



Archaeological Field Unit

**Romano-British Burials at Bartlow Park,
Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation**

Céline Beauchamp & Stephen Macaulay

April 2004

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 715

Commissioned by *G. Miles & Sons Ltd*

Romano-British Burials at Bartlow Park, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

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April 2004

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council at the Bartlow Park, Bartlow (TL 5871 4507), between the 24th and 25th of March 2004. This investigation was in advance of the proposed development of a lake within the grounds of Bartlow Park. The development site was located to the north of the Bartlow Hills, a Romano-British barrow cemetery of international importance (Scheduled Ancient Monument Number 33355) and immediately to the north of the presumed location of a Roman villa excavated in the 1850s. The archaeological work was commissioned by G. Miles and Sons Ltd, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Fitzpatrick the owners (clients) of Bartlow Park.

A total of five evaluation trenches were machine excavated under archaeological supervision totalling 65m in length. Archaeological remains were recorded in three of the five trenches.

Within Trenches 2 and 3 the remains of Romano-British burials and (possible a barrow mound) were discovered. Two inhumations and four cremations were revealed, although these were just part of what is likely to be a much larger cemetery. The cremations were buried with grave goods (complete samian dishes) and were contained within dark grey cremation jars, dating to the mid 2nd century AD. All the inhumations were juvenile. The burials were not excavated or removed from the site but have been preserved in situ following instructions from the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office. It is likely that a number of the burials were buried within an earthen mound, with no grave cuts detected. Interestingly the geophysical survey carried out on the site prior to trenching did not detect these remains. A number of ditches, some thought to be robbed wall foundations and pits/postholes, all of Roman date, were recorded close to the burials and these may relate to the cemetery directly. The wall foundations may mark the limit of the cemetery itself.

No other archaeological features were detected in the other trenches, although a number of later prehistoric (generally Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age) flint flakes were recovered from the interface of the subsoil and gravel natural in Trench 1. These artefacts would probably have been washed down the valley river bed from nearby knapping areas.

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Drawing Conventions

Sections

Limit of Excavation 

Cut 

Cut - Conjectured 

Soil Horizon 

Soil Horizon - Conjectured 

Intrusion/Truncation 

Top of Natural 

Top Surface 

Break in Section 

Cut Number 118

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45\text{m ODN}}{\times}$


Plans

Limit of Excavation 

Deposit - Conjectured 

Natural Features 

Intrusion/Truncation 

Sondages/Machine Strip 

Illustrated Section  S.14

Archaeological Feature 

Excavated Slot 

Cut Number 118

**Romano-British Burials at Bartlow Park, Cambridgeshire:
An Archaeological Evaluation
(TL 5871 4507)**

1 INTRODUCTION

Between the 24th and 25th of March 2004, the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Bartlow Park, Bartlow (TL 5871 4507). The work was carried out at the request of G. Miles and Sons Ltd, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Fitzpatrick the owners of Bartlow Park. The evaluation was conducted in advance of a proposed lake development within the grounds of the park.

The works were carried out following a project specification produced by the Archaeological Field Unit (Macaulay 29/01/04) in response to a Brief for Archaeological Evaluation issued by the County Archaeology Office (CAO; Thomas 20/10/03)

The site lies within the grounds of Bartlow Park, immediately to the south of the present day river feature and to the north of the Bartlow Hills. The Bartlow Hills (a Romano-British barrow cemetery) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 33355) and is considered to be of both national and international importance.

