



# 2b –2c Salisbury Street, Dorchester, Dorset

## Archaeological Observations and Recording



Report No. 53520/3/1

November 2020



# 2b – 2c Salisbury Street, Dorchester, Dorset

Archaeological Observations and Recording, August 2019 –  
September 2020

Report No. 53520/3/1

November 2020

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## Document Version History

Version	Status	Prepared By	Approved By	Date
1	Report 53520/3/1	P Bellamy		18/11/2020
2				
3				

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## Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
<b>OASIS Reference</b>	terraina1-506808		
<b>Project Title</b>	2b and 2c Salisbury Street, Dorchester		
<b>Short Description of Project</b>	Terrain Archaeology carried out archaeological observations and recording during the redevelopment of 2b-2c Salisbury Street on the edge of the historic core of Dorchester. The archaeological investigations revealed the remains of a three metre wide flint and chalk wall base that is probably part of the Roman town defences. The wall footing was cut through an infilled coombe running down to the river Frome. A small number of small medieval pits and a larger number of post-medieval pits were found across the site.		
<b>Project Dates</b>	Start: 01-08-2019	End: 07-09-2020	
<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	No/No		
<b>Project Code</b>	53520		
<b>Monument Type and Period</b>	Town Defences (Roman), Pit (medieval), Pit (post-medieval)		
<b>Significant Finds</b>	None		
Project Location			
<b>County/District/Parish</b>	Dorset/ West Dorset/ Dorchester		
<b>Site Address</b>	2b and 2c Salisbury Street, Dorchester, DT1 1JU		
<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SY 6955 9071		
<b>Site Area</b>	187 m <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Height OD</b>			
Project Creators			
<b>Organisation</b>	Terrain Archaeology		
<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	None		
<b>Project Design Originator</b>	Terrain Archaeology		
<b>Project Supervisor</b>	Peter Bellamy		
<b>Project Manager</b>	Peter Bellamy		
<b>Sponsor or Funding Body</b>	Developer		
Project Archive			
<b>Archive Type</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
<b>Location/Accession No</b>	No physical archive	Digitised context sheets, plans, sections, photographs	No paper archive
<b>Contents</b>			

# 2b – 2c Salisbury Street, Dorchester, Dorset

## Archaeological Observations and Recording, August 2019–September 2020

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Brian C Rigler Builders Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation on the site of 2b and 2c Salisbury Street, Dorchester. This was carried out in part fulfilment of Condition 6 of the granting of permission of Planning Application No. WD/D/18/002487 for the erection of two new semi-detached dwellings. Condition 6 states “*No development or excavation shall take place on site until the applicant has secured a programme of investigative archaeological work in accordance with a scheme to be submitted to, and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority and the development shall thereafter accord with the approved scheme. This scheme shall cover archaeological fieldwork together with post-excavation work and publication of the results.*”

The fieldwork was carried out intermittently between the 1st August and 7th September 2020 by Peter Bellamy.

#### 1.2 Brief

No written brief for the works was produced by or on behalf of the Client, but the scope of the works was discussed with Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist Dorset Council.

#### 1.3 Site Location

The site is located on the east side of Salisbury Street on the eastern edge of the historic centre of Dorchester (centred on SY 6955 9071) (Figure 1). The topography slopes gently down to the north and east, lying at a height of about 56 m above OD.

#### 1.4 Geology

The solid geology is mapped as chalk of the Portsdown Chalk Formation. Superficial Deposits of Head infilling a coombe running down to the Frome are recorded over the solid geology (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

#### 1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

##### 1.5.1 Prehistoric

Prehistoric activity within the area of Dorchester is poorly understood and only fragmentary evidence has been obtained to date. The most significant monument is the Neolithic timber monument first identified at Greyhound Yard (Woodward *et al.* 1993). Although the full course of this monument has not been traced, it appears to be focussed on a coombe, which runs down to the River Frome and the Salisbury Street site lies on this coombe also. Evidence from a number of sites including Merchant’s Garage, Borough Gardens bowling green, County Hall, and Greyhound Yard have produced evidence for Bronze Age fields (Bellamy 1991; Bellamy 2017a-b Smith 1993; Woodward *et al.* 1993), which may have covered the whole area of Dorchester.

##### 1.5.2 Roman

The Site lies on the eastern edge of the Roman town of *Durnovaria*, founded about AD65. The earliest element of the town appears to be the street pattern, which was laid out on top of the pre-Roman agricultural soil. The full street pattern is not known, but the alignment of a number of streets can be determined. The site lies to the south of one of the main east-west streets which ran from the East Gate of the town, probably located about 20 m to the north of

the site (Woodward and Ashford 1997), to the south side of the forum (Woodward *et al.* 1993). The eastern approach road to the East Gate may have run roughly along the line of High Street, Fordington.

In the early Roman period, the town appears to have had a relatively low density of buildings and the street frontages were developed with small timber buildings set within relatively large enclosures with further enclosures behind the street frontages (Woodward *et al.* 1993; Trevarthen 2008). Towards the end of the second century AD many of the timber buildings were replaced by buildings with stone footings that are extended and developed by the late 3rd and into the 4th century and include large courtyard town houses and aisled buildings including possible urban farms, which continued to be built up until the end of the 4th century. Two 4th century Roman mosaics have been found in close proximity of the site, beneath the former Salvation Army Citadel at the end of Durngate Street (RCHME 1970, 566) and at the former foundry yard on High Street, Fordington (RCHME 1970, 569), indicating the presence of large 4th century houses, with that at the former foundry yard apparently built just outside the town.

*Durnovaria* was provided with town defences, probably some time in the late 2nd century AD. The precise form and dating of the defences is uncertain, nevertheless a summary of the likely sequence can be suggested. The main source for our understanding of the defences remains the work done by R.A.H. Farrar for the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments Inventory published in 1970 (RCHME 1970), together with a number of later observations and relatively small-scale excavations. The first phase of defences appears to consist of a relatively small earthen bank and perhaps a single external ditch and is unlikely to be earlier than c. AD130 and may be as late as the end of the second century or early third century (RCHME 1970, 535). However, there also appears to be a possibly earlier abandoned phase to the defences as the remains of a massive unfinished wall footing about three metres wide has been traced along the south side of the town where it was first noted at the Lee Motors site (RCHME 1970, 547) and subsequently also found at South Grove House, Bowling Alley Walk and in the South Walks Tunnel Sewer (Startin 1981, Putnam *et al.* 1970, Davies & Farwell 1990) and on the west side of the town beneath 1 West Walks (Trevarthen 2012). This wall footing lay behind the primary rampart (suggesting it pre-dates it) and was sealed by the later enlargement of the bank. This abandoned phase of the defences remains poorly understood and not securely dated.

At some time after the late second century AD, but perhaps more likely in the late third or early fourth century AD, the defences were enlarged and elaborated with the construction of a stone wall and the enlargement of the earthen rampart behind it (RCHME 1970). The ditch system may have been enlarged from a postulated single ditch to a triple ditch system with counterscarp bank, at least along the south and west sides of the town. The defences along the east side of the town are much less well understood, as there have been no archaeological investigations or observations of the defences on this side of the town. The line of the bank appears to be marked by the line of Salisbury Walk, but no evidence of the form of the ditched defence has been found. The discovery of a probable extra-mural dwelling at the former foundry yard on High Street, Fordington lies well within the area of the defences, if those along the east side are the same width as those on the south and west sides. However, this extra-mural dwelling lay very close to the probable position of the East Gate and the arrangement of the defences may have been different than in the parts of the circuit further away from the gate. The site lies within the projected area of the defences, perhaps on the outer edge, or just forward, of the Roman bank.

### 1.5.3 Medieval

The early medieval history of Dorchester is not well documented, but archaeology has produced evidence for layers of dark soil accumulation over the remains of the Roman structures. This soil development may date to the post-Roman and early medieval period and at Greyhound Yard appears to be associated with the development of strip fields and timber structures (Woodward *et al.* 1993, 376). Documentary evidence suggests that there was a royal residence at Dorchester in the 9th century (Penn 1980, 60), though it is possible that this was actually in Fordington and St George's Church, Fordington may be the mother-church as it is certainly the oldest church in the royal estates of Dorchester and Fordington (Keen 1984). Dorchester became a borough with a mint in the 10th century (Penn 1980, 60). *Dorecestre* was recorded as a royal borough in the Domesday survey and Fordington was also a Royal manor held by Robert, Count of Mortain (Thorn 1983).



The medieval street pattern does not follow the Roman street alignment and the principal streets of High West, High East and South Streets together with back lanes are likely to have been established by the end of the 10th century. The three parishes of St Peter's, All Saints and Holy Trinity, with their parish churches, are all late Saxon in origin. Dorchester Castle was built soon after the Norman Conquest in the northern part of the town on the site now occupied by the Prison. The details of Dorchester's development during the medieval period are uncertain, but there appears to have been some organised trading activity from at least the late 12th century and was probably an important trading centre in the 13th century, though in the 14th century Dorchester was not the largest nor most wealthy town in Dorset (Draper 1992; Draper 2001; Penn 1980, 61-2). By the late medieval period it had become a cloth-making town of some local importance and was about the same size as Bridport, Sherborne, and Shaftesbury.

