LAND OFF WILLIS WAY,
PURTON,
WILTSHIRE.

NGR: 408571.187351 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION;

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT.

Accession Number: SWIMG:2020.1

January 2020
Report No. 1322

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AOD
Above Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

Archaeology
For the purposes of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from Prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

Box-flue tile
Tile associated with Roman hypocausts.

CBM
Ceramic Building Material.

Imbrex (Imbrices)
Raised or arched roof tile used to cover the joint between flat tiles. Commonly associated with Roman buildings.

Medieval
The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

Natural
In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR
National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OS
Ordnance Survey.

Parietalis
Wall mounted notched tile associated with Roman hypocausts.

Pilae tile
Square or round tile associated with Roman hypocausts.

Post-medieval
The period after *c.* AD 1500.

Prehistoric
The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic – c.* 500,000 BC to *c.* 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic – c.* 12,000 BC to *c.* 4,500 BC; *Neolithic – c.* 4,500 BC to *c.* 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age – c.* 2,000 BC to *c.* 800 BC; *Iron Age – c.* 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman
The period traditionally dated AD 43 to *c.* AD 410.

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Saxon
The period between *c.* AD 410 and AD 1066.

Tegula (Tegulae)
Flat roof tile commonly associated with Roman buildings.

Tessera (Tesserae)
Small tile, usually formed in the shaped of a cube, which is used as part of a tessellated or mosaic floor or pavement. Commonly associated with high-status Roman buildings.

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SUMMARY

Between 20th November 2017 and 9th February 2018 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological excavation, which was undertaken in advance of residential development, on land off Willis Way, Purton, Wiltshire (NGR: 408571.187351 - centred). The project was commissioned by Adrian Daglish of GGA Developments Ltd.

The excavation revealed significant archaeological remains, which predominately dated to the Roman period. Evidence for high status Early Roman settlement was present in the form of a substantial and well-appointed post-built building, with associated dispersed pits and postholes. The function of the building was unclear; however, its association with ceramic building tiles, some of which were related to a hypocaust system, along with fragments of painted wall plaster and probable tesserae indicted that it was possibly part of a villa complex. The associated dating evidence suggested that the building was constructed around 2nd century AD.

Subsequent to the demolition of the building, which occurred about 3rd century AD, a stone wall was constructed within the site. The wall was most likely part of a Late Roman walled cemetery, which had previously been identified within parts of the development site, but was not subject to detailed publication. A further possible grave for an infant burial was identified during the current works, although, it was uncertain if this was related to the Early Roman settlement or the later cemetery.

In light of the results of the excavation, a programme of works will be undertaken in order to bring the site to an appropriate publication. It is envisaged that these works will include, where possible, an assessment of the evidence relating to the previously identified cemetery.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between 20th November 2017 and 9th February 2018 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological excavation, in advance of the construction of a residential development, on land off Willis Way, Purton, Wiltshire (NGR: 408571.187351 - centred). The project was commissioned by Adrian Daglish of GGA Developments Ltd.

1.2 In accordance with the principles of NPPF12 (National Planning Policy Framework 2012) and the archaeological policies of Wiltshire Council, a programme of archaeological excavation was required in advance of development ground works.

1.3 The archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI (Foundations Archaeology 2017), which was based upon *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995) and complied with CIfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014).

1.4 This document provides an assessment of the evidence recovered during the project and a programme to bring the results to publication. The assessment details the proposed publication format and content of the excavation report in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment - MoRPHE* (English Heritage 2015).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Planning Permission (**Reference: 16/10143/FUL**) was granted for the erection of 11 residential dwellings and associated works on land off Willis Way.

2.2 The site was located at the southern end of Willis Way and occupied the former grounds of North View House. It was bounded to the west by an agricultural field and to the south, east and north by residential development. At the time of the fieldwork the site consisted of waste ground, which sloped gently downwards from north to south, between approximately 132m to 131m AOD. The underlying geology is recorded as *Stanford Formation* – limestone, with no superficial deposits (BGS Online Viewer).

2.3 Previous archaeological excavation, undertaken within the site in the 1980s, prior to the construction of North View House, revealed a probable Late Roman walled cemetery (Digby n.d.; HER Ref. MWI9264). Among the seven identified burials was a cremation in a glass vessel, set inside a decorated lead container, within a stone ossuary; as well as a lead lined coffin which contained a fine clear glass vessel and the remains of the cloth in which a body was buried. The excavation also identified parts of the north and west wall of the cemetery, as well as a series of postholes, which were positioned parallel to the wall and were thought to be contemporary. Further Roman evidence is also known from the surrounding area. A HER findspot record for a Roman brooch fragment and a coin of *Crispus*, along with Roman box-flue and *pilae*

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tiles (MWI9266), was located approximately 40m to the south of the site. Part of a Roman building with a tessellated mosaic floor (MWI9262) is recorded at Paven Close, approximately 390m to the northwest. Pits of unknown date have been identified by geophysical survey (MWI74432), approximately 200m to the west of the site. This is also evidence for Roman settlement and industrial remains approximately 400-500m to the west, at Battlewell, with further evidence for Roman industrial activity just to the north (Pomeroy-Kellinger pers. comm.)

2.4 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the site in April 2016 (Foundations Archaeology 2016). This revealed the presence of archaeological pits and postholes, outside the footprint of the former North View House. The evaluation report concluded that archaeological remains most likely dated to the Roman period, with some potential for Prehistoric activity. It was thought that the construction of North View House would have removed any archaeological remains within the footprint of the building.

2.5 The site therefore contained the potential for Prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains. This did not prejudice the works against the recovery of data relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

3.1 The aims of the archaeological excavation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains.

3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;

ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the main stratigraphic archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;

iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;

iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present;

v) to assess, investigate and record the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains;

vi) to integrate the results of the fieldwork into relevant local and regional research frameworks.

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4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Non-significant overburden was removed to the top of archaeological deposits or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first, by use of a 360º mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket, whilst under constant archaeological supervision. The excavation area comprised the whole of the development site, outside the footprint of the former North View House and known extant Modern services. Due to space constraints, the archaeological strip had to be undertaken in four phases, with areas stripped, investigated and backfilled as the fieldwork progressed. The entire excavation area measured approximately 0.2ha, as shown in Figure 2. All areas were signed-off by the archaeological representative of Wiltshire Council, before being back-filled.

4.2 All archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in the excavation WSI. In summary, a 20% sample of linear features and a 50% sample of pits were excavated. Structural, industrial, and ritual/funerary features, as well as postholes, were 100% excavated.

4.3 All recording of archaeological features was undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in the WSI. In summary, features were recorded in plan and section, with their location and height above Ordnance Datum captured by use of a *Topcon GRS1* GPS system.

4.4 Metal detecting survey of the spoil heaps was undertaken by use of a *Visua VSMD10i* metal detector.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1, as well as specialist reports in Appendices 2 to 5. A note on Roman building materials in given in Appendix 6 and the miscellaneous finds are detailed in Appendix 7. A summary of the results is given below.

5.2 The natural limestone clay brash (1003) was present below Modern ground at depths between 0.69m (131.41m AOD) at the north and 1.39m (129.63m AOD) at the south of the site. The natural was intermittently overlaid by a clay subsoil (1002), average 0.35m thick, which contained occasional Post-medieval pottery. The subsoil was subsequently overlaid by variable dark soils (1001), between 0.34m thick at the north and 1.04m thick at the south, which contained frequent Modern detritus and building rubble. There were a significant number of Modern services present within the stripped area and it was noted that the central-northern part of the site contained natural substrates directly beneath Modern overburden, which suggested that this part of the site had been subjected to significant disturbance. Elsewhere, archaeological

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features were present cut into the top of the natural limestone substrates and sealed by the surviving subsoil.

5.3 *Prehistoric Evidence*

5.3.1 Limited evidence for Iron Age activity was present in the form of 30 sherds of probable Iron Age pottery, most of which was present as residual finds in later contexts. Two features, posthole [1048] and pit/posthole [1091], were exclusively associated with Iron Age pottery and could be potentially dated to this period, although, a later date for these features was also entirely possible.

5.4 *The Roman Building*

5.4.1 A total of ten and possibly up to 14 postholes represented the subterranean remains of a substantial post-built structure (Table 1; Figures 18 and 19). The postholes had been cut into the top of the solid natural substrates and frequently contained post packing fills and subsequent soil postpipes. On the whole, the postholes were relatively well preserved, although some had been subject to Modern disturbance/truncation. There were no surviving *in-situ* elements of the former building super-structure.

Table 1: Roman Building Postholes by Group

Main Group	**Fills: pf = packing fill, pp= postpipe, ot = other**
[1131]	pf, pp, ot
[1126]	pf, pp
[1211]	ot
[1201]	pf, pp
[1165]	pf, pp
[1153]	pf, pp, ot
[1161]	pf, pp
[1158]	pf, pp
[1172]	pf, pp
[1138]	pf, pp
Porch Group	
[1183]	pf, pp
[1193]	ot
[1189]	ot
[1169]	pf, pp

5.4.2 Ten of the postholes, the Main Group, formed part of a rectangular space, which measured at least 13.50m long by 6m wide, giving an internal area of at least 81m². The building appeared to have originally extended further south, into the footprint of the former North View House, although there was no convincing evidence that it continued further beyond the footprint of the Modern building. A 1.50m wide gap between postholes [1153] and [1161] appeared to represent a north facing entrance, which was possibly associated

with a 2.70m wide porch, comprising two, or possibly four postholes (the Porch Group), which were set on a similar alignment to the main structure. When combined with the porch, the building would have been at least 17.50m in length.

5.4.3 The postholes associated with the main structure were generally sub-circular in plan and relatively large, with average diameters of 1.17m and average depths 0.58m. The two southern postholes ([1183] and [1169]), within the porch, measured an average of 0.80m in diameter by 0.43m in depth, whilst the northern postholes within the porch ([1189] and [1193]) were slightly smaller and relatively shallow, at an average of 0.70m in diameter and 0.14m in depth. Most of the postholes had steep, sometimes stepped sides, with generally flat bases.

5.4.4 Where packing fills could be confidently identified, they were situated at the edges of the postholes, surrounding apparent postpipes and generally consisted of grey brown gritty clay soils, which contained frequent angular limestones. A total of 12 sherds (84g) of pottery recovered from packing fills (1128), (1154) and (1174/75) provided a 2nd century AD *terminus post quem* for the construction of the building.

5.4.5 The postpipes generally consisted of dark brown clay silt. In profile, they were often fairly irregular and frequently wider at the top, which suggested that the posts had been removed, presumably during the demolition of the building. It was notable that many of the postpipes contained frequent charcoal flecks. A total of 66 sherds (615g) of pottery recovered from 11 postpipes suggested a 2nd century AD or later date for their deposition.

5.4.6 Building postholes [1158], [1161], [1172], [1201] and [1211] were overlaid by fairly extensive spreads of dumped soils (1116/1119) and (1123/5/30), which were contained within shallow hollows or depressions ([1224] and [1122/4/9]), in the top of the natural. The base of hollow [1122/4/9] had been partly discoloured pink/red, presumably as a result of burning/heating, whilst the dumped soils frequently contained charcoal flecks and lumps, along with flecks and patches of burnt clay or daub. An assemblage of 213 sherds (4,165g) of pottery recovered from the soils indicated a 3rd century AD or later date for their deposition. A fragment of Modern CBM from fill (1119) was likely to be intrusive material.

5.4.7 There was a general paucity of residual Roman building material present within features across the majority of the site. However, the area within and around the Roman building was markedly different, with relatively substantial amounts of building rubble recovered from the building postholes and the associated dumped soils. These comprised fragments of Roman CBM, including *tegula*, *imbrices*, box-flue tile, one of which was semi-vitrified, *parietalis* and brick, along with decorated/painted wall plaster fragments, some of which had possibly been heated or burnt, four probable *tesserae* and a fragment of probable Roman floor tile. The associated building materials therefore suggested that the Roman building had been well-appointed and of relatively high-status.

5.4.8 Two copper alloy finds were recovered from the building postholes; a complete Early Roman bow brooch was contained within the packing fill (1174) of posthole [1172], whilst the bowl of an Early Roman spoon was contained within postpipe (1160), within posthole [1158].

5.5 *Pits and Postholes*

5.5.1 Excluding the features associated with the Roman building, there were 61 pits and/or postholes within the investigation area. These were generally dispersed across the site, although there was a slight increase in density towards the east, in the vicinity of the Roman building. On the basis of relatively limited artefactual evidence, the majority of these features probably dated to the Roman period, although a small number of pits ([1004], [1006], [1024] and [1058]) contained Post-medieval or Modern material. A piece of Modern CBM, found within the top of posthole [1176], was likely to be intrusive material. Part of an Early Roman copper alloy brooch was recovered from the fill (1055) of pit [1054].

5.5.2 The recovered ceramics assemblage indicated that the Roman pits and postholes most likely dated to the Early Roman period, which would place them as roughly contemporary with the Roman building. Further evidence for contemporaneity was hinted at by the absence of convincing, deeper cut pits or postholes within the interior of the building, suggesting that the extant structure had precluded pit digging in this area.

5.5.3 It was difficult to assign a function to the majority of the dispersed pits and postholes, however, pit [1084] and possibly pit [1044] had rounded, undercut profiles, which suggested that they may have originally been dug for storage (Robinson and Lambrick 2009, 274-277). Given the nature of the underlying substrates, it is possible that some of the pits may have been quarries, possibly representing fairly piecemeal extraction activity. Whatever the case, it is clear, in light of the occurrence of settlement detritus, including broken ceramics and animal bones, that at least some of the pits were utilised for refuse disposal. Pit [1108] contained human perinatal limb bones, which suggested the pit may have been a grave for an infant burial. None of the dispersed postholes could be convincingly interpreted as parts of structures, however, postholes [1176] and [1179] were situated near to the northern part of the Roman building and had steep-sided, stepped profiles, which were similar to some of the building postholes. A possible north-south aligned fenced boundary may have been marked by a line of eight pits/postholes ([1062], [1082], [1099], [1095], [1097], [1078/80] and evaluation feature [503]) at the east of the site, although, this interpretation remained tentative at best.

5.5.4 There were two fairly extensive, although somewhat amorphous features [1014/18] and [1026/42], in the southwest part of the site. They were very shallow and contained soil fills, which yielded a paucity of Roman artefacts. They may have been working hollows or activity areas, although the potential that they were soil-filled natural depressions could not be entirely ruled out. However, they were distinct from the hollows ([1122/4/9] and [1224])

associated with the Roman building, as they only contained low levels of charcoal and there was no evidence for burning.

5.6 *Ditches and a wall*

5.6.1 There were parts of two ditches ([1008/12/16] and [1052]) within the investigation area. It is possible that they were part of a north-south / east-west aligned ditch complex, although, due to the limited nature of the evidence, this was highly speculative. Ditch [1008/12/16] was set on a north – south alignment, similar to that of the Roman building and the possible fence boundary to the east. Both of the ditches were associated with Early Roman pottery, which might suggest that they were related to the Roman settlement activity within the site; however, caution should be applied here, as they may have been related to the subsequent burial ground. This hypothesis was supported by the fact that ditch [1052] was stratigraphically later than posthole [1050], as well as the concurrence between the ditch alignments with the general boundary layout of the late Roman cemetery. The precise date and function of the two ditches within the site therefore remained unclear.

5.6.2 Limestone wall (1101), which was present in the northeast corner of the site, survived for a length of approximately 10m (Figures 8 and 9). It was situated on an east – west alignment and extended beyond the western limit of investigation and appeared to have been truncated at the east. The wall would most probably have originally been contained within a footing trench [1219], which was cut down to the top of, but not significantly into, the solid natural substrates and was, therefore, generally only visible in section; however, gully [1203]/[1205] probably represented the deepest extent of the footing trench (Figures 9 and 10). The wall itself was only present to a height of 0.25m and, therefore, represented the lowest foundations of a formerly upstanding wall.

5.6.3 A total of 45 sherds (500g) of Roman pottery, which were recovered from the wall matrix, provided a *terminus post quem* of middle 2nd century AD or later for its construction. This concurred with the stratigraphic evidence, as the wall was later than pits [1149], [1151], [1183], [1187], [1193] and [1209], which were associated with 1st and 2nd century AD pottery; furthermore, if it is accepted that postholes [1183] and [1193] were part of the Roman building, then the wall was likely to have been constructed after its abandonment. This was supported by the occurrence of six fragments of Roman CBM within the wall matrix, which possibly represented building demolition material.

5.7 Analysis of the charred plant macrofossils from sampled Roman contexts has indicated the presence of various crop materials, including evidence for spelt wheat, along with some emmer wheat and barley. Weeds associated with crops were also present, as well as weeds associated with damp soil and grassland. Wood charcoal was also recovered, although, these are currently unidentified to species. The animal bone assemblage from the site was fairly small and included cattle, sheep/goat and pig, along with horse/donkey, dog or fox and red deer.

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6 DISCUSSION

6.1 No features could be demonstrably related to the Prehistoric period, however, a small assemblage of probable Iron Age pottery attested to activity in the general locale. Further Iron Age evidence in this area is provided by Ringsbury Camp hillfort, which is located approximately 1km to the southwest of the site.

6.2 At some point in the Early Roman period, possibly around the 2nd century AD, a fairly substantial rectangular building was constructed, the subterranean remains of which comprised a series of postholes, with evidence for a possible entrance, with an associated porch. The structural remains were associated with roof, floor and hypocaust tiles, bricks, fragments of painted wall plaster, probable tesserae and iron nail fragments, as well as a fragment of glass, which suggested a well-appointed or high-status building. Substantial high-status post-built structures are relatively rare in Roman Britain; most villa building foundations are represented by either stone-built wall footings, or robbed-out wall footing trenches. A substantial Roman post-built structure, of similar dimensions to the current building, is recorded at Somerford Keynes (Booth *et al.* 2007, Fig. 3.12), although the function of this building is presently unclear. The recovery of a rich assemblage of cereal grain from dumped deposit (1116), which was associated with the Willis Way building, may hint that it was related to crop processing; although, caution should be applied here, as the building was likely to be situated within an agricultural complex and, consequently, this sort of material could be easily incorporated from nearby. The function of the building at Willis Way is therefore currently uncertain.

6.3 The dating evidence suggested that the dispersed pits and postholes within the site were likely to be broadly contemporary with the building. This was supported by the absence of convincing pits or postholes within the interior of the building; suggesting that it was an extant structure during the period of pit/posthole digging. Some of the pits were likely to have been dug for storage, with others possibly related to piecemeal quarrying and the deposition of refuse. Possible infant grave pit [1108] was difficult to contextualise, as such burials are fairly common on Roman rural settlement sites (Smith 2013), although, poorly understood. It is also possible that this feature was related to the late Roman cemetery.

6.4 The interpretation of ditches [1008/12/16] and [1052] is slightly problematic as their north-south / east-west alignment correlated with the alignment of the Early Roman building, as well as the later cemetery. However, 1980s excavation (Digby n.d.) indicated that the cemetery was bounded by a wall and, as such, it is suggested that the ditches were most likely to be related to the Early Roman settlement.

6.5 Dumped deposits (1116) and (1123/25/30) were situated at the location of the Early Roman building. They were present at the level of the top of the postholes and, therefore, were most probably situated beneath the level of the floor surfaces associated with the building. On this basis, it is likely that they

were deposited after the removal of the floor surfaces, during the demolition and reduction of the building, which, based upon the pottery recovered from the layers themselves and the building postpipes, occurred no earlier than the 3rd century AD. The burnt patches at the base of hollow [1122/4/9] suggested that the demolition of the building may have been associated with burning, which correlated with the frequent occurrence of charcoal flecks in many of the building postpipes; although, it was unclear if the burning was part of the demolition 'reduction' process, or, alternatively, the building had burnt down and was subsequently demolished. The lack of fragments of burnt structural timbers within the postpipes or the demolition deposits might suggest the former was more likely.

6.6 A some point subsequent to the demolition of the building, wall (1101) was constructed. The wall could not be directly related to any other feature within the current site; however, the 1980s excavation identified an east -west aligned wall, which formed the northern boundary of a Late Roman cemetery (Digby n.d., 2). The wall is described as '*protruding above the level of the natural*' and was constructed of '*large coral rag stones*', set within a matrix of '*silty soil and mortar*', all of which compares relatively well with wall (1101). It is, therefore, entirely plausible that wall (1101) was related to the Late Roman cemetery; however, a best-fit overlay plan (Fig. 20) indicates that this part of the cemetery wall extended further to the east than originally presumed. It is also notable that no postholes were directly comparable to the double row of posts shown to the north of the wall on the 1980s plan; although, it was noted that these were associated with a possible entrance 20m from the northwest corner of the cemetery and, as such, the rows of posts may not have originally extended further to the east. A further possible grave for an infant burial was identified during the current works, although, it was uncertain if this was related to the Early Roman settlement or the later cemetery.

6.7 On balance, it appeared that wall (1101) was probably part of the walled cemetery; although, the precise layout and extent of the walls, as well as the other components of the cemetery, remains uncertain and distinctly problematic. The dating evidence from the current investigation suggested that the cemetery would have been formed no earlier than the 3rd century AD, which accords well with the previous understating of the site.

6.8 There was no evidence for significant post-Roman activity within the site, until the Modern period.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The excavation has revealed significant archaeological remains, which predominately dated to the Roman period. Evidence for high status Early Roman settlement was present in the form of a substantial and well-appointed post-built building, with associated dispersed pits and postholes. The function of the building was unclear; however, its association with ceramic building tiles, some of which were related to a hypocaust system, along with fragments of painted wall plaster and probable tesserae indicted that it was possibly part

of a villa complex. The associated dating evidence suggested that the building was constructed around 2nd century AD.

7.2 Subsequent to the demolition of the building, which occurred about the 3rd century AD, a stone wall was constructed within the site. The wall was most likely part of a Late Roman walled cemetery, which had previously been identified within parts of the development site. A further possible grave for an infant burial was identified during the current works.

8 NATURE OF THE RECORD

8.1 The stratigraphic archive for the site consists of the following elements:

Context Sheets
Record Sheets
Plans
Sections
Black &White photographs
Digital photographs
Shapefile geospatial vector data

8.2 The following contexts types were represented:

Ditch/gully;
Pit;
Posthole;
Hollow;
Wall;
Fill.

