Wessex Archaeology

Caerwent Roman Town, Monmouthshire, South Wales

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

Ref:68736.01

February 2009

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Report reference: 68736.01

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to carry out archaeological recording and post-excavation analysis on an archaeological evaluation by Channel 4's 'Time Team' within the Roman town of Caerwent, South Wales (NGR 346900 190500).

The Roman town is a Scheduled Monument (Monmouthshire 001) of national importance. Excavations since the turn of the 19th century have largely established the ground plan, although little was known about two significant areas, one in the commercial heart of the town (*insula* XIV) and the other in a suburban district of its north-western quadrant (*insula* I). These two areas, and a third, located outside the walls on the eastern approaches to the town, were investigated by the Time Team evaluation.

The project aimed to carry out a limited programme of non-intrusive investigations and evaluation trenching over three days. Fieldwork consisted of seven machine-excavated trial trenches as well as geophysical and topographic surveys. The geophysical survey clearly demonstrated the potential usefulness of these techniques, particularly ground penetrating radar, for providing detailed information about the below-ground remains surviving at Caerwent.

The two trenches excavated in *insula* I revealed parts of a large, complex, multiphase building surrounding a central courtyard with an apsidal-ended range at its eastern end, perhaps representing a private bath-house, identified by the geophysical survey. This complex was of sophisticated, Romanised character, with oak beams, tessellated and *opus signinum* floors, painted wall plaster and roofed with Old Red Sandstone tiles. No evidence for the date of its construction was found but coins and pottery suggest that it was occupied into the second half of the 4th century AD. There was some evidence to suggest that the building was destroyed by fire and that it was subsequently robbed.

No evidence for the street frontage was found on *insula* XIV, but wall footings identified in two trenches probably represented the remains of a narrow strip building, altered and perhaps re-aligned on at least two occasions. There was little evidence for the outward appearance of this structure, but numerous glass fragments and part of an *opus signinum* floor, probably added during the late 3rd century AD at the earliest, indicate the presence of relatively comfortable living quarters within it.

The only archaeological features located on the eastern approaches to the town consisted of a probable roadside ditch and a gravelled track or path leading towards the eastern gate. Overall, however, the Time Team evaluation successfully demonstrated the extent, character and condition of the Romano-British remains at Caerwent, showing that substantial stratified remains survive below ground.

A short article, based on the results presented in this assessment report, for inclusion in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, is suggested as an adequate level of publication given the results of this project.

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Acknowledgements

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Michael Douglas (Series Editor), Jane Hammond (Production Manager), Jon Willers (Assistant Producer), Tom Scott (Researcher) and Emily Woodburn (Production Co-ordinator) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Jimmy Adcock and Emma Wood of GSB Prospection Ltd. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman (University of Birmingham). The recording, finds co-ordination, processing and on-site identification was undertaken by Jacqueline McKinley and Rachael Seager Smith (both of Wessex Archaeology). Michael Heaton (Archaeological Site Investigations) also assisted with the on-site recording and provided much useful information on the nature of Romano-British buildings during the preparation of this report.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Kerry Ely, Brigid Gallagher, Ian Powlesland, Faye Simpson, Tracey Smith and Matt Williams assisted by local diggers Cassie Newland, Catherine Rees, Colin Harris, David Hancocks, Felicity Taylor, Matt Jones, Steve Clarke, Ian Turlin, Tom Fitton, Steve John, Richard Frame and Cally Langhurst. Local metal detectorists Jerry Davies and Del Samuel also provided much help and support.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Rachael Seager Smith with specialist reports prepared by Rob Perrin (cbm), Nicholas Cooke (coins), Jörn Schuster (worked bone), Jacqueline McKinley (human bone), Jessica Grimm (animal bone) and Ruth Pelling (environmental). The illustrations were prepared by Will Foster. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham.

Finally, Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Rick Turner, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, CADW and Dr Peter Guest, senior lecturer in Roman archaeology, HISAR, Cardiff University for their help and advice.

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to carry out archaeological recording and post-excavation analysis on an archaeological evaluation by Channel 4's 'Time Team' within the Roman town of Caerwent, South Wales centred on NGR 346900 190500 (**Figure 1**). The fieldwork, comprising seven machine-excavated evaluation trenches, was carried out in June 2008 by Time Team and local archaeologists.

1.1.2 The site lies at a height of approximately 15m aOD and the underlying geology consists of second and third terrace gravel deposits with some areas of red marl (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 250, Chepstow). Current land-use is pasture.

1.1.3 Caerwent is perhaps the best preserved Roman town in Britain, its walls enclosing some 18 hectares (Brewer 2006, 14) and the whole area is a Scheduled Monument (Monmouthshire 001). Two areas within the town were investigated, one in its commercial heart (*insula* XIV) and the other in a 'suburban' district of its north-western quadrant (*insula* I) while a third was located outside the walls, on the eastern approaches to the town. All three areas were untouched by antiquarians and represented key gaps in an otherwise fairly comprehensive groundplan of the Roman town.

1.1.4 Caerwent was selected for archaeological evaluation and filming following discussion with Cadw and officers of Monmouthshire County Council, the owners and managers of the site.

1.2 Archaeological Background

1.2.1 This section, and the following, on previous archaeological work, are summarised from the more detailed accounts presented by Craster (1976) and Brewer (2006).

1.2.2 At the time of the Roman conquest, south-east Wales was inhabited by the *Silures*, a tribe described by the Roman historian Tacitus. Their territories included the modern counties of Gwent, Glamorgan, and part of Powys, and their settlements, ranging in size from small farmsteads to large sites covering many hectares, such as Llanmelin just over a mile north-west of Caerwent, were fortified and often located on coastal promontories or inland spurs.

1.2.3 Following the initial invasion in AD 43, Roman forces swept across southern Britain. Their advance faltered in the harsh landscapes of Wales and with the resilient opposition of its tribes. The Romans soon gained the upper hand, however, establishing a fortress at Usk in the mid AD 50s. By AD 60 successful campaigns had been undertaken against tribes in north and

south Wales but for the rest of this decade little consolidation work was undertaken, the army focusing its attention back to the east, repairing damages to the rest of the province brought about by the Boudiccan revolt of AD 61. After the arrival of a new provincial governor, Julius Frontinus in AD 74, the Second Augustan legion was moved into Wales, establishing a new fortress at Caerleon (*Isca*). From here, the *Silures* were finally subdued and a network of smaller forts established to maintain Roman control.

1.2.4 Gradually, in the shadow of the army, Roman institutions, practices and ways of life filtered down to the native inhabitants and within a few years, civilian settlements had grown up outside the forts and other former military sites such as those at Usk, Monmouth, Abergavenny and Chepstow. By the late AD 70s, a settlement was beginning to develop at Caerwent, sited on a slight rise in the middle of a broad open valley of prime agricultural land two miles from the River Severn and astride the main Roman road from Gloucester (*Glevum*) to Caerleon (*Isca*).

1.2.5 Little is known of the character of this early settlement but during the late 1st and for much of the 2nd century AD, the town is unlikely to have consisted of more than an irregular, unfortified sprawl of buildings adjacent to the road. One large timber building with comfortable living quarters and a workshop with several hearths, built during the late 1st or early 2nd century AD is known on the site of the later Romano-Celtic temple. The town quickly became a market centre for agricultural produce and other natural resources from its rural hinterland, and was probably close enough to the legionary fortress at *Isca* to provide a range of goods and services to, and perhaps a venue for the rest and relaxation of, the troops stationed there. Later, during the Hadrianic period (*c*. AD 117-138), the *Silures* were granted a form of self-government and Caerwent (*Venta Silurum* – the market town of the *Silures*), became their administrative centre and capital.

1.2.6 This administrative change saw the beginning of a programme of public buildings and works, starting with the construction of the forum-basilica, the seat of local government. The town's defences were begun in the late 2nd century AD, initially consisting of earth banks with a timber palisade and rampart walkway while the planned grid of streets dividing the town into twenty rectangular plots, separated by cambered roads with rammed gravel surfaces, was established in the early 3rd century AD. In the late 3rd century AD, the defences were rebuilt in stone with fortified gateways in all four sides, perhaps as a response to the withdrawal of the Second Augusta from Caerleon.

1.2.7 The loss of the military market and growing insecurity in the area may have resulted in a decline of in the profitability of farming and the gradual abandonment of rural settlements. With its formidable defences, Caerwent may have been a logical place for the population moving from the surrounding countryside to seek protection. As a result, the town enjoyed great prosperity during the early 4th century AD, witnessed by a considerable amount of new building. A new temple was started in around AD 330, and within a decade or so, the defences were enhanced by the provision of external towers along the north and south walls and later still the gates in these two walls were blocked to further restrict access. Within the town, numerous shops, workshops and houses, some lavishly appointed with mosaic floors, painted wall plaster, underfloor heating and their own baths, were either re-modelled or started from scratch at this time. Although it is

difficult to estimate the population with any accuracy, it is likely that Caerwent boasted between 2,400 and 3,800 inhabitants during the later 3rd and 4th centuries AD.

1.2.8 Although the reasons are unclear, by the late 4th century AD, Caerwent was in decline, with some of its high-status houses abandoned. Limited activity seems to have continued into the 5th century, but much of the town was ruinous by this time. Over 150 early medieval burials, spanning the period from the 4th to 9th century AD, have been found in the areas around the present church and outside the east gate, but it is not certain whether these indicate settlement, or just the continued use of the area for burial by the population of the surrounding area. A small Norman motte was built in the south-east corner of the town, but during the medieval period, most activity was focused on Chepstow, and the area of *Venta Silurum* gradually returned to pasture. By the time of John Leland's visit in about 1540, there were only 16 or 17 small cottages within the town, newly-built with stones robbed from the earlier Roman structures.

1.3 Previous Archaeological Work

1.3.1 Although Roman remains in Caerwent were mentioned by the many antiquarian 'tourists' visiting the area during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, archaeological excavations only began in1855 when Octavius Morgan (1803-88) revealed part of a small bath-house and another building in the south-east corner of the town (*insula* XX).

1.3.2 The known ground plan of Roman Caerwent is largely the result of excavations undertaken by the Clifton Antiquarian Club of Bristol between 1899 and 1913. In 1899, trial excavations were carried out in the south-west corner of the town and a further scheme of works was planned. These were funded by public subscription and by the President of the Caerwent Exploration Fund, Lord Tredegar. The excavations, consisting of numerous narrow trenches, were supervised by Alfred Hudd and Thomas Ashby, and aimed to recover the plan, structural features and function of each building investigated. By 1913, almost two thirds of the town had been explored, but the recovered plan was largely that of the late Roman town, as the structures identified were only cleared to floor level, with little exploration of any earlier phases of development. Many finds are displayed in the Newport Museum and Art Gallery.

1.3.3 Subsequent investigations have been more limited in area. Part of the public baths was uncovered in 1923 and during 1946-47 excavations on Pound Lane (*insula* VII) revealed the foundations of shops and a large courtyard house, subsequently consolidated for public display. In 1925, V.E. Nash-Williams of the National Museum of Wales examined the defences on the south side of the town, while in 1973, an excavation beyond the defences, just outside the east gate, revealed a substantial early medieval cemetery.

1.3.4 In 1981 a series of research excavations was initiated by the National Museum of Wales, and conducted jointly with Cadw from 1984 – 1995. Three sites were investigated: a large courtyard house in the north-west corner of the town (*insula* I); the forum-basilica (*insula* VIII) in the very centre of the town and the adjacent Romano-Celtic temple (*insula* XI). These buildings have also been consolidated and are on public display.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 The Time Team project aimed to carry out a limited programme of non-intrusive investigation and evaluation trenching over three days. The site is a Scheduled Monument of national importance, and contains archaeological deposits of sufficiently high quality to address regional and national research questions (e.g. Aldhouse-Green *et al*. 2003) about the chronological periods already known to be represented. The results of this evaluation, enhanced by the topographic and geophysical surveys, form a significant resource in the future management of the site and will provide a basis for more extensive, detailed and longer-term investigations at a future date. The following specific research aims were proposed:

- to characterise the nature, condition and extent of archaeological resource in three areas (*insula* I, *insula* XIV and the eastern approach) where no previous work had been undertaken;
- to extend our understanding of the Roman town of Caerwent, its position and context within the landscape and its relationship with other contemporary sites such as Caerleon, Bulmore and Llandough;
- to contribute to the dating sequence of the site.

3 METHODS

3.1 Topographical survey

3.1.1 A full contour survey of the town was carried out according to the guidelines set out by Chapman and Van de Noort (2001). All exposed structural remains within the scheduled area, including the temple, forum/basilica, shops and courtyard house, were also surveyed to ensure their accurate geolocation and to provide an independent, modern survey base to which the results of any future fieldwork can be added

3.2 Geophysical survey

3.2.1 The site was investigated using a combination of resistance survey (Geoscan RM15 and MPX15 resistance meters), Ground Penetrating Radar (sensors and software Noggin Smartcart with a 250MHz frequency antenna) and magnetic survey (Bartington Grad 601-2 and Foerster Ferex 4.032 fluxgate gradiometers) following standard guidelines (David 1995; Gaffney *et al*. 2002). The results were analysed using a mixture of GSB and commercial software.

3.2.2 Ground conditions were good, as all the areas consisted of short pasture. However, ferrous responses and magnetic disturbances from modern pipes, wire fences and metal gates noted in *insulae* I and XIV may have masked buried archaeological remains. The resistance survey was also affected by the highly variable weather conditions; a torrential downpour during data collection on *insula* I, for example, resulted in wide fluctuations in the readings, making it impossible to match the datasets. Areas of successfully collected data suggest that this technique would be beneficial in more favourable weather conditions.

3.3 Evaluation trenches

3.3.1 Seven machine trenches were excavated; five within the walls of the Roman town and two outside, on the eastern approaches (**Figure 1**). A mechanical excavator (JCB or mini-digger) fitted with a toothless bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision, removed the overburden from all the trenches. Machining ceased as soon as significant archaeological deposits were identified. The trenches were cleaned by hand with limited sampling of the underlying archaeological deposits. All spoil arising from the evaluation trenches was scanned by experienced metal detectorists.

3.3.2 All contexts and features were recorded using standard Wessex Archaeology *pro-forma* record sheets. A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered was made, usually at a scale of 1:20; sections were drawn as appropriate. The OD height of all principal strata and features was indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. A photographic record of the investigations and individual features was also prepared. All trenches were related to the National Grid/Ordnance Datum by local control.

3.3.3 A unique site code (CWT 08) was agreed prior to the start of works. The work was carried out between the 24th and 26th of June 2008. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the survey reports (GSB 2008) and the results of artefact analyses are retained in the archive. Brief context descriptions are presented in Appendix 1. A summary of the results is presented here.

