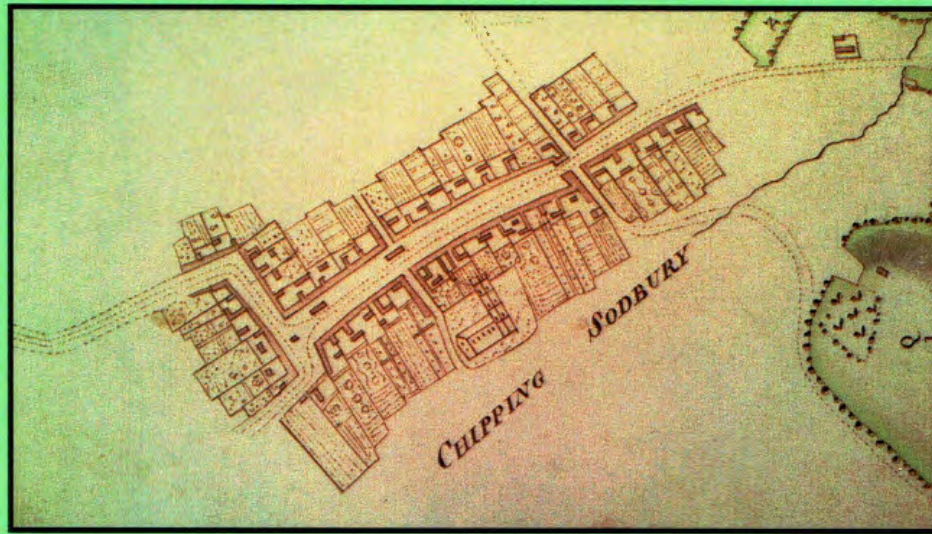


BRISTOL  
&  
AVON  
ARCHAEOLOGY



Volume 25

# BRISTOL AND AVON ARCHAEOLOGY 2012–13

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# EXCAVATIONS IN ADVANCE OF REDEVELOPMENT AT 75 SEA MILLS LANE, BRISTOL, 2013

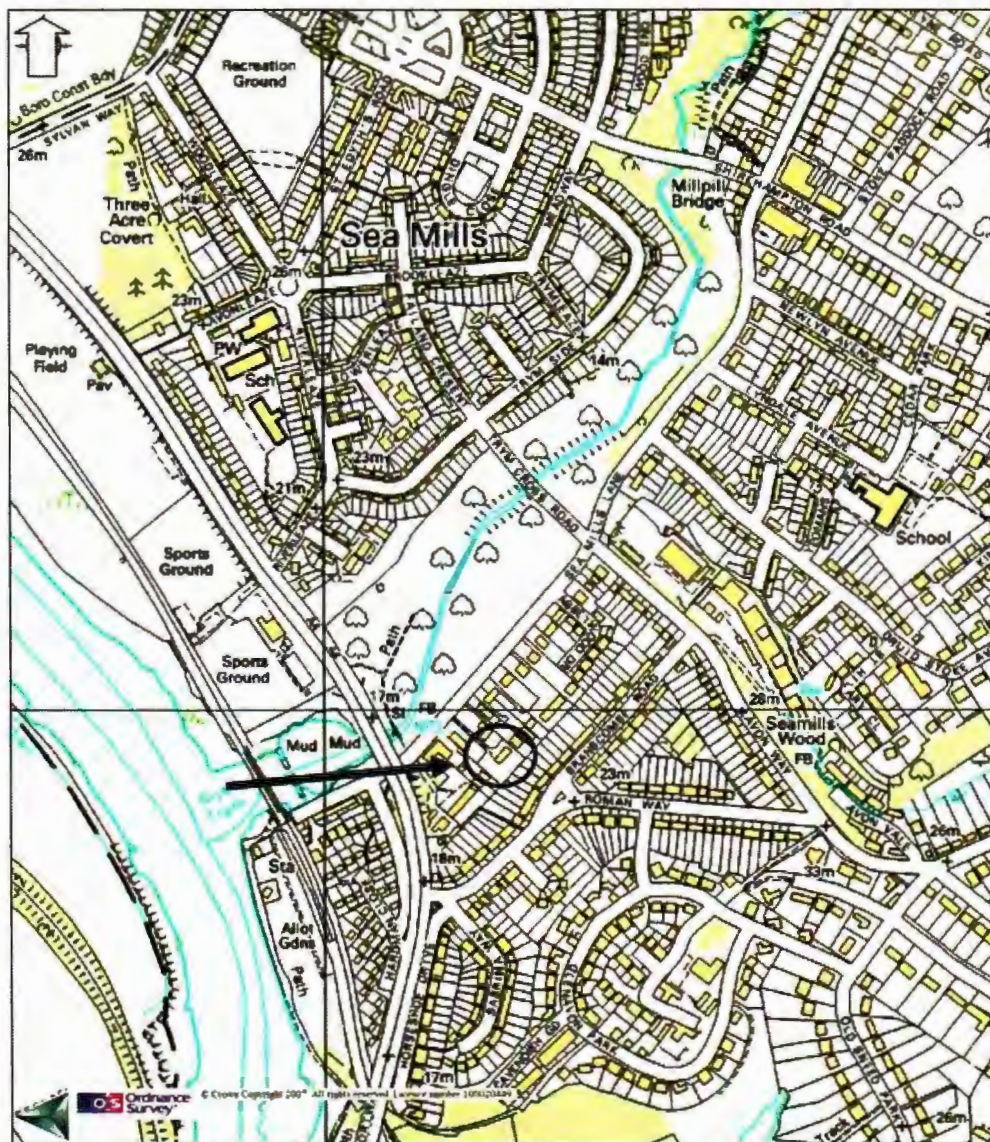
By Andrew Young

*With contributions by Dr Heidi Dawson, Dr Lorrain Higbee, Jacqueline McKinley,  
Sarah Newns and Jane Timby*

## INTRODUCTION

Developer G A Francis & Son Limited of Winterbourne commissioned and funded an archaeological recording project in 2013 in advance of the construction of three residential properties at 75 Sea Mills Lane, Bristol, centred at NGR ST 5520 7594 (Figs 1 and 2). Sea Mills is today almost

entirely residential with detached and semi-detached housing largely built in the 1920's and 1930's in an area previously occupied by the important early Roman military station and later Roman settlement of *Abona*. Previous archaeological work in the area indicates that the 75 Sea Mills Lane property lay either directly within or closely adjacent to this



ST55E

Scale 1:7500

Fig. 1 Location plan, scale as shown.



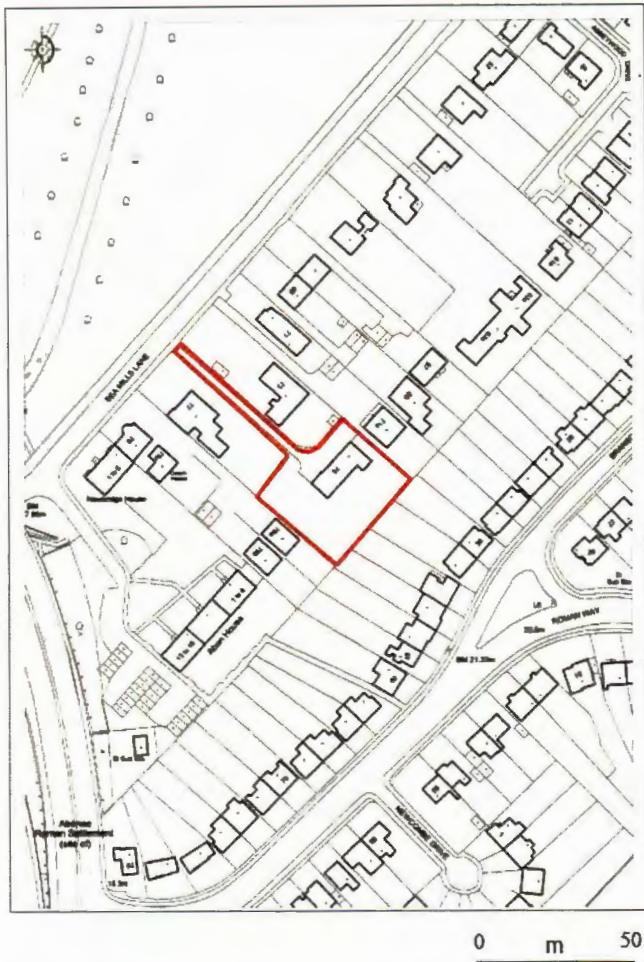


Fig. 2 Site location showing boundary of the study area, scale as shown.

important Roman site. The study site has an overall footprint of approximately 0.16 ha and is located off the south side of Sea Mills Lane on the east side of the River Avon, between Sneyd Park and Shirehampton. Locally it is situated close to the southern flank of the River Trym, close to its tidal confluence with the Avon, at the margin of a narrow flood plain where the land rises gently to the south and east.

The site was once farmland but has been occupied by No 75 Sea Mills Lane, a detached house and garden, since approximately 1927. The building was destroyed by fire in 2004 and the site subsequently remained unoccupied and overgrown. The main plot forms a rectangle of land whose long axis is aligned northeast to southwest and set back from Sea Mills Lane behind adjoining properties, Nos. 73 and 77 Sea Mills Lane. A narrow hedge-lined lane provides access to the property from Sea Mills Lane and the rear of the site backs on to Nos. 38 to 44 Branscombe Road. It occupies land that rises gently to the south and east where the ground level varies between approximately 7m and 20m above Ordnance Datum. The entrance to the lane is located just above the level of the natural flood plain of the river Trym where the underlying solid geology consists of Triassic Dolomitic Conglomerate overlain by alluvial deposits in the base of the Trym river valley.

The archaeological work was undertaken as a condition of planning consent and involved excavation and a watching brief elsewhere on the site during re-development ground work. Previous archaeological studies of the site included an archaeological desk-based study (Etheridge 2005) followed with evaluation by trenching (Young 2005).

The area of excavation (Figs 3 and 4) had a footprint of about 500 square metres and was located on the south-western side of the site where two of the evaluation trenches had identified features and deposits of early Romano-British origin, mainly of the late 1st to early 2nd century AD (*ibid* Young). The project was assigned Bristol HER Number 24938 and Bristol City Museum Accession Number 2012/55.

## THE EXCAVATION

Area excavation was undertaken to investigate part of the site (see Figs 3 and 4) where buried archaeological structures and deposits of Romano-British date were identified during evaluation trenching in 2005. Monitoring was also undertaken during the excavation of footings for two adjacent properties (Fig. 3, Building Plots 1 and 2). The excavation area totalled about some 500 square metres and incorporated the footprint of a third proposed house (Figure 3, Building Plot 3). The archaeology comprised two periods of occupation dating from the Romano-British through to Modern.

### Phase 1

Evidence for this initial phase of activity on the site during the late 1st to early-2nd century AD consisted of the following:

#### Trackway 138

A trackway formed of closely packed small pieces of sandstone, limestone and cobbles (Fig. 4, context 138 and Plate 1) was laid directly over undisturbed natural clay (137/149) along the north-western side of the site. The trackway was over 5m wide and aligned from southwest to northeast with only the southeastern side of the metalling revealed in the excavation area. The southwest-facing section (Fig. 5 and Plate 2) revealed that the surface of the trackway was essentially flat and had been resurfaced by a much coarser metalling layer (105) in Phase 2. The metalling was fully revealed in a sondage excavated alongside the baulk where undulations in the surface in several places indicated a possible pair of narrow wheel-ruts.

#### Ditch 119

A narrow, curved ditch (119, Fig. 4, Plates 3 and 4) extended across the eastern side of the site from north to south, continuing beyond the excavation area in both directions. It measured at least 9 metres in length and was investigated in three cuttings (Fig. 4, Cuttings A–C) where it was shown to be up to 620mm wide and 870mm deep with generally straight sides and a rounded base (Fig. 6, Sections 3, 4 and 5). It was filled by a sequence of similar deposits in each of the cuttings, which in general consisted of three main fills; primary (144, 147), intermediate (143 and 145) and an upper fill (120).



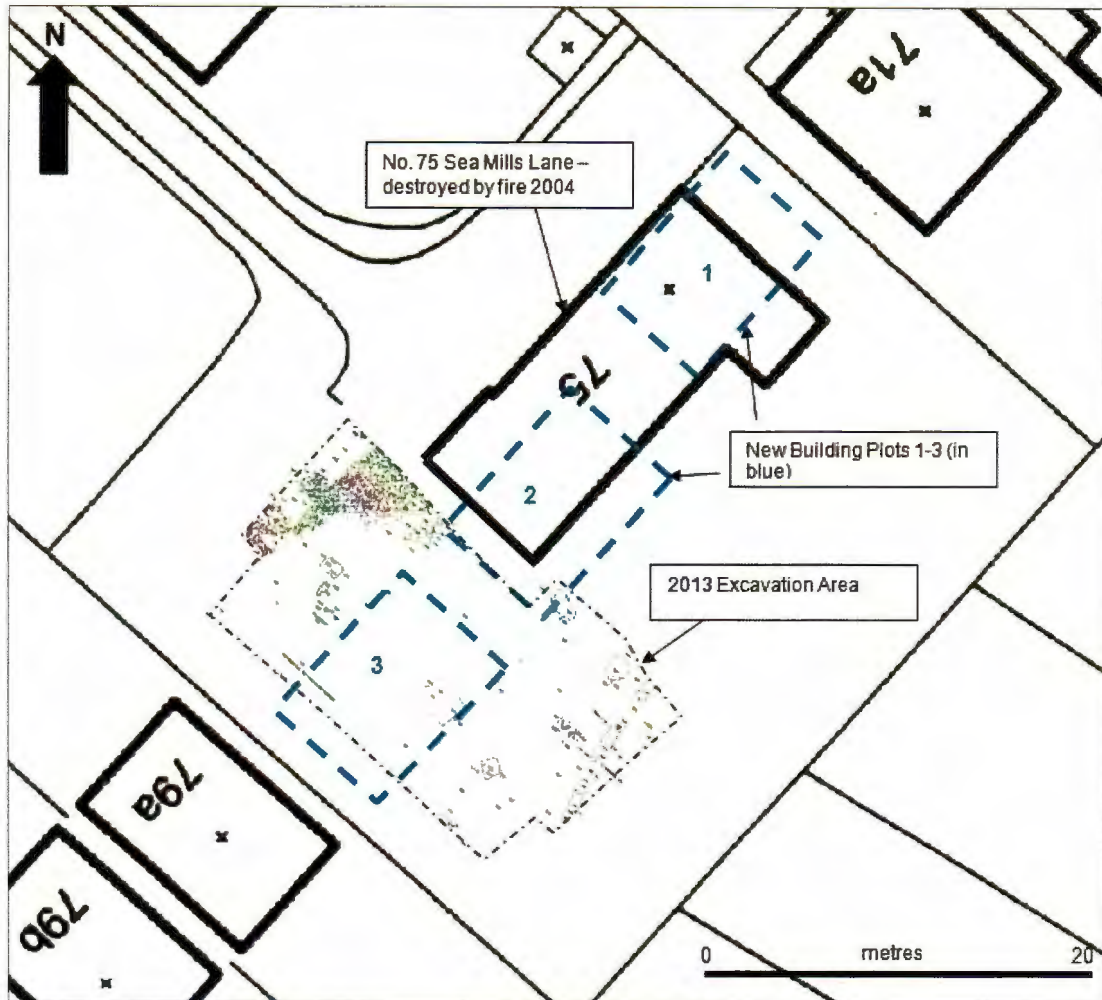


Fig. 3 The site showing excavation area and footprint of building plots 1-3 in blue, scale as shown.

Finds from upper fill 120 in each of the cuttings produced a substantial number of pottery sherds of Flavio-Trajanic date, indicating that the ditch was abandoned and filled by the end of the 1st or early 2nd century AD. The ditch fills also produced a large assemblage of animal bone, in particular cattle carcass, plus several small finds including three Roman brooches (Fig. 9). The presence of this varied and largely domestic group of finds from the ditch fills points to nearby domestic activity adjacent and upslope to the southeast.

#### *Pits 123 and 125*

These pits lay close to the north-western edge of the site. Pit 123 (Fig 4 and 6, Section 2) was sub-circular in plan, up to 1.15m wide, and up to 500mm deep with moderate to steeply sloping sides and a flat base that revealed natural bedrock. A single homogeneous silt-clay fill (124) contained a handful of larger stones and produced an assemblage of pottery sherds of pre or early Flavian date (see Timby below) that dates the filling of the feature to the 1st century AD. The original function of the feature was not clear, although it may have been a post-pit.

Pit 125 was sub-rectangular in plan and cut the natural substrate to a maximum depth of 800mm, with a shallow rim

and deeper socket offset to the northwest (Fig. 6, Section 1). Finds from the fill included pottery of late 1st century AD date. The feature appeared to be a post-pit.

#### *Feature 130*

This feature, probably a posthole, was located adjacent to the south-western baulk of the excavation area, cut into the natural substrate (Figs 4 and 6, Section 9). The feature was sub-circular in plan and extended beyond the excavation. It was 680mm wide and essentially straight-sided, cut into the natural clay and bedrock to a depth of 825mm, and was filled by a single, homogeneous deposit of stone-free clay loam (131) that produced pottery sherds of 1st century AD date.

#### **Phase 2**

Evidence for this phase of activity on the site during the early to mid-2nd century AD consisted of the following:

#### *Trackway 105*

The Phase 1 trackway was repaired or resurfaced with a layer of closely packed small to medium sized sandstone and limestone cobbles and rubble up to 220mm thick (Figs 4 and 5, Layer 105) above a layer of stone-free soil (Fig. 5, Layer 152). Finds from 152 included pottery sherds of 1st century

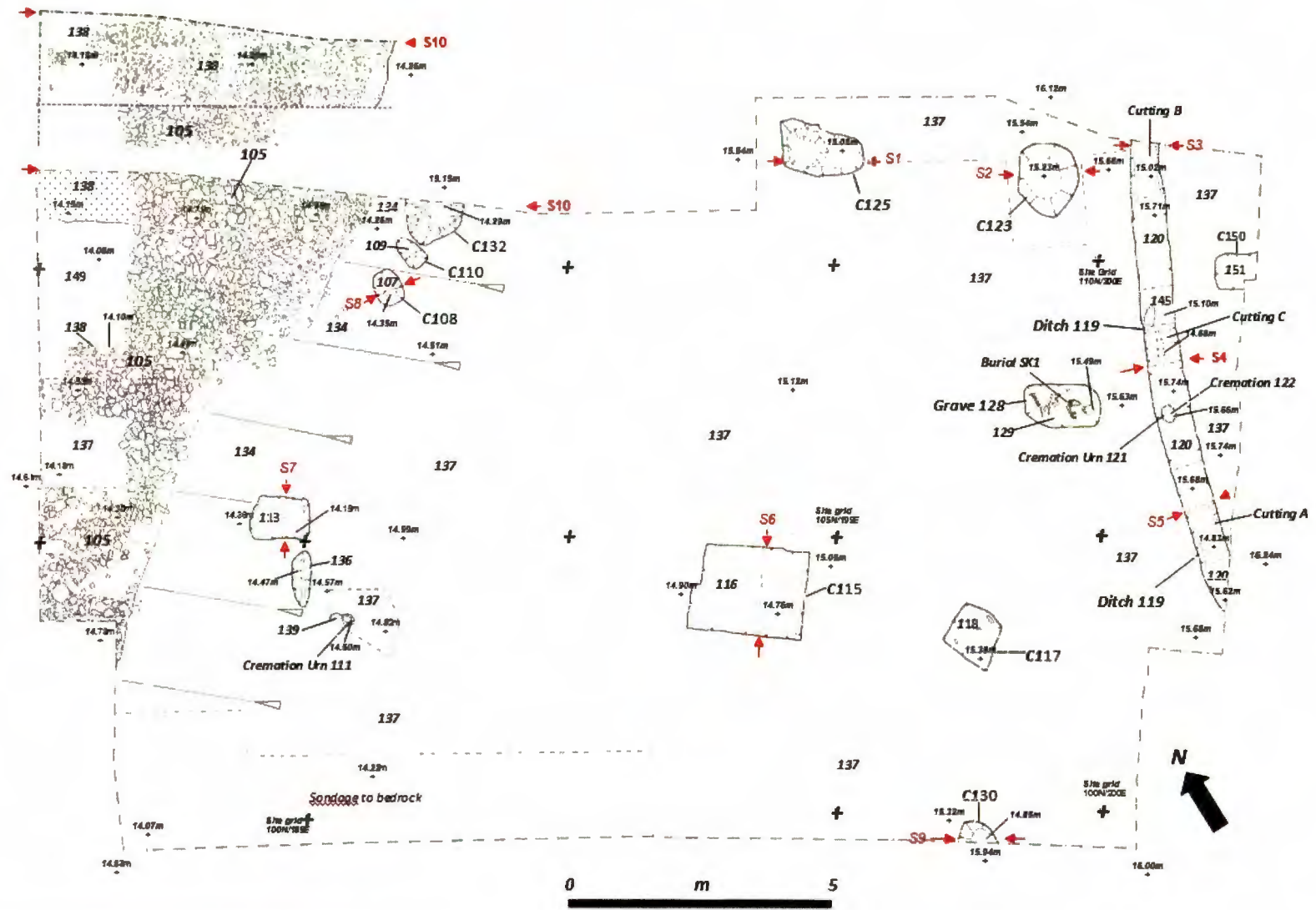


Fig. 4 The site as excavated showing location of section drawings.

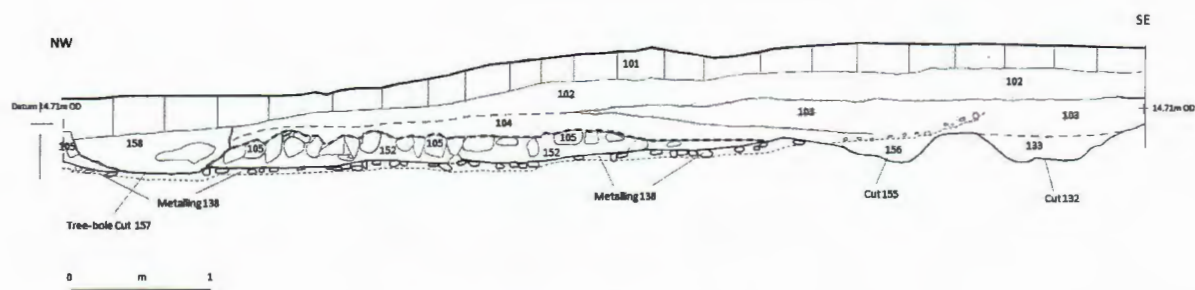


Fig. 5 Section 10, west-facing section through trackway surfaces 138 and 105.

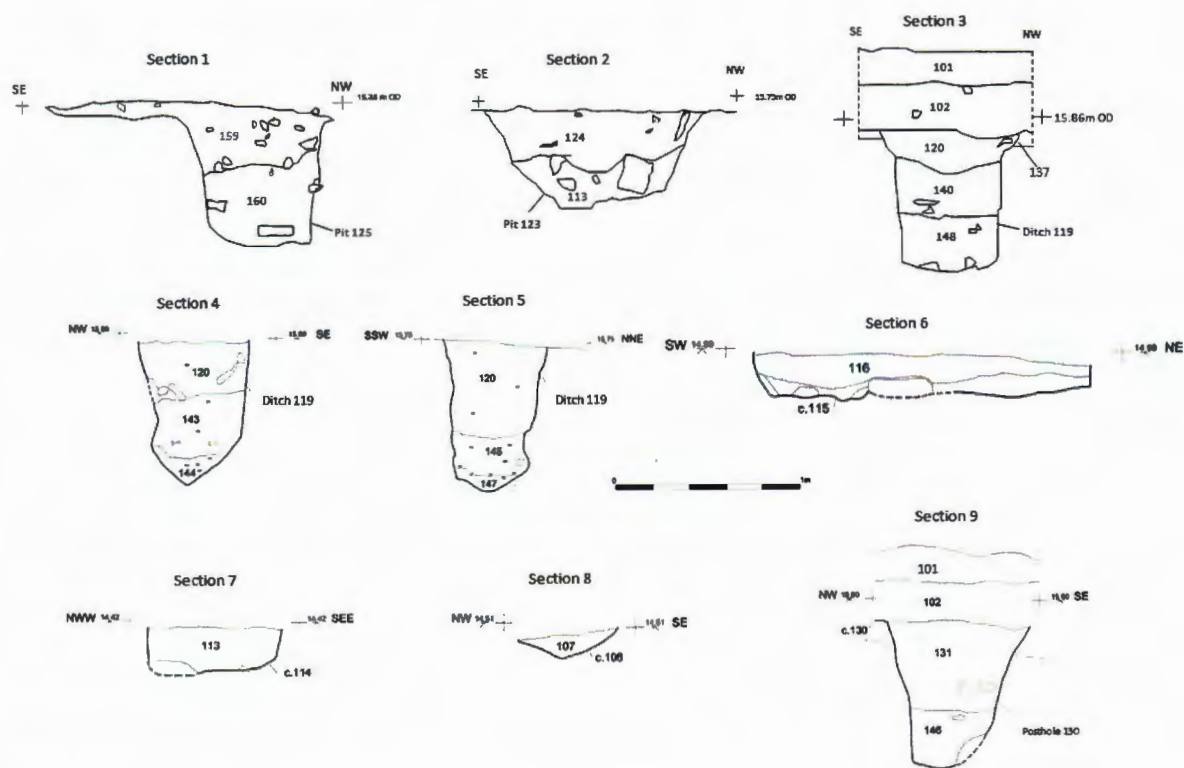


Fig 6 Section Drawings 1-9.

AD date, whilst the new track surface and overlying deposit (Layer 104), revealed sherds indicating their deposition and use of the track during the early-mid 2nd century AD.

*Postholes 108, 110 and 132*

This group of shallow postholes lay immediately adjacent and to the southeast of the Phase 2 trackway. They formed a linear arrangement parallel to the edge of the trackway and were cut into the natural clay and weathered rock (134). Posthole 132 extended beyond the excavation area but where exposed was 1.12m in diameter and up to 230mm deep with irregular sloping sides. It was filled by a homogeneous clay silt soil (133) that produced pottery sherds of early to middle 2nd century AD date. Postholes 108 and 110 were both smaller and no more than 100mm deep.

*Feature 128 – Crouched Burial (Skeleton SK1)*

A crouched inhumation (SK1, Figs 4 and 8) was interred in a shallow pit (128) just to the west of Phase 1 Ditch 119. The skeleton (Plate 3) was crouched, laid on its left side

and aligned approximately north west to south east. No grave goods were present and assessment of the skeleton (see below) indicates a young adult female probably around 16–25 years of age at death. Finds from the grave fill were restricted to a handful of pottery sherds of early – mid 2nd century AD date.

*Cremation Burial 122*

A cremation burial (Fig. 4, Feature 122) was set into the upper fill of Ditch 119 in a small pottery urn (121), just to the east of the inhumation burial. The urn was inverted and is dated to the late 1st century AD or later, although as it was set into the upper fill of Phase 1 Ditch 119, the cremation event is ascribed to this later phase of Roman activity. The cremated bone from the vessel was examined by Dr McKinley (see report below).

*Cremation Urn 111*

A second probable cremation burial was indicated by a small inverted earthenware urn (Fig. 4, 111) that filled





Plate 1 Trackway surfaces 138 and 105 during excavation.



Plate 2 Detail of Phase 2 trackway surface 105.



Plate 3 Crouched burial SK1.



Plate 4 Ditch 119 and crouched Burial SK1 during excavation, looking NE.

a shallow pit located towards the western corner of the excavation area. The vessel is dated to the Roman period but did not present any specific typology and as such its date is based upon an absence of later Roman activity on the site and similarity with Cremation 122. A very small assemblage of cremated bone recovered from a deposit (139) located immediately adjacent to the vessel was identified as animal and not human. Accordingly, the interpretation of the vessel as a human cremation urn remains tentative.

**Feature 136**

A small linear soil-filled feature was located immediately to the northwest of Cremation Urn 111. It measured 1m by 350mm in plan and was shallow, no more than 150mm deep and filled by dark silt-clay soil.