8.3 The methodologies used to recover this evidence were set out in the WSI. In summary the following excavation methods were utilised. A mechanical excavator was used to remove overburden onto the surface of archaeological deposits, thereafter an appropriate sample of selected deposits was removed by manual excavation. All contexts were recorded on a pro-forma context sheet and principal deposits were drawn in plan and section. Further spatial data, as well as heights above Ordnance Datum, were captured digitally. These are available in the archive. Photographs were taken of all excavated features and sections.

8.4 Following the completion of the excavation an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive was compiled in accordance with MoRPHE (Historic England 2015).

9 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Of the specific objectives set out in the WSI, the following have been achieved;

i/ *to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;* This has been achieved.

ii/ *to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the main stratigraphic archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;* This has been achieved, although, the patterning and extent of features was likely to have been affected by Modern disturbance.

iii/ *to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;* This has been achieved, especially in relation to the Early Roman building and the later wall, where a well dated, coherent and convincing stratigraphic sequence was identified.

iv/ *to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present;* This has been achieved. The site has the potential to provide environmental and economic evidence for the Early Roman period. This evidence was present in the form of pottery, building materials, small finds and animal bones, along with charred plant remains.

v/ *to assess, investigate and record the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains;* This has been achieved, although, the function of the Early Roman building is currently uncertain.

vi/ *to integrate the results of the fieldwork into relevant local and regional research frameworks;* Subsequent to the further analysis detailed below, this should be achievable. However, the coherence of the site narrative, especially in relation to the Late Roman cemetery, will be heavily dependent upon the presence and quality of any surviving and accessible records from the 1980s excavation.

9.2 Updated Project Design

9.2.1 The site contains evidence for high-status Early Roman settlement, which was potentially part of a villa complex, as well as part of a boundary wall associated with a Late Roman cemetery and, as such, clearly warrants an appropriate publication.

i/ The pottery and ceramic building material should be subject to limited further analysis, as detailed in Appendix 2. Some of the CBM may warrant illustration for publication purposes;

ii/ The charred plant remains have a potential to provide a relatively precise chronological ‘snapshot’ of the Early Roman agricultural

regime in the area of the site. These should be further analysed, as detailed in Appendix 5;

iii/ The small finds should be cleaned, catalogued and prepared for publication. This will require a small amount of further research and appropriate illustration, as detailed in Appendix 4. The illustrations should include appropriate photographs of the Roman brooches and spoon bowl;

iv/ The animal bone assemblage is too small to warrant further work;

v/ The identified human perinatal remains recovered from fill (1109) comprise six small bone fragments, weighing a total of 7g. Prior to the final report/publication, the identification of these bones should be confirmed by a qualified osteoarchaeologist, with a formal note/report on any relevant findings;

vi/ A radiocarbon date should be obtained from the following:

a/ bulk soil sample 11 was recovered from the packing fill (1174/5) of posthole [1172]. A radiocarbon determination from cereal grains within this fill will provide a date for the construction of the post-built building (notwithstanding the slight potential that the grain could be residual material related to earlier activity);

b/ a radiocarbon determination from the human perinatal bones from fill (1109) will provide a date for the burial (this should be undertaken subsequent to formal identification by an osteoarchaeologist);

vii/ Analysis and assessment of the site records from the previous cemetery excavation will be undertaken, in order to inform the final report/publication. Appropriate descriptions, illustrations and interpretations of the identified features will be included in the report. Any specialist input in this regard will be dependent upon additional funding being secured and is currently outside the scope of this project;

viii/ The publication report should include a phase plan illustrating the transition from Early Roman settlement to the Late Roman cemetery. The precision and detail of this plan will be heavily dependent upon the results of the analysis described in 9.2.1.vii.

ix/ The results of the fieldwork should be tied into the local contemporary evidence as well as the regional research frameworks. Specifically, comparisons for the Early Roman building will need to be sought, with a view to establishing its likely function, if possible. Any meaningful contextualisation of the cemetery will, again, be largely dependent upon the further analysis recommended in 9.2.1.vii. In relation to the

Solent-Thames Research Framework (Fulford 2014), the site has a potential to inform the following research priorities:

a/ ***Inheritance*** – providing radiocarbon dates for potentially later Iron Age/Early Roman remains

b/ ***Settlement*** – characterisation of settlement and economy; patterns of development and abandonment

c/ ***Ceremony, ritual and religion*** – variations in burial practice; radiocarbon dating potentially Late Roman burials

d/ ***Crafts, trades and industries*** – characterisation and quantification of ceramic building material (CBM).

9.3 The results of the fieldwork justified the implementation of the excavation programme and the site is of sufficient quality to warrant a publication in *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* (WANHM). The following section presents a considered policy for dissemination of the results, achieving:

i/ the presentation of the results in a coherently synthesized and detailed format;

ii/ the deposition of an ordered and internally consistent archive with an appropriate museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) archive.

10 PUBLICATION, PRESENTATION AND ARCHIVING

10.1 The following synopsis presents the proposed format for the final report:

Table of Contents

Abstract

Introduction
Background
Location and topography
Methodology

Excavated evidence
Site chronology and brief summary of stratigraphic evidence

Specialist reports

Synthesis
Discussion and Conclusion

Illustrations

Acknowledgements
Bibliography
Appendices

10.2 The length and scope of the publication report is dependent upon the level of further analysis undertaken in relation to the previously identified cemetery and, as such, the number of pages and illustrations will be confirmed once the majority of post excavation analysis is complete. Any decisions regarding the level of detail and illustrations contained within the report will be made in consultation with the County Archaeological Service and the editor of WANHM.

10.3 A full OASIS record with attached report will be created.

10.4 Additionally, a full report of the excavations will be posted on the Internet at the Foundations Archaeology website (http://www.foundations.co.uk).

10.5 The digital site archive for the project will be submitted to ADS upon completion of the report.

10.6 The physical site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with Swindon Museum Service (Accession Number: SWIMG:2020.1), in agreement with the curator of Devizes Museum.

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12 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1 – STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
1001	-	-	Between 0.34 at N and 1.04m at S	Topsoil/overburden: mixed and variable dark brown to dark grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent Modern detritus. Significantly deeper towards the south of the site, where the Modern ground level had been raised up.	1002	n/a
1002	-	-	Average 0.35	Subsoil: mid brown plastic clay silt, which contained occasional limestones and occasional charcoal flecks.	1003	1001
1003	-	-	?	**NATURAL**: beige grey limestone clay brash, with occasional patches of bright orange brown limestone clay brash.	n/a	1002
[1004]	1.60	0.47	0.10	Sub-rectangular pit with a rounded base. Contained fill 1005.	1003, 1002, 1001	1005
1005	1.60	0.47	0.10	Fill of pit [1004]: dark brown to black loose clay silt, which contained occasional Modern detritus.	[1004]	n/a
[1006]	1.12	0.79	0.24	Sub-rectangular pit with vertical sides and a flat base. Contained fill 1007.	1003, 1002, 1001	1007
1007	1.12	0.79	0.24	Fill of pit [1006]: mixed dark brown to mid brown loose clay silt, which contained occasional Modern detritus.	[1006]	n/a
[1008]	>1.0	0.59	0.29	North – south aligned ditch with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 1009. Equivalent to ditches [1012] and [1016].	1003	1009
1009	>1.0	0.59	0.29	Fill of ditch [1008]: mid grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent small stones.	[1008]	1002
[1010]	0.70	0.62	0.23	Sub-circular posthole with vertical sides and a flat base. Contained fill 1011.	1003	1011
1011	0.70	0.62	0.23	Fill of posthole [1010]: dark brown plastic silt sand, which contained frequent medium to large angular limestones.	[1010]	1002
[1012]	>1.0	0.68	0.24	North – south aligned ditch with sloping sides and a rounded base. Contained fill 1013. Equivalent to ditches [1008] and [1016].	1003	1013
1013	>1.0	0.68	0.24	Fill of ditch [1012]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent small stones.	[1012]	1002
[1014]	6.60	3.50	0.12	Extensive amorphous feature with a very shallow, relatively flat profile. Contained fill 1015. Equivalent to [1018].	1003	1015
1015	6.60	3.50	0.12	Fill of feature [1014]: mid to dark brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestones.	[1014]	1002
[1016]	>2.0	0.88	0.28	North – south aligned ditch with sloping sides and a rounded base. Contained fill 1017. Equivalent to ditches [1008] and [1012].	1003	1017
1017	>2.0	0.88	0.28	Fill of ditch [1016]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent small stones.	[1016]	1002
[1018]	6.0	2.50	0.19	Extensive amorphous feature with a very shallow, relatively flat profile. Contained fill 1019. Equivalent to [1014].	1003	1019
1019	6.0	2.50	0.19	Fill of feature [1018]: mid to dark brown silt clay, which contained occasional to frequent limestones.	[1018]	1002
[1020]	0.60	0.54	0.19	Sub-circular posthole with steep sides and a rounded base. Contained fill 1021.	1003	1021
1021	0.60	0.54	0.19	Fill of posthole [1020]: mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones.	[1020]	1002

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
[1022]	0.50	0.42	0.15	Sub-circular posthole with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 1023.	1003	1023
1023	0.50	0.42	0.15	Fill of posthole [1022]: dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1022]	1002
[1024]	1.18	0.90	0.20	Sub-oval pit with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1025.	1003	1025
1025	1.18	0.90	0.20	Fill of pit [1024]: mid to dark brown silt sand, which contained frequent small stones.	[1024]	1002
[1026]	>1.0	2.32	0.09	Northwest – southeast aligned linear feature with a very shallow, relatively flat profile. Contained fill 1027. Equivalent to feature [1042].	1003	1027
1027	>1.0	2.32	0.09	Fill of feature [1026]: mid grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional small limestones.	[1026]	1002
[1028]	0.58	0.58	0.21	Sub-circular posthole with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 1029.	1003	1029
1029	0.58	0.58	0.21	Fill of posthole [1028]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones.	[1028]	1002
[1030]	1.53	1.08	0.16	Sub-oval pit with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1031.	1003	1031
1031	1.53	1.08	0.16	Fill of pit [1030]: mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1030]	[1032]
[1032]	1.48	1.03	0.15	Sub-oval pit with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1033.	1031	1033
1033	1.48	1.03	0.15	Fill of pit [1032]: mid to dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1032]	1002
[1034]	0.95	0.53	0.19	Sub-oval pit with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 1035.	1003	1035
1035	0.95	0.53	0.19	Fill of pit [1034]: mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1034]	1002
[1036]	0.25	0.25	0.09	Sub-circular posthole with a shallow, rounded profile. Similar and possibly related to posthole [1038]. Contained fill 1037.	1003	1037
1037	0.25	0.25	0.09	Fill of posthole [1036]: dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones.	[1036]	1002
[1038]	0.27	0.27	0.09	Sub-circular posthole with a shallow, rounded profile. Similar and possibly related to posthole [1036]. Contained fill 1039.	1003	1039
1039	0.27	0.27	0.09	Fill of posthole [1038]: mid brown clay silt.	[1038]	1002
[1040]	0.77	0.63	0.23	Sub-circular pit with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 1041.	1003	1041
1041	0.77	0.63	0.23	Fill of pit [1040]: dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional small limestones.	[1040]	1002
[1042]	>1.0	1.84	0.09	West-northwest – east-southeast aligned linear feature with a very shallow, relatively flat profile. Contained fill 1043. Equivalent to feature [1026].	1003	1043
1043	>1.0	1.84	0.09	Fill of feature [1042]: mid to dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional stones.	[1042]	1002
[1044]	1.93	1.13	0.40	Sub-oval pit with steep, partly undercut sides and a flat base. Contained fills 1045 and 1225.	1003	1045
1045	1.93	1.13	0.40	Fill of pit [1044]: dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional stones.	[1044]	1225

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
[1046]	0.98	0.90	0.24	Sub-circular pit with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1047.	1003	1047
1047	0.98	0.90	0.24	Fill of pit [1046]: grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones and occasional charcoal flecks.	[1046]	1002
[1048]	0.58	0.56	0.36	Sub-circular possible posthole with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 1049.	1003	1049
1049	0.58	0.56	0.36	Fill of posthole [1048]: tan brown silt clay, which contained frequent limestones and occasional charcoal flecks.	[1048]	1002
[1050]	0.42	0.42	0.35	Sub-circular posthole with near vertical sides and a flat base. Contained fill 1051.	1003	1051
1051	0.42	0.42	0.35	Fill of posthole [1050]: tan brown clay silt, which contained occasional stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1050]	[1052]
[1052]	1.90	0.35	0.12	East – west aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Terminated at the west. Contained fill 1053.	1051	1053
1053	1.90	0.35	0.12	Fill of ditch [1052]: grey brown clay silt, which contained rare small stones and frequent charcoal flecks.	[1052]	1002
[1054]	1.10	0.92	0.33	Sub-circular pit with a rounded, slightly irregular profile. Contained fill 1055.	1003	1055
1055	1.10	0.92	0.33	Fill of pit [1054]: dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones.	[1054]	1002
[1056]	0.60	0.56	0.23	Sub-circular possible posthole with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 1057.	1003	1057
1057	0.60	0.56	0.23	Fill of posthole [1056]: mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones.	[1056]	1002
[1058]	1.30	1.27	0.41	Sub-circular pit with a rounded profile. Contained fills 1059 and 1226.	1003	1059
1059	1.30	1.27	0.41	Fill of pit [1058]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent small stones.	[1058]	1226
[1060]	0.57	0.50	0.17	Sub-circular possible posthole with a rounded profile. Contained fill 1061.	1003	1061
1061	0.57	0.50	0.17	Fill of posthole [1060]: grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional small stones.	[1060]	1002
[1062]	0.84	0.80	0.21	Sub-circular pit with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1063.	1003	1063
1063	0.84	0.80	0.21	Fill of pit [1062]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional to frequent angular limestones, as well as rare charcoal flecks.	[1062]	1002
[1064]	0.29	0.29	0.12	Sub-circular posthole with a rounded profile. Contained fills 1065 and 1066.	1003	1066
1065	0.29	0.29	0.07	Fill of posthole [1064]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks.	1066	1002
1066	?	0.27	0.06	Fill of posthole [1064]: tan brown clay silt, which contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1064]	1065
[1067]	1.34	1.20	0.38	Sub-oval pit with sloping sides and a flat base. Contained fills 1068 and 1069.	1215	1068
1068	1.34	?	0.31	Fill of pit [1067]: dark grey clay silt, which contained frequent small stones.	[1067]	1069
1069	1.12	?	0.18	Fill of pit [1067]: grey brown silt clay, which contained occasional to frequent small stones.	1068	1002

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
[1070]	0.35	0.29	0.17	Sub-oval posthole with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fill 1071.	1003	1071
1071	0.35	0.29	0.17	Fill of posthole [1070]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional small stones, rare charcoal flecks and some pieces of red/pink burnt clay or daub. The fill had an 'organic smell', which suggested a relatively recent deposition. It is therefore likely that feature [1070]/1071 was equivalent to evaluation feature [505].	[1070]	1002, although see note in context description
[1072]	0.44	0.38	0.27	Sub-oval posthole with steep sides and a rounded base. Contained fill 1073.	1003	1073
1073	0.44	0.38	0.27	Fill of posthole [1072]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1072]	1002
[1074]	1.0	0.65	0.20	Sub-oval pit with a shallow rounded profile. Contained fill 1075.	1077?	1075
1075	1.0	0.65	0.20	Fill of pit [1074]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional small to medium limestones.	[1074]	1002
[1076]	0.97	0.60	0.13	Sub-oval pit with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 1077.	1003	1077
1077	0.97	0.60	0.13	Fill of pit [1076]: light grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional small stones.	[1076]	[1074]
[1078]	0.60	0.37	0.26	Probable pit or posthole with a sloping western edge. Only partially present within the excavation area. Contained fill 1079.	1081	1079
1079	0.60	0.37	0.26	Fill of pit/posthole [1078]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones.	[1078]	1002
[1080]	1.44	0.97	0.53	Sub-oval pit with sloping edges, which descended to a steep rounded base. Contained fill 1081.	1003	1081
1081	1.44	0.97	0.53	Fill of pit [1080]: grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional to frequent angular limestones.	[1080]	[1078]
[1082]	0.60	0.57	0.13	Sub-circular possible posthole with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1083.	1003	1083
1083	0.60	0.57	0.13	Fill of posthole [1082]: dark tan brown clay silt, which contained frequent small stones and occasional charcoal flecks.	[1082]	1002
[1084]	1.70	1.55	0.98	Sub-circular pit with steep, undercut sides and a rounded profile. Contained fills 1085 and 1086.	1003	1085
1085	?	1.55	0.65	Fill of pit [1084]: dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones, as well as occasional to frequent charcoal flecks.	[1084]	1086
1086	?	1.34	0.35	Fill of pit [1084]: mid brown plastic clay silt, which contained frequent small limestones, along with occasional charcoal flecks.	1085	[1087]
[1087]	1.46	1.10	0.55	Sub-oval pit with steep sloping sides and a flat base. Contained fills 1088, 1089 and 1090.	1086	1088
1088	1.10	?	0.15	Fill of pit [1087]: tan brown plastic gritty clay, which contained frequent limestones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1087]	1089
1089	1.38	?	0.33	Fill of pit [1087]: grey brown plastic clay grit, which contained frequent small limestones and occasional to frequent charcoal flecks.	1088	1090
1090	1.13	?	0.26	Fill of pit [1087]: dark brown plastic clay silt, which contained occasional limestones and occasional to frequent charcoal flecks.	1089	1002
[1091]	0.80	0.70	0.44	Sub-circular pit or posthole with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 1092.	1003	1092
1092	0.80	0.70	0.44	Fill of pit/posthole [1091]: grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones. Indistinguishable from fill 1094.	[1091]	1002

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
[1093]	0.58	0.58	0.41	Sub-circular pit or posthole with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 1094.	1003	1094
1094	0.58	0.58	0.41	Fill of pit/posthole [1093]: grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones.	[1093]	1002
[1095]	0.60	0.50	0.27	Sub-circular possible posthole with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fill 1096.	1003	1096
1096	0.60	0.50	0.27	Fill of posthole [1095]: dark brown clay silt, which contained rare charcoal flecks.	[1095]	1002?
[1097]	0.83	0.78	0.32	Sub-circular possible posthole with a steep rounded profile. Contained fill 1098.	1003	1098
1098	0.83	0.78	0.32	Fill of posthole [1097]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent small to medium limestones.	[1097]	1002
[1099]	0.40	0.40	0.28	Sub-circular posthole with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fill 1100.	1003	1100
1100	0.40	0.40	0.28	Fill of posthole [1099]: dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones and rare to occasional charcoal flecks.	[1099]	1002
1101	10.20	0.70	0.25	East – west aligned limestone wall. Irregular, but possibly roughly shaped beige limestone blocks set within a beige brown to dark brown gritty soil matrix, which contained occasional patches of beige gritty, loose limestone. No convincing evidence for associated mortar. Survived to one course in depth by up to two courses in width. Dissipated/truncated at the east, extended beyond the limit of excavation to the west. The wall was situated within a former footing trench [1219]/[1203/5], the base of which was located on top of the solid natural limestone deposits.	[1219], [1203], [1205], 1150, 1152, 1188, 1184, 1222, 1223, 1194	1002
[1102]	0.35	0.33	0.05	Sub-circular possible posthole with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1103.	1003	1103
1103	0.35	0.33	0.05	Fill of posthole [1102]: tan brown silt sand, which contained rare small stones.	[1102]	1001
[1104]	0.28	0.25	0.07	Sub-circular possible posthole with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1105.	1003	1105
1105	0.28	0.25	0.07	Fill of posthole [1104]: dark tan brown clay sand, which contained rare small stones.	[1104]	1001
[1106]	0.20	0.20	0.21	Sub-circular posthole with near vertical sides and a narrow, rounded base. Contained fill 1107.	1003	1107
1107	0.20	0.20	0.21	Fill of posthole [1106]: dark brown silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and rare small stones.	[1106]	1002
[1108]	0.40	0.34	0.1	Sub-oval possible posthole with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1109.	1003	1109
1109	0.40	0.34	0.1	Fill of posthole [1108]: dark brown silt clay, which contained occasional small stones and occasional charcoal flecks.	[1108]	1002
[1110]	0.37	0.24	0.05	Sub-oval possible posthole with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1111.	1003	1111
1111	0.37	0.24	0.05	Fill of posthole [1110]: brown silt clay, which contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1110]	1002
[1112]	0.60	0.44	0.11	Sub-oval pit/posthole with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1113.	1003	1113
1113	0.60	0.44	0.11	Fill of pit/posthole [1112]: mid brown silt clay, which contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1112]	1002
[1114]	0.60	0.45	0.12	Sub-oval pit or posthole with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1115.	1003	1115
1115	0.60	0.45	0.12	Fill of pit/posthole [1114]: tan brown clay silt, which contained rare charcoal flecks.	[1114]	1002

