



Vinovia

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Although the season this year has only just got underway there have already been significant developments. In Trench 1 the existence of an earlier outer wall to the barrack building has been confirmed giving the building an original width of about 10 metres, closer to the average for a building of this type. This was demolished in a late phase and the building's width reduced to about 7 metres. The substantial drain along the edge of the intervallum road has now been revealed for the entirety of its course within the trench. Excavation immediately north of the angle-tower has revealed a small masonry chamber appended to it with a doorway in its north wall. The interior has a neatly paved floor lying on the middle of which is a stone trough. What this chamber was for is as yet unclear.

A definite edge has finally been found for the large pit cut into the intervallum road in front of the angle-tower. Removal of the rest of the fill will provide a useful glimpse of the build-up of layers beneath the road surface currently exposed.

In Trench 2 work has concentrated on the high quality structures at the south end thought to be elements of the regimental bath-building. Beneath the layer of massive paving slabs removed last year was another layer of paving composed of smaller blocks. Both layers appear to be later than a crudely constructed rectangular building erected on the area immediately in front of the bath-building and partly overlying Dere Street. With foundations built of blocks robbed from the frontages of the latest buildings facing out onto Dere Street, as well as stones from the roadside drain, this building exhibits evidence of at least two, if not three, distinct phases. Its date is as yet not precisely determined but it is clearly as late, and possibly much later than, the infilling of the neighbouring chambers in the bath-building with soil deposits containing vast amounts of animal bone.

Removal of the fill in the larger of the two chambers has revealed a blocked-up doorway in its north wall as well as a section of masonry on the east side which may represent the limits of the chamber on this side or possibly some internal feature.



The picture shows the head of a statue recovered from trench 2. It probably depicts a local Romano-Celtic deity.