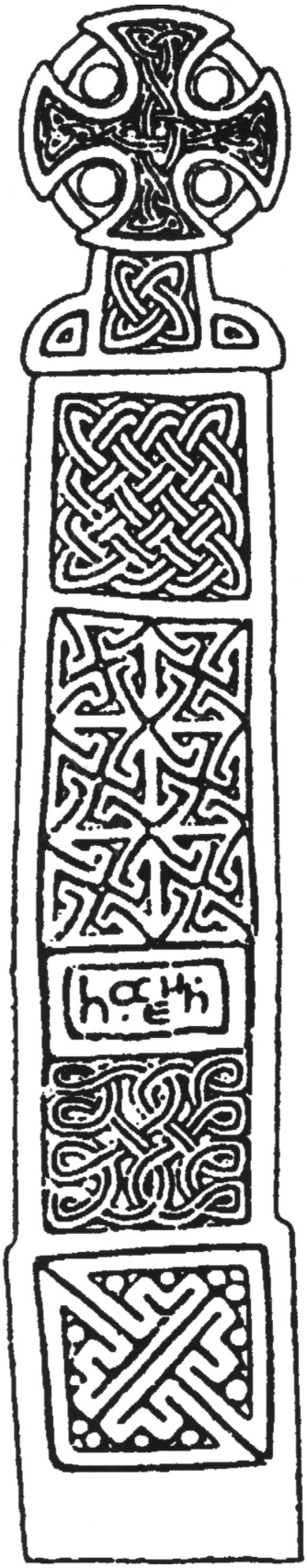

Archaeological Observation

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Contents

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This Report has been produced according to guidelines issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994; revised 2001) and reflects planning legislation & guidance notices

1. Non Technical Summary

Border Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological observation on behalf of Markey Builders (Gloucester) Ltd at 32 London Road, Gloucester.

Significant Roman archaeology was located in almost every area of the site observed and included pits, ditches and rich material finds ranging from locally produced and imported regional and overseas pottery (including sherds of Gaulish samian ware and Spanish amphorae) to surviving iron nails and animal bone. A small melon bead was also located within Roman deposits.

In addition, Stage 1 of the watching brief identified a series of stakes apparently forming two structures within the NE part of the site and a substantial alignment of 23 stakes which may have formed part of a structure or a boundary fence.

By far the most important of the finds located on the site, however, were a series of deposits forming part of a Roman metalled road surface (identified in Stage 2) extending from the known Roman route underlying what is now London Road. These deposits are potentially very significant as they indicate the possibility of considerable Roman activity immediately outside the known extent of the Roman town and within the immediate vicinity of the site during the late 1st/early-mid 2nd century AD.

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Markey Builders (Gloucester) Ltd to conduct archaeological observation of groundworks prior to the redevelopment of a former filling station at 32 London Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, in pursuance of an archaeological brief issued by Gloucester City Council (planning reference: 03/01262/UL).

The aim of the observation was to determine and record the nature of the archaeological resource within the constraints imposed by the engineering work and as per the brief.

Copies of this report will be submitted to Markey Builders (Gloucester) Ltd, Gloucester City Council and the Regional Sites and Monuments Record.

2.1 Soil Characteristics and Geology

The city of Gloucester is classified as an unsurveyed urban area (Soil Survey of England & Wales 1983) and thus no specific soil description is available. However, an area of alluvial gley soils of the COMPTON series lies to the W of London Road, comprising stoneless, mostly reddish clayey soils affected by groundwater overlying reddish river alluvium. To the N of London Road are areas of typical brown calcareous earths of the BADSEY 1 series consisting of well-drained calcareous and non-calcareous fine loamy soils over limestone gravel, with some deep fine loamy soils and fine loamy soils over gravel and similar but shallower soils affected by groundwater.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 Introduction

The programme of archaeological observation carried out at No.32 London Road, Gloucester revealed significant evidence of Roman occupation. This included the foundations of two, possibly three structures, a series of associated domestic waste or storage pits, some of which appear to have originally been lined with wood, the remains of an early trackway aligned E-W intersecting with a later metalled road surface running NW-SE and a significant Roman pottery assemblage, consisting of locally produced and imported regional and overseas wares (including sherds of Gaulish Samian ware and Spanish amphorae).

The archaeological evidence, both in terms of finds and structural remains, sheds further light on the development of a substantial extramural suburb extending NE from the North Gate of the *colonia* of Gloucester during the late 1st/early-mid 2nd century AD. The noticeable lack of finds or features of medieval date also suggests a marked break in occupation on the site throughout the medieval period followed by a period of intensive building activity during the post-medieval period, represented by the construction of a series of brick terraced buildings along the London Road street frontage and two wells. These structures appear to be contemporary with the extensive suburban development that

occurred in the London Road area during the early 19th century.

3.2 Roman

The earliest evidence of Roman occupation in the vicinity of Gloucester is represented by the legionary fortress at Kingsholm, which was probably established in about AD 49. Excavations carried out in 1972 revealed two phases of timber buildings extending over an area of 20 hectares, along with a sizeable assemblage of military objects dating from the mid 1st century AD (McWhirr 1981, 11-12).

Archaeological evidence indicates that the Kingsholm fort was abandoned at some point between AD64 and AD66 and was superseded by another fortress, some 17.5 hectares in size, built on the low hill now occupied by Gloucester city centre. It was probably at this point that the original route of the Roman Ermin Street, which previously ran due W to the fortress at Kingsholm, was altered to extend SW from Wotton along the course of the present London Road to the North Gate of the legionary fortress. This fortress was subsequently demolished and re-established in about AD 96-98 as a *colonia* or urban settlement for Roman citizens who were mostly veteran soldiers.

It is unclear whether an extramural suburb already existed to the NE of Gloucester prior to the establishment of the colonia in AD 96-98; however, the available archaeological evidence certainly suggests that there was a rapid expansion of suburban settlement extending NE from the North Gate along the alignment of London Road during the late 1st/2nd century AD. It seems reasonable to assume that it was the founding of the *colonia* that provided the impetus behind this extramural expansion.

Approximately 100m W of the excavation area of No. 32, at the junction of London Road and Bruton Way, a watching brief carried out in connection with the construction of the Inner Relief Road identified extensive remains of the Roman street frontage, including evidence of successive Roman street metallings extending out beneath the modern pavement and a substantial timber structure of late 1st/early 2nd century date. Two stone rubble foundation pits were also found, originally forming part of a large masonry building, and the remains of a metalled street or roadway of 4th century date (Atkin & Garrod, 1989, 240).

Significant remains of Roman structures and road surfaces have also been found in the immediate vicinity of the specific site at No. 32 London Road. Archaeological observation undertaken at No. 20 London Road, just to the W of the excavation area at No. 32, revealed evidence of 1st-2nd century floor surfaces, succeeded by metalling and redeposited wall plaster, possibly indicating the presence of a public building on the site (SMR Record No. 869), while at No. 25 London Road (SMR Record No. 878), a watching brief undertaken in 1988 identified the remains of several building/occupation layers ranging in date from the 1st-4th centuries AD (Atkin & Garrod, 1989, 236). At No. 31 London Road, immediately opposite the site, a series of Roman and medieval metalled road surfaces were observed in 1976 (SMR Record No. 641; Garrod, 1984, 43), while at Nos. 41-45, archaeological observation revealed the remains of a mid to late 2nd century building, subsequently metalled over in the 3rd-4th century (SMR Record No. 752).

The results of the archaeological observation at 32 London Road further reinforce this

picture of an expanding extramural suburban settlement extending NE along London road towards Wotton during the late 1st/2nd century. The remains of at least two structures were found, probably of stake-walled construction, and the remains of a substantial stake alignment that may represent remains of a structure or a boundary fence. Although no clear indication of a hearth was found in any of the structures, the pottery assemblage and the presence of storage or waste disposal pits (and the environmental deposits associated with them) clearly points to a domestic function for these buildings.

However, in comparison to the more substantial buildings found further to the W of the site, the two structures revealed at No. 32 appear to be of a smaller scale, of timber construction and decidedly of a more private, domestic character. No conclusive evidence of masonry structures was identified on the site, suggesting that the buildings standing there were of relatively low status compared to the more substantial stone-built structures situated closer to the *colonia.*

The metalled road surface running NW-SE roughly following the course of the existing Oxford Terrace would appear to be an offshoot of the main Roman road running NE-SW from Wotton to the North Gate of the colonia. Pottery finds associated with the construction of the road surface indicate a late 1st/early 2nd century date, contemporary with the structures and pit features found on the site. However, the function of the roadway remains uncertain.

It could have formed part of a larger network of suburban roads branching off from the main Roman road or was specifically built to provide access to a high-status building situated farther to the SE. The former hypothesis seems more reasonable, since no archaeological evidence has been found to date of a substantial Roman structure situated to the SE of the site. One possibility is that the road surface found at No. 32 London Road could be a continuation of a roadway running NW-SE along Alvin Street, where remains of a Roman metalled surface and a ditch running parallel with the present street were found during a watching brief undertaken at the Kingsholm Surgery in 1993.

The metalled roadway discovered at No. 32 also intersected with what appears to have been an earlier trackway or semi-metalled road surface running approximately E-W across the site. It is likely that the metalled roadway was constructed shortly after the trackway, as the pottery evidence suggests that both features date from about the late 1st/early 2nd century AD.

A particularly striking feature of the site at No. 32 is the lack of evidence for habitation later than the 2nd century, based on the dating of the pottery assemblage. Other sites along London Road demonstrate a similar concentration of occupation in the 1st/2nd centuries, although an equal number of sites in the locality appear to have been occupied well into the 4th century AD. Examples of the latter include 23 London Road, where evidence was found of a timber building of Roman date, subsequently rebuilt in stone (SMR Record No.892), and 25 London Road, where an archaeological observation revealed evidence of 1st-4th century building/occupation levels (SMR Record No. 878).

It is difficult to explain this apparent break in occupation at No. 32, particularly in view of the

evidence for continuity of habitation on other sites in the immediate locality. The *colonia* of Gloucester is usually assumed to have reached its zenith in terms of economic prosperity and overall size towards the end of the 2nd century and no evidence has come to light indicative of a marked decline of settlement until the early 5th century (Wacher, 1976, 154). Although a number of the pits contained evidence of burning, there is no indication that the structures associated with them were destroyed by fire so it appears more likely that cessation of occupation occurred gradually over time rather than in the form of a sudden destruction event.

However, in connection with this, it is worth noting that at No. 42 London Road (Claremont House), situated approximately 30m NE of the site, a watching brief revealed a pit containing sherds of mid to late 1st century date, located within a deposit of charcoal saturated loam flecked with burnt red soil fragments, possibly indicative of a burning episode (SMR Record No. 964).

3.3 Medieval

Little or no evidence of medieval occupation was found in the vicinity of the site, which seems to reflect a general lack of archaeological evidence for intensive occupation of the local area during the Middle Ages. For most of the medieval period, London Road was very much on the periphery of urban settlement in Gloucester, as indicated by the fact that two leper hospitals, St Margaret's (founded c.1100 by St Peter's Gloucester) and St Mary Magdalene (a dependency of Llanthony Priory established in the early 12th century), were situated along the road (Verey & Brooks, 2002, 444-45). These were institutions that, by their very nature, would have been located on the outskirts of a settlement.

▲ Fig. 1: John Speed's Map of Gloucester (1610)

It is reasonable to assume, therefore, that the London Road area was not as intensively settled during the medieval period as it had been during the Roman period. There is documentary

▲ Fig. 2: Kip's engraved map of Gloucester (1712)

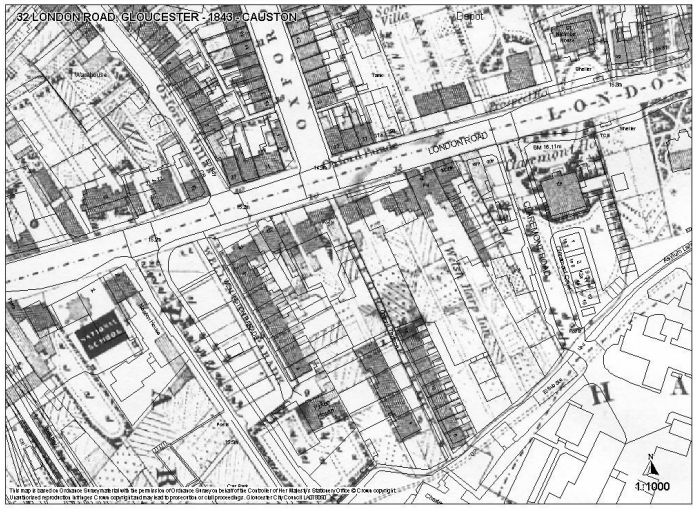
evidence for the existence of a suburban settlement along London Road by the 14th century but it is unlikely to have extended much farther than the junction of Alvin Street and London Road (which roughly marked the NE boundary of the medieval borough of Gloucester) and does not appear to have been substantial in nature (Herbert, 1988, 66). It is likely that the study area was under cultivation during the medieval/early post-medieval period, a possibility reinforced by the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out in 1996 at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital site to the S of London Road, which indicated an agricultural use for much of that land (Greatorex, 1996).

3.4 Post-medieval

The site revealed little evidence of occupation dating from the 16th-18th centuries. This was not entirely unexpected, as cartographic evidence indicates that there was no significant extension of suburban settlement along London Road beyond the limits of the medieval borough, as shown on Speed's map of Gloucester dated 1610 (**Fig. 1**) and Kip's engraved view of 1712 (**Fig. 2**). It was not until the early 19th century that a sustained programme of

building development took place, extending NE along London Road (Herbert, 1988, 167).

The archaeological observation identified the substantial foundations of a series of brick terraced buildings along the London road frontage and two wells, one constructed of sandstone and the other of brick. It is likely that the houses fronting onto London Road and the associated wells were built in about 1820 and were roughly contemporary with other Regency buildings erected at the SW end of London Road, such as Claremont House (42 London Road), a



▲ Fig. 3: Extract from Cawston's map of Gloucester (1843) showing the study area at 32 London Road occupied by terraced houses built c.1820

▲ Fig. 4: Extract from Board of Health map of Gloucester (1852) showing alterations to buildings on the site of 32 London Road

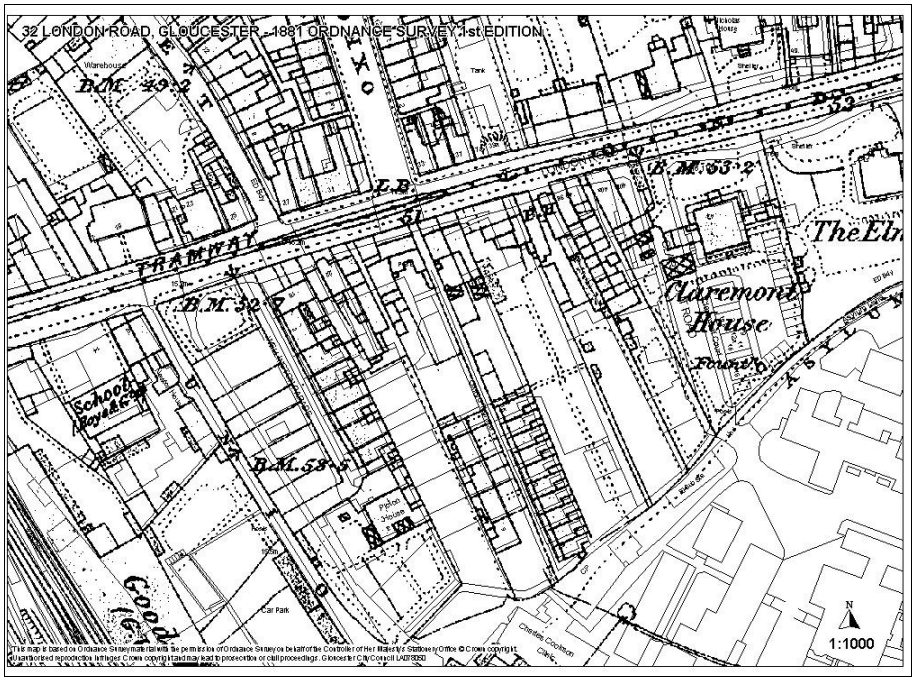
detached villa of c.1820, 22 London Road a three-storey red brick house of c.1815, and Wellington Parade, a terrace of seven houses completed in 1814 (Verey and Brooks, 2002, 499-500).

It is also worth noting that a group of wells of similar construction and date to the two wells discovered at London Road was identified at Wellington Parade (SMR Record No. 1012). These wells, which were all approximately 2m in depth and 1.2m in internal diameter, formerly served pumps in the basement kitchens of the terraced houses along Wellington Parade and it is reasonable to assume that the two wells found at No. 32 London Road fulfilled a similar function. The locations of the wells are not shown on any detailed 19th century maps of the area, such as Cawston's 1843 map of Gloucester (**Fig. 3**), the 1852 Board of Health map (**Fig. 4**) or the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1881 (**Fig. 5**), suggesting that they could possibly have fallen into disuse before the early 1840s.

Cawston's Map of 1843 is the earliest detailed survey of the London Road area and shows a pair of semidetached houses occupying the street frontage of No. 32 London Road, with formal gardens to the rear extending S down to a row of terraced houses collectively known as Oxford Terrace (alias Oxford Place), also of early 19th century date.

Comparison between the 1843 Cawston map and the Board of Health map of 1852 suggests that some significant additions to the fabric were made during the intervening years, with the construction of a rectangular extension to the rear of the easternmost house extending S towards the gardens, which also appear to have been extensively altered. The houses were still standing until as late as 1924 and appear to have been demolished when the garage was built in the 1960s. A limited archaeological evaluation carried out on another part of the garage site in 2004 by Gloucester Archaeology Unit revealed evidence of the 19th century brick cellarage (Donel, 2004).