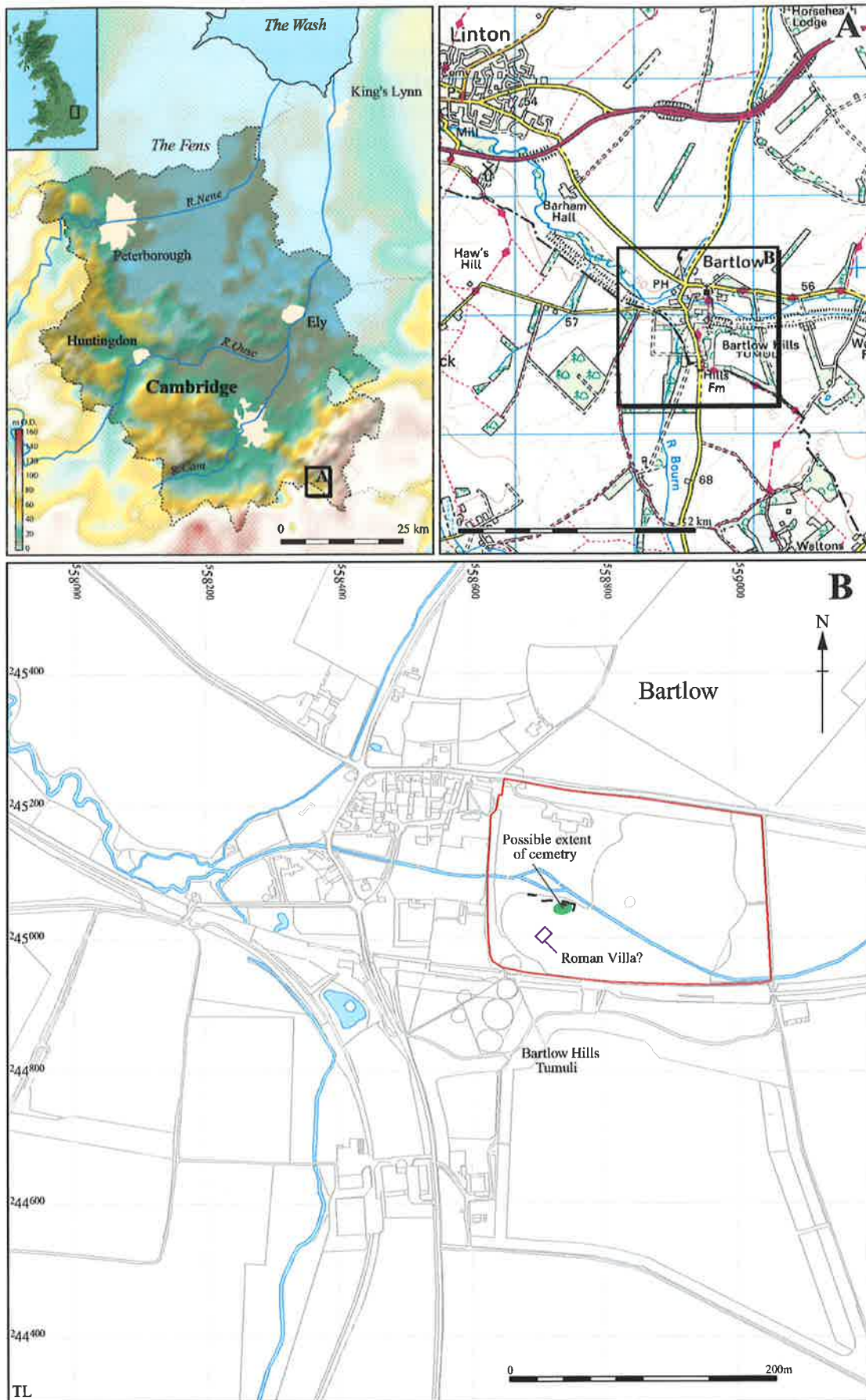
The presence of archaeological remains was suggested as highly probable by the CAO on the basis of information contained in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which records prehistoric and Roman finds in the vicinity of the site.

Weather conditions during the fieldwork were fine despite some intermittent rain, and there were no factors that are likely to have had an adverse effect upon context recognition. Accordingly, the confidence rating to be applied to the results is judged to be high.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located inside Bartlow Park in Bartlow, Cambridgeshire, 100m north of the Romano-British barrow cemetery which is considered to be the largest barrow cemetery for this period north of the Alps.

Situated on an upper chalk natural with some localised river gravel (British Geological Survey 1995) along the south bank of the River Granta, the natural stratigraphy includes a thick colluvial layer (0.4m) beneath the subsoil.



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Figure 1 Site location, showing location of trenches within the development area

The present day landuse of the site is parkland, with the local topography having been significantly altered to create garden and visual features within Bartlow Park. The site is grass with isolated trees and bushes and is located on a south to north slope from the Bartlow Hills (south) towards the valley bottom and stream which run east to west through Bartlow Park. Approximately 30m to the south of the investigation area is a clearly visible terrace, which may identify the position of the Romano-British villa excavated in the 19th century.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The area is extremely rich in archaeology most notably due to the presence of the Romano-British barrow cemetery of Bartlow Hills. These monuments have been acknowledged of international importance and are regarded as the largest and finest set of Romano-British burial mounds in Europe.

