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# Poundbury Phase 3 & 4: Outstanding Excavation Area, Dorchester, Dorset

Post-excavation Assessment Report and  
Project Design for Analysis and Publication



Ref: 60027.01  
July 2014



**Poundbury Phase 3 & 4:  
Outstanding Excavation Area, Dorchester, Dorset**

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Project Design for Analysis and Publication**

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# Poundbury Phase 3 & 4: Outstanding Excavation Area, Dorchester, Dorset

## Post-excavation Assessment Report and Project Design for Analysis and Publication

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## **Poundbury Phase 3 & 4: Outstanding Excavation Area, Dorchester, Dorset**

### **Post-excavation Assessment Report and Project Design for Analysis and Publication**

#### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the Duchy of Cornwall to undertake the outstanding archaeological mitigation on land to the north of Poundbury Farm, Poundbury, Dorchester (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 367291 90967). This phase of fieldwork, carried out in September 2013, comprised the archaeological excavation of a formerly inaccessible 0.255 hectare plot, located between Areas 4 and 5 of the 2007 Wessex Archaeology excavations (**Figure 1**; Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011).

The bulk of the c. 45 features uncovered related to the Romano-British agricultural, industrial and mortuary activity recorded previously. Excavation determined unresolved associations between two enclosure ditches and identified changes in their access routes. A hitherto unknown enclosure was encountered, the majority of which extends to the north beyond the limits of excavation. It also revealed a Romano-British inhumation cemetery group, somewhat larger than those found in 2007, but again strongly associated with the enclosures. An outlying grave of similar style lay a short distance to the south-east. The remains of three *Durotrigian* burials were also recorded in the vicinity. A Bronze Age urned cremation burial and an undated cremation-related deposit were found in close proximity to the cemetery. Further features – probably representing later Romano-British activity – include a masonry-lined oven or kiln and an associated hollow. The contents of a large working area/hollow and three nearby pits suggest metal-working activities within the locale.

It is anticipated that the results of the analysis stage will be published as an article in the Journal of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society.





## **Poundbury Phase 3 & 4: Outstanding Excavation Area, Dorchester, Dorset**

### **Post-excavation Assessment Report and Project Design for Analysis and Publication**

#### **Acknowledgements**

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The project was directed in the field by Susan Clelland, assisted by Darryl Freer, Mark Bagwell, Naomi Brennan, Neil Fitzpatrick, Michael Fleming, and Alan Whitaker. The fieldwork was managed by Damian De Rosa; the post-excavation by Matt Leivers.

This report was compiled by Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy, who also assessed the unburnt human bone. Other specialist contributions were written by Phil Andrews (slag), Phil Harding (worked flint), Jacqueline McKinley (cremated human bone), and Rachael Seager Smith (pottery). Lorrain Higbee assessed the animal bone, Nicholas Cooke examined the coins and Lorraine Mephram reported on all other artefact types. The environmental samples were processed by Tony Scothern and assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. The illustrations and plates were prepared by Rob Goller.



# Poundbury Phase 3 & 4: Outstanding Excavation Area, Dorchester, Dorset

## Post-excavation Assessment Report and Project Design for Analysis and Publication

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 This report was prepared by Wessex Archaeology for the Duchy of Cornwall. It presents the results of the archaeological excavation of the corridor of previously inaccessible land between Areas 4 and 5, on Land to the North of Poundbury Farm, Poundbury, Dorchester, Dorset (hereafter referred to as 'the Site') centred on NGR 367291 90967 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 This assessment provides a quantification of the archaeological findings and discusses the potential of the material, making recommendations for analysis and publication.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological work was undertaken in advance of Phases 3 and 4 of the Poundbury Development, following an initial 165 trench evaluation in 2006 (WA 2007) and subsequent targeted excavations in 2007 (WA 2008; Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011).
- 1.1.4 The archaeological works revealed evidence for abundant archaeological remains within the Site dating from the Neolithic to the Romano-British period, with limited evidence for Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity (*ibid*). Areas 4 and 5 contained predominantly Romano-British agricultural, industrial and mortuary remains.
- 1.1.5 The scope of the archaeological excavation work was originally set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; WA 2008).

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The excavation of the outstanding 0.225 ha area between Areas 4 and 5 took place in September and October 2013. The land, previously pasture, is located on the south-facing slope of the east-west ridge c. 1km east of the Dorchester, and a short distance from the Poundbury residential and commercial development. The line of the Roman aqueduct is to the north-west and west of the Site and the Poundbury Hillfort and large Romano-British cemetery lay to the north-east (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The solid geology beneath the Poundbury Ridge comprises Cretaceous Upper Chalk. Over much of the Site this is overlain by Clay-with-Flints (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1981 sheet 328). Soils across the Site are mapped as brown Rendzinas of the Andover II Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeology and history of Dorchester have been discussed at length in many reports (e.g. Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011; Smith *et al.* 1997, Trevarthen 2008, WA 2007,



and various Desk Based Assessments), therefore only a brief summary has been included here.

## 2.2 Summary

- 2.2.1 Dorchester and its environs are well-known for their monuments (Maiden Castle, Mount Pleasant, Maumbury Rings and Poundbury Camp), though these are only the most obvious features of a landscape containing a wealth of archaeology dating back as far as the Mesolithic period (c. 6500-4000 BC; Woodward 1991).
- 2.2.2 Prehistoric monuments such as barrows, enclosures, field systems, ring-ditches, settlement sites and hillforts crowd the landscape and are testament to the importance of the region as a territorial and ritual centre (Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011; Smith 1992; Smith *et al.* 1997).
- 2.2.3 The Iron Age settlement and large Roman cemetery at Poundbury (Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) number 12501), is well documented (Sparey Green 1987; Farwell and Molleson 1993), and extends across the Grove Trading Estate, to the north-east of the Site. The Poundbury Farm area has revealed widespread Romano-British field systems, along with domestic and agricultural features and evidence for metal-working (Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011).
- 2.2.4 The Roman precursor to Dorchester (*Durnovaria*) was established around AD 60, probably as an administrative and market centre. The Site lies to the west of the Roman town walls (SAM number D0648), whilst two former Roman roads (Poundbury Road and Bridport Road) pass close to the Site.
- 2.2.5 Numerous Romano-British burials and cemeteries have been found on all but the north-east side of Dorchester, where the land drops into the Frome Valley (Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011; Farwell and Molleson 1993; RCHME 1970, 582; WA 2008).
- 2.2.6 Subsequently a thriving political and commercial centre for south Dorset, Dorchester prospered on the woollen industry until the mid-17th century. The area to the west of Dorchester, including the present Site, was occupied by an open field system, the remnants of which survive within present-day field boundaries.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 All excavation and post-excavation procedures were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (as amended 1999), except where they are superseded by statements made below.

### 3.2 Excavation Methodology

- 3.2.1 The unique site code **60027** was issued for this phase of fieldwork investigation.
- 3.2.2 Under close archaeological supervision the modern overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator, to the first recognisable archaeological horizon.
- 3.2.3 The Site was further cleaned by hand, as appropriate, to enable the production of an accurate Site plan. Investigation of the archaeological features and deposits was undertaken as specified in the WSI, sufficient to satisfy the principal aims of the excavation.



3.2.4 A sufficient sample of archaeological remains was investigated through excavation to record the horizontal and vertical extent of the stratigraphic sequence to the level of undisturbed natural deposits.

### **3.3 Recording**

3.3.1 The extent of the excavation area was recorded using a Leica total station (TST) and global positioning system (GPS). The data was overlaid onto the Ordnance Survey National Grid (using digital map data). During fieldwork digital plans were produced using AutoCAD.

3.3.2 A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of the area. Hand drawn plans and sections were produced at a scale of 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections. All graves and burials were planned at 1:10; grave profiles (longitudinal and transverse) were drawn at 1:10. All plans and section points were surveyed using the Leica TST, giving 3D OS coordinates and spot heights relative to Ordnance Datum. Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* sheets were used exclusively for all site recording.

3.3.3 Colour transparency, monochrome negative photographs (35mm) and digital images were taken as appropriate.

### **3.4 Environmental Sampling**

3.4.1 Samples of deposits were taken from dateable contexts where appropriate and under the guidance of Wessex Archaeology's environmental specialists.

### **3.5 Human Remains**

3.5.1 The excavation and assessment of the human remains followed Wessex Archaeology's guidelines, which fully comply with all current legislation and standards set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2004) and English Heritage (2002).

3.5.2 The samples taken from specific zones during the excavation of the burials were retrieved and processed to ensure the retrieval of small artefacts, bones and other biological material. Easily identifiable material was separated from the residues at the processing stage. The residues will be examined by an osteoarchaeologist during the analysis stage.

### **3.6 Artefact Recovery**

3.6.1 All artefacts were collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (IFA 2001, SMA 1993 & 1995). All non-modern artefacts were collected and retained. Small finds were recorded three dimensionally using the GPS. Bulk finds were collected and recorded by context.

## **4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

4.1.1 The specific aims were to:

- Investigate, characterise and record any archaeological features and deposits revealed;
- Determine the relationship between the Romano-British enclosures and Romano-British settlement, and any associated features;
- Determine the extent of the mortuary activity.



## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following sections summarise the results of the archaeological excavation and how they relate to previous findings. Detailed descriptions of the archaeological features and deposits can be found in the archive.
- 5.1.2 The 0.3m to 0.5m thick modern overburden comprised a layer of dark greyish-brown, silty clay loam topsoil overlying reddish brown silty clay subsoil. The archaeological features and deposits were evident below the subsoil.
- 5.1.3 The solid geology beneath the Site is Cretaceous Upper Chalk (GSGB 1981). In areas of plough-truncation, clean, jointed chalk lay directly beneath ploughsoil. On the edges of the overlying Clay-with-Flints, the upper surface of the chalk was un-truncated and marred by solution features, typically filled with sterile mid-orange-brown clay. Some localised outcrops of pale grey-brown clay were also noted in association with lenses of pale sands and small quartz pebbles.
- 5.1.4 Approximately 45 predominantly Romano-British features were recorded. Mortuary-related features comprised 13 inhumation graves and two cremation-related deposits (one Bronze Age); agricultural and industrial activities were represented by large enclosure ditches, pits, 'working hollows' and an oven/kiln structure.
- 5.1.5 A number of tree-throw holes were also investigated.

### 5.2 Early/Middle Bronze Age

- 5.2.1 A small possible cenotaph (cut **9104**; **Plate 1**) – comprising a ceramic urn filled with fuel-ash and a very small quantity of cremated human bone – was found within the area between **Enclosures A** and **C**, adjacent to a Romano-British cemetery group (see below). The truncated urn (ON 7278) dates broadly to the Early/Middle Bronze Age.

### 5.3 Romano-British

#### *Mortuary activity*

- 5.3.1 **Table 1 (Appendix I)** presents a summary of the form and contents of the inhumation graves.
- 5.3.2 Thirteen inhumation graves were found in the northern half of the Site, all associated with the complex of Romano-British enclosures (**Figure 2**). The graves comprised a small cemetery group, a pair and two outliers. The cemetery group lay only 5-6m to the west of a group of four Romano-British graves found in the previous excavation. The remainder were located in an area of similarly dispersed pairs and singletons, with both Romano-British and *Durotrigian* burial 'styles' exemplified (Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011; Farwell and Molleson 1993; Smith *et al* 1997).
- 5.3.3 The cemetery comprised nine inhumation graves; seven east-west graves were arranged in a north-northeast to south-southwest row, with two north-south examples inserted on either side. The paired graves were found c. 5m to the south-east of the cemetery, and positioned less than a metre apart. The two outliers were approximately 16m to the south-east of the cemetery, sited c. 5m apart on either side of the northern section of **Enclosure A**.



