
**An archaeological watching brief on
car park and associated works at the
Vyne, Sherborne St. John, Hampshire**

NGR: SU 6360 5678

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Summary statement

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the installation of a new car park and associated works at The Vyne, Sherborne St. John, Hampshire. The Vyne is a Listed Building Grade I, dating from the early Tudor period. It is in the ownership of the National Trust. Previous archaeological work has revealed the Vyne to be a complex site, with considerable buried remains in the vicinity. The client, the National Trust (Southern Region) asked C K Currie of CKC Archaeology to carry out a watching brief on the works between October 2000 and February 2001.

This work revealed a number of unexpected discoveries. The soil stripping of the new car park itself was largely uneventful. The site had been used as a dumping ground for soils during the second half of the 20th century. The only feature of note found here was a brick and concrete building, possibly of early 20th-century date.

Excavations on the site of the new toilet block revealed evidence for a gravel surface, possibly part of the old Bramley road that is thought to have passed around the north end of the walled garden. Evidence seemed to suggest that the original road was merely a sloping dirt track, possibly within a holloway that dipped towards the stream. This must have been barely impassable in wet weather, and this led to a dumping of material in the hollow to build up levels, prior to the laying of a gravel surface. A hardcore surface on the NW side of the stream suggests a continuation on the other side. The discovery of brick, both in the road surface and below the gravel surface suggests that the build up phase probably coincided with the creation of the walled garden, thought to be at some time between 1754 and 1776. The road was abandoned about 1845 when diverted on to its present line by W L W Chute.

The taking a service trenches from the house to the car park failed to reveal any other archaeology of significance until it neared the house. A brick wall was observed as it passed the back of the chapel, and four more walls were found where the trench ran alongside the brewhouse. These four latter walls seem to have pre-dated the brewhouse because all were at odd angles to that building. None seem to match up with the expected early layout on this part of the site. They suggest that expectations for the site development between the brewhouse and the tomb chamber now need to be reconsidered. It is possible the walls represent a previously unknown phase of building that bears little relation to the existing structure. These discoveries act as a clear warning that conjecture on the early layout of the Vyne is hindered by a number of uncertainties.

An archaeological watching brief on car park and associated works at the Vyne, Sherborne St. John, Hampshire

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This report has been written based on the format suggested by the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (hereafter IFA) *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*. (Birmingham, 1994). The ordering of information follows the guidelines given in this document, although alterations may have been made to fit in with the particular requirements of the work.

1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the installation of a new car park and associated works at The Vyne, Sherborne St. John, Hampshire. The Vyne is a Listed Building Grade I, dating from the early Tudor period. It is in the ownership of the National Trust. Previous archaeological work has revealed the Vyne to be a complex site, with considerable buried remains in the vicinity. The client, the National Trust (Southern Region) asked C K Currie of CKC Archaeology to carry out a watching brief on the works between October 2000 and February 2001.

2.0 Historical background

The Vyne is a site of some antiquity. It has been studied in depth by Currie (1994), who showed that there had been a stone manor house with adjacent hamlet called Vyne Green on the site in the medieval period. The hamlet gradually disappeared over the later medieval period. From 1496 William Sandys, later Lord Chamberlain to Henry VIII, converted the medieval manor into one of the most magnificent early Tudor mansions in England. This building was of considerably greater size than the existing building. It is described in an inventory of 1540-41 as surrounding a courtyard. Remains of the extended building have been revealed by archaeological work in 1995 on the north lawn, together with garden walls and a substantial brick bridge (Currie 1995a). After William Sandy's death in 1540 it seems that the upkeep of this large house became a burden to the family, and the site was possibly superseded as their main Hampshire residence by Mottisfont Abbey, near Romsey.

Financial difficulties following the English Civil Wars (1642-51) caused the Sandys family to sell the estate to Chaloner Chute, notable as a speaker to the House of Commons. He had the house reduced in size and modernised, commissioning John Webb as his architect. The classical portico on the north front dates from this period, and was the first of its kind in England. The house was further modified by John Chute (1754-76), a talented architect and friend of Horace Walpole. After his death without issue, the estate descended twice in the female line. Each of these inheritors adopted the name Chute. Their descendent, Sir Charles Chute (1879-1956), bequeathed the house and the remains of its estate to the National Trust in 1956. It is currently one of their more popular properties with the visiting public, and has recently undergone considerable refurbishment. Archaeological work has been undertaken at each stage of the alterations beginning with a landscape survey of the estate survey in 1994 (Currie 1994). Readers are referred to the property archives for further details of this work.