The site itself lies within Fordington Parish on the boundary with the borough of Dorchester. Fordington village was an agricultural settlement during the medieval with a large area of open fields that surrounded Dorchester on three sides.

#### **1.5.4 Post-medieval and Modern**

Dorchester continued as a successful cloth-making town into the 17th century, and by the middle of the century, it appeared to be the largest town in the county, though the cloth industry was in decline. In 1724 Defoe described the town as "populous, though not large, the streets broad, but the buildings old, and low" (Penn 1980, 63).

There were a number of major and minor fires in the town during the 17th and 18th centuries. The most disastrous fire happened on 6 August 1613 when 300 houses and churches of Holy Trinity and All Saints were burnt, with only St Peter's church and a few houses near it escaping the conflagration (Hutchins 1863, 340). These fires have likely contributed to the predominantly 18th century and later character of the town. The late 18th and 19th century saw significant expansion and many improvements in the town.

During the medieval and earlier post-medieval period, the Roman bank survived as an earthwork and was part of the borough of Dorchester, but the ditches were within the manor of Fordington, part of the lands of the Duchy of Cornwall. During the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there were frequent disputes over the boundaries of the borough and the respective rights of the townspeople of Dorchester and the tenants of Fordington over the 'ditches', as recorded in the borough records and the Court Rolls of the Manor of Fordington.

In the eighteenth century, the line of the former Roman rampart around the town was flattened and spread to form a series of tree-lined gravelled walks. South and East (Salisbury) Walks were laid out in 1743 (Pope 1918).

Fordington remained a predominantly agricultural settlement belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall, however, during the early nineteenth century the population of Fordington increased considerably and areas of the village became seriously overcrowded slums. The open field system survived very late only being enclosed in 1874 (Draper 2001).

The site is recorded on the 1844 Fordington Tithe Map as a 'Store House and Yard' owned by Russell and occupied by Stevens and Fooks. The existing barn on the site was built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century some time between 1779 and 1844 on historic map evidence. The building was used in the twentieth century as a store for Channon's Garage on High East Street.

#### **1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork**

There have been no previous archaeological investigations on the site. The closest modern archaeological investigations to the site were at 11 Durngate Street where Terrain Archaeology undertook an evaluation and subsequent watching brief in 2014 (Bellamy 2014). This work revealed deep (probably over 2 m depth) deposits of colluvial soils infilling the coombe. The upper colluvial layers contained medieval pottery. No evidence of the Roman building associated with the Roman mosaic found adjacent to the site in June 1905 during the construction of a new schoolroom attached to the Primitive Methodist Chapel (later the Salvation Army Hall).

#### **1.7 Aims and Objectives**

The aim of the Archaeological Observations and Recording was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

Its objectives were:

- To observe and record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the groundworks to an appropriate professional standard.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

## 1.8 Groundworks

The new development consisted of the erection of two new two-storey two-bedroom semi-detached houses, with space for vehicular parking on both sides of the building, on the site, following the demolition of the existing single-storey barn.

The ground works consisted of the initial demolition of the south end of the existing building to enable a new gable wall to 3 Salisbury Street to be constructed. The foundations for the new gable wall entailed the machine excavation of two pits for concrete pads (Trenches 1 and 2) at the SW and SE corners of the site down on to the top of the natural chalk and the machine excavation of a shallower slot (Trench 3) between for a new footing. The existing building was subsequently completely demolished and the wall at the north end of the site rebuilt. The ground levels beyond the footprint of the existing building along the east side of the site were reduced by machine. The foundations of the new building consisted of the construction of ten concrete piles and the excavation of a trench to take the new concrete ring beam on top of the piles (Trench 5).

## 1.9 Methods

The methodology, scope, aims and objectives of the works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Terrain Archaeology in March 2019 (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3520/0/1). All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014b). An archaeologist was in attendance during all works of ground reduction and construction of footings for the new building.

All deposits revealed, irrespective of their apparent archaeological significance, were recorded using components of the Terrain Archaeology recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records. The photographic record of the work was maintained in digital format, and included aspects of its setting, conduct and technical detail.

## 1.10 Archive and Dissemination

### 1.10.1 Archive Selection Policy

The selection and retention of artefacts for deposition follows national guidelines (SMA 1993; Brown 2011) and any other specific guidance prepared by the receiving museum. The selection strategy has been developed using the ClfA *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* (ClfA 2019) to ensure that only those elements of the archive that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is documented in the project archive.

### 1.10.2 Archive Contents

The project archive, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, artefacts and digital data, has been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014c (as updated); ADS 2013). It is currently stored by Terrain Archaeology under the project code **53520**. On completion of the project a digital security copy of the written records will be prepared, in line with current best practice (Brown 2011).

No physical archive will be retained beyond the end of the project. The digital archive containing the scanned written and drawn records, digitised drawings, report and digital photos will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

### 1.10.3 Report

Copies of this report will be submitted to the client, the Local Planning Authority, and the Dorset Council Senior Archaeologist. A copy of this report will also be lodged with Dorset Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project ([www.oasis.ac.uk](http://www.oasis.ac.uk)) under the reference code *terrains1-506808*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

## 2. Results

### 2.1 Introduction

The results from all trenches are described together below in broad chronological order. All features and deposits revealed are described in detail in Appendix 1.

### 2.2 Natural Deposits

The top of the weathered natural chalky 'coombe rock' (105, 115) was only exposed in the base of Trenches 1 and 2 in the north end of the site, at a depth of about 1.95 m below present ground levels (at about 53.90 m above OD) (Figure 4).

### 2.3 Buried Soil

The coombe rock 105 and 115 was sealed by a 0.2 m thick layer of decalcified mid-dark reddish brown clay loam with frequent Tertiary flint gravels and nodular flint (104, 114) (Figure 4; Plate 3). This soil was only exposed in Trenches 1 and 2.

### 2.4 Coombe Infill Deposits

Overlying the buried soil layer in Trench 2 was a series of layers of reddish-brown to grey clays and silty clays (110–113) with varying amounts of flint gravel, small chalk pieces and flecks and some sparse charcoal flecks (Figures 4-5, Plate 4). A large fragment of tegula was found in layers 110/111.

Over the rest of the site, the stratigraphically lowest contexts comprised similar layers of reddish-brown and greyish silty clays (121, 146, 152, 181, 185, 189, 190, 191, 195, 198) interspersed with layers of redeposited coombe rock (145, 162, 180, 184, 186, 187, 188). Sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from contexts 181 and 190 and a piece of Roman brick was also recovered from context 181. A piece of animal bone was found in context 191 and a single oyster shell in context 189.

These layers appear to form the infill of a coombe that runs down to the river Frome across the area of the site (Figure 2). The clays and coombe rock layers appear to be the result of natural silting, with only one layer (191), which is slightly 'cessy' in character that may be part of a deliberate dumping of material.

### 2.5 Roman Features

#### 2.5.1 Feature 170

The coombe infill deposits described above in Section 2.4 were cut by a linear trench (170) that measured about 3.0 m wide and 0.9 m deep, with steeply sloping sides and flat base (Figures 3-4; Plates 8-9). It was aligned roughly NNW-SSE and bent round slightly further towards north in the northern half of the site (Figure 3). This feature continued beyond the site to the north and south. It was first recorded in Trench 3 where it was numbered 122 (Figures 3-4; Plate 5). Subsequently a section was dug by hand across this feature in Trench 4, where it was numbered 143 (Figure 4; Plates 6-7). Further parts of this feature were recorded during the digging of the footings trenches (Trench 5). The cut was filled with alternating layers of flint nodules (including some flint river cobbles) and rammed chalk (171/123/144). At the base was a layer of flint stacked two nodules high, with the bands of flint above,

generally only a single nodule deep. There were up to five layers of flint nodules and five layers of rammed chalk. The uppermost rammed chalk surface was generally disturbed or truncated across most of its exposed length, however, in Trench 3, there appeared to be an intermittent thin skim of orange sandy mortar on top.

No dating evidence was recovered from the feature itself, however, it cuts through coombe deposit 181 which produced a single sherd of early Roman pottery, giving a *terminus post quem*. The size and distinctive form of the feature is very similar to a feature seen elsewhere on the south and west sides of the Roman town defences, where it has been tentatively identified as the remains of an unfinished Roman town wall pre-dating the existing Roman town defences (Startin 1981, Putnam *et al.* 1970, Davies & Farwell 1990, Trevarthen 2012).

## 2.6 Medieval Features

### 2.6.1 Pit 137

A circular pit with steeply sloping, almost vertical, sides and an almost flat bottom was found cut into the top of the Roman wall footing 144 in Trench 4 (Figures 3-4; Plate 6). It measured 1.1 m in diameter and was about 0.4 m deep. It was filled with mid greyish-brown silty clay (138) with frequent small chalk lumps and moderate flint pebbles and nodules. Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from fill 138.