- 5.3.4 The complete Romano-British style graves were generally sub-rectangular in plan, with straight, steep to vertical sides and flat based. The well-defined cuts ranged between 1.73m–2.73m in length (average 2.34m), 0.63m–1.13m (average 0.84m) in width, and between 0.19m and 0.85m in depth (average 0.52m).
- 5.3.5 All the inhumation burials in the small cemetery and one of the outliers were made in the extended and supine to slightly flexed on one side. Evidence for coffins (iron nails, brackets and fittings) was present in all but the highly truncated grave **9052** (e.g. grave **9126**; **Plate 2**). Clusters of iron hobnails were found at the feet of seven of the Romano-British burial remains. A bone pin (ON 7023) accompanied the remains of a subadult (grave **9052**).
- 5.3.6 Complete, articulated immature sheep skeletons were found in four graves within the cemetery group – **9093** (burial of possible female, c.45-55 years); **9124** (juvenile c. 10 years; **Plate 3**); two adult male burials **9155** and **9196** (c. 35-50 yr.). Whilst sheep/goat remains have been recorded in some numbers in Late Iron Age and Romano-British funerary contexts in southern England, they are most commonly found as partial skeletons (Morris 2011, 91). To have four articulated examples from a small cemetery group (44.4% of graves) is therefore worthy of note.
- 5.3.7 Three burials had been made in the local *Durotrigian* style with legs acutely flexed (to the right in these examples). Two of the corpses had been placed on their right side, whilst the other was more supine. The paired burials were aligned with the head to the west; the reverse was true of the singleton (grave **9090**; **Plate 4**). The latter also contained a mid-2nd century samian cup (ONs 7024 and 7025), and an iron object (ON 7026), whilst the pair were unaccompanied and therefore of undetermined date.
- 5.3.8 The *Durotrigian* style graves ranged between 1.11m and 1.4m in length, averaging 1.27m. The average width was 0.76m, ranging from 0.7m to 0.9m, and depths were substantially shallower than their Romano-British style counterparts at 0.1–0.2m (average 0.16m).

#### *Enclosure ditches*

- 5.3.9 **Enclosure A**, evidently one of the earliest in the Romano-British sequence, comprised an internal sub-square ditched enclosure with a concentric outer ditch, separated by approximately 2.5–6.5m. The latter was probably recut at least once, and was at times hedged and/or left unmaintained. The overall area enclosed was around 44m x 42m (internal area c. 30m x 30m). The recent excavations revealed large portions of both ditches (**9172**, groups **9206**, **9207** and **9212**). Evidence suggests some deliberate decommissioning via infilling, whilst upper, tertiary fills included material from later activity (see below).
- 5.3.10 The south-east corner of the internal ditch was clearly discernable, and it is currently supposed that group **9209** represents a continuation of the north-eastern corner, though the corner itself appears to have been truncated away. The terminus at the western end or group **9209** indicates that an entrance existed approximately 8.5m from to the north-east corner, coinciding with an internal subdivision.
- 5.3.11 The outer ditch appears to have been a three sided affair, the northern and southern ditches terminating at the eastern ends – theoretically allowing easy access to the area between the inner and outer ditches (no evidence for a bank here). Though not contiguous with the other enclosure ditches, the gently curving north–south ditch to the east (**4161**, previous excavation) may still have had an associated function.



- 5.3.12 Features **9175** and **9176** were probably the remnants of tree-throw holes contemporaneous with the outer enclosure ditch 'use' sequence (south-east terminus **9172** and **9212**).
- 5.3.13 At least two different phases of access route alterations were evidenced. Initially the entrance into the internal enclosure was made impassable by a broad south-east–north-west ditch, cut along the northern edge (group **9210**). An abundance of artefacts including various objects including an iron knife blade were recovered from a number of fills. Subsequently, probably in the 3rd-4th century, south-southwest–north-northeast ditch **9006** was inserted. It was most likely part of ditch **4431** (previous excavation).
- 5.3.14 Truncated by **9006**, pit **9016** (1.27m x 0.75m x 0.33m) was a sub-square feature with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Contents comprised a mid-yellowish-brown sandy clay fill with a few scraps of late Roman pottery and animal bone. A decorated copper alloy disc (ON 7015) was also recovered.
- 5.3.15 Grave **9090**, containing a *Durotrigian* style burial, was located in the area between the northern sections of the internal and outer ditches. Grave **9202**, containing a Romano-British style burial was cut along the external edge of the northern outer ditch.
- 5.3.16 **Enclosure B** continued as predicted (group **9208**), with the additional excavation allowing the recovery of early-mid Roman pottery, and ascertained that **Enclosure B** post-dated the outer ditch of **Enclosure A**. It is not clear if the narrow east–west ditch was an internal division or a continuation of ditch **4161** (see above).
- 5.3.17 A well-defined, 0.45m deep, 3m long ditch section probably represented the south-east corner of an enclosure ditch (**9026**; **Enclosure F**; **Plate 5**), similar to the enclosure extensions already recorded (e.g. **Enclosure C**). Its location at the northern edge of the Site implies that the majority of the enclosure extends beyond the limit of excavation to the north. The nature and alignment of the feature suggests that it is contemporaneous with the other enclosure ditches, and may well have similar associated features yet to be discovered (e.g. graves and structures). The dispersed pattern of evaluation trenches were such that this enclosure was not encountered previously (Egging and Bradley 2011, figs 1.2-1.4). Struck flint recovered from the single dark clay-loam fill is most likely residual.
- 5.3.18 North–south ditch **9076** was a continuation of **Enclosure C4** (**4360**), which terminated just short of the outer ditch of **Enclosure A**. It also cuts a small undated pit **9079**, and forms the western boundary of the Romano-British cemetery group.
- 5.3.19 Ditch group **9211** ran parallel to and on the western and northern side of **9076**, separated by approximately 1.75m. It appears to be a continuation of the small portion of ditch identified in far north of Area 4 (part of **Enclosure C4**).
- 5.3.20 As well as a good sized pottery assemblage, much of the animal bone assemblage derives from **Enclosures A and B** ditches. The **Enclosure A** ditch in particular contained a variety of artefacts, including vessel glass, a lead plumb-bob, an antler cut-off, a limestone mortar, building debris and a fragment of rotary quernstone. Metal brooches and other similar artefacts were also found in the earlier enclosure, whilst in the previous excavation an enamelled silver brooch was found in the ditch fill of **Enclosure B**.



*Later activity*

- 5.3.21 A series of five intercutting features including four distinct pits was found in the north of the Site, situated on the outer edge of **9076**, and truncating ditch group **9211**, effectively blocking parts of **Enclosure C1-4** and its access routes.
- 5.3.22 The earliest pits in the sequence were **9056** (0.80m diameter x 0.85m deep) and **9068** (0.8m x 0.95m, truncated to 0.18m deep). Both were approximately circular in plan, steep sides and flat based, with an initial natural infilling. In pit **9056** a layer of chalk nodules (9058), possibly from collapse of the sides, interrupted otherwise gradual infilling. Evidence for function and date is sparse.
- 5.3.23 Larger pit **9030** (1.6m x 1.7m x 1.1m) truncated pit **9056**. The single fill comprised a richer deliberate deposit including late Roman pottery and bone.
- 5.3.24 Feature **9063** (fill **9064**; c. 1.9m x 1m x 0.25m) post-dated both **9030** and **9068**, and probably represents an accumulation of sediments following the settling of pit contents i.e. a tertiary fill or spread.
- 5.3.25 The last in the series was pit **9065**, another steep-sided, flat-based pit c. 1.75m x 1m x 0.65m. Initial fill **9066** was the darkest of all those seen in the feature series, suggesting a greater organic content. The subsequent fill appears to have been deliberate, though devoid of dateable artefacts.
- 5.3.26 The sub-rectangular probable working hollow (**9205**) associated with industrial activity was approximately 6.5m x 4.5m and c. 0.2m deep. A layer of dark silty clay rich in charcoal, occupation debris and iron slag filled the hollow, overflowing in places. The pottery assemblage includes middle and late Roman examples, as well as a residual Bronze Age sherd. A c. 0.4m wide run-off gully, possibly originating at the quarry pit to the north-east, led downslope, terminating at and presumably emptying into partially infilled ditch **9206** (enclosure A). Its exact relationship to the hollow is not clear.
- 5.3.27 Approximately 21m to the south-east of **9205** were three pits **9020**, **9022** and **9024**. Ranging from 1.29m–0.72m long, 1.11m–0.62m wide and from 0.09m–0.19m deep, these three sub-circular pits (arranged north-south in a 5.27m line) were filled with very similar charcoal and finds rich deposits, including quantities of late Roman pottery, slag, and two iron objects (ON 7019 and 7260; fill **9025**). The excavator describes the fill as having been dumped whilst still warm, though provides no evidence for this. Two of these pits truncate ditch group **9206** (**Enclosure A**).
- 5.3.28 The remains of a mid-late Romano-British oven or kiln feature was recorded within the confines of enclosure B, its keyhole construction cut (**9032**; 2.64m x 1.14m, 0.54m deep; **Plate 6–9**) cutting through boundary ditch **4405** (previous excavation). The cut was lined with sandstone, shelly limestone blocks and occasional flint – the chamber area formed with facing stones and mortar, and the flue area was more roughly constructed of coarser blocks (**9033**). A large iron bar found upright on the left side of the chamber entrance (ON 7020) was probably a door hinge.
- 5.3.29 The use-period of the oven/kilns was represented by a charcoal rich deposit containing fired clay (**9035**; 0.18m thick, 0.68m x 0.62m) covering the base and facing stones of the chamber.
- 5.3.30 Deposit **9036** comprised 0.2m deep layer of chalk rubble and silty clay matrix, probably used to deliberately infill the oven/kiln chamber.





- 5.3.31 Silty, gradually deposited fill **9037** (0.19m thick) was indicative of disuse, having accumulated within the flue region of the feature and, overlapping the chalky chamber infill (see above). A few artefacts including fired clay, mixed Roman pottery and charcoal were recovered.
- 5.3.32 Chalk rubble deposit **9038** was likely the result of the collapse of the superstructure, while finds rich final fill **9031** represented the backfilling of the remaining hollow. A copper alloy coin (ON 7018) suggests layer **9031** was deposited no earlier than the mid-late 3rd century AD (see below).
- 5.3.33 Approximately 0.5m to the north-west of and parallel to the oven/kiln was a shallow hollow of similar shape and proportions **9072** (2.63m x 0.97m, 0.08m deep). The light greyish brown silty clay fill was dominated by compacted chalk rubble, and included pottery and stone – some possibly burnt. This may have been a working surface similar to the one associated with grain dryer **12049** (**12048**; previous excavation) within **Enclosure A+**.

## 5.4 Modern

- 5.4.1 A distinct circular post-hole (**9129**; c. 0.75m x 0.81m, 0.09m deep) packed solidly with sterile chalk was found on the eastern edge of a large sub-rectangular patch of sand and debris (c. 8.19m x 7.89m; unexcavated). Both were considered to be modern.

## 5.5 Features of uncertain date

- 5.5.1 Cremation-related deposit **9096** was deposited in a small circular post-hole type feature **9095** (0.32m x 0.29m, between 0.2 and 0.6m deep), though it was difficult to ascertain the base level due to it being cut into a solution hollow. Very little cremated bone was recovered suggesting it may have been redeposited pyre debris. It may be possible to date the feature via radiocarbon dating.
- 5.5.2 A small concave-sided, flat-based pit **9079** (1.74m x 0.70m x 0.21m; incomplete) pre-dates Romano-British **Enclosure C4**. No other dating evidence was recovered.
- 5.5.3 No dateable remains were recovered from the six investigated tree-throw holes.

## 6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This section considers the finds evidence recovered from the Site. The excavation produced an assemblage of moderate size, amongst which pottery and animal bone are the most commonly occurring material types. Also included is a group of human remains from a small inhumation cemetery of Romano-British date, with associated grave goods (pottery vessels, hobnailed footwear, animal burials) and a significant amount of metal coffin furniture (nails and other fittings). The overall assemblage is largely of Romano-British date, with a smaller prehistoric component; to a great extent it mirrors the larger assemblage recovered from the surrounding sites of Poundbury Farm (Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011).
- 6.1.2 **Table 2 (Appendix I)** gives the breakdown of the assemblage by material type, and the following section describes the finds, also by material type. As part of this assessment stage, all finds have been at least briefly visually scanned and basic details of identifications and potential date ranges recorded. All details are held in the project database (Access).



