

# Archaeological assessment of Whitchurch, Shropshire

Victoria Buteux

with contributions by Derek Hurst, Richard Morriss, Elizabeth Pearson and Paul Stamper

## Summary

*The historic town of Whitchurch was surveyed during the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey, a desk-based study of 64 smaller historic towns in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Archaeological and documentary evidence relating to the historic core of Whitchurch was carefully analysed, comprising topographic data, published and unpublished archaeological reports, museum collections, primary and secondary historical sources, historical maps, and field data recorded by the project team.*

*Detailed evidence is provided on the character and layout of the settlement in three periods of occupation (Roman, medieval and post-medieval). For each of these three periods the available information is analysed and mapped in detail, and a model of the development of the town is proposed. In addition, the evidence for pre-urban occupation is considered, together with evidence of 19th century occupation. All archaeologically-relevant information has been recorded as part of the county Sites and Monuments Record. Specialist assessments of artefacts, ecofacts, standing buildings and documentary sources are included. A detailed archaeological research framework has been developed for Whitchurch, which will inform future archaeological investigations as well as management decisions.*

*The historic core of Whitchurch contains buried archaeological deposits, and these are judged to have high potential. In addition there is high potential for the recovery of artefact and ecofact assemblages. Waterlogged deposits have been recorded, which is rare in the region. The historic buildings constitute a complementary body of evidence, and are judged to have moderate potential for detailed study and recording. The surviving documentary sources are extensive for the later medieval and post-medieval period, and consequently the potential for further study is high.*

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Location and landuse

The urban area of Whitchurch is located at NGR SJ 541 415 in North Shropshire District. The modern settlement of Whitchurch comprises large areas of modern housing development around the historic core.

### 1.2 Topography, geology and soils

Whitchurch is situated on the Shropshire plain at a height of between 90m and 100m OD. The town developed on an area of higher ground between two small valleys but later expanded southwards along the road to Shrewsbury. On the higher ground the soils are the gleyic brown earths and brown sands of the Wick 1 association over glaciofluvial drift. In

the valley are waterlogged clayey, alluvial gley soils of the Compton association over reddish river alluvium (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Ragg *et al* 1984). The underlying geology consists of Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group (British Geological Survey 1:250,000, sheet 52°N-0.4°W). There are a number of shallow lakes of glacial origin in the area, some of which have filled to form peat bogs and these can be identified in the placenames of Brown Moss and Paul's Moss (Gifford and Partners 1992b, 5).

### 1.3 Chronological outline

Evidence from excavations in the town suggests that the earliest settlement at Whitchurch was a mid- to late 1st century fort on Watling Street, the military road between Chester and Wroxeter (Jones and Reynolds 1977; Margary 1973). A settlement developed on the site of the fort and spread southwards along the roadside. In the later 2nd century part of the settlement was enclosed by a bank and ditch (Jones and Reynolds 1977). This defended area may have functioned as an administrative core and in one area at least stone buildings replaced timber structures. There is some evidence of changes in function in areas outside the defences at about the same time (Toms 1977b). At some time after the late 2nd century a wall was added to the front of the rampart (Jones and Reynolds 1977). The town is thought to have continued into the 4th century but the date of its final abandonment is not known (Jones and Webster 1968, 214).

Little is known of the economic base of Roman Whitchurch although there is evidence of metalworking and possibly salt production. Analysis of the bone recovered from the 1965-66 excavations (SA 5811) suggested that increasing numbers of cattle were slaughtered for meat during the 3rd and 4th centuries. It is not clear if this development of meat production was a response to local or broader needs but the presence of salt, used for curing meat, at Higher and Lower Wych would make Whitchurch a suitable market and service centre for the exploitation of the grazing land of the surrounding plains. It may have been supplying bulk military contracts (Jones 1975, 104).

Watling Street continued in use throughout the medieval period. The placename *Westune* and the reference to 23 villagers, nine small holders and one rider in the Domesday Survey suggests a pre-Conquest settlement in the area (Thompson 1993, 7; Thorn and Thorn 1986). This settlement may have been at Whitchurch. It has been suggested that the dedication of the church to St Alkmund indicates an Anglo-Saxon foundation although the church is not mentioned at Domesday (Duggan 1935, 54). There is at present, however, no archaeological evidence of a medieval settlement at Whitchurch prior to the 11th century.

In 1086 the manor of Westune was held by William of Warenne for Earl Roger (Thorn and Thorn 1986). A castle at Whitchurch is first mentioned in 1199 (James 1990, 7) but one was probably built probably by William of Warenne around 1087 (James 1990, 7). A church, just to the south east of the castle, was constructed at about the same time (Crannage 1903). A medieval settlement at Whitchurch may have originated in the late 11th century but archaeological evidence indicates that it was certainly in existence by the 12th century. A market charter of *c* 1190 is referred to in a 13th century document (Eyton 1860, 23; James 1989, 8). The early town was probably laid out on either side of the High Street on the high ground to the south of the castle and church and town defences were constructed around this area. By 1284-5 a free court was held twice yearly and there was a gallows, market fair and warren (Eyton 1860, 23). As well as serving as a market centre for agricultural produce Whitchurch was close to salt producing centres and was involved in the salt trade from at least the 13th century (James 1979, 3).

By the 14th century the town was prospering and had expanded outside the limit of its defences. At some time before 1400 these went out of use and the planned suburb of Newtown was laid out (James 1984, 3) to the west of the old core, over the site of the ditch and rampart. In 1362 a market charter formalised Whitchurch's position as a market centre although it lacked corporate status (James 1989; Watts 1993, 4).

Whitchurch continued to thrive during the post-medieval period and there was a marked increase in population from the end of the 16th century to the mid-17th century. In the early 17th century the lord of the manor, Sir Thomas Egerton, requested that Whitchurch have its own justices because it had become so populous, particularly on market days when the town was very busy with travellers en route to Wales and Ireland (Watts 1993, 3). It has been estimated that the population of Whitchurch rose from about 800 in the early 16th century to c 3000 in the 1670s (Watts 1993, 4). During the Civil War there was small-scale fighting around the town. Whitchurch had a Royalist garrison but it was not strongly defended and was captured by Parliamentary forces in May 1643 (Hopkins 1957-60, 311; James 1979, 4).

In the mid-16th century Leland noted that "the town of Whitchurch in Shropshire has a very good market" (Chandler 1993, 385). The economy, as in the medieval period, was based on the marketing of agricultural produce including livestock and cheese (Watts 1993, 2) but also increasingly on related industries such as brewing and tanning. In the mid 17th century there are documentary references to tanners, shoemakers, tailors, carpenters, mercers, brewers, innkeepers, millers, butchers and grain merchants although tanners and mercers seem to have been the wealthiest (Watts 1993, 4). By the end of the 17th century Whitchurch was referred to as "a large market town" and "a wealthy market town and a great thoroughfare" (James 1978, 9; Duggan 1935, 36).

During the 18th century Whitchurch developed as a coaching town on the road north from Shrewsbury (James 1979, 8). This resulted in an increase in service industries to provide accommodation and provisions for the travellers. In 1808 Whitchurch was joined to the Ellesmere Canal with a wharf at Sherrymill Hill and later at Park Avenue (James 1979, 9).

In the 18th and 19th centuries Whitchurch continued as a marketing centre particularly for livestock, but it also became known for leatherworking (James 1979, 5). In 1824 the principal trades were shoemaking for the Manchester market and malting. Other trades found in the town in this period included lime burning, brick making, silk manufacture and the production of oak acid (Duggan 1935, 36). The most notable industry in the 19th century was the clockmaking firm of J B Joyce (James 1979).

The London and North-Western Railway reached Whitchurch in September 1858 as a single line from Shrewsbury. The line was an immediate success as it provided access to South Wales from the north west and the track was doubled in 1862. In 1872 a branch from Whitchurch to Tattenhall Junction was opened (WAAG 1980).

#### 1.4 Placename studies

The Roman town of Whitchurch has been identified as the *Mediolanum* of the Antonine Itinerary (Jones and Webster 1968, 193). This is a Gallo-Brittonic place-name and means "the central plain" (Rivet 1970, 77) reflecting Whitchurch's position in the Cheshire plain between the Roman legionary fortress of Chester and Wroxeter.

At Domesday the site of the present town was in the manor of *Westune*. The 11th century castle and later settlement were, however, referred to in Latin as *Album Monasterium* and in Norman French as *Blancmustier*, *Blankmouster* or *Blankmonster* (Gelling 1990, 311). The name is thought to refer to a new "white" (ie stone) church, built soon after the Conquest (Eyton 1860, 14; Ekwall 1987, 513). The first recorded use of the English *Whitchurch* is in 1271-2 (Gelling 1990, 311).

#### 1.5 Syntheses of documentary and archaeological data

The settlement of *Mediolanum* has been briefly discussed in a number of synthetic works on Romano-British towns (Burnham and Wachter 1990; Crickmore 1984a and 1984b).

The documentary evidence relating to medieval Whitchurch has been summarised by

Eyton (1860). More recently there have been a number of short studies of various medieval and post-medieval documents (James 1984; James 1989; James 1990; Watts 1993) and several short histories of the town have been produced (McReath nd; Duggan 1935; James 1979). An index of archaeological sites was produced in 1991 (Gifford and Partners 1991).

The present assessment was carried out by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in 1994. The text was revised in March 1995 to incorporate the results of fieldwork undertaken by the Survey (see section 1.7). No information published after December 1994 has been incorporated into this assessment.

## 1.6 Cartographic sources

A copy of the 1761 map of the town (Anon nd; SRO 399), the tithe map of 1841 (Foxall nd) and the Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 maps (*Shropshire sheet I.16 and VII.4* (1880, 1884)) were used in the identification of remains and the definition of components.

## 1.7 Archaeological excavations and surveys

From the late 19th century to the present there are many records of artefacts found accidentally at Whitchurch, usually during construction work. These include a Bronze Age stone adze (SA 916); Roman coins, pottery and metalwork (SA 567, SA 569, SA 5814, SA 5821, SA 5832, SA 5852, SA 5857, SA 5908, SA 5909, SA 5910, SA 5911, SA 5912, SA 5913); Roman funerary urns and human cremations (SA 5818, SA 5853, SA 5854, SA 5855, SA 5856, SA 5859); medieval pottery (SA 5821, SA 5908, SA 5910) and post-medieval pottery, bottles and coins (SA 568, SA 5864, SA 5865, SA 5908). Of particular interest are the chance finds and observations of large sandstone ashlar from all over the area of the town (SA 5823, SA 5824, SA 5828, SA 5829, SA 5861, SA 5862, SA 5863, SA 5906, SA 5907). Whilst these are sometimes stated to be medieval or Roman the basis for this dating seems to be slight and at present they cannot be interpreted with any degree of certainty.