### 2.6.2 Pit or Scoop 141

The remains of a pit or scoop (141) were also found in cut into wall footing 144 in Trench 4. Its full size and shape was not determined, as it had been cut away by pits 137 and 140 (Figure 4). The surviving part of this feature had a flat bottom 0.18 m deep and was filled with mid greyish-brown silty clay (142) with frequent small chalk lumps and moderate flint pebbles and nodules. The upper part of this feature appeared to have been truncated by later activity. No dating material was found in this feature, but it was clearly later than the Roman wall base and was cut by Pit 137 that contained medieval pottery, therefore, it has been assigned a medieval date.

## 2.7 Post-medieval and Modern Deposits and Features

### 2.7.1 Post-medieval Pits

Ten pits of post-medieval date were revealed during the works. None of the pits were fully excavated and their plan shape and size was not determined. The pits were distributed across the whole of the area of the site investigated (Figure 3). In the north west part of the site was a probably ovoid or circular pit (172), measuring about 2.1 m across, with convex moderately to steeply sloping sides, probably with a rounded base over 1.0 m deep (Figures 3 and 5). It was filled with mid brownish-grey gritty silty loam (173) with moderate chalk flecks, occasional charcoal flecks and charcoal lenses. A single sherd of nineteenth century Verwood coarseware pottery was found in 173. This pit cut Roman wall footing 170 and another post-medieval pit 174. Pit 174 was square or rectangular in plan with vertical sides. Its width and depth is not known. It was filled with dark greyish-brown silty clay (175) with frequent charcoal flecks.

The eastern edge of Pit 172 was cut by another oval pit (166). This measured about 2.0 m across and over 0.85m deep, with steeply sloping sides. The base was not exposed. It was filled with very dark greyish-brown silty clay loam (167) with lenses of ash and charcoal and chalk, flint, brick, and limestone rubble, and coal.

Further east in the north east part of the site was a circular pit (155), projected to be about 2.2 m across and over 0.6 m deep with almost vertical sides (Figures 3 and 5). It was filled with a series of thin layers of dark soil, brick and stone rubble, reddish-grey clay, orange sand, and black coal dust and clinker (156), which produced a single sherd of nineteenth century transfer printed bowl.

To the south of pit 155 was another probably circular pit (176), about 2.5 m across and only about 0.6 m deep. It had steep, near vertical, sides and a flat base (Figures 3 and 5). It was filled with soft dark brown clay loam (177) with frequent charcoal flecks and moderate small stone.

Further south are two adjacent circular pits (160, 165). Pit 160 was about 1.4 m in diameter, with vertical sides and over 0.7 m deep. It was filled with loose void flint nodule, limestone, and brick rubble (161) with lenses of chalk in gritty dark greyish-brown loam with clinker and chalk. It contained a significant quantity of primarily cattle bone and a single sherd of nineteenth century Verwood coarseware. Pit 165 was about 2.5 m in diameter and with vertical sides over 0.7 m deep. It was filled with a lower fill of dark reddish-brown to greyish-brown loam (164), with frequent mortar flecks and occasional flint and an upper fill of dark greyish-brown humic silty clay loam (164) containing moderate chalk, flint, limestone, and mortar pieces.

Three rectangular pits (109, 139, 199) were found at the south end of the site. The full size of pit 109 was not determined, but it had a near vertical side and a flat base, 1.8 m deep (Figures 3 and 5). There was a thin discontinuous layer of mid yellowish-brown sand at the base and the rest of the pit was filled with dark greyish-brown silty clay (108) containing frequent stone and flint rubble, and occasional lumps of mid yellowish-brown sandy clay. Pit 199 lay just to the north and was a small cut 0.6 m wide with vertical sides and flat bottom 0.35 m deep. It was filled with loose greyish-brown silty clay loam (200) with frequent small chalk and occasional flint nodule. It was similar in size to Pit 139, which was a small rectangular cut into the top of the Roman wall footing 144 (Figure 4). It was 0.65 m wide and 0.45 m deep with vertical sides and a stepped flat bottom. It was filled with mid greyish-brown silty clay (140) with frequent small chalk lumps and occasional flint pebbles and nodules.

The remaining post-medieval pit (193) was on the west side of the site immediately west of the Roman wall footing (Figure 3). It was of uncertain plan shape, with steep almost vertical sides and almost flat base (Figure 5). It was filled with soft dark greyish-brown clay loam (194) with sparse small chalk pieces, reddish-brown clay flecks and moderate flint nodules.

### 2.7.2 Post-medieval Scoops

In addition to the pits described above, there were four shallow dished scoops revealed by the works. None of these features contained datable material, but these are all likely to be broadly of post-medieval date.

At the south end of the site the Roman wall footing was cut by three small scoops. At the southern edge was an irregular round bottomed cut (124) measuring 0.7 m across and 0.2 m deep (Figure 3). It was filled with mixed dark greyish-brown clay loam (125) with stone and flint rubble. Further to the north was a shallow scoop (135) cut into the west side of the Roman wall footing 144 and also cutting through post-medieval floor layer 132 (Figures 3 and 5). It measured about 1.5 m across and 0.18 m deep and was filled with mixed dark greyish-brown clay loam (136) with flint, limestone and chalk rubble and sparse charcoal flecks. On the east side of the Roman wall footing 144 was another scoop (133) cut through the post-medieval floor layer 132. It measured about 1.3 m across and 0.25 m deep. It was filled with loose mid greyish-brown silty clay (134) with frequent small chalk pieces, occasional flint and moderate cement pieces.

At the north end of the site was a large roughly circular shallow scoop or disturbance (182) with shallow sloping sides and dished base (Figures 3 and 5). It measured about 2.5 m across and 0.3 m deep and was filled with firm dark greyish-brown clay loam (183) with frequent flint and limestone rubble and occasional charcoal flecks. It cut the Roman wall footing 170 and was cut by Pit 166 (Figure 5).

### 2.7.3 Other Post-medieval Features and Deposits

At the northern end of the site were two features that may have been associated with the use of the former nineteenth century building on the site. A small stub of walling (158) was found running roughly north-south (Figure 3). It comprised up to two courses of brick, limestone and flint bonded with yellowish-brown sandy lime mortar. It was constructed in a construction trench (157), 0.5 m wide and 0.4 m deep (Figure 5). This stub wall had been robbed out and the trench backfilled with loose dark greyish-brown clay loam (159) with frequent mortar fragments. About 0.75 m west of wall 158 was a possible brick base (168) of unknown plan shape and size. It consisted of up to four courses of mortared red brick set within a cut (169) 0.35 m deep and 0.75 m wide (Figure 5). It cut the top of pit 166.

Traces of the flooring of the former building were recorded in Trench 4 (Figure 4). Pits 137, 139 and 142 and the top of the Roman wall footing 144 were sealed beneath a 0.2 m thick earthen floor layer (132) comprising hard dark

greyish-brown clay loam with moderate small chalk lumps, occasional flint and occasional charcoal flecks. It was cut by scoops 133 and 135. This floor was levelled up by a 0.1 m thick layer of rammed chalk (131). There was a thin skim of coal dust across the top of the surface formed by 131 and 132. A replacement rammed chalk floor (130) was laid down on top at some point. The full extent of these floor layers was not recorded as much of the interior of the building had been disturbed prior to the archaeological recording.

#### 2.7.4 Modern Features

A small number of modern features were recorded. At the southern end of the site was a probably rectangular pit (106) with vertical sides 0.8 m deep, which cut pit 109. It was filled with loose brick and stone rubble with some timber and stone dust (107). In the north east part of the site was a roughly circular scoop (153) with shallow sloping sides and rounded bottom, 1.3 m in diameter and 0.25 m deep, which cut pit 155 (Figure 3). It was filled with mid brownish-grey clay loam (154) with frequent small-medium chalk pieces and occasional-moderate brick and stone rubble.

In the centre of the site was the roughly rectangular cut (178), which is the result of the removal of a buried fuel tank during the preliminary works on the site (Figure 3).

#### 2.7.5 Garden Soil

In the eastern part of the site, beyond the footprint of the former building, was a 0.3 m thick layer of dark greyish-brown silty clay loam (151) with occasional to moderate small decayed mortar and chalk pieces.

### 3. Finds

#### 3.1 Finds Assemblage

The finds recovered from the site are tabulated by context below in Table 1. No systematic sampling for finds was undertaken.

Context	Roman Pot	Medieval Pot	Post-med. Pot	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Ceramic Building Material	Flint	Glass	Slag	Animal Bone	Shell
110/111	--	--	--	--	1/1122	--	--	--	--	--
132	--	--	3/78	--	--	--	--	--	--	10/46
138	--	3/21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
140	--	--	1/9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
152	--	1/2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
156	--	--	1/12	--	5/302	--	--	--	--	--
161	--	--	1/19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
167	--	--	1/14	--	--	--	--	--	3/26	--
173	--	--	1/12	1/6	--	--	1/25	--	--	--
181	1/6	--	--	--	1/668	--	--	1/13	--	--
189	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1/26
190	1/15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
191	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1/134	--
195	--	--	--	--	--	1/5	--	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>2/21g</b>	<b>4/23g</b>	<b>8/144g</b>	<b>1/6g</b>	<b>7/2092g</b>	<b>1/5g</b>	<b>1/25g</b>	<b>1/13g</b>	<b>4/160g</b>	<b>11/72g</b>

Table 1: Quantification of finds by context (count/weight in grams)

#### 3.2 Pottery

##### 3.2.1 Introduction

The pottery assemblage amounts to 14 sherds (188g), of which two are Romano-British, four medieval and eight post-medieval. The condition of the material is generally fair.

