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Brewery Square Dorchester, Dorset

Interim Report on Strip, Map and Record Excavation
within the Phase 2B Footprint



Planning Reference: 1/E/06/002390
Ref: 57157.03
September 2014



**Brewery Square
Dorchester, Dorset**

**Interim Report on Strip, Map and Record Excavation
within the Phase 2B Footprint**

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Figure 1 Site location

Front cover View of Site prior to main excavation

Plate 1 Representative section of deposits across the Site

Plate 2 Representative section of deposits across the Site



Brewery Square Dorchester, Dorset

Interim Report on Strip, Map and Record Excavation within the Phase 2B Footprint

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the Peter Gunning Partnership, acting on behalf of Brewery Square Limited, to undertake a strip, map and record excavation within the Phase 2B footprint of a wider design and build redevelopment at the former Eldridge Pope Brewery site in Dorchester, Dorset centred on National Grid Reference 369300 090150.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken as part of an ongoing programme of archaeological investigation secured by a planning condition imposed on the redevelopment by the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor.

The development has progressed in several phases, and the focus of this document is on groundwork associated with the Phase 2B development. Specifically the groundwork was associated with the construction of The Cooperage, The Keg Store, Copper Crescent, The Station, The Hop House, The Barley Building and any associated services. Archaeological observation was maintained during ground reduction within the Phase 2B area, the drilling of piling trenches in advance of the construction of new buildings and the excavation of service trenches.

A single partially complete brick structure was recorded during the excavation work associated with the former brewery buildings recorded on the site. The structure was located in the south of the Phase 2B area within the footprint of the proposed Cooper Crescent building. In addition a buried topsoil was recorded across the Phase 2B area, and produced a small quantity of artefacts, including pottery sherds, ceramic building material, struck flint, clay pipe, glass and animal bone. The date range extended from the Romano-British period to the 20th century, and sealed undisturbed natural geology.

The archaeological investigation was undertaken intermittently from 6th May to 3rd September 2014.



Brewery Square Dorchester, Dorset

Interim Report on Strip, Map and Record Excavation within the Phase 2B Footprint

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Peter Gunning Partnership on behalf of Brewery Square Limited, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Nick Coggins and Irene Troup in this regard. The assistance during the excavations of Matt Smith and John McLaughlin from Galliford Try is also gratefully acknowledged.

The strip, map and record investigation was undertaken by Tom Blencowe, Tom Burt, Bob Davis and Piotr Orczewski. This report was compiled by Bob Davis. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and the illustrations prepared by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.



Brewery Square, Dorchester, Dorset

Interim Report on Strip, Map and Record Excavation within the Phase 2B Footprint

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by the Peter Gunning Partnership, acting on behalf of Brewery Square Limited, to carry out a programme of archaeological strip, map and record excavation within the Phase 2B footprint of a wider design and build redevelopment at the former Eldridge Pope Brewery in Dorchester, Dorset (hereafter the Site), and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 369300 090150 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken as part of an ongoing programme of archaeological investigation (WA 2004, 2007 and 2011) secured by a planning condition imposed on the redevelopment by the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor.
- 1.1.3 The development has progressed in several phases, and the focus of this document is on groundwork associated with the Phase 2B development. Specifically the groundwork was associated with the construction of The Cooperage, The Keg Store, Copper Crescent, The Station, The Hop House, The Barley Building and any associated services.
- 1.1.4 A Site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, WA 2013), detailing the methods with which the fieldwork would be undertaken was submitted to Dorset County Council (DCC) and approved prior to the fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.5 This document sets out the results of the fieldwork, including the methodologies and standards that were employed, in order to fulfil this phase of archaeological mitigation.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The wider development site comprises an irregular, broadly triangular parcel of land of c. 4.71 hectares and is situated near the centre of modern Dorchester (**Figure 1**). It lies outside, but in close proximity to, the southern boundaries of the historic (Roman and medieval) core of the town, and is c. 0.2km north of the archaeologically important, Neolithic, Roman and Civil War earthwork of Maumbury Rings.
- 1.2.2 The Site is bounded to the west by Weymouth Avenue (a former Roman road) and to the south by Dorchester South railway station. Residential housing, gardens and allotment gardens fronting onto Prince of Wales Road, define the northern limits of the Site.
- 1.2.3 The Site lies on the gently dipping northern slope of a low, east-west aligned chalk ridge, which crests some 0.2km to the south. Ground levels in the immediate vicinity of the Site are within the range of c. 68-70 metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.4 To the north of the Site (below the southernmost part of the Roman town) a deep former east-west aligned coombe (dry valley) has been identified. This feature has most recently



