



41-45 HIGH STREET, SHAFTESBURY, DORSET
Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of:

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Report No. 5073.1

February 2001

**41–45 High Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset
Archaeological Evaluation, January 2001**

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the rear gardens of nos. 41–45 High Street, Shaftesbury, within the core of the medieval town. The evaluation comprised the excavation of six hand-dug test pits. Medieval soils and possible garden features were revealed in Test Pit 3, and perhaps also in Test Pits 2 and 5. Elsewhere, the early stratigraphy either had been truncated by 19th century terracing, or was so deeply buried beneath 19th century deposits, that it was not revealed. The artefacts recovered from the site suggested occupation from the 11th century onwards.

41-45 High Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset Archaeological Evaluation, January 2001

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This project was commissioned by Mr P. A. Coombs of Maritime & Provincial Ltd. Maritime & Provincial Ltd are seeking planning permission for the construction of six dwellings at the rear of 41-45 High Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset (Planning Application 2/2001/0034).
- 1.2 North Dorset District Council, the Local Planning Authority, have requested an archaeological evaluation, following advice from Steven Wallis, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council, in order that the archaeological impact of the proposed works is assessed prior to determination of planning permission. This request is in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (1991).
- 1.3 The site (centred on NGR ST 864229) is situated within the area of the medieval town of Shaftesbury, which grew up outside the abbey gate, either before or after the Conquest. High Street was one of the major streets of the medieval town, with a market area outside St Peter's Church. The extant property boundaries, comprising long narrow strips running back from the street frontage reflect the medieval burgage plot boundaries. The backlands of the burgage plots were often used for gardens, waste disposal, light industry, etc.
- 1.4 The area of the proposed development lies within gardens to the rear of three properties fronting on to the south side of the High Street, Shaftesbury. The ground slopes steeply down to the south from the street frontage. The area has been terraced with a number of garden terraces and a steep drop down on to the next terrace immediately to the south of the site. The northern end of the site lies at 211.57 m above Ordnance Datum. The solid geology is Upper Greensand (Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 313 *Shaftesbury* 1:50000 Drift 1977).
- 1.5 The fieldwork was carried out between January 29th and February 1st 2001.
- 1.6 Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge the help and cooperation of Mr P. A. Coombs in setting up this project and providing assistance on site. Terrain Archaeology is also grateful to Steven Wallis of the Dorset County Council Archaeology Service and Claire Pinder of the Dorset County Sites and Monuments Record. The fieldwork was carried out by Peter Bellamy, Rod Brook, Rebecca Montague and Paul Pearce. This report was compiled by Peter Bellamy and Rebecca Montague. Pottery identification was by Jo Draper.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Shaftesbury is a small town with an important history. Its earliest origins are unclear but it is known that King Alfred established a *burh* here in the 9th century, on the promontory at the western side of the town. The abbey, probably on the site of an earlier nunnery beside the east gate of the *burh* (Penn 1980, 84), grew in importance and came to dominate the town and its economy in the medieval period.

- 2.5 The Royal Commission on Historic Monuments of England have described the buildings nos. 43 and 45 High Street (RCHME 1972, 66), but not no. 41. Both buildings are of 18th century date with no. 43 having some 19th century alterations.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objective of the archaeological works is to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, that is, to appraise the nature, extent, level of preservation, and importance of any archaeological deposits.
- 3.2 The evaluation will comprise a series of test pits located and excavated commensurate with the aims of the evaluation.
- 3.3 The evaluation will aim to record *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the works in order to provide sufficient data to assess the archaeological significance of the site.
- 3.4 The results of the evaluation may be used to formulate a strategy for the preservation or management of any archaeological remains; and/or formulate an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may affect adversely any such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or formulate a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The observations were carried out in compliance with the specification (T3050) prepared by Terrain Archaeology and approved by the Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council, and in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (1994, rev. 1999).
- 4.2 The specification states that the evaluation will comprise the excavation of six test pits, measuring 2m long and 1m wide. Initially, the test pits are to be 1m by 1m, and will only be extended if archaeological remains are encountered. If no archaeological features and/or deposits are revealed, the size of the test pit will not be enlarged.
- 4.3 The locations of the test pits were moved slightly from those shown on the specification plan in order to avoid garden features and/or large shrubs. The test pits were located on a 1:100 site plan by taped measurements taken from plans provided by the client
- 4.4 The groundworks consisted of the excavation of the test pits by hand down to the natural, except where it was unsafe to do so because of the depth and lack of consolidation of the soils. The base and sides of the trench were cleaned by hand and all deposits and features were recorded using Terrain Archaeology's recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records.
- 4.5 After excavation, all test pits were back-filled by hand with the excavated material and compacted.
- 4.6 The records, and all materials recovered, have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current UKIC guidelines and the requirements of the receiving museum, Dorset County Museum.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of six test pits were excavated and their location is shown on Figure 2. Their position was designed to evaluate the whole length of the footprints of the proposed new buildings as well as testing the nature of the deposits in the gardens between. The precise locations of the test pits were partly determined by the present layout of the gardens and outhouses. The test pits were positioned to try to avoid paths, large shrubs, retaining walls, outhouses, etc. This meant that it was not possible to evaluate the northern end of the proposed eastern building footprint. Summaries of the deposits and/or features encountered in the six test pits are listed in Appendix 1. The finds assemblage recovered from all contexts is shown on Table 1.