4.2 Geophysical survey

4.2.1 Within *insula* I, the gradiometer and GPR data revealed evidence for an extensive villa-like building. A remarkably clear plan was obtained (**Figure 2**), which can be sub-divided into five regions:

- a complex villa-like building with an apsidal end, potentially the latest phase of the dwelling (1);
- a simple long building with a range of rooms (2);
- a stand-alone western wing with no apparent internal divisions, perhaps a barn (3);
- a zone of trends potentially relating to less substantial walls or robbed-out remains (4);
- a small rectilinear structure of uncertain origin, removed from the main building complex (5).

4.2.2 Most of the remains started to show at a depth of *c*. 0.3m below modern ground level, although western structure (3) was more deeply buried (*c*. 0.6m). Almost all responses were lost by 1.5m deep, although this may indicate the limit of energy propagation rather than the total extent of the archaeological remains.

4.2.3 Inside *insula* XIV, potential buildings were visible in both the gradiometer and resistance data. A number of pit-like responses were noted within the foundations while areas of high resistance across the northern half of the area indicated rubble spreads (**Figure 3**).

4.3 Evaluation Trenches

Insula I

4.3.1 Of the two trenches excavated in this area (**Figure 10, Plate 16**), Trench 4 examined the western part of structure (2), the long building with a range of rooms identified by the geophysical survey, while Trench 5 was positioned over the remains of the villa-like building with the apsidal end (structure 1).

4.3.2 Three walls (404, 405 and 412) and associated demolition/collapse/robbing deposits (403, 401 and 414) were identified in Trench 4 (**Figure 4**). Walls (404) and (405) were of similar construction and formed the north and south sides of a single room, 4m wide. Both walls were 0.8m wide and of *opus quadratum* work (a bipartite construction of two parallel courses), the squared facing blocks and rubble core bonded with weak sand/lime mortar. Two courses of wall (404) and four courses of wall (405) (**Figure 4, Plate 3**) were exposed; both had an average bed depth of 0.12m. A small area of an *opus signinum* floor (410) survived *in situ* in the centre of this room; a charcoal-rich deposit (415) immediately above this floor contained a Barbarous Radiate coin of the late 3rd century AD, while the charcoal is likely to derive from structural oak timbers, perhaps burnt during the demolition of the building. Other finds indicate the presence of tessellated floors and walls decorated with red, white and red/white painted plaster.

4.3.3 Although only a single course (0.13m high) of wall (412) was exposed, it was apparent that it was built from earth-bonded, roughly coursed but undressed rubble blocks of a mixture of rock types, and was 0.8m wide. It was broadly similar to wall (509) in trench 5 and it is probable that both represent parts of the undivided corridor (*c*. 2.75m wide) of the north wing of structure (2). However, construction differences may also indicate that walls (412/509) and (404/405) belong to differing phases.

4.3.4 Soil colour differences apparent along the length of Trench 4 (**Figure 4, Plate 2**) also hint at differing activity zones. At the southern end of the trench, all the soils (layers 403, 406 and 417) were very dark in colour and included considerable quantities of building rubble and domestic rubbish including pottery extending well into the 4th century AD in date, animal bone and even human bone fragments. It is possible that this material represents the accumulation of 'dark earth' layers within the courtyard, and may even include material brought in from elsewhere. In contrast, soils in the central part of the trench, (401, 407, 416) within the room formed by walls (404) and (405) were much lighter and redder in colour, containing greater quantities of crushed mortar and the structure itself may well have preserved more of the underlying natural gravels and prevented the accumulation of humic deposits in this area. Soils at the northern end of the trench (**Figure 4, Plate**

1; 402, 408, 413, 414) were again darker than those within the building and contained fewer artefacts, perhaps representing a more natural, gradual accumulation over time.

4.3.5 In Trench 5 (**Figure 5**), building remains were uncovered immediately beneath the topsoil and general cleaning layers (500 and 501; max depth 0.2m). In the centre, walls (509) and (510) formed the apsidal room or bath (**Figure 5, Plate 4**) identified by the geophysical survey. Both walls were of *opus quadratum* work, consisting of squared facing blocks of mixed rock types with a rubble core, bonded with a very weak, creamy yellow-brown sand and unslaked lime mortar. Wall (510) was 0.5m wide and four regular courses with an average bed depth of 0.12m survived. Although its southern end had been robbed, enough survived to indicate that walls (509) and (510) were stitched or bonded together and of single-phase construction. Wall (509) was 0.65m wide and a maximum of four courses survived (0.2-0.6m high). Although not fully exposed in plan, the internal dimensions of this apsidal 'room' were probably in the region of 4.8m wide and 1.9m deep.

4.3.6 A third wall at the western end of the trench represents the eastern wall of structure (2) identified by the geophysical survey. Wall (507) consisted of a pitched stone footing with two courses of bipartite, *opus quadratum* work, constructed from mixed rock types, surviving on top. Unlike walls (509/510), wall (507) was earth-bonded, indicating that it belonged to a different phase of construction. It was 0.6m wide but neither face was exposed; it too was robbed at its southern end.

4.3.7 Elsewhere, extensive deposits of collapse/demolition rubble (502 – 505) were identified beneath the topsoil. At the eastern end of the trench, layer (502) incorporated three almost complete Old Red Sandstone roof tiles (**Figure 5, Plate 6**) as well as numerous fragments, perhaps indicative of the original roof. Although rather patchy, significant quantities of ashy material and charcoal flecks may suggest that fire played a part in the demise of this structure. Other finds included a *nummus* of Constantine I (minted AD 332) and an iron catapult bolt head. A similar deposit (503), incorporating two coins of late 3rd and mid 4th century AD date, formed the uppermost fill of the apsidal room (**Figure 5, Plate 5**). This lay above a layer, at least 0.35m deep, of crushed or decayed sand/lime mortar with charcoal flecks and sparse building stones (506), probably derived from the decay of the structure itself. To the west, rubble layer (504) (0.2m thick) lay directly above a mottled orange-brown loamy sand with rounded pebbles and rare limestone fragments (508), perhaps representing an occupation horizon derived from the underlying natural terrace gravels.

Insula XIV

4.3.8 Three trenches were excavated in this area (**Figure 3**) which sloped gently down from north to south. Trenches 1 (in the centre) and 2 (to the south) investigated probable walls and pit-like responses identified by the geophysical survey. Trench 3, on the northern edge, was positioned to locate the street frontage.

4.3.9 Despite being close to the line of the Roman road through the town, no evidence for the street frontage was encountered in Trench 3 (**Figure 6**), although the presence of rubble spreads, indicated by the geophysical survey, was confirmed. The removal of the topsoil revealed an irregular, east-west band of densely packed stone rubble (301; **Figure 6, Plate 8**),

with soil layers (302 and 305) containing far less frequent stones located to the north and south. Only limited investigations were undertaken, and the relationships between these deposits were not examined. A small box section through (302) revealed another stone rubble layer (303) composed of consistently large (0.2-0.3m across) stone blocks. To the south, a dark yellow-brown loam with rare limestone blocks and pieces of light brown sand/lime mortar (306) was found beneath layer (305). While it is possible that rubble (301) represented the remains of a deliberately laid surface, it is more probable that all these layers consisted of demolition, collapse and/or robbing debris overlying any surviving archaeological remains.

4.3.10 Part(s) of one or more strip buildings, apparently with internal divisions, were found immediately beneath the topsoil/general cleaning layer (101) in Trench 1 (**Figure 7, Plate 9**). Although clearly of multiphase construction, the stratigraphic sequence of walls (**Figure 7**, **Plate 10**) could not be fully unravelled because the Scheduled Monument Consent stipulated that all Roman walls, ground and floor surfaces were to be left intact. Visual inspection however, suggested that east-west wall (103) and north-south wall (106) were the earliest and contemporary, forming the south-western, right-angled corner of a room or building. Both were of *opus quadratum* work and bipartite construction, the squared facing blocks and rubble core bonded with a weak orange-brown sand/lime mortar. The south face of wall (103) was not exposed; its north (internal) face was vertical with no sign of a *rudus* (projecting course). It survived four courses high (0.48m) and was 0.5m wide. Wall 106 (**Figure 7, Plate 11**) was also 0.5m wide and four regular courses survived resting on a wider (0.70m) footing, also constructed of faced blocks, with a single off-set on both sides. It survived to a total height of 0.63m.

4.3.11 It is unclear whether wall (106) continued to the south. At some point, a square 'pad' (107; **Figure 7, Plate 10**) made from earth-bonded, faced limestone blocks, had been added to the south side of the junction between walls (103) and (106), on the precise line of (106). The pad measured approximately 0.5m square and was examined only to the depth of a single course (0.1-0.12m) but may have provided support for a column. Beyond this, was an irregular pit (113), probably of post-medieval date. Although not fully exposed in plan and only partially excavated, this feature would appear to have cut away any southern continuation of wall (106), and may even result from the robbing of this wall. Pit (113) was at least 2m long and 0.9m wide and cut a dark orange-brown sandy loam with sparse to moderate rounded pebbles (124), perhaps representing a construction/occupation horizon comprising a mixture of the underlying natural terrace gravels and occupation debris. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m and filled with dark brown sandy loam (114) with medieval, post-medieval and residual Roman pottery, ceramic building material, animal bone and common unfaced building stone fragments.

4.3.12 Wall (105) ran parallel to wall (106), the gap between them being approximately 0.35m wide and deep. Like (103) and (106), wall (105) was also of *opus quadratum* work and bipartite construction, bonded with orange-brown sand/lime mortar. Its eastern (internal) face was vertical, but three off-sets were visible on the western side. The lowest course examined consisted of a 0.9m wide footing made from large, angular, unfaced blocks. Above this, four regular courses of faced blocks survived (average bed depth 0.12m), the off-sets reducing the width of the wall to 0.5m, compatible

with that of walls (103) and (106). The southern end of wall (105) butted the northern face of wall (103) (**Figure 7, Plate 10**), indicating the realignment and alteration of this structure, although similarities of build, particularly the mortar used, may suggest that there was no great time-lapse between these two construction episodes. Indeed, the very close proximity of walls (105) and (106), may imply that the builders retained and re-used the existing roof structure, thus minimising the effort and expense of the alterations. The gap between these walls was eventually filled with gradually accumulated, dark grey-brown silty clay (110/120) with a few small pieces of limestone and crushed orange-brown mortar, probably derived from the collapsed/demolished walls themselves. Finds included a handful of post-mid 2nd century AD Romano-British pottery sherds, ceramic building material fragments and animal bones.

4.3.13 A second east-west wall (104) was located on the south side of wall (103), and may have been added to reinforce wall (103), which for whatever reason, had become unstable. Wall (104) was built from earth-bonded, irregular limestone blocks of random, uncoursed construction. It too was 0.5m wide and exposed to a height of 0.3m. Stone pad (107) appeared to have been constructed over the line of wall (104) but any westerly continuation was masked by the unexcavated soil accumulation layer (109) in the south-western corner of the trench. A short length of a third east-west wall (108) was also identified in this corner. Wall (108) was of *opus quadratum* work and earth-bonded bipartite construction, 0.58m wide and 0.4m high. Its south face was not exposed, while its northern (internal) face was vertical. It appeared to butt against wall (106) and is therefore likely to be a later addition.

4.3.14 Below the topsoil and general cleaning layer (101; in this area up to 0.5m deep), the angle between walls (106) and (108) was filled with a series of soil accumulation layers (117 and 116), each *c*. 0.2m deep, with rare to sparse limestone rubble, 2nd to 4th century AD pottery, iron nails, ceramic building material, mortar, *opus signinum* fragments and animal bones. The rim of a small blue/green glass vessel, perhaps a convex jug, was also found in layer (116). Beneath layer (116), and adjacent to wall (108), a patchy area of decayed *opus signinum* (118; **Figure 7, Plate 11**) may represent the Roman floor surface in this room. In accordance with the conditions of the Scheduled Monument Consent, this material was left *in situ* but appeared to be at least 0.1m thick, overlying a charcoal-rich layer of very dark brown loamy sand with rare rounded pebbles (119) up to 0.1m thick, itself overlying a dark orange-brown layer (121), similar to layer (124) described above, and representing a mixture of the underlying natural terrace gravels and occupation debris. Finds from (119) included animal bones, a *tegula* roof tile fragment, pieces from a late 1st to mid 2nd century AD glass cup, a sherd of Caerleon roughcast ware and other coarse pottery of mid 2nd to 3rd century AD date. These indicate a mid Romano-British date for this layer, perhaps associated with the occupation of the first phase of this structure (represented by walls (103) and (106)) and suggest a probable Late Roman date for the addition of wall (108) creating this western room.

4.3.15 No evidence for contemporary floor surfaces was found in the eastern room formed by walls (103) and (105). Here, soil and rubble accumulation layers (111 and 115; each up to 0.2m thick) were identified beneath the topsoil, while the north-western end of wall (105) was covered by a deposit consisting almost entirely of stone rubble (122). Similar rubble layers were

also found to the south of walls (104) and (108) (layers (112), 0.15m deep, and (109), unexcavated). Although the finds were predominantly of mid to late Romano-British date, it was apparent that these layers were of much later origin; layer (112) sealed post-medieval pit (113), while medieval sherds were also found in layers (111) and (112).

4.3.16 Further evidence for stone structures was encountered in Trench 2 (**Figure 8**). After the removal of up to 0.4m of modern overburden (200), most of the trench was found to be covered with a thick layer of loose stone rubble (203/209; **Figure 8, Plate 12**), probably associated with the robbing, demolition and/or collapse of the underlying structure. The finds (pottery, ceramic building material, oyster shell, animal bones, slag, iron nails and a worked bone toggle) were predominantly residual and of Romano-British date although the pottery also included medieval and post-medieval sherds. To the north, a less rubbly soil layer (202) represented the base of the subsoil and covered the remains of two parallel walls (**Figure 8, Plate 13**) on more or less the same alignment as walls (105) and (106) in Trench 1. Wall (202) survived to a height of 0.45m and consisted of a pitched stone footing, two or three stones high and at least 0.95m wide, with a single course of faced limestone blocks, 0.7m wide and of bipartite construction, bonded with orange-brown unslaked lime/sand mortar. Wall (204) also consisted of a pitched stone footing, 0.6m wide and 0.3m high, built from smaller, unfaced blocks and more rubble than wall (202). Although both walls were largely destroyed by a shallow, east-west aligned robber trench (208), the northern edge of which coincided with the limit of stone rubble deposits (203/209) which apparently filled it, their continuation could be traced in the rows of smaller stones surviving in the base of this feature. The southern side of (208) was not investigated.

4.3.17 Walls (202) and (204) were 0.4m apart; the gap filled with a dark brown sandy loam (205) with rare stone rubble, animal bones, Roman pottery and ceramic building material. This layer was 0.2m deep and had also been cut away by robber trench (208). It overlay an orange-brown sandy loam with sparse rounded pebbles, charcoal flecks and crushed mortar fragments (207). A similar layer (210) was also found to the east of wall (204); both were comparable with layers (121), (123) and (124) in Trench 1, probably representing a mix of the underlying natural terrace gravels and construction/occupation debris.

