



Max Gate, Alington Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset

Observations and Recording during construction
of a new sewer



Report No. 53391/3/1

May 2014

Max Gate, Alington Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset

Archaeological Observations & Recording during the construction
of a new sewer, July 2013

Report No. 53391/3/1

May 2014

Client: The National Trust

Agent:

Report Author: Mike Trevarthen

With Contributions by: Lorraine Mepham,

Illustrations: Peter Bellamy, Mike Trevarthen

Document Quality Control

Version	Status	Prepared By	Approved By	Date
1	First Draft	M Trevarthen		17/12/2013
2	Final	P Bellamy		28/05/2014
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, their agents 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	Archaeological and Historical Background.....	1
1.6	Previous Archaeological Fieldwork.....	2
1.7	Aims and Objectives.....	2
1.8	Groundworks	3
1.9	Methods.....	3
1.10	Archive and Dissemination.....	3

Part 2: Results

2.1	Natural Deposits.....	3
2.2	Ditches.....	3
2.3	Pits.....	5
2.4	Graves	5
2.5	Other Features	6
2.6	Subsoil Layers.....	6
2.7	Topsoil/garden Soil.....	6

Part 3: Finds

3.1	Finds Assemblage	7
3.2	Metal.....	7
3.3	Pottery (by Lorraine Mepham).....	7
3.4	Ceramic Building Materials	9
3.5	Clay Tobacco Pipe	9
3.6	Glass.....	9
3.7	Shale.....	9
3.8	Worked Flint	10
3.9	Burnt Stone.....	10
3.10	Animal Bone.....	10
3.11	Marine Shell.....	10

Part 4: Discussion and Conclusions

5.1	Discussion.....	10
5.2	Conclusions	11

Part 5: References	12
---------------------------------	----

Figures

1	Site Location	14
2	Detailed location plan showing previously discovered archaeology	15
3	Plan of Observations	16
4	South-East-Facing Section of New Sewer Trench	17
5	Coffin Furniture and Grave Goods from Grave 124	18

Plates

1	Excavations for the pump chamber adjacent to the east side of Max Gate House looking south	19
2	Work on the service trench through the garden north east of Max Gate, looking south west	19
3	Work on the service trench through the garden north east of Max Gate, looking south west	19
4	Grave 124 (background) and possible grave 122 (foreground), looking north.....	20
5	Unexcavated ditch 128 looking north	20
6	Ditches 203 (left) and 205 (right), looking south	20

Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-156377		
Project Title	New Sewer, Max Gate, Alington Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset		
Short Description of Project	<p>Terrain Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological observations and recording during trenching associated with the creation of a new sewer at Max Gate, Alington Avenue, Dorchester in July 2013. A number of archaeological features were identified. These included a possible Late Iron Age field boundary ditch that may be part of a more extensive field system previously identified in excavations for the Dorchester by-pass, just to the west and north west of Max Gate, and again further to the west at Alington Avenue. A number of Roman features were identified, including a small pit containing Roman pottery, animal bone, brick and tile dating to c. AD70-110, and a ditch aligned NNE-SSW of 2nd century AD date. A Late Roman inhumation grave, probably of later 4th century date, was disturbed and some human skull fragments exposed. An L-shaped iron coffin bracket with a tri-lobed decorative terminal, an iron coffin nail and a lathe-turned Kimmeridge shale spindle whorl were recorded from this grave. An adjacent feature just to the south may be a second grave, but this could not be confirmed.</p>		
Project Dates	Start: 22-07-2013	End: 27-07-2013	
Previous/Future Work	No/no		
Project Code	53391		
Monument Type and Period	Boundary Ditch (Iron Age); Boundary Ditch (Roman); Pit (Roman); Inhumation Burial (Roman)		
Significant Finds	Pottery (Roman); Spindle Whorl (Roman); Coffin Fitting (Roman)		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Dorset/ West Dorset/Dorchester		
Site Address	Max Gate, Alington Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 2AB		
Site Coordinates	SY 7042 8993		
Site Area	c. 27.5 m ²		
Height OD	68.6 - 71.3 m aOD		
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	The National Trust		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with the National Trust.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with the National Trust.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with the National Trust.
	Ceramics, CBM, Animal bone, stone, marine shell, shale, glass, clay tobacco pipe.	Digital photography	context sheets, photographs, plans, report

Max Gate, Alington Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset

Archaeological Observations & Recording during the construction of a new sewer, July 2013

1. Introduction

1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Neil Johnson (National Trust South West Building Surveyor) to undertake a programme of archaeological observations and recording during groundworks for the creation of a new sewer at Max Gate, Alington Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset.

'Archaeological observations and recording', also more colloquially known as an archaeological watching brief, is defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) as *"a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive"* (IfA 2008). Its purposes are: *"to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works "* and *"to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard."*

Fieldwork was carried out between the 22- and 26- July 2013 by Mike Trevarthen and Peter Bellamy.

Terrain Archaeology wishes to acknowledge the cooperation and assistance of Neil Johnson, Martin Papworth and Richard Hann (National Trust), the drainage contractors Cleansing Service Group, and the staff and volunteers of the Max Gate estate.

1.2 Brief

No written brief was issued by, or on behalf of, the National Trust.

1.3 Site Location and Topography

Max Gate is located to the north of Alington Avenue at Ordnance Survey NGR SY 7042 8993, on the east side of Dorchester (Figure 1). Syward Road runs along the eastern side of the site and it is bounded on the west by the deep cutting of the Dorchester By-pass, created in the 1980s. The site lies on the top of a rounded chalk ridge that runs approximately east – west, at a height of between 68.6m and 71.3m aOD.

1.4 Geology

Bedrock geology is mapped as Portsdown Chalk Formation. No superficial deposits are indicated (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies within one of the most significant archaeological landscapes in the country, albeit that most of the archaeological remains are no longer visible above ground, or have been destroyed by the modern development of Dorchester. Max Gate sits on an approximately east-west aligned chalk ridge (the 'Alington Ridge' (cf. Davies *et al.* 2002)), which appears to have attracted a large number of prehistoric ceremonial monuments and settlements

(Davies *et al.* 2002; Smith *et al.* 1997). These include the large Mount Pleasant henge monument and adjacent Conquer Barrow at its eastern end (Wainwright 1979) and, moving east to west, the Flagstones causewayed enclosure and round barrow (Smith *et al.* 1997), the Alington Avenue 'long barrow' and double round barrow (Davies *et al.* 2002), the two large round barrows known as the 'Two Barrows' (Bellamy 1991; Sparey Green 1994), Maumbury Rings henge (Bradley 1976), the Dorchester Middle School pit circle henge (McMahon 1998) and the Coburg Road round barrows (Smith *et al.* 1992).

The Flagstones enclosure (Figure 2) dates to the Middle Neolithic, being built c. 3300-3000 cal BC, in the same time period as the nearby Alington Avenue long monument. It was a circular enclosure about 100 m in diameter, consisting of a single circuit of unevenly spaced pits. Shallow engravings were found in the chalk on the sides of four of these pits during their excavation prior to construction of the Dorchester by-pass. A small number of human burials were associated with this monument. The closest comparable site is the original circular enclosure at Stonehenge. A round barrow with a central grave was built in the centre of the Flagstones enclosure in the period 2870-2500 cal BC, and subsequently modified. It was part of a linear round barrow cemetery along the ridge.

There is little evidence for settlement in this area until the Late Iron Age. The remains of Iron Age storage pits, burials and enclosure ditches, and a ditched field system, were found at Max Gate and the adjacent Flagstones site (Hardy 1890; Smith *et al.* 1997). Iron Age and Roman burials and settlement evidence were also found at Alington Avenue (Davies *et al.* 2002).

From the post-Roman period, the remains of a possible 7th century AD settlement were uncovered at Alington Avenue (Davies *et al.* 2002) and 7th century burials were found close by in the grounds of Wareham House (now the Trumpet Major public house) (Green 1984).

