



South Walk, Charles Street Development Phase 1 Dorchester, Dorset Archaeological Assessment Report





**SOUTH WALK, CHARLES STREET DEVELOPMENT
(PHASE 1), DORCHESTER, DORSET**

Archaeological Assessment Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by commissioned by Cowlin Construction Ltd, (appointed as Main Contractor by West Dorset District Council and Simons Developments) to undertake both an archaeological excavation and watching brief investigations of a 1,750m² area of land in the southern extent of Dorchester, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 369340 090430. This work comprises Phase 1 of a projected two phase development, which includes the northern car park of Charles Street, resulting in a total proposed development area of 1.56 Ha.

Overall, the fieldwork results, based upon the excavation and watching brief observations, have shown that significant structural and deposit sequences of predominantly Roman-British date survived within the boundaries of the Site. This was particularly so where groundwork associated with the development was of sufficient depth to extend below the medieval and post-medieval soil build-up infilling the natural chalk 'coombe' in this part of the town.

The earliest recorded features are of mid – late 1st century AD date, which contain pottery of pre-Flavian date (i.e. c. 70 AD), which along with other aspects of the finds assemblage, including clay 'gridiron' fragments, *terra nigra* and regional pottery wares and a stone column fragment may all be subtle indications of a military presence in the immediate vicinity. The relative concentration of 1st century AD material in Dorchester has been thought to reflect a military presence, close to a crossing of the River Frome, though structural evidence for this has yet to be discovered. The very small number of features of early date recorded in Trenches 1 and 2 would suggest settlement (with post-built structures and pit digging) and associated land boundaries associated with agricultural or horticultural activities.

The results of the recent work supplement and augment the known nature and extent of specific archaeological features from this part of the Roman town. These include the Roman town southern defences, the notable, oblique Roman road and the development of this particular part of the town containing Romano-British domestic structures. The fieldwork recorded two later Roman (3rd – 4th century AD) masonry structures overlying traces of timber and post-built examples.

It is proposed to undertake further analyses on elements of the finds assemblage with the greatest potential to inform stratigraphic dating and phasing and therefore give a greater understanding of the formation of the recorded stratigraphic sequences. The current results can then be placed within the context of results from excavations in this part of the Roman town as well as other Romano-British evidence from Dorchester, generally.

It is proposed that the results will be published in the form of a medium length journal article, preferably in the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, a peer-reviewed journal with a regional and national readership.

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The watching brief investigations were undertaken at various times by Julia Sulikowska, Andy Sole, Tom Wells, Jon Powell, Jon Martin, Simon Flaherty and Oliver Good. The excavation of the attenuation tank area (**Trench 2**) was directed by Chris Ellis (Senior Archaeologist) with the assistance of Julia Sulikowska (Supervisor), Chloe Hunnisett (Supervisor), Andy Sole, Rachel Cruse, Kimberley Teale and Alan Whittaker.

This report was compiled by Chris Ellis, with contributions from Lorraine Mephram, Rachel Seager Smith, Lorrain Higbee and Nick Cooke (Finds), Chris Stevens and Sarah Wyles (Palaeoenvironmental Assessment). The illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer. The fieldwork and post-excavation were managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex, who also edited this report.

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SECTION A: POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Cowlin Construction Ltd, (appointed as Main Contractor by West Dorset District Council and Simons Developments) to undertake both an archaeological excavation and watching brief investigations on a 1,750m² area of land (Phase 1) in the southern extent of Dorchester, Dorset (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 369340 090430 (**Figure 1**). The Phase 2 development works, if undertaken, would comprise the archaeological investigation of the remaining northern part (1.39 Ha) of the site. This wider development area is referred to as the 'Development Site' within this report.

1.1.2 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken prior to, and in conjunction with, the preliminary groundwork associated with the proposed West Dorset District Council Offices Development which comprises a new office and library block.

1.1.3 The proposed **Phase 1** archaeological works included a targeted excavation within the footprint of a surface water attenuation tank (**Trench 2**) and a watching brief during groundwork and ground reduction within the wider development footprint (**Trenches 1, 3-14**) – **Figure 5**.

1.1.4 The **Phase 1** watching brief fieldwork was undertaken between 14th June and 23rd September, and the **Trench 2** excavation between 30th June and 10th August 2011.

1.2 Scope of the Document

1.2.1 This document is an Archaeological Assessment Report which summarises the results of the 2011 fieldwork programme and sets them in the context of previous archaeological investigations in Dorchester, particularly the wider Development Site and primarily but not exclusively for the Romano-British period (AD 43 – 410). **Section A** of this report describes the results of the recent fieldwork and sets out an archaeological assessment of their significance. **Section B** includes detailed proposals for a programme of further post-excavation analysis leading to a publication.

1.2.2 The details of the proposed scheme of archaeological works, methodology and reporting has been prepared with reference to the archaeological brief prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (Cotswold Archaeology, 2010a) and followed by an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2010). All the works were carried out in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation (IfA 2008). This report should be considered alongside the Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Charles Street development site prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (Cotswold Archaeology 2010b).

1.3 Site Location, Topography, Geology

- 1.3.1 The topography of the Site slopes gently downwards from north to south and the underlying solid geology comprises Cretaceous Upper Chalk (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1981). No watercourses are known to exist, either within or near the Site, and there was no indication that the natural water-table would be encountered in any archaeological intervention. The Development Site (**Figures 1,2**) lies towards the head of a dry valley or coombe, which ran north-eastwards from the south-western part of the Development Site towards the River Frome and is still discernible in the modern topography despite post-medieval and modern developments in the area (Cotswold Archaeology 2010b, 19). Within the Development Site the natural chalk is overlaid by a layer of Clay-with-Flints or soliflucted (i.e. cold affected) chalk ('coombe rock') and flint gravel deposits deposited in periglacial conditions (Adam and Butterworth 1993, 8).
- 1.3.2 The **Phase 1** development footprint is focused in the southern section of the Development Site (**Figures 2, 3**), immediately north of South Walks, which runs parallel to the former Roman ramparts, which are designated and protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- 1.3.3 The Site, which comprises the Charles Street car park, is bounded on its northern boundary by Charles Street and a roundabout which links it with Acland Road. Charles Street also partially forms the western edge of the Site (northern part only). The remainder of the western boundary is formed by a row of mature trees and a pedestrian walkway. The southern boundary is defined by the aforementioned South Walks and the eastern boundary by Acland Road. The focus of the current Site (**Phase 1** area) is within the southern half of the Charles Street car park, the southern part of the Development Site.

1.4 Planning Background

- 1.4.1 Planning permission (1/D/10/000763) for the demolition of existing buildings and the comprehensive redevelopment of the Site was granted in December 2010. The **Phase 1** development includes the provision of a single basement car park at the 'new' council offices, with a slab level of 61.50m above Ordnance datum (aOD), and a construction base of 60.90m (aOD). Previous excavations in close proximity to the proposed **Phase 1** building footprint established the top of Roman deposits in this area at 58.70m (aOD), 58.56m (aOD), and 58.64m (aOD). The proposed **Phase 1** archaeological works consisted of a targeted excavation within the footprint of the surface water attenuation tank (**Trench 2**) and watching brief observations during groundwork and ground reduction within the wider **Phase 1** development footprint.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Cotswold Archaeology provided, in their comprehensive Cultural Heritage Assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2010b), a detailed account of the archaeological potential of the wider Development Site and its immediate environs and the full background information therefore is not repeated *ad verbatim* in this document.

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- 2.1.2 However it is considered useful, in this report, to contextualise the 2011 fieldwork results with the previous archaeological investigations on the Site, the Development Site and within the immediate vicinity (see **Figures 1-3**).
- 2.1.3 A series of archaeological investigations has been undertaken within and in the immediate vicinity of the Site. Observations were made during road alterations in Charles Street and Acland Road and the cutting of service trenches in the southern part of the site in 1984-5 by Wessex Archaeology, and a related series of trial excavations were undertaken by the Central Excavation Unit (CEU) in 1985 (Batchelor *et.al.* 1985) – **Figure 4**. These investigations confirmed the survival of the Roman rampart at the southern boundary of the Development Site and identified deep urban soil accumulation across the southern part of the Site, varying in depth from 1m to in excess of 2m where the underlying topography drops away into the chalk coombe.
- 2.1.4 Following the granting of outline planning permission for a retail development on the Site in July 1988 (including the northern car park), the joint developers, West Dorset District Council and MEPC Developments Ltd., commissioned and funded a series of evaluation excavations, which were carried out in 1989 and 1990 by Wessex Archaeology (**Figure 3**). The results of these evaluations have yet to be published, but reports on the work have been deposited with the Dorset County Museum and the Dorset Sites and Monuments Record.
- 2.1.5 The 1989 evaluation (Adam *et.al.* 1992) initially consisted of the excavation of three trial trenches (*Trenches 1-3*) located in the northern car park, in order to build on the results of excavations on the adjacent Greyhound Yard site (Woodward *et.al.* 1993) to the north, and the Wollaston Fields site (the Roman baths) to the east (Wilson 2002), in elucidating the sequence of development of the town and investigating further the nature of the Neolithic monument. A further two trial trenches (*Trench 4 - 5*) were excavated in the south-west of the Site on a north-south alignment in order to investigate archaeological deposits extending from the town defences into the interior of the town (Adam and Butterworth 1993). A watching brief maintained during the development of a car park on the site of terraced houses fronting onto Charles Street at the north-west of the Development Site did not identify any archaeological features.
- 2.1.6 A further phase of evaluation was undertaken in 1990 (Adam and Butterworth 1993), when a sixth trial trench (*Trench 6*) was excavated in the gardens of nos. 5-7 Acland Road (**Figure 3**). Also during 1990, observations were undertaken by Wessex Archaeology during the construction of a new sewer along Charles Street (Davies and Farwell 1990).
- 2.1.7 In 1999, ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the Development Site was commissioned by Wessex Archaeology on behalf of Helical Retail, in order to inform recommendations for further investigations in connection with the Development Site proposals (AIL 1999; Wessex Archaeology 1999).
- 2.1.8 More recent archaeological observations at No.1 Acland Road, located to the north of the Development Site, revealed Roman deposits truncated by 18th century activity (Bellamy 2004).

2.1.9 A summary of the archaeological remains observed and recorded in the Development Site during these investigations, together with documentary evidence for the later use of the Site, is presented below (see **Figures 3, 4**), with early Roman of the 1st – 2nd centuries AD and the late Roman to the 3rd – 4th centuries AD.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Three phases of prehistoric activity were identified during the 1989 and 1990 evaluations, consisting of archaeological features cut into the natural chalk bedrock. These included the post-pits of the Late Neolithic monument lying in the northern car park, a number of ditches of Bronze Age date (2200 – 700 BC), and early soil levels containing late prehistoric material including Durotrigian coins, and artefacts, some probably intrusive, dating from the earliest period of Roman occupation.

2.2.2 The 1989 evaluation increased knowledge of the post-built monument, with further post-pits being recorded in *Trench 1* and *Trench 3*. However, the complete plan and function of the monument remain unknown. Whatever the full plan of the monument may be, its scale, both of the alignment as a whole and of the individual post-pits, suggests a prehistoric site of considerable importance and, it is reasonable to suppose, of some especial significance. The 'interior' of the monument, which could provide further valuable information on the nature and function of the structure, remains as yet uninvestigated.

2.2.3 A number of similarly aligned ditches recorded in 1990 *Trench 6* may represent a progressive series of field boundaries dating to the Bronze Age, a period of increasing agricultural activity. The presence of two Durotrigian coins indicates activity in the area in the Late Iron Age (100 BC – AD 43), although no associated features were recognised.

2.3 The Early Roman Period

2.3.1 The establishment of the Roman town of *Durnovaria* in the 1st century AD relocated the focus of activity north and eastwards away from the large Iron Age hill fort at Maiden Castle and the smaller one at Poundbury (**Figure 1**). Although the Poundbury hill fort was near the River Frome it lay on higher ground which fell sharply away northwards down to the river; the location for the new town of *Durnovaria* took advantage of the more gently sloping ground at the north and western sides of the coombe in which, almost three thousand years earlier, the Neolithic monument had stood. This new site may indeed have been selected because of the more favourable position it occupied in terms of access and communications, perhaps lying closer to a ford or other river crossing. There is no evidence of any continuity of activity between the Neolithic and Roman periods and the coincidence of the site of the Roman town with that of the monument may be no more than fortuitous, the recognition of an advantageous and desirable site for both.

2.3.2 Two phases of Roman occupation were represented. The early Roman phase, dated between c. AD 75 and AD 200, was characterised by an internal road, a number of structures with associated domestic pits and wells, and a number of infant burials, together with the southern town defences.

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- 2.3.3 The earliest evidence of Roman activity consisted of artefacts, including a Claudian coin of AD 41-64, recovered during the 1990 excavations from soil predating the first Roman structures. This material may reflect a period of military occupation between the initial Roman invasion in AD 43 and the establishment of *Durnovaria* as a *civitas* capital later in the 1st century.
- 2.3.4 The defences, excavated in 1989 *Trench 5* were found to consist of a primary chalk and turf bank, built directly on the prehistoric ground surface, and the main chalk bank above this. The primary bank was almost 5m wide and 1m high, and was probably constructed to mark the northern limit of the main chalk bank. The main bank survived to a height of 2.2m, but was truncated by construction levels associated with the cattle market and surrounding nineteenth century buildings.
- 2.3.5 No evidence was found of new roads which might have further defined individual *insulae*, although the course of the atypical diagonal (south-west to north-east) road previously located in Wollaston Field (RCHM 1970, 552) was confirmed in 1989 *Trench 4*, and again during observations of the sewer construction in Charles Street in 1990 – **Figure 4**. The road was clearly a primary feature within the town and may have functioned as a direct through route between the east and south gates. It has been suggested that this unusually aligned road represents the survival of an early Roman road (Ackling Dyke) heading for a harbour at Weymouth (Putnam 2007).
- 2.3.6 The original width of the road was 5m, delimited by slight drainage or marker gullies and a possible path at either side. Road deposits up to c. 0.90m thick were recorded, with the top lying at top at c. 59.80m (aOD) - (Wessex Archaeology 2006, plate 4). The construction levels, consisting of gravel pebbles covered by successive compacted surfaces of chalk, fine gravel and sand, and the first two surfaces are of early Roman date. The earliest consolidation layer contained Roman pottery and other material, suggesting that some Roman activity pre-dating the road had occurred nearby. The road surfaces consisted of flat, level compacted gravel, covered by thin deposits containing pottery datable to the 1st century AD. Both surfaces had two ruts 1.2m apart worn in the surface.
- 2.3.7 It has been suggested that the southern limit of the *insula* in which the Greyhound Yard buildings stood might have coincided with the line of the northern (east-west) part of Charles Street (Woodward *et.al.* 1993). No evidence of such a road has yet been found, but if one had existed it would place at least the northern structures of the 1989 trenches in a separate *insula*, with the area further south traversed and divided by the diagonal road.
- 2.3.8 The early Roman structures recorded in the 1989 excavations were predominantly of timber construction, and consisted of post-holes and in some instances probable beam slots, together with consolidation and flooring deposits. No Roman structures from the earliest period of activity were located in 1990 *Trench 6*, but two ditches did predate the subsequent buildings. One of these ditches had silted up and been recut, suggesting that this area of the site had a drainage problem and was therefore not initially considered suitable for buildings, remaining empty rather later than other sites nearby. Eventually, and almost certainly as a preliminary to the construction of buildings, an attempt was made to 'improve' the site by dumping soil and building rubble across the area; this appears to have been successful since, from the 2nd century onwards, a succession of structures occupied the site.

- 2.3.9 The nature of the structural evidence for the early Roman phase in 1990 *Trench 6* contrasts with that from other Dorchester sites, where most structures of the period were at least partly timber-built. This is probably a reflection of the later start of development in the area of *Trench 6*. Two stone-built structures were recorded and excavated in 1990 *Trench 6*. These structures, together with a number of walls interpreted as boundary rather than structural features, had been truncated and disturbed by the construction of later Roman features. Although some walls had been robbed during this later activity, others survived in places to a height of 0.20m. The walls consisted of limestone blocks, some dressed, and some flint nodules, set in mortar on foundations of flint nodules which survived to a depth of c.0.80m. In one structure traces of two successive tessellated pavements set in mortar on a flint foundation were recorded, while in the other structure *opus signinum* floors had been laid over a flint cobble base. These structures may be components of the same building, with associated courtyards or other walled boundaries.
- 2.3.10 Infant burials were found associated with structures in the 1989 excavations and ditches in the 1990 excavations. Four burials were recovered from a single structure in 1989 *Trench 4*, sealed beneath a flooring deposit and dug into the surface of the natural. Three were on the line of the eastern wall of the structure and probably represent foundation burials. All were new-born babies, probably still-births. The fourth burial, together with fragments of bone from the floor level of the succeeding early Roman building may also have been a foundation burial. Two infant burials were found associated with ditches in 1990 *Trench 6*.
- 2.3.11 Finds from the early Roman phase include fragments of antefixes (moulded decorative tiles), in this case bearing a face surrounded by a frame, which would have been fixed to the edge of a roof, several of which, together with a wide variety of other materials (including much pottery, wall plaster and other building materials, glass, metalwork and one of the Durotrigian coins), were recovered from a 1st century AD consolidation deposit in 1989, *Trench 3*. The recovery of so much material from this early deposit suggests that rebuilding was in progress at an early stage in the development of the town. Most of the pottery of this and subsequent periods was locally produced, but a lesser proportion of imported vessels indicate a substantial degree of international trade was already taking place; amongst the imported vessels, the amphorae attest to the import of 'exotic' commodities from the Mediterranean. As might be expected the quantity of imported material recovered was higher at Charles Street (and also at the Greyhound Yard – Woodman *et.al.* 1993) than at less central sites such as County Hall (Smith 1993) or those beyond the town walls, such as on the Dorchester Bypass and Allington Avenue. Of the other finds, assemblages are such as might be expected from an urban site, the mix of utilitarian, everyday objects and those of a more decorative or less functional nature attesting to a degree of prosperity commensurate with an important local centre.
- 2.3.12 No conclusive evidence of industrial processes was recorded in the excavated trenches nor was there any obvious artefactual evidence of such activity in the immediate vicinity. Small quantities of metal-working waste and slag were recovered, but these were such as might have originated in minor local repair operations or very small-scale manufacture only. Likewise, a small dump of cattle bone in 1989 *Trench 4* may indicate that some butchering was carried out on site, but the remainder of animal bone assemblage, in which cattle bone is generally not plentiful, appears to be of more directly domestic origin.

2.4 The Late Roman Period

- 2.4.1 The later Roman period was characterised by rectangular stone-built structures, together with pits, wells and infant burials. Re-surfacing of the Roman road also took place during this period, as recorded in 1989 *Trench 4*.
- 2.4.2 Structural evidence from this period confirms the pattern recorded at Greyhound Yard of the replacement of the earlier timber buildings by stone-built structures (Woodward *et al.* 1993). This occurred in all areas where buildings of the early Roman period were recorded, in most instances the new buildings being more extensive than the earlier ones and, sometimes, on different alignments.
- 2.4.3 The stone-built structures were of generally similar construction to the early Roman structures recorded in 1990 *Trench 6*, with limestone walls, in some cases almost wholly robbed out, set on flint foundations. In 1989 *Trench 1*, a spread of collapsed wall plaster 0.10.m thick sealed general occupation deposits containing over 100 sherds of pottery datable to the 3rd and 4th centuries AD; an infant burial was associated with these deposits.
- 2.4.4 In 1989 *Trench 3*, the remains of a substantial structure, comprising parts of two adjoining rooms, a corridor and entrance from a courtyard, were excavated. Close to each other in the northern room were a stone-built oven and tank set into the floor; a pottery jar was also set in the floor in the corner between the tank and wall. Another vessel was set into the adjacent corner of the southern room, although this one had been covered by a limestone slab upon which an infant burial had been placed. No other internal features survived in this room. The floors of both rooms were of rammed chalk, a small area of wall plaster surviving attached to the lower part of a wall in the southern one. The corridor had apparently been deliberately constructed at a higher level than the two rooms to the west. From the outer corridor wall, two short walls led out into the courtyard, a curving chalk path turning in between them from the south-east across the otherwise unpaved yard surface. These structural elements clearly represent part of a larger whole which almost certainly extended around the southern and probably eastern sides of the courtyard, fronting onto the Roman street approximately on the line of the modern Acland Road. The excavated part of the property, situated at the rear, would appear to be ancillary to the main part of the building and may have been part of a shop.
- 2.4.5 In 1990 *Trench 6*, a substantial new building dating to the 4th century AD was excavated. This had been built over and on the same alignment as two earlier structures, but extended much further north-eastwards to fill most of the area between the earlier buildings and the western courtyard. The building comprised four adjoining rooms, two complete, two extending beyond the trench. Some parts of the earlier buildings, principally foundations but perhaps also floors, were incorporated into the new one rather than being buried beneath it. Part of the building lay beyond the trench to the south and its complete plan is not known. The floors and wall foundations were well-preserved, the foundations, particularly at the western end, being extremely substantial and probably indicative of a building of more than one storey.
- 2.4.6 At least two further surfaces (c. 0.40m thick) were added to the oblique Roman road (1989 *Trench 4*) during this period, until it reached its maximum surviving level of 60.20m aOD, c.1.3m of metalling having been built up during the Roman period. These later surfaces were dated by pottery to the 3rd to 4th centuries AD.

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- 2.4.7 The area south of the road was again apparently devoid of buildings. A relatively compact group of intercutting gullies and pits, the nearest gully almost parallel with the road but c. 3m to the south, were the only features found in this area, which otherwise consisted principally of accumulated soil deposits.
- 2.4.8 Further to the south the Roman town defences were maintained. The early Roman defences underwent a period of erosion which ended with the deposition of a clay layer which may have been deposited as a result of the construction of the town wall to the south, and formed a secondary bank to the north of the original line, preventing further erosion of the earlier chalk bank.
- 2.4.9 The finds assemblages from this period display much the same characteristics as those of the preceding one. The quantity of pottery recovered is larger than for the early Roman period but again includes a proportion of imported material, although 'imported' may now be taken to include vessels from further afield in Britain. Other categories of finds, such as glass and shale and several additional antefix fragments show that fine goods were in continuing use and demand. Again no evidence was found for large-scale industrial or commercial activities.
- 2.4.10 The majority of the animal bone from the site was assigned to this phase, an increase in the amount of cattle bone being noted, but again all appears to be of domestic origin. Evidence of other food items was scarce, but a few cereal grains were found in deposits of this period. Carbonised seeds were also present in a deposit, possibly derived from the dumping of cess and dated by pottery to the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD, which was recorded in the open-cut sewer trench in Charles Street during 1990.
- 2.4.11 The 1990 sewer trench observations confirmed that the Roman defences and road investigated in the Wessex Court evaluations extended to the west (Davies and Farwell 1990). In addition to these and the cess deposit, other Roman features recorded included pits, wells, buildings and yards (**Figure 4**).

2.5 The Post-Roman Period

- 2.5.1 The period following the cessation of Roman administration is nowhere very clearly delineated in the archaeological record and the Development Site is no exception to this. Deposits from the immediate post-Roman period are scarce. One activity not directly dated by stratigraphic or artefactual evidence to the post-Roman period but which was undoubtedly taking place was the dismantling and robbing of the Roman buildings. The construction of a rough but functional (and apparently drained) hard-standing in the eastern part of 1989 *Trench 3* may indicate the use of at least the remains of an earlier structure.
- 2.5.2 Evidence of post-Roman structures may be represented by a number of post-holes cut through the *opus signinum* floor of the late Roman structure and elsewhere in 1990 *Trench 6*. The better-preserved of the post-holes cutting the *opus signinum* suggest the presence of two rectangular structures. It is unlikely that the two structures would have been contemporary, however, since buildings represented by the post-holes would have occupied much of the same space if standing at the same time. A cluster of post-holes at the eastern end of the trench may indicate a third structure. Unfortunately no securely datable finds were associated with any of the features thought to belong to this period, almost all of the finds recovered being redeposited Roman material, probably reflecting the disturbance to earlier buildings and the general redistribution of material caused by their disintegration rather than any very constructive contemporaneous activity.