► Fig. 5: Extract from the OS 1st edition 25 inch map (1881) showing the terraced houses and formal gardens at 32 London Road



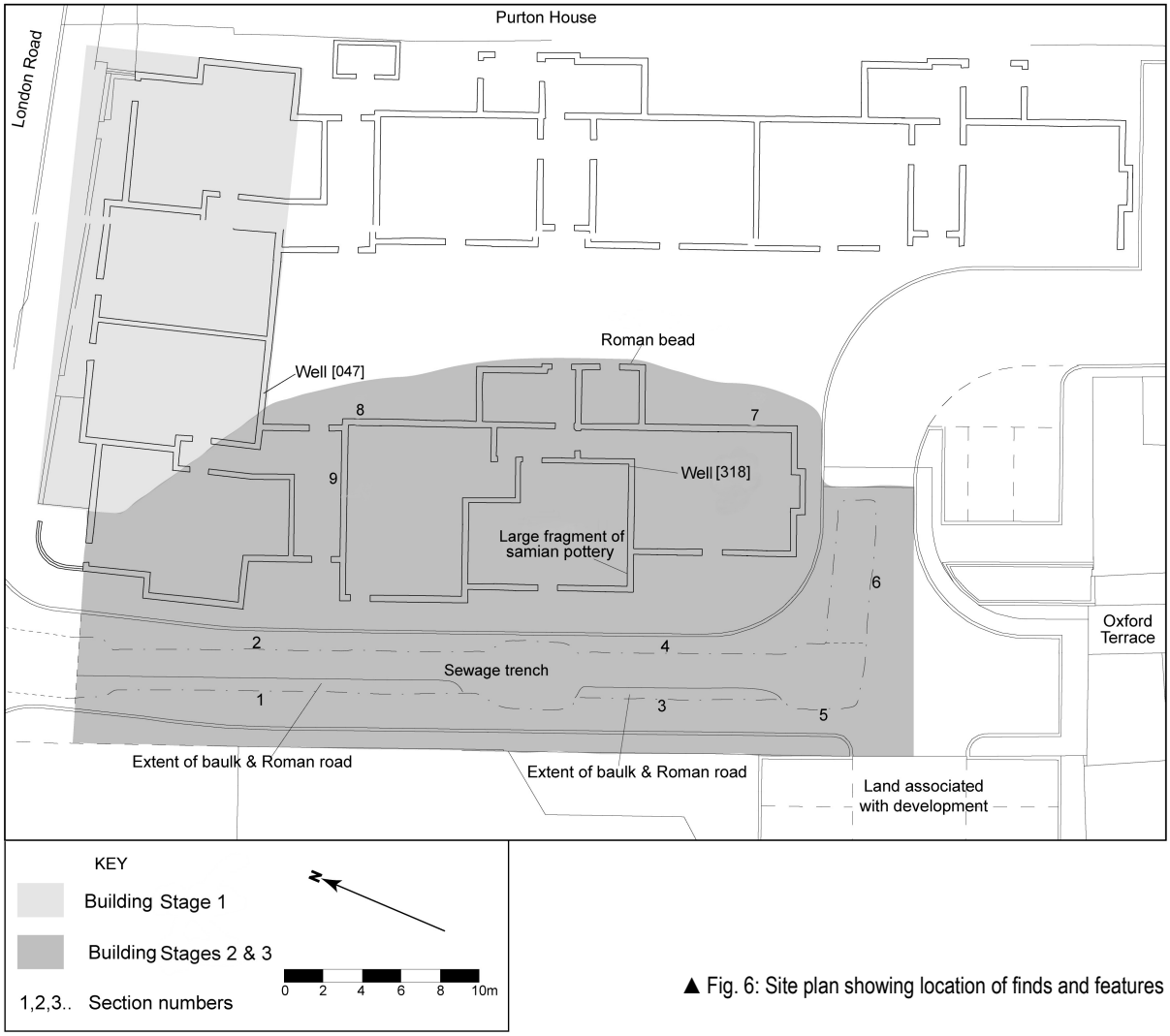
4. Methodology

The programme of archaeological observation was conducted in three stages referred to in this text as archaeological observation stages 1, 2 and 3.

Stage 1 comprised two phases of deep excavation in the NE part of the site where it was necessary to remove contaminated soil resulting from the site's former use as a petrol station. These excavations were carried out under archaeological supervision and all archaeological features observed were part excavated and recorded in plan and section.

Upcast from the excavation of a large sump to assist drainage within the garage forecourt area was deposited at the NE end of the site to stabilise the pavement along London Road.

Stage 2 involved the excavation of a sewage trench along the W edge of the site and the construction of an associated road, the construction depth being approximately 1m below



▲ Fig. 6: Site plan showing location of finds and features

existing ground level; the trench depth and width remained constant along most of its length.

Stage 3 related to the excavation of building foundations. The depth of these foundations varied according to the depth at which natural deposits were encountered.

A mechanical excavator was used to remove bulk deposits and concrete to a level undisturbed by intrusions from the petrol station. This area was stripped of overburden using a toothless bucket and hand cleaned by trowel. Due to waterlogging, this was carried out in stages.

Linear features were 20 per cent excavated and discrete features 50 per cent excavated. Full written, drawn and photographic records of excavated contexts were made using pro forma record forms and sheets, as applicable, in accordance with archaeological practices set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in 'Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief' (1994; revised 2001) A detailed stratigraphic record was made using a context numbering system. Archaeological deposits, features and structures were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:50 and in section or elevation at 1:20. A Temporary Bench Mark (value 49.44m OD) was established from which all site levels were taken.

5. Stage 1- Results of Archaeological Observation

5.1 Stage 1 Phase I

The earliest evidence for activity came from a series of features ([009], [013], [017], [019], [021], [025], (026), [028], [030], [032] and [036]) (**Plate 1; Figs. 7 & 8**), of which [009] was a small post- or stake-hole with a diameter of 0.12m, which possibly related to the large number of preserved stakes found on the site, although fill (010) revealed no wood fragments and [009] was considerably shallower than the surviving stakes. Either the feature had been dug from a higher level and was heavily truncated or the stake which it contained was less substantial and intended for a purpose different from those of (008), (018) and (026).

Context [013] was a probable N-S narrow linear cut heavily truncated by Phase II pits [011] and [015]. Its course was such that 0.02m beyond the northern extent of site it should have intersected Phase II linear [007] or cut feature [036], or both. It was truncated at its S extent by [011]; no evidence existed for it turning at this point so it seems that it was either more severely truncated at the S or that it terminated under [011]. The cut had been filled with clean, silty clay suggesting that it was deliberately backfilled soon after excavation.

A circular cut [019] located at the corner of two linear cuts ([017], [021]) was interpreted as a posthole. Cut [017] formed the E-W linear and [021] that running N-S. Their fills ((018), (020), (022)) suggested that all three features were open contemporaneously. Fill (018) within cut [017] contained a single sherd of late 1st/2nd century Severn Valley ware. A number of stakes were driven through the base of the cuts into the natural clay. Within [019], however, there was no evidence of a single preserved post but instead in its centre was a fragment of a wooden board around which were stake fragments, suggesting that the

▲ Plate 1 - View W showing wooden stakes (026)

original post had been removed and that the feature was re-used as part of the structure with [017] and [021]. Two heavily truncated pits, [025] and [028], were located towards the western extent of the area. The fill (027) within pit [025] contained six sherds of 1st-2nd century pottery, chiefly Severn Valley ware, suggesting the feature was a truncated domestic waste pit, although its extant dimensions were more typical of a posthole. Pit [028] had an atypical near-triangular form best explained as a result of it being a rough-cut pit that had been heavily truncated, leaving an unusual footprint. This feature contained preserved wood fragments but these were loose within the fill and did not appear to be the remains of stakes that had been driven through into the natural. It is possible that this feature did contain upright wooden stakes but it is more likely that the wood represented discarded elements and that the feature was a waste pit.

Partially protruding into the site at its westernmost extent was the edge of a large feature [030], probably another pit, which proved difficult to excavate owing to heavy contamination. Very little of the feature lay within the excavation area but it seems likely that it formed a large storage or waste pit. A single sherd of late 1st/2nd century pottery was recovered from the fill (031).

From the northern edge of site, a narrow linear [032] ran SW-NE, its form and apparent association with Phase II linear [034] suggesting that it was part of a drainage network of uncertain date. No drainage material was noted within (033) but the feature had probably been severely truncated resulting in the removal of any such evidence.

Protruding from the northern edge of the site, just E of the point at which [013] ran into the baulk, was a sharply cut feature [036] following the alignment of Phase II linear [007] and possibly representing an earlier phase, although it did not extend as far as that feature, terminating abruptly 1.4m into the site. No finds were recovered from the single fill (024) and it may be that this was an isolated feature unrelated to later activity. As it extended to the W

and N, beyond the limit of excavation, its nature remains unclear.

Context [037] was a sub-circular pit feature with a single dumped backfill (038). No finds were discovered within the fill and the feature's function could not be established, although its shallowness (0.15m depth) and breadth (1.25m diameter) suggest that it may have been the heavily truncated base of a larger storage pit.

A number of wooden stakes (026) were revealed which appeared to have been driven into 'natural' clay (023), with no visible cut. The area in which these stakes were concentrated measured 2.2m N-S x 0.95m E-W. Two further stakes without cuts were located 1.3m N of the main assemblage and slightly out of alignment to the E. These stakes were more closely aligned with those found within Phase II fill (008) and Phase I fill (018). The stakes within (026) were an average of 0.7m long, which included 0.45m of thick wooden stake (approximately 0.15m^2) above which was 0.25m of narrower shaft (approximately 0.05m diameter). All were damaged at the top suggesting they projected further prior to being truncated by the construction of the garage forecourt.

The stakes formed a rough N-S double alignment approximately 0.4m apart, although two or three stakes could be found in close proximity and stakes were frequently out of alignment. No associated finds were discovered. The southern extent of the stakes was truncated by the insertion of petrol tanks while the general course to the N appeared to intercept the eastern end of Phase II linear [007] or, if the errant two stakes mentioned above were part of the alignment, then this would indicate a curve in the course, with the stakes intersecting [007] and Phase I linear [017].

5.2 Stage 1 Phase II

The second phase of activity is represented by linear [007] and [034] and pits [011] and [015] (**Plate 2; Figs. 7 & 8**).

E-W linear feature [007] apparently followed the course of Phase I feature [036]. This feature was very shallow and thus appeared to have been substantially truncated. It terminated 0.85m W of Phase I posthole [019] and was on the same alignment as Phase I linear [017]. Within the single surviving fill (008) was a line of preserved wooden stakes that followed the course of [007] and mirrored the alignment of the stakes within (018). The two errant stakes of (026) also followed this alignment.

Despite of the truncation of linear [007], its fill (008) was rich in animal bone, oyster shell and Roman pottery. The pottery finds from (008) included a number of sherds of Samian ware probably dating from the early 2nd century AD

Pit [011] was a deep bowl-like feature that truncated the S end of Phase I linear [013]. It had a single fill rich in charcoal and baked clay (012) but there was insufficient evidence of burning to interpret this as a fire pit. It seems most likely that [011] was a domestic refuse pit, although the lack of finds within (012) may suggest otherwise.

Pit [015] was an elongated ovoid pit measuring 2.9m x 1.05m. Finds within its single fill (016) consisted of animal bone and oyster shell, suggesting that this was a domestic waste pit, possibly relating to a structure formed in part by [007].

A very narrow NW-SE linear [034] ran beyond the limit of excavation to the N and S and measured only 0.08m wide and 0.06m deep. It is likely that this formed part of a drainage network with Phase I linear [032], although [034] appeared to cut the fill (033) of [032]. Linear [032] terminated at the line of [034], suggesting that [034] may have undergone some maintenance while [032] fell into disuse. As with [032] there was no evidence of drainage material in [034]; thus, it also is presumed to have suffered severe truncation.

6. Stage 1- Interpretation of Results of Archaeological Observation

6.1 Structure 1

Structure 1 was defined principally by E-W linear cut [007] (**Plate 2; Fig. 7**) but potentially included cuts [013] and/or [036]. The construction is presumed to have comprised a foundation ditch within which were driven a series of single stakes. These stakes may have formed part of the foundation material or may have protruded above the surface to form part of a wattle. The feature terminated at its eastern extent with no evidence of a turn. It might, however, be the case that the structure had turned N prior to a contemporary posthole similar to Structure 2 or that the degree of truncation was more intense to either the N or S and that no trace of a turn survived.

If linear [013] was related to the structure then it can be presumed to have extended southwards, unless [013] represented an annexe. However, it is more probable that [013] was unrelated to the structure as its fill (014) differed markedly from (008) in terms of its complete lack of inclusions, although its relationship to [007] was concealed by the modern course of London Road.

Feature [036] may have represented a structural element but, if so, it had been

◄ Plate 2 - View W showing linear [007]

deliberately backfilled before foundation slot [007] was excavated. This may have had some associated constructional purpose but it is more likely that this feature was unrelated to the structure. There is a possibility that [036] related to an earlier structure occupying the same location as the cut was similar to a beam slot but no other evidence for an earlier structure was found. Cut [036] extended beyond the limit of excavation to the N and NW and hence may not have been a linear but rather a rectilinear pit or similar feature.

6.2 Structure 2

Structure 2 was defined by E-W linear [017], posthole [019] and N-S linear [021]. The posthole sat at the junction of the two linears and would appear to have marked the SW corner of the structure. Linear [021] was unexcavated owing to safety concerns but [017] was shallow and had five wooden stakes driven through it into the natural clay, evident within a 0.75m evaluation slot. This was a much higher concentration than [007], where six stakes were identified over 2.5m.

Although interpreted as a posthole, no post was found within [019], despite the excellent wood preservation. A number of stake fragments were revealed within the fill and a single piece of wooden board, measuring 0.15m^2, was embedded into the clay in the centre of the hole with its broad sides facing N and S.

One explanation for the absence of a post within [019] is that the stakes were not contemporary with the structure(s). The wooden stakes in Structure 1 and Structure 2 formed a fairly continuous alignment and two further stakes that were not in any cut followed the same alignment between [007] and [019]. There may be a number of reasons for this. It could be that Structure 1 and Structure 2 were contemporary and that an effort was made to align the buildings, resulting in a consistent alignment among the stakes.

It may be that features [007] and [017] had fallen into disuse but evidence of their existence remained and the boundaries they had demarcated were reinforced by the establishment of a continuous stake-line some time later. It may be entirely coincidental that the stake-line incorporated two separate earlier linears but this is unlikely. If the stakes were not associated with the structures but were later intrusions, why were fragments of stakes found loose within the fills of the cuts? This would only be plausible if the stakes predated the cuts and it would be unusual to excavate a cut such as this along a stake alignment whilst maintaining the integrity of the stakes themselves.

6.3 The Stake Alignment

Feature (026) (**Plate 1; Fig. 7**) comprised 23 surviving wooden stakes driven into natural clay within a 2.2m x 0.95m area. Beyond these, two further stakes were driven into the natural clay 1.3m N of the main assemblage and slightly out of line to the E. These two were, as mentioned above, in line with Structure 1 and Structure 2. The majority of the stakes formed an approximate N-S alignment intersecting - had they continued northward - the eastern end of [007] and truncated by the insertion of petrol tanks to the S. The stakes could broadly be described as forming a double course, although a large number did not conform to this arrangement. If continuing through to the N, a slight curve to the alignment

would (roughly) incorporate the two errant stakes.

Possible interpretations of the stake alignment are:

- They formed piles for a foundation course that had since been truncated
- They were structural elements relating to a (thick) wall or (narrow) walkway
- They formed a fence-like boundary that was re-emphasised on a number of occasions without the original stakes being removed.

One further stake-hole [009] was identified during the excavation, which was located 2.5m W of the main body of the alignment. The lack of surviving wood within this feature, together with its shallowness, suggests that it was not related to the remainder of the staked feature but may instead have been the truncated remnant of a later feature dug from a higher surface, which was more severely affected by the intrusion of the garage forecourt. This suggests that [009] post-dated the laying of (006) but this cannot be proven due to the extreme truncation of the site.

6.4 The Pits

Six pits were located within the excavation area, one of which [028] contained further fragments of surviving wood, although these were all loose within the fill rather than being driven through into the underlying clay. The feature had an unusual triangular shape that was probably the result of its being roughly excavated, suggesting it was intended to be temporary, and it contained a deliberate single backfill. This was most likely the truncated base of a domestic waste pit.

Less than 1m to the NW was a circular cut [025] containing a number of 1st-2nd century pottery fragments, which also appeared to be a heavily truncated waste pit. Like [007], the relatively large amount of pottery recovered from such a small remnant of fill suggests that these features were very rich in finds prior to truncation by the garage forecourt.

Truncating linear [013] were two pits, the northernmost of which was a substantial elongated ovoid [015] that included animal bone and oyster shell. The pit appeared to have been used for the disposal of kitchen waste and may have been associated with Structure 1 and/or Structure 2. The southernmost of the two pits was a rounder and deeper feature [011] yielding no artefacts. The fill contained moderate charcoal flecking and lumps of charcoal, together with occasional lumps of baked clay. A lack of *in-situ* burning of the surrounding clay suggests that the feature was not used as an oven but may have been a receptacle for disposing of material cleaned from, for example, a hearth.

Located 0.5m S of [011] was a large pit [037] with a broad, shallow form. Fill (038) produced no artefactual remains, which suggests that the feature was utilised as a storage pit, or similar, rather than as a waste pit.

Pit [030] was only partially within the area of excavation and was heavily affected by petrochemical contamination; hence, the feature could not be fully assessed. However, it appeared to be a large storage or waste pit, the fill of which (031) was rich in charcoal and contained a single fragment of pottery. This is probably indicative of further domestic waste.

6.5 The Drainage Features

Linears [032] and [034] seemed to form a T-junction, with [032] being a spur running off the side of [034]. Confusingly, however, the fill of [032] was cut by [034]: if [032] predated [034], it is difficult to explain why the former terminated abruptly at the line of the latter.

These are interpreted as drainage features, as both were narrow and appeared to have carried some form of drainage material—perhaps shell, gravel or even a pipe—over their base fills; the intrusion of the garage forecourt is presumed to have truncated this drainage fill. The curious relationship between these features may have been a result of drain [034] being maintained after [032] had fallen out of use.

