Introduction to the Wroxeter (Webster) Archive database

There is evidence in both the archive and the published volumes that databases were used to aid analysis for both volumes. In neither case did electronic versions of these survive in the archive, and the current database has been created during the archive project (June to November 2010). The aim has been to provide a basic curatorial and research tool. It is intended that additional tables and fields will be added as further work is carried out on the archive by different people.

The database consists of seven tables. Features index, Site records, X Radiograph index and Finds Photos all provide indexes of elements in the paper archive. The tables 'Structural' and 'Small finds' have been constructed from information in the archive to provide research tools for future work. The table 'Vessel Glass' provides a concordance between the archive and the published reports.

This introduction outlines how the tables have been created and what their data sources are. In everything that follows the following abbreviations are used

Military = Webster, G. (ed. Chadderton, J.) 2002. *The Legionary Fortress at Wroxeter. Excavations by Graham Webster, 1955-85*, English Heritage Archaeological Report 19 (London).

Baths and Macellum / B & M = Ellis, P. 2000. *The Roman Baths and Macellum at Wroxeter. Excavations by Graham Webster 1955-85*, English Heritage Archaeological Report 9 (London).

The structural table

This provides the stratigraphic information and has been constructed as follows:-

For the post-excavation work on the Baths and Macellum volume a basic database was created and maintained at Birmingham in 1993 but the final version of this can no longer be traced. The present author was supplied with an electronic copy of this which fortunately could be located in her files. This formed the basis of the table and has been edited to reflect the alterations that arose over the course of the post-excavation work using a print out of the final database as it stood in 1998 (Archive element E15). The 1993 database accounts for rows 1-4729. Rows 4730-64 are additions derived from E15.

Records 4765-6750 are derived primarily from information provided in Appendices 1 and 2 of the Military volume together with archive print-outs (Archive element B5.1d). As noted in the Appendices not all of the contexts considered to be military were listed in the Appendices or the print-outs and no complete listing survives in the archive. The complete glass catalogue (Archive element B5.3c) was marked up with the phasing for the Baths and Macellum volume by Peter Ellis at the beginning of the post-excavation work for that volume. Contexts that were considered to be military were also noted on that catalogue. These have provided additional attributions for fill layers not noted as military elsewhere in the archive.

As originally designed the database had nine fields.

Area
A letter code relating to the different areas discussed in the report. Codes used are as follows.

   B Baths
   BP Baths Precinct
   C Courtyard
   P Porticos
   WR Western range

Box number
A number relating to the archaeological box. Some of the boxes that had originally been assigned letter codes rather than number codes appear to have been assigned numbers between 101 and 119. The concordance is as follows.

   101 Box A
   102 Box B
   103 Box C
   104 Box D
   107 Box G
   109 Box J
   110 Box K
   111 Box L
   113 Box N
   116 Box S
   117 Box T
   118 Box U
   119 Box V

For the military volume problems arise for Box 88. As can be seen from fig. 1.10 of the military volume this was dug as four distinct areas with the *macellum* rooms – 88.I, 88.II, 88.III and 88.IV. Unfortunately the context numbering sequence in each of these started with 1. In the database the four area will be given the box number 881, 882, 883, 884 and a note will be put in the comments field.

NB Boxes 85 and 87 also had separate special elements but there a single sequence of context numbers was used.

Context type
A letter code indicating whether the context id a feature (F) or a layer (L). Only recorded for contexts derived from the Baths and Macellum

Context number
A number relating to the context. During the Baths and Macellum post excavation work where contexts had been originally give an alphanumeric code e.g. 20A, a new number was assigned at this stage of the post excavation process. The comments field indicates the original number or code. Such renumbering was not carried out for the

Military post excavation work. Again the comments field records a note of what the original context number was.

Feature number
The original feature number assigned during excavation and initial post excavation (sequence 1-3249) and some additional numbers in the 4000s created during the creation of the Baths and Macellum database.

Feature Type
For the Baths and Macellum this is a letter code describing the feature. The codes are as follows.

AT	Archaeological trench
CT	Construction trench
D	Drain
ES	External surface
F	Feature
FL	Floor
FO	Footings
O	Other
P	Pit
PH	Posthole
RT	Robber trench
SH	Stake hole
T	Trench
W	Wall
WPT	Water pipe trench

For the military contexts the description as it occurs in Appendices 1 and 2 is given. Many of the Military contexts were not included in these appendices and here the feature type is taken from the database print out in the archive.

