



**THE OLD RECTORY, BLANDFORD CLOSE, HAMWORTHY,
POOLE
Archaeological Assessment**

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INTRODUCTION

Project Background

Terrain Archaeology has been commissioned by Mr and Mrs P Luck, through their agents, Morgan Carey Architects, to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment in connection with the proposed construction of a new housing development comprising eight new dwellings in the grounds of The Old Rectory and on adjoining land at Blandford Close, Hamworthy, Poole.

A desk-based assessment, as defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (1994, as revised), is “a programme of assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site. It consists of the collation of existing written, graphic and photographic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and significance of the known or potential archaeological resource.”

This document presents a preliminary archaeological assessment of the site. Further stages of archaeological works may be required, following the advice of the Borough of Poole Planning Archaeologist.

Aims and Purpose of the Assessment

The principal aim of this desk-based assessment is to assess the evidence for known and potential archaeological sites and areas of archaeological or historical interest within the site and its immediate local context. The identified sites and areas will be classified in terms of their perceived local, regional or national archaeological significance.

The desk-based assessment will provide data to model the likely survival and loss of archaeological deposits across the area and identify areas of potential significance. This data may be used to prepare a specification for succeeding archaeological site investigations and recording.

The study will assess the likely impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological resource and provide data to formulate any required mitigation strategies to minimise the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

THE SITE

Location and Topography

The site lies off Blandford Close to the north of Blandford Road on the Hamworthy peninsula (centred on Ordnance Survey NGR SY99839059). The topography is flat and lies about 3.4 m above OD, with the site occupying the higher ground on a slight ridge that runs along the middle of the peninsula. The northern part of the site is occupied by the Old Rectory and associated outbuildings and grounds; the southern part of the site, fronting onto Blandford Road, is occupied by tennis courts, now disused, with Hamworthy Public Library and a youth club in the southwest corner. The site is surrounded by residential development to the south, west and east; to the north

is Carter Sports and Community College and beyond that the mudflats and saltmarsh on the edge of Holes Bay.

The Hamworthy peninsula lies on the northern side of Poole Harbour, defined by Holes Bay and the Little Channel to the north and by the Wareham channel to the south. The shape of this peninsula has changed over time. Little is known of the earlier system of valleys in this area but freshwater peat dating to 7340 ± 110 BP has been found at Hamworthy at a depth of 12.8 m below sea level (Godwin *et al.* 1958). At the end of the Flandrian marine transgression (c. 6000 BP), the whole of the peninsula was below sea level (May 1968, fig 2). The sea level has been subject to a number of fluctuations since the prehistoric period. There has been a rise in the Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT) of over 3.66 m since the early Roman period (Waddelove and Waddelove 1990). Data from a number of sites in Poole Harbour (Jarvis 1992; Watkins 1994) and from Hengistbury Head (Cunliffe 1987) have enabled the sea levels during a number of periods to be reconstructed. Modern HAT in Poole Harbour is +1.66 m (Jarvis 1993, 90). At Hengistbury Head (Cunliffe 1987), the late Iron Age/early Roman HAT was c. -1.0 m. This is similar to that suggested by the late Iron Age/Roman levels at the Poole Foundry site (Watkins 1994) and a late Roman site on Brownsea Island (Jarvis 1992). The sea level rose in the late Roman period — the Brownsea Island site was inundated probably during the early 4th century AD and a similar rise is evident at Hengistbury Head during the late Roman or sub-Roman period. The Poole Foundry site has produced data that suggest in the 14th–15th century HAT was about 1.3 m below present levels, i.e. c. +0.3 m (Watkins 1994).

The implication of this sea level data is that the shape and size of the Hamworthy peninsula changed markedly as the sea levels rose and fell. Unfortunately, at present, there are not sufficient data to reconstruct the later prehistoric and Roman shorelines at Hamworthy. Given the lower sea levels in the Roman period, the peninsula is likely to have been more extensive than it is today. It is possible that the water was confined largely to the main channels. It is not clear whether earlier levels are preserved below later alluvium or have been scoured away by the rise in sea level. The early cartographic data shows the Hamworthy peninsula as a long narrow spit in the mid 16th century and by the late 18th century there are jetties and creeks on the northern side and a jetty or sandspit jutting south from the eastern end of the peninsula. The form of the peninsula then remained relatively constant until the 20th century when large reclamation works such as those for Poole Power Station and the ferry terminal in Lower Hamworthy were undertaken.

Geology

The underlying geology is mapped as Poole Formation deposits of the Bracklesham Group overlain by drift deposits (British Geological Survey 1:50000 Sheet 329 *Bournemouth* (1991)). The site probably lies on Second level River Terrace deposits of flint gravel, often very sandy, with Oakdale clay and sand deposits underneath.

Hydrology

Poole Harbour is fed by a number of rivers: the Frome and the Piddle enter the harbour from the west and drain the chalklands of Dorset; the Corfe River drains the Wealden sands and clays of Purbeck to the south; and a number of smaller rivers and streams drain the Eocene deposits surrounding the harbour. The intertidal area comprises about 80% of the whole harbour and consists of sandflats, mudflats, and marshes drained by a relatively stable system of creeks and channels which are similar to that first surveyed 200 years ago. Three main systems can be distinguished: the Wareham channel system which drains the upper harbour and the north; the Wytch channel system draining the central southern area; and the South Deep which drains the bays and flats of Brownsea Island (Gray 1985). For the present study, it is the Wareham channel system which is of interest. The main channel runs roughly parallel to the Hamworthy peninsula,

about 400 m to the south of the present shoreline. A tributary of this system, the Back Water Channel, which drains the Holes Bay area, runs round the northern side and eastern end of the Hamworthy peninsula to join the main Wareham Channel (Figure 1).

PLANNING BACKGROUND

Government Guidance

The desk-based assessment represents the first stage of archaeological work associated with potential development. The assessment was commissioned in line with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 — Archaeology and Planning (November 1990).

Local Authority Policies

The policies relating to the Built and Historic Environment set out in the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Structure Plan CSP28 (February 2001) are as follows:

ENVIRONMENT POLICY Q

THE ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF DORSET SHOULD BE SAFEGUARDED THROUGH THE CONSERVATION OF LISTED BUILDINGS AND THEIR SETTINGS, FEATURES OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST AND THE DESIGNATION AND PROTECTION OF CONSERVATION AREAS.

ENVIRONMENT POLICY R

NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS SHOULD BE PRESERVED.

ENVIRONMENT POLICY S

PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT LOCALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS WILL BE SUBJECT TO SPECIAL SCRUTINY, WEIGHING THE INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE OF THE REMAINS AGAINST THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT.

The Poole Local Plan First Alteration (Revised Deposit Plan, November 2001) has the following statements on locally and nationally important sites.

BE25 ARCHAEOLOGY – NATIONALLY IMPORTANT SITES

PROPOSALS AFFECTING NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS WHETHER SCHEDULED OR NOT AND THEIR SETTING WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED WHERE THE PROPOSAL ENSURES THEIR PRESERVATION IN SITU.

BE26 ARCHAEOLOGY– LOCALLY IMPORTANT SITES

PROPOSALS INVOLVING UNSCHEDULED SITES OF LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND THEIR SETTING WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED WHEN THE PROPOSED BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME OUTWEIGH THE NEED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF REMAINS IN SITU. IN SUCH INSTANCES THE EXCAVATION AND RECORDING OF THE REMAINS AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS WILL BE NECESSARY.

The site lies in an area, which is identified in paragraph 5.90 of the Poole Local Plan as “being of specially high archaeological potential where applications for development are particularly likely to require an archaeological programme.”

METHODS

No written brief for this project has been produced, but a specification has been prepared by Terrain Archaeology (Document 3144). The works have been undertaken following the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (1994, as revised).

