavations in TEM5.

Feature Types	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Pits	169	1303	44.21
Topsoil/ploughsoil	130	862	29.25
Robber cuts	50	371	12.59
Stone/mortar rich make-up layer	24	128	4.34
Unstratified finds	26	124	4.21
General Make-up layers	10	68	2.31
Op sig waste/tile waste rich silty-sand layer	24	67	2.27
Cobble rich make-up	6	15	0.51
Crushed tesserae patch	6	9	0.31
Total	445	2947	100.00

RB pot table 2. TEM5: Roman pottery by feature type, listed in descending order of weight (%)

Although some pottery was recovered from top- and sub-soil deposits, the remainder of the assemblage was associated with deposits associated with the construction, life-span and demolition of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Temple (RB pot table 2). The pottery is severely abraded with an average sherd weight of 6.6g.

A total of fourteen Roman pottery fabrics were identified (RB pot table 3). Much of the pottery comprises locally produced utilitarian Sandy grey (reduced) and white (oxidised) ware jars, dishes and storage jars, with a small number of flagons, beakers and mortaria also found. This material is supplemented by British (Colchester and Nene Valley colour coats, also Hadham and Oxford red wares), Gaulish (samian) and Germanic (Trier black slipped ware) fine table wares in the form of beakers, cups, dishes and plates.

Fabric: abbreviation	Vessel	Sherd Count	Wt (g)	Wt (%)
Sandy grey ware	Beaker, bowl, dish, flagon, jar, lid, mortaria, storage jar	303	1769	60.03
Sandy white ware	Beaker, bowl, crucible, flagon, jar, mortaria, lid, storage jar	86	740	25.11
Samian	Bowl, cup, dish, plate	19	126	4.28
Colchester white ware	?Head-pot	1	75	2.54
Nene Valley white ware	Mortaria, flagon	3	68	2.31
Spanish amphora	Amphora	3	62	2.10
Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker, flanged dish, jar/bowl	4	29	0.98
Fine grey ware	Beaker, jar/bowl	6	26	0.89
Sandy red ware	Beaker, jar/bowl	5	20	0.68
Black burnished ware	Jar	2	10	0.34
Oxford red slipped ware	Jar/bowl	1	9	0.31
Colchester colour coat	Beaker	8	8	0.26
Hadham red slipped ware	Jar/bowl	3	4	0.14
Trier Black slipped ware	Beaker	1	1	0.03
Total		445	2947	100.00

RB pot table 3. TEM5: Roman pottery fabrics and forms, listed in descending order of weight (%)

TEM6

A total of 95 pottery fragments, weighing 527g (c.12% of the assemblage by weight) which represent a minimum of 59 vessels was recovered during excavations in TEM6. The majority of the pottery was recovered from the topsoil, ploughsoil and subsoil layers, some pottery was recovered from demolition and robber activity, a small amount may be contemporary with the use of the two Temple phases (RB pot table 4). The pottery is severely abraded with and average sherd weight of only 5.5g.

Feature	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Topsoil/ploughsoil; Lower subsoil	43	215	40.80
Demolition layers	12	98	18.60
Deep pit	12	87	16.51
Unstratified finds	1	50	9.49
Layer	7	23	4.36
Robber disturbance	10	23	4.36
Sand/gravel make-up (levelling layer)	6	20	3.80
Cobbled surface (Phase 1)	2	7	1.33
Natural feature	1	3	0.57
Pit/hollow	1	1	0.18
Total	95	527	100.00

RB pot table 4. TEM6: Roman pottery by feature type, listed in descending order of weight (%)

A total of seven fabrics were identified (RB pot table 5).

Fabric: abbreviation	Vessel	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Sandy grey ware	Beaker, bowl, dish, jar, storage jar	44	271	51.42
Sandy white ware	Flagon, jar/bowl, mortaria	26	164	31.12
Hadham red slipped ware	Bowl, jar/bowl	7	44	8.35
Samian	Bowl, cup, dish, plate	12	36	6.83

Fabric: abbreviation	Vessel	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker	3	7	1.33
Sandy Coarse ware	Jar/bowl	2	4	0.76
Colchester colour coat	Beaker	1	1	0.19
Total		95	527	100.00

RB pot table 5. TEM5: Roman pottery fabrics and forms, listed in descending order of weight (%)

Most of the pottery comprises locally produced utilitarian Sandy grey (reduced) and white (oxidised) ware jars, dishes and storage jars, with a small number of flagons and a mortarium also found. This material is supplemented by British (Colchester & Nene Valley colour coats, also Hadham red slipped wares) and Gaulish (samian) fine table wares in the form of beakers, cups, dishes and plates.

TEM7

A total of 199 pottery fragments, weighing 1026g (23% of the assemblage by weight) which represent a minimum of 71 vessels, was recovered during excavations in TEM7. Although a large part of the trench assemblage is recovered from top- and sub-soil deposits, material was also retrieved from cut features primarily a rubble infilled hollow way (RB pot table 6). The pottery is, however, still severely abraded with an average sherd size of only 5g.

Feature	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Topsoil, subsoil, ploughsoil	124	558	54.39
Hollow way	41	341	33.24
Layer	33	126	12.28
Unstratified	1	1	0.09
Total	199	1026	100.00

RB pot table 6. TEM7: Roman pottery by feature type, listed in descending order of weight (%)

A total of seven fabrics were identified (RB pot table 7). Much of the pottery comprises locally produced utilitarian Sandy grey (reduced) and white (oxidised) ware jars and dishes, with a small number of flagons, beakers and mortaria also found. Three Shelly coarse ware jar fragments were also recorded. This material is supplemented by British (Nene Valley colour coat and Oxford red wares) and Gaulish (samian) fine table wares in the form of beakers, cup and dish.

Fabric: abbreviation	Vessel	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Sandy grey ware	Beaker, dish, flanged dish, jar, jar/bowl, mortaria, storage jar	162	873	85.09
Sandy white ware	Bowl, flagon, jar	12	92	8.97
Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker	15	29	2.82
South Midland Shelly ware	Jar	3	17	1.66
Sandy red ware	Jar	1	8	0.78
Samian	Cup, dish	4	5	0.49
Oxford red slipped ware	Jar/bowl	2	2	0.19
Total		199	1026	100.00

RB pot table 7. TEM7: Roman pottery fabrics and forms, listed in descending order of weight (%)

An Overview of the Roman pottery

A total of thirteen broad fabric groups were identified (RB pot table 9).

Fabric: abbreviation (Published reference)	Vessel	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Sandy grey ware: SGW; SCW	Beaker, crucible, dish, flanged dish, jar, lid, storage jar, mortaria	513	2927	65.04
Sandy oxidised ware: SOW; SREDW	Beaker, bowl, flagon, jar, lid, mortaria	130	1024	22.75
Samian: SAM (Tomber and Dore 1998, 28-32)	Bowl, cup, dish, plate	35	167	3.71
Colchester white ware: COL WH (Tomber and Dore 1998, 133)	?Head pot	1	75	1.67
Nene Valley oxidised ware: LNV WH (Tomber and Dore 1998, 119)	Flagon, mortaria	3	68	1.51
Nene Valley colour coat: LNV CC (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118)	Beaker, flanged dish, jar/bowl	22	65	1.44
Spanish coarse ware: BAT AM (Tomber and Dore 1998, 85)	Amphora	3	62	1.38
Hadham red ware: HAD OX (Tomber and Dore 1998, 151)	Bowl	10	48	1.08
Fine grey ware: GW(FINE) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 137)	Beaker, jar/bowl	6	26	0.58
South Midland shell tempered ware: ROB SH (Tomber and Dore 1998, 212)	Jar	3	17	0.38
Oxfordshire red slip ware: OXF RS (Tomber and Dore 1998, 176)	Jar/bowl	3	11	0.24
Colchester colour coat: COL CC (Tomber and Dore 1998, 132)	Beaker	9	9	0.20
Trier Black Slipped ware: MOS BS (Tomber and Dore 1998, 60)	Beaker	1	1	0.02
Total		739	4500	100.00

RB pot table 9. The Roman Pottery listed in descending order of weight (%)

Methodology

The Roman pottery was catalogued and summarised following the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Barclay et al 2016). The total assemblage was studied, and a full catalogue was prepared (in archive). An draft appendix table of pottery types by context has been prepared for inclusion in the final report. The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined based on inclusion types present. Vessel forms (jar, bowl) were recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and recorded by context. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted.

Coarse wares

Much of this assemblage (65% by weight) comprises locally produced Sandy Grey ware utilitarian jars, dishes and storage jars - of which globular medium mouthed jars are the most common. Also well represented are straight-sided dishes, which notably include diagnostically late Roman flanged examples (Tyers 1996, 184, fig. 228, no 45). The majority of pieces are undecorated but area burnish and burnished designs (such as vertical lines or lattice) were relatively common, also neck and girth grooves.

This limited range of vessel types is similar to pottery found during previous excavations at Caistor (Atkinson 1937; Lyons in prep). Indeed, some of these wares may have been produced at Caistor as four pottery production kilns have been found, three of which have been published by Atkinson (1932). Some of the material, however, was almost certainly brought to the site from other large Norfolk pottery production centres such as that at

Brampton in central Norfolk (Green 1977) where production was heavily influenced by the Antonine Black Burnished Ware 2 industries of the Upper Thames Valley (Tyers 1996, 186-188). A small amount of Sandy grey ware material is distinctively darker and decorated with rusticated clay and was made in West Norfolk in the mid-to-late Roman era (Lyons 2004, 34). In addition three sherds of late Roman non-local shell tempered ware jar were also recorded, probably traded into Norfolk during the 4th-century AD (Tyers 1996, 192-193). Worthy of note is a small Sandy grey ware vitrified crucible fragment (4g) that was recovered in the Trench 5 ploughsoil (5010), which is indicative of nearby metal working.

Locally produced Sandy oxidised wares are also well represented (23%) and are found in a range of flagon, jar/bowl and miscellaneous mortaria fragments. Some of this oxidised material originated from the Lower Nene Valley, in particular a wall-sided mortaria was found (see below).

Of special interest is a substantial Colchester white ware carinated sherd (75g), which has frilled decoration recovered from the ploughsoil of Trench 5 (5000) – see Plate 34. This is part of a ‘head pot’ which are a particular type of Roman pottery vessel ranging from mid 2st to 3rd century dates that were specifically made to mimic the human head and were used to bury the cremated dead. These vessels are unusual in the ceramic record but are often associated with military garrisons and/or shrines (Braithwaite 2007, pp 253-5, type 1C). Other fragmentary examples have been found during recent excavations of Caistor Roman town (Lyons in prep).



Plate 34. Sherd from a Colchester white ware head pot (funerary vessel) from (5000).

Fine wares

Imports

A small number of distinctive red glossy Gaulish samian imports were found, totalling 35 sherds (167g), representing a minimum of twenty-four individual vessels. This high-status pottery represents 3.7% (by weight) of the total assemblage. The material includes eleven small pieces of late 1st century South Gaulish material including bowl, cup, dish and plate fragments. Most numerous is the central Gaulish ware, commonly imported into south-east Britain throughout the 2nd century AD. Several cups, a dish and a plate were all identified. Samian use continued into the early-mid 3rd century, although only on a small scale as only five East Gaulish cup fragments were identified.

Factory	Vessel type	Shred Count	Weight (g)
South Gaulish samian	Bowl (Dr29, Dr37), cup (Dr27), dish (Dr18/31), plate (Dr18)	11	66
Central Gaulish samian	Cup (Dr27, Dr33, Dr42), dish (Dr18/31), plate (Dr18/31)	19	87
East Gaulish samian	Cup (Walter 80)	5	14
Total		35	167

RB pot table 10. The samian assemblage, listed in chronological order

A single piece of the high-quality Trier Black slipped ware beaker was also recorded - this glossy fine fabric was imported into Britain between the late 2nd and mid-3rd century AD.

Domestic fine wares

The earliest domestic fine wares are the fine grey ware sherds found either as beaker or jar/bowl forms. These fine grey wares were made at a variety of sources including Wattisfield on the Norfolk/Suffolk border and the Lower Nene Valley in Cambridgeshire between the late 1st and mid-2nd century AD (Tyers 1996, 170-171).

