

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**26 Martin's Lane,  
Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Excavation**

**by Anne-Michelle Huvig**

**Site Code:MLD19/177**

**(SU 5791 9454)**

# **Late Roman features at 26 Martins Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Excavation and watching brief  
for Mr Nick Clarke**

by Anne-Michelle Huvig

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MLD 19/177

**May 2021**

## Summary

**Site name:** 26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

**Grid reference:** SU 5791 9454

**Site activity:** Excavation and watching brief

**Date and duration of project:** 2th to 4th December 2020

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Anne-Michelle Huvig

**Site code:** MLD 19/177

**Area of site:** c. 78 sq m excavated

**Summary of results:** The excavation has confirmed the presence of Late Roman features in the form of a ditch, and Medieval pits or possible postholes. There was a horse skeleton mostly under the west baulk and barely visible. The Late Roman features appear to indicate extra-mural settlement and cast some doubt on the idea that the occupied area was contracting in the later Roman period.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: [www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 08.05.21
	Steve Preston ✓ 28.06.21

# Late Roman features at 26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames An Archaeological Excavation and watching brief

by Anne-Michelle Huvig

**Report 19/177c**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out at 26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire (SU 5792 9454) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Anderson, of Anderson Orr Architects, The Studio, 70 Church Road, Wheatley, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX33 1LZ on behalf of Mr Nick Clarke, 16 Bridge End, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, OX33 7JE.

Planning permission (app 19/S3317/FUL) has been granted by South Oxfordshire District Council for a residential development on the site. The consent is subject to two conditions (5 and 6) relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of archaeological investigation and mitigation. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The site's archaeological potential had been suggested in a desk-based assessment (Preston 2019) and confirmed by a field evaluation (Huvig 2020) which demonstrated the presence of Roman and medieval features. As a result of this, Oxfordshire County Council's Planning Archaeologist, Mr Richard Oram, had advised the District Council that an excavation was required to mitigate the effects of the development on these remains.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Richard Oram of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service and based on a brief supplied by him (Oram 2020). It took the form of a programme of an open area excavation and targeted watching brief on other areas affected by groundworks. The fieldwork was undertaken by Anne-Michelle Huvig, assisted by Michael Paine, Sophie Peng and Beth Tucker between 2nd and 4th December 2020. The site code is MLD 19/177. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located near the centre of Dorchester-on-Thames, east of the Thames, in an area of largely 20th-century residential development (Fig. 1). It was occupied by a garden with stone-built raised beds, decorative well, greenhouse, concrete driveway. The house to be demolished dates from 1957, and was positioned on the

east side of the plot (Fig. 2) and the proposal would sub-divide the 500 sq m area. According to maps (BGS 1980), the site is located on Northmoor Sand and Gravel (First Terrace Floodplain) of the River Thames. It lies at a height of 50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeology potential of the site had been highlighted by a desk-based assessment (Preston 2019) and confirmed by an evaluation (Huvig 2020). The potential primarily derives from the existence of Dorchester as a Roman ‘small walled town’, a Scheduled Monument (1006331). The origin of Dorchester is probably earlier with another Scheduled site (10063641), at Dyke Hills to the south, which is a pre-Roman earthwork (Harding 1972, 54-6). Many areas of high archaeological potential and multi-phased deposits have been investigated nearby. The historic town lay to the south and south-west of the current site. Also notable is the presence just 150m east of the site, of extensive cropmarks (Benson and Miles 1974, map 36). Archaeological investigations to the south, outside the Scheduled area, have discovered a range of Late Roman and Saxon deposits, and there have also been recent discoveries along Martin’s Lane itself. Indeed the area outside the Roman town walls will have been used for both settlement and cemeteries (Harman *et al.* 1973; Dawson *et al.* 2017; Pine and Dawson 2017; Falys *et al.* 2017) due to population expansion up to the 2nd century AD. Then urban occupation is thought to have contracted, prior to the construction of its walls and defences. To the north-east, at Queensford Mill/Queensford Farm, an enclosed cemetery has been extensively investigated and has revealed significant evidence from the 5th to 7th century (Durham and Rowley 1972; Chambers 1987a).

Equally important was the establishment of a Saxon monastic site (Tiller 2005), *c.* 300m to the south, also beyond the Roman defences.

Closer to the site, a single evaluation trench (Čelovský 2013) at No. 31 Martin’s Lane revealed a 2nd-century Roman ditch.

The two evaluation trenches within the site itself revealed the presence of ditches of Roman date, possibly still infilling during the Medieval period. Associated with those were a limited numbers of discrete features (one undated and one Late Roman posthole).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The general objectives of the project are to:

record and, if necessary, excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development;  
produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;  
establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc. and to  
produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

More specific research aims were to address the following questions:

- When was the site first utilised and when was it abandoned?
- Is the Roman use of the site simply part of a wider enclosed landscape or is it near the centre of an extra-mural settlement complex?
- What is the significance of any medieval activity on the site? Is it simply part of an organised landscape or is it related to an area of occupation?
- Is it possible to relate any deposits recorded here to others recorded in the wider landscape?

This phase of the project comprised two parts. The first component was an excavation focusing on the area at the west side of the site, affected by the new house footprint, covering about 70 sq m. The second component was a watching brief for any other deep groundworks beyond the excavation area namely footings of additional structures on the eastern side. Drainage runs and soakaways were also to be monitored if they extended beyond the areas already specified. An area to the north was also intended for ground reduction for car parking and this was also to be include in the excavation area if this reduction was deep enough to carry potential archaeological impacts.

For the main excavation, overburden was to be removed by machine under close archaeological supervision, down to the upper horizon of pre-19th century deposits. The overall mitigation approach for these two parts of the site (including sampling of features) was to be determined using the below as indicative guidelines, up to a depth of 0.2m below the development's impact depth. Following the provision of a pre-excavation site plan and photographs in lieu of a site visit, the county archaeological service was to confirm the sampling strategy. Excavation or sampling of features exposed was to follow agreed methodologies and sampling fractions depending on the nature and significance of the deposits or features, as detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation. For example, isolated, discrete features such as pits and postholes not belonging to structures were to be half-sectioned as a minimum, with full excavation following if half sectioning failed to provide sufficient artefactual dating evidence. Sampling of linear features such as ditches and gullies relating to agricultural activity was to be up to 10% of their length with a minimum of 10m of each ditch being dug (where possible within the limitation of the excavation area). A programme of environmental sampling was to take place should sufficient well stratified deposits be located.

## **Results (Figs 3 -5)**

### *The watching brief*

The area towards the north of the site designated as car parking was only excavated to a depth of about 0.30m below modern ground level, entirely within the topsoil, thus leaving the relevant archaeological horizon well preserved. Once this depth was established, this area was not further monitored. No new services trenches/soakaways were dug with re-use of the existing.

### *The excavation*

The area was dug under constant archaeological supervision by a small 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The area was set to encompass the footprint of a new dwelling but it had to be slightly adjusted due to site constraints. At the east there was a manhole and services still active as well as some stone-built raised beds. In the west there was a tree and at north-west a decorative well that the client did not intend to remove.

All archaeological features were cleaned by hand, sufficiently excavated and sampled to satisfy the above aims. Discrete features were fully excavated at the end of the project. Slots made in linear features were extended to recover as much dating evidence as possible and confirm the shape of the features. The spoil heap was monitored for finds and a metal detector was used on site. Monitoring by Mr Richard Oram was done remotely via photos and plans.

A complete list of features and dating evidence is given in Appendix 1. The features mostly consisted of possible postholes, small pits and a ditch. The lowest deposit encountered was a yellow sand, only seen at the base of the deepest slots. It was overlaid by a 'dirty' geological horizon (52), a patchy mid orange brown and yellow sandy silt. The features were all dug into this layer (Pl. 1). Above this and sealing the features was a mid grey loamy silt subsoil (51) 0.40m thick, rich in artefacts. Above that was the topsoil (50), a dark grey loam, c. 0.30-0.40m thick.

Unless otherwise described, most of the features were filled with a mid grey or brownish grey silt.

### Roman features

Most of the features have been dated to the Roman period, albeit some of these contained just one or two sherds of pottery, which cannot provide a secure date. Where they could be more specifically dated within the Roman period, all were later Roman (3rd or 4th century AD). This consistency suggests that even the poorly dated features are reasonably confidently assigned.

The main feature was an east-west orientated ditch, 100 (Pls 3 and 4). Its relationship with adjacent features was uncertain. It had been seen in evaluation trench 2 as cut 1 where it was cut by pit 5. Other slots (14, 15, 19 and 23) allowed it to be categorized as having a concave profile with moderate slopes. It was 1.90m wide and 0.70m deep. Two fills could be recognized, with a gradual transition between them. At the base was a soft mid reddish brown sandy silt (77) with very rare gravels. It was 0.27m thick. The main upper part of the ditch was filled by a soft dark grey brown silt (76) with very rare gravel inclusions. The substantial pottery assemblage (93 sherds, including some *mortaria* fragments) spanned from the 3rd to the late 4th century.

In the north-east corner of the excavation area, there was a shallow feature, 101, whose interpretation is uncertain. It could have been the terminus of a ditch, stopping (as rounded slot 18) just as it reached ditch 100: it did not continue beyond the latter in trench 2. In slot 24 its partial profile was better appreciated. It was gently sloping. Its estimated dimensions were > 1m x >1.72m and at least 0.24m deep. It extended beyond the limit of excavation northwards but was not seen in trench 1 and thus is interpreted as an elongated pit rather than a ditch. Another substantial pottery assemblage of 56 sherds, including samian ware, indicate a date of mid 3rd to 4th century. Animal bones, oyster shell and ceramic building material (CBM) were also collected from it.

Post hole 9 was likely circular, but only partially seen in the excavated area and extending under the baulk. Its dimensions were 0.45m by at least 0.20m and a depth of 0.22m. It contained a single fill (62), a soft mid brown silt with rare burnt clay and occasional roots. It had moderate to steep sides and a concave base. Two sherds of pottery dated from the mid 3rd to 4th century were collected.

Small pit 10 was sub-circular shaped. Its dimensions were 0.65m x 0.70m and a depth 0.30m (Pl. 2). It had slightly convex steep to sub-vertical sides, and a flattish base. Its fill (63) was a mid brownish grey silt with rare flecks of pottery or burnt clay that provided some animal bone and two sherds of broadly Roman pottery.

Shallow pit 12 was also dated by 2 Roman pot sherds and also contained some bone fragments. It was oval-shaped, 0.50m x 0.60m with a depth 0.07m. It had very gentle sides and a concave bottom. A single fill (65) was recorded.

Feature 16 was a more convincing post hole, next to ditch 100 but with blurred edges due to overspill from the ditch. The relationship between the two remained unclear (Pl. 3). It measured 0.45m x 0.35m and 0.30m deep. A single Roman sherd was recovered in the clayey silt infill (69). Rare charcoal flecks were noted in this fill.

During the evaluation an area in the middle of trench 2 had been interpreted as a disturbed area. It extended further into the excavated area. Though several individual shallow features were considered (20-22, 25), they all



probably related to a similar event of dumping rubble/waste infilling a natural depression in the ground. Overall it formed an amorphous heterogeneous smudge of grey silt mixed with bits of fired clay and mortar, (81). Several potsherds were collected in it and in the individualized patches, providing a mid 3rd to 4th century date.

### Medieval features

Though the three features discussed below yielded some Roman pottery, they also delivered rare medieval potsherds and their date was consequently based on those.

Pit 11 on the west edge of the excavated area could have been a dug to bury a horse. Some articulated animal bones were seen in section, but there was no fully convincing cut visible indicating that the deposition of this skeleton happened before the site was covered by subsoil (51) as the surrounding soil did not differ much from subsoil. Dimensions for a possible pit would have been at least >0.30m x >0.70m and a depth >0.20m. Finds included 13 Roman sherds and 4 dated from the Medieval period.

