Swale Archaeological Survey

Interim Report on the Roman Villa at Deerton Street, Teynham, Kent

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An interim report on the investigation of the Roman villa complex at Deerton Street, Teynham, Kent. March 26-30 1997

"The clear river's tidal flow
Takes me by boat from home,
And brings me home again ....
Not far from town I live,
Yet not hard by ....
I change about,
And get the best of town
And country, turn by turn."

These easy verses of Ausonius, a 4th century villa owner near Bordeaux indicate the preoccupation of the Roman landed gentry with the Arcadian delights of the countryside.

But the same mutuality between town and country was at work when the poetic oxymoron of a well-groomed arcadia took the form of a Roman country villa. The ancient ideal of country life as a corrective to the corruption, intrigue, and disease of the town was always a spur to rustication in a *locus amoenus*, a "place of delight". It was no accident that Pliny the Younger cited the closeness of his seaside villa at Laurentinum, seventeen miles from Rome, as one of its chief virtues.

Laurentinum by-the-sea, was a weekend place for Pliny, "large enough to afford a convenient, though not sumptuous reception for my friends." It had a breezy atrium, hot tubs, a well-stocked library, figs and mulberries in the garden, terrific views over the water, and a steady supply of fresh seafood. Pliny thought of the view, "not as a real land, but as an exquisite painting".[1]

Great men lived splendidly throughout the Empire, but suddenly, during the 260s, the Western Empire had been overrun by barbarians,[2] henceforth the Roman armies of the Rhine[3] were compelled to look to the cornlands and pastures of Britain, in particular Kent, for a substantial part of their supplies.[4]

This new-found wealth has left its mark on the expansive Roman agricultural establishments to be found north of Watling Street, along the Swale estuary.[5]

One is known about from 19th century reports of amateur excavations at Lower Halstow (Boxted).[6]

All the others, some nine possible villas, have been located by the author through field-work and research in a matter of eighteen months.

They are, Lavender Farm (Graveney), Blacklands, (Faversham), Abbey Farm,[7] (Faversham), Luddenham, (Stone), Deerton Street, (Teynham), Teynham church (Teynham), Bax Farm, (Teynham), Mere Court, (Sittingbourne), Milton church, (Sittingbourne), Boxted, (Newington)[6] and possibly Cold Harbour, (Bobbing).

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1 Castell, Robert, 1728: 217.
2 Salway, 1981: 274.
3 One modern estimate put the needs of a legion at 500 bushels of corn a week.
4 Milne, 1988: 82 and Libanivs, *Oration* 18, 82-3.
5 Cato (De Agr. Cult. 1.I.3) emphasizes the importance of access to a flourishing town and nearness to good water or road communications.
6 Arch. Cant. 1883: 104-7. Collectanea Cantiana 1893: 60-70.
7 Philps, 1968.
8 See report by Nigel Macpherson-Grant: 24.5.1997.

This interim evaluation report deals with the villa at Deerton Street. Other possible villas will be investigated in the fullness of time.

Archaeological background

Field-walking in June 1996 located two Roman and one medieval pottery and tile concentrations in orchards near to Deerton Street, Teynham, Kent. (TQ9730 6295 and TQ9750 6298).

Again, as at the villa site at Blacklands and the possible site at Luddenham, a classic Arcadian setting overlooking a fresh-water spring with, no doubt, easy access to the Swale (and thence London,. Canterbury or the continent) by boat.

Building debris on the east and west banks consisted of Roman roof tiles (*tegulae* and *imbrices*), some with impressed finger-marks, lumps of *opus signinum* and over 400 sherds of Roman and medieval pottery. This pottery has been identified by Canterbury Archaeological Trust. (See Appendix).

On the west bank, around the roots of the plum trees, were large quantities of large (coarse) cut-tile *tesserae*. Samples were collected.

In the hedgerows of the east bank numerous large pieces of shaped calcaveous tufa were noted, obviously thrown there by the farm-workers when digging holes for the apple trees in the surrounding orchard.

Whilst the shaped blocks of tufa are not necessarily Roman, attention must be drawn to the fact that Roman bath-houses used tufa stone to construct their vaulting, mainly because of its lightness and longevity. (Lewis, 1965).

Further field-walking with members of the Archaeological Group found numerous Iron-Age (and late Bronze Age) pottery sherds to the west of the Roman site, itself on the west bank of Hog Brook. The Iron-Age pottery has a date-spread from early B.C. to early A.D.[8]

The Roman pottery has a date-spread from the 1st century to the early 5th century.

A possible Saxon sherd from the 5th to 6th century was noted and the medieval pottery has a date-spread from the 12th to 17th century. The Roman site to the west of the spring has a pottery and tile scatter of about 22 by 52 metres. The possible Roman site on the east bank covers an area of 50 by 120 metres.[9]

Immediately adjoining the east bank site to the north and following the course of the river downstream from the spring at Hog Brook is a scatter of medieval pottery sherds covering an area 100 by 400 metres.

To the south of the spring (and almost back to Watling Street) numerous Roman and medieval sherds were noted, and a local farm-worker remembered that some years ago, whilst digging a hole for a post, two buried pots were found which were given to Maidstone Museum. The contents were coins which 'disappeared', although one coin was shown to members of the survey team.

In 1976 a concrete sheep dip was constructed on the slope of the spring on the west bank. Unfortunately this has destroyed over 20% of the Roman foreshore and is indicative of the sort of

[9] Caution must be advised on designating Roman 'sites' in the Deerton area. With the destruction of a Roman villa at Buckland in 1900, the Roman demolition material must have ended up somewhere! (See over).

damage which is possible to an important site without the sort of archaeological information generated by a regional survey.

The location of the villa at Deerton Street was unknown, and although there is a note in the SMR, based on 19th century reports, the exact location was in doubt. Also, confusion existed on how many villas or buildings actually existed at Deerton Street. One, for instance, is known about at Buckland, which is less than 1000 metres away.

The only historical reference to the site at Deerton Street that I can find is a note in *The Reliquary* of 1872-3.

> "In a field west of Hog Brook the remains of a Roman villa were found in 1852, but I have no information respecting it beyond that what was found was similar to the discoveries just described".

However, in the *Archaeologia Cantiana* of 1900

> "TEYNHAM - Mr. Herbert Bing informs me that he has removed the foundations of the Roman building discovered in Buckland Farm many years ago by the late Mr. William Bland, in order that fruit-trees might be planted on the site. During the work of destruction the labourers found several coins, which Mr. Bing kindly sent out to me for identification. They include the following:
> Tetricus, 1; Constantine the Great, 1; Arcadius, 2; Illegible, 2 - all small brass, and one, illegible, of second brass."

Other Roman buildings have been discovered in the vicinity by field-walking, and it seems there probably was a large village or settlement focused around the main Roman building complex situated west of Hog Brook.

Topographical and geological background

The sites (centred on N.G.R. TQ9730 6295 and TQ9750 6298) are situated on the east bank and the east slope of the west bank overlooking Hog Brook spring.

Watling Street is about 1150 metres almost due south, and a straight track joins the site to Watling Street and for 400 metres of its length it is a parish boundary.

Another track leads east and west in a straight line and connects the possible villa sites of Bax Farm, Deerton Street, Luddenham and possibly ends at the spring head of Oare creek just below Bysing Wood and the Roman site at Syndale.

For over half its length it forms a parish boundary and is also a designated public footpath. Informed opinion is that is pre-dates the Roman Watling Street. (Margary, 1976).

All these possible Roman roads or tracks joining the Iron-Age and Roman sites of Bax Farm, Deerton Street, and Luddenham are either parallel to each other or at right-angles to Watling Street. There is also just a whisper of Roman survey methods in the layout of these paths, lanes, and fields.[10]

The landscape around Teynham and Deerton Street is one of contrast between the very flat, low-lying alluvial reclaimed marsh areas and the hills overlooking the marsh comprised of brick-earth

[10] See Swale Archaeological Survey 1997-98.

laminated with flints and pebbles. The tongue of the brick-earth at Deerton Street is generally about 3.5m thick and consists very largely of reworked Thanet Beds material. (Whitaker, 1872).

Field-walking methods

The normal collection procedure of field-walking is that walkers collect all cultural material from the ground surface whilst walking down 1.5 metre runs separated 25 metres apart. This will amount to about a 6% sample of any given area.

All material is collected that is considered alien to the field, this precludes the less experienced from making a decision as to whether or not to pick up an artifact.

If a small concentration of artifacts are found an ever widening circular search pattern is implemented and the scatter plotted in detail on a plan of the field.

Unfortunately, what is on the surface of the topsoil may not represent what is within it and being annually disturbed by the plough.

One has to be careful to differentiate between what has been ploughed in rather than what has been ploughed out.

For example, post-medieval manuring and other activities such as herding, charcoal processing, will put artifacts into the ploughsoil.

'Haloes' of material need to be tested by shoveltesting, geophysical survey, and if necessary by evaluation trenching before a large concentration of surface artifacts can be said to constitute a 'site'.

Shoveltesting was the technique used at Deerton Street to define and confirm the extent of the possible Roman site. This was followed up by the focused use of evaluation trenching to prove beyond all doubt the quality and extent of the buried Roman villa. (Fig. B.)

Shoveltesting is in some ways similar to test pitting, which involves the excavation of a number of small trenches.

However, shoveltesting is the controlled examination of ploughsoil and is solely concerned with the topsoil, and does not attempt to investigate layers below that.

A standard sample of soil is sieved from each location to be tested, at Deerton Street a 30 x 30m square grid was laid using a theodolite and posts positioned at the intersections.

Two bucketfuls of soil were sieved through a standard 3/8 inch mesh, the volume of each bucketful being 15 litres. As the field was under grass a square of turf was cut out before excavating and replaced afterwards.

In each 10m square five tests were carried out and thus 150 litres of soil were sieved.

If one assumes, (as tests proved) that the soil had been disturbed by medieval ploughing to a depth of 20cm, a 150 litre sample is a 0.15% sample of the 10 x 10m square.

The priority was to establish whether the technique would work under the topographic conditions at Deerton Street, it was just possible that overall find densities would be too low to produce an archaeological pattern.

Aims of shoveltesting are three-fold, and have been formulated by Prof. M.A. Aston at the Shapwick Project in Somerset. (Aston and Gerrard, 1995, The Shapwick Project).

The first is to assess its effectiveness in locating concentrations of artifacts, second, to test areas which could not be field-walked, for example, because they were under woodland or pasture. And third to test the reliability of field-walking results, given the problems and biases of field-walking. Shoveltesting was pioneered in the northeast of the United States and by Kayt Smith and Nick Thorpe at Shapwick, Somerset.

Academic literature shows that shoveltesting consistently locates large sites with dense concentrations of artifacts. The tests also prove that shoveltesting finds a large percentage of smaller, less dense sites and activity areas. More importantly, the tests, when made over a large area, give a consistent and quantifiable sample of the distribution of small sites and other activity areas critical to a settlement pattern. (Smith and Thorpe, 1995 and Wobst, 1983).

The results show it to be the preferred method of locating sites, both large and small and indicate it is a more controlled, more cost-effective and a more productive approach than digging large trenches with a JCB and watching for, what must be, damaged archaeological features.

The results

Analysis of the results from shoveltesting indicate a Roman building with a "halo" of demolition material covering some 26m (85ft) by 48m (157ft). There was a remarkable dropping off of material recovered on samples taken, (on what was obviously) off the Roman building. The appendix lists all the finds, by square, and analysis of the pottery and coins is progressing. Interestingly, the use of a metal detector, (after sieving), retrieved coins, pieces of lead, and brooch pieces that otherwise would not have been spotted. For example on such a small sampling some twenty-one Roman coins were recovered. (See appendix).

A resumé of finds from the shoveltesting are as follows:

A. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam, mixing on lower levels with brickearth, worked flints, oyster shells, charcoal traces, nodules of Roman 'opus' mortar, one Roman coin, lead fragments, wild boar tooth and 'pot-boilers'.

B. Ploughsoil 22cm, dark brown loam, mixed with grey mortar and chalk pieces, culminating in foundations made up of large knapped flints set in crumbly grey mortar. One sample flint removed just below ploughsoil, size 110 x 100mm, squared up by knapping with mortar still attached from this mortar layer. Two Roman coins retrieved from this mortar layer, and a sample of the mortar taken.

C. Ploughsoil, 20cm, dark brown loam, mixed with grey mortar, fragments of Roman plaster, (coloured yellow ochre), numerous Roman roof tile fragments recovered. bone, oyster and cockle shells, pieces of lead.