## 6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery assemblage is predominantly of Romano-British date, although a few Early/Middle Bronze Age pieces and a single post-medieval sherd are also included. The assemblage survives in moderate condition, and is mostly very fragmentary, with no reconstructable profiles, although one more or less complete vessel survived in a middle Roman grave context. Overall, the mean sherd weight is just 11.8g
- 6.2.2 In line with material recovered during previous phases of fieldwork at Poundbury Farm (Leivers 2011; Seager Smith 2011), the whole assemblage has been subject to a quantified scan. Fabrics have been defined on the basis of their predominant inclusion types (e.g. grog-tempered ware), or, for the Romano-British period, assigned to broad, 'catch-all' groups (e.g. greywares, oxidised wares) or to specific sources and styles (e.g. New Forest colour-coated ware). These totals are given in **Table 3**. Within each fabric, the number and type of diagnostic vessel forms has also been recorded, while spot-dates were assigned to both individual wares and to context groups as a whole.

### *Early/Middle Bronze Age*

- 6.2.3 A small group of sherds in grog-tempered fabrics are likely to belong within this period. These include the lower part of a fairly thick-walled, vertically-sided vessel (1053g), used to contain the cremated human remains found in grave **9104 (Plate 1)**. This flat-based vessel survives to a height of c. 90mm but is not sufficiently diagnostic to date with any precision, as the use of grog as a tempering agent has a long currency in south Dorset, beginning in the Beaker and Collared Urn traditions of the Early Bronze Age, and continuing on, into the Deverel-Rimbury tradition and associated ceramic forms of the Middle Bronze Age (Cleal 1997, 88).
- 6.2.4 The eight remaining sherds, all plain bodies without diagnostic features, were found residually in Romano-British features (pit **9117** and in the backfill of graves **9079** and **9126**).

### *Romano-British*

- 6.2.6 The Romano-British pottery, totalling 2185 sherds (24.868kg), is predominantly of earlier Roman (1st to early/mid-3rd century AD) date, with smaller amounts of later 3rd to 4th century AD material. In common with all other assemblages from Dorchester (Davies and Hawkes 1987, 117-128; Seager Smith 1992; 1993a and b; 1997; 2002; 2008; 2011; Seager Smith and Davies 1993), this material is dominated by Black Burnished wares from the Wareham/Poole Harbour region, with a very limited range of Continental and regional imports and other relatively local wares. The relatively small sherd size is also in keeping with other assemblages from sites in the immediate vicinity (e.g. Seager Smith 1997, 102, table 8 and 226; 2011, 97).
- 6.2.7 Imported tablewares are limited to samian, two pieces of probable mid-1st century AD Terra Rubra from the backfill of grave 9090 and a single sherd from a late 2nd–3rd century AD *Moselkeramik* beaker from layer 9121. The samian comprises products from Southern and Central Gaulish sources, including form 18, 18/31 and 31 dishes and bowls, form 33 and 35 cups and bowl forms 29, 37 and 38. Two vessels (plain South Gaulish body sherds from feature 9085 and a Central Gaulish form 75 bowl from ditch 9206) have post-firing perforations indicative of repair, probably with metal staples. Three vessels are stamped; one, a complete form 33 cup from grave 9090, reads TETTVR, and is die 3- a of Tetturo who worked at Lezoux c. AD 135 - 165 (Hartley and Dickinson 2012, 53-4), while the second, on a Central Gaulish form 31 base from ditch **9158** reads JTIVI:M, die 2a of Aestivus, also of Lezoux and dated to c. AD 155-195 (Hartley and Dickinson 2008, 87-91).



Only a single letter of the third stamp survives, V[ on a Central Gaulish dish base found in feature 9212.

- 6.2.8 Only two sherds of amphora were recovered, one from ditch 9008 and the other from the backfill of grave 9154. Both are of the ubiquitous Dressel 20 type, which carried olive oil from southern Spain to all parts of the western empire from the mid-1st until the mid-3rd century AD. Mortaria, too, are uncommon with most of the north Gaulish sherds being from a single Bushe-Fox 26-30 type vessel (1913, 77, fig. 19, 26-30), found in ditch **9135** and dated to c. AD 80-150. The remaining north Gaulish sherd was from gully **9172**, while the rim of a 2nd century AD wall-sided mortarium from the Rhineland (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 222, WA 315) was found in ditch **9208**.
- 6.2.9 The South-western fine micaceous greyware sherds are all from a single globular-bodied jar with an upright rim, found in ditch **9208**. These wares form part of the standard range of products found in Dorchester and widely across south-western Britain (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 283) and are dated from the late 1st to late 2nd/early 3rd century AD. The only other British finewares comprise late 3rd to 4th century AD products of the Oxfordshire and New Forest industries. Although all from red-slipped ware bowl forms, none of the Oxfordshire products (ditch **9006**, pits **9002** and **9024** and group **9205**) were sufficiently complete to assign to particular forms. The New Forest wares, on the other hand, included pieces from both red-slipped bowls (6 sherds) and dark colour-coated flagons and beakers; these wares also occurred in ditch **9006** and group **9205** as well as pit **9030** and oven/kiln **9032**.
- 6.2.10 No featured sherds were recorded amongst the oxidised wares, a 'catch-all' fabric group used to record all unprovenanced white/orange/buff firing fabrics. These wares also form part of the standard range of products seen in Dorchester (Seager Smith 1993 a and b, 1997, 2002, 2008; Seager Smith and Davies 1993) and are likely to span the entire Roman period. Most of the sherds probably derive from flagons although a smaller number of bowl sherds may be included.
- 6.2.11 One sherd of sandy grey coarseware was found in ditch **9208**, but otherwise the remainder of the assemblage comprises the various Black Burnished ware fabrics: South-east Dorset (Wareham/Poole Harbour) Black Burnished wares, South-western Black Burnished wares and the coarse, shale-rich and often oxidized latest Roman fabric (fabric E107, now known as South-east Dorset orange wiped ware – Gerrard 2010). Fabric proportions for this site and comparisons with the previous Poundbury Farm assemblage (Seager Smith 2011, 98, table 5.9) and other sites in the Dorchester area are shown in **Table 4 (Appendix 1)**.
- 6.2.12 For these fabrics, the vessel forms were recorded using the type series set up for the Dorchester area (Seager Smith and Davies 1993). As always, jars are represented by the widest range of types (WA types 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 18 and 47) and span the entire Roman period, with smaller numbers of 1st to 2nd century AD round-bodied open bowls (WA types 13, 15, 16, 33, 73 and 76), and straight-sided bowls and dishes (WA types 20, 22, 24 and 25) dating from the mid-2nd century AD onwards. Miscellaneous forms include lids (WA 26) and flagons (WA 29). The sizes and proportions of the vessels all conform to those suggested by Gillam (1976) and Davies and Hawkes (1987), while the techniques of surface treatment and decoration follow the generalized 'rules' described elsewhere (Farrar 1973, 76-8; Gillam 1976; Williams 1977; Seager Smith and Davies 1993). One new form (designated WA 109) occurs in this assemblage; a straight-sided dish (or possibly a lid), with a flat, inward sloping rim and a flat base which may represent a for-runner of the standard straight-sided, flat-flanged bowl/dish (WA 22). It is represented by a



single sherd made in a standard Wareham/Poole Harbour fabric, found alongside others of mid/late 1st century AD date in ditch **9080**.

- 6.2.13 With the exception of the unnaturally high levels of imported mortaria caused by the freshly broken North Gaulish rim from ditch 9135, the relative proportions of the main fabric families in this and other Dorchester assemblages are directly comparable (**Table 5; Appendix 1**).
- 6.2.14 Overall, then, the combined Poundbury Farm assemblage closely resembles that from the Western Link road, its nearest neighbour, while other rural sites in the *Durnovaria* hinterland (Alington Avenue and the Dorchester By-Pass sites) show similarly high levels of coarsewares with lower levels of imported fine- and specialist (amphorae and mortaria) wares than seen in the urban assemblages from Greyhound Yard, Wessex Court and the former hospital site. The peripheral, 'sub-urban' County Hall assemblage falls somewhere between. The British finewares (predominantly New Forest and Oxfordshire wares) remain relatively steady throughout, at 2-3% of the assemblages, except for the By-Pass where only one site, Maiden Castle Road (Seager Smith 1997, 115-116) extended into the late Roman period. Clearly, in this area, the Black Burnished potters enjoyed such an overwhelming dominance of the market that there was little room for anything other than 'specialist' vessels such as mortaria, amphorae, fine tablewares, flagons and a few curiosities, at least until the Late Roman period when evidence from other Dorchester assemblages indicates that a slightly wider range of fabrics were reaching the town.

#### *Post-medieval*

- 6.2.15 The single post-medieval sherd, a coarse, internally-glazed redware body, came from the filling of natural feature **9181**.

### **6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

- 6.3.1 A small quantity of CBM, was recovered, all of Romano-British date. This includes identifiable fragments of *tegula* and *imbrex* roof tiles. Most fragments, however, are not attributable to specific types, although two fragments (both from ditch **9207** in **Enclosure A**), on the basis of thickness, fall into the category of 'bricks' rather than 'tiles'.
- 6.3.2 A range of fabric types are represented (although detailed fabric descriptions have not been recorded). Most fabrics are relatively fine-textured, but some fragments are particularly poorly wedged, while others contain sparse fragments of flint and other coarse inclusions. Colours range from pale orange to orange-red.

### **6.4 Fired Clay**

- 6.4.1 Only a very small amount of fired clay was found, comprising small, abraded and featureless fragments. These are of uncertain date and function, although the likelihood is that they are structural in origin, deriving from hearth/pit linings or upstanding structures.

### **6.5 Stone**

- 6.5.1 The stone includes portable objects and possible building material. The portable objects comprise a small fragment from a greensand rotary quern (ditch **9207** in Enclosure A), and part of a small, shallow mortar in Purbeck limestone, with a height of c. 50mm and an original diameter of c. 150mm (ditch **9206** in **Enclosure A**). The mortar is of a common Romano-British form, and parallels can be found, for example, at Greyhound Yard in Dorchester (Mills and Woodward 1993, figs. 81-2).



6.5.2 Three small fragments of fine-grained sandstone, one micaceous, could represent roof tiles (ditch **9006**, oven/kiln **9032**, working hollow **9205**).

6.5.3 The remaining stone comprised burnt, unworked fragments, all of limestone.

## **6.6 Worked Flint**

6.6.1 A small assemblage of worked flints, comprising 142 pieces from 37 contexts, including one unstratified group, was recovered during the excavation and has been quantified. This low density of material, averaging four pieces per context, was dominated by flakes, which accounted for 82 % of the collection, with a small number of scrapers and retouched pieces (9%) supplemented by 7% blades. Only two cores accounting for 1% of the assemblage were recovered.

6.6.2 No attempts were made to relate collections to individual excavated features. The condition of the individual artefacts suggests that none of the material was from a primary context. Edge damage was present on most material and surface patina varied within each group suggesting that all but the smallest amount had been reworked into later features. There was, in addition, nothing to indicate that any of collections contained microdebitage (chips) or refitting material.

6.6.3 The quantification suggests that this assemblage is no more than a representative sample of flint working from the Poundbury area, an area that is well documented by well stratified collections from pits dating from the Early Neolithic into the Bronze Age. One aspect of this tradition from the area is that of industrial activity, using large nodules of flint, which are prevalent in the area, in the Early Neolithic for core tool production. This element of flint working is represented in the collection by a probable core tool rough-out from ditch **9206 (Enclosure A)**. Of the remainder the assemblage reflects residue of domestic flaking such as might be expected from a domestic situation and represented in the retouched tool component by scrapers and knives. None of the collection is of sufficient quantity to warrant detailed consideration for additional study.

## **6.7 Glass**

6.7.1 The three pieces of glass recovered are all Romano-British, and all three pieces came from ditch fills within **Enclosure A** (ditches **9207**, **9209**). All are in a very pale greenish glass. One is from an everted, flame-rounded rim of approximately 80mm diameter, while a second has an applied cordon. The third is a featureless body wall fragment.

## **6.8 Slag**

6.8.1 A small quantity of slag (1.232kg) was recovered, all from certain or probable Romano-British contexts. With the exception of one piece (41g) from hollow **9205**, which is relatively dense and possibly smelting slag, all the material is likely to derive from iron smithing. It comprises fragmentary, amorphous and generally quite vesicular slag, some contexts also containing very small amounts of fired clay, fuel ash slag and probable hearth lining. No complete or fragmentary smithing hearth bottoms (SHBs) were present.

