

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

GLEBE ALLOTMENTS

**CHURCH KNAPP, WYKE ROAD
WYKE REGIS, WEYMOUTH
DORSET**

Site Code: GAW98

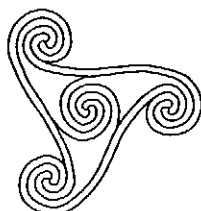
National Grid Reference(NGR) SY 66675 77785

on behalf of

TRENCHERWOOD HOMES

SEPTEMBER 1998

AOC
ARCHAEOLOGY
GROUP



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1 SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology on behalf of Trencherwood Homes Ltd. prior to the proposed development of the former allotments at Church Knapp, Weymouth. This development will involve the construction of 39 domestic dwellings with associated access road. Initially nine trenches, 25 metres in length were excavated. Trench 2 was subsequently extended by a total of 23 metres and two additional trenches of 20 metres were excavated.

Six features were recorded as predating allotment usage of the site. All were located in the north-south arm of the site and with exception of a collapsed oven in the far south-east, all were dated as being Romano-British. Excavations in trench 2 exposed an expansive area of stones packed into a hollow, cut into the natural clay. It was thought likely that this represented a ceremonial area possibly related to the burials previously recorded in the area. No inhumation burials were exposed during this evaluation.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Site Location (Fig. 1)

Wyke Regis lies to the south-west of Weymouth in the district of Weymouth and Portland, Dorset. The proposed development is to take place in an area currently occupied by allotments, most of which are out of use, and which occupy an L shaped area around the crest of a hill known as Church Knapp, between 60m OD and 69m OD.

The site lies to the South of Wyke Road (SY 66675 77785) and a covered reservoir is situated on the crest of the hill, to the North and East. The ground surface falls to the East, South and West and the underlying geology consists of Corallian Series Grits and Clays (Sandersfoot Grit/Sandersfoot Clay).

2.2 Planning Background

A planning application has been made by Trencherwood Homes Ltd. to Weymouth and Portland District Council, for the development to provide 39 residential units.

The District Council have taken into account the potential archaeological importance of the site and requested the developer to commission an archaeological evaluation of the area. AOC Archaeology were commissioned by the developer to submit a *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the evaluation, in line with Government Planning Guidance (PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning), to the Council's Archaeological Advisor.

Following approval by the Development Control Archaeologist, AOC Archaeology carried out an archaeological field evaluation, the results of which are contained within.

2

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Dorset County Sites and Monuments Record contains a number of records for the site and its immediate vicinity. Two burials, each with a pot, were found in the Glebe Allotments in 1858. One of these was in a cist and slabs associated with two other possible cists were also recorded.

During the construction of the original part of the reservoir, to the immediate north-east of the application site, in c. 1900, a bead rimmed jar containing a samian cup, and a coin of Faustina were recorded. Construction of the second part of the reservoir in 1936 revealed a minimum of three further burials, at least one of which was in a stone cist. One skeleton is recorded as having been discovered at a depth of 4 ft (1.22m) below the ground surface, but was also recorded as having been disturbed, and being in poor condition.

Further burials were also discovered some 400m to the West of the application site. In 1937, a cist burial was found during the digging of drainage ditches in Overlands Road.

In 1975 a further four burials were discovered during the digging of service trenches for a new housing estate to the West of Lea Road and these were excavated and recorded by archaeologists. There appeared to have been two phases of activity here, with earlier burials disturbed by excavation for later ones, and a date range spanning the late Iron Age and early Roman periods.

The two grave groups occupy small areas above the 60m OD contour on adjacent hilltops and would have both commanded excellent views inland and over the sea.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was provided by AOC Archaeology to the Development Control Archaeologist of Dorset County Council. This involved monitoring and recording the excavation of nine trenches. Initial excavation was carried out using a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator. Archaeological deposits exposed were cleaned, partially excavated and recorded in order to establish their date, character and extent.

Provision was made for post excavation analysis and a report to Level 3 as outlined by English Heritage in *Management of Archaeological Projects (1991)* and the *Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 1998)*. Work was carried out to the standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