3.1 Paleolithic (500 000 BC to 10001 BC)

A *coup-de-poing* handaxe was found in the parish of Bartlow 100m to the north-east of the Roman barrows. This is thought to be held at Saffron Walden Museum (SMR number 06134 – CB7467).

3.2 Mesolithic (10000 BC to 4001 BC)

Six blades, flakes and one tranchet axe were found just over 100m north-west of the barrows (SMR number 06170 – CB7511).

3.3 Neolithic or Bronze Age (4000 BC to 701 BC)

A flint arrowhead was found when a tunnel was cut into Barrow IV in 1840 amongst other fragments of flint (SMR number 09845 – CB11699).

3.4 Bronze Age (2500 BC to 701 BC)

A group of several ring ditches is visible as cropmarks a kilometre to the east of the Bartlow Hills. Three of these were recorded in 1849 and a further seven in 1948 (potentially including the three already recorded). The finds associated with those feature includes lithics (SMR number 06247 – CB7594).

3.5 Roman

The key Roman remains in the parish of Bartlow are those of the Bartlow Hills (SMR Number 098458). These are the name given to a series of Romano-British burial mounds (barrows) that lie approximately 100m south of the development area. They are scheduled ancient monuments (SAM 33355) and

thus protected under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act and considered of national importance. Today six mounds survive (three being managed by Cambridgeshire County Council's Monument Management Project), with one in the grounds of Bartlow Park itself. Two mounds are still visible to the west within modern woodland. Originally the mounds consisted of two parallel rows running north to south, with perhaps five smaller mounds to the west (only two survive today). In 1607 Camden wrote that he had been informed that at least two mounds had been 'dug down' (Gough 1789, 46 in Fosberry 1999).

Early 19th-century excavations (1814/1815 by Buswick Harwood of which no record has been produced; better-recorded excavations were conducted in 1832 and 1840 by John Gage) mention cremations in glass urns in large locked wooden chests or brick cists, with an oil lamp and other grave goods (flagons, cups, plate, bottle made out of ceramic, bronze or glass) There was good preservation of organic material and a wreath of box leaves and petal flowers and even a sponge have been identified amongst some liquid (identified as wine with honey, blood and milk). A chair and some gold signet ring were also found.

Only the centres of the mounds have been excavated and little is known about their periphery. During the construction of the railway through the barrow group in 1864 a further 15 skeletons were uncovered, while in 1853 a former barrow cemetery of 'Roman or Anglo-Saxon' date was found 100m north-east of the Bartlow Hills (English Heritage 2000). However this site's location has remained ambiguous (*i.e.* 100m north-east of which point on the hills?).

Today the only records of the 19th-century excavations and artefacts are Gage's records, since all the artefacts were destroyed in a fire in 1847 at Great Easton Lodge, Dunmow.

The height of the mounds suggests that they may have contained a retaining wall on the model of other mausolea such as those of Augustus and Hadrian.

3.5.1 *The "Neville villa" (SMR Number 06164 – CB7503)*

Between the northern tumulus and the development area an excavation took place in 1852 conducted by Neville on a Roman Villa (Fox 1923). The first feature identified was a well containing an infant burial (0.3m below the surface) then material from a building (Roman tile and large flint stones with painted fresco). The building itself lay a metre to the south of the well. It was a 14.6m (48ft) north to south and 13.18m (43ft 9in) east to west. The flints walls had a width between 0.46m (1ft 6in) to 0.76m (2ft 6in) and were painted with fresco. Two (main?) rooms showed evidence of an hypocaust heating system and paved floor (no mosaic) and two smaller rooms (bath or cistern) at the north-eastern end had a red mortar floor with moulding round the base and a furnace built from tiles.

The building extended further to the south and south-west in the direction of the area where the lake is planned. Few finds were recovered during the 1852 excavation although an impressive number of objects have been found by trenching in the vicinity. There is no precise understanding about when the villa was built but it seems have remained in use until late in the Roman period (objects date from AD 43 AD to AD 409).

In 1934 a crop mark was excavated between Barrows II and IV revealing a flintwork foundation that could be associated with the villa found by Neville.

In addition to the 'Neville' Villa, a much grander villa is known at Linton, located only 0.3km from the Bartlow Hills, this larger villa would have enjoyed a grand view (from Barham Hill) of the chalk tumuli and may have been related to them.