3.0 Strategy

The strategy followed that undertaken for previous watching briefs undertaken for the National Trust by CKC Archaeology. This was based on the IFA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*. (Birmingham, 1994). This is summarised as follows:

1. An archaeological presence was maintained during on all relevant groundworks on site.
 2. The groundworks were carried out under the supervision of the author. The contractor was required to adopt groundwork methods that maximised the recognition and recovery of archaeological material.
 3. The groundworkers were required to give the author proper access to excavate and record features according to the standards laid down by IFA *Guidelines*. The groundworks were required to co-operate with this to ensure the minimum of delay.
 4. It was required that the author was given reasonable time to complete the recording of each discovery. Delays were unlikely to exceed two working days per discovery unless in agreement with the client. Archaeological recording was undertaken in such a way that the groundworkers could continue with other tasks while the recording was in progress.
 5. The works were supervised by a full Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (MIFA) with the appropriate council-validated Area of Competence (Excavation).
 6. When significant archaeological features were encountered, they were hand-excavated. The work was personally supervised on site by C K Currie MIFA.
 7. The trenches were recorded in plan and by sections at a scale of 1:20 unless special circumstances required planning at 1:10. The trenches were recorded stratigraphically, according each context with a separate number. Single-feature planning was undertaken when suitable remains were encountered. All features were recorded by monochrome and colour slide photography, using appropriate scales.
 8. All pre-modern finds were retained, including bone, with the exception of post-medieval brick and tile and oyster. The latter was discarded on site after having been suitably sampled, unless there was good reason to do otherwise. Any early post-medieval brick and tile was examined on site before discarding, with suitable samples being taken for the archive where considered appropriate.
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4.0 Results

4.1 Conditions

The excavated trenches were numbered according to the sequence of trenches excavated at the Vyne by CKC Archaeology. The trench numbering in this instance began with trench 29. In many cases, these were not strictly trenches, but areas stripped to install new access facilities and surfaces. Much of the area in the north part of the site was barren of archaeology. The context numbering continued the previous sequence, beginning here with context number 586.

Work begun at the end of October 2000 by bringing a new road in from Morgaston Road (SU 6394 5778) to the new car park near the North Lodge (SU 6372 5718), a distance of about 500m. Following the soil stripping and levelling in the area of the new car park, access for pedestrians was installed along with improved visitor facilities nearer the house. A trench providing an electricity supply to the car park was also excavated from adjacent to the brewhouse, with an overall length of about 500m.

Weather was exceptionally wet over the winter of 2000-1, but, in general, this had little effect on the recording, it being done mainly during drier conditions.

4.2 Trench 29

For the most part the bringing of the access road from Morgaston Road to the new car park held little of archaeological interest. It was only at the south end of the road that some features of minor interest were noted. Throughout the stripping for the road it was noted that a number of foreign soils had been dumped in the field. This included quantities of brown clays contaminated with chalk. There is local hearsay that this field had been used for dumping of soils during alterations to the nearby A340 Aldermaston Road. If this was the case, the dumping was undertaken to raise the level in this field, possibly because it was prone to flooding, having a stream as its eastern boundary.

About 120m from the south end of the field, a linear channel was seen. This was orientated NNW-SSE. The section that passed across the new road was about 30m in length and about 1.8m wide. It seemed to be cut [context 587] into dumped brown clay [context 586], its fill being a dark brown clay loam [context 588]. The fill contained a number of modern artefacts, including fragments of sewer/drainage pipe and brick. A section was cut across this feature by machine.

This section showed that the feature was not as obviously linear as it appeared on the surface. On the west side 588 dived under the brown clay [586]. The darker soil was about 0.9m deep, and overlay a grey-blue clay [context 589]. At this depth water began to enter the trench, showing that this was beneath the local water table. Although 587 appeared to cut dump soils on the east side of the section, it would appear that the 'cut' extended over to the ditch on the field's west edge, about 5m away. It would seem that most of the soils encountered above the blue-grey clay were either heavily disturbed or had been dumped to bring up the level of the field. The linear feature was either a temporary modern drainage feature, or the line where dumping temporarily stopped.

