



**NEW HAMWORTHY FIRST SCHOOL, ASHMORE CLOSE,  
HAMWORTHY, POOLE  
Archaeological Assessment**

**Report prepared for:**



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# New Hamworthy First School, Ashmore Close, Hamworthy, Poole Archaeological Assessment

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Report written by:

Peter Bellamy

Prepared on behalf of:

Property Services  
Borough of Poole  
Jade Manor Court  
West Quay Road  
Poole  
BH15 1JG

# **New Hamworthy First School, Ashmore Close, Hamworthy, Poole Archaeological Assessment**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Project Background**

Terrain Archaeology has been commissioned by Property Services, Borough of Poole, to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment in connection with the proposed construction of a new First School adjacent to the existing Middle School, off Ashmore Close, Hamworthy, Poole.

A desk-based assessment, as defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (1994, rev. 1999), 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 to the south of Blandford Road, on the north side of the Hamworthy peninsula (Figure 1). It is an L-shaped area about 250 m by 200 m, centred on Ordnance Survey NGR SY999903. The topography is almost flat, sloping down slightly from the north to the south. The ground is low-lying at about 1.7 m above OD. The site is occupied by the school and associated playing fields. The proposed development area is in grassed playing fields. The western side of the site backs on to the rear of the houses along Ashmore Road and Ashmore Close. There is also residential development surrounding the almshouses on the northern side of the site. The southern

edge of the site is formed by the railway line, screened by trees. The land to the east is now derelict, but previously was the site of Carter's (later Pilkington's) tileworks.

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  $7340 \pm 110$  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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> century and by the late 18<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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).

The site is low-lying and is susceptible to flooding.

## **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 WHERE 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 3109). The works have been undertaken following the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (1994, rev. 1999).

A study area centred on the site and with a radius of 500 m and 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 of the study area, viewing the area from the public highways, was undertaken on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2003, 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 was 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, 5) (Smith 1930, 110-1, Jarvis 1993, 101), however, the relatively large-scale excavations, 300 m to the south, at Shapwick Road (8) produced no certain prehistoric worked flint at all (Terrain Archaeology 2001a). 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/ Early Roman (50 BC–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 that date. The lower sea level means that there may be features of this date which are now submerged.

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 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 (5), produced a scatter of finds but no structures of Late Iron Age or very Early Roman date (Jarvis 1993).

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 including imported early Roman pottery, coins and a slave or donkey-mill (7) (though doubt has been cast on the Roman dating of this (Williams-Thorpe 1988, 262). 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 (8) (Figure 2) and at Rigler Road (9) (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 have 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, but on present evidence nothing 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 course, the line of the road at Hamworthy itself 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 it as an earthwork as far as the Rectory (Smith 1932b). In 1947, Corporation workmen laying a new water main close to the Carter Community College encountered a 0.3 m thickness of compact gravel, which was thought to be the remains of the road (11) (Smith 1948, 84). The next point where Smith identified Roman road gravels was in the back garden of 236 (now 150) Blandford Road (12), where 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) described above, a 0.25 m thick layer of compact shingle was discovered beneath the topsoil (13) (Smith 1948, 83, fig. 28). Subsequent to Smith's investigations, little further evidence of the road has come to light. Possible Roman road gravels have been noted behind 40 Blandford Road (14) and 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.

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 (8).

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.

#### *Later Roman (AD70-410)*

The Shapwick Road site (8) suggests that the Roman military defences 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (though it is possible that the saltworkings were under the control of the Roman army). These ditches continue right up to the eastern edge of the site (Figure 2) and undoubtedly continue westwards onto the site itself. 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 (4, 5, 6).

By the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century or the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> century material from the Pilkington Tile Works site (Lyne, unpublished) and little artefactual evidence for 2<sup>nd</sup> century activity at Shapwick Road (8). The only feature is a ditched trackway which cuts across the earlier ditch systems and enclosures on a different alignment. Another small ditch, at right angles to the trackway, was found at 45 Blandford Road (16), dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> century (Collins 1989) and may be related to it in some way. Finds of well-dated 2<sup>nd</sup> century pottery have been recorded at Hamworthy Almshouses (17), adjacent to the site, suggesting that there was perhaps a shift in settlement slightly westwards, away from the earlier focus of activity.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> century there appears to be evidence of occupation on the Pilkington Tiles site, despite the lack of identifiable 2<sup>nd</sup> century material here. The 1974 excavations by Poole Museums Service (4) produced no structural remains but there was considerable artefactual evidence for 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> century date was found during the 1974 excavations. Other evidence for late Roman activity is sparse. There is no appreciable evidence for 3rd/4th century activity at Shapwick Road (8).

#### *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 6<sup>th</sup> century AD Merovingian helmet were discovered in an allotment near Hamworthy Rectory (19) (Smith 1932a). This was subsequently re-identified as the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> 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. The manor house was in Higher Ham and the medieval church was close by (Sydenham 1839). 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.

The manor of Hamworthy was held by the Turbervilles in the mid 13<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> century and the Carews held it from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Carews conveyed the manor to the Webbs of Canford in the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century (Hutchins 1868, 359).

