

39 & 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT,
ISLE OF WIGHT

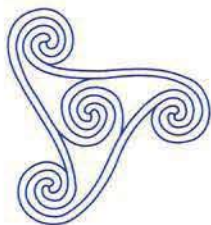
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

National Grid Reference: SZ 5025 8861

Planning Application Ref: Pre-Application

By: AOC ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Commissioned by: GIFFORD



National Grid Reference: SZ 5025 8861

Site Code: IWCMS: 2008.6235

Commissioned by: Gifford
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39 & 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CONTENTS

		Page
1	Non-Technical Summary	2
2	Introduction	3
3	Historical And Archaeological Background	4
4	Strategy	7
5	Results	9
6	Finds	14
7	Discussion	14
8	Conclusion	15
9	Recommendations & Further Work	16
10	Bibliography	17

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Detailed Site/Trench Location Plan
Figure 3	Trench 1B & 2
Figure 4	Trench 4

Table 1	Finds Assemblage
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APPENDIX A	Context Register
APPENDIX B	Trench Matrices
APPENDIX C	OASIS Form
APPENDIX D	Specialist Finds Reports

1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 2nd and 11th January 2008 at the site of 39 & 41 Medina Avenue, Newport, commissioned by Gifford on behalf of Tim Woodcock. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed residential redevelopment on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation comprised eight machine excavated trenches all of varying size, the largest being 4m by 4m. Two trenches were identified as containing archaeological features. These features comprised two parallel shallow post-medieval ditches, and a soil horizon dated to the Roman period.

The evaluation trenches showed that late post-medieval horizontal truncation of deposits had occurred in the southwest area, where substantial late post-medieval dumping had occurred. The evaluation trenches also demonstrated that undisturbed subsoil and topsoil deposits were present across the remaining area of the site, up to a depth of 1m.

Overall, the potential for archaeological deposits to be present on the western side of site and within the garden of 39 Medina Avenue is high, albeit of a low intensity.

2 INTRODUCTION

Site Location (Figures 1 & 2)

- 2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SZ 5025 8861 and is within land bounded to the west by Medina Avenue, to the east by the River Medina, to the north by residential properties, and to the south by rough open ground. The site is roughly triangular in shape and covers an area of approximately 2,000m² (0.2ha).

Planning Background

- 2.2 An application has been received by the Local Planning Authority for the demolition of dwellings, with the intention of preparing the ground for further development. This archaeological evaluation has been commissioned as part of a predetermination investigation in support of that application.
- 2.3 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Gifford to carry out the field evaluation. Subsequently a written scheme of investigation was prepared (AOC 2007) to fulfil the requirement of a method statement as specified in the brief from the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service (2007).
- 2.4 Prior to commencing work a unique code for the project was provided by the Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record; IWCMS: 2008.6235.
- 2.5 On site fieldwork was undertaken between 2nd and 11th January 2007.

Geology and Topography

- 2.6 The British Geological Survey map (BGS 1:50,000 series), indicates that the drift geology of the site is Valley Brickearth over solid geology of Bagshot Beds. Alluvial deposits are indicated to be overlying Valley Brickearth on the eastern boundary of the site.
- 2.7 The site lies on a moderate gradient descending towards the River Medina. The western boundary of the site lies at approximately 9.80m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), with the eastern boundary of the site at c.6.10m AOD.
- 2.8 Prior to the archaeological evaluation geotechnical investigations were conducted on site by G L Martin Ltd (2007). The investigations consisted of three borehole samples (Figure 2) and the results are summarised below;
- Borehole 1 – located near the western boundary of the site, recorded topsoil overlying a layer of made ground 1.1m thick. Naturally deposited silty clay was observed at 1.2m below ground level.

- Borehole 2 – located in the centre of the site, recorded topsoil overlying two distinct bands of made ground reaching a combined thickness of 3.9m. Naturally deposited silty clay was observed at 4.3m below ground level.
- Borehole 3 – located in the northeast corner of the site, recorded topsoil overlying a layer of made ground 0.35m thick. Naturally deposited silty clay was observed at 0.7m below ground level.

3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

- 3.1 No known previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken on site. A 500m radius search of the Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record (IWHHER) was carried out. The results of that search are summarised below with the IWHHER reference numbers bracketed.

Prehistoric (before c. AD 43)

- 3.2 Several entries appear on the IWHHER for the prehistoric period. The earliest entry relates to palaeolithic activity recorded at Great Pan Farm (877-MIW929) located approximately 125m to the east of the site. Multiple investigations throughout the 20th century and in recent years have identified over 140 flint implements and 500 retouched flakes. The tools recovered have been identified as containing Mousterian material of the Acheulian tradition. The site has been recognised as being of national significance due to the rarity of this type of material. An isolated palaeolithic flint core was recovered during building work on South Street (924-MIW976), located c.375m to the north of the development.
- 3.3 Investigations at Great Pan Farm also identified evidence of later prehistoric activity in the form of unstratified flint tools associated with the mesolithic and neolithic periods (878-MIW930) demonstrating continuity use of the site over time. Further unstratified neolithic tools have been discovered in the garden of a house at Shide Cross (467-MIW466), 500m to the southwest of the site.
- 3.4 Evidence for Bronze Age activity in the area is limited; the only recorded entry on the IWHHER is for a bronze looped palstave recovered during gravel extraction at Great Pan Farm (879-MIW931).
- 3.5 There are several entries for the Late Iron Age in the locality. The most significant entry is located approximately 200m to the southwest on Queens Road (852-MIW904), where excavations for a sewer trench revealed evidence of a Late Belgic/Early Roman hut site. Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was also recovered from two separate locations, both within 200m to the south (872-MIW924 & 874-MIW926). The isolated find of a denarius dating to between 90

BC to 79 BC (2162-MIW2220), found on Clarence Road to the northwest, is a strong indication of contact with the Roman Empire during this period.

Roman (c. AD 43-410)

- 3.6 There are a substantial number of records detailing Roman period located within 500m of the Medina Road properties. The most significant of these is the excavation of Newport Roman villa in 1926, which is located approximately 120m to the west of the site (855-MIW907). The villa is of a winged corridor type and has been designated as a Scheduled Monument. The earliest phase of activity identified during the excavations predates the construction of the villa itself, indicating occupation on the site during the 1st to 2nd century AD, in the form of ditches and occupation debris. In the late 3rd century the villa structure was built, it consisted of 14 rooms including a dedicated bath house in the southwest wing. It is likely that by c. AD 320 domestic occupation of the villa had ceased, with the villa structure left to decay and collapse (Tomalin 1987).
- 3.7 Other significant structural remains thought to be associated with the Newport villa have been uncovered nearby. A substantial Roman wall was discovered during the installation of sewerage pipes to the south of the villa on Cypress Road (853-MIW905). It was unclear if this wall related to the villa boundary or to other related structures. In addition to this, at the junction between Avondale Road and Medina Avenue, directly to the west of the site, service trenching revealed elements of an *in-situ* hypocaust system (856-MIW908). The hypocaust system represents a separate substantial structure within close proximity of the villa.
- 3.8 The IWHER records also include reports of several isolated finds of Roman pottery and coins scatters within 500m of the site, to the north, south, and west (857-MIW909, 873-MIW925 & 2550-MIW2600). In the area located between the development site and the villa, a selection of isolated finds have been recorded including tile and brick and other occupation debris (854-MIW906 & 875-MIW927).

Anglo-Saxon (410 – 1066)

- 3.9 No records relating the Anglo-Saxon period are recorded on the IWHER within the vicinity of the site.

Medieval (1066 - 1485)

- 3.10 The settlement of Newport is first referred to in a charter of c.1180, at a time when it is thought to be a small fishing community. By 1263 the settlement had grown in size to 175 tenements. Disaster struck Newport in the mid 14th century in the form of the plague, and it suffered further in 1377 when it was attacked by the French (5767-MIW7140).

- 3.11 Both Shide and Great Pan Farm (Lepene) are mentioned in the Domesday Book indicating that small settlements were present in the vicinity during the 11th century (5193-MIW6673 & 5216-MIW6696). The village of Lepene has now been lost, but is thought to survive as a deserted medieval settlement on the eastern bank of the River Medina (956-MIW1008).

Post-medieval (1485 – 1900)

- 3.12 Like many other urban centres across the country, Newport experienced a massive growth in population and size during the post-medieval period. A significant proportion of that growth began in the 18th century. This is attested to by the number of historic buildings located within Newport town centre, located approximately 500m to the northwest of site. On St. James Street alone there are 24 entries on the IWHAR relating to 18th to 19th century shops and properties (10715-MIW8214 to 10738-MIW8237). Other historic properties dating to the 19th century have been recorded on both Terrace Road and Trafalgar Road.
- 3.13 Industrial activity also formed part of the identity of Newport in the post-medieval period, with several different industries exploiting the clay resource in the vicinity. Shide brickworks and pottery works (4116-MIW5746 & 4097-MIW5727) were located approximately 500m to the southwest of the development site, while Orchard Street Clay Pipe Factory (1543-MIW1646) was c. 400m northwest of the site.

Modern (1900 – present)

- 3.14 It was not until the early 1900s that the area around Medina Avenue, also known as the Mount Pleasant Estate, was developed. A new network of roads was built to facilitate access to Newport's suburban growth.
- 3.15 During the Second World War the Isle of Wight was vulnerable, and would have been at the forefront of any invasion from the continent. Like elsewhere in the country, numerous defensive points were set up to impede any invasion attempts. One of these defensive points is located at Ponders End, 500m to the south of the site, incorporating a looped holed wall (4863-MIW6362) and a garden shed converted into an impromptu pillbox (4868-MIW6367).

4 STRATEGY

Aims of the Investigation

- 4.1 The aims of the evaluation were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.

- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable the archaeological advisor to the Isle of Wight County Council to make an informed decision on the status of the planning application, and any possible conditions for further work required if the application is approved.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.
- 4.2 The specific objectives of the evaluation were to:
- Determine the presence of any remains associated with the known Roman villa which lies adjacent to the site.
 - Determine the presence of any remains pre-dating any Roman activity on the site.
 - Determine the presence of any remains post-dating any Roman activity on the site.
 - Assess the degree and extent of truncation to any Roman deposits by the phases of later activity, specifically late post-medieval and modern activity on the site.
- 4.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

Research Design

- 4.4 An archaeological brief was prepared by the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service (2007), with a written scheme of investigation subsequently prepared by AOC Archaeology (2007).
- 4.5 The evaluation involved the excavation of eight trenches, the size and location of these trenches is shown in Figure 2. Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2007). All practices were carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (English Heritage 1998 & IFA 1994). Provision was made for a report as defined in the written scheme of investigation.

Methodology

4.6 During the fieldwork the size and location of several trenches had to be altered, in agreement with Gifford, to avoid obstructions and aid site logistics (Figure 2). The alterations are as follows:

- Trench 1 - Original Trench 1A initially reduced in size to 2.6m by 2.1m due to logistical reasons. Space for spoiling limited so depth of trench restricted to 0.75m and then backfilled. Second sondage trench opened in same location. Trench 1B measured 1.8m by 1m, reaching a depth of 1.45m.
- Trench 2 - Relocated 1.5m to the east of its original position, and restricted in size to 3.8m by 2.5m by limited spoiling area.
- Trench 3 - Not excavated by agreement of Gifford and the County Archaeologists.
- Trench 4 - Size and location unaltered.
- Trench 5 - Size and location unaltered.
- Trench 6 - Size and location unaltered.
- Trench 7 - Size and location unaltered.
- Trench 8 - Reoriented to align northwest-southeast due to obstructions.

4.7 Levels for each context were established relative to Ordnance Datum, taken from a bench mark on the wall outside 9b Avondale Road (19.44m AOD). A temporary bench mark was established on a service cover on the road outside 41 Medina Avenue at a height of 9.38m AOD.

4.8 The evaluation was conducted by the author under the overall management of Andy Leonard. The site was monitored by Helen Moore, on behalf of Gifford, and Owen Cambridge, Archaeological Officer for Isle of Wight County Council.

5 RESULTS

Trench 1A

5.1 Surface of Trench = 9.81m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
9.81-9.43m	0.00m	(1A/001)	Topsoil. Soft, dark greyish brown, clayey silt.
9.43- 9.28m	0.38m	(1A/002)	Subsoil. Soft, dark brownish grey, sandy silt.
9.28-9.02m (NFE)	0.53- 0.79m	(1A/003)	Soft, dark yellowish brown, silty clay. Frequent CBM fragments. Made Ground.

5.2 The earliest recorded deposit was a soft, dark yellowish brown, silty clay (1A/003), which contained frequent fragments of 19th and 20th century ceramic building material (CBM) and glass fragments. This was interpreted as a late post-medieval made ground deposit, and at its highest was observed at 9.28m AOD. This was overlain by a 0.15m thick layer of sandy silt subsoil (1A/002), which was sealed by an organic clayey silt topsoil (1A/001) up to 0.40m thick. The topsoil contained occasional fragments of 19th century pottery and CBM.

5.3 No features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 1A.

Trench 1B (Figure 3)

5.4 Surface of Trench = 9.81m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
9.81-9.21m	0.00m	(1B/001)	Soft, dark grey, clayey silt. Mixed backfill. Made Ground.
9.21-8.86m	0.60m	(1B/002)	Soil Horizon. Soft, dark brown, clayey silt. Undated.
8.86-8.71m	0.95m	(1B/003)	Soil Horizon. Soft, mid grey, clayey silt. Undated.
8.71-8.36m (NFE)	1.10- 1.45m	(1B/004)	Natural. Firm, mid brown, silty clay.

5.5 Trench 1B was located in the footprint of Trench 1A, and was excavated through the recent backfill material.

5.6 The earliest recorded deposit was a firm, mid brown, silty clay (1B/004), with occasional medium sub-rounded stony inclusions. This was interpreted as a natural deposit, and at its highest was observed at 8.71m AOD.

5.7 Overlying the natural was a soft, grey, clayey silt (1B/003) soil horizon up to 0.15m thick. Layer (1B/003) contained occasional small flecks of CBM. Above

this was a 0.35m thick mid brown, clayey silt (1B/002) soil horizon which was barren of any cultural inclusions.

- 5.8 The upper 0.60m of the trench profile consisted of mixed made ground originating from the excavation and subsequent backfilling of Trench 1A.
- 5.9 No features of archaeological significance were recorded in Trench 1B.

Trench 2 (Figure 3)

- 5.10 Surface of Trench = 9.64m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
9.64-9.54m	0.00m	(2/001)	Concrete Driveway Slab.
9.54- 9.18m	0.10m	(2/002)	Soft, dark brown, clayey silt. CBM fragments. Made Ground.
9.18- 9.04m	0.46m	(2/003)	Soil Horizon. Soft, dark greyish brown, clayey silt. Post-Medieval.
9.04-8.64m	0.60m	(2/004)	Soil Horizon. Soft, mid greyish brown, clayey silt. Undated.
8.64- 8.44m	1.00m	(2/005)	Soil Horizon. Soft, mid grey, clayey silt. Roman.
8.44-8.34m (NFE)	1.20-1.30m	(2/006)	Natural. Compact, dark orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

- 5.11 The earliest recorded deposit was a compact, dark orangey brown, sandy clay gravel (2/006), interpreted as being as being the natural deposit. This was observed at its highest at 8.44m AOD.
- 5.12 Deposited directly above the natural was a 0.20m thick layer of soft, mid grey, clayey silt (2/005). This soil horizon contained several medium sized fragments of CBM and a single fragment of pottery, all of which are of Roman date. In addition to the pottery and CBM recovered, a small fragment of 19th to 20th century glass was associated with layer (2/005) which was interpreted as being intrusive. A small quantity of burnt coal and ferruginous concretion were also recovered from the same context, most likely produced by iron objects corroding in the soil. Soil horizon (2/005) was followed in the depositional sequence by a 0.40m thick, mid greyish brown, clayey silt layer (2/004), which contained no obvious inclusions. Above soil horizon (2/004) was a dark greyish brown, clayey silt (2/003) layer measuring up to 0.15m thick, which contained occasional fragments of 18th century pottery. Layer (2/003) is thought to be a horizontally truncated subsoil deposit.
- 5.13 Sealing the sequence was a 0.35m thick layer of modern clayey silt made ground (2/002) supporting the concrete driveway slab (2/001).

Trench 3

- 5.14 Trench 3 was not excavated.

Trench 4

- 5.15 Surface of Trench = 9.06m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
9.06-5.86m	0.00m	(4/001)	Highly mixed deposit with clay and chalk lenses, plus frequent CBM frags. Made Ground.
5.86-5.56m (NFE)	3.20-3.50m	(4/002)	Natural. Alluvial deposit, firm, dark brownish grey, clay.

- 5.16 The earliest recorded deposit was a firm, dark brownish grey, clay (4/002). This was interpreted as a natural alluvial clay deposit, and at its highest was observed at 5.86m AOD. This was overlain by 3.20m of highly mixed made ground deposits (4/001). The made ground comprised of distinct individual bands of made ground demonstrated by the presence of tip lines. These bands varied in composition between clay, chalk and organic clay silts, including lenses of ashy debris. Each band of made ground had been dumped at a 45° angle within a short interval of time, and several bands contained frequent fragments of 19th to 20th century CBM, pottery and glass.
- 5.17 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 4.

Trench 5

- 5.18 Surface of Trench = 8.09m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
8.09-5.69m	0.00m	(5/001)	Highly mixed deposit with clay and chalk lenses, plus frequent CBM frags. Made Ground.
5.69- 5.39m	2.40m	(5/002)	Disturbed clay gravel. Compact, orangey brown, sandy clay gravel. Occasional large fragment CBM.
5.39- 5.19m	2.70m	(5/003)	Redeposited Natural? Soft, mid yellowish brown, clay.
5.19-4.89m (NFE)	2.90-3.20m	(5/004)	Natural. Alluvial deposit, soft, dark grey, fine silt.

- 5.19 The earliest recorded deposit was a soft, dark grey, fine silt (5/004) which at its highest was observed at 5.19m AOD. Although the deposit contained some intrusive post-medieval material (due to the method of retrieval with the machine bucket) this layer was interpreted as a natural alluvial silt. An environmental

sample taken from the alluvial silt (5/004), indicated that it contained the remains of several plant species consistent with a damp flood plain environment. Overlying the natural alluvial deposit was a layer of what was thought to be redeposited natural clay (5/003), measuring up to 0.30m thick. Due to the depth at which this deposit was observed, and the unstable nature of the trench, further detailed observations were not possible.

- 5.20 Above the clay (5/003) was a further 0.30m thick layer of compact, orangey brown sandy clay gravel (5/002). The occasional large CBM fragments observed within the deposit indicated that it was a disturbed layer of clay gravel.
- 5.21 Sealing the sequence was a substantial, 2.40m thick, layer of 19th to 20th century mixed made ground (5/001). The deposit contained multiple layers varying in composition between organic silty clay, chalk, and clay. All the made ground had been dumped at roughly a 45° angle over a short space of time. Frequent CBM fragments were observed through out the deposit.
- 5.22 No features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 5.