Nene Valley colour coated material is well-represented within the assemblage (1.4%); mid-2nd to 3rd century beakers were found, also 3rd and 4th century flanged dishes and jar/bowl pieces. Colchester colour coated roughcast beaker fragments were also found, which are typical of 2nd century production and distribution (Tyers 1996, 167-168). Small quantities of fine red ware jar/bowl forms from both the Hadham and Oxfordshire industries were also found, indicative of regional trade in the 4th century AD.

Specialist wares

Amphora

Three small body sherds of Spanish olive oil amphora (62g) were retrieved in Trench 5; from the ploughsoil (5010) and the fill of a pit (5041), [5042]. This type of amphora, or large storage jar, was widely imported into Britain post-conquest (AD43) up until the mid-3rd century AD (Tyers 1996, 87). The robust nature of the vessels meant that even when broken they were quite often re-used sometimes as building materials or as hardcore.

Mortaria

Mortaria or mixing bowls (Tyers 1996, 117-135) were found in small numbers within the assemblage. These comprise a Nene Valley oxidised ware late Roman wall-sided form (Hartley and Perrin 1999, pp. 131-132), an unsourced sandy oxidised ware bead and flanged example and a sandy grey ware undiagnostic body sherd probably made at Brampton (Green 1977, pp82-83, fig 36, no 236). It is clear these vessels are unusual within the assemblage, with those that can be identified to source traded over long distances within the region.

Fabric	Form	Count	Weight (g)
Lower Nene Valley white ware	Wall-sided form (220mm diameter)	2	57
Sandy white ware	Bead and flanged rim	2	53
Sandy grey ware (blue)	Undiagnostic mortaria	1	19
Total		5	129

RB pot table 11. The mortaria assemblage, listed in descending order of weight (g)

Summary

The opportunity to excavate for a second season on the Caistor temple site with its associated villa-class type building has led to the further collection of a potentially very

important assemblage of Roman pottery. When the pottery from both seasons is combined it forms an assemblage of significant size (Table 11).

Area	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
TEM 1	699	3952	22.91
TEM 2	93	475	2.75
TEM 3	1446	8216	47.63
TEM 4	29	105	0.61
TEM 5	445	2947	17.09
TEM 6	95	527	3.06
TEM 7	199	1026	5.95
Total	3006	17248	100.00

RB pot table 11. A summary of the Roman pottery found in all trenches and test pits

It is unfortunate, therefore, that the robbing of the building and subsequent ploughing of the disturbed layers has led to the material being significantly disturbed after its original deposition. This has had the effect of 'mixing' and 'grinding' the pottery so reducing its average sherd size and wearing away many origin surfaces and evidence of use (such as soot residues). The assemblage has an average fragment size of only 6g, which is extremely small, making close fabric and form identification, also dating, difficult. [Typically, any material under 9g is characterized as residual, i.e. not deliberately deposited where it was found].

Analysis of the assemblage has, however, revealed that most of the material comprises local utilitarian Romano-British pottery, supplemented by a small quantity of traded and imported fine table wares. Comparison with the assemblages found at the near-by town of *Venta Icenorum* show it to be very similar to the pottery supplied to this cultural centre, suggesting the two settlements shared a marketplace and also a relatively high standard of living (Atkinson 1932; Lyons in prep). Although the pottery is extremely fragmentary analysis reveals a 'Romanised' way of life with a sophisticated range of both kitchen, table and funerary wares present. The connectiveness of the Roman Empire can be glimpsed with pottery arriving from not only local, but regional and international sources. Moreover, where the pottery can be assigned to a specific date, although a small amount of Early Roman pottery is present, most is mid-to-late Roman in date. This pottery, therefore, adds to the growing corpus of ceramic material recovered from Caistor Roman Town and its Temple complex.

Further analysis and Recommendations for further work

Alongside the coin finds, the pottery will contribute significantly to dating the various phases of activity at the site. A detailed stratigraphic analysis of the distribution of the Roman pottery will be made during final phasing of the archaeological features, with the pottery contributing to phasing of the various deposits and features recorded within all four trenches. No further analysis work is currently required on the physical assemblage, although the author will be given the opportunity to reassess and refine the report and discuss the pottery in relation to the archaeological interpretation of the various episodes of Roman activity identified within each trench.

It may be beneficial to subject the crucible sherd to scientific analysis to inform on the type of metal work that was being undertaken in the vicinity.

A selection of pottery will be photographed/illustrated as recommended by the specialist and also to provide general illustrative material for the overall report and as reference material for the CRP.

7.17 Pottery – Post-Roman

Analysis by Sue Anderson BA MPhil MCIfA FSAScot FSA

Introduction

One hundred and seven sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 243g were collected during the Temple Field excavations in 2019.

Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in archive. Early Saxon fabric groups have been characterised by major inclusions; later fabrics are based on Jennings (1981). Records were input directly onto an MS Access table, which forms the full archive catalogue.

A full report has been submitted to the CRP to contribute to the post-excavation analysis and to be presented in full within the final excavation report. The following information summarises the assemblage as a whole. A breakdown of the dated assemblage by context, fabric, form and trench appears in the full report, along with accompanying tables and a detailed catalogue.

Pottery by period

Table 1 shows the quantities by fabric. A summary catalogue by context has been produced as an Appendix for inclusion in the final report.

Fabric	Code	Date range	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Early Saxon fine sandy ware?	ESFS?	5th-7th c.	1	17		1
Early Saxon grass and sand-tempered	ESO2	5th-7th c.	1	9	0.06	1
Medieval sandy coarseware?	MCW?	L.12th-14th c.	1	5		1
Iron-glazed blackwares	IGBW	16th-18th c.	1	3		1
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	16th-18th c.	6	38	0.10	6
Tin glazed earthenwares	TGE	16th-18th c.	4	12		4
Cologne/Frechen Stoneware	GSW4	16th-17th c.	1	1		1
Chinese porcelain	PORCC	16th-21st c.	3	5	0.03	3
Westerwald Stoneware	GSW5	E.17th-19th c.	1	3		1
Staffordshire-type slipware	STAF	L.17th-18th c.	1	3		1
Staffordshire-type manganese glazed	STMG	L.17th-18th c.	1	9		1
English Stoneware Nottingham-type	ESWN	L.17th-L.18th c.	4	4		4
English Stoneware Staffordshire-type	ESWS	L.17th-M.18th c.	1	1		1

Fabric	Code	Date range	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Creamwares	CRW	1730-1760	4	8		4
Staffs-type white salt-glazed stonewares	SWSW	18th c.	17	37		15
English Stoneware	ESW	17th-19th c.	4	14		4
Late blackwares	LBW	18th-E.20th c.	2	4		2
Late slipped redware	LSRW	18th-19th c.	1	8		1
Porcelain	PORC	18th-20th c.	9	12	0.14	7
Pearlware	PEW	L.18th-M.19th c.	2	2		2
Refined white earthenwares	REFW	L.18th-20th c.	34	37	0.05	33
Yellow Ware	YELW	L.18th-19th c.	7	10		7
Late post-med unglazed earthenwares	LPME	L.18th-20th c.	1	1		1
<i>Totals</i>			107	243	0.38	102

Table 1. Post-Roman pottery quantities by fabric

Distribution

Table 2 shows the distribution of post-Roman pottery by trench.

Trench	ESax	Med	PMed	Mod
TEM5	1		4	11
TEM6		1	12	61
TEM7	1		1	15

Table 2. Distribution of post-Roman pottery by trench.

Trench 6 produced most of the post-Roman pottery, with post-medieval and modern wares being common in all three trenches. Earlier pottery was too infrequent to suggest any patterns.

Early Anglo-Saxon wares

Two sherds of possible Early Anglo-Saxon handmade pottery were recovered. An unstratified sherd weighing 17g from TEM5 appeared to be a burnished base fragment of fine sandy ware, but it was heavily abraded and there is a possibility that it was Roman. The sherd from TEM7 was an undecorated rim fragment of a small jar in a fine sandy fabric with sparse organic inclusions, weighing 9g. Interestingly it was collected from (7017), the fill of a probable hollow way ([7019]) infilled with Roman dated demolition rubble, although this single sherd could well be intrusive.

Later pottery

A total of 106 sherds of later pottery were recovered, ranging from possible medieval to modern:

Medieval (12th–14th c.)

A single body sherd of possible medieval date in a medium sandy fabric was found in topsoil/ploughsoil (6000) in TEM6. The sherd was black with a red core. Identification is uncertain due to the abraded condition, and a Roman date could not be ruled out.

Post-medieval and modern (16th–20th c.)

Seventeen sherds of post-medieval pottery comprised fragments of glazed red earthenware (including a jar rim), a piece of iron glazed blackware base, heavily abraded sherds of tin-glazed earthenware including a tiny sherd with external hand painted green and red decoration, and body fragments of Frechen and Westerwald stoneware. Two fragments of Staffordshire-type slipware and manganese-glazed ware were also found. Small pieces of Chinese porcelain may also belong to this period but are more likely to be later.

Modern wares comprised fragments of factory-made tablewares (LBW, SWSW, CRW, REFW, ESWN, ESWS, PORC), kitchenwares (LSRW, YELW, ESW) and a plantpot (LPME). The range of forms included cups, tankards, plates, bowls and dishes. Transfer-printed decoration, hand-painting and moulding were all noted. A full list is available in the archive catalogue.

A few very small sherds of post-medieval to modern pottery were collected from Roman period layers and fills, which can be considered intrusive material resulting from plough damage and bioturbation.

Discussion

As previously in Temple Field, Early Anglo-Saxon pottery was not common and most of the later wares were small and heavily abraded fragments of post-medieval and modern pottery. Much of this material is likely to have reached the site during manuring activity, possibly brought here from Norwich with night soil for dumping.

Further analysis and Recommendations for further work

No further analysis work is required on the physical assemblage, although the current occurrences of Saxon pottery and known Saxon to medieval activity in the area of the Roman town may be briefly summarised.

7.18 Small Finds (various material types)

A total of 37 individual objects or fragmentary finds (other than coins) have currently been classified as Small Finds and hold a unique 'SF' number. These include a small range of material types including bone, copper-alloy, glass, iron and lead. Following standard finds processing and packaging by the CRP finds team the finds have been catalogued and described by CRP member Ian Jackson and are briefly summarised here following initial analysis. The brooches have kindly been described by Dr Natasha Harlow. A full catalogue of all Small Finds will be presented in the final report along with description and discussion of the entire assemblage.

Of the Small Finds, a total of 24 were recovered from topsoil/ploughsoil layers, of which the majority are of post-medieval to modern or uncertain date, although six are confirmed as Roman. The remaining 13 Small Finds were collected from a range of Roman dated deposits across all three trenches and are sourced from fills of robber cuts, make-up layers, pit-fills and demolition/trample layers. Although nearly all the Roman finds appear to be Roman period stray losses, a small but significant number of items were deposited in complete or

near complete condition and may be attributable to votive deposition. These objects include several coins (discussed in the Coinage section 7.7) along with a brooch (SF19054) and two bracelets (SF19041; SF19042).

The Small Finds assemblage is summarised below, followed by more detailed description of a selection of objects.

- Nine objects or fragments of objects of copper-alloy were collected from the topsoil/ploughsoil that are attributed to post-medieval to modern periods. They include two small studs, pieces of sheet (one with gilding traces), a possible furniture fitting and a thimble fragment.
- A single worked bone object was recovered in the form of a complete gaming counter (SF19040) described in more detail below.
- Nine copper-alloy objects have been identified as Roman, four collected from the topsoil/ploughsoil and the remaining five from well stratified deposits. They include three brooches (SF19020; SF19033; SF19054), two twisted torc style bracelets (SF19041; SF19042), a sheet fragment (SF19022), a pin/needle (SF19031) and a segment of wire in three pieces (SF19061). The majority of these objects are described further below.
- Seven ferrous items have been issued Small Find numbers, they include a possible blade fragment (SF19018), a small pin fragment (SF19023), a possible finger ring (SF19039). A complete small iron key was collected from the fill of a robber trench (SF19037) and a key fragment (SF19028) came from the ploughsoil.
- A single glass bead (SF19055) of Iron Age to Roman date was collected from a Roman make-up layer.
- Three pieces of vessel glass (SF19034; SF19044; SF19045) collected from the fills of Roman features were issued Small Find numbers, along with a blob of melted glass (SF19032). These items are discussed within the glass section (See 7.10).
- Six items of lead/lead-alloys were given Small Finds numbers, all of which were present in the topsoil/ploughsoil. They amount to a range of small fragments of uncertain date and form along with droplets of lead.

