

# DISCOVERY QUARTER, MOUNT DINHAM, EXETER

(NGR SX 91511 92766)

Results of archaeological excavation and recording

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archaeology

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## Summary

*Historic building recording, excavation and a watching brief were carried out between October 2007 and February 2009 by Exeter Archaeology (EA) on land at the former Exeter College Episcopal School and York Wing sites at Dinham Road, Exeter (SX 91511 92766). The subsequent post-excavation analysis and reporting has been prepared by AC archaeology.*

*Later elements of the Episcopal School were demolished, and a watching brief was maintained during conversion. Some evidence for blocking of primary windows was found along with insertions of new windows when the school was enlarged in 1936-8.*

*The excavations uncovered a large number of features dating to Exeter's Roman military period (c. AD55-75). The principal structure was a large building comprising an aisled hall, surrounded by small rooms and corridors, and a courtyard. This was constructed in the post-trench technique associated with Roman army buildings. Its plan is indicative of a large domestic building, and it is provisionally interpreted as a praetorium, although the exact function, whether as a military headquarters building or perhaps as an accommodation building for officials and couriers, is unknown.*

*After this building went out of use a cremation burial was placed next to two of its walls. This is also of 1st-century AD date, and the finds assemblage from the burial is very similar to those found at Holloway Street.*

*Later Roman features, of 2nd- and 3rd-century AD date, were also found, but no associated buildings were located. However, a single mausoleum structure was exposed.*

*Medieval and post-medieval features were almost exclusively confined to boundary ditches and gullies, although several postholes, possibly associated with post-medieval cloth drying, were excavated. The ditches were mostly aligned downhill and parallel to St David's Hill.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

- 1.1 A programme of historic building recording and archaeological excavation and watching brief was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology (EA) between October 2007 and February 2009 on land at the former Exeter College Episcopal School and York Wing sites at Dinham Road Exeter (NGR SX 91511 92766; Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Justin Developments to fulfil condition 6 attached to the grant of planning permission (no. 06/1147/03) by Exeter City Council. In June 2009, EA was informed that Justin Developments had ceased trading; subsequently all development work, including archaeological monitoring and post-excavation analysis ceased. In 2011 Linden Homes recommenced the residential development under the site name *Discovery Quarter*. Following the closure of EA in June 2011, AC archaeology was commissioned by Linden Homes to complete the post-excavation analysis, prepare a summary report and post-excavation assessment (this document), and produce a journal article publishing details of the Roman archaeology on the site, to enable the planning condition to be fully discharged.
- 1.2 The excavations and post-excavation analysis have been undertaken following consultation with the Exeter City Council Archaeology officer (ECCAO) and in accordance with Exeter City Council's adopted 2004 Supplementary Planning Guidance, *Archaeology and Development*. The fieldwork was carried out in line with a project design prepared by Exeter Archaeology (Valentin 2007) and approved by the city council under the condition, and the post-excavation

analysis in line with this project design and a post-excavation analysis and publication proposal produced by Andrew Passmore (2011).

## **2. THE SITE**

**2.1** Mount Dinham is a flat plateau situated at a height of 32m aOD, a little over 0.5km west of the centre of Exeter, that overlooks the River Exe and the lower Longbrook Valley. The site comprised the land formerly occupied by Exeter College, and is situated on Mount Dinham between Dinham Road and Haldon Road, and to the southwest of St David's Hill. This latter has been identified as a Roman road, leading from the legionary fortress at Exeter to Okehampton (Margary 1973, route 492), although evidence for a more southern route out of Exeter has been put forward by Salvatore and Knight (1991). St David's Hill could however be a separate road leading north towards Tiverton where there is a Roman fort. The western area contains the Episcopal building – a school constructed in 1865 – and is separated from the York Wing by a car park. Within the York Wing are a group of 19th-century buildings that have been retained as part of the development, whilst later College buildings were demolished. The site lies at a height of approximately 25m aOD and topographically there is a slight slope downhill to the southeast. The underlying geology of the area is interbedded mudstone and sandstone of the Crackington formation, overlain by river terrace deposits (British Geological Survey website).

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**3.1** Prior to planning permission being granted, a desk-based assessment was prepared and historic building recording undertaken by Southwest Archaeology (2005a; 2005b). This was followed by a geophysical survey and trench evaluation undertaken by EA (Leverett and Valentin 2005). In addition to the present site, the latter investigations also included the grounds of the adjacent St David's First School. The evaluation established the presence of Romano-British activity both on the site of the Episcopal building and in the grounds of St David's First School, with some of the feature types present (pits, postholes, gullies) likely to represent settlement and perhaps agricultural activity. The finds recovered indicated a probable mid to late 2nd-century AD date. Trenches excavated in the York Wing area revealed largely modern disturbance, although there was the possibility that localised evidence for archaeological activity might survive. During a separate subsequent development within the north playground of St David's First School an excavation was carried out by Context One Archaeological Services (Place 2008). A ditch and smaller gully of Roman date were exposed along with a medieval pit and later features.

**3.2** In the Exe Street/Lower North Street area, early Romano-British activity has also been identified in the form of a small timber building, an inhumation burial, quarrying and the dumping of rubbish (Exeter Historic Environment Record Monument Numbers 10148.00 and 10201.00). In 2011 excavations at Lower North Street uncovered a further two Romano-British inhumation burials (Exeter Historic Environment Record Recognition Event 15659). In addition, evidence for Romano-British activity in the St David's Hill area, including the discovery of a 'large urn containing ashes' found in association with Samian vessels and 1st-century AD coins, is suggested by antiquarian sources (outlined in Leverett and Valentin 2005, 1-2).

**3.3** In the medieval period the outskirts of Exeter were largely undeveloped. St David's Down was seemingly open country owned by St Nicholas' Priory, although Hooker's map of 1587 shows some settlement between the city limit and the church of St David. A buried soil of medieval date was exposed across part of the site during the 2005 evaluation. In 1625 buildings are shown in the vicinity of the site (Southwest Archaeology 2005, Map 2), but these may have been demolished during the civil war period when defences were constructed on St David's

Down and above Head Weir Cliffs (i.e. Mount Dinham) (Exeter Historic Environment Record Monument Number 10346.00).

- 3.4 Maps dating to the later 17th century and the early 18th century depict cloth drying racks on or adjacent to the land that would later become Mount Dinham (Southwest Archaeology 2005, Maps 3, 4, 7 and 9).
- 3.5 In 1860s the site and surrounding land was developed as an educational and charitable 'village' by John Dinham. The Episcopal Charity School (latterly part of Exeter College) and St David's National Boy's School (now St David's First School) formed part of this development. The York Wing annex of Exeter College started life as outbuildings of the former West of England Institution for the Blind (whose main building was on St David's Hill and is now a community centre). The area was remodelled and extended during the first half of the 20th century. They may have been bought by Exeter College in 1972 when the Episcopal building was taken over.

#### 4. AIMS

- 4.1 The principal aims of the investigation were twofold; firstly, to prepare a detailed record of any new exposures made during the conversion of the former Episcopal Charity School building, and secondly, through open-area excavation and watching brief during groundworks to preserve by record any surviving below-ground deposits or artefacts that would be affected by construction works.

#### 5. METHODOLOGY

##### 5.1 Historic building recording

New exposures made during conversion of the building were recorded on architect's plans of the building, as well as on *pro forma* watching brief record sheets. A photographic record using black-and-white print film and a high-quality digital camera was also prepared.

##### 5.2 Excavation and watching brief

The main areas of ground reduction (Block A, Block B, the Car Park and The Ramp) were carried out under archaeological control. Modern, post-medieval and medieval deposits were removed using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket to the level of natural deposits, the level at which Roman cut features were exposed. All features were hand excavated and recorded using the methodology set out in the project design (Valentin 2007). All discrete features (such as pits and postholes) were fully excavated. Linear features were 20% sampled although on the advice of the ECCAO many were further excavated to retrieve finds.

A watching brief was maintained during construction of the access road, and exposed features were recorded using the same methodology.

Following the discovery of a coin hoard, the reporting procedures required under the Treasure Act 2006 was carried out by the Devon Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer.

#### 6. THE EPISCOPAL BUILDING (Fig. 2; Plates 1-2)

- 6.1 The form of the present building has developed as a result of over 100 years of use as an educational establishment. The 1865 school originally comprised a central block with classrooms to both sides and detached masters' residences. In 1936-38 the building was substantially altered, being raised to two full storeys and with further classrooms and other

facilities added to its north side (Parker 2004, 21). Further additions were made in the mid-20th century including the addition of a large gymnasium.

- 6.2** During soft stripping of the main block of the building the internal ground floor partitions were observed to have been constructed using brick, whilst those on the first floor, added in 1936-8, were built using lath and plaster. These lighter materials were presumably used to reduce the weight and stresses on the earlier, existing ground-floor masonry. Internal fittings such as doors, skirting boards and radiators were removed, and it is understood not retained.
- 6.3** All post-1936-8 extensions were removed, along with the extreme southern end of the 1936-8 extension at the southern end of the building. In the south elevation at ground-floor level is an original window opening (possibly equivalent to that on the north elevation), blocked with a doorway inserted in 1936-38 (Plate 1). Removal of the gymnasium exposed large ground- and first-floor window openings in the original central block, now fitted with 1936-38 casement windows (Plate 2). Immediately east of this central block, two probable original window openings, blocked in 1936-8 were partially exposed during the creation of new windows. In the north 1936-38 extension the southern window in its east elevation had been blocked when a toilet block was added.
- 6.4** A limited photographic record of some of the York wings buildings was made during stripping out. All recorded internal fittings related to the use of the site by Exeter College.

## **7. THE EXCAVATIONS (Figs 1, 3-14; Plates 3-14)**

### **7.1 Block A (Fig. 1)**

In this area the excavation of a single L-shaped foundation trench measuring 12m long was monitored and recorded.

Two lengths of two north-south aligned features were exposed. The earliest was a ditch (F3196/F3197) with steep sides and a rounded base that measured 0.70m wide by 0.50m deep. The feature variously contained one or two fills (3195/3199 and 3198); five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from fill 3195.

This feature was truncated by a second ditch (F3193/F3204) that measured up to 2.70m wide by 0.62m deep. The ditch had gentle sides steepening towards the base, and contained three fills (3200, 3202 and 3201/3193). No finds were recovered from this feature.

### **7.2 Block B (Figs 3-5; Plates 3-5)**

The majority of this area was excavated under direct archaeological control to the level of natural deposits (Plate 3). In the northern part of the block excavations of foundation trenches were monitored after the removal of modern overburden.

#### ***1st-century AD Roman features***

A total of three pits (F2025, F2039 and F2015) and two postholes (F2003 and 2050) of this date were located in this area. Pottery from the fill (2049) of posthole F2050 included sherds of an amphora handle, a sherd of a stamped Samian dish and a very worn coin (an *As* or *Dupondius*).

F2015 was clearly a rubbish pit, whilst F2039 may have been a natural or worn hollow but was also filled with rubbish. The lower fill (2027) of pit F2015 contained some silting but also a quantity of unburnt pebbles. The upper fill (2016) contained a large assemblage of pottery dominated by amphorae fragments.

A fourth pit-type feature was partially exposed in this area (4003), whose fill (4004) contained a sherd from a beaker dating to pre-AD75.

#### ***1st-2nd century AD Roman features***

Two features of 1st-2nd century date was exposed – a posthole F2030 and pits F2019 (Plate 4) and F2021. The fill (2031) of posthole F2030 contained pottery and glass, whilst the fill (2020) of pit F2019 contained small quantities of fired clay and slag. The pottery from this feature dated to before AD 220. The fill (2022) of rubbish pit F2021 contained an unidentified copper alloy object.

#### ***2nd-3rd-century AD Roman features***

Three features of this date was uncovered in this area – pits F2017, F2013 and posthole F2047. Pit F2017 contained a single fill (2018), finds from which included a small assemblage of pottery as well as lead fragments and a residual fragment of a Colchester derivative brooch. The posthole contained a single fill (2048) – a deliberate backfill containing pottery and a band of charcoal near its base. The fill (2014) of pit F2013 contained small quantities of burnt clay and faunal bone.

A third feature (F2041) may have been a natural hollow that had been filled with rubbish. Its fill (2042) contained pottery dated to after 260-270 AD along with residual 1st-century AD material.

#### ***Other Roman features***

Two other Roman features were exposed this in this area. Ditch F2011 could not be precisely dated but cut through features F2017 and F2039. Its fill contained a few fragments of slag. Posthole F2023 was undated but may also have been of Roman date.

#### ***Post-medieval and undated features and deposits***

A single datable post-medieval feature was exposed in this area – a ditch (F2043) aligned northeast-southwest parallel to St David's Hill (Plate 5). Its fill (2044) contained residual Roman and medieval pottery, as well as ceramic ridge tile fragments and animal bone. The feature is dated to c. 1660-90 by a single bowl from a clay tobacco pipe. The ditch probably formed a boundary at the rear of the St David's Hill properties, and the later 17th-century date for its infilling may relate to changes in land use of St David's Down after the English Civil War. The overlying soil layer in this area (2000) contained clay pipe bowls dated 1690-1720 and 1700-1730. During this period the land to the rear of St David's Hill was used for cloth drying and 18th-century maps depict large numbers of drying racks in the area.

Other features in this area included a series of small postholes or truncated pits (F2009, F2007 and F2046), a small pit (F2035) and a small gully (F2033). None of these features produced any dating evidence. It is possible that some are (later) Roman in date, but they could also be of historic date, perhaps post-medieval and associated with cloth drying racks depicted on historic maps of the area.

### **7.3 The Car Park (Figs 6-14; Plates 6-10)**

At the request of the developer, the car park was dealt with in three main episodes of large open-area excavations (Plate 6). These were expanded towards the perimeter of this part of the development area as further working space became available.

#### ***Undated but probably early 1st century AD Roman features (Fig. 6)***

A small number of undated features were excavated, one of which (F3132) clearly pre-dated the Roman military phase described below. These features comprised three short, narrow,



shallow linear gullies or ditches (F3132, F3134 and F3147) that were aligned east-west and north-south respectively.

### **1st century AD Roman features (Fig. 6)**

The main features of the 1st century are a series of post-trench timber buildings that were present in both the car park and adjacent ramp (Plates (6-8)). The post-trench technique of construction is identical in character to that associated with military buildings of the nearby fortress (e.g. Bidwell 1981, fig. 7 that shows details of buildings excavated at the Guildhall site in 1971) and the supply base at St Loyes (Steinmetzer and Salvatore 2011). In profile these trenches had typically vertical or near-vertical sides and flat bases, and measured up to 0.6m wide, surviving to depths of 0.55m. The trenches were aligned north-south and east-west, and probably represent the remains of several buildings or ranges of buildings.

The largest is represented by two groups of post trenches that were L-shaped in plan (F3183/F3160 and F3075/F3139/F3138/F3117 respectively). These trenches define a smaller, northern area measuring 9m by 7.25m and a larger southern area measuring a minimum of 21.75m by 14.5m. The south and west sides of this southern area lay outside the areas of excavation, under the Episcopal School building. Within this area were three pairs of post-pits. These (F3164, F3086, F3064, F3189, F3187, and F3091) were substantial features and although partially truncated measured up to 1.5m long by 0.80m deep (Plate 9). The size of these pits is comparable with other Roman post-pits, for example at the Roman fort at Bolham, Tiverton (Maxfield 1991, table, 2, figures 9 and 10). The fills of these features comprised redeposited natural clay and were clearly deliberately backfilled after the posts had been removed (and presumably reused). No dating evidence was recovered from the fills. In the base of the southern two post-pits (F3187 and F3093) were two smaller circular postholes (F3185 and F3093 respectively). This area had been heavily truncated, but posthole F3093 was demonstrated to have been cut through post-pit F3091. A further circular posthole (F3070) was present 6m to the east of the southern pair F3187 and F3093). Postholes and post-pits F3187, F3093, F307 were aligned parallel to the north side of the southern area, and probably held timbers supporting a colonnade on this side of the structure, which on this evidence and general dearth of other nearby contemporary features is interpreted as a courtyard.