Alternatively, the features may have been narrow beam slots relating to a structure positioned on a skewed alignment in relation to the other structures identified on the site. In this case, no trace of wooden elements or any other finds survived. Another possibility is that they represented the base of heavily truncated ditches, although the steep angle of the sides of [034], especially, would indicate a very narrow, sheer-sided ditch.

6.6 Post-medieval Well

One feature of note was recorded in this phase, a well [047] constructed from unbonded sandstone (039) and measuring 1.02m in diameter and approximately 3.4m deep (**Plate 3; Fig. 6**). The well underlay a modern yard surface consisting of tarmacadam (040) and sub-base (041). Sealing the opening was a concrete cap (042) and abutting the well was a layer of brick rubble (043) that overlay a yellowish-grey/brown clayey sand containing occasional gravel (044). This context overlay a firm and plastic mottled yellow, bluish-grey clay with occasional limestone fragments (045). Filling the well was a friable mid bluish-grey clayey silt (046).

7. Stage 1- Summary of Archaeological Observation

Contamination of the site was most severe in the area around the petrol tanks beneath the garage forecourt. When the area of intrusion relating to these tanks was removed, a clean natural surface was visible in which 16 features were identified. The majority of these features appeared to be associated with Roman occupation and may be dated, on the basis of the pottery evidence, to the mid-late 1st/early-mid 2nd century AD.

Four of the features were identified as domestic waste pits ([011], [015], [025] and [028]) probably relating to Roman occupation. Pit [028] may have been a large waste pit or it may have had a purpose relating to the wooden structures on site, as it contained remnants of two wooden stakes, although these appeared to be waste stakes as they were loose in the fill rather than driven through into the clay below. Two further pits were identified, [030] and [037], the latter apparently being the base of a storage pit of unknown date whilst [030] was probably a similar feature of Roman date, although this feature lay only partially within the site and could not be fully assessed.
Linear [007] may have been part of a timber structure (Structure 1) that would probably have extended N across the course of what is now London Road. It is possible that the

► Plate 3 - Post-medieval well, facing W

structure extended S but in this case no evidence for any walls have survived due to severe truncation by the garage forecourt. The fill of [007] contained several loose wood fragments and an alignment of wooden stakes driven through the base of the cut into the natural clay.

At the W end of [007], the feature cut through the upper fill of what appeared to be an earlier linear on the same alignment [036]. This cut was much deeper and had straighter sides and a flatter base, giving it the appearance of a beam slot, although it did not extend the full length of [007]. Feature [036] extended beyond the limit of excavation to the N and W and may not have been a linear but the SE corner of a rectilinear pit or similar feature.

Linears [017] and [021], together with posthole [019], appeared to form the SW corner of another timber structure (Structure 2) extending N across the course of London Road. Linear [017] continued E beneath a spoil heap deposited by the contractor to maintain the integrity of pavement (001). Linear (021) could not be excavated owing to safety concerns but appeared to be contemporary with [019]. Posthole [019] contained no obvious post, despite excellent wood preservation, instead producing a fragment of wooden board and several discarded stakes loose in the fill. The fill of linear [017], (018), contained a number of loose wood fragments and had a series of wooden stakes driven through the deposit into the natural clay below. The alignment of these stakes was identical to that of the stakes found in [007].

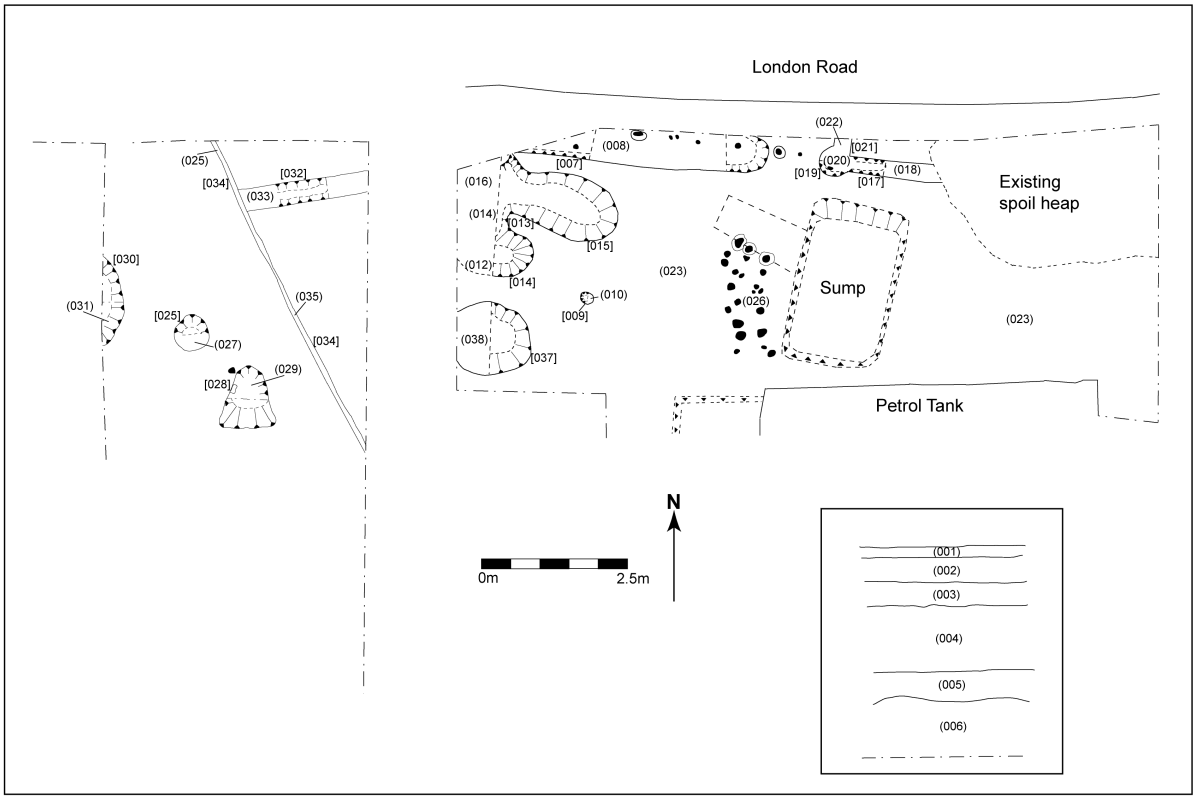
An area of 23 surviving wooden stakes was identified, forming a roughly linear - or slightly curvilinear - arrangement (026). These stakes were not within a cut feature but were driven into the natural clay. The alignment averaged two stakes (although frequently there were three or four) set roughly 0.5m apart.

A 1.3m gap at the northernmost point of the feature separated the majority of the stakes from a further two driven into the clay. This latter pair of stakes were set 0.38m apart and were within the same alignment as the stakes driven through the cuts of [007] and [017]. They were slightly out of alignment with the bulk of (026) unless this latter arrangement of stakes was curvilinear rather than linear. It is possible that this stake alignment formed

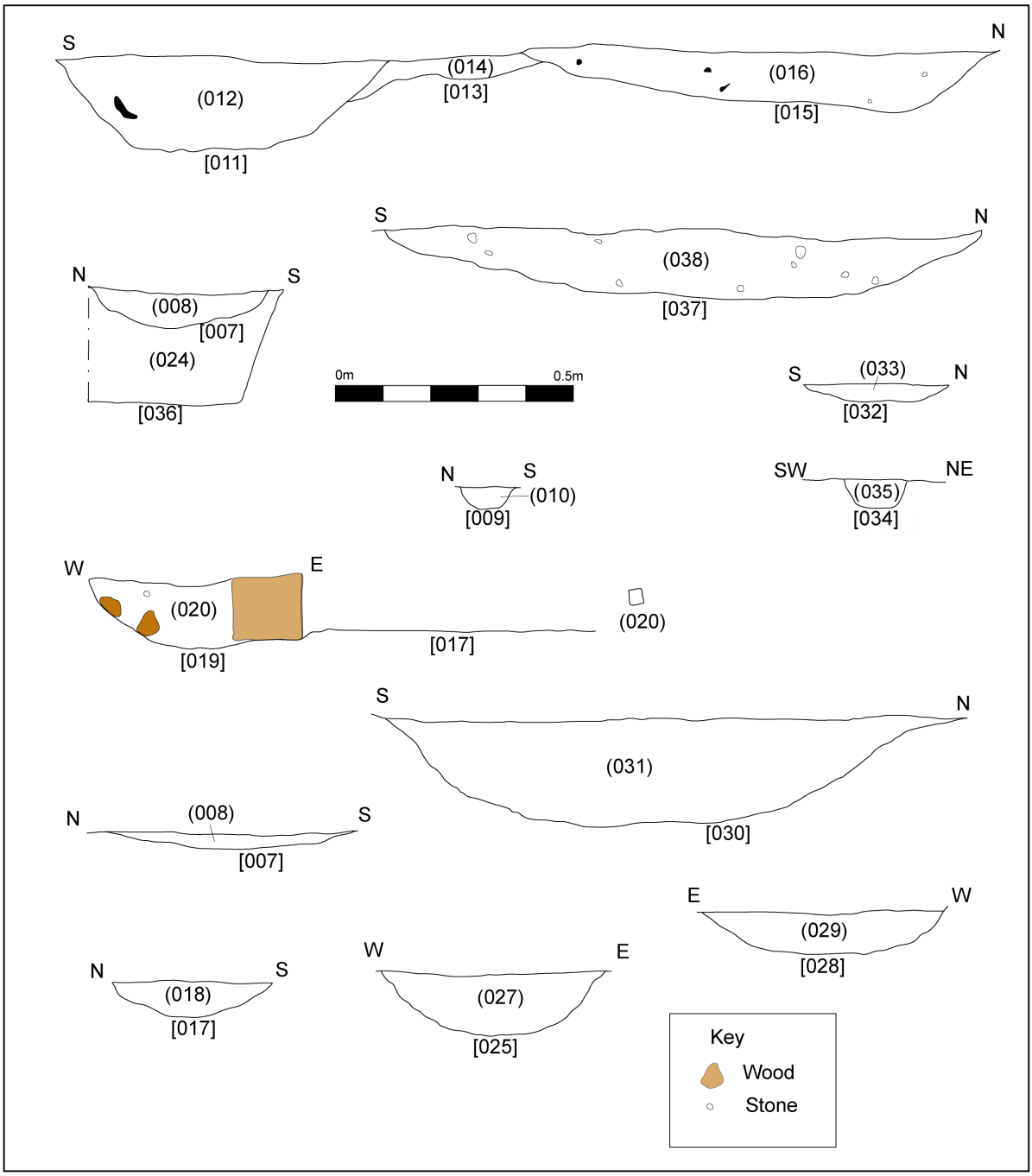
piling for the foundations of a structure that was subsequently truncated or that they represented the remains of a fence-like boundary that was reinstated on a number of occasions without the original stakes being removed.

A number of linear features of uncertain date were identified during the observation, comprising [032] and [034], which appeared to form a truncated drainage system, and [013] a N-S linear of unclear function heavily truncated by later features [011] and [015]. At its S end, [013] was truncated by [011] and to the N it continued beneath the pavement (001) of London Road.

Also revealed during Stage 1 of the observation were the remains of a well [047] constructed from unbonded sandstone (039). This well probably dated from the early 19th century and was contemporary with the construction of a row of terraced houses on the site in about 1820.



▲ Fig. 7: Plan showing location of features identified within Stage 1



▲ Fig. 8 - Sections through Stage 1 features

8. Stages 2 & 3 – Results of Archaeological Observation of excavation of Sewage Trench and Building Foundations

8.1 Stage 2 - Excavation of Sewage Trench

The second stage of work involved the excavation of a sewage trench along the route of the roadway/driveway leading from London Road to Oxford Terrace before turning E. This trench revealed a significant number of features including:

- A metalled surface probably forming part of a Roman road roughly following the present NW-SE alignment of Oxford Terrace, which intersected with what appeared to be an earlier trackway running E-W
- A large linear feature, probably of Roman date, representing either a ditch or foundation trench running at N-S across the site
- A significant assemblage of Roman pottery, including local, regional and imported wares from Gaul and Spain, dating from the 1st/2nd century AD

The trench was excavated to a width of approximately 1.5m with a further 0.5 – 0.7m wide step on the western side as specified in health and safety guidelines. The main part of the trench was excavated to a depth of around 2m while the step was excavated to a depth of 1m.

The uppermost deposit within this area was a tarmacadam surface (101) that overlay a laid brick base material (102). Underlying this was a layer of tightly compacted tarmacadam and post-medieval brick (103). Context (103) overlay a moderately compacted dark brown silty loam with frequent charcoal flecking, occasional post-medieval CBM, mortar flecking and pottery (mainly white glazed wares) (104). This context appeared to have been laid during the post-medieval period and may have been deposited as levelling for the site. Immediately underlying this context, at a depth of 1m below existing ground level (49.98m AOD), was a series of Roman deposits, suggesting a period of site clearance before the deposition of context (104).

The sewage trench appeared to be the same width and aligned on almost exactly the same orientation as a feature interpreted as a large Roman ditch or foundation

► Plate 4: Roman gravels (108-112) immediately after excavation, prior to clean back. Traces of context (129) are visible covering the eastern facing section. Facing W

cut [130] next to a series of rammed Roman gravels. The gravels and the deposits underlying them were protected from all but slight damage by the step within the side of the trench. The cut [130] was fully excavated and appeared very regular with vertical sides and a flat base and was filled with a loosely compacted medium to dark grey silty sand with occasional to moderate quantities of Roman pottery (mainly occurring at the southern end of this feature), two fragmentary mortaria and occasional animal bone (129) (**Plates 4 & 19; Fig. 20**).

The pottery assemblage from (129) consisted of locally produced pottery such as kiln and Severn valley wares and some sherds of imported North Gaulish amphora, all of which appeared to date from the 1st/early 2nd century AD. No pottery of any other date was located within the trench. The existence of rammed gravel deposits on either side of this feature suggests it was cut through these gravels, but the lack of material finds other than pottery makes it difficult to ascertain its precise function. It is possible that, despite the lack of stone found within [130], it might be a robbed-out building foundation. If so, the building associated with [130] would presumably have been of a considerable size.

An alternative, but less plausible, explanation is that [130] represented a foundation cut of one of the early 19th century buildings located within this area; however, the lack of any datable archaeological material from the trench seems to discount this theory. At the northern end of the trench, [130] cut through a series of compressed/rammed Roman gravels. The majority of these were represented in section only due to the alignment of the sewage trench with this large cut.

8.2 NE-facing section to Roman metalled surface (Fig. 9)

The uppermost of these gravels was a tightly compacted grey gravel (105) visible only at the NW end of the sewage trench which appeared to be the remains of an upper layer overlying the various Roman gravels that had been partially destroyed by post-medieval activity. Underlying context (105) at the NW end of the trench was a tightly compacted orange grit with occasional charcoal flecking (108) (**Plate 4; Fig. 10**).

Underlying context (108) was tightly compacted greyish grit with occasional charcoal flecking (109). The colour of

► Plate 5 - Post-medieval pit [106] in Roman gravel deposits, facing W

▲ Plate 6 - Detail of Roman rammed gravel deposits (108-112), facing NE

this grit may have been chemically altered, as the context had a leached appearance probably from a cess-like material. Context (109) overlay a tightly compacted orange grit (110). Contexts (108), (109) and (110) were a series of rammed gravels (**Plate 6; Fig. 10**). Context (109) contained a single sherd of Roman pottery dating from the early-mid 2nd century AD. Contexts elsewhere in the sewage trench seemed to point to these being deposited in the Roman period.

These gravel deposits sealed a series of Roman occupation and deposition layers, comprising (sequentially from uppermost to lowest), at the NW end of the sewage trench, (111), (112), (113) and (114) (**Fig. 10**). Context (111) was a tightly compacted purplish-brown to grey clay with occasional charcoal flecking. Context (112) was a tightly to moderately compacted black charcoal and grit layer containing lumps of grey clay and occasional Roman pottery. Context (113) was a tightly compacted grey to purplish-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecking. This deposit overlay a tightly compacted light brown clay with occasional charcoal flecking (114). Context (114) overlay a tightly compacted orange sandy clay containing no inclusions (115).

Pottery recovered from contexts (112) and (114) consisted of a mixture of local Gloucester kiln ware, Severn Valley ware and several sherds of amphorae imported from northern Gaul and southern Spain, all of which were dated to the 1st/2nd century AD, suggesting that these deposits were laid down during this period. All these contexts extended through the section for approximately 12m, at which point they were intersected by a large ditch [123] probably of post-medieval date.

Features in the NW half of the sewage trench consisted of two post-medieval pits cutting through into the Roman deposition layers and two pits cutting through the primary layer of Roman gravel deposition. The first of the post-medieval pits [118],

► Plate 7 - Pit [116] , facing W

► Plate 8: Detail of gravels (133-136) in E- facing section at northern end of sewage trench

located at the NW end of the trench, cut through contexts (104) and (105) and into context (108) (**Fig. 10**). This pit was filled by a moderately compacted dark brown silty clay loam with frequent post-medieval CBM inclusions and occasional post-medieval pottery (119). The backfill of this pit seemed to be similar in constitution to that of context (103) (tightly compacted tarmacadam and post-medieval brick) and it seems likely that this pit was backfilled immediately before the deposition of context (103) and from a similar source of material

Immediately SE of this feature was a second post-medieval pit [106], which cut through contexts (105), (108) and into (109). This feature was entirely filled with the overlying context (104). Again, this feature seemed to be the result of post-medieval activity.

Approximately 6.5m to the SE of pit [106] was the cut of pit [116] (**Plate 7; Fig. 10**). This pit cut through contexts (110), (111), (112), (113) and into (114) and was filled with a mixture of the adjacent deposits (117) that underlay context (109). About 1.6m to the SE of this feature was another smaller pit [121] that appeared to have been dug around the same time as [116]. This second pit cut through context (110) and into (111). The fill (122) comprised a moderately compacted greyish-brown sandy grit and underlay context (109).