**Period II:** Modern (18th to 20th century) and undated Modern and undated activity on the site was represented by a group of shallow and mostly angular cut soil features of no archaeological significance (see Fig. 4). These included Features 113/114, 115, 117, 150.



### Watching Brief

The watching brief during the excavation of new strip foundations for Building Plots 1 and 2 revealed no further significant archaeological deposits or finds although the eastern half of posthole 132 was exposed. The watching brief found no evidence to indicate a continuation of the trackway towards the north east.

## THE FINDS

### Pottery

By Dr Jane Timby

#### *Introduction and methodology*

The excavation resulted in the recovery of 988 sherds of pottery weighing c 9.1kg, most of which appears to date to the early Roman period (1st–2nd century). An additional 443 sherds (3.3g) was recovered from the preceding evaluation in 2005. Pottery was recovered from a total 38 contexts from the two investigations. In general terms, the sherds are quite fragmented with an overall average sherd weight of 8.7g. Despite this there were a few instances of multiple sherds from single vessels.

This summary report is based on the assessment from the two interventions. The pottery was rapidly sorted in to fabrics based on the firing colour, the nature and character of the inclusions in the paste, taking into account size and frequency. Recognisable named traded wares have been coded using the National Roman fabric reference series (Tomber and Dore 1998). Other wares have been labelled more generically. The sorted fabrics were quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Overall the group comprises continental imports (amphorae, fine wares, mortaria), regional traded wares, local and presumed local products.

#### *Description of fabrics and associated forms*

##### *Continental imports*

**Samian:** In total 53 sherds of samian were recovered, 30 from the excavation, 23 from the evaluation. Most of the sherds from the excavation are of South Gaulish origin (LGF SA) (*ibid.*, 28) and include decorated bowl forms Drag. 29 (x5) and 30/37; cups 27 (x4), Ritt. 9 and dishes Drag. 15/17 (x4), Drag.18 (x3). There is a single pre-Flavian cup Drag. 24/25 in a very pale fabric from Montans (MON SA) (*ibid.* 29) and a dish Drag. 18 of Pulborough samian (PUL SA) (*ibid.* 186). Most of the sherds date to the 1st century and some sherds, for example, the Ritt. 9 to the pre-Flavian period. The Pulborough dish, from context (104) is likely to date to the Hadrianic-Antonine period. One South Gaulish sherd with the edge of a broken potter's stamp from ditch 119 (120) has a black substance attached to one break which may be the remains of a pitch-based glue used for a repair.

**Gallo-Belgic wares:** A single sherd from a curved wall platter in *terra nigra* (GAB TN) (Camulodunum type 16) (*ibid.* 15) was recovered from pit 123 (124). A second platter sherd came from the evaluation. In addition there are three small sherds of probable North Gaulish white ware (NOG

WH) (*ibid.* 22–4) with both beaker and flagon present and further sherds of flagon from the evaluation.

**Amphorae:** In total 86 sherds of amphorae were recorded, most of which, with the exception of three sherds, is Baetican (BAT AM) (*ibid.* 84). Forms include both the globular Dressel 20 olive-oil type and the slimmer Haltern 70. Several of the sherds are burnt. Also present is a single piece of Gallic wine amphora (GAL AM) (*ibid.* 93–5) and one unidentified bodysherd in a cream ware with sparse inclusions.

**Mortaria:** There is one imported mortarium sherd, probably from North Gaul (NOG WH 4) (*ibid.* 77). This vessel, from ditch 119 (143), has a hole drilled through the base presumably as part of a repair and is in worn condition with no surviving trituration grits.

##### *Regional imports*

**Dorset black burnished ware** (DOR BB1) (*ibid.*, 127). Five sherds only. In addition there are seven sherds of the earlier Durotrigian black burnished ware (DURO), probably dating to the second half of the 1st century AD.

**Savernake ware** (SAV GT) (*ibid.* 191). A single sherd of Savernake ware storage jar.

**Severn Valley wares** (SVW OX (*ibid.* 148); SVW RE). There are six sherds of the earlier Severn Valley ware containing either frequent grog / clay pellets (ESV W GR) or calcareous inclusions (ESVWCA). Oxidised Severn wares account for 8.9% of the assemblage overall and include examples of carinated cups / bowls, tankards, necked, rolled rim jars, a bifid rim jar and a necked cordoned jar. In addition there are a few examples of the reduced version (SWV RE), the only rim sherd from an everted rim jar.

**Wiltshire grog-tempered** (WILGRSA). A single bodysherd in a sandy ware with sparse grog.

**Wiltshire black burnished sandy ware** (WILBWSY). A fine black wheel-made sandy ware thought to come from the Wiltshire area and dating from the Neronian period through in to the 2nd century. It accounts for nearly half the assemblage by sherd count, 26.7% by weight. Forms include globular beakers with barbotine decoration (Fig. 7, 3), a flanged cup, everted rim jars (Fig. 7, 10–11), flat and reeded rim bowls / dishes (Fig. 7, 5–6) and a platter.

##### *Native wares*

**Calcite-tempered** (CALC). A moderately large group of handmade closed forms dating to the later Iron Age and early Roman period. Forms include beaded rim (Fig. 7, 2, 7) and everted rim jars, one of which is decorated with a zone of burnished line lattice. Such wares probable have a source from the Mendips (Allen 1998). In addition, there is a single small sherd with a mixed limestone and calcite temper (CALI) probably from the same source.

**Limestone-tempered** (LIME). Six sherds from a single handmade vessel from context 145 with a corky fabric where the lime inclusions have dissolved out.



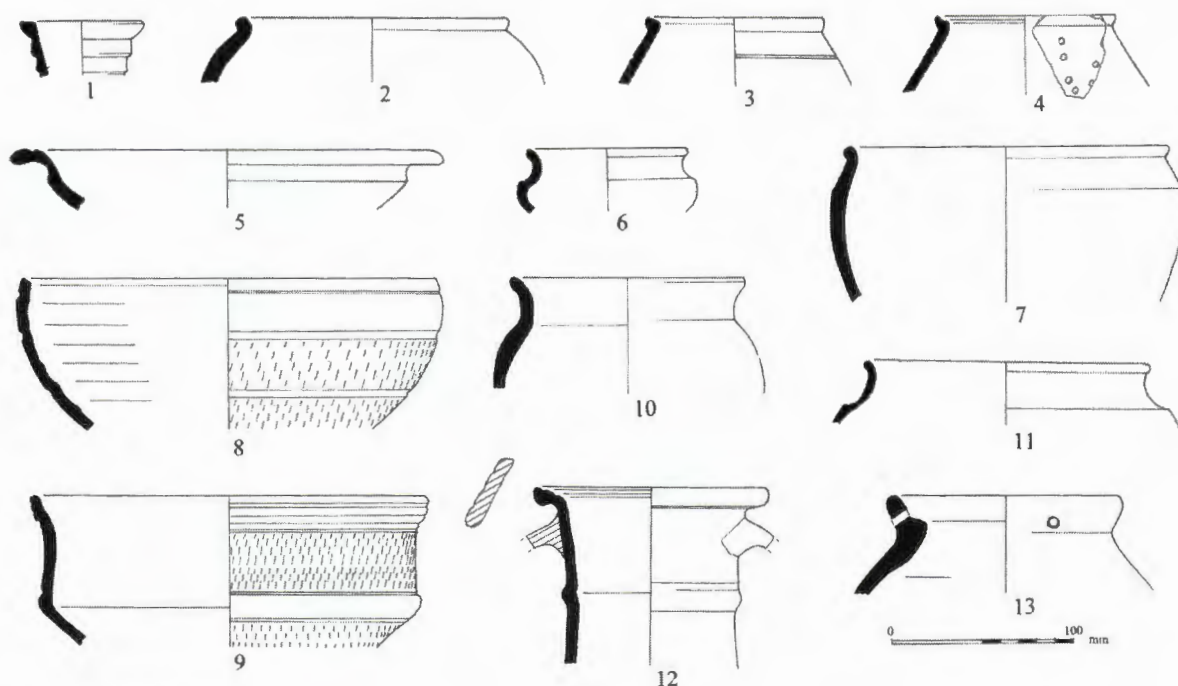


Fig. 7. Romano-British Pottery.

**Grog-tempered (GR).** Various grog-tempered wares account for 6.4% of the assemblage by sherd count. These have been sub-divided into handmade grog-tempered wares with softer fabrics typical of the later Iron Age and early Roman period, and black, oxidised, or grey grog-tempered wares more typical of the Roman period. There is a single grog- and calcareous-tempered sherd and the rim of a single grog-tempered early Roman storage jar. Forms include a barrel-shaped cordoned jar/ beaker from (120) and neckless jars with rolled rims.

**Flint-tempered (FL).** A single flint-tempered bodysherd was recovered from ditch 119.

#### Local or Unknown Wares

**Black sandy ware (BW).** Several sherds of a wheel-made, black sandy ware but mainly two vessels including 24 sherds from a flat rim bowl (SF 11) from ditch 119 (143).

**Fine grey ware (GYF).** A small group of sherds including one necked jar and a sherd with possible rusticated decoration.

**Grey sandy wares (GYSY; GYSYMIC).** Small groups of 26 and 13 sherds respectively. Sherds of note include a jar with a concave rim with four equidistant piercings made before firing (Fig 7.13). This appears to be a specialised vessel, possibly used for the transport of some commodity. Similar jars have been found at previous investigations at Sea Mills (Ellis 1987, Fig. 40.53) and Carmarthen (James 1978, Fig. 15.7) dating to the 1st or 2nd centuries. Also present is a large flagon (Fig. 7.12) with at least one, probably two, wide strap handles and a platter copying the imported form Cam. 14.

**Oxidised mortarium (OXMORT).** A pale oxidised mortarium with a low bead and dropped, curved flange.

The paste contains a sparse fine quartz sand and occasional ferruginous pellets. The interior is worn with no surviving grits. Possibly a Kingsholm or Cirencester type.

**Oxidised wares (OXF, OXMIC, OXSY, WSOX).** Collectively the oxidised wares account for 9.2% of the assemblage by sherd count. Vessels of note include ring-necked flagons in a fine oxidised ware (Fig. 7.1) and white-slipped oxidised ware, fine oxidised ware bowls copying samian prototypes (Fig. 7, 8, 9), flat rim bowls, everted rim and lid-seated rim jars and beakers, one with barbotine dot decoration (Fig. 7, 4).

#### Discussion

Pottery was recovered from several layers and cut features across the site. It comprises a curious mixture of 'native' handmade wares, local Severn Valley wares, local sandy wares many of which are presumed to come from the Wiltshire region, alongside imported fine wares, mortaria and amphorae. The samian is relatively early with several decorated bowls which would be indicative of a military presence, but overall only accounts for 2.9% of the assemblage by sherd count, 1.8% by weight, which is a quite low figure. The late *terra nigra* form Cam 16 would also not be out of place in a military context, but apart from the samian there are no accompanying pre-Flavian fine wares. The amphorae, although present, do not reflect the diversity normally associated with early Roman military settlement.

The largest concentration of pottery came from ditch 119 which produced a total 638 sherds, 4913g, 64.6% of the total recovered assemblage. The average sherd weight of 7.7g reflects the fragmented nature of this material. Whilst the assemblage contains some pre-Flavian components much of it probably dates to the Flavian period. Possibly



contemporary with this are the assemblages from pit 124, with 89 sherds and posthole 130, with 28 sherds.

Slightly later assemblages suggestive of an early-mid 2nd century date were recovered from pit 133 and grave 129. The vessel from cremation 121 could be later 1st or 2nd century in date.

The assemblage conforms to those previously documented from Sea Mills and also illustrates some of the problems with material from this location. The native wares and early Severn Valley wares suggest some form of 'native' settlement, but the early imports indicate a military presence. The quantity and range of imported material is considerably less than that from other interventions at Sea Mills, in particular that at Abon House (Ellis 1987) but is perhaps more comparable to that from Nazareth House to the south-east (Bennett 1985). This might suggest the present site lies within a *vicus* located outside the military complex. Whilst there is material clearly extending into the early-mid 2nd century, there does not appear to be any later Roman wares present.

### Catalogue of illustrated sherds

1. Ring-necked flagon. Fabric: OXSY. Ditch 119 (148).
2. Handmade, beaded rim jar. Fabric: CALC. Ditch 119 (145).
3. Globular beaker. Fabric: WILBW. Ditch 119 (143).
4. Lid-seated beaker /jar decorated with barbotine dots. Pale brown sandy fabric with traces of a white slip. Fabric: WSOX. Ditch 119 (143).
5. Grooved rim shallow dish. Fabric: WILBW. Ditch 119 (143).
6. Small necked bowl. Fabric: WILBW. Ditch 119 (143).
7. Handmade beaded rim jar. Fabric: CALC. Ditch 119 (120).
8. Hemispherical bowl with simple rouletted decoration loosely copying samian form Drag. 37. Fabric: OXF. Ditch 119 (120).
9. Bowl copying samian form Drag. 29 decorated with simple rouletting. Fabric: OXF. Ditch 119 (120).
10. Handmade, simple everted rim jar. Burnished exterior and interior of rim. Fabric: WILBW. Ditch 119 (120).
11. Wide-mouthed everted rim jar with a carinated shoulder. Fabric: WIL BW. Ditch 119 (120).
12. Two sherds from a large, reeded rim flagon with a vertically burnished neck and wide strap handle. Well-fired grey surfaced ware with a white sandy fabric. Fabric: GYSY. Ditch 119 (120).
13. Jar with an internally concave rim with four pierced holes made before firing. Grey sandy, slightly micaceous fabric. Fabric: GYSY. Cremation (111), SF 3.

### Animal Bone

By Dr Lorraine Higbee

#### Introduction

The assemblage comprises 864 fragments (c.7kg) of animal bone, all of which is from late 1st to early 2nd century contexts. Bone was collected by hand and from the

Species	Hand-recovered	Sieved	Total
cattle	86	3	89
sheep/goat	88	10	98
pig	10	2	12
horse	2		2
dog	2	29	31
red deer	3		3
domestic fowl	1	1	2
fish		2	2
rodent		1	1
<b>Total unidentified</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>240</b>
large mammal	156	8	164
medium mammal	65	11	76
mammal	89	295	384
<b>Total unidentified</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>624</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>864</b>
% Total	58	42	100

Table 1 Number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by recovery method.

sieved residues of seven bulk soil samples (Table 1), and is generally in good condition. Only 28% of the 864 bone fragments recovered from the site are identifiable to species and skeletal element.

#### Results

Most (78%) of the identified bones belong to sheep/goat and cattle. Less common species include pig, horse, dog, red deer, and domestic fowl, as well as a few fish and rodent bones.

Both cattle and sheep/goat are represented by a range of different body parts, indicating that the assemblage includes waste material from different stages in the carcass reduction sequence. However, there is proportionally more butchery waste from the processing of cattle carcasses in the assemblage than other types of refuse. The presence of relatively large amounts of butchery waste suggests that cattle were butchered on or in close proximity to the Site since this type of material is rarely disposed of far from its point of origin. For example, the group of bones from ditch fill 120, which the pottery evidence suggests was deposited in a single occupation episode, includes the butchery waste from at least ten cattle.

Age information for livestock species is limited but indicates the presence of neonatal, juvenile and adult sheep/goat. Seven complete sheep/goat mandibles were recovered and these are from animals aged between 6–12 months and 4–6 years (after Payne 1973). Age information for cattle also indicates the presence of juvenile and adult animals aged between 18–30 months and old adult (after Halstead 1985). This information suggests that both sheep/goat and cattle were drawn from flocks and herds that were managed for a range of commodities.

All of the other species, with the exception of dog, are represented by less than 12 specimens each. However the fragment count for dog includes a part skeleton from context



143. This animal is an adult male (*os penis* present) with an estimated shoulder height of just 0.35m. The stature of this animal is towards the lower end of the size range established for Romano-British dogs (Harcourt 1974). The bones of the forelimb are noticeably bowed, and modern breeds of dog with this type of limb conformation include corgis, dachshunds and basset hounds.

It is also worth noting that red deer is represented by a post-cranial element (e.g. first phalanx) and two pieces of antler. The largest piece of antler is from context 143, and comprises the basal part of the beam just below the junction with the brow tine. Sections of antler have been removed from around the outside the piece using a saw to produce clean flat pieces, probably for object manufacture.

### Discussions

During the late 1st century the area is thought to have been used as a military supply base and previous excavations around Sea Mills (Ellis 1987; Levitan 1986; Higbee 2006) have produced small assemblages of animal bones that display some of the characteristics generally associated with military sites. These include a relatively high percentage of cattle bones and evidence for specialist butchery techniques, such as cured shoulder joints (see Dobney *et al* 1996, 26–7). The assemblage from No. 75 Sea Mills Lane includes slightly more sheep/goat than cattle bones, however, it is clear from the type of bone waste and the butchery evidence, that the assemblage includes the remains of a significant number of cattle and that these were butchered in a systematic way typical of Roman military practices (Seetah 2006).

### The Crouched Inhumation Burial (SK1)

By Dr Heidi Dawson

#### Introduction

Skeleton 1 consisted of the fragmented remains of a crouched inhumation burial. The bones were assessed in accordance with the IFA/BABAO guidelines (Brickley & McKinley 2004). Sex was determined by analysing the morphology of the skull and mandible as outlined in Brickley & McKinley (2004) and Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). Age at death was determined through epiphyseal fusion and dental development (Scheuer & Black, 2000) and with reference to the dental attrition chart of Brothwell (1981: Fig. 3.9). The material was too fragmented to record any measurements, but non-metric traits were scored as present, absent or un-recordable according to Berry & Berry (1967), where possible.

#### Preservation

The preservation of the skeleton was very poor with most of the bone elements in a very fragmentary state. The skull fragments were mainly eroded, exposing the cancellous bone (diploe) on the ectocranial (external) surface, whilst the endocranial (internal) surface was more intact. This suggests that the preservation of the burial may have been affected by conditions of fluctuating groundwater. The enamel crowns of the dentition were present and intact for some of the teeth,

although many were represented only by small fragments of enamel. Some of the roots were retained within the jaw bones, but it appears that the dentine component of the teeth had been lost through taphonomic processes.

#### Sex

No sexually dimorphic areas of the pelvis or skull were present, so assignment of sex was based on the mandible, projected size of the femoral head, and with reference to the photograph of the burial *in-situ*. The mandible is gracile with a smooth gonial area and slight mental eminence indicating a more female morphology. The femoral head was incomplete, so measurements could not be taken, however, it appears small visually. The photograph of the skeleton *in-situ* shows a flat and upright frontal bone and a lack of muscular markings. These features all suggest that this individual is most likely to be female.

#### Age

The head of femur was fully fused, with no obvious fusion line in evidence, indicating this individual to be over sixteen years of age. Due to the poor preservation of the dentition, developmental stage could not be assessed, and whilst this individual did not have their third molars erupted, it is not uncommon for these to be congenitally absent or impacted. There was evidence for dental attrition on some of the intact teeth with the left lower first molar scored as 2+ or 3– according to the chart of Brothwell (1981), indicating an age of between 17–25 years of age. There was only slight enamel wear on the upper second molars; the evidence suggests this individual was *between 16 and 25 years of age*.

#### Palaeopathology

No sign of calculus, carious lesions or periodontal disease was noted on the dentition, although due to the poor preservation, the presence of these in life cannot be ruled out entirely. Slight enamel hypoplasia was in evidence on three of the identified tooth crowns. Enamel hypoplasia is caused by disruption to the growth of the enamel due to stress suffered by the developing child, often in terms of illness or nutritional deficiency. The timing of the development of the canine teeth suggests an episode of stress in this individual's life between 2–5 years of age (Scheuer & Black 2000, 159).

#### Discussion

The remains of SK1 appear to represent a young adult female aged around 16–25 years at death. Although preservation is poor, this individual appears to have had a good dentition with little dental attrition and no caries in evidence. Enamel hypoplasia on the canine teeth indicates a stress episode suffered in childhood. No other pathology or unusual non-metric traits were recorded. The crouched nature of the burial suggests the continuation of local burial practice common in the south west from the mid–Late Iron Age (Evans *et al.* 2006). The cemetery at Poundbury, Dorset illustrates changing burial practice over time from crouched burial in the late Iron Age/early Romano-British periods to extended inhumation burial in the late Roman period (Farwell

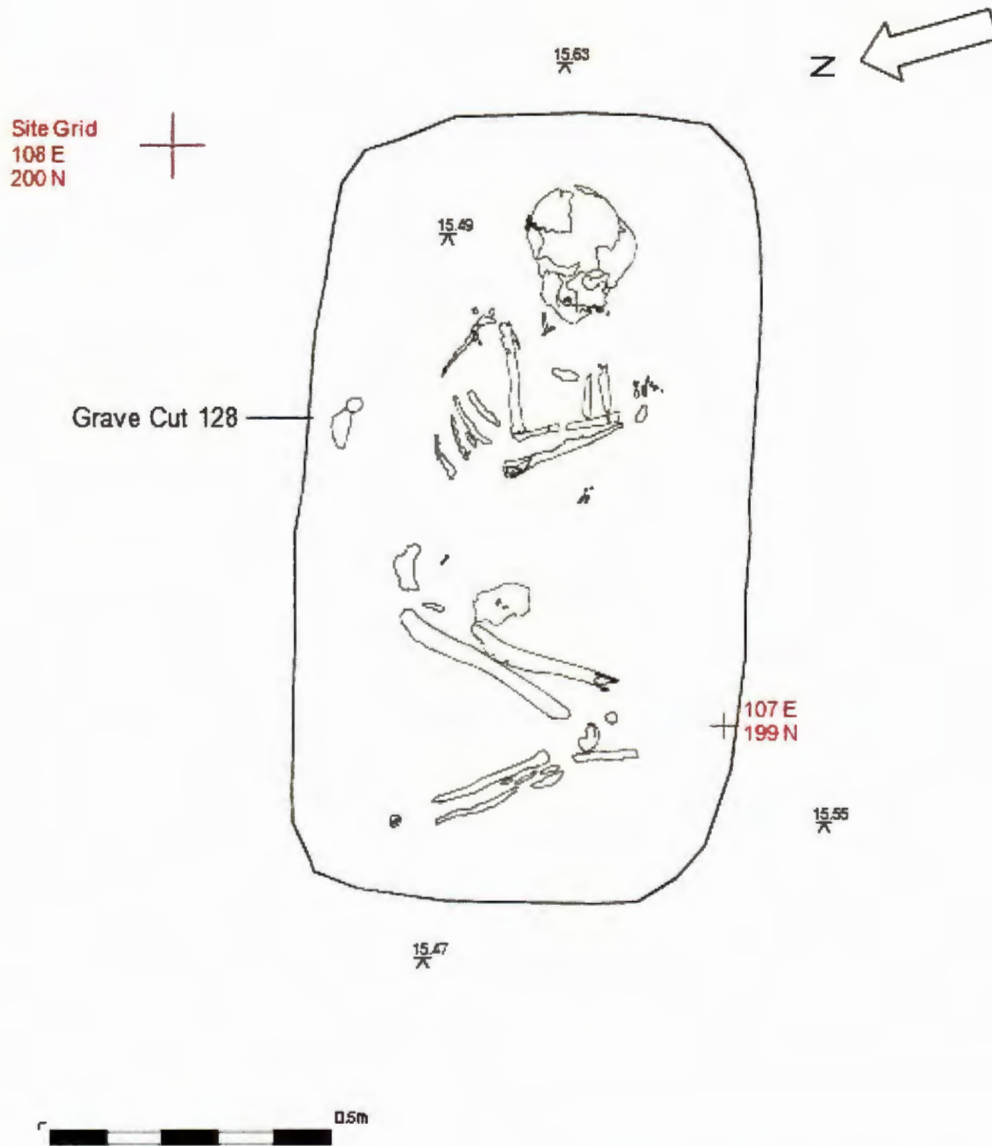


Fig. 8 Plan of crouched burial SK1.

& Molleson 1993). Previous excavations have uncovered burials from the Sea Mills area, three were excavated in 1945–46; two of these were crouched, one associated with a coin dating to the first century AD, and one was an extended supine coffined burial (Boon 1945). Several burials, dated to the fourth century AD, were excavated from Sea Mills Lane in 1967–68, these were of extended inhumations (Ellis 1987). The crouched nature of SK 1 indicates a likely early date for this burial.

**Cremated Bone**

**By Jacqueline I. McKinley**

**Introduction**

Cremated remains from two contexts were received for analysis. Both probably derived from grave 154, cut through the upper fill of ditch 119, and comprised the *in situ* remains of an urned burial (121) and redeposited bone from the surrounding ditch fill (120). The latter had become mixed

with charred and unburnt animal bone but was probably redeposited from the slightly damaged vessel in which some bone was visible at surface level. The vessel form indicates an early Romano-British date for the burial.

**Methods**

Osteological analysis followed the writer’s standard procedure for the examination of cremated bone (McKinley 1994a, 521; 2000; 2004a). Age was assessed from the stage of skeletal and tooth development (Beek 1983; Scheuer and Black 2000), and the general degree of age-related changes to the bone (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Sex was ascertained from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (*ibid.*; Gejvall 1981; Wahl 1982).

**Results and Discussion**

**Taphonomy**

The grave had survived to a depth of c0.18m, the vessel acting as an urn being damaged above the shoulder. Despite



some bone being evident at surface level and the recovery of a small quantity of bone (10.8g; c1.6% of the overall weight of bone recorded) from the adjacent ditch fill, it is unlikely that much bone was lost from the deposit as a result of disturbance. Although in this case there is no data to demonstrate the location of the bone within the urn (the fill all being recovered as one rather than by spit), evidence from elsewhere has illustrated that the majority of the bone tends to lie in the lower 80–100mm depth of the container. The bone is visually in good condition and trabecular bone, generally the first to be lost in an adverse burial environment (McKinley 1997, 245; Nielsen-Marsh *et al* 2000) is well represented. Overall, it is likely that the quantity of bone recovered is close to that originally deposited.

#### *The individual*

The 656g of bone recovered from the burial (plus 10.8g from the ditch fill) represent the remains of an adult male, c35–45 years of age, and is inclusive of a minimum of 140g (c21% by weight of the total) of cremated animal bone (pig <2 years; species identifications by Lorrain Higbee).

The only pathological lesions observed comprise enthesophytes, bony growths which may develop at tendon and ligament insertions on the bone. Causative factors include advancing age, traumatic stress, or various diseases (Rogers and Waldron 1995, 24–25). They are commonly seen as here in the anterior surface of the patella (slight-mild, right side) where they reflect activity related stress. Slight lesions recorded along parts of the iliac crest (pelvis) and in the left lesser trochanter (femur) probably have a similar aetiology.

Minor morphological variations/non-metric traits, were observed in the patella (shallow Vastus notch) and mandible. Features in the latter suggest retention of a deciduous tooth and the related non-eruption of a permanent tooth (bone fragment too small to ascertain exact location).

#### *Pyre technology and mortuary rite*

The bone is almost universally white in colour indicating an overall high level of oxidation (Holden *et al* 1995a and b). Minor variations reflecting incomplete oxidation were, however, observed in a few bone fragments. Slight blue or grey colouration was seen in parts of several fragments of various elements of upper and lower limb. Elements of the latter were most frequently affected (three; femur shaft, patella, tarsals), with involvement of two elements of the upper limb (humerus shaft and a carpal). The variations are relatively minor and generally affect those elements with dense soft tissue coverage or which are likely to have lain on the peripheries of the pyre (hands/feet). It has been observed that the greatest variability in oxidation in the Romano-British period is generally seen in the remains of adult males, their larger bulk requiring longer to cremate in full and, consequently, being more prone to a shortfall particularly if a 'standard', 'one-size-fits' all pyre is employed (McKinley 2008a).

The quantity of bone recovered represents c41% by weight of the average expected from an adult cremation

(McKinley 1993); the proportion is reduced to c33% when the known weight of animal bone is excluded from the overall figure, but is probably somewhat less than this given the obvious size and robusticity of this individual. The quantity falls at the lower end of the median range of those weights recorded from contemporaneous cemeteries (McKinley 2004b, Table 6.6).

