



## Land at Francis Gardens Winchester, Hampshire

Archaeological Excavation Assessment Report  
with Watching Brief and Radiocarbon Dating Addendum





**LAND AT FRANCIS GARDENS, WINCHESTER  
HAMPSHIRE**

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with Watching Brief and Radiocarbon Dating Addendum**

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\* I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

# LAND AT FRANCIS GARDENS, WINCHESTER HAMPSHIRE

## Archaeological Excavation Assessment Report

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## **LAND AT FRANCIS GARDENS, WINCHESTER HAMPSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Excavation Assessment Report**

#### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Redrow Homes to undertake a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample excavation on Land at Francis Gardens, Winchester, Hampshire (hereafter 'the Site') (NGR 448598 131178).

Following a programme of archaeological evaluation undertaken by Wessex Archaeology at the Site in March 2010, comprising the excavation of 38 trenches, two areas were identified as requiring further archaeological mitigation. The programme of excavation was conducted in two phases of work comprising Areas 1 and 2. Area 2 was undertaken as the first phase of fieldwork and comprised the excavation of an area measuring 32m by 30m located toward the far south west corner of the Site. The second phase of fieldwork, Area 1, was located on the eastern side of the Site, within the footprint of the proposed soakaway and bund, and measured approximately 72m in length by 49m in width.

The programme of archaeological strip, map and excavation in Areas 1 and 2 further revealed features dating to a number of periods: early to late prehistoric, Romano-British, Early/Middle Saxon and medieval/post-medieval. The Prehistoric period was represented by residual struck and some worked flint artefacts, most notably an Mesolithic 'pick' was retrieved from a natural depression in Area 1. A small pit of possible Iron Age date was recorded in Area 1. A segmented narrow field/land boundary in Area 1 was also assigned this phase though may be contemporary with a Romano-British ditch.

The Romano-British features included a V-shaped ditch and associated remnant metalled surfaces, two small pits and a posthole as revealed in Area 1. The metalled remnant surfaces of well sorted flint are possibly the remains of the Roman road leading out of the Winchester North Gate and which heads toward Silchester, with its V-shaped roadside ditch. Residual Romano-British artefacts were also retrieved from Saxon sunken featured Buildings (SFBs) and included bronze coins dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, tegula/roofing tile fragments, pottery sherds and a set of bronze tweezers.

Early-Middle Saxon features pertaining to settlement/occupation comprised six sunken-featured buildings each yielding an array of artefacts such as glass beads, quernstones, annular loomweights, a shale spindle whorl, bone pins and, knife handle as well as numerous ferrous objects. Alongside the archaeological record the artefacts serve as the main source for the characterisation of the SFBs. The environmental samples generally provided a paucity of data in all bar three (the largest) of the SFBs.

Two Early/Middle Saxon rectangular houses defined by postholes were recorded in Area 1. The northernmost structure appeared to be of a single phase whilst the southernmost revealed a more complex/ multiple phase of construction and includes a number of associated internal pits one of which was revealed in the evaluation and contained possible ceramic kiln lining. Both houses yielded a small quantity of pottery dating to the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> century, animal bone and burnt flint.

A number of other isolated postholes of unknown function were also recorded across Area 1, and it is possible that they could be the remains of fence lines/boundary markers, perhaps indicating some form of general division between the SFBs and the posthole structures.

A series of parallel field boundary ditches identified in the evaluation contained residual late prehistoric struck flint and pottery. Further investigation within excavation Area 2 confirmed the features were of medieval/ post medieval date.

Area 2 was excavated between 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010. Area 1 was excavated between the 11<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

A watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology and the results are appended to this document (**Appendix 3**). The relevant results will be incorporated into the publication report.



## **LAND AT FRANCIS GARDENS, WINCHESTER HAMPSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Excavation Assessment Report**

#### **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to CgMs Consulting and would particularly like to thank Richard Meager for commissioning the project on behalf of Redrow Homes who have funded the work. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Tracy Matthews (Historic Environment Officer for Winchester City Council) who monitored the project.

The excavation fieldwork of Area 1 was directed by Rebecca Fitzpatrick, with the assistance of Neil Fitzpatrick, Dave Murdie, Andy Sole, Simon Cleggett, Ben Cullen and Sam Cleggett. Area 2 was excavated by Jon Milward and Dave Murdie. This report was compiled by Rebecca Fitzpatrick. The Illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram, Rachael Seager Smith, Jörn Schuster, Lorrain Higbee, Nicholas Cooke, Grace Perpetua Jones and Matt Leivers. Conservation was undertaken by Lynn Wootten. The environmental samples were processed by Niki Mulhall, assessed by Sarah F. Wyles and reported on by Chris J. Stevens, who also advised on the potential for radiocarbon dating. The project was managed by Damian De Rosa on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

## LAND AT FRANCIS GARDENS, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT RREPORT

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### Project Background

Wessex Archaeology was appointed by CgMs Consulting Limited to carry out an archaeological Strip Map and Excavation on Land at Francis Gardens, Winchester (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 448598 131178 (**Figure 1**).

The work was carried out as a condition of planning consent, granted on appeal (APP/L1765/A/09/2110205) by the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Condition 4 of the appeal decision requires a programme of archaeological work to be implemented prior to development.

The proposed residential development at the Site will comprise 90 dwellings, public open space, children's play area, landscaping, associated pedestrian and vehicular access to the Site and a bunded soakaway (**Figure 1**).

Winchester City Council's Historic Environment Officer (HEO), who acts as the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority, requested that a programme of archaeological work be carried out on the Site in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, WA 2010a), approved by the HEO. The request is in keeping with the current Winchester District Local Plan and Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance, in particular PPG 16 Archaeology and Planning (1990).

An archaeological evaluation of the Site comprising the excavation of 38 trial trenches (**Figure 1**) was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology from 22 February to 5 March 2010. The evaluation (WA 2010b) was able to identify two areas of moderate to high archaeological potential (Areas 1 and 2: **Figure 1**) with evidence of Iron Age field systems in the far south-west corner of the Site (Area 2) and Saxon activity possibly relating to settlement/occupation within the footprint of a proposed soakaway and bund (Area 1). Across the remainder of the Site isolated features indicated a general background of Late Prehistoric activity along with evidence of the Romano-British period in the form of a V-Shaped ditch in Area 1 as well as a pair of tweezers and a late 3<sup>rd</sup> century coin found as residual finds in dated Saxon features in Area 1.

Following submission of the evaluation report (WA 2010b) to the HEO it was requested that a programme of archaeological strip, map and excavation be undertaken in the areas of archaeological potential identified in the evaluation (Areas 1 and 2).

A revised WSI (WA 2010c) for a programme of archaeological strip, map and excavation was submitted and approved by the HEO for Winchester

County Council (WCC) prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The WSI set out the strategy and methodology to be implemented during the archaeological strip, map and excavation.

### **Scope of Document**

This document presents an assessment of the results of an archaeological excavation with recommendations and proposals for further work and the eventual publication of the results.

### **The Site, location and geology**

The Site comprises c.4.4 hectares of arable land on the northern edge of Winchester. The Site is bordered to the west by Worthy Road, to the east by the River Itchen and to the south by the Francis Gardens housing estate (**Figure 1**).

The Site lies on a gradual west to east slope with the ground level falling from 56.40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to the west on Worthy Road to 38m aOD where the Site borders the River Itchen to the east.

The underlying geology has been identified as Upper Chalk overlain partly by Valley Gravel and Sand across the Site with Alluvium in the east beside the River Itchen (GSGB – Sheet 299).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **Previous Work**

The archaeological potential of the Site was considered in a Desk Based Assessment CgMs (CgMs 2007). This highlighted findspots in the local area of Bronze Age, Anglo Saxon and Medieval date, suggesting remains from these periods may be present within the Site.

It was also considered that the Roman road which is known to be in the vicinity of the current B3047 Worthy Road may also pass through the Site.

An archaeological evaluation of the Site (WA 2010b) was undertaken. This demonstrated the presence of archaeological features on the Site which existed in twelve of the thirty eight trenches that were excavated. On the eastern part of the Site in the area recorded during this phase of works as Area 1 features pertaining to early Saxon (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> century) settlement were identified. The features produced an array of artefacts including a residual late 3<sup>rd</sup> century barbarous radiate Romano-British coin and a pair of copper alloy tweezers along with evidence of wattle impressed daub that may have come from a kiln.

The excavation in Area 2 was centred upon ditches identified during the evaluation as being potentially prehistoric in date.

### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### Introduction

The objective of the strip, map and record excavation was to expose, plan and examine the archaeological resource within a framework of defined aims (see below) to seek a better understanding of that resource, to analyse the findings and to disseminate the results of the work.

This was achieved through the investigation of 2 excavation areas totalling 0.32ha in size (**Figure 1**).

#### Research agenda

The project was undertaken with reference to the wider research aims as set out in the *Solent Thames Research Framework*, with particular reference to the resource assessment and research agenda as set out in *Hampshire – The Roman Period: 50BC-AD 410* (Massey 2006) and *The Early Medieval Period* (Crawford 2010). Specific research questions that could be derived from these documents with particular relevance to post-Roman - early Saxon settlement on the outskirts of Roman urban centres such as Winchester are:

To review the structural and artefactual evidence from the end of the Roman period to assess the character of “sub-Roman” settlement and to refine understanding of post-Roman socio-cultural changes and assess the effect of those changes on the settlement landscape as a whole.

Can the chronology of early Saxon settlement be enhanced through artefactual and stratigraphic evidence, whereby there is normally an extreme paucity of diagnostic material evidence and generally poorly preserved occupation sequences for this post-Roman period?

To establish whether the Site can be seen as further evidence of early Saxon settlement being established along the river bank of the River Itchen, such as at Abbots Worthy, Kings Worthy and Itchen Abbas’ succeeding a series of farms and villages which occupied the south facing slope of the upper Itchen Valley during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

#### Site Specific Aims

To define the nature, extent, character and chronology of the Late Prehistoric, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon occupation on the Site.

To relate the nature, extent, character and chronology of the Saxon occupation of the Site in its wider landscape context with particular reference to other known earlier Saxon sites such as Abbots Worthy (Fasham and Whinney 1991).

To establish whether there is any evidence for continuity of occupation/settlement from the Iron Age into the Romano-British period and through to the Saxon period.

To identify the nature of industrial activity being undertaken at the Site during the Saxon period as possibly evidenced by the wattle impressed daub from evaluation Trench 32.

To determine the date, extent, nature and duration of habitation of the Site.

To ascertain whether specific agricultural or industrial activities can be determined from the excavated evidence.

To determine whether buried soils or occupation horizons were preserved on the Site.

## 4 EXCAVATION STRATEGY

### Excavation Areas

Two areas (Areas 1 and 2) were subjected to Strip, Map and Record Sample Excavation (**Figure 1**). They are as follows:

**Area 1 (Figure 1)** measured c.340m<sup>2</sup> in size and comprised the footprint of the proposed soakaway and bund area. It was focused on **Trenches 32 to 35** which revealed evidence of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> century Saxon activity possibly relating to occupation.

**Area 2 (Figures 1 and 2)** measured c.900m<sup>2</sup> in area and was focused on a number of ditches revealed in **Trenches 28 and 38**, which appeared to indicate evidence of Iron Age activity possibly relating to field systems or occupation. Two archaeological features revealed (SFB **6056** and feature **6205**) continued outside the bounds of **Area 1** and required further investigation to clarify and identify their nature. As a result the excavation area was slightly extended towards the far south-west corner and extreme southern end.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

### Introduction

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

A Site code, **WINCM:AY424** was obtained from Winchester Museums Service prior to the commencement of the initial evaluation fieldwork programme.

### Fieldwork

A 360<sup>0</sup> mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket was used to remove the overburden (topsoil/subsoil) under the constant supervision of a qualified professional archaeologist. Machine excavation continued down to the first recognisable archaeological horizon, as identified in the evaluation trenches.

The spoil from the excavation areas were scanned for artefacts both visually and with the use of a metal detector. A metal detector was further employed on the exposed surface of the excavation area in order to enhance artefact recovery.

On completion of the machine excavation the exposed surface was cleaned by hand and all archaeological features were surveyed using a Leica Viva series GNSS Unit through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.

Further excavation of archaeological features or deposits was undertaken by hand. Excavation and sampling was undertaken as specified in the WSI, and was sufficient to resolve the principal aims of the excavation.

The overburden, as identified during the evaluation, was on average, 0.4m to 0.5m deep across the Site. The stripped areas were delineated by the use of barrier tape and road irons.

### **Sampling Strategy**

All archaeological features and deposits encountered were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them. Pits and post-holes were subject to a minimum of a 50% sample. Sufficient lengths of all linear features were sampled in order to establish stratigraphic relationships and function of the features. All linear feature terminals were investigated.

More extensive excavation was undertaken where Sunken Feature Buildings were encountered following agreement with CgMs, the HEO and Wessex Archaeology.

### **Recording**

All exposed archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system. All features and deposits were assigned a unique context number.

