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PRESERVATION AND INVESTIGATION OF ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL REMAINS AT HYDE STREET, WINCHESTER

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ABSTRACT

A site just to the north of the Roman, Saxon and medieval walled town of Winchester was investigated. It lay within the historic suburbs, on the line of the Roman road from Winchester to Silchester and partly within the outer precinct of the medieval Hyde Abbey. Evaluation confirmed that well-preserved and deeply stratified archaeological remains of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date survived over much of the site. Consequently, a mitigation strategy, designed to allow the preservation of archaeological remains in situ wherever possible, was developed by Wessex Archaeology in consultation with the developer and the planning authority's archaeological advisors. An accompanying programme of archaeological fieldwork mapped the remains of medieval buildings in the outer precinct of Hyde Abbey, prior to their preservation in situ, and recorded any other remains unavoidably disturbed during development. Findings included the Roman road to Silchester, evidence of structures fronting onto this and cremation burials of both early and late Roman date, together with new evidence for the extent of the Outer Court of Hyde Abbey and the character of occupation within it.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Linden Homes (Southern) Limited to design and implement an archaeological mitigation strategy at the former Evans Halshaw Garage, Hyde Street, Winchester. Previous desk-based assessment (Southern Archaeological Services 1999) and evaluation (Winchester Museums Service 2000) had confirmed that well-preserved and deeply stratified archaeological remains of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date survived on the site.

The site was proposed for redevelopment to provide town houses and flats. Extensive consultation and discussion with the Sites and Monuments Officer of Winchester Museums Service resulted in a foundation design intended to permit the preservation *in situ* of as much of the archaeological remains as possible. Planning consent was subsequently granted by Winchester City Council, subject to a condition requiring archaeological investigation and recording prior to and during redevelopment of the site, as part of the strategy for the preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains. The fieldwork was undertaken between October 2000 and May 2001.

Geology, topography and land-use

The site (Fig. 1), centred on SU 481 300 and comprising an area of approximately 0.6 ha, is situated within the lower reaches of the river Fulflood, a seasonal stream on the western side of the Itchen Valley, the historic course of which probably ran within or near to the site. The underlying natural geology is Upper Chalk, overlain by a thin deposit of alluvial clay.

Hyde Street runs along the western edge of the site, which until recently was occupied by the forecourts, workshops, offices, showrooms and car park of the former Evans Halshaw garage. The majority of these structures dated to the 1960s. The present day surface of the site slopes gently from west to east at between 41.8 m and 40.2 m OD; an electricity substation yard beyond the rear (east) boundary was terraced to a level some 1 m+ below this.

Archaeological and historic background

The site is approximately 120 m north of the Roman town walls, within the historic northern suburbs of *Venta Belgarum* (Fig. 1). The Roman road from Winchester to Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*) runs approximately from south-west to north-east across the site. Excavations immediately to the south of the site identified possible timber structures and other Roman activity along the roadside, with an extensive cremation and inhumation burial cemetery to the west.

The remains of Hyde Abbey (founded *c.* AD 1110) have been investigated by several archaeological excavations to the north and east of the site: parts of the Outer Court of the Abbey are located in the northern half of the site. Documentary sources suggest that a number of properties had developed by AD 1300 beyond the Abbey precinct in the south-west of the site, fronting onto Hyde Street.

Following the dissolution of the Abbey in 1539 a mansion, Hyde House, was built immediately to the north of the site. Much of the site lay within the formal gardens of this house and cartographic sources suggest that it subsequently remained mostly open land for more than three centuries, becoming fully developed only in the 1960s (Southern Archaeological Services 1999). This lack of historic development is the principal reason for the archaeological preservation seen on the site (see below).

By 1753, historic maps show the site divided into three separate areas of open land, with two burgage plots of presumed medieval origin fronting onto Hyde Street in the south-western corner. By the time of the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey in 1871, the site formed the walled, formally planted grounds of a centrally located house; the burgage plots remained in the south-west.

The Hyde Street frontage was developed further from the late 19th or early 20th centuries, with a row of terraced housing along the north-western boundary of the site. The motor works on the site is first mentioned in trade directories in the 1920s and by the 1950s the southern half of the site was given over to this business. The north-eastern part of the site remained undeveloped, although maps depict formal planting here, perhaps an orchard. The garage business was expanded in the 1960s with the demolition of the houses in the north-west of the site to make way for a new forecourt and petrol pumps.

Previous archaeological investigations on the site

An evaluation was undertaken by Winchester Museums Service (Winchester Museums Service 2000), in which eight trial trenches (Fig. 2) were excavated. Four were taken down to natural deposits in order to characterise the full archaeological sequence fronting onto Hyde Street (Trench 1), in the north-east of the site (Trench 2) and in the south-east (Trenches 3 and 5). The remaining trenches were excavated to the top of archaeological deposits only, in order to assist in deposit modelling.

The evaluation identified well-preserved and deeply stratified archaeological remains, ranging in date from the early Roman period to the late Victorian. The principal remains encountered in the south-western part of the site (Trench 1) included the Roman road from Winchester to Silchester, with evidence of roadside occupation in the form of timber structures. Remains of possible late Saxon and medieval secular occupation were also found in Trench 1. At the Hyde Street frontage, post-medieval and modern remains were buried beneath some 0.5 m of modern make-up below the garage forecourt, while at the eastern end of the trench Roman remains were deeply buried beneath over 1 m of garden soil.

In Trench 2 in the north-east of the site, well-preserved remains of the domestic Outer Court of Hyde Abbey were found, together with possible garden features relating to the formal gardens of Hyde House and a suggested 'back lane' of Roman date. The remains here were less deeply buried than those in Trench 1, lying only some 0.5 m beneath the modern car park surface. Four further trenches across the north of the site confirmed that archaeological remains also survived beneath the garage workshop buildings here.

No archaeological remains were found in the south-east of the site (Trenches 3 and 5), which early cartographic evidence suggests was undeveloped. In the north-west, the insertion of fuel tanks