Eastern approaches

4.3.18 In this area, Trench 6 was positioned to investigate the probable roadside ditch identified by the geophysical survey, while Trench 7 was located within an area of natural (geological and/or pedological) anomalies. It was immediately apparent when these trenches were opened that this area had not been subjected to anything like the levels of soil and occupation debris accumulation seen within the town walls. In contrast to the dark grey-brown deposits characteristic of the town, all the soils exposed in Trenches 6 and 7 retained the natural bright orange hue of the underlying terrace gravels.

4.3.19 Natural gravels (607-610) were exposed in the base of Trench 6 (**Figure 9**) after the removal of the topsoil (600) and subsoil (601) by machine. Two coins, a Barbarous Radiate (minted *c.* AD 270 – 290) and a Fallen Horseman copy, struck between *c.* AD 350 and 360, were recovered from the subsoil. Towards the southern end of the trench, the natural gravels were cut by a 1.5m wide ditch (603). This was only investigated to a depth of

0.1m and was filled with a mottled, dark brown sandy loam with rare limestone fragments and rounded pebbles (602) and, among other finds, contained 11 sherds of abraded Late Roman pottery.

4.3.20 Although not excavated, a row of irregular, unfaced limestone blocks up to 0.2m across and set within a 0.3m wide band of brown loamy sand, probably represented a land-drain of relatively recent (perhaps 18th or 19th century) date. At the northern end of the trench, a wide band of abundant, densely packed rounded flint and quartzite pebbles in an orange loamy sand matrix (605; **Figure 9, Plate 15**) was found to fill a broad U-shaped feature (606), 0.15-0.2m deep, perhaps a subsidiary track or path leading to the eastern gate of the town. The only finds from gravel 605 consisted of three pieces of Roman ceramic building material, including one from a box flue tile.

4.3.21 As predicted by the geophysical survey, the sequence of deposits revealed in Trench 7 (**Figure 10, Plates 17 and 18**) was entirely of natural origin, consisting of topsoil (700) and subsoil (701) overlying natural gravely silts (702). A linear band of flattish, frost-shattered limestone (703) was exposed in the base of a sondage (0.9m deep) at the southern end of the trench (**Figure 10, Plate 17**). No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from six of the seven trenches excavated. The assemblage was almost entirely of Roman date, but with a small amount of medieval and post-medieval material, mainly from topsoil contexts.

5.1.2 All finds were quantified by material type within each context; this information is presented in **Table 1**. The artefacts were visually scanned to gain an impression of the range of types present, their condition, and potential date range. Where possible (pottery and ceramic building material, for example), spot dates were also recorded for each context. The finds data are currently held in an Access database.

5.1.3 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage and forms the basis for an assessment of its potential to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context, with particular reference to the character and development of the Roman town.

5.2 Coins

5.2.1 All 54 coins recovered were Roman and struck during the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD. In general, they survived in reasonable condition, although some showed signs of corrosion and/or pre-depositional wear. Only three could not be closely dated, all rendered illegible by corrosion. On the basis of their size and shape, one is likely to date to the late 3rd or 4th centuries AD, whilst the other two are probably 4th century AD. The distribution of coins by trench is shown in **Table 1**.

5.2.2 From **Figure 11** (showing the breakdown of coins by period), the first obvious point of interest is the absence of any coins predating the

introduction of the antoninianus in *c*. AD 260. This is surprising given that the town was founded some considerable time before AD 260, probably during the late 1st century AD (Brewer 2006, 14). Indeed, coin assemblages from previous excavations have contained significant numbers of early coins (based on figures published by Reece (1991), some 25% of the coins from Pound Lane, and over 16% of the coins from Caerwent in the Newport Museum collection). Their absence may relate to the nature of the Time Team evaluation, as most were found by the metal dectorists, in topsoil, subsoil or general cleaning layers and demolition deposits, and are thus likely to be biased in favour of later coins. The earlier deposits and features, along with their associated coinage, were left undisturbed by this evaluation.

5.2.3 Despite this, the proportions of radiate *antoniniani* (period 13 – 14) and period 17 coins from the Time Team evaluation and the earlier excavations are similar. The proportion of Period 18 and 19 (Valentinianic) coins from the evaluation is, however, higher, but this probably reflects the relatively small assemblage size rather than any significant deviation from the mean. Indeed, in general, the peaks and troughs of coin loss in the Time Team assemblage mirrored those from the earlier excavations.

5.2.4 All but two of the coins from the site came from Trenches 1, 2 and 3 in *insula* XIV and Trenches 4 and 5 in *insula* I. The coin assemblages from these *insulae* are summarised in **Figure 12**. Both assemblages showed similar patters of coin loss from the late 3rd century (period 14) through to the end of the Valentinianic period (period 19; *c*. AD 364 – 378). The absence of period 15 and 16 coins from *insula* XIV may again be due to small assemblage size, as coins of these two periods tend to be rarer as site finds than the radiate *antoniniani* which preceded them or the later coinage of the Houses of Constantine and Valentinian.

5.2.5 Although none of the coins recovered was minted any later than the House of Valentinian (*c*. AD 364 – 378), the wear on the coins, and the re-use of one (probably struck *c*. AD 350 – 360) from demolition layer (503), pointed to continued activity well into the late 4th century. Apart from the absence of any early coins, the peaks and troughs of coin loss are typical of assemblages from the town.

5.3 Metalwork

5.3.1 With the exception of the coins, all the silver, copper alloy and iron objects have been X-radiographed to aid their identification and to provide a basic archive record of these unstable material types. Many of the objects, particularly the iron, are heavily corroded.

Silver

5.3.2 The single silver object, a round sealbox base pierced by five circular holes in a quincunx arrangement, was found in the topsoil of Trench 5. Such items are generally dated to the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD and served to protect the lump of wax (often impressed) used to hold the bindings of a packet or a writing tablet together (Crummy 1983, 103).

Copper Alloy

5.3.3 A relatively restricted range of copper alloy objects was recovered. The 16 objects included an enamel-decorated sealbox lid (Crummy 1983, 103, type 2), perhaps related to the silver base, also from the topsoil of Trench 5. A

single late 1st to early 2nd century AD brooch, of a hinged, T-shaped type with a head loop and a decorated bow, was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 4. Other items of personal ornament include part of a two-strand cable bracelet of late Roman date (Crummy 1983, 38, fig. 41, 1610, 1611 and 1613) also from Trench 4, and a small, plain wire finger-ring from collapse/demolition deposit (503). A nail-cleaner with a flattened, forked blade, perhaps from a toilet set, was found among the stones of wall (204).

5.3.4 A silvered, mandolin-shaped spoon bowl (Crummy 1983, 69, type 3), probably of 2nd to 3rd century AD date, was found by the metal detectorists among the spoil from Trench 1. Similar examples are known from the Caerleon *canabae* (Lloyd-Morgan 2000, 349, fig.83, 20 and 21), both with fragmentary inscriptions. One other item from this trench, a baluster-shaped finial with the remains of an iron rivet *in situ*, may indicate at least a passing military presence in the town. Similar objects from Caerleon (Lloyd-Morgan 2000, 373, fig. 91, 138), South Shields (Allason-Jones and Miket 1984, 215, 3.734 and 735) and Camerton (Jackson 1990, 47, pl. 13, 130, 131) have been interpreted as helmet attachments, or perhaps decorative box or handle mounts or lock pins. Part of a curving strip, perhaps a fitting for the rim of a vessel, sheath or scabbard mouth or possibly even an early armlet fragment (cf Crummy 1983, 37, fig. 40, 1586, 1587) was found in layer (111).

5.3.5 Two of the remaining objects, part of a bell from the topsoil of Trench 2 and the 'pull' or knob from a lavatory chain or such-like from stone layer 301, are undoubtedly modern. The others, consisting of two broken strips, a small wire penannular ring and two unidentifiable scraps, could be of any date.

Iron

5.3.6 The vast majority (99 out of 105) of iron objects consist of round-headed, hand-made nails; these are not closely datable although the likelihood is that most are Romano-British. Only six other objects were identified, including two of certain Romano-British date; a small catapult bolt-head (Manning 1985, 175, type IIA, pl.85, V254-58) from collapse/demolition deposit (502) and part of a flesh-hook (Manning 1985, 105, pl.51, P35-39) or possibly a lamp-hanger (Manning 1985, 100, pl. 45, P6) from the topsoil of Trench 1. A dome-headed stud from soil/rubble layer 111 may also be of Romano-British date. Part of a post-medieval knife blade and a corroded strip were also found in Trench 1 while part of a tapering bar of uniform thickness, broken at both ends, was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 4.

Lead

5.3.7 The lead objects included waste scraps from the topsoil of Trenches 2, 4 and 5. Part of a torn and distorted rectangular sheet metal plate, with a pierced hole in both surviving corners (one with an *in situ* lead nail intact), found in the south-east corner of Trench 1 (context 112), may represent a repair patch or binding, perhaps from a box or chest (cf Evans 2000a, 420, fig.106, 74). A small, crudely-made and roughly numbered dice was also recovered from the topsoil of Trench 1. This piece does not conform to the usual 'opposing sides total seven' rule, the two large faces being numbered with five and six dots, the sides both with two, while the ends appear to have been blank.

5.4 Metalworking debris

5.4.1 With the exception of a single piece (52g) of fuel ash slag from rubble layer (111), all the metalworking debris probably derived from iron smithing. Although not chronologically diagnostic, it is probable that all the slag is of Romano-British date.

5.5 Pottery

5.5.1 The pottery is predominantly of Romano-British date (**Table 1**). A significant proportion of the assemblage (57% of the overall number; 49% of the Romano-British sherds, 77% of the medieval and 80% of the post-medieval/modern) was derived from the topsoil or other insecurely stratified deposits. Most sherds survive in good condition, with comparatively little surface or edge abrasion and a relatively high mean sherd weight (*c*. 14g). A breakdown of the assemblage by ware type is shown in **Table 2**. Some fabrics of known type or sources were identified, while many of the coarsewares were defined by their predominant inclusion type and/or colour.

5.5.2 The Romano-British assemblage spans the period from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, although with a distinct Late Roman emphasis. Samian accounts for almost 4% of the sherds and is predominantly from 2nd century AD, Central Gaulish sources. Forms include vessels belonging to the 18/31 series of bowls and dishes, some with rouletting (18/31R series), shallow bowl forms 36 and Curle 15, decorated bowl form 37 and cup forms 33 and 35 as well as a single body sherd from a beaker or other closed vessel with cut-glass decoration. One of the form 37 bowls has been drilled for repair with a metal staple, while two form 18/31 series bases from layer (115) have partially surviving stamps, one ending with the letters]DVI. Central Gaulish black-slipped ware beaker sherds, dating from *c*. AD 150 into the mid 3rd century AD, were also found in Trenches 1 and 4.

5.5.3 The only other imports consisted of amphorae, dominated by the ubiquitous Dressel 20 vessels which brought olive oil from southern Spain from the mid 1st century until at least the mid 3rd century AD (Peacock and Williams 1986, 136, class 25). Other types included Dressel 2-4 wine amphorae, the London 555 type which carried olives (Davies *et al.* 1994, 16), North African amphorae (olive oil, though fish products may also have been transported) and an unassigned type. These fall within the range seen at other sites in the locality (eg Webster 1993b; Evans 2000b) although it is perhaps notable that Gallic wine amphorae were not identified in the Time Team assemblage.

5.5.4 The mortaria include a single rim from the Caerleon industry (Hartley 2000, fig.194, 1-3, 6 and 14; Seager Smith 2000 269, fig.65, 1-3), but all the other pieces came from the English side of the Bristol Channel. The Gloucestershire/north Wiltshire white-slipped fabric, dating from the mid 2nd into the 3rd, perhaps even the 4th century AD, has also been identified at Caerleon (Seager Smith 2000, 266, fabric 7) and Usk (Hartley 2000, 392). Although more numerous, the Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware mortaria are only represented by body sherds while the single whiteware rim (Young 1977, 76, type M22) can be dated to c. AD 240-400 or later.

5.5.5 British finewares include a single roughcast beaker body and a handful of red colour-coated ware sherds, both products of the Caerleon ware industry,

dated to *c*. AD 100 – 160/70 (Webster 1993a, 255-63). A single bowl rim in a fine micaceous fabric probably belongs within the tradition of south-western fine, micaceous greyware fabrics (Leach 1982, 141-2; Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 163-5) from Devon, Somerset and Cornwall. Although represented by a single piece here, Nene Valley colour-coated wares were relatively common at Caerleon (Compton and Webster 2000, 202) while the frequency of the Oxfordshire colour-coated wares (*c*. 4% of all the Roman sherds) emphasises the large Late Roman component in the assemblage. Forms include a globular-bodied beaker with white-barbotine scroll decoration (Young 1977, 154, type C27) and a range of bowls (Young 1977, types C45, 47, 49, 51, 55, 64 and 83) extending into the late 4th century AD.

5.5.6 The range and proportions of the coarsewares present can also be paralleled at other sites in the vicinity (Webster 1993a, 227-9; Compton and Webster 2000, 200-02). The oxidised wares, mostly represented by body sherds, included vessels from the Caerleon kilns as well as Severn Valley wares. One large jar has a post-firing perforation made in its shoulder, probably evidence of a repair. The local South Wales sandy greywares and south-east Dorset Black Burnished wares occurred in equal quantities. Vessel forms in both fabrics concentrate on types dating from the mid 2nd century AD onwards – flat-rimmed, incipient dropped flanged and fully dropped flanged bowls/dishes, shallow plain-rimmed dishes and everted rim jars while the local greywares also include wide-mouthed jar/bowl forms and a flagon rim. Although not common, the presence of the calcareous sherds in Trenches 4 and 5 is especially significant. These vessels, most commonly jars with rilled surfaces and hooked or squared rims (four examples recorded) were made in the style of the East Midlands shell-tempered wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 115, HAR SH), perhaps by itinerant potters carrying their own clay, and have been recognised as characteristic of later 4th century AD (perhaps after *c*. AD 360) occupation in South Wales (Webster 1993a, 294; Compton and Webster 2000, 202).

5.5.7 On average, the medieval and later sherds were significantly smaller than those of Romano-British date (10g compared with 15g for the Romano-British sherds). The medieval coarse sandy wares include cooking-pot and jug sherds, some with thumbed decoration on rims, bases and/or applied strips, while the finer fabric was mostly used for glazed jugs, probably including some Bristol types. All fall within a broad 12th – 15th century date range. The post-medieval and modern wares were only found in the three trenches on *insula* XIV, in the heart of the settlement and close to the parish church, where a greater level of later activity is only to be expected.