Trench 6

- 5.23 Surface of Trench = 6.98m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
6.98-6.62m	0.00m	(6/001)	Topsoil. Soft, dark greyish brown, clayey silt.
6.62- 6.42m	0.36m	(6/002)	Subsoil. Soft, mid greyish brown, silty clay.
6.42-6.30m (NFE)	0.56-0.68m	(6/003)	Natural. Compact, dark orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

- 5.24 The earliest recorded deposit was a compact, dark orangey brown, sandy clay gravel (6/003 which at its highest was observed at 6.42m AOD. This was interpreted as the natural deposit. Overlying the natural deposit was a 0.20m thick layer of mid greyish brown, silty clay subsoil (6/002). This was sealed by up to 0.35m thick clayey silt organic topsoil (6/001) which contained fragments of pottery dating to the 19th or 20th century.
- 5.25 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 6.

Trench 7

- 5.26 Surface of Trench = 7.22m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
7.22-7.07m	0.00m	(7/001)	Topsoil. Soft, mid brown, clayey silt.

7.07- 6.77m	0.15m	(7/002)	Subsoil. Soft, dark brown, silty clay.
6.77-6.37m (NFE)	0.45- 0.85m	(7/003)	Natural. Compact, mid orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

5.27 The earliest recorded deposit was a compact, mid orangey brown, sandy clay gravel (7/003) which at its highest was observed at 6.77m AOD. This was interpreted as the natural deposit. Overlying the natural was a layer of dark brown, silty clay subsoil (7/002), measuring up to 0.30m thick which contained occasional fragments of 19th to 20th century CBM fragments. Deposited above the subsoil was a 0.15m thick layer of clayey silt topsoil (7/001).

5.28 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 7.

Trench 8 (Figure 4)

5.29 Surface of Trench = 6.16m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
6.16-5.96m	0.00m	(8/001)	Topsoil. Soft, dark grey brown, clayey silt.
5.96- 5.66m	0.20m	(8/002)	Subsoil. Soft, mid orangey brown, silty clay.
5.66-5.56m (NFE)	0.50- 0.60m	(8/007)	Natural. Compact, light brownish orange, sandy clay gravel.

5.30 The earliest recorded deposit was a compact, light brownish orange, sandy clay gravel (8/007). This was interpreted as the natural deposit, and at its highest was observed at 5.66m AOD.

5.31 Two ditch features [8/004] & [8/006] were observed truncating the natural in Trench 8. Both ditches were only partially exposed in plan. Ditches [8/004] & [8/006] were similar, as both were on a roughly parallel east-west alignment and had shallow concave profiles. Each ditch measured over 1.40m wide and up to 0.40m deep. The size, shape and location of the ditches [8/004] & [8/006] suggests they may have been cut for the purposes of drainage. The ditch fills (8/003) & (8/005) were all also similar, both being mid yellowish brown and clay in character. Finds were recovered from fill (8/003) in the form of occasional fragments of pottery and CBM, indicating the ditch was backfilled during the 19th century. No finds were collected from fill (8/005).

5.32 Both ditches were sealed by a 0.30m thick layer of orangey brown, silty clay subsoil (8/002), overlain by a further 0.20m thick layer of clayey silt topsoil (8/001).

6 FINDS

- 6.1 Finds were retrieved from deposits (1A/001), (1A/002), (1A/003), (2/003), (2/005), (4/001), (5/004), (6/001), (6/003), (7/002) and (8/003) (Table 1 & Appendix D).

Table 1 – Summary of Finds Assemblage

Trench No.	Context	Find Type	Date
1A	1A/001	Pottery, CBM	Post-Medieval
	1A/002	Iron Nails	Post-Medieval
	1A/003	Glass Brick, CBM	Post-Medieval
2	2/003	Pottery, CBM	Post-Medieval
	2/005	Pottery, CBM, Animal Bone, Shell Charcoal, Industrial Waste, Glass (intrusive), Flint	Roman
4	4/001	CBM, Glass, Animal Bone, Slag, Pottery	Post-Medieval
5	5/004	CBM, Animal Bone, Plant Remains, Slag, Flint, Metal Pin and Stud/Tack	Unknown
6	6/001	Animal Bone, CTP, Pottery	Post-Medieval?
	6/003	CBM	Post-Medieval
7	7/002	CBM	Post-Medieval
8	8/003	CBM, Flint, Stone	Post-Medieval

- 6.2 A range of material was collected, predominately associated with the post-medieval period. The assemblages from contexts (1A/001), (1A/002), (1A/003), (2/003), (4/001), (6/001), (6/002), (7/002) & (8/003) represents the standard range of finds expected from post-medieval urban activity, including pottery, CBM, clay pipe, animal bone and glass bottles. The finds recovered from context (2/005) indicate the layer is associated with the Roman period. It must be noted that one small piece of post-medieval glass was recovered from this context but this is thought to be intrusive. The Roman finds included CBM and pottery fragments indicating the presence of a substantial structure within the vicinity of the site. Environmental samples collected from context (2/005) also contained traces of industrial waste and charcoal suggesting industrial activity in the vicinity. Samples were also collected from context (5/004), an alluvial deposit, but due to the modern nature of some of the finds it is likely the sample has been contaminated.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 During the course of the evaluation works the nature and extent of the archaeological potential was defined, in addition to the associated disturbance of this potential. The most significant feature encountered was a Roman soil horizon (2/005) identified in Trench 2. A highly similar deposit to this was also identified

- in Trench 1B, context (1B/003), present at approximately the same depth, but did not contain any dating material. The presence of this layer demonstrates that Roman deposits survive within the south-western area of the site.
- 7.2 The presence of the Roman soil horizon suggests that a low intensity of activity dating to this period occurred on site. The finds recovered can be potentially associated with other sites of Roman activity occurring within the vicinity of the site, such as Newport Roman villa. The villa is located 120m to the west of the site and is suspected to be a focal point of activity during this period. It is highly likely that the layer in question is associated with the villa, but is located in the marginal ground outside the core activity of the villa. The limited number of finds and the lack of diagnostic features attributed to the finds means they cannot be directly associated with any specific phase of activity occurring within the villa site. No evidence for *in-situ* remains relating to the hypocaust system, found at the junction between Avondale Road and Medina Avenue, was found during the course of the works.
- 7.4 The other period represented on site is the 19th to 20th century, by means of a range of finds collected from the upper horizons in Trenches 1A, 2, 4, 6, 7 & 8. The assemblage contains a standard range of material from this period, and is indicative of the late-medieval/modern growth of Newport into the area of the development site. The post-medieval pottery recovered from these contexts is what would be expected from garden soil and makeup at this date, generated by casual deposition rather than deliberate dumping on any scale. The drainage ditches identified in the northern area of site, from which late post-medieval finds were recovered, can be associated with this period in the town's development.
- 7.5 The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 1A, 1B, 2, 6, 7 & 8 indicate that disturbance in the western and northern areas of the site is limited, allowing a substantial soil sequence to accumulate over time. Finds recovered during the evaluation clearly demonstrate that the topsoil element of the soil sequence has accumulated within the last 200 years.
- 7.6 The limited sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 4 & 5 suggests this south-eastern area of site has undergone a degree of horizontal truncation, resulting in the removal of the overlying soil sequences, prior to the dumping of substantial quantities of 19th century waste material. This is likely to have removed the possibility of archaeological remains surviving in this area.
- 7.7 Analysis of the environmental samples recovered from alluvial deposit (5/004) contains indications to the formation of the local landscape at an early stage of the site's development. The plant assemblage supports the idea that wet, marshy habitats would be expected at this time, while flood water may have carried in other species represented rather than growing on or immediately around the site. The fruits of beet, a plant of waste ground near the sea, may also indicate the

influence of the nearby tidal estuary of the River Medina. The plant assemblage recovered consisted entirely of remains of wild plants, with no clear evidence for human occupation in the form of cultivated crops or other food remains.

- 7.8 Mollusc shells from context (5/004) suggest consumption of common periwinkle and common/flat oyster although the presence of both these locally-available and economically important species may also indicate transport by scavenger or predator species. The habitat requirements indicated by the identified molluscs appear to correspond with evidence from the botanical assemblage in that the terrestrial and freshwater species represented are often associated with human habitation or agriculture, and can be found on managed meadow or pasture, but provide no definitive evidence for human presence.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The evaluation successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and archaeological potential of the site. Natural or alluvial deposits were observed in all trenches, between a height of 8.71m and 5.19m AOD. This is consistent with the general gradient of the land decreasing from west to east.
- 8.2 The archaeological evaluation identified that, of the eight trenches excavated, two contained archaeological features. The soil horizon identified in Trench 2 demonstrated peripheral activity attributed to the Roman period, more specifically associated with the known Roman villa within the vicinity of the site. Finds evidence retrieved from the ditches excavated in Trench 8, represent late post-medieval activity on site.
- 8.3 The evidence for the Roman period suggests low intensity activity, which appears to be focused primarily in the eastern area of the site. The nature and the depth of the overburden deposits across the site, with the exception of the southwest area, indicates the potential for other surviving archaeological features.
- 8.4 Due to the high quantity of evidence from the local area relating to the Roman period, it suggests that these features should be given a low to moderate level of significance.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS & FURTHER WORK

- 9.1 The evaluation met its primary objective: to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.
- 9.2 Specialist analysis has been carried out on the finds and therefore no further work is required on the finds assemblage.

