Wessex Archaeology

Fairlawne Estate Roman Building, Plaxtol, Kent

Report on an Archaeological Investigation: Phase 2

Ref: 74061.01

November 2011

Fairlawne Estate Roman Building
Plaxtol
Kent

Report on an Archaeological Investigation: Phase 2

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DISCLAIMER

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SUMMARY

In October 2011 a further phase of archaeological investigation was undertaken on a Roman building partly exposed and subject to limited excavation in 2009 immediately in advance of the construction of the Farningham to Hadlow natural gas pipeline. The building, which from its size, layout and construction can be fairly certainly classified as a villa, lies within the portion of the pipeline routed through the Fairlawne Estate (NGR 429806 108171). Following its unexpected discovery in 2009, the building was preserved *in situ*, with the new gas pipe drilled beneath it.

A decision was subsequently taken by the Board of Fairlawne Estate to commission additional investigations into the nature of the Roman building, and in 2010 a geophysical survey was carried out on the site of the building and the immediately surrounding area. On the basis of the work undertaken in 2009 and the geophysical results, which identified a number of anomalies and potential areas of interest, the Board of Fairlawne Estate decided to commission a series of hand-dug test-pits to further investigate the building itself as well as several possibly related features identified nearby.

A total of 11 1m² test-pits were hand-dug, six within the building and a further five outside, with two test-pits subsequently extended to *c.* 2m². The test-pits within or adjacent to the building confirmed its extent and layout, but also demonstrated that no hypocaust was present and no floor surfaces survived. The test-pits in the surrounding area revealed shallow depths of topsoil and subsoil, and produced only small quantities of finds and no features of Roman date.

The programme of test-pitting has provided limited additional structural and finds information, but this has allowed further clarification of the nature, date and function of the building, indicating that it comprised a simple form of corridor villa, probably constructed in the late 1st or very early 2nd century AD and possibly remaining in use with no apparent modification until just before the middle of the 4th century. On the basis of this it will now be possible to understand the building better within the context of the site itself, as well as within the local landscape of known villas and other Roman remains, including the nearby villa at Spoute and that a little further away near Allen's Farm, both in Plaxtol.

The probable early development of the Fairlawne Estate villa can be seen as part of a more widespread process that led to land being brought into agricultural production following the Roman Conquest. However, significant social and economic changes in Britain around 200 AD may have resulted in the villa's demise, though it is likely to have continued in use after this, possibly as an agricultural building.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeological investigation was commissioned by the Board of Fairlawne Estate, and Wessex Archaeology and RSK would particularly like to thank Richard McCormack, estate manager, who kindly supplied a variety of information, arranged access, and made available various facilities at the estate offices.

Brigitte Buss, Principal Archaeologist for RSK and consultant archaeologist to Fairlawne Estate, developed the project in consultation with the Board of Fairlawne Estate and prepared the Phase 2 Investigation Strategy.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex, and the fieldwork led by Phil Andrews and Brigitte Buss, ably assisted by Lisa McCaig and Brenton Culshaw. Lisa McCaig undertook the site surveying and also processed and recorded the finds, and Roger Richards carried out the metal detector survey.

Information on the 2009 excavation was provided by Rob De'Athe, and Ben Urmston discussed the results of the 2010 geophysical survey.

The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mepham, with coin identifications by Nick Cooke. This report has been compiled by Phil Andrews and Brigitte Buss, with illustrations by Liz James and Linda Coleman.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RSK Environment, on behalf of Fairlawne Estate, to undertake a second phase of archaeological investigation on a Roman building discovered earlier on the Fairlawne Estate, Plaxtol, Kent (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference (NGR) 560055 153445 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The archaeological investigation was carried out as private research on behalf of the Estate and intended to gather more information on the nature, function, date and development of the building, provisionally identified as a villa. This will allow a better understanding of the building in terms of the immediately surrounding area, as well enabling it to be placed in a broader local and regional context.

1.1.3 This document sets out the results of the archaeological investigation, in accordance with the investigation strategy prepared by RSK (RSK 2011).

2 THE SITE

2.1 Site Location, Description and Topography

2.1.1 The part of Fairlawne Estate in which the Roman building is located lies just to the south-west of the village of Plaxtol, some 7km east of Sevenoaks, Kent.

2.1.2 The Site currently comprises pasture, with scattered stands of managed trees, within the wider parkland landscape of the Estate. It occupies a largely flat portion of the Estate grounds, sloping gently downwards from north to south, at approximately 103.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) (**Plate 1**). Several pronounced banks and platforms form a series of terraces dropping from west to east across the Site. These can be ascribed to post-medieval landscaping of the Estate, in particular the area of the grounds extending east from Fairlawne House, which lies approximately 500m from the Site.

2.1.3 The soils are argillic brown earths of the 571c (Malling) association, overlying clay with inclusions of sandstone (Kentish ragstone); isolated outcrops of sandstone also occur within the Site and in the immediately surrounding area.

2.2 Archaeological Background

Introduction

2.2.1 Romano-British remains are widespread throughout Kent, with Canterbury and Rochester developing as Roman towns and Watling Street becoming an important road linking the port of Dover with London. Settlement became established throughout the countryside, particularly to the north of the Weald, and a variety of civilian, military and religious sites, as well as high status buildings such as villas, have been excavated or identified (see Millett 2007).

2.2.2 A relatively large number of villas are known in and around the Darent valley in north-west Kent, most notably at Lullingstone, Darenth, Otford and Farningham, and also within the Medway valley further to the east, with examples at Eccles, Teston, Maidstone and Snodland (see Millett 2007, fig. 5.9). The Fairlawne Estate Roman building falls approximately midway between these two groups, but lies less than 1.5km from two villas on the east side of Plaxtol. Both the Plaxtol villas are located close to the Bourne rivulet, one at Spoute and the other near to Allen's Farm approximately 0.5km to the south (see **Figure 1**). There are no detailed reports on either of these villas, but notes have appeared in various publications and the information below has been gathered from the Kent County Council Historic Buildings and Sites and Monument Record.

2.2.3 The site near Allen's Farm was investigated in 1857-8 by Major Luard, the excavations recording the stone foundations of a bath-house, perhaps part of the villa building or else a detached bath-house. The remains included apsidal rooms, a cold bath, hypocausts, a furnace and a possible latrine. A timber-lined well has subsequently been found. Finds from the site include pottery which spans the Roman period and a bronze figurine of Minerva.

2.2.4 The villa at Sedgebrook, Plaxtol Spoute, was discovered in 1984 and investigated in 1986-7 by the Kent Archaeological Society. The excavations exposed a winged-corridor style house, measuring 25m by 11.5m and facing east. Finds, some of which are now in the care of the Fairlawne Estate, include pottery dating from the 1st century AD onwards.

2.2.5 Other significant Roman remains in the vicinity, all recorded by antiquarians, include a (now ploughed-out) high-status barrow and walled cemetery to the north of Plaxtol, and possibly two further groups of burials and finds to the east.

Previous work (2009)

2.2.6 The Fairlawne Estate Roman building was unknown prior to its discovery during stripping of a 25m-wide easement in advance of construction of the Farningham to Hadlow gas pipeline in 2009 (Wessex Archaeology 2011).

2.2.7 Excavation in 2009 was almost entirely restricted to cleaning and recording the wall footings and other deposits exposed at a shallow depth within the easement (**Front Cover**). Further investigation was not undertaken as a mitigation strategy was implemented that involved boring the new gas pipe below ground for a short length of the route in this location, allowing the Roman building to be preserved *in situ*. Following the completion of

archaeological work, the building remains were covered with a layer of fine sand, and then topsoil re-instated and the area re-seeded with grass.