The fragmentation of cremated bone is influenced by a variety of intrinsic and extrinsic factors exclusive of human manipulation with the deliberate intent to fragment (McKinley 1994b; 2004b). The majority of the bone from the burial was recovered from the 10mm sieve fraction (51% excluding the <1mm fraction, c46% if the latter is included), with a maximum fragment size of 43mm. As is generally observed, there is no evidence indicative of deliberate manipulation of the bone aimed at reducing the size of the fragments prior to burial.

Most cremation burials of any period (unless substantially disturbed) will include fragments of elements from all four skeletal areas (skull, axial skeleton, upper and lower limb). The identifiable proportions from each are often skewed from what may be referred to as a 'normal' distribution due to the ease with which skull fragments may be recognised, the difficulties in distinguishing individual long bones and the frequent taphonomic loss of trabecular bone (predominantly axial skeleton; McKinley 1994a, 6; McKinley 2004b, 298–9). In this case, a relatively low proportion of the bone was identifiable to skeletal element (c33% by weight excluding the known quantity of animal bone). The distribution (by weight) is, however, not far removed from 'normal', though the bias in favour of skull elements at the expense of the axial skeleton previously discussed is evident; c27% skull elements, c8% axial skeleton, c17% upper and 48% lower limb.

The small bones of the hands and feet and tooth roots no longer *in situ* are routinely recovered from cremation burials, and the writer has discussed elsewhere how their frequency of occurrence may provide some indication of the mode of recovery of bone from the pyre site for burial (McKinley 2004b, 300–1). Relatively large numbers of these elements have been recorded from some contemporaneous cemeteries, e.g. 27–32 from the burials at Kingsley Fields, Nantwich, Cheshire (McKinley 2009), but elsewhere much small quantities have been found, e.g. Wall, Staffordshire (maximum 13 elements; McKinley 2008b, 136) and Brougham, Cumbria (McKinley 2004b, 298–301). At Sea Mills, a fairly substantial number of hand and foot bones were identified (18), and the implication is that collection was facilitated by raking-off and winnowing of the cremated remains rather than individual hand-recovery of fragments, thereby easing the recovery of the smaller skeletal elements as well as the larger ones.

The inclusion of animals, part or whole, on the pyre was a common facet of the Romano-British rite, though the frequency of occurrence varied widely ranging from 3.5% of burials from Westhampnett, West Sussex (McKinley and Smith 1997) to 80% of urned burials from Wall (McKinley 2008b, 126–7). The substantial quantity of animal bone



from burial 121 at Sea Mills is, however, slightly unusual for the period. Most contemporaneous examples involve small quantities of bone, such as the <10g (maximum 5% total weight) from most of the burials inclusive of cremated animal bone at Brougham (though there were also a few unusual exceptions at this site; McKinley 2004c). The species represented is, however, the most popular in this period, possibly for ritual reasons linked to 'legalisation' of graves via pig sacrifice rather than simply as a food offering (Barber and Bowsher 2000, 72–3; McKinley 2004c; Toynbee 1996, 50). Such offerings may represent 'food' for the deceased or have been symbolic in other ways (*ibid.*, 50); in this instance, the skeletal elements recovered and age of the animal suggest a 'side' (left) of pork may have been included on the pyre. Elsewhere in Continental Europe at this time animal remains appears to have been consistently included on most pyres and subsequently within the burials (80%) with, as here, pig comprising the usual species (Wahl 2008, 150).

## Small Finds

By Sarah Newns

### Introduction

A small number of small finds was retrieved during the excavation, all of Romano-British date. Metalwork makes up almost half of the assemblage and includes an iron knife blade, an illegible coin, three brooches and two nail cleaners. A further five small find numbers were assigned to ceramic groups including the two cremation urns and three vessel groups (see pottery report above). The remainder of the small finds comprise a stone hone fragment, two undecorated body fragments of vessel glass, a fragment of a worked shale platter, a possible unworked jet fragment and a fragment of a sandstone slab.

### Metalwork

#### Copper alloy

Personal objects of copper alloy, including brooches, nail cleaners and a possible coin make up the majority of the metalwork. The coin, Small Find 6, is sub-circular, approximately 21mm maximum diameter, with some edge damage. Corrosion on both faces has obscured any trace of inscription.

Two of the three brooches came from Ditch 119, and one from the intermediate fill of Pit 123, Context 141. Two of the brooches are penannular in form. The larger and more complete example, Small Find 16 (Fig 9.1), measures 28.5mm in diameter, has a circular section, is undecorated and has returned terminals clamped perpendicularly to the plane of the ring. The pin is complete, wrapped around the ring and is also undecorated. The second penannular brooch, Small Find 7 (not illustrated), is smaller, 16mm maximum diameter, but similar in design, with one surviving clamped terminal and slightly distorted form. Plain penannular brooches of this type are present on sites of 1st century A.D., but their use continued at least into the 2nd century A.D. (Mackreth 2008, 71; Viner 2007, 743). A small

penannular brooch with rolled terminals was found during the excavations at nearby Nazareth House in 1972 (Bennett 1985, 30) and a further penannular brooch with ducks head terminals from excavations at Abon House in the mid-1960s (Butcher 1987, 47).

The remaining brooch, Small Find 7 (Figure 9.2), is a bow brooch of probable Aucissa type, with a wide, flat, tapering bow with central longitudinal raised rib and terminal foot knob. The catch-plate survives, but the pin is fractured. The flared head-plate and cross-bar have possible iron corrosion adhering, suggestive of possible iron content. Aucissa brooches were introduced into Britain from the continent at the Roman conquest, and they are found predominantly in the south of the country, in contexts dating c.A.D.43 to A.D. 70 (Butcher 1982, 105–6, no.1; Crummy 1983, 8–10; Viner 2007, 741). A badly damaged example was retrieved during the 1967 rescue excavations at 87, Sea Mills Lane (Butcher 1987, 45–6).

The remaining copper alloy small finds are both nail cleaners, Small Finds 1 (Figure 9.3) and SF 10, the first complete and the latter in a fragmentary condition. Small Find 1, the more complete example, came from Context 135, the deposit overlying the later trackway metalling or repair (105). The nail cleaner is an example of a Crummy type 1, 39.5mm long, with integral suspension loop, a straight, flat shaft decorated with longitudinal grooves and a bifurcated terminal (Crummy 1983, 57–8). Small Find 10 is more fragmentary and consists of a fractured rod-shaped shaft, 27mm long, with a suspension loop which disintegrated on excavation. Circular inscribed decoration is visible towards the top of the shaft. This example, from the intermediate fill of Ditch 119, is a probable Crummy type 1b, with an offset and tapering shaft (Crummy 1983, 58).

Type 1 nail cleaners are dated by Crummy to the mid to late 1st century A.D., possibly continuing into the 2nd century (*ibid.*). Nail cleaners are relatively common finds on Romano-British sites in southern Britain, but they are comparatively rare on the continent. As a small number of the British examples pre-date A.D. 43, it has been suggested that some, if not all, may be of local production, and that native metal-workers increased their output in order to supply the newly arrived Roman market (Crummy 2001, 3). Further research by Crummy also suggests that nail cleaners are largely associated with smaller towns and rural sites rather than military and highly "Romanized" ones (Crummy 2004, 7). At Sea Mills, which was both a military base and, later, both a military and civilian settlement (Ellis 1987, 100–101), a further possible nail cleaner was recovered as one of a number of toilet implements during the 1966 excavations at Abon House (*op.cit.*, 48–9).

#### Iron Objects

With the exception of a small number of nails, which were not recorded as small finds, the only iron object was a heavily corroded iron blade, Small Find 9, in two fragments, whose original form is almost completely obscured by corrosion. The blade came from context 120, the upper fill of Ditch 119, Sondage A. The fractured surface shows a tapering



section through the original blade, encased in iron corrosion products. The width of the blade (29mm) is consistent with examples of Roman knives recovered from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 111) and Atworth villa, Wiltshire (Bircher 2008, 88). Knife blades were also recovered from the excavations at Nazareth House and Abon House, Sea Mills (Bennett 1985, 32; Ellis 1987, 56–7).

*Worked Stone*

Four fragments of worked stone were recovered, which included a fragment of possible jet and a worked shale fragment. The shale fragment, Small Find 18 (Figure 9.4), measures 89mm by 59mm by 8mm and is an edge fragment of a large shale tray or platter (Crummy 1983, 69), recovered from the upper fill of Ditch 119. The edge is vertical, with a broad bevel towards the upper surface, which is decorated with a border design of two parallel groups of three shallow incised grooves. A close parallel to the present example was excavated at Colchester (Crummy 1983, 69 & Fig. 74, 2021), where the overall design was shown to be three

parallel groups of grooves. Similar trays/platters, either rectangular or circular, were in relatively common use in south-west Britain in the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. and their use continued into the 3rd century (Cool 2008, 97). Two worked shale fragments, a dish fragment and an armlet fragment, were recovered from the excavations at Abon House in 1965–6 (Ellis 1987, 68).

A small fragment of possible jet, unworked, Small Find 19, came from the upper fill, Context 124, of Pit 123. The presence of unworked jet may seem unusual, as the nearest source is probably the Blackstone beds at Kimmeridge, Dorset (Watts, in Cool 2008, 92). A jet bead from the excavations at Abon House is thought to have been manufactured at Whitby, where there was a thriving jet industry during the Roman period (Guido 1987, 63).

The two remaining worked stone fragments came from the intermediate fill, Context 143, of Ditch 119. Small Find 12 (Figure 9.5) is a fragment of a rectilinear honestone of fine-grained micaceous sandstone with a bevel along one edge, measuring 167mm by 35mm by 16mm. A large flat

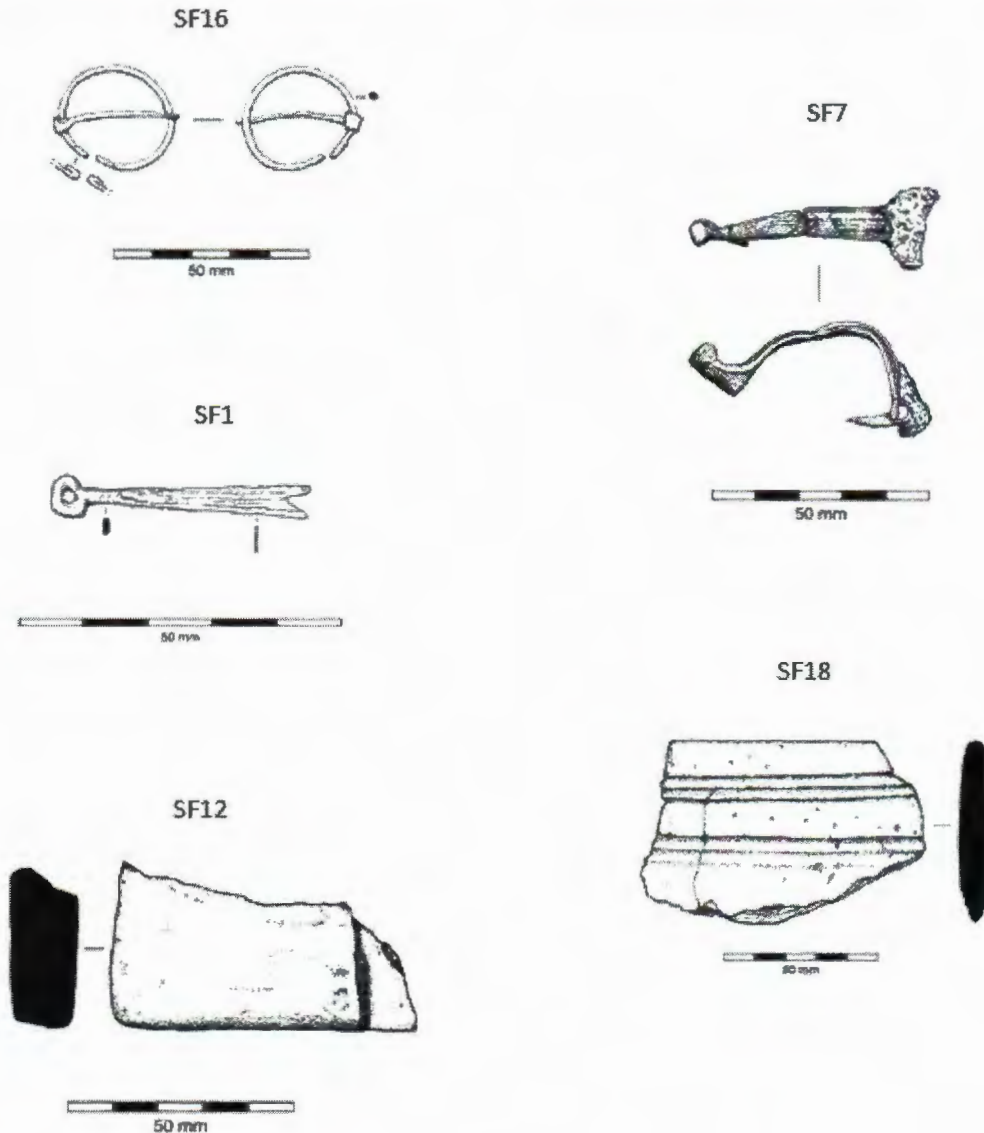


Fig. 9 The small finds.

hone stone was recovered during the 1966 Abon House excavations (Ellis 1987, 65). Hones such as these cannot be independently dated and could have been used for sharpening not only tools, but also household utensils or weapons (Cool 2008, 98).

The remaining worked stone fragment is a block of micaceous sandstone, roughly 80mm square in plan, 42mm thick, with a smoothed upper surface. It is possible that the object is a fragment of paving slab, or possibly a fragment of a stone table-top, or other architectural stonework (Cool 2008, 108–9).

### *Glass*

Two Romano-British glass vessel shards were recovered from the evaluation, one, Small Find 5, from the upper fill of Pit 123 and one, Small Find 20, from the upper fill of Ditch 119. Small Find 5 is a pale blue, thick-walled vessel glass shard, similar to a shard recovered from the same pit during the previous evaluation (Young 2005, 14). The second shard, Small Find 20, of pale green vessel glass of varying thickness, from the upper fill, Context 120, of Ditch 119. During the Nazareth House excavations of 1972, thirty shards of Romano-British glass were found, most of them vessel fragments of blue-green glass, dating to the late 1st to 2nd centuries A.D. (Price 1985, 51–2). The excavations of 1965–7 yielded 104 vessel fragments of similar date (Cool and Price 1987, 92–7). Blue-green glass represents the “natural” colour of the glass, without the addition of colouring agents and as such it was the most common colour for Romano-British glass vessels from the 1st to the 3rd centuries A.D. (Price and Cottam 1998, 15).

### *Discussion*

The assemblage encompasses a range of objects, from personal items including nail cleaners, to tools such as a knife blade and hone-stone, all of which may have derived from either a domestic or a military context. With the exception of the pottery (see pottery report), the metalwork is probably the most diagnostic part of the assemblage. The Aucissa brooch is likely to be of military origin and to have been imported from Gaul at some time before A.D.70. The two penannular brooches have a longer life-span, extending into the 2nd century, and may be of local origin. Similarly, the nail cleaners may be of local manufacture, of probable mid to late 1st century date, but these, too, may also be found in 2nd century A.D. contexts.

The most unusual of the small finds are the possible jet fragment and the fragment of worked shale platter, which may both derive from Purbeck, Dorset. The platter is likely to be of 1st to 2nd century A.D. date on stratigraphic grounds, although this is one of the few objects in the assemblage whose use continued into the 3rd century A.D.

## **DISCUSSION**

### *The site-specific evidence*

The Romano-British activity recorded at 75 Sea Mills Lane is dated by pottery and typologically to the late 1st to early

2nd century AD, after which the Roman presence appears to have declined significantly and was confined to the continued use and repair or resurfacing of the trackway. The Period 1 features divided into two phases that produced similar ceramic material. The initial phase of Roman activity dates to the Flavio-Trajanic period, broadly between AD 69 and AD 120, despite the presence of some pre-Flavian pottery sherds. The activity associated with this phase includes the construction of the trackway, digging of three postholes and the small boundary ditch and its infilling. The trackway was carefully metalled and may have been a continuation of Ellis’s Street F70 that he identified to the northeast as the earliest of the worn cobble trackway surfaces at Abon House (Ellis 1987).

Close by to the trackway at 75 Sea Mills Lane, each of the larger posthole features had a profile consistent with use for the founding of a timber, although it is difficult to know what the timbers were used for as they varied in size and formed no particular pattern. However, one possibility is that they were individual, unconnected posts, perhaps markers associated with the phase 2 cremation and inhumation burial-related activity.

Finds from the fills of the ditch point to a contemporary area of more intensive settlement activity nearby, almost certainly upslope to the south. One element of this activity seems to have been the fairly intensive and systematic processing of cattle carcasses, which is reportedly consistent with more organised and larger-scale military practices, although more sheep/goat than cattle bones were recorded from the site. Less common species identified at 75 Sea Mills Lane include pig, horse, dog, red deer, and domestic fowl, as well as a few fish and rodent bones. These relative proportions and implied importance are consistent with the analysis of the animal bones from Nazareth House (Levitan, in Bennett, 1986), where cattle also formed the major part of the assemblage.

The evidence associated with the earliest phase of Roman activity indicates that the site was marginal to the main focus of settlement, where activity was of relatively low intensity and different from the burial-related activity that characterised the phase that followed.

Phase 2 dates from the early to mid-2nd century (c120–150 AD) and saw the filling of the postholes, resurfacing or repair of the trackway and the burial of one, or probably two, urned cremations and a single crouched inhumation.

In plan the extent of the resurfacing or repair layer hints at the possibility that the trackway may have either turned or forked to the northeast or east at the point at which it was found, a possibility supported by a total absence for the track beneath House Plots 1 and 2. No equivalent resurfacing of the trackway was evident at No. 79 Sea Mills Lane, whilst the later formation of Street F70 at Abon House incorporated side drainage as part of an altogether more engineered road construction.

The presence of at least one, and most likely two, inverted urned cremations and the crouched burial, combined with Roman urned and cisted cremation burials recorded next door at No.79 Sea Mills Lane, suggest that Nos. 75 and



79 Sea Mills Lane occupy part, or all, of a dispersed early to mid-2nd century burial ground. However, the relatively low total number of burials suggests the burial ground was not intensively used. Moreover, the crouched burial (SK1), probably that of a young woman, points to a civilian presence in the settlement and a continuation and tolerance of indigenous late Iron Age burial practices alongside Roman cremation, something that has been recorded previously by Boon in 1945 at Hadrian Close, Sea Mills and noted at other locations in the region, including the early Roman cemetery at London Road, Gloucester (Simmonds *et al* 2008). The likely date of the burial, combined with its orientation, suggest it is non-Christian, and its position, alongside ditch 119, could indicate that the burial took place whilst the ditch was in use.

Finds from the soil layer that sealed the later trackway produced a small collection of pottery sherds that date to the mid-2nd century AD. On that basis, it is reasonable to suggest that the track fell out of use by the end of the 2nd century and that Street F70 recorded by Ellis (1987) was not maintained for very far beyond the late Roman stone building recorded at Abon House.

### **Burials**

Roman burial custom required that human remains be interred outside the boundary of settlements, thereby ensuring that the houses of the dead and, moreover, the bodies therein that were considered polluting, were kept separate from those of the living. This practice appears to be applied consistently throughout the Romanised world, although the treatment of infant remains seems to have been less rigid.

In the context of this strict code several writers have noted the problematic issue of Roman cremation and inhumation burials at Sea Mills, some of which appear to lie within the focal precinct of the earlier military station and the later urbanised *vicus*, as they are both known. Higgins (2004) notes that this apparent anomaly has yet to be resolved satisfactorily and adds weight to the apparent inconsistency by proposing hypothetical boundaries for both a 1st century AD occupation fort and the later urban *vicus* (*ibid*, Figs 2 and 3), both of which, if correct, would seem to have incorporated a number of inhumation burials, in particular those recorded in the area of Hadrian Close by Boon, and the 1st – 2nd century AD cremations and crouched burial from 75 and 79 Sea Mills Lane. Higgins (*op. cit.*) suggests that the anomaly could be explained in the context of a marginal and rough Roman outpost town where the normal rules governing disposal of the dead were not as strictly adhered to. However, parallels to support this suggestion are rare and it is perhaps more productive to interpret the evidence from 75 and 79 Sea Mills Lane in terms of normal Roman burial convention, whereby the cremation and crouched burials lay outside the boundary of the contemporary later 1st – early 2nd century occupation area. Accordingly, the extent of the occupation fort proposed by Higgins (*ibid*, Fig. 2) remains plausible if it is moved slightly upslope, to the southeast, thereby placing both the metallised trackway (Ellis's Street F70) and the cremation, cisted and crouched burials from Nos 75 and 79 Sea Mills Lane, outside and to the north

of the contemporary occupation precinct. On the basis of current limited evidence for the earlier occupation phase at Sea Mills, this would be consistent with the locations of cremation burials recorded at Nazareth House (Bennett 1985, Area C, Trench 1), Hadrian Close (Boon 1947) and at the former Public Conveniences on Sea Mills Lane (Young 2011), placing the Nazareth House cremations well outside the occupation precinct and those recorded by Boon close to, but outside, a southwestern entrance.

The presence of the crouched female inhumation at 75 Sea Mills Lane in a late 1st to early 2nd century context is consistent with a civilian population and the notion of local continuity of Late Iron Age burial practice for at least some of the inhabitants of the earlier Roman settlement, a phenomenon that is documented elsewhere in the region (Simmonds *et al* 2008), and at Sea Mills, by the crouched burial recorded by Boon (*ibid*, Skeleton 1) in the area of modern Hadrian Close. That individual, whilst not closely dated, was male and, on the basis of form alone, also fits the notion of a continuity of earlier burial practice for some of the civilian inhabitants, with the body laid in a shallow pit on its left side with legs drawn up, although on a different alignment to the female burial at 75 Sea Mills Lane.

Early Roman burials at Sea Mills were clearly not confined to a single cemetery as the excavations by Bennett at Nazareth House also recorded part of a cremation cemetery of similar early 2nd century AD date (Bennett 1985, Area C). Bennett concluded that the cremations were probably associated with the civilian settlement and were neither important nor rich individuals since grave goods were restricted to a few unexplained iron nails. As at the 75 Sea Mills Lane site, the rite of cremation appeared to have been undertaken away from the burial site with only a token number of the remains kept for burial. Here, too, the cremation urns were inverted, a practice that has been interpreted to reflect part of burial ritual (Grinsell 1975), although a practical means of affording the remains some protection seems equally plausible. Bennett also recorded a series of inhumation burials; none were crouched and a number were irregular, deposited in quarry pits or laid face-down. These latter were considered to represent illicit, non-Christian burials probably dating to the early 2nd century.

An exclusively early date for Roman cremation burials at Sea Mills is complicated by an urned cremation burial recorded during the redevelopment of the former Public Conveniences at Sea Mills Lane (Young 2011) about 125m to the west of the present site, which was deposited in an inverted Black Burnished Ware vessel dating to the 3rd century AD (Timby, in Young 2011).

### **CONCLUSION**

Ellis (1987) recorded two contemporary timber buildings at nearby Abon House alongside Street F70 (Fig.10) that probably dated to the early 2nd century, although the use and overall form of the buildings were not established with any certainty. They were replaced by a series of substantial masonry buildings during the mid to late Roman period (Fig.11).



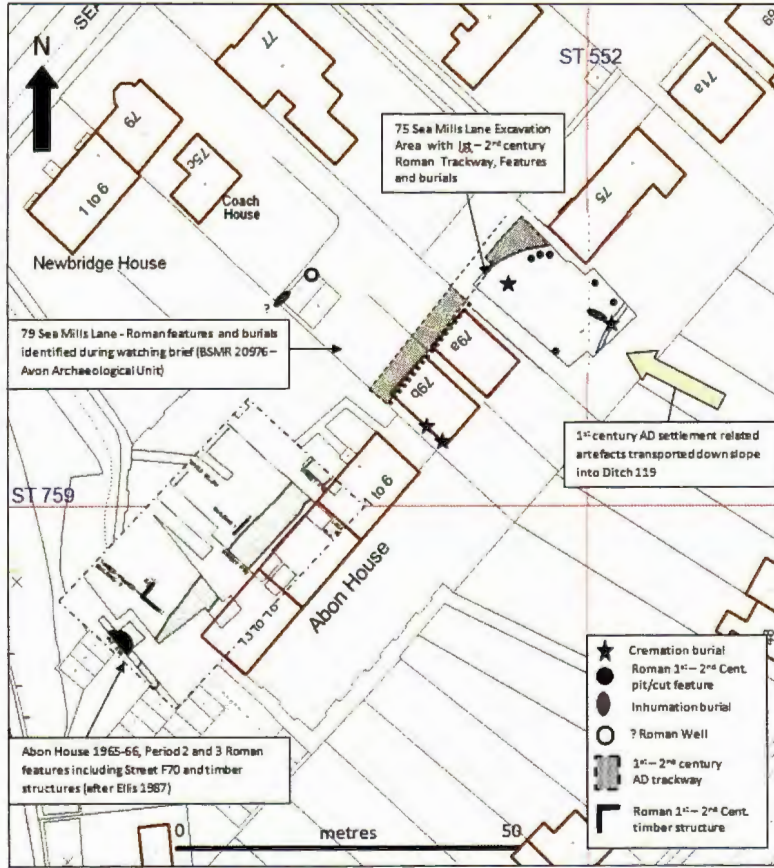


Fig. 10 Schematic plan showing location of 1st-2nd century AD Roman archaeology at Nos 75 and 79 Sea Mills Lane and Abon House (after Ellis).

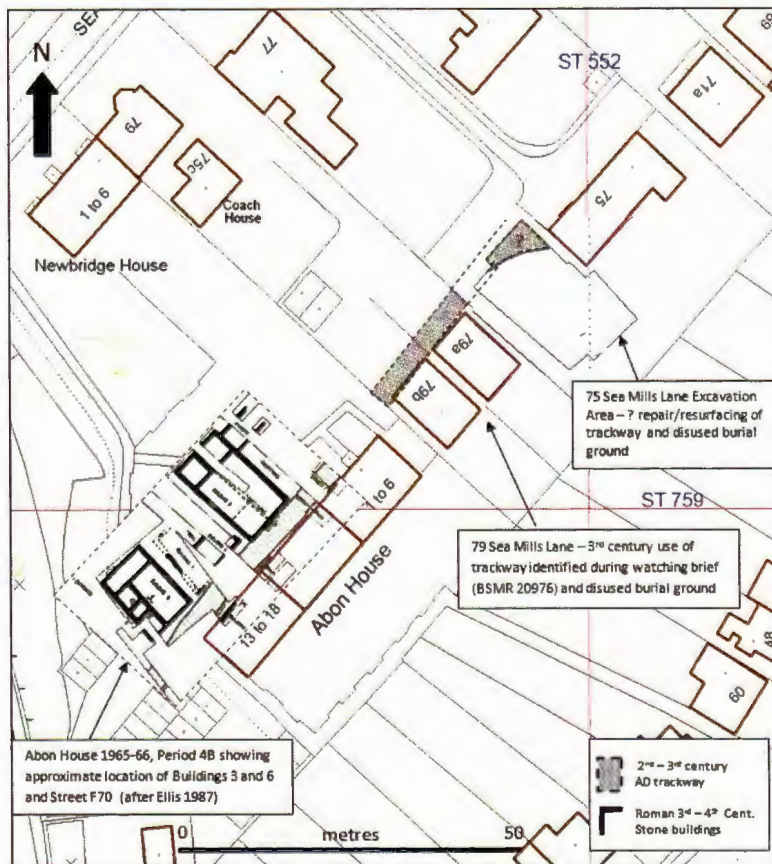


Fig. 11 Schematic plan showing location of later Roman archaeology at Nos 75 and 79 Sea Mills Lane and Abon House (after Ellis).