In the post-medieval period the site formed part of the open fields of Fordington. These were enclosed in the 1870s and the site was part of the land of Fordington Farm. Max Gate was the first suburban house to be built along the Wareham Road (now Alington Avenue). In 1883 Thomas Hardy leased some land from the Duchy of Cornwall and designed and built the substantial villa of Max Gate, completed the work in 1885. Another large villa, Wareham House, was built to the west of Max Gate in the 1890s.

1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

There has been limited archaeological fieldwork within the grounds of Max Gate itself, though extensive archaeological investigations were carried out immediately adjacent, at Flagstones, as described above.

Thomas Hardy recorded the remains of a number of Durotrigian burials found during groundworks for the construction of Max Gate in 1884 (Hardy 1890). Hardy describes three crouched burials within individual graves. One contained a fibula on the skull and was accompanied by a flask and two and a half black or greyware vessels. Another had four accompanying pottery vessels and the third had a fibula and two vessels. It appears that 'many' other burials were found during the building works but not recorded by Hardy (Moule 1901; RCHME 1970). One of these burials had two penannular brooches linked together by a fibula and another burial was sealed by a large stone. Others were extended burials with random orientation (RCHME 1970, 577). Several pits were also discovered, one with a small stone slab at the base and filled with flints and some animal bone. Another large pit contained the remains of a horse and an iron spearhead. Some Roman brick, tile and glass were also found (Hardy 1890; RCHME 1970, 577). The large stone over one of the burials, together with a second large sarsen found by Hardy in the grounds of Max Gate and the evidence from Flagstones, may point to an early Neolithic stone monument on the site, probably predating the Flagstones enclosure (Healy 1997a, 283).

In 1992 geophysical survey was undertaken by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory in the garden of Max Gate and in the paddock to the north (Payne 1992). The results were inconclusive, though an arc of pits was identified in the area north of Max Gate (Figure 2).

1.7 Aims and Objectives

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

Its objectives were:

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

1.8 Groundworks

Groundworks comprised mechanical and manual excavation of a deep chalk-cut pit measuring c. 2 m by 2 m in plan to accommodate a new pump chamber, with associated reworking of drain hook-ups, and c. 45 m of new trenching, 0.3 m wide and up to 0.8 m deep, to connect the pump chamber with an existing sewer in the paddock north of the garden (Figure 3).

1.9 Methods

The methodology, scope, aims and objectives of the works were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Terrain Archaeology in July 2013 (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3391/0/1).

All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).

The observations and recording were defined as intensive, and a qualified, experienced archaeologist was present on-site during topsoil all groundworks. Spoil arising from the strip was visually scanned for artefacts and the stripped surface was systematically walked to recover artefacts.

All archaeologically sensitive trenching was carried out using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a 0.3 m toothed bucket, or 1 m toothless ditching bucket. Some minor hand digging was also undertaken. All groundworks were carried out under close archaeological supervision.

All features and deposits, regardless of their perceived date and archaeological significance, were recorded using components of Terrain Archaeology's 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 (AAF 2007) and the requirements of the receiving museum. A photographic record of the works was maintained in digital and black and white print format, and includes aspects of their setting, conduct and technical detail.

To augment the manually collected finds assemblage, a c. 1 litre 'grab-sample' (sample 1) was recovered from fill 103 (Pit 102) with the specific aim of assessing and quantifying the presence or absence of charred crop- and crop processing remains, small faunal remains, mineralised remains and industrial residues. This sample was wet-sieved to 1.5 mm, the residue dried, sorted, visually scanned and tested with a magnet to extract magnetically susceptible materials. As no evidence for any of these categories of finds was present, the sample residue has been discarded.

1.10 Archive and Dissemination

The project archive, comprising retrieved artefacts, written, graphic and photographic records, and appropriate background documentation, is currently stored by Terrain Archaeology under the project code 53391. In due course the archive will be accessioned for long-term curation and storage by the National Trust. Deposition of the archive will place it in the public domain.

A paper 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 *terrains1-156377*. 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*. No detailed publication of the projects results is proposed.

2. Results

2.1 Natural Deposits

Natural deposits comprised clean, jointed Portesham Formation chalk bedrock, which was encountered along the full length of the trench at a depth of about 0.6 m below modern ground level. The uppermost exposure of the chalk was sometimes slightly weathered and fragmented.

2.2 Ditches

Six ditches were recorded along the length of the new sewer. With such a small length of ditch exposed, it is difficult to be confident of the precise orientation of these ditches, but a number of different alignments could be determined (Figure 3). Only one ditch contained sufficient material to be able to date it, but with reference to previously recorded ditches in the surrounding area, it seems likely that these ditches have a date range from the Late Iron Age, Roman and Modern periods.

2.2.1 Ditch 107

Ditch 107 was aligned N-S in the SW part of the trench (Figure 3). The full profile of this ditch was not revealed in section, because it was partly cut away by Feature 105 (Figure 4). It had sloping sides and a rounded base about 0.25 m deep. It was probably about 1 m wide. It was filled with firm pale yellowish-brown silty clay (108) with moderate small chalk lumps. Three fragments of animal bone (45 g) and an oyster shell (23 g) were recovered. It was sealed below layer 104. This ditch shares a common alignment with a Late Iron Age field system identified during the adjacent Flagstones excavation (Healy 1997b, 42) (Figure 2) and may belong to the same period.

2.2.2 Ditch 113

Possible ditch 113 was aligned broadly NW-SE in the SW part of the trench. It was about 1.8 m wide, with moderately- to steeply-sloping sides and was over 0.3 m deep. The base of this ditch lay below the bottom of the trench (Figure 4). It was filled with loose unconsolidated mid-yellowish-brown silty clay (114), with common chalk fragments. A sherd of Roman pottery (27 g) and a single fragment of burnt limestone (81 g) were recovered, but are insufficient to date the feature with any degree of certainty. It was cut by Feature 109.

2.2.3 Ditch 115

Ditch 115 was aligned N-S and was sealed only by topsoil 100, although its exposure also corresponded with the disappearance of subsoil layer 104 from the trench section (Figure 4). It was 0.6 m wide and over 0.6 m deep, with steep sides. A single fill deposit (116) comprised discoloured chalk rubble, up to 50 mm across, in a sparse matrix of mid greyish-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered, although the nature and stratigraphic position of the feature suggest it is of modern (late 19th-20th century) date.

2.2.4 Ditch 128

Ditch 128 was aligned WNW-ESE, near the slightly embanked northern edge of the garden (Figure 3). It was not excavated, as it was only exposed in the base of the trench. The ditch was 1.2 m wide but its depth, profile and date are unknown. Its relationship with ditch 203 is also unclear. The ditch was filled with moderately firm mid greyish-brown silty clay (129) with sparse- to moderate chalk flecks and small lumps. No surface finds were present.

2.2.5 Ditch 203

Ditch 203 was exposed to the north of the garden in the paddock. It had a broad flat-bottomed profile, 1.2 m wide and 0.25 m deep and was aligned NNE-SSW. It was filled with moderately firm, friable mid greyish-brown silty clay

(204) with moderate chalk flecks and lumps, sparse small nodular flint and brecciated flint. It was sealed by topsoil units 200 and 201 and cut natural chalk 202. It was also picked up in the northern end of the service trench, although it was nearly impossible to define clearly amongst the closely-packed, dense tree-roots. Its relationship with ditch 128 could not be established. Finds included fifteen pieces (183g) of pottery, Roman brick, animal bone and residual prehistoric worked flint. The pottery suggests a mid-second-century AD date for this feature.

2.2.6 Ditch 205

Another shallow ditch (205), running parallel to Ditch 203, was found immediately to the west. It was about 0.35 m wide and 0.08 m deep, with an irregular concave profile. It was filled with moderately firm mid-dark greyish-brown silty clay (206) with moderate small chalk flecks. No finds were recovered and the feature remains undated.

2.3 Pits

Three possible pits were identified in the south western half of the new sewer trench (Figure 3). One pit was Roman, one modern and the other undated.