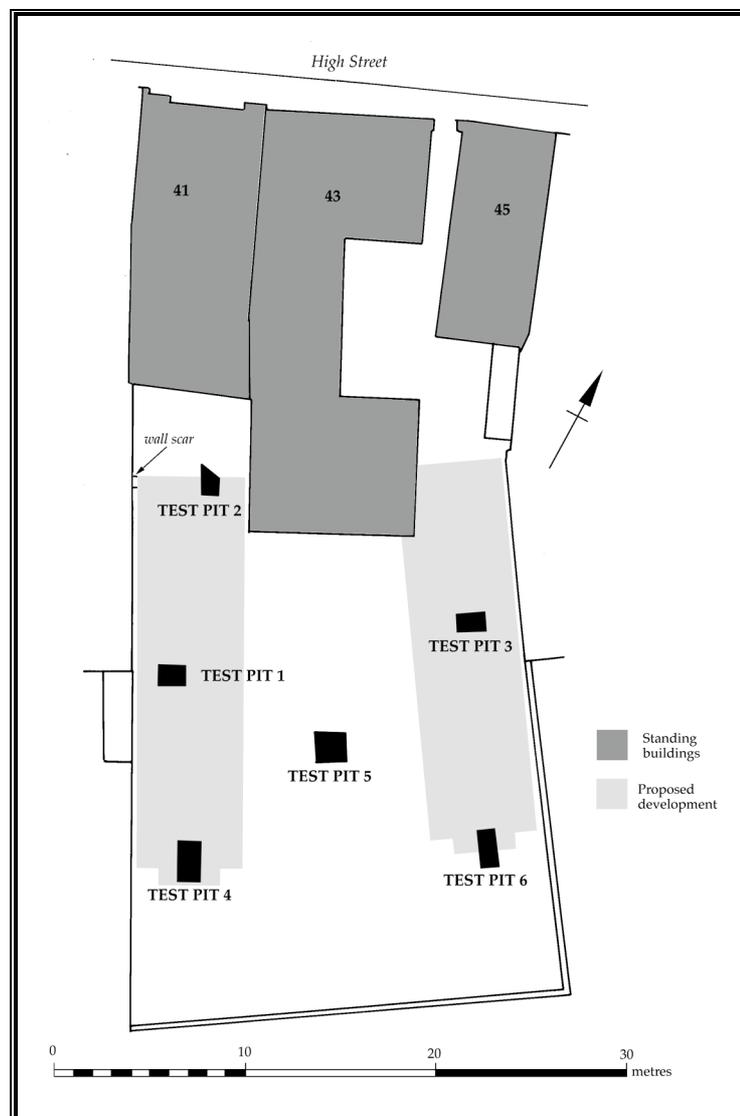


Figure 2: Location of Test Pits

5.1.2 The following stratigraphic sequences were exposed in the test pits: –

| <i>depth</i> | <i>description</i> | <i>context numbers</i> |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Test Pit 1 | | |
| 0 – 0.4 m | Modern garden features | 101 – 103, 108, 109, 114 |
| 0.2 – 0.75 m | 19 th Century garden features | 104 – 107 |
| 0.35 – >1.25 m | 18 th Century garden features | 110 – 112 |
| >0.85 m | Natural deposits | 113 |
| Test Pit 2 | | |
| 0 – 0.3 m | Modern garden soils | 200 |
| 0.3 – 0.6 m | Demolition layer | 201, 202, 208 – 210 |
| 0.6 – 1.2 m | Stone Building | 205 – 207 |
| 0.6 – >1.3 m | Pre-building deposits | 203, 204 |
| Test Pit 3 | | |
| 0 – 0.2 m | Modern garden soils | 300 |
| 0.2 – 1.2 m | 19 th Century garden features | 301 – 306 |
| >0.2 – 1.2 m | Natural | 307 |
| Test Pit 4 | | |
| 0 – 0.45 m | Modern garden soils | 401, 402 |
| 0.45 – 1.4 m | Levelling layers and garden features | 403 – 411 |
| 1.4 – >1.55 m | Medieval activity | 412 – 417 |
| Test Pit 5 | | |
| 0 – 0.3 m | Modern garden soils | 500 |
| 0.3 – 1.1 m | Levelling layers | 501 |
| 0.9 – >1.3 m | Drain | 502, 505 |
| 1.1 – 1.35 m | Construction debris | 503 |
| 1.35 – 1.5 m | ?Medieval deposits | 504 |
| >1.5 m | Natural | 506 |
| Test Pit 6 | | |
| 0 – 0.2 m | Modern garden soils | 600 |
| 0.2 – 0.65 m | Terrace make-up | 601 – 603 |
| 0.65 – >1.55 m | 19 th century garden soils | 604 |

5.2 Test Pit 1

5.2.1 *Introduction.* Test pit 1 was located on the western side of the site, in the centre of the proposed western building, just to the south of a garden terrace with a stone revetment wall (Figure 2). It measured 1.75m by 1m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.25 m. Excavation was halted in the northern half of the test pit at a maximum depth of 0.40 m below ground level where stone structure 107 was encountered but in the southern half excavation continued right down to the natural (Figure 3).

5.2.2 *Natural Deposits.* The natural was a yellowish brown moderately compact sandy clay (113) with frequent greensand fragments, encountered at 0.86 m below ground level. It was not excavated, but, where it was cut by feature 111, it could be seen to become more clayey with depth.

5.2.3 *18th Century Garden Features.* The earliest feature encountered in the test pit was a steep-sided cut (111) into the natural 113. Only the southern edge was exposed and it was not bottomed due to the difficulty of excavation in the limited area. It was over 0.23 m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.42 m (Figure 3). It was filled with greyish brown clay loam (112)

with moderate quantities of greensand fragments. Feature 111 was sealed by a 0.52 m thick, dark greyish brown clay loam layer (110) with occasional greensand fragments, mortar fragments and flecks, and ceramic building material. Both contexts 110 and 112 produced 18th century pottery (Table 1). Cut 112 may be the remains of a pit or other undefined garden feature and 110 probably represents the 18th century garden soil.

5.2.4 *19th Century Garden Features.* A NNE-SSW aligned brick wall and associated features were encountered in the western part of the test pit (Figure 3). Brick wall 105 was built in a variety of bonds, and was two bricks wide (0.22 m). It was exposed to a maximum depth of 0.80 m (11 courses) but was not bottomed. The bricks were machine-made, measuring 22 cm by 11 cm by 7.5 cm, with a narrow frog and were bonded with a hard yellowish brown mortar. This wall was constructed within a foundation trench (104), 0.36 m wide and over 0.65 m deep, which cut layer 110 and natural 113. The foundation trench was backfilled with a loose blackish brown clay loam (106) with occasional small fragments of greensand.

5.2.5 In the northwest corner of the test pit, brick wall 105 was butted by a stone structure (107) comprising a single course of three large greensand blocks, roughly dressed, with a maximum size 40 cm by 30 cm by 20 cm, and bonded with a loose pale yellowish brown mortar. The blocks were lying on the surface of layer 110, and butted against or were butted by brick wall 105. Their function is unclear (they are not massive or deeply footed enough to be a buttress, and do not have an even enough surface to be a threshold) but they are clearly associated in some way with wall 105.

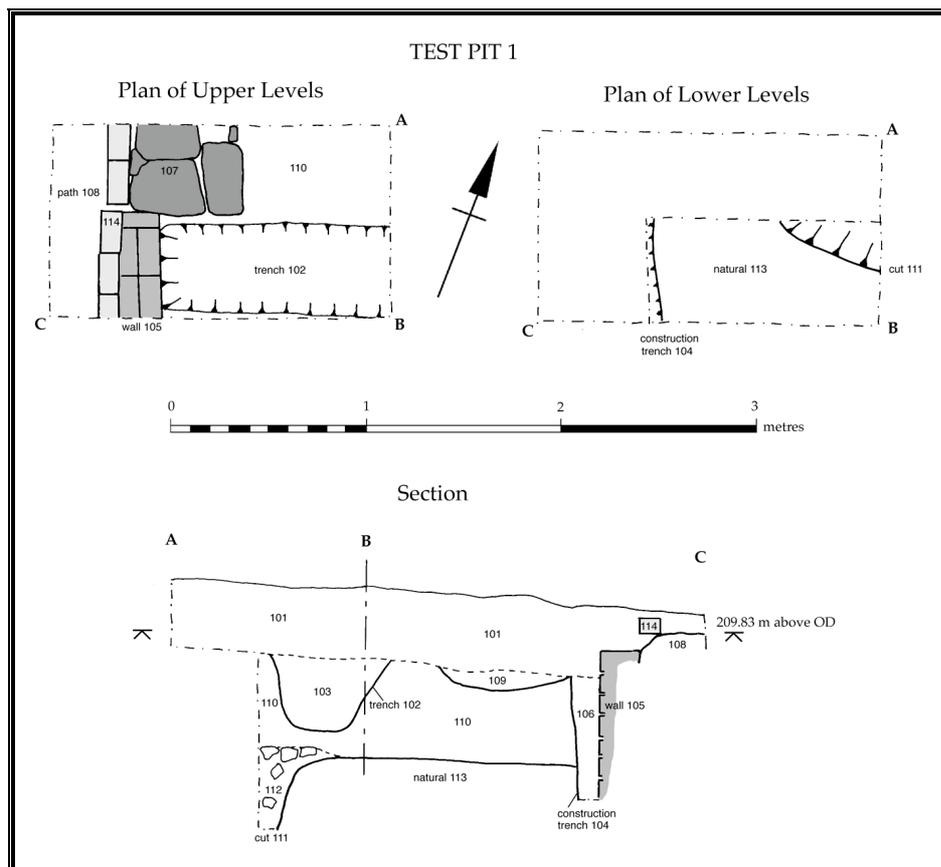


Figure 3: Test Pit 1 plans and section

5.2.6 *Modern garden features.* A number of features were discovered cut into of soil layer 110. In the southern part of the test pit was a small scoop, filled with very loose grey brown clay loam (109) with frequent mortar fragments, moderate quantities of greensand fragments, and

occasional fragments of brick and tile. It was 0.10 m deep, and its full extent was not exposed. Its relationship with wall 105 was uncertain. Scoop 109 was cut by a linear feature (102), which was aligned WSW-ENE and was clearly later than wall 105 (it cut backfill 106 of foundation trench 104). It had steep sides and a flat base, and measured 0.50 m wide and 0.38 m deep. It was filled with a loose blackish brown clay loam (103) with very occasional small greensand fragments. This fill was identical to the present garden soil layer 101. Feature 102 is interpreted as a modern garden feature/bedding trench.

- 5.2.7 To the west of wall 105 is a garden path edged with a single row of modern machine-made bricks (114). These are laid on top of wall 105 and on the same alignment. The surface of the path was a rubbly layer (108) primarily comprising greensand and brick and tile fragments within a grey-brown loose clay loam matrix. It was not excavated.
- 5.2.8 The existing garden topsoil (101) was a loose dark brown clay loam with very occasional greensand fragments, about 0.40m thick.
- 5.2.9 *Discussion.* The absence of any layers over the natural dating earlier than post-medieval period, suggests that terracing had occurred in this area during this period removing any medieval or earlier layers that may have formerly existed there. The structure represented by brick wall foundations 105 may simply be a retaining wall, or belong to a garden building such as a shed, greenhouse or outhouse. It probably dates to the later part of the nineteenth century.

5.3 Test Pit 2

- 5.3.1 Test Pit 2 was excavated in a flower and shrub bed immediately to the south of 41 High Street, at the northern end of the proposed western building (Figure 2). As it had to be fitted between several large shrubs within a raised flower bed, it was irregularly shaped in plan, with maximum dimensions of 1.60 m by 1.16 m. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.30 m. Natural deposits were not encountered in this test pit; excavation was halted at 1.30m for safety reasons.

