

ROMAN, SAXON AND MEDIEVAL OCCUPATION AT CLEEVE HALL, BISHOPS CLEEVE: EXCAVATIONS 1998

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INTRODUCTION

Cleeve Hall, now lying within the expanding modern village of Bishops Cleeve, was formerly located on the edge of the village's historic core. Here, in 1998, Foundations Archaeology was commissioned by Bovis Homes Limited to excavate an area of land in advance of redevelopment (NGR: SO 955270). Recent development-led archaeological work locally has provided a set of data within which the Cleeve Hall findings can be set (Fig. 1). Prehistoric finds have been made within the village including Neolithic stone axes (references in Barber and Walker 1998, 117). Excavations south of Church Road uncovered Bronze Age and Iron Age features (Lovell *et al.* 2007), with Iron Age pits and ditches occurring at a site north of the road (Cullen and Hancock 2007). Middle Iron Age occupation has been identified to the north-east of Cleeve Hall at Gilders Paddock (Parry 1999). For the Roman period excavations at Stoke Road west of Cleeve Hall yielded evidence of enclosures, metalworking and three burials (Enright and Watts 2002), while excavations at Home Farm to the north of Cleeve Hall revealed extensive Romano-British occupation and industrial activity (Barber and Walker 1998). Romano-British occupation was also recorded on a site adjacent to and to the west of Home Farm by Hart (1992) where masonry remains suggested the presence of a villa dated to the 4th century. At Gilders Paddock a small inhumation cemetery was found which was thought to have been related to the villa (Parry 1999). South of Church Road excavation uncovered a handful of Roman period features (Lovell *et al.* 2007). A kilometre to the south-west of Cleeve Hall an Anglo-Saxon cemetery dated from the mid 6th to the 7th century was excavated in 1969 (Holbrook 2000). Saxon pottery has occurred at a number of Bishops Cleeve excavations especially south of Church Road. Saxon period features have been excavated there and at Stoke Road. Medieval property boundaries have been identified at both Gilders Paddock and Home Farm, and evidence of medieval occupation, dating from the 12th to 14th centuries, has also been uncovered during excavations along the Stoke Road frontage and to the south of Church Road.

A small Saxon settlement associated with a monastery – perhaps located just west of the church – was granted land at a date between 768 and 779 and this estate passed to the bishop of Worcester in the early 9th century and remained an episcopal estate till the Dissolution (Elrington 1968). Cleeve Hall itself was built *c.* 1250 on the evidence of surviving structural elements, as the residence of the bishop. Major alterations can be dated to 1667 from the datestone on the two-storey porch on the east side of the house, when the original H-shaped plan was infilled. Further modifications were made in the 18th and 20th centuries (Verrey 1980). The tithe apportionment maps of 1839 and the 1884 1st edition OS map show wings running west to the rear of the house at either end of the main north–south running block, and outbuildings further west, but these were demolished in the years before the 3rd

edition OS map of 1923 which shows the present plan. The building is listed Grade II. Fourteenth-century documents, noted by Dyer (2002) mention a kiln, granary, pigsty and dovecote as ancillary buildings, and a stable and byre can also be assumed. Repairs were undertaken in 1426–7. Documentary evidence suggests that the garden and orchard were to the north-east of the house beside the churchyard. The surviving 15th-century manorial barn is sited to the east of the house on the opposite side of Stoke Orchard road. Dyer also suggests that the map evidence for the siting of church, churchyard and an original rectory in a rectangular layout with Cleeve Hall directly to the west may have its origin in the 9th century when the bishop took over the minster (Fig. 1).

Before work began in 1995 the grounds contained hard standings with some surviving landscape garden features and mature trees in places. The site lies at *c.* 54m OD and is more or less level with a slight rise of *c.* 2m from west to east. The geology comprises an extensive deposit of Cheltenham sands and gravels overlying the blue lower Lias of the Severn Vale (British Geological Survey 1981, sheet 217). This geology supports fine free-draining sandy soils conducive to settlement and farming.

The 1998 excavation had been preceded by preliminary assessment work in 1995 and 1997 by Cotswold Archaeological Trust. In May 1995 three trial trenches were excavated to the north and west of Cleeve Hall (Fig. 2: Trenches 1–3) following a desk-based study (Ings 1995). This latter had suggested the presence of Romano-British deposits and these were confirmed by the findings in Trench 1. Trenches 2 and 3 to the west of the house revealed post-medieval and modern features associated with its ornamental gardens. The occurrence of Saxon pottery hinted at related settlement of that date. Further trenching in 1997 (Fig. 2 Trenches A–C; Coleman 1997) confirmed the presence of Romano-British remains north of the Hall in Trench A, and, more importantly, showed in Trenches B and C that Roman archaeology survived to the north-west and west of the Hall. Later medieval and post-medieval archaeology was also recorded here but was shown not to have disturbed the Roman-period remains. Consideration of this assessment and trial trenching evidence led to the requirement for a large-scale excavation, based on a brief prepared by Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council and a project design (Foundations Archaeology 1998), the results of which are reported here. The research aims comprised:

- i) defining and identifying the nature and date of the archaeological deposits,
- ii) characterising the sequence and spatial patterning of the deposits, focusing particularly on the settlement evidence, and,
- iii) elucidating the structural history, economy and environment of each identified period through the recovery of a well-dated stratigraphic sequence and supporting artefactual, ecofactual and environmental samples.

Excavation, conducted between May and August 1998, was undertaken at three separate sites, designated Areas 1–3 (Figs 2–4). Areas 1 and 2 were intended for car parking and Area 3 for a building to the rear of Cleeve Hall. Subsequently, in 2002, extensions to Area 1 were the subject of a watching brief. However excavation did not reach medieval levels and no informative post-medieval archaeology was recorded.

This report presents the results of the excavations by period across the three separate areas excavated. Finds data are integrated with the descriptive text in summary form to give the dating and functional evidence. An interpretation, specific to the site, completes each period account. Detailed finds data, authored by specialists,

is then presented. Finally a discussion section brings together all the various evidential strands and widens the focus from the site to the surrounding area with an analysis of its local and regional significance. The periodisation is as follows:

Period 1	First/2nd century
Period 2	Third to later 4th century
Period 3	Later Roman/?Saxon
Period 4	?Saxon/early medieval
Period 5	Thirteenth to 15th century
Period 6	Sixteenth century to present

The site archive and artefactual collection has been deposited with Cheltenham Museum, and microfilm of the archive with the NMR. Selected supporting data is available at www-foundations.co.uk.

THE SITE

Period 1 First/2nd century

Area 3 (Figs 4 and 5)

A former river course [558] was located running east–west across the southern part of Area 3 (Fig. 7). This was sloping sided and flat-bottomed, 8m wide and 0.55m deep, and filled with a base layer of sand sealed by gravel. Alluvial sand deposits lay on either side, cut to the north by three ditches [550] (Fig. 7) and [533] which were perhaps associated with each other, and ditch [519] (Fig. 7) which cut the first two.

The palaeochannel [558] would have been part of a former stream bed running west onto the Severn Vale. The alluvial spread, which was only present on either side of [558], is likely to represent flood deposits from the channel. That the ditches to the north cut the deposit may indicate a better controlled drainage regime by the Roman period.

A few sherds of 1st to 2nd-century pottery were found in both the lower and upper fill of channel [558]. The alluvial layer contained a substantial assemblage of early 2nd-century date. Pottery from ditch [550] was mid to late 2nd century and from [519] was late 1st to mid 2nd century.

Period 2 Third to later 4th century

Area 1 (Figs 3 and 5)

A steep-sided and flat-based hearth [252] contained a layer of limestone slabs laid flat (Fig. 7) Beneath these was a thin deposit of ash and on them was burnt sandy material with patches of burnt clay. The feature had been cut by a steep-sided, flat-based gully [250], filled with dark loam; a similar gully [212] continued its curving line to the south. Two other gullies with similar profiles, [242] and [196], lay to the south. Gully [250] had been cut by a steep-sides ditch with a rounded basal slot [185] (Fig. 7)

which came to a marked butt end. This seems likely to have been contemporary with two further ditches, [198] and [258], with similar deeply cut profiles (Fig. 7). All three ditches contained successions of differently coloured sandy fills giving the appearance of deliberate backfilling. Ditch [198] was cut by an enclosure set out within the area defined by [185] and [198]. This was marked by a shallow ditch [216] filled with stoney grey loam. A recut on the southern side [264] had a slightly different profile and a darker loam fill, and it was this which cut ditch [198].

East of these features were two spreads of grey-brown loam (10) and (15) lying directly on the natural surface and up to 0.15m thick. Layer (10) contained numbers of limestone fragments some as large as 0.31m across and both produced quantities of animal bone. Other features datable by their pottery fills to Period 2 comprised pits [92] and [162], which were shallow, and [234] and [244] which were flat-based and steep sided and c. 0.4m deep. Features without dating evidence comprised a number of possible truncated postholes to the east of the enclosures, [204], [206], [208] and [210] in a group to the north and [242], [246] and [292] to the south. Other similar shallow features were [143] and [104] near to pit [92], and [164], [166], [168] and [172] close to pit [162]. There was also a shallow depression [268].

Area 2

Ditch [369] was another steep-sided ditch similar to [185], [198] and [258], running on the same alignment as [258] (Fig. 7).

Area 3

In the northern part of the area the Period 1 ditches [519] and [533] were cut by a steep-sided ditch [531]. To its east was a pit [583].

Interpretation and dating

The most coherent features from Period 2 are the steep-sided ditches found in all three areas. Although similar and on the same alignment none of the southern three, [258], [369] and [531], can be directly linked with each other. The first two ditches are separated by a distance of 10m, perhaps the width of a droveway possibly leading down to the area of the Period 1 channel. Of the three substantial, sharply cut ditches to the west of Area 1, [185] and [198] suggest an enclosure with an entrance marked on its north side by an elaborate additional setting [214] perhaps for a timber structure. This was subsequently replaced by the enclosure marked by [216] and [264], although contemporaneity is possible with the southern recutting [264] perhaps indicating a reuse of the enclosure after [198] had infilled. Earlier, before the use of these enclosures some occupation was indicated by the hearth [152] and the gullies. Of these latter, gully [196] gave the appearance of a beam-slot trench and so might indicate timber buildings.

The two spreads, (10) and (15), represent material deposited over a long period judging by the date and range of their pottery contents – both continuing to late in the Roman period. Though they appear to be the remains of dumped material, the difference in average sherd sizes suggests they may have served different functions

(see below for the pottery evidence). They are a clear indication of domestic occupation nearby and are presumably to be associated at one point with the enclosure marked by [185] and [192] with its possible entrance facing the spreads.

The spread layer (10), contained a coin of 335–41 (Cat. no.1), two bracelets (cat. nos 1 and 2), iron nails and a collar (cat. nos 10 and 12) and a fragment of window glass (Cat. no 11). The other spread layer, (15), contained a second 4th-century coin (Cat. no. 2), a bone hairpin (Cat. no. 4), an iron ?razor, cleaver and horseshoe (Cat. nos 6, 8 and 13). Pit [92] contained a candlestick indicative of high-status occupation (Cat. no. 7), a glass bead (Cat. no. 3) and hobnails (Cat. no. 5).

For the pottery evidence, the Area 1 gully [250] was 2nd century with an intrusive Saxon sherd and gully [242] was late Roman. Pottery from [185]/[214] was 4th century and from [198] was 2nd or 3rd century, including a Severn Valley ware bowl (Fig. 11.1). The subsequent enclosure [216]/[264] was dated by 4th century pottery in [216] which also included a Malvernian ware bowl (Fig. 11.2). Ditch [258] contained pottery ranging from the 2nd to late 3rd or 4th century while ditch [369] was 3rd century, the collection including two Severn Valley ware jars and the substantial part of a Severn Valley ware tankard (Fig. 11.3–5).

Pottery from the spread (10) totalled *c.* 8kg and was of 2nd to 4th-century date with the latest pieces indicating disuse of the area after 360. The large average sherd weight (14.6g) suggests this was a midden. The range of material was quite diverse with Severn Valley ware jars, bowls and tankards, Oxfordshire ware dishes, mortaria and bowls, Midlands shelly ware, a Midlands grog-tempered storage jar, Dorset black burnished ware bowls and a large number of Malvernian wares with jars, plain rimmed dishes and lids. An equally large group came from the other spread, layer (15), but this had a lower average sherd size of 10.5 g suggesting a different history of deposition. As well as the wares in (10), the latest again indicating a date after 360, there were also 13 sherds of samian.

Of the pits [92] was 3rd century, [234] was late 3rd or early 4th-century, [583] was 3rd/4th century, and [244] was late Roman.

Quantities of animal bone, with cattle bones particularly marked, came from dumps (10 and 15), the assemblage indicating butchery. In particular the cattle assemblage from (15) included a high proportion of head and foot bones, possibly indicative of the dumping of primary butchery waste. Dog bones were also present. Ditch [264] contained half a cattle skull while a tibia from ditch [216] had been sawn and polished and may indicate bone-working.

Period 3 Later Roman/?Saxon

Area 1 (Figs 4 and 5)

Six closely aligned north–south running ditches and gullies were excavated on the west side of the area. Gully [192] was shallow and filled with grey brown loam (Fig. 7). It came to two clear ends. Parallel to it were three further gullies, [254], [274] and [277], with similar profiles and fills of medium to dark grey sandy loam. The butt end of [192] to the north was cut by a wider and deeper gully [218] with a similar profile and fill (Fig. 7). Parallel to [218] was the final gully in this area [202] (Fig. 7). To the east was pit [75], which had steep sides to a depth of 0.8m in the small section

excavated. Of these features gullies [202], [218] and [277] cut across the Period 2 ditch and enclosure features.