Colchester Derivative Brooch (SF19054) / Context (6068)

This is an incomplete, cast copper alloy sprung Colchester Derivative brooch dating to the mid-1st century CE. The brooch has semi-cylindrical wings which would have housed the missing spring and pin. The rear of the spring casing shows areas of copper alloy, and possibly ferrous, corrosion. Each wing is decorated with three bands of bead-and-reel moulding – one at the join between bow and wings and two close together at the end of each wing, separated by a shallow groove. The bow has a 'humped' or arched profile, which refers to this type's previous designation as a 'sprung Dolphin' brooch (see e.g. Hattatt 2007 fig. 157).



Plate 35. SF19054
from context (6068):
Colchester Derivative
brooch c. mid C1st CE.

A moulded central ridge or spine extends perhaps a third of the way along the bow from the head; this demonstrates worn reeded decoration. The very top of this ridge is decorated with a series of evenly spaced grooves which appear to have extended along the full length, but the greater proportion of this decoration has been eroded away by wear. The bow tapers to a cylindrical foot which does not overhang the catchplate, nor does it flare out away from the bow. This foot is demarcated by at least two moulded transverse grooves and collars. The catchplate springs from halfway along the inside of the bow; it is unpierced and undecorated. It retains the full catchplate return which is folded to the right (when viewed with the wings at the top). There is a shallow groove, present on both sides, along the junction between the catchplate and the bow.

The brooch is in good condition with large areas of the original copper alloy surface visible, although there are some areas of corrosion on all surfaces, particularly on the underside of the bow and within the wing casing. Mackreth suggests this is often due to the presence of solder used to reinforce the unstable rearhook fitting to retain the spring (2011: 60).

A small projection extends above the edge of the centre of the wing casing, where what may be the stump of a broken rearhook is visible (assuming the wings are orientated at the top and the catchplate at the bottom, as illustrated below). This indicates that this is most likely a rearhook brooch which is commonly associated with the Iceni and is certainly a local East Anglian type, dating to circa 40-65 CE. The closest parallel for this brooch is Mackreth CDRH Type 3.c (2011 plate 40).

Measurements: 41mm (L) x 42mm (width across the wings). Weight: 10.01g

Perhaps significantly, this brooch was discovered inserted into the natural sand fill of an archaic natural feature or tree-throw ([6082]), sealed below the level of the robbed out Phase 1 *cella* floor. It seems very likely that the brooch represents votive deposition that either pre-dates the Phase 1 temple construction or is coeval with its foundation. It should be noted that c. 85cm away and buried within the same horizon of sand was a Trinovantian gold quarter stater (SF19047) in near uncirculated condition and likely to have been deposited in the 50s BCE or soon after.

Sprung one-piece brooch of Nauheim Derivative type (SF19033) / context (6033)

An incomplete, copper alloy sprung, one-piece brooch of Nauheim Derivative type, dating to the 1st century CE was retrieved from the ploughsoil of TEM6. The brooch is made from a single piece of copper alloy which may have been forged from sheet-metal, rather than cast, a common manufacturing technique for this type (Mackreth 2011: 16). The spring has an internal chord and is composed of four coils or turns, including the now broken extension into the missing pin. The bow is D-shaped in cross-section, with a flattened back and domed front, tapering to a pointed foot. The unpierced catchplate springs rather low, perhaps a quarter of the way up the bow, and turns to the right (when viewed from the front with the head at the top).



Plate 36. SF19033 from context (6033): Sprung one-piece brooch of Nauheim Derivative type. C1st CE.

This brooch shows little in the way of decoration, although it is heavily worn and pitted, and exhibits scratches, deeper scrapes and other damage which may obscure the original scheme. The catchplate is undecorated, though there are some diagonal linear striations on the inner surface which may relate to manufacturing e.g. file marks. It has a dark green patina with areas of lighter grey-green corrosion. The catchplate also has a small split at the foot end, perhaps where the fold has worn through.

This can be classified as a Nauheim Derivative brooch, dating from the Late Iron Age to early Roman period (circa 25-75/80 CE) of Mackreth Type ND 3.b3 (most similar to Plate 8 #4346 from King Harry Lane, Verulamium, phase 3). While Mackreth notes (2011: 18) that some of these types run on past this cut-off date, many are from dated pre- and peri-conquest contexts.

Measurements: 43mm (L) x 9mm (width across the head) : weight: 2.92g

Hinged Colchester Derivative brooch (SF19020) / context (5000)

A complete cast copper alloy hinged Colchester Derivative brooch dating from circa 50-150 CE was found within the topsoil/ploughsoil of TEM5. The brooch has a cylindrical wing casing enclosing an axis bar, upon which swivels a hinged pin which protrudes through a central slot in the rear of the casing. The ends of this casing are closed by wing caps which hold the axis bar in place. The pin is complete, although now bent at approximately a 45-degree angle away from the line of the bow, and with the last few millimetres of the tip bent again and potentially at risk of breaking off. Each wing end is decorated at the front with two irregularly moulded collars or reels which are slightly inset from the line of the casing. The humped bow tapers to a rounded point without a discrete foot knob. The bow has quite flat moulded sides which create a pronounced longitudinal ridge down each side; another, higher, ridge runs down its centre. The central ridge has short, closely spaced transverse incisions along its entire length, which produces a crested appearance when viewed in profile.



Plate 37. SF19020 from context (5000): Hinged Colchester Derivative brooch. C. 50-150 CE.

The catchplate springs from above the halfway point of the bow towards the head and is well-formed and unpierced. It shows some linear striations along both the inner and outer face (the side without the pin return) which may be damage or tool marks. The catchplate extends in a gently sweeping curve towards the small pin return which is turned to the right when the brooch is viewed head up, foot down, from the front.

The brooch is in good condition, despite evidence of damage with various nicks, scrapes and dents on the surface. It has a mid-green patina with patches of brown and bright green corrosion. This is a hinged Colchester Derivative brooch, sometimes also described as a 'hinged Dolphin' brooch. While there is no exact parallel, it is closest to Mackreth's type CD H Type 1 (sim. Plate 54 #12964, except with a plain catchplate and simpler wings) and dates to the later 1st and early 2nd century CE.

Measurements: 38mm (l) x 28mm (width across wings): weight: 9.17g

Votive Plaque SF19046 (7020)

A decorative fragment of a copper alloy object which is provisionally identified as a votive 'leaf-shaped' plaque. It appears to have been broken at both ends. The left-hand side of the object, as shown in the photograph, is subtly curved but the absence of an unbroken edge on the opposite side allied to the other two broken edges renders it impossible to judge the overall shape and size of the artefact when complete. The decoration consists of flattened ovoid impressions that appear to have been stamped on to a very thin blank. The only potential parallel from the parish of Caistor St. Edmund is an object described as a copper alloy votive feather plaque (Item 3 Appendix III Caistor St. Edmund: A note on Finds of Religious Significance from the Parish of Caistor St. Edmund in EAA 30 Excavations at Thornham Warham, Wighton and Caistor, Norfolk. Similar 'votive leaves' are usually associated with temple sites, for example four were found at the excavated temple at Sawbench Wood in Hockwold-cum-Wilton in west Norfolk (NHER 5367 ref. Alaimo 278, 2016).



Plate 38. SF19046
from context (7020):
votive 'leaf-shaped' plaque.

Measurements: 38mm (l) x 29mm and less than 1mm thick: weight: 2.45g

Bone Gaming Counter SF19040 (5035)

A complete bone gaming counter was collected from a Roman make-up/trample layer in TEM5 (5035). The counter is c.11mm in diameter (weight 0.69g). It is incised with four concentric grooves on the upper surface and there is an indentation from the lathe in the centre. The edges are bevelled. Part of an identical, although larger, counter was recovered from TEM1 during the 2018 Temple Field excavation – SF18041 (1007).



Plate 39. SF19040:
Bone Gaming Counter from
TEM5, context (5035)

Parallels exist in the Colchester Finds Report No. 2 (Fig.94, p.92) This type is described as a Greep 3, Kenyon's Type B or Crummy 2+4 counter depending upon which system of classification is adopted. Similar examples have been recorded on the PAS database (www.finds.org.uk) e.g LIN-885587. To quote from that particular entry "*They seem to have been produced throughout the Roman period with little variation*". The diameter and weight of SF19040 places it towards the lower end of the bone counters previously recorded from Caistor (Harlow 2019). These two most recent finds referred to here bring the total number of bone counters from Caistor to 70, viz, Donald Atkinson's excavations 1929-35 60 counters, Caistor Roman Project ongoing 10 counters.

Torc-twisted bracelet SF 19042 / Context (5036)

This bracelet has been formed from a single rectangular shaped strip of copper alloy which has been manually twisted (Nina Crummy pers comm) to form a helical design. One terminal remains whilst the other has broken off, perhaps prior to deposition. The near complete bracelet measures c. 300mm (L) by 3mm (w) and 1.3mm thick. The extant terminal has been formed into a hook. A close parallel for this particular bracelet was recovered from the excavation of the Roman site at Scole located adjacent to the A140. EAA Report No.5 1977 p. 134 and object 20 p. 135 Fig. 56. A second close parallel was found within a pit containing a votive deposit during the excavation of a Romano-British and Saxon site at Billingford Fig. 39 p.66 EAA 135. The pit in question was assessed as containing artefacts of possible 1st or 2nd century date with a suggested link to the god Mercury.

Hilary Cool's unpublished PhD thesis "A Study of the Roman Personal Ornaments Made of Metal, Excluding Brooches, From Southern Britain" categorized this type of personal adornment as torc-twisted bracelets. She describes the type as follows:

"The bracelets of this group consist of a single strand of square or rectangular section which is twisted so that the angles of the bar provide diagonal ridges that spiral round. The group has been divided into three sub-groups depending on the type of terminal used".

The Caistor example would appear to fall within sub-group A; i.e hook and eye terminals. Cool cited a number of these bracelets from archaeological contexts as dating to the late 3rd or 4th centuries, Table 5.3 p. 137 refers albeit that the sample size is limited to a total of just 16 examples, two of which were sub-group C examples (pennanular torc-twisted bracelets), one from a cremation at Verulamium dated to AD 100 – 130 and the other from the back-fill of a dismantled kiln at Chichester containing Claudian-Neronian wasters. The Scole example was placed with a date range between mid-Antonine to 4th century.

This example was recovered from the fill (5036) of a large but relatively shallow Roman feature ([5042]). The same feature also produced good quantities of butchered animal bone, oyster shell and pottery which currently suggest a spot date of Late 2nd to mid 3rd century AD.



Plate 40 (left). SF19042: Torc-twisted bracelet

Plate 41 (right). SF19041: Folded Torc-twisted bracelet

Torc-twisted bracelet SF19041 (6035)

This item was recovered from an extensive layer of clean sand and gravel used to seal the remains of the Phase 1 Temple and to create the new level for installation of the floor level for the larger Phase 2 Temple. This is a slightly smaller bracelet than SF19042 and appears to have been deliberately folded back along its length from either end. It measures c. 220mm in length by 3mm wide and c. 1mm thick. One hooked terminal remains and this is slightly spatulate in shape. It would appear therefore to fall within the same sub-group as SF19042 and in this case the apparent folding of the object together with its location within the *cella* of the early temple might suggest a votive element to its deposition.

Brief summary on both Torc bracelets SF19042 and SF19041

Both of these objects would seem to be too large to be worn on the wrist. The larger one would fit comfortably around the upper arm whilst the smaller one would fit around the ankle. However, given that the deposition of both can be interpreted as votive in nature it is conceivable that they were made as votive objects rather than something to be worn. Based on the 1:1 scale drawing of the Scole example the one found there appears to be slightly smaller than SF19041 at c.190mm in length whilst the width appears to be a close match to both from the Temple at Caistor.

If the temple included a dedication to Mercury (or where offerings were made to him) then the resemblance to torcs might be significant regardless of size. There are examples of groups of twisted torc-style miniatures deposited at sanctuary sites in southern France. (Mike Marshall *pers comm*).

Decorated blue glass bead SF19055 (5033)

A complete annular glass bead weighing 2.06g, with a slightly off centre sub-circular hole was collected from Roman make-up layer (5033). The central hole shows little sign of wear. The bead is translucent cobalt blue in colour and is visibly pitted with small air bubbles on the abraded external surfaces. The external edge has a decorative white trailed serpentine stripe of glass within the matrix. The beads date from the Iron Age/Roman period in date with examples produced into the 6th-7th centuries not unknown, although Guido notes that the stronger (cobalt) blue beads are more associated with the Roman period and that such beads seem to be found far more commonly in Romano-British contexts than in Roman contexts on the continent.



