

**SOU
603**

**S O U T H E R N
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
S E R V I C E S**

**SUMMARY REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
THE MAGISTRATES COURT SITE, LONDON ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON**

Phase 1 - July 1994

SOU603/SAS24

A
fresh
a p p r o a c h

t o

archaeology

2392

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

**SUMMARY REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON THE SITE OF THE NEW MAGISTRATES' COURT, LONDON ROAD,
SOUTHAMPTON
HAMPSHIRE
1994.**

RECEIVED

- 2 AUG 1994

SOUTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

INDEX

1. PRECIS.
2. INTRODUCTION.
 - 2.1. Brief.
 - 2.2. Location of site.
 - 2.3. Geology of site.
 - 2.4. Archaeological Background.
3. SITE BRIEF.
 - 3.1. Objectives.
 - 3.2. Methodology.
4. RESULTS.
5. FINDS.
6. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS.
 - 6.1. Natural soils
 - 6.2. Roman evidence
 - 6.3. Other evidence
7. CONCLUSIONS.
8. ILLUSTRATIONS.
9. SOURCES.
10. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

1. PRECIS.

1.1. An archaeological Watching Brief was carried out as a condition of the planning consent during groundworks associated with the construction of a temporary car-park on the site of the new Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton. The work was undertaken on behalf of Hampshire County Architects.

1.2. The purpose of the Watching Brief was to observe and record the presence of any archaeological features and natural deposits encountered on the site.

1.3. The Watching Brief was allocated Site Code SOU603/ SAS24.

1.4. The Watching Brief took place between Tuesday 31st May and Friday 24th June 1994.

1.5. The groundworks consisted of a level reduction to building formation level, followed by the laying of stone as a hardcore for the temporary car-park surface, through which two deep drainage trenches were dug.

1.6. The level reduction was given the designation Trench 1. It measured 108m x 46.5m. The drainage trenches were numbered 2 & 3. Trench 2 measured 45.6m x 1.3m x 2m. Trench 3 measured 12.6m x 1.2m x 2m.

1.7. Two chronologically distinct phases of Roman activity were observed. This activity appears to have been relatively unintensive and suggestive of a small-scale settlement, perhaps one habitation, in the near vicinity of the site. A boundary ditch; a drainage ditch; two pits and a linear feature of uncertain function have been dated to this period.

1.8. No significant evidence of land-use between the Roman period and the Post-mediaeval period was recorded.

1.9. Map evidence suggests that the site was undisturbed by development in the Early Modern/ Modern period till the construction of Ordnance Survey buildings at the turn of the last century. On the site these buildings appear to have had foundation trenches, which have left islands of undisturbed ground in which significant archaeological remains have been able to survive.

1.10. The geology of the site was brickearth overlying river terrace gravels of the fourth terrace of the Test and Itchen.

1.11. The OS grid reference for the site is SU4204 1294.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

2. INTRODUCTION.

2.1. BRIEF.

Hampshire County Architects were granted permission to develop land at the corner of London Road, The Avenue and Rockstone Place, Southampton. Permission was dependent on the undertaking of an archaeological Watching Brief during the groundworks phase of construction of a temporary car-park to be laid out prior to the undertaking of the main project of the construction of a new magistrates' courthouse. The Scheme of Investigation for the Watching Brief was written by Southampton City Heritage Section Policy Unit on behalf of Hampshire County Architects, who commissioned Southern Archaeological Services Ltd. to carry out the Watching Brief.

2.2. LOCATION OF THE SITE.

The site is South of Rockstone Place and West of the junction of the Northbound carriageway of the Avenue with London Road. It is bordered on the South by the recently built combined courts building and on the West by a car-park, which is to be part of the development. A park in the northwest corner and the Director General's House in the northeast corner cause the site to form an inverted T-shape (see figure 2).

The site is located at Ordnance Survey grid reference SU4204 1294.

The site lies within Southampton City Council Local Area of Archaeological Importance number 5b.

2.3. GEOLOGY OF THE SITE.

The site is located on Quaternary river terrace gravels of the fourth terrace. These were overlain by brickearth.

2.4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

The site lies approximately 1.05km West of a Roman settlement, believed to be Clausentum, at present-day Bitterne Manor. It is 1.15km North of the Mediaeval walled town of Southampton (see figure 1).

Roman coins are marked as having been found in the area of the present-day College Place on the Ordnance Survey map of 1866/8 c. 116m southwest of the site (see figure 2). Obviously this need not have indicated the nearby presence of Roman settlement, as coins can be lost and found several times and/or in diverse places.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

An area of the site is thought to have been part of Southampton Common, which dates back at least to the Mediaeval period. The Padwell Cross boundary marker of the Common is known to have stood on the site of the present-day junction of London Road and The Avenue. Farms dating back to the Mediaeval period are known North of the site at Bannister's Park and to the southwest of the site at Bellevue.

Prehistoric occupation in the vicinity of the site is attested to by finds of Palaeolithic hand axes, one specifically found during construction work at the Ordnance Survey buildings in the Nineteenth Century.

3. SITE BRIEF.

3.1. OBJECTIVES.

The prime aim of the Watching Brief was to determine the presence or absence of human use of the site. Should such a presence be established through observation of the trenches dug, its location, nature, extent, date and the state of its preservation was to be recorded.

The nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural soil deposits were to be recorded.

3.2. METHODOLOGY.

All archaeological features and natural deposits were observed and recorded by an experienced professional archaeologist.

All recording was in accordance with techniques approved by the County Archaeologist's Office and Southampton City Council Heritage Section Policy Unit.

This recording - written, graphic and photographic - will form an archive to be deposited with Southampton City Council Museums.

Between Tuesday 31 May and Friday 17 June the pre-existing car-park surface of the site was removed by mechanical excavator and a building formation level of 23.7m O.D. was established by another mechanical excavator employing a toothless grading bucket. Spoil was mucked away off-site in lorries (to sites at Eastleigh Airport and Netley). Therefore no opportunity presented itself to examine the spoil in great detail, although difficulties in hiring a requisite number of lorries did allow for build-ups of spoil from time to time. Number 1 hoggin was laid at foundation level and rolled in layers as make-up for the new car-park surface.

Two drainage trenches of 2m depth were excavated on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 June 1994. Health and Safety regulations dictated that observation of them could only be from ground-level, as they were dug to a depth of 2m. These trenches were backfilled with beach gravel ("rejects") on terram promptly after excavation.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

Fifty-six numbers, called *context* numbers, were allocated for soil layers and archaeological features observed during the level-reduction. Two of these were for natural soils. Two hundred and twenty-six photographs (monochrome and colour) were taken of the archaeological features and generally of the trench. Eight measured but unlevelled section drawings were made of features exhibiting a potential archaeological interest, seven of which are reproduced here. (Figures 4-10) Two sketch location plans were compiled to locate sections put across features **013** and **031**.

Two context numbers were allocated for two further fills of feature **013** observed in Trench 2. Two context numbers were allocated for an archaeological feature and its fill observed in Trench 3.

