

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

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**Excavations at Ilchester, Somerset 1986-88**

**A Research Design for Post-Excavation  
Analysis and Publication**

by

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## 1.0 Introduction

This report provides an assessment of the results of three excavation projects undertaken at Ilchester, Somerset between 1986 and 1988, with a view to their research and analysis for publication. The proposals are presented within the framework recommended by English Heritage in The Management of Archaeology Projects 2, 1991.

The projects arose in successive years 1986-88, as a result of development proposals affecting different areas within the historic settlement at Ilchester. At this time efforts were underway to encourage material support from developers of archaeological sites in Somerset, by English Heritage, Somerset County Council and the District Planning Authority. In these instances a degree of success was achieved in the support for the field elements through contributions from landowners, Somerset County Council, local charitable education trusts, and University of Birmingham Training Excavations for Archaeology undergraduates. Under the aegis of Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit the resources available were sufficient to undertake the fieldwork and to prepare the archives for each site, but could not support a further programme of analysis and interpretation for the purposes of full publication.

Prior to this, English Heritage and previously the Department of Environment, had funded a series of rescue excavations as well as site evaluations in and around Ilchester, most recently in 1985. Subsequently, and notably with the support of PPG16, site owners or developers have normally met the full costs of their proposals upon any archaeological resource affected here. Publication of all EH/DoE funded projects at Ilchester has now been achieved: Ilchester Volume 1 1982, and Volume 2 (work to 1984) currently in press; Excavations in 1985, Leach and Ellis 1992. The three sites featured in this proposal have to some extent fallen between the two stools of EH/DoE, and full developer funding for evaluation or rescue archaeology, which is now the norm. This application is made to redress this particular problem, but also to enable the publication of further important data which complements that considerable corpus already published for Ilchester.

## 2.0 Site Narratives

### 2.1 Great Yard

Excavations were conceived as an evaluation within an area bounding the western perimeter of Ilchester known as Great Yard (Fig. 1). Proposals for residential development led to exploratory excavations in this area in 1985 (Leach and Ellis 1992), and the evaluation of this second phase of the development in 1987. At this time the owners were Trinity College Cambridge, principal sponsors of the 1987 works. The excavations of 1985 were confined mainly to the east of Priory Road, centring upon the Roman and medieval town defences, and funded wholly by English Heritage. The remains of a western suburb of Roman Ilchester were strongly suspected to lie within the eastern half of the Great Yard field, a portion of which was assigned for a second phase of development.

A geophysical survey (magnetometer) by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory of this area in 1983 had been inconclusive, due to modern surface debris, and trial trenching was adopted to sample the extent and character of archaeological remains across the area of approximately 1/3 hectre. Over a six week period, six area excavations of between 25-30m<sup>2</sup> obtained a relatively full sample of the archaeology within each. In retrospect this level of investigation was fortuitous, since no further archaeological work was possible on the site and development has now taken place.

Although none of the six trenches was physically linked in excavation it is possible to distinguish three main phases of Roman activity and a post-Roman phase, throughout (Fig. 2). (1) The earliest discernible events of human origin involved the excavation of deep pits through overlying alluvium to quarry gravel deposits beneath. A broad north-south aligned ditch may be contemporary with this phase but contained no datable finds. One of the quarry pits contained an important collection of late first-century pottery and artefacts, including environmental material. This phase is thought to represent Flavian military activity at Ilchester and its subsequent abandonment. (2) The next major phase represented here appears to follow a hiatus from the late first century to the mid or late 2nd century AD. Thereafter, a north-south street was laid out, industrial features and at least one stone-founded building stood nearby to the east. (3) By the later 3rd and throughout the 4th century, activity in this suburb intensified. At least three further stone-founded buildings were located, one encroaching upon the north-south street, which moved westwards in this later phase of definition. Further north a 3rd-century boundary ditch was cut by a 4th-century inhumation burial, possibly representing a small cemetery in this area. (4) The post-Roman period is represented only by 12th and 13th-century stone robbing of the Roman structures, a medieval boundary ditch, and some post-medieval yards and boundary features.

## 2.2 Almshouse Lane

A small residential development in gardens behind Church Street and adjacent to Almshouse Lane prompted an area excavation of the designated house plot site in 1988 (Fig.1). Total excavation of a c.10 x 8m area was envisaged, although not fully achieved for the earliest deposits. The project was undertaken concurrently with a second phase of work at Dolphin Lane (2.3) for a six week period, resourced primarily as a University of Birmingham undergraduate training excavation and supported by the site owner and other local organisations.

Opportunities to examine archaeological sequences within the central area of Ilchester have been relatively uncommon and this site lies adjacent to an area sampled and subsequently recorded in watching briefs in 1980 and 1983-4 at Manor House. Those projects were funded by the Department of the Environment and are about to be published (Leach 1993, in press). In this instance it was envisaged that the former course of the medieval Almshouse Lane, which crossed the site, would provide an opportunity to sample any flanking medieval structures and perhaps preserve earlier Roman remains in rather better condition beneath it.

From the sequence of deposits (over 2m thick in places) and the associated finds, three broad phases of the Romano-British town and two of medieval Ilchester were recognised here (Fig. 3). (1) The earliest phase was a series of deposits containing late 1st and 2nd-century pottery and finds, but no coherent structures could be discerned. (2) Later in the 2nd century the foundations of a stone-founded building impinged upon the site from the northeast. This appears to have been extended further to the south west during the 3rd century, by which time at least six small rooms of a larger structure (Building II) could be recognised. (3) Later in the 3rd century Building II appears to have been demolished and replaced by another structure (Building I), whose northeast corner and surrounding yards were encountered here. This new layout and a sequence of exterior deposits and surfaces demonstrates a continuity of activity throughout the 4th century.

(4) The decay and indeed abandonment of the Roman town is well represented here by c. 0.5m of debris and dark soil, preserved fortuitously by the siting of the medieval forerunner to Almshouse Lane here. Pottery beneath the cobbled street's makeup suggests an 11th/12th-century layout, with successive build up and use until its diversion to the north in the 19th century. (5) The northern half of the area uncovered lay beyond the margin of the medieval street. No medieval structures were recorded here but the profusion of 12th and 13th-century pits suggest a back yard area for properties fronting onto Church Street. The contrast between Roman remains preserved beneath the medieval street and those affected by rubbish pit excavation was very marked. Cumulative deposits of soil and debris sealing these medieval horizons represent further rubbish disposal and probably cultivation, up until recent times.

### 2.3 Dolphin Lane

The potential for the development of a triangular area of vacant ground between Church Street and High Street, Ilchester prompted a small exploratory excavation here in 1986 (Fig. 1). Two small trenches cut at the north and south extremities of the site revealed Romano-British features extensively disturbed by medieval pit excavation. A combination of local input and funding with resources made available by the Universities of Birmingham and Durham, facilitated this two week excavation.

Subsequently in 1988, the opportunity provided by work at Almshouse Lane enabled a further phase of work on an enlargement of the northern trench (Trench II) at Dolphin Lane. The main objective in 1988 was to prove and explore more fully the segment of a cross street and its immediate boundaries within the Roman town, partly exposed in 1986 (Fig. 4).