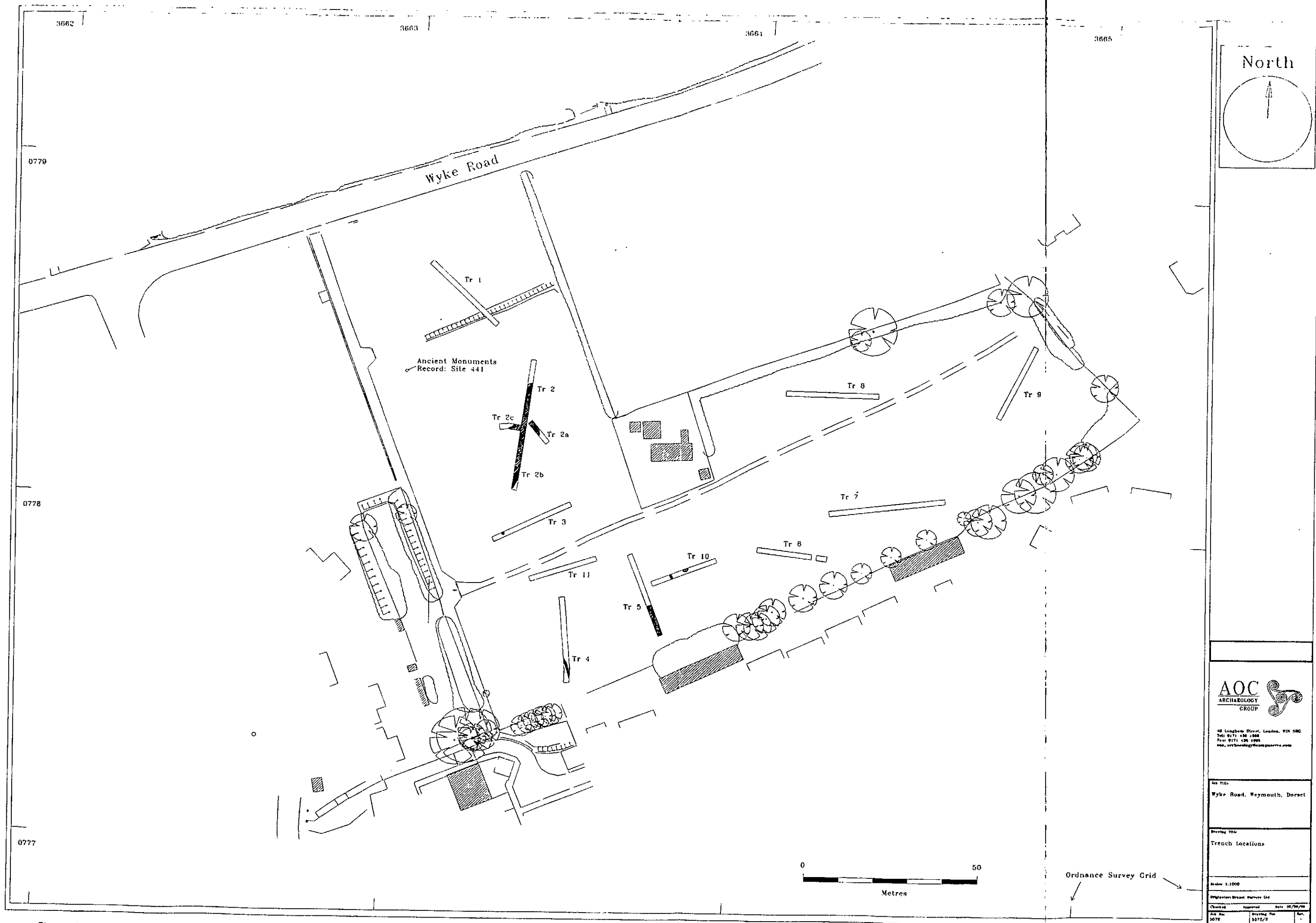


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

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Site Title
Wyke Road, Weymouth, Dorset

Drawing Title
Trench Locations

Scale 1:1000
Ordnance Survey Data

Checked	Approved	Date 07/06/06
Job No 3678	Drawing No 1672/3	Rev -

3.2 Methodology (Fig. 2)

All nine trenches were 25m in length and 1.65m wide. Trenches 1 and 2 in the north-west of the site were targeted to investigate potential archaeological disturbance caused by the proposed access road to the development. The remaining seven trenches were situated to sample the area proposed for residential dwellings.

Initial excavation was carried out using a JCB 3CX excavator operated by a qualified driver. The machine was equipped with a 5ft. ditching bucket and excavation extended to the surface of the underlying natural under constant archaeological supervision.

This depth varied between 0.32m in Trench 1 and 2.2m in the south-east of Trench 6. Prior to the excavation of each trench a sondage was excavated to ascertain the stratigraphic sequence at that location. The trenches were then machined in spits of not more than 0.3m, down onto the surface of the natural clays and sands. All trenches were hand cleaned and a photographic record was made using both colour reversal and black and white film. A proportion of any exposed archaeological deposit was excavated by hand. A written record of all deposits was produced and was supported by measured drawings both of the vertical section and in plan.

Levels for each context were established, relative to Ordnance Datum (OD), using Temporary Bench Marks (TBM) established by Brunnell Surveys at the end of each trench. A series of additional trenches were subsequently excavated to further investigate the distribution and extent of features already exposed. Trench 2 was extended by a total of 36m and two 20m trenches were excavated in the South of the site. (Trenches 10 and 11) The Trenches were backfilled following excavation, recording and consultation with the Development Control Archaeologist.

4 AIMS OF INVESTIGATION

The aims as laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* were:

The area of the application site is almost all above the 60m contour, and it must therefore be considered that there is significant potential for further burials to survive on the site. What is less clear, however, is the degree of survival, and the condition of any surviving burials.

The main aim of the investigation will therefore be to establish the presence/absence of further burials, or other archaeological remains on the site.

The investigation will aim to establish the extent, condition, quality and date of remains present.

The investigation will then aim to determine in detail the threat posed to the surviving remains by the proposed development, and, on the basis of the information regarding the significance and condition of the remains, to allow informed planning decisions to be made regarding the most appropriate mitigation strategy for the remains.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Archaeology Present

The trenches numbered 1, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 on the trench location plan (Fig. 2) extended through allotment topsoil, compacted after some years of disuse, 0.3m to 0.45m in depth. This gave way to a layer of mixed and disturbed natural material. This deposit varied in composition with relation to the changing geology below and also in depth from a very thin 'interface' in Trench 1 to a deposit of 2.2m in the south-east of Trench 6. In general this material consisted of clay sands with artefacts of both Roman and modern date contained within it. The varying depth is clearly related to the colluvial action of agriculturally turbated natural deposits downslope.

The underlying natural in these trenches was found to be pale yellow brown clay and reddish brown sands and no features of archaeological significance were exposed.

In Trench 2 (Fig. 3 and 4) however a large expanse of limestone pieces (2/007), generally in excess of 10cm³, were found to be packed with dark grey brown sandy clay into a shallow cut. A trampled layer of mixed clay and sand (2/009) was seen immediately overlying the surface of this stone. 2/007 was laid on a foundation of smaller crushed stone of the same type which provided a foundation for the structure. In the North and subsequently in the South, terracing (2/006) of the underlying clay (2/008) had produced a raised edge to the feature. The stones placed on this terrace (2/005 and 2/011) were considerably larger than those incorporated in the lower part and so tightly packed as to require deconstruction rather than excavation. A number of artefacts were recovered from within this deposit including roman pottery and animal bone. A fragment of modern brick, found in this upper part of this context was thought to be contamination from above.

The size of this feature obviated the excavation of a further four short trenches to determine its extent. Both North and South ends of the trench were extended by 8m and 12m respectively and other trenches were excavated at a 60° angle on the East and perpendicular on the West. The feature was seen to be 31m North to South and 9m East to West and sections excavated through it gave an average depth of 0.3m. A sondage excavated through 2/007, in the eastern extension, revealed a lens of moluscan shell between the stone and the natural clay implying that the feature was left open before in the period between terracing and the deposition of stone. The entire feature was sealed below a deposit of dark grey brown sandy clay (2/003) that levelled the overlying strata and extended to a maximum of 0.8m in depth. This material contained artefacts from various periods. A notched chert flake recovered from this context (Appendix C) was dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age whilst pottery of the late Roman and Post Medieval periods suggested that this represented an accumulated agricultural fill, deposited over centuries and obscuring the underlying terraces. These artefacts along with an iron nail and antler from are same deposit are therefore likely to be residual rather than *in situ*. Overlying this was a layer of dark yellowish brown silt clay subsoil (2/002) containing very occasional sherds of pottery dating to the 18th century or later.

