

CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF BURIED MOSAICS

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## CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.....	3
SUMMARY.....	4
1.INTRODUCTION.....	5
<i>1.1 Introduction</i> .....	5
<i>1.2 Project background</i> .....	5
<i>1.3 Methodology</i> .....	6
2. RESULTS.....	7
<i>2.1 The buried mosaics survey</i> .....	7
General.....	7
The north range.....	7
The eastern corridor.....	8
The south range.....	9
The west range.....	9
<i>2.2 The excavated rooms</i> .....	11
<i>2.3 The drainage survey</i> .....	12
3. CONCLUSIONS.....	12
4. PROJECT TEAM AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	13
APPENDIX I.....	17
<i>Context Catalogue</i> .....	17
APPENDIX II.....	28
<i>The nature of the stratigraphic record</i> .....	28
APPENDIX III.....	29

<i>The finds catalogue</i>	29
APPENDIX IV.....	39
<i>Comparative table of modern, Roman and natural levels</i>	39
APPENDIX V.....	40
<i>Discussion of the mosaics by S.R. Cosh</i>	40
APPENDIX VI.....	41
<i>National Trust Specification</i>	41

**LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

FIG.1 LOCATION PLAN..... 14

FIG.2 LOCATION OF EXCAVATED ROOMS, TEST-PITS, AND SOAKAWAYS  
..... 15

FIG.3 PLAN SHOWING LEVELS (AOD) AT TOP OF ENCOUNTERED ROMAN  
DEPOSITS..... 16

## **SUMMARY**

In February 2000, Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT) was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake an archaeological survey of buried mosaics at Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire. In May 2000, CAT was further contracted by The National Trust to undertake an archaeological survey of part of the drainage system at the villa.

The initial survey successfully identified remnant mosaic floors in various locations throughout the Villa's northern range. In addition, more substantial and better preserved tessellated surfaces were discovered in the western range. Elsewhere, other types of floor surface and make-up layers were recorded. In the western range evidence of an earlier phase of building and of activity post dating the laying of mosaic floors was also found.

The drainage survey demonstrated that a series of soakaways had been inserted after the initial excavation of the Villa in the Victorian period.

Finds recovered during the project include a single sherd of post-Roman grass-tempered pottery dateable to the fifth to eighth century A.D.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### ***1.1 Introduction***

1.1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological survey work conducted by Cotswold Archaeological Trust between 31<sup>st</sup> January and 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2000 at Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire. The site is centred on NGR SP 0530 1345.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as part of The National Trust's ongoing programme of remedial and preventive conservation of the fabric of the villa and was carried out in accordance with The National Trust specification (Appendix VI) and the *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1994).

### ***1.2 Project background***

1.2.1 The villa at Chedworth was discovered by chance in 1864 by a gamekeeper. It was subsequently excavated over a period of two years under the direction of James Farrer (Goodburn 1983). The site has since been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Glos. Monument 57) and was purchased for the National Trust in 1924.

1.2.2 Although numerous investigations and small-scale excavations have been undertaken within the villa complex, the location and description of many of the mosaics mentioned in the notes from the original excavation are often vague. Many of the exposed areas of mosaic were reburied, subsequent to their discovery, as a protective measure. The exception to this being the dining room (Room 5) and the bath suites (Rooms 10-15 inclusive, 22 and 23) which are currently housed in wooden huts. Details of the below ground drainage arrangements emanating from the down pipe of these huts were not

known to the present property manager, and a limited investigative survey was commissioned and undertaken in May 2000 (see 2.3 below).

### **1.3 Methodology**

1.3.1 A *Specification for an archaeological survey of buried mosaics* was prepared by The National Trust (Appendix VI). This specified the location of a total of 27 test-pits across the site and the location of five rooms to be investigated more fully (Fig. 2). The objectives of the work were to:

- (i) document the exposed mosaics for the site archive.
- (ii) determine the scope of extant mosaics: to establish the locations and scale of buried mosaics and their relative importance as a basis for future presentation.
- (iii) determine the condition of excavated mosaics, the efficacy of current burial methods in order to inform a future programme of rectified photography, remedial and preventative conservation.
- (iv) protection of mosaics: to rebury all excavated mosaics and other remains in order to ensure their preservation until decisions are taken for their conservation and presentation.

1.3.2 All excavation and subsequent backfilling was undertaken by hand. A full written, drawn and photographic record, including true vertical photographs of all identified mosaics, was compiled in accordance with The National Trust specification.

1.3.4 All artefactual material was bagged and numbered with unique numbers relating to the context record. This was done in accordance with the CAT Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).

1.3.5 The completed site archive and the finds will be deposited with The National Trust at Chedworth Roman Villa.

## **2. RESULTS**

### **2.1 *The buried mosaics survey***

#### *General*

2.1.1 A total of 27 test-pits was excavated across the site. In addition, *in situ* Roman deposits throughout Rooms 5b, 6, and 7 and the corridor to the east of Room 6 were all fully exposed. Room 31a was also partly excavated. The dimensions of the test-pits and the trenches can be found in the attached Appendix I, together with a description of each context encountered, presented in stratigraphic order.

2.1.2 In this report little detail is presented on the mosaics themselves. The condition of each mosaic was recorded in a conservation report by John Stewart of the National Trust. The mosaics were also drawn by S.R. Cosh and D.S. Neal for inclusion in their forthcoming corpus of Romano-British mosaics. That publication will include a discussion of the art historical aspects of the pavements along with a consideration of their dating. A summary of the mosaic recording by S.R. Cosh forms Appendix V of this report.

#### *The north range*

2.1.3 Remnants of tessellated floors were identified in Rooms 28 and 31a, and within test-pits D and E in the north corridor. Typically, these comprised a border of different coloured bands towards the walls, with a more intricate geometric pattern towards the centre of the rooms. That in Room 31a was very disturbed and fragmentary, whilst the two sections revealed in Room 28 were slightly better preserved. A small area (0.5m x 0.2m ) of *in-situ* tesserae was revealed in Test-pit D, with more extensive remains being identified within Test-pit E.



- 2.1.4 Within Room 27 *in-situ* deposits of crushed limestone mortar and *opus signinum* suggest that this room may also have previously been tessellated. A small pit from which an almost complete late fourth-century shell-tempered cooking-pot was retrieved had cut these floor levels.
- 2.1.5 Rubble make-up/levelling layers associated with the construction of the range were identified throughout the remaining rooms as well as the corridor, with the exception of Room 20 where deposits interpreted as worked soils of the garden courtyard were revealed.
- 2.1.6 The test-pits excavated throughout the northern corridor demonstrated that the existing south wall delineating the corridor is a modern reconstruction, founded below the modern ground surface upon breeze-blocks. However, the original wall, surviving parallel to the northern side of its modern counterpart was revealed within test-pits B and E.
- 2.1.7 A substantial spread of stone tile fragments was uncovered in Test-pit E in the north corridor and may represent a collapsed roof or an intentional dump of demolition debris.
- 2.1.8 The natural limestone brash and sandy clay substrate was encountered in Rooms 20, 27 and 29.

#### *The eastern corridor*

- 2.1.9 A single test-pit was excavated towards its southern extent of the eastern corridor. Two distinct deposits of material, interpreted as make-up to create the terrace for the courtyard, were identified. A substantial linear cut had truncated these deposits to the east and a retaining wall had been constructed within this trench. The limestone blocks used in the construction of this wall became more substantial with depth. It was apparent that it had been built as a retaining wall, to arrest any slumping of the terrace behind. No evidence of floor levels was encountered within this test-pit.