Areas under archaeological observation were surveyed using a GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey. All interventions were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid, and all archaeological features were related to Ordnance Survey Datum.

A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits were compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a Site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated and plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.

A full photographic record was maintained using both colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35 mm film). Digital photography was employed as appropriate. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the Site as a whole.

### **Finds and Environmental Sampling**

All recovered artefacts were retained unless they were undoubtedly of modern or recent origin. The presence of modern objects were, however, noted on context records

Provision was made for environmental sampling that was targeted upon potentially significant archaeological deposits or features, and predominantly examined sealed and well-dated contexts.

The environmental sampling strategy followed the guidance set out in English Heritage's *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*.

### Monitoring

Weekly Site monitoring meetings were undertaken with the HEO, CgMs and Wessex Archaeology Project Manager in attendance.

### Reinstatement

The excavation areas were reinstated following completion of the archaeological work.

## 6 RESULTS

### Introduction

The following sections provide a summary of the results of the excavation based on the Site archive.

### Topsoil and overburden

The Site was covered with dark grey brown silty clay topsoil, approximately 0.45m in depth. For the most part the topsoil overlay the natural geology that consisted of valley gravels with a clay matrix and outcrops of Upper Chalk. Within Area 1 the topsoil depth was greater upslope in the northwest, at a depth of 0.49m, whereas towards the south and east, downslope, the topsoil depth was c.0.15m. Within the north-west part of Area 1 a layer of fine silts was evident beneath the topsoil and overlying features and the metallised surfaces of the possible Roman road at a depth of up to 0.70m beneath the ground surface.

### Phasing structure

The archaeological features have been assigned to four provisional phases (**Figure 1** and **2**): Prehistoric, Romano-British, Early/Middle Saxon, medieval/ post medieval. The phasing is predominantly based on dates from the pottery with additional stratigraphic information where this existed. The pottery in most cases served as the only dating evidence for archaeological features as well as occurring residually in some contexts.

### Prehistoric

This phase of activity is represented by struck and some worked flint artefacts from topsoil and natural levels. Generally archaeological features of all periods excavated, Site wide, contained residual flint.

The earliest Prehistoric phase is represented by an Upper Palaeolithic 'pick' (SF **35**) retrieved from a shallow natural depression located towards the south-west of Area 1 (**Figure 2**).

The majority of archaeological features dating to the Prehistoric era were of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age most of which were identified in the evaluation. The features include a total of four small pits **203 (TR2)**, **2303 (TR23)**, **2905 (TR29)** (evaluation – **Figure 1**) and **6045** (Area 1 – **Figure 2**). The latter was cut by a Romano British ditch **6315 (Figure 2)**. Each yielded

a small quantity of pottery. Also similar pit features **3103 (TR31)**, **703 (TR7)**, **2305 (TR23)** and **5008 (Area 2)** were revealed elsewhere in the evaluation and Area 2 that contained no datable evidence. However it is possible that these date to this period particularly **2305** that was located in close proximity to pit **2303**; and pit **5008** located between two parallel ditches assigned to this period.

Within Area 1 remains of narrow and shallow field/land boundaries were evident in four segments **6273**, **6316**, **6317** and **6318 (Figure 2)**. The features measured from 0.34m to 0.52m in width and from 0.14m to 0.20m in depth. The south-west to north-east segments, **6273**, **6317** and **6318**, ran roughly parallel and to the south-east of the Romano-British ditch **6315**. **6316** lay perpendicular to **6315** on a north-west to south-east orientation. All bar feature **6318** were located towards the north of Area 1 with **6318** located to the south. A Late Prehistoric date has been assigned to the field/land boundary system based on the struck and worked flint retrieved and also from stratigraphic relationships. Segment **6317** was cut by a posthole **6141 (Figure 2)** within the Early/Middle Saxon post hole structural activity, and also at the south end of **6318** by Early/Middle Saxon SFB **6034 (Figure 2)**.

### Romano-British

This phase comprised a south-west to north-east aligned V-shaped ditch **6315 (Figure 2 and Plate 1)** that measured 1.6m in width and 0.67m in depth. Associated with **6315** were a number of metalised surfaces to the north-west, two small pits **6039** and **6007** and a posthole **6212**.

The metalised surfaces (**Figure 2**) of well sorted flint are possibly the remains of the Roman road leading out of the north gate of Venta Belgarum (Winchester) toward Calleva (Silchester), with its V-shaped roadside ditch as represented by **6315**. Of note small find (**SF**) **21** a well preserved hipposandal (**Plate 2**) was retrieved from metalised surface **6037**.

One other metalised surface **6005 (Figure 2)** was identified to the east of ditch **6315**. This feature was sealed beneath a layer similar to that covered by the other metalised surfaces associated with the road and also consisted of well sorted flint. The surface contained a ferrous object but no datable artefacts were retrieved. However, due to the nature of this feature resembling the remnant 'road' surfaces, **6005** has provisionally been assigned to this phase.

Residual Romano-British artefacts were also retrieved from the Saxon sunken-featured buildings (SFBs) and included bronze coins dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, tegula/roofing tile fragments, pottery sherds and a set of bronze tweezers discovered in the evaluation.

### Early/Middle Saxon (6<sup>th</sup> – early 7<sup>th</sup> century AD)

A total of six sunken-featured buildings (SFBs **6034**, **6056**, **6079**, **6081**, **6121** and **6212 (Figure 2 and Plates 3-8)**) and two houses whose walls are defined by postholes along with a number of possible posted fence lines were identified in Area 1. An overview of these features is presented below with details of shape, dimensions, depth and related features/context numbers such as postholes in **Table 1**.



Five SFBs were located towards the southern part of the area and one toward the north end. All except **6079** were on a north-west to south-east axis although it is possible that **6212** lay on a north-east to south-west axis, similar to **6079** (**Figure 2**).

Each SFB displayed slightly differing structural characteristics, dimensions and shape in plan (**Figure 2**). However all except SFB **6056** appeared to be of two-post type and in the case of SFBs **6076**, **6081** and **6212** a third post was evident. Four postholes were recorded in SFB **6056** with all being revealed internally at the south-east end.

The most substantial SFBs were **6034**, **6056** and **6079** located towards the south end of Area 1 with **6034** and **6079** in close proximity to two smaller SFBs **6121** and **6081** (**Figure 2**).

Internal structural subdivisions were indicated by the presence of stakeholes that were evident in SFBs **6121** and **6212** (**Figure 2**). Within SFB **6121** a line of three stakeholes were evident at the south-east end and a total of four stakeholes evident within SFB **6212** – one in the middle and a cluster of three at the north-west end. The features may indicate evidence of internal divisions within the SFB.

Non structural elements, for example internal pit features, were revealed in SFBs **6034** and **6079**. A sub-square feature, **6251**, evident at base level toward the south-west end of SFB **6034** appeared to be filled with burnt material. From the immediate layer above and in the same location as **6251** a shale spindle whorl (SF **87**) (**Plate 9**) was retrieved and tentatively suggests **6251** may have been the remnants of a storage box, although it might equally be another structural element of the SFB. Pit **6066** (**Figure 2** and **Plate 10**) within SFB **6079** contained three cattle bones, all from the foreleg (scapula, radius and ulna) – perhaps from the same animal, beneath which two (residual) late Roman coins were retrieved.

The function/ type of general activity of the SFBs was indicated from the artefacts retrieved. For instance textile/ weaving within SFB **6034**; it contained a high quantity of annular loomweights, complete and fragmented, were recorded. Annular loomweights are considered to be characteristic of the early Saxon period, continuing into the middle Saxon period; later weights (middle to late Saxon) are bun-shaped, or in a form intermediate between annular and bun-shaped. All of the weights appear to have been underfired, and were consequently in varyingly friable condition – extreme examples proved very difficult to excavate. The artefacts were distributed along the north-west, north-east and partially along the south-west sides of the feature (**Figure 2**). Of particular note two ‘stacks’ of loomweights (**Plate 11**) were recorded at the north-east end. It is unclear if the loomweights were deliberately lain in position or if they had fallen, for example from loom apparatus. Heavily burnt charcoal remains lying on the base of SFB **6034** could possibly be interpreted as structural remains possibly from an *in situ* burnt loom or the remains of a collapsed burnt floor or other structural element. However, this remains unclear as no structural timber could be identified during the excavation of this deposit.

Evidence of possible food processing such as milling is indicated from the retrieval of a number of quernstones within SFBs **6079** (SF **39**) (**Plate 12**), **6212** and **6056**.

A number of personal effects were discovered in the SFBs including two bone pins (SF **60**, (**Plate 13**)) from SFBs **6034** and **6079** and two glass beads one of which had a copper alloy link (SF **65**) (**Plate 14**) from SFB **6079**.

Two houses represented by postholes were recorded in the northern part of Area 1 (**Figure 2**) (**Table 1**). Both were north-west to south-east aligned and located, close to and at right angles to, the Romano-British ditch **6315**.

The northern house (**Figure 2**) appeared to be a single phase construction. Of the postholes excavated those upslope, to the north-west, survived to a greater depth than the basal remnants downslope, to the south-east. A possible doorway may have been identified in the middle of the southern wall. A small quantity of artefacts was retrieved including pottery sherds and animal bone fragments.

The southern house(s) (**Figure 2**) appeared to be more complex and of possible multiphased construction. A total of six pits were identified within the footprint of the house(s) all contained artefacts such as animal bone and pottery of early/middle Saxon date along with a residual fragment of Romano-British glass retrieved from pit **6154**. It is not possible to ascertain which pits belong to a particular phase of construction or even which of the features were internal or external at this stage of assessment.

Other posthole groups identified within Area 1 include three lines of postholes (**Figure 2**) (**Table 1**) and ran on the same north-west to south-east alignment as the northern and southern houses. The two south-westernmost posthole lines were located in close proximity to SFB **6212** and the southern house and the north-easternmost line lay parallel to and in the vicinity of the northern house. These features have been interpreted as probable fence lines.

A number of other isolated postholes of unknown function were also recorded across Area 1, and it is possible that they could also be the remains of fence lines/boundary markers, perhaps indicating some form of general division between the SFBs and the posthole structures.

**Table 1: Early to Middle Saxon features**

Structure no.	Length	Width	Depth	Postholes/ Features	Comments
<b>SFB 6034</b>	5.8m	3.0m	0.36m	6302 (internal NW end), 6267 (external SE end) and 6251 (internal small square pit? feature)	Shape in plan: rectangular. Cuts field/ land boundary 6318 (N corner).
<b>SFB 6056</b>	6.0m	3.9m	0.33m	Postholes: 6077 (internal SE end), 6117 (internal SE end), 6180 and 6183 (internal SE end 6180 either supported by 6183 or replacement post)	Shape in plan: sub-rectangular.
<b>SFB 6081</b>	3.8m	2.4m	0.15m	Postholes: 6084 (internal elongated feature possible posthole. W end), 6086 (internal E end), 6107 (internal W end), 6088 (external E end)	Shape in plan: sub-ovate.
<b>SFB 6079</b>	5.3m	4.2m	0.28m	Postholes: 6076 (internal SW end), 6112 (internal SW end), 6114 (internal NE end) and 6066 (internal pit NW edge toward N corner)	Shape in plan: sub-square.
<b>SFB 6121</b>	3.3m	2.9m	0.20m	Postholes: 6164 (internal NW end), 6124 (external SE end). 6126, 6128 and 6130 (line of stakeholes internal SW end)	Shape in plan: sub-square.
<b>SFB 6212</b>	3.5m	2.9m	0.37m	Postholes: 6241 (internal W corner), 6243 (internal mid SW edge), 6215 external mid NE side). 6319,6321,6323 (internal stakeholes NW end) and 6325 (internal stakehole middle of SFB)	Shape in plan: sub-ovate/ sub-circular.
<b>Northern House</b>	c.12.4m	c.5.2m	0.46m (max) 0.14m (min)	Approx 34 postholes. Excavated postholes: 6283, 6285, 6288, 6269, 6271, 6259, 6261, 6281, 6277, 6275 and 6263. 6265 remnant of internal pit NW end	Shape in plan: rectangular.
<b>Southern House</b>	c.16.5m	c7.3m	0.54m (max) 0.07m (min)	Approx 60 postholes. Excavated postholes: 6193, 6178, 6187, 6174, 6189, 6168, 6176, 6170, 6166, 6198, 6172, 6148, 6146, 6143, 6141, 6019, 6231, 6011, 6013, 6015, 6017, 6021, 6023, 6025, 6027, 6029, 6031, 6033, 6201, 6203, 6306, 6234 (excavated in evaluation: 3214, 3218, 3220, 3222). Associated pits: 6195, 6227, 6222, 6156, 6154, 6151 and 6191.	Shape in plan: rectangular. 6141 cuts earlier/ pre-existing field/land boundary. Pit 6154 and PHs 6198 and 6203 contained small finds.
<b>Posthole line 1</b>	5.4m(max) 0.48m/P H	0.46m	0.45m	6 total: 6239 excavated	North-west to south-east aligned. Lay in close proximity to southern posthole structure and SFB 6212. Possible fence line.

