



# 6 All Saints Road, Dorchester, Dorset

Archaeological Observations and Recording during construction of a new extension



Report No. 53434/3/1

September 2015



# 6 All Saints Road, Dorchester, Dorset

Archaeological Observations and Recording during the construction of a new extension, May and August 2015

Report No. 53434/3/1

September 2015

**Client:** Giles Watts, The Old Rectory, Icen Way, Dorchester, DT1 1ET

**Agent:**

**Report Author:** Peter S Bellamy BSc (Hons) MCIfA

**Illustrations:** Peter S Bellamy BSc (Hons) MCIfA

## Document Quality Control

Version	Status	Prepared By	Approved By	Date
1	Final	P Bellamy		08/09/2015
2				
3				

#### DISCLAIMER

Terrain Archaeology and the individual authors of this report have made every effort during its preparation to provide as complete and accurate an assessment as possible within the terms of the Written Scheme of Investigation. All statements and opinions presented in this document are offered in good faith. Terrain Archaeology cannot accept responsibility or liability for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or accept liability for any future loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

#### COPYRIGHT

Terrain Archaeology retains full copyright of this report and its images, excepting any data held under third party copyright and presented under license, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that Terrain Archaeology grants exclusive license to the client for the use of the aforesaid report and images by the client in all matters directly relating to the project. License is also granted to the client, Historic England and Dorset County Council's Historic Environment Record and Historic Environment Advisor to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes, provided that Terrain Archaeology is duly acknowledged as its author. This license agreement excludes commercial use of the report, report images or archive by the client or any third party.

The authors of any specialist contributions or images within the report or the archive shall retain intellectual copyright of their work, and may make use of said work for educational or research purposes for further publication.

# Table of Contents

## Part 1: Introduction

1.1	Project Introduction.....	1
1.2	Brief.....	1
1.3	Site Location and Topography.....	1
1.4	Geology.....	1
1.5	Historical Background.....	1
1.6	Previous Archaeological Fieldwork.....	2
1.7	Aims and Objectives.....	2
1.8	Methods.....	2
1.9	Archive and Dissemination.....	2

## Part 2: Results

2.1	Introduction.....	3
2.2	Natural Deposits.....	3
2.3	Archaeological Features.....	3
2.4	Garden soils.....	3

## Part 3: Finds

3.1	Finds Assemblage.....	3
3.2	Pottery.....	4
3.3	Ceramic Building Material.....	4
3.4	Other Finds.....	4

## Part 4: Discussion and Conclusions

4.1	Discussion.....	4
4.2	Conclusions.....	4

<b>Part 5: References</b> .....	4
---------------------------------	---

## Figures

1	Location Map.....	6
2	Location of Observations.....	7
3	Plan of Observations and Selected Sections.....	8

## Plates

1	Ditches 103, 105 and 107 along western boundary of the site, viewed from east.....	9
2	Ditches 111 and 103, viewed from northeast.....	9
3	Findspot of Roman flue tiles 113, viewed from north.....	9

## Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-223409		
Project Title	6 All Saints Road, Dorchester		
Short Description of Project	Terrain Archaeology observed the excavation of the footings trenches for a new extension to 6 All Saints Road, Dorchester. A series of four small undated ditches were recorded, which may relate to medieval or later agricultural or gardening activity. A small concentration of Roman flue tile and a mortarium base were found at the base of the garden soil and may have been derived from the Roman town house found in All Saints Road at the end of the nineteenth century.		
Project Dates	Start: 13-05-2015	End: 17-08-2015	
Previous/Future Work	No/No		
Project Code	53434		
Monument Type and Period	Ditch (unknown)		
Significant Finds	Flue Tile (Roman), Mortarium (Roman)		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Dorset/ West Dorset/Dorchester		
Site Address	6 All Saints Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1EL		
Site Coordinates	SY 6957 9052		
Site Area	21.6 m <sup>2</sup>		
Height OD	c. 63 m aOD		
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator			
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Peter Bellamy		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	Client		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	Retained by Landowner	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Dorset County Museum.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Dorset County Museum.
Contents	Pottery, CBM	Digital Photography	Context sheets, diary, photographs, plans, report

# 6 All Saints Road, Dorchester, Dorset

## Archaeological Observations and Recording of a new extension, May and August 2015

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Giles Watts to carry out archaeological observations and recording during the construction of a new extension to 6 All Saints Road, Dorchester.

