

**LAND AT LADYMEAD CLOSE, EASTON,  
PORTLAND, DORSET**  
**Archaeological Observations and Recording**



**Report No. 53220/3/1**

**September 2006**

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PORTLAND, DORSET**  
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# **Land at Ladymead Close, Easton, Portland, Dorset Archaeological Observations and Recording, August 2006**

## **SUMMARY**

*Terrain Archaeology carried out a programme of observations and recording, during the excavation of a footings trench for a new dwelling on land at Ladymead Close, Easton, Portland, Dorset, in September 2006.*

*No features or deposits of archaeological significance were found.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Phil Laming and Sons Ltd, through their agents P. Dean Associates, to undertake a programme of archaeological observations and recording during the excavation of footings trenches for a proposed dwelling on land at Ladymead Close, Easton, Portland (Planning Application No. 05/00592/FUL).

The site is situated on the northern side of Ladymead Close, to the south of Easton Methodist Church at SY 69107182. It lies on level ground at a height of about 82 m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is Lower Purbeck Beds (Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 342 *Weymouth Drift* 1976).

The fieldwork was carried out on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2006 by Steven Tatler.

Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge the following for their help and cooperation during this project: Paul Dean (P. Dean Associates), Phil Laming (Phil Laming and Sons Ltd), Alan Welch (Site Manager) and Steven Wallis (Dorset County Council).

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

A search of the Archaeological Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue>) revealed little recorded archaeology in the vicinity. Several artefacts were uncovered during quarrying to the north and northwest of the site including Mesolithic flint tools and Roman coins. And approximately 300 m to the north of the site two Romano-British cist graves were found during the excavation of a foundation trench for a garage to the rear of 87 Easton Lane in 1989.

To the west of the site lie the earthworks associated with the now dismantled Easton and Church Ope Railway (Jackson 1999).

The site itself appears to have contained two buildings in its eastern half as shown by the 1900 O.S. map of Easton (Figure 4). From local information these would appear to have been part of a coal depot, possibly associated with the nearby railway.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The archaeological works aimed to observe and record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the groundworks to an appropriate professional standard.

The objective of the archaeological observations was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

## **METHODS**

The work was carried out in compliance with the Written Scheme of Investigation for the project, produced by Terrain Archaeology (Document 53220/1/1, August 2006). The project was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct and *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*, although no written brief was issued for the project.

The groundworks consisted firstly of the removal by machine excavator of the overlying topsoil to level the site. The footings trenches were then excavated to a depth of up to 1m using a 0.6 m and 0.4 m toothed bucket.

All deposits exposed in the trenches were recorded using elements of Terrain Archaeology's recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records. All depths recorded were below existing ground surface.

The records have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current UKIC guidelines and the requirements of the receiving museum. The archive will be deposited with the Dorset County Museum.

## **RESULTS**

No deposits or features of archaeological significance were found during the fieldwork.

The exposed stratigraphy comprised a layer of dark yellowish-brown clayey loam topsoil (100), up to 0.2 m thick, with frequent limestone pieces and tree roots. This sealed a compact yellowish-brown clay subsoil (101), up to 0.5 m thick, with abundant limestone pieces and peagrit. The underlying natural consisted of solid limestone bedrock (102), which became more fragmentary in the southern half of the site. This appeared as both loose rubble spreads with pale yellowish-brown clay and bands of decayed limestone.

No finds were recovered during this watching brief.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were found during the watching brief.

Evidence of the two buildings observed on the 1900 O.S. map of Easton was not found, which probably indicates that they were simple structures built of timber and corrugated iron sheeting with no substantial foundations.

## **PROJECT ARCHIVE**

The archive (Terrain Archaeology Project No. 53220) will be deposited with the Dorset County Museum, which has agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives. A copy of the microfilmed archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record.

## REFERENCES

- Jackson, B. L.                    1999    *Isle of Portland Railways: volume one: The Admiralty and Quarry Railways*
- [RCHM] Royal                    1970    *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset. 2,*  
Commission on                    South East.  
Historic Monuments