A ditch-like feature of probable post-medieval date [123] (**Fig. 10**) was observed cutting through these contexts 1m to the SE of this feature. Unfortunately the 'ditch' obscured the relationship between these gravels and the surrounding stratigraphy. The gravels present on the southern side of the 'ditch' appeared to have more in common with those in the W-facing section than those at the N of the E-facing section. The ditch-like feature itself was a maximum of almost 3m wide and extended below the depth of the trench into the natural soil (115). It appeared to be orientated roughly E-W and was filled by a moderately compacted dark brown silty sand (131), similar to (104).

Due to the limited width of the trench, it was impossible to be certain whether [123] represented a ditch or a large pit. It may even have related to the garage that previously occupied the site. The fill of the ditch seemed to predate the deposition of context (104), even though it was a similar material. The base of this feature extended beyond the depth of the trench and, although the fill consisted entirely of material similar to that of the overlying context (104), there was no way to ascertain whether this was the primary fill. Two sherds of 1st/2nd century Severn Valley ware were located within this ditch, which seem

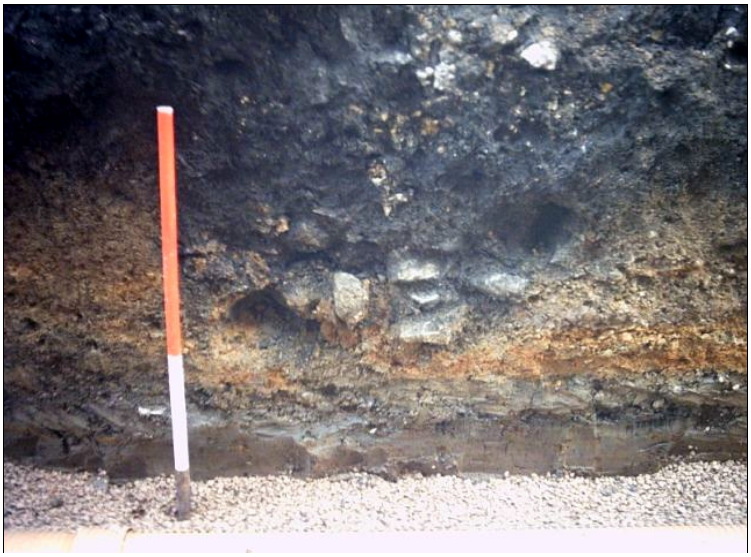
likely to have been re-deposited from some of the Roman layers cut by this feature.

To the SE of this large pit/ditch was a distinct change in stratigraphy. Underlying (104) was a loosely compacted grey silty sand with moderate amounts of charcoal flecking (124), similar to context (129). Within this context was a significant quantity of Roman pottery, ranging from south Gaulish samian and black burnished wares to locally produced kiln wares dating from the 1st/early 2nd century AD. Context (124) overlay a loosely compacted grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecking (125), which overlay a loosely compacted orange sand (126). Underlying these deposits and overlying the natural soils (128) was a tightly compacted grey clay with occasional charcoal flecking (127).

Approximately 4m into the trench, a sewage inspection chamber was inserted and to accommodate this the trench was widened to nearly 3m. This revealed little change in the stratigraphy, which remained consistent with the stratigraphy of the previous 4m and indeed with that over much of the site. Further fragments of Roman pottery were located within context (124) (**Plate 18; Fig. 10**).

8.3 SW-facing section to Roman metalled surface

The stratigraphy in this section revealed a considerable difference in the thickness and density of Roman gravels. The uppermost deposition layers were the same as those visible elsewhere in the trench, contexts (101), (102), (103) and (104) overlying each other in sequence.



▲ Plate 9 - Post-medieval pit [139], facing E

At the NW end of the trench, underlying context (104), was a moderately compacted greyish-yellow gravel with occasional charcoal flecking (132). Underlying (132) was a lense of moderately compacted orangey-yellow gravels with occasional charcoal flecking (133) that overlay a moderately compacted yellowish-brown gravel with charcoal flecking (134). Contexts (132), (134) and (136) contained finds mainly of Gloucester kiln wares of 1st-2nd century date. Underlying context (134) at the very NW end of the trench was a 2m-long lense of moderately compacted orange-brown coarse sand with frequent colloidal clays (138). Underlying this, and extending SE, was a deposit of moderately compacted yellowish-brown gravel with occasional charcoal flecking (135).

Contexts (132), (133), (134), (138) and (135) formed part of a series of rammed gravels, which appeared to have been laid down at a similar time to those in the NE-facing section.

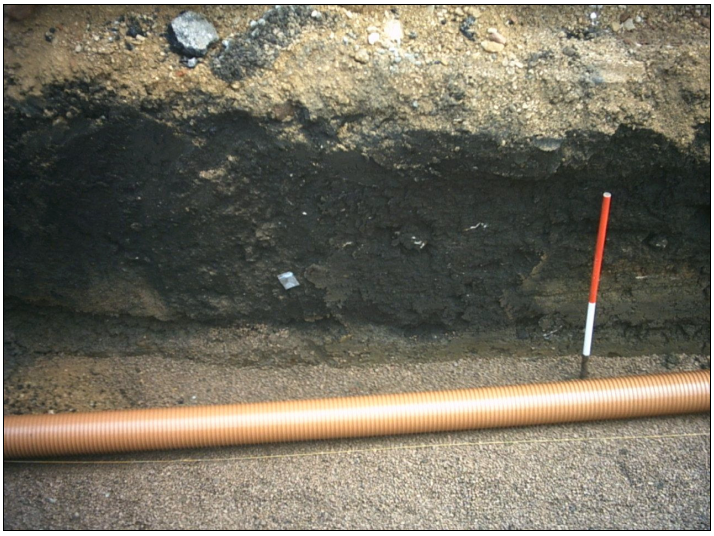
► Plate 10 - Amphora incorporated into context (142) in W-facing section

Underlying context (134) was a tightly compacted black to grey clayey sand with frequent charcoal and oyster shell and moderate amounts of 1st-2nd century local kiln ware (136). Context (136) overlay a moderately compacted yellow sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking (137)

Cutting through context (104) and into context (132) was a post-medieval pit [139] (**Plate 9; Fig 10**) filled with a loosely compacted dark brown silty sand with moderate amounts of small sandstone fragments and occasional post-medieval CBM (140). The occurrence of the stones was unusual in that these were quite rare within this area of the site, perhaps indicating that the pit disturbed a feature, although there was no indication of what this might have been.

This general stratigraphy continued for approximately 8.5m to the SE of the start of the trench, where it was cut by the large pit/ditch [123] running through the trench (**Plate 11; Fig. 10**).

On the SE side of the cut [123] was a moderate change in the stratigraphy underlying (104). Directly beneath this context was a moderately compacted grey sand with occasional charcoal flecking (141) overlying a tightly compacted yellow sand with occasional Roman pottery, including one large fragment of Dressel 20 south Spanish olive oil amphora of late 1st/2nd century date incorporated into its make-up (142) (**Plate 10; Fig. 10**). The amphora appeared to be incorporated within the deposit as part of a layer of compacted hardcore. Unfortunately, the compaction of the sand was all that was maintaining the integrity of the fragment, which broke up on extraction.



◄ Plate 11 - Large pit [123] adjacent to Roman gravels, facing NE

Also incorporated within this context were sherds of locally produced pottery, mainly Gloucester kiln wares dated to the 1st/2nd century AD. Underlying (142) was a loosely

compacted grey silty sand with occasional charcoal and Roman pottery (143) again containing a fragment of locally produced kiln ware of 1st/2nd century date.

At this point the trench was widened to insert a pair of sewage inspection chambers (as described in the E-facing section). The compacted sand deposits petered out after about 0.1m from the edge of this area. Overlying these deposits as they petered out was a moderately compacted light greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecking and occasional post-medieval CBM fragments (145).

On the SE side of these inspection chambers, context (145) overlay a loosely to moderately compacted greenish-grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecking (157). Cutting through these latter two contexts was a pit [144], which filled by (104). However, located within this deposit was a sherd of Roman pottery where the pit cut into underlying Roman layers (**Fig. 10**).

8.4 Roman trackway/semi-metalled road surface (Figs. 11 & 12)

To the SE of this pit were the remains of what appeared to be a trackway or road aligned roughly E-W and contemporary with the Roman occupation of the site. The stratigraphy in this area was somewhat indeterminate in nature and appeared to be the result of a series of surfaces that had been altered, repaired and levelled on a number of occasions.

Underlying the layers of yard surface and base materials -(101), (102), (103) and (104) - was a moderately compacted mixture of white rounded stones and greyish-white mortar (164) (**Fig. 10**). This deposit was typical of Roman road construction and, although badly damaged by post-medieval activity on the site, may suggest that the Roman gravel deposits running parallel to the sewage trench were overlaid by a metalled surface. This deposit had largely been removed by later, presumably post-medieval, activity. Underlying context (164) was a moderately compacted greyish-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking (171).

Filled by context (104) were the cuts of post-medieval pits [158] and [144], which cut through deposit (155) (**Fig. 11**) and deposits (149), (147, (148), (145) and (151), respectively. Context (155) was a moderately compacted greenish-grey grit with occasional charcoal flecking. Also underlying context (104) at the southern end of the sewage trench was a moderately compacted orange grit (173), which appeared to be the uppermost of a series of Roman deposits, possibly a continuation of the Roman road located in the sewage trench to the NW. Underlying (173) was a moderately compacted charcoal deposit with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions (175). Underlying (155), (175) and (171) was a moderately compacted orange gravel/grit (156), which overlay a moderately compacted mixture of greyish clay and charcoal (174). On the SE side of the trench, underlying context [144], was a moderately compacted light greyish-brown sandy clay (145). To the immediate S of this was a small pit [150] filled by a moderately compacted greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal fragments and small sub-angular stones and a single sherd of medieval pottery (149) (**Fig. 12**). This was the only piece of medieval material found on the site and may date the feature to this period, although a single fragment of pottery cannot be regarded as conclusive evidence.

► Plate 12 - Rise in Roman gravels (146, 147, 148, 153, 151 & 168), facing E

Context [150] cut into (146), which was overlaid by context (174). Context (146) was a tightly compacted reddish-orange sandy grit with Roman CBM fragments. Underlying context (146) was a loosely to moderately compacted greenish-grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecking (157), which overlaid a moderately compacted greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional small angular stones (147). Within this context were four pieces of Roman pottery comprising locally produced kiln and samian wares dating to the early 2nd century AD. Context (147) overlay contexts (148) and (165). Context (147) was a moderately compacted greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional small angular stones and four pieces of Roman pottery, comprising locally produced kiln and samian wares dating to the early 2nd century AD (**Plates 12 & 17; Fig. 12 & 19**).

Context (165) was a moderately compacted light yellowish–orange sandy grit, with moderate amounts of small angular and sub-angular stones, which overlay a moderately compacted medium yellowish-brown sandy grit (166). Underlying (166) was a moderately to tightly compacted orangey-brown sandy silt and grit (153). Underlying context (157) was the cut of what appeared to be a poorly defined ditch [151] running NE-SW across the trench; it was clearly visible in the NE-facing section but was somewhat indistinct as it passed through the trench. This was filled by context (157), which appeared to have been deposited over the area as a levelling fill. The ditch appeared to be fairly typical of Roman road construction and its location next to a partially metalled surface (168) seemed to confirm this.

Contexts (147) and (153) overlay context (160), a moderately compacted yellowish-orange gravel, which overlay a loosely compacted mixture of silt, charcoal and gravel (161). Underlying (161) was a moderately compacted brownish-orange sand with occasional charcoal pieces (170), which appeared to be upcast from the excavation of [151].

Underlying (170) were contexts (159) and (168). Context (159) was a loosely compacted grey silty sand containing frequent sherds of Roman pottery. These included locally produced kiln and Severn Valley wares and sherds of Gaulish samian ware and amphora, which ranged in date from the 1st to the early 2nd century AD. Context (168) was a tightly compacted grey clay with white small to medium sized sub-angular stones and moderate amounts of charcoal flecking. This deposit seems to represent the surface of what appeared to be a small Roman road or track, orientated at a right angle from the later road (164)

running along the length of the sewage trench (**Figs. 12, 13 & 14**). Underlying (168) was a loosely to moderately compacted greenish-grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecking (172), which overlay moderately to tightly compacted orange gravels (169). Context (169) overlay a tightly compacted grey clay with occasional charcoal and Roman tegula and flat tile (162), which spanned the width of the sewage pipe trench. Underlying this deposit was a tightly compacted orange-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking (163), interpreted as an early or possibly pre-Roman occupation layer.

Contexts (157), (160), (161) and possibly (159) are interpreted as levelling deposits laid down prior to the construction of the Roman road orientated NW–SE along the sewage trench (represented by (164)). They also seem to suggest that the trackway (168) may have fallen out of use or was replaced by the more substantial road represented by (164).

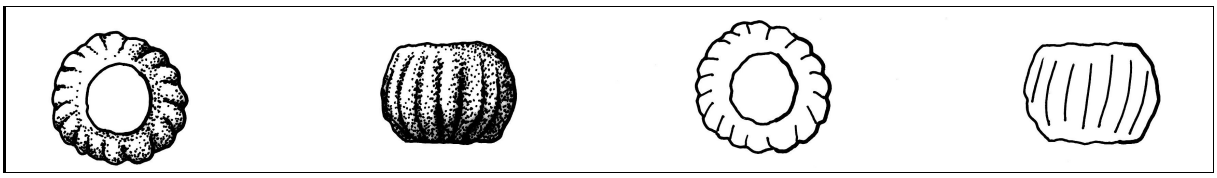
This area of the sewage trench uncovered what appeared to be the interface between the earlier Roman trackway (168) and later Roman road (164), orientated along the line of Oxford Terrace. The trackway seemed to be fairly typical of Roman construction, with an excavated ditch and bank on one side and a mixture of clay and stone forming the surface. This trackway appears to have been superseded by the gravel-based road, with a series of levelling deposits being laid prior to deposition of the gravel. All pottery from deposits around the two features indicates a date of mid-late 1st/early-mid 2nd century AD, so it is likely the changeover was fairly rapid.

8.5 Stage 2 - Final phase of sewage trench excavation

This was the final part of the trench excavated during Stage 2 of the building works. The trench turned SE and extended for 8m, the uppermost deposit within this section of trenching being tarmacadam (201), which overlay gravel sub-base (202). The sub-base overlay post-medieval unfrogged brick base material (203), beneath which was deposit (204), a dark brown moderately compacted post-medieval silty sand with occasional CBM and post-medieval pottery. Underlying context (203) was a post-medieval stretcher bonded wall of unfrogged brick (207) within a rectilinear cut [206] (**Fig. 15**). The remains stood four courses in height and were orientated roughly N-S. The wall appeared to be part of a foundation for one of a series of terraced properties of early 19th century date along Oxford Terrace.

At the W end of this part of the trench was a deposit of rammed Roman gravels (208), which formed the end of the trackway. These were thinner than other gravels located within this section and were more similar to those within the W-facing section of the northern part of the sewage trench. Underlying this was a tightly compacted grey clay layer (209). This overlay loosely compacted grey silty loam (210), which was similar to context (124).

Cutting slightly into context (209) was a large post-medieval ditch feature [205] measuring over 4.7m in length and 0.85m in depth. Also cut by context [205] were contexts (212) and (213). Context (213) lay at the far eastern end of the trench and consisted of a tightly compacted orangey-brown sandy clay, possibly natural deposition. Cutting through context (210) was a linear feature of apparent Roman date [211] that also appeared to incorporate context (209) within its fill on the W side.



▲ Fig. 9 - Turquoise Roman melon bead found within context (304)

Overlying context (209) within the ditch was a tightly compacted waterlogged grey clay containing charcoal and occasional daub flecking (212) (**Fig. 15**). It was difficult to determine the precise nature of this feature from the extent visible within the trench; however, the incorporation of Roman deposition layers within the fill of the ditch suggests it was at least contemporary with other Roman occupation on the site. No pottery was recovered from these deposits and dating was thus more difficult; the stratigraphy, however, suggests they were contemporary with Roman deposits identified elsewhere on the site. Environmental samples taken from contexts (210) and (213) appear to suggest that the cereal crops recovered from these deposits were those commonly cultivated during the Roman period.

8.6 Stage 3 - Building Foundation Trenches

The uppermost deposits, covering most of the area where building foundations were excavated, comprised loosely compacted demolition material consisting of CBM and a dark brown silty loam (305) overlying a dark brown silty sand containing charcoal flecking and occasional fragments of post-medieval CBM (302), with, in places, a layer of tarmacadam (306) or a concrete yard surface (301). Underlying context (302) was a thin layer of moderately compacted orange grit (303) similar to that found elsewhere on the site representing Roman road/trackway. Its thickness suggests that it was unlikely to have seen heavy use; however, it is possible that this deposit had been partially removed or damaged around the time that context (302) was deposited.

Underlying (302) over large parts of this area was a loosely compacted greenish-grey silty sand (304) similar to that found in other areas of the site, notably within the fill of the large rectilinear cut in sewage trench (130). Within this layer were several fragments of Roman pottery, including a large fragment of samian ware, and a turquoise Roman melon bead (**Plates 20 & 21; Figs. 6, 9, 16 & 21**).

▲ Plate 13 - Roman deposition layers (302, 304) within building foundation trench, facing W

► Plate 14 - Roman deposit (304) within building foundation trench, facing N

The site plan (**Fig. 6**) shows the location of a series of post-medieval walls representing the foundations and cellarage of 19th century properties located along the site frontage. In this area, tarmacadam (306) overlay a tightly compacted yellow gravel sub-base (307), beneath which were two post-medieval walls (308, 320) set at right angles (**Plate 15; Fig. 17**). Filling the space between the walls was a loosely to moderately compacted grey sand with moderate amounts of post-medieval CBM and occasional fragments of post-medieval pottery (321).

Abutting (320) on the W side was a fill of post-medieval unfrogged brick within what appeared to be part of the cellarage associated with these 19th century buildings, which extended below the base of the foundation trench. It seems likely that the brick was demolition debris from these properties and that it was used to fill the voids within the cellarage.