Keygroup
Keygroup number used in the Baths and Macellum volume.

Phase number
The military volume phasing is prefixed by M. The Baths and Macellum volume phasing has no prefix. Contexts that are just attributed as Military were derived from the information in the glass archive (see introduction). This also provided a number of attributions of 'unphased'. If the context is phased as 'unknown' this means that neither the Military nor the Baths and Macellum post excavation work make any mention of it. If the phase is given as '?' this information was taken from the Military volume phasing lists and presumably means that the pahse is considered to be military without further refinement.

Comment
Additional information including the original number or code where a new number has been assigned.

The additional fields are

ID
The unique primary key.

Context code
A single decimal number that summarises the archaeological box / and context number. The box number comes before the decimal point and the context number it. The format takes the following forms:-

Box number	Context	Context code
1	1	1.001
16	31	16.031
97	107	97.107

This code has been devised during the archive project to allow the rapid cross-checking of the context of any individual object from the context information written on the bag. Please note though that in 1993 contests give as '+' were given new numbers.

Comment
A field for notes about the entry including cross references that notes where a context has been included in both the Military volume and the Baths and Macellum volume with different phasing.

Volume
This indicates which archive and volume provided the information. In addition to the Military and the Baths and Macellum attributions, information derived solely from the vessel glass catalogue B5.3c is indicated by 'Glass archive'

Both volumes
This is a yes/no field that provides a rapid indication of which contexts (indicated by yes) were included in both volumes with different phasing.

The small find table

This has been constructed as follows.

The original small finds records were recorded in two notebooks (Archive C 1.1-1.2). During the post excavation work in 1985-86 these were transcribed onto A4 proformas (Archive C2).

During the archive project in 2010 the data in C2 was entered into the small find table. Further information was added from the two published volumes with the simple names being corrected to the published ones. Where there were discrepancies between the published site details and those on the records, these were checked against both C2 and the original finds notebooks and corrected if possible.

Information about the Ancient Monument Laboratory numbers was taken from the original AML lists as submitted and preserved in ring binder C3 and the card index of treatment cards (AML 1). It should be noted that the lists in C3 were frequently

photocopies which occasionally omitted the bottom line of data. The lists had been punched so that they could be kept in the ring binder and this sometimes removed the small find number. Both of these factors mean that not all of the AML numbers can now be linked to a small find number without checking the individual bags.

The database has 25 fields

Finds ID
A unique entry for each record assigned during the creation of the database

Small find number
The original small find number issued during the excavation.

Area
The area or box number – see the 'Box number' field of the stratigraphic table for full explanation

Context
The context number within each area. See 'Context number' of the stratigraphic field.

Context code
A single decimal number that summarises the archaeological box / and context number. See 'context code' field of stratigraphic table for full explanation.

Context ID
This is equivalent to the 'ID' field in the stratigraphic table. It provides a 1 to 1 relationship to the stratigraphic information.

Material
Identity of material of find. This was sometimes omitted from the original records. Where possible the missing entries have been corrected using the publications and the AML treatment cards (AML 1).

Simple name
The simple name of the object. This has been corrected against the publications and the AML record cards where possible but many remain as the original ones issued in the field and may not be correct.

Typology
Where there are established typologies, this field contains an entry citing the type. Typologies used are the following

Earrings – Allason-Jones, L. 1989. *Ear-rings in Roman Britain*, BAR British Series 201 (Oxford)

Hairpins – bone – Crummy, N., 1983, *The Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, Colchester Archaeol. Rep. 2, (Colchester)

Hairpins – metal – Cool, H. E. M., 1991. 'Roman metal hair pins from southern Britain', *Archaeol J.* 147 (1990), 148-82

Iron objects – Manning, W. H., 1985. *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum*, (London)

Penannular brooches – Fowler, E. 1960. 'The origins and development of the penannular brooch in Europe', *Proc. Prehistoric Soc*. 26, 149-77

Toilet implements – Eckardt, H. and Crummy, N. 2008. *Styling the body in Late Iron Age and Roman Britai*n, Monographies Instrumentum 36 (Montagnac).

Other items have been given generic descriptions in this field. E.G. for beads – colour and shape, for brooches common names such as Colchester Derivative, trumpet etc.

