



# 23 and 23A St Thomas Street, Winchester, Hampshire

Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation



for: Mr. Barry Permain

CA Project: AN0246 CA Report: AN0246\_1

January 2021



Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes Suffolk

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# **SUMMARY**

Project name:	23 & 23A St. Thomas Street
Location:	Winchester, Hampshire
NGR:	448002 129390
Туре:	Evaluation
Date:	01 - 03 December 2020
Planning reference:	20/02045/HOU
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	THMW 20

In December 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological test pit evaluation at 23 and 23A St. Thomas Street, Winchester, Hampshire. A total of two test pits were excavated by hand in advance of a planning application for a proposed swimming pool to be built in the rear garden. Many finds were recovered from all deposits identified and recorded.

Some of the earliest deposits were found at 1.4m depth and identified possible Romano-British to late medieval destruction layers which were sealed below a buried topsoil horizon that pre-dated later levelling and landscaping. The extensive later historic landscaping and levelling corresponded with the existing terraced garden. A single flint, chalk and hand-made brick filled foundation trench was found and is likely to have been used for an upright timber support, forming part of a pergola or similar garden feature. The foundation trench postdated one of two substantial late post-medieval / modern levelling events.

There is, however, still potential for significant archaeological deposits to be located below the maximum 1.4m agreed depth that was reached during the test pit evaluation. This is based on the type of finds recovered from the deposits recorded (at depth) and no natural geological deposits being encountered. The earliest / lowest deposits identified within both Test Pit 1 & 2 revealed Romano-British finds to include box-flue tile, brick fragments and red tesserae, non-local rooftile and domestic pottery. This evidence along with the evidence recorded immediately to the east, west and south of the site suggests that a Romano-British building or complex is likely to be located within the vicinity. The earliest / lowest deposits will not be impacted upon by the proposed planning application.

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

In December 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological hand dug test pit evaluation at 23 and 23A St. Thomas Street, Winchester, Hampshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 448002 129390 (see Figure 1), hereafter referred to as the site. The test pit evaluation was undertaken for Mr. Barry Permain.

1.1. A planning application (ref: 20/02045/HOU) has been made to Winchester City Council for the construction of a proposed pool within the rear garden (affects the setting of a listed building). Listed grade II in c.1950 (NHLE 1173836) as 23 and 23A
1.2. St Thomas Street, it is thought the house may contain an internal historic core predating its late 18th century gentrification and early 19th century additions. Following consultation with Tracey Matthews, the Historic Environment (Archaeology) Officer for Winchester City Council (WCC) it was advised that;

The current application should not be determined until the archaeological field evaluation has been completed and a report on the results submitted. This is so that the local planning authority can assess the scale of any adverse impacts and the effects of such impacts upon the significance of buried heritage assets which may survive within the site and thus make an informed decision on the current proposal.

1.3. The scope of the test pit evaluation was defined by Tracey Matthews (Historic Environment (Archaeology) Officer for WCC) and carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), which was prepared by CA (2020) and approved by WCC.

The evaluation was also in line with Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation (Historic England 2015) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015).

#### The site

1.5.

The site is located in the heart of Winchester, approximately 115m south of High Street and approximately 160m to the west of Winchester Cathedral. It is located on the east facing slope with the River Itchen at the base (*c*. 600m east of the site). The topography of the garden to the rear of 23 and 23A St Thomas Street ranges from 43m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the western edge to 41m aOD on the eastern

edge. The garden comprises a series of contours which form landscaped terracing. The date of the terracing is unknown. However, historic mapping depicts terracing at the site from the late 19th century onwards, with earlier evidence of landscaping in the garden dating during the mid-18th century.

The underlying geology of the site consists of Lewes Nodular Chalk formation. Chalk sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 86 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (British Geological Survey 2020).

# <sup>1.6.</sup> 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological background below is a succinct summary of a Heritage Assessment of the site produced by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2018).

- 2.1. Although there are no recorded earlier prehistoric remains within the site, there are several recorded sites within the wider environs. Archaeology dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods are largely concentrated along the historical margins of the valley of the River Itchen (*c*. 600m east of the site), and associated ridgeways. The apparent lack of archaeology is likely due to the historically limited scope for open area investigation, and the later development of the city.
- At No. 18 Little Minster Lane c.50m east of the site, a pit was identified which contained 28 pieces of struck flint including seven narrow blades and a broken serrated flake, which dated the pit to the early Neolithic period. The pit was overlaid by deposits which also contained 12 worked flints. An extensive late prehistoric enclosure, referred to as Oram's Arbour, underlies western areas of the centre of Winchester city. The enclosure dates from the Middle Iron Age, with some evidence of Late Iron Age occupation. The southern boundary ditch of the enclosure has been identified *c*.105m north-west of the site. There is a single record of Iron Age features comprising a roundhouse gully and associated posthole, *c*.90m to the north-west of the site.
- No prehistoric archaeology has previously been recorded within the site, and only
   2.5. limited archaeology of this date within its environs, although evidence that has been previously found is considered to be of national importance.

### Romano-British (AD43 – 410)

During the Roman period, Winchester was known as Venta Belgarum. The circuit of the town defences appears to have been partly influenced by the Oram's Arbour. The

construction of the first Roman defences dates to the latter half of the first century AD, with the western Romano-British settlement boundary identified to cut through the earlier Iron Age enclosure.

As with the earlier Iron Age enclosure, a large part of the Romano-British settlement layout has been recorded through extensive archaeological works, identifying features ranging from sections of roads, defensive walls and gates demarcating the extent of the city and other structural building remains.

Remains of a Roman floor were identified within the basement of 23 and 23A St. Thomas Street in the *c*. 1980s during renovation works. The flooring was apparently not viewed *in situ*, but only recorded afterwards. The floor consisted of a series of large tiles. The majority of the floors dating to the Romano-British period, within the city of Winchester are recorded as remains of tessellated mosaic floors. However, there is a record of a Roman tiled floor having been identified at the site of the former St. Thomas Church located immediately south of the site. In *c*. 1850, during groundworks at St. Thomas Church, a Roman floor comprising large tiles was discovered (instead of tessellated) which had been overlaid by a medieval floor.