Hand excavation to recover as much information as practicable from archaeological features was deemed preferable to a mitigation strategy to preserve the same during works for the actual structure of the courthouse.

Thirteen features were investigated by hand excavation: **013;016;020;023;025;031;033/035/037;039;044;048;050**. Of these the smaller features (**016 & 025**), pit **044** and ditch **048**, of which only small percentages remained due to truncation by the modern foundations, were fully excavated. Pits **020 & 023** and feature **039** were half-sectioned. Modern features **033/035/037&050** were not systematically excavated but investigated only to confirm their dating. Ditch **013** and linear feature **031** had two arbitrary sections cut across them.

After fieldwork was completed the sixty contexts were amalgamated into *phases* of activity, relating to the manner and timing of their formation. Seven phases were identified:-

1. Relates to the deposition of the natural soils prior to human influence on the site.
2. Relates to contexts identified as dating to 1st/2nd Century A.D.
3. Relates to contexts identified as dating to 3rd/4th Century A.D.
4. Relates to contexts identified as dating from the Roman period, but unable to be dated more closely without more detailed analysis.
5. Relates to contexts identified as dating from the Post-mediaeval/ Early Modern period (1500-1900)
6. Relates to contexts identified as Modern (1900-date)
7. Relates to a junk phase of contexts unable to be dated.

A summary of the contexts observed follows, ordered numerically.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

Note: finds material codes (labelled "mat codes") are as follows:-

1. Stone
2. Burnt clay
3. Ceramics
4. Glass
5. Metal
6. Mineral waste
7. Leather/textile
8. Vertebrates
9. Invertebrates
10. Plants
11. Faecal matter
12. Synthetics
13. Unknown

Context No	Trench No	Description	Dimensions	Stratigraphic relationships	Phase No	Figure Nos	Mat Codes
001	1	Layer - rubble make-up; v. pale brown sand	108x46.5x0.7m	Later than 002; 007; 009; 010 014; 017; 021; 024; 026; 027; 036; 038; 040; 045; 051; 055; 057; 060	6		
002	1	Layer, plough/topsoil; yellow brown silty loam	108x46.5x0.25m	Later than 003; earlier than 001	5	3	1; 3
003	1, 2 & 3	Natural brickearth; brown yellow silty clay	70.8x46.5x0.4m	Later than 056; earlier than 002 006; 008; 011; 015; 020; 025 031; 033; 041; 044; 048; 059	1	3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10	
004	1	Unstratified finds			7		3
005	1	Modern brick soakaway	1x0.74m	Later than 006; earlier than 007	6		
006	1	Cut for soakaway 005	1x0.74m	Later than 003; earlier than 005	6		
007	1	Fill of 005; dark grey brown loamy sand	0.8x0.48m	Later than 005; earlier than 001	6		
008	1	Linear feature	1.97x0.48m	Later than 003; earlier than 009	6	3	
009	1	Fill of 008; brown yellow silty clay	1.97x0.48m	Later than 008; earlier than 001	6		
010	1	Yellow brown silty loam	34x10m	Later than 012; earlier than 001	6	3	
011	1	Linear feature	3.3x0.84m	Later than 003; earlier than 012	6	3	
012	1	Fill of 011; grey brown silty clay	3.3x0.84m	Later than 011; earlier than 012	6		3
013	1 & 2	Boundary ditch	12.23x0.64x0.66m	Later than 015; earlier than 019 042; 055; 058	2	3; 4; 5	
014	1	Top fill of 013; yellow brown silty clay	2.9x0.64x0.5m	Later than 018; earlier than 001	2	4	1; 3; 4; 8
015	1	Layer; brown yellow silty clay	2.9m	Later than 003; earlier than 013; 016	2		
016	1	Stakehole (?)	0.14x0.1m	Later than 015; earlier than 017	7	3	
017	1	Fill of 016; brown silty clay loam	0.14x0.1m	Later than 016; earlier than 001	7		
018	1	Fill of 013	1x0.7x0.08m	Later than 019; earlier than 014	2	4	1; 8
019	1	Primary silting fill of 013; dk yellow brown	1x0.46x0.08m	Later than 013; earlier than 018	2	4	3; 8
020	1	Pit	1.58x0.21m	Later than 003; earlier than 022	3	3; 10	
021	1	Top fill of 020; dark brown silty clay loam	1.58x0.07m	Later than 022; earlier than 023	3	10	1; 3; 4; 5

Table 1: Context list

Context No	Trench No	Description	Dimensions	Stratigraphic relationships	Phase No	Figure Nos	Mat Codes
022	1	Primary fill of 020; yellow brown silty clay	1.58x0.14m	Later than 020; earlier than 021	3	10	3
023	1	"Robber" pit	0.6x0.43x0.21m	Later than 021; earlier than 024	6	3; 10	
024	1	Fill of 023	0.6x0.43x0.21m	Later than 023; earlier than 001	6	10	
025	1	Triangular feature; posthole?	0.27x0.24x0.05m	Later than 003; earlier than 026	4	3	
026	1	Fill of 025	0.27x0.24x0.05m	Later than 025; earlier than 001	4		1; 3
027	1	Top fill of 013; brown silty clay loam	1.8x0.89x0.13m	Later than 028; earlier than 001	2	5	1; 3
028	1	Fill of 013; dark yellow brown silty clay loam	1.8x0.95x0.1m	Later than 029; earlier than 027	2	5	3; 8
029	1	Fill of 013; yellow brown silty clay	1.8x1.27x0.51m	Later than 030; earlier than 028	2	5	1; 3; 8
030	1	Fill of 013; yellow brown silty clay	1x0.49x0.14m	Later than 042; earlier than 029	2	5	1; 3; 8
031	1	Linear feature	4x0.8x0.23m	Later than 003; earlier than 043	3	3; 8; 9	
032	1	Top fill of 031; yellow brown silty clay loam	4x0.8x0.18m	Later than 043; earlier than 037	3	8; 9	1; 3; 4; 5; 6
033	1	Foundation pit	1.66x0.78m	Later than 003; earlier than 034	6		
034	1	Fill of 033; silty clay loam	1.66x0.78m	Later than 033; earlier than 035	6		1; 3
035	1	Foundation pit	1.7x1.3x0.3m	Later than 034; earlier than 036	6		
036	1	Fill of 035; v. dark grey brown silty clay loam	1.7x1.3x0.3m	Later than 035; earlier than 001	6		
037	1	Foundation pit	0.9x0.5m	Later than 032; earlier than 038	6		
038	1	Fill of 037	0.9x0.5m	Later than 037; earlier than 001	6		
039	1	Linear feature	1.4x0.9x0.25m	Later than 041; earlier than 040	7	3	
040	1	Fill of 039; dark yellow brown silty clay loam	1.1x0.9x0.25m	Later than 039; earlier than 001	7		
041	1	Layer-- dark yellowish brown silty clay loam	1x0.5m	Later than 003; earlier than 037; 039	7	3	
042	1	Fill of 013; yellowish brown silty clay	1x0.56x0.17m	Later than 013; earlier than 030	2	5	
043	1	Fill of 031; dark yellowish brown silty clay loam	0.7x0.8x0.06m	Later than 031; earlier than 032	3	8; 9	
044	1	Pit	1.36x0.76x0.72m	Later than 003; earlier than 047	4	3; 6	
045	1	Top fill of 044; brown silty clay loam	1.36x0.44x0.36m	Later than 046; earlier than 001	4	6	1; 3
046	1	Slumped capping fill of 044; silty clay	0.49x0.08m	Later than 047; earlier than 045	4	6	
047	1	Primary fill of 044; brown silty clay loam	0.74x0.28m	Later than 044; earlier than 046	4	6	3
048	1	Drainage ditch	1.18x0.6x0.21m	Later than 003; earlier than 052	2	3; 7	