2.3.1 Pit 102

Pit 102 was sealed beneath subsoil layer 104 and cut into natural chalk 101. It was probably sub-circular, about 0.97 m wide and 0.4 m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 4). Its single fill (103) was of firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay-loam with moderate small chalk lumps and flint and sparse charcoal flecks. Several large flint nodules and a sub-oval sarsen cobble (c. 250 mm long) were present at the base of the feature. Twenty-six pieces of early Roman pottery (415g, some multiple fragments from the same sherds) were recovered, along with single fragments of tegula roof tile and brick, 40 fragments of animal bone (415g) and 7 pieces of burnt limestone. The pottery suggested a date range of c. AD 70 to c. AD110 for this pit.

Analysis of soil retrieved from fill 103 (sample 1) provided no evidence for charred crop- or crop processing remains, small faunal remains or mineralised remains. A very few magnetically susceptible particles (mostly >2 mm) were extracted and inspected under a x30 magnification hand lens. Some were clearly natural heathstone fragments. A subset of hard, irregular slag-like particles could result from ironworking, although iron smelting is unlikely to have taken place locally, and the absence of common, persistent, smithing products such as hammerscale or spherules suggests these are probably also naturally derived.

2.3.2 Pit/post hole 111

Small pit or posthole 111 was also sealed beneath subsoil layer 104 and cut into chalk 101. It is extrapolated as approximately circular, with a diameter of 0.26 m and a depth of about 0.15 m. Its sides were vertical and its base flat. A single fill (112) comprised firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay with sparse chalk pea grit. No finds were recovered and the feature remains undated.

2.3.3 Pit 120

Pit 120 was seen only in the eastern section. It was sealed by topsoil 100 and cut chalk 101. It was circular, c. 0.5 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with loose, friable mid brownish-grey silty clay (121) with scarce chalk pieces, 'pea grit' and charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered, but the nature and stratigraphic position of the feature suggest it is comparatively modern (late 19th-20th century) in date.

2.4 Graves

Two graves were identified lying adjacent to each other near the northern end of the Max Gate garden (Figure 3). One of these is clearly a Roman grave and the other has been interpreted as a grave based on its size and shape. Neither was fully excavated.

2.4.1 Grave 122

Grave 122 was aligned approximately NW-SE and appeared to be sealed by subsoil layer 119. The grave cut had near vertical sides 0.7 m wide and over 0.9 m deep. Fragments of adult or sub-adult human skull (126) were noted at about 0.85 m below ground level (BGL) adjacent to the eastern side of the trench. Close by to the south and at

approximately the same elevation an L-shaped iron coffin bracket (SF2) and an iron coffin-fixing nail (SF3, Figure 5,2) were found, suggesting the former existence of a wooden coffin (127). The grave was backfilled with loose, unconsolidated chalk rubble (125) in a loose, greyish-brown silty clay matrix. A Late Roman lathe-turned Kimmeridge shale spindle whorl (SF1, Figure 5,1) was recovered from the grave and, whilst this may be a stray find from the grave backfill, it is more likely to have been deposited as a grave good (see finds discussions below). The limited depth of the service trench allowed for preservation of the human remains and coffin fittings *in situ* and, in consultation with the NT Regional Archaeologist, the burial was not excavated further. In light of its compromised physical condition, the shale spindle whorl was retained for curation as part of the site archive.

2.4.2 Possible grave 124

Possible grave 124 was aligned approximately north west- south east, and appeared to be sealed by subsoil layer 119, although this is not certain. It was about 0.8 m wide with vertical sided over 0.8 m deep. The full depth of the feature was not excavated as it lay below the base of the service trench. No finds were present, but a spatial and functional association with grave 122 can be suggested.

2.5 Other Features

Three further features were recorded, but it was unclear either what their precise form or function was. Two of these features are probably relatively recent in date.

2.5.1 Feature 105

Feature 105 cut subsoil layer 104 and is therefore probably relatively modern in date, most likely post-dating construction of Max Gate. Its plan form is not known: it may be a ditch, but is more probably an elongate pit with parallel sides, aligned WNE-ESE. It was recorded as about 2.25 m wide, with sides sloping at c. 45° from horizontal. Its base lay below the bottom of the service trench, but can be extrapolated as narrow. A single fill deposit (106) was of loose, unconsolidated mid grey silty clay with very frequent small chalk lumps. No finds were present.

2.5.2 Feature 109

Feature 109 was sealed beneath subsoil layer 104. Its plan form is not known, although it was visible in both sections. Its asymmetrical profile, steeply sloping to the south with a gently concave base and north edge, suggests it may be a scoop or pit, rather than a ditch. Its single fill (110) comprised moderately firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay with frequent small chalk rubble and occasional small nodular flint. Five animal bone fragments included a sheep tooth and a complete vertebra from a large quadruped. The feature is undated.

2.5.3 Feature 117

Feature 117 was sealed directly beneath topsoil 100 and cut a thin subsoil deposit 119 on its northern side. It was 3.3m wide and 0.4m deep but of unknown plan form. Its irregular, gently concave profile suggests it may be a relatively modern scoop or garden feature – possibly a grubbing-out pit. A single fill deposit (118) was of loose, unconsolidated rubbly chalk in a sparse matrix of mid-dark grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

2.6 Subsoil Layers

Subsoil layers were identified in the southern (104) and northern (119) part of the trench, but were not uniformly present (Figure 4). It remains unclear whether these can be equated as contemporary parts of a formerly uniform single layer, or if there is a difference between them in terms of date and process of formation. Both layers directly overlay the upper exposure of natural chalk.

Layer 104 was a 0.35 m thick layer of moderately firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay loam with moderate small flint and frequent small chalk pieces. Small amounts of animal bone and an oyster shell were recovered. To the north, Layer 119 was thinner (c. 0.15 m), comprising moderately firm mid greyish-brown silty clay loam, with moderate small flint and chalk pieces. This unit developed a yellowish colouration at its base, with a higher concentration of small stones and small flint nodules. No finds were recovered.

2.7 Topsoil/garden Soil

Topsoil/garden soil 100 was generally loose- to moderately firm dark greyish-brown humic silty clay loam with moderate small stones and occasional modern debris. Its thickness varied from 0.15 m at the site of the pump chamber adjacent to Max Gate, to an average of 0.25 m across the majority of the garden, and it thickened to a slightly embanked 0.55 m below the tree belt at the northern edge of the garden (Figure 4).

3. Finds

3.1 Finds Assemblage

A small group of artefacts (Table 1) was recovered, from topsoil/garden soil and from the fills of some subsurface features.

Context	Iron	Iron Age/ Roman pottery	Post- Medieval pottery	CBM	Clay tobacco pipe	Glass	Shale	Flint	Burnt stone	Human bone	Animal bone	Marine Shell
100	2/63g	5/35g	10/93g	--	1/3g	2/59g	--	--	--	--	1/13g	--
103	--	26/415g	--	2/392g	--	--	--	1/120g	7/1114g	--	40/415g	--
108	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3/45g	1/23g
110	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5/230g	--
114	--	1/27g	--	--	--	--	--	--	1/81g	--	--	--
125	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
127	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	*	--	--
130	--	--	--	--	--	--	1/21g	--	--	--	--	--
204	--	15/183g	--	1/157g	--	--	--	6/75g	--	--	8/204g	3/23g
<i>Total</i>	<i>2/63g</i>	<i>47/660g</i>	<i>10/93g</i>	<i>3/549g</i>	<i>1/3g</i>	<i>2/59g</i>	<i>1/21g</i>	<i>7/195g</i>	<i>8/1185g</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>57/507g</i>	<i>4/46g</i>

Table 1: Quantification of finds by context (count/weight in grams) *= present but not quantified