- 9.3 Until decisions have been made regarding the possibility of further work, due to the limited nature of the project, publication is expected to be undertaken by means of a summary in the Hampshire Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix C).
- 9.4 The archive, consisting of paper records, finds, digital and 35mm photographs, will be deposited with the Isle of Wight Museum Services.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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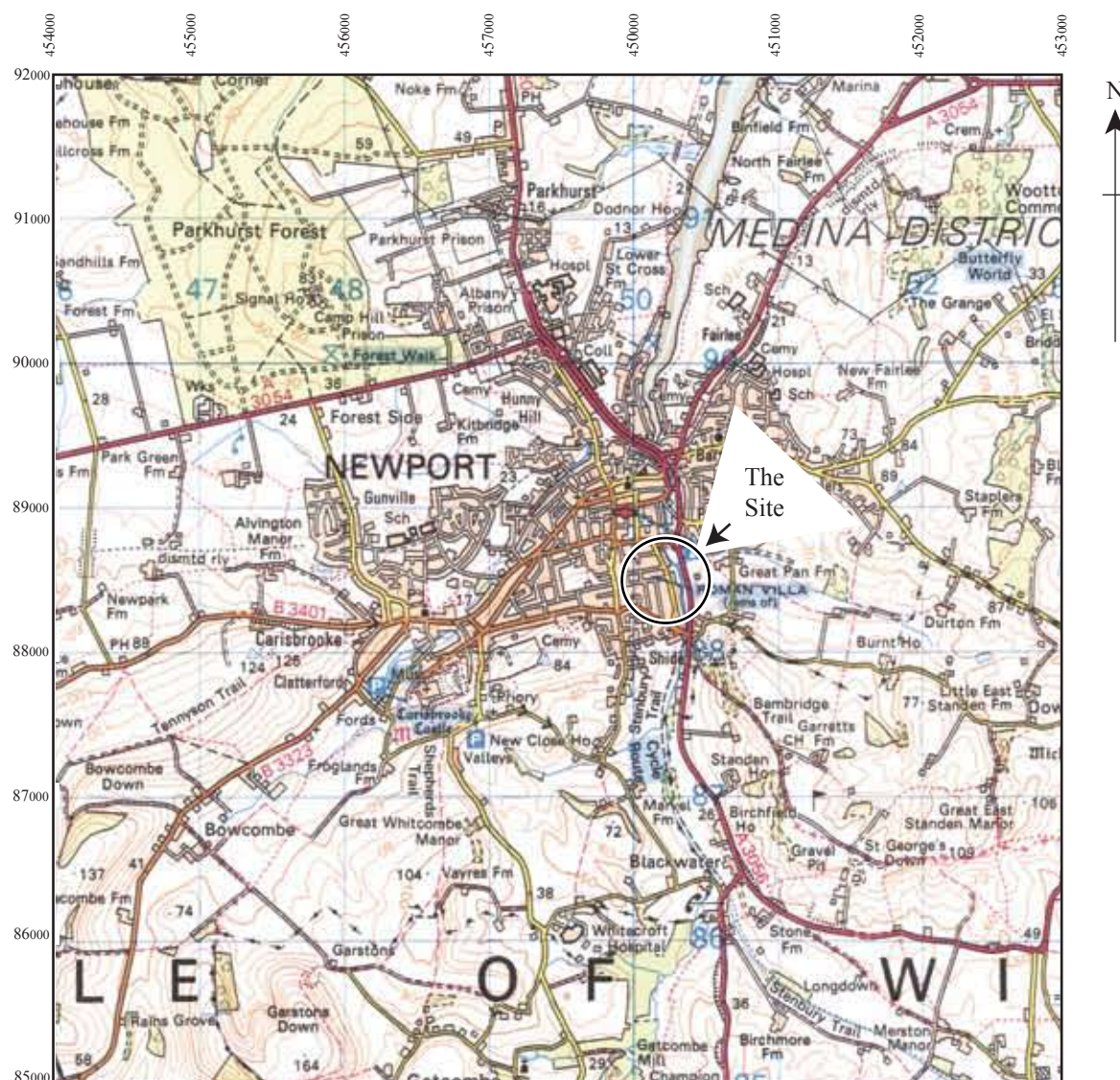
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Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 1993
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500m 0 2 km
1:50 000