5.6 Glass

5.6.1 The glass includes 13 pieces of post-medieval/modern bottle glass, all from the topsoil and subsoil of Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5. A small, strong blue tubular bead, also from the topsoil of Trench 1, cannot be dated with any certainty. The Romano-British assemblage includes three small window glass fragments, five pieces from a single, thin-walled wheel-cut cup (Price and Cottam 1998, 88-9, fig.30) of late 1st to mid 2nd century AD date, and a funnel mouth rim perhaps from a convex jug (Price and Cottam, 61-2, fig. 71), all from Trench 1. The only other diagnostic piece is a small tubular rim, probably from a funnel-mouthed flask, bottle or jug, found in demolition layer (503); the other fragments all consist of pale blue/green body sherds from Romano-British vessels.

5.7 Building materials

5.7.1 Building materials were not systematically collected, and the retained fragments represent a mere flavour of the overall quantities and range of types present. Where appropriate (e.g. the different bonding materials used for extant walls), further details have been included in the context descriptions.

Ceramic building materials

5.7.2 All this material is of Romano-British date. The assemblage comprises fragments of i*mbrex* and *tegula* roof tiles, box flue tile and brick, but there are no complete items, or even complete length/widths. All are made in a sandy fabric, probably produced locally. *Tesserae*, 20-30mm², cut from brick or tile, were found in the topsoil of Trenches 1 and 4.

5.7.3 Only two *tegulae* are sufficiently complete to allow the categorisation of their cutaways (Warry 2006). One conforms to Warry's type A (up to *c*. AD120) and the other to type B (*c*. AD 100-180) but both were found residually, in the fill of medieval pit (113). The flange of a third *tegula*, from demolition deposit (402), had unusual, opposing, diagonal cutaways. Semi-circular finger-smeared signatures were identified on four of the tegula fragments while a fifth had a paw impression, probably from a dog. Partial paw or possibly finger impressions were also noted on two other *tegulae* and an *imbrex*.

Stone

5.7.4 From the late 2nd/3rd century AD onwards, stone formed the major building material used in the town (Brewer 2006, 20). Most derived from relatively local sources, including sandstones, limestones and gritstones of the Carboniferous and Devonian series. Neatly dressed blocks were used as facing stones for the town's defences and the footings, at least, of the houses, shops, public buildings within the walls while undressed stone rubble was used in the core of the walls. None of this material was collected during the evaluation. However, one piece of degraded tufa, perhaps originally part of a freestone block, was found in the fill of the apsidal room or bath (509/510), and may have formed part of this structure. Polygonal stone roof tiles were also especially numerous in the demolition deposits in Trench 5, perhaps indicating the nature of the roof, but again none were collected.

5.7.5 The 272 pieces of stone from Trench 4 are all *tesserae* made from off-white, light and dark grey limestone and red sandstone; most are 20-30mm² although 12 are smaller (c. 10mm²), and probably derived from a different, finer floor.

Other building materials

5.7.6 Small quantities of mortar, *opus signinum* and painted wall plaster were also found in Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5. The wall plaster consists only of small pieces, painted white, red and red/white, but provided some hints as to the internal décor of the buildings in the vicinity.

5.8 Worked Bone

5.8.1 Four pieces of worked bone were found, but no bone-working debris or partially finished objects. The objects include a slightly tapering, polished shank fragment from a pin or needle from the topsoil of Trench 1, a toggle (MacGregor 1985, 102-103) made out of the unfused left metacarpus of a sheep from the stone rubble (203) in Trench 2 and a hair-pin dated to *c*. AD 200 or later (Crummy 1983, 24-25, type 6, fig.22, 423) from demolition layer (407).

5.8.2 The most significant object, a small sculpture (48mm x 28mm x 14mm) depicting two gladiators fighting (**Back cover**), was also found in the topsoil of Trench 1. It is probably made of ivory, as none of the cancellous structures typical of bone or antler could be detected. Ivory from Asiatic and African elephants, walrus and even narwhal were all available during the Roman period, via the extensive trading networks crossing the Empire.

5.8.3 Traces of iron in the vertical groove on the back of the object (on the back of the helmed figure, see below) indicate that it was originally part of the handle from a clasp-knife. The old breaks (and one fresh) on the bottom of the object (the legs of the figures) indicated that the carved scene was no longer part of a knife when buried. It is possible that this skilfully crafted piece of art had some value in its own right without the knife. For instance, the terracotta figurines of gladiators (of the *thrax* and *hoplomachus* type) found at Pompeii may have been presented as small gifts on the New Year feast of the *Saturnalia* (Ward-Perkins and Claridge 1976, 303).

5.8.4 On the left side, the object depicts a heavily armed *secutor* gladiator wearing a smooth helmet with a dorsal ridge said to resemble a fish. The other figure is the destined adversary of the *secutor*, the much more lightly armed *retiarius* or net fighter (Köhne and Ewigleben 2000, 64, 69). Apart from a thick belt and a loincloth, the *retiarius* fought naked. The scene seems to depict a winning *secutor* and a desperate *retiarius* who, having lost his weapons, is down to fighting with his bare hands; his raised right hand may even be a sign of surrender.

5.8.5 A late 2nd - 3rd century AD ivory clasp-knife handle depicting a gladiator standing behind his shield is known from South Shields (Allason-Jones and Miket 1984, 300, pl. XIX). Copper alloy examples have also been found at Piddington, Northamptonshire, dating to AD 200-250 (Friendship-Taylor and Jackson 2001) and at Corbridge, Northumberland (http://www.findsdatabase.org.uk/hms/pas_obj.php?type=finds&id=60954).
On the Continent, a bone handle in the shape of a *thrax* gladiator, dating to the second half of the 1st century AD is held by the Louvre, Paris and two other ivory examples are present in the Römisch-Germanisches Museum, Cologne, Germany. One depicts a *secutor* and dates to the 3rd century AD while the other is of unknown type and date (Köhne and Ewigleben 2000).

5.9 Other Finds

5.9.1 Other finds included small quantities of fired clay (featureless fragments probably of structural origin), four worked stone objects and a few stem fragments from post-medieval clay tobacco pipes. The stone objects consisted of a stone 'marble' from a post-medieval bottle, part of a fine-grained Old Red Sandstone whetstone and/or rubber/pounder and a small,

flat fragment possibly from a limestone lid from the topsoil of Trench 1 and part of a second disc or lid from the topsoil of Trench 2.

5.10 Human bone

5.10.1 Disarticulated human bone was recovered from six contexts; four from Trench 1 and two from Trench 4. The minimum number of individuals was assessed from counts of the most commonly occurring skeletal elements in association with contextual information and distribution (McKinley 2004a). Age was assessed from the stage of skeletal development including foetal/neonatal long bone lengths (Scheuer and Black 2000). Sex was ascertained from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). The degree of erosion to the bone was recorded using the writer's system of grading (McKinley 2004a, fig. 7.1-7).

5.10.2 The assemblage comprised redeposited bones and fragments mostly recovered from late Romano-British demolition deposits (**Table 3**). The bone is likely to be of commensurate date with the associated artefactual material.

5.10.3 The bone is all in good condition (grades 0-1), showing old, dry-bone breaks, and only one bone that from rubble layer (111), had a slightly abraded appearance. This suggests that most of the material was not subject to repeated manipulation involving disturbance and redeposition, and probably originated from deposits made close to its place of recovery. The juvenile bone from layer (401) appears slightly weathered. Both the adult (clavicle shaft fragment) and juvenile (rib shaft) bone from this context have a number of cut marks made with a sharp blade to green or semi-green bone, which in form and location are suggestive of post-mortem manipulation (deliberate or accidental) rather than peri-mortem trauma.

5.10.4 A minimum of four individuals are represented (**Table 3**); one foetus and one neonate from *insula* XIV, and one juvenile and one adult from *insula* I. The adult bone may have derived from two individuals since the fragments recovered suggest a possible male and a possible female, but the sexing is not conclusive and there is no duplication of skeletal elements.

5.10.5 The recovery of neonatal remains in association with domestic buildings and properties is a common feature in the Roman period, as is their frequent absence from cemeteries (Philpott 1991, 97-102; Struck 1993; Scott 1999, 115; McKinley forthcoming). The belief that a child did not acquire a soul until '… the age of teething …' (*c*. 6 months; Pliny Nat Hist VII, 15, after Philpott 1991, 101) is generally seen as the reason for this mortuary treatment, though it has been argued that a variety of other factors may potentially also have been of significance (Scott 1999). The foetal and neonatal remains from *insula* XIV, although clearly not *in situ*, are likely to have derived from burials made within the settlement area.

5.10.6 The location of the cemeteries serving Caerwent is currently unknown, though land to either side of the road leading west to Caerleon would have represented a prime location. Some early Romano-British cremation burials (the predominant mortuary rite until the latter part of the 2nd century AD) have been found within the town walls, indicating the expansion of the settlement across early cemeteries/grave groups prior to its delineation by the defences in the later 2nd century (Brewer 2006, 22-3). Burial within the extant town would not have been countenanced throughout most of its

occupation, though a breakdown in municipal control, for which there is evidence elsewhere in the latter part of the Romano-British period (e.g. McKinley 2004b, 55), may have allowed some intra-mural burial to occur on abandoned plots. The human bone from *insula* I was found in association with late Romano-British material and could have originated from late intra-mural burials. The cut marks and slight weathering observed may indicate incidental damage to relatively recent burials during an abandonment phase. Although it seems unlikely, they may have made their way into the town from deposits made outside the walls. However, the cuts, particularly the five seen on the adult clavicle, appear to have been made with a narrow, sharp blade – not the sort of implement that is likely to have been employed on bone accidentally, such as a spade – and have the characteristics of 'filleting' marks. It may be that some of this material was subject to deliberate human manipulation and may even be of pre-Roman date accidentally included with later demolition debris.

5.11 Animal Bone

5.11.1 The total number and weight of animal bone fragments recovered is shown in **Table 1**, but when pieces from the same bone were considered together, the number fell to 1062 bones. All the bone fragments survive in good condition and 70% can be identified. The number of loose teeth amounts to 6% of the assemblage, a 'normal' proportion in the experience of the present author, although perhaps indicating some re-working. Other contexts clearly consisted of primary deposits with articulating bones or loose but matching epiphyses. Gnawing marks mainly made by dogs were seen on 7% of the bones and thus canid scavenging could have led to biases. Only six bones show signs of contact with fire, and the burning of bone waste or use as fuel can be excluded.

5.11.2 The assemblage includes horse (n=4), cattle (56%), sheep/goat (34%), pig (5%), dog (n=4), cat (n=2), deer (n=1, antler) and bird (4%). The bird species comprise domestic fowl, goose, crow, medium duck and small passerine. The assemblage contains only two bone groups; the complete skeleton of an in-lay hen found in the topsoil of Trench 2 and a partial chicken skeleton in collapse/demolition deposit (504) in Trench 5. It is likely that the diet of beef and mutton was supplemented by small proportions of pork, poultry and wild birds although the large pig bones from the topsoil of Trench 1 might indicate that wild boar were also hunted. Chicken and geese would also have supplied the people with eggs, feathers and manure.

5.11.3 In total, 173 bones could be aged to provide insight in the population structure of the animals. The presence of foetal cattle bones in context (115) and foetal sheep in contexts (119), (501) and (503) indicates local breeding. Juvenile chicken remains indicate that these animals were bred as well.

5.11.4 A total of 100 bones could be measured to provide an insight into the phenotype of the Caerwent animals. Context (116) contained a complete cattle metatarsus with a GL of 183mm resulting in a height at the withers of 113cm (Boessneck and von den Driesch 1974). A sheep metetatsus of 133mm results in a height at the withers of 60cm (Teichert 1975). Context (119) contained a sheep metatarsus of 135 mm resulting in a height at the withers of 61cm. Context (403) contained two horse metacarpi measuring 210mm and 236mm. This resulted in heights at the withers of 131cm (almost 13 hands) and 144cm (May 1985), quite a small horse and an average

horse (14.2 hands), according to the tables by Vitt (1952). All these values are not unusual for the Roman period. Most sheep were probably horned.

5.11.5 The presence of elements of all parts of the animal body makes it likely that the animals were butchered locally. Butchery marks were seen on 5% of the bones and were made with knives and cleavers. Some contexts seemed to contain a certain type of waste (i.e. primarily heads or feet).

5.12 Marine Shell

5.12.1 Oyster shells, both right and left valves, probably from the Bristol Channel or south Wales coast, occurred in small groups and probably represent food remains.

5.13 Potential of the assemblage

5.13.1 The evaluation produced a relatively small finds assemblage which augments the larger but unpublished assemblage already recovered from the town. The gladiator clasp-knife handle is of intrinsic interest, but in general the finds replicate the range of artefactual evidence already known from the site. A significant proportion of the assemblage was derived from the topsoil or other insecurely stratified contexts.

5.13.2 Chronological evidence (pottery, coins and other metalwork) suggest that although activity on the site spanned the period from the early/mid 2nd to 4th centuries AD, its emphasis lay within the latter part of this period (from the late 3rd century AD onwards), with a little medieval and post-medieval material.

5.13.3 The range of material culture is relatively restricted; only pottery occurred in any quantity, and provides some evidence for sources of supply, although the restricted amounts from well-stratified contexts will prevent any significant level of analysis. There is only limited additional structural evidence (building materials), or evidence for lifestyle (personal items, vessel glass), craft/industrial activities (slag, crucible) or economy (animal bone).

5.13.4 The assemblage has already been recorded to a fairly detailed level (e.g. pottery ware types, coin identifications, animal bone species), and no further analysis is proposed. The finds reports as presented in this report could be used for publication with some modification.

5.13.5 Vulnerable objects, e.g. metalwork, may require conservation treatment in the form of cleaning and stabilisation for long-term curation.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 A single bulk sample was taken from a charcoal-rich layer (415) immediately above floor surface (410) and below demolition/collapse deposit (407) in Trench 4. The one litre sample was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fraction (>5.6 mm) was sorted, weighed and discarded. The dried flot was scanned using a x10 –

x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred and waterlogged remains quantified.

6.1.2 The flot consisted of 25ml of mature *Quercus* sp. (oak) charcoal with occasional mollusc and small bone fragments. No charred cereal grain or other quantifiable plant remains were noted. The charcoal probably derived from structural oak timbers burnt during the demolition of the building. There is no potential for further analysis.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1.1 The remains identified on *insula* I represent a large, complex, multiphase building(s), a winged corridor house or perhaps an even grander structure surrounding a central courtyard (structures 2-4 on the geophysical survey with the southern (structure 4) and eastern ranges substantially robbed) while the apsidal-ended building (structure 1) may be a private bath-house associated with its latest phase. Although not investigated during this evaluation, the geophysical survey suggested that the foundations may have survived to around 1.5m deep (GSB 2008, 4, fig. 8), probably indicative of a building of more than one storey. Finds from the area indicated that this complex was relatively sophisticated and of Romanised character, with oak beams, tessellated and *opus signinum* floors, painted wall plaster and probably roofed with Old Red Sandstone tiles. Although no evidence for the date of its construction was found, coins and a few sherds of shell-tempered pottery, suggest that the structure was occupied into the second half of the 4th century AD. Charcoal flecks and ashy material present within the overlying demolition rubbles may indicate that fire played a part in its eventual demise, and the structure was subsequently robbed.