6.8.2 The largest quantity of slag (823g) came from three contexts (**9118**, **9120** and **9121**) in hollow **9205**, with smaller amounts from pit **9022** (206g) and pit **9024** (203g). These tiny quantities may indicate small scale iron working in the vicinity, though the material may be residual or redeposited and derive from activity further away.

6.8.3 Two concentrations, albeit small, of smithing slag were recorded in the earlier excavations, the nearest concentration (including SHB fragments) approximately 40m to



the north-east of hollow **9205** and a similar distance north of pits **9022** and **9024** (Marter Brown and Mephem 2011, 103).

## 6.9 Coins

- 6.9.1 Two coins were recovered from the site (**Table 5, Appendix 1**). Both are copper alloy issues of the late Roman period, and both show signs of heavy pre-depositional wear. The earlier of the two (oven/kiln **9032**) is an irregular or 'Barbarous' copy of a radiate *antoninianus* of the Emperor Claudius II (AD 268 – 270). The second coin (ditch terminal **9134**) is also a contemporary copy, this time of a 'Fallen Horseman' issue of the House of Constantine. Both of these coins 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.

## 6.10 Metalwork

- 6.10.1 Apart from the coins, the metalwork comprises objects of copper alloy, lead and iron.

### *Copper alloy*

- 6.10.2 The copper alloy includes five personal items: two brooches, two armlets and two pins. Both brooches came from **Enclosure A** (ditch **9206**); one is a T-shaped brooch, and the other a headstud brooch with traces of blue enamelled decoration on the bow, both of late 1st or early 2nd century type. Both the armlets are of cable type, one of two strands, with original diameter of c. 60mm, of which approximately half survives (ditch **9210**), and the second of three strands, broken at both ends and opened out (context **9165**). One of the pins is very small, and heavily abraded, it has a flattened round head (ditch **9208** in **Enclosure B**). The second pin is bent over at the top, and is missing the head (ditch **9206, Enclosure A**).
- 6.10.3 Other objects comprise two strip fragments, and a small sheet fragment which may belong to one of these, all from the same context (ditch **9006**); a short length of wire, possibly a pin shank (ditch **9206**); and an irregular disc with an off-centre perforation and incised radiating lines around the edge (pit **9016**).

### *Lead*

- 6.10.4 The two pieces of lead recovered both came from ditch **9209**. One is a plumb-bob, and the other a large lump of waste.

### *Iron*

- 6.10.5 Roughly three-quarters of the iron objects came from grave contexts (912 objects out of 1292). Of these grave objects, 287 are coffin nails, and 600 are hobnails from footwear buried with the individuals (there are also two cleats from one set of footwear). A further 18 are fittings, comprising angle brackets; these were largely restricted to a single grave (**9126**; 14 brackets), with a smaller group from grave **9199** (4 brackets). Similar, but not identical, brackets were found in one grave in Area 4 of the previous excavations (Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011, fig. 3.19).
- 6.10.6 The coffin nails were found in nine of the inhumation graves excavated, ranging in number from 16 to 45. They appear to be mainly of flat-headed type (Poundbury type 1a: Mills 1993, 115), but lengths vary. Mineralised wood is present on many of the nails; some nails are bent at right angles. Ten nails were found *in situ* on the angle brackets in graves **9126**



and **9199**, and further nails from those graves would have been used to secure these fittings. Others could have been used to secure the coffin itself.

- 6.10.7 Hobnails were found in eight graves, ranging in number from 12 to 169, although all but one grave produced more than 50 hobnails. In all cases this represents hobnailed footwear.
- 6.10.8 Iron from non-grave contexts, as for the grave assemblage, consists largely of nails (at least 78 nails/nail fragments) and hobnails (101). Other structural items are represented by a U-staple, a joiner's dog, a socketed hook and a right-angled strip with a nail through one end. There is also a possible rove from pit **9022**, amongst a group of nails, hobnails and miscellaneous fragments which were associated with iron smithing waste. Other identifiable objects include an incomplete knife blade (ditch **9210**), a possible awl and a possible socketed tool (both from working hollow **9205**).

### 6.11 Worked Bone

- 6.11.1 As well as the antler off-cut from ditch **9206** (see below), one worked bone object was found as a grave good in grave **9052**. It has a roughly spherical head, and the shaft has a slight median swelling; it falls within Crummy's type 3 pins, which is the best represented type at Colchester, the majority of which were found in late 3rd or 4th century contexts (Crummy 1983, 21-2; fig. 19, no. 252).

### 6.12 Animal bone

- 6.12.1 The assemblage comprises 1078 fragments (or 7.586kg) of animal bone, however once conjoins and ABGs are taken into account this falls to 660 fragments. Most of the animal bone comes from ditches forming enclosures A and B, with small amounts from a few pits and four ABGs from graves.
- 6.12.2 The assemblage was rapidly scanned and the following information recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

#### *Results*

- 6.12.3 Bone preservation is extremely good, cortical surfaces are intact and fine surface details such as cut marks, are clear and easily observed. Gnaw marks were observed on less than 3% of fragments. This is a low count and suggests that the majority of bones were rapidly buried out of the reach of scavenging dogs.
- 6.12.4 The assemblage includes bones from ten different species (**Table 6**). Sheep/goat bones are common, and include disarticulated remains from the enclosure ditches and pits, and four ABGs from graves. The latter are all complete skeletons and are summarised in **Table 7**. Cattle bones are also fairly common, followed by horse and then pig. Most of the bones from these three species come from **Enclosure A**.
- 6.12.5 Less common species include dog, red deer, cat, domestic fowl, *passerine* (ie. small garden bird), and frog. The dog and red deer remains are also from enclosure A, while the bird bones are from graves and the cat bone is from a pit. Red deer is represented by two pieces of antler, one of which is an off-cut from object manufacture (**Enclosure A**, ditch **9206**).



### 6.13 Other Finds

- 6.13.1 Other finds comprise two pieces of burnt, unworked flint; a fragment of unworked shale; and a few fragments of marine shell (oyster and cockle).

### 6.14 Cremated human bone

#### *Introduction*

- 6.14.1 Cremated bone from two contexts was subject to a rapid assessment scan. The nature of both deposits is slightly enigmatic, and the date of one is inconclusive (**9105**) whilst that of the second (**9096**) is unknown. The former comprised a charcoal-rich deposit contained within the remains of an upright vessel of probable Early/Middle Bronze Age date; this is likely to represent a cenotaph deposit. The latter, an unurned charcoal-rich deposit of uncertain form, is undated. Both lay in close proximity (1.50m distant and juxta) to graves within the small, Romano-British inhumation burial group.

- 6.14.2 The remains of several Middle Bronze Age cremation burials, one urned and three unurned, were reported from earlier excavations in the vicinity (McKinley 2011). The two nearest graves lay c. 60-70m to the south-west of the features reported here (**4098** and **4092**; Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011, fig. 2.1).

#### *Methods*

- 6.14.3 The vessel (ON 7278) was block-lifted on site to enable micro-excavation under laboratory conditions by the writer. The fill was excavated as a series of three quadranted spits to enable recovery of details pertaining to the burial formation process.
- 6.14.4 The bone was subject to a rapid scan to assess its condition, demographic data and the presence of pathological lesions. Assessments of age and sex were based on standard methodologies (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). The probable nature of the deposits was also assessed from the bone data and site context records (see above).

#### *Results*

- 6.14.5 A summary of the results is presented in **Table 8**.
- 6.14.6 Neither feature had been cut by later interventions but the Bronze Age deposit (cut **9104**) had clearly been truncated (surviving depth 0.10m) and the presence of archaeological components at surface level in cut **9095** indicates it had suffered by a similar mechanism, though this need not have been sufficient to result in the loss of much, if any, bone from either deposit. The bone from cut **9104** is slightly worn in appearance, and neither context is inclusive of much trabecular bone (subject to preferential destruction in aggressive burial environments).
- 6.14.7 A minimum of one individual is represented. Neither of the deposits appears to represent the remains of a burial and, until securely dated to indicate otherwise, they could be of commensurate date, consequently, the archaeological components within each deposit could have derived from the same cremation. No pathological lesions were observed in this rapid scan.
- 6.14.8 Most of the bone is white in colour, indicative of full oxidation of the bone. No pyre goods were observed. The micro-excavation of context 9105 indicates the small quantity of bone was dispersed throughout the charcoal-rich fill suggesting it formed a component of the redeposited pyre debris.



## 6.15 Unburnt human bone

### *Introduction*

6.15.1 Unburnt human bone from 13 graves, comprising the remains of 13 burials and redeposited bone from two graves was subject to assessment (**Table 9**). Artefacts from eleven graves indicate a Romano-British date. Nine burials had been made confined, whilst in three of the unconfined examples the corpse had been arranged in a flexed position, on their side (e.g. *Durotrigian* style). The graves – comprising a cluster with outliers – were located immediately adjacent to one of several small cemetery groups found in association with a rural Romano-British landscape during previous excavations (Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011).

### *Methods*

6.15.2 The bone was subject to a rapid scan to assess its condition, demographic data, potential for indices recovery and the presence of pathological lesions. Assessments of age and sex were based on standard methodologies (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Grading for bone preservation follows McKinley (2004a, fig 6).

### *Results*

6.15.3 A summary of the results is presented in **Table 9**.

6.15.4 Grave depths ranged between 0.06m and 0.85m, averaging 0.4m. The few examples of disturbance include a case of severe truncation by ploughing. Bone condition was very variable, both within individual skeletons and across the assemblage (**Table 9**), possibly reflecting the mixed nature of the geology – chalk, Clay-with-Flint, sand and gravel – though a multitude of factors can influence the grave micro-environment and bone preservation. More than 60% of the skeletal remains were recovered from ten graves; poor preservation and truncation account for the majority of bone loss.

6.15.5 A minimum of 14 individuals are represented in the assemblage, comprising eight adults (four males – one possible; four females – one possible, one probable), three subadults (one probable male), and two juveniles around 10-12 years (**Table 9**).

6.15.6 Pathological lesions were observed in the remains of 12 individuals, demonstrating a few traumas, non-specific infections, metabolic conditions, dental disease and various degenerative joint diseases.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A total of 21 bulk samples were taken from a range of features mainly of Romano-British date across the site to augment the samples from previous phases of work on the site. The samples from this phase of work were predominantly associated with grave or cremation related deposits. They were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains, wood charcoal and human bone.

7.1.2 The bulk samples break down into Romano-British and ?Bronze Age phase groups (**Table 10**).

### 7.2 Charred plant remains

7.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, the residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The 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 11**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3 and 5), for cereals.

- 7.2.2 The flots varied in size and there were generally low numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. The samples from oven **9032** however contained larger quantities of rooty material. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.
- 7.2.3 Charred cereal remains were recorded in varying quantities in all five samples from the oven and pits, with the richest assemblage coming from oven **9032**. These remains included grain and glume base fragments of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticumdicoccum/spelta*) and barley (*Hordeumvulgare*) grain and rachis fragments.
- 7.2.4 A high number of weed seeds were also recovered from Oven **9032** as well as hollow **9117**. The weed seed assemblages from the sampled oven and pits included seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), buttercups (*Ranunculus* sp.), meadow grass/cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), persicaria (*Persicaria* sp.), ribwort plantain (*Plantagolanceolata*) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). A hawthorn (*Crataegusmonogyna*) stone fragment was also noted in the sample from pit **9024**. The weed seeds are those of species typical of grassland, field margins or arable environments.
- 7.2.5 Very few charred remains were retrieved from the grave and cremation related deposits.
- 7.2.6 No charred remains were observed in the samples from the possible Bronze Age urned cremation deposits.
- 7.2.7 The charred plant assemblages from the oven and pits appear to be indicative of crop-processing waste and general settlement activity. The assemblages are comparable with others recovered from deposits of Romano-British date from previous phases of work on the site (Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011; Monk 1987).

### **7.3 Wood charcoal**

- 7.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Table 7. Large quantities of wood charcoal fragments > 4 mm were retrieved from hollow **9117** and pit **9024**. The fragments included round wood pieces. Very little wood charcoal > 2 mm was recovered from the other samples.
- 7.3.2 A few mineralised wood fragments were observed in the sample from grave **9126**.