Figure 1: Site Location

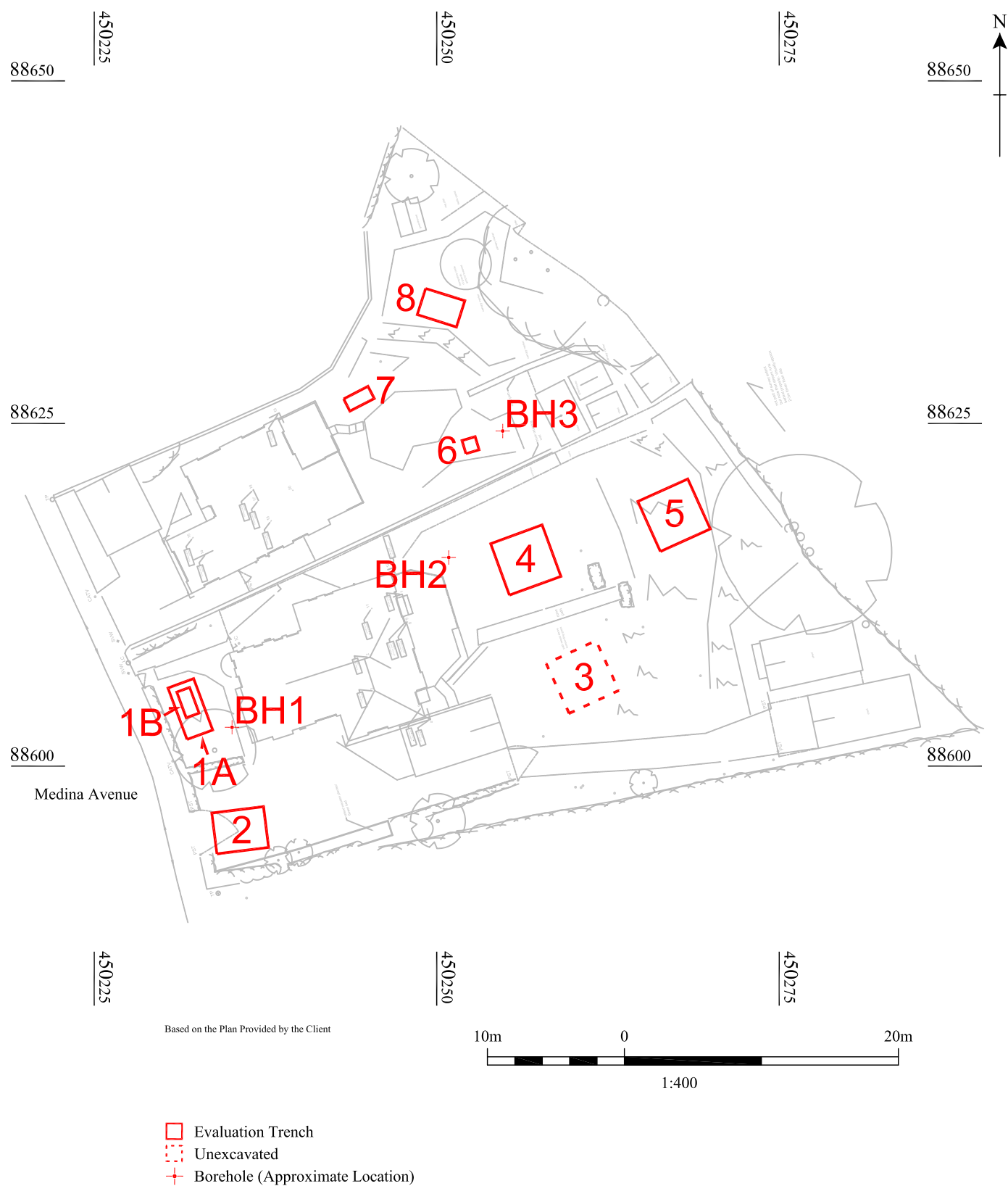


Figure 2: Detailed Site/Trench Location Plan

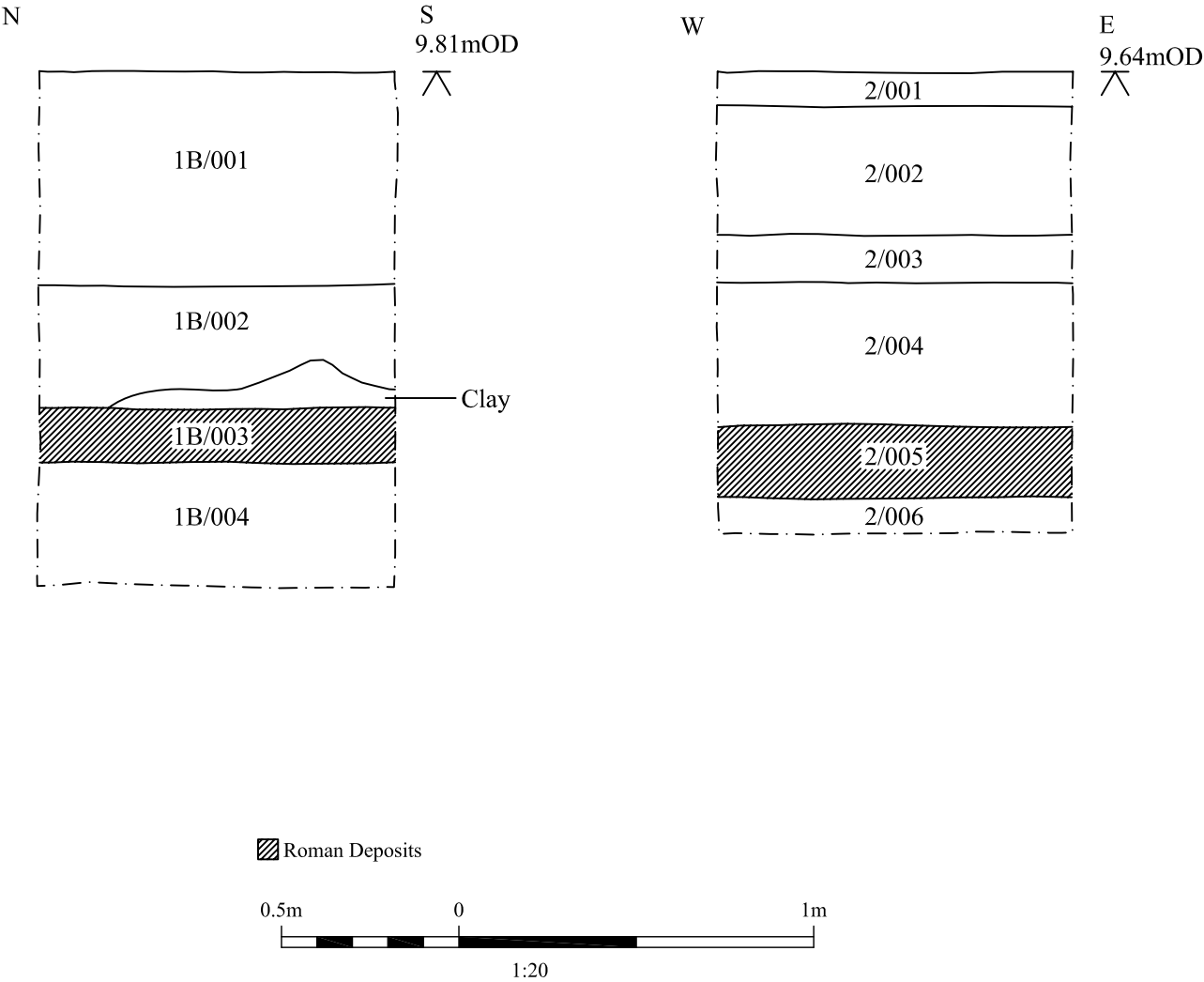


Figure 3: Trench 1B & Trench 2: Sample Sections

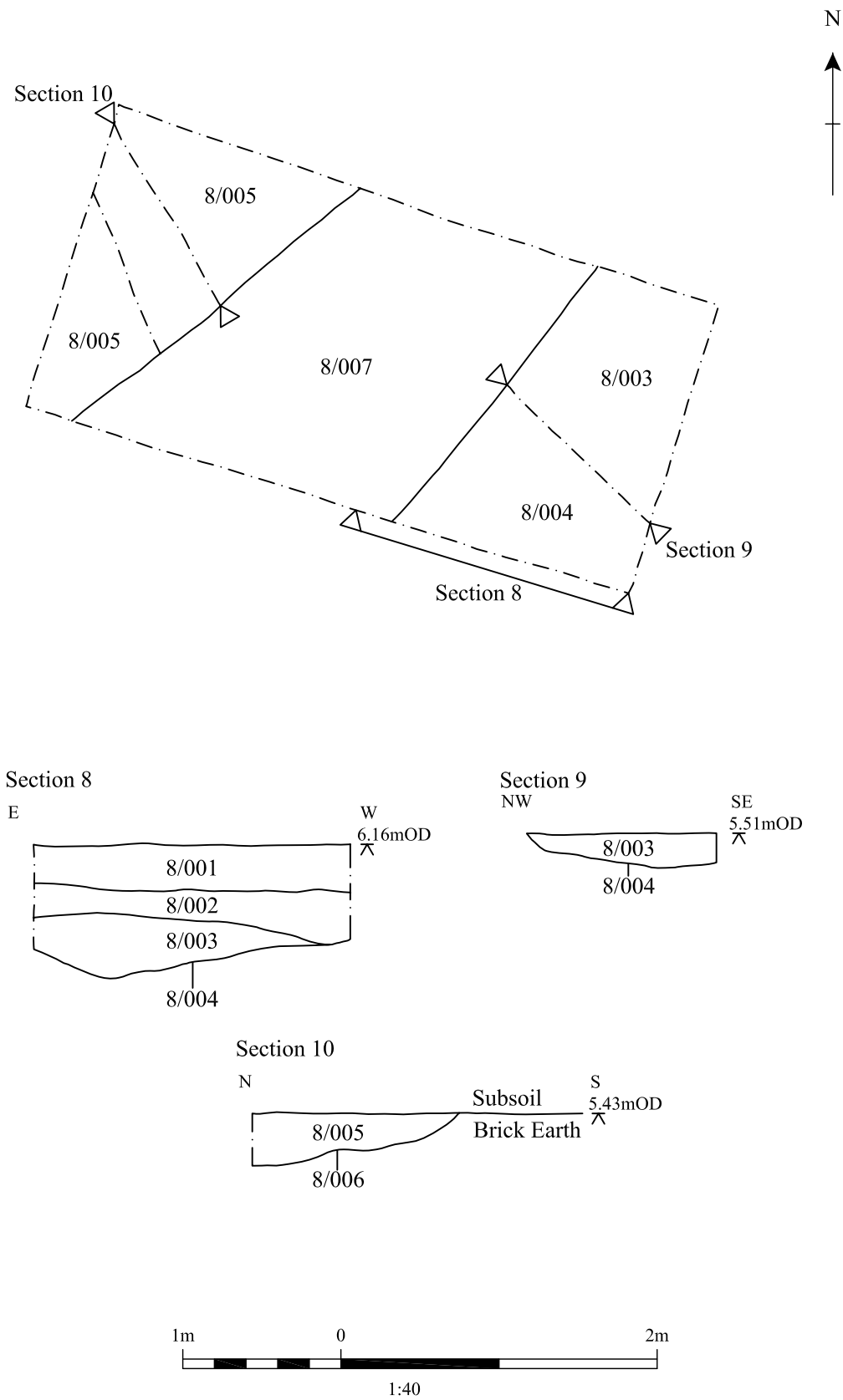


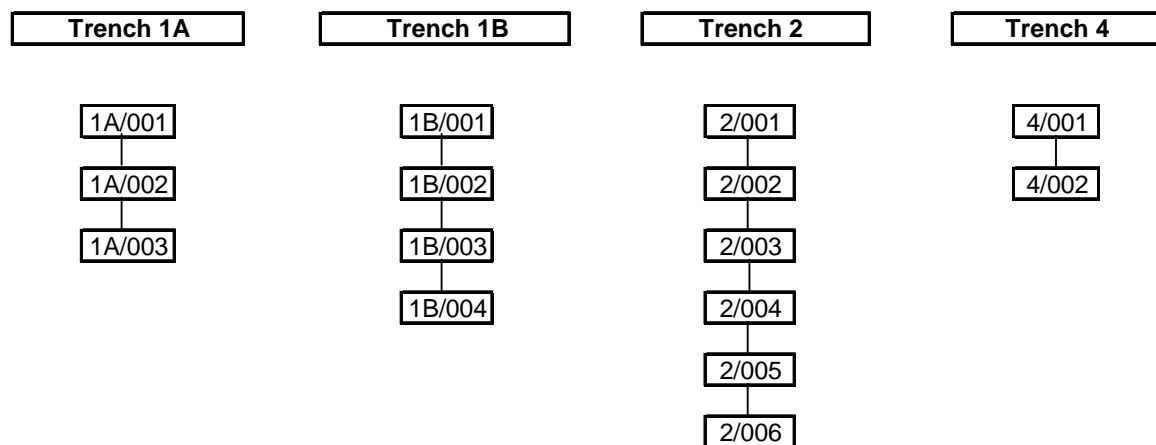
Figure 4: Trench 8: Plan & Sections

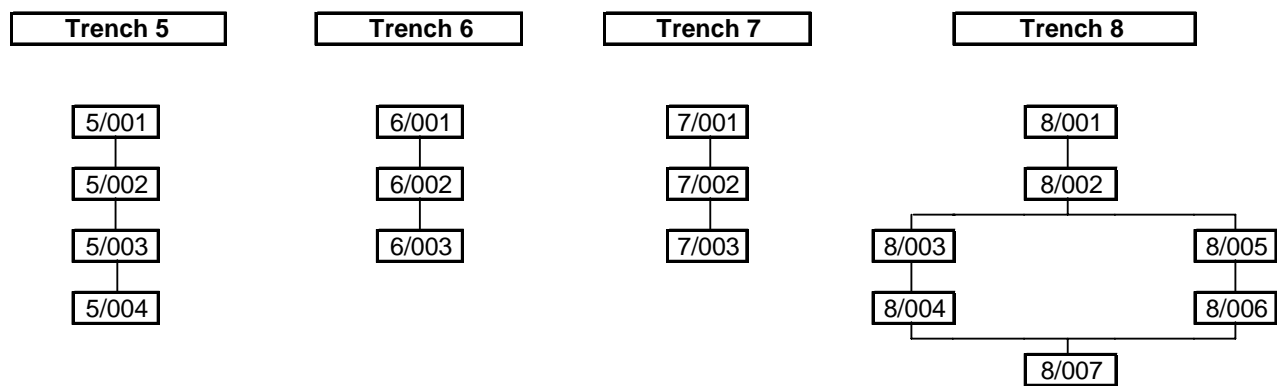
APPENDIX A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1A/001	Topsoil	2.60m	2.10m	0.38m
1A/002	Subsoil	2.60m	2.10m	0.15m
1A/003	Made Ground	2.60m	2.10m	0.26m+
1B/001	Made Ground	1.80m	1.00m	0.60m
1B/002	Soil Horizon	1.80m	1.00m	0.35m
1B/003	Soil Horizon	1.80m	1.00m	0.15m
1B/004	Natural	1.80m	1.00m	0.35m+
2/001	Driveway	3.80m	2.50m	0.10m
2/002	Made ground	3.80m	2.50m	0.36m
2/003	Soil Horizon	3.80m	2.50m	0.14m
2/004	Soil Horizon	3.80m	2.50m	0.40m
2/005	Soil Horizon	3.80m	2.50m	0.20m
2/006	Natural	3.80m	2.50m	0.10m+
4/001	Made Ground	4.00m	4.00m	3.20m
4/002	Natural	4.00m	4.00m	0.30m+
5/001	Made Ground	4.00m	4.00m	2.40m
5/002	Disturbed Clay Gravel	4.00m	4.00m	0.30m
5/003	Natural	4.00m	4.00m	0.20m
5/004	Natural	4.00m	4.00m	0.30m+
6/001	Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.36m
6/002	Subsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
6/003	Natural	1.00m	1.00m	0.12m+
7/001	Topsoil	2.00m	1.00m	0.15m
7/002	Subsoil	2.00m	1.00m	0.30m
7/003	Natural	2.00m	1.00m	0.40m+
8/001	Topsoil	3.00m	2.00m	0.10m
8/002	Subsoil	3.00m	2.00m	0.36m
8/003	Fill of Ditch	2.00m+	1.40m+	0.40m

