



Normandy/Kohima, School Lane, Dorchester, Dorset Archaeological Field Evaluation



Report No. 53483/2/1

May 2018

Normandy/Kohima, School Lane, Dorchester, Dorset

Archaeological Field Evaluation, April 2018

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Client: Mill Street Housing Society, Fordington Hill House, High Street Fordington, Dorchester DT1 1L

Agent:

Report Author: Peter Bellamy BSc (Hons) MCIfA

Illustrations: Peter Bellamy BSc (Hons) MCIfA

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Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terrains1-319675		
Project Title	Normandy/Kohima, School Lane, Dorchester		
Short Description of Project	Terrain Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of two houses, Normandy and Kohima, on School Lane, Dorchester. Three trenches were excavated, revealing part of the outer ditch of the Roman town defences in Trench 1 and the remains of the dumped chalk bank of the Counterscarp Bank of the town defences in Trenches 2 and 3. The bank survived 0.9 m high. The robbed out remains of the nineteenth century Christ Church were also found including part of the nave wall, a buttress and a drain. The church was demolished in 1933.		
Project Dates	Start: 24-04-2018	End: 26-04-2018	
Previous/Future Work	No/Not known		
Project Code	53483		
Monument Type and Period	Town Defences (Roman); Church (post-medieval)		
Significant Finds	None		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Dorset/ West Dorset/ Dorchester		
Site Address	Normandy and Kohima, School Lane, Dorchester DT1 1XR		
Site Coordinates	SY 6885 9090		
Site Area	30.4 m ²		
Height OD			
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator	None		
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Mike Trevarthen		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	Developer		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Dorset County Museum.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Dorset County Museum.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Dorset County Museum.
Contents		Digital photography	context sheets, diary, photographs, plans, report

Normandy/Kohima, School Lane, Dorchester, Dorset

Archaeological Field Evaluation, April 2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by the Mill Street Housing Society to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the grounds of two adjacent houses *Normandy* and *Kohima* off School Lane, Dorchester. The land is being considered for future development by the housing society and discussions with Steve Wallis (Senior Archaeologist (Advice and Management) Dorset County Council) had indicated the need for an archaeological evaluation to inform the prior to determination of a planning application for the development of the site.

The fieldwork was carried out on the 24th – 26th April 2018 by Peter Bellamy and Mike Trevarthen.

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 School Lane off The Grove, Dorchester, centred on SY 6885 9090 (Figure 1). The site slopes down to the north and to the east. It is surrounded by stone walls, which formerly demarcated the churchyard of Christ Church.

1.4 Geology

The solid geology is mapped as chalk of the Portsdown Chalk Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.5.1 Prehistoric

Prehistoric activity in 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). The site lies well outside the likely circuit of this monument, but should be considered in relation to a wider Neolithic monumental landscape that exists in the Dorchester environs. 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 much of the area of Dorchester.

1.5.2 Roman

The Site lies just beyond the western boundary of the Roman town of *Durnovaria*, on the line of the town defences. *Durnovaria* was founded about AD65 and its earliest element 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 has been determined. 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.

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. Many Romano-British towns gained earthwork defences probably in the second half of the second century AD, and many of these were modified with stone walls in the third century (Jones & Mattingly 1990, 161). Dorchester appears to follow this pattern. 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). It has also been found on the west side of the town beneath 1 West Walks (Trevarthen 2012a). 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 most complete section across the ditch system was made in 1896 across the southern line of the defences, close to the southwest corner, just to the south east of the site (RCHME 1970). The ditches were about 15 m wide and up to 4 m deep with V-shaped profiles. These ditches were also observed during works in the car park of the Great Western Hotel in 1994 (Woodward 1994). The inner edge of the middle ditch of this system was observed in the garden of Appian House, 22 Great Western Road in 2006 (Tatler and Bellamy 2006). The bank was investigated near the western end of Bowling Alley Walk in 1969–70, which revealed a primary bank about 15 m wide, later enlarged to a width of twenty-seven metres (Putnam *et al.* 1969 and 1970). The counterscarp bank lies under the houses on the south side of Great Western Road and has not been investigated.

The western side of the town defences appear to be similar to those on the south. The two phases of bank and the stone wall footings were investigated at Colliton Park, providing the most complete section through the bank (RCHME 1970). The standing remains of the stone wall in Albert Road were investigated in 1951 (Farrar 1953). The bank still survives as an earthwork along West Walks, though flattened and spread by later activity, it appears still to be over two metres high. All three ditches have been observed at the southern end of the Borough Gardens (Bellamy 2017). The ditches have been observed in a number of places to the north of the Borough Gardens. The outer two ditches have been observed at Christchurch Court/Physiques and Shapes (Trevarthen 2012b) and the outer ditch and the counterscarp bank at Dorford Church (Bellamy 2004). The two outer ditches are projected to run beneath Kohima and the counterscarp bank below Normandy (Figure 1).

A number of Roman burials have been recorded immediately outside the line of the Roman town defences to the west of The Grove. About 20 or more were found in 1902 and in 1963–5 in the area between School Lane and Millers Close (RCHME 1970, 585). Two further graves were found in 1975 during the construction of garages at Grove Court (Jackson 1976). More Roman burials have been found west of the line of the town defences to the south of the Site under the Top o' Town Car Park and under Christ Church Court (RCHME 1970, 582).

1.5.3 Early Medieval and Medieval

The early medieval history of Dorchester and Fordington is not well documented. There is evidence for post-Roman settlement at Poundbury in the 5th–7th centuries (Sparey Green 1987). Documentary evidence suggests that there was a royal residence at Dorchester in the 9th century and the settlement 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 part of the royal estate (Thorn 1983). There may have been a royal residence at Fordington (Keen 1984).

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.

During the medieval period, the site itself was in the open fields of the manor of Fordington, part of the lands of the Duchy of Cornwall. Evidence from the Borough Gardens (Bellamy 2017) and from Christchurch Court (Trevorthen 2012a) suggests that the ditches of the Roman town defences survived as significant earthworks in the medieval period, right through to the 18th and 19th centuries.

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, although the cloth industry was in decline, it appears to have become the largest town in the county. 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.

Colliton Walk and West Walk were laid out as a tree-lined walk in about 1712 with a gravel path along the flattened out top of the remains of the Roman rampart (Pope 1918). Simpson's 1779 map of Fordington indicates that the site lay within a close running down towards West Mill by this date.