3.6 Medieval

The parish church of St Mary (SMR number 06068 - CB7387) is located to the north-east of the Roman mounds. The chancel and nave are from the 13th century with an earlier Norman round tower. Three walls retain mural paintings dating to the 14th and 15th centuries

More than a kilometre to the north of the site cropmarks have been identified by aerial photography and are undated. One is a linear feature, possibly an incomplete enclosure (SMR numbers 11467 – CB13477) and the other is a ring ditch (?) of c.30m in diameter (SMR numbers 114658 – CB13478).

4 METHODOLOGY

The preliminary stage of evaluation at Bartlow Park involved a geophysical survey to determine the possible extent of archaeological remains in an area of rich in archaeological deposits. PC Geophysics undertook a fluxgate gradiometer survey of the proposed development area (Masters 2004). The results detected few magnetic anomalies and these were thought to represent former hedge boundaries or areas of modern disturbance. The survey did detect three possible linear anomalies that might be interpreted as possible Roman ditches. Overall the survey did not indicate the presence of extensive buried archaeological remains, although the effect of landscaping in the gardens may have masked any archaeological features.

Following the geophysical survey it was proposed to open 50m of linear trenching to investigate the development area to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeology and test the results of the geophysical survey. During the course of the evaluation the length of evaluation trenching was increased from 50 to 65m (at the request of the client) to determine the extent of archaeology more accurately and to confirm areas devoid of any remains.

A total of five trenches (Trenches 1-5) were opened under the supervision of an archaeologist (see Fig. 1). The trenches were opened by a JCB using a 1.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket. The total length of trenching opened was 65m, providing a 7.5% sample of the development area.

The trenches were cleaned by hand where appropriate, and were planned, photographed and recorded using the AFU's single context recording system. The trenches were tied in three-dimensionally to Ordnance Survey mapping using a surveyor of the client G. Miles and Sons Ltd. A hand-drawn plan was produced for Trenches 3 and 4 as they were the only trenches to produce archaeological features. A section was dug across each feature, in order to establish its complete description according to the AFU single context system.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 15m long x 1.6m wide, and orientated north-east to south-west. The trench was positioned to reveal a possible ditch predicted from geophysical survey (Masters 2004), although the trench proved to contain no archaeological features. Up to 0.2m of dark greyish brown sandy silt clay topsoil with occasional flints (1) overlay 0.3m of yellowish brown silty clay subsoil with occasional flints (2) and contained a single sherd of Roman greyware (13g) and Roman tile (77g). This in turn overlay 0.5m of very dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt (3) with frequent subangular flints representing colluvium derived from the south (*i.e.* towards the Bartlow Hills and site of Neville's Villa). The natural consisted of river gravels overlying chalk. Although no archaeological features as such were recorded, a number of later prehistoric (Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age) flint flakes (N=6, 71g) were recovered from the interface of the colluvium and natural geological horizon and these are likely to have been derived from working areas further up stream (*i.e.* to the east).

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 10m long and 1.6m wide and was orientated east to west. The trench exposed part of a Romano-British cemetery (including a possible barrow) and was not fully excavated due to the status of the evaluation and the potential to preserve archaeology *in situ*. Up to 0.2m of dark greyish brown sandy silt clay topsoil with occasional flints (1) overlay 0.1m of yellowish brown silty clay subsoil with occasional flints (2), which in turn overlay up to 0.5m of colluvium consisting of very dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt (3) with frequent subangular flints. The natural was river sandy silt and gravels overlying chalk.

Machine excavation was halted part way through trench excavation due to the discovery of the Romano-British burials, including at least four cremations (Plate 1; Fig. 2, C1-4) and a single inhumation all with associated grave goods. The burials were not fully excavated or recorded due to the nature of the investigation (*i.e.* preservation *in situ*), although rapid recording was carried out before the trench was backfilled). No grave cuts were detected and the burials appear to have been within an earthen barrow mound and thus almost impossible to detect during machining. The burials were also not detected from the geophysical survey of the site (Masters 2004). Significant amounts of Romano-British artefacts were recovered from the spoil tip of Trench 2 that related to the cemetery. A total of 1546g of Romano-British pottery (see Appendix 1) was recovered including: a Samian plain cup (Dr 33, 72g, stamp DOCCVS F), sherds from two burnt (cremation?) Horningsea? greyware decorated bowls (571g & 842g) and a single sherd of Colchester buff creamware (25g). The greywares are Horningsea (2nd-4th century AD) and Alice Holt (late 1st to 2nd century). A single Romano-British tile fragment was also recovered (63g).