Structure no.	Length	Width	Depth	Postholes/ Features	Comments
Posthole line 2	3.30m(max)		0.15m	5 total: 6308 excavated	North-west to south-east aligned. Lay in close proximity to southern posthole structure and SFB 6212. Possible fence line.
Posthole line 3	5.2m(max)	unexc	unexc	5 total	North-west to south-east aligned. Lay in close proximity to northern posthole structure. Possible fence line.
Isolated postholes	N/A			Approx. 41 postholes	Probable structural elements of fence lines/ boundary markers. Divisions between SFBs and posthole structures.

### Medieval / post-medieval

A series of parallel south-west to north-east field/ land boundary systems were recorded during the evaluation and in excavation Area 2 (**Figure 1**). These consisted of ditch **5021** and two converging ditches **5012** and **5020**. All had a shallow profile and contained residual struck flint. Within evaluation Trench 28 two residual sherds of pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age period were also retrieved. The linears ran parallel to Worthy Road, which lies to the west.

A further linear feature **5022** was identified along the eastern side of Area 2 and appeared to contain shallow and narrow depressions in its base, which were initially interpreted as 'wheel ruts'. However, the spacing between the ruts would appear to be too narrow for such purposes as a 'holloway/cart tracks' and the feature is therefore more likely to be another field boundary.

### Watching brief

Additional evidence for the metalled surface (**6037**) and roadside ditch (**6315**) was identified during the watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (see **Appendix 3** for details).

A substantial probable Roman ditch (**3807** and **3820**) was also revealed this contained Romano-British greyware of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century date.

The relationship of features **3810** (possible pit or posthole) and **3811** (shallow depression) was unclear, and no finds were recovered from them.

A possible boundary ditch (**3910**) may define the northern extent of the Saxon settlement.

A number of postholes were also recorded; these may relate to SFB **6056**.

Pit **7008**, on the eastern boundary of the additional stripped area, contained Middle Saxon pottery, a fragment of Roman tile, some animal bone and a single piece of flint.

## Finds

### Introduction

This section considers the finds resulting from both episodes of fieldwork on the Site (evaluation and excavation). Finds from the evaluation have already been briefly reported on (Wessex Archaeology 2010b). **Table 6 - Appendix 1** gives the breakdown of finds by material type and by fieldwork episode.

The small finds assemblage recovered from the watching brief is not included here but a summary of the material may be found in **Appendix 3**.

The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, with a clear emphasis on the early/middle Saxon period (5th to 8th century).

### Pottery (*Lorraine Mephram*)

The small pottery assemblage includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date. Overall, the assemblage is in fair condition; abrasion levels are high and sherds are relatively small (mean sherd weight is 10.3g). Breaks are abraded and few conjoining sherds were observed, although there is one cross-context join (contexts **6061, 6064**).

Although the assemblage can be classified as small in terms of other sites, the 284 sherds of Saxon pottery are quite significant in terms of their quantity and secure context for this part of Hampshire. The significance of this group is therefore higher than its apparent small size and will provide an important group for comparative purposes in the future.

The assemblage has been quantified within each context by broad ware type (e.g. sandy, calcareous) or, for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery, known ware types (e.g. samian, Kennet Valley ware). The presence of diagnostic sherds has been noted, and spot-dates assigned on a context-by-context basis. **Table 7 - Appendix 1** gives the breakdown of pottery totals by ware type

#### *Prehistoric*

Twenty-four sherds were dated as prehistoric. All are in flint-tempered fabrics, but none are diagnostic, which hampers closer dating, given the lengthy currency of flint-tempered fabrics within the prehistoric ceramic traditions of southern England. A date range in the later prehistoric period is, however, almost certain, and all the sherds could be accommodated within the known range of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ceramics of the post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition. The only possible exception is a small sherd in a well-sorted and well finished fabric which could also be matched within the Middle Iron Age ceramics of the area (context **6022**).

Despite the abraded nature of the prehistoric sherds, suggesting that they have been redeposited from their original location, most serve as the only dating evidence for the features in which they occurred (evaluation pits **203** and **2303**, ditches **2811** and **2905**; excavation context **6022**, pit **6046**), although confidence cannot be placed on such small quantities of material for dating purposes.

### *Romano-British*

The 14 sherds of Romano-British pottery include both finewares (samian, New Forest colour coated ware) and coarsewares (greyware and oxidised ware). Four diagnostic forms were recorded – three coarseware everted jar rims, and a flagon or bottle neck in New Forest colour coated ware.

Eight of the 14 Romano-British sherds were clearly residual finds, but six comprised the only dating evidence for the features in which they occurred (one sherd in each of six features). As for the prehistoric pottery, however, dating on such small quantities of material cannot be depended upon.

### *Saxon*

The majority of the assemblage (284 sherds) has been dated as early/middle Saxon. The wares represented fall into two broad groups: organic-tempered and sandy, although there is some overlap between the two in that some wares contain both organic and quartz sand inclusions. Both ware types have a currency throughout the early to middle Saxon period (5th to 8th centuries), although organic-tempered wares are considered to have been introduced at a slightly later date than the sandy wares, having a *floruit* in the 6th to early 7th century. In this instance, both types are well represented, although the organic-tempered wares are in the majority (approximately two-thirds of the total by weight).

There is little else amongst the assemblage to enable any closer dating. Diagnostic sherds are scarce, and most of the rim sherds present (14 examples) cannot be assigned to specific vessel forms; there are two rounded vessels and one gently convex. No carinated vessels appear to be present. This fact, and the predominance of the organic-tempered wares, suggests a date range perhaps no earlier than the 6th century, and this is supported by the presence of two stamped vessels (one from evaluation **Trench 33**, and one from context **6122**). Stamped decorative techniques are particularly characteristic of the 6th century.

### *Medieval and post-medieval*

Only one medieval sherd was recovered, a coarseware of 'Kennet Valley' type, with a wide potential date range of 12th to early 14th century (evaluation trench 28).

Nine sherds are post-medieval, and include coarse earthenwares (Verwood-type wares from east Dorset, and redwares probably from a more local source) and German stoneware. These sherds came from evaluation trenches, and from topsoil contexts during the excavation.

## **Ceramic Building Material (CBM) (*Rachael Seager Smith*)**

Almost all of the CBM is Romano-British, but most of it occurred residually in Saxon or post-medieval contexts, the remainder coming from as yet undated contexts. The residual provenance is reflected in the condition of the assemblage, which is very fragmentary, and frequently highly abraded. Few fragments can be assigned to specific brick/tile types, instead depending for identification largely on fabric type and thickness.

One *tegula* roof tile was identified (posthole **6164** in SFB **6121**), and two combed box flue tiles (SFB **6034**). The remainder can only be broadly

classified as ‘flat fragments’ and ‘miscellaneous (undiagnostic) fragments’. Interestingly, the flat fragments (21 examples) are nearly all of a thickness that suggests an identification as bricks of various types; 18 fragments fall within a range of 35mm to 42mm, which would accommodate the thinner types of brick (e.g. *bessalis*, *lydion*, *pedalis*) commonly used for the *pilae* in hypocausts and as lacing/bonding courses in walls (Brodribb 1987). Only three flat fragments were thinner than 30mm, suggesting that roof tile is largely absent from this assemblage; it might also suggest that this perceived bias in the assemblage could be due to selective re-use of certain CBM types, perhaps during the Saxon period. Although fabric types were not specifically recorded during the assessment, it was observed that many fragments, particularly the brick-sized flat fragments, occurred in coarse fabrics containing prominent grog or clay pellets.

Eight fragments have been identified as medieval roof tile; all of these came from the evaluation trenches.

### **Fired Clay (Lorraine Mephram)**

Most of the fired clay recovered from the evaluation came from a single pit (3211), and comprises a group of abraded fragments with a very similar appearance; these are creamy-white in colour and with a powdery, friable texture, consistent with having been subjected to high temperatures. Some surfaces are visible. This material is of uncertain date and function, but could have formed a ceramic lining, possibly with some industrial function, e.g. within a kiln or furnace. Further fragments of similarly powdery, pale coloured fired clay were recovered from two more contexts during the excavation (SFB 6079, posthole 6236).

From the excavation stage, however, a significant part of the fired clay assemblage (approximately 85% by number) comprises fragments of ceramic loomweights. Two complete examples were recovered, the rest consisting of fragments. All of the weights appear to have been underfired, and are consequently in varyingly friable condition – extreme examples proved very difficult to excavate. Specialist conservation treatment was applied to four weights block-lifted on site (one subsequently turned out to contain fragments of two separate weights), and enabled sufficient diagnostic pieces to be identified and secured, but less robust fragments were then discarded.

For this reason, it is extremely difficult to give an estimate of the numbers of loomweights involved. As well as the two complete weights, the larger groups of fragments suggest the presence of at least 12 further weights, all from SFB 6034, and there are further smaller groups or single fragments from SFB 6056, 6061, 6064. The two complete weights are both of annular form, i.e. formed from a ‘sausage’ (or two) of clay, bent round into a ring and, as far as can be determined, the more fragmentary examples are also of this form. Annular loomweights are considered to be characteristic of the early Saxon period, continuing into the middle Saxon period; later weights (middle to late Saxon) are bun-shaped, or in a form intermediate between annular and bun-shaped (Hurst 1959, 23-4).

Other undiagnostic fragments of fired clay are of uncertain derivation. Some may also be loomweight fragments, but lack any distinguishing features



such as surfaces. Some at least are likely to be of structural origin, from hearth/pit linings or upstanding structures, and the most likely date range, given the associated finds, is Saxon.

### Stone (*Lorraine Mephram*)

Of the 11 pieces of stone recovered, at least four pieces are worked; these comprise one whetstone (SFB **6079**), one rotary quernstone (context **6049**), and two joining fragments possibly from a saddle quern (from two contexts within SFB **6034**). Other fragments (two in limestone and two in heathstone) show no obvious signs of working, although could have been utilised as building material (three came from Saxon SFBs).

### Worked Flint (*Matt Leivers*)

The assemblage consists of 298 pieces, mostly flake debitage (**Table 8 - Appendix 1**). The pieces are for the most part quite worn, with gloss, abrasion and damage consistent with redeposited material. A few pieces have blotchy orange iron staining. With the exception of a small group of six pieces from pit **2303** which are relatively fresh in appearance, and were associated with Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, all are residual.

Basic quantification of the worked flint is presented in **Table 8 – Appendix 1**. Detailed tabular data on the dimensions of the material is not warranted, as firstly the assemblage is far too small for the results of any metrical analysis to have any statistical validity and, secondly, it belongs to a number of different archaeological periods, and as such is a conflation of a number of different assemblages rather than an assemblage in its own right, all of it *ex situ*.

Flint is predominantly pale grey with frequent cherty inclusions, with some darker grey pieces. Cortex type suggests an origin in the chalk, although the condition indicates a secondary source.

Most of the debitage is broad and heavy (a description in line with the commonly accepted general sequence of changes to post-glacial lithic debitage from longer and thinner to broader and thicker) suggesting a date post-Middle Neolithic, although given the redeposited nature of the material any smaller element may have vanished. Cores are all flake cores, mostly irregular and multi-platformed, although one may be a Late Neolithic discoidal example.

A patinated blade from **6254**, a triangular platform rejuvenation tablet from **6043**, a notched flake from **6037** and a large tranchet pick from **6258** are probably or definitely Mesolithic.

### Glass (*Lorraine Mephram*)

The glass comprises two objects and two pieces of vessel glass. The two beads are both Saxon in date. One is a blue annular bead with an attached copper alloy wire suspension ring (context **6097**), and the second a small blue cylindrical bead, slightly misshapen (SFB **6079**). Both are well documented types from the Saxon period, but are not amongst the more diagnostic, closely datable types.

One small fragment of vessel glass is in a natural greenish glass, and is of uncertain date, but probably Romano-British (posthole **6154** in southern posthole structure). The second vessel fragment is from a green wine bottle of post-medieval date (topsoil find).

## Metalwork

### *Coins (Nicholas Cooke)*

Eight Roman coins were recovered from the excavations at Francis Gardens, Winchester (**Table 9 – Appendix 1**) all as residual finds within Saxon contexts. All eight are Roman coins – one *As/Dupondius* struck in the 1st to 3rd centuries AD and seven copper alloy issues of the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD. In general, the condition of the coins is good, with only three showing signs of post-depositional corrosion. Seven of the eight coins could be identified to period.

The earliest coin recovered from the Site is **SF81** (context **6123**), a heavily corroded *As/Dupondius* struck in between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD. Two late 3rd century coins were also recovered (**SF1** and **54**). Both of these are irregular radiate *antoniniani*, probably struck between c. AD 270 and the reform of coinage instigated by Diocletian in AD 296. These contemporary copies of ‘official’ coinage, also known as ‘Barbarous Radiates’ were probably struck in the late 3rd century AD to compensate for gaps in supply of coinage to Britain, supplying sufficient small change for the province’s needs. It is unclear whether these copies were officially sanctioned, if at all, but they are common site finds, and seem to have circulated in the same fashion as officially struck coins.

