Roman Burials & Settlement Remains at "The Parks" Godmanchester





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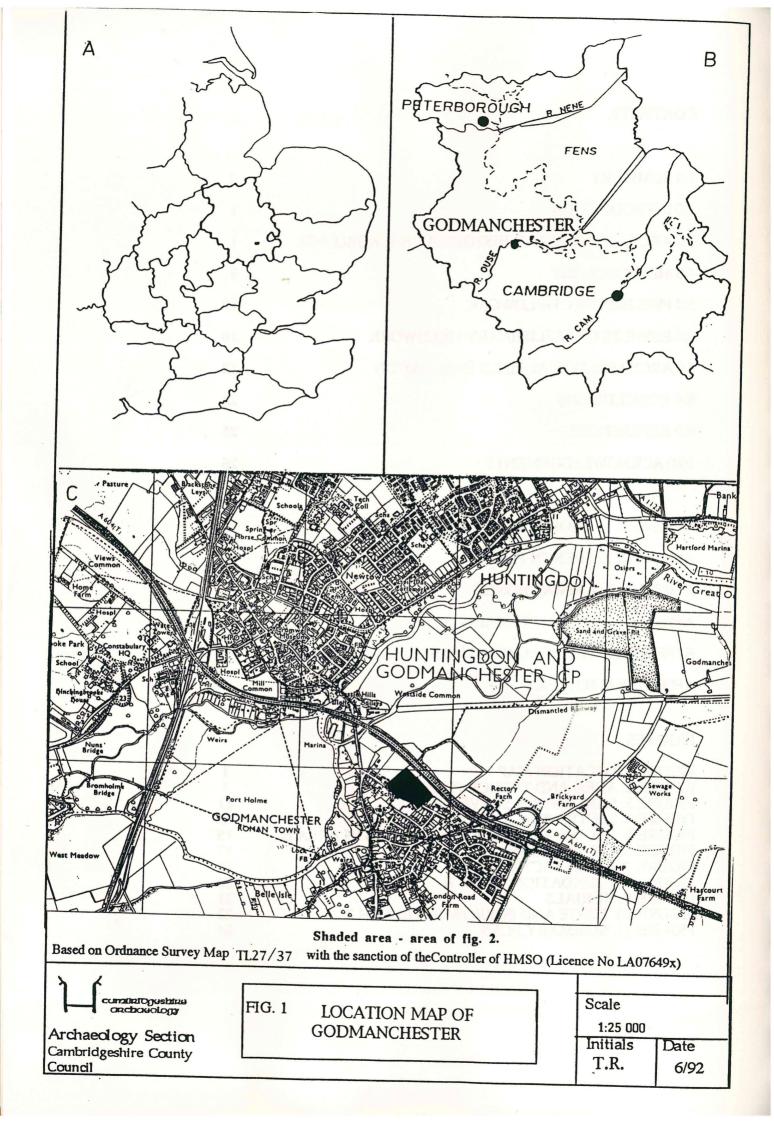
Report no. 63

Excavation of Burial (040)



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ROMAN BURIALS AND SETTLEMENT REMAINS AT THE PARKS, GODMANCHESTER 1992

(TL 2470/7085)

1.0 SUMMARY.

1.1 An evaluation excavation, commissioned by Smith's Gore on behalf of the Church Commissioners, was undertaken at The Parks, Godmanchester. A series of Roman period burials were identified along with a number of second and third century pits and ditches containing domestic refuse and an enclosure with adjacent droveway. A Roman gravel quarry and Medieval ploughsoil were also identified, as was a preserved series of ridges and furows resulting from Medieval agricultural activites. A foundation trench for a masonry building of probable Roman date was also identified.

2.0 INTRODUCTION.

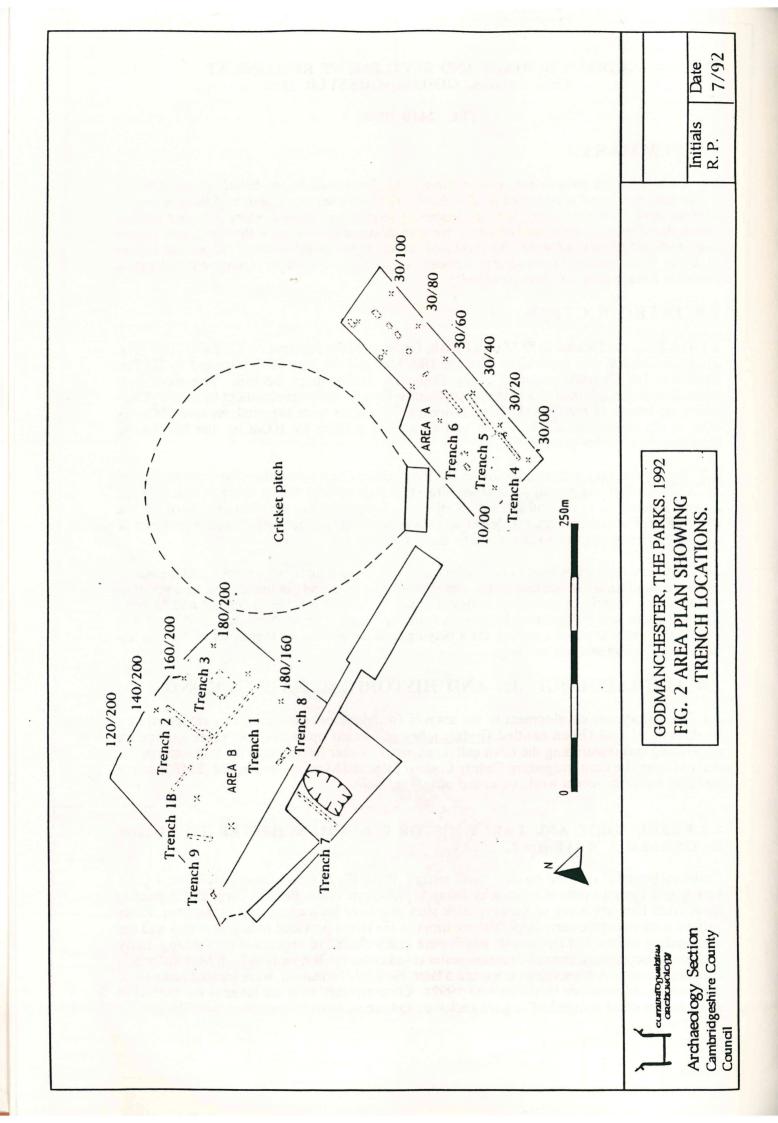
- 2.1 The Parks are located in St Mary's Parish, Godmanchester, centred on TL 2470/7085 (Fig. 1). An evaluation was undertaken between 18th May and 4th June 1992, directed by Dr Tim Reynolds for Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeology Section. The work was commissioned in advance of a planning application for a housing development by Smith's Gore acting on behalf of the Church Commissioners. Two areas were assessed, an area 100m by 40m in the Southeast of The Parks, and an area of c.100m by 100m in the Northwest, separated by a cricket ground (Fig. 2).
- 2.2 The site lies on the lowest terrace of the River Great Ouse below the 10m contour, beside the A604. Underlying geology comprises alluvial gravels predominantly made of flint cobbles. Subsoil is made up of alluvial deposits of silts and clays, reflecting the vulnerability of the site to flooding. The present water table lies at c. 0.8m below the surface reflecting the presence of a flood barrier lying just east of the site by the A604.
- 2.3 Land here rises from west to east reflecting a rise in the underlying gravels, and the soil is more freely draining in the east of the site. The surface of the site is undulating as a result of disturbances, mostly by medieval agriculture which formed a series of ridges and furrows across the site, and by medieval fishponds, banks and leats. The northern part of the site was levelled recently to make a surface for a playing field, whilst the southern part of the site has been disturbed by modern building.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

3.1 The history and development of the town of Godmanchester is excellently reviewed in a booklet by H J M Green entitled <u>Godmanchester</u>, based upon over 40 years experience excavating and researching the town and its environs. Other information for this summary is derived from the Cambridgeshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), which includes results of recent work, up to and including, 1992.

3.2 PREHISTORIC AND EARLY HISTORIC GODMANCHESTER TO AD1100 Dr GERALD A WAIT AIFA.

Godmanchester is situated on the gravel terrace of the River Great Ouse which has a great variety and concentration of cropmarks dating to prehistoric times. Rectory Farm and Brampton finds cited here are some of the cropmark sites that have been excavated in the area. River valleys were occupied early in prehistoric times as the rivers provided transport routes and the surrounding valleys had fertile soils which were easily cleared of vegetation for farming. Early prehistoric occupation around Godmanchester is indicated by flint tools in both Mesolithic and Neolithic forms. A Mesolithic camp, and a later, Neolithic farmstead, were located just east of the town by excavations in 1990 (Wait 1992). Contemporary with the latter is the extensive and obscure ritual complex of a giant enclosure and cursus recently excavated near Rectory



Farm (McAvoy, interim report in CCC SMR). Another cursus has been excavated just west of Brampton (Malim 1991), as well as other Bronze Age barrows (or ring ditches) again at Brampton (White 1966), and at Rectory Farm (McAvoy op. cit.). Many other sites, probably farmsteads, are likely to have been scattered over the four by one kilometre gravel terrace upon which Godmanchester sits, exploiting the light, free draining soils so amenable to early farming technology. Such sites are known only through collections of flint tools.

Later prehistoric settlement is relatively better understood, not least because Iron Age pottery survives much better than earlier pottery. One such farmstead has been sample excavated just east of the town (Wait 1992) and others are known from under modern Godmanchester by the appearance of the typical roundhouses and ditched enclosures encountered below Roman occupation. One such farm was sampled at the east end of Park Lane.

3.3 ROMAN GODMANCHESTER

The Roman conquest of East Anglia is represented in Godmanchester by a legionary fort built c. AD 44, to command the two new roads (Ermine Street and the Cambridge to Leicester Road) where they crossed the River Great Ouse. The fort was abandoned within a few years as the frontier moved north, but an associated civilian settlement or vicus survived in basically native Celtic style. During the Flavian period the vicus expanded and flourished. By the Hadrianic period (ca 117-38) a mansio and baths was designed and built in the centre of the town, near the central crossroads. These were very large and elaborate buildings, reflecting in both their design and furnishings the progressive Romanisation of the inhabitants. A mansio was originally connected to the imperial postal service, providing overnight accomodation and fresh horses. This role later expanded to include facilities for other imperial travellers and later served as both a police post and a tax collection centre. The Godmanchester mansio as eventually built was one of the largest in Britain, over 100 metres long, including stabling. The mansio was built around a colonaded courtyard with bedrooms along two sides, plus kitchens, dining rooms, etc. Both mansio and baths were substantially built with masonry walls and half-timbered above the ground floor. Floors were tessellated tand walls were of painted plaster. Somewhat later (shortly after ca AD200) the town centre was redesigned and a formal basilica or town hall was built, indicating that Godmanchester may have achieved the formal status of a Vicus, with a legal constitution and rights of self-government (possibly following an edict of Caracalla in AD214 granting Roman citizenship to all free-born members of the community). The main building was of six bays, with an aisle on the east separated from the hall by an arcade. The new basilica, the mansio and the public baths were located in an insulae or small compound demarcated by ditched boundaries, and with them was a small temple apparently dedicated to a god named Abandinus, not known elsewhere and therefore possibly a local deity.

The general prosperity of the second century in Godmanchester was marred by a period of extensive flooding of land below about 10.0 metres OD (this would include the area called The Parks). In the mid second century an extensive fire destroyed large tracts of the town and necessitated a massive rebuilding programme. This, plus continual resurfacing and up-grading of the principal Roman roads, required large supplies of gravel and sand, quarried locally from the underlying river terraces.

During the third century the town was enclosed within masonry walls some three metres thick backed by a clay rampart, pierced by gates where the roads entered the town. The wall was fronted by a ditch, reaching impressive dimensions where defending the gates. Later, during the fourth century, towers for defensive artillery were added at corners, and the external ditch re-cut. The basilica and mansio were demolished, apparently at this time and following a disastrous fire, possibly as a source of masonry for the refurbished defenses. In apparent contradiction to the provision of such effective defenses, Green believes the town was less prosperous during the third century.

Also during the third century the pan-Empire custom of inhumation burial was adopted at Godmanchester, and large cemeteries were established, in typical Roman fashion, outside the town walls and along the roads approaching the town. Cemeteries are known from the

following areas: along both sides of Park Lane, just west and south of the parish church, between Cambridge Street and Linden Road, along the Cambridge road, and with possibly the largest stretching from the west end of Pipers Lane south and east to Ermine street near Porch Farm.

The *territorium* governed from Godmanchester as a *vicus* is unknown, but Green has speculated on the basis of landscape features and artefact scatters that it may have approximated to the modern parishes of Godmanchester and Offord Cluny. The town's prosperity was based on agriculture, though Green's excavations do document the practise of essential crafts like iron smithing and pottery production.

A massive fire of the end of the third century may have been the result of an attack and sack of the town. Civic buildings were never rebuilt, and although the town was certainly rebuilt and reoccupied it was in less elaborate style and on a smaller scale. Some of the fourth and early fifth century occupation is associated with early Anglo-Saxon pottery. The last resurfacing of Ermine street was in the fourth century, and is virtually unworn and covered with fourth century rubbish. Side roads and private homes continued to be maintained within the town.

3.4 ANGLO-SAXON GODMANCHESTER

Fifth century occupation of Godmanchester is poorly documented; perhaps more a reflection of the state of archaeological excavation and interpretation than any true representation of the town's development. Coin issues and distinctive pottery styles cease ca AD400, and therefore ditches and pits which cut fourth century layers may date anytime from ca. 400 to 550 when more diagnostic pottery becomes common. However, stray finds of early and middle Saxon date do occur from many places within and around the town, and it is likely that the town continued to be inhabited. The late inhumation cemetery along Cambridge road contains evidence of Saxon settlement. Middle Saxon pottery (eg Ipswich ware, dated ca. AD650-850) and settlement evidence appears to focus on the area around the Roman southgate.

3.5 THE DANISH PERIOD

Between 865 and 879 the area suffered raids by roving Danish armies, culminating in permanent occupation by Guthrum after 879. The army was based at Huntingdon, and was responsible for administering the district later called Huntingdonshire. Danish occupation is known from Godmanchester, and Green speculates that this was focussed on a district enclosed within large ditches appended to the Roman walled area on both sides of West street and along the river. In 917 Edward the Elder recaptured Huntingdon and Godmanchester, and refortified both places as strong defensive points controlling the Ouse. It was saxon policy to appropriate land under Danish ownership to the Saxon/English Crown. This would appear to have occured in Godmanchester. During this period the old Roman road (Ermine St) was abandoned through the town and the hexagonal ring roads of East St (Cambridge St), the Causeway, London St and Earning St were laid out, as wall streets with internal lanes to aid in defence.

3.6 EARLY NORMAN GODMANCHESTER

Godmanchester appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as crown land held by Edward the Confessor, and it later became a self-governing manor responsible directly to the crown (chartered 1212). In 1086 Godmanchester had 80 villeins and 16 bordars with a total population of about 450 people. It also had three water mills - whose positions can still be plotted - based upon extensive water engineering works that may have originated in the Danish period.

3.7 THE MEDIEVAL MANOR OF OF THE PRIOR OF MERTON TWIGS WAY, MA AIFA.

3.7.1 Introduction.

This discussion of the medieval development of Godmanchester is made possible by work carried out over a long period of time by Green on the archaeology and landscape development of the town (Green 1961, 1977). This is complemented by the rich collection of documentary materials, in particular court rolls and lay subsidy rolls, which have survived for the period 1270 onwards and which have been the subject of extensive work by Raftis (1982, 1990).

Although this report will focus on the proposed area of archaeological investigation in the immediate vicinity of the moated site of the Priory of Merton, a brief summary of the wider context of these developments will also be given.

3.7.2 Medieval Godmanchester.

Following the record of the Domesday Survey there is little available information for Godmanchester until 1212. By this time the manor had risen in value from the £40 paid to the King in the eleventh century to a fee-farm rent of £120 a year. Continuing expansion is documented by the Hundred Roll of 1279 by which time the villagers (villati) numbered more than three times those recorded in 1086.

Under King John's charter of 1212 the town became a manor of the ancient demesne of the Crown, paying a fee-farm rent in return for specific privileges and freedoms. One of the most important of these privileges being the holding of their own court.

Population continued to grow during the thirteenth century and this appears to have been a particularly prosperous period for the town - presumably leading to increased pressure on land for housing and agriculture. However, the rise of neighbouring Huntingdon as a commercial centre and the construction of mills and sluices along the River Ouse, combined with falling population levels in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries led to a decline from the late thirteenth century peak.

Godmanchester remained a self-governing manor for nearly 400 years until a charter of incorporation was obtained in 1604 during a further period of prosperity and growth. Many of the seventeenth century buildings resulting from this increased prosperity still remain within the centre of the town.

Although some enclosure of croft and common fields took place from the seventeenth century onwards, the parish was not fully enclosed until 1803 and much information has survived on the common field system, which included common meadows by the river (to the immediate north and east of The Parks).