Cremation 1

This cremation was contained within a Horningsea greyware jar and burnt bone was found within the soil matrix. Associated grave goods include a samian conical plain cup (Dr 33) with clear intact stamp (DOCCUS =which is probably DOCCIUS ii, linked to Lezoux between AD 150-160; see Appendix 1).

Cremation 2

Cremation 2 was placed within a large greyware jar (>24cm diameter), including burnt bone within the soil matrix. The cremation jar was positioned on top of a samian dish (Dr 18/31) also with a clear intact stamp (CNATI M = GNATIUS ii, AD 130-155, the form suggests c.AD 145 or later (see Appendix 1).

Cremation 3

This cremation was contained within a very large Horningsea greyware bowl (>70cm diameter), within which burnt bone was clearly visible. No other grave goods were visible and little of this cremation was exposed.

Cremation 4

This cremation was damaged by the JCB and part of the top of the greyware cremation jar was removed. Burnt bone was visible.

Inhumation 1

An extended sub-adult burial was orientated east to west, with only a femur and part of the skull exposed. Iron nails were discovered near the feet (east) and a small Nene Valley ceramic (2nd-4th century AD) cup base. Although the stratigraphy has not been determined, it is possible that this may have been made after the cremations and inserted into the earlier burial mound.

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was 20m long x 1.6m wide, and orientated east to west, forming an L-shaped junction with Trench 4 in the eastern part of the site. The trench was positioned to reveal two possible ditches predicted from geophysical survey (Masters 2004). Up to 0.2m of dark greyish brown sandy silt clay topsoil with occasional flints (1) overlay 0.3m of yellowish brown silty clay

subsoil with occasional flints (2), which in turn overlay 0.6m of very dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt (3) with frequent subangular flints. This deposit represents colluvium derived from the south (*i.e.* towards the Bartlow Hills and site of Neville's Villa). The natural was river gravels overlying chalk.

In addition to the two ditches predicted from geophysical survey (19 and 28; both detected in Trench 4), a robbed wall foundation trench (10) was discovered along with two possible examples (15 and 26). Two pits or postholes (13 and 17) and a single pit (21) were also identified. At least one inhumation grave was recorded (24). It is possible that the robbed walls (graveyard?) and burial are linked to the Romano-British burials in Trench 2 located immediately to the south.

Ditch 10 was 0.28m deep, 1m wide and at least 4m long, with a V-shaped profile. It was linear in plan and orientated west/south-west to east/north-east. It contained a single fill (9) of brownish grey sandy silty clay with moderate flint fragments. The fill contained two sherds of Roman pottery (greyware rim frags; 10g). This feature is interpreted as a robbed wall foundation trench.

Pit/posthole 13 was 0.18m deep, 1.1m wide and 0.70m long, with a shallow U-shaped profile. It contained two fills; upper fill (11) a pale grey sandy silty clay with occasional flint fragments and chalk flecks and lower fill (12) a pale grey sandy silty clay with frequent flint fragments and chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature, although a large flat stone was located within the feature and may have formed a structural base.

Ditch 15 was 0.25m deep, 0.45m wide and at least 1.5m long, with a U-shaped profile. It was linear in plan, terminating within the trench and was orientated southwest-northeast. It contained a single fill (14) a dark grey brown sandy silty clay with moderate flint fragments. No finds were recovered from this feature. This feature is interpreted as a robbed wall foundation trench.

Pit/posthole 17 was 0.13m deep, 0.3m wide and 0.6m long, with a shallow U-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (16) a dark grey brown sandy silty clay with moderate flint fragments. Finds recovered from this feature include a burnt stone (55g) and a single sherd of Roman greyware (4g).

Ditch 19 was 0.20m deep, 0.55m wide and at least 1.7m long, with a broad V-shaped profile. It was linear in plan and was orientated north-west to south-east. It contained a single fill (18) a brownish grey sandy clayey silt with occasional flint fragments and rounded stones. The fill contained oyster shell (22g) and a lithic flake (7g). This feature was predicted from the geophysical survey (Masters 2004).

Grave 24 was identified within Trench 3. This feature was not excavated beyond exposing a human skull (23), a sherd of Roman pottery (3g) and an iron nail. The grave appears to have been orientated north to south and was a sub-adult inhumation. The grave was located immediately to the west of ditch 15.