About 30m south of the linear feature were the foundations of a brick and concrete structure. These were not fully excavated, the east side being outside of the excavated area. That part excavated comprised an irregular structure with a continuous N-S brick wall [context 590] at least 6.8m in length along its west side. It was made of red brick with square cut frogs in their upper surfaces, a type common in the earlier 20th century. To the east were two divisions. The northern contained a concrete floor [context 591], with an irregular staggered north side. Its maximum width was 2.5m on the west side, with a minimum width of 1.35m on the east side. Its full extent was not excavated continuing beyond the eastern edge of the excavation area. The brick wall 590 seem to extend beyond the northern limit of the concrete. On the south side of this concrete surface was a brick wall [context 592] similar to 590. This extended 2.9m on a rough E-W alignment to the east edge of the trench.

On the south side of this was another division confined by brick walls 590 and 592 on the west and north sides respectively. On the south side of this divisions was a short brick wall [context 593] at a right angle to the south end of 590. This wall seemed to deliberately stop after a length of only 1.5m. The crude nature of the structure suggested that each of the two divisions may have had only two brick sides each. This suggests that the building may have been a shelter of some sort with side walls, one side or more being open to the elements.

4.3 Trench 30

This trench extended from the car park to near the NE end of the chapel, where it turned through a right angle into trench 31. The total length of this trench was about 500m. It extended from SU 6379 5717 along the north side of the small pond in the Vyne garden. It then crossed the dam between the large and small ponds, following the existing path to SU 6377 5699. It then followed a line parallel to, and about 20m inside, the eastern boundary of the garden until it reached the Summer House. It then crossed the existing main garden path, following it on its NW side until near the north end of the chapel.

Remarkably, for such a long length of trench, very little archaeology was seen in this trench. For the most part there was about 0.3m of clay loam topsoil [context 595] directly overlying clay subsoil [context 597]. For the most part this clay subsoil was undisturbed beyond the top 0.1m-0.2m. The trench was nowhere more than 0.6m deep or 0.5m wide.

Only three features of interest were seen. About 9m NE of the dam of the small pond the trench cut through a layer of brick rubble [context 596]. This was a maximum of 0.2m thick, lying immediately below the topsoil at a depth of about 0.25m. The rubble layer was approximately 4m wide and thought to be on the approximate line of the old Bramley Road.

As the trench passed over the bridge spanning the diversion stream that runs along the south side of the ponds, the brick footing associated with the bridge were revealed. As these were not disturbed, they were not formally recorded.

As the trench approached the end of the chapel, just a few metres SW of the Cedar tree, an iron pipe was seen coming from the direction of the old pump down by the pond. The pipe was quite

close to the surface, at a depth of about 0.2m. This was thought to be associated with pumping water up to the stables. Its alignment is very close to a linear parch mark seen in August 1995 (Currie 1995). At that time the mark was thought to be a wall, but it is possible that it might now have been this iron pipe. As it was not destroyed, it was not considered necessary to record it formally.

4.4 Trench 31

This trench extended from the main garden path by the NE end of the chapel, up a narrow gravel path towards the brewhouse/laundry buildings. The trench was 0.6m deep and about 0.6m wide on average. About halfway between the main garden path and the NW corner of the brewhouse/laundry building, the foundations of a brick wall were revealed [context 601].

These was overlain by a layer of gravel, making up a garden path, that was 0.15m thick [context 598], and a layer of dark clay loam topsoil [context 599], also about 0.15m thick. The brick wall was probably built into a cut [context 600]. On the south side was a layer of clayey subsoil [context 602], containing only the occasional brick fragments. On the north side of the wall was a further clayey layer [context 603] that contained increasingly greater concentrations of brick rubble towards the south end of the trench. The brick wall itself was 0.5m wide. It extended to the bottom of the excavated trench.

4.5 Trench 32

This trench was a small test hole about 1m square on the site of the new toilets. These were to be situated to the immediate north of the late 18th-century walled garden, between that garden and the North Lodge. The area had previously been a work yard with greenhouses serving the walled garden. The test hole was later subsumed into the excavation of the foundations to the toilet block. It therefore only needs to be described briefly here.