A study area, centred on the site, with a radius of 500 m, has been defined for this assessment (Figure 1). This study area encompasses the proposed development area and an approximate 500 m wide corridor around it, in order to put the information from the site into its immediate local context.

The desk-based assessment has involved detailed documentary work sufficient to establish the historic development of the site and its immediate context and to allow a reconstruction of the historic topography, related to present day ground level, to be attempted. It has included the consultation of the major relevant archaeological databases — the National Archaeological Record (curated by English Heritage in Swindon) and the Dorset Sites and Monuments Record (held by Dorset County Council), to collate information on known archaeological and historical sites, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

A literature search of readily accessible published archaeological information, including appropriate national and local archaeological journals, together with a search of the on-line holdings of the Archaeology Data Service (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue>), has been undertaken to supplement and amplify the data from the major databases listed above.

Ordnance Survey maps, other historic maps, antiquarian books and other documentary sources, as available and appropriate, have been consulted at the Dorset County Record Office, Dorset County Museum, and Poole Museums Service Local Studies Collections.

A site visit, comprising a walk-over survey of the proposed development area and the front garden of the Old Rectory, was undertaken on 26th February 2004, to assess and record the condition of known sites and to note any previously unrecorded archaeological features. The present day topography and its implications for the potential survival of archaeological deposits were assessed at the same time.

RESULTS

Archaeological Sites and Findspots

Neolithic and Bronze Age (c. 4400 BC–700 BC)

The sea levels during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages are not known precisely for this area and the shape of the landforms is not known in detail. This means that there may be evidence of this period that is now submerged.

The available evidence for earlier prehistoric activity on the Hamworthy peninsula is meagre, confined to a sparse scatter of worked flint found in unstratified contexts. The most spectacular find is a hoard of five polished flint axes of probable early Neolithic date (1) found during construction of houses on Blandford Road, Hamworthy in 1930 (Smith 1948 1, 35).

Worked flint was noted from the excavations on the Pilkington Tiles site (2, 6) (Smith 1930, 110-1, Jarvis 1993, 101), however, the relatively large-scale excavations, 300 m to the south, at Shapwick Road (7) produced no certain prehistoric worked flint (Terrain Archaeology 2001a), although later work on this site has produced a sparse quantity of Mesolithic flint (Terrain Archaeology 2003a). It

is unclear what the significance of this is, but it may hint at some spatial patterning of earlier prehistoric activity, perhaps favouring the northern side of the peninsula.

The impression gained from the presently available evidence for Hamworthy is that the peninsula was a peripheral area, perhaps used for hunting and fishing or other activity that has left little or no material trace.

Iron Age (700 BC–50 BC)

The sea levels during the Iron Age were probably considerably lower than at present, though the precise levels and fluctuations are not known. However, by the end of the Iron Age the sea level was about 2.6 m lower than today (Watkins 1994). As with the earlier periods, the precise limits of the shoreline are uncertain and it is likely that parts of the Iron Age landscape now lie submerged.

There is no Early Iron Age pottery known from Hamworthy and very little Middle Iron Age pottery has been recovered. Reassessment of the pottery from H. P. Smith's excavations on the Pilkington Tiles site (2) by Malcolm Lyne (Lyne unpublished) has indicated clear ceramic evidence for Iron Age occupation dating from early to mid 1st century BC. What is interesting about this is that almost half of the surviving pots are continental imports from northwestern Gaul. There are other continental imports from Hamworthy including Dressel 1 wine amphorae from Italy (Peacock 1971 & 1984). It has been suggested that this material is evidence for a port at Hamworthy (Cunliffe 1982), however, Lyne casts doubt on this theory, pointing out that the imported pottery vessel forms are more suited to culinary activities rather than storage and packaging and that the number of amphorae vessels represented is extremely small. He suggests that it might represent evidence for settlement by the Veneti and others driven from Gaul during the campaigns of Julius Caesar in 56BC. However, there does seem to be a clear change in the politico-economic systems at this time with a relatively high percentage of imported material found round Poole Harbour and a paucity of material at Hengistbury Head (Cunliffe and de Jersey 1997, 57). Therefore, at the present time, the true status of this Iron Age settlement remains in doubt.

A small quantity of possible Iron Age pottery was recovered from excavations at St Michael's Hall (10) (Jarvis 1982) but no Iron Age material was found on the much larger scale excavations on the adjacent Shapwick Road site. This suggests that the Iron Age settlement was focussed on the Pilkington Tiles site on the northern side of the peninsula. Unfortunately, investigation of this site has been piecemeal and its full extent has not yet been determined. It is unclear what structural evidence survives from this settlement as there are also late Iron Age and Roman features on the site and it is not clear what belonged to each phase. Nevertheless, the Iron Age settlement evidence is of great importance, regionally, nationally and indeed, internationally for the potential information on cross-channel trade and movements of people during the pre-Roman Iron Age. Its relationship with the Iron Age port of Hengistbury Head and with the potential Iron Age port structures at Green Island and Cleavel Point (Markey *et al.* 2002) is also of great interest.

Late Iron Age (50 BC–AD50)

The Late Iron Age and early Roman material is considered together, as it is not possible, on the basis of the coarseware pottery, to be certain whether a site dates to pre- or post-AD43.

The exception to this is at Shapwick Road (7) where several features comprising pits, ditches and a possible roundhouse ring ditch were discovered, associated with Durotrigian pottery of clear pre-conquest date. These features probably represent Durotrigian Iron Age settlement activity immediately prior to the Roman conquest (Terrain Archaeology 2003a).

The Pilkington Tiles site (2) excavated by Smith, had extensive evidence for Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity (Smith 1930), in addition to the Middle Iron Age pottery discussed above. A number of ditches, hearths and other traces of occupation were discovered, some of which may

belong to this period. Excavations in 1974, further to the north (6), produced a scatter of finds but no structures of Late Iron Age or early Roman date (Jarvis 1993).

Roman military (AD43–AD70)

The sea levels in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period were approximately one metre lower than they are today. This will have had an effect on the shape and size of the peninsula. At the present level of knowledge, it is not possible to be certain about where the coastline was. The early Roman features are aligned diagonally across the peninsula, perhaps indicating that the shape of the peninsula was different at this time. The lower sea level means that there may be features of this date, which are now submerged.

It has been recognised for many years that there was probably a military supply base established on the peninsula to supply the legionary fortress at Lake Farm near Wimborne (Smith 1930). This is thought to be one of a number of possible Roman military supply bases recognised along the south coast, presumably to supply the army during Vespasian's campaign in the West Country in AD43 (cf. Branigan 1973). A Roman road runs from Hamworthy to Lake Farm, but, until recently, the only other evidence has been confined to findspots of artefacts dating to c. AD40–70. However, recent archaeological work in Hamworthy has revealed double defensive ditches 8 m wide and 2.5 m deep and dating to c. AD40–65, at Shapwick Road (7) and at Rigler Road (8) (Terrain Archaeology 2001a & b). The ditches on the Shapwick Road site were oriented NNW–SSE and could be traced for about 90 m. The ditches at Rigler Road were at right angles to this about 200 m to the north of the Shapwick Road ditches. It is thought that the ditches form the 'western' and 'southern' sides of a ?rectilinear enclosure of Roman military origin, perhaps a fort or supply base. The course of the other sides of this enclosure has not yet been discovered so its full extent and shape is not yet known. The projected length of the 'southern' side is at least 250 m. Only a very small area within this 'fort' has been excavated, revealing a number of slots, gullies, pits and postholes and some slight evidence for military buildings (Terrain Archaeology 2003a), but, on present evidence, little can be said about any internal arrangements.