##### 3.2.2 Romano-British Pottery

Only two sherds (21g) of Romano-British pottery were recovered, both from colluvial deposits pre-dating the wall base (181, 190). Both sherds were of South-West Black-burnished ware (SOW BB1), with finer, sandier fabric than

that of Poole Harbour BB1. The body sherd from context 181 has well-defined paler-coloured margins, as seen in early sherds in Exeter (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 114). The other sherd is a base sherd of Type 102 (Seager Smith and Davies 1993). Neither sherd can be closely dated, but at Greyhound Yard, South-West Black-burnished ware was most common in mid-first to early second century contexts (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 286).

### **3.2.3 Medieval Pottery**

Four sherds are dated as medieval and all are coarsewares. They include two sherds of West Dorset sandy ware (from context 138), one sherd of flint/chert tempered coarseware (from context 138) and one sherd of South Wiltshire/E Dorset sandy ware (from context 152). None of the sherds are closely datable, but fall within a date range between the eleventh and fourteenth century.

### **3.2.4 Post-medieval Pottery**

The post-medieval/modern pottery consists of eight sherds of local earthenwares and industrial whitewares. Seven sherds were from local earthenware vessels, of which those from contexts 132, 140, 161 and 173 are probably products from the Verwood kilns and one sherd from context 167 is probably from another (Somerset?) source. A single sherd of a transfer-printed bowl was recovered from context 156. The sherds are all nineteenth century in date.

## **3.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe**

A single clay tobacco pipe stem fragment was recovered from context 173.

## **3.4 Ceramic Building Material**

### **3.4.1 Roman Roof Tile**

A single large fragment of tegula was recovered from context 110/111. This had a knife-cut cutaway of Warry's Type 5, which falls into his Group C dated to the second/third century (160–260AD) (Warry 2006, 63). It also has a tile signature of two concentric marks made by two fingers.

### **3.4.2 Roman Floor Tile (or Brick)**

A single fragment of a Roman brick 44–46 mm thick was recovered from context 181. It had a rough sanded underside and wiped upper face with part of a signature consisting of two concentric marks made by fingers. There is also the remains of an ovoid depression about 37 mm across and 28 mm deep 'inside' the signature. The reason for this depression is unknown.

### **3.4.3 Post-medieval/Modern tile**

Five fragments from two different industrial wall tiles of late nineteenth or early twentieth century date were recovered from pit 160 (context 161). One was a plain cream tile and the other was brown and cream with green foliage.

## **3.5 Worked Flint**

A single broken secondary flake was recovered from context 195. It was the proximal end of a moderately patinated thin flake.

## **3.6 Glass**

A single green glass bottle sherd was recovered from context 173. It is from a large diameter hand-blown bottle, possibly of eighteenth century date.

## **3.7 Slag**

A single small piece of iron-rich vesicular slag (13 g) was recovered from context 181.

## **3.8 Animal Bone**

A fragment of the jaw of a sheep/goat was recovered from context 191 and three fragments of probable sheep long bone were recovered from context 167.

### 3.9 Marine Shell

Eleven shell fragments were recovered. These consisted of one oyster shell from context 189 and ten fragments of scallop shell from context 132.

## 4. Discussion and Conclusions

### 4.1 Discussion

The site lies within a coombe that runs in a roughly ENE to NNE direction down through Dorchester to the river Frome floodplain to the north east. The location of the site within the coombe is shown on Figure 2. The evidence from Trenches 1 and 2 suggests the base of the coombe is at least 1.7 m below present ground level and that an old ground surface of reddish-brown clay soil (101, 114) survives over the natural chalk. The coombe appears to have largely silted up naturally with a series of layers of coombe rock and silty clay colluvium. The precise date and duration of this process has not been determined, but it appears to have largely silted up by the Roman period.

No prehistoric features were revealed during the investigations and only a single prehistoric broken flint flake was recovered.

The character of Feature 170, constructed of layers of hard-packed flint nodules and rammed chalk, suggests it may be the foundation for a large wall. No clear evidence for the existence of any superstructure built on top was revealed, but at the southern end in Trench 3 was a thin intermittent skim of orange sandy mortar. Its three-metre width compares well with the known late Roman town wall footings revealed on the western side of Dorchester's town defences, which are all about three metres wide (RCHME 1970). It is also broadly comparable in scale with the defensive walls of other Romano-British towns e.g. St Albans at 3–3.5 m wide (Niblett 2005), Silchester at up to 3.7 m wide (Wacher 1978, 266), Cirencester at c. 3 m wide and Exeter at 3.4 m wide (*ibid.* 302, 332).

Feature 170 is similar to a feature found in several locations along the line of the Roman town defences along the south and west sides of the town. Excavation in the 1950s at the former Lee Motors garage off Trinity Street exposed an 85 ft (25.9 m) length of a steep-sided and flat-based foundation 9½ ft (2.9 m) wide, cut into natural chalk and consisting of “*three layers of flints capped and interleaved with chalk*” (RCHME 1970, 547). This lay on an east-west alignment that diverged slightly from that of the overlying earthen rampart, and was tentatively interpreted as an early street (Street 176), buried when the rampart was raised (RCHME 1970, 546-7). This interpretation now seems unlikely following further investigation of this feature at South Grove Cottage and Bowling Alley Walk. Excavations at South Grove Cottage (situated adjacent to the Lee Motors site) exposed more of the feature, which measured some three metres wide and 0.5 m deep, cut into the natural chalk. The lowest 0.3 m of the South Grove Cottage structure comprised three successive layers of flint nodules separated by layers of “*dirty chalk, well trodden*”, with an upper surface “*almost absolutely flat, with only one or two flints protruding*” that showed no signs of wear or use. As previously, it was clear that the upper surface of the structure was immediately physically overlain by the dumps of soil forming the upper rampart without any intervening soil development or other stratigraphy (Startin 1981, 24-5). A trench cut through the rampart in Bowling Alley Walk, about 100 m to the west of South Grove Cottage, revealed a “*foundation cut into the natural Chalk about 3 m. wide and 40 cm. thick, consisting of 3 layers each of flints and puddled chalk, virtually identical with that seen at the Lee Motors site in 1955*” (Putnam *et al.* 1970, 135). It lay at the tail of the primary rampart and was sealed by a turf line that also developed over the rampart. It was sealed by the secondary rampart. Further to the east (and to the east of the Roman south gate), a near-identical structure was found below the end of Charles Street during the excavation of the South Walks Tunnel Sewer, just west of West Dorset House. This feature was 3.5 m wide and 0.3 m thick comprising two layers of flint nodules interleaved with rammed chalk rubble within a linear cut through an early Roman soil level and sealed by material from the rampart (Davies & Farwell 1990). It was about ten metres from the lip of the inner town ditch. This feature has also been found on the west side of the town defences in the cellar of 1 West Walks (Trevarthen 2012). Here the feature was over 2.6 m wide and 0.45 m deep, with three layers of flint nodules interleaved with layers of rammed chalk and a thin slick of clayey mortar on the top surface.



In the south and west parts of the town defences, the flint and chalk wall footing was clearly earlier than the existing defences, lying behind the phase 1 rampart and sealed beneath the rear part of the phase 2 rampart. Along the east side of the Roman town, the precise form of the defences is not known, as they have not been investigated. The line of Salisbury Walk marks the broad line of the inner rampart. The projected line of Feature 170 runs along the front edge of the flattened bank of Salisbury Walk. This is in a different position to the chalk and flint wall footing on the south and west sides of the town, which lies in the rear part of the bank. Feature 170 lies in a similar position to the surviving late third century wall remains at Albert Road that were inserted into the front edge of the bank. No trace of bank deposits were recognised on the Salisbury Street site, so the relationship of the wall base to the rampart is not known. Without further investigation of the defences along the east side of the town, it is not possible to place the construction of Feature 170 within the overall development of the defences. Its size and character suggest it is part of the early, unfinished, phase of wall construction and its location suggests it may be part of the later Roman wall. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered that can help resolve this question.

Very few features or finds of medieval date were found. Only a single small pit (137) contained exclusively medieval material and one other small feature (141) was stratigraphically earlier than it. This suggests there was very little medieval activity on the site, which may be a factor of its location just within the parish of Fordington on the boundary with Dorchester.