Taken together, the results from both seasons here demonstrate a sequence of road use, probably extending into the early post-Roman period, as well as the medieval and later activity. The earliest gravel cobbled street may originate in the 1st century but it was not closely datable. Subsequent re-surfacings eventually resulted in an accumulation of 1.5m of successive stone flag or flint cobble cambered roads, aligned WNW-ESE and up to 5m wide. kerb stones, wheel ruts and several phases of drains flanking the road's southern edge, survived in places. The robbed-out walls of stone-

founded buildings were set close to the road's edge on both sides. These were probably of late 3rd or early 4th-century construction but had disturbed deposits containing 2nd-century material - the suspected remains of earlier roadside structures. In Trench I (1986) to the south, the badly robbed and disturbed remains of another stone-founded building were recorded on the same alignment as the street. Earlier 2nd-century levels were also encountered here.

The latest phase of road use is undated but suggests intermittent repairs to a heavily silted surface, which was finally cut along its central axis by a shallow drainage ditch, probably after the 4th century. Late Saxon rejuvenation of Ilchester is marked by the robbing of stone from the Roman buildings and rubbish pit excavation; a process continuing until the 13th century, and intermittently into the 18th century. These activities caused extensive damage to the Romano-British remains, although the very compact road sequences offered some resistance and had survived relatively well.

### 3.0 Assessment of the Paper Archives

The site archive for each site was ordered and filed following each episode of fieldwork and is currently housed by BUFAU. It comprises pro-forma context record forms, scale field drawings (pencil) on drawing film, filed and indexed sets of colour slide, colour print and black and white photographs, and a basic finds record relating bulk finds categories to contexts. Further miscellaneous material includes project documentation, correspondence, reference material and offprints. The material is quantified as follows for each site.

#### 3.1 Great Yard 1987

Feature Records	:	30	
Context Records	:	129	- 1 File
Field Drawings (A4 format)	:	25	Drawing and Survey Records - 1 File
Field Drawings (A3 & A2 format)	:	25	- 1 Folder
Photographs (36 exposure films):			
Mono	x	3	films
Colour Slide	x	6	films
Colour Print	x	5	films
			- 2 Files
Primary Finds Record	:	Context Summaries, Material index, Box contents	
			- 1 File

#### 3.2 Almshouse Lane 1988

Feature Records	:	37	
Context Records	:	70	- 1 File
Site notebook			
Field Drawings			
Plans and Sections (A4 & A3 format):		28	- 1 File

Drawing and Survey records	:		- 1 File
Photographs (36 Exposure films)	:		
Mono	x 2 films		
Colour Slide	x 8 films		
Colour Print	x 11 films		
			- 2 files
Primary Finds Record	:	Context Summaries, Material Index, Box contents	
			- 1 File

### 3.3 Dolphin Lane 1986 & 1988

Feature Records	:	42	
Context Records	:	132	
Site Notebook			
Field Drawings, plans and sections			
A4 format)	:	14	
Drawing and Survey records			- 1 File
Field Drawings (A3/A2 format)	:	55	- 1 Folder
Photographs (36 exposure films)	:		
Mono	x 1 film		
Colour slide	x 9 films		
Colour print	x 3 films		
			- 1 File
Primary Finds Record	:	Context summaries, Material index, Box contents	
			- 1 File

### 4.0 Assessment of Finds and Environmental Data

The assemblages of artefacts and associated samples recovered from all three sites represent a significant group of material relating to both the Roman and medieval urban settlements at Ilchester. The bulk have been recovered from discrete and well stratified contexts, although the degree of mixing increases inevitably within features and deposits of more recent age. Preservation is for the most part good and sometimes excellent. Pottery/ceramic, glass, metalwork, bone and carbonised material all survive well in neutral or slightly calcareous soil environments, particularly where deeply buried and not subjected to redeposition. Waterlogged environments are uncommon but occur in the bottoms of deep features cut below current watertable levels. The value and context of this material is much enhanced with reference to other published collections from Ilchester and its hinterland.

The quantified assemblages recovered from each excavation are provided below, with brief assessments thereafter of requirements and procedures applicable to each of the category groups combined for all three sites, and the names of specialist contributors in brackets.

4.1 Great Yard 1987

MATERIAL	CATEGORIES	QUANTITY	BOXES
Pottery	Romano-British	7765	5
	Samian and other imports	318	-
	Medieval and post-Medieval	26	1
Fired Clay	Romano-British Tile	182	3
	Daub/artefacts	26	-
Worked Stone	Worked/artefacts	43	-
	Flint	5	-
	Plaster/mortar	26	-
Glass	Vessels and window fragments and beads	34	-
Metalwork	Coins	82	-
	Brooches	4	-
	Cu alloy	37	-
	Lead and Silver	5	-
	Iron	65	-
	Slag	c.30 kgs	2
Worked Bone	Artefacts	16	-
Ecofacts	Animal Bone	-	4
	Human Bone	1 skeleton	1
	Shell	c.50	-
	Charcoal/soil	5 samples	1



4.2 Almshouse Lane

MATERIAL	CATEGORIES	QUANTITY	BOXES
Pottery	Prehistoric	12	-
	Romano-British	2552*	8
	Samian and other imports	463	-
	Medieval and post-Medieval	618*	2
Fired Clay	Romano-British Tile and Daub	c.73kg.	7
	Artefacts	6	-
Stone	Worked/artefacts	38	-
	Plaster/mortar	6	-
	Flint	6	-
Glass	Vessel, window and beads	33	-
Metalwork	Coins	78	
	Copper alloy	62	
	Brooches	4	
	Lead	5	
	Iron	56	
	Slag	2	
Worked Bone	Artefacts	29	
Ecofacts	Animal Bones & shell	-	9
	Charcoal/coal	14 samples	

\* 25% sample of total

#### 4.3 Dolphin Lane 1986 and 1988

MATERIAL	CATEGORIES	QUANTITY	BOXES
Pottery	Romano-British	1581	2
	Samian and other imports	65	-
	Medieval and post-Medieval	2019	3
Fired Clay	Roman Tile and Daub	148	2 Boxes
	Artefacts	8	-
Stone	Worked pieces/ artefacts	36	-
	Flint	7	-
	Plaster/mortar	3	-
Glass	Vessel and window fragments	17	-
Metalwork	Coins	30	-
	Copper alloy	21	-
	Lead	2	-
	Iron	71	-
	Slag	c.25 kgs.	-
Worked Bone	Artefacts	6	-
Ecofacts	Animal Bone	-	3
	Shell	-	1
	Charcoal/coal samples	5	-

#### 4.4 Pottery

Prehistoric A handful of Pre-Roman Age sherds were identified during excavation and a few others may come to light during detailed processing of the Roman pottery. Although all apparently from residual contexts a brief report should document them all and relate them to other published material at Ilchester (Dr. Ann Woodward, BUFAU)

Romano-British The Roman pottery assemblages from Great Yard and Dolphin Lane have already been sorted and quantified in the course of a post-graduate research project which has updated a fabric and form type series

for Ilchester's Roman pottery. It would be a considerable contribution to this project as a whole if a summary of this classification can be published with reports from these particular sites. This classification will be the basis of form and fabric quantifications applied to all three assemblages. The Almshouse Lane group has yet to be sorted and quantified but is likely to provide a good town-centre sequence from the 2nd to late 4th century. All three site assemblages will be closely comparable with types and sequences already published, thus economising upon the level of their analysis and presentations in these reports. Two important late 1st-century pit groups at Great Yard will require fuller publication in view of their potential close dating and military associations. The opportunity exists here for comparison between central urban and suburban pottery groups, particularly once again with reference to earlier published groups from both zones in Ilchester. (Dr. Jeremy Evans)

Samian and other imported wares Approximately 700 fragments of Samian sherds were recovered, the majority in good condition and from Roman contexts. There are over 100 decorated fragments and perhaps 15-20 stamps; one has a graffiti. A detailed catalogue by form, fabric and decoration, etc. will be required (Brenda Dickinson).

