Wessex Archaeology

Cunetio Roman Town, Mildenhall Marlborough, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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CUNETIO ROMAN TOWN, MILDENHALL, MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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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 *Cunetio*, near Marlborough, Wiltshire (NGR SU 2178 6938). The evaluation was carried out in September 2009.

Cunetio is a Scheduled Monument (AM666) of national importance. Aerial photographs and early geophysical survey, coupled with very limited excavation, have established the ground plan of the town but almost nothing is known of its significance and changing form during the Roman period. 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, geophysical and topographic surveys.

The high quality and substantial nature of Building 1 in the north-west corner of the town was confirmed but little additional dating evidence was recovered. This structure is likely to have consisted of more than a single storey, with a stylish, fully Romanised interior. The remains of Building 8, the possible *mansio*, survived less well. No firm evidence for the date of its construction was found but there was some evidence to suggest that it was during the early Roman period. This building was probably roofed in stone, again with a Romanised interior.

A ditch, located to the south of the 4th century AD stone defences of the town, probably relates to the earlier, earth defensive circuit. No trace of the double ditch forming the main earth circuit was discovered, but these features could have been masked by the remains of a probable chalk rampart, itself perhaps associated with the later, stone defences. The monumental south gate measured 4.6m from north to south. Although largely consisting of mortared flint rubble, the south side at least was faced with limestone and Greensand blocks. A small, flint-lined post-hole may provide evidence for scaffolding required during the construction. The south-west corner of the defences was found to be extensively robbed.

Elsewhere, the evaluation trenches clearly demonstrated the survival of substantial, stratified archaeological remains, closely corresponding with the evidence from aerial photographs and geophysical survey. Considerable robbing of the main structural stone was evident in all areas of the town, with recent plough damage apparent in some areas, especially Building 8 and the south-west corner of the defences, where the ploughsoil is shallowest.

A short article, based on the results presented in this assessment report, for inclusion in *Wiltshire Studies* (the journal of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society), is suggested as an appropriate level of publication for the results of this project. It is recommended that the coins are published separately, either in *Wiltshire Studies* or an appropriate numismatic journal.

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Acknowledgements

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The geophysical survey was undertaken by Dr. J. Gater, J. Adcock, E. Wood, G. Attwood, C. Stephens and J. Anderson of GSB Prospection Ltd, M. Langton and M. Todd of LTU Ltd and J. Emilsson of Mala. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman (University of Birmingham). The recording and finds co-ordination, processing and on-site identification was undertaken by Rachael Seager Smith and Hannah Spieler (both of Wessex Archaeology).

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Tracey Smith, Ian Powlesland, Matt Williams, Raksha Dave and Faye Simpson, assisted by local diggers Michael Fleming, Ben Cullen and Christo Nicolle (Wessex Archaeology), Phil Matthews, Jack Crennel and Andy Hood (Foundation Archaeology), Charly Gascoigne-Pees and Cally Langhurst. Local metal detectorists Paul Fern and John Philpots 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 Nicholas Cooke (coins), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone) and Sarah Wyles (environmental). The environmental samples were processed by Nikki Mulhall. The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham.

Finally, Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Vanessa Straker (English Heritage) and especially Mark Corney 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 'small town' of *Cunetio*. The town is located within an area known as 'Black Field', near the village of Mildenhall, 1.5km east of Marlborough, Wiltshire (**Figure 1**), and is centred on NGR SU 2178 6938. The fieldwork, comprising seven machine-excavated evaluation trenches, was undertaken in September 2009.

1.1.2 *Cunetio* was selected for archaeological evaluation and filming following discussion with local archaeologist Mark Corney, Melanie Barge, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Wiltshire and the landowners, The Crown Estates, through their agents Carter Jonas LLP. The land is currently tenanted to Mr J Kerr of Forest Hill Farm, Marlborough.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The Site lies at a height of approximately 135m aOD and the underlying geology consists of alluvium, valley gravels and upper chalk (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 266). The land is currently used for arable agriculture and continues to be ploughed regularly.

1.2.2 Although no structural remains survive above ground, the Roman town plan is known from aerial photographs. These reveal a street system with stone building complexes and smaller structures enclosed by two phases of defences as well as other buildings outside the walls. In the late 1950s, *Cunetio* was one of the first Roman urban sites to undergo a geophysical survey, and limited unpublished excavations undertaken in the late 1950s and early 1960s sampled the defensive circuits. In the mid 1970s, the largest coin hoard known from Roman Britain – the 'Mildenhall Hoard', comprising over 55,000 coins of the later 3rd century AD, was found immediately south of the town. The whole area is a Scheduled Monument (AM666).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The area around Mildenhall is rich in Late Iron Age finds, including a hoard of cauldrons from Chiseldon (Winterburn 2008), approximately 10km to the north-west, and the Marlborough Bucket, a late La Tène bronze-bound vessel from a cremation burial found 1 km to the west and possibly indicative of a high-statue cemetery of 1st century BC/ early 1st century AD date. A large univallate hillfort is also known within 1km of the site, at Forest Hill Farm (AM850), which may have formed the core of an *oppidum*-type

centre. During the Roman period, a winged corridor 'villa' was built within this enclosure.

1.3.2 The date of the origin of *Cunetio* remains uncertain, but a small inhumation cemetery, consisting of at least eight burials, to the west of the town, is probably of pre-Roman origin, perhaps continuing into the post-Conquest period (Meyrick 1955; Cooke 2003, 31). The limited excavations within the town have demonstrated occupation from at least the middle of the 1st century AD; a well under the footings of the stone defences near the west gate, for example, contained large quantities of Claudio-Neronian samian and other very early Roman pottery, including local Savernake wares, as well as a bronze military apron mount of mid 1st century type (Annable 1966). It has been suggested that this activity may be linked to the existence of an immediately post-Conquest fort controlling the river crossing (Swan 1975, 44; Corney 2001), although no evidence for a fort is apparent from aerial photographs.

1.3.3 There is however, good aerial photographic evidence for the defences and buildings within the town as well as the roads and street layout. The main features can be summarised as follows.

The defences

1.3.4 The earthen circuit consists of a double-ditched, sub-rectangular enclosure covering approximately 6ha (14·7 acres). The published dating evidence is inconclusive but it may be of 2nd or 3rd century AD date (Corney 2001, 17). Trenches across the southern defences confirmed the presence of two ditches; the innermost, over 4m deep, separated from the outer one (2.4m deep and 3.9m wide) by a 2m wide berm. A trench across the eastern defences, close to the south-east corner, located a ditch which had either been deliberately backfilled, or had the upper fill consolidated, prior to the construction of the stone circuit. No trace of a rampart has yet been found.

1.3.5 The clearest entrance is on the south side, where the ditches are interrupted by a 10m wide causeway carrying a metalled street. On the western side, a 5m wide causeway, also marked by a metalled road, can be seen crossing the ditch system. Two possible entrances are visible on the eastern side, the most convincing being an 8m wide causeway carrying the road from Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*). A second road, approaching from the north-east, also crosses the ditch, but it is possible that this post-dates the earthen enclosure and may not, therefore, indicate the position of an original entrance.

1.3.6 The earthen defences were later replaced by a stone wall enclosing an area of approximately 7.5 ha (18.5 acres), with a single associated ditch visible on the south side. The wall had projecting bastions and, on the south side, a gate of monumental proportions. Trenches indicate that the footings, constructed of mortared flint rubble, varied from 5m (east wall) to 5.9 m (south wall) wide, and at one point on the south side, a single course of dressed oolitic limestone blocks survived on the external face (Thomas 1956, 243-44). So far, 17 bastions have been identified but they are not regularly spaced, so more may await discovery. One has been excavated (Annable 1959, 235), establishing that it was bonded into, and therefore contemporary with, the curtain wall. It was semi-circular in plan, faced with

oolitic limestone slabs and rested on footings of large, squared chalk blocks forming a semi-octagonal platform which was in turn laid on a rectangular raft of mortared flints 7.6 m wide and projecting 5.3 m from the wall face.

1.3.7 The stone circuit was provided with three entrances. The monumental south gate consisted of a 7m wide carriageway flanked by a pair of towers. In form, the gate is similar to the west gate of the late 3rd century AD stone fort at Richborough (Bushe-Fox 1926, 29-34) and, possibly, to the north gate at Brough-on Humber (Wacher 1969, 44-47, figs. 18, 21 and 22), also of late 3rd century AD date. The published plans also show a probable gate in the north-eastern corner. The evidence for this is uncertain as the interim account (Anon. 1960) merely states that 'The north-east corner was also explored, but owing to excessive robbing it was not possible to determine its layout'. The western gate, excavated in 1959-60 and 1964, comprised a single carriageway, but at some point its width was deliberately reduced, making it suitable for pedestrian traffic only. A small coin hoard, dated to *c*. AD 360*,* was found in this area, while the primary silt of a ditch pre-dating the gate contained a coin of *c*. AD 354-8, strongly suggesting that the stone defences were constructed after AD 360, and making them the latest stone defences known from the civilian area of Britain.

Buildings and other features

1.3.8 Twenty stone buildings are currently known within the town but not all need be contemporaneous. Only one (Building 1), of winged-corridor form with an apsidal room on its north side, has been investigated (Anon. 1962). Although an absolute date could not be established, the building was found to be either contemporary with, or later than, the construction of the stone defences of *c*. AD 360 - 380. To the east, the orientation of another large building (Building 2) may imply that it is also contemporary with, or later than, the defences.

1.3.9 A large courtyard building in the centre of the town (Building 8) has at least 24 rooms grouped in three ranges around a south-facing yard. The central position of this structure suggests an official or public function, possibly a *mansio*. Most of the other buildings are of simpler, rectilinear plan and on the same alignment as the street system, although one (Building 3) appears to encroach onto a street frontage. To the south, Building 7 is located a short distance west of the find spot of the Mildenhall coin hoard.

1.3.10 Pits and ditched enclosures to the west of the defended area suggest further properties and buildings, probably of timber. In addition to the mid 1st century well noted above, at least four others have been recorded in Black Field. One, of 2nd century AD date, was cleared by the Rev. Soames in 1860 and another, located immediately east of Building 18, was excavated by J.W. Brooke in 1912. This contained an important assemblage of late Roman ceramics, including Oxford colour-coated wares post-dating to *c*. AD 350, 102 coins (most probably from a disturbed hoard of the late AD 370s or early 380s) as well as large quantities of building materials, suggesting the demolition of a nearby structure, possibly Building 18.

1.3.11 Evidence for the inhabitants of the town themselves is sparse. To the west, two truncated, intercutting graves as well as disarticulated and redeposited human bone (Cooke 2003, 31), may represent a continuation of the 1st

century AD cemetery already known in this area (Meyrick 1955). A cremation burial, probably of 4th century AD date and consisting of the remains of an adult and a neonate placed in a Black Burnished ware jar was also found in this area (Cooke 2003, 30) and may indicate the presence of a late Roman cemetery. Similarly, a single inhumation in a lead coffin exposed by ploughing near the south-east corner of the stone defences close to the line of the road to *Calleva* (Silchester) (Annable 1980) may mark the position of a second cemetery serving the town.

Roads and street system

1.3.12 As well as the river crossing, *Cunetio* appears to lie at the junction of six major roads. The road approaching from *Calleva* (Silchester) has two possible routes, both visible on the ground as well-defined terraces climbing the escarpment out of the Kennet Valley. However, the two are probably not contemporaneous, the southernmost passing so close to the south-west corner of the stone defences that it cannot have functioned once they were constructed. An alignment of modern boundaries and roads north-east of the river, towards Axford and Ramsbury, lines up with the alignment of the road to *Aquae Sulis* (Bath), and may represent part of a longer route to the south Midlands via the confirmed road from Wantage through Frilford and on to Alchester. This road can be traced for 1 km along the floor of the Kennet Valley before reaching the outskirts of modern Marlborough. To the south, the roads from *Sorviodunum* (Old Sarum) and *Venta Belgarum* (Winchester) converge 1 km to the south of the town and descend the escarpment on the line of the modern Cock-a-troop Lane. This route is well-established north of the river, continuing on towards *Durocornovium* (Wanborough) and *Corinium* (Cirencester), and is aligned on the point where the roads from *Sorviodunum* and *Venta Belgarum* form a junction on the escarpment to the south of *Cunetio.*

1.3.13 Internally, in the central and eastern areas of the town, extending to the edge of the River Kennet flood plain, an unevenly-spaced system of side-streets can be seen, laid out at right angles to the main east-west Silchester road. In this area at least, the impression is of a planned layout. To the west, the streets do not conform to any common alignment but form a junction with the main route towards Bath. A third road, approaching the south, and passing immediately west of Building 7, probably branched off the Old Sarum/Winchester road, carrying traffic to the south gate and the possible *mansio* within. However, the stone defensive circuit appears to have been constructed across these routes and streets, suggesting an episode of radical change in settlement morphology and, probably, the function of the town in the late 4th century AD. It is likely that only the state could have funded such work, and *Cunetio* may have become a regional administrative centre at this time, perhaps a base for a component of the *Comitatensian* forces (Corney 2001, 18) and/or a collection point for taxes, including the *annona militaris*.

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

1.4.1 This section, and the following, on the archaeological background, are summarised from the more detailed accounts presented by Corney (1997; 2001).

1.4.2 Within the modern village of Mildenhall, the Site lies in the suggestively named 'Black Field'. Sporadic, small-scale investigations undertaken by local antiquarians and collectors throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries focused on the exploration of wells identified during agricultural activities. In the early 1950s, the publication of an aerial photograph showing streets, buildings, and two successive defensive circuits (St Joseph 1953, pl xiii) brought the site to wider, national attention and stimulated a series of small-scale excavations directed by F.K. Annable and A.J. Clark. Evidence from these excavations, coupled with extensive aerial photography and geophysical survey, indicate that the remains in Black Field cover in excess of 18 ha (44 acres).