## **8 FURTHER POTENTIAL**

### **8.1 Potential of the features**

- 8.1.1 The evidence from the Site has the potential to augment the understanding of the archaeological activity, as seen against the wider, well-known prehistoric and Romano-British landscape setting, and allowing comparisons to be made.
- 8.1.2 The prehistoric mortuary evidence of the area will be enhanced.



- 8.1.3 The Romano-British land divisions, industry and mortuary practices can be further investigated and clarified, enabling more informed interpretations.

## 8.2 Finds

### *Pottery*

- 8.2.1 The pottery assemblage contains some potential to further refine the dating of individual features and feature groups and to provide further quantified data directly comparable with that from other sites within *Durnovaria* and its hinterland.

### *Iron metalwork*

- 8.2.2 The assemblage of coffin nails and other grave furniture has the potential to inform on coffin construction and burial rites; comparable information is available for graves within the adjacent excavation areas (Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011) and in the wider Poundbury cemetery (Farwell and Molleson 1993).

### *Cremated human bone*

- 8.2.3 Full analysis of the bone may provide more detailed demographic data regarding the minimum number of individuals (MNI), and age; it is unlikely it will be possible to indicate the sex of the individual/s. Although no pathological lesions were observed in the scan it is possible that some will be recorded in a more detailed analysis.

- 8.2.4 The nature of some of the deposits is currently inconclusive; a more detailed analysis of the bone together with the context data and that from the other archaeological components may clarify these uncertainties and allow a better understanding of the range or mortuary features and deposits, and their place within the overall mortuary rite.

### *Unburnt human bone*

- 8.2.5 Analysis of the human skeletal remains will provide more detailed demographic data and confirm the number, age and sex of individuals. Information regarding intra- and infra- site homogeneity, health, lifestyle and potentially status will also be recovered, augmenting the results of the osteoarchaeological examination of the bone from the previous phase of works, and providing a more comprehensive record of the population that lived in the small rural Romano-British community near Poundbury Farm. These findings will also add to the corpus of data used to make inferences about their contemporaries in Dorchester and wider environs (Davies *et al* 2002; Egging Dinwiddy 2009; Egging Dinwiddy 2011, 110-132; Farwell and Molleson 1993; Smith *et al* 1997).

### *Animal bone*

- 8.2.6 The animal bone assemblage is not large, and to a great extent mirrors other Romano-British assemblages from the area, including the occurrence of ABGs in inhumation graves (e.g. Grimm 2011), however the nature of the ABGs warrants further consideration (Morris 2011). Some enhancement of the existing data will be necessary to ensure a consistent record.

### *Other finds*

- 8.2.7 Other finds occurred in much smaller quantities and their potential is correspondingly limited. Structural information (apart from the coffin nails) is scanty (ceramic and stone building material, iron nails and other structural items, possibly fired clay). There is limited functional evidence (single quern fragment, small amount of iron working slag which is not necessarily *in situ*, a handful of possible tools), and few personal items (two brooches, two armlets, three pins); one bone pin came from a grave context.



## 8.3 Environmental

### *Charred plant remains*

- 8.3.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages from oven **9032** and working hollow **9117** (group **9205**) has the potential to provide some information on the nature of the settlement, the surrounding environment and local agricultural practices and crop husbandry techniques during the Romano-British period.
- 8.3.2 The results of this analysis could augment the data for this period from earlier work on the site (Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011; Monk 1987) and from other sites in the local area, such as County Hall Collinton Park (Ede 1993), Allington Avenue (Jones and Straker 2002), County Hospital (Stevens 2008) and Greyhound Yard (Jones and Straker 1993) in Dorchester, and sites along the Dorchester bypass (Letts 1997; Straker 1997).

### *Wood charcoal*

- 8.3.3 The analysis of the wood charcoal from a selection of samples would provide information on the species composition and the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the site. It may also be possible to ascertain if there was any species selection for specific functions, such as within the assemblage from working hollow 9117 (**9205**) and pit 9124 possibly associated with iron working, and assist in determining the nature of any local funerary practices.
- 8.3.4 This information would augment the wood charcoal analysis from previous phases of work on the site and in the area.

## 9 AIMS AND METHODS

### 9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 Further stratigraphic, artefactual and ecofactual analysis, based on the relevant research questions as set out in the project design for the 2011 publication (WA 2008, 54-55), will enhance the corpus of archaeological data for the area to the west of Dorchester.

- *Burial and ritual practices characterisation:*

Establish the nature of the mortuary features; determine dates, patterns, and other relevant characteristics. Examine the demographics, health/status, and style of the burial remains. Compare the findings to those previously excavated on the Site, and if necessary further afield.

- *Enclosure and formalisation of the landscape:*

Illustrate the relationship between **Enclosures A** and **B**, and consider how they relate to the domestic and industrial activities, and other features in the landscape.

- *Agriculture, industry and settlement*

Highlight new findings from the most recent excavations, discuss the implications, notably the presence of more, similar archaeology extending north, missed by the evaluation trial trenching.

### 9.2 General

- 9.2.1 The report will be compiled utilising the information considered and published in 2011 (Egging Dinwiddy and Bradley), and any available recently acquired data, thereby setting the current findings in their temporal and spatial contexts.



9.2.2 An Access database and AutoCAD drawings have been constructed/added to, to facilitate rapid cross-examination and updating of the archive during the post-excavation analysis.

9.2.3 Once initial post-excavation analysis is completed, revisions may be made as necessary. With advice from the Post-excavation Manager, the publication text will be written and specialists will make their contributions. Illustrations will be prepared to accompany the report.

### 9.3 Artefacts

#### *Pottery*

9.3.1 As the composition of the assemblage is standard for the area, the sherds do not survive in especially good condition and most of the context/feature groups contain relatively few measurable featured sherds, the usefulness of full fabric/form analysis is considered to be limited. It is there recommended that the comments made in this report are used as the basis of any future publication, augmented by more detailed description, discussion and illustration of the two vessels from funerary contexts (the Early/Middle Bronze Age urn from grave **9104** and the samian cup from grave **9090**) and considerations of the complete assemblages from specific feature groups, such as quarry **4320/9206**, structure/working area **9205** and highlighting any similarities or differences in the date and/or nature of the material from Enclosures A, B and C, for example. The new Black Burnished ware vessel (WA 109) form should also be described and illustrated.

#### *Human bone*

9.3.2 All unsorted <4mm residues will be subject to a rapid scan to extract any identifiable material, osseous or artefactual.

9.3.3 Analysis of the cremated bone will follow the writer's standard procedure (McKinley 1994, 5-6; 2004a).

9.3.4 Taphonomic factors potentially affecting bone preservation will be assessed, and the minimum number of individuals represented in the assemblage will be calculated following McKinley 2004b. The age and where possible sex of individuals will be assessed using standard methodologies (Bass 1987; Beek 1983; Brothwell 1972; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Non-metric traits will be recorded (Berry and Berry 1967; Finnegan 1978), and a standard suite of measurements will be taken from the unburnt assemblage to enable the calculation of indices (Brothwell and Zakrzewski 2004). Pathological lesions will be recorded in text and via digital photography; some lesions may warrant photographing for publication purposes. It will be necessary to make X-radiographs of skeletal elements showing evidence of trauma and infection to ascertain as far as possible the full nature of the lesions.

9.3.5 The form and nature of the deposits containing cremated bone currently of uncertain type will be further considered in light of the osteological, other specialist and context data. Aspects of mortuary rites and pyre technology will be discussed in their geographic and temporal context.

9.3.6 In order for the osteological data to be set in its correct temporal context, it is recommended that samples from the two unaccompanied, undated burial remains **9040** and **9115**, and from both deposits of cremated bone be submitted for radiocarbon dating. If a suitable fragment of charcoal is available from cut **9104** it is recommended that the deposit be dated by this mechanism; should no suitable material be forthcoming a sample of cremated bone could be used. A sample of cremated bone from the uncontained deposit will also be submitted for dating.



#### *Metalwork*

- 9.3.7 The grave goods, coffin nails and other grave furniture will be further examined. The precise numbers of hobnails will be checked, and their positions within the graves examined, in an attempt to determine the type of footwear represented. A summary of this information will be incorporated in the overall grave catalogue, and the hobnails will be briefly discussed in text.
- 9.3.8 The length and type of each nail will be recorded, together with the presence of mineralised wood, and the position of any right-angled bends. Other fittings will be measured and described in catalogue-style entries, which will be incorporated into the overall grave catalogue along with summary information on the number and position of the coffin nails and hobnails. The positions of the nails and other fittings within the graves will be examined, with a view to speculating on coffin construction. Discussion will be primarily within the context of the wider Poundbury cemetery evidence. The coffin fittings (angle brackets) from graves **9126** (14) and **9199** (4) will be illustrated.
- 9.3.9 Consideration will also be given to any anomalously placed nails, perhaps representing apotropaic items deliberately placed within the grave.
- 9.3.10 Catalogue entries for metalwork from non-grave contexts will be enhanced as appropriate following conservation treatment (see below), and a short report will be prepared, comprising a brief description and discussion by type. The headstud brooch, one of the cable armlets, and up to two of the iron objects will be illustrated.

#### *Worked Bone*

- 9.3.11 No further analysis is necessary for the bone pin from grave 9052. The existing catalogue entry will be incorporated into the overall grave catalogue, and the object will be illustrated.

#### *Animal Bone*

- 9.3.12 The faunal assemblage merits further analysis to record detailed information relating to age, biometrics and butchery and the results summarised for publication. The report will consider the significance of the ABGs from graves and discuss the assemblage in relation to the much larger assemblage from previous excavations on the site (Grimm 2011) and in the local area.

#### *Other Finds*

- 9.3.13 Other finds do not warrant any further analysis, but the information gathered as part of this assessment phase, and presented in this report, may be summarised (including tabulation) for incorporation in the publication report.

### **9.4 Environmental**

#### *Charred plant remains*

- 9.4.1 It is proposed to analyse the charred plant remains from Romano-British oven **9032** and pit **9117**.
- 9.4.2 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) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by



Zohary and Hopf (2000, tables 3 and 5), for cereals and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate. They will be quantified and the results tabulated.

9.4.3 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a “P” in the analysis column in **Table 12**.

#### *Wood charcoal*

9.4.4 It is proposed to analyse the wood charcoal from Romano-British pits **9117** and **9024** and from two samples from cremation related deposit **9095**.

9.4.5 Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2mm residue together and the flot (>2mm). Larger richer samples will be sub-sampled. Fragments will be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Leney and Casteel (1975, see also Gale and Cutler 2000). Charcoal pieces will be fractured with a razor blade so that three planes can be seen: transverse section (TS), radial longitudinal section (RL) and tangential longitudinal section (TL). They will then be examined under bi-focal epi-illuminated microscopy at magnifications of x50, x100 and x400 using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Identification will be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980). Identification will be to the lowest taxonomic level possible, usually that of genus and nomenclature according to Stace (1997), individual taxon (mature and twig) will be separated, quantified, and the results tabulated.

9.4.6 The samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a “C” in the analysis column in **Table 12**.

## **10 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION**

### **10.1 Management structure**

10.1.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by Matt Leivers, Post-Excavation Manager, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the Project Specification, and achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary or scheduled.

10.1.2 The Post-Excavation Manager may delegate specific tasks of the project to key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the report, and the museum named as recipient of the project archive. The Post-Excavation Manager will have a major input into the writing of the report and will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

### **10.2 Designated project team**

10.2.1 It is proposed that Wessex Archaeology core staff and external specialists will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analyses. Wessex Archaeology reserves the right to replace any member of the named team at its discretion. The project will be managed by Matt Leivers, who will be responsible to the Team Leader, Analysis and Reporting.

### **10.3 Proposed publication and dissemination**

10.3.1 A report on the findings from the archaeological excavations will be published in an appropriate place. In this instance it is envisaged that the report will be published in the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*.