The course of the Roman road between Lake Farm and Hamworthy has been established by H. P. Smith through field observations and limited excavation (Smith 1932b). The road has been traced running southwards along the west side of Holes Bay then it apparently turns and runs southeast along the peninsula. Smith postulated a junction close to Hamworthy Lodge with one branch running along the northern side of the peninsula and the other continuing the line of the road to the south shore (Figure 1). Although the course of the road has been demonstrated convincingly for much of its route, the line of the road along the Hamworthy peninsula is much more uncertain. Within the study area, a number of possible observations of the Roman road have been made. Where the postulated course of the road enters the study area, Smith observed a yellow streak of gravel in the garden of a house on the north side of Blandford Road (11) (Smith 1932b). It was apparently visible as an earthwork in the northern part of the grounds of the Old Rectory ("the road is clearly marked by a bank and hedge which take the line of the left ditch"; *ibid.*). In 1947, Corporation workmen laying a new water main in this area encountered a 0.3 m thickness of compact gravel, which was thought to be the remains of the road (12) (Smith 1948, 84). The next point where Smith identified the Roman road was in the back garden of 236 (now 150) Blandford Road (13), where he noted that "the ridge is prominent in the garden" and he found a 0.25 m thickness of "compact seashore shingle" beneath the topsoil (Smith 1948, 83). At the point where the road passes out of the eastern side of the study area, at the southern limit of Smith's excavations of the Iron Age settlement site (2), he discovered a 0.25 m thick layer of compact shingle beneath the topsoil (14) (Smith 1948, 83, fig. 28). Subsequent to Smith's investigations, little further evidence of the road has come to light. A Watching Brief by Poole Museums at Hamworthy Lodge (15) revealed two ditches 1.5 m wide and 0.3 m deep set about 8 m apart, which have been suggested as the remnants of the flanking ditches of the Roman road (Collins 1989). These ditches are undated and their association with the Roman road is speculative.

Cartographic evidence shows the field boundaries immediately around the site on the 1832 map of the manor of Hamworthy are aligned north-west/south-east, a configuration which survives in gradually less and less uninterrupted form as the area is developed and re-developed. By the 1933 edition of the OS map, and following the publication of Smith's articles on the Roman road in the area, this alignment is marked as 'Roman Road, course of'.

The evidence for the projected line of the southern branch of the Roman road is much less convincing and excavation on the projected course at St Michael's Hall (10) revealed no trace of it (Jarvis 1982), nor was any trace found during the excavations at Shapwick Road (7).

At present, the precise dating of the road is not known. It is likely to be Roman military in origin, given its route from Hamworthy to the legionary fortress at Lake Farm, but its relationship with the Roman military defences at Hamworthy is not clear. The present projected alignments of the road and the defensive ditches sit uneasily together.

Roman (AD43-410)

The Shapwick Road site (7) suggests that the Roman military structures were abandoned c. AD65 and the ditches may have been, in part, deliberately backfilled. The area was then divided into numerous small rectangular plots by a system of small ditches on the same alignment as the military ditches. These appear to be associated with a number of brine boiling hearths or kilns, which were built over the remains of the defensive ditches in the later 1st century. It appears that the area became used for what may have been large-scale salt production, shortly after the end of the military occupation of the peninsula. The adjacent site of the New First School, Ashmore Close (9) revealed a few similarly-dated ditches and possible salt-working features, on a different alignment from those at Shapwick Road (7) but considered to be part of the same ditch system. Roman saltworking evidence has also been found on a number of other sites on the Hamworthy peninsula, most notably in the area of the Pilkington Tiles site (5, 6).

By the end of the 1st century or the beginning of the 2nd century, two small rectilinear enclosures were built over some of the ditches of the salterns on the Shapwick Road site (Terrain Archaeology 2001).

The second century AD sees some major changes in the settlement pattern. There is very little identifiable 2nd century material from the Pilkington Tile Works site (Lyne, unpublished) and little artefactual evidence for 2nd century activity at Shapwick Road (7). There is a ditched trackway which cuts across the earlier ditch systems and enclosures on a different alignment (Terrain Archaeology 2001a) and some evidence for north-south aligned boundary ditches (Terrain Archaeology 2003a). Although these two large sites appear to have been almost abandoned, finds of well-dated 2nd century pottery have been recorded at Hamworthy Almshouses (16), to the west of the Shapwick Road site, suggesting that there was perhaps a shift in settlement rather than abandonment of the peninsula during this time.

During the 3rd century there appears to be evidence of occupation on the Pilkington Tiles site, despite the lack of identifiable 2nd century material here. The 1974 excavations by Poole Museums Service (6) produced no structural remains but there was considerable artefactual evidence for 3rd century salt working, using large jars rather than briquetage troughs (Jarvis 1993). The artefacts from Smith's excavations (2) suggest some domestic occupation in this area also (Lyne unpublished). A small cemetery of possible 4th century date was found during the 1974 excavations. Other evidence for late Roman activity is sparse. There is little evidence for 3rd/4th century activity at Shapwick Road (7), though two burials, possibly of this date, were found.

It is notable that the archaeological investigations further to the west, produced very few or no Roman finds, suggesting that the Roman activity on Hamworthy was largely confined to the end of the peninsula.

Early Medieval (AD650–1066)

After the end of the Roman period, there is no evidence for settlement or activity in the area until the late Saxon period when a large-scale oyster industry developed along the shores of Poole and the northern side of the Hamworthy peninsula (Horsey 1992).

In 1932 the remains of what was thought to be a 6th century AD Merovingian helmet were discovered in an allotment near Hamworthy Rectory (**18**) (Smith 1932a), in the northern part of the site. This was subsequently reidentified as the remains of a 19th century Montenegrin bride's belt (Bruce Mitford 1974).

Medieval (AD1066–1500)

Hamworthy is not mentioned specifically in Domesday but was probably included as part of Canford Magna (Morris 1983 note 31,1). The name Hamworthy comes from two elements *Hamm* 'an enclosure or promontory' first recorded in 1236, together with the addition of *worthig* 'an enclosure' first recorded in 1463 (Mills 1980, 20–1). Hamworthy was divided into Higher and Lower Ham: Higher Ham appears to have been centred on the area around the present-day St Michael's Church (SY993912) to the northwest of the study area; and Lower Ham is the eastern, more low-lying part of the peninsula on the eastern edge of the study area.

Very little evidence for medieval activity has been discovered to date in Hamworthy and this is too fragmentary to allow any coherent discussion of the medieval settlement of the peninsula. There are few archaeological discoveries that can be securely dated to the medieval period. A few features, chiefly small ditches, have produced a small quantity of medieval pottery, but there is little which helps our understanding of the nature and extent of the medieval settlement. The medieval centre was probably in Higher Ham, in the area surrounding the chapel, which lies to the northwest of the study area.

The medieval chapel was located "at the east end of Higher Ham, near the mansion house; and appears to have been a small antient fabric, consisting of a chancel, body, and a small turret at the west end. It is 84 feet long by 17." (Hutchins 1813, 40). The chapel was a dependant chapel of the mother church at Sturminster Marshall. Its location was not adjacent to the Manor House but was close to the present church of St Michael's, though nothing of it survives today. The medieval settlement was likely to have been focussed in the area around the church.

The manor of Hamworthy was held by the Turbervilles in the mid 13th and early 15th century and the Carews held it from the early 16th century. The family's support for the king in the Civil War cost them dear: '1646-1653, Mr Carew's old rents of a manor here, value 14l per annum, and his farm, were sequestered.' (Hutchins 1813, 40). The Carews conveyed the manor to the Webbs of Canford in the beginning of 19th century (Hutchins 1868, 359).