Also shown on the site plan (**Fig. 6**) were two further brick walls (311, 312), possibly forming another corner of the cellarage (**Plate 17; Fig. 18**). Wall (311) was orientated N-S but was only 0.46m in length and wall (312) was orientated E-W. Abutting the N wall was a series of filling materials, which included loosely compacted unfrogged brick and a dark brown silty sand mixture (313). Underlying context (313) was fill (314) consisting of loosely compacted dark brown silty sand and occasional post-medieval CBM overlying a loosely compacted light brown sand with a moderate amount of brick (315). Incorporated within context (315) was a loosely compacted brick rubble deposit (316). Abutting wall (312) on the S side was a rubble cellarage fill comprising unfrogged brick (322).

A brick well [318] indicated on the site plan (**Fig. 6**) was in a collapsed state with only four courses of standard gauge unfrogged brick bonded with a yellow to white lime mortar (317) visible within the trench. The well measured 2.4m x 1.1m x 0.7m and was within a roughly circular cut

◄ Plate 15 - Post-medieval building foundations (308), facing N

► Plate 16 - View NE showing post-medieval building foundations (311, 312)

measuring 3m x 1.5m, the base of the feature lying below the depth of the trench. Filling the cut was a loosely compacted dark brown silty sand with moderate amounts of post-medieval CBM (319) that abutted (317).

9. Stages 2 & 3 - Interpretation of Results of Archaeological Observation

Archaeological observation carried out on the insertion of the sewage pipe (Stage 2) revealed a significant quantity of finds and features dating from the Roman period. As well as retrieving a large amount of Roman pottery, the archaeological observation located the potential remains of two Roman roadways.

Four phases of Roman occupation were identified, all of which, based on the evidence of the pottery assemblage, appeared to fall within a relatively short timescale extending from the mid-late 1st century up to the mid 2nd century AD.

Phase 1 -The first and least certain of these was only hinted at from a small array of features consisting of poorly defined pits located at the southernmost end of the sewage trench. These features may well have represented the earliest evidence of settlement and generally occurred in a tightly compacted, slightly waterlogged grey clay 2m below the existing ground level.

Phase 2 -This was represented by a loosely compacted damp grey sand containing frequent Roman pottery sherds. It is unclear what this deposit represented as it did not seem to be associated with any particular features and may simply have been a levelling deposit laid down prior to Phase 3.

Phase 3 - This phase appeared to be characterised by the laying of the series of rammed Roman gravels forming a metalled road surface and the construction of what appeared to be a 4m-wide trackway extending from these gravels.

Phase 4 - The final phase of Roman activity appeared to be the insertion of a possible foundation cut or ditch through the Roman gravels and running parallel with them. The exact date of this foundation cut is not clear; the dating evidence produced tight dates within the 1st-2nd centuries AD but there is a possibility that the feature was a later construction cut containing re-deposited Roman material.

The excavation of building foundations (Stage 3) revealed evidence for a later phase of occupation dating from the post-medieval period, consisting of the foundations of a series of brick terraced buildings along the London Road street frontage and the remains of a brick-built well. All these structures seem to have been built in the early 19th century and were demolished before the 1960s. It seems likely that the site had become covered or heavily disturbed with a series of re-deposited post-medieval soils.

The location of a Roman road within this area is not perhaps particularly surprising as the pathway between London Road and Oxford Terrace may well follow the line of an earlier trackway/road. The pathway/road continuing from Oxford Terrace seems to have been already well established by the 18th century, suggesting it had already been there for a considerable period by the time of the 1843 map

10. Stages 2 & 3 - Summary of Archaeological Observation of Sewage Trench and Building Foundations

The excavation of the sewage pipe trench (Stage 2) revealed a significant series of deposits and features of Roman date, including a significant assemblage of pottery that included local Gloucester and Severn Valley wares and, significantly, several large amphora sherds from Gaul and southern Spain, as well as several sherds of decorated samian ware from central and southern Gaul. The pottery assemblage ranged in date from the mid-late 1st century to the early-mid 2nd century AD.

Evidence was revealed for what may have been the remains of a Roman metalled roadway, represented by a series of compressed gravels, branching off from London Road and following the route now taken by the footpath leading from London Road to Oxford Terrace in a NW-SE orientation. The orientation suggests that this may have been an offshoot from the main Roman road leading into the settlement of Gloucester. This metalled roadway intersected with what appears to have been an earlier trackway or semi-metalled road surface running approximately E-W across the site. It is likely that the metalled roadway was constructed shortly after the trackway, as the pottery evidence suggests that both features dated from the late 1st/early 2nd century AD.

The sewage trench itself managed to miss directly impacting these gravels to a significant degree, although one section of this road leading off this main area to the W was removed after archaeological excavation and recording was completed. The sewage trench itself was excavated into a rectilinear silty deposit extending to the same depth as the Roman deposits and potentially running across the length of the footpath. Its exact purpose was unclear and whether this deposit represents some later alteration to the site was difficult to determine as it represented the majority of materials excavated within the confines of the sewage trench.

Gravel deposits of probable Roman date were visible on either side of this deposit, the sides of these deposits being completely vertical, suggesting that the feature that was being dug through had been purposefully excavated and backfilled within a short period of time, without having time to collapse or silt up. However, the absence of medieval or post-medieval pottery suggests this deposit may be of a date roughly contemporary with the

surrounding gravels.

It may well be that the sewage pipe trench was dug through the route of a ditch or drainage channel running along the side of the road; however, it is possible that this feature represented a large robbed building foundation, although the lack of any discernable stone construction materials from the site may discount this.

In addition to the important finds on the western end of the site, building foundation excavations carried out within parts of the less disturbed central area revealed another layer of surviving Roman deposition from which several pieces of samian and one finely worked turquoise melon bead were recovered.

Stage 3 revealed evidence of substantial brick foundations relating to the cellarage of early 19th century terraced housing along the London Road street frontage, which is first shown on Cawston's 1843 map of Gloucester. The partially collapsed remains of a brick well were also identified, which was probably constructed in association with the early 19th century terraced housing. It is likely that the houses fronting onto London Road and the associated wells were built in about 1820 and were roughly contemporary with other Regency buildings erected at the SW end of London Road.