D. Ploughsoil 22cm, dark brown loam, mixed with grey mortar and oyster shells, pottery sherds and tile fragments in large numbers. Large stone blocks of Kentish rag stone set in mortar at 23cm.

E. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam, fairly clean with a small number of pottery sherds and tile fragments.

F. Ploughsoil 22cm, dark brown loam, clean with a few pottery sherds.

G. Ploughsoil 21cm, dark brown loam, flint, tile, chalk, mortar (grey) instrusions. One Roman coin, one (medieval) button, worked flint, lumps of charcoal.

H. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam, black earth lenses of material which included charcoal fragments. Some very fresh Roman *imbrex* tile fragments, lots of pottery sherds, 'coarse' cut-tile *tessarae* and two small marble *tessarae*, one white, one dark grey or black.

I Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam, black earth mixed with dozens of 'coarse' cut-tile *tessarae*. One Roman coin found in context to the de-stabilised *tessarae* floor. Pottery fragments in abundance.

J. Ploughsoil 20cm, black earth mixed with dark brown loam and grey mortar. This mix had over fifty 'coarse' tile-cut *tessarae* and numerous pottery fragments.

K. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam with occasional lenses of dark earth including charcoal fragments. A large number of pottery and tile fragments, lead, coin, and nails. Some charcoal fragments.

L Ploughsoil 21cm, dark brown loam with some oyster shells and Roman roof tile fragments. Pieces of coal, worked flint.

M. Ploughsoil 21cm, dark brown loam, mixed with (river washed) gravel and Roman and Iron-Age? pottery fragments. A number of sherds of glass, and one Roman coin. Worked and natural flints .

N. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam well mixed with grey mortar fragments and over 400 'coarse' tile-cut *tessarae*. Also included were over twenty Roman tile fragments weighing 1.290 Kg.

O. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam well mixed with dark earth lenses including charcoal and numerous Roman nails and pieces of lead, also over 100 'coarse' tile-cut *tessarae*, two black, white mosaic lias-stone *tessarae*.

P. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam, numerous Roman pottery sherds, mostly 'Upchurch', but some decorated Samain. Also two sherds of medieval pottery. Nails, oyster shells, Kentish ragstone segments.

Q. Ploughsoil 21cm, dark brown loam, some 'fresh' Roman tile fragments, nails, worked and natural flints, coarse *tessarae*.

R. Ploughsoil 21cm, dark brown loam, including numerous oyster shells. The layout of oyster shells continued in to what could be a rubbish pit. 'Pot-boilers', worked flint, charcoal.

S. Ploughsoil 21cm, dark brown loam well mixed with (river-washed) gravel, some Roman roof tile fragments and possible Iron-Age pottery sherds.

T. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam well mixed with grey mortar, numerous fragments of Kentish ragstone, large knapped flints and small segments of Roman plaster painted dark-red with yellow ochre spots.

U. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam well mixed with grey mortar and numerous Roman painted plaster fragments, some of which show a high standard of decoration and finish.

V. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam well mixed with grey mortar, large lumps of Kentish ragstone and knapped flints, decorated plaster, numerous nails, lead, a piece of Roman window glass with mortar still attached to a rounded edge, also found lead channelling which may have held window glass. Two Roman coins.

W. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam mixed with dozens of Roman roof tile fragments. Also a hypocaust flue tile corner retrieved which has soot black on inside face and mortar still attached to the combed exterior surface. Bone and teeth, oyster shells, nails, and some Roman glass.

X. Ploughsoil 20cm, dark brown loam but becoming increasingly greasy with depth. Some whole oyster shells and numerous 'Upchurch' Roman pottery sherds.

The excavations

This preliminary report presents the finding of the trial excavations at Deerton Street. The work was carried out during Easter 1997 by students from the 'Landscape Archaeology' programme taught at Faversham under the auspices of the University of Kent Adult Education. Archaeology undergraduate students from the Institute of Archaeology, London assisted, as did experienced 'diggers' from local archaeological groups in east and west Kent. In all, some twelve students and helpers were involved over a ten day period.

The site

As far as I am aware no recent work has been carried out on the site, which was unknown, apart from possible amateur digging in 1872.

Regressive map analysis of this site has been completed and will be published as part of the Swale Archaeological Survey. It will show the following features: A track or path running west-east along the southern boundary of the site in 1623, 1780, 1867 and 1904.[11] Field boundaries striking north-west to south-east in 1780, 1880 and 1904. A road running north-east to south-west and connecting to Watling Street some 1150 metres away is mirrored by a parallel track which runs from Hog Brook to the east of the site to Watling Street. For some 400 metres of its length it is a parish boundary. Again the earliest maps of 1623 show both these features. There are medieval farmhouses to the south of the site at Nicholl Farm and to the west of the site a medieval farm-house has just recently been rebuilt. The large field south of the site had by 1628 been divided into six equal plots reflecting a medieval hamlet in being.

Strategy and trench layout

Seven narrow trenches were excavated. These trenches were positioned to cut through the areas identified by shoveltesting as having the greatest archaeological potential.

The width of the trenches was usually 1.5 metres and they varied from 5-10 metres in length, the intention being to evaluate the date, survival and potential of the buried structures rather than recover a plan of the villa. In most cases excavation stopped at the Roman levels exposed. It is hoped that this report will generate enough academic interest so that a geophysical survey by English Heritage can be implemented. The location of the individual trenches is shown in Fig. C.

The results of the excavation are provided here trench by trench in sequence 1 to 7. A description of the stratigraphy in each trench is followed by a tabulated inventory of materials (in appendix) with

[11] Estate map of Buckland, Faversham. B.M. 188f.2.(5) and O.S. map 1867 (25") B.M. F443(8) V68-88.

commentary where appropriate and some interpretation of the results. However the finds study is not complete and will figure in the final report.

Trench 1

The L-shaped trench measured 3½ metres long by 5 metres wide and was positioned to cut through the shoveltesting pits, T and U. As flint and mortar foundations were picked up in the initial cut, it was decided to extend the trench north with the benefit that a curved (apse?) flint and mortar foundation wall was located.

Stratigraphy (Fig.1 and 6)

With the removal, by hand of the topsoil, (context 101) a crumbly, sandy dark-brown loam well mixed with lumps of grey mortar and fragments of Kentish Ragstone, Roman tile, a range of demolition layers filled with Roman roof tiles and debris became apparent. A flattened clay bank (102) of light orangey clay, truncated by ploughing and about 160mm deep lay to the east of the trench. It was flanked by a heavily compacted layer of river-washed clean gravel (103). Given the limitations of the trench size and orientation, it appeared to be a floor. Contexts 104 and 105 were interpreted as the base of truncated ragstone and flint walls set in grey mortar.

Contexts 106 and 107 seem less well placed and more extensive and were heavily disturbed, especially towards the western end, presumably during the digging of 1852. Contexts 108, 109, 110 seem to be the demolition phase of the villa and contained a mix of grey mortar, Roman tile, painted plaster and *opus* pink mortar flooring.

Beneath these features lay an earlier series of features, a rubbish pit (111) was cut into the natural brickearth (112) and had four fills. The upper fill (113) is a dark-earth mixed with oyster shells, mortar, pottery, and painted plaster. This rests on a rubble fill of Kentish ragstone, flints and Roman tile (114). The third fill (115) was almost exclusively Roman plaster and this rested on a re-deposited natural clay (166). This had numerous sherds of Roman and possible Iron-Age pottery in it.

Summary list of contexts with interpretations

101 ploughsoil.
102 top of clay bank.
103 cobbles of surface of (floor?)
104 base of ragstone and flint wall.
105 base of curved ragstone and flint wall.
106 rubble fill.
107 rubble and plaster fill.
108 large Roman roof tiles and debris.
109 numerous lumps of pink mortar floor and painted plaster.
110 large pieces of Kentish ragstone and flint walling.
111 rubbish pit.
112 natural brickearth.
113 upper fill of rubbish pit.
114 fill of rubbish pit.
115 fill of rubbish pit.
116 natural clay, possibly redeposited.
117 cut of pit.

Interpretation

The first feature identified was a cobbled surface (103) which could be a floor, the extent, some 3 x 2 metres overlies the earlier Roman features and could be a medieval feature unassociated with the villa. There was a distinct lack of cultural material associated with this floor. The base of the curved ragstone and flint wall (105) included some sherds of pottery which have been identified as of 3rd century date.

The rubble fill (106) comprised of numerous Roman roof tile fragments, hypocaust tiles, and box-flue tiles. The box-flue tiles show distinct soot traces on their internal surfaces, and have mortar still clinging to the combed exterior face.

The contexts 107, 108, 109 are very much the same mix of demolition material, whilst context 110 indicates a robbed-out wall trench with residual building material still remaining.

The rubbish pit (111) is of an earlier date, pottery sherds found in context give a date of the 2nd century and may indicate the first phase of Roman building activity.

Trench 2

This trench measured 1.4 metres wide by 7 metres long, and was positioned to cut through the shovel testing pits M and W. It was hoped it would pick up the western curve of the apsed Roman wall first noted in Trench 1.

Stratigraphy

With the removal, by hand of the crumbly, sandy dark-brown loamy topsoil (context 201) a number of truncated wall foundations comprising knapped flint nodules and shaped blocks of Kentish ragstone set in crumbly grey mortar became apparent. (contexts 206, 217). An area of rammed chalk (202) was found between the walling (217, 206) covered in Roman demolition debris. To the east of the Roman walling (206) a building or robbers trench was apparent, and although not excavated it seemed full of demolition debris loosely mixed with the ploughsoil (201). Both walls (217, 206) are about 50cm wide, and comprise mortared flints, knapped on the external face of the wall and interspersed with Kentish ragstone lumps as internal fill, there was no internal plastered wall surviving. Five large (250mm to 350mm) post-holes were found in the southern end of the trench, (203, 204) most had vertical sides, flat bases and were up to 600mm deep. Some of the post-holes had been packed with flints and broken Roman tiles, mixed up with this were numerous Roman pottery sherds.

Immediately to the north of the row of post-holes was a sunken area of floor (213) some 240mm deep with vertical sides. It had a black loam filling which contained a few sherds of what may be Saxon pottery. The size was some 1.300mm wide, its length difficult to compute as the feature continued under the western limit of the evaluation trench. The shape and layout of the sunken floor and post-holes indicate it could well be a Saxon sunken-hut, or *grubenhaüs.* It continued over the Roman walling (217).

Below the post-holes (203, 204) an earlier wall was noted running south-west to north-east. (218)

Summary list of contexts with interpretations

201 dark-brown, crumbly ploughsoil.
202 demolition debris layer and chalk floor.
203 post hole.

204 post hole.
205 post hole.
206 Roman wall.
207 robber or build trench.
208 post hole.
209 metal objects with bore pin.
210 test hole (shovel test).
211 staining (later post hole?)
212 post hole.
213 sunken floor.
214 post hole.
215 flat post hole or tree root.
216 later post hole or tree root.
217 Roman wall.
218 underlying Roman wall.

Interpretation

The walls (217 and 218) appear to indicate a multiphase structure comprising at least two rooms, probably three, aligned north-west and north-east. There is nothing to indicate a sequence of construction except the overlapping positions of wall structure (206). The internal flooring was chalk (202) itself covered with Roman debris from demolition. The surface of the floor was not tamped, but neither were there any substantial numbers of 'coarse' *tesserae* present. However, segments of *opus signumum* some with a polished floor-surface were present and may be postulated in belonging to a later floor surface, now demolished.

The post-holes (203-214) and sunken floor area (213) constructed on top of the demolished Roman building may indicate settlement of the site by Saxon immigrants. Stratigraphically later post-holes, overlying the possible Saxon levels seem to indicate early medieval use of the site for buildings or outhouses. It must be noted the stratigraphy of the trench is extremely complex.

Trench 3

This trench measured 1.5 metres wide by 8 metres long, and was positioned to cut through the shovel testing pits J and P.

Stratigraphy (Fig 8 and 3)

With the removal by hand of the crumbly, sandy dark-brown loamy topsoil (context 301) an area of crumbly chalk (context 302) was found to cover the entire area of the exposed surface. Mixed in with this crumbly chalk was large amounts of Roman demolition material. These artifacts were retrieved, weighed and returned to the trench. However some samples of building tile were retained as was all the pottery found.

Summary list of contexts with interpretation

301 dark-brown, crumbly ploughsoil.
302 crumbly chalk mixed with Roman building artifacts.