The pit revealed a compacted gravel surface [context 606], at a depth of about 0.5m. This was overlaid by successive dump layers [contexts 605, 606], followed by the gravel surface of the latest yard [context 604]. The full extent of the gravel surface was revealed in trench 33.

4.6 Trenches 33-36

This was a rectangular foundation trench surrounding the four sides of an area reduced in level by about 0.5m, which was the prepared site of the new toilet block. The foundations were cut 1.2m wide over an area 15m N-S and 7.8m E-W. The NW trench was recorded in full (Trench 33), the others recorded by photographs only (Trenches 34-6), as it largely repeated the information obtained in the fully recorded trench.

Three pipe trenches cut into the upper soils of this trench [contexts 616, 618, 620]. These were all relatively modern, and, as such, can be largely ignored. The upper layer was a dirty soil deposited as a dump [context 608]. This contained a substantial lens of ash within it [context 609]. Between them these contexts took up the top 0.5m of the trench. Below them was a thin layer of clay [context 610], possibly another dump layer. Beneath this was another dump of

topsoil-like loam [context 611] that became increasingly thick towards the south end of the trench, where it exceeded 0.3m. There was another thin layer of dumped clay beneath this [context 612].

The stratigraphy from hereon down became more complex, and appeared to be a series of layers dropping down beneath one another from south to north. These suggested that dumping had taken place from near the edge of the walled garden, building up increasing areas of ground towards the north. The most southerly layer [context 615] was a layer of brown clay. It was uncertain if this was dumped clay or undisturbed clay that extended north for the first 5m of the trench and was about 0.3m thick. An engineer's test pit had earlier cut 0.1m below the bottom of this layer into what was definitely undisturbed clay, at a level that appeared to be the top of the local water table.

Overlying 615 at an angle to the ground surface was a further clay layer [context 622]. This only extended another 1.5m north before being overlain by a thick layer of clay containing much brick rubble [context 614]. Overlying this was the compact gravel surface observed in trench 32 [context 613]. This was only about 0.1m thick, but was apparently cambered and about 5.3m wide. The rubble layer was overlain by another clayey dump [context 623] that extended beyond the north end of the trench. Overall the trench had been excavated to a depth of about 1.15m.

4.7 Trench 37

Trench 37 was a continuation of Trench 31. It was recorded separately because this part of the service installation was not dug until about two months after Trench 31 (on February 15th-16th 2001). The new length of trench was 18.5m in length, 0.3m wide and between 0.35 and 0.4m deep. Numerous other services pipes and cables (totalling 7) within the trench precluded it from being dug any deeper. The trench was dug the full length of the south wall of the building called the brewhouse, at an average distance of about 1m south of that wall. The trench terminated against a garden wall that extended at a right angle from the brewhouse.

The trench comprised a thin layer of clay loam topsoil [context 624], overlying a clay soil containing much brick rubble [context 625]. Four brick walls were found either below or within this layer. The trench was not excavated further. Beginning at the east end of the trench, a brick structure [context 626] was encountered at a depth of about 0.35m, close to the garden wall at that end of the trench. This comprised a single line of bricks, 0.23m wide, laid lengthways (headers outwards) at an angle to both the garden wall and the brewhouse. It did not seem to extend right up to the garden wall, it being cut through here, possibly by the construction cut for the garden wall itself.

About 8m west of this, near the south door to the brewhouse, was another brick foundation [context 629]. This comprised three lines of bricks, 0.3m wide, laid stretchers outwards. The NE edge of this wall was cut across by a modern cable trench [context 627], at a depth of about 0.35m. This was filled with a black plastic cable in a bedding of sand, under a strip of yellow safety plastic. It extended along the trench, at an angle to it, disappearing into the south side of the baulk about 2.5m from the garden wall.

Immediately to the west of foundation 629 was a plastic pipe [context 632], cut the trench nearly at a right-angle, presumably coming directly from the brewhouse. This cutting for this pipe seems to have cut through the remains of another wall [context 630], about 0.6m wide. This may have been at a right angle to wall 629, but the exact relationship was destroyed by the pipe trench. The exact angle of 630 was not certain, either, as it was only seen in the north facing section. It had been presumably removed from the south facing section by the pipe trench. The brick work of this wall was much dishevelled, but it seemed to be within a construction cut, with enough elements of being a structure to suggest it was a genuine wall, even if the remaining evidence was somewhat disturbed by later activity.

