

# NEW FIRST SCHOOL, ASHMORE CLOSE, HAMWORTHY, POOLE Archaeological Evaluation & Watching Brief



**Report No. 53109.2** 

October 2003

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

### Archaeological Survey, Observations, and Evaluation, March–April 2003

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Report written by:

Peter Bellamy BSc (Hons) MIFA and Joanne Best BA

Prepared on behalf of:

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

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

## Archaeological Survey, Observations & Evaluation, March–April 2003

### SUMMARY

A geophysical survey followed by an archaeological evaluation and watching brief were undertaken immediately in advance of, and during the construction of the new Hamworthy First School, in the playing field adjacent to Hamworthy Middle School, Ashmore Close, Hamworthy (centred on NGR SY999903).

The geophysical survey undertaken by Archaeophysica Ltd revealed a number of anomalies, most of which proved upon investigation to be the result of modern boundaries and drains and debris from landscaping of the area after the construction of the Middle School in the 1980s.

The archaeological evaluation comprised four machine trenches around the site of the new school and the evidence from these was supplemented by observations during drainage works and road construction. Traces of three small ditches oriented NNE–SSW were encountered in the southern part of the site, together with one small ditch oriented NE–SW in the northern end of the site. None of these ditches were securely dated but all contained abraded Roman pottery and briquetage. They are probably part of the extensive Early Roman ditch system found on the adjacent Shapwick Road site. There were a few other undated features also discovered. Overall, the small number of features and the paucity of finds suggest that this area was not a focus of Roman activity on the Hamworthy peninsula.

### INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological works during the construction of a new First School in Hamworthy was commissioned by Property Services, Borough of Poole, following advice from Keith Jarvis, Planning Archaeologist, Poole Museums Service. This is in line with Planning and Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning).

The archaeological works comprised an archaeological desk-based assessment of the site carried out by Terrain Archaeology in January 2003 (Terrain Archaeology report 53109.1). This was followed by a geophysical survey of the site by Archaeophysica Ltd in February 2003 (Appendix 2). An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Terrain Archaeology in March 2003 and this was immediately followed by Archaeological Observations and Recording during drainage works associated with the construction of the new school. The school itself was constructed on a raft of imported stone to raise the ground levels and did not impinge on the underlying ground levels.

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 Hamworthy Middle School and its 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. To the north of the site are the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Carter's Cottages almshouses, surrounded by the later

Old Rope Walk residential development. 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 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.

The fieldwork was carried out between 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 17<sup>th</sup> April 2003 by Peter Bellamy, Joanne Best, Rod Brook, Rebecca Montague, Paul Pearce and Steven Tatler.

Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge the following for their help and cooperation during this project: Graham Morley (Property Services, Borough of Poole), Chris Holloway (Bluestone), Keith Jarvis (Poole Museums Service), and the groundworkers.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The archaeological background to the site has been set out in detail in the Archaeological Assessment for the site (Terrain Archaeology Report 3109.1, January 2003) and will not be repeated here, except in summary.

The site lies about 50–100 m to the west of the defences of the Roman military supply base or fort, which is oriented roughly NW–SE across the Hamworthy peninsula. The postulated course of the Roman road to the legionary fortress at Lake Farm, near Wimborne runs about 60 m to the north of the site. The Roman military presence came to an end about AD65–70 and was succeeded by salterns and a network of ditches oriented NW–SE. These ditches have been traced up to the eastern edge of the site. A trackway, possibly of 2<sup>nd</sup> century date, cut across this network of ditches, running in a WNW–ESE direction towards the present site, the projected line running to the north of the area of the new school. There is very little evidence for later Roman activity in this part of Hamworthy.

The site is close to the presumed location of the medieval settlement of Hamworthy. The manor house, now the Old Rectory, lies about 100 m to the north of the site, with the postulated site of the former medieval chapel close by.

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

### **GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY**

The following is a brief summary of the interpretative results of the geophysical survey of the site carried out by Archaeophysica in March 2003. The complete report is reproduced in Appendix 2.

