Following backfilling of the rectangular building, an area that had once formed part of the courtvard was investigated. The cobble appeared to have been robbed of stone in part in this area, possibly in Tudor times as two sixteenth century coins were found in this context. However, this robbed out area was shown to overlay a thick deposit of ash and charcoal extending for several square metres, below which eventually were revealed what are now thought to be the remains of one Iron Age timber constructed roundhouse overlaving the remains of vet another much larger one. The dimensions of both have yet to be fully ascertained but the larger of the two could possibly be up to five or six metres in radius. This most recent phase of excavation has yielded many Iron Age potsherds including a fine example of imported Belgic ware. In addition two smelting hearths have been discovered in such close proximity to these remains that they could be easily envisaged as the cause of these two roundhouses burning down. Interestingly, some painted plaster, possibly depicting animal motifs, has been found in the thick ash layer here together with a zoomorphic enameled brooch in the La Tenè style, depicting a hare.

The site suffers from regular flooding and it may well be some time before excavation of these most recently discovered structures can be completed and a report produced. However, Feldon Archaeology's new Curator, Peter Spackman PIFA, has produced an interim report for the Society covering the 2008 season's activities and finds, now available on a Powerpoint disc. Without doubt this site in Burton Dassett is proving to be a fascinating and complex site, with evidence of occupation by people of different cultures from periods extending over six or possibly even seven centuries.

Reference.

Eames 2005: Feldon Archaeologial Society. Report. 2000-2003. 2005.

A disc containing the full report to date is available from: Peter Spackman, Dipl. Arch. PIFA, Director of Archaeology, 49 Brinkburn Grove, Banbury OX16 3WX. <trenchwo@yahoo.co.uk>