

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PORTCHESTER

1. INTRODUCTION

English Heritage has initiated a national series of Extensive Urban Surveys. Several counties have commenced such projects including Hampshire County Council who are undertaking the survey of the small towns of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The survey is intended to provide an up-to-date view of the archaeological resource in each of the towns building on earlier surveys (e.g. Hughes, 1976; Basford, 1980) and consists of three phases: Data Collection, Data Assessment and Strategy. The first stage, Data Collection, draws together the accessible history of the town, the archaeological knowledge and historic buildings data. The Data Assessment phase of the survey leads to the production of a report which presents a brief history of the town, (this document is not intended as a definitive history) an analysis of the plan of the town, an assessment of the archaeological and buildings data and the state of modern development resulting in the identification of areas of archaeological importance. Information about the development of the town through the ages, including plan-form analysis and the identified areas of archaeological importance, is also presented in cartographic form at the end of the report. The Strategy phase of the survey, uses the information presented in the Data Assessment combined with current statutory and non-statutory constraints, and present and future planning policy to make recommendations for policies regarding the historic environment. The policies may be incorporated into Local and Unitary Development Plans, become Supplementary Planning Guidance, non-statutory policies, supplementary guidance and for use within development control.

2. LOCATION

Portchester lies on a tongue of land extending out into the northern edge of Portsmouth Harbour. The peninsula is a relatively flat area a little above sea-level. Two kilometres to the north of Portchester, the land rises steeply onto Ports Down which reaches over 130m OD near Fort Southwick.

Portchester lies near the main route along the south coast linking Portsmouth and Southampton. Southampton is approximately 20km to the north-west and Portsmouth is 12km to the south but the route involves skirting the eastern side of Portsmouth Harbour.

3. BACKGROUND

ARCHAEOLOGY

Prehistoric

- A1 Prehistoric worked flints have been recovered from many sites around Portchester, particularly along the coastline to the west of the castle, which may represent the camp sites of hunting parties (Cunliffe 1975, 6).
- A2 Mesolithic flints have been recovered from within Portsmouth Harbour to the east of the village.

Romano-British

- A3 Portchester was the site of a Roman fort which formed part of the chain of forts defending the 'Saxon Shore'. Extensive excavations have been undertaken within the fort (see Analysis, below).

A small number of Roman coins have been recovered from the area of modern Portchester, but there is little other indication for settlement outside the fort.

Anglo-Saxon

Excavations within the area of the Roman fort revealed evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation, probably of high status, dating from the fifth century to the eleventh century (see below).

Medieval

- A3 The walls of the Roman fort became the walls of the castle outer bailey when a defended residence was constructed in the north-west corner of the fort in the late eleventh century.

No archaeological excavations undertaken within the town are recorded in the county Sites and Monuments Record. A single sherd of medieval pottery and three pieces of Tudor-ware have been recovered from the site of an electricity sub-station on the eastern side of Castle Street. Apart from the find a medieval seal of the abbot of Southwick, which was probably a casual loss, these pottery sherds represent the only Archaeological data relating to medieval or early post-medieval Portchester recovered from the settlement rather than the castle.

Post-medieval

- A4 In the mid-nineteenth century a series of five forts were constructed along the chalk ridge of Portsdown Hill for the defence of Portsmouth against a landward attack. Two of the forts lie to the north of Portchester, Fort Nelson was built between 1862 and 1872 and Fort Southwick was built between 1861 and 1868. The forts are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

HISTORY

Anglo-Saxon

The Romano-British fort continued to be occupied into the early sixth century. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* recorded that in 501 Port and his sons came to *Portesmutha* and there killed a young Briton of very high rank. This entry has been taken as the record of the fall of *Portus Adurni* and the death of the sub-Roman commander (Myres 1986, 145). It has been suggested that the abandoned fort was given to Bishop Wilfrid in the late seventh century for use as a mission centre which may also explain how the estate came to be in the hands of the church until the early tenth century (Rigold 1977, 73).