The development of the manor of the Prior of Merton can thus be set against a background of general prosperity within Godmanchester, with accompanying pressure on land resources and a particular emphasis on freedom from manorial restraint.

3.7.3 The Medieval Manor of the Prior of Merton.

From the middle of the twelfth century until the period of the dissolution, the development of Godmanchester was affected by the presence of the Priory of Merton. The present archaeological work is concentrated in the immediate vicinity of the manor house of the prior which formed part of a larger landscape complex involving a moated enclosure, a dove-house, fish-ponds and park.

The church of Godmanchester, along with the lands attached to it and further lands of the manor, were given to Merton Priory (Surrey) in the period 1135-1154. Although the holding

only amounted by 1279 to some 120 acres of land, mostly recorded as arable at that date, the enclosure of this land had an extremely disruptive effect on the town, one of the main features of which was the re-alignment of the road system. Until the early medieval period the main north-south route had been the Roman Ermine Street and much discussion has taken place about the reasons for its abandonment during the early medieval phase and eventual replacement by Post Street further to the west. Green (1961) initially suggested that the movement was connected with the original dual focus of the town and its subsequent infilling. Re-routing to ensure the flow of travellers through the market place within the town boundaries has also been considered, although it is admitted that there is no evidence for a market in the town until the sixteenth century and no right to hold one appears to have been granted. Latest discussions focus on the role of emparkment as being the prime cause of this major shift of focus.

Following the gift of the church and land there are records of the creation of a park (part of which was called the Great Park) immediately surrounding the newly constructed moated manor house. To help ascertain the exact extent and location of the area emparked limited fieldwork was carried out as part of this historical research (see below). The park perimeters were initially suggested by means of field shapes, field names and previous work by Green (1977). Examination of these boundaries (see map) has led to the support of Green's suggestion that the focus of settlement was altered as a result of the desire of the prior to create a park within which the manor house and the church would be isolated. This resulted in the rerouting of the major routeway to pass well to the west of the church, circumscribing a curved outline, itself extremely indicative of a medieval park boundary. Green has also suggested that an earlier east-west route was abandoned at this time to be replaced by St Ann's Lane, marking the southern extent of the park, and further re-routing may have taken place to the north. The isolation of the church within the park necessitated the creation of the road now known as Chadley Lane.

The park at its fullest extent did not, however, last for very long, as infilling was occurring by the beginning of the fourteenth century along both Post Street and the newly created East Street. In fact, despite extensive work by Raftis no mention of the park has been located subsequent to the late thirteenth century and this combined with the absence of any mention in the Hundred Rolls of 1279, indicates that much if not all of the park had reverted to agriculture by that period. Certainly much of the area is covered in medieval ridge and furrow - and indeed, the part in the immediate vicinity of the site of the manor house is shown as being under plough on a map of 1514 (Ref HRO LR8/324). Unfortunately the area suggested as forming the original northern extent of the park has been quarried away (and is currently an artificial lake) resulting in lack of field evidence for this area. It cannot therefore be assumed that all of the park was disparked simultaneously. However, it is unlikely that a small 'detached' park would be maintained by the prior when the immediate surroundings of the priory had been converted to agriculture.

Other elements associated with the manor house appear to have survived for a longer period. Recent investigations of several of the fish ponds have resulted in the suggestion that they remained in use, albeit in a diminished form, until shortly before the dissolution in the early sixteenth century (Gdaniec 1991). To date there is no direct evidence for the associated dovehouse (a manorial privilege) other than the field name of Dove-House Close to the west of the manor house as shown on the enclosure map of 1803 (HRO PM2/13).

3.7.4 Fieldwork.

The proposed maximum extent of the park on the south and the west is now under urban development and can only be suggested on the basis of the curve of the roads (Post Street and Silver Street) and the limited archaeological evidence for a shift in population focus away from Ermine Street after the eleventh century.

Field boundaries to the north and north-west of the park area are marked by water-filled drainage ditches, the banks of which are lined in places with trees (of mixed date) and shrubs. The northern boundary (at TL 246/712) still preserves a low bank on what would have been the outer side of the enclosure ditch. Where Green suggests an unusual angle in the park boundary (at TL 248/712) there is in fact some evidence for earthworks forming a more regular curved

outline (at TL 249/716). The field containing this possible bank and ditch does however also contain other earthworks and may in fact be part of remnant water meadows or other agricultural earthworks.

Green (1977: 26) has obviously placed the park perimeter by taking account of present day field boundaries and the particularly marked drainage ditch, but there is little evidence for a substantial external bank that would be expected and it must be presumed that some of these boundaries relate to later periods.

The boundary of the area actually named The Parks (HRO PM2/13) has obviously been renewed during the enclosure period and displays a typical slight ditch and 'quickset' hedging. The north-western boundary has some evidence of a slight bank on the inside of the ditch.

3.7.5 Discussion.

The site of the Prior of Merton's manor house and its associated features has enormous interest not just within the context of the study of the town of Godmanchester, but also as an extremely well-preserved example of a specific landscaping phenomenon. This type of landscaping has now been demonstrated as occurring in several places within Cambridgeshire.

Particular parallels which are of interest are the sites of the Bishop of Ely's Palace at Somersham and that of the Bishop of Lincoln at Buckden. Both of these sites date from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and were composed of 'manor houses' in the form of 'palaces' with associated fish-ponds, gardens and ancillary buildings set within small parks. In the case of Somersham it was directly associated with the Palace. The imposition of these features in both cases led to disruption of the previous village pattern and route ways. At Buckden the main deer park (or Great Park) was set away from the actual Palace, but in Somersham a very similar situation to that at Godmanchester appears to have developed with a smaller park contained within a larger area.

The landscape of Somersham has been analysed by Taylor (1989) who has suggested that the area in the immediate vicinity of the palace formed a kind of 'pleasance' incorporating the fishponds as water features within a garden setting; whilst at Buckden there are records from the later medieval period of the appearance of the smaller park which indicate that this too was designed to incorporate non-functional ideals (Edgington 1992).

The current archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the moated site at Godmanchester are an opportunity to assess the evidence for landscaping designs and garden management of the sort indicated for Buckden and Somersham. It will also be an important chance to locate the actual dove-house and any ancillary buildings.

The chronology of the fish ponds and any further water management will also be a central issue, particularly in view of recent work by Currie on the non-functional nature of many fish-ponds associated with manorial and monastic dwellings (Currie 1989) and by Taylor on the role of fish in the aristocratic diet (1988).

It is unlikely that archaeological work in this small area will lead to further information on the spatial and temporal extent of the Great Park but it is possible that more insight may be gained on the role of the Prior in the displacement of the original road systems and settlements within the town.

The special status of Godmanchester as a chartered town with freeholders from 1212 onwards makes the examination of the manorial area and its relationship to the rest of the settlement of great interest. The social relations between the prior and the freeholders, which have been suggested by Raftis (1982) as being particularly tense, may also be further illuminated.

4.0 METHODOLOGY.

4.1 INTRODUCTION.

The evaluation was undertaken in four phases, a desktop study (consisting of the accounts of archaeological and historical backgrounds, 3.0 above), an earthwork survey, a geophysical survey and an archaeological field evaluation involving trenching the deposits. In this way a phased sequence of work could be undertaken in which information gained from each stage can be built into the succeeding one.

4.2 THE DESKTOP STUDY

The desktop study revealed the following factors to be of significance for archaeological work at The Parks:

- **4.2.1.** An initial occupation in the vicinity indicated by a Neolithic and Bronze Age complex of features at Rectory Farm, including a cursus and burial mounds.
- 4.2.2. Possible Iron Age features identified by excavation at The Parks in 1991.
- **4.2.3** Development of a walled Roman town, after an initial Roman phase during which two forts were constructed. By the second century A.D. the town included substantial masonry buildings, including temples and a bath-house.
- 4.2.4. Several intensively used, late Roman burial grounds in the land surrounding the walled town.
- 4.2.5. Evidence for industrial activities outside the Roman town, e.g. a small kiln and quarrying in the area adjoining The Parks.
- **4.2.6.** A postulated Roman road running from the Cambridge Road (the 'Via Devana') across The Parks to join Ermine Street to form a Roman Godmanchester 'by-pass'.
- 4.2.7. Three Saxon Grubenhausen (huts constructed over pits) in Park Lane, the area adjoining The Parks.
- **4.2.8.** A particularly well-preserved moated medieval manor house, fish-pond and field complex within a bounded 'park' with both inner and outer boundaries still identifiable.

4.2.9 Discussion.

Arising from these aspects of the archaeological and historical background to Godmanchester are a number of issues relevant for archaeological work outside the walled town. Those that the research was designed to clarify are the following:

- a) The identification of any prehistoric precursors to the Roman settlement.
- b) Identification of the route of the Roman road and its history.
- c) Elaboration of the industrial and residential use of the land outside the Roman walls.
- d) Examination of any burials for dating purposes and for signs of changes in religious practices (particularly any early Christian burials and possible continuity of Christian use of the area through to the medieval period and St Mary's church).
- e) Identification of any Saxon settlement (much of the evidence for the Saxon period in the region is dependent upon finds from burials).
- f) Elaboration of the medieval manor system and its setting (the location and use of fish-ponds, field systems and related estate activities.

5.0 PRELIMINARY FIELDWORK.

5.1 THE EARTHWORK SURVEY (Fig. 3).

5.1.1 An earthwork survey was carried out by a team from the Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeology Section led by Dr Gerry Wait. A number of standing earthworks were identified, some related to the moated manor site and mostly to a system of fish-ponds. It should be noted that some of these ponds were still in use in living memory - a passer-by of the excavations identified the site of 'Bobby's Pond' and stated that young fish were kept in an adjacent nursery pond to be moved to Bobby's Pond on maturity. He had fished in the ponds before the second world war and Bobby's Pond was filled in after 1947. Other earthworks include an extensive series of medieval ridge and furrow.

5.2 THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY.

5.2.1 A magnetometer survey was commissioned from Geophysical Surveys of Bradford to identify any graves of associated features along the Roman road, to identify the course of that road and to seek for further kilns and other industrial activities. The results would also assist in selecting areas for trenching during the archaeological trenching stage of work. The survey was undertaken on 12th May but there were difficulties in surveying. The areas had high-standing vegetation which interfered with the equipment, which was mown in area B but not in area A. Additionally, the metalled road surface and parked cars meant that the western part of area B could not be effectively suveyed. To compensate for this, the surveyed area was extended further east to assist with the interpretation of survey results. An area of 100m by 30m was surveyed in area A and 80m by 60m in area B (including the extension 20m by 60m beyond the evaluation area's eastern side).

6.0 RESULTS OF PRELIMINARY FIELDWORK.

6.1 THE EARTHWORK SURVEY.

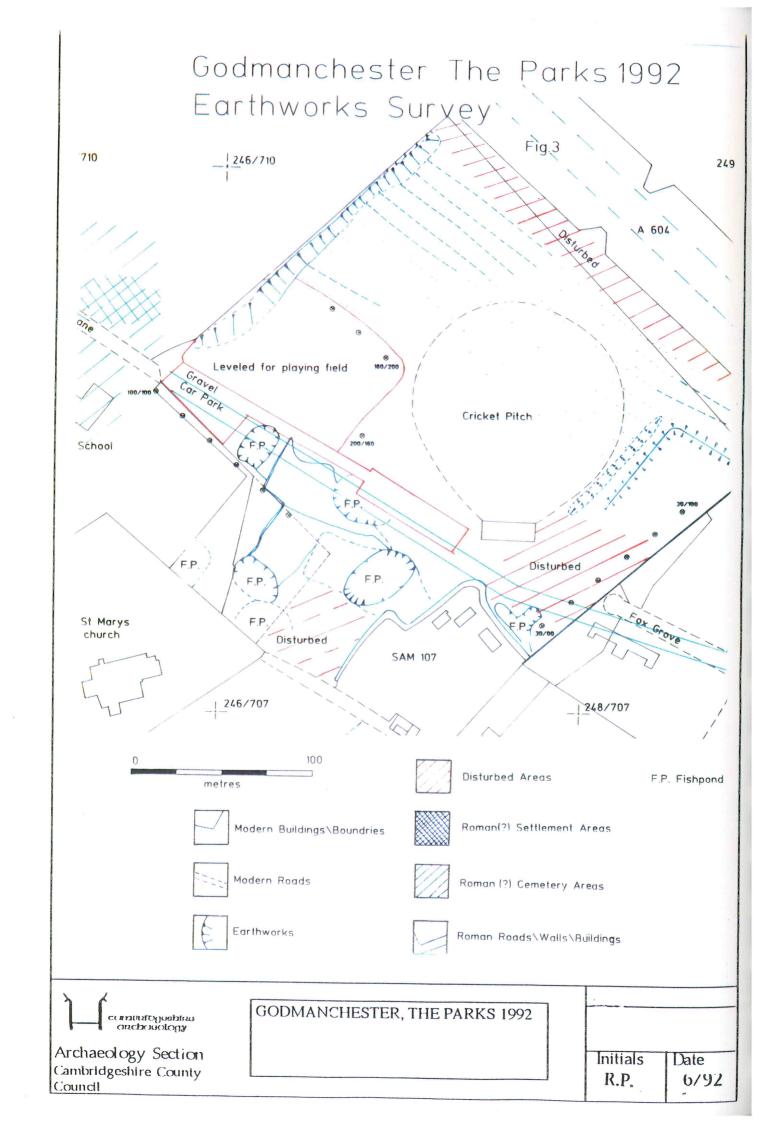
The earthwork survey showed that there are no standing earthworks in most of either of the evaluation areas. In area A the easternmost edge of a T-shaped fish-pond adjacent to the site of the medieval manor house lies just within the westernmost part of area A while a bank, probably related to the fish-pond complex lies in the easternmost part of area A (Refer to Fig. 3). Both are at the very peripheries of the evaluation area and need not be disturbed by development.

In area B, there is a small fish-pond of sub-rectangular shape in the west of the evaluation area. It is linked by smaller earthworks to the complex of features which lie outside the evaluation area's western edge. There is also a bank and ditch running along the edge of the metalled road leading to the cricket club's car park. This road used to be the route to Rectory Farm and was a tree-lined avenue, the earthwork may be medieval but could equally relate to the road and/or its drainage.

Most of area B is flat, but this is misleading. The area was levelled for a playing field recently and a well-preserved set of medieval ridge and furrow has been obscured. In the northernmost part of area B, the ground rises up as it comes to the edge of a bank and ditch which are part of an ancient hedgerow, probably forming a piece of the medieval park boundary.

6.2 THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY. (See Appendix 1).

Despite the problems of modern interference which affected the surveying equipment, the geophysical survey appeared to reveal the line of the Roman road in area A, where two linear features could be identified. These were assumed to be the ditches flanking the Roman road. However, the rest of the area was too magnetically disturbed to provide useful archaeological results.



Area B was more successfully surveyed with a series of magnetic anomalies being identified. These were a ditched enclosure with a ditch running parallel to its east-west aligned edge, and a series of anomalies probably representing pits. Some of these had stronger readings which could be taken as possibly being due to industrial activities.

7.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION.

7.1 INTRODUCTION.

The field evaluation was carried out out between May 18th and June 4th, during which time five test pits and six trenches were dug in area B and three trenches and eight test pits were dug in area A (Fig. 2). The evaluation ran straight on from the geophysical survey and so only provisional results were available to guide the placing of trenches.

7.2 RECORDING.

All trenches and test pits were recorded using the standard Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeology Section context sheets for single context recording. All cuts are given a number in square brackets and fills and layers have context numbers in round brackets. Seperate environmental and burial recording sheets were also used in the system, cross referenced with the context number system. All features were half sectioned and the section drawn and photographed. The trench sections were also drawn: in trench 1 running setions along the east-facing section were drawn at 25m intervals, the south-facing section was drawn in trench 2 as this showed the ridge and furrow well and in trench 3 the south-facing and east-facing sections were drawn. Trench 1B had the east-facing section drawn and this pattern was continued in the other trenches. In trench 7 the south facing section was drawn and photographed.