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
1116	>2.32	>0.90	0.11	Fill of hollow [1224]: variable brown to dark brown black clay silt, which contained occasional to frequent angular limestones, frequent charcoal flecks and lumps, along with occasional patches and fragments of red/pink heated/burnt clay or daub. Equivalent to fill 1119 and probably fills 1123, 1125 and 1130.	[1224], 1192, 1212, 1200	1002
[1117]	0.60	0.35	0.06	Probable sub-circular/oval possible pit with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 1118.	1003	1118
1118	0.60	0.35	0.06	Fill of pit [1117]: dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1117]	1002
1119	>4.70	>0.70	0.15	Fill of hollow [1224]: variable brown to dark brown black clay silt, which contained occasional to frequent angular limestones, occasional charcoal flecks, along with occasional patches and fragments of red/pink heated/burnt clay or daub. Equivalent to fill 1116 and probably fills 1123, 1125 and 1130.	[1224], 1202	1002
[1120]	1.30	1.19	0.09	Sub-circular possible pit with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 1121.	1003	1121
1121	1.30	1.19	0.09	Fill of pit [1120]: mid brown silt clay, which contained frequent small stones.	[1120]	1002
[1122]	1.30	1.20	0.25	Amorphous 'hollow' feature with a shallow, relatively flat, although somewhat irregular profile. Contained fill 1123. Equivalent to features [1124], [1129] and [1224]. Almost certainly associated with shallow features [1185]/1145/1186 and [1195]/1196. The natural at the base of the feature was, in places, discoloured red/pink, probably as a result of burning/heating.	1003	1123
1123	1.30	1.20	0.25	Fill of hollow [1122]: dark grey brown silt clay, which contained occasional angular limestones, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional flecks and lumps of pink/red burnt clay or daub and occasional fragments of plaster. Equivalent to fills 1125 and 1130, as well as fills 1116 and 1119.	[1122], 1145	1002
[1124]	2.07	1.79	0.26	Amorphous 'hollow' feature with a shallow, relatively flat, although somewhat irregular profile. Contained fill 1125. Equivalent to features [1122], [1129] and [1224]. The natural at the base of the feature was, in places, discoloured red/pink, probably as a result of burning/heating.	1003, 1173	1125
1125	2.07	1.79	0.26	Fill of hollow [1124]: dark grey brown silt clay, which contained occasional angular limestones, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional fragments of plaster. Equivalent to fills 1123 and 1130, as well as fills 1116 and 1119.	[1124]	1002
[1126]	1.07	1.02	0.58	Sub-circular posthole with steep sloping sides and a flat base. Contained fills 1127 and 1128.	1003	1128
1127	?	0.97	0.58	Postpipe within posthole [1126]: dark grey brown to black clay silt, which contained occasional angular limestones, frequent charcoal flecks and lumps and rare to occasional flecks of pink/red burnt clay or daub.	1128	1002
1128	?	0.19	0.58	Packing fill within posthole [1126]: grey clay silt, which contained frequent angular limestones, as well as occasional charcoal flecks.	[1126]	1127
[1129]	1.70	1.50	0.17	Amorphous 'hollow' feature with a shallow, relatively flat, although somewhat irregular profile. Contained fill 1130. Equivalent to features [1122], [1124] and [1224].	1003, 1160, 1163	1130
1130	1.70	1.50	0.17	Fill of hollow [1129]: dark grey brown silt clay, which contained occasional angular limestones and occasional charcoal flecks. Equivalent to fills 1123 and 1125, as well as fills 1116 and 1119.	[1129]	1002

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
[1131]	1.10	0.80	0.34	Sub-circular posthole with a steep sloping eastern edge and a possibly stepped western edge, which descended to a flat base. Contained fills 1216, 1217, 1132 and 1134. Heavily truncated by Modern cut [1133]: only lower part of the feature survived. Associated with posthole [1126].	1003	1216, 1217
1132	?	0.56	0.34	Probable postpipe within posthole [1131]: dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional small to large limestones and occasional charcoal flecks.	1216, 1217	1134
[1133]	>1.27	>0.50	>0.12	Northeast – southwest aligned cut. Contained pink gravel and Modern detritus. Almost certainly associated with former Modern hospital building. Equivalent to [1135].	1134	n/a
1134	?	0.60	0.10	Upper fill within posthole [1131]: dark brown black silt clay, which contained occasional limestones and occasional charcoal flecks.	1132	[1133]
[1135]	>1.0	>0.50	>0.51	Northeast – southwest aligned cut with a sloping profile. Contained fills 1136 and 1137. Almost certainly associated with former Modern hospital building. Equivalent to [1133].	1140	1137
1136	?	>0.50	0.19	Fill of feature [1135]: variable brown to beige clay silt, which contained occasional limestones and frequent Modern detritus.	1137	n/a
1137	?	>0.45	>0.33	Fill of feature [1135]: dark brown clay silt, which contained Modern detritus.	[1135]	1136
[1138]	1.20	1.05	0.51	Sub-circular posthole with sloping sides and a flat base. Contained fills 1139 and 1140. Partly truncated by Modern cut [1135]. Associated with posthole [1126].	1003	1140
1139	?	0.44	0.22	Base of probable postpipe within posthole [1138]: dark grey black clay silt, which contained small angular limestones and frequent charcoal flecks.	1140	1002
1140	?	0.32	0.51	Probable packing fill within posthole [1138]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent large angular limestones.	[1138]	1139
[1141]	0.40	0.37	0.14	Sub-circular posthole with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1142.	1003	1142
1142	0.40	0.37	0.14	Fill of posthole [1141]: grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional small stones and rare to occasional charcoal flecks.	[1141]	1002
[1143]	0.40	0.36	0.19	Sub-circular posthole with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 1144.	1003	1144
1144	0.40	0.36	0.19	Fill of posthole [1143]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1143]	1002
1145	1.10	0.40	0.08	Fill of feature [1185]: black charcoal-rich clay silt. Equivalent to fill 1186. Probably related to evidence for burning associated with feature [1122].	[1185]/[1122]	1123
1146	?	0.19	0.55	Probable packing fill within posthole [1153]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent angular limestones.	[1153]	1155, 1147
1147	?	0.40	0.09	Fill situated in upper southwest part of posthole [1153]: brown clay silt.	1146	1002
1148	?	0.60	0.28	Upper part of probable postpipe within posthole [1153]: grey clay silt, which contained small angular limestones and occasional charcoal flecks.	1146, 1154, 1155	1002
[1149]	0.85	0.80	0.26	Sub-circular pit with a rounded profile. Contained fill 1150.	1003	1150
1150	0.85	0.80	0.26	Fill of pit [1149]: mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional angular limestones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1149]	[1219]
[1151]	0.70	0.67	0.31	Sub-circular pit with a rounded profile. Contained fill 1152.	1003	1152

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
1152	0.70	0.67	0.31	Fill of pit [1151]: variable dark to mid brown gritty clay silt, which contained occasional small limestones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1151]	[1219]
[1153]	1.35	1.30	0.56	Sub-circular posthole with a steep sloping western edge and a stepped eastern edge, which descended to a flat base. Contained fills 1146, 1147, 1148, 1154 and 1155. Associated with posthole [1126].	1003	1146, 1154
1154	?	0.32	0.36	Packing fill within posthole [1153]: frequent large angular limestones with patches of variable grey brown clay silt.	[1153]	1155
1155	?	0.41	0.38	Lower part of probable postpipe within posthole [1153]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained small angular limestones and frequent charcoal flecks.	1146, 1154	1148
[1156]	0.30	0.30	0.08	Possible sub-circular posthole with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 1157.	1003	1157
1157	0.30	0.30	0.08	Fill of posthole [1156]; grey brown clay silt, which contained rare charcoal flecks.	[1156]	1002
[1158]	1.10	0.90	0.66	Probable sub-circular posthole with a stepped western edge, which descended to a flat base. Contained fills 1159 and 1160. Associated with posthole [1126].	1003	1159
1159	?	0.34	0.27	Packing fill within posthole [1158]: brown clay silt, which contained frequent medium angular limestones.	[1158]	1160
1160	?	0.47	0.66	Probable postpipe within posthole [1158]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained large angular limestones and frequent charcoal flecks.	1159	[1129]
[1161]	1.19	1.07	0.59	Sub-circular posthole with steep sloping sides and a flat base. Contained fills 1162, 1164 and 1163. Associated with posthole [1126].	1003	1162, 1164
1162	?	0.12	0.50	Packing fill within posthole [1161]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent angular limestones, as well as occasional charcoal flecks.	[1161]	1163
1163	?	0.80	0.53	Postpipe within posthole [1161]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional angular limestones and frequent charcoal flecks.	1162, 1164	[1129]
1164	?	0.24	0.53	Packing fill within posthole [1161]: mid brown clay silt, which contained occasional angular limestones, as well as rare charcoal flecks.	[1161]	1163
[1165]	1.15	0.85	0.52	Sub-oval posthole with near vertical sides and a flat base. Contained fills 1166, 1167 and 1168. Associated with posthole [1126].	1003	1167, 1168
1166	?	0.60	0.50	Postpipe within posthole [1165]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional angular limestones and occasional charcoal flecks.	1167, 1168	1002
1167	?	0.17	0.52	Packing fill within posthole [1165]: mid grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent angular limestones, as well as rare charcoal flecks.	[1165]	1166
1168	?	0.09	0.48	Packing fill within posthole [1165]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent angular limestones, as well as rare charcoal flecks.	[1165]	1166
[1169]	0.75	0.83	0.43	Sub-circular posthole with a stepped profile, which descended to a flat base. Contained fills 1170, 1171 and 1218. Similar to postholes associated with feature [1126].	1003	1171, 1218
1170	?	0.46	0.43	Postpipe within posthole [1169]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional angular limestones and occasional charcoal flecks.	1171, 1218	1002
1171	?	0.11	0.27	Packing fill within posthole [1169]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent angular limestones, as well as rare charcoal flecks.	[1169]	1170

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
[1172]	1.36	1.20	0.68	Sub-circular posthole with a steep sloping eastern edge and a stepped western edge, which descended to a flat base. Contained fills 1173, 1174 and 1175. Associated with posthole [1126].	1003	1174, 1175
1173	?	0.70	0.68	Postpipe within posthole [1172]: dark grey brown silt, which contained occasional large angular limestones and frequent charcoal flecks.	1174, 1175	[1124]
1174	?	0.26	0.50	Packing fill within posthole [1172]: orange brown clay silt, which contained frequent angular limestones.	[1172]	1173
1175	?	0.40	0.60	Packing fill within posthole [1172]: grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional to frequent angular limestones.	[1172]	1173
[1176]	0.90	0.47	0.62	Probable sub-circular posthole with a stepped northwestern edge and a near vertical southeastern edge, which descended to a flat base. Contained fills 1177 and 1178.	1003	1177
1177	0.37	?	0.28	Fill of posthole [1176]: grey brown silt clay, which contained occasional small limestones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1176]	1178
1178	0.90	?	0.47	Fill of posthole [1176]: dark grey brown silt clay, which contained occasional small limestones and rare charcoal flecks. Contained a single, probably intrusive fragment of Modern CBM near to the top of the fill.	1177	1221
[1179]	0.74	0.65	0.61	Sub-circular posthole with a near vertical northern edge and a stepped southern edge, which descended to a flat base. Contained fills 1180 and 1220.	1003	1220
1180	0.47	?	0.61	Postpipe within posthole [1179]: dark grey brown silt, which contained occasional small limestones and rare charcoal flecks.	1220	1002
[1181]	0.45	0.42	0.53	Sub-circular posthole with a near sides and a flat base. Contained fill 1182.	1003	1182
1182	0.45	0.42	0.53	Fill of posthole [1181]: dark brown grey clay silt, which contained occasional angular limestones.	[1181]	1002
[1183]	0.80	0.72	0.42	Sub-circular probable posthole with near vertical sides and a flat base. Contained fills 1184, 1222 and 1223.	1003	1222, 1223
1184	?	0.28	0.42	Probable postpipe within posthole [1183]: dark grey brown silt, which contained occasional angular limestones and frequent charcoal flecks.	1222, 1223	[1205]
[1185]	1.10	0.40	0.08	Sub-oval scoop or hollow with a shallow, flat profile. Present at base of, and probably related to, hollow [1122/4/9]. Similar to feature [1195]. Contained fill 1186.	1003	1186
1186	1.10	0.40	0.08	Fill of feature [1185]: black charcoal-rich clay silt. Equivalent to fill 1145. Probably related to evidence for burning associated with feature [1122].	[1185]	1123
[1187]	0.65	0.57	0.30	Sub-oval posthole with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fill 1188.	1003	1188
1188	0.65	0.57	0.30	Fill of posthole [1187]: mid brown silt clay, which contained occasional small limestones and occasional charcoal flecks. Also contained a relatively large limestone block, which was probably related to wall 1101.	[1187]	[1219]
[1189]	0.80	0.70	0.14	Sub-circular possible posthole with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 1190.	1003	1190
1190	0.80	0.70	0.14	Fill of posthole [1189]: orange brown loam, which contained occasional stones and occasional charcoal flecks.	[1189]	1002
[1191]	1.25	0.63	0.20?	Sub-oval/rectangular possible posthole or pit. Contained fills 1192 and 1227. Only partially excavated due to on-site error.	1003	1227
1192	0.40	0.40	0.15	Fill of feature [1191]: mid grey brown silt clay, which contained occasional small stones. Appeared to be later than fill 1227.	1227	1116

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
[1193]	0.68	0.58	0.13	Sub-circular possible posthole with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 1194.	1003	1194
1194	0.68	0.58	0.13	Fill of posthole [1193]: dark grey brown silt clay, which contained occasional stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[1193]	[1219]
[1195]	0.83	0.34	0.06	Sub-oval scoop or hollow with a shallow, flat profile. Present at base of, and probably related to, hollow [1122/4/9]. Similar to feature [1185]. Contained fill 1196.	1003	1196
1196	0.83	0.34	0.06	Fill of feature [1195]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent charcoal flecks. Probably related to evidence for burning associated with feature [1122].	[1195]	1123
[1197]	0.32	0.30	0.18	Sub-circular posthole with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fill 1198.	1003	1198
1198	0.32	0.30	0.18	Fill of posthole [1197]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent angular limestones.	[1197]	1002
[1199]	1.90	0.82	0.14	Sub-oval feature with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 1200. Possibly related to cut [1224].	1003	1200
1200	1.90	0.82	0.14	Fill of feature [1199]: grey brown silt clay, which contained frequent angular limestones.	[1199]	1116
[1201]	1.40	1.10	0.55	Probable sub-circular posthole with a probable stepped profile, which descended to a flat base. Contained fills 1202, 1207 and 1208. Associated with posthole [1126].	1003	1207, 1208
1202	?	0.64	0.54	Postpipe within posthole [1201]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional angular limestones and occasional charcoal flecks.	1207, 1208	[1224]
[1203]	2.70	0.39	0.18	East – west aligned gully with steep sides and a flat base. Terminated/dissipated at the west. Contained fill 1204. Equivalent to gully [1205]. Probably the base of wall trench [1219].	1210	1204
1204	2.70	0.39	0.18	Fill of gully [1203]: dark grey brown silt clay, which contained occasional limestones and rare charcoal flecks. Equivalent to fill 1206. Situated beneath and possibly related to wall 1101.	[1203]	1101
[1205]	2.70	0.24	0.12	East – west aligned gully with a shallow, flat profile. Terminated/dissipated at the east. Contained fill 1206. Equivalent to gully [1203]. Probably the base of wall trench [1219].	1223	1206
1206	2.70	0.24	0.12	Fill of gully [1205]: dark grey brown silt clay, which contained occasional limestones and rare charcoal flecks. Equivalent to fill 1204. Situated beneath and possibly related to wall 1101.	[1205]	1101
1207	?	0.10	0.52	Packing fill within posthole [1201]: mid brown gritty clay silt, which contained frequent small limestones and occasional large angular limestones.	[1201]	1202
1208	?	0.13	0.54	Packing fill within posthole [1201]: mid brown gritty clay silt, which contained frequent small limestones and occasional large angular limestones.	[1201]	1202
[1209]	0.70	0.70	0.45	Sub-circular pit or posthole with steep sloping sides and a rounded base. Contained fill 1210.	1003	1210
1210	0.70	0.70	0.45	Fill of feature [1209]: grey brown silt, which contained occasional to frequent small limestones.	[1209]	[1203]
[1211]	0.91	0.90	0.77	Sub-circular probable posthole with steep sides and a flat, slightly irregular base. Contained fills 1212 and 1213. Truncated by Modern service and subjected to significant disturbance. Associated with posthole [1126].	1003	1213
1212	?	0.90	0.59	Fill of probable posthole [1211]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent large angular limestones.	1213	[1224]
1213	?	0.75	0.17	Fill of probable posthole [1211]: brown silt clay, which contained occasional limestones.	[1211]	1212
[1214]	0.40?	0.40	0.41	Possible sub-circular posthole with steep sloping sides and a rounded base. Contained fill 1215.	1003	1215

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
1215	0.40?	0.40	0.41	Fill of feature [1214]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones.	[1214]	[1067]
1216	?	0.13	0.30	Probable packing fill within posthole [1131]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestones.	[1131]	1132
1217	?	0.07	0.28	Probable packing fill within posthole [1131]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestones.	[1131]	1132
1218	?	0.16	0.23	Packing fill within posthole [1169]: grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent angular limestones, as well as rare charcoal flecks.	[1169]	1170
[1219]	10.20	0.90	?	Presumed cut for wall trench. Contained wall 1101. Penetrated to top of solid natural substrates. Generally, only visible in section, apart from where it cut into top of natural deposits; recorded as gullies [1203] and [1205].	1150, 1152, 1188, 1194	1101
1220	?	0.31	0.44	Packing fill within posthole [1179]: dark brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestones.	[1179]	1180
1221	?	>0.85	0.11	Layer of dark grey brown clay silt. Possibly equivalent to 1119.	1178	1002
1222	?	0.29	0.39	Packing fill within posthole [1183]: dark brown clay silt, which contained frequent large angular limestones.	[1183]	1184
1223	?	0.21	0.41	Packing fill within posthole [1183]: mid to dark brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestones.	[1183]	1184, [1205]
[1224]	8.0	3.80	0.15	Sub-circular 'hollow' feature with a shallow, relatively flat, although somewhat irregular profile. Contained fills 1116 and 1119. Equivalent to features [1122], [1124] and [1129]. Possibly associated with shallow feature [1199].	1202, 1192, 1212	1116, 1119
1225	?	0.84	0.09	Fill of pit [1044]: grey brown plastic clay silt.	1045	1002
1226	?	1.14	0.27	Fil of pit [1058]: dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional limestones.	1059	1002
1227	1.25	0.63	?	Probable fill of feature [1191]: dark grey brown gritty clay silt, which contained frequent angular limestones. Appeared to be situated within feature [1191], beneath fill 1192. Not excavated.	[1191]	1192

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APPENDIX 2 – THE CERAMICS

By Dr Jane Timby

1 Introduction and methodology

1.1 The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 644 sherds of pottery weighing approximately 10 kg, largely dating to the Late Iron Age/early-mid Roman period. The assemblage was accompanied by a moderately large group of ceramic building material (CBM), amounting to 416 pieces, weighing 41.4 kg.

1.2 The pottery was recorded using recommendations outlined in Pottery Standards (Barclay *et al*. 2016). To this end it was examined macroscopically and sorted into fabrics based on inclusions present, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. Later Prehistoric wares were coded using letters to denote the main fabric constituents as recommended in PCRG (1997). Known named or traded Roman wares are coded with reference to the National Roman fabric reference series (Tomber and Dore 1998). Rims were additionally coded to form.

1.3 The sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Rims were additionally measured for diameter and the estimation of vessel equivalents (EVE) (*cf*. Orton *et al*. 1993). Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces. A summary of the main fabrics recorded can be found summarised in Table 1 in context order, with a spot date.

1.4 In general terms, the pottery assemblage was in moderately good condition with an overall average sherd size of 15.5 g. Surface preservation was generally quite good with the survival of surface finishes in terms of slips or burnishing.

1.5 Pottery was recovered from 63 contexts belonging to approximately 55 cut features, largely pits and/or postholes. The individual quantities are generally quite low, ranging from single sherds up to a maximum of 138 sherds from hollow [1122]. Around 79% of the contexts yielded less than 10 sherds which has some ramifications in terms of the accuracy of the dating.

1.6 In the following report the general composition of the assemblage is described followed by an overall assessment of the potential of the material.

2 Late Iron Age

2.1 There are at least 30 handmade sherds present in calcareous (limestone and fossil shell) or sandy ware, that are likely to date to the later Iron Age. None of the pieces are featured apart from two beaded rim jars from pit [1087].

2.2 In most cases the Iron Age material appears to be occurring alongside wares which could be of Early Roman date. It is difficult to know if most of it is re-

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deposited material in Early Roman, contexts suggesting activity of this date in the immediate vicinity or, whether a few indigenous wares were still being used at the location into the second half of the 1st century AD.

3 Roman

3.1 Most of the pottery recovered dates to the Early-Mid Roman period, largely spanning the mid-1st through to the 3rd century. A large component of Savernake ware (SAV GT) and allied grog-tempered wares in the group indicate activity at the site in the pre-Flavian period, although Savernake ware proper continues to be made into the 2nd century. Other hints of pre-Flavian activity are indicated by two imported North Gaulish whiteware vessels (NOG WH): a mortarium and a Camulodunum type 113 butt beaker, both from pit [1084], but again potentially occurring as residual finds. Two South Gaulish samian (LGF SA) vessels: a cup Dragendorff 27 and a dish Dragendorff 18 from wall (1101) are also likely to date to the second half of the 1st century AD.

3.2 The North Wiltshire pottery industries are thought to have been in production from at least the Flavian period (Anderson 1979). The main products, oxidised and grey sandy wares, are well represented here, particularly the reduced wares which account for 30.7% of the total assemblage by count. Also present, but less common, are a few colour-coated wares including a beaker with combed wavy-line decoration from posthole [1153], a product highlighted by Anderson (1978) and with a short phase of production dated to before the middle of the 2nd century.

3.3 Imported continental 2nd -century wares include 11 sherds of Central Gaulish samian (LEZ SA) (Dragendorff decorated bowl type 37 (x3) and a cup type 33) and five small sherds of Baetican amphora from Southern Spain. Regional imports are mainly limited to South east (DOR BB1) and south-west black burnished wares (SOW BB1), of which there are 35 sherds and a few sherds of Severn Valley-type oxidised ware. Forms for the former include plain-rimmed dishes, grooved-rim bowls and jars. The grooved-rim bowls, from hollows [1122] and [1129] are amongst the latest wares on the site, dating to the 3rd century.

3.4 Other more locally sourced wares include South-west white-slipped (SOW WS) and unslipped oxidised ware including three sherds of mortaria and a small flagon.

3.5 In terms of forms, the assemblage is overwhelmingly dominated by jars which account for 68%, on the basis of vessel equivalence, followed by coarseware bowls at 10%. Other forms, represented by rims include beakers, cups, lids, dishes and mortaria. Larger storage jars account for 13.4% EVE of all the jars.

3.6 Evidence of use was noted on a few pieces in the form of sooting or the formation of calcareous deposits on the interior surface. One body sherd of North Wiltshire grey ware from posthole [1082] had a post-firing graffiti, in the form of a X, on the exterior surface.

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4 Post-medieval

4.1 Just two sherds of Post-medieval date were noted: one from the subsoil (1002); the other, a sherd of English stoneware bottle, from pit [1058].