2.6 The Medieval and Post-medieval Periods

- 2.6.1 The contraction of the town, which had begun in the post-Roman period appears to have stabilised and perhaps been reversed by the 10th century, when the town became a mint and a *port*. By the time of Domesday, the town had become a royal borough (Penn 1980, 60-1). However, the built-up area within the walls of the Roman town had not at this time grown back to its former size, the main concentration of buildings probably lying along the axes formed by High East and West Streets, Cornhill/South Street and North Square. Documentary evidence shows that the whole of the Development Site was part of a large area of open field, *Estwalles*, before it was enclosed in 1596, although it is not known when this reversion to agricultural use took place.
- 2.6.2 Stone robbing continued until almost all of the usable material from the Roman buildings was salvaged; pottery found in the robber trenches, although rare, dates from the 12th through to the 17th centuries. The walls were not always systematically followed once they had been located, although this would, of course, have become less easy to do as the more visible parts were lowered. The wall foundations were generally ignored, unless they were of good quality stone in which case that would be taken too; often the foundation courses were of small, stone rubble or flint nodules, neither very desirable for re-use. The excavated wall foundations and floors survived probably because they were buried in the search for stone or because they were simply not worth taking.
- 2.6.3 Sometime in the medieval period the Development Site started to be used for arable farming, and this continued until the open field was enclosed (Wessex Archaeology 2006, *Figure 5*). A build-up of fine, dark soil up to 1.6m deep, derived from this agricultural activity, was recorded above the surviving Roman foundations in 1989 *Trenches 2 - 4* and 1990 *Trench 6*, but had been truncated by modern disturbance in the other two trenches. A shallower deposit of the dark soil seen in 1989 *Trench 1* may have been the result of the higher natural level of chalk there.
- 2.6.4 The 1990 observations of the sewer trench in Charles Street recorded a dark earth deposit sealing Roman features, which increased in depth to the north to a maximum of 2m in places; a medieval pit was cut from within this deposit. Evidence of medieval terracing was recorded further up the northern side of the coombe at Greyhound Yard (Woodward *et al.* 1993), but there was no sign of this in the Charles Street trenches. A large irregular hole cut into the back of the Roman defensive bank in 1989 *Trench 5* may have been the result of another form of salvage quarrying, in this instance for chalk.
- 2.6.5 Following the enclosure of the open field in 1596, the documentary evidence indicates that the Development Site was divided into several small closes and used as pasture. By 1623 some of the plots had been divided still further and barns had been built on at least two of them (Wessex Archaeology 2006, *Figures 5 and 6*). One of these was the 17th century barn belonging to John White, part of which lay within 1989 *Trench 2*. The building, originally of timber construction, appears to have been rebuilt more solidly of stone, laid out with drains and cobbled and flagged surfaces, but very little of the building could be examined in the small area available.

2.6.6 During the late 17th or early 18th centuries a bowling green was laid out on one plot and another seems to have been converted into a garden and orchard. Around 1800 the barn at the north end was converted to a cottage and a house was built at the south-west corner. Later in the 19th century a large malt house was built in the middle of the Development Site, and on the southern part many flimsy buildings were constructed for the cattle market and as stables. The northern part was a nursery and then school playing fields, but in 1898 it was sold for building and the Charles Street side lined with a terrace of small houses. The eastern side sold more slowly, as plots for detached properties. Gradually, from the late 1950s the buildings at the south end were cleared to make way for car-parking, and between 1989 and 1992 virtually the whole area was cleared of buildings.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Wessex Archaeology 2010) following a detailed Cultural Heritage Assessment and Project Brief prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (2010a,b) providing full details of the research aims and methods which will not be reiterated in detail here, though a brief summary is provided below.

3.1.2 The aim of the project was to characterise the nature and date of the archaeological remains on the Site and place them within their historical, geographical and archaeological context and the relevant current regional research aims (Wessex Archaeology 2010, 6-7).

4 GENERAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1.1 The general objectives of the excavation and watching brief area were to:
- establish the date, importance, nature of any remains identified during the series of archaeological investigations and set them within the context of the wider rich archaeological landscape.
 - establish the extent of any prehistoric activity on the Site.
 - establish the nature of any Roman activity, (possibly associated with Roman streets) within the development footprint
 - establish if there is any evidence of abandonment/destruction in the later Roman period
 - establish whether there is any evidence of Civil War entrenchment on the Site
 - disseminate the results of the excavation through the deposition of an ordered archive at an appropriate local museum and by the production of a fieldwork report for Dorset HER and a short publication for the Dorset Proceedings

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The full details of the strip, map and record and watching brief methodology are contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation document (Wessex Archaeology 2010) and are not reiterated here, except to detail the main points and highlight variations made in the field, which were agreed beforehand by Steve Wallis (DCC) and Neil Holbrook (CA).

5.2 Watching Brief Observations

5.2.1 A number of trenches (the majority for pile foundation alignments) were excavated for the construction of the new office building and its associated services. Each of these was monitored and allocated a unique trench number (see **Figure 4**) and the features/deposits within each observation given unique context numbers as appropriate. The detailed descriptions of all features and deposits and the stratigraphic sequences of all recorded 'trenches' are summarised in the Trench Summary Tables in **Appendix 1**.

5.2.2 The trenches were of varying sizes, though those for the building foundations were generally c. 3m wide and those for associated lifts c. 6-8m in extent. **Trench 10** involved the partial re-excavation of a service trench recorded archaeologically during watching brief observations in 1985 (Batchelor *et.al.* 1985).

5.2.3 The trenches were excavated using a tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision (for **Trench 2**) or observation (for watching brief works) and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and any archaeological features and deposits investigated and recorded.

5.2.4 During excavation and watching brief observations the spoil was scanned by a metal detector and visually scanned for finds which were collected (except for obviously post-medieval and modern finds).

5.2.5 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches, features and deposits were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

5.2.6 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed as well as general Site photographs.

6 RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This section includes all information on the natural deposits encountered and the archaeological features and deposits recorded. A detailed summary of the stratigraphic sequence, deposits and structural remains of each of the recorded interventions (allocated unique trench (**Tr**) numbers **1, 3-14** inc.) are listed in **Appendix 1**. The results of the attenuation tank area excavation (**Trench 2**) are dealt with separately, firstly the Watching Brief interventions (**1, 3 - 14** inc.) will be summarised. To correspond with the provisional pottery spot dating the Results and the rest of the report will refer to early, middle or late Roman dates, where centuries AD are not possible at present. These are:

- early Roman (AD 43 – 120/130)
- middle Roman (AD 120/130 – 250)
- late Roman (AD 250 – 410)

6.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

Natural chalk

6.2.1 The natural chalk geology was recorded in nearly all the interventions in the eastern part of the Site (**Trenches 1 – 4**) and in the deepest interventions (**Trench 7**) where a modern service trench which cut deeply into the underlying chalk was re-excavated (**Figure 5**). From a maximum height of 62.80m (aOD) in the south-east of **Trench 1**, the chalk dipped gently to the north and west, as expected, as the natural coombe in the chalk geology was encountered. Although a gentle slope, the effect was relatively marked, with the chalk recorded in **Trench 2** east and west at 60.48m (aOD) and 59.41m (aOD) respectively with the chalk lying at 59.90m (aOD) in **Trench 8**. Because of the relatively shallow depths of excavations in the west of the Site the chalk geology was not encountered. The increasingly low altitude of the natural chalk was reflected in the increasing thickness of the dark post-Roman soils across the Site to the west and north.

Post-Roman deposits

6.2.2 The Late Roman, Medieval and post-medieval soil accumulation/deposits noted in earlier archaeological investigations, of the Development Site or nearby have all recorded deep deposits (sometimes up to 2m thick) of very dark or black soil called variously 'urban soils' or 'garden soils' (Batchelor *et.al* 1985). These deposits are thought to possibly be derived from the turning of some areas of the Roman town into agricultural or horticultural purposes following the collapse of the Roman Empire in the early 5th century (Adam and Butterworth 1993, 21).

6.2.3 These deposits seal the recorded Roman-British stratigraphic sequences and thicken to the west and north of the Development Site as they fill in the natural coombe within the prevailing chalk natural topography.

6.2.4 From the current fieldwork these deposits were characterised by very dark brown, greyish-brown or black deposits of slightly clayey silts or silty clay with sparse to moderate chalk inclusions (<20mm). Generally, the deposits had a 'gritty' texture because of the relatively common lumps and fragments (<50mm) of strong, light-yellowish brown coarse sandy mortar which are identical in nature to that recorded for in-situ Romano-British building foundations in **Trench 2**. During the current fieldwork these deposits were of a maximum thickness of c.3m along the eastern edge of the Site, where they were overlaid by the embanked Acland Road, but generally they were 1.20 – 2.0m thick. The uppermost c. 0.50m of these deposits are markedly more compacted (from modern developments), very dark, and contain modern building rubble (brick, roof tile, concrete <0.15m) as well as post-medieval ceramics, clay pipe, glass, metal, etc. as well as residual Romano-British artefacts.

Modern disturbance

6.2.5 Modern disturbance was recorded in all interventions recorded during the archaeological investigations on the Site and comprised some medium and relatively deep service trenches as well as modern terracing, most probably for the two-level car park that existed here from the 1950s onwards (Wessex Archaeology 2006, 14).

6.3 Watching Brief observations

Introduction

6.3.1 Only those interventions (Trenches) with significant results are described in detail below (see **Figure 5**).

Trench 1 (Figures 6, 8)

6.3.2 This area was the first to be investigated during the initial ground reduction works on the Site and recorded a small number of features cutting the chalk natural (**25**), including linear ditches, gullies and pits. The natural chalk was markedly higher in this part of the Site (c. 62.80m aOD) than that recorded in observations to the immediate north and west. In the very south-east corner of the trench a series of possible erosion deposits were built up against the rear of a chalk bank, which in turn sealed an 'old land surface'.

6.3.3 The earliest linear feature, Group [**647**], was a very truncated north-west/south-east aligned gully, cut by ditch Group [**646**] and gully Group [**648**]. It was characterised by a 4m long segment of gully which was 0.27m wide and 0.03m deep cut, which became shallower to both the north-west and the south-east. Its single fill (**45**) contained no finds.

6.3.4 Ditch Group [**646**] was an 18m (+) long, east-west aligned ditch which extended beyond the western limit of trench. It was parallel with Group [**648**] c.1m to the south and was cut by Group [**644**]. It was 0.30 – 0.50m wide and 0.17 – 0.35m deep, but became increasingly shallow to the west and the east. The remaining secondary fills contained chalk and flint inclusions and a little mid – late 1st century AD pottery.

6.3.5 Gully Group [**648**] was cut by Group [**644**]. It was a 3.30m long and east-west aligned, only c. 0.50m wide and 0.10 – 0.20m deep, with both primary and secondary fills having no finds

- 6.3.6 Ditch Group [644], was the latest linear feature of this trench, which was sealed by (23). It was a c. 0.50 – 0.80m wide and c. 0.20m deep, north-west/south-east aligned ditch in the south-east of the area. Although only seen in plan for c.11m, it extended beyond the northern edge of the trench and was also recorded continuing beyond the southern section of the trench (as 21), sealed by a buried 'old land surface' (24) (Figure 6). The primary and secondary fills of the ditch contained a reasonable assemblage of mid – late 1st century AD pottery, animal bone, as well as burnt flint and residual worked flint.
- 6.3.7 Only c. 1.70m to the west of, and parallel with, ditch Group [644], was ditch Group [645]. This 6m(+) long ditch was 0.40m wide and 0.18m deep, sealed below (23), and filled with a secondary fill (57) containing early Roman pottery, bone, oyster shell and charcoal.
- 6.3.8 Both near-parallel ditches, Groups [644] and [645], extended beyond the northern edge of the trench and may well have extended as far as Trench 2, c. 17m to the north (Figure 5) where they correspond to ditch [167=334] in Trench 2, which was of similar morphology and alignment, though slightly wider (0.70 – 1.0m) and deeper (c. 0.30m) due to less truncation.
- 6.3.9 Four pits [11, 36, 47, 51] were recorded from Trench 1 which were of similar morphology and dimensions, being sub-circular/sub-oval in shape (0.40 – 0.65m) and 0.06 – 0.11m deep, with moderate to steep, concave sides. All were filled with mid greyish-brown silty clay loam fills. All except [11] contained a small assemblage of mid – late 1st century AD pottery, animal bone, worked flint and charcoal.
- 6.3.10 One east-west aligned sub-oval pit [11], contained a neonate inhumation burial (10). Although the burial was heavily disturbed it was sufficiently preserved to discern its posture; lying on its right side with the head slightly to the north-north-west. The truncated grave pit was 0.65m by 0.40m in extent and only 0.06m deep, with irregular sides and a flat base. The grave fill (9) only contained charcoal flecks. A small number of Romano-British neonate burials have already been recorded in the immediate vicinity associated with Romano-British structures, in Trench 4 (1989) and Trench 6 (1990) (Adam *et.al.* 1992; Adam and Butterworth 1993).
- 6.3.11 In the south-east corner of the trench a series of soil deposits (13, 15, 17, 23) were recorded built against a chalk rubble bank (14) recorded in the easternmost part of the south section of the trench (Figure 6, Plate 1). The bank was 1.10m (+) wide and 0.40m thick (as seen in section) and overlaid a 0.09 – 0.24m thick, degraded chalk deposit (16=18=20) which had been affected by bioturbation. This in turn overlaid a 0.09m thick, old land surface deposit (24) which sealed the fill (21) of the southwards continuation of ditch Group [644]. Unfortunately no finds were recorded from these deposits as they were only recorded in section.

6.3.12 In plots of the road layout of Roman Dorchester a putative road is plotted below the present Acland Road, though no archaeological evidence yet supports this. No Roman road deposits were recorded during archaeological investigations prior to the 1985 realignment of Acland Road. However, in *Observation No. 12* it was recorded that the current Acland Road (on the north-east side of the Development Site) was built upon a chalk 'causeway' or embankment at least 0.40m high (Batchelor *et.al.* 1985, 168). It is not stated whether this 'causeway' was of Roman or later date, but the chalk rubble bank (14) in **Trench 1** could be associated with these earlier findings.

6.3.13 The south section of this trench is only c. 3.5m to the north of the northern tail of the Roman town rampart recorded in 1985 (Batchelor *et.al.* 1985, Observations 1 and 2) as well as in the sewer works trench to the south-west of the Site (Davies and Farwell 1990). The soil deposits overlying the chalk bank could possibly be derived from the erosion and weathering of the Roman rampart to the immediate south.

Trench 3 (Figure 5)

6.3.14 In the very south-east of the trench an oval pit [67] was recorded cutting the natural chalk. It was 1.30m long, 0.93m wide and 0.92m(+) deep with an upper fill (68), of a mid-orange/brown silty clay with moderate chalk (<20mm) and rare, flint nodules (<0.10m). This contained 1st – 2nd century AD pottery, animal bone, worked and burnt flint and ceramic building material (CBM i.e. bricks, tiles). An earlier chalk rubble fill (69) was partially excavated to 0.42m depth. A discernible widening of the upper part of the pit sides might suggest a storage pit with a characteristic 'beehive' profile but unfortunately the excavation was discontinued because of Health & Safety concerns.

6.3.15 Two later pits [70, 74] of probable medieval or post-medieval date were recorded in the east end of the north facing section of the trench. Both pits were only recorded in section, cutting the natural chalk (78), at 0.30m depth, below modern disturbance (76). The pits were 0.90 – 1.10m wide (in section) and were respectively 0.42m and 0.31m deep, with moderate to near-vertical, concave sides. They were filled with mid to dark greyish-brown silty clay fills (71-73, 75) with a characteristic 'gritty' texture from the relative density of small fragments of CBM, and were very similar to the overlying post-Roman soils (77).

Trench 7

6.3.16 **Trench 7** was opened in order that services installed in 1985 could be replaced and cut through the line of the southern rampart of the Roman town. The 1985 trenching was archaeologically recorded and two 'observations' (No.s 1 and 2) were made in the immediate vicinity (**Figure 5**) of the current trench (Batchelor *et.al.* 1985).

6.3.17 A large truncation of underlying stratigraphy and the natural chalk (2.0m deep), from the cutting of the original service trench in 1985, was filled with a mid-brown clay with chalk inclusions. To the immediate south of this, a chalk rubble bank, the 'tail' of the Roman town rampart, was clearly visible in the trench sections sealing a buried soil horizon below (**Plate 2**).

Trench 8 (Figure 5)

- 6.3.18 A small, sub-circular pit [97], was recorded cutting a mid –yellowish/brown silty clay deposit (93), which contained medieval glass and was sealed below 0.50m of post-medieval soil deposits (92). The pit was 1.39m by 1.10m in extent and 0.60m deep with steep, concave sides and a relatively flat base. The fill (98) was a mid-grey/brown silty clay, possibly derived from the post- Roman soils, which contained Early Roman pottery, shell, animal bone, wall plaster, a 1st – 3rd century AD copper alloy coin (Object [Obj.] No. 45) and an iron nail (Obj. No. 46). The pit is probably medieval or post-medieval in date and all the finds are residual.

Trench 10 (Figure 7)

- 6.3.19 Below c. 0.80m of post-medieval and modern made ground (600 – 605) a series of deposits (606 - 608, 613) were recorded overlying a series of sterile chalk dumps (609, 611) which may have included a buried soil (610). The natural chalk was not reached, with the base of the trench at c. 62.10m aOD.
- 6.3.20 In the basal c. 0.70m of the trench were two sterile chalk dumps (609, 611), the top of which laid at 62.75m aOD. with a 0.08m thick deposit of possible buried soil (610) between them. This was characterised by a light yellowish-brown silty loam with common chalk inclusions (<0.70mm). All the interfaces between these three deposits, but also markedly within (609), dip moderately down to the north, suggesting successive deposition from south to north (Plate 3).
- 6.3.21 The trench cuts across the line of the earlier Longmans Road, which is known to have been on the near-exact alignment of the Roman town rampart (Batchelor *et.al.* 1985, 168). It laid very close to two earlier observations (No.s 1, 2) in this vicinity which also recorded the Roman town rampart (*op cit*).
- 6.3.22 Cutting into the top of the chalk dumps of (609) was a 2.12m wide and 0.26m deep cut [612] which was filled primarily with a layer (608) of flint nodules (top at 62.75m aOD) and (?)greensand blocks (<0.15m) suggesting it was a consolidation or foundation layer, possibly for a road or a structure or perhaps as strengthening within the rampart, though this has not been recorded in earlier recorded sections of the rampart (Adam *et.al.* 1992; Batchelor *et.al.* 1985).

Trench 12 (Figure 7)

- 6.3.23 Natural chalk was not encountered in this trench because of the relatively shallow nature (1.41m max.) of the intervention. The only deposits of note from this trench were recorded only 3.30m apart, in two sections in the middle of the south section.
- 6.3.24 In the eastern section a c. 1.25m high series of ‘embanked’ layers (top at 61.40m aOD) were recorded, dipping moderately down to the east (as seen in section). The section comprised redeposited chalk layers (618, 624), a flint nodule layer (620), erosion material (619) and possible occupation layers (621, 623). The occupation layers were characterised by 60mm – 0.11m thick deposits of mid greyish-brown clayey material containing charcoal lenses, Roman-British CBM, as well as oyster and snail shells.

- 6.3.25 The embanked layers overlaid a possible old land surface (**625**), a 0.09m thick mid greyish-brown sandy clay deposit containing CBM fragments and charcoal flecks. This in turn overlaid a possible buried subsoil (**626**) characterised by a mid-red/brown clay loam, with rare chalk inclusions (<40mm) and iron staining throughout. Both deposits (**625**) and (**626**) might represent the original soil profile (topsoil/subsoil) subsequently buried by the construction of the Roman town defences or other Romano-British activity in the vicinity.
- 6.3.26 In the western recorded south section of the trench a very similar 1.05m(+) thick depositional sequence was recorded (top 61.20m aOD), below 0.15m of truncated modern disturbance. The sequence included chalk rubble dumps (**628**, **630**, and **632**) occupation layers (**629**, **631**, **633**, and **634**) and flint nodule layers (**635**) which are probably derived from the same activity and erosional processes as seen in the eastern recorded section.
- 6.3.27 Most of the trench was located parallel to, and only c. 4m to the north of, deposits interpreted previously as the 'tail' of the rear of the Roman town rampart (Batchelor *et.al.* 1985; Davies and Farwell 1990). The mixed nature of the deposits recorded in this sequence, including occupation material, erosional material and or chalk dumps (repairs?) would suggest the accretion of layers during activity immediately associated with, or behind, the Roman town defences.

Trench 14

- 6.3.28 Below 1.55m of medieval/post-medieval soil build-up (**640 – 642**) a 0.55m (+) thick deposit of sand/gravel (**643**) was recorded (59.60m aOD). The deposit was characterised by a series of coarse orange/brown gravels in a strong, coarse, orange/brown sand matrix. The deposit was recorded in the north section and north of the west sections of the trench, and was also seen in plan (at 59.05m aOD) in the northern third of the base of trench (**Figure 5**).
- 6.3.29 The sands/gravels were only present in the northern part of the trench in section and in plan. The alignment of the deposit's southernmost extent, its characteristics and its height (c.59.80m aOD) all correspond almost exactly to the projected alignment of the known oblique Roman road that runs across the Site, previously investigated in *Trench 4* of the 1989 excavations (Adam *et.al.* 1992), and in the 1990 South Walks Tunnel Sewer works (Davies and Farwell 1990).

6.4 Trench 2 Excavation

Introduction

- 6.4.1 As anticipated from earlier summaries of the potential of the Site to contain significant archaeological features and deposits of Roman-British date, the excavation of the attenuation tank trench (**Trench 2**) proved to contain the most extensive intact archaeological stratigraphy recorded from this phase of the development.
- 6.4.2 Although the trench was only 40.20m by 3.20m in extent, at least 0.50 – 1.10m of intact Romano-British stratigraphy was recorded and excavated, sealed below 1.20m (east end) of modern (**100 – 102**), as well as medieval and post-medieval soil build-up (**103**) or 'urban soil' as it has been previously described (Batchelor *et.al.* 1985).
- 6.4.3 These deposits thicken to 1.80 – 2.10m thickness at the west end of the trench, as they fill the natural coombe known to be present in this part of Dorchester (Batchelor *et.al.* 1985, 168).

6.4.4 The natural chalk bedrock (**134**), lying at 60.47m aOD at the east end, dropped by 2.40m over the length of the trench (**Plate 4**), with the greatest drop resulting in the westernmost c.10m of the trench, to the west of a large construction/robber trench [**166**] (see below). There was also a marked difference in the surviving height of the natural chalk in the east of the trench from that to the south of the trench, which was c. 0.80m higher (c. 61.30m aOD).

6.4.5 In the westernmost c. 5m of trench, to the west of a major construction/robber trench [**338**], a c.0.60m thick deposit of 'coombe rock' was recorded, which a small number of stratigraphically early archaeological features cut [**265**, **492**, and **497**]. The 'coombe rock' was characterised by a pale yellowish-white (degraded chalk) silt matrix containing abundant sub-angular chalk (<40mm). Its absence from the rest of the trench suggests its removal, probably from quarrying or terracing, prior to construction of buildings in the Romano-British period. This terracing or removal of the pre-existing soil profile prior to construction in the earlier Romano-British period has already been noted for the Site and wider Development Site (Batchelor *et.al.* 1985, 168).

Early Roman features

6.4.6 Quite a number of stratigraphically early features were recorded, indicating an early phase of Romano-British settlement activity on the Site, prior to the construction of late Roman masonry structures. These early features (**Figure 9**) were recorded sealed the surviving early to middle Roman deposits and mostly cut the natural chalk bedrock, or to a lesser extent, the coombe rock in the west end of the trench. Many of the features, which included linear and curvilinear ditches/gullies, pits and postholes, were located over the whole trench but with a relative concentration in the middle and mid-west of the trench.

Ditches and Gullies

6.4.7 Only five linear and curvilinear ditches and gullies were recorded in the base of the trench, reflecting relatively early activity in this part of the Site, some of which may be associated with the mid – late 1st century AD activity recorded from **Trench 1**.

6.4.8 In the east of **Trench 2** a relatively large curvilinear ditch [**461**] was recorded cutting a c. 0.20m thick degraded chalk horizon (**272=277**) which overlay the natural chalk (**134**). The ditch was 0.86m wide and 0.77m deep, with near-vertical, convex sides and a shallow concave base (**Plate 5**). The ditch had numerous fills (**397 – 400**, **462 – 468**) which were relatively rich in artefacts, which included 1st – 3rd century AD pottery, animal bone (some burnt), mortar lumps, non-local stone fragments, burnt flint, iron-smithing slag (**467**), and in places charcoal-rich deposits (**397**, **399**) containing large quantities of cereal grains and mineralised coprolite material.