Area 2

The alignment of the Area 1 ditches was picked up in this area though offset slightly to the west. To the east ditch [367] was steep-sided and 0.25m deep. An east–west running trench [371] with a steep-sided profile may have been associated with it (Fig. 7). Part of another similar trench [401] lay on the same alignment to the north and both these ditches cut the Period 2 ditch [369]. This layout had been replaced by a c. 0.4m deep palisade trench [365] with a steep post or fence setting facing east marked by limestone fragments at its base (Fig. 7). At its north end, the trench divided into two narrower but deeper gullies, [389] and [391], both steep-sided but with the palisade line and stone base to the east. All these features had a similar silt fill.

Area 3

North of the Period 1 palaeochannel an east–west running channel was excavated [552]. This was 5.5m wide and 0.8m deep with steep sides and an irregular flat base. At the base of the ditch was a large number of limestone slabs up to 0.28m across lying beneath a fill of dark grey green sandy silt, possibly with organic material.

Interpretation and dating

The north–south oriented ditches laid out across the Period 2 ditches in Area 1 mark the abandonment of the earlier enclosures. The four short lengths of gully to the south of Area 1, three of the four with southern terminals and all four terminating to the north, might be an indication of the replacement of entrance features across the boundary. In Area 2, though stratigraphically unrelated, [367] may have been replaced by [365] with ditch [371] having originally been contemporary with [367]. The profile of [365] and the apparent post-pads at its base suggest a palisade or fence facing east, perhaps with revetting a bank to the west. Both the north–south running features appear to have terminated short of the new river course [552], itself slightly to the north of the Period 1 channel in Area 3.

With regard to the pottery dating, in Area 1 [277] and [218] contained later Roman pottery, including a possible North Gaulish mortarium in [218] (Fig. 11.6), while [192] and [202] contained single sherds of possible sub-Roman and 6th to 8th-century Saxon pottery respectively. Gully [202] also contained three late-Roman shelly ware sherds. Pit [75] contained a single Saxon sherd (Fig. 11.8). In Area 2 the latest sherds from ditches [367] and [389] were 2nd and 3rd-century in date respectively, and from [371] and [391] were late Roman, while [365] had a possible sub-Roman sherd present as well as Roman pottery including a sherd of shelly ware. Four Saxon sherds, including one of the 6th to 8th-century, were present in the fills of the river course [552] in Area 3 indicating that infilling did not take place until the later Saxon period at the earliest. A Roman and a Saxon sherd are illustrated (Fig. 11.7, 9). While the Saxon sherd in [202] may be regarded as intrusive, the two possible sub-Roman sherds suggest a later Roman/early post-Roman date for Period 3. Considering this in the light of the evidence for longevity of boundaries, it would

seem that Period 3 at Cleeve Hall has good grounds for being considered as belonging in part to the early post-Roman centuries.

Period 4 Saxon/?early medieval

Areas 1 and 2 (Figs 3, 4 and 6)

A first phase was marked by east–west running ditches none deeper than 0.6m. Ditch 18 was V-sectioned and its line was marked to the west after a gap by ditch [194] which was deeper and had a different steep-sided and flat-based profile but a similar fill. At its west end ditch [18] cut a shallow gully [200], which terminated just south of [18]. To its west toward its north end, ditch [288], though shallower, was similar in profile to [194], while parallel to [18] to the east was ditch [24] with a similar depth, profile and fill. Ditches [18] and [24] were contemporary with a north–south running ditch [11] which turned at a slight angle to the south of [24] and thence beyond the excavation edge. Two other north–south running ditches, unlike [11], cut the east–west running ditch [18]. Ditch [236] was V-sectioned while ditch [90] had a U-shaped base. It had a similar fill to ditch [11]. To the north a short length of ditch [94] ran parallel with it. This was only 0.1m deep and was flat-based, and perhaps truncated. Of these ditches [194], [200], [236] and [288] cut Period 3 ditches, while ditch [11] cut the Period 2 spread (10).

In Area 2 three ditches ran parallel, the middle one, [373], being much deeper at 0.74m than the 0.24m depth of [359] and the 0.45m depth of [381]. Fills of all three were similar but [381] also contained burnt stone, charcoal and flecks of burnt daub. All three ditches cut the north–south running ditches of Periods 2 and 3.

In the south-eastern corner of Area 1 was a group of similarly aligned gullies with butt ends marking an apparent northern termination. These comprised [50], [122], [124], [137] and [139]. Those running north–south were shallow sloping-sided and flat-based trenches ranging from 0.07m to 0.11m in depth, while the east–west running gully [124] had a shallow V-shaped profile, 0.18m deep. This cut the infilled [122]. All the group had similar fills with limestone fragments present in [50]. The alignment of the group was the same as the line of ditches [18] and [24] with the latter perhaps marking the north side of an enclosed area. To their east, and cutting trench [139], ditch [141] was not fully sectioned but was steep-sided and flat-based, 0.58m deep and at least 1m wide.

The 1995 evaluation trench showed that there were no further north–south running ditches for 20m to the east of ditch [11] though two parallel, closely spaced east–west running ditches were recorded (Ings 1995, figs 2 and 3).

Interpretation and dating

A set of east–west and north–south running ditches marked the Period 4 layout. The evidence for the relationship of the north–south running ditches in Area 1 with ditch [18] was contradictory with ditch [18] cutting one, contemporary with another and cut by two further ones. The evidence would suggest that the differences in plan could represent the recutting of some of the ditches and that the layout could be seen as contemporary. In Area 1 the line of the westernmost north–south ditch respected the butt ends of the two westernmost east–west ditches, and, similarly, the easternmost

north–south ditch changed its alignment exactly at the point where it cut across east–west ditch [24]. It may have been the case that other boundaries associated with the ditches – banks, hedges or drystone walls – remained although their ditches were no longer functioning. The excavated ditches appear to delineate long rectangular enclosures. There is a suggestion that two different layouts, one to the west and one to the east, met on a north–south line at the west side of Area 1. The greater depth and width of [373] to the west may suggest it was not contemporary with the ditches on either side – the distance between [359] and [381] matches that between [236] and [90] to the east. The pottery evidence (see below) might suggest that the western layout was the earlier, or that it went out of use earlier.

The flat-based trenches in Area 1 in its south-east corner may be an indication of the placement trenches for the footings of a timber building or buildings. Trench [50] was not seen to run south but [137] and [139] may have been obliterated by later activity to its north. Both [50] and [122] terminated more or less on a straight line northward. A relationship between the trenches and ditch [24] can be argued with a structure or structures occupying a rectangular area marked on two sides by [24] and the change in the southern alignment of [11] after it had crossed [24]. Ditch [141] may mark its east side in a second phase with trench [137] replacing trench [139]. The ditch may belong with the north–south running ditches.

The average sherd size of the Period 4 pottery at 10g was markedly less than that for Period 3 indicating greater redeposition. There was no pottery dating from the shallow building trenches in Area 1, but ditch [141] contained four possibly late-Saxon sherds all from the same vessel and two Roman sherds. Ditch [24] contained a few sherds of Roman pottery but also some, presumably intrusive, fragments of medieval or post-medieval ceramic building material. Ditch [18] similarly combined a large group of Roman pottery with a single sherd of Saxon organic-tempered ware, and, presumably intrusive, seven medieval sherds. Ditch [194] contained only Roman pottery. The three east–west running ditches in Area 2 all contained only Roman pottery with the exception of a possible sub-Roman sherd in [373]. Similarly the north–south running Area 1 ditches all contained Roman pottery as a dominant proportion but there were also later ceramics. Ditch [236] also contained one 6th to 8th-century sherd and one 9th to 10th-century sherd (Fig. 11.10), ditch [200] two presumably intrusive 13th to 14th-century sherds, ditch [90] seven presumably intrusive 12th to 14th-century sherds; ditch [94] one Saxon and one medieval sherd; and finally ditch [11] six sherds of 11th to 13th-century date. The east–west ditch from evaluation trench 1 contained only Roman pottery.

In addition to the pottery, an iron rod came from ditch [195], while ditch [90] also contained a fallow deer bone suggesting a Norman date or later.

The continuing presence of Romano-British material cannot rule out a late or sub-Roman origin for Period 4, and this is discussed further in the final discussion section. The Saxon material from [141] can perhaps be used to date the possible structure to its west. Other Saxon material occurs with earlier ceramics. The end of the Period 4 layout would be datable by the medieval potsherds, on the proviso that the two sherds from ditch [200] and the later medieval and post-medieval material from [18] and [24] are regarded as intrusive, and an early date in the date range for the other medieval ceramics is adopted.

Period 5 Medieval, 13th to 15th century

Area 1

In Area 1 part of a substantial wall foundation [48] was found set in a foundation trench [154]. An initial above ground course, 0.16m high, survived in places. In the excavated area the footings had been widened to accommodate a stone-sided culvert running from north to south. A flat-based trench [81] leading to and exiting from the culvert on either side of the wall gave the impression that a former stone lining had been robbed. Within the wall foundations, two large base limestone blocks, over 1m long, and the coursed stone sides of the culvert itself remained, with the drain fills of grey silt undisturbed. Trench [79] on the north side of the wall ran parallel with drain [81] to abutt wall footings [48] and may have been a robbed out wall trench.

A line of regularly spaced substantial postpits was recorded to the north. From west to east these were [180], [107], [62/98], [28], and [101]. Their depths varied from 0.35 to 0.53m and all contained grey brown silty fills. Packing stones were present in [98] and a burnt deposit, or perhaps evidence of in situ burning in [107]. Ten metres west of [180] and on the same line postpit [238] was 0.27m deep with a dark loam fill. Other circular features between the fence line and the wall, [44], [46], [58], [60] and [176] may belong to this period. All were no more than shallow scoops.

At the northern end of the Area a kiln was excavated (Fig. 8). This had been cut across the line of the Period 4 ditch [90]. The kiln comprised a pit [224] with a flue pit [230] to the south, both forming a keyhole shape in plan. The depth of the kiln was 1.05m and the flue pit 0.96m both having near vertical sides and a flat base. A stone side to the kiln pit survived later activity on the west side and comprised seven courses of heavily burnt limestone blocks. Red sandy burnt clay (227) was present in the base of the kiln pit to a depth of 0.06m. This lay beneath rubble backfills containing burnt stones. Subsequently a 0.71m wide stone wall foundation [115] was built across the pit. This substantial feature was trench built, seven courses deep set on larger rubble at the base, unmortared and built up on both sides with three slight offsets. The random presence of heavily burnt stones in the foundation suggested reuse of stone from the kiln sides (Fig. 8). No other trace of the wall to east or west was found. A building must be assumed here, lying for the most part outside the excavation and presumably built directly onto the natural surface except where [115] gave a solid foundation across the disturbed pit backfill.

Area 3

A steep-sided flat based ditch [539] running north–south was 0.43m deep and filled with silt, stone rubble and organic material. A relationship was not directly established with a cesspit [537] to the south but they may have been associated.

Interpretation and dating

Though slight there was evidence of stone buildings in this period lying principally beyond the excavation limits of Area 1 both to the north and to the south-east. The presence of a deep foundation across the kiln pit and the absence of any indication of footings on the natural surface to either side is curious but the depth and width of footing [115] must bear witness to more than a boundary wall and be evidence of the southern wall line of a building. Equally the single wall [48] in the south-east was too

substantial to represent a boundary and again must be an indication of a building to the east. These are likely to have been contemporary with the bishop of Worcester's palace in the 13th century and it is tempting to associate the limekiln with the latter's construction. The culverting of water and drains must also be an indication of a high status dwelling. The line of postpits continuing the Period 4 boundary alignments would suggest the retention of the Period 4 layout when the site was prepared for Cleeve Hall.

Two pins (cat. nos 15 and 16) came from trench [79] and scoop [176].

Only Roman pottery came from the kiln and building features at the north of Area 1. The culvert fills beneath the wall to the south-east contained a single sherd of 10th to 13th-century pottery amongst Roman sherds. The postpits also contained Roman pottery with 12th to 16th-century pottery present in the disturbed top of the fill of [107] and medieval tile present in [28]. Pit [238] on the same line to the west contained a sherd of 10th to 11th-century pottery. Pit [46] to the south contained pottery only datable as medieval and [58] pottery dated 10th to 12th century. In Area 3 [539] produced sherds of 12th to 14th-century date and [537] 13th to 14th-century material.

Period 6 Post-medieval, 16th century to present

Many of the features from the final phases of activity may be associated with the formal gardens of Cleeve Hall in the post-medieval period. Two north-south running walls were located in Area 3 close to the building. Wall [546] was 1.2m wide and survived to a height of 0.37m while at the eastern end of evaluation trench 3 a stone wall foundation at least 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep had been uncovered earlier (Ings 1995). Between the two walls was a later cobbled exterior surface cut by a path of mortared limestone blocks [544]. West of wall [546] two stone-sided culverts with capping stones, [527] and [529], joined together to run westward in a single stone-sided drain [501]. A similar culvert with stone sides and cover [581] was located to the south; this had been reused by a modern drain.

In Area 2 three slight trenches, [387], [402] and [403], 0.5m to 1m wide laid out at right angles to each other were interpretable as formal garden borders. To their north were two large pits [379] and [395].

In Area 1 were other features relating to the house. A large oval feature [109] with silty fills was clearly a pond. Nearby but at an earlier date there had been a large, circular, 1m deep pit [30] which might have been an earlier pond. In the north-west angle was a gravelled path [003] and in the south-east corner was a wide track [16]. This latter overlay a pit [69] and the cut [128] for a horse burial. A ditch [65] was located to the south of Area 1. Other features comprised pit [182], and scoops or postholes [178], [189] and [271].

Of particular note in the collection of finds from these upper levels was the fragment of painted window glass and the window came (Cat. nos 23 and 24) indicative of a late-medieval good quality building.

THE FINDS

Coins

Roman Paul Booth

- 1 Obverse: CONS] TANS AUG, reverse: Gloria Exercitus 1 standard; mint illegible; unworn/slightly worn; 335–41, layer 10, Period 2; SF 2
- 2 Obverse: IUL CRISPUS . NOBL CC, reverse CAESARUM NOSTRORUM VOT X in wreath; worn/slightly worn; c. 320–4, layer 15, Period 2; SF 14
The obverse legend of no. 2 is puzzling – the end perhaps intended for NOBIL C. The mintmark was a star perhaps followed by a T. It may have been deliberately damaged.