This pattern of activity fits with the hypothesis that envisages later 1st – early 2nd century AD military activity, and specifically settlement, restricted to a core area on higher ground to the south and west of the 75 Sea Mills Lane site, an area broadly consistent with the conjectured site of an occupation fort proposed by Higgins. On that basis the cremation and crouched burials recorded at Nos 75 and 79 Sea Mills Lane would have been located outside and to the north of the boundary of the military settlement, consistent with established Roman burial practice.

The absence of any evidence for significant activity on the site after the mid-2nd century is surprising given the substantial stone buildings and related domestic activity recorded as Period 4 by Ellis at Abon House (see Fig. 9). Higgins (*ibid*, Fig 3) suggests that the later Roman *vicus* expanded beyond the footprint of the earlier Occupation fort, but still within a larger overall defensive circuit that was defined during the earlier phase by an earth rampart (or even a wall at 51 Roman Way (Ellis, *ibid*, p43) on the south and north eastern sides, and the Trym and Avon to the north and west. The total absence of later Roman activity on the 75 Sea Mills Lane site, and indeed at adjacent property No. 79, does not necessarily exclude this possibility, indeed the apparent cessation of burial-related activity on both sites around the middle of the 2nd century may well imply a change of land use from funerary to settlement related activity, possibly cultivation. If so, this would be consistent with the suggestion by Ellis (*ibid*), that the development and expansion of the later Roman settlement was accompanied by a lessening of overall urban organisation with some areas remaining essentially unused, at least for direct occupation.

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# EXCAVATION OF A LATE MEDIEVAL HEARTH AT NO. 31 HIGH STREET, CHIPPING SODBURY, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 2013

By Simon Cox

*With contributions by E.R. McSloy, Jonny Geber, Andy Clarke and Sarah Cobain*

*An archaeological excavation and watching brief were undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology prior to construction of a new pedestrian bridge crossing the River Frome to the rear of no. 31 High Street, Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire. These revealed masonry remains of a truncated late medieval hearth or oven structure. A curving gully, two truncated masonry walls and a further masonry structure may have been contemporary with the hearth/oven, although dating evidence was sparse, and stratigraphic relationships had been removed by a later, post-medieval, truncation event. Although no evidence for the function of the hearth/oven was revealed during excavation, it is conceivable, given its riverside location and date, that the hearth/oven was associated with the town's leather or cloth industry.*

## INTRODUCTION

In March 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation, followed by archaeological watching brief in April and May 2013, at no. 31 High Street, Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: ST 7268 8227; Fig. 1) for MIDAS Retail Limited, in accordance with a specification prepared by Michael Heaton, Archaeological Consultant. The excavation was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new footbridge across the River Frome, providing access to a new Waitrose supermarket and housing development being constructed on the north side of the river, with a watching brief also undertaken during the construction phase. These investigations are significant as little archaeological work had previously been undertaken or published in the historic core of the medieval planned town. The site is situated in the north-west quadrant of the historic core, on the north side of High Street and approximately 50m west of St John the Baptist parish church.

The area subject to the excavation and watching brief comprised the rear garden plot of no. 31 High Street which, prior to the archaeological excavation, was covered in rough vegetation and exposed topsoil. The site is bordered to the north by the Frome, to the west and east by rear garden plots of commercial and residential properties, and to the south by no. 31 High Street. The site slopes down from approximately 96.5m aOD nearest the High Street end to c. 91.5m at the northern end, nearest the Frome. The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Clifton Down Mudstone formation of the Dolomite-Mudstone Carboniferous Period

(BGS 2013). A limestone bedrock overlain by a dark orangey-brown clay was observed during both excavation and watching brief.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical setting of the site is described in greater detail within a desk-study for the adjacent site (Heaton 2007a) and English Heritage's Extensive Urban Area Survey (La Trobe-Bateman 1996), which are drawn upon in the summary here. Chipping Sodbury, or '*sobburie*' as it was originally known, was a 'planted town' (a new urban settlement built to a preconceived plan) founded in the parish of Old Sodbury probably in the mid to late 12th century by William Crassus I, the Lord of the Old Sodbury Manor, who is known to have died in 1179 (*ibid.*, 2). The Charter Rolls of Henry III record the granting of a market charter to William Crassus the elder in 1216/17, and although the word 'Chipping', derived from Old English for 'market', does not appear in documentary records until 1452, it seems likely there was a market here from the early 13th century (*ibid.*, 2). The town has retained the broad High Street and long thin 'burgage' plots characteristic of other planned towns such as Downton (Wilts) and Winchelsea (Essex) (Heaton 2007a). It is likely that the whole of the main street was used as a market in the medieval period, with its focus near to the east end of Broad Street, close to the present day Market Cross. The foundation of the planted town in this location was probably due to commercial considerations. It lay on high and reasonably dry ground close to a good supply of water, and was crossed by two important routes, the Droitwich salt route and the Bristol to Cirencester road. The town would have been an important stopping place for travellers in the medieval period, and is likely to have had several taverns and inns, and also probably became heavily involved in the cloth and leather industries (*ibid.*). Indeed, it may have derived much of its wealth from these industries, and limited documentary evidence of both cloth and leather industries in the early post-medieval period survives. This includes the will of Richard Colymore, who died in 1557, which makes it clear that weaving was an important industry in the town; in addition, the chantry chapel of the parish church is dedicated to St Katherine, the patron saint of weavers (La Trobe-Bateman 1996, 3).

Whilst no evidence of *in situ* stratified medieval remains had previously been identified in the town, limited



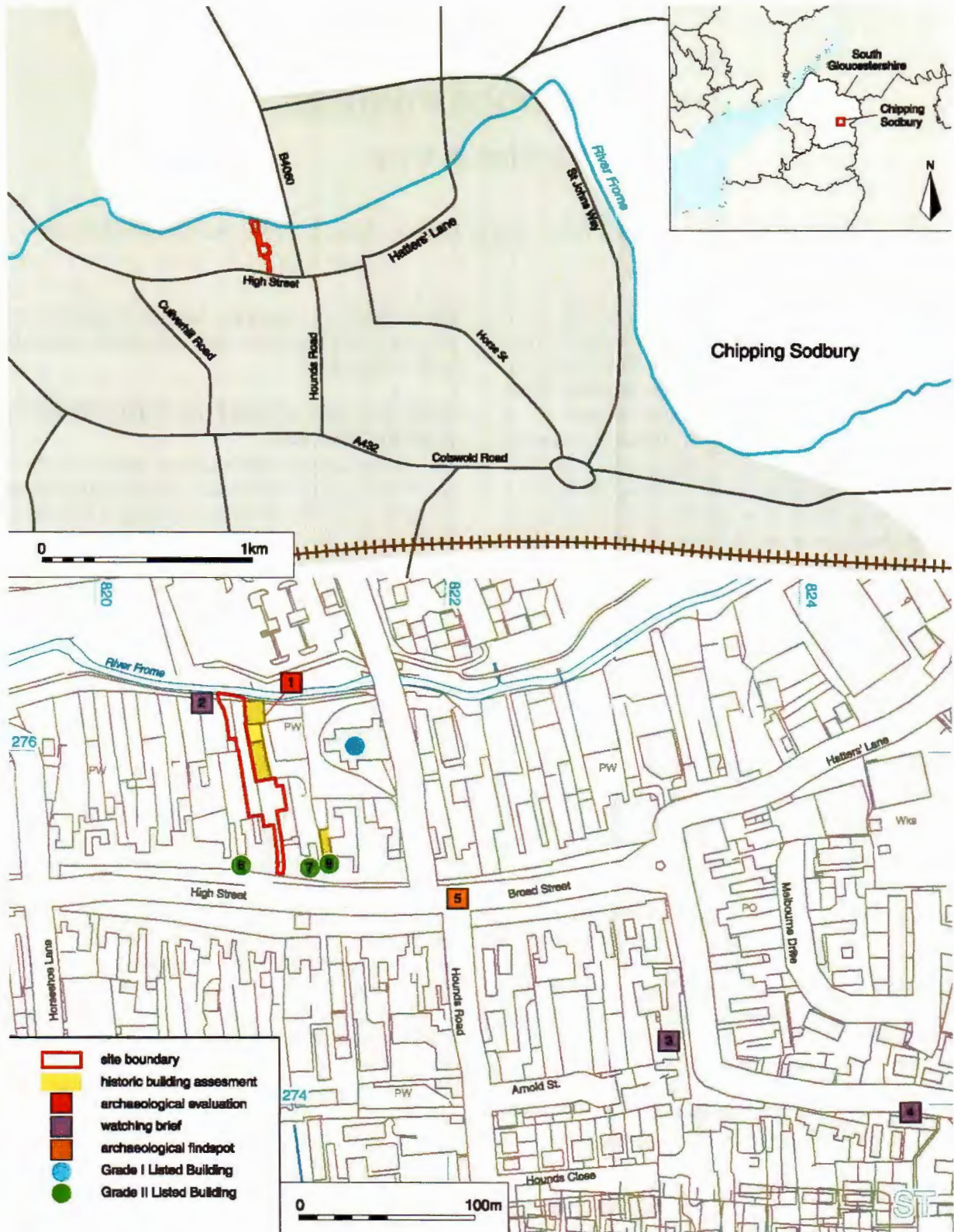


Fig. 1 Site location (scales 1:25,000 and 1:3,000).

earlier investigations and comparison with other medieval planned towns suggested deep ‘made-ground’ deposits might occur throughout the town above the preserved remains of medieval foundations, floor structures and yard surfaces, along with cess, quarry and rubbish pits (Heaton 2012). South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record

(SGHER), consulted during the course of the project, notes an alleged findspot of two Iron Age gold coins now in the British Museum (Fig. 1, 5), and a small number of previous investigations within the town (Fig. 1, 1–4). These include Watching Briefs at nos. 21 High Street (Fig. 1, 2), 24 Horse Street (Fig. 1, 3) and 66 Horse Street (Fig. 1, 4), and a trial



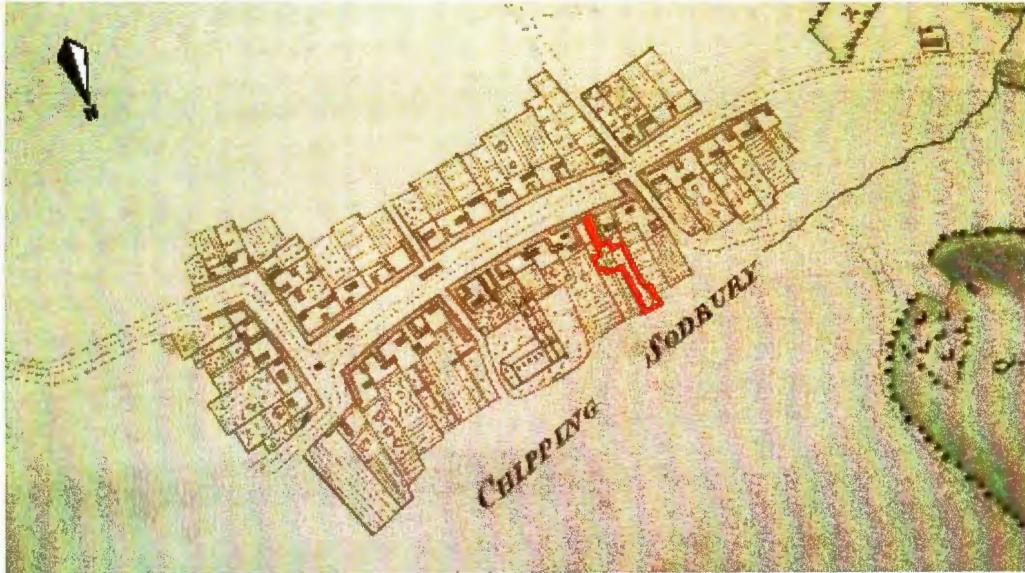


Fig. 2 Survey of the Codrington Estate 1768-1771 (GRO: D1610 P18) (courtesy Gloucester Record Office).

trench evaluation and historic building assessment at no. 37 High Street (Fig. 1, 1). The watching briefs were very limited in nature, and the SGHER mentions no *in situ* remains being recorded, although the watching brief at no. 21 High Street noted a 2m build-up in ground levels at the north end of the site. All three SGHER entries for watching briefs note the potential for the survival of medieval remains, whilst investigations at the adjacent site (no. 37 High Street; Fig. 1, 1; Heaton 2007b) revealed two large masonry structures of probable 19th-century date, probably associated with timber preparation, and discontinuous subsoils (indicative of truncation) sealed beneath deposits of 19th and 20th-century 'made ground'. However, no medieval remains were identified at that site.

Evaluation of the current site in 2010, comprising two trial trenches (Fig. 3, inset), revealed no evidence of earlier cultural activity at the southern end, but a stone-built possible hearth/oven structure and associated surfaces of probable post-medieval formation were revealed at the northern end of the site, beneath *c.* 1.7m of humic garden soils and reclamation dumps (Heaton 2010). Those remains appeared to be laid directly on 'natural' clay subsoil, suggesting a relatively shallow stratigraphic sequence, and contained no dateable artefacts (Heaton 2012).

Of the large number of Listed buildings within the town, those immediately west of no. 31 High Street are listed by the SGHER as being of late 16th to early 17th-century date (nos. 25 & 27 High Street; Fig. 1, 6), whilst those to the east are of late 17th-century date (no. 35 High Street) and mid to late 17th-century date (no. 37 High Street) (Fig. 1, 7 & 8). A survey of the Codrington Estate by James Maule, dated 1768-71, depicts the development site falling largely within two long rear garden plots behind properties fronting the High Street, the gardens separated by a broadly north/south-orientated wall (Fig. 2). A further north-south orientated wall is evident in the north-western part of the development area.

## METHODOLOGY

The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a trench in the location of the oven/hearth structure, which lay within the area of the new bridge abutment (the excavation area) and watching brief during the construction groundworks, as illustrated on Fig. 3.

All excavations were undertaken using mechanical excavators equipped with toothless grading buckets. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to formation level, the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand, and surveyed and recorded in accordance with standard Cotswold Archaeology surveying and fieldwork recording systems.

Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the artefacts from these investigations will be deposited with Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, along with the site archive.

## RESULTS

### Medieval to late post-medieval (1066-1800)

The limestone bedrock was overlain by 0.25m of natural clays, a weathered silty clay, between 0.1m and 0.28m thick. Cut into this, circular pit 1023 contained a single fill, 1022, from which animal bone and iron nails were recovered (Fig. 3). Pit 1023 was sealed by a silty clay deposit 1035, which in turn was partially covered by the remains of a truncated circular masonry structure 1012, interpreted as a hearth of approximately 2m diameter (Figs 3, Plate 1). The hearth was set in a construction cut, 1033, containing a bedding layer, 1016, for the construction of a curving limestone wall, 1018, of which three courses survived, and within which was set a pitched-stone floor, 1017. There were signs of burning on the surface of the hearth. Where it was sealed beneath the hearth, deposit 1035 yielded 14th to 15th-century pottery and animal bone, and bedding layer 1016 contained pottery



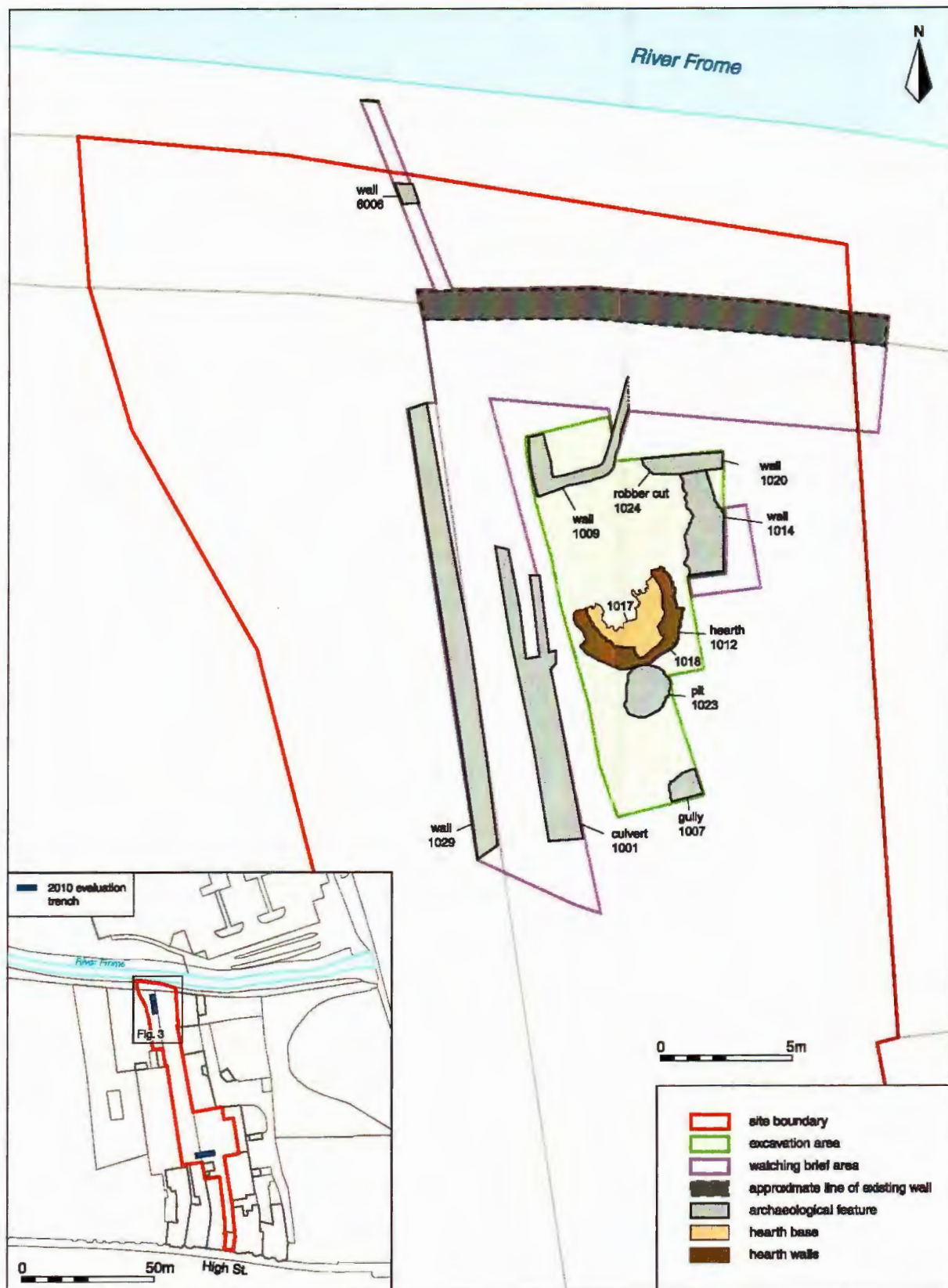


Fig. 3 Plan of excavation and watching brief areas, showing archaeological features (scales 1:2000 and 1:200).



Plate 1 *Hearth 1012, looking south (scale 1m).*

of the same date. Elsewhere within the excavation trench, where silty clay 1035 was found to be truncated rather than sealed by other structures, it contained medieval pottery and animal bone, along with a few sherds of later (16th to 17th-century) pottery. Given the truncated nature of the deposit it is possible these later sherds are intrusive.

In the south-eastern corner of the excavation area was curved gully 1007, which also cut silty clay deposit 1035, and which yielded a single sherd of 13th to 15th-century pottery.

Within the north-eastern part of the excavation area lay walls 1014 and 1020 (the latter visible only in section), both of which had been truncated by robber cut 1024, such that a relationship between them could therefore not be determined. The robber cut yielded medieval and post-medieval pottery, suggesting a 16th-century or later date. Overlying walls 1014 and 1020, and robber cut 1024, was a silty clay make-up deposit 1010, from which two sherds of 17th to 18th-century pottery were recovered.

To the north-west, limestone wall 1009 formed a broadly U-shaped structure extending beyond the limit of excavation. The wall comprised limestone blocks bonded with a white lime-based mortar, and was interpreted as a possible cess pit. The recess within was filled with a dark grey silty clay from which fragments of 17th to 18th-century pottery were recovered.

Across the entire site a truncation/levelling event occurred (cut 1034), partially removing hearth 1012 and walls 1009 and 1014. Associated pottery suggests this is likely to have occurred in the 18th century. Following truncation, ground level was raised through the dumping of various deposits prior to the construction of a north/south boundary wall 1029, and an east/west riverside wall 6006. The existence, by the late 18th century, of the north/south wall, and possibly that of the riverside wall, is suggested on the survey of the Codrington Estate (Fig. 2). Both walls were butted by thick make-up deposits containing 18th-century pottery.

#### Modern (1801–present)

Along the western limit of the excavation area was north/south culvert 1001, butted by an east/west limestone and cement wall, 1030 (not illustrated), which also butted the north/south boundary wall 1029. These walls were sealed

by topsoil approximately 1m thick, from which 18th to 19th-century pottery was recovered.

## THE FINDS

### Pottery

By E.R. McSloy

A total of 73 sherds (997g) of pottery, all dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods, was recovered. The assemblage has been scanned by context, sorted by fabric and quantified by sherd count, weight and rim EVEs (Estimated Vessel Equivalents). Fabric codes used in Table 1 (and in parentheses below) correspond to those of the Bristol Pottery Type series (Ponsford 1988 and 1998).

### Medieval

A small group of 40 sherds weighing 408g (0.22 EVEs) was recorded. Material from topsoil and some make-up deposits was redeposited, occurring in association with post-medieval or later material. All is well fragmented, with some abrasion noted among the redeposited material.

In composition (Table 1) the medieval group comprises material originating from Bristol and from the north Wiltshire/Cotswolds area. Sherds of Cotswolds type limestone-tempered (BPT 18) and unsourced unglazed sandy coarsewares may date as early as the 11th or 12th century. The majority, including Bristol glazed ware (BPT 118) and Thornbury-type glazed ware (BPT 121) date to the 'High Medieval' period of the 13th and 14th centuries. Wheelthrown Minety ware (BPT 84) may be of equivalent date or as late as the 15th or early 16th century. Few vessel forms are identifiable: a base sherd and a strap-handle sherd in Bristol glazed ware from layer 1003 come from jugs; Minety rim sherds from deposits 1003 and 1035 derive from globular jars and resemble those from 14th-century deposits in Bristol (Fig. 4; no. 1), and a bowl sherd in the same fabric from deposit 1018 is also probably of 14th to 15th-century type (Fig. 4; no. 2).

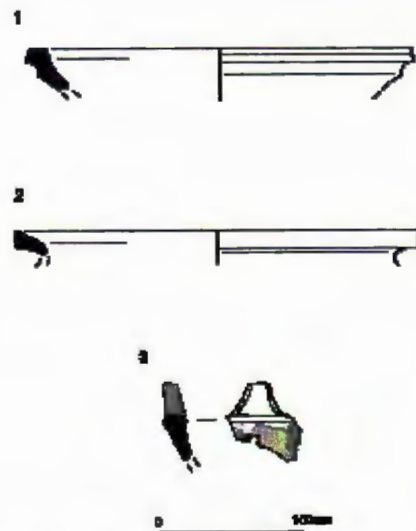


Fig 4 *The pottery (scale 1:4).*



BPT	Description	Date range	Ct.	Wt. (g)	EVEs
<b>Medieval</b>					
118	Bristol glazed ware	c. 1250–1450	11	101	-
18	Oolitic limestone-tempered (Cotswolds type)	c. 1100–1300	2	26	-
84	Minety ware (wheelthrown)	c. 1250–1500	16	190	0.12
-	Unsourcesd sandy glazed/unglazed wares	c. 1100–1500	7	73	0.10
121	Thornbury type glazed wares	c. 1250–1400	4	18	-
<i>Sub-total</i>			<b>40</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>0.22</b>
<b>Post-medieval</b>					
197	Malvern Chase oxidised	c. 1400–1600	7	189	0.11
266	Falfield Cistercian wares	c. 1550–1650	1	1	0.03
285	Glazed red earthenwares (prob. Somerset)	c. 1600–1800	11	240	0.07
211	Mottled brown glazed (Bristol or Staffs)	c. 1680–1800	1	3	-
112	North Devon Gravel-tempered	c. 1650–1800	1	15	-
268	South Somerset (sgraffito-decorated)	c. 1550–1800	2	41	-
96	Wanstrow type glazed earthenwares	c. 1550–1750	1	8	-
95	Westerwald stoneware	c. 1690–1800	2	49	-
186	White salt-glazed stoneware (Midlands)	c. 1720–1780	1	3	-
100	Yellow slipware (Bristol or Staffs)	c. 1690–1800	5	35	-
326	Creamware (Midlands)	c. 1690–1800	1	5	-
<i>Sub-total</i>			<b>33</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>0.27</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>73</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>0.49</b>

Table 1 Pottery summary quantification by sherd count, weight (grammes) and rim EVEs (Estimated Vessel Equivalent). BPT = codes from the Bristol Pottery Type series (Ponsford 1988; 1998).

#### Late medieval 'transitional' and post-medieval

Pottery attributable to this period, which extends across the 15th/16th to 18th centuries amounts to 33 sherds and weighs 589g (0.27 EVEs). Earliest material comprises sherds of Malvern-type oxidised wares (BPT 197), a type very characteristic of Bristol pottery groups dating to the 15th and 16th centuries. Identifiable forms in this fabric are limited to probable jugs with strap handles and, most interestingly, a chafing dish from deposit 1035 (Fig. 4; no. 3). The latter vessel compares to 16th-century examples from Deansway, Worcester (Bryant 2004, 305–7; Fig. 188.10–11). A small cup sherd in Cistercian-type ware (BPT 266) from layer 1003 probably dates to the 16th century.

Glazed earthenware types, most or all from Somerset (BPT 96; BPT 268; BPT 285) are dateable across the mid-16th to 18th centuries. Among these types are sgraffito-decorated of South-Somerset type (BPT 268) including a bowl sherd from deposit 1000. The remaining assemblage, which is largely derived from topsoil and make-up deposits, comprises types (BPT 95; BPT 100; BPT 112; BPT 186) typical of the later 17th and 18th centuries. The latest dateable type is a Creamware (BPT 326) sherd from make-up deposit 1003, which dates after c. 1740.

#### Stratigraphy (the dating of hearth 1012)

Pottery directly associated with hearth 1012 is restricted to three sherds from bedding layer 1016. In addition there are eight sherds from the underlying deposit 1035, where it was clearly sealed by layer 1016. The recorded material consists of medieval types, including glazed Minety-type (BPT 84) and Thornbury-type (BPT 121) wares. A bowl sherd from layer 1016, a Minety ware jar sherd from deposit 1035, where it was sealed beneath hearth 1012 (Fig. 5; nos

1–2), and internally-glazed Minety ware sherds from both contexts are supportive of later medieval date, in the range c. 1300–1500.

Where deposit 1035 was not sealed directly by hearth 1012, and therefore possibly subject to contamination, a further 14 sherds of pottery, mainly medieval types (BPT 84; BPT 118; BPT 121), were recovered. A sherd from a Malvern Chase chafing dish no. 3 and a second vessel of this form in Wanstrow fabric (BPT 96), give a 16th to 17th-century *terminus post quem*.

#### Illustrated pottery

- 1 Bowl with complex rim. Fabric BPT 84. Bedding layer 1016.
- 2 Jar rim (cf. Ponsford 1991, fig. 60, no. 103). Fabric BPT 84. Clay deposit 1035.
- 3 Chafing dish. Fabric BPT 197. Clay deposit 1035 (sealing pit 1023).

#### Faunal Remains

by Jonny Geber and Andy Clarke

A total of 100 fragments (1.3kg) of faunal material were collected from site (Table 2). The bones were generally well preserved, with very little cortical erosion evident. For the purpose of this report, the bones were identified to species and skeletal elements by using the CA osteological reference collection and reference literature (Iregren 2002; Schmid 1972). The bones were quantified by fragment count and weight, and were recovered from 12 deposits in association with finds dating from the medieval to late post-medieval period.