Very little evidence for medieval activity has been discovered in Hamworthy and is too fragmentary to allow any coherent discussion of the medieval settlement of the peninsula. The medieval centre was probably in the area surrounding the manor house (20). The present house, now the Old Rectory, was built in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. Nothing survives of the medieval chapel (21), which is said to have stood near the manor house. It is described in Hutchins (1868, 360) as standing “at the east end of Higher Ham, near the mansion house; “and appears [...] to have been a small ancient fabric, consisting of a chancel, body, and a small turret at the west end. It is 84 feet long by 17, and was ruined in the Civil Wars, and only the walls remain. The inhabitants bury in the chapel and chapel yard.”

The archaeological discoveries which can be dated to the medieval period are few and do not contribute greatly to understanding the nature of the medieval settlement, nor its extent. At 165–167 Blandford Road (22), immediately adjacent to the site, 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).

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 (21) was ruined at this time (Hutchins 1861, 360), perhaps to provide building material for the defences of Poole (Smith 1948, 193). Recent observations on the northern part of Rigler Road did not reveal any traces of Civil War activity (Terrain Archaeology 2001b).

## **Cartographic Evidence**

There are surviving maps of the Poole area dating from the early 16<sup>th</sup> 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 settlement in the approximate area of the Manor House and nothing else on the peninsula. The early 17<sup>th</sup> century Bankes estate map unfortunately cuts off most of the peninsula. At the bottom end 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 small number of houses to the east of the site and a farm centred on the old manor house; otherwise, the area is almost all agricultural land. The site

lies to the south of the main road along the peninsula and includes parts of three fields. They are marked as being part of William Thompson's land.

The 1838 Hamworthy Tithe Map (DRO T/HMY) depicts very similar boundaries in the Study Area. The site covers part of three fields: Island Moor to the south; Seven Acres to the east; and The Upper Twelve Acres to the east (Figure 3). The first two fields were pasture and the third was arable. The fields were occupied by John Robbins, John Pike and George Rendal respectively.

The 1841 map of Poole again shows only the end of the peninsula and nothing of the study area. There is now a swing bridge between Poole and Hamworthy, in place of the ferry marked on the earlier maps. The end of the peninsula is dominated by shipyards.

The 1890 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map shows the site as open agricultural land. The railway line forms the southern boundary of the site and the land immediately to the north is shown as rough ground. The rest of the site lay within two fields fronting on to the main road. There are two paths crossing the western field and a rope walk along the south side of the road, along the northern limit of the site and immediately to the east.

The 1902 map shows that part of the western half of the site was now allotment gardens and the land to the south, adjacent to the railway line had been improved and subdivided (Figure 4). The 1925 map shows no change on the site itself, but the almshouses have now been built to the east of the site.

The 1933 map illustrates the increasing development of Hamworthy. A new road, Albert Avenue (now Ashmore Avenue) runs down to the railway line from Blandford Road, to the west of the site. The western boundary of the site has now been established by the back gardens of the houses off Albert Avenue. Part of the southern edge of the site is now shown as rough ground once again and part of the area south of the almshouses has been subdivided.

The 1954 map shows that most of the site was allotment gardens at this date, all except for the southern edge, which is marked as rough ground with a drain running along the boundary between the allotments. Albert Avenue has been renamed Ashmore Avenue.

The 1972 map indicates the allotments have disappeared by this date, otherwise there is no change to the site (Figure 5). Between 1972 and 1978, the school is built on the site.

## **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). This is the Grade II\* Hamworthy Rectory, about 100 m to the northwest of the site. This house, formerly the Manor House, was built in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century as the seat of the Carew family. 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 (RCHME 1970, 238).

## **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*

The surviving cartographic records suggest that most of the site was open agricultural land from at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century, then allotment gardens from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century until the construction of the school in the 1970s. 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. This is particularly true for the southern part of the site. The northwest part of the site was arable in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Any disturbance caused by the allotments in the eastern part of the site in the area of the proposed development is unlikely to have caused much more than superficial disturbance to the upper levels of the site. The allotments in the northern part of the site may have caused more disturbance to any potential archaeology because of the much shallower deposits in this area.

The drain is shown running along the edge of the eastern half of the site on the 1950s to 1970s maps. It is unclear how deep this drain was, and whether it was of sufficient depth to disturb potential archaeological remains.

The school buildings have relatively shallow footings about 0.8 m deep (Dorset Soils and Materials Laboratory report 552032, April 2002). As well as the building foundations, there will have been some disturbance caused by service trenches. There is a surface water drain that runs diagonally across the southeastern part of the site, exiting out of the southeast corner of the site.

### *Proposed Ground Disturbance*

It is proposed to found the new building on shallow near surface foundations and ground bearing floor slabs. It is proposed to strip off the upper 0.3 m of turf and underlying Made Ground and then make up the ground levels using imported granular material. Any particularly soft or loose areas of the Made Ground would also be excavated then filled with stone. The peat layer would be removed by excavating to a depth of about 0.75–0.85 m and the area filled with imported granular fill.

The majority of the services will be shallow and contained within the Made Ground.

## **Geotechnical Data**

In February 2002, Dorset Soils and Materials Laboratory undertook geotechnical investigations of the site (Dorset Soils and Materials Laboratory report 552032). Two boreholes (BH1–2) and 10 trial pits (TP1–10) were investigated around the perimeter of the proposed new school and along the line of the new access road (Figure 6). These revealed a layer of dark grey-brown sands and gravels, between 0.5–1.2 m thick overlying orange-brown sand and gravel River Terrace deposits. Along the line of the proposed road, the Made Ground was relatively thin at about 0.5 m thick. On the northern side of the proposed new first school, the Made Ground was about 0.8 m thick, but to the south, the Made Ground was about 1.1 m thick. TP7 also contained pockets of peaty sand towards the base of the Made Ground. In addition to the above trial pits, a small hand-dug trial pit (TH1) was excavated against the existing building, which showed that the foundations of the Middle School are about 0.7 m deep.