The first recorded archaeological intervention in Whitchurch was in 1960 when a watching brief at Barclay's Bank, High Street, and a small excavation at Lloyd's Bank, Watergate Street, were undertaken and recovered evidence of the Roman road and contemporary and later occupation (SA 5815, SA 5816; Houghton 1961). In 1965-1966 an excavation within a medieval burgage plot to the east of Newtown uncovered more evidence of Roman military and civilian activity as well as medieval and post-medieval structures and artefacts (SA 5811; Jones and Webster 1968).

The 1970s were a period of increased archaeological activity in Whitchurch and a large number of small-scale rescue excavations and watching briefs were carried out, mainly by the Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group. In 1976 and 1977 Roman and later structures and finds including waterlogged timbers were uncovered behind the National Westminster Bank to the west of the High Street (SA 3378; Toms 1977a) and in 1977 evidence of the Roman fort, civilian settlement and Roman town defences as well as evidence of the post-medieval town was recovered during a rescue excavation at Bargates (SA 5817; Jones and Reynolds 1977).

Evidence of medieval and post-medieval houses with associated pits and yard surfaces were uncovered at two excavations in Claypit Street in 1978 (SA 2701, Griffiths 1978a; SA 5820, Griffiths 1978b). And in the same year Roman and medieval ditches were observed at Newtown and Pepper Street (SA 2704, Griffiths 1978c; SA 5819, Griffiths 1978d).

In 1979 a number of rescue excavations and watching briefs were undertaken in the Castle Hill/ Newtown area (SA 5822, Anon 1979; SA 5823, Griffiths 1979c; SA 5827, Griffiths 1979d); to the north of the town at Yardington (SA 5824, SA 5826, Griffiths 1979c) and at

the White Bear Inn to the west of the High Street (SA 5825, Griffiths 1979a). These recovered evidence of Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation.

In 1980 excavations at Watergate Street uncovered waterlogged remains including a post-medieval timber jetty and building on the edge of the marsh/millpool which later became White Lion Meadow (SA 5810, Stewart 1980a). In 1981 observations during the construction of a housing estate to the north of Yardington suggested that at least one stone building and areas of extensive 1st to 2nd century industrial activity were destroyed (SA 2718, Anon 1981). Further Roman remains in this area were discovered during a small excavation in 1985 (SA 5831, Field 1985).

During the 1980s and 1990s a considerable number of watching briefs and evaluations took place in Whitchurch. As in previous years these concentrated on the Castle Hill/Newtown area as this was known to be the location of Roman military and civilian occupation and was supposed to be the location of the medieval castle. At Pepper Street Roman ditches were again observed during road widening in 1982 (SA 5830, Stewart 1983). A watching brief at 2 and 2A Newtown in 1989 revealed late post-medieval deposits (SA 5833, Watson 1989). The evaluation of a large area prior to re-development between Castle Hill and Pepper Street in 1992 uncovered Roman deposits, a medieval ditch and post-medieval houses and a tanning pit (SA 5835, Gifford and Partners 1992c). This led to further excavations and a watching brief in that area in 1993 (SA 5837, SA 5838; Thompson 1993). An evaluation to the west of Newtown in 1994 revealed only late post-medieval deposits and a 1940s air raid shelter (SA 5851, Rogers 1994).

Elsewhere in the town fewer evaluations or watching briefs have taken place. An evaluation to the west of Bargates in 1989, provided evidence of activity dating from the 13th century to the present (SA 5834, Newton 1989). An evaluation was undertaken to the east of the Tarporley Road in 1992 in what was thought to be a Roman cemetery but no archaeological deposits were present (SA 5812, Gifford and Partners 1992a). An evaluation to the rear of St Mary's Street in 1992 revealed the destruction of earlier deposits by 19th and 20th century levelling and construction (SA 5813, Gifford and Partners 1992b). A watching brief during road works in the High Street in 1993 revealed three undated earlier road surfaces (SA 5836, Hannaford 1993).

The amount of archaeological work undertaken in Whitchurch is considerable but with the exception of excavations undertaken in the 1960s and in the very late 1980s and early 1990s the published reports of this work are limited and do not contain location plans, plans of features or finds reports. Fieldwork was undertaken by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in November 1994. This identified remains, investigated and revised the extent of components, and recorded 18th and 19th century cellars and modern developments in the urban area.

### **1.8 Acknowledgments and personnel**

Survey fieldwork was undertaken by Victoria Buteux and Nigel Topping. Analysis and report writing were carried out by Victoria Buteux and the report was edited by Hal Dalwood.

## **2 Pre-urban evidence**

Bronze Age artefacts and burials are known in the general area of Whitchurch (Gifford and Partners 1991) and a Bronze Age stone adze was found to the east of Edgeley Street in 1920s (SA 916). Excavations within the town have recovered flints from Roman and later deposits (SA 3378, SA 5830, SA 5831) and this suggests that there was some activity in the area of Whitchurch prior to the construction of the Roman fort at the end of the first century. At present there is no evidence of a pre-Roman settlement.

### 3 Roman archaeological evidence

#### 3.1 Roman remains and buildings

There are no standing remains of Roman date within Whitchurch. Many artefacts have been discovered during construction work in the town, and a number of archaeological interventions since the 1960s have produced evidence of Roman military and civilian occupation (see section 1.7). These excavations and watching briefs have demonstrated the survival of Roman deposits including the foundations of stone and timber buildings and contemporary ground surfaces. Many of the deposits were waterlogged and contained structural timbers and other organic artefacts.

#### 3.2 Roman urban components

Analysis of the evidence summarised above indicated the existence of eight urban components. The characteristics of these urban components are summarised below.

**Occupation areas** (SA 5914, SA 5915, SA 5916, SA 5917). Evidence from excavations suggests that the earliest occupation at Whitchurch was a fort (SA 909) on the military road between Chester and Wroxeter prior to *c* 70. This had two phases and on pottery evidence seems to have been abandoned and the ditches back filled by *c* 100 (SA 5811, Jones and Webster 1968; SA 5817, Jones and Reynolds 1977). A civilian settlement of timber buildings was established by the late 1st century or early 2nd century. This occupied the area of the fort but also spread along the road to the south (SA 3378, Toms 1977a; SA 5815 and SA 5816, Houghton 1961). There is some slight evidence of strip buildings fronting Watling Street (SA 5817; Jones and Reynolds 1977), although there have been no excavations on the High Street/Watling Street frontage itself. In the area of timber buildings behind the frontages there is evidence of small scale industry such as metal working (Jones and Webster 1968, 203-205) and two large timber-lined wells with associated buildings have also been discovered (SA 3378; Toms 1977a).

On land to the north of what is now Yardington a late 1st and early 2nd century industrial complex including furnaces and a stone building were observed as they were being destroyed (SA 2718; Anon 1981). In the same area a small excavation revealed more evidence of stone buildings and a cremation site (SA 5831, Field 1985). Excavations at the Queen's Head, Yardington (SA 5826) uncovered kilns and evidence of lead working (Griffiths 1979c).

Around 170 a rampart and ditch was constructed around the section of the town on the defensible higher ground creating a core area (SA 5914, SA 5915) and extra-mural suburbs (SA 5916, SA 5917). The creation of the defences appears to have produced a change in the function of the intra- and extra-mural areas.

To the east of Newtown (SA 5811), within the defences, the timber buildings and industrial areas were replaced by stone structures in the later 2nd and 3rd centuries. These stone buildings were set away from the road in much the same way as the high status buildings within the defended area at Kenchester. To the west of the High Street (SA 3378) just outside the defences, buildings were demolished and timber lined wells backfilled and sealed by a layer of clay and cobbles at the end of the 2nd century. The backfill was "general town rubbish" including tiles, masonry blocks and burnt timbers (Toms 1977a). It is possible, therefore, that the levelling of this area was to create an open space in front of the defences.

Whilst it is clear that the town was larger than the area enclosed by the defences evidence relating to the extra-mural settlement is limited. This is in large part due to the concentration of archaeological activity on the defended area but is exacerbated by

the lack of detail in reports of finds or excavated deposits.

By the early 4th century industrial activities such as metalworking and possibly salt production are again found at Newtown within the defended area (SA 5811). This was interpreted by the excavator as evidence that the town was contracting at this period. In this area, at least, occupation does not seem to have lasted long after 350 (Jones and Webster 1968). The lack of dated sequences and the destruction of later Roman deposits by medieval and post-medieval activity means that the evidence of the decline and desertion of *Mediolanum* is almost entirely missing.

**Street system** (SA 5869). The main axis of the Roman town was Watling Street (west) (SA 66; Margary 1973, 296-299). This was observed at the Lloyd's Bank site where it was 0.30m to 0.35m thick and constructed of close-rammed cobble stones laid onto natural sand (SA 5815, Houghton 1961, 229). A section of what was interpreted as a Roman road was observed to the west of Whitchurch (SA 5905) and there is a possibility that the fort and later town were situated at a crossroads. If this were the case the cremation burial at the Horse and Jockey, Claypit Street (SA 2701, Griffiths 1978a) may be part of a small cemetery on a road approaching Whitchurch from the east. Comparison with other Roman small towns (such as Kenchester) suggests that there would have been a number of small irregular side streets leading off the main road and providing access to the yards and buildings behind the frontage (cf Wilmott 1980). So far no archaeological evidence of these has been recovered from Whitchurch.

**Town defences** (SA 5868). The town defences consisted of a nine metre wide clay rampart with an outer ditch constructed *c* 170. At a later date a stone wall was added to the front of the rampart. The line of the defences is not known but the topography suggests that it may have followed the line of the hill on which the 1st century fort had stood. The main evidence for the construction and date of the town defences comes from the 1977 salvage excavations at Bargates (SA 5817; Jones and Reynolds 1977) although a very similar bank and ditch was observed to the south at Pepper Street in 1978 (SA 5819, Anon 1978, 7). The town defences may have been observed in other areas of the town but there is a great deal of confusion due to the presence of ditches associated with the fort. For example a rampart and ditch with what might have been the foundation for a wall was excavated at Newtown in 1965-6 (HWCM 5811; Jones and Webster 1968). This was interpreted as the 1st century fort but both it and the demolition levels it sealed were not dated archaeologically and its construction and stratigraphic position suggest that it might have been part of the 2nd century defences. Clay ramparts and ditches have also been observed at the Queens Head, Yardington (SA 5826, Gifford and Partners 1991) and at Castle Hill (SA 5827; Anon 1978) but the lack of plans or stratigraphic details mean that it is not possible to distinguish if these relate to the Roman fort, to the town defences or to some other feature.