It was possible to identify 56% of the assemblage to species level. The bones of cattle (*Bos taurus*) dominated,

Context no.	BOS	O/C	SUS	GAL	LM	MM	OST	Total	Weight (g)
1000	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3.01
1003	7	1	-	-	9	-	-	17	253.52
1004	10	6	1	-	10	1	1	29	422.59
1006	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	0.16
1008	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	4	175.37
1010	3	3	-	-	3	1	1	11	99.28
1011	2	3	1	1	-	4	-	11	113.82
1015	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	6.35
1018	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	24.15
1021	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3	21.40
1022	3	3	1	-	4	1	1	13	164.91
1035	-	1	1	-	5	-	-	7	37.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,322.19</b>
<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>938.16</b>	<b>81.61</b>	<b>35.02</b>	<b>1.19</b>	<b>177.67</b>	<b>12.81</b>	<b>75.73</b>	<b>1,322.19</b>	

Table 2 Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight, and context. BOS = cattle; O/C = caprovine; SUS = pig; GAL = fowl; LM = large-sized mammal; MM = medium-sized mammal; OST = oyster.

followed by ovicaprid (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), and pig (*Sus scrofa* sp). In each case, these species were represented by both meat-rich and meat-poor skeletal elements, with evidence of carcass and joint preparation observed in both the cattle and pig remains. Chicken (*Gallus gallus*) was represented by a single tarso-metatarsus. In addition to the animal bone, three fragments of oyster shell were also recovered.

The animal and mollusc remains represent domestic refuse material, comprising both butchery and food waste. Beef and mutton were evidently of most importance in terms of protein intake in the diet, but pork contributed to a minor degree as well as fowl and seafood.

### Palaeoenvironmental evidence

By Sarah Cobain

One environmental sample (40 litres of soil) was retrieved from a single deposit with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity, and material for

radiocarbon dating. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures.

Sample 1 was recovered from bedding layer 1016 within hearth 1012, dating to the medieval period (c. 1300–1500). The sample contained two moderately well preserved free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum/durum*) grains (Table 3). A small amount of charcoal was recovered but was highly fragmented, preventing identification. The small number of cereal grains and the highly-fragmented nature of the charcoal suggests the ecofactual material from this feature may represent wind-blown firing debris from activity elsewhere on site.

### DISCUSSION

The excavation and watching brief revealed archaeological remains of late medieval to early post-medieval date, including pit 1023, gully 1007, walls 1014 and 1020, and the remains of a masonry hearth 1012, all of which were potentially contemporary and representative of former industrial or domestic use of the site. However, the remains

			<b>Context number</b>	1016
			<b>Feature number</b>	1012
			<b>Sample number (SS)</b>	1
			<b>Flot volume (ml)</b>	92
			<b>Sample volume processed (l)</b>	40
			<b>Soil remaining (l)</b>	0
			<b>Period</b>	M–PM
			<b>Plant macrofossil preservation</b>	Moderate
<b>Habitat Code</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	
E	Poaceae	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum/durum</i>	Free-threshing wheat	2
<b>Flot inclusions</b>				
Charcoal quantity				+ (s)

Table 3. Plant macrofossil identifications.

Key: E = economic species; + = 1–4 fragments; (s) = the majority of the charcoal fragments highly fragmented and too small to identify; M–PM = medieval to late post-medieval



were heavily truncated and poorly dated, and stratigraphic relationships between key features had been lost through later truncation.

Initially thought to be a possible bread oven (Heaton 2010), hearth 1012 is comparable with similar medieval structures excavated along the Redcliffe waterfront in Bristol, often associated with processes involved in dyeing or tanning, for instance the 13th to 15th-century circular hearths recorded during excavation at 1–2 Redcliff Street, Bristol (CA 2010). These were of similar date, diameter and construction to hearth 1012, and all displayed evidence for burning on the surface of their pitched stone floors. Given the structure's location at the lower end of the site, close to the Frome, a function as the base of an industrial structure, possibly related to the heating of vats related to tanning or dyeing processes, cannot be ruled out. The extensive urban survey attests to the town's involvement in the cloth and leather industries in the late medieval to early post-medieval period (La Trobe-Bateman 1996, 3), and this structure may represent the first physical evidence of such activity to be recorded. However, due to the severely truncated nature of the remains of hearth 1012 and associated structural remains, and the limited area investigated, further interpretation is difficult.

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Gloucestershire Record Office

GRO D1610 P18 James Maule's 1768–1771 Survey of the Codrington Estate.

# FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF IRVINE – THE DISCOVERY OF ROMAN BUILDINGS AT UPTON CHENEY

By Anthony Roberts

*With contributions by Kurt Adams, Dr Heidi Dawson and Jane Timby*

In 2012, following clues left by J.T. Irvine, best known for his work on the excavations on the Roman Baths in the city of Bath, Archeoscan located a series of Roman buildings alongside the old Roman road from Bath to Upton Cheney. Situated on the edge of the scarp of the Cotswold edge, the site enjoys a unique and breathtaking view towards Keynsham and the south of Bristol. It is exactly the kind of site that one might expect to be occupied as a desirable out-of-town residence by a successful artisan with strong connections to Roman Bath. In this article, the writer describes the circumstances of finding this exciting new site as Archeoscan embark on a longer-term exploration of the archaeology with a community based project open to members of the public.

## THE SITE

The site at Hanging Hill, east of Upton Cheney, was first noted by Scarth (1864) who wrote “*Adjoining the same road (from Upton to Bath) and nearer Upton, on the north side, remains of a villa were explored and a ring, fibula, coins, millstone etc. were found.*” In 1880, Irvine wrote “*Roman work was opened here enclosing a space of 87 yards by 56 – foundations of only two walls were discovered within the exterior boundary – coins, a ring, pottery, mill stones etc. were dug up*” (Irvine 1880). Clearly a building of Roman origin lay within this undulating pasture field at the head of a small valley. Examination of the original records of Irvine, that were located amongst the Irvine collection in the Bath Reference Library, showed that he indicated the site of the building in the western half of the survey field. A few sketch drawings of various villa sites accompanied a map but it was not clear whether any of them referred to this site. A site visit by P Jones, in 1981, for the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER 1190n-MSG2406) notes “*a few abraded red sherds found in the field.*” More recently, a local metal detectorist has found Roman material in the area which again appear to be concentrated in the southern and western parts of the field. Today, the steeply sloping field is under pasture and shows no visible signs of the structures that may have lain beneath.

Intrigued by this promise of a relatively unknown Roman site Archeoscan conducted a geophysical survey (Fig. 1) which also showed anomalies of a potential settlement in the central part of the field adjacent to the old Roman road that is now used as a bridleway to ascend the scarp. A number of potential archaeological features have been identified in

the magnetic survey and formed the basis of the selection of the trenches for the subsequent evaluation. The significant number of high magnetic linear anomalies indicate a large sub-rectangular enclosure within which there was the possibility of a number of buildings. These buildings are characterised by the rectangular arrangement of features within the perimeter ditch. The geophysical anomalies extend up the hill to the north-east and are possibly structures on terraces. The magnetic signature of these buildings is unusual. This was explained during the excavation of Trenches 1 and 3. The high magnetic linear features have the signature of a ditch. Excavation indicated that this signal had been given by the layers of fill between an artificially cut terrace on which the buildings stood and the back wall of the buildings. Combined with the soakaway drain that runs along the rear of the buildings, the effect manifests itself as a ditch on the geophysics. Consequently, it can be extrapolated that the other high magnetic linear features may be related to building walls terraced into the slope of the hill. The archaeology was subsequently discovered to be relatively deep on the site, hence the comparatively weak nature of the geophysical returns.

The only known archaeological intervention in the close vicinity of the site has been that conducted by Irvine previously described. A number of other confirmed and possible Roman sites are in the vicinity. The South Gloucestershire Historic Environment database (HER) notes possible Roman sites closer to the village of Upton Cheney (HER 1,255; 1,256; 13,843) identified by pottery fragments. A known Roman Villa is located at the head of the valley at Brockham End. The Brockham End building was also noted by Irvine as “*traces of Roman building occur at this place*”. Irvine also notes that a small stone coffin was discovered in association with the site at Brockham End. With the combination of this knowledge, and the recorded finds by the metal detectorist, the probability of the existence of a Roman settlement on this site was high.

Little archaeological evidence is available within the South Gloucestershire HER that aids the understanding of Roman occupation in the area. This site therefore presented a good opportunity to understand the chronology and advance the archaeological knowledge of the transition from the Iron Age to Roman period in the area. Consequently, the Hanging Hill Project was launched to determine the nature of the site. The aim is to achieve a greater understanding of the archaeology of the site and inform a longer-term



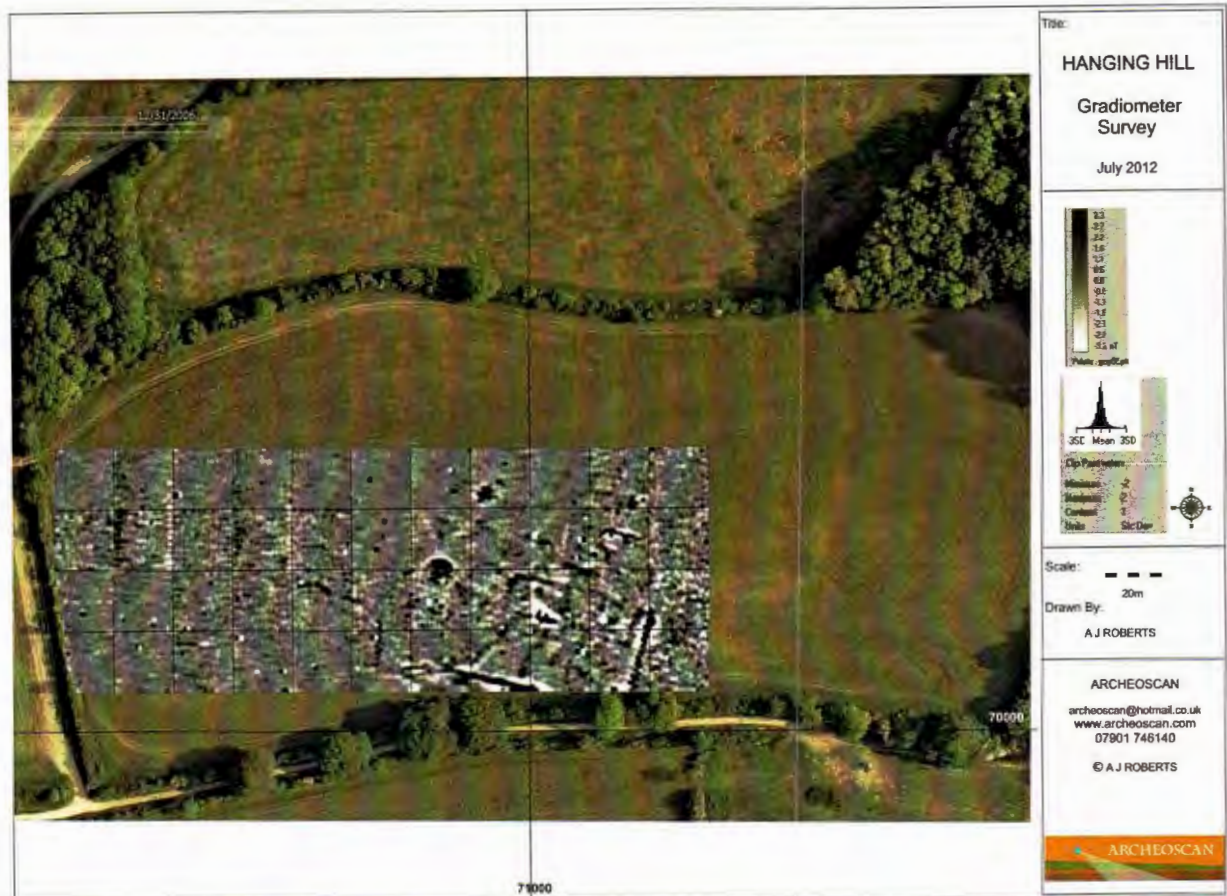


Fig. 1 Geophysical survey at Hanging Hill.

strategy to evaluate the archaeological sequence in greater detail. A further objective is to allow members of the public to gain practical experience of all aspects of work on an archaeological site

## THE EXCAVATION

In order to validate the geophysics and understand the nature and depth of the archaeological deposits a number of evaluation trenches were placed over interesting geophysical anomalies (Fig. 2).

### Trench 1 (Figs 3–4)

Trench 1 was located over a circular anomaly to the west of the site. The purpose of this trench was to determine the nature of the feature and the western extent of the site. The trench measured 5m x 1m and a maximum depth of 1.21m. To the north of the trench a terrace had been cut into the natural substrate (Context 105). On the resultant terrace a possible linear structure, oriented northwest–southeast had been constructed. Consisting of a single course of un-mortared, but dressed stone to the south side of the trench, larger flat stones were laid, possibly as flag or floor stones (Fig. 4). There were traces of mortar between these larger stones. Immediately above this level was a demolition layer containing medium-sized dressed limestone blocks. This was in turn covered by a dark silty, humic soil. Both of these layers contained significant levels of pottery

and animal bone. Fragments of samian ware pottery and fragments of painted wall plaster hint at the possibility of a higher status building in the vicinity, possibly slightly further south of the current trench. This was sealed by a clayey silt, an accumulation of hill-wash on the steep slope. Immediately above this was a thin blackish-red layer that had been subjected to a burning episode. The intensity of the burning increased towards the southern edge of the trench. The topsoil overlay this layer.

### Trench 3 (Figs 4–7)

Trench 3 was placed over the corner of a geophysical anomaly that suggested the corner of a rectangular range of buildings. The trench measured 5m x 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. In a similar fashion to Trench 1, the natural bedrock had been cut away to form a terrace on which a stone building had been constructed (Fig. 5). The evaluation did not excavate beneath this structure. The masonry wall was constructed of large limestone blocks firmly mortared in place. The exposed section of wall formed the northwest corner of a possible structure with the remnants of a simple mortar floor on the projected inside of the building. Between the terrace wall and the rear of the building a soakaway drain had been constructed (Fig. 6). It was oriented east–west and ran parallel to the rear of the building. The location would ensure that water draining down the hillside onto the terrace would be channelled away



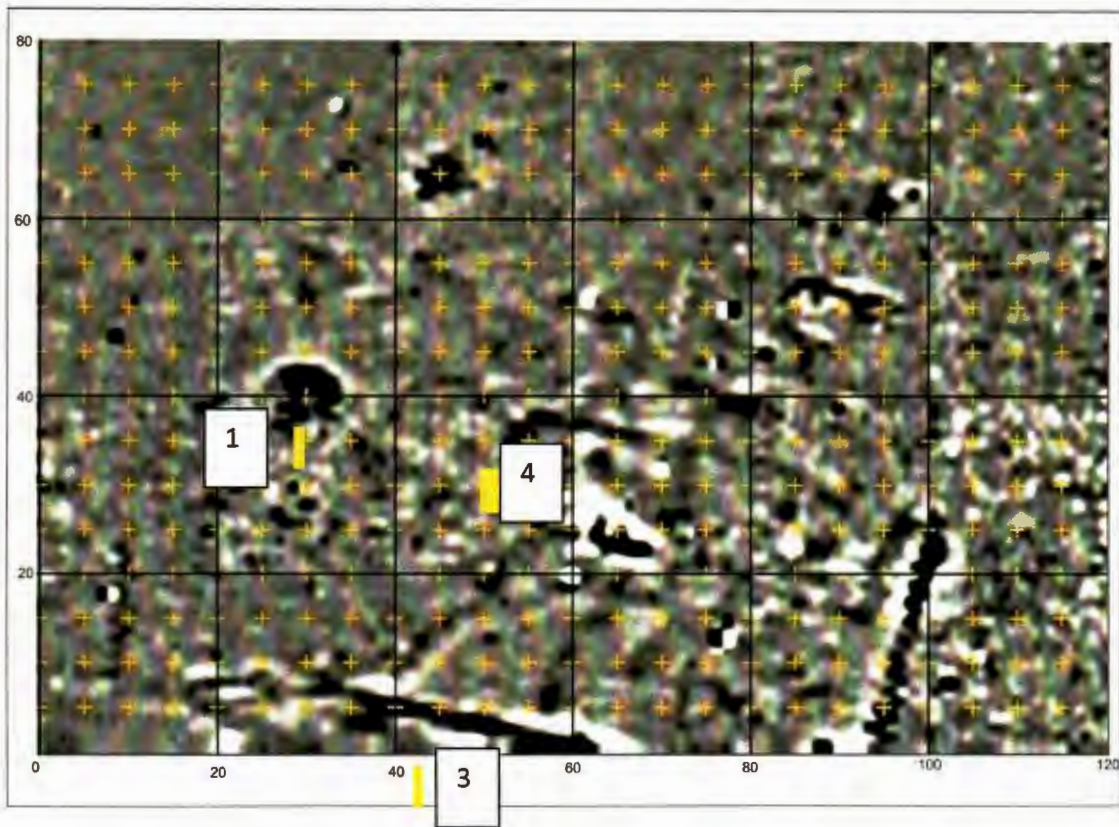


Fig. 2 Location of evaluation trenches.

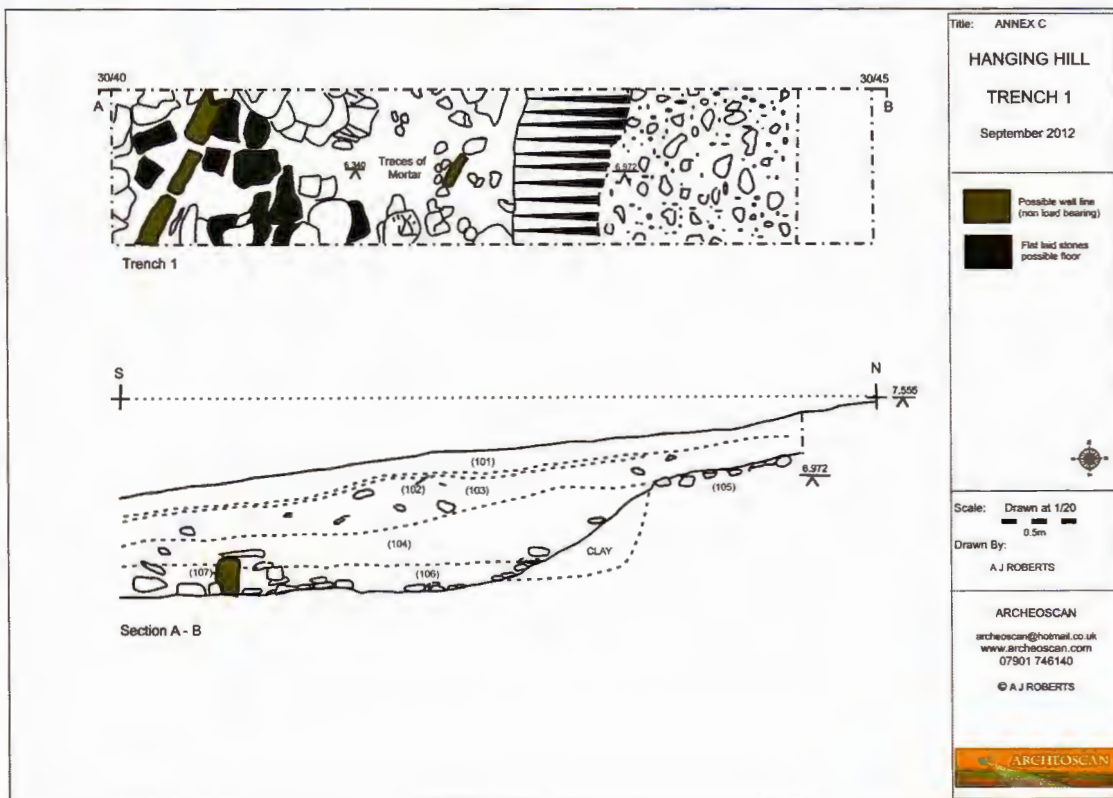


Fig. 3 Plan and section of Trench 1.



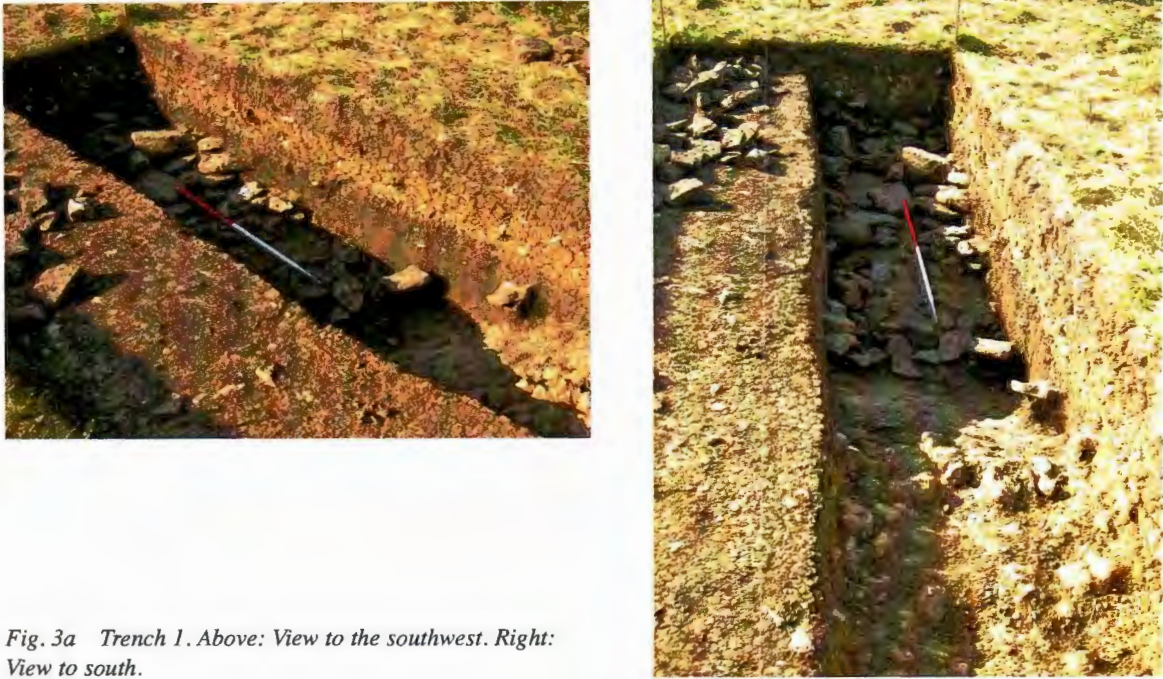


Fig. 3a Trench 1. Above: View to the southwest. Right: View to south.

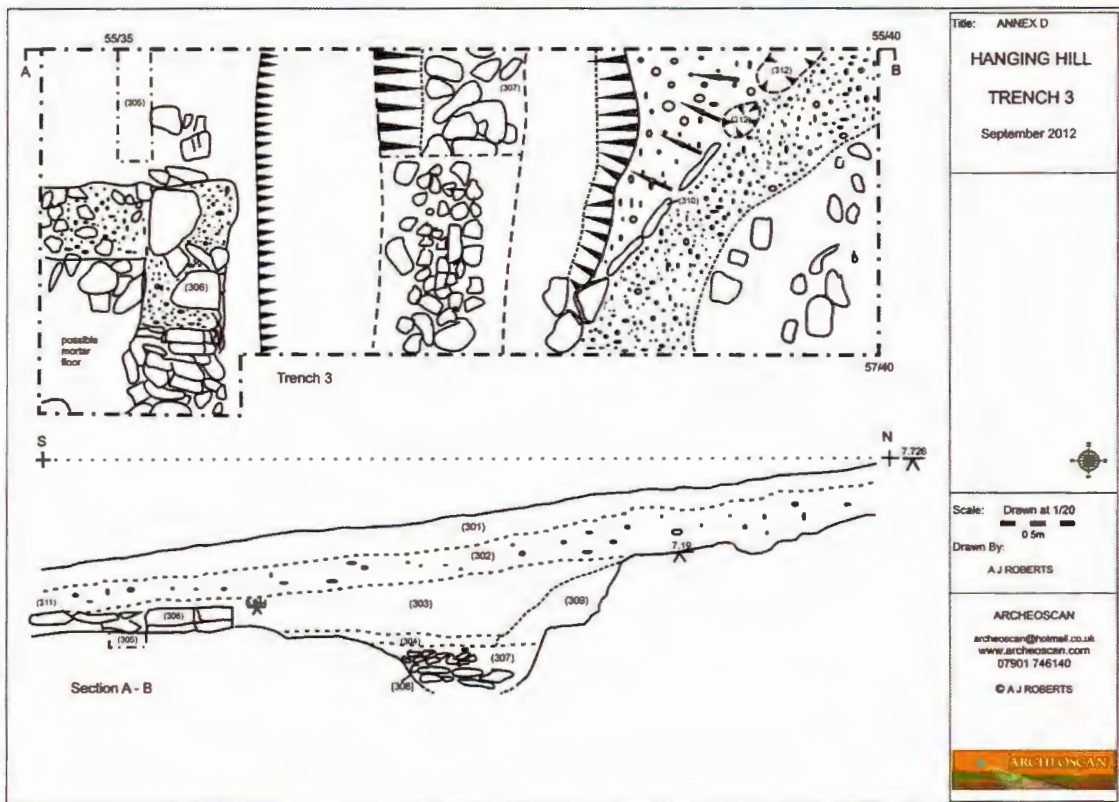


Fig. 4 Plan and section of Trench 3.

from the rear of the building. The construction of the drain consisted of a layer of larger stones at the lowest level, which were overlain by smaller stones of a medium size thus producing a graded filtering. A layer of thick clay had been laid against the cut of the terrace wall. It can be speculated that this served to stabilise the edge of the cut and help guide drainage water towards the drain. Overlaying the level of

the drain were two demolition deposits. Dark black/brown in colour these deposits contained large amounts of Roman pottery and bone. Painted wall plaster, 3rd century coins, bone pins and a nail cleaner from these deposits suggest a domestic use for the immediate area.

On top of the terrace a path edge had been constructed with upright vertical stones to mark the edge towards the





Fig. 5 Trench 3 viewed to the north. Corner of building in the foreground with drain behind (left to right) and terrace with path edging in the background.

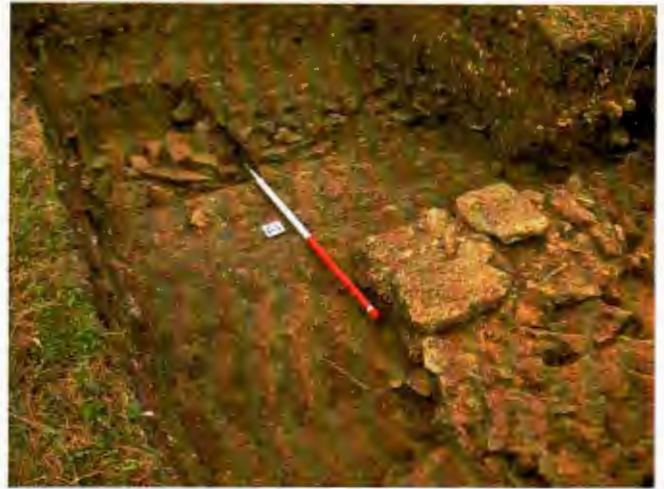


Fig. 6 Drain (top left).

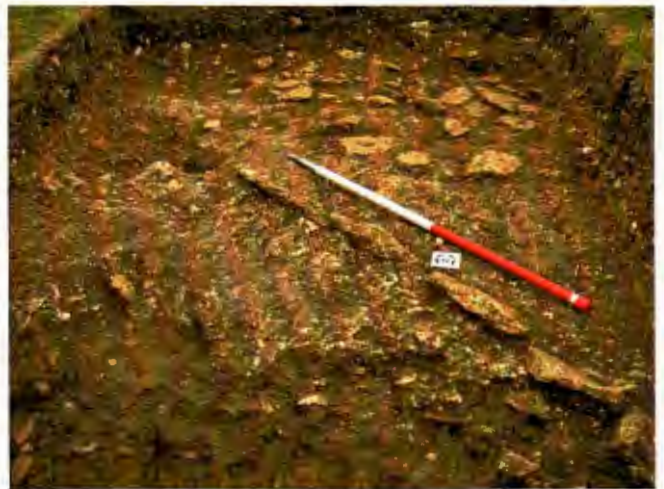


Fig. 7 Path edging on terrace.

