

Guide to the Wroxeter (Webster) Archive

Introduction

In 2010 English Heritage funded a project to rationalise and order the paper archive relating to the excavations conducted by Graham Webster at the Baths and Macellum at Wroxeter. These excavations had been published in two volumes

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

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) (henceforth referred to as Baths & Macellum)

The archive had been returned to the English Heritage store at Atcham over a number of years and from different people. This project sought to unify the different elements. It used as its basis a numbering system set up by Peter Eliis when he wrote the Baths & Macellum volume and which is referred to in that volume. Major additions will be found in the sections P and AML.

This document provides the numbering system used, a brief description of the different elements, a description of the form they take and their location within the archive. Additional indices to the archive will be found in the project database – see the document *Introduction to the Wroxeter (Webster) Archive database*

A Field and post-excavation illustrations

In 2010 the plans relating to the baths and macellum work of 1992-5 and their photo reductions (Archive A1.4, A4, A6) and the EDM drawings of the insula of 1990 (Archive A6) were not located.

A.1 1955-85 illustrations

A1.1 Field drawings grouped by boxes *Stored in Archive Box 1 and Archive Tube 1*

These have been sorted into rolls by Box/Area number. Drawings from the following areas have been found

- 17 Box
- 36 Box
- 65/69 Box
- 70 Box
- 77 Box
- 80 Box
- 81 Box
- 83 Box
- 84 Box see also the large role for oversize illustrations
- 85 Box

- 86 Box
- 87 Box
- 90 Box see also the large role for oversize illustrations
- 91 Box
- 92 Box
- 96 Box
- 97 Box see also the large role for oversize illustrations
- 98 Box

A1.2 Field Drawings of areas

A single sheet depicting military areas (*Stored in Archive Tube 2*) and a plan of wall junctions (*Stored in Box no. 1*) found labelled with this number found in archive.

A1.3 Levels data *Stored in Archive Tube 2*

A1.5 Main Macellum section photocopies *Stored in Archive Tube 3*

A2 Matrices *Stored in Archive Tubes 4 and 5 and a ring binder in Archive Box 2*

A3 Metric re-drawings 1985-8 *Full size copies in Large Archive Folio 1. Negatives Archive Box 2*

A7 Index to Drawings

A7.1 Drawing Index

Index created 1984-5 of original field drawings (Archive element A1). Index of metric redrawings (Archive element A3). Both in the same A4 binder. *Stored in Archive Box 2*

A7.2 Drawing record by Area. Original notebook. *Stored in Archive Box 2*

A7.3 Card index of A7.2 *Stored in Archive Box 2*

B Site Records

B1 Site Notebooks

B1-1.102

Stored in individual notebooks some of which cover more than one area. The database table 'Site Records' provides an index to these showing which area was recorded in each notebook. Some notebooks cover more than one area. *Stored in Archive Boxes 3-4*

B2 Pro formae feature sheets 1975-1985

B2.1-9

These are in 9 Lever arch files. The database table 'Feature index' shows which file each feature is stored in and notes where the feature sheets are missing. *Stored in Archive Boxes 5 and 6*

B3. Context pro formae sheets 1985-1991

B3.1-88

These are stored in individual files for each area/box. The database table 'Site Records' provides an index to the files. *Stored in Archive Boxes 7- 9*

B4 Levels book 1974 *Stored in Archive Box 6*

B5 The Initial post-excavation and Military volume archive

Peter Ellis's archive index assigned the number B5 but no further information was available to him. In 2010 the paperwork connected with this included roughly ordered elements that had clearly been deposited at different times. There were a considerable number of plans in different stages of completeness together with paper copies. During the 2010 archive project the following was done.

Ephemeral temporary hand written notes, listings etc were removed.

All correspondence found was amalgamated into a single file arranged in chronological order.

Such specialist reports present were checked against the final publication of the military report and only retained if they provided additional information that was not published. A folder labelled military pottery was retained intact as the pottery report had a long and troubled history (best appreciated from the correspondence file). When the military volume was submitted in 1993 there was no pottery report. The idea had been to publish all of the pottery together in the Baths and Macellum volume. At a late stage in the post excavation for the latter work it was decided to include a pottery report in the military volume. Information about that is contained in the pottery archive for the Baths and Macellum volume E7.1.

The coins and the vessel glass were originally catalogued as a single sequence. The archive versions of these catalogues have been included in this part of the archive.

The post excavation site drawings were divided into three categories

- Draft and incomplete drawings.

- Working plans with annotations

- Finished plans by the Balls – these do not always match the final published plans in all respects.