The precise location of the medieval manor house is uncertain, but it is likely to be on the same site as the later Manor House, now the Old Rectory, (**20**) built in the 17th century for the Carews. Certainly, the few medieval finds recorded so far in this area come from close to this site. At 165–167 Blandford Road (**22**), three ditches of probable medieval or post-medieval date were excavated. They are poorly dated and are thought to be agricultural boundary ditches (Valentin 2000).

In 1978–9, three trial trenches were dug off Hinchcliffe Road (**21**), close to the southwest corner of the site. A number of ditches and a large pit were uncovered. The ditches were all running roughly WNW–ESE to NW–SE. These features were not securely dated but some contain 15th–16th century pottery. The ditches were all interpreted as field boundaries of late medieval or early post-medieval date. (Keen 1979, 139) None of them were running towards the site itself. An archaeological watching brief during the construction in 2003 of the new sports hall for Carter

Sports and Community College, immediately to the north of the site, did not record any significant archaeological deposits, features or finds (Terrain Archaeology 2003b).

There is documentary evidence for fifteen salt-works in Hamworthy in 1275 (Keen 1987, 28) but no traces of certain medieval salterns have been found.

In 1900 a seal belonging to John, Duke of Bedford, in his capacity of Lord High Admiral of England (1426–35), was dug up by a workman near the Rectory at Blandford Road (19).

It is likely that the Hamworthy peninsula was largely agricultural land during the medieval period with some salt working around its margins.

Post-medieval and modern (AD1500–present day)

During the Civil War, a fort (23) was constructed in Hamworthy (Bayley 1910). The precise location of this fort is not known and there are no visible traces on the ground. However, Smith (1951, 142) reports that some large blocks of shaped stone were found in the garden of one of the houses in the Rigler Avenue (sic) area, which he believed belonged to this fort. The medieval chapel was demolished at this time to provide building material for the defences of Poole (Hutchins 1813, 40; Smith 1948, 193). Recent observations on the northern part of Rigler Road did not reveal any traces of Civil War activity (Terrain Archaeology 2001b).

The ‘new’ manor house, now known as the Old Rectory, dates from the mid 17th century. It was recorded as a farmhouse in 1813 (Hutchins 1813, 40) and remained as such up to at least 1838 (Tithe apportionment information); by 1861 it had become the vicarage for the new church (Hutchins 1861, 360; Smith 1948, 193).

The new church was built in 1826 ‘on the site occupied by the ruins of the old chapel’ (Sydenham, 1839, 458). By the mid twentieth century this second church was proving too small for the needs of the parish, and in 1958 a third church was built to replace it (Aldis 1959, 157–8). This third church was located in the field immediately to the southeast of the nineteenth century church, which was demolished in 1962 (Mrs Jackie Massarella, Churchwarden, pers. comm.)

Cartographic Evidence

There are surviving maps of the Poole area dating from the early 16th century onwards. The earliest maps show little accurate detail of Hamworthy. The 1539 Map of the Dorset Coast (Horsey 1992, fig. 2) shows the peninsula as a long narrow curving spit with nothing depicted on it except for a circular stone fort or gun battery on the end of the peninsula. The 1597 Plan of Poole Harbour, Poole and surrounding land (DRO photocopy 403) shows a stylised settlement in the approximate area of the Manor House and nothing else on the peninsula. The early 17th century Bankes estate map unfortunately cuts off most of the peninsula. At the bottom of the map, it is just possible to see a building, probably the manor house, marked in the approximate area of the site and a number of ships at the end of the peninsula. The 1634 Pythouse map only depicts the end of the peninsula and does not extend as far as the study area, but it is the first map which indicates some settlement on the peninsula itself — some buildings are shown adjacent to an oval embayment on the north side of the peninsula. A circular fort is shown on the end of the peninsula, presumably the same structure as depicted on the 1539 map.

Sir Peter Thompson’s 1751 map of Poole shows only the tip of the Hamworthy peninsula and does not extend as far as the study area. It shows there is now a road running along the peninsula and a number of properties have been laid out on either side of it. There are shipwright’s yards and quays on the northern shore of Lower Hamworthy. The 1774 Hutchins’ map shows similar detail to the 1751 map indicating there had not been a great deal of further development by this date. The road is marked as ‘Ham-street’. It does not show anything of the study area.

An 1832 map of Hamworthy (DRO D/WIM 1334d) is the earliest map that shows the whole of the Hamworthy peninsula in any detail. There are a number of houses and shipyards at the end of the peninsula. The site appears as a farm with numerous farm buildings, owned by William Thompson. Buildings, probably representing farm outbuildings, are shown to the north and west of the building identified as the present-day Old Rectory, which was then a farmhouse. There are a small number of houses to the south of the main road, otherwise there is very little development in the Study Area.

The 1838 Hamworthy Tithe Map (DRO T/HMY) shows a slightly different configuration of buildings on the site to those shown on the parish map of six years earlier. The farmyard, with its three flanking outbuildings on the north and south, lies to the north west of the house (Figure 2). The site was occupied by Richard Hopkins, and the tithe apportionment lists the holding as 'Farm house, bartons, garden and yards'. The area of the site contained the gardens of the old Manor House and the western end of a pasture field 'The Green', also occupied by Richard Hopkins.

The 1890 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map is the first map to show the study area in any detail. The Rectory (identified as the former Manor House) stands in its grounds, surrounded by fields, and is accessed by two driveways: one runs from the south east corner of the site in a northwesterly direction to the turning circle by the east (main) front of the house; the other runs from the rear of the house northwestwards to the road. A slight indentation in the wall indicates the gateway. There are outbuildings to the northwest. The northern boundary of the grounds follows the posited line of the Roman road. By the time of the 1902 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map the boundaries of the grounds have expanded both northwards and southwards into the field beyond (Figure 3).

The major development shown on the 1925 Ordnance Survey map is the small sewage works on the edge of Holes Bay. The site itself has expanded slightly northwards, and the boundary to the west of the western drive has been removed. There is some housing development shown along Hamworthy (now Blandford) Road. The 1933 Ordnance Survey map shows the increasing development of Hamworthy with many more houses being built to the south and west of the site. The field to the northeast of the site is a recreation ground with a pavilion on its western boundary. The course of the Roman road is now shown.

The 1954 Ordnance Survey map is the first to show the school buildings of the Herbert Carter Secondary Modern School to the north of the site, (Figure 4). The site itself has been reorganised significantly. The boundaries of the site have been rationalised, presumably in conjunction with the construction of the school. An enclosed garden has been built to the north west of the main house, replacing the several smaller outhouses shown on the earlier maps. The access route to the school is immediately to the west of this new building. Tennis courts have been built in the field to the south of the house, cutting off the southeastern drive to the front of the house. Trees are indicated for the first time in the grounds. The 1971 map shows that two buildings have been built to the south west of the Old Rectory, the present day Public Library and Youth Club.

A topographic survey of the site, surveyed in December 2003 as part of the development proposal (copy provided by Morgan Carey Architects) shows positions of the mature trees in the grounds and that the access to the Old Rectory is now from the north. A few small outbuildings have been constructed in the enclosed garden to the west of the house since 1972.

Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled Monuments have Statutory Protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979).

No scheduled monuments are situated within the Study Area.

Listed Buildings

Only one Listed Building is within the Study Area (Appendix 2): Hamworthy (Old) Rectory, listed Grade II*. This house, formerly the Manor House, was built as the seat of the Carew family. There is some uncertainty over the precise date of construction: some sources cite c. 1600-1610 (Knott 1954, 31; Watson 1991, 43); others suggests a mid 17th century date (RCHME, 1970, 238). It is of two storeys and attics with brick walls and a tiled roof. It is notable for the use of carved brickwork on the southeast front (*ibid.*).

