Trench MF 9 narrative

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Introduction

Trench 9 complexity and subsequent layout of this narrative

During the summer drought of 1976 an arial photograph identified a large circular crop mark with a small rectangular feature on its southern perimeter, in Trendles field at Manor Farm Marcham. In 1985 Richard Hingley opened an exploratory trench sited over the rectangular feature that provided evidence for the presence of a Roman structure and the possibility that the circular feature could be a Roman arena. Trench 9 was opened in 2001 and was placed on a north-south orientation guided by a geophysical survey. The trench ran from the centre of the arena southward across the rectangular stone structure, picking up Richard Hingley's exploratory trench and continued south to the perceived limit of the arena's southern embankment.

From this initial excavation, trench 9 evolved over 6/7 years of operation into a complex of trenches that has made analysis considerably complex. It has therefore been necessary to identify and catalogue each main trench section and sub trenches as separate entities. In total 14 such trenches have been numbered 9:1 through to 9:14. Adopting this methodology has greatly assisted in the assimilation of data and consequent understanding of trench 9. To assist in utilising this process a number of diagrams have been produced using accurate easting and northing data and set on a grid with a scale of 1:20. These diagrams were developed from trench 9 plans, section drawings and photographs.

This narrative has therefore been developed embodying this trench numbering system reflecting the season-by-season sequence that each trench came into operation and the purpose of each trench. This can best be seen in both the trench listing and associated diagrams in section 1 of this narrative.

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Trench dimensions and work sequence

Note. This section should be used in conjunction with trench diagrams.

Year Opened	Trench Number	Trench dimensions	Trench description and purpose
2001	9:1	3m x 21m x 2m	The main section of trench 9:1 measured approximately 3m x 21m however the width varied over the course of each season as specific features were explored. Close to the arena wall the trench widened considerably to approximately 5.5m to explore the inner section of the arena wall.
2001	9:2	6.2m x 3.6m x 2m.	Trench over the rectangular stone structure relocating Richard Hingley's 1985 trench.
2001	9:2a	2.5m x 1.5 x 2m.	Small exploratory trench on the west side of the stone structure.
2001	9:3	10m x 3m x 1m.	Trench from the south wall of the stone structure southward for approximately 10m to the limit of the embankment as defined by the geophysical survey. The purpose of this trench was to explore the embankment.
2002	9:4	4.1m x 16.8m x 2m	East/West trench: exploring the area from the centre of the arena to the East wall and adjoining Trench 1.
2002	9:5	21m x 2m x 2m	Southern embankment trench exploring the structure of the embankment.
2002	9:6	1.5m x 2.5m	Small exploratory trench over the southern arena wall to explore the detail of the wall at this point.
2003	9:7	4.5m x 3.2m x 2m	Trench south of the stone structure to investigate the drains continuation from the stone structure southwards.

Year Opened	Trench Number	Trench Dimensions	Trench Description
2003	9:8	1m x 2m	Evaluation trench at the centre of the arena.
2003	9:9	26m x 2.6m	Trench 9 extension: from the centre of the arena northward from trench 9:1 across the north arena wall to a point 10m north of the wall (became Trench 17).
2004	9:10a	1.5m x 6m	Transverse trench across trench 9:1 toward the southern end of the trench. To examine the drain in section.
2004	9:10b	1.5m x 6m	Transverse trench across trench 9:1 just above the centre of the trench. To examine the drain in section.
2005	9:11	1m x 2m	Exploratory trench to investigate the possible continuation of the main drain at the north end of trench 9:1 and to investigate specific activity in the centre of the arena.
2005	9:7a 9:7b	2m x 1.5m 2m x 1.5m	Two exploratory trenches either side of and at the southern end of trench 9:7
2005	9:12	2.4m x 3m x 2m	Small exploratory trench on the east side of trenches 9:2 and 9:7.
2005	9:13	4m x 3m x2m	Irregular shaped trench to explore an area at the corner of trenches 9:1 and 9:4 following the slump of the trench bank following heavy rain. This provided an opportunity to look for evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation.
2005	9:14	4.1m x 16.8m x 2m	T-shaped trench opened at the base of trench 9:13 to explore an area of possible cobbling discovered during operations in trench 9:13.

N.B. All the above trench dimensions are approximate as the primary trenches, particularly trenches 9:1 and 9:4 underwent many transformations over their five-year life, exploring features as they were uncovered. In particular, the various sections and features associated with the main drain in trench 9:1 and the areas of cobbling and drainage in trench 9:4.

Details and grid positions of trench 9:9, the northern extension have been recorded separately as this trench later became trench 17. An attempt was made to convert the trench 9 context numbers of the northern extension to trench 17 context numbers but this caused confusion therefore trench 9 numbers will continue to be used as they match the small finds register.

With a view to further simplify this methodology for the purposes of containment within this narrative these 14 identified trenches have been organised into 6 groups made up of a main trench together with its associated sub-trenches. These now form the basis of this narrative as follows:

Group 1 Trench 9:1 the north-south axial drain trench together with sub-trenches 9:6, 9:8, 9:10a and b, and trench 9:11.

Group 2 Trench 9:2 the rectangular stone structure with sub trench 9:12

Group 3 Trench 9:3 the initial southern embankment trench and south drain trench with sub trenches 9:7a and b.

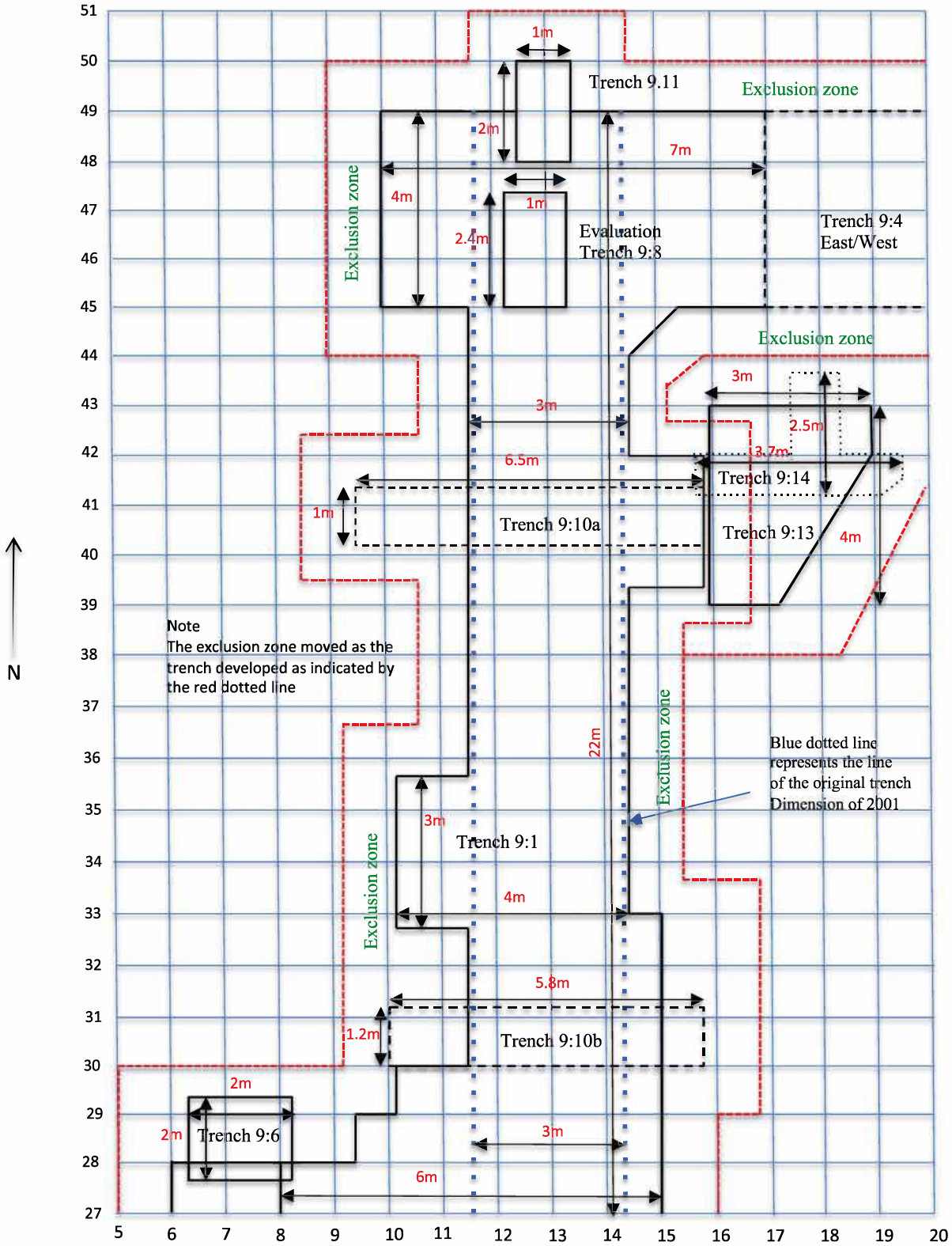
Group 4 Trench 9:4 the east-west trench from the centre of the arena to the east wall.

Group 5 Trench 9:5 the southern embankment slot trench.

Group 6 Trenches 9:13 and 9:14. These were opportunistic trenches following the slump of the trench walls following heavy rain which provided a window to look for evidence of possible Saxon occupation of the arena and post Roman occupation.

Trench Dimensions

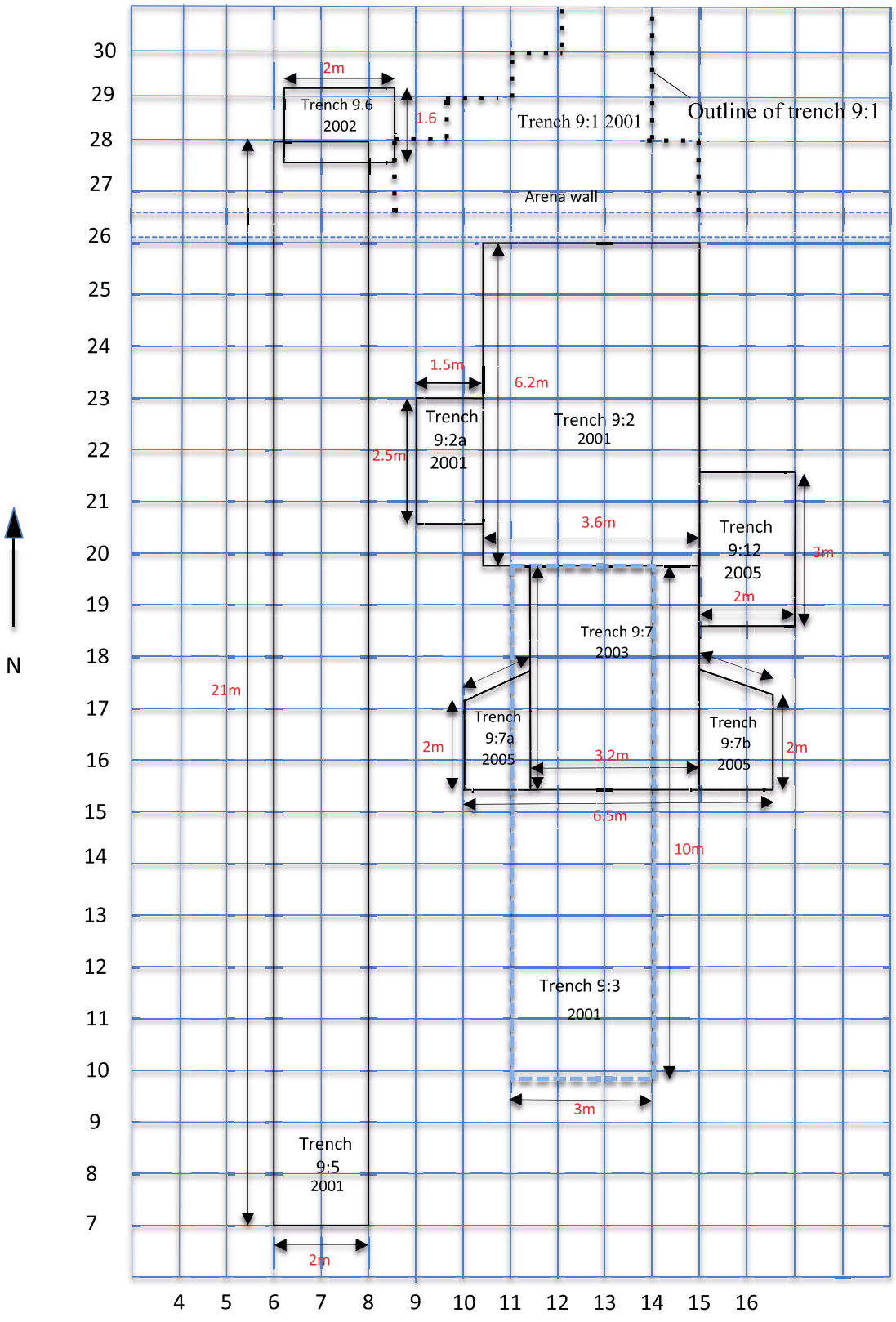
Diagram 1. Main North/South trenches including area of main axial drain and feeder drains (excluding trenches to south of the arena wall



Scale 1:20

Diagram 1

Diagram 2. Southbank, arena wall and stone structure area.
Dimensions and excavation dates.

