

**FANE ROAD ALLOTMENTS 2021
FANE ROAD ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP/EVALUATION EXCAVATION
SITE DIARY**

DAYS 1 - 5 (8 - 12 Oct 21)

Site Details

Accession Number: EPB1062

Site Reference Code: PETFAR21

Location: NGR TF 18230 01822 (OS)

Site Bench Mark (SBM):

Description – Apex of track junction

Lat and Long – 52°36'4.24"N 0°15'20.16"W (Google Earth)

NGR – TF 18239 01805 (OS)

AMSL – m (Mapping)

Aims and Objectives

Project: 16-1 Romans of Fane Road

Season: 5

Test Pits: 3, 4 & 5

Aims: Determine the east and north extents of the wall revealed in TP1 (2019) in order to identify any returns (north or south) and/or any intermediate wall junctions. Locate the east Iron-Age boundary ditch revealed by the 2012 commercial excavation to extend into the allotments east of the track that terminates on the north fence-line.

Objectives: TP3, determine eastward extent of the wall; TP4, locate possible north/south wall; TP5, locate Iron Age ditch.

Day 1 (8 Oct 21)

Activity

Morning:

At the start of the morning session the weather was overcast and still, the ground conditions were damp and the forecast temperature was 14°C.

Marked out test-pits 3, 4 & 5. Started reducing depth of TP 3.

Finds:

20th Century tile; Romano-British CBM.

Afternoon:

At the start of the afternoon session the weather was overcast and still, the ground conditions were dry and the forecast temperature was 18°C.

Continued reducing depth of TP 3. Started reducing depth of TP 4.

Finds:

20th Century tile; Romano-British CBM.

Notes:

Top 0.5m across the site is considered as disturbed layer and out of context. Loose and spoil is not tested for finds.

Options:

N/A

Day 2 (9 Oct 21)



TP4 - north end looking east

Activity

Morning:

At the start of the morning session the weather was foggy, burning off to sunny with occasional cloud, the ground conditions were damp and the forecast temperature was 11°C.

TP3. Revealed possible herringbone course stone wall in southwest corner on a north-south alignment against west wall of TP (1st/2nd Century).

TP4. Continued excavating, revealed sporadic building rubble.

TP5. Began excavating, no archaeological features revealed.

Finds:

TP3. Romano-British CBM, mortar.

TP4. Romano-British CBM, miscellaneous modern items.

TP5. Romano-British CDM, miscellaneous modern items.

Afternoon:

At the start of the afternoon session the weather was sunny with occasional light breeze, the ground conditions were dry and the forecast temperature was 17°C.

TP 3. Supervised 12 children from YAC (2 groups of 6); group 1 cleaned the surface and loose from the wall, group 2 excavated along east and west walls.

TP4. Continued excavating. Increased concentration of building rubble, resting on natural geology (cornbrash). Cut/ditch at north end of trench containing band of large pieces of building rubble and CBM.

TP5. Continued excavating. Natural geology (cornbrash) exposed. Possible edge of cut/ditch.

Finds:

TP3. Romano-British CBM, mortar, opus signinum, 2 nails, 1 pot sherd (nene valley colour coated), 1 oyster shell.

TP4. Romano-British CBM, miscellaneous modern items.

TP5. Romano-British CBM, miscellaneous modern items.

Notes:

YAC on site from 1300-1500. In addition to excavating in TP 3, YAC carried out finds washing.

Options:

N/A

Day 3 (10 Oct 21)



TP3 - wall collapse #3002 at south end of north TP wall

Activity

Morning:

At the start of the morning session the weather was overcast, clearing to sunny intervals, the ground conditions were damp and the forecast temperature was 14°C.

TP3. Excavate wall #3002 and west end of TP, east end of TP and central area of north TP wall. Record #3002.

TP4. Excavate rubble #4004 from cut #4001.

TP5. Excavate possible cut edge. Did not prove to be a cut. As TP contained no features, recorded and began back-filling.

Finds:

TP3. Romano-British CBM; numerous pot sherds - greyware, black-burnished ware, nene valley colour coated ware.

TP4. Romano-British CBM; numerous pot sherds - greyware, black-burnished ware, nene valley colour coated ware.

TP5. None.

Afternoon:

At the start of the afternoon session the weather was sunny, with broken cloud and light breeze, the ground conditions were dry and the forecast temperature was 17°C.

TP3. Clean #3003 to find edge. Complete recording of #3002. Excavate sondage against west wall to look for traces of an east-west wall. Dark, charcoal infused/burnt surface exposed to high heat revealed in SE corner #3004.

TP4. Clean south edge of cut #4001 to define edge. Excavate stones from #4005 and determine associated soils/or natural.

TP5. Completed back-filling.

Finds:

TP3. Romano-British CBM; numerous pot sherds - greyware, black-burnished ware, nene valley colour coated ware shelly ware, vertebrae from large mammal (cow?), oyster shell.

TP4. Romano-British CBM; numerous pot sherds - greyware, black-burnished ware, nene valley colour coated ware.

Notes:

Area given context #4005 was found to be geological.

Distance and bearing to SW corner of each TP from SBM recorded.

Options:

None.

Day 4 (11 Oct 21)



TP3 - stone door hinge socket at west end of wall collapse #3003

Activity

Morning:

At the start of the morning session the weather was sunny with scattered clouds and no breeze, the ground conditions were damp and the forecast temperature was 11°C.

TP3. Continued cleaning south edge of wall collapse #3003 to define, and to find floor surface. Stone door hinge socket revealed, integral to wall, at west end of wall collapse.

TP4. Cleaned all surfaces and dressed TP walls, preparatory to recording. Started recording.

Finds:

TP3. Romano-British CBM, pottery sherds, copper-alloy 'button-sized' adornment; circular, bowled, green patina (SF #001).

Afternoon:

At the start of the afternoon session the weather was sunny with scattered clouds and a light breeze, the ground conditions were dry and the forecast temperature was 15°C.

TP3. Continued cleaning south edge of wall collapse #3003 to define, and to find floor surface. Floor surface revealed; appears to be compacted clay with cobble.

TP4. Finish recording and begin backfilling.

Finds:

TP3. Romano-British CBM, pottery sherds.

Notes:

Presence of stone door hinge socket at west end of wall collapse indicates a doorway to the west, with the opposing door jamb being the dressed east end of the wall revealed in TP1 in 2019.

Options:

In order to produce accurate drawing of TP3; no further excavation, clean and dress surfaces, and assign context numbers as necessary.

Day 5 (12 Oct 21)



TP3 - wall collapse #3003 at north side of test-pit

Activity

Morning:

At the start of the morning session the weather was sunny with scattered clouds and mild breeze, the ground conditions were damp and the forecast temperature was 11°C.

TP3. Surfaces cleaned of loose and vertical faces dressed to facilitate recording. New contexts were designated and the site register updated.

TP4. Finished back-filling.

Finds:

None

Afternoon:

At the start of the afternoon session the weather was overcast and breezy, the ground conditions were dry and the forecast temperature was 15°C.

TP3. Plan and elevation drawings were made, after which TP3 was backfilled. On completion of backfilling TP3, the site was inspected and closed-down.

Finds:

None

Notes:

Measured in NE, NW and centre point of north wall of TP3 from fixed TRP:

- NW 5.23m
- Centre 5.2 m
- NE 5.44m

Options:

None