The remaining five coins from the Site all date to the 4th century AD. The earliest is a coin of Licinius II (**SF23**) struck at Trier in AD 320. Three (**SF44**, **45** and **85**) are coins issued by the House of Constantine. All are common types, although the latter **SF85** is in particularly good condition. **SF45**, an ‘Urbs Roma’ issue of the 330s AD appears to have been pierced for suspension, probably on a necklace, with the intention apparently to display the ‘Wolf and Twins’ design on the reverse. The final 4th century coin from the site (**SF53**) is a ‘Gloria Romanorum’ issue struck by Valentinian I, between AD 364 and 378.

The small assemblage of coins recovered from the Site represents a typical small assemblage of Roman coins, dominated as it is by coins of the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD, with only a single earlier coin. This is a pattern common to British sites, and reflects the vagaries of coin supply and use within the province. Given the small size of the assemblage, it can tell us little about coin use or loss on the Site itself - other than that coins were used throughout the late 3rd and well into the 4th century AD. The absence of any coins of the last third of the 4th century AD need not be significant in so small an assemblage, as coins of this date are less common as site finds. There is also the possibility, given that all the coins were recovered from Saxon contexts, that the artefacts could in fact be items that have been curated in the Saxon period.

### *Copper Alloy (Jörn Schuster)*

Seven items of copper alloy were recovered. A pair of plain tweezers comes from **3504** in SFB **6212**. A curved strip fragment and a small triangular piece

of sheet were found in **6038** (SFB **6034**). A broken fitting strip and a small hooked wire fragment come from **6110** in SFB **6112**. Two small bent wire loops were retrieved from **6122** in SF **6121**. Apart from the tweezers, which can roughly be dated to the Anglo-Saxon period, none of the other copper alloy objects permit any closer chronological differentiation.

#### *Iron (Lorraine Mephram)*

The assemblage of 66 iron objects is dominated by 37 nails, mainly recovered from the fills of various SFBs. A cleat and a hobnail from possible occupation layer **6004** are the only personal items. Three knives come from SFBs **6034** (x2) and **6056**, and would all be commensurate with an Anglo-Saxon date. A very well preserved Roman hipposandal was recovered from metallised surface **6037**. The remainder of the assemblage comprises various strips and fittings of unknown purpose, mainly found in SFB fills, but a number of items, including a bar, a bolt and a ferrule come from the topsoil and are likely to derive from modern agricultural machinery.

#### **Worked Bone (*Grace Perpetua Jones*)**

Three worked bone objects were recovered, comprising two pins and one probable handle. Both pins are short (35mm and 38mm respectively), with globular heads. One is otherwise plain (SFB **6034**), while the second has a marked mid-shaft swelling and stabbed pin-prick dots around this swelling and at the top of the shaft, running over the head (SFB **6079**). The dating of both pins is uncertain. No direct parallel for the decorated pin has been found. Bone pins with mid-shaft swellings are known in the Roman period, and metal pins with the same characteristic from the 7th century onwards.

The third object (SFB **6121**) is a large mammal rib fragment which has been split in half and riveted back together to form a possible knife handle.

#### **Animal Bone (*Lorrain Higbee*)**

##### *Quantity and provenance*

A total of 1,238 fragments (or 7.832kg) of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation and excavation phases of fieldwork. Once conjoins are taken into account this figure falls to 894 (**Table 10 – Appendix 1**). Most (89%) of the assemblage was recovered by hand during the normal course of excavation and the rest was retrieved from the sieved residues of 11 bulk soil samples.

Bone was recovered from 63 separate contexts. The largest stratified group (c.77% of the total assemblage) is from the fills of Early/Middle Saxon cut features including several sunken feature buildings. The remaining material is from a few Roman (3%), post-medieval (1%) and undated (19%) contexts.

##### *Methods*

The following information was recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion data, tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

##### *Results*

#### *Preservation condition*

Bone preservation varies from good to poor. In general the preservation condition is consistent within single contexts, in other words, there is no indication of the presence of residual bone, although residual Romano-British finds were noted from some Early Saxon contexts.

Gnaw marks were observed on c.3% of post-cranial fragments. This is a reasonably low frequency and suggests that much of the bone waste was rapidly buried or inaccessible to scavenging carnivores.

The assemblage includes a relatively large number (10% of the total) of small burnt (both charred and calcined) fragments. Most of this material is from sample residues and is largely unidentifiable. It is likely that these fragments were burnt during normal food preparation (i.e. cooked over an open fire) and as a result of deliberate but casual waste disposal practices (i.e. meal waste chucked onto the fire).

#### *Species represented*

Approximately 18% of fragments can be identified to species and element. The following species are represented and are listed in terms of their relative importance: cattle (48%), sheep/goat (35%), pig (c.7%), horse (4%), domestic fowl (c.3%), goose (c.1%) and cat (<1%).

Relatively large groups of bone were recovered from Saxon SFB **6079**. The general character of this group suggests that it includes a mixture of waste from different process (i.e. primary butchery and consumption); it also includes some of the rarer food animals such as domestic fowl and goose. The butchery waste from this feature includes cranial fragments, mandibles, metapodials and phalanges from all three main livestock species. These parts of the carcass have little meat value and are usually discarded during the initial stages of dismemberment. Of note amongst the butchery waste are fragments of maxilla from two young pigs and a small number of sheep mandibles, mostly adult animals. The food waste from this feature is characterised by good quality meat joints from the axial skeleton (i.e. ribs and vertebrae), fore- and hind- quarters. Butchery marks were noted on a few bones, of particular interest is a cattle scapula that has filleting marks across the surface of the blade. This type of butchery is quite specialist and is generally seen on shoulder joints that have been cured for storage. It is also worth noting that most of the domestic fowl bones from this feature are from juvenile birds and that one of the goose bones is from a female in lay. This evidence implies that younger more palatable birds were eaten and also that egg production was important.

Of note amongst the assemblage are several calf bones from Saxon contexts (**6061**), SFB **6121** and SFB **6056**. This evidence suggests local breeding and rearing of cattle and could potentially indicate specialist husbandry strategies (i.e. dairying). There is also limited evidence of horn-working in the form of a few horn cores with saw and/or cut marks around their base.

#### **Other Finds (Lorraine Mephram)**

Other finds comprise a single clay tobacco pipe stem (topsoil find), and a few small fragments of oyster shell.

## 7 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL

### Introduction

#### *Environmental samples taken*

A total of 78 bulk samples were taken, mainly from Saxon features, and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoals.

The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups and are further subdivided by SFB (**Table 2**):

**Table 2: Sample Provenance Summary**

Phase	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature
?RB	3	52	Pits and ditches
Saxon	4	19	Northern posthole group
Saxon	9	60	Southern posthole group
Saxon	24	606	SFB 6034
Saxon	15	306	SFB 6056
Saxon	11	271	SFB 6079
Saxon	2	38	SFB 6081
Saxon	2	28	SFB 6121
Saxon	6	86	SFB 6212
Saxon	2	7	Postholes
<b>Totals</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1473</b>	

### Charred Plant Remains (*Chris J. Stevens*)

The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 12 - Appendix 2**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

The flots varied in size and there were generally high numbers of roots and modern seeds that is indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation, but was generally rather poorly preserved.

The very few charred remains, which were recovered from the possible Romano-British features in Area 1, comprised a few indeterminate grain fragments.

Only four of the 13 samples from the Northern and Southern posthole houses contained any charred plant remains. These included small quantities of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* sp.) grains, hazelnut shell fragments (*Corylus avellana*), and seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.).

Very few charred grain fragments were observed in the 24 samples from SFB **6034**, but 10 of them contained moderate to high numbers of other charred plant remains. These remains included hazelnut shell fragments in particular, together with sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) stone and fruit fragments, small tubers and seeds of sedge (*Carex* spp.), brassicas (Brassicaceae), goosefoot, vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* spp.), rye grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* spp.), club-rush (*Schoenoplectus* sp.), knotgrass (Polygonaceae), clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* spp.), mallow (*Malva* sp.) and cleavers (*Galium* sp.).

Similar charred plant assemblages, in terms of both quantities and composition, were recorded in the 15 samples from SFB **6056**. The weed seeds observed included those of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* spp.) and speedwell (*Veronica* sp.), although the latter may be modern.

Larger amounts of charred grain fragments, in particular those of barley, were recovered in four of the 11 samples from SFB **6079**. Charred remains of weed seeds etc. were only present in smaller quantities. Small mineralised nodules were also observed in this SFB.

Very sparse numbers of charred plant remains were recorded in six of the 10 samples from SFB **6081**, SFB **6121** and SFB **6212**.

The two samples from posthole **6236** were devoid of charred plant remains.

These assemblages from SFB's and posthole structures are in keeping with the Saxon date, although are generally characteristic of this and following periods. Free-threshing wheat became common within the Saxon and medieval periods (Greig 1991). The weed seed species are generally reflective of an arable environment with some wetter areas, while the hazelnut shell frags and sloe stone frags may indicate the exploitation of the local wild food resource in hedgerows and/or woodland.

Smaller quantities of charred plant remains may often be recovered from deposits from SFB's in comparison to those from deposits within pits from the same settlements. This was the case for the charred plant remains from the nearby Saxon features at Abbots worthy (Caruthers 1992).

### Wood Charcoal (*Chris J. Stevens*)

Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Appendix 1**. Larger quantities of wood charcoal fragments >4 mm were retrieved from the Romano-British pit **6039** and from five of the samples from four Saxon features. These features were pit **6222**, part of the Southern posthole house, SFB **6034**, SFB **6056** and SFB **6079**. The charcoal was mainly mature wood fragments.

### Radiocarbon dating

Discussion with Dr Chris J. Stevens in regard to the extensive radiocarbon data gathered for the Early/Middle Saxon period indicates that there is a potential date range of up to approximately 150 years for samples from this period. It is likely, therefore, that samples from the Site, specifically those from the SFBs, would not provide any further refinement to the dating already indicated by the finds. The predominance of organic-tempered

pottery and the presence of two stamped vessels suggest a date range probably beginning no earlier than the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD and continuing into the 7<sup>th</sup> century, and this is supported by the dating assigned to the annular loomweights.

On this basis, and because it is unlikely that radiocarbon dating will refine the pottery dating (pers. comm. Lorraine Mephram), it is recommended that no radiocarbon dating is undertaken for the Site (see **Section 9.4.3**, below).

## 8 POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Overview

The fieldwork at Francis Gardens, despite its relatively small scale, has demonstrated the survival of a well-defined sequence of features and deposits within the Site. The assessment has identified a number of areas of analysis which will enable the Site to be compared with the results of other, similar excavations carried out in the vicinity of Winchester and possibly the wider area, with a view to supplementing previously published information.

A research agenda and site specific aims have been set out in Section 3 above, and the results of the excavation will lead to further analysis in the proposed programme of post-excavation work.

The archaeological features revealed within the Site are predominantly of Early/Middle Saxon date. However, possible evidence of landscape continuity from the prehistoric period, through the Roman period and into the Saxon period has been identified. The alignment of prehistoric field boundaries, the possible Roman Road and the Saxon settlement all appear to display some fossilisation of boundary alignments, possibly dating back to the late prehistoric period.

The nature of the prehistoric phase is indicative of agricultural 'field' boundaries, with a scattering of small pits suggestive of sporadic, small scale, possible settlement-related activity in the vicinity.

The possible identification of part of a Roman road leading to *Venta Belgarum* to the south represents a significant discovery, particularly in terms of the layout of the Early/Middle Saxon settlement which appears to be aligned to and possibly respected the course of the road. Conceivably, this line of communication was still in some form of use, either as a line of communication and / or a boundary feature.

The majority of the archaeological features and the main focus of future analysis and publication will be concentrated on the features and deposits of Early/Middle Saxon (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> century) date uncovered in Area 1.

The excavation revealed a series of sunken featured buildings (SFBs) and two post-built structures, all of which appear to have belonged to an Early/Middle Saxon settlement positioned on a terrace overlooking the River Itchen. This location is of significance as it may provide further evidence for a movement away from the Roman (and earlier) field systems and villa estates, as well as the Roman *civitas* to the south, to sites overlooking the River Itchen and extending for some distance along the valley sides and bottom.

The pottery recovered from the features, and in particular from the SFBs, appears to date to no earlier than the early 6<sup>th</sup> century, continuing into the 7<sup>th</sup> century, and this dating would seem to be supported by the form of the annular loomweights recovered from SFB **6034**. It is unlikely that radiocarbon dating would help to further refine these dates and place the settlement in a tighter timeframe.



Finds of Roman material, in particular CBM and late 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century bronze coins, were found within several of the SFBs and it is likely that rather than being stray finds, they were objects that were curated in the Saxon period as items of interest or value.

The loomweights in one of the SFBs are an indication that craft activity relating to weaving and textiles was being undertaken at the Site, but the remaining SFBs did not produce any further evidence to indicate whether these structures were predominantly being used for domestic or craft purposes. This would appear to be typical of many other sites where SFBs have been excavated, resulting in various interpretations as to their function, particularly when post-built structures are also present, as at Francis Gardens.