3.2 Metal

Four iron objects were found, two from Grave 124 (Figures 3 & 5,2-3). SF 3 was an iron coffin nail c. 60 mm long, with a sub-square section shank (Figure 5,3). SF 2 was an L-shaped iron coffin angle-bracket found adjacent to skull fragments in the grave. It was formed from bent iron strip c. 30 mm wide and c. 3 mm thick, and possessed an ornate tri-lobed terminal to the long arm (Figure 5,2). A bent fixing nail remained *in situ* at the distal end of the short arm, whilst a domed boss at the distal end of the long arm probably represents the head of another fixing nail (?shank lost). Iron coffin angle-brackets, some with similarly ornate terminals, were identified in twelve Late Roman graves at the Poundbury extramural cemetery (Mills 1993a, 119) and single set of eight plain brackets came from a single inhumation grave at Poundbury Farm (Egging Dinwiddy & Bradley 2011, 58-61). A 'coffin angle iron' of unknown type has been noted from Gallows Hill adjacent to Icen Way, near the south east corner of the Roman defences (RCHME 1970, 575). Otherwise such brackets appear to be comparatively rare: they were entirely absent from the 2nd-4th century cemetery at nearby Alington Avenue (Walker & Heaton 2002, 159-161), from the late Roman cemetery at Maiden Castle Road (Smith 1997, 56-70; Mills 1997, 123), from the late Roman cemetery at Little Keep, Dorchester (McKinley & Egging Dinwiddy 2009; Egging Dinwiddy undated) and from the late and post-Roman cemetery at the former Olds Garage, Bridport Road (COAS 2009, Place 2010, 160). Further afield, one occurrence was recorded from amongst some 355 inhumation burials in recent excavations at the late Roman Lankhills extramural cemetery at Winchester (Powell 2010, 330). The remaining two iron objects were cut or forged iron nails from garden soil 100, both probably of 19th or early 20th century date.

3.3 Pottery

Lorraine Mepham

3.3.1 Introduction

The pottery assemblage recovered from the site amounts to 58 sherds (756 g) from four contexts (Table 1). Ten sherds (all from garden soil 100) are post-medieval, and the remainder of the assemblage is Romano-British.

The assemblage has been quantified by ware type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 2.

Context	Ware type	No. sherds	Wt (g)	Comments
100	BB1	5	35	very abraded body sherds
100	bone china	2	23	saucer; sprigged decoration
100	English stoneware	1	14	feldspathic glaze; cylindrical preserve jar (rim)
100	pearlware	1	3	cup handle
100	post-med redware	1	6	body sherd
100	refined whiteware	1	12	transfer-printed; Keiller marmalade jar
100	refined whiteware	2	15	sauce and plate rims
100	refined whiteware	1	3	transfer-printed; flatware rim
100	Verwood	1	10	body sherd
103	BB1	18	188	body sherds & bases
103	BB1	2	24	everted rim jar (type 1); chevron burnishing around narrow neck
103	imported whiteware	1	50	flagon base; NW French
103	SW BB1	2	42	base sherds (1 footing)
103	SW BB1	1	33	everted rim jar (type 43); burnished around neck, vertical burnished lines below
103	SW BB1	1	33	everted rim jar (type 1)
103	SW BB1	1	16	body sherd from type 36 bowl (burnished dec)
103	SW BB1	1	41	rim from bowl imitating samian form 36 (new BB type 108)
114	BB1	1	24	base sherd
204	BB1	3	35	oxidised; thick-walled vessel
204	BB1	7	44	6 body sherds; 1 base
204	BB1	1	13	everted rim jar (type 1)
204	BB1	1	16	everted rim jar (type 1)
204	BB1	2	73	flanged bowl with incipient dropped flange (type 22)
204	samian	1	3	

Table 2: Pottery by context

3.3.2 Romano-British Pottery

Unsurprisingly, given the location of the site, the Romano-British assemblage is dominated by Black Burnished ware. The exceptions are one sherd of samian from ditch fill 204 (Central Gaulish form 18/31 platter), and a whiteware flagon base of north west French origin from pit fill 103. Condition of this material is fair; the five sherds from garden soil 100 are heavily abraded, but the remainder are in better condition. Mean sherd weight (excluding topsoil sherds) is 14.8 g.

The Black Burnished ware sherds are mostly of south east Dorset origin, but of interest here is the presence of a small group of sherds in the variant fabric that can be identified as south western Black Burnished ware (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 114, fabric 40). These are restricted to pit fill 103, and include two everted rim jars (types 1 and 43), a body sherd from a type 36 flared bowl (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 235, fig. 124), and a flanged bowl with applied decoration on the flange, in imitation of samian form 36. While similar forms have been identified previously within the Black Burnished ware type series – the type 59 bowl is similar, but lacks the imitation trailed barbotine decoration (*ibid.*, 239, fig. 126), while two type 102 bowls, from Worth Matravers (Graham *et al.* 2002, 54, fig. 1.31, 61) and Green Island (unpublished) respectively, have the decoration but not in identical form – none provide a direct parallel for this example, which has been allocated a new type (108). The south-western fabric variant has a more restricted date range than its Dorset counterpart, and this group from pit fill 103 has a potential date range from c. AD 70 to c. AD110. This date for 103 is supported by the presence of the north-west French white-ware flagon.

Dorset Black Burnished ware forms from ditch fill 204 include two everted rim jars (both type 1, one with burnished chevron decoration around the neck) and a flanged bowl with incipient dropped flange (type 22). A date range from c. AD 120 to the end of the 2nd century, and probably focusing on the middle of the century, can be suggested for this context group (which includes the samian platter).

The single sherd recovered from ditch fill 114 is in south east Dorset Black Burnished ware, but is not closely datable.

3.3.3 Post-Medieval Pottery

The post-medieval sherds from garden soil 100 include two coarse earthenwares (one Verwood-type and one redware), while the remainder are modern stonewares and refined wares.

3.4 Ceramic building materials

Three fragments of Roman ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered, weighing 549 g (Table 1). No mortar adhesions were noted.

A fragment from the flat of a *tegula* roof tile (103, pit 102) was made in a hard-fired pink fabric with a diffuse reduced grey core, and was 27.3 mm thick. Characteristic wipe/draw marks were seen on both faces and the upper face bore part of a curved 'signature', executed with two fingertips.

Two small fragments of brick were both hard-fired in dark pink fabric with reduced grey cores. One (pit fill 103) was 44.8 mm thick with wipe marks on one face and fine sanding on the other. The other (fill 204, ditch 203) was 44 mm thick with wipe marks on both faces. The brick may have been used in construction, although it is also sometimes found used as a flooring material.

Roman brick and tile were also found during excavations at Alington Avenue. However, the Alington material was mostly highly fragmented, (Walker 2002. 83-85). The previous discovery of brick and tile at Max Gate (Hardy 1890; RCHME 1970, 577) may indicate that a Roman building of some substance formerly stood at a closer location.

3.5 Clay tobacco pipe

A single fragment of plain, unmarked clay tobacco pipe stem (3 g) was found in garden soil 100. This find could date from the 16th century onwards, but is most likely to be 18th or 19th century in date.

3.6 Glass

Two sherds of glass (59 g) came from topsoil 100. One was comprised part of the shoulder and rim of a clear jar, the other was part of the upright body of a green bottle. Both are probably late 19th or 20th century in date.

3.7 Shale

A lathe-turned annular Kimmeridge Shale spindle whorl (SF1, context 130, Figure 5,1) in partly laminated condition came from Grave 124, at an elevation consistent with human remains and iron coffin furniture (see above). The object was smooth-finished, 36.60 mm in diameter and 20 mm thick. Its straight-sided central perforation was 9.2 mm wide. It was of rounded D-section with a single incised line around the central girth, and additional single incised concentric lines on each face c. 6 mm from the edge of the perforation.

Although conceivably a stray find within the grave backfill, it is more likely (given the absence of other late Roman evidence from the site) that the object was deliberately deposited to accompany the burial. In this context it was almost certainly originally placed as a complete spindle, perhaps with yarn, raw wool and distaff attached. Lathe turned shale spindle whorls appear predominantly to be a phenomenon of the late Roman period, specifically the second half of the 4th century (Cool 2010, 274, Booth *et al.* 2010, 490), although earlier examples are known (Cox & Mills 1991). Records suggest that turned shale whorls appear comparatively infrequently as grave goods around Dorchester, although the paucity of published detail from some older investigations of the extra-mural cemeteries may be mask some occurrences. Only four examples came from graves at Poundbury cemetery (Mills 1993b, 100) and one accompanied a coffined female inhumation burial at Poundbury Farm (Egging Dinwiddy & Bradley 2011, 64). Two others are noted from probable late Roman female burials recorded by Moule at Fordington High Street in 1838-9 (RCHME 1970, 573). The Max Gate spindle whorl is closely paralleled in terms of its form and decoration by examples from Lankhills (Clarke 1979, Cool 2010, 274) and can be used with some confidence (in conjunction with iron coffin bracket SF2) to assign a late Roman date to Grave 124.