Count
Number of items assigned to each small find number in the original records where given, otherwise an entry of 1 is given. Only items that can be considered small finds in the strict sense have been given numbers. Items such as samples, 'interesting' pottery sherds etc have been given the number 0.

Comment
Additional information derived from original small finds books

Disposed of
A presence absence field. If ticked as present this records that the original small finds book records the items as having been disposed of.

Entry Comment
Any problem encountered with the record during the entry of the information in 2010 is recorded here. E.G. duplication of small finds numbers, duplication of AML numbers, problems with the context etc. If the items has been published twice, the second publication record is given here.

AML Card
A presence absence field. If ticked as present this records that a full AML record card exists for the items.

AML number
The Ancient Monument Laboratory number assigned to the find when it went to the laboratory. This number should be stamped on the bags.

X-radiograph
A presence/absence field. If ticked as present this means that an x-radiograph image is available. See X-radiograph index table.

XRF Record
A presence/absence field. If ticked as present this records that the item was subject to XRF analysis in the AML and thee is a record of the composition.

Photographed
A presence/absence field. If ticked as present this records that the item was photographed by the ancient Monument Laboratory. See Photograph Index table.

Published
A presence/absence field. If ticked as present this records that the item was published in the two site reports.

Both volumes
A presence/absence field. If ticked as present this records that the item was published in both volumes. The publication reference for the second volume is given in the Entry Comment field.

Volume
This indicates which volume (Military or Baths and Macellum) the find was published in.

Catalogue number
The published catalogue number of the item.

Figure
The published figure showing the item

Page
The page of the publication where the catalogue entry occurs

Only discussed
In the Baths and Macellum volume there was an overview of the finds from particular contexts. Not all of these items had full catalogue entries. This field gives the page number on which the item is discussed if it does not have a proper catalogue entry

X-radiograph Index

The items recorded in the Ancient Monuments Laboratory as coming from the Webster excavations frequently included items from other excavations in Wroxeter. This table provides an index to all the objects recorded on the X-radiograph plates labelled 'Webster', some of which will not come from those excavations. The items on these plates are labelled with the AML number and not the small find number or context number.

The small find table indicates whether a particular small find has been X-radiographed. Please note that generally items were only X-radiographed once, but a few occur on more than one plate.

There are three fields

XRadiograph ID
The unique reference number for the record.

Xradiograph plate
The plate number the item occurs on. The plates are stored in Archive box 20 (Archive reference AML 3).

AML number
The AML number – this provides the link to the small find table.

The Finds Photos table

The Ancient Monuments Laboratory photographed many of the finds that were sent to them. There is a sequence of photographs with 'WR' numbers that include the Webster finds as well as those from other excavations. The entire sequence has been indexed in this table. There are five fields.

Photo ID
The unique reference number for the record.

WR Plate number
The number of the print in the WR sequence (Archive reference AML2).

Negative number
A small number of photographs with objects from the Webster excavations are recorded on small size prints with a negative reference rather than a 'WR' number. This field provides the reference to them. (Archive reference AML 2)

AML number
The AML number – this provides the link to the small find table.

Attribution
Where possible the source of the finds is given here. It has not been possible to identify this for all of the objects.

Baths Basilica – from the Barker excavations published in Barker, P., White, R. Pretty, K., Bird, H. and Corbishley, M. 1997. *The Baths Basilica Wroxeter : Excavations 1966-90.* English Heritage Archaeological Report 8

Brown - from the excavations within the town in 1977 – published in Ellis, P. and White, R. (eds.) 2006. *Wroxeter Archaeology: Excavations and Research on the Defences and in the town, 1968-1992.* (= Transactions Shropshire Archaeological Society 78 for 2003)

Johnston – from the excavations on the Eastern Defences in 1975-6 – published in Ellis, P. and White, R. (eds.) 2006. *Wroxeter Archaeology: Excavations and Research on the Defences and in the town, 1968-1992.* (= Transactions Shropshire Archaeological Society 78 for 2003)

Kenyon – from the Kenyon excavations of 1952-53 published in Kenyon, K.M. 1980. 'Excavations at *Viroconium* in *insula* 9, 1952-3', *Transactions Shropshire Archaeological Society* 60 (1975-6), 5-75.

Museum – objects from the old site museum deriving from early excavations such as those of Bushe-Fox, Atkinson etc.

Webster = those from the Webster excavations considered here.