2.2.8 What appeared to be most of the building was exposed, orientated north-east to south-west and measuring approximately 27.5m by 11m (**Figure 2**). The rectangular building had a simple layout, comprising a central room flanked by a broadly symmetrical arrangement of two small and one larger room on either side. Only the footings and parts of the lowest course of the walls survived, and only a single phase of construction was identified; no doorways were apparent and no floor surfaces were revealed. It was thought that these had most likely been removed by ploughing, though there was a possibility that sunken floors or hypocausts survived at a lower level.

2.2.9 Within the easement to the north-west and south-east of the building were further Romano-British features (**Figure 2**; context numbers in brackets below are derived from the records of the pipeline-related fieldwork). A possible drainage ditch (8194) lay parallel and just over 5m to the north-west of the building, whilst to the south-east was a probable trackway (defined by ditches 8195 and 8196) and what may have been a hollow-way (8113), both aligned broadly parallel to the building. There was also a well (8092), two ovens or crop drying kilns (8109 and 8160) and a small number of pits, including two larger examples (8198 and 8199) which contained numerous lumps of sandstone but few other finds.

2.2.10 A moderate quantity of finds was recovered, with the pottery of largely later 1st – early 2nd century AD date, but also including some middle and a smaller number of late Roman sherds. There was a limited range of other finds, including metalwork, though generally in small quantities. However, 27 Roman coins were recovered, most from within the building, and these ranged in date from the late 2nd to the mid 4th century AD. Unusually for such assemblages, there was an absence of any coins from after 350 AD, and there is a slight possibility that the group derive from a dispersed hoard originally deposited in the 330s AD, though they did come from various parts of the building.

Geophysical survey (Phase 1 work - 2010)

2.2.11 In 2010, following discussions with RSK, a decision was taken by the Board of Fairlawne Estate to commission further investigation of the Roman building recorded in the pipeline works.

2.2.12 Subsequently, in April 2010, a geophysical survey was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2010) using two different techniques:

- Detailed Gradiometer (magnetic susceptibility) over the building and surrounding area, to identify the potential presence of a larger villa complex and/or other associated archaeological features.
- Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) over and near the known building in order to determine further details with regard to the nature of the unexcavated building at depth.

2.2.13 Detailed gradiometer survey identified a number of targets of probable archaeological origin (**Figure 1**), although none could be attributed a character or date on the basis of the survey results.

2.2.14 The GPR survey identified a variable depth of wall foundations and the potential presence of presence of floor layers.

3 OBJECTIVES OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The objectives of the investigation as laid out in the investigation strategy (RSK 2011) were as follows:

3.2 Objective 1 – Determine nature, function, broad date and phase of development of the known building

3.2.1 Determine methods of construction, evidence for re-modelling, and phasing and dating of the structural sequence.

3.2.2 Establish the function(s) and status of the building on the basis of associated finds, decoration and architectural features, in particular:

- Survival of floor levels / decorative features
- Presence of hypocaust.

3.3 Objective 2 – Determine the relationship of the building within the context of the overall 'Site' (the building and its associated period environs)

3.3.1 Establish the nature and extent of the wider (villa) complex and the building's relationship to it.

3.3.2 Establish the building's relationship to known and suspected archaeological features.

3.4 Objective 3 – Determine the relationship of the Site in its local and regional context

3.4.1 Establish the Site's relationship to the villas at Spoute and neat Allen's Farm, and other Romano-British sites around Plaxtol.

3.4.2 Improve understanding of the Site in relationship to its natural topographic context.

3.4.3 Compare the Site to other comparable sites in north Kent, particularly the concentration of villa sites in the Darent Valley.

3.4.4 Determine the significance of the Site in regional research terms

4 METHODS

4.1 Excavation

4.1.1 The proposed archaeological investigations comprised the hand-excavation of 10 test-pits, normally 1m² and not more than 1m deep, seven (nos 1 – 7) targeted on the building (**Plate 2**) and three (nos 8 – 10) further to the south targeted on geophysical anomalies.

4.1.2 Test-pits 1 – 7 were dug in the predetermined locations, with test-pit 1 subsequently extended by 0.8m to the north-east and test-pit 2 extended 1m to the north-west, in both cases up to the edge of the walls of the building. An additional 1m² test-pit (no. 11) was dug to the south-east of and contiguous with test-pit 7, in order to expose the north-west corner of the building (**Figure 1**).

4.1.3 Test-pit 9 was also dug in the predetermined location, but test-pits 8 and 10 were moved because both fell within areas clearly altered as a result of post-medieval landscaping. Test-pit 8 was moved to a location midway between the proposed positions of test-pits 8 and 10, whilst test-pit 10 was moved further to the north-east, to an area where metal-detecting had produced a Roman coin and some later finds (**Figure 1**).

4.1.4 The test-pits were located in relation to the OS national grid, using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. In addition to the test-pits, two north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west transects (with horizontal measurements at approximately 1m intervals) were taken across the site of the building and the surrounding area using the GPS survey system.

4.1.5 A metal detector survey of small areas of the building not accessible during construction work in 2009 was carried out, and this survey was extended to previously unsurveyed areas to the north-east and south-west of the building.

4.1.6 The test-pit investigation and metal detector survey were undertaken between 10th and 14th October 2011. All excavations were carried out by hand, and the test-pits backfilled and turf re-instated following the completion of work.

4.1.7 Each test-pit was drawn in plan and section, photographed and recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets. All finds were retained, processed and recorded, with the exception of demonstrably modern artefacts, which were noted but not retained.

4.1.8 The methodology for the excavation is not repeated in detail here. However, all works were carried out as specified in the Investigation Strategy (RSK 2011), and in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (IfA 2008).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The test-pits are described in numerical order below and their locations shown in **Figure 1**. Further details of individual contexts can be found in **Appendix 1**. Numbers in **bold** are those allocated in 2011, whilst those not highlighted were issued in 2009 during the pipeline-related work (Wessex Archaeology 2011; see **Figure 2**).

5.2 Test-pit 1

5.2.1 This was located central to the external face of the south-west wall (8049 / 8051) of the building, in an area not previously exposed.

5.2.2 The aim was to investigate the nature of the foundations and depth of the building on the outside, and identify the presence of any structures related to a potential hypocaust.

5.2.3 Turf and topsoil (**101**) up to 0.21m thick lay above subsoil (**102**) 0.16m thick. This sealed two successive layers of debris (**103** and **104**), 0.27m and 0.11m thick respectively, which overlay natural (**105**), and are likely to derive from the demolition of the building. Both layers contained some stone rubble, with more in the uppermost, and in both layers the quantities of rubble increased markedly towards the north-east end of the 1.8m-long test-pit, closest to the south-west wall (8049 / 8051) of the building which lay immediately beyond the edge of the test-pit.

5.2.4 Demolition layers (**103** and **104**) produced the largest quantities of finds from any of the test-pits, and it appears that material from both domestic and craft (iron smithing) activities was incorporated in these deposits.

5.2.5 The evidence suggests that the foundations and depth of the building was a little greater here than in most of the other parts of the building, probably reflecting its slightly better preservation at the south-west end of the building. However, there was no evidence for any external structures that might have been linked to a hypocaust.

5.3 Test-pit 2

5.3.1 This was located in the internal north-west corner of the building, within room 6 at the junction of walls 8038 and 8049, in an area partly exposed in 2009.

5.3.2 The aim was to investigate the nature of the foundations and depth of the building on the inside, and determine the survival of floor surfaces and internal decoration, such as wall paintings.