Plate 42. Annular Glass Bead. SF19055.

Guido (1978: 63-64) describes beads of this type as her Group 5A, illustrating a comparable example (plate 1, no. 10d). She describes how this was an extremely long-lived style which continued in use throughout the Iron Age, Roman and early Medieval periods. A similar bead of Guido's type 5A was found during excavations at Colchester, in a context dating to c. AD 75 – 125 (Crummy 1983: 32, no. 546). Close parallels have also been recorded on the PAS database www.finds.org.uk including HESH-6E9EB2 and DEV-10FFBF.

An assemblage of votive objects deposited in the Billingford pit referred to above included two annular blue glass beads with white trail decoration similar to this example.

Recommendations for further work

A catalogue of the small finds has been prepared by CRP member Ian Jackson, with provisional identification of each object. A finalised and detailed Small Finds catalogue will be presented within the final report.

A small number of items may benefit from X-Radiography to assist in their interpretation. Further advice will be sought from specialists experienced in finds identification, including Dr Natasha Harlow (Iron Age and Roman personal objects) and Alice Lyons (Roman artefacts).

A selection of the more significant small finds will be photographed/illustrated for inclusion in the final report and archive, particularly those with no published parallels.

We have few clues as yet of any specific deity or deities associated with the site, although based on finds evidence, we know that worship of Mercury, Venus and Neptune took place at *Venta* (Will Bowden *pers comm*). Mercury in particular seems to have been a popular god in the territory of the Iceni, evidenced for example by figurines from Walsingham, while at Caistor recent excavations by the CRP in 2018 to the north of the town produced a ring with a punched MER inscription on the bezel. A discussion on the potential for aligning any material (such as the Torc bracelets) that could be associated with any specific religious practice or deity at the temple will be included in the final report.

A discussion of the small finds assemblage will be produced, both in relation to any interpretations of past activity at the temple site and within the wider context of Roman

material collected from the Roman town and its environs. A wider body of reference material will be consulted, as will academic specialist familiar with this material, some of which appear to represent votive activity.

A review of known finds previously recorded from the field representing ‘personal objects’ collected through excavation, metal detection and field survey (which includes material recovered by Mottram at the temple; brooch pieces, a speculum mirror, enamelled brooches, tweezers and a copper-alloy penannular ring suggested to be a rare form of bracelet) will also be undertaken.

7.19 Shell

A total of 685 oyster shells were recovered across all three trenches, along with a very few examples of cockle (14 examples) and mussel shells (7 examples). It should be noted that the number of remains includes a large percentage of fragmentary pieces and does not equate to complete shells. The marine shell is mainly evidence of consumption and discard in the Roman to post-Roman period, with no examples of modification or reuse noted. A small number of pits contained oyster shell, with some pits in TEM5 containing oyster shell in concentrations indicating the direct disposal of food waste.

Land snail shells have also been collected and recorded, although the majority are represented by tiny fragments recovered during sieving work. Following this assessment, it is recommended that only the snail shell collected from well-sealed features and deposits be retained for re-examination and contribution to any discussion on environmental or deposition activity at the site. The majority of the snails found within Roman contexts are again fragmentary and currently appear to represent common species of land snail that may have been attracted to refuse laden material or the lime and chalk content of mortar debris.

Basic summary tables by trench are included here. Full catalogues of the shell by context and period, along with notable features such as predator/parasitic damage and general size range, will be presented in the final report. Preliminary observations are made here for the assemblage generated from each trench.

TEM5

TEM5 – Shell Summary				
Shell Type	No	Wt/g	General Preservation	No. of contexts
Oyster	488	4132	Occ. Good but mainly fair to poor	24
Cockle	10	7	Fair to poor	3
Mussel	4	5	Fair to poor	2
Unid.	1	4	Fair	1
Land Snail	99	92	Variable	14

Aside from the marine shells collected from the topsoil/ploughsoil, the assemblage is fairly widely distributed between the fills of robber cuts and Roman make-up layers with some collected from Roman pits. However, pit [5042] is highly notable as it contained the only stratified mussel shell, plus 276 oyster shells (2568g) found alongside animal bone with charcoal rich fills, pottery sherds and a possible votive twisted torc bracelet.

TEM6

TEM6 – Shell Summary				
Shell Type	No	Wt/g	General Preservation	No. of contexts
Oyster	81	439	Mainly poor	16
Cockle	4	6	Poor	3
Mussel	3	6	poor	6
Unid.	2	7	Variable	2
Land Snail	344	373	Fair to poor	18

The shell from TEM6 is more fragmentary than TEM5. No significant concentrations indicating dumping episodes of food waste were collected and the marine shell is mainly residual within the ploughsoil, robber cut backfills and with a small number from stratified Roman layers and pits.

TEM7

TEM7 – Shell Summary				
Shell Type	No	Wt/g	General Preservation.	No. of contexts
Oyster	116	815	Fair to poor	13
Land Snail	59	55	Good	9

The oyster shell from TEM7 was mainly collected from the ploughsoil and fills of a rubble filled Roman hollow way, with some also collected from the lower subsoil in relatively lower numbers. The oyster shells here represent residual food waste incorporated into mixed deposits.

Recommendations for further work

A draft report and catalogue have been prepared by CRP member Margaret Hood. A finalised version incorporating further stratigraphic analysis and a discussion of the shell assemblage in relation to context and period, along with a discussion of evidence for consumption trends from localised excavations at the ancillary building in 2018 and the Roman town, will be presented within the final report.

7.3 Stone

A small quantity of flint building rubble was initially retained for cataloguing and analysis (20 pieces), the majority of which was classified as knapped building flint prior to discard. An abraded fragment of highly fossiliferous limestone (weighing 1167g) appears to be of Purbeck Marble. It was collected from the fill (7027) of holloway [7026]. This piece shows no obvious form to designate it as part of a shaped vessel (such as a mortar) and may have been used as some form of architectural stone within the fabric of the temple.



Plate 43. Purbeck Marble fragment from TEM7 (7027)

The stone catalogue will be presented within the final report and parallels will be sought for the possible use of Purbeck Marble within any of the previously excavated buildings at Venta Icenorum.

7.21 Tesserae

Methodology

All loose tesserae found within the trenches were collected by context as baulk finds. After washing and drying, the individual tesserae were sorted into groups according to the fabric, colour and shape. Each individual tesserae was catalogued by context, fabric-type, form and colour. A total of 936 large CBM tesserae weighing 17.923 Kg, and 3330 small tesserae weighing 9.953 kg were examined.

TEM5: Large Tesserae (CBM) x267 (4.637kg) and Small Tesserae x 464 (1.562kg)

TEM6: Large Tesserae (CBM) x243 (5.069kg) and Small Tesserae x 1713 (5.069kg)

TEM7: Large Tesserae (CBM) x426 (8.217g) and Small Tesserae x1153 (3.322kg)



Plate 44. Large CBM Tesserae and Plate 45. Small Tesserae (chalk & limestone)

Small tesserae

The Small Tesserae are mostly composed of hard and soft chalk, with much fewer quantities of grey limestone and ceramic building material (CBM), with possible shale, flint, sandstone, coal and pottery (Samian) also used. Most of these tesserae are cuboid but a proportion showed some kind of shaping, probably to act as infill for a patterned mosaic. Hard chalk especially showed triangular shaping, although all fabrics had some examples with shaping (7013). Limestone tesserae appear to be two types: those of smooth grained texture; and a more coarse grain which seemed to fall into the larger size range of small tesserae.

Large ceramic tesserae

Larger tesserae examined are exclusively made of Roman ceramic building material (CBM) in small, medium and large size ranges and mainly in pink/orange/red hues. These tesserae are very similar in form to those encountered in the excavation of the ancillary building in

2018, which included a preserved tessellated floor (1035) in TEM1, currently suggested to date from c. mid- 2nd century to the mid-3rd century AD.

Two other types noted are probably custom made, a large thin tesserae and a rectangular shape which could possibly have been used as a surround for a mosaic floor. The largest CBM tesserae are often abraded suggesting regular footfall, however the fabric is often poorly made. Reuse of roof tile (Tegula or Imbrex) or floor/bonding tile is often seen, with one piece shaped from flue tile found.



Plate 46 and 47. Recovery of a mosaic tesserae dump (7013)

Medium sized CBM tesserae appear to be either reused or repurposed from larger pieces of building material, whereas the smaller CBM types are thinner and regular in form and may be purpose made.

Initial Observations

None of the tesserae found in the three trenches, TEM5, TEM6 and TEM7 were found as in-situ flooring. The tesserae are instead residual scatters and a possible sorted dump (7013) deriving from robbed out flooring from both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Temples. A small area in TEM6 of aligned small white tesserae were recorded as residual fragments of disturbed flooring of the Phase 1 Temple *cella*, none of which were in their original position. The Phase 1 flooring was most likely robbed for reuse within the Phase 2 Temple. Miss Mottram in her 1957 excavation on the *cella* did note small patches of white in-situ tesserae associated with the Phase 2 *cella* floor.

Overall, the main tesserae types display a similar type and range to those recorded by Mottram where remnants of a chalk mosaic floor were uncovered and unstratified limestone and sandstone tesserae were also recovered. The chalk is available locally while other stone-types must have been either scavenged from glacial erratics or specially imported to provide the necessary raw materials.

Recommendations for further work

A finalised geological assessment of the stone material will be undertaken, seeking professional advice. A draft report and catalogue has been prepared by CRP member Barbara Marriage and a finalised version incorporating further stratigraphic analysis and a discussion of the assemblage in relation to the material from CRP18 (excavation of the Ancillary Building) and of Mottram's excavated material from the temple will be made. Further stratigraphic analysis may assist in a more detailed understanding of former flooring within the two phases of the temple, recognised through the loose tesserae assemblage.

In addition, the evidence for a tessellated floor and decorated mosaic flooring at the temple will be discussed in a wider regional/national context, within a wider discussion of their significance regarding the currently small data set of known mosaic floors previously discovered at Venta Icenorum and the county of Norfolk. A preliminary search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record has returned a total of 28 sites where tessellated floors or mosaic are mentioned, of which only a very small number refer to excavated sites with confirmed in situ evidence. The majority of the records refer to fen edge sites in the west of Norfolk, with only 6 to the east and north of the county (which include Venta Icenorum and the Saxon shore-fort at Caistor-on-Sea).

7.22 Environmental samples: the charred plant macrofossils and other remains

By Val Fryer BA MCIfA, Environmental Archaeologist

Introduction and methodology

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from contexts across all three trenches, with a total of twelve being submitted for assessment (see tables below). The samples from TEM5 were collected from the fills of two Roman pits. Those from TEM6 were taken from two Roman pits, a small pit sealed by the temple deposits, lower subsoils sealed by the temple deposits and the fill of a probable prehistoric tree-throw sealed by the Phase 1 *cella* floor. The two samples from TEM7 were both collected from a lower subsoil, with the potential to pre-date the Roman temple.

Trench	TEM5			
Sample No.	<1>	<2>	<3>	<4>
Context	5040	5041	5052	5041
Feature	[5042]	[5042]	[5051]	[5042]
Type	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit
Prov. Period	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman

Trench	TEM6					
Sample No.	<1>	<2>	<3>	<4>	<5>	<6>
Context	6072	6075	6069	6077	6083	6069
Feature	[6071]	[6076]	-	-	[6082]	-
Type	Pit	Pit	L.subsoil	Soil below Phase 1 floor	Nat. feature	L.subsoil
Prov. Period	?IA/E.Roman	Roman	?IA/E.Roman	?IA/E.Roman	Prehistorical	?IA/E.Roman

Trench	TEM7	
Sample No.	<1>	<2>
Context	7023	7023
Feature	-	-
Type	L.subsoil	L.subsoil.
Prov. Period	?IA/E.Roman	?IA/E.Roman

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover, with the flots being collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in a full catalogue (to be included within the final report). Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Although charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, other plant macrofossils are exceedingly scarce comprising single grains of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.), an indeterminate wheat glume base, individual seeds of a large grass (*Poaceae*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.) and four small fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Preservation is poor, with all macrofossils being heavily abraded and fragmented. The majority of the charcoal/charred wood fragments are highly comminuted, with the material from TEM5 sample <1> (charcoal rich deposit 5040 – upper fill of Roman pit [5042]) also being flaked and fringed with tarry droplets. The latter preservation is most commonly seen where the material has been burnt at an exceedingly high temperature. Other plant macrofossils are all but absent. However, occasional very small pieces of charred root/stem are noted, including one possible fragment of heather (*Ericaceae*) stem from TEM5 pit [5051].