Ditch 26 was 0.25m deep, 0.45m wide and at least 1.5m long, with U-shaped profile. It was linear in plan, terminating within the trench and orientated north to south. It contained a single fill (25) a dark grey brown sandy silty clay with frequent flint fragments. No finds were recovered from this feature. This feature is interpreted as a possible robbed wall foundation trench.

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was 10m long x 1.6m wide and was orientated east to west, forming an L-shape with Trench 3. The trench was positioned to reveal two possible ditches predicted from geophysical survey (Masters 2004). Up to 0.2m of dark greyish brown sandy silt clay topsoil with occasional flints (1) overlay 0.3m of yellowish brown silty clay subsoil with occasional flints (2), which in turn overlay 0.6m of very dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt (3) with frequent subangular flints representing colluvium derived from the south (*i.e.* towards the Bartlow Hills and site of Neville's Villa). The natural was river gravels overlying chalk.

The trench contained two archaeological features (**21** and **28**).

Pit and post-pipe **21/30** was 0.30m deep, 1m wide and approx 2m long, with a shallow U-shaped profile. The pit contained a single fill (20) a dark yellow brown sandy silty clay with moderate stones and flint fragments. Finds recovered from this feature include a 3 flint flakes (12g) and three sherds of Roman greyware (5g). The pit **21** has a posthole (postpipe) **30**. This was circular 0.22m in diameter and 0.28m deep and contained a single fill (29) a dark grey silty clay with chalk and charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered.

Ditch **28** was 0.15m deep, 0.45m wide and at least 3m long, with an irregular U-shaped profile. It was linear in plan and orientated south-west to north-east. It contained a single fill (27) an orange brown sandy clayey silt with moderate flint fragments. No finds were recovered from this feature. This feature was predicted from the geophysical survey (Masters 2004).

5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was 10m long x 1.6m wide, and was orientated east to west. It contained no archaeological features. Up to 0.2m of dark greyish brown sandy silt clay topsoil with occasional flints (1) overlay 0.15m of yellowish brown silty clay subsoil with occasional flints (2), which in turn overlay 0.5m of very dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt (3) with frequent subangular flints representing colluvium derived from the south (*i.e.* towards the Bartlow Hills and site of Neville's Villa). The natural was river gravels overlying chalk.

