

recutting but the internal south-western corner was rounded and the interpretation is that of a possible Roman fortlet, albeit the finds assemblage might suggest a native feature. No entrances were identified other than a small 0.6 m gap in the circuit to the north-west. Finds recovered from this ditch were limited to two base sherds of burnished Romano-British pottery and a base sherd of coarse ware. The ring-ditch of a post-ring roundhouse appeared to respect the enclosure ditch, the eastern terminal of its southern section running up to and stopping just short of it. This feature was associated with Romano-British burnished pottery and a sherd of Dressel 1 amphora, all of potentially first-century A.D. date, while sherds from Cordoned ware and Type 13 large storage vessels are likely to be later.

The second phase of the enclosure was marked by the construction of a larger and deeper ditch, up to 1.35 m deep, enclosing an area 25 m (NNE–SSW) by 24 m (WNW–ESE). In plan the enclosure was roughly square with rounded corners (FIG. 33). The base of the ditch contained a vertical slot 0.45 m wide and 0.4 m deep in most sections. There was an entrance 3.5 m wide in the southern side, off-centre to the west; this had partly been formed by deliberately backfilling the earlier ditch with stony material in this area. Finds from the ditch included sherds of Romano-British pottery, including a Trethurgy Type 1 burnished vessel of late first- to early second-century date, a fragment of a stone hone, and a fragment of a stone mould that may be part of a mould for cold-hammering pewter dishes. Across the external side of the entrance, 0.7 m forward from it, was a sub-rectangular pit, 2.5 m long, 0.85 m wide and 0.8 m deep. This contained a burial from which a fragment of tooth from the western end and fragments of probable tibia from halfway along the eastern end were the only surviving skeletal remains. A piece of copper-alloy wire was found towards the western end and hobnails were found at the eastern end. A whole burnished pot that had been smashed during the backfilling process has been identified as a Trethurgy Type 2 jar of first- to second-century A.D. date. The pit appeared of unusual dimensions and shape for a grave and it has been speculated that the pit may have been first employed as a defensive ditch placed in front of the entrance (together with an accompanying rampart) forming a simple *titulum*. The possible fortlet and other features of the prehistoric, Roman and later periods are intended to be published in monograph form at a future date.<sup>136</sup>

#### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

For supplementary material for this article please visit <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X23000338>

[johnpsalvatore@gmail.com](mailto:johnpsalvatore@gmail.com)

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## 9.1. SOUTHERN COUNTIES (WEST)

By JOHN P. SALVATORE

### WILTSHIRE

(1) **Coate**, *Land off Marlborough Road* (SU 18758 82626): excavation identified small enclosures and discrete features dating to the first century A.D. which pre-dated a Roman settlement comprised

<sup>136</sup> Work by Cornwall Archaeological Unit for Griffiths Ltd. S.R. Taylor provided information.



FIG. 34. Part of the mosaic within the separate rectangular building, scale 1 m. (Photo: Mike Luke © British Museum)

of enclosures, ring-ditches, boundary ditches, pits, post-holes, a stone surface and possible hearths or ovens. An urned cremation deposit was also identified. Pottery from the settlement spanned the first to fourth centuries, with a predominance of mid-first- to second-century material.<sup>137</sup>

#### SWINDON

(1) **Lotmead, Phase 1 (Site 5) Swindon Eastern Villages (SU 19760 85179)**: excavation revealed part of a prehistoric woodland environment which was extant at the time the Roman settlement at Wanborough (*Durocornovium*) was established. Over 100 tree-throw holes indicate felling and clearance, probably to obtain timber for construction and provide land for agriculture. Finds recovered from the artefactually rich upper fills included pottery ranging from the Bronze Age through to the fourth century, along with 34 late third- or early fourth-century coins. Roman features included a large pond, enclosures, pits, two inhumation graves and 31 cremation deposits as well as two ring-ditches, one of which enclosed a large sarsen stone.<sup>138</sup>

#### DORSET

(1) **Hinton St Mary (ST 786 162)**: research excavation took place at the scheduled site at Hinton St Mary Roman villa<sup>139</sup> following up on the evaluation work reported previously.<sup>140</sup> Three areas

<sup>137</sup> Work by Cotswold Archaeology. Information provided by J. Cook.

<sup>138</sup> Work by Cotswold Archaeology. Information provided by J. Cook.

<sup>139</sup> National Heritage List 1002433.

<sup>140</sup> *Britannia* 53 (2022), 467.

were excavated; this revealed that the room with the Chi-Rho mosaic (now housed at the British Museum) was not connected to other rooms on its south-west side. A separate rectangular building, *c.* 34 m long with a portico or corridor, was located some 8 m to the south-west of the mosaic room. A mosaic covered this building's northern end room floor (FIG. 34), while the next room was provided with a hard mortar surface. There was no evidence for activity within the investigated areas before A.D. 300 and the excavation indicates that the buildings on the site were constructed *c.* 330–340, with occupation lasting until at least the end of the fourth century.<sup>141</sup> Initial post-excavation work has been completed, the results of which are available.<sup>142</sup>

#### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

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[johnpsalvatore@gmail.com](mailto:johnpsalvatore@gmail.com)

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## 9.2. SOUTHERN COUNTIES (EAST)

By OWEN HUMPHREYS

### BEDFORDSHIRE

(1) **Bedford**, *Cranfield Air Park* (TL 01730 43536): a trial trench evaluation<sup>143</sup> followed a geophysical survey undertaken in 2002, which had revealed a concentration of potential archaeological features in the south-eastern area of the site. A total of 31 trenches were investigated, spanning an area of approximately 16 ha across the two fields. Archaeological features were recorded in 26 of those trenches, which appeared to represent two general activities: a late Iron Age/early Roman settlement to the south-east, with patterns of undated agricultural activity to the west. The former was represented by at least five roundhouses within two phases of enclosure ditch; the latter by a mixture of possible early Roman horticultural trenches and medieval furrows.

### EAST SUSSEX

(1) **Willington**, *Brodriclands and Hamlands Farm* (TQ 5950 0360): fieldwork<sup>144</sup> in advance of housing development on a roughly 4 ha plot has revealed an extensive complex farmstead or ladder-type settlement of Iron Age to Roman date, comprising a series of ditched enclosures and paddocks, and other features such as ring gully roundhouses.

<sup>141</sup> Work by The British Museum, Vianova Archaeology and Heritage Services, and Albion Archaeology, with students from Cardiff University. Directed by P. Guest, M. Luke and R. Hobbs. M. Luke sent information.

<sup>142</sup> P. Guest, M. Luke and R. Hobbs, *Archaeological Excavation of the Roman 'Villa' at Hinton St Mary, 2022: Interim Report*. Internal Vianova Report. (2022). Available at: [www.vianovaarchaeology.com/research-engagement/hinton-st-mary/hinton-research-excavation/](http://www.vianovaarchaeology.com/research-engagement/hinton-st-mary/hinton-research-excavation/)

<sup>143</sup> Site Code BE-CAR22. Work by A. Telfer of MOLA for No. 6 Developments Ltd. A. Rivoli sent information.

<sup>144</sup> Work by W. Attard and O. Rouard of Thames Valley Archaeological Services (South). S. Preston sent information.