2.8. There is an array of Roman building evidence recorded throughout Winchester which contributes the overall understanding of the Roman city. In addition to remains of buildings there is also evidence of a Roman street grid, including the remains of a street identified in sections throughout the city centre. Based on the recorded sections of streets and the town boundary ditch, the Winchester HER (WHER) has produced a map plotting the expected layout of the Roman town. The plan indicates the potential for a Roman street within or near to the site as discovered in *c*. 2003 whereby a section of a street was recorded during an evaluation at 21A Southgate Street which abuts the site on the western boundary.

#### Early medieval (AD410 – 1066)

2.6.

2.7.

2.10. Historical and archaeological evidence indicates continuity of occupation during the post-Roman period, with Winchester becoming an important Royal and ecclesiastical site. Winchester was recognized as the capital of Wessex, and England.

A walled burh was established under King Alfred in the late 9th century AD, with the defenses following the same line as the Roman town, but the archaeological and documentary evidence suggests that perhaps a superimposed, street pattern was established which largely corresponds with the current existing street plan.

There are remains of a suggested early-medieval building c. 50m to the west of the site, which was associated with Saxon timber building remains including floor deposits.

#### Medieval (AD1066 - 1539)

2.11. The Saxon burh continued to be occupied into the medieval period and was recorded as a town within the 1086 Domesday Survey, its customs ratified by charter in c.1155-58. However, following the conquest in *c*. 1066, power shifted away from Winchester to London. There are numerous surviving medieval buildings of very high importance within Winchester, which are complemented by a rich archaeological record of deep, stratified deposits dating to this period.

The site is within the environs of Winchester Cathedral (*c*. 160m to the east) and the site of the royal palace (*c*. 100m to the west); together both formed a complex of royal and religious activity at the centre of medieval Winchester.

### Post-medieval / Modern (AD1540)

2.14. The town underwent multiple phases of development during the post-medieval period. Historic maps of Winchester dating from the 17th century AD onwards, depict continued expansion of the city. Speed's map of Winchester from *c*. 1610, depicts development along the northern half of St. Thomas Street (not reproduced). It is unclear exactly where the development stops, but this may indicate a building at the site.

2.16. Godson's c. 1750 map of Winchester depicts 23 St. Thomas Street and the former St. Thomas Church located immediately to the south. The garden located to the west appears to form two units within a single plot.

Late 18th and early 19th century historic maps of Winchester show limited detail regarding the location of buildings and property boundaries. The Ordnance Survey (OS) series, First Edition map of Winchester in *c*. 1871 (Map 2), depicts 23 St. Thomas Street, with a garden area to the west. The garden also appears to be landscaped. Leading off the southern range of No. 23 are a series of structures, most probably relating to outbuildings noted on a sale advert dated *c*. 1933 (Hampshire record office ref: 157M89W/4).

Subsequent twentieth century OS maps do not depict any further alterations within the site and minimal alterations are shown upon the building (CA 2018).

2.17.

Archaeological investigations of identified remains during numerous groundworks have indicated that there is a dense layer of post-medieval made ground encompassing the immediate vicinity of site, relating to contemporary landscaping during this period.

#### Previous Archaeological Investigations

2.18.

2.22.

Archaeological fieldwork has previously been carried out within the vicinity of the site. Previous investigations include assessments as well as a range of intrusive works, such as watching briefs, evaluations and excavations. These are illustrated within the heritage assessment produced by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2018).

A single investigation is recorded within the site with the discovery of a possible Roman floor level within the basement of 23 and 23A St. Thomas Street during 2.19. renovation works in the c.1980s. Observations were made of a possible tiled or tessellated surface situated below the existing cellar floor. The tiles are described as somewhat larger than the 'normal' Roman brick tesserae associated with a mosaic. Remains recovered were retained by the owner. The findings could not be confirmed as forming part of Roman surface, but later observations appeared to indicate Roman floor remains continued under the cellar walls to north and east.

2.20. The nearest archaeological investigations to the site include an evaluation comprising boreholes and test pits undertaken at 21A Southgate Street located to the west. The remains of a Roman Road orientated east-west were identified in *c* .2003. Based on a series of archaeological section profiles recorded, these revealed the presence of the Roman road which is thought to continue eastwards into the rear garden of 23 and 23A St. Thomas Street. Remains of Roman building material were also identified during 2003, immediately north of the discovered Roman Road. The finds suggest the likely presence of a substantial Roman building located immediately west of the site.

The second nearest recorded archaeological investigation is within the garden of the adjacent 24 St. Thomas Street. The excavation of a swimming pool in *c.* 1982 resulted in the retrieval of an extensive collection of 18th century pottery from 1.6m – 1.7m thick made ground deposits (CA 2018).

#### Previously Recorded Archaeological Horizon

Depths Previously recorded archaeological investigations within the vicinity of the site recorded 18 deposit columns. The closest deposit column is approximately *c*. 30m

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northeast of the site which recorded Romano-British archaeology at a depth of 1.12m below present ground level. Two deposit columns located approximately *c*. 50m west of the site, where the present ground level rises to *c*. 48m aOD, recorded made ground/levelling at a depth of 0.98m below which medieval archaeology was identified at 47.41m aOD (0.78m thick). Early medieval remains at 46.63m aOD (0.48m thick) and Romano-British archaeology at 46.15m aOD (base of column 46.14m aOD) were also identified.

# 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.

The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Winchester City Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development

# 4. METHODOLGY

4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of two test pits (**TP1 & TP2**), each measuring approximately 2m x 1.6m and each dug to an agreed maximum depth of 1.4m (see Figures. 2 & 3).

4.2.

4.3.

4.4.

The excavated test pits (**TP1 & TP2**) were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) coordinates using Leica GPS. The final completed test pit survey was recorded using Leica GPS in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 Survey Manual.

Due regard for known services was undertaken prior to, during excavation and upon completion of the work at the site. All work was undertaken in accordance with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and Safe Systems of Work for – Excavations, Working Outdoors, Avoiding Underground Services, Asbestos and Substances / Contaminated ground and correct PPE worn at all times.

Both test pits (**TP1 & TP2**) were excavated manually, by hand, under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon. Where archaeological features / deposits were encountered these were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual.

Deposits were assessed for palaeo-environmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites but were not sampled. All artefacts were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation.

Following the removal of turf and topsoil, both test pits were excavated in 100mm spits to ensure maximum finds recovery from the deposits encountered. The hand excavated turfs and topsoil and underlying subsoils were stored separately to the north of both test pits (TP1 & TP2) during excavation.