Table 1: Context list

Context No	Trench No	Description	Dimensions	Stratigraphic relationships	Phase No	Figure Nos	Mat Codes
049	1	Top fill of 048; brown silty clay loam	1.18x0.6x0.15m	Later than 052; earlier than 050	2	7	1; 3; 6
050	1	Feature	1.18x1.05m	Later than 049; earlier than 051	6	3; 7	
051	1	Fill of 050; dark grey brown silty clay loam	1.18x1.05m	Later than 050; earlier than 001	6	7	3
052	1	Primary fill of 048; soil not recorded	1.18x0.3x0.07m	Later than 048; earlier than 049	2	7	1; 10
053	1	Unstratified finds			7		3; 5
054	1	Unstratified finds			7		3
055	1	Top fill of 013; dark yellow brown silty clay	1.18x0.9m	Later than 013; earlier than 001	2		1; 3
056	1, 2 & 3	Layer - natural gravel; brownish yellow sand	108x46.5m	Earlier than 003	1	4; 5; 6	
057	2	Top fill of 013; dark yellow brown silty clay	0.76x0.58m	Later than 058; earlier than 001	2		
058	2	Primary fill of 013; soil not recorded		Later than 013; earlier than 057	2		
059	3	Feature	4.2x1.2x1.68m	Later than 056; earlier than 060	7	3	
060	3	Fill of 059; yellow brown silty clay	4.2x1.2x1.68m	Later than 059; earlier than 001	7		

Table 1: Context list

Phase No	Context No	Description	Trench No
1	003	Natural brickearth; brown yellow silty clay	1,2 &3
1	056	Layer - natural gravel; brownish yellow sand	1, 2 & 3
2	013	Boundary ditch	1 & 2
2	014	Top fill of 013; yellow brown silty clay	1
2	015	Layer; brown yellow silty clay	1
2	018	Fill of 013	1
2	019	Primary silting fill of 013; dk yellow brown	1
2	027	Top fill of 013; brown silty clay loam	1
2	028	Fill of 013; dark yellow brown silty clay loam	1
2	029	Fill of 013; yellow brown silty clay	1
2	030	Fill of 013; yellow brown silty clay	1
2	042	Fill of 013; yellowish brown silty clay	1
2	048	Drainage ditch	1
2	049	Top fill of 048; brown silty clay loam	1
2	052	Primary fill of 048; soil not recorded	1
2	055	Top fill of 013; dark yellow brown silty clay	1
2	057	Top fill of 013; dark yellow brown silty clay	2
2	058	Primary fill of 013; soil not recorded	2
3	020	Pit	1
3	021	Top fill of 020; dark brown silty clay loam	1
3	022	Primary fill of 020; yellow brown silty clay	1
3	031	Linear feature	1
3	032	Top fill of 031; yellow brown silty clay loam	1
3	043	Fill of 031; dark yellowish brown silty clay loam	1
4	025	Triangular feature; posthole?	1
4	026	Fill of 025	1
4	044	Pit	1
4	045	Top fill of 044; brown silty clay loam	1
4	046	Slumped capping fill of 044; silty clay	1
4	047	Primary fill of 044; brown silty clay loam	1
5	002	Layer, plough/topsoil; yellow brown silty loam	1
6	001	Layer - rubble make-up; v. pale brown sand	1
6	005	Modern brick soakaway	1
6	006	Cut for soakaway 005	1
6	007	Fill of 005; dark grey brown loamy sand	1

Table 2: Contexts by phase

Phase No	Context No	Description	Trench No
6	008	Linear feature	1
6	009	Fill of 008; brown yellow silty clay	1
6	010	Yellow brown silty loam	1
6	011	Linear feature	1
6	012	Fill of 011; grey brown silty clay	1
6	023	"Robber" pit	1
6	024	Fill of 023	1
6	033	Foundation pit	1
6	034	Fill of 033; silty clay loam	1
6	035	Foundation pit	1
6	036	Fill of 035; v. dark grey brown silty clay loam	1
6	037	Foundation pit	1
6	038	Fill of 037	1
6	050	Feature	1
6	051	Fill of 050; dark grey brown silty clay loam	1
7	004	Unstratified finds	1
7	016	Stakehole (?)	1
7	017	Fill of 016; brown silty clay loam	1
7	039	Linear feature	1
7	040	Fill of 039; dark yellow brown silty clay loam	1
7	041	Layer- dark yellowish brown silty clay loam	1
7	053	Unstratified finds	1
7	054	Unstratified finds	1
7	059	Feature	3
7	060	Fill of 059; yellow brown silty clay	3

Table 2: Contexts by phase

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

5. FINDS.

Archaeological artefacts were recovered from 23 contexts. The following is a summary of those artefacts.

MATERIAL.01 STONE

SLATE - 3 fragments were recovered from **034** and **055**

FLINT - there were 113 fragments of burnt flint from 11 contexts - **014, 021, 026, 027, 029, 030, 032, 045, 049, 052** and **055**. 2 fragments of worked flint were retrieved from **002** and **055**

SANDSTONE - 2 fragments were recovered from **019** and **045**

MATERIAL.02 BURNT CLAY

DAUB - around 41 fragments were recovered from **030** and **049**. Most (around 40 fragments) are from **030** and may possibly be part of a hearth.

MATERIAL.03 CERAMICS

POTTERY - 425 sherds were recovered from 20 contexts. Helen Rees conducted a spot date on the pottery which is summarised here.