Medieval Martin Allen

- 3 Elizabeth I (1558–1603), silver penny, privy mark Crescent (1587–90), weight 0.43 g (chipped and cracked). SF 32
The coin shows considerable signs of wear, suggesting that it was a 17th-century loss. The recoinage of pre-1662 hammered silver coins in 1696–8 provides a probable *terminus ante quem*.

Post-medieval Ian Scott

- 4 SF 29 A token of Hans Krauwinkel Mid–late 16th century. SF 29
5 and 6 Late 19th century (very worn), SFs 9 and 40

Objects of flint Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

The excavations produced three flints (Fig. 9). These are all residual artefacts in later archaeological contexts, but are indicative of earlier prehistoric activity. A bladelet from context 364 (SF 3), exhibits a proximal notch and appears to have been prepared for snapping using the micro-burin technique. This procedure was never completed, possibly as the blade has a twisted profile and the resulting blank would not be appropriate for microlith manufacture. The use of the micro-burin technique indicates this flint dates from the Mesolithic. A leaf-shaped arrowhead from context 8 (SF 4) exhibits a tip resharpened by additional retouch, presumably after the original tip was broken; this artefact dates from the early Neolithic. The final flint was a fragmentary knife from context 179 (SF 26), possibly of plano-convex form, which on typological grounds dates from the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

These three flints offer little insight into the character of Mesolithic and Neolithic activity in the area, but serve to indicate a human presence in the landscape surrounding the excavations over several millennia.

Small finds H.E.M. Cool

The excavations produced an assemblage of small finds that is dominated by Roman material. Nine items that can be securely identified as Roman came from Period 2 contexts (nos 1–7, 9 and 11) and the bone shank fragment from a Period 5 context (no. 15) is also highly likely to be of that date as well. No diagnostic items of the early or late Saxon period were recovered. Medieval material was scarce and only represented by items such as ‘sewing pins (no. 16 from a Period 5 context) and lace tags (nos 19 and 20) that are long-lived forms as much used in the post-medieval period as earlier. Of some interest for the later occupation in the vicinity are the fragments of painted window glass (no. 22). These are indicative of a late medieval glazed building of some pretension. Unfortunately this item and the lead (no. 24) that would also have come from a glazed window were found unstratified.

The Roman material contains one item that strongly suggests that there may have been an elite dwelling such as a villa in the vicinity. This is the multi-directional iron candlestick no. 7. This is a relatively uncommon form of candlestick when compared, for example, to iron tripod candlesticks with a single socket though they would probably have functioned in the same way, i.e. at any one time one of the sockets would have acted as the candlestick and the other three would have been used as the legs. They appear to have been in use during the late 3rd to early 4th centuries, though this relatively narrow date range may say more about the small number from dated contexts, than be an accurate reflection of their date. The discovery of this example in pit 92 which also contained 3rd-century pottery is a welcome addition to the corpus. The small number known have been recovered mainly from forts and larger towns with only one having been found at a villa (for a full discussion see Eckardt 2002, 254). It is not a type that is to be expected in the home of the rural peasantry, and this example may well have derived from the villa occupation.

Another relatively uncommon item of Roman equipment is the iron knife with a loop handle from context 15. Such forms are normally interpreted as razors (e.g. Manning 1985, 111 types 6 and 7). The fragment of window glass no. 11 from the Period 2 spread context 10 hints at a glazed building somewhere in the vicinity. It is of the cast type that was common in the 1st to 3rd centuries, so would suggest glazing prior to the 4th century when blown window glass became normal.

The rest of the Roman assemblage is dominated by personal ornaments as is often the case. These are all of common types. Biconical blue glass beads such as no. 3 were a type that was in use from at least the late 2nd century (Guido 1978, 98), but were still being strung on necklaces in the 4th century (see for example Crummy 1983, 33, no. 961). The hairpin (no. 4) has a simple knob head and is relatively short, both features which would suggest a late Roman date (Crummy 1984, 22, type 3). The shank fragment no. 15 is most likely to come from another hairpin of Roman date but cannot be more closely dated. The Period 2 spread context 10 produced fragments of two bracelets. Simple shale bracelets such as no. 1 are not closely dateable. In general the wearing of copper alloy bracelets was a 4th-century fashion in Britain but penannular bracelets such as no. 2 are an exception to this, and examples with grooved terminals are known in 2nd-century contexts. The wearing of penannular bracelets seems to be a particularly regional fashion in the 2nd and 3rd centuries in this area of Gloucestershire (Cool in Miles *et al.* 2007, 346). The pottery from this context indicates a 2nd to 4th-century date of accumulation, and it might be suspected that this example comes from the earlier part of that range.

Another find that reflects local habits of life is the lead plug that would have repaired a large pottery vessel (no. 9). Repairs to a samian vessel and possibly to a

DOR BB1 jar have also been noted in the pottery report (p. 000). Repairing pottery vessels with lead plugs and cramps is a province-wide habit but a pattern of extraordinarily high levels of repair is becoming apparent on rural sites in this area (Cool in Miles *et al.* 2007, 346). The reason for this is unknown, but would appear to go beyond the purely utilitarian as it is occurring on sites that show no stress in their pottery supply.

The other items of Romano-British date require little comment. The group of hobnails from Period 2 pit 92 (no. 4) probably came from a shoe that was deposited in it as three retain a curve that would be suitable if coming from a heel. Shoes could often be very heavily nailed, but ones are also known with light nailing patterns. An adult size 4 shoe from Billingsgate, for example, only had 25 nails (Rhodes 1980, fig. 61.570) so the 19 recorded from this pit would be adequate for a single shoe. All the other items found stratified in Period 2 contexts with one exception fit happily within a Roman *milieu* though items such as the iron cleaver (no. 8) and the iron collar for a pole or possibly wheel fitting (no. 12) are not inherently dateable. The exception is the horseshoe nail no. 13 from context 15 which must be a medieval intrusion.

The later material also calls for relatively little comment as the significance of the fragment of late medieval window glass, probably from a border design, has already been commented on. Of particular interest is the pruning knife no. 21 from an unstratified context. The presence of a bolster clearly indicates a post-medieval, or later, date and presumably this was lost by one of the gardeners responsible for the upkeep of the gardens of Cleeve Hall.

Catalogue (Fig. 10)

Period 2

- 1 Bracelet; shale. Pointed oval section; diameter approximately 60mm (20% extant); section 5.5 x 3.5mm (context 10, SF 25).
- 2 Bracelet; copper alloy. Shallow 'D'-section, penannular with tapering rounded terminal, three grooves across terminal; other end broken. Present length *c.* 60mm, section 4 x 2mm (context 10, SF 22).
- 3 Bead: glass. Long biconical; deep blue appearing opaque. Length 11mm, maximum diameter 4mm, perforation diameter 1.5mm (context 93, SF 30).
- 4 Hairpin; bone. Ovoid knob head; oval-sectioned shank possibly re-sharpened at end. Length 67mm, head length 10mm, section 8mm (context 15, SF 17).
- 5 Hobnails; iron. 16 individual examples and a group of three corroded together in a curve. Length of best preserved examples 11–13mm, head diameter 9mm (context 93, SF 21).
- 6 Razor (?); iron. Straight handle tapering at one end with is curved round to form a ring. Small step to straight-edged blade and slightly convex back; front of blade missing. Present length 90mm, length of handle 48mm, diameter of ring 14mm, width of blade 14mm (context 15, SF 18).
- 7 Multi-dimensional candlestick now much fragmented. Iron. Remnants of four arms, three of which were definitely socketed. Length of arm *c.* 45mm, socket diameter *c.* 18mm (context 93, SF 19).
- 8 Cleaver; iron. Tang with back of blade; back of blade follows the line of the tang. Front of blade and tip of tang missing. Depth of blade 45mm, present length of tang 65mm (context 15, SF 15).

- 9 Pottery repair plug; lead alloy. Approximately circular. Diameter 51 x 53mm, weight 103g (context 13, SF 13).
- 10 Nails; iron. Many fragmented fragments but including three head and shank fragments (context 10, SF 39).
- 11 Window glass; blue/green. Cast matt/glossy. 3cm² (context 10, SF 43).
- 12 Collar; iron. Rectangular-sectioned strap bent into ring, one part of circumference fragmented. Section 38 x 10mm; diameter of collar 130mm (context 10, SF 23).
- 13 Horseshoe nail; iron. Flat 'D'-shaped head with bent shank. Width of head 13mm, original length c. 41mm (context 15, SF 16).

Period 4

- 14 Rod; iron. Two fragment of square-sectioned rod. Length 80 and 130mm, section 4mm (context 195, SF 27).

Period 5

- 15 Shank fragment; bone. Circular-sectioned shank, both ends broken. Present length 23mm, section 3mm (context 78, SF 24).
- 16 'Sewing' pin. Copper alloy. Wire shank with wound globular head. Length 24mm (context 175, SF 28).

Period 6

- 17 Part of clock mechanism; copper alloy. Disc with small 'T'-shaped key-hole and fragments of additional sheets fastened to main one by small iron rivets. Diameter 44mm, thickness 1mm (context 545, SF 33).
- 18 Handle plate (?); bone. Part of rectangular plate. Upper face decorated by three grooves parallel to narrow end, two grooves parallel to long edges, internally divided into rectangular panels with four horizontal grooves. Panel has three vertical lines of circular ring and dots, outer ones are single ring and dot, central row has double ring. Second panel broken across rectangular slot. Small iron rivet shank through ring and dot panel. Lower face has three grooves parallel to upper end. Present length 53mm, section 18 x 1mm (context 17, SF 17).
- 19 Lace tag; copper alloy sheet with small perforation at top. Length 27mm, section 2mm (u/s, SF 10).
- 20 Lace tag. Copper alloy sheet with small perforation at top. Length 26mm, section 2mm. (u/s, SF 5)
- 21 Pruning knife; iron. Tapering square-sectioned tang; cylindrical bolster; straight-backed blade curving over at tip with slightly concave blade edge, tip broken off. Length 165mm, length of tang 62mm, section of bolster 15mm, maximum width of blade 29mm (u/s context 23, SF 38)
- 23 Painted window glass fragment. Upper part of rectangular or square quarry. Painted design of circular flower formed of six petals. Also two other fragments. Width 50mm, present length 40mm (u/s context 992, SF 12)
- 24 Came; lead alloy. Highly corroded H-shaped with precise details obscured. Length 45mm (u/s context 992, SF 11).
- 25 Disc; oolitic limestone (?). Diameter 81mm, thickness 30mm (u/s context 2, SF 37).
- 26 Sheet fragment; copper alloy. Dimensions 10.5 x 3mm (u/s, SF 8).

The pottery by Jane Timby

Introduction

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of a large assemblage of some 5480 sherds of pottery (82.6 kg) dating to the Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. Pottery was recovered from 171 individual contexts not all of which could be phased and in essence approximately half the assemblage had to be treated as unstratified. The material was of variable condition with some very well-preserved sherds, in some cases joining pieces, and some much abraded pieces. The average sherd size of 15 g reflects this variability being typical of non-primary rubbish material which has been subjected to some disturbance. Mixed in with the pottery was a considerable amount of ceramic building material: tile, brick and fired clay.

The assemblage is very much dominated by sherds of Roman date which account for 92% by sherd count and weight. In many cases essentially Roman groups have one or two sherds of later date or post-Roman tile mixed in. Either there has been some surface contamination of Roman fills, or some of the groups have been entirely redeposited through post-Roman soil movement.

Methodology

The pottery was sorted into fabrics largely following, where possible, the Gloucester City Unit type fabric system (TF 00: Ireland 1983; Vince 1983). For the Roman material a concordance was made with the fabric codes used for the National Roman fabric series (Tomber and Dore 1998) (see Table 1). The Roman assemblage was quantified by sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalents (EVE) based on the rims, for each context. The post-Roman material was quantified by sherd count and weight (Tables 2–4). In addition to the recorded material there were 182 very small fragments, 320 g in weight, which were not sorted. The ceramic building material (CBM) was noted as present and dated where possible. Most of the pieces were in very fragmentary state precluding secure dating. The resulting pottery and CBM data was placed on an Excel spreadsheet a copy of which is deposited with the site archive.

As most of the fabrics are well known documented types no extensive fabric descriptions are included for the Roman, medieval and post-medieval wares. The Saxon sherds are described in more detail. In the following report brief descriptions are given of the composition of the assemblages in terms of form and fabrics for the Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval groups as a whole.

Period details

Roman (Table 1)

As noted above, Roman wares account for 92% of the total assemblage by count and weight. In terms of date the pottery includes material spanning the later 1st century AD through to the later 4th century, with particular emphasis on the later Roman period. Although a fairly diverse range of wares are present the assemblage overall is very much dominated by three fabrics and, in particular, Severn Valley wares, which effectively account for 59% of the Roman assemblage. Also well represented are

products of the Dorset black burnished industry and local Roman Malvernian wares accounting for a further 10.7% and 13.6% by sherd count respectively.

The earliest wares in the group are those in the later Iron Age tradition, local handmade types which continue to feature in assemblages well into the 1st century AD and possibly slightly beyond. These include Malvernian rock-tempered wares (as Peacock 1968 group A wares; Tomber and Dore 1998, 147, fabric MAL RE A; Glos type fabric TF 18), Malvernian limestone-tempered wares, MAL RE B (Peacock 1968, Group B; Glos type fabrics TF 33 and TF 216) and grog-tempered wares (Glos TF 2A). Potentially contemporary with these wares are early wheelmade and handmade products of the Severn Valley ware industry (Glos TF 11D, 17) (*cf.* Timby 1990). The first continental imports manifest themselves in this assemblage in the 2nd century with Central Gaulish samian. This accounts for 1.9% of the total Roman assemblage, quite a respectable figure for a 'rural' site. This figure compares well with the 1% from the villa site at Frocester (Timby 2000) but is significantly lower than might be expected from urban assemblages such as those from Gloucester or Cirencester. Other imports include single sherds of a Gallic amphora and of a Moselle black-slip beaker which might be of later 2nd or 3rd-century date and the substantial part of a mortarium (Fig. 11. 6). With the exception of the samian there is little other identifiable 2nd-century material present and most of this occurs redeposited in later contexts. A small amount of Gloucester kiln ware probably also dates from the 2nd century including a slightly unusual vessel probably a tazza (Fig. 11.7).