5 Chronology and status

5.1 Overall, most of the assemblage appears to indicate activity at the site in the 2nd into the 3rd centuries. There are a number of wares suggestive of earlier activity, possibly in the pre-Roman period, but these seem to mostly occur alongside mainly later material. Features which could potentially be pre-Roman include pits [1048], [1064] and [1091], but in two cases these are just single sherds.

5.2 There is no evidence of any activity dating to after the 3rd century, suggesting abandonment, at some point in this century.

5.3 Whilst there are some fine ware imports present, mainly samian, this only accounts for 2% by sherd count of the assemblage, a figure usually regarded typical of a rural settlement. The presence of two South Gaulish vessels and a pre-Flavian imported mortarium and butt beaker are noteworthy and indicate some pre-Flavian activity at or near the site.

6 Ceramic building material (CBM) (Table 2)

6.1 A total 416 fragments of CBM weighing 41,380 g was recovered from 42 contexts, 37 features. With the exception of nine pieces of Modern date (from features [1024], [1224], [1135] and [1176]), which appear to be from mould-made item(s), the assemblage dates to the Roman period.

6.2 The CBM assemblage was counted and weighed for each context. Attribution to specific forms was restricted to pieces which had some definitive feature such as a flange for tegula or combing for box-flue. Flat pieces of less than 35 mm thickness were classified as fragments; pieces of greater thickness as brick. Allocation of smaller fragments on the basis of thickness was considered too arbitrary especially when there is an overlap between types. Any other features such as footprints, marks or modifications made before firing were noted.

6.3 Using this basic methodology unclassified fragments account for 76.7% of the CBM assemblage, box-flue tiles for 2.6%, tegulae for 12%; imbrices for 5.5% and brick for 1.7%. There were no complete examples of tile present and no complete edges.

6.4 The 11 fragments of box-flue include four pieces with combing in the form of straight bands set vertically and diagonally. Three pieces were semi-vitrified from intense heat. One tile from hollow [1124] had the impressions on the interior, possibly finger prints made by the tiler (Plate 1).

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6.5 The brick fragments had thicknesses ranging from 37 mm through to 60 mm. One piece of note from feature [1138], had concentric finger-scoring on one face and at least two holes made before firing (Plate 2).

6.6 One of the imbrices from pit [1097] also carried a small print on the edge made before firing, in this case possibly part of the footprint of a small child. A fragment from [1122], probably a tegula, shows paw prints, likely to be that of a dog (Plate 3).

6.7 One slightly more unusual piece from hollow [1122] is a corner fragment with incised channels (Plate 4). This may be part of a parietalis - a tile that is fixed vertically to a wall and held in position by cramps (S. Machin pers. comm.).

6.8 The tile suggests the proximity of a building of some status nearby with a tiled roof and hypocaust system. The material appears to be quite widely distributed across the site with many features containing between one and five fragments of CBM. The greatest concentrations of material came from hollows [1122] with 148 fragments (35.5% by count) and [1124] with 59 fragments (14%).

7 Potential for further work

7.1 The pottery assemblage presents a moderately chronologically coherent group of material to the Early-Mid Roman period. The presence of some earlier pottery could reflect survival of pre-Roman potting traditions, or signal earlier activity in the area. The site appears to have been abandoned before the end of the 3rd century AD and saw no further activity. Despite a good overall state of preservation some of the deposits appear a bit mixed.

7.2 There is a moderately substantial assemblage of CBM, although in quite fragmentary condition. This includes a couple of unusual pieces, which might be worth highlighting. The CBM assemblage has potential for further work, especially in the light of the proximity of the known kilns at Minety, on which there has been little work.

8 Retention

8.1 The LIA / Roman assemblages should be retained but the post-Roman wares could be discarded. Any featured pieces of tile should be retained, along with the entire assemblage, until a decision is made with regard further work.

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Table 1: The pottery from Willis Way

Cxt	Cut	IA	sam	impfw	amp	SAV	GR	BB1	WILRE	WILOX	Other	Pmed	Tot No	Tot Wt	Date
1002	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	69	Pmed
1116	0	1	0	0	0	5	3	1	2	0	0	0	12	825	C2
1009	1008	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	5	140	Flav+
1013	1012	0	0	0	0	14	14	0	5	0	9	0	42	837	eC2
1017	1016	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	4	1	4	0	12	184	lC1-C2
1019	1018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	lC1-C2
1023	1022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	6	lC1-C2
1031	1030	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	C2
1035	1034	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	16	C2
1045	1044	2	0	0	0	22	11	0	2	1	5	0	43	527	Flav +
1049	1048	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	IA?/C1
1053	1052	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	114	C1 AD
1055	1054	2	0	0	0	1	17	0	2	0	14	0	36	329	C2
1057	1056	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	C1-C2
1059	1058	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	17	Pmed
1063	1062	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	32	C1+
1065	1064	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	IA/C1
1069	1067	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	34	C2+
1073	1072	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	1	3	0	11	84	lC1-C2
1075	1074	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	53	lC1-C2
1077	1076	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	20	lC1-C2

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Cxt	Cut	IA	sam	impfw	amp	SAV	GR	BB1	WILRE	WILOX	Other	Pmed	Tot No	Tot Wt	Date
1081	1080	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	4	32	C2
1083	1082	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	8	C2
1085	1084	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	1	0	8	219	lC1-C2
1086	1084	10	0	2	0	6	13	0	8	0	18	0	57	830	e Flav/C2
1090	1087	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	280	C1
1092	1091	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	62	IA/C1
1098	1097	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	7	46	C2
1100	1099	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	40	lC1-C2
1101	1219	0	3	0	0	3	2	1	26	0	10	0	45	500	mid C2+
1109	1108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	lC1-C2
1115	1114	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	19	C2
1119	1224	0	0	0	0	10	5	4	15	5	1	0	40	779	C2
1121	1120	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	5	132	C2
1123	1122	0	5	0	3	10	24	14	48	13	21	0	138	2092	C3
1125	1124	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	7	0	4	0	17	428	mid C2+
1127	1126	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	10	C2
1128	1126	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	4	45	C2
1130	1129	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	5	40	C3
1132	1131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	14	C2+
1142	1141	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	3	5	0	16	213	Flav+
1148	1153	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	8	1	1	0	12	88	C2
1150	1149	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	8	C2

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Cxt	Cut	IA	sam	impfw	amp	SAV	GR	BB1	WILRE	WILOX	Other	Pmed	Tot No	Tot Wt	Date
1150	1149	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	18	C1
1152	1151	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	C2
1154	1153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	9	C2
1155	1153	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	4	23	C2+
1160	1158	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	3	0	9	158	C2
1163	1161	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	3	0	9	100	C2
1166	1165	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	24	C2
1170	1169	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	4	0	16	111.5	C2
1173	1172	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	5	36	C2
1178	1176	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	37	C2
1174/75	1172	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	6	30	C2
1184	1183	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	7.5	C2
1186	1185	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	C2
1188	1187	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	17	C2
1190	1189	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	10	C2
1200	1199	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	30	lC1-C2
1202	1201	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	43	lC1-C2
1206	1205	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	lC1-C2
1210	1209	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	5	76	lC1-C2
1212	1211	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	18	C2
1213	1211	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	17	C2
TOTAL		**30**	**14**	**2**	**5**	**85**	**118**	**35**	**198**	**32**	**123**	**2**	**644**	**9983**	

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Table 2: The CBM from Willis Way

Cxt	Cut	Material	Form	Wt	No	Date	Comment
1002	0	CBM	BOXFL	116	1	Roman	
1002	0	CBM	FRAG	337	3	Roman	
1002	0	CBM	TEG	434	2	Roman	
1116	1224	CBM	FRAG	303	3	Roman	
1116	1224	CBM	TEG	53	1	Roman	
1009	1008	CBM	FRAG	28	3	Roman	
1013	1012	CBM	TEG	412	1	Roman	t=19
1017	1016	CBM	FRAG	46	1	Roman	
1017	1016	CBM	TEG	113	1	Roman	
1019	1018	CBM	FRAG	7	1	Roman	
1025	1024	CBM	FRAG	35	1	modern	
1029	1028	CBM	FRAG	64	1	Roman	
1047	1046	CBM	FRAG	145	1	Roman	
1047	1046	CBM	TEG	73	1	Roman	
1063	1062	CBM	FRAG	145	2	Roman	
1065	1064	CBM	FRAG	13	2	Roman	
1071	1070	CBM	FRAG	3	2	Roman	
1079	1078	CBM	FRAG	84	4	Roman	
1079	1078	CBM	TEG	194	1	Roman	
1081	1080	CBM	BRICK?	1101	1	Roman	t=37 mm
1081	1080	CBM	FRAG	11	1	Roman	
1098	1097	CBM	BOXFL	139	1	Roman	t=28 combed
1098	1097	CBM	FRAG	190	2	Roman	
1098	1097	CBM	IMB	248	3	Roman	x3 small dimple on edge ?child
1101	1101	CBM	FRAG	534	6	Roman	
1115	1114	CBM	FRAG	143	2	Roman	
1119	1224	CBM	FRAG	11	2	modern	
1119	1224	CBM	FRAG	1299	14	Roman	
1119	1224	CBM	IMB	232	3	Roman	
1119	1224	CBM	TEG	1521	7	Roman	
1123	1122	CBM	BOXFL	176	4	Roman	combed x3 semi-vitrif
1123	1122	CBM	FRAG	8513	110	Roman	some burnt; dog footprint
1123	1122	CBM	IMB	876	11	Roman	
1123	1122	CBM	TEG	6181	19	Roman	
1123	1122	CBM	PARIETALIS	249	1	Roman	t=25, channels, edges 75 x 42 mm
1145	1122	CBM	FRAG	9	3	Roman	

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Cxt	Cut	Material	Form	Wt	No	Date	Comment
1125	1124	CBM	BOXFL	195	5	Roman	prints ?finger or dog
1125	1124	CBM	BRICK	349	1	Roman	T=40
1125	1124	CBM	BRICK	447	1	Roman	T=60
1125	1124	CBM	FRAG	2081	37	Roman	
1125	1124	CBM	FRAG	1849	5	Roman	X1 concentric scoring
1125	1124	CBM	TEG	1184	6	Roman	
1125	1124	CBM	TEG	1745	4	Roman	
1127	1126	CBM	FRAG	1689	25	Roman	
1130	1129	CBM	BRICK	557	2	Roman	T=34, T=40
1130	1129	CBM	FRAG	156	2	Roman	
1130	1129	CBM	IMB	280	2	Roman	
1132	1131	CBM	FRAG	92	3	Roman	
1132	1131	CBM	IMB	67	3	Roman	
1132	1131	CBM	TEG	72	1	Roman	
1137	1135	CBM		349	5	Modern	moulded tile - modern
1140	1138	CBM	BRICK	1229	1	Roman	t=45, finger scored; x2 pre-firi holes
1140	1138	CBM	FRAG	422	2	Roman	
1148	1153	CBM	FRAG	291	6	Roman	
1152	1151	CBM	FRAG	140	3	Roman	
1154	1153	CBM	FRAG	10	2	Roman	
1155	1153	CBM	FRAG	29	1	Roman	
1160	1158	CBM	FRAG	1117	5	Roman	
1160	1158	CBM	TEG	528	2	Roman	
1163	1161	CBM	FRAG	94	2	Roman	
1163	1161	CBM	TEG	24	1	Roman	
1170	1169	CBM	BRICK	530	1	Roman	t=40 mm
1170	1169	CBM	FRAG	575	31	Roman	
1170	1169	CBM	TEG	337	3	Roman	
1173	1172	CBM	FRAG	380	15	Roman	
1174/75	1172	CBM	FRAG	14	2	Roman	
1174/75	1172	CBM	IMB	83	1	Roman	
1178	1176	CBM	FRAG	24	1	Modern	
1180	1179	CBM	FRAG	15	1	Roman	
1186	1185	CBM	FRAG	65	6	Roman	
1192	1191	CBM	FRAG	7	1	Roman	
1204	1203	CBM	FRAG	6	1	Roman	
1210	1209	CBM	FRAG	12	2	Roman	
1213	1211	CBM	FRAG	298	2	Roman	
TOTAL				**41380**	**416**		

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Plate 1: Prints on the interior of a box flue. From hollow [1124]/(1125).

Plate 2: 'Brick' fragment with concentric scoring and two pre-fired holes. Feature [1138]/(1140).

Plate 3: Tile fragment with ?dog prints. Hollow [1122]/(1123).

Plate 4: Tile with scoring made before firing. Dimensions 75 mm x 42 mm. Thickness 25 mm. Possible part of a parietalis. From hollow [1122]/(1123).

APPENDIX 3 – THE BONE

By Dr Matilda Holmes

Summary

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from predominately Roman features. Although the sample falls below the minimum number of fragments that would usually be implemented when considering the potential of an assemblage for full analysis, the unusual nature of the site means that a basic categorisation has been undertaken.

Methods

All bones and teeth were recorded, although for some elements a restricted count was employed to reduce fragmentation bias: vertebrae were recorded when the vertebral body was present, and maxilla, zygomatic arch and occipital areas of the skull were identified from skull fragments. A basic recording method was employed to assess the potential of the animal bone assemblage. The number of bones and teeth that could be identified to taxa were noted, as well as those used to age the major domesticates (tooth wear and bone fusion). The quantity of bones likely to be useful for metrical data were also recorded. Other information included condition and the incidence of burning, gnawing and butchery marks. All fragments were recorded by context including those that could not be identified to taxa. Recording methods and analysis are based on guidelines from Baker and Worley (2014).

Summary of Findings

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from Willis Way. Bones were in good to fair condition (Table 1), with a few contexts that contained gnawed, butchered and burnt bone. A single associated bone group was recorded from context (1109), comprising a number of human perinatal limb bones. No notable deposits indicative of butchery, skin-processing, bone-, antler- or horn-working or waste were observed. Finds of piglet, lamb and calf bones were recovered from contexts (1107), (1085) and (1163), respectively.

Cattle and sheep/goat remains were most commonly observed (Table 2), followed by pig. Other taxa included *equid* (horse or donkey), *canid* (dog or fox) and red deer. The lack of birds and fish may be due to the absence of bones from sieved samples at this stage.

Potential and Significance

This is a small sample of animal bone, with little potential to provide detailed information regarding diet, economy or status. However, the importance of the site, and paucity of well recorded Roman remains in the area, mean that a catalogue, by context, of the animal bones should be included the publication report.

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Table 1: Preservation and bone modifications observed on the bones for each context

Preservation	**N**
Good	11
Good-fair	4
Fair	30
Poor	2
Total N contexts	**47**
Gnawed	5
Butchered	5
Burnt	6

Table 2: Number of fragments recorded for the major domesticates, birds and other taxa

Taxa	**N**
Cattle	47
Sheep/ goat	39
Pig	8
Bird	0
Fish	0
Other*	9
Total identified	103
Unidentified	346
*Equid, canid, red deer	

APPENDIX 4 – THE SMALL FINDS

By Dr Lynne Bevan

Introduction

Three copper alloy small finds from Willis Way, Purton, Wiltshire were examined for purposes of identification and post-excavation assessment. These comprised two Roman bow brooches (SF 1 Context (1055) and SF 3 Context (1174)) and a Roman spoon bowl (SF 2 Context (1160)).

This assessment was undertaken in cognisance of the procedures of assessment, as set out in MAP 2 (English Heritage 1991), to provide a qualitative overview of the potential of the finds for further analysis. The finds are discussed and evaluated below, followed by recommendations for further analysis, to include research, cataloguing, photography and/or illustration at the final report writing stage.

Condition

All of the finds were well preserved and in a good, stable condition, apart from some traces of verdigris on the surfaces of two of the finds (SF 2 and SF 3), one of which, a brooch (SF 3 Context (1174)), will require conservation cleaning due to significant traces of soil adhering to its surface and obscuring much of the design detail.

Discussion

The first of the brooches (SF 1 Context (1055)), which came from pit [1054], was incomplete and consisted of a simple bow and catchplate, broken at the hinge. Both the hinge and the pin were missing. The slender bow had a long series of short horizontal lines inscribed down it from top to base. This design was off-centre and slightly irregular and intermittent in its composition. The shape and simplicity of this brooch is suggestive of a Colchester style brooch of some kind, a type which dates to the 1st century AD (Hattatt 2000, Fig. 155, 296).

The second of the brooches (SF 3 Context 1174)), which came from the packing fill of a posthole in a Roman building (Context [1172]), was complete, with both the head and hinge *in-situ* and the pin attached and fully articulated. The shape of the brooch is strongly suggestive of a Polden Hill type brooch of 1st century AD date (Hattatt 2000, Fig 159. 300), although the surface treatment is currently obscured by traces of soil, particularly on the bow. However, conservation cleaning should fully reveal the decoration of this brooch and allow for closer typological and chronological identification.

The spoon bowl (SF 2 Context (1160)), which came from a postpipe within a Roman building posthole (Context [1158]), is of a common Roman type, characterised by a round bowl, which dates to the second half of the 1st and the 2nd century (Crummy 1983, 69, Fig. 70: 2008, 70).

Summary and Recommendations

All of the small finds were derived from contexts which also contained Roman pottery, dating to the 2nd century AD. The dating of the spoon accords well with this, and the tentative dating of the brooches, though potentially earlier, is not significantly far removed.

Although small in number, these finds are associated with a substantial Roman building which was part of a larger settlement, with a later cemetery complex, from which other high-status finds have previously been recovered. They complement the existing range of finds from past excavations in the area and support the existence of a sophisticated rural site. As such, they are regarded as archaeologically significant and important on a local and regional level. Further research and full publication to include cataloguing, photography and/or illustration at the final report writing stage is recommended.

Further research should include a full study of the spoon and its usage as a table implement with potentially higher status connotations and the brooches should be fully investigated with recourse to Don Makreth's comprehensive study of Late Iron Age and Roman brooches in Britain (2011), in order to achieve closer typological and chronological resolution.

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APPENDIX 5 – PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND WOOD CHARCOAL

By Ellen Simmons

Introduction

Twelve bulk sieving (BS) samples, comprising a total of three hundred and eighty litres of soil, were taken during archaeological excavations at Willis Way, Purton, Wiltshire (NGR: 408565.187358), by Foundations Archaeology. Samples were taken from a series of occupation deposits including pits, postholes, layers and ditches dating to the Roman period. The samples were processed for the recovery of charred plant macrofossils and wood charcoal and assessed in order to determine the concentration, diversity, state of preservation and suitability for use in radiocarbon dating, of any palaeoenvironmental material present. A further aim of this assessment was to evaluate the potential of any palaeoenvironmental material present in the samples to provide evidence for the function of the contexts, the economy of the site or for the nature of the local environment.

Methodology

The bulk sieving samples were processed by flotation for the recovery of charred plant macrofossils and wood charcoal by GeoFlo Southwest Geophysical and Flotation Services, using a water separation machine. Floating material was collected in a 250µm mesh, and the remaining heavy residue retained in a 1mm mesh. The flots and heavy residues were air dried.

The samples were assessed in accordance with Historic England guidelines for environmental archaeology assessments (Historic England 2011). A preliminary assessment of the samples was made by scanning using a stereo-binocular microscope (x10 - x65) and recording the abundance of the main classes of material present. Where a total of thirty or more items of charred plant material is present, this material was quantified using a scale of abundance (- = <5 items, + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items). Where a total of less than thirty items of charred plant material is present this material was identified and quantified in full.

Identification of plant material was carried out using modern reference material in the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield and various reference works (e.g. Cappers et al 2006). Cereal identifications and nomenclature follow Jacomet (2006). Other plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010). Information relating to the ecology of various plant taxa was sourced from Stace (2010) and Preston *et al*. (2002). The composition of the bulk sieving samples is recorded below in Table 1. The seed, in the broadest sense, of the plant is always referred to in these table unless stated otherwise. The abbreviation *cf*. means 'compares with' and denotes that a specimen most closely resembles that particular taxa more than any other.

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Results

Preservation conditions

The preservation of charred cereal grains was variable, with some grains retaining epidermis and exhibiting low levels of distortion while other grains were puffed and distorted and identifiable by gross morphology only. Wood charcoal fragments were relatively well preserved, with minimal evidence for vitrification. A high proportion of intrusive root material was found to be present in sample 11 from context (1174/5), the packing fill of posthole [1172], indicating an increased probability that any charred material present in this context may be intrusive. Low to moderate proportions of intrusive root material were found to be present in the remaining sampled contexts.

Plant macrofossils

Dumped layer context (1116) produced a rich assemblage of over one hundred items of crop material, consisting primarily of cereal grain and some chaff, along with a rich assemblage of over thirty wild or weed plant seeds. The crop material assemblage is predominantly composed of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, a large proportion of which is identifiable as spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) or probable spelt wheat (*Triticum* cf. *spelta*). Some grains with morphological characteristics similar to both emmer and spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum / spelta*) are present, along with a small proportion of probable emmer wheat (*Triticum* cf. *dicoccum*) grains and indeterminate glume wheat glume bases. A small proportion of rye grains (*Secale cereale*) are also present. The wild or weed seed assemblage includes typical crop weeds such as stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and thorow wax (*Bupleurum rotundifolium*), along with ruderal taxa such as docks (*Rumex crispus / conglomeratus / abtusifolius*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), oraches (*Atriplex* spp.) and ivy leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*). A range of taxa more commonly associated with grassland is also present such as yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus* sp.), clovers / medicks (*Medicago* spp. / *Trifolium* spp.), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and small seeded grasses.

Context (1085) from pit [1084] produced a rich assemblage of between fifty and one hundred wild or weed plant seeds and context (1090) from pit [1087] produced a rich assemblage of between thirty and fifty wild or weed plant seeds. Charred crop material is also present in these contexts, although in low concentrations. The taxa present in the wild or weed seed assemblages are similar to those present in dumped layer (1116), although with the addition of the typical crop weed cleavers (*Galium aparine*). A range of taxa commonly associated with damp soils such as spike rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), club rush (*Schoenoplectus* sp.) and rushes (*Juncus* spp.) are also present. A small number of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments were also found to be present in pit fills (1085) and (1090).