The excavated depth of the test pits (TP1 & TP2) reflected the depth of the proposed pool so that the necessary and relevant information needed is provided to Tracey Matthews, the Historic Environment (Archaeology) Officer for Winchester City Council (WCC) so that she can provide the appropriate advice to WCC.

Cotswold Archaeology (CA) will make arrangements with Hampshire Cultural Trust 4.8. for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner, the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020).

4.9.

5.2.

A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

#### 5.1. 5. RESULTS

This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Appendix B.

Archaeological deposits (of possible Romano-British but predominantly medieval, post-medieval / modern date) and a single post-medieval / modern feature were identified during the test pit evaluation within **Test Pit 1** and **Test Pit 2**;

4.5.

4.6.

4.7.

#### Test Pit 1 (TP1), (Figures. 2, 3, 4 to 10, 18 & 19)

Test Pit 1 measured 1.95m east / west, 1.55m north / south and 1.4m in depth. The test pit was located immediately east of Test Pit 2 and contained primarily later substantial deposits, **102** and **103**, both of which are primarily thought to relate to late post-medieval / modern landscaping and later garden activity. No natural deposits or geological horizons were encountered within the test pit.

The earliest deposit 108 was located at the base of Test Pit 1 within a hand-dug sondage to the north-east corner at a depth of 1.4m. Romano-British artefacts to include ceramic building material (CBM) fragments, pottery and lime mortar fragments as well as a charcoal flecks, flint and chalk were observed but not recovered from the silty clay deposit. The deposit was unexcavated due to the maximum agreed depth of the test pit having been reached and located below the proposed pool impact level, as well as health and safety concerns. The deposit is likely to resemble the tentative remains of demise, destruction and abandonment during the late Romano-British period. Deposit **108** was covered by deposit **107**.

Deposit **107** consisted of a silty clay which measured 0.25m in thickness. The deposit 5.5. was found throughout Test Pit 1, was similar in finds assemblage and composition to deposit **206** in **Test Pit 2**. It was covered by a former possible buried topsoil horizon 106 which measured 0.1m in thickness. Buried topsoil 106 was covered by a substantial silty clay deposit **103** comprising made ground. This deposit measured 0.45m in thickness and was cut later by a possible foundation trench 104. The feature was filled with a single loose fill **105** comprising unbonded hand-made brick, flint and chalk fragments. The foundation trench comprised vertical sides and a flat base, measured 0.5m wide and 0.5m in depth, which in turn, was covered by another substantial made-ground deposit **102** measuring 0.42m in thickness. The foundation trench is likely to have formed part of a pergola or similar garden feature. A thin chalk layer **101** measuring 0.05m in thickness covered deposit **102** which was covered by a silt/clay topsoil deposit 100 respectively.

### Test Pit 2 (TP2), (Figs. 2, 3, 11 to 17, 18 & 19)

Test Pit 2 measured 2m east/west, 1.55m north/south and 1.4m in depth. The test pit was located immediately west of Test Pit 1 and primarily contained deposits, 204 and 205, thought to be associated with late post-medieval/modern landscaping and garden activity. No natural deposits or geological horizons were encountered within the test pit.

5.3.

5.4.

The earliest deposit **206** comprised of a silty clay which was located at the base of **Test Pit 2** within a hand dug sondage to the north-east corner at a depth of 1.4m. Artefacts to include ceramic building material (CBM) fragments, pottery and lime mortar fragments were recovered from the partially excavated silt/clay deposit. Charcoal flecks, animal bone, flint and chalk were also identified. The thickness of the deposit was not established due to the maximum depth of the test pit having been reached and located below the proposed pool impact level of the proposed planning proposal as well as health and safety concerns. Deposit **206** was similar to deposit **108** found in **Test Pit 1** and was covered by deposit **205**.

Deposit **205** consisted made ground of silt/clay which measured 0.46m in thickness. The deposit was found throughout **Test Pit 1** and was covered by a similar silt/clay deposit **204** of made ground which measured 0.48m in thickness. Deposit **204** was covered by several silt/clay and chalk deposits **203** and **202** which acted as a possible modern bedding layers. These deposits measured from 0.1m to 0.2m in thickness respectively and were cut later by a modern feature **201** which is likely to be associated with gardening activity.

# 6. THE FINDS

<sup>6.1.</sup> Artefactual material, dating to the prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval/modern periods, was recovered. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B.

# 6.2. Pottery: Roman by Jacky Sommerville

A total of 11 sherds (152g) of Roman pottery was recorded from five deposits. All material would appear to be residual within medieval or later-dated deposits (appendix B). The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric and fabric codes, in parenthesis in the text and in Appendix A, correspond to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection where possible (Tomber and Dore 1998). Coarsewares consist of a sandy greyware (GWS), of broad Romano-British date, and Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1), which dates to the 2nd to 4th centuries when found outside the manufacturing zone (Davies et al. 1994, 107). The latter includes a rimsherd from a conical flanged dish from subsoil deposit **206**, which can be more narrowly dated to the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 234–5). The New Forest potteries are represented by bodysherds of New Forest Red-slipped ware (NFO RS2) and New Forest Colour-coated ware

5.8.

5.7.

(NFO CC), both of which date to the late 3rd to 4th centuries (Tyers 1996). The latter sherd derives from an indented beaker. An unfeatured bodysherd in an oxidised fabric with a cream slip most likely represents Cadiz amphora (CAD AM), which was manufactured during the 1st to 2nd centuries (ibid.)

#### Pottery: Post-Roman by Duncan H. Brown

An assemblage of 135 sherds, with a total weight of 2004g was recovered from eight deposits. All the material was characterised by ware and vessel type and quantified by rim percent, weight in grams, sherd count and maximum vessel count. Surface treatment, decoration, rim percent (for medieval sherds) and evidence of use were also recorded.