It also remains unclear from the archaeological evidence as to whether the SFBs had sunken floors which utilised the base of the hollows, or whether they had raised planked floors with an air space below. Fragmentary remains of a burnt timber from SFB **6034** could possibly be evidence of a collapsed floor or, given the finds of loomweights, it could be part of a collapsed loom. However, the nature and condition of the burnt timber does not allow for any further analysis to aid in its interpretation. Further study of the locations of the loomweights, coupled with the absence of any hearths on the base of the pits, might indicate whether or not there were raised floors in at least some of the SFBs.

Whilst the environmental evidence has shown that the charred plant remains recovered are generally typical of the crops and weeds present during the Saxon period, most assemblages are too small or limited in range to add any further information relating to the use and/or function of the Saxon structures. Nevertheless, further comparison with other sites may be worthwhile as other Saxon settlements, for example at Abbots Worthy, have shown that smaller quantities of charred plant remains were present in the SFBs than in pits, and this may help to further clarify the use of the SFBs, perhaps indicating whether they were primarily used for craft activities or as domestic structures. However, many of the SFBs were ultimately used as convenient pits for the disposal of rubbish after they fell into disuse and most of their fills will, therefore, reflect this final use.

### **Stratigraphic and structural analysis**

The evidence for prehistoric activity is limited and is represented by a scatter of Late Bronze Age/ Iron Age small pits – most of which were recorded in the evaluation - and a segmented field/land boundary system of less secure date. The presence of residual struck and burnt flint from many of the features excavated, of all periods, confirms a low level of prehistoric activity Site-wide.

Features of Romano-British date are represented by remnant metalled surfaces and an associated ditch, two pits and a posthole, all sealed beneath a silty layer. The evidence suggests that the metalled surfaces are possibly the remains of the Roman road leading out of the Winchester (*Venta Bulgarum*) North Gate and which heads toward Silchester, with an accompanying roadside ditch to the east. Most of the artefactual evidence from this period occurred residually in later, Saxon features.

The excavation has demonstrated that a significant and previously unidentified Early/Middle Saxon rural settlement lay c. 1.5km north of the historic core of Winchester, and in close proximity to sites of early Saxon date such as at Abbots Worthy, Kings Worthy and Itchen Abbas. The structural evidence recorded during the excavation is well-preserved in plan and includes six sunken-featured buildings and at least two post-built structures. However, artefactual evidence from the associated pits and postholes was relatively limited.

The archaeological remains of the Saxon structures and associated artefactual and environmental data warrant full analysis in order to elucidate what is currently known about early/Middle Saxon rural settlement in Hampshire. Of particular interest will be making comparisons between the nature, layout, chronology and economy of these sites,

The layout of the various landscape elements and their apparent shared alignments, including the River Itchen, prehistoric ditches, the Roman road, Saxon settlement and later field boundaries warrants further analysis in regard of the continuity of settlement and communication patterns within the historic landscape.

Based on the results of the fieldwork it is recommended that the results of the excavation at Francis Gardens, Winchester be published in the 'Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society' journal (Hampshire Studies).

## Finds

The Site produced a relatively small finds assemblage, focusing in date on the early to middle Saxon period, probably 6th/7th century. Prehistoric and Romano-British objects provide evidence of sporadic activity in and around the Site at these periods, but occurred mostly residually; the CBM in particular may have been subject to re-use during the Saxon period. No further work on the prehistoric and Romano-British finds is warranted, and selective discard is proposed for some of this material (see below, **Section 13.4**).

The small assemblage recovered from the watching brief (see **Appendix 3**) will be incorporated into the publication as appropriate.

The Early/Middle Saxon assemblage, deriving from several SFBs, is of at least local interest, as much of the evidence from Winchester belongs to the Late Saxon period and later. However, the range of object types is limited, and those types that do occur are commonly represented amongst other Saxon assemblages from the surrounding region. Pottery, fired clay and animal bone are the only material types found in any appreciable quantity. Of these, the fired clay, comprising to a large extent fragments of ceramic loomweights, has a potential limited by its poor condition, although some further comment may be possible concerning the fabrics used and loomweight dimensions. Apart from the loomweights, functional evidence is provided only by the quernstones and whetstone, while evidence for lifestyle is limited to the glass beads, bone pins, and tweezers. The iron nails, predominantly found in SFB fills, may have served a structural function and will be relevant to the discussion of the construction of these buildings.

Preliminary dating for the Site has already been provided by the pottery, and further analysis is unlikely to lead to any refinement of this dating, although recording to minimum archive standards of the Saxon pottery fabrics (using the local Winchester type series) and vessel forms is recommended, in order to compile a dataset that will enable future comparative research (MPRG 1998; 2001). The tweezers, knives and hipposandal can also contribute to the dating for their respective contexts.

The faunal assemblage is relatively small and this limits its potential. The number of identified bones is well below the minimum sample size required for an accurate assessment of the relative importance of livestock species, and therefore the local pastoral economy (Hambleton 1999, 39-40). The number of bones from which more detailed information (e.g. age, size, conformation and butchery) can be obtained is also relatively low and of limited potential (**Table 11 – Appendix 1**). However, the Early/Middle Saxon assemblage is potentially of local interest since much of what is currently known about Saxon animal husbandry regimes in Winchester and the surrounding area relates to the Late Saxon period (see Serjeantson and Rees 2009). It is therefore recommended that a very brief summary of the assemblage and basic quantification table, should accompany any future publication of the fieldwork results.

## Palaeo-Environmental

### Charred plant remains

Due to the paucity of the charred plant remains recovered from samples from the Romano-British features, there is no potential for any further analysis of these samples. The analysis of the charred plant remains from a selection of the Saxon features (**Table 12 – Appendix 2 – Analysis Column**) has limited potential in providing information on local site economy, such as details on crop-husbandry and the likely agricultural techniques employed, as well as assisting in defining the nature of the local environment during this period. The differences in the composition of the plant assemblages between those recovered from SFB **6034**, where the loom weights were found, and those from other SFB's, SFB **6079** in particular, may provide an insight into any difference in function of the various features.

### Wood charcoal

The analysis of the wood charcoal remains from a selection of the Saxon features (**Table 12 – Appendix 2 – Analysis Column**) will assist in providing information on the nature and management on the local woodland resource. There is also the potential it may assist in determining whether any species selection criteria were employed for the construction of the different structures.

### Radiocarbon dating addendum

The primary dating evidence for the Saxon structures on the Site is derived from the pottery. A total of 284 sherds were recovered dating to the early/middle Saxon period with a total of 204 from the Sunken Featured Buildings (SFB'S) and 22 from the post built structures. The pottery was made up of two broad groups: organic-tempered and sandy, although there is some overlap between the two in that some wares contain both organic and quartz sand inclusions. Both ware types have a currency throughout the

early to middle Saxon period (5th to 8th centuries), although organic-tempered wares are considered to have been introduced at a slightly later date than the sandy wares, having a *floruit* in the 6th to early 7th century. The pottery evidence suggests that the post built structures are contemporary with the SFB's.

Because of the relatively small dating assemblage recovered from the post built structures, consideration was given as to whether a programme of C14 dating would provide further definition of the dating provided by the pottery assemblage. In order for the C14 dating to be statistically valid, a series of samples (at least 4) derived from material that has a demonstrable link with the building (ideally in terms of charred plant remains, from a single burning event and ideally from material recovered from the post fill/void in order to avoid residual material used for packing), would be required. Assessment of the charred plant remains and wood charcoal has identified little suitable material, and none that can be reliably associated with hearths or single burning events. The small amount of animal bone recovered is from the same contexts as the pottery and would be subject to the same argument if the pottery is thought to be residual. It was therefore concluded that due to the paucity of suitable material C14 dating would be unlikely to provide greater certainty regarding the date of the post built structures than had already been obtained from the pottery evidence.

Following discussions with the Historic Environment Officer for Winchester Council, a further view on the validity of undertaking radiocarbon dating was sought from the Scientific Dating Co-ordinator at English Heritage. Their advice confirmed that at least eight dates would be required in order to make the exercise statistically valid and that in any case the nature of the C14 calibration curve in the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century is such that it was highly unlikely that a programme of dating would be able to give greater resolution and was likely to merely confirm the date range suggested by the pottery assemblage. The absence of any later Saxon material from the Site also suggests that the SFB's and post built structures are likely to be contemporary and It is therefore concluded that no further work on radiocarbon dating of this assemblage will be undertaken.

## 9 PROPOSALS / METHOD STATEMENTS

### Archaeological features and deposits

The preparation of the provisional phasing and contextual data for the Site supported by pottery spot-dating where appropriate has been substantially completed in order to compile this assessment report. This will be reviewed and revised by further analysis of the Site records. Reporting of the structural remains will concentrate on those features and deposits that can contribute further to the Site research aims.

No further structural analysis of the possible charred timber in SFB **6034** is proposed as this material only survives as charcoal in sample form.

Whilst an attempt to phase in the southern post-built structure will be undertaken this may prove problematical given the lack of dating evidence recovered and the large number of post holes. However, it is important in indicating that there was most probably more than one phase to this structure, and grouping the post-holes by size or alignment, for example, may provide some further information on the layout and sequence. This is in contrast to the northern post-built structure, which would appear to have only one phase given the regularity of the layout.

### Finds

#### Pottery

No further analysis is proposed for the prehistoric, Romano-British or post-medieval pottery. The Saxon pottery only will be subjected to detailed analysis, following the standard Wessex Archaeology recording system (Morris 1994). The Saxon pottery fabrics only will be correlated with the local Winchester type series (unpublished), and the definition and description of vessel forms will follow nationally recommended nomenclature (MPRG 1998). The results of the analysis will be described in terms of the range of fabrics and forms, supported by tabulated data, and the assemblage will be discussed in terms of the potential range of sources, chronological trends, any implications for site status or function, and provenance on the site. A limited number of vessels will be illustrated as a representative sample of vessel forms (maximum six vessels).

#### Fired Clay

The loomweights will be examined as a group in order to try and ascertain more precisely the number of weights represented. The clay fabrics will be examined and described, and measurements of the weights (diameters, weights of complete objects) taken where possible. The weights will be described and discussed in terms of their functional significance. One or two weights may be illustrated.

Given the very friable and fragmentary condition of some of the loomweights, retention for long-term curation may be impracticable, and these may be subjected to selective discard (see below, **Storage and Curation**).

The loomweights will be cross referenced to other known documentary evidence and where possible with particular reference to known sites in Winchester and its environs. For example: Collis 1978, *Back Street, St Cross (Site 650)*, in Winchester Excavations, Vol 2, p.29-39

No further analysis is proposed for the undiagnostic fired clay, and this part of the assemblage is recommended for discard (see below, **Storage and Curation**).

#### **Stone**

Geological identifications will be obtained for the stone. Unworked stone will be targeted for discard (see below, **Storage and Curation**).

#### **Worked Flint**

No further analytical work is required for the worked flint, a summary of the assemblage can be prepared from the assessment results presented here.

#### **Metalwork**

Short discussions exploring the typology, date range distribution and functional purpose of the tweezers, knives and hipposandal will be prepared for inclusion in the final report. Otherwise, no further analysis is required. The hipposandal will be illustrated; this will be done from the X-ray, although some investigative cleaning will be necessary to enhance the visible detail.

#### **Worked Bone**

A limited amount of further research may clarify the date of the two bone pins, and a closer parallel for the decorated example will be sought. Both pins will be illustrated.

#### **Animal Bone**

No further analytical work is required for the animal bone; a summary of the early/middle Saxon assemblage can be prepared from the assessment results presented here.

### **Palaeo-Environmental**

#### **Charred plant remains**

It is proposed to analyse five samples (**Table 12 – Appendix 2: Analysis column**) for charred plant remains from three of the SFBs, **6034**, **6056** and **6079** (which produced sufficiently large assemblages of plant macrofossils to warrant analysis), to provide information on the local site economy and environment as well as some comparison between the features.

All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the 2 and 1mm residues together with the flot. Identification will be undertaken using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate, quantified and the results tabulated.

#### **Wood charcoal**

It is proposed to analyse the wood charcoal remains from a targeted selection of five samples (**Table 12 – Appendix 2 – Analysis Column**) from

four features of Saxon date. These are pit **6222**, part of the southern posthole house and SFBs **6034**, **6056** and **6079**.

Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2mm residue together and the flot (>2mm). Larger richer samples will be sub-sampled. Fragments will be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Leney and Casteel (1975, see also Gale and Cutler 2000). Charcoal pieces will be fractured with a razor blade so that three planes can be seen: transverse section (TS), radial longitudinal section (RL) and tangential longitudinal section (TL). They will then be examined under bi-focal epi-illuminated microscopy at magnifications of x50, x100 and x400 using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Identification will be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980). Identification will be to the lowest taxonomic level possible, usually that of genus and nomenclature according to Stace (1997), individual taxon (mature and twig) will be separated, quantified, and the results tabulated.

#### **Radiocarbon dating**

It is recommended that no radiocarbon dating is undertaken for the Site as the samples are unlikely to provide any further refinement to the dating provided by the pottery and other finds (see **Section 9.4.3**, above).