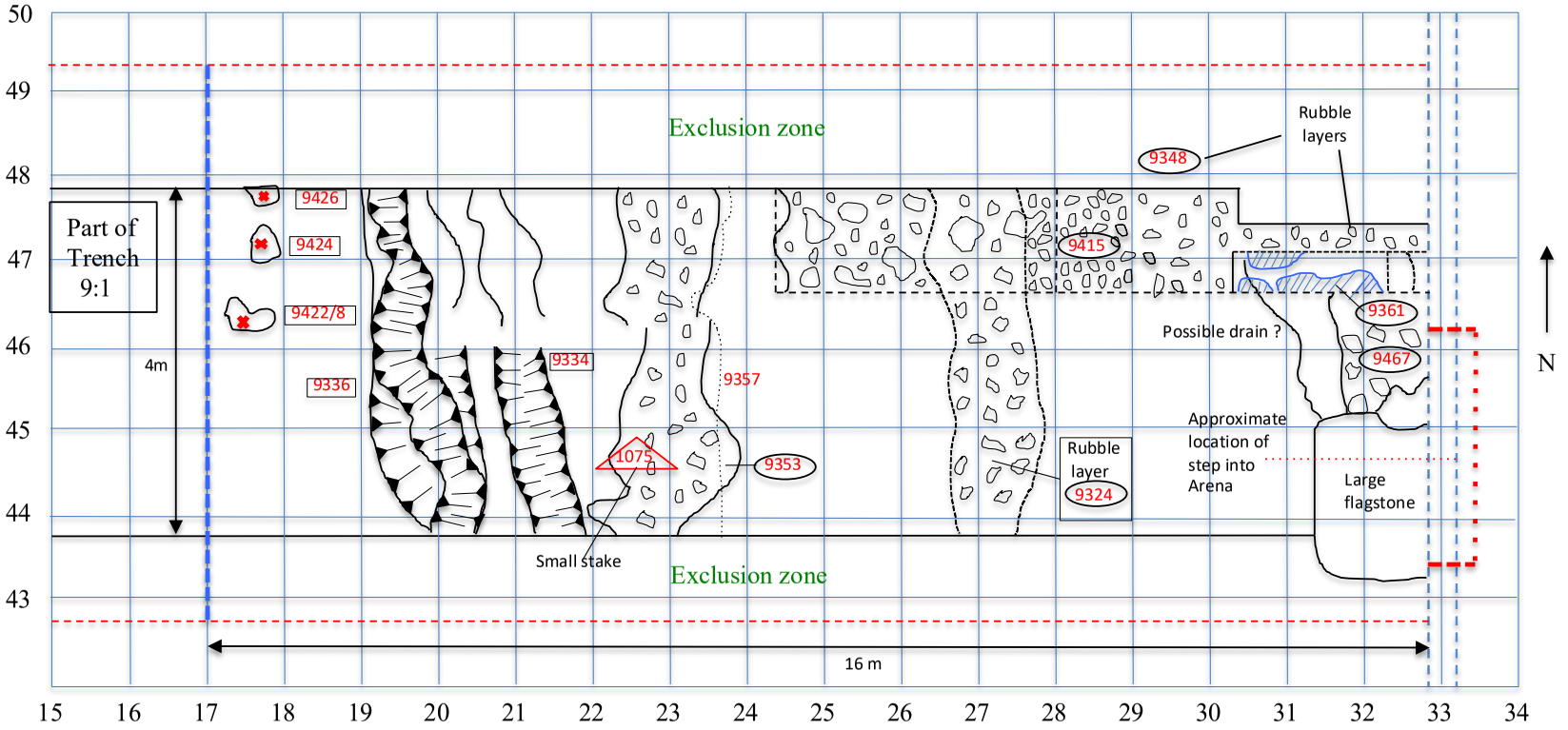


Scale: 1:20

Diagram 2

Main Features

Diagram 6: East/west trench plan, main features (Trench 9:4).



Scale 1:20

Note. Rubble layers contexts 9353, 9348, 9324, 9415, 9361 and 9467 are significant areas of rubble together with some large flat stones laid over grey clay. The clay layer sits in places on bedrock. These rubble layers are thought to be hardcore deliberately laid to stabilise the clay layer that sits on bedrock.

Scale 1:20

Roman Phase

Group 1

Trench 9:1 the north/south axial drain trench and associated sub trenches.

Introduction
Trench 9:1 was opened in 2001 and ran from the approximate centre of the arena (as identified on a geophysical survey) southward to the southern arena wall [9034], to a point where the wall is shared with the rectangular stone structure (trench 9:2). The arena wall at this point comprised of a well-built stone and mortar structure with a dressed inner surface. The south side of the wall (outer) surface was composed of poorly dressed limestone blocks [9033]. This side of the wall would have been buried in the embankment and therefore not seen.

A section of the southern wall at this point showed distinct signs of alteration that were inconsistent with the quality of build of the arena wall as a whole and was therefore probably carried out at a later date to the original construction of the wall. This section of wall [9418] does suggest that a possible entrance from the arena into the rectangular stone structure may have existed and was later closed when the rectangular stone structure was abandoned (possibly caused through constant flooding, evidence of which has been noted in all trenches within the arena). This is further elucidated in the Group 2 narrative.

A significant characteristic of trench 9:1 was that a sizable stone capped drain ran from the centre of the arena southward, passing under the arena wall, through and beneath the rectangular stone structure travelling southward toward the river Ock situated to the south of the site. This together with considerable evidence for frequent remedial activity during the life of the arena, using sand, gravel and rubble to provide a usable floor surface, of which several layers were noted, does suggest that significant problems with flooding and drainage during the life of the arena persisted. The siting of the arena was on land that had a natural north to south slope, and it is therefore possible that water accumulated in both the arena, and the rectangular stone structure leading to its abandonment. An additional factor that contributed to these adverse conditions was that the floor of the arena was composed largely of blue clay, often only a few centimetres thick directly over bedrock.

During the excavation of trench 9:1 the removal of earth proved consistent with a gradual infill of the arena over the 1.6 millennia since the arena's abandonment, with very few finds of any note in the upper layers. Finds were mostly made up of randomly discarded bone, late medieval and modern pottery fragments and more recent pieces of metal. It was not until excavations exposed the sand, gravel and rubble floor surface together with drain capping stones that showed the arena floor to be of entirely Roman phasing. However, it is not possible to determine if any remedial floor dressing took place after the arena was abandoned. This was thought to be some time in the mid 4th century AD. Evidence from the large number of animal bones recovered from the bottom layers of the trench suggest that the arena may have become a convenient place to deposit rubbish.

Trench dimensions
Trench 9:1 opened in 2001. This trench measured approximately 3m wide x 2m deep and 21m in length. The main section of the trench varied in width over the course of operations as specific features were explored. Toward the arena wall the trench widened considerably to approximately 5.5m to enable exploration of the arena wall. Trenches 9:10a and 9:10b (transverse) were opened in 2005 with 9:10a being set across the main trench at about mid-point and 9:10b set across the trench 3m from the arena wall. Both trenches were 6m wide east/west and 1.5m deep north/south.

Main features: The north/South drain.
The drain consisted of a channel that ran from the centre of the arena southward and from its meandering nature suggests that the gully was possibly an ancient Paleo channel that was then

harnessed conveniently and together with manual intervention formed the drain. The entire length of the drain inside the arena was capped with large flat limestone slabs to protect it and these slabs were overburdened with various layers of sand, gravel and rubble to provide a usable floor surface.
Three feeder drains were uncovered, two on the east side of the drain, one of which was situated just below the centre of the arena and the second situated further south toward the arena wall, the third feeder drain was situated on the west side of the main drain running parallel to the arena wall. Unfortunately, it was not possible to extend the excavation of these feeder drains beyond the baulk of the trench, therefore it was not possible to determine their extent, their scale and how they may have connected with other drainage features excavated in trench 9:4 where several drainage gullies running north/south were identified.

Six drain cuts were identified, cut [9492] the northern most part of the drain and moving southwards cuts [9474], [9494], [9503], [9533] and [9534]. During the process of data analysis three drain cut numbers could not be identified therefore three post excavation cut numbers were applied these being [9503], [9533] and [9534]. Cut number [9474] was adopted as an overarching cut number for the entire drain.

North/South axial drain.

To assist with understanding the locations of the main drain features in this section refer to diagram 4 at the end of the Group 1 section.

Drain Cut [9474]. Position 13.5 – 14.7E/44.5 – 47N
This section of drain was situated to the east of the 2003 evaluation trench 9:8 in the centre of the arena. A rubble layer (9476) overlay capping stones [9498] together with evidence for sider coursing stones. Beneath the capping stones was a top fill (9506) of silty loam, a mid-fill (9499) of organic clay material and a bottom fill of silty sand (9433).

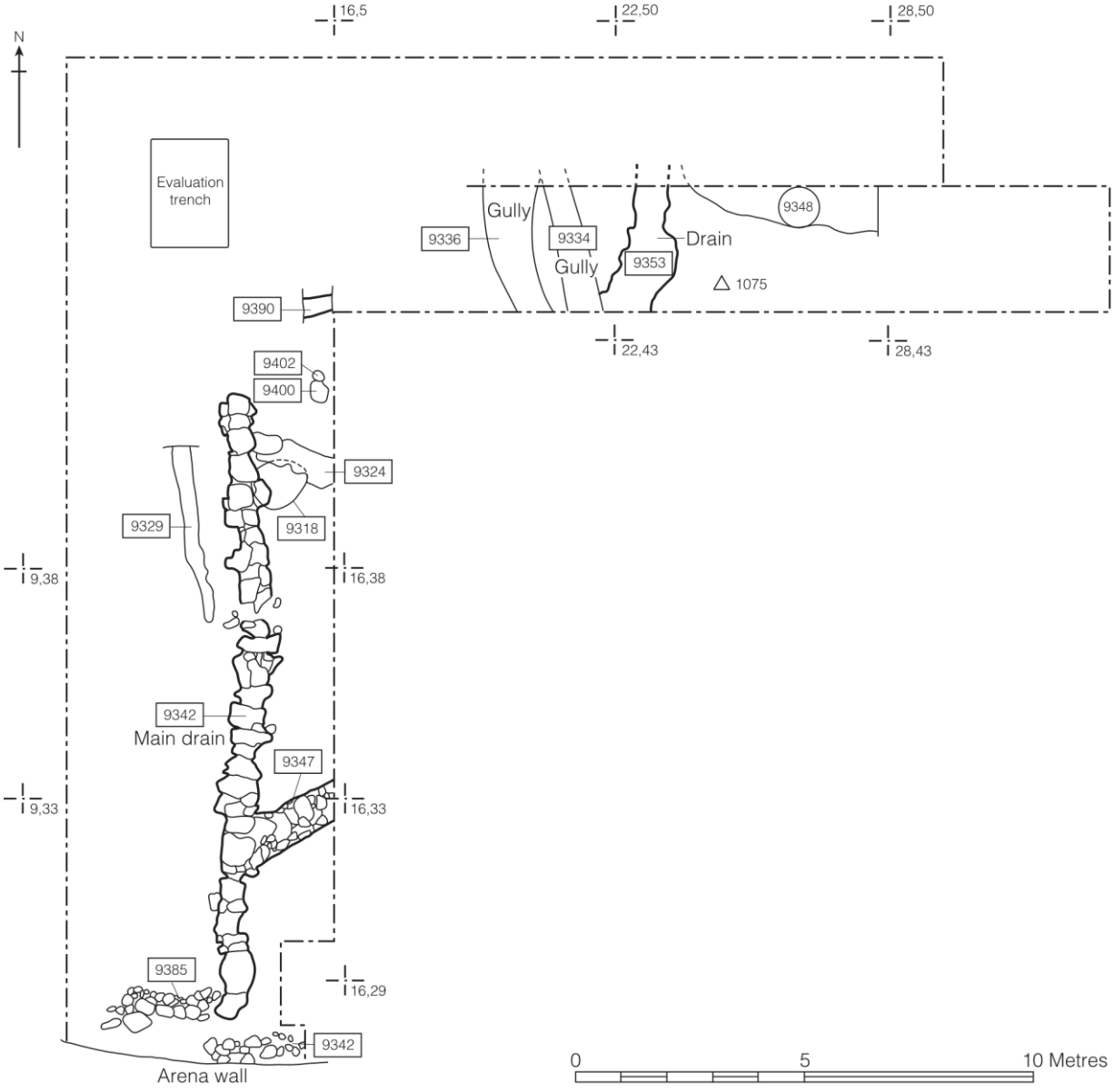
Drain Cut [9492]. Position 13.9 – 14.9 E/47.5 – 49N.
This drain section was an extended recut of [9474] that was taken further northward to test whether the drain extended beyond the centre of the arena. There was clear evidence for a prepared surface with a layer of gravelly sand (9488) overlying a group of placed stones (9498). The interim report suggested that the capping stones together with layers (9488) and (9512) provided evidence for later recapping, possibly to provide a flat,
dry walking surface in the centre of the arena which was then overlain with a clay layer (9476).