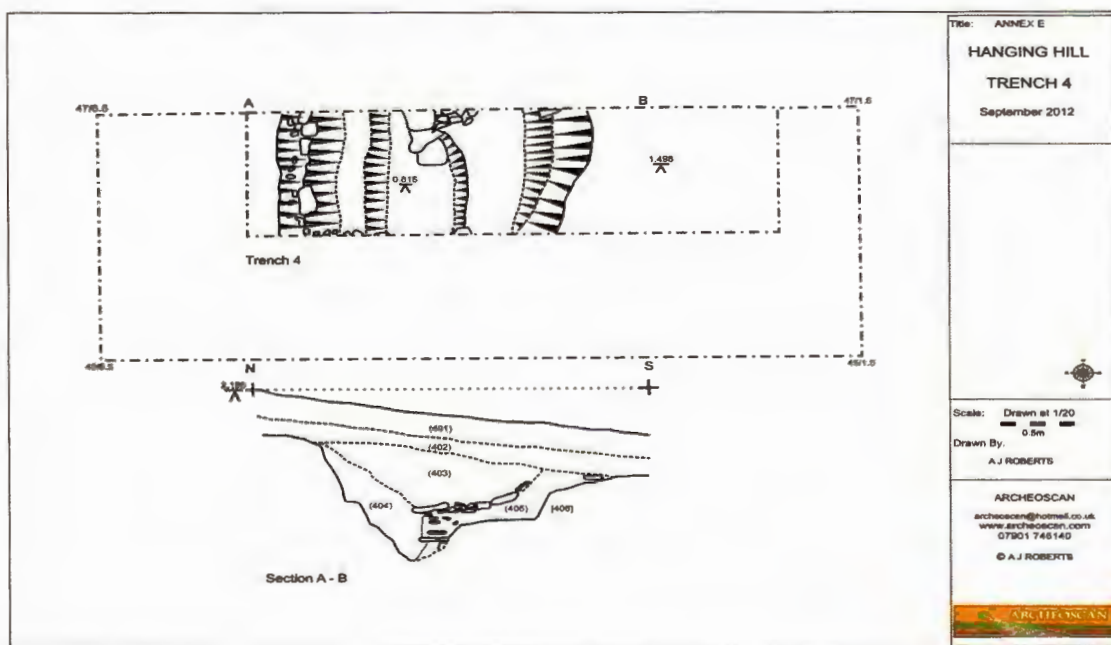


Fig. 8 Plan and section of Trench 4.



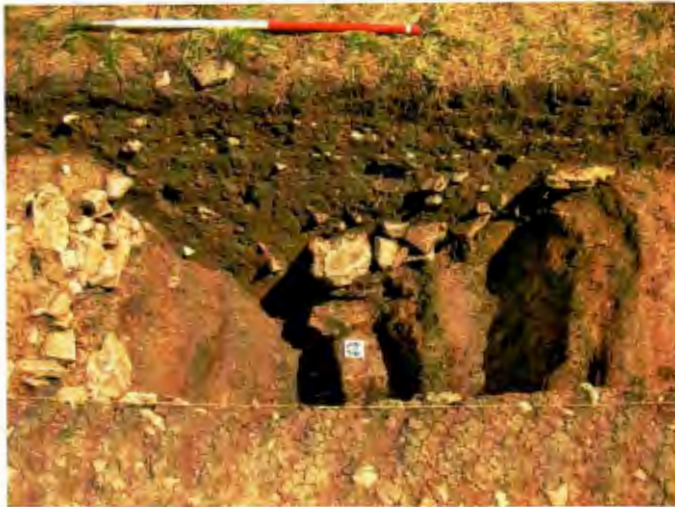


Fig. 9 Trench 4, perimeter ditch. Left: view to east. Right: view to northwest.

drop of the terrace (Fig. 7). Some stones had been displaced. All of these deposits were sealed under a clay hill wash similar to that in Trench 1. Overlying this was the topsoil.

#### Trench 4 (Figs 8–9)

Trench 4 was placed over a geophysical anomaly that suggested the perimeter ditch to the settlement. The trench was planned to be 5m x 2m but once the dimensions of the ditch were clear this was reduced to 3.5m x 1m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.38m. The ditch has a U-shaped form with an elongated step to the south side (Fig. 9). The earliest deposits consisted of a silty-black loam containing significant levels of domestic rubbish. The lower levels of the ditch fill contained some large limestone blocks that were not removed during the evaluation due to their size. The ditch had undergone a series of re-cuts during its life. The older deposits spotted to the 2nd century AD, with the later fill dating to the later 2nd century AD, suggesting that this was the main period that the ditch was open. The clay hill wash that was present in the other two trenches also sealed the Roman levels in Trench 4.

## THE FINDS

### Copper Alloy

By Kurt Adams

The most common copper alloy artefacts were those associated with personal adornment, of which brooch fragments were the most abundant. Amongst these was a fragment of a spring and of a pin and partial spring from two bow brooches that date to the 1st–2nd century. A pin and spring from a Polden Hill brooch dated to AD 70–120. Shown at Fig. 10 is a toiletry implement called a probe (Small Find (SF) 311). Small Find 319 (Fig. 11) is a decorative furniture mount used throughout the Roman period.



Fig. 10 SF 318, toiletry probe.

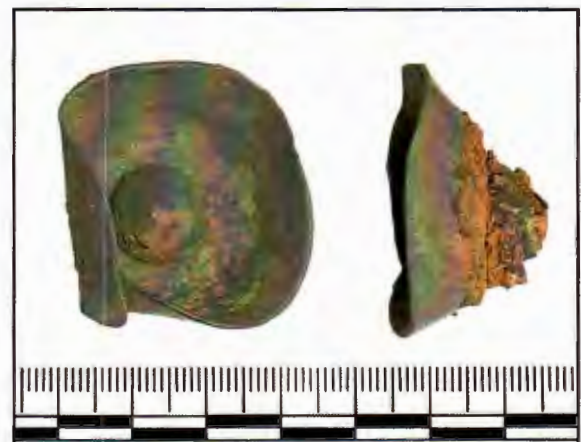


Fig. 11 SF 319, Roman furniture mount.

### Iron

Four items of personal adornment or general domestic use were found. The items of personal adornment come from context 303 in Trench 3, a brooch pin (SF 317) most likely came from a fibular brooch of the 1st–2nd century, and SF 303 is a lozenge-shaped strap slide dating from the 3rd





Fig. 12 SF 306, 307 and 308, bone pins.



Fig. 13 SF 305, radiate of Tetricus I, AD 270–274.

or 4th century. The domestic items are the terminal from a bucket handle (SF 101) dated from the 1st–2nd century, and a double spiked loop (SF 309) which would have been driven into wood to secure items to the ring.

**Bone**

SF 306, 307 and 308. Pins, broken at both ends and a common find on domestic sites throughout the Roman period.

**Coins**

Five coins were found and show a date range between the late 3rd–early 4th century, a date range that would be expected from any domestic or villa site located in the Cotswold's. Four of the coins are barbarous radiates and date between AD 260–296, three of them (SF 305, 314 and 315) show a general date range of AD 268–274. They display few signs of wear, suggesting they were not in circulation for a long period of time. The fourth radiate (SF 312) is badly corroded



Fig. 14 SF 315, radiate of Claudius II, AD 268–270.



Fig. 15 SF 313, ceramic gaming counter.



Fig. 16 Ring intaglio.

and dates to AD 260–296. A single 4th century AD coin (SF 401) is very badly worn, but the design of two soldiers is visible on the reverse, dating it to AD 330–341.

**Ceramic**

SF 313. A ceramic gaming counter made from south-west oxidised ware, dated to the 2nd–4th century (Fig. 15).

**Intaglio**

SF 313. Incomplete stone intaglio with a fine carving of two animals on the face. The smaller animal appears to be a Capricorn, and the larger animal, perhaps a sea creature. (Fig. 16).



## Pottery

By Jane Timby

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 1995 sherds of pottery weighing 16607g dating to the Later Iron Age/early Roman, Roman and post-medieval periods. Pottery was recovered from 15 contexts with the quantities ranging from a minimum of 2 sherds to a maximum 744 sherds. The material is of mixed preservation with some contexts producing more fragmented material whilst in others sherds are better preserved, with relatively fresh edges. Preservation of surface finishes such as slip or glaze is poor. The overall average sherd size is typical of rubbish material with a moderately high level of re-deposition at 8.3g.

### Later Iron Age/Early Roman

Ten sherds were found in handmade fabrics typical of the later Iron Age, but which also commonly continue to be used into the early Roman period. The fabrics can be broadly split into those with a calcite temper (seven sherds); limestone-tempered (one sherd) and grog-tempered (two sherds).

### Roman

A total of 1975 sherds of Roman date were found. The assemblage is quite diverse in terms of compositions, with imported continental fine wares and amphorae, regional imports and local wares. Continental imports include nine sherds of samian with examples of both Central Gaulish (Lezoux) and East Gaulish origin. Forms include cups Dragendorff type 33, bowls Drag. 37 and 38 and dishes Drag. 31. One sherd shows a rivet repair hole. One sherd of decorated Central Gaulish Drag 37 bowl (104) shows the stamped name of the mould maker which has broken horizontally across the impression (Fig. 17). This belonged to the potter Paternus (Hartley and Dickinson 2010, 58–60, Paternus V die 7a) and dates to the period AD150–85. The same stamp has been recorded from Wanborough and Gloucester.

Other continental fine ware imports include a small piece of Moselle black-slipped ware (MOS BS) from (303) and a sherd from a Cologne beaker (KOL CC) decorated with a barbotine hunt scene (Fig. 18). Both pieces are probably late 2nd or 3rd century AD in date. Also from the Continent are nine sherds of amphorae; one sherd from a Dressel 20 olive-oil container from Baetica (BAT AM), South Spain and eight sherds of Gallic wine-amphora (GAL AM) from Gaul.

The most common regional imports are of black burnished vessels from Poole Harbour, Dorset (DOR BB1) which accounts for 16% of the total assemblage. Amongst these are various jars, flat-rim bowls, plain-walled dishes and flanged-rim conical bowls. Other regional imports include single sherds of late Roman shelly ware (ROB SH) from the Midlands and Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria (MAH WH) from Warwickshire; several sherds of New Forest ware (NFO CC/RS), one sherd of Oxfordshire white-ware mortaria (OXF WH) and two sherds of Oxfordshire colour-coated mortaria.



Fig. 17 Fragment of samian ware.



Fig. 18 Cologne beaker with barbotine (Potter Paternus) hunting scene.

From sources probably closer to the site are a few sherds of Severn Valley ware and some Savernake ware from Wiltshire. Also likely to come from a Wiltshire source are two sherds of British glazed ware, one piece from a moulded cup from context 404; the other a small fragment from context 403. The cup is comparable to examples found at Wanborough, Wiltshire and dates to the early 2nd century.

The bulk of the pottery comprises grey, slightly micaceous sandy wares, presumably largely of local origin. These account for 40% of the total assemblage and include mainly jars with a variety of rim shapes, plain rim dishes, flanged bowls, bowls copying Drag 30 samian types, and colander. One jar has a ridge of calcareous deposit on the inner rim face where the vessel has held or heated water. Further examples of copies of Drag. 30 bowls in a grey fine ware and stamped or incised decoration in a finer grey or black ware may be Wiltshire products. Similarly, a fine black sandy wheel-made ware is typical of a later 1st–early 2nd century ware also likely to have a source in Wiltshire.



Also well represented is a hard sandy, moderately thin-walled, oxidised sandy ware (SOW OX) known as South-west oxidised ware. This includes two mortaria fragments, one white-slipped; jars, flagon, colander and beaker. One jar has a handle. This ware seems to largely date from the later 2nd and 3rd centuries and is thought to originate from a source in the Wiltshire or Somerset area. It accounts for 12% of the present assemblage. Other items of note include a possible rim from a crucible from context 303 and a sherd of Gloucester mortarium with quartzite trituration grit from context 405 of Flav-Trajanic date.

Most of the assemblage would thus appear to date from the early 2nd through the 4th centuries AD. There are a few residual sherds which could suggest 1st century activity in the area, but these are very sparse. The single sherd of ROB SH indicates continued use of the site into the last quarter of the 4th century. The composition of the assemblage, with a number of continental imported items and several regional imported wares, suggests a moderately high status site. The samian, at just 1.2%, is typical for a rural site, but as the chronological emphasis of the material is after the samian import period this figure may not necessarily be representative.

In terms of material access, the site appears to be drawing in supplies from both Wiltshire and Gloucestershire although the incidence of Severn Valley wares is perhaps surprisingly low, suggesting alternative wares were filling the gap.

#### Post-Roman

Ten pottery sherds of post-medieval date were recovered from contexts 101, 103, 301 and 302. The sherds include industrial china, slip ware and tin-glazed ware of 19th century or later date. The pieces are very small and probably represent background scatter from plough or topsoil.

#### An Assessment of the Bone Assemblage

By Heidi Dawson

In general the assemblage was very fragmented with very few complete bones represented. The only complete pieces consisted of several foot bones and one vertebra; although several near complete halves of mandibles were recovered. Around 40% of the bones are identifiable and the species represented from initial inspection are sheep, cattle, pig and possibly dog. The mandibles will be useful for ageing and the initial inspection of these, and the presence of several un-fused long bone elements, indicates that several juvenile animals (sheep and cattle) are represented in the collection. Some evidence for butchery was noted and several bones showed evidence of burning. There are some human remains present in the collection with a left femur fragment and a tibia fragment of a neonate present in context 303, as well as an adult vertebral fragment and two other possible human fragments. The adult bone fragments were much darker in colour than the rest of the assemblage and one bone fragment from context 304 was a similar dark brown colour and also appears to be human.

#### Painted Plaster

By Kurt Adams

Painted wall plaster was found in Trenches 1 and 3. The presence of the plaster indicates the proximity of at least two decorated rooms in the vicinity of the trenches. The plaster from Trench 1 has a more pink background and different stripe decoration than that from Trench 3, indicating it is from a different panel. The striped decoration on pieces from Trench 1 displays white, black and yellow pigment. The background colour from the fragments recovered in Trench 3 is either red or white.

	Context	Number of pieces	Description
Trench 1	104	3	Pink and red background colour with white, black and yellow stripes
Trench 3	303	7	Red and white background with possible dot motifs (yellow and black)
	304	5	Red and white background (split 50/50). Possible black floral motif
	305	4	3 Red and 1 white background
	307	1	Red background

Table 1 Table of painted wall plaster.



Fig. 19 Fragments of painted wall plaster. Left: from Trench 1 (104). Top right and bottom right: from Trench 3 (304).

#### DISCUSSION

The evidence from the geophysical survey and the evaluation excavation enables an initial impression to be formed about the occupation on this site with an enviable view on the edge of the Cotswolds. Located alongside the old thoroughfare, probably at least of Roman date, between Bath and Upton Cheney, the site enjoys good access both to the east and west.



The presence of worked flint dating from the Mesolithic-Neolithic and from the Bronze Age would suggest longevity of occupation somewhere in the immediate area for a long period of prehistory. It is not difficult to imagine a pre-historic settlement on the site gradually making the transition from traditional ways to become more 'Romanized', making more and more use of imported goods in everyday life during the years either side of the conquest in AD 43. The presence of the sherds of handmade fabrics typical of the later Iron Age, but which also commonly continue to be used into the early Roman period, point towards that transition. The limited nature of the excavation to date means that structural evidence for this period has not yet been encountered. There are a few residual sherds of pottery which could suggest 1st century activity in the area but these are very sparse.

It is during the 2nd century AD that the settlement appears to enjoy a transformation and perhaps an expansion. The boundary ditch that fronts onto the main road was opened to become a much more significant feature and this is possibly the time that the range of buildings was developed on the terraced hillside. Cunliffe notes that, at this time, the town of Bath was enjoying a renewed period of interest in the spring of Minerva and a significant level of expansion and new building was being undertaken in the second half of the 2nd century. This would seem to coincide with the upturn in activity at Hanging Hill. One possibility is that the site became favoured by a richer entrepreneur at this juncture, a perfect place to build a desirable country residence with a view. It is clear that the occupants could now afford to acquire fine pottery vessels from Gaul and the Rhineland as well as from the length and breadth of this country. A vast range of domestic vessels are being brought to the site along with olive-oil from Baetica, South Spain and wine from Gaul. The commonest regional pottery imports were of black burnished vessels from Poole Harbour, Dorset which accounts for 16% of the total assemblage. Amongst these are various jars, flat-rim bowls, plain-walled dishes and flanged-rim conical bowls. Other regional imports include items of late Roman shelly ware from the Midlands, Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria from Warwickshire and vessels from both the New Forest and Oxfordshire. From sources probably closer to the site are vessels made of Severn Valley ware and some Savernake ware from Wiltshire. Unusually, for a site so close to the Severn Valley the amount of Severn Valley ware is relatively low. Domestic artefacts such as brooches, cosmetic implements and ring intaglio suggest that the finer aspects of domestic life were being enjoyed here and that the site enjoyed a relatively wealthy status.

Between the early 2nd century and the 4th century the stone buildings were built and continually enhanced on terraces cut into the hillside. The presence of painted wall plaster testifies to the wealth of the site. The differing types of plaster and different find spots suggest at least two rooms with such ornamentation. Whilst only one corner of a substantial stone building was uncovered, the geophysics indicate an extensive range of buildings across the site that still have to be explored and explained in terms of chronological development. The large volume of pottery

recovered from a relatively small area and the variety of different domestic animal bone present suggests intense domestic activity between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. Albeit a relatively small sample, the larger number of coins date from the late 3rd century when activity was possibly at peak. A 4th century coin and the single sherd of late Roman Shelly ware (ROB SH) indicates continued use of the site into the last quarter of the 4th century.

From this evaluation nothing has been recovered that suggests occupation of the site in the immediate post-Roman period; however, the excavation of the site thus far has been very limited. Further excavation will reveal more of the geographical nature of the site and facilitate a greater understanding of the chronology of the phases of occupation that have been determined thus far.

## CONCLUSIONS

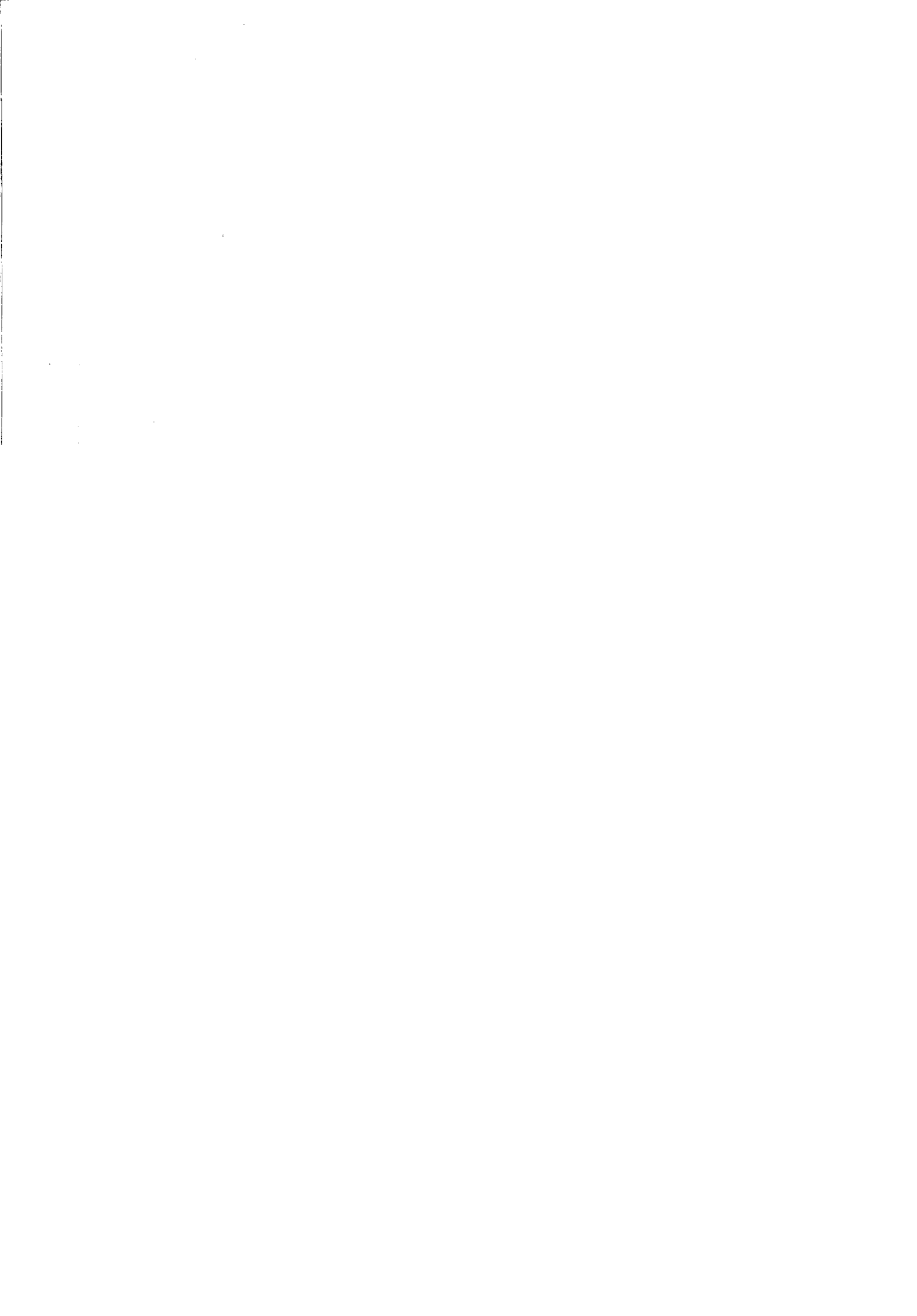
The geophysical survey and the evaluation excavation at Hanging Hill have confirmed the presence of a significant settlement dating from the Roman period. It would appear from the evidence presented by the artefacts that the site is moderately high status. This is supported by the presence of painted wall plaster and the occupation of an enviable position, with a superb view, in the close proximity of Bath. The numerous artefacts recovered, and features exposed, in this limited exploration has enabled an initial interpretation of the development of the site to be attempted. The work to date has not been able to identify the "two walls within the exterior boundary" that were reported by Irvine. Therefore, it can only be assumed at this stage that both pieces of research relate to the same complex of buildings. However, it must be stressed that only a small fraction of the site has been examined during this evaluation and a more extensive investigation is required to provide a much fuller picture of the sequence of activity on the site.

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# REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY

## BaRAS 2011

Edited by Bruce Williams

The review of archaeology is arranged alphabetically by parish and covers the four unitary authorities of Bath and North-East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, formerly Avon County.

### BRISTOL

#### Bedminster

*Nos. 64–70 West Street, ST 5815 7123.* A watching brief at this site, previously evaluated by BaRAS in 2005, revealed a layer of demolition material lying directly over bedrock. Nothing of archaeological significance was found.

*Roy Krakowicz*

*Nos. 200–202 West Street, ST 57834 70897.* A watching brief and training excavation revealed clay-bonded, limestone wall footings, post and stakeholes and deposits containing exclusively medieval pottery sherds. It is clear that bedrock had been exposed in the past and that earlier masonry had been re-used in later structures on the site. Episodes of major rebuilding occurred in the 17th–19th centuries.

*Andy King*

#### Clifton

*Chesterfield Hospital, Clifton Hill, ST 59425 72403.* An English Heritage level 2 standing building survey was undertaken at Chesterfield Hospital, part of which is a Grade II\* listed building formerly known as Clifton Court. The survey was restricted to recording an ancillary building known as Stafford Lodge, and limited areas of the listed building affected by a renovation programme. Clifton Court was built in 1742 for Martha Goldney and Nehemiah Champion II. By the early 19th century a range of new buildings had been built to the west of the main block, one of which was later known as Stafford Lodge. The west wing was substantially re-built in 1857, but these works do not appear to have included Stafford Lodge itself. In 1934 Clifton Court was converted for use as a nursing home. A large new extension was built to the rear of the main house, and most of the early-19th-century Stafford Lodge was demolished and replaced with a new nurses' accommodation building. Stafford Lodge was rebuilt as a two-storey brick structure which incorporated parts of the earlier building into its south and east walls.

*Cai Mason*

#### Cotham

*Cotham Grammar School, ST 58400 74000.* A watching brief during landscaping works in the playing field at Cotham Grammar School revealed a 19th-century stone wall and a brick-lined drain, most likely associated with a former mid-19th-century dwelling on the site known as Cotham Lawn.

*Gary Baddeley*

#### Henbury

*Site of Masons Arms Public House, Lawrence Weston Road, ST 54939 78514.* Evaluation trenching revealed masonry and associated contexts at the south-east end of one trench, probably part of the foundations of terraced houses built on the site between 1772 and 1838. Another trench revealed the earliest features found on site – a number of pits and ditches cut into the natural and overlain by a layer containing medieval pottery. At this time, interpretation as some form of water-management system seems the most likely explanation.

*Simon Roper*

*Tithe Barn, High Street, Shirehampton ST 53004 76996.* An evaluation and watching brief prior to and during groundworks for alterations and refurbishment to the Grade II listed building recorded a late 19th-century cobbled yard surface at the rear of the building, along with a 19th-century water tank and remains of a late 19th century brick-built boiler house and flue/warm air duct, probably associated with a contemporary greenhouse which stood adjacent to the barn in a walled garden to the east of the site.

*Tim Longman*

*Site of Garages off Barrowmead Drive, Lawrence Weston, ST 54050 77660.* A watching brief revealed a simple sequence of modern gravels sealing tarmac, topsoil, subsoil and natural clay deposits of geological origin.

*Raymond Ducker*

#### Redcliffe

*St Mary Redcliffe Church, ST 59132 72264.* A watching brief during pathway re-surfacing works at St Mary Redcliffe Church revealed the masonry foundations of an early 19th-century gate next to the south-eastern entrance to the churchyard. A small number of disarticulated human bones were recovered and re-buried in the churchyard.

*Cai Mason*



**Stapleton**

Cossham Hospital, Lodge Road, Kingswood, ST 64238 74555. A watching brief during redevelopment groundwork revealed a coal shaft in the north-west corner of the site. No other features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed.

*Gary Baddeley*

*Land behind No. 42 Brook Road, Fishponds, ST 63538 75700.* A watching brief during development groundwork revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance.

*Ray Ducker*

**St Augustine**

Brandon Hill, ST 5789 7297. Two evaluation trenches were excavated near the top of Brandon Hill to investigate a bastion-shaped feature thought to be part of the Civil War fortifications dating from the early 1640s. A section across the line of the ditch revealed its original shape to be similar to that of a Civil War outwork recorded at Gloucester Lane, Old Market in 2002. The ditch had been recut to more than half its original depth sometime around 1898 when Cabot Tower was constructed. The bastion retaining-wall and earth bank proved to be of a much later date than the Civil War era and were possibly part of a folly, probably constructed in the mid- to late 18th century. Further landscaping took place around the summit in the 1850s, raising both ground level within the bastion and the height of the retaining wall. Around 1898 the retaining wall was refaced and coping stones were added. Similar masonry to that within the walls of the upper bastion was also used to face an 'outer' line of earthworks further down the hill, first described by Samuel Seyer in 1823 as being part of the Civil War defences.

*Andy King*

**St George**

*The Lord Rodney, Two Mile Hill Road, ST 63495 73792.* The disused Lord Rodney public house was recorded to English Heritage Level 2 standard prior to its proposed removal. The Lord Rodney was sited at the top of a long climb out from central Bristol and would have been an excellent point at which to rest and water the horses. It may have had its present name since c1782–98. The mainly two-storey rubble-built structure was probably erected in the 18th century, with additions northwards and eastwards during the 19th and early-mid 20th centuries. Slag blocks produced as a by-product of the local brass industry were used in some of the additions. Partial cellarage at basement level was included within the rear of the building. Service rooms were placed within the rear range, with facilities such as stables and a coach house at the eastern end. A trough and pump were provided outside for the horses.