2.1.10 The natural substrate was not encountered in this test-pit.

#### *The south range*

2.1.11 No evidence of *in-situ* mosaic floors was identified within the southern range. However, an *opus signinum* floor was recorded in Room 2 and a remnant of a crushed limestone and mortar floor, overlain by traces of one of *opus signinum*, was identified in Room 1b. In the southern corridor a possible mortar floor overlain by what was interpreted as bedding material for a possible flagstone floor was identified in test-pit A.

2.1.12 Elsewhere in the south range, constructional make-up/levelling deposits were identified in Rooms 1 and 1a, and Test-pit B within the southern corridor. A thin layer of red-brown silty clay directly overlying the natural substrate within Room 1a is interpreted as a pre-existing soil horizon.

2.1.13 Within Room 1b, the uppermost course of a possible east to west aligned wall was partially exposed, overlain by later floor layers. This may have formed a cross-wall which had been demolished prior to the laying of the floor.

2.1.14 In the south range, the natural limestone brash substrate was encountered only in Room 1a.

#### *The west range*

2.1.15 Two test-pits were excavated in the corridor of the west range. Both revealed sections of an extensive corridor mosaic at a very shallow depth (typically 0.10m below the modern tarmac pathway). In the southernmost of these test-pits the mosaic was almost fully intact and its striped border design reflected its position next to a threshold.

2.1.16 The section of the tessellated pavement revealed in the northern test-pit was less well preserved, with some damage evident in the centre. It also exhibited evidence of burning/scorching in places. The design here comprised bands of differing colour, decreasing in width away from the corridor walls, with a central pattern of interlocking circles.

## **2.2 The excavated rooms**

- 2.2.1 Rooms 5b, 6 and 7, together with the internal corridor to the east of Room 6 were all subject to a programme of excavation to reveal the current state of preservation of the underlying Roman deposits.
- 2.2.2 Excavation of Room 5b revealed a mosaic floor throughout the majority of the room. However, the difference in the degree of preservation between the western and eastern halves of the room was marked. The eastern part lay directly under a tarmac walkway leading to the original Roman (and modern) entrance to Room 5 and was badly damaged and distorted through the weight of traffic. In comparison, that part of the mosaic which lay in the western half of the room was mostly intact.
- 2.2.3 The mosaic comprised a border and central geometric pattern. A repair had been effected in plain white tesserae, along the northern edge of the room after the insertion of the later wall for Room 6. Traces of pink plaster from mouldings were present at the base of the walls of the room and scorching was evident in the north-west corner.
- 2.2.4 Excavation within Room 6 revealed that the remnant sections of mosaic floor were largely confined to the edges of the room. Here, the design consisted of a border of different coloured bands towards the walls, with more intricate varying geometric patterns towards the centre of the room. There was a scorched patch in the south-west corner of this room, and the underlying hypocaust had collapsed in part along the western side of the room. A late or early post-Roman hearth, comprising re-used box-flue tile fragments had been inserted through the mosaic and penetrated into the underlying *opus signinum* bedding
- 2.2.5 The corridor to the east of Room 6 was covered by a further mosaic which was largely complete, with only occasional patches of damage. Here the design consisted of alternate red and white rectangles and again there was evidence of localised scorching.

2.2.6 No evidence of *in-situ* tessellated flooring was identified within Room 7, despite the retrieval of over three thousand loose tesserae from the modern backfill sealing the Roman deposits. Exposed Roman deposits consisted of an east-west aligned cross-wall dividing the room and related floor layers, the latter being visible solely during the re-excavation of earlier (?1950/60) test-pits evident throughout the room. The northern elevation of the surviving wall and adjacent floor levels had been extensively burnt.

### **2.3 *The drainage survey***

2.3.1 Four areas adjacent to the down-pipes on the existing wooden huts were investigated to ascertain to where the run-off water was being fed (Fig. 2). In each of these four locations modern ceramic pipes were found, leading into rubble-filled soakaways of varying size.

## **3. CONCLUSIONS**

3.1 The survey has been effective in locating the *in situ* mosaics, and verifying the records of the Victorian excavations. Mosaic preservation in a number of cases is remarkably good, and in some places better than might have been reasonably expected. The base record formed by this project has allowed the National Trust Conservator to compile detailed condition surveys on each exposed mosaic, and this data will assist in the formulation and implementation of strategies for the long-term care and maintenance of these important pavements.

#### **4. PROJECT TEAM AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Cotswold Archaeological Trust would like to thank Mr P. Bethell, Mr M. George and Mr J. Stewart of the National Trust, Mr S. Cosh, Mr D. Neal and Mr K. Hoverd for their assistance in the course of this project.

Field work was carried out by Mark Brett, Laurent Coleman, Tim Havard, Jonathan Hart, Franco Vartuca, David Kenyon, Jo Williams, Stuart Milby, Tracy Smith, Julie Martin, and Emma Harrison. The project was managed by Clifford Bateman and Neil Holbrook. This report was compiled by Mark Brett and illustrated by Peter Moore.

**Fig.1 Location Plan**

**Fig.2 Location of excavated rooms, test-pits, and soakaways**



**Fig.3 Plan showing levels (AOD) at top of encountered Roman deposits**

## APPENDIX I

*Context Catalogue*

Note: Detailed descriptions of all features identified are retained within the site archive. The following stratigraphic descriptions are given from the latest (modern) to the earliest deposits.

<b>Room 1</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.95m deep. Modern ground surface		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(117)	0.10m	Dark grey-brown sandy clay. Fairly compact. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(118)	<0.40m	Mid grey clay with pink/red inclusions. Compact. Frequent inclusions of animal bone and Roman tile fragments. Occasional shaped/dressed stone and tufa fragments. Occasional modern inclusions. Modern backfill.
(119)	0.15m	Dark grey gritty clay. Friable. Very frequent modern inclusions. ?Post-excavation trample.
(120)	0.40m	Light white/yellow limestone fragments bedded within brown sandy clay. Very compact. No finds. ?Make-up layer for flagged floor. Evidently overlies natural substrate.

<b>Room 1a</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.68m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(107)	0.17m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Friable. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(108)	0.15m	Mid grey-brown clay silt with very frequent limestone fragments. Friable. Contains fragments of Roman tile. Modern backfill.
(109)	<0.15m	Layer of limestone rubble within clay silt matrix. Finds include building material, plaster and oyster shell. ?Demolition/post-abandonment rubble.
(110)	0.20m	Layer of limestone rubble and gravel. No inclusions or finds. ?Make-up for floor.
(121)	<0.03m	Mid red-brown silty clay. Friable, plastic. No inclusions or finds. ?Remnant of pre-Roman soil horizon.
(122)	N/k	Natural limestone substrate.

<b>Room 1b</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.32m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(144)	0.16m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Friable. Finds include building material, animal bone and three tesserae. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(145)	<0.18m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Compact. Finds include building material, animal bone, tesserae and plaster. Modern backfill.
(146)	N/k	Limestone fragments within a gravelly matrix. Overlain with remnant patches of <i>opus signinum</i> . Floor.

<b>Room 2</b> Test-pit = 1m square x 0.15m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(123)	0.15m	Dark grey-brown sandy clay. Friable. Occasional fragments of <i>opus signinum</i> . Finds include glass and stone roof tile fragments. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(124)	N/k	<i>Opus signinum</i> floor. Some decay and root damage apparent.