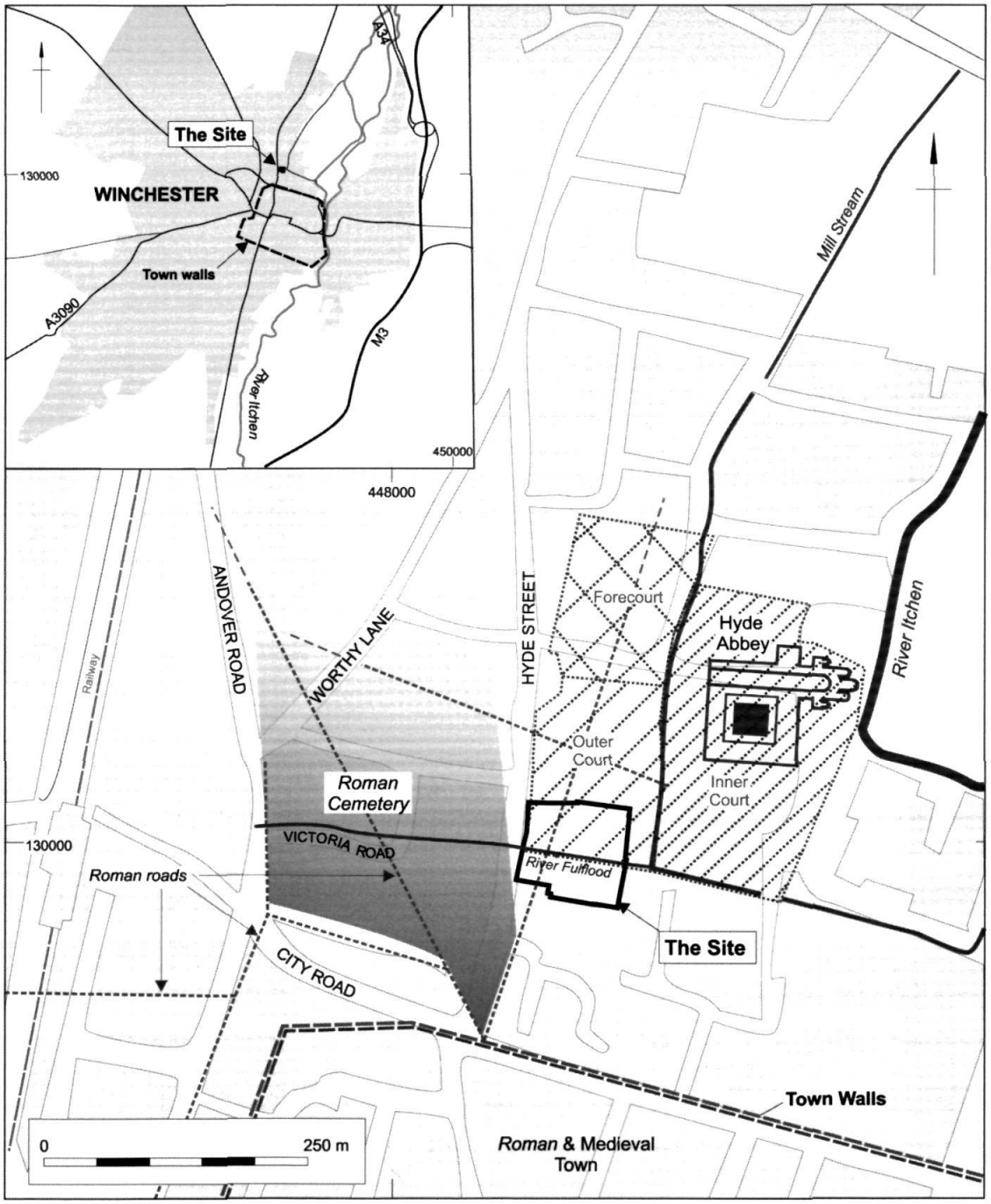

Fig. 1 Site location

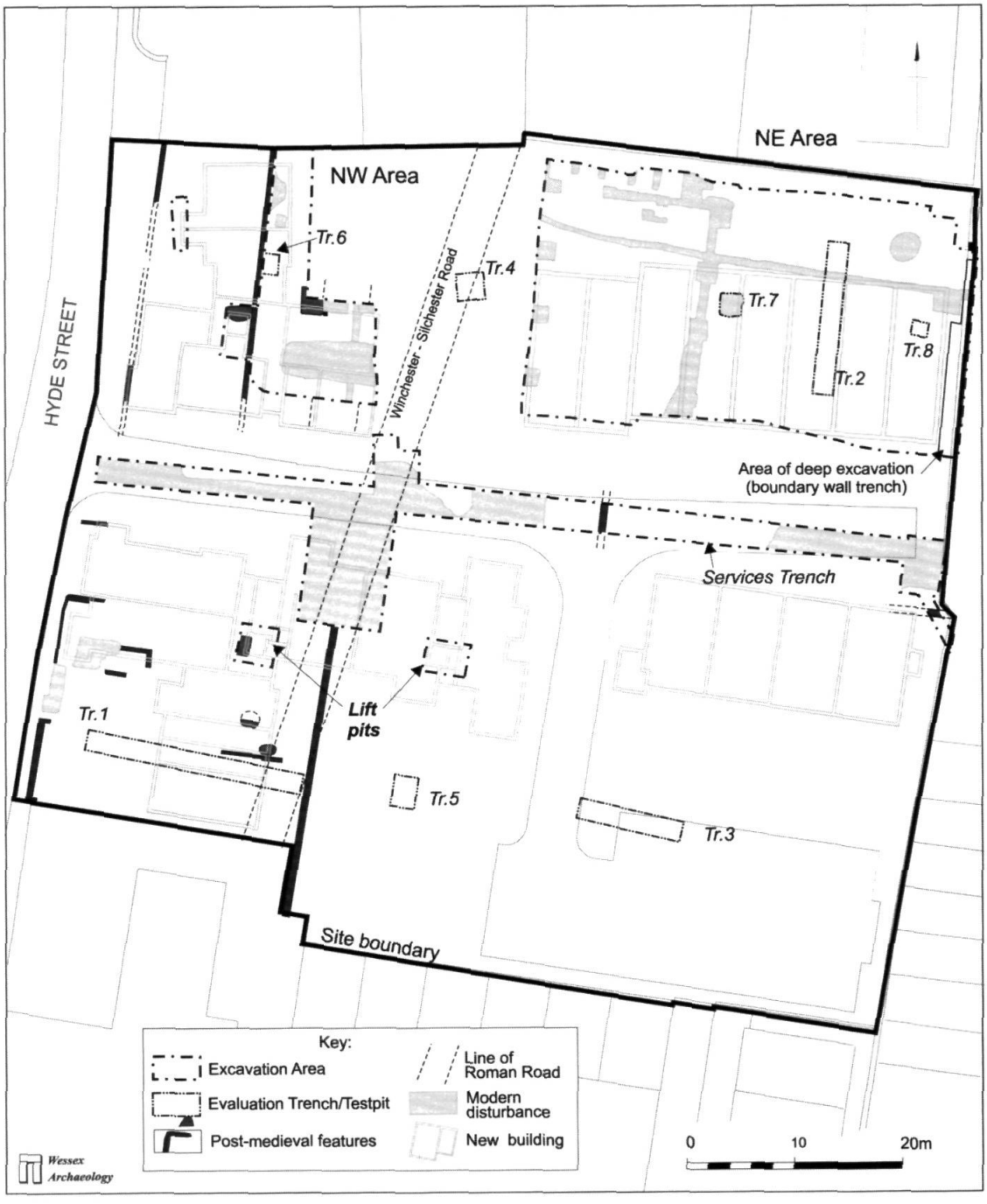

Fig. 2 Archaeological investigation areas

Fig. 3 The north-eastern excavation area during machining, looking east

beneath the garage forecourt was assumed to have destroyed all archaeological remains here. Similarly, the garage access road extending from west to east across the centre of the site was thought to have formed a service corridor for drainage and cable runs and was, therefore, assumed to have destroyed any archaeological remains here.

METHODS

Strategy

The archaeological remains identified during the evaluation were unusually well preserved as a result of the open and undeveloped nature of the site from the early post-medieval period up to the 1960s. The potential survival of archaeological evidence for the development of the northern suburbs of the Roman town and subsequent Saxon occupation here, together with the survival of medieval stone structures within the Abbey precinct and timber secular structures beyond this made the site particularly rare in Winchester. Although not part of the scheduled area of Hyde Abbey, the remains of the Outer Court buildings were considered to be of at least regional importance.

Current government guidance on the treatment of archaeological remains in the planning process makes clear that there should be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation *in situ* of important archaeological remains (DoE 1990, 8). Preservation by record through archaeological excavation is necessarily destructive of archaeological remains and is, therefore, considered a second-best option (*ibid.*, 13). With this in mind, therefore, the mitigation strategy developed in consultation with the Sites and Monuments Officer comprised two elements. Firstly, a structural design was adopted that sought to minimise loss of archaeological remains from foundations. Secondly, a programme of archaeological investigations was proposed that provided for the recording of any remains that would be unavoidably disturbed by the development.

Methods

Conventional strip footings would have resulted in extensive loss of archaeological deposits through excavation, while the depth and variable

Fig. 4 Installation of the protective layer in the north-eastern excavation area, looking west

nature of the garden soils and made ground overlying the archaeological deposits would have made the stability of a raft-type foundation uncertain. A piled foundation design, whereby the weight of the new buildings would be supported on reinforced concrete columns bored through the archaeological levels to the bedrock beneath was, therefore, considered the only practicable means of securely founding the buildings whilst minimising archaeological loss. The agreed foundation design ensured that only the piles themselves would penetrate archaeological horizons, with all pile caps and ground beams kept above known archaeological levels. The number, size and layout of the piles was designed to preserve not less than 95 % of the archaeological remains on the site.

In the north of the site, the Hyde Abbey remains were buried only some 0.5 m beneath the modern car park and workshop building. The formation heights at which the new buildings were to be built in this area were, therefore, raised to allow installation of ground beams without affecting any remains. However, in view of the importance of the Hyde Abbey remains and the shallow depth at which they survived, it was decided that these should be exposed and recorded at the highest archaeological level, prior to their preservation *in situ* beneath the new buildings. Following demolition of existing structures, the footprints of the proposed buildings and any additional working areas subject to disturbance during the development (Fig. 2) were excavated down to the top of archaeologically significant deposits by a machine, under constant archaeological supervision (Fig. 3). The archaeological deposits were recorded in plan and the positions of the proposed piles were then laid out using a total station theodolite. Where the pile locations coincided with significant archaeological features and deposits, these were excavated by hand and recorded. A foundation trench for the north-eastern boundary wall was also excavated by hand. Following the completion of archaeological recording, a geotextile membrane was laid over the remains and a 200 mm thick protective layer of crushed concrete installed under continuous archaeological supervision (Fig. 4).

Elsewhere on the site, the evaluation indicated that there was sufficient depth of overlying garden soil to allow the new building formation heights to be set above significant archaeological horizons

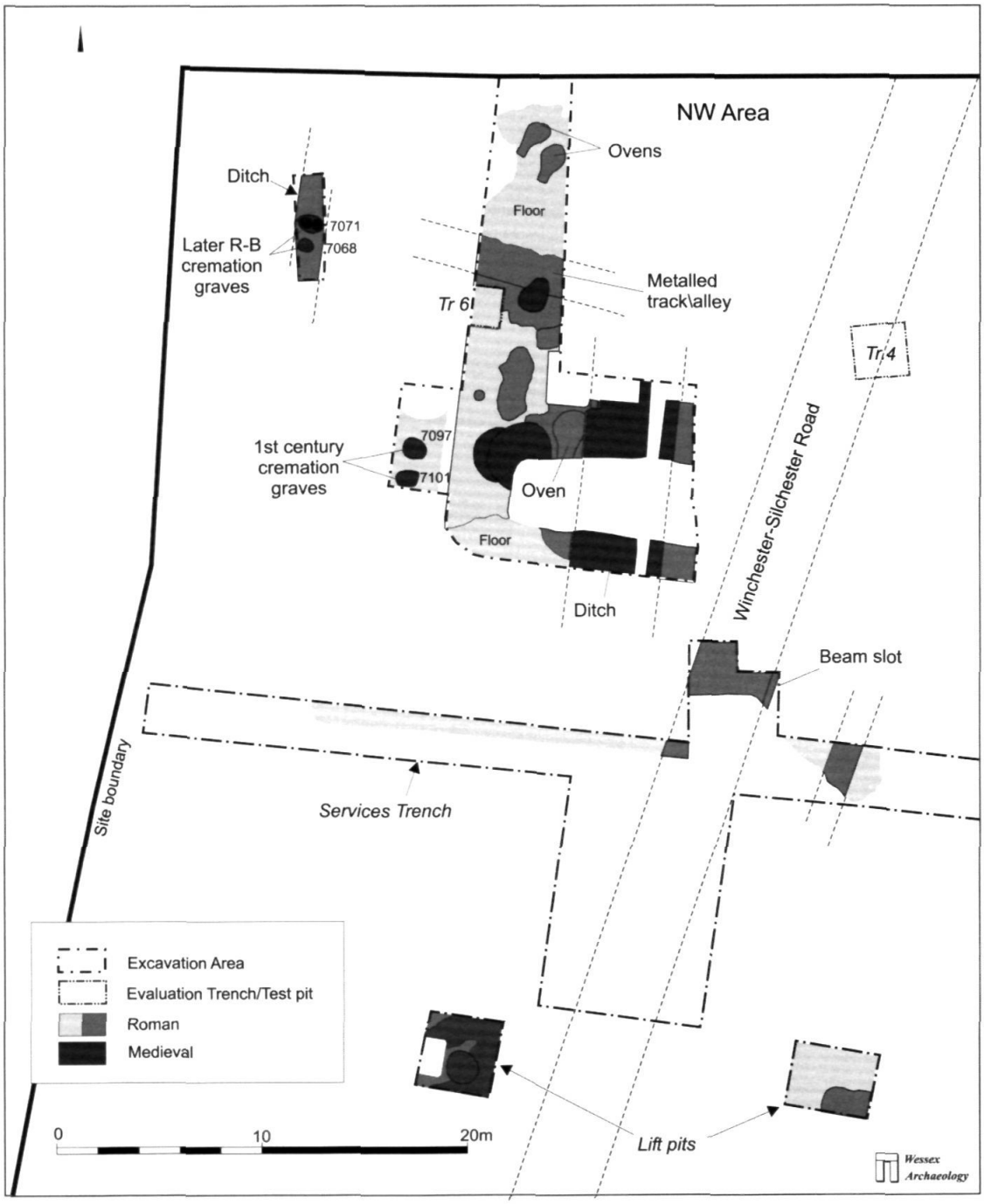

Fig. 5 The north-western excavation area

without the need for levels to be raised. The more deeply buried medieval and Roman remains in the south-west of the site would not, therefore, be exposed. Instead, following demolition of existing structures, the piles were bored and cast from the existing ground level. Trenches for pile caps and ground beams, together with two lift pits (Fig. 2), were then excavated to the formation height by machine operating under continuous archaeological supervision. Any archaeological remains encountered were excavated and recorded by hand.

A general watching brief was maintained beyond the new buildings. As ground works progressed, it became apparent that existing services, previously thought to follow the access road across the centre of the site, were actually located to the south of this, obstructing construction of the new buildings here. Relocation of these services entailed the excavation, under archaeological monitoring, of a trench up to 3 m deep along the access road (Fig. 2).

RESULTS

As work progressed, it became apparent that the survival of archaeological remains was even greater than predicted, with deposits beneath the basements of the late Victorian houses on Hyde Street, around the garage fuel tanks and beneath the access road. However, as only the upper surfaces of archaeological deposits were generally revealed and very little detailed hand excavation was undertaken, close stratigraphic analysis has not been attempted. Detailed reports on the finds and environmental evidence from the site are held in archive.

On the basis of the recorded stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating of finds recovered, the archaeological features and deposits have been divided into three broad periods: Roman, medieval and post-medieval. Several phases of occupation and activity can be identified or inferred within each of these periods. A summary description and discussion of the remains is presented below.

Roman

Roman remains were encountered in the north-west of the site following removal of the fuel tanks and basements; in the central part of the site during excavation of the service diversion trench; and in the south-west in evaluation Trench 1 and during excavation of a lift pit (Fig. 5). These remains included the Roman road, together with evidence of structures fronting onto it and both early and late Roman cremation graves.

The earliest features comprised two cremation burial graves found immediately below the concrete basement slab of one of the late Victorian houses that formerly stood in the north-west of the site (Fig. 5; see report on burials, below). On the basis of the grave goods that they contained, both are dated to around AD 55–65. Grave 7097 (Fig. 6) contained the unurned burial of a probable female aged between 30 and 45 years (7114). The grave was approximately circular, 0.8 m long, 0.65 m wide and 0.22 m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained six complete pots (Fig. 7); a butt beaker, a cordoned jar, an imitation Gallo-Belgic platter, a conical cup, a ring-necked flagon and a stamped *Terra Nigra* platter. These were arranged around, and partly overlay, the unurned burial; this may have been deposited within a bag or similar organic container. The lower limbs of an immature pig were found lying on the two platters and in the flagon.