Drain Cut [9494]. Position 12.9 – 14.1E/40.5 – 44.5N
This particular section of drain showed good evidence for side coursing stones suggesting a more considered section of drain build. As before a layer of rubbly stones (9496) overlay capping stone [9497]. Beneath the capping stones there were two fills identified of blue grey silty clay (9517) and (9519).

Drain Cut [9503]. Position 12.7 – 13.7E/35 – 40.5N
Again, evidence of side coursing in this section of drain although these stones were more difficult to discern as they were jammed into the surrounding clay side of the drain. The drain was capped with large angular stone slabs [9505] (a post excavation context number) and [9333]. The latter numbered capping stones ran into the second feeder drain. There did not appear to be any gravel or stone overlay (at least not recorded) on these capping stones as seen elsewhere on other drain sections.

Drain Cut [9534]. Position 31.5 – 35E/12.5 – 13.7N
Cut from the centre of the drain to the top of the second feeder drain. Little evidence for anything other than capping stones [9342] which also ran into and covered the feeder drain. There did not appear to be any record of sand or gravel overlay of the capping stones in this area. The capping stones overlay the compacted clay fill of the drain gully (9341).

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Trench 9



Trench MF9 drains

Drain Cut [9533]. Position 11.9 – 13.3E/27 – 31.5N
Cut of drain from the top of the second feeder drain to the southern arena wall. Capping stones [9333] shared with the feeder drain and then capping stones [9505] to the arena wall. The fill beneath the capping stones is of particular interest as it consisted of small pieces of stone (9450) and clay/loam with small pieces of stone (9541). This was thought to be possible evidence for earlier attempts at surfacing a boggy area that predated the capping in this location. The capping was overlain with a layer of gritty, sandy clay material (9295)

The feeder drains.
Three feeder drains were identified along the course of the main drain. Presumably designed to carry water from other parts of the arena into the main drain. It is unfortunate that these drains were not excavated beyond the baulk of the main trench.

Drain Cut [9531]. Position 14 – 16E/41N
Cut of the first feeder drain. This feeder drain was situated on the east side of the main drain just below the centre of the arena. As with the main drain capping stones [9497], (these capping stones were also shared with drain [9494]) were placed over the drain. A shallow pit, cut [9318] was positioned on the south side of the feeder drain with a single fill (9319) of dark organic material. This pit was thought to be of Roman origins as an oyster shell was found within it.

Drain Cut [9530]. Position 14 – 16E/16N
Cut of the second feeder drain situated on the east side of the main drain. This drain was approximately 1m wide and 8cm deep and covered with large capping stones [9333] and [9347]. It was not possible to ascertain its full length as the drain continued into the baulk of the trench. A possible posthole [9254] was excavated in the drain close to the trench baulk. The capping stones were overlain by a layer of gritty sand (9295).

Drain Cut [9532].
Cut of the third feeder drain situated towards the bottom west section of the main trench. The drain was approximately 1m wide x 3m in length (but continued into the trench baulk) and 8cm in depth running parallel to the south arena wall. Numerous capping stones were recorded [9385] together with a considerable number of small stones co-mingled with a sandy gravel material.

Pits and Postholes.
Nine postholes were noted in the trench with a number clustered around the centre of the arena at the north end of the trench. Refer to diagram 4 which shows the approximate position of these postholes together with the position of excavated stakes.

Posthole [9130]. Possible posthole approximately 1m from the southern arena wall. This posthole contained bone fragments, pottery sherds and mortar from the wall. These contents may have fallen into the hole from the arena embankment. Single fill (9313).

Posthole [9272]. A circular posthole 22cm in diameter and 25cm deep. Two fills recorded, upper fill (9317) and bottom fill (9273).

Posthole [9254]. No information.

Posthole [9293]. A single posthole or postpad situated at the trench baulk on the edge of the second feeder drain. This feature measured 20cm in diameter and 5cm deep. Single fill (9294).

Postholes [9400]/[9402]. A double posthole. These were situated just north of the first feeder drain. No data on size or fill could be identified.

Posthole [9445]. A single posthole just south of the arena centre measuring 30cm in diameter and approximately 22cm deep with a conical base. Single fill (9446).

Posthole [9447]. A single posthole or possible beam slot just north of the 2003 evaluation trench 9:8. This hole was 30cm in diameter and had a single fill (9448). No other data recorded.
Posthole [9452]. Possible posthole. No dimensions recorded. Single fill (9294).

Posthole [9487]. An oval shaped posthole or possible postpad measuring 35cm in diameter and 25cm deep. This hole had a V-shaped base.

Pits.
Pit [9321]. Situated on the western edge of drain cut [9492]. No data recorded.

Pit [9280]. An elongated pit measuring 13cm wide, 65cm long and 45cm deep. This pit was situated immediately to the east side of the 2003 evaluation trench 9:8. The pit was also alongside stake (9350). There were three fills, a top fill (9281) of sandy clay, a mid-fill (9326) of rubble and stone and a bottom fill (9332) of water-logged dark sandy loam.

Pit [9318]. Large oval pit just below the first feeder drain measuring 1m in diameter and 32cm deep. Single fill (9319).

Wooden stake holes.

Three wooden stakes were recovered close to the centre of the arena at the north end of the trench.

Stake 9350. This stake was flat on two sides and tapered to almost a point. It was 45cm in length and approximately 5cm thick tapering to 2cm. The stake was situated on the east side of the 2003 evaluation trench 9:8. Radiocarbon dated to 1-245 cal AD.

Stake 9480. Located on the west side of the 2003 evaluation trench. This stake was found angled in the ground at approximately 45 degrees. It measured about 8cm in diameter and 40cm in length. At the time of discovery this stake was recorded as a possible construction marker. Radiocarbon dated to 61-257 cal AD.

Stake 9507. This stake was discovered when excavating trench 9:1 and 9:4 the east/west trench, following the slump of the trench baulk after heavy rain. The stake measured 30cm in length and 2cm in width. Described when dug to being similar in shape to other stakes found but with the exception that it showed signs of charring at its point. Radiocarbon dated to 600-775 cal AD.

Gully/Paleo channel

A long natural gully or Paleo channel ran north/south alongside on the west side of the main drain approximately in the centre of the trench and opposite drain cut [9503]. This gully or natural water channel appears to have three cut context numbers [9300], [9491] and [9495]. The gully measured 11.4m in length and 20cm wide

Significant layers

A succession of layers at the foot of the inner southern wall within which considerable quantities of mortar and red painted plaster fragments were recovered. Contexts (9144), (9147), (9151), (9158), (9163), (9171), (9193), (9201) and (9218). Specifically, contexts (9159) and (9163) provided good examples of red plaster from the inner surface of the arena wall. Context (9171) showed a charcoal layer close to the inner southern arena wall providing good evidence of burning.

Note. Whilst these contexts have been recorded within Roman phasing, primarily through the evidence of painted plaster, other evidence such as pottery fragments could be problematic. It was noted at the time of excavation that such finds could have fallen into the arena from the eroding embankment after Roman occupation.

Sand layers over the drains. Contexts (9274) (9285) and (9295) were sandy deposits ranging in depth of 0.2cm to 0.4cm that overlay drain structures [9347] and [9342]. With no visible cuts within these layers, they have been recorded as deliberate deposits made after the drains were built and therefore formed the floor surface above the drains. These layers contained phasing evidence of CBM, Roman pottery and animal bone.

Trench 9:6

This trench was opened in 2002 with the aim of examining the area on the north side of the arena wall and to the west of trench 9:1 within the arena. This exploratory trench was to examine the southern arena wall at this point. It was later decided in the 2002 season to investigate the southern embankment

by putting a slot trench 9:5 which incorporated trench 9:6 forming the top end of the slot trench. This provided an opportunity to consider the relationship of the embankment with the arena wall. Therefore, all data recorded under 9:6 were then dealt with as part of 9:5.

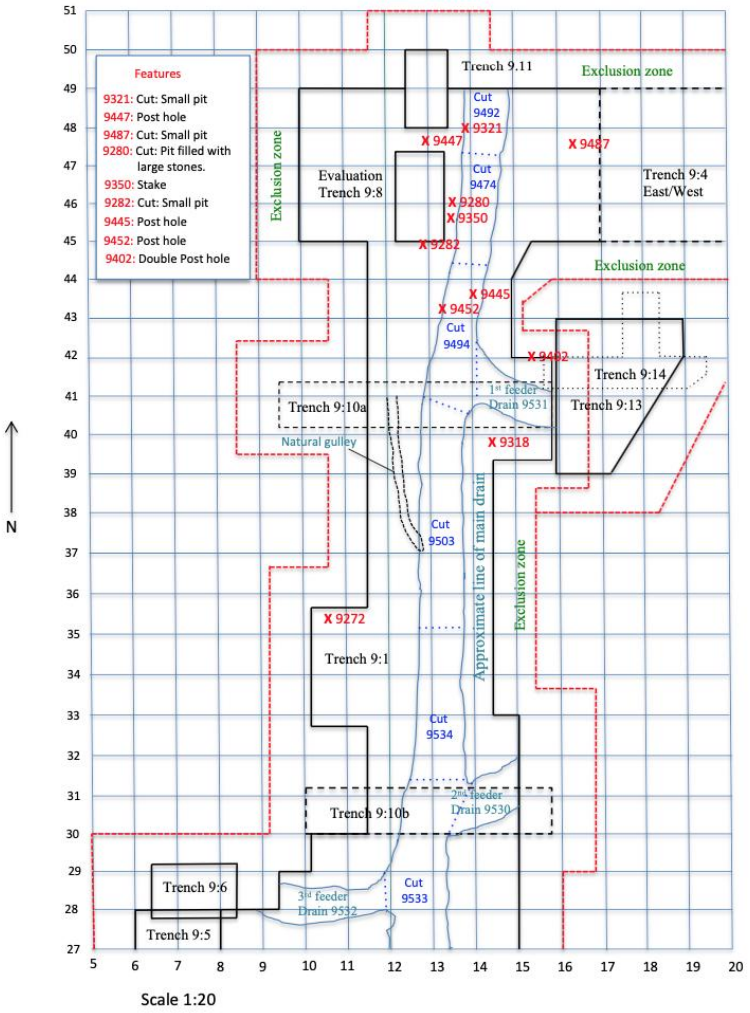
Transverse trenches 9:10 A and B.
In 2004 two transverse trenches were opened across the main drain trench with a view to examining the drain in section in two places. Both trenches were approximately 6m wide east/west and 1.5m deep.

Trench 9:10 A was situated just above the mid-point of the main trench picking up the first feeder drain [9531], on the east side of the trench and crossing main drain cuts [9494] and [9503]. The western section of the transverse trench transected the natural gully [9300], [9491] and [9495].

Trench 9:10 B was situated 3m north of the southern arena wall. This trench cut through the main drain at cut section [9533] and a section of the second feeder drain [9530].

Main features

Diagram 4. Main North/South trench from the southern arena wall to the centre of the arena. This shows the main drain and feeder drains and associated subsequent exploratory trenches.



Group 2

Trenches 9:2 the rectangular stone structure. Trench 9:2A the west trench and Trench 9:12 the east trench.