10.3.2 The proposed publication format is laid out below:

Summary	250 words
Introduction	400 words
Project background	
Geology and topography	
Archaeological background	
Previous work	
Fieldwork methodology	
The Archaeology	
Bronze Age	300 words
Romano-British	1500 words
Enclosures	
Domestic & industrial activity	
Mortuary activity	
Finds	
Pottery	1500 words
Animal bone	1000 words
Human bone – cremated, unburnt	3000 words
Other finds	750 words
Environmental remains	1000 words
Discussion	350 words
Appendices	
grave catalogue (8-10pt)	1300
Total	11350 words

10.3.3 The report will be accompanied by illustrations and tables as appropriate.

## 10.4 Task list

10.4.1 **Table 15** lists the tasks necessary to complete the proposed programme of post-excavation analyses and publication. Indications of which individuals will carry out the specific tasks are provisional. The quoted publication costs may change depending on a final decision regarding the content of the proposed publication. All costings are valid for the financial year 2014/15.

## 11 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 11.1 Museum

11.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Dorset County Museum, Dorchester. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner

### 11.2 Preparation of Archive

11.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, 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 (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).





11.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code (**60027**), and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 33 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 2 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
- 3 A1 graphics

### 11.3 Conservation

11.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects and shale.

11.3.2 Metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase, as a basic record and also to aid identification. On the basis of the X-rays, the range of objects present and their provenance on the Site, three objects have been selected for further conservation treatment, involving investigative cleaning and stabilisation (headstud brooch, possible awl, possible socketed implement). An assessment of the conservation requirements for these objects is presented in **Tables 13** and **14**.

11.3.3 The single piece of shale recovered, although possibly utilised, shows no clear signs of working, and as such does not warrant preservation (through freeze-drying) for long-term curation.

### 11.4 Discard policy

11.4.1 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.

11.4.2 In this instance, several categories of material can be targeted for discard, and the basis of quantity, condition and (lack of) intrinsic interest:

- *Ceramic Building Material*: small quantities, largely undiagnostic, diagnostic pieces of commonly occurring types; no pieces of intrinsic interest;
- *Fired Clay*: very small quantity of poorly preserved, undiagnostic material;
- *Burnt (unworked) stone and flint*: no potential for further analysis;
- *Metalwork*: iron objects inherently unstable; assemblage dominated by nails. As commonly occurring types, these do not warrant preservation for long-term curation, even those from grave contexts. Discard is proposed following further detailed recording;
- *Marine Shell*: very small quantity, insufficient for any further statistically valid analysis;
- *Shale*: unworked fragment.

11.4.3 All discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.



11.4.4 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

## **11.5 Copyright**

11.5.1 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 to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

## **11.6 Security Copy**

11.6.1 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.



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13 APPENDIX I: ALL TABLES

Table 1: Inhumation grave summary

cut	burial	fill	orientation (head end 1st)	grave shape	L	W	D	backfill	coffin? How?	posture	age/sex	grave goods
9039	9040	9041	NW-SE	sub-oval; irregular moderate sides, flat base	1.3	0.9	0.07	grey-orange sandy clay; frequent flint nodules, sand & gravel	no	flexed on right side, femora 90 degrees, heels to bottom; arms curved around to front resting over abdomen (Durotr)	adult >45 yr. ??male	NO
9052	9051	9050	E-W	incomplete; ?rectangular; concave shallow sides, flat base	0.9	0.35	0.06	light brown-orange silty-clay; flint, chalk & small stone inclusions	no sign	slightly flexed, turned slightly onto left side (RB)	subadult c. 13-17 yr.	hobnailed footwear (ON7021 left foot; ON 7022 right foot); bone pin ON7023
9090	9089	9091	SE-NW	sub-oval; concave steep-vertical sides, sloping base	1.4	0.67	0.2	mid-brown silty clay with sandy patches; some flint & rare chalk nodules; pottery, animal bone, struck flint	no	acutely flexed on right side; right knee to elbows, left slightly less flexed, heels to bottom; elbows at abdomen, on straight (?right) & other flexed, hand to face (Durotr)	1) adult c. 35-45 yr. 2) subadult c. 13-17yr	ceramic vessel ON7024 & refitting fragment ON7025 (under pelvis); ?iron object ON7026





9094	9093	9109 (AB G); 9092	E-W	rectangular; straight steep sides & flat base	2.55	0.84	0.3	9109 - see ABG; 9092 - orange- brown silty clay with sparse chalk, flint & gravel inclusions; flint flakes, charcoal flecks	yes; 36 iron nails: ON7027- 30, 7032-40, 7043-50, 7054-56; 7082, 7087- 91, 7095-7, 7101-7103	extended, supine, right leg slightly flexed to left, knees together; arms along side, left hand over pelvis, right hand at left elbow (RB)	adult c. 45-55 yr. ?femal e	hobnailed footwear (ON7102 left; ON7102 right; iron shoe fixtures ON7097 & 7101); ABG7104 - animal burial along right side, outside coffin, head at human hip, feet at human shoulder; appears back long coffin, legs at grave edge, skull awkwardly back/twisted round; <b>SHEEP</b>
9097	9098	9099	NE-SW	sub-rectangular; steep sides, flat base	2.7	1.1	0.85	mixed light-mid grey-brown silty clay; common chalk cobbles; pottery, worked flint	yes; 39 iron nails (ON7041-2, 7051, 7053, 7057-74, 7076-81, 7083-86, 7092-4, 7098- 7100); )	extended slightly turned to right, left leg flexed to right (knees together); hands crossed over pelvis (RB)	subadul t c. 15- 17 yr. ?male	iron object -ON7075 (foot end of coffin)
9114	9115	9116	NW-SE	sub-rectangular; straight steep sides; sloping base	1.11	0.7	0.2	mid red-brown clay; sparse flint inclusions; charcoal flecks	no	flexed, supine; knees flexed >45 degrees, left femur 90 degrees to body, over right hip, right knee less pulled-up, feet level with bottom; ?head propped up? (Durotr)	juvenile c. 11- 12 yr.	no



9125	9124	9153 (AB G), 9123	E-W	rectangular; concave steep sides, flat base	1.73	0.8	0.46	orange-brown silty clay; flint, chalk & gravel inclusions; pottery & flint flakes	yes; 24 iron nails (ON7111-12, 7118-25, 7140-47, 7149-54, 7164); hobnailed footwear (ON7165 - left; ON7166 - right foot);	DECAPITATED; extended, supine; left leg slightly turned out, decapitated skull & mandible between knees on grave base, facing right mid- femur, lying on left side; right arm slightly flexed, hand at right hip; left arm along side, bent at elbow and lying across abdomen (RB)	juvenile c. 10 yr.	ABG7167 - animal burial placed outside coffin, along left side, head just below level of human knee, legs together at human hip; <b>SHEEP</b>
9126	9127	9128	E-W	sub-rectangular; steep-vertical sides, flat base	2.38	0.81	0.83	mixed very light grey-brown to greyish yellow- brown silty clay with common chalk & occasional flint nodules; pottery	yes; 6 coffin nails (ON7136-7, 7148, 7159- 61); 14 iron fittings/bracket s (ON7114-7, 7126-35); plus c. 50 various iron objects with no ON (from samples)	extended, supine (RB)	adult >30 yr.	hobnailed footwear (ON7276)
9133	9132	9131	E-W	sub-rectangular; straight, steep sides, flat base;	2.53	0.63	0.44	brown-orange silty clay; sparse chalk, flint & gravel inclusions; pottery & flint flakes;	yes; 18 iron nails grouped across coffin head end, across knee region & one or two at foot end (ON7138- 39, 7185-86, 7189, 7199- 207, 7213-16)	extended, supine-slightly turned to right; hands between mid-femora; (grave rather long for coffin, stray nail above head end of coffin) (RB)	adult c. 45-55 yr. female	hobnailed footwear (ON7221 (left), 7222 (right));



9154	9155	9180 (AB G), 9156	SE-NW	sub-rectangular; straight steep sides, flat base; ?stakehole in base (0.09 x 0.07 x 0.10m) left of left pelvis, not numbered	2.73	0.9	0.76	very light grey- brown- mid mixed (?!); common chalk & occasional flint nodules; pottery & CBM	yes; c. 15 iron nails (ON7171-74, 7176-79, 7187-93) iron fitting (ON7196); plus more from samples	extended, supine; left ankle crossed over right; right arm along body; (RB)	adult c. 35-45 yr. male	hobnailed footwear (ON7194 - left; 7195 - right; plus more from samples; N.B. feet crossed); ABG7197 - outside coffin, along right side, from shoulder (head of animal) to mid left femur (back legs outstretched); <b>SHEEP</b>
9195	9196	9196	SSW- NNE	sub-rectangular; straight steep sides, flat base	2.06	0.7	0.37	mid grey-brown clay-silt; abundant chalk & gravel/flint; animal bone, flint flakes	yes; 17 iron nails (ON7198, 7208-12, 7217-20, 7252-58)	extended, supine; left ankle crossed over right; right arm along body; (RB)	adult c. 40-50 yr. male	hobnailed footwear (ON7259); ABG7261 - small animal with back along grave end back along foot end of grave, head to left. Outside coffin but animal appears to have gone in first as under human foot; <b>SHEEP</b>
9199	9200	9201	SE-NW	sub-rectangular; stepped steep sides, flat base;	2.45	1.13	0.19	mid brown clay loam, common chalk & flint	yes; 22 iron nails & fittings (ON7223-34, 7265-74)	odd skull drawing - looks 'double'; extended, supine; left arm along side, right elbow flexed, hand over left pelvis (RB)	1) adult c. 40- 45 yr. male 2) adult >18 yr.	no
9202	9203	9204	W-E	sub-rectangular; straight steep sides, flat base	1.95	0.63	0.5	mid brown silty clay with bright brown clay patches; common chalk & sparse flint; struck flint, pottery, animal bone	yes; 15 iron nails (ON7235-49)	extended, supine; arms along sides (RB)	adult >45 yr. female	hobnailed footwear (ON7250-51);



**Table 2: Finds totals by material type**

Material	No	Wt
Pottery	2195	26,023
<i>Prehistoric</i>	9	1140
<i>Romano-British</i>	2185	24,868
<i>Post-medieval</i>	1	15
Ceramic Building Material	33	2689
Fired Clay	16	87
Stone	16	3211
Worked Flint	152	-
Burnt Flint	2	116
Glass	3	6
Slag	149	1287
Metalwork	1307	-
<i>Coins</i>	2	-
<i>Copper Alloy</i>	11	-
<i>Lead</i>	2	-
<i>Iron</i>	1292	-
Shale	1	-
Worked Bone	1	-
Human Remains	-	53
<i>Burnt</i>	-	53
<i>Unburnt</i>	13 individuals	-
Animal Bone	1078	7586
Marine Shell	8	28

**Table 3: Total number and weight (g) of sherds by period and ware type**

Ware	No.	Wt.
<i>Early/Middle Bronze Age:</i>		
Grog-tempered ware	9	1140
<i>Romano-British:</i>		
SE Dorset Black Burnished ware	1436	15,534
SW Black Burnished ware	419	5233
South-east Dorset orange wiped ware	133	1829
Oxidised ware	60	493
NE Gaul mortaria	45	266
Samian	37	362
Oxon red-slipped ware	21	113
New Forest colour-coated wares	15	223
SW micaceous fine greyware	9	47
Rhineland mortarium	4	450
Other imports	3	5
Dressel 20 amphora	2	308
Greyware	1	5
<i>Post-medieval:</i>		
Redware	1	15
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2195</b>	<b>26,023</b>



**Table 4: Proportions of the various Black Burnished ware fabrics (as % of total sherds from site) and comparisons with other Dorchester sites (no data for Wessex Court)**

Fabric	This site	P'bury Farm I	P'bury Farm combined	Greyhound Yard	County Hall	Alington Avenue	Former hospital	By-pass sites	Western Link Road
SED BB	66%	75%	72%	60%	71%	85%	61%	63%	67%
SW BB	19%	10%	13%	15%	18%	7%	18%	10%	20%
SEDOWW	6%	8%	7%	not ident	not ident	not ident	3%	4%	9%

**Table 5: Proportions of the major fabric families as a percentage of the number of sherds from the various Dorchester sites**