The area immediately west of Dorchester was gradually developed from the late 18th century. The Marabout Barracks were established in 1794 for the Dorset Volunteer Rangers (later the Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry). The Dorset Militia Barracks were built in 1866 and the Depot Barracks for the Dorset Regiment in 1879. A number of terraced houses were built down the Grove in the late 18th and early 19th century and Christ Church was built in 1846 to serve West Fordington and was used as a church for the barracks, in particular by the 54th Regiment of Foot. The church was demolished in 1933. Normandy was built probably in the 1950s on the site of the demolished church and Kohima was built probably in the 1960s. The houses were funded as a war memorial and were gifted to the Mill Street Society by the Dorset Regiment.

1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the site.

1.7 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the field evaluation is to understand, record and make available information on the archaeological resource existing on the site to enable the archaeology on the site to be characterised, in order to assess the impact and significance of the new development. The evaluation will aim to place the archaeological results within the local, regional and national context, as appropriate, and advance understanding of the archaeology of the site and its surroundings.

Its objectives were:

- To investigate and record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed to an appropriate professional standard.

- To provide sufficient data to enable an informed decision to be taken on the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the heritage assets on the site.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

1.8 Proposed Development

No details of the proposed development were available at the time of compilation of this document.

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 April 2018 (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3483/0/1). All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014a).

The evaluation comprised intrusive investigation in the form of trial trenching using a 3-ton mechanical digger fitted with a toothless grading bucket. One trench (Trench 1, Figure 2), measuring 7.85 m by 1.6 m, was excavated in the garden of Kohima and two trenches (Trenches 2-3, Figure 2), measuring 5.75 m by 1.95 m and 4.05 m by 1.35 m, were dug in the garden of Normandy. Machining in Trench 1 was generally halted at the top of the rammed chalk and mortar skim surface 106/111, except at the east end, where the top of this deposit was removed. A small slot was dug along the south edge of the trench at the west end, to expose the top of the Roman ditch 117. Trench 2 was excavated by machine down on to the top of the natural chalk. Trench 3 was excavated down on to the top of the stone capping 304 of drain 305. At the north end of Trench 3, the trench was machined to a slightly greater depth to expose the remains of the church wall 308.

The base and sides of the trenches were cleaned and 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. These have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014b) and the requirements of the receiving museum. A photographic record of the work was maintained in digital format, and includes aspects of its setting, conduct and technical detail.

1.10 Archive and Dissemination

The project archive, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and appropriate background documentation, is currently stored by Terrain Archaeology under the project code 53483. The archive will be deposited with Dorset County Museum in due course.

A 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) under the reference code *terrains1-319675*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

A brief report of the project will be published by Terrain Archaeology in the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*.

2. Results

2.1 Introduction

The results from all three evaluation trenches are considered together below. All features and deposits revealed in each Trench are listed in Appendix 1.

2.2 Natural Deposits

The natural chalk (119) lay at a depth of about 0.8 m below modern ground surface in Trench 1 (Figure 3). Chalk bedrock (209) was also exposed at a depth of 1.50 m below modern ground level in Trench 2 (Figure 4).

2.3 Old Ground Surface 208

Overlying the natural chalk bedrock in Trench 2 was a 0.2 m thick layer of dark yellowish-brown calcareous silty clay (208) with frequent flint nodules, particularly at the base of the deposit and included worked flint waste of probable Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. This layer was sealed by the Roman Counterscarp Bank material 207 (Figure 4; Plate 1). This layer is similar to a buried soil deposit found many places within the Roman town, sealed beneath Roman features. It is likely to be the remains of an agricultural soil of prehistoric origin and reworked in the Roman period and then sealed and protected by the Roman town defences, possibly some time in the late second or third century AD.

2.4 Roman Town Defences

2.4.1 Outer Ditch 117

The eastern edge of the outer ditch of the Roman town defences was exposed in a small machine-dug sondage in the west end of Trench 1 (Figure 3; Plate 3). This consisted of a moderately sloping cut into the natural chalk, aligned roughly N-S. It was filled with a mid to light greyish-brown slightly calcareous clayey silt with sparse small chalk lumps (118), which contained a single fragment of Roman tile and a piece of unworked shale. No secure dating evidence was recovered, but the location, alignment and stratigraphic position of this ditch suggest that it is the outer ditch of the town defences (Figure 2).

2.4.2 Counterscarp Bank 207/306

Substantial remains of a dumped chalk bank (207, 306) exposed in Trenches 2 and 3 (Figures 4–5; Plates 1–2). It comprised tips and dumps of chalk rubble interspersed with lenses and layers of grey chalky silt and yellowish brown chalky clay silt. This bank survived to a height of about 0.95 m in Trench 2 and was over 13.5 m wide. It was constructed directly on top of the old ground surface (208). The tip lines generally dipped towards the west suggesting it was built out from the eastern side. Although no material was recovered from this feature, its location, scale and stratigraphic position strongly suggest that it is the remains of the Counterscarp Bank of the Roman town defences.

2.5 Christ Church

2.5.1 Wall 308

The robbed out remains of an E-W mortared limestone rubble wall 0.45 m thick (308) were exposed in the northern end of Trench 3 (Figure 5; Plate 4). This wall was built on top of a limestone chippings and mortar footing (309) and constructed within a construction trench cut into the top of the Counterscarp Bank 306. This wall remnant was on the line of the south wall of the nave of Christ Church, as shown on the historic Ordnance Survey maps.

2.5.2 Buttress 202

In the north east corner of Trench 2 (Plate 1) was the corner of a mortared limestone rubble structure (202) set on a limestone chippings and mortar footing about 0.8 m thick (Plate 5). This was within a construction cut 201 dug into the remains of the Counterscarp Bank 207 (Figure 4). This structure was identical in construction to the remains of the south wall of the nave exposed in Trench 3. Structure 202 lies to the south of the line of this wall and may be the remains of a buttress. A photograph of the church dated c. 1870 shows a buttress in this position (<http://www.opcdorset.org/fordingtondorset/Files/WFordingtonHistoryChristchurch.html>). The 1888 1:500 Ordnance Survey town plan shows buttresses along the nave of the church.