Small pieces of black porous and tarry material are present within all but a single sample from a pit in TEM5 (context 5041). Whilst such residues could be derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains, the current material is distinctly hard and brittle and it is thought most likely that it is a bi-product of the burning of coal, small pieces of which are also present within most of the assemblages studied. It is currently unclear whether this material is contemporary with the temple building, or whether it may be derived from the later deposition of night soil on the land or the use of steam implements during the early modern era.

Other materials noted within the assemblages include bone fragments (with burnt bone material occurring within the Temple 5 samples), abraded pellets of burnt or fired clay, fragments of mortar/plaster (including one piece of red painted plaster from T5 sample 1) and occasional pieces of opus signinum. Several samples also include fragments of a soft cream/yellow material which may be rotted chalk or degraded mortar/plaster.

Small mammal/amphibian bones are relatively common, but the condition of the bones suggests that these may be modern contaminants. All but three assemblages also include occasional shells of terrestrial and freshwater molluscs. However, as most are moderately well-preserved, retaining surface structuring and coloration, it is thought that all are probably intrusive within the features from which the samples were taken.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the assemblages from the Temple excavations are all small (i.e. mostly <0.1 litres in volume) and very limited in composition. Because of the paucity of material, very few conclusions regarding the day-to-day functioning of the building or the environment in which it stood can be reached. However, the following brief points may be of note:

- The charred cereals, seeds and nutshell fragments are all from features which potentially pre-date the temple (i.e. are of possible Iron Age date) or are contemporary with the earliest phase of building. This may well suggest that these remains are residual and are not necessarily associated with the temple itself.
- As befits a site of ritual/religious significance, the building and its immediate environs appear to have been kept very clean. Similar evidence was recorded from a rural shrine of later Iron Age/Transitional date at Partney, North Lincolnshire (Fryer 2005)
- Much of the material recorded within the current assemblages (for example the burnt/fired clay, mortar/plaster and *opus signinum*) appears to be associated with either the construction or the demolition of the temple building.
- Possible dietary refuse (namely bone fragments, fish bone, eggshell and marine mollusc shell) can be sourced to pits in TEM5 that appear to include feasting and possible votive material.

As none of the current assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis of the sample material is recommended. However, the results of this assessment should be included within any synthesis of data from the Caistor Roman Project excavations.

A full catalogue of the macrofossil record by identified species/other remains per sample will be presented within the final excavation report and the evidence may contribute further to a discussion on the features, stratigraphy and deposition activity for pre/early phases of the temple site and phases contemporary within both temple phases.

8.0 Brief Summary Discussion of the Overall Results

The results of CRP's follow up investigation to Mottram's 1957 trenches has added significantly to our understating of this multi-phase extra-mural temple and religious complex, with increasing evidence for its importance in relation to *Venta Icenorum* from possible pre-Roman origins to a mid-2nd to 3rd century hiatus.

To begin to place the site in the context of a regional stage a formal search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) at the time of writing (Enquiry No. 21_03_AL) produced c.40 records which made relevant reference to the terms Roman 'temple', 'shrine' or 'religious site'. The number of temple sites identified beyond doubt constitutes a relatively small proportion of the total. The majority are recognised primarily from cropmarks identified through aerial photography (with several supported by surface finds) while the presence of others is suggested through surface finds alone.

To date only eight such sites across Norfolk have been subject to any form of archaeological investigation (see below), with varying standards of records made, which further emphasises the significance of this new investigation at Temple Field through modern survey and excavation methods.

- Two adjacent urban Romano-Celtic style temples inside *Venta Icenorum* (excavated by Atkinson in 1929)
- Two separate temples at Hockwold-cum-Wilton (namely Sawbench Wood [NHER5367] investigated by rather haphazard excavation in 1962 and also the nearby site of several religious/votive objects where excavation in the 1950s revealed a possible religious building [NHER5587])
- The Late Iron Age to Early Roman period Fison Way complex at Thetford excavated in 1980-82 (NHER5853)
- A Romano-Celtic style temple at Crownthorpe partly excavated in 1959 (NHER 54693) and subjected to intensive fieldwalking and metal detection in following decades (NHER8897)
- A small temple at Scole discovered during work for the A143 Scole to Stuston bypass in the early 1990s. (NHER30650)
- A probable Romano-Celtic style shrine at Snettisham defined by evaluation trenching and survey work in 1994 (NHER 40503),

It should also be noted that the Temple Field site is not necessarily the only extramural temple complex close to *Venta Icenorum* (although it is by far the largest), with cropmarks indicating perhaps another within an enclosed precinct just to the town's south (NHER52209/NHER2210) and yet another just to the west recognised by a polygonal enclosure (NHER 52181/52186/52187). Recent survey and excavation of a villa site from 2005-7 at Stoke Holy Cross positioned c. 1.5km south-east of *Venta* defined two aisled buildings, a possible corridor villa and an unusual 'Y-shaped' winged building (NHER 43199). The winged building occupies relatively high ground visible from the town and its form is unparalleled. A possible religious or ceremonial function remains one explanation for the building and faint cropmark evidence for a possible apsidal oval or polygonal building close by currently remains untested (Bowden 2011).

Nationally, Temple Field is one of a small number of 1st century dated temple sites associated with a major Roman settlement, other such examples are located at Colchester and Silchester (Lewis 1966). It is also one of a limited number of sites characterised by a demonstrable pre-Roman focus and the results may contribute to both our understanding of transitional Late Iron Age to Early Roman period religious sites and more significantly to an assessment of the 1st century origins and development of *Venta Icenorum*.

The excavations and surveys at Temple Field in both 2018 and 2019 now clearly highlight what was a major temple complex linked by road to the earliest phase of the town, with increasing evidence for pre-invasion Iron Age activity. The complex lay on what seems to have been one of the most important roads leading out of the town, which ran north-east from the two temples within the town at a 45° angle to the rest of the street grid. The scale of the Phase 2 temple's foundations indicates a very substantial building that must have been a major landmark in the countryside, the construction of which can be conjectured to have coincided with a major aggrandisement of the religious complex alongside the addition of a monumental gateway and a large apsidal villa like building.

The lifespan of the temple is yet to be more clearly refined from the finds assemblage and stratigraphic data, although a significant decline in coin loss/deposition within the complex suggests diminishing activity with a possible cut-off date of c. 350AD (uncharacteristic of the *Venta* excavations). This decline could be connected with the blocking of the main road between the town and temple by the construction of the town wall from c. AD 275, arguably

indicating (or causing) a change in the significance of the extra-mural temple. The robbing of the temple masonry shows that at its end it was extensively quarried, as indeed was the associated villa like ancillary building. The potential for this to coincide with a building programme of late 3rd century or later at the town will be more thoroughly explored following further scrutiny of the data.

A few of the most significant archaeological discoveries include:

- The current state of preservation of the monument and associated archaeological deposits has been determined, with plough damage and significant cover soil loss both defined. This data can contribute to any future assessments on the long-term management and protection of the site.
- The GPR survey data which suggested a multi-phased temple has been successfully ground truthed with the confirmation of a two-phase Romano-British temple, with a smaller Phase 1 timber and clay walled temple (of early Romano-British date) demolished and replaced by a much larger and more monumental sized temple with a stone and tile superstructure, making use of bonding tile quoins. This temple was also enlarged by the addition of an east facing portico. The Phase 2 temple represents one of the largest Romano-Celtic temples in Britain and is currently suspected to date from the early to mid 2nd century AD, perhaps remaining active into the mid 3rd century AD or later. 'Temple 2' is currently suspected to form part of an aggrandisement of the temple complex, possibly contemporary with the construction of the large villa like 'ancillary' building, the temenos wall and monumental western gate way.
- The form and dimensions of both temples has been refined and the extent of archaic robber activity has now been characterised, with evidence for systematic robbing and sorting of structural materials from the Phase 2 temple. Evidence for the construction methods and internal décor of both temple phases has been gained from both the surviving masonry and associated demolition waste (which includes debris from roofing, walling and flooring along with column wedges, residual mosaic tiles and painted wall plaster from both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 temples).
- A group of 9 coins were recovered from above the demolished footings of the Phase 1 *cella*. They appear to represent the deliberate burial/reburial of selected coins with a range of Emperors from Nero to Hadrian (excluding only Titus) and it is a reasonable possibility that the coins represent the reburial of votive objects disturbed during the demolition of the Temple 1 floor and walls by their Roman period finders.
- Cultural material includes further evidence for possible votive activity associated with the temple, recognised primarily through the deposition of two Torc-twisted bracelets and animal bone (including a deposit rich in bird bones mixed with a dump of oyster shell buried along with one of the bracelets). The other bracelet was folded and recovered from clean sands and gravels used to seal the remains of the Phase 1 temple. A fragment of a bronze votive 'feather' was also recovered during the excavations.
- The recovery of a Colchester white ware carinated sherd from a 'head pot' likely indicates that the deposition of cremated remains occurred at the site around the mid

2nd to 3rd century CE. This is currently the only such find recognised at the site and the extent of any such funerary activity currently remains unknown.

- Pre-temple activity at the location of the temple can be recognised by the recovery of residual Iron Age pottery and possible votive deposits of a Trinovantian gold stater and a mid 1st century CE Colchester Derivative brooch. A further silver Iceni unit from the site augments other Iron Age coins previously known from the overall field through metal detection and a pre-Roman presence on the site with a possible religious focus now appears even more convincing.

This opportunity to expand upon the 1957 investigation of the Romano-Celtic temple has proved to be remarkably successful. The results are highly informative in many differing avenues and include several significant new discoveries of both regional and national significance, both in terms of the finds assemblage and information on the phasing, layout and structural forms of the temple in both its incarnations. The results also have the potential to contribute to further assessment and discussion on the origins and development of *Venta Icenorum* in relation to Pre-Roman activity in the immediate landscape.



Plate 48. Postulated appearance of the Phase 2 Temple (by Jenny Press)

9.0 Post-excavation Analysis and Publication programme

The finds processing and cataloguing is complete with further post-excavation analysis and finds analysis requirements fully defined. This programme of work will follow a more detailed analysis of the stratigraphic and artefactual data.

The final programme of analysis work, digitised illustrations, reporting and archiving will be carried out following the production of this interim assessment report. Additional detail of some of the post-excavation phases of work to be carried out is given below. A final excavation report will be compiled and produced by CRP members in collaboration with Giles Emery BA MCIfA T/A Norvic Archaeology and Professor Will Bowden of Nottingham University.

9.1 Contextual and Stratigraphic Analysis

The data will be analysed with the aid of a comprehensive site matrix and a context database. Individual contexts will be grouped and appropriate group text produced. This will detail the nature of the features and deposits and outline the interpretation of each group. A group matrix may also be constructed, if necessary, to define any significant sub-periods of activity. The group text will form the basis for sub-period and period texts. All artefactual and environmental data will be synthesised with the contextual information and a detailed descriptive text produced for inclusion in the Final Report. A finalised Context Summary table will also be produced as part of the final archive.

Background research, commensurate with the results of the fieldwork, will be undertaken to place the results of the work within their local, regional and national archaeological context. This information will form part of the final report. The study may include the following sources of information as appropriate to the objectives of the research: Historic Environment Records; Historical maps; other relevant published documentary sources on previous archaeological work and parallel Romano-British temple sites, aerial photographic resources and current interpretations of known cropmarks in close proximity to the site.

9.2 Artefactual Analysis

Specialist reporting and detailed catalogues/databases suitable for archive purposes will be produced and presented in full within the Final Report for each assemblage (with further work carried out as previously defined). The assemblages will be discussed in detail within the stratigraphic framework of the site in order to further refine the archaeological interpretation of the recorded features.

Following detailed analysis any artefacts which do not have easily accessible, published parallels will be photographed and illustrated for inclusion in the final report.

9.3 Final Report

The Final Report will present detailed contextual information, fully integrated with the artefactual and environmental evidence and referenced to previous archaeological work at the Roman town and its immediate landscape. All specialist reports will be presented in full. Artefactual and environmental data will be included as tabular appendices. This report will also present an interpretive analysis and discussion of the results from which any future synthesis works may be produced.