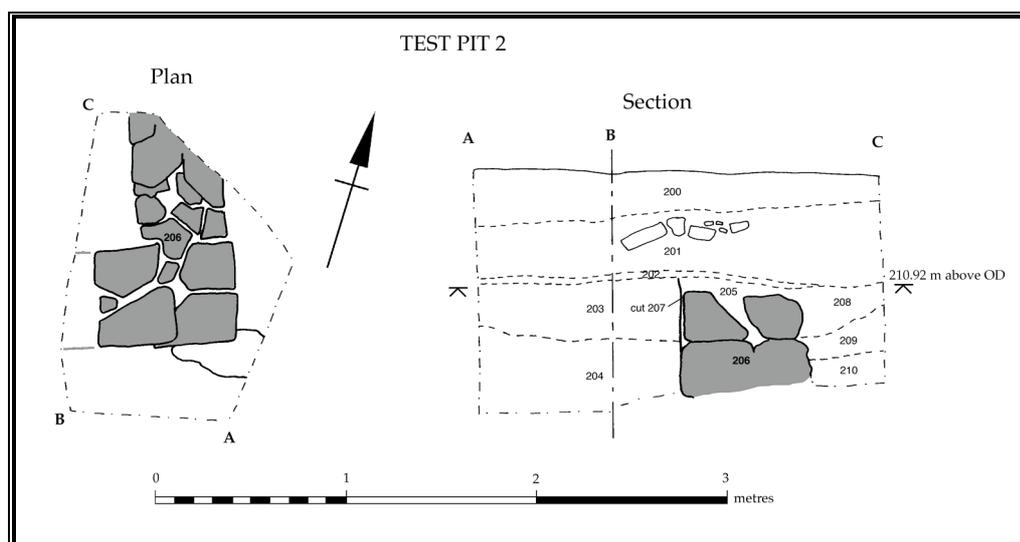


Figure 4: Test Pit 2 Plan and Section

- 5.3.2 *Pre-building deposits.* The earliest deposits encountered within this test pit only survived in the southern end. The lowest layer was a loose grey silty loam (204) with 10% large, irregular and angular chips and pieces of greensand. It was excavated to a depth of 0.47 m and was not

bottomed. Above this was a grey silty clay layer (203) with occasional limestone pieces, and frequent brick and tile fragments. It was 0.30 m thick. Both of these layers were cut by foundation trench 207 (Figure 4). Interestingly the pottery recovered from layer 204 was Saxo-Norman (perhaps 11th century) in date, however, a single clay tobacco pipe stem fragment was also found in this layer.

- 5.3.3 *Stone Building.* Substantial stone-built wall foundations were encountered, comprising the corner of a NNW-SSE/ENE-WSW aligned wall (205/206) within a foundation trench (207). Only the southern side of foundation trench 207 was identified. The vertical cut was excavated to a depth of 0.64 m, but was not bottomed (Figure 4). It cut layers 203 and 204 on its southern side. The wall (205/206) constructed within it, comprised large (40 x 35 x 035 cm) greensand blocks (206), dressed on at least the outer faces. Two courses were exposed, and probing suggested the presence of a third, lower course. The wall had a rubble core, and was bonded with a compact pale off-white limey mortar (205), containing chalk (or unslaked lime) fragments and occasional small greensand fragments. A wall stub projected for a few centimetres from the NNW-SSE property wall between numbers 41 and 39 High Street, and wall 205/206 was in line with this stub. If 205/206 and the stub were part of the same wall, it would have formed a *c.* 90° angle with the property wall.
- 5.3.4 Within the angle formed by wall 205/206, were three layers that appeared to butt against the wall, rather than be cut by its foundation trench 207, though this was not conclusively established. The lowest of the three layers was 210, a sticky grey fine silty clay, which was investigated to a maximum depth of 0.20 m and not bottomed. Above this lay 209, a loose greenish brown pure sand 0.22 m thick, and overlying this was 208, a loose dark brown ashy gritty silt with clinkers, 0.26 m thick. These layers may represent floor make-up inside the building.
- 5.3.5 *Demolition Deposits.* A thin band of compact greensand-based mortar with limestone chips, 0.03 m thick, overlay the wall foundations 205/206. This layer was overlain by a loose, partly vacuous, rubbly layer (202) in a 0.30 m thick, dark grey silty loam matrix with 5% greensand inclusions. Both these layers are later than the stone building and may represent levelling after demolition.
- 5.3.6 *Modern Garden Soils.* Layer 202 was overlain by a 0.25 m thick very dark greyish brown friable silty loam (201), with no coarse inclusions. This is the present garden topsoil.
- 5.3.7 *Discussion.* The pottery recovered from the earliest layer in this test pit was Saxo-Norman in date. If the single fragment of clay pipe is intrusive, then the context is likely to be early medieval in date. Alternatively, the sherds may be residual in a post-medieval deposit. If this is the case, the number of sherds recovered from such a small area suggests that there was early medieval activity here. As natural deposits were not exposed anywhere within the test pit, it is possible that intact 11th – 12th century deposits still survive at greater depth.
- 5.3.8 The stone wall footing 206 forms the SE angle of an extension to the rear of no. 41. No trace of a join can be seen on the present south elevation of this building but there is a scar on the west property boundary wall, which lines up exactly with the excavated footings (Figure 2). A cursory examination of the available historic mapping suggests that this extension was constructed in the early 19th century, as it is not shown on a 1799 map of Shaftesbury (DRO D1/KL 34) but it is clearly depicted on a map dated 1817 (DRO ph485). This extension is still depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map, so would appear to have been demolished at some time after 1886.

5.4 Test Pit 3

- 5.4.1 Test pit 3 was excavated in a lawned area immediately to the south of flowerbeds and a garden outbuilding that is currently part of no 45 High Street (Figure 2), roughly in the centre of the proposed eastern house footprint. It measured 1.70 m by 1 m across and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20 m.
- 5.4.2 *Natural Deposits.* The natural exposed in this test pit was a firm pale greyish green to brownish yellow, slightly sandy, clayey silt (307) with rare to occasional chert nodules and fragments. On the western side of the test pit, it was encountered at a depth of about 0.22 m below ground level. On the eastern side, however, it had been cut away to a depth of 1.18 m below ground level. The upper surface of the natural on the western side showed some evidence of root disturbance.
- 5.4.3 *19th Century Garden features.* A revetment wall (301), 0.42 m wide and 1.03 m high, was uncovered running NW-SE across this test pit (Figure 5). The lower part of the wall was constructed from roughly coursed flattish slabs of greensand with occasional ?limestones and bricks also. The upper seven courses were mortared brick. This wall was built in a construction cut (303) into the natural. Behind the wall was a firm yellowish brown clayey sandy silt (302) with frequent greensand and chert fragments. This wall is likely to be a garden feature, part of the terracing which is so common on this site, but in such a small excavation area, it is difficult to understand it in detail.

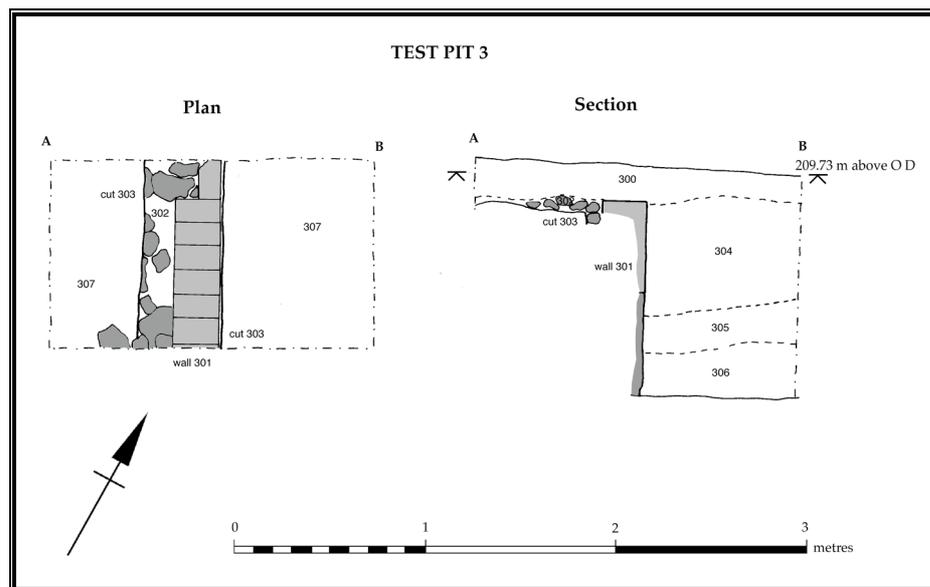


Figure 5: Test Pit 3 plan and section

- 5.4.4 Butted against the eastern side of the wall was a 0.24 m thick layer of loose greyish to yellowish brown sandy silt loam (306) with rubble, with common to frequent modern brick, stone, plaster and mortar fragments. Above this was a 0.20 m thick layer of loose brownish grey ashy and gritty silt loam (305), with occasional to common brick, stone, plaster/mortar and ash/charcoal fragments. These layers contained a pottery group dating to the 1830s and this probably provides a good date for the construction of the revetment wall also.
- 5.4.5 *Modern Garden Soils.* Butting against wall 301, and overlying layer 305, was a 0.6 m thick, very loose sandy silt with rubble (304), variable in colour but generally very pale brownish grey, with extremely frequent plaster/mortar fragments, plus brick, tile, slate, greensand and

limestone fragments up to 40 cm across. This layer of building demolition debris contained very late 19th century pottery and was probably dumped to level up the ground for the present lawn. The topsoil and turf (300) lay directly on top of this layer.