## 10 PROGRAMME AND PUBLICATION

### Introduction

A proposed report synopsis (**Table 3**) is presented below along with a designated project team (**Table 4**) and task list (**Table 5**) for the analysis and publication.

It is currently proposed to submit the final report (c.15 pages) for publication in 'Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society' journal.

**Table 3: Proposed report synopsis**

Section heading	<i>Approx words</i>	<i>Figures/ Plates</i>	<i>Tables</i>
<b>Abstract</b>	300	1	
<b>Project background</b>	500		
<i>Reasons for excavation; previous work</i>			
<b>Archaeological and Historical background</b>	500		
<b>The excavated evidence</b>			
A brief summary of the principal features and deposits	3000	3/2	
<b>Finds</b>	1500	1/1	
<b>Environmental</b>	1000		1
<b>Discussion</b>			
Early settlement of Winchester along the River Itchen			
<i>The Saxon settlement evidence</i> – topographical position of, layout and construction (summary) of buildings; implications for planning, size and date of settlement; Can the chronology of early Saxon settlement be enhanced through artefactual and stratigraphic evidence;			
Can the Site can be seen as further evidence of early Saxon settlement being established along the river bank of the River Itchen, such as at Abbots Worthy, Kings Worthy and Itchen Abbas' succeeding a series of farms and villages which occupied the south facing slope of the upper Itchen Valley during the Iron Age and Romano- British periods.	1500		
Can a continuity from the late prehistoric period to the Roman period and through to the Saxon period be identified albeit as a continuity in the landscape			
<b>Appendix</b>			
Brief pottery fabric descriptions	1000		2
Faunal remains data			
Environmental data			
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	150		
<b>Bibliography</b>	500		
<b>TOTAL</b>	10000		



## Management Structure

Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by the Project Manager, in this instance Phil Andrews, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the project specification as outlined in Section 9 and 10 above, and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary, or scheduled

The Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Manager will have a major input into how the publication report is written. He will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

## Performance Monitoring and Quality Standards

The Post-excavation Manager (Phil Andrews) will be assisted by the Reports Manager (Julie Gardiner), who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines. The overall progress will be monitored internally by the Regional Director (Nick Truckle).

## Designated Project Team

The team consists of internal Wessex Archaeology staff. The post-excavation project will be managed by Phil Andrews. **Table 4** summaries the WA staff that are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list (**Table 5**) and the programme.

It is currently proposed that the following Wessex Archaeology core staff will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analyses and publication:

**Table 4: Project Team**

Regional Director	Nick Truckle
Post-excavation Manager	Phil Andrews
Fieldwork Project Manager	Richard Greatorex
Senior Technical Manager Publications	Julie Gardiner
Project Officer (post-excavation)	Nick Cooke
Finds and Environmental Manager	Andy Crockett
Senior Project Manager (finds)	Lorraine Mephram
Senior Project Officer (environmental)	Chris J. Stevens
Project Officer (environmental)	Sarah Wyles
Senior Project Officer (animal bone)	Lorrain Higbee
Project Officer (worked bone)	Grace Jones
Graphics Officer	Linda Coleman
Archives Supervisor	Helen MacIntyre

## Task list

The table below lists the tasks necessary to complete the proposed programme of post-excavation analyses and publication. Indications of which individuals will carry out specific task are at this stage, provisional only and maybe subject to change

**Table 5: Task List**

Task No	Task	Grade	Name	Days
<b>Management</b>				
1	General management	PM	P Andrews	2
2	QA	Head	N Truckle	0.5
3	Management & consultation	PM	R Greatorex	1
4	Finds and environmental management	SPM	A Crockett	0.5
6	Graphic management	SPM	L Coleman	0.5
7	IT support	SPO	J Neuberger	0.5
8	Project meetings	All		1
<b>Stratigraphic</b>				
9	Check and enhance phasing	PO	N Cooke	1
10	Update database & digital plans	PO	N cooke	1
11	Site narrative	PO	N Cooke	5
12	Figures for publication	DO	Illustrator	2
<b>Finds</b>				
13	Conservation of 1 metal object	PS	L Wootten	1
14	Pottery: Post-Roman/Saxon	SPM	L Mephram	3
15	Ceramic loomweights (fired clay)	SPM	L Mephram	1
16	Metalwork	Ext	N Stoodley	0.5
17	Worked stone	Ext	K Hayward	1
18	Worked bone	PO	G Jones	0.5
19	Animal bone	SPO	L Higbee	0.5
20	Finds illustration	DO	Illustrator	2
<b>Environ</b>				
21	Extraction of charred plants and charcoal (8 samples)	PO	S Wyles	3
22	Charred Plant Remains, 5 samples	SPO	C Stevens	3
23	Charcoals, 5 samples	SPO	C Stevens	5
<b>Report</b>				
24	Assemble report, introduction, background, captions, bibliography	PO	N Cooke	1
25	Write discussion	PO	N Cooke	1
26	Edit report	PM	P Andrews	1
27	Review report	Head	N Truckle	0.5
28	Editors corrections	All	All	1
29	Copyedit	SPM	J Gardiner	0.5
30	Liase with journal	SPM	J Gardiner	0.5
31	Publication submission	SPM	J Gardiner	0.5
32	Comments and corrections	All		1
33	Journal publication costs	Ext		£750
<b>Archive</b>				
44	Archive preparation	PS	H McIntyre	0.5
45	Microfilm jobsheets and checking	PS	H McIntyre	0.5
46	Microfilm paper records	Marathon	Ext	£150
47	Archive deposition	PS	H McIntyre	1
48	Box storage grant	—	Ext	£350

## 11 STORAGE AND CURATION

### Museum

It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Winchester Museums Service. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the Accession Code **WINCM:AY424**. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner. The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990).

### Preparation of Archive

The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the 'Archive preparation standards' of Winchester Museums Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007). The archive will be fully indexed.

All archive elements are marked with the abbreviated site code (**AY424**). The archive comprises the following:

- 16 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type, plus 6 unboxed stone fragments
- 4 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
- 20 files photographs – colour and black and white
- 496 Digital Photographs

### Conservation

No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise some of the ceramic loomweights, and the metal objects.

Metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase, as a basic record and also to aid identification. On the basis of the X-rays, the range of objects present and their provenance on the Site, one object (the iron hipposandal) has been selected for further conservation treatment, involving investigative cleaning and stabilisation.

A large proportion of the group of ceramic loomweights comprises small, friable fragments which are actively disintegrating. However, the labour involved in consolidation of these fragments for long-term curation would not enable the significant enhancement of the group, or its potential for further analysis. It is proposed instead to retain only the more robust fragments, with careful packaging, and to discard the remainder (see below, **12.4.1**).

### Discard Policy

Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, burnt, unworked flint has already been discarded, and it is suggested that the following artefact categories are targeted for further discard:

Ceramic Building Material: total discard. There are no unusual types, complete surviving dimensions (apart from thickness), nor any distinctive features (e.g. 'signatures', paw prints or nail holes). Fabric analysis (and thus the creation of a fabric type series) is not warranted.

Fired Clay: discard of undiagnostic fragments, and the less diagnostic and less robust fragments of loomweights (see above, **12.3.3**).

This is in accord with discard policies adopted for assemblages from previous fieldwork within Winchester (e.g. Wessex Archaeology 2007). The discard policy for the current site will be fully documented in the project archive.

The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

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## Security Copy

In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

## Oasis

An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> has been initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form have been completed for submission to the Winchester HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

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## APPENDIX 1: FINDS DATA

**Table 6: Finds totals by material type**

Material	Evaluation		Excavation		Combined total	
	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)
Pottery	29	538	304	2861	332	3426
<i>Prehistoric</i>	14	80	10	29	24	109
<i>Romano-British</i>	2	127	12	102	14	229
<i>Saxon</i>	10	288	274	2711	284	2999
<i>Medieval/Post-Medieval</i>	3	43	7	46	10	89
Ceramic Building Material	13	1106	66	9808	79	10,914
Fired Clay	92	1066	540	12,113	632	13,179
Clay Pipe	1	2	-	-	1	2
Stone	-	-	15	33,111	15	33,111
Flint	28	643	270	3852	298	4495
Burnt Flint	24	1035	911	28,138	935	29,173
Glass	-	-	4	24	4	24
Metalwork	3	-	82	-	85	-
<i>Coins</i>	1	-	7	-	8	-
<i>Copper Alloy</i>	1	-	6	-	7	-
<i>Lead</i>	-	-	1	-	1	-
<i>Iron</i>	1	-	68	-	69	-
Worked Bone	-	-	3	-	3	-
Animal Bone	60	181	1263	7699	1323	7880
Shell	-	-	4	15	4	15

**Table 7: Pottery totals by ware type**

Date Range	Ware type	No. sherds	Weight (g)
PREHISTORIC	Flint-tempered ware	24	109
ROMANO-BRITISH	Samian	1	116
	Oxidised ware	2	25
	New Forest colour coated ware	3	27
	Greyware	8	61
	<i>sub-total RB</i>	14	229
SAXON	Sandy ware	107	1071
	Organic-tempered ware	177	1928
	<i>sub-total Saxon</i>	284	2999
MEDIEVAL	All wares	1	1
POST MEDIEVAL	All wares	9	88
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>3426</b>

**Table 8: Quantification of worked flint**

Type	Count
Flake core	3
Core fragment	8
Core rejuvenation	1
Blade(let)	7
Flake	268
Irregular debitage	2
Scraper	1
Tranchet Axe	1
Misc retouched	7
Total	298

**Table 9: Coin list**

Obj No	Context	Denomination	Issuer	Description	Mint	Issue Date	References
1	3304	Cu Alloy Antoninianus	Radiate Copy	Radiate copy. Reverse: Standing fig I with staff. Barbarous Radiate, struck on v irregular oval flan	Unknown	AD 270 - 296	
23	6042	Cu Alloy Nummus	Licinius II	Reverse. Standard inscribed VOT/XX between two seated captives. VIRVS EXERCIT. Mintmark (?) *   /STR	Trier	AD 320	RIC VII, Trier, 256
44	6055	Cu Alloy Nummus	Constans	Reverse: 2 facing victories with wreaths. Victoriaeauggqnn type. Mint Mark: D/TRP. Damaged coin. Approx 1/5 missing	Trier	AD 341 - 348	LRBC I, 149
45	6044	Cu Alloy Nummus	Emperor of the House of Constantine	Reverse: Wolf and Twins. Urbs Roman type. Pierced for suspension so that wolf and twins on reverse appear upright. Some edge damage	Unknown	AD 330 - 345	? Copy as LRBC I, 51
53	6065	Cu Alloy Nummus	Valentinian I	Reverse: Emperor r with standard dragging captive. Gloria Romanorum type. Mint Mark: O F   II / ?	Unknown	AD 364 - 378	As LRBC II, 279
54	6065	Cu Alloy Antoninianus	Radiate Copy	Reverse: Female figure standing I, with staff -CA. Poss Spes Publica type. Barbarous Radiate copy. Poss a copy of an issue of Tetricus II (AD 270 - 273)	Unknown	AD 270 - 296	
81	6123	Cu Alloy As/Dupondius	Unknown Roman Emperor	Reverse: Illegible	Unknown	C1 - C3	
84	6122	Cu Alloy Nummus	Constantine I	Reverse: 2 soldiers, 2 standards. GLOR IAEXERC ITVS. Mint Mark: */PCONST	Arles	AD 330	LRBC I, 352

Key: LRBC – Late Roman Bronze Coinage, Vols I and II  
RIC – Roman Imperial Coinage Vols I - X



**Table 10: Number of identified animal bone specimens present (or NISP) by period**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Roman</b>	<b>Early/Middle Saxon</b>	<b>Post-medieval</b>	<b>Undated</b>	<b>Total</b>
cattle	5	68		4	77
sheep/goat	4	40		11	55
pig	1	11			12
horse		5		1	6
cat		1			1
domestic fowl		4		1	5
goose		2			2
<i>Total identified</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>158</i>
<i>Total unidentified</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>561</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>736</i>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>894</b>

**Table 11: Quantity of detailed information on animal bone available for further study**

<b>Type of detailed information</b>	<b>N</b>
Age - epiphyseal fusion	62
Age - mandibles (2+ teeth)	10
Biometric data	28
Butchery	16
Pathology	2
Non-metric traits	4

