

142-146 Blandford Road, Hamworthy, Poole,  
Dorset

NGR SY99929051

## Results of archaeological monitoring

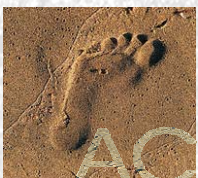
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Prepared by:  
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On behalf of:  
Formbase (Southern) Ltd

Document No: ACW235/2/0

Date: January 2010



archaeology

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# 142-146 BLANDFORD ROAD, HAMWORTHY, POOLE, DORSET (NGR SY99929051)

## RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

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### SUMMARY

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out by AC archaeology of the mechanical excavation of footing trenches for the construction of a terrace of four houses at the rear of 142-146 Blandford Road, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset (NGR SY999905). The work was commissioned by Formbase (Southern) Ltd in accordance with a condition of planning consent granted by the Borough of Poole Planning & Regeneration Service (application no. APP/08/39618/F/002). The condition was placed on the permission due to the position of the site, as the presumed line of the Roman Road from Hamworthy inland to Badbury Rings runs through the north of the site and may survive as a subsoil feature. The excavation of foundations trenches exposed a gravel surface, believed to represent the surface of the 'agger of the Roman Road at the NE of the site. A dark sandy layer below the agger may represent a buried humic soil horizon. No side ditches were present; a linear feature was recorded at the SE of the site but was not associated with the road. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature. The monitoring of the site revealed much root disturbance throughout the site and some modern intrusions.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report details the results of archaeological monitoring carried out during groundworks prior to the construction of a terrace of four houses at the rear of 142-146 Blandford Road, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset (NGR SY 99929051). The work was commissioned by Formbase (Southern) Ltd and carried out by AC archaeology in January 2010. The work was required as a condition placed on the planning permission (application no. APP/08/39618/F/002.) granted by Poole Borough.

- 1.2 The site lies on sands and gravels of the Tertiary Poole formation at around 4m OD.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development area is located on the presumed alignment of the Roman Road from Hamworthy inland to Badbury Rings and lies close to the recent excavation at Shapwick Road, Hamworthy, which revealed further evidence for the Iron Age and Roman settlement including salt production site (Coles and Pine, 2009; 63-98).

- 2.2 A section of the Roman Road at Hamworthy was first described by H. P. Smith in 1932. Another section of the Roman Road has been excavated at Vineyard Copse, Hamworthy, which suggested that the “rich black soil” is a turf stuck stack beneath the metalling” (Jarvis, 1983,194). The Hamworthy-Badbury Roman Road route must have been in operation soon after the Roman Conquest and was possibly constructed during the occupation of the fortress at Lake c. AD45-65 (Jarvis, 1983,196).

## 3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The work was carried out in accordance with a project design provided by AC archaeology (Doc.ACW235/1/0) and approved in advance by the Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council, archaeological advisor to Poole Borough.

- 3.2 The principal aim of the archaeological monitoring was to record, where practicable, during development the presence of any archaeological features and finds that were revealed, disturbed or otherwise damaged.

- 3.3 Attendance on site was *comprehensive* within the meaning of the term set out in the IFA standard for archaeological watching briefs Section 3.2.10:- an archaeologist will be present during all ground disturbance.

- 3.4 Field observation were recorded using the standard AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written and graphic records and in

accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 1*. A digital photographic record was also made of the excavations.

**3.5** A minimum of turf and topsoil removal was undertaken before the archaeologist arrived on site. The footing trenches were dug with a mechanical digger with a 700mm wide toothless bucket to a depth of c1.0m. The soakaway was dug with plan dimensions of 1.2m x 4.0m and a depth of 2m.

#### **4. RESULTS** (Plan Fig. 2a; Section Fig. 2b)

**4.1** For much of the length of the foundation trenches there was a dark grey-brown topsoil (context 100), up to 450mm in thickness, above a yellow-brown sandy gravel subsoil.