Approximately 2m further west were the remains of another apparent wall [context 631], about 0.55m wide. This was also at an angle to the brewhouse, but it seemed to be roughly parallel with feature 630. The wall was visible in both sections, but had been removed in between, presumably as the trench was being dug. Examination of the bricks removed suggested they may not have been early types, but 17th century or later.

The rest of the trench was much disturbed by five further service trenches.

5.0 Discussion

There was little of archaeological interest in the car park area. It would appear that the field here had been built up by dumped soils containing chalk lenses. There is no chalk in the vicinity of the Vyne, so it must be imagined that the soil was brought in from some distance away. Local hearsay attributes this dumping to the time of the widening of Aldermaston Road (A340) near Park Prewett Hospital in the 1970s, about 3.5km to the SW. There is chalk here that is similar to that found in this field, this author having recently excavated adjoining this widened road (Currie 1998a). The apparent linear cut in this field was full of modern material, and one might assume it was a temporary drainage cut at around, or just after, the time of the dumping.

The brick and concrete building seems, from the shallow frogged bricks, to date from the late 19th or early 20th century. Its exact purpose can not be determined, but it was possibly an agricultural building, or something to do with the sewage unit nearby.

In Trench 30 a surface of brick rubble was found just below the dam of the small pond. It is thought that the old Bramley Road crossed the stream near this point. Part of the surface was thought to have been identified in 1998 in the yard north of the walled garden, on the other side of the stream. Although no remains of this road was found nearer the car park, it is thought that this surface represented part of the old road. This had been diverted to its present line about 1845 by William Lyde Wiggett Chute, as part of his many improvements to the estate. A more detailed discussion of the line of this old road is given in Currie (1998b), based on alignments clearly shown on estate maps of 1776 and 1829.

In Trench 31 a brick wall was found. This lined up roughly with the south wall of the chapel. It is not known how it fits in with the conjectured plan of the early Vyne. It is thought that it might belong to a phase indicated by the discovery of walls in trench 37 alongside the brewhouse. It is uncertain if this an early phase, a phase dating between the alterations of the 1650s and the

building of the brewhouse or multiple phases. It should be noted that the portrait of Jane Sandys *c.* 1644 does not show a wall here. It is not known from any later plans, so it had either been demolished by 1644 or it existed between about 1650 and 1776. It is also possible it was a low wall that was not shown on the 1644 painting (Currie 1995b, plate 1). On balance the wall looks to be early, and so could pre-date 1644.

Trenches 32 and 33 revealed evidence for what appeared to be a cambered gravel road surface. Initial interpretation suggested that this might be the part of the original Bramley Road, which, before 1845, had crossed this area. However, the stratigraphy seemed to suggest an odd sequence of events before this road was made.

Levels dipping down from the walled garden northwards suggest that the original road passed through here in a much different way. The lack of evidence for this earlier road suggests that it might have passed down to the river crossing in a hollow, possibly crossing the river via a ford. The bottom of this hollow could not have been much higher than the local water table, making the surface extremely boggy in wet weather. The cambered gravel road could only have been created by infilling this hollow with dumped soil, probably putting the rubble dump [context 614] within the deepest part of the hollow. It is possible that the ground either continued to drop down northwards or the hollow extended beyond the excavated trench. The rubble dump may have been laid in an attempt to make the overlaying gravel surface better drained. From the stratigraphy in the illustrated section, it would seem clear that the surface was laid at a higher level than the surrounding ground. At a later date, probably after the road was diverted in 1845 (HRO 31M57/1072), successive layers of dumped soils were deposited, gradually building up the local ground level.

The chronology of these events appears to be at variance to expectations. The brick rubble beneath the built up surface suggests that the road was just a boggy track until at least the 16th century. In fact the stratigraphy, in its relationship to the walled garden, suggests that the road was not built up until the walled garden was made. This is first shown on a plan of 1776 (HRO 31M57/1210). It is thought the walled garden was laid out by John Chute, following the destruction of the formal gardens nearer the house. This is thought to have been after 1754, when he inherited the property. It would seem therefore that the cambered gravel surface behind the walled garden may have had a relatively short life, possibly being made after 1754, and abandoned by 1845. It is possible that it was only as a consequence of the gardens being extended this far north that the estate management had any interest in the old Bramley Road at this point. The creation of the walled garden may have been the catalyst to improving the road.

