Trench MF4 narrative

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Introduction

Trench 4 was opened in 2001 within the interior of the supposed Bronze Age enclosure to ascertain if any archaeological evidence existed therein. Two features were found and excavated in full. While a slight amount of material culture was found, including a 3rd – 4th century Roman coin the features proved to be tree throws. Trench 4 did show that the centre of the enclosure did not play host to any activities that required features cut into the underlying geology.

Cuts and Fills

[4013]. Tree Throw. A conical shaped tree throw, measuring 1.2m x 1.4m x 0.2m deep and with gently sloping sides.

(4003). Top Fill. Dark clayey sand material with inclusions of pottery, animal bone and metal (a Copper-Alloy brooch type Nauheim – d).

(4011). Mid Fill. A stony layer beneath top fill. No inclusions.

(4012). Mid Fill. A layer of orange/brown sand with small pieces of limestone. No inclusions.

(4014). Mid Fill. Loose yellow brown sandy loam. No inclusions.

(4015). Mid Fill. Loose dark sandy layer with cobble sized stones. No Inclusions.

(4016). Mid Fill. As (4015) but with high concentration of rubble. No inclusions.

(4017). Bottom Fill. Very sticky clay deposit. No Inclusions.

[4025]. Tree throw. Oval in shape and measuring 3m x m x 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides.

(4019). Top Fill. Dark brown loamy sand with inclusions of pottery sherds, animal bone and flint.

(4021). Mid Fill. Compacted dark brown clay with cobbles. No inclusions.

(4022). Mid Fill. Loose brown/orange sand with pieces of limestone and pieces of animal bone.

(4023). Bottom Fill. Same as (4022) but with more stony inclusions with medium sized cobbles.

Small Finds
In total ten small finds were recovered from Trench MF4 including three 3rd/4th century Copper-Alloy Roman coins, a faience bead, a fragment of vessel glass, a small iron bar and an iron object from the topsoil. From the following contexts (4003), subsoil, a Copper-Alloy Nauheim-d type brooch, context (4009) an iron hobnail and from context (4010) an iron hook.

Pottery Analysis
In total 131 pottery sherds were recovered from Trench MF4 the bulk of which, 71 sherds came from topsoil context (4000) and from the immediate sub soil context (4001), 47 sherds. The total group of sherds was made up of 20 sherds of Iron Age pottery and 111 of Roman pottery.

There were 20 sherds of Iron Age all of type PCW, Prehistoric Coarse Ware.

The Roman pottery group included 11 pottery types, which are as follows and in order of magnitude.

Roman Coarse Ware. Reduced.	47 sherds.
Roman Coarse Ware. Oxidised.	27 sherds.
Roman Samian.	7 sherds.
Roman Fine Ware. Reduced.	6 sherds.
Roman Decorated Wares.	8 sherds.
Roman Oxford Fine Ware. Reduced.	5 sherds.
Roman Fine Ware. Oxidised.	3 sherds.
Roman Fine Ware. Reduced.	3 sherds.