Amphora Approximately 80 fragments were recovered, almost all from Great Yard, and a significant number from early contexts. One has a graffiti and one a stamped handle (David Williams). The graffiti noted, and any other which may come to light should be referred to Dr. Roger Tomlin.

Mortaria These have not yet been separately quantified within the assemblages but will be analysed with the remainder of the coarse pottery. Any stamps will be referred to Kay Hartley (Dr. Jeremy Evans).

Medieval The medieval assemblages from Almshouse Lane and Dolphin Lane groups derive primarily from 11th-13th century rubbish pits. Several substantial groups from completely emptied pits were recovered in association with other material. The Dolphin Lane groups have already been classified and quantified according to an Ilchester form and fabric type series already established (Pearson in Leach 1982). Similar groups at Almshouse Lane remain to be sorted.

As for the Roman pottery these assemblages are closely comparable with types and sequences already published for Ilchester, thus providing valuable complementary material but at the same time permitting economies in the level of their analysis and presentation (Stephanie Ratkai).

Post Medieval Pottery Two 18th-century pit groups from Dolphin Lane and other material at Almshouse Lane provide an opportunity to publish useful post-medieval assemblages from the town. Previous publications have barely featured such material and its range and character is not well documented for Ilchester. A fabric and form series for Ilchester based upon this material should be presented. (Stephanie Ratkai)

#### 4.5 Fired Clay

No systematic study of Roman tile at Ilchester has previously been attempted and the considerable assemblages from Almshouse Lane and Great Yard, in particular, would provide convenient and relatively well stratified groups for study.

A small group of artefacts - spindle whorls, counters and daub will require cataloguing and a brief summary for publication. (Lynne Bevan, BUFAU)

#### 4.6 Worked Stone

Of 117 items, just over half are roof tile or building stone fragments, spindle whorls, shale objects and counters, and a Neolithic polished stone axe comprise the rest. Relatively little attention has been given to sources of Roman or Medieval stone at Ilchester in previous publications and this collection is of sufficient size and range for useful study. Typological comparisons are facilitated by a substantial published comparanda from Ilchester and its neighbourhood, principally from Romano-British contexts. The stone axe has already been sectioned and a report is forthcoming (Fiona Roe).

#### Flint

The small collection of Prehistoric flints are worthy of cataloguing and a brief summary report, in the context of previously published material (Lynne Bevan, BUFAU).

#### Plaster/Mortar

No analysis of Roman wall plaster or mortar samples have previously been attempted for material from Ilchester, although the assemblage from these three sites together is rather sparse. An analysis and catalogue could provide the basis for a brief publication summary (Graham Morgan).

#### 4.7 Glass

The majority of 84 fragments of glass recovered appear to be of Roman manufacture and include vessel, window glass and a few beads, although a handful may be of more modern manufacture. Comparative Roman groups are already published for Ilchester, with which this small assemblage can be usefully compared. A full catalogue and summary report for publication is required (Dr. Jennifer Price/Sally Cotham)

#### 4.8 Metalwork

A programme of conservation will be required initially for all the metalwork, although no extensive work is envisaged. In many instances minimal cleaning should be sufficient, combined as appropriate with X-ray examination and any metal or residues analysis (Margaret Brooks).

### Coins

Nearly 200 coins come from three excavations, the great majority being Roman issues. Identification of the minority from well stratified contexts will assist in dating the excavated sequences. Identification, quantification and tabulation of these and the remainder will be of enhanced value in the context of previous publication and the overall profile of Ilchester's Roman coinage in a regional and national context (Stephen Minnit).

### Brooches

Eight copper alloy brooches or fragments will be studied and reported upon, supplementing the much larger corpus of brooches already published from Ilchester (Don Mackreth).

### Copper Alloy Objects

The 120 objects from all three sites comprise personal ornaments, dress fittings, toilet accessories, fittings and mounts, and various miscellaneous items; almost all of Romano-British type. Many are fragmentary and not always readily identifiable. Approximately 50% will require some analysis and illustration for publication, the remainder needing only basic cataloguing and summary publication. Once again, published comparanda from Ilchester is available and may permit economies in the analysis and presentation of this material, as well as contributing to a wider corpus (Iain Ferris, BUFAU).

### Lead and Silver

Among this small group of 12 items only the two silver rings should require more detailed analysis and illustration for publication. The lead comprises scraps, waste and some discs or washers and require no more than basic cataloguing and a brief summary for publication (Iain Ferris, BUFAU).

### Ironwork

At least 192 iron objects were recovered from the three sites comprising both Roman and medieval material, of which over 60% are nails. Among the remaining collection are tools, including knives, awls and chisels and a sickle; fittings, including keys, door furnishings, hooks and chain, clamps, spikes and lynch pins, and a 'hippo sandal'. Many of the latter will require illustration and publication, with reference to already published comparanda from Ilchester and further afield. Several will require X-ray and probably cleaning or stabilisation prior to analysis, although most of the material is in fairly good condition. The remaining material will require basic cataloguing and summary for publication (Iain Ferris, BUFAU).

### Slag and Metalworking Residues

Up to 50kg of slag has been recovered from both Roman and medieval contexts, although the separate identity of later material may be difficult to establish. A potentially interesting group from a Roman building at Great Yard may repay further analysis, and a complete medieval crucible

with metalworking residues from Almshuse Lane should be reported on. All the slag will require some level of examination and at least a summary report for publication (David Starley).

#### 4.9 Worked Bone

Among 51 items of worked bone the most common were hairpins, needles and counters. These, and a few other artefacts require cataloguing with reference to other published material from Ilchester and further afield. The majority of pieces are Romano-British types and a few will require more detailed analysis to accompany an illustrated selection (Lynne Bevan, BUFAU).

#### 4.10 Ecofacts

##### Animal Bone

There are 16 boxes of animal bone from the three sites, all of which was collected from stratified contexts. No collection of material was made from undifferentiated layers containing mixed Romano-British, medieval and Post-medieval finds, except where discrete pits were excavated. Most of the bone survives in good condition, but no sieving was undertaken during the excavations or samples taken for this purpose. No detailed assessment of the assemblages has yet been undertaken but three particular groups are identified as having potential for analysis, representing approximately 50% of the total collection. In addition, the whole assemblage should be scanned and a basic archive catalogue has been prepared with a brief summary for publication.

Virtually all of the bone from Great Yard is from phased Romano-British contexts and may be compared with contemporary assemblages published previously from Ilchester. That from the earliest phases would probably be most worthwhile (2 Boxes), and in this context it should be noted that collections of material from similar and contemporary sources excavated in 1985 in the south western suburbs of Ilchester (3 Boxes) which were not analysed for that report (Leach and Ellis 1982,52) could usefully be included in a programme for reporting the 1987 material.

At Almshouse Lane one late Roman assemblage (2 Boxes) would repay analysis with, once again, comparative published material from the town in view. Medieval pit groups at both Almshouse Lane (1 Box) and Dolphin Lane (2 Boxes) are of sufficient size for worthwhile analysis - the degree of Roman contamination appears not to be too significant in selected instances. Once again, useful published analyses of comparative medieval assemblages from Ilchester are available, the value of which should be enhanced by these further analyses (Stephanie Pinter-Bellows).

##### Shell

This was collected on all three sites (quantities equivalent to 3 Boxes), notably from the medieval pits within the town, but also derived from Romano-British contexts. The majority appear to be Oyster and should be

catalogued for the archive and a brief summary prepared for publication (Stephanie Pinter-Bellows).