2.5.3 Drain 305

A brick culvert (305), with a tile base and a stone capping (304) was found in Trench 3 cut into the top of the Counterscarp Bank 306 (Plates 2 and 6). It lay to the south of wall 308. It was curvilinear in plan entering the trench

from the NE then curving to run southwards out of the trench (Figure 5). The bricks are of nineteenth century type and the mortar used in the construction of the drain is similar to that used in the remains of Christ Church described above, so it is likely that it is associated with the church. Perhaps it was built to drain water away from the angle between the nave and south transept, which lay just east of the north end of Trench 3.

2.6 Other Features

2.6.1 Feature 107

A flat bottomed feature (107) about 0.45 m deep was found at the southern end of Trench 1, cut into the natural chalk bedrock (Figure 3; Plate 9). Only a small part of this feature was exposed, so its full size and shape is not known. Only the southern edge of this feature was defined, but it appears to be a roughly linear cut running approximately ENE-WSW. At the eastern end of the trench this feature was cut by a deeper cut of unknown size, shape and depth (Figure 3). The base and side of the feature did not exhibit much signs of wear or erosion, suggesting it was backfilled fairly rapidly. It was filled with tips of loose chalk rubble and chalky soil (108, 109), with a lens of dark soil (110). This feature is poorly understood, but contains some earlier nineteenth century material and perhaps may be associated with the construction of Christ Church in 1846.

2.6.2 Surface 106

Overlying the top of the fill of the Outer Ditch of the Roman town defences and the western part of Feature 107 was a rammed chalk layer (111) between 0.15 m and 0.35 m thick (Figure 3; Plates 7–8). Over the top of this rammed chalk layer was a thin eroded skim of pale yellow sandy lime mortar (106). This mortar skim surface could be traced beyond the edge of Feature 107 and over the top of the natural chalk to the south. Its full extent was not exposed. The interpretation of this surface is uncertain but it is early nineteenth century or later in date and may be associated with the construction of Christ Church in 1846, perhaps it was laid down as a consolidation of the soft Roman ditch deposits, prior to construction.

2.6.3 Post Hole 114

A single post hole (114) was discovered in the south east corner of Trench 1 cut into the natural Chalk bedrock. The fills in the post hole suggest that the post was removed, rather than allowed to rot in situ. The fill contained nineteenth century pottery. The function of this post hole is not known.

2.7 Demolition and Landscaping Deposits

Overlying the rammed chalk 111 and mortar surface 106 was an intermittent silty chalk layer (104, 105) and a layer of chalk rubble (103). These were sealed by a layer of buried topsoil (102), 0.25 m thick, which extended across the whole area of the trench. Soil layer 102 is thought to be the remnants of the topsoil within the churchyard of Christ Church.

The churchyard soil 102 was buried beneath a levelling layer (101) containing significant quantities of demolition rubble, including limestone fragments and mortar debris (Figure 3; Plate 9). This layer probably represents landscaping following the demolition of Christ Church in 1933. It was sealed below the present garden soil (100).

2.8 Modern Garden Soils

The present garden soils (100, 200, 300) are of variable thickness across the three trenches and in Trench 2 contained remnants of stone rubble and mortar debris. In Trench 3 was a thin gravelly soil (301), which is probably part of the modern garden.

3. Finds

3.1 Finds Assemblage

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

Context	Post-med. Pot	Ceramic Building Material	Stone Building Material	Flint	Shale	Glass	Animal Bone
106	2/8	1/49	--	--	--	--	--
108	4/15	2/341	3/66	--	--	--	1/1
109	7/107	--	--	--	--	1/33	--
110	1/8	--	1/430	--	--	--	--
115	2/41	--	--	--	--	--	--
118	--	1/153	--	--	1/13	--	--
204	--	1/46	--	--	--	--	--
208	--	--	--	49/808	--	--	--
Total	16/179g	5/589g	4/496	49/808g	1/13g	1/33g	1/1g

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

3.2 Pottery

The post-medieval/modern pottery consists of sixteen sherds from thirteen different vessels, all retrieved from Trench 1. The assemblage includes six sherds of local earthenwares (from contexts 108 and 109), including one sherd of probable Donyatt pottery. The remainder include one sherd of stoneware (from context 110), two sherds of blue printed ware, including part of a teapot spout (from context 109), three sherds of an octagonal black basalt teapot with floral and leaf decoration (also from context 109), part of a bone china tea cup handle (context 106) and four sherds of plain industrial whiteware. All are of late eighteenth to early/mid nineteenth century date.

3.3 Ceramic Building Material

3.3.1 Roman Tile

A single piece of Roman tile, probably part of a tegula, was recovered from context 118, the fill of the outer Roman town defensive ditch.

3.3.2 Post-medieval Brick and Tile

The post-medieval ceramic building material recovered comprised one fragment of Broadmayne brick from context 108 and three fragments of flat roof tiles from contexts 106, 108 and 204. All are likely to be nineteenth century in date.

3.4 Stone Building Material

3.4.1 Purbeck Marble

A single broken piece from the edge of a polished Purbeck Marble slab, 10 mm thick, was recovered from context 110.

3.4.2 Slate

Three fragments of Welsh slate, presumably from roofing material, were recovered from context 108.

3.5 Worked Flint

3.5.1 Introduction

A total of 48 pieces of worked flint and one Portland chert flake was recovered from context 208, the prehistoric/Roman soil below the Counterscarp Bank. The assemblage consisted of one rough multi directional flake core, 31 flakes, 16 broken flakes and one piece of miscellaneous debitage. The flakes were almost all thick squat primary and secondary trimming flakes, with three blade-like flakes, including one of Portland Chert. 22 pieces were patinated and one was burnt. This assemblage contained no diagnostic artefacts, but the overall character suggests Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age knapping waste and is likely to be part of the general background scatter of worked flint found across the landscape surrounding Dorchester.

3.6 Other Finds

3.6.1 Shale

A single fragment of unworked Kimmeridge Shale was found in context 118, the fill of the outer ditch of the Roman town defences.

3.6.2 Glass

A single sherd of brown glass from a cylindrical bottle was recovered from context 109.

3.6.3 Animal Bone

A single very eroded small unidentifiable fragment of long bone was recovered from context 108.

4. Assessment

4.1 Sample

Trenches 1-3 evaluated a total area of about 30.4 m², which represents an approximate 2.9% sample of the area of the two properties and their gardens. Experiments on the effectiveness of differing sample strategies on large scale rural archaeological sites have indicated a trial trenching sample of between 5%-10% of the area is broadly effective in evaluating Roman and medieval remains with a relatively high degree of confidence, but is less effective at picking up and understanding prehistoric and Saxon archaeology (Hey & Lacey, 2001).