The ware types were placed into broad chronological groups, from Early medieval to Early Modern. Appendix B Tables 1–2 show the quantities of pottery from each group that occurred in each excavated context, while the ware types are listed in Table 1. The overall picture is mixed, with no context producing pottery exclusively within a single period. This is hardly surprising given that every context represents subsoil, buried topsoil or made ground. The average sherd weight is just under 15g, which indicates a fairly high degree of fragmentation. This too is a characteristic one might expect from such deposits, although there are one or two fairly large pieces, especially within the earlier medieval groups, that suggest a Saxon or post-Conquest feature may have been disturbed during the make-up of these layers. All the Early medieval (Late Saxon), Anglo-Norman and high medieval types are from local sources and are typical in Winchester but a few specific types in some contexts are worthy of mention.

Made ground deposit **102** was the most mixed deposit, with 19<sup>th</sup> century refined earthenware (TPR, BGR, WRE), a variety of post-medieval types, including Verwood-type (VTW) (Draper and Copeland-Griffiths 2002), late medieval glazed sandy ware (LMGS) and a single sherd of high medieval coarseware (HMC) with thumbed applied strip decoration.

<sup>6.7.</sup> Made ground deposit **103** produced only two sherds of pottery, including late medieval glazed ware (LMGS) and high medieval sandy ware (HMS) that offer a terminus post quem in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The most notable finds from buried topsoil layer **106** were of Saxo-Norman date, with flint- (SNF) and organic-tempered (SNO) coarsewares that could easily be pre-

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6.4.

6.6.

Conquest, although a substantial sherd of scratch-marked coarseware (ANS) is most likely late 11th or 12th century. High and late medieval coarseware (HMC) and sandy wares (LMGS) are also present and despite a significant early presence, this is another mixed group with a terminus post quem of 1400 at the earliest.

Subsoil deposit **107** produced a single small sherd of a wheelthrown jar (HMC) that must be high medieval in date (offering a terminus post quem of 1250) but the rest is Saxo-Norman flint-tempered coarseware (SNF), including three jar/cooking pot rim fragments.

Made ground deposit 202 produced a single small sherd of glazed high medieval sandy ware (SHR) that cannot provide anything more precise than a terminus post quem of 1250.

Made ground deposit 204 is very mixed, with medieval to early modern types present, along with almost everything else in between. White and transfer-printed 6.10. refined earthenware (WRE, TPR) give a terminus post quem of 1800 but there are two 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century types that are not local to Winchester. Tudor Green ware (TGW), produced on the Hampshire-Surrey border, is a common enough type in the city and is represented here by a small body sherd with the characteristic bright green glaze. More unusual is an 88g fragment of a standing costrel in Iberian micaceous redware (IMR) (see Brown 2002, 38). This type commonly originated in Portugal and would most likely have been imported into the port of Southampton and re-distributed to Winchester. The author has previously observed such wares in the City, and it is true that Continental imports are more numerous in the late medieval 6.11. period, but this remains an unusual and interesting find.

> Made ground deposit 205 produced the greatest quantity of pottery, albeit only 53 sherds, that range from the Saxo-Norman to post-medieval periods and offer a terminus post quem of 1650, with the Verwood-type ware (VTW) likely to be late 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century in date. There is another small body sherd of Iberian micaceous redware (IMR) and a very small fragment of the Rhenish Frechen-type stoneware (FTS). Among the high medieval coarse and glazed sandy types is a small fragment of Laverstock-type ware (LTW), from the kilns near Salisbury (Brown 2002, 15). A related product is Southampton whiteware (SW) (ibid., 13), present here as a small jug sherd with the characteristic decoration of applied pellets. There are three body fragments of Anglo-Norman glazed wares (ANG), characterised by their ill-fitting glaze, while two of them have rouletted decoration.

6.9.

6.8.

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Subsoil deposit **206** contained a base sherd in post-medieval glazed white earthenware (PMG) that provides terminus post quem of 1550 (more likely 1600) but the majority of the pottery is flint-tempered Saxo-Norman jar sherds. A large rim sherd with a thumbed rim edge (LSF) is likely to be late Saxon in date and exhibits a characteristic ridge where the rim has been joined to the body while the vessel was on a turntable. This is a characteristic feature of late Saxon coarseware (Brown 1995, 144) in south Hampshire.

No very profound conclusion can be reached from such a mixed assemblage derived from contexts that are essentially disturbed and re-deposited. There is, however, a distinct prevalence of late Saxon or Saxo-Norman material, in relatively large fragments, that suggests the creation of these contexts included material derived directly from an early medieval feature.

### Lithics by Jacky Sommerville

6.12.

6.13.

A total of 11 worked flints (872g) and two pieces of burnt, unworked flint (318g) was 6.14. recorded from three buried soil/made ground deposits. The worked flints comprise five flakes and six cores. The cores had all been used for the production of flakes – two are dual-platform types and the rest are multi-platform types, each displaying three working platforms. The worked flints represented are not chronologically diagnostic types and only broad prehistoric dating is possible.

### 6.15. Ceramic building material (CBM) by Jacky Sommerville

Residual CBM of Roman date totals 28 fragments (4585g) from five deposits. Included are fragments of brick, imbrex (curved roofing tile) and box flue tile. Eight medieval fragments were recorded (467g), all of which represent ridge tile (glazed roofing tile). The post-medieval CBM totals 71 fragments (7005g). Most are flat roof tile or unclassifiable fragments. Several fragments are identifiable as deriving from peg tile, pan tile (both roofing tiles) or bricks. The brick fragment from made ground deposit **102** measures 2" in thickness and those from made ground deposit **204** are  $2^{1}/4$ " and 23/8" thick.

#### Other finds

Glass of post-medieval/modern date totals 11 fragments (173g). Seven fragments derive from wine/spirits bottles in dark-green coloured glass and one from a bottle in pale green glass. Three fragments represent window glass.

The fifteen recovered fragments (42g) of clay tobacco pipe consist of 14 stem
6.16. fragments and one partial spurred bowl fragment. The latter features the initials "V" (left) and what may be "S" (right) on either side of the spur. It has not been possible to identify the maker.
6.17.

Subsoil deposit **206** produced a fragment (56g) of opus signinum, which is a type of waterproof Roman mortar mostly used in flooring. A total of 20 ceramic tesserae (553g) were also recovered.

Thirteen fragments of worked stone (4339g) were retrieved. One fine-grained fragment represents architectural stone, which displays tooling marks on two surfaces. It is too fragmentary to ascertain the type of feature it derived from. Three fragments are from slate roofing. The remaining fragments are of limestone and sandstone, and probably represent roofing material.