- 5.4.6 *Discussion.* There are no deposits earlier than the early 19th century. It is likely that any earlier archaeology in this area has been destroyed by the 19th century garden terracing.

5.5 Test Pit 4

- 5.5.1 Test pit 4 was excavated in what is currently a vegetable garden, in an area where the garden soil was sloping gently down to the south, and at the southern end of the footprint of the proposed western building (Figure 2). A little further south, the garden soil was more level, suggesting that here it had been terraced and levelled up. The test pit measured 2 m by 1 m across. The northern half was excavated to the greatest depth: here, excavation reached a general level of \approx 1.30 m below ground level and a maximum depth of 1.54 m below ground level in a 0.40 m wide slot dug to investigate the nature and relationships of the lowest archaeological deposits encountered. Natural deposits were not exposed in this test pit: excavation was halted at 1.54 m below ground level for Health and Safety reasons. The southern half of the test pit was excavated to a depth of 0.62 m below ground level.

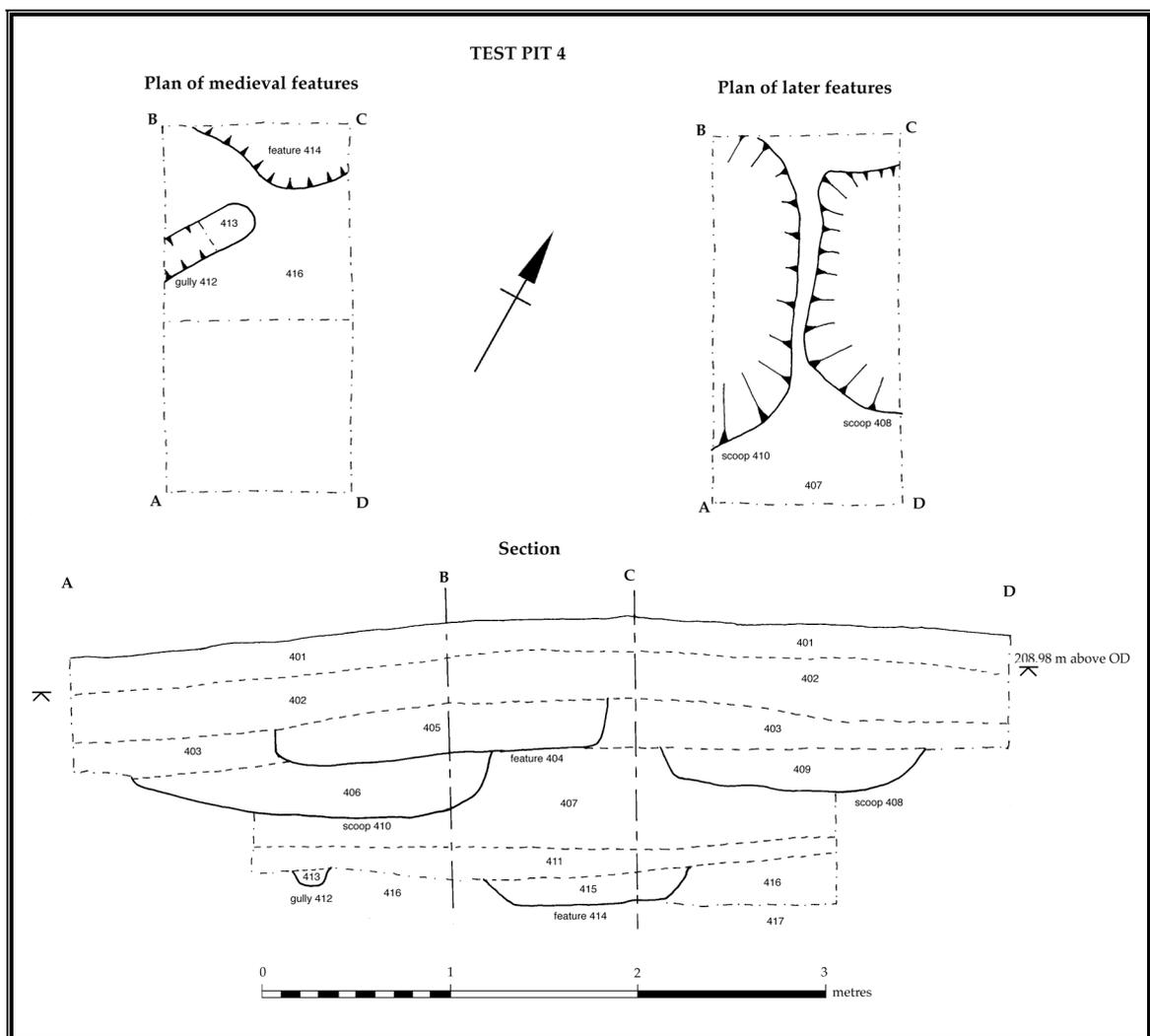


Figure 6: Test Pit 4 plans and section

- 5.5.2 *Medieval Activity.* The earliest deposit encountered was a medium compact dark brown silty clay (417) with sparse small greensand fragments and frequent charcoal flecks (Figure 6). It was exposed in the base of a 0.40 m wide slot dug through context 416 above; and was not excavated, although a few finds were retrieved for dating purposes. It was at least 0.10m thick. The limited nature of the investigation meant that it was impossible to say whether this deposit was a layer or the fill of a feature. It was overlain by an orange brown compact silty clay (416) with very frequent greensand fragments and occasional chert fragments. The surface of this layer slopes slightly from SE down to NW. It had a maximum thickness of 0.28m. Both contexts 416 and 417 contained medieval pottery, of probable 14th century date.
- 5.5.3 Layer 416 was cut by two features: gully 412 and feature 414. Gully 412 was a shallow linear feature, 0.20m wide and 0.08 m deep, aligned NNE-SSW, with a rounded terminal at the NNE end. It had steep sides and a flat base. The shallowness of this feature suggests that it has been substantially truncated. It was filled with loose dark brown silty loam (413). Feature 414 occurred in the northeast corner of the test pit and was not fully exposed in plan. It had steep sides and a flattish base 0.16 m deep. It was filled with loose dark brown silty loam (415) with occasional chert fragments, which also produced 14th century pottery.
- 5.5.4 These features were sealed by a 0.17 m thick layer of dark greyish brown silty clay (411) with frequent greensand fragments and occasional chert fragments and flakes. The pottery assemblage from this layer was rather mixed medieval with the latest sherds being perhaps 16th century in date. This layer is probably a late medieval or early post-medieval garden soil.
- 5.5.5 *19th Century Garden Activity.* Overlying layer 411 was a fairly deep accumulation of 19th century garden soil comprising a 0.54 m thick, moderately compact, greyish brown clay loam (407) with occasional chalk, brick and tile, and clinker fragments. Unlike the overlying layers, its upper surface does not slope down to the southeast and it may have been part of a terrace, which has now been buried. It was cut by two shallow scoops, similar in plan and profile. Scoop 410 was not fully exposed in plan. It had a sub-rectangular shape with rounded corners; its southeast side was gently sloping, whereas the sides were steeper to the east and north. The base was slightly irregular/flattish. Its exposed dimensions were 1.58 m in length and 0.45 m in width, and it was 0.30 m deep. The scoop was filled with a compact buff/yellowish brown gritty clay loam (406) with occasional greensand fragments, very frequent mortar fragments, moderate quantities of chalk fragments and occasional brick and tile. Scoop 408 lay to the east of 410, and it too was not fully exposed in plan. It had an irregular sub-rectangular shape, with moderately sloping sides, becoming gentler to the southeast, and an irregular/slightly dished base. It was at least 1.35 m long and 0.50 m wide, and was 0.24 m deep. It was filled with a compact greenish buff brown gritty clay loam (409) with occasional greensand fragments, very frequent mortar fragments, occasional chalk fragments and brick and tile. The fill was slightly less chalky than that of scoop 410.
- 5.5.6 These two scoops were sealed by layer 403, a slightly compact greyish brown clay loam with moderate quantities of chalk, mortar, and brick and tile fragments, and occasional large limestone blocks *c.* 0.22 x 0.14 m. Layer 403 had a maximum thickness of 0.26m, and its upper surface sloped down to the SE. This layer 403, in turn, was cut by a shallow pit/?soakaway (404). This feature was also not fully exposed: it had a sub-rectangular shape in plan, its length was >0.95 m, its width was >0.88 m and it was 0.27 m deep. It had near-vertical sides with a flattish base and was filled with a very loose sticky greenish brown clay loam (405) with a high frequency of greensand and mortar fragments, and moderate quantities of brick and tile. This feature was sealed by layer 402, a 0.34 m thick dark greyish black silty clay loam with sparse small chalk, mortar and brick and tile fragments. Its surface sloped down to the southeast.