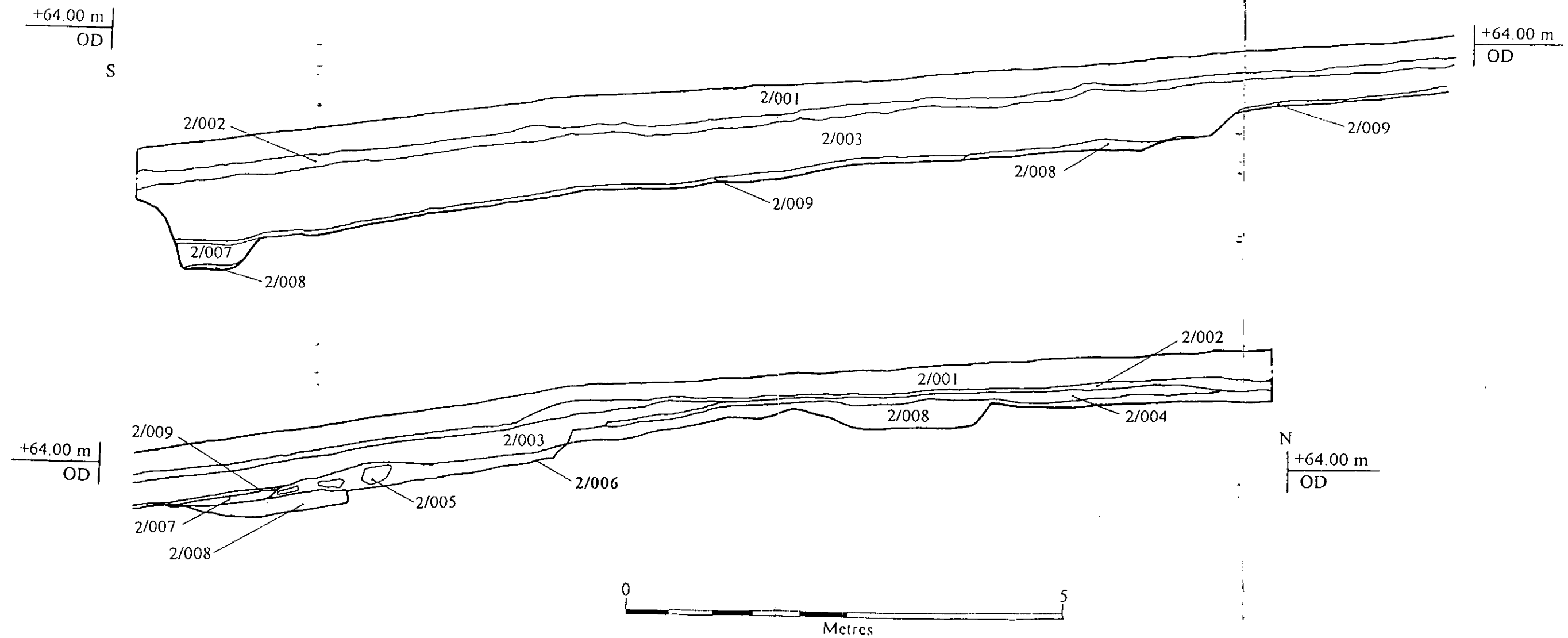


Figure 3 Trench 2: east facing section.