**4.2** In the northeast corner a series of subsoil deposits was revealed (F105). These layers comprised a 100mm thick band of gravel (101) lying horizontally below the base of the topsoil. Below this was a thick band of yellow-brown

redeposited natural sand with gravel (102), up to 100mm thick. This overlay a dark grey to black humic sand (103) with bleached sand lenses, considered to represent a buried soil horizon, possibly turves (see plates 1 & 2). No finds were recovered from any layer.



**Plate 1: View of NE corner of trench showing section through road (Scale 1m)**



**Plate 2: General view of NE corner of site showing position of Roman road exposure**

**4.3** The deposits are considered to represent the buried course of the Roman road and are consistent with descriptions of exposures elsewhere. It was not possible to fully expose the full width of the gravel deposit (agger), but sufficient length was exposed to confirm the orientation (Fig. 2). A small area of modern disturbance was present at the northwest corner of the exposure, but no evidence for side ditches. The position of the trenches did not allow a perpendicular cross-section to be recorded. The deposit sequence is described in the table below.

CONTEXT NO	DIMMENSION	COLOUR/COMP	INTERPRETATION
100	0 – 450 mm	Dark grey-brown, sandy clay, occasional gravel	Topsoil
101	450 – 550 mm	Gravel, small gravel pieces	Gravel Layer, surface of Roman Road
102	550– 650 mm	Yellow – brown, sand, occasional gravel	Re-deposited natural
103	650 – 900 mm	Dark grey-black, sand, charcoal	Buried soil horizon
104	900 mm +	Yellow brown, sand and gravels	Natural geology

**4.4** One further subsoil feature was identified in the southern portion of the site

(F106). This comprised a narrow linear feature, 600mm wide, and filled with a band of dark grey sandy soil. No finds were recovered.

- 4.5** The excavation for the soakaway revealed 400mm of topsoil, 400mm subsoil and then natural gravel. No features or finds were recovered.

## **5. COMMENT**

- 5.1** Recording of the foundation trenches has demonstrated that, despite some modern disturbance, the once elevated surface of the Roman Road still survives in section as a subsoil feature. The linear gully may be aligned approximately parallel to the road, but is likely to be too distant to be considered to be a side ditch from the road itself. No pre-modern dating evidence was recovered.