CONTEXT	TYPE	SHERDS	DATE
002	Verwood	1	Post Med/ Early Mod
004	Cooking pot	1	Mediaeval
012	Verwood types	3	Post Med/ Early Mod
014	Greywares, grog tempered storage jar, flint tempered storage jar, whiteware - CAMULODUNUM form 116, BB1	17	1st - 2nd century except BB1 which is later
018	Greywares, flint tempered, amphora	10	1st - 2nd century

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

CONTEXT	TYPE	SHERDS	DATE
021	Grog tempered storage jar, grog tempered everted rim jar, colandar, greywares, 2 sherds grog tempered flange bowl, New Forest ware, rough cast beaker, colour coated, probably imported, samian	232	270 +
022	Greywares, East Gaulish black colour coat ware	3	3rd century
026	Greyware, grog tempered	2	Roman
027	4 greywares (1 a flagon with wide mouth), 1 oxidised ware	5	2nd century, possibly 1st.
028	Flint tempered, grog tempered CAMULODUNUM form 116, greyware bowl/lid, samian, shell tempered	8	1st century
029	2 large greyware platter + storage jar, carinated bowl, grog tempered bead rim jar + lid/ platter, flint tempered, white- ware flagon, shell tempered/ briquetage?	19	1st century
030	Grog tempered, greyware, flint tempered	7	1st century
032	Grog tempered flange bowl, greywares, New Forest colour coat, New Forest parchment ware, mortaria	70	Late 3rd/4th century
034	Grog tempered, flower pot	3	Mixed
045	Grog tempered, greyware	14	Roman
047	Grog tempered, greyware	5	Roman
049	Grog tempered, greyware - bowl in coarse fabric, quite early, amphora/storage jar	12	1st century

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

CONTEXT	TYPE	SHERDS	DATE
051	Mediaeval/ Early post med jar, 2 roman	3	Mixed
054	Transfer print	2	EarlyMod/ Mod
055	Grog tempered, greyware	8	Roman

Overall the pottery of Roman date falls into two distinct periods. The earlier 1st - 2nd century contexts, **014, 018, 027, 028, 029** and **030** (all from Feature 013) and context **049**, part of Feature **048**, are both on the South side of the site.

Of the later, 3rd - 4th century, material, that from contexts **021** and **022**, which are from Feature 020, are near the centre of the site and **032**, part of Feature 031, is on the North side of the site, the Rockstone Place frontage.

So there is a spatial distribution coinciding with the dating evidence.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL - 24 fragments were recovered from 6 contexts.

<u>Context</u>	<u>Find Type</u>
004	1 fragment of roof tile, probably not Modern
021	1 fragment of possible tegula 1 fragment of brick
032	16 fragments, most look like part of one object, possibly a tegula
034	3 fragments of brick, 1 is vitrified with mortar traces, Modern
047	1 fragment of thick tile, probably not Modern
055	1 fragment of brick, unknown date

CLAY PIPE - 7 fragments, all stems, were recovered from 4 contexts (**004, 012, 053, & 054**).

MATERIAL 04 GLASS

5 fragments of glass were recovered.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

Context Item Object

014	002	1 window fragment, probably Roman
021	003	3 vessel fragments, probably a Roman beaker
032	007	1 small fragment, either part of a rim or bead, Roman

MATERIAL 05 METALS

SILVER

A coin, Item No. 001, was recovered from context 032. It is incomplete due to damage during excavation. It has been x-rayed, which has indicated that conservation may facilitate accurate dating.

IRON

8 fragments were retained from 3 contexts. All the iron has been x-rayed and none requires any further conservation work.

Context	Item	Object
021	004	Nail shaft
021	005	Nail shaft
021	006	Plate, modern (probably intrusive from feature 023)
032	008	1 object, uncertain what it is, little metal left
032	009	Nail
032	010	Nail
032	011	1 nail head
053	012	Shaft

MATERIAL 06 MINERAL WASTE

SLAG - 3 fragments were recovered from 032 and 049.

CLINKER - one fragment was recovered from 049.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

MATERIAL 08 VERTEBRATES

ANIMAL BONE

Around 66 fragments were recovered from 6 contexts. Sheila Hamilton-Dyer conducted a scan, which is summarised below.

- 014** Cow jaw, left front half, not good condition
1 fragment
- 018** Large ungulate, burnt; cow right calcaneous; cow right distal humerus, fused and butchered - knife cuts front to back on medial side
Around 30 fragments
- 019** Cow sized rib
3 fragments
- 028** ?Dog/fox right hand frontal skull + 1 other; probable cattle ilium, right hand side fragment, bad condition; sheep/pig sized lumbar vertebra; cattle metacarpus left proximal half - proximal breadth 50.3cm, this indicates Iron Age/ Roman; cow humerus left hand side, fused, gnawed and butchered, small knife cuts, 0.992 metres withers height (estimate from slightly damaged bone), more likely Iron Age.
7 fragments
- 029** Cattle metatarsus, right hand proximal half, slightly eroded; small cattle radius, left distal end, fused, in very bad condition; cow jaw, right hand side and back, gnawed and cut on lateral side; cow jaw, base; cattle ilium fragment; LAR humerus fragment, probably cattle, bad condition; cow sized fragment, poor condition; cow sized fragment burnt to whiteness; sheep sized fragment; sheep left jaw, more than half, M3 erupting, DP4 about to shed with P4 erupting, M1 stage G, M2 stage F; pig jaw, right hand side, poor condition, M3 half erupted.
12 fragments
- 030** Sheep/goat jaw, P4, M1, M2 all in heavy wear, right hand side, fragmented; cow femur, right hand side, distal fragment, gnawed, fused.
13 fragments

MATERIAL 10 PLANTS

CHARCOAL - 2 tiny fragments were recovered from **052**.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

6. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

6.1. NATURAL SOILS

It was observed that brickearth (**003** - see context list for its extent) covered the site except for a strip along the Eastern edge (see figure 3). It is probable that it is also present at the Eastern edge under context **002**. A level of 23.85m O.D. for its maximum height was gauged by measuring with a hand-tape 0.15m from the building formation level of 23.7m O.D. This was done against the Southern baulk of the site before it was cut back to the boundary wall with the Crown Court plot.

Gravel (**056**) appears to underlie the brickearth across the whole site. Trenches 2 & 3 showed no obvious variation in the gravel throughout their 2m depths. There was no indication that the gravel was other than river terrace deposits. Features **013; 044; & 048** were cut into gravel.

6.2. ROMAN EVIDENCE

Six archaeological features from the site have been dated to the Roman period, based on a spot-date of the pottery in their fills. This evidence is significant in the context of the City of Southampton. Firstly it was not expected to find Roman remains in this area of the city, despite the previously recorded find of Roman coins at the present-day College Place (see figure 2). Coins can be poor indicators of archaeological remains, because their continued value over time makes them liable to be retained for long periods of time and/or lost and recovered several times. Secondly not much is known about Roman occupation within the area of the present-day city. The Roman settlement at Bitterne Manor has undergone only fractional investigation by archaeologists. Scattered find-spots; scattered observations of Roman roads; a Roman burial site at Portswood; and Roman occupation of uncertain function at Swaythling comprises the evidence so far. Southampton is "ringed" by more defined Roman evidence including a defended settlement at Nursling, a villa at Southampton(Eastleigh) airport, a pottery kiln at Shedfield.

These six features have been interpreted as a boundary ditch (**013**); a drainage ditch (**048**); two pits (**020 & 044**); and two features of uncertain function (**025 & 031**).