In this instance, the probable archaeology on the site was fairly well understood prior to the evaluation and the line of the ditches and Counterscarp Bank of the Roman town defences could be projected across the site with a fair degree of accuracy from data collected from other sites in the vicinity. The footprint of the former Christ Church could be projected fairly accurately from historic Ordnance Survey maps.

4.2 Heritage Asset Resource of the Site

There are two groups of heritage assets revealed by the evaluation excavation: elements of the Roman town defences and the remains of the former nineteenth century Christ Church.

4.2.1 Roman Town Defences

The line of the outer two ditches of the Roman Town defences and the Counterscarp Bank were projected onto the site prior to determining the positions of the evaluation trenches (Terrain Archaeology 2018). The scale and position of the outer two ditches was taken from the results of the 1972 and 2012 investigations at Christchurch Court about 65 m to the south of the site (Trevarthen 2012b). The projection of the Counterscarp Bank was less certain and was based on evidence from Dorford Church (Bellamy 2004).

Only the edge of the Outer Ditch (117) was discovered and the full width and depth of the ditch was not investigated. Despite the very small part of this ditch exposed, there is a high degree of confidence that ditch 117 is part of the outer ditch as it lies almost exactly on the projected line of this ditch and the angle of the ditch edge cut is similar to that seen at Christchurch Court (Trevarthen 2012b). No dating evidence was recovered from the upper fill of this ditch. Although only Roman material was recovered, it is not clear what the date of the final filling of this ditch was. The evidence from elsewhere on the western side of the town at the Borough Gardens and Christchurch Court indicates that the ditches were not completely filled in until the nineteenth century (Bellamy 2017; Trevarthen 2012b).

No trace of the Middle Ditch was discovered. The western edge of this ditch is projected to cross the very eastern end of Trench 1 (Figure 2). It is possible that the ditch lies just slightly further beyond the trench edge. The evidence from both Christchurch Court and Borough Gardens shows that the middle ditch is much smaller and shallower than the Inner and Outer Ditch with shallow shelving edges. The 1972 investigations at Christchurch Court revealed that the Middle Ditch had been severely truncated by later activity along The Grove and the 2012 observations revealed that several metres of the western side of this ditch had been completely removed by later disturbance, so it is perhaps not surprising that the ditch was not found, though there is no evidence to suggest that it has been truncated on the present site and is most likely to survive just east of the end of Trench 1.

The Counterscarp Bank (207, 306) survives about 0.9 m high, buried below the modern surface. It is over 13.5 m wide, but neither the inside or outside edge of the bank was exposed. The thickness of the bank deposits in Trench 2 suggests that the edge of the bank lies at least several metres beyond the western edge of the site. At Dorford Church the Counterscarp bank survived about 21 m wide and the bank at Normandy/Kohima is likely to be of a similar order of magnitude.

4.2.2 Christ Church

Christ Church was constructed in 1846 to serve the community of West Fordington. Only one fragment of the south wall of the nave (308) was exposed. This wall was of mortared limestone rubble and was founded on deep, mortared, limestone chipping footings (309) cut into the top of the Roman Counterscarp Bank. The partial remains of a buttress on the south wall of the nave (202) were also revealed and had a very similar construction to the nave wall. It is likely that the brick drain 305 is also part of the church. To the east of the church, were features cut into the natural chalk (107, 114), which may be associated with the construction phase of the church. The rammed chalk and mortar surface (111, 106) is probably the part of an attempt to consolidate the soft ground of the Outer Roman Ditch to aid the construction of the new church.

The church was demolished in 1933 and walls were partially robbed out. It is not clear how extensive is the robbing of the walls. To the east of the church the demolition deposits (101) were spread over the former churchyard soil to level up the area. No similar levelling deposits were found in Trenches 2 and 3, presumably because the ground levels were already much higher thanks to the remains of the Roman Counterscarp Bank.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 Definition of Significance

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines significance as: *The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.* In the case of the heritage assets directly related to the current development proposal, the interest is primarily archaeological.

Historic England has issued a Planning guidance note covering Significance – *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2* (March 2015), which provides information on assessing the significance of heritage assets in implementing the NPPF.

The value of the heritage assets has been assessed with reference to the guidance given by the Highways Agency (now Highways England) in 2007 in *The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2: Cultural Heritage (Highways Agency document 208/07)*, which is the most suitable and widely-acknowledged detailed assessment methodology for assessing the impact on and value of heritage assets. The scale of heritage asset values is set out in Table 1, which is based on Highways Agency document 208/07, Annex 5, Table 5.1.

Value of Heritage Asset	Factors for assessing the value of archaeological assets
Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites). Assets of acknowledged international importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives.
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled Monuments (including proposed sites). Undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated or undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated and undesignated assets of local importance. Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives.
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest.
Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of the resource has not been ascertained.

Table 2: Scale of Heritage Asset Value

4.3.2 Heritage Asset Value and Significance

The value of the recorded and potential heritage assets on the Site is primarily evidential. Evidential Value derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.

The various elements of the Roman Town Defences have a **High** significance, based on the heritage asset value criteria set out in Table 2.

Christ Church is a nineteenth century church and the significance of its remains, based on the heritage asset value criteria set out in Table 2, is considered to be **Low**.

4.4 Potential impact of the proposed development

The policy on the impact of development on the significance heritage assets is set out in paragraphs 132 and 133 of the *National Planning Policy Framework*. The Planning Practice Guidance to the NPPF makes it clear that it is the degree of harm to the asset's significance rather than the scale of the development that should be assessed.

Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset, or development within its setting. The NPPF Practice Guidance describes the degree of harm to the significance of heritage assets in terms of 'substantial harm', 'less than substantial harm' and 'no harm'.

4.4.1 Direct Impacts on the Heritage Assets

The precise form of the development is not yet known so the impacts of the development on the heritage assets cannot be determined at the present time.

4.5 Suggested mitigation of the proposed development impacts

No specific mitigation measures can be suggested at the present time given the lack of any detail on the proposed development. It is suggested that the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor be contacted at an early stage of the development design, so that the impact of the development on the heritage assets on the site can be minimised.