- 5.5.7 *Modern Garden Soils.* Garden topsoil 401 was a loose dark blackish brown silty clay loam with no inclusions. Like 403 and 402, its surface sloped down to the southeast. It was 0.20m thick.
- 5.5.8 *Discussion.* The depth of archaeological deposits encountered in this test pit indicates that this part of the site was in an area that was built up, rather than cut away. Intact medieval stratigraphy still survives here, though it is not clear what range of activities is represented. However, the general impression gained is of low-level gardening activity. Chert fragments occurred only in the medieval layers and features (411, 415 and 416). The significance of this is unclear, for although chert fragments are present within the, there is also the possibility that some of the fragments in the medieval layers may represent stone dressing debris.

5.6 Test Pit 5

- 5.6.1 Test pit 5 was excavated in a flower and shrub bed in the central part of the garden, between the two proposed buildings (Figure 2). It measured 1.50 m by 1.50 m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.50 m in the northern corner (Figure 7).
- 5.6.2 *Natural Deposits.* A deposit that may be natural was encountered in the northeastern part of the test pit where excavation was taken down to 1.50 m below ground level. This was a yellowish brown clay (506) with limestone fragments. However, the depth of excavation and limited area uncovered meant that it was not possible to establish conclusively that this was *in situ* natural deposit rather than redeposited.
- 5.6.3 *?Medieval Deposits.* Context 506 was overlain by a 0.20 m thick layer of dark brown silty clay (504) with limestone and greensand fragments. This layer contained medieval pottery and may be the remains of an earlier garden soil, perhaps medieval in date.

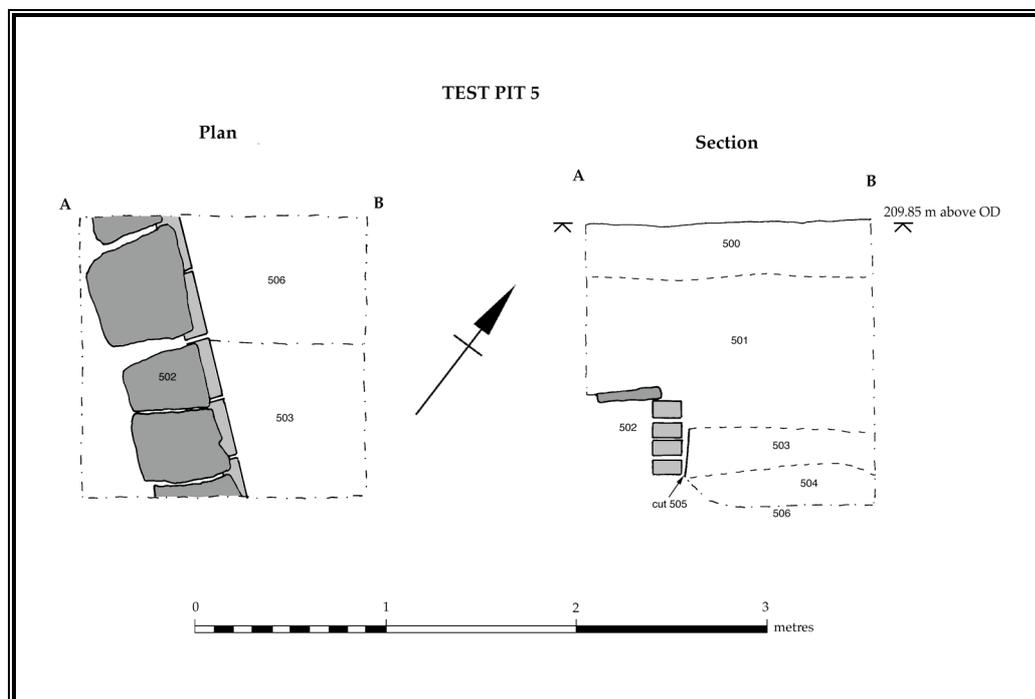


Figure 7: Test Pit 5 plan and section

- 5.6.4 *Construction debris.* Overlying context 504 was a 0.26 m thick compact greenish grey mixed layer of soil and mortar (503) with chalk, limestone and greensand fragments. No dating evidence was recovered, but its composition suggests that this layer was associated with either

construction or demolition activity. Perhaps it is a levelling layer deposited during the construction of the buildings on the street frontage.

- 5.6.5 *Drain.* A brick and stone culvert, aligned NW-SE, was partially exposed within the test pit but was not excavated, as the drain was possibly still live. It comprised a cut (505), over 0.80 m wide and at least 0.46 m deep, with a vertical eastern edge, within which was constructed a brick culvert. This was at least four courses high and was capped with square limestone slabs *c.* 0.40 m across. The culvert was in line with a guttering drain on the rear of the property and with a ceramic drain pipe exiting the high revetment wall at the southern end of the site.
- 5.6.6 *Modern Garden Soils.* The drain was overlain by a 0.8 m thick layer of loose very dark brown humic silt (501) with fragments of limestone, greensand, and chalk. It contained quantities of late 19th century pottery, brick and tile, window glass, coal, clinker, etc. It is not clear whether the drain was cut through this layer or not. The present garden topsoil (500) was a loose very dark brown silty loam, 0.30m thick.
- 5.6.7 *Discussion.* The results from this test pit are difficult to interpret. It is clear that there is a substantial build-up of post-medieval garden soils (at least 1.1 m), but the integrity of the lower layers is less clear. As a result of the small area available for excavation, it was not conclusively proved that the lowest deposit (506) was natural and it is not certain whether layer 504 above it was an intact medieval soil or a later deposit containing residual medieval pottery.

5.7 Test Pit 6

- 5.7.2 Test pit 6 was excavated in the southern part of a flat lawn in the garden of no. 45, at the southern end of the proposed eastern building (Figure 2). The southern end of the lawn was considerably higher than the surrounding garden and it was clear that it had been artificially built up to provide a level surface for the lawn. The test pit measured 2 m by 1 m across and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.58 m (Figure 8). Natural deposits were not encountered.