Shallow pit 13 was next to ditch 100. The relationship was unclear as 13's proper shape was masked by overspill from the ditch. It was 0.50m x 0.45m. Fill (66) was 0.10m thick and contained 2 Medieval and 2 Roman sherds.

Pit 17, with a diameter of 0.66m and a depth of 0.40m, was located close to the junction of Roman ditch 100 and elongated pit 101. It had a rounded base and steep to sub-vertical sides. Two Medieval and 2 Roman sherds were found in it along with a nail.

### Undated feature

Post hole 8 was circular, 0.30m in diameter and 0.11m deep. A single fill (61) was a soft mid brownish grey clayey silt. The feature had steep sides and concave bottom. It did not reveal any dating evidence but it is likely that it is of same date as the Roman ones found at the same level.

## **Finds**

### *Roman Pottery by Paul Booth*

The excavation produced 204 sherds of mostly later Roman pottery weighing 2953g with a total of 2.20 rim equivalents (RE). The material was recorded in line with the relevant Standard guidance (PCRG *et al.* 2016) using codes set out in the Oxford Archaeology (OA) later prehistoric and Roman recording system (Booth 2016) with additions implemented in ongoing recording of the very large assemblage from excavations in the

allotments in the south-western part of Dorchester. Quantification was by sherd count, weight, and rim equivalents, with an additional more subjective count of vessels based on individual rim sherds. Details of rim, base, handle, spout and decorative types and other characteristics were recorded where present. The full record of the pottery (on an Excel spreadsheet) is contained in the project archive, Appendix 2 provides a summary.

### Fabrics

The identified fabrics are listed in Table 1 below, in sequence within the series of major ware groups defined by the OA system on the basis of significant common characteristics. The ware groups can be combined to constitute two main classes of material, fine and specialist wares on the one hand, and on the other the rest of the coarse wares (cf Booth 2004; 2020). The fine and specialist ware groups (identified by the initial letter of the fabric/ware code) are: samian ware (S); fine wares - colour-coated, lead glazed, mica coated etc - (F); *amphorae* (A); *mortaria* (M); white wares, other than *mortaria* (W); and white-slipped wares (Q). The remaining ware groups represented here are: oxidized coarse wares (O); reduced coarse wares (R); black-burnished ware (B); and calcareous (particularly shell-tempered) and other wares (C).

Within these classes there are hierarchically arranged subgroups, usually defined on the basis of inclusion type, and individual fabrics/wares are then indicated at a third level of precision, both levels of subdivision being expressed by numeric codes. Thus R10 is a general code for fine, slightly sandy reduced wares, while R11 is a specific distinctive reduced Oxford industry product. For the present assemblage fabric identification was often at the intermediate level of precision. Much of the material was in fabrics whose sources are uncertain, and detailed assignment to specific fabric codes did not seem to be warranted. However, it is likely that the great majority of the unassigned coarse wares are of local, Oxford industry, origin (Young 1977), even if the reduced coarse wares (for example) are insufficiently diagnostic for this to be absolutely certain. Attribution of sherds to ware groups or to individual fabrics was on the basis of macroscopic inspection, with regular use of the binocular microscope at x20 magnification.

Summary fabric descriptions are given in Table 1, although some fabrics recently added to the OA series (but mostly of minor significance) are described in a little more detail. More comprehensive descriptions can be found in the project archive and/or in the handbook to the National Roman Pottery Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). Fabric codes from the latter are cross referenced in the table in bold.

**Table 1: Roman pottery fabric codes and descriptions**

<i>Ware Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>NRFC code/reference</i>
<i>Samian ware</i>		
S20	South Gaulish samian ware (general).	incl <b>LGF SA</b>
S30	Central Gaulish samian ware (general)	incl <b>LEZ SA 2</b>
<i>Fine wares</i>		
F51	Oxford colour-coated ware	<b>OXF RS</b>
F52	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	<b>LNV CC</b>
<i>Amphorae</i>		
A11	Dressel 20 Baetican amphorae (Peacock and Williams 1986, 140)	<b>BAT AM 1</b> and <b>BAT AM 2</b>
A15	Buff with grey core, fine, hard fabric with sparse subrounded quartz and sparse-moderate subangular-subrounded ?calcareous inclusions, typically up to c 0.3mm. Unattributed	
<i>Mortaria</i>		
M22	Oxford white ware mortaria (Young 1977, 56).	<b>OXF WH</b>
M41	Oxford red colour-colour-coated ware mortaria	<b>OXF RS</b>
<i>White wares</i>		
W11	Oxford parchment ware	<b>OXF PA</b>
W12	Oxford white ware	<b>OXF WH</b>
W22	Coarse sandy white fabrics, probably Oxfordshire	
W23	Oxford burnt white ware	Young 1977, 113, fabric BW
<i>White-slipped wares (except mortaria)</i>		
Q21	Oxford (Young 1977) fabric WC– except mortaria	<b>OXF WS</b>
<i>Oxidized ‘coarse’ wares</i>		
O11	Oxford fine oxidised ware.	Booth <i>et al.</i> 1993, 146; Young 1977, 185, fabric 1
O80	Coarse tempered (usually grog) oxidised fabrics, equivalent to R90	
O81	Pink grogged ware	<b>PNK GT</b>
O901	Coarse sand tempered oxidised fabric	
<i>Reduced ‘coarse’ wares</i>		
R11	Oxford fine grey ware. Young (1977, 203) reduced fabric 4	<b>OXF FR</b>
R111	Cf R11, but abundant very fine sand grains (typically c 0.1mm) and sparse larger grains	
R201	Coarse sandy or sand and grog reduced fabric	
R21	Oxford coarse/abundantly sandy reduced ware	Young 1977, 202, fabrics 2 and 3 (part)
R214	As R21, but very hard fired, sometimes almost stoneware appearance	
R29	A hard, sandy fabric, grey, with abundant subrounded or rounded quartz, mainly in the range 0.2-0.4mm, distinguished by presence of occasional much larger grains from 1-2mm	Booth <i>et al.</i> 1993, 149; also Booth 2011, 153
R291	As R21 with Fe oxide inclusions	
R297	As R21 with sparse organic inclusions	
R30	Medium/fine sandy reduced coarse ware fabrics (general)	
R90	Coarse tempered (usually grog-tempered) reduced fabrics	eg Young 1977, 202 fabric 1
<i>Black-burnished wares</i>		
B11	Dorset BB1	<b>DOR BB 1</b>
<i>Calcareous wares etc</i>		
C10	Shell-tempered fabrics (general)	
C11	Shell-tempered fabric, probably Harrold (Brown 1994)	<b>ROB SH</b>
C241	Hard buff-grey fabric with common irregular limestone lumps up to 2mm and rounded ‘calcareous grit’ up to 0.5mm	

Quantification of the fabrics by the three main measures is given in Table 2. Most of the components of the assemblage are certainly or probably attributable to the Oxford industry and are typical of later Roman sites in the region. Imports consist of samian wares (including a probable East Gaulish fragmentary dish rim of form Drag 36, and Central Gaulish body sherds of dishes and a Drag 33 cup and a large Drag 37 base sherd), and three *amphora* sherds, including part of the neck of a Dressel 20 olive oil *amphora* (fabric A11). Non-local British fabrics comprise Dorset black-burnished ware (B11), and shell-tempered (fabric C11) sherds probably from the Harrold (north Bedfordshire) industry as well as single sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated ware (F52) and pink

grogged ware (O81), the latter from Stowe, Buckinghamshire (Booth 1999). In total the certain non-local pottery amounts to only 13.7% of sherds. In overall terms reduced coarse fabrics were the dominant ware group, as would be expected, amounting to 55% of the total sherds (slightly less by weight and rather more in terms of RE), with the principal components of this group (R11, R21 and R30) all well represented. The second most common individual fabric by sherd count (and the most numerous of all by RE) was Oxford colour-coated ware (F51), reflecting both the proximity of sources and the later Roman emphasis of the assemblage (see below).

**Table 2: Quantification of Roman pottery by fabrics**

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>REs</i>
S30	5	159	
S40	1	2	0.01
<i>S subt</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>0.01</i>
F51	34	403	0.58
F52	1	18	
<i>F subt</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>421</i>	<i>0.58</i>
A11	2	208	
A15	1	10	
<i>A subt</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>-</i>
M22	1	3	
M41	5	71	0.07
<i>M subt</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>0.07</i>
W11	1	24	
W12	4	10	
W22	4	206	
W23	4	18	0.08
<i>W subt</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>258</i>	<i>0.08</i>
<i>Q21 subt</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>	
O11	3	8	
O80	1	81	0.04
O81	1	54	0.10
O901	1	9	
<i>O subt</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>0.14</i>
R11	49	491	0.43
R111	1	6	
R201	1	48	
R21	20	238	0.17
R214	1	19	0.09
R29	2	20	0.09
R291	1	11	
R297	3	30	
R30	32	349	0.51
R90	4	279	
<i>R subt</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>1491</i>	<i>1.29</i>
<i>B11 subt</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>0.03</i>
C10	1	42	
C11	11	104	
C241	1	2	
<i>C subt</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>148</i>	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>2953</b>	<b>2.20</b>

Vessel types

The Roman vessels amounted to a total of 2.20 rim equivalents (RE). A minimum figure of 29 vessels based on a count of rim sherds is indicative, but less reliable. Vessels were recorded in terms of major classes arranged approximately in order from narrow mouthed to wide mouthed vessels, defined by letter codes, as set out in Table 3. This shows only vessels represented by rim sherds; vessels occurring just as body sherds included

*amphorae* and cups (as mentioned above) and beakers, while classes such as flagons and lids were not represented at all at this site.

Jars, mainly in local reduced fabrics, were the most important vessel class, but only totalled just over half of the vessels by RE (and 14 of the 29 rim sherds); the two large storage jars were in oxidized fabrics, local O901 and regional import O81, the latter a ‘medium sized’ example of the distinctive products of this industry (cf Marney 1989, 68 no. 7). The broken nature of the assemblage did not permit differentiation of other subgroups of the jar class on the basis of their body form. The other main vessel classes, bowls and dishes, occurred principally in Oxford colour-coated and reduced coarse wares respectively, the latter also accounting for the indeterminate class IA vessels.

The Oxford fine wares and *mortaria* were recorded using Young (1977) types; his coarse ware typologies were used occasionally but not consistently. The Oxford types recorded are as follows: C44, C52 (2 examples), C68, C75, C94, C97, and the jar BW2, with one body sherd each of carinated bowls P24 and WC3 (fabrics W11 and Q21 respectively). Dish R60 was the only Oxford coarse ware form specifically noted.

**Table 3: Description and overall quantification of vessel classes by rim equivalents (REs)**

<i>Class</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>RE</i>	<i>% RE</i>
C	Jars (not specified)	1.00	
CN	storage jars (large, generally thick walled)	0.14	
<i>C total</i>		<i>1.14</i>	<i>51.8</i>
HC	curving sided bowls	0.21	
HD	necked bowls	0.27	
<i>H total</i>		<i>0.48</i>	<i>21.8</i>
<i>IA total</i>	<i>straight sided bowls/dishes</i>	<i>0.08</i>	<i>3.6</i>
J	Dishes (unspecified) (diameter:height ratio generally greater than 3:1)	0.04	
JA	straight sided dishes	0.35	
JB	curving sided dishes	0.04	
<i>J total</i>		<i>0.43</i>	<i>19.5</i>
<i>KD total</i>	<i>wall-sided mortaria</i>	<i>0.07</i>	<i>3.2</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2.20</b>	

#### Discussion: context and chronology

The majority of the pottery derived from pits and a ditch, with smaller amounts from postholes and layers including subsoil. Three pits, 11, 13 and 17, produced a little medieval as well as Roman pottery, but only 17 sherds from these features were of Roman date. The majority of the Roman material, therefore, was from certainly or probably contemporary contexts. Of these 17 context groups, three could only be dated to the 2nd century or later, as they only produced eight small and undiagnostic sherds. The Roman assemblage is, therefore, essentially of late date, with almost every context dated after the middle of the 3rd century, based on the presence of distinctive Oxford products, usually colour-coated ware but including fabric W23 which provides a *terminus post quem* for pit 24.