<b>Room 20</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.63m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(234)	<0.15m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Friable. Finds comprise glass object and modern gun cartridge. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.

(235)	0.10m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Firm. Finds include animal bone and three tesserae. ?Modern landscaping material for present lawn.
(236)	0.25m	Mid to dark yellow-brown clay silt. Firm. Finds consist of Roman tile and a single fragment of vessel glass. Garden soil containing some demolition material.
(247)	0.18m	Mid yellow-brown clay silt. Friable. Contains ceramic tile fragments. Garden soil.
(248)	N/k	Limestone fragments within a yellow sandy matrix. ?Top of natural substrate.

<b>Room 27 NW</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.50m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(168)	0.05m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Loose. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(167)	0.10m	Dark grey-brown clay silt with frequent limestone.
(170)	0.15m	Same as (167). Fill of [169].
[169]	0.15m	Irregularly shaped cut along wall (160). Result of earlier investigations or animal activity.
(177)	<0.18m	Same as (167). Fill of animal burrow/root-hole. Contained single plaster fragment.
(158)	0.35m	Mid yellow-grey sandy gravel. Loose. Fill of [157]. Contained complete ceramic vessel (Small Find #3).
[157]	0.35m	Circular cut, 0.32m diameter. Steep sided and flat based. Purposely cut through floor (166) for burial of vessel.
(166)	0.02m	<i>Opus signinum</i> floor layer. Fragmentary. Bonded to wall (160).
(165)	0.05m	Limestone fragments within mid yellow –orange gravel. Compact. Floor.
(163)	0.20m	Limestone pebbles within matrix of light grey-yellow clay silt. Firm. No finds. Backfill of construction cut [162] for wall (160).
(160)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall between rooms 26 and 27. N/S alignment. Lower courses evidently original as floor layers bonded to them. Upper courses probably rebuilt in modernity.
[162]	0.20m	Linear construction cut for wall (160). Steep-sided and flat-based. N/S alignment.
(175)	0.18m	Mid yellow-grey silty sand with frequent limestone. Firm. No finds. Secondary backfill of construction cut [174] for wall (161).
(176)	0.05m	Light yellow-orange silty sand. Firm. No finds. Primary backfill of construction cut [174] for wall (161).
(161)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall comprising external northern wall of north range. E/W alignment. Lower courses evidently original as floor layers bonded to them. Upper courses probably rebuilt in modernity.
[174]	0.30m	Linear construction cut for wall (161). Steep-sided. E/W alignment.
(164)	0.30m	Limestone pebbles within matrix of light grey-yellow clay silt. Firm. No finds. Re-deposited natural make-up layer.
(159)	N/k	Limestone pebbles within matrix of light yellow-grey silty clay. Firm. Natural substrate.

<b>Room 27 Centre</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.36m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(210)	0.13m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Friable. Contained ceramic and stone tile fragments. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(211)	0.02m	<i>Opus signinum</i> floor layer. Fragmentary.
(212)	0.10m	Limestone pebbles within mid grey-brown clay silt matrix. Compact. No finds. Make-up for floor.
(213)	0.15m	Limestone fragments within mid yellow –orange clay silt. Compact. Re-deposited natural make-up layer. Contained ceramic tile fragments.
(214)	N/k	Mid yellow –orange clay silt with limestone fragments. Compact. Natural substrate.

<b>Room 28 N</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.19m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description

(292)	0.10m	Mid brown clay silt. Friable. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(293)	0.09m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Friable. Contained animal bone, plaster and tesserae. Modern backfill.
(294)	N/k	Remnant mosaic floor, comprising red, white and blue-grey tesserae. Set on <i>opus signinum</i> bed. Geometrical design.
(298)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall comprising external northern wall of north range. E/W alignment. Lower courses evidently original as floor layers bonded to them. Upper courses probably rebuilt in modernity.

<b>Room 28 E</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.12m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(295)	0.12m	Mid brown clay silt. Friable. Contained animal bone and tesserae. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(296)	N/k	Remnant mosaic floor, comprising red, white and blue-grey tesserae. Set on <i>opus signinum</i> bed. Geometrical design.
(297)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall between rooms 28 and 29. N/S alignment. Lower courses evidently original as floor layers bonded to them. Upper courses probably rebuilt in modernity.

<b>Room 28 S</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.21m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(287)	<0.21m	Mid brown clay silt. Friable. Contained animal bone and tesserae. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(288)	0.02m	<i>Opus signinum</i> floor layer. Fragmentary.
(289)	N/k	Limestone fragments within mid grey –brown clay silt. No finds. Make-up layer for floor.
(290)	N/k	Mid-light yellow clay silt with limestone fragments. Compact. Natural substrate.
(291)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall comprising southern wall of north range. E/W alignment. Possibly rebuilt in modernity.

<b>Room 28 W</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.19m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(283)	0.13m	Mid brown clay silt. Friable. No finds. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(284)	0.06m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Firm. Contained pottery, bone (including worked fragments), plaster, tesserae and a nail.
(285)	N/k	Mid-light yellow-brown clay silt with limestone fragments. Firm. No finds. Levelling layer.
(286)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall between rooms 27 and 28. N/S alignment. Lower courses possibly original, with upper courses probably rebuilt in modernity.

<b>Room 28 Centre</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.17m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(307)	0.17m	Mid brown clay silt. Friable. Contained pottery, animal bone and tesserae. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(308)	N/k	Mid grey-brown silty clay with very frequent limestone fragments. Compact. No finds. Make-up layer for floor.
(309)	N/k	Mid orange gritty, silty clay with occasional limestone pieces. Firm. No finds. Preparation layer for floor.

<b>Room 29 NW</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.63m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(125)	0.15m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Friable. Contained ceramic tile fragments. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(126)	<0.25m	Limestone rubble within mid grey-brown silty sand matrix. Contained ceramic tile fragments. Terrace levelling layer

(127)	0.05m	Fragments of grey stone floor tiles. In-situ.
(128)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall comprising external northern wall of north range. E/W alignment. Lower courses evidently original as floor layers bonded to them. Upper courses probably rebuilt in modernity.
(129)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall between rooms 28 and 29. N/S alignment. Lower courses possibly original, with upper courses probably rebuilt in modernity.
(130)	>0.30m	Bedded natural limestone substrate.

<b>Room 29 Centre</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.63m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(133)	<0.25m	Mid brown silty clay. Friable. Contained ceramic tile fragments. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(134)	<0.20m	Mottled light yellow/orange clay with limestone fragments. Friable. No finds. Levelling deposit for floor.
(135)	<0.35m	Light yellow-brown clay. Friable. No finds. Levelling deposit for floor.
(136)	<0.15m	Limestone fragments within light yellow-brown clay. Loose. Weathered natural substrate.
(137)	N/k	Bedded natural limestone substrate.