6.20. Four iron objects were recorded (177g) – three nails and a horseshoe. The horseshoe is too heavily corroded and encrusted to allow classification or dating.

# 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

## 7.1. Animal Bone

Animal bone amounting to 383 fragments (6114g) was recovered from eight deposits associated with artefacts dating to the post-medieval period (See Table 1, Appendix C). The material was fragmentary but very well preserved, making possible the identification of cattle (Bos taurus), sheep/goat (Ovis aries/Capra hircus), pig (Sus scrofa), horse (Equus callabus), dog (Canis familiaris), domestic fowl (Gallus gallus), goose (Anser sp.) and hare (Lepus timidus).

The three major domestic species cattle, sheep/goat and pig were identified from 67, 57 and 20 fragments, respectively. The bone showed considerable historic damage but clearly consisted of fragments of the fore and hind limb bones, from the humerus and the femur to the metapodials and phalanges together with pieces of the scapula and the pelvis. These elements, both rich and poor in meat yield, showed clear signs of butchery with frequent chop marks, small, repeated cuts and heavy impact damage present. This is highly suggestive of the stepped stages of butchery where a

6.18.

16

heavy cleaver-like tool is used to divide a carcass into manageable portions which were in turn separated into cuts of meat, using a knife. The waste from this was then processed further and smashed open to access the protein rich marrow.

As stated, the remains of horse, domestic fowl, dog, goose and hare were also identified, but with only 1, 1, 2, 4 and 3 fragments the recovery was too low to infer any information other than species identification. However, each species is to be expected in an assemblage of this period.

7.3.

8.1.

8.3.

8.4.

# 8. DISCUSSION

The site at 23 and 23A St. Thomas Street is situated within an extensive settlement area of high archaeological potential; situated within the location an Iron Age oppidum known as Oram's Arbour and the subsequent important Roman town of Venta Belgarum. Following collapse of Roman rule in the 5th century AD, Winchester continued to remain the most important city in England during medieval times, until the Norman conquest in the eleventh century AD. Previous archaeological investigations encompassing the site, found prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval remains.

8.2. The test pit evaluation revealed no evidence of structural remains such as walls or floor remains, or cut features such as ditches, pits, gullies, hearths or postholes associated with settlement activity. However, many residual finds were recovered from all deposits identified and recorded within **Test Pits 1** and **2**.

## Later Prehistoric

Worked flint was recovered from the majority of the deposits identified within **Test Pits 1** and **2**. Although these are classed as residual finds, they can be broadly dated to the late prehistoric period and correspond with and confirm comparable prehistoric activity found across Winchester such as the Iron Age settlement site of Oram's Arbour.

## Romano-British (AD43 – 410) to Medieval (AD410 – 1539)

Some of the earliest deposits were found at 1.4m depth within both **Test Pits 1** and **2**; specifically deposits **108** and **107** within **Test Pit 1** and deposits **206** within **Test Pit 2**. The deposits revealed, from the artefactual evidence recovered, possible Romano-British to late medieval destruction layers, which were sealed below a

buried topsoil horizon, deposit **106** observed within **Test Pit 1**, that pre-dated later post-medieval / modern levelling and landscaping recorded in both test pits.

#### Post-Medieval (AD1540 - 1800)

The extensive made-ground deposits found in both **Test Pits 1 & 2**; deposits **103** and **102** (**Test Pit 1**) and deposits **205** and **204** (**Test Pit 2**), represent episodes of landscaping and levelling which correspond with historic mapping and the existing visible earthwork seen as a terraced garden at the site. The single flint, chalk and hand-made brick filled foundation trench **104** found to the south-west within **Test Pit 1** is likely to have been used for an upright timber support, forming part of a pergola or similar garden feature. The feature was seen to cut and post-date the earliest made-ground deposit **103** but pre-date made-ground deposit **102**. This indicates that the site comprised two phases of levelling and made ground associated with extensive garden landscaping in the late post-medieval to modern periods.

#### Modern (AD1800 -present)

A thin chalk layer **101** covered deposit **102** which was covered by a silty clay topsoil deposit 100 respectively within Test Pit 1. The thin chalk horizon located immediately below the existing topsoil is likely to help drain the existing lawn. Deposit **204** within **Test Pit 2** was covered by several silt/clay and chalk deposits **203** and **202** which acted as a possible modern bedding layers for a former, since removed topsoil. These deposits were cut later by a modern feature **201**, which is likely to be associated with recent gardening activity.

#### Conclusion

There is potential for significant archaeological deposits to be located below the maximum 1.4m agreed depth that was reached during the test pit evaluation. This is based on the type of finds recovered from the deposits recorded (at depth) and no natural geological deposits being encountered. The earliest/lowest deposits identified within both **Test Pit 1 & 2** revealed Romano-British finds to include box-flue tile, brick fragments and red tesserae, non-local rooftile and domestic pottery. This evidence along with the evidence recorded immediately to the east, west and south of the site suggests that a Romano-British building or complex is likely to be located within the vicinity. The earliest/lowest deposits will not be impacted upon by the proposed planning application.

8.6.

8.7.

23 & 23A St. Thomas Street, Winchester: Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

# 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Matt Nichol, assisted by Alice Krausova. This report was written by Matt Nichol. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville and Duncan Brown. The report illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The project archive has been compiled by Richard Paxford and prepared for deposition by Hazel O' Neill. The project was managed by CA Project Manager Ray Kennedy.

9.1.