The post-medieval pits and scoops all lie within the footprint of the former barn on the site, other than Pit 109 and Scoop 124 (and possibly Pit 155). This means it is unclear whether they pre-date the construction of the building or were dug through the floor during the life of the barn. Not enough dating evidence was recovered from the pits to answer this question. It is likely that they pre-date the structure, but some may have been dug later. The date of construction of the barn is not known with certainty. It is not depicted on the 1774 Hutchins Map of Dorchester or the 1779 Simpson map of Fordington, suggesting it was built after this date. It is first shown on the 1835 Fordington Tithe Map, so appears to have been built before this date. The 1810 map of Dorchester possibly indicates that the area of the site was built up by this date, perhaps suggesting it was built at some time between 1779 and 1810. The details of the structure, with the walls constructed of a mixture of brick and rubble stone and the king post sawn softwood roof trusses suggests a late eighteenth or nineteenth century date. The corrugated iron roof would date some time after 1829.

## 4.2 Conclusions

The archaeological investigations have revealed significant new information relating to the development of the Dorchester Roman Town Defences on the east side of the town. The character of the flint and chalk wall footings is similar to those of the early abandoned wall footings found on the south and west sides of the town, but the position of the wall footing in relationship to the projected line of the rampart may indicate that it may be part of the late third/early fourth century stone wall that was added to the inner rampart.

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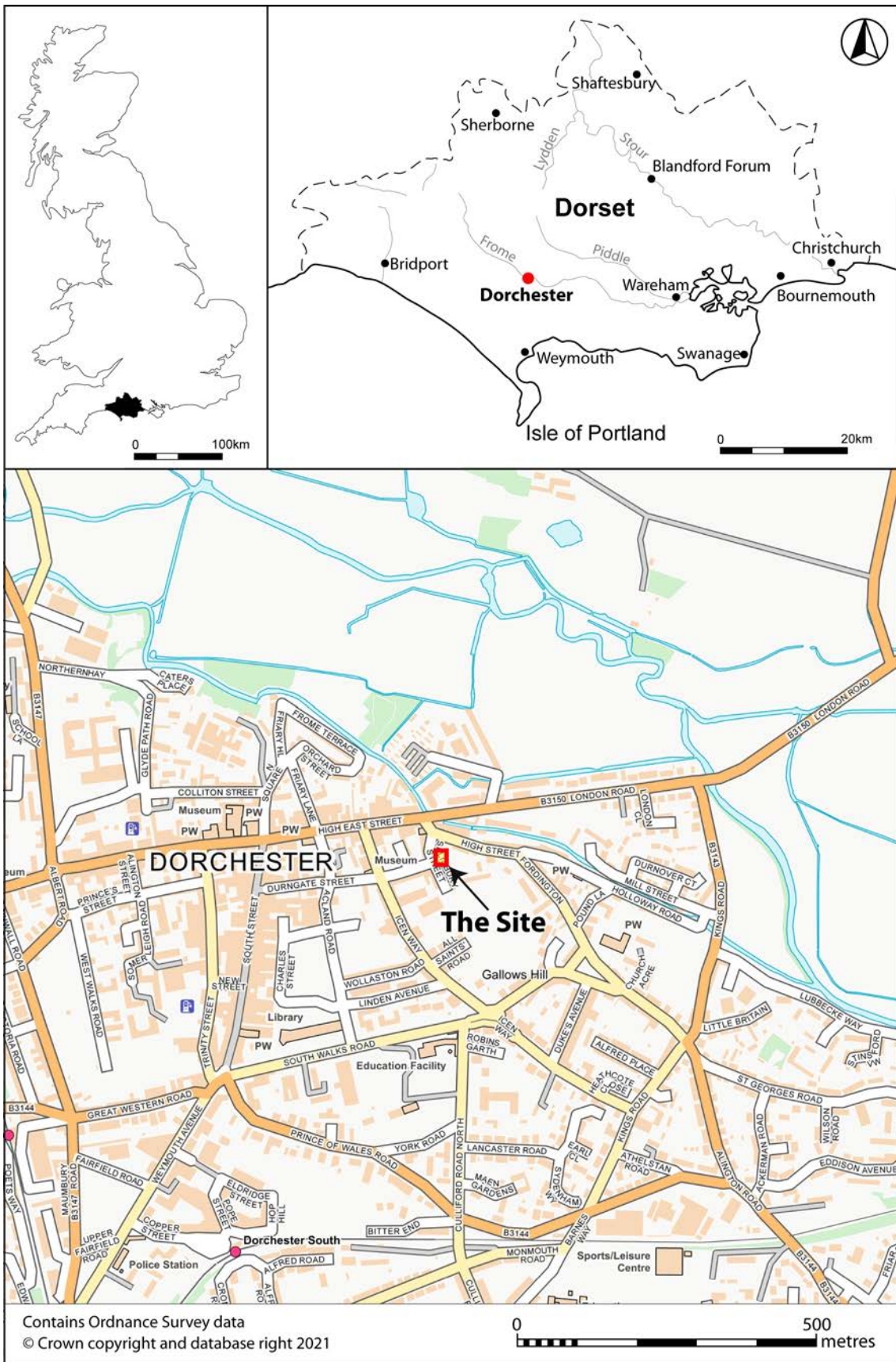


Figure 1: Site Location.

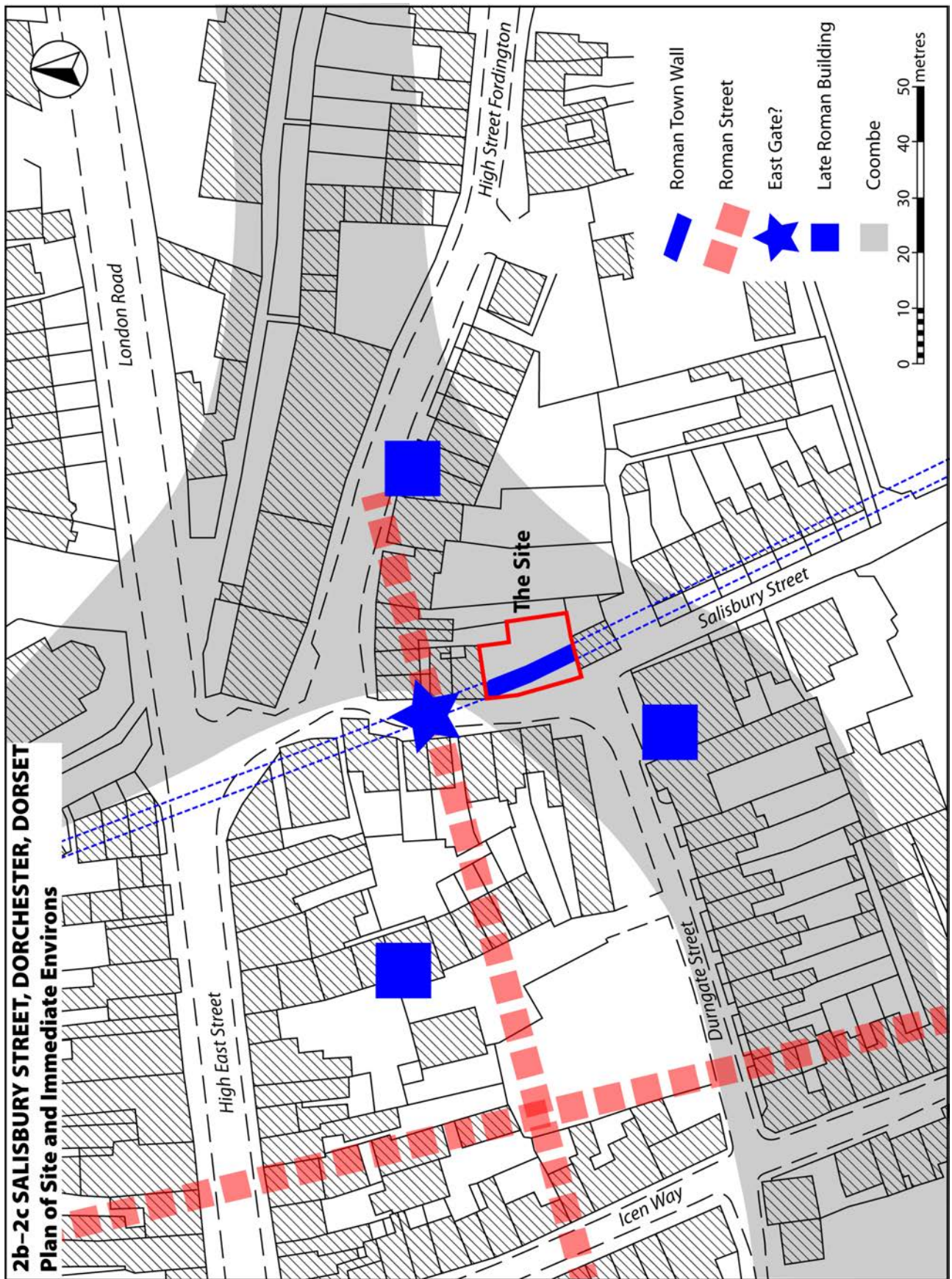


Figure 2: Location of site in relationship to buried coombe and nearby Roman features.