- 6.4.9 The finds assemblage included a near-complete pottery vessel (Obj. No. **35**), a bone spoon (Obj. No. **33**), a Greensand mortar fragment (Obj. No. **57**), a fragment of a shale platter or tray, a lead sheet fragment (Obj. No. **48**) and an iron nail (Obj. No. **36**). Other notable finds include a single antefix fragment from fill (**397**), fragments of fired clay of probable structural origin from contexts (**465 – 467**) and fragments of fired clay ‘gridiron’ (**467**).
- 6.4.10 The ditch fill sequence included a large degree of primary fills (**462 – 464**) of overall 0.40m depth, suggesting slumping and/or weathering from the east side of the ditch. The later fills (**397 – 400, 465 – 468**) being relatively artefact-rich, contained a bone spoon (Obj. No. **33**) as well as containing common charcoal or lenses, would suggest the deposition of primarily domestic waste, though the presence of mortar lumps in some layers (**397, 398**) and smithing slag is also indicative of building and metalworking waste.
- 6.4.11 Ditch [**461**] after infilling, was slightly truncated by an area of bioturbation or disturbance [**232=234**], the fills of which (**235, 236=231, 230**) directly underlay the late Roman basal bedding layers (**107=112=115=118**) of the relatively well-preserved *opus signinum* floor (**104**). If the recorded ditch segment is but part of a circular ditch this would have, an extrapolated diameter, (ditch centreline) of c. 8.8m, though within the limited extent of the trench, its function is difficult to interpret.
- 6.4.12 Only 3.5m to the west of ditch [**461**] a short section (3.60m) of truncated north-east/south-west aligned gully [**289=313**] was recorded, which was 0.75m wide (max) and 0.25m deep (max) and filled with an orange/brown silty clay with chalk inclusions but contained no finds.
- 6.4.13 In the middle of the trench a north-west/south-east aligned ditch [**167=334**] was recorded which was first exposed in the base of robber cut [**158**] during initial excavation. Where best preserved (in the south), it was 1.0m (+) wide and 0.36m deep, with moderate, flat sides and a flat base. It was filled with a single fill (**161=333**), light yellow/brown silty clay with common chalk, containing 1st century AD pottery, animal bone, CBM and charcoal lumps and flecks. This morphologically similar ditch, corresponds well with the alignment of one of either mid-late 1st century AD ditch Groups [**644**] and [**645**] in **Trench 1**, c.16m to the south-east. If so, this has important implications for the setting out of the Romano-British town of Dorchester, suggesting that the ‘grain’ of the subsequent urban layout in this part of the town, as reflected in the oblique Roman road, was already established through land boundaries before the town’s construction.
- 6.4.14 Only c. 3m west of ditch [**167=334**], a 1.75m long segment of a very truncated north-west/south-east aligned gully [**475**] was recorded, only 0.23m wide and 0.08m deep, with a single fill (**474**) which had no finds. Though undated the feature does correspond to the prevailing north-west/south-east ‘grain’ of land and structural divisions of the early Roman period.
- 6.4.15 In the south-west corner of the trench the possible terminal of a WNW/ESE aligned ditch [**497**] was recorded, only 2.20m being exposed. The ditch was 0.68m wide and 0.28 – 0.39m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a single fill (**496**) a greyish-brown silty clay containing 1st – 3rd century AD pottery, CBM and tabular masonry fragments, suggesting relatively early structural remains in the vicinity.

Pits

- 6.4.16 A small number (9) of pits were recorded, most were sub-circular or sub-oval in shape, being generally 0.50 - 0.70m in extent and 0.20 – 0.60m deep, with moderate to steep sides and shallow, concave bases generally. The relatively small finds assemblage from all except pit [364] consisted of early Roman pottery, CBM, worked and burnt flint and charcoal and probably represent the disposal of domestic waste. However, large masonry blocks (<0.30m) contained in pit [483] might suggest the disposal of building materials, or be deliberate infilling.
- 6.4.17 By far the largest pit was [366], a north-west/south-east aligned, sub-rectangular pit in the middle of the trench, which was visible in the bases and sections of robber trenches [158] and [202]. It measured 2.32m by 1.51m in extent and was 0.79m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base and had a single relatively homogenous fill (365) which contained a very small assemblage of mid – late 1st century AD pottery, animal bone and oyster shell.

Postholes

- 6.4.18 Only a small number (5) of stratigraphically early postholes, and a single undated stakehole [479], were recorded, which were all mostly located in the western half of the trench. They were relatively widely dispersed and within the relatively limited space within the trench, did not illustrate any coherent patterning suggestive of post-built structures, though no doubt deriving from such structures.
- 6.4.19 The postholes were mostly very truncated, being generally 0.20 – 0.40m in extent and diameter, though two examples [435, 436] are worthy of further description, as they may indicate earlier structural evidence, which was later superseded by masonry **Structure 2** (foundations [453] and [178=446]). These postholes were 0.35 – 0.45m diameter and survived to 0.20 – 0.44m depth, and steep, or near-vertical sides and flat/slightly concaves bases (**Plate 9**).
- 6.4.20 The respective single fills (443, 444) contained a few CBM fragments and masonry blocks (<0.18m), which may be packing stone remnants, were recorded from posthole [436]. A slightly later (stratigraphically) posthole [434] in the same area also had large, tabular limestone blocks for packing stones. It might be significant that all three are located directly below later masonry wall foundations and possibly represent earlier timber structural remains from an early Roman building, pre-dating **Structure 1**.
- 6.4.21 A number of aspects of the finds assemblage would suggest the presence of a relatively moderate status building in **Trench 2**, prior to the construction of later Roman masonry **Structures 1** and **2**. Probable structural fired clay (daub) was recorded from 1st – 3rd century AD ditch [461], painted wall plaster was used as hard core in the mortar of masonry foundations of **Structure 1** [369], and relatively common wall plaster fragments were recovered from early – middle Roman deposits, particularly in the middle and east of **Trench 2** (see *Wall Plaster* in *Finds* section below).

Later Romano-British Stratigraphy

- 6.4.22 Overlying the 1st to 2nd century AD early features was a varying thickness of build-up layers and/or dumps of early (1st – 2nd century AD) to late Roman date (3rd – 4th century) which became thicker (0.90m) towards the west end of the trench, as they filled the coombe in the underlying chalk geology. At the present stage of assessment the deposits probably represent deliberate build-up layers, used to fill in the natural ‘coombe’ prior to the construction of **Structures 1** and **2** of the 3rd – 4th centuries AD. This is a pattern recorded in earlier excavations of the Development Site (Adam *et.al.* 1992). The deposits contain lenses of material and general soil deposits with more or less domestic waste and building materials, including wall plaster fragments and rare window glass fragments suggesting earlier buildings of moderate status in the vicinity in the early – middle Roman periods. However, aside from chalk and *opus signinum* floors associated with **Structure 1 (203=122, 104)** no other floor deposits were present.
- 6.4.23 Over most of the trench a 0.20 - 0.35m thick, early to middle Roman soil deposit (**189, 264, 348, 350, and 365**) was recorded at the base of the stratigraphic sequence. It was characterised by a light to mid orange/brown silty clay with sparse, small, chalk inclusions. The deposit was both stratigraphically above and below 1st – 2nd century AD features, suggesting it probably represents part of the original soil profile, subsequently disturbed by the first Romano-British activity in the area.
- Masonry Structures
- 6.4.24 Although the stratigraphic analyses require further work an assessment of the preliminary pottery spot dates within the Romano-British stratigraphic sequence suggest the construction of a large, domestic masonry structure (**Structure 1**) in the middle and east of **Trench 2 (Figure 10)**, in the middle Roman period (3rd century AD). The rectilinear structure was c. 19m wide, north-west/south-east aligned, near-perpendicular to the oblique Roman road c.11-19m to the north-west (**Figure 10**). The south-western corner [**446=371**] of the structure was supported by a ‘buttress’ [**453**] – **Plate 8**.
- 6.4.25 Within the structure a number of sub-rectangular rooms (3.40 – 5.0m(+) wide) were discernible, located to the north and south of a 9.40m(+) long and 1.50m wide ‘corridor’ surfaced with a 0.20m thick rammed chalk surface (**122=203**) and later internal dividing walls subsequently robbed out and represented by robber trenches [**202**] and [**329**]. The easternmost extent of the structure was possibly remodelled in the late Roman period (4th century AD) with the installation of a well-founded *opus signinum* floor in both rooms (**Plate 6**).
- 6.4.26 This floor was characterised by a 3.30m (+) long and 0.80m wide area of well-preserved *opus signinum* surface (**104**) which was laid over a small number of bedding layers for the floor (**Figure 6**). This comprised a 0.08m thick basal layer of relatively fine, compacted chalk rubble (**111=117**) which was overlaid by a layer of large (<0.15m) flint nodules set in a coarse orange/brown sand (**107, 110, 112, 115, 118**) which contained late Roman pottery, worked flint, animal bone and painted wall plaster fragments. This was in turn overlaid with a basal, coarse, *opus signinum* deposit (**105, 109, and 114**) before the fine ‘top coat’. A construction sequence recorded in earlier excavations in the area (see para. 2.3.9).

- 6.4.27 In the western extent of **Structure 1**, sections of in-situ masonry foundations were recorded [353, 446, 371, 367, 369] along the north side and west end(?) of chalk corridor (122=203) – **Plate 8**. These survived to a maximum height of 0.80m [353, 367] but were generally 0.40 – 0.60m high and 0.80m wide. They were generally characterised by roughly dressed, large sub-rectangular and sub-square (0.10 – 0.15m thick) tabular Lias limestone, Ham Stone and Pennant Sandstone masonry (0.20 – 0.30m) and rarely, flint nodules (<0.20m) also, all set in a strong, light yellowish-brown or orange/brown coarse, degraded sandy mortar. A block of intact sandy mortar and masonry from foundation [367] contained a large piece of painted plaster indicating the subsequent re-use of earlier Romano-British materials on the Site, within the later Roman masonry buildings.
- 6.4.28 In the base of construction cut [170=445] the masonry foundations [179=446] rested on a 0.15m thick basal deposit (178) of large flint nodules. This Romano-British construction method was also recorded in the base of [215/220] in the very west of the trench, where it was also still *in-situ*. It has been noted earlier from Romano-British structural remains recorded on the Development Site (Adam *et.al.* 1992; Adam and Butterworth 1993) and has also resulted in the relatively flint nodule-rich backfills of some of the robber trenches (**Plate 7b**), the rejected elements of the medieval and post-medieval wall robbing. This is particularly discernible for later robber trenches in the middle of the trench [202, 329, 427] and the western robber trenches [166, 191, 215/220, 251, 253, 338].
- 6.4.29 The masonry foundations of the south-west corner of these structural remains [170=446] seemed to be supported by a masonry buttress [453], suggesting an external wall at this point of the structure (**Plate 9**). The buttress, laid in a construction cut [460], abutted foundation [170=446] was 0.84m by 0.78m in extent, and 0.42m high, comprising at least three courses of roughly dressed, 0.10 – 0.15m thick, tabular limestone blocks set in a hard, light yellow/brown-orange-brown coarse sand mortar. The buttress post-dated large postholes [435, 436] (see *Early Roman features* section above).
- 6.4.30 In the western extent of the trench, to the west of robber trench 215/220 a marked sequence (0.50m thick) of late Roman (3rd – 4th century) dumps were recorded including a series of relatively thin organic-rich (260, 262, 263), mortar (259, 261) and chalk (258, 267) deposits overlaid with masonry and ceramic building material (CBM) rubble-rich deposits (223, 280) but also human bone (260). Many of these deposits immediately pre-date the construction of a smaller, western structure in the late Roman period (4th century AD) (**Structure 2**) as well as representing its subsequent disuse or demolition.
- 6.4.31 **Structure 2** was built, use and fell into disuse from the 4th century AD onwards, either as an ancillary structure to **Structure 1**, or as a separate structure. It was c. 7.80m wide, which fits well with examples recorded in earlier excavations (Adam *et.al.* 1992; Adam and Butterworth 1993). The western wall was strengthened or replaced by a later wall, subsequently robbed and represented by robber trench [215/220]. No floor surfaces survived. The structure was built over a series of dumps (c. 0.60m thick) containing 3rd – 4th century AD pottery, which were used to infill a hollow present at this point. The subsequent disuse of the structure resulted in the accumulation of a number of deposits against the west side of the structure, that contained building waste including common mortar and stone roof slate fragments.

Post-Roman Periods

Robber trenches

- 6.4.32 The Romano-British stratigraphy which covered the whole of **Trench 2** area below the medieval and post-medieval soil accumulation deposits was cut by numerous robber trenches, where the original masonry foundations and walls of late Roman structures had been subsequently robbed for suitable building stone. As mentioned earlier (para 2.6.2) this robbing has been recorded in Dorchester as occurring as early as the late Roman period, as well as from the 12th to 17th centuries (Wessex Archaeology 2006, 13). Some medieval pottery (15th century) was recorded from robber trench [215] in the west of the trench.
- 6.4.33 The robber trenches reveal an original rectilinear pattern of Roman structural remains over the whole of **Trench 2 (Figure 10)**. The late Roman masonry structures were aligned north-west/south-east and north-east/southwest, perpendicular to the projected alignment of the oblique Roman Road between only c. 5m (west) and c.18m (east) to the north-west. They also retain the general alignment recorded in the mid – late 1st century AD land divisions recorded in **Trench 1** to the south-east
- 6.4.34 The robber trenches were generally 0.80 – 0.90m wide, with near-vertical or vertical sides and flat bottomed, being 0.30 – 0.60m deep in the east and deeper (1.0 – 1.20m) in the west, reflecting the gradual drop to the deepest part of the natural coombe. The widest robber trenches (1.40m and 1.47m) were recorded in the very west of the trench, respectively [220] and [338], but the original construction width of [220] was narrowed to only 0.64m with the incorporation of 0.76m of rammed chalk construction along the wall's east side during the construction of the latest wall [215] in the 4th century AD.
- 6.4.35 Differences in the fill sequences were also evident during excavation, with eastern examples [135, 140, 155, 157] being filled predominantly with a coarse, light yellowish-brown or orange/brown, degraded sandy mortar deposits containing common, tabular limestone fragments (<0.20m) or dark brown sandy silts or silty clay loams, all deliberate and indirect backfills from the robbing of the masonry of **Structure 1**.
- 6.4.36 In the middle part of the trench the robber trench fills were characterised by a relative abundance of roughly dressed, large sub-rectangular and sub-square tabular limestone masonry (0.20 – 0.30m) (**Plate 7a**) and rare, rejected flint nodules as well as very rare chalk blocks within a strong, yellow/brown coarse, degraded sandy mortar matrix. Within the backfill (159) of [158] the short upper section of a well-dressed stone column (Obj. No. 16) was recovered indicating the quality of the masonry structures on the Site in the Romano-British period.

Other features and deposits

- 6.4.37 The results of earlier excavations from the Development Site illustrate, aside from the robber trenches, the relatively small number of surviving features and deposits of Anglo-Saxon, medieval and Post-Roman dates (Adam and Butterworth 1993, 25). The recorded features mainly comprised shallow pits and post-holes, most probably affected in the same way as the stratigraphy by disturbance resulting from medieval and post-medieval robbing of building materials (*op. cit.*).

- 6.4.38 There were only a few, mostly truncated features (17), which stratigraphically post-dated the Romano-British stratigraphic sequence in **Trench 2**. In the eastern extent of the trench a series of nine small, undated stakeholes (Group [303]) cut the *opus signinum* floor (**Figure 10**). They comprised a relatively small group of cuts, being sub-square or circular in plan, and c. 80mm in extent and diameter and 0.10 – 0.17m deep, with tapering, near-vertical sides. No coherent pattern in the stakehole group was discernible but possible post-built structures have been recorded cutting *opus signinum* floors in the uppermost parts of Romano-British stratigraphic sequences on the Development Site in previous excavations (Adam and Butterworth 1993, 23). Some contained 3rd – 5th centuries AD pottery, suggesting possible Early Anglo-Saxon activity in the immediate post-Roman periods.
- 6.4.39 In the west of the trench three post-holes [163, 173, and 198] were recorded cutting the upper interface of Roman-British stratigraphy, and were all partially truncated by later robber trenches [166, 191=253]. The postholes were generally 0.30 – 0.55m in extent and 0.12 – 0.17m deep with shallow concave sides, containing single dark fills with undiagnostic residual Roman pottery, CBM, shell, animal bone, worked flint, charcoal, mortar fragments and *tessarae*. Altogether they comprise a short, c. 3.5m section of north-east, south-west alignment which could be the partial remains of a post-built structure of late Roman or immediate post-Roman date.
- 6.4.40 Only four later pits [169, 206, 381, and 425] were recorded in **Trench 2**, all in the middle of the trench. Pit [169] was a 2.26m (+) by 1.03m (+) and 0.41m deep pit that cut robber trench [170=445]. It had a single fill (174) which contained late Roman pottery, shell, animal bone, CBM, as well as a 3rd century AD copper alloy coin (Obj. No. 11) and an iron nail (Obj. No. 10).
- 6.4.41 Possible late Roman pit [381] was relatively large (3.0m by 0.90m and 0.25m deep) and cut the eastern end and northern extent of the chalk corridor (122=203) of **Structure 1**. It was filled with a number of mortar, charcoal, charred wood deposits (128, 382 – 384) as well as indicating partial burning in-situ. It contained a relative abundance of painted wall plaster fragments, animal bone, shell, a hobnail and 6 iron nails and fragments as well as residual early Roman pottery and prehistoric worked flint. The pit also contained a large (0.61m square, 0.14m thick) tabular sandstone pad stone (127) possibly from an earlier phase of building from **Structure 1**?
- 6.4.42 Pit [425], with fills (423, 424), cut a stratigraphically later robber trench [427], and contained residual middle Roman pottery, CBM, shell, animal bone, and painted wall plaster fragments. The final pit [206] was 1.54m (+) and 0.40m (+) in extent and only 0.35m deep, located against the south side of the trench. The single dark brown fill (205) of clayey sand contained relatively common building materials including *tessarae*, CBM, mortar and masonry fragments as well as Late Medieval pottery, animal bone and shell.

- 6.4.43 In the very east end of the trench a north-south aligned possible ditch terminal [147] was recorded cutting the natural chalk which was 2.16m(+) long and 0.62m(+) wide, and 0.77m deep, with moderate, concave sides. The single fill (146) which was almost identical to the dark earth deposits (103) was characterised by dark brown/black slightly clayey silt which contained residual early Roman pottery, CBM and shell.

7 FINDS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Overall, approximately 246kg of finds were recovered from the excavated features and deposits, nearly all from the excavations of **Trench 2**. All the artefacts have been quantified (number and weight of pieces) by material type within each context; this information is summarised in **Table 1** (see over page). The finds have also been scanned to assess the date, range and condition of the material types present. The pottery has provided the primary dating evidence, but where appropriate, this has been combined with information from other chronologically diagnostic artefact types (e.g. coins and other metal objects, worked bone, glass, ceramic building materials) allowing broad spot-dates to be assigned on a context by context basis.
- 7.1.2 Although the assemblage is predominantly of Romano-British date, with a particular focus on the mid/late 1st to early 2nd centuries AD, a few items of medieval and later date were also identified. In general, all the artefacts survived in very good condition.

7.2 Building materials

Ceramic building material

- 7.2.1 All the ceramic building material has been spot-dated and quantified (number and weight of pieces) by brick/tile type within each context, with any additional details, such as surface markings, also being noted. With the exception of a single, unstratified post-medieval peg-hole roof tile fragment from **Trench 14**, all the ceramic building material was of Romano-British date.
- 7.2.2 The assemblage was highly fragmentary (mean weight 129g), with no complete items, or even complete lengths/widths; almost two-thirds of the pieces could only be identified as flat (322 pieces) or featureless (454 pieces) fragments. With the exception of ten pieces (an antefix fragment, unusual types/fabrics, the datable lower cut-away of *tegulae*, a piece with a nailed boot/shoe impression), all the ceramic building material was discarded after quantification.
- 7.2.3 A single antefix fragment (from the bottom left hand corner of the frame) was found in context **397**, a fill of 1st – 3rd century AD ditch [461] in the east of **Trench 2 (Plate 5)**. This is from the same mould as the other fragments from *Durnovaria* (RCHM 1970, 538; Walker 2002, 84) but the concentration of find spots along Acland Road (Bellamy 1993, 174-5; Adam 1992, 106; 1993, 66) now provides a firm indication of a significant public building in the vicinity.

Table 1 - Finds totals by material type

Material	No.	Wt. (g)
Animal bone	1220	8220
Burnt flint	7	377
Building materials:		
ceramic building material	1205	155336
stone	21	15598
mortar	6	702
<i>opus signinum</i>	8	5225
painted wall plaster	231	7199
Clay tobacco pipe	4	21
Fired clay	6	142
Flint	70	1546
Glass:	13	489
Roman	7	18
Post-medieval/modern	6	471
Human bone		
infant skeleton	1	-
Metalwork:		
coins	3	11
copper alloy	21	35
iron	103	1022
lead	2	175
Pottery:	2580	40450
Roman	334	7544
Early Roman	1167	15906
Middle Roman	680	9502
Late Roman	348	6138
medieval and later wares	51	1360
Shale	2	93
Shell	311	6604
Slag	12	629
Stone objects	21	1977
Worked bone	2	7

7.2.4 Most of the other identifiable pieces were from *tegula* and *imbrex* roof tiles (189 and 201 fragments respectively). Five of the *tegulae* preserved the lower cut-away; four from **Trench 2** (contexts **262**, **328**, **337** and **354**) were of Warry's type C (5), tentatively dated to c. AD 160 – 260. The fifth (type D (15); context **280**), from Late Roman rubble deposits in the very west of **Trench 2**, can be dated to c. AD 240 – 380 (Warry 2006, 64). The 25 brick fragments mostly derive from the smaller, thinner types (e.g. *bessales*, *pedalis*, *lydion*), predominantly used in hypocausts or as lacing and bonding courses in walls, although the thickness (50-60mm) of three pieces from contexts **309**, **450** and **468** (ditch [**461**]), indicates the presence of the larger *bipedalis* and *sesquipedalis* too. Ten pieces had the combed keying characteristic of box-flue and voussoir tiles, while three flat pieces had been cut to form large (20-30mm across, 20mm thick), orange-red *tessarae* (contexts **27** (dark earth **Trench 1**); and **195** (robber trench [**191**]) in **Trench 2**).

Stone

- 7.2.5 Although some segments of masonry foundations were recorded (**Figure 10, Plates 8, 9**), no *in situ* stone walling was discovered. However, substantial quantities of stone rubble, comprising roofing tile and dressed and undressed walling stone fragments were encountered, mostly representing discarded rubble from wall robbing activity. This material has not been quantified but samples of the rock types present have been retained for detailed petrological identification at a later stage.
- 7.2.6 A cursory examination of the samples indicates that most were obtained from the Upper and Middle Purbeck Beds, from the south of the county, and the Portland Beds which extend from the area immediately south of the town to the Isle of Portland itself. More distant sources include Ham stone and Lias limestone from south Somerset and Pennant and Old Red sandstones from Avon. Two pieces of slate probably from a roof tile were found in context **283** (robber trench [**135**]) of **Trench 2**. Elsewhere in Dorchester, slate only occurs in medieval and later contexts (Bellamy 1993, 168).
- 7.2.7 The most significant of the retained pieces was a weathered column capital of coarse oolitic limestone (Obj. No. **16**), from the backfill of robber trench [**158**] in **Trench 2 (Plate 7a)**. It belongs to the "Tuscan order", described by Italian Sebastiano Serlio as "the solidest and least ornate" of the five orders of classical architecture (*Regole generalii di Architettura... sopra le cinque maniere degli edifici...* (1537). It has a plain, unfluted shaft, 210mm in diameter, and a capital consisting of an unelaborated abacus and echinus; the height of columns of this type was normally in the region of seven times the diameter. In general, in the Classical world, this strong order seems to have been considered appropriate for use in military architecture and buildings of the plainer, more utilitarian sort; a column-base of the Tuscan order was found flanking the forum portico steps in Exeter (Bidwell 1979, 146, fig. 49, 1 and pl. IXa), for example. In Dorchester, three of the five column fragments from Greyhound Yard (Bellamy 1993, 168, fig. 90, 1-3) were of comparably plain and simple design, and were also made from oolitic limestone.
- 7.2.8 Small numbers of loose *tesserae*, all residual and all from **Trench 2**, were retained which derived from robber trenches [**155, 166**], and other post-Roman features, including posthole [**164**], a stakehole in Group [**303**] and a Late Medieval pit [**206**].
- 7.2.9 Seventeen were made from a hard, fine, light grey Lower Lias limestone, probably from the Ilchester area of Somerset, while three were of hard white chalk. In size, the *tesserae* broadly correspond to those from Greyhound Yard (Bellamy 1993, 176), most being in the region of 25-30mm across and 20mm deep, although one of the chalk examples (**212**), from a stakehole of Group [**303**] was smaller (c. 15mm x 10mm).