In July 2002, further geotechnical investigations were undertaken in roughly the same areas by Yeandle Geotechnical Ltd (Figure 6). Four trial pits (TP1–4) were excavated in the approximate corners of the proposed new building, supplemented by a further three trial pits (T5–7) around TP4. Four shallow pits (CBR1–4) were excavated along the line of the proposed access road. The investigations confirmed the depth of the Made Ground to the north of the building as being about 0.8 m thick. A 50–100 mm thick layer of peat was found in TP4, at a depth of 0.75 m overlying a layer of organic dark brown clayey sand 0.35 m thick. Similar stratigraphy was encountered in the nearby TP5, where the peat layer was found at 0.7 m depth, overlying a layer of organic dark

brown clayey sand 0.4 m thick. The peat layer was not found in TP6 and in TP7 a thin woody organic layer was found at 0.7 m depth.

The three small trial pits (CBR2–4) along the proposed access from Blandford Road, showed that there was no Made Ground as such here. The Terrace Deposits were encountered beneath a layer of turf and topsoil 0.45 m thick.

## **INTERPRETATION AND ASSESSMENT**

### **Potential Archaeological Resource**

There have been no archaeological features recorded from the site itself. However, there have been significant discoveries made in the immediately surrounding area, which relate, in particular, to the Roman period. The Roman saltworking and other features discovered at Shapwick Road clearly continue on into the site (Figure 2). It is likely that there are a series of small ditches associated with the salterns and perhaps a number of brine-boiling hearths in the area of proposed development. Saltworking is one of the major industries around Poole Harbour in the Iron Age and Roman periods. Most of the previous discoveries are of brine-boiling hearths — the Shapwick Road site has produced the first evidence for some of the other features which form part of the salterns in this region. The 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman trackway found at Shapwick Road probably continues along the edge of the site (Figure 2). This trackway is a crucial piece of evidence for a possible major change in the settlement pattern on the Hamworthy peninsula during the later Roman period. There is the potential for other features associated with this trackway to exist on the site. The Roman archaeology of Hamworthy is considered to be of regional significance.

Very little prehistoric activity has been recorded on the Hamworthy peninsula and nothing within the immediate vicinity of the site. Overall, the potential for prehistoric archaeology on the site must be considered slight.

The site lies close to the probable core of the medieval settlement of Hamworthy, so there is some potential for the existence of archaeological remains of this period on the site. Unfortunately the lack of real evidence for the size and precise location of the medieval settlement, other than the location of the manor house, means that it is difficult to determine the probability of finding medieval remains on the proposed development site. The results from the archaeological evaluation of the adjacent site of 165–167 Blandford Road (Valentin 2000) suggest that there is unlikely to be any great density of medieval features in the northern part of the site. Any evidence of the medieval archaeology of Hamworthy must be considered to be of local significance.

Cartographic evidence shows that the site was farmland, then allotments, until the 1970s, so consequently there is unlikely to be any significant post-medieval archaeological features encountered on the site.

### **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 cut into the sands and gravels and buried beneath a layer of dark sandy made ground up to 1.1 m deep. The geotechnical data for the site suggest that there has been relatively little modern disturbance. The foundations for the school are fairly shallow and have only affected a small part of the whole site. They do not impinge on the proposed development area. There do not appear to be any services crossing the proposed development area.

There is a high potential that any archaeological remains in the area of the proposed new school will be relatively well preserved. The discovery of buried organic remains (peat) highlights the

potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental remains in the southern part of the development area. Further to the north, along the line of the proposed new access road, any potential archaeological remains are likely to be less well preserved, judging from the much shallower Made Ground deposits in this area and the poor preservation encountered during the archaeological evaluation of the adjacent site of 165–167 Blandford Road (Valentin 2000).

### **Potential Impact of the Development**

The precise impact of the development is difficult to define until the depth of any surviving *in situ* archaeological deposits is determined.

The shallow nature of the foundations means that it is possible that they will not impinge on any potential surviving archaeology. However, the necessity to remove the peat layer at 0.85 m depth along the southern side of the proposed development area (and any other soft spots encountered) means that there is a much greater potential for any surviving archaeology in this area to be disturbed or destroyed.

The ground level for the new school is to be raised by deposition of a layer of imported stone up to 0.9 m thick. The weight of this imported material may have an adverse effect on any surviving archaeological deposits through compression of the deposits.

The majority of the services are intended to be of shallow depth. It is possible that these will not impinge on any potential *in situ* archaeological deposits. Any deeper drains, etc. may disturb any potential surviving archaeological deposits.

### **MITIGATION**

The proposed development may disturb the potential surviving archaeological resource, which is likely to be of regional archaeological significance. In order to determine the likely level of disturbance, more detailed information is needed on the location, nature, preservation and depth of any surviving archaeological features and deposits.

It is proposed that the most appropriate methods for obtaining these data is:

- a) to undertake a geophysical survey of the playing field where the proposed new school is to be built, in order to attempt to map any surviving archaeological features.
- b) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development area in order to determine the depth, preservation and significance of any surviving archaeological remains. This would be by means of trial trenches to sample the area of the proposed development.