**Cemeteries** (SA 910, SA 5918). Numerous observations of cremation urns and grave goods on either side of the Roman road at Sedgford indicate the presence of a cemetery on the road out of Whitchurch to the south (SA 910; Musty and Rogerson 1973). The extent of this cemetery is not known but its position at a distance of *c* 600m from the town defences suggests that the town may have stretched further down Dodington than the distribution of Roman finds spots would at present suggest.

The evidence for a cemetery next to the road out of Whitchurch to the north is much less secure. The accidental discovery of inhumation burials at the north end of Bargates was reported in the 1970s (SA 914) but an evaluation in this area produced no evidence of Roman activity (SA 5812, Gifford and Partners 1992a). Undated cremations have been found outside the defences at the northern end of the town (SA 5831; SA 2701) and whilst it is possible that these reflect the presence of an east-west route their true significance is not clear.

### 3.3 Roman urban form

**Definition and classification.** The Roman urban form (SA 2702) has been defined and mapped, based on the extent of the identified urban components. The available evidence indicates that the Roman urban form of Whitchurch can be classified as a Roman small town (English Heritage 1992).

**Survival.** Chance finds of artefacts, archaeological observations and excavations have demonstrated that substantial Roman buried deposits survive at Whitchurch. It is clear, however, that the natural topography has greatly affected the pattern of survival within the Roman urban area. The best preserved and deepest deposits have come from Watergate Street in the lowest part of the town. Here the intentional raising of the ground level by dumping in the medieval and post-medieval period has protected the waterlogged Roman deposits (SA 5810, SA 5815).

On the higher ground between Newtown and St Mary's Street substantial Roman deposits have been observed (SA 5811, SA 3378, SA 5832) and waterlogged remains are found in the wells and deeper ditches. The deposits have been damaged by medieval and later activity and in particular areas on, or close to, the frontages have been truncated by 18th and 19th century building works. The amount of destruction varies within individual plots.

In some areas almost all trace of Roman occupation has been removed (SA 2704) but at the corner of Yardington and Bargates, for example, the 2nd century clay rampart survived to a height of 0.5m although the late Roman, medieval and early post-medieval layers had been destroyed in the 18th or 19th century (SA 5817; Jones and Reynolds). Because of the damage caused by late post-medieval building works the best preserved areas are usually to the middle and the back of the plots (SA 3378, SA 5811, SA 5832). At the east side of the High Street Roman deposits were found at *c* 1.5m below the present ground surface and to the east of Newtown deposits including Roman remains were *c* 2.5m deep and protected by *c* 1.5m of modern "overburden" (SA 5811, Jones and Webster 1968).

On the slopes to the west of Newtown the preservation is particularly poor due both to erosion and to the demolition of the 17th and 18th century houses in this area in recent years (SA 2704). To the north of Yardington a large industrial complex was observed as it was being destroyed (SA 2718) but at 3 Roman Way deposits had survived the construction of the housing estate (SA 5831).

There are no standing Roman remains in Whitchurch and the components of the Roman urban form comprising occupation areas, cemeteries, town defences and street system cannot be readily identified on the ground.

## 4 Medieval archaeological evidence

### 4.1 Medieval remains and buildings

Medieval pottery has been discovered during construction work in the town and a number of archaeological interventions since the 1960s have produced evidence of medieval occupation (see above section 1.7). The remains of medieval ditches, including the town ditch, have been observed in the Pepper Street area (SA 5819, 5835, 5837) and Newtown (SA 2704). Evidence of medieval occupation including house platforms, floors, yards and pits have been observed at Bargates (SA 5834) Claypit Street (SA 2701, SA 5820), Newtown (SA 5811), Watergate Street (SA 5815, SA 5825) and in burgage plots behind the High Street (SA 3378). The medieval road surface has been observed at Pepper Street (SA 5823) and possibly the High Street (SA 5836).

A building dating to c1400 or possibly earlier is still standing to the west of Watergate Street (SA 17163) and the High Street contains two 15th century structures (SA 12580, SA 13880; James 1984, 4-5). The medieval sundial in the churchyard dates to the 14th century (SA 1038).

#### 4.2 Medieval urban components

Analysis of the evidence summarised above and of cartographic and documentary sources indicated the existence of 24 urban components. The characteristics of these urban components are summarised below.

**Castle** (SA 904). It has been suggested that a castle at Whitchurch was built by William of Warenne soon after Domesday (James 1990, 6). A castle is referred to indirectly several times in the 12th century (James 1990, 6) and in 1199 money was provided from Crown revenues for the repair of the castle at *Album Monasterium* (Eyton 1860, 8). Nearly 200 years later, in 1384, bailiffs' accounts refer to the cost of repairs including roofing the keep and "making stonework" (James 1990, 7). By the 14th century, therefore, it would seem that the castle was a stone structure. A recently discovered 18th century drawing of remains of the castle may show a stone-built gatehouse (Thompson 1992). There is no record of any defensive engagement at the castle and it is possible that after the conquest of Wales in the early 15th century it was not maintained. The antiquarian Leland in the mid-16th century noted the presence of the castle at Whitchurch, but made no further comment (Chandler 1993, 396). The last reference to the castle dates from 1813 when it was noted that part of the walls were still standing in 1760 (Nightingale 1813, 283).

There is now no trace of the castle, but it has generally been assumed that it stood in the Newtown/Castle Hill area (Thompson 1993). A reconsideration of the available evidence suggests, however, that it was situated on the higher ground to the north of Yardington. The reasons for this are set out here.

1. Documentary references to the repair of the castle indicate that it was still functioning in 1384, and Leland mentioned the castle c 1540 (Chandler 1993, 396), which implies there were substantial standing remains. However it is clear from documentary sources that the burgage plots of Newtown were laid out and occupied by 1400 (James 1984, 3). Both castle and burgages cannot have occupied the same area at the same time.

2. By the later 16th century the population of Whitchurch had increased and the resulting pressure on land had led to a number of court cases to determine boundaries. In 1586 one such case was brought by a John Roden who owned a piece of land called "the castle" which had no clearly defined boundaries or access. The court decided the limits of his land and laid down an access route two yards wide through the burgage of one Thomas Humphreson (Watts 1993, 3). It is most unlikely that this piece of land, with no marked boundaries or formalised access, could have been situated in the Newtown/Castle Hill area, where documentary and cartographic evidence suggests that all the land was laid out in burgage plots. A more likely location is to the north of Yardington where there would have been no need to have formalised access to the land until the plots to the northwest of the street became built up in the 16th century.

3. The remains of a ditch and a mound, thought by a County Council archaeologist to be a motte or windmill mound, were observed on Sherrymill Hill, to the north of Yardington, prior to the construction of a housing estate (Ryan and Burrow 1978). The mound may have been the site of a post-medieval windmill. The 1841 field name is "Sharrow Mill Hill Field" (Foxall nd), but this may refer to a 19th century corn mill at the bottom of the hill (SA 5849). The evidence for a windmill on the site does not preclude its origin as the motte of the castle.

4. In 1760 the "old walls of the castle" were situated "on castle hill, on the side next the mill, just above the brook that now runs under what is called the Lock-up house" (Nightingale 1813, 283). This location is quite problematic. The 1761 map of Whitchurch shows a mill at the east end of Mill Street (SA 5897), and it has been assumed that this is the mill referred to by Nightingale, thus placing the castle on the present Castle Hill (Thompson 1993). However the 1761 map also shows another mill pool further to the northwest (SA 5899). If this were the mill referred to by Nightingale, the castle would have been in Newtown - and this may account for the "site of castle" notation in this area on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map. It is however unlikely that substantial remains of the castle could be still standing in this area of planned burgage plots, and it is possible that the "old walls" seen here were misidentified as part of the castle, and were in fact part of a medieval stone house or undercroft. Furthermore, it is possible that the mill referred to by Nightingale was a third known mill site, on the western edge of the town - downstream from SA 5899 and marked on the 1880 map (SA 5849). If this were the mill indicated by Nightingale, then the standing remains would be placed to the north of Yardington on the top of Sherrymill Hill.

5. A medieval ditch was discovered on Castle Hill in 1993. This was interpreted as the castle ditch, partly because it was argued that a town ditch would not have been consolidated when the sides collapsed and would have contained more rubbish in the backfill (Thompson 1992, 1-2). These arguments are not convincing and a more plausible interpretation is that this ditch was part of the town defences, filled in prior to the laying out of Newtown some time before 1400. The infilling of town ditches due to the expansion of settlements is commonplace.

6. In 1976 an Ordnance Survey correspondent identified the remains of a motte in a yard (at SJ 5413 4149) just to the east of Castle Hill. Despite much effort, however, no-one else has located this feature. It is possible that this may be a mistake.

To conclude, therefore, the documentary, topographic, cartographic and archaeological evidence suggests that Whitchurch castle was located to the north of the town, close to the 11th century church.

**Churchyard** (SA 5928). The medieval churchyard of St Alkmund lay *c* 100m from the castle on the other side of Watling street. Despite its Anglo-Saxon dedication there is, at present, no evidence of a pre-Conquest church on the site. The post-Conquest church (SA 5902) and was probably constructed at about the same time as the castle (Crannage 1903). An illustration of the medieval church before it collapsed in 1711 suggests that it was greatly altered or rebuilt in the 14th century (Duggan 1935, 54-55). The exact form of the medieval churchyard is not known and this component has been drawn using the 1761 map of the town (SRO 399).

A verbal report of round stone arches under the boiler room of the present church may suggest that fragments of the medieval church are extant (Gifford and Partners 1991, 14). The churchyard contains a medieval sundial (SA 1038).