5.3.3 In the north-west corner of the test-pit, reinstated topsoil (**200**) overlay a protective layer of yellow sand (**201**), whilst in the remainder topsoil (**203**) sealed subsoil (**204**), together approximately 0.4m thick. Beneath this was a layer of demolition rubble (**205**) 0.40m thick (**Plate 3**), from which came a pivot stone, probably from a doorway (**Plate 4**). Below the demolition rubble was a dark layer (**206**) 0.1m thick which produced little in the way of finds but might be best regarded as an ‘occupation’ deposit, probably associated with the building. Layer (**206**) butted up to the remains of wall 8038 which had clearly been heavily disturbed in this area, presumably during demolition and / or later stone robbing. The north-west wall here was built partly on an outcrop of Kentish rag (**208**).

5.3.4 The foundations and depth of the building was greatest here, as far as could be ascertained, and as in test-pit 1 this probably reflects its slightly better preservation at the south-west end of the building. Nevertheless, there was

no evidence for any surviving floor surface and no material which might indicate anything other than plain decoration within this part of the building. There was an absence, for example, of *tesserae* and any form of wall plaster, plain or decorated.

5.4 Test-pit 3

5.4.1 This was targeted on the extrapolated junction between the putative (hypocaust) flue 8188 and wall 8055, within room 7, in an area not previously exposed.

5.4.2 The aim was to confirm the interpretation of these features as parts of a hypocaust.

5.4.3 Turf and topsoil (**300**) 0.25m thick lay above 0.30m of subsoil (**301**). This directly overlay the wall footings (**302**) of the south-east wall of the building. The full width of the footings was not exposed, but the inner edge comprised generally larger pieces of Kentish rag (up to approximately 0.4m in size), some possibly roughly dressed, or at least with the flattest face used for the outer face of the footings (**Plate 5**); the core comprised smaller, more irregularly shaped and laid rubble, as seen elsewhere in the building. Wall footing (**302**) was set in a shallow foundation trench cut into natural (**303**) and comprised only a single surviving course of stones.

5.4.4 The putative flue (8188) was not revealed in the test-pit, but it is now considered most likely, on the basis of what is known about its form and location, that it was a sub-floor drain. No floor surface survived within the very small area of room 7 exposed within the test-pit.

5.5 Test-pit 4

5.5.1 This was located central to the internal face of the south-east wall (8055) of the building, within room 3, in an area previously exposed.

5.5.2 The aim was to investigate the nature and depth of the building foundations in a room potentially crossed by a hypocaust flue. The aim was also to determine the survival of floor surfaces and internal decoration, such as wall paintings.

5.5.3 Reinstated topsoil (**401**) overlay a protective layer of yellow sand (**402**), together 0.55m thick. The sand lay directly above an 'occupation' / pre-building deposit (**403**) 0.07m thick, which itself sealed natural (**404**).

5.5.4 No floor surface survived and there was no evidence for the nature of the internal decoration.

5.6 Test-pit 5

5.6.1 This was located towards the north-east corner of room 1, in the angle formed by walls 8038 and 8041, in an area previously exposed.

5.6.2 The aim was to investigate the nature and depth of the building foundations within the interior on the northern side of the building, and also determine the survival of floor surfaces and internal decoration, such as wall paintings.

A further aim was to determine, if possible, the potential contextual or physical relationship with geophysical anomaly 4013 to the north-east (see **Figure 1**).

5.6.3 Reinstated topsoil (**500**) overlay a protective layer of yellow sand (**501**), together 0.45m thick. The sand lay directly above an 'occupation' / pre-building deposit (**502**) 0.10m thick, which itself sealed natural (**503**).

5.6.4 The building foundations were not exposed and no floor surface survived, nor was there any no evidence for the nature of the internal decoration. Finally, the excavated evidence suggests that geophysical anomaly 4013 (targeted by test-pit 7) probably did not extend as far to the south-west as test-pit 5.

5.7 Test-pit 6

5.7.1 This was located towards the north-west corner of room 2, in the angle formed by walls 8038 and 8041, in an area previously partly exposed (in the southern corner of the test-pit only).

5.7.2 The aim was to investigate the nature and depth of the building foundations within the interior on the northern side of the building, and also, if possible, the potential contextual or physical relationship with geophysical anomaly 4013 to the north-east (see **Figure 1**).

5.7.3 Turf and topsoil (**600**) 0.30m thick lay above 0.1m of protective sand (**601**), present in the southern corner of the test-pit only. Below topsoil / sand was a layer containing some stone rubble (**602**), possibly demolition material though more likely make-up. The main concentration of rubble lay along the north-west and south-west sides of the test-pit, closest to the edge of wall footings 8038 and 8041 respectively. Against, possibly partly overlying rubble layer (**602**) was an 'occupation' / pre-building deposit (**603**) 0.10m thick, which itself sealed natural (**604**).

5.7.4 What is thought to have been rubble make-up deposits were exposed, but no floor surface survived nor was there any evidence to suggest that geophysical anomaly 4013 (targeted by test-pit 7) extended as far to the south-west as test-pit 6.

5.8 Test-pit 7

5.8.1 This was targeted on geophysical anomaly 4013, outside and immediately to the north of the north-west corner (formed by walls 8038 and 8187) of the Roman building, in an area not previously exposed. Following the completion of test-pit 7, a further test-pit (no. 11) was dug to extend the area to the south-east, in order to expose the north-west corner of the Roman building. Test-pit 11 overlapped very slightly with the 2009 excavation area, and the sequence from this is described here with that from test-pit 7.

5.8.2 The aim of test-pit 7 was to investigate of geophysical anomaly 4013, interpreted as possible further structures, whilst test-pit 11 was aimed at uncovering the north-west corner of the Roman building and exposing any adjoining structural remains.

5.8.3 Turf and topsoil (**701**/**1101**) up to 0.18m thick lay above up to 0.18m of subsoil (**702**/**1102**). This in turn overlay a deposit (**703**) which probably post-dated the demolition of the building, but which contained residual early Roman pottery, and at the north-west corner of the building also contained a moderate quantity of stone rubble (**1103**) deriving from the building. In test-pit 7, furthest from the building, layer (**703**) sealed a possible occupation (or midden) layer (**704**) which, in addition to pottery, also contained common charcoal and burnt clay flecking. Layer (**704**) lay above natural (**705**) but did not extend as far as the north-west corner of the building, and here layer (**1103**) directly overlay natural (**1105**) as well as covering the remains of the demolished wall (**1104**) at the north-west corner of the building. The wall footings and the remains of the first course of the wall survived, though heavily disturbed as a result of demolition and later landscaping (**Plate 6**). The full width of the wall and footings was not exposed, but the presence of a dislodged quoin stone at the corner suggested that the building did not extend any further to the north-east.

5.8.4 The remains of the north-west corner of the building were exposed, with no evidence for any further structures (at least of stone) lying immediately to the north-east. It is now considered most likely that geophysical anomaly 4014 most likely represents a combination of demolition rubble and the presence of what may have been an occupation deposit or midden.

5.9 Test-pit 8

5.9.1 The proposed locations of test-pits 8 and 10 were targeted on geophysical anomalies 4000 / 4008 and 4000 / 4018 respectively. However, it was clear in the field that anomaly 4008 was a bank forming part of the edge of a post-medieval garden landscaping terrace, and digging a test-pit in this location would provide no useful information. Furthermore, the location of test-pit 10 was also reviewed and considered rather speculative (see below). Therefore, the locations of both test-pits were changed.