The presence of pits containing domestic refuse (pottery; glass; and iron nails) would suggest a proximate human habitation as such material was commonly disposed of close to the point of use. Likewise the observation of a shell-rich layer (**028**) in the boundary ditch points to the consumption of *fruits de mer* nearby. At least three tiles are attested to (in contexts **021; 032 & 047**), which, added to the information above, increases the case for suspecting that a building of the Roman period may have stood in the vicinity of the site. That only six such features were found on a site of this size, given the relatively good chances for survival of the same, suggests that the human use of the area at this time was not very intensive. This in turn supports the theory that any nearby habitation is likely to have been on a numerically small scale.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

The boundary ditch appears not to have been long-lived in its function. Its fills have yielded pottery of the same short period and its comparative shallowness makes it unlikely that it held a major defensive function. It can thus be seen as a peaceful delineation or a minor defensive work (presumably for something requiring only minor defence). A possible reason for this may be that it was functional of a farmstead. The presence of a drainage ditch common to some agriculturally utilised fields aids this theory. However it may be noted that there is a relative paucity of direct finds evidence relating to agricultural activity. A similar paucity of finds relating to industrial activity is also noteworthy. Evidence of administrative or commercial activity can be harder to determine. The finds bear witness primarily to domestic activity - what activity was pursued by the inhabitants to pay for their domestic existence is not certain.

The two phases of Roman activity (first/second century and third/fourth century) are difficult to interpret with the evidence recovered. It may be that the site changed its use over time from a bounded field to a domestic dumping area. This use may or may not be associated with the same habitation.

6.3. OTHER EVIDENCE

No evidence of human presence during the Prehistoric period was observed in the course of the Watching Brief.

Between the Roman and Post-Mediaeval periods there is practically no evidence of human use of the site. An unstratified fragment of Mediaeval cooking pot (004) is not conducive to any positive inference. Even evidence of Post-Mediaeval is slight (002 & 012) and this evidence is equally attributable to the Early Modern or Modern periods.

The site appears laid out as a park in the mid- to late-nineteenth century, before being consumed by the expanding buildings of the Ordnance Survey towards the turn of that century. The Ordnance Survey was bombed during the Second World War and effected a move to the Maybush area of the city in 1968. Its older premises were demolished after this.

The substantial nature of the foundations for the modern buildings on the site may indicate that there was a need for a degree of site clearance prior to construction. This might explain the preponderance of modern material in the topsoil (002). The possible association of the site with the Common might help explain the lack of evidence relating to the Mediaeval period.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

7. CONCLUSIONS.

Evidence has been recorded as a result of this Watching Brief of human use of the site during the Roman period. This use was unintensified and encompasses the first to fourth centuries. The evidence appears relatively well-preserved, despite damage by modern foundations. The evidence takes the form of a boundary ditch and a drainage ditch datable to the first/second century; a pit and linear feature of uncertain function datable to the third/fourth century; and a pit and posthole discernable as Roman in date. This evidence may suggest the presence of a nearby farmstead or other small-scale habitation.

No conclusive evidence of human use of the site between the Roman period and the Early Modern period was recovered. It is unclear whether this was because there was not any; it was too ephemeral to leave a trace; or it was destroyed during construction of the pre-existing modern buildings on the site.

The evidence recovered is significant because relatively little is known about the Roman settlement of Southampton. Given the relatively good survival of this evidence especial vigilance on development in the vicinity of the site may provide an opportunity to further this knowledge.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

8. ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1: Site location plan
- Figure 2: Trench location plan
- Figure 3: Context location plan
- Figure 4: North-facing section through ditch **013**
- Figure 5: South-facing section through ditch **013**
- Figure 6: North-facing section through pit **044**
- Figure 7: South-facing section through ditch **048**
- Figure 8: Southwest-facing section through feature **031**
- Figure 9: South-facing section through feature **031**
- Figure 10: West-facing section through pits **020 & 023**