The following illustrations will be included in the Final Report:

- Selected cartographic figures, if required, to more clearly illustrate the known history of the site.
- Location Plan of the site, including any relevant local HER entries.
- General site and individual trench plans showing all excavated features revealed during the Excavation combined with the results of previous work at the site by Mottram in 1957.
- Phased plans, where required, to more clearly illustrate different phases of activity
- All appropriate digitised sections/masonry elevations to demonstrate the character of features within each trench presented at appropriate scales on A4 and A3 pages

- Illustration and photographic records of selected finds.
- Selected images from the geophysical survey work: magnetometry, resistivity and Ground Penetrating Radar.
- A selected range of plates including general shots of the excavation and illustrative images of particularly significant features or finds.
- A selected range of plates to form a gallery of shots of the excavation process and the many volunteers who took part in the project.

9.4 Publication Summary

An article or summary synthesising the results will be presented to the academic peer reviewed journal *Britannia – the journal of Romano-British & Kindred Studies - The Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, Cambridge University Press*. The results of the work will also be presented as a concise summary article for inclusion in the *Journal of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society*. Other suitable publication and dissemination routes will also be considered for particular elements of the work where appropriate.

9.5 Archive Deposition

Excavated material currently remains in the ownership of the owner and tenant of High Ash Farm, although it is envisaged that they will formally gift appropriate material to the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service who hold much of the excavated material from 20th-century excavations at the Roman town. A selection of baulk finds may be retained by the CRP as reference and outreach material. A paper copy of the archive will be deposited alongside the excavated materials. A copy of the final report will be sent to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record to form part of their permanent archive. The report will also be archived digitally through OASIS, the online grey literature archive maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

9.6 Resources and Programming

The post-excavation programme is currently paused and further work will follow the various paths detailed within this document. It is estimated that the post-excavation programme will officially continue in October 2021 and take a minimum of 10-months with a draft copy of the Final Report compiled in March of 2022, for completion in July 2022. A .pdfa copy of the report on CD and hard copy will be supplied to both Historic England the Historic Environment Service. A copy will also be submitted to the landowner at this time.

The post-excavation programme will be managed by Mike Pinner (CRP Research Coordinator) assisted by CRP members Rhiane Keeley (CRP Site Director), Andy Woodman (Finds Manager), Ian Jackson (Small Finds/Post-ex Reporting). Professor Will Bowden of Nottingham University and Giles Emery BA MClfA T/A Norvic Archaeology will continue to provide further support and advice.

10.0 Acknowledgements

The project is immensely grateful to Chris and Daniel Skinner and their tenants for providing access to the site.

A huge thank you to the numerous CRP members both for their efforts on site but also for their dedication to the post-excavation finds processing, cataloguing and reporting. The enthusiasm of each individual volunteer is very much appreciated, as is the ever-growing range of skills and experience each person brings to the project.

The project is grateful to Professor Will Bowden for his close support throughout the project and his re-evaluation of the site's importance in relation to *Venta Icenorum*, which contributes greatly to this report. Thanks are also due to Dr Dave Bescoby and Dr Tim Dennis for geophysics/GPR work and to David Gurney, Dr James Albone and Dr Will Fletcher for their support and advice.

Darren Barnes of Kingdom Landscapes supplied and operated the mechanical digger both during the initial topsoil reduction and backfilling.

Giles Emery (Norvic Archaeology), Neil Moss and Andy Barnett provided professional archaeological oversight and support. Professional finds advice and/or external analysis reporting was provided by Sarah Percival (Prehistoric Pottery), Alice Lyons (Roman Pottery/Ceramics), Sue Anderson (Post-Roman pottery), Val Fryer (Environmental Samples), Andy Barnett (Coinage), Dr Daphne Briggs (Iron Age Coinage), Dr Andrew Brown (Roman coins), Sarah Bates (Prehistoric Flint), Dr Harriet Foster (Glass) and Dr Natasha Harlow (Roman objects). Historic Environment Record information was kindly supplied by Heather Hamilton and Andrea Beckham.

Photographic plates are by Giles Emery and Ian Jackson unless otherwise stated. Digitised trench figures were produced by Giles Emery, who also provided initial archaeological analysis and compiled the report.

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Plate 49. One of several popular 'finds feedback' sessions (Ian Jackson holding court)

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Figure 6. DRAFT: CRP trenches combined with newly digitised Mottram/Gurney site plan (additional GPR features in green). Scale 1:200 if printed at scale .

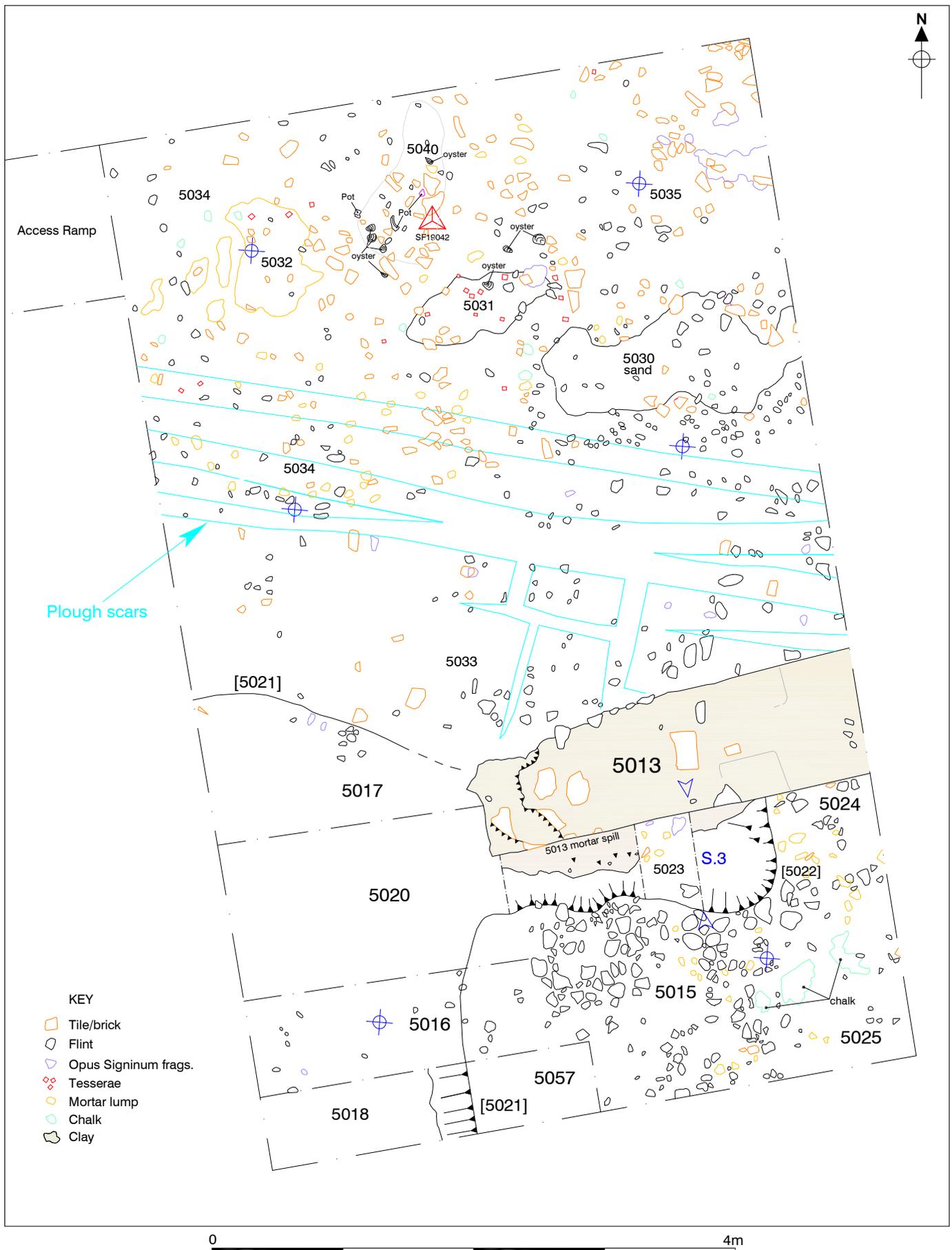


Figure 7. TEM5: DRAFT simplified plan (reduction phase A). Scale 1:40 if printed at scale

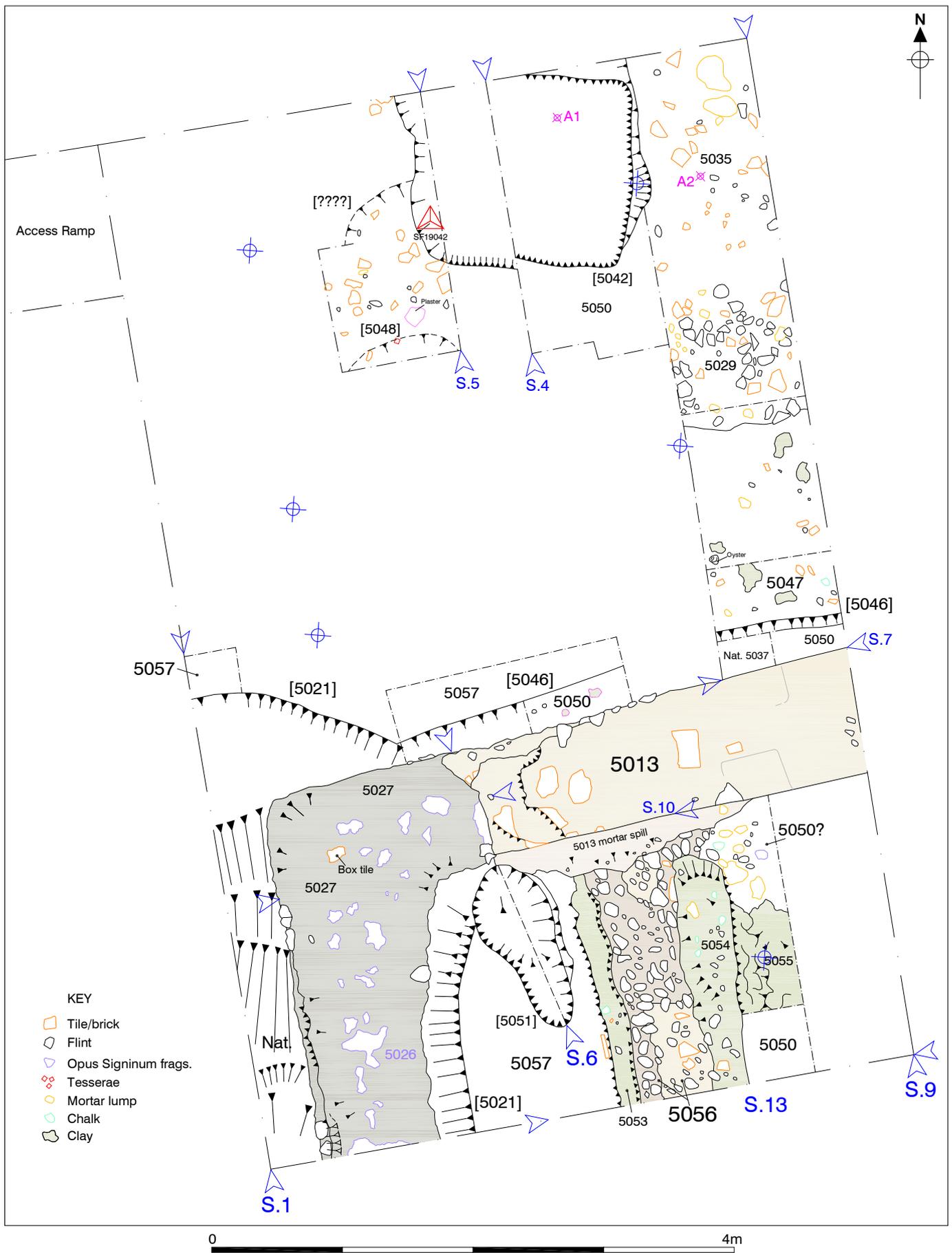


Figure 8. TEM5: DRAFT simplified plan (reduction phase B). Scale 1:40 if printed at scale