Further post trenches were present to the northwest. These comprise a pair of east-west aligned trenches (F3003 and (F3014/F3168) spaced 2m apart. To the north and south of these ditches several north-south aligned trenches (F3004, F3130 and F3016) were exposed. None joined with F3003 or F3014/F3168, although F3130 and F3004 were on the same alignment. Two further post trenches on a north-south alignment were found in the excavation for the ramp (F3238 and F3235). To the north within the playing field, a further two geophysical anomalies were aligned roughly north-south, and could represent further post trenches.

The exact date and form of these features is unknown, although since all the post trenches are on the same alignments they are likely to be contemporary. The number and form of the structures is not clearly identifiable, and there are no regional comparisons within a Roman military context. It is possible that the post trenches are associated with back-to back two timber buildings with F3003 and F3014 representing the south and north walls of separate structures. The structure/s could represent barrack blocks, although the plan does not match the layout of those excavated within the legionary fortress at Exeter. Another more plausible possibility is that they represent a much grander building such as an accommodation building for imperial officials and couriers, or a *praetorium* (in the sense of a military headquarters building, although these are usually found within a fort, for which there is as yet no evidence at Mount Dinham).

Adjacent to post-trench F3060 was a cremation burial (F3053) that measured 1.56m long by 1.0-2m wide and 0.50m deep. It was aligned east-west – parallel to the adjacent post-trench – and had steep to vertical sides and a flattish base. Following Roman custom the burial must have taken place following the abandonment of the use of the building, although since it respected the wall line, the building may still have been standing. Within the lower fill (3056) was a placed deposit of finds (Plate 10). Side by side were a form 18 South Gaulish Samian bowl stamped CARA[NIF] (SF34) and a Honey-pot or two-handled jar (SF36). A Claudian coin (an *As* or *Dupondius*; SF10) had been placed below the bowl, whilst above it was a convex glass vessel (SF9). Other glass and ceramic finds included a globular flask or unguent bottle, a South Gaulish Samian cup, and sherds from a Lyon beaker, amphorae, and BB1 jars. Overall this assemblage dates to c. AD65-75. A small quantity of burnt faunal bone was recovered. Ceramic material from the upper fills (3054 and 3055) was of a similar nature and included parts of the same vessels as found in 3056. This finds assemblage has close parallels to the cremations excavated at Holloway Street, Exeter in 1973-4 (Salvatore 2001). Within the lower fill (3056) there was also a hoard of 22 heavily mineralised and fragile coins. These were mostly found in a group on the north side of the grave, and must have been deposited in a pouch that has subsequently perished causing some movement of coins within the grave. They were all *Asses* or *Dupondii*, and those that could be identified ranged from the reign of Augustus (c. 23BC-14AD) through to Claudius (AD41-54).

Other features dating to this period included a large pit (F3045) within the courtyard. This measured 1.7m wide by 1.5m long by 1.43m deep and was by the far largest early Roman feature on the site. Smaller features were a posthole (F3099) and a shallow pit (F3088), and two short parallel east-west aligned lengths of linear gullies (F3205 and F3207).

### **2nd-3rd-century AD Roman features (Figs 7-8)**

To the south of the early Roman building three sides of an approximately 6m-square ditched enclosure (Plates 11-12) was exposed (F3108). It was aligned northeast to southwest, a completely different alignment to the earlier military buildings. The fills of the enclosure (3109, 3111 and 3112) contained pottery dating to the late 2nd to 3rd centuries, and small quantities of building materials including tile, red-painted plaster, plain plaster and mortar. In the centre of the enclosure was a shallow depression (F3106) measuring 1.8m long by 0.9m wide by up to 0.16m deep. The depression contained two fills (3107 and 3110), the latter containing charcoal and burnt bone, none of which could be positively identified as human. However, the feature is interpreted as a mausoleum.

The only other features of probable later Roman date in this area were two intercutting pits (F3040 and F3067). The former contained a significant quantity of tile.

### **Medieval and post-medieval features (Fig. 9)**

The majority of the later features were initially identified from their (almost exclusive) northwest to south-east alignments. All of the features were ditches whose orientations were aligned with the natural slope of the ground. A number of the features were not excavated.

The earliest group of features was a series of narrow, shallow closely-spaced ditches (F3036/F3213, F3038, F3295, F3215, and F3071). No dating evidence was recovered from their fills, but F3036 and F3038 were truncated by later features dated to the medieval period. Ditches F3025 and F3042 form part of a field system or enclosure and can broadly be dated to the 13th or 14th century at the earliest. At the northwest corner of the excavation area a length of a wide 13th- or 14th-century ditch (F3222) was exposed, although due to truncation very little of its length survived.

Ditch F3150 was intermittently exposed across the north-east side of the excavation, adjacent to Rockside; it had been heavily disturbed by service trenches. It was dated to the 18th century and is likely to represent a former field boundary ditch.

The entire site was sealed by a series of soils and a levelling deposit (3022-3024), that were all broadly dated to the later 18th and 19th centuries.

#### **7.4 The Ramp (Figs 6-13; Plates 13-14)**

##### ***Roman features***

Two post trenches (F3238 and F3235) were exposed in the west end of the excavation. These have been discussed above. To the east of these was a pit (F3246) measuring 1.1m wide by 0.30m deep.

Along the north-east side of the excavation a Roman ditch (Plate 12) was partially exposed (F3265). It was aligned northeast to southwest, and had steeply-sloping sides. No finds were recovered from its fills. However, its alignment differs from the early Roman features across the site, and is probably of later Roman date.

##### ***Medieval and post-medieval features***

A series of small and large ditches (F3265, F3252, F3262, F3260, F3280, F3258, F3281, F3079, F3101, F3096, F3097 and F3283), all on a northwest to southeast alignment, were exposed within this area. Only one, F3258, could be broadly dated to the medieval period (11th-14th centuries), although several, F3265, F3252, F3281 and F3283, were stratigraphically later than the Roman features. All are on the same alignment as those in the Car Park and are considered to be of medieval date.

#### **7.5 Other observations**

The excavation of two foundation trenches within the northwest wing of the Episcopal School building was monitored. The deposit sequence comprised a 0.08m tarmac and concrete surface, and 0.40m make-up comprising brick, ash and mortar, overlying natural stiff red clay. No archaeological features were exposed, nor were any historic soils present. The latter observation is consistent with more recent observations made during groundworks at the nearby Exeter Free Cottages (Passmore 2013).

Ground reduction associated with the construction of a site road to the southwest of Block B was monitored. In the northern part of the road, natural clay was not exposed, and no archaeological features were observed. In the southern part of the road natural clay was exposed across the stripped area. Here there was extensive disturbance caused by modern services associated with the former college buildings. The only features were three natural tree boles.

#### **8. FINDS (Appendices 1-8)**

**8.1** On completion of the fieldwork in 2009 all excavated finds were processed and quantified by EA. The resulting files are held in the site archive. Specialist reports prepared in 2011 and 2012 are included within this report as Appendices 1-8.

#### **9. COMMENTS**

##### **9.1 Prehistoric**

No features conclusively pre-dating the Roman military period were found at Mount Dinham. A small quantity of prehistoric lithics was recovered from residual context, and contains material

of Mesolithic or Earlier Neolithic and Later Neolithic or Earlier Bronze Age date. The assemblage may represent occasional use of the site from a date in the Mesolithic onwards rather than use at two distinct and very separate periods. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was also recovered from a residual context. One (F3132) of three short lengths of gullies or ditches (F3132, F3143 and F3147), pre-dated the Roman military building (see below), but the date and nature of the features is uncertain.

## 9.2 Roman military

Evidence for Roman military activity dating to the period of military occupation in Exeter (c. 55-75) was found across the site. The form of the evidence, both in terms of feature types, and the artefacts, indicate some form of settlement, almost certainly associated with the Second Augustan Legion based at the nearby fortress.

The features excavated in the car park relate to a building or buildings. The post-pits F3164, F3086, F3064, F3189, F3187, and F3091 could form part of a single post-built building. Such structures have not been recognised to date within the nearby fortress, but at least three buildings of similar construction – with posts set into large post-pits – have been excavated at the St Loyes' depot (Steinmetzer and Salvatore 2011, Fig. 4). However, on the basis of their location in relation to other features it is considered that the post-pits form one element of a larger, mainly post trench-built, structure.

The plan of this large building was not fully recovered during the excavations; its southern extent has been lost to the construction of the Episcopal School building, although there is the potential for survival to the north and west, in particular under the playing field. The function of the building cannot be positively identified. However, there are some similarities with *praetorii* and other large domestic buildings for senior officials excavated elsewhere within the empire. It is assumed that the building was entered from the north (and must therefore be viewed in reverse to the drawn plans). The main identified structure is an aisled hall measuring 15m long by 10m wide. The large size of the post-pits, suggesting they held large load bearing timber uprights, must indicate that the building was of two-storey height, rising above the adjacent buildings. Its south elevation opened out directly onto a courtyard, and its end bay would have been flanked by covered walkways. The presence of postholes within the post-pits, one demonstrably dug later, may indicate that the south bay of the hall was subsequently removed and replaced with a covered walk running the full width of the courtyard.

The layout of the remainder of the building is not clear, but includes some identifiable elements. To the north of the aisled hall was a further long, narrow room or corridor. Whilst it is unusual to have further rooms on the approach to the aisled hall of a *praetorium*, the excavations at Haltern in Germany identified a range of small rooms between the hall and a large outer room (Redde *et. al.* 2006, fig. 62). To the west of the hall and corridor are further large rooms measuring up to 18m long, separated by corridors. The *praetorium* at Marktbreit, Germany also offers some similarities (*ibid.*, fig. 63) to the overall layout of the structure at Mount Dinham, with comparable small rooms connected by flanking corridors. It should be noted however that *praetorii* – in the sense of military headquarters buildings – are usually located within a fort or fortress, and therefore at Exeter it would be expected that such a building would have been constructed within the fortress across the Longbrook Valley. The building at Mount Dinham may therefore have had another function, such as a temporary military headquarters building (while the fortress was being constructed), or as an accommodation building for officials and couriers.

Other than pits F3045 and F3246, no other Roman military features were exposed in the Car Park and Ramp excavations. A series of pits and postholes were, however, located in Block B, well away from the building. Almost most were shallow, and had probably been truncated by

later activity, it is clear from their fills that the larger features were rubbish pits, and most were datable to the Roman military period (c. AD55-70). Dating was less secure from some features, but on balance, they are probably contemporary. Overall, the pottery assemblage from the site is consistent with other collections from Exeter, but the quantities of amphorae at Mount Dinham indicate that somewhere nearby activities took place which involved the dispensing or decanting of the contents of an unusually large number of such storage vessels. This may have represented some form of market, but could also relate to the high-status building excavated in the Car Park.

A large pit (F3056), which on the basis of the finds assemblage (see below), is interpreted as a grave, was found immediately alongside a wall of the building. Following Roman custom the burial must have taken place following the abandonment of the use of the building, although its alignment possibly indicates that the latter was still upstanding and had not yet been dismantled. There is no firm dating evidence from the grave, but the general characteristics of the pottery and glass are pre-Flavian (i.e. pre-AD69), which is consistent with the remainder of the pottery assemblage (see above). The finds assemblage within its lower fill is very similar to that recovered from cremations excavated at Holloway Street, and provides useful interpretive evidence. At Holloway Street, the finds were interpreted as the personal belongings of one person, brought together and apparently broken before being scattered in the cremation pit (Salvatore 2001, 134, where the ritual breaking of objects is discussed). At Mount Dinham, the glass and ceramic objects were again broken, but had, by and large, been carefully placed within the grave. Analysis of both the glass and pottery has shown that they had been broken prior to incorporation within the grave. None of the material was burnt, and it has been suggested by Hilary Cool (Appendix 4) that they were associated with some other aspect of the funeral ritual which were then smashed and deposited in the grave. No identifiable burnt human remains were present, and the low quantity of charcoal indicates that there is no deliberate dump of pyre material within the grave, observations consistent with the identification of unburnt pottery and glass.

### 9.3 Roman civil activity

Both the 2010 excavation and the previous evaluation, along with the excavation within St David's School have provided limited evidence of 2nd and 3rd century AD Roman activity. In Block B several rubbish pits were exposed. Within the ramp excavation part of a linear northeast to southwest aligned ditch was located. Although undated it is likely to be of later Roman date. Its south end corresponds with the projected alignment of a north-west to south-east aligned ditch within the school (Place 2008, feature 128). A corner of a large ditch was also exposed to the east during the 2005 evaluation (Leverett and Valentin, feature 406). It is possible that these features are all part of a larger enclosure encompassing an area of 15m by 8m.

In the car park a funerary enclosure of a type found within late Romano-British cemeteries was exposed. In Devon, however, no ditched or enclosed Roman burials have been previously excavated, although a post-Roman cemetery with enclosed burials has been found at Kenn, 7.5km to the south of Exeter (Weddell 2000). The form of the enclosure is unknown, but the presence of building materials including tile, red-painted plaster, plain plaster and mortar within its fills may indicate that the ditches were post trenches supporting a fully enclosed plaster-covered timber structure, representing a probable mausoleum. The enclosure contained a central grave. No human remains were present although some oak and alder charcoal was recovered. Its location outside the town walls is consistent with Roman burial practice, and could form part of a wider cemetery in the Lower North Street/Mount Dinham area. No other burials of this date were found on the site, but ditched burial enclosures and mausoleums are generally not found in isolation, but within larger cemeteries (*ibid.*, 118-119). If it forms part of a

cemetery then, as a high-status structure, it was probably deliberately located on its northwest side, on the high ground overlooking the Longbrook Valley and the town beyond.

#### **9.4 Medieval activity**

Features dating to the medieval period are represented almost entirely by ditches. These are generally aligned northwest to southeast, and are orientated downslope. They are all likely to be associated with agricultural activity, rather than a settlement. The stratigraphically early features are small, and may represent plough marks. Ditches F3025 and F3042 form part of a field system or enclosure, and post-date some of the smaller features.

#### **9.5 Post-medieval activity**

There are very few post-medieval features on the site, which is consistent with the cartographic depictions of the area as agricultural fields and rack fields for drying cloth. The main features were boundary ditches, situated to the rear of St David's Hill properties and alongside Rockside.

### **10. POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT**

**10.1** The ECCAO has advised that the results of the excavation require further publication, but that this should be restricted to the archaeology of the Roman period, as the medieval and later material is not significant enough to merit it. Accordingly, a text for the Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society will be prepared. It will draw on summarised versions of this report, namely:

- Introduction – a condensed version of sections 1-3 (and 5 to identify areas excavated)
- Results – a condensed version of section 7 to include Roman period features only.
- Discussion – a condensed version of section 9 to include Roman period features only, but with an expanded discussion of potential parallels elsewhere for both the Roman military building and later civilian mausoleum. The revised discussion will be drawn up in conjunction with other Roman specialists familiar with the archaeology of the area (John Pamment-Salvatore, Val Maxfield and Paul Bidwell).
- Finds appendices – edited versions of appendices 2, 3 and 4, with some detail added from appendices 6-8. Where appropriate discussion will be added into the main text.
- Figures 3-8 and 10-14 (to include only Roman period features where others are currently included), as well as finds Figures 1 and 2 from the appendices, with a new location map prepared to show the location of the site in relation to the local topography, as well as the relationship of the site with other Roman military features in Exeter, as well as an interpretive figure of the Roman military building.

### **11. ARCHIVE AND OASIS ENTRY**

**11.1** The paper and digital archive are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ. They will be deposited at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under the accession number 608/2007 when the current museum non-acceptance policy has been reviewed.

**11.2** The OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for this project is 147658.

### **12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**12.1** The initial desk based assessments, evaluation, and subsequent excavation and post-excavation analysis and publication were undertaken at the request of the local planning

authority, Exeter City Council, as advised by their Archaeology Officer, Andrew Pye, in line with national and local planning policy. The work was monitored by the latter on Exeter City Council's behalf, and he also provided helpful comments on the draft of this report and on the scope of publication work necessary. The fieldwork was funded by Justin Developments, while the subsequent analysis and publication was funded by Linden Homes. The project was managed for Linden Homes by Pat Colledge and Russell Humphries. The excavations were managed by John Valentin and John Allan, and the post-excavation analysis by Andrew Passmore. The fieldwork was supervised by Andrew Passmore (Block B) and Marie Leverett (remainder of site). The initial finds quantification was carried out by Jenny Durrant, and completed by Dr Naomi Payne and Andrew Passmore. Thanks are due to Henrietta Quinnell, Roger Taylor, Paul Bidwell, B. Dickinson, G. Dannell, K. Hartley and R. McBride Hilary Cool, John Allan, Naomi Payne, Charlotte Coles and Dana Challinor for providing specialist reports, and to Paul Bidwell and John Pamment-Salvatore for providing the interpretation of the Roman timber building as a possible praetorium.