**Street system** (SA 5942). Watling Street (west) continued to be used during the post-Roman and early medieval periods, and the castle and church may have been built at an existing crossroads between this road and Yardington/Claypit Street. The later road certainly existed by the 14th century (SA 2701, SA 5820). It is not known when the High Street/Dodington deviated from its Roman line to form Watergate Street, but the earliest surviving building on that street dates to *c* 1400 (James 1984, 4). Newtown is first documented in 1400 (James 1984, 3) and Pepper Street, St Mary's Street and Green End are documented by 1500 (Watts 1993, 2). Mill Street provided access to the backs of tenements fronting Castle Hill and Newtown at this period and St John's Street appears to have been a minor road leading to the fields to the east of the town.

A medieval road surface of pebbles placed on end and bedded in sand, was uncovered at Pepper Street (SA 5823, Griffiths 1979c) and three very similar, although undated surfaces, were observed in the High Street (SA 5836, Hannaford 1993).

**Market place** (SA 5941). The first extant market charter for Whitchurch dates to 1362 but there is a 14th century reference to an earlier charter given by Richard I c 1190 (Eyton 1860, 23). The weekly market was first held on a Wednesday but by the later 14th century there were two markets on Mondays and Fridays (James 1989). Fairs were held twice a year (James 1989). The original market place must have been within the town defences (see below) and markets were probably held in the High Street. By the later medieval period the town had expanded and the market area included the Bull Ring at the south end of the High Street. No reference to medieval market buildings survives (Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group pers comm).

**Town defences** (SA 5867). There are no published documentary references to medieval town defences at Whitchurch (Bond 1987, 102), but archaeological and cartographic data has provided evidence of their existence. In 1978 a large U-shaped ditch 5m wide, running parallel to and 21m to the west of Newtown, was observed (SA 2704, Anon 1978). At its northern end this would have joined the castle defences at the point just to the west of Newtown where Yardington joins Sherrymill Hill. At its southern end this ditch was observed where it turned eastwards across Castle Hill (SA 5837, Thompson 1993). Pottery from layers of silting within the ditch dated from the 12th century. The ditch was backfilled with clay, perhaps from the rampart, at some time after the early 14th century. This ditch was interpreted by the excavator (Thompson 1993) as a castle ditch but the arguments presented for this are not convincing (see above).

The line of the defences to the south of the town can be seen in a break in the plot boundaries between Castle Hill and High Street which coincides with the section of excavated ditch discussed above. St Mary's Street continues this line and is, in its turn, continued by the eastern boundary of the churchyard as shown on the 1761 map (Anon nd). At this point the defences may have turned westward around the churchyard to join the castle just to the north of Yardington.

From the available evidence it would appear that town defences consisting of a clay rampart and ditch were constructed to protect plots fronting the High Street and may be contemporary with the laying out of those plots. Documentary and ceramic evidence (SA 5837) suggest that this occurred by the mid or late 12th century. The defences would have had gates at the west end of Yardington and at the north and south end of the High Street and the name "Bargates" may refer to this. At some time in the 14th century, at least in the Newtown area, the rampart was levelled and the ditch backfilled.

**Tenement plots** (SA 5919, SA 5920, SA 5921, SA 5922, SA 5923, SA 5924, SA 5925, SA 5926, SA 5931, SA 5932, SA 5933, SA 5934, SA 5935, SA 5936, SA 5937, SA 5938, SA 5939, SA 5940). The earliest town consisted of burgage plots fronting the High Street and was enclosed by the town defences (SA 5919, SA 5920, SA 5921, SA 5922, SA 5924). The burgages and defences may have been laid out at the same time, probably around the mid-12th century (see above). At this time it is possible that SA 5920, SA 5921, SA 5922 and SA 5924 were all one block of very long plots fronting the High Street and stretching back to the defences. This supposition is supported by the excavation of medieval deposits, dating from the 12th century, from a plot within component SA 5922 (SA 5811, Jones and Webster 1968, 244). Medieval ditches within the line of the defences have been observed running parallel to Pepper Street (SA 5819, Toms 1977a). These were very truncated but may be boundary ditches of properties fronting the High Street. At some time before 1400 the defences on the western side of the town were levelled and a new planned suburb of Newtown was laid out (SA 5922, SA 5923, SA 5924). Pepper Street may date to this time as it

provides direct access to Newtown from the High Street.

The boundaries of plots on either side of the south end of Castle Hill (SA 5925, SA 5926) suggest that the plots were not laid out at the same time as the Newtown suburb (SA 5922, SA 5923, SA 5924) and archaeological evidence indicates that this area was first occupied in the 14th century (SA 3378; Toms 1977a; SA 5825, Gifford and Partners 1991, 14). The area fronting the market place would have been important by the later medieval period and walls of sandstone ashlar observed in the cellars of the Star and neighbouring buildings (SA 5907) may be the undercrofts of merchants' houses. The provenance of such stones is a problem (see section 1.7).

By the 14th century the town had expanded along the main roads. In the northern suburb (SA 5931 and SA 5932), an evaluation behind 46 Bargates uncovered the bottom of truncated features with pottery dating from the 13th to 15th centuries (SA 5834, Newton 1989). To the east along Claypit Street (SA 5933, SA 5934), two small excavations (SA 2701, SA 5820) uncovered pottery dating from the 12th to 13th century, and house platforms with contemporary yard surfaces and pits of 14th to 15th century date (Griffiths 1978a; Griffiths 1978b).

An area of longer and more regular plots fronts St John's Street and Green End (SA 5935, SA 5936, SA 5937). The date of the development of this area is unclear. Excavations behind Lloyd's Bank to the east of Watergate Street found "black sticky material" containing bone and wood and pottery dating to the 12th to 15th centuries. This was sealed by 17th and 18th century houses and interpreted as a medieval rubbish dump. Given its prime position close to the medieval market place the deposits may represent a deliberate attempt to raise the ground level.

To the south of the town, groups of plots are found on both sides of Dodington (SA 5938, SA 5939, SA 5940). The date of the earliest occupation in this area is not known but SA 5938, to the east of the road, appears to have been laid out all at one time and may be contemporary with the plots fronting Green End. To the west of the road the plots are much more irregular and may represent haphazard development. SA 5940 includes a standing building dated to *c* 1400 (SA 17163, James 1984, 4-5), and excavations in SA 5938 uncovered deposits earlier than the 16th century (SA 5810, Stewart 1980).

**Mill** (SA 5929). On the 1761 map of the town a mill is noted with a mill pool at White Lion Meadow. Excavations within burgage plots backing on to White Lion meadow have demonstrated that this area was a pool from at least the 17th century (SA 5810; Stewart 1980a) and it may be the "attractive lake" noted by Leland in the mid 16th century (Chandler 1993, 385). At present it cannot be proved that the mill is of medieval origin but it is the most likely site for one of the three medieval mills documented in Whitchurch in 1349 (James 1979, 2).

#### 4.3 Medieval urban form

**Definition and classification.** The medieval urban form (SA 5959) has been defined and mapped, based on the extent of the identified urban components and in particular the limits of the tenement plots. The available evidence indicates that the medieval urban form of Whitchurch can be classified as a medium sized medieval market town (English Heritage 1992).

**Survival.** Chance finds of artefacts, archaeological observations and excavations have demonstrated that medieval deposits survive at Whitchurch. These deposits contain datable artefacts and ecofacts and in some cases are waterlogged. The natural topography has greatly affected the pattern of survival within the medieval urban area, however. The best preserved and deepest deposits have come from Watergate Street in the lowest part of the town. Here the intentional raising of the ground level by

dumping has produced deep waterlogged medieval deposits and to a certain extent protected them from post-medieval activity (SA 5810, SA 5815). There is no information on the survival of deposits in Green End but this part of the medieval town is also low lying and good preservation of deposits may be expected.

On the higher ground between Newtown and St Mary's Street the medieval deposits are much less well preserved. Levelling and building construction during the 18th and 19th centuries has, in a large number of cases, destroyed all the medieval layers (ie SA 5813) but occasionally the bottoms of pits and ditches have survived. The destruction of medieval deposits is not uniform over the whole area, however, and is worse close to the street frontages with the best preserved areas usually to the middle and the back of the plots. At Newtown, for example, deposits including medieval remains were c 2.5m deep and protected by c 1.5m of modern "overburden" (SA 5811) and behind the National Westminster Bank waterlogged timbers, possibly of medieval date, were uncovered (SA 3378).

Well preserved medieval deposits were also uncovered on Claypit Street where remains of house platforms, daub walls, floors and yard surfaces and pits survived under 17th century and later occupation (SA 2701; SA 5820).

On the slopes to the west of Newtown, however, the preservation is particularly poor due both to erosion and to the demolition of the 16th, 17th and 18th century houses in this area in recent years (SA 2704). At Yardington the building of a housing estate on the probable site of the medieval castle may have seriously damaged or removed any earthworks or buried deposits.

Only three medieval buildings and a 14th century sundial are still standing in Whitchurch and the demolition of properties fronting Newtown has removed almost all traces of this planned medieval suburb. A great many of the boundaries of the medieval town including the streets, some burgage plots and possibly the line of the town defences can still be observed, however, and the medieval form is moderately well preserved in the present settlement.

## 5 Post-medieval archaeological evidence

### 5.1 Post-medieval remains and buildings

As well as finds of post medieval pottery recovered during construction work post-medieval remains have been observed in a number of places within the town (see section 1.7). Evidence of post-medieval occupation including foundations of houses, waterlogged timbers, yard surfaces, pits and wells have been observed at Claypit Street (SA 2701, SA 5820), Yardington (SA 5824), Newtown/Castle Hill (SA 5811, SA 2704, SA 5819, SA 5827, SA 5835) and Watergate Street (SA 5815). The post-medieval road surface may have been observed in the High Street (SA 5836) and remains of a smithy and tannery were uncovered at the back of plots fronting the High Street (SA 3378, SA 5835). Large amounts of waterlogged structural timbers and finds were recovered from the back of a tenement plot fronting Watergate Street (SA 5810).

Whitchurch contains many standing buildings of post-medieval date including the present church of St Alkmund consecrated in 1713 (SA 906, Crannage 1903, Pevsner 1973). Six listed 16th century buildings, 20 listed 17th century buildings and 24 18th century buildings survive. Detailed building recording work has been undertaken on some of these structures since 1989 but at the time of writing the results of this work has not been published (Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group pers comm).

## 5.2 Post-medieval urban components

Analysis of the evidence summarised above and of cartographic and documentary sources indicated the existence of 41 urban components. The characteristics of these urban components are summarised below.