1.4.3 The following archaeological interventions have taken place on the site:

1858- 1859 Excavation: BLACK FIELD
Director of fieldwork: C Soames
Archive Holder: Devizes Museum Library
Publication: *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 1860-62, vol. 7, page 121

1912 Excavation: BLACK FIELD
Director of fieldwork: J W Brooke
Archive Holder: Devizes Museum Library
Publication: Brooke, J.W., 1920-22 The Excavation of a Late Roman well at Cunetio, *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 41, pages 151-59
(reassessment of coins: Moorhead, T.S.N., 1997 A Reappraisal of the Roman Coins Found in J.W. Brooke's Excavation of a Late Roman Well at Cunetio (Mildenhall), 1912, *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 90, 42-54)

1956- 1964 Excavation: BLACK FIELD
Directors of fieldwork: A J Clark, F K Annable
Archive Holder: Devizes Museum Library
Publications: Thomas, N. 1956 Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire, 1956: Mildenhall (*Cunetio*), *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 56, 241-5
Annable, F.K. 1959 Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire, 1958: Black Field, Mildenhall: A Romano-British walled township (*Cunetio*), *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 57, no. ccvii, 233-35
Anon. 1960 Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire, 1959: Black Field, Mildenhall (*Cunetio*), A Romano-British walled township, *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 57, no. ccviii, 397
Anon. 1961 Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire, 1960: Black Field, Mildenhall (*Cunetio*), A Romano-British walled township, *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 58, 35
Anon. 1962 Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire, 1961: Black Field, Mildenhall (*Cunetio*) A Romano-British walled township, *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 58, 245
Anon. 1964 Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire, 1962: Black Field (*Cunetio*) (SU/216695) Romano-British walled township, *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 59, 187
Anon 1965 Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire, 1964: Mildenhall: Black Field (*Cunetio*) (SU/216695) Romano-British walled township, *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 60, 137

Annable, F.K., 1966 A late First Century Well at *Cunetio*, *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 61, 9-24

1965 Excavation: BLACK FIELD
Director of fieldwork: C J Gingell
Archive Holder: Devizes Museum Library
Publications: Marlborough College Natural History Society Report 1966, 105, page 50

1979 Excavation BLACK FIELD
Director of Fieldwork: P H Robinson
Archive Holder: Devizes Museum Library/ Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Museum
Publications: Besley, E. and Bland, R. 1983 Cunetio Treasure

1997 Excavation: WEST OF CUNETIO, MILDENHALL
Director of Fieldwork: Wessex Archaeology - Site code: W3455
Archive Holder: Devizes Museum Library
Publications: Wessex Archaeology 1998, Mildenhall Rising Main, Marlborough, Wilts: assessment report on the results of the archaeological excavation including proposals for report preparation and publication, unpublished client report no. 43455, Salisbury
Anon. 1999 Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire 1997, Mildenhall: Mildenhall Rising Main (centered on SU 208 692); Romano-British, *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.,* 92, 140
Cooke, N., 2003 Excavation of Roman Features and Deposits on the Outskirts of *Cunetio* (Mildenhall), Marlborough, in 1997, *Wilts. Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 96, 26-32

2000 Watching Brief: AXFORD TO FOREST HILL WATER MAIN, MARLBOROUGH
Director of Fieldwork: K Cullen, Cotswold Archaeological Trust
Archive Holder: Cotswold Archaeological Trust
Publications: Cotswold Archaeological Trust 2000 Axford to Forest Hill Water Main Duplication (Scheme 3 HKC), nr. Marlborough, Wiltshire. Archaeological Monitoring, unpublished client report no. 001204, Cirencester
Fitzpatrick, A.P. 2002 Roman Britain in 2001 – Southern Counties, Wiltshire, *Britannia*, 33, 347

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 (Videotext Communications 2009). Part of the area under investigation is a Scheduled Monument of national importance, but the entire Site (scheduled and unscheduled) contains archaeological deposits of sufficiently high quality to address regional and national research questions (e.g. Webster 2007) 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 through excavation the extent, condition, form of and spatial/chronological relationships between, features identified via aerial photography

- to characterise the extent, condition and form of the large courtyard building (Building 8) in the centre of the town
- to characterise the extent, condition, form and the spatial and chronological relationships between the defensive circuits on the southern side of the town, in particular, the stone wall and monumental gateway, the road leading into the town and the earlier, earthwork enclosure

3 METHODS

3.1 Geophysical survey

3.1.1 The site was investigated using a combination of detailed magnetometry (Bartington Grad 601-2) and ground penetrating radar (sensors and software Noggin Smartcart with a 250MHz frequency antenna). The results were analysed using a mixture of GSB and commercial software. The magnetic survey covered c. 11ha (**Figure 1**), only excluding the western defences, followed standard guidelines (David 1995; Gaffney *et al*. 2002). A multiple-array Mala MIRA 400MHz GRP system, new to the field of archaeology, was also trailed as part of these investigations and used to survey *c*. 0.5 ha over the Building 8 in the centre of the town. The more traditional single-channel cart system (sensors and software Smartcart 250MHz) was used over a small part of this same location, to serve as a comparison between the Mala and Sensors and Software equipment, as well as two areas outside the western defences, *c*. 0.25 ha in all. Conditions for the survey were good, as the ground cover consisted of wheat stubble.

3.2 Evaluation trenches

3.2.1 Seven machine trenches were excavated; one across the southern gate, four examining Buildings 1, 7 and 8, one a north-south street in the centre of the town and one immediately outside the western defences (**Figure 1**). A mechanical excavator (360º tracked excavator 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, and 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.

3.2.2 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.

3.2.3 The work was carried out between the 2nd and 5th of September 2009. The archive and all artefacts, under project code 71509, 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 Prospection 2009) and the results of artefact analyses are retained in the archive. Brief context descriptions are presented in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical survey

Magnetic survey (Figure 2)

4.2.1 This clearly demonstrated that the site responds extremely well to geophysical investigation. However, the complex nature and sheer number of anomalies has made interpretation difficult, although aerial photography has helped in the identification of many responses.

4.2.2 The later town defences of *Cunetio* show as bands of decreased response – typical of those normally associated with buried wall foundations. The monumental southern gate (A) is readily apparent while the earlier earthen defences can be seen as both positive (ditch) and negative (bank) responses.

4.2.3 A zone of increased magnetic readings (B) over the courtyard building (Building 8) suggests a demolition spread, although a number of wall lines or rooms can be seen. To the north-east, a large enclosure (C) measuring approximately 48m by 60m and aligned with the street plan, surrounds another zone of increased readings possibly associated with Building 14; this enclosure is not visible on aerial photographs. Buildings 1 (D), 6, 16 and 17 (E) are also apparent, while another, not known from crop marks, appears to exist in the north-east corner of the earlier defences (F).

4.2.4 Apparently bisecting the northern part of the town, a ditch-like anomaly (G), tentatively interpreted as an earlier, pre-Roman feature, follows a curving east-west alignment. Outside the walls, numerous pit-like anomalies and a few ditch features were detected. These include an enclosure (H), apparently appended to the earlier town defences. Buildings 12 and 13 are located within it; the remains of Building 12 are visible with the magnetic results but Building 13 could not be examined as the finds tent had been pitched directly over it.

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey (Figure 3)

4.2.5 The results of both systems showed the main walls of Building 8 to be clearly defined, with lower amplitude linear anomalies and trends probably denoting less substantial, or more degraded wall lines. The interpretation of the shallower deposits is hampered slightly by ploughing striations which are in a similar orientation to the archaeology. Zones of increased response and high amplitude anomalies between the wall lines are likely to be a combination of demolition spreads, floor surfaces and perhaps hypocaust systems. Most of the remains started to show at a depth of *c*. 0.5m below modern ground level, while all but a few 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.

4.2.6 Survey over the south-west corner of the later defences showed the line of the stone wall (1) and the bastioned corner, with some evidence for differing construction techniques or differential robbing through the centre of the bastion and wall. However, the shallowest slices (0 – 0.5m below modern ground surface) show considerable modern agricultural disturbance, although linear anomalies (2 and 3), could just represent a metalled road surface perhaps contemporary with the latter defences.

4.2.7 Two negative features known from crop marks coincided with low amplitude trends (6). These appear to be cut features but are probably too far apart (14m) to be roadside ditches. They possibly pre-date the defensive wall (1) as the northernmost 'ditch' crosses the south-west corner but does not appear to have cut the construction material. Conversely, the pair do cut a spread of increased response and high amplitude anomalies (7 and 8), seen from around a metre below ground level. It is unclear whether these are purely natural responses or reflections from an earlier phase of occupation.

4.2.8 Further south, a small pilot survey, at a broader line spacing (1.0m) was conducted over an area of activity identified through aerial photography. Whilst a number of anomalies were recorded (9), surviving 1.5 – 2m below the modern ground surface, well beyond the depth expected from purely agricultural effects, their nature could not be established in the absence of further corroborating techniques or a more expansive survey.

4.3 Evaluation trenches

The South Gateway

4.3.1 Trench 1 (**Figures 4 & 5**) examined the east side of the monumental south gateway (**Figure 4, Plates 1 & 4**) as well as the underlying earlier earthen defensive circuit. The ploughsoil in this area was of variable depth (0.15m – 0.4m) and lay above subsoil layers (**102**, **104** and **108**) again of variable depth.

4.3.2 The mortared flint rubble (**103**) of the stone gate survived to a maximum height of 0.5m (**Figure 4, Plate 2**). Its core was composed of unaltered flint nodules set within pale creamy-brown poorly-slaked lime mortar, with a double row of larger, more closely-spaced nodules defining its southern edge. Two off-sets, each 0.15m wide, also survived on the south face (**Figure 4, Plate 3**). The first consisted of a single course of large dressed limestone (one clearly re-used, a clamp-slot visible in its outer face) and Greensand blocks, representing the facing material of the gateway. These facing blocks rested on single, wider course of thin, rough-hewn limestone slabs, themselves on a mortared flint rubble foundation (**116**). Although badly robbed, a right-angled corner was identified, forming the eastern side of the carriageway through the gate (**Figure 4, Plate 2**). A flint-packed post-hole (**125**) immediately adjacent to the south face of the gate, approximately 1m east of the corner, may have provided a setting for timber scaffolding required during the construction of the gate and potentially, an arch over its carriageway.

4.3.3 No facing material was noted on the north side, but a mortared flint rubble foundation (**115**), of very similar construction to **103**, survived at a slightly lower level. The relationship between **103** and **115** was not investigated, but

it is perhaps most likely that they form part of a single structure, this northern area (**115**) simply being more severely robbed than that to the south. This would make the complete gate structure in the region of 4.6m deep (north to south). An alternative, however, is that **115** was deliberately constructed to provide a platform for a timber superstructure at the back of a narrower (*c*. 3.4m wide) stone gate (**103**). An irregular east-west scar, 0.1m wide and deep, across the surface of **115** may represent modern plough damage (an area of such damage was also noted in the surface of **103**) but could, perhaps, have provided a setting for timber scaffolding posts. A single undiagnostic body sherd of Savernake-type pottery found mortared into foundation **116** represented the only dating evidence from the gate structure. This ware type dates from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD, but the sherd is probably residual in this context.

4.3.4 Mortar-rich deposits (**114**, **124** and **127**) probably derived from the weathering and/or initial collapse or robbing of the structure were noted against the south (**114**), west (**124**) and north (**127**) faces of the gate but the few sherds of pottery from layers **114** and **127** were not sufficiently diagnostic to be assigned anything more than generalised Roman dates. These layers were subsequently covered by significant quantities of flint rubble (**107**, **109** and **128**), up to 0.55m thick, derived from the more extensive collapse and/or robbing of the gateway. Finds included animal bone, ceramic building material, oyster shell, iron nails and pottery of late 3rd or 4th century AD date.

4.3.5 At the northern end of the trench, a 0.3m deep layer of compacted soil with abundant chalk pieces and rare flints (**130**) may represent the remnants of a chalk rampart. This material was at least 4.4m wide, continuing beyond northern edge of trench; its southern edge coincided with the almost vertical side of post-hole **131**, which may have formed part of a timber revetment. No dating evidence was recovered from the two small areas investigated but the rampart material appears to have been laid on top of disturbed and/or redeposited natural clay-with-flint (**133** and **136**).

4.3.6 A wide V-shaped ditch (**112**; 3.5m wide, 1.4m deep) was located approximately 2.3m south of the face of gate **103**, cut through disturbed/redeposited clay-with-flints (**113** and **118**) into the natural chalk (**135**) beneath (**Figure 5**). Ditch **112** was V-shaped with a narrow, flat base and was filled with a succession of gradually-accumulated silting deposits (**111**, **122**, **123** and **129**); no artefacts were found in its basal fill (**129**) but Middle Roman (mid 2nd – 3rd century AD) pottery, glass, ceramic building material, animal bone, oyster shell and Neidermendig lava quern fragments were found in layers **111**, **122** and **123** above, suggest that it was filled considerably before the construction of the stone defences in the later 4th century AD.

4.3.7 Immediately north of ditch **112**, part of a probable pit (**119**) was identified on the 'berm' between gate and ditch, also cutting the disturbed/redeposited clay-with-flints (**118**). This feature continued to the east, beyond the limits of the trench, and although not excavated, animal bone fragments, probably from a sheep or goat, were identified on the surface of its fill (**120**). To the south of ditch **112**, a narrow, irregular band of mid grey-brown silty loam with very common small flint nodules and abundant chalk pea-grits (**105**) may

represent part of a metalled surface or path. This material appeared to lie above soil layers **106** and **110** and may have been cut by ditch **112** but the relationships between these deposits were not fully established. The significant quantities of pottery (264 sherds, 4.4kg) from layer **106** need not date much beyond the end of the 2nd century AD, and although probably residual, included some of the earliest sherds recovered during these investigations (part of a Terra Rubra Cam 8 platter of mid 1st century AD date, for example). However, a single late Roman copper alloy coin (issued *c*. AD 330-345), was also assigned to this layer.

Building 8

4.3.8 Two trenches (Trenches 2 and 4) examined Building 8, the possible *mansion* (**Figure 6**). This building had been constructed on a slight terrace but the investigations undertaken as part of this project were insufficient to establish whether the terrace was of man-made or natural origin. The ploughsoil survived to a maximum depth of 0.25m, lying directly above the structural remains and associated demolition/collapse/robbing deposits.

4.3.9 Trench 2 (**Plate 8**) investigated part of the inner courtyard and the eastern range of rooms. Flint rubble foundations of two walls (**203** and **211**), both 0.8m wide, were exposed but the junction between them was not fully investigated and their relationship remains uncertain. A small (0.7m x 0.5m) sondage on the eastern side of the north/south wall (**203**) showed that it consisted of a flint rubble core faced with large, roughly knapped flint nodules, the whole bonded with soft, pale orange-brown, poorly-slaked lime mortar. Three courses were exposed, each approximately 0.15m deep, and the wall had been constructed close against the vertical, eastern side of a foundation trench (**202**), but the full profile, width and depth of this feature were not investigated. The east/west aligned foundation (**211**) was not fully exposed, lying beneath a flint rubble collapse/demolition layer (**215**) up to 0.1m deep, and its line was only readily apparent on the eastern side of the trench. It was constructed of flint rubble and, in one area, large sherds of Dressel 20 amphora, bonded by pale yellow-brown sandy lime mortar. The numerous limestone roof-tile fragments found within flint rubble layer **215** (**Plate 8**) indicate that Building 8 originally had a stone tiled roof. This suggestion is reinforced by the very small quantities of ceramic building material found in this trench (only 18 pieces, two from bricks, the others too fragmentary to be assigned to type).

4.3.10 A hard, compacted flint and chalk gravel layer (**210**) located in the north-western corner of the trench probably represented the original surface of Building 8's inner courtyard. To the south, layers of compacted chalk (**212**) and mortar-rich flint and chalk gravel (**214**) may have formed the floors of internal rooms. A sequence of similar flint gravel (**208**) and compacted chalk (**205**) floor surfaces and associated make-up layers (**206**, **207** and **209**) were identified in the north-east corner of the trench, lying above a possible occupation deposit (**217**) recorded in the base of the sondage (**Plate 7**) on the eastern side of wall **203**. Two pottery sherds of Romano-British date were found incorporated into chalk surface **205**, while a larger group from its make-up layer (**206**) below, including Central Gaulish samian, Dressel 20 amphora, Savernake-type, sandy grey and oxidised coarsewares, are probably of mid to late 2nd century AD date, perhaps suggesting an early Roman date for the construction of Building 8.

4.3.11 Physical evidence of recent damage to the underlying archaeological remains, as predicted by the geophysical survey, was also encountered, a modern plough mark (**216**; **Plate 9**), being recorded running parallel to the west side of north/south wall **203**.

4.3.12 Relatively little hand-excavation was undertaken in Trench 4 (**Figure 6, Plates 5 & 6**) and the wall lines apparent on aerial photographs and predicted by the geophysical survey, were not exposed, the overlying collapse/ demolition/ robbing debris being left *in situ*. Full details of the plan of this part of the building and relationships between its structural elements and associated deposits therefore remain unclear.

4.3.13 In the eastern end of the trench, a series of mortar-rich flint rubble layers (**407**, **408** and **420**) appear to overlie the remains of a mortared flint rubble wall foundation (**411**). This may have been built close against the western edge of a foundation trench (**414**), although the possibility that **414** actually represented a robber trench for this wall cannot be excluded. A second, 1.2m wide robber trench or construction cut (**413**) was identified in the centre of the trench, with the remains of a north-south aligned, earth-bonded, flint rubble wall footing (**410**) surviving to a height of 0.26m within it, This feature was filled with a rubbly soil layer (**412**). A small concentration of large flint nodules (**409**) exposed at the western end of a narrow sondage excavated against the southern edge of the trench was interpreted during the evaluation as being part of another north-south aligned wall but too little was exposed to make the existence of a wall here anything more than conjecture.