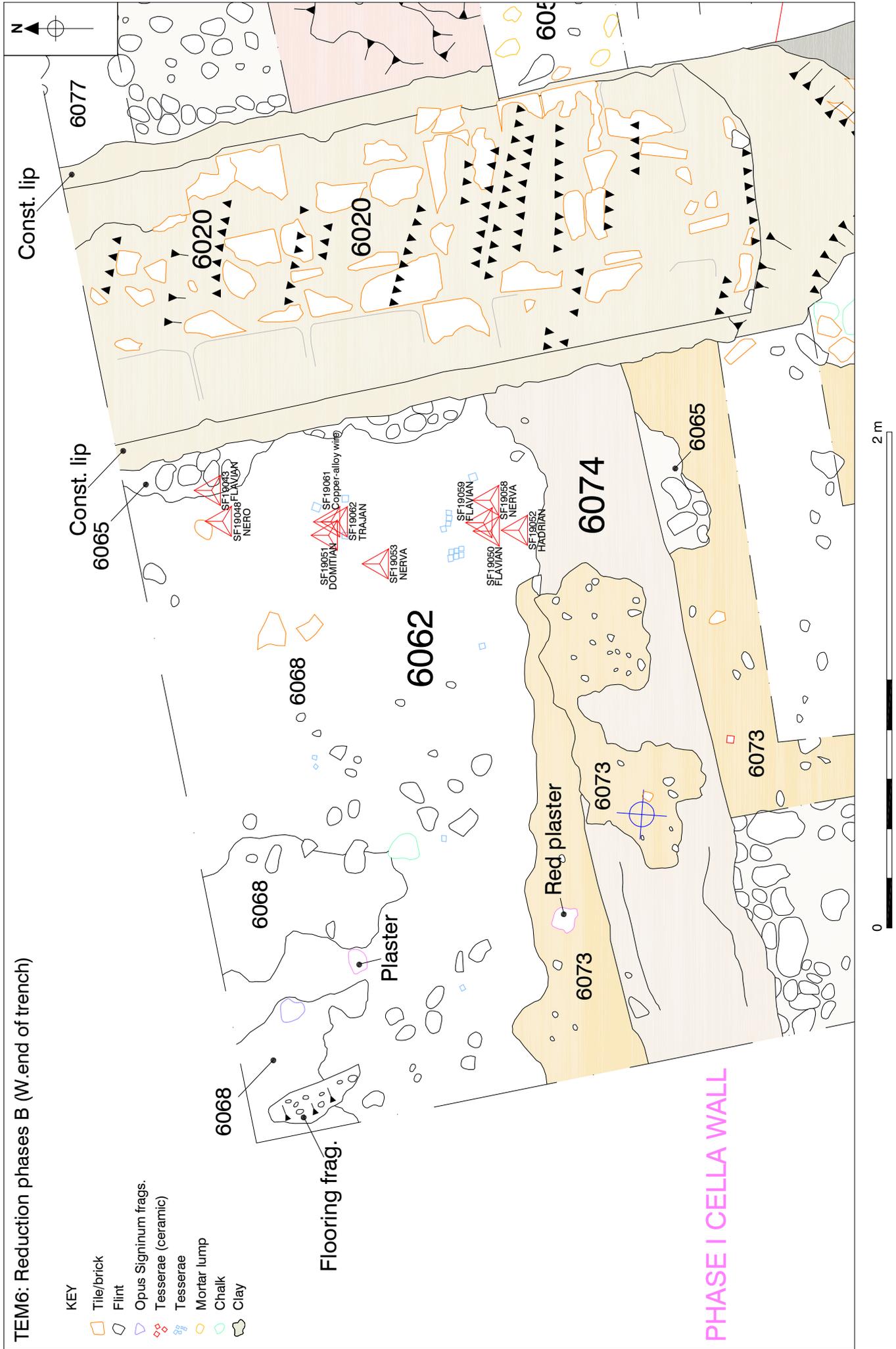


Figure 10. TEM6. W.end to show coins inserted above Temple 1 Cella wall footing. Scale 1:20 if printed at scale .

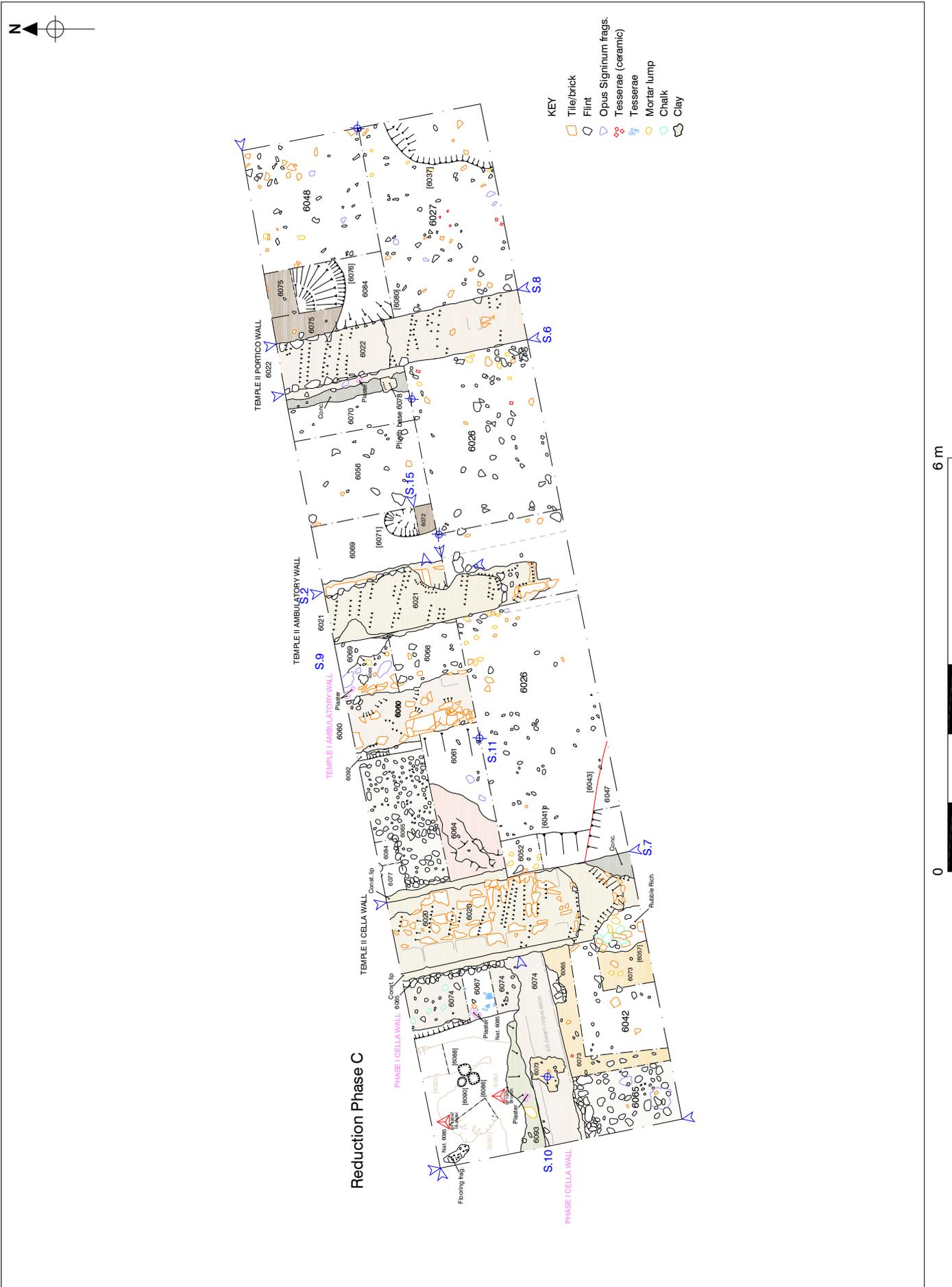


Figure 11. DRAFT: TEM6, Reduction phase C (final). Scale 1:75 if printed at scale.

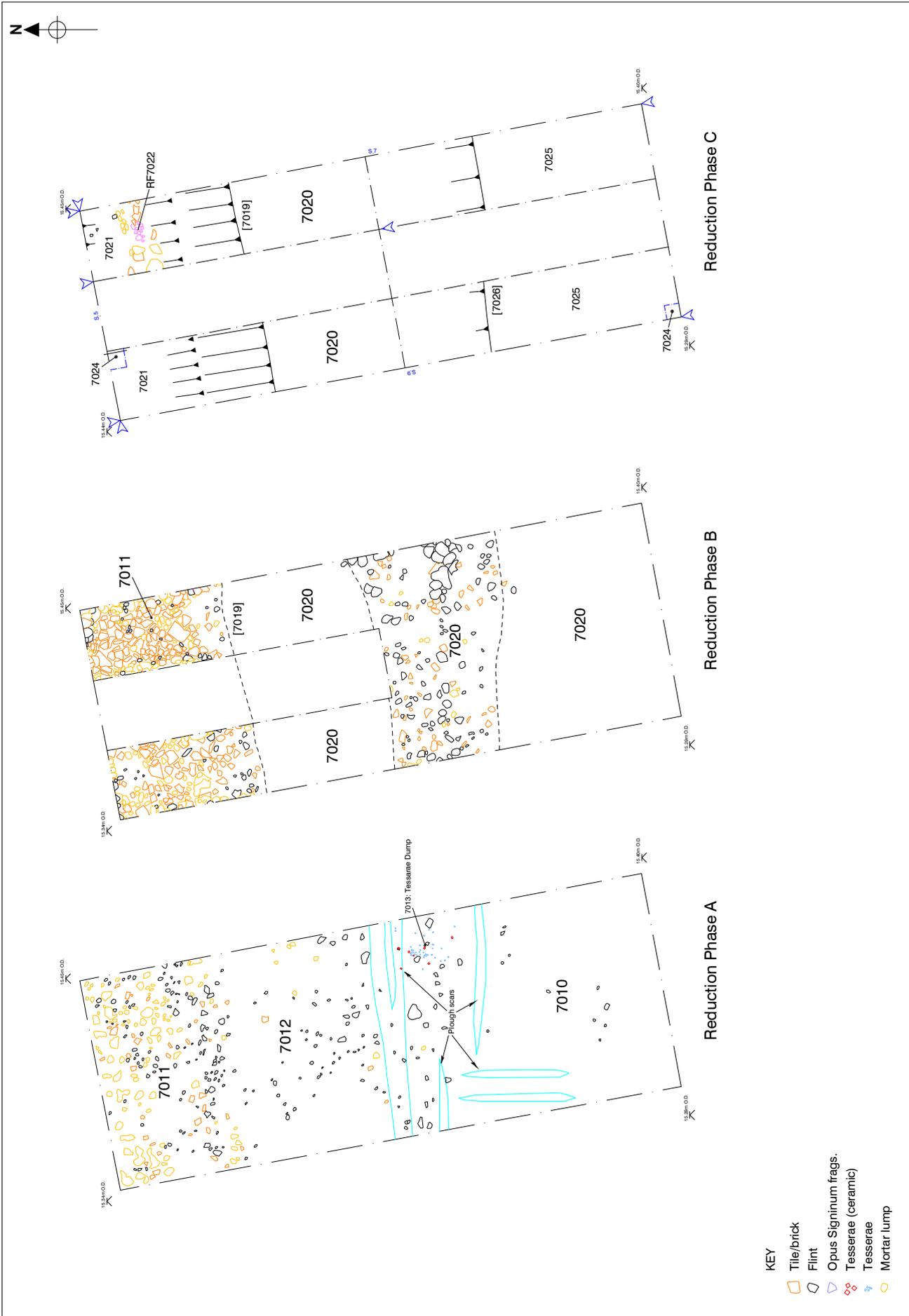


Figure 13. DRAFT: TEM7, all main reduction phases shown side-by-side. Scale 1:75 if printed at scale.