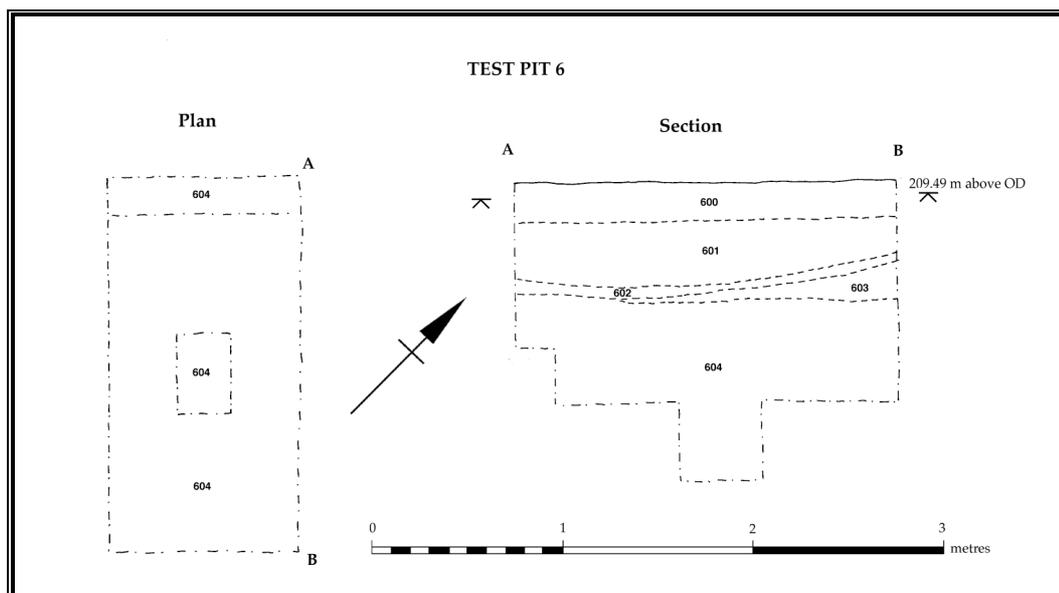


Figure 8: Test Pit 6 plan and section

- 5.7.3 *19th Century Garden Soils.* The lowest layer excavated in this test pit was a thick layer of very dark greyish brown silty clay loam (604) with occasional to rare chert and greensand fragments. It was at least 0.94 m thick, and was not bottomed. It contained some late 19th century pottery, brick and tile, and animal bone. The top surface of this layer was compacted. It probably represents an earlier ground level, perhaps equivalent to layer 407 in Test Pit 4.
- 5.7.4 *Terrace Make-up.* Above layer 604 were three very similar layers. The lowest layer of the three was a loose yellowish grey to pale yellowish grey sandy silt loam (603) with extremely frequent mortar and plaster fragments, brick, tile, slate, and ash/cinder/charcoal. The upper surface of this layer dipped to the north, and it had a maximum thickness of 0.20 m. The middle layer, 602, was a thin layer of loose, friable dark reddish grey fine ash, cinders and clinkers, also dipping to the north. This represents a dump rather than a deliberate path make-up, as there was no compaction of the layer and it had a sloping surface. It had a maximum thickness of 0.07 m. The uppermost layer of the three, 601, was almost identical to 603. It too was a loose yellowish grey to pale yellowish grey sandy silt loam with extremely frequent mortar/plaster fragments, brick, tile, slate and ash/cinder/charcoal. Its maximum thickness was 0.24 m. It is likely that these three layers represent the construction of the present lawn terrace.
- 5.7.5 *Modern Garden Soils.* The turf and topsoil (600) was a very dark greyish brown silty clay loam layer with rare fragments of chert, limestone, brick and slate. It was 0.18m thick.
- 5.7.6 *Discussion.* This test pit was located in the lower part of the garden in an area which has been built up to form a level terrace. The 19th century deposits survive over 1.5 m thick; consequently, it was not possible to determine whether there were any earlier deposits beneath. However, the results from Test Pit 4, which is in a similar position, suggest that evidence of medieval activity may well be preserved in this area too.

5.8 Finds

- 5.8.1 The finds have been rapidly scanned to provide spot dates and any other information, which may aid in interpretation of the excavated deposits. They have not been examined or described in detail. All finds are tabulated by context in Table 1.
- 5.8.2 *Medieval Pottery.* Seventy-one sherds (742 g) of medieval pottery were recovered. This was a mixed assemblage with pots dating from the 11th to the 16th century present. The earliest pottery recovered was from context 204 and is broadly Saxo-Norman in date. Similar pottery was recovered from excavations in St Peter's Church, where it was dated to the 10th-11th century (Keen 1977). In general, the medieval pottery is undiagnostic but much of it would fit within a 14th century date, with some later medieval wares also present. A range of fabrics is present suggesting that the pottery derives from several different sources. It has been noted previously (Sperry 1990) that there appears to be a wide range of producers providing ceramics for the markets in medieval Shaftesbury.
- 5.8.3 *Post-medieval pottery.* The retained post-medieval pottery assemblage comprises 2533 sherds (7036 g). Much of this was late 19th century industrial wares but it also includes salt-glazed stonewares, 18th century Delft, 17th century Bristol/Staffordshire wares, etc. There are a number of interesting vessels or groups. Context 407 produced several sherds of a decorated 17th century import, probably from the Low Countries or perhaps Portugal. A very fine piece of 1740s Nottingham stoneware was recovered from context 110. Context 306 had an interesting close group of developed pearl wares, etc with local earthenwares. The earthenwares included pots from a variety of sources including Horton and Donyatt. The imported pottery, the group from context 306 merit further study and publication.

| Context | Medieval pottery | Post-med. pottery | Fired clay | Clay pipe | CBM | Stone | Plaster | Glass | Copper alloy | Iron | Lead | Flint & Chert | Animal bone | Oyster shell |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|---------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 101 | | 11/51g | | 1/4g | 8/85g | | | 5/11g | | | | | 1/23g | |
| 103 | 1/11g | 13/53g | | 4/7g | 4/172g | 1/40g | | 2/2g | | | | | 3/13g | |
| 106 | | 4/151g | | | 3/218g | | | | | | | | | 1/8g |
| 110 | 4/194g | 39/410g | | 59/183g | 10/220g | | | 5/70g | | | | | 29/310g | 7/105g |
| 112 | | 8/171g | | 6/13g | 9/79g | | | 1/3g | | 2/22g | | | 7/64g | |
| 200 | | 1/11g | | 1/13g | | | | | | | | | | |
| 204 | 8/89g | | | 1/2g | | | | | | 1/4 g | | | | 1/11g |
| 205 | | | | | 1/72g | | | | | | | | | |
| 300 | | 3/20g | | | | 1/100g | | | 1/8g | | | | | |
| 304 | | 1/6g | | 1/5g | 2/384g | | | 4/194g | | 1/9g | | | | |
| 305 | | 7/102g | | 6/28g | 1/37g | | | 1/3g | 1/11g | | | 3/51g | 4/207g | 2/53g |
| 306 | | 72/3000g | | 4/27g | 1/131g | 3/2051g | 3/918g | 2/20g | | | | | 11/377g | 4/50g |
| 401 | | 7/518g | | 4/19g | | | | | | | | | | 1/13g |
| 405 | | 13/850g | | 7/36g | | | | | 1/1g | | | | 2/338g | 2/54g |
| 406 | | 11/297g | | 6/39g | 2/151g | 1/887g | 1/636g | 1/1g | | 3/123g | | | 5/61g | 2/80g |
| 407 | 2/17g | 22/525g | | 24/108g | 1/47g | | | | | 1/4 g | 2/6 g | | 17/123g | 5/74g |
| 409 | | 7/231g | | | 1/121g | | | | | | | | | |
| 411 | 32/317g | | | | | 1/26g | | | | 1/256 g | | 7/63g | 11/329g | |
| 413 | 1/2 g | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 415 | 11/36g | | | | 1/3g | | | | | | | 3/112g | 6/11g | |
| 416 | 4/27g | | | | | | | | | | | 1/14g | 3/35g | |
| 417 | 2/1g | | 1/1g | | | | | | | | | | 2/237g | |
| 501 | 3/24g | 7/119g | | 1/3g | 1/139g | | | | | | | | 1/31g | |
| 504 | 2/9g | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 600 | | 8/105g | | | | | | 1/26g | | 1/147g | | | | |
| 601 | 1/15g | 5/74g | | | | | | 1/37g | | | | | | |
| 604 | | 14/342g | | 2/20g | | | | 3/53g | 1/3g | 1/38g | | | 2/194g | |
| Total | 71/742g | 253/7036g | 1/1g | 73/495g | 45/1632g | 7/3104g | 4/1554g | 25/420g | 4/23g | 11/603g | 2/6g | 14/240g | 104/2353g | 25/448g |

Table 1: All finds by context.

5.8.4 *Clay Tobacco Pipe.* Seventy-three fragments of clay pipe were recovered, including 16 bowl fragments. The majority of bowls were of late 17th century type with a smaller number of 18th century bowl forms and one 19th century bowl fragment (from context 306). The 17th century and 18th century pipe bowls were all from mixed contexts. Five maker's marks have been recognised. These include *Jeffrey Hunt* (c. 1650-80) from Bristol or Devizes (Atkinson 1969, fig. 3,6), *Gabriel Bailey* (late 17th century) from Amesbury (Atkinson 1969, fig. 3,3), *Thomas Simes* (c. 1680-90), possibly of Shaftesbury (Atkinson 1969, fig. 5, 5), and *Richard Howell* (c. 1700) also probably of Shaftesbury (Atkinson 1969, fig. 5,1).

5.8.5 *Building materials.* The majority of building materials recovered were fragments of brick and tile. The tile is almost all wall tile of the type that clads the rear of no. 45. Other building materials include slate, dressed building stone (from context 306), stone roof tile (from context 406), and plaster (including one fragment of a plaster moulding) from contexts 306 and 406.

