

The function of this structure is still not clear. Possibly it was once very simply roofed which might have allowed for its use as some kind of below ground cool house for storage of e.g. dairy produce, amongst other things. Post holes which may have allowed for a lifting device were found. Very little in the way of dateable material was found inside this structure but the evidence indicated it had been used during the Roman occupation. It is hoped a report on this excavation will be published in the near future, since there were many interesting small finds made here, only recently recorded by the Finds Liaison Officer.

Subsequently, excavation a further ten metres to the west of the cellar-like structure was undertaken. This area, having previously shown very high resistivity readings, revealed a level area of closely packed stone forming a courtyard which fronted a well constructed rectangular Romano-British building. This building, measuring twelve by six metres, would have been a two storey construction, with a stone lower and a timber upper storey with a tiled roof. What was eventually shown to be an eighteenth century land drain ran diagonally across the building. The building was probably constructed in the late third - early fourth centuries. There was evidence of later squatter occupation possibly from the Saxon period in both the building and the courtyard. The courtyard extended some ten metres north from this building. At the far end in a shallow depression in the cobble the grave of a middle aged female was uncovered, aligned north/south. Artifacts found with this burial suggested a date in the late fifth to early sixth centuries. In particular two "long small brooches" were found with the skeleton. This type of brooch is quite rare this far west, most having been found in the east midlands. An Osteological report prepared by Kate Brayne suggested this individual was from a fairly high status family or community and that she had died at about 45 years of age. Particularly, comment was made concerning the many dental caries found on this female, suggesting frequent access to sweetened food; in this context, honey.

In early 2008, a new curator took over the site. Subsequently, Finds Quantities were tabulated revealing that the area around the cellar-like structure had double the percentage of animal bones of any of the areas examined on the site up until then and in addition, excavation there had yielded over 40% of all pottery sherds. The rectangular building yielded most of the roofing tiles and glass and by far the largest quantity of iron nails.