Historic Parks and Gardens

There are no parks or gardens listed in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens within the Study Area.

Ground Disturbance

Previous Ground Disturbance

It is unclear if the Old Rectory was built on the precise site of the medieval manor house. The 19th century farm was immediately to the west of the house and there is unlikely to have been much disturbance of the site from the farmyard. The area of the site to the east of the house was gardens and part of a pasture field. The surviving cartographic records suggest that the site was in open agricultural land from at least the 16th century until the surrounding housing development commenced sometime between 1902 and 1925; and that the site itself comprised grounds (presumably laid to garden) and a couple of small paddocks until the initial development of the site (construction of the enclosed garden and of the tennis courts) some time between 1933 and 1954. The foundations of some the small farm buildings shown on the 1832 map of the manor of Hamworthy may be encountered. Only the area to the east of the house appears to have avoided any building activity; initially forming fields surrounding the house and later incorporated as part of the grounds. Given the low-lying position of this ground with a high water table, it is likely that for much of this period, the ground was pasture and consequently there is unlikely to have been severe disturbance through ploughing.

The construction of the tennis courts (now used as a basketball court and overflow car park) is unlikely to have involved deep excavation, although some levelling or terracing may have been required.

The February 2004 site visit recorded a newly-backfilled service trench running across the northern part of the proposed development area, and crossing the possible route of the Roman road. In addition, an area of ground to the north of this had been disturbed by the recent construction of a new pavement.

Proposed Ground Disturbance

The proposed new development comprises eight new dwellings with associated garages, gardens and access roads. The proposed layout is shown on Figure 5. The footings trenches for the proposed houses and garages, together with the service trenches are all likely to disturb potential archaeological remains, as they will be dug into the natural sands and gravels. The new access roads may well disturb the upper levels of any potential surviving archaeological features.

Geotechnical Data

No geotechnical data for the site were available for the site.

INTERPRETATION AND ASSESSMENT

Potential Archaeological Resource

No archaeological features have been previously recorded on the site. The course of the Roman road has been projected as passing through the northern part of the site. It must be noted that the precise course of the road in this area has not been determined with certainty. Locating the precise course of this road is of great importance in understanding the nature of the Roman activity on the Hamworthy peninsula. At the present state of knowledge, it is difficult to propose a coherent model for the Roman occupation of Hamworthy and there are particular difficulties in reconciling the differing alignments of the various Roman features uncovered to date. This applies in particular to the proposed alignment of the Roman road and the Roman military ditches associated with the supply base.

In addition to the road, it must be borne in mind that there are often Roman buildings and cemeteries that develop along the sides of Roman roads. However, no evidence for such features has been found in the vicinity of the site, and perhaps it lies too far from the apparent focus of the Roman activity on Hamworthy for such features to be anticipated. Any evidence relating to the Roman road, particularly information on its construction and dating can be considered to be of regional significance in that it will add potentially important details to our understanding of the Roman military activity in the region.

Very little prehistoric activity has been recorded on the Hamworthy peninsula and nothing within the immediate vicinity of the site, though a hoard of Neolithic stone axes was found about 100 m to the west. Overall, the potential for prehistoric archaeology on the site must be considered slight.

The site may lie at or close to the site of the medieval manor house and possible associated farm buildings, so the potential for archaeological remains of this period is likely to be greater. Unfortunately, the lack of real evidence for the size and precise location of the medieval settlement means that it is difficult to determine the probability of finding medieval remains on the proposed development site. Any evidence of the medieval archaeology of Hamworthy must be considered of local significance.

Rearranged medieval and post medieval field boundaries may survive as archaeological features. These are of local significance.

Survival of the Potential Archaeological Resource

The evidence from other recently excavated archaeological sites in the vicinity suggests that the archaeological features are likely to survive where they are cut into the natural sands and gravels. In this area, the top of the natural sand has been found at about 0.3 m below present ground surface. Archaeological features, primarily ditches, have survived moderately well in adjacent sites at Hamworthy Lodge to the east and Hamworthy Middle School to the south. Overall, there is likely to be moderate to good survival of archaeological remains in the development area.

Potential Impact of the Development

The proposed development, in particular the groundworks associated with the construction of the foundations and associated services, is likely to disturb any surviving archaeological remains in this area. The nature of the proposed development is likely to disturb a significant proportion of the site, including the area of the projected line of the Roman road. Overall, this proposed development is likely to have significant impact on the potential archaeological resource.

MITIGATION

The proposed development is likely to have a significant impact on the potential archaeological resource, which can be regarded as of regional significance. The experience from the adjacent Hamworthy Lodge site suggests that it is very difficult to properly interpret archaeological features when exposed during development in this area (Keith Jarvis, pers. comm.).

It is proposed that an archaeological evaluation in the form of machine trenching is the most appropriate next stage of mitigation of the archaeological resource. This will enable the potential line of the Roman road and any other roadside features to be properly evaluated. This evaluation should be undertaken before the commencement of any intrusive groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the site. The precise nature of the archaeological works would need to be determined in consultation with the Borough of Poole planning archaeologist.

CONCLUSIONS

The site lies in an area where numerous archaeological discoveries have been made. The major potential archaeological remains on the site are likely to relate to the Roman and the medieval periods, which can be regarded as of regional significance (Roman) and local significance (medieval).

The site lies on the projected course of the Roman road from the probable Roman military supply base at Hamworthy to the legionary fortress at Lake Farm. The projected course of this road runs through the northern part of the site.

The potential medieval remains are associated with the medieval manor house and ancillary farm buildings.

Post-medieval development of the site was limited to the construction of the Manor House in the 17th century and its associated gardens.

The potential archaeological resource is likely to be moderately well preserved on site.

The proposed development would disturb any surviving archaeological resource on the site. It is considered that a programme of archaeological evaluation in the form of trial trenching would be the most appropriate next stage of the archaeological mitigation strategy.

SOURCES CONSULTED

DRO = Dorset Record Office

DCL = Dorset County Library

NMR = National Monuments Record

Cartographic Sources

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1597, 'Plan of Poole Harbour, Poole and surrounding land' (DRO photocopy 403).

c. 1617–1625, 'The Bankes Estate map' (British Library).

?early 17th century, 'Rough plan of Harbour showing part of Poole', (DRO photocopy 404).

?17th century 'Map of mudlands', (DRO D/BLX:E7).

1751, 'Map of Poole', surveyed by Thomas Reekes and William Tucker, under auspices of Sir Peter Thompson (DRO photocopy 259).

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1925, Ordnance Survey 25 inch map, Dorset sheet 43.16

1931, Ordnance Survey 6 inch map, Dorset sheet 43SE.

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1963, Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map SY99NE.