Mortar

- 7.2.10 Mortar samples were retained from six contexts (**141, 142, 159, 164, 321 and 352**) from robber trenches [**140, 158, and 166**]. Though fragments were also recorded from an Early Roman pit [**326**] (**321**) and another from a section of intact, late Roman masonry foundations [**353**] (**352**).
- 7.2.11 All consist of quartz sand and poorly-slaked lime with occasional additions of chalk and/or limestone inclusions up to 30mm across. No detailed analysis has been undertaken at this stage but all are presumed to be of Romano-British date.

Opus signinum

- 7.2.12 All the assemblage was derived from **Trench 2**. Loose fragments of *opus signinum* were found in post-Roman deposits (**103**) as well as from two backfill contexts of robber trench [**155**]; these were discarded after quantification. A single piece (2439g) from the *in-situ opus signinum* floor surface (**104**) has, however, been retained.

Painted wall plaster

- 7.2.13 Apart from some residual pieces from pit [**97**] in **Trench 8**, all the assemblage was derived from **Trench 2**. As part of this assessment, the plaster from each context was divided into colour and decorative groupings and quantified by the number pieces present. In common with the material from the adjacent sites of Greyhound Yard (Stacey 1993) and Wessex Court (Adam 1992; 1993), the plaster was highly fragmentary, few pieces exceeding 50mm². No *in situ* plaster was found.
- 7.2.14 Almost half of the pieces (106) recovered appear to be from the same imitation marble dado, with a pinkish-red base-coat over painted with white, black, red and yellow splashes. Most were from late Roman pit [**381**] (context **128** - 80 fragments), which cut the chalk corridor (**122=203**) of **Structure 1**. They included some with a rough, bare strip, 25-30mm wide, along one edge of the painted face, perhaps originally hidden by a quarter moulding or similar, defining the floor itself. The other pieces were from early to middle Roman deposits (**349**, **359**, Group **469**), fills of middle to late Roman pits [**381**] and [**425**] and robber trench [**202**], all from the centre of **Trench 2**.
- 7.2.15 Most of the remaining pieces consist of multi-coloured panel border designs in different combinations of red, white and black/grey although some examples from early – middle Roman build-up layers (**349**, **359**, Group **469**) and a late Roman pit [**381**] (**382**). These included bands of green and yellow too.
- 7.2.16 Similarities of design, colour and the high quality of the painting suggest that 29 pieces from a number of contexts all derive from the same decorative scheme. They were recorded from the pre-excitation cleaning layer (**103**), pit [**381**], early Roman pit [**326**], and early to middle Roman build-up layers (**346**, **350**, **359**, **392**, **450**) and robber trench [**158**]; all from the middle of **Trench 2**.
- 7.2.17 All were well-preserved and painted a deep, even red with panels defined by white (7mm wide, defined by fine, black setting-out lines) or yellow (4mm wide) vertical stripes, over painted with a grey/green horizontal stripe. One piece (context 359) also showed a narrow (4mm wide) white stripe crossing the red panel at approximately 45°. A few monochrome red, white, yellow, black/grey and green fragments were also present in the assemblage but no other geometric or naturalistic designs were noted. None of the pieces preserved any of the straw/reed impressions noted at Wessex Court (Adam 1992, 116; 1993, 76)

Clay tobacco pipe

- 7.2.18 A plain pipe bowl was found in the pre-excavation cleaning layer (**103**) of **Trench 2**. In common with the majority from Greyhound Yard (Watkins 1993, 168), it is of mid-late 17th century date. Three pipe stem fragments were also found unstratified in **Trench 14**; these have been discarded.

Fired clay

- 7.2.19 Although only present in minimal quantities, all the fired clay was associated with 1st – 3rd century AD ditch [**461**] (contexts **465**, **466** and **467**) in the east of **Trench 2**. The four pieces from contexts (**465**) and (**466**) consisted of small amorphous fragments, probably of structural origin, in oxidised sand and chalk tempered fabrics. The two pieces from context (**467**) join and form part of a ceramic 'gridiron', made in a very well-burnished South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware fabric.
- 7.2.20 Locally, similar 'gridiron' pieces in South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware fabrics are known from the settlements associated with pottery, salt production, and other industries at Wytch Farm (Cleal 1991, fig.66, 16, 17, 19, 25 and 26) and Bestwall Quarry (Lyne forthcoming, fig. 129, 21). Elsewhere, examples are known from Canterbury (Barford, Elder and Stow 1995, 1183) and Springhead (Seager Smith *et. al.* 2011, 67) in Kent, from the small rural settlement at Shedfield, Hampshire (Holmes 1989, fig.7.7) and among the debris from the Alice Holt pottery kilns (*ibid.*, 38; Birbeck *et. al.* 2008). Other examples occur at Orton Longueville (Rollo 2001, 75, fig.43, 193) and Chesterton (Perrin 1999, 124, fig. 74, 501) in Cambridgeshire, while an unpublished piece from East Hanney, Oxfordshire is housed in Reading Museum (P. Booth, *pers. com.*). All the pieces are well-burnished and made in fabrics identical to the locally-produced pottery, and most appear to be of early Romano-British date.
- 7.2.21 These items are presumably copies of iron gridirons, but a recent survey lists only nine examples from Roman Britain, most with strong military associations or from hoards (Crummy 2005, 62, table 1). Crummy concluded that these items were never standard pieces of domestic kitchen equipment at any social or cultural level in civilian Roman Britain, and some more specialised, non-domestic function is therefore likely. The nature of this remains unclear, but the underside of one of the ceramic pieces from Wytch Farm (Cleal 1991, fig.66, 25) was heavily covered in soot, indicating its use in some activity involving fire.

Glass

- 7.2.22 The Romano-British glass (from **Trench 2**) included three pieces from early to middle Roman deposits in the west of the trench, (contexts **243**, **264**) and robber trench [**251**] comprised cast, matt/glossy window glass, probably of 1st to 3rd century AD date. The other four fragments were all from pale blue/green vessels, one with tooled decoration (**Trench 8** deposit **94**) and one from a 2-3rd century AD pit [**439**] in **Trench 2** with a strong rounded change of angle. Unfortunately, an insufficient fragment survived to indicate whether this was horizontal (e.g. a carinated bowl) or vertical (e.g. an indented vessel). The other two scraps were from the aforementioned pit [**439**].
- 7.2.23 The base and two body fragments from at least one dark green bottle, probably early 18th century date and of a transitional onion/mallet type were recorded from **Trench 14**. The neck/rim from a small modern bottle was found in the **Trench 2**

pre-excavation cleaning layer (**103**), while a piece of window glass (**174**) is likely to be of late 19th or 20th century date.

7.3 Metalwork

7.3.1 All the metalwork was examined in its raw state; none of the items have yet been cleaned or x-radiographed to aid their identification. Many of the objects, particularly the iron, are heavily corroded and the identifications offered must therefore be considered tentative at this stage.

Coins

7.3.2 Three copper alloy Roman coins were all residual and recovered from **Trench 2** and **Trench 8**. All were in relatively good condition, with little evidence of post-depositional corrosion, although all three show signs of pre-depositional wear.

7.3.3 The earliest (Obj. No. **45**) is an extremely worn *As* or *Dupondius* from medieval or post-medieval pit [97] (**Trench 8**). It was not possible to identify this coin to period, and it could have been struck or lost any time from the 1st - 3rd centuries AD.

7.3.4 The second coin, (Obj. No. **11**), was also from a medieval or post-medieval pit [169], but in **Trench 2**. It is a contemporary copy of a radiate *antoninianus* of Probus (AD 276 - 282). The obverse is a relatively good copy, but the reverse is badly blundered and struck off centre. These radiate copies were copies of 'official' coinage, possibly struck to compensate for gaps in supply of coinage to Britain and to supply sufficient small change for the province's needs. It is unclear whether these copies were officially sanctioned, if at all, but they are not uncommon as site finds, and seem to have circulated in the same fashion as officially struck coins.

7.3.5 The last coin (Obj. No. **4**, context **103**) is from the 'post-Roman deposits' in **Trench 2**, and is a small copper *nummus* of Constans, struck between AD 333 and 345. This is struck on a small flan, and may well, also be a contemporary copy.

Copper alloy

7.3.6 All the copper alloy objects (21) were from **Trench 2**. Sheet metal scraps were recorded from early Roman (Obj. No. **21** – **264**), and late Roman deposits (Obj. No. **24** – **237**). The assemblage also included part of a strip from 2nd – 3rd century AD pit [439]. A flat-headed stud from middle to late Roman layer (**458**) (Obj. No. **41**) is comparable with a 2nd century AD example from Greyhound Yard (Henig and Woodward 1993, fig. 69) of which 104 were recovered but the range of identifiable objects was relatively restricted.

7.3.7 Items of personal ornament were limited to a hinged T-shaped brooch (Obj. No. **44** - **404**) from robber trench [338], and two hair pins; one (Obj. No. **30** - **437**) from 2nd – 3rd century AD pit [439] and another (Obj. No. **23** - **307**) from a middle Roman deposit, are all of later 1st to 2nd century AD date.

7.3.8 A round spoon bowl (Crummy 1983, 69, type 1) was found during pre-excavation cleaning of the trench (Obj. No. **5, 103**) and is of late 1st - 2nd century AD date; Classical references mention that these were used to eat eggs, the pointed handle (now missing on this example) also being used to extract snails or shellfish from their shells. The remaining item, from robber trench [**135=148**] (Obj. No. **8 - 139**), is a small, flat-headed tack, unusually constructed from a sheet of metal wound around itself, but is also likely to be of Romano-British date.

Iron

7.3.9 The 103 iron object assemblage consists predominantly of flat, round-headed nails with square-sectioned tapering shanks in a wide variety of sizes, as well as a smaller number of hobnails or tacks and other fixings. It includes two L-shaped clamps from 2nd century AD pit [**439**] in **Trench 2** (Obj. No. **37**) and an occupation deposit from **Trench 12** (Obj. No. **58 - 633**).

7.3.10 A metal-, stone- or wood- working chisel from the Site (Obj. No. **59**) with a slightly burred oval head, is paralleled in other Romano-British contexts (e.g. Manning 1985, 9, Pl.5, A22) but as it was unstratified, is not demonstrably of Roman date. A knife blade, with a straight back and edge and a tanged handle (Obj. No. **6**) was found in robber trench [**155**] in **Trench 2** and is probably of post-medieval date

Lead

7.3.11 Both the lead items are Romano-British and from **Trench 2**. They include one from a middle Roman deposit (Obj. No. **40 - 458**) and another from the fill of a 1st – 3rd century AD ditch [**461**] (Obj. No. **48 - 464**). Both are waste sheet-metal off-cuts.

7.4 Shale

7.4.1 The two shale objects, both from **Trench 2**, comprised part of a plain, lathe-turned armlet. One fragment, from a late Roman deposit (Obj. No. **50 - 260**) had a roughly circular cross-section; the second fragment (**397**) was from ditch [**461**], and comprised a flat fragment likely to be from a circular platter, vessel base or tray. Both items are common finds within Dorchester (e.g. Mills and Woodward 1993, figs. 76, 78 and 79).

7.5 Marine shell

7.5.1 The assemblage included 136 cockle shell, 21 mussel shell, 19 carpet shell and 2 limpet shell fragments in addition to oysters (133 fragments), all likely to represent imported food remains. Although marine shells were found in 40 contexts across the Site, most contained only a few shells, although the range of species is comparable with the larger assemblages from Greyhound Yard (Winder 1993) and Wessex Court (Wyles and Allen 1992, 135; Wyles 1993, 85. The largest single concentration, consisting of 106 cockle and 2 oyster shells, derived from ditch [**461**] (fill **471**) in **Trench 2**; over 100 measurable shells are required for statistical and metrical analysis to be viable.

7.6 Pottery

7.6.1 To provide a basic minimum archive, sherds from each context were sub-divided into broad ware groups (e.g. oxidised wares) or known fabric types (e.g. Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware) and quantified by the number and weight of pieces. A breakdown of the assemblage by ware type is shown in **Table 2**. The range of vessel forms, an estimate of the number of examples and details of any unusual features (e.g. residues, perforations, and graffiti) were also recorded, according to the Dorchester type series (Seager Smith and Davies 1993). Spot-dates were then assigned to each fabric group and, in combination with the dating evidence provided by other artefact types, to the context as a whole. Most of the assemblage is of Roman date, with a particular emphasis on the mid/late 1st to early 2nd century AD; only 51 medieval and later sherds were identified.

Table 2 - Pottery totals by ware type

Ware	No.	Wt. (g)
<i>Romano-British wares:</i>		
Samian - South Gaul	74	797
Samian - ?Les Martres	1	2
Samian - Central Gaul	45	698
Samian - Eastern Gaul	5	65
Terra Nigra	2	9
Central Gaulish colour-coated ware B	1	3
Moselkeramik	1	4
Dressel 20 amphora	29	3419
Pel 47/Gauloise 4 amphora	7	412
Cam 186 amphora	2	30
Rhodian-type amphora	1	84
Dressel 2-4 amphora	1	42
Unassigned amphora	2	143
North Gaulish whiteware mortaria	16	1353
Rhineland white mortaria (GY 42Q)	1	104
Unassigned mortaria	5	177
Fine, south-western micaceous grey	4	12
Nene Valley colour-coated ware	1	8
New Forest colour-coated ware	11	251
Oxon colour-coated ware	8	149
Local red-slipped ware	3	51
Oxidised ware	70	673
North Gaulish whiteware	30	456
Corfe Mullen whiteware	6	51
White-slipped red ware	1	51
SE Dorset Black Burnished ware	1710	23241
South-western Black Burnished wares	452	5833
SE Dorset oxidised Black Burnished ware	33	917
Greyware	7	55
<i>Medieval and later wares:</i>		
Medieval coarseware	2	54
Verwood coarseware	44	1215
Industrial ware	4	81

Flowerpot	1	10
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7.6.2 In general, the whole assemblage survived in good condition with comparatively little surface or edge damage and a moderately high average sherd weight (15.7g). Unsurprisingly, the assemblage was overwhelmingly dominated by the various Black Burnished ware fabrics – from South-east Dorset (Wareham/Poole Harbour), the various South-western Black Burnished wares and the very coarse, shale/clay pellet- rich, oxidized late Roman version of the South-east Dorset fabric (SEDOX; Gerrard 2010). Vessel forms from each of the main categories were represented (see overpage), containing the usual range of common and rarer forms, surface treatments and decoration typical of assemblages from Dorchester (e.g. Seager Smith and Davies 1993):

Jars: WA types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 41, 47 and 65

Round-bodied, open bowls: WA types 13, 15, 16, 33, 36, 59, 73 and 77

Straight-sided bowls/dishes: WA types 20, 22, 24 and 25

Miscellaneous (beakers, jugs, flagons, lids): WA types 10, 26, 27 and 29

7.6.3 The more unusual forms were predominantly of early date; imitation samian and Gallo-Belgic platters (types 73 and 77) likely to be belong within the mid-1st century AD date, while a tankard (type 27), ovoid jars, some with lid-seated rims (types 41 and 65) and a round-bodied bowl with a flanged rim (type 59) are all likely to be of later 1st to early 2nd century AD date. Pieces from at least three large bowls with an applied flange well down the vessel wall (type 69) were also present. This form was recognised at Ower (Woodward 1987, 91, fig. 50, 190), but only single sherds were found in the much larger assemblages from Greyhound Yard (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 239) and Alington Avenue (Seager Smith 2002, fig. 47, 14), both in late 1st to 2nd century AD contexts.

7.6.4 Although largely unprovenanced, the small quantities of orange/buff and grey coarseware fabrics also form part of the standard range of products seen in Dorchester (Seager Smith 1993, 1997, 2002; Seager Smith and Davies 1993). Within this group, early Roman fabrics include Corfe Mullen whiteware, which dates to the third quarter of the 1st century AD (Calkin 1935, 54, Bidwell 1979, 192), while the North Gaulish whitewares (flagons and bowls) and the fine, south-western micaceous greywares are of later 1st to early 2nd century AD date. The greywares also included two everted rim jar sherds in South-western Greywares A and B, produced by a series of related industries in Somerset and/or east Devon between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 19).

7.6.5 The type A ware (Seager Smith 1999, 310, fabrics Q103 and 123) rim was found in context **195** (robber trench [191] – **Trench 2**), and may have been made in the Norton Fitzwarren area of Somerset (Timby 1989, 54, figs. 22 and 23), while the type B fabric (Seager Smith 1999, 311, fabrics Q121 and Q122) was from **Trench 14**. These wares were also recognised in the assemblage from the former County Hospital, Dorchester:

http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/dorset/Dorchester/Dorchester_hospital/Pottery

7.6.6 Imported wares consisted of samian, a few sherds of other fine tablewares, amphorae and mortaria. In total, 125 sherds of samian were identified, all in good condition and including products of all three major centres, although heavily biased in favour of South Gaulish sherds of mid/late 1st century AD date. Examples of cup forms 27, 33, 35 and Ritt 8, dish/bowl forms 18, 18/31, 31 (and their rouletted counterparts), 36, 43 or Curle 21 and Ritt 12 and decorated forms 29, 30 and 37 were all represented. Three partial stamps were identified. One, on a South Gaulish form 18, reads JI or LEVEF while the other two, both on Central Gaulish vessels, comprise one which is illiterate or too poorly impressed to be legible and a form 33 base stamped T.TVRON[in very small, neat letters. Detailed identifications of these stamps have not been undertaken at this stage.

7.6.7 Other imported finewares consist of Terra Nigra, Central Gaulish colour-coated ware B and Moselkeramik, all of which occur in other parts of Dorchester (Seager Smith 1993, 46, Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 204-14). Both the Terra Nigra sherds were from Cam 16 platters (c. AD 45- 85); these occur in some quantity at Greyhound Yard (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 205, table 27). Dressel 2-4 and 20, Pelichet 47/Gauloise 4, Cam 186 and Rhodian-type amphora sherds were recognized, indicating the availability of wine, olive oil and other products from the Mediterranean area.

7.6.8 The mortaria too, are comparable with those from other sites in the town, initially being imported from north-west France with the gradual influx of vessels from the Rhineland and British sources during the period after AD 150. Evidence from other parts of Dorchester indicated that, after c. AD 250, mortaria were almost exclusively obtained from the New Forest and Oxfordshire industries, their absence from this assemblage serving to further highlight its early Roman emphasis. However, the assemblage does include a small number of red-slipped ware bowls and dark colour-coated ware flagons and beakers obtained from these industries during the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD.

7.7 Medieval and later wares

7.7.1 These wares also form part of the standard range seen in other parts of the town (Draper 1993, 290-312; Mephram 1992; 1993). The medieval coarsewares, probably from West Dorset, include a body sherd with splashes of apple green glaze from a robber trench [215] (**218**) and a jug rim/handle from a medieval/post-medieval pit [206] (**205**), both from **Trench 2**, which are comparable with vessels from a 15th century well at Greyhound Yard (Draper 1993, 295-9). The post-medieval wares largely consist of Verwood-type earthenwares from east Dorset, together with modern whiteware 'china' and flower pot sherds.

7.8 Slag

7.8.1 A small undiagnostic piece of slag from a late Roman deposit (**280 - Trench 2**) could represent iron smelting waste, while the ten fragments from 1st – 3rd century AD ditch [461] (**467 – Trench 2**) probably derive from iron smithing activities of Romano-British date. A small piece of glassy blast furnace slag from a buried soil (**94**) in **Trench 8** is likely to be of post-medieval or modern date and therefore intrusive.

7.9 Stone objects

7.9.1 The stone object assemblage, all from **Trench 2**, comprises 11 gaming pieces, two mortar fragments and eight pieces of degraded Neidermendig lava presumed to derive from a single quernstone imported from the Rhineland, recorded from an early Roman build-up deposit (**350**) from **Trench 2**. Although rare in the Dorchester area, a similar lava fragment occurred at Poundbury (Davies 1987, 105). Conversely, mortars are common finds in the area; an example from a later robber trench [427] (Obj. No. **27 - 426**) was made from a white fossiliferous limestone, perhaps from Purbeck, although no source could be suggested for one in a similar rock from Wessex Court (Knowles 1993, 73). The second mortar fragment was from ditch [461] (Obj. No. **57 - 464**) was made from Greensand, unusual rock for objects of this type. Its profile is also unusual in that it has a flat rather than an externally wedge-shaped base with a straight, vertical wall and a simple rounded rim; its interior bowl is roughly conical, giving it immensely thick base angles. It was perhaps made from a piece of broken quern stone.

7.9.2 The gaming pieces were all found together in a 2nd – 3rd century AD pit [439] (context **437**) from **Trench 2**. All are plain and made from hard, fine chalk or fine-grained limestone, white, cream or light grey in colour and from 13 - 25mm in diameter and 2-5mm thick. All are flat but three have rounded edges, probably through wear, two have some edge rounding while the others are much newer looking, with fresh, crisp, vertical edges. No milling or other surface marks were observed but otherwise the gaming pieces are comparable with examples from Greyhound Yard, although here the largest group of plain counters was seven (Woodward 1993a, 193), and Wessex Court (Adam 1992, 68).

7.10 Worked Flint

7.10.1 The worked flint assemblage of 70 pieces is all residual and is nearly exclusively from Romano-British deposits and features or the robber trenches of **Trench 2**, and from a few mid-late 1st century features in **Trench 1**. The assemblage consists almost entirely of waste flakes and cores/core fragments, in heavily patinated chalk-derived flint. The level of edge damage is low, despite the apparent residual nature of much of this material. A few pieces are noticeably fresher and unpatinated (e.g. a large flake from context **351**, an early Roman deposit from **Trench 2**). One piece, from robber trench [140] (**141**), is retouched but otherwise there are no tools or utilised pieces. In the absence of diagnostic tool types, and based on technological attributes (the predominance of broad, squat flakes struck using hard hammer technique), this group can be broadly dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age.

7.11 Worked bone

- 7.11.1 Only two worked bone objects were recorded from the Site, both from **Trench 2**. Part of a pin with a more or less spherical head and a swollen shank was recovered from 2nd – 3rd century AD pit [439] (Obj. No. **60 – 438**). At Colchester, however, pins of this type (Crummy 1983, 21-2, type 3) are dated to c. AD 200 onwards, and of the 24 examples from Greyhound Yard, most were from late 3rd to 4th century AD contexts (Woodward 1993b, 184, tables 20 and 21).
- 7.11.2 Two joining fragments from a simple spoon with a dished, circular bowl and a tapering handle were found in ditch [461] (Obj. No. **33 - 464**). This was a common type throughout the Roman period (MacGregor 1985, 181-2, fig. 98c) and locally, similar examples known from Greyhound Yard (Woodward 1993b, 187-8) and Allington Avenue (Stacey 2002, 107, fig. 52, 4).

7.12 Animal Bone

Quantity and Provenance

- 7.12.1 A total of 1220 fragments (8.220kg) of animal bone were recovered from the Site, once conjoins are taken into account this figure falls to a total of 891. Bone was recovered from a variety of different context types (e.g. layers, ditches, pits, robber trenches) located in **Trenches 1 to 3, 8 and 14**, with the majority recovered coming from **Trench 2**, the main focus of excavation. The bone assemblage has been subdivided into five groups based upon pottery spot dates (**Table 3**). The early and middle Roman groups are relatively large in comparison to those from later phases of occupation.