A planning application for a single storey side and rear extension to 6 All Saints Road (Application No. WD/D/15/000519) was granted permission on 7 May 2015. Condition No. 4 states "*Archaeological observation and recording is to be undertaken during groundworks, as per the approved document "Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observations and Recording during the construction of a new extension" dated April 2015 and received 28th April 2015. REASON: To ensure the protection of the archaeological site, in accordance with West Dorset District Local Plan (2006) Policy SA24.*" A second planning application for a slightly larger rear extension (Application No. WD/D/15/001205) was submitted on 17 May 2015 and permission was granted on 29 July 2015, with a similar condition to the earlier application.

The fieldwork was carried out on 13th May and 17th August 2015 by Peter Bellamy.

Terrain Archaeology wishes to acknowledge the cooperation and assistance of Giles Watts, NDK Dorset Ltd and Steve Wallis (Dorset County Council).

#### 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 (Advice and Management), Dorset County Council.

#### 1.3 Site Location

The site lies on the south side of All Saints Road, Dorchester at SY 6957 9052. The ground slopes gently down to the north and is about 63 m above OD.

#### 1.4 Geology

The geology is mapped as the Portsdown Chalk Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Superficial deposits of Head occur close to the site.

#### 1.5 Historical Background

The wider Dorchester area is rich in prehistoric remains, but prehistoric activity beneath the modern town 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). The site lies within the likely circuit of this monument. Evidence from a number of sites including Greyhound Yard, Merchant's Garage and County Hall have produced evidence for Bronze Age fields (Bellamy 1991; Smith 1993; Woodward *et al.* 1993), which may have covered the whole area of Dorchester.

The site lies with the area of the Roman town of *Durnovaria* and also within the medieval town of Dorchester. It lies close to the eastern edge of the Roman town, behind the town defences that ran along Salisbury Walks.

The site lies about 50 m east of one of the N-S Roman streets (Figure 2), traces of which have been found under Durngate Street (Bellamy 2002) and Icen Way (Tatler and Bellamy 2009). Further probable Roman road gravels have been found at the junction of Wollaston Road and Icen Way, but it is unclear whether these belong to a major Roman street or not (Tatler and Bellamy 2009). Fragments of a number of large Roman buildings, including fragments of mosaics, have been found at the Gas Works and under All Saints Road at the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and probably fronted the N-S street (RCHME 1970, 566-7). At the end of All Saints Road a rectangular mosaic of pale grey and red chequers within a plain blue-grey border and a long plain tessellated corridor of fourth century date were discovered in 1897 and 1901 (Cosh and Neal 2005, 106). Further remains, probably from the same building were found adjacent along the north side of All Saints Road during development. Also part of a black, red and white mosaic was recorded in the back kitchen of a cottage in Icen Way in 1850. The cottage stood on the site of 18 Icen Way. These mosaic floors are likely to be part of a large fourth century town house.

In the medieval period the area of the site was part of the open fields of Dorchester and remained open glebe land of All Saints Church until the end of the nineteenth century when All Saints Road was laid out and All Saints Rectory was built. The first houses along the south side of All Saints Road were built by 1901 and on the north side in 1906. The house on the site was built before 1947.

## 1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

There has been no previous archaeological fieldwork on the site. The closest archaeological investigation to the site was a watching brief by Terrain Archaeology during the laying of a new gas main along Icen Way in 2008 (Tatler and Bellamy 2009). The gas main trench ran along the north west side of Icen Way across the junction with All Saints Road. No further elements of the mosaic or the associated Roman building discovered in 1897 and 1901 were found.

## 1.7 Aims and Objectives

### 1.7.1 Aims

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

### 1.7.2 Objectives

- 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 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 April 2015 (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3434/0/1).

The observation and recording of the groundworks was undertaken to the standards of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), with an archaeologist in attendance during the excavation of the footings trenches.

A photographic record of the works was maintained in digital format.

## 1.9 Archive and Dissemination

### 1.9.1 Paper Archive

The project archive, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and appropriate background documentation, is currently stored by Terrain Archaeology under the project code 53434. In due course it is anticipated that it will be accessioned for long-term curation by the Dorset County Museum, Dorchester.



### 1.9.2 Report

A paper and digital copy of this report will be lodged with Dorset County 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 *terrains1-223409*. 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 groundworks consisted of a foundation trench about 0.75 m wide and 0.8 m deep along the western boundary of the property and along the edge of the garden to the rear of the house (Figure 3).

### 2.2 Natural Deposits

Natural chalk (102) was exposed at a depth of between 0.55 – 0.7 m below modern ground levels. The upper surface appears to have been truncated by gardening activity.