Introduction.
Trench 9:2. The rectangular stone structure is situated on the southern wall of the arena and comprised of a box-like structure of four walls, the north wall of which is the arena wall. This south facing section of wall [9033] which faced into the structure was made of irregular stones with infill. This roughly finished wall surface in all probability would not have been seen as it served as the retaining wall interface of the embankment. The south wall of the structure [9004] together with the east wall [9065] and the west wall [9007] formed an enclosed structure with no apparent entrance. This structure sits within and appears to have formed part of the embankment. The walls were uniform in construction, each approximately 30cm in width at the top and standing 2m in height. These four walls formed a rectangle approximately 4.5m north/south and 3.5m east/west.

The quality of the build of the structure's walls and that of the arena appear to be very consistent perhaps suggesting that they are contemporary. During excavation it was suggested that the structure was built separately as an addition the arena, but the evidence does not support this.

On completing the excavation, it was very noticeable that a section of the structures north wall, the arena wall [9418] was irregular. There was a clear demarcation between the overall high standard of build of the arena wall and other walls of the structure and a much inferior infill section of the structures north wall. This does suggest that this was either a later filling in of what may have been an entrance into the structure, employing less skilled craftsmen, or it was associated with the need to continue the drain from trench 9:1 under the wall at this point (or a combination of the two). Indeed, a large stone lintel was observed set into the wall allowing the north/south drain to pass through at this point. The drain continued through the structure southward toward the river Ock.

From the evidence of what would appear to have been many attempts to overcome problems with drainage and possible frequent flooding within the arena, this may have led to conditions within the stone structure becoming untenable eventually rendering it unusable. Following these events, the original use of the structure was abandoned leading to the structure being closed and filled in.

An arrangement of flat limestone slabs of varying size was excavated on the upper most fill (9005) of the structure that are thought to be a possible stone plinth. This arrangement of stones [9006] was set approximately in the centre of the stone structure and with a considerable amount of mortar lying about them points to them being purposefully laid. The plinth was made up of three large flat stones and approximately 50 or so smaller stones. It is possible that this arrangement of stones had been disturbed through ploughing.

It is possible that this arrangement of stones formed a plinth that may have been the base for a shrine or altar. This is suggested by the number of small finds of personal items that appear to have been placed within the stones of the plinth. In total 11 such finds were recovered and important amongst these were two Copper-alloy finger rings (SF 313 and SF 347), a Copper-alloy brooch (SF 352), a silver denarius (SF 350) and a bone hair pin (SF 390). Together with hob nails and other small pieces of metal. Whilst this is conjecture, the stone structure may have had a religious association. Similar structures attached to arenas and amphitheatres elsewhere have been excavated in both the UK and on continental Europe that are understood through inscribed evidence found within them to be Nemesia. Nemesia are rooms attached to an arena that housed a shrine (perhaps an altar or statuette) dedicated to Nemesis, the goddess of the army and the amphitheatre/arena. Strong examples of such structures were found at the amphitheatres at Chester UK and at Italica, Seville Spain. Consistent with the structure at Marcham these Nemesia were sited to the south of the arena. If this hypothesis is correct, then a room entranced from within the arena would make sense. In the case of Marcham it is possible that due to problems of flooding rendering the room unusable that led to it being enclosed and filled in and a plinth placed on the top of the structure to continue its religious function.

Structures

South Wall [9004]. Position 10.5 – 14.2E/21.2 – 25.4N
The south wall of the structure is situated east/west and measuring 3.5m in length x 2m in height x 0.3m in width. The main drain passes under this wall.

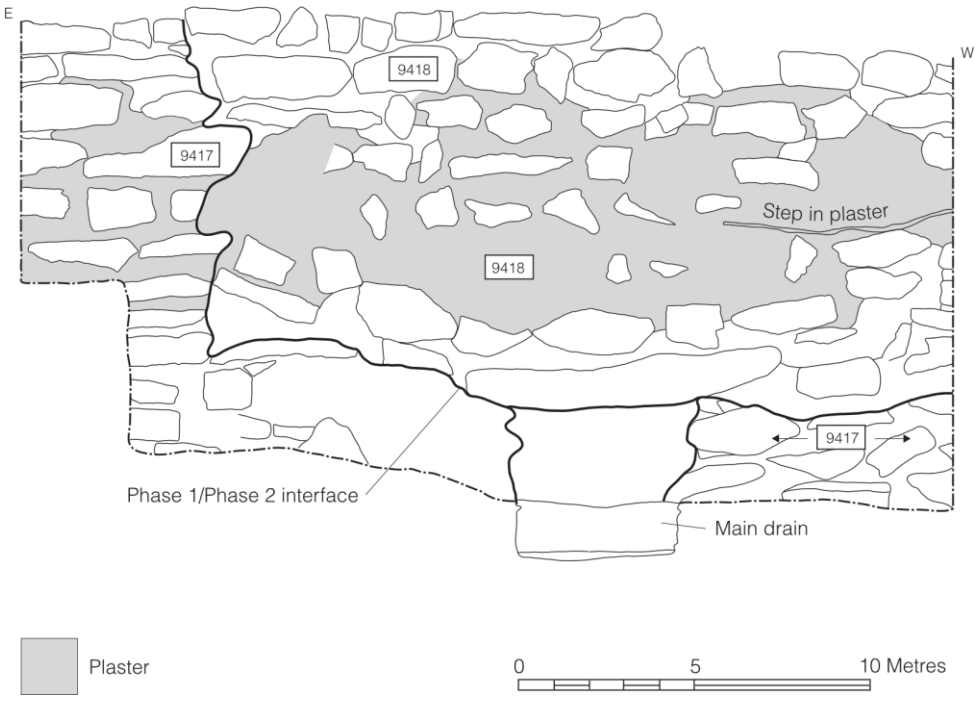
West Wall [9007]. Position 10.5 – 11.7E/21.5 – 25.8N
The west wall of the structure, situated on a north/south axis and measuring 4.5m in length x 2m high x 0.3m in width.

East wall [9065]. Position 13.7 – 14.2E/21.6 – 25.4N
The east wall of the structure, situated on a north/south axis and measuring 4.5m in length x 2m in height x 0.3m in width.

Arena Wall [9033] and [9034]. Position 10 – 15E/25.5 – 26N
These contexts make up the southern arena wall. Context [9033] is the outer side of the arena wall that formed the northern inner wall of the rectangular stone structure, whilst context [9034] is the arena wall's inner dressed surface. This wall is approximately 2m in height and 0.7m in width. Context [9034] showed that in places that the inner face was plastered with white plaster with a dark red lined ashlar block pattern patches of which still adhered to the wall with many broken off fragments nearby.

Arena Wall infill [9418].
This is a section of arena wall situated to the north of the structure that appears to be of later construction. The quality of the build of this section of wall is vastly inferior to the rest of the arena wall which does suggest a later infill of what was probably an entrance into the structure.

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Trench 9



Arena wall infill [9418]

Plinth [9005] [9006].
An arrangement of three large limestone blocks [9005] and approximately 50 smaller limestone pieces [9006] purposefully mortared into position and set on top of the infilled stone structure.

Lintel [9418].
Set into the base of the arena wall to allow the main drain to enter into the rectangular stone structure. This lintel was mortared into the rebuild section [9418] of the arena wall and measured approximately 60cm in length and the width of the wall at around 40 – 50cm.

Drain [9184].
Cut of drain through the rectangular stone structure. This drain was approximately 30 – 40cm in width, 4.5m in length (passing out under the south wall [9004]) and 30cm in depth. Six large irregular shaped capping stones [9529] together with many smaller stones capped the drain and formed the floor of the structure. A sequence of 6 drain fills were recorded, (9229) sandy clay, (9233) mid grey sandy clay, (9234) sandy clay, (9230) grey sandy clay, (9231) dark grey silty clay and (9232) light greenish grey clay.

Group 3

Trenches 9:3, 9:7 and 9:7a and b. The initial embankment and southern drain trench.

Trench 9:3.
This trench was opened in 2001 and ran from the south wall of the stone structure southward for approximately 10m to the perceived limit of the embankment directed by geophysical survey, with the intention of exploring the embankment at this point. This trench was 3m wide and 1m in depth.

Trench 9:7.
Trench 9:3 was enlarged directly south of the stone structure to form trench 9:7. Measuring 4.5m in length (North/South) and 3.5m wide (East/West) and 2m deep. The objective of this trench was to investigate the drain as it leaves the stone structure and its continuation southward to the River Ock.

Eight circular features were plotted on plan 905 that may have been possible post holes. Although they were recorded in 2003 none of them were excavated or sectioned at that time. These possible features might indicate that a structure may have existed directly behind the stone building. It was therefore considered important to record these features through the application post excavation cut numbers as follows:

Context 9100 layer/cut. 13.00E – 15.15N
Context 9101 layer/cut. 12.15E – 14.30N
Context 9102 layer/cut. 12.80E – 15.60N
Context 9103 layer/cut. 11.60E – 14.10N
Context 9104 layer/cut. 12.05E – 14.40N
Context 9105 layer/cut. 12.15E – 15.00N
Context 9107 layer/cut. 11.90E – 14.90N
Context 9108 layer/cut. 11.70E – 16.05N
Context 9109 layer/cut. 11.20E – 14.80N
Context 9113 layer/cut. 11.40E – 17.60N
Context 9115 layer/cut. 11.05E – 16.50N

Structures [9236] and [9342] are large heavy flat limestone slabs that were placed over the drain from the rectangular stone structure.

Trenches 9:7 A and B.
Two additional exploratory trenches each measuring 2m x 1.5m set on the southern end of trench 9:7. Both trenches were opened in 2005.

Group 4

The east/west trench from the centre of the arena to the eastern arena wall.

Trench 9:4.
This east/west trench was situated from the centre of the arena abutting trench 9:1, running eastward to the east arena wall thus providing a continuous trench across the eastern entrance to the arena by connecting with Trench 1.

This trench was opened in 2002 with the objective of further exploring the arena in this sector, in particular the eastern entrance into the arena. This trench measured 16.8m in length east/west x 4.1m in width north/south and 2m in depth.

The outstanding features of trench 9:4 were the number of, what would appear to be, natural drainage gullies or Paleo-channels (possibly six in total) that meandered on a north/south axis across the trench coupled with rough cobbling and semi paved areas, particularly at the immediate east gate entrance, that together suggest a significant problem with drainage. For the most part the Roman occupation levels in this part of the arena consisted of blue Jurassic clay just a few centimetres thick laying directly over bedrock thus giving rise to poor drainage conditions.

Gullies and channels.
Four gullies, cuts [9336], [9334], [9353] and [9357] ran north to south across the trench. By their shape and meandering nature, they do appear to be natural features. Cuts [9334] and [9336] were relatively narrow in scale, whilst cuts [9324] and [9353] were broad and shallow. Both contained quantities of rubble that might suggest attempts to fill them in.

Two other possible gullies were located, and both showed evidence of a rubble infill although cut numbers for these could not be identified. These two features appear to be within layers of rubble. One situated toward the centre of the trench within layer (9324), the second possible gully was situated close to the eastern arena wall within layers (9361) and (9467) of cobbling and paving. When first exposed the area of (9361) was thought to be a possible feeder drain, but this was later discounted.

Significant areas made up of layers of rubble, crude cobbling and semi paving particularly close to the eastern arena wall with contexts (9324), (9361), (9348) and (9467) appear to represent a significant area of cobbling. These layers were noted to possibly extend both northerly and southward into the baulk of the trench that were not excavated does suggest that this area of cobbling/paving may have been extensive. At the immediate eastern entrance into the arena and directly below the wall step an area of substantial flagstones were evident that extended 2 m into the arena.

Postholes

Posthole [9246]. Possible posthole 20cm in diameter and with a single fill (9427).

Postholes [9422] [9424] [9428]. Possible postholes each with a single fill (9423) (9423) and (9429) respectively.

Note. The cut context sheets for these possible postholes were completed post excavation and they do not provide any dimensional or descriptive data that might have been recorded at the time of excavation.

For the position and layout of all features in trench 9:4 refer to Diagram 6.

Group 5

Trench 9:5 the southern embankment slot trench.

Trench 9:5 was opened in 2002 specifically to explore the full extent of the embankment and its relationship with the arena wall. This trench was situated just west of the stone structure. The starting point was inside the arena utilising trench 9:6 on the north of the arena wall and extended southward across the arena wall to a point just beyond the perceived limit of the embankment as identified by geophysical survey. Overall, the trench measured 21m in length x 2m in width and 2m in depth.

Main features

Timber slot [9059].
This cut was for a possible timber slot measuring 27cm in width and 28cm in depth. This may have been part of revetting for the embankment.