When more information has been obtained on the location, nature, preservation and depth of the potential archaeology, it will be possible to suggest the most appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The precise nature of the archaeological mitigation works would need to be determined in consultation with the Borough of Poole planning archaeologist.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The potential for the survival of archaeological remains on the site of the proposed development is high. The archaeological remains are most likely to be of Roman date. The site lies to the west of the Roman military defences on Hamworthy but within the area of extensive Roman salterns, which have been found right up to the eastern edge of the site. Roman finds have also been found immediately north of the site as well. This Roman archaeology is considered to be of regional archaeological significance

The site lies close to the medieval settlement of Hamworthy. The manor house, now the Old Rectory, lies to the north of the site and the site of the medieval chapel is supposed to be close by. There is no recorded evidence for medieval activity on the site, but the possibility of finding medieval features cannot be discounted.

In the post-medieval period the site was agricultural land, then allotments until the school was constructed in the 1970s.

The potential archaeological resource is likely to be well preserved, particularly in the southern part of the site.

Without further detailed information on the nature and location of the potential archaeological deposits, it is difficult to determine the level of disturbance to the archaeological resource that will be caused by the proposed development. In order to obtain the required information on the archaeological deposits, it is suggested that a geophysical survey followed by an archaeological evaluation is undertaken. This will enable an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy to be determined.

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DCL = Dorset County Library

NMR = National Monuments Record

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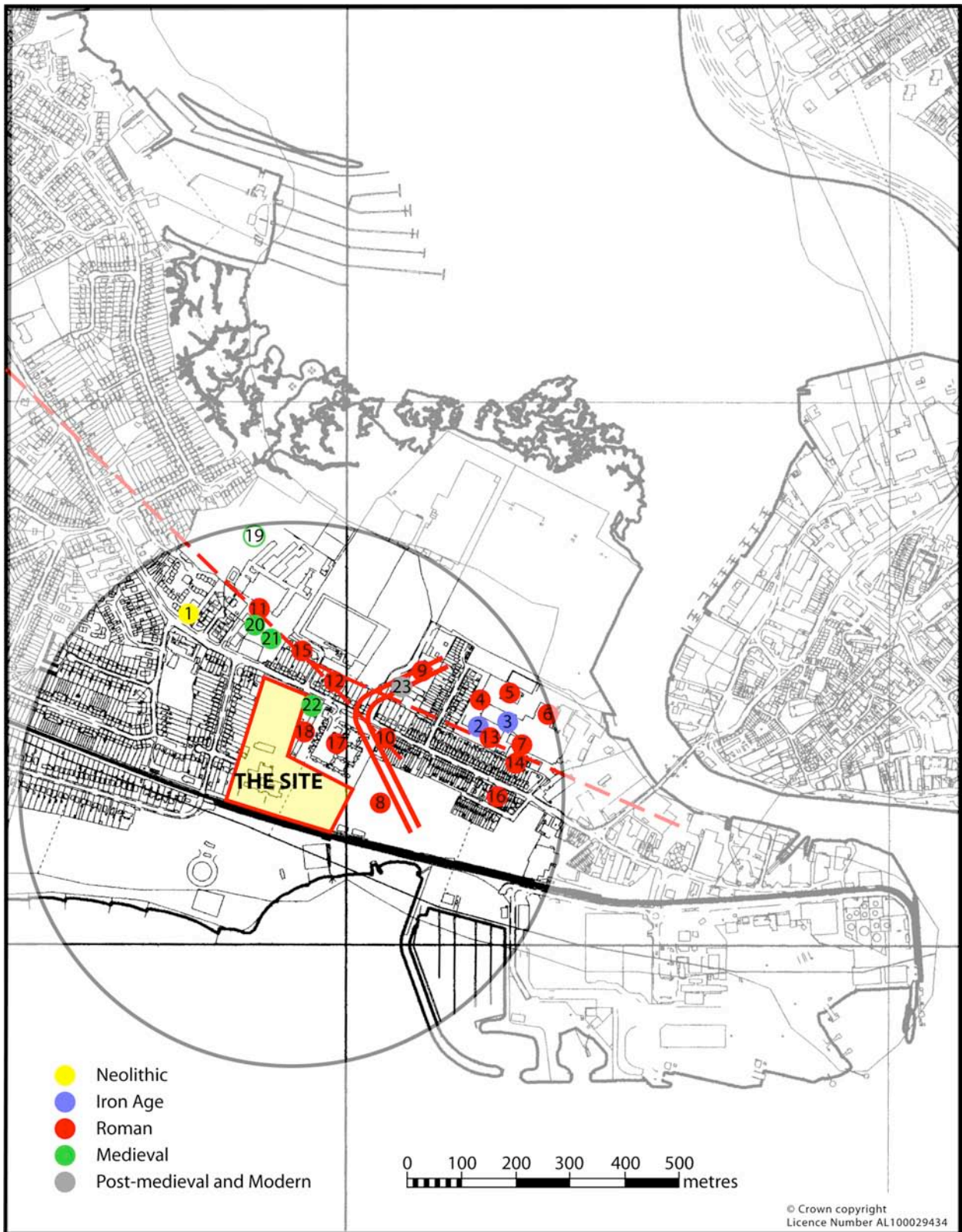


Figure 1: Location of Study Area showing archaeological sites and findsspots.