### 2.3 Archaeological Features

A series of four small ditches (103, 105, 107/111 and 109) were observed cut into the chalk below the modern garden soils (Figure 3). Two of these ditches were roughly parallel, running roughly WNW-ESE. Ditch 105 was roughly perpendicular to ditch 103 and appears to have been cut by ditch 107. Ditch 109 was oriented roughly NW-SE.

The ditches were all similar in size and shape having sloping sides and a flat bottom and measuring between 0.45–0.7 m wide and 0.25–0.35 m deep. They were filled with mid-dark greyish-brown clay loam with moderate-frequent small chalk flecks and lumps. The fills of ditches 105 and 109 (106, 110) contained sparse-moderate limestone pieces and the fill of ditch 111 (112) contained some lenses of dark humic soil. None of the ditches contained any datable material.

### 2.4 Garden Soils

The natural chalk 102 and the features described above were sealed beneath a c. 0.5–0.7 m thick layer of friable dark greyish-brown clay loam garden soil (101), containing sparse chalk flecks. Post-medieval pottery, animal bone and ceramic building material fragments were noted in this layer but not kept or quantified. In the south west corner of the footings trench, a concentration of Roman finds (113), including the base of a *mortarium* and flue tile, was found just above the top of the natural chalk in a very slight hollow also containing some small nodular flint.

## 3. Finds

### 3.1 Finds Assemblage

The finds retained from the fieldwork are presented below in Table 1. In addition a number of post-medieval pot sherds (mainly nineteenth century local coarsewares) were noted in the garden soil, but were not collected or quantified.

Context	Roman pottery	CBM	Stone Building material	Flint	Animal bone
110	--	1/21g	6/201g	--	1/11g
113	1/202g	11/1616g	--	1/1g	1/4g
<i>Total</i>	<i>1/202g</i>	<i>12/1637g</i>	<i>6/201g</i>	<i>1/1g</i>	<i>2/15g</i>

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

### 3.2 Pottery

A single sherd of Roman pottery was retained from the fieldwork. This was the complete base and lower part of a mortarium. It had a fine grey core with salmon-pink surfaces and with traces of an off-white or buff slip externally and white quartz/quartzite trituration grits on the inner surface.

### 3.3 Ceramic Building Material

Twelve fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered, of which twelve were from context 113. The CBM from this context consisted of six large pieces from at least two Roman box flue tiles with combed outer face and traces of mortar adhering, one fragment of imbrex and four pieces of unidentified flat tile.

### 3.4 Other Finds

A very small quantity of other finds were recovered, mainly limestone fragments, but also one small patinated flint flake and two fragments of animal bone. None of these was from secure contexts.

## 4. Discussion and Conclusions

### 4.1 Discussion

Despite the site lying close to a previously discovered Roman building with mosaics (Figure 2), no Roman features were discovered during the works, only a series of small undated ditches. There was very little Roman material noted in the garden soils across the site, except for a concentration of Roman tile and the base of a mortarium just above the natural chalk in the south west corner of the new extension. This concentration is not easily understood, as it contains large fragments, much larger than the rest of the material in the soils and much larger and less abraded than would be expected if it had been in the soil for a long period of time. Perhaps the most likely explanation is that it is derived from a disturbed Roman feature in the vicinity, just outside the area of the new extension. The material is likely to have come from the demolition of the nearby Roman building.

The ditches recorded on the site are of unknown date, but the character of their fills suggests they may be post-medieval, rather than earlier in date. However, their location and orientation does not match any feature marked on the eighteenth – twentieth century maps. The area was open ground until the creation of All Saints Road at the end of the nineteenth century. These ditches may be associated with agricultural or garden activity, but their function or significance is not clear from such a small exposure. The upper surface of the chalk appears truncated and is buried beneath a thick deposit of humic soil, which is likely to be a product of the long period of use as medieval and later fields and gardens.

### 4.2 Conclusions

No significant Roman archaeology was exposed despite the site's proximity to a Roman building in All Saints Road discovered in the late nineteenth century. The upper surface of the chalk appears truncated, perhaps by agricultural activity when the area was part of the medieval fields of Dorchester.