There is also one box of 5.25 inch floppy discs and 1 box of 3.5 discs. The files on these all appear to be documenting final versions of the text. The original stratigraphic database is not present.

Elements B5.1-B5.5 and the floppy discs are all stored in Archive box 10.

B5.1 Stratigraphic information

B5.1a Initial stratigraphic and processing information in one lever arch files

- Plan showing boxes with copy showing amendments by Colin Wallace

Instructions for completing context and feature sheets.
Frank & Nancy Ball progress reports January 1987 – December 1990
Introduction to the WB archive September 1987 by Colin Wallace and Andy Skitt
Progress report February 1988.
Cameron Moffat phased context lists November 88
Summary – phased context lists May 91
John Chadderton handover notes 17/2/93.

Also a set of index cards in Graham Webster's handwriting setting out an initial phasing area by Area. Packaged in separate bundle

B5.1b Reduced copies of plans and sections (1 folder)

B5.1c John Chadderton notes and matrices (1 A4 file)

B5.1d Final database print outs by area and by feature – these used to aid the construction of the stratigraphic table in the Archive project database. (2 folders)

B5.2 Correspondence Archive 1 Lever arch file

B5.3 Finds records created by specialists during the first phase of post-excavation

B5.3a Pottery documentation – for Grace Simpson's piscina samian report and documentation about missing samian (other excavations see section F8 of the Baths and Macellum archive). This covers only the documents produced during the initial post-excavation and the production of the pottery volume. There are notes on the structure of the original pottery database which was not deposited with the rest of the archive and is currently missing. This element also includes a sheet of mounted graffiti drawings that were never published. NB the full pottery archive is listed under P.. (2 folders). See also AML 11. AML 12

B5.3b Original coin catalogue by Brickstock and Casey of 1987 including summary of the coins from Kathleen Kenyon's excavations. (1 folder)

B5.3c Original archive vessel glass catalogue with notes on relationships to published catalogues. A concordance of all the different numbering systems used for the glass is available in database table 'Glass Vessels'. (1 A4 file)

B5.3d Miscellaneous original drawing found in archive (1 folder)

B5.3e Copies of mounted finds illustrations. (1 folder)

B5.4 Original version of Military volume submitted 1991 2 folders

B5.5 Military volume as submitted by J. Chadderton 1993 3 folders

B5.6 Draft and incomplete plans and sections

B5.6a Relating to legionary occupation *Stored in Archive tube 6*

B5.6b Relating to post-legionary occupation *Stored in Archive tube 7*

B5.6c Relating to all periods macellum and complete site *Stored in Archive tube 8*

B5.7 Working plans with annotations *Stored in Archive Tubes 9-11*

B5.8 Legionary Plans finished *Stored in Archive tube 12*

B6 1988/9 excavation archive

Peter Ellis included these excavations as his B6 category. The excavations have their own archive and did not form part of the 2010 Archive project.

B7 Originally recorded as print out of stratigraphic database

This was a hand-corrected early version of the 1993 database – see now E15 which was the final one. This version not retained.

B8 Original Features book

This is an addition to the Ellis archive as it seems to have been retained by the Balls and was found in 2010 in the box of records they had consigned to the archive. *Stored in Archive Box 6*

C Finds 1955-91

Everything other than element C5.3b and C13i stored in Archive box 11

C1 Original small finds books

C1.1-2 Two hard backed notebooks with the original small finds listing.

C1.3-4 Two exercise books with preliminary small find listing for 1957-58

C2. Artefact catalogue

Lever arch file with pro forma sheets of small find transcribed in 1985-6. These formed the basis of the 'Small finds' table in the database

C3 Ancient Monument Lab forms

A Lever arch file containing lists of finds and technological samples sent to the Ancient Monuments laboratory. The AML numbers in these have been entered into the 'Small finds' table of the database. The sheets in this file are photocopies which have occasionally missed out the bottom lines of information.

C4 Coin card index

Not found 2010 – possibly a duplicate entry for C7.2?

C5 Pottery records

NB the bulk of the pottery records did not form part of the Ellis archive listing and these have been catalogued under section P below.

C5.1 Pottery card index Not located 2010

C5.2 Pottery notes by John Chadderton Bundle consisting of 1 notebook, 7 folders and 2 exercise books

C5.3a Card index of the pottery drawing by J Morrish kept in small brown box. incomplete – entries 224 to 1131 inclusive).