<b>Room 29a NW</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.60m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(148)	<0.20m	Mid-dark grey-brown clay silt. Firm. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
[149]	>0.26m	Irregular cut through layer (152). Possibly modern investigative feature.
(150)	>0.14m	Mid-dark grey-brown clay silt. Firm. Fill of [149]. No finds.
(151)	<0.03m	Mid orange-brown sandy silt. Compact. Floor surface or make-up layer for same.
(152)	0.20m	Mid yellow-brown sandy silt with frequent limestone pieces. Loose. No finds. Make-up for floor.
(155)	N/a	Single course of limestone blocks, overlying original wall foundations (172) and apparently overlain by modern rebuild.
(156)	N/a	Single course of limestone blocks, overlying original wall foundations (171) and apparently overlain by modern rebuild.
(171)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall foundations comprising external northern wall of north range. E/W alignment. Evidently original with upper courses probably rebuilt in modernity.
(172)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall foundations between rooms 29 and 29a. N/S alignment. Probably original, with upper courses probably rebuilt in modernity.
(173)	N/k	Limestone fragments within light yellow-brown clay. Loose. Weathered natural substrate.

<b>Room 29a Centre</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.42m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(153)	0.14m	Mid-dark grey-brown clay silt. Firm. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(154)	0.08m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Firm. No finds. ?Modern backfill.
(178)	0.02m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Firm. No finds. ?Hill-wash following excavation of terrace.
[180]	c.0.13m	Possible linear cut or represents difference in natural geology.
(181)	c.0.13m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Firm. No finds. Possibly fill of [180] or different geology.
[182]	0.03m	Very shallow oval cut. May represent modern investigations or possibly an earlier posthole.
(183)	0.03m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Firm. No finds. Fill of [182].
(179)	>0.20m	Yellow-white/orange silty clay. Firm. Natural substrate.

<b>N Corridor A</b> Test-pit = 1m wide x 1.85m long x <0.77m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description

(184)	0.02m	Modern tarmac layer.
(185)	<0.15m	Limestone pieces in mid grey-brown clay sand matrix. Firm. Contained tesserae and a nail. Make-up for corridor floor.
(186)	0.10m	Light-mid brown clay silt with limestone pieces. Firm. No finds. Terrace make-up.
(187)	>0.15m	Mid grey-brown clay silt with limestone pieces. Clay silt compact, some stones loose. No finds. Terrace make-up.
(188)	<0.35m	Limestone pieces in light-mid brown clay sand matrix. Firm. Contained bone, tesserae and tile. Terrace make-up.
(189)	>0.30m	Light yellow-grey limestone and degraded mortar. Friable. No finds. Levelling layer.
(190)	>0.20m	Mid brown-grey silty clay with limestone pieces. Firm. No finds. Levelling layer.
(191)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall, comprising outer southern wall of north corridor. E/W alignment. Evidently modern rebuild.

<b>N Corridor B</b> Test-pit = 1m wide x 2.86m long x <0.93m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(193)	0.04m	Modern tarmac layer.
(194)	0.09m	Mid brown clay silt. Loose. Contained numerous Roman tile fragments. Preparation layer for tarmac path.
(192)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall, comprising inner wall between north corridor and northern range. E/W alignment. Probably modern rebuild.
[142]	>0.02m	Linear construction cut for wall (192).
[195]	0.90m	Substantial linear cut. E/W alignment. Evidently modern, to rebuild wall (196).
(196)	N/a	Breeze-block wall, capped with limestone blocks above ground level. Modern reconstruction of original wall (209).
(197)	0.80m	Mid grey-brown clay silt with limestone rubble. Firm. Contained ceramic and stone tile fragments and tesserae. Modern backfill of construction cut [195].
(206)	>0.02m	Mid yellow-brown clay silt with limestone pieces. Firm. No finds. Backfill of construction cut [142]. Possibly modern.
(207)	N/k	Mid white-yellow/orange clay silt with limestone pieces. Compact. No finds. Levelling layer for floor.
(208)	N/k	Modern concrete foundations for rebuilt wall (196).
(209)	N/k	Remnant limestone block foundations of original outer southern wall of north corridor. Modern reconstruction evidently built along its southern edge.

<b>N Corridor C</b> Test-pit = 1m wide x 2.71m long x <0.18m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description
(198)	0.02m	Modern tarmac layer.
(199)	<0.10m	Dark brown silty clay. Friable. Contained ceramic and stone tile fragments and tesserae. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(200)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall. Modern reconstruction of original outer southern wall of north corridor.
(201)	<0.10m	Mid grey brown gritty silty clay with limestone pieces. Compact. No finds. Modern backfill/make-up layer for tarmac path.
(202)	N/k	White/yellow/orange limestone and mortar layer. Very compact. No finds. Levelling deposit for corridor floor.
(203)	N/k	Limestone rubble within silty clay matrix. Compact. No finds. Backfill of modern construction cut [205].
(204)	>0.25m	Dark brown sandy clay. Friable. No finds. Backfill deposit of modern construction cut [205].
[205]	N/k	Linear cut of modern construction trench for reconstructed wall (200).

<b>N Corridor D</b> Test-pit = 2m wide x 3.12m long x <0.56m deep.		
<i>Context No.</i>	Depth	Description

(231)	<0.04m	Modern tarmac layer. Fragmentary.
(233)	<0.10m	Dark brown silt. Friable. No finds. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(232)	<0.13m	Mid brown sandy silt with mortar and limestone fragments. Friable. Contained fragment of vessel glass. Modern make-up.
(223)	<0.17m	Mid brown clay silt. Friable. Contained bone, plaster, numerous tesserae and ceramic tile fragments and an iron nail. Modern backfill/levelling layer.
(230)	N/a	Breeze-block wall, capped with limestone blocks above ground level. Modern reconstruction of original wall (228).
(224)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall, comprising inner wall between north corridor and northern range. E/W alignment. Probably modern rebuild.
[229]	>0.55m	Linear cut of modern construction trench for reconstructed wall (230).
(227)	<0.22m	Mid brown clay silt with limestone pieces. Friable. Contained bone, plaster, numerous tesserae and ceramic tile fragments, a fragment of vessel glass and an iron nail. ?Post-abandonment hill-wash/slumping.
(225)	<0.04m	Small remnant patch of mosaic floor, comprising white limestone tesserae on limestone mortar bed.
(226)	N/k	Limestone rubble within mid yellow-brown silt matrix. No finds. Terrace levelling layer.
(228)	N/k	Remnant limestone block foundations of original outer southern wall of north corridor. Modern reconstruction (230) built partially onto uppermost course.

<b>N Corridor E</b> Test-pit = 1m wide x 6.44m long x <0.18m deep.		
Context No.	Depth	Description
(222)	<0.18m	Dark brown silt. Friable. Northern part covered by thin layer of tarmac and southern part grassed. Contained numerous finds of Roman date including tesserae, painted wall plaster and glass. Modern backfill layer.
(215)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall, comprising outer southern wall of north corridor. E/W alignment. Evidently modern rebuild.
(221)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall, comprising inner wall between north corridor and northern range. E/W alignment. Possibly modern rebuild.
(217)	N/k	Dumped spread of stone and ceramic tile and limestone rubble. No finds. ? Demolition material.
(220)	N/k	Remnant mosaic floor, comprising red, white and blue-grey tesserae. Geometrical design. Evidence of burning along W part.
(219)	N/k	Mid yellow crushed limestone mortar layer. Compact. Bedding for mosaic (220).
(218)	N/k	<i>Opus signinum</i> floor layer. Fragmentary.
(216)	N/k	Remnant dressed limestone block wall of original outer southern wall of north corridor. Modern reconstruction (215) evidently built along its southern edge.