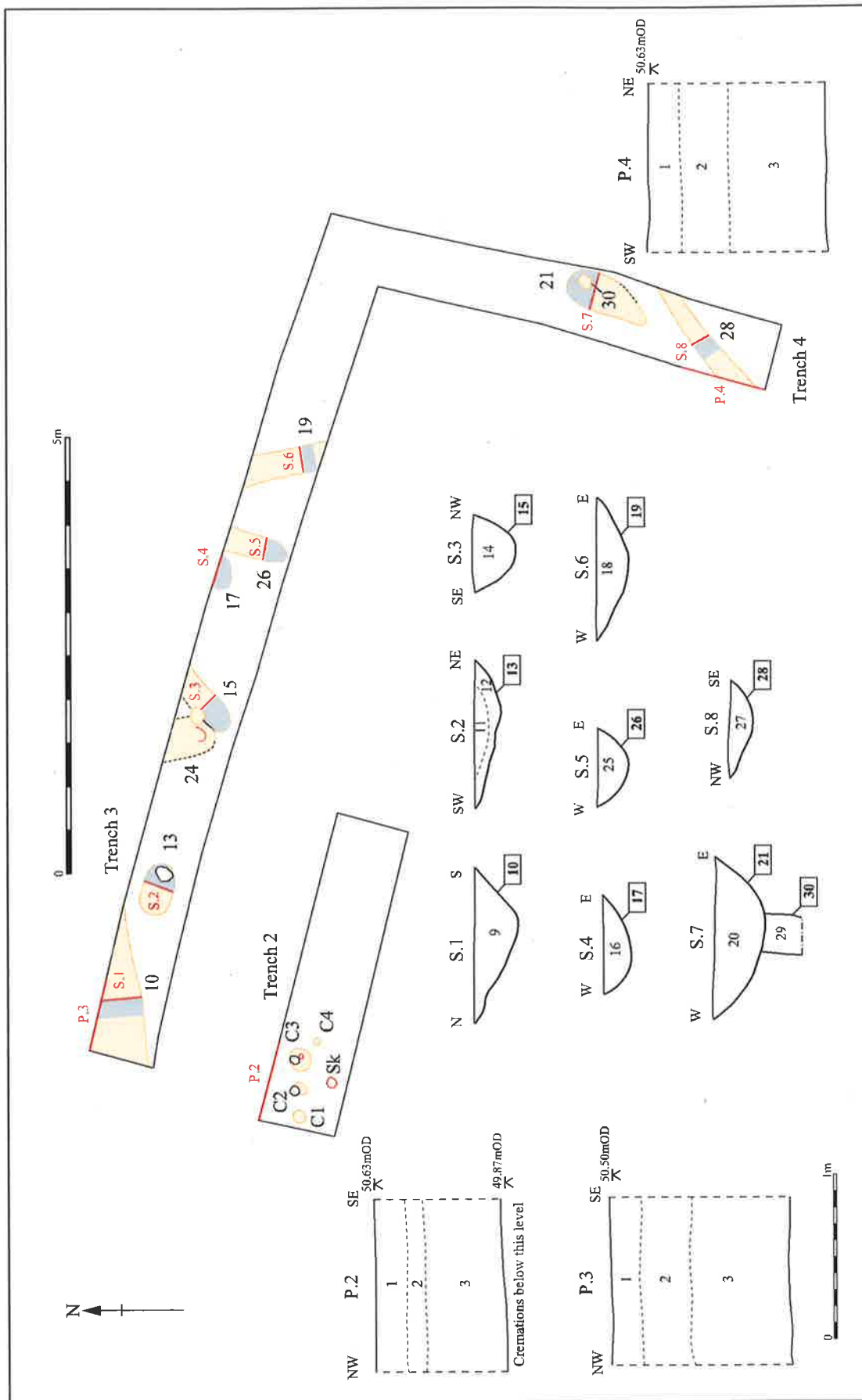


Figure 2 Trench 2, 3 and 4 plans, sections and soil profiles



Plate 1 Romano-British burials in Trench 2

6 DISCUSSION

This investigation has identified a concentrated area of important archaeology centred on the discovery of a Romano-British cemetery in and around Trenches 2 and 3, within and immediately to the south of the proposed development. These burials, which include at least four cremations and two inhumations, almost certainly relate to the Romano-British burial ground recorded in 1853, discovered during the construction of the nearby railway line. The location was thought to be north-east of the Bartlow Hills, in an unrecorded spot (SMR 06164a).

The cemetery dates from the mid 2nd century AD, with a clear date of AD 150-160 derived from the samian stamps of pottery deposited as grave goods. From the brief investigation conducted the cremations appear to be buried within a barrow mound and would probably have been linked to the nearby villa estate, perhaps representing lower status individuals with the elite buried at the nearby Bartlow Hills. The presence of possibly later inhumations to the north and beside the cremations suggest that the cemetery certainly extends beyond Trench 2.

Cremation ritual was the basic and most common burial rite in 2nd century Roman Britain (Taylor 2001) and grave goods would classically include items for the afterlife journey; table settings, food offerings, lamps and some personal items. The cremations at Bartlow Park fit this model with cremation jars, samian cups and dishes, and the nails may represent offering boxes rather than coffins. By the 3rd century common burial rites are more confused with both cremations and inhumations found together in burial grounds, and this perhaps indicates that the Bartlow Park cemetery was fairly long lasting, with secondary use of the burial mound.

To the south of Trench 2 within Trench 3 a further burial was identified and this was associated with other features of Roman date, including a robbed wall foundation ditch and pits/postholes. Interestingly this may be part of the cemetery with walls and column bases.

Given the proximity of the nearby villa excavated in the 19th century, which lies to the south between the development area and the Bartlow Hills burial mounds, it is surprising how few other Roman archaeological features are present or indeed that there is little demolition material within the topsoil, subsoil or the colluvium layer. This may be accounted for by the later landscaping of the Bartlow Park gardens and the lack of recent soil disturbance. Nevertheless this situation remains surprising, although it may also be the case that the presence of the cemetery resulted in only marginal use of this land in the Roman period (other than for burials).

CONCLUSIONS

The objective of the project was to establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains within the site in advance of development. Information from the evaluation will allow an assessment of the proposed development's archaeological implications and will inform an appropriate mitigation strategy.

The discovery of an important Roman cemetery is very significant. This burial ground contains 2nd century and perhaps later cremations and inhumations with rich grave goods. The burials are mostly within a barrow mound and thus would be very hard to detect during machining, although the inhumations to the north are within grave cuts. The cemetery does not extend into Trench 1 to the west and appears to not extend beyond Trench 4 to the east. A single ditch (28) of Roman date was recorded running north-east to south-west in Trench 4 and this may be marking the limit of the cemetery, while the foundation wall (10) in Trench 3 may mark the northern limit of the cemetery: however this interpretation cannot be totally certain from the information available at this stage. The extent of the cemetery to the south (*i.e.* upslope towards Neville's villa and the Bartlow Hills) remains unknown.