3.8 Worked Flint

Seven artificially struck flint flakes were found, weighing 195 g. Five of these (all from ditch fill 204) were blue-white patinated and almost certainly residual, probably deriving from the well-attested phase of Neolithic and Bronze Age site activity (Smith *et al.* 1997). No tools or retouched pieces were found. Two flakes (one from ditch fill 204, the other from pit fill 103) were entirely unpatinated and may be more recent, perhaps the result of gathering or dressing of nodular flint as a building material in the Roman period.

All of the flaked flint is likely to derive from locally outcropping nodular flint, which, although sometimes thermally cracked and erratic in its flaking qualities, is generally useable.

3.9 Burnt Stone

Eight pieces of burnt limestone were collected, weighing 1195 g (Table 1). No mortar adhesions were noted.

Six of the pieces were from fill 103 (pit 102) and comprised extensively burnt (pale-dark blueish grey), friable rounded and sub-rounded limestone, possibly originally all from the same rock. A seventh piece was of hard, tabular pale grey shelly stone, discoloured on one edge.

A single fragment of heat-discoloured limestone came from possible ditch fill 114, where it was associated with a fragment of Roman pottery.

Burnt limestone can have a variety of origins, although one possibility common in the Dorchester area is derivation from heated stone driers or 'ovens'. Several examples of both types of structure were excavated at Alington Avenue (Davies *et al.* 2002, 72-78). Such features are commonly bonded with clay-silt paste, rather than mortar, and yield stone that is heat-affected along one edge only.

3.10 Animal bone

Fifty-seven pieces of animal bone were found, weighing 507 g.

Forty pieces came from pit fill 103, although these represent fragmentation of a smaller number of large bones, including skull and long-bones from large domestic species – probably cattle. No butchery marks were noted.

Eight pieces of bone came from ditch fill 204. These were mostly small fragments but included part of a scapula and two teeth, all probably from cattle.

Five bones came from undated 'scoop' fill 110. These comprised three long bone fragments from middle sized domesticates (sheep/pig?), a sheep tooth and a single complete vertebra, probably from a cow.

Three bones comprising one sheep/pig? Long bone fragment, one articular ?cow knee-joint fragment and one unidentifiable fragment came from possible boundary ditch fill 108.

3.11 Marine Shell

Four marine shells were recovered, weighing 46 g. These comprised single shells of oyster, cockle, and possible limpet (partial) from ditch fill 204, and a single oyster shell from possible Iron Age boundary ditch fill 108.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

No prehistoric features were identified, although a small assemblage of residual prehistoric flaked flint was recovered. It was not therefore possible to gain any new insights into the very limited suite of early Neolithic remains on the site (cf. Healy 1997b), or to confirm the line of the eastern arc of the Flagstones middle Neolithic causewayed enclosure, which extrapolation of geophysical results (Payne 1992, Healy 1997b, fig. 17) suggests probably passes close to the north end of the service trench (Figure 2). No Late Iron Age graves were identified to add to those recorded by Hardy (1890) and noted by Moule (1901; RCHME 1970) during construction of Max Gate.

At least four pre-modern ditches were identified. Of these, ditch 107 may be part of a Late Iron Age field system previously identified at Flagstones (Healy 1997b) (Figure 2) and at Alington Avenue about 0.15 km to the west (Davies *et al.* 2002, 18, fig. 88). Ditch 203 could also form part of this system, although its alignment seems to differ somewhat, and its finds assemblage suggests infilling in the mid second century AD. The possibility that ditch 203 is post-Roman or medieval but contains only residual Roman finds cannot be discounted.

The small pit 102 is early Roman in date, and its suite of pottery places deposition in the period c. AD70-110. The wider context of this feature remains uncertain: pottery and animal bone were plentiful, alongside small amounts of ceramic building material, the latter perhaps suggesting proximity to a domestic or craft production site, but no small animal bones, charred crop/crop-processing remains, mineralised remains or convincing industrial residues were found. A number of pits and burials of 1st century BC/AD were found in the southern part of Flagstones, which suggest settlement activity of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British date perhaps focussed to the south and south west of Max Gate (Healy 1997b, 47-8). Another pit of probably similar date was found by Hardy during the construction of Max Gate (RCHME 1970, 577-8). Pit 102 may possibly belong with this settlement activity.

One inhumation grave and a second possible grave were located near the northern end of the service trench. Neither feature was excavated beyond the confines of the trench, or to full depth, but grave G124 contained fragments of human skull in the eastern side of the trench, and also produced a shale spindle whorl, an iron coffin nail and an ornate iron coffin angle-bracket. No remains other than the spindle whorl were retained (the remainder being re-interred *in situ*), but the finds are sufficient to attribute a late Roman (probably later 4th century AD) date to the burial. Hilary Cool notes that spindle whorls (probably originally deposited as part of a more complete wool-spinning set) normally accompany sub-adult or adult female burials in this period, and may be an indicator of elevated social status. She speculates that by the later 4th century spindles might have become “an appropriate accoutrement for the mistress of an establishment, whether or not she did the actual work of spinning and weaving” (Cool 2010, 276).

The NW – SE alignment of the graves offers no conclusive indication of their burial tradition, but the position of the *in situ* coffin bracket in Grave 122 suggests the skull remains lay at the eastern, rather than western end of the grave. This, together with the possible inclusion of grave goods suggests pagan, rather than Christian burial rite. An alternative well-attested Late Roman possibility, a ‘decapitation’ burial (whereby the head is removed *post-mortem* and placed adjacent to the feet), cannot be entirely discounted, but would probably be equally indicative of pagan burial.

A number of relatively recent garden features were noted below garden soil. All probably post-date construction and occupation of Max Gate in the late 19th century.

4.2 Conclusions

The archaeological information gained from the programme of observations and recording has successfully offset the loss to the site’s archaeological significance caused by the new sewer works, and has provided significant (if spatially limited) new insights into the density, disposition and character of the multi-period archaeological remains overlying the unexcavated eastern half of the Middle Neolithic Flagstones causewayed enclosure. In particular, limited evidence for later 1st and early 2nd century activity has included a newly recognised variant form of Black Burnished ware (WA type 108), and the discovery of a Late Roman coffined inhumation grave (with the possibility of a second similar grave immediately adjacent) adds significantly to the known chronological complexity of the site.

The observations have confirmed the general ineffectiveness of the previous geophysical survey programme (Payne 1992) in identifying buried archaeological features. Despite the largely negative results obtained by this survey, the gardens surrounding Max Gate house clearly retain very high potential for relatively well-preserved archaeological remains of local, regional and/or national significance.