<b>E Corridor</b> Test-pit = 1m wide x 2m long x <1.10m deep.		
Context No.	Depth	Description
(105)	<0.12m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Friable. Contained bone, ceramic and stone tile fragments, glass and iron nails. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(106)	<0.11m	Mid grey-brown gravelly clay silt. Firm. Contained bone, ceramic and stone tile fragments, glass and an iron pin. Modern backfill.
(111)	<0.17m	Mid green brown gravelly clay silt. Firm. Contained bone, ceramic tile fragments, tesserae and oyster shells. Modern backfill.
(112)	0.03m	White-yellow sandy degraded mortar. ?Roman dumping.
(113)	<0.31m	Mid grey-brown clay silt with limestone pieces. Firm. Contained bone, ceramic and stone tile fragments and plaster. Backfill of construction cut [139].
(114)	<0.13m	Mid white/yellow-brown sandy silt. Firm. Contained ceramic and stone tile fragments. Backfill of construction cut [139].
(115)	<0.25m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Friable. Contained bone and ceramic and stone tile fragments. Backfill of construction cut [139].
(116)	<0.19m	Mid white/yellow-brown clay silt. Friable. Contained bone and ceramic and stone tile fragments. Backfill of construction cut [139].

(138)	0.39m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Friable. Contained bone, ceramic and stone tile fragments, oyster shells and a fragment of copper alloy sheet. Secondary backfill deposit of construction cut [139].
(132)	0.16m	Mid white/yellow-brown clay silt. Friable. Contained fragments of stone tile and painted wall plaster. Primary backfill deposit of construction cut [139].
(140)	>0.90m	Limestone block wall. Blocks increasing in size with depth. Foundations stepped, with substantial blocks at base. N/S alignment. Retaining wall for courtyard. Upper courses probably rebuilt in modernity.
[139]	>0.90m	Large linear cut for construction of wall (140). Cut through terracing deposits. N/S alignment.
(131)	>0.70m	Mid orange-brown clay silt with frequent gravels. Compact. Contained bone, ceramic and stone tile fragments and oyster and mussel shells. Secondary terracing/levelling deposit.
(141)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall. Comprises western wall of eastern corridor. N/S alignment. Evidently constructed directly onto Roman courtyard terracing layer (143). Presently acts as retaining wall for courtyard garden. Possibly modern rebuild.
(143)	N/k	Mid yellow-white clay silt. Compact. No finds. Primary terracing/levelling material for courtyard.

<b>S Corridor A</b> Test-pit = 1m square x <0.38m deep.		
Context No.	Depth	Description
(241)	0.06m	Modern tarmac layer.
(242)	0.06m	Modern layer of loose scalplings.
(243)	<0.19m	Mid yellow-brown silty sand. Friable. Contained a single ceramic tile fragment. Modern backfill.
(244)	<0.07m	Light yellow/white layer of limestone pieces and crushed limestone. Compact. ?Bedding for flagged floor.
(245)	<0.03m	Mid yellow-brown sandy silt. Friable. Contained tesserae and fragments of ceramic tile.
(246)	N/k	Light orange/pink/yellow mortar and limestone. Compact. ?Surface.
(249)	N/k	Light yellow/pink silt. Compact. No finds. ?Wash from (246).

<b>S Corridor B</b> Test-pit = 1m wide x 2.60m long x <0.72m deep.		
Context No.	Depth	Description
(238)	<0.08m	Modern tarmac layer.
(239)	<0.02m	Modern layer of loose scalplings.
(237)	<0.20m	Mid brown clay silt. Friable. Contained tesserae and ceramic tile fragments. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(251)	<0.57m	Light-mid grey-brown sandy silt. Friable. Contained bone, ceramic tile and glass fragments. Modern backfill to construction cut [250] for rebuilt wall dividing south corridor and Room 3.
[250]	0.57m	Modern linear construction cut for rebuilt wall dividing south corridor and Room 3 (lower courses of wall rebuilt in breeze-block).
(240)=(252)	N/k	Limestone rubble within light-mid grey-brown matrix. Compact. No finds. Levelling deposit.

<b>W Corridor S</b> Test-pit = 1m wide x 2.60m long x <0.14m deep.		
Context No.	Depth	Description
(310)	0.02m	Modern tarmac layer.
(311)	0.07m	Modern tarmac layer, predating (310).
(312)	0.05m	Light brown-yellow sand and gravel. Loose. No finds. Modern protective layer over mosaic (316).
(316)	N/k	Mosaic floor surface comprising red, white and blue-grey tesserae. Mostly intact. Border and some geometric pattern.
(317)	N/k	Yellow-white limestone mortar bedding layer for mosaic (316). Visible only in small patches where tesserae missing.
(313)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall. Divides west corridor and western range of



		rooms. N/S alignment. Evidently modern rebuild.
(314)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall. Outer, eastern wall of west corridor. N/S alignment. Probably modern rebuild.
(331)	N/a	Dressed limestone block plinth marking eastern jamb of entrance. Probably modern rebuild on original lower course.
(332)	N/a	Dressed limestone block plinth marking eastern jamb of entrance. Probably modern rebuild on original lower course.
(315)	N/a	Dressed limestone blocks forming threshold to west corridor. Comprises one large block and smaller ones. Mortared.

<b>W Corridor N</b> Test-pit = 1m wide x 2.60m long x <0.08m deep.		
Context No.	Depth	Description
(324)	0.02m	Modern tarmac layer.
(325)	0.06m	Light brown-yellow sand and gravel. Loose. Contained several tesserae. Modern protective layer over mosaic (328).
(328)	N/k	Mosaic floor surface comprising red, white and blue-grey tesserae. Mostly intact, some damage. Border and circular geometric pattern. Evidence of burning in places.

<b>Room 31a</b> Trench = 2.20m wide x 4m long x <0.60m deep.		
Context No.	Depth	Description
(299)	<0.60m	Mid grey-brown clay silt with limestone fragments and abundant tesserae. Friable. Also contained bone, plaster, ceramic tile fragments and an iron nail. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(301)	N/k	Limestone rubble in bright orange-yellow sandy mortar matrix. Compact. No finds. ?Post-Roman demolition material.
[319]	N/k	Irregular cut into (318). Contains demolition material (301). ?Post-Roman robber trench.
(318)	>0.20m	Crushed limestone mortar surface. Compact. Floor.
(302)	<0.06m	Remnant mosaic floor surface comprising mostly white and blue-grey tesserae. Very disturbed and fragmentary.
(303)	N/k	<i>Opus signinum</i> layer. Setting for mosaic (302).
(300)	<0.30m	Mortared, rough-dressed limestone block cross wall between walls (305) and (306). Possibly Roman addition to create stoke hole for hypocaust in Room 32.
(305)	N/a	Mortared, rough-dressed limestone block wall dividing Room 31a and Room 32. N/S alignment. Lowest courses may be authentic, however contains vent leading into Room 32, reconstructed in breeze-blocks and cement.
(306)	N/a	Mortared, rough-dressed limestone block wall dividing Room 31a and Room 31. N/S alignment. Lowest courses probably authentic, upper courses possibly rebuilt in modernity.
(304)	N/a	Dressed limestone block wall comprising external northern wall of north range. E/W alignment. Lower courses evidently original, upper courses probably rebuilt in modernity.