Table 3 - Number of identified animal bone specimens present (or NISP)

Species	ERB	MRB	LRB	RB	late medieval - modern	UD/US	Total
cattle	23	16	17	5	9	3	73
sheep/goat	55	53	30	14	9	9	170
pig	12	16	13	2	4		47
horse	1	1	1				3
dog	1	1	1	2			5
cat		1					1
red deer		1					1
rabbit		1					1
domestic fowl	1	2	3	1	1		8
duck				1			1
fish	3	15	2	3	1		24
Total identified	96	107	67	28	24	12	334
large mammal	41	59	29	15	26	10	180
medium mammal	82	58	17	12	10	2	181
small mammal		7					7
mammal	59	59	22	23	17	2	182
bird	3		3		1		7
Total unidentified	185	183	71	50	54	14	557
Overall total	281	290	138	78	78	26	891

Methods

- 7.12.2 The assemblage was rapidly scanned and a basic count of the following information was made into a spreadsheet: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion data, tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was cross-referenced with relevant contextual information and spot dating evidence.

Result

Preservation condition

- 7.12.3 The condition of bone fragments is quite variable even within individual contexts, however on the whole the condition is good to fair. The few very poorly preserved fragments are almost exclusively from layers and robber trenches, and these types of deposit are more likely to include fragments reworked from earlier deposits, some of which are likely to have been exposed to the effects of weathering for a period prior to reburial. Gnaw marks were observed on 6% of fragments, this is a relatively small proportion, however it does indicate that bone waste was exposed to the effects of scavenging carnivores for a period prior to burial and this is likely to have eliminated the bones of very young animals, biased the assemblage somewhat in terms of species and skeletal element representation.

Species represented

- 7.12.4 Approximately 37% of fragments are identifiable to species and element. The assemblage is dominated by bones from domestic livestock. Sheep/goat was of prime importance, followed by cattle and then pig, and this basic pattern of relative importance appears to have continued throughout the Roman period. The sample of data is quite small however similar species proportions have been recorded for contemporary assemblages from adjacent sites (Maltby 1992, 133; 1993a, 83 and 1993b, 317). Less common species include horse, dog, cat, red deer, domestic fowl, duck and fish. One intrusive rabbit bone was recovered from middle Roman pit **168** in **Trench 2**.
- 7.12.5 The largest groups of identified bones, both from **Trench 2**, are from a 1st – 3rd century ditch [**461**], middle Roman pit [**437**], late Roman deposits (**257**, **241**, **260**, Group **280**) and robber trench [**158**]. Many of these contexts include a high percentage of waste elements (skull fragments, mandibles and foot bones) from primary butchery, mixed with a small amount of kitchen/table waste. The other deposits all contain a fairly random mixture of waste from these two processes.
- 7.12.6 Some of the butchery evidence noted on cattle bones is typically Roman (see Dobney 2001, Lauwerier 1988; Maltby 1985; Seetah 2006). This includes distinct evidence for cured shoulder joints and extensive butchery and fragmentation of long bones for marrow fat.
- 7.12.7 Skinning marks were apparent on a dog radius from middle to (?)late Roman pit [**381**] and a cat humerus from middle Roman pit [**439**], both from **Trench 2**.

7.13 Human Bone

Introduction

7.13.1 Unburnt human bone from three contexts was subject to assessment. The assemblage comprises the remains of an undated, *in situ* inhumation burial (**Trench 1**), and redeposited material from a late Roman dump layer (**260**) and an early - middle Roman refuse pit (**297**), from **Trench 2**. The inhumation burial was located in an area of exclusively mid – late 1st century AD ditches, gullies and pits and is considered to be of similar date.

Methods

7.13.2 The bone was rapidly scanned to assess its condition, and the age of the individual. The potential for indices and the presence of pathological lesions was also noted. The bone was quantified by percentage of skeletal recovery or by fragment count. Assessment of age and sex was based on standard methodologies (Scheuer and Black 2000). Grading for bone preservation followed McKinley (2004, fig 6).

Results

7.13.3 Landscaping and development had heavily truncated the grave (max. 0.06m in depth), disturbing the burial remains below the shoulders and crushing the skull (see **Table 4** overpage). The body was probably placed in the foetal position, the standard for neonate burials, in this instance it had been placed on the right side.

7.13.4 The bone is in good condition, with only slight surface erosion. Skeletal recovery was slightly reduced due to disturbance and truncation rather than decay. There is only slight to moderate localised fragmentation, with a good proportion of skeletal elements being complete or near complete.

Table 4 - Summary of human bone assessment results

trench	context	cut	deposit	quantification	age/sex	condition
1	10	11 ?ERB	inh. burial (disturbed)	c. 75%	neonate	1-2; mainly complete elements; some mixing/mis-bagging – tibia & skull frags. with l. arm; skull with r. arm; rib with leg; skull with axial; femur 76mm; tibia 67.5mm; humerus 69mm; some animal bone
2	260	layer LRB	redeposited	1 bone l.	neonate	2; fresh break, no measurements
2	298	297 MRB (pit)	redeposited	3 bones u.l.	min. 2 neonates	2; erosion of ends; fresh break & refit

Conclusions

- 7.13.5 A minimum of four neonates is represented in the assemblage, one from the *in situ* burial and three from the redeposited material (based on duplicated elements of similar ages). No gross pathological changes were noted in any of the material.
- 7.13.6 Some additional neonatal bones may remain in the animal bone assemblage, which should be recovered during the full analysis stage.

8 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 A series of 14 bulk samples were taken from a range of features and deposits of Romano-British date, all bar one sample (**Sample No.13 – Trench 8**) coming from the **Trench 2** excavations. This includes 100% samples of two possible neonate burials; one (**10**) from pit [**11**] (**Trench 1**) and another from an upper fill of ditch [**461**], layer (**400**) – not listed in **Table 5** (see over page). All samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

8.2 Charred Plant Remains and Mineralised Remains

- 8.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 5**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).
- 8.2.2 The flots were generally large with varying numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.
- 8.2.3 Large quantities of cereal remains were recorded in both samples from ditch [**461**], and middle Roman layer (**413**) (both from **Trench 2**) and a possible early Roman buried soil (**95**), at the base of **Trench 8**. These included grain fragments of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and glume bases and spikelet forks of hulled wheat. Where identifiable the chaff fragments mainly appeared to be those of spelt (*Triticum spelta*).

Table 5 - Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcl > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
Pits													
381 ?LRB	128	2	10	225	5	C	C	Hulled wheat grain, spelt glume frag	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , small Poaceae	40/120 ml	Moll-t (A*), Sab/f (C)	
	383	3	0.75	160	3	-	-	-	-	-	20/60 ml	Moll-t (A), Sab (C)	
439 MRB	437	9	28	375	2	C	-	Indet. grain frag	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	40/30 ml	Sab/f (A), Moll-t (A**), Moll-f (C)	
	438	10	27	4000	1	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	30/45 ml	Sab/f (A)	
Ditch													
461 ERB	397	6	27	500	70	A*	B	Hulled wheat and barley grains, glume frags	A*	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus, Galium, Vicia faba/Pisum, Corylus avellana</i> shell frag, <i>Lithospermum arvense, Sherardia arvensis</i> , Polygonaceae, Poaceae, <i>Carex, Trifolium/Medicago</i> , stems	40/30 ml	coprolite, Min. matter, Sab/f (B), Moll-t (A)	P
	399	7	8	350	65	A*	A*	Hulled wheat and barley grains, glume frags and spikelet forks	A	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus, Galium, Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Raphanus raphanistrum, Sherardia arvensis</i> , Polygonaceae, <i>Rumex, Carex, Trifolium/Medicago</i> , stems	40/30 ml	Min. matter, Sab/f (C), Moll-t (C)	P
Dumps													
LRB	260	4	30	2450	1	-	C	Glume frags inc. those of spelt	C	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius, Vicia/Lathyrus, Lithospermum arvense</i>	20/25 ml	Moll-t (C), Sab/f (A)	
LRB	262	5	30	2800	1	-	-	-	-	-	15/25 ml	Sab/f (A)	
Layers													
MRB	413	8	5	110	10	A	A*	Hulled wheat and ?barley grains, glume frags and culm nodes	A	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum, Galium, Sambucus nigra, Trifolium/Medicago, Sherardia arvensis</i>	25/25 ml	Sab/f (A)	P
MRB	346	11	8	160	8	C	-	Hulled wheat grain frags	-	-	20/50 ml	Sab/f (C), Moll-t (C)	
E-MRB	359	12	8	60	30	C	C	Hulled wheat grains, glume frags	B	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, Avena/Bromus</i>	5/8 ml	Sab/f (B), Moll-t (A*), Moll-f (C)	
ERB	95	13	24	750	3	A	A*	Hulled wheat and barley grains, glume frags	A*	<i>Avena/Bromus, Lolium/Festuca, Poaceae</i>	50/30 ml	Sab/f (A), Moll-t (A)	P

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Sab/f = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis: P = plant

- 8.2.4 These features also contained high numbers of weed seeds, including seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* spp.), oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* spp.), cleavers (*Galium* sp.), corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), knot grass (Polygonaceae), meadow grass (Poaceae), sedge (*Carex* spp.), clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* spp.), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and ryegrass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.). These are species often found in arable contexts and field margins.
- 8.2.5 There were also a few shell fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*). A single tuber of false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*) was recovered from late Roman dump (260).
- 8.2.6 These plant assemblages are typical of general settlement waste, with a dominance of spelt wheat alongside weed seeds being also seen from a large number of other sites in and around Dorchester (Monk 1987; Ede 1993; Straker 1997; Letts 1997; Jones and Straker 1993; Jones and Straker 2002; Stevens 2008; Pelling 2011).
- 8.2.7 Mineralised material, including a coprolite was recorded from ditch [461].

8.3 Wood Charcoal

- 8.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 5**. Charcoal fragments of >4mm were retrieved from the majority of samples in large quantities. There was however no samples from massive charcoal dump deposits. The wood charcoal mainly comprised mature wood fragments, with some twig wood observed, particularly in the dump layers.

8.4 Land Snails and Fresh-water Molluscs

- 8.4.1 The presence of molluscs in the bulk sample flots was rapidly assessed to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. The numbers of shells was quantified (**Table 5**) and nomenclature is according to Kerney (1999).
- 8.4.2 The land snail species range included the shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus*, *Oxychilus cellarius*, *Aegopinella nitidula* and *Clausilia bidentata*, the intermediate species *Trichia hispida*, *Cochlicopa* and *Cepaea*, and the open country species *Vallonia*, *Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vertigo pygmaea*.
- 8.4.3 A few fresh-water molluscs were recovered from middle Roman pit [439] in and early – middle Roman deposit (359) in **Trench 2**. These were *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea* sp.
- 8.4.4 The molluscs appear to be indicative of generally open environment with a number of niche habitats, such as patches of long grass, present in the vicinity.

8.5 Small Animal and Fish Bones

- 8.5.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, small animal bones were noted, and recorded in the flots. These included those of small mammals and fish.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 Overall, the fieldwork results, based upon the excavation and watching brief observations, have shown that significant structural and deposit sequences of predominantly Roman-British date survive within the boundaries of the Site. This was particularly evident where development groundwork was of sufficient depth to extend below the medieval and post-medieval soil build-up infilling the known natural coombe in this part of the town. Elsewhere, Romano-British stratigraphy survived at relatively shallow depths, particularly immediately behind (to the immediate north) of the remnants of the Roman town southern rampart.
- 9.1.2 The earliest recorded features are of mid – late 1st century AD date, some of which contain pottery of pre-Flavian date (i.e. c. 70 AD), along with a neonate burial of probable similar date. Aspects of the finds assemblage, including clay ‘gridiron’ fragments, *terra nigra* and regional pottery wares of 1st century AD date and a stone column fragment, may all be subtle indications of a military presence in the immediate vicinity. The relative concentration of 1st century AD material in Dorchester has been thought to reflect a military presence, close to a crossing of the River Frome, though structural evidence for this has yet to be discovered (Woodward *et.al.* 1993). The very small number of features of early date recorded in **Trenches 1** and **2** would suggest settlement (with evidence of post-built structures as well as pits) and associated land boundaries associated with agricultural or horticultural activities.
- 9.1.3 The results of the recent work supplement and augment the known nature and extent of specific archaeological features and stratigraphic sequences from this part of the Roman town. These include the Roman town southern defences, the notable, oblique Roman road and the development of this particular part of the town with Romano-British domestic structures; later Roman (3rd – 4th century AD) masonry construction replacing timber and post-built constructions of the 1st – 2nd century AD.

SECTION B - PROPOSALS FOR ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

10 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

10.1 Stratigraphic analysis

10.1.1 The results of the recent work supplement and augment the known nature and extent of specific archaeological features from this part of the Roman town. Further analysis of the stratigraphic sequence from **Trench 2**, following further analysis of the pottery assemblage, should allow a more refined dating and phasing of the stratigraphic sequence recorded in this part of the Site. Further analyses on the nature and quantity of various finds categories from the stratigraphic sequence should also refine the understanding of the formation processes involved and help to further understanding of the development of this part of Roman Dorchester.

10.2 Finds

10.2.1 Chronological evidence provided by the artefacts (pottery, coins and other metalwork, building materials) indicates that the activity is of predominantly Romano-British date, with a distinct focus on the early part of this period (c. AD 43-120/130), particularly the mid/late 1st century AD. The very small quantities of later finds were generally derived from features or deposits associated with the medieval and later robbing of the late Roman structures and post-Roman 'dark earth' layers which formed the upper part of the stratigraphic sequence across most of the Site.

10.2.2 The finds assemblage is, however, relatively small. It is directly comparable with and therefore augments the larger assemblages already recovered from the town (Smith 1993; Woodward *et. al.* 1993; Adam *et. al.* 1992; Adam and Butterworth 1993) but provides only limited additional structural evidence (building materials), or evidence for lifestyle (personal items, vessel glass; pottery) and economy (animal bone; marine shell).

10.2.3 The small coin assemblage (3) from the Site can tell us little other than provide confirmatory dating evidence for the layers in which they occur, although the longevity of the *As/Dupondius* makes it less useful as a dating tool. It is proposed that not further work is undertaken on the coins, aside from conservation measures if necessary.

10.3 Animal Bone

10.3.1 The assemblage is relative small compared to other published examples from Dorchester (e.g. Greyhound Yard) and provides limited additional evidence about Roman animal husbandry regimes and dietary preferences within the town. The assemblage has already been recorded to a fairly detailed level, tooth wear has been recorded for all mandibles retaining two or more teeth and all complete long bones have been measured, therefore no additional analysis is required.

10.4 Human Bone

10.4.1 Infant and neonatal burials of Romano-British date (although not in later phases) are often found in non-cemetery contexts, preferable locations being agricultural or domestic settlement locations (Philpott 1991, 97-102; Scott 1999, 115; McKinley 2009, 16). Sites in the immediate vicinity of the recent Charles Street containing neonatal remains include Greyhound Yard, Wollaston House, Wessex Court, and Little Keep (Rodgers 1993; McKinley 2005; Adam *et.al*, 120; 1993, 78; Egging Dinwiddy 2009)

10.5 Palaeoenvironmental assemblage

Charred Plant Remains

10.5.1 The analysis of the charred plant remains has the potential to provide information on the nature of the environment, and agricultural practises and crop-husbandry techniques in the locality. It may also assist in determining the nature of any settlement activities.

10.5.2 This data can be compared with other charred plant assemblages in the area such as County Hall (Ede 1993), County Hospital (Stevens 2008), Greyhound Yard (Jones and Straker 1993), Alington Avenue (Jones and Straker 2002), sites along the Dorchester By-pass (Straker 1997; Letts 1997) and Poundbury (Pelling 2011; Monk 1987).

Wood Charcoal

10.5.3 There is little potential for the analysis of the wood charcoal to provide detailed information on species selection or function of features as it does not appear to be related to any particular settlement activity.

Land Snails and Fresh-water Molluscs

10.5.4 There is no potential for the analysis of the mollusc assemblages to provide any more detailed information on the local environment.

11 POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

11.1 Stratigraphic and structural data

11.1.1 Basic stratigraphic compilation with associated spot dates has already been undertaken to allow broad phasing of events, particularly within the excavation area (**Trench 2**). Further pottery analyses will allow a refining of the stratigraphic sequence dating and phasing from **Trench 2**, and in conjunction with other finds data from specific deposits and structural sequences, to enable a more complete site narrative to be developed. The descriptions of the stratigraphic and structural evidence will form the basis of the proposed publication text.

11.1.2 The archaeological remains recorded in the recent fieldwork do not differ dramatically from other Romano-British sequences recorded in the vicinity, but can augment the information already obtained for this part of Roman Dorchester.

11.1.3 Further analyses would enable the results from the fieldwork to be placed more fully into the wider contexts of other investigations in this part of Roman Dorchester as well as within the development of Roman Dorchester as a whole.

11.2 Finds

11.2.1 The artefact assemblage has already been recorded to a fairly detailed level (e.g. pottery ware types, coin identifications). In addition to x-radiography of the metalwork to provide a basic, sustainable archive, some of the more vulnerable objects (e.g. metalwork and shale) within the assemblage will require conservation treatment in the form of cleaning and stabilisation for long-term curation. When the x-rays are available, the metalwork identifications should also be checked and amended as necessary.

11.2.2 Full fabric and form analysis and reporting is recommended for the samian (and stamps) because this closely-datable fabric type could provide a more accurate start-date for the activity on the Site and because comparatively little is known about the samian from Dorchester, an unquantified summary only being available for the Greyhound Yard material, while the Wessex Court material remains unpublished.

11.2.3 Petrological identifications are also required for the building stone samples; this information will be fed back into the description of the structural remains and the samples discarded unless of intrinsic interest in due course. No additional analysis is proposed for the rest of the pottery or the other Romano-British artefact types, although the results of this scan should be considered more closely in their stratigraphic (phased) groups and placed within their wider local and regional contexts.

11.3 Animal Bone

11.3.1 It is recommended that a brief summary of the faunal assemblage should be included in the publication of the fieldwork results. The summary report should also include a basic quantification of the assemblage in terms of species represented. The table presented earlier (**Table 3**) should be sufficient for this purpose but might need to be refined as post-excavation progresses.

11.4 Human Bone

11.4.1 It is recommended that full recording and detailed analysis are undertaken on this assemblage. This will allow more accurate gestational age estimates of individuals with complete long bone diaphyses, and consequently enable relative age estimations to be made for those without. Generally it is not possible to establish the sex of neonatal individuals through standard osteological analysis. The results will enhance the existing corpus of data regarding Roman Dorchester and its occupants.

Proposed methods

11.4.2 All the unsorted small fraction residues from samples taken during excavation will be subject to a rapid scan to extract any identifiable material, osseous or artefactual.

11.4.3 Taphonomic factors potentially affecting differential bone preservation will be assessed. Age of individuals will be estimated using long bone measurements (Scheuer and Black 2000).

11.4.4 Should any be encountered, pathological changes will be recorded in text and via digital images. Though not anticipated, certain pathological changes may require X-radiographing, and/or photographing for publication.

11.5 Palaeoenvironmental analyses

Charred Plant Remains

11.5.1 It is proposed to analyse samples from ditch [461], layers (413) and (95).

11.5.2 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the 2 and 1mm residues together with the flot. Identification will be undertaken using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate, quantified and the results tabulated.

11.5.3 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a "P" in the analysis column in **Table 5**.

Wood Charcoal

11.5.4 No further work is proposed.

Land Snails and Fresh-water Molluscs

11.5.5 No further work is proposed.

11.6 Publication

11.6.1 It is proposed to undertake further analyses on elements of the finds assemblage with the greatest potential to inform stratigraphic dating and phasing. This will allow a greater understanding of the formation of the recorded stratigraphic sequences and their development within the context of other Romano-British evidence from Dorchester, particularly from excavations in this part of the Roman town.

11.6.2 It is proposed that the report will take the form of a medium length journal article, preferably in the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, a peer-reviewed journal with a regional and national readership.

11.7 Aims and Objectives

11.7.1 The aims for the analysis and publication phase are as follows;

- To carry out an agreed programme of post-excavation analysis and reporting following the procedures set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991).
- To produce an integrated and synthesised report on the findings, and an interpretation and discussion of them, for dissemination as an academic publication commensurate with the significance of the data recovered.
- To ensure the long-term curation of the data recovered and its dissemination in a form appropriate to its significance and academic value.

11.8 Report Structure

11.8.1 It is proposed that the report will present a fully integrated, thematic account of the fieldwork and any associated archival research. The results will be discussed in the context of the results of other excavations within this part of Roman Dorchester as well as more generally within the developments of Roman Dorchester and its interactions with wider Romano-British regional patterns of exchange.

11.8.2 The following outlines the proposed structure of the report:

A) Introduction

Project background	Estimated length	300 words
Geology, topography, land-use	Estimated length	100 words
Archaeological background	Estimated length	150 words
Site Development	Estimated length	500 words

B) Methodology

Excavation methodology	Estimated length	150 words
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C) Results

The archaeological structures and deposits	Estimated length	4800 words
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D) Discussion

	Estimated length	1000 words
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E) Illustrations (6-8 Figures, 6-8 Plates)

12 PROVISIONAL TASK LIST, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME

12.1 Task List

12.1.1 **Table 6** below presents the list of tasks required within the proposed programme to produce the publication report, together with the necessary resources. Proposed personnel and their qualifications are listed.

Table 6 - Task list and resources

Task	Grade	Days
PRE-ANALYSIS TASKS		
Background reading	SPO	2
Assessment & extraction of human bone (2 samples)	PO	0.5
Extraction of charred plants and charcoal (4 samples)	Env. Supervisor	2
Conservation of metalwork objects	Conservator	2
ANALYSIS TASKS		
Check phasing and structural sequences	SPO	5
Pottery analysis and reporting	SPO	6
Stone samples identification and report	ESP	1
Animal bone publication text	PO	1
Human bone publication text	PO	1
Analysis & Publication Text of Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal	SPO	2.5
REPORTING TASKS		
Summary	SPO	1
Project Background	SPO	1
Geology, topography, land-use	SPO	1

Archaeological background	SPO	2
Site development	SPO	2
Fieldwork results	SPO	5
Discussion and synthesis, acknowledgements and bibliography	SPO	5
Preparation of publication photographs	SPO	1
Site illustrations	Drawing Office	6
EDITING / PUBLICATION TASKS		
Editing/reading and amendments	Project Manager	2
	SPO	1
	Finds SPO	0.5
	Reports Manager	1
Printing costs: 20pp @ £50.00 per page	PDNHAS	
Other tasks		
Archive preparation	SPO	1
	Archives Officer	1.5
TOTAL COST		

12.2 Personnel

It is currently proposed that the following Wessex Archaeology core staff will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analyses.

Senior Project Manager	Richard Greatorex
Senior Project Officer (SPO)	Chris Ellis
Drawing Office	TBC
Finds Manager	Lorraine Mepham
Finds SPO	Rachel Seager Smith
Conservator	Lynn Wootten
Animal Bone	Lorrain Higbee
Human Remains	Kirsten Egging
Environmental Officer	Sarah Wyles
Environmental SPO	Dr. Chris Stevens
External specialist (Stone)	Kevin Hayward
Reports Manager	Julie Gardiner
Archives Officer	Helen MacIntyre

12.3 Programme

- 12.3.1 It is anticipated that a publication text would be completed within 1 year of approval of the post excavation assessment, as identified in the WSI.

13 STORAGE AND CURATION

13.1 Museum

- 13.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation and watching brief be deposited with Dorset County Museum, Dorchester.

13.2 Preparation of Archive

- 13.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Dorset County Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).
- 13.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code (**78150**), and a full index has been prepared (see **Appendix 2**).

13.3 Discard Policy

- 13.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, given the quantity, range and date of the finds, retention for long-term curation is not recommended, and these finds will be discarded prior to archive deposition. Full records will remain in the project archive.