**Churchyard** (SA 5943). The post-medieval churchyard has been defined using the 1761 map of the town. Almshouses had encroached on its western edge by the 17th century. The medieval church (SA 5902) continued in use until 1711 when it collapsed. The problems which later lead to the collapse of the church were apparent early in the 17th century. In 1625 Roger Lyneall of Edgmond was paid to survey the tower and on his advice iron clamps were put in to strengthen the fabric (Watts 1993, 5). It has been suggested (Jones and Reynolds 1977) that the tower collapsed because it was built over the remains of Roman ditches. The present church (SA 906) was consecrated in 1713 (Crannage 1903).

**Chapels** (SA 5876, SA 16729). A religious census of Whitchurch in 1676 noted that of the adult inhabitants of the parish 2000 were Anglicans, 12 Catholics and 30 non-conformists (Vane 1900, 294).

The Old Presbyterian Chapel, Dodington (SA 16729) was opened in 1707. The original building was destroyed in High Church riots in 1715 and was replaced by a new chapel in 1717. This was in use until 1824 (Duggan 1935, 60-62).

The Methodists may have had a congregation in Whitchurch as early as 1739 but the first chapel was held from the 1770s in a building at the back of what became 26 and 28 Claypit Street (SA 5876). In 1810 this was replaced by a new chapel in St Mary's Street (SA 12603; Duggan 1935, 70; McReath nd, 29).

**Market place** (SA 5941). The High Street and Bull Ring continued to function as a market place throughout the post-medieval period. In a final charter of 1611 Friday was set as market day and remained so through out the post-medieval period (James 1989). Documentary evidence from the 17th century indicates that burgesses were allowed to put trestles and boards in the market place provided they were not between the house and channel but towards the middle of the street (Hopkins 1961, 183). It is also clear that the selling of goods was very regulated at that time, if not before. Oats were sold at the northern end of the High Street, then there was an area for hemp and linseed, then a rye market near Pepper Street, then French wheat, peas, beans and vetches from Pepper Street to the Old Crown, barley from the Old Crown to the Lion and the malt market under the New Crown Wall. The tanner's stalls were between the Red Lion and the end of St Mary's Street and the shoemakers were located in the Bull Ring. As well as these vendors, people bringing apples, bread and vegetables could set up stalls where there was room (Watts 1993, 4).

Livestock markets were held elsewhere in the town. In the 18th century Church Street was called Goose Market, Newtown/Castle Hill was known as Swine Market and cattle were sold in Watergate, Mill Street and Castle Hill (Duggan 1935, 82-84; WAAG 1980).

Two groups of 17th century coins and tokens have been found in the Bull Ring (SA 568 and SA 5864).

**Town Hall** (SA 12577). The first documented market house (SA 5872) stood at the bottom of the High Street until 1718 when it was replaced by a new town hall and corn market on the High Street next to St Mary's Street (SA 12577). This continued in use until 1870.

**Street system** (SA 5951). The medieval street system continued in use throughout the

post-medieval period with some additions due to the expansion of the town from the later 16th century. The main streets were paved by at least 1570 (Watts 1993, 4) and evidence of this may have been seen in the High Street where three undated road surfaces of pebbles laid on sand were observed (SA 5836, Hannaford 1993).

The street pattern of the 18th century town is shown on the 1761 map. Claypit Street is referred to as St Lukes Street, Newtown/Castle Hill as Swine market, St Mary's Street as Back Street and Pepper Street as Pepper Alley. Rosemary Lane, Highgate, Scotland Street and Deermoss are marked but not named. Other documentary sources record that St John's Street was called Bear Garden Lane and that Church Street was referred to as the Goose Market (Duggan 1935, 82-84).

**Tenement plots** (SA 5919, SA 5920, SA 5921, SA 5922, SA 5923, SA 5924, SA 5925, SA 5926, SA 5927, SA 5931, SA 5933, SA 5934, SA 5935, SA 5936, SA 5937, SA 5938, SA 5939, SA 5940, SA 5944, SA 5945, SA 5946, SA 5947, SA 5948, SA 5949, SA 5950, SA 5952, SA 5953, SA 5954, SA 5955, SA 5956). The tenement plots laid out in the medieval period were occupied throughout the post-medieval period. From the 16th century an increase in the population of Whitchurch created a great pressure on land and outhouses were converted into dwellings and burgage plots filled with cottages. In 1637, for example, it was recorded that Richard Turner had built seven separate cottages on one burgage (Watts 1993, 3). Excavations and watching briefs in the old core of the town have produced evidence of post-medieval activity although earlier post-medieval remains have often been destroyed by 18th century and later building works. In the area to the east of Castle Hill/Newtown, however, 15th to 17th century features have been located although they were usually truncated. At SA 3378 a series of drains and a well dating to the 16th century were found (Toms 1977a) and at SA 5819 a 15th to 16th century pit and later surfaces were uncovered (Anon 1978). At SA 5811 structures and artefacts of post-medieval date were observed but have not been published (Jones and Webster 1968, 244). To the south on Watergate Street large quantities of post-medieval waterlogged timbers and other remains were uncovered at SA 5815 and SA 5810. The later site was particularly interesting in that the remains included a 17th century timber jetty (Stewart 1980).

Expansion of the town occurred in the post-medieval period. To the north of Yardington part of castle land was laid with burgage plots. This may have occurred by the end of the medieval period but, building on the tenement plots does not seem to be very dense until the later 16th century (Watts 1993). Salvage recording in this area uncovered an early 18th century rubbish pit and considerable quantities of building stone (SA 5824; Griffiths 1979a). By the 18th century map evidence indicates that the town had expanded significantly along the main roads (SA 6944, SA 5945, SA 5946, SA 5947, SA 5948, SA 5949, SA 5950, SA 5952, SA 5953, SA 5954, SA 5955, SA 5956, SA 5957). In the area to the east of Dodington the 1761 map shows buildings stretching down the plots to the mill pond/lake and this area may have been used for industrial processes. Some evidence of leather working, for instance was found just to the north (SA 5810; Stewart 1980).

**Almshouses** (SA 907). Higginson's Almshouses to the east of Bargates were endowed in 1697, but the present building is Georgian (Pevsner 1973).

**Grammar school** (SA 5875). Licenses for a grammar school at Whitchurch were granted in 1328 and 1358. In 1550 Sir John Talbot refounded a grammar school on the site of the old school in Bargates. The present building was built in 1848 on the site of Talbot's school (McReath nd, 31) This component also includes a school house dated to 1708 (SA 908).

**Mills** (SA 5929, SA 5930). The mill on Mill Street (SA 5929) may have had a medieval origin (see above) but was certainly operating in the post-medieval period

and is marked on the 1761 map of Whitchurch (Anon nd). A second mill and mill pond are also shown further down stream to the west of Castle Hill (SA 5930) at this date.

**Industrial area** (SA 5961). An small excavation in 1977 (SA 3378; Toms 1977a) and an evaluation in 1992 (SA 5835; Gifford and Partners 1992c) uncovered evidence of an 18th century smithy and a late post-medieval tannery on land behind the High Street.

### 5.3 Post-medieval urban form

**Definition and classification.** The post-medieval urban form (SA 5960) has been defined and mapped, based on the extent of the identified urban components and in particular the limits of the tenement plots. The available evidence indicates that the post-medieval urban form of Whitchurch can be classified as a medium sized post-medieval market town (English Heritage 1992).

**Survival.** Chance finds of artefacts, archaeological observations and excavations have demonstrated that post-medieval deposits survive at Whitchurch. These deposits contain datable artefacts and ecofacts and in some cases are waterlogged. The natural topography has greatly affected the pattern of survival within the post-medieval urban area, however. The best preserved and deepest deposits have come from Watergate Street in the lowest part of the town. Here the intentional raising of the ground level by dumping has produced deep waterlogged post-medieval deposits (SA 5810, SA 5815). Recent development in this area is likely to have damaged these however. Although there no information on the survival of deposits in Green End this part of the post-medieval town is also low lying and good preservation of deposits may be expected.

On the higher ground between Newtown and St Mary's Street the early post-medieval deposits are much less well preserved. Levelling and building construction during the 18th and 19th centuries has, in a large number of cases, destroyed all the 16th and 17th century layers (ie SA 5813) but occasionally the bottoms of wells, pits and ditches have survived. A good example of this is at Castle Hill (SA 5827) where a 16th century well and drains were preserved but the ground surfaces contemporary with them had been destroyed. The destruction of earlier post-medieval deposits is not uniform over the whole area, however, and is worse close to the street frontages with the best preserved areas usually to the middle and the back of the plots. At Newtown, for example, deposits including earlier post medieval remains were c2.5m deep and protected by c 1.5m of modern "overburden" (SA 5811).

On the slopes to the west of Newtown, however, the preservation even of later post-medieval deposits is particularly poor due both to erosion and to the demolition of the 17th and 18th century houses in this area in recent years (SA 2704). Generally, however, 18th century deposits are better preserved than 16th and 17th century remains and are found within most areas of the post-medieval urban form. However as they are close to the surface they are the most vulnerable to modern development.

A total of 51 buildings dating to between the 16th and 18th centuries are standing within the town. These include the 18th century church of St Alkmund, the Town Hall and other residential and commercial buildings.

Whilst the mills and mill ponds have now disappeared the other components of the post-medieval form such as the churchyard, tenement plots, market and street system can be readily identified and their survival within the modern townscape is good.

## 6 Post-1800 archaeological evidence

The remit of the present study has not allowed for a detailed survey and assessment of the archaeological evidence relating to Whitchurch in the period from 1800. Further work is required before such an assessment can be carried out. Major archaeological remains have been identified, however, including the canal, canal wharves and railway (SA 5889, SA 5850, SA 5891, SA 5892); chapels (SA 8577, SA 5878, SA 5893, SA 5895, SA 5958); schools (SA 5873, SA 5874, SA 5882); workhouse (SA 5880); cottage hospital (SA 5879); Smithfield (SA 5881) and Town Hall (SA 5870). Industrial sites dated to the 19th century include a brewery (SA 5871); timberyards and sawmill (SA 5883, SA 5885); a rope walk (SA 5884); iron foundry and smithy (SA 5886, 5887); gasworks (SA 5848) and tannery (SA 5900). There are 33 listed buildings dated to the 19th and 20th centuries within the study area.