*John Bryant*

*Netham Lock, Netham, ST 61594 72702.* Archaeological recording was carried out during the lifting and replacement of Netham Lock gates. The lock, gates, lock sides and the

Lock Keeper's Cottage are all Grade II listed structures. The site forms the connection between the Feeder Canal and the River Avon which at this point run east to west, and is bounded south by Feeder Road, east by the two bridges of Netham Road and north by Netham Park. The upper section of the lock sits at 9.2m aOD and the lower section of the gate at 8.1m aOD

*Simon Roper*

**St James**

*St James Priory, Whitson Street, ST 58895 73470.* A watching brief and building recording during a major renovation programme at St James Priory revealed a number of post-medieval structures in and around the church. Monumental inscriptions and post-medieval brick-lined graves were also recorded. Medieval floor tiles and fragments of worked stone were recovered as residual finds in later contexts. The most significant of these was part of a medieval sundial carved with Arabic numerals which was recovered from rubble incorporated into the 19th-century north wall of the church. The style of the numerals suggests it was probably made in the 15th century. Interestingly, this appears to be what is known as an 'equatorial' sundial. This type of sundial has a polar oriented gnomon and a face angled at 38.5° above horizontal, and is an early type of 'scientific' sundial, i.e. its production requires a certain degree of astronomical knowledge. Unlike earlier medieval 'scratch' dials, it has hours of equal duration throughout the year. This may be the earliest known scientific sundial in Britain.

Foundations of a post-medieval building, probably built in the 17th century and demolished in the early 1850s, were uncovered immediately to the west of the church. The remains of three 18th or early 19th-century townhouses incorporated into the eastern end of the church (formerly Nos. 1–3 Cannon Street) were also recorded.

Excavations in the north and south aisles of the church revealed that the interior is densely packed with brick-lined vaults and graves containing in-situ burials, most of which are in lead coffins. Monumental inscriptions show that whilst there are intramural burials dating from as early as the late 16th century, the vast majority were interred in the 18th and early 19th century. Excavations immediately to the south of the church and in St James Parade revealed that this area also contains densely packed 18th and early 19th century brick-lined graves. The foundations of a porch, probably built in 1802 and demolished c1880, were also uncovered in this area.

*Cai Mason*

**St John**

*Old Fire Station, Silver Street, ST 58910 73320.* Building survey was undertaken to English Heritage level 2 standard to record a range of buildings prior to their redevelopment. Photographic recording was accompanied by annotation of existing architect's drawings and annotated sketches. The Old Fire Station was designed in 1924, built in 1926–8, and officially opened in 1930. It was built as part of a single development which included the former police headquarters



and central police station. Part of the former police headquarters extended into the present development site; these rooms were probably used as offices.

The fire station is four storeys high, with a fourth floor tower on the corner of Silver Street and Bridewell Street. The ground floor was used to house fire appliances, a control room and a vehicle workshop. The rooms on the first floor probably included offices, mess room, recreation rooms, dormitory, toilets, washrooms and possibly a kitchen. The second and third floors contained nine purpose built flats, which were used to accommodate the fire officers and their families. Each flat contained a kitchen, bathroom and four or five other rooms that probably included a living room, dining room and two or three bedrooms. The Superintendent and Inspectors occupied the larger flats; the rest were for married Sergeants. The front doors of the flats opened onto an external balcony fitted with three enclosed shafts containing sliding poles. The Superintendent's quarters were provided with a sliding pole located inside the flat itself.

*Cai Mason*

*Former Magistrates Court, Rupert Street/Nelson Street, ST 58734 73207.* A watching brief during a geotechnical survey mostly revealed varying depths of construction-related disturbance. However, in three locations the presence of stratified archaeological deposits in the form of buried garden soils and a single layer of peaty clay, were detected.

*Tim Longman*

#### **St Nicholas**

*The Naval Volunteer, Nos 17–18 King Street, ST 58776 72681.* A photographic record of four separate roof structures was carried out during renovation works. One of the roofs contained purlins and pegged rafter joints possibly dating from construction of the buildings in the later 17th-century. The other three roofs had early timbers re-used within their structures, but had all been extensively repaired and rebuilt.

*Andy King*

#### **St Peter**

*Castle Park, ST 58167 72668.* A watching brief during construction of a new food kiosk uncovered a north/south aligned stone wall beneath the concrete surface of the former road known as Dolphin Street, one of the many city centre streets levelled during the Blitz. The wall may define the edge of a cellar extending beneath Dolphin Street, or it could simply be one side of a stone-lined drainage culvert. The structure is probably early post-medieval in date.

*Cai Mason*

#### **St Philip & St Jacob Without**

*No. 51 Barton Road, ST 5999 7280.* A watching brief revealed truncated natural bedrock overlain by up to 3m of made ground. Historic maps show a number of clay pits in the area, and it is possible that the site may have been stripped of natural clay and backfilled prior to its development in the early 19th century. A number of walls and yard surfaces relating to 19th-century buildings were

also uncovered. Cartographic evidence indicates that the site was first developed in the 1830s or 40s, and by 1914 one of the buildings functioned as a beer house known as the Railway Tavern. This establishment closed in the 1960s and by 1972 it had been demolished and replaced with a warehouse.

*Gary Baddeley*

*Lower Ashley Road, Easton, ST 60120 74340.* An excavation was carried out on the site of the former Wesley Chapel burial ground (see BAA 24 for a full report). The excavation uncovered a total of 72 in-situ burials. This represents a 6.78% sample of the 1,062 individuals known to have been buried on the site between 1837 and 1899. The skeletal remains were recovered from fourteen graves, six of which had multiple internments, stacked up to eight deep. Just over half the burials were sub-adults, the majority of which were recovered from two graves, one of which appears to have been exclusively reserved for the burial of infants and children. Analysis of the burials revealed that while some of the skeletons had pathologies associated with poor diet, they do not appear to have suffered the same levels of poverty-related disease which have been recorded in groups excavated from similarly dated sites in London. All areas within the footprint of the new development were cleared of burials and the remains re-buried at the South Bristol Crematorium and Cemetery. The rest of the burials were removed by a burial ground clearance operation undertaken in the early 1970s.

The excavation also uncovered the foundations of Wesley Chapel and parts of a late 18th century building which formed part of the former Baptist Mills Brass Works. Wesley Chapel was built 1837 and substantially enlarged in 1871. Both buildings were demolished prior to the construction of the M32 motorway in the early 1970s.

*Cai Mason*

*Nos 204–222 Avonvale Road, Barton Hill, ST 60964 73020.* A watching brief on the site of former shops adjoining Ashmead House recorded part of 19th-century Beaufort Road and foundations of some of the 19th-century terraced houses that once stood there.

*Gary Baddeley*

*No. 61 Old Market Street, ST 59710 73108.* A watching brief during groundworks at the rear of the site revealed a brick yard surface over made-ground deposits of post-medieval date.

*Tim Longman & Ray Ducker*

#### **Temple**

*Railway Viaduct and adjoining premises to the rear of The George & Railway Hotel, Temple Gate, ST59425 72403),* A watching brief was undertaken during the demolition of a railway viaduct and adjoining buildings. This revealed a number of structural details of the late 19th-century railway viaduct and adjoining stable block. The Bristol Harbour Railway was built in 1868–72, and by 1874 two, poorly



built, two-storey houses had been built against the viaduct on the Victoria Street frontage. Most of the arches under the viaduct were used as stables for the newly expanded George & Railway Hotel. These stables evidently proved insufficient for the hotel, and in 1883 a large new, brick-built stable block with a clear span corrugated iron roof was built between the viaduct and Portwall Lane East. Although this building was adapted for use as a garage and car showroom in the 20th century, there was little alteration to the fabric of the 1883 stable block. The Harbour Railway closed in 1965, but the tracks continued to be used as a wagon store until the bridge over Victoria Street was removed in the mid 1990s.

*Cai Mason*

#### **Westbury-on-Trym**

*No. 40 Coombe Lane, ST 56255 76691.* A watching brief within the grounds of the site, also known as the Red House or Red House Farm, found no features or deposits of archaeological significance.

*Simon Roper*

*The Barn Grove Road, Coombe Dingle, ST 55574 77326.* A watching brief during groundwork for a side extension and garage revealed no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

*Ray Ducker*

*Pen Park Sports Ground, Jarratts Road, Southmead ST 59045 78813.* A watching brief during work to improve the drainage and playing quality of the sports pitches revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance.

*Tim Longman*

## **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

#### **Cold Ashton**

*Juniper Lodge, Gloucester Road, Nimlet, ST 7479 7166.* A watching brief during the construction of a new agricultural building revealed no archaeological features or finds.

*Cai Mason*

# REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY 2012

Edited by Bruce Williams

## ABBREVIATIONS

AAU	Avon Archaeological Unit
BWA	Bristol & West Archaeology
CA	Cotswold Archaeology
COAS	Context One Archaeological Services
MoLA	Museum of London Archaeology
VISTA	University of Birmingham

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## BATH AND NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

### Bath

*Bath Spa University Campus, Newton Park, ST 6967 6437.*  
A watching brief revealed no archaeological remains.

*Christopher Leonard, CA*

*No 3 Northampton Street, ST 7457 6555.* An evaluation revealed no archaeological remains.

*Jamie Wright, CA*

*1-4 Canal Bridge, ST 75540 64250.* A watching brief during redevelopment revealed no archaeological features or deposits.

*Bruce Williams, BWA*

*Nos 5-9 Piccadilly Place, ST 75612 65991.* A watching brief revealed a deposit of topsoil associated with an adjacent 18th-century terrace of buildings. Nothing else of archaeological interest was found.

*Bruce Williams, BWA*

*Ralph Allen Yard, Rock Hall Lane/Combe Down Road, Coombe Down, ST 75774 62239.* Standing building recording was undertaken to record a warehouse, shopfront and office building (formerly a Malthouse) and a dwelling, Malthouse Cottage. The buildings were found to contain substantial elements of two barns and a house that were in existence by 1805, at which time roughly two thirds of the current site was a stone quarry owned by Mr Ralph Allen. House and barns were still the only structures depicted on the site at the time of the 1841 tithe survey. They were built using coursed Bath stone blocks, and in places ashlar,

which were almost certainly derived from Ralph Allen's quarry next door. Following the purchase of the entire site by Richard Morris, in partnership with Thomas Hine, the buildings were adapted for use as a maltings. To facilitate this new use, the barns were linked together, the northern one used for storage and steeping of the barley and the southern one containing the malting kiln/oven. Shortly after its sale in 1923, the site passed to Bath City Council, and the buildings were used for storage.

*Kevin Potter, AAU*

*Southgate Redevelopment, ST 75180 64340.* The final stage of work on this scheme consisted of a watching brief and standing structure survey on the site of the former Bath Spa Station Goods Shed, following evaluation work in 2008. The goods shed was an integral part of Brunel's station, which opened in 1841. Like the station it was constructed on a viaduct built in local limestone which created a platform 7.26m above the adjacent pavement in Dorchester Street. The viaduct arches were recorded by 3D laser scanning prior to their conversion to commercial use. The earthen ramp which gave vehicular and pedestrian access from the street to the goods shed was recorded during its removal, although the original roadway surface had not survived. This exposed external faces of the viaduct which were photographically recorded. New construction was designed to have a minimal impact on remains of the goods shed itself, but further exposures of walls, internal surfaces, track spurs, turntable settings and the socket for a crane or winding mechanism were recorded, supplementing the 2008 observations.

The earliest evidence for the use of the spaces beneath the goods shed consisted of the installation of coal chutes from the upper level and the laying of a brick floor incorporating a narrow gauge (50cm gauge) waggon tramway and two complete turntables (top-plate diam. 1.22m or 4ft). These features date to the last decade of the 19th century when the goods shed was demolished and its site converted into a goods yard with coal storage below, supplying the furnaces of the adjacent electricity works.

*Marek Lewcun and Bruno Barber, MoLA,  
Eamonn Baldwin, VISTA*

*No 1a Royal Crescent, ST 7455 6535.* Historic building recording and a watching brief revealed a far more complex history than was realised. No 1a was seen to have been built on a virgin site as a service wing to No. 1. It included an early



phase of construction, contemporary with the first buildings on the Crescent (1767–9), which was significantly altered by 1772. In the 1830s the wing was refurbished and turned into lodgings, and the kitchen was moved from the ground floor to the basement. The most drastic changes were in the 1860s when the building was re-organised internally and refenestrated. Further changes were made in the 1880/90s and the early and middle 20th century.

*Peter Davenport, CA*

### Keynsham

*Saltford Manor House, Saltford, ST 6853 6747.* An historic building appraisal was undertaken of the manor house, a Grade II\* Listed building dating to the mid 12th century. The appraisal concluded that the insertion of a new window would not result in a significant loss of cultural heritage value to the building.

*Peter Davenport, CA*

*Land at Keynsham, Town Hall, ST 65512 68445.* Archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken within the footprint of a proposed development site at Keynsham Town Hall. The site incorporated the 1960's Town Hall building plus a range of retail premises, areas of public open space and municipal car parking.

Trenches 1 to 5 were located in areas of public open space along the northern, Bath Hill, site frontage. With the exception of Trench 5, the trenches revealed moderately to well preserved archaeological deposits and structures dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods. Trenches 6, 7 and 8 were opened in the municipal car park located in the central southern portion of the study area at the rear of retail premises, and revealed minor archaeological deposits and structures, largely of late post-medieval date. A ninth trench in the basement of the Town Hall complex revealed a post-medieval wall foundation that corresponds with a wall shown on the 1842 title map.

*Andrew Young, AAU*

### Wellow

*Stoney Littleton Long Barrow, ST 5260 7987.* An evaluation exposed Neolithic mound construction material. Structural remains, possibly relating to the original Neolithic kerb-wall and the 19th-century rebuild, were also revealed. In addition, a deposit containing late 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery, a Roman pit and a post-medieval pit were identified.

*Stuart Joyce, CA*

## BRISTOL

### Bedminster

*Andover Road, ST 59730 70552.* An archaeological watching brief during the excavation of three trial holes in the vicinity of the route of the medieval Redcliffe Conduit, connected with improvement works to the Combined Sewer Overflow, found no archaeological remains.

*Richard Tabor, COAS*

*No 92 North Street, ST 5797 7149.* A standing building record to English Heritage Level 2 was made of the former Bristol Co-operative Society laundry, which appears to have been established on the site sometime between 1902 and 1914.

*David Etheridge, BWA*

### Clifton

*Mortimer House, Clifton Down Road, ST 57107317.* A standing building record to English Heritage Level 2 was made of this c1760 structure, built as a large family home in the neoclassical style of the period, with 19th and 20th century additions and alterations consistent with its later use as a school and hospital.

*David Etheridge, BWA*

*No 21 Waterloo Street, ST 57010 73086.* An archaeological watching brief during redevelopment revealed no archaeological features or deposits earlier than the 20th century.

*Richard Tabor, COAS*

### Henbury

*Corbet Close, gas main replacement, ST 5496 7877.* A watching brief exposed no archaeological remains.

*Tom Weavill, CA*

*Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane, Avonmouth, ST 5260 7987.* A watching brief exposed no archaeological remains.

*Stuart Joyce, CA*

*Land at Severnside, Avonmouth, ST 5412 8257.* An evaluation identified a Roman ditch and pit and a post-medieval ditch.

*Jamie Wright, CA*

*Site rear of former Masons Arms Public House, Lawrence Weston Road, ST 54939 78514.* Excavation in the garden to the rear of the former Masons Arms revealed three shallow, probable boundary ditches dated between the medieval and the post-medieval period, together with pits and other features of late post-medieval to modern date.

*Bruce Williams, BWA*

*Kings Weston Lane, ST 53391 79395.* An archaeological watching brief at the sewage treatment works, close to the suspected location of a medieval farmstead, found nothing of archaeological interest.

*Richard Tabor, COAS*

### Horfield

*Allen House, Ashley Down, ST 5972 7569.* Historic building recording was undertaken. Allen House was the first of five large barrack-type orphanages built on the site from 1847 to 1870, all of which are Grade II Listed. The investigation suggests that Allen House retains much of the original fabric, although alterations and additions were made from the 1950s onwards during its use as a college. A subsequent



watching brief during renovation works revealed some of the orphanage's foundations.

*Peter Davenport, Christopher Leonard and Rachel Leung, CA*

*Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, Bishopston, ST 59538 75440.* Building recording to English Heritage Level 2 standard was undertaken of the Mound Stand which was located at the southern end of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Ground. The Mound Stand is a curving structure built predominantly using poured concrete and concrete blocks. The roof is an early example in Britain of a *hyperbolic paraboloid concrete structure*.

*Kevin Potter AAU*

### **Redcliff**

*Redcliff Street/ 1 Victoria Street, ST 59026 72844.* A small excavation and watching brief revealed the wall of a building (Rede/Red Hall) and associated construction debris dating from the 13th–14th century cut through 12th/13th–century dump deposits overlying the foreshore of the Avon; two cellar walls, a stone floor and drain dating from the 17th/18th century were also recorded.

*Bruce Williams, BWA*

*Bristol General Hospital, ST 5886 7217.* An evaluation uncovered the remains of 18th-century houses fronting Guinea Street. Structures and deposits relating to 18th-century and later industry were found, including large quantities of glass production waste. The remains of mid 19th-century terraced housing were also recorded and a small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered. An assessment of the cellars and lower ground floor of the hospital revealed that the hospital had incorporated large areas of the cellars of the warehouses and other commercial buildings on the site, dating to the early 19th century.

*Mark Brett and Peter Davenport CA*

### **St James**

*Site to rear of BRI Queens Building, Upper Maudlin Street, ST 58599 73475.* A watching brief revealed no significant archaeology other than remnants of the recently demolished 18th-century Beaufort House and Nos. 7 – 10 Bedford Row.

*Raymond Ducker, BWA*

### **Whitchurch**

*Site of Red Hart Public House, Bishport Avenue, Hartcliffe, ST 58855 67341.* A watching brief during redevelopment revealed no archaeological features or deposits.

*Bruce Williams, BWA*

*Land South of Orchard View, ST 6158 6737.* An evaluation identified an Iron Age pit.

*Izabela Romanowska, CA*

## **NORTH SOMERSET**

### **Weston-super-Mare**

*Milton Road Cemetery, ST 3272 6205.* A Watching Brief during groundwork for a new buried electrical cable revealed the foundations of the non-conformist mortuary chapel constructed in the mid-19th century, and two walls of an adjacent masonry structure which probably pre-dated the chapel.

*Sarah Newns, AAU*

*Carlton Street Carpark, NGR ST 31838 61149.* Evaluation trenching was undertaken at Carlton Street Carpark and rectified photography and measured survey of two elevations of the former Sidmouth Cottages, contained within the southern boundary wall of the site. Seven trenches revealed elements of the 19th-century terraced dwellings that survived until the 1950's.

*Kevin Potter, AAU*

## **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

### **Chipping Sodbury**

*The Hop Yard, ST 7304 8207.* A watching brief revealed a considerable depth of levelling deposits, upto 0.8m deep. The only archaeological features of interest was a stone-lined culvert.

*Sarah Newns, AAU*

### **Hanham**

*Land rear of 75–81 Court Farm Road, Longwell Green, ST 65387 70550.* A watching brief during redevelopment recorded a 19th-century limekiln (draw-kiln) complete with three firing pots and draw-tunnels. The kiln interior was insulated with sandstone that formed corbelled roofs in the draw-tunnels and firing pots.

*Bruce Williams, BWA*

### **Filton**

*Pegasus House and Old Filton House, Gloucester Road North, ST 6016 7912.* Building recording and a watching brief recorded the construction history of the buildings. Pegasus House was the purpose-built offices for the Bristol Aircraft Company, opened in 1936. Old Filton House was an 18th-century country house much altered in the 1930s.

*Peter Davenport, CA*

### **Over/Patchway**

*M5 Pegwell Brake Footbridge, ST 5943 8251.* Historic building recording of the footbridge was undertaken. The bridge is a single span pre-cast concrete structure constructed between March 1967 and March 1969.

*Simon Loaring, CA*

### **Stoke Gifford**

*Knightwood Farm, ST 5797 7149.* A standing building record of this farmhouse was made to English Heritage



Level 3. The western side of the building may date from the 16th or 17th century and contains a single raised cruck. The remainder of the building appears to date from the 18th and 19th century.

*David Etheridge, BWA*

**Yate**

*Land at Westerleigh Road, ST 7073 8197.* An evaluation exposed concrete wall footings and brick-lined drainage features possibly associated with a First World War prisoner of war camp or a 1930s brickworks.

*Tom Weavill, CA*

# REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY 2013

Edited by Bruce Williams

## ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Absolute Archaeology
AAU	Avon Archaeological Unit
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services
BWA	Bristol & West Archaeology
CA	Cotswold Archaeology
COAS	Context One Archaeological Services
FA	Foundations Archaeology
WA	Wessex Archaeology

The review of archaeology is arranged alphabetically by parish and covers the four unitary authorities of Bath and North-East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, formerly Avon County.

## BATH AND NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

### Bath

*R6 Residential Scheme, University of Bath Campus, Claverton, ST 7765 6457.* A watching brief conducted during groundworks for two student residential buildings revealed heavy truncation from previous building works and no archaeological deposits or features.

*Pippa Bradley, WA*

*Weston, Nos 12–22 High Street, ST 372970 166323.* A watching brief revealed a cellar containing a masonry/brick oven. Together with several other masonry walls, all probably of late 18th or early 19th century date, these structures probably formed part of an unnamed building terrace located behind High Street.

*Bruce Williams, BWA*

*St Andrew's Primary School, Northampton Street, ST 74537 65595.* A watching brief was undertaken during groundwork in the school playground. A late 18th-century wall foundation belonging to one of the terraced dwellings on the former Williams' Place was recorded. Also revealed was a contemporary flagstone yard or lane surface, four 18th/19th-century wall foundations and two paved floor/yard surfaces, which belonged to nearby former coach-houses and stables adjacent to the boundary wall to the west of the school playground.

*Tim Longman, BaRAS*

### Keynsham

*Land off Charlton Road, ST 6432 6731.* Evaluation trenching comprising seven trenches was undertaken. Four modern boundary ditches and a modern bonfire pit were recorded.

*Rebecca Riley, CA*

### Peasdown St John

*Plot G, Bath Business Park, ST 7121 5721.* An archaeological excavation and monitoring of geotechnical trial pits revealed a single pit containing 12th to 13th-century pottery.

*Alistair Barber, CA*

### Whitchurch

*Horseworld, ST 6222 6753.* Trial trenching identified ditches forming small paddocks or enclosures of a Late Iron Age/Early Roman probable farmstead. In addition two metalled trackways and a posthole of similar date were identified.

*Tim Havard, CA*

## BRISTOL

### All Saint

*39–40 High Street and The Rummer, ST 5891 7300.* A Heritage Desk Based Assessment of 39–40 High Street and the adjacent Rummer public house was undertaken. The site lies on the High Street leading from Bristol Bridge and is within the first defended enceinte, or enclosed area, believed to be of late Saxon origin. The Rummer (Listed Grade II) was built in 1740 when the Exchange and Markets were rebuilt and has undergone significant alterations, internally and externally, since construction. Nos 39–40 High Street are one property occupied by a 1930s office building, now a public house. Apart from the ground floor it is in substantially original condition. The rear (eastern) wing of The Rummer contains parts of what were originally 39–40 High Street, left when the rest of the houses were demolished. These retain fireplaces and chimney stacks of 16th or early 17th-century date and recycled early 16th-century panelling.

*Peter Davenport, CA*

### Avonmouth

*Sewage Works, Kings Weston Lane, ST 53530 79027.* A watching brief over groundworks associated with the construction of a new motor control centre kiosk close to the suspected location of a medieval farmstead revealed no archaeological features or deposits, probably as the



area was heavily disturbed when the sewage works was constructed.

*Richard Tabor and Cheryl Green, COAS*

### **Bedminster**

*Ashton Avenue Bridge to Prince's Wharf, Bedminster, ST 57230 72072 & ST 58320.* A watching brief was undertaken during geotechnical ground investigation works associated with a proposed route of the Greater Bristol Rapid Transit scheme. A total of four test pits were archaeologically monitored. The two along the southern edge of Wapping Railway Wharf uncovered post-medieval dump layers overlain by late 19th and 20th-century railway track bedding layers, and the two above the Underfall sluice on Cumberland Road revealed the top of this 19th-century structure.

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

*Gala Bingo Hall, North Street, Bedminster, ST 58169 71512.* A Level 2 building survey was undertaken at the former Rex Cinema to record the building prior to its demolition. The cinema was designed in the late 1930s and opened in 1940. After being gutted during an air raid in 1941 it was repaired and re-opened the same year. Original features included decorative plasterwork and some lighting and ventilation equipment. Although there were no significant structural alterations to the building since a circle level balcony was added c1956, the cosmetic appearance of the building was largely a result of an early 1980s refit when it was converted for use as a bingo hall.

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

*White Horse Public House, West Street, ST 579210 709406.* A programme of excavation, monitoring and building recording was undertaken on land belonging to the former White Horse Public House. The excavation revealed evidence of a medium sized outbuilding, with cobbled surface and potential internal well. The main structural features appeared to be late 18th–early 19th century in date and were seen to truncate post-medieval rubbish pits also containing 18th-century finds. Residual 13th–14th-century ceramics contained within these features and evident to the SW of the site, highlight domestic activity in the area in the medieval period. However, no features of this date were revealed during the excavation or watching brief. It is suggested that the medieval land surface may have been levelled and therefore heavily truncated at the time of the late 18th – early 19th century development of the site.

*Paul Martin and Sam Driscoll, AA*

*Victoria Baptist Church, Sylvia Avenue, ST 5950 7109.* A watching brief during groundworks revealed a single post-medieval/modern pit and an earlier ground horizon in the southern part of the site. The groundworks reached the natural ground in the northern part of the site, but no archaeologically significant features were present within this area. A possible former pond which had been backfilled with modern material was found in the northern corner of the site.

*FA*

*Land at Bellevue Terrace, Totterdown, ST 59757 71896.* A watching brief during groundworks revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence, consisting of topsoil, sealing intermittent subsoil deposits, to a combined depth of up to 600mm below the present ground surface, in turn overlying the undisturbed natural clay and limestone. Only one feature of archaeological interest was revealed, a probable garden/boundary wall associated with the two large villas, which had existed towards the northern edge of the site during the latter half of the 19th century.

*Nick Corcos, AAU*

*Former Methodist Chapel Vivian Street, Windmill Hill, ST 58930 71330.* A standing building survey has shown that, structurally, the chapel and vestry appear largely unaltered. Although the windows and outer vestry door have been blocked, no significant alterations have been carried out on the building, with the exception of those made to the arched window in the northern chapel wall to allow access to the later kitchen block.

*Tracey Smith, BaRAS*

*Filwood Park, Hengrove Way, Knowle West, ST 59503 69350.* A watching brief was undertaken during ground investigation and infrastructure works in Filwood Park. A few sherds of residual Romano-British and medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil.

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

*Wedlocks Public House, Bower Ashton Terrace, Bristol, ST 56836 71526.* Building recording and a watching brief was undertaken at Wedlocks, originally the Star Inn. The building was an early-20th-century structure which had undergone considerable alteration over time. An earlier Star Inn on the site was probably constructed in the first half of the 19th century, although its precise date has not been established. Buildings are depicted on the site on the Long Ashton tithe-commutation map of 1842 and a “Star Inn” at Long Ashton is also mentioned in the *Bristol Mercury* in 1846. The pub was renamed “Wedlocks” in 1981 and closed in 2005. The frontage of the early-20th-century Star Inn was constructed in the neo-Georgian style typical of the period and incorporated a date-plaque for 1900.

The watching brief revealed a subterranean masonry feature, probably a drain, associated with outbuildings formally to the rear of the premises.