Activity seems to have picked up from the later 2nd century in terms of the dumping of rubbish including pottery. Several of the ditches and other features appear to be abandoned in the 3rd century probably to be replaced by others. Material of 3rd to 4th-century date dominates although the repertoire is quite limited. Most common are Severn Valley wares and grey or black Malvernian wares (Fig. 11. 1–5). Present in lesser amounts are products of the Dorset black-burnished industry, Oxfordshire, the New Forest and the Midlands, the latter including Midlands shelly ware (ROB SH) and pink grog-tempered storage jar (PNK GT). Sherds of Midlands late Roman shelly ware are quite common – 51 sherds in total, indicating much activity from the last quarter of the 4th century probably into the 5th. This is particularly well-represented in Area I.

The Roman assemblage as a whole is quite limited being very much dominated by the products of two local very long-lived industries. The conservative nature of the vessel repertoire and the consistent fabric of these industries between the 2nd and 4th centuries makes it difficult to date unfeatured sherds accurately.

Saxon (Table 2)

At least 27 handmade sherds of Saxon character are present. These include a variety of fabrics, the most easily recognisable being an organic-tempered ware thought to date to between the 6th–8th centuries in this region. A single sherd of Gloucester oolitic ware TF 41A probably dates to the later Saxon period (Fig. 11. 10). Other non-organic wares may be of earlier or mid to later Saxon date. One possibility is that these could relate to sub-Roman activity. Unfortunately none of the material can be independently dated and most of the sherds occur with Roman material.

Six separate fabrics can be defined from the Cleeve Hall assemblage some of which have featured in material from excavation south of Church Road where a programme of petrological analysis was carried out (Vince 2007). Only two small

rimsherds were present within the group both from small jars (Fig.11.8–9). The remainder of the material comprised plain bodysherds probably also from jars. One sherd from (237) showed some internal blackening or residue remains.

Description of fabrics

Organic tempered (SXORG): A fine, slightly micaceous, ware, light grey or orange brown in colour. The paste contains a sparse to moderate frequency of quite coarse organic matter along with a scatter of other inclusions including fine rounded quartz and linear voids, possibly shell. Thin section analysis of similar material from Bishop's Cleeve (Vince 2007) would suggest a clay source from the Middle and Upper Lias clay of the Severn Valley and these vessels are likely to be locally made.

Limestone-tempered ware (SXTLI): An oxidised ware with a grey core. The paste is very fine and smooth, with very fine mica and a sparse to moderate frequency of irregular mainly fine voids from dissolved calcareous inclusions.

Limestone and shell-tempered ware (SXCALC): A number of slight variants are subsumed here linked by potential sources from the Jurassic outcrops. One sherd from (97) is black in colour, with a hard, rough-textured fabric containing rare rounded quartz, limestone and voids. A sherd from (193) has an oxidised interior and a patchy orange and grey exterior. The finely micaceous paste contained a moderate frequency of discrete oolites, up to 1 mm across and rare fossil shell. Rare quartz and limestone are also present, rare fragments up to 3 mm across

Sandstone-tempered (SXSST): A black ware or with a red-brown exterior and black core. Very hard with a rough texture. The paste contains a common frequency of sub-angular, faceted, well-sorted fine quartz (less than 0.5 mm) and rare fragments of quartz sandstone. Sandstone-tempered wares are common in the Midlands in the Anglo-Saxon period. Thin section analysis of comparable examples has led Vince (2007) to suggest a potential source from the quaternary sands derived from Carboniferous and Triassic sandstones in the Avon Valley, Warwickshire.

Igneous rock and organic-tempered (SXIGOR): A patchily fired brown and grey ware with a smooth feel. The finely micaceous paste contains sparse to moderate organic material and a sparse frequency of igneous rock of granitic character (felspar, biotite and quartz), larger grains up to 5 mm in size, some discrete grains of quartzite and possibly some sandstone. A variant of this ware with additional Jurassic limestone was analysed from Oldacre's Mill and these sherds may broadly belong to the same group. It was concluded that the clay was locally obtained but that granite from a different source had been added (Vince 2007).

Limestone-tempered with iron pellets (SXLIFE): A grey handmade ware with an orange interior. In fresh fracture the paste contains a moderate frequency of limestone, both discrete oolites and semi-crystalline rock, rarer fossil shell and occasional rounded fine quartz grains. On the surfaces these inclusions are largely represented by voids. One distinctive feature of the clay is the sparse to moderate frequency of red-brown ferruginous inclusions up to 1 mm in size scattered throughout.

The 27 sherds were distributed across a wide variety of features and with two exceptions all are single occurrences mixed in with Roman material. Ditch [552] contained four sherds; two examples of fabric SXORG and two of fabric SXIGOR, whilst ditch [142] contains four sherds of SXLIFE undoubtedly from the same vessel. Thirteen sherds in total come from unphased contexts or machining. The other sherds came from ditches [18], [94], [192], [236], [250], [365] and [373] and from pit [75]

and gully [202]. The TF 41A cooking pot came from ditch [236] associated with Roman sherds. It was suggested from work at Gloucester that this ware probably appeared around *c.* 900 or earlier (Vince 1983, 125). To date the only other site where TF 41A has been found in association with handmade Saxon material suggesting an overlap of traditions is Churchdown, near Gloucester (Timby 2005).

The small assemblage of Saxon sherds from Cleeve Hall very much reflect the same diversity of fabric found in the much larger assemblage from south of Church Road (Lovell *et al.* 2007). It was concluded from this material that most of the pottery could potentially have been made fairly locally to the site and that it might be personal preference or other cultural considerations which led the potters to select different materials. Alternatively the pottery may have been supplied by a series of potters in the Severn Valley and along the Cotswold scarp. One problem with the Saxon material from Bishop's Cleeve is that it cannot at present be tied down chronologically and could potentially date anywhere within the five centuries between the Roman and medieval periods. This in itself could account for the apparent diversity.

Medieval (Table 3)

Medieval wares proper were surprisingly sparse and these sherds only account for 3% by count of the overall assemblage, some 170 sherds (Table 3). Prominent types include Malvern Chase cooking-pots, one vessel of Minety ware, and odd sherds of Bath fabric A (TF 48), Gloucester fabric TF43, Herefordshire cooking-pot and Worcester jug. A particular fine base from a decorated glazed Brill-Boarstall type (Buckinghamshire) jug came from a Period 5 pit or ditch [537] in Area 2.

The majority of the medieval vessels were cooking wares with higher status glazed tablewares being very much in the minority. This contrasts with similarly dated assemblages from the Stoke Road site which produced a rich variety of glazed tableware (Timby 2002). This may well be down to the fact that the site was occupied by buildings at this time.

Post-medieval (Table 4)

Post-medieval/modern pottery accounts for 4.5% of the total assemblage by count, some 246 sherds (Table 4). There is a wide diversity of types spanning the four centuries to the present. Amongst the earlier late medieval/early post-medieval wares are glazed wares of the Malvern Chase/ Herefordshire Border industry. This is another long-lived industry spanning the 12th to 17th centuries. Several glazed Malvernian tiles are also present.

Amongst the later wares are examples of imported Westerwald and Siegburg stoneware, porcelain, 18th-century tin-glazed and salt-glazed wares, glazed and unglazed red earthenware, Devon gravel-tempered ware, slip-decorated buff wares, Staffordshire iron-glazed ware and miscellaneous china.

Discussion

This assemblage is one of many to be recently excavated from Bishops Cleeve and at present is probably the largest to date. Although most of the sites are in close

proximity to one another the chronological emphasis as revealed by the pottery shows some considerable differences. The earliest pottery found dates to the early Bronze Age and this was recovered from south of Church Road (Timby 2007). Evidence of early Bronze Age, early or middle Iron Age occupation was found at the site of the Saxon cemetery to the south-west (Woodward 2000). Later prehistoric activity, in particular that dating to the middle and later Iron Ages was encountered during excavations at Gilder's Paddock (Parry 1999) to the north-east of Cleeve Hall. The Church Road excavations south of Gilder's Paddock also produced a modest assemblage of later prehistoric comparable with that from Gilder's Paddock. No later prehistoric pottery was encountered on the sites at Stoke Road or Home Farm.

All the sites mentioned above with the exception of the Saxon cemetery site have produced Romano-British pottery. That from Gilder's Paddock only amounted to some 139 sherds spanning the 2nd to 4th centuries (Hancocks 1999). No late Roman material was identified. The Roman component of the Oldacre's Mill assemblage, some 279 sherds, also spans the mid to later 2nd century through to the 4th century. In this case there is evidence of some late 4th-century wares and in general the range of material very much mirrors that from Cleeve Hall. Slightly more Romano-British pottery was recovered from the work at Stoke Road with 436 sherds largely dating to the later Roman period (Timby 2002). A much more substantial assemblage was recovered from Home Farm (Timby 1998) with some 2007 sherds spanning the later 1st century through to the later 4th century although still considerably less than the 5000 or so sherds from Cleeve Hall suggesting this may have been near the core of the Roman settlement.

Of particular interest from some of the Bishop's Cleeve sites is the evidence for Saxon activity from the pottery evidence. The highest concentration of such material to date has come from the site south of Church Road with some 158 sherds. This is followed by Cleeve Hall with its 27 sherds. The Stoke Road site yielded just four sherds whilst Home Farm produced 17 sherds. Of note across all these assemblages is the presence of a diversity of fabrics although it is perhaps not yet possible to say to what extent these are contemporary or might represent a moderately wide timespan.

Medieval pottery was found at Gilder's Paddock, Stoke Road, Cleeve Hall and south of Church Road, with the highest concentration by far coming from Stoke Road largely focused on the 13–15th centuries. Subsequent activity may have removed much of the activity dating to this period.

In conclusion activity seems to have been particularly intense at Cleeve Hall during the later Roman period which accounts for the bulk of the assemblage. The character of the material suggests a rural settlement of modest status with few continental or regional imports. Tablewares are poorly represented and there are, for example, few mortaria and no flagons and only one amphora, all wares normally associated with Roman cuisine and dining practices. The small amount of Saxon material present, whilst not including any featured pieces, is a valuable addition to the growing evidence of sub-Roman, early, middle and late Saxon activity in the area. There are few other known sites in Gloucestershire that can hint at such continuity of activity during this period from the ceramic evidence.

Catalogue of illustrated sherds

1. Round-bodied bowl with an angular flanged rim with an internal bead. Fabric: SVWO OX. Layer 197, ditch [198], Period 2.
2. Malvernian ware dish decorated with a burnished line lattice on the interior. Fabric: MAL RE A (TF 18). Layer 217, ditch [216], Period 2.
3. Wide-mouthed jar. Fabric: SVW OX. Layer 368, ditch [369], Period 2.
4. Wide-mouthed jar. Fabric: SVW OX. Layer 368, ditch [369], Period 2.
5. Severn Valley ware oxidised tankard. Fabric: SVW OX (11B). Layer 368, ditch [369], Period 2.
6. Mortarium with few surviving trituration grits. Very worn on the lower half but also with a very thin base which may have reduced its life. Some concentric scoring on the upper half and scrape marks on the exterior. A cream, slightly powdery fabric with some rounded quartz, feldspar, ferruginous grains and cream clay pellets. Possibly Northern Gaulish. Layer 219, ditch [218], Period 3.
7. Rim probably from a tazza with a decorated inner face. Internally blackened with a light grey exterior. Possibly fabric 11A (Gloucester kiln ware). Layer 551, ditch [552], Period 3.
8. Small rim fragments from a handmade jar in a hard, black ware. Fabric: SXSST. Layer 76, pit [75], Period 3.
9. Small rim fragment, grey/brown in colour from a handmade small jar. Fabric: SXORG. Layer 551, ditch 552, Period 3.
10. Handmade jar with a sharply everted rim. Oxidised exterior and grey interior and core. Fabric: Glos. 41A. (?Late Saxon). Layer 239, ditch [236], Period 4.

Reference

Timby, J, 2005 Pottery and tile, pp 89-91 in P. W. Nichols, Excavations at St Andrew's Church, Churchdown, 2000, *Trans Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc* **123**, 87-93

Animal bones Mark Maltby

The following text is based on an initial assessment report. This was predicated on a dating of the periods that saw Periods 1–4 as Romano-British. In view of the doubts over a Roman date for Periods 3 and 4 further work on the Romano-British assemblage was not thought to be justifiable. (PE, RK)

Introduction

All animal bones recovered from stratified contexts were scanned. Details of identification and preservation were recorded. Although records of anatomies represented, butchery marks, ageing and metrical data were not made, the presence of measurable bones, and bones with ageing data was noted. Bones from Sites 2 and 3 and from the trial trenches were scanned but not recorded. They clearly contained an assemblage of mixed origins and would not be worthy of further analysis. Previous studies of Romano-British assemblages in this region have demonstrated variations in species representation, butchery practices and mortality patterns on different settlements (Maltby 1998a; 1998b).

Results

Animal bones were recorded from 142 contexts. The majority of these contexts contained Roman pottery, although some also contained some medieval and post-medieval material. Faunal samples were obtained from a wide range of feature types and layers. A total of approximately 3127 specimens were recovered, of which 1613 were not assigned to species during the scan. Samples of over 100 fragments were obtained from context (2) (Period 2 subsoil); context (10) and (15) (Period 2 spreads); and context (130) (Period 6 horse skeleton).