4.3.14 A series of floor surfaces and possible occupation horizons were also identified in the sondage (**Plate 6**). In the narrow (0.8m wide) strip between **414** and **413**, a rammed chalk floor surface (**406**) was found beneath a soft, almost stone-free soil horizon (**419**) and a compacted, mortar–rich flint gravel layer (**418**), although it is unclear whether this represent a second floor surface or demolition/ collapse/ robbing debris. Rammed chalk floor (**406**) was also identified to the west of robber trench **413**, with thin lenses of occupation debris (**416** and **417**) resting on its surface. Above this, a thick layer of chalk and flint rubble (**405**) may represent further demolition/ collapse/ robbing debris; in many respects, it was very similar to **419** to the east, but contained far greater quantities of rubble. Above this, a series of thin, patchy lenses were identified (**402**, **403**, **404** and **415**), some more compacted or gravel- (e.g. **415**), mortar– (e.g. **404**) or charcoal- (e.g. **403**) rich than the others but all, like **418**, probably representing demolition/ collapse/ robbing debris rather than deliberately laid floor surfaces or occupation horizons. The latest pottery from these layers (**402**, **404** and **405**) is of late 2nd or early 3rd century AD date, while small quantities of painted wall plaster (red, yellow, dark brown/grey) from **404**, **405** and the ploughsoil overlying this trench (**401**) highlight the possibility of rooms with sophisticated Romanised decoration within this structure. Again, only tiny quantities of ceramic building material were recovered, none unequivocally from roof tiles.

Building 1

4.3.15 Close to the northern boundary of the site, Trench 3 (**Figure 7**) examined the north wall of Building 1, close to the apsidal room. In this area of the site, at the bottom of the slope, the ploughsoil (**301**) was up to 0.4m deep.

4.3.16 A very substantial, well-built, east/west wall (**Plate 10**) was exposed towards the northern end of the trench. Wall **303** was 1.25m wide and was constructed from a flint rubble core faced with larger nodules, knapped to provide one flattish face, bonded by pate orange-brown, poorly slaked lime mortar. Three courses of flints, resting on a single layer of flat limestone slabs survived. Wall **303** appears to have been built on a hard, mortared flint rubble foundation (**310**/**313**) up to 0.25m deep. On the south side, foundation **313** projected at least 0.25m from the south face of the wall, and may have formed the upper fill of a vertically-sided, flat-bottomed construction trench (**322**). This feature was otherwise filled with moderately compact, gravel-rich silty clay (**321**), up to 0.15m deep. Although only a very small area was exposed, construction trench **322** appears to have been cut into soil accumulation layers **314** and **315**, the latter containing two undiagnostic Roman pottery sherds, one of sandy grey- and one of Savernake-type ware. These lay above a thin layer of dark green-brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks (**319**), possibly representing trample or other activity, above the reworked or otherwise disturbed surface of the natural clay-with-flints (**320**).

4.3.17 A sequence of three hard, compacted chalk floor surfaces (**311**, **312** and **316**), each around 0.1m thick) and associated make-up layers (**324** and **325**) were observed on the north side of the wall (**Plate 11**). The earliest of these (**316**) lay above a 30mm thick layer of charcoal-rich occupation debris (**317**), itself above a moderately hard and compacted mortar floor (**318**), up to 0.1m deep, lying directly on the reworked or otherwise disturbed surface of the natural clay-with-flints (**323**). No artefacts were recovered from these layers.

4.3.18 Substantial deposits of demolition/ robbing/ collapse debris, up to 0.8m deep, were identified on both sides of the wall (**302**, **306** and **308** on the south side; **304**, **305** and **307** to the north), lying beneath the ploughsoil (**301**). Pottery from these layers included one or two distinctive pieces of 4th century AD date, including pieces from a painted jug (Young 1977, 150, type C14) and a stamp-decorated bowl, both in Oxfordshire colour-coated ware, although the majority could only be assigned a generalised Romano-British date. The ceramic building material mostly consisted of undiagnostic fragments, although a brick, probably a *bessales*, from the ploughsoil (**301**) measured 140mm wide and was at least 155mm long. Fragments of painted wall plaster, *opus signinum* and a single stone tessera from layers **306**, **307** and **308** provide some indication of the sophisticated interior décor of this structure.

Area around Building 7

4.3.19 Trench 5 (**Figure 8**) investigated a high magnetic anomaly located close to Building 7 and the findspot of the Mildenhall coin hoard. Archaeological features and deposits were encountered beneath 0.25m of ploughsoil (**501**), and although cleaned by hand, no further excavation was undertaken.

4.3.20 The geophysical anomaly was caused by a small circular oven (**515**; **Plate 12**), constructed from a mortared chalk and flint wall (**505**), presumably built against the sides of a pit cut into the underlying deposits (**510**), although no evidence for this was encountered. There is some evidence to suggest that wall **505** was constructed from a double row of chalk blocks, some shaped to provide a circular inner face, with a core of smaller, rougher flint and chalk rubble pieces. The inner face of this wall had been lined with a 50mm wide layer of clay (**514**) with a smoothed, neatly finished surface, subsequently fired to an orange-red colour. Two layers of fired clay were visible in a small area of the eastern side of this structure, suggesting an episode of patching or relining. The resulting firing chamber was approximately 0.9m in diameter, with a short, 0.2m wide, flue to the north. Both firing chamber and flue were subsequently filled with a mid grey-brown silty loam soil layer with rare chalk and flint fragments up to 0.1m across (**506**); sherds from a Savernake-type ware storage jar were also recovered from this layer.

4.3.21 A pit or possibly a second, small oven (**511**) was located in the south-west corner of the trench, extending beyond its limits. This was also roughly circular, *c*. 0.74m in diameter, and lined with small, unaltered flint nodules, up to 80mm across, set side by side around its circumference in a dark orange-brown silty loam (**513**). A few Savernake-type ware body sherds and a slightly burnt handle stump from a Dressel 20 amphora were found amongst this material. The resulting 'chamber', approximately 0.6m in diameter, had subsequently been filled with dark grey-brown silty loam with moderate chalk pea-grits, late Roman pottery, including part of a New Forest colour-coated ware beaker, oyster shell, an iron cleat from a boot/shoe and pieces from a Pennant sandstone roof tile (**512**). A subrectangular pit or other cut feature (**516**) was also identified in the south-east corner of the trench. This was filled with dark grey-brown silty loam, rare flints up to 0.15m across, sparse chalk pieces, pottery, crushed mortar and charcoal flecks (**509**).

4.3.22 To the north, areas of compacted flint gravel (**503**, **507** and **508**; **Plate 12**) may have formed a working surface, perhaps associated with the use of oven **515**. Although the stratigraphic relationships were not investigated, the east-west band of compacted chalk (**504**) appears to be later, overlying the flint surface and walls of oven **515**, and blocking its already filled flue.

The stone defences

4.3.23 Trench 6 (**Figure 9**) was positioned over the south-west corner of the stone defences and the line of the western road towards Bath (*Aquae Sulis*). The geophysical survey had highlighted the possibility of differing construction methods being used for the face and core of the wall, or at least differential robbing of the building materials, in this area (**Figure 3**). However, the time available for excavation was extremely limited, and the underlying deposits were only exposed and minimally investigated in the eastern half of the trench, close to the line of the walls.

4.3.24 In contrast to the aptly-named Black Field, the ploughsoil (**601**) and subsoil (**608**) in this area (**Plate 13**) was considerably lighter in colour, perhaps indicative of less intensive archaeological activity. The removal of these layers exposed a flint rubble deposit (**602**), up to 0.3m thick, probably representing collapse/ demolition/ robbing debris from the wall. Two *in situ*

mortar deposits, one (**605**) at a higher level and in a more weathered condition than the other (**607**), surviving in the south-eastern corner of the trench, may have formed part of the severely robbed footings of the wall, but they were not fully investigated and their stratigraphic relationship to each other and deposits in the vicinity were not established.

4.3.25 A small, 0.5m wide sondage excavated through the flint rubble (**602**) indicated that it lay above natural chalk (**606**) and, in the extreme north-east corner of the trench, a layer of light yellow-brown sandy loam soil with occasional large flint nodules (**604**). Sherds of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware, including the rim of a flanged bowl (Young 1977, type C51) suggest that this later may be of late Roman date. Only the surface of this deposit was exposed but it is just possible that it represents the fill of an underlying feature, cutting the natural chalk.

Central area: linear feature

4.3.26 Trench 7 (**Figure 10**) examined the line of a linear feature, visible on aerial photographs and the geophysical survey, in the central area of the town. No excavation was undertaken, but once the ploughsoil (**701**), here up to 0.5m deep, had been removed, the eastern side of a north-south aligned feature was apparent, marked by its upper fill (**702**), a very dark grey silty loam with sparse flint and chalk pieces up to 0.15m across (**Plate 14**). A small area of orange-brown silty clay with sparse flint gravel up to 30mm across (**703**), exposed in the north-west corner of trench, may represent natural, or redeposited natural clay-with-flint, deposited on the western side of this feature. Elsewhere, the subsoil (**704**) consisted of a dark red-brown silty loam with rare to sparse flints and chalk pieces up to 0.1m across and charcoal flecks.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 It was predicted that the range of finds from this site would include some materials, perhaps in large quantities, very repetitive in terms of the types represented and derived from unstratified or poorly stratified contexts, which are considered to have limited potential for further research. Consequently a strategy for selective on-site collection, and subsequent retention or dispersal of artefacts, was applied on site, within the framework of the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1995). Selective retrieval was adopted for all poorly stratified finds (e.g. those from the ploughsoil or subsoil), for example, and animal bone, oyster shells, ceramic and stone building material (unless of intrinsic interest), metalworking waste and iron nails from such contexts were not collected from these contexts.

5.1.2 The quantities of nails, ceramic and stone building material were further reduced through the scanning and recording of this material on site by appropriately trained staff. Any information gained in this way has been incorporated into this assessment of these material categories.

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

5.1.4 All finds have been 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 (coins, pottery and ceramic building material, for example), spot dates have been recorded for each context. The finds data are currently held in an Access database which forms part of the project archive.

5.1.5 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 The coins

5.2.1 All 98 coins recovered are of copper alloy, and all but one are of Roman date, the majority belonging within the late 3rd or 4th centuries AD. The single exception (spoil, Trench 1) is a copper alloy farthing struck in the 17th century on behalf of James I or Charles I. Most of the coins were recovered from the spoil heaps through the systematic use of metal detectors during machining and must therefore be considered unstratified. By far the majority were from Trench 1 (71 coins), with two, eight, 12 and three coins being found in Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 6 respectively. Two other coins were found in the field but without any direct associations with a particular trench.

5.2.2 In general, the condition of the coins is fair; most were at least legible after some basic cleaning, although many showing some signs of post-depositional corrosion. In all, 74 coins could be identified to period (Reece 1991) while the others have all been assigned broad dates in the 3rd or 4th centuries AD on the basis of their size and shape.

5.2.3 The number of coins assigned to the 21 periods devised by Reece (1991) is presented in **Figure 10**. This clearly shows that, with the exception of a single Neronian coin (period 5), the Roman coins were minted between AD 260 and AD 378 (periods 13-19). The main peak of coin loss occurred in period 17, between AD 330 and 348, with smaller peaks in periods 13 and 14 (corresponding to the radiate *antoniniani* of the AD 270s to 290s) and period 19 (coins of the House of Valentinian).

5.2.4 This pattern of coin loss is atypical for British sites. Whilst the main peaks of loss correspond to those normally encountered on British sites, it is unusual for coins of period 17 to dominate an assemblage to such an extent – only two of the 140 sites published by Reece (1991) have a higher proportion of period 17 coins. It is tempting, given the number of coins from Trench 1, to suggest that they formed part of a dispersed hoard. However, the pattern of coin loss from the other trenches is similar, suggesting that an intense period of coin use and loss in the late 3rd century and first half of the 4th century AD is genuine and reflects wider coin loss in the area. The small peak of period 19 coins relative to those from periods 17 and 18 might indicate that coin use was in decline in the AD 360s and 370s, and whilst the

absence of period 20 coins need not be significant (coins of this date are relatively rare as site finds), the lack of period 21 coins suggests that coin use had ceased before the later years of the 4th century AD.

5.3 Other metalwork

5.3.1 All the 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.

Copper alloy

5.3.2 A restricted range of copper alloy objects was recovered. Items of personal ornament comprise three brooch fragments, two of 1st to 2nd century AD date and one probably belonging within the 3rd century AD. One of the early Roman brooches, part of a hinged, flat strip-bow brooch with a slightly expanded head and horizontal grooves and longitudinal ribs down bow (cf Butcher 2001, 44, fig.18, 40-42) was found during the machining of Trench 3 while the head of a small T-shaped brooch was from Trench 5. A faceted knob with a horizontal moulding beneath was recovered from the spoil of Trench 1 and probably derives from a crossbow brooch of 3rd century AD date (e.g. Butcher 2001, 60, fig.25, 121). Other items from Trench 1 include part of a tinned Roman spoon (context 104), probably of late 3rd or 4th century AD date (Hooley 2001, 104, fig.42, 178), and a small sheet metal fragment found on the spoil heap.

5.3.3 Part of a small, spherical, one-piece cast crotal or rumbler bell of Tudor or later date was recovered from the spoil of Trench 3. The dates of a small figure-of-eight shaped chain link perhaps from an item of jewellery, found in the ploughsoil of Trench 5 and a scrap of folded sheet metal from the spoil of Trench 7, both remain uncertain.

Iron

5.3.4 Handmade, round-headed iron nails (Manning 1985, 134, type 1) of all sizes were noted in significant quantities in all the excavated trenches, especially in the ploughsoil and post-abandonment deposits. A cleat probably from a nailed boot or shoe was also noted amongst the spoil from Trench 1, but none these items were retained. Two fragments from the wings of hipposandals of Aubert's (1929) type 3N or Q found in post-abandonment deposits 102 and 108 were retained. Part of a hinged strip-bow brooch of early Roman date was also found on the spoilheap of Trench 7 and can be compared with an example from Wanborough (Butcher 2001, 44, fig.18, 38). A loop-headed spike (Manning 1985, 130, pl.59, R27-33), a structural fitting driven into woodwork or masonry to provide a ring or loop which could then serve a multitude of purposes, came from ditch **112** in Trench 1.

Lead

5.3.5 Small scraps of lead, often solidified droplets of molten metal, off-cuts and waste, were commonly found by the metal-detectors on the spoilheaps of each trench. These were not collected or quantified in detail but 21 pieces from Trenches 1, 5 and 7 were retained to represent the range. The two other objects comprised a circular plug-type potmend from the spoil of Trench 1 and a small, flat disc perhaps used as a weight or counter from the spoil of Trench 5.

5.4 Metalworking debris

5.4.1 Three scraps of copper alloy working waste were recovered from the spoil of Trenches 1, 2 and 5. Small quantities of highly vesicular iron slag were also found in contexts **106** and **205**, probably indicative of small-scale iron smithing activities. Although not chronologically diagnostic, it is likely that all the metalworking debris is of Romano-British date.

5.5 Pottery

5.5.1 The pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site. The assemblage was almost entirely of Romano-British date (1st – 4th century AD), with only three later sherds; a glazed decorated medieval jug sherd from soil accumulation layer **104** and post-medieval red earthenware sherds from rubble layer **407** and the ploughsoil of Trench 5. Most pieces survived in good condition, with comparatively little surface or edge abrasion and a high mean sherd weight (20.4g).