been observed during excavations at Somerleigh Court, on the Site of the former County Hospital, and it has been much infilled, both during and since the Roman period (WA 1989, 12).

- 1.2.5 The solid geology comprised Cretaceous Upper Chalk (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1981). Archaeological observations at the Station Masters' house (situated within the south-western extremity of the Site) have confirmed that truncated archaeological features cut through the natural chalk, sealed by up to 0.3m of former plough soil, capped in turn by made ground (Pearce 1987, 180, WA 1989).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Full details of the archaeological background to the Site can be found within the desk-based assessment (WA 2001), but are summarised below

2.2 Background summary

- 2.2.1 The Site lies immediately to the south of the Roman town of *Durnovaria*, and the western Site boundary (Weymouth Avenue) comprises a former Roman road linking the town with Weymouth Harbour and Radipole. Observations of work to construct an access road on the south side of the Station Master's House public house (in the south-west corner of the Site) in 1986 noted a ditch aligned parallel to Weymouth Avenue (Pearce 1987). This ditch was sectioned in 1987 (WA 1989) when it was exposed in a small strip of land between the access road and the public house. The section demonstrated that it was likely to represent a roadside ditch of Roman date, and it was possible to project its line along the west edge of the Site.

- 2.2.2 The observations in 1986 also reported (Pearce 1987) two ditches leading towards Maumbury Rings, aligned north-east to south-west, and were positioned 60m to the east of the Roman roadside ditch. No plans survive of their precise location although it has been possible to extrapolate their approximate position from the photographic archive held at Dorchester Museum to SY 69119007. They measured 2.5m and 1.5m wide respectively at the surface, although neither was excavated. Their date and profile are therefore unknown, although it was thought likely at the time that they were of prehistoric date. A ditch on a similar alignment was identified during the monitoring programme of 2007, but on excavation there was little secure dating evidence recovered to indicate to what period the feature might be assigned.

- 2.2.3 Map and documentary evidence indicated the Site was formerly occupied by open strip fields throughout the medieval period, and traces of ridge and furrow cultivation were noted during previous fieldwork (WA 1989). Agricultural land-use persisted until the 19th century, when the railway and Brewery were built, and many of the existing buildings on the Site retain considerable information with regard to the late 19th and 20th century history of brewing. In the southern part of the Site, many of the late 19th and 20th century buildings associated with the railway and its infrastructure were removed during the late 20th century, at least to basement level.

2.3 Previous archaeological work in the Phase 2B area

- 2.3.1 The Phase 2B development comprised a parcel of land located to the east of Maumbury Gardens, on the east side of the alignment of Pope Street.



2.3.2 In the northern half of the Cooperage, a series of test pits/trenches were excavated (WA 2004 & 2007) to assess the level of truncation and/or survival of deposits which might be sealing archaeological remains. In Trench 9 a 0.75m deep made ground deposit directly overlaid a brick foundation, and it appeared that the upper surface of the chalk bedrock had been truncated (WA 2007). In Trench 10 there was also considerable evidence of truncation and disturbance but also some evidence of an *in situ* plough soil, which was also recorded in Trench 11 further to the east (*ibid.*). To the immediate south of the proposed Cooperage footprint, a 'c' shaped trench was recorded in plan and section. An *in-situ* plough soil sealing the original upper surface of the chalk bedrock was also identified in section.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The objectives of this phase of archaeological strip, map and record excavation were based on the findings of the earlier archaeological evaluation, subsequent monitoring of groundwork in 2007 and general background knowledge of the Site. The objectives of the excavation, as set out in the WSI were as follows:

- *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 known archaeological landscape*
- *To establish the extent of any prehistoric activity on the Site*
- *To establish whether there is any evidence of any Civil War entrenchments on the Site*
- *To establish whether there is any evidence of Roman activity, (possibly associated with the Roman road) on the Site*
- *To provide an interim assessment report of the results of the excavation and an updated project design (in the light of the excavations findings)*
- *To 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, if appropriate, by the production of a suitable publication*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An initial fieldwork strategy was developed as a result of consultation between Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor and Wessex Archaeology in 2007. The current monitoring excavation was carried out in accordance with the 2007 project design and site specific WSI (WA 2013). The methodology was in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for Excavation* (IfA 2008), and to all current and relevant best practice guidelines.

4.2 Strip, map and record investigation

4.2.1 The Site was visited over a period of four months between May and September 2014. The fieldwork comprised several stages of observation and recording over this period ensuring all significant groundwork was archaeologically monitored within the Phase 2B area.

4.2.2 The excavation area was stripped of overburden using a 360° machine excavator fitted, at first, with a toothed bucket to deal with compact overburden, and then with a toothless bucket to remove the underlying soils.



4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 Soil deposits were recorded across the Site using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets, and representative sections made where appropriate. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the monitoring period. This illustrated both the detail and general context of the Site as a whole.
- 4.3.2 A unique Site code (**57157**) was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.
- 4.3.3 The methodologies for the excavation were set out in detail in the WSI (WA 2013) and are not repeated here. All works were carried as specified in this document and in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for Excavation* (IfA 2008).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The principal results obtained from the archaeological excavation are outlined below and are specific to the Phase 2B area. The excavations did not record any significant subsoil features, but a number of artefacts were recovered from a buried topsoil.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence was generally consistent across the Site, and comprised up to 0.75m of overburden consisting of hard-core rubble (**1400**) measuring 0.15m deep, overlying a 0.20m thick compact re-deposited chalk layer (**1401**) which sealed a mixed deposit comprising chalk, rubble, flint and a dark silty clay (**1402**) measuring 0.40m deep. This overlay a buried topsoil (**1403**) measuring 0.20m thick which in turn sealed a subsoil deposit (**1404**) 0.20m deep directly on top of the natural Chalk (**1406**).
- 5.2.2 This sequence was previously identified within the evaluation trenches (WA 2004) and the observations made during the excavation were consistent with these findings.

5.3 Results

- 5.3.1 Wide area excavation began with the removal, by machine, of the concrete surfaces and remains of the former brewery infrastructure such as drainage and yard surfaces (**Front Cover**).
- 5.3.2 The excavation of the Site started at the north-west end within the Cooperage area, and progressed to the east where observations were concentrated on isolated ground level reduction during the excavation of concrete foundation pads. This area was covered with various deposits of overburden (**Plate 1**), and indicated a succession of dumping and landscaping events across the area (**1400-1402**).
- 5.3.3 A topsoil layer (**1403**) was noted beneath the overburden, and measured 0.20m deep and sealed a subsoil layer (**1404**) with more chalk flecks. All of the artefacts recovered during the excavations were retrieved from the topsoil, and indicate the deposit is post-medieval to modern in date. It is likely that the buried topsoil represents the former land surface at the time of the construction of the brewery and the associated buildings.
- 5.3.4 Considerable isolated disturbance was noted during the investigations relating to the former use of the Site. Numerous concrete pads and former service trenches impacted



the natural chalk. Several natural irregular solution hollows were also noted within the natural Chalk.

5.4 Structural remains

- 5.4.1 A single partially complete brick structure (**1405**) was recorded during the excavation work associated with the former brewery buildings. The structure was located in the south of the Phase 2B area within the footprint of the proposed Cooper Crescent building.
- 5.4.2 The structure was positioned adjacent to an existing raised concrete walkway and although previous groundwork had damaged the structure, it survived to a height of 0.75m and measured 1m in width (**Plate 2**). Due to the unstable nature of the overlying deposits only limited recording could be undertaken.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of unstratified material was collected during the work, all from the buried topsoil (**1403**). This comprised pottery (112 sherds), ceramic building material (2 fragments); clay tobacco pipe (35 fragments); vessel and window glass (26 fragments); worked flint (1 piece); animal bone (31 fragments) and marine shell (10 fragments).