Contexts (1140) and (1139) from posthole [1138] produced moderately rich assemblages of between fifty and one hundred items of crop material, consisting of both cereal grain and chaff along with rich assemblages of over thirty wild or weed plant seeds. The crop material assemblage is predominantly composed of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, a small proportion of which is identifiable as spelt wheat

(*Triticum spelta*), or probable spelt wheat (*Triticum* cf. *spelta*), along with glume wheat glume bases, a significant proportion of which are identifiable as spelt wheat. Some grains with morphological characteristics similar to both emmer and spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum / spelta*) are present, along with a small proportion of probable emmer wheat (*Triticum* cf. *dicoccum*) grains. A small proportion of barley grains (*Hordeum* sp.) are also present. The wild or weed seed assemblage includes the typical crop weed stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) along with ruderal taxa such as docks (*Rumex crispus / conglomeratus / abtusifolius*) and woundwort (*Stachys* sp.). A range of taxa more commonly associated with grassland is also present such as bulbous / meadow / creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus/acris/repens*), clovers / medicks (*Medicago* spp. / *Trifolium* spp.), yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus* sp.), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and small seeded grasses. A significant number of seeds of sedges (*Carex* spp.), with many of the species potentially represented being commonly associated with damp soils, are also present in postpipe context (1139) from posthole [1138].

Context (1145) from a charcoal rich layer and context (1123) from a soil layer within hollow [1122] produced moderately rich assemblages of between thirty and fifty items of crop material. A rich assemblage of over thirty wild or weed plant seeds is also present in charcoal rich layer (1145). The crop material assemblages are predominantly composed of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, a small proportion of which is identifiable as spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) or probable spelt wheat (*Triticum* cf. *spelta*) along with glume wheat glume bases, a small proportion of which are identifiable as spelt wheat. Some grains with morphological characteristics similar to both emmer and spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum / spelta*) are present in charcoal rich layer (1145), along with a small proportion of probable emmer wheat (*Triticum* cf. *dicoccum*) grains. A small proportion of barley grains are also present in both assemblages. The wild or weed seed assemblage present in layer (1145) includes a significant proportion of docks (*Rumex crispus / conglomeratus / abtusifolius*), along with taxa commonly associated with grassland such as vetches / wild peas (*Vicia* spp. / *Lathyrus* spp.), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and small seeded grasses. Damp soils are represented by spike rush (*Eleocharis* sp.).

Low concentrations of cereal grains, chaff and wild or weed plant seeds were found to be present in the remainder of the sampled contexts. These low density assemblages included a similar range of crop types and wild or weed seed taxa to that present in the higher density assemblages. In addition, a large seeded legume was found to be present in the fill (1017) of ditch [1016] and a single probable free threshing wheat grain (*Triticum* cf. *aestivum / turgidum* s.l.) was found to be present in the packing (1174/5) of posthole [1172].

Wood charcoal

A rich assemblage of over five hundred wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size in cross section was found to be present in charcoal layer context (1145). Rich assemblages of over one hundred wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size in cross section were also found to be present in context (1085) from pit [1084] and context (1090) from pit [1087]. A relatively rich assemblage of eighty-two wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size in cross section was also found to be present in context (1139) from the post pipe of posthole [1138]. Low concentrations

of less than thirty wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size in cross section were found to be present in the remainder of the sampled contexts.

Preliminary examination of the wood charcoal fragments using low power microscopy indicated that the assemblages are generally composed of primarily diffuse porous taxa along with some ring porous taxa. Diffuse porous taxa which are frequently represented in archaeological charcoal assemblages include hawthorn / apple / pear / whitebeams (*Pomoideae*), willow / poplar (*Populus / Salix*), birch (*Betula* sp.), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and cherry (*Prunus padus / avium*). Frequently represented ring porous taxa include oak (*Quercus* sp.), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.). Identification using high power microscopy would however be necessary in order to confirm which taxa are present.

Radiocarbon dating

Charred material suitable for radiocarbon dating is present in the majority of samples in the form of charred cereal grain from rich assemblages of other charred material.

Discussion of the potential and significance

The dominant crop type represented in the sampled contexts is spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), with hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), probable free threshing wheat (*Triticum* cf. *aestivum / turgidum* s.l.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and a large seeded legume, also present as minor components. Spelt wheat and hulled six-row barley are the principle crops cultivated during the Roman period in Britain, with emmer wheat, free threshing wheat, rye, oats and legumes such as peas and field/broad beans, also occasionally present as minor crops (Van der Veen 2016, 808). The crop types present are also consistent with Roman period archaeobotanical assemblages from nearby sites, such as Claydon Pike, Cotswold Water Park (Straker *et al*. 2007), Colton Road, Shrivenham (Simmons forthcoming), Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt (Moffett, 2004), Ashville Trading Estate, Abingdon (Jones 1978) and Farmoor near Oxford (Jones 1979).

The high-density assemblage of charred cereal grain present in dumped layer (1116) is likely to be representative of the accidental charring of grain during parching, drying or food preparation. Spelt wheat requires parching using heat in order to enable the removal of the glumes prior to consumption and hulled barley requires parching in order to remove the hulls (Hillman 1981, 153-154). It has been argued that presence of high density deposits of charred grain at Roman period sites is related to an increase in the scale of agricultural production during the Roman period which would result in an increased likelihood of accidents involving fire where large quantities of grain become preserved by charring (Van der Veen 2016, 808). High-density deposits of charred grain have, for example, been shown to increase in frequency in the Roman period in Wessex (Campbell 2008) and the east of England (Parks 2012).

The rich assemblages of generally small wild or weed plant seed along with the glume wheat glume bases, which are associated with the assemblages of charred cereal grain, are likely to be representative of waste from the later stages of glume wheat crop processing. In areas with wet summers, the glume wheat crop tends to be put into

storage as spikelets, with further processing to remove smaller weed seeds and separate the grain from the hulls carried out in batches, as and when required (Hillman 1981, 155). The presence of glume wheat chaff and wild or weed plant seeds mixed with charred cereal grain in many of the sampled contexts, is likely to indicate the mixing of waste from crop processing with accidentally charred grain, possibly from the use of crop processing waste as fuel in crop drying ovens or from crop processing waste discarded onto household fires that were used for food preparation. Differences in the proportions of cereal grain, chaff and wild or weed plant seeds in different contexts may therefore relate to the presence of material from different crop processing activities. Full sorting and quantification of rich assemblages of charred plant remains would however be necessary in order to fully investigate the representation of crop processing activities.

Stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), which is present in a number of the sampled contexts, is a characteristic crop weed which first appears in archaeobotanical assemblages dating to the Early Roman period in the Upper Thames valley (Booth *et al*. 2007, 21). The increasing occurrence of stinking chamomile in Roman period archaeobotanical assemblages has been linked to the expansion of agriculture into heavy and damp soils (Jones 1981, 110). Leguminous taxa such as clovers / medicks (*Trifolium* spp. / *Medicago* spp.) and vetches / wild peas (*Vicia* spp. / *Lathyrus* spp.) are also relatively well represented. Leguminous weeds have been shown to increase in frequency during the Roman period on sites in the Thames valley, a pattern which has been linked to declining levels of soil fertility (Booth *et al*. 2007, 21). Leguminous species have a competitive advantage where soil fertility is poor, due to the ability of these plants to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere (Jones 1988, 90).

The presence of seeds of taxa commonly associated with grassland may indicate the cultivation of fields which had previously been fallow or fields with grassy field margins. The presence of seeds of damp ground taxa may indicate the cultivation of fields with poor drainage. Archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence from sites in the Upper Thames valley has indicated that extensive areas of grassland are likely to have been ploughed up for agriculture and fields were extended onto wetter areas of the floodplain during the Roman period (Booth et al 2007, 22). Other sources of charred plant material may however also include waste roofing or flooring material, turves, kindling and animal fodder. Waterlogged plant macrofossils from Claydon Pike have provided evidence for managed grassland, including the production of sedge hay, during the Roman period on the Thames gravels (Robinson 2007). Taxa such as yellow rattle, clovers / medicks, and buttercups also increase in frequency in the Roman period charred plant remains assemblages from Claydon Pike, possibly indicating the presence of charred hay as a component of the wild or weed seed assemblage (Straker et al 2007). Full sorting and identification of the wild or weed seed assemblages present in the samples from Willis Way would, however, be necessary in order to fully investigate any potential presence of hay.

Investigation of variations in the crops cultivated and the agricultural regimes practiced at different types and sizes of site during the Roman period has been highlighted as a research priority for the region (Fulford 2004b, 179). Analysis of the rich assemblages of cereal grains, chaff and wild or weed plant seeds would therefore provide evidence of regional significance relating to changes in cereal production and agricultural intensification during the Roman period.

The assemblages of wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size in cross section, which were found to be present in all the sampled contexts, are generally composed of both ring porous and diffuse porous taxa. The taxa potentially represented are likely to include ring porous tree species such as oak or ash along with diffuse porous underwood, woodland fringe or scrub species such as hawthorn/apple/pear/whitebeams, cherry/blackthorn and hazel/birch/alder. Identification using high power microscopy of a representative sample of at least fifty wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size in cross section, from a selection of contexts, would however be necessary in order to confirm the full range of taxa which are represented at the site.

A number of palaeoenvironmental studies have provided evidence concerning the general nature and extent of woodland during the Roman period in the region. At the Iron Age and Roman settlement of Farmoor near Oxford, palaeoenvironmental evidence indicates that the environment local to the site was largely cleared of trees by the Roman period, although macroscopic plant remains and beetles indicate the presence of thorny scrub (Robinson 1979, 118). Palaeoenvironmental evidence from Roman period deposits at Barton Court Farm, Abingdon (Robinson 1986) and Appleford near Abingdon (Robinson 1980) are also representative of open environments but with some evidence for scrub. Some areas of woodland would however still have been present within a generally open landscape and a number of sites in southern England have produced evidence for Roman period woodland management (Dark 2017, 27). Charcoal from Late Iron Age and early Roman contexts at Gravelly Guy (Gale 2004) as well as from a Roman ditch fill at Colton Road, Shrivenham (Simmons, forthcoming), included evidence for the use of trees such as oak (*Quercus* sp.), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*) as fuel along with scrub and marginal woodland taxa such as hawthorn/apple/pear/whitebeams (*Pomoideae*) and cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* spp.).

Investigation of woodland clearance and the nature of remaining woodland during the Roman period has been highlighted as a research priority for the region (Fulford 2014a, 166). Analysis of the wood charcoal assemblage would provide evidence of regional significance for the availability of local woodland and woody scrub resources, which would complement other forms of palaeoenvironmental evidence such as pollen.

Recommendations

Full sorting, identification and analysis of the charred plant macrofossil assemblage present in sample 2 from the fill (1085) of pit [1084], sample 3 from the fill (1090) of pit [1087], sample 4 from soil layer (1123) within hollow [1122], sample 5 from dumped layer (1116) within hollow [1224], sample 7 from charcoal layer (1145), sample 8 from the packing (1140) of posthole [1138] and sample 9 from post pipe fill (1139) of posthole [1138], would be recommended to be included in an analysis of the charred plant remains already quantified during preliminary assessment. It is likely that additional wild or weed seed taxa would be recovered during detailed sorting and it would be possible to identify to species wild or weed seed taxa that could only be identified to genera during preliminary assessment. Additional evidence for the presence of minor crop types such as rye, free threshing wheat and legumes may also

be recovered during detailed sorting. Analysis of the charred plant remains assemblage therefore has good potential to provide a range of evidence for crop cultivation, crop processing and storage practices as well as information regarding the environment local to the site.

Identification and analysis of the assemblages of wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size present in sample 2 from the fill (1085) of pit [1084], sample 3 from the fill (1090) of pit [1087], sample 7 from charcoal layer (1145) and sample 9 from the post pipe fill (1139) of posthole [1138] would be recommended. This analysis would have good potential to provide a representative sample the woody taxa utilised for fuel which would complement evidence for the nature and extent of woodland from other forms of palaeoenvironmental data such as pollen sequences. Examination of the ring curvatures and ligneous structure of the charcoal fragments may also provide information on wood diameter, potential use of coppiced wood and whether the wood was dead and rotting or well-seasoned prior to burning.

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Table 1. Archaeobotanical sample assessment table - Willis Way (WWP17)

Context number	1017	1085	1090	1123	1116	1148
Feature number	1016	1084	1087	1122	1224	1153
Sample number	1	2	3	4	5	6
Feature type	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Demo? layer	Demo? Layer	Building Posthole
Date	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman
Sample volume (litres)	22	45	45	44	46	28
Volume of intrusive roots (ml)	20	0	2	20	0	5
Flot volume excluding roots (ml)	20	20	20	50	90	35
Reflot volume	n/a	20	40	n/a	n/a	n/a
% Intrusive roots	50	0	0	29	0	13
*key + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items						
Cereals and other economic plants*						
Large seeded legume	1					
Hordeum sp. (barley) hulled indeterminate grain		2		-		
Hordeum sp. (barley) indeterminate grain		5		-		
Secale cereal (rye) grain					-	
Triticum cf. *dicoccum* (emmer wheat) grain					+	
Triticum spelta glume base		2	2	-		1
Triticum spelta grain				-	++	1
Triticum cf. *spelta* grain		1		+	++++	1
Triticum cf. *spelta* glume base		1				
Triticum dicoccum / spelta (emmer / spelt wheat) grain					++	1
Triticum cf. *aestivum / turgidum* s.l. (free threshing wheat) grain						
Triticum sp. indet. (indeterminate wheat) grain	1	3		++	++++	5
Triticum sp. (wheat) glume base		3	1	-	++	8
Cereal indeterminate grain		1				2
Total identifiable cereal and other economic plant material	**2**	**18**	**3**	+++	+++++	**19**
Wild / weed plant seeds*						

Context number	1017	1085	1090	1123	1116	1148
Feature number	1016	1084	1087	1122	1224	1153
Sample number	1	2	3	4	5	6
Feature type	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Demo? layer	Demo? Layer	Building Posthole
Date	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman
Sample volume (litres)	22	45	45	44	46	28
Volume of intrusive roots (ml)	20	0	2	20	0	5
Flot volume excluding roots (ml)	20	20	20	50	90	35
Reflot volume	n/a	20	40	n/a	n/a	n/a
% Intrusive roots	50	0	0	29	0	13
*key + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items						
Ranunculus bulbosus/acris/repens (bulbous/meadow/creeping buttercup)						
Vicia spp. / *Lathyrus* spp. (vetches / wild peas)		+	+			
Medicago spp. / *Trifolium* spp. (medick / clover)	1	++	+		++	
Urtica dioica (common nettle)						
Fallopia convolvulus (black bindweed)		-			-	
Rumex crispus / conglomeratus / abtusifolius (curled / clustered / broad-leaved dock)		+	-	1	-	4
Chenopodium album (fat hen)	2	-	+		-	
Chenopodium sp. (goosefoots)		-	++			
Atriplex spp. (oraches)		+	-			
Hyoscyamus niger (henbane)			-			
Galium aparine (cleavers)		+	++			
Veronica hederifolia (ivy-leaved speedwell)					-	
Plantago lanceolata (ribwort plantain)		-				
Stachys spp. (woundworts)					-	
Prunella vulgaris (selfheal)					-	
Rhinanthus minor (yellow rattle)					+	
Asteraceae (daisy family)		-		1	-	
Anthemis cotula (stinking chamomile)					+	1

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Context number	1017	1085	1090	1123	1116	1148
Feature number	1016	1084	1087	1122	1224	1153
Sample number	1	2	3	4	5	6
Feature type	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Demo? layer	Demo? Layer	Building Posthole
Date	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman
Sample volume (litres)	22	45	45	44	46	28
Volume of intrusive roots (ml)	20	0	2	20	0	5
Flot volume excluding roots (ml)	20	20	20	50	90	35
Reflot volume	n/a	20	40	n/a	n/a	n/a
% Intrusive roots	50	0	0	29	0	13
*key + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items						
Bupleurum rotundifolium (thorow wax)					-	
Eleocharis sp. (spike-rush)		-	-			1
Schoenoplectus sp. (club rush)			-			
Juncus spp. (rushes)		-				
Carex spp. (sedges)				1		
Bromus spp. / *Lolium* spp. (brome / rye grass)	1	-				
Phleum pratense (timothy)		-	-			
<2mm Poaceae (small seeded grasses)	1	++++	+	6	+++	
Unidentified taxa					-	1
Total identifiable wild / weed plant material	**5**	++++	+++	**9**	+++	**3**
Wood charcoal and other plant material						
Corylus avellana (hazel) nutshell fragments		1	7			
Thorn			1			
> 4 mm wood charcoal fragments		16	9		3	2
2-4 mm wood charcoal fragments	1	118	143	25	36	30
DP = predominantly diffuse porous. RP = predominantly ring porous	Indet.	DP some RP	DP some RP	DP	DP	DP & RP
Intrusive plant material / non-plant material*						
Land snails (Mollusca)	-		++	+++	++++	+++

Context number	1017	1085	1090	1123	1116	1148
Feature number	1016	1084	1087	1122	1224	1153
Sample number	1	2	3	4	5	6
Feature type	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Demo? layer	Demo? Layer	Building Posthole
Date	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman
Sample volume (litres)	22	45	45	44	46	28
Volume of intrusive roots (ml)	20	0	2	20	0	5
Flot volume excluding roots (ml)	20	20	20	50	90	35
Reflot volume	n/a	20	40	n/a	n/a	n/a
% Intrusive roots	50	0	0	29	0	13
*key + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items						
Recommendations						
Sample suitable for further analysis? (CPM = charred plant macrofossils, WC = wood charcoal, M = Mollusca)		CPM, WC	CPM, WC		CPM	
Charred material suitable for C14 dating?		Cereal grain	Cereal grain	Cereal grain	Cereal grain	Cereal grain
Retain flots?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 1. Archaeobotanical sample assessment table - Willis Way, Purton (WWP17)

Context number	1145	1140	1139	1173	1174/5	1206
Feature number	1122	1138	1138	1172	1172	1205
Sample number	7	8	9	10	11	12
Feature type	Charcoal layer	Posthole packing	Posthole postpipe	Posthole postpipe	Posthole packing	Gully
Date	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman
Sample volume (litres)	33	23	28	15	21	30
Volume of intrusive roots (ml)	5	5	10	10	10	10
Flot volume excluding roots (ml)	120	20	10	20	15	20
Reflot volume	40	n/a	40	n/a	n/a	n/a
% Intrusive roots	3	25	20	50	67	50
*key + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items						
Cereals and other economic plants*						

Context number	1145	1140	1139	1173	1174/5	1206
Feature number	1122	1138	1138	1172	1172	1205
Sample number	7	8	9	10	11	12
Feature type	Charcoal layer	Posthole packing	Posthole postpipe	Posthole postpipe	Posthole packing	Gully
Date	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman
Sample volume (litres)	33	23	28	15	21	30
Volume of intrusive roots (ml)	5	5	10	10	10	10
Flot volume excluding roots (ml)	120	20	10	20	15	20
Reflot volume	40	n/a	40	n/a	n/a	n/a
% Intrusive roots	3	25	20	50	67	50
*key + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items						
Large seeded legume						
Hordeum sp. (barley) hulled indeterminate grain			-			
Hordeum sp. (barley) indeterminate grain		-	-	1	2	1
Secale cereal (rye) grain						
Triticum cf. *dicoccum* (emmer wheat) grain	-		-			
Triticum spelta glume base	-	+	++		1	
Triticum spelta grain	-	-				
Triticum cf. *spelta* grain	+	-	+			
Triticum cf. *spelta* glume base						
Triticum dicoccum / spelta (emmer / spelt wheat) grain	-	-	-			
Triticum cf. *aestivum / turgidum* s.l. (free threshing wheat) grain					1	
Triticum sp. indet. (indeterminate wheat) grain	+	++	++			
Triticum sp. (wheat) glume base	+	++	++			
Cereal indeterminate grain						
Total identifiable cereal and other economic plant material	+++	++++	++++	**1**	**4**	**1**
Wild / weed plant seeds*						
Ranunculus bulbosus/acris/repens (bulbous/meadow/creeping buttercup)			-			
Vicia spp. / *Lathyrus* spp. (vetches / wild peas)	-					

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Context number	1145	1140	1139	1173	1174/5	1206
Feature number	1122	1138	1138	1172	1172	1205
Sample number	7	8	9	10	11	12
Feature type	Charcoal layer	Posthole packing	Posthole postpipe	Posthole postpipe	Posthole packing	Gully
Date	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman
Sample volume (litres)	33	23	28	15	21	30
Volume of intrusive roots (ml)	5	5	10	10	10	10
Flot volume excluding roots (ml)	120	20	10	20	15	20
Reflot volume	40	n/a	40	n/a	n/a	n/a
% Intrusive roots	3	25	20	50	67	50
*key + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items						
Medicago spp. / *Trifolium* spp. (medick / clover)		+	++	1		
Urtica dioica (common nettle)					1	
Fallopia convolvulus (black bindweed)						
Rumex crispus / conglomeratus / abtusifolius (curled / clustered / broad-leaved dock)	++	+	-			
Chenopodium album (fat hen)						
Chenopodium sp. (goosefoots)						
Atriplex spp. (oraches)						
Hyoscyamus niger (henbane)						
Galium aparine (cleavers)						
Veronica hederifolia (ivy-leaved speedwell)						
Plantago lanceolata (ribwort plantain)						
Stachys spp. (woundworts)			-			
Prunella vulgaris (selfheal)	-	-	+			
Rhinanthus minor (yellow rattle)			-			
Asteraceae (daisy family)						
Anthemis cotula (stinking chamomile)		+	+		1	
Bupleurum rotundifolium (thorow wax)						
Eleocharis sp. (spike-rush)	-					
Schoenoplectus sp. (club rush)						

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Context number	1145	1140	1139	1173	1174/5	1206
Feature number	1122	1138	1138	1172	1172	1205
Sample number	7	8	9	10	11	12
Feature type	Charcoal layer	Posthole packing	Posthole postpipe	Posthole postpipe	Posthole packing	Gully
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Sample volume (litres)	33	23	28	15	21	30
Volume of intrusive roots (ml)	5	5	10	10	10	10
Flot volume excluding roots (ml)	120	20	10	20	15	20
Reflot volume	40	n/a	40	n/a	n/a	n/a
% Intrusive roots	3	25	20	50	67	50
*key + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items						
Juncus spp. (rushes)						
Carex spp. (sedges)			++		2	
Bromus spp. / *Lolium* spp. (brome / rye grass)			-			
Phleum pratense (timothy)		-	+			
<2mm Poaceae (small seeded grasses)	++	++	+++	2	1	1
Unidentified taxa	-		-		1	
Total identifiable wild / weed plant material	+++	+++	+++	**3**	**6**	**1**
Wood charcoal and other plant material						
Corylus avellana (hazel) nutshell fragments						1
Thorn						
> 4 mm wood charcoal fragments	23	2	2	2		3
2-4 mm wood charcoal fragments	>500	29	80	10	2	4
DP = predominantly diffuse porous. RP = predominantly ring porous	DP & RP	DP & RP	DP & RP	DP & RP	DP	DP
Intrusive plant material / non-plant material*						
Land snails (Mollusca)	+++	++	++	+++	+++	+
Recommendations						
Sample suitable for further analysis? (CPM = charred plant macrofossils, WC = wood charcoal, M = Mollusca)	CPM, WC	CPM	CPM, WC			

Context number	1145	1140	1139	1173	1174/5	1206
Feature number	1122	1138	1138	1172	1172	1205
Sample number	7	8	9	10	11	12
Feature type	Charcoal layer	Posthole packing	Posthole postpipe	Posthole postpipe	Posthole packing	Gully
Date	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman
Sample volume (litres)	33	23	28	15	21	30
Volume of intrusive roots (ml)	5	5	10	10	10	10
Flot volume excluding roots (ml)	120	20	10	20	15	20
Reflot volume	40	n/a	40	n/a	n/a	n/a
% Intrusive roots	3	25	20	50	67	50
*key + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items						
Charred material suitable for C14 dating?	Cereal grain	Cereal grain	Cereal grain		Cereal grain	
Retain flots?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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APPENDIX 6 – A NOTE ON SOME ROMAN BUILDING MATERIALS

By Andrew Hood

Wall Plaster

An assemblage of Roman wall plaster fragments was recovered from probable demolition deposits situated in the vicinity of the Roman building. The assemblage totalled 89 fragments, weighing 3,263g. The plaster material comprised a beige limestone gritty mortar with occasional small grog inclusions. At least 18 of the fragments had a white/beige slip on one side, whilst three further fragments appeared to have been painted red/mauve on one side; although, the colour was very faded and difficult to discern. Three small fragments, from fill (1123), were partly discoloured orange and appeared to have been heated/burnt. Further small fragments of probable wall plaster were noted within the soil samples subjected to environmental flotation.