Ditch 100 produced collectively the most substantial assemblage (93 sherds, 1628g, 1.25 RE) (a single medieval sherd from context 76 is surely intrusive) and two of these contexts (72 and 77) are dated after AD 350 on ceramic criteria alone. The late emphasis of this assemblage is underlined by the high percentage of Oxford colour coated wares, fabric F51 accounting for 28% of sherds, as against the overall site figure of 16.7%, and the occurrence in context 72 of two examples of Young type C52 bowls, dated after AD 350, is notable.

Most if not all of the Roman activity on this site can thus be assigned to the late Roman period (mid 3rd century and later) and the infill of ditch 100 is likely to date to the very end of the period. This relatively narrow date range accounts for the principal characteristics of the assemblage overall, particularly the only modest dominance of reduced coarse wares and jars, compared to the much higher proportions of these that would be expected in sites with longer (or only early Roman) occupation spans (Booth 2020). The correspondingly high proportion of fine and specialist wares (31.9% of sherds) and relatively good representation of bowls and dishes are late Roman characteristics. The high fine and specialist ware value is, like those for other Dorchester area sites, enhanced by close proximity to sources of many of these fabrics, with the nearest certainly known kilns, lying just under 2km to the north at Berinsfield, specifically associated with colour-coated ware production (Harden 1936, 83-94). Comparative regional data have been subject of a recent extensive review (Booth 2020) and need not be discussed at length here. Suffice to say that the present assemblage, despite its small size, is consistent with and complements the late Roman evidence examined there.

An evaluation at nearby 31 Martins Lane produced only eight Roman sherds, from an east-west ditch tentatively dated to the later 2nd century (based on three sherds) and late Roman material (including fabrics F51 and C11) from a pit also containing a single post-medieval sherd (Timby 2013). The middle Roman date of the ditch may perhaps be questioned. Its alignment, like that from the present site, is approximately matched by that of an enclosure partly examined at the Minchin Recreation Ground just over 200m to the north in 2007 (Booth 2008). Here again, late Roman material was dominant (not yet published in detail). Further south, pottery from St Birinus School was, like that from the present site, again notable for a late Roman emphasis (Timby 2010). Significant comparative quantified data from Dorchester are as yet relatively scarce (see Booth 2020, 19), but are available from 32-36 High Street, another site just north of the walled settlement (Timby 2017). There, closer to the main road leading northward from the defences, the pottery indicated a longer occupation sequence, perhaps from as early as the later 1st century, but again there appears to have been a marked emphasis on the later Roman period, with Oxford colour-coated ware amounting to 18.1% of the total Roman sherds (of which just

under half come from stratified Roman deposits). This seems to be a consistent characteristic of the area to the north of the settlement defences.

### *Post-Roman pottery by Sue Anderson*

Nine sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 84g were collected from four contexts (Appendix 3). Table 4 shows the quantification by fabric.

**Table 4: Post-Roman Pottery quantification by fabric.**

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date range (century AD)</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>MNV</i>
OXAC	LSax-EMed W Oxon ware	Late 9th-13th	1	16		1
WA38	LSax-Med Wallingford ware	11th-13th	1	3		1
OXAG	LSax-Med Abingdon ware	Mid-11th-Early 15th	1	18	0.07	1
OXAQ	Med East Wiltshire ware	Mid-12th-Mid-15th	2	9		1
OX162	EMed-LMed SE Oxon ware	12th-14th	2	23	0.07	2
OXAW1	Brill/Boarstall ware	Late 12th-Mid-14th	1	2		1
OXAM	Brill/Boarstall ware	13th-15th	1	13		1
<i>Totals</i>			9	84	0.14	8

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight, estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) and minimum number of vessels (MNV). All medieval fabric codes were assigned from the Oxfordshire fabric series (Mellor 1994), with post-medieval wares based on the author's fabric series. Methods follow MPRG recommendations (MPRG 2001) and form terminology follows MPRG (1998). An Access database forms the archive catalogue.

A body sherd of 'Cotswold ware' (OXAC) was recovered from ditch 100, slot 23, fill 76 and is perhaps the earliest medieval pottery from the site. A small sherd of Wallingford ware (WA38) from pit 17, fill 70 may be broadly contemporary.

A rim fragment of Abingdon ware (OXAG) was similar to an example dated to the 13th century (Mellor 1994, fig. 26.7) and was found in pit 11, fill 64. Also in this fill were two sherds of SE Oxfordshire ware (OX162), including a jar rim which was similar to an example dated to the mid-13th century (Mellor 1994, fig. 32.5). A body sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM) with brown slip stripes and yellow glaze was also found in this context. One other small fragment of Brill/Boarstall ware in the earlier sandy fabric, unglazed, was found in pit 17, fill 70.

Two body sherds from pit 13, fill 66, were East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ), which corresponds with the Newbury and Kennet Valley wares. The sherds contained more flint than limestone and may be of early date.

This small group contains wares from towns to the south and west, together with common fabrics from the Cotswolds and Kennet Valley. The group includes some rim sherds of 13th-century date and it is possible that all the sherds could date to that period of activity. The assemblage is too small for further interpretation.

### *Fired Clay and ceramic building material by Paul Booth*

The excavation produced modest quantities of fired clay and ceramic building material (CBM) - 1413g and 4863g respectively - but with items of interest in each category. These materials were scanned rapidly and recorded in outline (Appendix 4).

The fired clay derived from five contexts. Pit fills 63, 73, 78 and 80 together produced seven fragments in fairly fine oxidized fabrics with moderate or moderate-common sand or sand and small limestone inclusions, with a total weight of 41g. One fragment from context 63 and two from context 80 had a single flat surface, apparently burnt, and a small fragment from context 73 also had a single flat surface with a skim of white plaster or limewash.

The bulk of the material came from pit 22, context 75 and was of two types. Some 169g (very fragmented but with *c* 10 separate pieces identified) was in a similar fairly fine oxidized fabric with moderate sand inclusions and a laminar fracture. All were probably from a single object or structure with a smoothed flat surface and a smooth, but unfinished, under face (partly burnt in two cases), most of the fragments being consistently 15-16mm thick. A further six fragments (1203g) made up two non-joining pieces almost certainly from the same large sub-oval flat plate or 'disc'. This was in a distinctly different irregularly fired silty fabric with occasional sand grains up to *c* 0.5mm. Both upper and lower flat surfaces were smoothed, the 'upper' more regularly than the lower, and the thickness ranged from 22-27mm. The smoothed edges varied from approximately straight to partly rounded. The maximum dimensions of the larger piece were 138 x 195mm; overall minimum dimensions of the complete object are estimated at 210 x 250mm, but it could have been rather larger.

This object belongs to a class of material well recognised in the region; frequently circular (Poole 2018a, 174) these are often broadly described as 'discs', but other shapes occur (Poole 2018b, 473-5) and local examples include rectangular blocks alongside discs at Appleford (Booth 2009, 85-7) and Castle Hill, Little Wittenham (Booth 2010). The exact function of these objects remains unclear. While a role in connection with food preparation seems most likely, examples are known from Oxford pottery production sites (Harden 1936, 90), including one from nearby Berinsfield (Harden 1936, 88, fig. 15, no. 17). Most examples in the region are dated to the late Iron Age and early Roman periods, but it seems certain that some can be later (Poole 2018b, 474). The occurrence of the present pieces in a probable 4th-century context suggests a date later than that of most examples, and while it is possible that they were much earlier in origin their fresh condition does not



support this view, and a late date is paralleled by the Berinsfield example which was associated with 4th-century pottery.

All of the CBM, except a single flake (weighing 8g), was from ditch 100, slot 23 (4 pieces, 330g) or pit/hollow 25 (8 pieces, 4525g). Warry (2020) has recently proposed a new methodology for quantification of tile types, but the small size of this group means that the individual tiles within it can be identified with reasonable confidence; three *tegulae*, one *imbrex*, two bricks and one flue tile are represented. All are in a hard fired red-brown fabric with sparse-moderate sand grains, supplemented in the case of the most substantial brick fragment (40mm thick), from context 76 (ditch 23), with probable malmstone inclusions, suggesting a local origin. The second probable brick fragment (30-32mm thick) and two pieces of an *imbrex* were also from ditch 23 (contexts 77 and 75 respectively).

Fill 78 of feature 25 produced an end and a flange fragment from a *tegula* c. 20-25mm thick. Most notable was the material from context 80 in this feature. This comprised two joining sherds of a *tegula* 19mm thick with a square sectioned flange, a large part of a second *tegula* (10 joining fragments, 1640g) 24mm thick, with one corner cut-out extant but the flange broken off, and 11 fragments (10 joining) from a substantial box tile. These formed a large part of one face with roughly straight 6-tooth combing, having a width of 190mm and a length in excess of 256mm. Assuming the vent in the plain side to be centrally placed gives a minimum depth of 125mm for the tile, but this dimension is likely to have been greater. The thickness ranged from 22-27mm. Peter Warry (pers comm) says ‘the volume of clay in Brodrigg's average box flue tile assuming a wall thickness of 15mm is identical to that of my Group C *tegulae* which have an average weight of 6.2kg’ (Warry 2006). Since the extant fragments, equivalent to less than one complete face, weigh c 2.35kg, this was clearly a tile of above-average size for the type.

The final CBM sherd in this context group was a flat piece 14mm thick. Such a dimension is typical of medieval and post-medieval roof tiles, but the fabric of this piece was not clearly different from that of the rest of the certainly Roman material. The date of this piece remains uncertain. Overall, the fresh condition of the other CBM in this context is notable; its source is unknown, but there is no direct evidence for substantial Roman buildings in the immediate vicinity. Their unusually large size suggests that the two large pieces in context 80 may have been salvaged for reuse prior to deposition.

*Glass by Cristina Mateos*

Glass fragments were recovered from pits 17 (70) and 20 (73). The first is a small piece of medieval glass, weighing 8.9g. From late Roman pit 20 was a small light blue piece (3.5g) which is of Roman date. Both pieces are too small to identify the form.

### *Metal by Aidan Colyer*

Five ferrous objects were recovered from the excavation. All of these were nails, and have been classified using Manning's (1976) typology (Appendix 5).

#### Type 1b nails.

Four of the five are Manning type 1b nails. All of the nails have retained their heads however two, Cat nos 1 and 2, are heavily corroded and the heads heavily degraded. These are general use nails and are common on Roman sites. The nails are of a consistent size which suggests that they might derive from a single batch.

#### Type 10 nail

A single type 10 hobnail was recovered (cat no. 5). A single hobnail suggests casual loss.

### *Animal Bone by Ceri Falys*

A small assemblage of non-human bone was recovered from 18 contexts within the investigated area. Weighing 4447g, a total of 189 pieces of highly fragmented bone were present for analysis (Appendix 6). Although the fragment size varied significantly between pieces and contexts, the bone was generally well preserved, with little evidence of cortical bone erosion or etching.

Initial analyses roughly sorted elements based on size, not by species, into one of three general categories: "large", "medium", and "small". Horse and cow are represented by the large size category, sheep/goat, deer and pigs are represented in the medium size category, and any smaller animal (e.g. dog, cat, etc.) are designated to the "small" category. Wherever possible, specific identification of skeletal element/side and species of origin was attempted using reference to Hillson (1992). The minimum number of animal individuals was assessed, both within and between animal species, based on the duplication of skeletal elements or differences in skeletal development.

