



The Site

Excavations at Main Road, Dumbleton, Gloucestershire

The excavations at Dumbleton covered an area of approximately 0.58 hectares or just short of the size of a football pitch and have been ongoing since March this year. The L-shaped area of excavation has produced a wealth of finds and features, including ditches, pits, ditched enclosures, grain driers, a human burial and possible cremation and two cattle burials.

To carry out archaeological excavations the area first has its topsoil and subsoil removed by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist. This revealed the natural geology into which archaeological features had been cut with their backfill distinct from the natural geology and therefore visible. Each feature is then individually investigated using hand tools only. Each individual slot is then drawn, photographed and described. All finds are recovered for analysis by specialists after the excavation



Above: Hand dug slot across four ditches, 0.5m deep

Multiple Ditches and Enclosures

The site is characterised by a plethora of ditches and a number of ditched enclosure type features have been identified, thought to date from the prehistoric through to the Roman period. The number of ditches on similar alignments or showing re-cuts indicate remodelling of these multiple times throughout the sites use.

Stone Structures

At least two stone structures are located in the east of Area B. The northernmost is a 'T'-shaped grain drier and the southernmost appears to be a robbed out 'L'-shaped foundation.

Ring Gullies

Partially obscured by later ditches, a number of ring gullies may indicate sites of Late Iron Age roundhouses, providing evidence of pre-Roman occupation and use.

Animal remains

At least two animal burials were recorded; a large cow was found mostly articulated apart from the skull; and a juvenile cow, whose bones had butchery marks.



Above: Plan of the excavations so far at Land to Rear of Main Road, Dumbleton with ditches shown in black, stone features in pink, human remains in orange and find spots in green/blue.

Human remains

Human remains were found but unfortunately the grave had been truncated by a later ditch, and only the lower part of the skeleton remained. Its orientation and deposition suggests a pre-Christian date, further work is ongoing.



Above: stone-built 'T'-shaped grain drier after surface cleaning
Right: Excavated animal remains.
Left: Excavated human remains.