C5.3b Original drawings by J. Morrish *Stored in Large Archive Folio 2*. See also AML 12

C6 Samian print out 1988 1 A4 file

C7 Coin records

C7.1 Coin records 1985-91. Miscellaneous notes in brown folder

C7.2 Card index in small brown box with listing of original coin identifications

C8 Glass Report

This was an incomplete catalogue Cool and Price predating the discovery of additional material. It has been discarded - see now B5.3c.

C9 Wall plaster records 1958-1960 1 small notebook

C10 Animal bone records

C10.1 Notebook with instructions about recording the bones and listings of bones up to c. Box 69.

C10.2 Notebook with 1957 records

C11 Glass records for 1983-84 Notebook

C12 Phased small finds records

Compiled by John Chadderton / Graham Webster – 1 A4 folder

C13 Small finds illustrations

C13.1 Negatives of original finds drawings and a small number of the original finds drawings. *Stored in Large Archive folio 3*. C

C13.2 Reduced Photocopies of original drawings annotated with AML numbers and returned from AML. 1 A4 folder.

See also AML 12 and AML 13

D Photos

D1 Quadropod macellum herringbone

Not located in 2010

D2. Colour slides

Recorded as D2.1-2. Not located in 2010 apart from a small number in the Military volume archive. Stored in small box file labelled (D2). In the letter from Peter Ellis dated 27/2/98 (in F6) documenting the return of part of the archive he notes the slides were one of the items he was retaining for a later return. *Stored in Archive box 12*

D3 Monochrome prints

D3.1-13 2 envelopes and 11 albums *D3.1 to D3.8 stored in Archive box 12, D3.9-D3.13 in Archive box 13*

D4 Negatives for A3

This is a duplicate and incomplete set stored in a folder. For complete set – see A3
Stored in Archive box 13

D5 List of photos in albums (D3)

1 small envelope (D5.1), 1 A4 folder (D5.2) - *Stored in Archive box 13*

D6 Location of 1955-7 Photos

Not found 2010-11-21

D7 Quadropos porticos P3.4A-6

Stored in Archive box 12

D8 Negatives for D3

1 Lever arch file (D8.1) and 1 A4 file (D8.2) - *Stored in Archive box 13*

D9 Prints and negatives found in Chadderton (military) archive

3 A4 folders - *Stored in Archive box 13*

D10 Negatives returned from AML

1 clear envelope *Stored in Archive box 13*

E Ellis Baths and Macellum Archive

As deposited in 1998, before the volume was published, the archive contained the full specialist reports in both original and revised form as appropriate. In 2010 these have been checked against the published versions and only the elements that were not published are retained here. *E1-E8 stored in Archive Box 14, E9-17 in Archive box 15*

E1 Macellum reconstruction - relating to pages 86-90 of the volume

Mackreth early versions of description and construction sequence. 1 A4 folder

E2 Brooch report - relating to pages 144-59 of the volume

This was published in full. Correspondence retained. 1 A4 folder

E3 Don Mackreth's contributions - relating to pages 79-86 and 347-75 of the volume 3 A4 folders

- 3.1 Original edition Wright etc work (p. 347-75)
- 3.2 Original version of (p. 79-86) the plan, use, and appearance & notes on editing
- 3.3 Correspondence between Don Mackreth/Peter Ellis re Insula appearance.
- 3.4 Notes on HBMC blue book photographs re consolidation.

E4 Introduction – relating to pages 1-10

Roger White – correspondence; draft texts; notes on structures. 1 A4 folder

E5 Coins – relating to pages 91-108 of the volume 2 A4 folders

- 5.1 The original discussion – the one in the letterpress is slightly different
The revised catalogue with indices annotated by Peter ellis
Correspondence
- 5.2 The full catalogue from which the summary catalogue published was drawn.
This one has wear, weights and sizes.

E6 Glass - relating to pages 162-88 of the volume 1 A4 folder

- The full catalogue with cross reference to the archive catalogue.
- The report on the beads and objects. The discussion part of this was published, the catalogue was not.
- The archive catalogue of the window glass
- Section 3 of the vessel glass report (unpublished) which summarised the glass in each key group.
- Correspondence.
- Concordance of catalogue with phasing.

E7 Pottery relating to pages 193-312 of the volume 7 A4 folders

The archive has been retained in full as deposited given the complexity of the final report, the number of authors etc, and the change in publication plans late in the Ellis post-excavation work which resulted in a pottery report being included in the Military volume.

E7.1 Correspondence (Maggi Darling) relating to military pottery

E7.2/1 Print out of Faiers database

E7.2/2 Faiers, J.E. 1993. Macellum – Period 2 Pottery.