The significant amount of element fragmentation limited some of the identification of the bones present, with 74 fragments (39.1%) not able to be identified to general size category (Appendix 6). The majority of the unidentified fragments were small, non-descript portions of long bone shafts. Osteological analysis found the assemblage contained a minimum of eight animal individuals, including three "large" (one horse and two cows),

three “medium” (one sheep/goat, two pigs), and one “small” sized animal, in addition to one unidentified foetal animal. The majority of identifiable fragments were allocated to the “large” category (n=85, 45.0%). Of those, skeletal elements of at least one horse were recovered from pits, 11 (64) (a tooth), 21 (74) (a proximal phalanx) and 24 (79) (rib shaft), as well as ditch 23 (77) (proximal phalanx). The presence of two cows was supported by the retrieval of elements from five features, including: proximal phalanges from pit 10 (63) and ditch 23 (76), a right talus from pit 18 (71), and left distal tibiae from ditch 23 (76 and 77). The duplication of distal tibiae, and notable size difference between the proximal phalanges from pits 10 and ditch 23 suggested the presence of more than one cow individual.

A total of 28 fragments (14.8% of the assemblage) of “medium” sized animals were identified in four features. Of these, evidence of at least two pigs was supported by the presence of two mandibular fragments displaying differing states of dental eruption, which were collected from posthole 16 (69) and pit 24 (79). Skeletal elements of at least one sheep/goat were recovered from three features, including ditch 23 (76) (mandibular and fragments of left radius and right tibia), pit 24 (79) (piece of mandible), and spread (81) (left distal tibia).

Just two fragments (1.1%) of “small” sized animals were collected from ditch 23 (77), which included a rib shaft fragment. A talus from a foetal individual of indeterminate species was also identified within ditch 23 (77).

In summary, a minimum of eight animal individuals were identified within the small assemblage of bone recovered from the investigated area. These included one horse, two cows, two pigs of different age, at least one sheep/goat individual, one “small” animal and one foetal individual of indeterminate species. No further information was able to be retrieved from the highly fragmented assemblage of animal bone.

### *Burnt Bone* by Ceri Falys

Two pieces of burnt bone were recovered from two separate pit features, 10 (63) and 12 (65). Weighing just 2.0g, despite the small fragment size, the pieces of bone were well preserved (Appendix 7). Maximum post-excavation fragment measurements were recorded as 13.1mm from pit 12 (65) and 25.2mm for the bone from pit 10 (63). Both fragments were grey in colour, suggesting the organic components within the bone were incompletely oxidized during the heating process, by reaching temperatures up to 600°C (Holden et al. 1995a,b).

Although attempted during osteological analysis, it was not possible to suggest the specific animal or skeletal element of origin, and it was not possible to retrieve any further information from the two small fragments of burnt bone.

### *Mollusca* by Cristina Mateos

The assemblage of mollusca amounted to a combined total of 622g, all of common oysters (*Ostrea edulis*). The processing of the shells has been undertaken according to the guide of Winder (2011) and results are detailed in Appendix 6. The assemblage was quantified to enable an assessment of the minimum number of individuals, with left and right valves counted, and maximum length and width recorded when possible. Most of the specimens are not complete or are just fragments, which were weighed only. Some of the specimens display V-shaped notches on the edges that were made while opening the oyster (Winder 2011, 46). All of the shells come from Late Roman features. The consumption of oysters is well documented on many other Roman sites, including well inland.

### *Palaeoenvironmental Remains* by Elspeth St John-Brooks

A programme of soil sampling was implemented during the excavation, which included the collection of soil samples from sealed contexts with the aims of assessing preservation and the potential of the biological remains; record any human activities which occurred at the site (domestic and industrial); how the biological remains may be associated with the features; and, to provide information on the past environment of the area.

In total 18 samples were taken from sealed contexts comprising of postholes, ditches and pits. Samples between 8L-16L of soil and were floated and sieved using a 0.25mm flot mesh and the resultant flots air dried. These flots were then examined with a hand lens at x8 magnification and under a lower powered microscope at magnifications between x50 and x1000. Identification was carried out using Jacomet (2006) and Schweingruber (1978) along with online resources <http://www.plantatlas.eu/> and <http://www.woodanatomy.ch/>. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow Stace (1997). The full species list appears in Appendix 9, Tables 9A and 9B).

Charred plant macrofossils were present in just three of the samples from a ditch (23) and a possible pit (24). The samples both contained a single wheat (*Triticum* spp.) grain each, no other seeds were present in any of the samples.

All three samples contained a small number of fragments of charcoal, all charcoal remains were identified as Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with the fragments measuring <1.03cm. Around half of the total samples contained micro-charcoal which is too small in fragment size for speciation identification. Very little can be interpreted from these palaeoenvironmental remains as the dataset is not large enough to gain meaningful information to draw conclusions about the surrounding landscape, activities on site or dietary implications.

It should be noted that the flint from feature 8 had a relatively large amount (>30+ frags) of potential clinker material usually associated with the burning of coal. Feature 15 also contained a further 5 fragments. This suggests that these features are of a later date than Roman, the burning of coal was not common place until much later therefore they are likely indicative of Medieval/Post-medieval activity.

## **Conclusion**

Several features brought some new evidence to the topography of the Late Roman occupation of Dorchester and its outer wall perimeter. The main element was an east-west ditch which was filling no earlier than the mid 4th century AD. A parallel ditch had been found in an evaluation to the north at 31 Martins Lane, on the other side of the street (Čelovský 2013), there dated somewhat earlier (though Booth (above) suggests that dating might be too early). The presence of two parallel ditches (if they were contemporary) suggests they were land divisions, though whether between occupied plots or fields is difficult to determine. It is not known if any follow-up investigation occurred at 31 Martins Lane. Besides the ditch here, a small number of pits and postholes indicated a late Roman presence, probably best interpreted as occupation. Although a relatively small assemblage, the pottery includes a high proportion of finewares more likely to have come from a dwelling close by rather than from (say) a manuring scatter on fields. It is also of consistently late Roman (mid-3rd century and later) date.

Unpublished investigations of 0.3ha at Belcher Court on the north side of St Martin's Lane, also very close to the current site (Fig. 2) in the 1980s (briefly summarized in Chambers 1987b and 1988), revealed a complex of intercutting boundary ditches and pits, and also substantial stone building foundations, representing development and redevelopment of this area north of the town's defences, from the late 1st/early 2nd century through to the 4th century AD. Two burials, one adult and one of a child, apparently could be dated no more securely than 'earlier than medieval' but were posited to be late 4th to 5th century and suggested to be indicative of late Roman settlement contraction. There was also a medieval quarry pit. At 6 Martin's Lane to the west, some unstratified Roman pottery has also been found.

The present site can also be considered in relation to a series of undated enclosures and a trackway recorded as cropmarks from aerial photographs some 80m or so to the north (now built over). Cropmarks some 100m east (Fig. 6) also show a complex of features consisting of enclosures, field boundaries, ditches, pits, and a probable trackway, including linear features and trackways heading towards the current site (Oram 2019). These might also be Roman, though by themselves are intrinsically undatable, and it is clear that this complex relates to more than one phase.

The results from 26 Martin's Lane confirm that at least one ditch was still open after the middle of the 4th century, and the other Roman features all also seem to be late, indicating continuing extra-mural settlement until near the end of the period. This Late Roman emphasis seems to be reasonably consistent with the other evidence from the northern extra-mural area and must lead to a re-assessment of the idea of a late Roman contraction in the settlement - indeed, it will be important to see the detailed dating evidence from Belcher Court (and any further work at 31 Martins Lane) to see if early occupation is really attested in this area at all.

The town's earthwork defences are thought to have been established around the late 2nd century, with the wall added probably in the 3rd century while the ditch was extended in the 4th (Munby and Rodwell 1975). If there was 1st/2nd century occupation in the Martin's Lane area, it must be clear that these defences did not enclose the whole settled area and indeed, based on the small pottery assemblage and admittedly small number of features here, this area might not have been occupied until after the earthwork defences were created, and possibly not until after the wall was built. Extra-mural burials (common to all Roman towns) have been found in several locations, both just outside the walls and further afield, as at Queenford Farm (Chambers 1987a).

Unlike other areas in the town, however, there is no evidence from this small site of any sub- or post-Roman continuity which is one of the factors making Dorchester a centre of interest for that period (Frere 1963; Burnham and Wachter 1990, 121–2; Booth *et al.* 2012).

Other discrete features on the site appear to be of Medieval date though the scarcity of finds from the latter period would appear to indicate only a low level of activity in medieval times.

## References

- Benson, D and Miles, D, 1974, *The Upper Thames Valley: an archaeological survey of the river gravels*, Oxfordshire Archaeol Unit Survey **2**, Oxford
- BGS, 1980, *British Geological Survey, 1:50 000*, Sheet 254 (Abingdon), Solid and Drift Deposit, Keyworth.
- Booth, P, 1999, 'Pink grogged ware again', *Study Grp Roman Pottery Newsl* **27**, 2-3
- Booth, P, 2004, 'Quantifying status: some pottery data from the Upper Thames Valley', *J Roman Pottery Stud* **11**, 39-52
- Booth, P, 2008, 'Dorchester-on-Thames, Minchin Recreation Ground (SU578947)', *S Midlands Archaeol* **38**, 60–1
- Booth, P, 2009, 'Fired clay and ceramic building material' in P Booth and A Simmonds, *Appleford's earliest farmers: archaeological work at Appleford Sidings, Oxfordshire, 1993-2000*, Oxford Archaeology Occas Pap **17**, Oxford, 85–8
- Booth, P, 2010, 'Roman and post-Roman fired clay and ceramic building material' in T Allen, K Cramp, H Lamdin-Whymark and L Webley, *Castle Hill and its landscape; archaeological investigations at the Wittenhams, Oxfordshire*, Oxford Archaeology Monogr **9**, Oxford, 67–8
- Booth, P, 2011, 'Iron-Age and Roman pottery', in A Simmonds, H Anderson-Whymark and A Norton, 'Excavations at Tubney Wood Quarry, Oxfordshire, 2001-2009', *Oxoniensia*, **76**, 148–64
- Booth, P, 2016, 'Oxford Archaeology Roman pottery recording system: an introduction', OA unpubl document
- Booth, P, 2020, 'Status or what? Aspects of broad characterisation of Roman pottery assemblages in the Oxford region', *Oxoniensia*, **85**, 1-42