7.1.2 Although difficult to interpret in functional terms (as the private houses of wealthy individuals, urban farms with land outside the town or as official residences, with or without associated public functions, for example) such structures are well-known features of Romano-British towns, commonly located on the outskirts, in the rural-urban fringe, away from the main street frontages and central areas of administration, industry and commerce (Burnham and Watcher 1990, 20 and 28-9). Similar grand structures are already known in Caerwent, the adjacent courtyard house on *insula* I (Brewer 2006, 52-3, no. 1.28N), for example, as well as properties on *insulae* XI and XVI in the south-west, and *insula* V in the north-east quadrants of the town (Brewer 2006, Caerwent Roman Town ground plan).

7.1.3 No evidence for the street frontage was found on *insula* XIV, but further back the wall footings identified in Trenches 1 and 2 probably represented the remains of narrow strip buildings similar to the multipurpose Pound Lane structures of mid 2nd to mid 4th century AD date (Brewer 2006, 48-50), and numerous others on *insulae* IX, XII and XIII, which together formed the commercial heart of the town. Although altered and perhaps re-aligned on at least two occasions, no specific functions could be ascribed to these buildings and there was little evidence beyond the stone wall footings for their outward appearance. However, the numerous glass fragments and *opus signinum* floor found in the western room (walls 106/108), probably added during the late 3rd century AD at the earliest, may suggest that this room formed part of the (relatively comfortable) living quarters of the property.

7.1.4 The relative lack of any further Roman settlement or early medieval burial activity in the field outside the eastern defences was somewhat surprising, the probable roadside ditch and a gravelled track or path being the only archaeological features identified. However, overall, the Time Team evaluation successfully demonstrated the extent, character and condition of the Romano-British remains at Caerwent, showing that substantial stratified remains survived below ground. The geophysical survey clearly demonstrated the potential usefulness of these techniques, particularly ground penetrating radar, for providing detailed information about the plan of the buildings within and beyond the limits of the town.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.1 A short article, of up to *c*. 5000 words, with two or three supporting illustrations, based on the results presented in this assessment report, for inclusion in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, is suggested as an adequate level of publication given the results of this project. This would comprise a brief introduction considering the circumstances of the project and its aims and objectives, a results section detailing the structural remains, with finds and environmental information integrated into the text as appropriate, and a brief discussion of the results. A short summary will also be prepared for *Archaeology in Wales*.

8.1.2 The results of this project can also be incorporated into any ongoing research programmes, such as the 'Mapping Isca: the legionary fortress at Caerleon and its environs' project, currently being undertaken by Cardiff University, GGAT and the National Museum of Wales.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The archive, which includes all artefacts, written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigation is undertaken, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the site code CWR 08 and project number 68736. In due course, the archive will be transferred to the National Museum of Wales.

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Table 1: Finds totals by material type and trench (number/weight in grammes)

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	Total
Metalwork (no. of objects)	77	12	11	37	46	2	185
coins	*15*	*1*	*2*	*9*	*25*	*2*	*54*
silver	-	-	-	-	*1*	-	*1*
copper alloy	*3*	*4*	*1*	*5*	*3*	-	*16*
iron	*57*	*4*	*8*	*21*	*15*	-	*105*
lead	*2*	*3*	-	*2*	*2*	-	*9*
Metalworking debris	4/203	3/341	-	1/12	2/46	1/16	11/618
Pottery:	652/9976	177/2712	56/453	97/1293	121/1252	11/85	1114/15771
Romano-British	*556/9105*	*122/2033*	*41/338*	*84/1160*	*100/1061*	*11/85*	*913/13782*
medieval	*63/655*	*28/297*	*2/25*	*14/133*	*21/191*	-	*128/1301*
post-med/modern	*33/216*	*27/382*	*13/90*	-	-	-	*73/688*
Building materials:							
Ceramic	130/25016	99/9667	23/1516	67/7910	46/6704	4/609	369/51422
Stone	-	-	-	272/5368	1/901	-	273/6269
Mortar	3/253	2/154	-	5/36	6/379	-	16/822
Opus signinum	2/177	-	-	-	3/182	-	5/359
Wall plaster	1/24	-	-	22/91	10/565	-	33/680
Glass	20/77	5/57	-	1/ 1	2/ 2	-	28/137
Worked Bone	2/12	1/13	-	1/ 2	-	-	4/27
Stone Objects	3/734	1/59	-	-	-	-	4/793
Fired Clay	1/75	-	1/17	1/ 3	1/13	-	4/108
Clay Tobacco Pipe	2/4	2/6	2/ 3	-	-	-	6/13
Human Bone	9/20	-	-	4/43	-	-	13/63
Animal Bone	708/11035	104/977	49/433	146/2039	121/1280	4/19	1132/15783
Marine Shell	12/78	4/75	3/18	3/57	2/30	-	24/258

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

Ware	No. sherds	Wt. (g)
Romano-British:		
Samian	41	486
Central Gaulish black slipped ware	7	21
Dressel 20 amphora	10	1834
Dressel 2-4 amphora	1	122
London 555 amphora	1	150
North African amphora	1	52
Unassigned amphora	1	30
Local buff mortaria	1	24
Glos/north Wilts white slipped mortaria	3	256
Oxon red/brown colour-coated mortaria	10	97
Oxon whiteware mortaria	2	109
Caerleon rough-cast ware	1	2
Local red colour-coated ware	12	121
Fine, micaceous south-western greyware	1	5
Nene Valley ware	1	12
Oxfordshire colour-coated ware	40	401
Oxidised ware	51	934
South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware	358	4797
Greyware	358	4107
Grog-tempered ware	7	90
Calcareous ware	6	132
subtotal:	*913*	*13782*
Medieval:		
coarse sandy wares; unglazed	36	381
fine sandy wares; usually glazed	92	920
subtotal:	*128*	*1301*
Post-medieval/modern:		
red earthenwares	38	569
refined wares	34	114
Staffs-type slipware	1	5
subtotal:	*73*	*688*
Overall total:	1114	15771

Table 3: Summary of result of human bone analysis

context	quantification	age/sex
101	2 bones u.l.	neonate 0-2 weeks
111	1 bone l.	foetal c. 36 weeks
112	1 frag. u.	neonate
115	2 bones, 3 frags. a.u.	foetus c. 36-38 weeks
401	2 frags. a.u.	1) adult >18 yr. ??female 2) juvenile c. 5-12 yr.
403	1 frag. s.	adult >18 yr. ??male

KEY: s. – skull, a. – axial skeleton, u. – upper limb, l. – lower limb (skeletal areas represented)

APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of trench descriptions

TRENCH : 1		
Dimensions : 5.8m x 4.9m	**NGR:** 346959, 190505	
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
100	Not used	
101	Very dark grey-brown sandy loam with moderate limestone building stones. Topsoil/subsoil and general cleaning layer; metal detector finds from the spoil-heap on day 1 also assigned this number.	0-0.45m
102	Assigned to metal detector finds from the spoil-heap on days 2 and 3.	-
103	East-west stone wall of *opus quadratum* work and bipartite construction (squared facing blocks with a rubble core) bonded with orange-brown weak sand/lime mortar. South face not exposed; north face vertical (no sign of rudus), surviving 4 courses high, average bed depth 0.12m. 0.5m wide, 0.48m high. Probably paired with north-south wall 106 and stone pad 107.	-
104	East-west stone wall built from irregular limestone blocks; earth bonded and of random uncoursed construction. 0.5m wide, 0.3m high. Located against the south face of wall 103 but relationship not investigated.	-
105	North-south stone wall of *opus quadratum* work and bipartite construction (squared facing blocks with a rubble core) bonded with orange-brown weak sand/lime mortar). East face vertical; west face has three off-sets, the basal step consisting of a 0.9m wide footing made from large, angular unfaced blocks. Above this, the footing was constructed from faced blocks; the first off-set narrowing it to 0.8m, then 0.7m, with the upper two courses of the wall itself 0.5m wide. The courses of faced blocks were regular with an average bed depth of 0.12m. 0.64m high. South end appears to butt wall 103 but relationship not fully investigated.	-
106	North-south stone wall of *opus quadratum* work and bipartite construction (squared facing blocks with a rubble core) bonded with orange-brown weak sand/lime mortar. Single off-set on both faces; five regular courses, average bed depth 0.15m. 0.5-0.7m wide, 0.63m high. Relationships not fully investigated but likely to be paired with east-west wall 103. Butted by wall 107 and stone pad 107.	-
107	Square stone 'pad' on south side of junction between walls 103 and 106. Single course exposed, squared limestone blocks with rubble core; earth bonded. 0.53m x 0.50m, 0.10m high. Relationships not fully investigated but most likely to be associated with walls 103 and 106. Column base.	-
108	East-west stone wall of *opus quadratum* work and bipartite construction (squared facing blocks with a rubble core; earth bonded) located to the west of wall 106. South face not examined; north face vertical (no *rudus*); two courses exposed. 0.58m wide, 0.40m high. Relationships with wall 106 and possible floor surface 118 not established.	-
109	Dark grey brown sandy loam with common angular building stone fragments, located in the angle between stone pad 108 and wall 108. Surface only exposed; not excavated. Equivalent to 111 and 112 – soil accumulation layer with demolition/collapse/robbing debris.	-
110	Very dark grey-brown silty clay with rare to sparse limestone	0.34m

	fragments and crushed orange-brown sand/lime mortar fragments. Soil accumulation deposit filling the gap between walls 105 and 106 south of the small baulk left as crossing point for modern water pipe; same as 120.	
111	Dark grey brown sandy loam with sparse angular building stone fragments, located in the angle between walls 103 and 105. Equivalent to 109 and 112 – soil accumulation layer with demolition/collapse/robbing debris.	0.2-0.4m
112	Dark grey brown sandy loam with sparse angular building stone fragments, located to the south of wall 104. Equivalent to 109 and 112 – soil accumulation layer with demolition/collapse/robbing debris.	0.3-0.5m
113	Irregular pit continuing beyond the southern edge of the trench. *c*.2m long, 0.9m wide (min) and 0.4m deep. Cuts layer 124. Not fully excavated. Filled with 114.	-
114	Fill of pit 113; dark brown sandy loam with common unfaced building stone fragments.	0.5-0.9m
115	Very dark grey brown sandy loam with sparse angular building stone fragments and rare rounded pebbles. Located in a sondage excavated parallel to wall 105; beneath 111 but with only slightly darker colour to differentiate it. Soil accumulation layer with demolition/collapse/robbing debris.	0.4-0.62m
116	Dark grey brown sandy loam with rare angular building stone fragments, located beneath 117 and above 118/119 in angle between walls 106 and 108. Soil accumulation layer with demolition/collapse/robbing debris.	0.6-0.75
117	Mid brown loamy sand with sparse building stone fragments and crushed mortar pieces. Below 101 and above 116 in the angle between walls 106 and 108. Soil accumulation layer with demolition/collapse/robbing debris.	0.45-0.6m
118	Irregular patch (0.6m x 0.3m) of degraded *opus signinum*, butting against the north face of wall 108. Surface only exposed but probably represents the remnants of an *in situ* floor, although it may just be part of the collapse/demolition/robbing debris .	0.75m+
119	Very dark grey-brown loamy sand with rare small limestone pieces. Extends beneath possible floor surface 118. Soil accumulation layer.	0.8-0.94m
120	Very dark grey-brown silty clay with rare to sparse limestone fragments and crushed orange-brown sand/lime mortar fragments. Soil accumulation deposit filling the gap between walls 105 and 106 south of the small baulk left as crossing point for modern water pipe; same as 110.	0.3m
121	Dark orange-brown sandy loam with sparse to moderate flint and quartzite pebbles, charcoal flecks, crushed mortar and ceramic building material fragments. Located at the bottom of the exposed sequence in the corner between walls 106 and 106. Construction/occupation horizon.	0.85m+
122	Dark brown sandy loam with abundant building stones up to 0.25m across; overlies northern end of wall 105 but apart from the greater quantity of building rubble was little different to 111. Demolition/collapse/robbing debris.	0.3-0.5m
123	Dark orange-brown sandy loam with sparse to moderate flint and quartzite pebbles, charcoal flecks, crushed mortar and ceramic building material fragments. Located in base of sondage adjacent to walls 103 and 105; surface only exposed Same as 121 and 124 – construction/occupation horizon.	0.8m+
124	Dark orange-brown sandy loam with sparse to moderate flint and quartzite pebbles, charcoal flecks, crushed mortar and	0.75m+

	ceramic building material fragments. Located to the south of wall 104; surface only exposed Same as 121 and 124 – construction/occupation horizon.	

TRENCH : 2		
Dimensions : 5m x 4m	**NGR:** 346953, 190486	
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
200	Dark grey-brown sandy loam topsoil/subsoil with moderate to common limestone building stones. Depth variable.	0-0.4m
201	Dark grey-brown sandy loam topsoil/subsoil with moderate limestone building stones. Located only to the north of stone rubble deposit 203 and probably represents base of subsoil.	0.2-0.35m
202	Wall; single course of roughly faced limestone blocks with a rubble core on a pitched stone footing. Bonded with weak orange-brown unslaked sand/lime mortar. Bed depth 0.15m. 0.95m wide, with a *rudus* on north-east side reducing width to 0.7m, and 0.45m high. No construction cut identified; built on or cut into 207/210. Southern end cut by robber trench 208.	-
203	Fill of 208; loose stone rubble composed of dark grey-brown sandy loam with abundant large, unworked building stones. Occasional stone-free pockets probably represent modern agricultural disturbance. Deepest in an east-west aligned band overlying the robbed portions of walls 202 and 204 and probably derived from these robbing activities, although it may have been enhanced by a later property boundary, preserved skirting the churchyard to the west and as a hedge-line to the east. To the south, merges into rubble spread 209 with no clear boundary.	0.2–0.68m
204	Pitched stone wall footing composed of unworked limestone blocks bonded with weak orange-brown unslaked sand/lime mortar. Two or three stones high. 0.6m wide, 0.3m high. No construction cut identified; built on or cut into 207/210. Southern end cut by robber trench 208.	-
205	Accumulated soil deposit consisting of dark brown sandy loam with rare small limestone fragments surviving only between the extant stones of walls 202 and 204, below 201. Cut by robber trench 208.	0.35-0.55m
206	Located beneath 201 to the east of wall 204 and north of rubble spread 203; dark brown sandy loam with moderate unworked building stones, and rare rounded pebbles. Similar to, but less stony than 203. Rubble deposit probably associated with robbing.	0.3-0.6m
207	Same as 210. Mid orange-brown sandy loam with sparse to moderate rounded pebbles, charcoal flecks, crushed mortar and ceramic building material fragments. Mixture of underlying natural terrace gravels and occupation/construction debris; similar material (508) observed in Trench 5 on *insula* I. Not excavated.	0.55m+
208	Robber trench; southern edge not investigated; northern edge coincided with robbed portions of walls 202 and 204. Irregular, gently sloping side with flattish base, 0.25m deep. Filled with 203.	-
209	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with abundant large, building stones, some roughly faced. Loose stone rubble spread in the southern part of trench, merging with 203 with no clear differentiation. Not excavated.	0.35m+
210	Same as 210. Mid orange-brown sandy loam with sparse to	0.55m+

	moderate rounded pebbles, charcoal flecks, crushed mortar and ceramic building material fragments Mixture of underlying natural terrace gravels and occupation/construction debris; similar material (508) observed in Trench 5 on *insula* I. Not excavated.	