In 904 King Edward exchanged land at Bishop's Waltham in return for Portchester (Sawyer 1968, 372) which then became a royal *burh* and part of the defences of Wessex. The *burh* was listed in the *Burghal Hidage* and was assessed at 500 hides which would indicate defences 2060ft in length whilst the length of the wall of the Romano-British fort is actually 2090ft (Hill, 1969).

The Roman fort was occupied throughout the late Anglo-Saxon period. The community that occupied that castle appears to have included men of some substance who erected large timber buildings and a masonry, tower-like, structure. The excavated evidence might suggest that the area of the fort was used as a thegn's residence, and a large hall seen in the excavations may be equated with the post-Conquest *halla* mentioned in the Domesday Book (Cunliffe 1977, 240). However, it has been suggested that this interpretation is pushing the evidence too far and that the north-western corner of the fort was probably the site of the late eleventh-century residence (Hughes 1976, 116). The excavations indicate that the hall and associated buildings were abandoned, probably due to the Norman Conquest, although the tower was rebuilt and continued to act as the focus for a small burial ground (Cunliffe 1977, 240).

Medieval

Domesday Book refers to two holdings at Portchester; one was a small estate held by the king which had never been assessed for taxation, and where there was a recorded population of seven, and a larger estate held by William Mauditt (Munby 1982, fols 38b and 47c). The latter estate, which had formerly been held as three manors by free-men, had a recorded population of thirteen, a fishery for the hall and

a mill. Both these references indicate that there was a small, non-urban, community at Portchester in the late eleventh century.

During the twelfth century the castle was maintained as a front-line defence and it is suggested that it was at this time that the village began to develop in its present form outside the castle (Cunliffe 1977, 241). King John was a frequent visitor at the castle and hunted in the park attached to the castle (Page 1908, 152). The castle was besieged by, and surrendered to, Louis, Dauphin of France in 1216 during the Baron's Revolt against John. Richard II caused the castle to be improved to make it into a comfortable royal residence but after 1399 the castle was virtually abandoned (Cunliffe 1977, 240-44) although it was used by Henry V's army before departure to France and Agincourt (*ibid*, 3).

Portchester appears to have had pretensions to borough status although it never received a charter of incorporation and was never represented at parliaments (Cunliffe 1977, 4). However, in 1177 Portchester paid an aid of 10 marks which was approximately the same rendered by the towns of Andover and Basingstoke. In 1230 the manor was divided when two thirds were granted to the Bishop of Winchester who gave the portion to Titchfield Abbey (Page 1908, 158). Documents of 1253 and 1258 refer to the 'burgesses of the town of Portchester' (Page 1908, 158; Cunliffe 1977, 4) but an early fifteenth century survey of the manors refers only to sokemen and villeins holding property with no mention of burgage tenure (Watts 1958, 32). Portchester was granted a Saturday market and three day fair in 1294 (Page 1908, 159). It may be that the development of the town was restricted by the development of Portsmouth in the thirteenth century which provided both military and market functions (Cunliffe 1977, 4).

In 1405 a survey was undertaken of the manor which recorded 138 messuages and 61 tofts. The results of the survey were recorded systematically so it is possible to reconstruct the distribution of the holdings. The survey appears to indicate that agriculture was the predominant occupation undertaken by the community although the unknown degree of sub-letting may hide a greater number of individuals involved in crafts and trade (Cunliffe and Munby 1985, 284-5).

Post-medieval

The castle found use as a naval store-house in the sixteenth century and a large store-house was erected in the outer bailey. However, as Portsmouth grew as a naval base, Portchester became of lesser importance. In the later sixteenth century the castle was used to house casualties from the fighting in France. During the Napoleonic Wars French prisoners, sometimes as many as 5,000 in residence at a time, were incarcerated in the castle (Cunliffe 1977, 4).

4. ANALYSIS

ROMANO-BRITISH PORTCHESTER

A fifth-century document called the *Notitia Dignitatum* recorded a series of forts along the eastern and southern coasts of Britain that are commonly known as the 'forts of the Saxon Shore' and which were under the command of the 'Count of the Saxon Shore' (Salway 1981, 257). One of the forts was called *Portus Adurni* and it has been suggested that this was the Roman fort at Portchester (Cunliffe 1975, 430-1; Rivet and Smith 1979, 442). Excavations within the fort recovered some pottery which dated from the mid-first century AD, and there appears to be a complete lack of material from the period c. AD 50-280. The archaeological evidence suggests that, apart from a temporary settlement in the first century, there was no substantial occupation on the site until the fort was constructed in the late third century (Cunliffe 1975, 8-9).

