

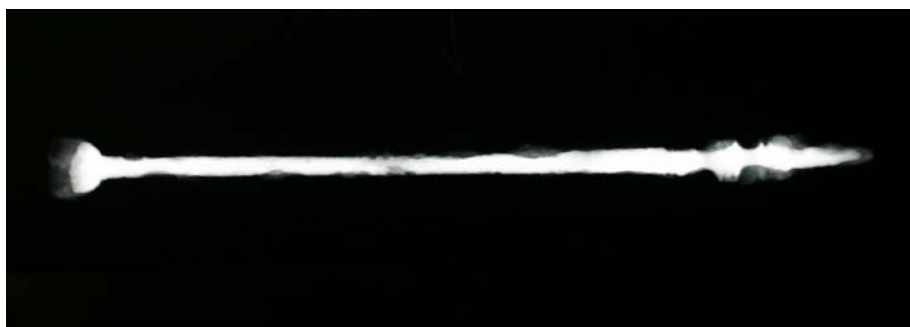
Groundwell Ridge Villa Analysis Project - Update 2, June 2007

During this period the emphasis of the project has moved from the initial analysis of the fieldwork to focus on the work of the specialists. The specialist team at present comprises many individuals studying elements of the archaeology as diverse as glass, pottery, building materials, wall plaster, archaeobotany, animal bone, geology, coins, geoarchaeology and geophysics.



Preparing iron finds for x-ray photography

All these specialists have been working hard behind the scenes on these various aspects of the project. At this point all this work needs to start being drawn together. To fully analyse the materials the specialists require access to the materials from all the excavations plus they also need the revised phasing of the site which was worked out in the spring. Also, individually tailored plans will be created for them showing the spatial distribution of where all the special finds were found. So, the main thrust of the work in the last couple of months has been centred around this research and hopefully by the end of August 07 all the individual specialist reports will be in.



The end result. An x-ray image of a Roman stylus which would have been used for writing on wax tablets.

As a part of this, a group of these specialists recently paid a visit to the finds archive for the 1996/97 excavations which were conducted by Bryn Walters and Bernard Phillips, (See our 'Groundwell Ridge 2003' entry). This is held at Swindon Museum

and Art Gallery and our intention was for our specialists to analyse the finds from these early archaeological interventions. This visit seemed to show that the material recovered from this early work undertaken on the site was largely the same as that from the later excavations, broadly confirming our preliminary dating and phasing of the site. This seems to point to the whole of the Villa being constructed at around the same time, however, because of the limited nature of the earlier excavations and the limited amount of material recovered, this cannot yet be proven.

An update on some of the work being undertaken at the moment can be seen in the new copy of Research News (Issue 6). This can be downloaded from the following web address www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/RN6_web.pdf