5.5.2 The pottery from each context has been subdivided into broad ware types, and quantified by number and weight of pieces. Some of the ware types (e.g. greywares and oxidised wares) undoubtedly include the products of more than one source while others are of known type or provenance (e.g. New Forest colour-coated ware, South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware). A breakdown of the assemblage by ware type is shown in **Table 2**. Overall, the assemblage was dominated by local wares, supplemented by imported finewares, amphora and mortaria as well as regionally traded wares. The fabrics and forms present are well paralleled among the pottery from other areas of the town (Wessex Archaeology 1997, 11) and at Wanborough (Pengelly *et al*. 2001; Keay 2001; Hartley 2001; Seager Smith 2001).

5.5.3 Samian accounts for 4.5% of the sherds and includes vessels from Southern, Central and Eastern Gaulish sources, although 2nd century AD, Central Gaulish pieces are the most common. Vessels belonging to the 18/31 series of bowls and dishes, cup forms 33 and 35, small dish form 22/23 and decorated bowl form 37 were all recognised. A small Southern Gaulish base flake from **108** had a partially surviving stamp]MVM[while a Central Gaulish form 18/31 or 31 body sherd from **107** is burnt and had been drilled for repair with a metal staple. A post-firing scratched X graffito survives on the wall of an Eastern Gaulish vessel from **106**. A Terra Rubra rim from a Cam. 8 platter, dated to the middle of the 1st century AD, was found residually in context **106**. Other imported tablewares included a Terra Nigra Cam 16 platter, imported *c*. AD 45-85, and two pieces from a Central Gaulish roughcast decorated beaker of Flavian-Trajanic date, all from the ploughsoil of Trench 1. Central Gaulish black-slipped ware beaker sherds, one with applied barbotine decoration dating from c. AD 150 into the mid 3rd century AD, were also found in layers **108** and **123** in this trench. The amphorae are predominantly from the ubiquitous Dressel 20 olive oil containers from southern Spain, with a few pieces from Gallic wine amphorae. Mortaria were rare, and only found in Trench 1 (contexts **102**, **107** and **109**). All derived from the Oxfordshire industry, spanning the period between AD 240 and 400 (Young 1977, types M18, WC7 and C100).

5.5.4 The British finewares are also dominated by late Roman products of the Oxfordshire and New Forest industries but the few North Wiltshire colour-

coated ware beaker sherds are earlier, perhaps made during the lifespan of a single potter, *c*. AD 125-140/150 (Anderson 1978, 382). All the New Forest colour-coated ware sherds were from beaker forms, with the greater frequency and wider range of Oxfordshire products emphasising the relative distance of *Cunetio* from these two sources. The Oxfordshire colour-coated wares include pieces from jug (Young 1977, type C14), beaker (type C22) and a variety of bowls (types C45, C48, C51 and C64) while stamp decorated sherds indicate a distinctively 4th century AD element to this assemblage. Part of a red colour-coated flagon or jug with external rilling from the ploughsoil of Trench 1, probably represents a relatively local, north Wiltshire, product and is likely to be of late 3rd or 4th century AD date.

5.5.5 Together, the oxidised fabrics represent 11% of the sherds. One piece from a north Gaulish flagon was found in Trench 1, while the rest of this group included both local and regional products. Oxidised fabrics were made at Purton, to the west of Swindon (Anderson 1980, 55), for example, and although not present in this assemblage, white-slipped red ware mortaria were made in the north Wiltshire/south Gloucestershire area during the 2nd century AD (Tomber and Dore 1998, 192; Hartley 2001, 223). White-slipped flagons and bowls like those seen here may well have been subsidiary products of this industry (e.g. Seager Smith 2001, 238, fabric 15). Sherds from internally flanged (Fulford 1975, type 89) and wall-sided bowls (Young 1977, 87, type P24), both the most common forms in these New Forest and Oxfordshire white ware fabrics, also came from Trench 1.

5.5.6 The reduced wares, alone accounting for almost three-quarters of the total number of sherds, included the entire range of coarse, utilitarian 'kitchen' vessels as well as finer beakers and bowls for use at table. The Savernake-type and sandy grey wares occurred in approximately equal quantities although there is likely to be a chronological distinction between them. Most of the Savernake-type wares occurred in the hard, more Romanised, lighter coloured versions of this fabric and are probably of 2nd – 3rd century AD date. Such wares were made at Whitehill and Toothill Farms (Anderson 1979, 13) as well as in the Savernake Forest itself. Storage jars are common (Hopkins 1999, forms 12 and 13, figs.29 and 30) and occurred alongside a range of necked, everted rim jars, some with girth grooves (*ibid*., forms 8 and 9), bead rimmed jars (forms 14 and 15), carinated bowls/dishes (form 2), beakers (form 25) and lids (form 16).

5.5.7 The greywares, too, were mostly of local origin, perhaps made in the Savernake Forest (Hopkins 1999, fabric 5), at Purton and other kilns to the west of Swindon (Anderson 1979, 14) and on the Greensand ridge to the south (e.g. Rogers and Rodham 1991; Anderson 1979, fig.2, Broomsgrove kiln) from the 2nd century AD onwards. The single piece of 4th century AD Overwey/Tilford ware from the ploughsoil of Trench 1 highlights the possibility of other vessels from the Alice Holt/Farnham industry being present among this greyware group, although the site lies on the extreme western edge of the main distribution zone of these wares (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, figs. 45-48).

5.5.8 As at Wanborough (Seager Smith 2001, 244), the South-east Dorset Black Burnished wares mainly date to the period after the expansion of this industry around *c*. AD 120, extending into the 4th century AD. Vessel forms

include all the commonly transported types belonging to this period, including everted rim jars, shallow, plain rimmed dishes, flat-, grooved- and dropped flanged bowls/dishes and pulled bead rimmed jars (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, types WA2, 3, 20, 22, 24, 25 and 46). Although not common, the late Roman shelly wares are also well known in the area (Seager Smith 2001, 249, fabric 85; English Heritage 2006, 38), with evidence from Uley (Leach 1993, 233, fabric 9) and the Beeches, Cirencester (Keely 1986, 163) suggesting that they appear in this area only after the middle of the 4th century AD. The three flint-tempered ware sherds, on the other hand, are likely to be of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British date, with one of the pieces (ploughsoil Trench 1) carrying faint tooled decoration.

5.6 Building Materials

5.6.1 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 and stone types within extant walls), further details have been included in the context descriptions.

Ceramic building materials

5.6.2 With the exception of two small fragments (51g) of medieval/post-medieval roof tile from the ploughsoil of Trenches 4 and 5, all this material was of Romano-British date. The assemblage included fragments of *imbrex* and *tegula* roof tiles, box tiles and bricks, all made in oxidised sandy fabrics and probably produced locally. There were no complete items and part of a small, square *bessales* brick, from the ploughsoil of Trench 3, represented the only complete length/width. Bricks of this type were mainly used to create *pilae* (pillars or piers) which supported the floor above a hypocaust, but they could also be used on floors, archways and as bonding in walls (Brodribb 1987, 34-5). Finger-smeared signatures were noted on two brick fragments from context **207** and the ploughsoil of Trench 3.

Stone building materials

5.6.3 The use of stone as a building material is well-known from previous excavations with the town (Corney 1997) but none of this material was collected during the evaluation. Most of the rock types derive from relatively local sources – chalk, flint and a little sarsen from the immediate locality and various sandstones and limestones, including Pennant and Old Red Sandstone and oolitic limestone, often as finely-dressed blocks, perhaps from the Cotswolds and/or the Bath region. A single tessera, made of Brownstone from the Forest of Dean was found in Trench 3. The use of stone from the Palaeozoic outcrops to the west is very much of feature of this part of the province and a similar range of rock types were used at Wanborough (Anderson and Powell 2001) and at Groundwell Ridge (English Heritage 2006).

Opus signinum

5.6.4 All four pieces were found in the layers of collapsed debris (contexts **307** and **308**) on north side of wall **303**.

Wall plaster

5.6.5 Small quantities of painted plaster were found in Trenches 1 and 4, with by far the greatest quantities from the layers of collapse/demolition debris (contexts **306-8**) on either side of wall **303**, providing some indication of the internal décor of this building. Most pieces, including all those from Trenches 1 (contexts **101** and **106**) and 4 (contexts **401**, **404** and **405**) were plain white, pink, red, yellow or dark grey in colour. Five pieces from layer **307** were painted red and white, suggestive of some form of panel design in this building. The plaster from this context also included one piece with a roller-stamped (wavy lines), limewashed surface and four with free-hand incised lines, possibly marking-out lines for painted designs (cf. Meates 1987, 45). Although in much poorer condition, similar lines were also noted on three white pieces from the ploughsoil of Trench 1.

5.7 Stone objects

5.7.1 Two fragments of Neidermendig lava, imported from the Andernach region of the Rhineland and probably used as a quernstone were found in the fill (**122**) of ditch **112**. Part of a second rotary quern, of Brownstone (Lower Old Red Sandstone) from the Forest of Dean, came from the ploughsoil of Trench 6. Both types also occur at Wanborough (Buckley 2001).

5.8 Worked bone

5.8.1 Three finely-made bone pins were found in layer **106** in Trench 1. All have plain conical heads, one with a single, faint groove beneath and two with two transverse grooves. Although dated to the mid 1st – mid 3rd century AD at Colchester (Crummy 1982, types 1 and 2, fig.17, 113 and fig.18, 162 and 198), more local examples have also been found in later 3rd and 4th century AD contexts (Vaughan 2001, 322). A tapering shank fragment now in two pieces from this same context could derive from a fourth pin or a needle.

5.9 Glass

5.9.1 Part of an opaque green cylindrical bead was found in the ploughsoil of Trench 1; the type has a long life throughout the Roman period (Guido 1978, 95, fig. 37, 5). A piece of blue/green Roman vessel glass was also found in this context but a colourless clear fragment is likely to be of post-medieval or modern date. Three other undiagnostic fragments of blue/green vessel glass likely to be of Roman date were found in the fill (**123**) of ditch **112** and the ploughsoil of Trench 2.

5.10 Fired clay

5.10.1 Most of the fired clay (35 pieces) was found in the ploughsoil and layer **102** in Trench 1, the others were from demolition layer **404**. All were small featureless fragments, probably of structural origin and although chronologically undiagnostic, are likely to be of Roman date.

5.11 Flint

5.11.1 Small numbers of undiagnostic flint flakes were found in the ploughsoil of Trenches 1, 2 and 5 as well as layers **108** and **122** (ditch **112**) in Trench 1. The three pieces from layer **106** comprise a core fragment, a broken flake and a thermal fracture fragment from a tool of some kind. One piece (6g) of

burnt flint was also noted in this layer but not retained. All are likely to be of later prehistoric date, occurring residually in these contexts but are still indicative of generalised prehistoric activity in this vicinity.

5.12 Potential of the assemblage

5.12.1 The evaluation produced a relatively small finds assemblage with no items of particular intrinsic interest. A significant proportion of the assemblage was derived from the ploughsoil and other insecurely stratified contexts.

5.12.2 Chronological evidence from the pottery, coins and other metalwork indicate that activity on the site spans the whole Roman period, although the coins in particular indicate an emphasis on the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD.

5.12.3 The range of material culture is relatively restricted, with only the pottery and coins occurring in any quantity. The pottery 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 (worked bone, slag) or economy (animal bone; querns).

5.12.4 No further analysis is proposed on the finds, with the exception of the coins. In order to place the relatively large collection of coins from this evaluation in the wider context of others from the town, in particular the *Cunetio* hoard, a comprehensive coin list should be drawn up and the coins published in full in an appropriate local or numismatic journal. The remainder of the assemblage has already been recorded to a fairly detailed level (e.g. pottery ware types, 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.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken and processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals (post-hole **125**; make-up layer **206**; make-up layer **403**; **Table 3**). The samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.1.2 The three flots varied in size and contained 10-25% rooty material, which may indicate contamination by later intrusive elements. No charred plant remains were found in the sample from layer **403**, thought to be charcoal-rich, while only small quantities were recovered from post-hole **125** and floor make-up layer **206**.

6.2 Charred plant remains

6.2.1 The charred cereal remains comprised indeterminate grain fragments as well as glumes from hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*). A few charred hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments were also recorded while weed seeds included vetch/wild peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus* spp.), goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.), oats/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* spp.), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and cleavers (*Galium* sp.). This range of species is broadly comparable with other assemblages from rural sites in north Wiltshire (e.g. Stevens 2006) but there is no evidence of any high-status, exotic plant species, while the quantity of cereal remains is far too small to lend any credence to the Corney's (1997, 349) suggestion that the town functioned as an administrative centre, perhaps as a central collection point for taxes, including the *annona militaris*.

6.3 Wood charcoal

6.3.1 The small quantities of wood charcoal retrieved from the flots were mainly mature wood fragments; those from the floor make-up layer **403** were coated in iron.

6.4 Land and fresh/brackish water molluscs

6.4.1 No samples were taken specifically for land snails, but snails were noted in the bulk samples. The preliminary identification of these may aid in the broad characterisation of the wider landscape. Nomenclature is according to Kerney (1999).

6.4.2 The assemblage from posthole **125** included the open-country species *Vallonia* spp., *Pupilla muscorum* and *Helicella itala*, the intermediate species *Helix aspersa, Trichia hispida* and *Cochlicopa* sp. and the shade-loving species *Oxychilus cellarius, Aegopinella nitidula* and *Carychium* sp. An even wider range was found in make-up layer **206** in Trench 2; these included the open country species *Vallonia* spp. and *Helicella itala*, the intermediate species *Trichia hispida* and *Cochlicopa* sp., the shade-loving species *Aegopinella nitidula*, *Discus rotundatus* and *Clausilia bidentata* and the marsh loving species *Succinea/Oxyloma* sp. There were also a few shells of the fresh-water species *Bithynia tentaculata*. A few shells of *Trichia hispida* were recorded in the sample from the floor make-up layer **403** in Trench 4.

6.4.3 These molluscs are indicative of a wide variety of local environments. The general impression is of an open landscape, of grassland and/or arable agriculture, perhaps with patches of longer grass in some areas, with some evidence for occasional flooding in the vicinity.

6.5 Potential

6.5.1 The quantities of charred plant remains, charcoal, land and fresh/brackish water molluscs are all too small to provide any additional information on the nature, management and exploitation of the local environment and its resources. No further work is proposed but the information presented here could be incorporated into the publication text.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1.1 The evaluation clearly demonstrated the survival of substantial, stratified archaeological remains in Black Field, closely corresponding with the evidence from aerial photographs and geophysical survey. In some areas, in particular in the vicinity of the south gate, south-west corner of the defences and Building 8 in the centre of the town, these remains show significant damage from modern ploughing while in others, especially towards the bottom of the slope, the greater depth of ploughsoil provides an effective barrier. Considerable robbing of the main structural stone was evident in all areas of the town.

7.1.2 The high-quality and substantial nature of the wall identified in Trench 3 has confirmed the identification of Building 1 as a structure of considerable status and sophistication. The size of this wall would certainly have been sufficient to support more than a single storey. No evidence for the date of construction was found, but pottery and coins from the overlying demolition/robbing/collapse debris and the ploughsoil of the trench indicate continued activity well into the second half of the 4th century AD. Other finds, in particular the painted wall plaster, *opus signinum* and a single stone tessera, provide some indication of the stylish, fully Romanised interior of this building.