5. References

- | | | |
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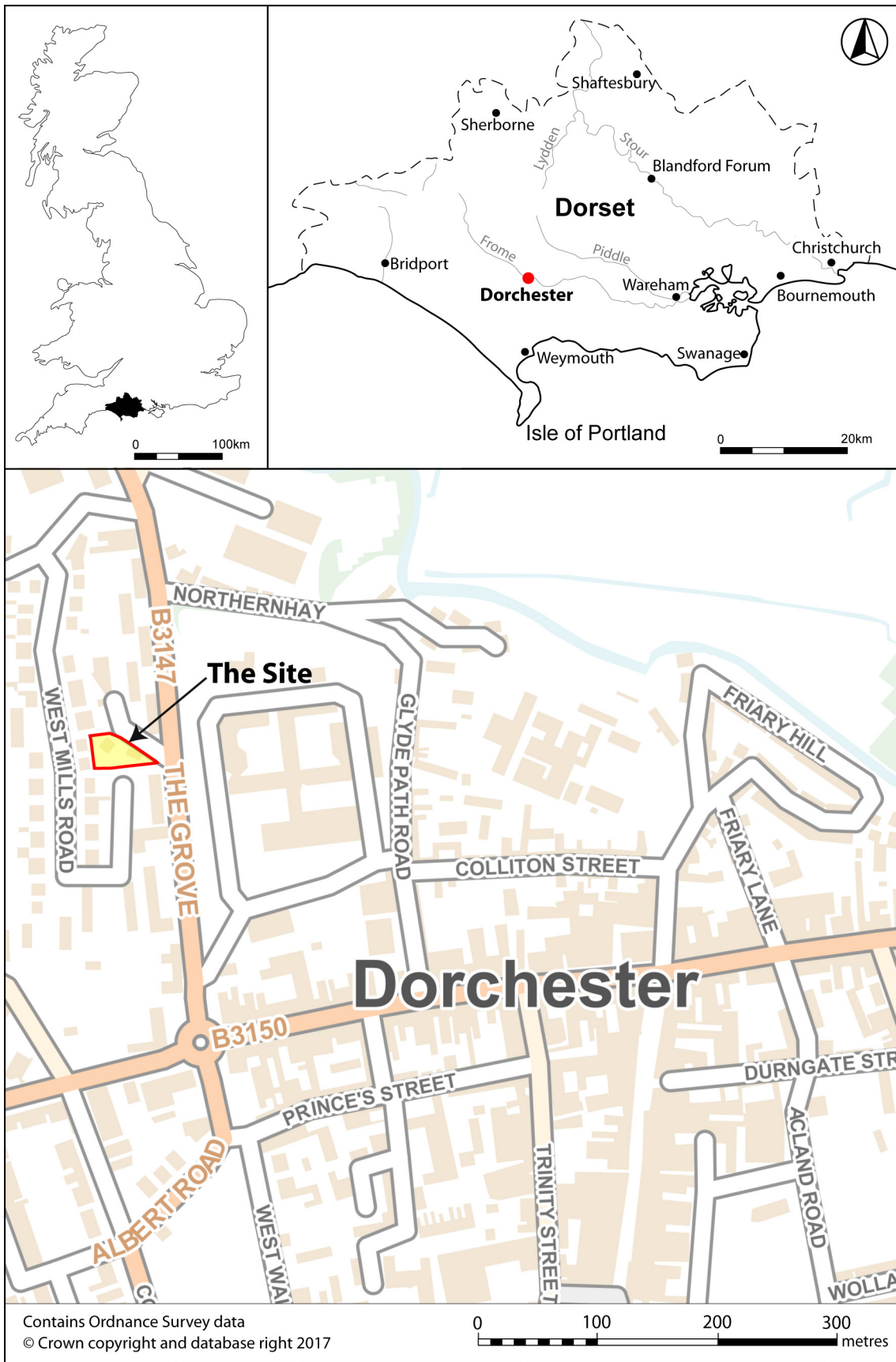


Figure 1: Site Location.



Figure 2: Location Plan of Trenches 1-3.

