Trench MF7 narrative

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Introduction.

Trench 7 was located within the temenos area on a geophysical anomaly and measured 10m x 10m. It contained nothing other than two possible small tree/shrub-throws primarily on the west side of the trench. A small single tree-throw was located in the north-east corner of the trench. These could have been planting hollows for small trees or shrubs within the temple precinct and garden perhaps associated with the path towards the temple. Apart from these features very little pottery or small finds were recovered from this trench. As with Trench 6 and other trenches in the temenos area shallow soil levels often less than one metre over bedrock with considerable evidence of plough damage.

Cuts and Fills

[7003] Tree-throw Possible tree-throw 2.6m x 2.1m x 0.45m deep.

(7004) Top Fill Red brown loam. Contained animal bone, flint and a piece of Roman tile.

(7013) Mid Fill Brown sandy loam and silt and small stones.

(7014) Mid Fill Brown sandy loam.

(7015) Bottom Fill Clay over bedrock.

[7005] Posthole. Possible posthole or natural depression 0.6m x 0.38m x 0.05m deep. Evidence of plough damage was noted.

(7006) Single Fill. Red brown loam with no finds to confirm a Roman attribution.

[7009] Tree-throw Possible tree-throw or shallow pit 1.4m x 0.25m deep.

(7010) Single Fill. Dark brown loam. No inclusions to confirm a Roman attribution.

[7012] plough mark Possible or furrow or natural depression seen as a large linear feature running southward from the northwest baulk of the trench and measuring 1.5m wide at the trench baulk and 4m in length gradually narrowing to a taper at the southern end.

Small Finds

All small finds were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. There were just seven small finds, three from topsoil context (7000) consisting of an iron cleat, an iron buckle and a flint flake, four from subsoil context (7002) including two Copper-Alloy 3rd/4th century Roman coins, a Copper-Alloy linked loops (possibly jewellery) and an iron object.

Pottery Analysis

All pottery finds came from three contexts (7000) topsoil and (7002) (7004) subsoil. In total 90 pottery sherds were recovered with the group made up of four Iron Age sherds and 86

Roman sherds. The four prehistoric pottery sherds were all PCW type (Prehistoric Coarse Ware).

There was a range of nine types of Roman pottery with 49 sherds (56.9%) from context (7000), 30 sherds (34.8%) from context (7002) and three sherds (3.4%) from context (7004). The Roman pottery types are as follows:

1 Roman Coarse Ware Oxidised	5 sherds
2 Roman Fine Ware Oxidised	2 sherds
3 Roman Coarse Ware Reduced	23 sherds
4 Roman Fine Ware Reduced	9 sherds
5 Roman White Ware	1 sherd
6 BB1. Black Burnished Ware	1 sherd
7 Oxford White Slip Ware	5 sherds
8 Roman Shell Tempered Ware	1 sherd
9 Decorated Ware	7 sherds