<b>Room 5b</b> Trench = <1.80m wide x 6m long x <0.21m deep.		
Context No.	Depth	Description
(256)	<0.10m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Friable. No finds. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(257)	<0.15m	Light grey-yellow coarse gravel. Very loose. No inclusions. Modern protective layer deposited over blue plastic sheeting.
(258)	<0.05m	Light yellow-brown silt. Friable. Contained several plaster fragments. Modern protective layer over mosaic (259).
(326)	<0.05m	Modern tarmac layer.
(327)	<0.02m	Light brown silt. Compact. Contained bone, ceramic tile fragments, iron nails and numerous loose tesserae. Modern protective layer over mosaic (259).
(259)	N/k	Mosaic floor surface comprising red, white and blue-grey tesserae. Mostly intact, some damage in western half; eastern half badly damaged and distorted

		through traffic on overlying tarmac pathway. Border and central geometric pattern. Evidence of scorching from brazier in NW corner. Repair in plain white tesserae effected along northern edge after insertion of wall for Room 6. Traces of pink plaster from moulding along outside edges.
(260)	>0.07m	<i>Opus signinum</i> bedding layer for mosaic (259).

<b>Corridor to E of Room 6</b> Trench = <1.80m wide x 4.30m long x <0.21m deep.		
Context No.	Depth	Description
(267)	<0.10m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Friable. No finds. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
((268)	<0.10m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Friable. Contained numerous tesserae. Probably same as (267).
(269)	N/k	Mosaic floor surface comprising red and white tesserae in striped pattern. Mostly intact, some damage in southern part. Evidence of scorching from brazier in SE part. Traces of pink plaster from moulding along outside edges.

<b>Room 6</b> Trench = <4.20m wide x <4.36m long x <0.26m deep.		
Context No.	Depth	Description
(261)	c.0.10m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Friable. No finds. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(262)	<0.15m	Light grey-yellow coarse gravel. Very loose. No inclusions. Modern protective layer deposited over blue plastic sheeting.
(263)	<0.05m	Mid brown silt. Friable. No finds. Modern protective layer over mosaic (265) and hearth (264).
(264)	N/a	Hearth feature, cut into <i>opus signinum</i> layer (266). Constructed from large ceramic box-flue tile fragments. Probably post-Roman squatter activity.
(265)	N/k	Remnant mosaic floor surface comprising red, white and blue-grey tesserae. Fragmentary. Border and various geometric patterns. Evidence of scorching from brazier in SW corner. Traces of pink plaster from moulding along outside edges. Patches of modern cement around edges of mosaic in attempt at consolidation.
(266)	N/k	<i>Opus signinum</i> bedding layer for mosaic (265).

<b>Room 7</b> Trench = <4.40m wide x <5.40m long x <0.49m deep.		
Context No.	Depth	Description
(253)	<0.15m	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Friable. No finds. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(270)	>0.40m	Mid grey-brown silty sandy clay. Friable. Frequent limestone and plaster fragments. Also contained abundance of loose tesserae as well as ceramic tile fragments and several iron nails. Modern backfill.
(254)	>0.20m	Limestone rubble within mid yellow-white/light brown mortar and silty sandy clay. Compact-friable. Contained fragments of bone, plaster, ceramic and stone tile, painted wall plaster and vessel glass, as well as over 4000 tesserae and several iron nails. Possibly Roman demolition/levelling layer from earlier construction phase.
(274)	N/k	Light orange-brown crushed limestone mortar surface. Compact. Possibly setting for mosaic.
(281)	0.05m	Mid red-orange crushed limestone mortar surface. Compact. Probably same as (274). Burnt. ?Floor.
(282)	N/k	Mid black-grey crushed limestone mortar surface. Compact. Either earlier floor surface than (281) or make-up for same.
(279)	0.10m	Light orange-brown crushed limestone mortar surface. Compact. Possibly setting for mosaic.
(280)	N/k	Limestone rubble within crushed limestone mortar matrix. Loose. No finds. Levelling layer for overlying (279).
(276)	N/a	Mortared, rough-dressed limestone block wall, dividing Rooms 6 and 7. E/W alignment. Lower courses probably authentic. Upper courses possibly rebuilt in modernity. At western end, abuts wall (278) at right angles, then further east alignment changes slightly. Later Roman addition to create Room 6.

(271)	N/a	Single line of limestone blocks, possibly forming step from corridor to south down into Room 7.
(272)	N/a	Two courses of mortared, rough-dressed limestone block wall. E/W alignment. Probably authentic. Possibly represents earlier version of wall (276).
(273)	N/a	Two courses of mortared, rough-dressed limestone block wall. N/S alignment. Probably authentic. Possibly represents earlier version of wall (277).
(255)	N/a	Mortared, rough-dressed limestone block wall. E/W alignment. Extensive burning along N side. Evidently represents earlier phase of construction, possibly destroyed by fire.
(275)	N/a	Mortared, rough-dressed limestone block wall, dividing Rooms 7 and 8. E/W alignment. Lower courses probably authentic, with no visible mortar. Upper courses possibly rebuilt in modernity.
(277)	N/a	Mortared, dressed limestone block wall. Divides west corridor and western range of rooms. N/S alignment. Wider in Room 7 than elsewhere along western range, possibly to support tower. Upper courses evidently modern rebuild.
(278)	N/a	Mortared, dressed limestone block wall. Western, external wall of west range. N/S alignment. Wider in Room 7 than elsewhere along western range, possibly to support tower. Upper courses evidently modern rebuild.

#### **Room 5a**

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(344)	c.0.10m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Friable. No finds. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(343)	N/k	Limestone rubble, sand and gravel. Loose. Backfill of drain and soakaway cut [339]. Contains ceramic drainpipe. Modern.
[339]	N/k	Drainage and soakaway cut. Exact dimensions unknown. Modern.

#### **Area adjacent to W and NW of Room 16**

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(341)	c.0.10m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Friable. No finds. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(345)	0.50m	Limestone rubble, sand and gravel. Loose. Backfill of drain and soakaway cut [338]. Contains ceramic drainpipe. Modern.
[338]	0.50m	Linear drain cut. N/S alignment. Soakaway at N end c2m x 2m. Depth unknown. Modern.
(342)	N/k	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Firm. No finds. ?modern levelling/landscaping material.
(340)	N/k	Limestone brash within silty clay. Compact. Natural substrate.

#### **Room 20 and area adjacent to S of Room 22**

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(347)	c.0.10m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Friable. No finds. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(346)	N/k	Limestone rubble, sand and gravel. Loose. Backfill of drain and soakaway cut [337]. Contains ceramic drainpipe. Modern.
[337]	N/k	Linear drain cut. NW/SE alignment. Soakaway at S end, exact dimensions unknown. Modern.

#### **Room 24**

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(333)	c.0.10m	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Friable. No finds. Modern turf and topsoil horizon.
(334)	N/k	Limestone rubble, sand and gravel. Loose. Backfill of drain and soakaway cut [335]. Contains ceramic drainpipe. Modern.
[335]	N/k	Linear drain cut. NE/SW alignment. Soakaway 0.40m wide x 1m long at NE

		end. Modern.
(336)	N/k	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Firm. Contains patches of <i>opus signinum</i> . ? Remnant floor surface.

## **APPENDIX II**

### ***The nature of the stratigraphic record***

The stratigraphic archive for the site consists of the following elements:

Context Sheets:	347
Plans	34
Sections	25
B&W photos	270
Colour slides	233

In addition, vertical photographs of the mosaics printed at a scale of 1:10 were taken by Ken Hoverd.