A number of different groups of geophysical anomalies were identified (Figure 2). In the northern part of the site anomaly groups 1, 2, and 3 are discrete anomalies, typical of pit fills. Anomaly group 2 consists of two alignments, which are along the line of two boundaries depicted on the 1933–1972 Ordnance Survey 25-inch maps (Figures 7 and 8). Anomaly groups 6, 7, and 8 form a ragged line crossing the survey area, and were interpreted as a wide ditch filled with metallic debris. The 1954–1972 Ordnance Survey maps show a drain running along this same line (Figure 8). Anomaly groups 9, 10, and 11 are small compound anomalies which seem to indicate a structural source, probably brick footings. Anomaly groups 4, 5, 12, 13, and 14 are concentrations of metallic or thermomagnetic responses possibly from industrial waste. Within the broad spread of strong metallic and thermomagnetic responses in the southern part of the site,

there was a faint suggestion of underlying structure, perhaps relating to archaeological features or perhaps an artifact due to the deposition of sources causing the strong responses.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

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

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

### **METHODS**

#### Evaluation

The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation and watching briefs. There was no Brief for the works, but following a verbal discussion with Keith Jarvis, Planning Archaeologist, Poole Museums Service, a specification was produced by Terrain Archaeology (Appendix 1).

The evaluation comprised four machine trenches, between 18 m and 29 m long by 1.9 m wide (Trenches 2–5), around the area of the new school. The location of the trenches was determined partly on the basis of the geophysical survey results and partly at the request of the Contractor to minimise subsurface disturbance in the area to be built up to support the new school. Consequently, all the trenches were dug around the perimeter of the area of the new school (Figure 1).

The evaluation trenches were cleared of recent overburden by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, down on to the top of any *in situ* archaeological deposits, or the natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first.

All archaeological deposits and features exposed during the works were cleaned by hand, then planned and recorded. Excavation of archaeological deposits and features was limited to resolving questions relating to their date, nature, extent and condition

All deposits revealed, irrespective of their apparent archaeological significance, were recorded using components of the Terrain Archaeology recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records.

The records have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current UKIC guidelines and the requirements of the receiving museum, Poole Museums Service.

#### Watching Brief

A watching-brief was carried out on a further four trenches (Trenches 6–9), excavated for the installation of new drains, and on an area stripped for the new access road (Trench 1). Trench 1 was about 10 m wide and dug to a depth of about 0.4 m. At the northern end, the natural subsoil was exposed and it was possible to observe any archaeological features present. However, the trench became shallower to the south and after about 60 m the base of the trench did not penetrate through the overburden and it was no longer possible to observe any potential archaeological features. Trenches 6 and 7 were excavated in order to divert an existing drain that ran across the area of the new school. They were located immediately to the north and east of evaluation trenches 3–5. Trench 8 was dug to remove the earlier drain, which ran diagonally

across the area of the new school between the western end of Trench 7 and the southern end of Trench 6 (Figure 1). Trench 9 was dug for a new sewer, which ran across the playing field to the north of the Middle School swimming pool. These trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket. Their depth was determined by the construction team, but all were deep enough to expose the natural subsoil.

The observations were intensive (as defined by IFA guidelines) with an archaeologist present during all sensitive ground disturbance. Sensitive ground disturbance was defined for the present project as groundworks that penetrated to a depth greater than 400 mm below present ground level. All works at 400 mm depth were subject to a partial watching brief (as defined by the IFA), that is, as and when seemed appropriate, during the groundworks. The main area subject to a partial watching brief was the route of the new access road from Blandford Road.

The location of the observations was surveyed using taped measurements on to plans provided by the Client. All depths recorded were depths below present ground surface. All deposits observed were recorded using elements of Terrain Archaeology's recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records.

The records have been incorporated into the same archive as the evaluation.

### RESULTS

#### Introduction

Trench 1 was the number given to the topsoil strip excavated perpendicular to Blandford Road, for construction of the new access route into the school, which was started at the same time as the evaluation. The stripped area measured c. 120 m long by 10 m wide, and was excavated to a depth of 0.40 m (Plate 1). However, only the northern 60 m was excavated to a sufficient depth to expose potential archaeological features and deposits. Two linear archaeological features were found in the northern part of the trench and a section was excavated and recorded across both.

Trench 2 was excavated parallel to the railway line about eight metres to the south of the footprint of the new school. It was positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies 13 and 15 (Figure 2). It measured 39 m long by 1.8 m wide, and was excavated to a depth of 1.0 m (Plate 2). A small number of Roman and post-medieval features were found within this trench.