5.9.2 The new location for test-pit 8 was centred within geophysical anomaly 4000, an irregular 'feature' measuring approximately 35m by 20m. This anomaly was thought possibly to represent building debris, perhaps deriving from an ancillary structure which lay 75m or so to the south-west of the Roman building.

5.9.3 Turf and topsoil (**801**) 0.10m thick lay above 0.10m of subsoil (**802**), which itself sealed natural (**803**). No building debris was present - indeed no finds were recovered at all from the test-pit, and the explanation for geophysical anomaly 4000 remains unclear.

5.10 Test-pit 9

5.10.1 This was targeted on geophysical anomaly 4001, which lay approximately 50m to the south of the Roman building.

5.10.2 Anomaly 4001 was a small penannular 'feature' approximately 6-7m in diameter with a gap in the south-west side. One possibility considered is that it represented a possible shrine, though this was very uncertain.

5.10.3 Turf and topsoil (**901**) 0.10m thick lay above 0.21m of subsoil (**902**), which itself sealed natural (**903**). Within the subsoil, and confined largely to the southern half of the test-pit, were two distinct lenses of chalk fragments and charcoal respectively.

5.10.4 The nature of the two lenses within the subsoil and their location, midway between two trees which form part of a longer line, suggest that they may derive from the (recent) removal of a tree. Their position accords closely with geophysical anomaly 4001 and, furthermore, the size and shape of this anomaly also suggest that it may have been caused as a result tree removal rather than, for example, representing a small enclosure or pit.

5.11 Test-pit 10

5.11.1 As noted above (see test-pit 8), the proposed location of test-pit 10 was considered rather speculative, and its location was changed to target an areas where metal-detecting had recovered a Roman coin, approximately 35m to the south-west of the Roman building.

5.11.2 Topsoil (**1000**) 0.25m directly overlay natural (**1001**), and virtually no finds were present, and it is likely that this area has been subjected to particularly heavy post-medieval landscaping.

5.12 Test-pit 11

5.12.1 Details of this are incorporated above with the results of test-pit 7.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The test-pit investigation produced a small assemblage of finds, deriving from contexts in ten of the 11 test-pits excavated. No finds were recovered from test-pit 8, and finds from other test-pits outside the area of the building were minimal (test-pits 9 and 10). The assemblage is largely of Romano-British date, focusing on the early period (later 1st/early 2nd century AD), and with a few prehistoric and post-medieval items.

6.1.2 Condition ranges from fair to poor; much of the assemblage has suffered high levels of abrasion, particularly noticeable amongst the ceramic items. This may reflect a degree of reworking and redeposition, or aggressive post-depositional soil conditions, or a combination of the two.

6.1.3 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are given in **Table 1**.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 With the exception of one probable prehistoric sherd, and three post-medieval sherds, all of the pottery is Romano-British in date.

Prehistoric

6.2.2 One small, abraded body sherd in a coarse flint-/grog-tempered fabric has been broadly dated as later prehistoric (1st millennium BC); the fabric type is

not chronologically distinctive within this period. This sherd was residual in possible occupation / midden layer **704**.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	CBM	Fired clay	Pottery	Slag	Metal	Other finds
101	2/32		2/8			1 animal bone
102	6/42		4/18	6/54		
103		9/150	21/243	50/1056		
104	8/1293		14/107	3/59	3 Fe	3 animal bone
205	2/52		3/20			2 animal bone 3 stone
206				1/6		
301	1/6		6/58	6/250	1 Cu	
401	1/14		2/25			
403			2/9			
502	1/58	3/48	13/79			1 animal bone
600			1/7			
603	1/48		19/251	1/6		1 animal bone
701			4/22			
702	1/53	1/27	5/16		4 iron	
703	6/325		26/145			
704			10/32		1 Cu	
902	5/274		1/4			
1000			1/2			
1102		4/84	23/112			
1103			9/28			
Unstrat. topsoil. Metal detecting					10 coins; 17 Cu; 4 Pb; 1 Fe	
TOTAL	**34/2197**	**17/249**	**166/1186**	**67/1431**	**10 coins; 19 Cu 4 Pb; 8 Fe**	

CBM = ceramic building material; Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron; Pb = lead

Romano-British

6.2.3 The small Romano-British assemblage is dominated by coarsewares, mainly sandy greywares and grog-tempered wares, occurring in beaded rim and everted rim jar forms. There are also a few sherds in sandy oxidised fabrics, none diagnostic.

6.2.4 Alongside these coarsewares are a few fineware sherds: four colour coated wares (one with barbotine decoration), at least one of which is probably a Nene Valley product, and a small flagon handle in a British lead-glazed ware (subsoil **702**). Several groups of these British lead-glazed wares have been defined, of which the most widely distributed is the south-east English group, which includes one possible production site at Staines (Arthur 1978). The fabric of this ware type, however, is described as generally grey, whereas this example is oxidised orange-red, and no parallels for the flagon form can be found amongst the published south-east English examples, although the

glazed form is known (*ibid.*, fig. 8.15, 24). British lead-glazed wares date to the later 1st or early 2nd century AD.

6.2.5 Overall the high proportion of grog-tempered wares (64 sherds) over greywares (44 sherds), and the presence of beaded rim jars and British lead-glazed ware, suggests a date range in the early Roman period, perhaps spanning the later 1st to early 2nd century AD, although some sherds could fall later.

Post-medieval

6.2.6 The three post-medieval sherds are all from modern redware flowerpots; all came from topsoil contexts (test-pits 1 and 3).

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

6.3.1 With the exception of a single fragment of post-medieval tile from subsoil **102**, all of the CBM is of Romano-British date. There are few diagnostic pieces – fragments probably belonging to a single *tegula* roof tile in a distinctive white firing fabric (demolition rubble **104**), and two *imbrex* fragments (backfill layer **502**, subsoil **702**) – and most are either flat fragments from tiles of unknown type, or completely undiagnostic. One flat fragment carries an impressed paw print.

6.4 Fired Clay

6.4.1 The few fragments of fired clay could also be of structural origin, but are all small, abraded and undiagnostic, and therefore of uncertain date and origin.

6.5 Metalwork

Coins

6.5.1 Two pre-18th century coins were recovered from the work in 2011. The first is a Late Roman copper alloy *quinarius* of the late 3rd century AD and the second a silver half groat of Elizabeth I. Both are in good condition, although the silver coin shows considerable wear, and both were recovered unstratified as metal detector finds to the south-west of the Roman building.

6.5.2 The *quinarius* (Object 3; **see Back Cover**) was struck for the British usurper Allectus (AD 293 – 296), at the 'C' mint (thought likely to be in Colchester). Coins of Allectus are relatively common finds on British sites. Several contemporary coins were recovered from the 2009 investigations, suggesting that there was some continued use of the Roman Building during the 3rd and 4th centuries AD before it was finally abandoned, probably in the 330s.

6.5.3 The half groat of Elizabeth I (Object 4) is both heavily worn and shows signs of edge damage. It was struck in London between 1592 and 1595 as part of Elizabeth's fifth issue of silver coinage. It presumably represents a casual loss.

6.5.4 In addition, eight post-medieval coins were recovered unstratified by metal detecting. These comprise a 'cartwheel' penny of George III (1797); three

other pennies (1896 and two illegible 19th/20th century); a florin (1961); a ten-pence piece (1970); a halfpenny (1970s); and a two-pence piece (1975)

Copper Alloy

6.5.5 Only one copper alloy object was recovered from a stratified context (?occupation/make-up layer **704**); this is a one-piece brooch of Colchester type, the pin and crossbar missing; the spring and rearward hook survive, but the whole object is badly corroded (**see Back Cover**). Colchester brooches were first made before the Roman conquest, but continued in use through the mid 1st century AD (Bayley and Butcher 2004, 148-50).