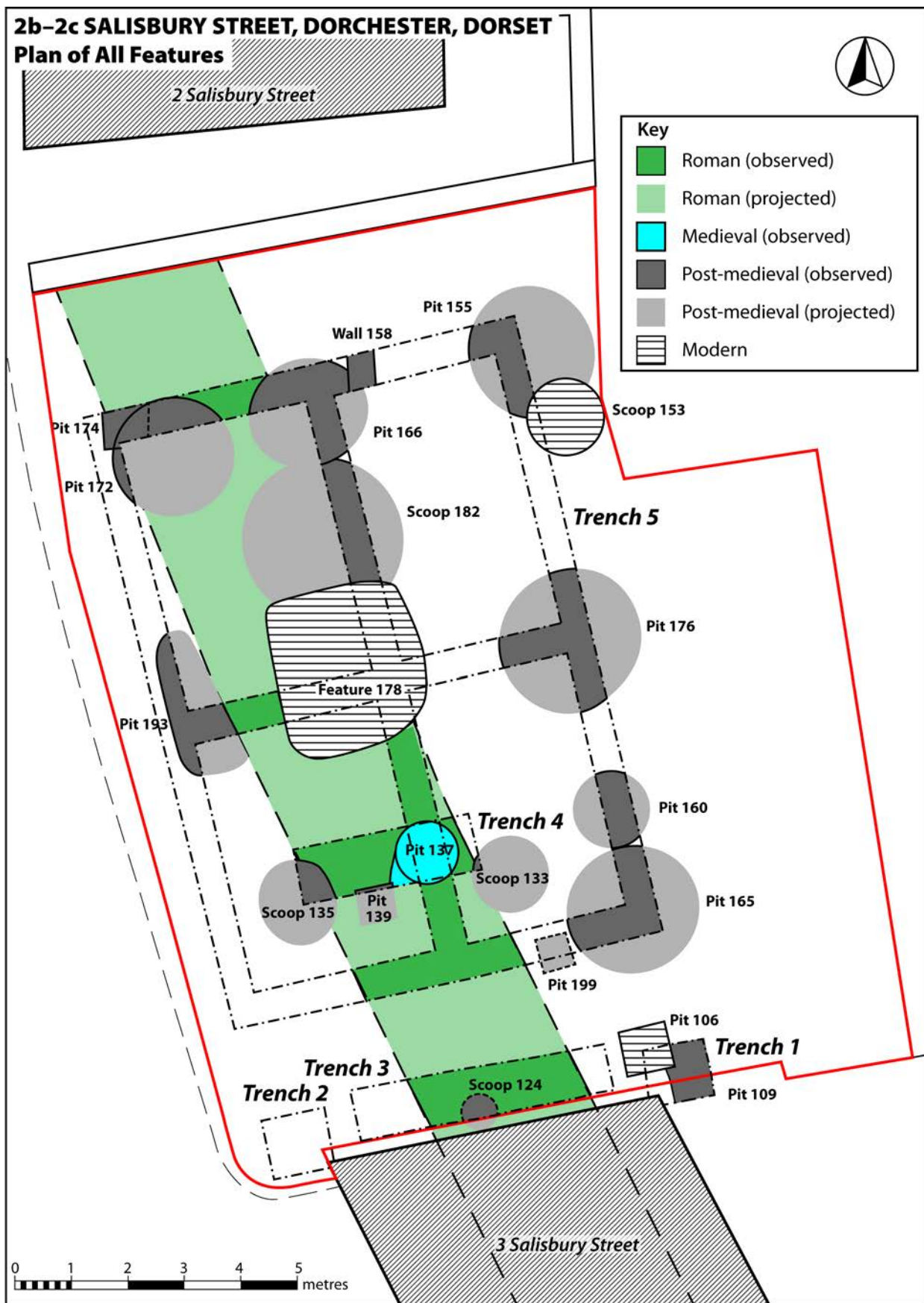


Figure 3: Plan of Site showing all features.

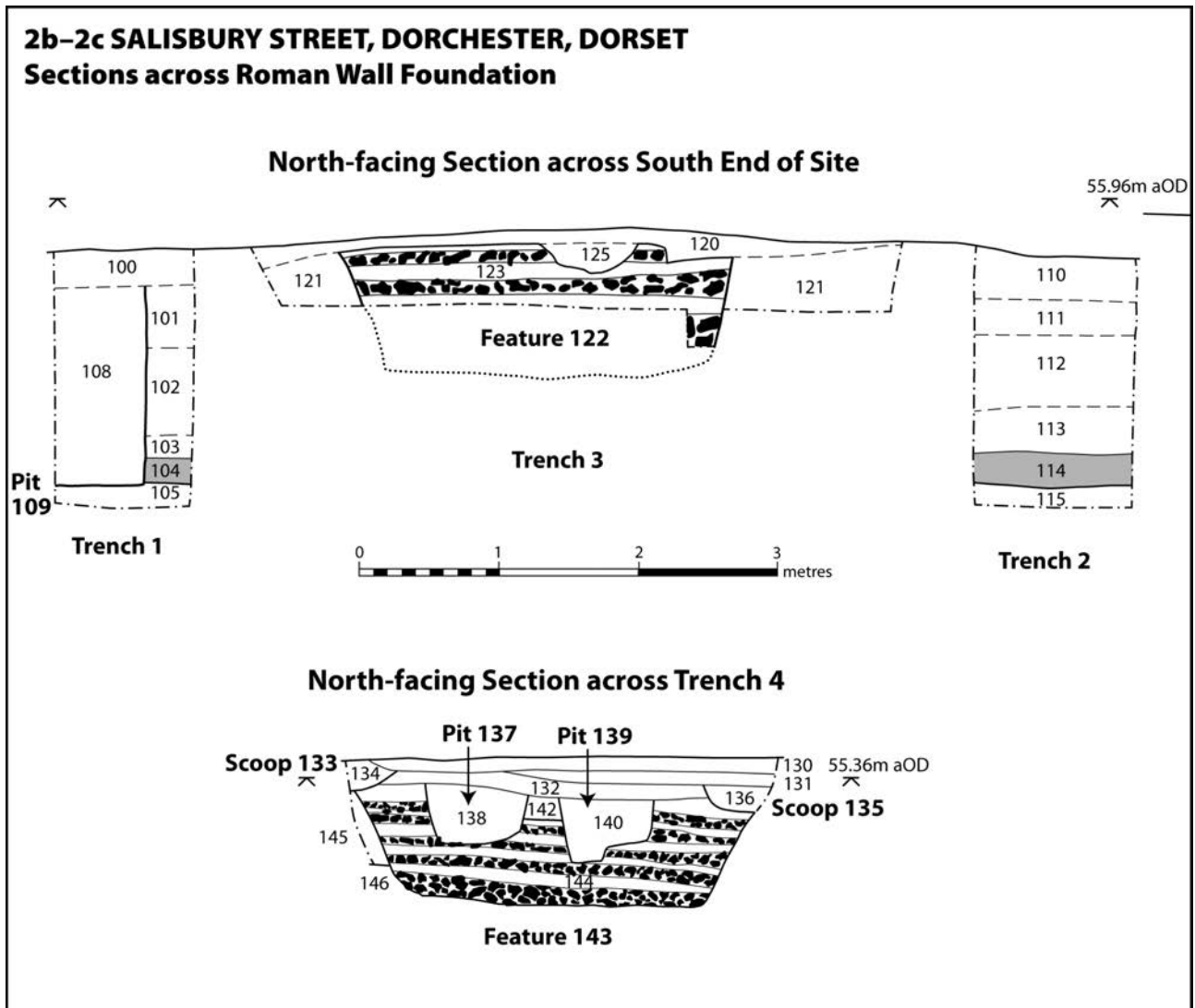


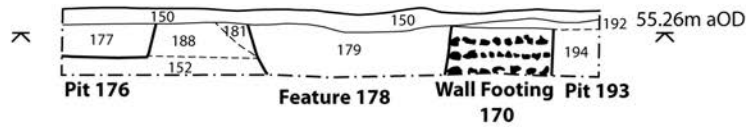
Figure 4: Sections through Roman Wall Footing.