Wall plaster by context:

(1123); 32 fragments, 1231g

(1125); 57 fragments, 2032g

(1085); fragments noted during environmental flotation

(1116); fragments noted during environmental flotation

(1123); fragments noted during environmental flotation

(1139); fragments noted during environmental flotation

(1140); fragments noted during environmental flotation

(1145); fragments noted during environmental flotation

(1148); fragments noted during environmental flotation

Probable Tesserae

A total of four probable tesserae fragments were recovered from the soil samples subjected to environmental flotation. They included stone and ceramic examples, all of which had been cut to an approximate square shape. There were no obvious paint or slip residues, although there appeared to be some small patches of remnant beige white gritty mortar. A ceramic tessera was possibly formed by re-use of part of a pottery vessel or tile.

Tesserae by context:

(1116); grey ceramic, no obvious slip, paint or mortar. 30mm long by 23mm wide by 17mm thick. Possibly cut from former pottery vessel or tile. (21g)

(1123); dark beige limestone, some white beige gritty mortar adhering. 25mm long by 20mm wide by 14mm thick. (20g)

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(1123); white beige limestone, some mortar adhering? 18mm long by 14mm wide by 12mm thick. (6g)

(1148); dark grey stone, some white and pink mortar adhering. 15mm long by 10mm wide by 14mm thick. (5g)

Probable Floor Tile

A single fragment of tile was recovered from fill (1139) during environmental flotation. The fragment was approximately triangular in shape, measured 100mm long by up to 65mm wide and 30mm thick and weighed 190g. A dark grey paint or slip was present on one side of the tile. The presence of the paint or slip, along with its relative thickness suggested that it was most likely to be a floor tile.

Glass

A solitary fragment of probable Roman, light blue green glass (6g) was recovered from fill (1123).

Possible Building Stone

Fills (1123), (1125), (1148), (1173) and (1174/5), all of which were associated with the Roman building, contained a total of 22 fragments (4,354g) of possibly shaped limestone or sandstone. It was possible, but not entirely certain, that these represented building stones.

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APPENDIX 7 – MISCELLANEOUS FINDS

CXT	DESCRIPTION
1069	1 x Fe nail fragment. 5g.
1075	1 x Fe nail fragment. 4g.
1085	1 x Cu object - small hook. <1g.
1101	5 x Fe nail fragments. 31g.
1116	2 x Fe nail fragments. 14g.
1116	2 x Fe nail fragments. 9g. **Metal detecting find.**
1116	1 x burnt stone. 72g.
1119	4 x Fe nail fragments. 14g.
1119	1 x Fe ?blade fragment. 16g.
1119	1 x burnt stone. 113g.
1123	1 x fragment of light blue green probable Roman glass. 6g.
1123	21 x Fe nail fragments. 210g.
1123	2 x Fe ?blade fragments. 22g.
1123	7 X fragments of possibly shaped ?building stone. Grey beige to purple beige limestone, or possibly sandstone. 919g.
1123	3 x Fe nail fragments. 13g. **Metal detecting find.**
1123	21 x shell (oyster?) fragments. 159g.
1125	2 x Fe nail fragments. 16g.
1125	10 X fragments of possibly shaped ?building stone. Grey beige to purple beige limestone, or possibly sandstone. 2736g.
1125	8 x shell (oyster?) fragments. 103g.
1137	1 x fragment of dark blue black Modern glass. 12g.
1139	3 x Fe nail fragments. 13g. **Metal detecting find.**
1148	2 x Fe nail fragments. 16g.
1148	1 X fragment of possibly shaped ?building stone. Purple beige limestone, or possibly sandstone. 32g.
1148	2 x shell (oyster?) fragments. 48g.
1160	1 x Fe blade fragment. 48g.
1163	1 x Fe fragment. 7g.
1163	1 x Fe fragment fused to natural limestone. 134g. (combined weight)
1170	4 x Fe ?nail fragments. 19g.
1173	8 x Fe nail fragments. 69g.

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CXT	DESCRIPTION
1173	3 X fragments of possibly shaped ?building stone. Grey beige to purple beige limestone, or possibly sandstone. 568g.
1174/1175	1 x Fe nail fragment. 11g.
1174/1175	1 x Fe blade fragment. 7g.
1174/1175	1 x burnt/vitrified CBM fragment. 76g.
1174/1175	1 X fragment of possibly shaped ?building stone. Grey beige limestone, or possibly sandstone. Burnt. 102g.
1174/1175	2 x shell (oyster?) fragments. 48g.
1178	1 x burnt stone. 7g.
1210	2 x Fe nail fragments. 18g.
1213	1 x Fe nail fragment. 11g.

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Site Code: WWP17
Accession Code: SWIMG:2020.1

FIGURE 1: Site Location

Site Code: WWP17
Accession Code: SWIMG:2020.1

N

0m 20m

4 = EVALUATION TRENCH WITH FEATURE

= EXCAVATION AREA

FIGURE 2: Site Plan

SEE FIGURE 8
FOR LEVELS

ELECTRIC
CABLE

NGR: 408533.187330

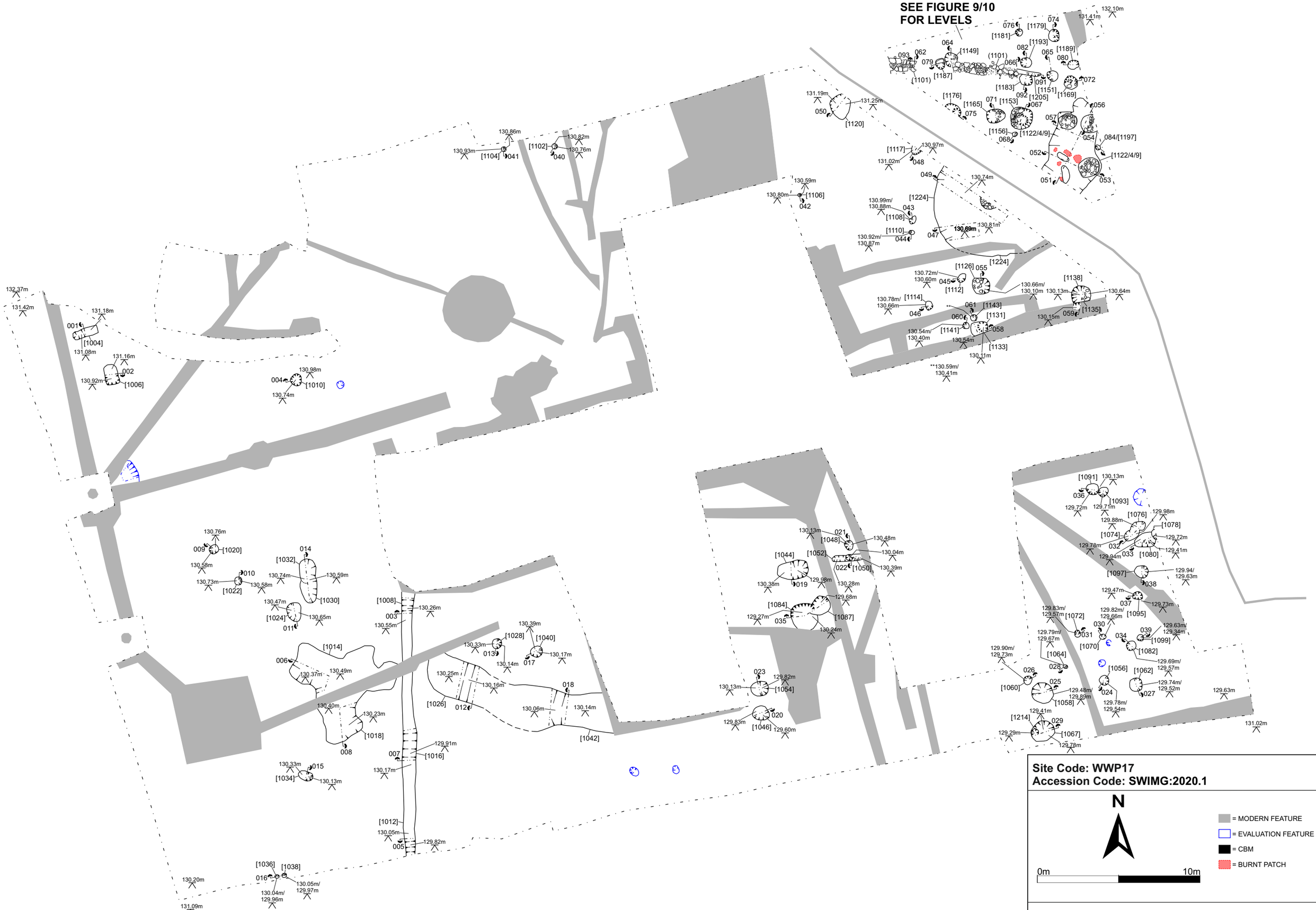
Site Code: WWP17
Accession Code: SWIMG:2020.1

N

= MODERN FEATURE
= EVALUATION FEATURE
= CBM

0m 10m

FIGURE 3: Pre-excavation Plan



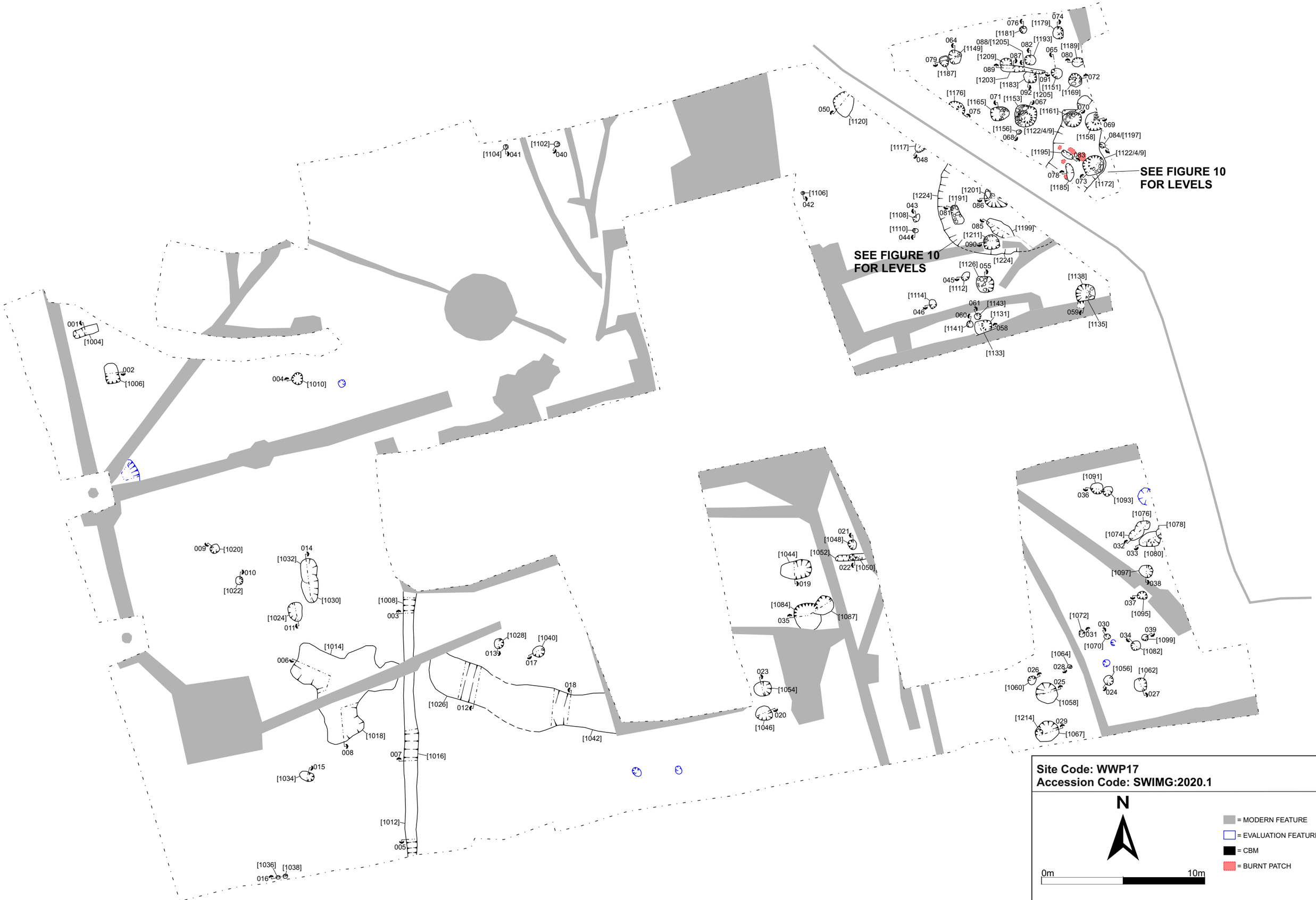
Site Code: WWP17
Accession Code: SWIMG:2020.1

N

= MODERN FEATURE
= EVALUATION FEATURE
= CBM
= BURNT PATCH

0m 10m

FIGURE 4: Excavation Phase 1 Plan



Site Code: WWP17
Accession Code: SWIMG:2020.1

N

0m 10m

= MODERN FEATURE
= EVALUATION FEATURE
= CBM
= BURNT PATCH

FIGURE 5: Excavation Phase 2 Plan

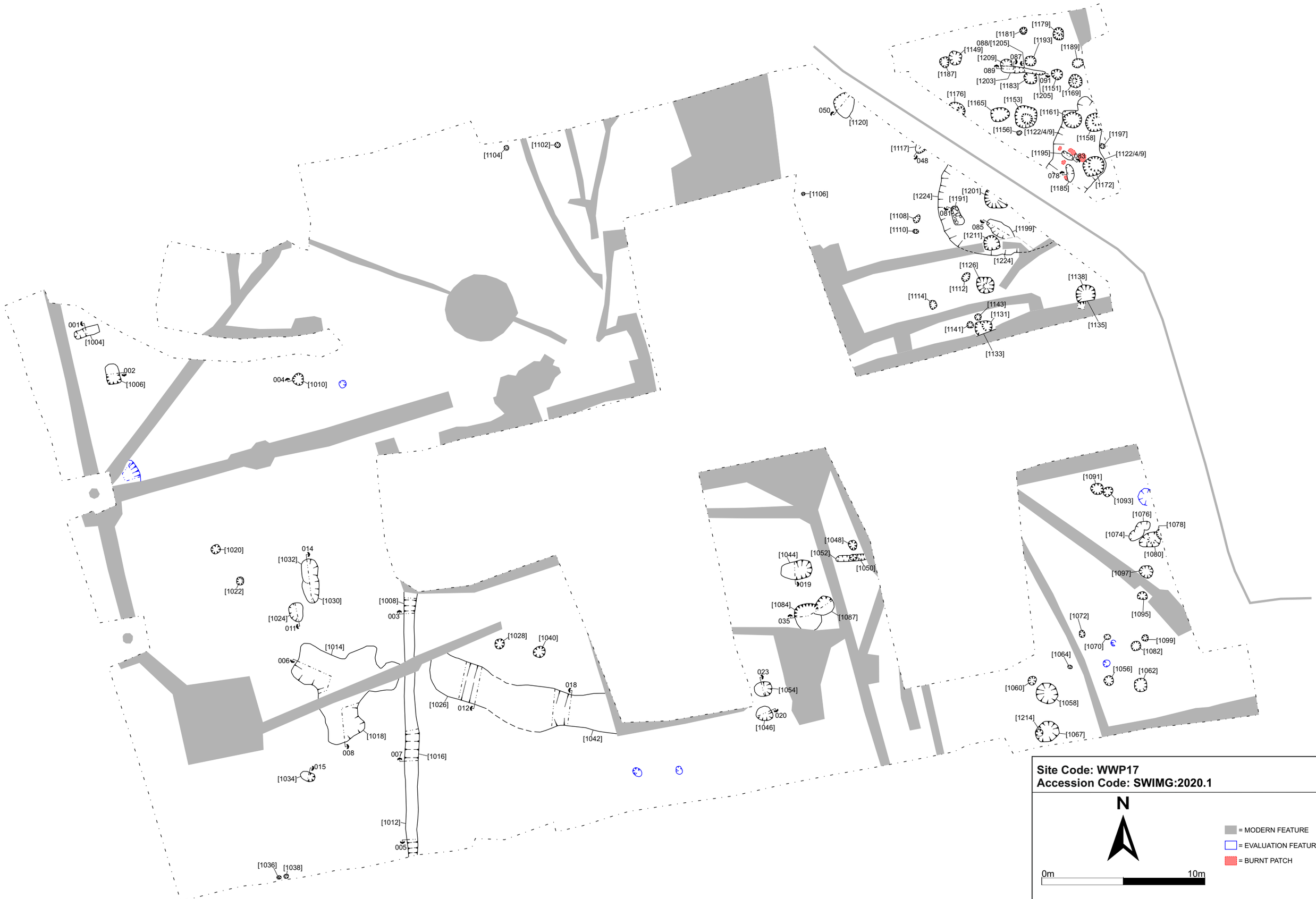
Site Code: WWP17
Accession Code: SWIMG:2020.1

N

= MODERN FEATURE
= EVALUATION FEATURE
= BURNT PATCH

0m 10m

FIGURE 6: Excavation Phase 3 Plan, No Labels



Site Code: WWP17
Accession Code: SWIMG:2020.1

N

= MODERN FEATURE
= EVALUATION FEATURE
= BURNT PATCH

0m 10m

FIGURE 7: Excavation Phase 3 Plan, With Labels

131.14m
131.44m
131.45m
131.18m
131.37m
131.14m
131.40m
131.13m
131.10m

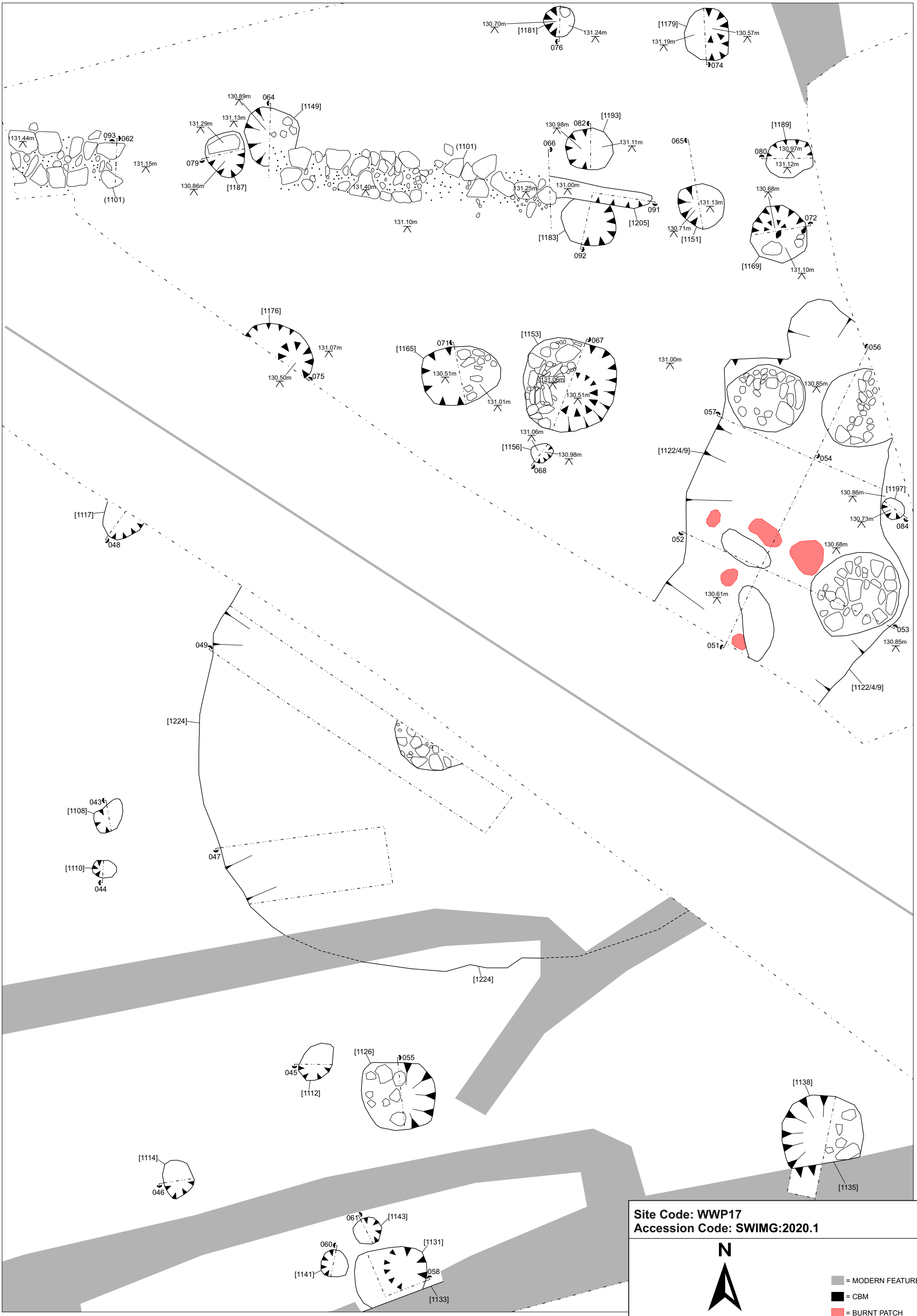
Site Code: WWP17
Accession Code: SWIMG:2020.1