Figure 4 Trench 2: plan of main trench and extentions



Plate 1: Trench 2, South facing view over 2/005

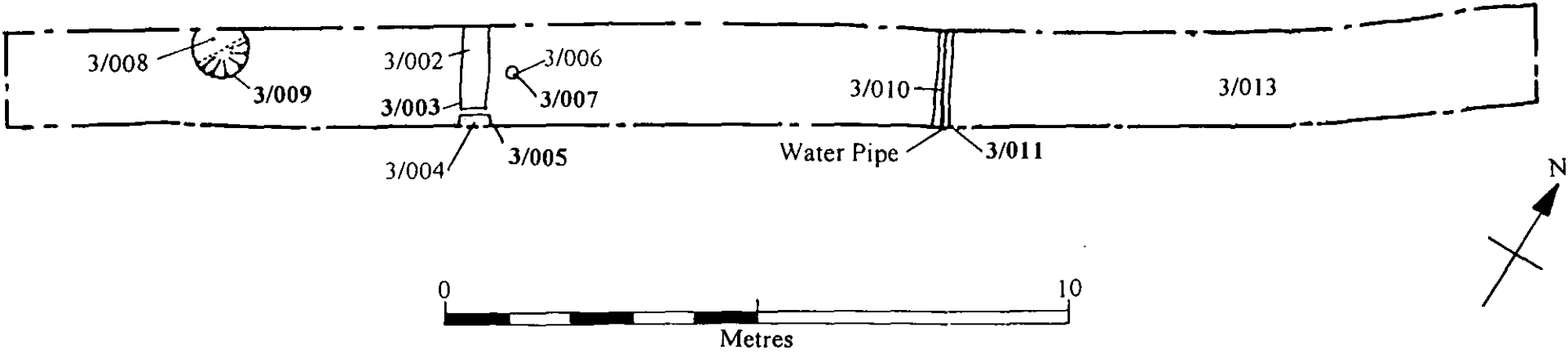


Figure 5 Trench 3, post excavation plan

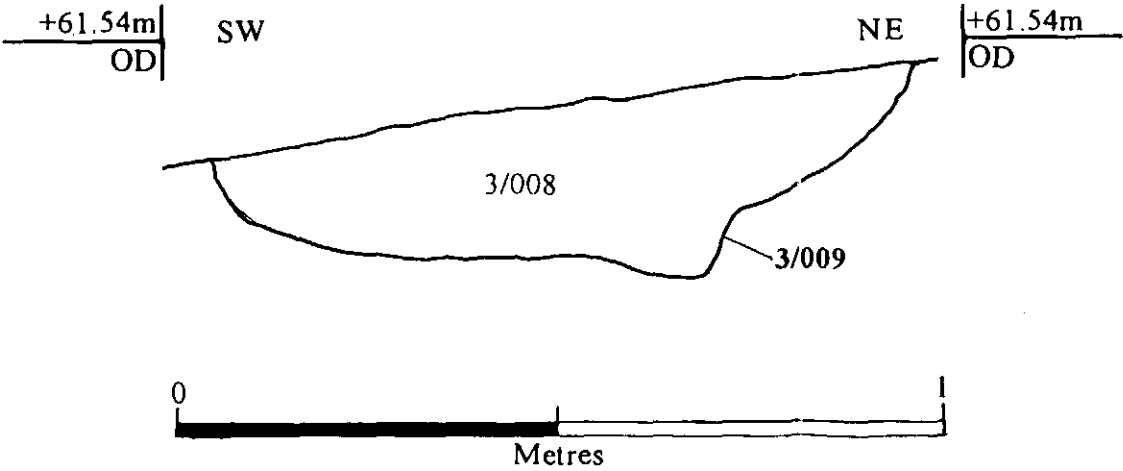


Figure 6 Trench 3, south-east facing section through 3/009

Animal bone was found pressed into the surface of this structure (2/007) with pottery dating to the 3rd or 4th century and tile of a similar date being recovered throughout the deposit. It is therefore possible that this feature represents a ceremonial area, associated with the burials found previously within the vicinity and being used for sacrificial slaughter of livestock along with other offerings in pottery vessels.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5) extended through compact topsoil (3/001) to a depth of 0.34m below the ground surface where it gave way to a subsoil of compact yellow/grey brown clay silt (3/012). The natural was exposed at a depth of 0.38m below ground level and was seen to consist of a yellowish red sandy clay.

Into this clay were cut five features, four of which were found to be associated with allotment activity. In the south-western end of the trench however, a post hole or small pit (3/009) was recorded. (Fig. 6) This feature was heavily truncated and almost circular in plan. It measured 0.93m in diameter and was a maximum of 0.26m deep. The base appeared to have been cut level at a height of 61.25m OD in the centre, possibly to provide a stable footing for a post. The feature had subsequently been backfilled with a homogenous deposit of mid grey brown silty clay (3/008) containing sherds of pottery, bone and shell. It is therefore reasonable to assume that this feature represents a post hole which was later used as a rubbish pit, the pottery indicating a date of 1st century AD. This was the only feature recorded during this investigation that may predate the roman conquest.

Trench 4 extended through a compacted topsoil of dark grey brown sandy silt clay (4/001) to a depth of 0.29m where it gave way to a mid orange brown clay silt subsoil (4/002) containing sherds of pottery dating to both Roman and Modern periods in addition to fuel waste and an iron nail. At a depth of 0.46m below the ground surface the natural sandy clay (4/004) was encountered. Only one feature was seen, cut into the clay. This was linear in plan and meandered slightly, running north-west - south-east across the southern end of the trench. It measured 0.55m wide but only 0.05m in depth. The single sandy clay fill contained Roman pottery but was almost indistinguishable from the subsoil above. There is however a slight possibility that this represents the base of a heavily truncated ditch.

Trench 5 (Fig. 7 and 8) excavations once again encountered compacted topsoil (5/001), here to a depth of 0.36m where it gave way to a subsoil of light orange brown sandy clay (5/002). This layer produced a number of sherds of pottery dating to Roman and modern periods and averaged 0.26m thick. Underlying this was the yellowish red sandy clay natural (5/007).

Two features were recorded and partially excavated here, primarily in the southern end of the trench were a very large feature crossed the excavations oriented East - West (5/005). It measured approximately 7m in width and partial excavation revealed two fills. The later of these (5/003) consisted of a mid orange brown silty clay which contained a substantial quantity of limestone rocks and slabs. The earlier fill (5/004) was a dark grey brown silt clay with a 15% charcoal content. Also the deposit was heavily mottled with flecks of chalk, orange and yellow sandstone.

The secondary fill (5/003) produced several large horse bones, iron nails and slag. The pottery recovered from both layers was dated to the 3rd or 4th century. Between the two fills, a lens of molluscan shell was recorded. A concentration of this kind would indicate a period

