

Finds recovered during Archaeological Excavation

Former Monks Eleigh Controlled School, Churchfield

The archaeological excavation undertaken by Border Archaeology in September 2020 at the former School has uncovered evidence for a late Iron Age/Roman settlement within the village.

Features included an extensive enclosure ditch, pits, dumps of domestic waste and evidence of an early field system. The discovery of Roman artefacts and settlement features will further assist historians' understanding of the village's past.

Whilst no structural remains were encountered, the formation of ditches and pits as well as the pottery and faunal remains (animal bone) uncovered during the excavation suggests that the area was a focus for domestic settlement.

Finds have included bronze tweezers, a possible pre-conquest brooch, fragments

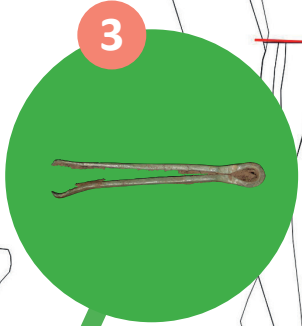
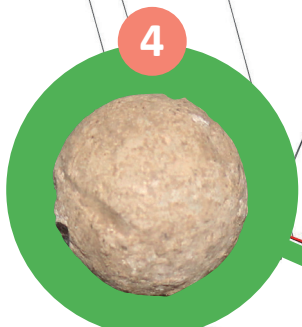
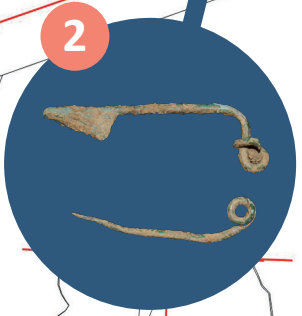
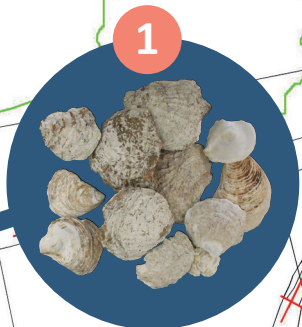
of glass vessels, pottery imported from the continent, ceramic building materials, animal bones, and a great quantity of oyster shells. As well as more recent material such as lead musket shot.

The archaeological works were undertaken after Border Archaeology had previously identified stratified Roman material surviving within the former school area as part of a pre-development evaluation.

Now that we have completed the excavation, we can begin analysing and cataloguing the artefacts and soil samples taken, this helping us to better understand how people in the past lived, how they subsisted and allow us to build a better picture of the local ancient environment.

Please watch out for further updates.

Finds recovered:
Oysters, Copper alloy Drahtfibel derivative" Brooch



Finds recovered:
Tweezers, Lead Musket Shot and Pottery

1. Oyster Shell

Oysters were a common food from the Roman to early Modern periods, not being considered a high-status food until relatively recently.

2. Brooch

Copper alloy "Drahtfibel derivative" Brooch. Late Iron Age-Early 1st Century AD. Circular cross section with right-angled bow and solid catch plate. Four coil spring and chord. A sub-form of the "Drahtfibel" ("wire fibula"), type, these date from the Late Iron Age to just after the Roman conquest. Despite their ease of manufacture, they are found less often in Britain than other Continental inspired types.

3. Copper Alloy Tweezers

Copper alloy tweezers. Roman. Flat in cross section with suspension loop. Decorated with incised marginal grooves which continue over the loop. Roman tweezers were largely beaten out of sheet metal and varied in size and shape, with longer examples often including rings to keep them closed. However, different forms occurred throughout the period meaning closer dating can be difficult.

4. Lead Musket Shot

The size probably indicates a 17th Century Date.

5. Pottery

Mixed assemblages of coarse ware and some fine wares, all predominantly Romano British in date. The fine wares include some samian ware dish fragments and refitting sherds of a ring necked flagon. Also present are some small sherds of heavily abraded colour coated ware.