The Vessel Glass table

The catalogues as published in the two Webster volumes were derived from an archive catalogue that also included some items from the Kenyon excavations and the Barker excavations. Both of the published catalogues had new sets of catalogue numbers. This table provides a concordance between the full initial catalogue deposited in the archive (Archive element B5.3b) and the publications. It should enable anyone wishing to examine a particular published piece to find it using the archive numbering system which is marked on the bags.

The table has 13 fields.

ID glass
The unique reference number for the record.

Archive number
Archive Catalogue number (see archive element B5.3b)

Manufacturing Method. Colour
The original catalogue was organised first by manufacturing method (cast, mould blown, blown) and then by the colour of the piece. These two fields provide this information and allow the less diagnostic body fragments in the assemblage, which were not published, to be identified.

Area
The area or box number – see the 'Box number' field of the stratigraphic table for full explanation

Context
The context number within each area. See 'Context number' of the stratigraphic field.

Context code
A single decimal number that summarises the archaeological box / and context number. See 'context code' field of stratigraphic table for full explanation.

Context ID
This is equivalent to the 'ID' field in the stratigraphic table. It provides a 1 to 1 relationship to the stratigraphic information.

Military catalogue number, military page, military figure
These fields give the catalogue number, the page number where the catalogue number is found, and the figure number of illustrated pieces in the Military volume.

Baths&M catalogue number, Baths&M page, Baths&M figure
These fields give the catalogue number, the page number where the catalogue number is found, and the figure number of illustrated pieces in the Baths and Macellum volume.

The Site Records Table
This provides an index to Archive elements B1 (notebooks) and B3 (Context pro formae). It has five fields

ID
The unique reference number for the record.

Wroxeter box number
The area or box number – see the 'Box number' field of the stratigraphic table for full explanation

Notebook
A presence/absence field. If ticked as present this records that a notebook is present in the archive. See Archive element B1.

Notebook Comment
This field shows if the notebook is joint, or whether there is more than one notebook per area.

Context proforma
Gives the archive element (B3.1-88) in which the context sheets for an area are stored in.

The Feature Index table

This provides an index to Archive element B2. It has five fields

Feature number
Recorded feature number and can act as the unique identifying reference number.

Box number
The area or box number – see the 'Box number' field of the stratigraphic table for full explanation.

Layer number
The context number within each area. See 'Context number' of the stratigraphic field.

Description
Description of feature taken from pro formae. Also notes which numbers were not used as feature numbers.

Feature files
Indicates which file the pro forma will be found in

The Coin Table

In 2011, after the archive project was completed, Dr Richard Brickstock very kindly located the database he had originally recorded the coins on and converted it to a format which could be included in the archive as this table. This is equivalent to the paper archive element 5.2.

It has 22 fields. For the technical fields relating to the coins, more information is provided in

Brickstock, R.J. 2004. *The Production, Analysis and Standardisation of Romano-British Coin Reports* (English Heritage, Swindon).

As this is available online reference is merely made to the appropriate section in the listing of the fields below.

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/production-analysis-and-standardisation-of-romano-british-coin/romancoinsweb.pdf

ID
The unique reference number for the record. (Issued in 2011).

Ruler
see Brickstock 2004, sections 2.1.1.

Denom
Brickstock 2004, sections 2.1.5.

Site
Site code only giving the year in the very early years.

Feature
This is the 'Box number' see that field of the stratigraphic table for full explanation.

Context
The context number within each area. See 'Context number' of the stratigraphic field.

Phase
This is the phasing provided to Dr Brickstock by Peter Ellis during the post-excavation work on the Baths and Macellum. The phasing provided into Stratigraphic Table should be preferred if there is any discrepancy.

Feat2
This field gives the keygroups.

SFNo
The original small find number issued during the excavation.

Catalog
Brickstock 2004, sections 2.1.2

Obverse
Brickstock 2004, sections 2.1.6.

Reverse
Brickstock 2004, sections 2.1.7.

MMfield
Information about the field of the coin.

Mint
Brickstock 2004, sections 2.1.4.

Date
Brickstock 2004, sections 2.1.3.

Condit
Brickstock 2004, sections 2.1.8.

Diameter
Brickstock 2004, sections 2.1.9.

Weight
Brickstock 2004, sections 2.1.9.

RulerNo
Numeric coding allowing coins of different emperors to be grouped together.

RevNo
Additional information relating to Catalog field.

CatNo
The published catalogue number

SF Table ID
The identity number the coin has in the small find table.