6.5.6 A plate fragment with one straight edge, from topsoil in test-pit 3, is of unknown date and function.

6.5.7 All other finds were unstratified, most recovered by metal detecting. These include four buckles (two sub-rectangular; one oval double-looped); two cartridge cases and two bullets; a short length of chain; a domed stud; a decorative openwork mount or lid; and two other decorative mounts or fittings. Other objects are unidentifiable. All these objects are definitely or probably of post-medieval date.

Iron

6.5.8 The iron objects include five nails (demolition rubble **104**, subsoil **702**) and a large washer-type ring (unstratified); other fragments are unidentifiable.

Lead

6.5.9 Three pieces of waste and a small, sub-rectangular piece of sheet were recovered by metal detecting.

6.6 Other Finds

6.6.1 Other finds, largely from stratified Romano-British deposits, comprise small quantities of animal bone (including sheep/goat) and iron smithing slag, and a piece of stone building material (pivot stone in three fragments (**Plate 4**); demolition rubble **205**).

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The discussion here represents an interim statement on the results of the programme of archaeological investigations undertaken during the gas pipeline excavations in 2009 (Wessex Archaeology 2011) and subsequent geophysical survey in 2010 (Wessex Archaeology 2010) and test-pits in 2011. A fuller discussion will be presented in the forthcoming Wessex Archaeology publication of the archaeological programme for the Farningham to Hadlow pipeline, which will include analysis of the structural, finds and environmental remains of the villa site, as excavated in 2009.

7.2 The Roman Building

7.2.1 The size and layout of the building largely revealed in 2009 has been confirmed by the test-pits. Together these have shown it to be rectangular, face south-east, and measure approximately 27.5m long by 11m wide, and

the most likely interpretation is that it represents a villa (see below). The room numbers referred to below are those allocated in 2009.

7.2.2 There was no evidence for any other than a single phase of construction, which suggests that the main phase of use may have been relatively short, although finds recovered in 2009 and 2011 span a period of around 250 years (see below).

7.2.3 A central room (room 3) 5.6m wide extended the full width of the building and was flanked by a broadly matching arrangement of three rooms on either side. The largest of the three rooms (5/7 and 8, on the south-east side) each measured approximately 8m long by 4m wide, whilst the smaller pairs of rooms (1 and 2, and 4 and 6) to the north-west were of slightly varying size. The location of doorways was not clear, but it seems reasonable to assume that the main entrance was in the south-east side, allowing access to room 3, perhaps serving as a reception room. Doorways may have led off this to rooms 5/7 and 8, both possibly corridors, which in turn allowed access to rooms 4 and 6 and rooms 1 and 2 respectively. It can reasonably be suggested that these two groups provided a standard suite of living rooms.

7.2.4 Only the wall footings and parts of the lowest course of the walls survived, and it seems likely that the building had been subject to stone robbing, possibly in the later Roman period, and may have suffered as a result of ploughing in the medieval period and levelling during post-medieval landscaping work in Fairlawne Park.

7.2.5 The test-pits have shown that none of the rooms investigated (five out of the seven) contained hypocausts and no floor surfaces survived, and it is considered unlikely that the two remaining rooms were any different in these respects. The possibility of floor surfaces surviving at between 0.3m and 0.75m below ground surface was noted in the 2010 geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2010), but it is now clear (from the test-pits) that the 'high amplitude region … consistent with a spread of compacted material' does in fact equate with the surface of natural geology. The feature identified in 2009 as a possible flue is now thought more likely to be a stone-lined drain running beneath the building, and the absence of *tesserae*, both from the test-pits and the 2009 excavation, further suggests that none of the rooms had had tessellated floors.

7.2.6 The broad and consistent width of both the external and internal walls, at around 0.8m, suggests that there may have been a second floor to the building. This postulated upper storey is most likely to have been of timber, wattle and daub construction built upon the mortar-bonded Kentish ragstone walls at ground floor level. The small quantity of ceramic rooftile fragments appear insufficient to indicate that the building had a tiled roof, and perhaps this was thatched.

7.2.7 The geophysical survey raised the possibility that the building extended to the north-west. However, the subsequent test-pits have indicated that there were no associated stone structures, for example a bath-house, attached to or in the immediate vicinity of the building, though it is possible that substantial timber buildings remain undetected. The other features found in

the vicinity of the building in the 2009 excavation comprise a small number of pits, a well, two ovens or crop driers and a possible trackway flanked by drainage ditches, all of which would not be unexpected in a farmhouse or villa context.

7.2.8 The pottery recovered from the test-pits supports the dating evidence from the 2009 excavation finds (Wessex Archaeology 2011). Together, they indicate that there was no pre-Roman Iron Age occupation of the Site, and that the Roman building was probably constructed during the late 1st or very early 2nd century AD, when there considerable impetus given to valley settlement in Kent (Boyce 2007, 264). Furthermore, the main period of use of the building appears not to have extended much beyond the middle of the 2nd century. However, there are hints of continued activity, possibly occupation, within or in the vicinity of the building, with some mid-Romano-British pottery (*c.* AD 120/130 - early/mid 3rd century AD; 15% by number of the 2009 assemblage) and a small quantity of late Romano-British pottery (late 3rd – 4th century AD; 6% of the 2009 assemblage). The coins recovered in 2009 also indicate some activity up to the middle of the 4th century AD, and most came from within the building itself. The coin assemblage is rather unusual in that for a largely 4th century group there is none that date to the second half of the 4th century. Coins were found throughout the building and but for this widespread distribution it might be concluded that they represent a dispersed hoard of the 330s / 340s concealed in an abandoned building.

7.2.9 In general, the layout of the Fairlawne Estate villa, probably a simple form of corridor villa, is consistent with the development of the building type in Britain as observed by Perring (2002). These early examples, of which there are surprisingly few in Kent (Millett 2007, 152), often lacked the later important reception feature of a portico, and formal dining rooms (*triclinia*) are also uncommon (Black 1987, 53, 73). Instead, this function is likely to have been served by the central room in the Fairlawne Estate example. According to Perring (2002: 73), this preference for a central reception is common in the south-east in the earlier periods, thus typologically supporting the artefactual evidence for an early construction date for the Fairlawne Estate villa.

7.3 Setting and Status of the Roman Building

7.3.1 The south-east facing aspect of the building, which was constructed on gently sloping ground, would have provided it with wide-ranging views to the south and east, towards and beyond the broadly contemporary villas at Spoute and Allen's Farm, both near present-day Plaxtol.

7.3.2 As noted above, based on its size, construction methods and layout, it appears that the Fairlawne Estate Roman building was a simple form of corridor villa, slightly larger than the winged-corridor villa at Spoute (the size of the building at Allen's Farm is unknown). Nevertheless, the absence of any hypocaust and bath-suite or bath-house, and the lack of (surviving) evidence for tessellated floors, does raise some questions as to its status (see Collingwood and Richmond 1969, 133-40; Scott 1994). Perhaps this lack of a hypocaust / heated room and bath-house can best be explained by it being a relatively early villa (Boyce 2007, 261), possibly predating those at Spoute and Allen's Farm, when such features were not always present,

even in some of the larger buildings. Winged corridor villas, such as that at Spoute, were generally a mid 2nd century development, with some earlier buildings extended to create this plan form (Perring 2002, 74), though this did not happen at Fairlawne. The fact that this did not happen may provide a further indicator that the Fairlawne Estate Roman building did not continue in use as a villa much beyond the middle of the 2nd century AD. The lack of wall plaster is less surprising as this does not generally survive well, and this is likely to be the case here where the building lay beneath only shallow depths of topsoil and subsoil.