Fort

The Roman fort was constructed towards the end of the third century, probably between 286 and 290. A masonry wall 6.1m high and 3.1m wide with twenty bastions and four gates enclosed an area of 3.43 ha (8.48 a) on the Portchester promontory. Surrounding the fort was a double ditch system. It is probable that the fort was constructed by military engineers and may have been abandoned soon after construction, before being turned over to civilian occupation. The fort appears to have been occupied, with varying degrees of orderliness,

throughout the fourth century. Within the fort there were gravel roads, timber buildings cess-pits and wells, and, probably, masonry buildings.

There is archaeological evidence for metal-working, represented by iron slag, copper ore and lead trimmings, and antler- and probably bone-working were also undertaken. There is also evidence for spinning and weaving being carried out which has been used to support the theory that there were women living inside the fort. Also, there is artefactual evidence for a Germanic element within the community which may mean that there were mercenary troops living within the fort. Occupation continued into the fifth century, the fort probably providing a place of refuge for the rural population in times of crisis (Cunliffe 1975).

Harbour/Port facilities

It is presumed that the shore forts of late Roman date also functioned as fleet bases although few, if any, of the port facilities associated with them have been examined (Esmonde Cleary 1989, 61). To date, there is no evidence for port facilities at Portchester but the silts and sands around the promontory may contain evidence for the Romano-British port.

Other settlement

Apart from an unknown number of Roman coins found at three locations within the area of the modern settlement of Portchester to the north-west of the fort, there is no evidence for settlement outside the fort. As the fort does not appear to have been a purely military establishment but also contained a civilian population, there may not have been a permanent settlement outside the gates of the fort. However, the possibility that there was settlement outside the fort, particularly during its construction and times of military occupation, should not be discarded.

The road that led to the fort presumably entered through the gate on the western side of the fort but the course the road through the later town is not known but it is possible that Castle Street follows the line of the Roman road. The road to the fort would have linked with the main road between Bitterne and Chichester (Margary 421) but the point of the junction with the east - west route is not known.

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL PLAN ELEMENTS (Map B)

Introduction

The plan of the settlement is quite straight-forward with Castle Street, leading to the castle, forming the principal street of the village. This was the area examined by Hughes in his study of the archaeological implications of development (Hughes 1976) but subsequent study of documentary sources indicate that the medieval settlement extended to the north as far as the junction with West Street, which was also developed at that time. There was little development to the north of the junction of Castle Street with West Street or along East Street (Cunliffe and Munby 1985, 282).

Streets

The principal street of the settlement is Castle Street which leads from the north-west to the gates of the castle. The road that was formerly the main route along the south coast, now the A27, is crossed by Castle Street close to the northern limit of settlement in the medieval period. To the west of Castle Street the A27 is known as West Street and the section to the east of the junction, East Street.

White Hart Lane, known as *Alwyneslane* in 1405, leads to the west from Castle Street midway between the castle and West Street. The lane probably provided access to the open fields of Portchester and it formed the boundary between two of the fields, Middle Field and South Field (Cunliffe and Munby 1985, 281).

Hospital Lane, which leads to the south from the southern end of Castle Street to the shore takes its name from a military hospital that stood on its eastern side between the lane and the outer earthwork.

Green/Market B1

At the southern end of Castle Street, in front of the castle, there is a small triangular green which may have been part of the market area in the medieval period (Hughes 1976, 117). It is possible that the area was once larger, perhaps stretching up to the castle, but was reduced in size when the outer defences were built in the fourteenth century. Alternatively, the market may have been held in West Street (see B5, below).

Property plots

Mid-nineteenth century maps show a settlement of large village proportions consisting of two distinct areas of occupation; irregular rows of properties on both the western and eastern sides of South Street, and a more regular area of development on both sides of West Street. This general pattern of development reflects the state of development of Portchester in 1405 which is recorded in a survey of that date (Cunliffe and Munby 1985, 282).