5. References

- AAF, 2007 *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Archaeological Archives Forum.
- Bellamy, P.S. 1991 'The excavation of Fordington Farm round barrow', *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society* **113**, 107-132.
- Booth, P., Simmonds, A., Boyle, A., Clough, S., Cool, H.E.M. & Poore, D. 2010 *The Late Roman Cemetery at Lankhills, Winchester: Excavations 2000-20005*. Oxford Archaeology Monograph 10
- Bradley, R. 1976 'Maumbury Rings, Dorchester: the excavations of 1908-1913'. *Archaeologia* **105**, 1-97.
- Clarke, G. 1979 *The Roman cemetery at Lankhills*. Winchester Studies 3: Pre-Roman and Roman Winchester Part II. Oxford.
- [COAS] Context One Archaeological Services 2009 *Former Olds Garage, 55-59 Bridport Road, Dorchester, Dorset: An Archaeological Excavation*. Context One Archaeological Services report COAS/EXC/08/OBD.
- Cool, H.E.M. 2010 Objects of glass, shale, bone and metal (except nails), in Booth *et al.* 2010, pp267-309.
- Copson, C.K. & Healy, F. 1997 Stone, in Smith *et al.* 1997, pp133-136.
- Cox, P.W. & Hearne, C.M. 1991 *Redeemed from the Heath: The Archaeology of the Wytch Farm Oilfield (1987-90)*. Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society Monograph 9.
- Cox, P. & Mills, J.M. 1991 Kimmeridge Shale, in Cox & Hearne 1991, pp170-175.
- Davies, S.M., Bellamy, P.S., Heaton, M.J. & Woodward, P.J. 2002 *Excavations at Alington Avenue, Fordington, Dorchester, Dorset, 1984-87*. Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Monograph 15.
- Draper, J. & Copland-Griffiths, P. 2002 *Dorset Country Pottery: The Kilns of the Verwood District*. Crowood Press Ltd.
- EGging Dinwiddy, K n. d. *A Late Roman Cemetery at Little Keep, Dorchester, Dorset*. Wessex Archaeology Online, www.wessexarch.co.uk/reports/64913/little-keep-dorchester
- EGging Dinwiddy, K & Bradley, P. 2011 *Prehistoric Activity and a Romano-British Settlement at Poundbury Farm, Dorchester, Dorset*. Salisbury, Wessex Archaeology
- Farwell, D.E. & Molleson, T.I. 1993 *Poundbury: Volume 2 The Cemeteries*. Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Monograph 11.
- Graham, A., Hinton, D.A., & Peacock, D.P.S., 2002 The excavation of an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement in Quarry Field, south of Compact Farm, Worth Matravers, Dorset, in D.A. Hinton (ed.), *Purbeck Papers*, Oxford: Oxbow Books (University of Southampton Department of Archaeology Monograph 4), 1-83
- Hardy, T. 1890 'Some Romano-British relics found at Max Gate'. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club* **11**, 78-81.
- Healy, F. 1997a Communal monuments and burials, Neolithic and Bronze Age, in Smith *et al.* 1997, pp283-299.
- Healy, F. 1997b Site 3: Flagstones, in Smith *et al.* 1997, pp27-48.
- Holbrook, N. & Bidwell, P., 1991 *Roman Finds From Exeter*, Exeter Archaeol. Rep. 4

- IfA, 2008a *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. (Revised Edition). Institute for Archaeologists.
- IfA 2008b *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in archaeology (Revised Edition)*, Institute for Archaeologists.
- IfA, 2009 *Standard and guidance for the creation, preparation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. Institute for Archaeologists.
- McKinley, J.I. & Egging Dinwiddy, K. 2009 'Deviant' burials from a late Romano-British cemetery at Little Keep, Dorchester'. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society* **130**, pp43-61.
- McMahon, P. 1998 'Dorchester Middle School, Coburg Road', *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society* **120**, 110-111.
- Mills, J.M. 1993a Chapter 6: The Coffins, in Farwell & Molleson 1993, pp114-134.
- Mills, J.M. 1993b The Shale and Jet Objects, in Farwell & Molleson 1993, pp99-100.
- Mills, J.M. 1997 Objects of Iron, in Smith *et al* 1997, pp120-125.
- Moule, H.J. 1901 *Dorchester Antiquities*
- National Trust 2004 *Managing Archaeological Archives: A policy and guidance for the National Trust Archaeology Section*. Unpublished National Trust document.
- Payne, A. 1992 *Geophysical Survey – Max Gate House, Dorchester*. Unpublished Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report.
- Place, C. 2010 'Former Olds Garage, Bridport Road, Dorchester'. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society* **131**, 160.
- Powell, K. 2010 Structural nails and coffin fittings, in Booth *et al.* 2010, pp320-333.
- Seager Smith, R. and Davies, S.M., 1993 Roman pottery, in P.J. Woodward, A.H. Graham and S.M. Davies, *Excavations at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester 1981-4*, Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society Monograph 12, 202-89
- Smith, R.J.C. 1997 Site 6: Maiden Castle Road, in Smith *et al.* 1997
- [RCHME] Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) 1970 *An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset, Volume 2: South East, Part 3*. London, HMSO.
- Smith, R.J.C., Healy, F., Allen, M.J., Morris, E.L., Barnes, I. & Woodward, P.J. 1997 *Excavations Along the Route of the Dorchester By-pass, Dorset, 1986-8*. Wessex Archaeology Report No. 11.
- Smith, R.J.C., Rawlings, M. & Barnes, I. 1992 'Excavation of Coburg Road and Weymouth Road, Fordington, Dorchester, Dorset 1988-9'. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society* **114**, 19-45.
- Sparey Green, C. 1994 'Observations on the site of the 'Two Barrows', Fordington Farm, Dorchester, with a note on the 'Conquer Barrow'. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society* **116**, 45-54.
- Wainwright, G.J. 1979 *Mount Pleasant, Dorset: Excavations 1970-71*. Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London 37.
- Walker, K. 2000 Building materials, in Davies *et al.* 2002, pp83-85.
- Walker, K. & Heaton, M. 2002 Coffin manufacture, in Davies *et al.* 2002, pp159-161.

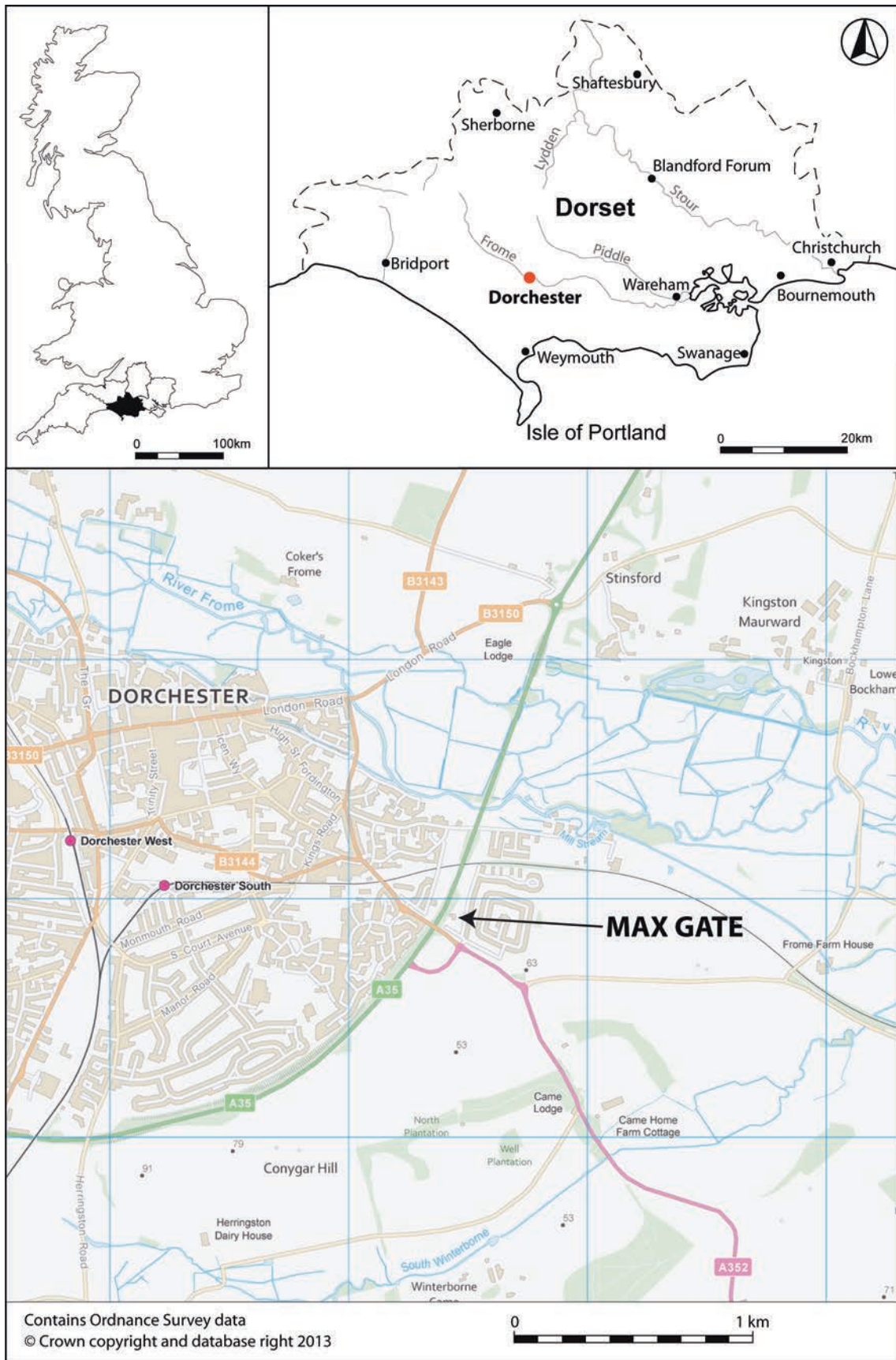


Figure 1 Location map.