TRENCH : 3		
Dimensions : 6.75m x 4.6m	**NGR:** 346965, 190519	
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
300	Dark grey-brown sandy loam topsoil/subsoil with rare limestone building stones. Depth varied between 0.1 and 0.3m.	0-0.3m
301	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with very common limestone and coarse quartz conglomerate ('grit') building stone fragments, rare rounded pebbles and ceramic roof tile fragments. Probably a spread of demolition/collapse/robbing debris but just possibly a road/track/courtyard surface.	0.2m+
302	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with sparse to moderate limestone and "grit" building stones. Differentiated from 301 by a decline in the frequency of stones, but relationship not investigated. Probable spread of demolition/collapse/robbing debris.	0.2-0.48m
303	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with very common large limestone and "grit" building stones. Differentiated from 302 above by the greater size and density of building stone fragments. Rubble layer. Not fully excavated.	0.48- 0.65m+
304	NOT USED.	
305	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with patchy, sparse limestone fragments; located to the south of 301, but relationship with 301 not investigated.	0.2-0.3m
306	Dark yellow-brown loam with large limestone building stones and light brown sand/lime mortar fragments. Distinguished from 305 above by lighter colour and greater clay content. Not excavated.	0.3m+

TRENCH : 4		
Dimensions : 14.4m x 1.3m	**NGR:** 346758, 190761	
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
400	Dark grey-brown sandy loam topsoil with sparse rounded pebbles and rare limestone building stones. Metal detector finds from the spoil-heap were also assigned to this layer.	0-0.12m
401	Mid brown sandy loam with moderate building stone fragments filling the room formed by walls 404 and 405. Soil and rubble accumulation layer probably associated with the decay of this structure.	0.1-0.5m
402	Light brown sandy loam with rare small limestone pieces. Soil accumulation layer located to the north of wall 412.	0.1-0.65m
403	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with very common stone building rubble including some faced blocks and others that are fire-reddened or scorched. Located on the south side of wall 404; probably associated with its robbing, demolition or collapse. Not fully excavated.	0.4m+
404	*Opus quadratum* wall; 0.8m wide, 0.18m high. Two regular courses (bed depth c. 0.12m) of squared facing blocks with a	-

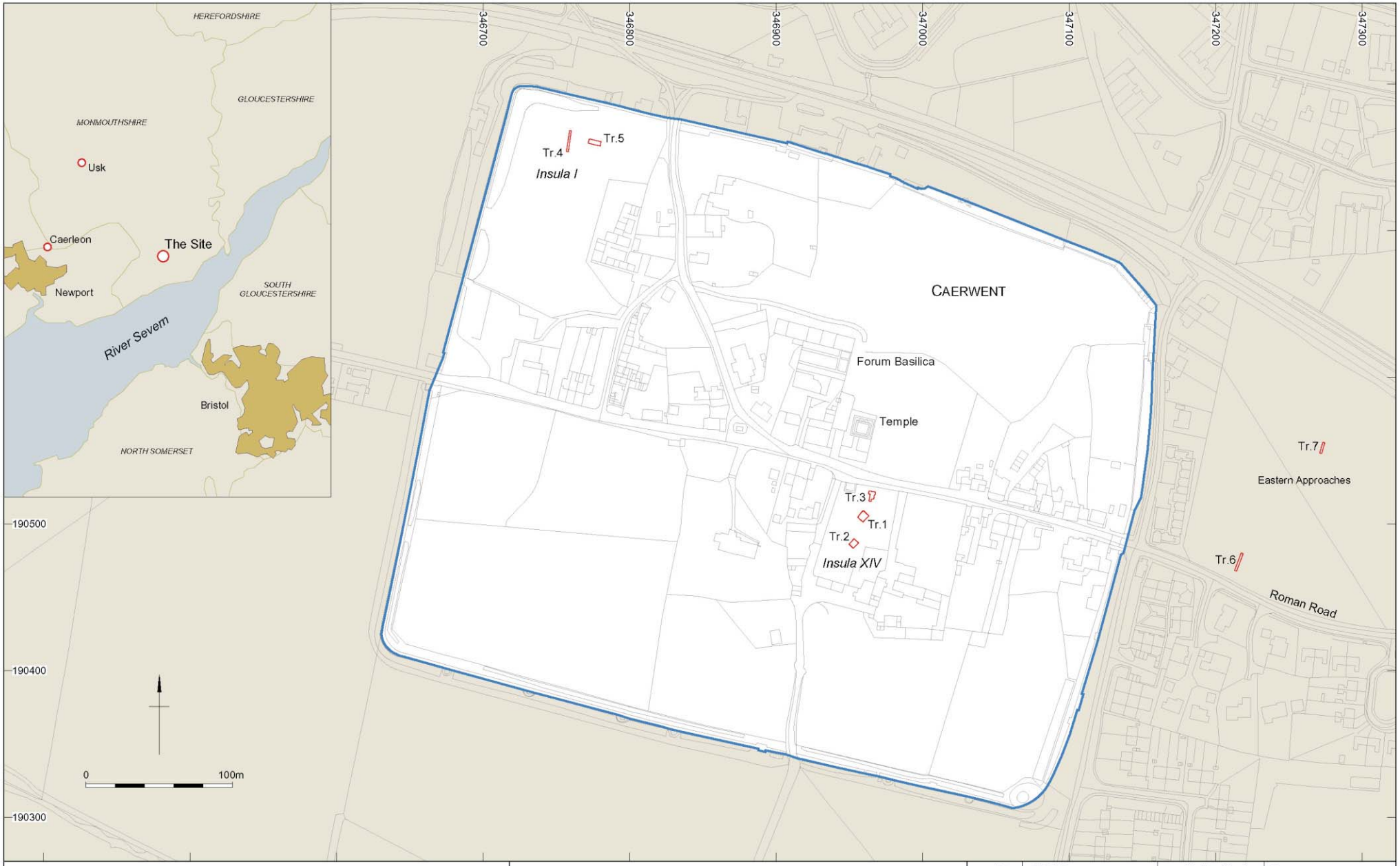
	rubble core bonded with weak, off-white, sand/ unslaked lime mortar. Paired with wall 405.	
405	*Opus quadratum* wall; 0.8m wide, 0.5m high. Four regular courses (average bed depth 0.12m) of squared facing blocks with a rubble core bonded with orange-brown sand/lime mortar exposed on north face, only one course on the southern side. Paired with 404.	-
406	Very dark grey sandy loam with sparse limestone building stones. Soil accumulation in southern part of the trench in the probably courtyard area.	0.1-0.7m
407	Mid reddish-brown silty loam with moderate limestone building stones, crushed mortar and other building materials. Collapse/demolition/robbing debris within the room formed by walls 404 and 405.	0.5-0.6m
408	Dark reddish-brown sandy clay with rare building stones and rounded gravel pebbles; soil accumulation layer below 402. Not fully excavated.	0.4m+
409	NOT USED.	
410	Small, irregular *in situ* patch of an *opus signinum* floor surviving within the room formed by walls 404 and 405. Below charcoal-rich layer 415 and above 416. Not excavated.	-
411	NOT USED.	
412	Coursed rubble wall; 0.8m wide, 0.13m high with only a single course exposed. Constructed from earth-bonded, roughly dressed blocks. Similar appearance to wall 509 in Trench 5 – both may represent part of the northern, undivided corridor of the north wing of this structure.	-
413	Mid orange-brown sandy clay with moderate crushed mortar fragments and small, flat subangular stones. Shallow lens within soil accumulation layer 408, on the north side of wall 405, probably representing a further (small-scale) collapse or robbing episode.	0.7-0.8m
414	Dark brown sandy loam with very common stone rubble blocks up to 0.3m across located to the north of wall 412, and probably representing collapse or robbing debris from the wall itself. Not fully excavated.	0.45m+
415	Charcoal-rich, dark grey sandy loam containing crushed mortar, numerous stone *tesserae* and a late 3rd century AD Barbarous Radiate coin. Collapse/demolition debris overlying floor 410.	-
416	Mottled dark grey and mid orange-brown sandy loan with rare rounded pebbles and moderate charcoal flecks. Located adjacent to floor 410 and may represent occupation/construction debris mixed with the underlying natural terrace gravels. Similar to 417 and material observed in Trench 5 (508) and Trenches 1 and 2 (207, 210) on *insula* XIV. Not excavated.	-
417	Mottled very dark grey and orange sandy loan with moderate building rubble and charcoal flecks, rare rounded pebbles. Located in the courtyard area at southern end of trench; may represent occupation/construction debris mixed with the underlying natural terrace gravels. Similar to 416 and material observed in Trench 5 (508) and Trenches 1 and 2 (207, 210) on *insula* XIV. Not excavated.	-

TRENCH : 5		
Dimensions : 8.5m x 3m	**NGR:** 346776, 190760	
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
500	Very dark grey-brown sandy loam topsoil with sparse rounded flint and quartzite pebbles.	0-0.05m
501	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with rare limestone fragments, unworked but probably building stone, and natural rounded flint and quartzite pebbles. Base of topsoil and general cleaning layer. Metal-detector finds from the spoil-heap also assigned this context number.	0.05-0.25m
502	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with very common building stones and rare natural rounded pebbles. A variable deposit with very dark ashy areas with lots of crushed charcoal on its northern edge, especially near wall 510 as well as patches of yellow-brown mortar on the southern side of trench. Collapse/demolition/robbing debris; equivalent to 503-505. Not excavated.	0.05m+
503	Dark grey-brown sandy loam mottled with crushed mortar and ash/charcoal flecks; common building stones and rare natural rounded pebbles. Upper fill of the apsidal bath 509/510, merging with 504 over the robbed-out, southern portion of wall 509. Collapse/demolition/robbing debris; equivalent to 502, 504 and 505.	0.05-0.25m
504	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with common building stones and rare rounded flint and quartzite pebbles. Merges into 503 and 505 over and around the robbed portions of walls 507 and 509. Collapse/demolition/robbing debris; equivalent to 502, 503 and 505.	0.15-0.35m
505	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with very common building stones and rare natural rounded pebbles. Merges into 504 over and around the robbed portions of walls 507. Not fully excavated. Collapse/demolition/robbing debris; equivalent to 502-504.	0.1-0.3m+
506	fill of the apsidal bath 509/510; creamy yellow-brown sand with sparse limestone building stones and common rounded gravel pea-grits. Probably largely derived from the mortar from walls 509 and 510. Not fully excavated. Collapse/demolition/robbing debris.	0.25-0.55m+
507	Pitched stone footing for freestone block wall; 2 earth-bonded courses of faced blocks surviving with core composed of small angular fragments. Bed depth *c*. 0.15m. 0.6m wide; 0.3m high. Robbed at both north and south ends. Built on/cut into 508 but relationship not fully investigated.	-
508	Mottled dark and mid orange-brown sandy loan with rare rounded pebbles, crushed limestone pieces and charcoal flecks. Exposed only on southern side of trench, below the robbed portions of walls 507 and 509 and beneath 504. Mixture of underlying natural terrace gravels and occupation/construction debris. Similar material observed in Trenches 1 and 2 (207, 210) on *insula* XIV. Not excavated.	0.35m+
509	Curved wall of apsidal bath, stitched or bonded to 510. Maximum of 5 regular courses (bed depth *c*. 0.12m) of squared facing blocks with a rubble core bonded with very weak, creamy yellow-brown, unslaked sand/lime mortar. 0.65m wide; 0.2-0.6m high. Robbed at southern side of trench. Built on/cut into 508 but relationship not fully investigated.	-

510	Straight wall of apsidal bath, stitched or bonded to 509. 4 regular courses (bed depth *c.* 0.12m) of squared facing blocks with a rubble core bonded with very weak, creamy yellow-brown, unslaked sand/lime mortar. 0.5m wide, 0.5m high. Robbed at southern side of trench. Not excavated.	-

TRENCH: 6		
Dimensions : 12.6m x 1.4m	**NGR:** 347215, 190473	
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
600	Mid brown sandy loam topsoil with rare rounded flint and quartzite pebbles.	0-0.3m
601	Orange-brown sandy loam subsoil with rare rounded flint and quartzite pebbles. Clay content increases slightly with depth.	0.3–0.5m
602	Fill of feature 603 – dark brown sandy loam with rare limestone fragments and flint pebble inclusions. Not fully excavated.	0.2-0.3m+
603	Ditch; aligned north/south across the trench. 1.5m wide. Not fully excavated.	0.1m+
604	Straight row of irregular, unworked limestone blocks up to 0.2m across set within a band of darker orange-brown loamy sand, 0.3m wide. Probable land-drain. Not excavated.	0.3m+
605	Orange-brown loamy sand with abundant rounded flint and quartzite pebbles. Fill of feature 606 or possibly just a variation in the natural geology.	0.2-0.35m
606	Wide, shallow feature with a broad u-shaped profile, aligned east/west across the trench. Filled with 605.	0.2-0.35m
607-610	Orange-brown loamy sand with rare rounded flint and quartzite pebbles. Clay content increases slightly with depth. Natural gravels.	0.5m+

TRENCH: 7		
Dimensions : 7.6m x 1.4m	**NGR:** 347273, 190551	
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
700	Mid orange-brown sandy loam topsoil with rare limestone pieces.	0-0.2m
701	Dark brownish-orange sandy loam subsoil with rare rounded flint and quartzite pebbles.	0.15-0.35m
702	Subsoil (701) gradually increases in clay content and becomes browner with depth; brown loamy sand with sparse rounded pebbles. Natural gravel.	0.35-0.90 m
703	Flattish, frost-shattered limestone fragments; surface only exposed in sondage at southern end of trench. Natural.	0.9m+



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Evaluation Trenches 1-7
Scheduled Monument