	This site	P'bury Farm I	P'bury Farm comb	G'hnd Yard	Wessex Court	County Hall	Former hospital	Alington Avenue	By-Pass	West. Link
Imported finewares	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	9.6%	5.6%	3%	5%	2.5%	1%	1%
Amphora	>0.1%	0.5%	0.4%	3%	3%	2%	4%	1%	0.3%	0.2%
Mortaria	2%	0.2%	0.9%	0.4%*	Not quant	0.1%*	0.6%	0.3%*	0.2%*	>0.1%*
British finewares	2%	2%	2%	3%	91%	3%	3%	2%	0.6%	3%
Oxidised wares	2%	1%	1.5%	4%		2%	4%	1%	0.4%	95.7%
Reduced coarsewares	91%	94.5%	93%	80%		89%	83%	93%	97.5	

\* excluding New Forest and Oxfordshire fabrics

**Table 6: Coins assessment summary**

Object Number	Context number	Metal	Denomination	Issuer	Diameter (mm)	Weight (g)	Obverse Comments	Reverse Comments	Issue Date	Notes
7018	9031	Cu Alloy	Antoninianus	Claudius II	17	1.31	Bust r, radiate. - DIVS-. Worn	Female fig standing I (?Pax).	AD 270 - 290	Irregular radiate of the last third of C3
7155	9135	Cu Alloy	AE4	House of Constantine	12	0.92	Bust r. Extremely worn	Soldier spearing a fallen horseman. Fel Temp Reparatio type. Extremely worn	AD 350 - 360	Fallen horseman copy



**Table 7: Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP). Sheep/goat count adjusted to take into account four ABGs**

<b>Species</b>	<b>NISP</b>
cattle	52
sheep/goat	113
pig	12
horse	13
dog	1
red deer	2
cat	1
domestic fowl	2
<i>passerine</i> sp.	1
frog	1
<b>Total identified</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>Total unidentifiable</b>	<b>462</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>660</b>

**Table 8: Animal bone: summary of ABGs from graves**

<b>Cut</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>ABG</b>	<b>Age estimate</b>	<b>Location and associations</b>
9094	9109	7104	2-6 months	outside coffin, along right side. Adult 45-55yr., ?female.
9125	9153	7167	0-2 months	outside coffin, along left side. Juvenile human c.10yr.
9154	9180	7197	1-2 years	outside coffin, along right side. Adult human 35-45 yr., male.
9195	9196	7261	2-6 months	outside coffin, below left foot of human skeleton. Adult human 40-50 yr., male.



**Table 9: Summary of scan of cremated human bone**

context	cut	deposit type	weight	age/sex	comment
9096	9095	crd/?rpd	48.1g	subadult/adult > 15 yr.	9 bags (quads. & up to 3 spits) spread throughout. Little trab.
9105 <sup>s</sup>	9104	?cenotaph inc. rpd	5.2g	subadult/adult >13 yr.	8 bags (quads. & spits); no trab.

KEY: <sup>s</sup> - excavated by the JMCK; rpd - redeposited pyre debris; crd - cremation-related deposit

**Table 10: Summary of unburnt human bone assessment**

context	cut	deposit type	date	quantification	age/sex	pathology	comments
9040*	9039	inh. burial	?ERB	c. 5%	adult >45 yr. ??male	<i>ante mortem</i> tooth loss; calculus; dental caries; enamel hypoplasia; osteophytes – Cs	2-5; mandible 2, rest 3-5; very heavily fragmented (will need sorting); no indices; few observations
9051	9052	inh. burial	RB	c. 2% l.	subadult c. 13-17 yr.		4-5; heavily fragmented; no indices; minimal observations; very truncated
9089	9090	1) inh. burial 2) R?	?ERB	1) c. 75% 2) c. 10% l.	1) adult c. 35-45 yr. ??female 2) subadult c. 13-17 yr.	1) <i>ante mortem</i> tooth loss; apical void; calculus; dental caries; enamel hypoplasia; periodontal disease; fracture – distal tibia; expanded diploe; <i>hyperostosis frontalis interna</i> ; <i>osteochondritis dissecans</i> – right distal humerus; Schmorl's node – T; osteoarthritis – T, proximal right radii & ulna (?trauma); op – 1st MtC head; pitting – medial clavicle; cortical defect – proximal 1st phalanx (right foot)	1) 2-3; skull & axial very fragmented, lots from samples (will need sorting); right acromion tip with skull, innominate with right arm; a few measurements possible; 2) additional lower limbs; 4-5; bagged with left leg.
9093	9094	coffined	RB	c. 65%	adult c. 45-55 yr. ?female	<i>ante mortem</i> tooth loss; apical void; calculus; dental caries; enamel hypoplasia; destructive lesion – distal right radius; degenerative disc disease/infection – Cs; osteoarthritis – Cs, Ts, hips; pitting – proximal right humerus	2-5; eroded; axial poorest; moderate fragmentation; old & fresh breaks; some measurements possible; large individual; greenish staining - sacrum
9098	9097	coffined	RB	c. 85%	subadult c. 15-17 yr. ?male	calculus; dental caries; enamel hypoplasia; fracture – left navicular; <i>cribra orbitalia</i> ; sinusitis; mv – variant incisors; mv – wormian bones	1-3; moderate fragmentation; several measurements possible with reconstruction; skull will reconstruct; iron residue - patella
9115*	9114	inh. burial	?ERB	c. 65%	juvenile c. 11-12 yr.	calculus; dental caries (deciduous); enamel hypoplasia; mv – plural mental foramen	2-5; most 4-5; eroded; heavily fragmented (old & fresh); no measurements; C & T vertebrae bagged with skull; black speckling (fungal);



context	cut	deposit type	date	quantification	age/sex	pathology	comments
9124	9125	coffined (decapitated)	RB	c. 60%	juvenile c. 10 yr.	calculus; dental caries (deciduous); enamel hypoplasia; <i>cribra orbitalia</i>	1-4; moderate to heavy fragmentation; a few measurements possible; skull warped; 9123 sample labelled cremated bone – it isn't, it's part of 9124; C1 bagged with skull
9127	9126	coffined	RB	c. 25% s.u.l.	adult >30 yr.	calculus; enamel hypoplasia; mv – variant incisor	4-5+; heavily eroded; few if any measurements; iron residue – femora
9132	9133	coffined	RB	c. 65%	adult c. 45-55 yr. female	calculus; dental caries; slight expanded diploe; <i>cribra orbitalia</i> ; ?cyst – right temporal; periosteal new bone – right proximal tibia; fracture – left acetabulum (degenerative); osteoarthritis – Ls, S1, left hip; osteophytes right hip, left sacro-iliac; enthesophytes – ischia, right calcaneum; cortical defect – right navicular	2-5; mostly 2-3; eroded, axial poorest; moderate fragmentation; some measurements including stature; clean teeth from sample; mandible bagged with vertebrae
9155	9154	coffined	RB	c. 65%	adult c. 35-45 yr. male	congenital abnormality/trauma – left acetabulum; trauma/plastic change – right fibula; osteophytes – left acetabulum, knees; enthesophytes – right patella, calcanea; exostoses – left femur shaft; coalition – right MtT-P	2-4; mostly 2-3; eroded; some fragmentation (ends; mostly fresh); several measurements including stature
9196	9196	coffined	RB	c. 90%	adult c. 40-50 yr. male	<i>ante mortem</i> tooth loss; calculus; dental caries; enamel hypoplasia; fracture – L apj, right talus; trauma? – right clavicle; <i>cribra orbitalia</i> ; ankylosis – left sacro-iliac; solitary bone cyst – hamate; Schmorl's node – Ts, Ls; osteophytes – left temporo-mandibular, Ts, ribs, shoulders, MtC-P, acetabulae; pitting – Ts; enthesophytes – calcanea; mv – wormian bones, nasal guttering	1-3; little fragmentation (old & fresh), skull smashed but will reconstruct; most measurements possible including stature; dark blackish green staining – rib heads





context	cut	deposit type	date	quantification	age/sex	pathology	comments
9200	9199	1) confined 2) R.	RB	1) c. 80% 2) 1 frag. l.	1) adult c. 40-45 yr. male 2) adult <18 yr.	1) <i>ante mortem</i> tooth loss; apical void (fistula); calculus; dental caries; enamel hypoplasia; periodontal disease; sinusitis; destructive lesion – right distal tibia; <i>cribra orbitalia</i> ; Schmorl's node Ts; osteophytes – Ts, Ls, ribs, carpals; pitting – ribs; enthesophytes – innominates, right calcaneum; calcified ligamentum flavum – Ts, Ls; mv – variant incisors, nasal guttering	1) 1-5; mostly 2-3; eroded, especially some axial; skull smashed, might reconstruct; most measurements possible, including stature; calcareous precipitate; lower thoracic vertebra with skull; iron residue – right tibia 2) additional distal tibia – 3; old breaks; eroded; fairly dark colour; bagged with right hand of 9200
9203	9202	confined	RB	c. 70%	adult >45 yr. female	<i>ante mortem</i> tooth loss; calculus; dental caries; enamel hypoplasia; <i>cribra orbitalia</i> ; osteophytes – hips; enthesophytes – calcanea; plastic change – left hip; mv – wormian bones	2-5; eroded; skull smashed, may partially reconstruct; some measurements, ?stature; small individual

KEY: \*recommended for C14 dating; inh. – inhumation; R. –redeposited; s.a.u.l. – skull, axial, upper limb, lower limb; C, T, L, S – cervical, thoracic, lumbar, sacral vertebrae; apj – articular process joint; bsm – body surface margins; MtC- /MtT-P – metacarpo-/metatarso-phalangeal; mv - morphological variation



**Table 11: Sample provenance summary**

Phase	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Romano-British	5	80	Oven, Pits
	5	19.5	Pot fill, Grave
	9	18.5	Cremation related deposits
?Bronze Age	2	2.9	Urned cremation related deposits
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>120.9</b>	

**Table 12: 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	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
<b>Romano-British</b>													
<b>Oven</b>													
9032	9035	9910	20	100	60	A	C	Barley + hulled wheat grain frags, glume base frags	A*	<i>Avena/Bromus, Rumex, Ranunculus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Poa/Phleum, Chenopodium</i>	1/2 ml	Moll-t (A), ?slag	P
	9037	9911	20	50	60	C	C	Barley + hulled wheat grain frags, glume base frags, culm node	B	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus, Rumex</i>	3/3 ml	Moll-t (B), ?slag, fish scales (C)	
<b>Working Hollow Group 9205 - Pit</b>													
9117	9118	9992	20	200	3	B	C	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume base frag, rachis frag	A	<i>Galium, Rumex, Persicaria, Poa/Phleum</i>	50/50 ml	Sab (C), slag	P C
<b>Pits</b>													
9022	9023	9993	10	125	20	C	-	Barley grain frag	-	-	15/20 ml	slag	
9024	9025	9994	10	300	10	C	C	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume base frags	B	<i>Galium, Crataegus, Avena/Bromus, Plantago</i>	80/80 ml	slag	C
<b>Pot fill</b>													
9090	SK9089	9731	0.5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Graves</b>													



Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
9126	9128	9966	10	10	25	-	-	-	-	-	<1/<1 ml	min. wood, Moll-t (A), bone	
9125	ABG 7167	9967	3	35	5	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Moll-t (A), bone	
	ABG 7167	9968	4	10	15	C	C	Hulled wheat grain frag, glume base frag	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	0/<1 ml	Moll-t (A), bone	
9154	ABG 7197	9981	2	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	Moll-t (C), bone	
Cremation Related Deposits													
9095	9096 SE Quad, Spit 1	9927	1	5	20	-	-	-	-	-	<1/<1 ml	-	
	9096 SW Quad, Spit 1	9928	1.5	7	15	-	-	-	-	-	<1/1 ml	burnt bone	
	9096 NE Quad, Spit 1	9929	2.6	15	25	-	-	-	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	1/1 ml	burnt bone	
	9096 NW Quad, Spit 1	9930	2.5	20	25	-	-	-	-	-	1/2 ml	burnt bone	
	9096 NE Quad, Spit 2	9931	1.5	5	15	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	burnt bone	
	9096 NW Quad, Spit 2	9932	2.4	15	20	-	-	-	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	2/3 ml	burnt bone	
	9096 NE Quad, Spit 3	9933	0.5	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	<1/1 ml	burnt bone	
	9096 NW Quad, Spit 3	9934	2.5	35	5	-	-	-	C	<i>Galium</i>	5/7 ml	burnt bone	C
	9096 Lower fill	9935	4	80	5	-	-	-	-	-	10/15 ml	burnt bone	C
?Bronze Age													
Urned Cremation Related Deposit													
9104	9105	9936	0.75	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	<1/<1 ml	burnt bone	
	9105	9735	2.15	35	5	-	-	-	-	-	2/5 ml	burnt bone	