7.3.3 As well as the absence of evidence for any later modifications or additions to the villa, there also appears to have been no substantial ancillary structures such as barns. This, together with the finds evidence, suggests that the building did not stay in use as a villa for a long period of time, possibly only a few decades at most and certainly no more than a century (see above). Perhaps, for whatever reasons, the nearby villas at Spoute and near Allen's Farm remained in use, whilst that in Fairlawne Park was relegated to being used as an agricultural building, for example a barn, from the later 2nd century AD onwards. This was around the time that there were significant social and economic changes in Britain, the reasons for which are not certain, and the landscape came to be dominated by a few increasingly luxurious villas controlling, perhaps, greatly extended estates (Boyce 2007, 264). It may have been these changes around 200 AD that resulted in the demise of the Fairlawne Estate villa, along with many smaller (perhaps tenanted) farms that may also have developed in the late 1st century AD as part of the process that led to land being brought into agricultural production.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 Reporting

8.1.1 The results of the Phase 1 (geophysics) and Phase 2 (test-pit) investigations will be included in the forthcoming publication of all other sites discovered along the route of the Farningham to Hadlow gas pipeline in 2009. The appropriate place and nature of publication is currently under discussion, but the county archaeological journal, *Archaeologia Cantiana,* is a likely option.

8.2 Preparation and Deposition

8.2.1 The project archive comprises the following components:

- 1 file records
- artefacts: 1 box
- 43 digital photos
- other digital data (word processed files; spreadsheets; database; CAD drawings)

8.2.2 The archive has been prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation,*

transfer and curation (Brown 2007). The archive is currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices in Salisbury under the project code 74061. It is intended that the archive, following further discard of selected finds (in consultation with the Board of Fairlawne Estate, will be deposited at Fairlawne Estate. Details of the fieldwork will also be entered into the online "Oasis" database maintained by the Archaeological Date Service (ADS) (**Appendix 2**).

9 REFERENCES

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Appendix 1: Test-pit Context Summary

bgl = below ground level; cbm = ceramic building material

TEST-PIT 1			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 1.8 x 1m		**Max. depth: 0.76m**	**Ground level: 103.42mOD**	
context	**Description**			**depth (bgl)**
101	*layer*	Topsoil. Greyish brown /mid-brown silty clay loam. Some small stones <0.04m; occasional charcoal flecks and sparse cbm. Seals (102).		0–0.21m
102	*layer*	Subsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty clay loam. Occasional small stones and charcoal flecking. Seals (103)		0.21-0.37m
103	*layer*	Demolition rubble, from SW wall of building (which lies immediately to NE). Approx 15% Kentish Rag lumps (0.05 – 0.3m), in a mid-brown silty clay loam matrix, with some charcoal and daub flecks and occasional cbm. Seals (104)		0.37-0.64m
104	*layer*	Demolition rubble, from SW wall of building (which lies immediately to NE). Approx 5% Kentish Rag lumps (0.05 – 0.07m), in a light/mid-brown silty clay loam matrix, with some charcoal and daub flecks and occasional cbm. Seals (105)		0.64-0.76m
105	*natural*	Natural. Yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional small stone fragments.		0.76m+

TEST-PIT 2			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 2 x 1m		**Max. depth: 1.05m**	**Ground level: 103.66mOD**	
context	**Description**			**depth (bgl)**
200	*layer*	Topsoil – reinstated (in NW corner of test-pit). Greyish brown /mid-brown silty clay loam. Seals (201).		0–0.35m
201	*layer*	Backfill over building (in NW corner of test-pit). Fine yellow sand. Seals (205)		0.35-0.50m
202	*void*	-		-
203	*layer*	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty clay loam. Occasional small stones <0.04m. Seals (204).		0-0.25m
204	*layer*	Subsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty clay loam. Some small stones and charcoal flecking. Seals (205)		0.25-0.40m
205	*layer*	Demolition rubble, from NW corner of building. Approx 50% Kentish Rag lumps (0.1 – 0.5m), in a mid-brown sandy silt loam matrix. Seals (206)		0.40-0.80m
206	*layer*	Occupation layer, in NW corner of building. Mid-greyish brown sandy silt loam matrix. Seals (207)		0.80-0.90m
207	*natural*	Natural. Yellowish brown sandy silt. Seals (208)		0.90m+
208	*natural*	Natural. Rock outcrop		0.90m+

TEST-PIT 3			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		**Max. depth: 0.55m**	**Ground level: 103.20mOD**	
context	**Description**			**depth (bgl)**
300	*layer*	Topsoil. Greyish brown /mid-brown silty loam; upper part more rooty. Rare stone inclusions. Seals (301).		0–0.25m
301	*layer*	Subsoil. Greyish brown /mid-brown silty loam. Differentiated from (101) in that it contains more stone fragments <0.05 and occasional cbm. Seals (302) and (303).		0.25-0.55m
302	*wall*	Wall footings. Roughly laid, irregularly shaped and sized lumps of Kentish Rag; un-mortared. Full width of footings not exposed in test-pit, and possibly only a single course survives. Forms part of outer (SE) wall, running NE to SW. The outer edge appears to comprise some larger pieces (< 0.4m), some possibly roughly dressed or at least a flat face used on outer face. Centre of footings comprise more irregularly laid rubble.		0.35m+
303	*natural*	Natural. Yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional small stone fragments.		0.55m+

TEST-PIT 4			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		**Max. depth: 1.05m**	**Ground level: 103.41mOD**	
context	**Description**			**depth (bgl)**
401	*layer*	Topsoil – reinstated. Greyish brown /mid-brown silty clay loam. Seals (402).		0–0.31m
402	*layer*	Backfill over building. Fine yellow sand. Seals (403)		0.31-0.55m
403	*layer*	? Occupation / pre-building layer, in central S part of building (adjacent to SE wall). Dark/mid-greyish brown sandy silt loam with occasional charcoal flecks. Seals (404)		0.55-0.62m
404	*natural*	Natural. Yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional small stone fragments.		0.62m+

TEST-PIT 5			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		**Max. depth: 0.55m**	**Ground level: 103.94mOD**	
context	**Description**			**depth (bgl)**
500	*layer*	Topsoil – reinstated. Greyish brown /mid-brown silty clay loam. Seals (501).		0–0.18m
501	*layer*	Backfill over building. Fine yellow sand. Seals (502)		0.18-0.45m
502	*layer*	? Occupation / pre-building layer, in NE part of building. Mid-greyish brown sandy silt loam with occasional charcoal flecks. Seals (503)		0.45-0.55m
503	*natural*	Natural. Yellowish brown sandy silt, with common small-medium stone fragments.		0.55m+

TEST-PIT 6			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		**Max. depth: 0.60m**	**Ground level: 104.23mOD**	
context	**Description**			**depth (bgl)**
600	*layer*	Topsoil. Greyish brown /mid-brown silty clay loam. Rare stone inclusions. Seals (602).		0–0.30m
601	*layer*	Backfill over building, in S corner of test-pit only (below reinstated topsoil). Fine yellow sand. Seals (602)		0.20-0.30m
602	*layer*	? Demolition rubble / make-up, but densest along NW and SW sides of test-pit and may be part of wall foundations (of NW wall and internal wall respectively). Kentish Rag lumps (0.1 – 0.2m), in a mid-brown sandy silt loam matrix. Seals (604)		0.30-0.50m
603	*layer*	? Pre-building layer / make-up. Dark/mid-greyish brown sandy silt loam with occasional charcoal flecks. Seals (604)		0.50-0.60m
604	*natural*	Natural. Yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional small stone fragments.		0.60m+