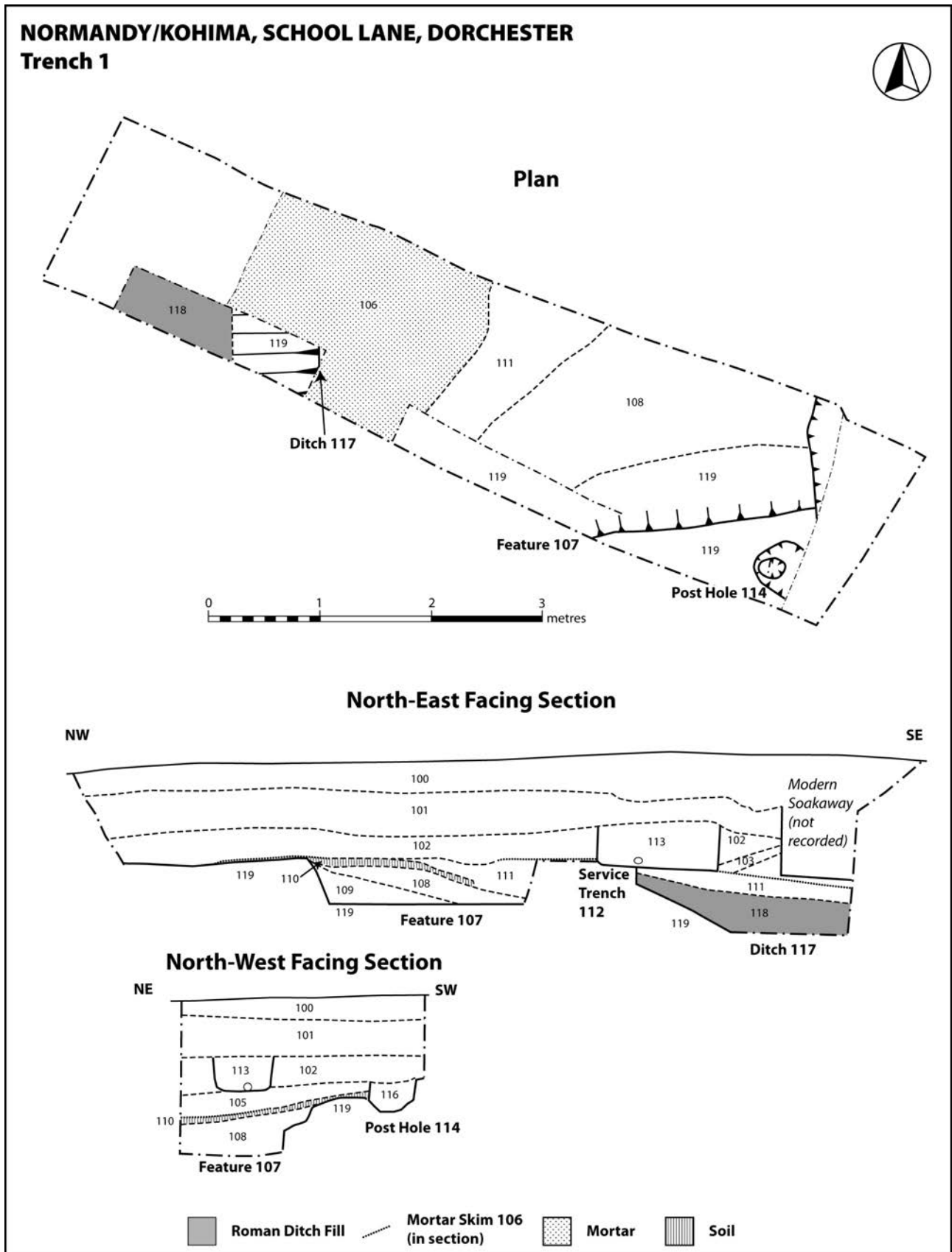


Figure 3: Plan and Sections of Trench 1.

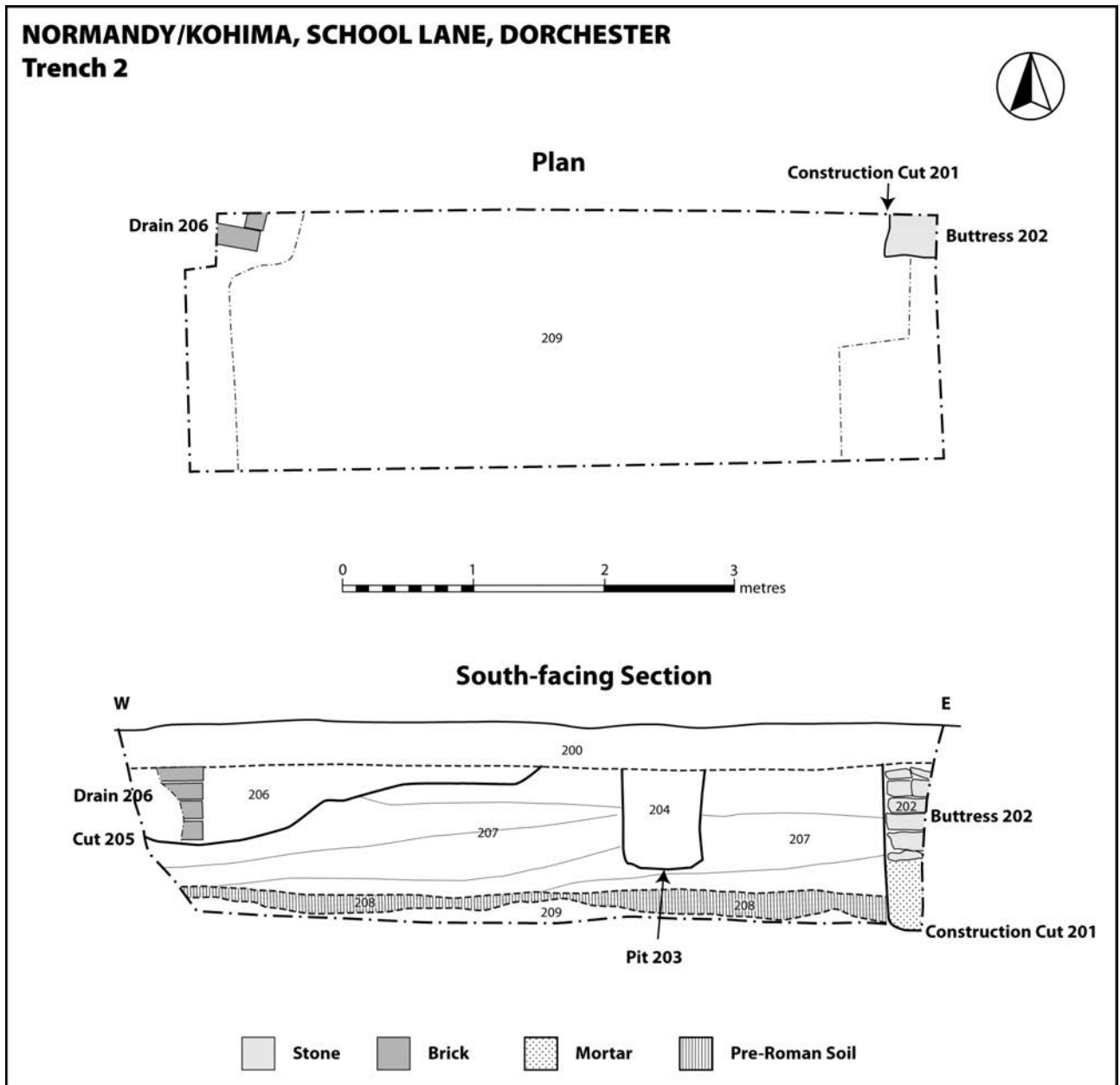


Figure 4: Plan and Section of Trench 2.