Surface preservation of the bones varied in different contexts. Assemblages were assigned to one of five categories on the basis of the severity of surface erosion and the degree of fragmentation. Sixty-seven of the assemblages were quite well preserved and 38 were recorded with good preservation. The remaining 37 contexts had moderately preserved assemblages. Therefore no assemblages fell into the categories of poor or very poor, which indicates that the assemblage generally was well preserved. Most of the damage to the bones had been caused by the scavenging of dogs.

Bones of cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, dog, red deer, hare, rodent, frog/toad domestic fowl, domestic goose and rook/crow were identified. Tentative identifications of hedgehog, fallow deer and other species of bird were also made. Unidentified fragments accounted for 51% of the total assemblage. Fragment counts are approximate because of the speed of the identification of the bones and the fragmentary nature of the assemblage. Counts also include bones from associated skeletons.

Cattle bones (736 fragments) were comfortably the most common species represented. Nearly 300 of these were recovered from contexts (10) and (15) (Period 2). Both contexts produced clear evidence for butchery of cattle bones and a good range of fusion and metrical data. The cattle assemblage from context (15) included quite a high proportion of cattle head and foot bones, perhaps indicating the dumping of primary butchery waste.

Several other contexts produced butchered cattle bones, some with blade marks typical of filleting marks found on some Romano-British sites. A tibia from context (217) (Period 2 fill of ditch [218]) had been sawn and polished and may be a bone-working offcut. Context (265) (Period 2 fill of ditch [264]) contained the rear half of a cattle skull and first neck vertebra. A fairly complete pair of mandibles from an adult cow were found in context (400, Period 6). As with other species, several cattle bones had traits usually indicative of a medieval or post-medieval origin.

Sheep/goat (380 fragments) were the second most commonly identified species. Preliminary identification indicated that only sheep were definitely represented. Context (382) (Period 6) included a sheep/goat tibia, which showed evidence of possible working. Context (992) (Period 6) produced four bones from the ankle joint of a sheep. The size of these bones, however, indicated a post-medieval origin. Several other contexts also included sheep bones of post-medieval date.

Pig was represented by 143 fragments, although again several of these were clearly of post-Roman origin. The skeleton in context (130) (Period 6) accounted for most of the 165 horse bones. This was in good condition, and included bones from most parts of the body. It belonged to an adult animal of quite a large size. Indeed, its size probably indicates that it is of post-Roman and probably post-medieval origin.

Only 33 dog bones were observed, of which 15 belonged to a partial skeleton recovered from context (384) (Period 6 posthole [385]). This was an adult animal of small but stocky build and bowed-legged – a type encountered on some other Romano-British sites. The large assemblage from context (15) (Period 2) included eight dog bones including a metapodial of a large type of dog.

Bones of other mammals were rarely identified during the scan and several of them were in contexts which contained post-Roman material. Two fragments were provisionally identified to deer. A red deer antler fragment was recorded in context (544) of post-medieval date. A tibia tentatively identified as fallow deer was obtained from context (91) (Period 4 fill of ditch [90]). Fallow deer are generally regarded as a Norman introduction. Further comparison with reference material would be required for this specimen to confirm its identification. Three bones of hare were identified, two from context (15) but the third from context (72), a fill which included post-Roman material.

Other bones from smaller mammals included a mandible, possibly from a hedgehog, in context (63) (posthole [62] Period 5) and eight rodent bones from context (500) – a post-medieval drain.

Thirty-seven bird bones were recovered but only two came from contexts devoid of any post-Roman contamination. A domestic fowl bones were provisionally identified from layer (119) and an ulna probably from a rook or crow was found in context (364) (Period 3 ditch [365]). Finally, five amphibian bones were noted, four in context (357) posthole [356]) and one from context (364) (Period 3 ditch [365]).

Sediments by Helen Keeley

Samples were taken from two sections cut through the Area 3 palaeochannel [558] which filled up with sediment during the Roman period. Eight samples were taken for pollen assessment by Dr Rob Scaife and his results are commensurate with a Romano-British date for the channel fill suggesting a predominantly pastoral/grassland environment almost entirely devoid of trees with indications of some arable activity within the catchment.

The archaeological and pollen evidence appears to be consistent with the Roman date. Examination of the sediments suggests that deposition was slow to start with, but that the main infilling probably occurred quite rapidly. The upper fill contained cess material, which probably seeped down as a result of post-Roman activity associated with the Hall. As the channel filled up rubbish and other debris fell or was thrown into it. On-site examination of the overlying deposits indicated that after the channel filled with sediment the surrounding areas became increasingly marshy. Garden structures associated with the Hall were built on top but the area has remained damp to this day and damp problems have been noted in the house.

Pollen analysis by Robert Scaife

Introduction

Pollen analysis was undertaken on the stream channel fills of [558] of Romano-British date from Area 3. The study was undertaken with the following aims and considering the following aspects:

- 1 to ascertain if pollen and spores are present in these sediments and if so, the state of preservation and absolute frequencies;
- 2 to provide preliminary information on the pollen taxonomic content and where possible, to do this by providing preliminary pollen diagrams;
- 3 if present, what differing vegetation environments are indicated by contained sub-fossil pollen; specifically any indications of human activity;
- 4 does the channel offer potential for more detailed and valid work in the future, that is, for reconstructing the local vegetation and environmental history which might be fitted into the regional pattern of change?

Because of the lack of suitable pollen preserving environments in Gloucestershire, there has been little previous work in this county and thus few data with which to compare the results of the present study. An exception is the analysis of shallow peat deposits of late prehistoric and Romano-British date at Latton (Wiltshire) near Cirencester (Scaife in prep.).

A total of eight samples have been examined from two sections from the sediment fills of the river channel and preliminary pollen diagrams produced for each of the profiles.

Methodology

Pollen preparation procedures used follow those of Moore and Webb (1978) and Moore *et al.* (1991). Pollen and spores were successfully extracted and preliminary counts of 200 grains of dry-land taxa plus extant marsh taxa, spores and miscellaneous microfossils were made. The data have been presented in standard pollen diagram form with the pollen of dry-land taxa forming the basic pollen sum and calculated as a percentage of their total at each level. Marsh types and spores are calculated as a percentage of the dry-land sum+the sub-group. The pollen diagrams were plotted using Tilia and Tilia Graph in the Quaternary Environmental Change Research Group, Department of Geography, University of Southampton.

The data

Two separate profiles have been examined and are characterized as follows:

Profile 1 (Fig. 12): Herbs are dominant to 95% of total pollen with very few tree and shrub taxa present. The latter comprise only long distance or regional *Quercus* and *Corlyus avellana* type. Herbs are dominated by Poaceae (65%), Lactucaeae (35%) and *Sinapis* type (18%). There is also a moderately diverse range of ruderals/weeds including *Spergula* type, *Chenopodium* type, *Polygonum aviculare* type, *Rumex* sp., *Plantago lanceolata*, *P. media/major* type and Asteraceae type. Cereal pollen is present to 5%. There are few aquatic/marsh taxa with only Cyperaceae having continuous presence to (10%). Spores comprise *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris* (monoete) type, *Polypodium* and *Sphagnum*. Ova of the intestinal parasite *Trichuris* is present in the lowest level (0.75m). Pre-Quaternary palynomorphs are present.

Absolute pollen frequencies vary from 7,600 grains/ml at the top to 62,000 grains/ml at the bottom of the profile.

Profile 2 (Fig. 13): Overall the pollen taxa are similar to those described for Profile 1. Herbs are similarly dominant with Poaceae (55%), Lactucae (22%) and Cyperaceae (to 24%). Cereal type (10%) and weed taxa of disturbed ground/arable habitats are present (*Sinapis* type, *Chenopodiaceae*, *Polygonum aviculare* type, *Persicaria maculosa* type). There are small numbers of tree and shrub pollen (*Betula*, *Quercus* and *Corylus avellana* type). *Juglans* is, however, of importance. Spores are dominated by *Pteridium aquilinum* (15%) with sporadic *Dryopteris* type, *Polypodium* and *Sphagnum* moss. Pre-Quaternary palynomorphs and ova of the intestinal parasite *Trichuris* are noted.

Inferred vegetation and environment

The taphonomy of pollen in such inorganic/alluvial channel fills is complex with the possibility of pollen being fluviially transported from farther up the catchment as well as from normal airborne means (Burrin and Scaife 1984; Scaife and Burrin 1992). In this assessment it is not possible to delimit the extent of these differing pollen components. Both profiles show that the environment of the pollen catchment was almost entirely devoid of trees and was possibly pastoral/grassland. There is also some evidence of arable activity.

There is sufficient cereal type pollen present (*Hordeum/Triticum*) to suggest that some arable activity was taking place in the catchment. Here, the cereal pollen is also associated with herb taxa (segetals) which are typical of disturbed ground and arable cultivation. These include Polygonaceae and Brassicaceae. However, it must also be considered that this arable assemblage may also be derived from secondary sources if the stream channel was used for disposal of domestic and/or animal waste or the by-products of cereal crop processing. *Trichuris* (whipworm) ova were recovered indicating the possibility of a faecal component in the sediments. It is now accepted that the pollen can become incorporated in food (eg bread) and be readily passed through the gut. This may apply to humans or animals. Whatever the derivation of the pollen, the use of cereals is implied.

In spite of the cereal component, there is a predominance of pastoral types, especially grasses which suggest that grassland/pastoral habitats were dominant locally. This may also include floodplain meadow pasture.

Its pottery content indicates that this river channel fill is of Romano-British date. This date is commensurate with the fact that woodland would certainly have been dominant during most of the Holocene including the Neolithic and early–middle Bronze Age. Studies at Latton (Scaife in prep.) show that oak, lime and hazel woodland was present during these periods but was cleared during the late prehistoric period. Furthermore, *Juglans* (walnut) is an important record. Walnut is thought to be a Roman introduction into Europe as a whole (Godwin 1975) and there is an increasing database of its pollen from England. The record here thus implies a Roman or post-Roman age for the channel sediments.

The environment of deposition

The sediments are largely inorganic except for wood from the base of the profile. This appears to be an alluvial fill deposited in a low energy fluvial environment. Pollen does not provide any further evidence than that afforded by the sedimentological

characteristics (Dr H. Keeley). Cyperaceae and a single occurrence of *Iris* may be evidence of vegetation fringing the channel.

Conclusions

There are few pollen data from this region (Gloucestershire) with only the studies of the Somerset Levels providing long sequences of vegetation/environmental change. Pollen has been successfully extracted from these sediments providing useful information on the local Romano-British environment and land use. These data show that the local area was devoid/cleared of trees and was a predominantly pastoral environment. Arable components are also present and may indicate a mixed agricultural economy. However, it is possible that the river channel was used as a repository for human and/or animal refuse and ordure. The intestinal parasite *Trichuris* may demonstrate a human or animal (pig) faecal component in the sediments. The record of *Juglans* (walnut) provides an important record of this Roman introduction.

Wood identification by Alan Chapman and Robert Scaife

Nine fragments of wood were recovered from the base of the channel. These comprised three fragments of Pomoideae (*Crataegus* type) and six fragments of Salicaceae (willow/poplar). Some of the pieces appeared to have been crudely cut or worked, perhaps chopped down with an axe. The Salicaceae all appeared to be young wood no more than five years old. A single fragment of badly degraded and compressed wood identified as *Quercus* (oak) was recovered from the interface of the silts and gravels.

These types of wood are not unexpected. Salicaceae are likely to be from willow given that the site was a river channel. However, this type cannot be separated from poplar and there is thus the possibility of the wood being this taxon. *Crataegus/Sorbus* type (hawthorn) is typical of hedgerows and scrub. *Quercus* (oak) was widespread throughout the country on many soil types.

DISCUSSION

A handful of lithics hinted at earlier prehistoric activity but no features of that date were located. No Iron Age pottery was found and, again, there were no features found prior to those of Roman or later date. The infilled watercourse [558] in Area 3, which contained Roman pottery in both its lower and upper fills, would very likely have been a significant landscape feature in prehistory. Another buried watercourse, presumably running parallel to the south, was recorded on the south side of Church Road (Lovell *et al.* 2007, fig. 5). At Stoke Road to the west, an argument could be sustained that the same watercourse was represented there by the hollow running along the south of the site parallel with Stoke Road (Enright and Watts 2002, fig. 2), where analysis pointed to the infilling of a hollow resulting from stream action – albeit with a medieval date suggested (Wilkinson and Cameron 2002). There was evidence of alluvial levees on either side of [558] and it is possible to argue that the area might have been unfavourable for occupation as a result of flooding. The pollen

analysis, bearing in mind the caveats expressed by the author, gave a picture that is likely to have an earlier relevance than the Roman period. This was of a thoroughly tamed landscape, treeless, predominantly pastoral but with indications of cereal cultivation. At the bottom of the watercourse was evidence of waterside species as well as oak and hedge species, perhaps deposited from clearance. The presence of parasites in a possibly cessy upper fill might indicate an area where cattle gathered, though a human or animal origin is more likely. Dr Keeley suggested infilling was more rapid after a longer period of gradual sedimentation with the watercourse area becoming a boggy area where rubbish could be disposed of. Excavation showed that the channel was recut slightly to the north in the post-Roman period and this might suggest a weakening of an earlier water control regime. This latter comprised, within the area excavated, the cutting of drainage channels from the north toward the watercourse. Silted up ditches are usually cleared and reused, thus the changes in layout must be seen not just as concerning water management but as expressing ownership and boundaries.

Apart from pottery very little evidence of occupation could be found for the 1st and 2nd centuries. One of the shale bracelets (cat. no. 2) and the fragment of window glass (cat. no. 11) are suggested to have been earlier than the 4th century. There were very few features to which the pottery gave a 3rd-century date and these were more readily comprehensible as part of a layout in which the main features were dated to the 4th century. Given that the bulk of the features were ditches and that the pottery contents of their fills therefore only gave a *terminus post quem* for their disuse, it is possible to argue that Period 2 could be extended back into the 3rd century. Nevertheless it is the case that at Cleeve Hall a pottery profile covering all the Roman centuries is not matched by an occupation sequence with the same lengthy timespan.

