



**LANSDOWNE VILLA, LANSDOWNE SQUARE, RODWELL,  
WEYMOUTH, DORSET  
Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. 53104.1**

**October 2002**

**Lansdowne Villa, Lansdowne Square, Rodwell,  
Weymouth, Dorset  
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**CONTENTS**

Summary .....	1
Introduction .....	1
Archaeological and Historical background .....	1
Aims and Objectives .....	1
Methods.....	2
Results .....	2
Conclusions .....	2
Project Archive .....	2
References .....	2
Figures	
1 Location map .....	3

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# **Lansdowne Villa, Lansdowne Square, Rodwell, Weymouth, Dorset**

## **Archaeological Evaluation, October 2002**

### **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the garden of Lansdowne Villa, Lansdowne Square, Rodwell, Weymouth (SY67357829). Two test pits were excavated by hand and both revealed garden deposits immediately overlying natural subsoil. No archaeological finds, features, or deposits were encountered.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

This project was commissioned by Pinecroft Estates Ltd as part of the Planning Application for the residential development of the site (Planning Application 02/0552-4). An archaeological evaluation was requested by Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, the local planning authority, following advice from Steven Wallis, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council. This is in line with Planning and Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning).

The site is situated in the garden of Lansdowne Villa at SY67357829 (Figure 1), on land sloping down gently to the east. The garden had been abandoned for some time and was overgrown with brambles and vines. The hand-dug test pits were excavated at the eastern end of the garden.

The geology is mapped as Corallian Bencliffe Grit (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1:50,000 Sheet 341 *West Fleet* 1976).

The fieldwork was carried out on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2002 by Rod Brook and Steven Tatler.

Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge Martin Ross of Pinecroft Estates for his help and cooperation during this project.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The site lies about 50 m to the east of the former Rodwell Station (SY674783), where a possible Roman inhumation cemetery, together with Roman pottery and coins was uncovered during the construction of the Weymouth and Portland Railway in c. 1864 (RCHME 1970, 615). Further to the south, Roman pottery was found in the railway cutting at Clearmount (at about SY675779) (RCHME 1970, 615) A Roman bronze spoon was found in a garden about 500 m to the east of the site at SY669783 (RCHME 1970, 615).

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the archaeological works was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, that is, to appraise the nature, extent, level of preservation, and importance of any archaeological deposits.

The evaluation aimed to record all the in situ archaeological deposits and features revealed during the works in order to provide sufficient data to assess the archaeological significance of the site.

## **METHODS**

The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (1994, rev. 1999).

The number, size and location of the evaluation trenches were specified by Steven Wallis, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council in a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2002 to Paul Dean, the architect for the proposed scheme. The brief indicated that a single machine-dug trench, or two 1m<sup>2</sup> hand-dug test pits were to be excavated at the eastern end of the garden. If the archaeological results from this proved to be negative, then no further archaeological work was required. If archaeological remains of significance were found then a further two machine trenches (or four hand-dug test pits) were to be excavated further up the slope of the garden to the west.

As there was no machine access to the site at the present time, the evaluation comprised hand-dug test pits. Two 1 m by 1m square test pits were excavated in the first location at the eastern end of the garden, as specified by the Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council (Figure 1).

The trenches were excavated by hand down on to the top of the natural subsoil. 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, Dorset County Museum.

## **RESULTS**

Both trenches were found to contain the same deposits. A dark brown silty clay loam garden soil containing fragments of brick, glass, coal, gravel, cinders and flower pot, between 30 and 35cm deep, overlay the natural yellowish-brown soft silty clay subsoil, containing rounded flint gravel (5–10cm across).

No finds were retained from the evaluation.

As no significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered in these test pits, the additional test pits further up the garden were not excavated.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the evaluation.

## **PROJECT ARCHIVE**

The archive (Terrain Archaeology Project No. 53104) will be deposited with Dorset County Museum, which has agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives. A copy of the microfilmed archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record.