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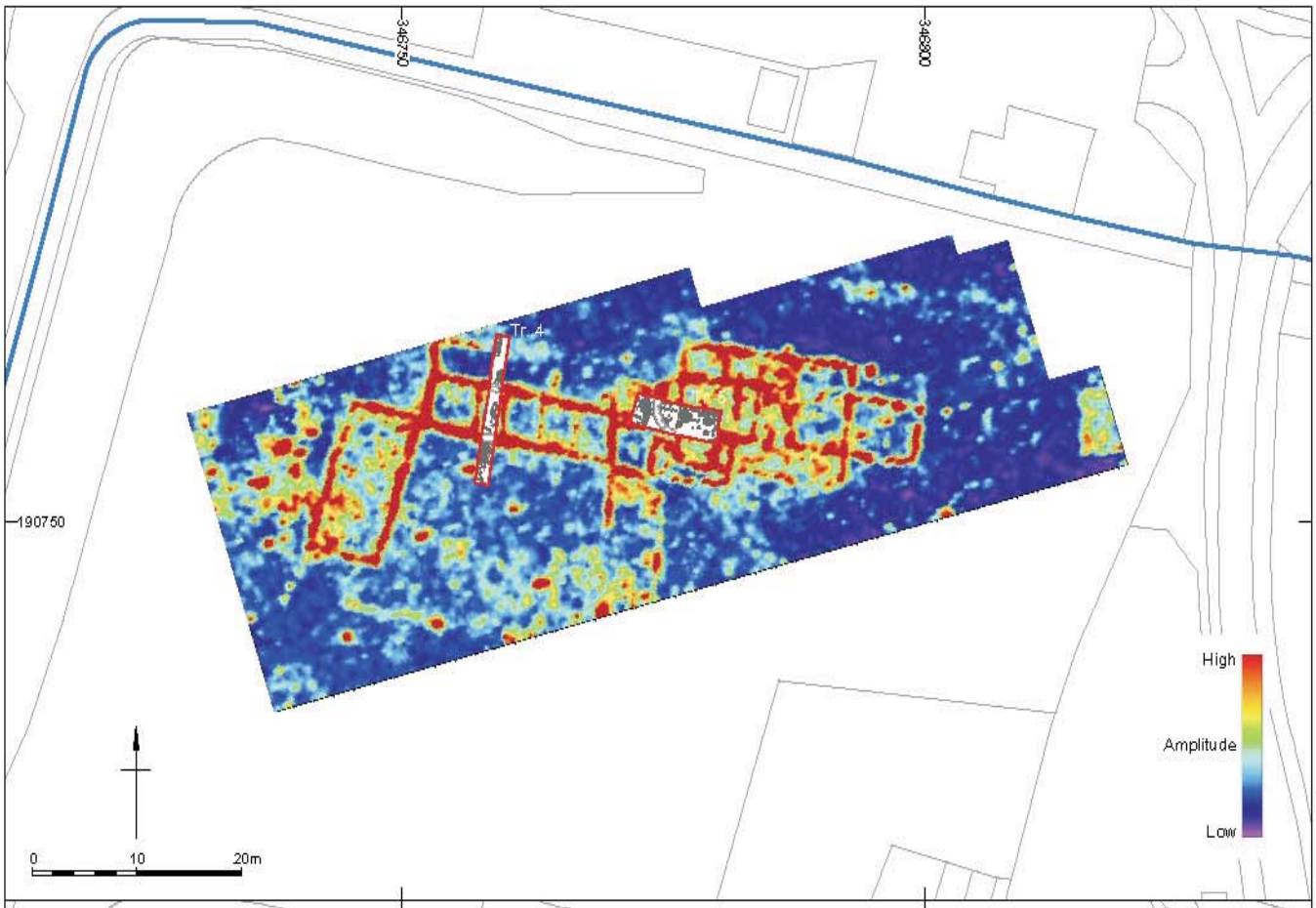
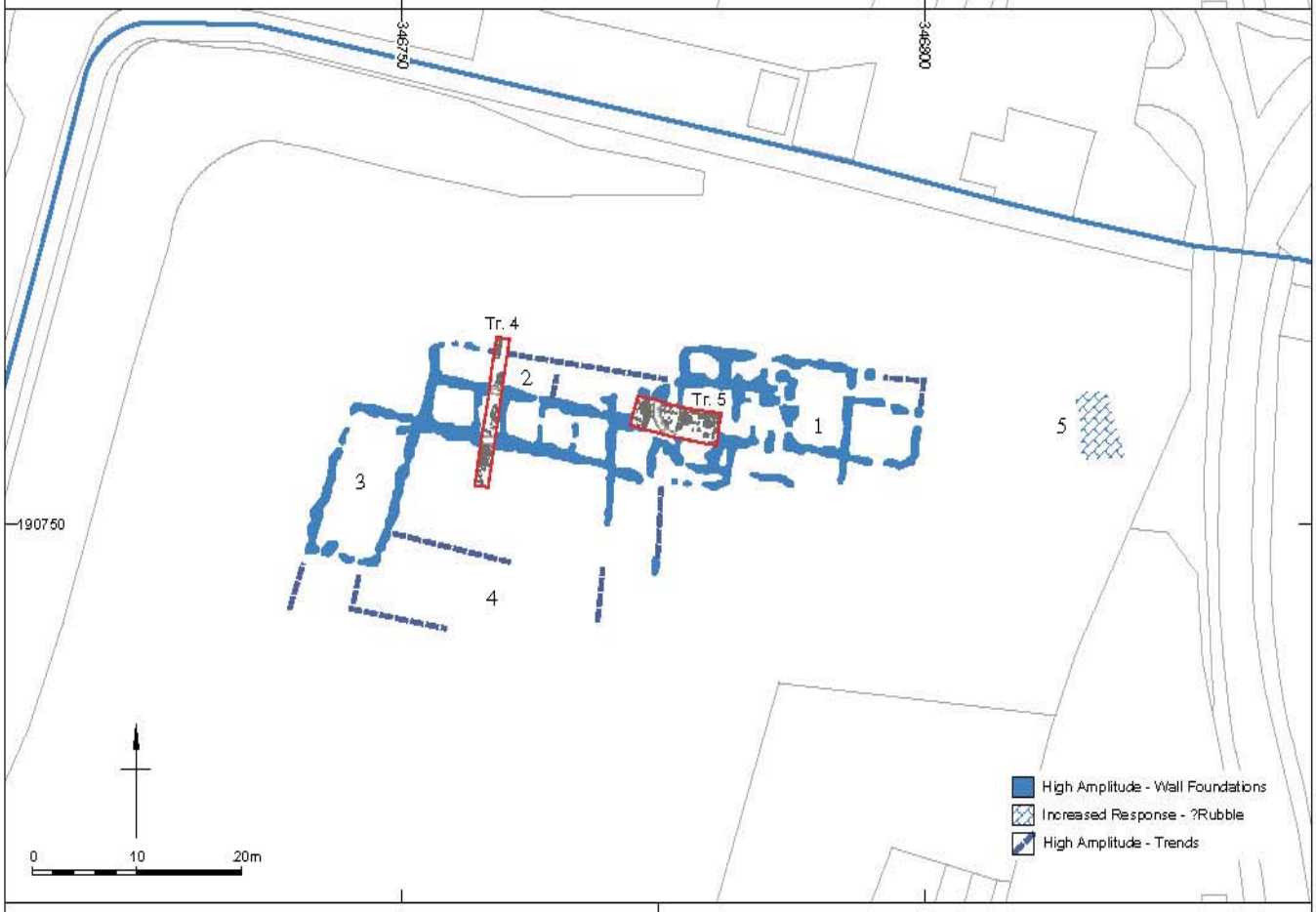
Site location plan

Figure 1





Geophysical data courtesy of GSB Prospection Ltd
Supplied by Time Team Licence number AL 100018665

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Insula geophysical survey results

Figure 2

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Insula XIV geophysical survey results