Although the great majority of Period 1 and 2 features were drainage or enclosure ditches, the presence of the hearth [252] and the spreads (10 and 15) preclude any argument for a major truncation. The spreads produced quantities of pottery with one interpreted as having collected in situ on a midden and the other, with a smaller average sherd size, perhaps having been spread from elsewhere. The other finds did not represent evidence of intense on-site occupation, with only two 4th-century coins present, paralleled by the seven at Home Farm (Barber and Walker 1998, 132). The pottery as a whole lacked high quality material. Yet the multi-dimensional candlestick is argued to be a strong indication of a villa type building nearby, with some support from the iron razor and the fragment of window glass. The evidence must suggest that the Cleeve Hall excavations lay within the suspected later Roman villa estate. The location of the building has been suggested by stone structures to the north of Cleeve Hall and by quantities of demolition evidence on the Home Farm site (Hart 1992; Barber and Walker 1998). To the west a hypocausted masonry building in the vicinity of the Stoke Road excavation is suggested by ceramic building material reused in one of the roadside plots (Plot C: Enright and Watts 2002, 69; Harrison 2002). The location of the villa buildings remains elusive with the Home Farm data the best contender. Yet the Cleeve Hall pottery assemblage is the larger suggesting its closer proximity to structures. Despite the paucity of evidence at the Cleeve Hall excavations it must remain a possibility that villa buildings lie beneath Cleeve Hall itself, the more so in view of the repeated evidence for continuity at Bishops Cleeve.

There are three possible interpretations of Periods 3 and 4. In the first interpretation, a Romano-British date for both periods could be argued on the basis of the quantities of Roman pottery present. The evidence from Home Farm to the north parallels that from Cleeve Hall in showing a succession of land use changes in the later Roman period. All the Saxon and medieval pottery present could be argued to have occurred in settling layers over the line of the disused ditches, and, indeed, very little artefactual evidence from ditch fills in general serve to date the features themselves. The Saxon and medieval pottery in Periods 3 and 4 is present in small quantities, and in a definite minority when the Roman material is included.

A second interpretation has been tentatively adopted in this report which places both periods in the post-Roman and Saxon periods albeit with Period 3 originating in the Roman period and Period 4 continuing into the medieval period. Though small the post-Roman and Saxon assemblage is not readily paralleled by other Gloucestershire excavations. There is apparent a sequence of possible sub-Roman fabrics followed by mid and late-Saxon fabrics, ending with the pre-Conquest and Conquest period wares recognised from Gloucester. The Bishops Cleeve pottery sequence, viewed aside from the activity patterns which produced it, is seen by Timby as representing a striking picture of continuity.

Even without the Saxon pottery evidence Periods 3 to 4 at Cleeve Hall would be difficult to fit into a late-Roman framework. Although, as already noted, Period 2 might be 3rd and 4th century its termination has to be later than 360AD from the pottery evidence. Period 3 then represents a quite different agricultural layout which gives every evidence of being long-lived and Period 4 gives yet again a completely new layout which again seems to have had a long life and indeed is mirrored to some extent in the securely 13th-century layout of Period 5. The changes are as important as the longevity. When and why did the Period 2 layout give way to that of Period 3 and the Period 3 layout in turn give way to Period 4? These changes cannot be packed into the last decades of the 4th century yet nor should they be lost under a 'sub-Roman' rubric.

A third interpretation would place Period 3 in the late Roman and Period 4 in the medieval periods, a course of periodisation that is often followed elsewhere. This, however, does not fit the Bishop's Cleeve pottery evidence.

There is evidence elsewhere in Bishop's Cleeve of 'sub-Roman' pottery (summarised by Timby above; Holbrook 2000, 87), and the Cleeve Hall sherds are an important addition to the evidence. At Bishop's Cleeve it is possible to build a sequence of continuity from the Roman to the medieval period which would fit within the theoretical sequence, particularly in the South-west, suggested by documentary and landscape studies and by excavation. The sequence would see the Roman villa estate continuing into the sub-Roman period, changing hands to be attached to a monastic centre, and then passing on to the crown or a high status owner, in this case to the bishopric of Worcester. At the Cleeve Hall excavation, away from the usual remains associated with such a sequence – villa building, Saxon cemetery, monastic enclosures and high status dwellings – it is possible that the more modest evidence of drainage ditches is evidence supporting the hypothesis. The date of the change from Period 2 to 3 could be seen as a late-Roman reorganisation of fields, but given that the Period 3 layout was essentially a single boundary, might it not be better seen in a post-Roman context, with the more intensive Roman land use replaced by a simpler definition of a property? For the later change it is possible to suggest that the Period 3 boundary was superseded by the more complex Period 4 layout when the estate was

passed to the bishopric of Worcester in the 8th or early 9th century. The holding may well have then been reorganised and rethought with the effects of change marked by new boundary layouts as Dyer suggests occurred in the layouts to the east associated with the church and with Cleeve Hall itself (Dyer 2002).

Fitting the layout changes into a comprehensible agrarian regime is difficult, but it is possible to argue that the Period 2 enclosures may be evidence of stock control perhaps associated with access to the watercourse, though the main north–south line in which the suggested enclosures are integrated remained significant through subsequent changes. At Home Farm a slightly similar layout was seen simply as a sinuous boundary (Barber and Walker 1998, fig. 3). Period 3 was much simpler with its line of parallel boundaries, but Period 4 is of great interest, if its dating is accepted, in the varying distances between plots – from 4 to 12m – and their length. On the edge of these plots there may have been settlements, judging by the possible enclosure and beam trenches in the south-east of Area 1.

Some slight further support for the second hypothesis outlined above comes from the Romano-British archaeology from the sites surrounding Cleeve Hall – Stoke Road, Home Farm and Church Road – where the layouts of ditch features generally hold to an orientation which differs by several degrees from the Cleeve Hall Periods 3 and 4 line. There are exceptions. At Home Farm the Period 2 garden plots and at Church Road ditches 1576 and 1649 are on the Cleeve Hall Periods 3 and 4 alignment. However at Home Farm the Period 2 layout was superceded by the overall Roman period alignment, while at Church Road feature 1576 is argued to be essentially a natural one and 1649 contained Saxon pottery.

There was little evidence of agricultural use after Period 4. Instead, from the suggested 13th-century date, the landscape seems to have been open. The limekiln may be associated with the first structural elements of the present building, and the Period 5 post line may have been equally early, though possibly part of a building. Two stone structures north of Cleeve Hall can be suggested and one may have been the location of the fine quality painted window glass found. The culverts of Period 5 and 6, attesting continuous rather than intermittent flows of water, reflect the long-standing drainage problems. Possible medieval structures were then followed by the paths, ponds, terraces belonging to the formal gardens of Cleeve Hall.

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Abstract

'Roman, Saxon and medieval occupation at Cleeve Hall, Bishops Cleeve: excavations 1998'

Pollen and sediment analyses from a former watercourse infilled in the Roman period indicated a pastoral landscape with few trees. A layout of ditches in the later Roman period was accompanied by evidence of occupation in the form of spreads of pottery and animal bone, and by an oven. An iron multi-dimensional candlestick amongst the finds suggested the proximity of a high class villa type establishment and the Cleeve Hall Roman evidence seems likely to have come from within the estate of the suspected villa at Home Farm nearby. Two subsequent landscapes of boundary ditches followed, differing from each other and from the Roman layout. A collection of diverse sherds of Saxon pottery, not closely datable, was found, together with residual Roman material. This suggests that two successive long-lasting periods of field and property boundaries can be associated with the evidence of Roman to medieval continuity argued by scholars for Bishops Cleeve. The medieval and post-medieval periods saw no further evidence of fields but instead suggestions of structures and activities associated with predecessors of Cleeve Hall and, later, with the building itself.