7.3 AREA A. 'Roman road' (Fig.4 & Plate 1).

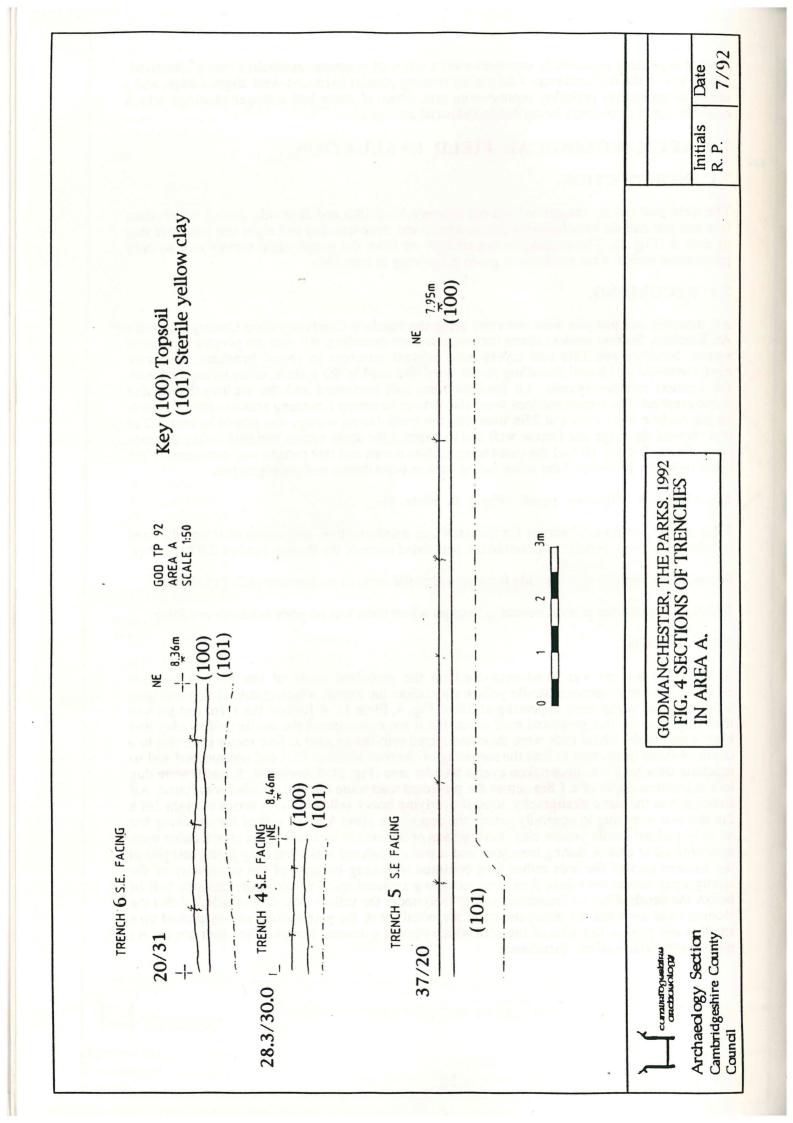
7.3.1 As the geophysical survey for this area was uninformative, evaluation of it was directed at three objectives. Firstly, to examine the postulated route of the Roman road (4.2.9 b) above).

Secondly, to identify any roadside features, industrial areas or settlements (4.2.9 c) above).

Thirdly, to undertake general trenching in areas where there was no prior evidence available.

7.3.2 Results.

A 2m x 2m test pit was hand-excavated on the projected route of the Roman road, it encountered a homogenous, sterile yellow clay below the topsoil which extended down at least 1.5m with the water table appearing at 0.8m (Fig. 4, Plate 1). A further 1m x 1m test pit was then dug, also on this projected road route, but it too encountered the sterile yellow clay and high water table. Metal rods were then hammered into the ground at five metre intervals to a depth of 0.6m in attempt to find the metalling of the road surface. This did not succeed and so machine trenching was undertaken over a broader area (Fig. 2). Trenches 4, 5, and 6 were dug to a maximum depth of c.1.8m across the projected road route but still no road was found. All trenches had the same stratigraphy, topsoil overlying heavy yellow clay. A series of eight 2m x 2m test pits were dug to generally survey the deposits in areas A to the east of the trenching but all only yielded sterile yellow clay. No artefacts or features of archaeological significance were encountered in area A during trenching and it was considered sufficient only to dig test pits in the eastern part of the area rather than continue trenching because of the continuity of the stratigraphy across the whole area. Any surviving archaeological materials in this area will be below the depth of house foundations (four feet) under the yellow clay. It is concluded that the Roman road does not run along the route projected for it, the geophysical survey picked up a small water pipe in the west of the area which runs to a disused trough. The other anomalies must result from modern disturbance.



7.4 AREA B.

7.4.1 Introduction.

The geophysical survey in this area showed a number of magnetic anomalies, the most notable being part of a possible ditched enclosure (Fig. 4) with a ditch running parallel to its southern side forming a droveway. Discussion with the Geophysical consultants suggested that certain anomalies were of sufficient strength to be the result of a collapsed kiln or 'minor industrial activity'. Arising from this it was decided to investigate these features specifically as a response to 4.2.9 c) above.

Trenches 1 and 2 were placed to section the possible ditched enclosure, whilst trench 3 was placed to examine the intersection of the ditches of this feature, to section the ditch running parallel to its southern edge and to examine the anomaly adjacent to, and within, the corner of the ditched enclosure.

Additionally, it was decided to examine the line of the postulated Roman road in this area, to further test whether this feature actually existed on the route mapped at all (4.2.9 b). So, Trench 7 was laid out across the line of the Roman road. Trenches 8 and 9 were placed to examine further anomalies in the western part of the area to be evaluated.

7.4.2. The Test Pits.

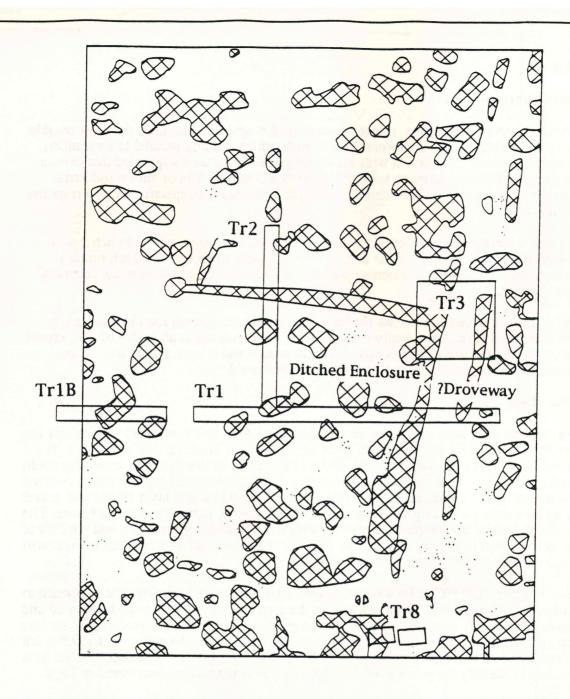
Two 2m x 2m test pits were hand-dug on the first day (Area B TP A & B) to confirm the position of the geophysical survey results prior to committing machine dug trenches to fixed positions and also to give an understanding of the stratigraphy so that machine trenching could be accurately controlled. Both test pits cut through c. 0.3m of reworked topsoil which resulted from the area being levelled to make a playing field. Under this was a layer of silt and gravel disturbed by medieval ploughing which contained some Roman pottery and animal bone. The anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were identified in both test pits and the fills of them proved to be rich in pottery. The corner of B/TP B also yielded a human skull which will be discussed with the other human burials below.

Two further test pits (B/TP C & D) were excavated after the main trenches had been opened to examine whether features identified elsewhere in the area continued west towards the road and the medieval fish-pond complex. These pits were hand-dug with C yielding a similar stratigraphy to that described above, but with markedly richer basal deposits, whilst D did not cut any feature and so was less productive of pottery. The two test pits were later joined by a machine trench to identify the position of the edge of the pot-rich feature discovered in TP C.

A final test pit (B/TP E) was machine dug in the paddock adjacent to the open area of area B. It was c. 2m sq. and the top 0.5m comprised solely modern building rubble, presumably from the neighbouring housing development. Below this rubble was a laid gravel deposit overlying a dark black clay layer, from which two nails 'of Roman appearance' and a fragment of animal bone derived. These could represent laid deposits of Roman age and be part of either a metalled courtyard or a road but the finds associated were sparse and inadequate for satisfactory dating. This test pit was opened to provide a link between the current evaluation area and the series of finds made by Green in Park Lane. Below the black clay was a heavy grey-brown clay which seemed sterile. The test pit ended at a depth of c. 2m.

7.4.3. The Trenches (Fig. 2).

The trenches were laid out for the reasons given above (7.3.1) and revealed the geophysical anomalies occurring close to the surface (c.0.4m or less). Also at this depth were the tops of human skulls in two Roman burials, the gravel into which they were buried rose up across the site from west to east. The burial in B/TPB was further west and lower down. The surface of the trenches was hoed after machine digging and then the visible features were half-sectioned to investigate their form, possible function and to obtain materials for dating. The features may be grouped into the following categories: (a) Pits, (b) Ditches, (c) Foundation trenches, (d) Burials and (e) Others.





GOD TP 92 GEO-PHYSICAL SURVEY TRENCH PLAN



Geophysical Anomaly

AREA B



Archaeology Section Cambridgeshire County Council GODMANCHESTER, THE PARKS 1992 FIG. 5 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OVERLAID BY TRENCH PLAN

Initials	Date
R.P	6/92

7.4.4. (a) Pits.

Five steep sided oval-circular pits were identified, one being the anomaly adjacent to, and within, the ditched enclosure in trench 3 [204], one in the southern tip of trench 1 [054], one in the intersection between trenches 1 & 2 [047] and another some three metres north of it [050] (Fig. 6). The final pit was located east of these in trench 2 [013]. Another possible pit [052] was very shallow and backfilled an undulation in the natural gravel, this could have been caused by gravel extraction. It was much larger than the five pits noted above and had less steeply sloping sides. It was more a scoop into the gravel than a sharp cut, it contained some oyster shell, and a few sherds of pottery but was not as rich in finds as the other pits. All the steeply-sided oval pits contained a mixture of Roman pottery, predominantly of late second century AD date, along with a variety of animal bone, iron nails, and oyster shells. There were very occasional fragments of building rubble such as limestone debris and roof tile. Some fragments of glass and a bronze pin were recovered from the pit [204] in trench 3. The bulk of material from the pits is of domestic origin and there is little substantial evidence for any industrial activities from them with the exception of very occasional, small lumps of clinker.

In trench 7 a natural gravel deposit had been dug into leaving a heap of loose gravel upstanding, which contained Roman pottery. This had then later been dug out and infilled with a sterile silt. This is interpreted as being the result of Roman gravel quarrying.

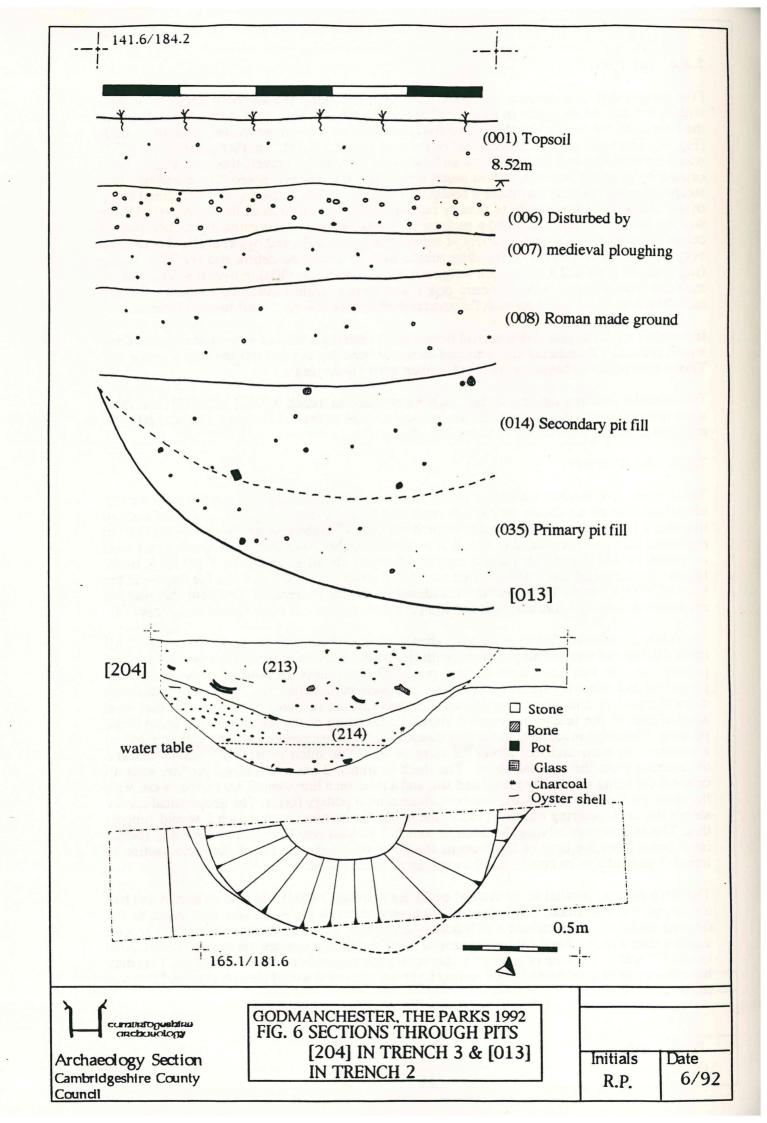
Two circular features which may be pits were revealed in trench 9 [064] and [071] but these were not excavated due to time constraints and may be structural features, i.e. post pits. No artefacts or bones were visible in their fills.

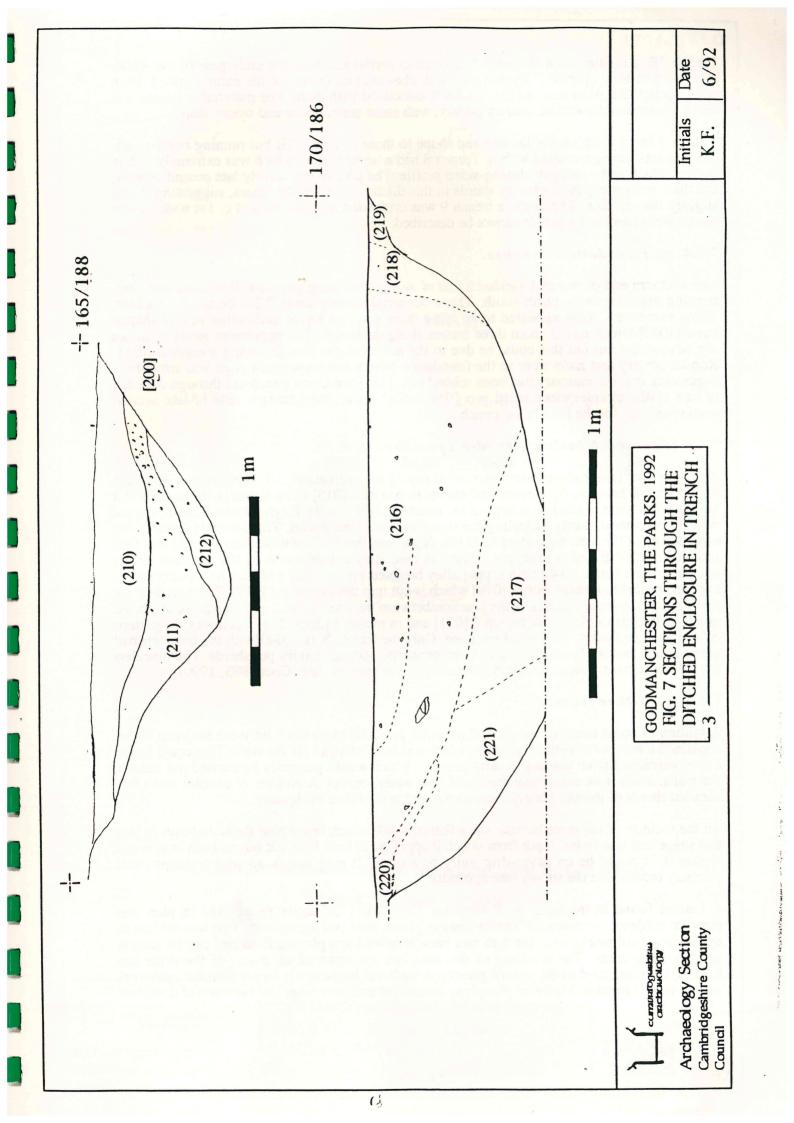
7.4.4. (b) Ditches.

There were five ditches identified in the trenches, this including the geophysical survey identified ditched enclosure which was sectioned twice in trench 3 [200], and once each in trenches 1 [025] and 2 [019]. The ditch which ran parallel to the southern length of the ditched enclosure [201] was sectioned in trench 3, two small ditches were identified running east-west in trench 1B [511] and [514] and a similar ditch was identified in trench 7 [411]. A linear feature, probably a ditch, was identified in trench 8 [304] (originally this was the feature in the base of B/TP C) and a linear feature was identified in plan in trench 9 [069] but this was not excavated due to time constraints. It had Roman sherds and animal bone visible in its upper fill.

The ditched enclosure ditches in trench 3 showed similar characteristics to that in trench 1. All these ditches had straight sloping sides with flat bases. They were rich in late second century pottery but also had some third century pieces (See appendix 2). Animal bones were well preserved and relatively frequent. The basal fills were particularly rich, with large unabraded domestic pottery and storage jar sherds. The sections cut in trench 1 and on the east-west aligned part of the feature in trench 3 showed a revetting of the southern edge using stone packing. This edge is adjacent to the droveway revealed by geophysical survey and may reflect a response to wear and tear along the edge of this. The ditch in trench 2 shows marked differences from those noted above. The ditch in trench 2 has a U-shaped profile, with an original cut being infilled by gravel and silt, and a recut on a line some 0.3m further west, with the same profile. The ditch does, however, share similar pottery forms. The geophysical survey shows the ditch petering out as it runs to the north, the section cut in trench 2 would support this. The sediment overlying the ditch in trench 2 yielded two Romulus and Remus special issue coins from the time of Constantine the Great whilst the top fill of the ditch section in trench 3 yielded a worn bronze Roman coin, as yet unidentified.