Interpretation

An internal floor of chalk, much damaged by ploughing, it was felt, because of the nature of the evaluation and the time restrictions not to evaluate any further.

Trench 4

This trench measured 0.6 metre wide by 9.2 metres long and was positioned to cut through the shoveltesting pits C and D. It was hoped to define the most south-eastern edge of the Roman building although it was positioned some 48 metres (157 ft) from Trench 1.

Stratigraphy (Fig 8 and 3)

With the removal, by hand of the crumbly, sandy dark-brown loamy topsoil (context 401) a truncated wall foundation comprising knapped flint nodules and shaped blocks of Kentish ragstone set in crumbly grey mortar became apparent (context 403). The wall ran north-south and suggests the Roman building extends further than 48 metres (157 ft). There were internal floors to the east and west of the walling, (contexts 402 and 405) the flooring to the west was more substantial, comprising a chalky, white mortar mix churned up with some hundreds of 'deranged' large red-tile cut *tesserae*, mixed with these were large *tesserae* of white chalk, yellow sandstone, black tile, yellow tile and thinner *tesserae*, 7mm x 35mm possibly used as edging or to create a border. These thinner *tesserae* were mostly of black tile. The most interesting find in context 402, however, was some small (10mm x 10mm) cubes of white and dark grey stone *tesserae*. This may indicate the presence of an early 'black and white' mosaic. It was decided to test the stratigraphy with a small 'keyhole' excavation (1 metre x 1 metre). This square was excavated to a depth of 780mm (context 408). Layer upon layer of confused flooring material (*opus signumum*, white mortar, and coarse *tesserae*) were interspersed with knapped flints and Roman building material. This is a possible three floor build, but without a more extensive excavation 'peeling away' the contexts one by one, it is difficult to confirm the possibility. However at 700mm stacked hypocaust tiles were exposed to view (context 409 and 410) in four distinct columns. All four columns were sitting on a mortared floor (context 411) itself constructed on the natural brick earth.

Summary list of contexts with interpretation

401 dark-brown, crumbly ploughsoil
402 surface of 'coarse' *tesserae* floor (eastern end of trench)
403 base of ragstone and flint walling
404 cut of ragstone and flint walling
405 surface of 'coarse' *tesserae* floor (western end of trench)
406 as above (see plan)
407 as above (see plan)
408 rubble fill of floors in 'test-pit'
409 column of hypocaust tiles
410 as above
411 mortar floor
412 base of ragstone and flint walling
413 natural brickearth

Interpretation

The first features identified was substantial walling (context 403, 412) running north-south. Although this trench was the furthest to the south, some 48 metres (157 ft) from trench no.1, it is considered to have exposed part of the same Roman building. The building materials, *tesserae* floors and hypocausts in situ in both trenches all indicate this is still part of the domestic quarters of the villa, and not a barn or other ancillary building. If this is the case, we have a villa equal in size, for instance, to Bancroft or Rivenhall. The most interesting feature is the retrieval of small amounts of marble black and white *tesserae* indicating the possibility of early monochrome mosaic floors.

Trench 5

This trench measured 1 metre wide by 6 metres long and was positioned to test the hypothesis that the Roman foundations found in trench 1 and trench 4 were part of the same building, and not two separate establishments.

Stratigraphy

With the removal, by hand of the crumbly sandy dark-brown loamy topsoil (context 501), an internal floor comprising a chalky, white and grey mortar mix churned up with some dozens of 'deranged' large red-tile cut *tesserae* (context 502). As sufficient samples of this type of *tessarae* were retrieved from trench 4 it was decided to leave the floor in situ.

Summary list of contexts with interpretations

501 dark-brown crumbly ploughsoil.
502 surface of 'coarse' *tesserae* floor.

Interpretation

The siting of the trench proved conclusively that the Roman building extends for at least 48 metres (157 ft) and a substantial part is floored with multi-coloured 'coarse' *tesserae* mosaics.

Trench 6

This trench measured 5 metres wide and 6.5 metres long and was positioned to expose the centre-edge of the Roman building to the south east. As features became apparent, particularly walls and foundations, the trench was enlarged to enable the data retrieval to be more comprehensive.

Stratigraphy

With the removal, by hand of the crumbly, sandy dark-brown loamy topsoil (context 601) a substantial flint wall (at 36cm) of Roman origin became apparent (context 603) some 48cm thick, it ran in a continuous line north-east and south-west, kinking at 603/b. The wall has a fine knapped flint outer surface, slightly wider at context 603/b which suggests a thickening for a structural purpose still yet to be ascertained. The fine flat knapped flint outer face work would have given a uniform and impressive surface to the outer wall of the villa. A hollow slot (604) in the centre of the flint walling (603) may be a hypocaust vent, however, caution should be advised as no soot is visible in the opening.

A mortared inner footing (605) could be either for an inner face work or a dwarf wall footing to take an inner floor. Still remaining in an area of robbed out floor was a raised square mortared area for a stone pad, elements of which still adhered to the mortar, however the stone pad itself had been robbed-out (605/b). This pad could have supported some kind of internal structure.

Close to the stone pad was a post-hole of undetermined age (606).

The robbed out floor had a fill layer (607) containing pottery and other destruction deposits of building ceramics. The fill was mid-brown in colour and of a fine sandy loam of undisturbed uniform texture.

Underneath the fill (607) was a uniform burnt layer some 10mm thick and at a depth of 600mm from the approximate Roman floor level. This was a continuous and uniform layer throughout trench 6

which may suggest a substantial fire. There was no scorching or fire damage visible on any of the later stonework which suggests an earlier, rather than later, occurrence.

A wall, possibly of medieval origin (608) was built of ragstone and flint standing on a mortared base in a line cut by context 615. There was a large ragstone block contemporary with this wall (609).

Also noted was rubbish pits (612, 616, 615) of possible Saxon date overlaid by a hearth or oven (627).

The lowest floor level (619) showed signs of extreme heating, the brickearth fill had baked to a bright red/orange.

To the north-east the trench excavation revealed a collapsed *pilae* stack of Roman tiles sitting on a stone pad (620). Another collapsed *pilae* was alongside, (21), this had collapsed on to a dwarf wall of flint blocks set in mortar (622). This dwarf wall seems to indicate a foundation for a timber partition wall. Another flint wall (625) was again a possible internal wall and adjacent to it was a floor layer of white mortar and 'deranged' tile *tesserae*. (626).

Below this *tesserae* floor was a horseshoe shaped hearth with a blackened layer inside the hearth spreading to the heated areas 614 and 619.

Summary list of contexts with interpretations

601 dark-brown, crumbly ploughsoil.
602 dark-brown, crumbly ploughsoil with some mortar inclusions.
603 Roman flint wall.
603/B Roman flint wall with knapped work.
604 hollow slot in wall.
605 mortared inner footing.
605/B raised pad of mortar.
606 post hole.
607 demolition fill layer.
607/B burnt layer.
608 wall of flint and ragstone construction.
609 large ragstone block.
610 post hole.
611 flint wall.
612 rubbish pit.
613 floor layer of crushed mortar and *tesserae.*
614 fill layer.
615 rubbish pit or tree hole.
616 post hole.
617 soil mark showing signs of heating.
618 flint wall.
619 floor layer showing signs of heating.
620 collapsed *pilae* stack.
621 collapsed *pilae* stack.
622 flint wall on mortar footing.
623 large flint wall.
624 fill deposits.
625 internal flint wall.
626 floor layer.

627 hearth/oven.
628 ragstone block.

Interpretation

The substantial Roman flint walling (603, 622, 625) all belong to the same build and show through the use of knapped flint work set in mortar with ragstone corner stones a level of excellence to be expected in the best quality building. A cautionary note, the excavated depth limit was not down to the natural and may be overlaying earlier Roman, or even Iron-Age structures. The flint walls (618, 623) were possibly alterations or rebuilding phases to the original villa, wall (618) had a scorched layer under it contemporary to the hearth/oven (627). It is not unusual to find ovens in these buildings. An oven was found at Lullingstone Roman villa during a dormant phase c.200 A.D. prior to rebuilding.

The rubbish pit (612) was thought to contain Saxon material. The pit cut through the edge of the oven/hearth (627) making the oven/hearth earlier. Again the pit (612) was cut up against the Roman wall (618) rather than underneath it.

Dwarf walls of a Roman date (611) appeared just in the section edge of the trench making it difficult to decide whether it was from a later building or an extension of the old one.

The demolition fill contained some large pieces of yellow ochre painted plaster which indicates the predominant colour in that particular room.

The original Roman walling gave the feel of a large room dividing to the south-east by a corridor with another unexcavated room to the west. Whether this was a later addition or part of the original building is impossible to determine with such cursory excavation. The room and corridor had tesselated floors, a hypocausted floor and richly-painted wall plaster.

Trench 7

This trench measured 1.5 metres wide and 6.4 metres long and was positioned to cut through the east banking and slope leading from the level site to the spring. It was hoped that some questions could be answered on the Roman villa's relationship to the sea inlet from the Swale and the fresh water springs to the south-east.

Stratigraphy

With the removal, by hand, of the crumbly sandy dark-brown loamy topsoil (context 701) a truncated wall foundation comprising knapped flint nodules and shaped blocks of chalk set in crumbly grey mortar became apparent (context 704). The wall ran north-south, was some 65cm in width. To the east and some 45cm below the bank-soil was located a horizontal brick, flint and mortared tile platform of over a metre in width (context 705). It is expected that this platform would meet up with the vertical walling (context 704). Above the wall and platform were layers of redeposited material and alluvium washed or ploughed down slope by collevial action. (Contexts 702, 703, 706).

To the east of the mortar platform (context 705) were a series of layers of deposited sticky clay alluvial mud, (contexts 707, 708, 709). This could indicate periodic flooding by estuary sea-water and is similar to contexts located on the ancient shore-line at Blacklands Roman villa site.

Summary list of contexts with interpretation

701 dark-brown loamy topsoil
702 medium-brown clay loam
703 dark grey-brown clay loam
704 flint, ragstone and chalk wall
705 flint, ragstone and tile horizontal floor or platform
706 dark-brown clay loam
707 light-brown sandy clay silt
708 dark-brown sandy clay silt
709 dark-blue, orange alluvial clay silt

Interpretation

The first feature identified was the substantial walling (704) which with the horizontal tile and brick mortared platform (705) would suggest the Roman villa had a wharf facility fronting on to the inlet. However, if the fresh-water springs were in the same location during the Roman period it seems inconceivable that the fresh-water would be allowed to either be wasted or contaminated by sea water. The Roman sea levels in this part of Kent are little understood, but there is an opportunity both here at Deerton Street and at Blacklands, both of which have well defined Roman foreshores, to rectify a major gap in our knowledge in this part of Kent of sea-level changes during and after the Roman period. Of interest is the alluvial deposits of 'storm-surge' mud and silt, again noticed at the Roman villa site at Blacklands and also the ancient foreshore site at Osiers Farm, Teynham. It is worth recording that, as at Teynham (Peete House) and Blacklands there seems to be the remains of a substantial earthen dam downstream from the fresh-water springs which would have enabled the fresh water to be dammed for recreational and farming use (whether during the Roman or medieval period is open to conjecture). At Deerton Street there is a possibility of a small quay downstream from the possible site of the dam on the east side of the stream. Numerous Roman tiles and flints were gathered from, what could be, the Roman quay surface.

Painted wall plaster

The total number of fragments of painted wall-plaster recovered from the seven trenches was 231 (2572 g).

Over three quarters of the fragments were monochrome, white, yellow ochre and pink being the predominant colours.

Most of the plaster came from Trench 6 in various demolition layers.