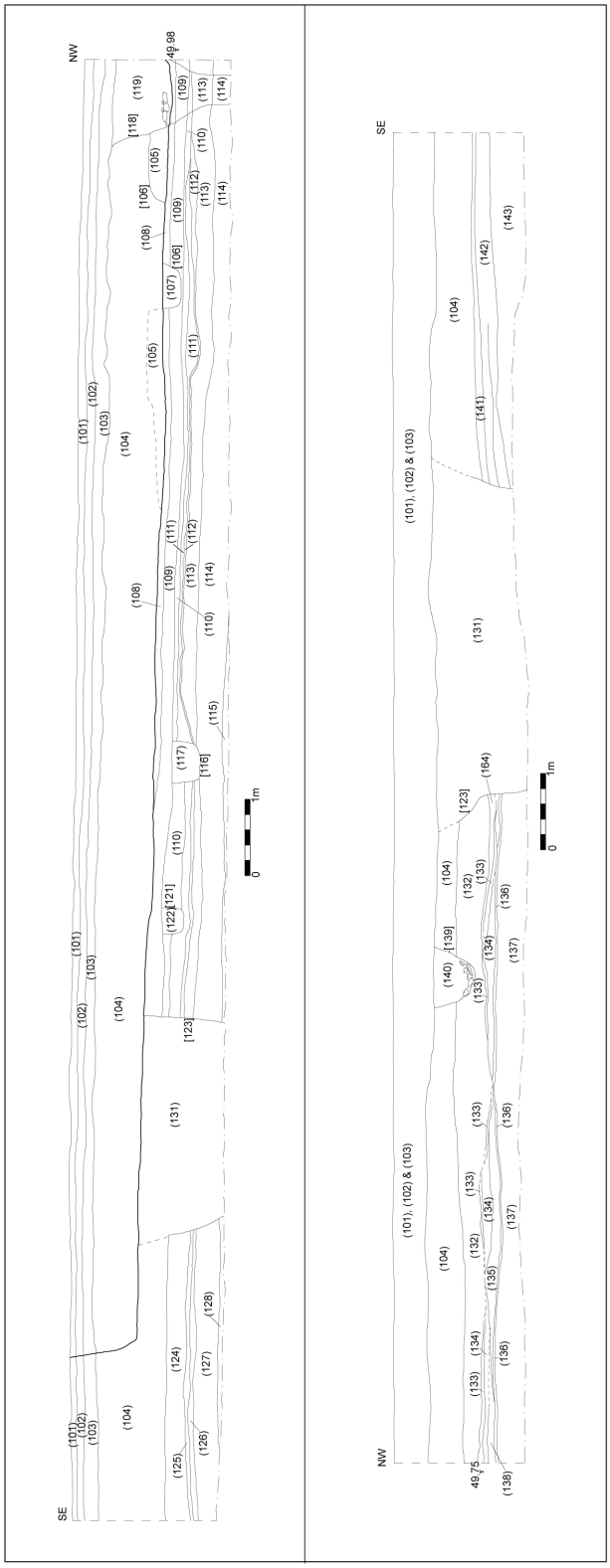


Fig. 10—Sewage trench sections 1 & 2 representing NW part of sewage trench

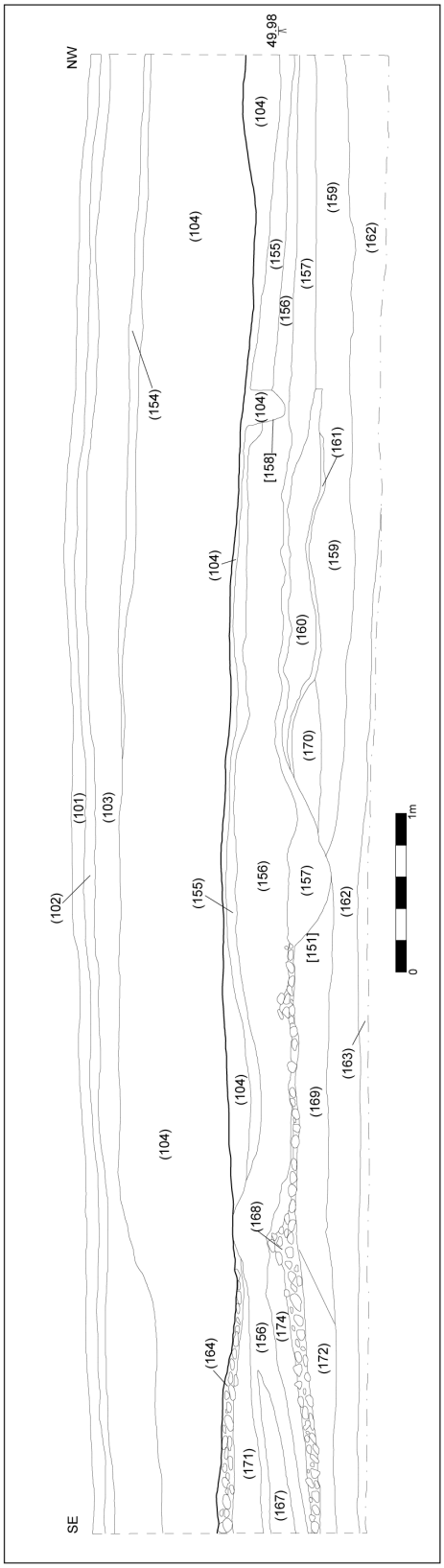


Fig. 11—Section 3, NE-facing

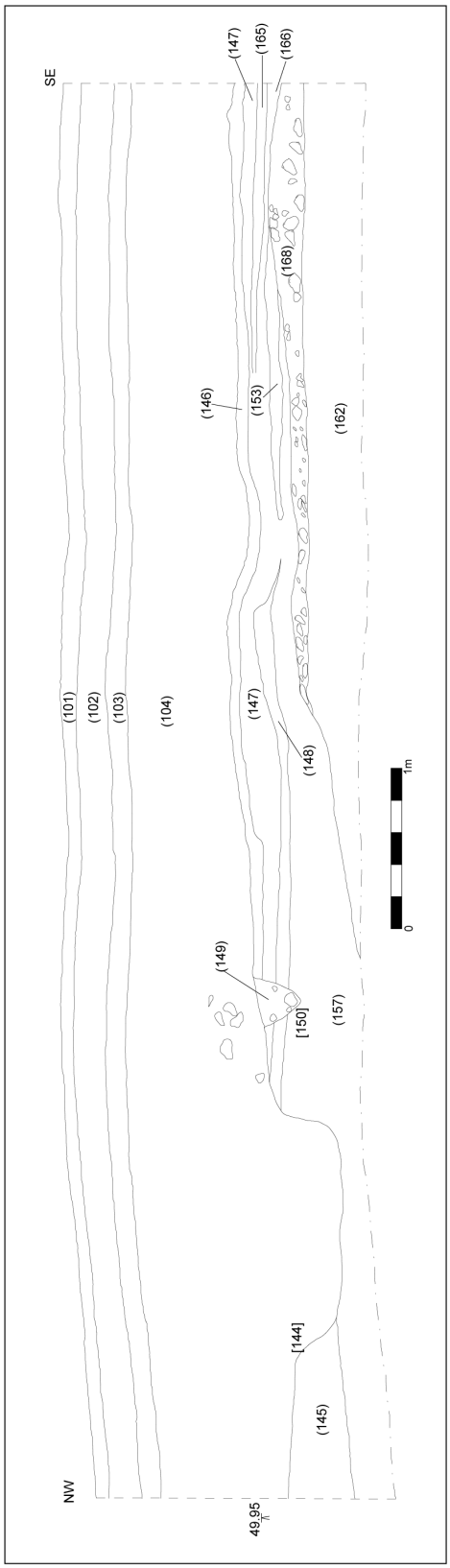


Fig. 12—Section 4, SW-facing

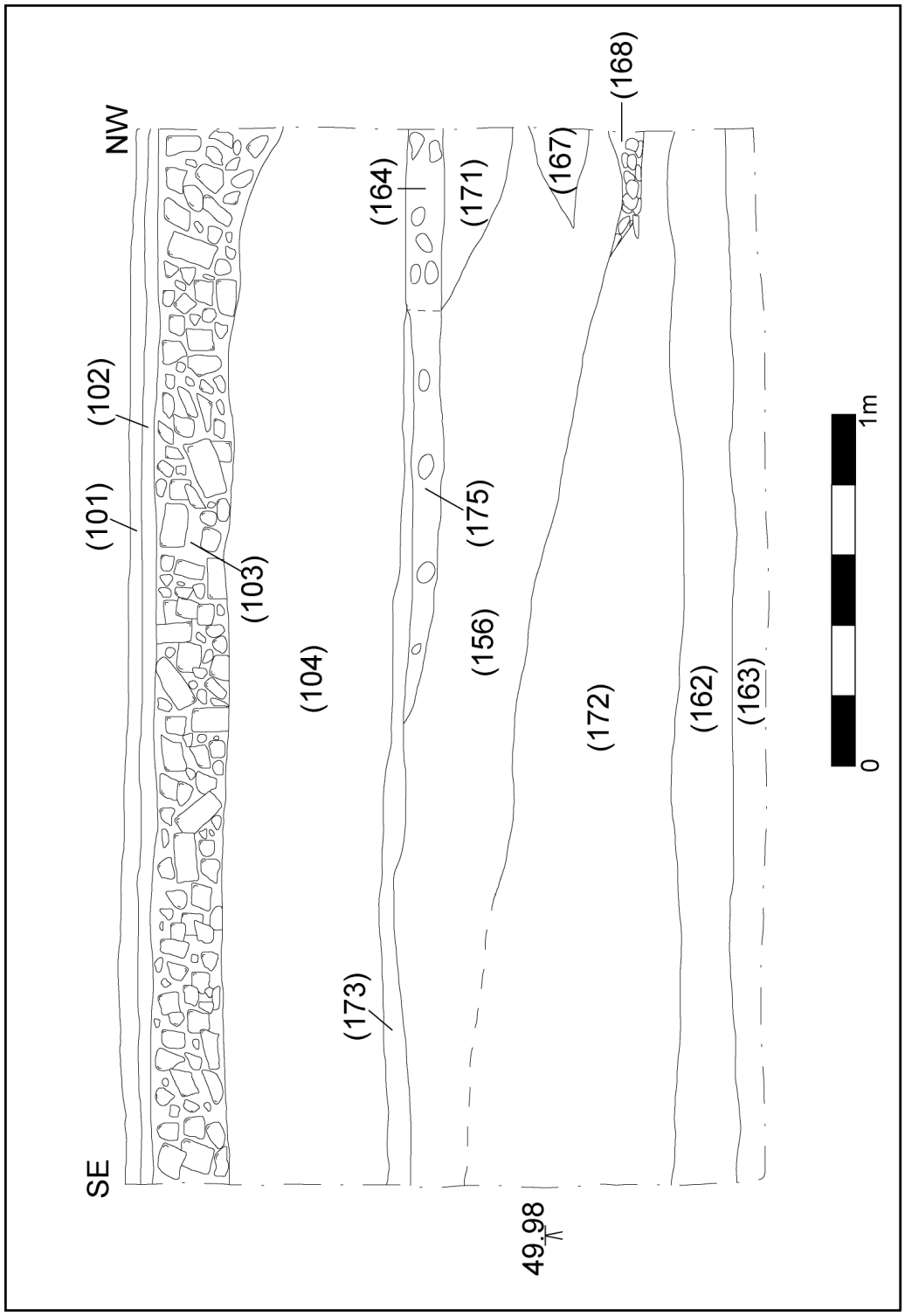


Fig 13 - Section 5, NE-facing

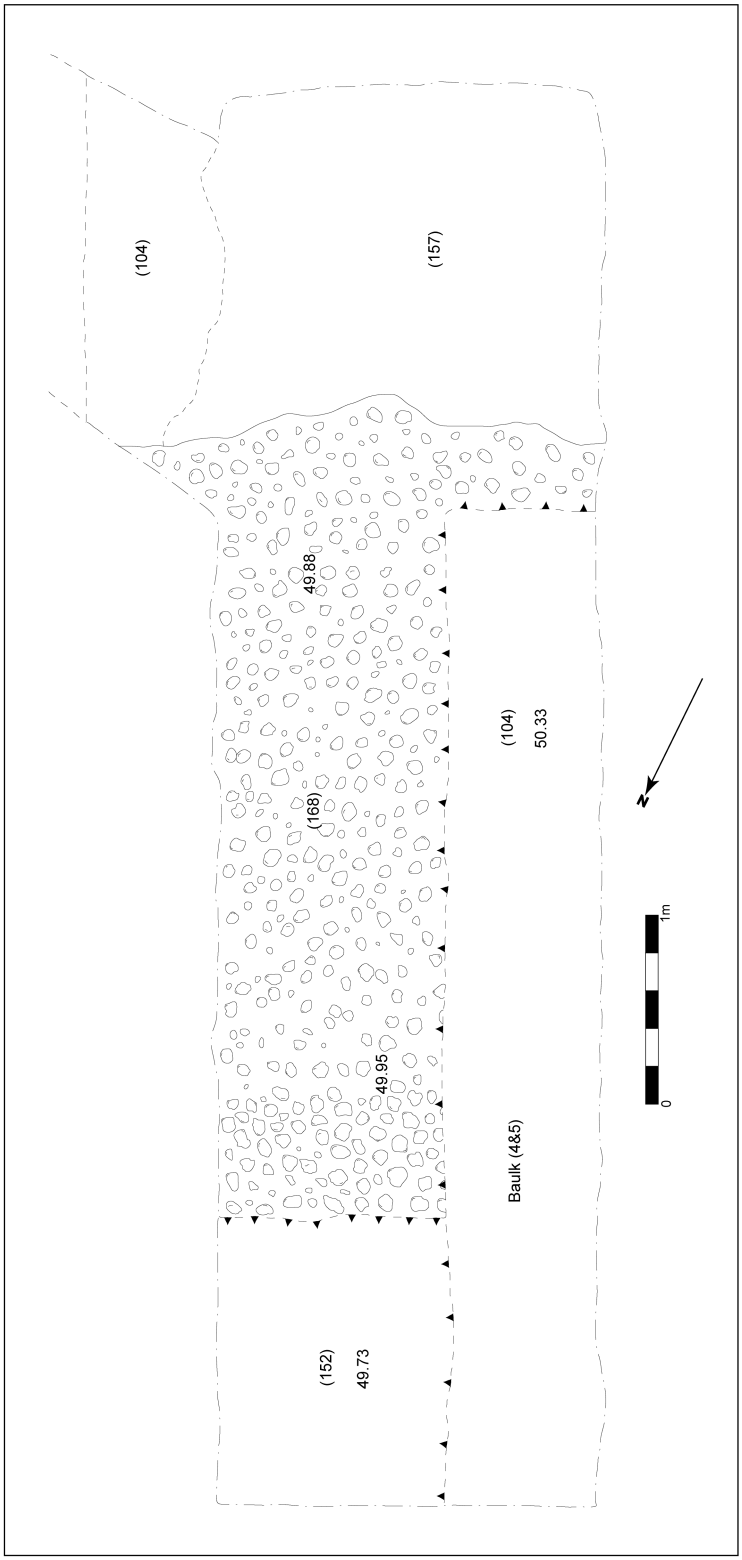


Fig. 14 - Plan of Roman road running between Section 3 and Section 4

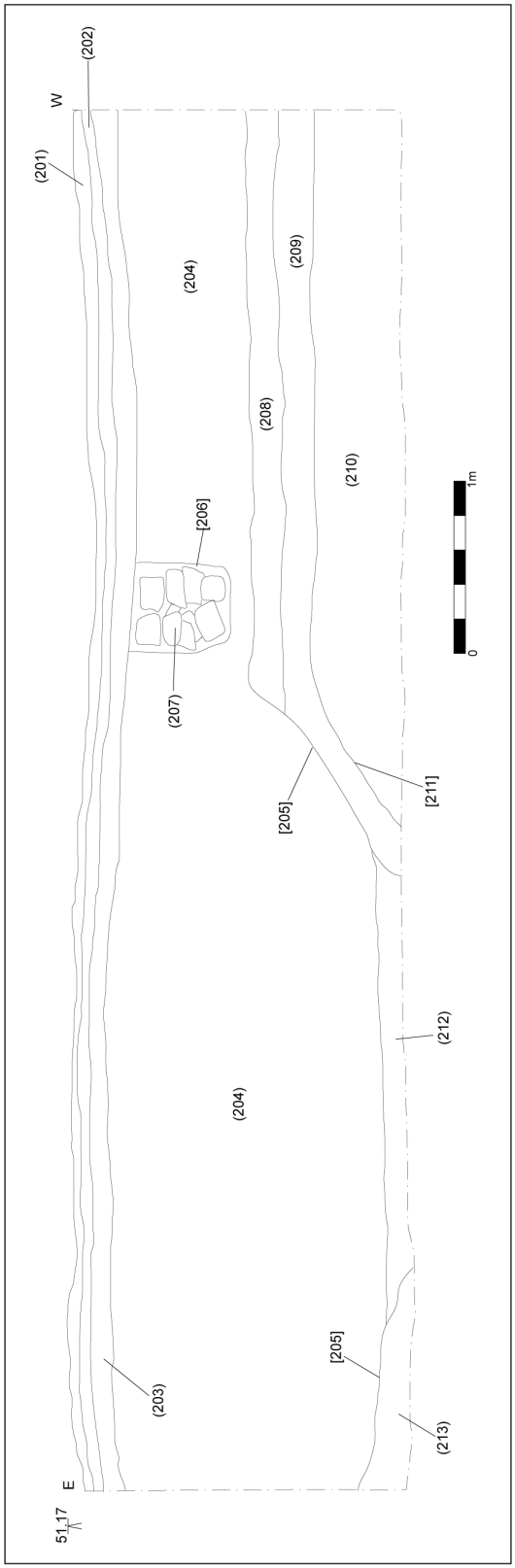


Fig. 15—Section 6, N-facing

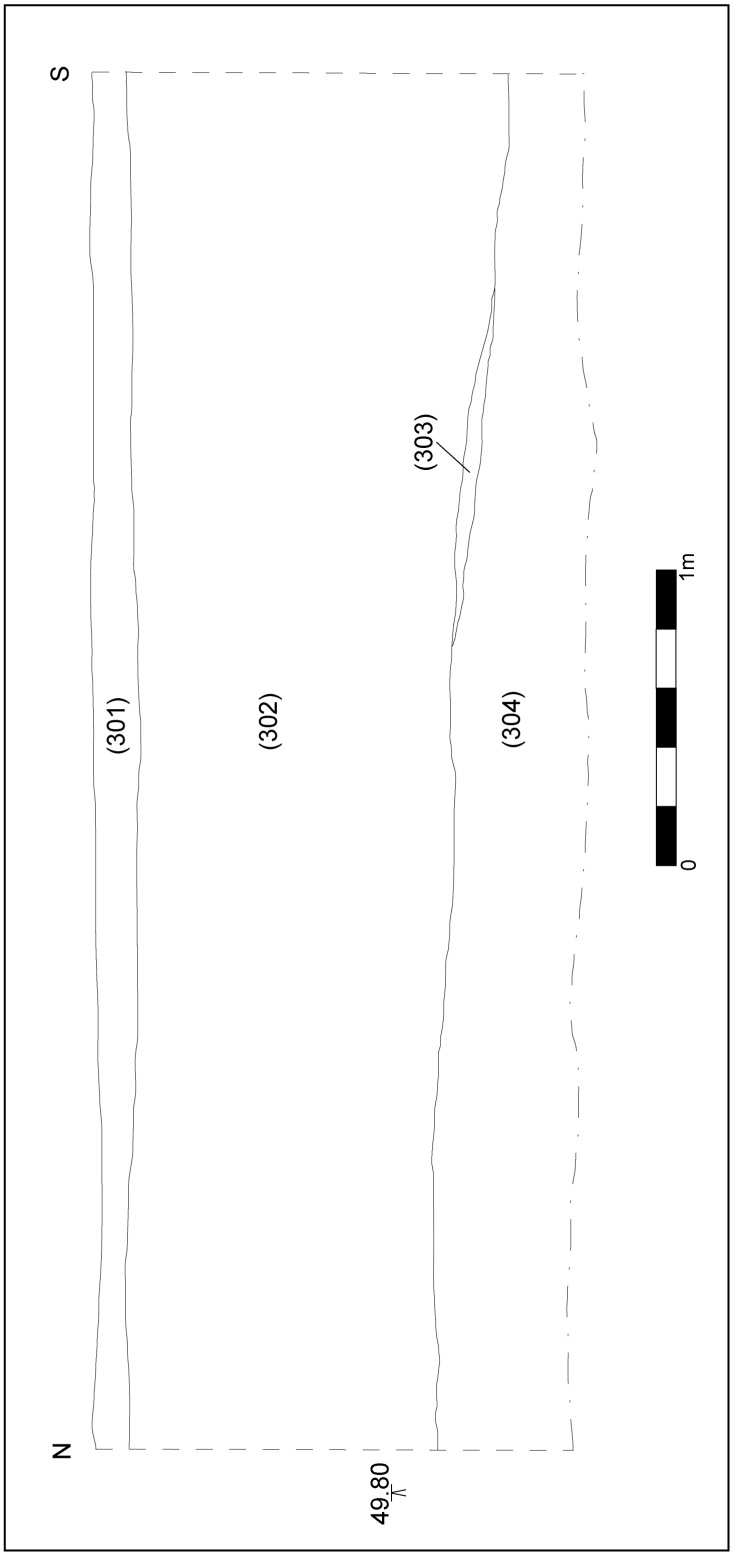


Fig. 16 - Section 7, W-facing

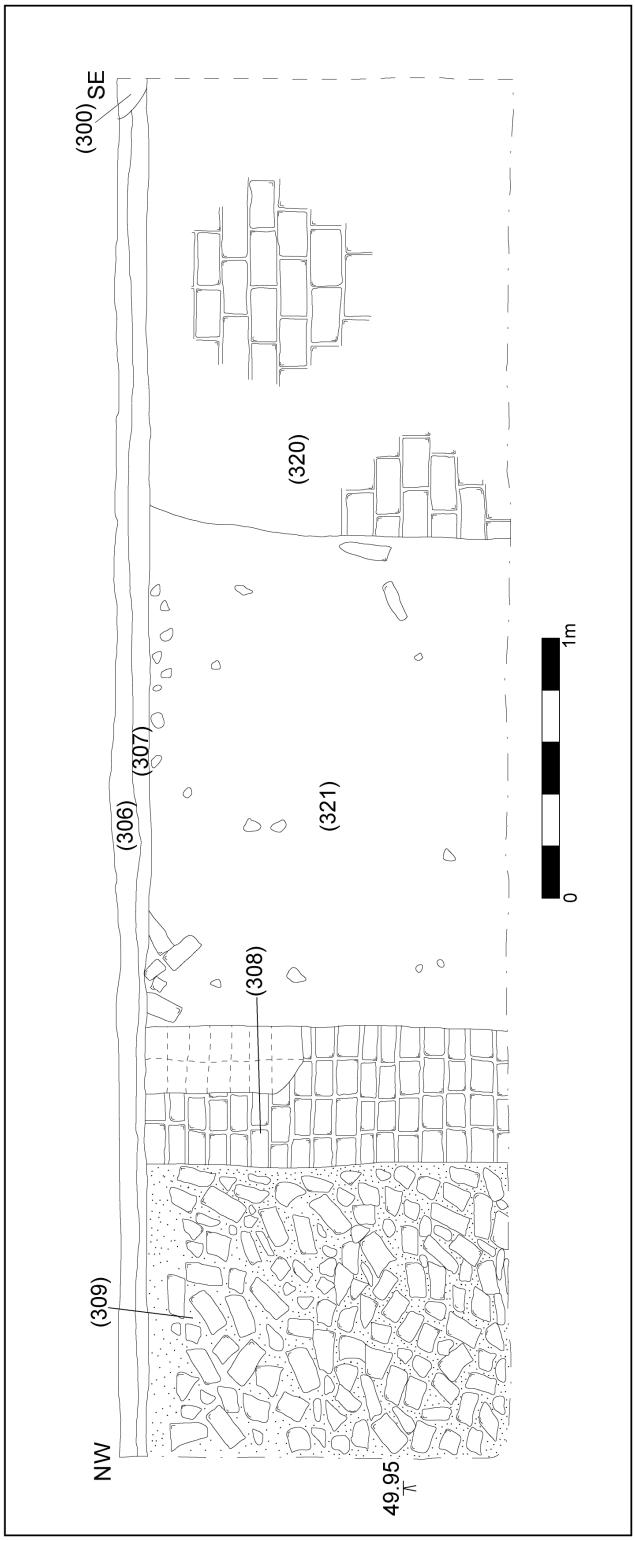


Fig. 17 - Section 8, SW-facing

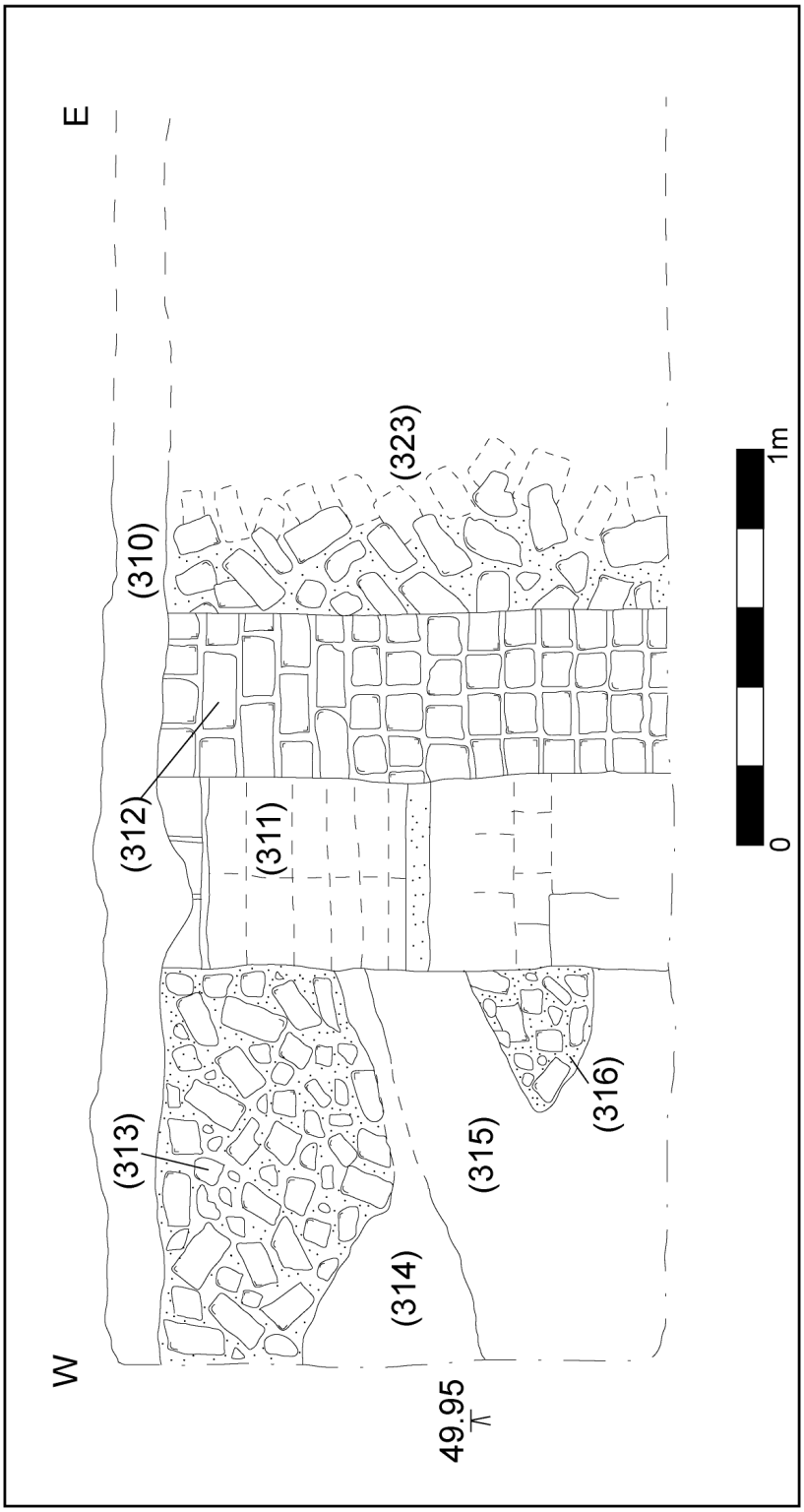


Fig. 18 - Section 9, S-facing

11. Overall Conclusion

The programme of archaeological observation carried out at No.32 London Road, Gloucester, revealed significant evidence of occupation dating from the Roman and post-medieval periods.

This included:

- The foundations of two, possibly three structures, a series of associated domestic waste or storage pits, some of which appear to have originally been lined with wood
- The remains of an early trackway aligned E-W intersecting with a later metalled road surface running NW-SE
- A significant Roman pottery assemblage, consisting of locally produced and imported regional and overseas wares (including sherds of Gaulish samian ware and Spanish amphora).
- Evidence of brick cellarage and two wells - one of stone and the other of brick - associated with terraced housing erected on the site in the 1820s.

The archaeological evidence, both in terms of finds and structural remains, sheds further light on the development of a substantial extra mural suburb extending NE from the North Gate of the colonia of Gloucester during the late 1st/early-mid 2nd century AD. The marked lack of finds or features of medieval date indicates a marked break in occupation on the site throughout the medieval period.

This break in occupation was followed by a period of intensive building activity on the site during the post-medieval period, represented by the construction of a series of brick terraced buildings along the London Road street frontage and two wells. These structures appear to be contemporary with the extensive suburban development that occurred in the London Road area during the early 19th century.

12. Bibliography

12.1 Primary Sources

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19th-20th century photographic collections relating to the City of Gloucester

12.2 Secondary Sources

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12.3 Cartography

Copies of the maps listed below were obtained from the Gloucester City Council Archaeological Unit at Gloucester City Museum, the Gloucester City Library and the Gloucestershire Record Office.