## 5. References

- |                |      |   |
|----------------|------|---|
| AAF,           | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.</i> Archaeological Archives Forum.                                      |
| Bellamy, P.,   | 1992 | 'Observations at Merchant's Garage, High West Street, Dorchester, 1983' <i>Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society</i> <b>113</b> , 41-54.       |
| Bellamy, P.S., | 2002 | New Water Main, Durngate Street, Dorchester, Dorset: Archaeological Observations and Recording. Terrain Archaeology Report No. 53090.1, July 2002. Unpublished Client Report. |
| CIfA,          | 2014 | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> December 2014. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.   |

- Cosh, S. R. and Neal, D. S., 2005 *Roman Mosaics of Britain. Volume II South-west Britain.*
- RCHME 1970 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset, Volume Two South East.* Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). London HMSO.
- Smith, R. J. C., 1993 *Excavations at County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset, 1988 in the North-West Quarter of Durnovaria.* Wessex Archaeology Report No. 4. (Salisbury; Trust for Wessex Archaeology).
- Tatler, S. and Bellamy, P.S., 2009 Replacement Gas Main from Icen Way Depot to Casterbridge Trading Estate, Dorchester Dorset: Archaeological Observations and Recording, September 2007-March 2008. Terrain Archaeology Report No. 53263/3/1, January 2009. Unpublished Client Report.
- Woodward, P.J., Davies, S. M. and Graham, A. H., 1993 *Excavations at the Old Methodist Chapel and Greyhound Yard, Dorchester 1981-1984.* Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Monograph 12.