7.1.3 The remains of Building 8, the possible *mansio*, had survived less well than those of Building 1, probably as a result of the shallower ploughsoil in this area. Only limited hand-excavation was undertaken, but the survival of wall lines, associated floor and yard surfaces was demonstrated. No firm evidence for the date of its construction was found but the latest pottery from various floor make-up layers and initial collapse/demolition/robbing deposits was of late 2nd or early 3rd century AD date, tentatively suggesting an early Roman date for its construction. Stone roof tiles noted among the collapse/robbing/demolition debris indicates that this building was probably roofed in stone while small quantities of painted wall plaster (red, yellow, dark brown/grey) highlight the possibility of rooms with Romanised decoration within this structure. The geophysical also provided tentative evidence for hypocaust systems. Although both were of 4th century AD date, only two coins were discovered in the vicinity of this structure, perhaps implying that it was already out of use, even demolished, prior to the main period of coin loss on this site.

7.1.4 The ditch encountered in Trench 1 was filled with gradually accumulated material, incorporating pottery and other finds of mid 2nd – 3rd century AD date. This implies that it was related to the earlier, earth defensive circuit rather than the later stone wall as previously suggested (Corney 1997, 343). No trace of the double ditch forming the main earth circuit was discovered in this trench, but these features could have been masked by the probable chalk rampart found to the north of the stone gate, and might suggest that this rampart is associated with the later, stone defences.

7.1.5 Although extensively robbed, enough of the south gate survived to reveal its monumental proportions and something of its general appearance. Measuring at least 4.6m from north to south, the gateway had a right-angled corner, a solid mortared flint rubble core and, on the south side at least, was

faced with limestone (some reused) and Greensand blocks. A small, flint-lined post-hole against the south face of the gate, just east of the corner, may provide evidence for the scaffolding required during the construction of the gate, possibly including an arch over the carriageway. Sadly, no additional dating evidence was recovered.

7.1.6 The excavation of Trench 6, over the south-west corner of the stone defences, confirmed the extensive robbing of these deposits highlighted by the geophysical survey, but too little excavation was undertaken in this area to provide any further details of the nature, extent, form or chronology of these remains. Elsewhere, the well-preserved oven and other features identified in Trench 5 indicate the existence of a kitchen/bakery or other craft/industrial zone involving the controlled use of heat close to Building 7.

7.1.7 Overall, the 'Time Team' evaluation trenches have successfully demonstrated the extent, character and condition of the Romano-British remains at surviving at *Cunetio*. It is also readily apparent from the results of the geophysical survey that the Site responds extremely well to investigation by these means, and the surveys have provided much additional, highly-detailed information about the defences, building plans and internal street layout of the town as well as evidence for further buildings and areas of possible industrial activity outside the walls. The evaluation has also proved a remarkably good correlation between the evidence from crop marks, geophysical survey and the excavated trenches.

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 *Wiltshire Studies* (the journal of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society), is suggested as an appropriate 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, with a brief discussion of the results.

8.1.2 Only the coins merit detailed attention; a comprehensive coin list should be drawn up and the coins published separately, in full, in *Wiltshire Studies* or an appropriate numismatic journal.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The archive, which includes all artefacts, written, drawn, photographic and digital records relating directly to the investigation is undertaken, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project number 71509. In due course, the archive will be transferred to the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes.

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Table 1: Finds totals by material type

Material	No.	Wt. (g)
Animal bone	1324	18,836
Building materials:		
ceramic building materials	289	23,866
opus signinum	4	719
stone *tessera*	1	9
wall plaster	74	1508
Fired clay	38	813
Flint	11	61
Glass	6	10
Metalwork:		
coins	98	-
copper alloy	8	-
iron	4	-
lead	23	-
metalworking debris	10	327
Pottery	1322	26,999
Shell	171	4162
Stone objects	3	2009
Worked bone	4	5

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

Ware	No.	Wt. (g)
Romano-British:		
Samian	60	371
Central Gaulish black slipped ware	3	9
Central Gaulish colour-coated ware	2	8
Terra Nigra	1	5
Terra Rubra	1	8
Amphora	23	4301
Oxon whiteware mortaria	11	235
Oxon colour coated ware mortaria	4	104
Oxon white-slipped red ware mortaria	1	14
Oxon colour coat	57	578
New Forest colour coat	12	247
North Wilts colour-coated ware	11	74
Local red slipped ware	1	44
Oxidised ware	124	758
White-slipped red wares	23	157
Oxon whiteware	3	76
New Forest parchment ware	2	67
NW Gaulish flagon fabric	1	21
Savernake-type ware	450	12,964
Greyware	411	4922
South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware	110	1922
Late Roman shelly wares	4	47
Flint-tempered	3	37
Overwey/Tilford	1	10
sub-total Romano-British	*1319*	*26,979*
Medieval and later wares:		
Medieval coarseware	1	11
Redware	2	9
Overall Total	**1322**	**26,999**

Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				Flot							
Feature	**Context**	**Sample**	**Litres**	**Flot (ml)**	**% roots**	**Grain**	**Chaff**	**Charred other**	**Comments**	**Charcoal >4/2mm**	**Other**
Posthole	126	2000	3	25	10	C	C	C	Indet. grain frag, hulled wheat glume base, *Chenopodium, Vicia/Lathyrus*	1/2 ml	Moll-t (A*), Sab (C), min. nodules
Make-up layer	206	2021	13	40	25	C	B	B	Indet. grain frags, hulled wheat glume frags, *Corylus avellana* shell frags, *Avena/Bromus*, *Sambucus nigra, Galium*	3/5 ml	Moll-t (A*), Moll-f (C), Sab (B)
Floor layer	403	2061	0.25	10	15	-	-	-	-	1/3 ml	Moll-t (C)

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5
Sab= small animal bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = freshwater molluscs

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH AND CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

TRENCH 1			
Dimensions: 22.5m x 5m max. x 1.9m max			
Context	**Description**		**Depth**
100		Artefacts from machining/spoil-heap.	
101	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; very dark, almost black silty loam with rare to sparse flint pieces up to 0.15m across.	0.4m max
102	Subsoil	Subsoil/ soil accumulation deposit; dark brown-grey silty loam with very common flint nodules up to 0.3m across. Located to the north of wall 103; depth variable.	0.4m max
103	Structure	Mortared flint rubble foundation of east side of south gateway, c. 3.1m wide. Core composed of unaltered flint nodules up to 0.2m across set within pale creamy brown, slightly sandy poorly-slaked lime mortar. No facing materials were apparent on the north side, presumably robbed, but on the south side the edge of the core was marked by a double row of closely-spaced, large, roughly rectangular flints set longitudinally in the mortar. On the south side of this, two off-sets, each 0.15m wide, were visible. The first of these consisted of a single course of large dressed limestone blocks (*c*. 0.55m x 0.2m x 0.2m) and at least one squared Greensand block, probably representing the facing material of the gateway. These rested on single layer of rough-hewn limestone slabs (c. 0.45m x 0.2m x 0.06m), themselves resting on flint rubble 116. At least one of the limestone facing blocks had clearly been re-used, evidenced by a clamp-slot in its outer face. The right-angled, south-eastern corner of the gate had been badly robbed (well within the level of 116). Associated with platform 115 to the north but relationship not fully investigated.	0.5m
104/108	Layer	Subsoil/ soil accumulation deposit; mid grey-brown silty loam with sparse to moderate flints and chalk up to 0.15m across. Located to south of wall 103; under 101, over 107/109.	0.5m max
105	Surface	Metalled surface or, possibly, remnants of a wall foundation; irregular band of mid grey-brown silty loam with very common flint nodules up to 0.10m across, and abundant chalk pea-grits. Aligned north-east – south-west, 0.8m wide. 0.1m deep. Under 101; over 106 and 110.	0.15m
106	Layer	Soil layer; grey-brown silty loam with sparse flints up to 0.1m across and common chalk flecks. Appears to be under 105 but relationship with 110 was not established; over 134.	0.25m
107/109	Layer	Demolition/collapse/robbing debris, south of gate; dark grey–brown silty loam with very common chalk and flint rubble, up to 0.20m across. Deepest to the west of the gateway, within the carriageway; occasional limestone roof tile fragments noted in this area. Similar to 128 to north of gate.	0.5m
110	Layer	Soil layer in south-east corner of trench, defined by 105; grey-brown silty loam with sparse flints up to 0.1m across and common chalk flecks. Under 108; not fully investigated.	0.2m min.
111	Fill	Upper fill of ditch 112; soft, relatively stone-free brown silty loam with rare flints and chalk pieces up to 0.1m across.	0.55m
112	**Cut**	**Ditch; 3.5m wide with straight, moderately sloping sides and a narrow, flat base. Filled with 111, 122, 123 and 129; cut through disturbed/redeposited clay-with flint (113 and 118) into the natural chalk (135) beneath.**	**1.4m deep**
113	Layer	Disturbed/redeposited natural clay-with-flint; compact orange-brown silty loam with sparse flints up to 0.1m across and chalk	0.6m

		flecks increasing towards base of layer. Overlies natural chalk 135; cut by ditch 112; probably equivalent to 117, 118, 133, 134 and 136.	
114	Layer	Weathering/initial robbing deposit adjacent to south face of wall 103; wedge of soft, light brown, mortar-rich silty loam with rare small flints and chalk pieces, occasional charcoal fleck Under 107, over 116; similar to 124 and 127.	0.25m max
115	Structure	Mortared flint 'platform' to the north of wall 103; hard, mortar-rich, pale brown silty clay with moderate to common flint nodules up to 0.15m across. Two rough courses of stones exposed but no facing material was identified. 2.4m wide; relationship with 103 not investigated – may be part of the same structure simply robbed to a lower level (gateway would then be in the region of 4.6m deep) or deliberately constructed to provide a platform for a superstructure at the back of a narrower gate. An irregular east-west scar, 0.1m deep, across the surface of 115 may represent modern plough damage or could have provided a setting for timber scaffolding posts.	0.27m min
116	Structure	Footing for wall 103; visible only on the south side. Three regular courses of small, unaltered flint and sandstone fragments in a hard, creamy yellow-brown poorly-slaked lime mortar.	0.25m
117	Layer	Disturbed/redeposited natural clay-with-flint; compact orange-brown silty loam with sparse flints up to 0.1m across. Located immediately south of 116; surface only exposed, not fully investigated. probably equivalent to 113, 118, 133, 134 and 136.	-
118	Layer	Disturbed/redeposited natural clay-with-flint; hard, orange-brown silty clay with common charcoal flecks, chalk pea-grits and rare flint pieces. Surface only exposed. Cut by probable pit 119; equivalent to 113, 117, 133, 134 and 136.	-
119	**Cut**	**Probable pit; continued beyond eastern edge of trench; exposed area was 1.5m long and 0.4m wide. Not fully investigated. Filled with 120.**	
120	Fill	Fill of probable pit 119; mid brown silty loam with rare to sparse flints, charcoal and two pieces of animal bone (not collected). Surface only exposed.	-
121	Fill	Fill of ditch 112; 0.1m wide band on upper part of the north edge of ditch 112; dirty orange-brown silty clay with flints up to 0.1m across and chalk flecks. Probably just represents poorly-cleaned ditch sides; not fully investigated.	-
122	Fill	Fill of ditch 112; Light grey-brown silty clay loam with rare flints up to 60mm across, frequent chalk flecks, charcoal and pottery. Under 111; over 123.	0.25m
123	Fill	Fill of ditch 112; soft, virtually stone-free light brown silty loam with rare charcoal flecks. Gradually accumulated material. Under 122; over 129.	0.4m
124	Layer	Mortar-rich deposit on south and west sides of the gate; soft, light yellow-brown silty loam with rare large flints up to 0.16m across and common poorly-slaked lime crushed mortar fragments similar but slightly less gritty to that used in the construction of wall 103. Not fully investigated. Similar to 114 and 127.	0.3m min.
125	**Cut**	**Post-hole; approx. 0.36m in diameter and lined/packed with unaltered flint nodules up to 0.15m across, leaving a post-pipe c. 0.15m in diameter in the centre. Flint packing left *in situ* and depth not fully excavated. Located immediately in front of the south face of the second off-set of gate 103 and approximately 1m to the east of the corner of the carriageway; may have provided a setting for the timber scaffolding needed to build the gate's arch. Filled with 126.**	**0.4m min.**

126	Fill	Fill of posthole 125; soft, friable mid brown silty loam with rare charcoal flecks; not fully excavated.	0.4m min.
127	Layer	Weathering/initial robbing deposit against north face of platform 115; soft, light brown silty loam with common chalk pea-grits and sparse flints up to 0.1m across. Similar to 114 and 124; under 128; over 133.	0.25m
128	Layer	Demolition/collapse/robbing debris, north of gate/platform 103/115; friable, mid brown silty loam with very common chalk and abundant flint rubble, up to 0.15m across. Under 102; over 130, similar to 107/109 to south of gate.	0.3m
129	Fill	Basal fill of ditch 112; soft, virtually stone-free mid brown silty loam with rare charcoal flecks. Gradually accumulated material. Under 123.	0.25m
130	Layer	Possible chalk rampart; band of moderately compact, pale brown silty loam with abundant chalk pieces up to 0.06m across and pea-grits, rare flints up to 0.1m across. Min. 4.4m wide, continuing beyond edge of trench to north. Southern edge coincides with post-hole 131; over 136.	0.3m
131	**Cut**	**Post-hole, possibly forming part of revetment on south side of chalk bank 130; subcircular, c. 0.25m in diameter with steeply sloping sides and a pointed base. Filled with 132; cuts 133.**	**0.3m**
132	Fill	Fill of post-hole 131; almost stone-free mid grey-brown silty loam with sparse chalk flecks.	
133	Layer	Disturbed/redeposited natural clay-with-flint located between gate/platform 103/115 and chalk rampart 130; mottled orange-brown/ dark grey-brown silty loam with common chalk flecks and pea-grits, occasional charcoal flecks. Not fully excavated but cut by post-hole 131; under 127; probably equivalent to 113, 117, 118, 134 and 136.	0.2m min.
134	Layer	Disturbed/redeposited natural clay-with-flint located in extreme south-west corner of trench; compact, orange-brown silty loam with sparse flints up to 0.1m across and occasional charcoal flecks. Not fully investigate but under 106and probably equivalent to 113, 117, 118, 133 and 136.	0.1m min
135	Natural	Natural chalk exposed in the lower part of ditch 112; under 113/117.	-
136	Layer	Disturbed/redeposited natural clay-with-flint exposed in the extreme north-east corner of trench; compact orange-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Surface only exposed; under chalk rampart 130; probably equivalent to 113, 117, 118, 133 and 134.	-

TRENCH 2			
Dimensions: 5.2m x 3.4m x 0.25m			
Context	**Description**		**Depth**
200	-	Artefacts from machining/spoil-heap.	
201	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; very dark, almost black silty loam with sparse flint pieces up to 0.15m across.	0.25m
202	**Cut**	**Foundation trench for wall footing 203; seen only in small sondage on the east side of the wall against the north edge of trench, not fully excavated. Straight, vertical eastern side not bottomed. Filled with 203 and 204.**	**0.4m (min)**
203	Structure	North-south aligned mortared flint rubble wall footing; 0.8m wide and constructed from large, roughly knapped flint nodules set within a weak, pale orange-brown, poorly-slaked lime mortar.	-