E7.2/3 Faiers, Drafts, notes and correspondence

E7.2/4 Faiers, Appendices etc.

E7.3 Evans. Notes & correspondence

E7.4 Dickinson: samian archive

E7.5 Williams. Original amphora report.

E7.6 Pottery tables- published and unpublished. Noted in the original archive listing – not found August 2010.

E7.7 General pottery correspondence and project data.

E8 Small finds - relating to pages 108-44 of the volume

Correspondence and notes. 1 A4 folder

E9 Intaglios - relating to pages 160-2 of the volume

The specialist report was published in its entirety. The correspondence is retained. In joint A4 folder E9-11, E13-14.

E10 Plaster relating to pages 191-3 of the volume

Full version of report and correspondence. In joint A4 folder E9-11, E13-14.

E11 Flint – not included in letterpress

Report and correspondence. In joint A4 folder E9-11, E13-14.

E12 AML reports – some relating to 313-315

Keepax. Wood replacement. AML 2622

Macalister. Industrial remains. AML 3182

Watson. Wood replacement. AML 3200.

Knight. 'Seal impression'. AML 3285

Knight. Identification of pigments. AML 3306.

Canti. Soil report. AML 1/88

Mays. Infant Bones. AML 26/89

Branch. Pollen analysis. AML 32/90

Hughes and Heyworth. Pigments AML 91/90

Correspondence

E13 Stone reports relating to pages 188-191 of the volume

In joint A4 folder E9-11, E13-14.

Full versions or original reports and correspondence:-

Anderson 1980. Roman Stone Finds. AML Report 3212

Williams, 1988. Roman honestones and other worked stone from Wroxeter.

AML 88/89

E14 Tile – not included in letterpress

Notes by Brodribb. In joint A4 folder E9-11, E13-14

E15 1998 Structural Database printout

This formed the basis of the Baths Macellum element of the database table Structural'
1 A4 folder

E16 Catalogue of material transferred from ‘The Ruins’

1 A4 folder

E17 Animal Bone

E17.2 Meddens Preliminary work

Assessment AML report 171/87 – 2 copies

Interim report on bones from post Hadrianic pits

E17.3 Meddens – drafts, print-outs, and correspondence

E17.4 Meddens Monochrome pathology text

E17.5 Meddens –with paperwork prepared during the writing of the report – (from the AML – originally sent in large boxfile – transferred to cardboard folder to aid packing with the rest of the archive)

F Ellis Baths and Macellum Archive: Miscellaneous items

F1 Assessment report 1 A4 folder

F2 Assessment rewrite and additions In A4 folder containing F2, F3, F6

F3 Notes for specialists In A4 folder containing F2, F3, F6

F4 Post-excavation research aims *Not found 2010*

F5 Project review *Not found 2010*

F6 Archive index

Also correspondence from Peter Ellis (27/2/98) about the deposition of the archive – in A4 sleeve inside A4 folder containing F2, F3, F6

F7 1955-85 interim site reports and correspondence

Correspondence with Graham Webster re Baths and Macellum project. 1 A4 folder

F8 Graham Webster - Proposed natatio/piscina texts (1980s)

This includes correspondence sent by Grace Simpson to Sara Lunt sent 6th January 2000 and given the AML number 88114949. Also letter from Grace Simpson to Graham Webster dated 28th October 1987 and Given AML no. 88039032 (1 A4 folder)

F9 PJE text with comments by John Wachter (9:6:95) 1 A4 folder

P Pottery Archive

This numbering system created in 2010

P1 Pottery coding sheets created by Wendy Owen, John Chadderton and Sandra Garside Neville 1985-89. Stored in open tray *Stored in Archive box 16*

- P2 Fabric identifications and notes on the creation of the first set of pottery coding sheets created by Wendy Owen, John Chadderton and Sandra Garside Neville. Listing of samian from boxes 43-58. Early samian stamp reports. Samian printouts as of 30/08/88. Stored in plastic binder with the open tray. *Stored in Archive box 16*

- P3 Pottery coding sheets used for the initial exploration of the main construction period before the Ellis programme of post-excavation work on the Baths and Macellum. Up to box 79. Stored in a lever arch file. *Stored in Archive box 16*

- P4 Pottery coding sheets used for the initial exploration of the main construction period before the Ellis programme of post-excavation work on the Baths and Macellum. Box 80-box 98. Work done by Jane Faiers. Stored in a lever arch file. *Stored in Archive box 16*