The ditch running parallel to the ditched enclosure in trench 3 [201] was also sectioned and had a straight, sloping sided, flat bottomed ditch section much the same size and shape as the ditched enclosure. It contained a rich pottery collection, again predominantly of late second century date with the basal fill having several large sherds of a coarseware storage vessel. Also in this fill was a dry lump of pure grey clay with grass impressions on its underside. This may have been part of a deliberately laid sealing layer but more of it would then be expected if it was in situ in the ditch.





Trench 1B, a continuation of trench 1, broken to permit access to the underpass of the A604, had two east-west aligned U-shaped profile ditches cut into the top of the natural gravel. Both were about 0.5m wide and had few artefacts associated with them. The material collected was again predominantly second century pottery, with some animal bone and oyster shell.

Trench 7 had a ditch of similar size and shape to those of trench 1B but running north-south. No artefacts were associated with it. Trench 8 had a linear feature which was extremely rich in pottery which had a straight sloping-sided profile. The pottery was mostly late second century, but there were more third century sherds in this ditch fill than in the others, suggesting it was slightly later in date. The ditch in trench 9 was orientated north-south and c. 1m wide, it was not sectioned and so its profile cannot be described.

7.4.4 (c) Foundation trenches.

The southern end of trench 1 yielded a line of stones, including gritstone, limestone and flint, running approximately north-south. These occurred at only some 0.3m below the surface. When excavated, these appeared to be lying three rows on top of each other in a U-shaped trench [062] which ended about three metres along the trench. The uppermost series of stones ran beyond the cut but this could be due to the action of the plough during medieval times. Roman pottery and nails were in the foundation trench and its western edge was irregular suggesting that the masonry had been robbed out. This foundation trench cut through the edge of one of the circular steep-sided pits [054] noted above, suggesting a date of late second century or later for the foundation trench.

7.4.4 (d) Human burials (see also appendices 4 & 5).

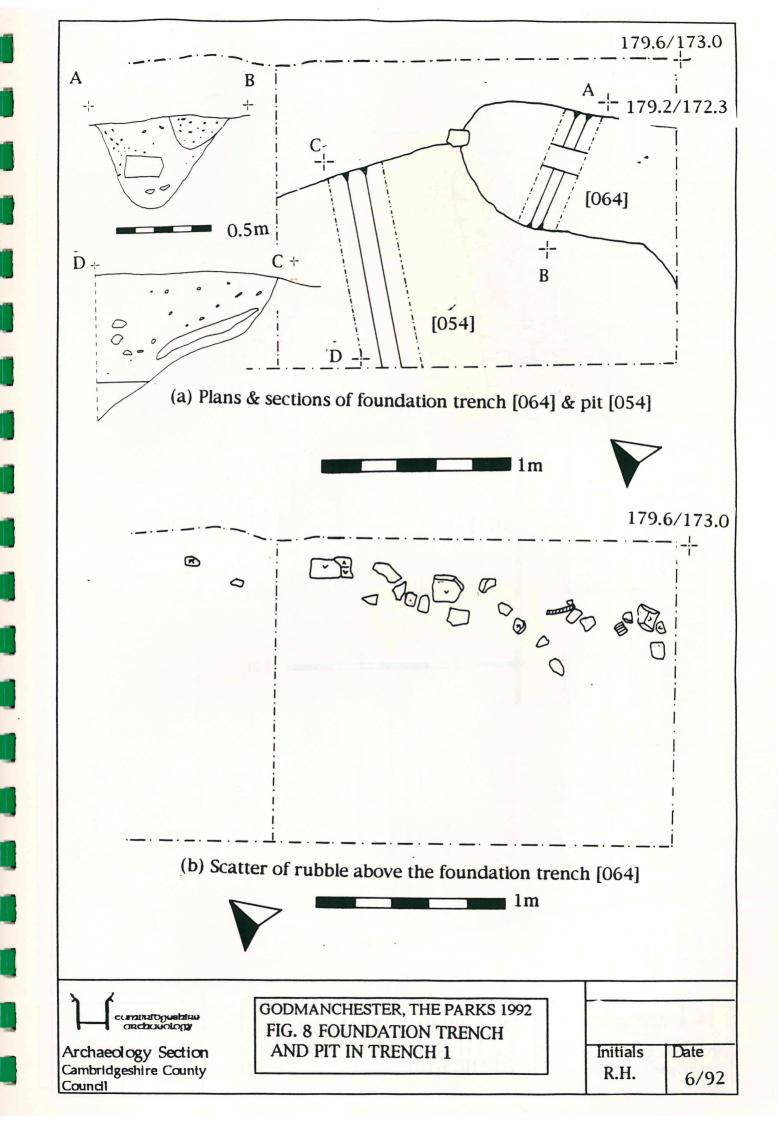
A total of five inhumations were discovered during the evaluation. All were aligned east-west with all heads being at the western end except in one case [015] when it was in the eastern. All burials were lying in shallow scoops in the natural gravel, but the height at which the burial cut was visible varied, partly reflecting the rising height of the gravel. Thus, burials towards the eastern side of the area were reached at less depth than those in the west. Burial [015] was first located in B/TP B and is probably female. Immediately adjacent to it on the northern side is another female burial [040] with copper alloy bracelets on its wrists while on its western side is another, probably female, burial [078] which is cut into the side of pit [047]. The burials were distributed as a group of three in the junction between trenches 1 and 2 and then more dispersed as single burials in the end of trench 2 [011] and in trench 3 [206]. This resembles the pattern of burials identified by Green in Park Lane. Only the female burial [040] with the bracelets had grave goods but the backfill of all of them contained second century pot sherds. The bracelets are similar to a set which have been assigned a fourth century date (Cool 1983, 1990).

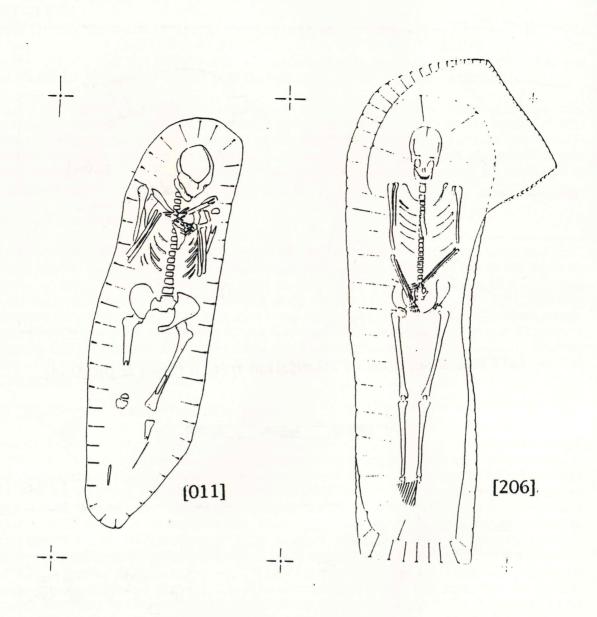
7.4.4 (e). Other features.

A feature of some interest was a small irregular pit [203] in trench 3 only c.0.3m deep which contained a number of cattle horn cores which had been snapped off the skull. This could be the debris discarded from tanning, a dirty process, which would generally be carried out outside the walls, away from residential areas and near water sources. A number of cobbles and a few abraded sherds of Roman pottery were also found in the fill of the feature.

In the vicinity of the three burials was a feature [044] which resembled the burial-cuts in size and shape and also in the depth from which it appeared to have been cut, but no body was found within it. It could be an eaves-drip gully or a ditch. It may match up with a geophysical anomaly recorded in the survey (see appendix 1).

A feature found in the sections of trenches 2 and 3 but not easily recognised in plan was remnant evidence for ridge and furrow resulting from medieval agriculture. This was evident as upstanding earthworks until the area had been levelled for a playing field and can be seen in neighbouring areas. The levelling of this area has not removed all traces of the ridge and furrow, therefore, and so the area of preserved medieval landscape is larger than the earthwork survey would suggest. Medieval ploughing associated with this ridge and furrow had disturbed



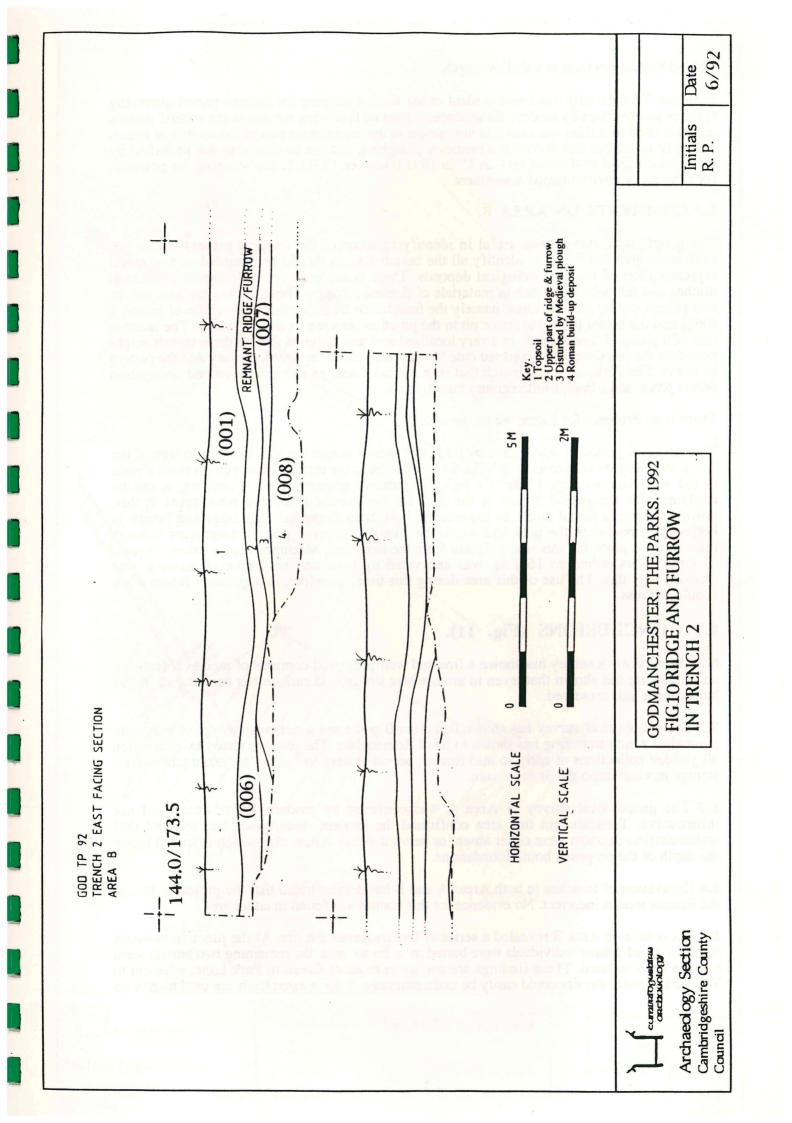


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Archaeology Section Cambridgeshire County Council GODMANCHESTER, THE PARKS 1992 FIG 9 BURIALS FROM TRENCH 2 [011] AND 3 [206]. HEADS LIE TO THE WEST.

Initials Date R.P.

1m



yielded Roman artefacts at a shallow depth.

In trench 7 a dark silty band was evident in the section capping the Roman gravel quarrying features and overlain by modern disturbance. It rises up following the rise in the natural gravels and as it does so it thins out until it is not present in the easternmost part of the section of trench 7. It is believed that this deposit is a medieval ploughsoil and can be related to that identified by an archaeological evaluation by C.A.U. in 1991 (Gdaniec 1991). It was sampled for potential for analysis of environmental assessment.

7.5 COMMENTS ON AREA B.

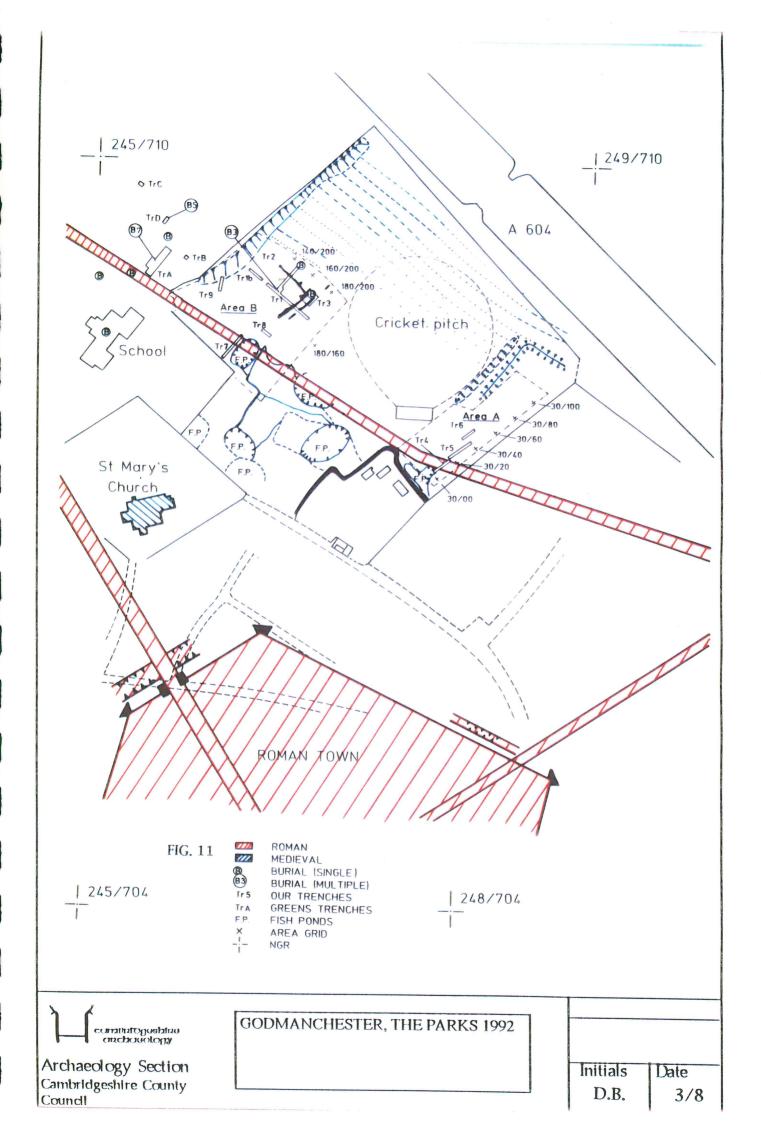
The geophysical survey was useful in identifying some of the features present within the evaluation area but failed to identify all the burials and so should be regarded as a minimal representation of the archaeological deposits. There is evidence for well-preserved Roman ditches and pits which are rich in materials of domestic origin. These ditches and pits are, in two places, cut by later features: namely the foundation trench in the southern tip of trench 1 [062] and the burial [078] cut into a pit in the junction between trenches 1 and 2. The latter is patr of a group of three burials in a very localised area and suggests that all these burials might post-date the pit. Given the projected date for the bracelets of the fourth century AD the pattern of use of The Parks seems to match that seen in Park Lane, an earlier late second occupation debris phase and a later, fourth century burial phase.

There is no evidence for Saxon use of the area.

The medieval period is represented by ridge and furrow across the site, there is no sign of the fish-pond complex occurring in most of the area although the earthwork survey revealed a pond in the westernmost part. There is a lack of medieval pottery which is striking, it can be explained for the period of use of the park for the manor. Prior and subsequent to this, however, some material might be expected to have been discarded. The ridge and furrow is believed to post-date the park and would be likely to receive pottery fragments through manuring the plots, but this is not evident from the trenching. Machine digging cannot be used to explain this either, as 16m sq. was excavated by hand and no medieval material was recovered by this. The use of this area during this time, therefore, is a question future work should address.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS (Fig. 11).

- **8.1** The earthwork survey has shown a fine and well-preserved complex of medieval features, and trenching has shown that, even in areas where the ground surface has been levelled, this landscape is still preserved.
- **8.2** The geophysical survey has shown that Area B possesses a rich assemblage of magnetic anomalies which trenching has shown to be of Roman date. The features tested by excavation all yielded collections of early to mid Roman period pottery including domestic tablewares, storage jars and imported Samian ware.
- **8.3** The geophysical survey of Area A was confused by modern disturbances and not informative. Trenching in this area confirmed the modern disturbance and showed that archaeological deposits were either absent or below a sterile yellow clay which extended below the depth of the proposed house foundations.
- **8.4** Excavation of trenches in both Areas A and B has demonstrated that the projected line of the Roman road is incorrect. No evidence for this feature was found in either area.
- **8.5** Excavation in Area B revealed a series of burials across the site. At the junction between trenches 1 and 2 three individuals were buried in a 2m sq. area, the remaining two burials seem to have been isolated. These findings are similar to those of Green in Park Lane, adjacent to The Parks, burial density could easily be underestimated if the isolated finds are used to give an



his trench 1 seven burials were found in 152m sq. This compares with the combined figures for trenches 1 and 2 of four burials in some 200m sq. It is clear from both series of excavations that burials are widely dispersed throughout the Park Lane /The Parks area with small concentrations of burials occurring in localised pockets. Such localisations may well be family plots - this was the interpretation given to a series of Roman burials found at the end of land plots at Stanground, Peterborough (Meadows, Pers. Comm.).