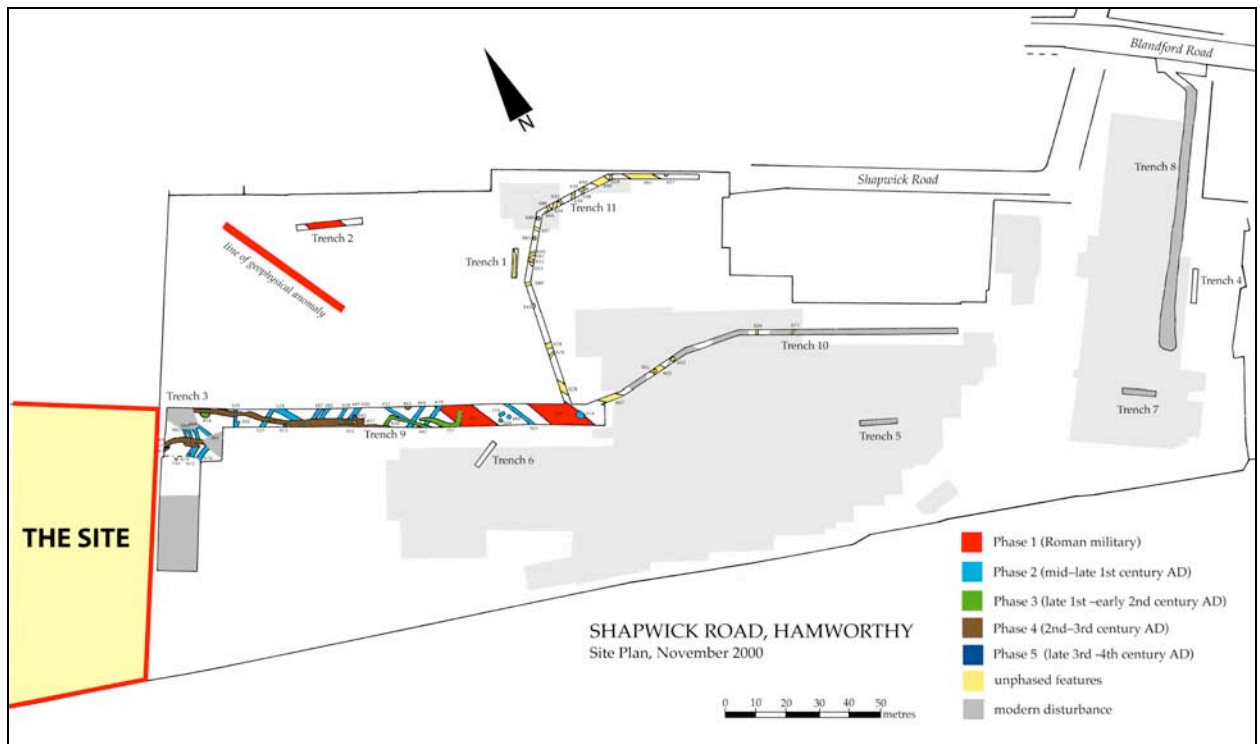


Figure 2: Plan of excavations at Shapwick Road, immediately east of the site.