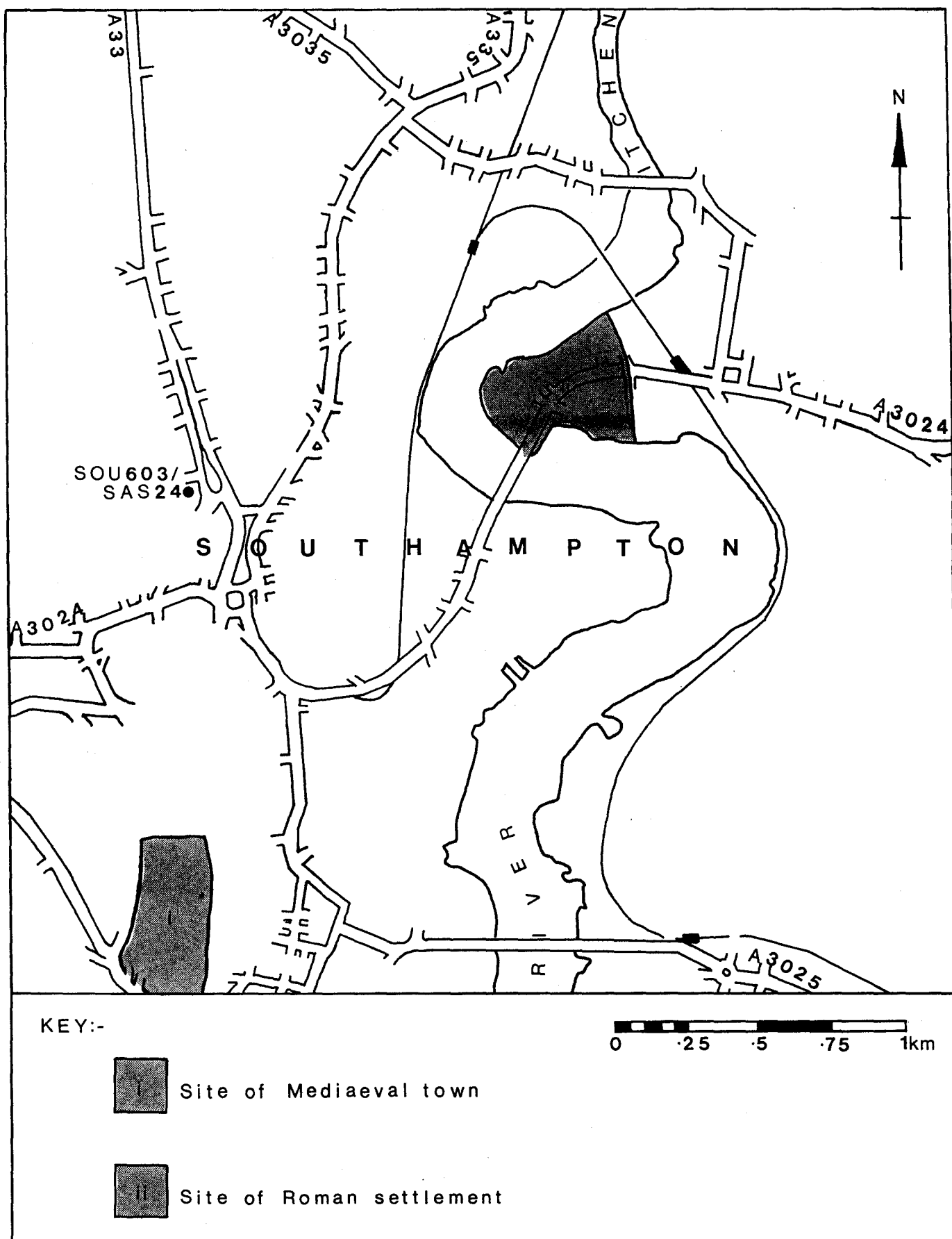


Figure1:Site location plan

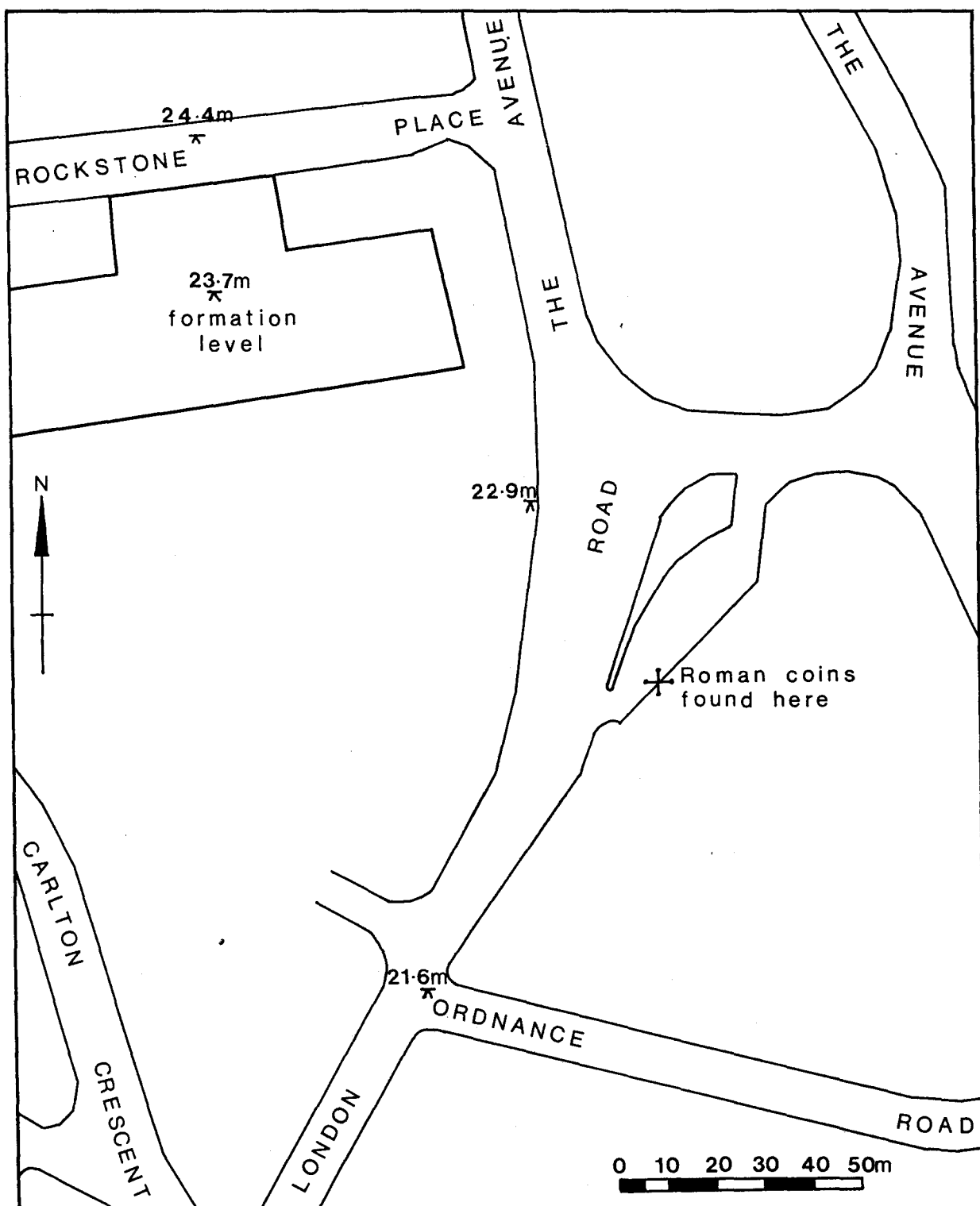


Figure 2: Trench location plan

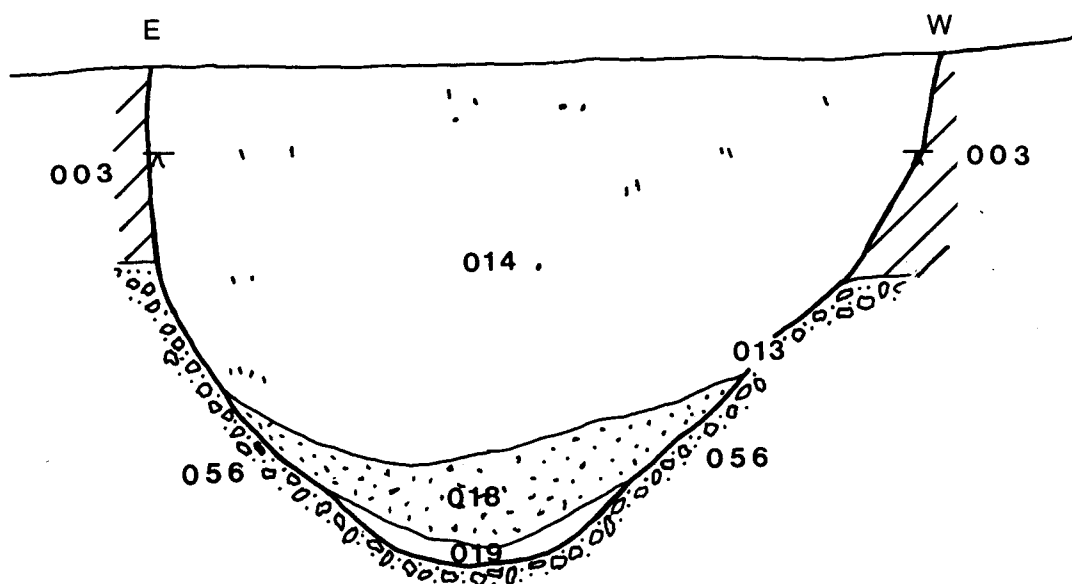









Figure 4: North-facing section through ditch 013 (Centre of site)

0 .1 .2 .3 .4 .5m

KEY:-

	Charcoal		Natural brickearth
	Burnt daub		Natural gravel
	Mussel shell		Context number
	Pottery		Datum (not levelled to O.D.)