A type series has been established based on the different colours and colour combinations used. The distribution and quantification of wall plaster types are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1

Context	Plaster Type	Number	Weight	Estimated Surface Area (cm^2)
101 S/W	3	4 pieces pink	45gm	16cm^2
101 S/W	1	2 pieces yellow ochre	15gm	9cm^2
101 S/W	2	4 pieces white	40gm	18cm^2
607/02	18	1 piece red/white	75gm	28cm^2

607/02	18	1 piece red/white	55gm	19cm^2
607/02	18	1 piece red/white	35gm	13cm^2
607/02	1	7 pieces yellow ochre	105gm	31cm^2
607/02	3	2 pieces pink	12gm	3cm^2
607/02	5	1 piece blue/grey	5gm	2cm^2
607/02	2	3 pieces white	15gm	9cm^2
601	1	14 pieces yellow-ochre	75gm	32cm^2
601	2	2 pieces white	5gm	6cm^2
603	1	12 pieces yellow-ochre	180gm	45cm^2
603	8	1 piece banded-yellow ochre/red	110gm	63cm^2
603	2	3 pieces white	95gm	32cm^2
603	3	6 pink	30gm	18cm^2
603	1	3 pieces yellow ochre	35gm	11cm^2
401	6	1 piece blue	35gm	12cm^2
401	9	3 pieces 'brushed pink'	5gm	6cm^2
607	1	5 pieces yellow ochre	100gm	38cm^2
607	2	7 pieces white	68gm	34cm^2
607	10	3 pieces decorded 'stripes' yellow/white/dark red	10gm	8cm^2
607	11	1 piece red/white band/yellow, red dots	10gm	4cm^2
607		1 piece white	30gm	12cm^2
607	3	8 pieces pink	65gm	36cm^2
607	3	6 pieces pink	35gm	19cm^2
607	2	7 pieces white	75gm	41cm^2
607	2	7 pieces white	70gm	23cm^2
607/2	3	4 pieces pink	65gm	34cm^2
607/2	3	8 pieces pink	60gm	35cm^2
607/2	3	11 pieces pink	50gm	19cm^2
607/2	12	4 pieces dark red/yellow dots	40gm	12cm^2
607/2	2	2 pieces white	25gm	15cm^2
606	13	1 piece yellow ochre with black band	5gm	4cm^2
606	14	1 piece red/yellow 'mixed.	12gm	5cm^2
624	2	9 pieces white	95gm	34cm^2
624	3	4 pieces pink	25gm	16cm^2
624	1	3 pieces yellow ochre	16gm	9cm^2
624	1	1 piece yellow ochre	30gm	12cm^2
624	3	3 pieces pink	20gm	12cm^2
624	2	5 pieces white	30gm	14cm^2
612	1	6 pieces yellow ochre	70gm	28cm^2
612	3	4 pieces pink	45gm	22cm^2
612	2	2 pieces white	40gm	18cm^2
607	3	2 pieces pink	15gm	10cm^2
607	15	1 piece yellow ochre/black band (3mm wide)	5gm	2cm^2
607	1	1 piece yellow ochre (pictorial)	22gm	12cm^2
607	16	1 piece pink/yellow dots	35gm	15cm^2
607	1	5 pieces yellow ochre	35gm	12cm^2
601	2	11 pieces white	195gm	65cm^2
601	1	17 pieces yellow ochre	170gm	62cm^2
601	3	4 pieces pink	25gm	14cm^2
601	17	2 pieces pink/white	7gm	4cm^2
601	7	1 piece black	15gm	11cm^2
607	4	3 pieces dark red	20gm	12cm^2

Type 1	Yellow-ochre
Type 2	White
Type 3	Pink
Type 4	Dark (Pompeian) red
Type 5	Blue/grey
Type 6	Blue (bright)
Type 7	Black (dark grey)
Type 8	Banded, yellow ochre and red.
Type 9	Stippled pink on white.
Type 10	Narrow stripes, yellow ochre, white, dark red.
Type 11	Narrow stripes, dark red, white, yellow ochre with red dots.
Type 12	Dark red background overpainted with yellow dots.
Type 13	Yellow ochre background overpainted with dark grey (black) stripe.
Type 14	Red and yellow ochre mixed in a stippled pattern.
Type 15	Pink background, yellow ochre panel with a 3mm black band.
Type 16	Pink background, with yellow ochre dots overpainted.
Type 17	Pink and white background panels meeting at a defined edge.
Type 18	Red and white background panels meeting at a defined edge.

The percentage of colours in the wall-plaster assemblage can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2 Quantification of wall plaster types

Plaster type	No.	Wt (gm)	Est. Surface Area
1	76	853g	301cm^2
2	62	753g	309cm^2
3	66	492g	252cm^2
4	3	20g	12cm^2
5	1	5g	2cm^2
6	1	35g	12cm^2
7	1	15g	11cm^2
8	1	110g	63cm^2
9	3	5g	6cm^2
10	3	10g	8cm^2
11	1	10g	4cm^2
12	4	40g	12cm^2
13	1	5g	4cm^2
14	1	12g	5cm^2
15	1	5g	10cm^2
16	1	35g	15cm^2
17	2	7g	4cm^2
18	3	160g	60cm^2
Total	231	2572g	1090cm^2

Given the smallness of the assemblage it is difficult to compute the style of decoration. The many striped fragments, some (Types 8, 11, 13, 15) of finely painted lines indicate a decoration of panels, borders, with the background colour being either yellow ochre or white. Type 10 indicates the background colour of yellow ochre butting up to a white panel defined by a painted line (5mm thick) of dark red. Other panel colour schemes may be indicated by type 15 which has a pink (faded dark red?) background with a yellow ochre panel defined by a painted 3mm black band. Other panel colour schemes are type 17, pink and white colours meeting at a well defined edge, and type 18, dark red and white colours, also meeting at a well defined edge.

Panel-schemes are the most common form of wall-painting throughout the Roman period (Davy & Link, 1982).

No foliate painting was recovered or recognised, but some samples (type 9, 14) represent the imitation marble typical of dado designs of the period whilst type 11 and 12 indicate stippling usually associated with curviliner designs (Rivet, 1978).

The reverse side of numerous wall-plaster fragments show traces of 'pecking' indicating they were attached to masonry walling.

The colours still surviving on the wall-plaster are extremely bright, almost garish, and combined with possible polychrome mosaics would have turned the interior of the villa into quite a garish spectacle to modern eyes.

Oysters

Some 326 oyster shells (5431g) were found, most from trenches 1, 2, 6, 7 and other rubbish tips. The shells were large and round, the right valves thin and flat, the left valves had deep concave cups indicating the thick 'meat' so desirable in a good oyster. The inside of the shells were pure white with a tinge of blue, historically a colour associated with the famous oysters from the Swale Channel. The heels on some oysters were still attached to 'cultch', a material usually of broken, disused shells laid on the seabed to facilitate the oyster spat attaching themselves during the spawning season.

The use of cultch indicates that from the 2nd century oyster cultivation was being practised along the Swale. It seems the natural beds of oysters were inadequate for the increased demands of the burgeoning Roman population and 'farming' had been introduced at least by this date.

Context	Number	Weight	Datable material
A	12	220gm	4th century
D	10	210gm	-
L	22	390gm	2nd century
P	11	211gm	4th century
R	19	355gm	3rd century
W	21	360gm	2nd century
X	42	410gm	2nd century
113	45	490gm	2nd century
114	7	165gm	-
201	1	20gm	2nd century
201	7	180gm	-
201	8	130gm	2nd century
207	1	cockle shell	3rd century
207	3	30gm	3rd century
402	1	20gm	2nd century
402	7	180gm	2nd century
403	3	30gm	2nd century
615	11	235gm	3rd century
612	20	400gm	4th century
612	4 whelks, 1 cockle, 2 mussels		3rd century
703	25	450gm	2nd century
703	25	480gm	2nd century
703	25	465gm	2nd century
703	24 whelks, cockles, mussels.		2nd century

Total	326	5431gm	2nd to 4th centuries

Ceramic building material

All brick and tile recovered were identified, counted and weighed, and after samples chosen, returned to their respective trenches. The information is tabulated in the inventory of materials tables (Appendices).

The following types were represented, almost all in a hard, orange to red fabric, slightly sandy with occasional lumps of flint. The ubiquitious 'Eccles-type' of light-yellow to straw colour was also represented in quantities as well as some over-fired, almost black tiles.

Tegulae

Several in-situ complete *tegulae* were found, unfortunately in a broken condition, but with all pieces in position. The size is (approx.) 40 x 30cm and up to 25mm thick, with tapered, knife-trimmed flanges and a finger-wiped semi-circle on the lower edges. Numerous fragments have a curving finger-smeared signature, drawn with two fingers held together.

There were sixteen examples of *tegulae* with nail holes for fixing near the centre top of the tile, and twenty-two examples of recessed notches enabling *tegulae* to overlap their neighbour.

Imbrices

Some almost complete examples were found; some fragments were in the 'Eccles-type' light-yellow to straw colour. One example had a 'pinched' lower edge with finger marks still showing. Numerous examples of both *tegulae* and *Imbrices* had mortar still adhering to the lower faces.

Box-flue tile

Four types were represented, the majority measuring about 18cm square or cubed. The wall thickness about 16mm. Usually two faces were combed and circular holes of c.5cm in diameter cut into the centre of the two plain sides. However some tiles had rectangular (5 x 10cm) holes cut in the sides or back face. The four types are -

1. Comb patterns of three wavy lines using an eight-toothed comb.

2. Comb patterns of diagonal lines, criss-crossing and scored with a knife.

3. Comb patterns of three wavy lines superimposed by a diagonal cross.

4. Comb patterns of diagonal lines criss-crossing each other using a five-toothed comb.

Mosaic fragments

Many hundreds of loose *tesserae* were recovered; the majority in situ on 'destablilised' floors. There were, on average, three sizes, 25-30mm, 15mm and 10mm.

Nearly all the large cubes were of cut red tile but a few were cream, cut from mortavia or amphorae. Other materials used were, for white, hard chalk; for cream or ochre, chalk and septaria; for black, a sandy limestone possibly derived from lower greenstone; for grey Purbeck marble.

The only conjoined fragments were large-sized *tessarae* set in a multi-coloured pavement (trench 4 and 5). Both fragments from trench 4 and 5 were set in a thick layer of fine white mortar on a bedding of rough pink concrete flecked with tile fragments.

Small *tesserae* from a black and white pavement were found in test-pit H, and trench 4. The loose black and white *tesserae* measured from 10 to 15mm. And could be part of a geometric mosaic akin to some of those from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, vol.1, 149) and Eccles (Neal 1981, 76).

Window glass

A few fragments of late Roman blue-green window glass were retrieved, mostly 3-5mm thick, with one smooth and reverse rough surface. Although some fragments had mortar adhering to the rough edge, lead channelling found in context may suggest some of the glass may have been 'leaded'.

Discussion on artifacts

Five phases of occupation of the site can be postulated; Neolithic, Bronze-Age, Iron-Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon. Post-medieval activity is represented by post-holes, robbed out wall trenches and residual pottery.

Neolithic

The worked flint was found as a light scatter in all the evaluated areas, though it appeared to be concentrated on the south-east slope overlooking the spring. It is from residual contexts and is without association.

The assemblage is of mixed character and is too small to allow discussion of its composition or to draw any conclusions from the presence or absence of a particular type. It has been broadly classified as follows:

Context	Number	Date
616	7 flakes	Neolithic - Bronze Age
W	4 flakes	Neolithic - Bronze Age
201	12 flakes	Neolithic - Bronze Age
401	4 scrapers	Neolithic - Bronze Age
301	1 core-rejuvenation flake	Neolithic - Bronze Age

No cores were found, but the presence of a core-rejuvenation flake, waste material and five flakes with abraded ends evidently struck from hammerstones, suggests that flint was worked in the vicinity.

Concave scrapers suggest activity in the late Neolithic or Bronze-Age.

Bronze-Age to Iron-Age

Field-walking to the west and south of the Roman site enabled a large collection of Bronze and Iron-Age sherds to be collected.

This was later enhanced by sherds collected from residual contexts in the evaluation trenches 1-7. (Report pending).

It seems the focus of the possible Iron-Age settlement is to be west of the Roman site. The pottery assemblage is of a mixed character and is listed below.

No.	Weight	Fabric Type	Date
1	19gm	mixed-temper flint and grogged	Late Bronze-Age to Early Iron-Age
2	32gm	large thick-walled large diameter storage jar with characteristic rusticated external surface	550-350 BC
34	167gm	mixed-temper sherds.	600-350 BC
1	-	red finished (haematite-coated) fineware bowl	150-50 BC
35	273gm	8 probable 19 probable	Late Bronze-Age. Early Iron Age to Middle Iron-Age.

Belgic to Roman

A total of 893 sherds were examined for the purpose of spot-dating.
The pottery recovered from Deerton Street includes a wide range of local and imported fabrics. Most of these range in date from the later 1st century AD to the late 3rd and probably 4th centuries.[12]

The coarsewares are almost all of Kentish manufacture, although sherds of a Verulamium region sandy ware (possible) Colchester mortarium, a south Spanish Dressel 20 amphora and Alice Holt ware were also identified. Large numbers of sherds of local (Kentish) grey sandyware were examined and can be dated to about the second half of the 2nd century AD.