TEST-PIT 7			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		**Max. depth: 0.54m**	**Ground level: 104.24mOD**	
context	**Description**			**depth (bgl)**
701	*layer*	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty clay loam. Rare stone inclusions Seals (702).		0–0.14m
702	*layer*	Subsoil. Greyish brown silty clay loam. Rare stone fragments 0.05-0.15m and occasional cbm. Seals (703).		0.14-0.32m
703	*layer*	? Post-building layer – external, at NW corner of building. Light greyish brown sandy silt loam with rare stone inclusions 0.05-0.1m. Occasional charcoal flecks and fired clay. Seals (704)		0.30-0.50m
704	*layer*	? Occupation layer / make-up – external, at NW corner of building. Mid-greyish brown silty loam with rare stone inclusions 0.05-0.1m. Common charcoal and fired clay flecks. Seals (604)		0.50-0.54m
705	*natural*	Natural. Yellowish brown sandy silt, with common small stone fragments.		0.54m+

TEST-PIT 8			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		**Max. depth: 0.20m**	**Ground level: 100.20mOD**	
context	**Description**			**depth (bgl)**
801	*layer*	Topsoil. Light yellowish grey silty clay loam. Rare stone inclusions Seals (802).		0–0.10m
802	*layer*	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay loam. Occasional stone fragments 0.05-0.15m. Some iron panning. Seals (703).		0.10-0.20m
803	*natural*	Natural. Yellowish, slightly reddish brown sandy silt, with common small stone fragments.		0.20m+

TEST-PIT 9			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		**Max. depth: 0.21m**	**Ground level: 99.35mOD**	
context	**Description**			**depth (bgl)**
901	*layer*	Topsoil. Light greyish brown silty clay loam. Occasional stone inclusions Seals (902).		0–0.10m
902	*layer*	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay loam. Rare stone fragments. At top of layer were two distinct lenses, one of chalk in SE quarter and another of charcoal which extended across most of test-pit; these may derive from the removal of a tree. Seals (903).		0.10-0.21m
903	*natural*	Natural. Yellowish brown sandy silt, with common small stone fragments.		0.21m+

TEST-PIT 10			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		**Max. depth: 0.25m**	**Ground level: 101.80mOD**	
context	**Description**			**depth (bgl)**
1000	*layer*	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay loam. Occasional stone inclusions Seals (802).		0–0.25m
1001	*natural*	Natural. Yellowish brown sandy silt, with rare small stone fragments.		0.25m+

TEST-PIT 11 **(southern extension to Test-pit 7)**			Type:	Hand Excavated
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		**Max. depth: 0.45m**	**Ground level: 104.16mOD**	
context	**Description**			**depth (bgl)**
1101	*layer*	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty clay loam; upper part more rooty. Rare stone inclusions. Seals (1102) / = (701).		0–0.18m
1102	*layer*	Subsoil. Greyish brown silty clay loam. Rare stone fragments 0.05-0.15m and occasional cbm. Seals (1103) / = (702).		0.18-0.33m
1103	*layer*	? Post-building layer – external, at NW corner of building. Light / mid-greyish brown sandy silt loam, with occasional charcoal flecks and fired clay. Mixed with rubble collapse from NW corner of building / wall (1104). Seals (1104) / = (703)		0.33-0.43m
1104	*wall*	Demolition rubble / wall, at NW corner of building. Kentish Rag lumps (0.1 – 0.3m), in a mid-brown sandy silt loam matrix.		0.3-0.43m+
1105	*natural*	Natural. Yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional small stone fragments.		0.55m+

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: wessexar1-130242

Project details

Project name	Fairlawne Estate: Phase 2 and 3 Investigations
Short description of the project	In October 2011 a further phase of archaeological investigation was undertaken on a Roman building, fairly certainly a villa, which lies within the portion of the pipeline routed through the Fairlawne Estate (NGR 429806 108171). A decision was subsequently taken to commission additional investigations into the nature of the, a geophysical survey and a series of hand-dug test-pits. A total of 11 test-pits were hand-dug, six within the building and a further five outside. The test-pits within or adjacent to the building confirmed its extent and layout, but also demonstrated that no hypocaust was present and no floor surfaces survived. The test-pits revealed shallow depths of topsoil and subsoil, and produced small quantities of finds. The investigation has allowed further clarification of the nature, date and function of the building, indicating that it comprised a simple form of corridor villa, constructed in the late 1st or early 2nd century AD and remaining in use with no modification until just before the middle of the 4th century. On the basis of this it will be possible to understand the building better within the context of the site itself, as well as within the local landscape of known villas and other Roman remains. The probable early development of the Fairlawne Estate villa can be seen as part of a more widespread process that led to land being brought into agricultural production following the Roman Conquest.
Project dates	Start: 17-08-2011 End: 01-12-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	74061 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	VILLA Roman
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	''Test Pits''

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING PLAXTOL Fairlawne Estate: Phase 2 and 3 Investigations
Postcode	TN11 9PT
Study area	3.70 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 600 534 51 0 51 15 24 N 000 17 35 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 99.15m Max: 103.61m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	R Greatorex
Project supervisor	Phil Andrews
Project supervisor	B Buss
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Fairlawne Estate
Physical Contents	''Animal Bones'',''Ceramics'',''Metal''
Digital Archive recipient	Fairlawne Estate

Digital Contents	''other''
Digital Media available	''Database'',''Images raster / digital photography'',''Survey'',''Text''
Paper Archive recipient	Fairlawne Estate
Paper Contents	''other''
Paper Media available	''Context sheet'',''Diary'',''Drawing'',''Plan'',''Report'',''Section''

