

The Wider Site

Excavations at Millfields, Cam, Dursley, Gloucestershire



The excavations at Cam cover 2.3 hectares of the approximately 5.3 hectare development site. That's the equivalent of over 3 football pitches of archaeology. It comprised three areas across two fields. The northern two areas, the future locations of a drain and balancing pond, revealed very little in the way of archaeology with only a handful of possible prehistoric postholes. The larger southern housing area however revealed much more, including an Iron Age post-built structure, Roman field system, Roman ovens, three human burials and, of course, the Roman Villa.

Ridge and furrow

A medieval and post-medieval form of field cultivation, present across all of the site but most visible in the north.



Left: Excavation of part of the Roman field system.



Right: Recording a slot in a shallow ditch.

Prehistoric Postholes

Amongst the Roman field systems a number of prehistoric postholes were identified including a roundhouse. This shows the pre-Roman occupation and use of the land.

Field System

A series of field boundary ditches were revealed which mainly dated to the Roman period. These are the linear features drawn in black on the plan.



Above: Hand dug slots in a field boundary ditch.

Roman Villa

The villa sits in and respects the orientation and positioning of the surrounding field system suggesting that they were in use at a similar point in history. Perhaps it is the land owner's new farmhouse?



Right: The start of excavation on the Roman villa.

Plan of Millfields, Cam Excavations with the villa shown in red.