5.8.6 *Other finds.* There was little of significance amongst the rest of the finds. The glass comprised largely of recent vessel glass with only a few fragments of 18th century wine bottle. There was also a small quantity of clear window glass. The metal objects were mainly iron nails with a few scraps of bronze, all of recent date. Two pieces of lead window came were found in context 407. A single piece of iron slag was found in context 411.

- 5.8.7 *Animal bone and shell.* The animal bone assemblage comprised largely of small fragments of sheep and cattle. A number of butchery marks were present on some of the bones. The shell was all oyster shell.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The area excavated forms about a 2% sample of the whole of the proposed development area, which is the normal sample size applied to evaluations of this sort. The disposition of the test pits means that parts of all three properties were included in the evaluation. Only three of the test pits were excavated down to what was thought to be natural; in the other three, excavation was terminated at a higher stratigraphic level for safety reasons.
- 6.2 The extent of survival of archaeological features and deposits is variable across the site. The creation of a series of garden terraces in the 19th century has severely truncated or removed traces of earlier activity in most of the test pits. However, intact medieval stratigraphy was encountered in Test Pit 3 and possibly also in Test Pits 2 and 5. The extremely thick layer of 19th century overburden encountered in Test Pit 6, is also likely to preserve earlier levels, though this was not proved during the evaluation. The nature of the medieval deposits and features together with the generally small quantities of medieval finds recovered, suggests that the medieval activity in the area evaluated was largely confined to gardening, rather than any more intensive or specialised activity. This can be considered of local significance.
- 6.3 The finds recovered indicate continuous occupation of the site from perhaps the 11th century onwards, right through to the 20th century. The presence of early medieval (Saxo-Norman) pottery on the site is of significance, as it provides evidence of the earliest phase of occupation of this part of the town. The possibility of intact stratigraphy of this date, unfortunately only hinted at, rather than conclusively proved by the results of Test Pit 2, would be of significance for the understanding of the development of Shaftesbury outside the bounds of the early *burh*.

7. PROJECT ARCHIVE

- 7.1 The archive will be deposited with the Dorset County Museum, which has agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives. A copy of the microfiched archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record.
- 7.2 The indexed and cross-referenced project archive consists of: –
- | | | |
|------------------|-----|--|
| File 1: | 1.1 | Written Scheme of Investigation T3050 |
| | 1.2 | Report 5073.1 |
| | 1.3 | Trench record |
| | 1.4 | Context Record |
| | 1.5 | Context Finds Record |
| | 1.4 | Drawing register |
| | 1.5 | Photographic register and monochrome contact sheet |
| File 2: | 2.1 | Monochrome negatives |
| | 2.2 | Colour transparencies |
| File 3: | | Drawings |
| The Finds | | 1 box |

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Appendix 1: List of all contexts

| Context | Description | Depth below surface |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| TEST PIT 1 | | |
| 101 | Garden topsoil. Loose blackish brown clay loam with very occasional greensand fragments <0.04 m. 0.40 m thick. | |
| 114 | Bed/path edging. Single row of modern machine-made bricks aligned NNE-SSW, following the line of slates further to the south that marks the edge of the garden path/vegetable garden. Some laid without mortar, others to the north roughly mortared. Follows the line of underlying wall 105. | 0.04 m |
| 108 | Path hardcore. Rubbly layer to west of brick line 114, primarily containing greensand and CBM fragments within a grey-brown loose clayish loam. Not excavated. | 0.11 m |
| 102 | Linear feature, aligned WSW-ENE and respecting wall 105 to the west. Steep sides and a flat base, 1.20 m length exposed and 0.50m width, 0.38m deep. Filled with 103 , a loose blackish brown clay loam with very occasional greensand fragments <0.04 m: identical to layer 101. Interpreted as a modern garden feature/bedding trench. | 0.36 m |
| 109 | Scoop or Dump layer in southern part of test pit, a very loose grey brown clay loam with frequent mortar fragments, moderate quantities of greensand fragments and occasional fragments of brick and tile. 0.10 m thick; full extent not exposed (0.70 m length and 0.30 m width within test pit). | 0.39 m |
| 107 | Stone structure 107 was a single course thick, and comprised three large greensand blocks, roughly dressed, maximum size 0.40 x 0.30 x 0.20m, bonded with a pale yellowish brown and very loose mortar. The blocks were lying on the surface of layer 110, and butted against/were butted by brick wall 105. Their function is unclear (not massive or deeply footed enough to be a buttress, not even enough to be a threshold) but they are clearly associated with the same structure that wall 105 belongs to. | 0.20 m |
| 104 | Wall foundations, comprising NNE-SSW aligned brick wall 105 and backfill 106 within foundation cut 104. Only the eastern side of the foundation trench 104 was exposed, and it was not bottomed. 0.50 m length; width >0.36 m; depth >0.65 m. Near vertical edge, cutting layer 110 and natural 113. Wall 105 was brick-built in a variety of bonds, and was two bricks wide (0.22 m). It was exposed to a maximum depth of 0.80 m (11 courses) but was not bottomed. Modern machine made bricks (0.22 x 0.11 x 0.07 5m) with a narrow frogging; hard yellowish brown mortar. Stone structure 107 is associated in some way - brick wall 105 butts against/is butted by 107. Backfill 106 of foundation trench 104 was a loose blackish brown clay loam with occasional fragments of greensand <0.02 m. Not bottomed; depth >0.65 m. | 0.21 m |
| 110 | Layer, medium compact dark greyish brown clay loam with occasional greensand fragments >0.02m, mortar fragments and flecks, and brick and tile. 0.52 m thick. Post-medieval garden soil. Seals feature 111. | 0.36 m |
| 111 | Feature, not fully exposed and not bottomed. Only the southern edge exposed - straight in plan, steep. Not bottomed due to difficulty of excavation in limited area. Length >0.60 m; width >0.23 m. Excavated to a depth of 0.42m. Cuts natural 113, and filled with 112 , a sticky greyish brown clay loam with moderate quantities of greensand fragments. | 0.83 m |
| 113 | Natural. Yellowish brown moderately compact sandy clay with frequent greensand fragments. Not excavated, but where it is cut by 111, it can be seen to become more clayey with depth. | 0.86 m+ |
| TEST PIT 2 | | |
| 200 | Garden soil. Very dark greyish brown friable silty loam with no coarse inclusions. 0.25 m thick. | |
| 201 | Rubbly layer. Loose (vacuous in places) dark grey silty loam with 5% greensand inclusions >0.10 m. 0.30 m thick. | 0.14 m |
| 202 | Layer. Thin band of compact greensand based mortar with limestone chips. 0.03m thick. Overlies wall foundations 205/206/207 and presumably represents part of a demolition episode of that building. | 0.50 m |
| 208 | Layer, on the northern side of the ENE-WSW aligned stretch of wall 205/206. Loose dark brown ashy gritty silt with clinkers, 0.26 m thick. Relationship with this wall is unclear, but the layer appears to butt against it (no cut is visible on the northern side of the wall), and may postdate the wall, although this is not certain. | 0.58 m |
| 209 | Layer, on the northern side of the ENE-WSW aligned stretch of wall 205/206. Loose greenish brown pure sand 0.22m thick. Relationship with wall 205/206 as for layer 208 and 210. | 0.70 m |
| 210 | Layer, on the northern side of the ENE-WSW aligned stretch of wall 205/206. Sticky grey fine | 0.94 m |