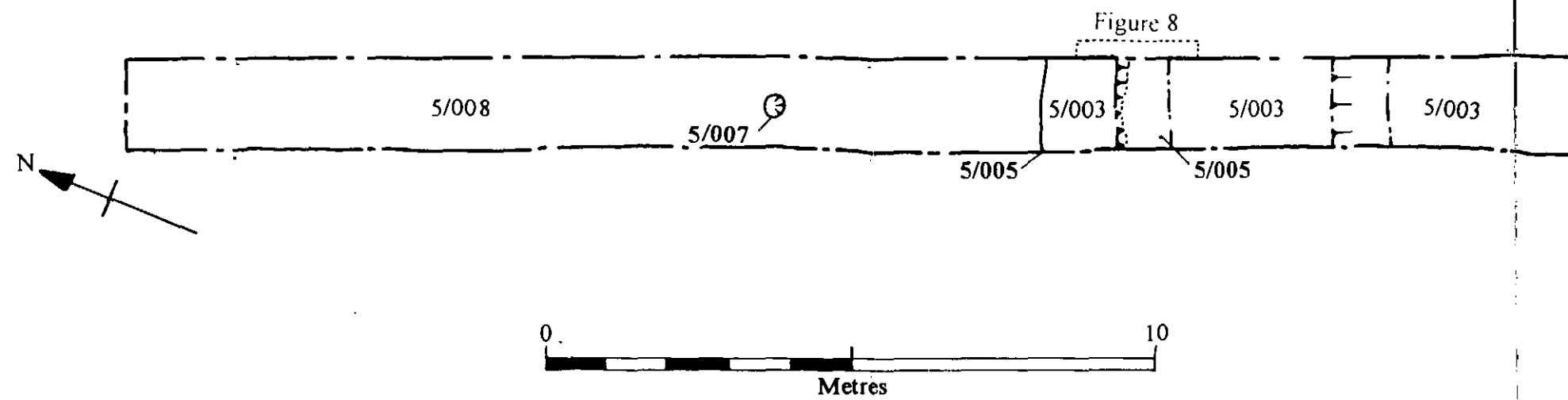


Figure 7 Trench 5, post excavation plan

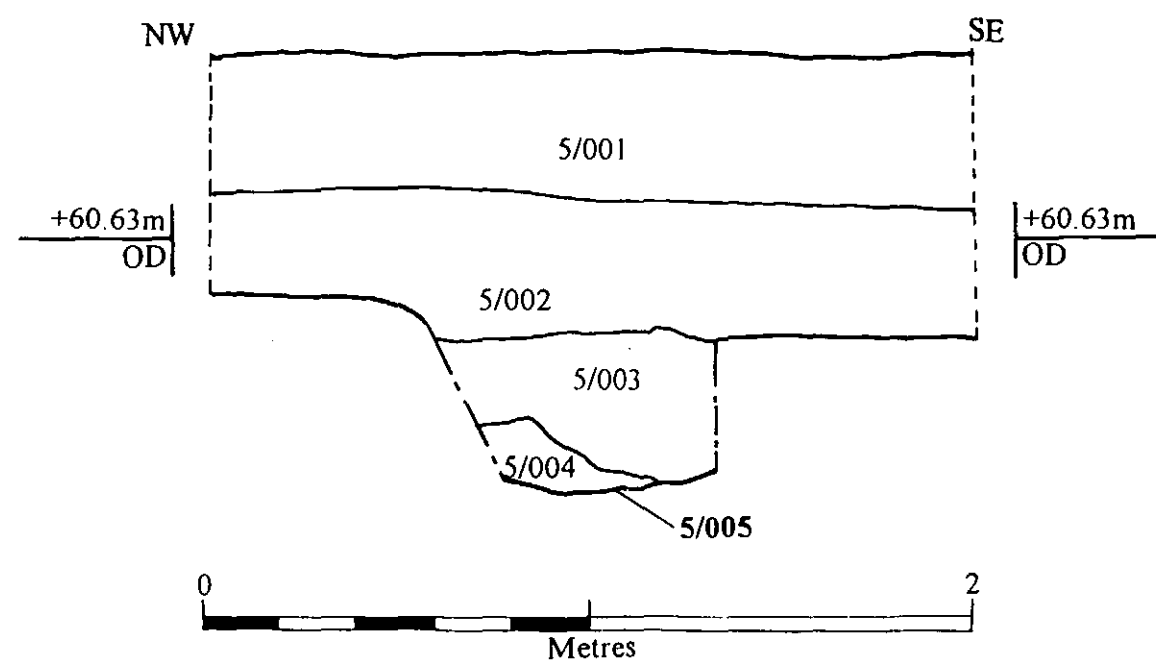


Figure 8 Trench 5, West facing section through 5/005

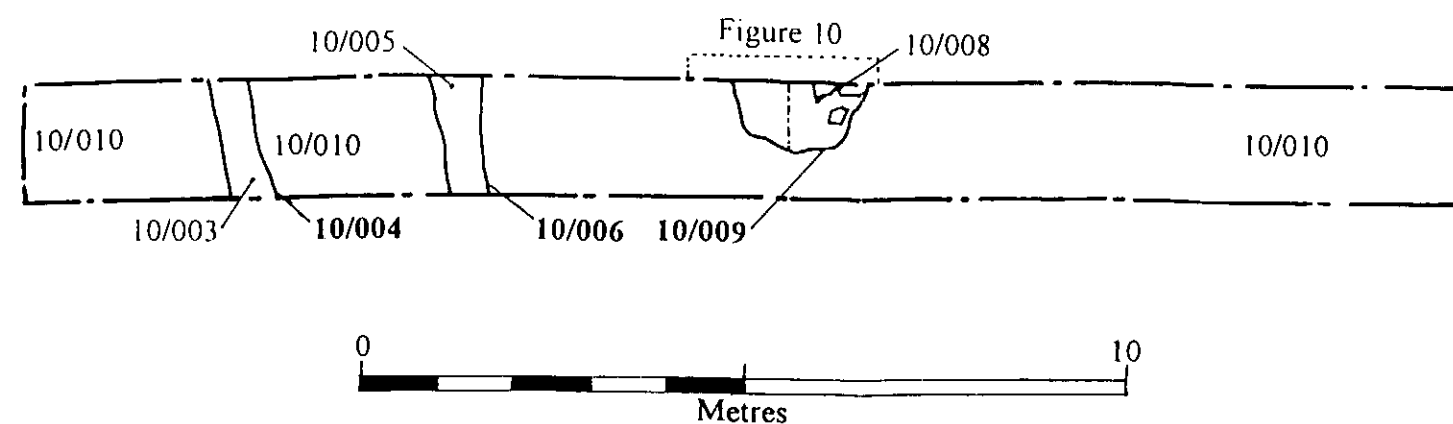


Figure 9 Trench 10, post excavation plan

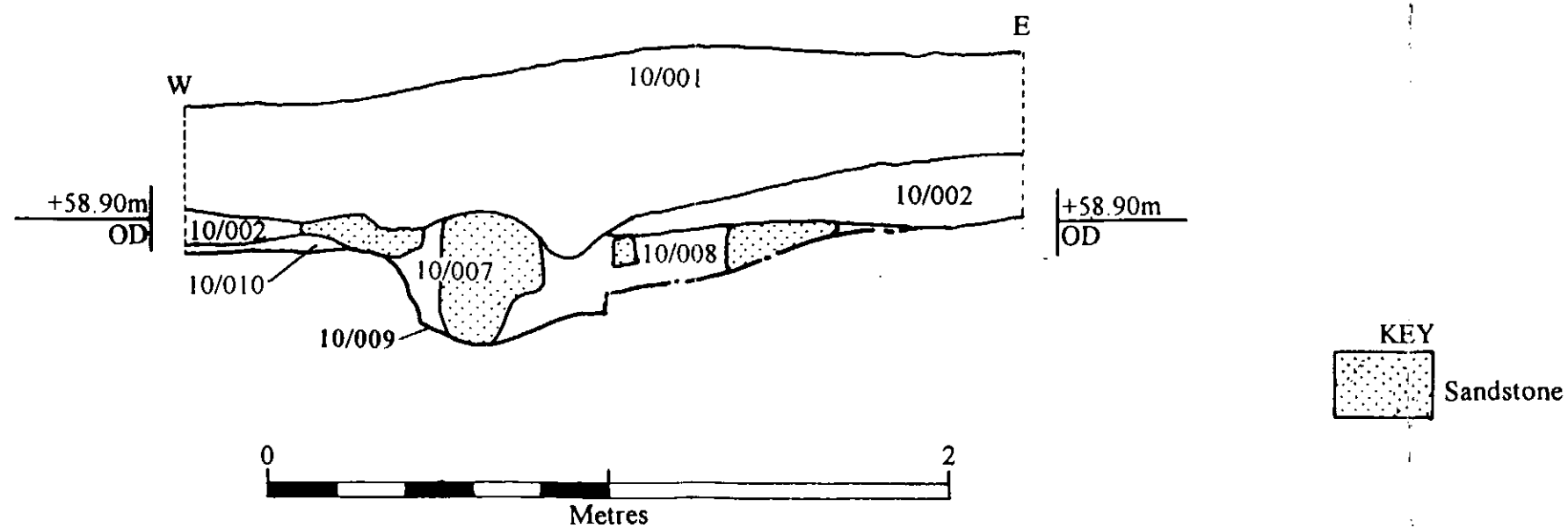


Figure 10 Trench 10, West facing section through 10/009

were the feature was left open and not used for the disposal of refuse for sufficient time to accumulate a substantial deposit of shell.

It was unclear within the confines of these investigations that the full extent of this feature was recorded. However the nature of the feature was thought to be linear, possibly representing a ditch. It should be noted that this feature was not encountered in any other trench.

Finally, Trench 10 (Fig. 9) was excavated in an attempt to locate other features associated with 5/005. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were very similar to those seen in Trench 5 with the natural consisting of orange/red sandy clay. Two features were recorded to be of archaeological significance. Firstly an ovoid shaped feature (10/009), containing large uncut blocks of red sandstone was found (Fig. 10) and represented the most easterly feature recorded during this evaluation.

On further investigation the clay in the base and sides of the feature were burnt to a dark purple red and it was thought likely this represented a collapsed oven or hearth. It measured 1.5m in diameter and 0.28m in depth, the base being recorded at 60.14m OD. The feature was disturbed, possibly by allotment activity and the sandstone seen on the western side of the oven (Fig. 10) had been pulled out, the resulting void being filled with topsoil (10/007). Pottery recovered from the remaining fill (10/008) was late Roman in date.

The second feature in this trench (10/006) was seen 3.5m to the West of the hearth. This was a ditch running North-South and measured 0.5m wide. The feature was not excavated as the feature was dated by pottery within the surface of the fill. This pottery was Roman British in date. The ditch seen to the West of this (10/004) contained modern pottery and was associated with allotment activity.

5.2 Finds