Postholes [9075] [9076]. The cuts of possible postholes. No further information although cut numbers were assigned.

Posthole [9133]. Cut of a possible posthole measuring 38cm in diameter and 38cm in depth with tapering sides. Also, possibly part of the revetting.

Posthole [9139]. Cut of a possible posthole or timber slot, square in shape measuring 24cm x 26cm and 14cm deep.
Each of these 5 features were excavated in the upper layers of the embankment, approximately at sub-soil level. Given the embankment erosion this would possibly put these features into a Roman occupation level and may have formed an extensive area of embankment revetting or perhaps supported a structure.

Structure [9062]. A group of large stones, together with clay and sand provided the main structural material of the embankment.

Group 6

Trenches 9:13 and 9:14. Opportunistic trenches following the slump of the trench walls to look for evidence of later Anglo-Saxon occupation of the arena.

In 2005 after heavy rain the walls of the trench towards the centre of the arena, at the north/east junction of trench 9:1 and the south/west junction of 9:4 collapsed. This provided an opportunity to examine this central area for possible Anglo-Saxon presence.

Trench dimensions.

Trench 9:13. Measured 4 m x 3 m and was sited at the Roman occupation levels. This was an irregular shaped trench situated at the junction of trenches 9:1 and 9:4.

Trench 9:14. Measured 4.1 m x 16.8 m forming a 'T' shaped trench at the base of trench 9:13. This trench was opened to explore what might be an extensive area of cobbling discovered during activity in trench 9:13.

Unfortunately, very little was found in either trench to show an Anglo-Saxon presence above the Roman occupation levels. Once the slump material had been cleared the area showed a scatter of stones, recorded as a layer of rubble (9518). However, the possible extensive area of cobbling did not materialise. The cut of one side of a natural drainage channel [9524] was excavated that ran north to south for the length of the trench but was not fully explored. This drain was consistent with other drains found in trenches 9:1 and 9:4. Also exposed was a layer (9523) which was thought to be the possible infill of a late midden. It was difficult to determine whether this layer was of Roman origin or the remains of a later deposit when the arena was used to dispose of rubbish in the post-Roman period.

Across the two trenches a number of pottery, bone and small finds were recovered in a sequence of layers (9430), (9431), (9451), (9468), (9483), (9511), (9518) and (9523) yielding 80 pieces of Roman pottery, 45 animal bones and five small pieces of metal. However, both the layers and the finds within them may be problematic following the slump of the trench walls and the consequential movement of material.

Pottery

Prehistoric pottery finds.

In total 157 prehistoric pottery finds were made across all trench 9 locations. Nine concentrations of prehistoric pottery were found on or within the area of the southern embankment in trench 9:5, the rectangular stone structure trench 9:2 and the southern drain trench 9:7. These 9 concentrations accounted for 73.4% of the total finds and ranged in size from two sherds to 37 sherds. Four large concentrations were found, three from trench 9:5 made up of 10, 18 and 37 sherds and a single group of 34 sherds from trench 9:7. A further group of 15 sherds was recovered from trench 9:1 just inside the arena wall.

Given the level of disturbance to this area both during the construction of the embankment and the subsequent erosion of the embankment it is difficult to establish whether these finds were in their original place of deposition. It is possible that the three deposits found in the southern embankment trench upper layers may have been on the original prehistoric land surface upon which the embankment was built.

Whilst prehistoric pottery finds were made at the Roman occupation levels within the main trenches it is possible that they were introduced randomly and co-mingled with rubble material that was used as a resurfacing and drainage layer. Additionally, a few prehistoric pottery sherds were found in top and sub-soil layers that have been disregarded.

Roman Pottery

These are predominantly roman pottery sherds from Roman occupation layers and excludes pottery from top-soil and sub-soil contexts. Pottery found in trench 9:9, the northern extension trench, will be dealt with in the trench 17 narrative.

In total 1,907 Roman pottery sherds were recovered from all trench 9 locations. Trenches 9:1, 9:2, 9:4 and 9:5 account for 95% of this total. Trench 9:1 the north/south drain trench yielded 786 sherds, trench 9:2 the rectangular stone structure yielded 500 sherds, trench 9:4 the east/west trench yielded 270 sherds and trench 9:5 the embankment trench yielded 250 sherds.

There is good evidence to show that much of the pottery found within the Roman occupation levels of trenches 9:1, 9:2 and 9:4 may have been introduced to the arena floor and co-mingled with other materials such as sand, gravel and rubble when used to overcome problems of drainage and the necessity to build up the floor surface.

The high level of pottery recovered from trench 9:2 may reflect the use and history of this structure during the life of the arena. It is fairly certain that the structure underwent a number of significant changes in the way it was used. It is strongly suggested that the structure may have started life as an open room with an entrance to and from the arena that was later closed sealing the structure. The north/south drain passed beneath it. Following the structures closure the box was then filled in. A stone plinth discovered on top of the infill suggests that the original function of the structure may have continued. If this is an accurate assessment of the structure's history, then there would have been two Roman occupation levels that together with the infill material might account for the high level of pottery from such a small trench.

The recovery of pottery from trench 9:5 the embankment trench was primarily from the upper layers suggesting that the pottery was in its original place of deposition although possibly displaced through erosion.

In terms of pottery types recovered Roman Reduced Coarse Ware (RRCW) was the most prolific (grey and black wares) accounting for 40% of the overall sample, whilst Roman Oxidised Coarse Wares (ROCW) orange/red buff wares accounted for 13%. Roman Fine Wares Oxidised (RFWOX) orange/red, at 10% and with Roman Fine Wares Reduced (RFWR), grey/black and Roman Fine Wares rReduced (RFWW) white, each at 8.5%. Samian wares featured at 2.6% and Oxford White Slipped Ware (OXFWS) at 2.8%. 60 sherds of decorated pottery were recovered representing 3.2% of the sample.

Small finds summary

In total 305 small finds were recorded across trench 9 locations of which 79 came from top- soil contexts (9000/1). These have been disregarded for this narrative. However, whilst it is not good practice to record small finds data from top-soil contexts it is possible that finds made on the embankment in top/sub-soil locations may have been in significant Roman levels before the embankment eroded to its current level. Within these top-soil contexts finds included 44 Copper-alloy Roman coins, one Roman finger ring, one Roman bronze bracelet and a Roman bronze brooch.

Recorded finds totalled 226, of which 70 Copper-alloy 3rd/4th century Roman coins (21 from trench 9:1, 5 from trench 9:2, 11 from trench 9:4 and 33 from trench 9:5). Trench 9:5 is of particular interest as these coins were all found in the upper layers of the trench reflecting the nature of the eroded embankment. Jewellery and other personal items totalled 23 and were made up of seven bracelets of which five were made of shale, four bronze brooches, three bronze finger rings, five bone hair pins and four beads, all of which were recovered from trenches 9:1 the north south drain trench and trench 9:2 the rectangular stone structure.

Nails, hobnails and miscellaneous metal objects made up the bulk of the remaining finds. Within these a rolled-up lead sheet was found that may have been a votive object or curse. Other significant finds included a Roman pottery gaming counter, an oyster shell counter and an intaglio.

Bone Summary

In total 691 animal bones were recovered. Most of these were from the Roman occupation levels within trench 9:1 the north/south drain trench, trench 9:4 the east/west trench and trenches 9:13 and 9:14 the slump trenches. Such a proliferation of bones within the arena is perhaps testament to the dumping of rubbish into the arena after it had gone out of use.

Cattle 36.6 % and sheep at 38% make up the bulk of the finds together with 9.7% horse, 5.5% pig and 8.9% small mammals. Additionally, bird and frog bones were found plus one shark's tooth (possibly a fossil from the local Corralian limestone).

Bone finds from the infill of trench 9:2 the rectangular stone structure and the upper layers of the embankment trenches should be disregarded as they were not in their original place of deposition

having been introduced when the rectangular stone structure was filled in or when the embankment was constructed.

Appendix 1. Small Finds

Summary
Although small finds totaled 305 it was only possible to positively account for 302 as there were three contexts that could not be identified. These were not recorded on plans or section drawings. Included in this group were two coins which brings the total number of coins found across all trench 9 locations to 116.

With regard to finds from the topsoil contexts (9000) and (9002) which yielded a further 44 of the 116 coins, particularly from the area of the southern embankment and rectangular stone structure. It could be argued that these coins were possibly in archaeological contexts as their location would have put them in the top of the eroded embankment.

The summary of finds identifies 5 trench locations within which most small finds were made. These trenches are as follows.

Trench 9:1. North/South main drain trench.
Trench 9:2. Rectangular stone structure trench.
Trench 9:4. The East/West trench.
Trench 9:5. The Southern embankment trench.
Trench 9:14. Centre of arena. Trench opened after rainfall caused the banks to slump.

Details of the finds by type and by trench follow, firstly as an overall summary and then in a more detailed form listing the contexts, the type of small finds together with levels data.

Trench 9:5 the southern embankment is of particular note as a further 33 coins were recovered from confirmed archaeological contexts which together with the 44 coins from the topsoil contexts in this area mark it out with some significance.

Also significant are the small finds from trench 9:2 the rectangular stone structure, particularly those found in association with the plinth on top of the structure's infill. These for the most part appear to be personal items such as brooches, hair pins and coins etc, that, if they were deposited deliberately within the plinth stones they may then be regarded as votive objects, if the plinth was the base for a possible shrine associated with the arena as has been considered. The finds by type have been plotted accurately on a gridded plan, diagram 9.

It is worth pointing out that a similar rectangular structure at the Chester amphitheatre (and other British amphitheatre's/arena's) has been confirmed as a Nemesium, a shrine area attached to the amphitheatre and dedicated to the goddess Nemesis, the Greek goddess of retribution who was also regarded as the goddess of the amphitheatre and the army. This of course is conjecture but it does give purposeful focus to this structure.

Small Finds

Top soil contexts

Work commenced in 2001 with ground clearance to form the basis of trench 9. This initial clearance was put over the stone structure in order to relocate the work carried out by Hingley in 1976. Ground clearance was then extended northward toward the centre of the arena, southward to the extremity of the embankment, both determined by the geophysical survey, and to the west side of the stone structure. During this initial phase a considerable number of small finds were made in the immediate topsoil and therefore have been regarded as non-archaeological contexts. These finds are specified by type in the following table.

Context	Stratigraphic Layer	Nails	Hobnails	Misc; Metal	Coins	Jewelry: Rings	Bracelet	Brooch	Quernstone	Vessel (Glass)	Total
9000	Topsoil	13	7	9	44	1	1	1	2	1	79

Note 1. Miscellaneous metal objects included a rolled up lead sheet that may have been a possible votive object or curse.

Note 2. Whilst it is not practice to record find data for small finds from topsoil contexts, it would have been of benefit to have some broad idea of where the bulk of the finds were made, in particular the coins and the jewelry. For example , if they were made largely in the area of the embankment it could be postulated that they may have been in archaeological contexts before the bank eroded to its current level despite the possible subsequent movement through ploughing.

In total 308 small finds were made across all trench 9 locations. Details of finds by specific trench can be seen in the following series of tables. A summary of finds by trench is also included. The finds attributed to trenches total 226 which is 74.4% of the overall total.