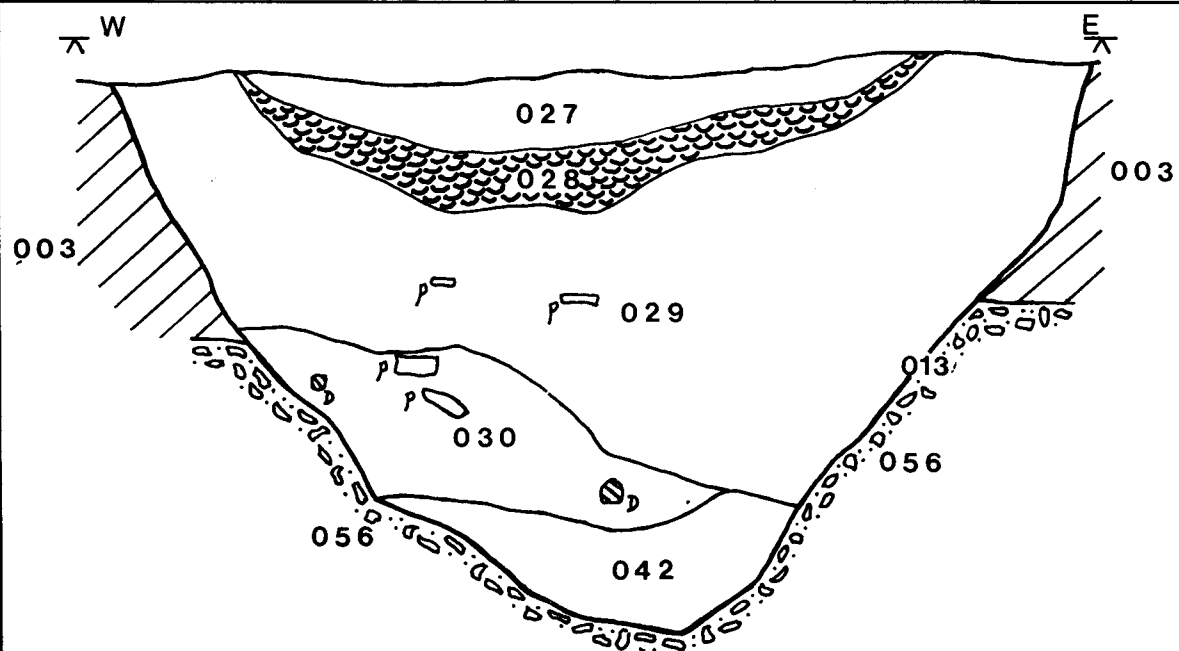


Figure 5: South-facing section through ditch 013 (South of site)

0 .1 .2 .3 .4 .5m

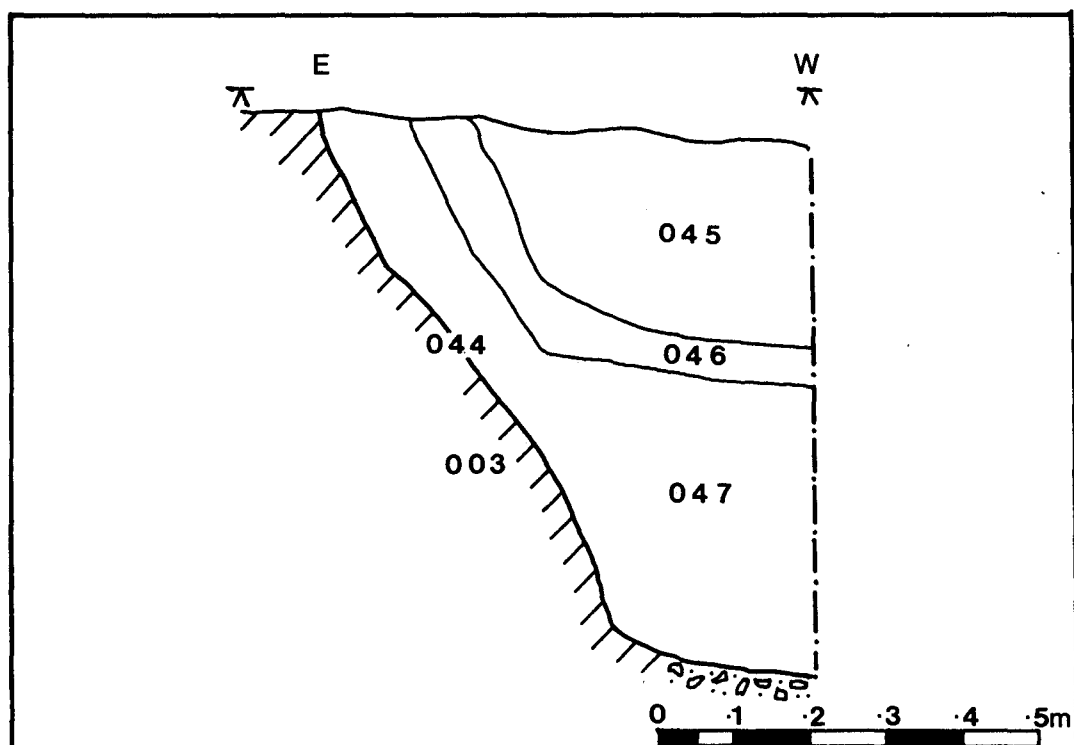



Figure 6: North-facing section through pit 044


KEY:-

 Charcoal

 Context number

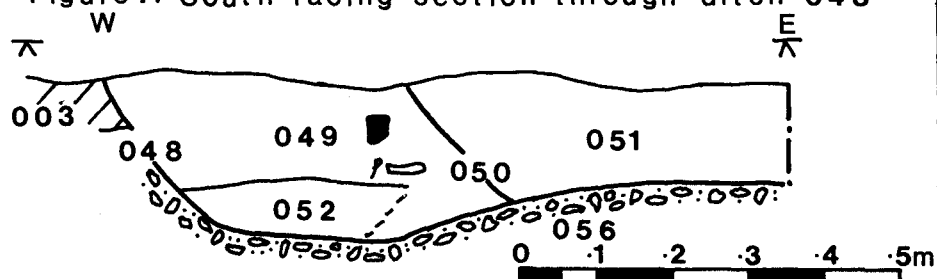
 Pottery

 Datum (not levelled to O.D.)