Key: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant,



**Table 13: In-house conservation**

<b>SF</b>	<b>context</b>	<b>material</b>	<b>object</b>	<b>comments</b>	<b>treatment proposal</b>
7158	9159	copper alloy	brooch	remains of enamel present, slightly powdery surface	remove soil and some corrosion, consolidate surface if needed

**Table 14: External conservation**

<b>SF</b>	<b>context</b>	<b>material</b>	<b>object</b>	<b>comments</b>	<b>treatment proposal</b>
7107	9118	iron	socketed piece only		airbrade central section
7109	9121	iron	longest piece only	possible awl	airbrade one half

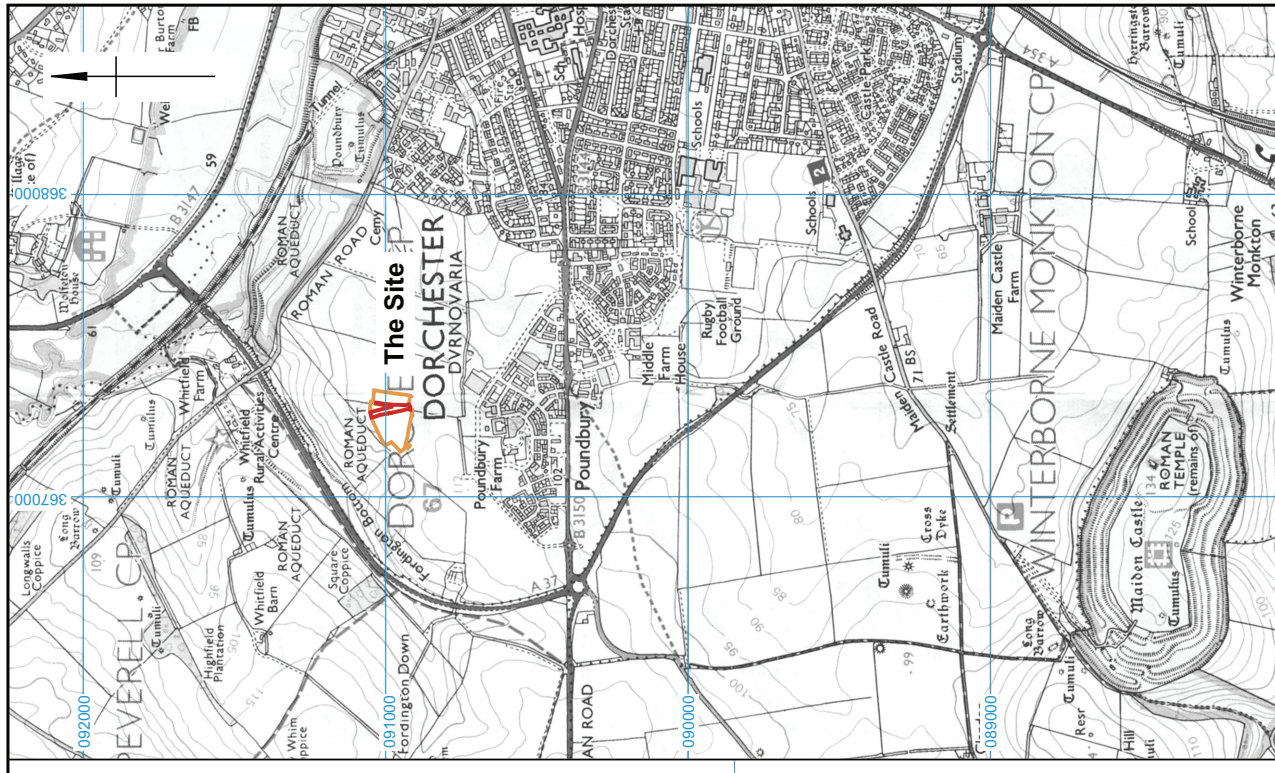


**Table 15: Task list: Poundbury Phase 3 & 4: Outstanding Excavation Area, Dorchester.**

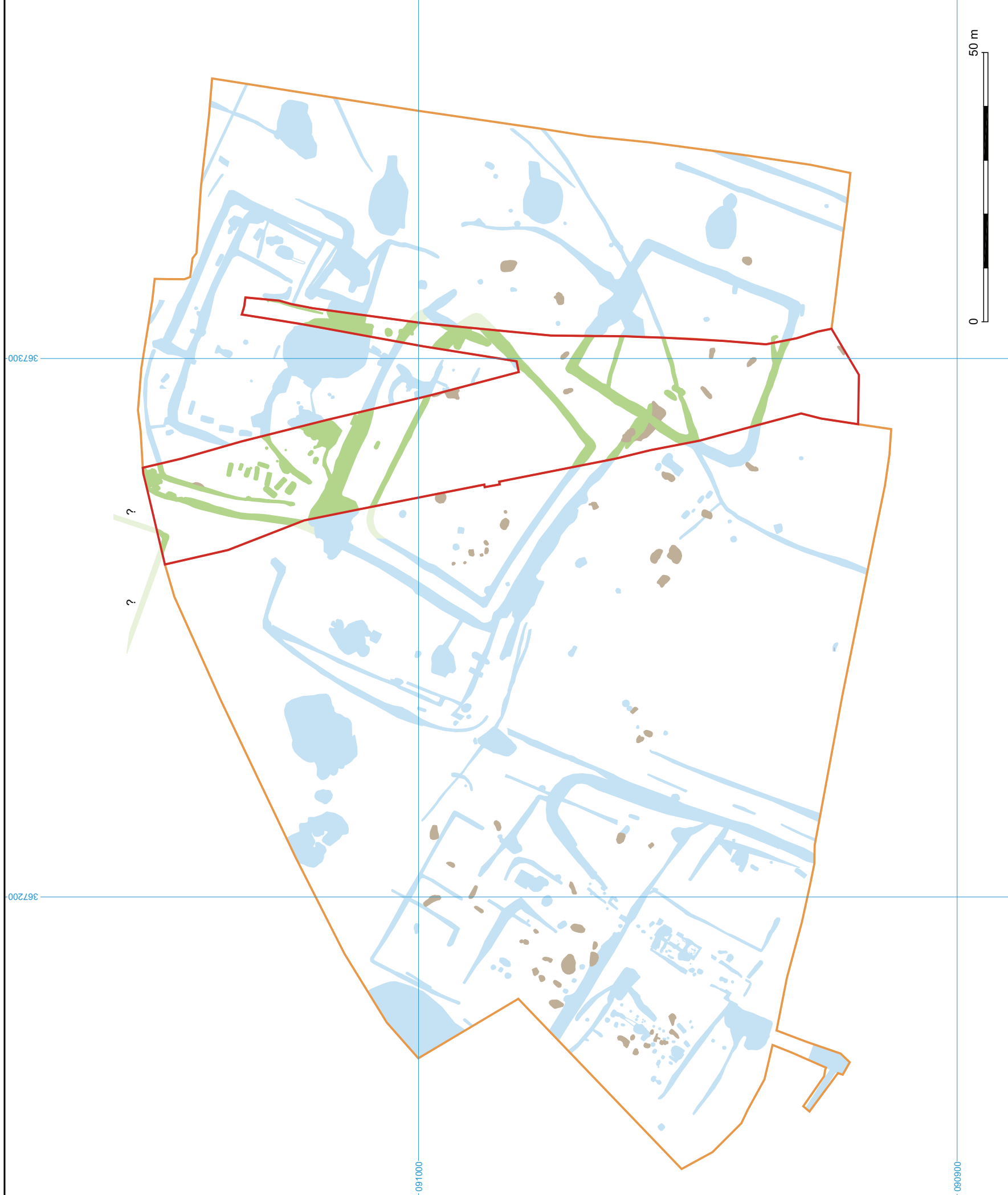
<b>Task</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Management</b>			
Project management	PM	Leivers M	2 days
Project monitor and QA	SPM	Barclay A	0.5 days
Finds and archive management	SPM	Mephram L	0.5 days
Environmental management	SPO	Wyles S	0.5 days
Graphics Office management	PM	Nichols K	0.5 days
IT support	SPO	Neuberger J	0.5 days
<b>Pre-analysis</b>			
Extraction of Charred Plants and Wood Charcoal (5 samples)	ES	M	1.25 days
Commissioning analysis and contracts	SPO	Wyles S	0.5 days
Radiocarbon submission and report	SPO	Wyles S	0.5 days
Radiocarbon dates – 4 dates	EXT	SUERC	-
Enhance database	SPO	Egging Dinwiddy K	1 day
Check phasing and stratigraphy	SPO	Egging Dinwiddy K	1 day
Extracting and checking grave catalogue entries for all finds	SPO	Egging Dinwiddy K	1 day
Site narrative	SPO	Egging Dinwiddy K	2.5 days
<b>Finds</b>			
Human bone: unburnt residue sorting, analysis & reporting	SPO	Egging Dinwiddy K	11.5 days
Human bone: cremated analysis & reporting	SPO	McKinley J	0.75 days
X-radiography of selected bone	SPO	Wootten L	3 hours
X-radiography of metalwork	SPO	Wootten L	3 hours
Conservation of metalwork	EXT SPO	Wilts Cons Centre L Wootten	6 hours 4 hours
Pottery	PM	Seager Smith R	3 days
Metalwork	PM	Seager Smith R	3 days
Animal Bone	SPO	Higbee L	1 day
Summary other finds from assessment	PO	Brook E	0.25 day
Finds illustrations (3 pottery vessels, 18 iron coffin fittings, max 4 metal objects, 1 bone object)	GO	James E	5 days
<b>Environmental</b>			
Analysis and Reporting of Charred Plant Remains (2 samples)	SPO	Wyles S	2 days
Analysis and Reporting of Wood Charcoal (4 samples)	SPO	Barnett C	3 days
Palaeo-environmental summary	SPO	Wyles C	0.5 days
<b>Reporting</b>			
Discussion	SPO	Egging Dinwiddy K	2 days
Assemble publication report (includes captions and bibliography), brief DO	SPO	Egging Dinwiddy K	1 day
Figures	GO	Goller R	5 days
Review and edit	PM	Leivers M	1 day
Report corrections	SPO	Egging Dinwiddy K	0.5 day
Figure corrections	GO	Goller R	0.5 day




<b>Production</b>			
Copy edit	SPM	Bradley P	2 days
Corrections	All	contributors	1 day
Liaise with journal	SPM	P Bradley	0.5 day
<b>Archive</b>			
Finds archive preparation	PO		1 day
Archive ordering/indexing	PO		0.5 days
Final archive check and preparation for scanning	PS	Coates C	0.5 day
Digital scanning of paper records	EXT		-
Implementation of finds discard policy; adjustment of records and box rationalisation	PO	Nelson S	1
Final archive check: environmental	PS	Mulhall N	0.25
Preparation of digital data	PS	C Coates	0.25
Archive deposition			0.5
Box storage grant			-



- 2014 excavation area
- 2007 excavation area
- 2014 archaeological feature
- 2007 archaeological feature
- Extrapolated archaeological feature
- Tree-throw hole



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Site location plan showing results in relation to previous excavations

Figure 1



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Site plan. Inset shows detail of graves and skelton orientation

Figure 2





Plate 1: Urned probable cenotaph in 'grave' 9104



Plate 2: Romano-British grave 9126 containing the remains of coffined burial 9127, including large iron coffin fittings


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Plate 3: Romano-British grave 9125 containing the remains of coffined juvenile burial 9124 (decapitated) with an accompanying sheep burial (ABG 7167)



Plate 4: Durotrigian style burial (grave 9090) with an early-mid Romano-British samian bowl (ON 7024)




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Plate 5: S-E corner of a probable Romano-British enclosure ditch (9026), extending north beyond the limit of excavation

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Oven/kiln 9032 at different stages of excavation



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