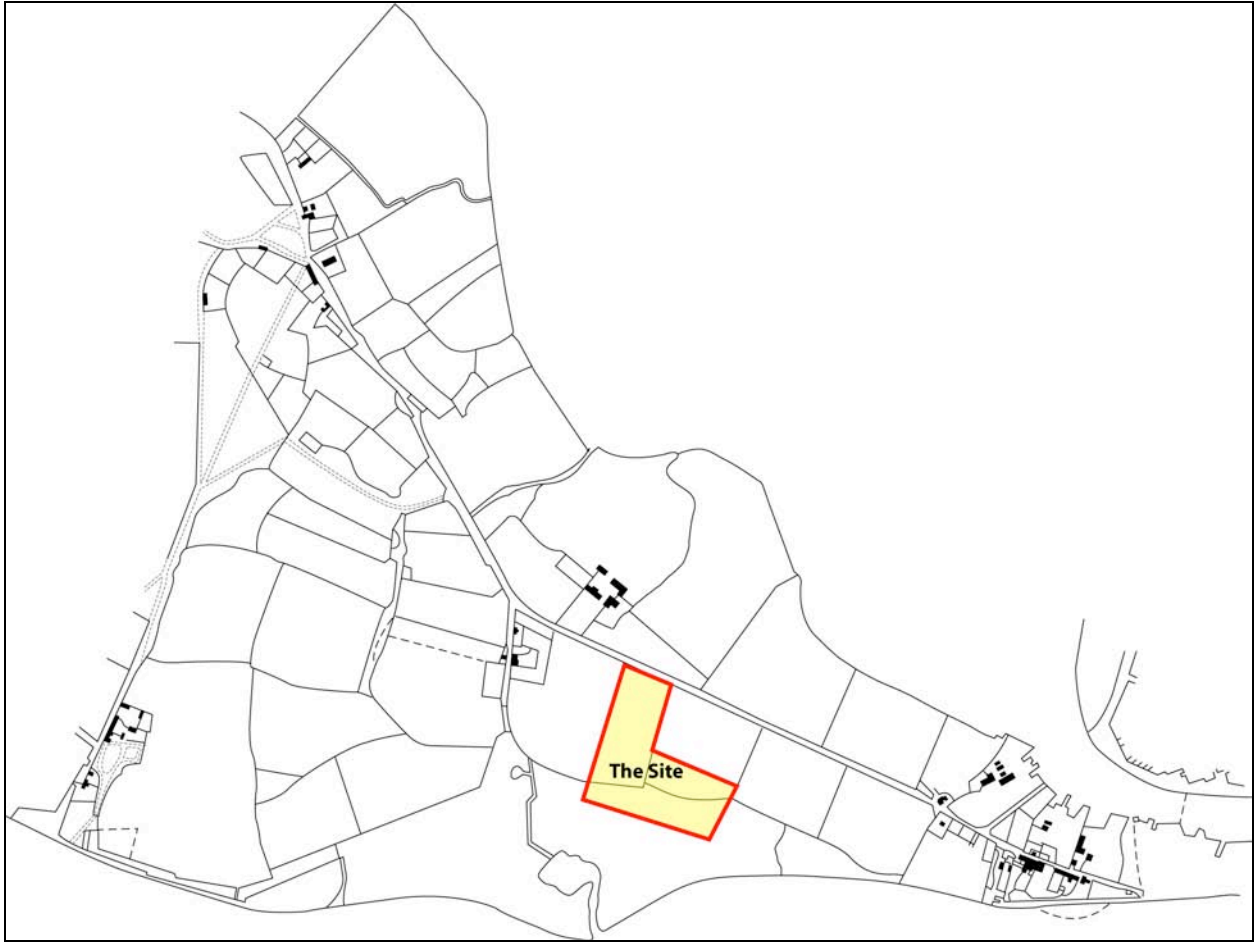


Figure 3: Extract from the 1838 Hamworthy Tithe map.

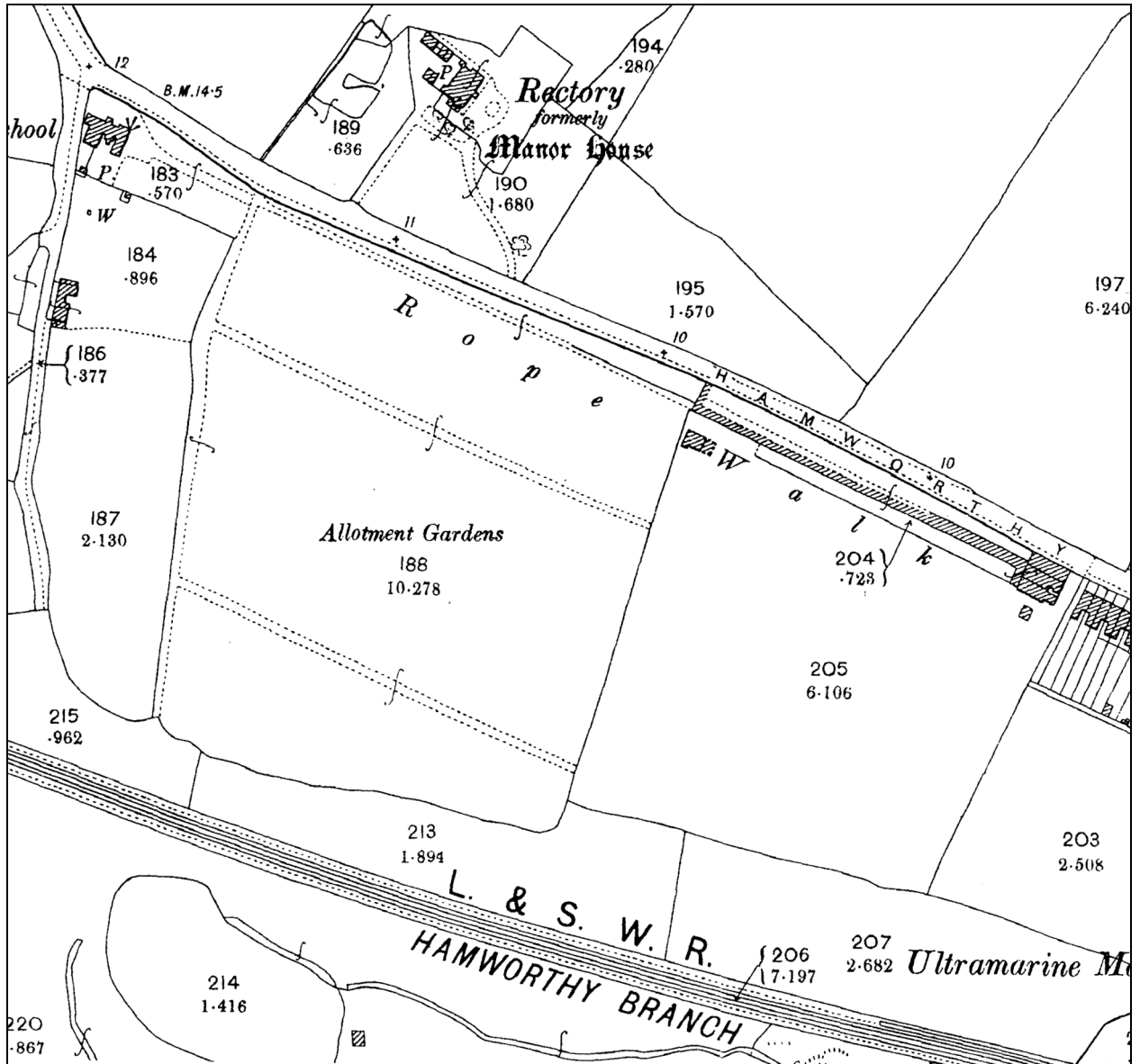


Figure 4: Extract from 1902 Ordnance Survey Map (© Crown Copyright Reserved)