### 13. SOURCES CONSULTED

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Monument numbers 10148.00, 10201.00 and 10346  
Recognition event 15659

#### ***Printed Sources***

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**Website**

British Geological Survey website,

[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)



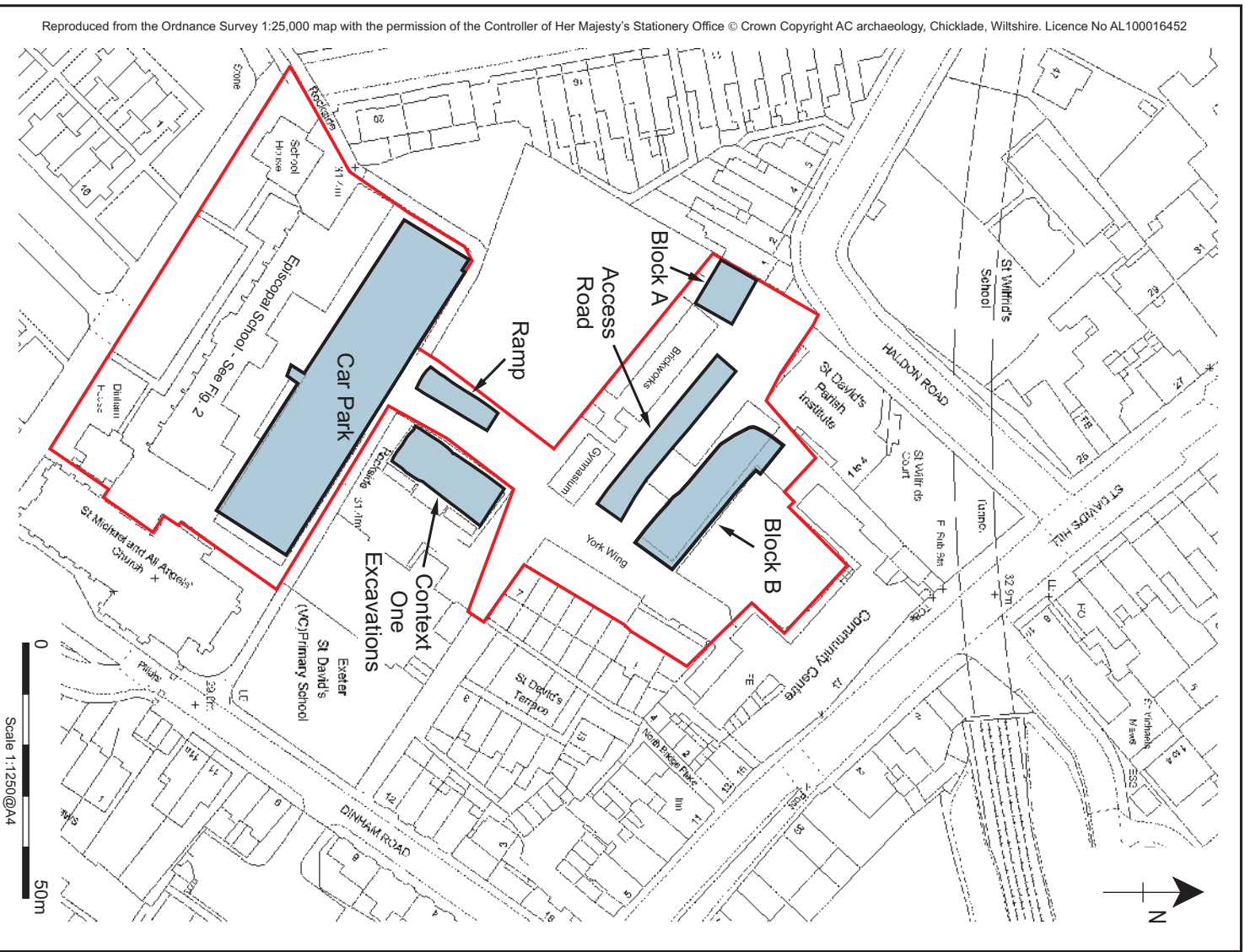
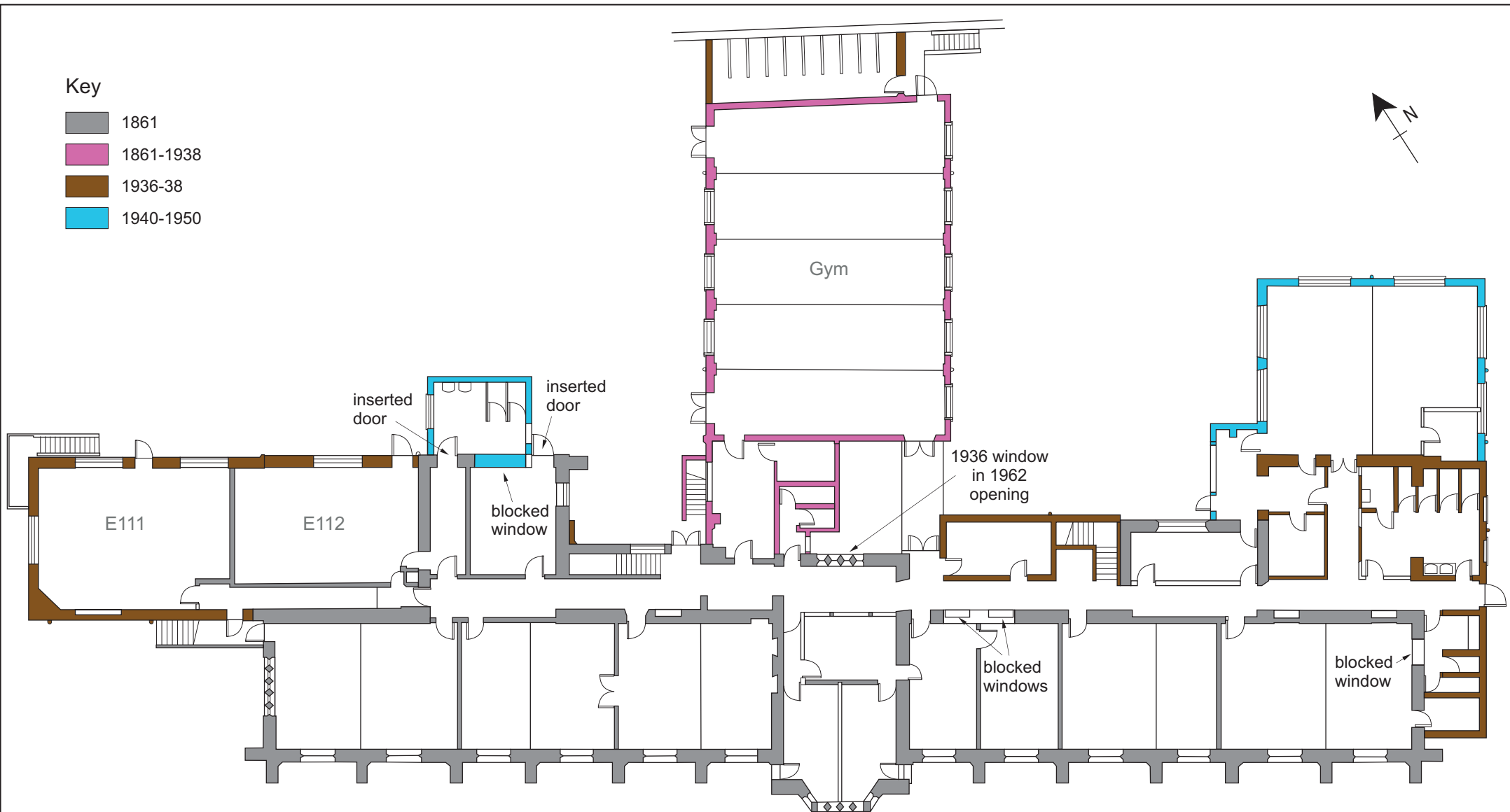


Fig. 1 : Location of site

Discovery Quarter, Exeter

Key

- 1861
- 1861-1938
- 1936-38
- 1940-1950



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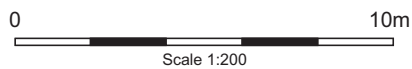
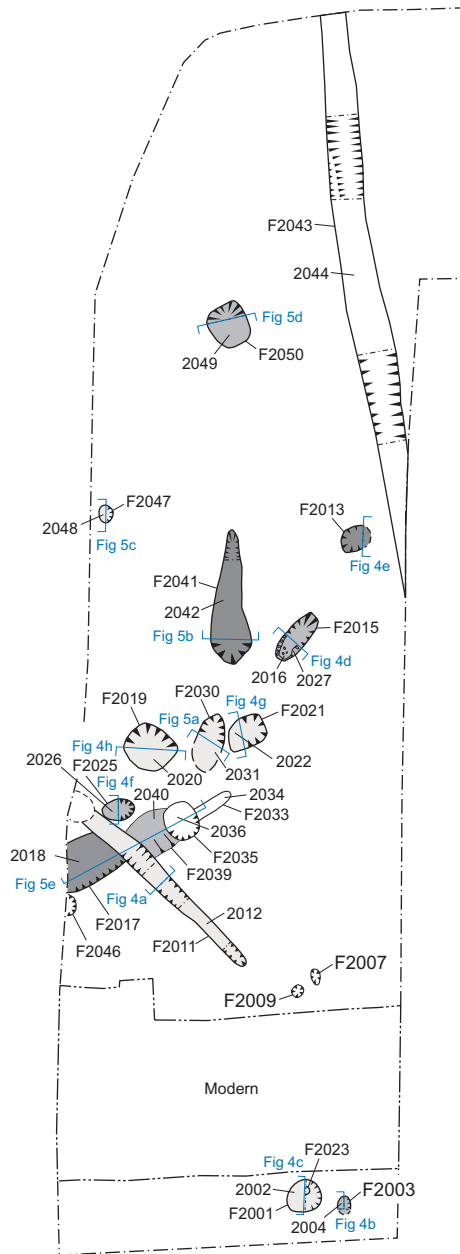
PROJECT  
Discovery Quarter, Exeter

TITLE  
Fig. 2: Phase plan of the  
Episcopal School



Key

- Roman 1st-century
- Roman 2nd/3rd-century
- Roman other
- Post-medieval



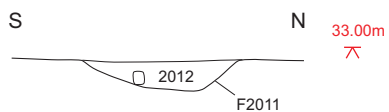
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Discovery Quarter, Exeter

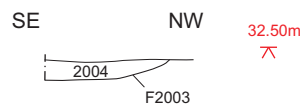
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Fig. 3: Block B, plan

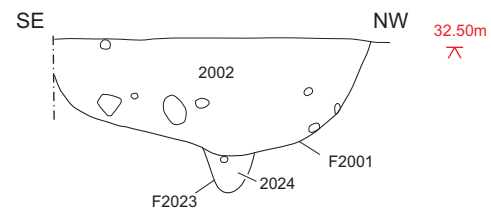
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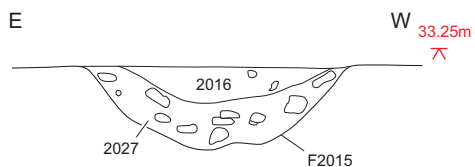
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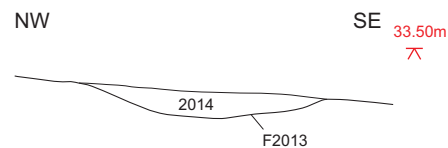
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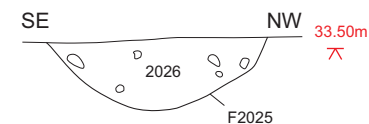
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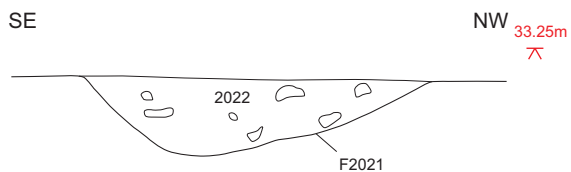
e) Section of F2013



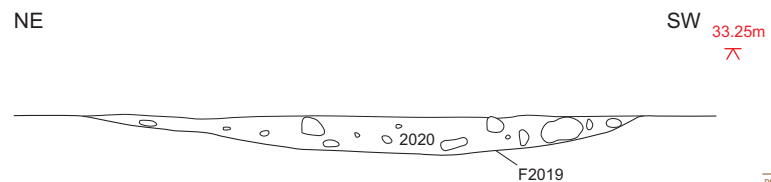
f) Section of F2025



g) Section of F2021



h) Section of F2019



PROJECT

Discovery Quarter, Exeter

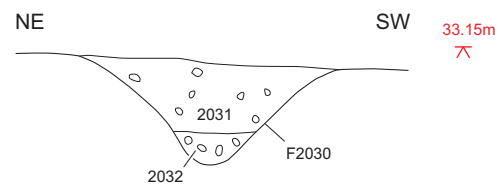
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Fig. 4: Block B, sections

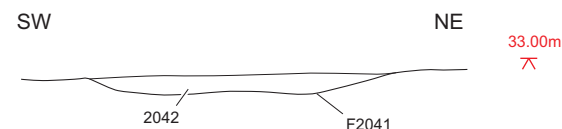


AC archaeology

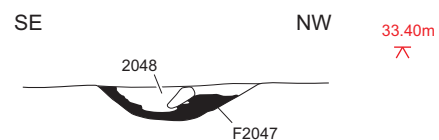
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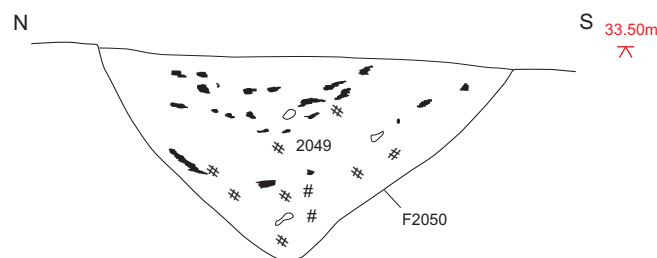
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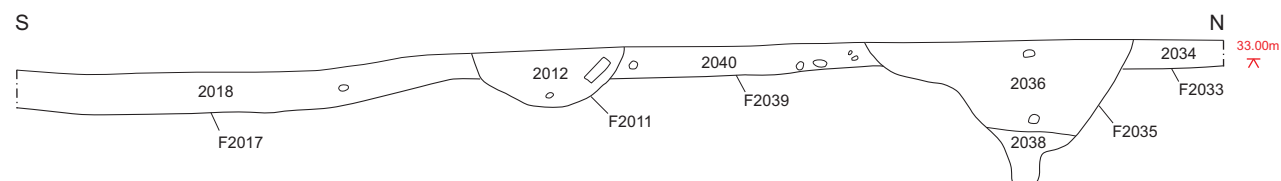
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