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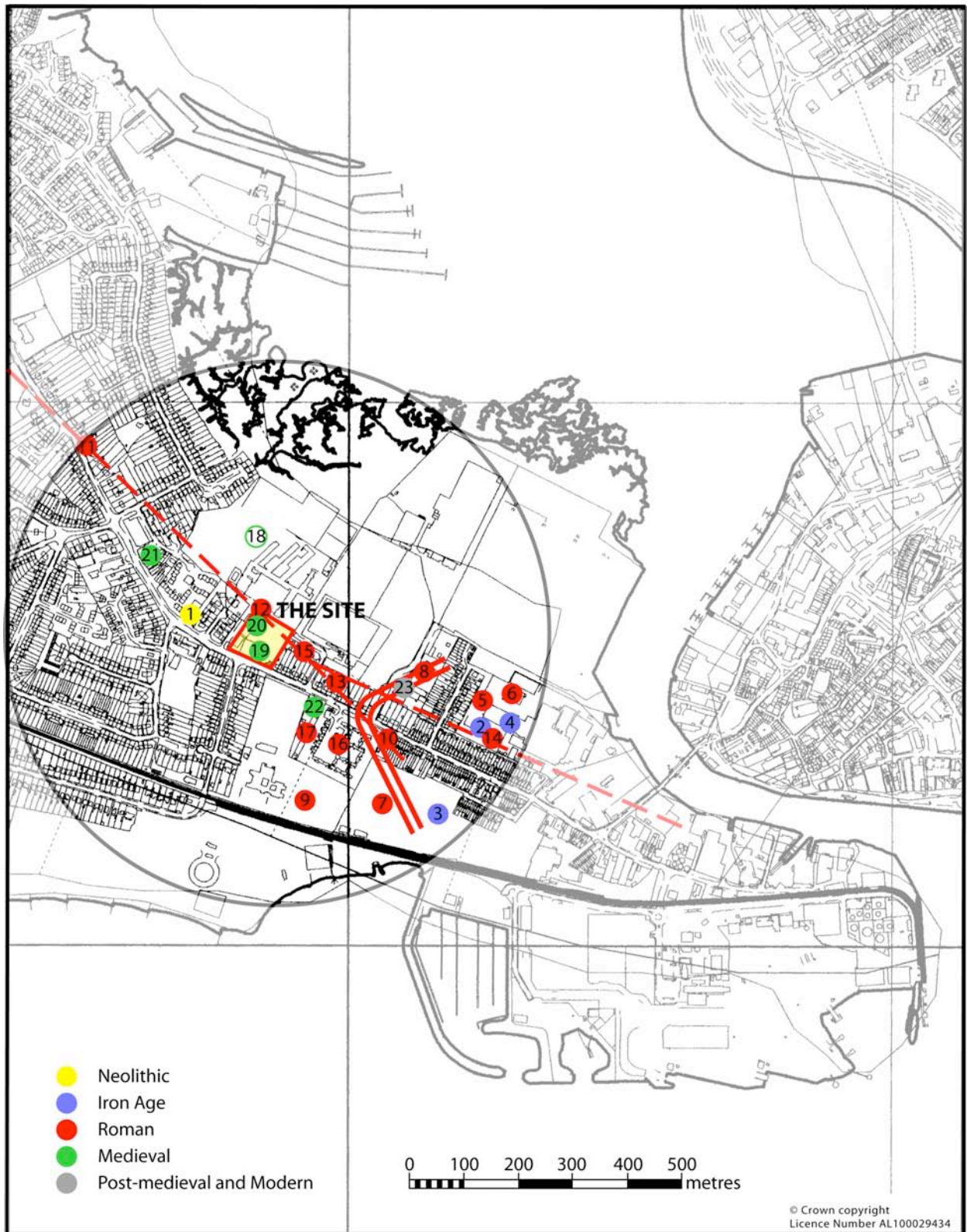


Figure 1: Location of Study Area showing archaeological sites and findspots.

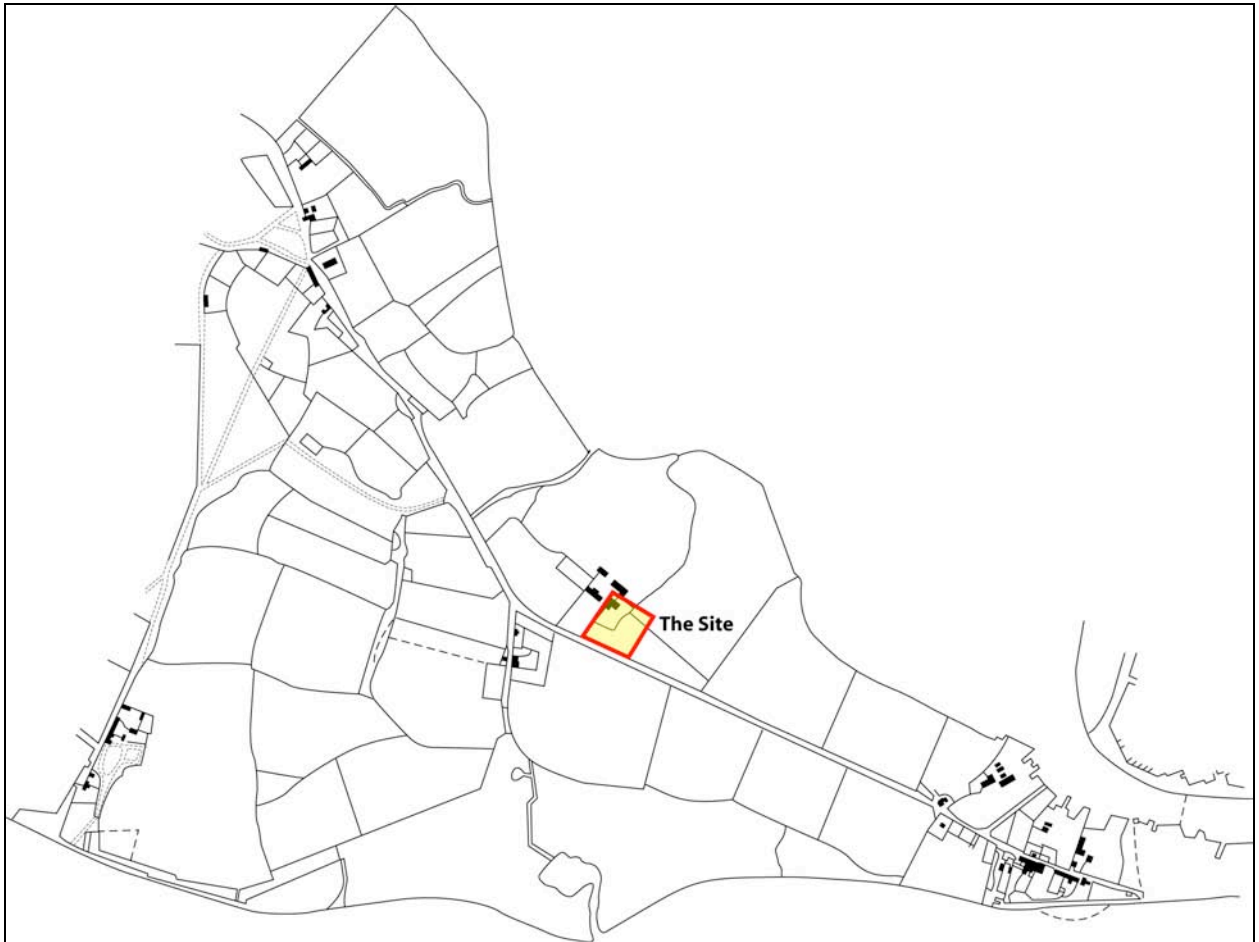


Figure 2: Extract from the 1838 Hamworthy Tithe map.