*Tim Longman, BaRAS*

*Wapping Old Gaol Wall (West), Cumberland Road, Bristol, ST 58467 72089.* Two lengths of early 19th century walling were examined and existing survey drawings updated. The eastern part of the wall was recorded photographically, the western portion having been recorded in 2012. The faces comprised squared, flat-finished ashlar blocks of variable widths of up to 1200mm in length, laid as regular courses, the joints being very tight.

*John Bryant, BaRAS*

**Brislington**

*Lynwood House, No 625 Bath Road, ST 61506 71046.* A standing building record to EH Level 2 was made of this building before conversion to apartments. Lynwood House is a c.1841 2-storey, 6-bedroom house, built as a family home in the Gothic style of the period, with 20th century additions and alterations.

*Bruce Williams, BWA*

*Nos 22–24 Clothier Road, Brislington, ST 62739 70689.* A watching brief was undertaken prior to the construction of a new warehouse, with the aim of recording any remains of a substantial post-medieval dwelling known as Winash House. Although the house itself was destroyed during redevelopment in the mid-20th century, some features did survive, including a boundary wall around a garden and carriage drive to the north of the house, and the surface of the drive itself, both of which were probably constructed between the late 17th and early 19th century. Further structural remains associated with the house are likely to survive in the south-west corner of an adjacent car park.

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

**Clifton**

*Chesterfield Hospital, ST 57297 72950.* A watching brief was carried out during construction groundworks in order to look for early medieval or post-medieval survival from the development of Clifton Village. The location is the site of the manor house previously known as Clifton Court and its stable blocks, built in 1742, with additional buildings added in the 19th century. The latest phase of standing structures dates to the 20th century when the property was converted from a hospital to a nursing home.

However, there was no indication of any structure on the site prior to the 18th century and no early finds. A stone drainage channel and associated tank in the southern half of the site, the remains of a flagstone paved surface in the north-east and another stone-lined tank north of the stable block dated to various periods in the life of the Court but none pre-dated it.

*Tracey Smith, BaRAS*

*Tellisford Cottage, ST 5667 7396.* Historic Building Recording of Tellisford Cottage and a garage to the rear and within the curtilage of Tellisford House, a Grade II Listed building, was undertaken. Tellisford House was built between 1853–5, on land previously undeveloped, as one of a pair of large semi-detached houses, the northernmost of a group of high-status houses along Clifton Down. The cottage is not mapped in 1874, but a building occupying its site, but of different dimensions does appear in 1882. A building control application of 1928 shows that the cottage existed in that year in recognisably its present form. The building is in very poor condition, but the recording has indicated that it had a complex history between 1874 and 1928 and has undergone substantial alteration in and after the latter year.

*Peter Davenport, CA*

*Litfield House, Clifton Down, ST 56803 73375.* An ornamental audit of the lower ground floor of Litfield House was undertaken. The features which were observed could be broadly separated into two groups. The first were those probably original to the construction of the house and for the most part comprised windows, shutters, door cases and some doors. The second were those associated with the construction of a billiard room carried out by the owner some time after 1926.

*Simon Roper, BaRAS*

*Hope Chapel, Hope Chapel Hill, Hotwells, ST 56904 72661.* Recording work and a watching brief was undertaken during the conversion of a crypt into a more useable space. The chapel is a Grade II Listed Building, which was built between 1786 and 1788, and rebuilt in 1837/38. Monumental inscriptions were recorded within the chapel and crypt, and a total of 36, mostly adult, burials were uncovered, the majority of which date from the period 1788 to 1836. The human remains were analysed and then reburied in a vault below the chapel.

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

**Henbury**

*Blaise Nursery, Kings Weston Road, Lawrence Weston, ST 55282 78347.* A watching brief was undertaken during the laying of a new concrete slab and drainage works for a modern barn at Blaise Nursery. The sequence of deposits observed during the groundworks would indicate a site-wide horizontal truncation of any historical soil deposits and associated archaeological features, with the area reduced to the top of natural before being levelled. There was no evidence of the Roman road which was thought to run through the site.

*Tracey Smith, BaRAS*

*Wind Turbines at Severn Road/Chittening Road, NGR ST 53230 81934.* A watching brief was undertaken during construction groundwork. No archaeologically significant deposits or features were present within the deep layer of estuarine alluvium.

*Tim Longman, BaRAS*

*Kings Weston Roman Villa, Long Cross, Lawrence Weston, Bristol, ST 53372 77554.* A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a soak-away located outside the north-west corner of the visitor centre. The groundworks revealed a substantial layer of 1940s excavation backfill lying directly over natural. In the north-east section of the trench the backfill could be seen overlying the remains of a previously excavated Roman drain and a later cut feature backfilled with industrial waste.

*Tracey Smith, BaRAS*

*PRC Housing at Lawrence Weston, Bristol, between ST 54750 78575 and ST 54275 77875.* A watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the demolition of 56 pre-cast reinforced concrete houses built



soon after WW2. No archaeological features were uncovered during groundworks, but a small quantity of residual Romano-British and medieval pottery was recovered from topsoil and subsoil layers in Capel Road and Awdelett Close.

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

### **Horfield**

*Land at the Beehive Public House, Wellington Hill West, Horfield, ST 58770 77170.* A watching brief was undertaken during construction groundwork. Other than two mid/late 19th-century wall foundations, one of which may be the back wall of the 'Old Beehive' beer house, and a contemporary well, no significant archaeological deposits or features were present. A few sherds of Romano-British and medieval pottery were recovered.

*Tim Longman, BaRAS*

### **Redcliffe**

*Bristol General Hospital, Guinea Road, ST 5885 7216.* Building Recording and a watching brief were undertaken. The work was carried out to mitigate the effects of refurbishment and partial demolition on the historic fabric of the hospital buildings which underwent almost continuous change from 1855 to 1931. Further changes followed extensive war damage and NHS modernization. The construction history of the buildings was investigated and a structural sequence with dates elucidated. Understanding the many changes that took place over a relatively short period was simplified by extensive use of original architects' drawings to clarify the sequence of changes between 1855 and 1931. Later changes were also noted, from the 1950s to the 1990s. A photographic and drawn record was made.

*Peter Davenport, CA*

### **St Augustine**

*No. 31 College Green, central Bristol, ST 58402 72814.* An historic building assessment was carried out prior to an application for Listed Building Consent being sought to allow internal alterations, largely to the upper storeys. Number 31 (now also No. 31a for part of the ground floor and basement), is a Listed Grade II building dating from the early 18th century. It has a typical Georgian style of front, and was once part of a row of individual houses of quality fronting onto the Green. However, the origins of the site go back much further, with buildings recorded here since at least the 1560s. There is a possibility that both party walls may incorporate elements from earlier structures, and the cellars may also pre-date the present building. Internally, the ground floor was much altered in the 19th or early 20th centuries, while the internal layout of rooms on the upper floors has been much changed since 1934 (possibly in the 1960s and later). As built, the house possessed three main storeys plus cellars and an attic, and may have included a small rear privy block from the beginning; at the rear was a 2-storey detached or semi-detached kitchen block, with brick-vaulted cellars. Alongside the party wall with No.

30 survives an open-well staircase of early to mid-18th century design, although the bottom doglegged section was removed probably in 1934. The original room layout for the principal floors was a small room either end of the staircase, with two larger rooms in the south-eastern side of the building. No original fireplaces survive, nor does any decorative plasterwork (e.g. ceilings); many of the Georgian room divisions have been removed.

*John Bryant, BaRAS*

### **St George**

*No. 34 Queen Ann Road, Barton Hill, ST 60733 72730.* An evaluation uncovered substantial, well-preserved structural remains of a 19th-century pottery, including walls, floors and a probable kiln base. A large dump of pottery kiln waste dating from the 1870s was uncovered towards the southern end of the site.

Documentary evidence suggests that the Barton Hill Pottery was probably built in the early 1870s as an extension to an existing pottery run by Alfred Niblett. The pottery closed in 1888. The site was then used by a metal merchant and a paint keg and oil drum manufacturer until at least 1917. Parts of the former pottery were demolished between 1902 and 1912. During the 1920s and 30s the site was converted into a firelighter, candle and polish factory, which was destroyed by fire in the early 1940s.

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

*Former Colliery Chimney, Troopers Hill Road, ST 62881 72849.* An English Heritage Level 2 building survey was undertaken prior to consolidation work at the top of this Pennant Sandstone rubble and slag block structure. The chimney is an early 19th-century Grade II Listed Building which originally formed part of an engine house at the Crews Hole Pit (also known as Troopers Hill Pit).

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

### **St James**

*John Wesley's New Room Chapel, No. 36 The Horsefair, ST 59082 73403.* An evaluation undertaken at John Wesley's New Room Chapel uncovered substantial structural remains of two 18th or early 19th-century cellared buildings, which formed part of a group of tenements known as Pim's Court. Beyond the cellared area there was a sequence of dump layers containing mid 17th to early 18th-century finds. It was not possible to determine the relationship between the dump layers and the cellared buildings, or whether they overlay earlier deposits at greater depth. A visual examination of the fabric of a single-storey, cellared lean-to building abutting the chapel indicated a late 18th or early 19th century construction date.

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

### **St Michael**

*Land off Tyndall's Park Road, ST 5787 7356.* A watching brief identified three late 19th and early 20th-century residential property boundary walls. One corresponds to the boundary between Westbury-on-Trym and St Michael's

parishes whilst another relates to terracing in the formal garden of Samber House, built 1840–1855.

*Charlotte Haines, CA*

*Horfield Road, Haematology and Oncology Centre, BRI, ST 58500 73500.* A watching brief revealed both sides of 18th-century Terrell Street together with the basement and partial ground floor of 19th-century Terrell Cottage, the basement for another building, a well and other post-medieval walls.

*Raymond Ducker, BWA*

### **St Paul Without**

*No. 93 Stokes Croft, ST 5911 7398.* The surviving timber framing in the front elevation of the building was photographically recorded internally after render had been removed. Number 93 is one of a surviving pair of Grade II listed, gabled, late 17th or early 18th century houses on the west side of the street. The framing was unremarkable, with roughly-worked timbers nailed together and no visible carpentry joints.

*John Bryant, BaRAS*

*Bath Buildings, off Cheltenham Road, Montpelier, Bristol. ST 59148 74381.* BaRAS undertook an excavation and watching brief on the site of a new healthcare centre. Both phases of archaeological work exposed a series of buildings and features associated with the mid-18th to early-20th century Rennison's Baths, as shown on early maps. A 1940s weighbridge was also located. Preservation of the buried features was generally good, enabling a better understanding of the phases of activity on the site. A section of the canalised Cutler's Brook was also found and recorded during the project, although outside the main construction area.

*Tim Longman & Tracey Smith, BaRAS*

*25A Bath Buildings, off Cheltenham Road, Montpelier, ST 5911 7437.* A desk-based heritage assessment was undertaken for this site which is occupied by buildings that are mostly of later 20th century date, though there is one building that is likely to date from the 19th century, while at least two other buildings incorporate walls of 19th century date.

The study area was part of the out parish of St. James during the Middle Ages, and since later Saxon times it had been part of the large manor of Ashley. Until the 18th century the area had been entirely rural. The earliest map to show the study area in detail dates from 1828, and this shows the area was occupied by a nursery. Just east of the study area flowed the Cutler's Mill Brook. On the west bank, opposite the study area, was Terrett's Mill, first documented in 1708 but probably established in the later 17th century. An adjacent fish pond may have been a popular spot for bathing. By 1764 a Thomas Rennison had converted it into an open air baths and charged tuppence admission, the first public baths in Bristol.

By 1855 the study area had acquired much of its present shape, and had been developed with industrial buildings.

The study area and surrounding portions of land were acquired in 1874 by the notable building firm of Stephens, Bastow and Co. Ltd, builders of the Lyric Theatre, London. The study area was used as their offices, workshop and timber yard. The company ceased trading in 1911 but the site continued as a timber yard for some time. By 1944 it was largely vacant and by 1946 new structures had been erected on site. In 1950 the study area was recorded as a toy factory. It has been occupied by Fowlers engineering works from the mid-1950s onwards.

*David Etheridge, BWA*

### **St Philip & St Jacob**

*Former Seven Ways Public House, 23 New Street, St Judes, ST 5968 7332.* A programme of building recording prior to demolition and conversion work, followed by a watching brief during construction groundwork was undertaken.

Substantial foundations of a boundary wall alongside St Matthias Park (road), that appear to date from the 17th century, were the earliest archaeological remains recorded on site. The wall possibly appears on an early 18th-century plan of the area by Jacob Millerd. Structural remains belonging to both the 'Old Swan' pub built in the 18th century (including an extensive network of contemporary subterranean cellar passages or 'tunnels'), its replacement the 'New Swan' built in 1891 and substantial 1970s alterations were also recorded.

Deposits of ash, kiln waste and fragments of clay tobacco pipes, which had been used to infill the cellar passages when the old inn was being demolished are likely to have originated from the site of a clay tobacco pipe factory located, at that time, across the road at No. 22 New Street.

*Tim Longman, BaRAS*

*Junction of Wade Street and Little Ann Street, St Judes, ST 59829 73501.* An evaluation uncovered early 18th-century cut features and well-preserved structural remains of 18th and early 19th-century tenements. The earliest buildings (along the Wade Street frontage) were constructed between c 1710 and 1720. During the later 18th and early 19th-century infill development (Swan Court and Pratten's Court) resulted in a densely built-up area of low quality housing. This was demolished as part of a slum clearance project initiated in the 1930s and completed in the 1950s. There are likely to be extensive well-preserved structural and other remains across most of the site.

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

### **St Stephen**

*Nos 69–73 Queen Square, ST 58729 72665.* Building recording of this Grade II Listed building, formerly known as Queen Anne House was carried out prior to internal and external alterations. The basements of the properties contain the earliest surviving masonry, dating from the second decade of the 18th century. The standing buildings above ground are replacements of earlier town houses burnt down in the Reform Bill rioting of 1831 and as such, their earliest structural fabric dates from c 1833–4. With the exception of No.72, each of the Queen Square properties retains



interior architectural fittings of some historical merit, most notably, shuttered, casement window frames, but also door surrounds, skirting boards, some plaster ceilings and coving. However, there is no one room, in any of the buildings, that retains all of its 1830s fittings or architectural features.

*Andy King, BaRAS*

*No. 66 Queen Square and Nos 22–23A King Street, ST 58729 72665.* A watching brief during the excavation of geotechnical test pits, window samples and boreholes showed that structural remains of buildings survive beneath the modern offices. Evidence for extensive post-medieval dumping across the whole site was recorded.

*Tracey Smith, BaRAS*

### **Westbury-on-Trym**

*Sea Mills Square, off Shirehampton Road, Sea Mills, ST 55115 76800.* A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of geotechnical trial pits. The side walls and parts of the roof of a partially demolished Second World War communal air-raid shelter were located at the depth of about 0.7m below the current ground surface.

*Tim Longman, BaRAS*

*No. 49A Parrys Lane, Stoke Bishop, ST 56631 76103.* A two-storey building at the former Dairy Crest milk distribution depot was recorded prior to demolition. The ground floor incorporated the remains of a barn that was certainly in place by 1817 and retained much of its character until 1963, when the old roof was replaced by new first floor offices. Cold stores had been installed, both inside the original structure and in extensions along its southern side, and a roofed loading dock added on its downslope side. The depot was used by Hornby's Dairies, a well-known local concern, later named Bristol Dairies, and was later part of the Unigate business before it became Dairy Crest.

*John Bryant, BaRAS*

*Rear of Lamplighter Public House, Station Road, Shirehampton, ST 52728 76283.* Three trenches were excavated and revealed late post-medieval made ground deposits. No significant archaeological remains were found.

*Bruce Williams, BWA*

*Bristol Free School, Burghill Road, Southmead NGR ST 57626 78336.* A watching brief during groundworks revealed no archaeological features or deposits; however, the presence of coal or clinker suggests that the underlying subsoil is of modern formation, possibly formed during an episode of steam ploughing in the late 19th or early 20th century, and this may obscure archaeological remains.

*Richard Tabor and Cheryl Green, COAS*

## **NORTH SOMERSET**

### **Abbots Leigh**

*Land at Burwalls, Bridge Road, ST 56303 72829.* A desk-based assessment was undertaken for land at Burwalls. The

site consists of a very large, detached 19th-century house, set within extensive landscaped grounds, and including a small number of ancillary buildings, including a former stable block and small lodge house, all of which are Grade II listed. Within the grounds of the house lie the remains of Burwalls Camp, a probable Iron Age promontory fort, with possible Bronze Age antecedents, one of three such camps located to either side of the Clifton Gorge. Landscaping has destroyed much of the surviving ramparts, but it is likely that sub-surface archaeological vestiges still remain *in situ*. The existence of the prehistoric enclosure was recognised historically in the Old English toponym, *Burwalls*, and it is likely that the area of the hill-fort was viewed as a separate enclosure during the medieval period. The site came into the hands of St Augustine's Abbey during the medieval period, and later fell into the hands of the Smyth family, where it remained, as part of their Ashton Court estate, until the 19th century.

The main house at Burwalls was constructed in the late 19th century, as part of the development associated with the construction of the Suspension Bridge, itself completed in 1864. In 1894, the house was sold to the Wills family, who added the ancillary buildings in the late 19th/early 20th century.

*Nick Corcos AAL*

*Stable Block and Annexe, Burwalls House, ST 56303 72829.* A standing building survey, to English Heritage Level II standard, was undertaken of the stable block and annexe, at Burwalls House. This found that the stable block post-dated the main house, in the late 19th/early 20th century, and was of more than one phase of construction. The original building is rectangular in plan, of two storey brick construction, with a ceramic tiled roof. A garage and vehicle inspection pit were added at the north-eastern side of the building in or around 1905. In the late 1970s–80s, after purchase of the property by Bristol University, the entire stable block was converted for use as student accommodation, which involved the construction of an annexe building and a further ancillary building.

*Susana Dias, AA*

### **Bleadon**

*Land at Bleadon Level, ST 32709 56378.* A desk-based assessment was undertaken for undeveloped farmland, situated within a loop of the River Axe and within the estuarine/alluvial environment of the Somerset Levels. The assessment found that, historically, the study area has consisted of agricultural land since at least the mid-17th century, and had probably been subject to successive phases of land reclamation during the medieval period. The only feature of archaeological interest in the immediate vicinity was the recorded site of a 16th/17th century windmill, of which no trace was visible during a site visit. More significantly, the assessment highlighted the fact that the entire site is situated within an area of complex Quaternary alluvial deposits, including the so-called Wentlooge Series, which is noted for its preservation of



multi-period archaeological assets elsewhere along the Severn Estuary.

*Nick Corcos, AAL*

### **Clevedon**

*Coleridge Road, ST403699713151.* An evaluation was requested in order to ascertain whether there were surviving archaeological remains relating to Neolithic/Bronze Age flint implements, Bronze Age burials and Romano-British pottery and burials thought to have been found during the Victorian period. The results were negative and revealed no evidence of any archaeological activity or artefacts relating to the Neolithic/Bronze Age or Romano-British periods.

*Paul Martin and Sam Driscoll, AA*

### **Congresbury**

*Land at Mill Lane, ST 4405 6361.* Trial trenching identified walls and foundations associated with a former mill. The mill leat wasn't found, although possible upcast from its construction was identified. Three strips of iron from the site may confirm documentary sources which indicate that in the 18th-century sheets of iron were 'slit' using water power as the first stage in a process to make iron nails, an early form of industrialisation.

*Jamie Wright, CA*

### **Long Ashton**

*Land at Gatcombe Farm, ST 5299 6991.* Trial trenching identified a Late Iron Age/Early Roman field/enclosure system. Isolated pits and postholes were found to the south of these and the presence of probably re-deposited vitrified clay hearth/furnace linings and slag within later deposits is indicative of smelting, although no definitive areas of Late Iron Age/Roman metalworking were identified. Field boundaries and enclosures associated with medieval and post-medieval agriculture were also recorded.

*Stuart Joyce, CA*

### **Wraxhall**

*The Forge, ST5905671896.* A standing building record of this building revealed that the smithy retained a high percentage of the original masonry, but that the overall layout of the structure had been dramatically altered throughout the 20th century. Internally, only half of the original flooring survived and none of the original fixtures/fittings appeared to remain. Doors had been replaced and the windows had been reconfigured to light modern partitions. The roof structure appeared to have been completely renewed.

*Paul Martin and Sam Driscoll, AA*

## **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

### **Chipping Sodbury**

*No 31 High Street, ST 7268 8227.* An excavation and watching brief were undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (see report this volume). The truncated remains of a curving masonry structure, possibly an industrial or domestic hearth

or oven, were found. Pottery of 14th to 15th-century date was found beneath the hearth and from an associated make-up layer, whilst overlying deposits contained 17th to 18th-century pottery. Two stone wall footings and a possible cess pit may have been contemporary with the hearth/oven and a curved gully in the south of the excavation area contained 13th to 15th-century pottery.

*Sian Reynish, CA*

*The Hop Yard, ST 7304 8207.* A watching brief revealed up to 760mm of modern levelling deposits overlying undisturbed natural substrate. The only feature of interest was a stone-lined culvert, of probable 18th/19th century date, and deposits of demolition rubble, probably relating to a building recorded on the site in 1882, but which had been demolished by 1921.

*Sarah Newns, AAL*

*Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church Centre, High Street, ST 72806 82107.* Stripping of render from the external, south elevation of the former 18th-century meeting room revealed that an existing window on the ground floor was originally twice the size and had extended down almost to ground level.

*Bruce Williams, BWA*

### **Filton**

*Filton Airfield, ST 5900 8020.* A watching brief identified no archaeological remains.

*Tim Havard, CA*

*Land at nos. 31–39, Gloucester Road North, ST 59883 78333.* A desk-based assessment was undertaken for this petrol station site, which appears to have been undeveloped land until at least 1955. The study found that two possible Roman roads or trackways ran to the east of the site, one of which led to an area of previously unrecorded, possible Romano-British, settlement, suggested by the field-name, *Blackland* (Filton tithe map, 1839). Historically, the site would have lain within Horfield parish, of which Filton was a tithing, possibly in existence from the early medieval period. It is likely that the site would have remained as agricultural land, until the mid-twentieth century, when it may have formed part of a small plant nursery/market garden. It is possible that air raid trenches may have been excavated adjacent to, and possibly partly over, the north part of the site immediately prior to World War II. The present petrol station was constructed on the site at some point post-1955, and included major terracing along the site's western edge.

*Sarah Newns, AAL*

### **Stoke Gifford**

*The Cottage, Harry Stoke Road, ST 62146 78886.* A standing building survey, to English Heritage Level II standard, was undertaken of this building prior to its demolition. Map evidence suggested the building probably dated from the late 18th century. It was initially erected as a two storey building, having a rectangular ground floor plan, of randomly coursed



limestone, with occasional elements of brickwork, bonded with sandy lime mortar. The building retained a flagstone floor. In the late 19th century, another room was added to the east side of the building, constructed in a similar fabric to that of the original cottage.

*Susana Dias, AAL*

### **Rudgeway**

*St Helen's Church, ST 63204 86517.* Field evaluation by trial trenching in order to inform current management practices and aid conservation was undertaken within the interior and immediate exterior of the ruined church. The evaluation established that the depth of the historic floor surface was 1.2m below the current ground level and showed that the original herringbone tiling that should have been present had been removed from the area of investigation and was most likely claimed for reuse. Furthermore, a broken limestone flag in the base of Test Pit 1 may suggest the presence of undisturbed vaults beneath the floor level. The most significant discovery was the location of a previously unrecorded wall to the north of the now demolished Chancel, which may correspond to a structure annexed to the church.

*Paul Martin and Sam Driscoll, AA*

### **Thornbury**

*Land at Pound House Farm, ST 6645 9271.* Nine evaluation trenches were excavated along the route of a cable linking a proposed wind turbine with Pound House Farm. One trench contained unstratified Romano-British roof-tile, and another contained a concentration of amorphous-shaped cut features of Romano-British date, that yielded pottery, iron nail fragments and iron-working slag. The pottery largely comprised local wares of 3rd century date, with some regional and continental imports, including two small sherds of fineware beakers imported from the Rhineland. A cut silver denarius of uncertain date was recovered from the ploughsoil within Trench 6.

*Kevin Potter AAU*

### **Warmley**

*Siston Hill Farm, Siston Common, Siston, ST 66295 75084.* An excavation and watching brief was undertaken prior to and during the construction of a new housing development. The work uncovered structural remains of a post-medieval farm and coal mine, which included fragmentary remains of a horse gin and two mine shafts. Siston Hill Farm existed by the end of the 18th century; the coal mine was probably established *c* 1799 and closed between 1810 and 1839. The farm subsequently reverted to purely agricultural use. The horse gin and farm buildings were demolished without record between 2004 and 2009.

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

### **Westerleigh**

*St James the Great, Westerleigh, ST 69954 79654.* A watching brief was undertaken during the course of drainage works in the churchyard. Disarticulated human remains were

uncovered in two drainage trenches to the east of the church and were re-buried when the trenches were backfilled. Excavations immediately to the west of the church tower demonstrated that this area does not appear to have been used for burial. No significant archaeological features or finds were observed during the watching brief.

*Cai Mason, BaRAS*

### **Willsbridge**

*Court Farm Road, ST 66213 70106.* A watching brief during excavations for a pipeline outfall that crossed an old quarry and passed within close proximity of a limekiln revealed spreads of ash waste and a charcoal deposit in the vicinity of the limekiln and a mixed clay backfill corresponding with the redundant quarry. Although no finds were collected or observed, both the redundant limekiln and the quarry were active in the late 19th century.

*Richard Tabor and Cheryl Green, COAS*

### **Winterbourne**

*Grange Farm, ST 63408280.* A gradiometer survey, covering 34.6ha, was conducted to establish the presence and character of archaeological features in advance of proposed development for use to generate solar power. The results of the survey demonstrated the presence of a number of anomalies. Some of these responses in the north may relate to a nearby lime kiln and at least two enclosures, both probably related to agriculture, were identified at the southwest corner of the site.

*Pippa Bradley, WA*

### **Wickwar**

*No 54 High Street, ST 72418 88429.* A watching brief during groundworks for a single storey extension revealed no archaeological features or deposits.

*FA*

### **Yate**

*Says Court Farm, ST 6920 8105.* A trial trench evaluation was undertaken following a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey in advance of proposals to develop a 36 ha site for solar power. The preliminary work established the archaeological potential of the site including the projected line of a Roman road. Ninety trial trenches, each 50m long, were excavated to confirm the results of the geophysical survey. The archaeological evaluation identified a number of post-medieval features including a track-way, three shallow pits and several field boundary ditches that are shown on historic maps. No evidence of the Roman road was identified in either the geophysical survey or the trial trenching.

*Pippa Bradley, WA*

*Autumn Brook, ST 7189 8409.* Trial trenching revealed layers of burnt stones and charcoal, interpreted as a burnt mound. Charcoal from the earliest layer was radiocarbon dated to the Middle Bronze Age (1495–1391 cal. BC) and this would appear to be the first burnt mound identified in South Gloucestershire. A pit to the south of these deposits

produced an Anglo-Saxon radiocarbon date of cal. AD 767–890. A subsequent excavation revealed that the mound was adjacent to a palaeochannel. In addition to two layers of burnt stone, five water troughs were associated with the mound, four beneath the centre of the mound deposit, and one immediately to the west. Seven postholes identified in association with the mound may have supported structures, although the nature of these is unknown. The burnt mound was cut by a Roman ditch possibly associated with water management, and there was possible evidence for dredging in this period. Five further charcoal-rich pits, similar to

the Anglo-Saxon pit recorded during the evaluation, were found, but none contained finds or evidence of function.

*Christopher Leonard, CA*

#### **Wick**

*Byways*, ST 7057572895. A watching brief was carried out on land to the south of a property that fell within the potential boundaries of the medieval manor of Wick. Groundwork revealed no archaeological features or artefacts and no finds were recovered from the spoil.

*Paul Martin & Sam Driscoll, AA*