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery provides most of the dating evidence. One sherd is Romano-British, belonging to a mortarium of north Gaulish (Pas-de-Calais) origin, in a greenish-cream fabric (Hartley 1977). One sherd is from a medieval jar, in a coarseware fabric probably locally made, and with a probable date range of 12th to 13th century. Six sherds are in a finer late medieval sandy ware, probably 14th or 15th century. The remaining 104 sherds date to the post-medieval to modern periods. While the coarsewares (Verwood-type earthenware and redwares) could have a potential date range from the 16th century onwards, the accompanying finewares indicate a probable date range of late 17th to 20th century, with a concentration in the 19th to 20th century. Wares represented include Staffordshire-type slipware, white saltglaze, other salt-glazed and feldspathic-glazed stonewares, creamware, pearlware and refined whitewares.

6.3 Other finds

- 6.3.1 The clay tobacco pipe and vessel glass support this dating, with one datable clay pipe bowl (18th century) and a stem/foot fragment (late 17th century); and wine bottle neck and base fragments (late 17th/early 18th century), with the remaining datable material belonging to the 19th/20th centuries.
- 6.3.2 One of the pieces of ceramic building material is Romano-British (*imbrex* roof tile), while the other is from a post-medieval flat (peg) roof tile.
- 6.3.3 Other finds comprise a single small patinated flint flake, animal bone (including sheep and pig), and marine shell (oyster and scallop).
- 6.3.4 Given the date range of the finds, their provenance and the quantities involved, there is no recommendation for retention for long-term curation, and the finds have been discarded.



7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The strip, map and record investigation has confirmed that the area contained a single brick built structure, possibly a kiln, in the southern part of the Phase 2B area related to the use of the Site as a brewery. No other archaeological features were recorded.
- 7.1.2 The identification of a buried topsoil across the Site has also reinforced the findings of the earlier archaeological surveys of the Site.

7.2 Archaeological conclusion

- 7.2.1 Earlier desk based archaeological surveys had suggested that the area was largely open fields in the post-medieval period, and the nature and number of the artefacts recovered from the buried 'plough soil' would support this conclusion.
- 7.2.2 During the 19th and 20th centuries the Site was subject to the brewery development and landscaped accordingly with material brought in to create the present ground level.

8 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

8.1 Proposed publication and dissemination

- 8.1.1 In view of the archaeological evidence obtained from the fieldwork, it is proposed that the results should be published as a short note in *Dorset Studies* summarising the results presented in this report.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The project archive resulting from the excavation will be deposited with a suitable local museum which is to be confirmed. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

- 9.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the local museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995, IfA 2009, Brown 2011 & ADS 2013).

- 9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site code **57157**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 1 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics

- 9.2.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under Site code **57157**.

9.3 Discard policy

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories



which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.4 Copyright

9.4.1 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-profit making, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.

9.4.2 Details of the Site will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the index of Archaeological Investigations) database

9.5 Security copy

9.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011); on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

10 REFERENCES

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11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: Context Summaries

All depths are below ground level.

Context	Category	Description	Depth (m)
1400	Layer	Modern made ground/hardcore rubble	0 – 0.15
1401	Layer	Made ground: redeposited chalk layer	0.15 – 0.35
1402	Layer	Made ground: mixed deposit comprising chalk, rubble, flint and dark silty clay	0.35 – 0.75
1403	Layer	Dark greyish brown silt loam – topsoil	0.75 – 0.85
1404	Layer	Dark greyish brown silt loam – subsoil	0.85 – 1.05
1405	Structure	Brick built structure, possibly a hop kiln partially surviving within area of proposed Cooperage building. 1.0m diameter x 0.75m high	2.0 + high
1406	Layer	Natural chalk	1.05+

11.2 Appendix 2: OASIS Form

Brewery Square, Dorchester, Dorset - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-191315