- Booth, P, Boyle, A and Keevill, G D, 1993, 'A Romano-British kiln site at Lower Farm, Nuneham Courtenay, and other sites on the Didcot to Oxford and Wootton to Abingdon water mains, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia*, **58**, 87-217
- Booth, P, Gosden, C, Hamerow, H, Hey, G, Metcalfe, J, Morrison, W, Richards, J and Wilkinson D R P, 2012, *The Discovering Dorchester-on-Thames Project: a report on the excavations 2007–2011*, Dorchester-on-Thames
- Brown, A, 1994, 'A Romano-British shell-gritted pottery and tile manufacturing site at Harrold, Beds', *Bedfordshire Archaeol* **21**, 19–107
- Burnham, B C and Wachter, J S, 1990, *The 'small towns' of Roman Britain*, London
- Čelovský, A, 2013, 'An Archaeological Evaluation at 31 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire', John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS), Beckley, Oxford
- Chambers, R A, 1987a, 'The late- and sub-Roman cemetery at Queenford Farm, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxon.', *Oxoniensia*, **52**, 35–69
- Chambers, R A, 1987b, 'Dorchester: Martin's Lane Archaeological Assessment', *South Midlands Archaeol* **17**, 83–4
- Chambers, R A, 1988, 'Dorchester: Martin's Lane Archaeological Assessment', *South Midlands Archaeol* **18**, 75–6
- Dawson, T, Falys, C, Munding, A, Pine, J and Platt, D, 2017, *The Southern Cemetery of Roman Dorchester-on-Thames*, TVAS Monogr **29**, Reading
- Durham, B and Rowley, T, 1972, 'A Cemetery Site at Queensford Mill, Dorchester', *Oxoniensia*, **28**, 32–7
- Falys, C, Platt, D and Munding, A, 2017, 'A Roman cemetery and pits at 9 Wittenham Lane and 5 Orchard Haven, Dorchester-on-Thames', in T Dawson, C Falys, A Munding, J Pine and D Platt, *The Southern Cemetery of Roman Dorchester-on-Thames*, TVAS Monogr **28**, Reading, 46–150
- Frere, S S, 1963, 'Excavations at Dorchester on Thames, 1962', *Archaeol J* **119**, 114–49
- Harden, D B, 1936, 'Two Romano-British potters'-fields near Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, **1**, 81-102
- Harding, D W, 1972, *The Iron Age in the Upper Thames Basin*, London
- Harman, M, Lambrick, G, Miles, D and Rowley, T, 1979, 'Roman burials around Dorchester on Thames', *Oxoniensia*, **43** (for 1978) 1–16
- Hillson, S, 1992, *Mammal bones and teeth: An introductory guide to methods of identification*, Institute of Archaeology, London
- Holden, J L, Phakley, P P and Clement, J G, 1995a, 'Scanning electron microscope observations of incinerated human femoral bone: a case study', *Forensic Science International*, **74**, 17–28
- Holden, J L, Phakley, P P and Clement, J G, 1995b, 'Scanning electron microscope observations of heat-treated human bone', *Forensic Science International*, **74**, 29–45
- Huvig, A-M, 2020, '26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation', TVAS unpubl rep **19/177b**, Reading
- Jacomet, S, 2006, *Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites*. IPAS. Basel.
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- Manning, W H, 1976, *Catalogue of Roman-British Ironwork in the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, Newcastle
- Marney, P, 1989, *Roman and Belgic pottery from excavations in Milton Keynes 1972-82*, Buckinghamshire Archaeol Soc Monogr **2**, Aylesbury
- Mellor, M, 1994, 'A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region', *Oxoniensia*, **59**, 17–217
- Munby, J and Rodwell, K, 1975, 'Dorchester', in K Rodwell (ed), *Historic Towns in Oxfordshire*, Oxford Archaeol Unit Survey 3, Oxford, 101–8
- Peacock, D P S and Williams, D F, 1986, *Amphorae and the Roman economy*, London
- Oram, R, 2019, '26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation', Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford
- Oram, R, 2020, '26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, Design Brief for Archaeological Recording Action', Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford
- Pine, J and Dawson, T, 2017, 'Roman Occupation and Burials, and Medieval backlands to the rear of 32-36 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames', in T Dawson, C Falys, A Munding, J Pine and D Platt, *The Southern Cemetery of Roman Dorchester-on-Thames*, TVAS Monogr **28**, Reading, 1–45
- Poole, C, 2018a, 'Fired clay', in A Simmonds, and S Lawrence, *Footprints from the past The south-eastern extramural settlement of Roman Alchester and rural occupation in its hinterland: The archaeology of East West Rail Phase 1*, Oxford Archaeology Monogr **28**, Oxford, 171–5
- Poole, C, 2018b 'Fired clay', in P Booth and A Simmonds, *Gill Mill: Later prehistoric landscape and a Roman minor nucleated settlement in the lower Windrush Valley near Witney, Oxfordshire*, Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr **42**, Oxford, 470–80

- PCRG, SGRP, MPRG and HE, 2016, *A standard for pottery studies in archaeology*, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group and Historic England
- Preston, S, 2019, '26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire: an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services, unpubl rep **19/177**, Reading
- Schweingruber, F H, 1978, *Microscopic wood anatomy*, Birmensdorf, Swiss Federal Institute of Forestry Research
- Stace, C, 1997, *New flora of the British Isles*, Cambridge
- Tiller, K, 2005, *Dorchester Abbey, Church and People 635-2005*, Stonesfield
- Timby, J, 2010, 'Pottery', in T Dawson and J McNicoll-Norbury, 'St Birinus School, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief', TVAS unpubl rep **10/80**, Reading, 3-4
- Timby, J, 2013, 'Pottery', in A Čelovský, 'An archaeological evaluation at 31 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire NGR SU 5782 9381', John Moore Heritage Services unpubl rep, 5-6
- Timby, J, 2017, 'Pottery', in J Pine and T Dawson, 'Roman occupation and burials, and medieval backlands to the rear of 32-36 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire', in T Dawson, C Falys, A Munding, J Pine and D Platt, *The southern cemetery of Roman Dorchester-on-Thames. With evidence for Roman and medieval settlement: archaeological investigations on High Street, Wittenham Lane and Orchard Haven*, TVAS Monogr **29**, Reading, 13-16
- Tomber, R and Dore, J, 1998, *The national Roman fabric reference collection: a handbook*, Museum of London Archaeological Services Monogr **2**, London
- Warry, P, 2006, *Tegulae: Manufacture, typology and use in Roman Britain*, BAR (Brit Ser) **417**, Oxford
- Warry, P, 2020, 'The quantification and interpretation of ceramic building material (CBM) assemblages in Britain', *Britannia*, **51**, 348–60
- Winder, J M, 2011, *Oyster shells from archaeological sites: a brief illustrated guide to basic processing*
- Young, C J, 1977, *The Roman pottery industry of the Oxford region*, BAR (Brit Ser) **43**, Oxford

<http://www.woodanatomy.ch/>

<https://www.plantatlas.eu/>



**APPENDIX 1: Feature details**

<i>Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date (century AD)</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>	<i>Comments</i>
		50	Topsoil			
		51	Subsoil			
		52	Natural			
	8	61	Post hole			
	9	62	Post hole	Late Roman (mid 3rd - 4th)	Pottery	
	10	63	Pit	Roman (2nd-4th)	Pottery	
	11	64	Pit	Medieval (13th)	Pottery	With Roman pottery
	12	65	Pit	Late Roman (mid 3rd-4th)	Pottery	
	13	66	Pit	Medieval (Mid-12th-Mid-15th)	Pottery	With Roman pottery
100	14	67	Ditch	Late Roman (mid 3rd-4th)	Association	
100	15	68	Ditch	Late Roman	Pottery	
	16	69	Post hole	Roman	Pottery	
	17	70	Pit	Medieval? (13th?)	Pottery	With Roman pottery
101	18	71	Pit ?	Roman (mid 3rd-4th)	Pottery	
100	19	72	Ditch	Late Roman (mid to late 4th)	Pottery	
	20	73	Small pit	Late Roman (4th)		
	21	74	Pit/post hole?	Late Roman (mid 3rd-4th)		
	22	75	Shallow pit?			
100	23	76, 77	Ditch	Late Roman (4th)	Pottery	1 intrusive Medieval sherd
	25	78, 80	Pit?			
101	24	79	Pit?	Late Roman (mid 3rd-4th)	Pottery	
		81	Disturbed area	Roman (3rd-4th)	Pottery	

**APPENDIX 2: Roman Pottery Catalogue (More detail is available as an Excel spreadsheet in archive)**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>SAMPL E</i>	<i>WAR E</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>DIAMETE R</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>SPOT DATE</i>	<i>COMMENT</i>
	51		R21	1	22			250+	
	51		R30	1	9			250+	
	51		R30	1	17	15	13	250+	
	51		R30	1	19	13	14	250+	
	51		R30	1	7			250+	
	51		R21	1	7			250+	
	51		R214	1	19	17	9	250+	
9	62	8	F51	1	2			250-400	
9	62	8	F51	1	1			250-400	
10	63	9	W12	1	1			100+	
10	63	9	R11	2	4			100+	
10	63	9	R297	1	1			100+	
10	63	9	R30	1	2			100+	
10	63	9	R30	1	2			100+	
11	64	10	M22	1	3			MED	
11	64	10	R11	2	3			MED	
11	64	10	R11	1	1			MED	
11	64	10	R11	1	1			MED	
11	64	10	R21B	1	3			MED	
11	64	10	R21	1	2			MED	
11	64		C11	1	11			MED	
11	64		R21	1	6			MED	
11	64		R11	1	7			MED	
11	64		O11	1	2			MED	
11	64		F51	2	28			MED	CLOSED FORM
11	64		Z20	1	6			MED	
11	64		Z20	1	17			MED	
11	64		Z20	1	18			MED	
11	64		Z20	1	13			MED	GLAZED
12	65		F51	1	28	4		240+	BASE 30/40
12	65	11	R11	1	1			240+	
13	66		R11	1	5			MED	
13	66		C11	1	4			MED	
13	66		Z20	1	5			MED	
13	66		Z20	1	2			MED	
14	67		R29	1	4			240+	SLIGHTLY RIDGED
14	67		F51	1	3			240+	
14	67		F51	1	12			240+	
15	68		R90	1	111			300-400	
15	68		C11	1	11			300-400	
15	68		W22	1	28			300-400	OR 'WHITE' R21??
15	68		A15	1	10			300-400	
15	68		R297	1	22			300-400	
15	68		M41	1	3			300-400	
15	68		F51	1	2			300-400	
15	68		F51	1	2			300-400	CLOSED FORM
15	68		F51	1	14			300-400	CLOSED FORM, DARK SLIP
15	68		O11	1	2			300-400	
15	68		R11	1	3			300-400	
15	68		R11	1	5		1	300-400	
15	68		R21	1	23			300-400	R21/R30
15	68		R30	1	15			300-400	
15	68		R30	1	5		2	300-400	PROBABLY A DISH
15	68		R30	1	31	21	10	300-400	
16	69		R30	1	4			100+	
17	70	15	R21	1	2			MED	
17	70	15	B11	1	2			MED	
17	70	15	Z20	1	4			MED	
17	70	15	Z20	1	2			MED	
18	71		F51	1	6	22	4	240+	
18	71		F51	1	4			240+	CLOSED FORM
18	71		R11	1	7			240+	
18	71		R11	1	14	17	7	240+	
18	71		S30	1	140			240+	Drag 37 OR 30?
18	71		S30	1	4			240+	
18	71		S40	1	2		1	240+	