Fig. 1 Location maps

Fig. 2 Location of excavations

Fig. 3 Excavated features, Area 1

Fig. 4 Excavated features, Areas 2 and 3

Fig. 5 Period Plan

Fig. 6 Feature Profiles

Fig. 7 Plan and sections of kiln

Fig. 8 Flint objects

Fig. 9 Small finds

Fig. 10 Pottery

Fig. 11 Pollen profile

Fig. 12 Pollen profile

Table 1 Summary of Roman Fabrics

Table 2 Summary of Saxon pottery Fabrics

Table 3 Summary of Medieval Fabrics

Table 4 Summary of Post-medieval Fabrics

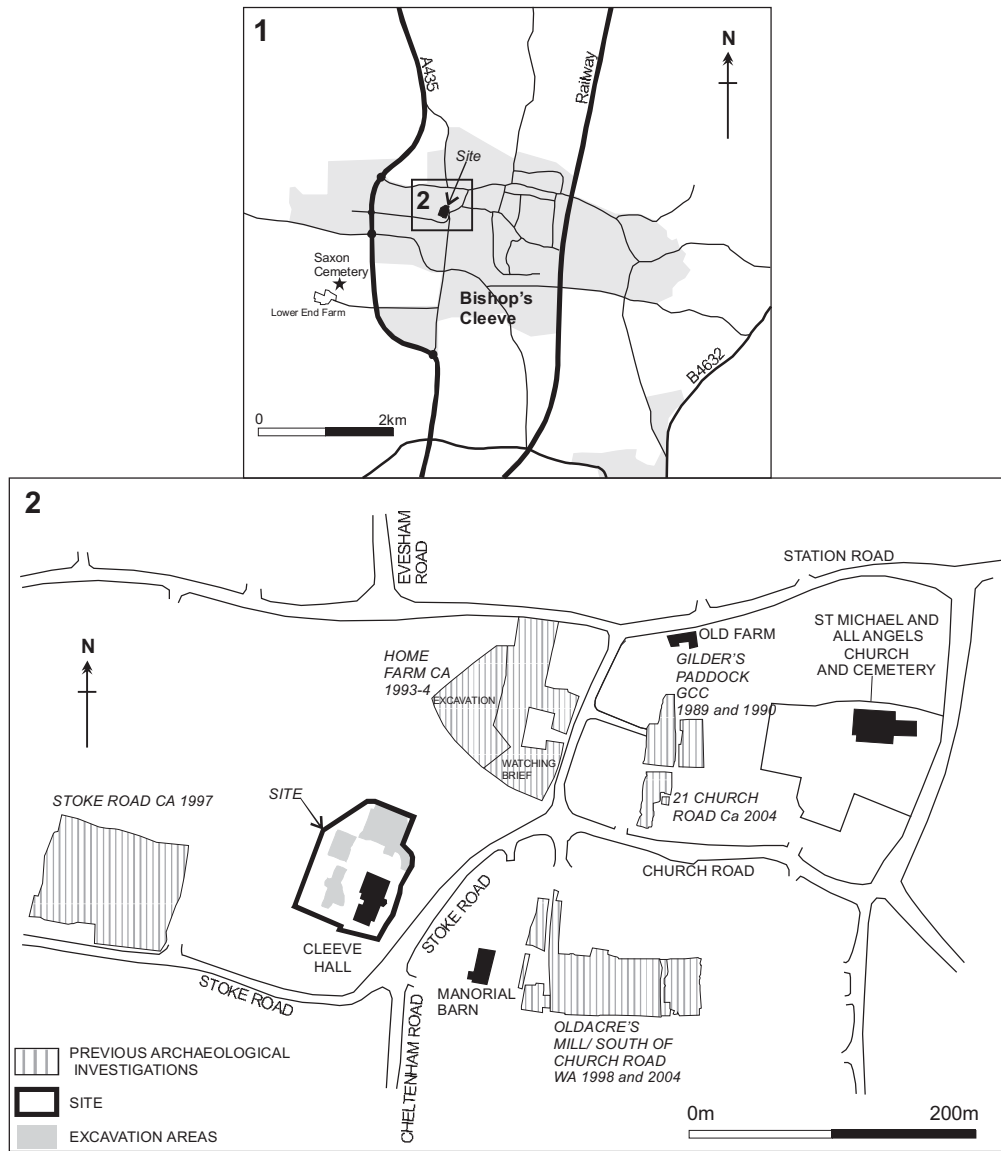


FIGURE 1

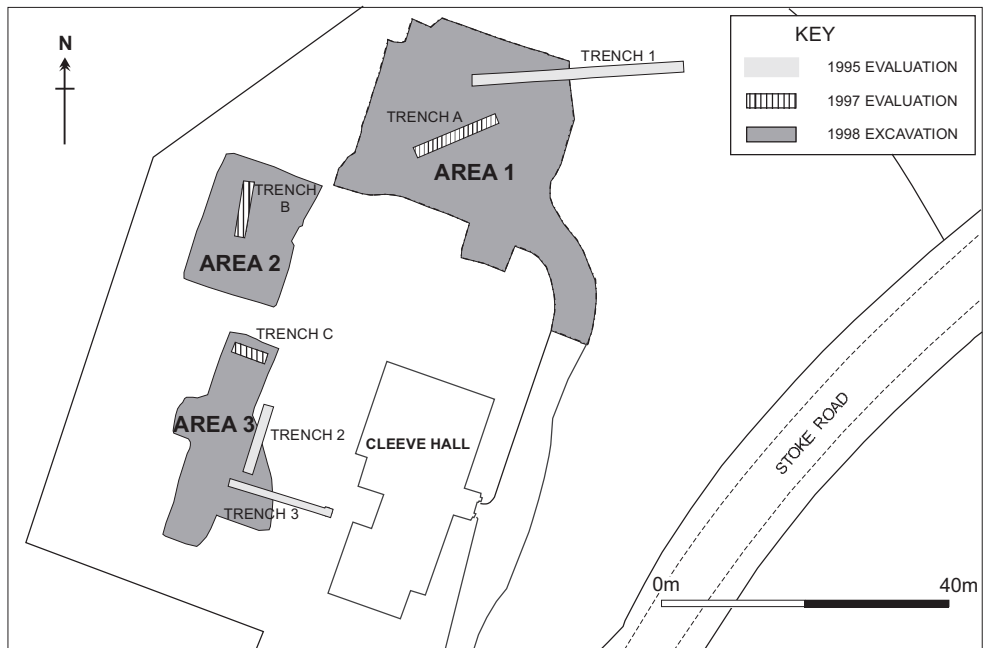


FIGURE 2

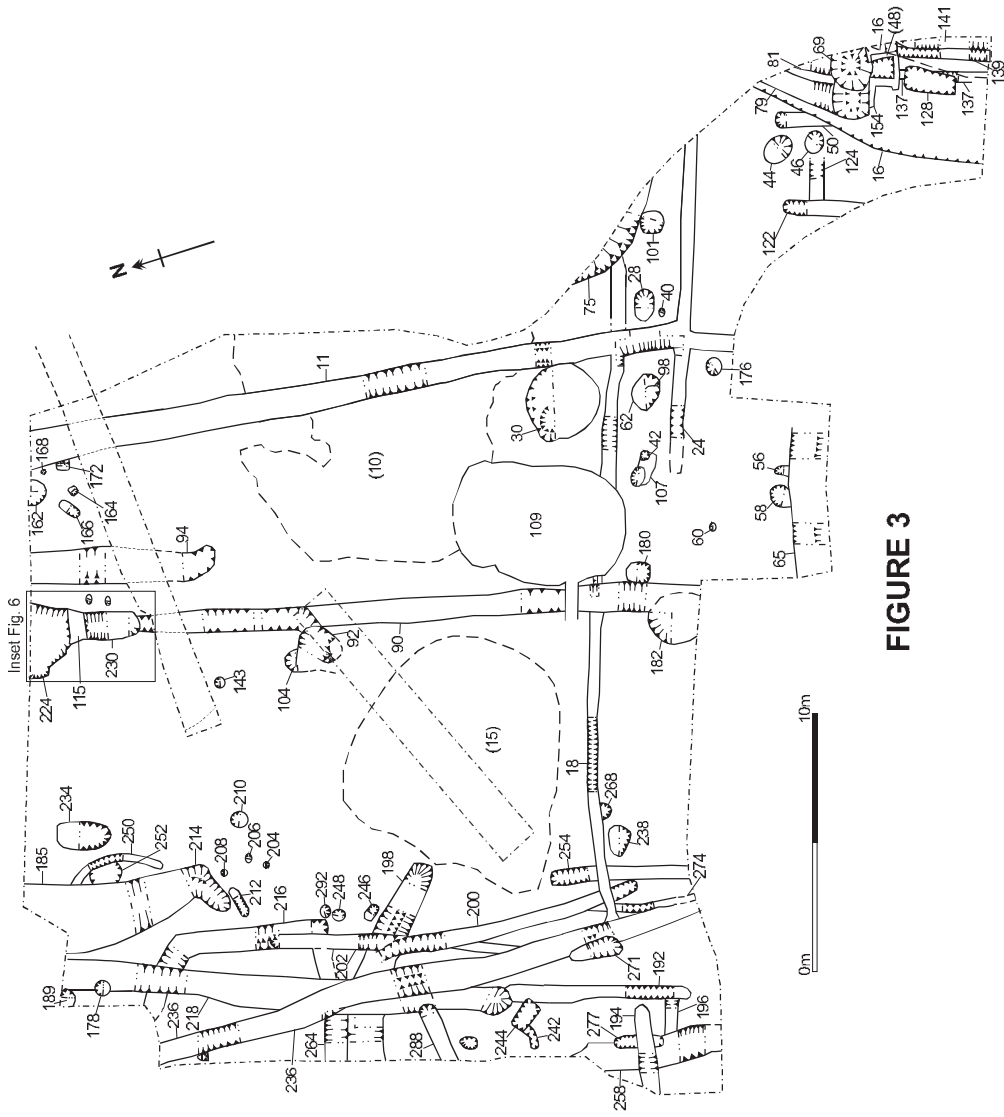


FIGURE 3

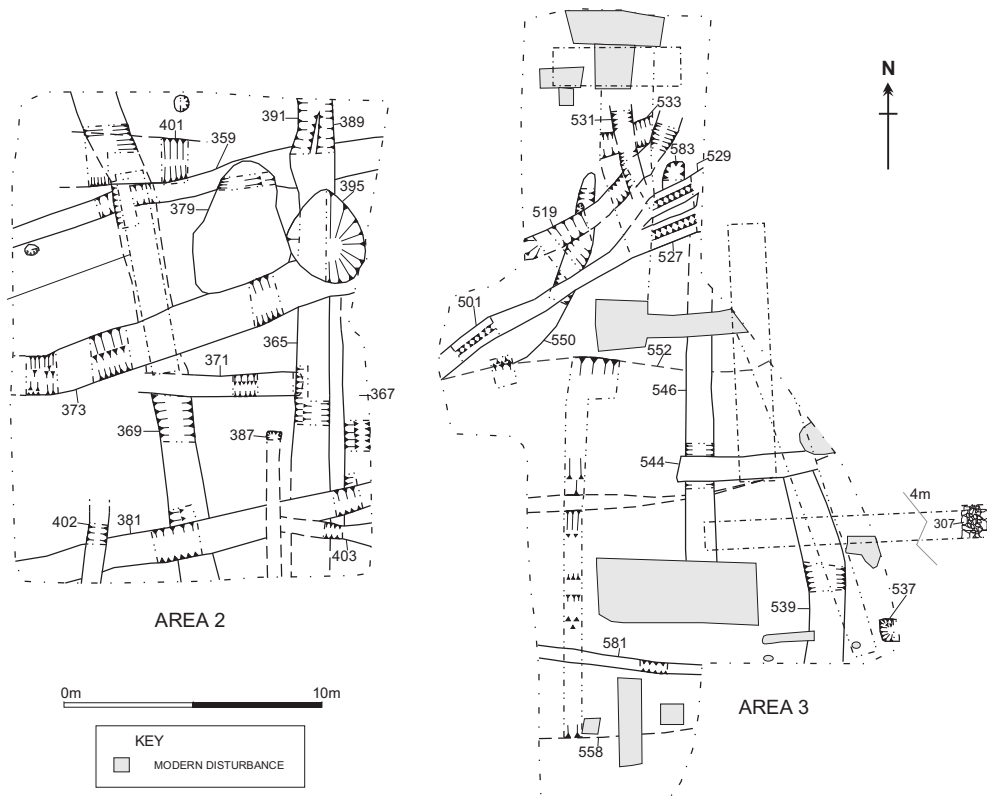


FIGURE 4

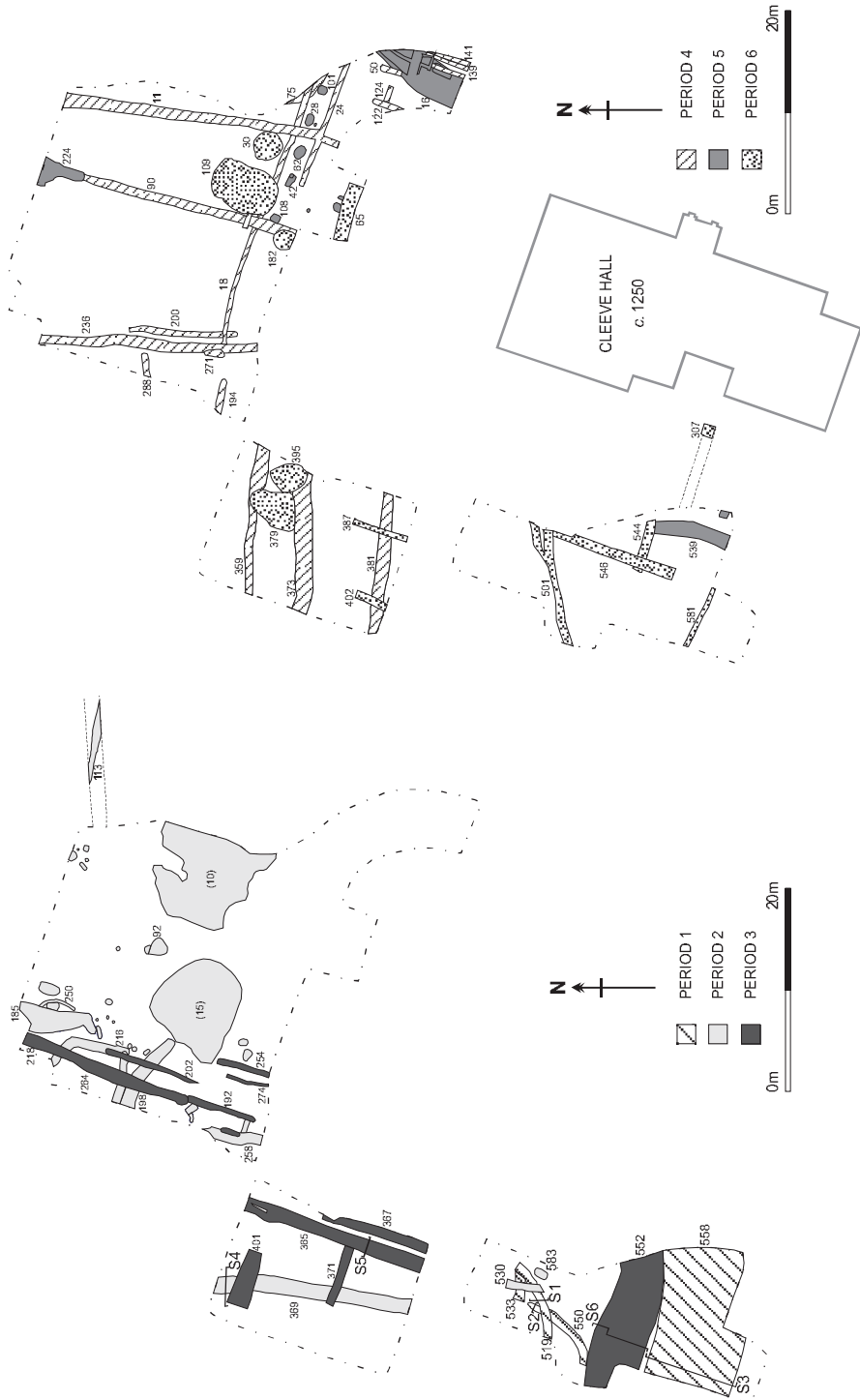


FIGURE 5

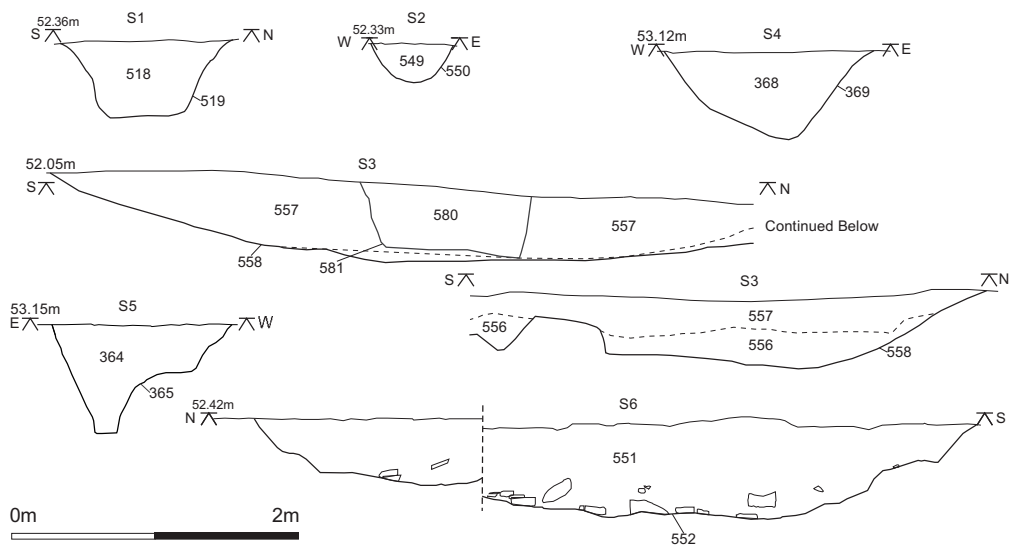


FIGURE 6

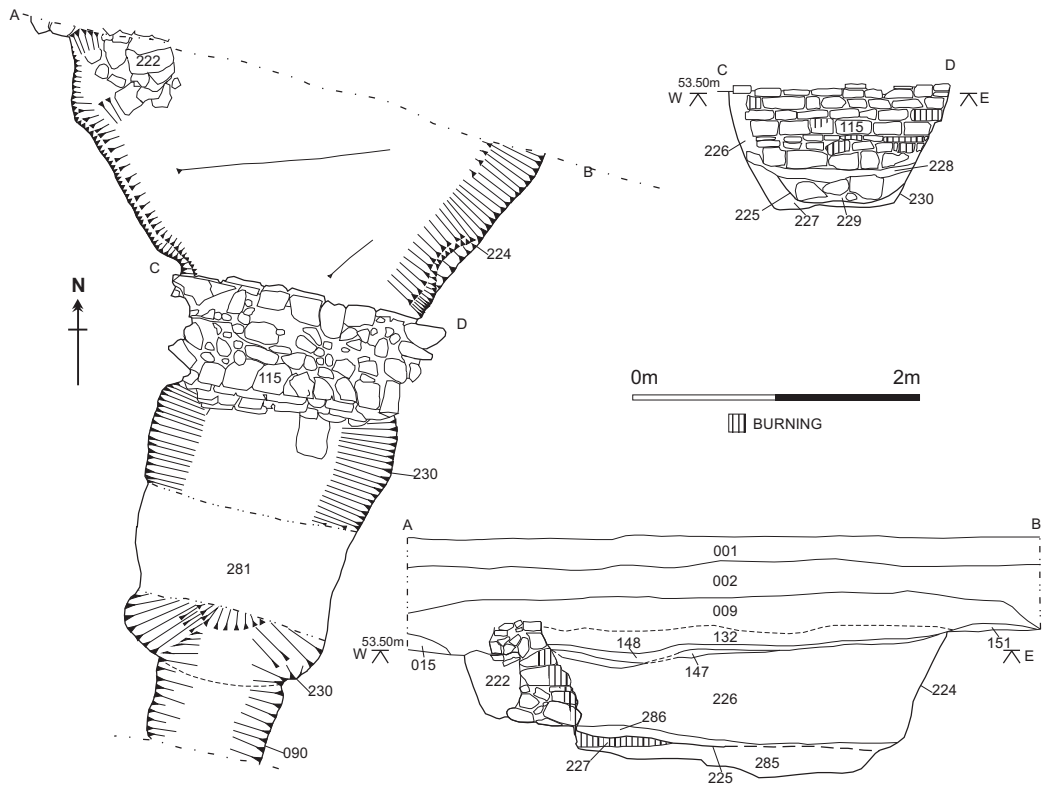
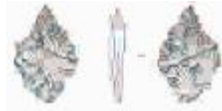