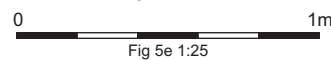
d) Section of F2050



e) Section of F2017, F2011, F2039, F2035 and F2033



-  Charcoal flecks
-  Charcoal lumps/spread



PROJECT  
Discovery Quarter, Exeter

TITLE  
Fig. 5: Block B, sections



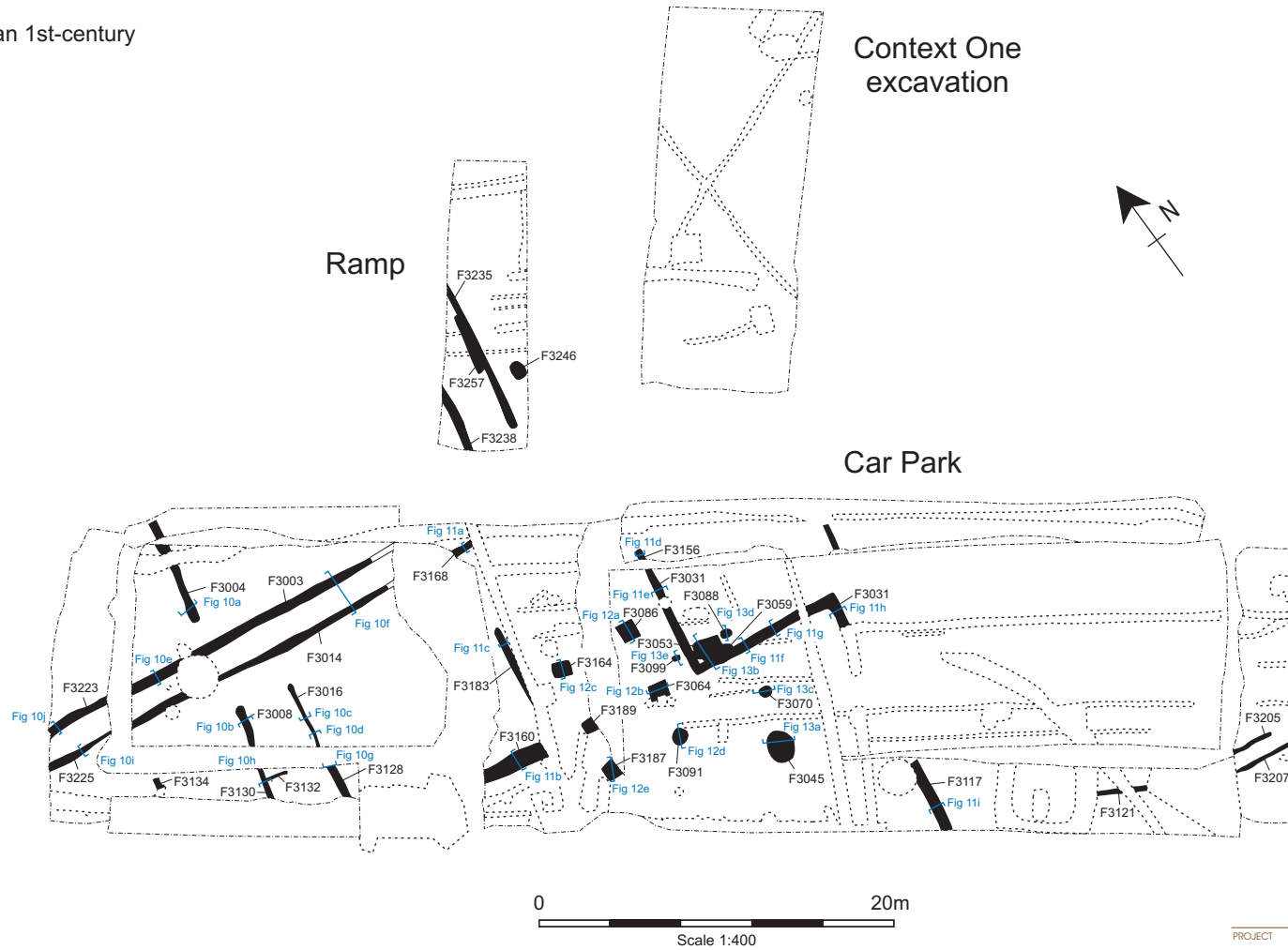
**Key**

■ Roman 1st-century

Context One excavation

Ramp

Car Park



PROJECT  
Discovery Quarter, Exeter

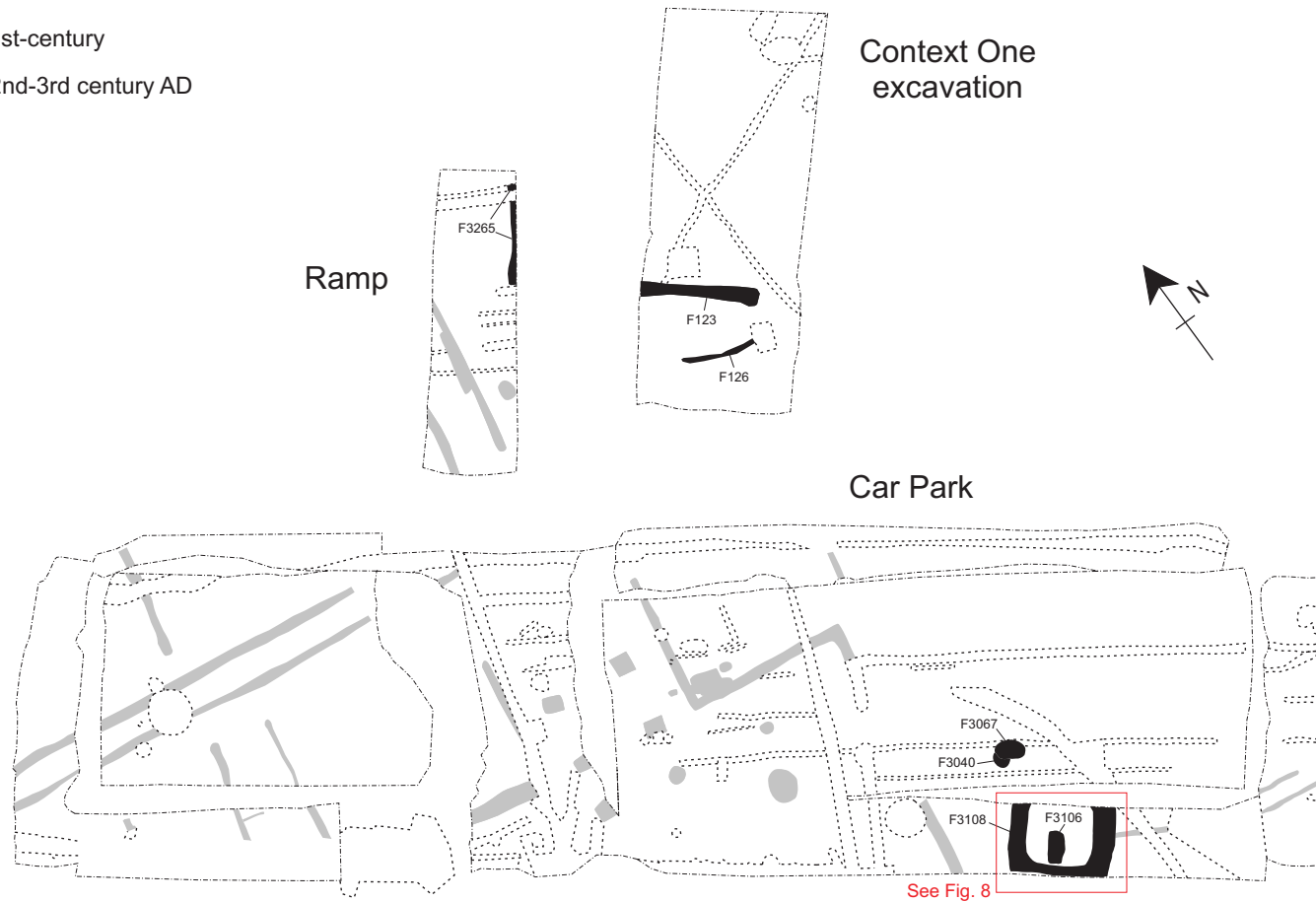
TITLE  
Fig. 6: Car Park and Ramp, plan of 1st-century features



AC archaeology

Key

- Roman 1st-century
- Roman 2nd-3rd century AD



Context One  
excavation

Ramp

Car Park

0 20m  
Scale 1:400

See Fig. 8

PROJECT

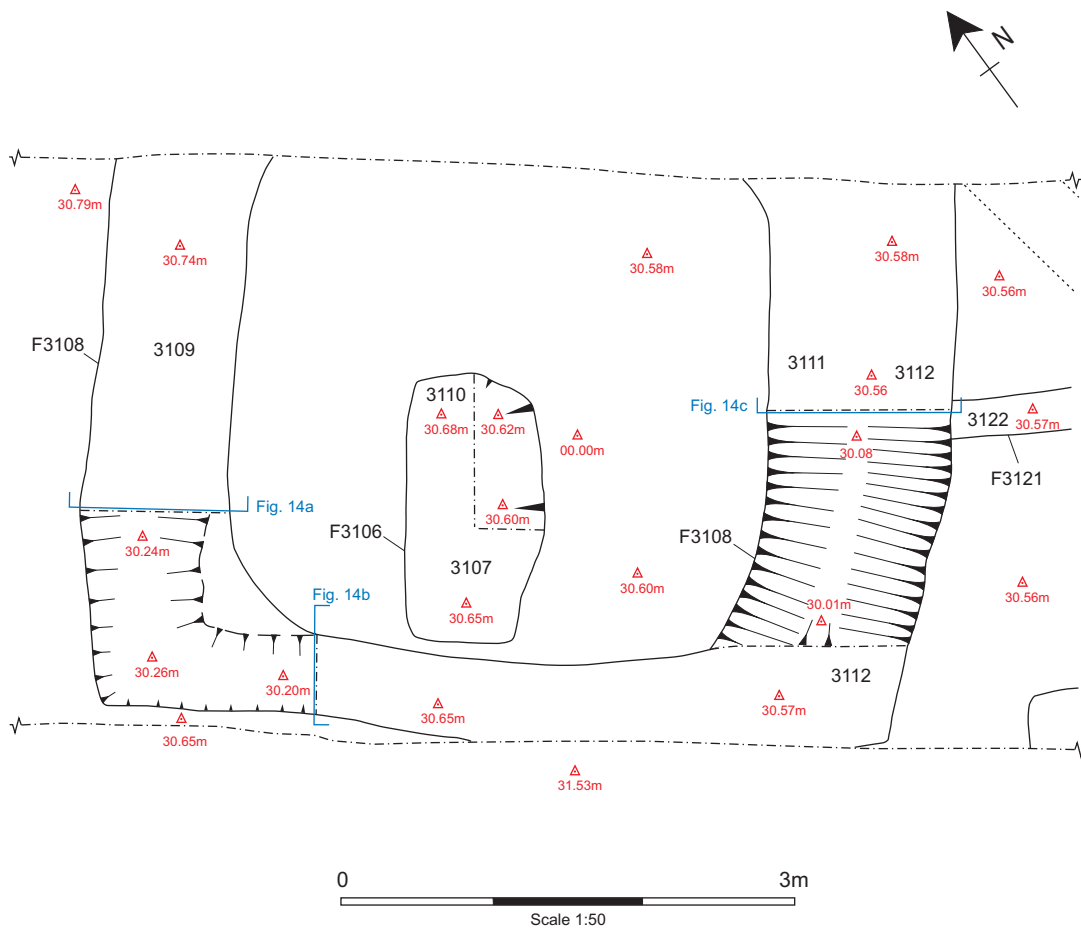
Discovery Quarter, Exeter

TITLE

Fig. 7: Car Park and Ramp, plan of  
2nd-3rd-century features



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PROJECT

Discovery Quarter, Exeter

TITLE

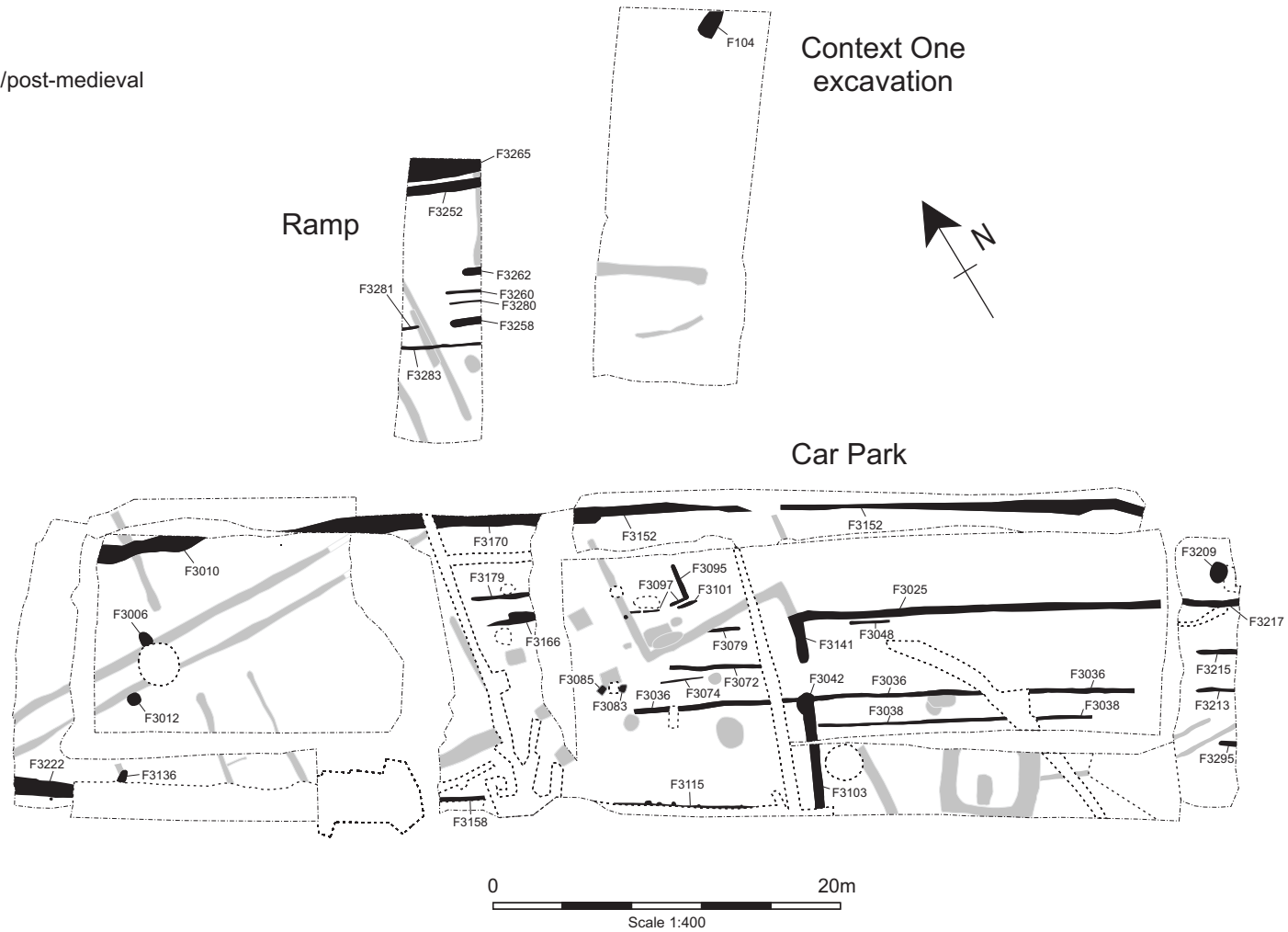
Fig. 8: Car Park, plan of the Roman mausoleum





Key

- Roman
- Medieval/post-medieval



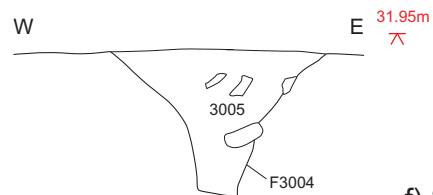
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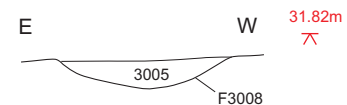
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Fig. 9: Car Park and Ramp,  
plan of medieval and  
post-medieval features

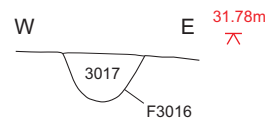
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b) Section of F3008