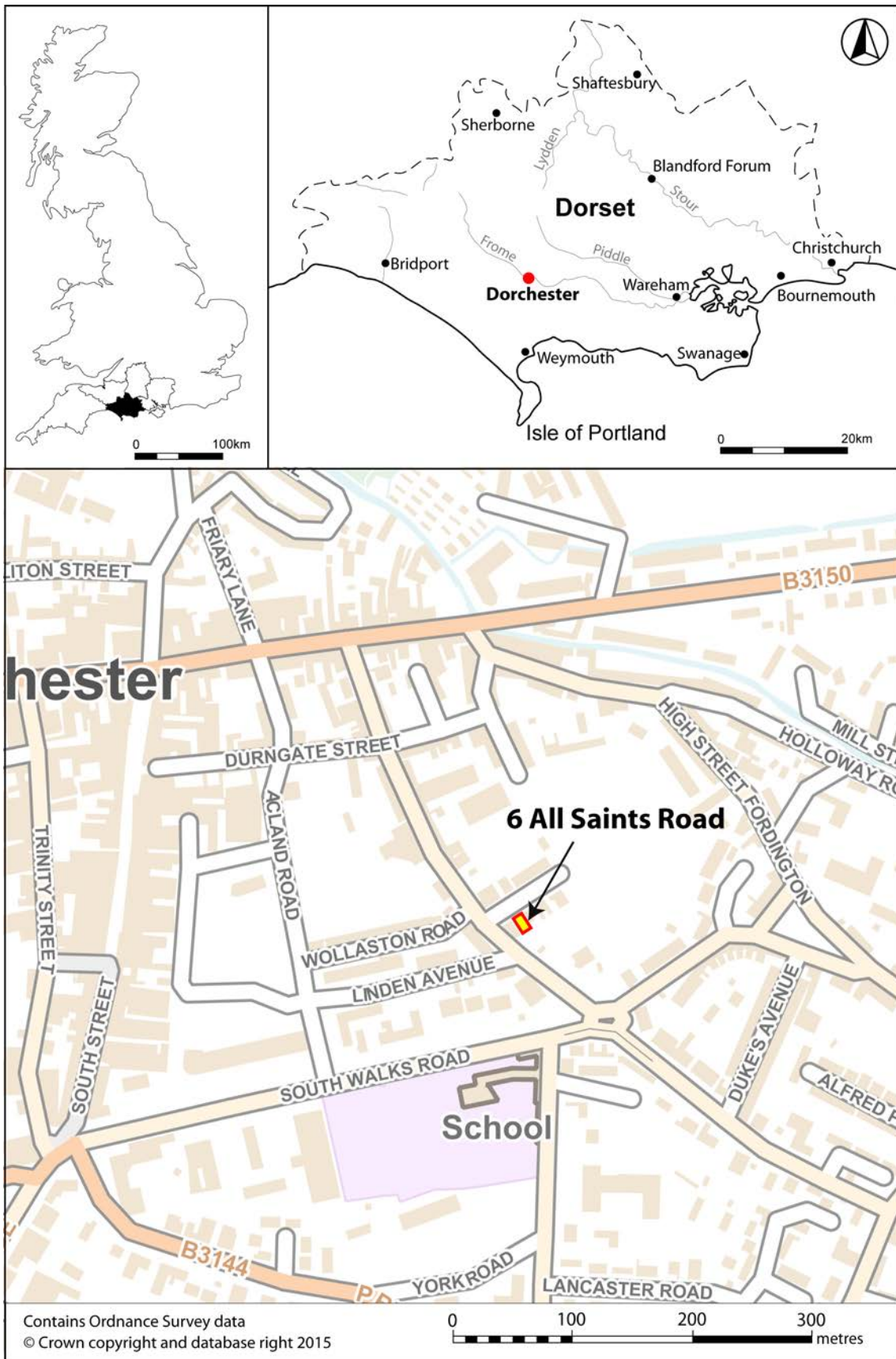


Figure 1: Location map.

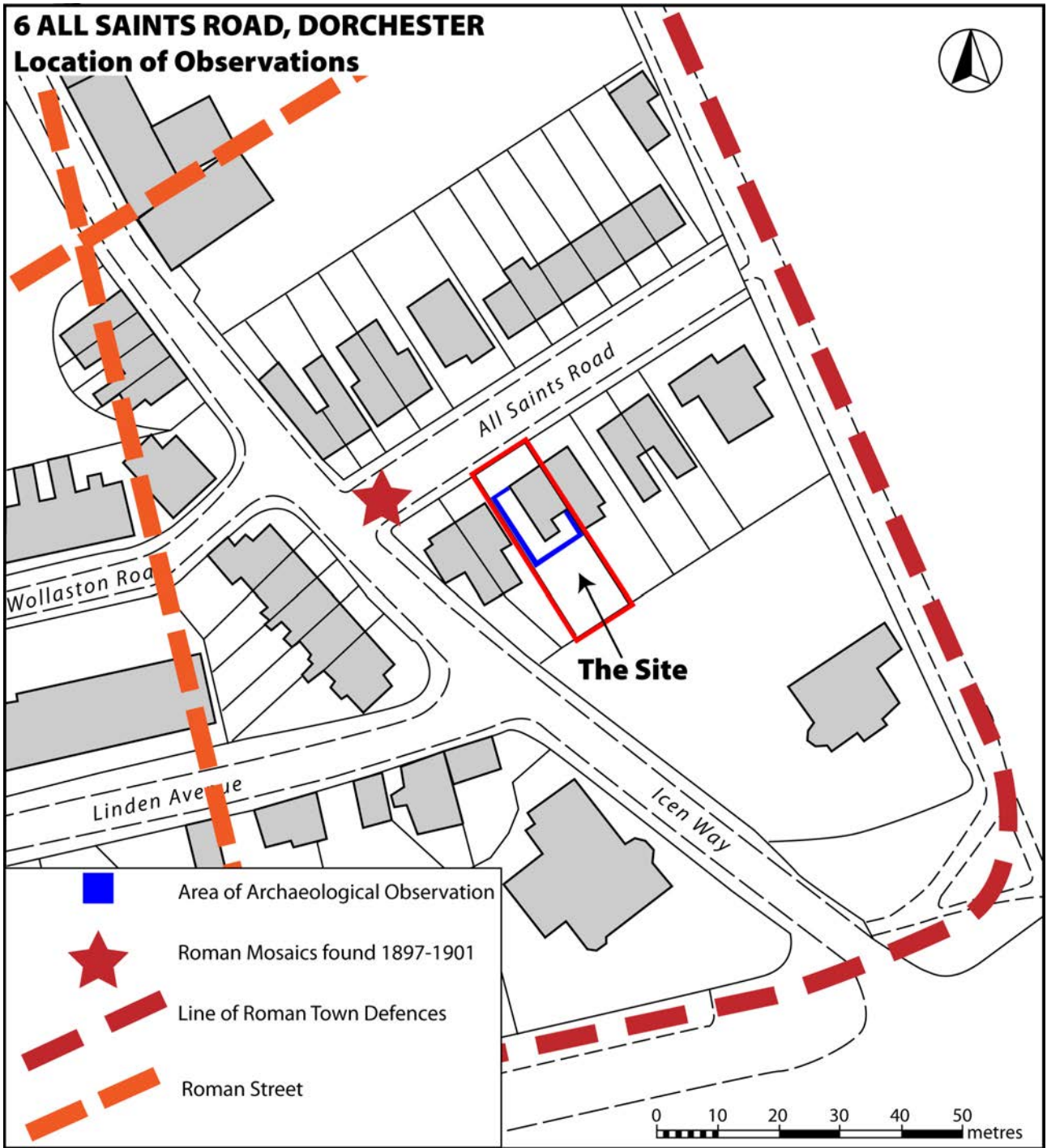


Figure 2: Location of Observations.