#### Human Bone

One articulated late Roman burial, formerly within a wooden coffin, was excavated at Great Yard. This was relatively complete and should be fully reported. A few additional disarticulated remains may require a basic archive catalogue and a brief summary for publication (Stephanie Pinter-Bellows).

#### Charcoal/Coal and Soil Samples

A few small samples of charcoal and coal were collected from Romano-British and medieval contexts but are probably not worthy of further analysis or documentation. Five soil samples from a late 1st-century pit and a subsequent industrial feature associated with it contain carbonised plant remains. None have been subjected to detailed assessment but most were taken to obtain further information relating to the Roman industrial feature here. Samples from the underlying pit could be compared with contemporary samples taken in 1985 in the south western suburbs of Ilchester, which like the animal bone (above), could not then be analysed as part of the subsequent site report (Leach and Ellis 1992, 52). In view of its comparative value this 1985 material (10 samples) should be combined with a programme for the 1987 samples. Some published comparanda for Ilchester is already available but the analysis of further samples from secure and well dated contexts such as these would contribute significantly to an appreciation of Roman Ilchester's agricultural economy and palaeoecology (Vanessa Straker).

### 5.0 Post Excavation Research Design

#### 5.1 Results and Research Potential

These three excavations are, to date, almost the last in a programme of archaeological excavation and research at Ilchester, extending back to the late 1960s. Although quite restricted in area, the two town-centre sites provide valuable and relatively complete sequences of Roman and medieval stratigraphy from areas rarely available for excavation. The data and sequences at Almshouse Lane and Dolphin Lane can be usefully compared with those at Kingshams (Leach 1982), and at several other smaller sites around the central urban area (Leach 1993, in press). Both make significant contributions to questions of the layout and development of the Roman town (Burnham and Wachter 1990), as well as providing further comparative economic and social data relevant to medieval Ilchester. At Great Yard the results are an important supplement to those recently published for Castle Farm (Leach and Ellis 1992) and throw more light upon this relatively unknown western suburb of Roman Ilchester.

In the context of previous archaeological work undertaken and published for the historic settlements, the finds and other data collected at these latest sites can be readily related to more extensive corpora or data. On the one hand this permits certain economies of presentation, while on the

other provides complementary information to enhance the value of that already available.

## 5.2 Site Specific Objectives

These may be defined with reference to the foregoing site summaries (Section 2.0) and finds assemblage summaries (Section 4). The creation of chronological site sequences combining stratigraphic, artefact and ecofactual data to create a coherent illustrated narrative for each excavation will be a primary objective. Analysis, illustration and reporting of finds, as outlined in Section 4, will complement that objective as well as contributing to more extensive corpora of assemblages from Ilchester. Together, these programmes will enable a proper evaluation of all three sites and their contribution to the wider and long term objective of studying historic Ilchester, its urban development, economy and hinterland.

At Great Yard the excavated sample is sufficient in scope to provide an outline of the development and economy of this hitherto unexplored Roman suburb of Ilchester, and suggest something of its layout. There is opportunity for both structural and artifact comparisons between this suburb and those to the south and southwest of the town (Leach 1982), as well as with data obtained from the urban core area (Leach 1982 and 1993, in press), and indeed from the immediately adjacent published site at Castle Farm (Leach and Ellis 1992). This in turn should contribute to the wider study of Romano-British suburban functions and development (Esmonde-Cleary 1987). More specifically there are good and well sealed late 1st-century finds assemblages of potential military association which seem to be matched in the southwest suburbs (Leach and Ellis 1992). Attention has been drawn to the potential for completing environmental analyses from that site (Pill Bridge Lane) with the contemporary assemblages from Great Yard (4.10, above).

Within the town, Almshouse Lane produced one of the best recorded sequences of Romano-British structures and artefacts from such a locality at Ilchester, despite the relatively small sample size. Of particular importance were the late and early post-Roman deposits, which in most places have been destroyed or extensively disturbed by medieval activity. Other groups of data from the central urban zone are published (Leach 1982, and 1993, in press) against which the Almshouse Lane material can be assessed, as well as contributing its own data towards a better understanding of the character and development of the Roman town centre. Within the context of this research design the data from Dolphin Lane is a useful extension, notably the investigation of the street, which appears to span the full range of urban settlement and into the early post-Roman period. Once again, both sites are potential contributors to the wider debate concerning Romano-British urban civitas development, notably in the later period, where the evidence at Ilchester appears to conform more closely to the patterns of expansion suggested for smaller towns (Millet 1990).

Evidence of the medieval town related primarily to rubbish pit excavation and the robbing of earlier Roman structures at both Almshouse Lane and Dolphin Lane. Several good assemblages of artefacts, notably pottery, were recovered and are worthy of detailed study. Once again, the context of



previously published data from Ilchester (op cit) enhances their value, which thus complements what is already known.

## 6.0 Publication Synopsis

### 6.1 Introduction

The scale of these projects and previous practice suggests that their publication would be most appropriate in the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society. This would be achieved either as a single paper, combining as sub-sections all three sites, or better as two papers, combining Almshouse Lane and Dolphin Lane, with Great Yard as a separate contribution. In either case each site will be presented with introductory and methodological sections (combined for Almshouse Lane and Dolphin Lane), separate site narratives, and combined finds and environmental reports. Line illustrations will be integrated to the relevant sections and a small selection of photographs included. The use of reduced-size print for certain sections, e.g. context or specialist report detail, will avoid the use of microfiche. Interpretative discussion chapters will consider the two town centre sites together, with a separate section for the suburban site.

### 6.2 The Text

Titles of papers: 'Ilchester Archaeology: Excavations in the town at Almshouse Lane 1988 and Dolphin Lane 1986 and 1988'. by Peter Leach and Alex Jones; and 'Ilchester Archaeology: Excavations in the Western suburbs at Great Yard 1987' by Alex Jones.

Contributions (to both) by Lynne Bevan, Brenda Dickinson, Rachel Edwards, Jeremy Evans, Iain Ferris, Don Mackreth, Graham Morgan, Stephanie Pinter-Bellows, Jenny Price/Sally Cotham, Stephanie Ratkai, Fiona Roe, David Starley, Vanessa Straker, Ann Woodward and David Williams.

#### Introduction

Background and circumstances of excavation; research aims; the sites and their setting; summaries  
(3000 words, 3 figures - all sites).

#### Methodology

Site and finds recording procedures, records and archive, analytical procedures  
(1000 words - all sites).

#### Site Narratives

Great Yard 1987	6000 words, 6 figures, 6 photographs and 1 table
Almshouse Lane 1988	6000 words, 4 figures, 3 photographs
Dolphin Lane 1986-88	4000 words, 4 figures, 4 photographs and 1 table

The Finds (all sites)

Roman pottery by Dr. Jeremy Evans and Lynne Bevan, with contributions by B.Dickinson, R. Edwards and D.Williams.

As an introduction to the individual site assemblages a summary of the revised Ilchester Type Fabric and Form series (by Rachel Edwards) would be presented. Thereafter the reports will provide a brief description of the aims and methodology of analysis and the size and quality of the assemblages. Form and fabric quantifications by site and period will be presented, using tables where appropriate. A general discussion of the assemblages will draw comparisons between these and other published Ilchester material and discuss the wider regional context. Up to 50-60 sherds will require illustration, many types having already been illustrated previously. Certain groups, notably from the 1st-century pits at Great Yard and a late Roman assemblage at Almshouse Lane, may merit fuller discussion and illustration.

6000 words and tables; 7 figures, including charts/graphs).