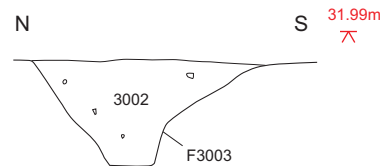
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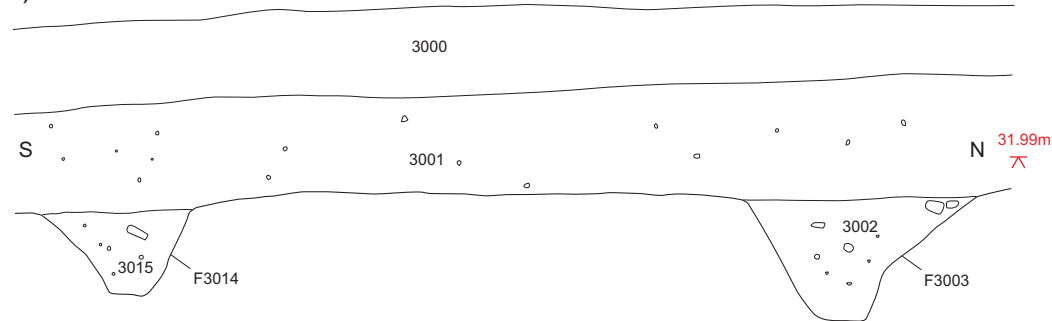
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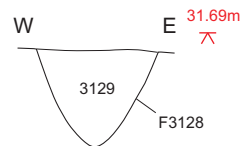
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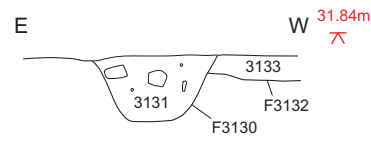
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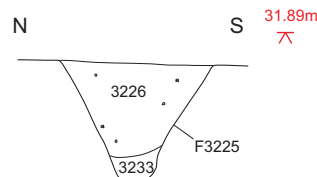
g) Section of F3138



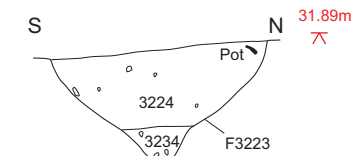
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i) Section of F3225



j) Section of F3223



PROJECT

Discovery Quarter, Exeter

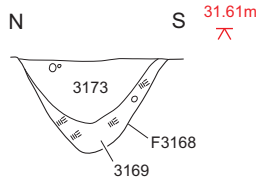
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Fig. 10: Car Park and Ramp, Sections

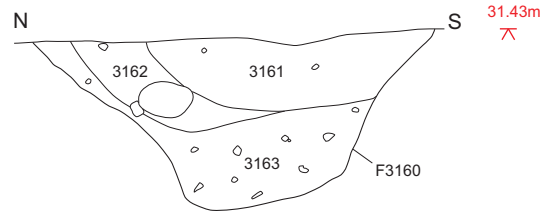


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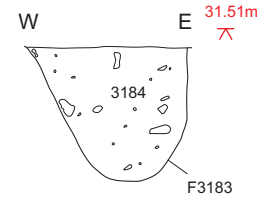
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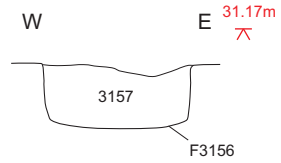
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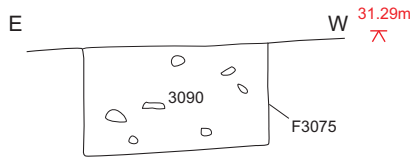
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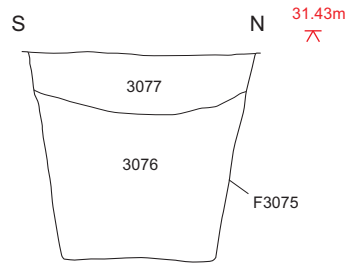
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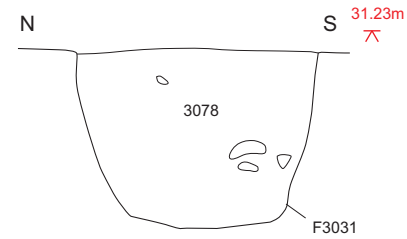
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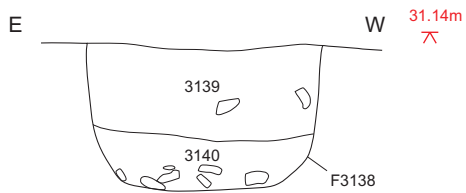
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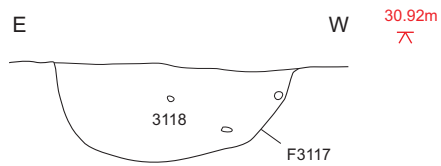
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h) Section of F3138



i) Section of F3117



PROJECT

Discovery Quarter, Exeter

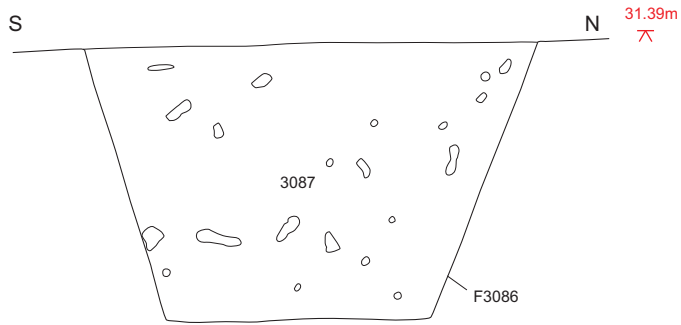
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Fig. 11: Car Park and Ramp, Sections

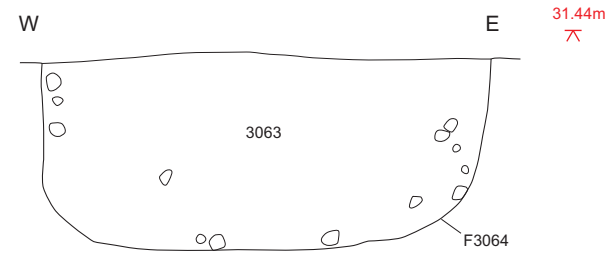


AC archaeology

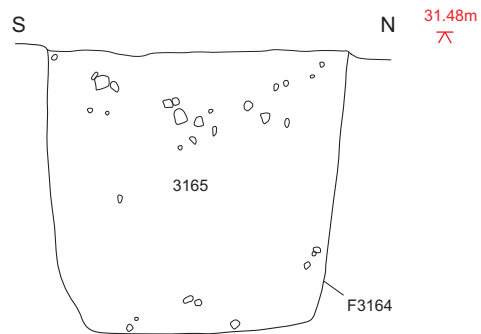
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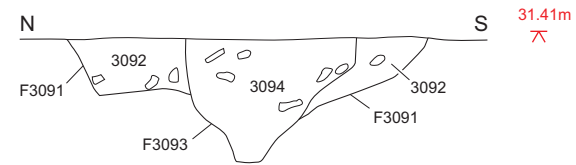
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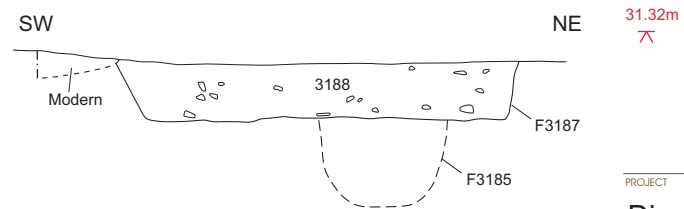
c) Section of F3164



d) Section of F3091 and F3093



e) Section of F3187



PROJECT

Discovery Quarter, Exeter

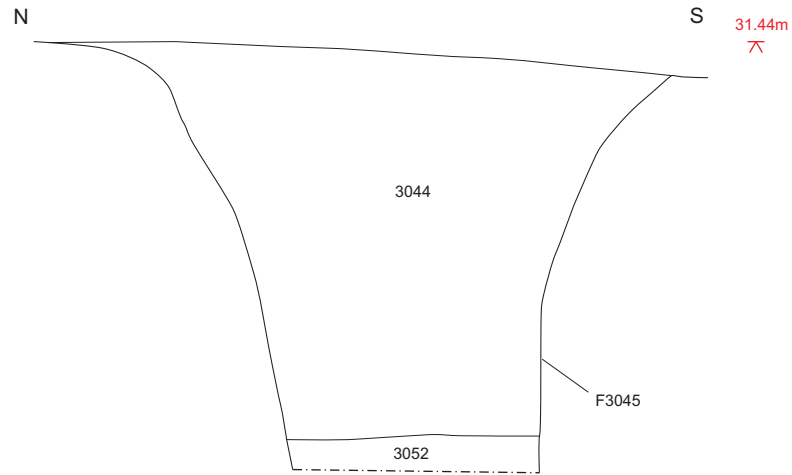
TITLE

Fig. 12: Car Park and Ramp, Sections

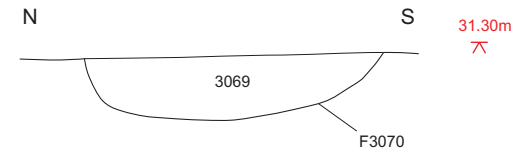


AC archaeology

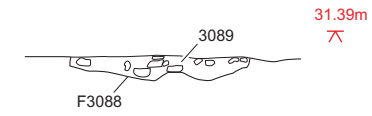
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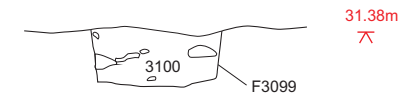
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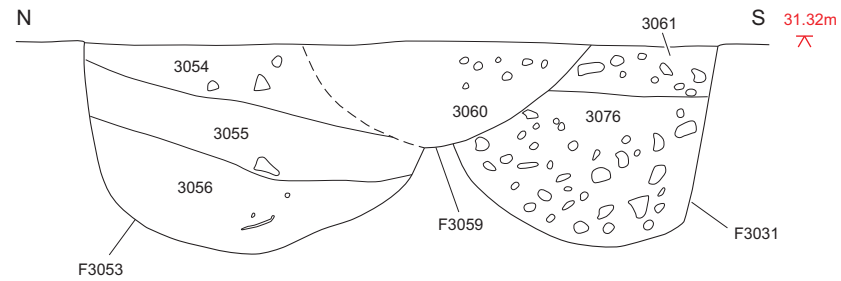
d) Section of F3088



e) Section of F3099



b) Section of F3053, F3059 and F3031



PROJECT

Discovery Quarter, Exeter

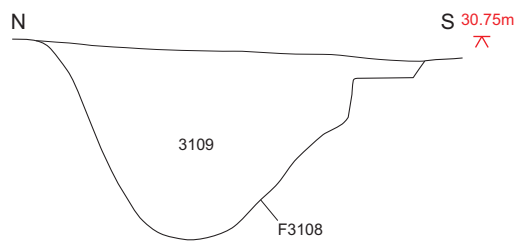
TITLE

Fig. 13: Car Park and Ramp, Sections

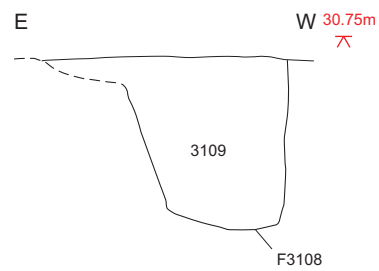


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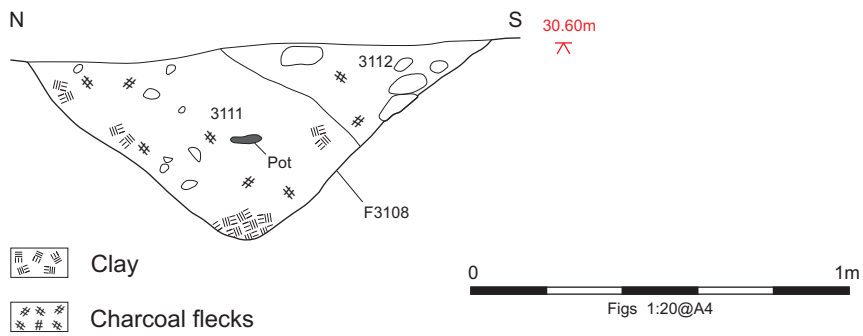
a) Southwest facing section of F3108



b) Northwest facing section of F3108



c) Southwest facing section of F3108



PROJECT

Discovery Quarter, Exeter

TITLE

Fig. 14: Car Park,  
Roman mausoleum sections



Plate 1: The Episcopal School during demolition of the south 1936-8 wing, showing exposed now-blocked original window in the south elevation, viewed from the northeast.



Plate 2: The north elevation of the Episcopal School during demolition showing the central inserted 1936-8 windows, viewed from the north.



Plate 3: Block B, working shot of the excavations, viewed from the northwest.



Plate 4: Block B, 1st-2nd century AD pit F2019, viewed from the west, showing the shallow nature of features in this area. 0.25m scale.





Plate 5: Block B, post-medieval ditch F2043, viewed from the southeast. 0.25m and 1m scales.



Plate 6: The Car Park, pre-excavation view of the northwestern end showing working conditions and linear post-trenches. 1m and 2m scales.



Plate 7: The Car Park, post-trench F3016 partially excavated, viewed from the southwest. 0.25m and 1m scales.



Plate 8: The Car Park, post-trench F33075 partially excavated, viewed from the east. 0.25m scale.



Plate 9: The Car Park, post-pit F3086 half-sectioned, viewed from the north. 1m scale.



Plate 10: The Car Park, the finds assemblage from context 3056 in grave F3053. 0.30m scale.



Plate 11: The Car Park, pre-excitation view of mausoleum F3108, viewed from the southeast. 2m scale.

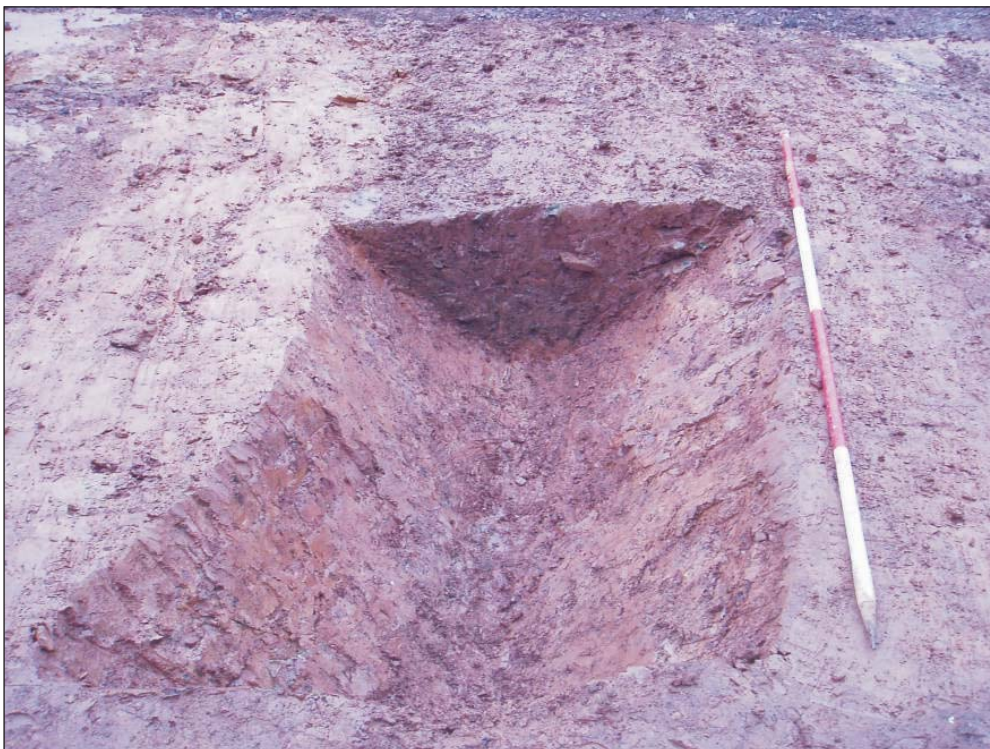


Plate 12: The Car Park, section through mausoleum F3108, viewed from the west. 2m scale.



Plate 13: The Ramp, pre-excavation view showing Roman post-trenches (rear) and post-medieval gullies (foreground), viewed from the northeast. 2m scales.



Plate 14: The Ramp, ditch F3265, viewed from the southwest. 1m scale.

# Appendix 1

Prehistoric pottery and lithics

**Prehistoric Pottery and Lithics**, by Henrietta Quinnell with petrographic comment by Roger Taylor

A single body sherd 7mm thick, weighing 4g, with fresh breaks came from an historic buried soil (404) during the 2005 evaluation. This was reduced 5YR 2.5/2 dark reddish brown. Its matrix was well worked and compact, its surfaces carefully smoothed, but not burnished. It contained an abundant temper of quartz with some grains up to 2mm in size. The generally character of the sherd suggested a date in the later Early Iron Age, the Middle Iron Age or the Late Iron Age, broadly in the last half of the first millennium BC. The lithology is now matched by that of the quartz sand fabric of the very late Iron Age at St Loye's (Quinnell forthcoming). There is now known to be a small amount of prehistoric activity scattered across the site of Roman Exeter (Quinnell in prep.).