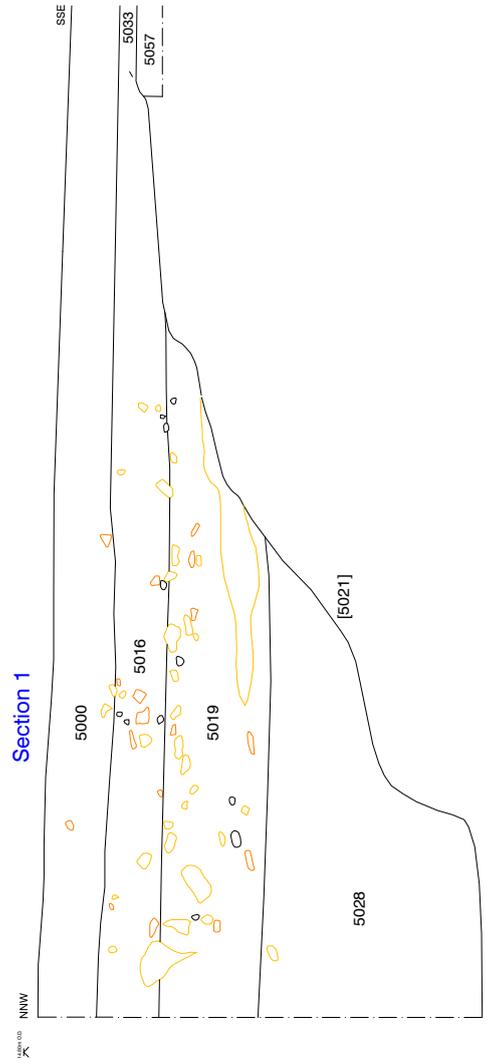
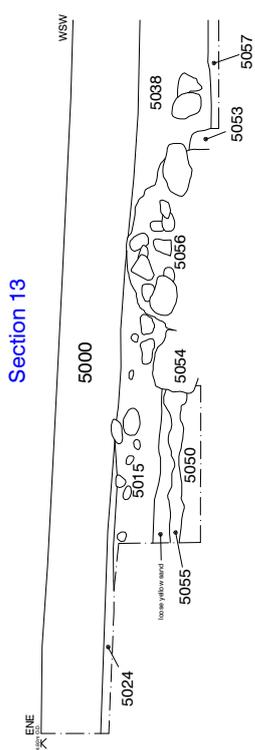
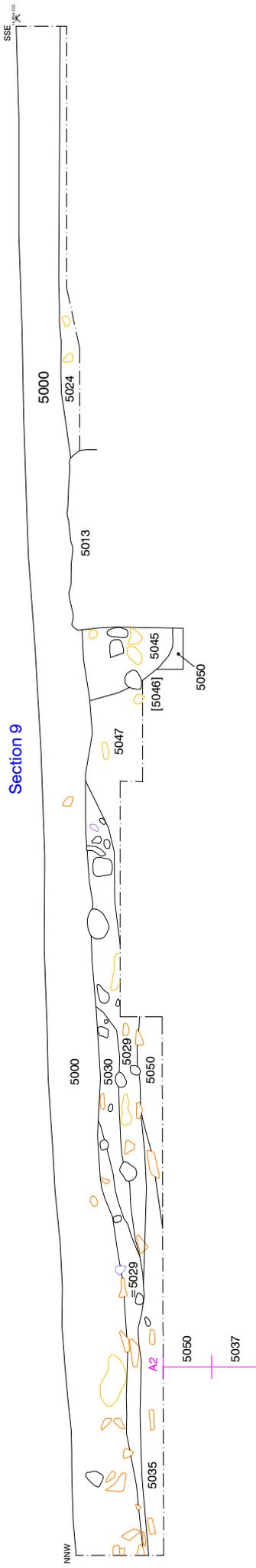


Figure 14. DRAFT: TEM5. Recorded Sections. Scale 1:30 if printed at scale.

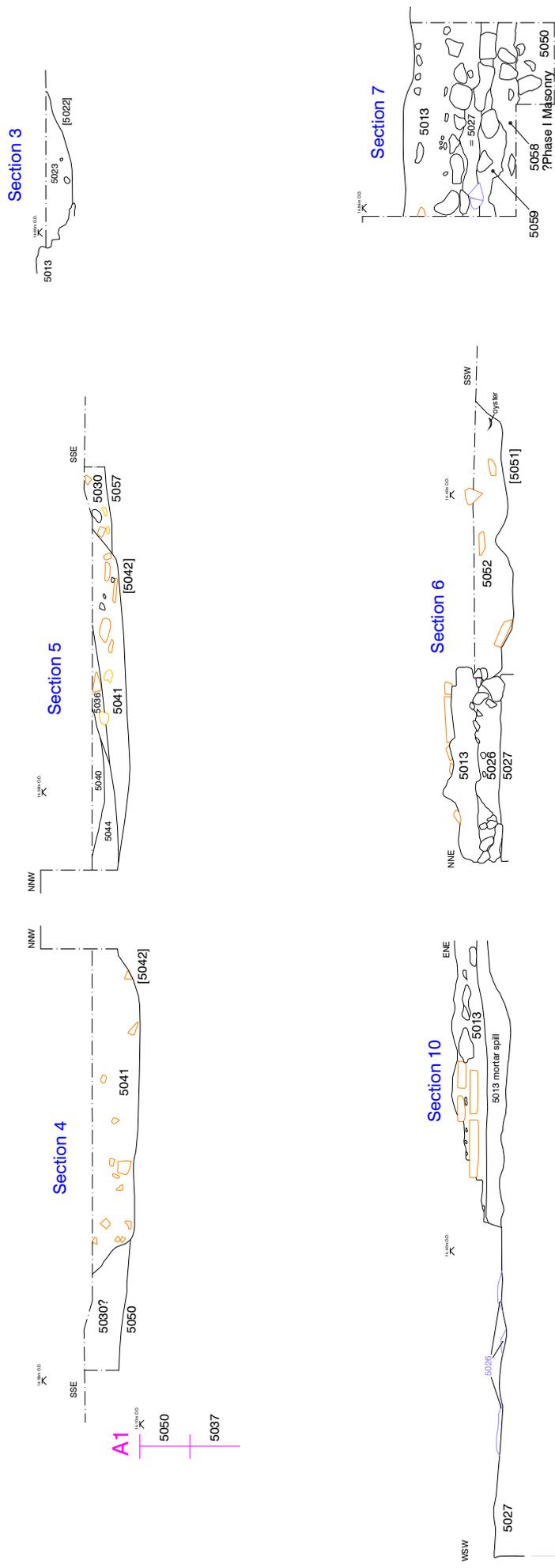
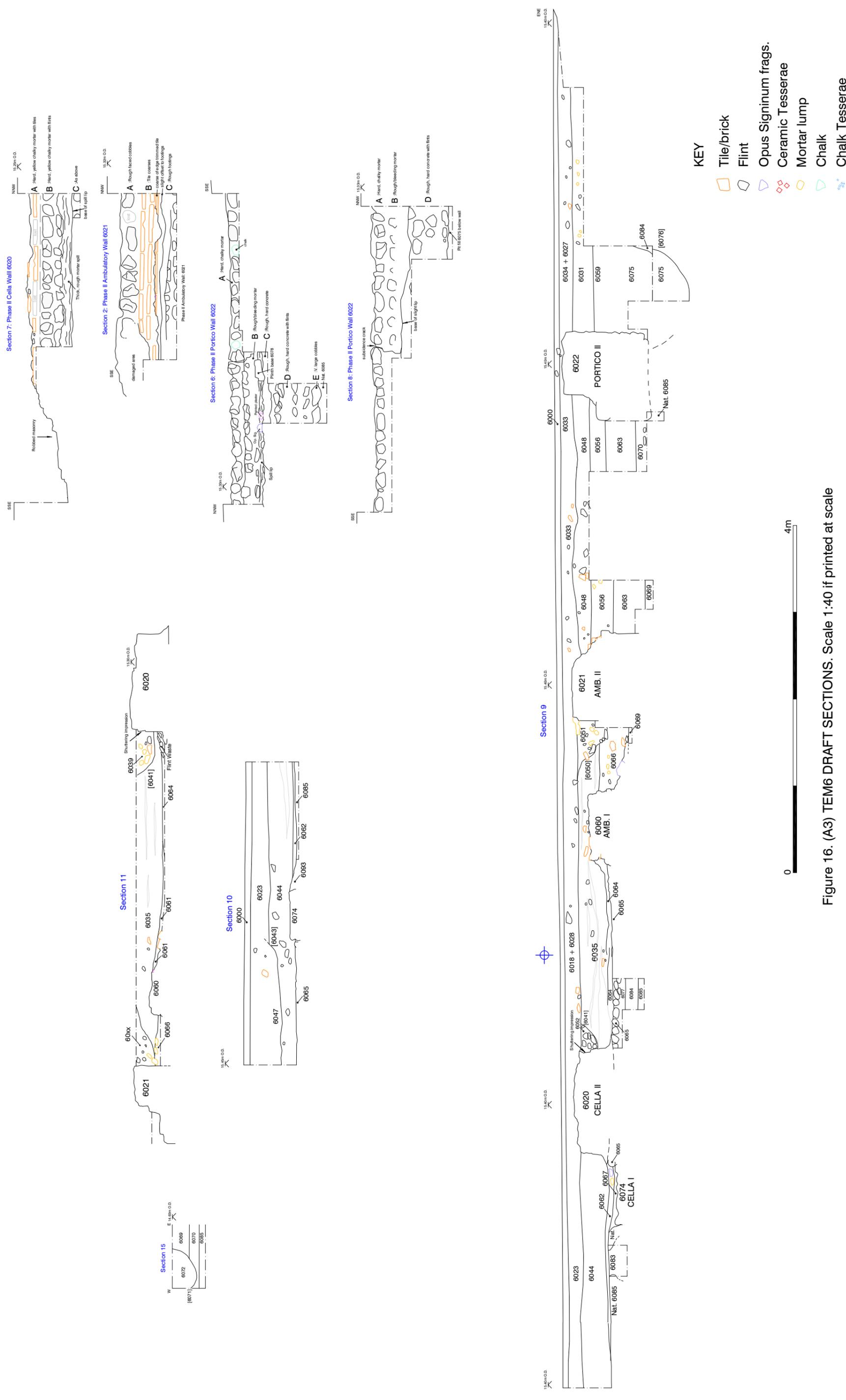


Figure 15. DRAFT: TEM5. Recorded Sections. Scale 1:30 if printed at scale.



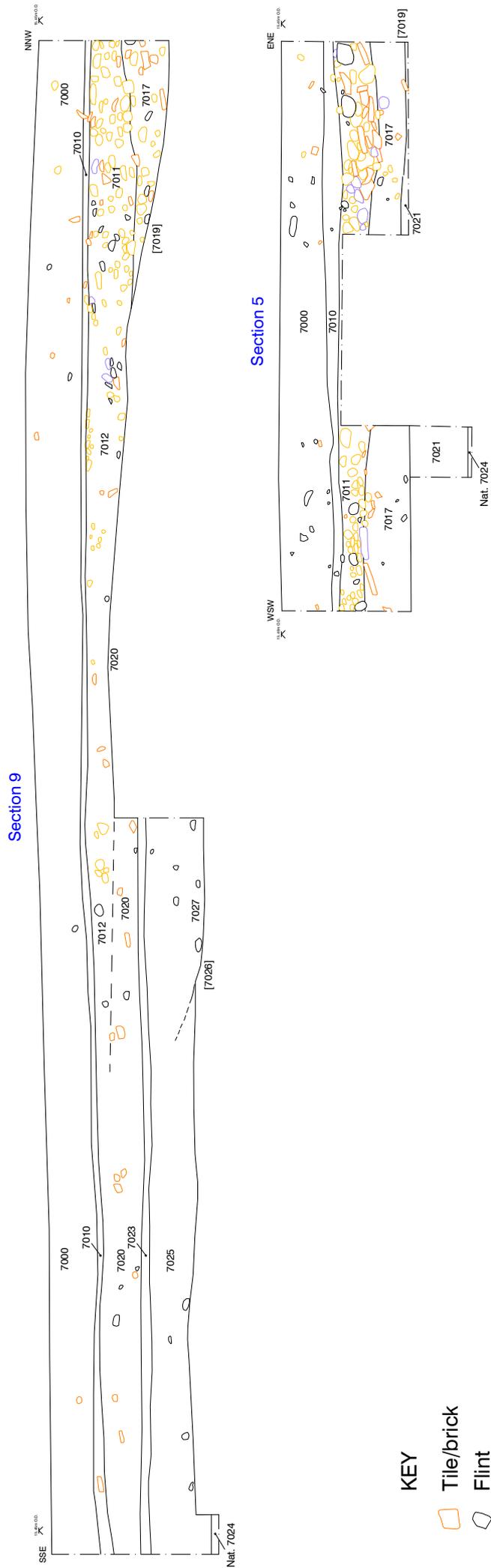


Figure 17. DRAFT: TEM7. Recorded Sections. Scale 1:30 if printed at scale.