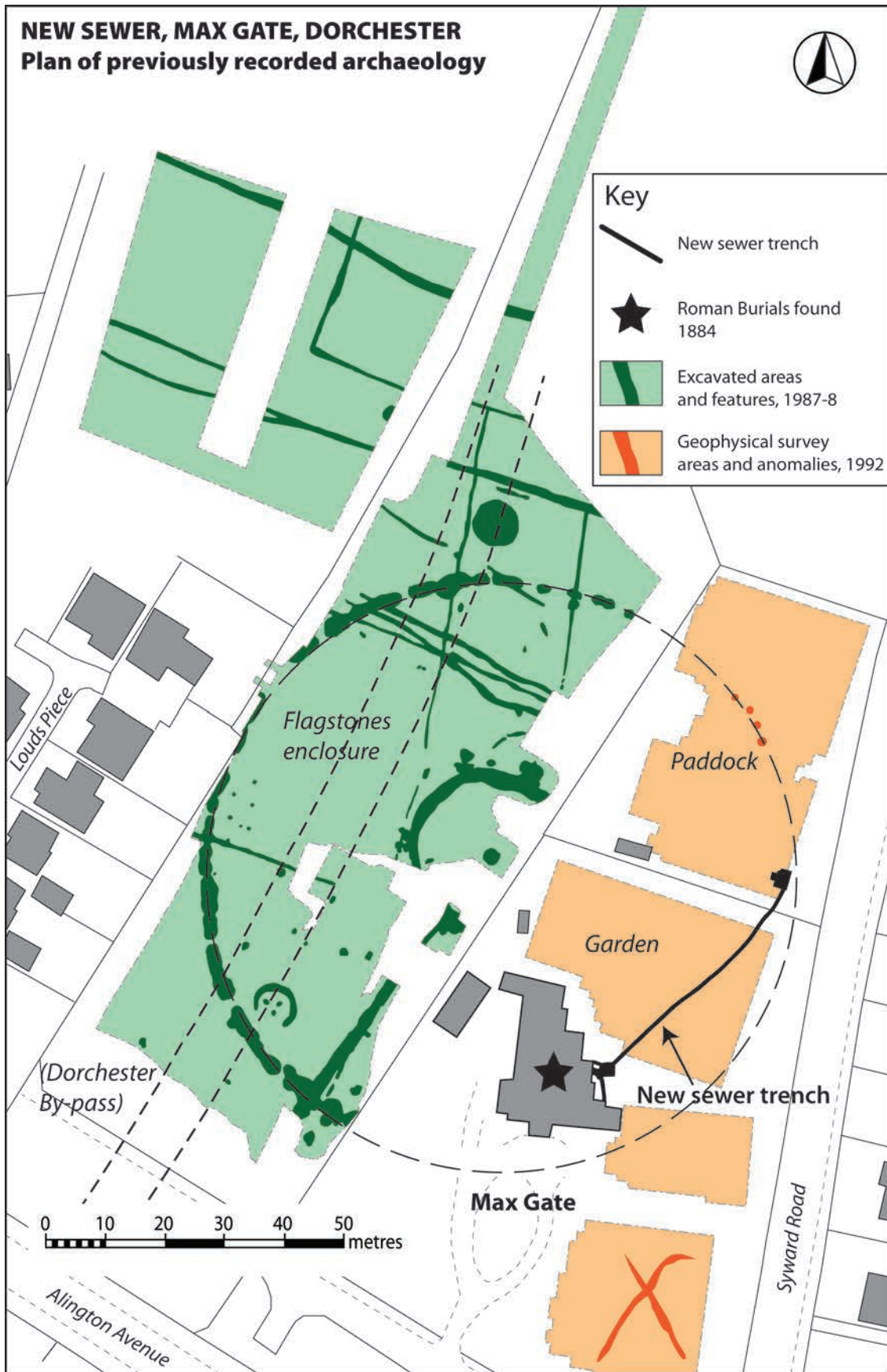


Figure 2: Detailed location plan showing previously discovered archaeology.

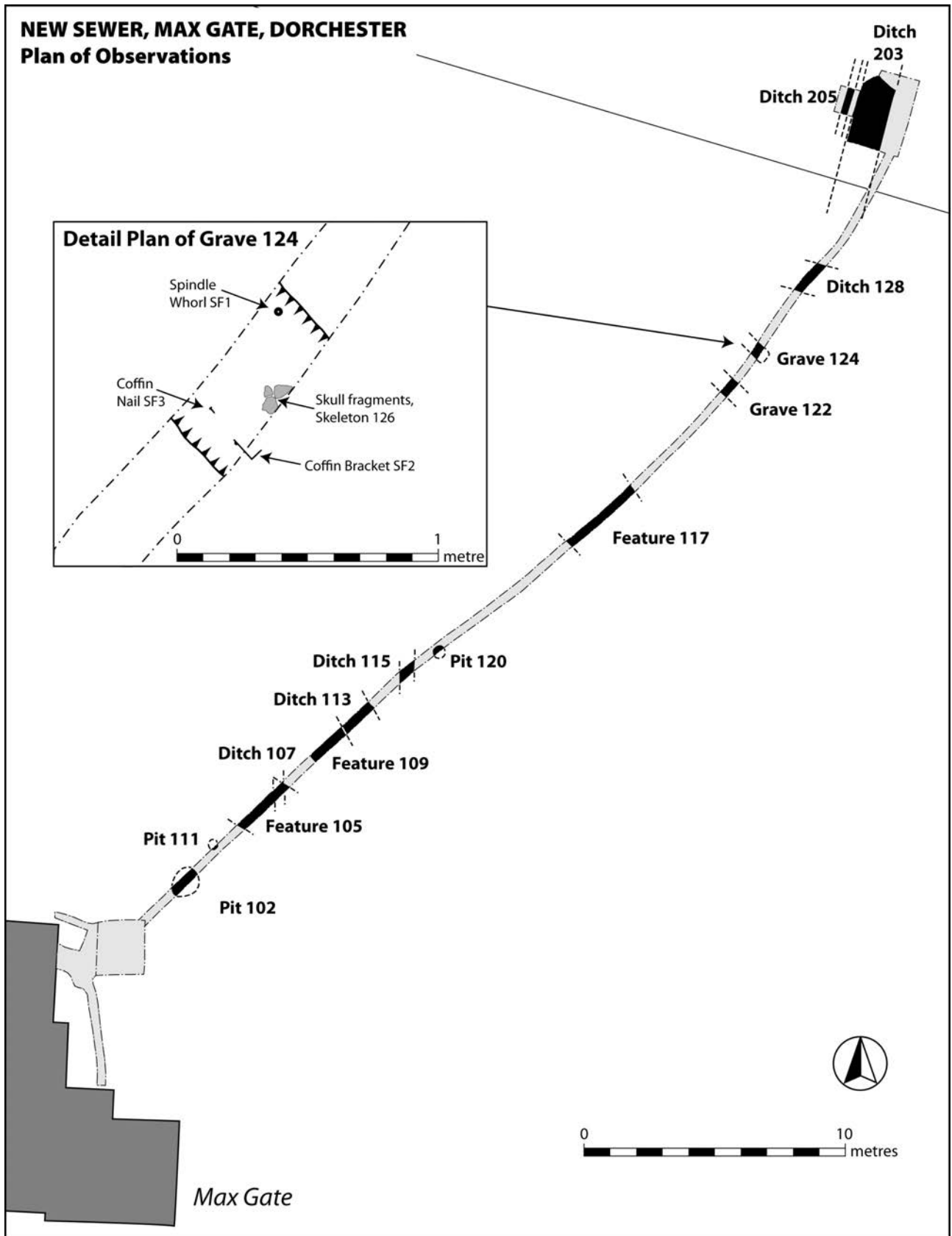


Figure 3: Plan of Observations.