Small Finds

Summary of finds by trench

	Nails	Hobnails	Tools:Flint	Misc; Metal	Coins	Beads	Bracelets	Brooches	Rings	Vessels:Glass	Animal bone	Misc	Wood	Stone: Quernstone	Total
Trench 9:1			3	9	21	1	6	1	3		1	1 Pottery counter	3	1	50
Trench 9:2	20	10		9	5	3	1	3		7	5 Hair Pins			2	65
Trench 9:4			1	2	11				1			3 1 Oyster Shell counter	4		22
Trench 9:5	15	7		20	33					2		2 1 Intaglio		2	81
Trench 9:14				5											5
Topsoil Context 9000	13	8		9	44		1	1	1	1				1	79
Totals	48	25	4	54	114	4	8	5	5	10	6	6	7	6	302

Small Finds

Trench 9:1 North/South Trench

Note: RSL
Roman Stratigraphic Layer

Context Number	Stratigraphic Layer	Tools (Flint)	Misc; Metal	Coins	Beads	Bracelets	Brooches	Vessel (Glass)	Animal Bone	Pottery Counter	Wood	Quernstone	Totals	Levels
9035	RSL Bottom of Bank inside Arena			1		4							5	96.89 – 96.85
9036	RSL Bottom of Bank inside Arena		2	4					1				7	96.79 – 97.85
9145	RSL Mid section of trench 9:1		1										1	No Data
9183	RSL lower layer Arena exten; Nth		1										1	No Data
9267	RSL Nth end of Trench 9:1 Centre			11								1	12	96.83 – 96.91
9269	RSL Nth end of Trench 9:1 Centre			2				1					3	
9270	RSL Nth end of Trench 9:1 Centre		1		1								2	96.85 – 97.00
9271	RSL Nth end of Trench 9:1 centre		2			1							3	97.04 – 97.22
9273	RSL upper fill of post hole							1					1	96.79
9295	RSL Mid section Of Trench 9:1			2									2	96.81 – 96.92
9304	RSL			1		4 Shale							5	96.15
9305	RSL Mid section of Trench 9:1	1	1							1			3	96.65 – 96.92
9378	RSL					1 Shale							1	96.15
9407	RSL											1	1	96.79
9481	RSL Central Drain			1									1	96.90
9482	RSL Central Drain	1											1	96.59
9512	RSL Central Drain						1						1	96.93
	Totals	2	8	22	1	10	1	2	1	1		2	50	

Small Finds

Trench 9:1 North/South Trench continued

Note: RSL
Roman Stratigraphic Layer

Context Number	Stratigraphic Layer	Tools (Flint)	Misc; Metal	Coins	Beads	Bracelets	Brooches	Vessel (Glass)		Pottery Counter	Wood	Quernstone	Totals	Levels
9269	RSL			2				1					3	96.98
9319	RSL										2		2	96.75/96.83
9518	RSL							1					1	97.07
	Totals	3	9	21	1	6	1	3	1	1	3	1	50	

Trench 9:13/4. Slump trench following collapse of trench wall after rain

Context Number	Stratigraphic Layer		Misc; Metal										Totals	Levels
0490			2										2	96.79
9501			3										3	96.78
	Total		5										5	

Note : This trench was created following the collapse of the stepped trench wall after heavy rain. It provided an opportunity to look for possible a Saxon presence in the centre of the arena. This in turn led to trench 9:14 being put in over trench 9:13.

The stratigraphic details of the metal objects found are difficult to pin down precisely as they they were not in their original contexts following the slump of the trench wall.

Small Finds

Trench 9:2. Rectangular Stone Structure .

Note. RSL
Roman stratigraphic layer

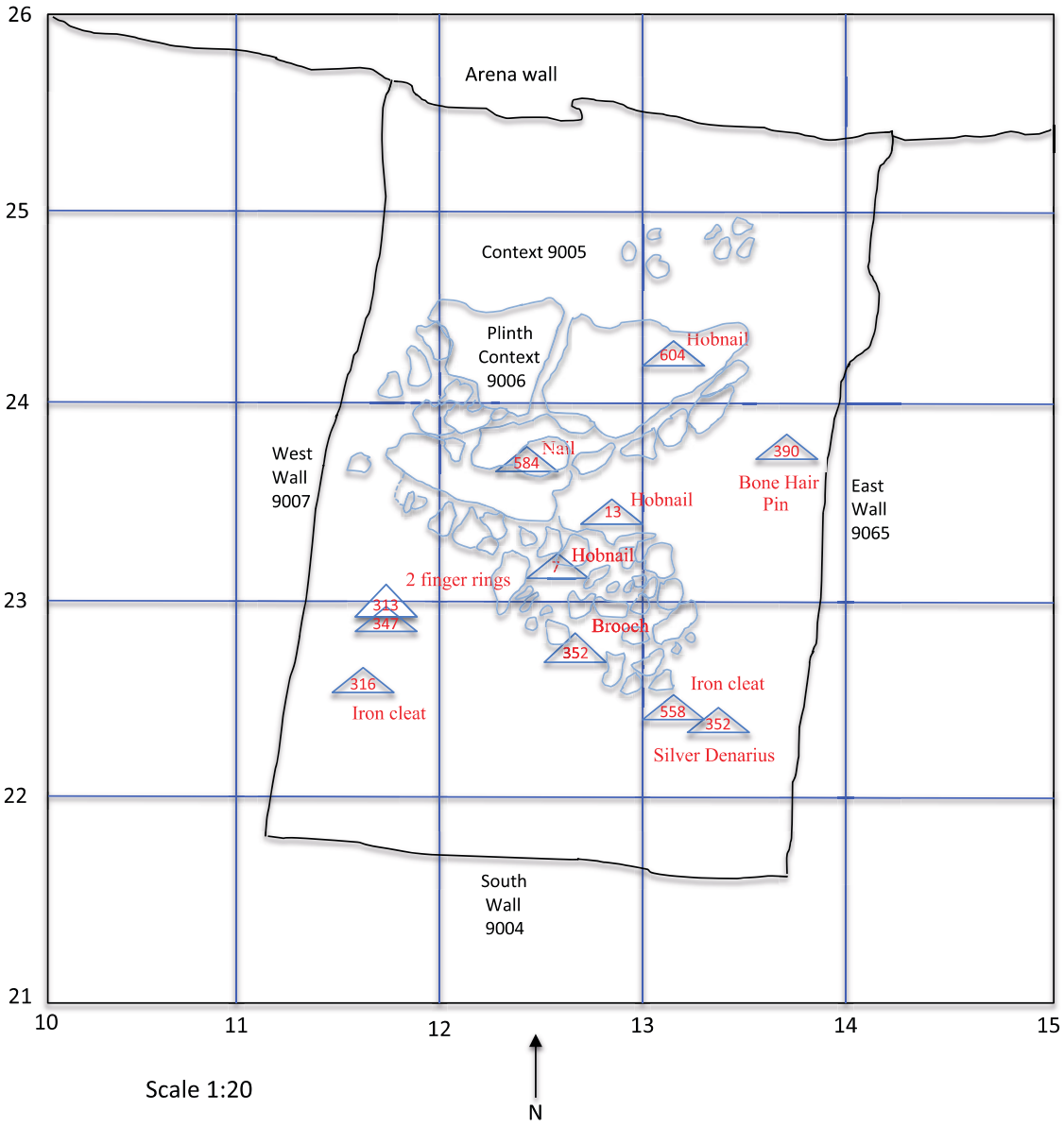
Context number	Stratigraphic layer	Nails	Hobnails	Misc: Metal	Coins	Rings	Bracelets	Brooches	Vessel (Glass)	Bone	Stone Context 9005 counter	Total	Levels
9005	Upper layer (around possible stone plinth).	7	7	3	1	2		1	1	2 Hair pins	1	25	98.05 – 98.59
9021	Mid Layer	2										2	98.22
9030	Mid layer (Sth east corner of structure)	4	1		2					1 Hair pin		8	97.35 – 98.13
9042	Mid Layer	2	1	1	1				2	1		8	97.57 – 97.58
9046	RSL. (at base of Arena wall)				1							1	97.88
9050	RSL. (alongside east wall of structure)	2				1				1 tool		4	97.73
9051	RSL (in centre of structure).								1			1	97.36
9052	RSL	3	1	4			1	2	3		1	15	97.67
9158	RSL			1								1	97.26
	Total	20	10	9	5	3	1	3	7	5	2	65	

See diagram 9 attached for the position of the key small finds from context 9005. These finds were recovered from the possible stone plinth at the top of the stone structure post structure infill and may represent votive deposits if the plinth was a base for a shrine.

Note: Roman stratigraphic layer refers to the original occupation layers before the infill of the rectangular stone structure. However contexts (9005), (9021), (9030) and (9042) provide clear evidence for the infill taking place during the roman period and in particular the possible stone plinth that caps it.

Diagram 9: Distribution of small finds in Rectangular Stone Structure (Trench 9:2).

(Diagram showing detail of find spots associated with the putative stone plinth at context level (9005). This is the top most archaeological layer post the infill of the rectangular stone structure).



Pottery Analysis

Trenches 9:1 – 9:14 Summary of pottery finds by Trench

Trench Number	Total & % age	PCW	PFW	Preh Total	RCWO	RFWOX	RCWR	RFWR	RFWDS	SM	IMPCC	RWW	RFWW	BWW	DOR	OXFRS	OXRWS	GR	ROBSH	D	O	Total Roman	% Preh	% Roman
Trench 9:1	Total	30		30	150	115	293	76	22	15	15	7	11	2	3	1	13	4	12	33	2	786		
	%				19.9	15.2	40	10	2.9	1.9	.9	1.4	3.1	.3	.1	1.7	.1	.5	1.6	4.4	.2	4.4	1.4	98.6
Trench 9:2	Total	10	2	12	11	20	188	26	14	21		36	131		1	2	39	2	1	8	8	500		
	%				2.2	4	36.5	5.2	2.8	4.2		7.3	26.6		.2	.4	7.9	.4	.2	1.6	1.6		2.3	97.7
Trench 9:2a	Total				6	1																7		
	%				85.7	14.2																		100
Trench 9:3	Total	2		2	3	4	3				1							1				12		
	%				25	33.3	25				8.3							8.3					14.2	85.8
Trench 9:4	Total	15		15	34	25	138	39	1	6			8		2	7	1		1	7	1	270		
	%				12.9	9.5	52.5	14.8	.4	2.3			3		.7	2.6	.4		.4	2.6	.4		5.3	94.7
Trench 9:5	Total	63		63	35	29	93	21	4	4		2	12	3	7	10	2	5	7	8	8	250		
	%				14.4	12	38.4	8.6	1.6	1.6		.8	4.9	1.2	2.9	4.1	.8	2	2.9	3.3	3.3		29.8	70.2
Trench 9:7	Total	34		34	1		3	1														5		
	%				20		60	20															79.2	20.8
Trench 9:8	Total	1		1	2	4	4												2		1	13		
	%				15.3	30.7	30.7												15.3		7.6		7.1	92.9
Trench 9:14	Total				8		55		4	3		1				2		2		4	1	80		
	%				10.5		72		5.2	3.9		1.3				2.6		2.6		5.2	1.3			100
Total all Trenches	Total	155	2	157	250	198	769	163	45	49	16	46	162	5	11	22	55	12	23	60	21	1907		
	%				13.1	10.4	40.3	8.5	2.4	2.6	.8	2.4	8,5	.2	.6	1.1	2.8	.7	1.2	3.2	1.1		8	92

Notes:
These tables exclude pottery finds from Trench 9:11 the Northern Extension and from top soil finds which predominantly came from the ground clearance during 2001

Roman pottery analysis

Summary and conclusions

Roman pottery sherds by type – totals and % age all trench 9 locations.

	RCWO	RFWOX	RCWR	RFWR	RFWDS	SM	RWW	RFWW	DOR	OXFRS	OXFWS	GR	ROBSH	D	O
Total sherds	263	291	787	185	34	53	57	219	16	30	46	15	23	63	22
%	12.3	13.8	37.3	8.7	1.6	2.5	2.7	10.4	0.7	1.4	2.2	0.7	1.1	2.9	1.0
Order of Magnitude	3	2	1	5	10	8	7	4	14	11	9	15	12	6	13

In total 1956 sherds were recovered from all trench 9 locations (including 35 from trench 9:10 the northern extension that later became Trench 17). 149 sherds came from topsoil contexts which provides a total of 2105.

With the exception of upper context finds from the embankment area and in particular the rectangular stone structure (especially those finds close to the possible stone plinth) it would be difficult to say that these finds were in original depositional contexts. This is particularly the case with finds from trenches 9:1 the north/south drain trench and trench 9:4 the east/west trench where pottery sherds of both Prehistoric and Roman types were recovered found mixed with rubble material which strongly suggests that they may have been used as part of the infill and hardcore to overcome boggy conditions in the arena.

Whilst 149 sherds from topsoil contexts (9000) and (9002) have been categorised as non-archaeological they may in fact be of archaeological significance. The majority of them were found in the first year of operations and were recovered largely from what would have been the top of the embankment which might suggest that they were in the archaeological contexts of an eroded embankment and therefore becoming topsoil deposits.

The following tables provide trench by trench analysis of Roman pottery finds by type together with their respective contexts. These tables are not exhaustive as in most cases many low volume contexts have been excluded in order to reduce the volume of data however they do account for 97.5% of the pottery finds.

To help determine where the majority of pottery finds were made contexts that yielded 30 or more sherds have been tabulated showing both the context number and the number of sherds together with easting and northing data to help locate them using diagrams 4 and 6.

Spot Dates for the following contexts are:

(9005) 3rd century. (9008) Mid to late 4th century. (9012) 4th century. (9041) mid to late 4th century (9052) mid to late 2nd century. (9267) Mid to late 4th century. (9268) 4th century. (9306) mid to late 4th century. (9311) Mid to late 4th century. Therefore, the pottery date range is from mid 2nd century to late 4th century. Although of the 2nd century sherds some were in poor condition plus pieces of early Oxford ware.