N

= MODERN FEATURE
= CBM

0m 2m

FIGURE 8: Pre-excavation Plan, Large Scale


130.70m
[1181]
131.24m
076
[1179]
130.57m
131.19m
074
130.89m
064
[1149]
131.29m
131.13m
131.44m
093
062
131.15m
079
130.86m
[1187]
(1101)
131.40m
131.10m
(1101)
131.25m
131.00m
130.98m
082
[1193]
131.11m
066
091
[1205]
[1183]
092
065
131.13m
130.71m
[1151]
[1189]
080
130.97m
131.12m
130.68m
072
[1169]
131.10m
[1176]
131.07m
130.50m
075
[1165]
071
130.51m
131.01m
[1153]
067
131.06m
130.51m
131.06m
[1156]
130.98m
068
131.00m
056
130.85m
057
[1122/4/9]
054
[1197]
130.86m
130.73m
084
052
130.68m
130.61m
053
051
130.85m
[1122/4/9]
[1117]
048
049
[1224]
043
[1108]
047
[1110]
044
[1224]
[1126]
055
045
[1112]
[1138]
[1135]
[1114]
046
061
[1143]
060
[1131]
[1141]
058
[1133]
Site Code: WWP17
Accession Code: SWIMG:2020.1
N
= MODERN FEATURE
= CBM
= BURNT PATCH
0m
2m
FIGURE 9: Excavation Phase 1 Plan, Large Scale

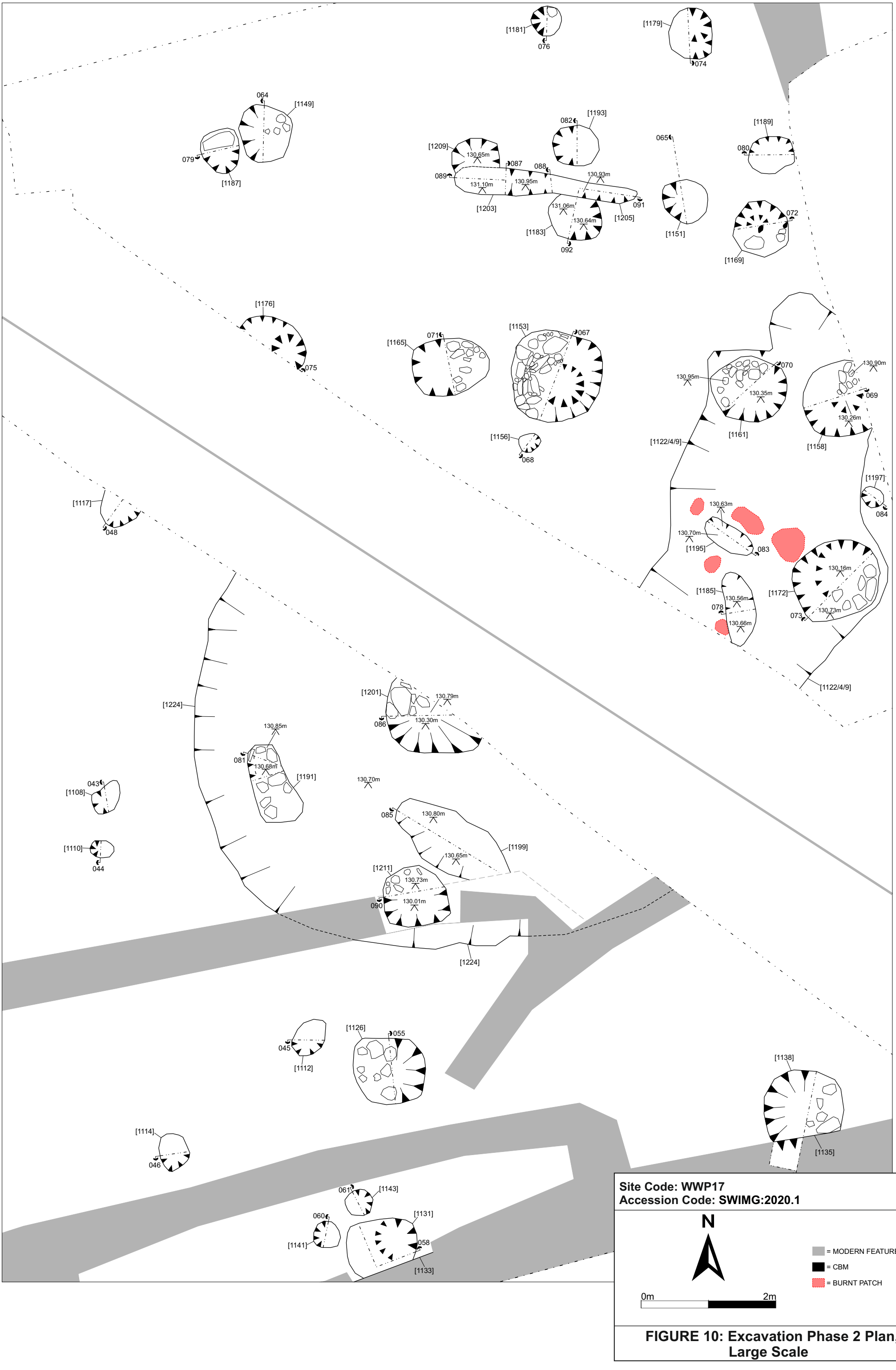


FIGURE 10: Excavation Phase 2 Plan, Large Scale

Site Code: WWP17
Accession Code: SWIMG:2020.1

N

= MODERN FEATURE

= BURNT PATCH

0m 2m

FIGURE 11: Excavation Phase 3 Plan, No Labels, Large Scale

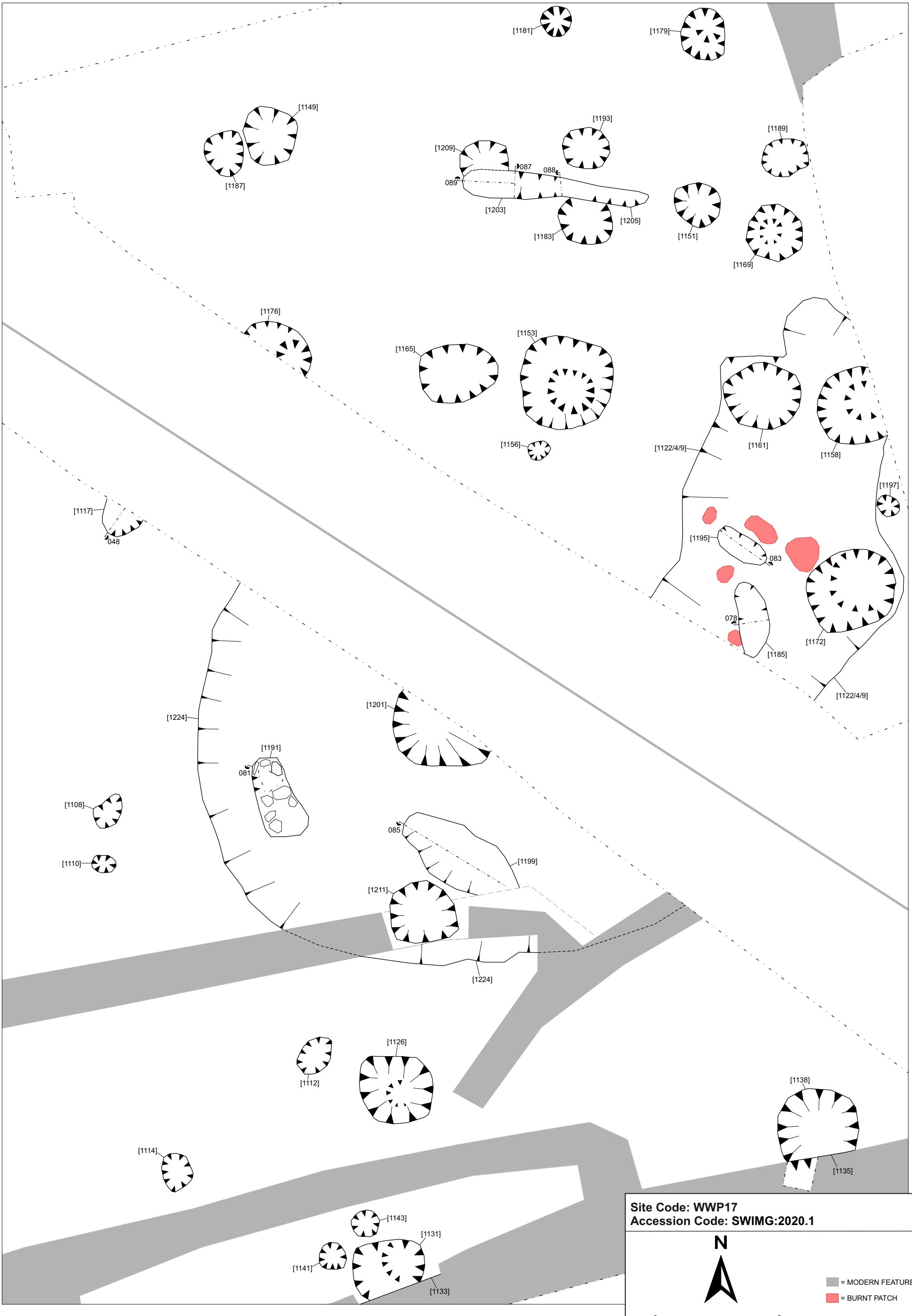


FIGURE 12: Excavation Phase 3 Plan, With Labels, Large Scale

ENTRANCE?

Site Code: WWP17
Accession Code: SWIMG:2020.1

N

= MODERN FEATURE

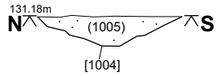
= BURNT PATCH

= EXTRAPOLATED EXTENT OF ROMAN BUILDING

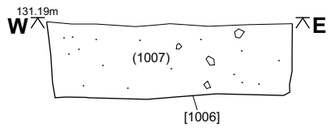
0m 2m

FIGURE 13: Excavation Phase 3 Plan, With Highlight

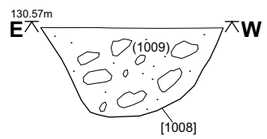
SEC 001: WEST FACING SECTION [1004]



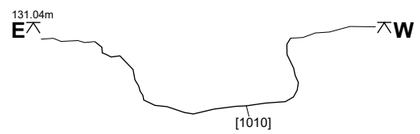
SEC 002: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1006]



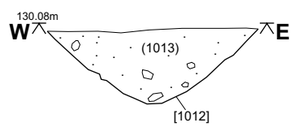
SEC 003: NORTH FACING SECTION [1008]



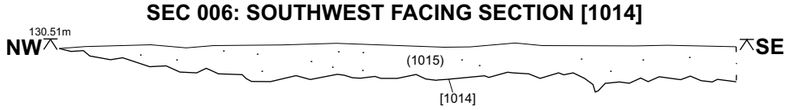
SEC 004: PROFILE [1010]



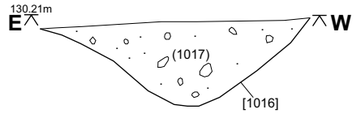
SEC 005: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1012]



SEC 006: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [1014]

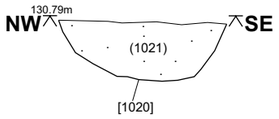


SEC 007: NORTH FACING SECTION [1016]

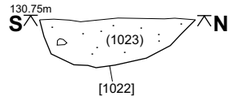


SEC 008: EAST FACING SECTION [1018]

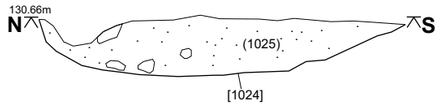
SEC 009: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [1020]



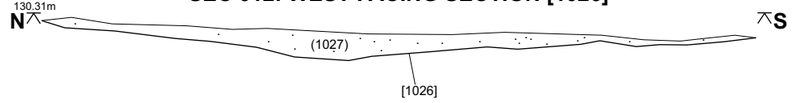
SEC 010: EAST FACING SECTION [1022]



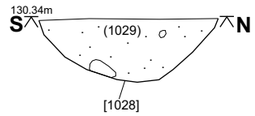
SEC 011: WEST FACING SECTION [1024]



SEC 012: WEST FACING SECTION [1026]

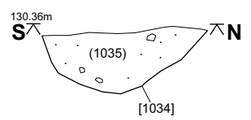


SEC 013: EAST FACING SECTION [1028]

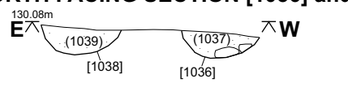


SEC 014: EAST FACING SECTION [1030] and [1032]

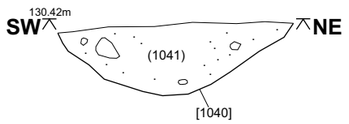
SEC 015: EAST FACING SECTION [1034]



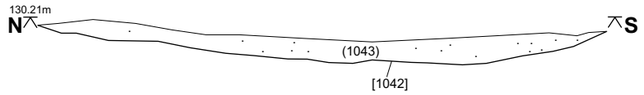
SEC 016: NORTH FACING SECTION [1036] and [1038]



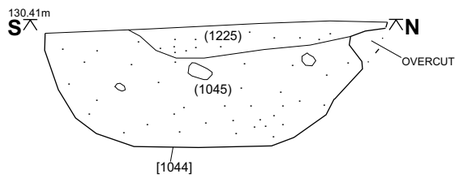
SEC 017: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1040]



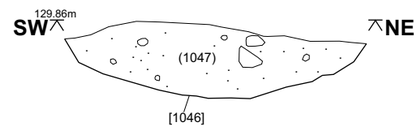
SEC 018: WEST FACING SECTION [1042]



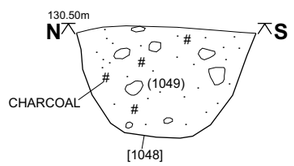
SEC 019: EAST FACING SECTION [1044]



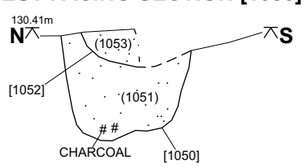
SEC 020: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1046]



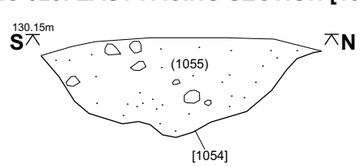
SEC 021: WEST FACING SECTION [1048]



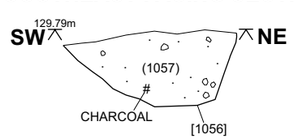
SEC 022: WEST FACING SECTION [1050] and [1052]



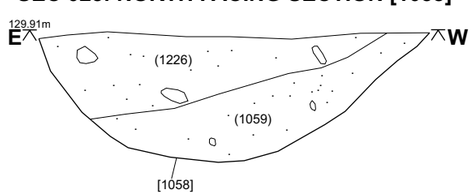
SEC 023: EAST FACING SECTION [1054]



SEC 024: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1056]

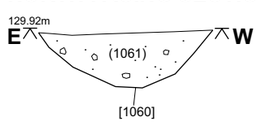


SEC 025: NORTH FACING SECTION [1058]

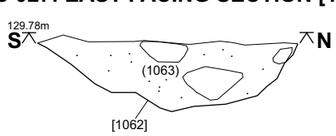


SECS 063 and 077 ARE VOID

SEC 026: NORTH FACING SECTION [1060]



SEC 027: EAST FACING SECTION [1062]



SEC 028: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1064]

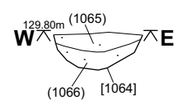


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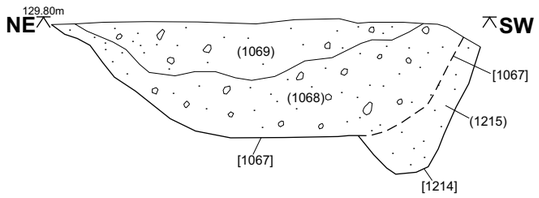
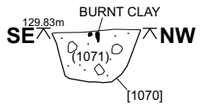
FIGURE 14: Sections 001 to 028

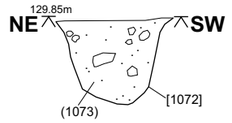
SEC 029: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1067] and [1214]



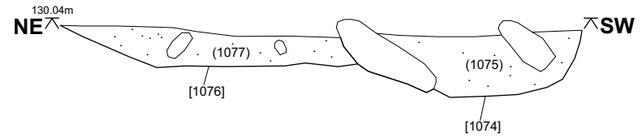
SEC 030: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [1070]



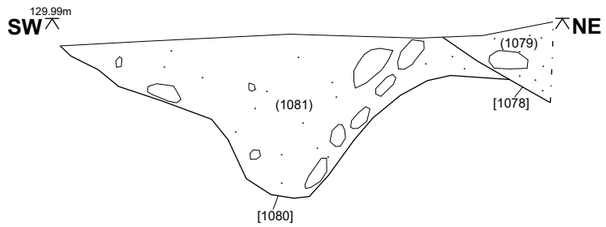
SEC 031: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1072]



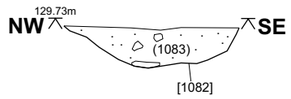
SEC 032: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1074] and [1076]



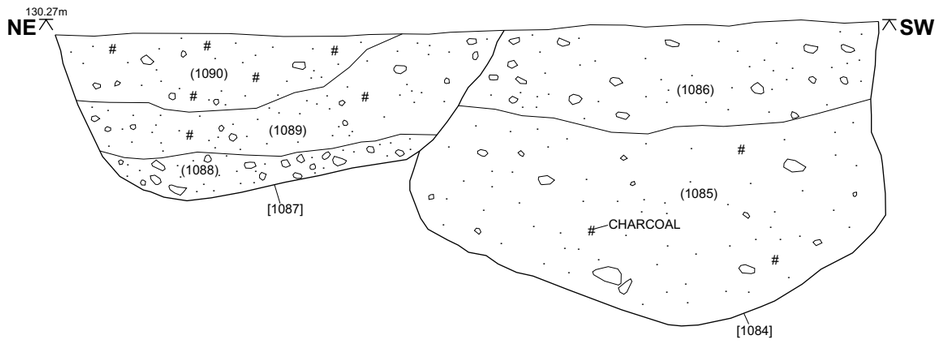
SEC 033: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1078] and [1080]



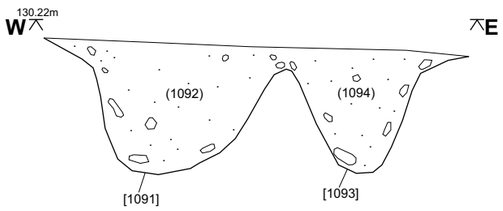
SEC 034: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [1082]



SEC 035: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1084] and [1087]

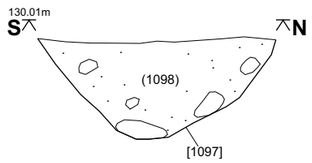


SEC 036: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1091] and [1093]

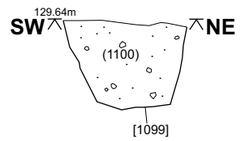


SEC 037: PROFILE [1095]

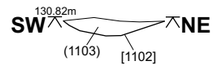
SEC 038: EAST FACING SECTION [1097]



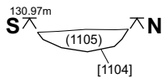
SEC 039: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1099]



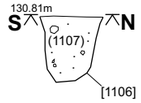
SEC 040: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1102]



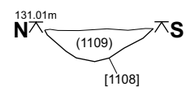
SEC 041: EAST FACING SECTION [1104]



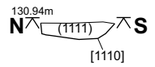
SEC 042: EAST FACING SECTION [1106]



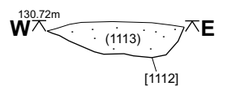
SEC 043: WEST FACING SECTION [1108]



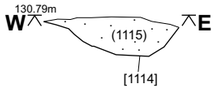
SEC 044: WEST FACING SECTION [1110]



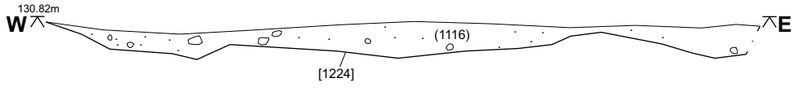
SEC 045: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1112]



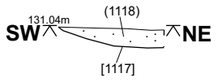
SEC 046: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1114]



SEC 047: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1224]/(1116)



SEC 048: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1117]



SEC 049: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [1224]/(1119)

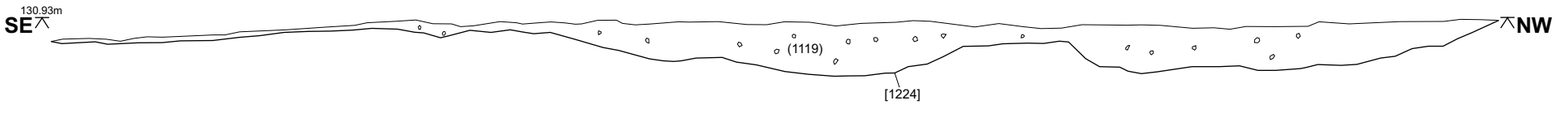


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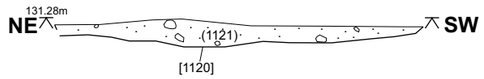
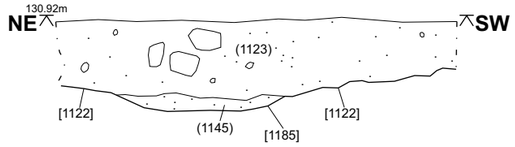
FIGURE 15: Sections 029 to 049