Castle Street properties

East side, southern section B2

Nineteenth-century maps of Portchester, the Tithe map of 1839 (HRO 21M65/F7/189/2) and the OS 1st Edition 6" map, 1870 show a series of irregular plots on the eastern side of Castle Street in the area between the castle and Cow Lane. This block of properties had a rear boundary that lay approximately parallel to the street and contained several smaller blocks of long, narrow, regular plots with larger, open, plots between. This pattern of blocks of properties separated by open plots is reflected in the survey of the settlement of 1405 (Cunliffe and Munby 1985, 282). The properties may represent a planned development outside the castle gates (Hughes 1976, 117).

East side, northern section B3

In the nineteenth century there were few properties on the eastern side of Castle Street above Cow Lane. Those that are shown on the Tithe map were small plots near the junction of Castle Street with East Street and West Street and had the appearance of being encroachment onto the road-side verge. However, the survey of 1405 indicates that although this area was not as developed as the southern part of Castle Street or West Street, there were still several messuages separated by tofts or open land (Cunliffe and Munby 1985, 282). Therefore, it appears that there has been some shrinkage or shift within this area.

West side B4

On the western side of Castle Street there is less evidence for regularity within the property plots shown on the nineteenth-century maps. The plots were generally smaller and irregular in size and many of the property boundaries do not lie at right angles to the street frontage as in the more regular plots on the eastern side of the street.

West Street and East Street properties B5

West Street was certainly developed by the early fifteenth century as the survey of Portchester, dated 1405, indicates that there were properties on both the northern and southern sides of the street from its junction with Castle Street. The survey suggests that the properties may have formed two regular rows. The properties in this area were held by the Abbot of Titchfield and it may be that the area developed after 1230, when Titchfield Abbey was granted part of the manor, in an attempt to benefit from passing trade on the Southampton to Portsmouth road. It is conceivable that the market was located at this end of the town rather than at the gates of the castle, particularly in the later periods.

There was very little development along East Street in the later medieval period, with only three plots recorded on the northern side of the street in 1405.

Buildings

There appear to be few late medieval buildings in Portchester and those that do survive are located along the southern section of Castle Street where many of the remaining houses date from the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Many of the houses along Castle Street, particularly in the northern and mid sections are of late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century in date. Along West Street there has been major redevelopment and no buildings older than the late nineteenth century survive.

Church B6

The parish church of St Mary stands within the south-east quadrant of the outer bailey of the medieval castle. From 1133 until 1153 the church formed part of an Augustinian priory and the present building appears to have been built by the canons. Documents referring to the foundation of the priory seem to suggest that there was already a church at Portchester although there is no archaeological evidence for an earlier church. The priory church originally had a cruciform plan with the claustral buildings to the south of the church. Excavations examined the footings of the church and the east and west ranges, and indicated that the church and claustral buildings were of similar construction which suggests that they were built in one episode. It is assumed that the garderobe slits in the fort wall indicate the site of the reredorter in the usual position at the southern end of the east range. It is not clear if the south range was completed by the time the canons transferred to Southwick (Cunliffe 1977).

The priory church continued in use as the parish church after the canons had left Portchester but few alterations were made until the seventeenth century when the east wall of the chancel was rebuilt, the south transept was removed, and the northern doorway in the nave was blocked. The church was used in 1653 to house Dutch prisoners who damaged the building and caused a fire. It was not until 1705 that the parishioners asked for assistance to repair the church. Restoration was completed in 1710 (Cunliffe 1977).

Castle B7

Occupation continued within the fort in the fifth century as evidenced by a *grubenhaus* which was not abandoned until c.450 but artefacts found within the upper layers of soil in the abandoned structure, and a well indicate that the occupation continued into the later fifth century or early sixth century. It appears that the interior of the fort was ploughed in the sixth and seventh centuries. In the late seventh or early eighth century several substantial post-built houses were built and the occupation, evidently by a community well above peasant level based on the quality of the artefacts recovered from the excavations, continued into the early tenth century when the manor came into the hands of the king and the fort became part of the system of *burhs*. Although occupation continued, it is difficult to define the character of the settlement. In the later tenth century a single complex, including a large aisled hall and a masonry tower, may indicate that the site was the centre of one of the manors recorded in the Domesday Book. In the later eleventh century the aisled hall fell into disuse and a small cemetery was established on the northern side of the tower which was rebuilt on a more massive scale. A fortified residence was created in the north-west corner of the old Roman fort possibly by the new, Norman, owner of the manor, William Mauduit (Cunliffe 1976, 301-4).

