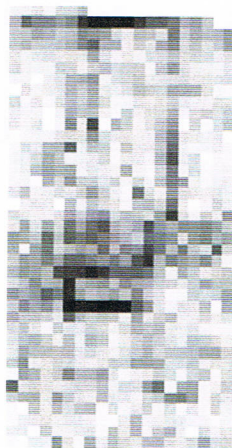


Another Roman Villa at Star

Additional investigations at the Star Roman Villa site in the Vale of Winscombe have revealed more buildings

John Matthews

During the spring and summer of 2005 a team led by Glyn Wellington surveyed the Star Roman Villa site, a scheduled monument. Several features were revealed indicating that the site was considerably more extensive than the original excavator, K. J. Barton, had anticipated in 1964. A report is in preparation. Subsequent geophysics (resistivity) by John Matthews in an adjacent field has demonstrated the existence of another small villa, which is close enough to the original villa to be part of the same complex of buildings. This building, like others on the site, is aligned north-south, presumably to take advantage of the extensive view westwards down the length of the Vale of Winscombe.



The area shown is 20m x 39m, looking north. Some of the internal divisions do not show up well in this greyscale image.



The results processed using an embossing feature on the computer.

The building appears to be a row-type house with five rooms, the central one being the largest, and with a corridor along the west side not quite extending the length of the building. Projecting from the centre of the corridor is a small portico. Along the south end of the building is a narrow room that extends beyond the front of the main structure. The resistivity readings appear to indicate a greater depth of foundations at this point, possibly an indication of a small tower. At the corresponding north end of the building there is the suggestion of a buttress, possibly added for aesthetic purposes to balance the appearance of the façade. Further indications of foundations to the east and west of the building may signify another, possibly earlier, phase of building. There is no evidence from fieldwalking or other finds, but a third or fourth century date is likely.