 Natural brickearth

 Gravel

Figure 7: South-facing section through ditch 048



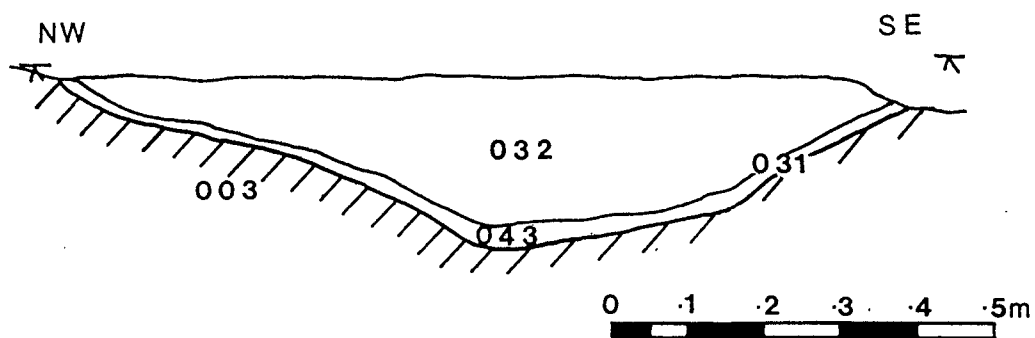


Figure 8: Southwest-facing section through feature 031

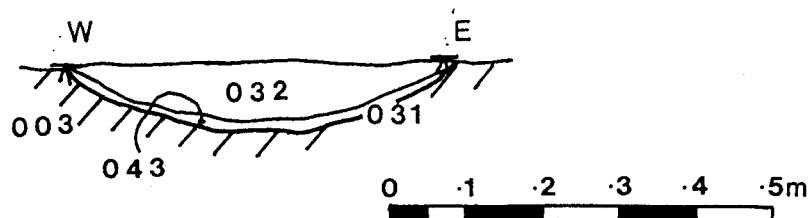





Figure 9: South-facing section through feature 031

KEY:-

 Brick

 Natural brickearth

 Context numbers

 Datum (not levelled to O.D.)

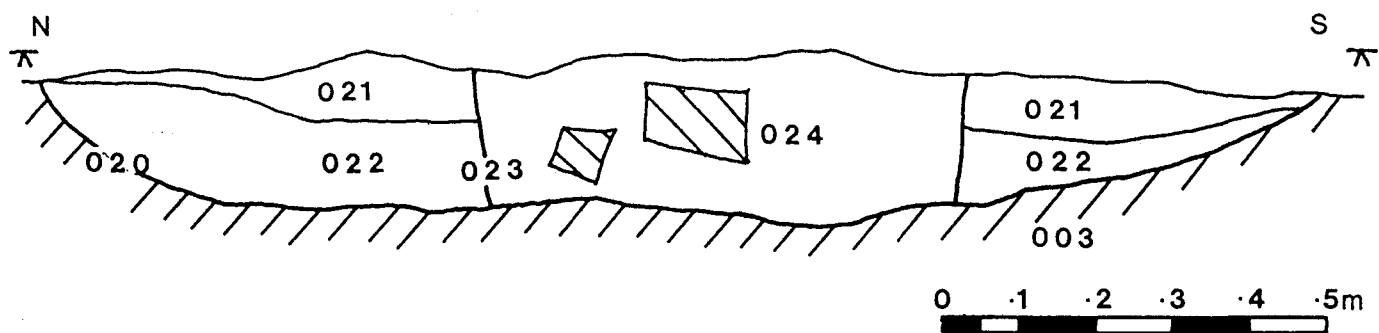


Figure 10: West-facing section through pits 020 & 023

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

9. SOURCES.

1. British Geological Survey *Solid and Drift Geology: Sheet 315 - Southampton (1:50 000)*
2. Ordnance Survey *1:25 inch sheet 65/7 1866/8*
3. Ordnance Survey *1:25 inch sheet 65/7 1897*
4. Ordnance Survey *1:25 inch sheet 65/7 1910*
5. Ordnance Survey *1:25 inch sheet 65/7 1934*
6. City of Southampton Society *Southampton Common*

10. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

FUNDING: Hampshire County Architects

WATCHING BRIEF: Joseph McDermott, Ronald Brading and Brian Whitehead for
Southern Archaeological Services Ltd.

POST-FIELDWORK

FINDS Susan Higgins for Southern Archaeological Services Ltd.

SPECIALIST Pottery: Helen Rees

ADVICE Animal bone: Sheila Hamilton-Dyer

REPORT Joseph McDermott for Southern Archaeological Services Ltd.

EDITED BY Brian Whitehead for Southern Archaeological Services Ltd.

MONITORING Southampton City Council Heritage Policy Unit and
Hampshire County Archaeologist's Office

Southern Archaeological Services is grateful to acknowledge the pivotal role of the County Archaeologist's Office in setting up the archaeological watching brief. It would also like to express gratitude to Hampshire County Architects for providing drawing number B 1662 (2) GA - 00 from which figure 3 in this report is taken.

Summary Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief on site of new
Magistrates' Court, London Road, Southampton (phase 1)

ADDENDUM

Coin Conservation

As stated on page 11 above an attempt at dating the silver coin recovered from context 032 was to be undertaken.

The coin (item number 001) was conserved at Salisbury Museum. A copy of the conservator's report is appended herewith.

It can be seen that the obverse surface is all but corroded away. However some of the original lettering is discernible. Reference to Sear 1988 and Sutherland 1974 has established that the full legend would probably have read: *Fides Militum* ("the loyalty of the soldiers"). The figure as shown on the conservator's drawing is recognisably female and is likely to depict *Fides*.

Coins bearing this legend were issued throughout the Third Century, but especially in mid-century when a series of short-lived emperors relied on the dubious loyalty of the Army. This date-range for the coin reinforces the dating suggested by the examination of the pottery from the same context.

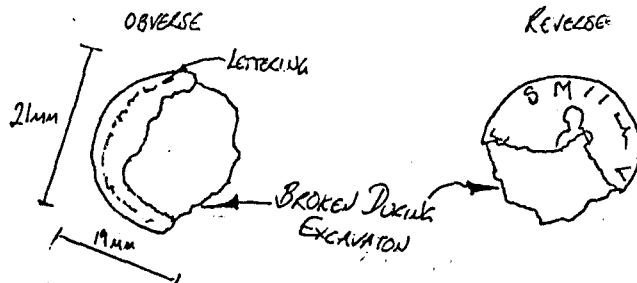
Bibliography:

D.R. Sear *Roman Coins and Their Value* Seaby 1988
C.H.Y. Sutherland *Roman Coins* Barrie & Jenkins 1974

Ref 1
2

Conserving instn: conservation number WILTM: CD940259	Simple name Ag Coin		Conservator EJ
Source instn: identity number SOUTHERN ARCH SERVICES LTD.	Site SOU 603/8/24	Small find no. 001	begun 10 Sept '94
Dimensions See Diagram			finished 15 Sept '94
Photographs (CP/CS/CH)	J110	x-rays (CX) SAS x 001	Samples (CZ)

NOTES
of
Description
Condition
Examination
Request
Treatment



Condition:

A layer of soft paddy soil covers a soft waxy black corrosion layer, under this surface is a powdery brown/black corrosion product. Only approx 40% of the original surface remains (the black waxy corrosion product).

Treatment:

The coin was mechanically cleaned.
The surface was very fragile and had cracked, so the edges of the original surface were consolidated with a 5% w/v solution of B72 in toluene and a mulling agent.
The coin was then lacquered to give the whole surface more strength.

✓
C

JOURNAL

Photograph and X ray record sheet

WILTM: D940259.

[illegible]