**Lithics**, by Henrietta Quinnell

Fifteen pieces of flint and chert were redeposited in contexts beneath Block B, the Car Park and Ramp, all on the east side of the site. One fragment had burnt and fractured.

Three pieces were of dark grey flint, two with nodular cortex only slightly worn, the third with pebble cortex. One of those with nodular cortex was a core preparation piece, the other the burnt, distal, end of a blade 13mm across with fine direct retouch forming a narrow scraper. The piece with pebble cortex was a flake with direct retouch across the broad distal end forming a rough scraper.

Six pieces were of pale grey flint, one with nodular cortex only slightly worn. Two of these were segments of blades, with parallel dorsal scars suggesting that these came from established blade cores. Three were core preparation pieces. There was a single flake.

Five pieces were of Greensand chert with a pebble cortex. Three were flakes, one with edge damage suggesting ad hoc use as a knife: two were broken blades, one with use wear around its distal end.

Despite this small group coming only from one side of the site it appears to contain pieces of different dates. The blades, of dark and pale grey flint, are best placed within the Mesolithic or the Earlier Neolithic with cortex indicating an origin somewhere in East Devon (Newberry 2002). The chert has only flakes and is likely to date to the Later Neolithic or the Earlier Bronze Age; the cortex indicates a source most probably in the Exe terrace deposits. It is quite possible that these lithics indicate occasional use of the site from a date in Mesolithic onward rather than use at two distinct and very separate periods. Small quantities of lithics have previously been found on sites in Exeter, for example on the site of the Legionary Baths (Miles 1979).

Miles, H., 1979, "Objects of flint", in Bidwell, P. T. *The Legionary Bath-house and Basilica and Forum at Exeter*, 242, Exeter Archaeological Reports Vol 1.

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# Appendix 2

Roman pottery



## THE ROMAN POTTERY

by Paul Bidwell, with contributions or identifications by B. Dickinson, G. Dannell, K. Hartley and R. McBride

### Introduction

From the excavations reported on here, there were 689 sherds of pottery weighing 8.35kg. The pottery was generally in good condition, though some of the fine wares, particularly the samian, had been badly affected by the soil conditions which had dissolved their colour coatings. Almost all the pottery dated to the first century AD and was probably associated with the military occupation at Exeter (c. 55-75). The overall quantity is too small to make detailed comparisons with other military assemblages meaningful, but there are no obvious anomalies amongst the quantities of wares present. The only worthwhile general observation is that the amount of amphora sherds by weight is 56% of the total assemblage; this figure can be compared with 43% for the filling of Ditches 1 and 2 (c. 75-80) at Lower Coombe Street (Holbrook and Bidwell 1992, Tables 1 and 6), 41% for first-century deposits at Exeter quantified in 1979, which includes some post-military deposits (Bidwell 1979, Table 9), 41% (again) from the fort at Tiverton (Holbrook 1991, Table 6), and only 24% from the fort at Calstock (Bidwell forthcoming). The quantities at Dinham Road suggest that somewhere nearby activities took place which involved the dispensing or decanting of the contents of an unusually large number of amphorae, possibly at some form of market.

Where necessary, detailed comments on the fabrics follow the table below. The catalogue includes a complete listing of the vessels in the cremation; significant vessels from other contexts are illustrated and discussed. A database cataloguing and quantifying all the pottery by context is included in the archive.

### The fabrics (Table 1)

	Weight (g)	Sherds	EVE (%)
<b>Totals :</b>	<b>8345</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>281</b>

### Quantities of amphorae by fabric

Fabric	Weight (g)	Sherds	EVE (%)
Dr. 20 (BAT AM 1)	3828	111	-
Gaulish amphora 1 GAL AM 1)	214	6	-
PW 17-18 (Cam 186)	300	5	-
South Spanish amphora	114	3	-
Un sourced amphorae	258	7	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4714</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>0</b>

### Quantities of fine wares and coarse wares (excluding amphorae) by fabric

Fabric	Weight (g)	Sherds	EVE (%)
Rhône Valley 1 mortaria	158	7	-

North Gaulish (Noyon?) mortaria	22	1	-
Wall-sided mortarium	162	8	-
Samian	281	36	73
Lyon colour-coated	7	3	6
Moselkeramik	2	2	-
Pompeian Red ware 3 (CNG PR 3)	23	2	12
Unsourced fine ware	2	1	-
Exeter 405	113	27	14
Exeter 406	584	137	-
Exeter 435	32	7	-
Exeter 451	1	1	-
Unsourced oxidised	117	25	-
Exeter fabric 151	10	2	4
Exeter fabric 3	21	3	7
Exeter Fortress B	5	2	-
Exeter Fortress C	144	12	-
Exeter Fortress D	9	2	8
South-east Dorset BB1 (SED BB1)	917	136	65
South-western BB1 (SOW BB1)	559	91	78
Savernake ware (SAV GT)	249	11	14
South Devon Ware (SOD RE)	15	7	-
Gabbroic ware	153	20	-
Unsourced reduced	45	14	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>3631</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>281</b>

**Table 1: Total quantities of all pottery (including amphorae). References are to NFRFC (e.g. BAT AM 1) or Holbrook and Bidwell 1991 for Exeter or other south-western fabrics.**

*Mortaria*: the sources of many of the first-century imported mortaria discussed by K. Hartley (1991) in *Roman Finds from Exeter* are now more specific (Hartley and Tomber 2006, 22-9). FC2-5 are from North Gaul, some being products of kilns at Noyon (cf. Fig. 1, no. 5); FC6-11 are from the Rhône Valley (fabric 1) and include mortaria made at Lyon. The wall-sided mortarium is discussed in the catalogue (Fig. 1, no. 4).

*Samian ware*: all the first-century ware is South Gaulish, from La Graufesenque. Forms represented are restricted to Ritt. 9, Ritt. 12, Dr. 15/17, 18, 27, 29 (Fig. 1, no. 3), 37, and part of the rim of an inkwell (Ritt. 13; from 3224). Later samian, mostly scraps and generally in poor condition, is apparently all Central Gaulish.

*Fine wares*: the unsourced fine ware is a single sherd from a butt-beaker (Cam 113) in the light buff, finely granular fabric of other such vessels from Exeter and is probably from North Gaul (3060).

*South Devon ware*: almost all of this ware at Exeter is from third- and fourth-century contexts, where it is common. Of the four contexts containing sherds

of this ware, one is a post-medieval ditch (2044) and another is a pit containing only one other sherd, from a samian Dr. 27 (2002); the chances are that these South Devon sherds are of later Roman date and that the Dr. 27 is residual. Single sherds from two other contexts (2014 and 2048) are not associated with any other pottery and are probably of later Roman date.

*Exeter fabric 3*: there were only three sherds, all apparently from jars. Vessels in this fabric, although probably fairly local, are scarce at Exeter.

*Gabbroic ware* (cf. Holbrook and Bidwell 1992, fig. 18, nos 131-5). There were 19 sherds from the base of a jar with a smoothed exterior; they were from a pit (2022) which also contained numerous sherds from a pear-shaped jar with a pedestal base in BB1 SED (Fig. 1, no. 7). Another gabbroic sherd came from a second pit nearby and is possibly from the same vessel in 2022. Gabbroic ware is scarce at Exeter and is usually from early contexts.

## CATALOGUE

### **Cremation group (grave 3053)**

The group from the main filling (3056) consisted of two near-complete vessels (the Dr.18 dish and the double-handled jar, Fig. 1, no. 1) and sherds from probably at least twelve more vessels. Most of the vessels represented by only one or two sherds, such as the amphorae and Lyon beaker, probably found their way into the grave incidentally, being associated with earlier occupation in the vicinity of the site. A possible exception is the samian Ritt. 9 cup which is represented by a large fragment. A second double-handled jar and one or possibly two bead-rimmed jars in BB1 almost certainly belonged with the cremation. They might have been deliberately broken at the site of the cremation above ground; if so, only some of the fragments were collected together and deposited in the pit with the remains of the cremation.

#### *Samian ware*

Form 18, South Gaulish, complete except for part of rim, diameter 166mm, foot-ring worn; the base of the interior is abraded and has intersecting cut-marks. Stamped by Caratanus of La Graufesenque, Die 1a? (the right-hand part of the stamp is heavily abraded); Caratanus was almost certainly a pre-Flavian potter with a small known output, the bulk of which is known from the kiln site of La Graufesenque; date: pre-Flavian? (identification and comments by Brenda Dickinson).

Ritterling 9, South Gaulish. Fragment of cup including part of the base and lower section of the body to a point just above the carination. Pre-Flavian and scarcer after c. AD 60, though there are examples not only from the Exeter fortress but from the forts at Calstock (information from J. Mills) and Bolham, Tiverton (Hartley, B., 1991, 67), which are both probably later Neronian foundations. 3055.

Two sherds (one very abraded), South Gaulish, forms uncertain. 3055.

### *Fine ware*

Sherd from the lower part of a Lyon beaker with rouletted decoration; two incised grooves are positioned just below the point of maximum girth. This is Greene's Type 26 (1979, fig. 9; the example is from Cirencester and has been published as Rigby 1982, fig. 58, no. 288); the type is rare in Britain, with two other examples at Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1999, fig. 57, nos 24, 47). Mainly pre-Flavian, but occurring at early Flavian foundations such as Caerleon. 3056 [35].

### *Amphorae*

Sherd in South Spanish fabric; sherd in fabric similar to that of Dressel 20 amphorae, but from a thinner-walled cylindrical amphora, almost certainly Haltern 70 (Peacock and Williams 1986, Type 15; Cam 185A); two sherds, buff, fine, micaceous, Gauloise-type fabric; one sherd, Dressel 20. All from 3056.

### *Other wares*

Fig. 1, no. 1. Sherds from the rim, body and base of a honey-pot or two-handled jar. The fabric is 406, commonly used for a variety of flagon types, and the interior has a thick, olive-coloured slip or coating which spreads over the top of the rim. The type is widespread on first-century military sites in Britain. There are parallels from the Cirencester fort but with squared-off rather than rounded rims (Rigby 1982, fig. 59, nos 310-11); the type example of Cam 175B is a closer parallel (Hawkes and Hull 1947, pl. LXVIII). The Cirencester examples and most of the Camulodunum examples are in buff wares and were probably local products; there is no mention of interior slips or coatings. It is likely that examples in Exeter fabric 406 were imports, perhaps from northern Gaul, rather than local products as was once thought possible for all the vessel-types in this fabric (Holbrook and Bidwell, 1991, 141). The type is scarce at Exeter and only represented by one example in the type series for fabric 406 (5.1; cf. fabric 405, type 2.1). Their internal slips or coatings suggest that these vessels were containers. Albrecht (1998, 321, n. 3) cites an inscription on a vessel of this type which identifies the contents as honey but in the same article describes another vessel of the same general type from Bliesbruck (Moselle) and of mid-third century date which bore the painted inscription 'OLIVA PICENA ...' ('olives from Picenum', in the modern Marche area of Italy). 3056 [36].

Seven sherds (five joining) in fabric 435 (pink core with cream surface), olive slip or coating on the interior surface. The vessel has a horizontal groove, probably on its shoulder, which is a much commoner feature on honey-pots than on flagons. Fabric 435 probably includes pottery from a number of sources. This vessel is possibly another import. 3055.

Fig. 1, no. 2. Nine sherds from the rim and upper body of a bead-rim jar in BBI SOW, exterior burnt; there is a slight offset on the shoulder below the rim. Cf. Types 8 or 9, though these lack the offset. 3055.

Rim of a bead-rim jar in BB1 SED (Type 3); sooting on exterior. 3056.

Base and body sherd (the latter burnt) of one or two cooking-pots or bead-rim jars in BB1 SED. 3056.

The uppermost filling (3054) contained: a rim sherd from the honey-pot (no. 1) and 18 small abraded sherds in fabric 406, possibly also from the honey-pot; five sherds of a Dressel 20 amphora; and a sherd from a bowl in BB1 SOW preserving a carination and probably from the bead-rim Type 42.

### **The other pottery**

3. Dr. 29, South Gaulish. G. Dannell writes: 'Upper zone with winding scroll to the left, terminating in small pinnate(?) leaves and blurred rosettes. The narrowness of the upper zone, and the smallish beads suggest a Neronian date. La Graufesenque, c. AD 55-70'. From context 2018.

Samian stamp. B. Dickinson writes 'Nestor i, Dr. 18, Die1a NESTORFE(C). The work of Nestor is found mainly in Neronian contexts, and while *NoTS* puts the start of his career as c. AD. 55, there seems little reason why the authors should have chosen such a late date. The find from Period IV at Camulodunum should indicate activity after AD 49 (cf. Hawkes and Hull 1947, 37). Five vessels by Nestor were found in the Colchester Pottery shops and two others are known from other Colchester sites. Two vessels are also recorded in *NoTS* from Exeter, and a third stamp (unpublished) came from the St Loyes site. Of the 44 export entries for Nestor in *NoTS*, 26 are from Britain, a very high proportion indeed. La Graufesenque. Date: c. AD 45-65'. From context 2049.

4. Wall-sided mortarium. Fabric friable and yellow-buff, affected by soil conditions; inclusions as Hartley, K., 1991, FC/B3 and for the form, see TC/B2, which was originally dated to c. 40-60 and thought to have originated in the Rhineland or Gallia Belgica, but also possibly in south-west England. There are indications of the spout, too fragmentary to draw but indicating that it was large, as TC/B2. Hartley and Tomber (2006, 26) now regard most vessels of this class in Britain as imports from the Rhône Valley or North Gaul. Most are Claudian, but they also occur on sites of Neronian and Flavian foundation, including the Agricolan fort of Elginhaugh. Seven examples have now been published from Exeter including no. 4: Fox 1952, fig. 17, no. 38; Bidwell 1979, 200 and fig. 61, no. 41; Hartley 1991, 207, TC/B1 and TC/B2 (2 examples). From context 3146.

5. Flange, North Gaulish mortarium. Hartley, K., 1991, FC3; rim as TC20-1, c. 50-85. From context 2031.

6. Storage-jar in Savernake ware (SAV GT), a distinctive grey ware with grog and quartz inclusions and uneven, lumpy surfaces. Another such jar has been published from an early-Antonine context at Friernhay Street (Holbrook and Bidwell 1992, fig. 18, no. 142), and a third example of Savernake Ware can now be identified from a context dated to c.60-?80 at Friar's Walk (BFW73 69: Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, fig. 73, miscellaneous, no. 1). Savernake ware was made in kilns near Mildenhall, where bowls and jars were produced as

well as the larger storage-jars; in the first century its distribution extended as far north as Gloucester and westwards to Bath (Tyers 1996, fig. 248). Exeter is very much an outlier in this pattern, and the storage-jars probably found their way to the fortress (and later town if the sherd from Friernhay Street is not residual) as containers for food-stuffs. From 3109, a context containing other pottery of first-century date.

7. Pear-shaped bead-rim jar with pedestal base, exterior and interior burnished, BB1 from south-east Dorset (BB1 SED). Cf. generally Type 1 and Holbrook and Bidwell 1992, fig. 14, no. 55, from a context dated c.75-80; a vessel from the 'War Cemetery' at Maiden Castle provides a close parallel (Wheeler 1943, fig. 72, no. 186), as does another vessel from Wytch Farm, Purbeck (Lancley and Morris 1991, fig. 59, no. 38). From context 2022.

8. Jar with flanged rim in BB1 SED; Type 28, mid to late third century onwards. From context 700.

9. Lid in Central Gaulish Pompeian Red ware 3 (CNG PR 3) with traces of red coating on upper surface. From context 2040.

### **Acknowledgements**

K. Hartley is thanked for her identification of the mortaria sherds and G. Dannell and B. Dickinson respectively for their notes on the decorated samian and the samian stamp. R. McBride prepared the archive catalogue of the pottery.