Grave 7101 (Fig. 6) lay approximately 1 m to the south and contained the unurned burial of a female aged between 35 and 50 years (7103) and the urned burial of an infant aged around 3. This grave was also approximately circular, 0.55 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained six complete pottery vessels (Fig. 8); a shouldered bowl or jar; a *Terra Nigra* bowl; a cordoned jar; an inverted pear-shaped bowl or jar with a pedestal base; a South Hampshire platter; and a globular bodied beaker. A small copper-alloy Nauheim derivative brooch was also recovered from the grave fill (Fig. 8). The vessels were arranged around and partly overlying the woman's burial, which may also have originally been deposited in an organic container, such as a bag. A small copper-alloy bell with an iron clapper was recovered from the woman's burial (Fig. 8): although bells are known from other Roman grave contexts in Britain (for example, from grave 501 in the nearby Victoria Road cemetery: Crummy *et al.* forthcoming), they

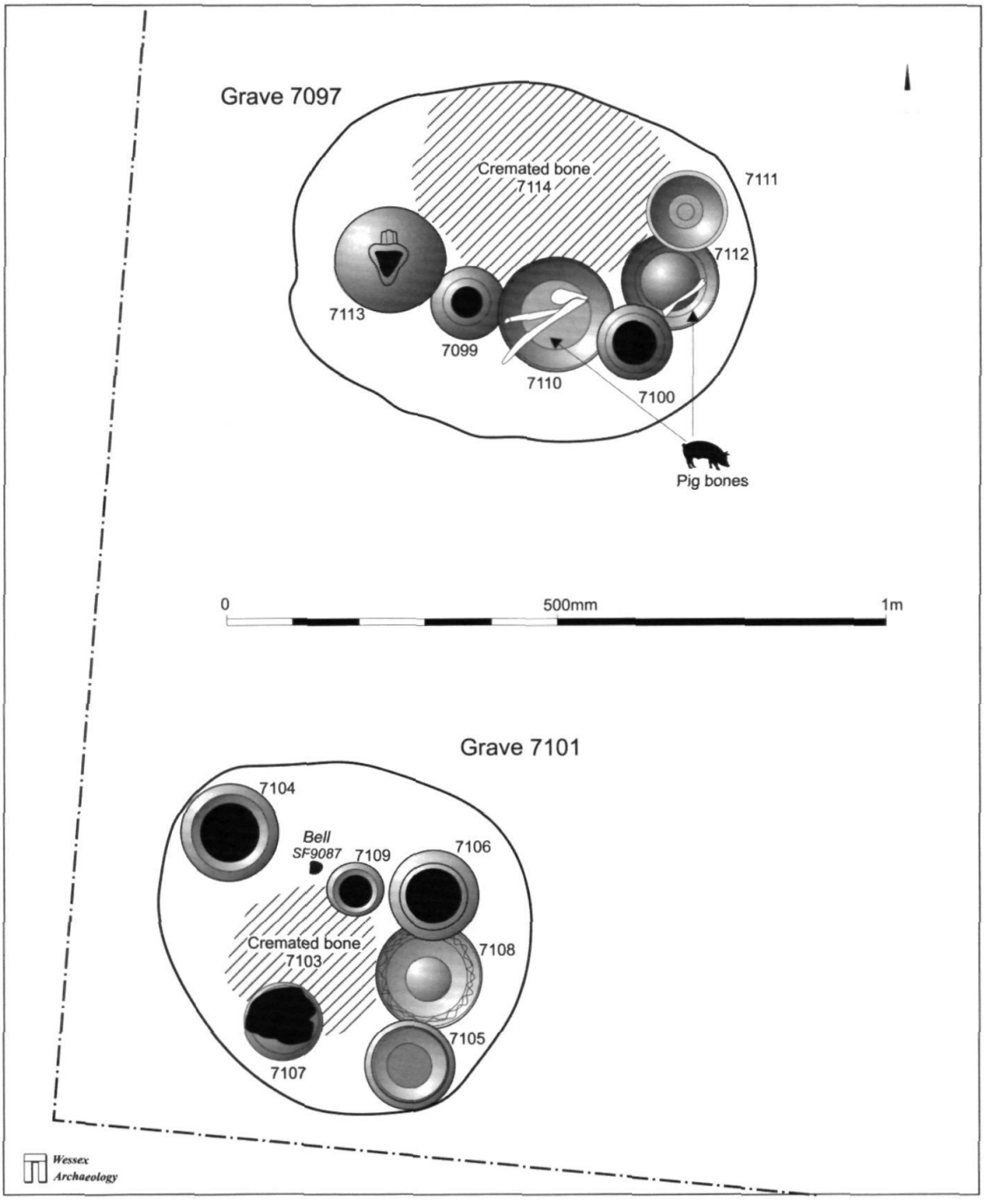

Fig. 6 Early Roman graves 7097 and 7101

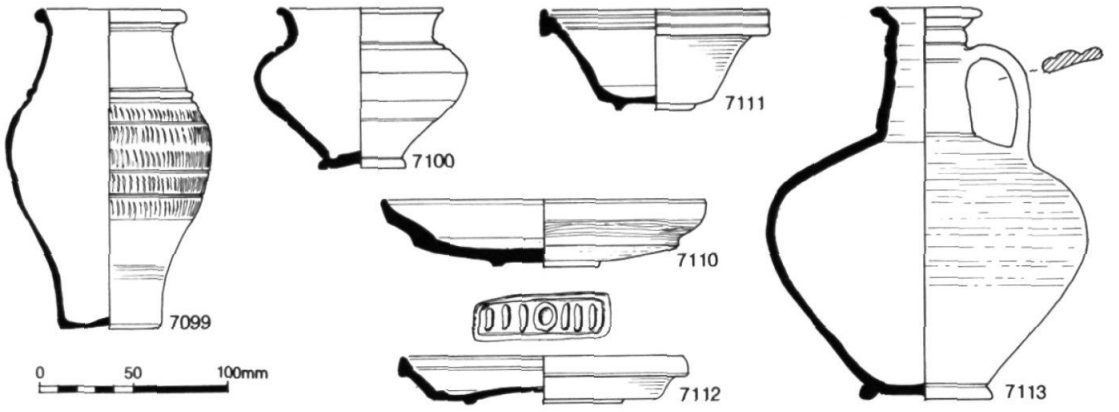

Fig. 7 Finds from grave 7097

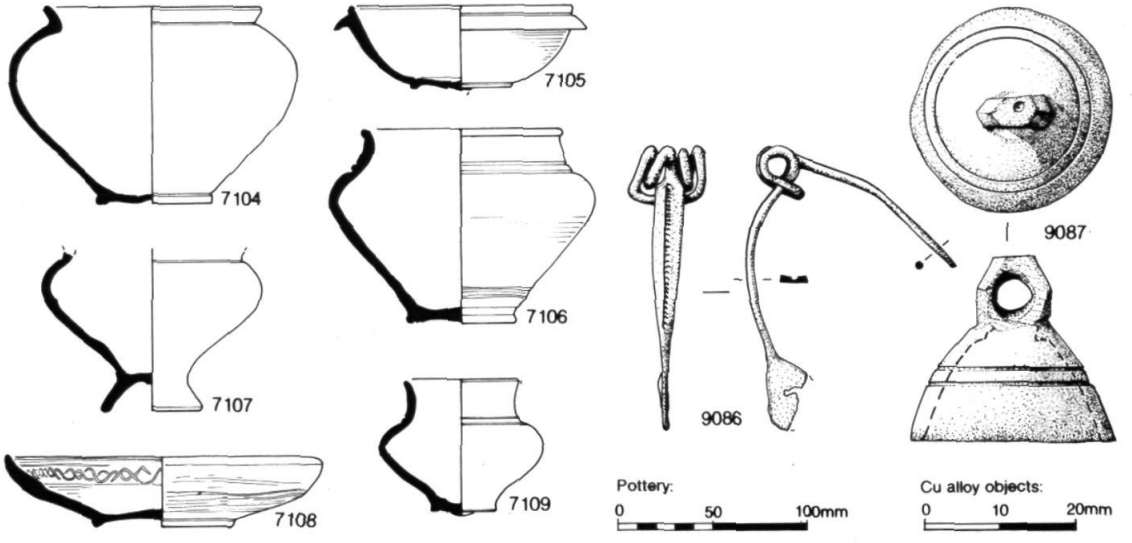

Fig. 8 Finds from grave 7101

are not particularly common; this may have been an item of personal ornamentation (Philpott 1991, 163).

The infant had been placed in the shouldered bowl or jar (7104). A few fragments of infant skull vault recovered from the unurned adult burial probably represent remains of the same infant as within the urned burial; these may have been deliberately deposited with the adult remains, suggesting a close link between the individuals in this grave.

Short sections of the Winchester to Silchester

Table 1 Charcoal from Roman features (identified by Rowena Gale)

Type	*Cremation and grave pot fills*						Oven/kiln
Period	*Early RB – 1st C AD (40–60)*				*Late RB – 4th C*		
Feature	7101			7097	7071		7054
Context	7102	7103	7104	7098	7072	7074	7059
Sample	8011	8013	8017	8012	8010	8007	8004
Acer	–	–	–	–	1	1	–
Betula	–	–	–	1	–	2	1
Corylus	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
Fagus	–	–	1	–	3	–	2
Fraxinus	–	–	–	–	–	1	2
Pomoideae	2	Cf. 2	–	–	1	3	1
Prunus	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
Quercus	4h, 2s	5h, 6s	1h, 1s	3h	1	7h, 4r	1h, 4s
Salicaceae	?1	–	–	1	–	–	–

Road were recorded in the services diversion trench and in evaluation Trench 1. The road was approximately 5 m wide and had a substantial metalled surface with possible flanking ditches approximately 3.5 m to the east and 24 m to the west. At least 5 episodes of road construction were identified in the evaluation. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the road itself, it is assumed that the road was established in the 1st century AD

A very short length of beam slot, possibly part of a timber building fronting onto the eastern side of the road, was recorded during the watching brief (Fig. 5). Although no dating evidence was recovered, it is assumed that the feature is of Roman date on the basis of its level, alignment and form. This was the only discernible Roman structure to the east of the road, although a small area of a rammed chalk surface was recorded during excavation for the eastern lift shaft in the south of the site. A further chalk surface of possible Roman date was revealed to the south of this in evaluation Trench 5. A small part of a metalled surface and flanking ditch of late Roman date, interpreted as part of a street or lane on a parallel alignment to the Roman road, were recorded below the medieval buildings in evaluation Trench 2 in the north-east of the site. However, as no trace of these features was found in the service trench to the south, they may instead represent some form of yard.

Evaluation Trench 1 in the south-west of the site identified a cobbled surface, possibly a yard opening onto the western side of the road, a gully and a large pit, all dated to the late 1st to mid 2nd century. Whilst it is possible that these features relate to a nearby building, the earliest definite structure recorded here was of late 2nd or early 3rd century date. A second building, dated to the mid-late 3rd century, overlaid the latter structure.