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Test Pit (TP)	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth / thickness (m)	Spot- date
TP 1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark blackish brown silty clay	>1.95	>1.55	0.1	Modern
TP 1	101	Deposit		Bedding layer	Light brownish white chalk	>1.95	>1.55	0.05	
TP 1	102	Deposit		Made ground	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>1.95	>1.55	0.42	
TP 1	103	Deposit		Made ground	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>1.95	>1.55	0.45	
TP 1	104	Cut		Cut of foundation trench	Vertical sides, flat base	0.5	0.25	0.5	
TP 1	105	Fill	104	Single fill	20% mid greyish brown silty clay with 80% chalk / flint / brick / tile	0.5	0.25	0.5	
TP 1	106	Layer		Buried topsoil	Mid orangey brown silty clay	1	>1.55	0.1	
TP 1	107	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay with chalk	1.95	1.55	0.25	
TP 1	108	Deposit		Possible destruction deposit	Mid greyish brown silty clay with lime mortar	1	0.75	Unexcavated	
TP 2	200	Fill	201	Fill of garden feature	Mid greyish brown silty clay with dark greyish black clay	>1.86	>1.3	0.4	Modern
TP 2	201	Cut		Garden feature	Gradual sides, flat base	>1.86	>1.3	0.4	Modern
TP 2	202	Deposit		Made ground	Light brownish white chalk	>1.55	>0.46	0.22	
TP 2	203	Deposit		Bedding layer	Mid brownish grey silty clay and chalk	>2	>1.55	0.12	
TP 2	204	Deposit		Made ground	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>2	>1.55	0.48	
TP 2	205	Deposit		Made ground	Mid greyish brown silty clay with chalk	>2	>1.55	0.46	
TP 2	206	Deposit		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay with chalk	>1.3	>0.84	>0.16	

## **APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## **APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date		
102	Medieval pottery	HMC	1	5	C19			
	Medieval pottery	High medieval coarseware Late medieval glazed	LMGS	1	6			
		sandy ware						
	Post-medieval pottery	Verwood-type ware	VTW	3	55			
	Post-medieval pottery	Wiltshire black-glazed earthenware	WBG	1	20			
	Post-medieval pottery	Post-medieval redware	PMR	2	57			
	Post-medieval pottery	Post-medieval earthenware	PME	1	3			
	Modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined earthenware	TPR	2	8			
	Modern pottery	Blue-glazed refined earthenware	BGR	1	1			
	Modern pottery	White refined earthenware	WRE	3	64			
	Modern pottery	Bone china	BC	1	10			
	Modern pottery	English brown stoneware	EBS	1	12			
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Brick, peg tile, pan tile, fragments		16	1095			
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		10	32			
	Post-medieval glass	Bottle		3	108			
	Modern glass	Window		1	22			
	Flint	Flakes, cores		5	435			
	Burnt flint			1	35			
	Industrial waste	Indeterminate ironworking slag		1	53			
103	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset	DOR BB1	1	15	C15+		
	Medieval pottery	Black-burnished ware High medieval sandy	HMS	1	10			
	Medieval pottery	ware Late medieval glazed	LMGS	1	7			
	Post-medieval	sandy ware Peg tile, flat roof tile,	_	13	87			
	ceramic building material	fragments		10	0.			
	Mortar			1	9			
106	Roman pottery	Cadiz amphora	CAD AM	1	14	EC15+		
	Roman pottery Roman pottery	Sandy greyware New Forest Colour-	GWS NFO CC	1 1	15 17			
	Medieval pottery	coated ware Anglo-Norman Scratch-	ANS	1	15			
	Medieval pottery	marked ware Saxo-Norman flint-	SNF	3	48			
	Medieval pottery	tempered fabric Saxo-Norman organic-	SNO	1	5			
	Medieval pottery	tempered fabric High medieval	НМС	1	12			
	Medieval pottery	coarseware Late medieval glazed sandy ware	LMGS	2	16			
	Roman ceramic building material	Box flue tile, bricks, fragment		5	790			
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Flat roof tile		1	57			

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
	Worked stone	Roofing?		3	648	
	Flint	Flakes, cores		4	412	
	Burnt flint			1	283	
	Iron	Horseshoe		1	137	
107	Roman pottery	New Forest Colour- coated ware	NFO CC	1	6	MC13+
	Medieval pottery	Saxo-Norman flint- tempered fabric	SNF	14	345	
	Medieval pottery	High medieval coarseware	НМС	1	22	
	Roman ceramic building material	Brick, fragment		6	985	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Fragment		2	49	
	Ceramic object	Tessera		5	130	
	Worked stone	Roofing?		3	235	
202	Medieval pottery	South Hampshire	SHR	1	3	MC13+
		redware			-	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Flat roof tile		4	192	
204	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	1	12	C19
	Roman pottery	Sandy greyware	GWS	1	2	
	Medieval pottery	High medieval sandy ware	HMS	2	8	
	Medieval pottery	High medieval coarseware	HMC	4	13	
	Medieval pottery	Tudor Green ware	TGW	1	6	
	Medieval pottery	Iberian micaceous redware	IMR	8	88	
	Post-medieval pottery	Verwood-type ware	VTW	1	25	
	Post-medieval pottery	Post-medieval redware	PMR	7	153	
	Post-medieval pottery	Post-medieval earthenware	PME	4	62	
	Post-medieval pottery	Post-medieval whiteware	PMW	1	16	
	Modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined earthenware	TPR	1	2	
	Modern pottery	White refined earthenware	WRE	4	66	
	Modern pottery	English brown stoneware	EBS	1	8	
	Roman ceramic building material	Brick		1	608	
	Medieval ceramic building material	Ridge tile		2	123	
	Post-medieval ceramic building	Brick, peg tile, pan tile, flat roof tile, fragments		4	3749	
	material Ceramic building material	Fragment		24	419	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Bowl, stems Bottle		5 2	10 21	
	Post-medieval glass Post-medieval/modern	Vessel, window		4	9	
	glass Iron	Nail		1	7	
	Worked stone	Slate		1	55	
205	Medieval pottery	Saxo-Norman coarseware	SNC	10	70	LC17-C18
	Medieval pottery	Saxo-Norman flint-	SNF	1	69	