## APPENDIX 2: PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES

**Table 12: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample	Size Litres	Flot Size ml	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal 4/2 mm	Other	Analysis
Area 2														
?Romano-British														
Pit	5008	5006	10	9	25	40	-	-	-	-	-	2/2 ml	-	-
Ditch	5020	5019	11	35	50	70	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	0/1 ml	-	-
Area 1														
?Romano-British														
Pit	6039	6041	12	8	125	7	-	-	-	-	-	35/30 ml	-	-
Saxon														
Northern Posthole Structure														
Posthole	6263	6264	83	7	10	75	-	-	-	-	Corylus avellana shell frag	0/1 ml	-	-
Posthole	6277	6280	86	4	10	70	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	-
Posthole	6283	6284	85	5	10	75	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	-
Posthole	6288	6289	84	3	10	70	C	-	Barley and F-t wheat grain frags	-	Chenopodium (prob. modern)	0/1 ml	-	-
Southern Posthole Structure														
Pit	6148	6150	79	10	10	70	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	0/1 ml	-	-
Pit	6222	6226	64	8	140	5	-	-	-	-	-	30/45 ml	-	C
Posthole	6021	6020	80	6	30	40	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	Corylus avellana shell frag	4/3 ml	-	-
Posthole	6143	6145	81	6	10	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Posthole	6154	6155	78	10	5	50	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	-
Posthole	6168	6169	76	5	10	75	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	-
Posthole	6198	6200	75	5	15	40	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	-
Posthole	6239	6240	82	8	15	70	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	-
Posthole	6306	6307	77	2	5	60	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	-
SFB 6034														

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample	Size Litres	Flot Size ml	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal 4/2 mm	Other	Analysis
Layer	6034	6074	25	40	90	65	C	-	?F-t wheat grain frags	-	-	3/10ml	-	
Layer	6034	6104	43	40	60	75	-	-	-	C	Carex, Brassicaceae, Chenopodium (prob. modern)	-	-	
Layer	6034	6181	70	20	40	75	-	-	-	C	Carex	<1/1 ml	-	
NE quad	6034	6060	19	40	210	75	-	-	-	C	Corylus avellana shell frags, Chenopodium (prob. modern)	10/10 ml	-	
NE quad	6034	6095	36	40	100	70	C	-	Indet. grain frags	B	Corylus avellana shell frags, Vicia/Lathyrus, Chenopodium	1/3 ml	-	
NE quad	6034	6105	37	40	425	30	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	Corylus avellana shell frags, Chenopodium (prob. modern)	150/100 ml	-	C
NE quad	6034	6163	50	10	30	75	-	-	-	-	-	2/2 ml	-	
NW + NE quads	6034	6159	47	10	250	15	-	-	-	A	Corylus avellana shell frags, Polygonaceae, Carex, Chenopodium	75/90 ml	-	PC
NW + NE quads	6034	6160	48	10	50	75	-	-	-	-	-	1/4 ml	Sab (C)	
NW quad	6034	6050	17	36	80	80	-	-	-	-	-	3/3 ml	-	
NW quad	6034	6073	31	19	60	65	C	-	Indet. grain frags	B	Lolium/Festuca, Chenopodium, Corylus avellana shell frags, Brassicaceae, Polygonaceae	4/3 ml	-	
NW quad	6034	6094	33	40	220	60	C	-	Indet. grain frags	B	Corylus avellana shell frags, small tubers, Chenopodium, Brassicaceae	5/15 ml	-	
SE quad	6034	6060	20	40	110	80	-	-	-	C	Corylus avellana shell frags	5/5 ml	-	
SE quad	6034	6096	34	34	175	60	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	B	Prunus spinosa stone +fruit frag, Polygonaceae, Galium	15/25 ml	-	
SE quad	6034	6161	49	10	80	50	C	-	Barley grain frags	B	Vicia/Lathyrus, Chenopodium	4/12 ml	-	
SE quad	6034	6162	51	10	40	60	-	-	-	-	-	8/4 ml	Sab (C)	

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample	Size Litres	Flot Size ml	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal 4/2 mm	Other	Analysis
SW quad	6034	6038	14	36	250	65	-	-	-	B	Polygonaceae, Chenopodium, Carex, Vicia/Lathyrus, Schoenoplectus, Corylus avellana shell frag	10/25 ml	-	
SW quad	6034	6043	15	36	100	60	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	Corylus avellana shell frags, Prunus spinosa stone frag, Chenopodium (prob. modern)	5/5 ml	-	
SW quad	6034	6044	32	40	120	65	C	-	Barley grain frags	A	Vicia/Lathyrus, Corylus avellana shell frags, Carex, Polygonaceae, Chenopodium, Trifolium/Medicago, Brassicaceae	2/10 ml	-	P
SW quad	6034	6067	18	8	60	75	-	-	-	B	Malva, Corylus avellana shell frags	2/3 ml	-	
SW quad	6034	6158	46	10	30	75	C	-	Barley grain frags	B	Galium, Brassicaceae, Chenopodium (prob. modern)	1/2 ml	-	
Pit	6251	6252	71	10	15	60	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	0/1 ml	-	
Posthole	6267	6268	74	17	40	65	-	-	-	C	Corylus avellana shell frag	4/3 ml	-	
Posthole	6302	6303	73	10	30	60	-	-	-	-	-	4/3 ml	-	
SFB 6056														
Layer	6056	6057	27	20	150	50	C	-	?Barley grain frag	B	Avena/Bromus, Polygonaceae, Malva, Veronica, Chenopodium	15/15 ml	-	P
Layer	6056	6058	28	20	60	60	-	-	-	B	Medicago/Trifolium, Chenopodium, Polygonaceae, Corylus avellana shell frags	5/5 ml	-	
Layer	6056	6070	29	19	40	65	C	-	?F-t wheat grain frags	B	Polygonaceae, Galium, Brassicaceae	4/2 ml	-	
Layer	6056	6099	38	10	20	80	-	-	-	C	Corylus avellana shell frags	0/1 ml	-	
Layer	6056	6102	39	10	20	70	-	-	-	C	Corylus avellana shell frags	0/1 ml	-	
Layer	6056	6115	40	39	150	40	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	30/20 ml	-	C
Layer	6056	6116	41	40	75	70	-	-	-	-	-	10/2 ml	-	

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample	Size Litres	Flot Size ml	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal 4/2 mm	Other	Analysis
Layer	6056	6132	52	38	50	65	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Avena/Bromus</i>	2/1 ml	-	
Layer	6056	6133	53	5	30	40	-	-	-	A	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Galium</i>	1/2 ml	-	
Layer	6056	6134	54	10	20	65	-	-	-	B	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Galium</i> , Polygonaceae	0/2 ml	-	
Layer	6056	6135	55	10	20	65	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	0/1 ml	-	
Layer	6056	6138	57	40	40	80	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	0/1 ml	-	
Layer	6056	6185	62	7	10	60	-	-	-	A	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Galium</i>	<1/<1 ml	-	
Posthole	6117	6118	42	10	20	65	C	-	Barley grain frags	B	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	2/2 ml	-	
Posthole	6077	6078	26	28	50	75	-	-	-	C	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> stone	2/1 ml	-	
SFB 6079														
Layer	6079	6055	72	10	30	65	-	-	-	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	0/1 ml	Sab (C), Min. nodules	
NE quad	6079	6110	58	40	150	70	A	-	Barley and ?F-t wheat grain frags	-	<i>Chenopodium</i> (prob. modern)	15/10 ml	Sab (B)	
NW quad	6079	6042	13	35	150	50	A	-	Barley + F-t wheat grain frags	B	<i>Avena/Bromus</i> , Polygonaceae, Poaceae, <i>Chenopodium</i> , <i>Trifolium/Medicago</i>	10/20 ml	Sab (A), Min. nodules	
NW quad	6079	6059	21	9	50	60	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	<i>Carex</i> sp.	5/3 ml	molt (C)	
NW quad	6079	6063	22	40	175	60	A*	-	Barley + ?F-t wheat grain frags	B	Polygonaceae, <i>Carex</i>	10/5 ml	Sab (A), Min. nodules	P
SE quad	6079	6098	59	40	80	70	B	-	Barley and ?F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Carex</i>	10/3 ml	Sab (C)	
SW quad	6079	6051	16	40	220	50	A	-	Barley + ?F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Chenopodium</i> (prob. modern)	20/35 ml	Sab (A), Min. nodules	PC
Pit	6066	6065	23	15	40	65	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	<i>Chenopodium</i> (prob. modern)	0/1 ml	Sab (C), Min. nodules	

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample	Size Litres	Flot Size ml	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal 4/2 mm	Other	Analysis
Posthole	6076	6075	24	15	15	80	-	-	-	-	-	0/2 ml	-	-
Posthole	6112	6111	60	15	20	50	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	0/1 ml	Sab (C), Min. nodules	-
Posthole	6114	6113	61	12	30	75	-	-	-	-	-	2/1 ml	-	-
SFB 6081														
Posthole	6107	6109	35	18	75	60	-	-	-	C	<i>Avena/Bromus, Chenopodium</i> (prob. modern)	5/2 ml	Sab (B)	-
Layer	6081	6083	30	20	75	60	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus, Poaceae</i>	5/5 ml	-	-
SFB 6121														
Posthole	6164	6165	45	8	20	50	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	3/2 ml	Sab (C)	-
Layer	6121	6123	44	20	150	70	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	3/2 ml	Sab (B), Moll-t (C)	-
SFB 6212														
Layer	6212	6213	65	18	25	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Layer	6212	6214	66	20	50	75	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	-
Layer	6212	6211	67	19	30	75	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	<i>Chenopodium</i>	<1/1 ml	-	-
Posthole	6215	6216	63	10	20	60	-	-	-	-	-	2/1 ml	-	-
Posthole	6241	6242	68	9	2	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Posthole	6243	6244	69	10	10	60	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	<1/1 ml	-	-
Posthole														
Posthole	6236	6238	87	3	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Sab (C)	-
		6237	88	4	5	40	-	-	-	-	-	<1/1 ml	Min. nodules	-

Key: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5  
Sab = small animal bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs  
Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant remains

## **APPENDIX 3: WATCHING BRIEF**



## Land At Francis Gardens Winchester, Hampshire

### Watching Brief Statement







**LAND AT FRANCIS GARDENS  
WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE**

**Watching Brief Statement**

Prepared for:  
**CgMs Consulting Ltd**  
140 London Wall  
London  
EC2Y 5DN

On behalf of:  
**Redrow Homes**

by  
**Wessex Archaeology**  
Portway House  
Old Sarum Park  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP4 6EB

**Report reference: 70251.05**

**AY424**

**October 2012**

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	70251	ACCESSION CODE	AY424	CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	APP/L1765/A09/211025	NGR	448598 11178		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
.01	E	DDR	SF		26/10/12	X:\PROJECTS\70251\Watching Brief\DDR PCA

**\* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL**

**LAND AT FRANCIS GARDENS  
WINCHESTER HAMPSHIRE**

**WATCHING BRIEF STATEMENT**

**AY424**

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- 1 Ditch 6315: view looking south-west (to south of 2010 recorded stretch of ditch)**
  - 2 Ditch 6315: view looking south-west (to north of 2010 recorded stretch of ditch)**
  - 3 Ditch 6315: view of section looking north-east**
  - 4 Preserved metalled surface of Roman road looking south-west**
  - 5 Trench 38: view looking south with ditch 3807 in foreground**
  - 6 Excavated slot through ditch 3807/3820 looking west**
  - 7 Ditch 3807/3820: view of section looking south-west**
  - 8 View looking north-east of 3810 and 3811**
  - 9 Ditch 3910: view looking north-west**
  - 10 Postholes 7010; 7012 and 7014: view looking south-east**
  - 11 Pit 7008: view looking east**

# **Land at Francis Gardens Winchester, Hampshire Watching Brief Statement AY424**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client Redrow Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Francis Gardens, Winchester, Hampshire, prior to the construction of a soakaway and associated groundworks at the site.

Excavation undertaken within the footprint of the soakaway in 2010 by Wessex Archaeology had revealed remains of the possible Roman road leading out of the Winchester North Gate comprising remnant metalled surfaces and a stretch of a V-shaped roadside ditch. In the early to middle Saxon period a small settlement was shown to have developed with remains comprising of six sunken floored buildings and two rectangular houses defined by postholes.

The aim of the watching brief was to identify whether any further archaeological features were present within the additional stripped area of the site that would complement and expand the results of the 2010 excavation and/or identify previously unknown features. Through this brief statement the objective is to provide a concise description of features identified during the watching brief and to provide an updated plan to that produced from the 2010 excavation. It is intended that the full results of the watching brief will be integrated into a resubmitted assessment report and the proposed publication of the archaeological investigations at the site.

The additional stripped areas are shown on **Figures 1** and **2** and comprised an area encircling the original soakaway footprint, a haul road and two trenches (Trenches 38 and 39) to the north. Trench 38 was located within the proposed area of a LEAP and Trench 39 was located together with the haul road in an area of proposed heavy plant movement for accessing the soakaway.

The watching brief was able to identify a further 45m of the roadside ditch (**6315**) (**Plates 1** and **2**) in addition to the 28m previously identified in the 2010 excavation. A section, cut through the ditch at its furthest northern extent within Trench 39, indicated a U-shaped profile to the ditch (**Plate 3**) as opposed to the V-shaped profile identified in 2010. No finds were recovered from the excavated fills.

Further well preserved remains of the remnant metalled surface (**6037**) were identified (**Figure 2** and **Plate 4**) and although not wholly excavated, investigation revealed that the surface was present across an area of c.50m in length with a width of c.8.3m (**Figure 2**). The surface was particularly well preserved to the south (**Plate 4**) and although it was seen to be present within the haul road the condition of the surface was more fragmentary. Although the metalled surface could be seen to have an eastern flanking roadside ditch, no western

flanking ditch could be identified immediately abutting the sharply defined western edge of the metallated surface.