- P5 Pottery coding sheets created at BUFAU for Jane Evans' work during the use the Ellis programme of post-excavation work on the Baths and Macellum. Sheets for the Key Groups. Stored in a lever arch file. *Stored in Archive box 17*

- P6 Pottery coding sheets created at BUFAU for Jane Evans' work during the use the Ellis programme of post-excavation work on the Baths and Macellum. Non Key Group sheets. Stored in a lever arch file. *Stored in Archive box 17*

- P7 Pottery drawing index created by John Chadderton June 1989 as part of the initial work on the pottery. Stored in an A4 ring binder. *Stored in Archive box 16*

- P8 Pottery drawing index created by Jane Faiers as part of her work on the second century pottery in 1988-89. Stored in an A4 ring binder. *Stored in Archive box 16*

- P9 Pottery drawing index created by Jane Evans during the Ellis programme of post-excavation work on the Baths and Macellum. Includes reduced copies of the drawings used in the volume. Stored in an A4 ring binder. *Stored in Archive box 16*

- P10 Pottery storage box list (1) with contents of each box. Boxes 1-200. Includes an explanation of how to use the box list database. Stored in a lever arch file. *Stored in Archive box 17*

- P11 Pottery storage box list (2) with contents of each box. Boxes 201-63. Stored in an A4 ring binder. *Stored in Archive box 17*

AML Archive

Items going into the AML for treatment were often not explicitly labelled as to which excavation the items came from. It is clear that Graham Webster frequently dispatched items from other excavations. Thus over the years items from the Bushe-Fox excavations, the Atkinson excavations and the Barker excavations were often

erroneously labelled as coming from the Webster excavations. In 2010 these records have been sorted and the items in the following listing appear to come from the Webster excavation.

AML1 Card indices

Card index of treatment cards stored in small find order. In two boxes.

Sf11-4645 *Stored in Archive box 18*

Sf4657-6361; cards without sf nos. XRF record sheets, also cards not confirmed as Wroxeter Webster – *Stored in Archive box 19.*

AML2 Photographs of objects

The WR sequence – indexed in the Table ‘Small find’. This is the complete sequence including material from other excavations. Two brown boxes. Also a small number of photographs printed in 1986 with negative numbers rather than WR numbers stored in second box. *Stored in Archive box 19*

AML3 The X-radiograph plates

Stored in Archive box 20 (black). This box includes items from other excavations at Wroxeter. NB Plate B4183 is large format and stored in *Archive box 18*

The following items have been given AML numbers and so are catalogued here with cross-references in other parts of the archive listing where appropriate.

AML4 Wroxeter ‘Green book’

A check list of small finds up to 2147 (A3 in plastic wrapping) Given the AML number 880395. A second copy of this has been given the number 88039012, this has some additional information. Additional sheets have been given the number 88039020. All have been packed together. *Stored in Archive box 18*

AML 5 Mounted finds illustrations

Given the AML number 88039009. Mounted on A3 sheets. In plastic wrapping, *Stored in Archive box 18*

AML 6 Identifications of selected coins.

On A3 sheets and including coins from Wroxeter Barker. Given AML number 88039011. In plastic wrapper. *Stored in Archive box 18*

AML 7 Notes of items stored in Birmingham University Huts

Undated A3 list stored in plastic wrapper. Given AML no. 88039010. *Stored in Archive box 18*

AML 8 Listings and print outs of Finds

Also some AML sheets of series archived as C3 above. These given AML number 88039006. *Stored in Archive box 18*

AML 9 Mounted photographs of Site in 1967

Given AML no. 88061046. *Stored in Archive box 18*

AML 10 Small packet of prints of objects

Labelled 'AM Lab photos of 6 metal small finds ? with G. Webster. Given AML number 88061040. *Stored in Archive box 18*

AML 11 Miscellaneous correspondence

Relating to pottery and dating to 1970s where date is present. Given AML number 88039031. In A4 folder. *Stored in Archive box 18.*

AML 12 John Morrish Pottery notebook 1976

(J.Morrish drew the pottery.) Given AML number 88039026. Stored in Archive box 18

AML 13 Notes on Zoomorphic pins

With drawing. NB this is not the same pin featured on WR 740. nor the one from the Barker excavation. Given AML no. 88039033 Stored in Archive box 18.

Box 21

The publications and theses associated with the excavations are stored in Archive Box 21 and as of November 2010 consist of the following

The Roman Baths and Macellum at Wroxeter English Heritage Archaeological Report 9

Webster, G. (ed. J. Chadderton, J.) 2002. *The Legionary Fortress at Wroxeter* English Heritage Archaeological Report 19 (London)