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
8/004	Cut of Ditch	2.00m+	1.40m+	0.40m
8/005	Fill of Ditch	2.00m+	1.40m+	0.33m
8/006	Cut of Ditch	2.00m+	1.40m+	0.33m
8/007	Natural	3.00m	2.00m	0.10m+

APPENDIX B- Trench Matrices





APPENDIX C – OASIS Form**1.1 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-37362****Project details**

Project name	39 and 41 Medina Avenue, Newport, Isle of Wight
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the site of 39 and 41 Medina Avenue, Newport. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed residential redevelopment on any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation comprised eight machine excavated trenches all of varying size, the largest being 4m by 4m. Two trenches were recognised as containing archaeological features. These features comprised two shallow ditches dated to the post medieval period and a soil horizon dated to the Roman period. The evaluation trenches showed that modern horizontal truncation of deposits had occurred in the southwest area, where substantial late post-medieval dumping had occurred. The evaluation trenches also demonstrated that undisturbed subsoil and topsoil deposits were present across the remaining area of the site, up to a depth of 1m. Overall, the potential for archaeological deposits to be present on the remainder of site is good, albeit of a low intensity nature. This is combined with the high level of preservation of the archaeological horizon across the majority of the site.
Project dates	Start: 02-01-2008 End: 11-01-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	7943 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	IWCMS,2008.6235 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	6235 - Related HER No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval

Monument type	SOIL HORIZON Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	WORKED STONE Roman
Significant Finds	METAL OBJECTS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ISLE OF WIGHT ISLE OF WIGHT NEWPORT 39 and 41 Medina Avenue, Newport, Isle of Wight
Postcode	PO30 1HF
Study area	0.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	SZ 45025 88614 50.6948509769 -1.362449021690 50 41 41 N 001 21 44 W Point

Height OD Min: 5.19m Max: 8.79m

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Tim Woodcock

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Newport Museum

Physical Archive ID IWCMS.2008.6235

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Industrial','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'

Physical Archive notes To be held at AOC until ready to archive.

Digital Archive recipient Newport Museum

Digital Archive ID	IWCMS.2008.6235
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Digital Archive notes	Jpeg images
Paper Archive recipient	Newport Museum
Paper Archive ID	IWCMS.2008.6235
Paper Contents	'Ceramics', 'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Microfilm', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'
Paper Archive notes	To be held at AOC until ready to archive.

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	39 and 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, C.
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 43 page thermal bound text and illustrations

Entered by Fitz (paul.fitz@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on 20 May 2008

APPENDIX D – Specialist Finds Reports

THE ROMAN POTTERY FROM 39 & 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT (IWCMS.2008)

by
Amy Thorp

Only one context 2/005 contained Roman pottery at Medina Avenue. This comprised a single sherd of heavily abraded unsourced oxidised ware (OXID) from a bowl. This is dated to the whole of the Roman period (AD 50–400). The bowl has some similarities with a flanged type (34) in Marsh (1978), and could therefore be early 2nd century. However, without further material to support this identification only a general Roman date can be given. The abrasion of the sherd also indicates that it is likely to have been re-deposited.

Bibliography

Marsh, G, 1978 Early 2nd-century fine wares in the London area, in *Early fine wares in Roman Britain* (eds P Arthur and G Marsh), BAR Brit Ser 57, 119–223, Oxford

POST-ROMAN POTTERY FROM MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT (IWCMS.2008.6235)

by
Jacqui Pearce

1.1 Introduction and methodology

A total of 20 sherds of post-medieval pottery from a minimum of 17 vessels with a total weight of 697 g were recovered from five small contexts, none of which yielded more than eight sherds. These were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet using established MoLAS codes for fabric, form and decoration. The small size of the sample greatly hinders any kind of chronological refinement and limits the potential for interpretation.

1.2 The pottery

Most of the pottery recorded on the site dates to the 19th and 20th centuries, which accords with the known development of the area. The latest identifiable piece was found in [4/001], a layer of made ground. It is a complete small cream jug in buff-bodied stoneware (ENGs) with a dark brown, treacly wash outside under a clear glaze and white glaze inside. The jug has a shouldered profile with a small lip at the rim, opposite the handle (now missing). Underneath the lower handle attachment is an impressed inscription that reads 'Western Counties Creameries Aplin and Barrett Yeovil Marston & Westbury'. The Western Counties Creameries moved to Marston in 1891 and amalgamated with Aplin and Barrett of Yeovil in 1898 (Currie and Dunning 1999: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=18745>).

This provides a useful *terminus post quem* for the context, which was probably laid down at any time during the earlier part of the 20th century. Alongside the cream jug, sherds from two marmalade jars were found, made in drab-bodied stoneware with a clear glaze. One has shallow vertical grooves at regular intervals around the body. Vessels of this kind were commonly used for marmalade and other preserves during the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The only other sherds in this context were part of a large serving dish in transfer-printed ware (TPW2), decorated in underglaze blue with the ubiquitous 'willow pattern', which has remained popular from the time it originated at the end of the 18th century to this day. Part of a transfer-printed cup found in the same context and decorated in 'flow blue' probably dates to the late 19th century. Pottery of similar date was found in topsoil in context [1A/001] in the form of a rim from a large rectangular serving dish, probably for meat, in TPW2, again decorated in the 'willow pattern'. Given the longevity of the design, this could date from any time in the later 19th century to the present day. Part of another stoneware marmalade jar, with close-set vertical grooves around the body, was found in context [1A/003], and dates to the second half of the 19th or early 20th century.

Sherds from five unglazed, red earthenware flowerpots (recorded as PMR) were recovered from topsoil in context [6/001]. These are of standard flared form with a simple, unthickened rim and could have been made at any one of a large number of potteries operating in the region during the 19th century or later. Three of the sherds, however, are similar in fabric to part of a bunghole jar made in Verwood ware (VERW) and found in the same context. The vessel is represented by part of the lower body, with a plain, round bunghole just above the base angle. The vessel has a fine sandy fabric, with large iron-rich inclusions. It is a pale

orange-pink in colour, with the margins tending to buff. The jar (or possibly a large jug) is thick-walled and heavily built, with evidence for knife-trimming around the lower walls. It was probably made in the Verwood area of Dorset, where there was a strong potting tradition that flourished throughout the post-medieval period and well into the 20th century. The Medina Avenue sherd is therefore somewhat difficult to date closely, although bunghole jars have a long history that extends back into the medieval period. From its form and general appearance, the sherd in question could have been made as early as the 17th or 18th centuries, although, given the known history of the site and its association with the flowerpots, a later date is more likely. It could also have been introduced from elsewhere in the topsoil, so the evidence remains inconclusive.

The earliest pottery recorded comes from Trenches 2 and 5. A small sherd from a jar, or possibly a bowl, in black-glazed redware (recorded here as PMBL) was found in context [2/003]. This is again difficult to date closely, especially as there was no other associated pottery. Black-glazed wares of this kind were made at various centres around the country during the 17th and 18th centuries and it is possible, since the sherd was found in a subsoil layer, that it predates other recorded activity on the site. It has been tentatively dated here to the 18th century, but could be later. Other pottery that may date to the 18th century was found in context [5/004]. Three small sherds, one of them tiny, were recovered from wet sieving (sample <1>). Two come from a bowl or pipkin, sooted externally, in a redware fabric that closely resembles Surrey-Hampshire border redware (RBOR). Made at potteries situated in the area around Farnham, this widely distributed ware was part of a long-standing tradition of major importance in southern Britain for many centuries. The other sherd is a minute fragment of tin-glazed ware, decorated in blue on white externally. It is impossible to identify the form or the style in which it is decorated, but an 18th-century date seems probable.

1.3 Discussion

The pottery from Medina Avenue appears mostly to date from the late 19th to 20th centuries, with a small number of sherds that may be of 18th century date, or possibly even earlier. The fabrics and forms are those that would have been widely available at this time, with the Verwood potteries supplying at least some of the plain earthenwares. Stoneware marmalade jars are found all over the country, while the cream jug is a good example of a type common during the early 20th century, gratifyingly sourced. The finds are very much what would be expected from garden soil and makeup at this date, generated by casual deposition rather than deliberate dumping on any scale.

1.4 Bibliography

Currie, C R J, Dunning, R W (Eds) 1999, *A history of the county of Somerset: volume 7*, Victoria County History

BUILDING MATERIAL FROM 39 & 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT (IWCMS.2008.6235)

by
Terence Paul Smith

The building material, all fragmentary, comprised ceramic material in various fabrics and a few pieces of stone. The ceramic fabrics have been given numbers specific to the site and used in recording but not referred to here. There is a little Roman ceramic material but most is of post-medieval date. The ceramic materials were given site-specific fabric numbers for recording purposes, but these are not used in this report.

Ceramic building material

The only definitely Roman material from the site comes from 2/005 and comprises three brick fragments and two unidentifiable fragments. They are in a fairly fine red fabric with some calcium carbonate inclusions. They presumably come from the Roman villa or other structures close to the site.