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	30 September 2014

Completed sections in current version

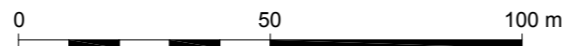
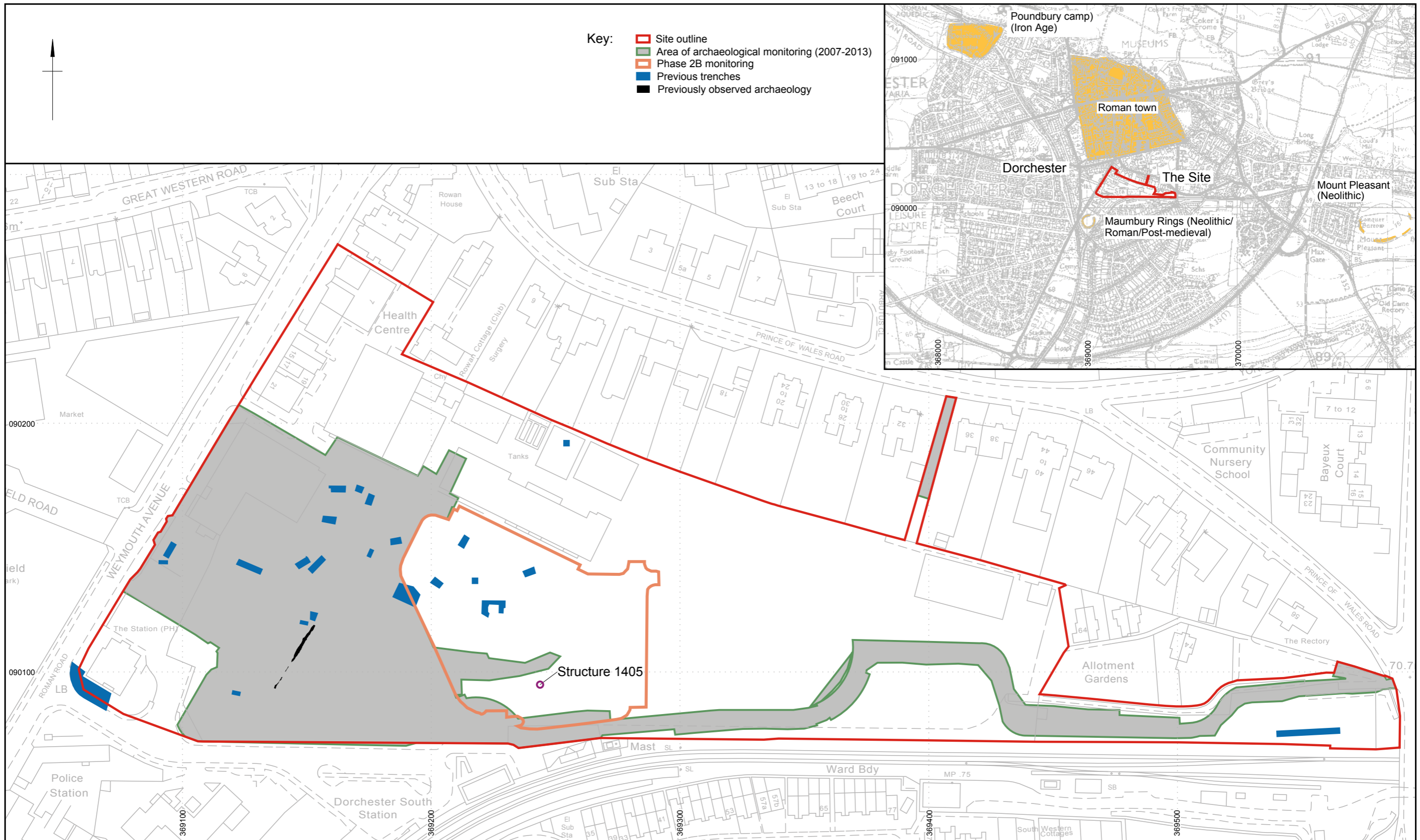
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s
Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?



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Site location plan


Figure 1



Plate 1: Representative section of deposits across the Site



Plate 2: Brick structure 1405, viewed from the north-west

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