**2b-2c SALISBURY STREET, DORCHESTER, DORSET**  
**Sections**

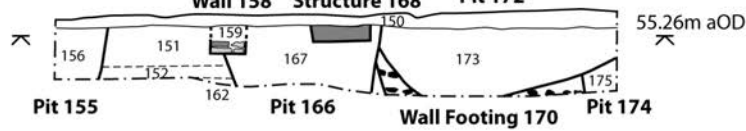
**North-Facing Section at South End of Trench 5**



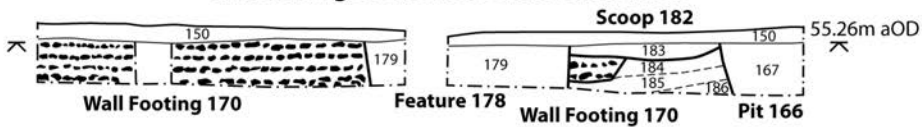
**North-Facing Section across Centre of Trench 5**



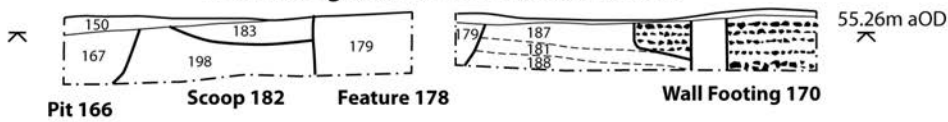
**North-Facing Section at North End of Trench 5**



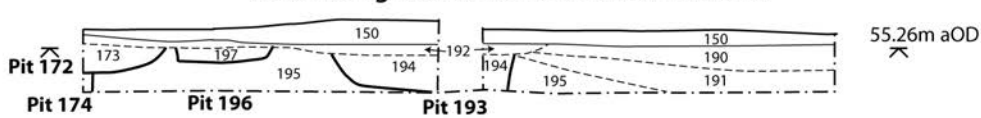
**East-Facing Section of Centre of Trench 5**



**West-Facing Section of Centre of Trench 5**



**West-Facing Section at West Side of Trench 5**



**West-Facing Section at East Side of Trench 5**

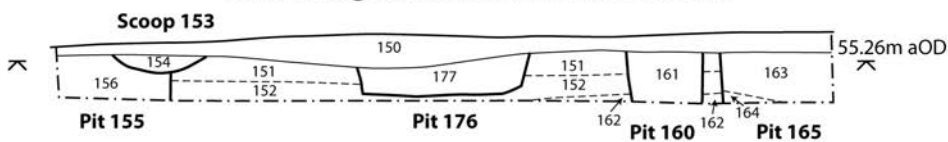


Figure 5: Selected Trench 5 Sections.





*Plate 1: View of site prior to demolition of nineteenth century barn, looking east.*



*Plate 2: General view of site, looking north.*



*Plate 3: Trench 2 after excavation showing depth of deposits infilling coombe, looking south.*



*Plate 4: Trench 5 centre footings trench, looking west, showing coombe infill deposits 198, cut by Pit 166 to left and scoop 182 to right.*



*Plate 5: Trench 3 showing feature 122, looking south. 1m scales.*



*Plate 6: Upper surface of Feature 143 in Trench 4, with Pit 137 to rear, looking east. 1m scales.*



*Plate 7: Section through Feature 143. 1m scales.*



*Plate 8: Wall Footing 170 at south end of Trench 5. 1m and 2m scales.*



*Plate 9: Wall Footing 170 cut through by central footings trench of Trench 5, looking north west. 1m and 2m scales.*

## Appendix 1: Context Summary

### Trench 1

Length: 1.0 m; Width 1.0 m; maximum depth 1.85 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
100	<b>Soil/Disturbance:</b> Dark greyish-brown silty clay with moderate stone flecks and stone rubble.	0.00 – 0.30m
101	<b>Layer:</b> Mid reddish-grey clay with occasional chalk flecks.	0.30 – 0.70m
102	<b>Levelling Layer:</b> Hard-packed reddish-brown clayey sand with very frequent large stone rubble up to 400mm across.	0.70 – 1.35m
103	<b>Layer:</b> Small rammed chalk lumps.	1.35 – 1.50m
104	<b>Old Ground Surface:</b> Reddish-brown clay loam with frequent nodular flint.	1.50 – 1.70m
105	<b>Natural:</b> Hard decayed chalk coombe rock.	1.70m +
106	<b>Modern pit?:</b> Vertically sided cut, filled with 107.	0.00 – 0.80m
107	<b>Fill of Pit 106:</b> Loose brick and stone rubble with some timber and stone dust.	0.00 – 0.80m
108	<b>Fill of Pit 109:</b> Dark greyish-brown silty clay with frequent stone and flint rubble, occasional lumps of mid yellowish-brown sandy clay and with a discontinuous thin layer of mid yellowish-brown sand, 0.1m thick, at the base	0.00 – 1.80m
109	<b>Post-medieval pit?:</b> Steep sided cut with flat base cut 0.1–0.15m into natural 104.	0.00 – 1.80m

### Trench 2

Length: 1.10 m; Width 1.0 m; maximum observed depth 2.30m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
110	<b>Colluvium:</b> Mid reddish-grey clay with occasional small chalk lumps and flecks, and flint gravel.	0.00 – 0.35m
111	<b>Colluvium:</b> Firm mid brownish-grey clay with frequent reddish-brown mottles, fairly frequent chalk flecks and moderate small flint gravel. This layer grades into 112.	0.35 – 0.60m
112	<b>Colluvium:</b> Fairly soft mid grey clay with occasional reddish-brown mottles, moderate small flint gravel, and sparse charcoal flecks.	0.60 – 1.15m
113	<b>Colluvium:</b> Firm mid grey clay (slightly lighter than 112) with frequent small chalk pieces, and moderate small flint gravel.	1.15– 1.45m
114	<b>Old Ground Surface:</b> Firm reddish-brown clay loam with frequent Tertiary flint gravels and nodular flint.	1.45– 1.70m
115	<b>Natural:</b> Hard decayed chalk coombe rock.	1.70m +

### Trench 3

Length: 4.7 m; Width 0.80 m; maximum depth 0.50m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
120	<b>Modern Disturbance:</b> Mixed dark greyish-brown clay loam with chalk flecks and stone rubble.	0.00 – 0.20m
121	<b>Colluvium:</b> Reddish-brown clay. Similar to 110.	0.20m +
122	<b>Wall Foundation Cut:</b> 3.05m wide cut with steeply sloping, almost vertical sides. Oriented roughly N-S. Filled with 123.	0.10 – 0.90m
123	<b>Wall Foundation:</b> Three layers of flint nodules in grey silty clay, interspersed with layers of rammed chalk. An intermittent thin skim of orange sandy mortar on top. Constructed in cut 122.	0.10 – 0.90m
124	<b>Scoop:</b> Irregular sloping side and rounded bottomed cut into the top of 123, filled with 125.	0.10 – 0.35m
125	<b>Fill of Scoop 124:</b> Mixed dark greyish-brown clay loam with stone and flint rubble within cut 124. Very similar to 120.	0.10 – 0.35m

## Trench 4

Length: 3.1 m; Width 1.0 m; Depth 1.10m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
130	<b>Barn Floor:</b> Hard-packed layer of chalk lumps, up to 30mm across.	0.00 – 0.10m
131	<b>Floor Layer:</b> Hard-packed layer of chalk lumps, up to 50mm across, with a thin skim of coal dust on upper surface. Below 130.	0.10 – 0.20m
132	<b>Earthen Floor Layer:</b> Fairly hard dark greyish-brown clay loam with moderate small chalk lumps, occasional flint and occasional charcoal flecks. This layer is below 131 to the west, but thickens and forms part of same surface as 131, with coal dust on the surface.	0.10 – 0.30m
133	<b>Scoop:</b> Shallow scoop cut into floor 132 at south east corner of trench.	0.00 – 0.25m
134	<b>Fill of Scoop 133:</b> Loose mid greyish-brown silty clay with frequent small chalk pieces, occasional flint and moderate cement pieces.	0.00 – 0.25m
135	<b>Scoop:</b> Shallow rounded side and flattish-bottomed cut through 132. Sealed by 131. Filled with 136.	0.20 – 0.40m
136	<b>Fill of Scoop 135:</b> Mixed fairly loose dark greyish-brown clay loam with fairly frequent small chalk lumps, moderate stone rubble, occasional flint pebbles and sparse charcoal flecks.	0.20 – 0.40m
137	<b>Pit:</b> Circular pit with steeply sloping almost vertical sides and flat bottom. Cut into top of footing 144 and fill 142. Filled with 138.	0.20 – 0.60m
138	<b>Fill of Pit 137:</b> Mid greyish-brown silty clay with frequent small chalk lumps and moderate flint pebbles and nodules. Contains medieval pottery.	0.20 – 0.60m
139	<b>Pit?:</b> Straight sided near vertical sided cut with flat bottom with deeper part to east. Only just intrudes into south edge of trench. Cuts footing 144 and sealed by 132.	0.30 – 0.75m
140	<b>Fill of Pit 139:</b> Mid greyish-brown silty clay with frequent small chalk lumps and occasional flint pebbles and nodules.	0.30 – 0.75m
141	<b>Pit/Scoop?:</b> Shallow flat-bottomed cut into top of footing 144. Plan shape not known. Cut by pits 137 and 139.	0.30 – 0.45m
142	<b>Fill of Pit/Scoop 141:</b> Mid greyish-brown silty clay with frequent small chalk lumps and moderate flint pebbles and nodules	0.30 – 0.45m
143	<b>Wall Foundation Cut:</b> 3.05m wide cut with steeply sloping sides and flat bottom, 0.9m deep. Oriented roughly N-S. Filled with 144.	0.20 – 1.10m
144	<b>Wall Foundation:</b> Five layers of flint nodules in grey silty clay, interspersed with layers of rammed chalk. The flint is a mixture of river gravel cobbles and chalk flint nodules between 50–100mm across with some up to 250mm across. The rammed chalk includes some lumps of very hard chalk up to 70mm across. The basal layer of flint is void and consists of two layers of nodules, which have pressed down into the clay below.	0.20 – 1.10m
145	<b>Coombe Rock Colluvium:</b> Hard pale yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent decayed small chalk flecks and lumps in east end of trench. Over 145. Cut by 143.	0.20 – 0.75m
146	<b>Colluvium:</b> Mid reddish-brown clay with moderate small chalk flecks, occasional small flint gravel and sparse charcoal flecks. Below 145.	0.20m +