- **8.6** The presence of building materials in the features and of a possible robbed out foundation trench suggest that there may be further evidence for occupation in the area, i.e. that some of the anomalies identified by geophysical survey may have substantial remains associated with them. The presence of possible masonry buildings *outside* the walled town is interesting and their function and form should be of great interest in future work.
- **8.7** The overburden in the area is generally 0.3m where the surface was levelled for a playing field and varies from 0.5m of building rubble in Area B/test pit E to 0.3m in trenches 8 and 9. The water table in Area B remains high, c. 0.7m deep. The features excavated filled with water at this depth.

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Illustrations were inked up by the excavation team and Sean Damant was responsible for the photographs.

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I would also like to thank Mr Brian Brown, the Head Teacher, for his hospitality in opening the Park Lane school for our use and the students for their interest.

SITE SUMMARY SHEET

92 / 41 The Parks, Godmanchester

NGR: TL 246 708 (Approximate)

Location and topography

The site is on the north-eastern limits of Godmanchester, bounded by the A604 road to the north and St Mary's Church to the south. Two areas were investigated, one area (A) to the south-west of a cricket pitch and the other area (B) to the north-west. Both areas were under long grass and weeds when the survey was carried out. A modern car park overlies part of Area A.

Archaeology

The site lies in a region of known archaeological activity. Past geophysical work (e.g. Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1991)¹ and various excavations have identified a complex of features dating from the Iron Age to Post-Medieval times. The line of a Roman road crosses the survey areas.

Aims of Survey

- 1. It was hoped that a magnetometer survey would identify any graves or associated features alongside the Roman road.
 - 2. Pottery kilns are recorded to the north of the site; a second aim of the survey, therefore, was to try to locate any areas of small scale 'industrial' activity.
 - 3. A third aim was to map any other features of archaeological interest before proposed trial excavation trenches.

Summary of Results *

Area A. Although ditches associated with the Roman road have been located magnetically, the majority of the results are confused by modern ferrous disturbance on the site.

Area B. A complex of anomalies associated with ditches, trackways, pits and possible small-scale 'industrial-type' features has been identified.

^{*} It is essential that this summary is read with the detailed results of the survey.

¹ Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1991 Report on Geophysical Survey at Godmanchester, No. 91/50, unpublished document.

SURVEY RESULTS

92 / 41 The Parks, Godmanchester

1. Survey Area (Figure 1)

- 1.1 Two areas (Area A 100 by 30m and Area B 80 by 60m) were investigated magnetically.
- 1.2 The survey grids were set out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford and tied in to grid pegs left in situ by Cambridgeshire Archaeological Unit.

2. Display (Figures 2 to6)

- 2.1 The results are displayed in three formats:- dot density plot, X-Y trace and grey-scale image. These display formats are discussed in the *Technical Information* section, at the end of the text.
- 2.2 The data plots are produced at 1:500, with interpretation plots at the same scale.

3. General Considerations - Complicating factors

- 3.1 Areas covered with overgrown vegetation and a car park / track could not be surveyed. Parked cars further limited the area available for survey because of resultant magnetic fields.
- 3.2 In Area B, the presence of an old cricket pitch roller, a brick manhole shaft and associated pipe, and modern ferrous debris scattered throughout the survey area all resulted in distorted magnetic anomalies.

4. Results

- 4.1 Area A. The background level of magnetic noise is very high (see X-Y traces, Figure 2). This is a result of factors described in paragraph 3.2 above.
- 4.2 Despite these problems, the survey has succeeded in pinpointing the line of the ditches flanking the known Roman road. The anomalies are reasonably clear on the western side but far more broken and disturbed on the east. This discepancy depends on the magnetic disturbances, rather than any physical difference in shape or form of the ditches.
- 4.3 Given the level of ferrous disturbance in this area it is impossible to say which, if any, of the anomalies may be of archaeological significance. Graves, which even under ideal conditions can be difficult targets, cannot be identified.

- 4.4 Area B. The results from this area are far less disturbed than in Area A, though the extent of ground available for survey was restricted by factors referred to in paragraph 3.1 above.
- 4.5 A complex of archaeological features has been identified by the magnetic survey. Individual anomalies suggest a series of ditches, likely trackways and numerous other features. There are several pits, and other deposits probably consisting of midden, burnt or fired material. Some of the responses are of a strength and character which might be associated with dumps of wasters, or other similar features.
- 4.6 Unfortunately, it is not possible to place the features in a wider archaeological context. Most of the responses may be Roman in date (in view of their position in relation to the known road), but a medieval or possibly earlier date cannot be ignored. This will clearly have to be established by excavation.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Despite many problems at the site due to modern disturbances (particularly in Area A), the survey has successfully identified a complex of archaeological features. The mapping of these features will help with positioning archaeological trenches.

Project Co-ordinators: J Gater

Project Assistant: A Shields and C Stephens

4th June 1992 Geophysical Surveys of Bradford

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The following is a description of the equipment and display formats used in GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS OF BRADFORD reports. It should be emphasised that whilst all of the display options are regularly used, the diagrams produced in the final reports are the most suitable to illustrate the data from each site. The choice of diagrams results from the experience and knowledge of the staff of GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS OF BRADFORD.

All survey reports are prepared and submitted on the basis that whilst they are based on a thorough survey of the site, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions.

Magnetic readings are logged at 0.5m intervals along one axis in 1m traverses giving 800 readings per 20m x 20m grid, unless otherwise stated. Resistance readings are logged at one metre intervals giving 400 readings per 20m x 20m grid. The data are then transferred to portable computer and stored on 3.5" floppy discs. Field plots are produced on a portable Hewlett Packard Thinkjet. Further processing is carried out back at base on computers linked to appropriate printers and plotters.

Instrumentation

(a) Fluxgate Gradiometer - Geoscan FM36

This instrument comprises two fluxgates mounted vertically apart, at a distance of 500mm. The gradiometer is carried by hand, with the bottom sensor approximately 100-300mm from the ground surface. At each survey station, the difference in the magnetic field between the two fluxgates is conventionally measured in nanoTesla (nT) or gamma. The fluxgate gradiometer suppresses any diurnal or regional effects. Generally features up to one metre deep may be detected by this method.

(b) Resistance Meter - Geoscan RM4 or RM15

This measures the electrical resistance of the earth, using a system of four electrodes (two current and two potential). Depending on the arrangement of these electrodes, an exact measurement of a similar volume of earth may be acquired. In such a case the amount measured may be used to calculate the earth resistivity. Using a 'Twin Probe' arrangement the terms 'resistance' and 'resistivity' may be interchanged. This arrangement involves the pairing of electrodes (one current and one potential), with one pair remaining in a fixed position whilst the other measures the resistivity variations across a fixed grid. Resistance in measured in ohms, while resistivity is measured in ohm-metres. The resistance method has a depth resolution of approximately 0.75m, although the nature of the overburden and underlying geology will cause variations in this generality.

(c) Magnetic Susceptibility

Variations in the magnetic susceptibility of subsoils and topsoils can provide valuable information about the 'level of archaeological activity' associated with a site. This phenomenon can also be used in a predictive manner to ascertain the suitability of a site for a magnetic survey. The instrument employed for measuring this culturally enhanced phenomenon is either a field coil or a laboratory based susceptibility bridge. For the latter, standard 50g soil samples are collected in the field.

Display Options

The following is a description of the display options used. Unless specifically mentioned in the text, it may be assumed that no filtering or smoothing has been used to enhance the data. For any particular report a limited number of display modes may be used.

(a) X-Y Plot

This involves a line representation of the data. Each successive row of data is equally incremented in the Y axis, to produce a 'stacked' profile effect. This display may incorporate a 'hidden-line' removal algorithm, which blocks out lines behind the major peaks and can aid interpretation. Advantages of this type of display are that it allows the full range of the data to be viewed and shows the shape of the individual anomalies. Results are produced on a flatbed plotter.

(b) Dot-Density

In this display, minimum and maximum cut-off levels are chosen. Any value that is below the minimum cut-off value will appear 'white', whilst any value above the maximum cut-off value will appear 'black'. Any value that lies between these two cut-off levels will have a specified number of dots depending on the relative position between the two levels. The focus of the display may be changed using different levels and a contrast factor (C.F.). Usually the C.F. = 1, making a linear scale between the cut-off levels. To assess lower than normal readings involves the use of an inverse plot. This plot simply reverses the minimum and maximum values, resulting in the lower values being represented by more dots. In either representation, each reading is allocated a unique area dependant on its position on the survey grid, within which numbers of dots are randomly placed. The main limitation of this display method is that multiple plots have to be produced in order to view the whole range of the data. It is also difficult to gauge the true strength of any anomaly without looking at the raw data values. This display is much favoured for producing plans of sites, where positioning of the anomalies and features is important.

(c) Contour

This display joins data points of an equal value by a contour line. Displays are generated on the computer screen or plotted directly on a flat bed plotter / inkjet printer.

(d) 3-D Mesh

This display joins the data values in both the X and Y axis. The display may be changed by altering the horizontal viewing angle and the angle above the plane. The output may be either colour or black and white. A hidden line option is occasionally used (see (a) above).

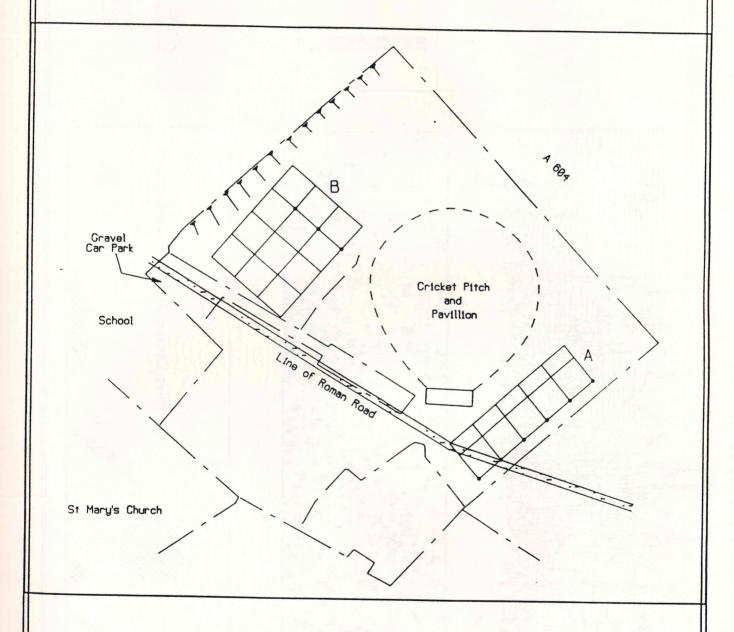
(e) Grey-Scale

This format divides a given range of readings into a set number of classes. These classes have a predefined arrangement of dots or shade of grey, the intensity increasing with value. This gives an appearance of a toned or grey scale.

Similar plots can be produced in colour, either using a wide range of colours or by selecting two or three colours to represent positive and negative values. While colour plots can look impressive and can be used to highlight certain anomalies, grey-scales tend to be more informative.

THE PARKS GODMANCHESTER

Grid Location Diagram



Based upon Plan supplied by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Unit



1:2500

Figure 1

THE PARKS GODMANCHESTER

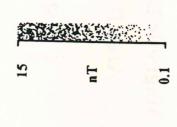
Magnetic Data Area B

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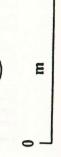


THE PARKS GODMANCHESTER

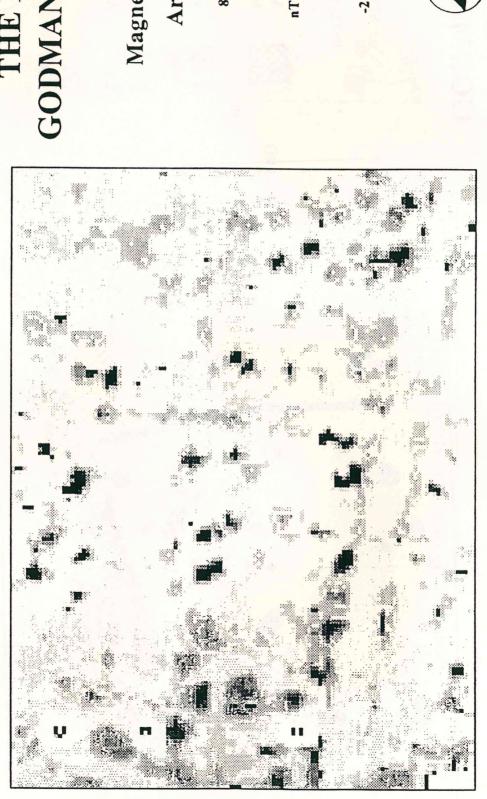
Magnetic Data Area B





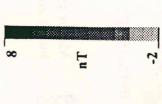


Figure



THE PARKS GODMANCHESTER

Magnetic Data Area B





GODMANCHESTER THE PARKS

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INTERPRETATION



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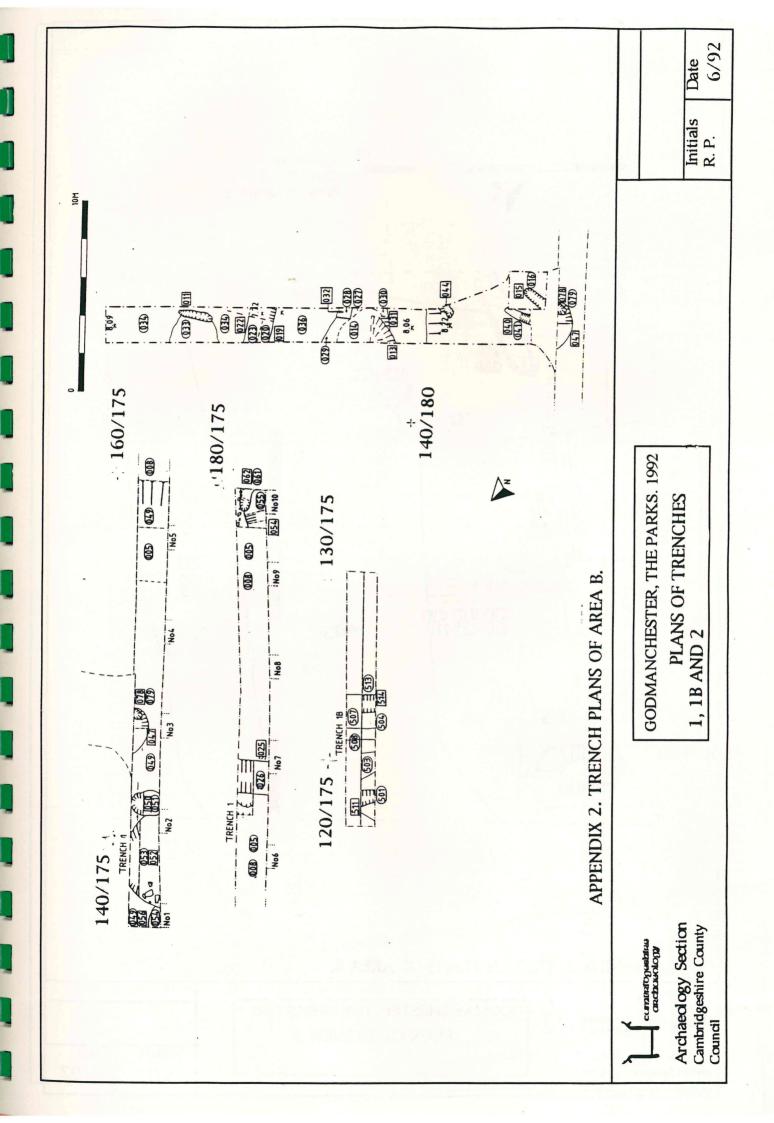
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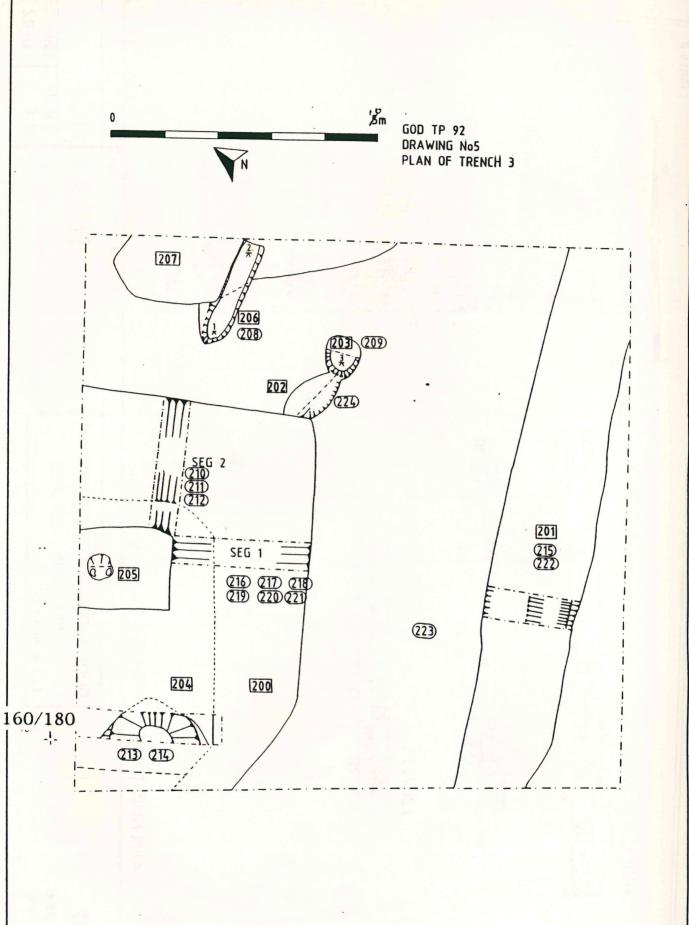