The walls of the Roman fort became the walls of the outer bailey of a Norman castle with a keep constructed on the site of the late eleventh-century fortified residence in the north-west corner of the fort. The area of the outer bailey contained a variety of buildings, lime-kilns, ditches and possibly a church pre-dating the construction of the Augustinian priory in the early twelfth century (Cunliffe 1977, 240-44).

Outer earthwork B8

The promontory on which the castle stands was protected on the landward side by a crescent-shaped earthwork which stretches from shore to shore. The ditch has been variously ascribed to the prehistoric and Saxon periods but it is probable that it was constructed in the fourteenth century (possibly between 1320-40) at a time when there was threat of a French invasion. It

is possible that part of the settlement outside the castle was cleared to make room for the bank and ditch, and the green may have also been truncated (Cunliffe 1977, 241).

Mills B9

Tide mill and windmill

There was a mill to the north of the castle which was recorded from the thirteenth century. In 1240 it was described as *molendinum iuxta castrum* (mill next to the castle) and in 1289 repairs and renovations were undertaken. The mill had to be rebuilt several times, including after an inundation in 1341. It is suggested that the mill was a tide-mill with the outer ditch acting as a mill pond filled by the tide (Cunliffe and Munby 1985, 288). However, excavation has shown that the outer earthwork was not constructed until the fourteenth century so there must have been some other form of mill-pond as the mill was described as *molendinum aquaticum* in 1275. There was a mill wharf which was used as a landing place for building materials brought to the castle by water. By the late sixteenth century a windmill definitely stood on the site of the earlier mill (*ibid*, 163).

Windmill

In the nineteenth century there was a windmill 500m to the west of the castle (OS 1st Edition 6" map, 1870).

Salterns B10

Salt was being produced on the manor by the late twelfth century at least as in 1198 Walter de Boarhunt conveyed a salt pit to Thomas Hoo (Page 1908, 159). In the mid-thirteenth century there were ten tenants of the Abbot of Titchfield with *salines* amounting to 13 acres. In 1341 five of the King's tenants held salterns which, by c.1300, amounted to 17.5 acres (Cunliffe and Munby 1985, 290). Some salterns probably lay behind the properties on the eastern side of Castle Street as there were *salines* recorded in the 1405 survey of the manor.

Clay tobacco-pipe manufacture

Clay tobacco pipes were made in Portchester between 1813 and 1932. The pipe factory was situated behind the Methodist Chapel at the northern end of Castle Street (marked on Map B) but the site has now been developed (Arnold, 1976).

Tanning

There are references to tanners working in Portchester in the medieval period (Watts 1958, 31) but there is no evidence for the location of the tanneries.

5. RECENT DEVELOPMENT

There has been little modern development within the southern part of the historic core of Portchester but the northern part of the town, particularly along West Street has been the focus of major redevelopment with the construction of arcades of shops, a roundabout and a new road which diverts traffic from West Street. This road may have cut across the rear parts of the medieval properties that lay along the northern side of West Street. Portchester has expanded greatly in size with the construction of large housing estates to the west and north of the historic core of the town.

6. IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL

CRITERIA FOR THE AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL

Introduction

The primary aim of the Data Collection and Data Assessment phases of the project is to enable the identification of areas of archaeological importance within each town to inform the Strategy phase of the project. Four such areas of importance have been defined, and the criteria for these are briefly described below. Although they are all described in this introduction, not all towns will have areas within each of these categories.

Levels of Archaeological Importance

The levels of importance are Areas Comprising Nationally Important Remains; Areas of High Archaeological Importance; Archaeologically Important Areas; and Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance.

As additional archaeological information becomes available, and a greater understanding of the archaeological resource of the town is achieved, it is possible that some areas will be re-assigned to different levels of importance.