		Roughly coursed (up to three exposed) – surviving height 0.3 - 0.5m high. Built close against the side of foundation trench 202. Relationship with walled 211 not examined.	
204	Fill	Almost coincidental soil filling foundation trench 202, on east side of wall footing 203; mid grey-brown silty loam with rare small flint fragments less than 30mm across. Width 0.03m; not bottomed.	0.4m (min)
205	Surface	Compacted chalk surface; abundant crushed chalk fragments mixed with 5-7% dark grey-brown silty loam. Seen in small sondage on the east side of wall footing 203 and in north-east corner of trench. Under 209, over 206; similar to 212.	60-70mm
206	Layer	Make-up layer for chalk surface 205; a very mixed, mottled mid-pale brown silty loam with natural flint pieces and chalk fragments up to 0.1m across, charcoal flecks and crushed mortar. Seen only in small sondage on the east side of the wall against the north edge of trench; under 205, over 207.	0.20m
207	Layer	Soil accumulation deposit; orange-brown silty clay with rare flint and chalk pieces up to 0.1m across, occasional charcoal flecks and crushed ceramic building material. Seen only in small sondage on the east side of the wall against the north edge of trench; under 206, over 217.	0.14m
208	Surface	Compacted flint gravel surface or floor; grey-brown silty loam with abundant flint gravel pieces up to 50mm across. Survives as an irregular patch in the angle defined by wall foundations 203 and 211 but may originally have extended across whole area, subsequently destroyed by ploughing. Under 201, over 209.	0.05m
209	Layer	Make-up layer for gravel surface 208; mid grey-brown silty loam with patches of orange-brown lime mortar, rare flints up to 60mm across and common chalk or poorly-slaked lime mortar pea-grits. Survives in irregular patches but may originally have extended across whole area, subsequently destroyed by ploughing. Under 208, over 205.	0.06m
210	Surface	Compacted gravel surface; pale yellow-brown silty loam with sparse flint gravel up to 50mm across and common chalk or poorly-slaked lime mortar pea-grits. Surface only exposed; north-western corner of trench defined by wall footings 203 and 211; may represent surface of the inner courtyard. Under 201.	–
211	Structure	East-west aligned mortared flint rubble wall footing; 0.8m wide and constructed from unworked flint rubble set in pale yellow-brown sandy lime mortar. Surface only exposed and really only readily apparent at east side of trench. Relationship with wall footing 203 not investigated.	-
212	Surface	Compacted chalk surface surviving in south-western corner of the trench defined by wall footings 203 and 211; abundant crushed chalk fragments mixed with 5-7% dark grey-brown silty loam. Similar to 205. Not fully investigated but cut by modern plough mark 216, indicating minimum depth.	0.05m min.
213	Fill	Fill of plough mark 216; very dark grey brown silty loam with sparse flints up to 0.15m across and occasional limestone and ceramic building material pieces. Dark colour probably results from the incorporation of modern ploughsoil. Not fully excavated.	0.05m min.
214	Surface	Compacted soil and crushed mortar surface in south-eastern corner of trench; mixture of orange-brown sandy mortar and dark grey-brown silty loam with rare flints up to 80mm across and chalk or poorly-slaked lime pea-grits. Not fully excavated. Under 215.	0.08m min.
215	Layer	Collapse/demolition deposit; very dark grey-brown silty loam with common flints up to 0.2m across and limestone roof-tile fragments. Located under 201 in the south-eastern part of the trench and only removed in irregular patches; not fully investigated.	0.1m

216	**Cut**	**Modern plough mark; slightly irregular linear feature aligned north-south, parallel to the west side of wall footing 203. c. 3m long, 0.1 – 0.5m wide. Not fully excavated. Cuts 212, filled with 213.**	**0.05m min.**
217	Layer	Possible occupation deposit; very dark grey silty clay with rare flints up to 50mm across, chalk and charcoal flecks. Surface only exposed in the sondage on north edge of trench; not fully investigated. Under 207.	-

TRENCH 3			
Dimensions: 6.3m x 1.9m x 1.27m			
Context	**Description**		**Depth**
300	-	Artefacts from machining/spoil-heap.	
301	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; very dark grey-brown silty loam with common flints up to 0.1m across. This layer is deeper than in the other trenches because this one is located at the bottom of the slope. Over 302 and 304.	0.4m
302	Layer	Soil accumulation layer south of wall 303; dark grey-brown silty loam with rare flints up to 0.1m across. Extends as a thin skim (40mm thick) over the south side of the surviving wall 303. Under 301; over 302; equivalent to 304.	0.04 – 0.2m
303	Structure	Substantial, well-built east/west wall of Building 1; exposed length = 1.8m; 1.25m wide. 3 courses of roughly-faced, knapped flint nodules resting on a single layer of flat limestone slabs survive. The core consists of unaltered flint nodules set within pale orange-brown poorly-slaked lime mortar, with more or less horizontal layers of mortar separating the courses. Rests on foundations 310/313.	0.35m
304	Layer	Soil accumulation layer north of wall 303; dark grey-brown silty loam with rare flints and rounded pebbles up to 80mm across. Deepest against the north face of wall 303, becoming shallower further north. Under 301; over 305; equivalent to 302.	0.2m max.
305	Layer	Collapse/demolition/robbing debris on north side of wall 303 and probably associated with it; mid grey-brown silty loam with common to abundant flint pebbles; shallowest against face of wall, depth increasing further north. Under 304; over 306; equivalent to 306.	0.08 – 0.26m
306	Layer	Collapse/demolition/robbing debris on south side of wall 303 and probably associated with it; mid grey-brown silty loam with abundant flint pebbles and rare large nodules. Depth variable. Under 302; over 308; equivalent to 305.	0.25m max
307	Layer	Lower collapse/demolition/robbing debris on north side of wall 303. Pale yellow-brown sandy silt loam (colour and texture derived from crushed mortar – up to 70%) with common flints, mortar lumps, ceramic building material fragments, including hypocaust tiles, and painted wall plaster. Small area of disturbance noted in section immediately adjacent to the north face of wall. Under 305; over 309; equivalent to 308.	0.22m max.
308	Layer	Lower collapse/demolition/robbing debris on south side of wall 303. Pale yellow-brown sandy silt loam (colour and texture derived from crushed mortar – up to 70%) with common flints, mortar lumps, ceramic building material fragments, including hypocaust tiles, *opus signinum* and painted wall plaster. Under 306; over 314; equivalent to 307.	0.3m max
309	Surface	Mortar surface; very compact, cream silty sand with rare, small flints. Forms a good surface, possibly even a floor – or a make-	0.05m

		up/foundation/raft – for another, now missing floor but it does not extend as far as the north face of wall 303. Under 307; over 310.	
310	Structure	Foundation for wall 303, north side; large, unaltered flint nodules set with pale orange-brown, poorly-slaked lime mortar. In the east-facing section of the trench, this material can be seen continuing for at least 0.9m northwards, beyond the north face of wall 303 but its full extent was not investigated. Under 303; over 311; equivalent to 313; approximate full width of 310/313 below wall 303 is *c*. 2.4m.	0.25m
311	Surface	Possible floor surface (3rd in sequence of 3 on north side of wall 303 but relationship with wall not fully investigated). Hard, compacted, off-white puddled or rammed chalk layer. Clear boundary with 310 above but more diffuse with its levelling/make-up layer 324 below.	0.1m
312	Surface	Possible floor surface (2nd in sequence of 3 on north side of wall 303 but relationship with wall not fully investigated). Moderately hard, compacted, off-white puddled or rammed chalk layer Under 324, over 325.	0.1m
313	Structure	Foundation for wall 303, south side; large, unaltered flint nodules set within pale orange-brown, poorly-slaked lime mortar. Extends at least 0.25m beyond the south-face of wall 303 and may (just) represent the upper part of the fill of foundation trench 322.	0.22m
314	Layer	Soil accumulation layer, south of wall 303; mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles. Northern end cut by foundation trench 322; over 315.	0.18
315	Layer	Soil accumulation layer, south of wall 303; mid orange-brown silty clay with very common flint gravel pebbles and rare manganese flecks. Under 314; over 319.	0.15m
316	Surface	Possible floor surface (1st in sequence of 3 on north side of wall 303 but relationship with wall not fully investigated). Moderately hard, compacted, off-white puddled or rammed chalk layer. Under 325; over 317.	0.08m
317	Layer	Possible occupation deposit (north side of wall 303 but relationship with wall not fully investigated). Thin but moderately compact dark greenish-yellow silty loam with rare flints up to 50mm across. Under 316; over 318	0.03m
318	Surface	Possible mortar floor (north side of wall 303 but only a small area was exposed and the relationship with wall was not fully investigated). Moderately compact layer of pale yellow-brown, poorly-slaked lime mortar with common flints up to 80mm across. Under 317; over 323.	0.1m
319	Layer	Possible occupation layer; dark greenish-brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks exposed in small sondage against the south face of wall 303. Under 315; over 320.	0.03m
320	Layer	Reworked natural/ top of the natural clay-with-flint; orange-brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel, manganese and charcoal flecks. Only investigate in a small sondage on south side of wall; not bottomed; under 319; equivalent to 320.	0.03m min.
321	Fill	Fill of probable wall foundation trench 322; moderately compact pale brown silty clay with abundant small rounded flint pebbles and rare mortar flecks. Under 313.	0.15m
322	**Cut**	**Probable wall foundation trench; limited area only investigated on south side of wall 303. Straight, vertical southern side, approximately 0.2m away from the south face of wall/foundation 303/313; flat base. Filled with 321.**	**0.15m**
323	Layer	Reworked natural/ top of the natural clay-with-flint; orange-brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel, manganese and charcoal	-

		flecks. Excavation halted at surface of the deposit. Under 318; equivalent to 320.	
324	Layer	Make-up layer for surface 311; dark grey-brown silty loam with rare flints up to 0.12m across. Under 311; over 312.	0.05m
325	Layer	Make-up layer for surface 312; dark grey-brown silty loam with rare flints up to 0.15m across. Under 312; over 316.	0.1m

TRENCH 4			
Dimensions: 8m x 2m x 0.3m			
Context	**Description**		**Depth**
400	-	Artefacts from machining/spoil-heap.	
401	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; dark grey-brown silty loam with sparse flint pieces up to 0.15m across.	0.26m
402	Surface/ Layer	Compacted chalk surface or lens with collapse / demolition / robbing debris; irregular area of light grey compacted chalk in the centre of the trench. Its eastern edge more or less coincides with that of robber trench 413, but in section, at least, this layer peters out before meeting up with the north side of wall 409.	0.08m
403	Layer	Make-up layer under 402; black silty loam with abundant charcoal flecks.	0.06m
404	Layer	Mortar-rich layer, probably collapse/demolition/robbing debris; light red-brown sandy loam with sparse flint gravel up to 30mm across, abundant crushed mortar pieces and at least two hand-made iron nails. Sondage on southern edge of trench. Under 403; over 415; similar to 418.	0.06m
405	Layer	Soil and rubble layer; probably collapse / demolition / robbing debris; mid grey sandy loam with common flint gravel and chalk pieces, rare charcoal flecks. Under 415; over 416.	0.24m
406	Surface	Rammed chalk floor; very compacted light grey silty loam with abundant crushed chalk and rare flints up to 0.1m across. At least one hand-made iron nail. Surface only exposed, layer not fully investigated. Under 417 and 419.	0.04m min.
407	Layer	Rubble layer, probably collapse/demolition/robbing debris associated with wall 411; dark grey brown silty loam with moderate flints up to 0.3m across, rare chalk pieces and crushed red-brown mortar fragments. Under 401; over 408.	0.2m
408	Layer	Rubble layer; mid brown silty loam with sparse flints up to 0.2m across, crushed mortar and charcoal flecks. Surface only exposed, not further investigated. Under 407.	-
409	?Structure	Possible north-south wall; small area of sparse flints (up to 0.2m across) set in a mid grey-brown sandy loam seen at the western end of the sondage against the southern edge of trench, and interpreted as part of a wall predicted in this area by the geophysical survey. However, this area was not fully cleaned or investigated in detail so the existence of a wall in this area is mostly conjectural.	-
410	Structure	Remnants of a robbed, earth-bonded flint rubble wall; unaltered flints, up to 0.2m across) set within a mid grey-brown silty loam. Approximately 0.4m wide but ragged edges, especially on the east side, and absence of knapped or otherwise prepared facing stones, suggest that it is only the robbed core surviving.	0.26m
411	?Structure	Possible wall footing or collapse/demolition/robbing debris; unaltered flint nodules to 0.2m across, rare chalk pieces (<0.1m across) and occasional limestone lumps set within weak light red/orange sand and poorly-slaked lime mortar. Only very small area exposed. Fill of 414.	0.25m min.

412	Fill	Fill of possible robber trench 413; light grey-brown silty loam with sparse subangular flints up to 0.1m across, rare chalk fragments, crushed ceramic building material and charcoal flecks. Not bottomed.	0.42m min.
413	**Cut**	**Robber, or less probably, a foundation trench for wall 410; 1.2m wide with straight, almost vertical sides; not fully investigated.**	**0.42m min.**
414	**Cut**	**Construction, or robber, trench for possible wall 411; seen only in plan and insufficient was exposed to permit an accurate interpretation.**	**0.25m min.**
415	Layer	Gravel lens; mid grey sandy loam with sparse to moderate flint gravel up to 30mm across; only seen in section. Under 404; over 405.	0.08m
416	Layer	Possible occupation debris; thin lens of light grey sandy loam with orange-brown clay patches and charcoal flecks. Under 405; over 417.	0.03m
417	Layer	Charcoal-rich occupation debris overlying chalk floor 406.	0.02m
418	Layer	Collapse/demolition/robbing debris, or possibly a mortar floor surface; dark red-brown sandy loam with sparse flints up to 0.3m across and crushed mortar fragments. Similar to 413.	0.12
419	Layer	Accumulated soil layer; mid grey silty sand with rare flint gravel up to 30mm across and rare chalk and charcoal flecks. Under 418; over 406.	0.1m
420	Layer	Collapse/demolition/robbing debris; irregular band of flint, chalk and limestone rubble up to 0.2m across mixed with crushed light red-brown sandy mortar and mid grey-brown sandy loam soil across eastern end of trench. The edges of this layer were not parallel and although the geophysical survey suggested a wall in this area, this deposit seems more likely to represent material derived from a wall rather than the wall itself. Not fully investigated. Under 401; over 411.	-