The detailed analysis of the artefacts recovered from these investigations can be found in the appendices of this report. In general however all the pottery recovered from discrete archaeological features was dated to between the 1st and 4th century AD. The building materials found concur with this date with the inclusion of Roman tegula of the 3rd century AD. Two instances of contamination (2/005 & 2/009), where fragments of Post-Medieval brick and tile were recovered from sealed archaeological layers probably resulted from agriculturally related excavations (such as fence post holes) intruding into the context from above.

6 CONDITIONS

During the six days of field investigation the weather was dry, hot and sunny. Upon exposure deposits were damp but well drained providing good conditions for recognition and excavation of archaeological features. Following exposure the natural clay baked hard within two hours and cracked within a day. For this reason archaeological deposits were excavated and recorded immediately after the trenches were opened.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The objectives of the Research Design have been addressed and the nature of the archaeology in the area of the proposed development has been established. The finds recovered from the disturbed natural deposits appear to be residual with a wide range of periods being represented.

The packed stone surface seen in Trench 2 clearly represents a feature of considerable archaeological importance when placed in the context of the known grave sites in this area.

With the presence of contemporary features such as a possible post hole in Trench 3, the thin linear in Trench 4 and the large linear in Trench 5, there remains the possibility that structures and boundaries were constructed on this site and occupation of the western part of the application site cannot be excluded.

Whilst any decision regarding further archaeological investigation must rest with the Development Control Archaeologist, Mr. Steven Wallis and Dorset County Council, it is the recommendation of the author and of AOC Archaeology that additional fieldwork is required unless a suitable mitigation strategy can be devised to limit any disturbance by groundworks associated with this development.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | |
|--|---|
| AOC Archaeology (1998) | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation</i> |
| Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) | <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological
Field Evaluations</i> |