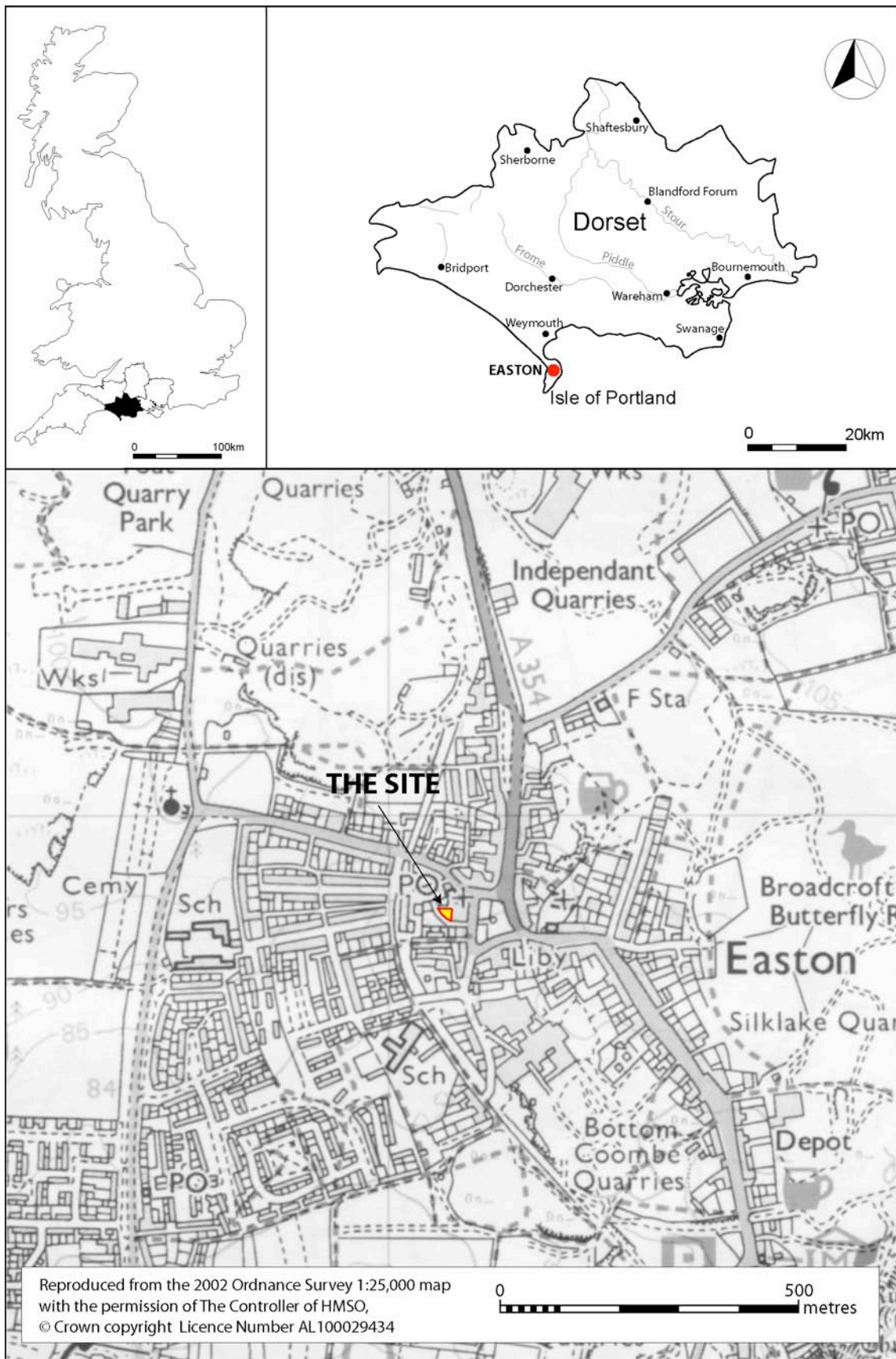


Figure 1: Location map

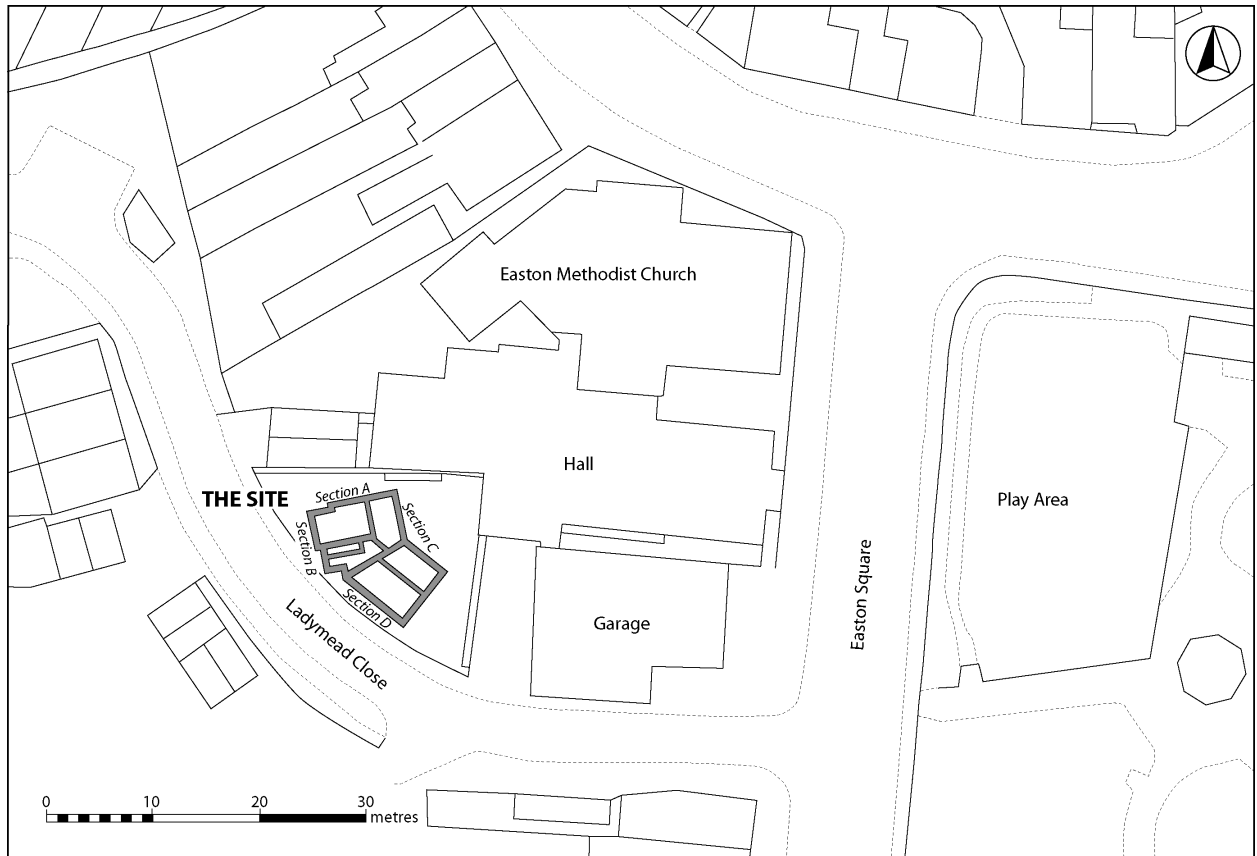


Figure 2: Trench location plan (based on a plan provided by the client)



## LADYMEAD CLOSE, EASTON, PORTLAND, DORSET Sections

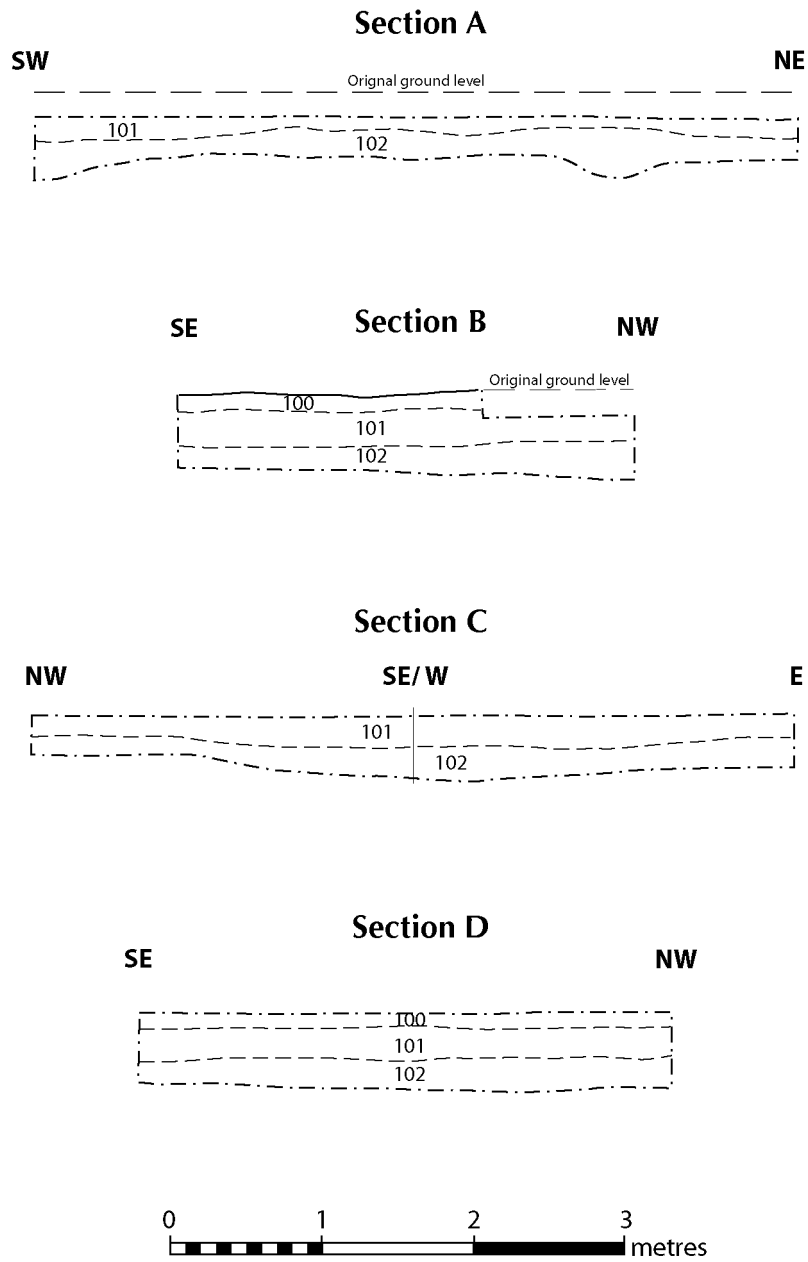


Figure 3: Sections



Figure 4: Extract from 1902 25-inch Ordnance Survey Map (© Crown Copyright Reserved)



*Plate 1: Section A*



*Plate 2: Section B*



*Plate 3: Section C,  
west half*



*Plate 4: Section C,  
east half*



*Plate 5: Section D*