## 7 Specialist assessments

### 7.1 Assessment of artefactual evidence J D Hurst

Some early prehistoric finds are known (SA 916) but the majority of artefacts from Whitchurch date to the Roman period. The Roman material is very diverse, and covers the 1st to 4th centuries. The published material is civilian in character, although a military function has often been attributed to the earliest phases of occupation. Although the majority of reported finds are Roman in date, artefacts of medieval and post-medieval date have also been recovered. The earliest recorded medieval finds are ceramics dating to the 12th century (SA 5837; Thompson 1993). In the Watergate Street area well preserved waterlogged finds are known to survive (SA 5810; Stewart 1980a).

### 7.2 Assessment of environmental evidence E A Pearson

Various types of environmental archaeological remains have been encountered in Whitchurch, as a result of archaeological fieldwork and casual discovery. In many cases, however, the presence of such remains is merely noted and few reports include identifications and interpretation by a specialist. Although waterlogged organic deposits are frequently recorded, little sampling and analysis has been undertaken of this valuable resource.

**Human burials.** Roman cremation burials have frequently been recovered during excavations, particularly on the eastern edge of the town in the Dodington and Sedgeford areas (SA 5855, SA 5853, SA 5854; Duggan 1935), on the northern edge (SA 2701, Griffiths 1978; SA 5831, Hughes 1985) and within the town defences (SA 5811, Jones and Webster 1968; SA 5818, Frere 1977). In most cases, the burials have not been studied by a specialist, with the exception of a skeleton of a young male (SA 5811) who probably died as a result of trepanation (an operation involving the removal of a small disk of bone from the skull).

**Animal bone.** Animal bone has been recorded during archaeological excavations, particularly from post-Roman waterlogged organic deposits on the southern side of the town (SA 2704, Griffiths 1978; SA 5810, Stewart 1980a, SA 5815, Haughton 1960; SA 5837, Gifford and Partners 1993) and Roman deposits within the town defences (SA 5811, Jones and Webster 1968). In most cases the bone has not been studied by a specialist, with the exception of an assemblage of bones from excavations within the town defences (SA 5811) and on the southern edge at Castle Hill (SA 5837). Suggestions have been made as result of analysis of animal bone recovered from the former site (SA 5811), that there is an increase in numbers of calf and sheep bones from early to late Roman levels; however the statistical basis for this statement is not clear. The animal bone assessed from Castle Hill comprised mostly fragmented large domestic animal bone and was not of sufficient size to warrant detailed analysis.

**Organic deposits including timber and plant macrofossils.** Waterlogged organic remains have frequently been observed during archaeological fieldwork relating to deposits dating from the Roman through to the post-medieval period. In some wooden and leather artefacts were observed (SA 2704, SA 5810, SA 5815, SA 5822; Anon 1979). Timbers preserved by waterlogging have been exposed at the base of a Roman well, from buildings or collapsed fences of Roman or medieval date (SA 3378; Toms 1977), and from a collapsed or demolished building and jetty on the western edge of a marsh (SA 5810). A small amount of charred and non-charred plant remains of limited significance were recovered from a medieval ditch at Castle Hill (SA 5837). No deposits from Whitchurch have been analysed for pollen or plant macrofossils.

### 7.3 Assessment of documentary sources P A Stamper

For the period after the mid-14th century Whitchurch is one of Shropshire's best documented towns. The Bridgewater estates, the records of which, especially administrative, supply much the greatest part of the town's history, were brought together c 1600 by Sir Thomas Egerton, the Lord Chancellor. Whitchurch was purchased by him from the Talbot family. There is a published outline list to the collection in Hill (1952, 85-96). Principal groups of primary sources are listed (section 10). The main secondary sources consulted during the assessment include Duggan (1935), Eyton (1860), Finch (1895), Hopkins (1957-60), James (1984, 1989, 1990) and Watts (1993). Secondary sources identified but not consulted include Hopkins (1953) and Lloyd (nd).

### 7.4 Assessment of buildings R Morriss

The majority of Whitchurch's historic buildings line the long north-south route through the town comprising the High Street to the north (leading up to the 18th century church) and Water Gate and Dodington to the south. The only other streets with significant numbers of historic buildings are St Mary's Street and Green End. Generally the buildings give the impression of being largely brick built and of 18th and early 19th century date although there is the occasional exposed earlier timber-frame. In fact, there is a good survival of timber-framed building in the town, most of which have been rendered or brick-faced in the later 18th and early 19th centuries.

In general, the houses lining the High Street are larger and of higher status than those further south but, perhaps surprisingly, there is no evidence of the development of a higher status 18th century development around the parish church. The nearest that Whitchurch has to such a development is St. Mary's Street to the east of the High Street which is lined with several larger 18th century brick houses. There are also grand houses in Dodington. Number 23-25 Dodington (SA 19500) is much remodelled 16th century house of high status, and the Mansion House (SA 12556), a fine early Georgian house of three storeys and five bays. Interspersed with such houses are relatively humble homes of all periods.

There are no significant differences in the widths of buildings in the main part of the town which might indicate different pressure on land and, therefore, land values. The general impression is of fairly gradual and piecemeal development and redevelopment of properties, with only a hint of increased activity in the early years of the 19th century when many buildings, both timber-framed and earlier brick, seem to have been remodelled. There appears to have been little comprehensive development in the town since the middle of the 19th century.

**Survey and analysis.** In recent years local groups have been very active in building recording work in the town, but as yet no synthetic study has been undertaken. Such a work would be of great value.

**Assessment of the listing details.** The list dates to 1987 and is quite good. There are, however, a number of problems with the dating of Georgian buildings. Other Georgian

buildings, for example those on the corner of Bull Ring and Watergate and others on the corner of St Mary's Street and St John's Street have not been included in the list when perhaps they should have been. In addition, 13 Green End (SA 6322) has a timber-framed gable of early 17th century date and warrants further investigation.

## **8 Archaeological research framework**

### **8.1 Model of urban development**

A model of the Roman, medieval and post-medieval town of Whitchurch has been produced which is predictive and capable of testing through archaeological investigation. This model has both chronological and spatial (landuse) dimensions (see sections 2 to 6) and is based on an analysis of documentary, cartographic and archaeological sources. The model is derived from the current academic understanding of urban development in Britain, and forms one element of a developing regional research framework. The model is provisional and will be subject to confirmation or revision in the future as new information becomes available, or new studies lead to changing understandings of towns in the region.

### **8.2 Chronological framework**

The archaeological evidence indicates that Roman urban occupation commenced in the later 1st century on the site of a Roman fort. The Roman town was occupied until at least the 4th century. It is not known if occupation in the area of the town continued after the 5th century but documentary evidence suggests there was a village on the site in 1086 which may date to the pre-Conquest period. Archaeological and documentary evidence indicates that medieval urban occupation commenced on the site in the 12th century. The settlement has been continuously occupied from that time until the present.

Despite the number of archaeological excavations in Whitchurch the broad outlines of this chronological framework are provisional and require testing through archaeological investigation. In part this is due to the poor preservation of late Roman, medieval and early post-medieval deposits in many areas of the town (see above sections 3.3, 4.3, 5.3). This problem is, however, exacerbated by the nature of the archaeological work carried out particularly in the 1960s and 1970s. At this time salvage recording and excavation were undertaken under difficult conditions, with little or no funding. Because of this detailed finds and stratigraphic analysis of the sites is lacking. A programme of specialist study of the excavated artefacts should produce a tighter chronology, highlight gaps in knowledge and provide a firm basis for future work in the town.

Of particular interest would be archaeological evidence of the date of the fort and the foundation of the Romano-British settlement as well as evidence of the end of the Romano-British settlement and the origins of St Alkmund's Church. For the later periods any evidence which could throw light on the date of Norman castle and early town or provide a better chronology of the development of Whitchurch throughout the medieval and post-medieval period would be very important.

### **8.3 Urban landuse**

The Roman, medieval and post-medieval components identified here (sections 3.2, 4.2 and 5.2) have been mapped and constitute a model of urban landuse for each period. These landuse models are partial and provisional and capable of testing through archaeological investigation.

Archaeological work in Whitchurch has demonstrated that substantial Roman deposits do survive but the type of archaeological work carried out (see above Section 8.2) means that very little is known of the nature and extent of the components of the Roman town. Of particular interest would be information on the shape and size of the military and civilian

defences; the extent and density of Romano-British occupation; differences in function between intra-mural and extra-mural settlement after the late 2nd century and evidence of the economic base of the town including its relationship with the surrounding countryside.

Place-name evidence suggests that there was a small settlement at Whitchurch prior to the Conquest but there is no archaeological evidence of this. Evidence of Saxon occupation is usually less substantial than that for later periods, however, and late Roman to medieval deposits have often been destroyed by post-medieval activity (see above section 3.3, 4.3). If the St Alkmund's is an Anglo-Saxon foundation the pre-conquest settlement of Westune may have been very close to it and any archaeological investigation within or near the churchyard would be particularly interesting. Negative as well as positive evidence would be important in this case.

Archaeological evidence of medieval and post-medieval urban components has been recovered from a number of places in Whitchurch and it can be seen that areas to the east and west of the High Street and Newtown were occupied from the medieval period. Archaeological work has concentrated on the Newtown/Castle Hill area, however, and very little is known about areas such as Green End or Dodington. Of particular interest would be archaeological evidence of the extent of the medieval and post-medieval towns as well as the density and nature of occupation within them. Documentary references provide some evidence of the trades carried out in the town and archaeological evidence of post-medieval smithying and tanning has been recovered but any further evidence of industrial or commercial activity within Whitchurch would be particularly important as would evidence of the origins and development of the town mills.

Whilst the tenement plot components of the medieval and post-medieval towns are reasonably well defined there is as yet no archaeological evidence for the medieval castle. Positive or negative evidence of medieval remains on Sherrymill Hill would be particularly important in this context.

#### **8.4 Potential for survival of buried remains**

The information recovered during archaeological excavations and observations in Whitchurch indicates that the deposits of some periods survive better than others and that the pattern of survival within the town varies depending on the topography and the intensity of late post-medieval development (see sections 3.3, 4.3, 5.3). It is clear, however that substantial deposits relating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval towns do survive and that these contain datable artefactual and environmental assemblages. The potential of these deposits is very great. Artefactual and environmental assemblages provide information on town life but also, by supplying evidence of industry and trade complement the historical record and improve understanding of Whitchurch's changing trading links and manufacturing base. Potentially the most important area of the town is Watergate Street where deep waterlogged deposits dating from the Roman period onwards have been found. Similar deposits probably exist at Green End and White Lion Meadow although there have been no excavations in these areas as yet.