FIGURE 7



1



2



3

0cm  10cm

FIGURE 8

FIGURE 9: Small Find Illustrations

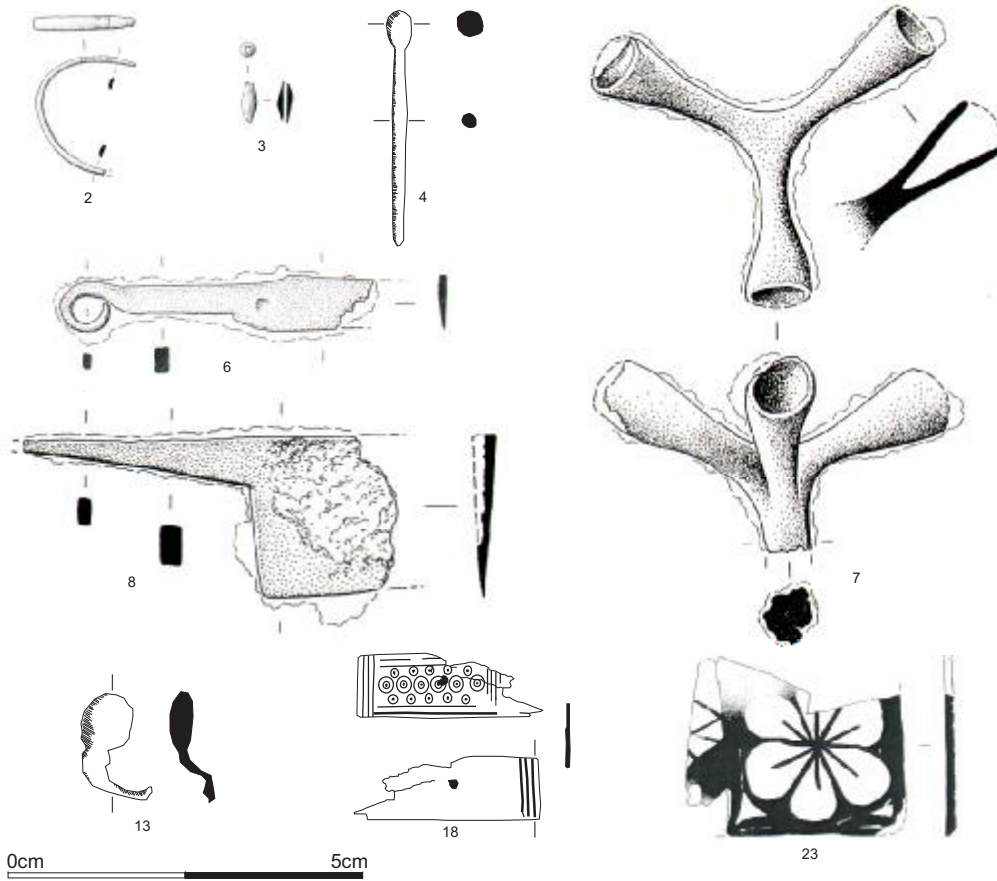


FIGURE 10: Pottery Illustrations

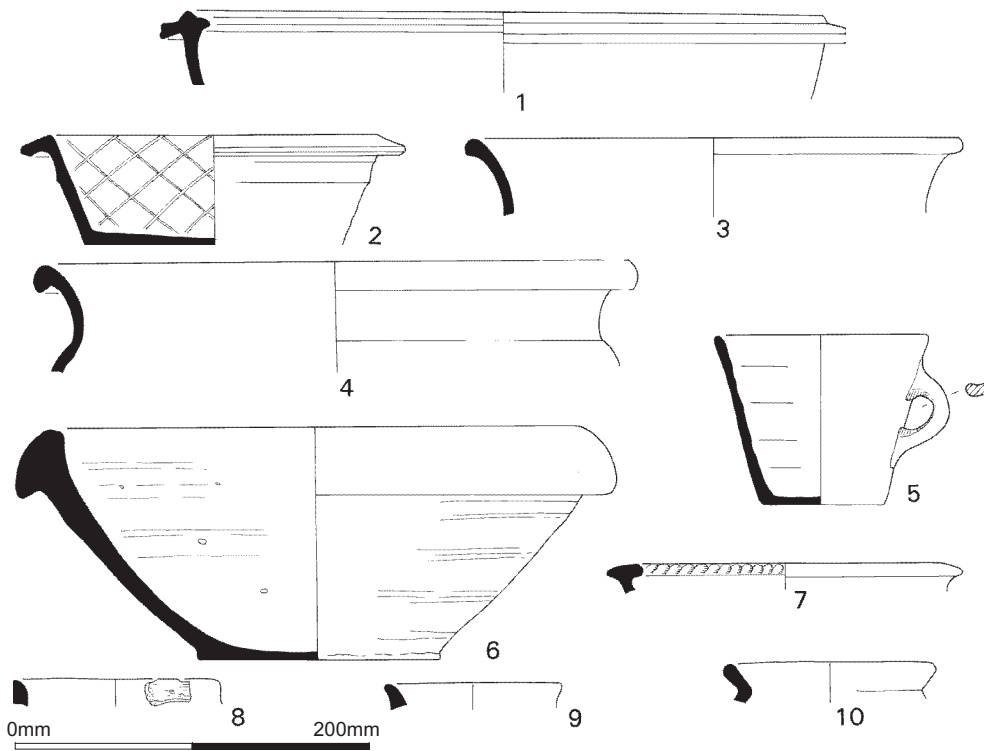
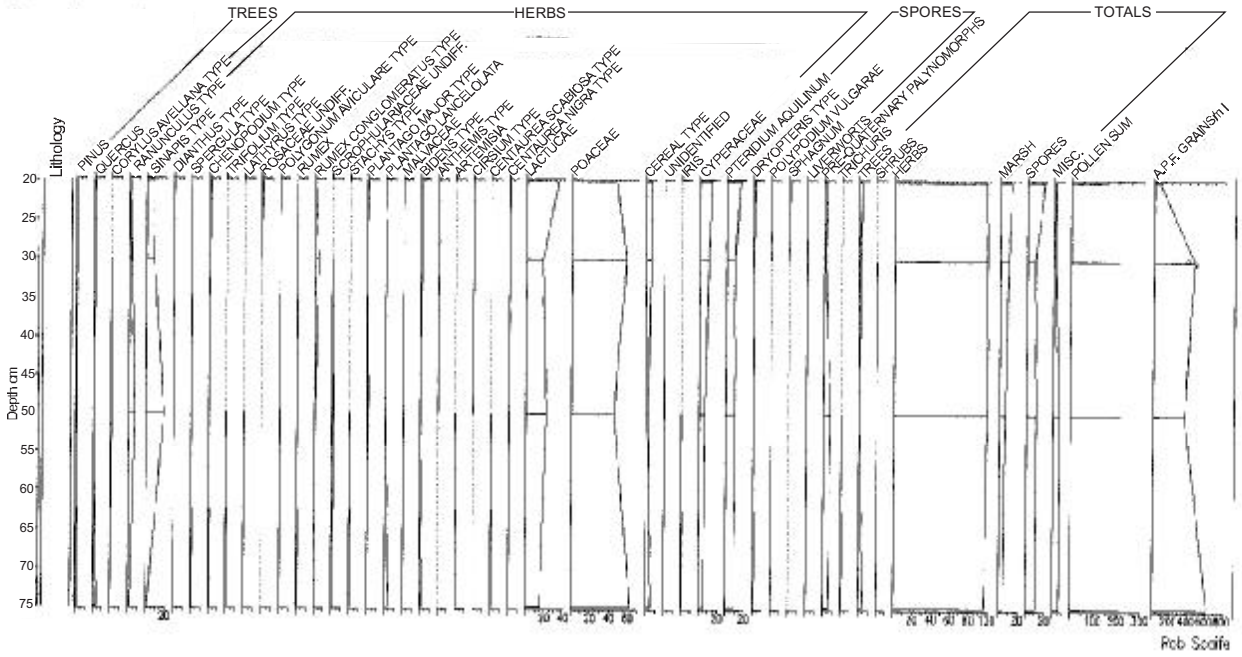


FIGURE 11: Pollen Diagram

Cleeve Hall: Section 2



	Fabric	Description	No	%	Wt	%	EVE	%
PREH		Prehistoric ware	1		3		0	0.0
ROMAN								
Native	MAL RE A	Malvernian (hm) (18)	25	0.5	338	0.4	26	0.5
	MAL RE B	Malvernian limestone (33)	41	0.8	502	0.7	23	0.4
	MAL RE B	Malvernian storage jar (216)	42	0.8	791	1.0	10	0.2
	(2A)	hm grog-tempered	76	1.5	893	1.2	37	0.7
Import	CGSAM	Central Gaulish samian (8B)	97	1.9	724	1.0	170	3.1
	MOS BS	Moselle black slip (12J)	2	0.0	5	0.0	0	0.0
	MORT	imported mortarium	5	0.1	1150	1.5	28	0.5
	GAL AM	Gallic amphorae (10B)	1	0.0	60	0.1	0	0.0
Regional	DOR BB1	Dorset black burnished ware (4)	539	10.7	4669	6.1	558	10.3
	NFO RS	New Forest colour-coated ware	3	0.0	75	0.1	32	0.6
	OXF RS	Oxon red slip ware (12A)	133	2.6	1088	1.4	122	2.2
	OXF PA	Oxon parchment ware (1A)	5	0.1	25	0.0	3	0.1
	OXF WH	Oxon whiteware (13)	6	0.1	58	0.1	0	0.0
	OXF RS M	Oxon red slip mortaria (9X)	3	0.1	163	0.2	12	0.2
	OXF WH M	Oxon whiteware mortaria (9A)	16	0.3	263	0.3	17	0.3
	OXF WS M	Oxon white-slipped mortaria (9W)	10	0.2	152	0.2	3	0.1
	PNK GT	Midlands pink grogged ware (241)	9	0.2	645	0.8	15	0.3
	ROB SH	Midlands late Roman shelly (22)	51	1.0	387	0.5	68	1.3
	SHELL	Roman shelly ware	19	0.4	211	0.3	19	0.3
	SOW WS	South-west white slipped (15A)	3	0.1	25	0.0	0	0.0
	SOW RB	South-west red burnished ware (15B)	4	0.1	10	0.0	0	0.0
Local	SVW OX	Severn Valley ware (11B)	2753	54.7	41120	54.0	3290	60.7
	SVW OX	early Severn Valley ware (11D)	29	0.6	824	1.1	48	0.9
	SVW OX	early Severn Valley ware (17)	173	3.4	6778	8.9	136	2.5
	SVW OX	storage jar (23)	4	0.1	205	0.3	0	0.0
	11A	Gloucester kiln ware	6	0.1	89	0.1	5	0.1
	5	micaceous greyware	47	0.9	666	0.9	63	1.2
	21	oolitic oxidised ware	1	0.0	10	0.0	0	0.0
	12D	local colour-coated ware	7	0.1	34	0.0	13	0.2
	GW	grey sandy ware	222	4.4	2022	2.7	128	2.4
	MAL RO	Malvernian (Roman) (19)	685	13.6	11809	15.5	592	10.9
	MISC RO	Miscellaneous Roman	12	0.2	312	0.4	5	0.1
			5029	100.0	76103	100.0	5423	100.0

Table 1: Summary of Roman Fabrics

Table 2: Summary of Saxon Fabrics

Fabric	Description	No	Wt	EVE
SXORG	organic handmade ware	7	29	2
SXLI	calcareous (shell/ limestone)	3	11	1
SXCALC	vesicular, fine oxidised	5	39	0
SXIGOR	igneous rock and organic	3	19	0
SXSST	sandstone and quartz sand	4	35	3
SXLIFE	limestone and iron pellets	4	50	0
TF 41A	late Saxon oolitic ware	1	8	3
TOTAL		27	191	9

Table 3: summary of Medieval Fabrics

Fabric	Description	No	Wt
40	Malvernian ware	77	1205
41B	Gloucester oolitic ware	40	216
42	Hereford sandy ware	10	69
43	sand and oolitic-tempered	4	16
44	Minety ware	20	239
45	St Neots ware	1	20
48	Bath fabric A	1	4
52	Malvernian ware	1	20
65	Tudor Green ware	1	4
83	Brill-Boarstall ware	7	299
90	Worcester glazed jug	1	3
MISC	miscellaneous medieval	6	45
		169	2140

Table 4: Summary of Post-medieval Fabrics

Fabric	Description	No	Wt
54	Herefordshire Border ware	47	550
60	Cistercian ware	1	4
62	tin glazed ware	17	139
66	porcelain	2	7
67	salt glazed whiteware	7	63
68	German stoneware	1	17
70	Devon gravel-tempered ware	2	27
72	slip decorated ware	11	155
74	iron glazed wares	14	158
94	Westerwald stoneware	3	127
96	English stoneware	5	140
FWPOT	unglazed flower pot/ red earthenware	33	385
GRE	glazed red earthenware	61	1967
GWE	glazed white earthenware	1	4
MIDL P	Midlands purple	1	60
CHINA	refined white earthenware	36	293
MISCPM	miscellaneous post-medieval	4	78
		246	4174