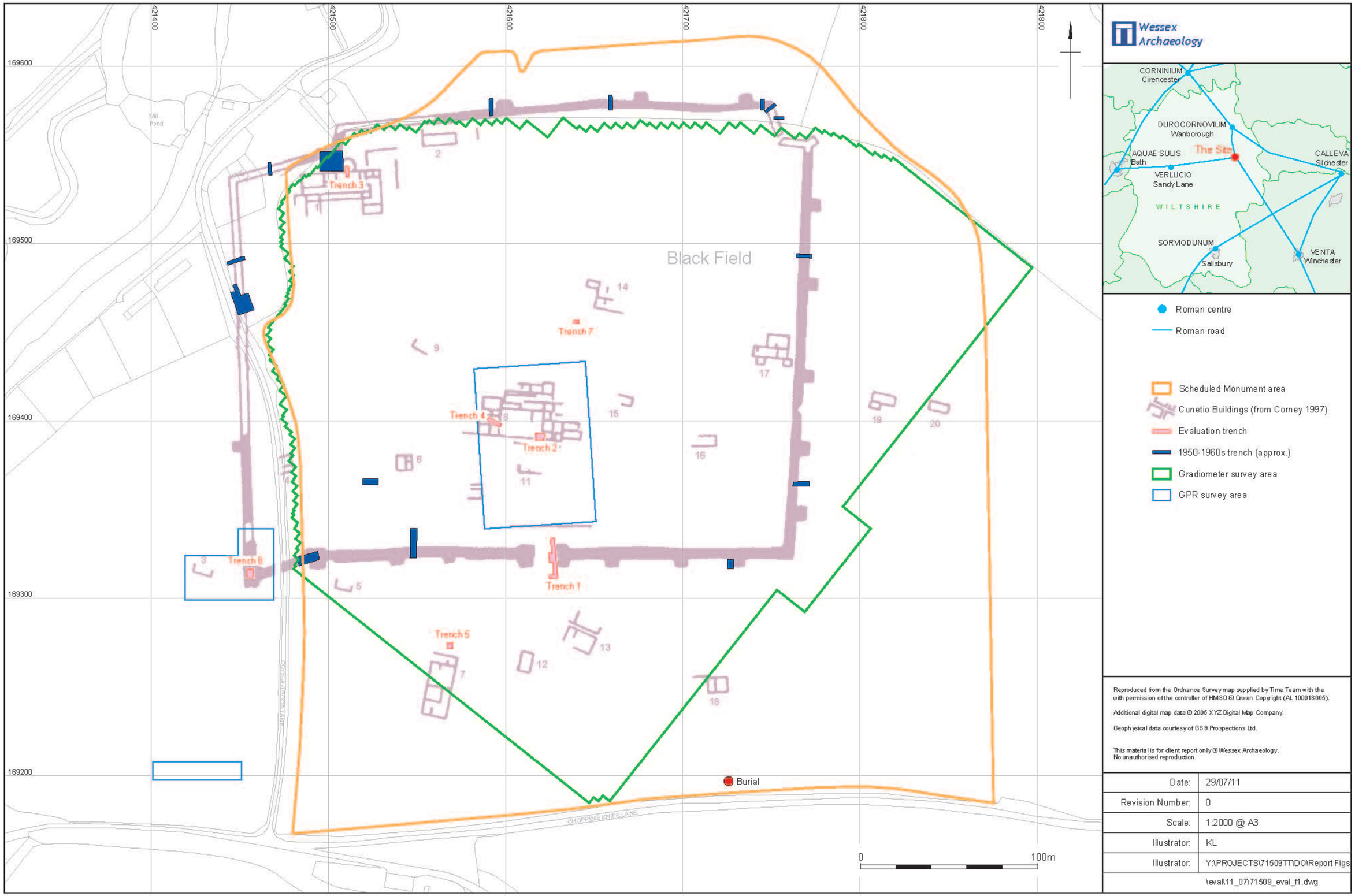
TRENCH 5			
Dimensions: 3m x 3.4m x 0.25m			
Context	**Description**		**Depth**
500	-	Artefacts from machining/spoil-heap.	
501	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; very dark grey-brown silty loam with rare flint pieces up to 0.1m across.	0.25m
502	-	Artefacts recovered during the hand-cleaning of the archaeological deposits.	-
503	Surface	Compacted flint surface; mid yellow-brown silty loam with very common flints up to 0.25m across. Formed a 0.7m wide band across northern end of trench, continuing beyond its limits. Under 501; possibly equivalent to 507 and 508 but separated from them by 504. As only the surfaces of all these deposits were exposed, their relationships remain unknown.	-
504	Surface	Compacted chalk surface; Off-white, crushed chalk mixed with small amounts of dark grey-brown silty loam. Width variable (0.2 – 1m). Surface only exposed and its relationship with surrounding layers (e.g. 503, 507 and 508) was not investigated but it appeared to overlie them, and it is almost certainly later than oven 515 because it seems to overlie and block the filled flue of this structure.	-
505	Structure	Wall of Oven 515; shaped chalk blocks and unaltered flint nodules, some showing traces of burning, set within very pale creamy-brown silty clay mortar with rare chalk or poorly slaked lime pea-	-

		grits. Surface only exposed but seems to be continuous all the way around the chamber and along the flue, at least 0.15m thick. There is some evidence to suggest that it consisted of a double row of stone blocks with a core of smaller, rougher pieces.	
506	Fill	Fill of chamber and flue of Oven 515; mid grey-brown silty loam with rare chalk and flint fragments up to 0.1m across. Surface only exposed; not fully investigated.	-
507	Surface	Compacted flint surface; mid grey-brown silty loam with very common flints up to 0.25m across. Possibly equivalent to 503 and 508 but only exposed in plan and relationships were not investigated.	-
508	Surface	Compacted flint surface; mid grey-brown silty loam with very common flints up to 0.25m across. Possibly equivalent to 503 and 507 but only exposed in plan and relationships were not investigated.	-
509	Fill	Fill of probable pit 516; dark grey-brown silty loam with rare flints up to 0.15m across, sparse chalk pieces, pottery, crushed mortar and charcoal flecks. Surface only exposed, not fully investigated.	-
510	Layer	Probable reworked natural; orange-brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel pieces up to 70mm across, sparse chalk pea-frits and charcoal flecks. Surface only exposed, not fully investigated.	-
511	**Cut**	**Probable oven or pit; roughly circular c. 0.74m in diameter, continuing beyond the limits of excavation. Filled with 512 and 513 but not fully investigated.**	**-**
512	Fill	Fill of probable oven or pit 511; dark grey-brown silty loam with moderate chalk pea-grits, pottery, oyster shell, an iron cleat from a boot/shoe and pieces from a Pennant sandstone roof tile. Not fully investigated.	-
513	Layer	Lining of probable oven or pit 511; unaltered flint nodules up to 80mm across set side by side around the circumference of 511, in a dark orange-brown silty loam. Not fully investigated.	-
514	Layer	Fired clay lining of oven 515; a ring, c. 50mm wide, of soft, orange-yellow fired clay on the inner surface of 505. Small area (c. 0.1m²) of the inner face exposed, showing it to be smoothed and neatly finished. Some evidence to suggest an episode of patching or relining of at least the eastern side of this structure, where two layers of fired clay were visible over a 0.1m - 0.15m area. Not fully investigated.	-
515	Structure	Oven structure; constructed from a mortared chalk and flint wall (505), with a fired clay lining (514) defining a circular chamber, c. 0.9m in diameter, and a short, 0.2m wide, flue to the north. Chamber filled with 506. Not fully investigated and function remains uncertain.	-
516	**Cut**	**Probable pit or other cut feature; subrectangular, at least 1.1m long (continues beyond edge of trench to east) and 0.8m wide. Filled with 509. Not fully investigated.**	**-**

TRENCH 6			
Dimensions: 5m x 3.5m x 0.8m			
Context	**Description**		**Depth**
600	-	Artefacts from machining/spoil-heap.	
601	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; mid grey-brown silty loam with sparse flint and chalk pieces up to 0.1m across. Over 608.	0.28m
602	Layer	Soil and rubble layer, probable collapse / demolition / robbing debris; light grey-brown sandy loam with common large (up to	0.28m

		0.2m across), unaltered flint nodules. Under 608; over 604; relationship with 603 not established.	
603	Layer	Soil layer; light grey-brown sandy loam with occasional chalk flecks. Similar to 602 but without the flint rubble; relationships not established.	0.2m
604	Layer	Soil layer; light yellow-brown sandy loan with occasional large flint nodules. Only small area exposed in sondage in north-east corner of trench; not fully investigated. Under 602 and could just be the fill of a feature cutting the natural chalk (606).	-
605	Layer	Small, triangular area of weathered, pale yellow-brown sand and poorly slaked lime mortar surviving in south-east corner of trench. Edge defined by flint nodules up to 0.15m across. Hand-cleaned but not further investigated; relationship with 507 was not established, but they may be the same with 505 simply surviving at a slightly higher level.	0.1m
606	Natural	Natural chalk, small areas exposed in the sondage in the north-east corner of the trench and on the western edge of mortar deposit 607. Surface only exposed.	-
607	Layer	Mortar deposit; composition similar to that of 605 (pale yellow-brown sand and poorly slaked lime mortar) but was firmer and more compact (probably just less weathered). Relationship with 605 not established but they could well be part of the same thing.	0.06m min
608	Subsoil	Subsoil; light grey-brown sandy loam with sparse to moderate small flint nodules and chalk pieces. Depth variable. Under 601; over 602, 603, 605, 607.	Up to 0.40m

TRENCH 7			
Dimensions: 2.8m x 1.7m x 0.5m			
Context	**Description**		**Depth**
700	-	Artefacts from machining/spoil-heap.	
701	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil; very dark grey-brown silty loam with rare flint and chalk pieces up to 0.1m across. Over 702.	0.25 – 0.5m
702	Fill	Fill of ditch/roadway; very dark grey silty loam with sparse flint and chalk pieces up to 0.15m across. Under 701 but not fully investigated.	-
703	Layer	Small area of orange-brown silty clay with sparse flint gravel up to 30mm across exposed in the north-west corner of trench. Not fully investigated but may represent redeposited natural or even natural clay-with-flint.	-
704	Subsoil	Subsoil; dark red-brown silty loam with rare to sparse flints and chalk pieces up to 0.1m across and charcoal flecks. Not fully investigated; under 700.	-



Wessex Archaeology

Roman centre

Roman road

Scheduled Monument area

Cunetio Buildings (from Corney 1997)

Evaluation trench

1950-1960s trench (approx.)

Gradiometer survey area

GPR survey area

Date:	29/07/11
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:2000 @ A3
Illustrator:	KL
Illustrator:	Y:\PROJECTS\71509TT\DO\Report Figs
	\eval\11_07\71509_eval_f1.dwg

Site location plan

Figure 1

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Date:	29/07/11	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:2000	Illustrator:	KL
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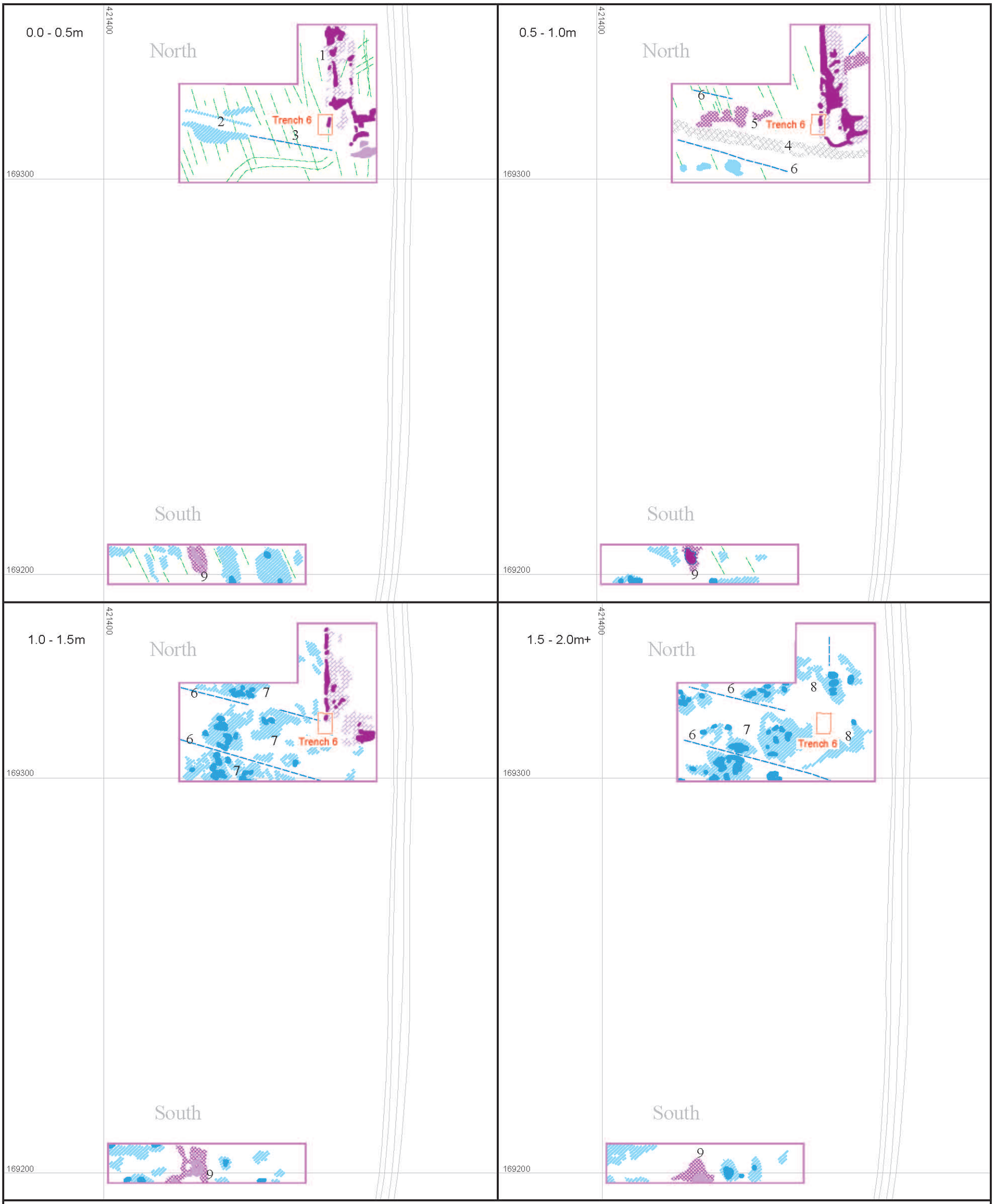
Gradiometer survey results