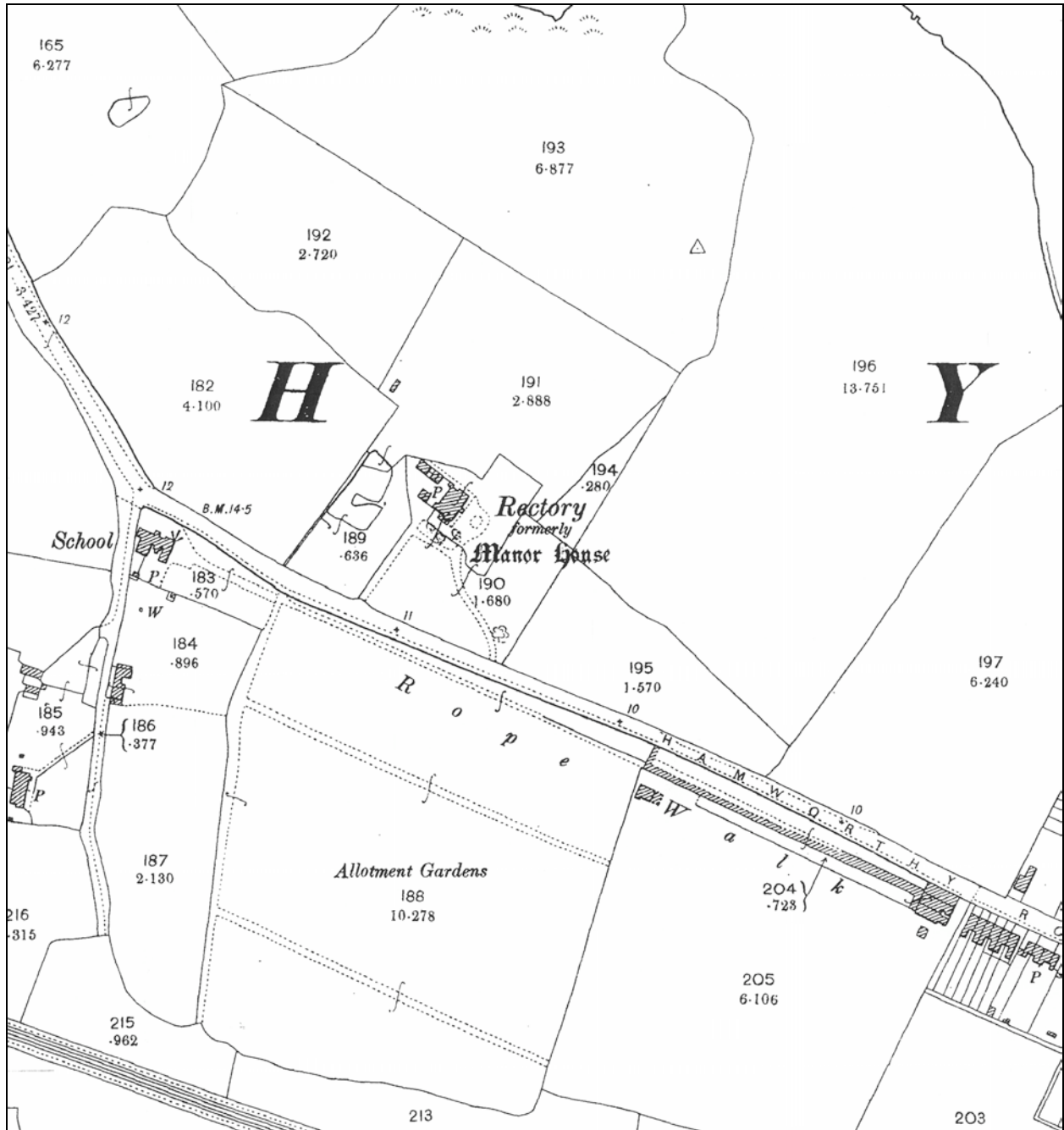


Figure 3: Extract from 1902 Ordnance Survey Map (© Crown Copyright Reserved)

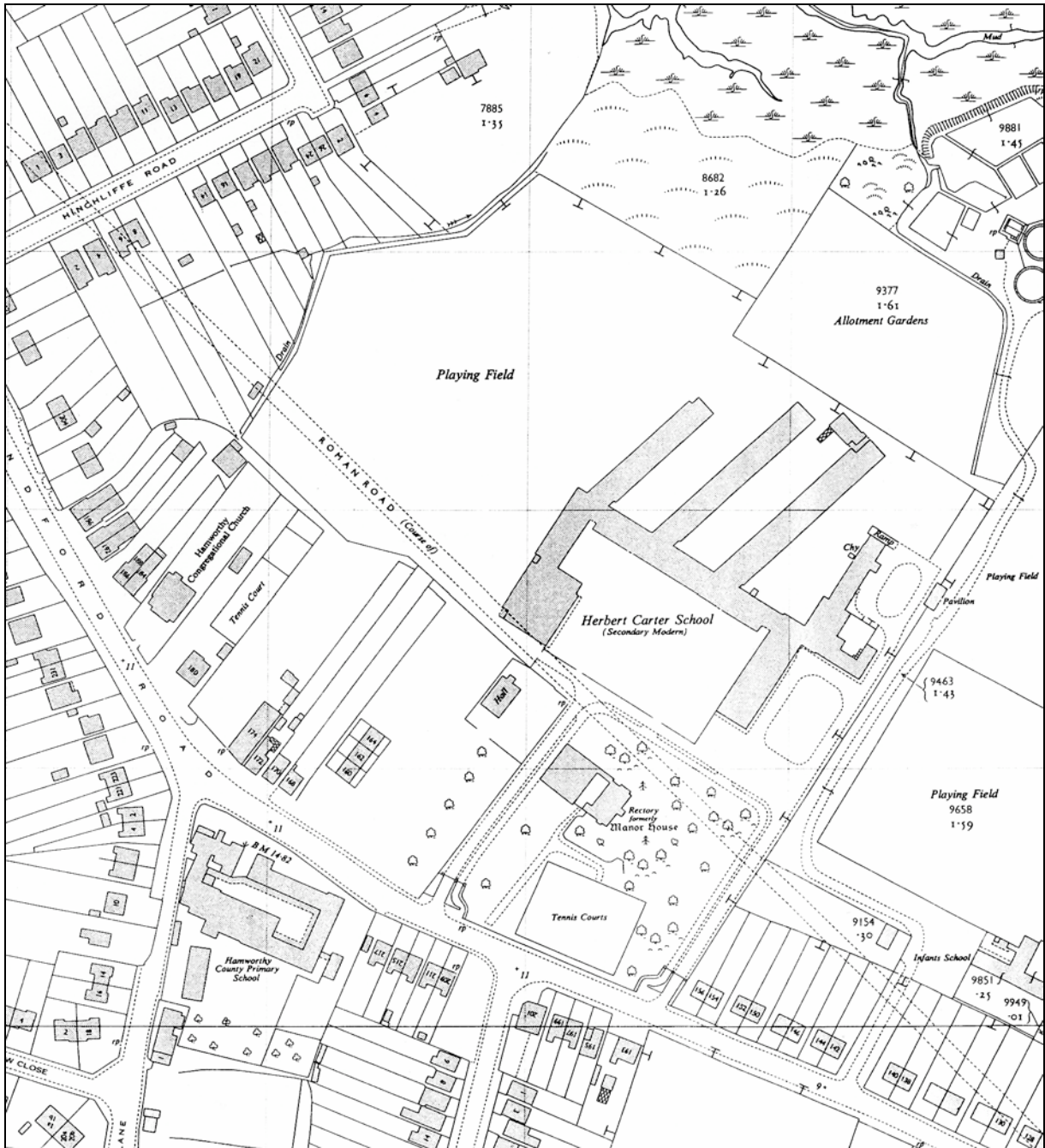


Figure 4: Extract from 1955 Ordnance Survey Map (© Crown Copyright Reserved)