Of the post-medieval ceramic material a fragment of brick, preserving only its thickness of 67mm, comes from 6/003. It is a handmade product. It may date from as early as the eighteenth century, although a later date cannot be ruled out. The fabric is red and fairly sandy with some burned (black) inclusions. Such bricks were made on the isle of Wight and, particularly in the Georgian period, were often used with attractive grey headers to form chequer brickwork or sometimes as dressings to buildings otherwise constructed wholly of such headers, as in the Bugle Hotel in high Street, Newport. In the same fabric are brick fragments from 2/003, 4/001, 6/003, and 7/002. Where preserved, arrises are quite sharp, though sometimes now abraded. No full dimensions are preserved, but one fragment has a thickness of 67mm. They may be machine-made products, although this is not certain. All may be dated to the nineteenth or even the twentieth-century. They are probably local products: the Isle of Wight developed a fairly vigorous brickmaking industry, with several brickyards clustered around Newport itself (see map on Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society website: Isle of Wight Brickmaking History: <http://freespace.virgin.net/roger.hewitt/iwlas/bricks.htm>). From 8/003 come five fragments, three of them certainly of brick, the two others almost certainly so, in a hard cream fabric with mottled pink and some burned (black) inclusions and some shell. One preserves a thickness of 65mm. They are machine-made products, one of them at least made by the wire-cut method, which implies a date not earlier than the mid-nineteenth century (Brunskill 1997, 25). Bricks of this hue were manufactured at Cowes and were much used there and elsewhere in the north of the island in the nineteenth century, for example at Holy Trinity church in Cowes (1832).

The red brick fabric was also used for a fragment of roofing tile, 11mm thick, found in 1A/001. It has flat (not cambered) faces, quite smooth, and is almost certainly of nineteenth- or twentieth-century date. Insufficient is preserved to show whether it was a peg or a nib tile. It was probably made by one of the brickmakers using similar raw material.

A fragment of unglazed drainpipe fragment from 1A/003 in a moderately sandy red fabric with calcium carbonate and black iron oxide inclusions. It has smooth inner and outer faces and preserves part of a socket at one end to take the flange of an adjoining pipe. It lacks the striations characteristic of extruded products, and was almost certainly formed by wrapping a

flat slab of clay around a circular wooden drum (Watt 2002, 46), and probably dates from the early nineteenth century (Harvey 1976, 22). Developed initially for drainage on farmland, such pipes also had urban applications in drainage systems. In the same context was a fragment of brown salt-glazed stoneware drainpipe. It is in a pinkish buff fabric with red and black iron oxide inclusions and some calcium carbonate. It is a specialist product, probably not made on the island itself. Many were made by Henry Doulton's factories at Dudley, London, and St Helen's, and, increasingly from 1852, by the London Potter's Association, a combination of Doulton's and sixteen other metropolitan firms (Hudson 1972, 41).

Some fragments, from 2/003, 4/001, 5/004, and 8/003, are so small that their forms cannot be ascertained. They have no chronological or other significance.

Stone

The five pieces of stone are all from 8/003. One small fragment is so burned and calcined that its type is not clear. Otherwise, all the stones are limestone, in one case black, in another shelly. One tiny fragment preserves a flat worked face. But no other worked faces are present. It is therefore impossible to suggest either the forms or the dates of these stones; some may perhaps have been used only as rubble.

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 Hudson, K., 1972, *Building Materials*, London: Longman
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FAUNAL REMAINS FROM 39 & 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT (IWCMS.2008.6235)

by
Alan Pipe

1.1 Introduction

This report quantifies, identifies and interprets the animal bone and mollusc shell recovered from IWCMS.2008.6235 by hand-collection and wet-sieving. It catalogues each bone and shell group and comments on their significance in terms of human economy and local habitats. In view of the very small size of the assemblages, it is stressed that any such interpretation is tentative.

1.2 Methods

Bulk samples were processed by AOC; the dried faunal remains were then submitted to the MoLAS faunal specialist for identification and analysis.

Each animal bone was visually inspected using a low-powered binocular microscope and recorded directly onto the MoLAS external site Access database in terms of identification, skeletal element, fragmentation, body side sex, age estimate, epiphysial fusion and evidence for modification including gnawing, burning, working, butchery and pathological change. All identifications of taxon and skeletal element were made using the osteological reference collection at the Museum of London, and standard identification reference manuals (e.g. Schmid 1972). Bones too severely fragmented to allow identification to species were recorded as 'bird, unidentifiable', 'mammal, unidentifiable' or 'sheep-sized' as appropriate; bones not identifiable to skeletal element were recorded as 'unidentifiable' or 'longbone' as appropriate. Estimations of age at death with reference to epiphysial fusion follow Amorosi 1989. Table 1 gives a complete catalogue of all recovered animal bone.

Each mollusc shell was visually inspected using a low-powered binocular microscope and recorded directly onto an Excel table in terms of identification and approximate shell count for each species. Identifications of taxon referred to Cameron & Redfern 1976; Hayward, Nelson-Smith & Shields 1996; and Macan 1977. Ecological interpretation followed Kerney 1999. Table 2 gives a complete catalogue of all recovered mollusc shell.

1.3 Results

Preservation of animal bone was moderately good although fragmentation was often too severe to allow determination of species or skeletal element. A total of 17 fragments were recovered, derived from 'unidentifiable bird', 'unidentifiable mammal', 'sheep-sized' and pig *Sus scrofa*.

CONTEXT	SAMPLE	TAXON	BONE	PART	NOS	% COMPLETE	SIDE	SEX	AGE	PROXIMAL	DISTAL	GNAWED	BURNT	WORKED	BUTCHERY	PATHOLOGY
2/005	2	bird, unidentifiable	longbone	fragment	1	<25		nil				nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
2/005	2	mammal, unidentifiable	unidentifiable	fragment	7	<25		nil				nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
4/001	0	pig	scapula	distal	1	>75	left	nil	juvenile		unfused	nil	nil	nil	many knife cuts lateral and medial sides	nil
5/004	0	mammal, unidentifiable	unidentifiable	fragment	2	<25							calcined			
5/004	1	sheep-sized	longbone	fragment	2	<25		nil				nil	charred black	nil	nil	nil
5/004	1	sheep-sized	unidentifiable	fragment	2	<25		nil				nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
6/001	0	pig	femur	distal	1	<25	right	nil	juvenile		unfused	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
6/001	0	pig	tibia	midshaft	1	>75	left	nil	juvenile	unfused	unfused	nil	nil	nil	knife cut posterior distal	nil
TOTAL					17											

Table 1

CONTEXT	SAMPLE	TERRESTRIAL	FRESHWATER	MARINE	NOS
2/005	2			common periwinkle	1
5/004	1			common/flat oyster	fragments
5/004	1	<i>Oxychilus alliarius</i>			<10
5/004	1	<i>Vallonia pulchella</i>			2
5/004	1		<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>		<15

Table 2

Chronological narrative

2/005 {2}

Wet-sieved bone from this sample comprised only a single fragment of unidentifiable bird longbone midshaft with seven unidentifiable fragments of mammal bone.

A fragment of mollusc shell from this sample derived from common periwinkle *Littorina littorea*. This is an economically important marine snail species common around all British coasts and widely eaten in many countries in northern Europe (Hayward, Nelson-Smith & Shields 1996, 188).

4/001

This context produced a single hand-collected left side scapula (shoulder blade) of pig *Sus scrofa*. The bone was unfused distally indicating an animal in the first year of life. The 'blade' showed many fine superficial knife cuts on the lateral and medial sides, probably inflicted during meat removal.

5/004

This context produced two fragments of unidentifiable mammal bone. Both of these had been calcined indicating intense heat; a combustion temperature of at least 700 degrees Celsius (Lyman 1994, 386).

5/004 {1}

Wet-sieved bone from this sample comprised four unidentifiable fragments of sheep-sized mammal. Two of these were unidentifiable fragments; two were fragments of longbone which had been charred black indicating a combustion temperature of 500-600 degrees Celsius.

The molluscs from this sample included marine/estuarine, terrestrial and freshwater species. Marine/estuarine species were represented by fragments of the common/flat oyster *Ostrea edulis*; an economically important species present on all British coasts (Hayward, Nelson-Smith & Shields 1996, 240) and widely-recovered from British archaeological sites.

The freshwater component derived from up to 15 shells of dwarf pond snail *Lymnaea truncatula*. This small species inhabits marshy grassland including ephemeral water bodies and trickles, throughout lowland Britain. It occurs mostly out of water and can tolerate poorly vegetated places including bare mud in marshes. It is the intermediate host of the sheep liver fluke *Fasciola hepatica*. (Kerney 1999, 51) and is therefore of considerable significance in terms of the health of humans and domestic stock; particularly cattle and sheep.

The terrestrial fauna included two shells of smooth/beautiful grass snail *Vallonia pulchella* and up to 10 shells of garlic snail *Oxychilus alliarius*. Smooth/beautiful grass snail is a lowland species found in southern Britain in grassy, base-rich places. It is typical of water meadows and moist pastures on river floodplains although it may occur sparsely on drier grassland (Kerney 1999, 108). Garlic snail is an ecologically catholic species widespread

throughout Britain in moist, sheltered places in ground litter in woods, fields and waste ground although it avoids marshes (Kerney 1999, 145).

6/001

This context produced two fragments of juvenile pig *Sus scrofa*, both major longbones from the hind leg. A right side fragment of femur (thigh bone) was unfused at the distal epiphysis indicating an animal in no more than the fourth year of life (Amorosi 1989, 100); a left side tibia (shin bone) shaft was unfused at both the proximal and distal ends indicating an animal in no more than the second year (Amorosi 1989, 101). Both bones could derive from the same animal. The tibia showed a shallow knife cut on the posterior side of the distal end, probably inflicted during meat removal.