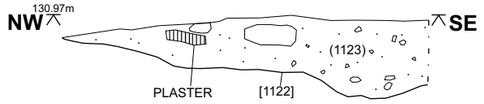
SEC 050: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1120]



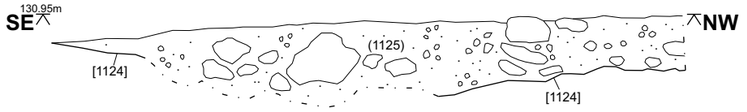
SECTION 051: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1122]/[1185]



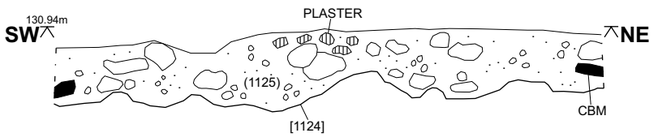
SEC 052: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [1122]



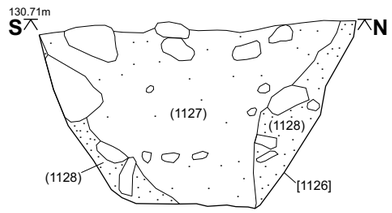
SEC 053: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [1124]



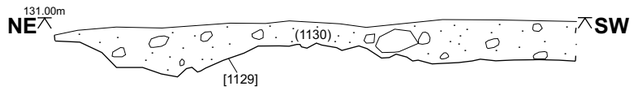
SEC 054: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1124]



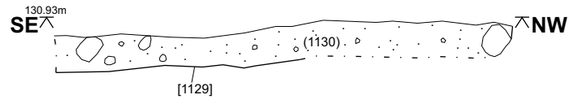
SEC 055: EAST FACING SECTION [1126]



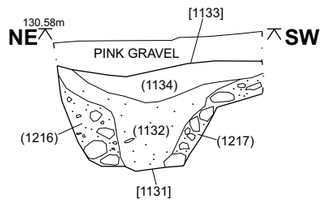
SEC 056: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1129]



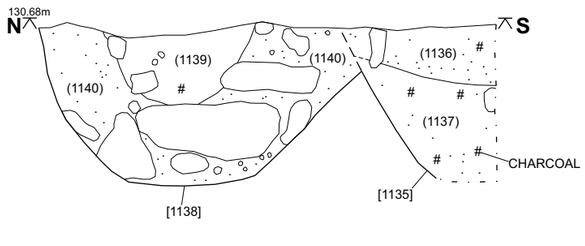
SEC 057: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [1129]



SEC 058: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1131] and [1133]

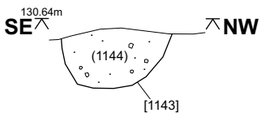


SEC 059: WEST FACING SECTION [1135] and [1138]

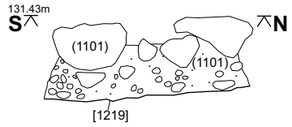


SEC 060: WEST FACING SECTION [1141]

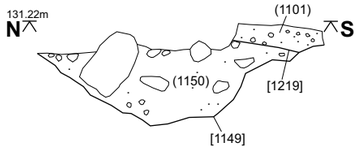
SEC 061: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [1143]



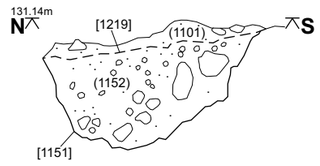
SEC 062: EAST FACING SECTION [1219]/(1101)



SEC 064: WEST FACING SECTION [1149] and [1219]/(1101)

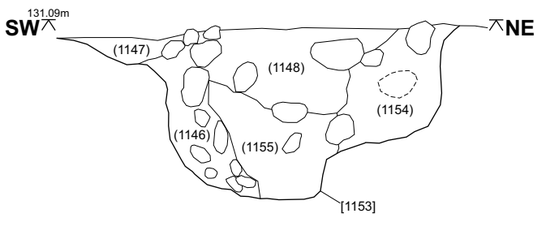


SEC 065: WEST FACING SECTION [1151] and [1219]/(1101)

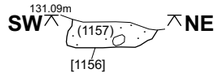


SEC 066: EAST FACING SECTION [1219]/(1101)

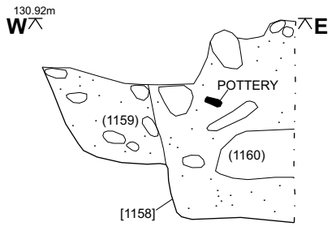
SEC 067: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1153]



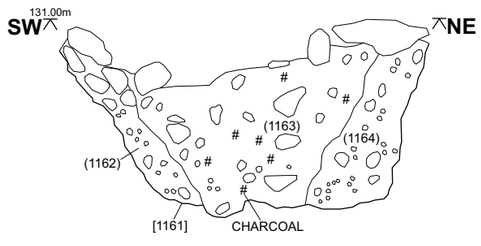
SEC 068: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1156]



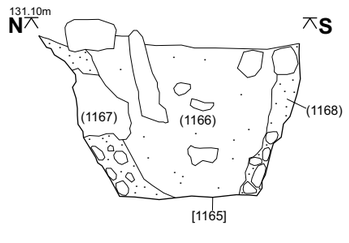
SEC 069: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1158]



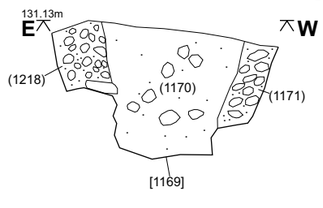
SEC 070: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1161]



SEC 071: WEST FACING SECTION [1165]



SEC 072: NORTH FACING SECTION [1169]



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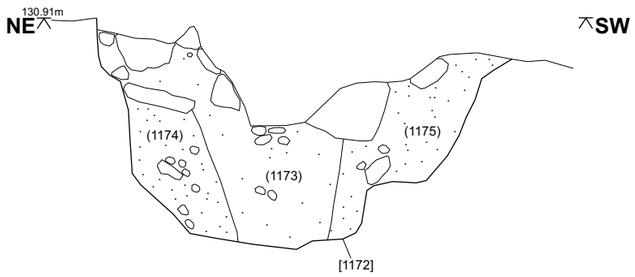
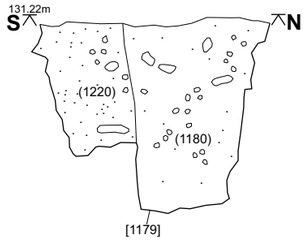
0m 1m

FIGURE 16: Sections 050 to 072

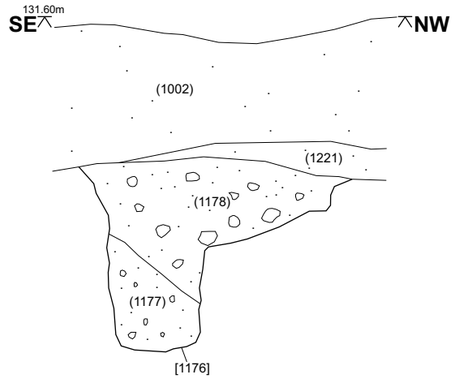
SEC 073: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1172]



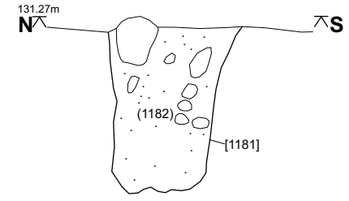
SEC 074: EAST FACING SECTION [1179]



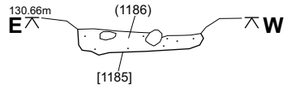
SEC 075: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [1176]



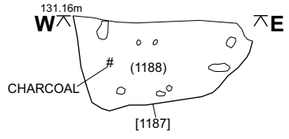
SEC 076: WEST FACING SECTION [1181]



SEC 078: NORTH FACING SECTION [1185]

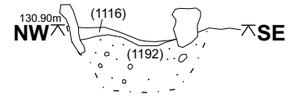


SEC 079: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1187]

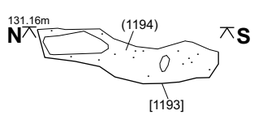


SEC 080: NORTH FACING SECTION [1189]

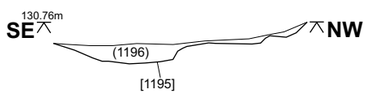
SEC 081: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION (1192)



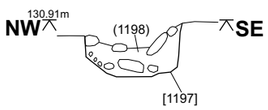
SEC 082: WEST FACING SECTION [1193]



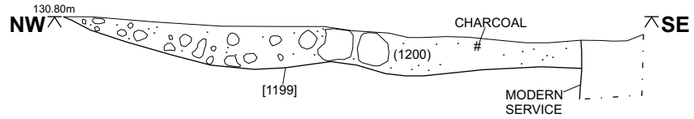
SEC 083: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [1195]



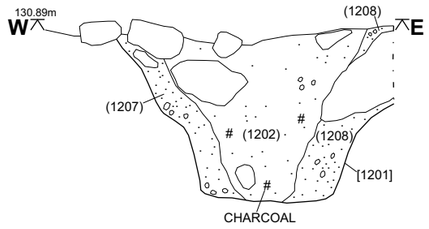
SEC 084: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [1197]



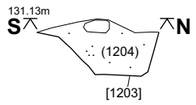
SEC 085: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [1199]



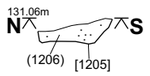
SEC 086: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1201]



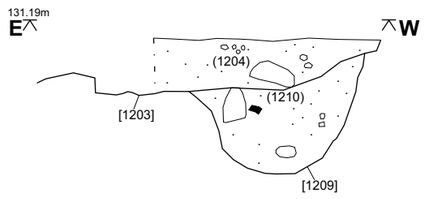
SEC 087: EAST FACING SECTION [1203]



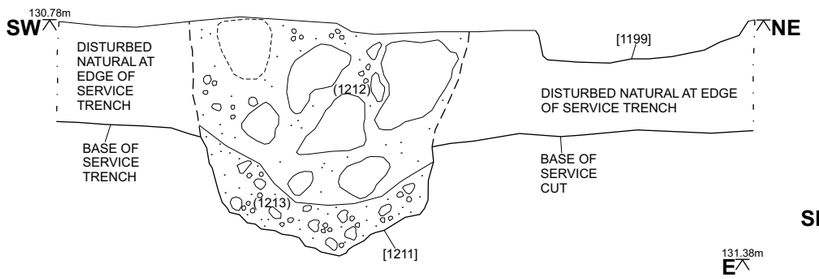
SEC 088: WEST FACING SECTION [1205]



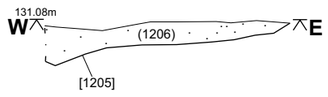
SEC 089: NORTH FACING SECTION [1203] and [1209]



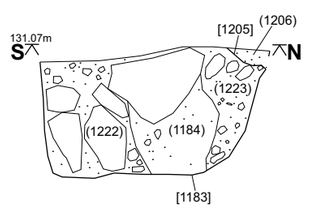
SEC 090: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1211]



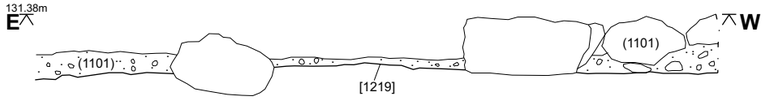
SEC 091: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1205]



SEC 092: EAST FACING SECTION [1183] and [1205]



SEC 093: NORTH FACING ELEVATION WALL [1219]/(1101)



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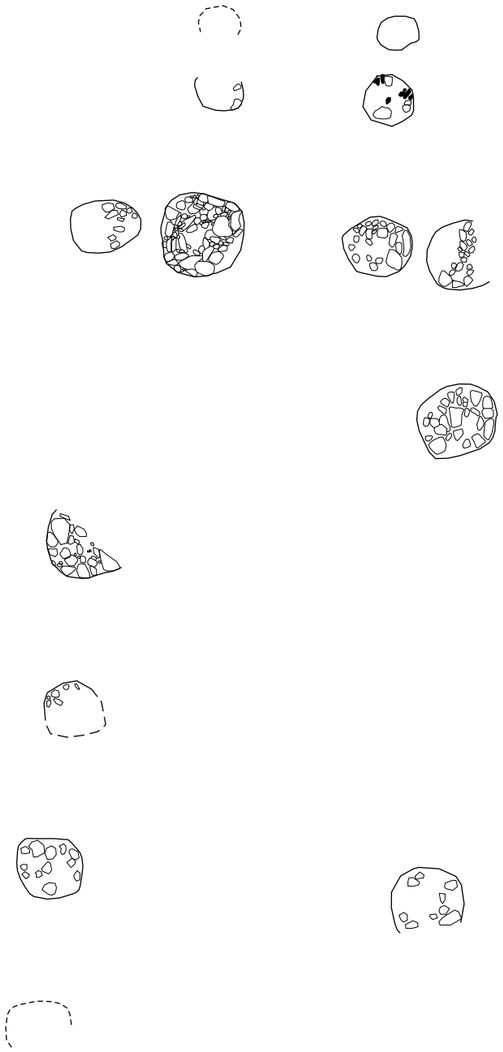
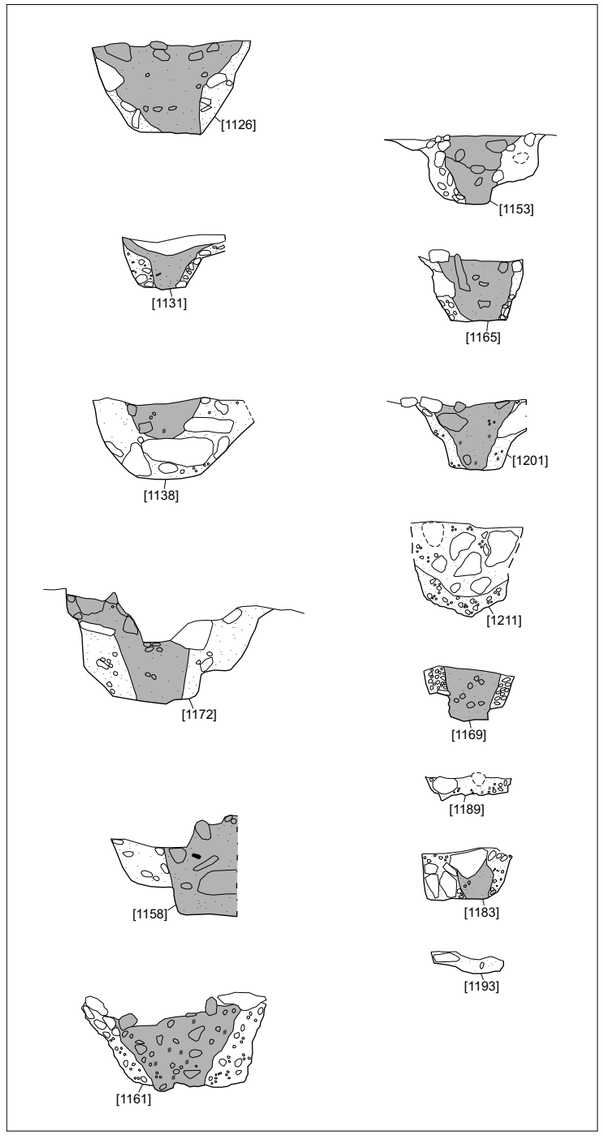
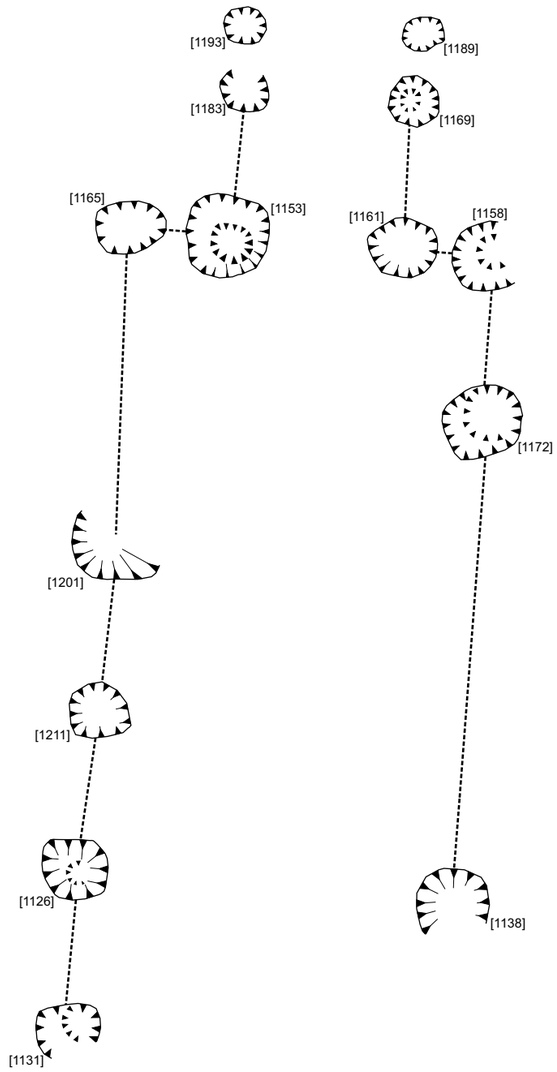
0m 1m

FIGURE 17: Sections 073 to 093



COMPOSITE PRE-EXCAVATION PLAN





POST-EXCAVATION PLAN

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N

0m 4m
PLAN

0m 2m
SECTION

= SOIL POSTPIPE

FIGURE 18: Roman Building Plans and Sections

= ROMAN BUILDING
= OUTLINE OF WALL (1101)
= BURNT PATCH
= CBM **1** to **500g**
= CBM **501** to **2000g**
= CBM **>2000g**
= WALL PLASTER (noted during environmental flotation)
= WALL PLASTER **>1000g**
= PROBABLE TESSERA (by occurrence - noted during fieldwork and environmental flotation)
= PROBABLE FLOOR TILE (by occurrence - noted during fieldwork and environmental flotation)
= BURNT CLAY / DAUB (by occurrence - noted during fieldwork and environmental flotation)
= Fe nail fragment **1 to 20g**
= Fe nail fragment **21 to 100g**
= Fe nail fragment **>100g**

POSSIBLE FENCELINE

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N

0m 10m

FIGURE 19: Distribution of Roman Building Materials

DOUBLE ROW OF POSTS

ENTRANCE?

REVEALED WALL

PRESUMED WALL

WALL (1101)

[1108] - POSSIBLE GRAVE FOR INFANT BURIAL

EARLY ROMAN BUILDING

GRAVE/COFFIN?

BURIAL

POSSIBLE FENCELINE

THE 'SKETCH PLAN' OF THE CEMETERY REVEALED DURING THE 1980s EXCAVATION IS SHOWN IN GREEN

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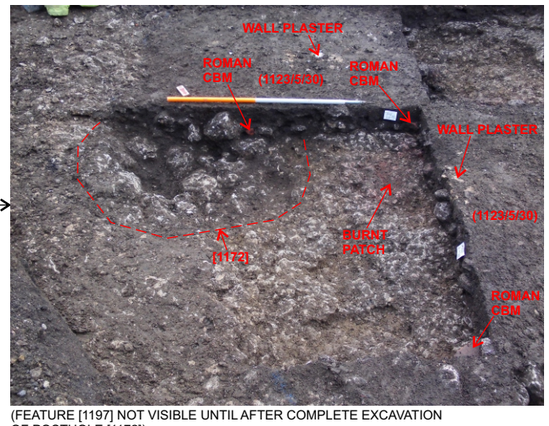
N

0m 10m

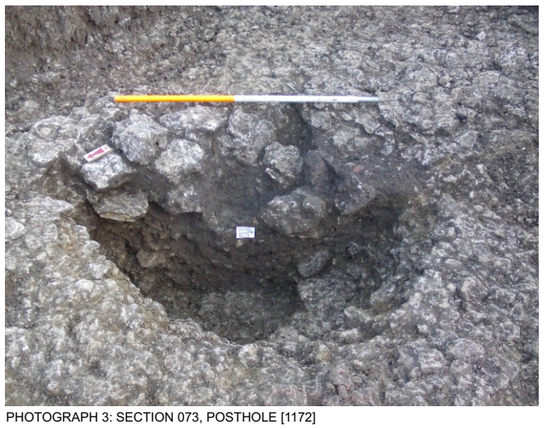
FIGURE 20: Comparison with the Plan of the Late Roman Cemetery

PHOTOGRAPH 1: HAND CLEAN WITHIN AREA OF BUILDING TO DEFINE EXTENT OF DEPOSIT (1123/5/30) AND NEARBY POSTHOLES

PHOTOGRAPH 2: SECTION 053, SHOWING DUMPED SOIL (1125) OVER POSTHOLE [1172]



(FEATURE [1197] NOT VISIBLE UNTIL AFTER COMPLETE EXCAVATION OF POSTHOLE [1172])

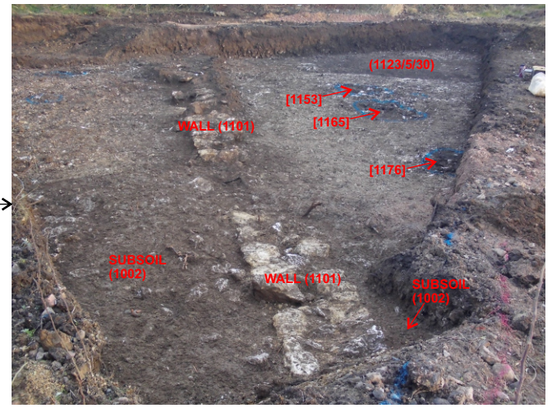


PHOTOGRAPH 3: SECTION 073, POSTHOLE [1172]

PHOTOGRAPH 4: POSTHOLE [1172] FULLY EXCAVATED

ALL SCALES = 1m TOTAL

PHOTOGRAPH 5: GENERAL SHOT (LOOKING WEST); WALL (1101) PRIOR TO REMOVAL OF SURROUNDING SUBSOIL (digital scale)



PHOTOGRAPH 6: SECTION 062, WALL (1101). SURROUNDING SUBSOIL REMOVED.

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FIGURE 21: Photographs of a Building Posthole and Wall (1101)