The poor roads around The Vyne are commented on by both Horace Walpole, a friend of John Chute, and, later in the 1820s, by Caroline Workman. Walpole commented whimsically that if one wished to visit The Vyne in the winter, stilts were a required, a statement that implies that the roads were nearly impassable at that season from flooding. W L W Chute reported that the roads were so bad that it was impossible to go past the Vyne stables in wheeled carriages before the 1840s (HRO 31M57/1072). Caroline Workman commented that the ruts in Vyne Road were 'deep enough to bury me in' as a result of the thick clayey soils (HRO 31M57/1070). All of these commentators seem to confirm the picture of heavily waterlogged roads. There was a local saying, based on the condition of the roads that said 'the Vyne was the last place on earth, and

that Beaurepaire (at the end of the old Bramley Road) was made after it' (Howard 1998, 41). The old Bramley Road behind the walled garden must have been one of the wettest places in the local network until the cambered gravel road was built. It was probably difficult to get past in the winter, demonstrating why the Chutes felt it necessary to take action here, first in building up the old road, and then diverting it entirely.

Trench 37 revealed the remains of four brick walls. They were all at an odd angle to the upstanding brewhouse, thus making it difficult to imagine how they could have stood whilst this was present. This might suggest that they all belonged to a pre-brewhouse phase at the Vyne. One of the walls seemed to contain post-Tudor bricks, the other three did not contain determinable brick types. On the slight evidence available it might be suggested that the walls may have belonged to a pre-1654 phase of building, and may have been demolished as part of Chaloner Chute's rebuilding programme. However, this would largely depend on the dating of the brewhouse. As this was generally considered to have been built some time after Chaloner Chute's alterations (the Listed Building Register dates the brewhouse to the 19th century, but it is clearly shown on the estate map of 1776, suggesting it may be of 18th-century date), the walls revealed during these present works could be later than 1654. One thing is quite clear, however, and these walls do not fit into any of the expected phases known at the Vyne. They may, therefore, represent a complete unknown phase of building that may have been relatively short lived, or they might represent a number of different phases. They emphasise the complexity of the buildings and their phases that once stood at the Vyne, and act as a clear warning that conjecture on the layout of the site before 1654 is hampered by a large number of uncertainties.

6.0 Conclusions

Works undertaken during the winter of 2000-1 to build a new car park, and related visitor facilities at the Vyne, revealed a number of unexpected discoveries. The soil stripping of the new car park itself was largely uneventful. The site had been used as a dumping ground for soils during the second half of the 20th century. The only feature of note found here was a brick and concrete building, possibly of early 20th-century date.

Excavations on the site of the new toilet block revealed evidence for a gravel surface, possibly part of the old Bramley road that is thought to have passed around the north end of the walled garden. Evidence seemed to suggest that the original road was merely a sloping dirt track, possibly within a holloway that dipped towards the stream. This must have been barely impassable in wet weather, and this led to a dumping of material in the hollow to build up levels, prior to the laying of a gravel surface. A hardcore surface on the NW side of the stream suggests a continuation on the other side. The discovery of brick, both in the road surface and below the gravel surface suggests that the build up phase probably coincided with the creation of the walled garden, thought to be at some time between 1754 and 1776. The road was abandoned about 1845 when diverted on to its present line by W L W Chute.

The taking a service trenches from the house to the car park failed to reveal any other archaeology of significance until it neared the house. A brick wall was observed as it passed the back of the chapel, and four more walls were found where the trench ran alongside the brewhouse. These four latter walls seem to have pre-dated the brewhouse because all were at odd angles to

that building. None seem to match up with the expected early layout on this part of the site. They suggest that expectations for the site development between to brewhouse and the tomb chamber now need to be reconsidered. It is possible the walls represent a previously unknown phase of building that bears little relation to the existing structure. These discoveries act as a clear warning that conjecture on the early layout of the Vyne is hindered by a number of uncertainties.