Trench 3 was excavated close to the southeast corner of the new school and was oriented NE–SW, perpendicular to the main Roman ditch alignments previously discovered in the vicinity and was positioned to investigate geophysical anomaly 16 (Figure 2). The trench was 18 m long by 1.8 m wide and excavated to a depth of 1.1 m below existing ground level (Plate 3). Only a single feature was exposed.

Trench 4 was excavated close to the northeast corner of the new school and was aligned NNE–SSW, parallel to the new development and was positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies 5 and 7 (Figure 2). The trench was 19.5 m long by 1.8 m wide, excavated to a depth of 1.2 m below existing ground level (Plate 4). There was only one feature within the trench.

Trench 5 was excavated along the northern edge of the new school, aligned WNW–ESE across geophysical anomaly 4 (Figure 2). It measured 21 m long by 1.8 m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.7 m (Plate 5). Two archaeological features were exposed.

Trenches 6 and 7 formed the northern and eastern arms of the new drain trench. Trench 6, the eastern arm was 45 m long by 0.8 m wide and located approximately 5 m to the east of Trenches 3 and 4 (Plate 6). Trench 7, the northern arm, was located c. 3 m north of Trench 5 and measured 45 m long by 0.8 m wide and was excavated to maximum depth of 1.6 m below existing ground level. There were two archaeological features within Trench 7.

Trench 8 was excavated along an existing drain that ran obliquely across the area of the new school, but was sufficiently broad to reveal undisturbed deposits on either side of the pipe trench. It was *c*. 65 m long by 2.1 m wide and was excavated down onto the concrete base of the drainpipe. Two archaeological features were exposed.

Trench 9 was excavated to the north of the school swimming pool, to install a new foul water pipe. In order to connect this pipe to the existing main, Trench 9 needed to be roughly 4 m deep. The initial topsoil strip was 4.1 m wide and 0.3 m deep (Plate 7), and the pipe trench was over 4 m deep and 0.6 m wide. Due to logistical problems during the excavation of this narrower trench, only the topsoil strip was comprehensively covered by the watching brief. No archaeological features or deposits were found in Trench 9.

#### **Natural Deposits**

Natural deposits were encountered in all trenches at between about 0.4 m below existing ground level at the northern end of the site (Trench 1) and about 1 m depth at the southern end of the site (Trenches 2–8). They comprised sands, ranging from yellow and red to brown and grey in colour, with sparse flint gravels and small patches of gravels of the Poole Formation deposits of the Bracklesham Group. The natural surface lies at about 2.4 m above OD at the northern end of the site and dips down slightly to 0.94 m above OD at the southern end. There was frequent mineral staining of the sand in Trench 1. In Trench 2, the natural sands had been disturbed by tree roots and/or animal burrows, visible as irregular patches of mottled brown-grey, silty sand clay (215, 227).

#### **Roman Features**

#### Roman ditches

A number of small ditches were exposed across the site. These were all similar in size and shape and two basic alignments can be identified: NE–SW at the northern end of the site and roughly NNE–SSW at the southern end of the site (Figure 1). All of these ditches contained scraps of Roman material.

At the northern end of the site, a 1.0 m wide ditch (102), aligned NE–SW, and cut into the natural sand, was exposed over a distance of 15 m. It continued to the northeast beyond the site, presumably continuing under the present Blandford Road (Figure 1). The ditch had a shallow rounded profile and survived 0.24 m deep (Figure 5, Plate 8). It had clearly been truncated by later activity. It was filled with dark grey silty sand (101), which contained two small abraded sherds of Roman pottery.

In the southern part of the site, parts of three roughly parallel ditches, oriented roughly NNE–SSW, were exposed in Trenches 2, 5, and 7 (Figure 1). The most westerly of these was ditch 219 in Trench 2 (Figure 3). It was 0.6 m wide and 0.3 m deep with moderately sloping sides and a narrow flat base (Figure 3). It was filled with greyish-brown silty sand (220). This ditch had been recut along its western side (221). The profile suggests perhaps two phases of recut both filled with dark greyish-brown silty clay (222) (Figure 3, Plate 9). The upper parts of both ditches were filled with dark greyish-brown silty sand (223). The fills of these ditches contained a small quantity of Roman pottery and briquetage.