- Fired Clay by Lynne Bevan (500 words; 1 figure)  
Worked Stone by Fiona Roe (1000 words, 1 figure)  
Flint by Lynne Bevan (200 words, 2 illustrations)  
Plaster/Mortar by Graham Morgan (200 words)  
Glass by Jenny Price and Sally Cotham (500 words, figure)  
Metalwork by Iain Ferris, with contributions by Don Mackreth (brooches), Stephen Minnit (coins) and David Starley (slag) (4000 words, 3 figures)  
Worked Bone by Lynne Bevan (500 words, figure)  
Animal Bone and Shell by Stephanie Pinter-Bellows (2000 words and tables, 2 figures)  
Human Bone by Stephanie Pinter-Bellows (200 words, 1 photograph)  
Plant Remains by Vanessa Straker (2000 words and tables, 1 figure).

General Discussion (all sites)

Review of the results and their local significance for Ilchester and in the context of wider social and economic models - Romano-British and medieval; further research or methodological opportunities. This section is subdivided according to the final presentation of the published reports. (6000 words, 2 figures).

## Bibliography

For all sites and specialist contributions (1000 words).

Estimated total words 44 000

Estimated total figures 35

Estimated total photographs 14

7.0 Cascade and Provisional Costing (see separate sheets)

## 8.0 References

- Burnham B. and Wachter J. 1990 The Small Towns of Roman Britain  
Batsford
- Esmonde-Cleary, S. 1987 Extra Mural Areas of Romano-British Towns  
Oxford
- Leach P. 1982 Ilchester Volume 1 Excavations 1974-5  
Bristol
- Leach P. 1993, in press Ilchester Volume 2 Archaeology, Excavations  
and Fieldwork to 1984  
Sheffield
- Leach P. and Ellis P. 1992 'Ilchester Archaeology: Excavation on the  
Western Defences and Suburbs, 1985'  
Somerset Archaeology and Natural History  
Volume 135, 1991
- Millet, M. 1990 The Romanization of Britain  
Cambridge

Name	Start Planned Rev/act	End Planned Rev/act	Status	CP	Resrc	Cost				
						Actual (+) To-Date	Cost (=) To-Cmpl	Latest (vs) Estimate	Orig (=) Plan	Ahead (Behind)
Total project	11-02-93	29-05-95	Total cost			0	52,432	52,432	52,432	0

Name	Resrc	Cost				
		Actual (+) To-Date	Cost (=) To-Cmpl	Latest (vs) Estimate	Orig (=) Plan	Ahead (Behind)

Resource summary

Name	Units	Amount	Resrc	Actual (+) To-Date	Cost (=) To-Cmpl	Latest (vs) Estimate	Orig (=) Plan	Ahead (Behind)
Peter Leach	days	149	PL	0	10,579	10,579	10,579	0
Alex Jones	days	72	AJ	0	4,752	4,752	4,752	0
Lynne Ryan	days	69	LR	0	8,625	8,625	8,625	0
Margaret Brook	days		MB	0	0	0	0	0
Finna Roe	days	80	FR	0	400	400	400	0
Braham Morgan	days	150	BM	0	150	150	150	0
Jennifer Price	days		JP	0	0	0	0	0
Steve Minnitt	days	100	SM	0	300	300	300	0
Donald McKeath	days		DM	0	0	0	0	0
Iain Farris	days	118	IF	0	1,770	1,770	1,770	0
Stephanie Pint	days	60	SP	0	1,650	1,650	1,650	0
Vanessa Strake	days		VS	0	0	0	0	0
David Starley	days		DS	0	0	0	0	0
Jeremy Evans	days	80	JE	0	1,360	1,360	1,360	0
David Williams	days		DW	0	0	0	0	0
Brenda Dickins	days		BD	0	0	0	0	0
Stephanie Fall	days	85	SF	0	2,550	2,550	2,550	0
Jane Evans	days	107	CE	0	321	321	321	0
Kay Hartley	days	80	KH	0	160	160	160	0
Computing Assi	days	50	CA	0	900	900	900	0
Nigel Dadds	days	66	ND	0	1,914	1,914	1,914	0
Mark Breason	days	57	MB	0	1,675	1,675	1,675	0
Ann Woodward	days	160	AW	0	480	480	480	0
Elisabeth Hoop	days	112	EH	0	336	336	336	0
Simon Buteux	cost	1	SB	0	2,240	2,240	2,240	0
Jackie Pearson	cost	1	JFP	0	1,360	1,360	1,360	0
Ann Humphries	cost	1	AH	0	780	780	780	0
Office Costs	cost	1	OC	0	1,200	1,200	1,200	0
Travel	cost	1	TR	0	500	500	500	0
Equipment & Ma	cost	1	EM	0	600	600	600	0
Photography	cost	1	PH	0	300	300	300	0
Computing	cost	1	CO	0	500	500	500	0
University Ove	cost	1	UD	0	7,000	7,000	7,000	0
Total project	11-02-93	29-05-95	Total cost	0	52,432	52,432	52,432	0

Name	Start	End	Status	CP	Resrc	Usage				
	Planned	Planned				Actual (*)	Post (-)	Latest (vs)	Orig (s)	Ahead
	Rev/act	Rev/act				To-Date	To-Capt	Estimate	Plan	(Behind)
Total project	11-02-93	29-05-95	Total days			0.0	524.0	524.0	524.0	0.0

Name	Start	End	Status	CP	Resrc	Usage				
	Planned	Planned				Actual (*)	Post (-)	Latest (vs)	Orig (s)	Ahead
	Rev/act	Rev/act				To-Date	To-Capt	Estimate	Plan	(Behind)

Resource summary

Name	Units									
Peter Leach	days	FL	0.0	71.0	71.0	71.0	0.0			
Alex Jones	days	AJ	0.0	66.0	66.0	66.0	0.0			
Lynne Devan	days	LR	0.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	0.0			
Margaret Brooke	days	MB	0.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	0.0			
Fiona Roe	days	FR	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0			
Brabha Morgan	days	GR	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0			
Jennifer Price	days	JP	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0			
Steve Hignitt	days	SH	0.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0			
Donald Meredith	days	DM	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0			
Iain Ferris	days	IF	0.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	0.0			
Stephanie Psoter	days	SPB	0.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	0.0			
Vanessa Straker	days	VS	0.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	0.0			
David Starley	days	DS	0.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.0			
Jeremy Evans	days	JE	0.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	0.0			
David Williams	days	DW	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0			
Brenda Dickins	days	BD	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0			
Stephanie Ratku	days	SR	0.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	0.0			
Jane Evans	days	CE	0.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0			
Key Hartley	days	KH	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0			
Computing Assi.	days	CA	0.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	0.0			
Nigel Dodds	days	ND	0.0	29.0	29.0	29.0	0.0			
Mark Breeden	days	NAB	0.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	0.0			
Ann Woodward	days	AW	0.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0			
Elisabeth Hooper	days	EH	0.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0			
Total project			11-02-93	29-05-95	Total days	0.0	524.0	524.0	524.0	0.0