The fineware included substantial quantities of grey and oxidised Upchurch-type fabrics in addition to Nene-valley and Oxford colour-coated wares. Samain (mostly central Gaulish) and central Gaulish "Rhenish and Moselkeramik colour-coated ware completed the fineware assemblage.

Earlier sherds which can be dated with any certainty to the pre-Flavion or Flavion-Trajonic periods came from test-pit A. They include a north Gaulish butt-beaker and a sand and shell-tempered bead-rim jar. From test pit W, a south Gaulish somain sherd. There were, in addition, a number of sherds of 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware and sand-tempered ware which are likely to be of a similar date.

Although Hadrianic-Antonine activity is attested by a number of central Gaulish samain vessels and decorated BB2 pie-dishes, a preponderance of later Roman types, including roll-rim jars in hard-fired sand tempered and grog-tempered fabrics and sherds of Nene-valley and Oxford colour-coated ware suggests more activity from the later 2nd century onwards.

The presence of Alice Holt ware and late Roman grog-tempered ware suggests that activity on the site probably extended into the 4th century.
Two factors that may suggest *some* activity on the site in the very late Roman period are the small incidence of late Roman grog tempered ware (only some 4.6% of the assemblage by sherd count).[13]

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[12] Special thanks to the Director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Paul Bennet, and the following ceramic specialists for dating the entire collection of pottery sherds from Deerton Street. Andrew Savage (Roman pottery), John Cotter (post-Roman pottery),

[13] This fabric trends to predominate in very late Roman groups in East Kent.

The other factor that should be noted is the number (16) of coins recovered dating to the second and third quarters of the 4th century.[14]

List of fabrics[15]

The pottery has been grouped into thirty-seven fabric categories. The fabrics are usually described by their common name or, briefly, by their dominant mineral inclusion(s). Many of these fabrics are discussed in Pollard's 'The Roman Pottery of Kent' and in volume V of the Archaeology of Canterbury series.

Glauconitic sandyware (I.A./'Belgic')
'Belgic' shell-tempered ware
'Belgic' sand and shell-tempered ware
'Belgic' sandyware (coarse)
'Belgic' sandyware (fine)
'Belgic' grog-tempered ware (fine)
'Belgic' grog-tempered ware (coarse)
'Belgic' or late Roman grog-tempered ware (coarse)
Late Roman grog-tempered ware
Black-burnished ware fabric 1 (BB1)
Black-burnished ware fabric 2 (BB2)
BB2-type ware. Generally sherds which represent forms commonly found in BB2, but which lack the characteristic slip and burnish of that fabric. Sometimes the absence is possibly due to the effects of weathering.
'Natice Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grog-tempered ware)
Grey sandyware (coarse)
Grey sandyware (fine)
Oxidised sandyware (coarse)
Canterbury coarse grey sandyware
Canterbury coarse pink-buff sandyware
'Other' Pink-buff sandy flagonware
Hard fired sandyware (later Roman)
Fine oxidised sandyware
White-cream sandy flagonware
?Kent mortarium fabric
'Brockley Hill' (Verulamium region sandyware)
'Streak-burnish' ware (?a fine oxidised Upchurch-type variant)
Probable Picardy region sandyware
Grey Upchurch-type fineware
Oxidised Upchurch-type fineware
Central Gaulish samian
South Gaulish samian
?Colchester mortarium fabric
South Spanish Dressel 20 amphora fabric
Oxfordshire red-brown colour-coated fineware
Nene-valley type colour-coated fineware
Alice Holt grey sandyware (fine)
Moselkeramik colour-coated fineware
Central Gaulish 'Rhenish' colour-coated fineware

[14] See coin list (Appendix 4).
[15] Compiled by Andrew Savage. Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

The Catalogue[16]

Sherds are grouped by 'context'. The alphabetical and numerical coads which identify 'contexts' (in **bold** type) are those given by the excavator.

Within each 'context' sherds have been identified by fabric and all fabrics quantified by sherd count.

A.
2 x BB2-type - Hadrianic+
1 x 'Belgic' shell-tempered are - C1-2
1 x 'Belgic' sand- and shell-tempered bead-rim jar - MC1-E2
1 x prob. Picardy region sandyware; prob butt-beaker - A.D. 10-60
1 x 'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered ware, prob. Burnt - prob. C1-2
1 x 'Native Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grog-tempered ware) - LC2-3
2 x fine grey sandyware - LC1-4
5 x 'Native Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grog-tempered ware) - LC2-3
1 x BB2 - Hadrianic+
14 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
7 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
12 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
1 x ?'Belgic coarse' sandyware, lid - prob. Claudian Flavian
2 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
3 x 'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered ware (oxid) - ?C1-E2

C.
2 x Oxfordshire red-brown colour-coated fineware, roulette-decorated bowl - c.AD 240-400+
2 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
2 x BB2 - dish and jar - Hadrianic+
4 x late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5

E.
1 x coarse oxidised sandyware, LC1-4
4 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
1 x 'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered ware - ?C1-E2
1 x 'Native Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grog-tempered ware) - LC2-3
3 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3

F.
1 x BB2 - Hadrianic+
1 x BB2 type - Hadrianic+
1 x Oxfordshire red-brown colour-coated fineware - c.AD 240-400+
1 x Canterbury coarse pink-buff sandyware - LC1-2/E3
1 x 'Native Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grog-tempered ware) - LC2-3
5 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
8 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
1 x fine grey sandyware - LC1-4
6 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4

F/201
4 x ?Canterbury coarse grey sandyware, all from same lid - LC1-2

[16] Compiled by Andrew Savage. Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

2 x central Gaulish samian, Dr. 18/31 or 31 - Hadrianic-Antonine
1 x Oxfordshire red-brown colour-coated fineware - c.AD 240-400+
1 x Picardy region sandyware, prob. Pentice beaker - prob.LC2-3

G.
2 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
2 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4, inc. roll-rim jar
1 x 'Belgic' or late Roman grog-tempered ware

M.
10 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware, from same flask - LC1-3
1 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4

O.
1 x central Gaulish samian - prob. Hadrianic-Antonine
1 x late Roman grog-tempered ware, bead and flange dish - LC3-4/E5
3 x BB2 - Hadrianic+
1 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
2 x fine grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3

P.
2 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
1 x late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
2 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4

R.
1 x BB2 -Hadrianic+
1 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x 'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered ware, cordoned jar - ?C1-E2

W.
2 x Canterbury coarse grey sandyware - LC1-2
3 x BB2 type, externally burnished or smoothed, 2 jars, 1 bead and flange dish - latest MC3-M4
2 x BB1 - Hadrianic+
1 x Oxfordshire red-brown colour-coated ware, mortarium - c.AD 240-400+
1 x ?Alice Holt fine grey sandyware - C4
1 x Moselkeramic colour-coated fineware, closed form - c. AD 150/200-250
3 x samian - 1south Gaulish, 2 central Gaulish inc. ?Dr.38-type rim - LC1 and C2 types, one of latter poss. Second half of C2
32 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware, closed forms only, no LC1-EC2 forms or barbotine-decorated - LC1-3
1 x fine oxidised Upchurch-type ware - LC1-2
1 x Canterbury coarse pink-buff sandyware - LC1-2/E3
31 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
15 x late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
1 x coarse oxidised sandyware - LC1-4
3 x fine grey sandyware - LC1-4
3 x 'Belgic' or late Roman grog-tempered ware
1 x 'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered ware - ?C1-E2
10 x BB2 - Hadrianic+
1 x 'Native Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grog-tempered ware - LC2-3

19 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
1 x coarse 'Belgic' sandyware - prob Claudian-Flavian
6 x fine 'Belgic' sandyware, 2 vess. of ?similar type - jar with upright-everted rim, zone of tooled 'chevron' decoration on shoulder and upper body with 2 cordons above and groove below; similar to conquest and early post-conquest period sandywares from Folkestone area - prob. Claudian-Flavian.

Trench 1.101,SW
1 x Oxfordshire red-brown colour-coated ware - c. AD 240-400+
3 x late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
1 x Alice Holt fine grey sandyware, bead and flange dish - C4
5 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x fine grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x central Gaulish samian, prob. Dr.37 - prob. Hadrianic-Antonine
4 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
2 x oxidised Upchurch-type ware, 1 cream slipped flagon, 1 flanged dish - LC1-2
8 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman), inc. a flanged dish and hook-rim jar - LC2-3

201
3 x late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
3 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
1 x BB1 - Hadrianic+
3 x fine grey sandyware - LC1-4
4 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x central Gaulish 'Rhenish' colour-coated fineware, beaker - c. AD 150-200/250

202
1 x Picardy region Gaulish sandyware, tall necked beaker - LC2-4
1 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
1 x BB2, bead and flange dish - MC3-M4
1 x 'Native Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grog-tempered ware) - LC2-3
1 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
7 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4

203
2 x Nene-valley type colour-coated fineware, both from the same beaker, which is decorated above the base with a zone of rouletting and above that a curvilinear barbotine motif
4 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x ?Canterbury coarse grey sandyware, all from same lid - LC1-2
1 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
1 x ?Kent fabric flanged bow or mortarium (suggestion of spout, but no grits visible)
1 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3

208
2 x 'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered ware - ?C1-E2
3 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4

401 (west)
2 x late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
2 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
1 x ?BB2 (poss. a sooted cooking pot sherd) - Hadrianic+

401
1 x BB1 - Hadrianic+
1 x Picardy region Gaulish sandyware, butt or pentice beaker - C1+
1 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
4 x late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
8 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4

4,401,E
1 x BB2 type, grooved dog dish - Hadrianic+
3 x BB2, from same bead and flange dish - MC3-M4
2 x large Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
1 x Moselkeramik colour-coated fineware, closed form - c. AD 150/200-250
3 x fine grey Upchurch ware - LC1-3
1 x fine sandyware - LC1-4
4 x Canterbury coarse grey sandyware - LC1-2
13 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4

601
1 x central Gaulish samian, prob. Dr. 18/31
1 x 'other' pink-buff sandy flagonware
1 x 'Native Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grog-tempered ware) - LC2-3
2 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
2 x Oxfordshire red-brown colour-coated fineware, closed form base and partial rosette stamp on open form, both very worn - c. AD 240-400+
2 x ?BB2, dish base and dog dish rim, both very worn - Hadrianic+
9 x late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
12 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
1 x Alice Holt fine grey sandyware, bead and flange dish - C4
1 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
1 x 'Native Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grog-tempered ware) - LC2-3
10 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x Nene-valley type colour-coated fineware, beaker - prob. MC3-4
22 x BB2 type, same lattice decorated jar; short rim - ?Hadrianic-Antonine/early Severan

601/W
1 x BB1 - Hadrianic+
1 x 'Belgic' shell-tempered ware - prob.C1-2
1 x 'Belgic' fine grog-tempered ware - pre- or early Flavian
2 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
1 x 'Native Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grog-tempered ware) - LC2-3
2 x BB2 - Hadrianic+
1 x BB2 type - Hadrianic+
4 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
1 x ?late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
17 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4

602
1 x late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
1 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x ?BB2, worn jar bodysherd, v. Similar to **604** - Hadrianic+
1 x Verulamium region sandyware, flagon - LC1-M2

603
5 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
4 x fine oxidised Upchurch-type ware, inc. cream slipped flagon - LC1-2
3 x 'Belgic' shell-tempered ware - prob.C1-2
3 x BB2, decorated dishes - prob. Hadrianic-Antonine
14 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
13 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
20 x BB2 type, mostly from same lattice decorated jar with short, quite upright rim of C2 date; also a decorated dish - prob. Hadrianic-Antonine
3 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
1 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
1 x 'Belgic' shell-tempered ware - prob. C1-2
1 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4

604
2 x late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
1 x BB1 - Hadrianic+
3 x ?BB2, v. similar to **602** - Hadrianic+
1 x ?Canterbury coarse grey sandyware, all from same lid - LC1-2

606
1 x Canterbury coarse pink-buff sandyware - LC1-2/E3
7 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
1 x fine oxidised Upchurch-type ware - LC1-2
4 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
10 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4

607/01
1 x Alice Holt fine grey sandyware, bead and flange dish - C4
2 x Canterbury coarse grey sandyware - LC1-2
1 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
1 x fine oxidised Upchurch-type ware, cream slipped flagon - LC1-3
1 x BB2 type, grooved dog dish - Hadrianic+
1 x 'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered ware
1 x 'Belgic' fine grog-tempered ware
3 x late Roman grog-tempered ware - LC3-4/E5
6 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
11 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) -LC2-3
2 x central Gaulish samian, Dr. 33 cup c. partial stamp -

607/02
4 x 'Belgic' shell-tempered ware - prob C1-2
3 x ?Canterbury coarse grey sandyware, all from same lid - LC1-2
2 x 'Native Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grog-tempered ware) - LC2-3
3 x 'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered ware - ?C1-E2
12 x BB2, same decorated pie dish - prob. Hadrianic-Antonine
14 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware, inc. barbotine decorated beakers, carintated beaker and a short, upright-everted rim - LC1-3
4 x fine oxidised Upchurch-type ware, inc. Cream slipped flagon sherds - LC1-2
4 x central Gaulish samian, Dr.37, Dr.27 with 'flattened' profile, Dr.18/31 and Dr.35 or 36
45 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
44 x coarse grey sandyware, inc. Bead rim jar - LC1-4

610
2 x 'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered ware - 1 prob. LC1-2, other ?
4 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4.