Speed's Map of Gloucester (1610)

Kip's Map of Gloucester (1712)

GRO Ref. Q/RI 70 Enclosure Map of Gloucester (1799)

OS 1st edition 1 inch map of Gloucester (1830)

Dawson's Map of Gloucester taken from the Ordnance Survey (1837)

Cawston's Map of Gloucester (1843)

Board of Health Map of Gloucester (1852)

OS 1st edition 25 inch map (1881)

OS 1st edition 6 inch map Gloucester 25 NE (1891)

OS 3rd edition 6 inch map Gloucester 25 NE (1924)

Aerial photographs of the site taken in 1999 and 2002 were also consulted at the Gloucester City Museum Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1: Pottery Report

Dr Jane Timby

1. Introduction

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of a moderately small assemblage of 198 sherds of pottery and 19 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) / fired clay.

Most of the pottery assemblage dated to the earlier Roman period with single sherds of medieval and post-medieval date.

For the purposes of the assessment, the material was sorted into fabrics using the Gloucester type fabric series codes (see Appendix A) to ascertain the likely chronology. The sherds were quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. A summary of the data can be found in Table 1.

The sherds were in average condition with fairly well-broken sherds and slight edge abrasion. The overall average sherd weight was 35.4g. This figure is higher than might be expected for typical rubbish material but is accounted for by the presence of several large sherds of amphora. There are several examples of joining sherds from within contexts.

Most of the contexts produced quite low quantities of material and often just body sherds, which does not allow very close or reliable dating.

The assessment was undertaken in the absence of any site information or stratigraphic knowledge, which could potentially refine the chronology.

2. Description

The assemblage appeared to mainly belong to one broad phase of Roman activity dating from the Flavian-Trajanic periods, with some possibly slightly later 2nd century material. There was nothing that need be later than c. AD 150.

The group was very much dominated by sherds from vessels made at Gloucester itself (TF 7, 11A, 25). At least three kiln sites are known (Berkeley Street, College of Art and Kingsholm Rugby Ground) producing wares from the pre-Flavian period through into the early-mid 2nd century (Timby 1991).

Continental imports in the assemblage included some well preserved sherds from a North Gaulish mortarium with a well used, worn interior, Dressel 20 olive oil amphora, Gallic wine amphora, white ware flagon and samian table ware.

Regional imports included a Verulamium mortarium, Dorset black burnished ware and a Savernake-type jar.

Other local wares in addition to the Gloucester kiln wares were limited to sherds of Severn

Valley ware and some miscellaneous grey wares.

The assemblage appeared to be purely civilian in nature, with none of the wares and forms characteristic of the military assemblages found at Gloucester. Most of the samian seemed to be Martres-de-Veyre (Central Gaulish), usually dating from the later 1st and early 2nd century.

3. Post-Roman

Just two sherds of post-Roman pottery were present: an unglazed sandy ware from a jar from (148) and post-medieval partially glazed earthenware (?16th-17th century) amongst the unstratified material.

4. Conclusions

The Roman assemblage is quite typical both of the London Road location and of Gloucester in general, with the expected range of imports alongside local wares. The assemblage appeared to be quite tight chronologically and there were no later Roman products present suggesting possible truncation of layers (?)

Chronological refinement may be possible from a specialist study of the samian and considering the pottery against the stratigraphic sequence but with such a small assemblage it is doubtful whether this would be worthwhile.

5. Ceramic Building Material

A small assemblage of 18 fragments of ceramic building material was recovered of definite and probable Roman date and one piece of modern pipe (202) (**Table 2**).

The material included two pieces of fired clay of indeterminate function (142), six fragments of brick or tile of irregular form and uncertain date, six fragments of Roman tegulae, one piece of imbrex (both roofing tile) and one piece of flat tile or pila.

6. References

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APPENDIX A

List of Gloucester type fabric (TF) codes used in Table 1 cross-referenced where relevant to the National Roman reference collection codes (NRFRC) (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Continental imports

TF 8A – Central Gaulish samian
TF 8B – South Gaulish samian
TF 9C – North Gaulish amphora. NRFRC: NOG WH
TF 10A – Dressel 20 South Spanish olive oil amphora. NRFRC: BAT AM
TF 10B – Gallic wine amphora. NRFRC: GAL AM
TF 10 – miscellaneous amphora
TF 211 – imported white ware

Regional imports

TF 4 – Dorset black burnished ware. NFCRC: DOR BB1
TF 6V – Savernake variant/ NFCRC: SAV GT
TF ?201 – Wiltshire black sandy ware
TF 209 – Verulamium white ware. NFCRC: VER WH

Local wares

TF 7 – Gloucester kiln ware (white-slipped)
TF 11A – Gloucester kiln ware (oxidised/ reduced)
TF 25 – Gloucester kiln ware (sandy)
TF 213 – 1st century grey ware
TF 11B – Severn Valley ware. NFCRC: SVW OX
TF 23 – Severn Valley ware (handmade)

Unknown

TF 9 – mortaria
GW – grey ware

Medieval

TF ?42 – sandy ware

Cont	Nos	Fabrics	No	Wt	Date
18	171-2	11A	2	13	C1/C2
19	152	25	1	15	C1/C2
27	63-8	11B, ?201	6	152	C1/C2
31	166	23	1	24	C1/C2
104	226-7	10A, 11A	2	230	C1/C2
109	154	4	1	53	e-m C2
112	207	25	1	3	C1/C2
112	187-90	7, 23	5	135	C1/C2
114	192-9	10B, 11A, 23	10	268	C1/C2
124	160-5	8B, 11A	6	24	C1
124	73-96	7, 11A, 25, 211, 6V, 9	24	309	e C2
129	112-15	9C, 11A, 11B	4	280	C1/C2
129	101-7	9C	7	734	C1/C2
131	167-8	11B	2	38	C1/C2
132	116	11A	1	10	C1/C2
134	50	7	1	18	C1/C2
136	36-8	7, 11A	3	68	C1/C2
136	155-9	25, ?213	5	41	C1
141	169-70	11A	2	33	C1/C2
142	33-5	10A	3	935	C1/C2
142	17-19	10A	3	969	C1/C2
142	1-6	11A, 25	6	224	C1/C2
142	176-86	10A, GW	11	214	C1/C2
143	225	11A	1	36	C1/C2
147	201	8A	1	10	e C2
147	97-100	7, 8A, 11A	4	30	e C2
149	208	42?	1	4	Med
159	108	11A	1	15	C1/C2
159	153	209	1	145	C1/C2
159	109-11	7, 10B, 11A	3	73	C1/C2
159	with cbm	10A	1	66	C1/C2
159	46-9	11A, GW	4	19	C1/C2
159	69-72	8A, 11A	4	80	e C2
159	39-45	7, 8A, 11A	7	251	e C2
159	51-9	10A, 11A	8	354	C1/C2
159	124	7, 11A, 25, 8A, 9C	26	659	e C2
304	150-1	8A	2	56	C2
304	119-23	4, 11A, 11B, GW	5	60	e-m C2
610	7-16	11A,11B,8A	9	120	e C2
US	218-30	10A, 10, 11A, 11B, 4, 25, PMED	13	247	C1/C2/pm
TOTAL			**198**	**7015**	

Table 1: Summary of pottery with spot dates

Table 2: Summary of ceramic building material

Cont	Nos	Type	No	Wt	Date
129	30-2	cbm, teg	3	510	Roman
142	173-4	fclay	2	22	nd
159	27-9	cbm, teg	3	471	Roman
159	23-4	teg, flat tile	2	350	Roman
159	20-2	teg	2	500	Roman
162	25-6	teg, flat tile	2	618	Roman
164	175	cbm	1	38	nd
168	117-18	cbm	2	69	nd
610	in pot	imb	1	26	Roman
us	202	pipe	1	320	modern
TOTAL			**19**	**2924**	

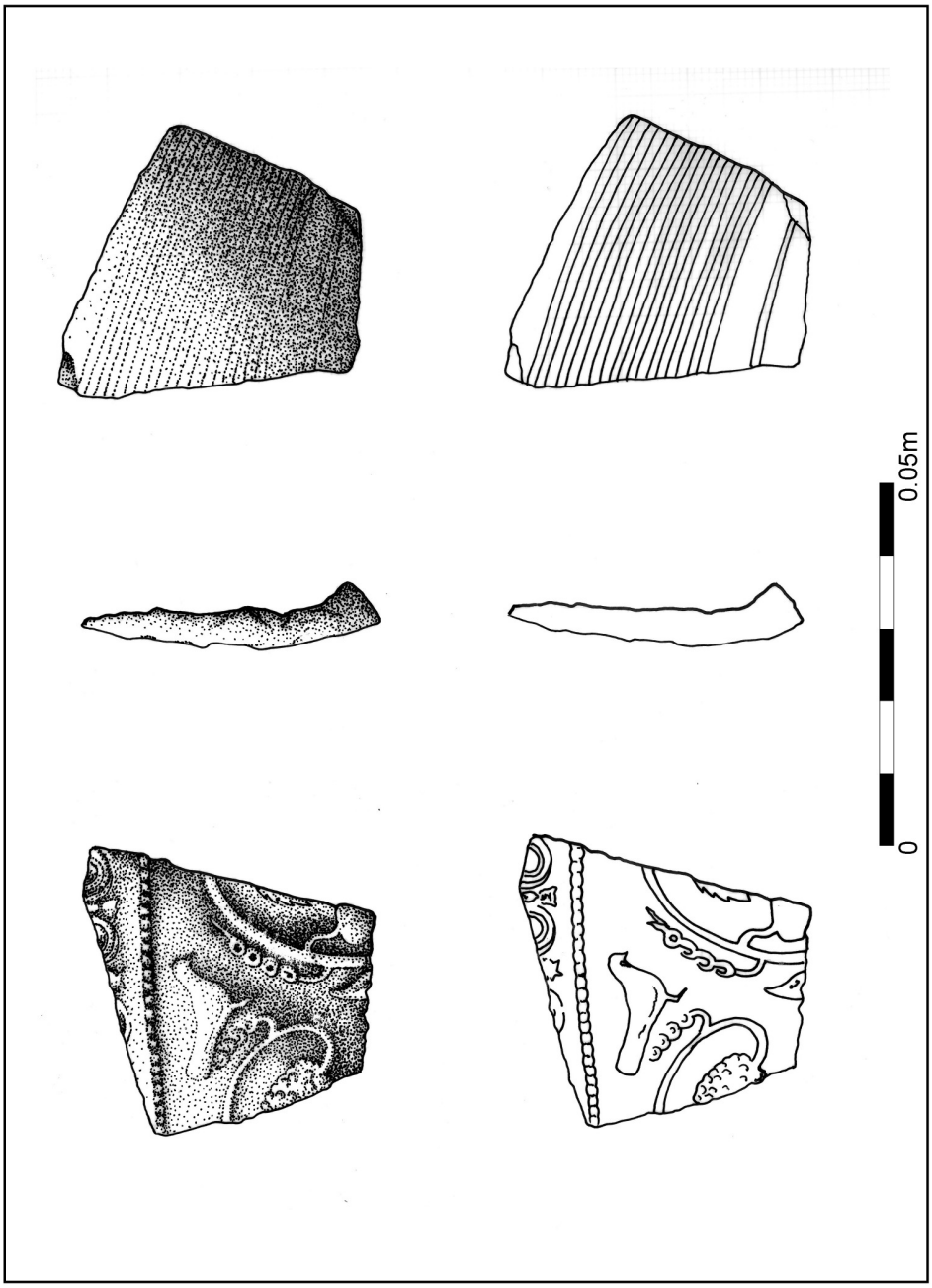
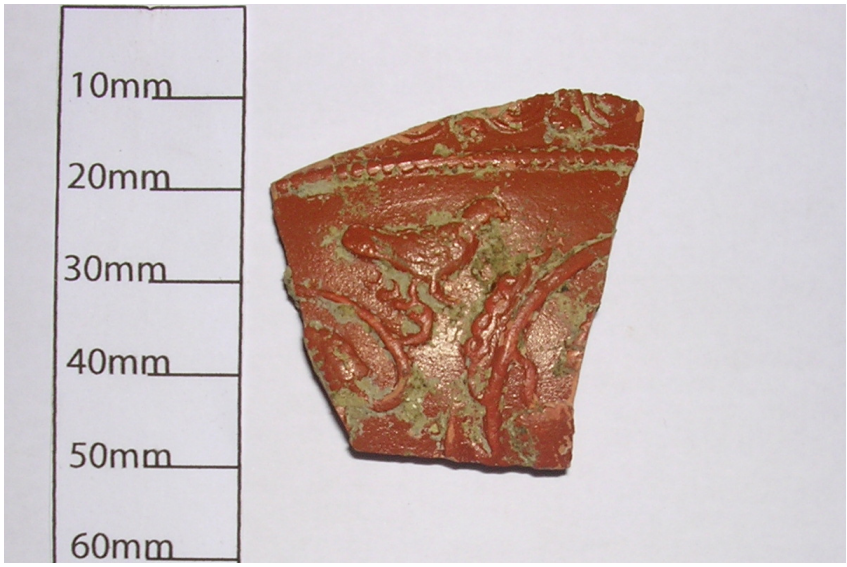


Fig. 19 - Decorated samian from context (147).



Plates 17 & 18 - Fragment of decorated samian from context (147) (above) and pottery fragment from context (124) (below)

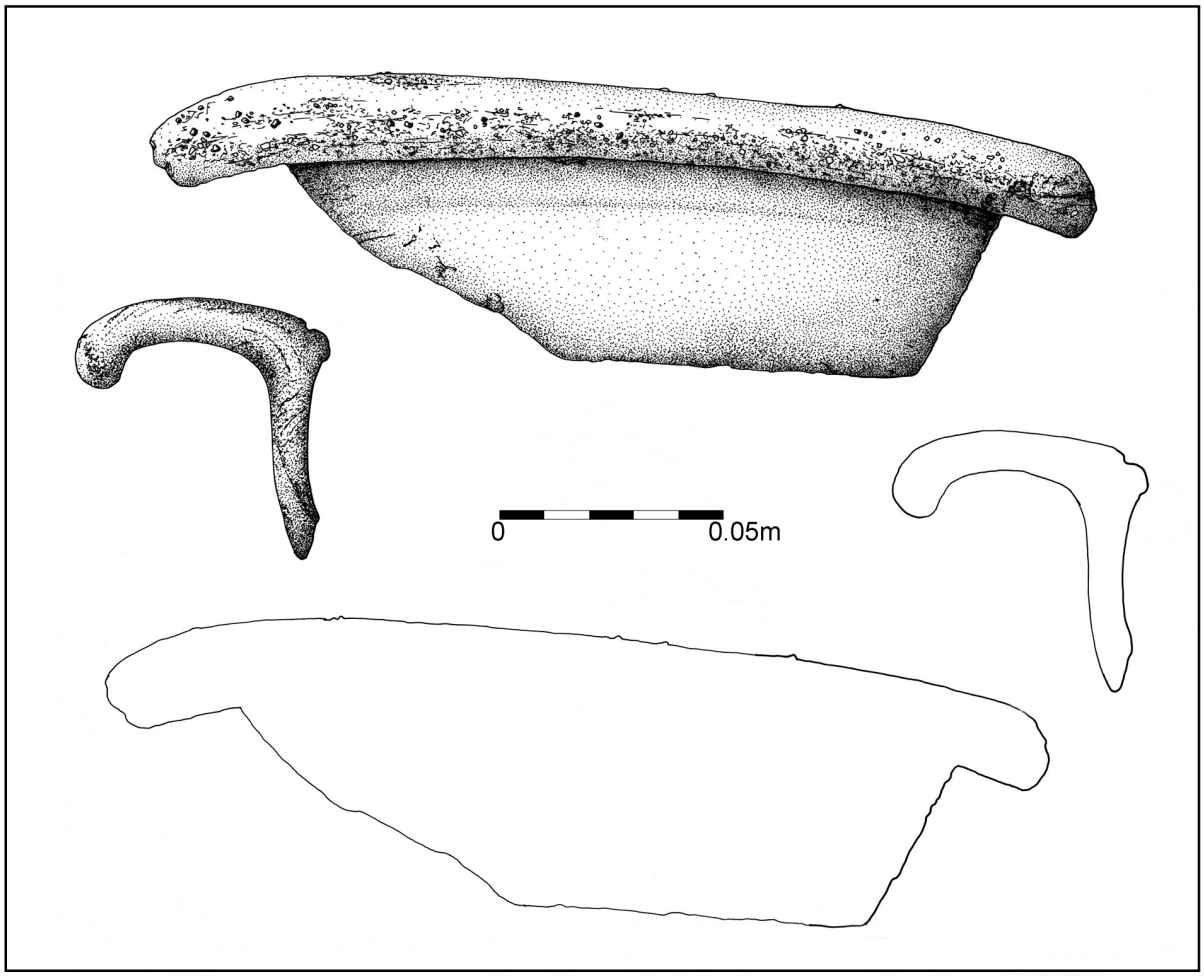


Fig. 20 & Plate 19 - Roman mortarium from context (129)