13.4 Copyright

- 13.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.
- 13.4.2 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology.
- 13.4.3 You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

13.5 Security Copy

- 13.5.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

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15 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES

All archaeological deposits/features shown in **bold**
 All (+) indicate deposits/features not fully excavated.
 'Depth' equals depth from modern ground surface.
 (**Context**) = Layers/Fills; [**Context**] = Feature Groups/Cut Features

Trench No.1	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369365.79E, 90407.43N; (SE) 369399.64E, 90413.95N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.54; (SE) 62.55	Dimensions: 36m x 16m Max.depth: 2.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
5	Modern hard core – orange/brown gravel.	0 – 0.20
6	Buried topsoil – dark greyish-brown clay loam with redeposited chalk and brick frag's and root disturbance.	0.20 – 0.37
7	Made ground – redeposited chalk and clay.	0.37 – 0.85
8	Buried topsoil – (above 26). A dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with chalk and abundant root disturbance.	0.85 – 1.35
9	Fill of grave [11] – below (23). Contains neonate human burial (10). A mid brown silty clay with common chalk (<50mm) and flint gravel. Contains charcoal.	-
10	Fill of grave [11] – neonate human burial within (9), below (23). Heavily disturbed but crouched burial on RHS, head to west.	-
[11]	Cut of neonate human burial – contains (9) and (10), cuts (25). A 0.65 x 0.40m and 0.06m deep, shallow sub-oval grave in the SE of the trench/site.	-
12	Deposit (buried soil?) – below (27), above (13). A 1.14m thick deposit of mid brown clayey silt with occasional flint (<70mm) and chalk inclusions. Seals everything in this part of the site.	-
13	Deposit – below (12), above (15). A 0.71m thick deposit of mid to dark brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions. Contains mid-late 1st cent. AD pottery, cbm, shell and animal bone. Possibly a deposit derived from the weathering Roman town rampart to the south?	-
14	Rampart remains? – below (15), above (16). A 1.10m(+) wide and 0.40m thick deposit of coarse chalk rubble recorded in the very east end of the north facing section of the trench/site.	-
15	Deposit – above (14), below (13). A 0.24m thick mid to dark brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions and sub-rounded flint (<80mm). Contains mid-late 1 st cent. AD pottery. Possibly derived from erosion of Roman town rampart to the immediate south?	-
16	Deposit – above (24), below (14). A 0.24m thick, relatively thin lens of degraded chalk, possibly derived from erosion of chalk rampart to the south or maybe even 'tail' of rampart?	-
17	Deposit – below (15), above (16, 18, 20, 23). A 0.37m thick deposit of mid to dark brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. Contains 2 nd – 4th cent. pottery and cbm. Similar to (15) though has suffered from considerable root disturbance.	-

18	Deposit – below (17), above (19). A 0.15m thick deposit of degraded chalk, similar to (16). Possibly derived from erosion of chalk rampart to the south or maybe even 'tail' of rampart?	-
Trench No.1	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369365.79E, 90407.43N; (SE) 369399.64E, 90413.95N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.54; (SE) 62.55	Dimensions: 36m x 16m Max.depth: 2.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
19	Deposit – below (18), above (24). A 0.10m thick deposit of degraded chalk, similar to (16) and (18). Possibly derived from erosion of chalk rampart to the south or maybe even 'tail' of rampart?	-
20	Deposit – below (17), above (22). A 0.14m thick deposit of degraded chalk, similar to (16, 18, 19). Possibly derived from erosion of chalk rampart to the south or maybe even 'tail' of rampart? Root disturbed.	-
21	Fill of Group 644 – below (24), above (25). A 0.20m thick horizon of root disturbed and weathered chalk.	-
22	Old land surface – same as (24), below (20) and (23). A 0.07m thick layer of mid brown silty clay with occasional flint (<50mm) and chalk inclusions.	-
23	Rampart erosion? deposit – below (17) and (27), above (22) and seals all recorded archaeological features in the trench. A 0.41m thick deposit of mid to dark brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions and flecks. Contains 1 st – 2 nd cent. AD pottery, cbm, shell, animal bone and residual worked flint.	-
24	Old land surface – same as (22), below (16) and (19). A 0.09m thick layer of dark brown silty clay with occasional flint (<50mm) and chalk inclusions.	-
25	Chalk natural geology – cut by all archaeological features in Tr.1 area..	-
26	Made ground – below (8). A redeposited chalk layer.	1.35 – 1.45
27	Buried soil ('dark earth') – physically overlaid all archaeological features in Tr.1 area. A dark greyish-brown silty loam with accessional sub-angular/rounded flint (<40mm) and chalk flecks. Contained cbm.	1.45 – 2.45(+)
[28]	?RB ditch – filled with (29), cuts (25), part of Group 644 . A NW/SE ditch.	-
29	?RB ditch fill – below (23), above [28], part of Group 644 . A NW/SE ditch.	-
[30]	?RB ditch – filled with (31), cuts (25), identical to [48], part of Group 646 . An E/W aligned ditch in SE of trench/site.	-
31	?RB ditch fill – above [30], below (23), identical to (49). A light to mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions and flecks.	-
[32]	?RB ditch – filled with (33, 34), cuts (25), part of Group 644 . A 0.82m wide and 0.21m deep, NW/SE aligned ditch in SE of trench/site. Contains Early Roman pottery, animal bone and residual worked flint.	-
33	?RB primary ditch fill – above [32], below (34). A light to mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions.	-

34	?RB secondary ditch fill – above (33), below (23). A mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions and occasional sub-angular and rounded flint (<60mm). Contained pottery, bone, worked and burnt flint.	-
35	Secondary fill of pit [36] – below (23). A mid greyish-brown silty clay loam with common chalk (<30mm). Contained pottery, bone and charcoal flecks.	-
Trench No.1	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369365.79E, 90407.43N; (SE) 369399.64E, 90413.95N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.54; (SE) 62.55	Dimensions: 36m x 16m Max.depth: 2.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
[36]	?RB pit – filled with (35), cuts (25). A 0.50m diameter, 0.10m deep, sub-circular pit with moderate concave sides. Contains Early Roman pottery and animal bone.	-
37	Fill of ditch – below (27), above [38]. A mid orange/brown silty clay loam with common chalk. Contained bone. NOT EXCAVATED FURTHER FOR H&S REASONS.	-
[38]	Cut of ditch – filled with (37), cuts (25). A NW/SE aligned, 0.50m wide ditch in the very NE of trench.	-
[39]	ERB ditch – filled with (40, 41), cuts (43), part of Group 644 . A NW/SE aligned, 0.66m wide and 0.24m deep, ditch in the SE of trench. Contains mid to late 1 st cent. AD pottery, animal bone and shell. Part of group of rectilinear ?RB ditches/gullies in this part of the trench/site.	-
40	Primary fill of ?RB ditch [39] – above [39], below (41). A light to mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions.	-
41	Secondary fill of ?RB ditch [39] – above (40), below (23). A mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions and occasional sub-angular/rounded flint. Contained common pottery and rare bone.	-
[42]	ERB ditch – filled with (43), cuts (45), part of Group 646 . An E/W aligned, 0.50m wide and 0.17m deep, ditch in the SE of trench. Part of group of rectilinear ?RB ditches/gullies in this part of the trench/site.	-
43	Secondary fill of ?RB ditch [42] – above [42], cut by [39]. A mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions and occasional sub-angular/rounded flint (<80mm).	-
[44]	ERB ditch – filled with (45), cuts (25), part of Group 647 . A NW/SE aligned gully, 0.27m wide and 0.03m deep gully in the SE of trench. Part of group of rectilinear ?RB ditches/gullies in this part of the trench/site.	-
45	Secondary fill of ?RB gully [44] – above [44], cut by [42]. A light to mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions.	-
46	ERB pit fill – fills [47], below (23). A mid greyish-brown silty clay loam with common chalk inclusions (<40mm). Contained pottery, worked flint, bone and sparse charcoal.	-
[47]	ERB pit – cuts (25), filled with (46). A c. 0.40m diameter and 0.11m deep sub-circular pit in the SE of the trench/site. Contains Roman pottery, animal bone, burnt flint, shell and residual worked flint.	-
[48]	ERB ditch – identical to [30], filled with (49), cuts (25), part of Group 646 . An E/W aligned, 0.58m wide and 0.35m deep, ditch in the SE of trench. Contains 1 st – 2 nd cent. AD pottery. Part of group of rectilinear ?RB ditches/gullies in this part of the trench/site.	-

49	Secondary fill of ?RB ditch [42] – identical to (31), above [48], below (23). A mid brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions and occasional sub-angular/rounded flint (<60mm).	-
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Trench No.1	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369365.79E, 90407.43N; (SE) 369399.64E, 90413.95N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.54; (SE) 62.55	Dimensions: 36m x 16m Max.depth: 2.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
50	ERB pit fill – fills [51], below (23). A mid to dark greyish-brown silty loam with common chalk inclusions (<50mm) and sparse, small flint gravel. Contained pottery, bone and sparse charcoal.	-
[51]	ERB pit – cuts (25), filled with (50). A 0.53m by 0.42m and 0.09m deep, sub-oval pit in the SE of the trench/site. Contains mid to late 1 st cent. AD pottery, animal bone and shell.	-
[52]	ERB ditch – filled with (53), cuts (25), part of Group 646 . Heavily truncated. An E/W aligned, 0.30m wide and 0.05m deep, ditch in the SE of trench. Part of group of rectilinear ?RB ditches/gullies in this part of the trench/site.	-
53	Secondary fill of ?RB ditch [52] – above [52], below (23). A mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions.	-
[54]	ERB ditch – filled with (55, 56), cuts (25), part of Group 644 . A 0.59m wide and 0.15m deep, NW/SE aligned ditch in SE of trench/site. Contains Early Roman pottery, animal bone and residual worked flint. Part of group of rectilinear ?RB ditches/gullies in this part of the trench/site.	-
55	?RB primary ditch fill – above [54], below (56). A light to mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions.	-
56	?RB secondary ditch fill – above (55), below (23). A light to mid brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions and occasional sub-angular and rounded flint (<80mm). Contained pottery, bone and worked flint.	-
57	ERB secondary ditch fill – above [58], below (23). A mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate frequent chalk inclusions (<50mm) and sparse flint inclusions (<0.10m). Contained pottery, bone, shell and charcoal.	-
[58]	ERB ditch – filled with (57), cuts (25), part of Group 645 . A 0.40m wide and 0.18m deep, NW/SE aligned ditch in SE of trench/site. Part of group of rectilinear ?RB ditches/gullies in this part of the trench/site.	-
[59]	?ERB ditch – filled with (60), cuts (25), part of Group 648 . An E/W aligned, 0.98m wide and 0.19m deep, ditch in the SE of trench. Contains Early Roman pottery, animal bone and shell. Part of group of rectilinear ?RB ditches/gullies in this part of the trench/site.	-
60	Secondary fill of ?ERB ditch [59] – above [59], below (23). A mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions and occasional sub-angular/rounded flint (<70mm).	-

[61]	?ERB ditch – filled with (62, 63), cuts (25), part of Group 648 . An E/W aligned, 0.50m wide and 0.11m deep, ditch in the SE of trench. Part of group of rectilinear ?RB ditches/gullies in this part of the trench/site.	-
62	Primary fill of ?ERB ditch [61] – above [61], below (63). A light to mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions.	-
63	Secondary fill of ?RB ditch [61] – above (62), cut by [64]. A mid brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions and occasional sub-angular/rounded flint (<70mm).	-

Trench No.1	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369365.79E, 90407.43N; (SE) 369399.64E, 90413.95N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.54; (SE) 62.55	Dimensions: 36m x 16m Max.depth: 2.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
[64]	ERB ditch – filled with (55, 56), cuts (63), part of Group 644 . A 0.48m wide and 0.18m deep, NW/SE aligned ditch in SE of trench/site. Contains Early Roman pottery and animal bone. Part of group of rectilinear ?RB ditches/gullies in this part of the trench/site.	-
65	ERB primary ditch fill – above [64], below (66). A light brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions and occasional sub-angular and rounded flint (<70mm).	-
66	ERB secondary ditch fill – above (64), below (23). A mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions and occasional sub-angular and rounded flint (<80mm). Contained pottery and bone.	-
[644]	ERB Ditch Group – sealed below (23), composed of [28, 32, 39, 54, 64]. A 12m(+) long, NW/SE aligned ditch in SE of area. Cuts Groups 646 and 648 . Parallel with Group 645 to the immediate west. Contains mid – late 1 st cent. AD pottery, animal bone, shell and residual worked flint. Shallows to the SE but recorded in south section of trench/site (21). Extended beyond northern limit of trench. Either this group or Group 645 correspond to ditch 167 recorded in Tr.2. Part of rectilinear group of ?RB ditches/gullies in the SE of the trench/site. Possibly all pre-date construction of Roman town defences which lay to the immediate south.	-
[645]	ERB Ditch Group – sealed below (23), composed of [58], cuts (25). A 6m(+) long, NW/SE aligned ditch in SE of area. Contains Early Roman pottery, animal bone and shell. Parallel with Group 644 to the immediate east. Shallows to the SE. Extended beyond northern limit of trench. Either this group or Group 645 correspond to ditch 167 recorded in Tr.2.	-
[646]	?RB Ditch Group – cut by Group 644 , cuts Group 647 , composed of [30, 42, 48, 52]. An 18m(+) long, E/W aligned ditch in SE of area. Parallel with Group 648 to the immediate south. Shallows to the W and E. Extended beyond western limit of trench.	-
[647]	ERB Gully Group – cut by Groups 646 & 648 , composed of [44], cuts (25). A 4m long, NW/SE aligned gully in SE of area. Contains 1 st – 2 nd cent. AD pottery. Parallel with Group 644 to the immediate east. Shallows to the NW and SE.	-

[648]	?ERB Gully Group – cut by Group 644 , composed of [59, 61] , cuts (25). A 3.30m long, E/W aligned gully in SE of area. Parallel with Group 646 to the immediate north. Shallows to the W and E.	-
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Trench No. 3	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369359.32E, 90421.06N; (SE) 369400.45E, 90429.99N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.49; (SE) 61.39	Dimensions: 42m x 2.6m Max.depth: 0.86m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
[67]	Cut of Early Romano-British pit – filled with (68, 69), cuts (78). A 1.30m long, 0.93m wide and 0.92m(+) deep, oval pit, with flat vertical sides, recorded in the very SE of trench. Only partly excavated because of Health & Safety concerns. Upper, vertical sides with widening sides in good natural bedrock chalk, suggests a possible (?)storage pit.	0.30 – 0.92(+)
68	Fill of pit [67] – below (76), above (69). A 0.42m(+) deep, mid orange/brown silty clay with moderate chalk (<20mm) and rare, flint nodules (<0.10m). Contained 1 st – 2 nd cent. AD pottery, bone, worked and burnt flint and cbm.	-
69	Fill of pit [67] – below (68), above [67]? A 0.42m(+) deep, chalk rubble (<70mm) primary(?) fill. No finds.	-
[70]	Cut of pit – filled with (71-73), cuts (78). A 1.14m wide and 0.42m deep pit seen in north facing section (east end) of trench, only 0.40m to the east of pit [74]. Medieval – Post-medieval refuse pit.	0.30 – 0.72
71	Fill of pit [70] – above [70], below (72). A 0.12m thick, mid greyish-brown silty clay with rare chalk inclusions (<15mm). Not excavated.	-
72	Fill of pit [70] – above (71), below (73). A 0.10m thick, mid grey silty clay matrix with abundant chalk inclusions (<50mm). Not excavated.	-
73	Fill of pit [70] – above (72), below (76). A 0.40m thick, dark greyish-brown, 'gritty', silty clay matrix with rare fine roots and chalk inclusions (<0.20m). Rare cbm frag's in section. Not excavated.	-
[74]	Cut of pit – filled with (75), cuts (78). A 0.90m wide and 0.31m deep pit seen in north facing section (east end) of trench, only 0.40m to the west of pit [70]. Medieval – Post-medieval refuse pit.	0.30 – 0.61
75	Fill of pit [74] – above [74], below (76). A dark greyish-brown, 'gritty', silty clay matrix with very rare fine roots (<10mm) and chalk inclusions (<0.20mm). Rare cbm frag's (<15mm) in section. Not excavated.	-
76	Modern 'pile mat' gravel deposit.	0 – 0.30
77	(?)Medieval to Post-medieval soil build-up –dark greyish-brown/black, 'gritty' clayey silt with sparse yellowish-brown coarse sandy mortar lumps (<50mm) and common chalk (<20mm). Contained pottery, bone, shell, and cbm. Thickens to the west where it is seen in plan also, not seen in easternmost c. 12m of trench.	0.30 – 0.86(+)
78	Natural chalk geology. Only exposed in the westernmost c.12m of trench in section and plan. Cut by pits [70] and [74]. Otherwise sealed below (77).	0.30 – 0.86(+)

Trench No. 4	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369399.19E, 90416.59N; (NW) 369397.59E, 90429.21N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.50m; (NW) 61.47m	Dimensions: 13m x 3m Max.depth: 0.80m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
79	Modern 'pile mat' gravel deposit.	0 – 0.20
80	Natural chalk geology.	0.20 – 0.80(+)

Trench No. 5	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369343.24E, 90421.50N; (SE) 369350.35E, 90422.81N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.33; (SE) 61.40	Dimensions: 7.6m x 7.2m Max.depth: 2.20m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
85	Modern 'pile mat' gravel deposit.	0 – 0.25
86	Modern buried soil – dark grey silt with chalk and large, sub-angular flint inclusions.	0.25 – 0.93
87	(?)Medieval to Post-medieval soil build-up - dark grey silt with occasional chalk inclusions.	0.93 -2.20(+)

Trench No. 6	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369370.67E, 90407.77N; (SE) 369403.51E, 90415.05N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.40; (SE) 61.80	Dimensions: 34m x 3m Max.depth: 1.17m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
81	Modern 'pile mat' gravel deposit.	0 – 0.25
82	Modern(?) buried soil – a mid brown silt with occasional chalk inclusions.	0.25 – 0.35
83	Modern(?) buried soil – mid greyish-brown silt with frequent chalk inclusions.	0.35 – 0.55
84	Natural chalk geology.	0.55 – 1.17m(+)

Trench No. 7	Co-ordinates: (NW) 369358.74E, 90411.07N; (SW) 369368.05E, 90392.47N Ground Level (m AOD): (NW) 61.53; (SW) 62.27	Dimensions: 22m x 2.4m Max.depth: 2.10m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
88	Modern backfill to service trench – mid brown clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional flint inclusions.	0 – 2.10(+)
89	Modern buried soil – below (88). A dark grey silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions.	1.7 – 2.0m
90	Natural chalk geology.	2.0 – 2.10(+)

Trench No. 8	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369336.33E, 90400.05N; (SE) 369353.19E, 90403.76N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.11 ; (SE) 61.08	Dimensions:16.6m x2.8m Max.depth: 2.24m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
91	Modern 'pile mat' gravel deposit.	0 – 0.40
92	Modern buried soil – a mid greyish-brown silty sandy clay with occasional chalk inclusions and angular and sub-rounded flint (<60mm). Contained Romano-British pottery, plastic, wood, tarmac frag's.	0.40 – 0.50
93	Buried soil – a mid yellowish-brown silty clay with common chalk inclusions (<40mm). Contained cbm (<60mm) frag's and charcoal flecks.	0.50 – 0.86
94	Buried soil – a mid orange-brown silty clay with common chalk inclusions (<35mm) and charcoal flecks. Contains 1 st cent. AD pottery, shell, animal bone, glass (?RB), .	0.86 – 1.01
95	Buried soil – a mid greyish-brown clay with common chalk inclusions (<40mm). Contained Romano-British pottery, cbm frag's (<80mm) and charcoal flecks.	1.01 – 1.24
96	Natural chalk geology.	1.24(+)
[97]	Cut of medieval/post-medieval pit – filled with (98), cuts (93). A 1.39m by 1.20m and 0.60m deep sub-circular pit with steep, concave sides.	1.24 – 1.84
98	Fill of medieval/post-medieval pit – above [97], below (92). A mid greyish-brown silty clay with sparse flint (<0.20m) and moderate chalk inclusions (<40mm). Contained residual 1 st – 4 th cent. AD pottery, shell, animal bone, wall plaster, cu.al. coin and iron nail and Early Medieval glass.	-

Trench No. 9	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369351.04E, 90413.62N; (NW) 369348.62E, 90421.78N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.53, (NW) 61.25m	Dimensions: 8.5m x 5.5m Max.depth: 2.10m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
99	Modern 'pile mat' gravel deposit - a mid greyish-brown sandy silty clay with sparse flint (<80mm) and chalk inclusions (<0.1m). Contained modern brick inclusions.	0 – 0.30
100	(?)Medieval to Post-medieval soil build-up – a dark grey/black silty clay with sparse to moderate flint (<80mm) and chalk (<70mm) inclusions.	0.30 – 2.10(+)

Trench No. 10	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369364.90E, 90391.35N; (NW) 369364.18E, 90395.08N Ground Level (m AOD): (West side) 62.85	Dimensions:4.45 x 3.80m Max.depth: 1.40m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
600	Modern spoilheap.	0 – 0.90
601	Tarmac – modern car park surface.	0.46 – 0.57
602	Modern made ground – modern gravel. Bedding layer for tarmac.	0.52 – 0.64
603	Modern made ground – light greyish-brown sandy silt. Bedding layer for tarmac.	0.61 – 0.70

Trench No. 10	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369364.90E, 90391.35N; (NW) 369364.18E, 90395.08N Ground Level (m AOD): (West side) 62.85	Dimensions: 4.45 x 3.80m Max.depth: 1.40m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
604	Redeposited chalk deposit – probable upcast from modern service trench to the immediate south.	0.61 – 0.70
605	Redeposited chalk deposit – below (603), above (606, 613). A probable upcast from modern service trench to the immediate south.	0.69 – 0.80
606	Chalky deposit – below (605), above (607). A 0.20m thick layer of light yellowish-grey silty loam matrix with abundant chalk inclusions (<90mm) and rare, sub-angular flint (<40mm). Possible slump/erosion of rampart.	0.80 – 1.04
607	Erosion(?) deposit - below (606), above (608). A 0.09m thick deposit of mid greyish-brown sandy clay loam with rare sub-angular flint (<50mm) and sparse chalk flecks. Possible slump/erosion of rampart.	0.75 – 1.05
608	Flint nodule layer – below (613 , 607), above [612]. A 0.26m thick and 2.21m wide (in section) layer of pale yellowish-grey/white silty loam matrix with very common large flint nodules and (?)greensand (<0.15m). Part of Roman town rampart construction or possible later structural remains?	0.72 – 1.04
609	Chalk bank deposit – below [612], above (610). A 0.73m thick and 4.09m wide (in section) deposit of redeposited chalk rubble. Dip lines, dipping down to the north within the deposit, would suggest deposit is made of discrete dumps of chalk rubble. Roman town rampart remnant.	0.67 – 1.40(+)
610	Buried soil? – below (609), above (611). A 0.09m thick and 0.55m wide (in section) deposit of light yellowish-brown silty loam with common sub-angular chalk inclusions (<70mm). Recorded at very south end of trench west section, like dip lines in (609), dips gently down to the north.	1.07 – 1.40(+)
611	Chalk bank deposit – below (610). A 0.20m thick and 0.55m wide (in section) deposit of redeposited chalk rubble. Dip lines, dipping down to the north within the deposit part of Roman town rampart.	1.14 – 1.40(+)
[612]	Construction cut – filled with (608) and (613), cuts (609). A 2.21m wide (in section) and 0.26m deep cut into underlying chalk dump deposit (609).	0.72 – 1.04
613	Chalk rubble – below (605), above (609). A 0.07m thick deposit of chalk rubble laid within upper interface of (609). Possible deliberate infilling?	0.75 – 0.85

Trench No. 11	Co-ordinates: (NW) 369335.92E, 90419.78N; (NE) 369345.02E, 90421.56N Ground Level (m AOD): (NW) 61.52; (NE) 61.32	Dimensions: 9.5 x 7.9m Max.depth: 0.77m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
614	Modern 'pile mat' gravel deposit.	0 – 0.26
615	Post-medieval soil build-up – a dark grey/black sandy loam with moderate flint and chalk inclusions. Contained building rubble including cbm and roof slate.	0.26 – 0.89