## **REFERENCES**

- RCHME 1970      Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England 1970 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the county of Dorset 2, South East.*

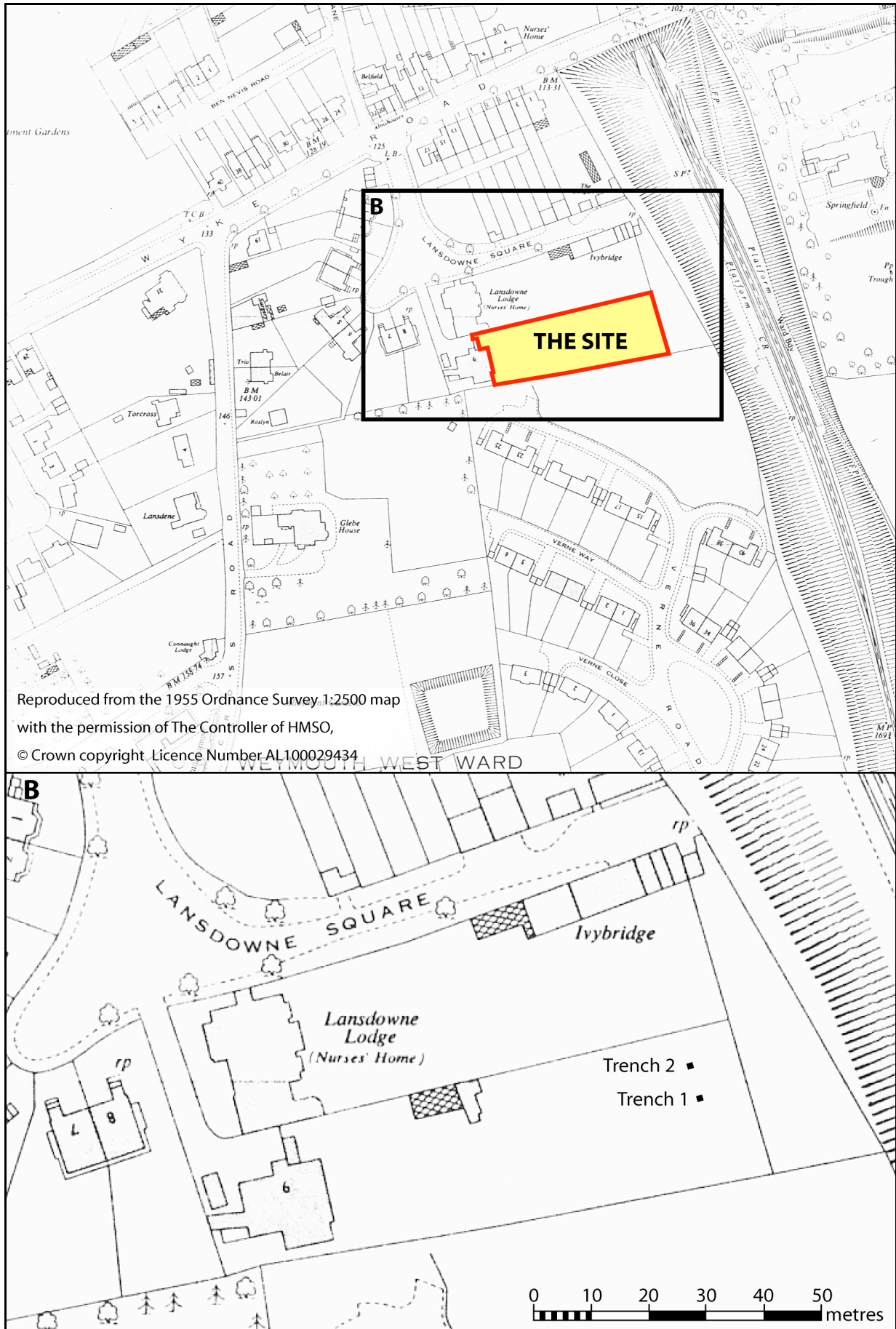


Figure 1: Location map