In the north-west excavation area, the remains of rammed chalk surfaces, ovens and a narrow alley indicated the presence of two Roman buildings to the west of the road (Fig. 5). The alley was orientated east-west, perpendicular to the road, and comprised a short length of roughly metalled surface, approximately 1.3 m wide, constructed from a *c.* 0.1 m thick layer of flint nodules, tile and

Table 2 Charred plant remains from Roman features (identified by Wendy Carruthers)

Type	*Cremation and grave pot fills*			Oven/ kiln
Period	*Early RB – 1st C AD (40–60)*		*Late RB – 4th C*	
Feature	7097		7054	
Context	7098	7104	7059	7074
Sample	8012	8017	8004	8007
Sample size (litres)	10	2.75	10	24
Taxa				
Cereals				
Triticum aestivum-type (bread-type wheat grain)	–	–	4	2
T. dicoccum/spelta (emmer/spelt wheat grain)	1	–	2	1
Triticum sp. (wheat grain)	–	–	4	–
Hordeum sp. (barley grain)	2	–	–	1
Avena sp. (cultivated/wild oat grain)	-	–	–	2
Indeterminate cereal grain fragments	1	-	3	9
Chaff				
Triticum spelta L. (spelt glume base)	1	–	5	-
Triticum dicoccum/spelta (emmer/spelt glume base)	9	1	9	1
Triticum dicoccum/spelta (emmer/spelt spikelet fork)	–	–	5	–
ordeum sp. (barley rachis frag.)	1	–	–	–
Avena sp. (oat awn frag.)	–	–	+	–
Weeds				
Corylus avellana L. (hazelnut shell frag.) HSW	2	–	4	3
Rumex acetosella L. (sheep's sorrel) EGa	–	–	–	1
Rumex sp. (dock nutlet) CDG	–	–	1	1
Medicago lupulina L. (black medick) GD	1	–	–	2
Trifolium / Lotus sp. (clover/trefoil) GD	1	–	–	–
Odontites verna/Euphrasia sp.(red bartsia/eyebright) CDG	–	–	–	1
Totals	19	1	37	24

KEY : *Habitat Preferences*: C = cultivated ground; D = disturbed ground; E = heath; G = grassland; H = hedgerow; S = scrub; W = woods; a = acidic soils

Table 3 Summary of coins (identified by Nicholas Wells)

Cat. No.	*Issuer*	*Denomination*	*Issue Date (AD)*	*Reference*
1	Trajan	Dupondius	98–99	RIC II Trajan 385
2	Trajan	Denarius	101–102	RIC II Trajan 53
3	***Gallienus (sole reign)***	*Antoninianus*	*260–284*	*Copy*
4	Victorinus	Antoninianus	268–270	RIC V Victorinus 114
5	***Victorinus***	*Antoninianus*	*268–270*	*Copy*
6	***Tetricus I***	*Antoninianus*	*270–286*	*Copy*
7	***Tetricus I***	*Antoninianus*	*270–286*	*Copy*
8	***Tetricus I***	*Antoninianus*	*270–286*	*Copy*
9	Tetricus II	Antoninianus	270–273	RIC V Tetricus II 270
10	***Uncertain Issuer***	*Antoninianus*	*270–286*	*Copy*
11	Maximian	Æ1 Nummus	297–305	RIC VI London 15
12	Maximian (posthumous)	Half Nummus	318	RIC VII Trier 205
13	Maxentius	Æ1 Nummus	308–310	RIC VI Ticinum 100
14	Constantine I	Æ3 Nummus	324–330	RIC VII Trier 475
15	Constantine I	Æ3 Nummus	335–337	RIC VII Lyons 285
16	Crispus as Caesar	Æ3 Nummus	320–321	RIC VII London 194
17	Constantine II as Caesar	Æ3 Nummus	321–322	RIC VII London 236
18	**Constantine II as Caesar**	**Æ3 Nummus**	**324–330**	**RIC VII Trier 505**
19	***Constantius II as Caesar***	*Æ3 Nummus*	*341–364*	*Copy of RIC VII Trier 489*
20	Constans	Æ3 Nummus	337–341	RIC VIII Lyons 10
21	Constans	Æ3 Nummus	347–348	RIC VIII Trier 192
22	***Constans***	*Æ3 Nummus*	*341–364*	*Copy*
23	***Constans***	*Æ3 Nummus*	*347–364*	*Copy of RIC VIII Trier 182*
24	***Constantius II***	*Æ3 Nummus*	341–364	*Copy of RIC VIII Trier 70*
25	**Constantius II**	**Reduced Siliqua**	**355–361**	**RIC VIII Arles 261/291**
26	**Constantius II**	**Reduced Siliqua**	**360–361**	**RIC VIII Lyons 214**
27	**Constantius II**	**Reduced Siliqua**	**360–361**	**RIC VIII Lyons 214**
28	**Julian**	**Reduced Siliqua**	**361–363**	**RIC VIII Arles 309**
29	**Julian**	**Reduced Siliqua**	**360–361**	**RIC VIII Arles 295**
30	***Uncertain Issuers***	*Æ3 Nummus*	*354–364*	*Copy*
31	***Uncertain Issuers***	*Æ3 Nummus*	*354–364*	*Copy*
32	***Uncertain Issuers***	*Æ3 Nummus*	*354–364*	*Copy*
33	Valentinian I	Æ3 Nummus	367–375	RIC IX Arles 17a
34	Valens	Æ3 Nummus	364–367	RIC IX Arles 9b

Table 3 (cont.) Summary of coins (identified by Nicholas Wells)

Cat. No.	*Issuer*	*Denomination*	*Issue Date (AD)*	*Reference*
35	Edward III	Penny	1361–1363	North II 1227
36	Nuremburg	Jeton	1480–1500	Mitchiner I 1055
37	Nuremburg (Hans Schultes I)	Jeton	1553–1584	Mitchiner I 1338
38	Nuremburg	Jeton	1500–1550	Mitchiner I 1190–1286
39	Nuremburg	Jeton	1500–1570	Mitchiner I 1094–1120
40	Nuremburg (Hans Krauwinckel)	Jeton	1586–1635	Mitchiner I 1542/3

KEY:
Cat. No. = archive catalogue number
Coin Hoard from Context 7510 shown in **bold**

amphorae fragments laid directly onto the ancient topsoil. The alley ran between the two possible structures, which were represented only by rammed chalk surfaces and a small number of post-holes; these buildings were probably of timber stud construction set over a ground beam.

Three small ovens were the only internal features associated with the structures. These generally comprised a small rectangular stokehole connected to an oval chamber by a short flue. The oven bases were made from either complete imbrex tiles or mortar and the surviving superstructures of tile and amphorae fragments bonded with mortar. The sides of the chambers and flues were lined with a *c.* 10 mm thick layer of mortar. A charred deposit, presumably the remains of the fuel used in the last firing of one of the ovens, produced a small quantity of charred grain, including emmer or spelt wheat and barley, chaff and hazelnut shell fragments (Table 1), and charcoal (Table 2). The small quantity of charcoal included oak (both heartwood and sapwood), ash, beech, birch and hawthorn or a similar species. All of these would probably have been gathered locally and, if used as seasoned firewood, would have provided a high-energy fuel.

The range of charred plant remains and fuel species suggests a domestic function for the ovens rather than a more specialised, industrial function. The ovens, along with the internal and external surfaces associated with the structures, produced pottery datable to the mid 3rd or 4th century, and coins from two of the surfaces (Table 3, 31 and 34) and from the deposit immediately below (15 and 30) suggest that these remains are of later 4th century date.

A parallel ditch was recorded approximately 24 m to the west of the road both in evaluation Trench 1 and during the watching brief in the north-western area. This may represent the eastern boundary of the extensive Roman inhumation and cremation burial cemetery known at Victoria Road to the west of the site, although the two 1st century AD cremation burial graves were found to the east of this ditch.

Two later Roman cremation burial graves were found cut into the upper fill of the ditch in the north-western area (Fig. 5; see report on burials, below); both had been disturbed by the basement of one of the houses that once stood here. Although only broadly datable to the late 3rd or 4th centuries, it seems unlikely that these graves

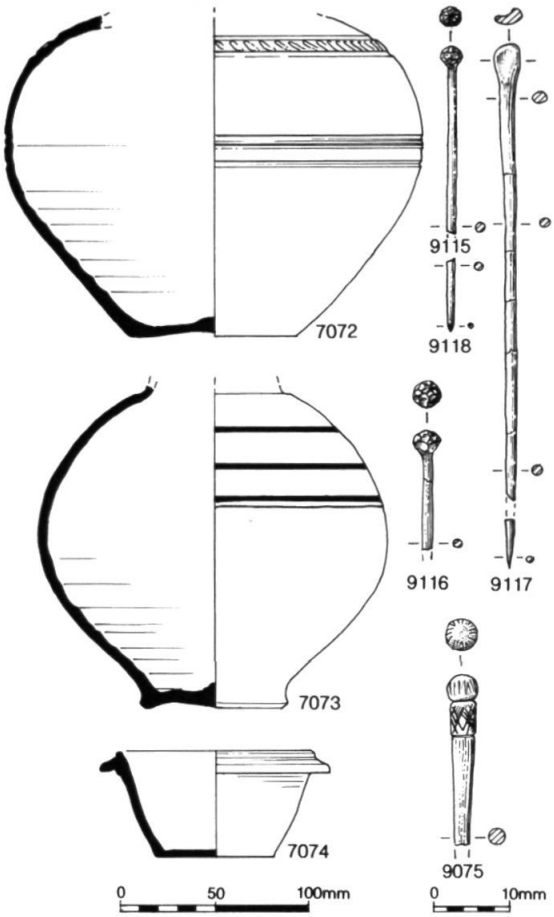

Fig. 9 Finds from grave 7071

were contemporaneous with the mid-late 4th century domestic structures less than 8 m to the east.

Grave 7071 was oval, approximately 0.57 m long, 0.43 m wide and 0.17 m deep with steep sides and a concave base. This contained two pottery vessels, a greyware jar and a New Forest parchment ware flagon or jug (Figs 9 & 10), each containing the cremated remains of females, one aged between 35 and 45 years and one between 35 and 40 years. The rims of the two vessels had been lost, but they were otherwise well preserved. Within the jar, a single duplicate bone (a lunate or carpal bone) derived from a second individual. As with the earlier Roman grave 7101, this may have been included deliberately, suggesting a close link between the individuals in this grave. Sherds from a small dropped flanged bowl were recovered from the backfill of the grave (Figs 9 & 10). Whilst it is clear that this small vessel was broken when it was deposited, it is uncertain whether its inclusion was accidental or deliberate. The burnt remains of three bone hair pins, presumably pyre goods holding the dead person's hair in place, were recovered from among the cremated human bone in the flagon or jug. A fourth, unburnt, pin was recovered from the backfill of the grave. All the pins are of late 3rd or 4th century type (Fig. 9; cf. Crummy 1983, 21, type 3).

Grave 7068, which contained the burial of an adult aged 20 years or older, survived only as a circular cut approximately 0.2 m in diameter and 0.05 m deep. A single greyware jar contained the cremated bone, but only its base survived (Fig. 11).

A deep humic loam deposit was encountered across much of the site. This may represent a later Roman topsoil or perhaps 'dark earth', a deposit of dark-coloured loam that often seals the latest Roman levels within Roman towns in Britain: if so, this survival of 'dark earth' outside the Roman walled town is thought to be so far unique in investigations in Winchester. The formation of 'dark earth' deposits is the subject of much debate and research as to whether it represents a period of abandonment or a form of occupation (Yule 1990, 620–8). Hand excavation of a sample of this deposit failed to identify any stratification or features within it.

The 'dark earth' deposit was most extensively revealed during excavation of the service diversion trench across the centre of the site. In the east it was relatively undisturbed by modern intrusions and survived to a depth of 0.7 m. The majority of the deposit was removed by machine in *c.* 0.2 m spits under constant archaeological supervision, with each spit being cleaned and scanned prior to the removal of the next. A moderate assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered, including New Forest colour-coated ware datable to the mid 3rd or 4th centuries, as well as a relatively large assemblage of 14 coins

Fig. 10 Grave 7071 during excavation, looking north. Scale 20 cm

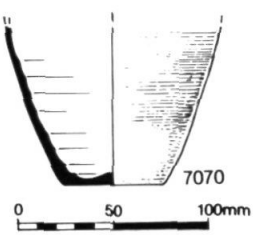

Fig. 11 Finds from grave 7068

(Table 3, 1–5, 7–9, 12–13, 16–17 and 23–4), all but one of which were of 3rd and 4th century date. A similar finds assemblage, including 21 3rd or 4th century coins, was recovered from this deposit during the evaluation.

A small hoard of Roman coins, comprising five silver reduced *siliquae* of Constantius II and Julian, datable to AD 355–363, was recovered some 0.2 m above the base of the 'dark earth' deposit (Table 3, 25–29). The five coins were physically overlapping and appeared to represent a fallen stack, perhaps deposited in some sort of organic container. Very close by, and probably part of the same hoard, was an earlier copper alloy coin (Table 3, 18) dated to AD 324–330. No feature could be discerned into which the coins might have been placed and it is uncertain whether this find represents the deliberate burial of a small hoard or the accidental loss of a purse or similar container. However, the close dating and undisturbed condition of these coins might indicate that the 'dark earth' deposit was at least partly formed by AD 363 or shortly thereafter.