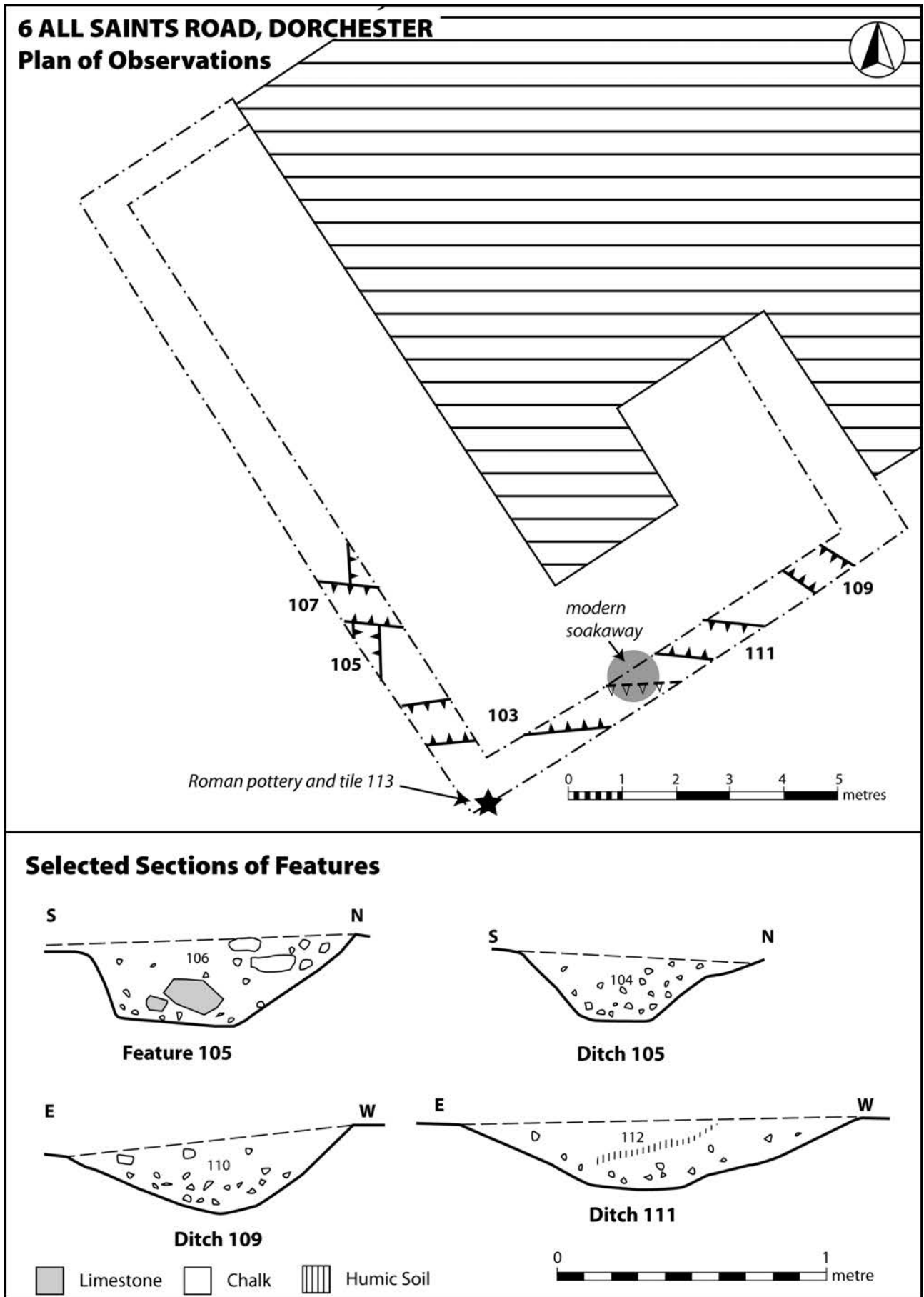


Figure 3: Plan of Observations and Selected Sections.



*Plate 1: Ditches 103, 105 and 107 along western boundary of the site, viewed from east. 1m & 2m scales.*



*Plate 2: Ditches 111 and 103, viewed from northeast. 1m scales.*



*Plate 3: Findspot of Roman flue tiles 113, viewed from north. 1m scales.*