Areas Comprising Nationally Important Remains

Areas of identified nationally important archaeological remains, whose location, character and importance have been demonstrably established. These remains merit physical preservation *in situ*. The criteria used to assess national importance are set out in Annex 4 of the Secretary of State's non-statutory guidance note PPG16, and are briefly noted below.

- Period
- Rarity
- Documentation
- Group Value
- Survival/Condition
- Fragility/Vulnerability
- Diversity
- Potential

This category will include Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance

Areas considered to include other important archaeological remains, whose location, character and importance are inferred from observation, research and interpretation. Those remains are likely to merit preservation *in situ*. Where preservation is not justified appropriate archaeological recording will be required.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance may:

- Contain well preserved, archaeological deposits which may not be of national importance, but which are of importance to the understanding of the origins and development of the town;
- Be areas where the destruction, without archaeological record, of well preserved archaeological deposits means that the last surviving elements have an increased value for the understanding of the origins and development of the town;
- Have been identified as having significant water-logged deposits;

- Have a high number of existing medieval buildings. The survival of medieval buildings may also indicate that there is well preserved stratigraphy beneath the building;
- Be areas which are thought to have High Archaeological Importance due to their proximity to other, recognised, plan elements even though there is little direct evidence to indicate high importance. For example, the area around an isolated church which may have been the focus for earlier settlement may be defined as an Area of High Archaeological Importance.

It is possible that areas that areas of High Archaeological Importance may, through further archaeological or documentary work, be shown to include Nationally Important Remains.

Archaeologically Important Areas

Areas considered to contain archaeological remains of some importance. Where these remains cannot be preserved *in situ*, they are likely to require appropriate archaeological recording.

Such areas:

- Are significant elements in the plan but where there has been a moderate level of modern development or cellaring;
- Have had little archaeological work undertaken within them but cartographic or documentary sources suggest that they may have been within the historic core of the town or areas of important suburban development.

Surviving archaeological deposits in Archaeologically Important Areas will probably have a relatively high density but, due to pressures of development over many centuries, there may be a high level of fragmentation.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance

Areas considered to include archaeological remains of a character unlikely to provide significant information, or archaeological remains whose integrity has been severely compromised by development. These remains may require appropriate archaeological recording if threatened by development.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance may:

- Have a good survival of archaeological deposits, but where there is likely to be a low density of archaeological features;
- Be areas with significant modern development resulting in limited archaeological importance, either due to the scale of development or due to the limited nature of the archaeological resource before development;
- Be areas where the current hypothesis supports only a limited possibility of encountering archaeological remains.

THE POTENTIAL OF PORTCHESTER

Areas of Archaeological Importance

Areas Comprising Nationally Important Archaeological Remains

The area of the Roman fort and medieval castle, the outer earthwork and the area between is a Scheduled Monument (SM 26714). The fort and castle represents a well preserved example of one of a small number of shore forts of late Roman date and an outstanding medieval tower keep. The use of the site as a Saxon *burh*, the foundation of a medieval priory, and later functions add unusual dimensions in the range of uses to which the fort has been put.

The site of the priory and surrounding graveyard is excluded from the Scheduled area of the castle but the site is of national importance as it will contain evidence of the short-lived priory buildings and the graves of the inhabitants of the town and castle as well as possible evidence for the earliest phases of occupation of the Roman fort and Saxon *burh*. The church itself is a Grade I listed building.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance

Most of the areas of development along the southern part of Castle Street, particularly the area on the eastern side of the street, are Areas of High Archaeological Importance. These areas appear to represent the earliest core of medieval settlement and therefore evidence for the earliest phases of development may survive. Information regarding trades and occupations undertaken by the medieval inhabitants of the town may also be recovered from these areas. Evidence for any Romano-British settlement lying outside the gates of the fort may also be found within the southern parts of these areas.

To the east of the castle is a small Area of High Archaeological Importance which includes the possible site of the mill and any wharves that were located alongside the castle. It is also possible that there has been some reclamation of land in this area and so evidence for earlier shore-lines may survive.

