

# A ROMAN RURAL LANDSCAPE AT KEMPSFORD QUARRY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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with contributions by

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## Summary

*An area of 6 ha just east of Kempsford was examined in 2000–2001 in advance of gravel extraction. The site saw little archaeologically detectable activity before the late Iron Age or possibly a little later, when a ditched field system was established. This was superseded in the early Roman period by a very regular layout of trackways, linking nearby settlements (just outside the excavated area) with wider field systems. After a hiatus of uncertain duration in the 3rd century the principal trackway was re-established, by which time the adjacent settlements were probably out of use, though a substantial post-built stockade was contemporary with this late trackway. Environmental evidence suggests an emphasis on pastoral agriculture, and horse bones were prominent in the small animal remains assemblage. Track-junction and other locations were used intermittently throughout the Roman period for burial. The chronology and apparently planned character of the Roman layout from the early 2nd century are discussed in the context of wider developments in settlement patterns in the region.*

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