About 21 m to the east was another ditch on the same NNE–SSW alignment. This ditch was picked up in Trenches 2, 5, 7, and 8, where it was numbered 205, 504, 705, and 805 respectively (Figure 1). In Trench 2, two fills were evident (Figure 3), a lower fill of greyish-brown clayey sand (208) and an upper grey silty sand fill (207). Elsewhere the ditch had as single grey silty sand fill (503, 702, 806) (Plate 10). Small fragments of Roman pottery and briquetage were recovered from most sections of this ditch.

About 31.5 m further east was another parallel ditch (703), 1.80 m wide by 0.60 m deep, similar to the other ditches described above (Figure 5). It was filled with light grey sandy clay (702). This ditch was only observed in Trench 7 (Plate 11), where it crossed Trench 6, it was probably cut away by the drainage channel 603.

Of the probable Roman ditches found during this project, only Ditch 102 at the northern end of the site was on the predominant alignment found on the adjacent Shapwick Road site (Bellamy and Pearce 2001) (Figure 6). The ditches in the southern half of the site do not appear to be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD trackway alignment either (Figure 6). The finds from these ditches would be consistent with an early Roman date, although caution should be exercised given their abraded condition. The size and nature of these ditches suggest that they are most likely to be part of the early Roman ditch system found at the Shapwick Road site. At the extreme western end of the Shapwick Road site, the regular alignment of ditches appears to break down and there are a small number of ditches which are on a roughly NNE–SSW orientation, parallel to the ditches on the present site (Figure 6). No evidence to explain the function of these ditches was recovered from the present project.

#### Other features

There were two other features, both undated, which may belong to the Roman activity on the site. Both features were in a similar stratigraphic position to the Roman features described above.

At the western end of Trench 5 was feature an irregular linear feature (506), aligned NW–SE. It was 1.05 m wide and only 0.09 m deep with an irregular rounded base cut into the natural sands (Plate 12). It was traced for a distance of 3.3 m across the trench. This feature was filled with a very dark brown gritty sandy clay (505), containing sparse gravel and burnt flint, but no datable archaeological material.

In Trench 3, an irregular patch of black to dark grey charcoal-rich sandy clay (303) was exposed on top of the natural sand. It measured about 1.2 m by 0.6 m across and 0.05 m thick, but continued to the southeast beyond the edge of the trench. A number of fragments of mineralised wood were present in the area close to the edge of the trench (Plate 13). A flat 'board' or 'plank' of willow or poplar, 100 mm wide and 16 mm thick, was the most prominent piece. Two other possibly similar fragments were lying obliquely to this piece, but were poorly preserved. Two pieces of oak roundwood were also present. There were no other finds within this deposit to date it. The wood was well-preserved but, given the waterlogged conditions present in the trench, this is not surprising. There is no reason why this material is not of Roman date, but there is no evidence to confirm this one way or another. It was sealed beneath a layer of dark grey sandy loam (301) similar to the layer that sealed all the Roman (and later) deposits exposed during this project.

#### Post-medieval and Modern features and deposits

#### Boundary features

At the northern end of the site, a ditch (104), oriented NNE–SSW was traced for a distance of about 48 m in Trench 1 (Figure 1). This ditch was 0.55 m wide with a U-shaped profile 0.15 m deep (Figure 5). It was filled with dark grey silty sand (103). No finds were recovered from this feature to date it. However, its alignment is different to the Roman ditches described above, being perpendicular to Blandford Road, suggesting that it is likely to be medieval, or more probably, post-medieval in date, and probably a field boundary ditch. Ditches on a broadly similar alignment, though with a much broader profile, were discovered immediately east of the site, adjacent to Moorings Close (Valentin 2000). These ditches were thought to be medieval or post-medieval in date.



At the southern end of the site in Trench 2, two postholes (218, 225) were discovered (Figure 3). The northernmost posthole 218 was 0.4 m in diameter and 0.32 m deep and filled with dark greyish-brown sandy silt (217). Posthole 225 was 0.9 m to the south and measured 0.35 m in diameter. It was filled with dark greyish-brown sandy silt (224) with the remains of a large rectangular wooden post and a large packing stone on the northern side. These postholes are on the line of a boundary depicted on the 1902 to 1933 Ordnance Survey 25-inch maps, between plots 1145a and 1154 (Figure 7), and are assumed to be part of this boundary. The map evidence indicates that it was created between 1890 and 1902 and had disappeared by 1954.