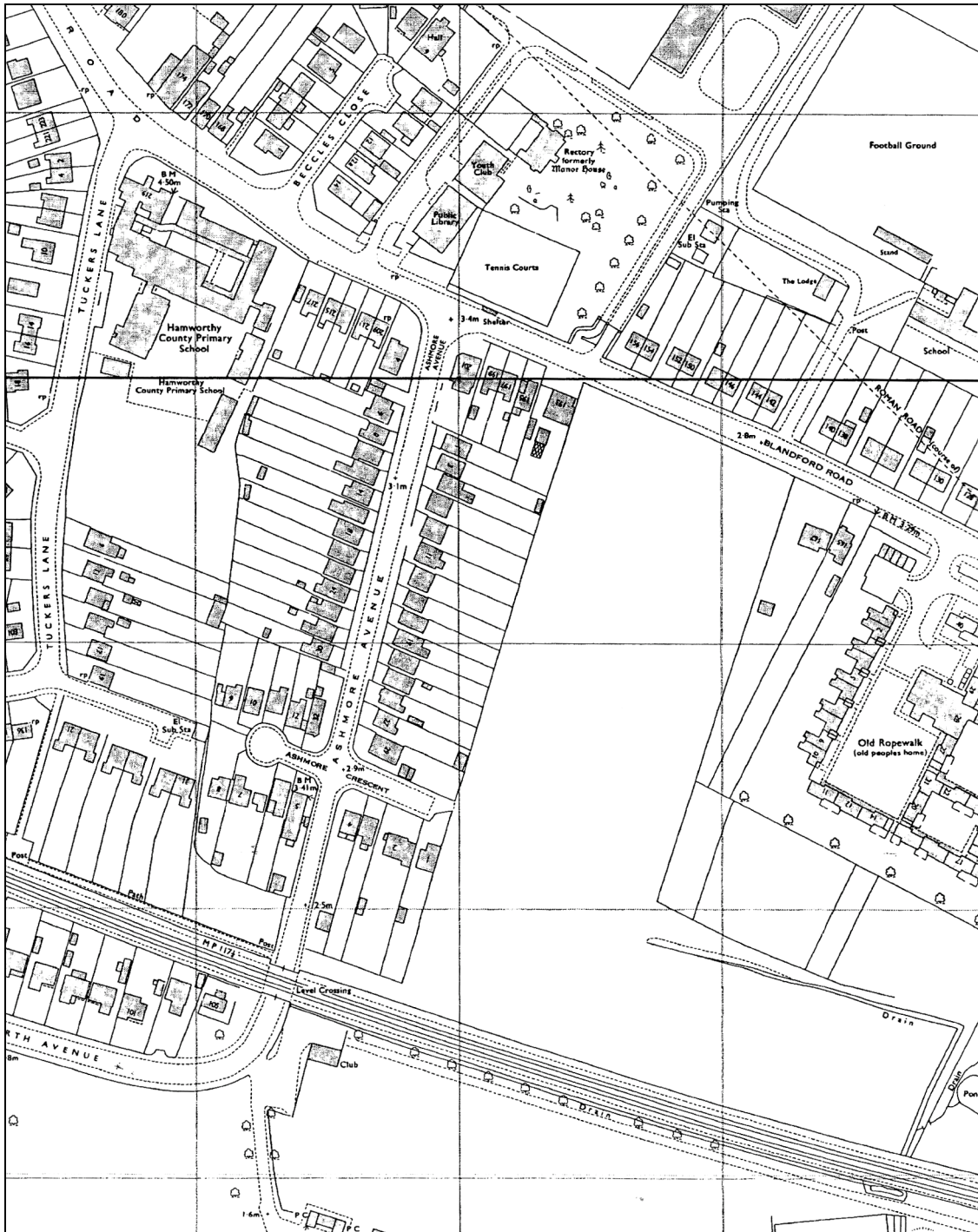


Figure 5: Extract from 1972 Ordnance Survey Map (© Crown Copyright Reserved)