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Figure 6





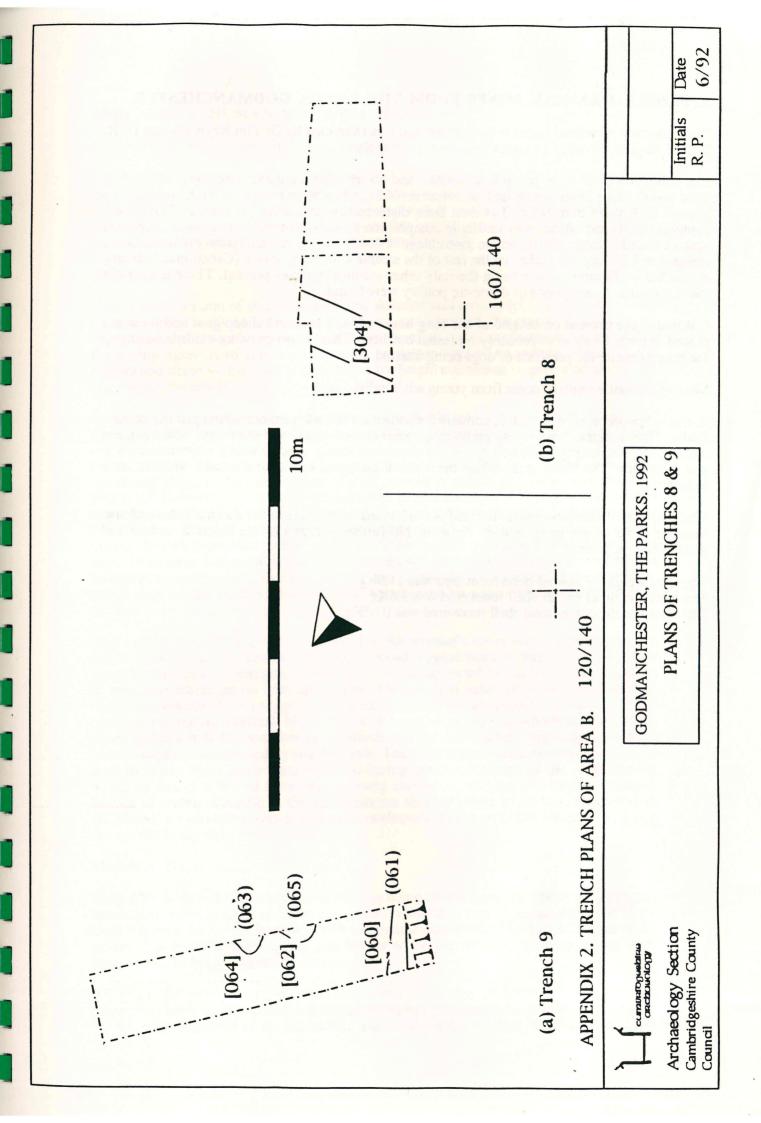
APPENDIX 2. TRENCH PLANS OF AREA B.

curatival on we below on chaeology Section Cambridgeshire County

Council

GODMANCHESTER, THE PARKS 1992 PLAN OF TRENCH 3

Initials	Date
S.D.	6/92



APPENDIX 3 ANIMAL BONES FROM THE PARKS, GODMANCHESTER.

The collection of animal bones is quite small and was examined by Dr Tim Reynolds and Dr R. Luff of English Heritage to assess its potential for analysis.

The collection came from secondary contexts and no articulated animal bones were recovered, most pieces came from layers such as contexts (005) and (008) in trench 1 which are made up ground of Roman date which has then been disturbed by medieval ploughing. The faunal contents of pits and ditches was similar in composition to that of the made up ground. The main species found is cattle (Bos) and the assemblage is dominated by remains from the head. Some sheep/goat (Ovi-caprid) makes up the rest of the sample with a single dog (Canis) mandible and single horse (Equus) incisor being the only other mammal species present. There are no pig (Sus) remains. A few bones of domestic poultry were found.

Cut marks are present on several of the long bones of both cow and sheep/goat and these are placed in such a way as to probably represent butchery. There is no gnawing evident on any of the bones despite the presence of dogs being attested.

Most of the cattle remains come from young adult individuals.

A single feature, a pit in trench 3, contained a collection of cow horn cores snapped out of their skulls. This, together with the assemblage of other cranial remains in the fauna, could suggest that tanning was taking place nearby - it is a messy and smelly process which requires access to water, as such, The Parks area outside the walls of the town, would be a suitable area for such industry.

The potential of this assemblage for analysis is limited both as a result of its small size and also because of its origin in secondary contexts. No further analysis of the fauna is considered worthwhile at present.

The total weight of animal bone recovered was 11.9Kg. The total weight of oyster shell recovered was 3.6Kg. The total weight of landsnail shell recovered was 0.05Kg.

APPENDIX 4. HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS

C. DUHIG M.A.(Cantab)

The skeleton of a small young woman was excavated by the County Council archaeology unit, having the context number of 206, and will be referred to as skeleton I. Another skeleton is that of a mature adult woman, was donated by The Park School, and will be referred to as skeleton II. General methods used in analysis are those in Ubelaker (1989), while dental ageing follows the system of Brothwell (1972).

Skeleton I

Ninety-eight percent of this well-preserved skeleton was recovered. It is that of a young woman aged, both by her dental wear and condition of the pubic symphysis, to approximately 22 to 25 years. All features of the skull, pelvis and long bones examined for sexing agree as to gender. Regression equations applied to measurements of the femora and tibiae — the most reliable bones for height estimation — give a height of 153 cm, approximately 5'.

Despite her comparative youth, this woman already showed signs of dental disease and degenerative arthritic change. Three teeth had been lost in life and their sockets almost completely closed, and out of the 26 remaining after some post-mortem loss, five were carious and two had abscesses at the roots; two of the lower molars had only roots remaining after the total destruction of their crowns by caries, and these were the teeth which had infected pulp cavities which had led to root abcesses. Although there is some calculus on the lower teeth, indicating less-than-perfect dental hygiene, it would appear that the main cause of decay was defects in the enamel of the biting surfaces (caused during the developmental period of the teeth, see below) which allowed access to the more-vulnerable dentine layer below. It is more usual in ancient dentitions to find carious lesions between the teeth, due to food packing, plaque development and gum recession, rather than on the crowns, which tend to be attacked by sugar residues in the diet of modern populations (Hillson 1986).

Slight osteophytic lipping had commenced in this woman's lower spine. Slight lipping of other joints in various parts of her skeleton could suggest that the changes were brought about by the stress of energetic activity, and this is supported by the strong development of muscular markings on both upper arms. On the other hand, the scattered pattern of these changes could also suggest the earliest phase of the arthropathic condition DISH (diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis; Rogers et al. 1986), which appears to be connected to a rich diet and obesity, in which case the dental decay might, after all, have been caused or exacerbated by sugary foods. The tooth enamel defects mentioned above tend to derive from inadequate nutrition during the development of the tooth crown, which in this case would have been in early childhood, and the presence of 'healed' lesions of cribra orbitalia in the eye orbits are also indicative of dietary deficiency in childhood: we can tentatively postulate an inadequate diet in early life followed by a rich one — not to say over-rich — later on.

Skeleton II

Only 40% of this skeleton is present, the legs being absent from just above the knee, the hands also absent, and other bones being in a fragmentary state. The fact that most of the skull has been preserved, however, with a complete mandible, and diagnostic areas of the pelvis, has enabled both ageing and sexing to be carried out. No long bones were measurable, so height cannot be estimated.

All skull and pelvis features indicate that this is another skeleton of a female, and agreement between the tooth wear and pubic symphysis condition give an age range of 35-45 years. Breakage of the maxilla and mandible has resulted in considerable post-

mortem tooth loss, but two teeth had been lost in life and one, adjacent to one of the lost ones, had the crown destroyed by caries. Three third molars are assumed to have been congenitally absent — although only radiography could prove this — because there appears to be no room for them in the dental arcade, and no evidence of loss; the occlusal surface of the one remaining third molar is unworn and has pockets of calculus in the crown fissures, strongly suggesting that no opposing tooth had been present.

The so-called 'scars of parturition' are marked behind the whole of the dorsal rim of the pubic symphysis. Although these lesions are still the subject of debate, the connection with childbirth is not unproven, and severe lipping behind the pubic tubercle in this pelvis does suggest the ligamentous loosening of pregnancy. It would seem reasonable to suggest that this woman had at least one pregnancy.

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Hillson, S. 1986. *Teeth.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology.

Rogers, J., T. Waldron, P. Dieppe & I. Watt. 1986. Arthropathies in palaeopathology: the basis of classification according to most probable cause. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 14: 179–93.

Ubelaker, Douglas H. 1989. Human skeletal remains: excavation, analysis, interpretation. Washington: Taraxcum for Smithsonian Institution (Manuals on Archaeology 2).

APPENDIX 5. THE ROMAN BURIALS A. Taylor.

All but one of the 5 human skeletons have been left in the ground, awaiting full excavation, and therefore, information derived from them is limited. They form part of one of the numerous Roman cemetries found close to, but always outside the walls, of the town, in accordance with Roman burial law. Most Roman towns have notable cemetries in this location, but Godmanchester is outstanding in the large number it has produced, with a total so far of over 180 individuals (Taylor forthcoming in Brittania for 1993). The majority of these Roman burials are unimpressive as they are buried individually and without grave goods. In the first two centuries of Roman occupation most people were cremated, and recent excavation at Rectory Farm, Godmanchester, for example, uncovered 55 cremation urns. During the late second century inhumation became steadily more popular, and was almost universal in the fourth century. Presumably, this is linked to changes in religion, culminating in fairly widespread Christianity, but perhaps difficulty in procuring adequate fuel, especially near towns, helped change attitudes.

The Park Lane skeletons, like those excavated at London Street, Godmanchester in 1991, are clearly part of a larger, well-laid out cemetry of fourth century date and are evidence of two significant aspects of Roman Godmanchester: firstly, both cemetries are on land used for settlement in earlier centuries and therefore, witness contraction of building land to more secure plots within town walls in the final Roman century; secondly, the quintessential orderliness of their rows and regular positions of the bodies, unmatched in later ages until Victorian times, reflects the organisation of Roman society even as it declined.

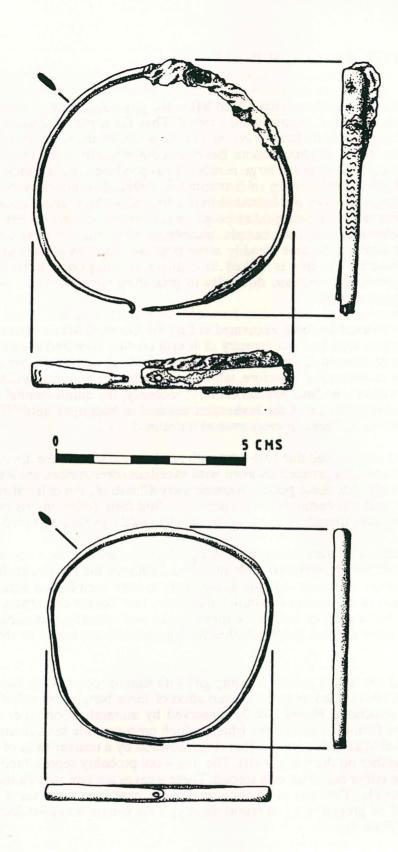
Four of the five bodies were laid due east-west with heads to the west in the approved Christian position. As inhabitants of a prosperous town with excellent communications with the outside world it is quite likely that these people were actually Christian, the official religion of the Empire in 312 AD, and it is certainly not surprising to find them following its outward forms. People in the countryside, literally *pagani*, were much less likely to have accepted this religion.

The Parks burials all lay on their backs, with straight legs and arms close to or on their chests, indicating constrained burials, some possibly in coffins, although the burial-cuts for at least two of them are very narrow and these individuals are likely to have been buried tightly wrapped in shrouds. The position of the bodies is paralleled in many late Roman cemetries, and contrasts with easrly Saxon burials which tend to be more flexed and sprawling, reminiscent of body positions in sleep. Lack of even simple clothes fastenings indicates burial in shrouds without normal clothes.

Only one burial had any 'grave goods', a young girl with simple copper alloy bangles of fourth century date (Cool 1983). Cleaning and conservation of these bangles revealed two layers of textile (Fig.1 this appendix, Plates 2 & 3) preserved by mineralisation, i.e. corrosion has replaced the textiles forming casts of the fibres, which preserves the texture and weave. The lower layer was a half-basket weave woollen cloth, covered by a coarser twill of basket weave (i.e. two threadstogether on the warp, weft). The fine wool probably represented her tunic and the coarser could be either her cloak or a shroud. These weaves are typically Roman and are not found in other periods (Discussion of the weaves are based on comments by Elisabeth Crowfoot, who will be preparing a full report shortly). One bangle was also decorated with spattern decoration (Plate 4).

The skeleton removed from trench 3 was female with a gracile build, again in contrast to the majority of Anglo-Saxon burials, although this sample is too small to draw serious conclusions yet.

This skeleton was also studied by Corinne Duhig (Appendix 4) and the individual was badly nourished in early childhood. However, in later life she had an over rich diet, indicated by dental evidence, where dental problems similar to modern populations are apparent. If widely reproduced this will be a fascinating sidelight on late Roman society and the Saxon take-over, for cemetries of the latter period consistently reveal plain but very adequate nutrition.



- DRAWING'S BY D. BELL -

CONTRICTOR CONTRICTOR

Archaeology Section Cambridgeshire County Council GODMANCHESTER, THE PARKS 1992 FIG. 1 BANGLES FROM BURIAL IN TRENCH 2.

Initials	Date
D.B.	3/8

APPENDIX 6. POTTERY FROM 'THE PARKS', GODMANCHESTER 1992.

Gavin Lucas

Over 57 kg and more than 2000 sherds of pottery were recovered during the course of the excavation, not all of it stratified; it was examined by context, using fabric types identified with the aid of a x10 magnification hand lens. These fabrics are listed below. Each context is then presented as a general summary of the pottery, while a full quantification of stratified assemblages by sherd count is presented in table 1. Illustrated vessels at 1:4 and sherds at 1:2 (except Samian at 1:1), have been grouped by context, including the Samian and mortaria. Drawings are numbered sequentially. The pottery ranges in date from Early Iron Age to post-medieval, though by far the majority of it belongs to the earlier Roman period.

FABRIC TYPES

Early Iron Age fabric (.800 - 600 BC)

1. hard grey to buff fabric with dark surfaces, moderate ill-sorted sub-angular quartzite and angular whitish quartz.

Later Iron Age fabric (.100 - 15 BC)

2. hard dark grey to brown buff micaceous fabric with frequent ill-sorted sub-angular quartzite, moderate coarse subangular grey quartz grits. Surface often burnished.

Romano-British coarseware fabrics (.70 - 300 AD)

Eleven different RB fabrics have been identified, though few can be attributed to any source with certainty. Just next to the site, a 3rd century kiln site was excavated by Green (Park Lane, unpubl.), but unfortunately the material is not easily accessible for a comparative study. The date is anyway generally too late for most of the material from this site, though this does not of course preclude an earlier, undiscovered kiln site near Godmanchester.

3. very hard fabric, varying from white through buff to orange and even grey, with frequent to abundant densely packed ill-sorted subangular quartzite, with occasional red grog and white flint(?). Frequently white slipped, though many of the jars have grey exteriors and black rims that may be due to their use as cooking pots. From the fabric and range of forms, almost certainly the source is the Brockley Hill/Verulamium kilns.

Date: AD 60-200

4. hard buff to orange/yellow or pale grey fabric, with moderate fine calcite and subangular quartzite; sometimes may be burnished or even with dark colour-coat. A local ware, resembling asome of the coarser fabrics from the late 1st century kilns at Cherry Hinton (see Hughes 1902, Evans 1990).