Fieldwork was undertaken by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in November 1994. The extent of 18th and 19th century cellarage was mapped, together with the extent of 20th century development (new buildings and major landscaping work). This showed that there was moderate observable cellarage along the main streets but extensive modern redevelopment within the historic core. It is likely that evidence for more extensive cellarage has been obscured by modern refurbishment of frontages and pavements.

#### **8.5 Potential for artefactual studies J D Hurst**

Much of the archaeological fieldwork in Whitchurch has been small scale, but this has shown that substantial Roman and later deposits are present, although survival is variable according to location. Large and important artefact assemblages may be found in the

defensive ditches of the Roman and medieval town.

Whitchurch may have a continuous occupation sequence from the 1st century AD to the present which is very rare in the region. The possibility of continuous occupation, coupled with waterlogged deposits in part of the town, means that the potential of the town for artefact studies is very high.

**Period discussion.** A small amount of early prehistoric flintwork is known, including a stone axe (SA 916). There is some possibility that these may represent some occupation in the Whitchurch area as they include at least one flint core (SA 5830) and some Bronze Age pottery, the latter without an exact provenance, though attributed to Whitchurch. None of the prehistoric artefacts has been published in full.

Roman finds have been plentiful, and although all the site assemblages are unquantified, the overall quantity of excavated Roman pottery from Whitchurch is clearly large. With the exception of Houghton (1961) little of this material has been reported on in any detail. Despite the realisation in the 1970s that good Roman, and indeed later, groups of pottery were being excavated (Griffiths 1978; Jones and Reynolds 1977), none of the major pottery groups found after the 1960s has been fully reported on. Other Roman artefact types are represented, for example coins, brooches, quernstone (SA 5815), roof tile (SA 5819), and glass. Two unusual finds are copper alloy lamps (SA 5814, 5911). Some industrial activity has been recorded for this period (SA 2718), although the nature of this remains largely unknown. No sub/post-Roman finds have yet been identified, though clearly there must be some potential for finds of this period to be present in the Whitchurch area.

Medieval pottery is mentioned in the reports of several sites, though usually it has received little study. There has been no pottery quantification for individual sites, although the overall assemblage for Whitchurch is presumably medium to large. The quality of some assemblages was judged to be good by Griffiths (1978), and it would be surprising if the potential of the medieval pottery from Whitchurch was as low as identified by Thompson (1993). With the exception of the pottery report in Thompson (1993) none of the medieval pottery so far recovered has been identified to fabric. No detailed fabric descriptions have been published and there has been no attempt to compare the pottery from Whitchurch with other ceramics from the region (Barker 1970). Other medieval finds include a spoon, and coin (SA 5837).

Good groups of 17th and 18th century pottery have been identified by Griffiths (1979; SA 5824). An exceptional assemblage of waterlogged finds, including wooden bowls and leather shoes (SA 5810), was discovered in the Watergate Street area. A hoard of 17th century coins (SA 568) and other post-medieval coins and tokens (SA 5864) have been recovered from the town.

**Comparison with secondary documentary evidence.** Secondary sources mention a variety of trades and crafts such as tanning and shoe making, being carried on in post-medieval Whitchurch. Activities such as these can leave considerable traces in the archaeological record, although as yet none has been found from Whitchurch.

## 8.5 Potential for environmental remains

As there has been no wet-sieving of samples for environmental remains, the range of biological remains recovered from fieldwork in Whitchurch has been limited. The full potential for the recovery of environmental remains and for research is therefore largely unknown. Archaeological deposits within lowlying areas covered by the clayey Compton Association are likely to be waterlogged, but areas covered by the Wick 1 Association are likely to be well drained. Indeed, waterlogged deposits have been observed over much of the town, to a greater degree than would be expected from Soil Survey information. The deepest waterlogged deposits can be expected in the area of Watergate Street, where

excavation has revealed dumping possibly in order to raise the ground surface (SA 5810). Such deposits are likely to contain wood, pollen, plant macrofossils and insects and may provide information relating to the surrounding environment as well as to dumped occupational rubbish. Analysis of pollen and plant macrofossils from peat deposits surrounding shallow lakes of post-glacial origin may indicate prehistoric and pre-urban environmental change resulting from climatic change or human activities such as forest clearance for cultivation. Where early prehistoric settlement has taken place, the scarce physical remains are more likely to be well preserved in peat than in many other types of deposits.

In some areas the well drained, slightly acidic soils would not normally provide good conditions for the preservation of faunal remains such as animal bone and molluscs. However, there is evidence for survival of bone in waterlogged organic deposits in the town.

Archaeological fieldwork and recorded observation during construction or demolition in the town has indicated that a variety of types of biological material survive, particularly in waterlogged deposits. However, on most excavations there has been no environmental sampling strategy and therefore little assessment of the survival of smaller remains such as plant macrofossils and small mammal or fish bones.

Environmental remains providing information on the occupation of the town may be recovered from, for example, the tenement plots, and cemeteries. If buried soils are sealed beneath the earthworks of the town defences, it may be possible to investigate the previous use of the land (for example, whether the land was under cultivation or pasture) using soil micromorphology and pollen analysis. In some cases there may be little other archaeological evidence for earlier land use.

Alluvial deposits may exist in areas covered by the Compton Association (Ragg *et al* 1984). These are of particular interest as they frequently seal rich archaeological landscapes with a high potential for environmental studies (Robinson 1992). Much information can be gained on the changing landscape not only from the wide range of biological remains frequently preserved but also from the sediments themselves. Such studies can highlight periods of alluviation which, in many cases, appear to reflect changes in landscape use (particularly clearance and agricultural activity).

Any environmental material from archaeologically relevant features and deposits in Whitchurch would be of interest. This would provide information on past environment, diet, living conditions and agricultural or industrial economy. Future excavation should, therefore, include a policy of sampling and wet-sieving deposits in order to recover plant, insect, molluscs and small animal remains in conjunction with hand-collection of larger items. Where appropriate, specialist sampling for soil and pollen analysis may be required.

### **8.7 Potential for the study of standing buildings R Morriss**

The valuable work undertaken by local groups should be published and used as the basis for a synthetic study of the town's architectural history.

### **8.8 Summary of research potential**

The historic core of Whitchurch contains buried archaeological deposits, and these are judged to have high potential. In addition there is high potential for the recovery of artefact and ecofact assemblages. Waterlogged deposits have been recorded, which is rare in the region. The historic buildings constitute a complementary body of evidence, and are judged to have moderate potential for detailed study and recording. The surviving documentary sources are extensive for the later medieval and post-medieval period, and consequently the potential for further study is high.

## 9 Management framework

### 9.1 Urban archaeological area

The mapped extent of the Roman, medieval and post-medieval urban forms defined above indicated the extent of the urban area (Whitchurch Urban Archaeological Area). The significance of the urban archaeological area is assessed below.

### 9.2 Existing protection measures

The archaeological urban area of Whitchurch has been defined above. The different parts of the urban area are afforded different measures of protection through legislation and the planning process. Directly relevant measures are outlined below.

**Scheduled ancient monument.** There is one Scheduled Ancient Monument in Whitchurch, the sundial in St Alkmund's churchyard (Here and Worc no 247). It is possible that following the current Monument Protection Programme English Heritage may modify the scheduled area or add other monuments in Whitchurch to the schedule.

**Listed buildings.** There are a total of 85 structures listed as of historical or architectural importance within the urban area. As well as buildings these include a 18th century milestone and 19th century fountain, chest tomb and railings. Although unlisted, many other buildings are of considerable historic importance. The management of all historic buildings requires special care and attention, while the management of Listed Buildings is especially important. Listed Buildings are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, and unauthorised alteration is a serious offence. This protection is also likely to preserve archaeological remains under and around such buildings and it is important that archaeological and historic building matters are considered together.

In North Shropshire District, specialist advice on the management of historic buildings is provided by the District Council with support from the County Council. Some grant aid is available for the repair of historic buildings and information and advice is available from the District Council Conservation Officer.

**Conservation area.** A Conservation Area has been defined which partially encompasses the archaeological area (North Shropshire Local Plan: deposit draft (1993)).

### 9.3 Management approach

The archaeological urban area of Whitchurch contains earthworks and buried remains relating to Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation, in some cases associated with contemporary buildings. The buried remains vary in complexity and depth, and demonstrably contain significant archaeological information. It is desirable, therefore, that any proposed development within the urban area that has a potential impact on earthworks or buried remains should be assessed by the appropriate archaeological body as early as possible in the planning process.

The course of action recommended will depend upon the nature of the development and current planning legislation and frameworks. The archaeological response will be framed using both the archaeological information summarised in this document and any subsequent information recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record, supplemented by other sources as and when available.