Pottery Analysis

Trenches 9:1 – 9:14 Summary of pottery finds by Trench

Trench Number	Total & % age	PCW	PFW	Preh Total	RCWO	RFWOX	RCWR	RFWR	RFWDS	SM	IMPCC	RWW	RFWW	BWW	DOR	OXFRS	OXRWS	GR	ROBSH	D	O	Total Roman	% Preh	% Roman
Trench 9:1	Total	30		30	150	115	293	76	22	15	15	7	11	2	3	1	13	4	12	33	2	786		
	%				19.9	15.2	40	10	2.9	1.9	.9	1.4	3.1	.3	.1	1.7	.1	.5	1.6	4.4	.2	4.4	1.4	98.6
Trench 9:2	Total	10	2	12	11	20	188	26	14	21		36	131		1	2	39	2	1	8	8	500		
	%				2.2	4	36.5	5.2	2.8	4.2		7.3	26.6		.2	.4	7.9	.4	.2	1.6	1.6		2.3	97.7
Trench 9:2a	Total				6	1																7		
	%				85.7	14.2																		100
Trench 9:3	Total	2		2	3	4	3				1							1				12		
	%				25	33.3	25				8.3							8.3					14.2	85.8
Trench 9:4	Total	15		15	34	25	138	39	1	6			8		2	7	1		1	7	1	270		
	%				12.9	9.5	52.5	14.8	.4	2.3			3		.7	2.6	.4		.4	2.6	.4		5.3	94.7
Trench 9:5	Total	63		63	35	29	93	21	4	4		2	12	3	7	10	2	5	7	8	8	250		
	%				14.4	12	38.4	8.6	1.6	1.6		.8	4.9	1.2	2.9	4.1	.8	2	2.9	3.3	3.3		29.8	70.2
Trench 9:7	Total	34		34	1		3	1														5		
	%				20		60	20															79.2	20.8
Trench 9:8	Total	1		1	2	4	4												2		1	13		
	%				15.3	30.7	30.7												15.3		7.6		7.1	92.9
Trench 9:14	Total				8		55		4	3		1				2		2		4	1	80		
	%				10.5		72		5.2	3.9		1.3				2.6		2.6		5.2	1.3			100
Total all Trenches	Total	155	2	157	250	198	769	163	45	49	16	46	162	5	11	22	55	12	23	60	21	1907		
	%				13.1	10.4	40.3	8.5	2.4	2.6	.8	2.4	8,5	.2	.6	1.1	2.8	.7	1.2	3.2	1.1		8	92

Notes:
These tables exclude pottery finds from Trench 9:11 the Northern Extension and from top soil finds which predominantly came from the ground clearance during 2001

Trench 9:1. Pottery Analysis summary

Prehistoric pottery finds
There were nine concentrations of prehistoric pottery finds in trench 9, the majority of which were centered on the area of the southern embankment, the rectangular stone structure and the southern drain excavation. These can be seen clearly on diagram 8 below. Most of the finds were made in seasons 2001/2002 which positions them in the mid to upper layers of these trenches.

1. North end of the southern embankment, Trench 9:5 yielded 37 sherds from contexts (9008), (9016), (9060), (9069) and (9142). These are primarily upper contexts and may suggest that their deposition occurred during the construction of the arena and embankment which was made of arena material and may not therefore be their original place of deposition. This of course applies to the majority of finds from this area.

2. Mid-section of the southern embankment, Trench 9:5 a group of 10 sherds from a single context (9135).

3. Southern end of the southern embankment, Trench 9:5 two contexts (9054), and (9057) yielding 18 sherds.

   Note: Both 2 and 3 were from mid-level contexts which would put them approximately in the area of the original prehistoric ground surface, therefore they may be in their original place of deposition.

4. Small concentration of pottery sherds from a context (9029) just on the south side of the arena wall between trenches 9:2 and 9:5. Again this was an upper level context yielding nine sherds.

5. Toward the north of the rectangular stone structure close to the arena wall there were nine sherds from a single mid layer context (9050), two of which were decorated.

   Note: As the contexts in trench 9:2 reflect the infill of the rectangular stone structure these sherds therefore are not in their original depositional contexts.

6. A large group of pottery sherds from trench 9:7 the southern drain excavation, with several contexts (9212), (9217), (9288), and (9289) yielding 34 sherds. These were found in the mid to lower levels of the trench which given the level of disturbance during the construction of the embankment and the drain would suggest that they are unlikely to be in their original depositional position.

7. A small group of nine sherds from a single context (9379) situated in an exploratory trench 9:12 on the east side of the rectangular stone structure.

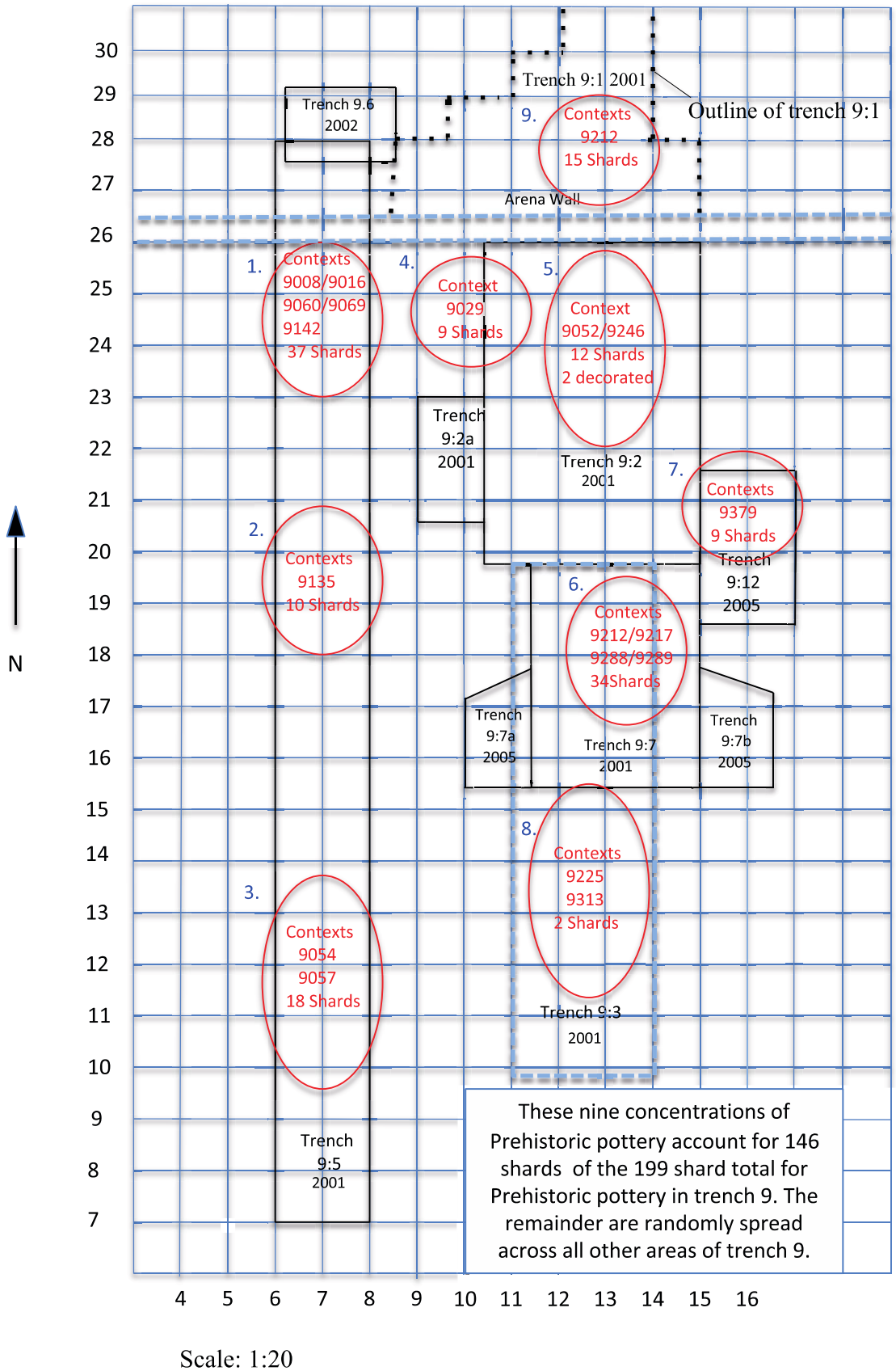
8. Two sherds were recovered from the mid-level contexts (9225) and (9313) from trench 9:3 in 2001. This trench was the initial examination of the southern embankment and later the southern drain.

9. A group of 15 sherds recovered from a single mid-level context (9212) just inside the arena in inside trench 9:1. It was suggested at the time that these sherds probably fell from the embankment as it reduced in size over time during the post-Roman period.

<u>Summary</u>
These nine concentrations of prehistoric pottery together number 146 sherds of the 199 sherds total across all trench 9 locations. This represents 73.4% of the total. It is interesting to note that these pottery sherds were found on or within the embankment area. Given the level of disturbance to this area during the construction of the Arena and embankment it is unlikely that many of them were in

their original place of deposition perhaps except for those that were found in or close to the original prehistoric ground level as suggested for concentrations 2 and 3. Of the remaining 53 sherds six were from topsoil contexts and the remaining 47 sherds were found scattered randomly in trenches 9:1 north/south drain trench and 9:4 the East/West trench. Most of these sherds were found mixed with rubble material and therefore were probably introduced as part of the attempts to overcome boggy ground, during the life of the arena.

Diagram 8: Diagram showing concentrations of Prehistoric pottery



Scale: 1:20

Pottery Analysis

Trench 9:1 North/South Trench

Stratigraphic layer	Context	PCW	PFW	Preh Total	RCWO	RFWOX	RCWR	RFWR	RFWDS	SM	IMPCC	RWW	RFWW	BWW	DOR	OXFRS	OXFWS	GR	ROBSH	D	O	Total Roman	% Preh	% Roman	Location References E/N coordinates (see trench plan attached)
	9032				7		12									1			1			21		100	
	9145				3	7	6	7											2			25		100	E9.85 – 11.28/N28
	9171															1			1			2		100	
	9179				1		2						2									5		100	
	9183					3		1														4		100	
	9186					4	11		1			1				1						18		100	E6.2 – 8.2/N27.7 -29.2
	9212	15		15																			100		
	9219				1																	1		100	
	9230					1		1										1				3		100	
	9235							1														1		100	
	9265	2		2	3	4	4	5					1					1				18			E10 – 17/N45 - 17
	9266																		1	1		2		100	
	9267	4		4	24	12	33	6		3						2			1	3		84		100	E10 – 16/N33 - 38
	9268	2		2	18	7	20	10		3			2							2		62			E9.5 – 16/N36 - 45
	9271				3	12	2									2				1		20		100	E10 – 15.5/N29 – 33
	9274				2		7															9		100	
	9279						6															6		100	
	9284				10	8	12	4		1			2			1		1	1	4		44		100	E10.3 – 15.5/N30 31.2
	9285				1			2														3		100	
	9294	1		1	1																	1	50	50	
	9295				3	4	12	8		2			7									36		100	E11 – 14/N29 – 37
	9302				4		3	2		6												15		100	E11.4 – 13.6/N31 – 34
	9305					5	20	1				2	6						1	1		36		100	E11.4 – 13.8/N34 – 36
	9318						3															3		100	
	Total	24		24	81	67	153	48	1	15		3	20			8		3	8	12		419			

Unless otherwise stated all pottery finds were made in the Roman Stratigraphic Layers

Note: location references have only been given for significant clusters of pottery finds

Pottery Analysis

Trench 9:1 North/South trench continued

Note. These contexts are not shown on plan, only on section drawings. Comment on the day suggest that these pottery shards may be material fallen into the arena from the top of the rectangular stone structure.