The area between Hospital Lane and the outer earthwork is an Area of High Archaeological Importance. It is not known whether there was any development in this area in the medieval period but it is possible that there was some development nearer the coast in the medieval period, particularly before the construction of the outer earthwork in the fourteenth century. Within this area there was a military hospital in the post-medieval period and possible grave cuts and human bones have been seen near the shore-line. It may be that the graves are those of prisoners of war who were detained in the castle.

The area of the Harbour is an Area of High Archaeological Importance as within it there is almost certainly evidence of prehistoric landscapes which were used and settled before the rise in sea levels which resulted in the creation of the Harbour, as evidenced by the number of prehistoric flint implements that have been recovered from the Harbour. Also within the Harbour in the vicinity of the fort there may be evidence for the Roman port, including evidence for harbour structures, goods that were traded through the port, and possibly the remains of vessels that used the harbour. Similarly, evidence for the medieval use of the harbour may also survive. Map D marks the area above the Mean Low Water mark as the Area of High Archaeological Importance as the assessment document is primarily intended to assist with land planning issues. However, the area of the Harbour below the Mean Low Water mark is also of high archaeological importance.

Archaeologically Important Areas

The northern part of Castle Street appears to have been less intensively occupied in the medieval period and so areas that have not been recently developed are Archaeologically Important Areas due to the likely lower density of archaeological deposits. As these areas may have been on the fringe of the original core of the settlement important information about the growth and development of the town could survive in this part of the town.

To the east of the property plots along Castle Street there were probably salterns in the medieval period. There are some earthworks in this area close to the rear boundary of the Castle Street properties where the ground is higher. On the lower ground there are ditches and drains. It is possible that some of these features are associated with the production of salt. Although prehistoric and Romano-British salt production has been the subject of study, there has been little work undertaken on the salt industry in the medieval period. If survey within this area was to identify remains of salt production, it is possible that the area could be regarded as having a higher level of archaeological importance as many of the known salt making sites in the county have been lost through development or coastal erosion.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance

Some of the areas of medieval development along West Street are Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance. It is possible that this area of the settlement was a planned extension to the town created

by the Abbots of Titchfield shortly after part of the manor was granted to Titchfield Abbey, and may have formed the 'market centre' of the town. Although there has been a substantial level of development in this area it formed an important part of the town in the medieval period and so any information recovered from this part of the town could aid the understanding of the development of Portchester.

The area of the playing field to the rear of the property plots on the eastern side of Castle Street is an Area of Limited Archaeological Importance. There may have been salterns located in this area in the medieval period although any levelling of the playing field could have had an adverse effect on archaeological deposits.

Research Framework

- Romano-British port facilities

It is presumed that all the Saxon Shore forts also functioned as fleet bases although few, if any, of the port facilities associated with them have been examined (Esmonde Cleary 1989, 61). The area around the promontory may contain evidence for the Romano-British port facilities.

- Possible clearance of part of the settlement for the construction of the outer defences

It is possible that the southern part of the settlement was cleared to allow the construction of the outer earthwork of the castle. Excavation or survey in the area within the outer earthwork may shed further light on the suggestion that the settlement extended further to the south than is the case at present.

- The date of the development of the West Street properties

It is probable that the original centre of settlement was along Castle Street outside the gates of the castle. At the northern end of the town, along West Street, is an area of apparently regular properties that were entirely held by the Abbot of Titchfield in the medieval period. It may be that when part of the manor was granted to Titchfield in 1230 the Abbot encouraged development in the town to increase rents. Only archaeology will be able to answer the questions about the development of this part of the town which has been subject to massive alterations due to the re-routing of the east-west road.

7. SOURCES

DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

For the medieval period the primary source of information about the settlement is the 1405 survey of the manors of Portchester. The original document was not used for this survey, but information from it was drawn from Julian Munby's analysis of the settlement in Cunliffe, 1977.

MAPS AND PLANS

1839 Tithe Apportionment Map HRO 21M65/F7/189/2
1870 OS 1st Edition 6" map

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8. ABBREVIATIONS

<i>c.</i>	<i>circa</i> , about
Ed	Editor
n.d.	No date of publication given
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Ordnance Datum
OE	Old English
OS	Ordnance Survey
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record