#### Buried Soils

In the southern part of the site in Trenches 2, 3, 4, and 5 the features were sealed beneath a layer of dark greyish-brown sandy silt (203, 301, 401, 501), between 0.2–0.35 m thick. Immediately above this layer in Trenches 2 and 3 was a 0.12 m thick layer of dark greyish-brown sandy loam with remnants of decayed turf clearly visible in section (202). This is the remains of the ground surface prior to the construction of the Middle School in the 1980s, when the ground levels in the southern part of the site were raised considerably. The turf was not present in Trenches 4 and 5.

#### Drainage features

A large channel about six metres wide and about 1.2 m deep with rounded sides and flattish base was picked up in Trenches 4, 6, and 8 (402, 603, 802) running in a roughly WNW–ESE direction (Figure 1). It cut the buried soil 401 described above and was filled with dark greyish-brown sandy loam (400, 602, 803) containing a considerable amount of modern rubbish.

This feature is clearly depicted as a drain on the 1954–1972 Ordnance Survey maps (Figure 8).

#### Modern Landscaping

In Trench 2 was a large shallow scoop (211, 214) about eight metres wide in total and about 0.25 m deep (Figure 3). It was filled with layers of humic soil and redeposited natural sand containing modern detritus (209, 210, 212, 213). This feature may have been a shallow depression in the ground surface or disturbance associated with the construction of the Middle School in the 1980s. It was probably filled in at this period.

The upper part of the stratigraphic sequence in Trenches 2–8 comprised a substantial deposit of dark brown sandy loam, (201, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800). This was about 0.5 m thick in Trench 5 and up to 0.8 m deep in Trench 2. It filled the scoop 211/214 and the drain 402/603/ 802 and contained a large amount of modern rubbish, including scrap metal, causing most of the anomalies picked up in the geophysical survey (Figure 2).

#### Finds

The finds retained from the archaeological works were few in number and were generally small and abraded. Animal bone and metal objects are poorly preserved in this environment and are entirely absent from the present finds assemblage. The total finds recovered are presented below in Table 1.

#### Pottery (by Jo Draper FSA)

Roman: 18 sherds (359 g) of pottery dating to the Late Iron Age or Roman period were recovered. The sherds were all small and abraded and with very eroded surfaces. The majority of sherds are Wareham/ Poole Harbour sand tempered ware (commonly known as Durotrigian ware) and Black Burnished Ware 1 (south-east Dorset type), dating to the Late Iron Age and Roman period. Most of the sherds were too abraded to identify vessel form. Context 503 (fill of ditch 504) produced a rim and body sherd (the latter with acute burnished lattice) from a large jar with a very flat rim (as Brown 1987, fig. 209, no. 72) of 1<sup>st</sup> century BC/AD date. Two small eroded sherds of Roman

finewares, both probably Oxford colour coat were recovered from contexts 220 (fill of ditch 219) and 503 (fill of ditch 504).

Post-medieval: 35 g of post-medieval pottery was recovered from context 100: one sherd of plain bone china; one blue-printed industrial earthenware sherd; and one local earthenware sherd, probably flower pot. All are later 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.

Context description	Context	Roma	an Pot	Post-medieval		Briquetage		Glass	
	no.			Pot					
		No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)
Trench 1 topsoil	100			3	35			1	15
Fill of ditch 102	101	3	6						
Cleaning over top of ditch 205	206					4	42		
Upper fill of ditch 205	207					9	196		
Fill of ditch 219	220	2	8						
Fill of ditch 221	222	3	11						
Silting layer over ditches 219 &221	223					30	472		
Cleaning over top of ditches 219 & 221	226	2	6						
Fill of ditch 504	503	8	328			5	41		
	Total	18	359	3	35	48	751	1	15

Table 1: Total finds assemblage

#### Briquetage

751 g of briquetage was recovered from the excavations. The assemblage comprised small featureless sherds. There was a range of coarse and fine sandy fabrics, similar to those found elsewhere around Poole Harbour. The majority of pieces came from thin-walled vessels (5–10 mm) with a small number of thick-walled sherds (c. 20 mm) also present. It was not possible to identify any vessel forms within this assemblage. None of the briquetage recovered was securely datable, but all would fit comfortably within a Late Iron Age or Early Roman context.