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
		tempered fabric				
	Medieval pottery	Anglo-Norman glazed	ANG	3	35	
	Medieval pottery	High medieval coarseware	НМС	12	69	
	Medieval pottery	High medieval sandy ware	HMS	1	18	
	Medieval pottery	High medieval glazed sandy fabric	HMGS	1	11	
	Medieval pottery	South Hampshire redware	SHR	2	10	
	Medieval pottery	Laverstock-type ware	LTW	1	4	
	Medieval pottery	Southampton	SW	1	6	
	Medieval pottery	Iberian micaceous redware	IMR	1	3	
	Medieval pottery	Late medieval sandy ware	LMS	13	156	
	Medieval pottery	Late medieval glazed sandy ware	LMGS	1	4	
	Post-medieval pottery	Frechen-type stoneware	FTS	1	2	
	Post-medieval pottery	Verwood-type ware	VTW	1	1	
	Post-medieval pottery	Post-medieval redware	PMR	2	10	
	Post-medieval pottery	Post-medieval slipware	PMS	1	9	
	Post-medieval pottery	Post-medieval glazed earthenware	PMG	1	9	
	Roman ceramic building material	Brick, box flue tile, imbrex, fragments		13	1960	
	Medieval ceramic building material	Ridge tile		6	344	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Peg tile, flat roof tile		30	1760	
	Ceramic building material	Fragment		42	1123	
	Ceramic object Mortar	Tesserae		12 2	315 362	
	Post-medieval glass	Bottle		1	13	
	Flint	Flake		2	25	
	Worked stone	Masonry, slate, roofing?		5	1108	
	Iron	Nail		1	15	
	Industrial waste	Hearth/furnace lining?		1	13	
206	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	3	56	MC16-LC16+
	Roman pottery Medieval pottery	Sandy greyware Saxo-Norman	SNC	1 9	15 225	
	Early Medieval pottery	coarseware Late Saxon flint-	LSF	1	88	
	Medieval pottery	tempered fabric High medieval	НМС	1	11	
	Post-medieval pottery	coarseware Post-medieval glazed	PMG	1	13	
	Roman ceramic	earthenware Brick		3	242	
	building material Post-medieval ceramic building material	Flat roof tile		1	16	
	Ceramic building material	Fragment		5	64	

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Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
	Ceramic object	Tessera		3	108	
	Mortar	Opus signinum		1	56	
	Worked stone	Roofing?		1	175	
	Iron	Nail		1	18	

\* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

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Context Number	Late Saxon 9-10 C	Saxo- Norman 10-12 C	Anglo- Norman 12-13 C	High medieval 13-14 C	Late medieval 15-16 C	Post- medieval 16-17 C	Early modern 18-19 C	Total weight (g)	Total sherd count
102				5/1	6 / 1	135 / 7	95 / 8	241	17
103				10 / 1	7 / 1			17	2
106		53 / 4	15 / 1	12 / 1	16 / 2			96	8
107		345 / 14		22 / 1				367	15
202				3 / 1				3	1
204				21/6	94 / 2	256 / 13	76 / 6	447	27
205		139 / 11	35 / 3	118 / 18	163 / 15	41/6		496	53
206	88 / 1	225 / 9		11/1		13 / 1		337	12
Total weight / sherd count	88 / 1	762 / 38	50 / 4	202 / 30	286 / 21	445 / 27	171 / 14	2004	135

Table 2: Summary showing quantities of post-Roman pottery (weight / sherd count) by period group in each deposit.

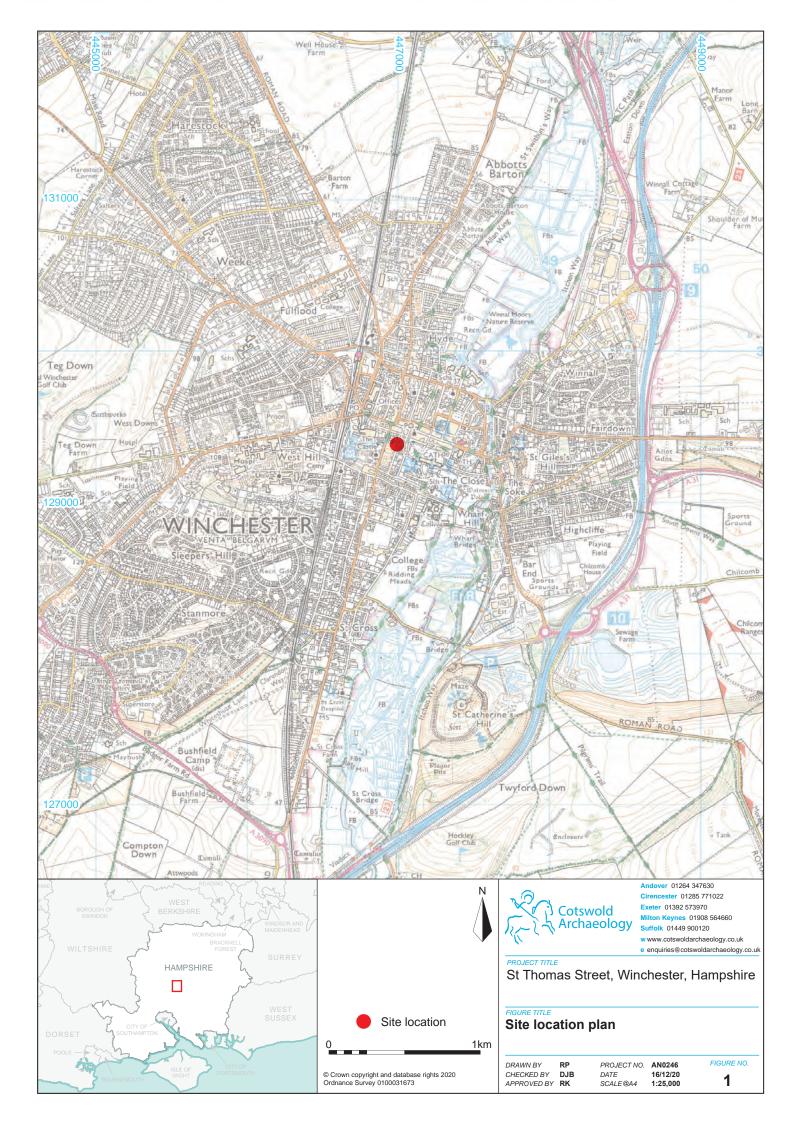
### APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Context	BOS	O/C	SUS	EQ	Gal	Canis	Anser	Lepus	LM	ММ	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
102	2	4					3	1		6		16	137
103	4	2	2						3	18		29	394
106		2							2			4	51
107	14	5	2						5	9		35	1322
202								1	1	1		3	11
204	5	12	1			1		1	10	17		47	532
205	38	29	12	1	1	1	1		66	25	43	217	3103
206	4	3	3						9	13		32	564
Total	67	57	20	1	1	2	4	3	96	89	43	383	
Weight	2899	818	325	14	3	19	8	4	1427	413	184	6114	