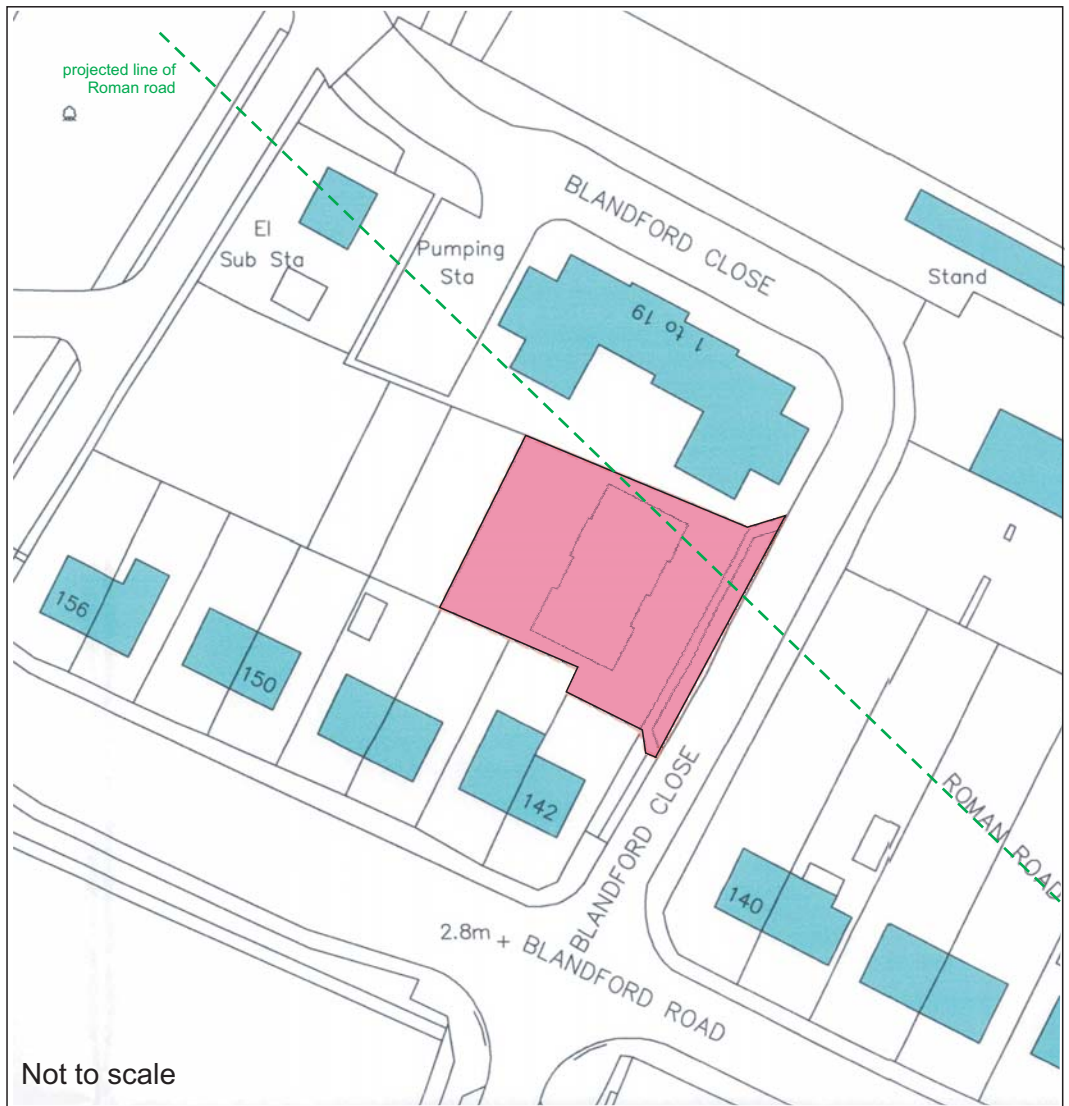
- 5.2** A soil sample from the buried soil (context 103) has been retained, but not analysed.

## **6. REFERENCES**

Coles, S., and Pine, J 2009 "Excavation Of An Iron Age And Roman Settlement And Salt Production Site At Shapwick Road, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset, 2005-6", *Proceeding of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society* **130**, 63-98

Jarvis, K.S., 1983 "A Section Of The Roman Road From Hamworthy To Badbury Rings At Vineyard Copse, Hamworthy", *Proceeding of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society* **104** (for 1982), 194-196