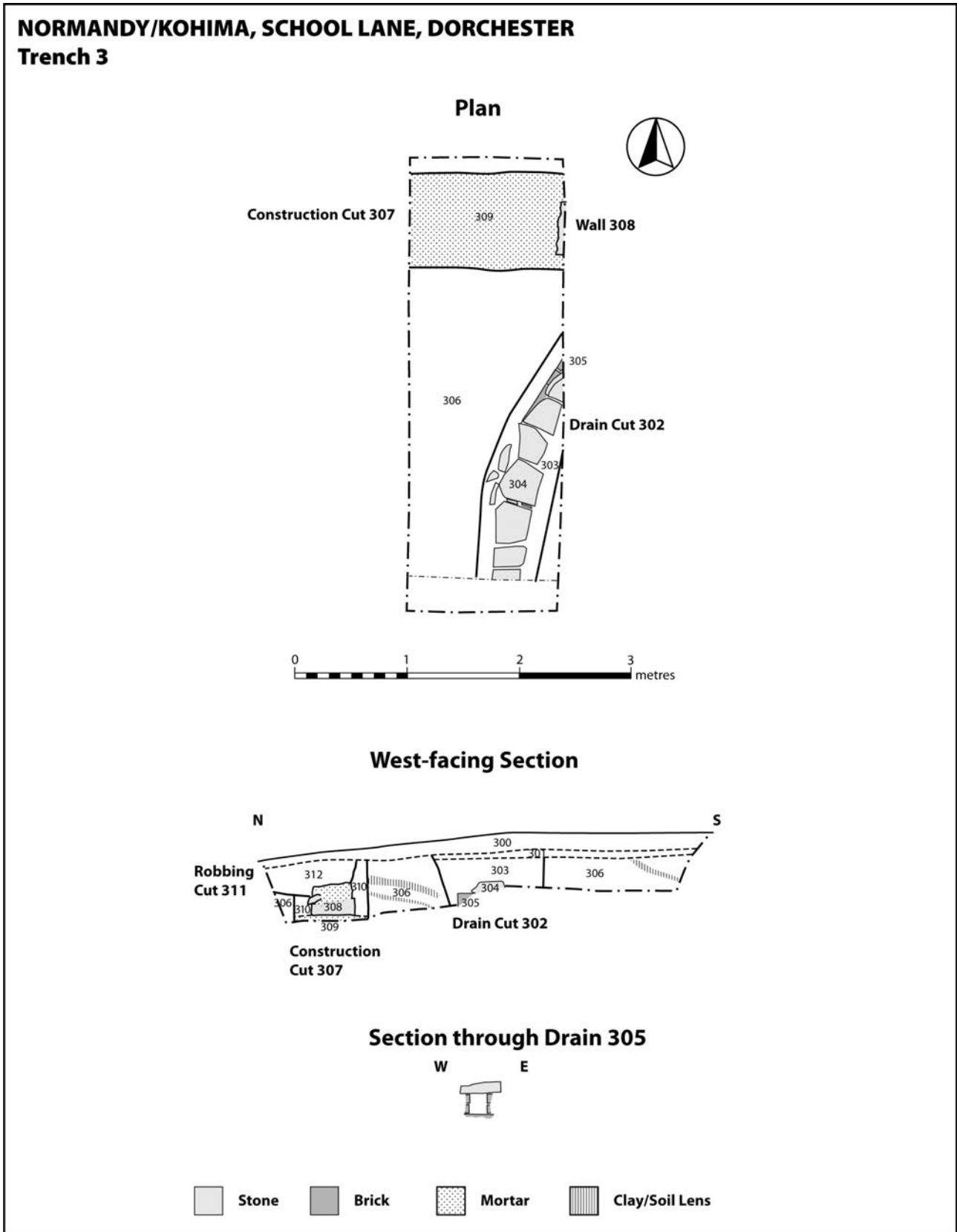


Figure 5: Plan and Sections of Trench 3.



Plate 1: Trench 2 after excavation showing prehistoric soil 208 below chalk deposits of Counterscarp Bank. Viewed from SW. 2m



Plate 2: Trench 3 viewed from NNE showing chalk rubble 306 of Counterscarp Bank cut by foundation trench 307 of Christ Church nave wall and drain 305. 1m and 2m scales.



Plate 3: Edge of Outer Ditch 117 of the Roman Town defences in machine sondage at east end of Trench 1. Viewed from West. 2m



Plate 4: South Wall 308 of the Nave of Christ Church with mortared crushed stone footing 309 below. Viewed from West. 1m scale.



Plate 5: Buttress 202 in north east corner of Trench 2. Viewed from South. 2m scale.



Plate 6: Detail of Drain 305. Viewed from North.



Plate 7: Trench 1 viewed from west with mortar surface 106 in foreground and Feature 107 in background. 1m & 2m scales



Plate 8: Mortar skim 106 over rammed chalk 111. Viewed from west. 1m & 2m scales



Plate 9: Feature 107 partially excavated. Demolition deposit 101 visible as a lighter band in section. Viewed from north east. 1m & 2m scales

Appendix 1: Trench Summary

Trench 1

Length: 7.85 m; Width 1.6 – 1.9 m; maximum depth 1.6 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
100	Garden Soil: Friable dark brown silty clay loam with occasional small chalk and stone.	0.00 – 0.25m
101	Levelling Layer: Firm light greyish-brown calcareous silty loam with abundant chalk lumps, occasional limestone, flint and patches of soft sandy yellow lime mortar. Across whole of trench below 100 and probably landscaping layer following demolition of Christ Church.	0.25 – 0.55m
102	Buried Topsoil: Dark greyish-brown silty loam with occasional small chalk and limestone fragments and flint nodules. Across whole of the trench below 101.	0.55 – 0.80m
103	Chalky Levelling Layer: Loose white/pale grey calcareous silty clay with very frequent chalk. At west end of trench, below 102.	0.70 – 0.80m
104	Silty Layer over surface 106: Pale grey silt with common chalk lumps and small flints. Lies directly on top of mortar surface 106 and thins out to the east and south. Not visible in drawn section. Similar to 105.	0.70 – 0.80m
105	Silty Layer over surface 106: Pale to mid brownish-grey clay silt on top of mortar surface 106. It thins out to the west. Similar to 104. Below 102.	0.80 – 1.00m
106	Mortar Skim: Thin skim of pale yellow sandy lime mortar on top of redeposited chalk layer 111.	0.80 – 0.81m
107	Shallow Linear Feature: A wide flat-based cut into the natural chalk. Only the southern edge of this cut was exposed. It appears to be over 2 m wide and is about 0.45 m deep. At the eastern end of the trench, this cut appears to step down into a deeper cut. Filled with 108 and 109. Possibly associated with the construction of Christ Church.	0.80 – 1.25 m
108	Upper Fill of Feature 107: Loose mid grey silty loam with common small chalk lumps and flint. Probably deliberate infill of 107.	0.95 – 1.40m
109	Lower Fill of Feature 107: Loose, partially voided redeposited chalk lumps in a sparse matrix of mid grey clayey silt. Probably deliberate infill of 107.	0.90 – 1.25m
110	Dark Soil Lens: Thin dark greyish-brown calcareous silty loam with sparse chalk and flint. Overlies 108 and dips into top of feature 107. Possibly part of filling of 107 or a later deposit slumped into it.	0.80 – 0.95m
111	Rammed Chalk: Hard packed chalk rubble filling the western part of feature 107 and over the top of the Roman ditch 117. It forms the base for the mortar surface 106. Possibly consolidation over the top of the infilled Roman ditch, possibly associated with the construction of Christ Church.	0.81 – 1.25m
112	Service Trench Cut: Cut for E-W trench containing metal gas pipe (servicing Christ Church?). Filled with 113. Cuts 102.	0.55 – 0.80m
113	Fill of Trench 112: Dark greyish-brown silty clay with moderate chalk. Infilling cut 112. Contains 2-inch steel (gas?) pipe.	0.55 – 0.80m
114	Post Hole: Circular post hole cut into natural chalk in SE corner of trench. Upper part of cut is irregular and wider – possibly caused by removal of post. Filled with 115 and 116.	0.83 – 1.10m+
115	Upper Fill of Post Hole 114: Loose mid yellowish-brown clay loam with frequent small chalk. 0.16 m thick. Possibly silting after post removal.	0.83 – 0.99m
116	Lower Fill of Post Hole 114: Pale grey silty clay with very frequent small chalk lumps.	0.99 – 1.10m+
117	Cut of Outer Roman Town Ditch: Aligned roughly N-S with moderately sloping east edge. Only seen in narrow machine-dug sondage. Filled with 118.	0.95 – 1.60m+
118	Upper Fill of Outer Roman Town Ditch: Mid to light greyish-brown slightly calcareous clayey silt with sparse small chalk lumps. In narrow machine-dug sondage. Full depth and width not exposed.	1.07 – 1.60m+
119	Natural Chalk.	0.8m+