Trench No. 12	Co-ordinates: (SE) 369330.06E, 90398.65N; (NW) 369305.06E, 90415.65N Ground Level (m AOD): (SE) 61.14; (NW) 61.53	Dimensions: 56m x 2.8m Max.depth: 1.41m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
616	Modern 'pile mat' gravel deposit.	0 – 0.24
617	Modern made ground – below (616). A deposit of mid greyish-brown clay loam with moderate chalk (<40mm) and rare flint inclusions (<40mm). Contained modern cbm frag's.	0 – 0.82
618	Chalk dump – below (617). A 0.59m thick and 1.87m wide (in section) deposit of chalk rubble, which dips down to the east.	0.09 – 0.73
619	Erosion/slump? – below east of (618). A 0.27m thick deposit of mid greyish-brown clay loam with common chalk and flint inclusions (<70mm).	0.82 – 1.08
620	Flint rubble (?)bank – below (619), above (621). A 0.39m thick deposit of mid greyish-brown clay loam matrix with abundant large flint nodules and cobbles (<0.15m) and moderate chalk inclusions (<50mm). Contains small frag's and flecks of charcoal.	0.62 – 1.01
621	Occupation layer? – below (620), above (622). A 0.06m thick layer of mid greyish-brown sandy clay with rare, sub-angular flint and chalk inclusions (<60mm). Contained a charcoal lens at its eastern extent.	1.07 – 1.14
622	Soil dump – below (621), above (623). A 0.26m thick deposit of light reddish-brown sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flint (<60mm) and rare chalk inclusions (<40mm). Contained charcoal flecks. Possible upcast from excavation of (626) below?	0.82 – 1.15
623	Occupation layer? – below (622), above (624). A 0.11m thick layer of mid greyish-brown clay loam with moderate chalk inclusions (<50mm). Contained 2 nd cent AD pottery, d RB cbm, as well as oyster and snail shells.	1.07 – 1.17
624	Chalk dump? – below (623), above (625). A 0.09m thick deposit of chalk rubble.	1.16 – 1.25
625	Old land surface? – below (624), above (626). A 0.09m thick layer of mid greyish-brown sandy clay with moderate chalk inclusions (<50mm) and rare, sub-angular flints (<40mm). Contained cbm frag's and flecks and charcoal flecks.	1.19 – 1.28
626	Buried subsoil? – below (625) and (635). A 0.13m thick deposit of mid reddish-brown clay loam with rare chalk inclusions (<40mm) and iron staining throughout.	1.28 – 1.41(+)
627	Modern soil – mid reddish-brown silty loam with rare, sub-angular flints (<30mm). Possible modern subsoil.	0 – 0.15
628	Redeposited chalk – below (627). A 0.23m thick deposit of chalk rubble.	0.15 – 0.34
629	Occupation layer? – below (629), above (630). A mid greyish-brown sandy clay loam with moderate chalk inclusions and sparse, sub-angular flints (<50mm). Contained cbm frag's (RB?) and charcoal flecks throughout.	0.34 – 0.39
630	Chalk dump? – below (629), above (631). A 0.17m thick deposit of chalk rubble.	0.39 – 0.50
631	Occupation layer? – below (630), above (632). A dark reddish-brown silty loam with rare flints (<70mm). Contained sparse cbm frag's and flecks, and common charcoal flecks throughout.	0.50 – 0.55

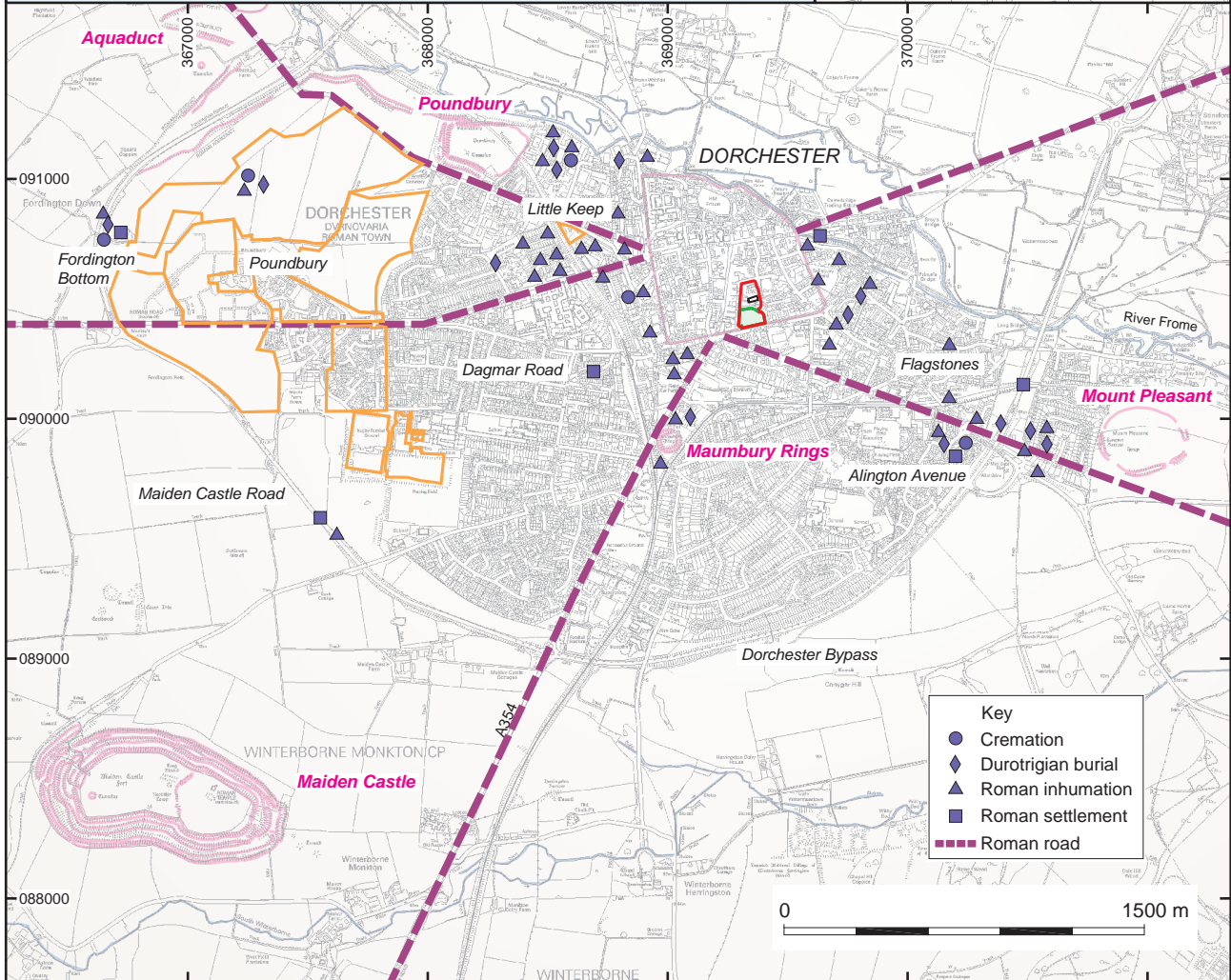
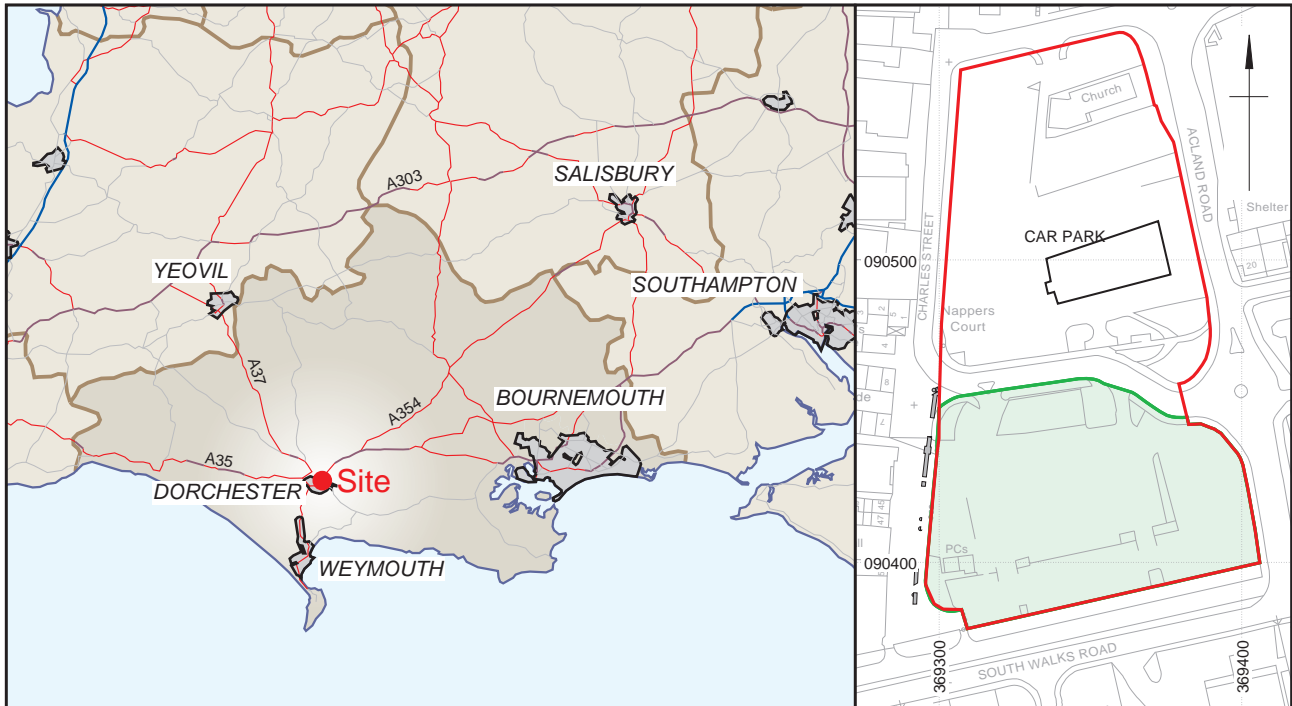
Trench No. 12	Co-ordinates: (SE) 369330.06E, 90398.65N; (NW) 369305.06E, 90415.65N Ground Level (m AOD): (SE) 61.14; (NW) 61.53	Dimensions: 56m x 2.8m Max.depth: 1.41m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
632	Chalk dump? – below (631), above (633). A 0.22m thick deposit of chalk rubble with rare, sub-angular flints. Contained charcoal flecks.	0.55 – 0.77
633	Occupation layer? – below (632), above (634). A 0.26m thick, dark to very dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with rare flints and chalk inclusions. Contained 1 st – 3 rd cent. AD pottery, cbm frag's and an iron object, with clear lenses of charcoal visible.	0.77 – 1.03
634	'Ashy' deposit – below (633), above (635). A 0.12m thick, mid greyish silty loam with rare flint inclusions. Loose, friable, 'powdery'.	0.95 – 1.07
635	Flint nodule layer (surface?) - below (633), above (626). A 0.22m thick, dark greyish-brown sandy clay loam with common to abundant, sub-rounded flints (<0.13m) and sparse degraded sandstone in places.	1.03 – 1.22(+)

Trench No. 13	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369327.19E, 90401.22N; (NW) 369323.87E, 90417.57N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.21; (NW) 61.48	Dimensions: 15.4 x 2.8m Max.depth: 0.93m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
636	Modern 'pile mat' gravel deposit.	0 – 0.25
637	Post-medieval soil build-up – below (636). A deposit of dark greyish-brown sandy loam with common flint and chalk inclusions. Similar to (615) in Tr.11.	0.25 – 0.93

Trench No. 14	Co-ordinates: (SW) 369302.63E, 90402.50N; (NE) 369320.79E, 90416.78N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 61.12; (NE) 61.30	Dimensions: 40m x 1.5 – 7m Max.depth: 2.40m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
638	Post-medieval soil build-up – above (638), below modern made ground. A deposit of dark greyish-brown sandy silty loam. Contained Late Roman, post-medieval and modern pottery, animal bone and shell.	0.70 – 1.60
639	Medieval/Post-medieval soil build-up – below (638). A deposit of dark greyish-brown sandy silty loam with small flint and chalk inclusions. Contained pottery, bone, shell.	1.60 – 2.40(+)
640	Medieval/Post-medieval soil build-up – below modern made ground. A deposit of dark greyish-brown silty loam with small flints. Contained pottery, bone, shell.	0.80 – 0.95
641	Medieval/Post-medieval soil build-up – below (640), above (642). A dark greyish-brown silty loam with common, large flints. Contained pottery, bone, shell.	0.95 – 1.20
642	Post-Roman soil build-up – below (641), above (643). A dark greyish-brown silty loam with flint inclusions. Contained pottery, bone, shell.	1.20 – 1.55
643	Roman road deposits - below (642). A series of coarse orange/brown gravels and strong, coarse, orange/brown sand. Recorded in north section and north of west section. Seen in plan in northern third of base of trench.	1.55 – 2.05(+)

16 APPENDIX 2 – ARCHIVE INDEX

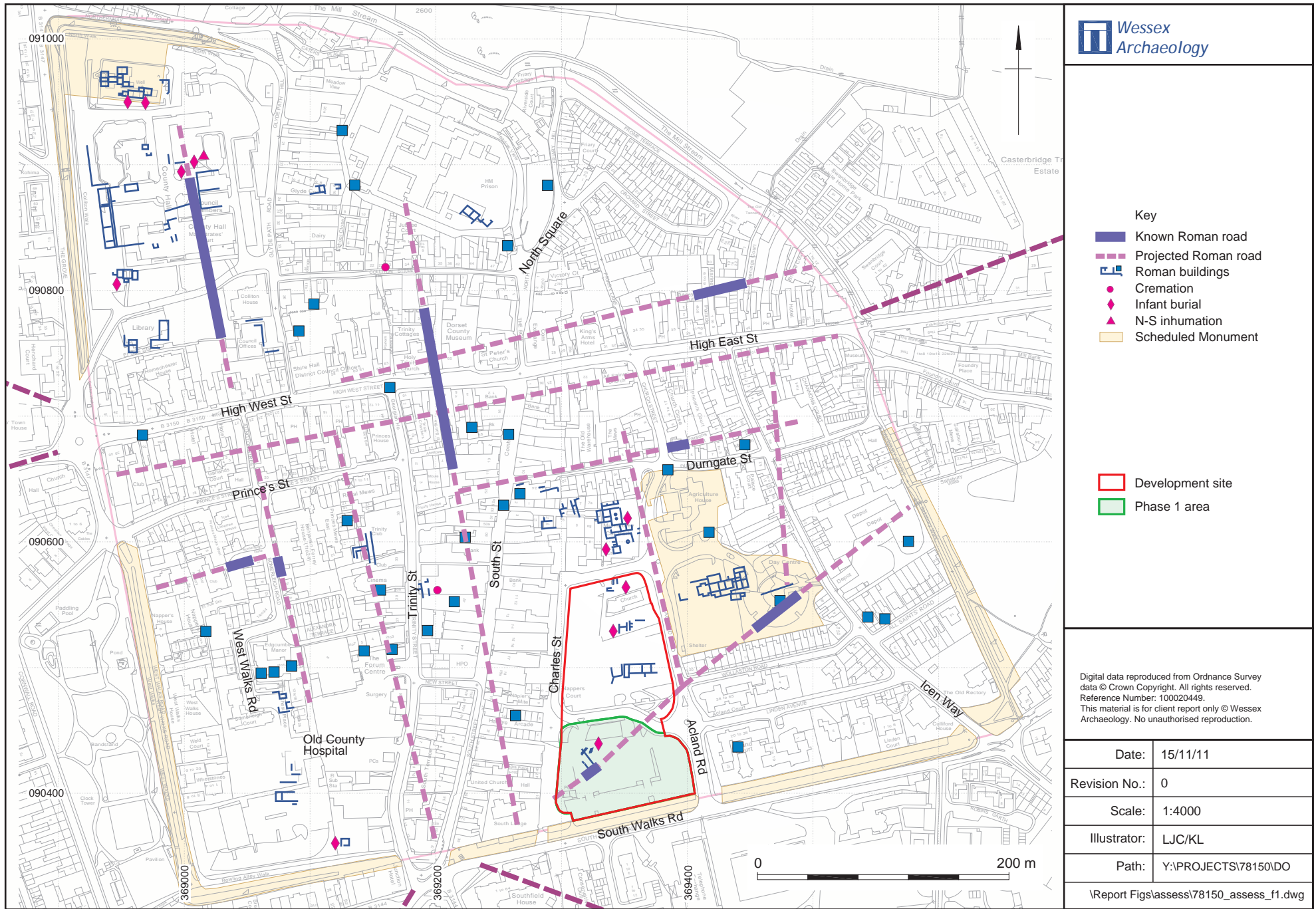
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1	Client Report	A4	88
1	Client Report	A3	4
1	Day Book (photocopy)	A4	48
1	Number Record	A4	1
1	Context Index	A4	20
1	Trench/Test Pit Records	A4	14
1	Survey Data Index	A4	25
1	Graphics Register	A4	5
1	Object Register	A4	5
1	Photographic Register	A4	32
1	Environmental Sample Register & Records	A4	14
1	Landowner Form	A4	1
2	Context Records	A4	650
3	Site Drawings	A4	46
3	Site Drawings	A3	31
4	Site Drawings	A1	5
5	Site photographs	-	1026
FINDS	20 Boxes		



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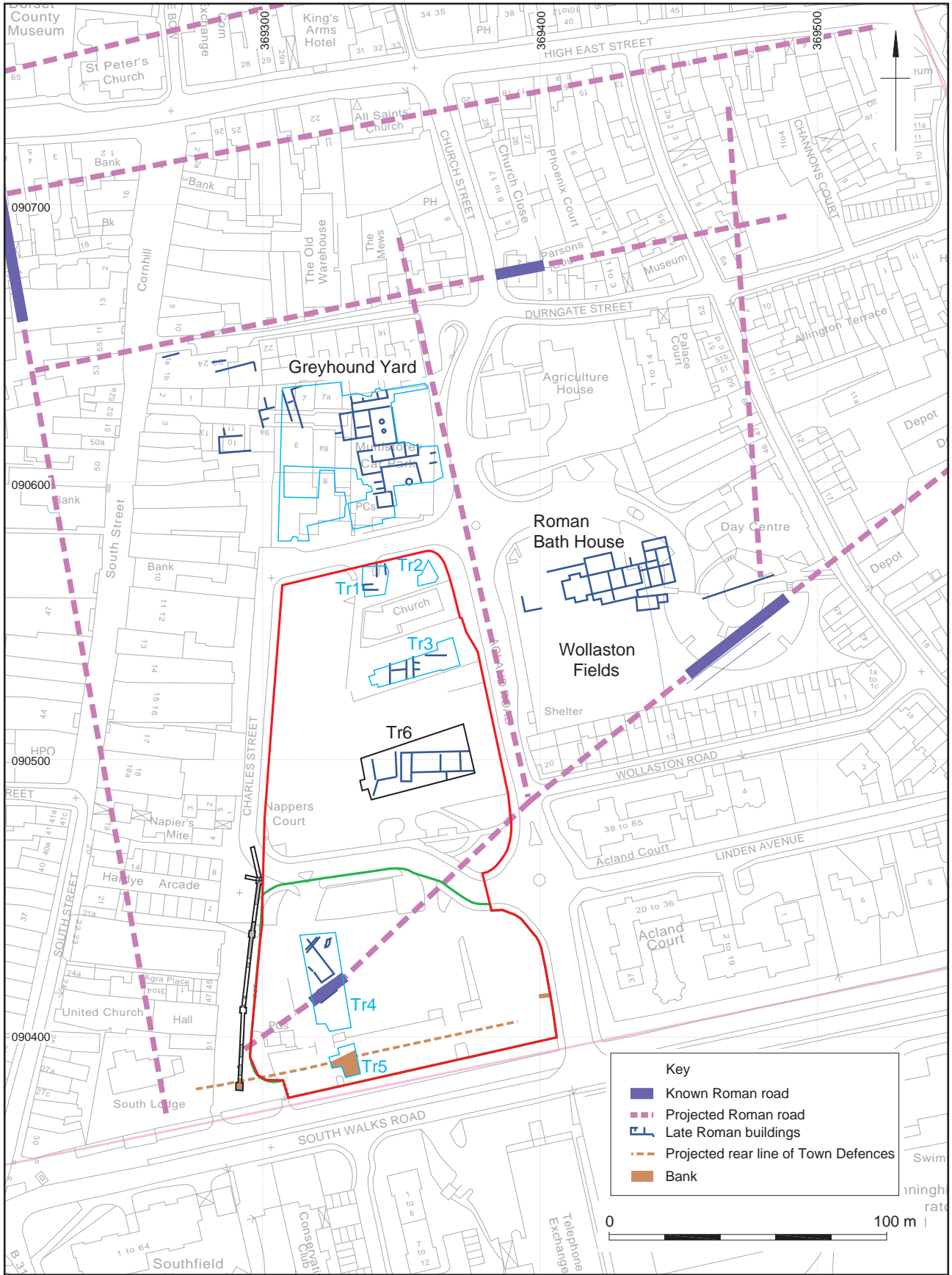
Location plan of the Development Site and the Phase 1 area (Site)

Figure 1



The Development Site, Phase 1 area (Site) and Roman Dorchester

Figure 2



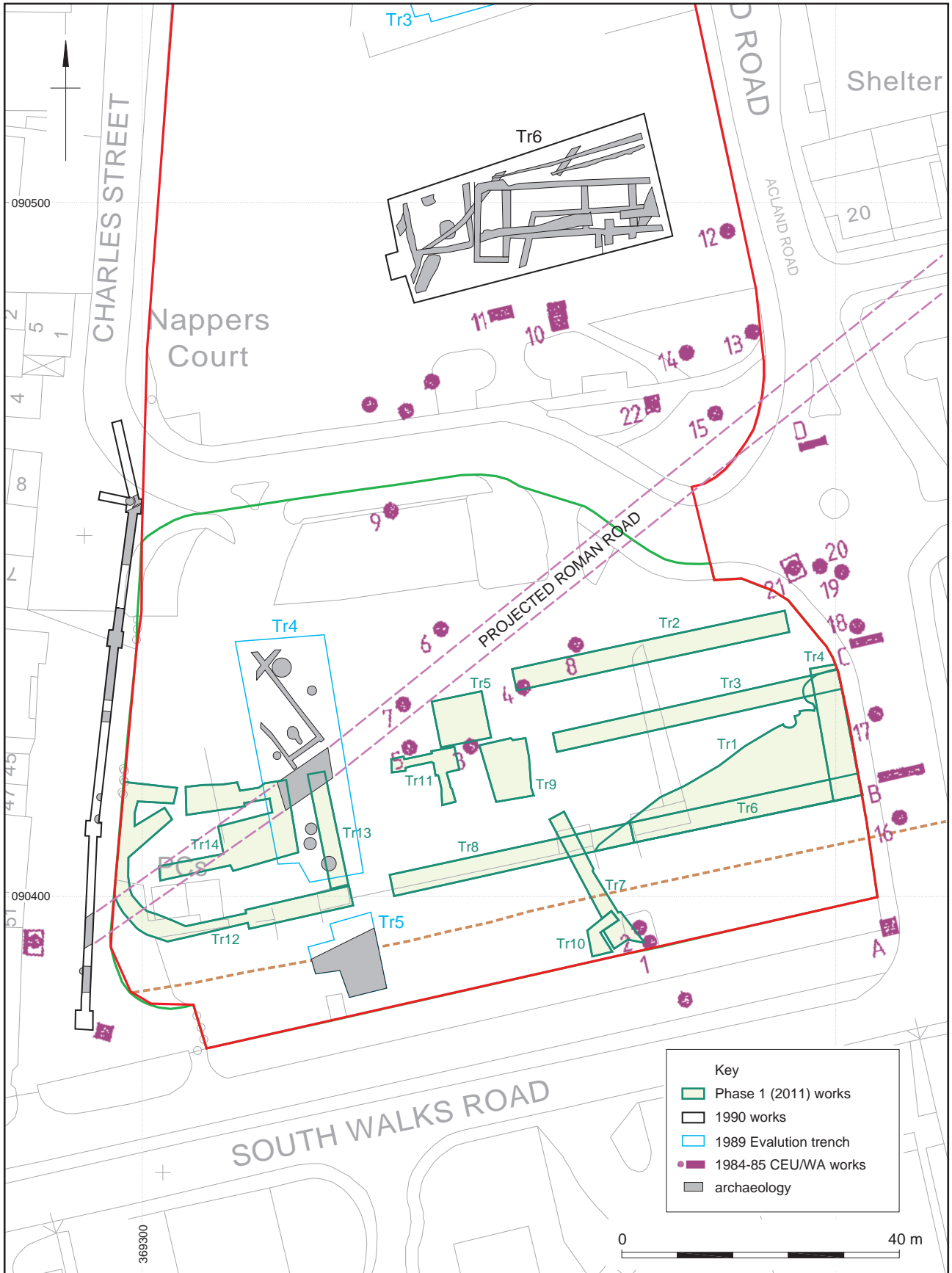
Development site
 Phase 1 area
 1990 works
 1989 evaluation trench
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Archaeological investigations near the Development Site