Stratigraphic layer	Context	PCW	PFW	Preh Total	RCWO	RFWOX	RCWR	RFWR	RFWDS	SM	IMPCC	RWW	RFWW	POWW	DOR	OXFRS	OXRWS	GR	ROBSH	D	O	Total Roman	% Preh	% Roman	Location References E/N coordinates (see trench plan attached)
Upper Layers	9041				38		40	10	10				4			1			1	8	1	113		100	E9.9/N26 – 27.7
Upper Layers	9043					16	18	1	11	2					1				1	9		59		100	E9.9/N27 – 27.7
	Total				38	16	58	11	21	2			4		1	1			2	17	1	172			

Trench 9:1 North/South trench continued

Unless otherwise stated all pottery finds were made in the Roman occupation layers

	9304				5		14	1				2	4									26		100	
	9306				16	6	30	6		4		5						2	2	4	1	76		100	
	9335						1	1														2		100	
	9337					2	1	2														5		100	
	9347						1															1		100	
	9377						1															1		100	
	9381				9		1									3						13		100	
	9389	5		5																			100		
	9391				1		1															2		100	
	9473					12	16	7		1			3			1						40		100	
	9474	1		1			4															4	20	80	
	9481					9	4															13		100	
	9488					3	8															11		100	
	Total	6		6	31	32	82	17		5		7	7			4		2	2	4	1	194			

Total all Trench 9:1	30		30	150	115	273	76	28	7		10	31		1	13	1	5	12	33	2	765		

Pottery Analysis

Trench 9:2. Rectangular Stone Structure

Stratigraphic layer	Context	PCW	PFW	Preh Total	RCWO	RFWOX	RCWR	RFWR	RFWDS	SM	IMPCC	RWW	RFWW	POWW	DOR	OXFRS	OXRWS	GR	ROBSH	D	O	Total Roman	% Preh	% Roman	Location References E/N coordinates (see trench plan attached)
Top of infill	9005					9	38	7	9			28	2				1	2		2	7	105		100	Finds associated with 'plinth' top of RB after infill
	9021				2		2						4							2		10		100	
	9030				2		6						5								1	14		100	
	9042						16	7		2			1							1		27		100	Area at centre base of internal South RB wall
	9050						3			9												12		100	
	9051				2		11						2									15		100	
	9052	7	2(D)	9	1	9	55			5		2	92				3			3		170	5	95	E11.2 – 14.2/N22 – 26.5
	9072						14			2			9				7					32		100	V. Small area in S/W Corner
	9144						13						14						1			28		100	No data
	9158												1				1					2		100	
	9165						3															3		100	
	9173				2																	2		100	
	9180							6	5	2							22					35		100	E11.2 – 14.2/N22 – 26.5
	9181						5					5					5					15		100	E110 – 12.2/N24.5 – 12.2
	9205				1		2															3		100	
	9221						1															1		100	
	9246	3		3	1																	1	75	25	
	9329							4														4		100	
	9330					2	2					1	1									6		100	
	9354						1															1		100	
	9370						5								1	2						8		100	
	9398						1	1		1												3		100	
	9399						1	1														2		100	
	9478						1															1		100	
	Total	10	2	12	11	20	188	26	14	21		36	131		1	2	39	2	1	8	8	500			

Pottery Analysis

Trench 9:7 Southern drain trench south of stone structure

Stratigraphic layer	Context	PCW	PFW	Preh Total	RCWO	RFWOX	RCWR	RFWR	RFWDS	SM	IMPCC	RWW	RFWW	POWW	DOR	OXFRS	OXRWS	GR	ROBSH	D	O	Total Roman	% Preh	% Roman	Location References E/N coordinates (see trench plan attached)
All on or in upper Roman Occupation Layer	9216	20		20			3															3	86.9	13.1	E12.7/N18
	9217	4		4	1																	1	80	20	E12.7/N18
	9288	1		1				1														1	50	50	E12.7/N18
	9289	14		14																			100		E12.7/N18
	Total	39		39	1		3	1														5			

Trench 9:3 Continuation of southern drain trench (initial embankment investigation).

	9225	1		1																			100		
Upper ROL	9313	1		1		3	4	3				1						1				12	7.69	92.31	E13.3 – 13.8/N16 – 17.6
	Total	2		2		3	4	3				1						1				12			

Trench 9:2a Trench west of stone structure

	9029	9		9																			100		
	9131					6	1															7		100	
	Total	9		9		6	1															7			

Trench 9:12 Trench east of stone structure

	9379	9		9																					
	Total	9		9																					

Pottery Analysis

Trench 9:5 Southern Embankment

Stratigraphic layer	Context 2	PCW	PFW	Preh Total	RCWO	RFWOX	RCWR	RFWR	RFWDS	SM	IMPCC	RWW	RFWW	POWW	DOR	OXFRS	OXRWS	GR	ROBSH	D	O	Total Roman	% Preh	% Roman	Location References E/N coordinates (see trench plan attached)
Sub soil	9006				2		5					2										9		100	
Sub soil	9008	13		13	14	11	39	12	1	3			10		2	7		4	1	6	1	111	10.48	89.52	
Sub soil	9012				3	12	27	2	1	1					5		1		5	2	1	60		100	
Sub soil	9015				1		2															3		100	
Sub soil	9016	3		3																			100		
Sub soil	9017																	1				1		100	
Sub soil	9024					4		6								1					6	17		100	
	9029	9		9			1										1					2	81.5	18.5	
	9032				7		12									1			1			21		100	
	9033						1															1		100	
	9054	11		11																			100		
	9055					1		1														2		100	
	9057	7		7	7				2													9	77.7	22.2	
	9060	4		4																			100		
	9064	1		1									1									1	50	50	
	9069	14		14		1	1															2	87.5	12.5	
	9135	10		10												1						1	90.9	9.1	
	9142	5		5										2								2	71.4	28.5	
	9146						5															5		100	
	9159				1								1									2		100	
	9210	2		2																			100		
	9216	20		20																			100		
	9259	2		2										1								1	66.6	33.3	
	9260	2		2																			100		
	Total	103		103	35	29	93	21	4	4		2	12	3	7	10	2	5	7	8	8	250			

Pottery Analysis

Trench 9:13/14 Trench after collapse of trench walls

Stratigraphic layer	Context	PCW	PFW	Preh Total	RCWO	RFWOX	RCWR	RFWR	RFWDS	SM	IMPCC	RWW	RFWW	POWW	DOR	OXFRS	OXRWS	GR	ROBSH	D	O	Total Roman	% Preh	% Roman	Location References E/N coordinates (see trench plan attached)
At Roman Occupation levels as slump from trench sides slid onto excavated Roman levels	9430															1						1		100	
	9431						7			3						1				1		112		100	
	9451											1										1		100	
	9468						1															1		100	
	9483																				1	1		100	
	9511						4													1		5		100	
	9518				6		29		1									1		2		39		100	
	9523				2		14		3									1				20		100	
	Total				8		55		4	3		1				2		2		4	1	80			

Trench 9:8. Evaluation trench

All at Roman occupation levels	9490				2		2												1			5		100	
	9501	1		1		4	2												1		1	8	11.11	88.89	
																								100	E12 – 13.8/N45 – 47.5
	Total	1		1	2	4	4												2		1	13			

Roman Pottery Analysis

Roman Pottery: Prolific contexts yielding 30 or more shards

Note: Use this table with reference to appropriate gridded diagram for location position.

Trench 9:1. The north/south drain

Context	Shards	Location description	Location cords Eastings - Northings
9041	113	Close to arena embankment	
9043	59		E10 -12 / N28
9267	88		E10 -12 / N30 - 37
9268	62		
9269	36		
9270	32		
9276	38	All finds made at Roman occupation levels	E10 -15 / N30 - 37
9284	44		
9295	36		E10 -15 / N30 - 37
9305	36		E10 -15 / N30 - 37
9306	76		E10 -15 / N30 - 37
9473	40		
Total	660		

Trench 9:2. Rectangular Stone Structure

9057	170	Upper layer: west side of RSS	E11 -12.5 / N22 – 25.8
9072	32	Upper layer	E11 -11.5 / N22 – 23
9180	35	Upper layer: Close to east wall	E10 -12 / N24 – 26
Total	237		

Trench 9:4. East/West

9292	52	Cleaning layer after flooding	
9311	83		
9518	39		
Total	210		

Trench 9:5. Southern Embankment

9008	111	Upper layer: sub soil	
9012	60	Upper layer: sub soil	
Total	171		

Appendix 3. Bone analysis

Bone analysis

Trench 9 Overview

The following table provides an overview of bone recovery from each Trench 9 location. Bone recovery is expressed as a bone count and percentage by animal type as per the initial bone analysis. This also provides a total for the whole of trench 9.

A total of 691 bones were recovered from the whole of Trench 9 (excluding trench 9:10 the northern extension).

Trench number and Location		Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	LM	MM	SM	Additional Bone Data
9:1. North/South	Total	124	114	14	27	2 Deer + 3	12		1 Sharks Tooth
	%	47.4	37.2	4.5	8.8	0.9	7.1		
9:2. Stone Structure	Total	3	24	9	3	4	8	5	2 Frog
	%	5.0	43.3	15.0	5.0	6.8	11.3	8.3	3.3
9:4. East / West	Total	87	66	7	17	1	13		1 Bird
	%	45.3	34.3	3.6	8.8	0.5	6.7		0.5
9:5. South Embankment	Total	12	34	5	1	2	4	10	2 Bird
	%	17.1	48.5	7.1	1.4	2.8	5.6	14.2	2.8
9:0 South Drain Trench	Total	10	2		1				
	%	76.9	15.3		7.6				
9:0. Stone Struc., West trench	Total		1		1				
	%		50		50				
9:0. Exploratory Trench	Total	14	16	3	12				1 Bird
	%	30.4	34.7	6.5	26.0				2.1
9:0. North Extension	Total	1	3						
	%	25	75						
All Trench 9 Locations	Total	251	260	38	67	10	37	15	6
	%	36.6	38	5.5	9.7	1.4	5.4	2.1	0.8

Bone analysis

Trench 9:1. North/South Trench (continued)

Location Co-ord,s	Context number	Cattle %	Sheep %	Pig %	Horse %	LM %	MM %	SM %	Bone Data
Roman Stratigraphic Layer	9370	1	7						1 sharks tooth
	9376		1						
	9378	1	1						
	9398	1							
	9431		1	1					
	9473	1	2		2				
	9478								
	9479		1		1				
	9481		3		1				
	9482		1						
	9488		1		1				
	Total	126	114	14	27	3	22		
	%	41.1	37.2	4.5	8.8	0.9	7.1		

Bone analysis

Trench 9:2. Rectangular Stone Structure.

Location Co-ord,s	Context number	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	LM	MM	SM	Additional Bone Data
Sub Soil	9005	1	7	5	1	2	5	3 Rodent	2 Frog
Upper layer	9021		1						
	9024							2 Mole	
Mid Upper Layer	9030		4		1				
	9050		4	1			1		
	9051						1		
Mid Layer	9052		3	1		1			
	9072	1	3		1				
	9165		1						
Lower Layer	9180	1	1	1		1	1		
	9181		2	1					
	Total	3	26	9	3	4	8	5	2
	%	5.0	43.3	15	5.0	6.8	11.3	8.3	3.3

Trench 9:2a. Trench west of rectangular stone structure

Location Co-ord,s	Context number	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	LM	MM	SM	Additional Bone Data
	9182			1					
	9379		1						
Total			1	1					
%			50	50					

Bone analysis

Trench 9:4. East / West Trench

Location Co-ord,s	Context number	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	LM	MM	SM	Additional Bone Data
Roman Stratigraphic Layer	9269	5	8	1			1 Dog		
	9270	10	6		1				
	9276	11	8		1		4 Dog		1 Bird
	9277	1	1						
	9309	21	6	1			4 Dog		
	9310	2			1	1			
	9311	9	3	3	5				
	9325	12	9	1	3		3 Dog		
	9327	3	5	1	2				
	9335	1			2				
	9339		1						
	9356	2	1						
	9359		1		1				
	9375	1	5						
	9381	1	2						
	9384				1				
	9390		2						
	9523	8	6				1 Dog		
	9526		2						
Total		87	66	7	17	1	13		1
%		45.3	34.3	3.6	8.8	0.1	6.7		0.1

Bone analysis

Trench 9:5. Southern Embankment

Location Co-ord,s	Context number	Cattle %	Sheep %	Pig %	Horse %	LM %	MM %	SM %	Bone Data
Topsoil & Subsoil	9000	1	2						
	9002		6				1		
	9006				1	1			
	9008	2	1				50		
Upper layer	9012		1				1		
	9031						1		
	9033		1						
	9055		1						
	9057	1	1				1		
	9146		1						
Mid layer	9012		1				1		
	9029							1 Rodent	
	9032	2	1						
	9064		1						
	9210					1			
Bottom layer	9041		4	2					
	9042		3	1					
	9043	3	5	1				1 Rodent	1 Bird
	9046							6 hare	
	Total	12	34	5	1	2	4	10	1
	%	17.1	48.5	7.1	1.4	2.8	5.6	14.2	1.4