Trench 2

Length: 5.75 m; Width 1.95 m; maximum depth 1.6 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
200	Garden Soil: Dark greyish-brown humic silty clay loam with moderate chalk and occasional mortar, slate, glass, stone, etc.	0.00 – 0.35m
201	Construction Cut for Buttress 202: Vertically sided cut in NE corner of trench. Cuts	0.35 – 1.58m

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
	207. Filled with 202.	
202	Buttress: At least 5 courses of tabular limestone rubble bonded with yellowish-brown sandy mortar. The stonework is founded on a c. 0.80m thick layer of crushed limestone in a soft mid grey mortar footing. Within Cut 201.	0.35 – 1.58m
203	Pit?: Vertically sided flat bottomed small feature seen in North section only. Plan shape not known. Possibly a garden feature. Cuts 207. Filled with 204.	0.35 – 1.10m
204	Fill of Pit 203: Loose mid grey silty clay loam with common chalk frags and occasional flint. Fill of 203.	0.35 – 1.10m
205	Cut for Drain 206: In north west corner of trench.	0.35 – 0.92m
206	Brick Drain: Rectangular brick structure bonded with soft grey sandy mortar. Four courses visible. Rest of cut filled with loose mid grey silty clay loam with common chalk lumps.	0.35 – 0.92m
207	Counterscarp Bank of Roman Town Defences: Dumps of redeposited chalk rubble, with tips of chalk in light grey clay silt or light brown calcareous clay. Tips generally dip towards the east.	0.35 – 1.30 m
208	Prehistoric/Roman Ground Surface: Firm dark yellowish-brown calcareous silty clay with frequent flint nodules, particularly at the base of the deposit. Sealed below bank 207 and overlies Natural Chalk.	1.30 – 1.50m
209	Natural Chalk: Weathered chalk bedrock with occasional solution features.	1.50+m

Trench 3

Length: 4.05 m; Width 1.35 m; maximum depth 0.65 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
300	Garden Soil: Dark greyish-brown humic silty clay loam with occasional chalk flecks and small stone.	0.00 – 0.16m
301	Garden Soil?: Thin layer of mid to dark brown silty clay loam with frequent flint gravel. Below 100 in south part of trench.	0.16 – 0.22m
302	Cut for Drain 305: Curvilinear cut running roughly north-south but curving towards the north east. Vertical sides. Base not exposed. Contains Drain 304/305 and backfilled with 303. Cuts 306	0.22 – 0.60m+
303	Backfill of Drain Cut 302: Loose pale to mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent small chalk lumps and flecks and occasional larger chalk and stone frags. Overlies drain capping 304.	0.22 – 0.60m+
304	Stone Capping of Drain 305: Flat limestone pieces, roughly split up to about 350mm across and about 60mm thick. Laid over channel of drain 305 and bonded with yellowish brown sandy mortar. The joints between stones filled with smaller pieces of stone or mortared.	0.40 – 0.50m
305	Brick Drain: Comprises two courses of Broadmayne brick bonded with yellowish brown sandy mortar forming sides of channel over a ceramic tile base. Channel measures 140mm wide and 160mm deep. Void. Capped with stone 304.	0.50 – 0.70m
306	Counterscarp Bank of Roman Town Defences: A series of tips of chalk rubble and chalky soil consisting of a series of lenses of calcareous pale grey and mid yellowish-brown silty clay interleaved with thicker deposits of chalk rubble and silt. These deposits appear to tip down to the west and south. Not excavated to full depth.	0.22 – 0.65m+
307	Construction Cut for Wall 308: Vertically sided cut aligned E-W. Contains footings 309 and remains of stone wall 308. Construction cut for wall of Christ Church. Cuts 306.	0.10 – 0.65m+
308	Stone Wall of Christ Church: 0.45 m thick stone wall surviving up to 0.3m high, but largely robbed out. It is constructed from angular limestone rubble in rough courses bonded with yellowish brown sandy mortar.	0.30 – 0.57m
309	Footings for Wall 308: Sub-angular limestone rubble 50–70mm across with moderate broken flint nodules in a grey to mid yellowish brown mortary sandy silt matrix. Within cut 307. Only top surface exposed.	0.57m+
310	Backfill of Cut 307: Mid greyish-brown to yellowish-brown silty clay loam with frequent chalk, filling construction cut 307 after the construction of wall 308.	0.10 – 0.65m+
311	Robber Trench for Wall 308: Irregular linear cut along the line of wall 308, completely removing the wall in some places.	0.10 – 0.55m
312	Fill of Robber Trench 311: Fairly loose mid yellowish brown gritty clay loam with frequent small limestone fragments and broken flint nodules with lumps of sandy mortar and chalk.	0.10 – 0.35m