ILCHESTER POST-EXCAVATION

PHASE 1: ANALYSIS

Preparatory Tasks

Soil and Struct Analysis

Finds Preparation

Project Team Meeting

Finds Analysis

Conservation

Fixed clac

Worked Stone

Flint

Plaster/Warlar

Glass

Coins

Brooches

Metalwork

Worked Bone

Animal Bone/Shell

Human Bone

Plant Remains

Slag

Pottery Analysis

Pottery Liaison

Establish Fabric Series

Sorting KS not by Fabric

Prep. for Specialists

Aphorae

Sileni

Mortaria

Establishing Form Series

Recording PB Pottery

Review Med Type Series

Med & PM Pot Sort

Record Med & PM Pot

Create Pottery Database

Create Finds Database

Pottery & Finds Archives

Final Site Phasing

Publication Summary

Project Team Meeting

PHASE 2: REPORT PREPARATION

Illustration

Drawing Reports

Supervise drawing progress

Finds Illustrations

Site Illustrations

Complete PB Pottery Reps

Complete Med & PM Pot Rep

Integrate Finds Data

Library Research

Progress Review

STAGE 3: FINAL EDITING

Final Edit of Report

Edit Specialist Reports

Final Site Report Texts

Figure Mounting & Nos

Collation of Final Reps

Progress Review

Report Publication

Report Refereeing

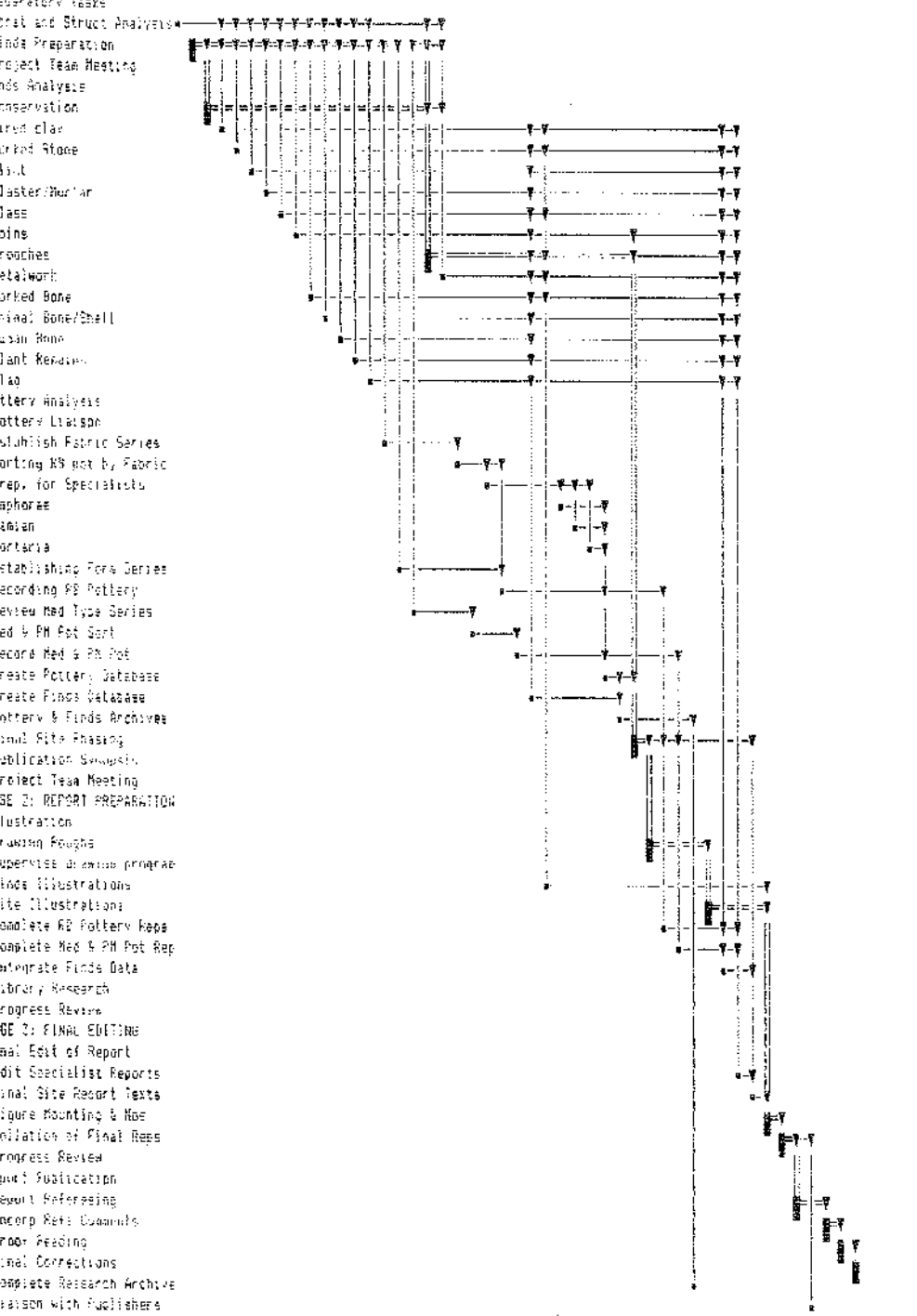
Incorp Refs Comments

Proof Reading

Final Corrections

Complete Research Archive

Liaison with Publishers



Legend	
■	Link not on critical path
—	Link not on critical path
▲	Finish-start link, task above
◄	Overlap dependency relationship
◄	Start-start link
▼	Link on critical path
▼	Finish-start link, task below
→	Gap dependency relationship
+	Finish-finish link