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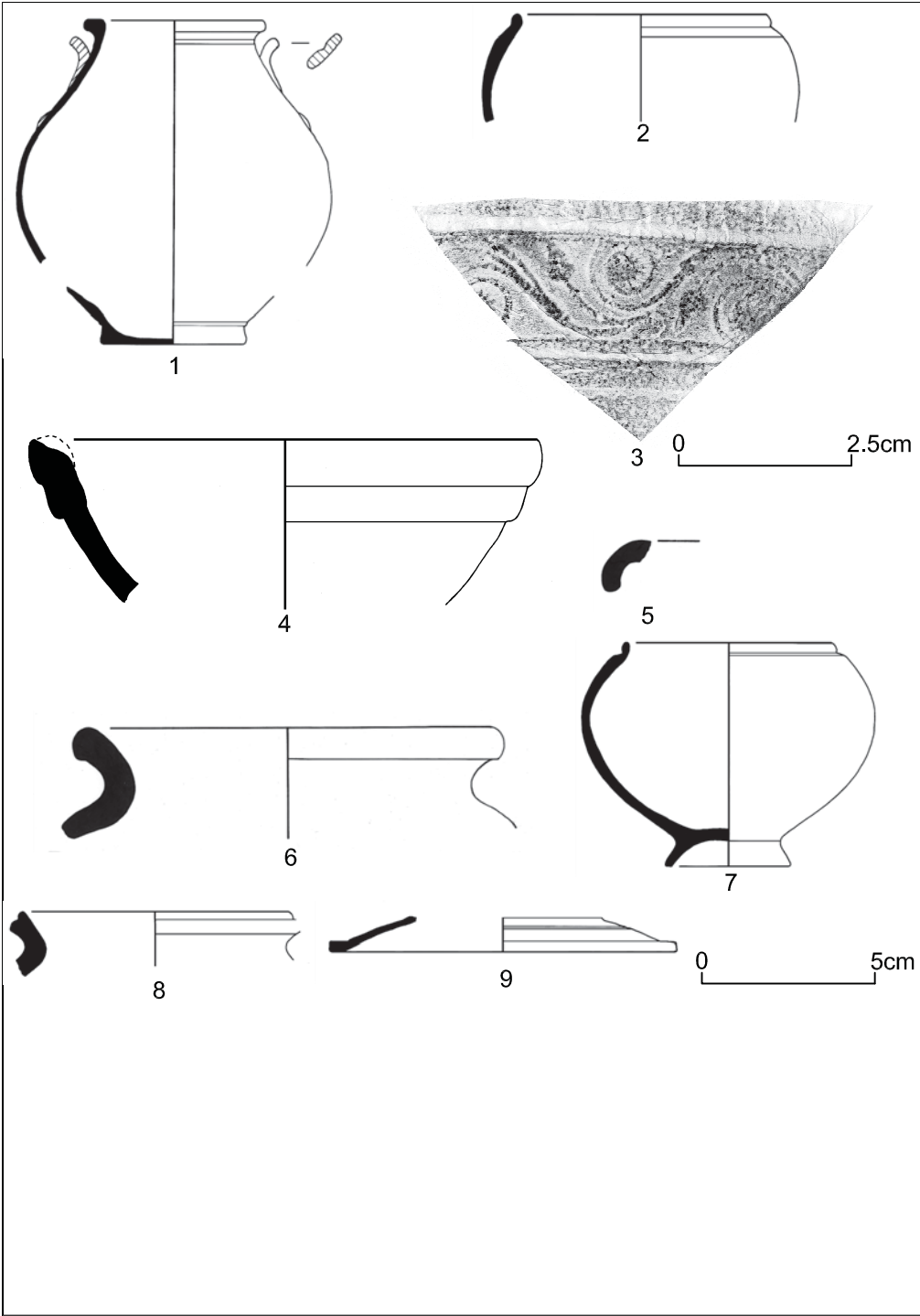
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# Appendix 3

Roman coins

# EXETER, DEVON

Ian Leins

22 AE, to c. AD 54

SX9192

This group of 22 coins was discovered during controlled excavations by Exeter Archaeology in February 2008. All of the coins were heavily mineralised and in extremely fragile condition. Ten of the 22 could be at least partially identified. The earliest appears to be a copper as of Augustus (c. 23 BC-AD 14), while the latest identifiable issues are of the reign of Claudius (AD 41-54). Although the remaining 12 coins were far too corroded to allow any identification, there was nothing to suggest that the hoard post-dated the Julio-Claudian period, although a later first century (or even second century) *terminus post quem* cannot be ruled out. The early composition of this hoard, and its findspot, are significant features of this hoard.

The context from which the coins were excavated revealed a number of other Roman artefacts. Glass finds included the base, body and neck of a convex flask datable to c. AD 43-70. Diagnostic pottery sherds were datable to a similar period. As such, the non-coin finds seem to support the suggestion that the hoard can be identified as a pre-Flavianic assemblage.

## Summary:

	<i>Total</i>
Augustus (probable)	1
Claudius	6
Antonia	2
Claudius (possible)	1
Uncertain	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

## CATALOGUE

### PROBABLE AUGUSTUS (1)

*Obv.*: Illegible

<i>No.</i>	<i>Reverse</i>	<i>Denom.</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>RIC</i>	<i>SF No.</i>	<i>Weight</i>
1.	S[C]	As	Rome	-	17	5.70

### REIGN OF CLAUDIUS (8)

*Obv.*: [TI CLAVDIVS CAESARAVG P M TR P IMP (P P)]

<i>No.</i>	<i>Reverse</i>	<i>Denom.</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>RIC</i>	<i>SF No.</i>	<i>Weight</i>
2.	S C (Minerva, right)	As	Rome	100/116	30	5.58
3.	[CERES AVGVSTA] S C (Ceres, left)	Dp.	Rome	94/110	20	7.30
4.	[CERES AVGVSTA] S C (Ceres, left)	Dp.	Rome	94/110	27	5.67

*Obv.*: ANTONIA AVGVSTA

5.	[TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG P M TR P IMP (P P)] S C (Claudius, veiled and togate)	Dp	Rome	92/104	8	5.28
6.	[TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG P M TR P IMP (P P)] S C (Claudius, veiled and togate)	Dp	Rome	92/104	19	10.52

*Obv.*: Illegible (head of Claudius)

7.	Illegible (seated figure, left)	Dp./As	-	-	10	7.21
8.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	23	9.18
9.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	25	6.15

### POSSIBLE CLAUDIUS (1)

*Obv.*: Illegible (head left?)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Reverse</i>	<i>Denom.</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>RIC</i>	<i>SF No.</i>	<i>Weight</i>
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10.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	29	6.38
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**ILLEGIBLE (12)**

*Obv.:* Illegible

<i>No.</i>	<i>Reverse</i>	<i>Denom.</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>RIC</i>	<i>SF No.</i>	<i>Weight</i>
11.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	11	5.99
12.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	12	3.06
13.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	13	2.90
14.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	14	1.18
15.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	15	6.68
16.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	16	5.77
17.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	18	7.18
18.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	21	3.48
19.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	22	9.77
20.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	24	1.84
21.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	26	5.11
22.	Illegible	Dp./As	-	-	28	3.35

# Appendix 4

Roman glass



## Roman glass, by H.E.M. Cool

The excavations produced parts of two blue/green vessels from the funerary deposit 3056, and nine body fragments and a tiny bead from an environmental sample. The material from 3056 will be discussed first.

### *Grave 3056*

In this deposit a substantial part of a small jug (Fig. 2, no. 1) was found in the samian dish. It lacks its rim and substantial parts of its body in places. In profile it is very similar to the long-necked globular jugs that were very common from the Neronian period into the early second century (Price and Cottam 1998, 150-50). It has a band of wear/abrasions around the lower body and that too is a feature often seen on such jugs. These jugs belong to a series of vessels (jugs, jars and bowls) generally thought to be made in the north-western provinces. No. 1, however, is thinner-walled than is generally the case for those, and this relates it to thin-walled jugs more often seen in the Mediterranean area in the early to mid first century. A good range can be seen in a burial belonging to approximately the second quarter of the first century at Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux (Drôme) in the south-east of France (Foy and Nenna 2001, 124-7). Price has discussed the occurrence of these on early Romano-British sites (Manning *et al* 1995, 178-9, 182 no. 114, fig. 47; Price and Cottam 1998, 149-50). They are not common, but fragments from several have been found in the south-west making the presence of such a jug not improbable at Exeter. All things considered, the Neronian period seems the most likely time when the various features seen on no. 1 would have come together to result in the manufacture of such a vessel.

The second vessel was represented by the reservoir of a tubular unguent bottle (no. 2). These were very common in the middle part of the first century (Price and Cottam 1978, 169-71). They are one of the forms that appear in the earliest post-conquest assemblages and continue to be found into the Flavian period, but they were going out of use by c. AD 80. They are especially common on Neronian military sites as can be seen at Usk (Manning *et al* 1995, 172-5) and Kingsholm (Price and Cool 1985, 44). In Exeter they have been found on several sites including Trichay Street 1972 and Goldsmith Street 1971 (Charlesworth 1979, 229 nos. 37-8, fig. 71) Mermaid Yard (Allen 1991, 224 nos. 29-30, fig. 94) and the recent excavations at St Loyes. One also appears to have been present in one of the cremation-related deposit (VS356) at Hollaway Street. It is not mentioned in Charlesworth's report, nor in the publication of the pits, but an example lacking the lower body is present in the illustration of the group (Salvatore 2001, pl. 5).

Various features of these two vessels point to the deliberate smashing and selection of fragments to be incorporated in this deposit. Whilst no. 1 has been identified as a jug, it may be noted that there is no evidence of a handle on the parts remaining. On one side of the vessel the body is missing from the shoulder to just above the base ring. There would thus be space for the missing lower handle attachment. The vessel as a whole is thin-walled, but the missing rim and handle would have been more substantial parts that could well have remained as a single piece when the vessel was broken. Part of the body remaining on the lower handle attachment would probably have been detached with it. It is curious that such a large piece should be missing given the other fragments were carefully placed in the samian dish. It is always

possible that it was deposited separately higher up in the fill which was disturbed, but the evidence as it stands is that it was not included. That the tubular unguent was deliberately smashed is indicated by two *foci* of breakage, one of which has conchoidal fractures. These are robust little vessels which normally do not break accidentally in this way.

Both of the glass vessels would have had liquid contents which would have had to have been used in the ritual prior to deposition given the smashing of the vessels. Small glass jugs occur too infrequently in Neronian graves in Britain for it to be possible to identify the normal pattern of use, but tubular unguent bottles are common and patterns can be established. The contents, thought to be perfumed oil, and the containers themselves were frequently used on funeral pyres judging from the melted fragments recovered from mid first century cemeteries (see for example, Cool 2008a, 104, pls. 5.1, 5.4). Unburnt examples are also found as formal grave goods where no doubt their contents were also used in the rituals surrounding the deposition of the ashes. Unburnt fragments are much less common in formal cremation burials. Here and at Holloway Street it is fragmentary, unburnt, tubular unguent bottles that have been found. This together with the paucity of cremated human bone in the deposit, might well suggest that these are not grave goods in the normally accepted use of the term, but items associated with some other aspect of the funeral ritual which were smashed and deposited in the cemetery. If this is correct, then the poor quality of the glass no. 1 is made from might be explained. Whilst the blowing of the vessel shows the normal mastery of the technique associated with the mid first century; the quality of the glass is poor, being full of small bubbles and in places quite large inclusions. The poor quality is unusual for this period, and as such this can definitely be considered to be a second. As such, it might well have been thought appropriate for a grave-side ritual.

- 1 Globular jug. Blue/green, many small bubbles and small impurities in streaks. Lower neck, body and base in approximately 45 fragments of varying sizes, rim, handle and parts of body missing. Cylindrical neck with tooling marks at base; squashed globular body; open pushed-in base ring. Horizontal scratch marks on neck and band of similar marks on lower body above base ring. Present height 130mm, base diameter 56mm, wall thickness 1mm. 3056 sf 31.
- 2 Tubular unguent bottle; three joining fragments providing complete profile of reservoir. Blue/green. Tubular body retaining small part of tooled junction with neck; small dimple in base. Present height 54mm, maximum body diameter 25mm. 23.3g. 3056 sf 9.

#### *Other contexts*

The other vessel glass recovered consists of relatively undiagnostic body fragments. The deep blue colour of no. 3 is typical of mid first century vessels and went out of use during the Flavian period. Blue/green glass such as no. 4 can only be attributed to the broad first to third century period.

The tiny bead no. 5 from a first century post trench fill is an example of a puzzling category of artefact that is increasingly coming to light as a result of environmental sampling. Small beads for bead strings are common especially in the late Roman

period, but beads like no. 5 are more appropriate for beaded embroidery than bead strings. They were certainly used for this function in the seventeenth century and later (Cool 2008b, 302). On sites such as this where there is later occupation, there is always the temptation to suggest that they might be intrusive if found in earlier contexts as here. Increasingly though I have records of them where such intrusion seems unlikely. This includes a translucent deep blue one from a late Iron Age or early Romano-British context to the west of Kempston near Bedford<sup>1</sup>. More local to Exeter another blue example was found at the early military site at Calstock (unpublished). As they are a relatively new type of find, at present all that can be done is to note their occurrence until a better spectrum of dating becomes available. The first century date of no 5 is thus a welcome addition.

- 3 Body fragment. Deep blue. Dimensions 15 x 9mm, wall thickness 1mm weight 2.6g. 3224 sf 42.
- 4 Body fragments (8). Blue/green. Dimensions (largest) 36 x 24mm, wall thickness 2.5mm. Weight (total) 11.2g. 2031 sf 7.
- 5 Bead. Appearing black. Minute annular. Diameter 3mm, thickness 1.5mm, perforation diameter 1mm. 3161 sf 41, sample 14.

#### *Other material*

In addition to the glass, a glazed lump from context 3043 weighing 10.6g was submitted as possible melted glass. This is more likely to be fuel ash slag. This is created when clay or similar material is subject to high temperatures. The combination of sand in the clay with the flux provided by the fuel ash can produce a glazed or glassy appearance. Such slags can be indicative of high temperature industries, but they can also occur on cemetery sites as the temperatures achieved by some funeral pyres would be sufficient to result in the reaction.

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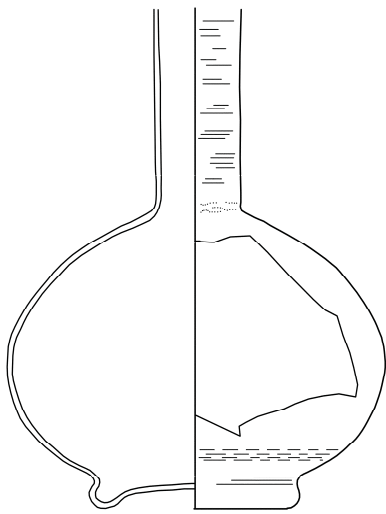
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Dinham Road, Exeter 2007-8. Glass from 3056 . Scale 1:2

# Appendix 5

The medieval and post-medieval finds



## APPENDIX 5: THE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY AND CLAY PIPES

By John Allan and Naomi Payne

### *Medieval*

The medieval pottery assemblage consists of 53 sherds (283g), 21 of them residual in post-medieval deposits, the remainder scattered amongst 24 contexts. The quantity of material present seems more plentiful than would be expected from simple field manuring with rubbish from the medieval city; it probably indicates settlement close to the excavated area in the 13th and 14th centuries, and perhaps earlier.

The most common material (23 sherds) is coarse pottery containing inclusions derived from the Upper Greensand (formerly described as 'Exeter fabric 20' or 'chert-tempered ware'), now known to have been made around the fringes of the Blackdown Hills (Allan *et al.* 2011). It has a long life, beginning c. 950 and lasting until the early 14th century. The Dinham Road sherds include several oxidised wares typical of the years before 1200 and one combed sherd; otherwise the collection is undiagnostic.

The remaining medieval sherds belong to the period 1250–1450. They include local decorated jugs in Exeter fabrics 40 and 42, North Devon medieval coarsewares, and a Saintonge jug rim. Among them is one remarkable sherd – a jug handle in Exeter fabric 103, characterised by its abundant fine white and golden mica, schist and occasional quartz inclusions, probably imported from Brittany. This ware has previously been found in early to mid-13th century contexts in the city of Exeter (Allan 1984, including petrological report by D. Williams), at a deserted farm close to the Exe estuary at Powderham (report by Cotswold Archaeology forthcoming), and in Southampton (Hants).