APPENDIX A

Context List

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Find
1/001	Grey Brown Sandy Clay - Allotment Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.46 - 0.2 m	
1/002	Grey Brown Silty Sand/Clay - Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.17 - 0.05m	
1/003	Grey Clay with Sand & Gravel - Fill of 1/004	1.65m	0.8m	0.08m	
1/004	Linear Cut - Allotment Boundary Ditch	1.65m	0.8m	0.08m	
1/005	Grey Clay with Sand & Gravel - Fill of 1/006	1.65m	0.75m	Unexcavated	
1/006	Linear Cut - Allotment Boundary Ditch	1.65m	0.75m	Unexcavated	
1/007	Yellowish Red Silty Clay - Natural	Trench	Trench	-	
2/001	Grey Brown Sandy Clay - Allotment Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.3 - 0.5m	
2/002	Grey Brown Silty Sand/Clay - Subsoil	20.00m	Trench	0.15m	Pot
2/003	Brownish Grey Silty Sand/Clay - Coluvial Build-up	22.00m	Trench	0.08 - 0.55m	Pot, CBM, Flint, Bone, Antler, Fe Nail
2/004	Grey Brown Silty Sand/Clay with Stone frags - Plough Damage	7.25m	Trench	0.10m	
2/005	Large Stone blocks - Stone Kerb	1.70m	1.65m	0.27m	Pot, CBM, Bone
2/006	Bedding Cut for 2/005	2.25m	1.65m	0.35m	
2/007	Stone packed with Grey Brown Sandy Clay - Possible Ceremonial Surface	17.5m	1.65m	0.17 - 0.3m	Pot, CBM, Slag, Bone
2/008	Dark Reddish Yellow Sandy Clay - Natural	Trench	Trench	Unexcavated	
2/009	Dark Brown Sandy Clay/Silt - Trample Layer	17.5m	1.65m	0.02 - 0.08m	Pot, CBM, Bone, Fe Nail
2/010	Cut for 2/007	17.5m	1.65m	>0.30m	
2/011	Large Stone Blocks - Stone Kerb	3.00m	1.00m	Unexcavated	
3/001	Grey - Brown Sandy Clay - Allotment Topsoil	Trench	Trench		
3/002	Grey - Brown Silty Clay - Fill of Ditch 3/003	1.35m	0.40	0.14m	
3/003	Allotment Boundary Ditch	1.35m	0.40m	0.14m	
3/004	Dark Brown Silty Clay - Fill of Ditch 3/005	0.15m	0.50m	Unexcavated	
3/005	Allotment Boundary Ditch	0.15m	0.50m	Unexcavated	
3/006	Grey - Brown Silty Clay - Fill of Post-hole 3/007	0.20m	0.18m	Unexcavated	
3/007	Post-hole	0.20m	0.18m	Unexcavated	

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Findings
3/008	Grey - Brown Silty Clay - Fill of Post-hole 3/009	0.92m	0.92m	0.22m	Pot, Bone, Shell
3/009	Post-hole	0.92m	0.92m	0.22m	
3/010	Fill of Trench 3/011	1.65m	0.25m	Unexcavated	
3/011	Service Trench	1.65m	0.25m	Unexcavated	
3/012	Grey - Brown Silty Sand/Clay Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.10m	
3/013	Reddish Yellow Sandy Clay - Natural	Trench	Trench	Unexcavated	
4/001	Grey - Brown Sandy Clay - Allotment Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.28m	
4/002	Orange - Brown Sandy Clay - Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.15m	Pot, Fuel Waste, Fe Nail
4/003	Yellow - Brown Sandy Silt - Fill of 4/004	5.0m	0.55m	0.07m	Pot
4/004	Shallow Gully	5.0m	0.55m	0.07m	
4/005	Sandy Clay - Natural	Trench	Trench	Unexcavated	
5/001	Grey - Brown Sandy Clay - Allotment Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.42m	
5/002	Light Orangey - Brown - Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.34m	
5/003	Orange - Brown Silty Clay - Upper Fill 5/005	0.85m	1.55m	0.42m	Pot, Bone, Slag, Fe Nail, Shell
5/004	Dark Grey - Brown Silty Clay - Primary Fill 5/005	0.43m	1.14m	0.18m	Pot, Shell, Bone
5/005	Ditch	5.60m	1.55m	0.50m	
5/006	Orange - Brown Silty Clay - Fill of 5/007	0.21m	0.20m	0.04m	Pot, Bone
5/007	Natural Hollow	0.21m	0.20m	0.04m	
5/008	Sandy Clay - Natural	Trench	Trench	Unexcavated	
6/001	Grey - Brown Sandy Clay - Allotment Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.31m	
6/002	Orange - Brown Silty Sand/Clay - Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.70m	
6/003	Sandy Clay - Natural	Trench	Trench	Unexcavated	
7/001	Grey - Brown Sandy Clay - Natural	Trench	Trench	0.27m	
7/002	Sandy Clay - Natural	Trench	Trench	Unexcavated	
8/001	Grey - Brown Sandy Clay - Allotment Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.31m	
8/002	Dark Yellowish Brown Silty Sandy Clay - Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.20m	
8/003	Orange - Brown Sandy Clay - Natural	Trench	Trench	Unexcavated	
9/001	Grey - Brown Sandy Clay - Allotment Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.31m	

9/002	Yellowish Brown Clayey Sand - Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.42m	
Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds
9/003	Dark Reddish Brown Loamy Sand - Natural	Trench	Trench	Unexcavated	
10/001	Grey - Brown Sandy Clay - Allotment Topsoil	Trench	Trench	1.00m	
10/002	Brownish - Yellow Clayey Silt - Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.20m	
10/003	Yellow - Brown Clayey Silt - Fill of 10/004	1.65m	0.45m	Unexcavated	
10/004	Modern Linear Feature	1.65m	0.45m	Unexcavated	
10/005	Fill of 10/006	1.65m	0.60m	Unexcavated	
10/006	Possible Ditch	1.65m	0.60m	Unexcavated	
10/007	Upper Fill of 10/009	0.85m	0.17m	0.35m	
10/008	Primary Fill of 10/009	1.40m	0.85m	0.40m	Pot, Shell
10/009	Fire - Pit	1.40m	0.85m	0.40m	
10/010	Sandy Clay - Natural	Trench	Trench	Unexcavated	
11/001	Grey - Brown Sandy Clay - Allotment Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.3m	
11/002	Red Brown Mixed Sandy Clay - Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.06m	
11/003	Yellow Brown Sandy Clay - Natural	Trench	Trench		

APPENDIX B

POTTERY REPORT

By Paul Booth

Some 160 sherds (1319 g) of Roman pottery were recovered from eleven different contexts in the site, with a single oxidised sherd (18 g) of post-medieval date from context 3 in Trench 2. The pottery was examined fairly rapidly and was recorded using fabric codes employed in the Oxford Archaeological Unit's system for recording Iron Age and Roman pottery. Quantification was by sherd count and weight and vessel rims were also counted. The majority of the material was local black-burnished ware. A number of the context groups appeared to be of later Roman date, with only one (context 8 in Trench 3) certainly assignable to the 1st century AD.