Although possible 'dark earth' deposits were found to both the east and west, none was encountered above the road itself, suggesting that the use of the road continued as the 'dark earth' was forming. Further evidence of the continued use of the road was recorded in evaluation Trench 1, where a possible structure, dated to the 9th or 10th centuries, apparently respected the alignment of the road, suggesting that this was still in use in the late Saxon period. However, a series of features cut into the surface of the road and dated to the 11th or 12th centuries indicates that it had fallen out of use by this time.

Medieval

The principal medieval remains recorded on the site comprise buildings relating to the Outer

Court of Hyde Abbey. However, early medieval features recorded in evaluation Trench 1 provide some evidence of Late Saxon activity. A series of postholes and an associated beam slot formed part of a timber structure apparently respecting the line of the Roman road. Late Saxon chalk-tempered ware recovered from these features suggests a date range between the mid-9th to mid-10th centuries, while hammerscale from some of the postholes indicates iron working on the site at this time.

In the north-eastern excavation area (Fig. 12) the remains of several medieval buildings, comprising limestone, chalk and flint masonry walls, were exposed. The remains of two probable ovens, a hearth and a chalk lined well were also recorded within the various buildings. Most of the surviving medieval remains in this area were buried beneath extensive deposits of building rubble, the result of the demolition of the final phase of these buildings following the dissolution of the Abbey in 1539. Other medieval remains, including timber structures and pits, were recorded beyond the precinct in the west of the site in evaluation Trench 1 and during the watching brief.

Within a year of the dissolution, the Abbey church and cloister had been demolished by Henry VIII's commissioners and it is assumed that much of the Outer Court was also demolished at this time: Hyde House was constructed by 1545, and the site thereafter lay within its gardens. Very little of the masonry appears to have been salvaged; a large part of the north-eastern excavation area was found to be covered with up to 1 m of rubble and late 18th century maps show the site of the Abbey church, 150 m to the north-east, littered with mounds of rubble. It is clear that at least some of the masonry was subsequently re-used locally as the majority of the post-medieval and modern structures found contained re-used medieval masonry.

On the surface of one of the rubble deposits, a dump of stained glass and lead cames was recovered from a very localised (*c.* 2 sq. m) area (see report on the stained glass, below). Most of this dump consisted of plain, naturally coloured glass, or glass in poorly, partially or completely devitrified condition. The remainder, however, was made up of painted and stained fragments (Fig. 15), with small amounts of transparent, coloured glass (ruby, green, amber and blue). Amongst the plain glass, diamond-shaped and/or triangular quarries appear to have been most common although square, rectangular, trapezoidal, hexagonal and irregular quarries were also noted; most have grozed edges.

Although rubble deposits obscured the majority of the medieval remains, a small number of deeper interventions provided a glimpse of the outstanding survival of the outer court of the Abbey. In the extreme east of the area (Fig. 12), the excavation of the construction trench for the boundary wall revealed masonry walls, surviving to a height of up to 0.8 m above associated internal and external surfaces. Comparable survival was also recorded in evaluation Trench 2 and in a number of smaller interventions.

Where internal surfaces were recorded they were generally constructed of fine sandy mortar. Although at least one of the rooms in the most south-westerly of the buildings had a decorated tile floor, very little of this survived *in situ* and its extent is unknown. While the decorated tile floor would seem to reflect the high status of the Abbey, the other internal features – two substantial ovens, a large hearth and a well – appear to confirm the domestic nature of the buildings.

Localised deeper excavation revealed that the walls were typically constructed with a core of chalk and flint rubble bonded with yellowish brown sandy mortar. External elevations were usually faced with roughly squared flint nodules in fairly regular courses, whereas internal elevations varied from neatly faced chalk and sandstone blocks to roughly trimmed flint nodules with mortar rendering.

Architectural fragments, presumably salvaged from earlier Abbey buildings, were also built into some of the walls. Chalk and limestone ashlars, probably re-used, had been used as quoins in many of the buildings. Three probable column shaft fragments, two of Bath stone and one of travertine, were associated with a substantial external wall in the south-eastern corner of the excavation area.

Within the deep rubble deposit that appeared to represent the collapse of this wall were a group of

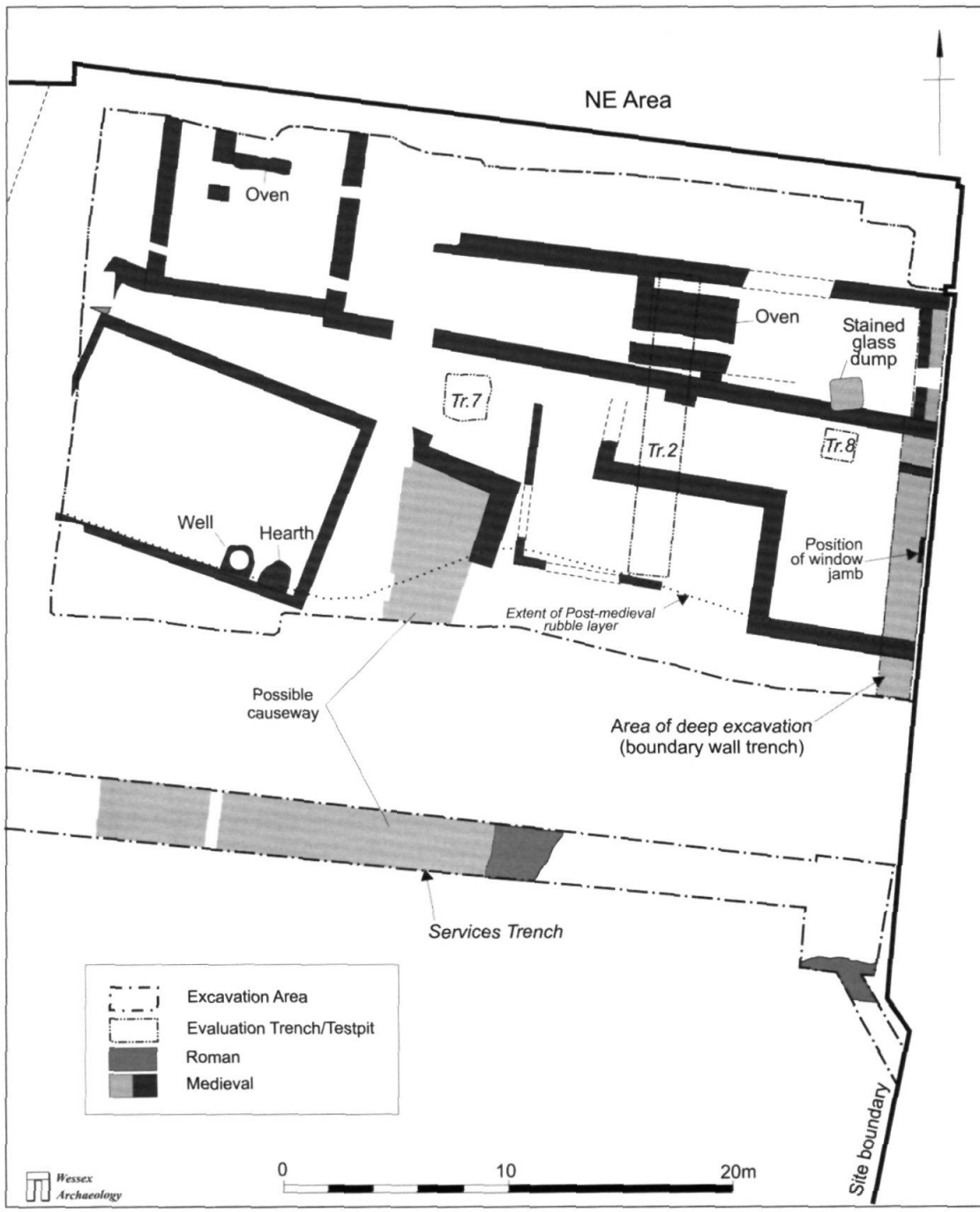

Fig. 12 The north-eastern excavation area

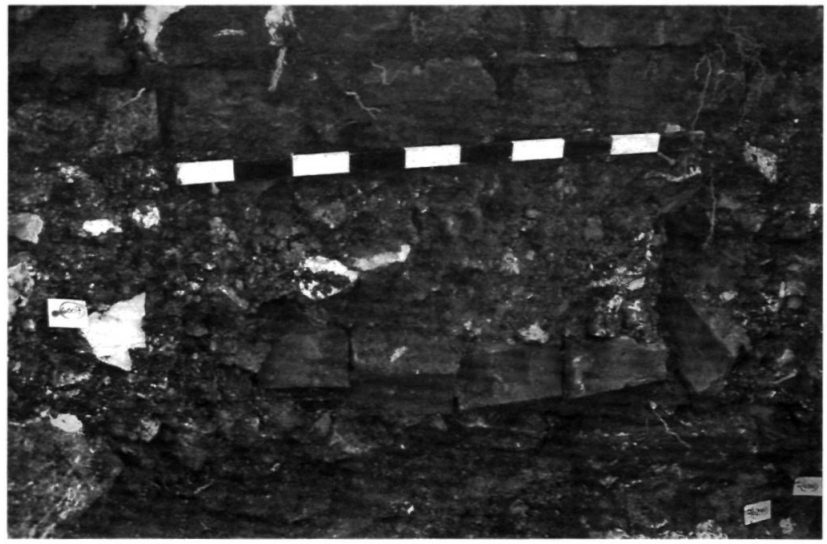

Fig. 13 Possible fallen window jamb in north-eastern excavation area (seen below post-medieval wall), looking east. Scale 1 m

four well worked limestone blocks, still partly in alignment (Fig. 13). Although these were seen only in section, they seem to represent a window jamb or similar feature. The position of these blocks suggests a window some 4–4.5 m above the contemporaneous ground surface, suggesting that the building was two or more stories high.

Immediately above the mortar floor within this building and below the collapsed walls was a substantial deposit of tile fragments, probably representing the collapse of the roof prior to that of the walls. Whilst most of this deposit consisted of flat peg tiles, fragments of ridge tiles, often glazed and with triangular, projections decorating the crest, were also identified. A few small pieces of more elaborate roof furniture such as finials, vents or chimney pots were also recognised.

No detailed evidence of the function of any of the buildings was recovered. However, documentary sources (Keene 1985, 950–2) suggest that the Abbey bakehouse stood in approximately this area and the presence of two large ovens within the excavation area is consistent with this. The removal of a modern service trench allowed the partial investigation of one of these ovens (Fig. 14). This was over 2.5 m long and 2 m wide and comprised a base or floor of probably reused, roughly squared chalk and limestone blocks laid in two courses and bonded with mortar, all of which were discoloured and cracked by intense heat. Although very little of the superstructure survived, enough remained to discern that it was constructed of flint, chalk and limestone masonry, including at least one re-used architectural fragment, possibly from a heavy string course, column base or plinth. Although it was less clearly defined, the second oven appeared to be of similar construction.

As little detailed hand excavation was undertaken, few finds were recovered. The majority of the pottery from the medieval buildings and associated features and deposits comprised local coarsewares of 13th or 14th century date. However, 15th or 16th century pottery and two 15th century jetons (Table 3, 36–7) were recovered from the overlying rubble deposits.

At the southern edge of the north-eastern excavation area was a large feature that comprised several layers of carefully laid chalk and flint nodules, approximately 0.7 m deep and at least 4 m wide. The function of this feature is uncertain; it could be the base of a very substantial building

Fig. 14 Base of medieval oven in north-eastern excavation area (modern service conduit in foreground), looking north. Scale 1m

or structure, such as a tower, or possibly part of a causeway or road providing access to the precinct over the river Fulflood. A possible continuation of this feature was recorded in the services trench approximately 10 m to the south, suggesting that it was in excess of 17 m long; on this basis, the latter interpretation appears more likely.