7.0 Copyright

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8.0 Archive

The archive for this work has been deposited in the archive room at The Vyne, along with the results of other recent archaeological investigations. Copies of the report were lodged with the client, the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the National Monuments Record in Swindon, Wiltshire.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are given to all those involved with this project. In particular, Judith Fitzgerald, Buildings Manager at the Regional Office, organised the watching brief and liaised with the parties involved. Jonathan Ingram, Property Manager and his staff allow the author access, and, as always, gave assistance where required. The groundworkers (from the various contractors) are thanked for their co-operation.

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Appendix 1: Key to excavated contexts

Context Number	Description	Munsell colour
586	T/29; clay layer	10YR 5/8
587	possible linear cut	
588	T/29; clay loam fill of 587	10YR 3/3
589	T/29; clay layer	5Y 6/2
590	T/29; brick wall	
591	T/29; concrete surface	
592	T/29; brick wall	
593	T/29; brick wall	
594	T/29; clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
595	T/30; clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
596	T/30; clay loam layer with abundant brick rubble	5YR 4/4
597	T/30; clay layer	10YR 4/4
598	T/31; gravel layer	2.5Y 6/6
599	T/31; clay loam layer	10YR 3/4
600	T/31; linear cut	
601	T/31; brick foundation fill of cut 600	
602	T/31; clay layer	10YR 4/4
603	T/31; clay layer	10YR 5/4
604	T/32; clay loam layer	10YR 4/3
605	T/32; silty loam layer	10YR 3/2
606	T/32; gravel surface	10YR 3/2
607	T/32; gravel surface	7.5YR 5/3
608	T/33; clay loam layer	10YR 3/1
609	T/33; ash layer	10YR 3/1
610	T/33; clay layer	10YR 5/6
611	T/33; clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
612	T/33; clay layer	10YR 5/4
613	T/33; sandy clay layer with gravel	7.5YR 5/4
614	T/33; clay & rubble layer	7.5YR 5/6
615	T/33; clay layer	10YR 5/3
616	T/33; linear cut	
617	T/33; fill of 616 includes iron pipe	10YR 3/2
618	T/33; linear cut	
619	T/33; fill of 616 includes iron pipe	10YR 3/2
620	T/33; linear cut	
621	T/33; fill of 616 includes iron pipe	10YR 3/2
622	T/33; clay layer	10YR 5/4
623	T/33; clay layer	10YR 5/3
624	T/37; clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
625	T/37; clay and rubble layer	10YR 4/4
626	T/37; brick structure	
627	T/37; linear cut for electric (?) cable	
628	T/37; sand fill of cut 627	5Y 6/4
629	T/37; brick foundation	
630	T/37; brick foundation	
631	T/37; brick foundation	
632	T/37; plastic service pipe	

Appendix 2: list of photographs taken

Photographs listed here were taken in both colour slide (pre-fixed Vyne/S7/* in archive) and monochrome (pre-fixed Vyne/M7/* in archive).

Photo No.	Description
1	T/29; foundations of brick & concrete structure 590-3 from SE
2	Ditto
3	T/29; section through cut 587 from S
4	Ditto
5	T/30; rubble surface 596 from NW
6	T/31; wall foundations 601 from SW
7	Ditto
8	T/31; wall foundations 601 from NE
9	Ditto
10	T/32; test pit showing gravel surface 607
11	Ditto
12	T/33; east facing section, showing gravel surface 613 from SE
13	Ditto
14	T/33; east facing section from NE
15	Ditto
16	T/34; south facing section from SW
17	Ditto
18	T/36; north facing section from NE
19	Ditto
20	T/35; west facing section from SW
21	Ditto
22	T/37; brick structure 625 and modern cable cutting 627 from NE
23	Ditto
24	T/37; brick foundations 629, 630 and pipe 632 from E
25	Ditto
26	T/37; brick foundation 631 from S
27	Ditto

Appendix 3: glossary of archaeological terms

Archaeology: the study of man's past by means of the material relics he has left behind him. By material relics, this means both materials buried within the soil (artefacts and remains of structures), and those surviving above the surface such as buildings, structures (e.g. stone circles) and earthworks (e.g. hillforts, old field boundaries etc.). Even the study of old tree or shrub alignments, where they have been artificially planted in the past, can give vital information on past activity.