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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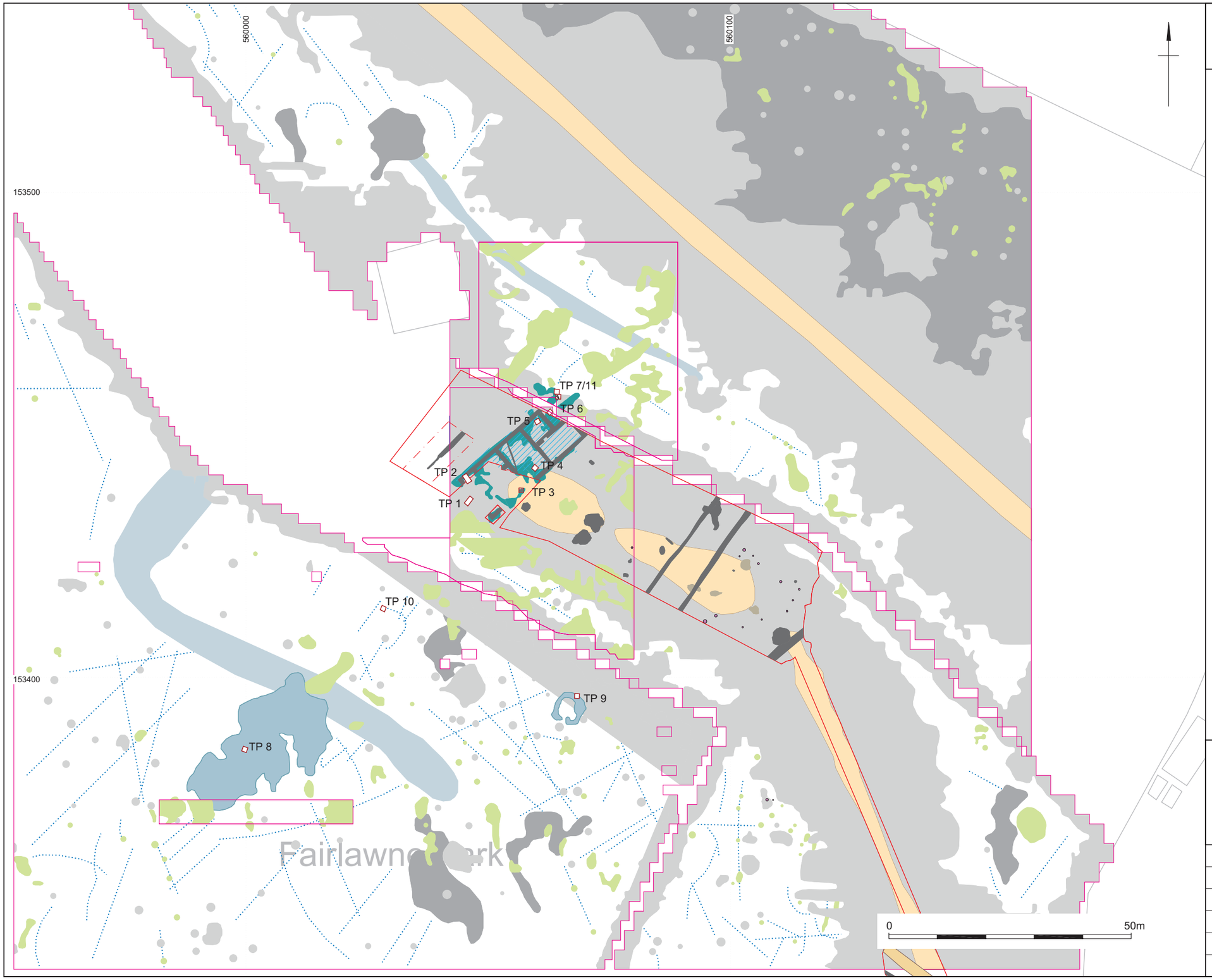

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- Roman villa
- Test pit
- Previous excavation area
- Archaeological feature

- Ground penetrating radar survey extents
- Archaeology
- Archaeology (layer)
- Possible archaeology
- Trend
- Superficial geology

- Detailed Gradiometer survey area
- Probable archaeology
- Possible archaeology
- Trend
- Increased magnetic response
- Ferrous
- Topographic feature
- Modern services

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Illustrator:	LJC/SEJ
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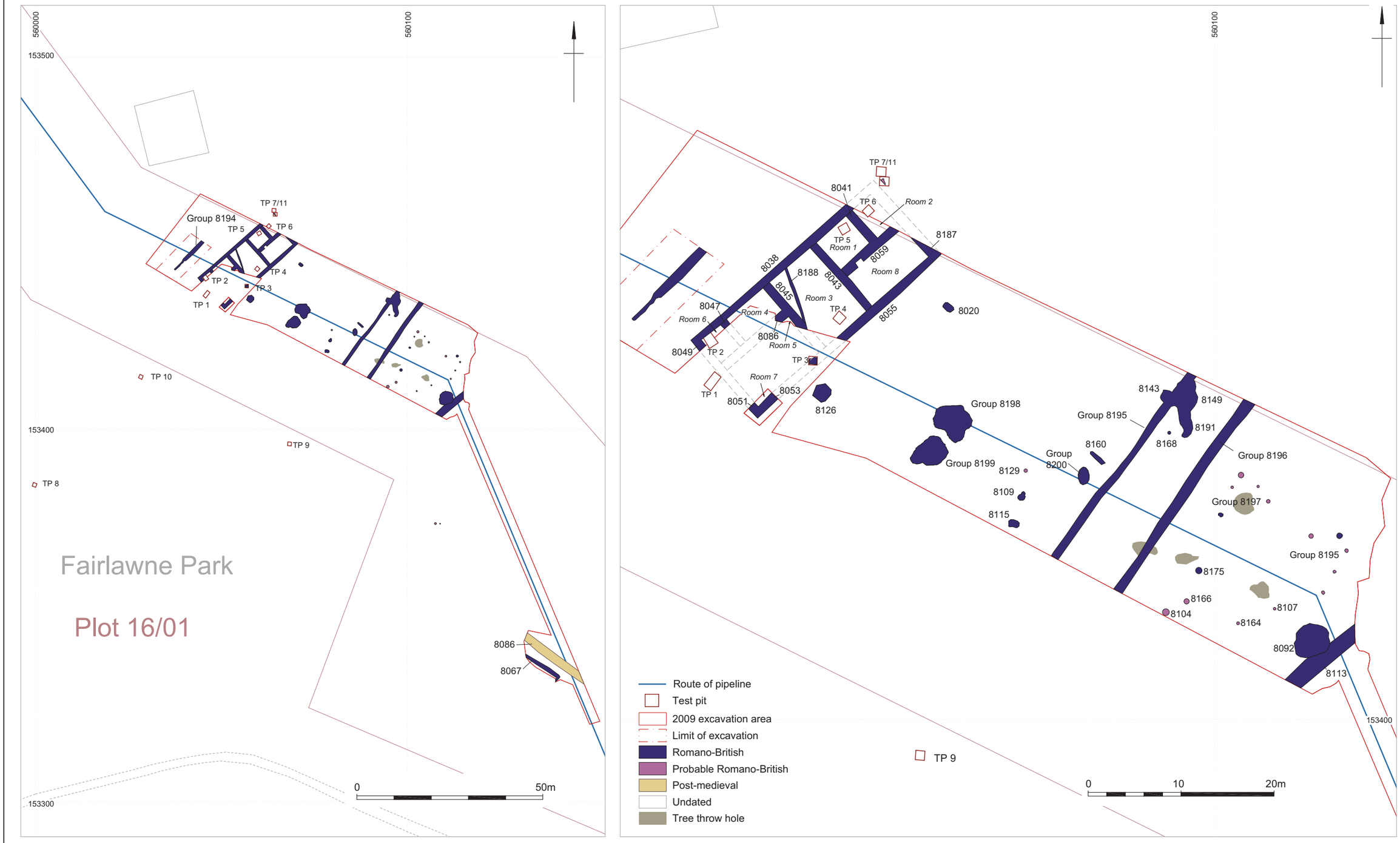
Site location plan with test-pit locations shown in relation to geophysical survey results

Figure 1



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Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\74061\Drawing Office\Report Figs\TPeval\74061_TPeval.dwg		

Phase plan of Fairlawne Estate Roman building and adjacent areas, (Plot 16/01, 2009)

Figure 2

Plate 1: General view showing the setting of Roman building (position indicated by vehicle and test-pits) and remains of post-medieval field terracing (view from north-west)

Plate 2: General view showing test pits in progress. The figure in test-pit 7 in foreground is at the north-west corner of the building and the figure standing in background (test-pit 2) is at the south-west corner (view from east)

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Plate 3: Test-pit 2; demolition rubble (205), sealing possible occupation deposit (206) with outcrop of natural rock (208) to right (from north-east)

Plate 4: Test-pit 2; pivot stone (for door?) from rubble (205)

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Plate 5: Test-pit 3; inner edge of wall footings (302) of south-eastern wall (from north-east)

Plate 6: Test-pits 7 and 11; remains of north-west corner (1104) of building showing dislodged quoin (scale=1m; from the south)

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