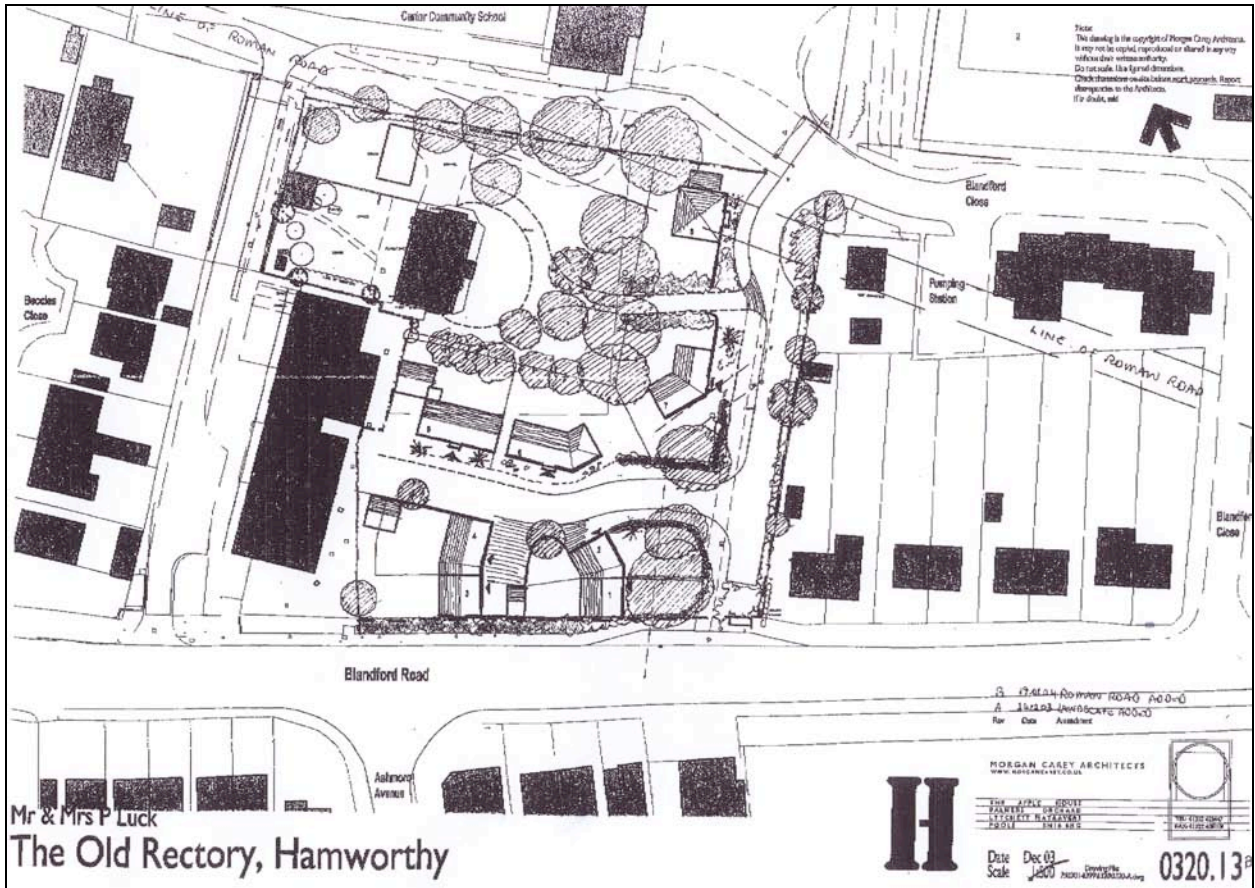


Figure 5: Plan of proposed development (as provided by Morgan Carey Architects)

APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER

Site no.	NGR	SMR/ NMR/ SAM ref.	Date	Description	References
1	SY9969 9061	Poole 458 /SY 99 SE 6	Neolithic	Findspot of hoard of 5 polished flint axes.	Smith 1948,35
2	SZ002904	Poole 402/ SZ 09 SW 19 & 31	Middle–Late Iron Age/ Roman	Pits, ditches, ovens and occupation debris including salt-boilers waste of Late Iron Age and Roman date.	RCHME 1970, 603-4; PDNHAS 100 (1978), 116
3	SZ00189027 SZ00279018		Late Iron Age	Pits, ditches and a possible ring ditch found during excavations at Shapwick Road	Terrain Archaeology 2003a
4	SZ00289041	/ SZ 09 SW 32	Late Iron Age	Findspot of an Iron Age pedestal urn.	Smith 1948, 50-1
5	SZ00259045	Poole 402/ SZ 09 SW 30	Late Iron Age/ Roman	Romano-British kiln associated with salt workings.	PDNHAS 71 (1949), 66; RCHME 1970,603-4
6	SZ003905	Poole 402/ SZ 09 SW 19	Late Iron Age/ Roman	Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and briquetage plus Late Roman occupation and industrial material and three late Roman inhumations.	PDNHAS 96 (1974), 62; PDNHAS 115 (1993), 101-9
7	SZ001902		Roman	Excavations at Shapwick Road have revealed Roman military ditches, saltworking evidence, enclosures and trackways.	Terrain Archaeology 2000, 2001a, 2003a
8	SZ00109050		Roman	Watching brief revealed probable Roman military ditches — defences on west side of Roman fort/ supply base?	Terrain Archaeology 2001b
9	SY999902		Roman	Evaluation at New First School, Ashmore Close revealed Roman ditches	Terrain Archaeology 2003c
10	SZ0007490359	Poole 479/ SZ 09 SW 55	Iron Age or Roman	Three trial trenches at St Michael's Hall, Hamworthy exposed Iron Age gullies, ditches and pits.	PDNHAS 104 (1982), 181-2
11	SY995909		Roman	H. P. Smith notes a yellow streak of gravel in garden — interpreted as part of the Roman road.	Smith 1948. 82
12	SY998906		Roman/?medieval	Roman road gravels observed during construction of water main. Also masonry blocks, possibly associated with the medieval manor house	Smith 1948, 84
13	SY997995		Roman	Earthwork noted and 0.25 m of flint gravel found beneath topsoil in back garden of 150 Blandford Road. Possible Roman road.	Smith 1948, 83
14	SZ002904		Roman	0.25 m thick layer of compact flint gravels exposed beneath topsoil at south end of Smiths excavations (see 2 above).	Smith 1948, 83
15	SY99929054	Poole 495/	Roman?	Two undated ditches – ditches of Badbury/Hamworthy Roman road? – observed at Hamworthy Lodge.	PDNHAS 111, (1989), 106

Site no.	NGR	SMR/ NMR/ SAM ref.	Date	Description	References
16	SY 99989037	Poole 515/	Roman	Findspot of 2nd century Roman pottery at Hamworthy Almshouses.	
17	SY99929040	Poole 453 /SY 99 SE 15	Roman?	Findspot of penannular bronze brooch, possibly Roman, at 165 Blandford Road.	PDNHAS 100 (1978), 116
18	SY99839076	Poole 456/ SY 99 SE 5	Uncertain – early medieval or modern	Findspot of 6th century AD Merovingian helmet, later reinterpreted as possibly being a 19th century Montenegrin Bride's Belt.	Smith 1932; Bruce-Mitford 1974, 246-9
19	SY9990		Medieval	Findspot of the seal of John, Duke of Bedford, in his capacity of Lord High Admiral of England. Found 'near the Rectory', Blandford Road, Hamworthy	Smith 1948, 192-3
20	SY99829058	/SY 99 SE 7	Medieval/post-medieval	Medieval Manor House, demolished. New manor house built in 17- century, now known as the Old Rectory,	
21	SY996907	Poole 455/ SY 99 SE 21	Medieval/post-medieval	Three trial trenches off Hinchcliffe Road (north of Blandford Road) revealed 13th-15th century ditches, pits and a gully.	PDNHAS 101 (1979), 139, Jarvis 1979
22	SY993904		Medieval? /post-medieval?	Evaluation at 167 Blandford Road, Hamworthy revealed possible medieval ditch.	PDNHAS 122 (2000), 168.
23	SZ001905	Pole 496/ SZ 09 SW 34	Post-medieval	Site of Civil War fort	Smith 1951, 142

APPENDIX 2: LISTED BUILDINGS IN THE STUDY AREA

NGR	Grade	Address	Description
SY99829058	II*	The Old Rectory, Hamworthy	Formerly the Manor House. Built in mid 17 th century as the seat of Carew family.