612
2 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
1 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
2 x BB2, jar - Hadrianic+
1 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4

615
7 x hared-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
1 x 'Belgic' shell-tempered ware - prob. C1-2
5 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware - LC1-3
13 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x Canterbury coarse pink-buff sandyware - LC1-2/E3
1 x 'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered ware - ?C1-E2
1 x 'streak-burnish' ware (possibly an oxidised Upchurch-type variant) - MC3-4
1 x 'Native Coarse Ware' (hard-fired grogged ware) with significant sand - LC2-3

624
2 x hard-fired sandyware (later Roman) - LC2-3
1 x fine grey Upchurch-type ware LC1-3
1 x fine oxidised Upchurch-type ware - LC1-2
14 x coarse grey sandyware, ?same closed form - LC1-4

T2/203
1 x fine grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x coarse grey sandyware - LC1-4
1 x 'Belgic' or late Roman grog-tempered ware

Anglo-Saxon

Early Anglo-Saxon activity on the site at Deerton Street can be attested by sherds of post-Roman pottery recovered from test pits, D, W and contexts 401, 615 and 624.

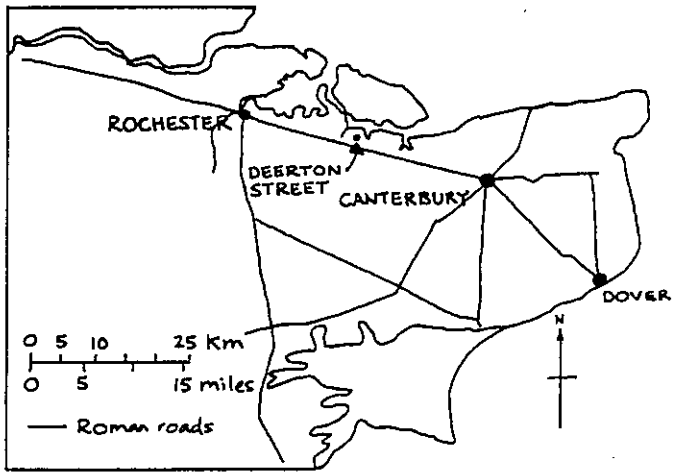
Test pit	No. of sherds	Type
D	1	Early-mid Saxon fine sandyware c.450-650 AD.
W	2	Early-mid Saxon fine sandywares c.450-650 AD. One is burnished on both sides and could be 5th to 6th century.
W	1	Externally oxidised sherd, possibly Saxon grass-tempered ware. (Poss.) 6th to 7th century.
W	1	(poss.) Saxon fine sandyware c.450-650 AD.
Context 401	1	Ipswich ware c.700-850 AD.
Context 615	3	(poss.) Saxon 'local' coarse sandy fabric and one fineware with traces of burnishing to neck and shoulder, well-made but probably by hand, resembles Frankish imports (poss.) 6-7th century.
Context 624	11	(poss.) Saxon 'local' coarseware. 6-7th century.

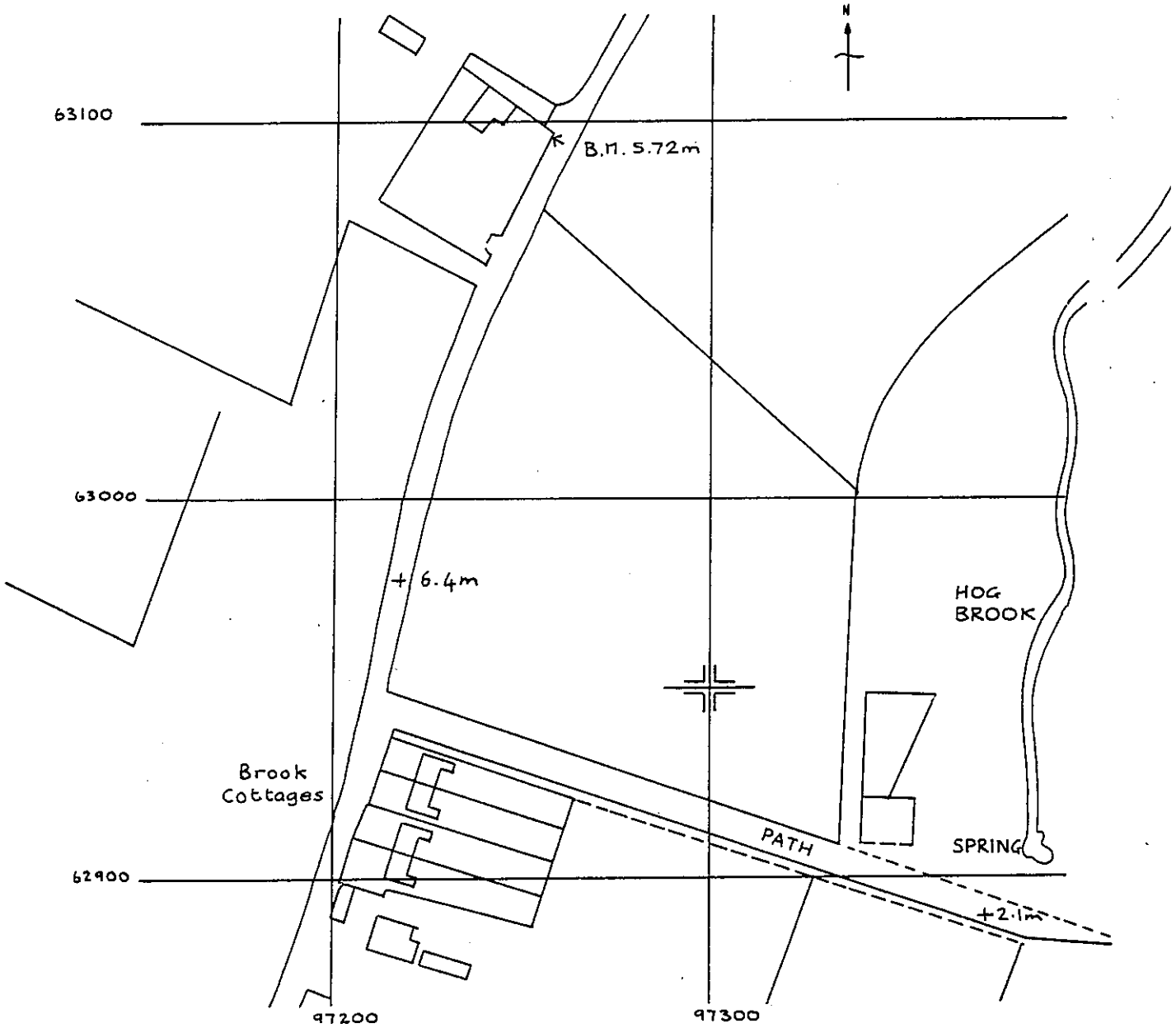
The sherds from test-pit W had come from an area later exposed by excavation as a possible Saxon-hut or *grubenhaüs*. It is somewhat gratifying that supposition in the field was later confirmed by

sherd identification. Likewise possible Saxon rubbish pits of 612-615 have now been confirmed to contain sherds of Saxon pottery.

Context 624 is alongside a late Roman flint wall and it may be the Saxon settlers incorporated still standing Roman walls into their habitation. The confirmation of Saxon activity on the Roman villa site, although not unique in Kent, is worthy of note, and confirms that only the most exacting standards of excavation would have allowed such flimsy evidence to survive. The current practice of excavating with a mechanical 'digger' until the excavator hears the satisfying crunch of steel bucket on Roman foundations must mean that alarming amounts of irreplaceable information has, and continues to be, lost.