# ILCHESTER Excavations 1986-88

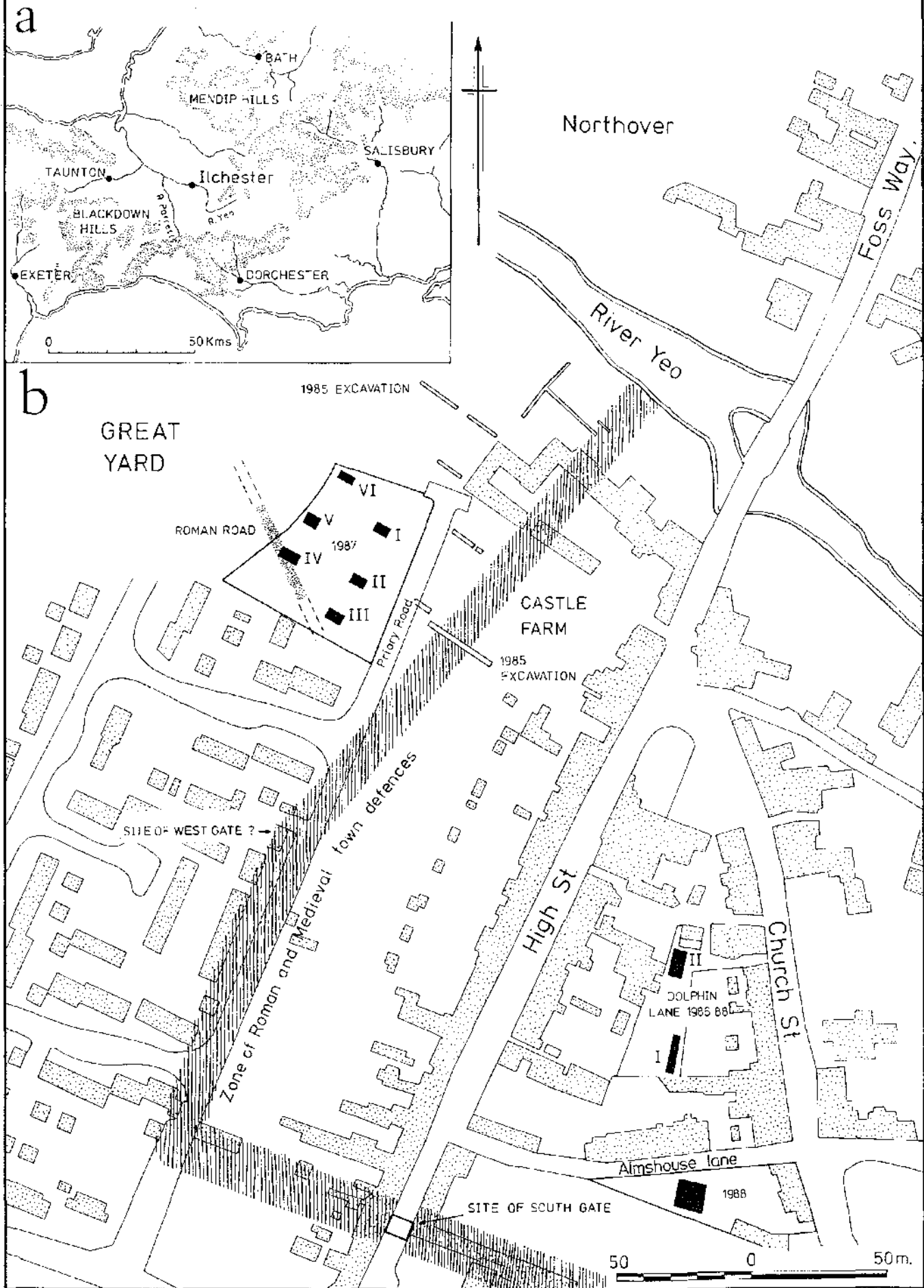


Figure 1



# ILCHESTER Great Yard 1987

## Excavation Trenches and Principal Features

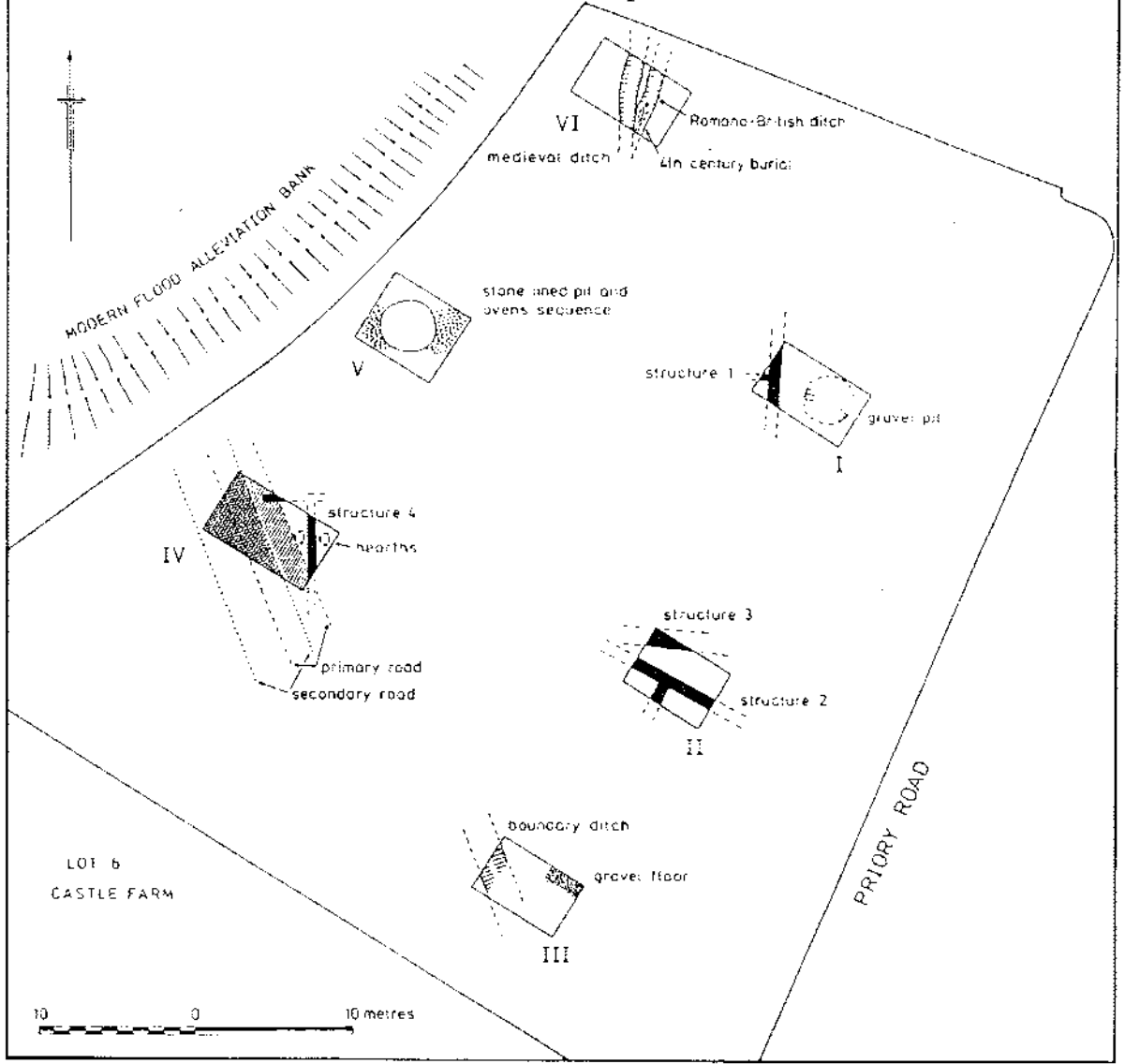


Figure 2

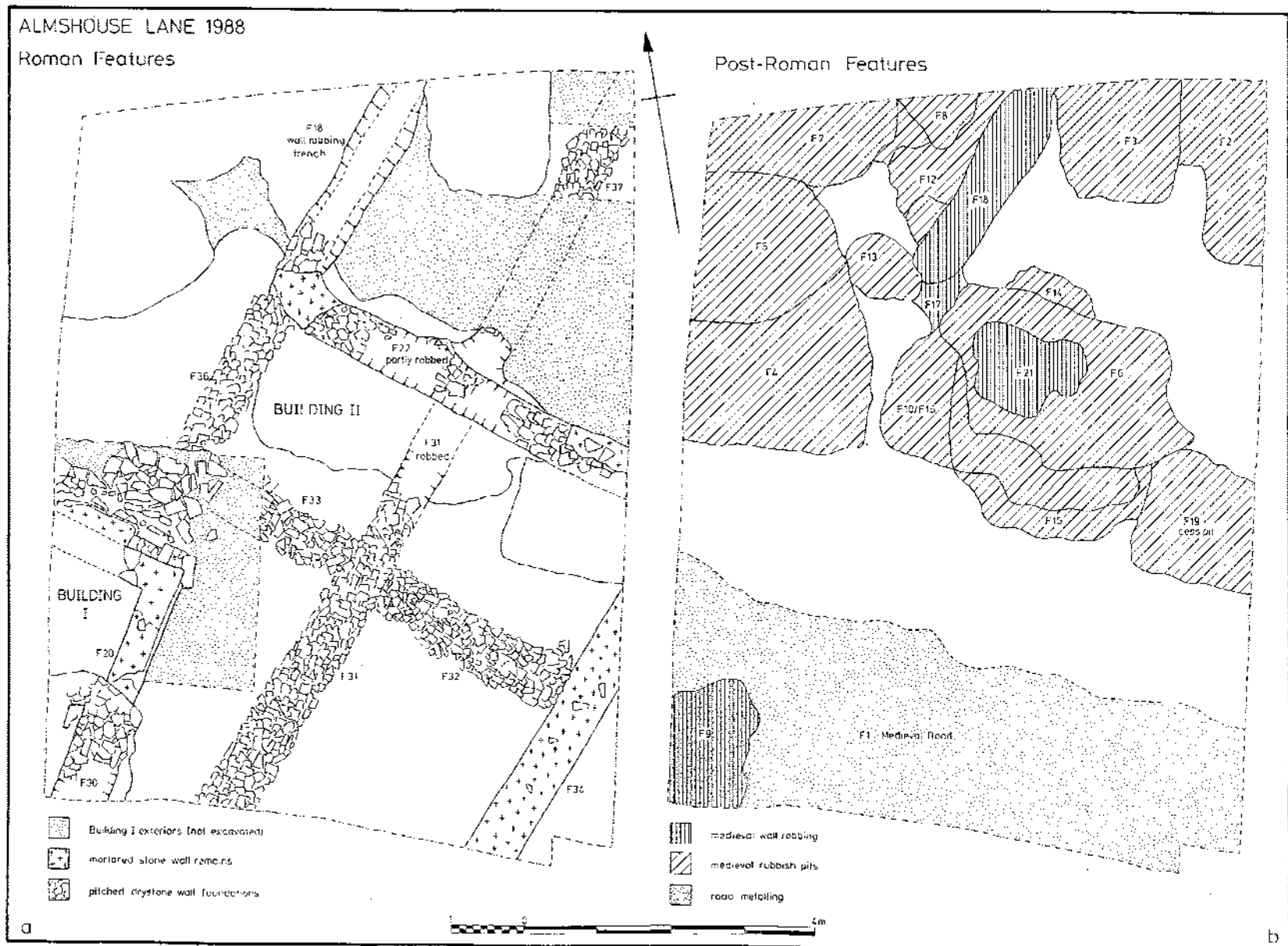
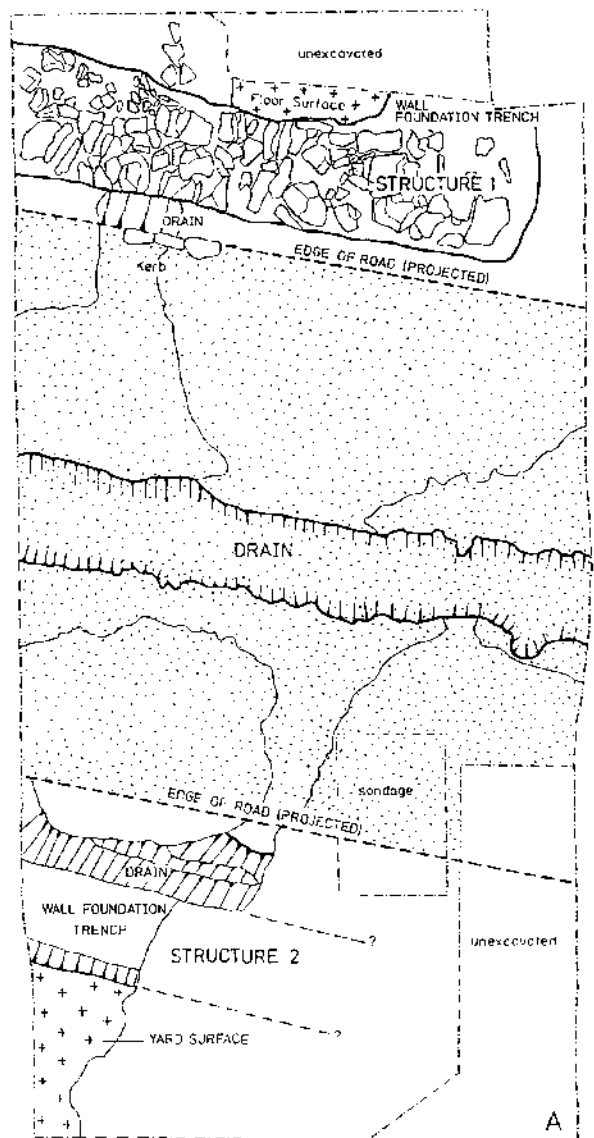
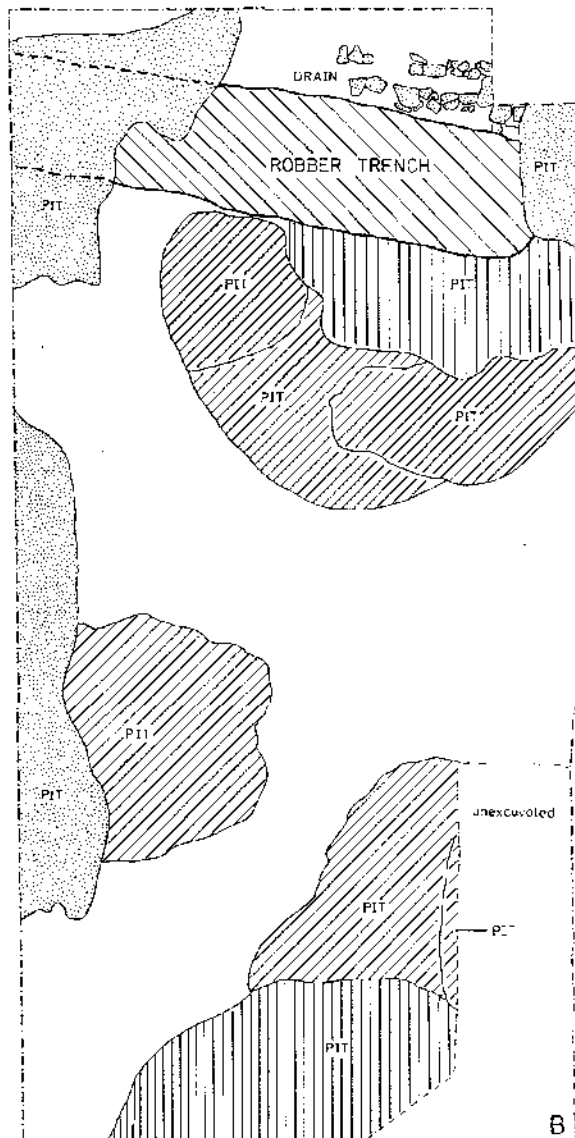