No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 1 and 5 (*i.e.* the western part of the investigation area), although of note were a number of later prehistoric lithics which were recovered from the interface of the colluvium (3) and gravel bed overlying the natural chalk. This situation is not uncommon (Steve Kemp pers. comm.) and would indicate prehistoric settlement and activity in the area, if not the site itself, which has been washed down the river valley, presumably from the east.

In conclusion the evaluation has identified an important Romano-British cemetery in the south of the proposed development area, which would almost certainly have been linked to the nearby Roman Villa and Bartlow Hills barrows.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Robert Orford of G. Miles and Sons who commissioned the project, and Mr and Mrs Fitzpatrick the owners of Bartlow Park who have funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay. Thanks to the site staff, Céline Beauchamp and Scott Kenney for their quick and hard work.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas, County Archaeology Office, who visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

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APPENDIX 1: THE POTTERY

by Stephen Macaulay with contributions from Dr Jerry Evans and Dr Margaret Ward

A small assemblage of pottery (1.971kg) was recovered from the evaluation at Bartlow Park. This material was derived from a Romano-British cemetery and almost entirely consists of placed grave goods. The assemblage comprises complete vessels (jars, dishes and cups) which would be food and table offerings in the classic mode of 2nd century cremation burial rites. The Roman pottery dates to the early 2nd to 4th centuries AD during the period of major Roman activity in Britain. This dating was derived from the samian stamps of grave goods (DOCCIVS & CNATI). Pottery styles identified include table wares (dishes & flagons) and a number of jars (for cremations). The assemblage was dominated, unsurprisingly, by local grey wares and complete samian dishes and cups.

The pottery is fresh and unabraded with very large vessels surviving completely intact suggesting excellent survival *in situ*. The cremations and inhumations were preserved *in situ* and not excavated. The pottery recovered is from limited disturbance and material from spoil tips, with some from minimal excavation of nearby ditches and pits/postholes.

Context	Description	Total Wt.	Sherd Nos.	Context Date Range
2	HGW bowl rs, decorated	13g	1	2nd-4th century AD
3	GW rs	6g	1	2nd-4th century AD
9	GW bs, GW rs	10g	2	2nd-4th century AD
16	HGW bs	4	1	2nd-4th century AD
20	GW bs, BB rs	5g	3	2nd-4th century AD
22	Alice Holt GW base	3g	1	1st-3rd century AD
Cr 2	Complete HGW bowl, complete CGS Dr 18/31 (CNATI)	176g	(8)	mid 2nd century AD (c 145-155 AD)
Cr 3	HGW rs, Colchester buff creamware base	208g	6	2nd-4th century AD
Spoil (Trench 2 only)	Complete Samian Cup (Dr 33 DOCCUS I), complete HGW cremation jar, GW bs & rs inc decorated.	1546g	var	2nd-4th century AD

GW = grey ware, HGW = Horningsea grey ware, NVCC = Nene Valley colour-coat, BB = Black Burnished ware, CGS = Central Gaulish Samian, Dr = Dragendorf samian form style, rs = rim sherd, bs = body sherd, Cr = Cremation N.

Note on Samian Stamps (Dr Margaret Ward pers. comm.)

Both Central Gaulish, probably Lezoux and 2nd century.

CNATI M = Gnatius ii, c 130 = 155. His stamps in the Castleford Pottery Shop are dated c.140-150 (qv, Nos 699-772), but this does not appear to be the same die as the example from Bartlow. The form of this dish will be either Dr 18/31 or 31. This may be form 31 and 145 or later, as it appears to be too deep for the earlier form 18/31 (which was produced up to c.145).

DOCCUS F. This name is not instantly recognisable, although such a maker may have existed. If a letter 'T' was originally intended after the two C's (*i.e.* DOCCIUS), this would probably be Docius ii. Stamps of Docius ii are more common than those of Docius i. He was working at Lezoux no earlier than *c.*150 and probably after *c.*160. (Docius i was earlier). If the example from Barltlow came from a cup, it will probably be the conical Dr 33 rather than the earlier-2nd century Dr 27 with a double curve.



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