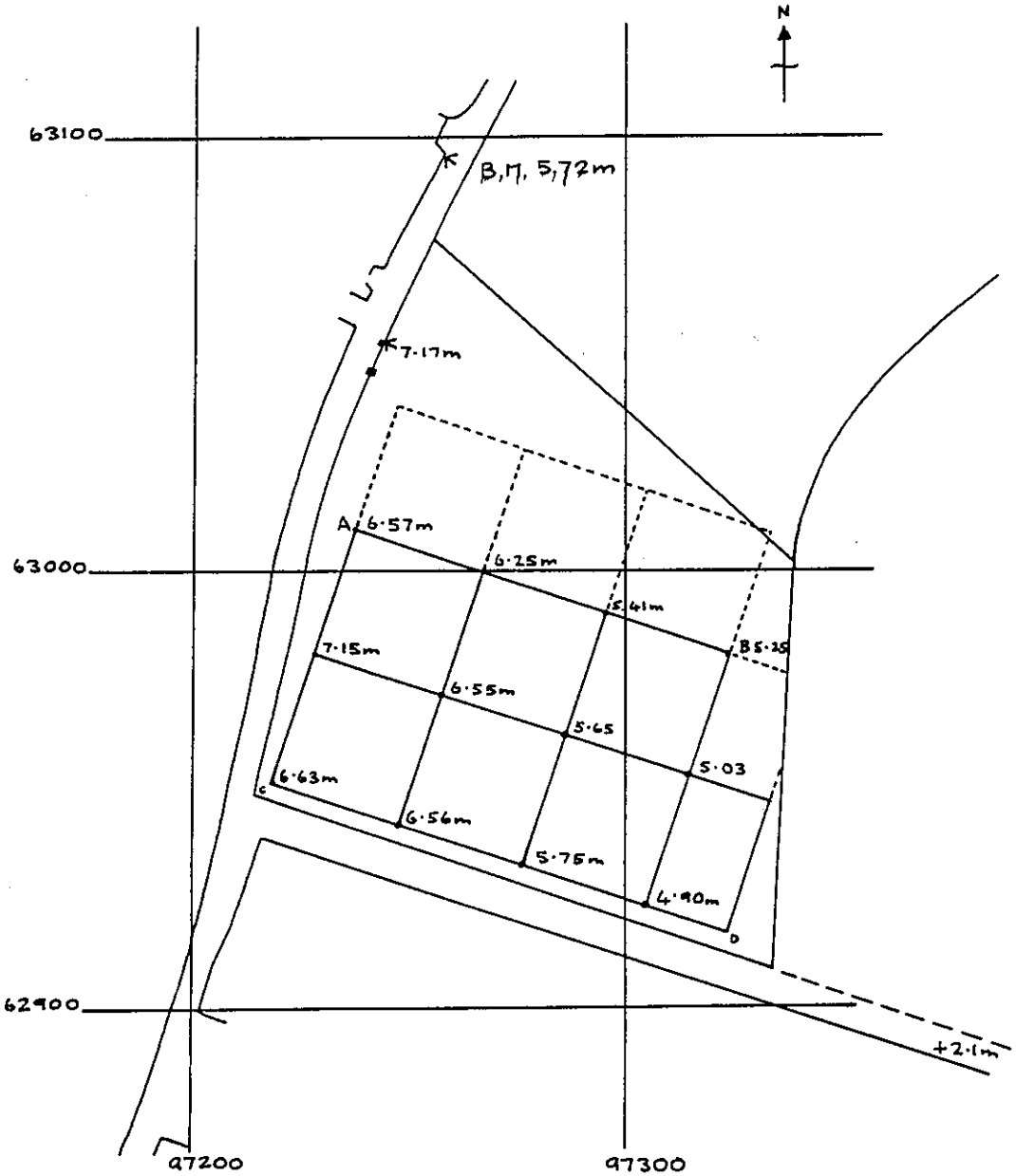
DEERTON STREET : LOCATION PLAN : 1997



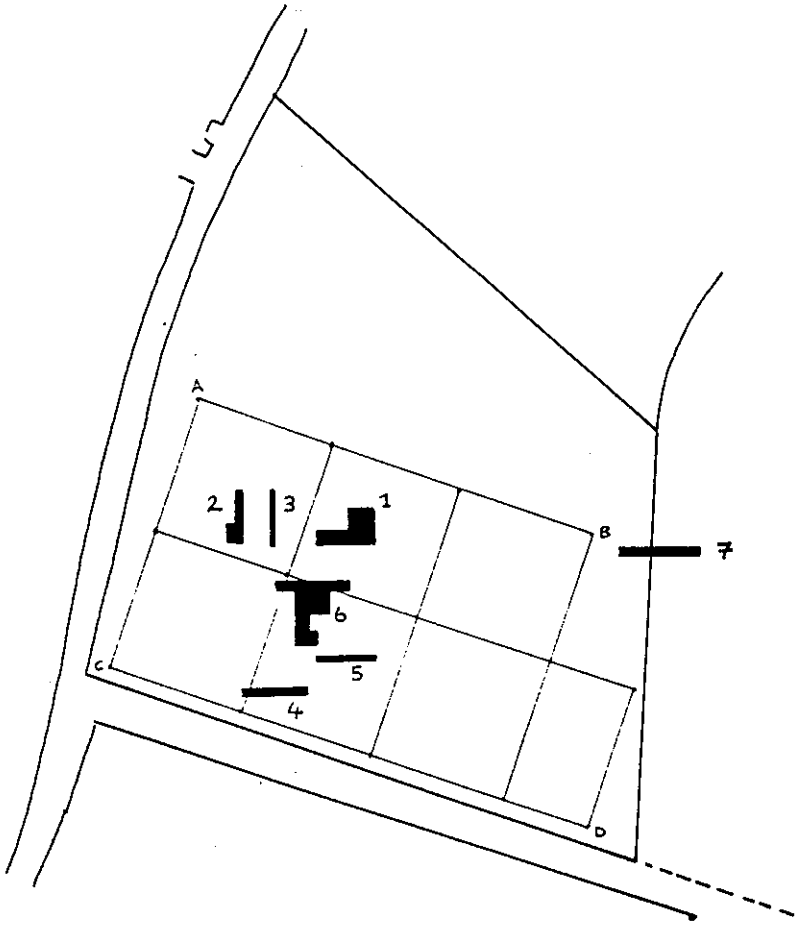


THE ROMAN VILLA SITE AT DEERTON STREET, TEYNHAM, KENT. TQ 9730 6295.

DEERTON STREET : LOCATION PLAN, TW 5 : 1997



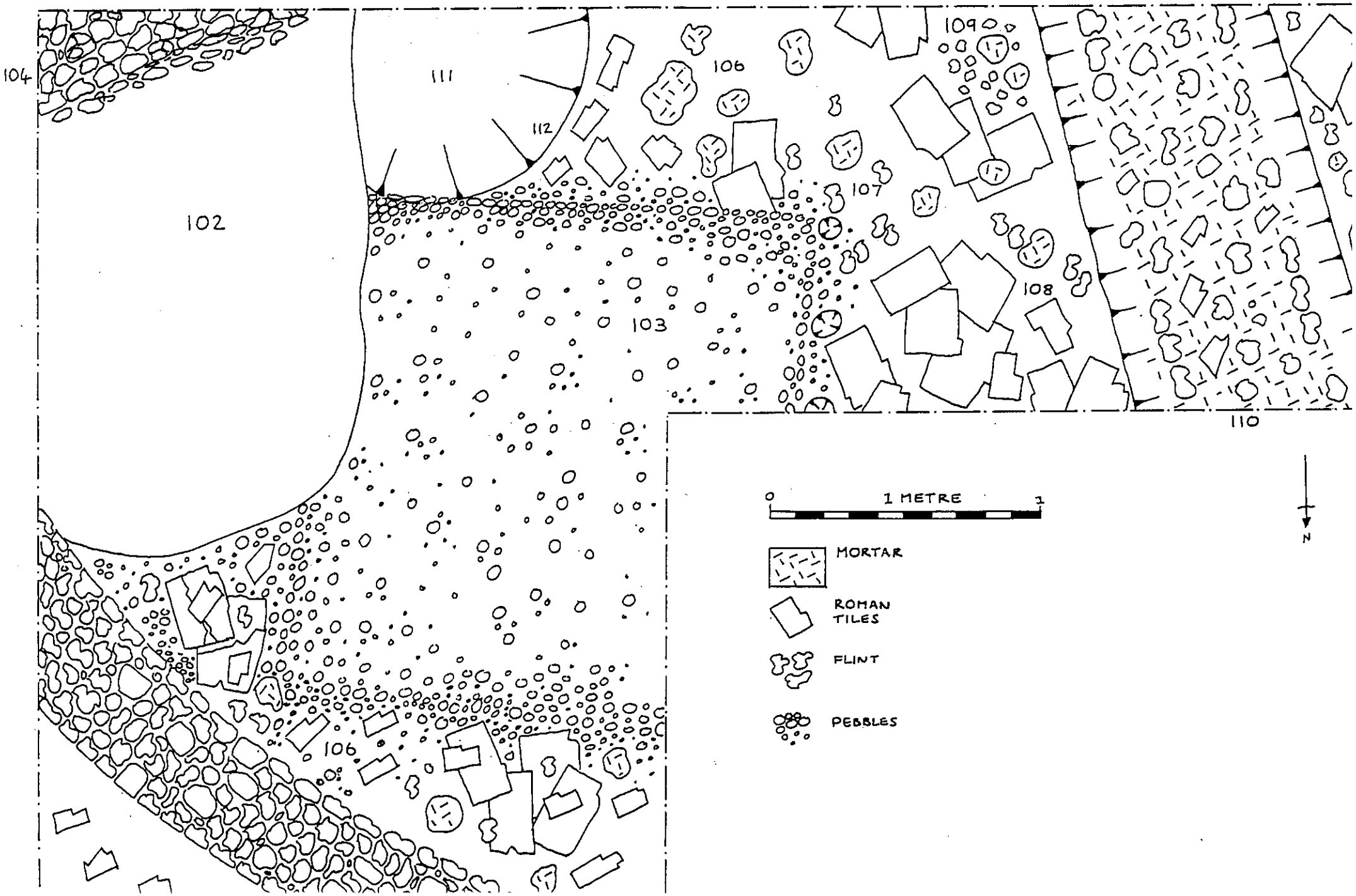
SITE GRID AT 30 METRE POINTS AND SPOT HEIGHTS



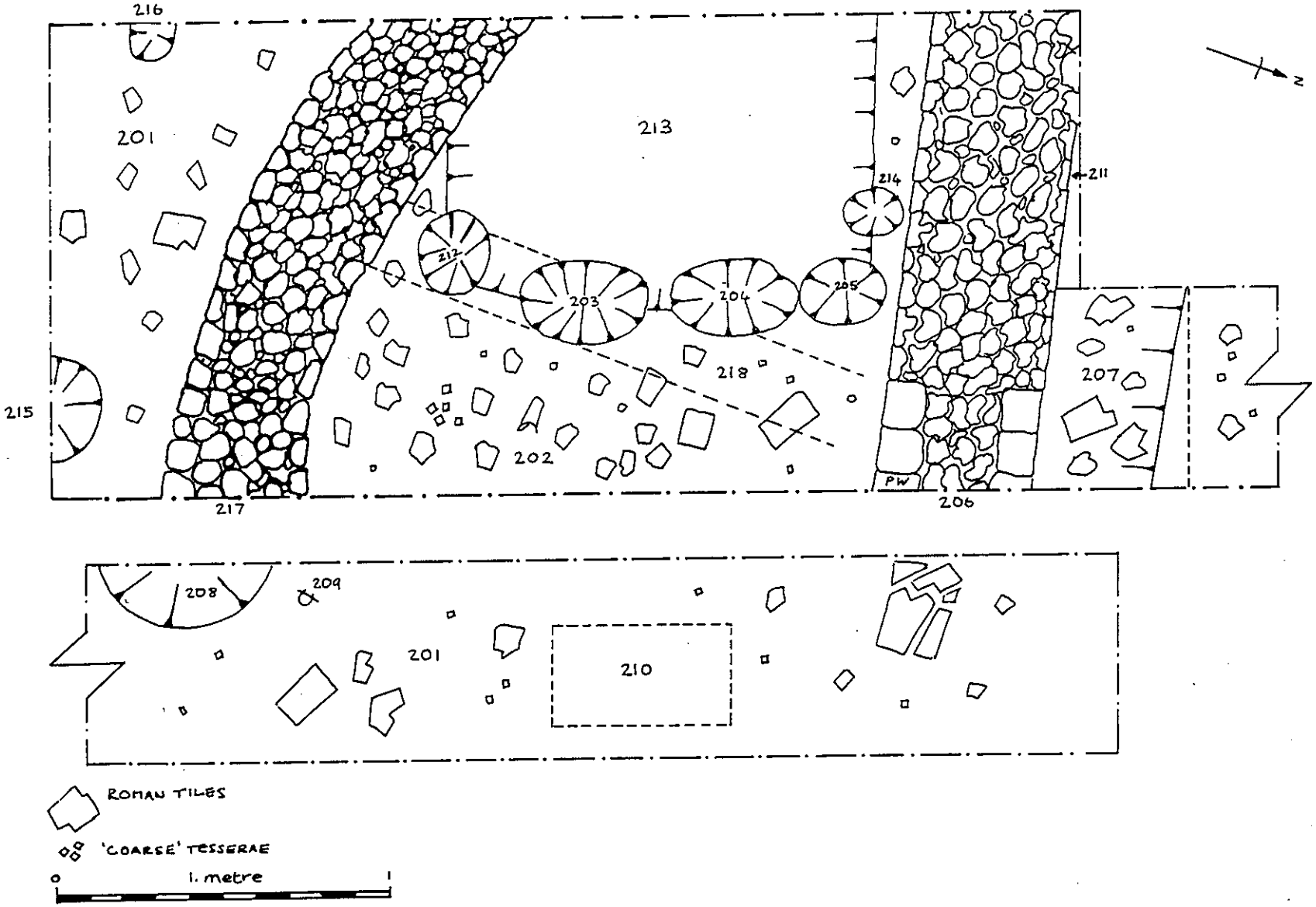
LOCATION OF EVALUATION TRENCHES / FIG. C.

30 metre

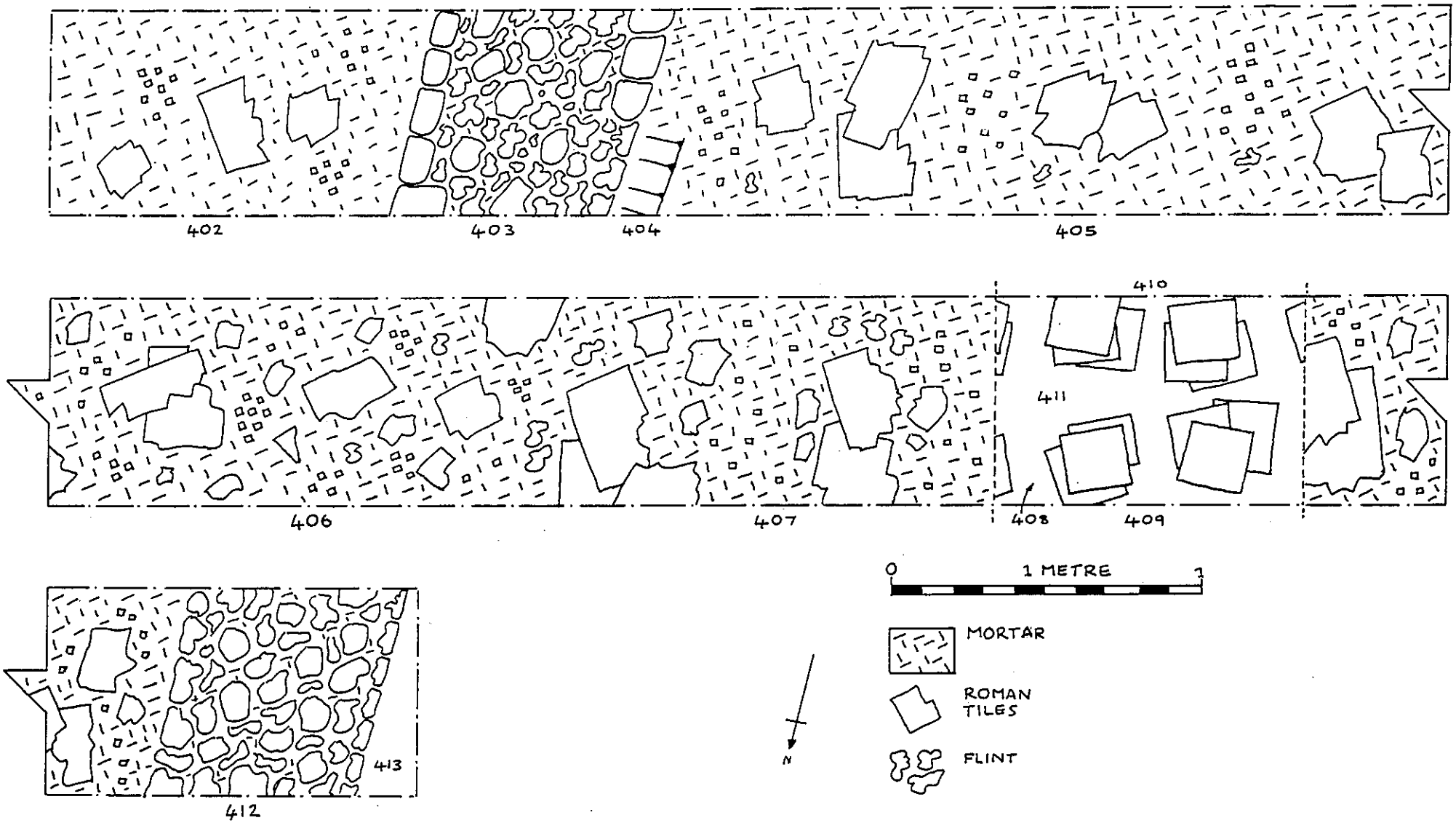
DEERTON STREET. TRENCH ONE : PLAN VIEW . 1997