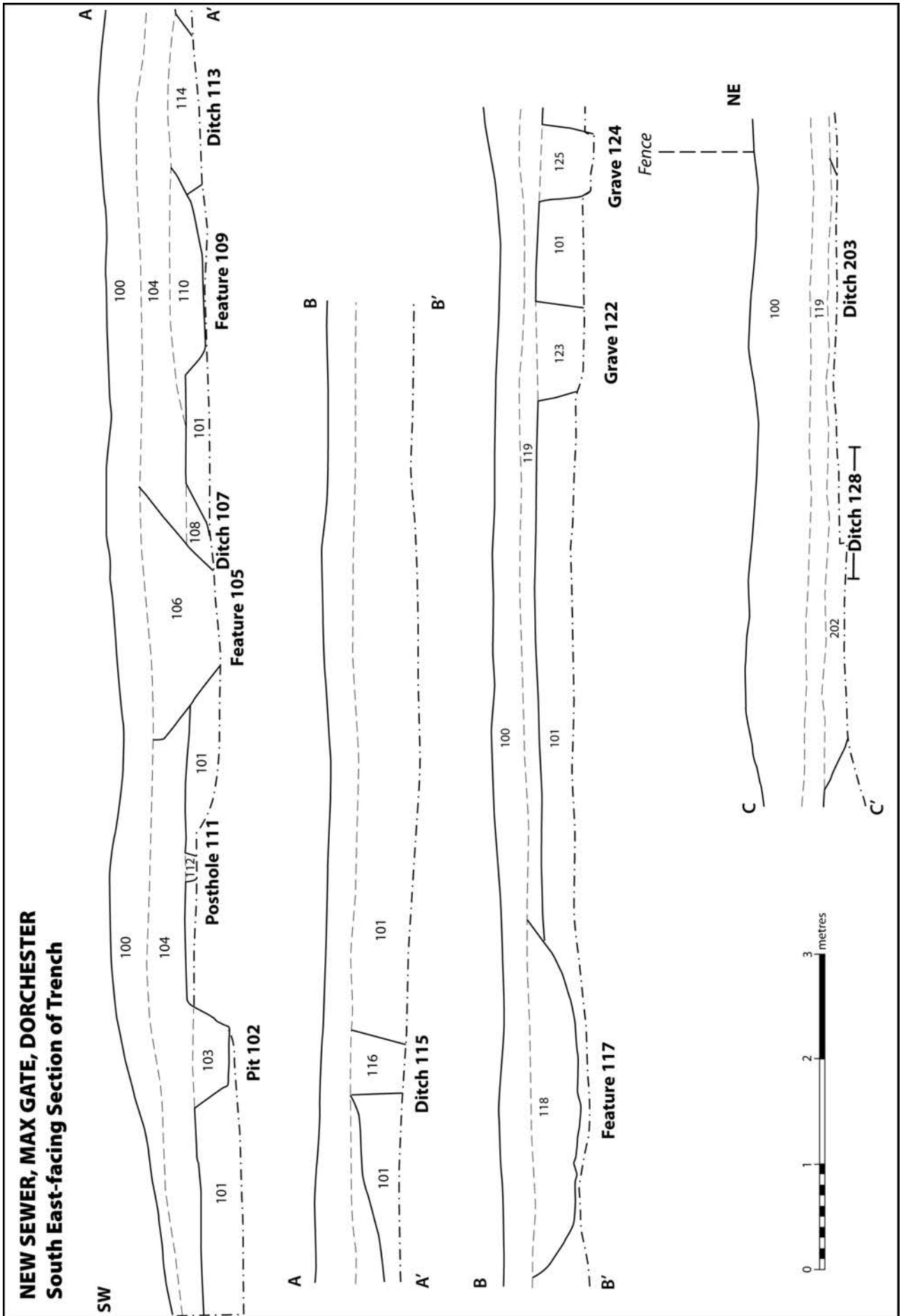


Figure 4: South-East-Facing Section of New Sewer Trench.

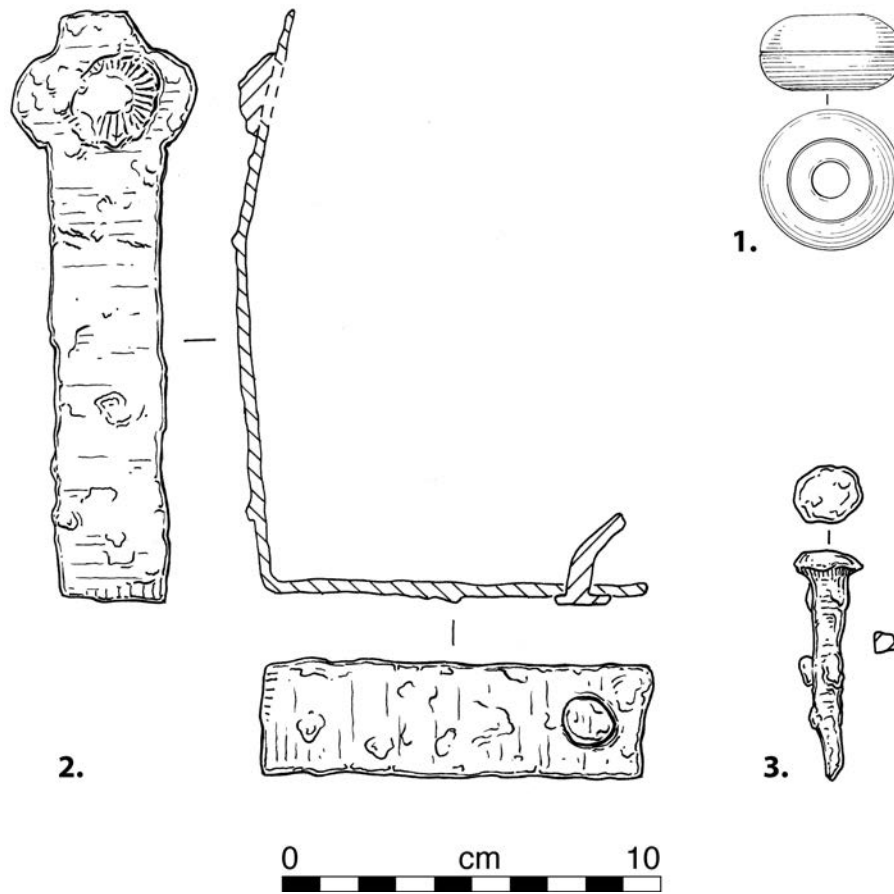


Figure 5: Coffin Furniture and Grave Goods from Grave 124: 1. SF1 Shale Spindle Whorl; 2. SF2 Iron Coffin Bracket; 3. SF3 Coffin Nail.



Plate 1: Excavations for the pump chamber adjacent to the east side of Max Gate House looking south.



Plate 2: Work on the service trench through the garden north east of Max Gate, looking south west.



Plate 3: Work on the service trench through the garden north



Plate 4: Grave 124 (background) and possible grave 122 (foreground), looking north. 1m scale.



Plate 5: Unexcavated ditch 128 looking north. 1m scale.



Plate 6: Ditches 203 (left) and 205 (right), looking south. 1m scale.