## Trench 5

Length: c. 267 m; Width 0.5 m; maximum depth 0.75m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
150	<b>Modern Disturbance:</b> Mixed layer of recent disturbance from demolition of barn and piling works.	0.00 – 0.40m
151	<b>Topsoil:</b> Dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with occasional –moderate small decayed mortar and chalk pieces. 0.3m thick, in east part of site.	0.15 – 0.55m
152	<b>Colluvium:</b> Reddish-brown silty clay with occasional-moderate small chalk lumps and flecks.	0.55m +
153	<b>Post-medieval/modern scoop:</b> Shallow sloping sides and round-bottomed cut into 151 and 156.	0.15 – 0.45m
154	<b>Fill of Scoop 153:</b> Mid brownish-grey clay loam with frequent small-medium chalk pieces and occasional-moderate brick and stone rubble.	0.15 – 0.45m
155	<b>Post-medieval Pit:</b> Vertical sided cut in north east corner of site. Not bottomed.	0.15 – 0.75m +
156	<b>Fill of Pit 155:</b> Series of thin layers of dark soil, brick and stone rubble, reddish-grey clay, orange sand, and black coal dust and clinker.	0.15 – 0.75m +
157	<b>Construction Cut for Wall 158:</b> Vertical sided flat-bottomed cut, oriented N-S.	0.15 – 0.45m
158	<b>Stub Wall:</b> Up to two courses of brick, limestone and flint bonded with yellow brown	0.30 – 0.45m

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
	sandy lime mortar. Within cut 157.	
159	<b>Robbing Fill over wall 158:</b> Loose dark greyish-brown clay loam with frequent mortar fragments	0.15 – 0.30m
160	<b>Post-medieval Pit:</b> Circular cut with vertical sides in south east part of site. Not bottomed. Filled with 161.	0.25 – 0.75m +
161	<b>Fill of Pit 160:</b> Loose void flint nodule, limestone, and brick rubble with lenses of chalk lumps in gritty dark greyish-brown loam with clinker and chalk. Frequent animal bone (not collected).	0.25 – 0.75m +
162	<b>Coombe Rock?:</b> Friable clayey chalk with reddish-brown clay.	0.80m +
163	<b>Upper fill of Pit 165:</b> Dark greyish-brown humic silty clay loam with moderate chalk, flint, limestone, and mortar pieces.	0.25 – 0.90m +
164	<b>Lower Fill of Pit 165:</b> Dark reddish-brown/greyish-brown loam with frequent mortar flecks and occasional flint.	0.80 – 0.90m +
165	<b>Post-medieval Pit:</b> Vertical sided cut in south east part of site. Filled with 163 and 164.	0.25 – 0.90m +
166	<b>Post-medieval Pit:</b> Near vertical sided cut in north end of site. Filled with 167.	0.15 – 0.90m +
167	<b>Fill of Pit 166:</b> Soft very dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with sparse chalk, moderate flint, brick and limestone rubble, and coal, with lenses of ash and charcoal. Contained animal bone (not collected).	0.15 – 0.90m +
168	<b>Brick Structure:</b> Possible brick base of up to four courses in north part of site. Within cut 169 in top of pit 166. Plan shape not exposed.	0.15 – 0.35m
169	<b>Cut for structure 168:</b> Flat bottomed cut 0.35m deep containing 168. Cuts top of 167.	0.15 – 0.35m
170	<b>Wall Foundation:</b> Five layers of flint nodules in grey silty clay, interspersed with layers of rammed chalk. The flint is a mixture of river gravel cobbles and chalk flint nodules between 50–100mm across with some up to 250mm across. The basal layer of flint is void and consists of two layers of nodules, which have pressed down into the clay below.	0.10 – 0.90m
171	<b>Wall Foundation Cut:</b> 3.05m wide cut with steeply sloping sides and flat bottom, 0.9m deep. Oriented roughly NNW-SSE. Filled with 170.	0.10 – 0.90m
172	<b>Post-medieval Pit:</b> Steeply sloping sided cut with dished base in north west part of site. Filled with 163. Cuts 170 and 175.	0.25 – 1.05m +
173	<b>Fill of Pit 172:</b> Mid brownish-grey gritty silty loam with moderate chalk flecks, occasional charcoal flecks and charcoal lenses.	0.25 – 1.05m +
174	<b>Post-medieval Pit:</b> Steep sided cut in north west part of site. Filled with 175.	0.65 – 1.00m +
175	<b>Fill of Pit 174:</b> Dark greyish-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks.	0.65 – 1.00m +
176	<b>Post-medieval Pit:</b> Shallow steep sided pit with flat bottom on east side of site. Filled with 177. Cuts 151 and 152.	0.20 – 0.75m
177	<b>Fill of Pit 176:</b> Soft dark brown clay loam with frequent charcoal flecks and moderate small stone.	0.20 – 0.75m
178	<b>Modern Cut to Remove Fuel Tank:</b> Steep sided cut, roughly subrectangular in centre of site. Filled with 179.	0.00 – 1.00m +
179	<b>Fill of Cut 178:</b> Layers of mid greyish-brown clay, reddish-brown clay, small chalk rubble, etc, with frequent flint nodules.	0.00 – 1.00m +
180	<b>Colluvium:</b> Firm dark yellowish-brown clay with frequent decayed chalk 'coombe rock' and moderate flint nodules.	0.15 – 0.90m +
181	<b>Colluvium:</b> Mid reddish-brown clay with moderate flint nodules and sparse charcoal flecks. Above 180.	0.35 – 0.90m +
182	<b>Scoop:</b> Shallow scoop or disturbance with shallow sloping sides and dished base, in north centre part of site. Cuts 180.	0.15 – 0.35m
183	<b>Fill of Scoop 182:</b> Firm dark greyish-brown clay loam with frequent flint and limestone rubble and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.15 – 0.35m
184	<b>Redeposited Coombe Rock:</b> Hard yellowish-brown/buff decayed chalk layer in north central part of site. Cut by 182. Above 185.	0.15 – 0.55m
185	<b>Colluvium:</b> Firm reddish-brown clay with occasional/moderate small chalk lumps and sparse charcoal flecks. Below 184. Above 186.	0.40 – 0.90m +
186	<b>Redeposited Coombe Rock:</b> Hard yellowish-brown/buff decayed chalk layer in north central part of site. Below 185.	0.65 – 0.90m +
187	<b>Redeposited Coombe Rock:</b> Hard yellowish-brown/buff decayed chalk layer in north central part of site. Cut by 182. Above 185.	0.15 – 0.50m
188	<b>Redeposited Coombe Rock:</b> Firm pale yellow/buff decayed chalk layer with occasional charcoal flecks in south central part of site. Below 181.	0.50 – 0.90m +
189	<b>Colluvium:</b> Soft reddish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Part of 191. Cut by 171.	0.15 – 0.65m

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
190	<b>Colluvium:</b> Firm mid brown/greyish-brown silty clay with reddish mottles. In South part of site. Above 191.	0.15 – 0.50m
191	<b>Colluvium?/Infill Layer:</b> Firm mid/dark grey clay 'cess' with reddish-brown mottles, with moderate/frequent small angular flint, chalk pieces and flecks, and occasional charcoal flecks. Includes animal bone. In South part of site. Below 190, above 181.	0.15 – 0.90m +
192	<b>Disturbance Layer:</b> Firm mixed greyish-brown clay loam with frequent chalk lumps. In the north west part of site. Over 194, 195 and 197.	0.15 – 0.30m
193	<b>Post-medieval Pit:</b> Steep to vertical sided pit on west side of site. Filled with 194. Cuts 195.	0.30 – 0.90m +
194	<b>Fill of Pit 193:</b> soft dark greyish-brown clay loam with sparse small chalk pieces, reddish-brown clay flecks and moderate flint nodules.	0.30 – 0.90m +
195	<b>Colluvium:</b> Soft reddish-brown silty clay with occasional flecks of decayed chalky 'coombe rock' and flint nodules, and sparse flint gravel. On west side of site.	0.35 – 0.90m +
196	<b>Scoop:</b> Shallow flat-bottomed cut in north west part of site. Cuts 195. Filled with 197.	0.25 – 0.50m
197	<b>Fill of Scoop 196:</b> Dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with occasional large limestone rubble, flint and chalk pieces, and chalk and charcoal flecks.	0.25 – 0.50m
198	<b>Colluvium:</b> Reddish-brown silty clay with patches of decayed chalky 'coombe rock'. On north east side of site.	0.15 – 0.90m +
199	<b>Feature:</b> Vertically-sided, flat-bottomed cut, 0.61 m wide and 0.38 m deep, in south part of site. Cuts 180, 181, and 187. Filled with 200.	0.10 – 0.50m
200	<b>Fill of Feature 199:</b> Loose greyish-brown silty clay loam with frequent small chalk and occasional flint nodule.	0.10 – 0.50m