### APPENDIX III

#### *The finds catalogue*

Context	Spot Date	Pottery		Bone		Plaster		Tesserae		Tile		Stone		Type	Small Finds	Other
		No	Wgt	No	Wgt	No	Wgt	No	Wgt	No	Wgt	No	Wgt			
100							117	1g								
105	19-20th	33	247	3	2				3	21		1	14	slate		3 Fe nails, 2 window glass
105												1	48	frag		
106	Roman	7		3	10				11	124		1	16	slate		1 Fe pin, 1 vessel glass
106	19-20th	29	271						1	2		1	626	tile		
107	19-20th	7	44													
108									5	40						
109						1	1		1	176		1	2000	ridge		1 oyster (38g)
109									4	87		1	1960	roof		
110	2nd +	1	3													
111	2nd/24th	12	103	1	5				1 stone	16	134					5 oyster (132g)
111									1 tile							
112				1	1				1	4						
113	3rd	4	30	3	20	1	1		1 tile	15	488	1	1112	floor		
113									1	24		7	1606	roof		
113									6	436		2	807	tile		
114	2nd	5	75						1	25		1	894	?floor		
115	2nd +	8	92	3	9				6	64		5	1354	tile		
116	2nd	1	8	2	4				1	3		1	28	tile		
119	19-20th	4	55	2	73				1	19						1 snail, 1 vessel + 3 window glass
123	Roman	3										9	1275	roof		2 vessel glass
123	19-20th	2	160													
125									3	11						
126									5	19						
131	2nd	8	103	1	4				6	45		2	1383	tile		6 oyster (187g), 2 mussel (7g)
131									1	79						

Context	Spot Date	Pottery		Bone		Plaster		Tesserae	Tile		Stone		Small Finds	Other
132											1	120	tile	2: 1 plaster (8g)
133								2	6					
134	19-20th	3	1											
138	2nd +	1	10					2	1		1	127	tile	1: Cu alloy sheet
144	19-20th	1	2	1	16			1 stone	2	60	1	27	slate	1 Fe nail, 1 Fe point
145	3 <sup>rd</sup> -4th	3	12	2	40	1	24	1 stone	4	11				
145									1	56				
148	360+	3	17	1	4									
153	19-20th	2	7						2	7				
158	360+	254	1635						1	57	1	1549	tile	
167				1	6									
170	?1st AD	2	4	1	15									charcoal
177						1	7							
183	19-20th	1	50											
185								9 stone						1 Fe nail
187	2nd +	1	14											
188				1	1			4 stone	4	15				
188								1 tile						
194	2nd +	2	17	1	7			1 stone	2	143	6	769	tile	1 window glass
194									19	200				
194									2	80				
194									1	16				
197								2 tile	1	2	2	248	roof	
197											2	161	?floor	
197											1	123	frag	
199								3 stone	1	95	3	970	tile	
199									2	140				
210									10	36	1	319	?floor	
213									6	8				
222	Roman	1		15	258			90 stone	3	847	3	239	roof	4: 2 plaster (9g)
222	Saxon	1						32 tile	4	161				
222	p-med	1	30					2 coal						
223	2nd +	4	8	3	7	1	7	137 stone	1	133				Fe nail
223								11 tile	10	163				
223									2	125				

Context	Spot Date	Pottery		Bone		Plaster		Tesserae	Tile		Stone		Small Finds	Other
223								1	70					
225								17 stone						
227	3rd +	3	12	5	50	1	44	40 stone	3	231				1 snail, 2 Fe nails, 1 vessel glass
227								2 tile	10	263				
227									1	106				
232	19-20th	2	4											1 vessel glass
234														1 glass object, 1 gun cartridge
235	2nd-3rd	2	9	3	27			2 stone	8	128				
235								3 tile						
236	2nd	4	27						2	159				1 vessel glass
236									3	20				
237	19-20th	1	5					2 stone	3	34				
237								1 tile						
240	Roman	1	39					1 stone	1	3	1	3	slate	
243	19-20th	6	40						2	66				2 window glass, 3 clay pipe stems
243									1	21				
245								4 stone	3	19				
245								1 tile						
247									2	95				
251	2nd +	2	4	1	24				3	23				2 glass
254	4th	7	51	5	13	1	4	4363 tessl (33 kg)		566			5: plaster	2 vessel glass, 6 snails, 3 Fe nails + 1 strip, mortar (1382g)
254						1	21		1	896			7: plaster	
254				1	1	28	644		13	600			8: mixed finds	3 Fe nails
255						1	67						6: plaster	
258						12	214							
270	4th	8	107			2	51	245 tessl (2.5kg)		24				10 Fe nails, 1 glass
270									10	1178				
284	Roman	1	1	10	26	2	59	77 stone						23 ?worked bone (18g), 1 Fe nail
287				2	11			14 tile						
								23 stone						
								7 tile						



Context	Spot Date	Pottery		Bone		Plaster		Tesserae	Tile			Stone			Small Finds	Other
293				5	14	1	3	6 stone 1 tile								
295				4	7			67 stone 9 tile								
299				25	93	8	128	3020 tess (39 kg)	651							1 Fe nail, 1 snail
299								10	996							
299								1	170							
307	Roman	2	7	9	7			5 stone 2 tile								
316								7 stone								
320	4th	1						260 tess (3kg)								2 Fe nails, 1 clay pipe stem
320	p-med	1	16													
323				1	1			5 stone 2 tile								1 Fe nail
325								7 stone 3 tile								
327				1	5			100 stone 12 tile	45							2 Fe nails

Pottery summary by J.R. Timby

C	Room	Type	Fabrics	St	PM	Wt	Date
105	E corr	Topsoil	PMREW, PMCHIN, PMSALT, PMGRE, PMMISC	0	33	247	19-20th
106	E corr	Modern bkfill	PMREW, PMCHIN, PMGRE, OXFRC, CGSAM, DORBB1, MALV, BW	0	29	271	Roman/19-20th
107	1a	Topsoil	PMREW, PMCHIN, PMSTW	0	7	44	19-20th
110	1a	make-up?	DORBB1	0	0	3	2nd+
111	E corr	Modern bkfill	DORBB1, WILRE, SWOX, SVWOX, LOCCC, SAVGT	12	0	103	2nd/?4th
113	E corr	cons [139]	PNKGT, SVWOX, DORBB1	0	0	30	3rd
114	E corr	cons [139]	WILRE, WILBW	0	0	75	2nd
115	E corr	cons [139]	WILRE, OXID2, CGSAM, DORBB1	0	0	92	2nd+
116	E corr	cons [139]	WILRE	0	0	8	2nd
119	1	Modern	PMREW, PMCHIN	0	4	55	19-20th
123	2	Topsoil	PMREW, PMCHIN, GREY	0	2	160	Roman/19-20th
131	E corr	Levelling	CGSAM, SWOX, DORBB1, WILRE	0	0	103	2nd
134	29	Levelling	PMREW	0	3	1	19-20th
138	E corr	bkfill con 139	DORBB1	0	0	10	2nd+
144	1b	Topsoil	PMCHIN	0	1	2	19-20th
145	1b	Modern	CGSAM, WILRE, BW	0	0	12	3rd-4th
148	29aNW	Topsoil	OXFRC, ROBSH	0	0	17	360+
153	29a	Topsoil	PMCHIN, PMSTW	0	2	7	19-20th
158	27NW	fill cut 157	ROBSH	254	0	1635	360+
170	27NW	fill cut 169	?IASA	0	0	4	?1ST AD
183	29a	fill [182] ?ph	PMSTW	0	1	50	19-20th
187	N corr A	Terrace m-up	WILRE	0	0	14	2nd+
194	N corr B	Modern m-up	WILRE	0	0	17	2nd+
222	N corr E	Modern bkfill	OXFRC, SXORG, PMREW	1	1	30	Ro/Saxon/Pmed
223	N corr D	Modern m-up	CGSAM, OXID2, BW	0	0	8	2nd+
227	N corr D	Hillwash?	WILRE, OXFRC, IACAL	0	0	12	3rd+ (+ 1st-2nd)
232	N corr D	Modern m-up	PMCHIN	0	2	4	19-20th
235	20	Modern	WILOX, BW	0	0	9	2nd-3rd