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>SAMPL E</i>	<i>WAR E</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>DIAMETE R</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>SPOT DATE</i>	<i>COMMENT</i>
18	71		W12	2	6			240+	
18	71		O11	1	4			240+	
18	71		B11	1	3			240+	
18	71		R21	1	44			240+	
18	71		R21	1	37			240+	
18	71		R30	1	24			240+	
18	71		R30	1	19	16	6	240+	
18	71		R11	1	79			240+	
18	71		R11	1	89			240+	
18	71		R11	1	17			240+	
18	71		R11	1	2			240+	
18	71		R11	1	13			240+	
18	71		R11	1	3	13	3	240+	
18	71		R11	1	7	24	3	240+	
18	71		R11	1	10	26	5	240+	
18	71		R11	4	23			240+	
19	72		S30	1	7			350+	
19	72		A11	1	17			350+	
19	72		W11	1	24			350+	INTERIOR DECORATION
19	72		F51	1	2			350+	CLOSED FORM
19	72		F51	1	43	19	10	350+	STUBBY FLANGE
19	72		F51	1	42	20	5	350+	PAINT E AND I
19	72		B11	1	6			350+	
19	72		F51	1	5			350+	CLOSED FORM, DARK SLIP
19	72		R11	2	12			350+	
19	72		R11	1	3			350+	
19	72		R11	1	7	11	17	350+	
19	72		R11	1	11	22	7	350+	
19	72		R30	1	2			350+	
19	72		R30	1	6	15	6	350+	
19	72		R21	1	6			350+	
19	72		R21	1	7			350+	
19	72		R21	1	6			350+	
19	72		R297	1	7			350+	
20	73		C10	1	42			300-400	
20	73		R90	1	99			300-400	
20	73		B11	1	3			300-400	LATTICE UNCERTAIN
20	73		R30	1	8			300-400	
20	73		R11	1	6			300-400	
20	73		R11	1	4			300-400	
20	73		O81	1	54	22	10	300-400	
21	74		Q21	1	3			240+	POSSIBLY M31?
21	74		F51	1	3			240+	CLOSED FORM
21	74		R30	1	4			240+	
21	74		R30	1	11			240+	
21	74		W23	1	5			240+	
21	74		W23	1	6	13	8	240+	
23	75		R30	1	2			240+	R30/R11, EXTERIOR LOST
23	75		F51	1	22			240+	CLOSED FORM, DARK SLIP
23	76		A11	1	191			300+	NECK
23	76		O901	1	9			300+	
23	76		O80	1	81	30	4	300+	
23	76		C11	1	24			300+	
23	76		C11	1	27			300+	
23	76		W22	1	61			300+	
23	76		W22	1	99			300+	
23	76		W22	1	18			300+	?BURNT
23	76		W23	1	5			300+	
23	76		F52	1	18			300+	
23	76		M41	1	10			300+	
23	76		F51	1	8			300+	
23	76		F51	1	18			300+	
23	76		F51	1	23			300+	
23	76		F51	1	25			300+	
23	76		F51	2	9			300+	CLOSED FORM
23	76		F51	1	2			300+	NECK?
23	76		F51	1	4			300+	SMALL BOWL CF C75?
23	76		F51	2	19			300+	

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>SAMPL E</i>	<i>WAR E</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>DIAMETE R</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>SPOT DATE</i>	<i>COMMENT</i>
23	76		F51	1	9	10	6	300+	
23	76		F51	1	12			300+	
23	76		B11	1	10			300+	
23	76		R30	1	11			300+	
23	76		R30	1	10			300+	R30/R21
23	76		F51	1	6			300+	
23	76		R30	1	8			300+	
23	76		R30	1	20			300+	
23	76		R30	1	23			300+	
23	76		R30	1	18			300+	
23	76		R111	1	6			300+	
23	76		R11	1	4			300+	
23	76		R11	1	15			300+	
23	76		Z20	1	16			300+	
23	77		R201	1	48			350+	
23	77		R90	1	26			350+	
23	77		R21	1	41	17	11	350+	
23	77		R11	1	9			350+	
23	77		R21	1	8			350+	
23	77		R21	1	15	21	6	350+	
23	77		R291	1	11			350+	
23	77		M41	2	19			350+	
23	77		M41	1	39	20	7	350+	
23	77		F51	1	12	15	6	350+	
23	77		F51	1	14			350+	?CLOSED FORM
23	77		F51	1	23	12	27	350+	
23	77	14	W12	1	3			350+	ERODED
23	77	14	Q21	1	2			350+	
23	77	14	R21	1	2			350+	
23	77	14	R30	1	1			350+	
23	77	14	R30	1	5			350+	
23	77	14	R11	1	4			350+	
25	78	16	R30	1	3			100+	
24	79		R90	1	43			240+	
24	79		S30	1	4			240+	
24	79		R30	1	5			240+	
24	79		R11	1	13			240+	R11/R30
24	79		R11	1	4			240+	
24	79		R11	1	51			240+	
24	79		R11	2	32			240+	
24	79		R11	2	14			240+	
24	79	17	S30	1	4			240+	
24	79	17	B11	1	1		3	240+	
24	79	17	W23	1	2			240+	
24	79	17	R11	1	3			240+	
24	79	17	R11	3	3			240+	
24	79	17	R11	2	2			240+	
24	79	17	R21	3	6			240+	
24	79	17	R21	1	1			240+	
24	79	17	C11	6	27			240+	
	81		C241	1	2			200+	
	81		R29	1	16	15	9	200+	
	81		R30	4	58			200+	
	81		R30	1	5			200+	
	81		R30	2	38			200+	

**APPENDIX 3: Post-Roman Pottery Summary Catalogue (More details available in archive)**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt/g</i>	<i>MNV</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Rim</i>	<i>Spot date (Century AD)</i>
11	64		OX162	B	1	6	1			12th-14th
11	64		OX162	R	1	17	1	Jar	FLAR	13th
11	64		OXAG	R	1	18	1	Jar	FTEV	13th
11	64		OXAM	D	1	13	1			13th-15th
13	66		OXAQ	U	2	9	1			Mid-12th-Mid-15th
17	70	15	OXAW1	U	1	2	1			Late 12th-Mid-14th
17	70	15	WA38	U	1	3	1			11th-13th
23	76		OXAC	B	1	16	1			Late 9th-13th

Type: U/D – undecorated/decorated body sherd; R – rimsherd; B – base.

Rim: FTEV – flat-topped everted; FLAR – flaring.

**APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of fired clay and ceramic building material**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Firing</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Thickness (mm)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
25	78	AZ	OXID	1	4	?	?	
25	78	SILTY	OXID	1	4	?	?	
			MIXE					
10	63	ALC	D	1	12	FLAT	19+	?Burnt
20	73	AL	OXID	1	5	FLAT	12+	Surface with limewash/plaster
25	80	AL	OXID	1	1	FLAT	7+	
25	80	A	OXID	1	1			
			MIXE					
25	80	A	D	1	14	FLAT	13+	?Burnt
23	75	A	OXID	8	141	FLAT	15(+)	Underside fairly smooth but irregular underside fairly smooth but irregular and unoxidised
23	75	A	O/U	1	14	FLAT	16(+)	underside fairly smooth but irregular and unoxidised
23	75	A	O/U	1	14	FLAT	9(+)	
23	75	A	O/U	1	428	DISC'	25-27	Sub-oval, one of two pieces of the same object
23	75	A	O/U	1	775	DISC'	22-27	5 fragments, sub oval, second of two pieces of the same object

**APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of metal objects**

<i>Cat no.</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Length (mm)</i>	<i>Head width (mm)</i>	<i>Shaft width (mm)</i>	<i>Type</i>
1	14	67	-	61	19	6	Nail 1b
2	17	70	-	65	17	7	Nail 1b
3	18	71	-	32	15	6	Nail 1b
4	23	77	14	17	14	6	Nail 1b
5	24	79	17	13	10	3	Nail 10

**APPENDIX 6:** Inventory of animal bone

Key: lbsf = long bone shaft fragment

Cut	Fill	No frags	Wt (g)	Horse	Cow	LAR	Sheep/goat	Pig	MED	Small	UNID	Comments
8	61	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Unidentified
9	62	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Unidentified lbsf
10	63	7	35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	Cow: proximal phalanx
11	64	41	374	2	-	37	-	-	-	-	2	Horse: tooth, C2 vertebra; "Large" rib shafts, fragmented vertebrae
12	65	4	25	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	"Large": lbsf; 1 incisor species/size – small-medium?
14	67	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Unidentified lbsf
15	68	8	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	Vertebra small-medium sized (1), unidentified lbsfs
16	69	4	106	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	Pig: mandibular fragment with 2 in situ molars
17	70	2	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Unidentified
18	71	16	1859	-	1	7	-	-	2	-	6	Cow: right talus; "large" innominate fragments; "medium" lbsf
19	72	6	113	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	Large: mandible, rib, spinous process fragments, lbsf; "Medium": left acetabulum
20	73	4	42	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	"Medium" lbsf
21	74	2	52	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Horse: proximal phalanx
23	75	3	34	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	Cow: proximal phalanx
23	76	44	1026	-	6	10	3	1	10	-	14	Cow: mandible with condyle, left distal tibia, left and right metacarpals; "large": distal humerus, vertebral fragments, lbsf; Pig: maxillary fragment with teeth; Sheep/goat: mandibular fragment, left proximal radius, right distal tibia; "medium" scapula, rib shafts, lbsf
23	77	28	410	1	2	5	-	-	5	2	14	Horse: proximal end of proximal phalanx; Cow: left distal tibia and distal phalanx; "Large" vertebra, mandibular and innominate fragments; "Medium" innominate/acetabulum, lbsf; "Small": rib shaft, foetal talus species (?)
24	79	13	269	1	-	3	1	1	-	-	7	Horse: rib shaft; "large" lbsf; Pig: mandibular fragment with erupting teeth; Sheep/goat: mandibular fragment
-	81	4	26	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	"Large": right calcaneus; Sheep/goat: left distal tibia



**APPENDIX 7:** Inventory of burnt bone.

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>No frags</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Max frag size (mm)</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Comments</i>
10	63	1	1.0	25.2	grey	unidentified
12	65	1	1.0	13.1	grey	unidentified

**APPENDIX 8:** Catalogue of oyster shells

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Left valve</i>	<i>Dimensions (mm)</i>	<i>Right valve</i>	<i>Dimensions (mm)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
9	62	post hole	8	1	1					
10	63	pit		2	20,6	2				
10	63	small pit	9	9	4,8					
18	71	pit?		3	81,8	1	78x62	2	69x62 71x67	Notches
20	73	post hole		1	17,2	1	57x48			
23	76	ditch	13	1	1,6					
23	76	ditch		1	270	1	75x52			
23	77	ditch		11	150	2		7	68x61 53x42 81x65 56x48	Notches
23	77	ditch	14	3	2,2					
24	79	pit?	17	1	4,4	1				
24	79	pit?		2	45,1	1				
	81	spread		1	23,3			1	73x68	

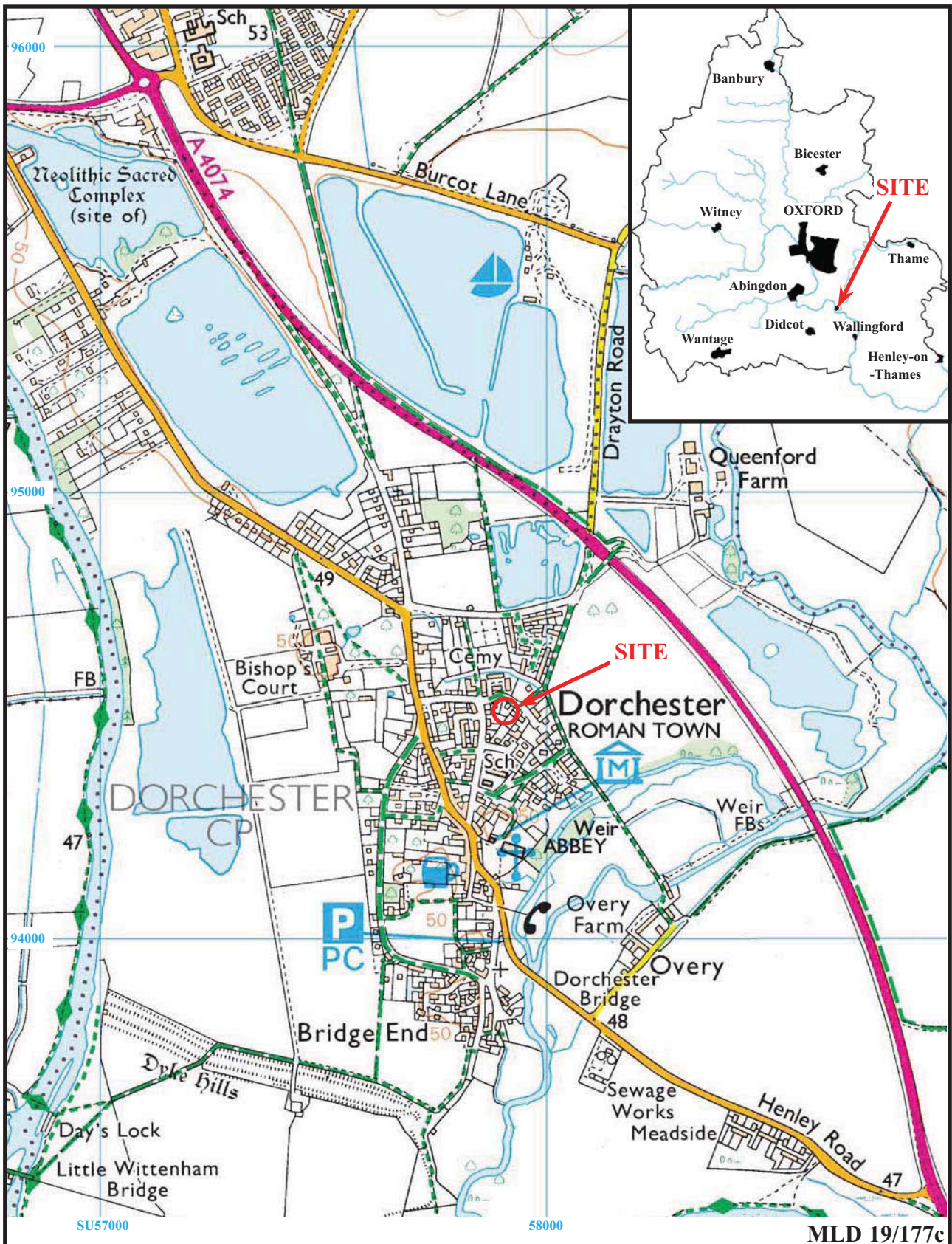
**APPENDIX 9: Palaeoenvironmental remains**