The alignment of this possible causeway and of the building immediately to its west differs from that of the other buildings within the excavation area. It may be significant that this alignment reflects that of the Roman road, approximately 25 m to the west. This seems to suggest that, although the road had fallen out of use prior to the founding of the Abbey in *c.* AD 1110 and certainly prior to the construction of the possible causeway and building in the 13th or 14th century, some property boundaries may have continued to respect its alignment.

No trace of a precinct wall was found. Given the dearth of medieval activity in the south-east of the site, it would seem that the southern boundary of the precinct probably lay just a few metres to the south of the services trench, along the approximate former course of the Fulflood, which may have formed the southern boundary of the precinct, just as the millstream to the north-east formed the boundary between the inner and outer precinct. The suggested causeway and the associated building to its west may represent a southern entrance to the precinct, although the orientation of these structures seems at odds with the other buildings recorded within the Outer Court.

Further medieval features and deposits beyond the Abbey precinct, comprising a sequence of three timber framed buildings and associated features, were identified in evaluation Trench 1 and during the watching brief. The earliest building aligned with Hyde Street was dated to the 11th or 12th century and the latest to the 14th–16th centuries.

Three small pits, dated to between the 12th and 14th centuries were recorded in the north-western area of the site (Fig. 5). Similar material was also recovered from the lower fills of a substantial north-south ditch in this area, probably a continuation of the large ditch recorded in excavations to the south of the site (Collis 1978). The dating evidence from the lower fills of this ditch suggests that it may have been open in the 13th and 14th

centuries. It seems likely, therefore, that the ditch, perhaps with a wall on its eastern side, formed the western boundary of the precinct. Even after the complete filling of the ditch in the early post-medieval period, the line of the feature continued to form a property boundary: the eastern boundary of the late Victorian houses that once stood in this area coincided with the position of the ditch. In the south of the site, a substantial brick and re-used masonry wall recorded during the watching brief also followed the same alignment (Fig. 2).

Post-Medieval

The evaluation had highlighted the possible survival of garden features associated with Hyde House, and the examination of these was an objective of the investigations. However, although slight traces of post-medieval terracing and possible garden features were recorded above the demolition rubble in the north-eastern excavation area, these were very ephemeral. A series of brick and masonry walls, depicted on the earliest maps of the area, was recorded over much of the site (Fig. 2). In the south-west of the site, a small number of post-medieval chalk lined pits located in the back plots of buildings fronting onto Hyde Street, were also recorded. However, the function or functions of these are uncertain.

THE FINDS ASSEMBLAGE: SELECTED STUDIES

The Cremated Bone by Jacqueline I. McKinley

Cremated bone from 15 Romano-British contexts included the remains of two unurned and one urned burial dated to 55–65 AD and three late 3rd – early 4th century urned burials. Other contexts comprised vessel and grave fills related to the burials.

Methods

The individual contexts were subject to whole-earth recovery in excavation and the three urned burials were each excavated in a series of spits forming sub-contexts maintained throughout analysis. The individual fills were wet-sieved to 1 mm fraction and bone separated from the > 4 mm fraction residues for specialist analysis, the smaller fraction residues were scanned by the writer for identifiable bone fragments.

Osteological analysis followed the writer's standard procedure for the examination of cremated bone (McKinley 1994a, 5–21; 2000a). Age was assessed from the stage of skeletal and tooth development (Beek 1983; McMinn & Hutchings 1985) and the general degree of age-related changes to the bone (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994). Sex was ascertained from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (*ibid.*).

Results

A summary of the results is presented in Table 4. Full details of identifications are held in the archive.

Condition and disturbance

The 1st century AD burials (7101 and 7097) were undisturbed, though there is likely to have been some slight movement of bone, particularly within the unurned burials, as a result of bioturbation. The grave cuts survived to a depth of between 0.2 – 0.22 m and the upper levels of the fills had been truncated. The later graves had both been disturbed, 7068 severely so, the urned burials from 7071 having lost *c.* 0.1 m of the vessel rims. A substantial proportion of the bone from grave 7068 has clearly been lost. A small amount may also have gone from the two burials in grave 7071; however, there was a clear decrease in the quantity of bone present within the urns from the base up and it is probable that the upper *c.* 0.1 m will have been largely devoid of bone.

The visual condition of the bone is good, with no evidence for surface erosion or abrasion. Trabecular bone is also well represented, particularly in the urned burials, indicating a burial microenvironment relatively advantageous to good bone preservation.

Demographic data

Two of the graves – the 1st century AD 7101 and the later 7071 – contained the remains of two contemporaneous burials, the former comprising an unurned and an urned burial, the latter two urned burials. Six individuals were identified from the cremated remains including one infant and five adults, the latter including three females and one probable female. The female age ranges were all very similar at between 30–50 years.

The small amount of bone from the fill of grave 7071 and from the spread of material over the grave was probably disturbed from one or both of the urned

Table 4 Grave catalogue and summary of results from analysis of cremated bone

Cut	*Context*	*Deposit type*	*Phase*		
7068	7070	Urned burial	3–4th C	Bone wt. 6.1g	Adult >20 yr.
				Burial urn:	Base of small to medium sized jar. Coarse sandy greyware
				Pyre goods:	None
				Other grave goods:	None
7071	7072	Urned burial	3–4th C	Bone wt. 1619.1g	1) adult female c. 35–45 yr. *Pathology summary*: abscess – r.maxillary M1; op – axis; ?trauma (ligament strain) – rib, fibula. 2) adult
				Burial urn:	Base of a decorated globular-bodied vessel, probably a jar. Coarse sandy greyware
				Pyre goods:	1.4g animal bone.
				Other grave goods:	1 small iron nail found inside the pot
	7073	Urned burial	3–4th C	Bone wt. 1139.3g	Adult female *c.* 35–40 yr.
				Burial urn:	Slightly footed base of globular-bodied vessel, probably a flagon or jug, decorated with 3 dark brown painted stripes. New Forest parchment ware
				Pyre goods:	0.1g animal bone. Fragments from 3 bone globular-headed pins, all of later 3rd to 4th century AD type
				Other grave goods:	None
	7074	grave fill	3–4th C	Bone wt. 1.3g	Adult >18 yr.Also 1 frag. unburnt skull vault – redeposited
	7084	spread	3–4th C	Bone wt. 15.8g	Adult >18 yr.
				Finds from 7074 and 7084:	21 sherds, 350g, of pottery including eight joining sherds from a small dropped flange bowl in coarse sandy greyware and one piece of New Forest colour coated ware. Head and shank fragment of an unburnt bone pin. Tiny fragment of pale blue/green vessel glass. Eight iron nails and nail fragments, various sizes.

Table 4 (cont.) Grave catalogue and summary of results from analysis of cremated bone

Cut	*Context*	*Deposit type*	*Phase*		
7097	7114	* Unurned burial	1st C	Bone wt. 1965.0g	Adult ?female *c.* 30–45 yr. *Pathology summary*: ?infection – distal femur; op – atlas; oa – 2C; mv – retention mandibular left deciduous canine with impaction of permanent canine, wormian bone, non-fusion atlas posterior arch
				Pyre goods:	36g immature pig bone. Iron staining on tibia shaft
				Other grave goods:	77.8g unburnt piglet bone including most of limbs (no skull or axial skeleton)
	7099	Vessel			Butt beaker; fine oxidised sandy ware. 0.1g of cremated human bone from its fill; no details of age/sex/pathology apparent.
	7100	Vessel			Necked cordoned jar; pale grey sandy ware.
	7110	Vessel			Imitation Gallo-Belgic platter; 'native' sandy ware.
	7111	Vessel			Conical cup; 'native' sandy ware. 0.1g of cremated human bone from its fill; no details of age/sex/pathology apparent.
	7112	Vessel			*Terra nigra* platter; stamped.
	7113	Vessel			Ring-necked flagon; white slipped red ware.
	7098	Gave fill		Bone wt. 14.4g	Adult >21 yr.
				Finds from 7098:	0.4g burnt animal bone (pyre goods) 0.7g unburnt animal bone. 7 small, unidentifiable iron fragments
7101	7103	* Unurned burial	1st C	Bone wt. 606.7g	1) adult female c. 35–50 yr. *Pathology summary*: op – atlas; ddd – 1C; mv – wormian. C opper alloy fused to humerus shaft. 2) infant *c.* 1–4 yr.
				Pyre goods:	Simple conical bell with suspension loop (copper alloy) and an iron clapper
	7104	* Urned burial	1st C	Bone wt. 67.6g	Infant *c.* 3 yr.
				Burial urn:	Shouldered bowl/jar with a flared rim; 'native' sandy ware

Table 4 (cont.) Grave catalogue and summary of results from analysis of cremated bone

Cut	*Context*	*Deposit type*	*Phase*	
	7105	Vessel		Terra nigra bowl with flanged rim (unstamped)
	7106	Vessel		Necked, cordoned jar; 'native' sandy ware
	7107	Vessel		Hollow pedestal base from an inverted pear-shaped jar/bowl; 'native' sandy ware. 0.4g of cremated bone found in its fill – subadult/adult >13 yr.
	7108	Vessel		South Hampshire platter; 'native' sandy ware. 1.2g of cremated bone found in its fill; no details of age/sex/pathology apparent.
	7109	Vessel		Globular bodied beaker; very fine oxidised ware. 4.0g of cremated bone found in its fill; subadult/adult >13 yr.
	7102	Grave fill		20.6g of cremated human bone – adult > 18 yr. Pathology summary: periosteal new bone – rib1.2g unburnt animal bone. Copper alloy brooch – a Nauheim derivative; mid 1st century AD
	8032	chalk surface	?	Subadult/adult >13 yr. Unburnt long bone fragment
	8039	layer	?	Neonate – unburnt.

burials when they were truncated by building basements. The bone from the fills of graves 7097 and 7101 represents the same individuals as within the respective burials, the bone probably having been slightly distanced from the main mass due to bioturbation. The position of the few grammes of bone in the various undisturbed vessel fills from graves 7097 and 7101 is unknown, but in both graves the bone is probably from the same adults as represented within the burials.

In grave 7071, a second individual was identified within urn 7072, represented by a single duplicate bone – a lunate (carpal bone). The bone was found in the lowest 0.03 m of the fill and is unlikely to have entered by accident from the disturbed neighbouring urn. This single bone is insufficient to indicate a dual burial in this vessel; although its presence may be due to contamination from the pyre site, the second burial within this grave (7073) did not include a lunate, perhaps suggesting the deliberate inclusion in 7072 of a 'token' bone from the other individual. Similarly, the few fragments of infant skull vault from the unurned burial in grave 7101 are likely to represent remains from the same individual as within the urned burial made within the same grave, included either by accident or deliberate as a 'token'.

Demographic comment is limited by the small size of the assemblage. The burials lie on the eastern margins of what was clearly a much larger cemetery (Clarke 1979, fig. 2 nos. 23–27), mainly containing cremation burials. The predominance of adult females amongst the Hyde Street group may be purely fortuitous, particularly given the small numbers and wide date range of the burials. Unfortunately, only two of the adult cremation burials from the *c.* 106 excavated at Victoria Road (*ibid.* site 27) have been sexed, both as female (Powell in prep.).

Pathology

There was little evidence for pathological lesions, with minor changes being observed in the remains of three adults. The pathology is summarised in Table 4; full details are held in the archive.

Pyre technology and cremation ritual

Although the majority of bone fragments from all the deposits were white in colour, indicative of full oxidation of the bone (Holden *et al.* 1995a and b), all the burials included some fragments showing varying levels of oxidation ranging from the brown/black of slightly charred bone, through hues of blue and grey. There is a clear distinction between the bone from the early and the later burials, indicative of a variation in the cremation process between the periods. Within the early burials, the variations in colour tend to be slight with only a few grey or blue/grey fragments. The later burials show a much greater range in levels of oxidation, affecting a greater number of bone fragments with a more extensive skeletal distribution.