The pottery was in moderate condition. Preservation of surfaces was variable, with burnishing surviving on some sherds but not on others. The average sherd weight (8.2 g) was relatively low, much of the material being quite badly fragmented. This was particularly the case in Trench 3 context 8, where many small fragments probably included a number of recent breaks. Even if this material is excluded, however, the average weight of the remaining sherds was only 11.7 g, still not a particularly high figure.

The fabrics present were:

- S30. Central Gaulish samian ware. 1 sherd, 3 g.
- F50. New Forest red colour-coated ware (Fulford 1975, 25 fabric 1b). 2 sherds, 9 g.
- F53. New Forest dark colour-coated ware (Fulford 1975, 24 fabric 1a). 1 sherd, 6 g.
- M14(?). Fine buff mortarium fabric, probably from North Gaul or the Rhineland. 1 sherd, 22 g.
- W10. Unspecified fine slightly sandy buff white wares. 2 sherds, 18 g.
- O. Miscellaneous unspecified oxidised wares. 3 sherds, 21 g.
- O10. Fine slightly sandy oxidised ware. 1 sherd, 8 g.
- B10. Probable/possible black-burnished ware (BB1) of Poole Harbour type. 52 sherds, 197 g.
- B11. Black-burnished ware (BB1). 97 sherds, 1035 g.

The range of fabrics was dominated by certain and probable black-burnished wares, the latter being generally rather finer than the 'typical' Poole harbour fabric. Together these fabrics accounted for 93.8% of the total sherds (93.3% of weight). A narrow range of fine and specialist wares consisted of a single samian sherd, an imported mortarium, and colour-coated wares from the New Forest, together with white wares of uncertain origin. The remaining oxidised fabrics were also not assigned to source. One of these could possibly have been of post-medieval date. In general the range of fabrics may be seen as typical for the region, with only the mortarium fabric M14 perhaps slightly out of the ordinary.

The chronology of the assemblage is dependent essentially on the black-burnished ware. Some 20 vessels in fabrics B10 and B11 were represented by rim sherds, of which five were of types assignable to the late Iron Age (Durotrigian) or early Roman period. Three of these were probably jars, broadly of bead rimmed type, though one of these vessels was slightly carinated in the lower body and may have been an open bowl, and the other two were upright rimmed jars. The remaining jars/cooking pots (seven vessels) were of everted rim types ranging from 2nd-4th century in date, though most were thought to belong to the later part of this range. Only two body sherds from jars clearly had acute angled lattice decoration of early type, while obtuse angle lattice was recorded five times, albeit all on sherds from the same context (7 in Trench 2A). Other BB1 types present were three straight sided bowls, all with later Roman bead and flange rims, and seven simple straight sided dishes which can only be dated broadly, from the mid-late 2nd century to the 4th century.

While the New Forest fine wares indicate a later Roman date, the forms present being Fulford's type 60 (a Drag 33 imitation assigned to the early 4th century) and an indented beaker, the single samian ware sherd and the imported mortarium fragment are consistent with a mid-late 2nd century date. Overall the evidence suggests a fairly wide date range for the assemblage. As already indicated only one context group (3/8), containing three of the five early BB1 vessel types discussed above, including both upright rimmed jars, can be confidently assigned to the 1st century AD, and could have been of pre-conquest date. This was the largest group from the site in terms of numbers of sherds, though many of these (principally assigned to fabric B10) were very small fragments. Most other context groups were quite small and so were not always closely dateable. Context groups 2/3, 2/7, 2A/7 and 5/3 were all of later 3rd-4th century date, but not all of these were well-stratified Roman deposits; 2/3, for example, produced a post-medieval sherd as well as late Roman material.

Reference

Fulford, M G, 1975 *New Forest Roman Pottery*, BAR 17

APPENDIX C

BUILDING MATERIAL REPORT

By Naomi Crowley

INTRODUCTION

The building material from the site was recorded by context, fabric and form using the AOC Archaeology building material recording system. Fabric codes have been applied for the purpose of this report.

FABRICS

Fabric 1: Red coloured fine fabric with fine moulding sand. Forms present: Peg tile, vent.

Fabric 2: Red coloured fabric with fine silty streaks. Forms present: Roman tegula.

Fabric 3: Red coloured sandy fabric. Forms present: Brick

Fabric 4: Orangi pink coloured fabric containing frequent calcium carbonate, light coloured clay inclusions, occasional shell fragment, red and black iron oxide inclusions. Red moulding sand. Forms present: Roman tegula.

SUMMARY OF THE MATERIAL

The assemblage consists of abraded Roman tile and post-medieval/modern building material.

Context	Fabrics present	Comments
2/003	1, 4	Modern peg tile with residual 3rd century Roman tegula
2/005	3.00	Post-medieval brick
2/007	4.00	3rd century Roman tegula
2/009	1, 2	Modern tile vent (poss contamination) and Roman tegula

Calcareous Roman Tile (Fabric 4)

Contexts 2/003 and 2/007 contained abraded fragments of tegula in a calcareous fabric. Tile in this fabric is known from south coast sites from Exeter in Devon to Worthing in Sussex, including the Isle of White, and from London. The distinctive calcareous fabric and red moulding sand indicates that the tiles originate from a single source, as yet unknown, but

presumably on the south coast somewhere. Evidence suggests that the tiles date to the 3rd century.

Other Building Material

In addition to the fabrics already described, 9 heavily abraded fragments of daub were recovered from context 2/007. Whilst the backing of these fragments was burnt the other surfaces were not. This may imply that this material was used as a lining for a kiln or oven. No residues were detected adhering to the fragments and their condition did not allow for further interpretation.

APPENDIX D

WORKED STONE REPORT

By Pipa Bradley

2/003 Chert Artefact

Notched flake made on a thick chert flake. There are some parallel blade scars on the dorsal face of the flake and some areas of battering, perhaps resulting from use as a hammerstone. At the distal end of the flake there is a semicircular area of retouch on the bulbar face, forming a notch. This piece is likely to be Neolithic or Bronze Age in date but more precise dating is not possible.

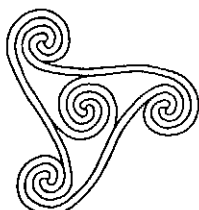
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*The logo incorporates a design from
a lead disc found on Birsay, Orkney,
dated to the sixth century AD.*