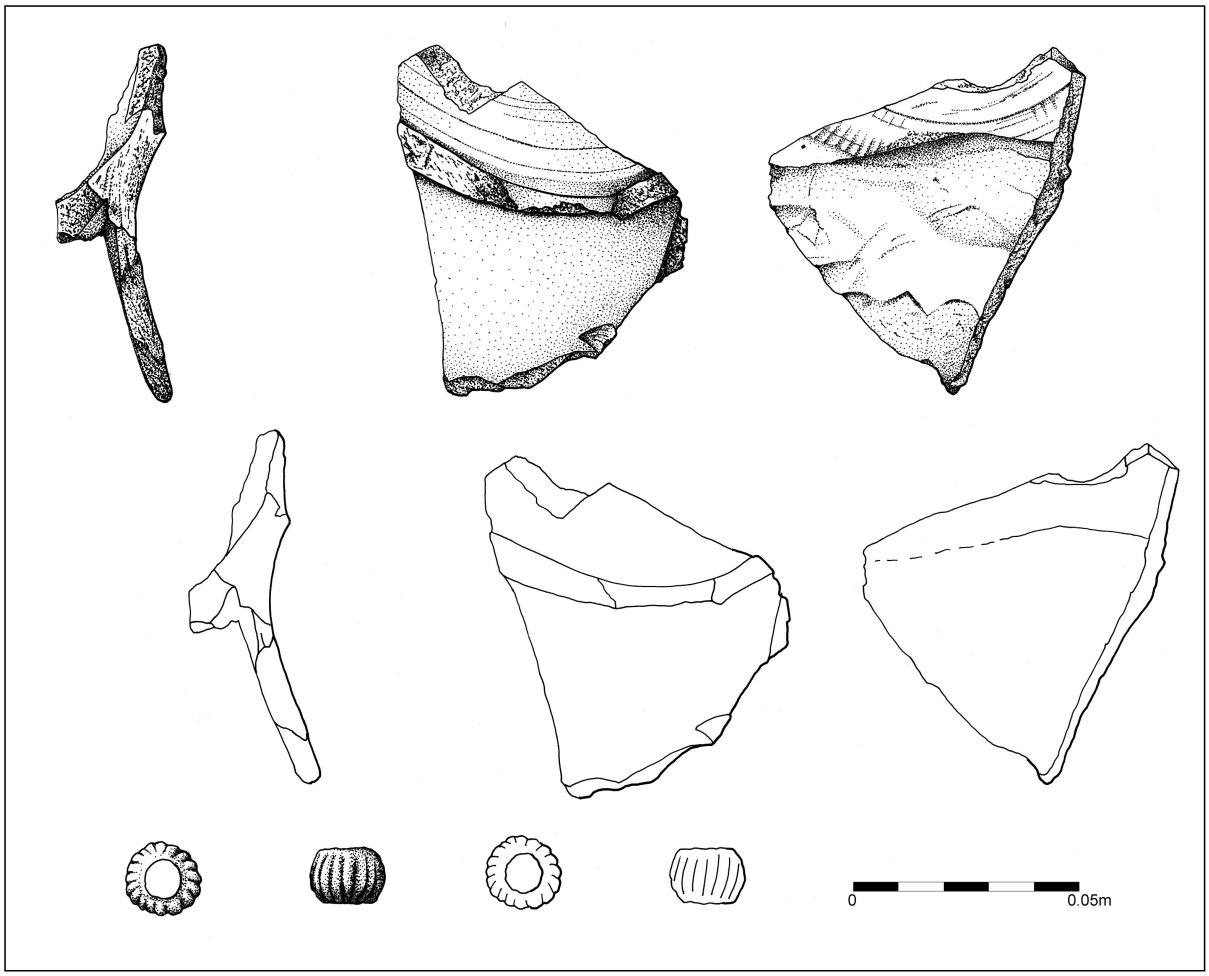


Fig. 21 - Pottery sherd and melon bead from context (304); Plates 20, 21 - Melon bead from context (304)

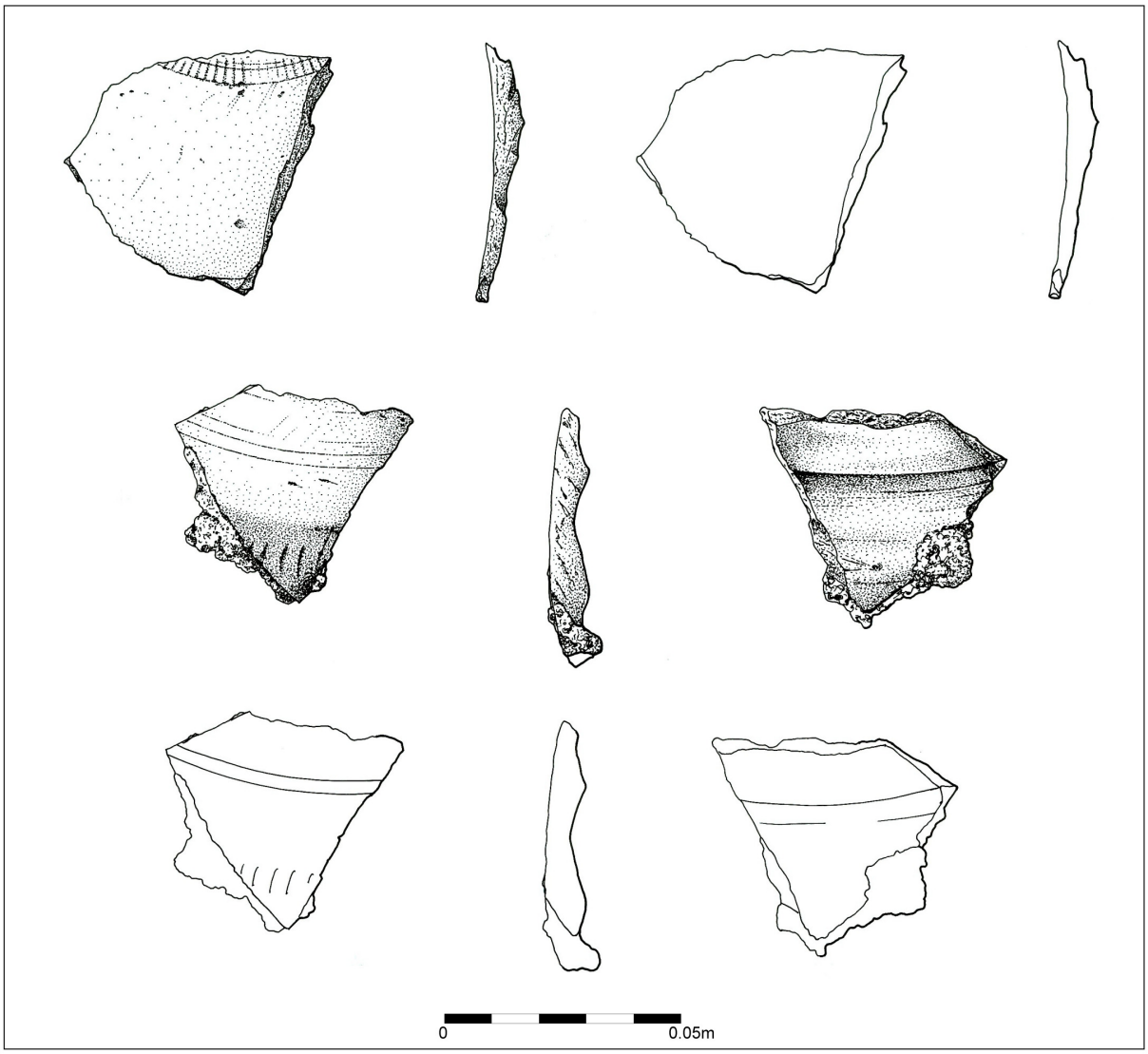


Fig. 22 - Samian pottery sherd from context (304) (top) and decorated burnished ware from context (159)

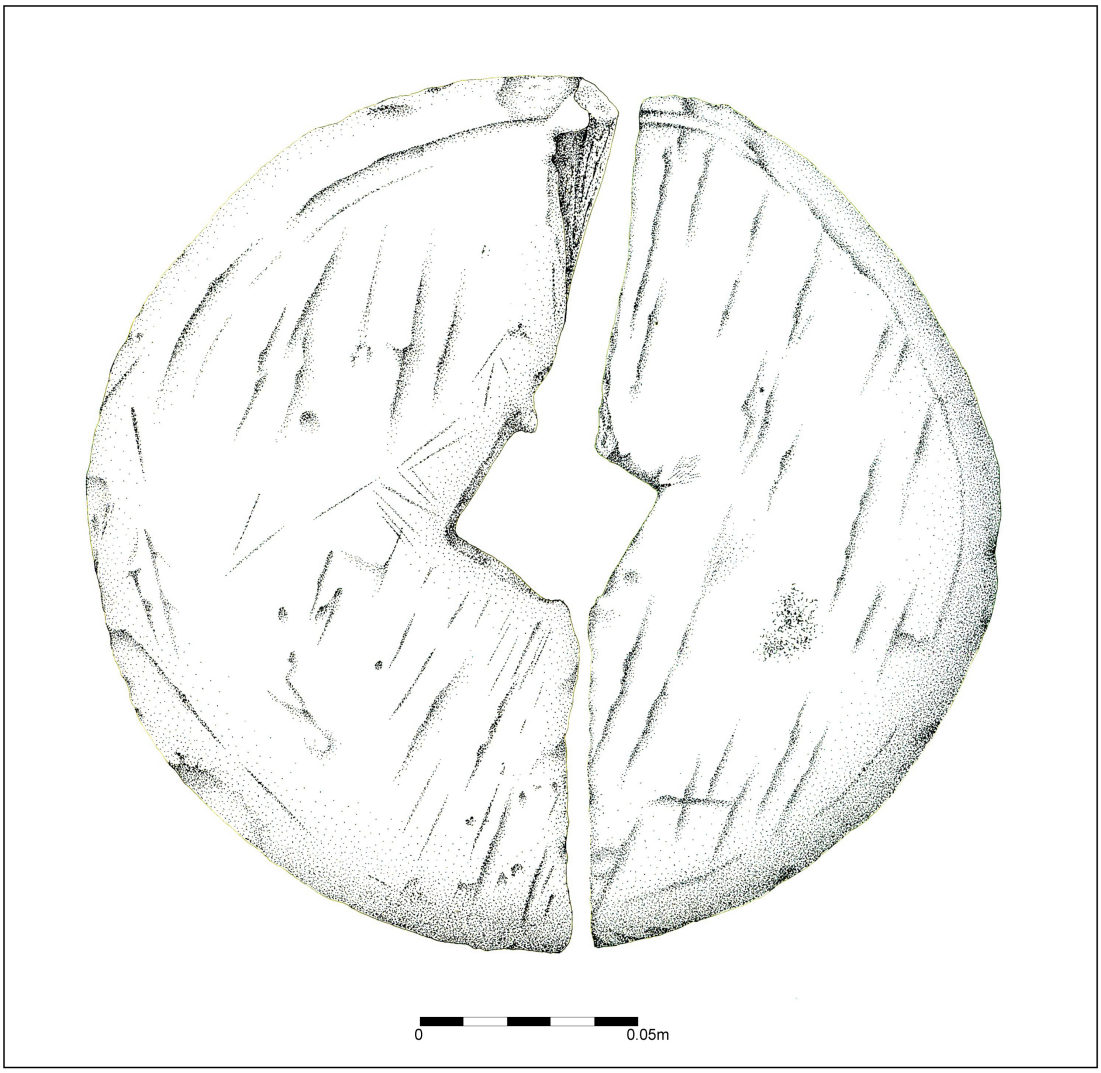
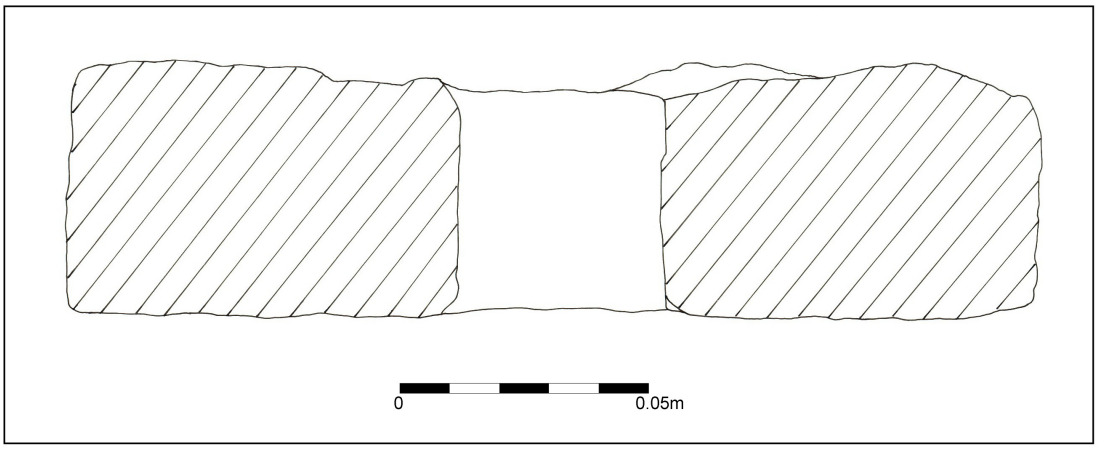


Fig. 23 - Quernstone found in context (104)



Appendix 2: Other Finds

1. Bone

A small assemblage of animal bone recovered from the site comprised a range of domestic species including pig (*Sus*), cattle (*Bos*) and sheep / goat (*Ovid*). Up to 50 per cent of the assemblage showed evidence of butchery.

2. Metal

Iron (Fe)

Context (124)

Nail – Weight: 16g. Dimensions: 70mm in length, 15mm in diameter at head. Nail corroded though basic form could be discerned.

Context (113)

Undiagnostic iron fragment – Weight: 2g. Dimensions: 25mm in length, 10mm in diameter.

3. Glass

Context (159)

Six fragments of typical Roman bluish-green glass. The curvature present on most of the pieces suggests they are part of a vessel, probably from a jar or jug. Total weight: 47g

Context (124)

One fragment of a light green glass. The fragment is small but again there is slight curvature, suggesting it is from a jar or jug, although this is not a complete probability.

4. Quernstone

Context (104)

Comprised two halves of a broken quernstone (**Fig. 23**). Upper surface flat with some vertical scoring, much of the underside covered with mortar up to 10mm in thickness. Dimensions: - 190mm in diameter, 40mm in thickness. It seems likely, due to the presence of mortar that this quernstone had been incorporated into a structure. It appears to have been re-deposited within context (104) during the levelling and clearing that created this context.

5. Melon bead

Complete melon bead from context (304) (**Fig. 21**) made from blue glass paste with some damage due to weathering. Height – 14mm. Diameter – 18mm; perforation diameter - 10mm (Roman Carmarthen pg. 345 to 347 for similar bead).

6. Wooden stakes

The pottery evidence has enabled accurate dating of the site and it thus deemed unlikely that analysis of the wooden stakes will add further qualitative data.

7. Environmental Sampling

The following report represents the results from environmental sampling conducted within the following contexts. The following samples were sent to Archaeological Services University of Durham for analysis.

Sample Number	Context Number	No. of Buckets
1	210	2
2	213	2
3	124	2

These particular contexts were chosen for their potential for environmental sampling.

Appendix 3: Plant Macrofossil Assessment

Dr Charlotte O'Brien Archaeological Services University of Durham

1. Summary

Project background

Three bulk samples were collected for environmental assessment. Samples 1 and 3 were interpreted as Roman deposition layers, while the interpretation of sample 2 is uncertain. This report presents the results of the assessment of the samples.

Results

The few plant macrofossils present provided little information about the contexts. Oats, barley and wheat were among the cereals used, which is not inconsistent with other Roman sites in Britain. Uncharred seeds were absent. The contents of the residues point to all three samples having been deposition layers.

2. Project background

Location

The samples were from 32 London Road, Gloucester.

Objective

The objective was to carry out plant macrofossil assessment of three bulk samples.

Dates

The plant macrofossil assessments were carried out between 20th – 27th April 2005. This report was prepared on the 27th April 2005.

Personnel

The assessments and report preparation were undertaken by Dr Charlotte O'Brien

3. Methods

The samples were manually floated and sieved through a 500 µm mesh. The residues were retained, described and scanned using a magnet for ferrous fragments. The flots were dried slowly and scanned at x 40 magnification for waterlogged and charred botanical remains. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services, University of Durham. Total numbers of remains per species were logged and the results were interpreted in their archaeological and palaeoecological contexts. Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

4. Results

The samples produced low volumes of flot with a limited number of plant macrofossils present. The few charred seeds included vetch seeds and grains of oats, barley, wheat and indeterminate cereals. Waterlogged seeds were absent. Molluscs and unburnt bone fragments were present in the residues of all three samples and pot occurred in samples 2 and 3. Mortar, a pig tooth and a belemnite fossil were also present in sample 2. The results are presented in Table 1.

5. Discussion

The few charred plant remains included a grain of barley in sample 1, an oat grain in sample 3 and a few wheat grains in samples 2 and 3. It was not possible to identify the wheat to species level with certainty due to the absence of chaff, but two of the wheat grains in sample 2 resembled those most often associated with bread wheat. Oats, barley and wheat were commonly cultivated in Britain during the Roman period. The limited number of charred remains provides little further information about the contexts or site in general. The absence of un-charred seeds reflects the well-drained nature of the deposits.

The occurrence of fragments of un-burnt bone, pot and charcoal in the residues of samples 1 and 3 does not contradict the interpretation of these samples as deposition layers. Sample 2 contained two belemnite fossils which would have been reworked from Carboniferous deposits. In addition, small amounts of charcoal, molluscs, un-burnt bone, mortar, a pig tooth and a piece of pot occurred in the residues of sample 2, which may indicate that this sample was also a deposition layer.

6. Reference

Stace, C. *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge University Press. pp1130 (1997)

Table 1. Contents of the samples from 32 London Road

Sample	1	2	3
Context	210	213	124
Volume processed (ml)	5000	5000	5000
Volume of flot (ml)	10	5	60
Volume of flot assessed (ml)	10	5	60
Residue contents (relative abundance)			
Belemnite fossil	-	2	-
Bone (unburnt)	2	2	2
Molluscs	2	1	2
Mortar	-	1	-
Pig tooth	-	1	-
Pot	-	1 piece	5 pieces
Flot matrix (relative abundance)			
Charcoal	1	1	2
Molluscs	2	1	2
Charred remains (total counts)			
(c) *Avena* spp grain (Oat species)	-	-	1
(c) *Hordeum vulgare* (Barley)	1	-	-
(c) *Triticum cf. aestivum* (*cf.* Bread wheat)	-	2	-
(c) *Triticum* sp (Wheat sp)	-	7	3
(c) Cerealia indeterminate	-	1	2
(x) *Vicia* sp (vetch)	-	1	1

(c: cultivated plant; x: wide niche) -Relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)