Figure 3

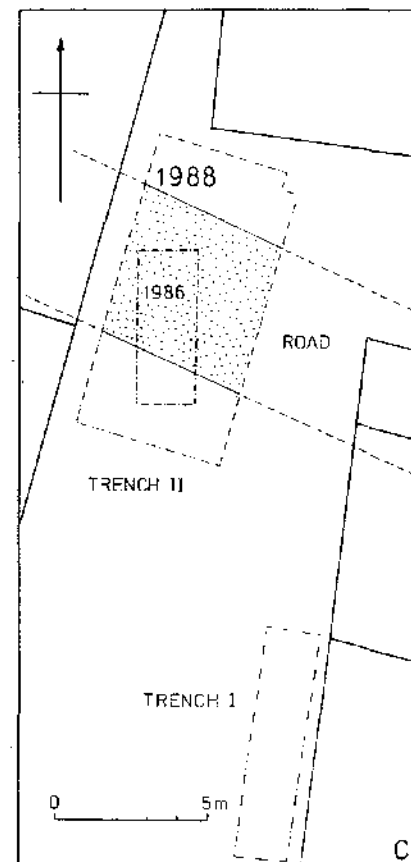
# DOLPHIN LANE



ROMAN AND IMMEDIATE POST-ROMAN FEATURES



MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL FEATURES



EXCAVATION TRENCHES 1986 AND 1988





-  Roman street surfaces
-  Earlier medieval
-  Later medieval
-  Post-medieval

Figure 4