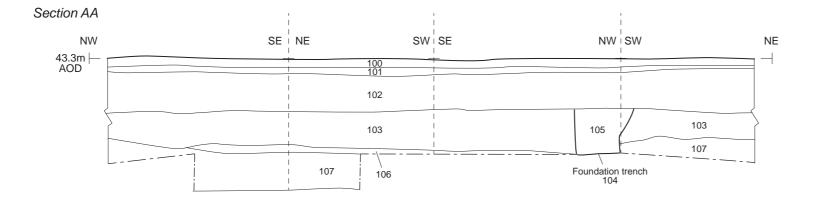
BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; EQ = horse; Gal= domestic fowl; Canid = dog; Answer = goose species; Lepus = hare; LM = cattle size mammal; MM = sheep size mammal; Ind = indeterminate

### **APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM**

PROJECT DETAILS					
Project name	St. Thomas Street, Winchester, Hampshi	re			
Short description	In December 2020, Cotswold Archa archaeological test pit evaluation at 23 a Winchester, Hampshire. A total of two te hand in advance of a planning application built in the rear garden. Many finds deposits identified and recorded.	aeology carried out an nd 23A St. Thomas Street, est pits were excavated by n for a proposed pool to be			
	Some of the earliest deposits were for identified possible Romano-British to layers which were sealed below a buried dated later levelling and landscaping. T landscaping and levelling corresponded garden. A single flint, chalk and hand-m trench was found and is likely to have timber support, forming part of a pergola The foundation trench post-dated one of medieval / modern levelling events.	late medieval destruction d topsoil horizon that pre- he extensive later historic with the existing terraced nade brick filled foundation been used for an upright or similar garden feature.			
	There is, however, still potential for signif deposits to be located <u>below</u> the maximu was reached during the test pit evaluation type of finds recovered from the deposits no natural geological deposits being enco lowest deposits identified within both Tes Romano-British finds to include box-flue red tesserae, non-local rooftile and dome along with the evidence recorded immedi south of the site suggests that a Romano complex is likely to be located within the	m 1.4m agreed depth that n. This is based on the recorded (at depth) and buntered. The earliest / it Pit 1 & 2 revealed tile, brick fragments and estic pottery. This evidence iately to the east, west and b-British building or			
Project dates	01 – 03 December 2020	<u> </u>			
Project type	Test Pit Evaluation				
Previous work	Heritage Assessment (CA 2018)				
Future work	Unknown				
PROJECT LOCATION					
Site location	St. Thomas Street, Winchester, Hampshi	re			
Study area (m²/ha)					
Site co-ordinates	NGR 448002 129390				
PROJECT CREATORS	1				
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology				
Project brief originator	Winchester City Council				
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology				
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy				
Project Supervisor	Matt Nichol				
MONUMENT TYPE	None				
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Possible Romano-British / Medieval depo	osits			
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Hampshire Cultural Trust	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)			
Physical		Ceramics, animal bone etc			
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc			
Digital		Database, digital photos etc			
BIBLIOGRAPHY	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 St. Thomas Str	eet, Winchester, Hampshire: Archaeologica	al Test Pit Evaluation CA			
typescript report AN0246_1					











Looking south-west (1m scale)



Looking south-east (1m scale)





Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 573970 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE St Thomas Street, Winchester, Hampshire

# FIGURE TITLE Test Pit 1: section and photographs

DRAWN BY RP CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY RK

 PROJECT NO.
 AN0246

 DATE
 17.12.20

 SCALE@A3
 1:20

FIGURE NO. 3



Looking south (1m scale)



Looking north-east (1m scale)



Looking north (1m scale)



Looking north-east (1m scale)





Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 573970 Keynes 01908 564660 Suffolk 01449 900120 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.u

PROJECT TITLE St Thomas Street, Winchester, Hampshire

# FIGURE TITLE Test Pit 1: photographs

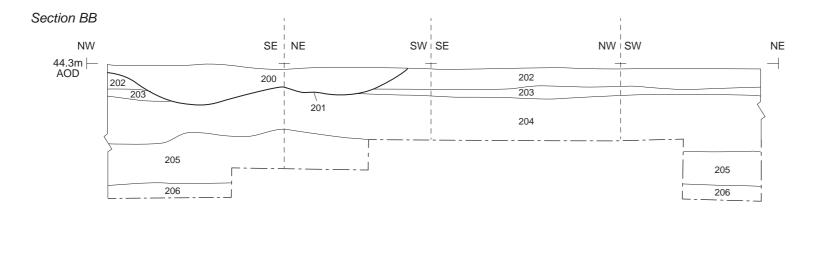
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 PROJECT NO.
 AN0246

 DATE
 16.12.20

 SCALE@A3
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FIGURE NO. 4 - 7



1:20 1m 0 



Looking north-east (1m scale)



Looking north-east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE St Thomas Street, Winchester, Hampshire

# FIGURE TITLE Test Pit 2: section and photographs

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 PROJECT NO.
 AN0246

 DATE
 17.12.20

 SCALE@A3
 1:20

FIGURE NO. 8



Looking north (1m scale)



Looking west (1m scale)



Looking south (1m scale)



Looking south-west (1m scale)



12



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PROJECT TITLE St Thomas Street, Winchester, Hampshire

# FIGURE TITLE Test Pit 2: photographs

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 PROJECT NO.
 AN0246

 DATE
 16.12.20

 SCALE@A3
 N/A

FIGURE NO. 9 - 12

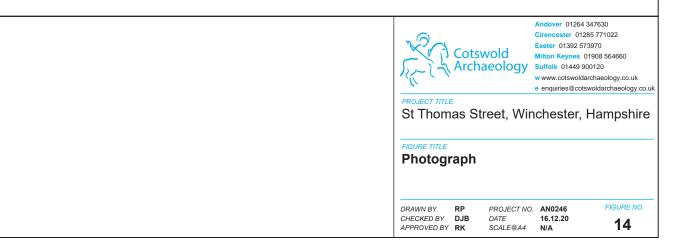


General view south-west towards Trial Pit 1 and Trial Pit 2 (1m scale)

Andover 01264 347630 Crencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 573970 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 Suffolk 01449 900120 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enguirles@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
St Thomas Street, Winchester, Hampshire
FIGURE TITLE Photograph
DRAWN BY RP PROJECT NO. AN0246 FIGURE NO. CHECKED BY DJB DATE 16.12.20 APPROVED BY RK SCALF@A4 NIA 13



General view south-east towards Trial Pit 1 and Trial Pit 2 (1m scale)





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