236	20	demol/gard	CGSAM, DORBB1, WILOX, GREY	0	0	27	2nd
237	S corr B	Topsoil	PMREW	0	1	5	19-20th
240	S corr B	Levelling	OXID	0	0	39	Roman
243	S corr A	Modern bkfill	PMREW.PMCHIN	0	6	40	19-20th
251	S corr B	Modern bkfill	DORBB1, OXID/CC?	0	0	4	2nd+
254	7	Demolition?	DORBB1, WILRE, ROBSH, LOCCC?	0	0	51	4th
270	7	Modern bkfill	OXID1, ROBSH, WILRE	0	0	107	4th c
284	28W	Silt	GREY	0	0	1	Roman
307	28	Topsoil	GREY2	0	0	7	Roman
320	?	Modern	ROBSH, PMREW	0	1	16	4th/Pmed
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>351</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3320</b>

## List of fabric codes used in Table

### Pre-Roman native

IASA - handmade black sandy ware

ISCAL - Jurassic limestone-tempered

MALV - Malvernian limestone-tempered ware

### Roman

BW - misc black sandy ware

CGSAM - Central Gaulish samian

DORBB1 - Dorset black burnished ware

GREY - misc grey wares

LOCCC - local colour-coated ware

OXFRC - Oxfordshire colour-coated ware

OXID - misc oxidised ware

PNKGT - Midlands grog-tempered ware

ROBSH - Midlands shell-tempered ware

SAVGT - Savernake type ware

SVWOX - Severn Valley ware

SWOX - South-west oxidised ware

WILOX - Wiltshire oxidised ware

WILRE - Wiltshire reduced ware

### Saxon

SXORG - handmade organic-tempered

### Post-medieval/modern

PMCHIN - china (industrial white earthenware)

PMGRE - glazed red earthenware

PMREW - glazed red earthenware

PMSALT - salt-glazed ware

PMSTW - stoneware

PMMISC - Pmed misc

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Work carried out as part of a survey of the buried mosaics at Chedworth Roman villa resulted in the recovery of 445 sherds of pottery, weighing 3320 g.

1.2 The pottery mainly comprised wares of Roman and modern (19-20th century) date accompanied by four pre-Roman native sherds and a single Saxon piece.

1.3 Most of the material was recovered from topsoil horizons or from soil disturbed by modern interventions.

1.4 For the purposes of this assessment the material was sorted into broad fabric categories to assess the likely chronology and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. The resulting information is summarized in Table 1.

1.5 In the following report the material recorded is discussed briefly by period.

## 2 Pre-Roman native wares

2.1 At least three handmade wares were present in amongst the Roman material which are more typical of the later Iron Age in the region although the types frequently occur in early Roman assemblages. There is one sherd of Jurassic limestone-tempered ware from (227), one sherd of Malvernian limestone-tempered ware from (106) and two joining sherds of a black sandy ware from (170). The presence of such sherds could hint at either pre-Roman occupation in the locality or early Roman use of the site.

### 3 Roman

- 3.1 Roman wares account for 78% of the assemblage, some 347 sherds. These are quite diverse with sherds typical of the 2nd to 4th centuries. Most of the individual groups are very small and generally chronologically mixed.
- 3.2 The earlier material includes sherds from the North Wiltshire industries, a Savernake-type fabric, Dorset black burnished ware and Central Gaulish samian.
- 3.3 Amongst the later wares are sherds of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware, later Dorset black-burnished wares, Wiltshire greywares, Midlands grog-tempered ware and Midlands shelly ware.
- 3.4 Other types present include South-west oxidised ware, Severn Valley ware and various local black wares.
- 3.5 Of particular note are some 254 sherds in quite a fragmentary state from a single later Roman shelly jar from a hole cut through the floor in Room 27 NW. Similar occurrences of vessels beneath floors have been regarded as foundation deposits. In this case the vessel cannot have been deposited before *c* 370-5 suggesting either a very late phase of construction or that the vessel was placed within the floor for another reason. Whatever its purpose its presence along with other sherds of the same ware type indicate late 4th-century+ activity at the site.

### 4 Saxon

- 4.1 A single organic-tempered handmade sherd was present in (222) alongside a Roman sherd and a modern piece. Such wares are typical of the Saxon period and could indicate activity on the area sometime within the 6-8th centuries.

4.2 Although an isolated sherd, this piece is of great interest especially as there appears to be a light scatter of similar wares on several of the Cotswold 'villa' sites including Frocester, Barnsley Park and Turkdean.

5 Post-medieval/modern

5.1 At least 93 sherds of more recent origin were present. A significant proportion of these were unglazed redwares likely to come from flower pots or similar. In addition a few sherds of decorated china, English stoneware, glazed red earthenware and salt-glazed ware were noted probably relating to 19-20th use of the area.

## APPENDIX IV

### *Comparative table of modern, Roman and natural levels*

The heights of the top of the Roman levels are mapped on Fig. 3.

<b>Room/test-pit</b>	<b>Modern Surface</b>	<b>Ground</b>	<b>Top of <i>in-situ</i> Roman deposits</b>	<b>Top of Natural substrate</b>
<i>Southern Range</i>				
Room 1	150.54m OD		149.93m OD	Not revealed
Room 1a	150.39m OD		150.12m OD	149.75m OD
Room 1b	151.27m OD		150.98m OD	Not revealed
Room 2	152.78m OD		152.66m OD	Not revealed
Test-pit A	150.90m OD		150.68m OD	Not revealed
Test-pit B	152.91m OD		152.83m OD	Not revealed
<i>Western Range</i>				
Room 5b	155.05m OD		154.97m OD	Not revealed
Room 6	155.10m OD		154.96m OD	Not revealed
Room 7	154.90m OD		154.79m OD	Not revealed
Internal Corridor	154.91m OD		154.87m OD	Not revealed
Test-pit (north)			153.97m OD	Not revealed
Test-pit (south)			154.02m OD	Not revealed
<i>Northern Range</i>				
Room 20	153.01m OD		152.78m OD	152.36m OD
Room 27	152.91m OD		152.76m OD	152.52m OD
Room 28	152.78m OD		152.79m OD	Not revealed
Room 29			152.56m OD	
Room 29a	152.46m OD		152.34m OD	152.23m OD
Room 31a	152.78m OD		152.75m OD	Not revealed
Test-pit A	152.13m OD		152.01m OD	Not revealed
Test-pit B	152.12m OD		152.07m OD	Not revealed
Test-pit C	152.26m OD		152.17m OD	Not revealed
Test-pit D	152.54m OD		152.52m OD	Not revealed
Test-pit E	152.89m OD		152.87m OD	Not revealed
<i>Eastern range</i>				
Test-pit	151.36m OD		151.20m OD	Not revealed



## **APPENDIX V**

*Discussion of the mosaics by S.R. Cosh*

## **APPENDIX VI**

### ***National Trust Specification***