Figure 2



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GPS survey results

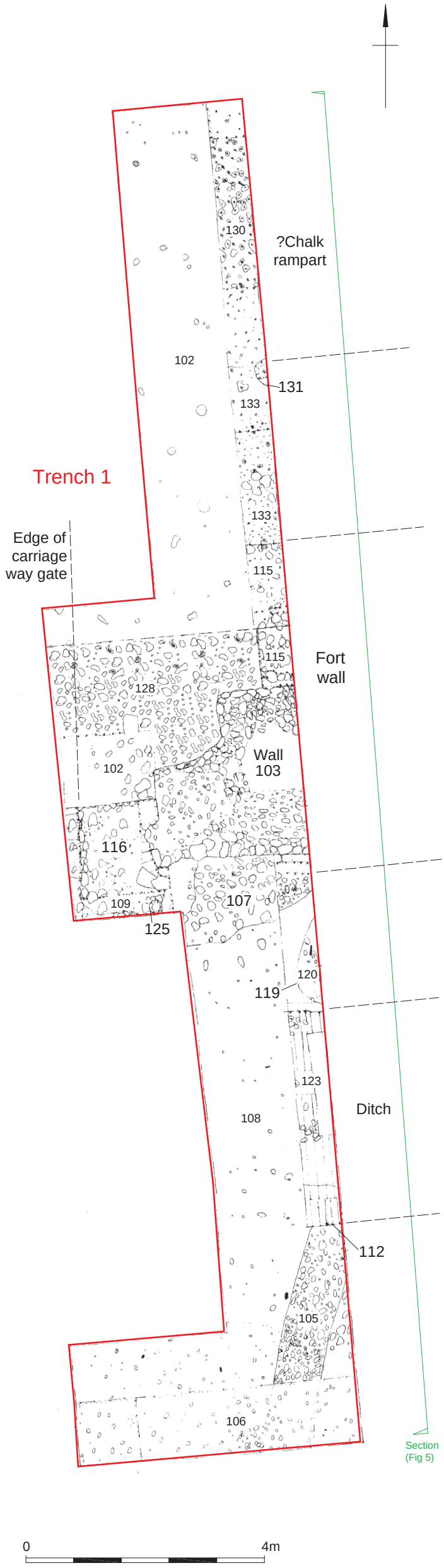
Figure 3

Plate 1: Trench 1, view from north

Plate 2: South gate, view from west

Plate 3: South face of wall 103

Plate 4: Trench 1: view from south



Evaluation trench

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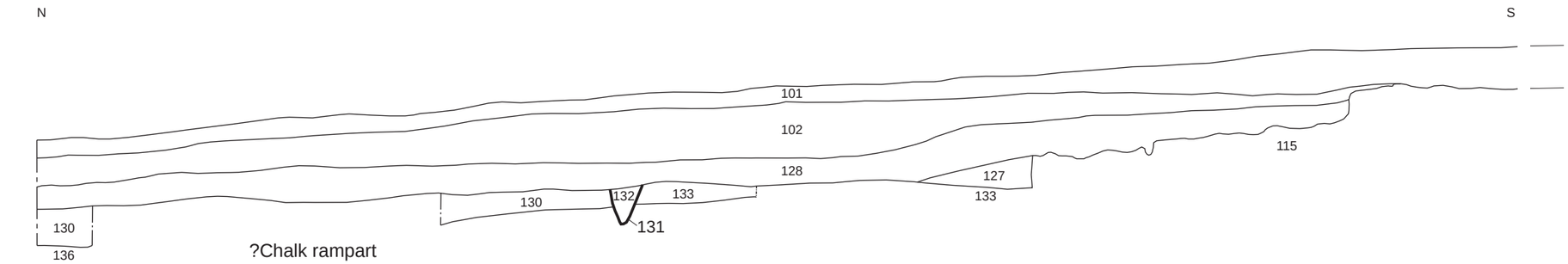
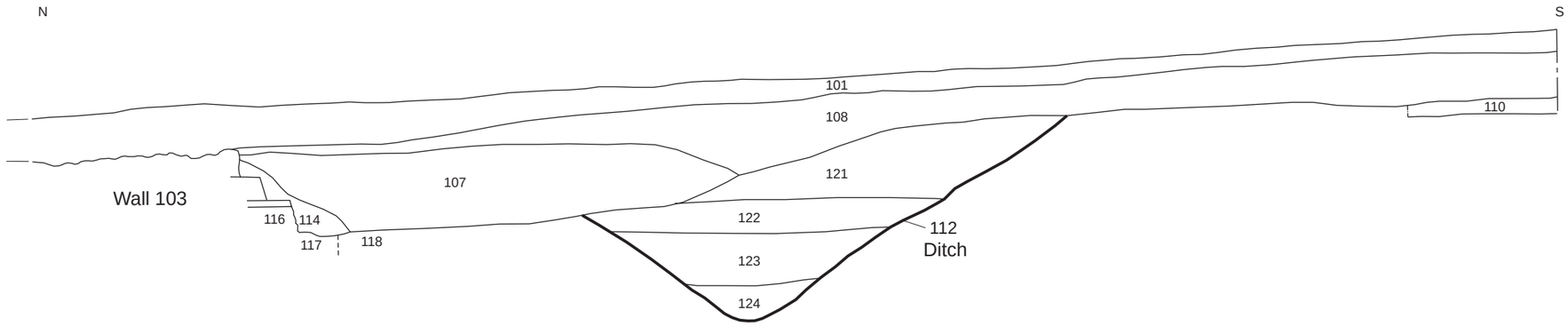
Trench 1: plan and photographs

Figure 4





0 4 m

Date:	29/07/11	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Section @ 1:40	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\71509TT\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\11_07\71509_eval_Fig05.cdr		

Trench 1: section

Figure 5

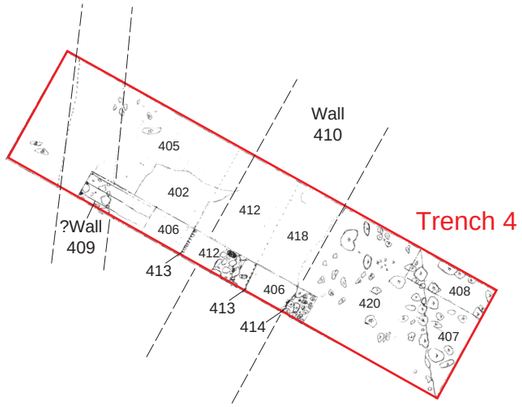


Plate 5: Trench 4, view from east

Plate 6: Trench 4, north-facing section

Plate 8: Trench 2, view from east

Plate 9: Trench 2, modern ploughmark

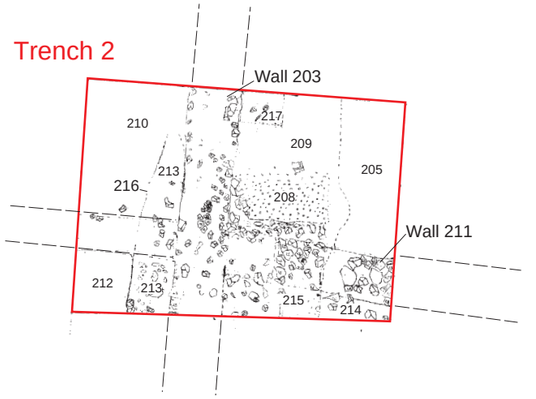


Plate 7: Trench 2, south-facing section

0 5m

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Evaluation trench
Building 8 wall

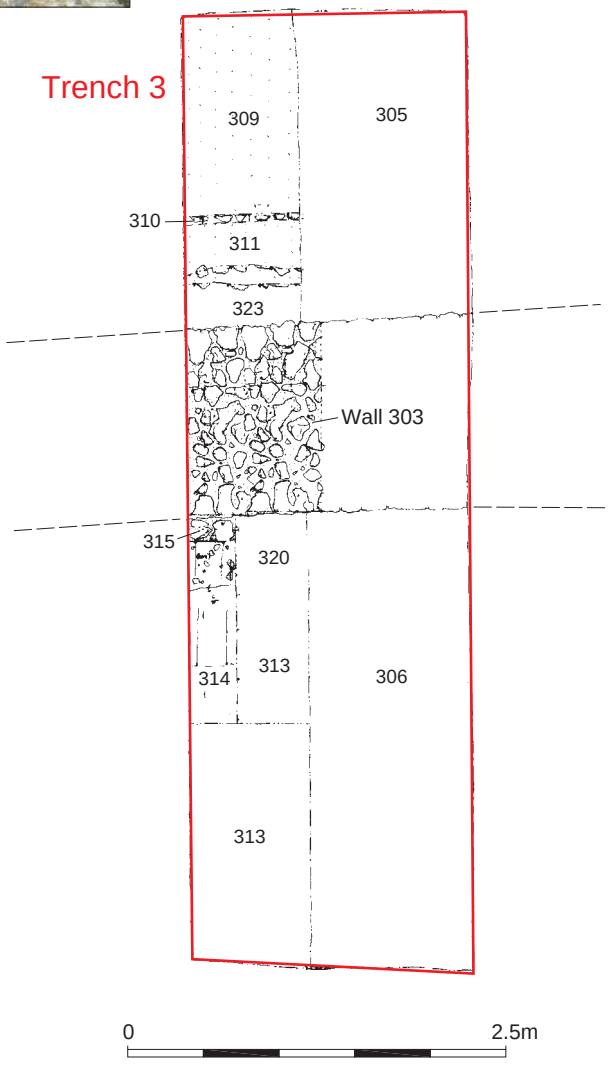
Date:	29/07/11	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:100 @ A3	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\71509TT\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\11_07\71509_eval_f4.dwg		

Trenches 2 and 4: plan and photographs

Figure 6

Plate 10: Wall 303, view from west

Plate 11: North facing section of wall 303 and associated floor deposits



Evaluation trench

Building 1 wall

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Date:	29/07/11	Revision Number:	0
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Trench 3: plan and photographs

Figure 7

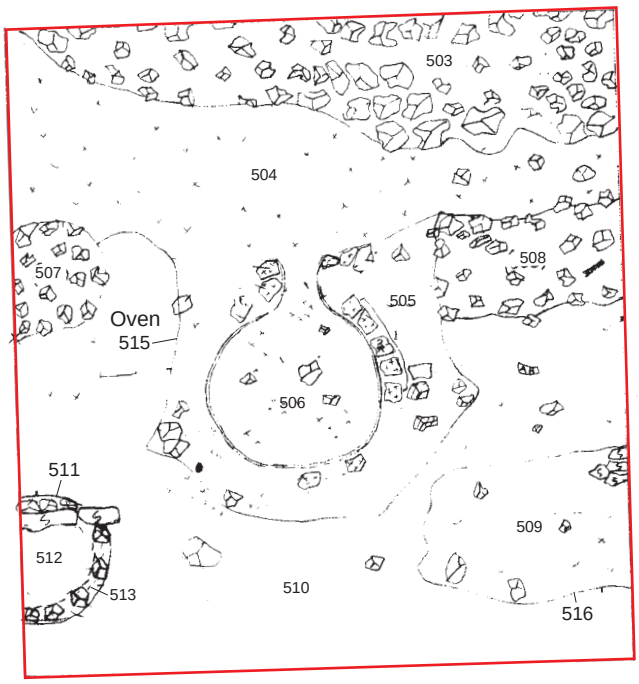

Plate 12: Trench 5, view from south

Evaluation trench

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Date:	29/07/11	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:40 @ A4	Illustrator:	KL
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Trench 5: plan and photograph

Figure 8

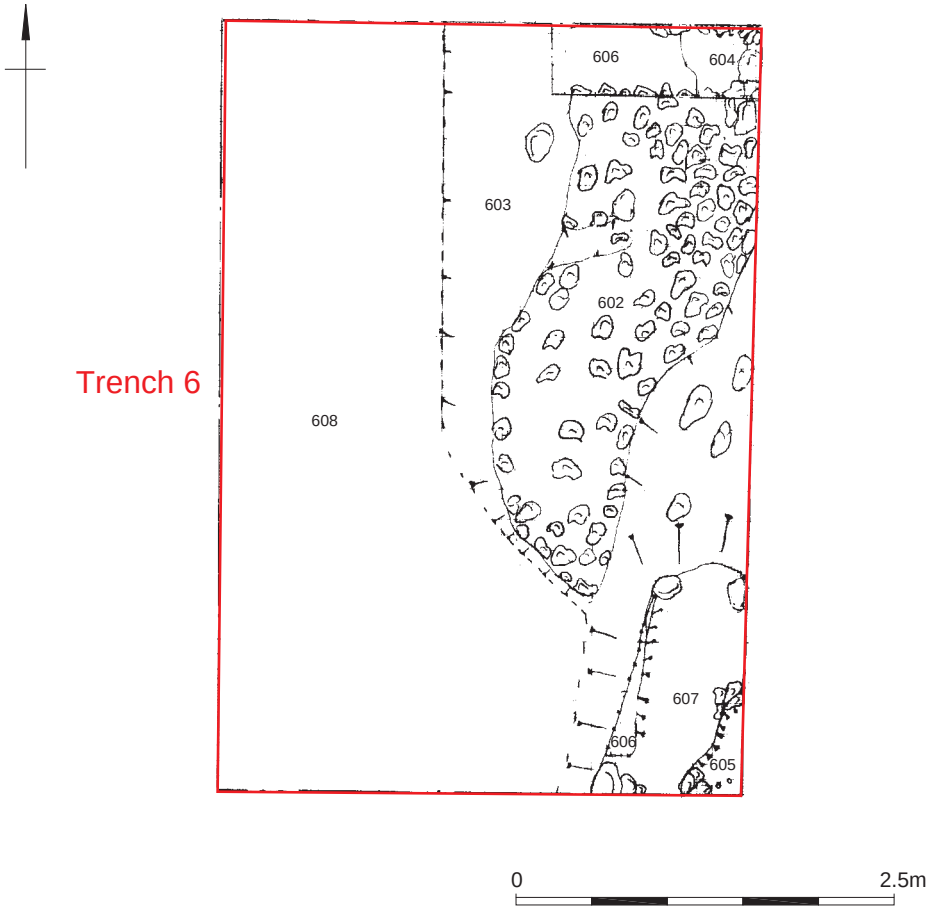

Plate 13: Trench 6, view from west

Evaluation trench

Date:	29/07/11	Revision Number:	0
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Trench 6: plan and photograph

Figure 9

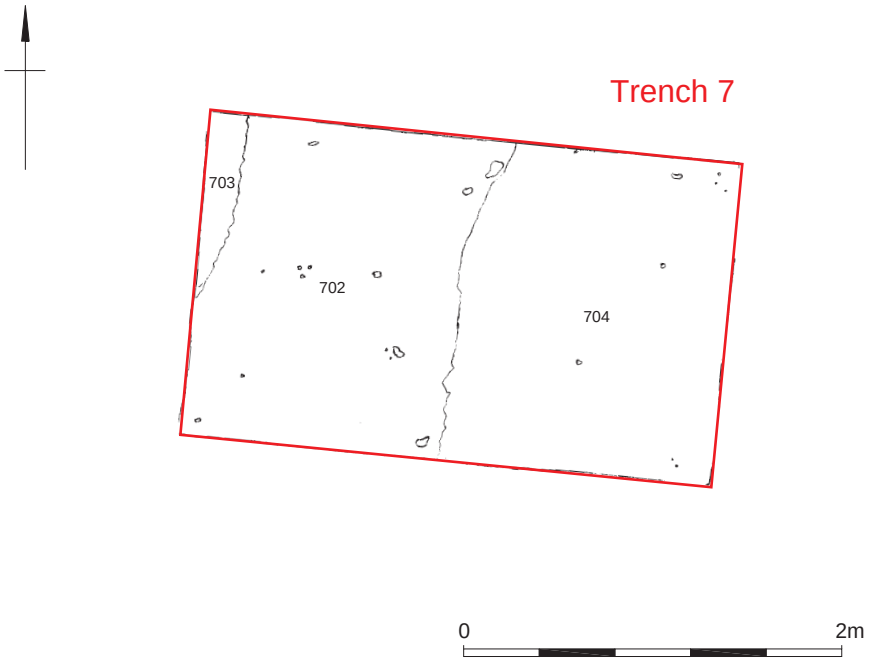

Plate 14: Trench 7, view from north-west

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Evaluation trench

Date:	29/07/11	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:40 @ A4	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\71509TT\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\11_07\71509_eval_f4.dwg		

Trench 7: plan and photograph

Figure 10

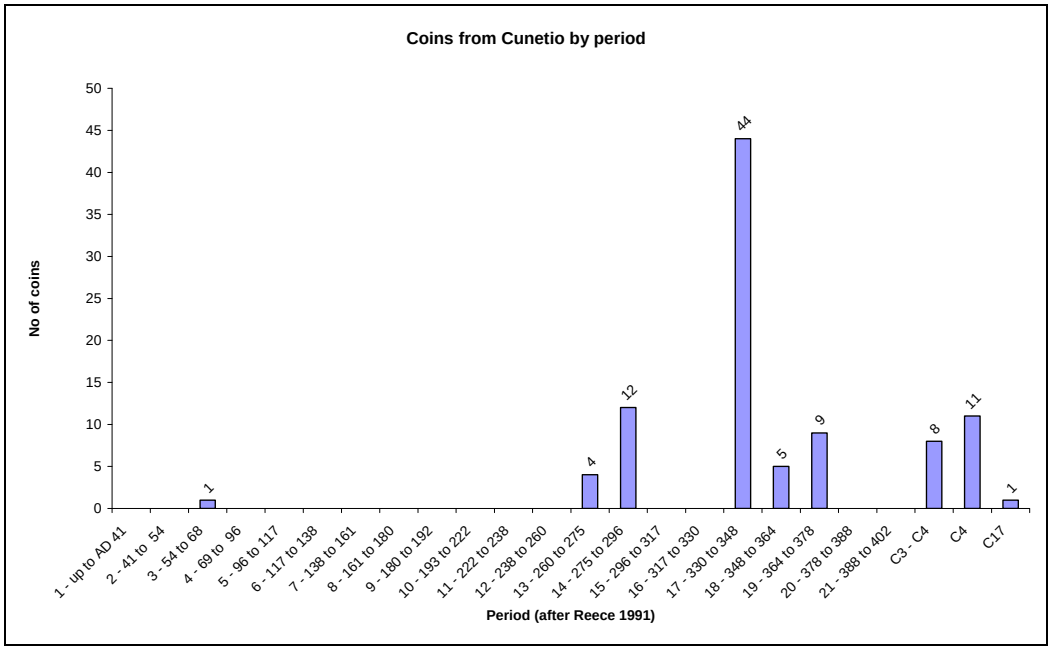

Figure 11: Coins by period

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