However, within Trench 38 a substantial north-east to south west aligned ditch (**3807** and **3820**) (**Figure 2** and **Plates 5** and **6**) was revealed that has the same orientation as Ditch **6315**. The excavated slot through the feature revealed an earlier ditch **3820** that had been re-cut by a later ditch **3807** (**Plate 7**). Ditch **3820** had been cut directly into the natural underlying chalk and survived with a maximum width of 2.5m and depth of 1.35m although it had been truncated by the later ditch **3807**. In its upper reaches only the western side of the ditch survived to its height of 1.35m and this was seen to be steep sided with a break of slope giving way to steep sides on to a concave base. A number of fills survived within the lower central reaches of the ditch and Romano British grey ware pottery dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD was recovered from the uppermost surviving fill **3815**, which was the last surviving fill of **3820** before it had been re-cut by ditch **3807** and sealed by its subsequent fills. Ditch **3807** was a re-cut through ditch **3820**, but was not cut down to the same depth. It had a width of c.3.30m and depth of 1m, and had more gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Within the upper fills, **3804** and **3805**, a large amount of discarded animal bone was recovered and a single small sherd of pottery dating to the Saxon period was found in the uppermost fill **3804**. The fills of ditch **3807** could be seen to have most probably accumulated slowly over a period of time by natural processes, and no deliberate backfilling was evident. The purpose of the ditch is unclear, but it could be defensive and/or is defining a property boundary or the limits of the road area.

A further feature (**3810** and **3811**) (**Figure 2** and **Plate 8**) was recorded at the southern end of Trench 38, but its interpretation remains unclear. An excavated slot through the feature revealed a shallow clay deposit **3809** filling a shallow depression **3811** and a possible pit or posthole **3810**. No finds were recovered.

A north-west to south-east orientated ditch (**3910**) (**Figure 2** and **Plate 9**) was revealed at the eastern end of Trench 39. The ditch contained a single fill of clay (**3909**) and was 1.30m wide by 0.40m. It had a gradually sloping northern side and a more steeply sloping southern side which gave way on to a concave base. No finds were recovered from the fill (**3909**). It is possible that ditch **3910** is a boundary ditch that defines the northern extent of the Saxon settlement to the south.

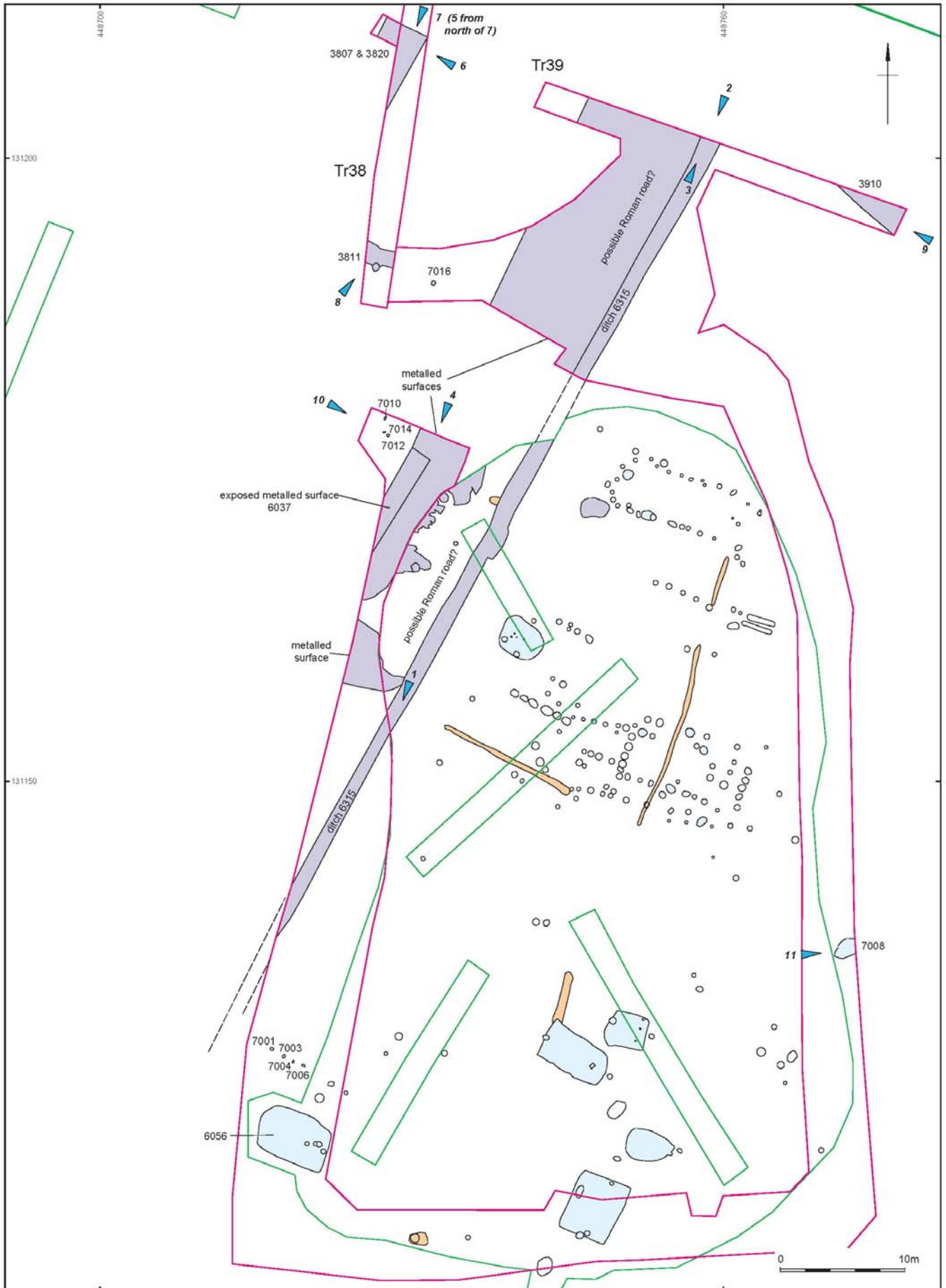
A number of postholes were recorded and included a row of four postholes (**7001**; **7003**; **7004** and **7006**) (**Figure 2**) of no more than 25cm in diameter that were clearly a continuation of two postholes previously recorded in the 2010 excavation (**Figure 2**) and may relate to some form of fence line associated with the sunken floored building **6056** to the south (**Figure 2**). A group of three postholes (**7010**; **7012** and **7014**) were recorded immediately to the west of the exposed metal surface (**Plate 10** and **Figure 2**). A single flat bottomed posthole (**7016**) (**Figure 2**) recorded to the east of Trench 38 produced a single small abraded sherd of Romano-British pottery and a single piece of worked flint.

On the eastern boundary of the additional stripped area, the remains of a possible shallow pit (**7008**) (**Figure 2** and **Plate 11**) was recorded. The feature contained a single fill (**7007**) of a mid to dark grey-brown sandy clay from which a number of sherds dating to the Early to Middle Saxon period were recovered along with a single fragment of Roman tile, a quantity

of animal bone and a single piece of worked flint. The pit is likely to be associated with the Saxon settlement to the west.

The watching brief has been shown to be successful in adding to the existing features that were recorded during the 2010 excavation as well as revealing a substantial previously unrecorded ditch (**3807** and **3820**) of Roman date and possibly a boundary ditch **3910** that defines the limits of the Saxon settlement. The watching brief indicates that significant amounts of the metalled surface that may be part of the Roman road leading out of the North Gate remain intact along with a 73m section of the eastern flanking roadside ditch (**6315**). The pit **7008** possible indicates that the Saxon settlement spreads slightly more to the east than had previously been indicated. However, the area of the proposed soakaway would appear to remarkably define the extent of the Saxon settlement.





- Watching brief area
- Previous investigations
- Location and direction of photos
- Prehistoric
- Romano-British
- Anglo-Saxon
- Undated archaeology
- Tree throw

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Plate 1: Ditch 6315: view looking south-west (to south of 2010 recorded stretch of ditch)



Plate 2: Ditch 6315: view looking south-west (to north of 2010 recorded stretch of ditch)

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Plate 3: Ditch 6315: view of section looking north-east



Plate 4: Preserved metal surface of Roman road looking south-west

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Plate 5: Trench 38: view looking south with ditch 3807 in foreground



Plate 6: Excavated slot through ditch 3807/3820 looking west

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Plate 7: Ditch 3807/3820: view of section looking south-west



Plate 8: View looking north-east of 3810 and 3811

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Plate 9: Ditch 3910: view looking north-west



Plate 10: Postholes 7010; 7012 and 7014: view looking south-east

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Plate 11: Pit 7008: view looking east

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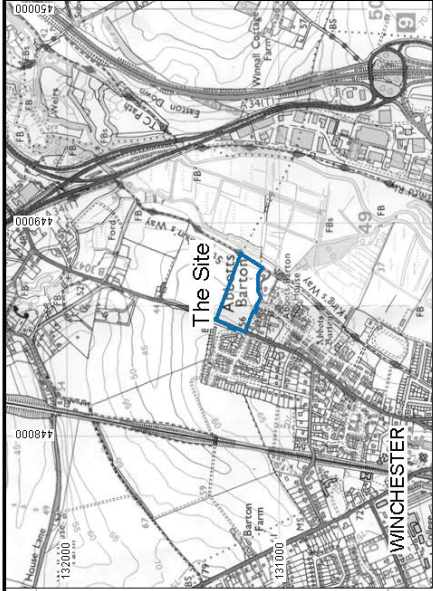
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**Archaeological Excavation Assessment Report  
with Watching Brief and Radiocarbon Dating Addendum  
Figures and Plates**





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	Previous evaluation trench Archaeology 	Site outline  Area of map, strip and record	

Site location plan with evaluation trenches and excavation areas 1 and 2 Figure 1





Plate 1: South-west facing section of ditch 6315



Plate 2: SF 21-Hippo-sandal embedded in metallised surface 6037



Plate 3: Post excavation photograph of SFB 6034 viewed from the east



Plate 4: Post excavation photograph of SFB 6056 viewed from the west



Plate 5: Post excavation photograph of SFB 6079 viewed from the north

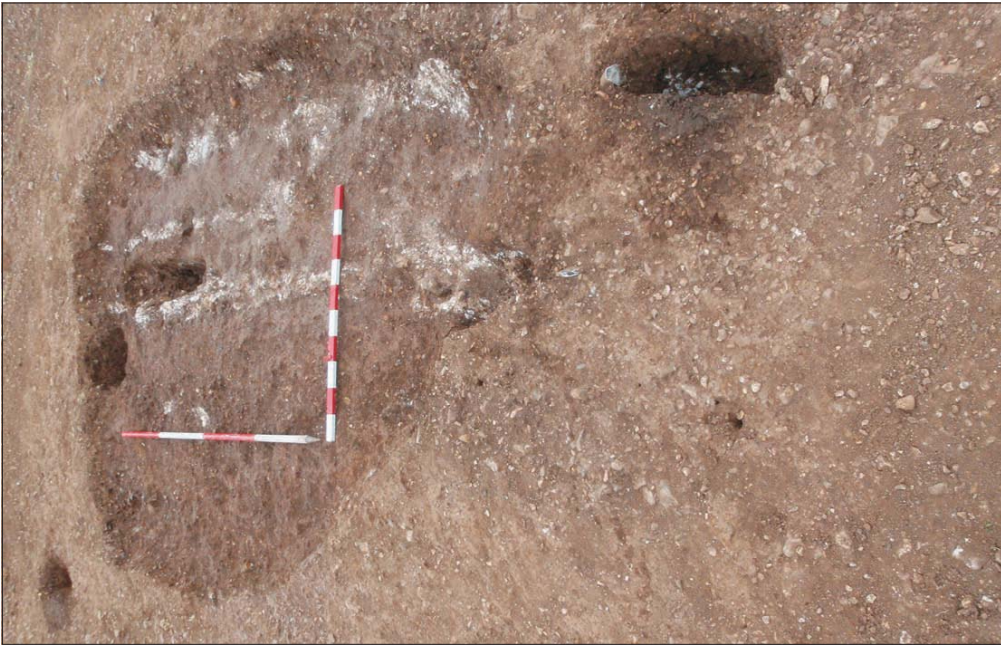


Plate 6: Post excavation photograph of SFB 6081 viewed from the east



Plate 7: Post excavation photograph of SFB 6121 viewed from the west



Plate 8: Post excavation photograph of SFB 6212 viewed from the south



Plate 9: SF 87 shale spindle whorl



Plate 10: Close-up of pit 6066 and contents in SFB 6079



Plate 11: Close-up of loomweight stack in SFB 6034



Plate 12: SF 39 quernstone in SFB 6079 viewed from the north



Plate 13: SF 60 bone pin



Plate 14: SF 65 glass bead with copper alloy link



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