Oxidation is influenced by three factors – time, temperature and oxygen supply – a shortfall in any one of the three may result in incomplete oxidation (McKinley 1994a, 72–81; 2000a). In the case of the later Hyde Street burials, the great colour variation and distribution of affected fragments suggests an overall problem such as insufficient fuel supply to produce and maintain a high enough temperature for full oxidation.

Relatively high levels of variability in oxidation have been observed in other Romano-British cemeteries: *c.* 23 % of burials from Westhampnett, East Sussex showed colour variations (McKinley 1997a), with an even greater number from the East London cemetery, including 66 % of the urned burials and 50 % of the unurned burials/redeposited pyre debris (McKinley 2000b, 268–269). Although burials from other periods do show some variability in levels of oxidation, this is consistently more common in the Romano-British period. The writer has previously postulated a shortfall in fuel as the possible cause, perhaps associated with cremation being carried out by professional *ustores* rather than members of the deceased's family. The change in the later phase may, therefore, reflect an increase in fuel costs or a change in working practice.

Discounting the heavily disturbed burial in grave 7068, the weights of bone from the adult burials are average (606.7 gr) to exceptionally high (1139.3–1965.0 gr), with an average of 1285.8 gr for the unurned early burials and 1379.2 gr for the later urned burials. The weights in excess of 1000 gr are all commensurate with those recorded at modern crematoria, which have shown a range of 1001.5–2433.5 gr. Although greater bone weights have been recorded from other contemporaneous cemeteries (Table 5), the Hyde Street burials give a substantially higher average, suggesting a greater consistency in large quantities of bone being included in the burial. At least 23 % of the burials from the adjacent Victoria Road site included > 1000 gr of bone (Powell, in prep.) which suggests the phenomena was not confined to these few burials within the cemetery. Balanced against this is the fact that only 47 % of the Victoria Road burials held > 500 gr of bone, though this includes all levels of disturbance, age ranges and deposit types (possibly including 'non-burial' deposits).

The maximum recorded bone fragment was 94 mm, with the maximum from all the burials (including the infant) being relatively high, an average of 73 mm and a minimum of 54 mm. The majority of bone fragments

Table 5 Comparative bone weight ranges and averages.

Cemetery	*Weight ranges*	*Averages*
Puckeridge (Wells 1981)	84–2127 gr (all individuals, types & condition of burials)	Series A: 214 gr Series B: 634 gr SG: 796 gr
Welwyn (Wells 1981)	37–2381 gr (all individuals, types & condition of burials)	584 gr
Baldock Area 15 (McKinley 1991)	Undisturbed adult burials: unurned 1–1599.1 gr urned 100–1419 gr	 452 gr 619.2 gr
St. Stephens, St. Albans (McKinley 1992)	Undisturbed adult burials: urned 71–1447.2 gr	899.6 gr unurned 824 gr
Low Borrowbridge (McKinley 1996)	All burials 1–498.9 gr (only one totally undisturbed)	179.1 gr
Westhampnett (McKinley 1997a)	undisturbed adult burials: 302.9–687.1 gr	531.7 gr
Caerleon (Wilkinson 1997)	undisturbed adult deposits: 3–1530 gr	292.3 gr
East London (McKinley 2000b)	undisturbed adult burials: 57.3–1731.1 gr	845 gr
Brougham, Cumbria (McKinley in press)	undisturbed urned adult burials: 24–1324.6 gr undisturbed unurned adult burials: 62.5–484.9 gr	397.7 gr 228.7 gr

was recovered from the 10 mm sieve fraction (51–88 % from burials), though the true percentages are likely to be slightly lower since not all the bone from the 2 mm fraction was included in the total weights. There are a number of factors that may affect the size of cremated bone fragments, the majority of which are exclusive of any deliberate human action other than that of cremation itself (McKinley 1994b); there is no indication here of any deliberate fragmentation of bone prior to burial.

All the burials included some identifiable elements from all areas of the skeleton and, as is commonly the case, there is no evidence to suggested deliberate selection of specific elements for burial. The percentage of axial skeletal elements in the two later burials at 29 % and 32 % (by weight) of identifiable fragments appears relatively high. However, this is probably largely due to the very good bone survival, these elements of predominantly trabecular bone generally being the first to be destroyed in soil conditions detrimental to bone survival (McKinley 1997a, 245). Conversely, the lower proportions of axial skeletal elements in the unurned (earlier) burials is probably reflective of the decreased lack of protection offered to the unurned bone. Other trabecular bone – articular surfaces – were also slightly less common in the unurned burials. With the exception of burial 7114 in grave 7097 there are very few tooth roots and relatively few of the smaller hand bones, which may reflect the collection procedures used for the recovery of bone from the pyre site at the end of cremation (McKinley in press), with individual fragments recovered by hand.

Pyre goods were recovered from three of the burials in the form of small quantities of cremated animal bone (50 % of burials), with unburnt piglet limb bones – a grave good – from one of the same burials. The tradition is common within the Romano-British period, 3.5 – 47 % of burials from a range of cemeteries having been found to contain cremated animal remains (McKinley

in press). The findings from Hyde Street are in contrast with those from the adjacent Victoria Road site, where cremated animal bone was observed in only two burials (2 %; Powell in prep.).

Iron staining on a fragment of tibia shaft from grave 7097 indicates the one-time presence of an iron object; the absence of any iron artefacts from the burial may mean the staining occurred on the pyre, or that that the iron object has corroded away. The small fragment of copper-alloy fused to a fragment of humerus shaft from 7101 is likely to represent fusion that occurred on the pyre: no burnt artefact was found with the bone that might account for this, although an undamaged bow brooch was recovered from the grave fill. Pink spot staining was observed on a fragment of exocranial skull vault, a fragment of rib shaft and a talus fragment from grave 7071. Research has suggested that such staining is indicative of the presence of copper-alloy during cremation (Dunlop 1975).

The two vessels excavated in spits show a thorough mix of bone from the various skeletal areas throughout the depth of the vessels, with no indication of ordered deposition. Whilst anatomically adjacent fragments and skeletal elements occurred within the same spit, there were also joins between fragments from different spits up to 0.09 m apart. The bone distribution suggests another receptacle was originally used to hold the bone during recovery from the pyre site, and/or that the bone was raked together into a pile – thereby mixing it – before it was collected for burial.

Each of the burials represents that of a single individual, but the contemporaneous making of two burials within the same grave – as urned or unurned deposits – suggests a link between the individuals so placed. At Hyde Street there is a further possible link in the depositional practice of these dual burials (7101, 1st century AD, and the later 7071) as each has the inclusion of what may be a deliberate 'token' few fragments of one of the individuals in the burial of the other (see above). Experiment has shown that where two individuals are cremated together, side by side on a pyre, because of the way the pyre collapses the bodies are subject to little movement in the horizontal plane (McKinley 1997b) and there is little or no mixing between the remains of the two without human manipulation. Consequently, it is possible where a grave contained the remains of two individuals, they may have been cremated separately or together; dual cremations were apparently only undertaken where the two individuals were closely connected (Noy forthcoming). Alternatively, the burials may have been made contemporaneously, but the deaths and cremations may not have been, as urned burials may have been kept above ground for some time prior to burial.

Graves of this type appear to have been relatively rare in Romano-British cemeteries with only a few recorded instances, including one of 833 burials from Baldock, Hertfordshire (McKinley 1991), two of 356 from St. Stephen's, St. Albans (McKinley 1992) and two of a possible 241 from Brougham, Cumbria (McKinley in press). One of the graves from the adjacent Victoria Road site appears to have held two contemporaneous burials comprising an urned adult burial and an unurned juvenile burial (Powell in prep.; Ottaway in prep); one other grave held two urns containing the bone of the same individual, and two urns with two individuals but no indication as to whether they were mixed or separated. The demographic combinations within this type of grave may include immature individuals with adults, and adults of the same or both sexes. The use of 'burial plots' or 'sepulchres' for the burial of 'family' members or burial club members is attested from epigraphic evidence (e.g. Saller and Shaw 1984; Toynbee 1991, 54–55) and these graves may represent a more lowly form of the same.

Medieval window glass by Rachael Seager Smith

Approximately 7.5 kg of window glass was collected from the north-eastern excavation area, mainly from a single large, post-Dissolution dump on the surface of the rubble deposits, many fragments bearing the ghosts of lead cames indicating that it had been leaded into windows. The glass itself can be divided into four basic categories, the first and largest (3826 gr) being durable, naturally coloured (pale green) glass. The second consisted of poorly durable glass (1077 gr), probably originally plain but now with almost totally blackened surfaces while the third category was made up from painted and stained fragments (2324 gr). The fourth consisted of small amounts (323 gr) of expensive transparent, coloured glass (ruby, green, amber and blue).

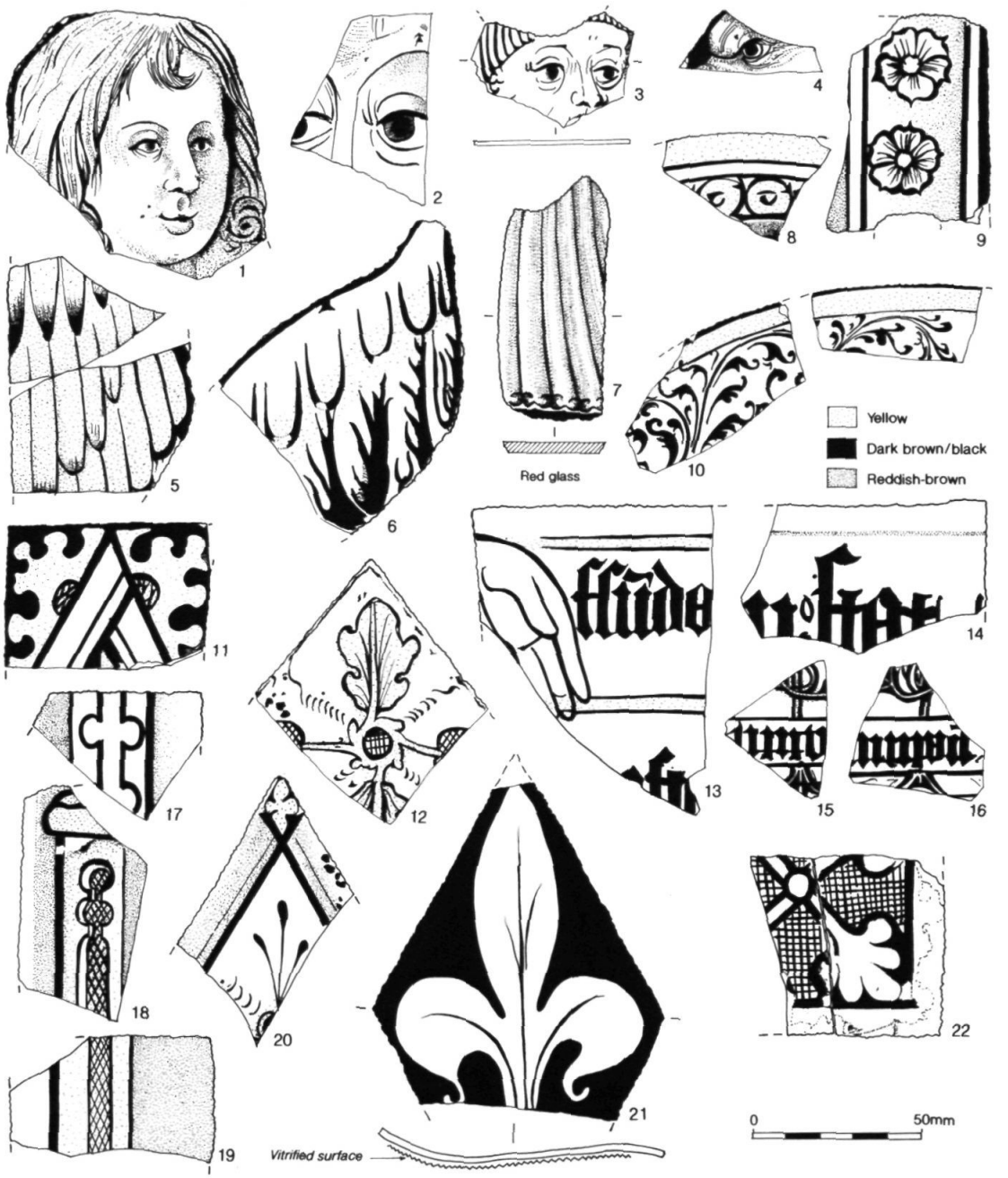

Fig. 15 Medieval stained glass

All the glass fragments ranged from 2–4 mm in thickness. The category 1 glass included one piece of crown glass but for the most part cylinder or broad glass was being used. Most have grozed edges although in some cases the quarries have been cut from the edges of panes, preserving at least one original fire rounded edge. Diamond-shaped and/or triangular quarries appear to have been most common although square, rectangular, trapezoidal, hexagonal and irregular quarries were also noted.