Date: ?AD 55 - 90

5. hard buff to orange or grey fabric with moderate to frequent ill-sorted subangular quartzite and occasional coarser inclusions of chalk and flint. Usually grey-slipped, sometimes burnished. A local ware, much of which probably comes from the Horningsea kilns (Walker 1901; Evans, unpub.).

Date: ?AD 120 - 400

- 6. hard dark brown-grey to mid-grey fabric, often with paler buff margins, with frequent fine-medium rounded and subangular whitish quartzite. Local ware in the Belgic tradition.
- 7. soft red-brown to buff fabric with frequent variously sized crushed shell temper, and occasional coarse grog and subangular quartzite. Often with vesicular surface, and faint traces of vertical combing, sometimes arranged in rows with spaces marked by horizontal grooves in a late Iron Age manner. Local ware in a pre-Conquest tradition.
- 8. soft red-brown to buff or grey fabric, with moderate coarse grog and fine dark sand. Usually with a thick black surface, sometimes burnished, though the larger storage jar sherds are without this finish. Local grog-tempered ware in the Belgic tradition.
- 9. hard, grey to buff fabric, with frequent dark grog, quartzite and occasional coarse chalk and grass inclusions. Local ware.
- 10. hard gritty red-brown fabric with thick black surface, often burnished; moderate ill-sorted quartzite, mica and occasional coarse chalk inclusions. Local ware in the Belgic tradition.
- 11. soft buff-brown fabric, invariably with a grey core; moderate chalk and crushed shell, flint and grog. Exterior often combed, mostly large jars. Local ware.
- 12. hard pale grey fabric with dark grey surface, often burnished; abundant ill-sorted subangular quartzite with moderate medium whitish quartz grits. Local ware, most resembling fabric 6, and in Gallo-Belgic forms.
- 13. hard pale grey fabric with moderate fine quartzite and calcite, occasional flint inclusions and small pockets of burnt out matter; grey slipped and often burnished. Local ware, resembling a finer version of fabric 5 (Horningsea), but also possibly from the Jesus Lane kilns in Cambridge (Hartley 1960), though these kilns, on what thin evidence survives, are dated to the later Roman period (AD 250+).

Black Burnished ware I (BB1) - soft black fabric, often with reddish margins, heavily gritted with dense whitish quartzite; surface burnished in areas or with lattice or intersecting arcs.

Date: AD 120 - 400

Date: 11D 120 40

Roman finewares

Imported finewares include the usual Samian (TS), mostly central and eastern Gaulish, but also the occasional sherd of Rhenish colour-coat (RW). Samian vessels are most represented by cup forms Dr.27 and Dr.33, with bowls Dr.31, 37 and 38, and dishes Dr.18/31 and Ludowici Tg also present with less frequency. 1 sherd of Central Gaulish colour-coat was found, and occasional sherds from Rhenish vessels. The majority of finewares come from the Nene valley, which as well as its colour-coated vessels (NVCC), is also represented on the site by its greywares (NVGW) and self-coloured wares (NVSCW). The colour-coated vessels are predominantly beakers, particularly folded types with barbotine scrollwork or roughcast decoration under the slip, and with cornice or outcurved rims. Castor boxes are also present and very early colour-coated plain-rimmed dishes. Another local ware(s?) (Fabric 14) was identified which may either come from north Essex, perhaps around or near Hadham,

and/or Cherry Hinton, which is in a very fine sandy fabric, fairly micaceous with occasional medium-sized subangular quartzite. The surface is smooth, often burnished, and the colour varies from pink-buff to orange red or grey. The forms are probably Gallo-Belgic derivative or Samian copies, and date to between AD 75 - 125. A couple of sherds with mica dusting were also recovered, in a similarly local, fine sandy oxidised fabric, and one glazed sherd from a local kiln, perhaps Verulamium.

Mortaria

The mortaria seem to come from five different sources: Verulamium, the Nene Valley, Oxfordshire, Colchester or Mancetter. Verulamium and the Nene Valley predominate, and the Oxfordshire examples are both Young type M18 dated to AD 240-300, which is generally much later than the other pottery on the site.

Amphorae

Three types of amphorae were identified, Dressel forms 20, 28 and 30 (Peacock and Williams classes 25, 31 and 38). The majority by far, belong to Dressel 20.

Medieval fabrics

Hardly represented at all - certainly no stratified material was recovered, and very few unambiguously medieval sherds were identified from unstratified contexts. This absence is especially significant given the location of the site in the medieval landscape. 1 sherd from Stamford in a thick green glaze was recovered.

Post-medieval fabrics

Very little post-medieval material was identified either - a few glazed fineware sherds, in unstratified contexts.

CONTEXTS

All the pottery came from area B (trenches 1,2,3,7 and 8), and four of the five test pits; the material from the trenches will be presented first, and then the test pits. Sherds from the spoil and cleaning layers were also studied and will therefore be included in the comments, but not in table 1 except as total sherd counts. Fabric types and illustration numbers are given in brackets after the forms.

Trench 1

Spoil. Nene Valley colour-coated beaker, barbotine under copper-brown slip

and cornice rim; also folded beaker with roughcast decoration; base of beaker trimmed to disc (AD 140-190) Samian Dr.31 bowl, and Dr.18/31 dish 3 carinated bowls, 1 with reeded rim rolled rimmed bowl green-glazed handle in reduced fabric - Roman? bilobed jar (F3) lid

(005) Nene Valley colour-coat
Samian Dr.37 bowl (no.1; detail: no.81), Dr.27 cup
Nene Valley greyware plain rimmed dish
Dressel 20 amphora sherd
Mancetter(?) mortarium
Oxfordshire mortarium, Young type M18, AD 240-300
bilobed jars, plain rimmed dishes, reeded bowls (F3)
early flanged bowl, plain rimmed dish (F13)
greyware folded beaker with girth grooves (F14)
shell-tempered rippled storage jar (F7) (no.2)
sherd in early iron age fabric (F1)

A fairly mixed assemblage, with sherds varying in size and degree of abrasion, though the latest material clearly indicates the presence of mid-3rd century activity.

(008) Nene Valley colour-coated beaker with outcurved rim (AD180-220), folded beaker with roughcast decoration (AD140-190)

Nene Valley greyware hooked rimmed bowl platter/dish (F12) (no.3)

bowl/jar with applied scales in matt brown colour-coat - possibly from theLower Rhineland (Pre-Flavian)

Dressel 20 amphora sherd bilobed jar (F3)

shell-tempered beaded jar and lid (F7) (nos.4 & 5)

small necked Belgic jar (F6) (no.6)

grooved/v.early flanged bowl (F13)

reeded bowl and trimmed footring (F14)

Late Iron Age stamped sherd (F2) (no.70)

bowls with plain, hooked and rolled rims (F6)

Another fairly mixed assemblage including earlier 1st century material with later 2nd and early 3rd century, though the sherds are generally less abraded than (005).

Nene Valley colour-coated beaker with cornice rim (AD140-180), and plain rimmed dish

Samian Dr.33 and 27 cups, trimmed footring, sherd with cut glass decoration, probably Dechelette 72, and small rim with rouletting, possibly Dr 24 small sherd with red barbotine stripes and yellow green glaze; possibly from Verulamium - not central Gaulish (St.Remy ware) small oxidised sherd with stamped overlapping rosettes (F14)

- similar to the later Oxfordshire ware.

Amphorae, Dressel 20 and 28/30? (no.8)

Verulamium mortaria

BB1 early flanged bowl with overlapping arcs (AD 240-300) (no.12), flared rim cooking jar with acute lattice reeded bowl, base trimmed to disc, beaded jar (F3) (no.13) incipient flanged bowl, tall necked jar with hole drilled in the neck (F13)

colour-coated vessel with columns of stabs
Dressel 20 amphora
platter like no.3 (F12)
bilobed bowl with depressed rim and girth groove (F3) (no.17)

Fairly abraded sherds, dated to the later 2nd century.

Nene Valley colour-coated folded beaker and D-rimmed bowl Samian Dr.37 bowl (detail: no.79)

Mancetter Mortarium screwneck flagon, bilobed jars, reeded bowl, hooked rim bowl with small chamfer, lid (F3) (nos.20 - 24) storage jar (F5) beaded jars (F7) (nos.18 & 19)

Late Iron Age sherds

A large group, fairly abraded, but with intrusive? modern finds which include a clay pipe stem and a red brick; the Roman pottery is mostly later 2nd century.

(503) D-rimmed bowl (F6) Nene Valley greyware

A very small group, broadly dated to later 2nd century.

(504) D-rimmed dish
BB1
Nene Valley greyware
'London ware' bowl (F14) (no.71)

A small group of fairly abraded sherds - mid 2nd century?

(505) Nene Valley greyware D-rimmed bowl mica-dusted sherd

Another small group of abraded sherds - mid 2nd century?

(506) Nene Valley colour-coated beaker with outcurved rim (AD180-220) bowls with flattened and depressed rims

Small, well abraded sherds, datable to the latest 2nd/earliest 3rd century.

- (507) general greyware sherds very broad date of later 2nd early 3rd century
- (508) Nene valley colour-coated vessel Dressel 20 amphora

Well abraded sherds - later 2nd/early 3rd century.

Trench 2

- Spoil Nene Valley roughcast beaker Samian Dr.33 grog-tempered imbrex
- (006) ring and dot beaker (F4) like no.77 bilobed jars (F3)

D-rimmed bowl (F13) Nene Valley colour-coated beaker with outcurved rim (AD180-220)

Small abraded sherds, latest date of early 3rd century.

- (008) Samian Curle 11 dish with two holes in flange, one with lead rivet; bead filed down at points opposite holes (no.26) bilobed jar (F3) beaded bowl (F6) (no.25)
- (010) mica-dusted cornice-rimmed beaker barbotine dot poppyhead beaker (F14) trimmed base (F5)

 Nene Valley greyware folded beaker Hofheim flagon rim storage jar with arcs (F8) (no.73)

Fairly well abraded sherds, many quite early (later 1st century), though mid 2nd century at least is more likely for the collection as a whole.

- (012) Late Iron Age sherd and other RB greywares very abraded and small sherds
- (014) Nene Valley roughcast beaker
 Samian Dr.37 (no.82)
 Verulamium mortarium (no.27) (AD 70-150)
 Colchester mortarium
 reeded bowl (F14) (no.30)
 bilobed carinated jar (F3) (no.32)
 bowls with stab rows, rustication, shouldered bowl and lid,
 and carinated bowl (nos.28,29,31,74,75)

A fairly large assemblage in good condition with a date probably around the middle of the 2nd century.

(016) Roughcast beaker beaded jar (F7) (no.33) D-rimmed bowl

Small abraded sherds - later 2nd century.

- (020) Only 1 sherd from a thick jar RB
- (041) carinated bowl fairly abraded sherds, nothing to give a close date except early RB

Trench 3

Spoil Verulamium mortaria, (no.35) (AD 120-150), and another similar

to Oxford type M10/11 (AD 140-200) Central Gaulish colour-coated ware Samian with repair hole, another Dr.18/31 Dressel 20 amphora Nene valley castor box? BB1 bowl with flat rim (AD 120-160) large storage jar (F7) (no.34)

[200] Samian Dr.37 bowl
seg 1 bowl - copy of Dr.30? (F4) (no.37)
Dressel 20 amphora rim (no.36)
jar with spaced vertical lines (F5)
butt beaker with lattice decoration (F14) (no.39)
ring and dot barbotine beaker (F4) (no.77)

Early-mid 2nd century?

[200] BB1
seg 2 Nene Valley greyware grooved rim jar, D-rimmed bowl
ring and dot beaker (F4)
reeded bowl with girth groove, beaded jar, lid (no.38)
grooved rim bowl (F3)

Early-mid 2nd century?

(214)Nene Valley folded beaker in copper brown colour-coat with grooved rim and scroll decoration; beaker with cornice rim and barbotine dot panels: beaker with incipient bead and scrollwork; folded beaker in copper-brown colour-coat (no.45); castor box Samian Dr.27, Dr.33 with waist groove ring and dot beaker, colour-coated folded beaker (F4) Bead rimmed beaker from the Rhineland Colchester mortarium with upstanding bead AD 150+ BB1 chamfered dish (AD 120-140) (no.46) flat-rimmed bowl, rolled rim dish. bilobed jar(no.40), reeded bowl with depressed flange (no.47) segmental bowl (no.44) and beaded bowl (no.43) (F5)

jar (no.41), trimmed base (F7) angular necked jar (no.42), and BB1 copy (F13)

Nene Valley mortarium

A substantial and fairly unabraded collection with a date of perhaps the third quarter of the 2nd century AD.

(215) Nene Valley colour-coated beaker
Nene Valley greyware bowl (no.53)
Nene Valley self-coloured ware segmental bowl (no.51)

Samian Dr.38 bowl
Oxfordshire mortarium (no.48) Young type M18 (AD 240-300)

Nene Valley mortarium
Dressel 20 amphora
hooked rim dish (no.50) (F14)
flat-rimmed bowl,
copy of BB1 jar (no.52),
jar with fine comb stamp (no.76) (F6)

angular necked jar with oblique burnished lines (F5) (no.11), plain rimmed dish carinated jar with grooves (no.10), and bowl (no.9) (F6) large storage jar (F11) (no.7)

A large assemblage, not too abraded, but unusually a wide date range represented, the latest pointing to the mid-3rd century, probably no later, as most of the pottery is later 2nd/early 3rd.

(049) bowl with hooked rim (F14) jar with corrugated profile (F6) (no.14) amphora - Dressel 30?

A small group in fairly good condition, with a broad date of later 2nd/early 3rd century.

(051) Roughcast beaker, either from the Nene Valley or theRhineland carinated bowl with reeded rim (no.15), and another sherd from a bowl with stab rows as in (014), no.74 (F6)

Early Iron Age sherd from angular bowl with dimples on the carination (F1) (no.72)

Flagon in Nene Valley self-coloured fabric; the handle is missing, the base has a hole worked through it, and there is a tantalisingly short survival of grafitti scratched on the shoulder in a cursive script (no.78).

Another small collection with not much to give anything but a broad date of 2nd century, probably later. The residual Early Iron Age sherd is in good condition.

(055) Samian base of Dr.38 bowl, with makers stamp trace - illegible Nene Valley colour-coat folded beaker Folded vessel (F6) bilobed jars, base trimmed and scratched with an 'X' (F3) Storage jar (F7), like no.7

A small group of sherds, little abraded, and datable broadly to the later 2nd century.

(057) Beaker base, trimmed in Nene Valley fabric beaded jar in Late Iron Age fabric (F2)

Too small to say anything except later 2nd century

(061) Nene Valley mortaria with upstanding bead (AD 150-220) base of jar with spaced horizontal burnished lines (F14)

Another very small group, not too abraded, and datable to the later 2nd century.

Material from around the stones near (061) included fairly abraded sherds of Dressel 28? amphora, bowl with D-rim and grog-tempered imbrex. Nothing to suggest a date other than later 2nd century.

Trench 1B

(501) Nene Valley colour-coated folded beaker (AD 180-220) Samian Dr.33 with waist groove, Dr.37 (no.16; detail: no.80) Nene Valley greyware beaded bowl and stepped jar

Dressel 28 amphora rim (no.49)

Another large group, fairly abraded and would be Antonine were it not for the Oxford mortarium which gives a latest date of mid- 3rd century.

(222) Samian Dr.27 cup with inside base much worn (no.54)
Nene Valley greyware bowl (no.56)
Lid (F3) (no.55)
Large jar with spaced rows of vertical combing (F7)

Broad date of 2nd century.

(224) Samian Dr.33 cup with waist groove Nene Valley beaker

Small abraded sherds - later 2nd century.

Trench 7

(403) Samian Dr.33 without waist groove, Dr.38 bowl (no.57)

These two vessels were represented by very large unabraded sherds. Later 2nd century/early 3rd.

(405) Nene Valley castor box Samian Dr.33, Dr.31 Dressel 20 amphora

Good condition - again, later 2nd century.

Trench 8

(304) Nene Valley colour-coat
D-rimmed bowl (F6)
plain-rimmed dish (F5)
beaded, corrugated jar (F4) (no.58)
Fairly abraded sherds - broad date of later 2nd century.

Test Pits

- A/3 mixture of RB sherds, including Dressel 20 amphora, and post-medieval glazed sherds. 1 sherd with a green splash glaze is possibly medieval.
- A/4 Samian Dr.33 and 37, and Ludovici Tg (no.62)
 Nene Valley colour-coated folded beaker with
 rouletting, castor box
 Nene Valley mortarium
 Dressel 20 amphora
 pedestal base of Gallo-Belgic vessel (F14)
 Nene Valley self-coloured ware copy of Dr.38 (no.59)
 small corrugated jar (F13) (no.60)
 bilobed jar, grooved jar (no.63) (F3)
 BB1 bowl
 internally ledged jar (F6) (no.61)

A large collection, fairly abraded, and mostly datable to the later 2nd century.