Figure 3

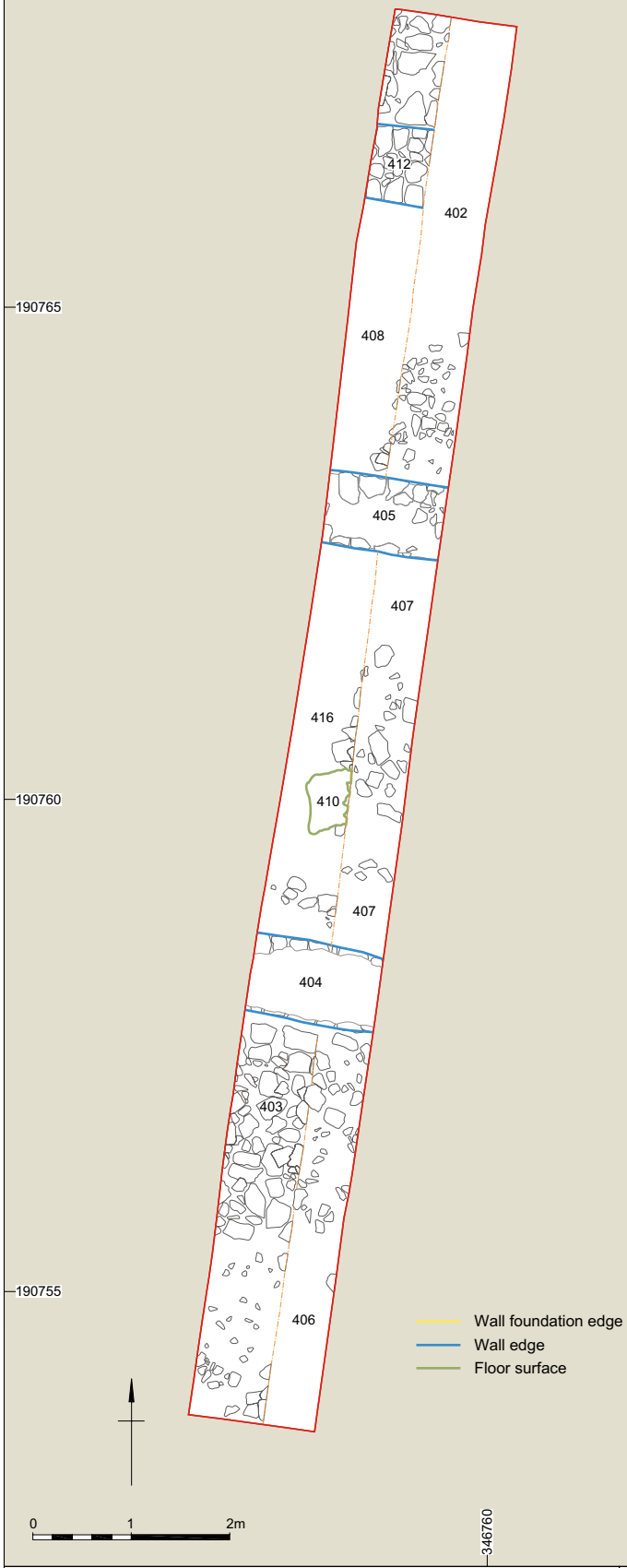

Plate 1: View of Trench 4 from the north

Plate 2: View of Trench 4 from the south

Plate 3: North face of Wall 405

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Trench 4 plan and photos

Figure 4

Plate 4: View of Trench 5 from the west

Plate 5: Section through fill of apsidal room 509/510

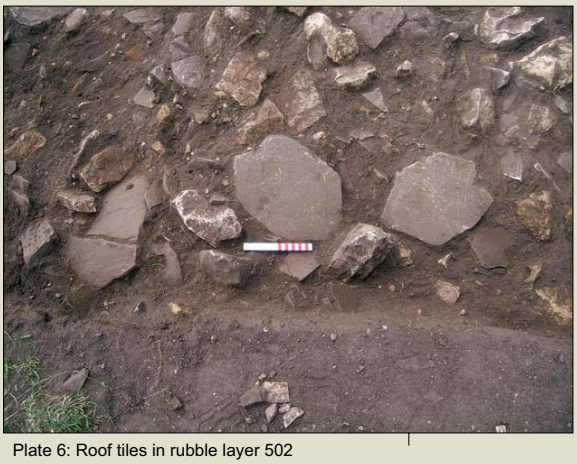

Plate 6: Roof tiles in rubble layer 502

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Trench 5 plan and photos

Figure 5

Plate 7: View of Trench 3 looking north

Plate 8: Rubble 301 looking west

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Trench 3 plan and photos

Figure 6

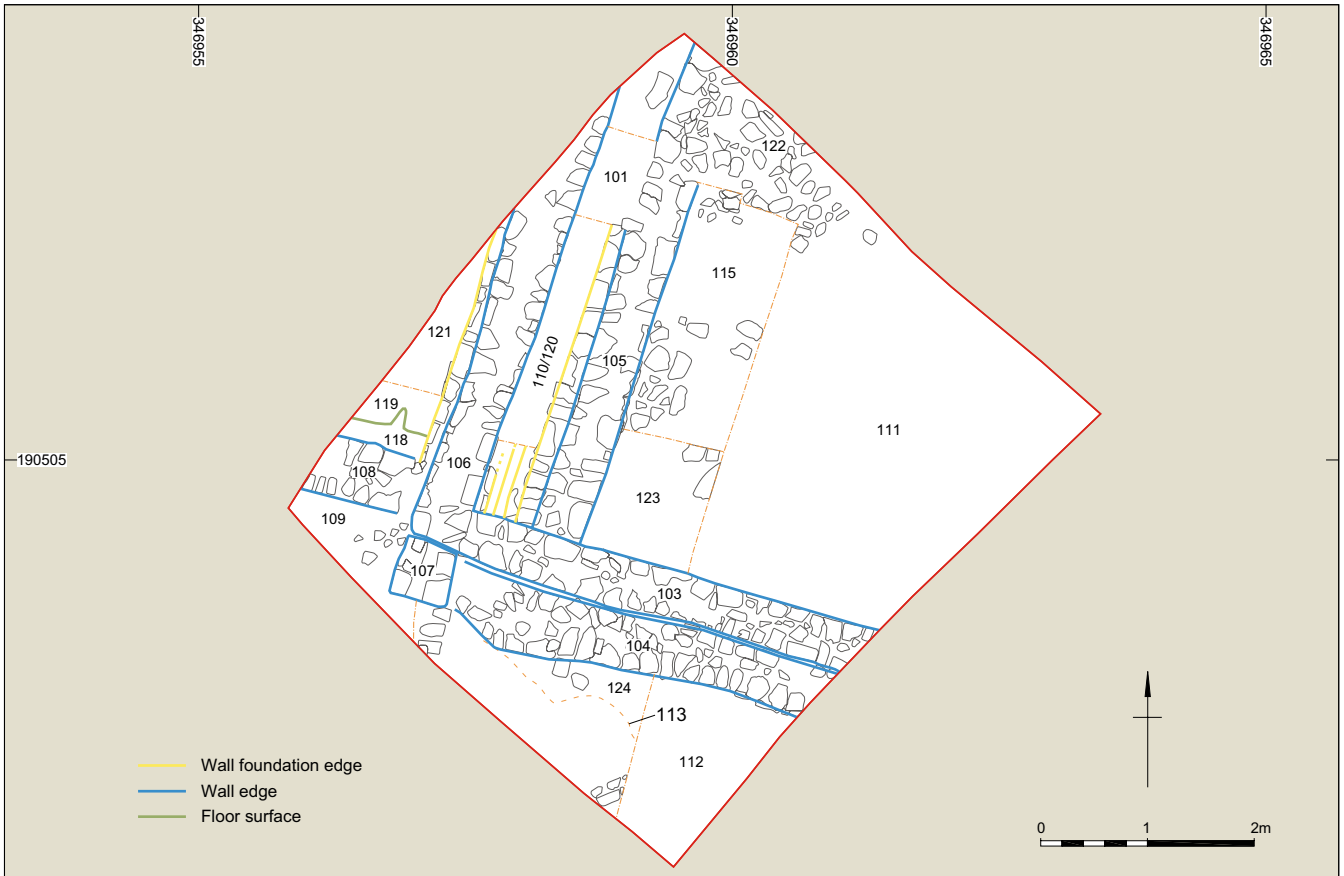

Plate 9: Trench 1 viewed from the south

Plate 10: Detail of wall junctions 103, 104, 105, 106, 107 & 108

Plate 11: West face of wall 106 with opus signinum floor 118

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Trench 1 plan and photos

Figure 7

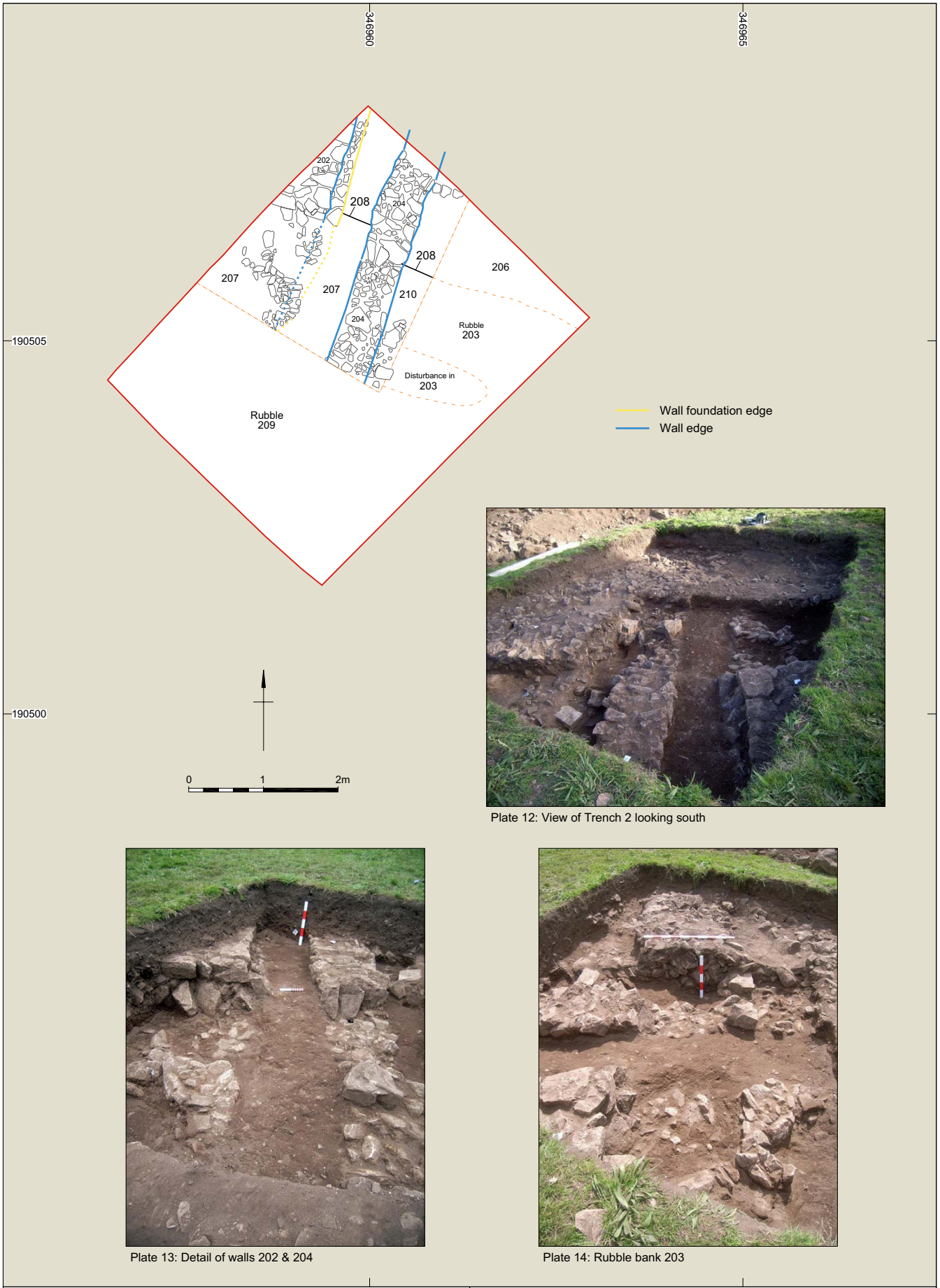

Plate 12: View of Trench 2 looking south

Plate 13: Detail of walls 202 & 204

Plate 14: Rubble bank 203

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Trench 2 plan and photos

Figure 8

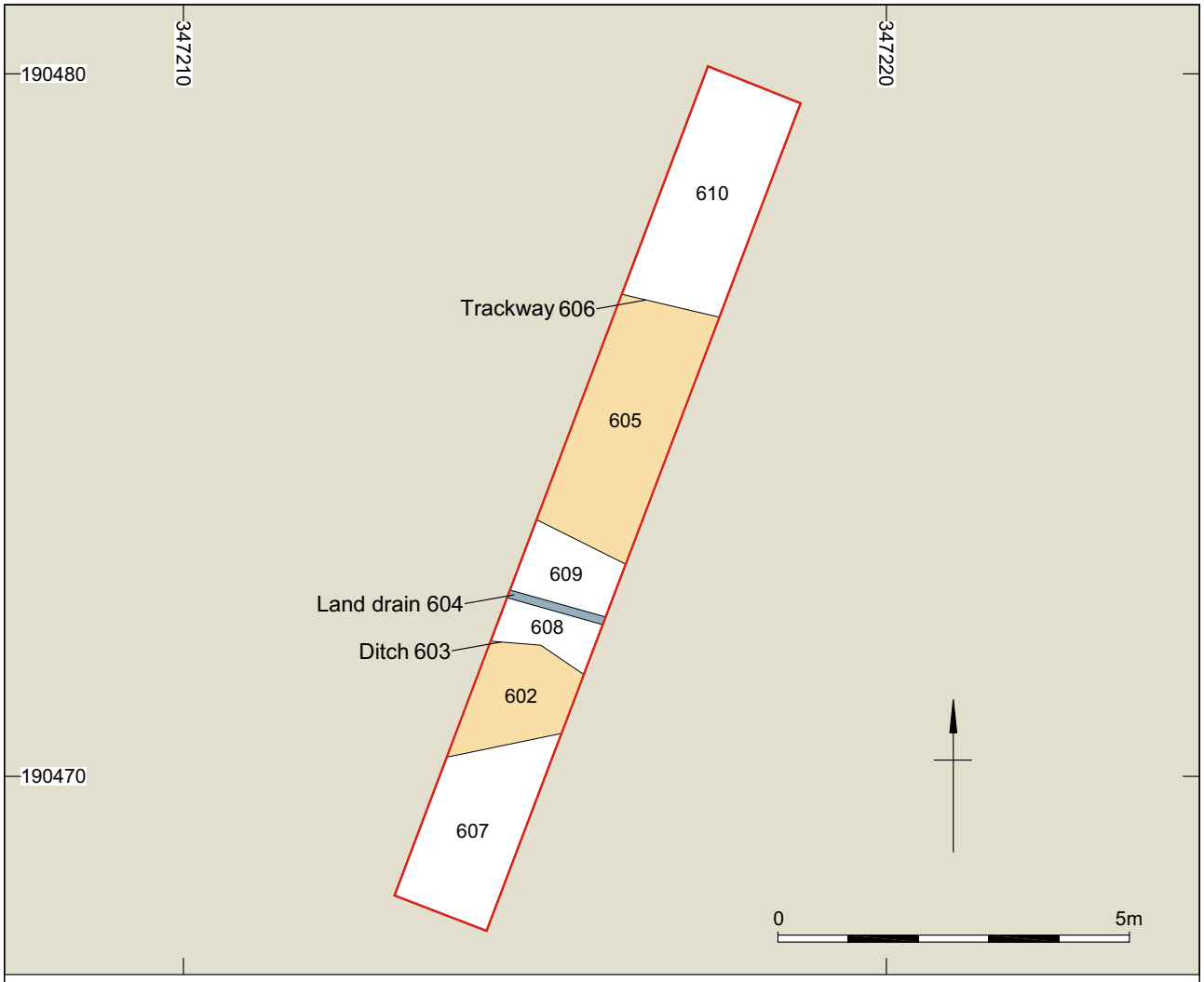

Plate 15: Trench 6 viewed from the north

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Trench 6 plan and photos

Figure 9

Plate 16: *Insula* I Trenches 4 & 5

Plate 17: Trench 7 viewed from the south

Plate 18: Trench 7 viewed from the north

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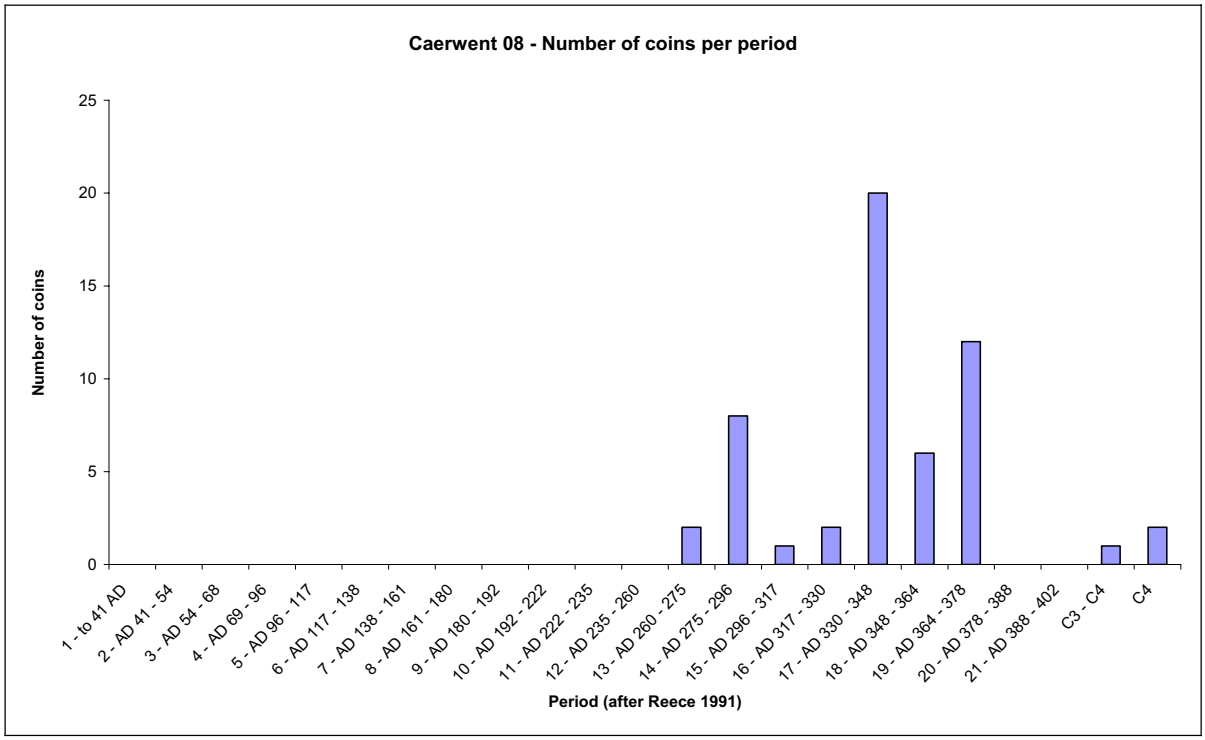

Figure 11: The coins by period

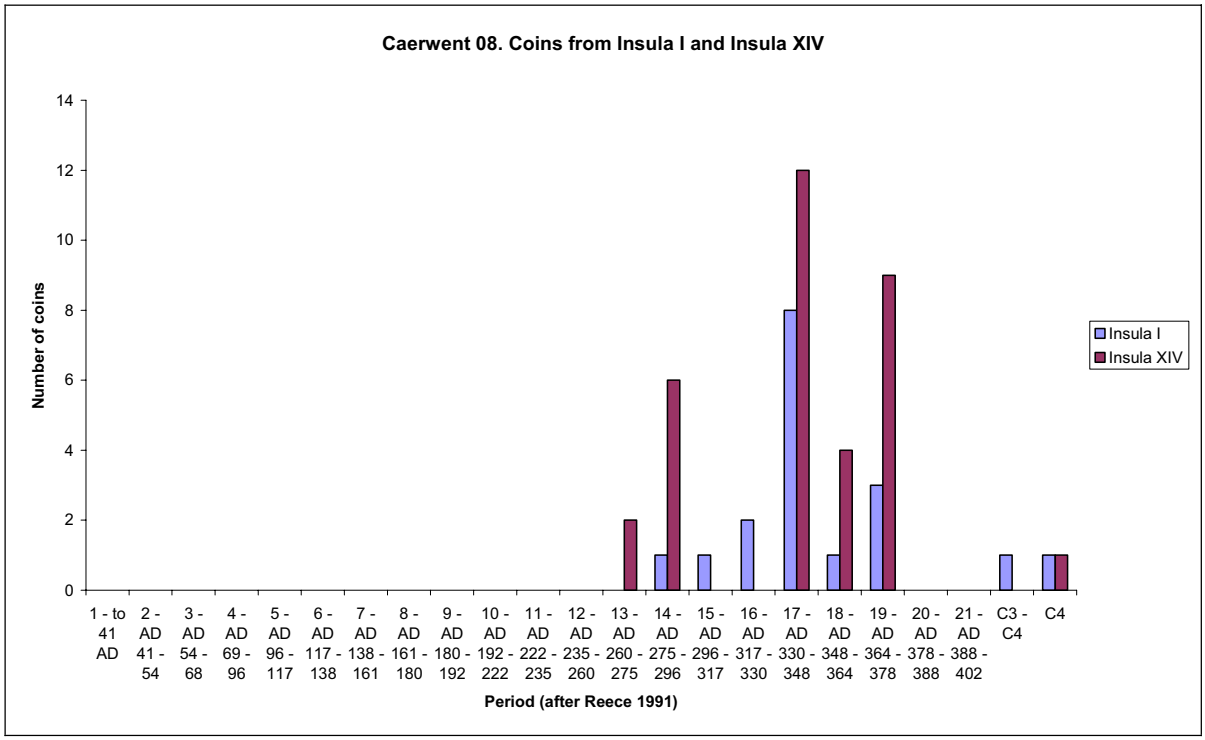

Figure 12: The coins by area

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