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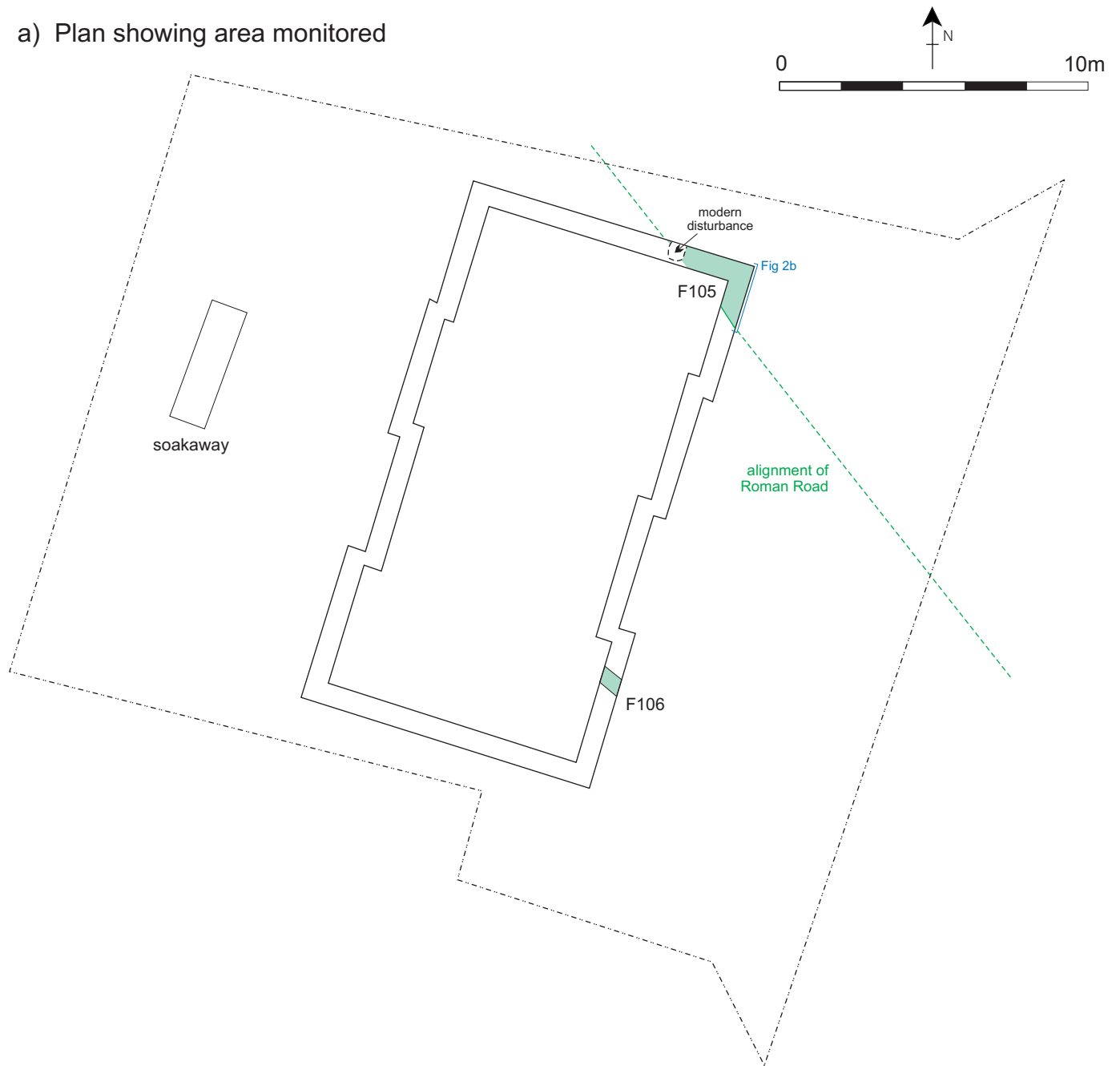
PROJECT

Land, rear of 142-146 Blandford Road, Hamworthy

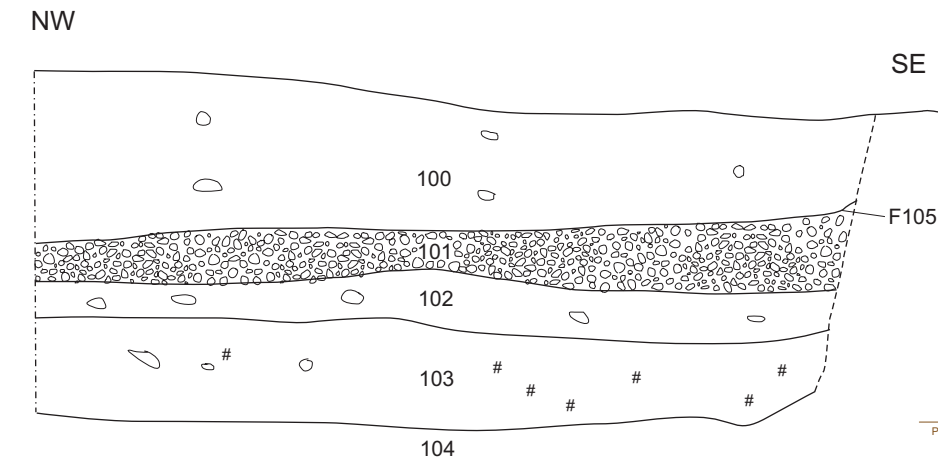
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Fig. 1: Site location

a) Plan showing area monitored



b) Section, F105





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