Table 9A Charcoal Macrofossils

	<i>Sample</i>	13	14	17
	<i>Feature</i>	23	23	24
	<i>Deposit</i>	76	77	79
	<i>Feature Type</i>	Ditch	Ditch	Pit (?)
	<i>No frags</i>	12	19	9
	<i>Max. size (mm)</i>	52	103	79
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	12	17	6
	Indeterminate	-	2	3

Table 9B: Seed Macrofossils

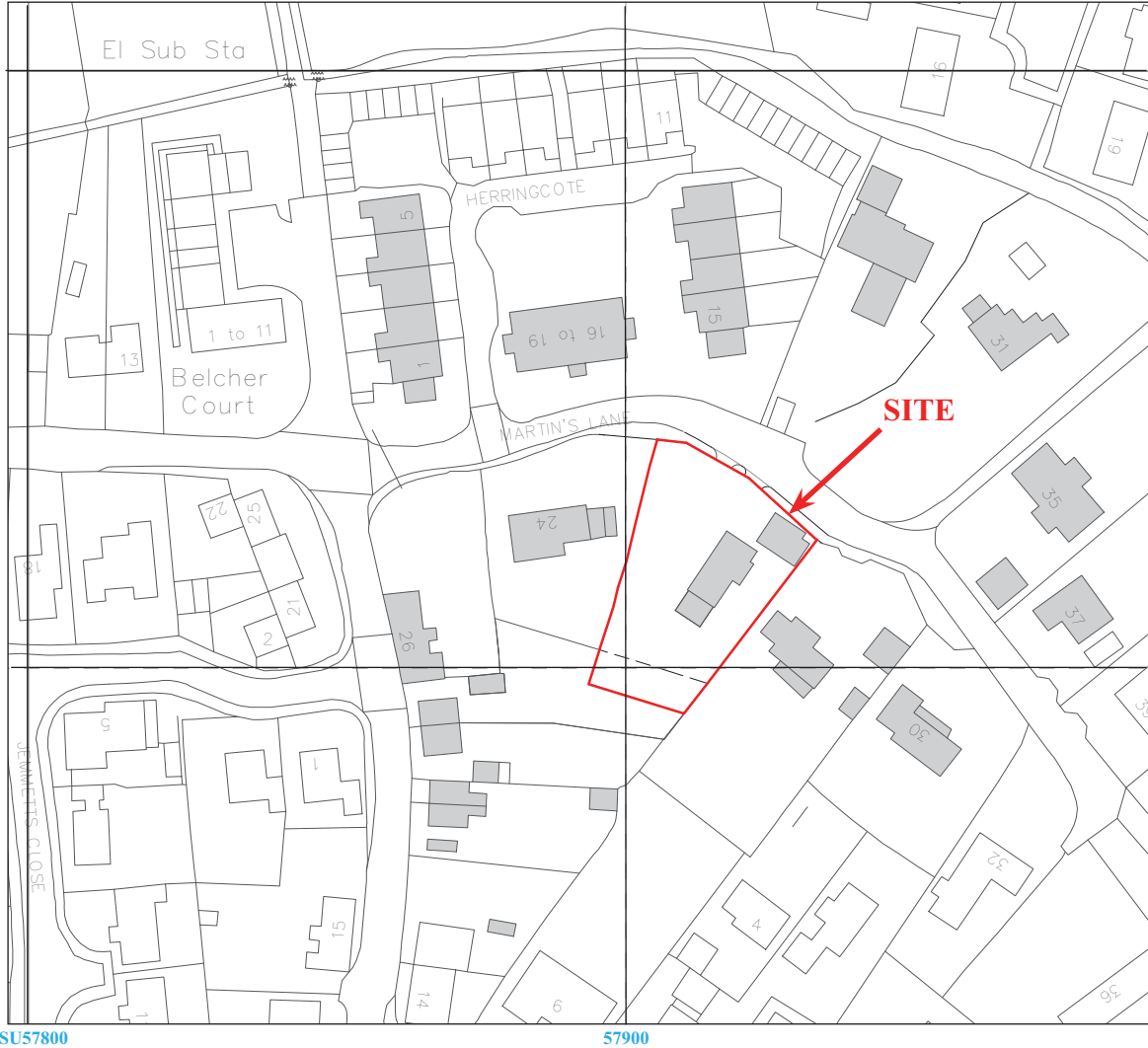
	<i>Sample</i>	13	17
	<i>Feature</i>	23	24
	<i>Deposit</i>	76	79
	<i>Feature Type</i>	Ditch	Pit (?)
<i>Triticum</i> spp.	Wheat	1	1



**26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire**  
**Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief**  
 Figure 1. Location of site within Dorchester-on-Thames and  
 Oxfordshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500  
 Crown Copyright reserved





MLD 19/177c



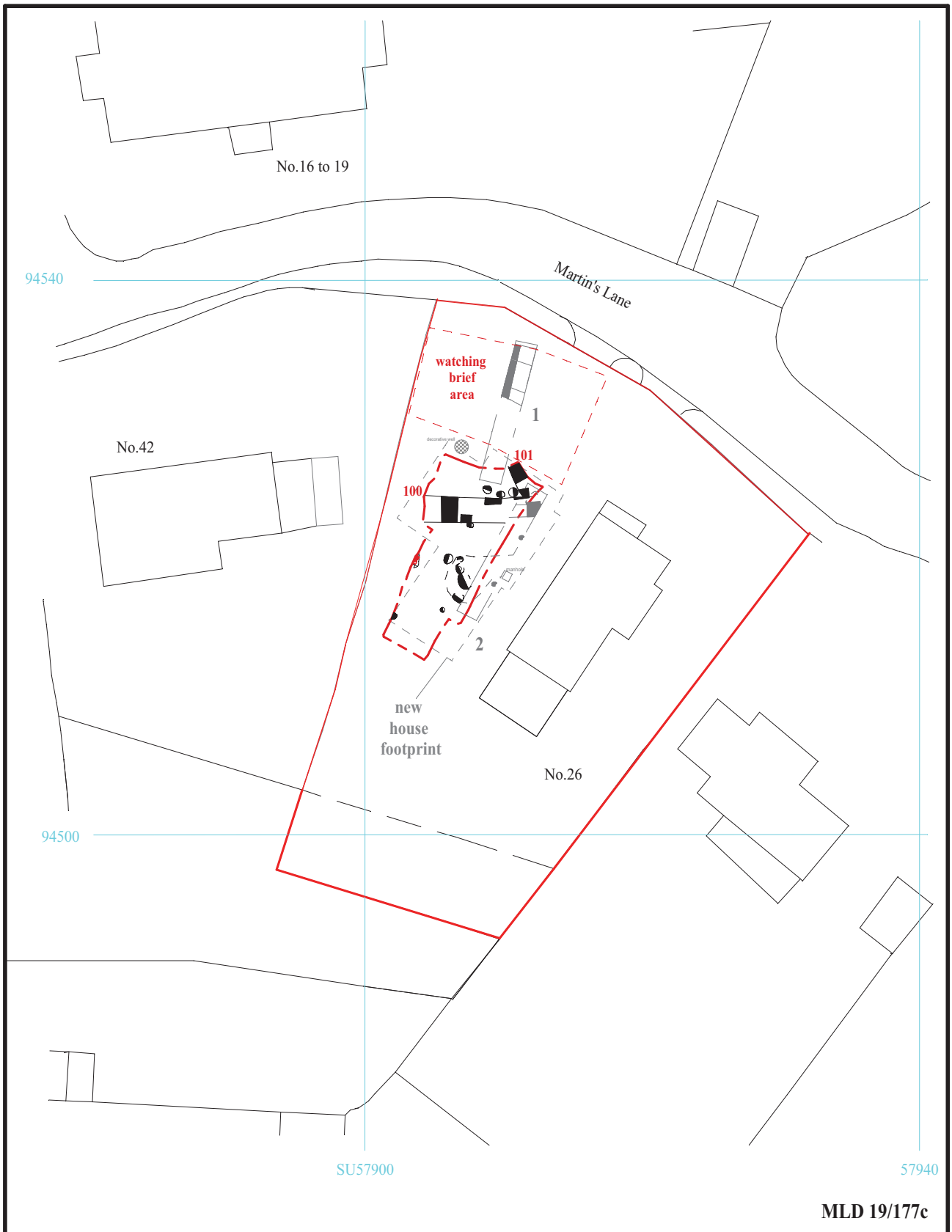
**26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Martins' Lane.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.  
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