### *Post-medieval*

Among 45 sherds (1078g) of post-medieval pottery there are a few 16th- and 17th-century pieces, with a marked increase in the volume of material towards the end of the 17th century, no doubt reflecting the spread of housing onto this part of the suburbs. A list of this material is stored in archive, together with a note on the clay tobacco pipes, which include local bowls of c. 1660–90 and c. 1690–1720.

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# Appendix 6

The burnt bone

### **The burnt bone, by Charlotte Coles**

An assemblage of 77 pieces of burnt bone were recovered from Dinham Road (all Roman contexts, 3035, 3056, 3107, 3193, and 3275). These range in size from 1mm to 28mm, with the vast majority being between 1-5mm. A total of 61 pieces are calcined, which is due to burning at a higher temperature than the other pieces. Five pieces can be identified as animal bone, with four pieces from a single cattle tooth (context 3056) and one being a sheep phalanx (context 3107). It is likely that some of the remains are human. However, due to the size of the fragments it is impossible to macroscopically identify if any of the bone is human.

No further analysis of the assemblage is recommended.

# Appendix 7

The wood charcoal

## **DINHAM ROAD, EXETER (ACD356)**

### **The wood charcoal**

Dana Challinor, MA (Oxon), MSc

December 2012

### **INTRODUCTION**

Nineteen samples were taken during the excavations for the recovery of charcoal and charred plant remains. The majority came from post trench structures associated with the Roman military phase. Of particular interest were two contexts (3056 and 3107) which contained ritually deposited material often found with human cremation burials, although the only bone positively identified was animal in origin (Coles, this report). Initial examination revealed that only three samples (contexts 2048, 3051 and 3107) produced abundant charcoal, but all were scanned to provide a general picture of fuelwood utilisation.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Charcoal >2mm in transverse section was considered for identification. All of the flots were scanned at low magnification (up to X45) and up to 20 fragments were randomly selected, fractured and sorted into groups based upon anatomical characteristics in transverse section. Identifications were then confirmed at high magnification using a Meiji incident-light microscope at up to X400 magnification, and with reference to appropriate keys (Schweingruber 1990; Hather 2000) and modern reference material (Table 1). Observations on maturity or condition were made as appropriate. Classification and nomenclature follow Stace (1997).

### **RESULTS**

The condition of the charcoal was very poor, friable and consequently highly fragmented. Infusion of sediment meant that key characteristics were often obscured. It is likely that the species list would have increased if more fragments had been identifiable. Small quantities of coal fragments were recorded in ten samples, not enough to suggest deliberate use of coal as fuel, especially considering that the nearest surface coalfields used in the Romano-British period would be the Forest of Dean or Avon and Somerset (Smith 1997). The coal is more likely to represent low level contamination from more modern layers, which must be taken into consideration given the small size and quantity of charcoal fragments in some samples.

Summary results are provided in Tables 2 and 3 with the discussion below, using a key based upon an estimate of fragment count for the whole sample, where x=present and X=dominant. Dominance in a sample was ascribed if a single taxon represented more than 80% of the identified fragments, and scanning suggested similar representation in the remaining unidentified portion. The majority of samples had too little charcoal for more than presence to be noted. The actual fragment counts are recorded in the archive. Seven taxa were identified, all consistent with native species (Table 2). No complete stems were recorded, although some fragments exhibited moderate to strong ring curvature (roundwood). Few fragments displayed tyloses, but the condition was generally too poor to assign maturity. Broad observation on growth ring sizes suggests relatively fast growth rates, but was also limited by the small fragment size.

Family	Genus/species	Notes
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus</i> spp. (oak)	Large tree, two native species, not distinguishable anatomically.
Betulaceae	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> Gaertn. (alder)	Tree, sole native species. <i>Corylus</i> has a very similar anatomical structure to <i>Alnus</i> and could not always be confidently distinguished.
	<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (hazel)	Shrub or small tree, sole native species.
Rosaceae	Prunoideae: <i>P. spinosa</i> L. (blackthorn) <i>P. avium</i> L. (wild cherry) <i>P. padus</i> L. (bird cherry)	Trees or shrubs, native species. The condition was too poor to distinguish the species.
	Maloideae: <i>Pyrus cordata</i> Desv. (Plymouth pear) <i>Malus sylvestris</i> Mill. (crab apple) <i>Sorbus</i> spp. (rowan, service, whitebeam) <i>Crataegus</i> spp. (hawthorn)	Subfamily of various shrubs/small trees rarely distinguishable by anatomical characteristics.
Aceraceae	<i>Acer campestre</i> L. (field maple)	Tree, sole native species.
Oleaceae	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L. (ash)	Tree, sole native species.

Table 1: Notes on charcoal taxa

## DISCUSSION

### *Ritual deposits (Table 2)*

The sample from cremation pit (3056) was very poor, with only 6 fragments of identifiable charcoal; *Quercus* sp. (oak). It was not possible to assign maturity as less than a whole growth ring was preserved. The low quantity of charcoal indicates that the sample does not represent a deliberate dump of pyre material. While the paucity may be related to depositional conditions, charcoal is a stable material unaffected by acidity in the soil (which may have limited bone preservation). The friability of the charcoal suggests an inherent structural weakness, but this may also be related to the original conditions of burning. In any case, there were no large quantities of <2mm fragments and it is likely that more charcoal would have been retrieved from the c.20 litres of soil processed if it had been deposited originally. If the charcoal is associated with cremation activities, the choice of oak as fuel is appropriate as oak is commonly found in cremation burials as the main fuel used upon the pyre.

The later Roman grave (3107) produced abundant charcoal, though fragment size was small and condition generally poor. Most of the fragments identified were of *Quercus* sp. (oak), with some *Alnus glutinosa* (alder) confirmed. A scan of the smaller unidentified fragments suggested more fragments of diffuse porous species were present, but it was not obvious whether this was more alder or another taxon and the condition inhibited confirmation. This context could represent re-deposited pyre debris, for which oak would be appropriate fuel.

### *Pits (Table 2)*

Rubbish pit 3041 produced reasonable quantities of charcoal (c.100) when the samples (9 and 10) were amalgamated. Most of the charcoal was *Quercus* sp. (oak) with occasional



fragments of alder and Maloideae (hawthorn group). Pit 3165 was significantly less rich with some *Prunus* sp. (blackthorn/cherry) and Maloideae (hawthorn group). These deposits probably derived from domestic-type fuel waste.

	Feature type	Rubbish pit	Pit	Cremation pit	Later Roman grave
	<b>Context Number</b>	3041	3165	3056	3107
	<b>Sample number</b>	9,10	15	12	13
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	oak	Xhr		x	x
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> Gaertn.	alder	xr			x
<i>Alnus/Corylus</i>	alder/hazel	xr			x
<i>Prunus</i> sp.	cherry type		x		
Maloideae	hawthorn group	xr	x		
Indeterminate diffuse			x		x

x=present; X=dominant; r=roundwood, h=heartwood

Table 2: Charcoal from pits and cremation graves

### **Post-trench and post-holes (Table 3)**

The post-trench samples produced low quantities of charcoal (up to 10 identifiable fragments) as individual samples, but there was enough to suggest that *Quercus* sp. (oak) is the main taxon represented, with rarer fragments of *Corylus avellana* (hazel), Maloideae (hawthorn group) and *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash). Given the small quantities, it is unlikely that the charcoal represents burnt structural remains; general domestic-type wind-blown material is more plausible. In contrast post-hole (2048) from Area Block B produced abundant charcoal, with some large (>8mm) fragments, dominated by *Quercus* sp. (oak). Some of the fragments exhibited signs of vitrification and many radial cracks. There was also some slow-grown heartwood, and immature oak, although most fragments were of indeterminate maturity. This sample has more potential to represent burnt structural remains, for which oak would have been highly suitable.

Post-hole (3051) produced a rich assemblage, apparently dominated by *Alnus/Corylus* (alder and/or hazel). Both species, *Alnus glutinosa* and *Corylus avellana*, were positively identified, but the charcoal was very friable which hindered separation. The presence of other taxa suggests that this deposit represents spent fuelwood.

Feature type		Post trench							Post-hole	?Roman post-hole		
Context Number		3002		3015				3275	3195	2048	3051	3245
Sample number		2	3	5	6	7	8	19	17	1	11	18
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	oak	x	x	x	x	xs	x		x	Xhrs	x	x
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> Gaertn.	alder										xr	
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazel	x									xr	
<i>Alnus/Corylus</i>	alder/hazel				x		x				x	
Maloideae	hawthorn group		xr									
<i>Acer campestre</i> L.	field maple										x	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.	ash						x	x				
Indeterminate diffuse												x
Indeterminate bark											x	

x=present; X=dominant; r=roundwood, h=heartwood, s=sapwood

Table 3: Charcoal from post trench and post-hole samples

## CONCLUSIONS

There are difficulties in interpreting the charcoal evidence from Dinham Road, not least due to the paucity of material. This suggests that only the richest samples represent deliberate dumps of fuel waste, and most derive from dispersed material, or in some cases may be intrusive. Assuming that the dispersed material is genuinely of Roman military phase, it is apparent that oak was the most commonly used taxon, with occasional other taxa such as alder, hazel, hawthorn group and ash. Domestic assemblages from the Roman fort at Calstock produced a similar taxonomic range (Challinor, in prep.).

Grave (3107) is of particular interest since a late Roman date for a cremation burial is unusual. Cremation burials of 4<sup>th</sup> century date from Lankhills, Winchester produced both mixed and oak-dominated assemblages (Challinor 2010), and the limited evidence from the Dinham Road assemblage is consistent, with oak as the main pyre fuel. This context, however, is not clear-cut, as the material could have resulted from re-deposited pyre debris, rather than a single burial deposit and thereby represent mixed events of cremation. In any case, the human bone evidence is largely missing, so it is possible that the whole assemblage derives from a burnt ritual offering rather than a human cremation.

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# Appendix 8

The other finds

## THE OTHER FINDS

Catalogue by Jenny Durrant, discussion by Andrew Passmore and Naomi Payne

This appendix contains listings of all major classes of finds not described in other appendices. Full context listings are held in the site archive. Where appropriate, discussion on the date and context of the finds are provided.

### Faunal bone

<i>context</i>	<i>q'ty</i>
2014	2
2016	1
2018	6
2042	2
2044	21
3005	14
3011	49
3153	179
3221	3
3229	1
4002	5

### Brick

<i>context</i>	<i>q'ty</i>	<i>weight</i>	<i>comments</i>
3011	3	118	Hand-made (17-18C)
3153	1	20	fragment with single face: post 1700
3210	1	250	hand-made fragment with two faces: ?18 <sup>th</sup> century

### Coins

In addition to the hoard from grave F3053, two other coins were recovered from Roman contexts.

<i>context</i>	<i>SF</i>	<i>q'ty</i>	<i>comments</i>
2049	3	1	CuA, very worn, illegible. ?As or Dupondius (M1-M3C)
3017	5	1	CuA, fragmentary and illegible (?Roman)

### Copper Alloy (other than coins)

<i>context</i>	<i>SF</i>	<i>q'ty</i>	<i>comments</i>
2018	1	1	Brooch fragment, Colchester derivative. (c. 75-80)
2022	4	1	CuA object, unidentified
3111	37	1	Moulded object

#### *SF1 Copper alloy strip bow brooch*

An incomplete cast copper alloy strip bow brooch of 1st century AD date. The surviving part comprises the majority of the slightly curving bow and part of the slightly flared head, which has a central notch to accommodate the pin, which is missing. The bow tapers uniformly from the head towards the missing foot. The front of the bow is moulded with linear indentations parallel to the edges. Any further decoration cannot be discerned as the brooch has not been cleaned.

Bayley and Butcher (2004, 154) suggest that most strip brooches are of British manufacture and date to AD c. 25-c. 70.

### SF37 copper alloy cast object

A copper alloy cast object comprising three squat oval elements, each slightly smaller than the adjacent section. The object is in very poor condition and has not been cleaned, so it is not possible to discern whether it is complete or whether it formerly incorporated some means of attachment. It may have formed part of a box or furniture mount, or part of the handle of an elaborate key.

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### Fired clay

context	q'ty	comments
2014	3	
2016	1	
2020	1	
2040	1	
2048	5	
2049	1	
3151	2	2 fired clay scraps ?pot/tile
3236	1	?furnace
3255	1	

### Ironwork

context	SF	q'ty	comments
3015	-	1	nail
3089	32	3	Fitting?
3107	39	2	hobnails
3109	38	1	?brooch
3165	-	1	nail
3167	-	5	fragments from same object
3193	43	2	hobnails
3226	-	1	object
4002	33	1	Ring/loop

### Lead

context	SF	q'ty	comments
2018	2	3	Fragments
3226	40	1	offcut

### Plaster

context	q'ty	comments
3109	6	Roman context, 2 x painted plaster, 4 x plain fragments
3229	1	Post-medieval context, white painted plaster
4002	2	Post-medieval context, unpainted

### Shell

context	q'ty	comments
3011	2	oyster

### Slag

context	q'ty	weight	comments
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2012	6	60	
2016	2	54	
2018	4	142	
2020	1	2	
2031	2	6	
3035	1	30	
3153	3	118	Post-medieval context, fragments with Fe content
3195	2	4	sample 17
3224	4	18	Medieval context, slag or vitrified material
3245		7	hammerscale (recovered from environmental sample
3274	2	364	large nodule

The assemblage is largely undiagnostic but contains probable vitrified hearth material. The presence of hammerscale may indicate that the assemblage is largely derived from blacksmithing.

### Slate

<i>context</i>	<i>q'ty</i>	<i>weight</i>	<i>comments</i>
3007	2	16	
3011	1	2	
3100	1	2	
3151	1	24	thick roof fragment with single peg hole: ?medieval
3271	1	147	thick roof slate with peg hole: ?Roman/medieval

### Stone

<i>context</i>	<i>q'ty</i>	<i>comments</i>
3107	1	Burnt flint/chert
3226	1	Worked stone, ?flooring or fascia (Roman) – thin, flat fragment of red sandstone

### Tile (Medieval and post-medieval)

<i>context</i>	<i>q'ty</i>	<i>weight</i>	<i>comments</i>
2000	1	272	post-medieval green-glazed ridge fragment: 16 <sup>th</sup> -late 18 <sup>th</sup> century
2044	2	4	ridge fragment scraps, gritty fabric (?N. Devon): late medieval/post-medieval
3151	2	64	1 medieval ridge fragment gritty fabric: 14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> century, 1 post-medieval ridge fragment green-glazed South Somerset fabric: 16 <sup>th</sup> -late 18 <sup>th</sup> century
3153	6	424	1 ridge fragment gritty micaceous fabric: ?15 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup> century, 3 green-glazed ridge fragments: 16 <sup>th</sup> -late 18 <sup>th</sup> century, 2 unglazed roof fragments: 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century

### Tile (Roman)

<i>context</i>	<i>fabric</i>	<i>type</i>	<i>q'ty</i>
2002	2FB	Box	1
	2C	lmb?	1
2044	1F	Teg?	1
3002	1C	Unc	1
3005	2C	Unc	1

3009	2F/C	Unc	3
3009	1F/C	Flat/teg	1
3026	1C	Unc	3
3028	unc	unc	1
3035	unc	unc	1
3037	2FB	unc	3
3041	2C	unc	14
	1C	unc	6
	unc	unc	216
3044	2F/C	unc	14
	2F/C	Box	1
	Wasters	unc	3
3054	1C	Unc	1
	1F	Unc	1
	Unc sandy	Unc	7
3060	2FB	unc	1
3068	1C	Teg or Flat	2
	1C/F	Unc	13
3071	2F	unc	1
3081	2F	unc	1
3100	2F/C	unc	2
3107	unc	unc	32
3109	2C	Oblong	1
	1C/F	Flat	1
	2C	Flat	1
	2C	Box?	1
	Wasters	unc	2
	1C/F	unc	6
	2C	unc	1
	unc	unc	4
3111	2F/C	Teg	1
	2C	Flat	1
	1F/C	Flat	1
	1C/F	Oblong	1
3118	1C?	Flat	2
3131	2F	unc	2
	Unc sandy	unc	1
3146	2C	Flat	3
3192	1C	unc	1



3226	2C	Flat	1
	unc	unc	4
3240	2C	unc	3
3248	2C	unc	4
3259	2C	unc	1
3269	2C	unc	1
3274	2C	unc	1
	2F	unc	4
3275	2C	unc	1

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