1.4 Discussion

Contexts [4/001] and [6/001] provide definite evidence for consumption of pork from juvenile, although probably not neonate or infant, pigs, with selection of carcase areas of good meat-bearing quality. The remainder of the bone groups indicate consumption of bird and sheep-sized mammal with subsequent charring and calcination of the discarded fragments. Mollusc shells from [2/005] and [5/004] suggest consumption of common periwinkle and common/flat oyster although the presence of both these locally-available and economically important species may also indicate transport by scavenger or predator species e.g. gulls or crows.

Recoveries of smooth/beautiful grass snail and dwarf pond snail respectively suggest damp, base-rich grassland; and wet grassland perhaps subject to flooding. The very widespread, shelter and moisture-loving, garlic snail is so abundant and ubiquitous throughout lowland Britain that it does not allow further comment. In general, the habitat requirements indicated by the identified molluscs from [5/004] appear to correspond with evidence from the botanical assemblage (Davis 2008) in that the terrestrial and freshwater species represented are often associated with human habitation or agriculture, and can be found on managed meadow or pasture, but provide no definitive evidence for human presence.

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PLANT REMAINS FROM 39 & 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT (IWCMS.2008)

by
Anne Davis

1.1 Introduction

One environmental sample was taken from a natural alluvial silt layer (5/004), during the evaluation of the site at the by AOC Archaeology Group. The sample was processed by AOC and the dried flot, together with various seeds and other vegetation already extracted, submitted to MoLAS for identification and analysis.

1.2 Methods

The flot was scanned using a low-powered binocular microscope and plant remains, including those already extracted, were identified and their frequency recorded, using an abundance scale of + (1-10), ++ (11-50), +++ (51-approx. 250), ++++ (over 250). Identifications were made using the botanical reference collection at the Museum of London, and standard identification reference manuals (e.g. Cappers et al 2006). Nomenclature follows Stace (1991). A full species list, with estimated abundance of plant remains recovered from the sample, is shown in Table 1.

1.3 Results

Preservation of organic plant material was moderately good in the sample, while charred remains were limited to very occasional charcoal fragments. The flot was dominated by unidentifiable vegetation, including rootlets, narrow plant stems and fragments of wood. These had dried into hard clusters which could not be disaggregated, so a substantial number of seeds which may have been incorporated in the clusters will not have been seen. Despite this a reasonably large and diverse assemblage of identifiable seeds and fruits was observed.

The majority of the taxa recorded were from plants of damp to wet environments by ponds or slow rivers, or in marshy fields. These included moderately abundant seeds of branched bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis*), and occasional examples of water-plantain (*Alisma* sp), all of which are to be found in swamps or slow-moving water, although they can withstand long periods of drying out (Ellenberg 1988). Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), which was represented by seeds and occasional catkins, also grows in wet, often saturated soils by lakes and rivers. Several other taxa, including sedges (*Carex* spp.), lesser spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*) and water pepper (*Persicaria hydropiper*) also grow in wet places beside streams and ditches, or in marshes.

Very many seeds of buttercups (*Ranunculus acris/bulbosus/repens*) and occasional examples of marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) were also seen. These are also common on damp or wet ground, but are normally associated with grassy habitats including moist meadows.

Remains of plants from drier environments were also present in the form of elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and blackberry (*Rubus* cf. *fruticosus*) seeds, both of which grow in woodland clearings

and scrub. Other plants included stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), orache (*Atriplex* spp.), docks (*Rumex* spp.), redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*) and thistle (*Carduus/Cirsium* sp.), all of which can be found in a variety of habitats, but are often associated with disturbed ground, including arable land. Several fruits of beet (*Beta vulgaris*), a plant of shores and waste ground near the sea, were also found.

1.4 Discussion

The plant assemblage consisted entirely of remains of wild plants, with no clear evidence for human occupation in the form of cultivated crops or other food remains. The disturbed ground plants represented in the sample are often associated with human habitation or agriculture, and the buttercups and marsh marigold can be found on managed meadow or pasture, but these provide no definitive evidence for human presence.

The site lies a short distance from the River Medina, and the majority of plant remains are from the wet, marshy habitats that would be expected in such a location. While the gradient of the site may have allowed flood water to drain relatively quickly, the range of plants recovered from the sample suggests that flooding must have been a frequent occurrence, and it is of course possible that some or most of the plant remains examined may have been carried in with flood water, rather than growing on or immediately around the site. Many of the plants recovered suggest a fairly open environment, but there was evidence for alder trees, and for shrubby plants such as elder and bramble, although the last two may have grown on the higher land, less susceptible to flooding. Finally, the fruits of beet, a plant of waste ground near the sea, indicate the influence of the nearby tidal estuary of the Medina.

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Table 1: Plant remains from HWY00*unless stated otherwise, all remains are of fruits and 'seeds'*

		context no: 5/004
		sample no: 1
Latin name	English name	
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	buttercups	++++
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> L.	lesser spearwort	+
<i>Caltha palustris</i> L.	marsh marigold	+
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> L.	beet, fruit	+
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	orache	++
<i>Rubus</i> cf. <i>fruticosus</i>	blackberry	++
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	knotgrass	+
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i> Gray	redshank	+
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i> (L.) Spach.	water pepper	+
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	dock	++
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	stinging nettle	++
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> (L.) Gaertner	alder	++
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> (L.) Gaertner	alder catkin	+
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	elder	+
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp.	thistle	+
<i>Alisma</i> sp.	water-plantain	+
<i>Sparganium erectum</i> L.	branched bur-reed	++
<i>Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis</i>	spike-rush	++
<i>Carex</i> spp.	sedges	++
indeterminate	fruit	+
indeterminate	stem	++
indeterminate	leaf	+
indeterminate	rootlets	++++
indeterminate	thorn	+
indeterminate	wood	+
indeterminate	charcoal	+

abundance:

- + rare (<10 items)
- ++ moderate (c.10 – 50)
- +++ abundant (c.50 – 200)
- ++++ very abundant (> c.200)

**THE GLASS FROM 39 & 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
(IWCMS.2008)**

by
Beth Richardson

There are the following glass items from the site:

1A/003 Moulded clear glass block with a rectangular base (230x75mm) rising to four-sided trapezoidal (roof-shaped) apex. Shop fitting? Late 19th or 20th century; from a 19th century made ground deposit

2/005 Fragment of clear 19th or 20th century bottle glass. This is from a Roman soil horizon but is not Roman (pers. comm.. Angela Wardle, MoLAS Roman Finds Specialist)

4/001 Two complete and identical brown glass mould-made Whitbread beer bottles embossed with 'Whitbread and Co Ltd, London and the Whitbread trademark (a hind's head facing left). The bottles are Victorian: Whitbread started bottling beer in 1868 and the style of the lettering is late 19th or possibly very early 20th century. 4/001 is made ground containing frequent fragments of 19th to 20th century building material, pottery and glass.

**THE METAL OBJECTS FROM 39 & 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF
WIGHT (IWCMS.2008)**

by
Beth Richardson

Metal objects

There are two accessioned metal objects, a pin (<2>) and a stud or tack (<1>), from 5/004, the natural alluvial silt in Trench 5. The copper alloy (brass) pin is small, only 10mm long, with a solid flattened spherical head and a slightly faceted shank. It is post-medieval, dating between the early 17th and early 19th centuries. The iron stud or tack is also small (15mm); the head is hammered flat onto the square/rectangular-sectioned shank. It is difficult to date but probably also post-medieval.

Two large iron nails (L 85mm, 88mm) from 1A/002, the subsoil below post-medieval made ground deposit 1A/003 in Trench 1, are probably also post-medieval. One has a domed head, the other a flattened head; they both have roughly square shanks.

**THE CLAY PIPE FRAGMENT FROM 39 & 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT,
ISLE OF WIGHT (IWCMS.2008)**

by
Tony Grey

One fragment of a clay tobacco pipe stem was submitted from Context (6/001). As it is undiagnostic the piece can only be broadly dated *c* 1580-1910.

**THE FLINT FROM 39 & 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
(IWCMS.2008)**

by
Tony Grey

There is no struck or worked flint from the material submitted. The material includes: three fragments of unworked flint from Context 2/005 <2>, one similar fragment from Context 5/004 <1> and one rolled and abraded flint nodule from Context 8/003.

**THE SLAG FROM 39 & 41 MEDINA AVENUE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
(IWCMS.2008)**

by
Lynne Keys

Methodology and quantification

A tiny quantity of slag (61g) was examined by eye and categorised on the basis of morphology. A magnet was used on soil on slag and in the bags to detect micro-slags such as hammerscale.

tr.	cxt	^ slag identification	wt. comment
2	005	2 burnt coal	2
2	005	2 ferruginous concretion	1
4	001	fuel ash slag	58 hammerscale spheres on surface
5	004	1 micro-slag fragment	0 very tiny

total wt. = 61g

The slag

All pieces were found in soil horizons or subsoil and are likely to have found their way there by accidental re-deposition. Several hammerscale spheres (from high temperature iron welding) are present on the surface of the small piece of fuel ash slag from 4/001 and an

irregular micro-slag fragment was found in a soil sample from 5/004. Neither is sufficient to indicate iron working took place anywhere in the vicinity. The other materials recovered were tiny pieces of burnt coal and a minute quantity of ferruginous concretion which was probably produced by iron objects corroding in the soil.

The AOC Archaeology Group provides a wide range of archaeological services, including consultancy, desktop studies, historic building recording, survey, excavation, post-excavation analyses, conservation and publication.

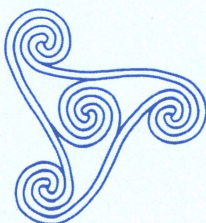
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AOC
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*The logo incorporates a design from
a lead disc found on Birsay, Orkney,
dated to the sixth century AD.*