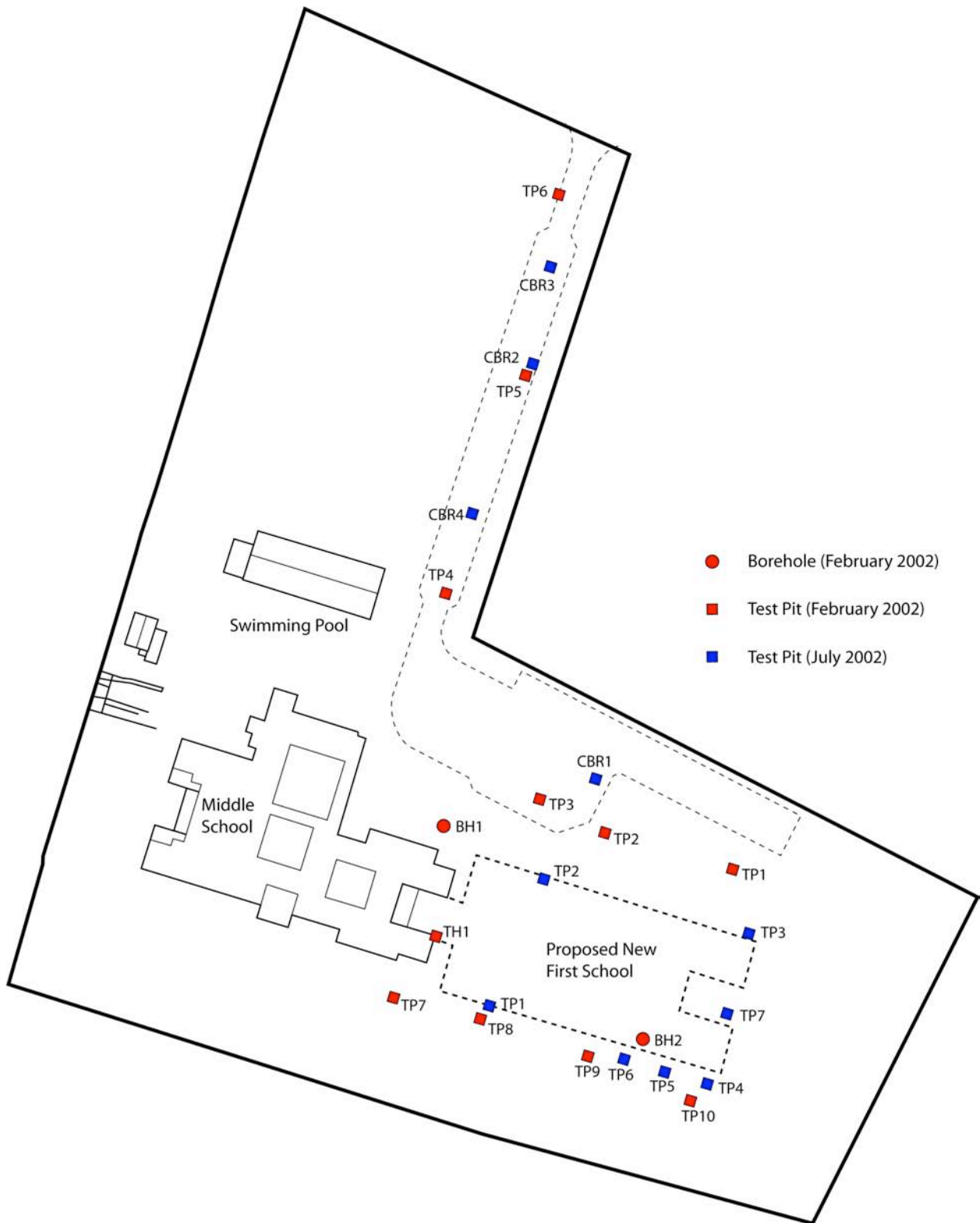


Figure 6: Location of geotechnical boreholes and test pits



**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	SZ00289041	/ SZ 09 SW 32	Late Iron Age	Findspot of an Iron Age pedestal urn.	Smith 1948, 50-1
4	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.
5	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.
6	SZ0038390402	Poole 402/ SZ 09 SW 54	Late Iron Age or Roman	Briquetage and hearth in trial trench at Pilkington Tiles Ltd	PDNHAS 101 (1979), 139.
7	SZ00319038	Poole 434 /SZ 09 SW 13	Roman?	Findspot of a Roman mill.	PDNHAS 52 (1930), 124-5.
8	SZ001902		Roman	Excavations at Shapwick Road have revealed Roman military ditches, saltworking evidence, enclosures and trackways.	Terrain Archaeology 2000, 2001a
9	SZ00109050		Roman	Watching brief revealed probable Roman military ditches — defences on west side of Roman fort/ supply base?	Terrain Archaeology 2001b
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	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.
12	SY997995		Roman	0.25 m of flint gravel found beneath topsoil in back garden of 150 Blandford Road. Thought to be Roman road gravels.	Smith 1948, 83
13	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
14	SY999290400	Poole 402/ SZ 09 SW 19	Roman	Findspot of c. 100 sherds of early Roman pottery at 40 Blandford Road. Also possible Roman road gravels.	PDNHAS 100 (1978), 116.
15	SY99929054	Poole 495/	Roman?	Two undated ditches – ditches of Badbury/Hamworthy Roman road? – observed at Hamworthy Lodge.	PDNHAS 111, (1989), 106.
16	SZ00289023	Poole 494/ SZ 09 SW 70	Roman	A 2nd-3rd century AD ditch aligned NW-SE found in excavation in back garden of 45 Blandford Road, Hamworthy.	PDNHAS 111 (1989), 106.
17	SY 99989037	Poole 515/	Roman	Findspot of 2nd century Roman pottery at Hamworthy	

Site no.	NGR	SMR/ NMR/ SAM ref.	Date	Description	References
				Almshouses.	
18	SY99929040	Poole 453 /SY 99 SE 15	Roman?	Findspot of penannular bronze brooch, possibly Roman, at 165 Blandford Road.	PDNHAS 100 (1978), 116.
19	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.
20	SY99829058	/SY 99 SE 7	Medieval	Old Rectory, formerly the Manor House, 17 <sup>th</sup> century.	
21	SY9990	/SY 99 SE 8	medieval	Medieval chapel, destroyed in the Civil War. Stood near Manor House but precise location unknown.	Hutchins 1868, 360.
22	SY993904		Medieval? /post-medieval?	Evaluation at 167 Blandford Road, Hamworthy revealed a 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
SZ99829058	II*	The Old Rectory, Hamworthy	Formerly the Manor House. Built in mid 17 <sup>th</sup> century as the seat of Carew family.