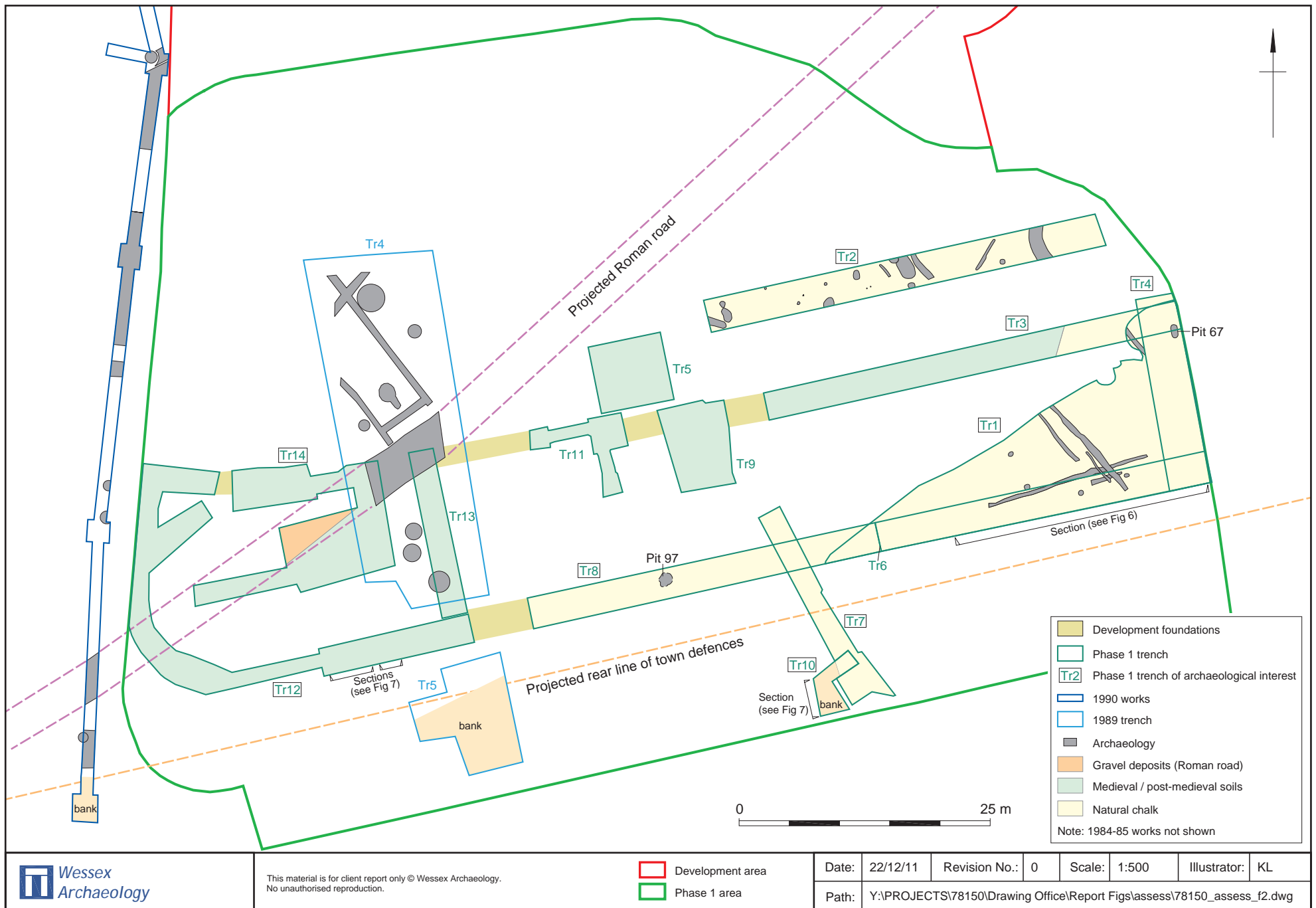
Figure 3



Development site Phase 1 area	Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
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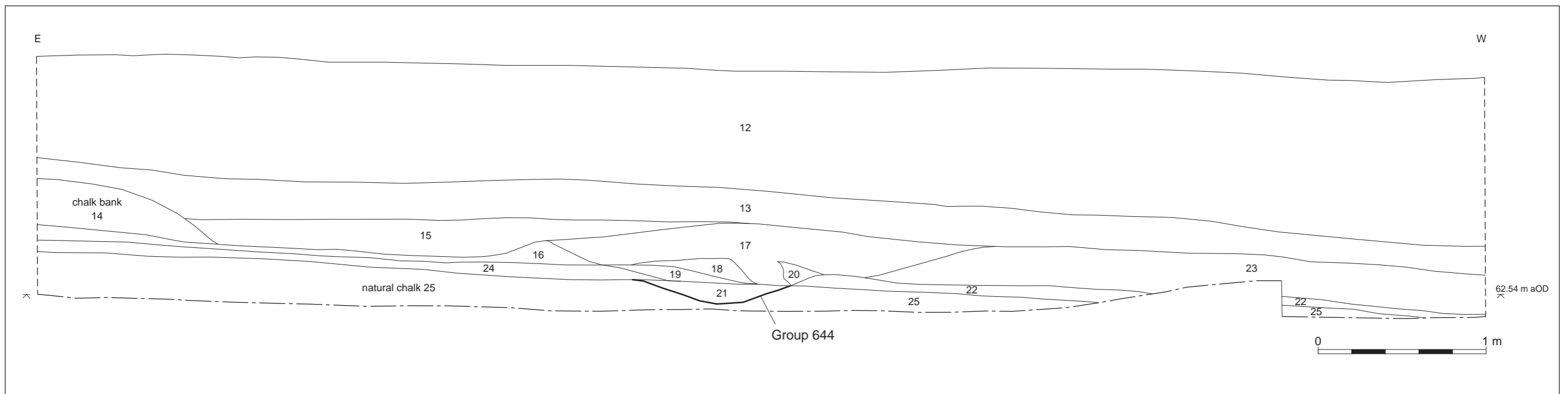
Summary of archaeological investigations of the Site

Figure 4

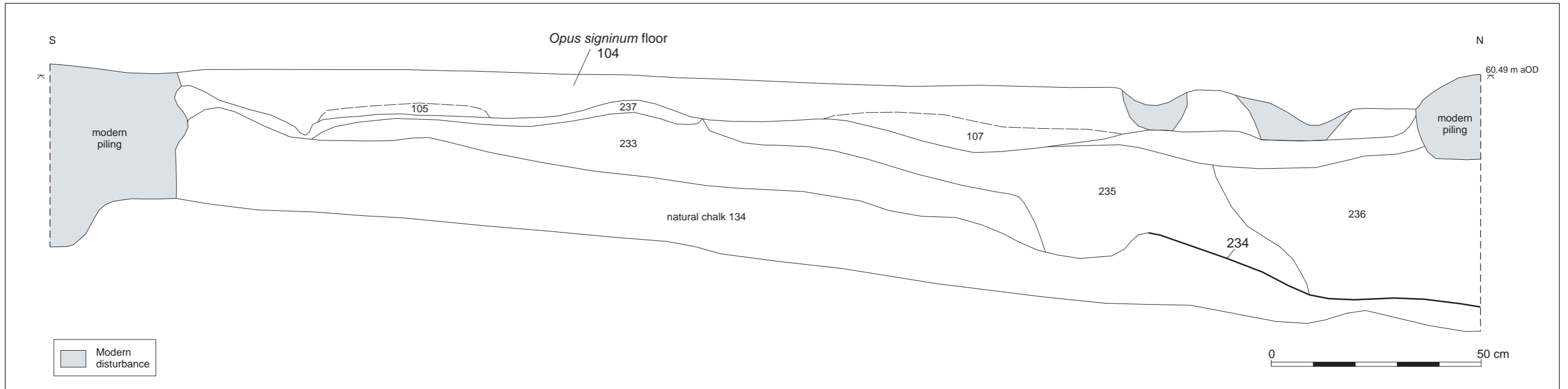


Phase 1 area: all site interventions (2011)

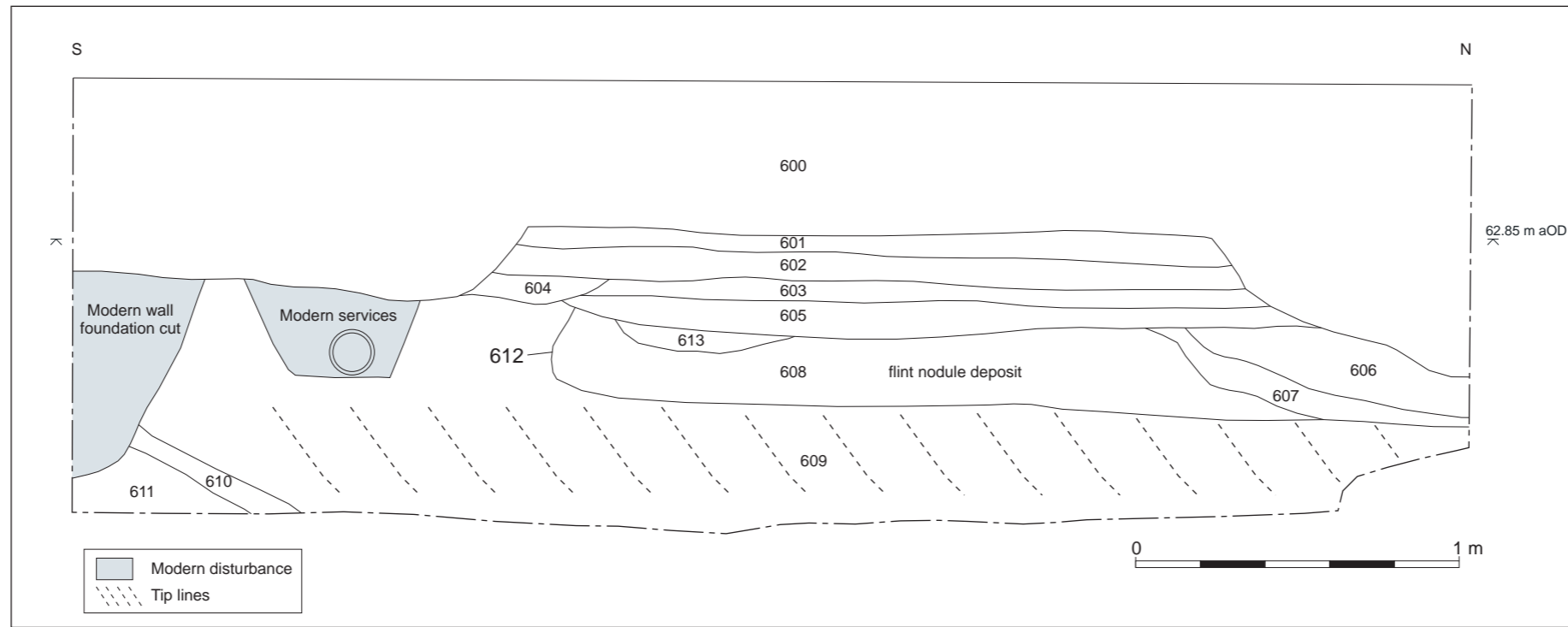
Figure 5



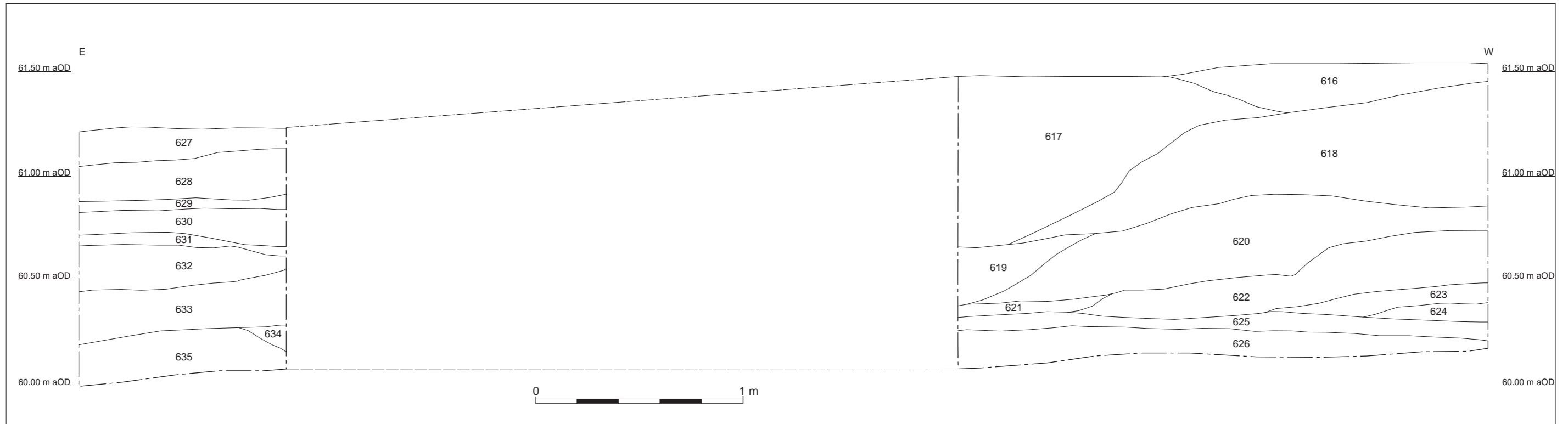
North facing section of Trench 1



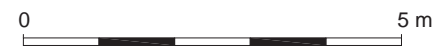
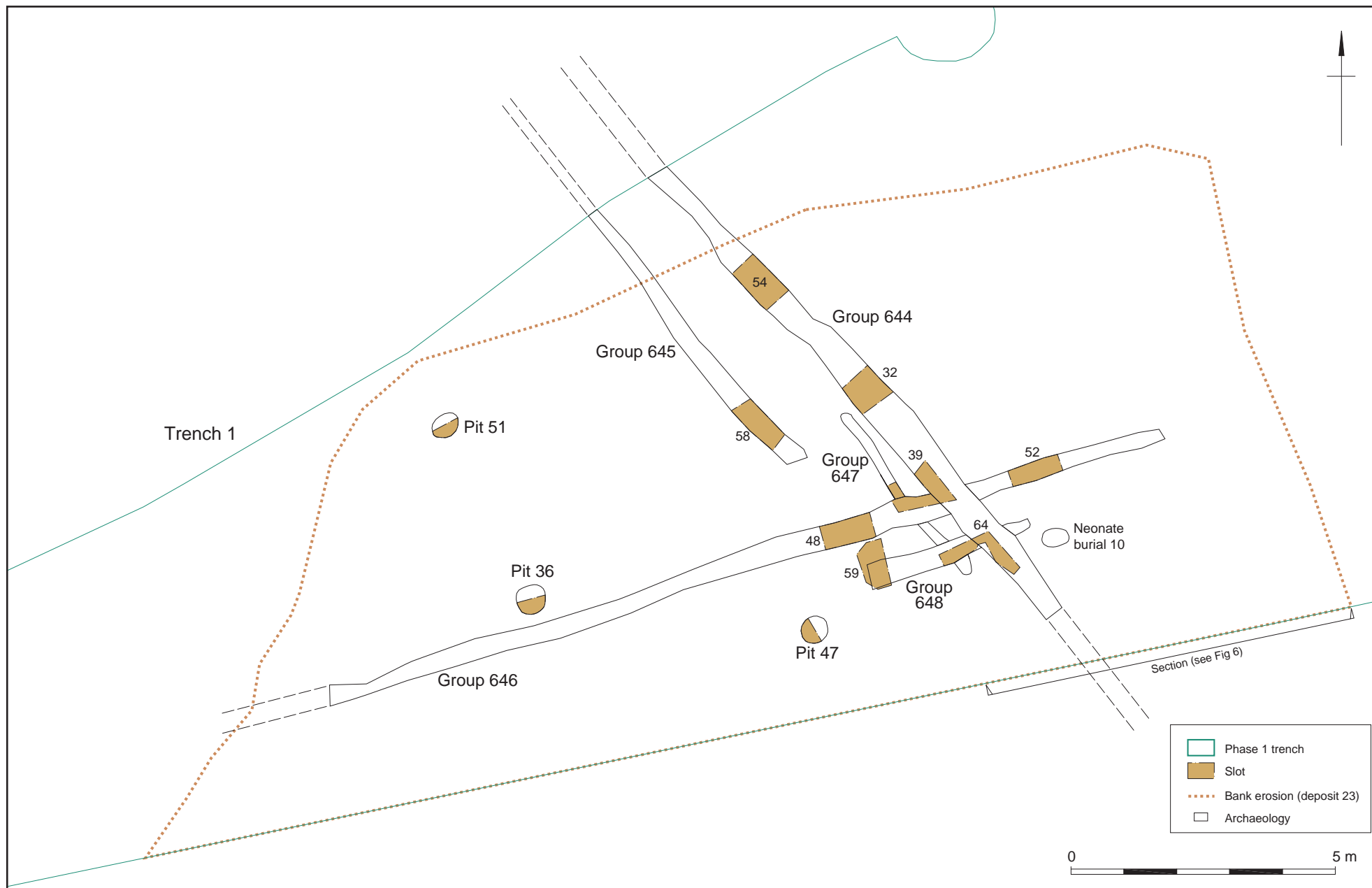
East facing section of robber trench 140



East facing section of Trench 10



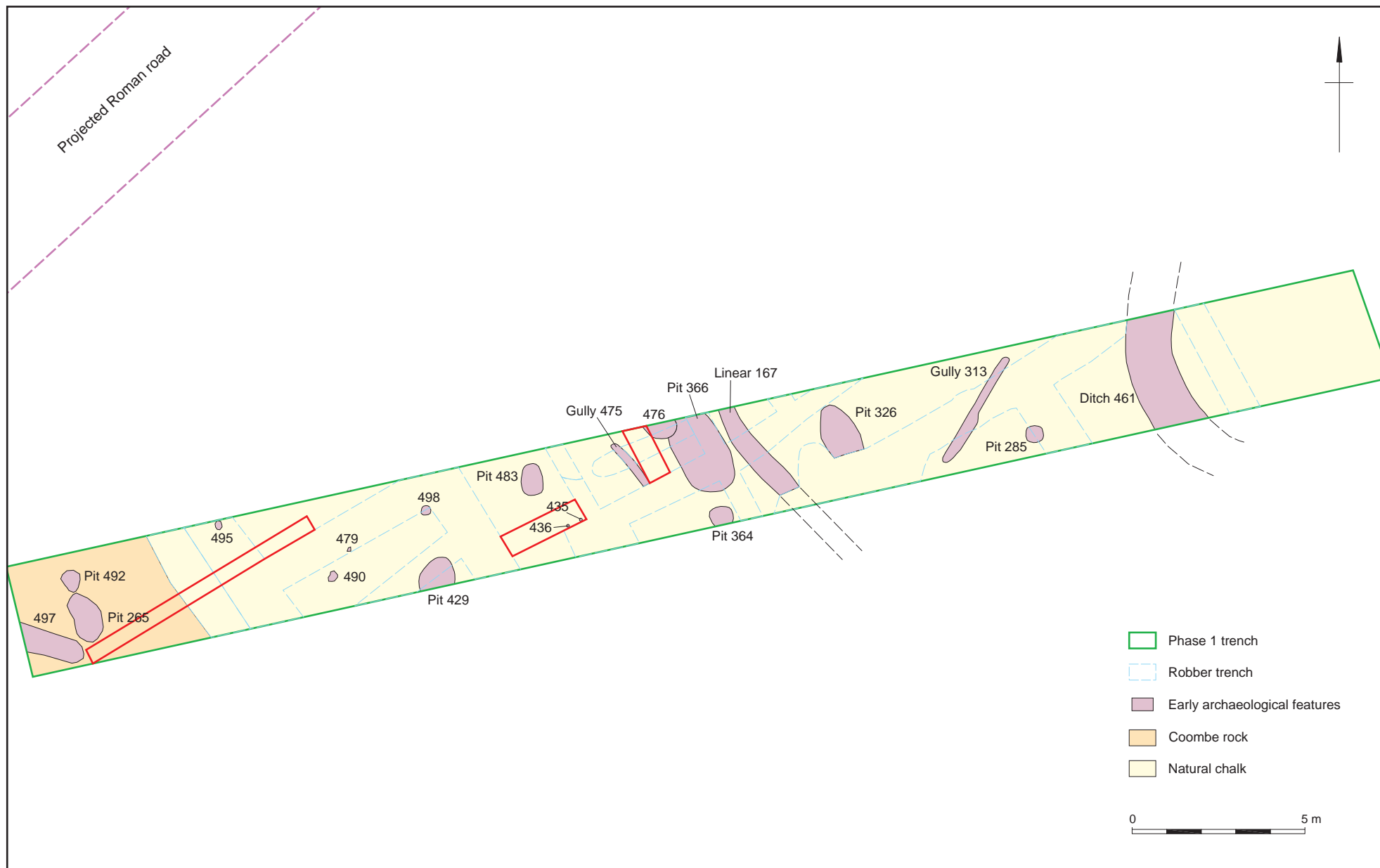
North facing sections of Trench 12




	Phase 1 trench
	Slot
	Bank erosion (deposit 23)
	Archaeology

Trench 1: plan

Figure 8




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Trench 2: plan of early features

Figure 9



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Trench 2: plan of Romano-British features and later robber trenches

Figure 10



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Plate 1: North facing section of Trench 1 (scale 2 m)



Plate 2: West facing section of Roman rampart (Trench 7), view from south



Plate 3: East facing section of Trench 10, view from north-east (scales: 1 m, 2 m)



Plate 4: Post-excavation view of Trench 2. Note the drop in the natural chalk geology. View from west (scales: 2 m)



Plate 5: Ditch [461] section, view from north (scale: 1 m)



Plate 6: General pre-excavation view of Trench 2 from the east. Note well preserved *opus signinum* floor (104) in the foreground and rectilinear pattern of robber trenches (scales: 2 m)



Plate 7a: East facing section of robber trench 158. Note early ditch 167 below robber trench backfill (scale: 1 m)



Plate 7b: South facing section of robber trench 166. Note flint nodule-rich backfill (scales: 0.5 m, 1 m)

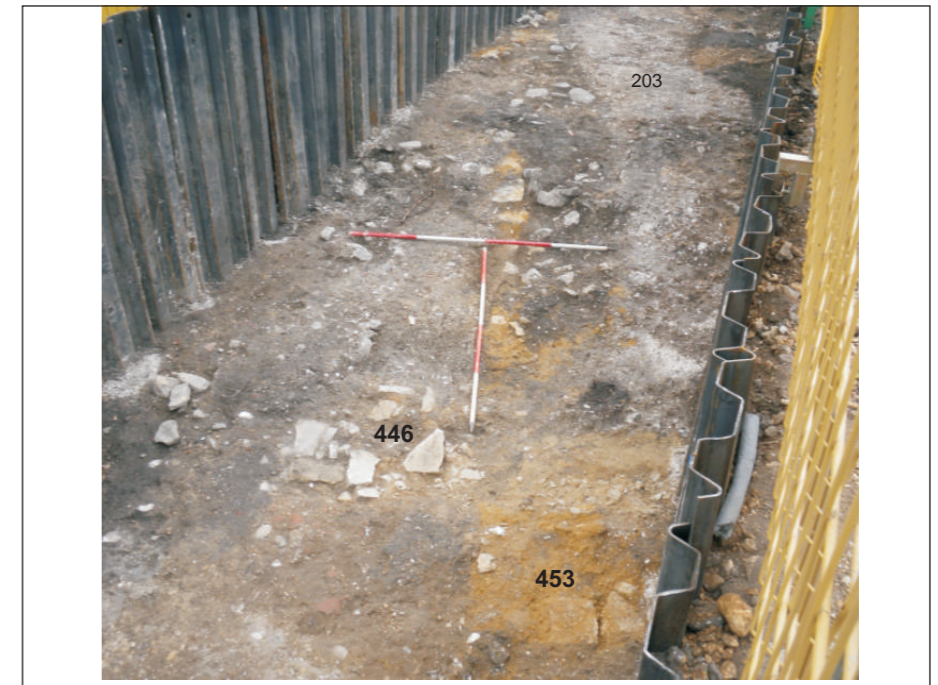


Plate 8: General pre-excitation view of the middle of Trench 2 from the west-south-west. Note *in situ* masonry foundations 445, 'buttress' 453 and chalk 'corridor' surface 203 (scales: 2 m)



Plate 9: North facing section of 'buttress' 453, viewed from the north-east. Note early postholes 435 and 436 below the masonry (scale: 2 m)



Plate 10: Organic waste dumps and rubble deposits at west end of Trench 2, view from north-west (scale: 2 m)