| Context | Description | Depth below surface |
|-------------------|--|---|
| | silty clay, investigated to a maximum depth of 0.20m and not bottomed. Relationship with wall 205/206 as for layers 208 and 209. | |
| 207 | Wall foundations , comprising the corner of a NNW-SSE/ENE-WSW aligned wall (205/206) within foundation cut 207. Only the southern side of foundation cut 207 was identified. The vertical cut was identified to a depth of 0.64 m but was not bottomed, and was 0.60 m wide. It cut layers 203 and 204 on its southern side, and contained wall 205/206, comprising 206, large (0.40 x 0.35 x 0.35 m) greensand blocks, dressed on at least the outer faces. At least two courses of the wall survived, and probing suggested the presence of a third, lower course. The wall had a rubble core, and was bound by 205 , a compact pale off-white limey mortar containing chalk fragments and a few very small greensand fragments. | 0.54 m |
| 203 | Layer , on the southern side of the ENE-WSW aligned stretch of wall 205/206. Grey silty clay layer, fairly compact, with 3% limestone pieces between 0.02-0.06 m, and frequent brick and tile fragments. Cut by 207. 0.30 m thick. | 0.58 m |
| 204 | Layer , on the southern side of the ENE-WSW aligned stretch of wall 205/206. Loose grey silty loam with 10% large, irregular and angular chips and pieces of greensand >0.08m. Cut by 207. Thickness >0.47m; not bottomed. | 0.82 m |
| TEST PIT 3 | | |
| 300 | Garden turf and topsoil . Firm very dark greyish brown sandy silty loam with occasional to rare very small chert fragments <0.02 m. 0.15 m thick. | 0 |
| 304 | Layer . On the eastern side of and butting against wall 301. Very loose sandy silt and rubble, variable in colour but generally very pale brownish grey, with extremely frequent plaster/mortar fragments generally <0.08 m, brick, tile, slate, greensand and limestone fragments up to 0.40 m. Loose unconsolidated demolition rubble and debris. | 0.13 m |
| 305 | Layer . On the eastern side of and butting against wall 301. Loose brownish grey ashy and gritty silt loam, with occasional to common brick, stone, plaster/mortar and ash/charcoal. 0.20m thick. | 0.64 m |
| 306 | Layer . On the eastern side of and butting against wall 301. Loose greyish to yellowish brown sandy silt loam with rubble, with common to frequent modern brick, stone, plaster, mortar. 0.24 m thick. | 0.89 m |
| 302 | Layer . On the western side of and butting against wall 301. Firm yellowish brown clayey sandy silt with frequent greensand and chert fragments up to 0.30 m across. 0.29 m maximum thickness. | 0.17 m |
| 303 | Wall . Linear construction cut 303 , aligned NW-SE, not excavated. Wall 301 parallel and to east of cut, brick and stone built. Upper seven courses small red bricks forming the eastern face of the wall (0.24 x 0.12 x 0.06m), mortared and random coursed; greensand fragments forming the core/back of the wall against the cut; lower courses of flattish slabs of greensand (and occasional ?limestone) and occasional brick. 1m+ long, 1.03m high, 0.42m wide. | 0.19 m |
| 307 | Natural . A firm and compact pale greyish green to brownish yellow slightly sandy to clayey silt with rare to occasional chert nodules and fragments c. 0.10m. Not excavated. Cut by 303 on western side of wall. | 0.22 m on W of wall; 1.18 m on E of wall |
| TEST PIT 4 | | |
| 401 | Garden topsoil . Loose dark blackish brown silty clay loam with no inclusions. Surface slopes down to the southeast. 0.20m thick. | |
| 402 | Layer . Slightly compact dark greyish black silty clay loam with very occasional small chalk, mortar and CBM fragments <0.02m. Surface slopes down to the southeast. 0.34m maximum thickness. | 0.20 m |
| 404 | Shallow pit/?soakaway . Not fully exposed: sub-rectangular shape in plan, length >0.95 m, width >0.88 m, 0.27 m depth, with near-vertical sides and a flattish base. Filled with 405 , a very loose and sticky greenish buff brown clay loam with high frequency of greensand fragments <0.20 m (average size 0.10 m) and mortar fragments, moderate quantities of brick and tile. Cuts layer 403. | 0.42 m |
| 403 | Layer . Slightly compact greyish brown clay loam with moderate quantities of chalk, mortar and CBM fragments <0.04 m, and occasional large limestone blocks c. 0.22 x 0.14 m. Cut by pit 404. 0.26 m maximum thickness. | 0.42 m |
| 410 | Shallow scoop . Not fully exposed in plan: sub-rectangular shape with rounded corners, SE side gently sloping, steeper to the E and N, base slightly irregular/flattish. >1.58 m length; >0.45 m width; 0.30m deep. Filled with 406 , a compact buff/yellowish brown gritty clay loam with occasional greensand fragments <0.15 m, very frequent mortar fragments <0.03 m, | 0.66 m |

| Context | Description | Depth below surface |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| | moderate quantities of chalk fragments and occasional brick and tile. Fill = demolition debris. Cuts layer 407. Probably associated with scoop 408 0.10 m to the east, which had a similar (but slightly less chalky) fill and was at the same stratigraphic level. | |
| 408 | Shallow scoop. Not fully exposed in plan: irregular sub-rectangular shape, moderately sloping sides, gentler to the SE, base irregular/slightly dished. >1.35 m length; >0.50 m width; 0.24 m deep. Filled with 409 , a compact greenish buff brown gritty clay loam with occasional greensand fragments <0.15 m, very frequent mortar fragments <0.03 m, occasional quantities of chalk fragments and brick and tile. Fill = demolition debris. Cuts layer 407. Probably associated with scoop 410, 0.10 m to the west, which had a similar (but slightly more chalky) fill and was at the same stratigraphic level. | 0.66 m |
| 407 | Layer. Moderately compact greyish brown clay loam with occasional chalk, CBM and clinker fragments. Homogeneous and deep layer, with a level upper surface - does not slope down to the southeast. 0.54 m thick. 19 th century soil. | 0.62 m |
| 411 | Layer. Sticky dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent greensand fragments <0.10 m and occasional chert fragments and flakes. 0.17 m thick. Seals features 412 and 414. Medieval. | 1.10 m |
| 412 | Gully. Shallow linear feature aligned NNE-SSW, terminal at NNE end. Sides steep, base flat, >0.6 m length, 0.20 m width, 0.08 m deep. Very shallow and presumably very truncated. Filled with 413 , a loose dark brown silty loam. Cuts deposit 416, sealed by 411. Medieval. | 1.25 m |
| 414 | Feature. Not fully exposed in plan - in northeast corner of test pit. Steep sides and a flattish base, >0.85m length, >0.35m width, 0.16m deep. Filled with 415 , a loose dark brown silty loam with occasional chert fragments. Cuts deposit 416, sealed by 411. Medieval. | 1.32 m |
| 416 | Layer. Orange brown compact silty clay with very frequent greensand fragments <0.10 m and occasional chert fragments. Surface of layer slopes slightly from SE down to NW. Redeposited natural, possibly dumped during a medieval terracing episode. 0.28 m maximum thickness. Medieval. | 1.24 m |
| 417 | Deposit. Medium compact dark brown silty clay with very occasional small greensand fragments <0.04 m and frequent charcoal flecks. Exposed in a 0.40 m wide slot dug through 416: not excavated, though a few finds retrieved for dating purposes. >0.10 m thick. Medieval. | 1.52 m |
| TEST PIT 5 | | |
| 500 | Garden topsoil. Loose very dark brown silty loam. No inclusions. 0.30 m thick. | |
| 501 | Layer. Loose very dark brown humic silt with fragments of limestone, greensand and chalk. 0.80m thick. | 0.30 m |
| 505 | Culvert, cutting layer 503. Not fully exposed – only the eastern side of the cut visible. Linear in plan, vertical eastern side, width >0.80 m, length >1.55 m, depth >0.46 m. Not excavated as possibly still live. Filled with 502 , a brick built culvert to at least four courses, capped with square limestone slabs c. 0.40 m. Aligned NW-SE, and in line with a guttering drain on the back of the extension to the property and a ceramic drain pipe exiting the southern revetment wall. | 0.90 m |
| 503 | Layer. Compact greenish grey mortar mix with chalk, limestone and greensand fragments. 0.26 m thick. Probably represents a demolition horizon. Cut by culvert cut 505. | 1.10 m |
| 504 | Layer. A sticky and plastic dark brown silty clay with limestone and greensand fragments. It was unclear whether this layer was also cut by culvert cut 505. 0.20 m thick | 1.30 m |
| 506 | Natural. Yellow brown clay and greensand fragments. | 1.50 m+ |
| TEST PIT 6 | | |
| 600 | Garden turf and topsoil. Firm very dark greyish brown slightly sandy silty clay loam with rare fragments of chert, limestone, brick and slate <0.03 m. 0.18 m thick. | |
| 601 | Layer. Loose yellowish grey to pale yellowish grey sandy silt loam with extremely frequent mortar/plaster fragments, brick, tile, slate, ash/cinder/charcoal etc up to 0.10 m. 0.24 m maximum thickness. Almost identical to layer 603. | 0.18 m |
| 602 | Layer. Loose, friable dark reddish grey thin layer of fine ash, cinders and clinkers, dipping to the north. Dump rather than path make-up: no compaction, and sloping surface. 0.07 m maximum thickness. | 0.39 m |
| 603 | Layer. Loose yellowish grey to pale yellowish grey sandy silt loam with extremely frequent mortar/plaster fragments, brick, tile, slate, ash/cinder/charcoal etc up to 0.10 m. Upper surface dipping to the north. 0.20 m maximum thickness. Almost identical to layer 601. | 0.43 m |
| 604 | Layer. Firm, friable very dark greyish brown slightly sandy silty loam/silty clay loam with occasional to rare chert and greensand fragments up to 0.10 m. Thickness >0.94 m, not bottomed. | 0.60 m |