## 10 Principal groups of documentary sources compiled by P A Stamper

(SRO: *Shropshire Record Office*; Staffs RO: *Staffordshire Record Office*)

SRO 212 and subsidiary numbers	The Bridgewater estate collection. Includes the following papers of Whitchurch manor court: 108 court rolls 1440-1646 16 boxes court presentments 1556-1816 18th-century court books Voluminous estreats, suit rolls, admittances, and surrenders, 16th to 19th centuries 17th and 18th century by-laws bailiffs' accounts 1384-8, 1616-33 receivers' accounts 1485-1559 rentals, mid-14th to 18th centuries surveys: nine 16th century ones, 1634, and two 17th century c 60 deeds and leases for the town; admittances to copyhold properties (15 boxes)
SRO 1416	Draft court roll 1495, and 18th century and later manor court books
SRO 3091	Parish records. Registers from 1627; churchwardens' accounts from 1619 onwards
SRO 131	Overseers' accounts 1656-1799, Parish survey 1795
SRO 3091	Poor lewms and disbursements 1697 onwards
SRO 3127	Parish valuation 1794
SRO 399	Map of Whitchurch town, 1761
SRO 212	Map of Whitchurch manor and town, 1761
SRO 399	Map of Whitchurch town centre, 1795
SRO 2794	Tithe map (no date) and apportionment, 1841

Staffs RO D641 } 15th-century manorial records  
D1721 }

## 11 References

- Anon 1978 Whitchurch Archaeological Group - archaeological investigations, *Shropshire News Sheet*, **8**, 6-8
- Anon 1979 Whitchurch Archaeological Group - archaeological notes, *Shropshire News Sheet*, **9**, 5-6
- Anon 1981 People prospects and policies, *Popular Archaeology*, November 1981
- Anon nd *Plan of the town of Whitchurch taken from a map dated 1761* (SRO 399)
- Barker, P A, 1970 *The medieval pottery of Shropshire from the Conquest to 1400*
- Bond, C J, 1987 Anglo-Saxon and medieval defences in *Urban archaeology in Britain*, *CBA Research Rep*, **61**, (ed J Schofield and R Leech), 92-116
- Burnham, B C, and Wachter, J, 1990 *The small towns of Roman Britain*
- Chandler, J, 1993 *John Leland's itinerary: travels in Tudor England*
- Crannage, D H S, 1903 *An architectural account of the churches of Shropshire*, 2 vols
- Crickmore, J, 1984a *Romano-British urban defences*, BAR British Ser, **126**

- Crickmore, J, 1984b *Romano-British urban settlements in the west midlands*, BAR British Ser, **127**
- Duggan, T E, 1935 *The history of Whitchurch, Shropshire*, Whitchurch
- Ekwall, E, 1987 *The concise Oxford dictionary of English place-names*, Oxford, 4 edn
- English Heritage 1992 *Monument evaluation manual, part 4: urban areas*, **2**
- Eyton, R W, 1860 *Antiquities of Shropshire*, **10**
- Field, J, 1985 Archaeological report, *Shropshire News Sheet*, **21**, 7-8
- Finch, H B, 1895 Whitchurch in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, *Trans Shropshire Archaeol Soc*, 2 ser, **7**, 55-78
- Foxall, H D G, nd *Whitchurch tithe map 1841*, MS transcript, 1:10560 (SRO)
- Frere, S S, 1977 Roman Britain in 1976, *Britannia*, **8**
- Gelling, M, 1990 *The placenames of Shropshire, 1: the major names of Shropshire*, Nottingham
- Gifford and Partners 1991 *Whitchurch Heritage Survey*, Gifford and Partners internal report (copy in SCC SMR)
- Gifford and Partners 1992a *Archaeological evaluation of the tithe barn site, Whitchurch*, Gifford and Partners internal report (copy in SCC SMR)
- Gifford and Partners 1992b *An archaeological evaluation of the land to the rear of 23 St Mary's Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire*, Gifford and Partners internal report (copy in SCC SMR)
- Gifford and Partners 1992c *Archaeological evaluation at Castle Hill, Whitchurch, Shropshire*, Gifford and Partners internal report (copy in SCC SMR)
- Gifford and Partners 1993, *Report on an archaeological excavation at Castle Hill, Whitchurch, Shropshire*, Gifford and partners internal report (copy in SCC SMR)
- Goodburn, R, 1978 Roman Britain in 1977, *Britannia*, **9**
- Griffiths, R, 1978a Excavations at the Horse and Jockey Inn, Whitchurch, March 1978, *Shropshire News Sheet*, **7**, 3-4
- Griffiths, R, 1978b Excavations at 13 Claypit Street, Whitchurch, *WAAG Newsletter*, **3**, 4
- Griffiths, R, 1978c *Evaluation trench W of Newtown St, Whitchurch, SJ 5399 4153*, typescript report (copy in SCC SMR)
- Griffiths, R, 1978d *Evaluation trench Pepper Street/Newtown St, Whitchurch, SJ 5408 4151*, typescript report (copy in SCC SMR)
- Griffiths, R, 1979a, Archaeological notes, summer 1979, *Shropshire news sheet*, **10**, 3-5
- Griffiths, R, 1979b, Primary report on the excavation at Castle Hill, Whitchurch, *Shropshire News Sheet*, **10**, 5-7
- Griffiths, R, 1979c, Archaeological notes, *WAAG Newsletter*, **8**, 4-6

- Griffiths, R, 1979d, Primary report on the excavation at Castle Hill, Whitchurch, *WAAG Newsletter*, **8**, 5-8
- Hannaford, H, 1993 *A watching brief in the High Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire*, Shropshire County Council Archaeology Unit internal report, **27**
- Hill, M C, 1952 *A guide to the Shropshire records*
- Hopkins, E, 1953 *The Bridgewater estate in north Shropshire in the first half of the 17th century*, unpublished thesis (copy in Shrewsbury Local Studies Library)
- Hopkins, E, 1957-60 The Bridgewater estates in north Shropshire during the Civil War, *Trans Shropshire Archaeol Soc*, **56**, 308-313
- Hopkins, E, 1961 The bye-laws of Whitchurch in 1636, *Trans Shropshire Archaeol Soc*, **56**, 180-184
- Houghton, A W J, 1961 The Roman road and other Roman remains at Whitchurch, *Trans Shropshire Archaeol Soc*, **56**, 228-232
- Houghton, A W J, 1965 Whitchurch, *Shropshire Newsletter*, **28**, 3
- Hughes, R, 1985 Recent Roman finds, High Street, Whitchurch, *Shropshire News Sheet*, **21**, 8
- Hughes, R, 1993 *A pavement safari: an introduction to Whitchurch formerly Saxon Westone and Roman Mediolanum, the Milan of Shropshire*, WAAG, Whitchurch
- James, M C, 1978 The journal of Celia Fiennes, *WAAG Newsletter*, **3**, 9
- James, R B, 1979 *Whitchurch: a short history*
- James, R B, 1984 Some early deeds with burgages and families in Whitchurch, *WAAG Newsletter*, **25**, 3-5
- James, R B, 1989 Notes on the history of Whitchurch, *WAAG Newsletter*, **42**, 8
- James, R B, 1990 Notes on the history of Whitchurch, *WAAG Newsletter*, **43**, 6-7
- Jones, G B D, 1975 The north-western interface, in *Recent work in rural archaeology*, (ed P J Fowler), Bradford on Avon, 93-106
- Jones, G B D, and Reynolds, P, 1977 Salvage excavations at Bargates, Whitchurch, March 1977, *WAAG News Sheet*, **1**
- Jones, G B D, and Webster, P V, 1968 Mediolanum: excavations at Whitchurch 1965-6, *Archaeol J*, **125**, 193-254
- Lloyd, L C, nd *Research notes*, unpublished (SRO 2118/43)
- McReath, W, nd *Whitchurch past and present*, Whitchurch
- Musty, J and Rogerson, A, 1973 A mirror from the Romano-British cemetery at Whitchurch, Salop, *Antiquaries Journal*, **53**, 278-281
- Newton, E, 1989 *An archaeological evaluation at Whitchurch, Shropshire*, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit report, **83**

- Nightingale, J, 1813 *Shropshire or original definitions, topographical, historical and descriptive of that county*
- Pevsner, N, 1973 *Buildings of England: Shropshire*, Harmondsworth
- Ragg, J M, Beard, G R, George, H, Heaven, F W, Hollis, J M, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, Reeve, M J, Robson, J D, and Whitfield, W A D, 1984 *Soils and their use in midland and western England*, Soils Survey of England and Wales, **12**
- Rivet, A L F, 1970 The British section of the Antonine Itinerary, *Britannia*, **1**
- Robinson, M, 1992 Environment, archaeology and alluvium on the river gravels of the South Midlands, in *Alluvial archaeology in Britain* (ed S Needham and M G Macklin), Oxbow Monographs **27**
- Rogers, I, 1994 *Report on the archaeological evaluation of land at Newtown, Whitchurch, Shropshire*, Gifford and Partners internal report: document no 6666.02 (copy in SCC SMR)
- Rowley, T, 1986 *The landscape of the Welsh Marches*
- Ryan, C, and Burrow, I, 1978 *Whitchurch archaeological advisory maps*, unpublished maps, SCC SMR parish file
- Stanford, S C, 1980 *The archaeology of the Welsh Marches*
- Stewart, D S, 1980a Excavations in Watergate, Whitchurch, *West Midlands Archaeol*, **23**, 131
- Stewart, D S, 1980b Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group, *Shropshire Newsletter*, **12**, 5
- Stewart, D S, 1983 Pepper Street 1982, *Shropshire News Sheet*, **17**, 5
- Sylvester, W A, 1959 The "Chemistry" at Whitchurch, *Shropshire Newsletter*, **8**, 3-4
- Thompson, A, 1993 *Report on an archaeological excavation at Castle Hill, Whitchurch, Shropshire*, Gifford and Partners internal report, document no 6153:01/2 (copy in SCC SMR)
- Thompson, E P, 1903 Find of an ancient pottery vase at Whitchurch, *Trans Shropshire Archaeol Soc*, 3 ser, **3**, xxvii
- Thorn, F, and Thorn, C (eds), 1986 *Domesday Book: Shropshire*, Chichester
- Toms, G, 1977a National Westminster Bank, High Street, Whitchurch, *West Midlands Archaeol*, **20**, 62-64
- Toms, G, 1977b Mediolanum - Roman Whitchurch, *Shropshire Newsletter*, Autumn 1977
- Vane, G H F, 1900 On two rectors of Whitchurch, *Trans Shropshire Archaeol Soc*, 2 ser, **12**, 283-298
- WAAG 1980 Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group, *Whitchurch remembered*, Shrewsbury
- Watson, M D, 1989 *Watching brief at 2/2a Newtown, Whitchurch*, typescript on file in SCC SMR (SA 909)

Watts, S, 1993 Evidence for population growth and economic prosperity in Whitchurch in the 16th and 17th centuries, *WAAG Newsletter*, **52**, 1-6

Webster, G, 1959 Whitchurch, Shropshire, *West Midlands Archaeol*, **2**, 8

Webster, P V, 1968 The coarse pottery, in Jones and Webster

Wilmott, A R, 1980 Kenchester (*Magnis*): a reconsideration, *Trans Woolhope Natur Fld Club*, **43**, 117-133

## 12 Mapping

The illustrations for this report comprise CAD plots of the urban components for each period and a location plot of archaeological remains combined with OS digital map data (1995) at 1:5000. These plots are current at the date of the completion of this report (March 1995). After this date new information will be held by the Shropshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

- \* Historic buildings (listed and other recorded buildings) and urban area
- \* Archaeological remains and urban area
- \* Roman urban form and components
- \* Medieval urban form and components
- \* Post-medieval urban form and components
- \* Observed cellarage and 20th century development
- \* Urban area and scheduled ancient monuments