- B/1 very abraded small sherds, including Nene Valley colour-coat and greywares.
- B/2 very abraded mixed group of sherds including early RB types, Terra Nigra platter, and a Stamford thick green glazed sherd (early medieval)
- C Samian Curle 11 or Dr.35/36 flange
 Nene Valley colour-coated vessels
 Nene valley self-coloured vessel with red-brown painted

stripes
Reeded bowl with depressed rim, bilobed jars, bowl - a copy of Dr.30? (F3) (no.64), ledged jar (no.65), squat beaker (no.69)
BB1 flanged bowl (no.66), cooking jar (no.67) (AD 220-

240) Verulamium mortarium Very large storage jar (F7) (no.68)

A large assemblage with a broad date, but upto the mid 3rd century.

D Nene Valley colour-coated beaker with plain rim

Samian Dr.31 bowl bilobed jar, early flanged bowl (F13) Verulamium mortarium

Very late 2nd/early 3rd century group, with 1 post-medieval salt- glazed stoneware sherd.

Discussion

The pottery from the Parks in Godmanchester is predominantly Antonine in date, but with more than just the occasional survivals from the later 1st or earlier 2nd centuries. However, no feature can with certainty be assigned to these earlier dates.

The pits generally all fall within the later 2nd century during the Antonine period (c.140-190 AD), while the ditches and layers tend to display more variety in the date of the pottery; the right-angled ditch [200] for example has early to mid 2nd century material but also mid-3rd century, and often these much later dates come from a single or a few sherds. This could simply reflect the time span in which the ditches were being used as against the pits which may have had relatively shorter life span. The Later Iron Age sherds, and the earlier Iron Age material are more likely to be residual as they are very few in number; possible Iron Age features were found to the south in 1991 though no pottery was recovered (Gjaniec 1991). The late Iron Age stamped sherd (no.70) is very significant in that they are fairly rare, and, particularly in Eastern England, provide the only potential source of continuity

with the early Roman stamped wares (Elsdon 1975; Rodwell 1978). The general date and range of Roman pottery from that site was also similar to the material here (see Going in Gjaniec, ibid.). Apart from one or two early medieval sherds, there is no other pottery from this period, and later centuries are equally lacking except for the stray sherd.

The range of vessels is fairly wide and typical; a large number of cups in Samian or small beakers from the Nene Valley attest to the importance of drinking, as do the flagons, though wine may not have been the favoured drink. Although amphorae are present, albeit not in huge numbers, the main type is Dressel 28 which was used

chiefly for importing olive oil (Peacock & Williams 1986).

Fineware bowls, dishes or platters, are generally much rarer in the assemblages. Cooking jars are very common as are lids, and many show signs of good use; on the inside of several jar sherds, a dirty white to grey residue was found, which under the hand lens had a rough, in places vesicular texture, and came off in flakes. One suggestion is that it is limescale, and it showed a slight reaction (as does limescale) to vinegar. Mortaria too are present in not unusual numbers, and greyware bowls both deep and shallow are very common, though platters and dishes, less so.

The range of fabrics, about twenty in all, is fairly large, but not unusually so for an early site; about half of the finewares come from the Nene valley, a quarter from Gaul and the rest from unprovenanced sources such as Essex. 'London ware', of there was a single definite sherd (no.71), occurred more frequently in Flavian levels within Godmanchester itself (Green 1959), as did the ring and dot beaker (no.77) (ibid.). Even then, these home-produced finewares appear to predominate over imported material (ibid.), though without better statistical figures it would be rash to make overconfident judgements.

Most of the coarsewares are represented by five fabrics (3,5,6,7 and 13), some of which can tentatively be provenanced to the Verulamium region and kilns nearer to Godmanchester such as Horningsea. The rest can all be attributed to other local, but unknown sources. The Verulamium type fabric is mostly represented by jars, particularly bilobed types (eg. no.21) and carinated bowls (eg. no.23) - in Corder's type series of Antonine pottery from Verulamium, types 1 and 8 (Corder 1941); but other forms are also present, most particularly an almost complete vessel of his type 7 beaker (no.69). The shell-tempered fabric occurs as jars, usually neckless with a small bead rim, either internally concave or ledged (eg. nos.5 & 18). Of the other greywares, bowls and necked jars of the usual type are represented, some with clear Late Iron Age stylistic affinities (eg. no.73). The small jar with corrugated profile (nos. 14 & 60) also occurred in Flavian levels at Godmanchester (Green 1959), as did the sherds with rustication and stab marks (nos.74 & 75), all of which were given pre-Flavian prototypes. All of these are in Fabric 6 which produced other Belgic types (eg. no.6), and it seems possible that we are dealing with a fairly long-lived tradition of Iron Age pottery alongside increasingly Romanised types.

Re-use of the pottery vessels is represented in several ways; drilled holes, either for repair or suspension were found on at least three vessels, two of which were Samian. Larger holes worked through the bottom of vessels was also noted in three instances, on a flagon, a beaker and a coarseware jar, which suggests that the size or shape of the original vessel may not be relevant in understanding the point of this. Similarly, bases of vessels which had been trimmed into flat discs was found in ten cases, which occured on beakers and large coarseware jars alike. The discs may have been used for lids, though lids are fairly well represented, and discs would have had to sit overhanging the rim to be usable, having no handle; the perforated bases are too light for weights, (and certainly inadequate as spindle whorls) - the only reasonable suggestion I have heard is that they may be re-used as plant pots, for culinary herbs perhaps.

Grafitti occurred rarely - an 'X' scratched on the base of one vessel, and more interestingly, a text on the same flagon which is not enough to read it:

"...NIS..."(?) and "..CUN..".

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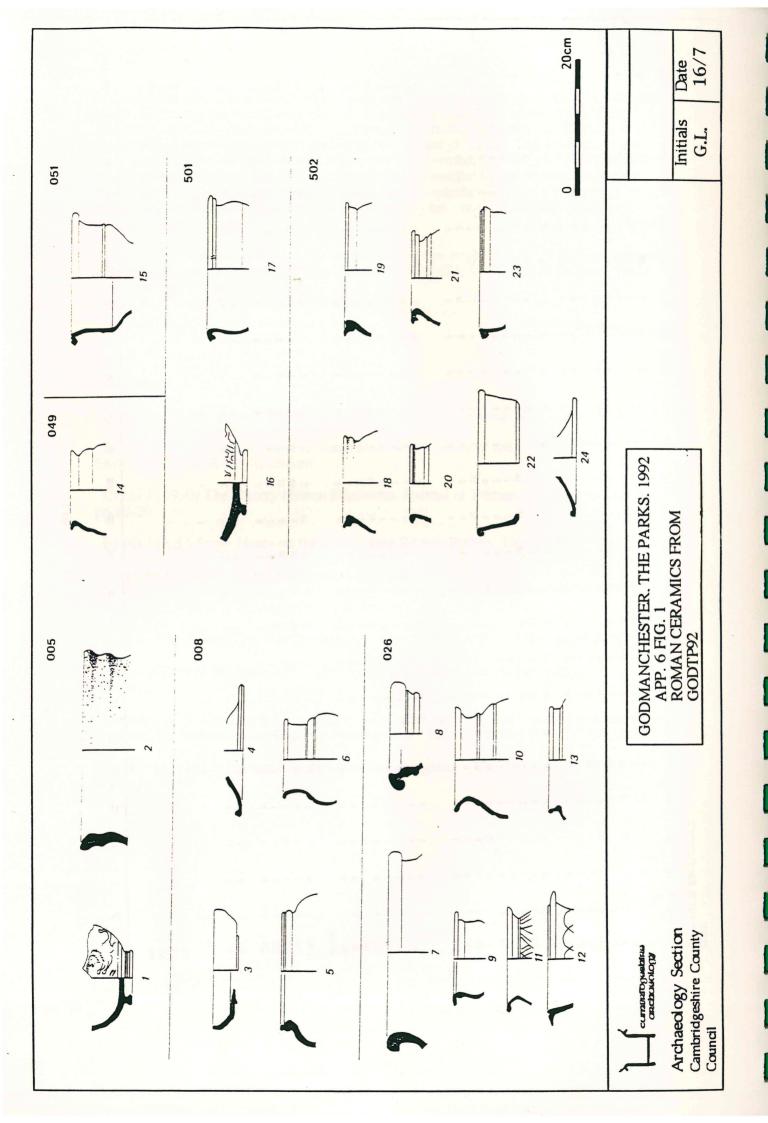
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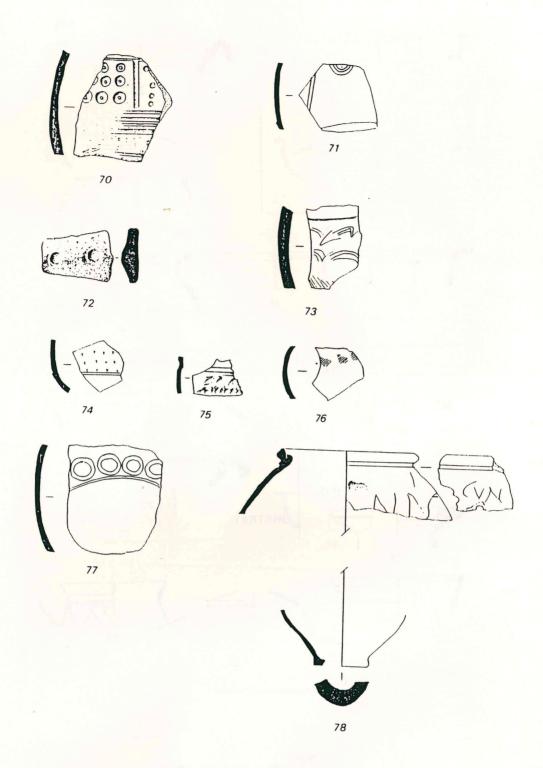
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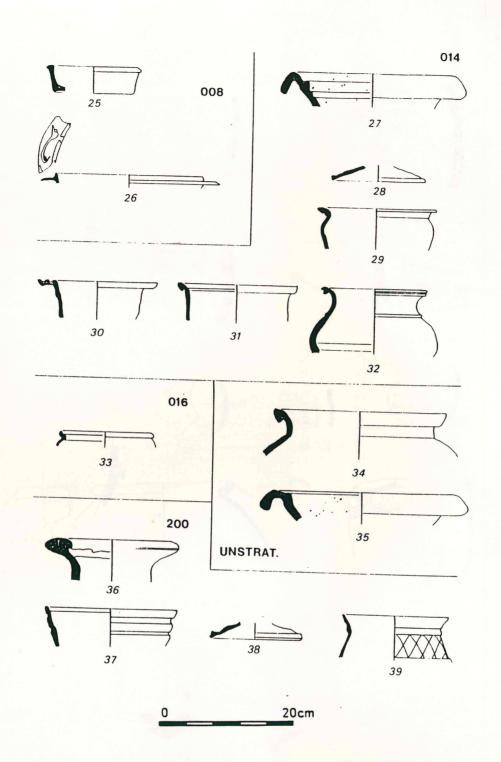


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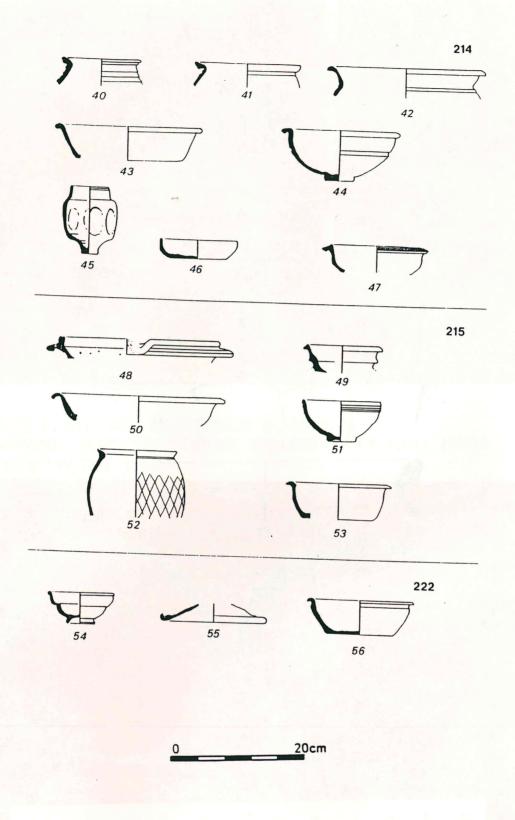
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GODMANCHESTER, THE PARKS 1992 APP.6 FIG.3 ROMAN CERAMICS FROM GODTP92

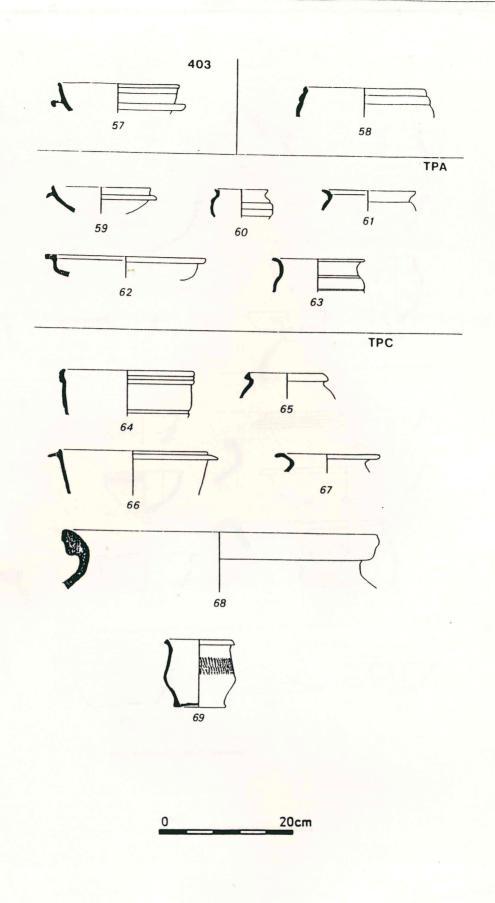
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Archaeology Section Cambridgeshire County Council GODMANCHESTER, THE PARKS 1992 APP.6 FIG.5 ROMAN CERAMICS FROM GODTP92

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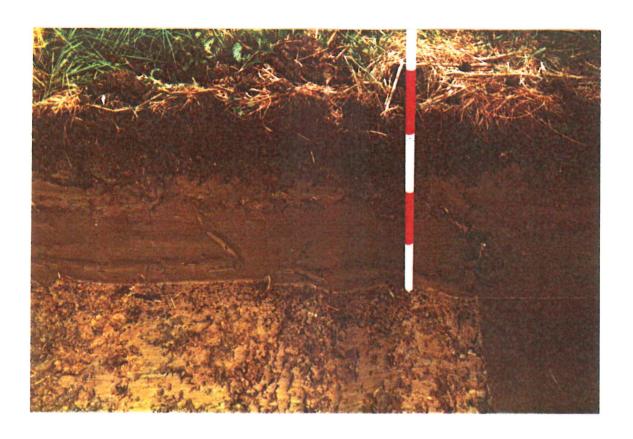


PLATE 1. SECTION OF TRENCH 6, AREA A SHOWING TOPSOIL, STERILE YELLOW CLAY AND LEVEL OF THE WATER TABLE.

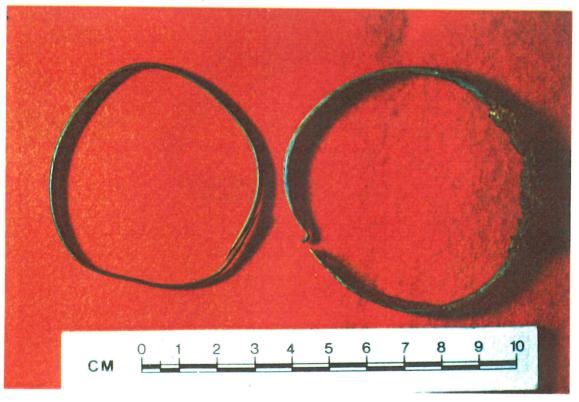
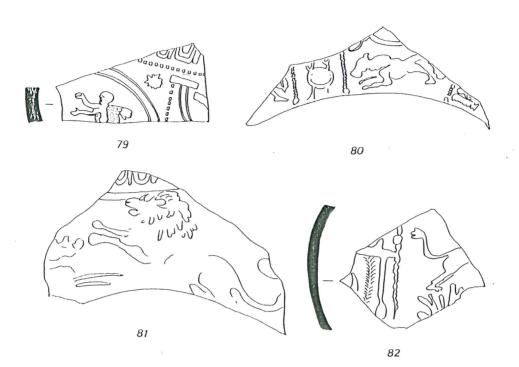


PLATE 2. FOURTH CENTURY BANGLES FROM BURIAL [040]. THE 'RUST' PRESERVES TEXTILE IMPRESSIONS.



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Archaeology Section Cambridgeshire County Council GODMANCHESTER, THE PARKS 1992 APP.6 FIG.6 SAMIAN FROM GODTP92

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PLATE 3. CORROSION ON BANGLE SHOWING DETAIL OF TEXTILE PRESERVED



PLATE 4. DETAIL OF DECORATION ON THE BANGLE FROM BURIAL [040]