Artefacts: any object made by man that finds itself discarded (usually as a broken object) or lost in the soil. The most common finds are usually pottery sherds, or waste flint flakes from prehistoric stone tool making. Metal finds are generally rare except in specialist areas such as the site of an old forge. The absence of finds from the activity of metal detectorists is not usually given much credibility by archaeologists as a means of defining if archaeology is present

Baulk: an area of unexcavated soil on an archaeological site. It usually refers to the sides of the archaeological trench.

Burnt flint: in prehistoric times, before metal containers were available, water was often boiled in pottery or wooden containers by dropping stones/flints heated in a fire into the container. The process of suddenly cooling hot stone, particularly flint, causes the stone to crack, and form distinctive crazed markings all over its surface. Finds of large quantities of such stone are usually taken as a preliminary indication of past human presence nearby.

Context: a number given to a unit of archaeological recording. This can include a layer, a cut, a fill of a cut, a surface or a structure.

Cut: usually used to mean an excavation made in the past. The 'hole' or cut existed in time as a void, before later being backfilled with soil. Archaeologists give a context number to the empty hole, as well as the backfilled feature (called the 'fill').

Desk-based assessment: an assessment of a known or potential archaeological resource within a specific land unit or area, consisting of a collation of existing written or graphic information, to identify the likely character, extent and relative quality of the actual or potential resource.

Earthwork: bank of earth, hollow, or other earthen feature created by human activity.

Environmental evidence: evidence of the potential effect of environmental considerations on man's past activity. This can range from the remains of wood giving an insight into the type of trees available for building materials etc, through to evidence of crops grown, and food eaten, locally.

Evaluation: a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork (mainly test-trenching) which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified land unit or area. If they are present, this will define their character, extent, and relative quality, and allow an assessment of their worth in local, regional and national terms.

Hedgebanks: banks of earth, usually with a ditch, that have been set up in the past on which is planted a stock-proof line of shrubs. There is written evidence that they were made from at least Roman times, but they are suspected as existing in prehistoric times.

Lynchets: bank of earth that accumulates on the downhill side of an ancient ploughed field as the disturbed soil moves down the slope under the action of gravity.

Munsell colour: an objective method of defining soil colour using a specially designed colour chart for soils. The reading defines hue (an objective description of colour; eg YR means yellow-red), value (darkness or lightness of the colour) and chroma (the greyness or purity of the colour). For example 10YR 3/2 is a dark grey-brown.

Natural [layer]: in archaeological reports, this is a layer that has been formed by natural process, usually underlying man-made disturbance.

Period: time periods within British chronology are usually defined as Prehistoric (comprising the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age), Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval. Although exact definitions are often challenged, the general date ranges are as given below.

Prehistoric c. 100,000 BC - AD 43. This is usually defined as the time before man began making written records of his activities.

Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age 100,000 - 8300 BC

Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age 8300 - 4000 BC

Neolithic or New Stone Age 4000 - 2500 BC

Bronze Age 2500 - 700 BC

Iron Age 700 BC - AD 43

Roman AD 43-410

Saxon AD 410-1066

Medieval AD 1066-1540

Post-medieval AD 1540-present

Pottery sherds: small pieces of broken baked clay vessels that find their way into ancient soils. These can be common in all periods from the Neolithic onwards. They often find their way into the soil by being dumped on the settlement rubbish tip, when broken, and subsequently taken out and scattered in fields with farmyard manure.

Project Design: a written statement on the project's objectives, methods, timetable and resources set out in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.

Settlement: usually defined as a site where human habitation in the form of permanent or temporary buildings or shelters in wood, stone, brick or any other building material has existed in the past.

Site: usually defined as an area where human activity has taken place in the past. It does not require the remains of buildings to be present. A scatter of prehistoric flint-working debris can be defined as a 'site', with or without evidence for permanent or temporary habitation.

Sondage: an arbitrary hole dug during archaeological excavation. Often dug after the main excavation is complete to quickly test for information that may be required to clarify points of the main excavation.

Stratigraphy: sequence of man-made soils overlying undisturbed soils; the lowest layers generally represent the oldest periods of man's past, with successive layers reaching forwards to the present. It is within these soils that archaeological information is obtained.

Worked flint or stone: usually taken to mean pieces of chipped stone or flint used to make prehistoric stone tools. A worked flint can comprise the tools themselves (arrowheads, blades etc.), or the waste material produced in their making (often called flint flakes, cores etc.).