In general the painted and stained decoration had been applied to the same durable, naturally coloured glass of category 1. Most designs were painted in a dark reddish-brown pigment (probably iron oxide) although a small proportion (5–10 %) appear to be yellow stained.

It is clear that this deposit of glass represents the remains of several different glazing episodes; the designs and motifs indicate a date range from the 12th/13th century through to the 15th century. Moreover, from a comparison with the range of medieval window glass from other parts of the town (Kerr 1990) it is apparent that this group represents a significant addition to the range of known designs and motifs, particularly for the later medieval period (14th to 15th century). The dumped glass, then, probably derives from a series of windows which were removed from the Abbey after the Dissolution (probably very shortly afterwards) and from which most of the lead cames had been removed (probably for recycling).

The earliest identifiable pieces derive from geometric grisaille panels; the illustrated example (Fig. 15.22) shows a stiff-leaf foliage motif on a cross-hatched background, paralleled at Wolvesey Palace and dated broadly as 12th to 13th century (*ibid.*, 412, fig. 102, 900.5).

Several fragments derive from geometric (Fig. 15.11) and foliate border designs (Fig. 15.8–10), which would have formed the edge frames to main glazing, and background quarries (Fig. 15.12, 20). All these are likely to be of 14th or 15th century date (*ibid.*, 409–10, figs, 99 and 100), as are the fragments of inscriptions, all small-scale black-letter. A few fragments appear to represent architectural designs, possibly stylised windows (Fig. 15.17–19; see *ibid.*, fig. 101, 899.16); Fig. 15.18 shows an interesting use of perspective.

Figurative designs include human faces (Fig. 15.1–3), an animal face, possibly a lion (Fig. 15.4), drapery (Fig. 15.7) and angels' wings (Fig. 15.5–6). The human and animal faces (and the details of the hand seen in Fig. 15.13) are naturalistic and well executed (compare, for example, the 13th and 14th century examples illustrated from the town: *ibid.*, fig. 93); the facial details are characteristic of 15th century figurative painting. The drapery and wing details are similarly finely drawn; a date range of 14th or 15th century can be suggested.

Lead cames

Most of the 113 fragments of window lead were small and twisted, only a handful retaining small fragments of glass. All the retained cames belonged to Knight's type D (1985, 154–6, fig.48, 2d) probably milled in a toothless mill. Similar cames from early 15th century contexts at sites such as Battle Abbey (Knight 1985, 156) may indicate the introduction of simple toothless lead mills around AD 1500, although the earliest documentary references date from the mid 16th century (Knowles 1930, 133–9).

DISCUSSION

The archaeological investigations on the site, although limited in their extent, offer useful insights into the development of the northern suburbs of the town. The Roman remains recorded comprised the Winchester to Silchester road, together with structures fronting onto this and graves of both early and late Roman date. Despite the limited excavation, this evidence can further our understanding of the expansion of domestic occupation along the road north of the walled town and the extent of the nearby extra-mural cemetery. The medieval remains, although exposed only in plan and subject to very limited investigation, offer evidence of the extent of the Outer Court of Hyde Abbey and the character of occupation both within and beyond it.

The Roman evidence

The earliest datable features found on the site were the two mid-1st century cremation graves,

although these are probably broadly contemporary with the earliest phase of the Winchester to Silchester road. The graves are probably related to the extensive cremation and inhumation cemetery or cemeteries known to the west of Hyde Street (Clarke 1979; Ottaway in prep). The location of the north-south ditch flanking the western side of the road, together with the positions of the later domestic structures between this and the road itself, suggest that the ditch marked both the eastern boundary of the cemeteries and the western extent of the roadside occupation. However, the two early graves were found to the east of this suggested boundary. The apparent isolation and early date (AD 55–65) of these graves may indicate that they represent early roadside burials, dug before the cemetery boundaries were laid out in AD 50–70 (Ottaway in prep).

The cemeteries probably continued in use throughout most of the Roman period. The two 3rd or early 4th century graves found cut into the uppermost fills of the silted-up boundary ditch probably represent outlying graves associated with the latter phases of the cemeteries.

As well as the relative location of the early and late graves, aspects of mortuary ritual are of some interest here. The early graves are well-furnished, with six vessels found in each grave. This comparatively high number of vessels is not unusual in this part of central southern England (Millett 1987) and may be seen as an index of romanisation, although it has also been suggested that the practice may represent a continuation of pre-Roman burial ritual (Struck 1995). The presence of later Roman cremation burials accord with the evidence from Lankhills and elsewhere in the region (Philpott 1991). The later graves contained only one or two vessels, and this decline is also paralleled in the region (Millett 1987).

The presence of two 'double' graves, that of an adult female and infant in grave 7101 and of two adult females in grave 7071, along with the apparent high proportion of females aged over 30 years, may be significant. Although graves of this type are relatively rare in Romano-British cemeteries, one clearly comparable example is known from the adjacent Victoria Road site, with one other multiple cremation burial grave also recorded here.

Although any inferences drawn from such a small sample should be viewed with caution, these practices may reflect some form of zoning within the cemeteries on the basis of burial rites and/or sex. Whilst each burial at Hyde Street is that of a single individual, the contemporaneous placing of two burials in the same grave implies a link between the individuals. The suggested placing of 'token' bones from one individual with the remains of the other provides a further possible link here. It cannot be ascertained whether these graves contained remains dual cremations, or the contemporaneous burial of individuals cremated separately with a period of time elapsed between each death. Whichever, the suggestion of family or other allocated burial plots that may be implied from this is interesting; if this is the case, the apparently peripheral location of both early and late graves may reflect the status of the plot owners.

Evidence for pyre technology was very sparse. Charcoal from the cremation burials was rare and mostly very fragmented, but was ascribed as the remains of the pyre fuel. Oak (*Quercus* sp.) was common to each context whereas other species were more randomly distributed (Table 1). There was no apparent distinction between charcoal from within the funerary pots and that scattered in the graves. Although some differences were discernible in the species content between the earlier and later burials, given the minimal size of the samples, it was not possible to determine whether these were significant or not. Very few charred plant remains were recovered from the grave backfills and pot fills (Table 2), suggesting that both contained background burnt waste incorporated when the graves were dug, rather than deliberately placed material.

Evidence for Roman structures was found both in evaluation Trench 1 and in the north-western excavation area. The evaluation trench identified features, dated to the late 1st to mid 2nd century, which may relate to a nearby building. However, the earliest certain evidence of a structure was of late 2nd or early 3rd century date. A second building, dated to the mid-late 3rd century, overlaid this structure and was sealed below the possible 'dark earth' deposit. The latest Roman buildings recorded on the site were

the two later 4th century structures in the north-western area.

It therefore seems that the northern suburbs of *Venta Belgarum,* at least along the western side of the Silchester road, had developed by at least the early 3rd century if not earlier, despite the proximity of the cemeteries to the west. Although no clearly defined Roman structures were recorded to the east of the road, the presence of a metalled surface, rammed chalk surfaces and a possible beam slot immediately adjacent to the road suggests that this side was also developed. The deep 'dark earth' deposits to the east of the road were at least partly formed prior to the deposition of the coin hoard in AD 363 or a little later, indicating that any structures had probably fallen out of use by this time.

The medieval evidence

The absence of any 'dark earth' above the Roman road suggests that the use of the road continued as this deposit was forming: the presence of a possible structure, dated to the 9th or 10th centuries, respecting the alignment of the road, suggests that it was still in use in the late Saxon period. Although only post-medieval deposits were recorded above the road, the evaluation indicated that the road had fallen out of use by the 11th or 12th century. Significantly, this period marks the beginning of a series of timber and clay tenement buildings that appeared to front onto Hyde Street.

The small scale of the excavations within the Outer Court of Hyde Abbey limits what can be inferred about the origins and development of this area. Documentary evidence that a bakehouse was located in this area is supported by the presence of two large ovens. The function of the majority of the buildings remains uncertain, although they are likely to have served a variety of domestic uses.

It is clear that the very localised deposit of stained glass found above the demolition rubble represents the remains of several different glazing episodes; the designs and motifs amongst the painted glass indicate a date range from the 12th/13th century through to the 15th century. Moreover, from a comparison with the range of medieval window glass from other parts of the town (Kerr 1990) it is apparent that this group represents a useful addition to the range of known designs and motifs, particularly for the later medieval period (14th to 15th century). The dumped glass, then, probably derives from a series of windows that were removed from the Abbey after the Dissolution (probably very shortly afterwards prior to the establishment of the formal gardens of Hyde House in *c.* 1545), and from which most of the lead cames were subsequently removed (probably for recycling).

Although no traces of any wall were found, the limits of the Abbey precinct can be inferred from the lack of clear ecclesiastic activity, the assumed position of the river and the arrangement of later property boundaries. The southern boundary of the precinct seems likely to have been formed by the river Fulflood. Whilst the western side of the precinct may have extended to the Hyde Street frontage, a number of factors would seem to suggest otherwise. The scant traces of medieval activity recorded in the north-western area appear more typical of the back plot activities associated with the secular occupation recorded in evaluation Trench 1, rather than those seen within the monastic precinct. The position of the large north-south ditch recorded some 20 m to the east of Hyde Street, presumably a continuation of that excavated immediately to the south of the site (Collis 1978) and known to the north, may also support this suggestion.

Archaeological survival

The archaeological survival seen at Hyde Street is exceptional in the historic suburbs of Winchester. The depth and preservation of the Roman stratigraphy on the site is highly unusual outside the walled town itself. This reflects the depth of garden soils overlying the Roman deposits, which have to a large extent protected the remains in the south-west of the site from damage by medieval and post-medieval buildings and have also allowed the modern garage structures here to rest almost entirely above Roman levels. Indeed, apart from the insertion of the garage fuel tanks and modern services, Roman levels across the site had generally been disturbed only by a few medieval features.

With regard to the medieval deposits, excavations to the north of the site have shown that remains relating to Hyde Abbey are generally poorly preserved in comparison with those recorded here. The exceptional survival of the medieval structures and deposits in the north-eastern part of the site is due in no small part to the thick demolition deposits of masonry rubble which buried them; the modern garage structures here were in many instances founded on the medieval rubble spreads. However, perhaps the most significant factor in ensuring the preservation of both Roman and medieval remains across the site was the establishment of the formal gardens of Hyde House. This both effectively secured the land from development over a period of some 350 years or more and ensured the continued accumulation of the garden soils that have served to protect the deposits so well.

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The site archive and finds will be deposited with Winchester Museums Service under the site code AY35. Copies of the archive will be deposited with the National Archaeological Record and will also be retained at Wessex Archaeology under the project code 47882.

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