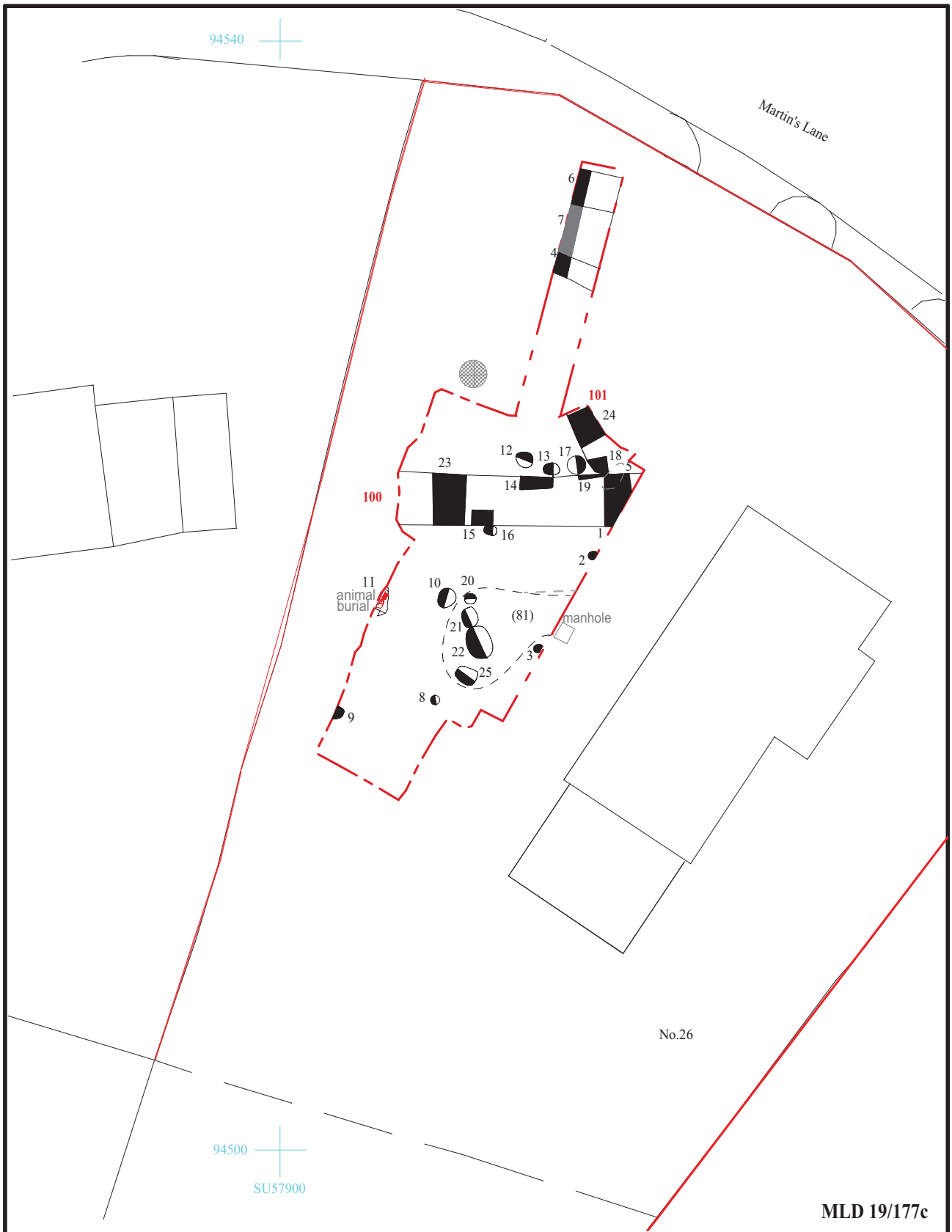
**26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire  
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.



THAMES VALLEY  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**  
 SERVICES

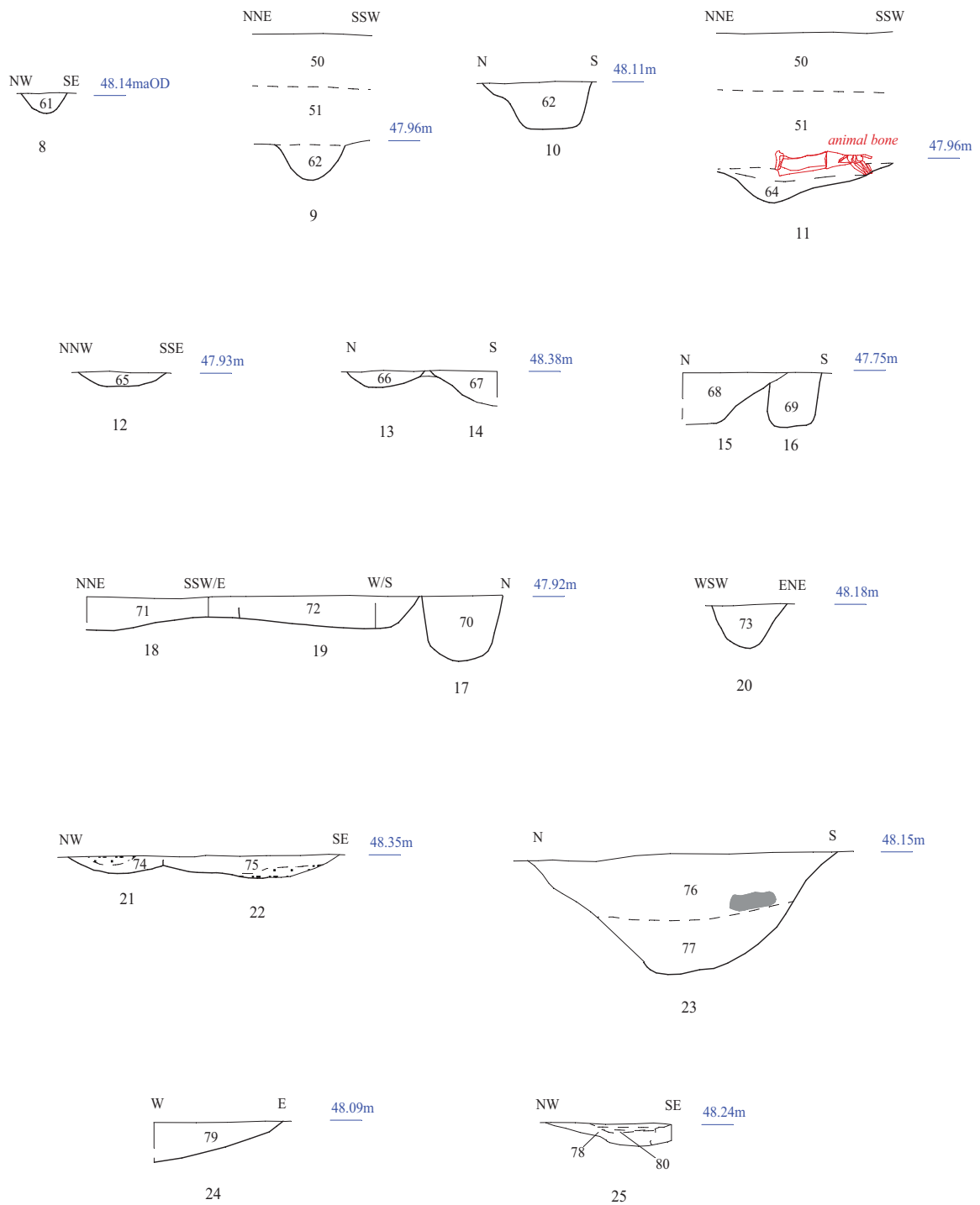
MLD 19/177c



**26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire  
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 4. Location of main excavation area including evaluation trenches





MLD 19/177c

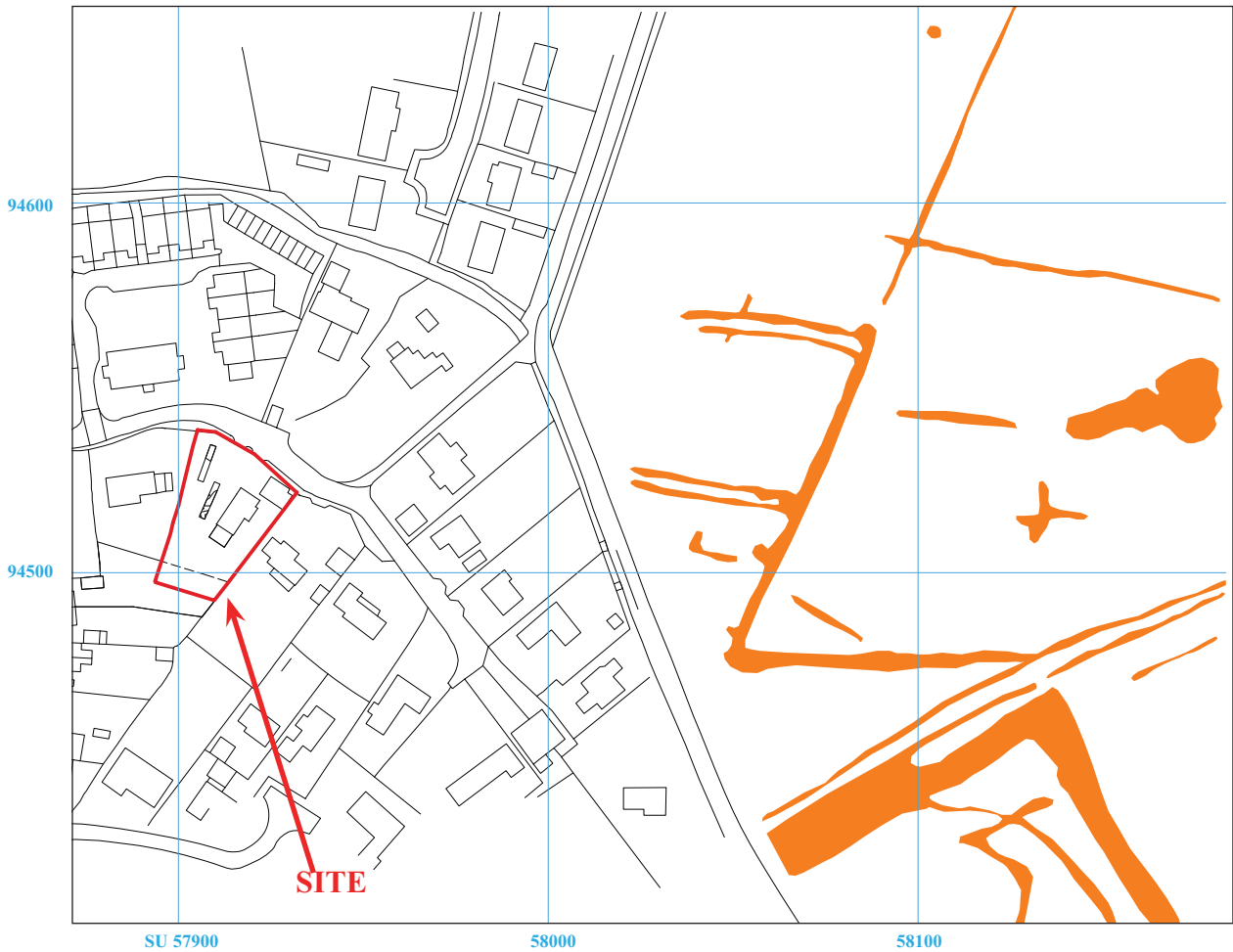
**26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire  
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 5. Sections.



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES





MLD 19/177c



**26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,  
2021: Archaeological Excavation and watching brief.**

Figure 6. Location of site in relation to cropmarks plotted to the east (shown in orange, data from NMP) (Booth *et al.* 2012, fig. 2, shows a more complex transcription).

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.  
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:2000

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



Plate 1. Excavated area, looking North, Scales: 1m.



Plate 2. Pit 10, looking North East, Scales: 0.5m and 0.2m.

MLD 17/177c

26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire, 2020  
Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief  
Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



Plate 3. Ditch 15 (group 100) and pit 16, looking East, Scales: 1m, 0.3m and 0.4m.



Plate 4. Ditch 23 (group 100), looking North East, Scales: 1m and 0.4m.

MLD 17/177c

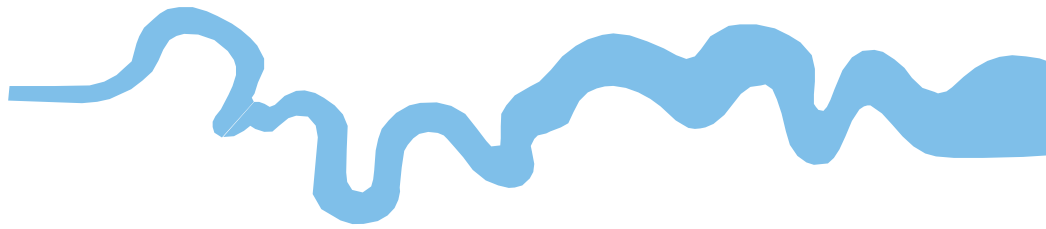
26 Martin's Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire, 2020  
Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief  
Plates 3 and 4.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,  
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,  
Reading RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552  
Email: [tvas@tvas.co.uk](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**

*Offices in:  
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)*