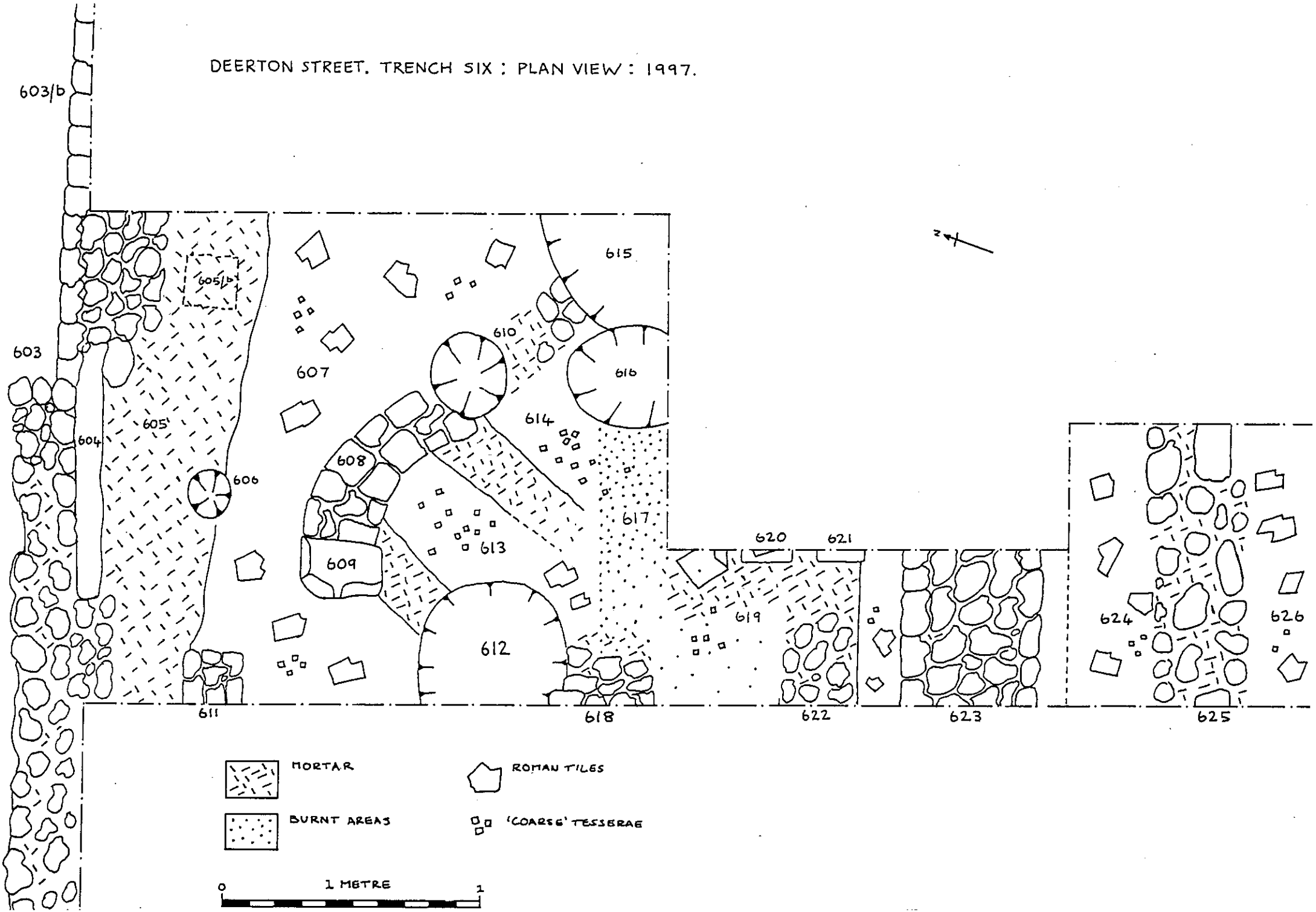
DEERTON STREET. TRENCH TWO: PLAN VIEW :1997



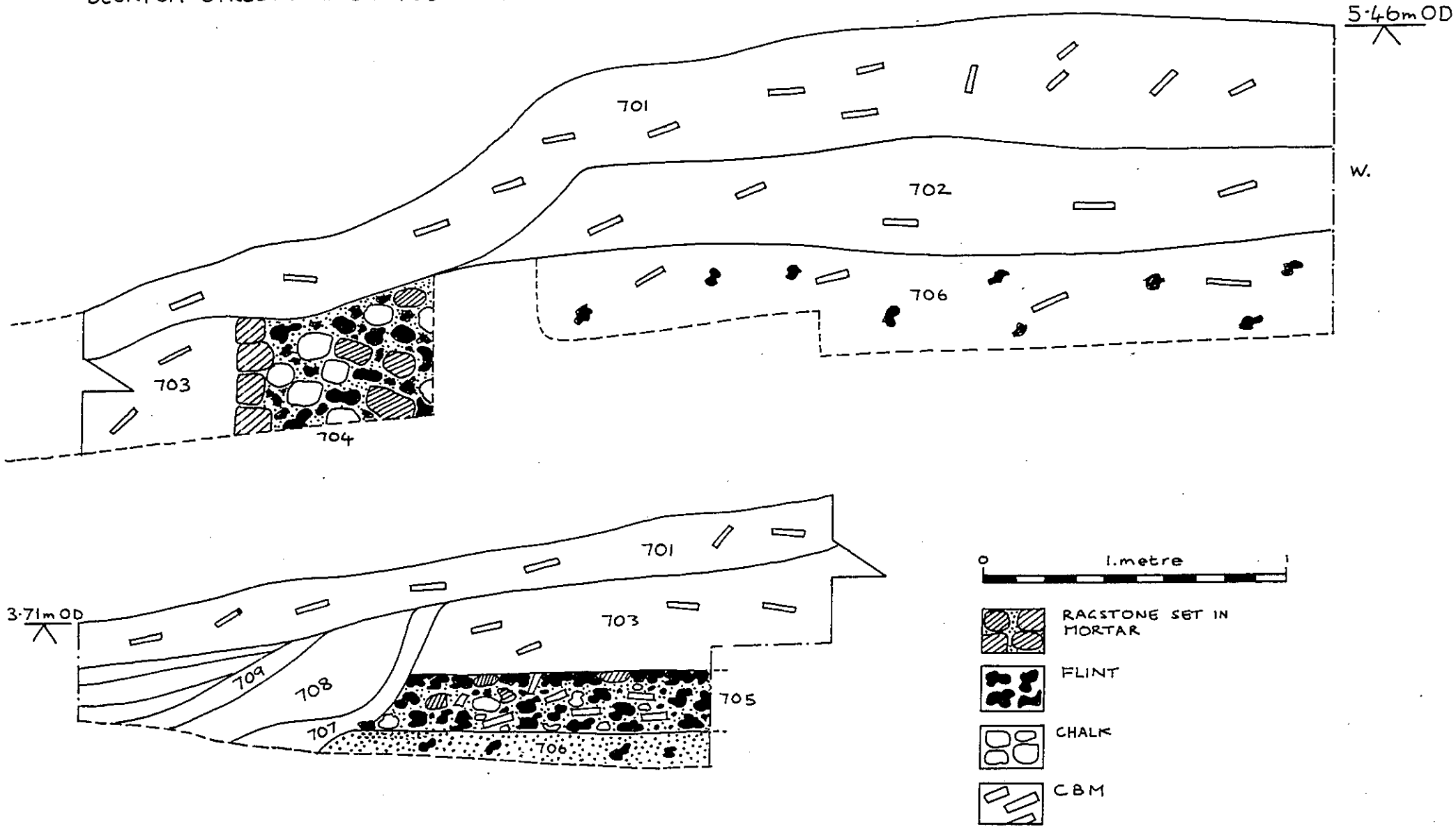
DEERTON STREET. TRENCH FOUR : PLAN VIEW : 1997



DEERTON STREET. TRENCH SIX : PLAN VIEW : 1997.



DEERTON STREET: TRENCH SEVEN : SECTION : 1997



Appendix 3

Inventory of materials

	Type	Weight (gm.)
Feature 1		
	roof tile (Imbrex)	190
	roof tile (tegula)	200
	roof tile (tegula)	175
	roof tile (tegula) Eccles	140
	roof tile (tegula)	85
	roof tile (Imbrex)	360
	flue tile	280
	roof tile (Imbrex)	360
	box-flue tile	500
	roof tile (Imbrex)	520
	hypocaust tile (mortar attached)	390
	roof tile (tegula) sample	580
	box-flue tile	300
	hypocaust tile	500
	roof tile (tegula)	430
	hypocaust tile	790
	roof tile (tegula)	380
	roof tile (tegula)	310
	roof tile (tegula)	420
	roof tile (Imbrex)	430
	roof tile (Imbrex)	90
	box-flue tile	190
Trench 1		
	roof tile (Imbrex)	185
	hypocaust tile	230
	roof tile (Imbrex)	580
	hypocaust tile (mortar attached)	200
	roof tile (Imbrex)	180
	roof tile (tegula)	290
	box-flue tile	80
	roof tile (Imbrex)	375
	box-flue tile	240
	roof-tile (tegula)	210
	box-flue tile	220
Trench 2		
	roof tile (tegula)	310
	roof tile (Imbrex)	85
	box-flue tile	190
	roof tile (Imbrex)	125
	box-flue tile	410
	roof tile (tegula)	180
	hypocaust tile	680
	roof tile (tegula)	405

Trench One

R13. 1/12. Jar. Obtuse lattice decoration.
R14. 1/6. Closed form.
R16. 4/25. 4 vessels. All closed forms. 1 exhibits a hollow cordon and 1 is from a carinated beaker.
R17.1. 2/22. 1 vessel. Cup of Monaghan class 6C, copying samian form Drag. 27. This vessel is self-coloured, externally matt, internally facet-burnished cf. 'streak-burnished' ware.
R18. 2/23. 2 vessels. Probably flagons.
R50. 3/647. ?2 vessels. 1 sherd burnt.
R73. 3/31. 3 vessels. Closed forms.
LR1. 2/36. 2 vessels. Jar and dish.
LR5. 1/9. Bead-and-flange dish of Lyne and Jeffries class 5B (Ref. 6). Rim.
LR7. 1/2. Closed form. Traces of red-painted decoration.

Total: 20 sherds, 813 grams.

Date Range: late first or early second to fourth century A.D..

References.

1. R. J. Pollard, *The Roman Pottery of Kent*, Maidstone, 1988, 40-41.

2. *Ibid.*, 31.

3. J. Monaghan, *Upchurch and Thameside Roman Pottery: A ceramic typology for northern Kent, first to third centuries A.D.*, BAR British Series 173, Oxford, 1987.

4. J.P. Gillam, *Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in northern Britain*, 3rd edition, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1970.

5. *Op. cit.*, ref. 1, 152.

6. M.A.B. Lyne and R.S. Jeffries, *The Alice Holt/Farnham Roman Pottery Industry*, CBA Res. Reps. no. 30, London, 1979