#### Glass

A single sherd of green bottle glass was recovered from context 100.

#### Charcoal (by Rowena Gale)

Three samples of charcoal from context 303 were submitted for identification. Samples 9.1 and 9.2 were fragments of roundwood and sample 9.3 was part of the 'plank'.

The charcoal was very firm and well preserved although some impregnation of red/ brown (?iron) deposits had occurred (probably related to the fluctuating water levels). The charcoal was prepared for examination using standard methods (Gale and Cutler 2000). The anatomical structures were examined using a Nikon Labophot-2 microscope at magnifications up to x400 and matched to reference slides of modern wood. Where possible the stem diameters and number of growth rings were recorded but it should be noted that wood may shrink up to 40% in volume during charring (Gale and Cutler 2000).

Sample 9.1, context 303: 1 x oak (Quercus sp.) roundwood, diameter 20 mm, 8 growth rings, felled in spring.

Sample 9.2, context 303: 2 x oak (Quercus sp.) roundwood, diameter 15 mm, 7 growth rings, felled in spring.

Sample 9.3, context 303: 1 x willow (Salix sp.) or poplar (Populus sp.), fragment from larger wood.



### CONCLUSIONS

The geophysical survey produced a number of anomalies, some of which could be identified as 20<sup>th</sup> century boundaries and drains. A number of other anomalies appeared to be more interesting archaeologically and some were targeted for investigation by the evaluation. The large metallic or thermomagnetic responses investigated proved to be caused by modern detritus within later 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping associated with the construction of the Middle School in the 1980s.

Only a small number of archaeological features were discovered, most of which were small ditches, possibly of early Roman date. Most of these ditches were on a different alignment to those discovered on the adjacent site at Shapwick Road (Figure 6), but nevertheless they are probably part of this same ditch system. The paucity of finds and the relatively sparse number of archaeological features exposed suggest that this area was on the periphery of the Roman activity on the Hamworthy peninsula. There was no evidence recovered to interpret the function of this ditch system. Further to the east on the Shapwick Road site the ditches were possibly associated with a number of brine boiling hearths. No similar hearths were found on the present site.

There is no evidence for any medieval activity on the site and the post-medieval evidence suggests that the area was open agricultural land.

### **PROJECT ARCHIVE**

The archive (Terrain Archaeology Project No. 53109) will be deposited with Poole Museums Service, which has agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives. A copy of the microfilmed archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record.

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Figure 1: Location of evaluation trenches and observations (Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Superplan Data Drawing No. 00001935, © Crown Copyright 2003 All Rights reserved)



Figure 2: Geophysical Survey interpretation plan (© Archaeophysica Ltd)





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Figure 4: Plans of Trenches 3, 4 and 5.



Figure 5: Sections through ditches 102, 104, and 703.

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Figure 6: The site in relationship to other archaeological features in the immediate vicinity. (Early Roman ditches shown in blue).

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Figure 7: Extract from 1933 Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (© Crown Copyright Reserved)



Figure 8: Extract from 1954 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (© Crown Copyright Reserved).



*Plate 1: Trench 1 and Ditch 104, from north.* 



Plate 2: General view of Trench 2 from west.





*Plate 3: General view of Trench 3 from southwest.* 

Plate 4: General view of Trench 4 from south, showing drain 402 across centre of trench.



*Plate 5: General view of Trench 5 from west.* 



*Plate 6: General view of Trench 6 during machining.* 



Plate 7: General view of Trench 9 after topsoil stripping, viewed from southeast.



*Plate 8: Ditch 102 viewed from northeast.* 



*Plate 9: Recut ditches 219 and 221 viewed from south.* 



*Plate 10: Ditch 504 viewed from north.* 



*Plate 11: Ditch 703, viewed from north.* 

*Plate 12: Ditch 506 viewed from northwest.* 

*Plate 13: Fragments of wood in context 303.* 

## **APPENDIX 1: WRITTEN SCHEMES OF INVESTIGATION**

# **APPENDIX 2: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT**