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Southampton Archaeology Unit

Report 1035

Archaeological desk-based assessment of Bitterne Manor Park, Southampton.

PR Cottrell BA
2011



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Archaeological desk-based assessment of Bitterne Manor Park, Southampton.

By PR Cottrell BA

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1. SUMMARY.

The desk-based assessment indicates that the most of the area of the park, apart from the reclaimed land in the northern part, is likely to contain evidence of Roman occupation below the level of modern topsoil. Evidence for Roman and medieval structures is likely to survive. The southern part of the park lies within an area used as an inhumation cemetery during the Saxon period.

2. INTRODUCTION.

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council was asked to carry out a desktop assessment of the archaeological potential of land at Bitterne Manor Park, Southampton (figs 1 and 2) in advance of proposed improvements to the park.

The site lies within a Local Area of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010. This includes the Bitterne Manor peninsula on the east shore of the River Itchen, the south part of St Denys on the west shore, together with the adjacent river between. At Bitterne Manor, there is evidence of prehistoric occupation, including a Bronze Age cremation burial. Bitterne Manor was the site of a Roman town, with defences and quaysides. Part of the site forms Scheduled Ancient Monument number 143 (Bitterne (Clausentum) Roman station, part of the site of the Roman fort or settlement on the Bitterne Manor peninsula, possibly Roman "Clausentum").

A possible Roman cremation cemetery has been found to the east of the defences. The Roman road from Chichester and a possible route from Winchester terminate here. A Roman settlement has been found across the river at St Denys, including evidence of waterfront structures in the intertidal zone. This was perhaps at the end of another road

from Winchester. There is a Saxon inhumation cemetery at Bitterne Manor, and it was probably a Late Saxon fort. It was the site of a medieval bishop's palace. The hulks of 19th and 20th century maritime craft can be seen in the intertidal mud of the Itchen Estuary. The remains of vessels from prehistoric, Roman and later times may be present.

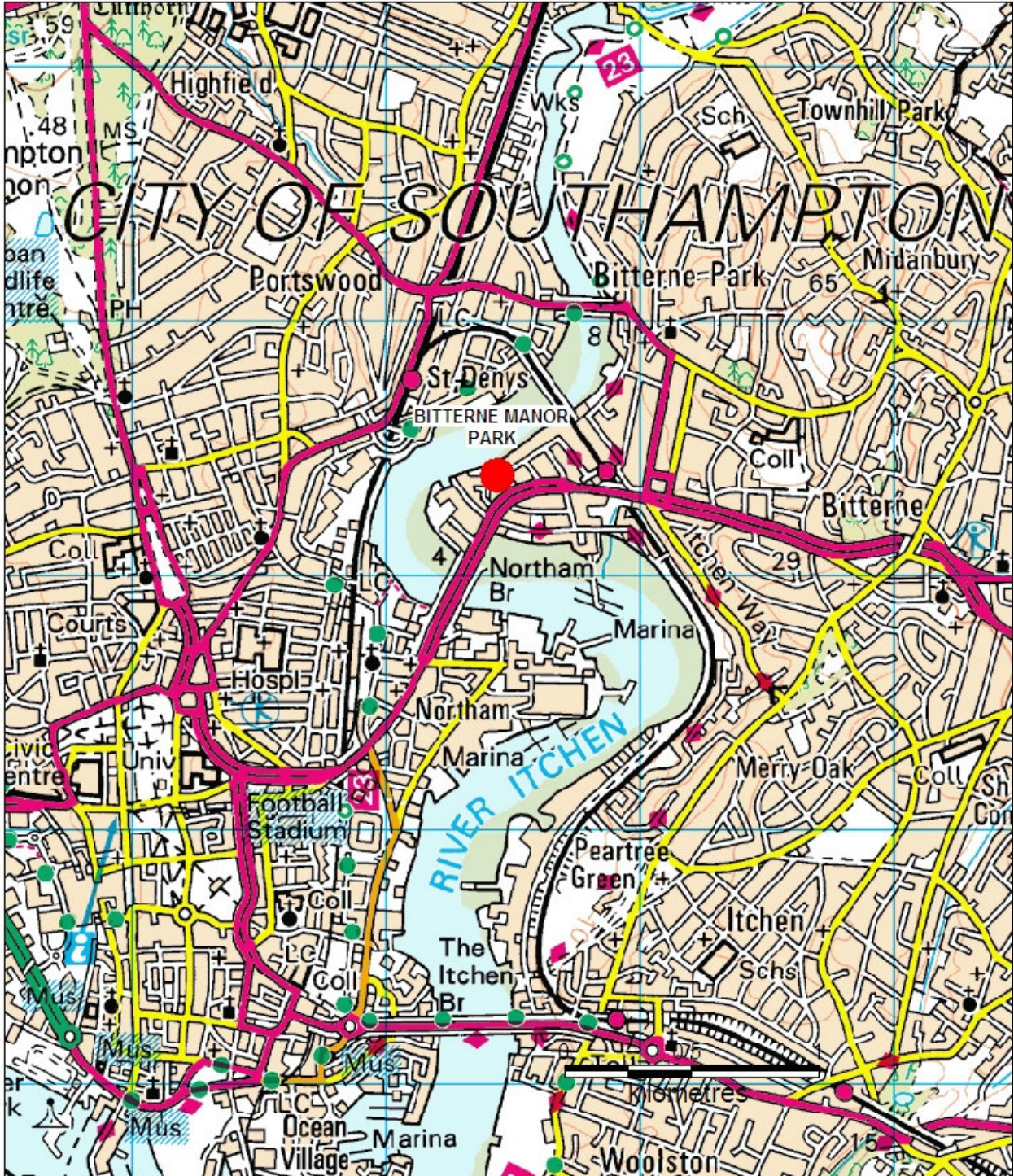


Figure 1. Assessment area location map.

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3. AIMS OF THE ASSESSMENT.

The aims of the assessment were to identify the likely scope of the area's archaeological heritage, and its sensitivity to development. This was to be done by characterising the archaeology of the site through all periods to the modern day, suggesting the likely range of the archaeological evidence in these different periods

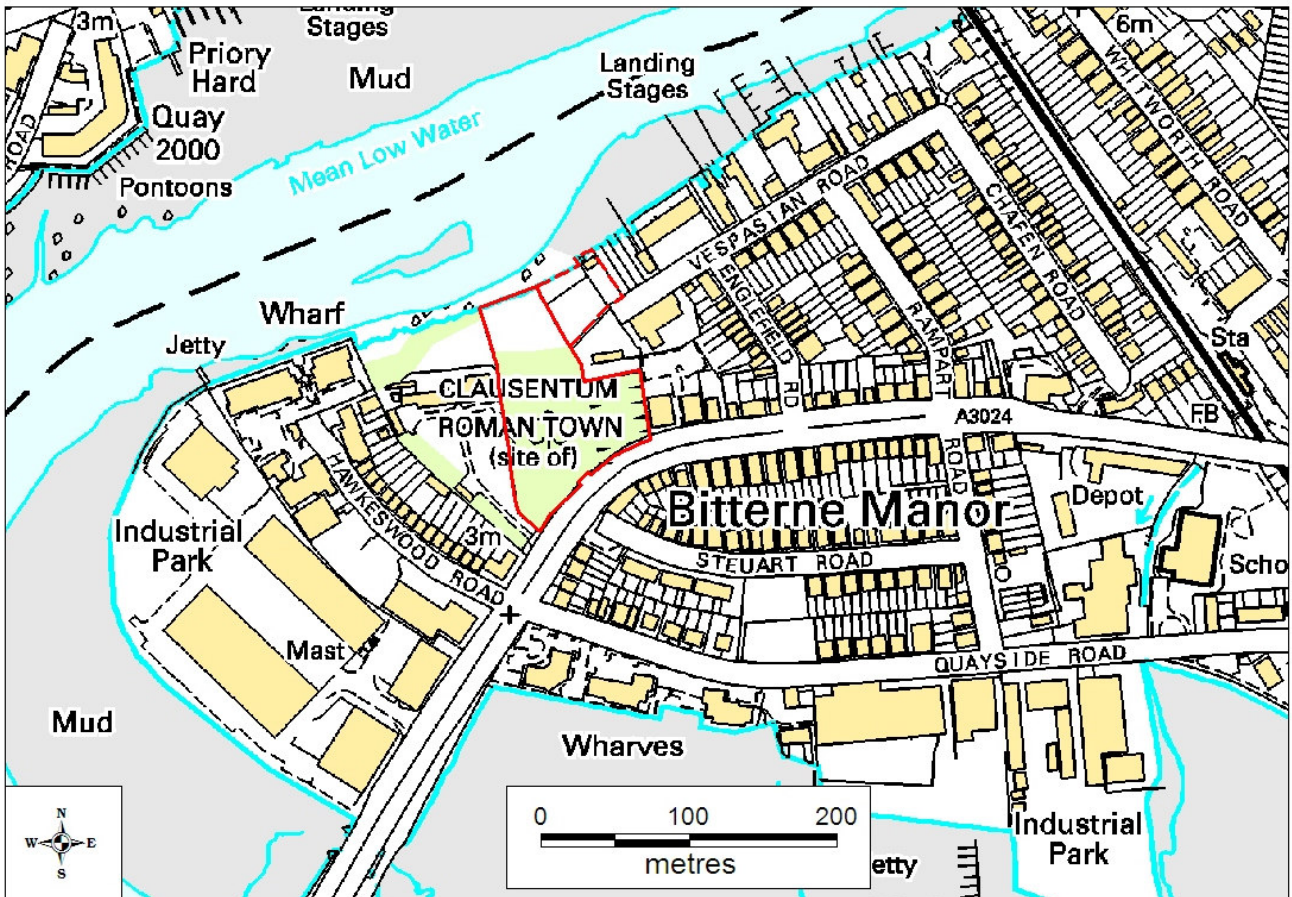


Figure 2. Bitterne Manor showing the assessment area

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4. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY.

A number of local archives were searched for information relating to the site. These included Southampton City Library, Southampton City Council Building Control, and the Historic Environment Record (formerly known as the Sites and Monuments Record) held by Southampton City Council Historic Environment Team. The results of archaeological investigations in the area of the site were also consulted. In the first instance the published or archive reports were used, with the original archive only being consulted if no report existed, or if there was a problem that needed resolving. Historic maps and photographs were consulted. A site visit was made on 25th March 2011.

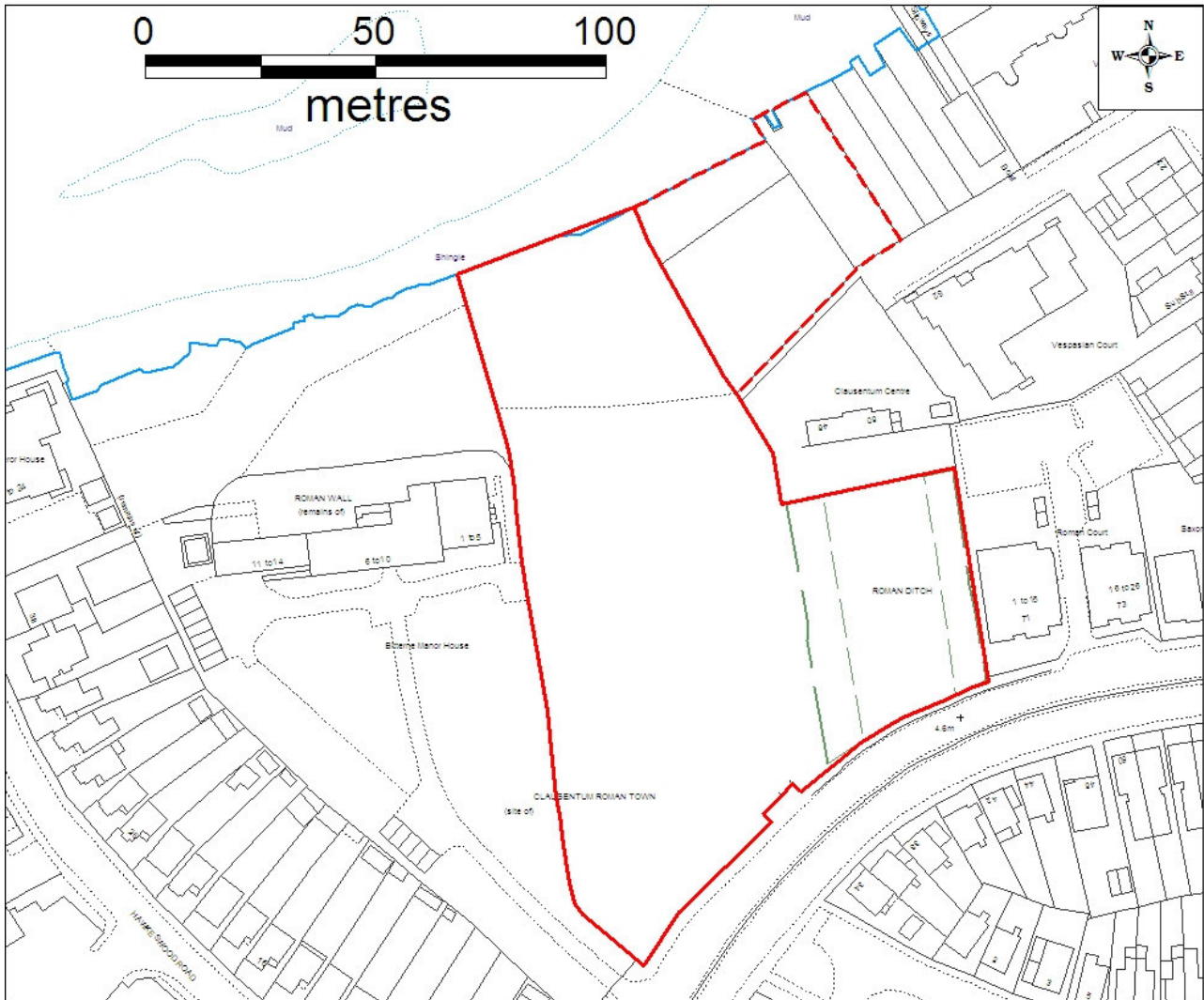


Figure 3. The assessment area showing the park and proposed extension (dashed).
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5. SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY.

The assessment area (fig 3) lies on the east bank of the River Itchen north east of Northam Bridge. The area is bounded on the west by the grounds of Bitterne Manor House, on the north by the River Itchen, on the east by housing, a vacant plot and the Clausentum Centre, and on the south by Bitterne Road West. The terrain in the park is uneven. The north part slopes down towards the river shore and the south west part is roughly level but uneven. In the south east part, the area of the Roman inner Fosse, or ditch, the ground slopes down to the east from a slight ridge of higher ground. The nearest spot heights shown on the OS map are 4.6m OD in Bitterne Road West near the south east corner of the site, and 3.4m OD in Bitterne Road West 60m south of the site.

The geology map (Ordnance Survey 1987) shows that the surface deposits at the site consist of River Terrace Deposits (mainly gravel) of the first terrace.

6. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

6.1. Roman

The Bitterne Manor peninsula has been identified with the Roman place name Clausentum in the Antonine Itinerary. Many excavations, observations, watching briefs and accidental finds have been made in the area over the last 250 years.

The last published synthesis of the evidence was that compiled by M A Cotton in the mid 1950s (Cotton 1958, 1-144). Cotton identified 11 major chronological phases, 10 of which were Roman. The earliest was pre-Flavian, although she argued against Waterman's evidence for this phase (Waterman 1943, and 1947) and decided that evidence of pre-Flavian occupation had 'yet to be firmly established' (Cotton 1958, 13). Cotton argued for the beginnings of the settlement in the Flavian period (70-100AD) after which there was continuous occupation until the early 3rd century. This was then followed by an Occupation Gap until about 350AD after which there was continuous occupation until the 5th century when the town was destroyed.

The Bitterne Manor peninsula was defended by two ditches (Fig 4). The outer is undated, the inner, with its associated stone wall, is thought to be late Roman in date. The construction of the later defensive circuit around the tip of the peninsula reduced the settlement area from 21 to eight acres. The stone wall and towers had mostly been cleared by the 18th century, but local historian John Speed sketched what may have been the remains of the gate through the inner defences (Speed 1770).

The north side of the town has produced evidence for a timber waterfront (Kell 1859) and recent work in the Itchen has identified a series of jetties on the opposite bank, one dated to spring 201AD.

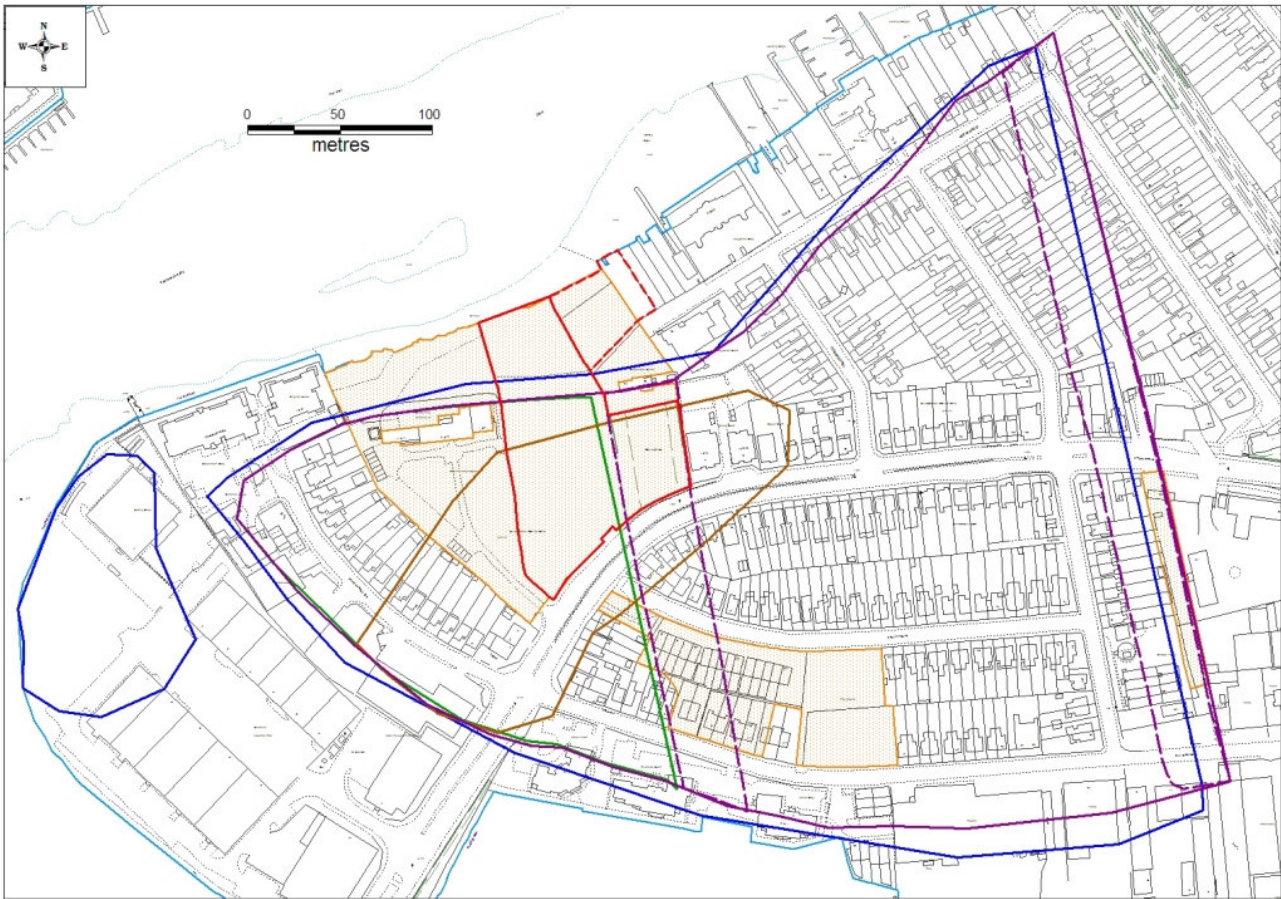


Figure 4. Bitterne Manor, showing archaeologically significant areas

Yellow = Scheduled Area; Purple = approximate extent of Roman settlement; Purple dashed = ditches; green = probable area of Saxon burh; brown = approximate extent of Saxon cemetery; blue = extent of Bitterne Manor estate c1800.

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6.2. Saxon

The former Roman fort at Bitterne Manor may be the site of the *burh* mentioned in the Burghal Hidage of 920 AD. The Burghal Hidage gives the assessment for (South) Hampton as only 150 hides. At several other towns the burhs used existing Roman fortifications. At the time the Bitterne Manor site would still have been a strong Roman fort with a 10ft thick stone wall, bastions, two ditches and an outer bank. Excavations have established that the wall from river to river across the promontory was about 190.5m long. This is similar to the 188.7m calculated for the 150 hides. The length of the sides of the fort covered by substantial water defences was not included. It is probable therefore that Bitterne Manor was the site the burh of 920 AD. Few finds suggestive of occupation have been revealed by excavation, suggesting that the remains of the Roman fort were intended to be used only as a refuge, separate from the middle and late Saxon urban centres west of the River Itchen (Hill, 1966).

Numerous human burials have been found in the southern part of the Bitterne Manor House grounds and the public park adjacent to Bitterne Road and also on land to the south. Radiocarbon dates suggest a Saxon (5th to 8th century AD) date for the cemetery. The cemetery seems to lie within the area enclosed by the Roman inner ditch although some Saxon inhumations have also been found between the inner and outer ditches.

6.3. Medieval

In 1045 a grant of land to the Bishops of Winchester included land at Stanham (Stoneham). This has been identified with Bitterne Manor, which was certainly part of the Bishop's holding by 1207. The buildings at this date consisted of a great house, a courtyard and cloisters, a kitchen, four small houses, and a chapel. A stone gateway and two stone buildings on the line of the Roman wall used as a barn and stable in the 18th century also probably belonged to the medieval manor.

6.4. Post-medieval

Little is known about the post-medieval history of Bitterne Manor until c1770, when local historian John Speed sketched and described the area. Speed noted that much of the stone from the manor house and the Roman fort was “removed in Queen Elizabeth’s time to build Pear Tree House,” and later, Pear Tree Church, consecrated in 1620 (Rogers, 1907). The site of the present Manor was occupied in c1800 by a farmhouse and this was rebuilt as a mansion in c1804 by a Mr Simpson, who also cleared and landscaped much of the site to create gardens (Englefield, 1805, 105 – 108). The manor house was much restored in 1864. Some medieval features survived (Davies, 1883). The house was damaged by a bomb that fell in the grounds during the Second World War, revealing further medieval features (Crawford, 1945) and was subsequently partly rebuilt and converted to flats, designed by Herbert Collins.

7. CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE.

A brief overview of the known cartographic evidence follows. A map regression showing extracts from historic maps identified by the Archaeology Unit is provided in Appendix 1. Map numbers refer to Appendix 1.

The earliest known map of Southampton, known as the 'Elizabethan' map, which dates from the late 16th century (Maps 1 & 2) shows very little detail and is somewhat distorted. However the medieval Manor house is clearly shown, with its prominent tower.

Dr John Speed's plan, made about 1770 (Map 3), shows the manor house as roughly square, probably indicating the extent of the remains of the medieval manor house. It also shows the approximate location of the barn, stable and gateway, which were probably medieval. Englefield's plan, dated c1800 (Map 4), shows the new road, with the barn to the north and the extent of the remains of the Roman wall, with what may be a representation of a tower to the south of the new road.

A plan of the estate surveyed by John Doswell, probably c1820 (Map 5), shows the new mansion and the layout of the grounds including the walled garden on the line of the inner fosse. A stable block and the lodge by the entrance gate are also shown. The beginnings of land reclamation on the north side of the peninsula are evident.

A "Plan of the Roman Station of Clausentum at Southampton" prepared by the Ordnance Survey in 1861 (Map 6) shows the layout of the grounds and shows that further reclamation had taken place. The Ordnance Survey map of 1868 (Map 7) shows little change. A plan dated c1890 (Map 8) shows the locations of the inner and outer fosse and vallum. By 1898 (Map 9) the layout of paths and drives in the Manor House grounds had been altered. The 1910 Ordnance Survey map (Map 10) shows the early stages of residential development to the south and east and the 1933 Ordnance Survey map (Map 11) shows the extent of development in the area prior to WW2.

The first post-war Ordnance Survey map, dated 1948 (Map 12), shows the Manor house as a "Ruin". The lodge is also shown as a dotted outline and two buildings are shown to the north of it. Later post-war maps (Maps 13 & 14) show the redevelopment of the Manor House and the creation of the public park.

Features related to the Bitterne Manor grounds shown on maps of the 19th and 20th century and located within the assessment area have been combined in figure 5.

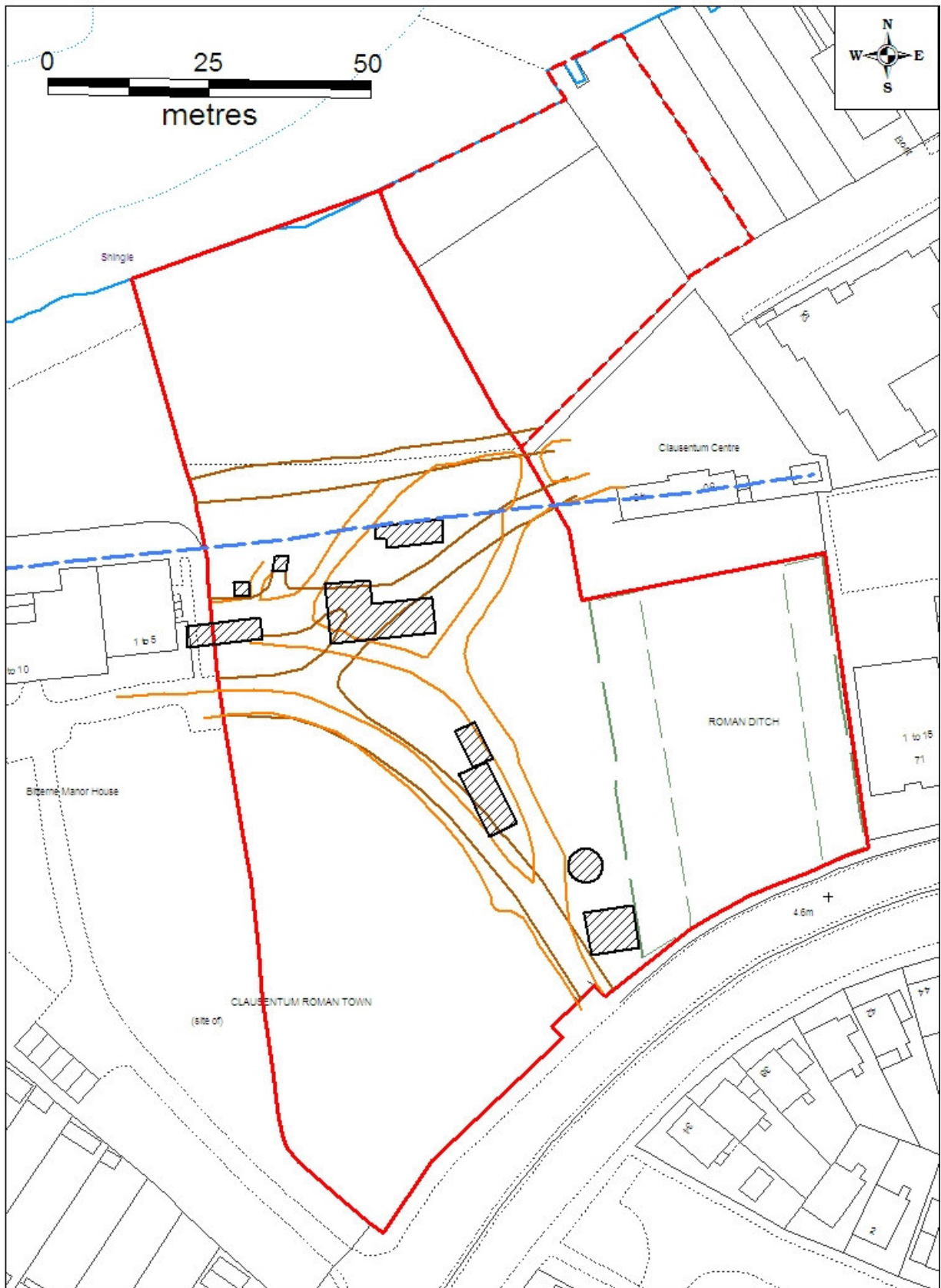


Figure 5. The assessment area, showing features related to Bitterne Manor house.

Orange outlines = paths & drives on 1868 OS map; brown outlines = paths & drives on 1896 and later OS maps; black hatched areas = buildings shown on 19th & 20th century maps & plans; blue line = former shoreline as shown on Doswell's plan.

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8. THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE SITE.

The north part of the site, the area reclaimed from the river since c1800, is largely open grassland with a few mature trees to the south (fig 6). The remainder is mainly wooded, with some areas of mature trees and grass and some areas of dense immature growth mixed with undergrowth. The proposed extension to the north east is rough grassland. Photographs of the site taken on 25th March 2011 are included as Appendix 3.



Figure 6. Aerial view of the assessment area, dated 2008.

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9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

9.1. Introduction.

A large number of archaeological excavations, watching briefs, evaluations and observations have been undertaken in the vicinity of the study area since the 1930s and many finds were made in the 18th and 19th centuries. Details are given below for sites and find spots within a c500m radius of the approximate centre of the assessment area (fig 7). They are presented by period and summarised in approximate SOU site code order.

9.2. Prehistoric.

Prehistoric evidence has been recovered from several archaeological investigations in the area and a number of chance finds have been made.

Five Palaeolithic flint implements found at Bitterne Manor at various times before 1963 are now located in Southampton's Archaeological Collections. A Mesolithic flint was found at Bitterne Manor but the year of the find and the precise location of the findspot is unknown. Two Neolithic polished flint axes were found at Bitterne Manor, one before 1919, the other before 1969. The exact provenance of each axe is unknown. A Late Bronze Age looped and socketed axe was found by some boys in a trench (probably an archaeological trench) at Bitterne Manor in 1939. Two Iron Age bronze coins were found at "Bitterne" in 1934 or before. The owner of the coins, Miss MacNaghten, lived at Bitterne Manor House, and the coins probably came from Bitterne Manor estate. Several flint arrowheads, presumably prehistoric, were found in the back garden of 30 Vespasian Road. Prehistoric flints were found during observations on land owned by George Parker at Bitterne Manor in the early 20th century. The location is uncertain but was probably in the area shown on the 1933 map bounded by Steuart Road, Quayside Road, the inner fosse and the "school" site.

A bronze "leach-shaped" brooch of Early Iron Age date may have been found on the Bitterne Manor estate in the 19th century. The brooch is described as being "Italian" (Waterman, 1944).

Evidence of prehistoric activity has also been found in the surrounding area. To the south, some burnt flints have been observed, eroding out of the river bank at Chessel Bay and a bronze rapier of Middle Bronze Age date (c1300BC) was found in 1982 during dredging of River Itchen off Shamrock Quay. To the north, a Bronze Age hoard of four palstaves, four

socketed axes and a leaf-shaped sword, was found in 1894 during road works in what is now Bond Road at Bitterne Park, near Cobden Bridge. A neolithic flint axehead was found nearby, in or before 1894.

On the west side of the River Itchen in St Denys, a late Mesolithic flint working site was found during an evaluation excavation at 8 Priory Avenue (SOU 448). The flint working site was overlain by a black, almost peaty layer and by layers of water-laid calcareous tufa, indicating a change to wetter conditions, including a substantial rise in the height of the river. Worked flints have been found at several other sites in the St Denys area.

Gazetteer of Prehistoric sites in SOU number order

SOU 215

Late Iron Age Belgic pottery was found in Roman deposits during excavations at the Roman Wall in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1936/1938 (Site F,). The wares included butt beakers, other Gallo-Belgic wares and bead-rim pottery. No *in situ* Iron Age deposits were found, although an undated double posthole could have been pre-Roman (Waterman, 1947).

SOU 305

Observations on groundworks between the inner and outer ditches of the Roman station of Clausentum at Bitterne Manor in 1901 revealed a Palaeolithic flint implement and a fragment of a Neolithic flint dagger blade were found. A possible Bronze Age interment, marked by a small cinerary urn, broken in situ and surrounded by big stones was also found. However this may have been Roman, and as the pot has not survived, the date is uncertain.

SOU 333

A watching brief and an evaluation excavation were carried out at the new Bitterne Manor First and Middle School in Quayside Road. Evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of worked flint, a sherd of pottery, and burnt flint was found. The eastern half of a large linear feature ran north-south across the western side of the site. The feature may have been a Roman or Iron Age ditch.

SOU 414

A few prehistoric worked flints and one or two sherds of possible prehistoric pottery were found during archaeological excavations on the south west corner of Hawkeswood Road and Bitterne Road.

SOU 755

At a watching brief at 12 and 14 Steuart Road burnt flint and a flint flake were found in later contexts.

SOU 848 and SOU 862

An evaluation excavation and watching brief at 75 Bitterne Road revealed a thin, undated soil layer containing burnt flint, which may have been prehistoric. Residual finds included burnt clay of probable pre-Roman date and prehistoric pottery.

SOU 857

Archaeological investigations prior to the construction of the HA Fox Parts Centre, Hawkeswood Road revealed layers or shallow features, possibly the remnants of prehistoric activity. Bronze Age pottery, burnt flint and worked flint flakes and cores were found in these deposits. A Neolithic polished axe and other worked and burnt flints were found in Roman deposits. This evidence indicates Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation in the vicinity.

SOU 999 and SOU 1081

A sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and two pieces of worked flint including a retouched flint blade/scrapper were recovered from later deposits during investigations on land south of Quayside Road.

SOU 1047

Possible prehistoric evidence was found during a watching brief at 3 Quayside Road. This consisted of discoloured patches in the natural brickearth, one of which produced a flint flake. The patches could be due to natural processes or prehistoric activity

SOU 1268

A small pot of black ware covered with a lid and containing nothing but black earth was found during a watching brief on the laying out of Quayside Road in the area between the inner and outer ditches of Clausentum in 1901. The pot was thought to be Roman.

However it may be the same as a bead-rim bowl/jar with lid representing a late Iron Age cremation found at "Bitterne" and now in Southampton's archaeological collections.

SOU 1292

Three worked flint flakes were found, in later deposits and unstratified, during a watching brief at 71 and 73 Bitterne Road West.

SOU 1447

An unstratified worked flint of probable prehistoric date was found at a watching brief at 84 Bitterne Road West.

9.3. Roman:

Historical sources show that there was once a circuit wall around the area enclosed by the inner ditch at Bitterne Manor. Speed (in 1770) and Englefield (in 1800) described various lengths of wall still visible above ground, and other structures along the part of the wall just inside the inner ditch. The sources give conflicting information as to the locations of these above-ground remains. In 1804/5, the rampart bank inside the inner ditch was levelled, and Englefield reported that foundations of "the whole of the ancient eastern wall", along with various structures, including towers, along its route were revealed. Parts of the wall seem to have been traceable into the 20th century, but the only part surviving above ground today is just west of Bitterne Manor House. The latter was investigated during archaeological excavations in 1936/1938 (SOU 215); the dating evidence obtained suggested that the wall was built in the 4th century AD. Two excavations in 1951 (SOU 202 and SOU 203) extended across the area of the demolished eastern wall. On each site, a broad band of postholes, aligned north-south, was found west of the Inner Ditch. This was interpreted by the excavator as a stockade dating to AD150+. However it is more likely suggested the postholes were piles for a stone wall, and a 4th century date is suggested.

There was formerly a bank or rampart on the inside edge of the inner ditch at Bitterne Manor. It was mentioned by Speed in 1770 and is shown on his plan of the area. It is also shown, associated with a stone wall, on plans dating to 1798 and 1802/1804, at least south of what is now Bitterne Road. There may also have been a bank associated with the stone wall along the shoreline inside the area enclosed by the inner ditch, but the sources are very unclear about this. In 1800, Englefield described and illustrated a section of a

large bank of earth against the Roman wall, with another revetting wall on its inside edge. In 1804/5, much or all of the bank inside the inner ditch was levelled and it is not shown on subsequent maps. Two archaeological excavations in 1951 (SOU 202 and SOU 203) extended across the area likely to have been covered by the inner bank. None of the deposits found on these excavations were considered to be part of the bank. However, on both sites there was evidence of an old turf line, which could indicate the former presence of a bank.

In 1770, Speed drew a plan of the Bitterne Manor peninsular which showed a "breastwork of earth" along the southern shoreline between the outer and inner ditches of Clausentum. In 1798, another plan of Bitterne Manor seems to indicate a masonry wall in this area. However there is no mention of either a bank or wall at this location in the texts accompanying these plans. If it existed, this bank or wall would probably have been in the area south of the present Quayside Road, and may have been of Roman date.

In 1804/5, during the levelling of the bank inside the inner ditch of Clausentum at Bitterne Manor, the remains of a round stone tower were revealed at the north end of the Roman wall. The tower was thought to be of probable Roman date and part of the original wall. The tower was presumably near the 1805 shoreline (fig 11, MSH 319). At least some of the tower remains were destroyed during the levelling work and there is now no sign of the foundations on the ground

Again, during the levelling of the bank inside the inner ditch, traces of a round stone tower were revealed. The tower was thought to be of probable Roman date and part of the original wall. There is some uncertainty now as to the location of the tower. It was probably at the south end of the Roman bank and wall, near the southern shore of the peninsular, but may also have been just north of Bitterne Road. At least some of the tower remains were destroyed during the levelling work and there is now no sign of the foundations on the ground. Very tentative evidence of a possible tower was found during archaeological investigations south of Quayside Road between 1999 and 2002 (SOU 999 and SOU 1081).

In 1800, Englefield noted "the foundations of a small turret or bastion projecting outwards from the line of the eastern Roman wall", just inside the inner ditch of Clausentum. In 1802 or 1804, he marked the "foundation of the tower" (probably the turret or bastion) on a plan;

it is shown just south of what is now Bitterne Road (fig 11, MSH321). However in 1804/5, during the levelling of the bank inside the inner ditch, Englefield reported that a "semicircular tower or buttress" was revealed; it was 78 feet from a tower at the north end of the bank/wall, so well north of Bitterne Road (fig 11, MSH 355). There are similarities in the descriptions of the two structures, but the stated locations do not match, suggesting that they may be different structures.

Also during the levelling of the bank inside the inner ditch, a small stone altar dedicated to the goddess Ancasta was found. (fig 11, MSH311) The altar may have been reused as building stone in the foundations of a semi-circular tower or buttress that was revealed during the levelling work, although this is not certain. It is thought that the goddess was a Celtic divinity. The altar is now in God's House Museum.

Also during the levelling of the bank, four inscribed Roman milestones were found. The milestones may have been reused as building stone in the foundations of a semi-circular tower or buttress revealed during the levelling work, although this is not certain. It was thought that all four stones had been lost, however in 1977 two of them were rediscovered in a 19th century garden wall nearby. The wall was subsequently demolished, and the two milestones again disappeared. In 1996 they were found again in the New Forest, and one is now in Southampton's archaeological collections.

The outer ditch or fosse of Clausentum was described in 1770 by Speed and illustrated on a map of that date. It is also shown on later maps. The backfilling of the outer ditch had begun by the mid-19th century, although most of the reclamation took place in the first half of the 20th century. Today there is little trace of the outer ditch on the ground.

In 1798, in two fields just east of the outer ditch of Clausentum at Bitterne Manor, a number of pottery vessels containing ashes, and a square green glass bottle filled with bones were found. Between 1798 and 1800, other finds may have been discovered in these fields, including bone pins, although the sources are rather unclear as to precisely where these were found. The finds suggest there was a cremation cemetery outside the outer ditch, assumed to be of Roman date.

Two Roman lead pigs/ingots bearing Vespasian's name were found during groundworks at Beazley's yard in what is now Hawkeswood Road in 1918. The details of the findspot suggest that it was on the line of the Roman waterfront

In 1770 Speed described and illustrated "the remains of a Stone Gateway" which lay towards the north end of the bank inside the inner ditch of Clausentum at Bitterne Manor. He thought the gateway was of Roman date. In 1800 Englefield mentioned the gateway along with other apparently post-Roman remains; it lay just north of what is now Bitterne Road (fig 11, MSH318). By 1805 the gateway had been demolished. It is therefore uncertain whether the gateway was built to serve the Roman fort/settlement of Clausentum, or the medieval Bitterne Manor. A wall found during a watching brief on the north side of Bitterne Road in 1999 (SOU 914) may have been part of this gateway.

Gazetteer of Roman sites in SOU number order

SOU 28

Roman and later evidence was observed in trenches at 28 Hawkeswood Road in 1979. A gravel surface and possible wall footings consisting of irregular and partially squared limestone blocks, were interpreted as being of late Roman date. They were overlaid by a layer interpreted as a post-Roman soil accumulation. This contained Roman finds including building material, animal bone, pottery dated from the early 2nd century to the 4th century and a coin of Trebonianus Gallus (251 - 253 AD). This layer was overlain by the topsoil. Two pits may also have been found, although this is uncertain. (SARC, 1980).

SOU 201

See SOU 215

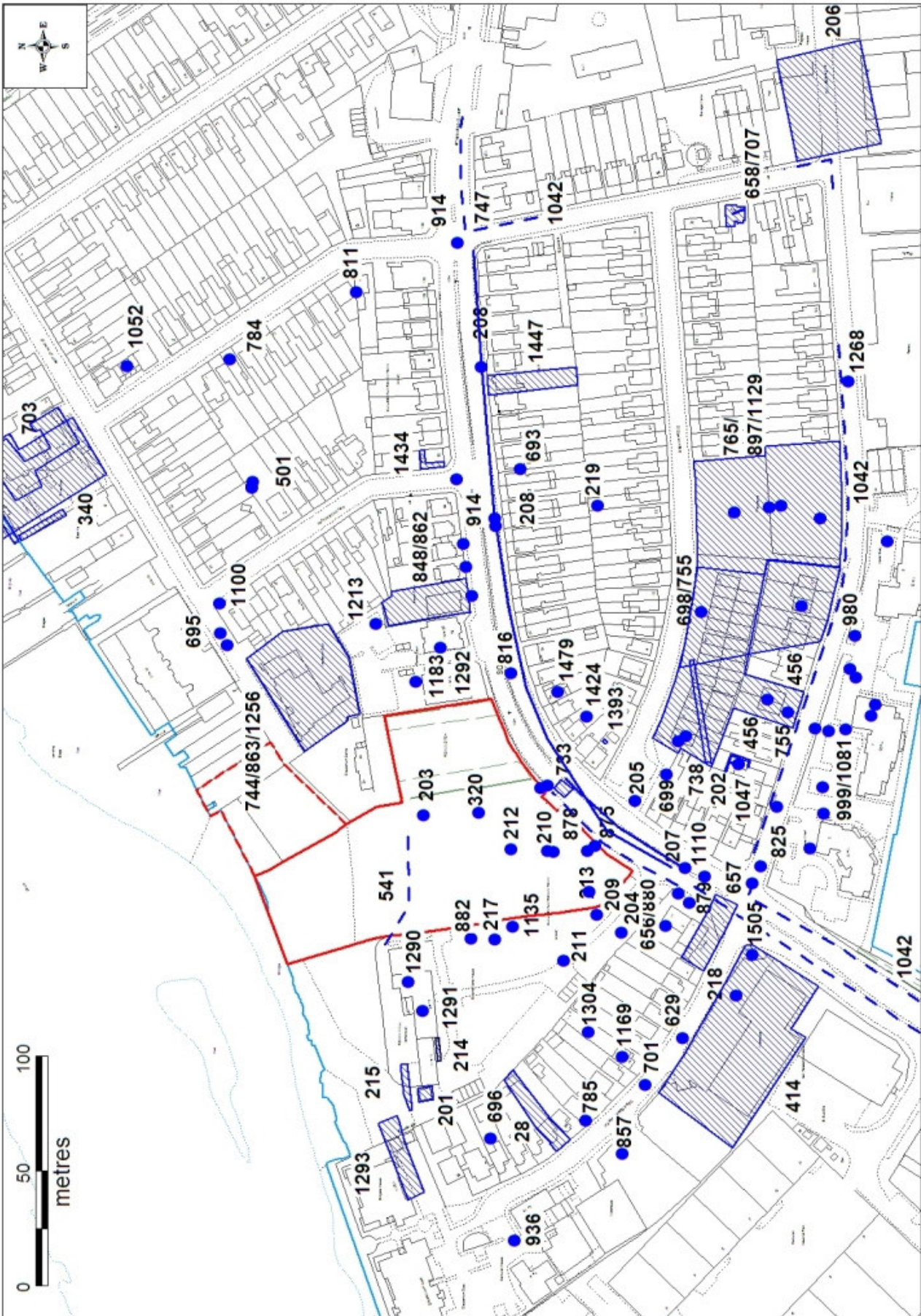


Figure 7. Archaeological investigations mentioned in the text (SOU prefix omitted for clarity).

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SOU 202

In 1951 a trench was archaeologically excavated at the west end of Steuart Road, across the inner ditch of Clausentum and extending as far as possible either side of the ditch. A layer interpreted as part of the pre-occupation "old turf line" was found on both sides of the ditch. This may indicate the presence of a bank inside the inner ditch, and perhaps outside the ditch as well. At the far west end of the site two stratified layers were found, at least one of them being burnt. They may have dated to the first half of the 4th century. There were three postholes at this end of the trench, although their relationship with the layers is unclear. East of this was a 9-foot-wide band of 103 deep postholes, which together formed a north-south alignment, 9ft (2.74m) wide east-west and 48' (14.63m) west of the inner ditch and continuing beyond the edges of the trench.. These postholes cut an old turf line and natural gravel to a depth of up to 1' 6" (457mm). These postholes probably represent piling for the footings of a stone wall inside the inner ditch. East of this were 8 large postholes and a small pit of uncertain function, and east of these were three large pits of late 1st century date. All of the above were west of the inner ditch. The inner ditch itself was only partially excavated. East of the inner ditch, the turf line was overlain by a layer which was cut by a large pit; both layer and pit were dated to the first half of the 4th century. There were 11 postholes in this area, some of which cut the layer, and two of which cut the pit. Some of these postholes were on the extreme eastern edge of the ditch, and had probably been truncated by erosion. They may all have formed part of one structure, or be in two unrelated groups of uncertain function (Cotton & Gathercole, 1958).

SOU 203

Roman evidence was found during an excavation in the north-east corner of the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1951 (Site C2). The trench was located just inside the Inner Ditch. This part of the manor house grounds is now the public park. Roman occupation deposits of late first century and possibly early 2nd century date were found, including a mortar floor and posthole, possibly part of a timber structure. These deposits were overlain across the whole trench by a gravel surface, perhaps a courtyard or street. The gravel surface was cut by a broad band of 43 postholes, a gully and a ditch (or large pit), all aligned north-south. The lower fills of the ditch dated to the first half of the 2nd century, the upper fills to the second half of the 2nd century, probably before 180 AD. Another group of 7 postholes cut the upper fill of the ditch, and may or may not be associated with the first group. The broad band of postholes may have been a stockade but were probably pilings for a stone wall. All of these features were apparently sealed by a debris layer, which

either accumulated gradually from about 170/180 AD to 350 AD, or was laid down in the first half of the 4th century (Cotton & Gathercole, 1958).

SOU 204

Roman deposits were found in a small excavation trench in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1951 (Cotton Site D1). A pit dated by pottery to the late 2nd century was sealed by an occupation layer that contained a mortarium not earlier than AD 170/180 to AD 200. A soil layer that had accumulated over a length of time to about 350 AD was sealed by a mortar floor with no finds. The uppermost Roman deposit was dated to the late 4th century or later (Cotton & Gathercole, 1958).

SOU 205

An excavation in Steuart Road/Bitterne Road in 1954 revealed three Roman pits. Finds recovered from them included pottery, including a handle of a globular amphora, including a stamp, Samian and coarse wares, iron nails, a bronze stud with a large disc head, a bronze pin with a conical head, a small fragment of glass, roofing tile, mortar, and a piece of plaster with a red painted surface. These pits were sealed by post-medieval deposits that included a spread of limestone blocks which may have come from the demolition of a standing Roman stone structure, perhaps when Bitterne Road was constructed in 1799 (Cotton & Gathercole, 1958).

SOU 206

An archaeological excavation on land south of the pumping station in Rampart Road included a section cut through the outer bank of Clausentum. The original bank was possibly of 1st century date, initially 35 to 40 feet wide and 15 feet high. The bank was eroded during a period of disuse. A grave cut through the original bank contained a young female inhumation, radiocarbon dated to the 3rd or 4th century. The bank was enlarged and refortified in the late 3rd century or 4th century, and levelled in the late 4th century. Also found were a gravel surface behind the bank, cobbles (perhaps from a road or hard), a chalk floor and associated posthole. Roman finds including pottery and coins were recovered (Southampton Archaeological Society, 1964). Part of the site may now lie under Quayside Road.

SOU 207

During a watching brief in Bitterne Road, near the corner of Hawkeswood Road, Iron nails, a small glass bottle, Roman pottery and other finds were recovered. The Pottery consisted of Samian and coarse wares, probably dating from about 100 – 120 AD.

SOU 208

A watching brief on a trench for a gas main along Bitterne Road in 1957 revealed four pits of probable Roman date. They contained oyster shells, decayed vegetable matter, animal bones and broken pottery. A portion of "old stone walling" about 5m long, running NNE – SSW was revealed. The date of the wall is unknown, although it seems to have been found quite a way below the modern ground surface. The wall and pits were located west of the inner ditch of Clausentum. At another location "holes with some stonework and old nails and pottery" and the top of an amphora were observed. It is not known whether the stonework was bonded or in situ. A quantity of Roman pottery, iron nails, Roman coins of Nero and Vespasian, tiles and fragments of glass were recovered. The pottery included Samian ware of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD and coarse pottery of the 1st and 4th centuries AD.

SOU 209

Three phases of Roman occupation were found during the archaeological excavation of a bomb crater in the tennis lawn at Bitterne Manor House in 1941.

The debris thrown up by the explosion contained a large number of unshaped limestone blocks, some of large size (up to about 30" by 12"), hexagonal limestone roofing tiles, many fragments of wall plaster with red and white surfaces, a single tessera of brick with mortar adhering, a quern of volcanic rock, much pottery, and heaps of burnt occupation earth.

Natural sand was overlaid by a deposit of clay from which a large amphora sherd was recovered. The clay layer was overlaid by a patchy occupation layer, overlaid by a thin gravel layer. Above this were three more clay layers, which together were interpreted as being the floor of a hut. Outside the area of this suggested hut was a gravel layer, possibly a yard. On the boundary between clay floor and gravel yard, and cutting both, was a posthole, thought to be part of the hut. On the surface of the clay floor was some occupation debris. This and the gravel layer were overlain by a thick layer of burnt daub

with wattle impressions, and lumps of charcoal, interpreted as being from the destruction by fire of the wattle and daub hut. Above this was a layer of clay with pottery, bones and oyster shells, overlain in turn by a thick deposit of building debris including wall plaster, mortar and tiles, although it is unclear whether this was of Roman or medieval/post-medieval date.

The precise location of the bomb crater is unknown, although it was probably south of the house, at the location marked on the SCC Bomb map.

SOU 210

An excavation (Site A) in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1936 revealed Roman evidence. A sequence of six layers, including two gravel layers, was exposed. The earliest was dated by the pottery to the 2nd half of the 1st century and the fifth was dated on the basis of Samian pottery to the late 1st/early 2nd century. These deposits were cut by later features, interpreted as robbed wall foundations of uncertain date. A Roman oven was found, although this could not be closely dated. Residual Roman artefacts were recovered from the topsoil, including many tiles, over a hundred tesserae, 3rd and 4th century pottery and two coins (Tetricus AD270 - 3, and Crispus 317 AD). This may indicate that later Roman deposits, including a mosaic pavement, had been disturbed after the Roman period (Waterman, 1936). Due to post-war boundary changes, the site now lies in the public park.

Site A may have been a continuation of a trench dug by Williams in early 1936 (see SOU 1135), which exposed the remains of the mosaic pavement; these may correspond to the loose tesserae found in the topsoil at Site A.

SOU 211

Roman deposits were found during an excavation (Site B) in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in the late 1930s. A small rubbish pit and deep drainage ditch of late 1st century date were found. Evidence of a wooden structure was found; this was apparently of early 2nd century date and had been destroyed by fire. Two pits were cut into the site of the building. This building was later reconstructed. By the middle of the late 2nd century the site was made up, a thick gravel layer laid and a stone wall terminating in a large pier-stone built; these were interpreted as being the courtyard, courtyard wall and gateway of a nearby building. Many Roman artefacts were recovered from the site. The deposits above the undisturbed Roman levels contained many 3rd and 4th century coins and pottery,

suggesting that deposits relating to later Roman occupation had been destroyed by post-Roman agricultural or gardening activities (Waterman, 1941).

SOU 212

An excavation in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1936 (Site C) revealed a surface of hard, rammed gravel about 300mm below the surface. This was thought to be a possible Roman road. A stone-lined hole c600mm in diameter was found adjoining the gravel surface. This was thought to be the foundation of a milestone, or of an altar, more probably the former. These interpretations could not be confirmed, as the gravel layer was not excavated and so remained undated. The deposits above the gravel surface had all been disturbed in the modern period; pottery (some presumably Roman) was found in these deposits (Waterman, 1936).

SOU 213

Roman deposits were found during the excavation of Site D in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1936. The lowest deposit was undated dark brown clay containing some charcoal and brick. Above this was a gravel and sandy clay layer, containing pottery and a mortarium, suggesting a late 1st century to very early 2nd century date. Above this were shallow stone foundations and areas of limestone and red clay flooring, thought to belong to a half-timbered building, also dated by the pottery to the late 1st century/very early 2nd century. The remains of the building were overlaid by a black earth that contained 26 Roman coins (270 - 395 AD) and late 3rd/4th century pottery, but no later artefacts. Also apparently within this black earth were six human skeletons, not securely dated but now thought to be post-Roman (Waterman, 1936).

SOU 215 and SOU 201

Two excavations just west of Bitterne Manor House carried out in the late 1930s and in 1951 revealed early to late Roman occupation evidence. The first was supervised by Waterman (Waterman Site F, now SOU 215). In 1951 this trench was re-opened and extended by Cotton (Cotton Site A, now SOU 201).

SOU 215

A saucer-shaped depression, about 9 ft in diameter, cut into the natural gravel, was interpreted as a circular hut of Early Roman date. Two postholes, evidence of a hearth and a spread of charcoal were associated with it. Elsewhere a double posthole was found sealed by an old turf line. A stone-built structure was later erected, perhaps in the mid-2nd

century, and later extended. A series of layers and possible floors was associated with it. The structure fell into disuse and may have been destroyed by fire possibly c300AD, as evidenced by a thick deposit of burnt debris. A soil layer then accumulated; a badly corroded coin of Valens (364-378 AD) and much late Roman New Forest pottery came from this layer.

At this surface a large stone wall had been constructed, interpreted as being the Roman town wall; part of this remains above-ground. A date of 330 AD or later is suggested for the town wall's construction.

The site was partially levelled by a gravelly clay make-up layer that contained many loose tesserae and much pottery of 1st century to late 4th century date. This was overlaid by a thick, sterile gravel layer, part of which appears to have been the flooring of a timber-framed building. The evidence for this building consisted of the charred remains of a burnt sleeper-beam sunk in the gravel, a heavy accumulation of debris, a hearth, and a small drainage channel. A deposit of burnt debris suggests this structure was destroyed by fire. Associated pottery was all late Roman New Forest ware. The site then seems to have become a rubbish tip, with deposits of wall-plaster, building materials and occupation debris. The fragmentary remains of a human skull were found in this layer. On its surface were the disturbed remains of a dry-built, single course wall, probably of late-Roman or post-Roman date (Waterman. 1947).

SOU 201

An early layer, overlying natural gravel or the old turf line, was found over the greater part of Site A except in the areas occupied by later buildings. Pottery found in this layer dated from about 70 AD - 170/180 AD. A small pit cut through this layer was filled with oyster shells. The pottery from the pit dated to about the mid-2nd century to 170/180 AD. This level was cut by two buildings (1 & 2) and sealed by a gravel surface associated with these buildings.

Building 1 was initially investigated on SOU 215. It was traced for a distance of 60 feet south of the point where it was cut by the Town Wall, and a robber trench was traced for a further 40 feet, but no corner could be identified. The plan of this building is not known but its internal foundation date can be given as about 170/180 AD, by dating of the deposits above and below. A northern timber-framed extension was built possibly in the early 3rd

century. It is thought to have been destroyed by fire towards the end of the 3rd century, or early 4th century.

Building 2 was a small, four-roomed bath-house, constructed of Bembridge limestone. It probably had glazed windows as window glass was found in the reconstruction level. Grey and white tesserae were also found. The first modification to this building was into a two-roomed building, retaining the outer walls but obliterating features characteristic of its original function. Some time after that the building fell into disuse. In about AD 370, it was demolished to ground level, and rebuilt twice as an "unfinished bath-house", the first rebuild dating to c 370 AD, the final rebuild tentatively dated to about 390AD; pottery trampled into the floor level was late 4th century.

A gravel surface, interpreted as a courtyard, was laid between Buildings 1 and 2. This had three phases, each separated by a "silt" deposit. The first is tentatively dated to c170/180AD, Following this, a "debris level" accumulated. The gravel surface was renewed at about the same time as Building 2 was modified perhaps c370 AD. This layer was then silted over, c 370-390 AD and a third layer of gravel was deposited, c390 AD, probably contemporary with a further modification of Building 2. A silt layer then developed on this gravel between c390 AD and the 5th century.

A thick debris level covered the site, sealing the third gravel layer; it was rich in pottery late in form and ware and contained a coin of Constantius II (337-61AD). Building 2 was destroyed in this period. The debris layer was assumed to be 5th century. It was overlaid by another thick debris layer probably of 5th century date. The pottery in this layer was of mixed Roman date, but was purely Roman in character. The layer also contained coins, the latest being of the House of Theodosius (AD 388 - 395). The layer did not contain anything that could be Pagan Saxon, or medieval, although the surface of the debris level was marked by a thin layer of broken slate, possibly from the manor house. This layer may date from the 5th century to the late medieval.

SOU 216

A probable Roman road was found during an excavation in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1939 (Site G). The precise location of this excavation is unknown, and due to post-war changes to property boundaries the site may now lie either in the manor house grounds or in the public park. Two probable road metallings were found, a gravel surface

overlying a rammed limestone surface; although undated, they were assumed to be Roman. The road seems to have been aligned very roughly east-west. The gravel surface was cut by long, shallow trenches running east-west; these were perhaps wheel ruts. A trench revealed a series of layers representing more or less continuous occupation from pre-Flavian times to the middle 2nd century AD (Waterman, 1941).

SOU 217

Probable Roman evidence was found during excavations in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1939 (Site H). Various layers were found, including a black earth overlying a gravel layer. A possible wall was found. Finds from these deposits included a bronze bowl, Roman coins and 4th century pottery. The exact location of the site is uncertain and part of the pre-war manor house grounds is now a public park.

SOU 218

Roman occupation evidence was found during a watching brief on the construction of an air raid shelter on the south corner of Hawkeswood Road and Bitterne Road in 1939. Roman pottery was also recovered, and the lower part of a limestone altar. Initially thought to be dedicated to Mars (Waterman, 1941), it has recently been identified as a statue of Mercury (AD Russel, *pers comm*).

SOU 219

Observations on an ARP Trench in the back garden of 27 Steuart Road in 1939 or 1940 revealed a layer of "red burnt earth", perhaps a hearth, and a layer of "pottery in a brown clayey-earth". These deposits and pottery were undated, although they could have been Roman. A small bronze vessel, probably of early 2nd century date and now in Southampton's Archaeological Collections, probably came from this trench (Waterman, 1941).

SOU 320

Fragments of Roman tile, and one fragment of Samian ware, were recovered during an observation on the roots of a tree blown over by a gale in the public park adjoining the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1987.

SOU 333

A watching brief on trial holes, an evaluation excavation and a watching brief on groundworks were carried out at the new Bitterne Manor First and Middle School in

Quayside Road. The eastern half of a large linear feature ran north-south across the western side of the site. This may have been a Roman or Iron Age ditch, or associated with a now-culverted stream along the western site. Undated and post-medieval features were found. Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds were discovered, including an almost complete Roman flagon (Garner, 1989).

SOU 340

Excavations at 25 Vespasian Road revealed the possible Romano-British shoreline. This consisted of a silty clay layer sealed by a compact gravel surface, into which were set two groups of Purbeck marble fragments, interpreted as being post-pads for a timber river wall. The area may have had a harbour or quayside function in the Roman period. Overlying these deposits were a series of layers containing abraded Romano-British pottery, which had probably had been laid down by the river. There was no evidence of later activity until the late 19th century (Lindsey, 1988).

SOU 414

Excavations on the south corner of Hawkeswood Road and Bitterne Road revealed evidence for several phases of Roman occupation. A possible gravel rampart was built early in the Roman occupation of the site, either as a military feature or a river defence. It was cut by the piled foundation of the Roman riverside stone wall. Other evidence included dump layers, two wells, a possible road, demolition deposits, domestic rubbish, a ditch and a few postholes (Smith, 1990).

SOU 456

Evaluation excavations at the former Bitterne Manor School site in Steuart Road included two trenches dug through the Roman fosse. The upper fills of the fosse were examined, and produced late Roman pottery. They were sealed by a probable post-Roman agricultural soil (Smith, 1992).

SOU 501

A shallow pit and possible posthole were observed in a trench at 14 Englefield Road. The two features each contained a sherd of Roman pottery, and were probably of Roman date (Morton, 1994).

SOU 541

A watching brief on a new sewer in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House revealed natural gravel overlaid by a thin layer of natural brickearth. This was sealed by a layer containing late 1st/early 2nd century finds. This was cut by three pits dated to c120AD - 150AD, sealed by layers which included 3rd/4th century pottery. These were cut by a pit which also contained 3rd/4th century pottery, and an undated ditch and posthole. The undated features could be late Roman or post-Roman. A soil horizon which overlay the Roman deposits probably dates to the post-Roman period (Shuttleworth, 1994).

SOU 629

Two undated layers were noted during a watching brief on two trenches dug across Hawkeswood Road. The layers may have been the top of Roman stratified deposits. Roman artifacts were found in redeposited contexts (Peckham, 1994).

SOU 658 and SOU 707

An evaluation excavation (SOU 658) at 37 Rampart Road revealed natural gravel cut by a ditch at least 2m wide with gently sloping sides. The ditch fills were cut by a possible ditch recut, pottery from the fill of which was abraded 4th century ware. A post-Roman agricultural soil was also noted. On the watching brief (SOU 707) two Roman features were found. One was a ditch running approximately SSE-NNW and parallel with the outer vallum and fosse of Clausentum to the east; this was the same ditch as that found on SOU 658. Pottery dating to AD240 or later, a late 3rd century coin and Roman tile fragments were found in the ditch fill. The second feature was small, apparently cut the ditch and contained Roman pottery (Higgins, 1994/1996).

SOU 693

Observations on the digging of a row of house foundations on the south side of Bitterne Road between the inner and outer ditches of Clausentum in 1901 revealed a thick deposit of black soil, which presumably included post-medieval topsoil. Artefacts found included small bronze objects, coins, portions of flue tile, brick, limestone and pottery, including coarse ware and Aretine ware (Dale, 1902, 59).

SOU 694

During the laying out of Vespasian Road and Chafen Road in 1901, the new road was observed to cut through the north end of the outer bank and ditch; no trace of any wall was found (Dale, 1902, 58).

SOU 695

Considerable quantities of Bembridge limestone, possible the remains of a wall, were observed during the laying out of the west end of Vespasian Road in 1901. The stone rubble may have been masonry from a building, a shore-side structure, or dumped as part of the reclamation of the area. The deposit was undated, but could have been Roman, medieval or post-medieval (Dale, 1902, 58).

SOU 696

Oyster shells, charcoal and pottery (including Roman pottery) were found in a layer at 34 Hawkeswood Road, possibly in the late 1930s. Nothing further is known about the site

SOU 698

Excavations at the west end of Steuart Road revealed evidence of Roman occupation just outside the inner fosse. The outer edge of the fosse was found; the fills contained tile and pottery. A ditch or gulley appeared to run into the fosse. A large hollow was found filled with occupation layers dating to the 1st and early 2nd century; this was interpreted as being the site of a timber house. Evidence including a beam trench and a possible post-hole, suggested another possible timber building, dating to the first half of the 2nd century, which had been destroyed by fire. The overall depth of Roman deposits was about 460mm, and these appeared to be of 1st/2nd century date. Above these was a similar depth of disturbed garden earth, which contained 3rd/4th century pottery. (Maitland Muller. 1949).

SOU 699

A "Roman Well" is shown on the maps dated 1820 and 1859, just west of the inner ditch and south of what is now Bitterne Road. The well is shown on subsequent Ordnance Survey maps, and in the late 19th century may have had a pump installed in it. In 1940 the well, then at the west end of Steuart Road, was cleared out to a depth of 7 feet and photographed; it was stone-lined. Given the location, the well could be anything from Roman to post-medieval in date.

SOU 700

Observations on road widening, probably of the south side of Bitterne Road, in 1959 revealed the edges of the inner ditch 70ft (21.33m) apart. The western side appeared to be steeper and fill on that side contained gravel as if from deliberate levelling at some period.

Some stones were visible in the eastern half of the ditch, 55ft (16.76m) from the western edge (Aberg, 1958-62).

SOU 701

Observations on the laying out of Hawkeswood Road in 1908 revealed a deep, black soil was above the natural gravel. The soil was rich in Roman coins and pottery, including Samian ware. The coins were a typical Roman assemblage, including "a silver denarius of Hadrian, a series of Gallienus and contemporaries, of Carausius and Allectus, and of the Constantinian family and successors down to Arcadius and Honorius" (Dale, 1909).

SOU 703

A watching brief on piling at 23 - 27 Vespasian Road revealed natural gravel, riverine deposits (including peat lenses), a pre-19th century buried soil horizon and reclamation layers. No evidence of Roman occupation was found, although this may have been due to the nature of the investigation (Smith, 1997).

SOU 733

A watching brief on a gas main repair in Bitterne Road, near the junction with Steuart Road revealed Roman occupation deposits, 0.50m thick and probably dating to the 1st or 2nd century AD. Natural gravel was overlaid by a buried soil interpreted as natural. Roman occupation deposits, 0.50m thick and dated by the pottery to the 1st or 2nd century AD, included a small possible pit, a laminated brickearth floor with possible hearth and broken mortaria, a possible construction trench of a building, containing limestone blocks, layers of charcoal, daub and soil, thick soil layers and a layer containing burnt limestone and daub, perhaps from fire destruction of the building. A layer of crushed mortar and broken Roman tile just below the modern road surface may have been from the construction of the 3rd century AD inner defensive wall, or its post-medieval demolition. An undated pit (Roman or post-Roman) was also found (Russel, AD & Smith, 1996).

SOU 738

Observations on a trench for a sewer repair at the rear of 16 Bitterne Road revealed a gravel deposit and a soil layer with a concentration of oyster shells near the base. These may have been *in situ* Roman deposits. A sherd of Roman pottery was found unstratified (Smith, 1996 (1)).

SOU 744, SOU 863 and SOU 1256

Roman or possibly Roman features were found during archaeological fieldwork at Vespasian Court, Vespasian Road in 1996 (SOU 744), 1998 (SOU 863) and 2003 (SOU 1256). The features were ditches and pits. Roman finds were recovered from Roman and later deposits. The site straddled the early 19th century shoreline of the River Itchen, although prior to erosion the Roman shoreline may have been further north. The site lies just outside the inner defensive ditch of the Roman settlement. The evidence suggests a low level of Roman activity in the area between the two defensive ditches.

SOU 744

A Roman feature, possibly an east-west aligned ditch truncated by river erosion, was found. It contained pottery dating to 250AD, later building material and sheep bones. Another possibly Roman feature, containing a piece of tile, was found. Residual Roman pottery, tile and a fragment of a quern were found in later deposits (Brading, 1996).

SOU 863

Two east-west Roman ditches, 0.30m apart were revealed. One was filled in during the late 2nd century or early 3rd century. The other had undated Roman ceramic building material and either cut, or was cut by, a large Roman pit dating to the late 1st century. If, as seems likely, the two ditches were contemporary, then the pit is the earlier feature. The pit contained domestic refuse. The ditches were interpreted as drainage/boundary ditches, suggesting that the area between the inner and outer ditches was used for agricultural purposes. These features were overlaid by plough soil (Brading, 1998).

SOU 1256

The surface of the natural gravel had been truncated, and apart from foreshore deposits, there was no surviving, pre-19th century stratigraphy. The shoreline prior to the 19th century reclamation was defined. Undated foreshore deposits, probably post-Roman, were found riverward of the shoreline. On the landward side, four features of probable Romano-British date were found; a pit, undated but possibly Roman; a small undated feature, perhaps a pit or ditch and two undated pits with similar fill, one of which contained Roman pottery. Roman pottery and ceramic building material were found in the features and in later deposits (Barber, 2003).

SOU 747

During a watching brief on traffic light installation at the Rampart Road/Bitterne Road junction and in Rampart Road, Roman finds were recovered from later deposits. The finds were pottery and fragments of ceramic building material. The pottery dates mainly to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD, with some from the later Roman period. A line of limestone blocks may have been a post-medieval wall containing stones reused from Roman structures (Smith, 1996 (2)).

SOU 755

An excavation and watching brief at the former Bitterne Manor Primary and Middle School site on the south side of Steuart Road, revealed possible Roman features and layers. The site lay east of the inner ditch of Clausentum. The layers included gravel layers. The features included possible stakeholes and postholes, and some linear features. One of the features was probably the Roman inner ditch, but only a small part was exposed and excavated. Roman finds were recovered. Human bone was found in the upper fills of a Roman pit. The bone consisted of 17 fragments of a very young or neonatal child. These had probably been redeposited from a burial nearby or were a disturbed burial. These upper two fills contained a pottery assemblage dated as later than 120 AD (Garner, 1998).

SOU 765

A few residual Roman pottery sherds were found during a watching brief on the construction of a new playground in Steuart Road/Quayside Road (Garner, 1996).

SOU 784

Following the discovery of two Roman coins with textile remains adhering at 5 Rampart Road, a small archaeological excavation at the site failed to find further coins. The coins were of Constantine I. The textile remains suggest they may have been part of a hoard. Two pieces of Roman brick or tile were found in later deposits (Smith, 1997).

SOU 785

An excavation in the front garden of 24 Hawkeswood Road revealed a substantial Roman wall foundation. The natural deposits were cut by the c2m wide wall construction trench for a wall aligned NE-SW and possibly c1.4m thick at the base. The base of the wall was not exposed, but probing suggested it was 1.3m deep and founded on gravel. It was built of Bembridge limestone rubble bonded with brickearth, which also spread about 0.50m to the south of the wall. The NW side was faced with large, squared boulders. A sherd of Roman

pottery and a nail were retrieved from the brickearth. The wall was interpreted as the foundation of a building of more than one storey, possibly erected in the 2nd century and demolished by the late 3rd century.

The brickearth spread was overlaid by a dark soil containing a few pieces of building material, a nail and animal bone fragments (all undated) and pottery of 1st/2nd century date. A gravelly soil, with many Roman brick fragments and some pottery, may represent demolition of the wall by the late 3rd century. A 0.50m thick layer of black soil including compact gravel lenses had built up over the remains of the wall. Finds from this deposit included stone, Roman brick and tile and pottery, nails and iron objects, worked antler, animal bone, whetstone, a copper alloy buckle, fragments of a shale bracelet and 3 coins. It is suggested that this deposit was of late Roman date - the only non-Roman find was a piece of medieval roof tile. An unstratified Roman glass bead was found (Russel, 1997).

SOU 811

A watching brief at 23 Rampart Road revealed no archaeological features but finds, including 33 Roman pottery sherds and 4 Roman tile fragments, were recovered from the modern topsoil. The pottery included coarse housewares, finer vessels and part of an amphora (Whitehead, 1997).

SOU 816

A watching brief on a gas main repair opposite No 71 Bitterne Road revealed two soil layers above the natural gravel, one above the other, the upper layer being cut by a probable posthole the fill of which contained three fragments of animal bone and a sherd of 1st century Roman pottery. The layers and posthole are likely to be Roman occupation deposits. They were overlain by a dark soil layer from which two sherds of Roman pottery, dating to 50 - 250 AD, were recovered and which may have been another Roman occupation layer or a post-Roman agricultural soil (Smith & Vincent, 1997).

SOU 825

A watching brief on sewer renewal at the junction of Bitterne Road and Quayside Road revealed a sequence of Roman deposits. Natural gravel was overlaid by two soil layers with a total thickness of 0.75m. The finds assemblage from these layers, including Roman pottery, a piece of glass, and other finds, suggests they were of Roman date. The layers were interpreted as buried soil surfaces. They were overlaid by a gravel layer with ash and lime mortar lenses, interpreted as the floor of a building. This was partially replaced by a

120mm thick series of lensed deposits, the top of which was fairly compact. Five sherds of 3rd/4th century pottery was recovered from this. This was overlaid by a layer of charcoal coated tiles, forming a level surface. The latter two layers were interpreted as being a tiled hearth of a building. No *in situ* walls were seen, but some large pieces of limestone were removed from the trench during machining. The above deposits were overlain by a probable agricultural soil, 0.46m thick, probably of post-medieval date. The surviving top of the Roman stratigraphy was therefore 0.74m below ground level (Shuttleworth & Smith, 1997).

SOU 830

A watching brief on pits dug at 108 Bitterne Road revealed made ground although the eastern edge of the Roman ditch, possibly cut through natural gravel, may have been found (Smith and Vincent, 1997).

SOU 848 and SOU 862

An evaluation excavation (SOU 848) and watching brief (SOU 862) at 75 Bitterne Road revealed evidence of domestic Roman occupation including layers and a late Roman pit, overlaid by a "dark earth" layer containing demolition debris and late Roman finds (McDermott, 1997).

SOU 857

Excavations at the HA Fox Parts Centre, Hawkeswood Road, revealed evidence for a series of structures.

A substantial mid-1st century Roman timber building was found (Building 1). It was at least 20m wide and 20m long and had been constructed of timber posts set in large foundation trenches. The building was interpreted as being a warehouse or granary, probably military. The closest parallels for this type of building are at Fishbourne and Richborough. Another, much deeper stone feature containing 6 courses of stone was exposed at the north end of the site, "associated with" a coin of Nero (54 - 68 AD). This was probably the foundation of a separate building to the north of the site area, possibly another warehouse (Building 2).

A stone and timber structure, dating from the last quarter of the 1st century (Building 3), was built within Building 1. The stone walls and foundation trenches of this building cut a gravel spread associated with Building 1. The flimsy nature of these walls suggests they supported a timber-framed superstructure. Building 4 was either a separate timber building

adjacent and to the north, or part of Building 3. The timber structure had been constructed on timber sleeper beams, many of which had been burnt in situ, and may have incorporated stone walls from Building 3. Buildings 3 and 4 could be part of one building which appears to have gone out of use in the early part of the 2nd century. A late 1st century domestic rubbish pit had been dug through Building 1 and may have been associated with the new building. An east-west ditch (Ditch 1) appears to have been cut in the late 1st century or early 2nd century, and backfilled in the late 2nd century.

Layers of gravel above the Building 1 gravel spread, and shallow features cut into the gravel, represented activity around Building 4 during the 2nd century. The fills of Ditch 1 date to this period; the bottom layers were probably the silting during the late 1st and 2nd centuries, whereas the upper fill probably represents deliberate back-filling in the late 2nd century/early 3rd century.

Charcoal spreads and scorched areas found in the area of Buildings 3 and Building 4 were thought to have derived from the burning down of these structures in the late 2nd or early 3rd century. A layer of burnt Samian pottery may have been associated with the burning down of Building 3. The pottery was dumped to the south of one wall of the building and respected that wall. The pottery was stratigraphically above the charcoal/scorched deposit, but some of the finds within the layer were unburnt, and there was no scorching beneath most of the layer. It is therefore more probable that the Samian ware had been collected elsewhere on the site and dumped. The pottery appears to be from a warehouse or store and was primarily dated to 170 - 190 AD.

A 3rd/4th century pit may have cut the 1st century pit, however modern disturbance made this uncertain. It was overlaid by layers dated to the 4th century. Four layers had built up on top of the burnt Samian layer in the 3rd century. A robber trench was dug to recover building stone from the stone wall of Building 3 in the late 2nd or early 3rd century. A group of post-holes and beam slots represent 3rd/4th century occupation evidence but formed no identifiable structure. Three layers deposited in the 4th century overlaid the robber trench fill.

A layer over the Ditch 1 and the surrounding area was laid down in the 3rd century or 4th century, perhaps to level the ground before the construction of a new timber building (Building 5), constructed on the south edge of the site in the 3rd/4th century. Beam slots

and postholes from the building were found, together with a mortar floor. Building 5 actually comprised several phases of building and refurbishment of a timber building (or two buildings) with two successive mortar floors. Several beam slots cut the mortar floor of Building 5, probably a refurbishment of Building 5. Soil layers dating from the late 3rd/early 4th century were interpreted as having built up after the abandonment of Building 5 and the surrounding area, possibly in the 4th century.

A layer of limestone rubble on the north edge of the site, dating to the 3rd/4th century, was interpreted as being from the demolition of a nearby stone building beyond the site area, although the stone roof tiles in the rubble could have come from one of the buildings on the site. A late 3rd/4th century cesspit was found in the north-west corner of the site, with an associated posthole.

A buried turf layer over the northern half of the site suggests that this area had become grassland in the 4th century. Two parallel east-west ditches both contained 4th century pottery, although the northern one also had a small amount of 5th century pottery. They were probably drainage ditches which went out of use in the later 4th or early 5th centuries, and could indicate that the area had returned to agricultural use. Several features including pits, beamslots and a posthole, cut the turf layer, and were probably of 4th century date. They indicate continued occupation in the 4th/5th century. Cobble and rubble layers included a 4th century cobble surface.

Dark soil layers found across the whole site were interpreted as soils built up after the abandonment of the site during the late 4th and 5th centuries; they contained 4th and 5th century material. Two small pits and an irregular feature of 4th or 5th century date cut these layers (Russel, J, 2000).

SOU 875 and SOU 876

Roman finds were discovered during groundworks in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House and the adjacent Bitterne Road in 1954. SOU 875 refers to finds made "in front of the manor house", during groundworks for the new Northam Bridge. SOU 876 refers to finds made during the digging of a new gas main "in the grounds of the manor house", either associated with the roadworks when Bitterne Road was widened to take in part of the grounds, or with the restoration of the manor house. The finds were probably found in post-Roman deposits and included pottery and a coin or coins. The find locations are

probably now all under Bitterne Road West, adjacent to the manor house and public park (Southern Daily Echo, 1954).

SOU 878

Roman coins, Samian pottery and a fragment of copper were found during an excavation at Bitterne Manor in 1954. The exact location of the excavation is unknown, although it is likely to have been in the then manor house grounds, close to the SOU 875 and SOU 876 trenches (Southern Daily Echo, 1954).

SOU 897

A watching brief on groundworks for a new play area between Steuart Road and Quayside Road revealed a feature and a layer of possible Roman date. They contained material from the 1st and 2nd centuries. Residual Roman finds dating from the 1st to the 4th centuries were present in several deposits (Peckham, Russel, A, & Vincent, 2001).

SOU 911

A small excavation in the rear garden of 32 Hawkeswood Road revealed evidence for two phases of Roman occupation. The first phase was probably a pit. It was later filled with soil containing material that possibly derived from a burnt building, including limestone rubble; daub and charcoal, possibly the remains of the wattle and clay walls; iron nails and roofing material, tegulae, an imbrex and Purbeck slate. The date of the filling of the pit is probably in the later part of the first century AD. A gravel layer was possibly another phase of Roman activity. The finds were very similar to those from the earlier pit, consisting of Roman building material and nails. It may represent the clearance of the site for a new building. Later layers could be dated to the late 19th or 20th century, but they contained large quantities of 3rd and 4th century material, including New Forest pottery (Clausentum Study Group, 1998).

SOU 914

A watching brief took place on a service trench on the north side of Bitterne Road. Outside No 77 it revealed a dark soil that contained finds including Roman ceramic building material, sherds of 1st/2nd century pottery and 3rd/4th century mortaria. Outside No 79 was a dark soil which contained Roman ceramic building material fragments as well as some 20th century material. Pieces of limestone were observed in excavated spoil between Bitterne Manor and the entrance to the park. They may have been of Roman, medieval or post-medieval date. The remains of a mortared limestone wall were revealed

2.7m east of the entrance to the park at Bitterne Manor. It consisted of at least two courses of limestone masonry with cream-coloured lime mortar. The wall continued northward and westward beyond the trench section. To the south it had been removed by services. This was just west of the inner Roman ditch. The wall was perhaps part of the Roman gate or its medieval replacement (perhaps the possible Roman or medieval gateway and barn recorded by John Speed in the 18th century). The observations suggest that the remains of this structure survive below the pavement and probably in the adjacent park. Above the wall was a dark soil, from which a Roman pottery sherd was recovered (Russel, A, 2000).

SOU 933

An evaluation excavation at 70 - 72 Quayside Road revealed a gravel layer and four undated features. The gravel layer was probably of modern origin, but may have been older. The features included a ditch and two possible postholes. The site lay just inside the outer ditch, near the shoreline. Only two sherds of Roman pottery were found, which suggests either a very low level of Roman activity in the area, or none, perhaps indicating open ground or agriculture rather than occupation (Brading, 1998 (1)).

SOU 936

An evaluation excavation at Clausentum Quay, Hawkeswood Road revealed Roman and possible Roman features, including evidence of structures in the form of a line of stakeholes, apparently 0.60m wide, which may be a fence or the foundations for a stone wall, and a posthole or small pit dated to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD. A layer of "dark earth" contained Roman pottery and ceramic building material. The site was situated across the shoreline shown on 19th century maps, the land having been reclaimed in the early 20th century. The evidence suggests the position of the shoreline remained fairly constant throughout the 19th century, and may have been much the same in the Roman period (Brading, 1998 (2)).

SOU 980

A watching brief groundworks for a side extension at 25 Quayside Road revealed a possible Roman ploughsoil or later occupation layer containing large quantities of Roman pottery dating from the early and late Roman periods but also modern finds, suggesting recent disturbance (Molloy, 1999).

SOU 999 and SOU 1081

An evaluation excavation (SOU 999) on land south of Quayside Road, formerly occupied by Osborne House and a scrapyard, revealed the circuit wall of the Roman settlement in two trenches. This had been observed by Englefield in the early 19th century and by Roach and Smith and Kell in the mid-19th century, but was no longer visible by the end of the 19th century. The wall was built of flint nodules and rough Bembridge limestone blocks in a mortar matrix. The construction seemed to differ in the two trenches; there were no limestone blocks in Trench 7. In Trench 1, a mortar spread behind the wall may have been a construction or demolition layer. In Trench 7, on the landward side of the wall (and part of the wall), a hardened layer of mortar and flint may have been a walkway. In Trench 7, the wall was seen to sit on several base layers above the natural gravel. In Trench 1 the wall was at least 1.30m wide. In Trench 7 it was 2.40m wide (including the possible walkway) and survived to a height of 0.60m. The change in wall character between the two trenches was tentatively suggested to be due to the presence of a defensive strongpoint or tower near Trench 7, the SE corner of the wall.

Some Roman layers were possibly part of a rampart behind the wall. The date of the wall is uncertain but it probably dates to the last quarter of the 3rd century (or early 4th), by analogy with sites outside Southampton. The evidence from SOU 999 suggests that in the early and perhaps the mid Roman period, the settlement extended further into the river, into what is now the intertidal zone, the sea level being lower in the Roman period. Then in the late 3rd or possibly the late 4th century, a stone defensive wall was built and the settlement confined within it.

The western edge of the inner fosse and associated bank, as shown on Englefield's 1805 map, were also located. The fill appeared to be Roman and post-Roman. The bottom of the fosse was not reached. A borehole seemed to show that the bottom of the ditch was around 3.20m below ground level.

Roman occupation evidence was found west of the Inner Fosse. This consisted of layers and features, found on both the landward and river side of the line of the Roman wall. The features on the landward side were a posthole, either part of a building or palisade, and a large feature containing domestic and light industrial rubbish including slag, animal bone, a wide range of pottery including imported wares and building material including box/flue

tiles. The features on the landward side of the wall date to the 1st and 2nd centuries. A pit on the river side of the wall dates to the mid 3rd/4th century (Brading, 1999).

On a watching brief at the same site (SOU 1081) the southern part of the Roman circuit wall and the southern part of the eastern wall parallel to the Inner Fosse were observed in trenches inside the site and in shallow service trenches in the pavement outside the site. The wall was built of limestone and flint. Due to the shallowness of the trenches, the existence of a rampart on the western side and berm on the east could not be confirmed.

The southern part of the eastern wall parallel to the Inner Fosse, was observed in a shallow cable trench in the pavement on the south side of Quayside Road, outside the site. Two deposits may have represented the berm to the east and rampart to the west but due to the shallowness of the trenches it was not possible to confirm this (Whitehead, 2002).

SOU 1042

A watching brief was carried out on the laying of a new gas main on the Bitterne Manor peninsula. A large feature was observed cutting the natural gravel in Bitterne Road West near Northam Bridge. No finds were recovered from its 3 fills, although extremely abundant crushed lime mortar was present in the middle fill. The feature was roughly on the line of the robbed out footings of the Roman defensive wall excavated 20m to the north west on SOU 414, and the feature could be a continuation of this robber trench (Smith, 2000).

SOU 1047

Roman evidence was found on a watching brief on foundation trenches for an extension at 3 Quayside Road. The earliest Roman phase consisted of a probable ground beam trench for a timber building. No dating evidence or artefacts were recovered. A series of later layers were cut by a probable posthole with post-packing, and three rubbish pits. The pits dated to the later part of the 1st century AD and produced imported pottery and a chopped bone assemblage. The evidence suggests intense occupation during the 2nd half of the 1st century AD (Russel, A, 2001).

SOU 1052

An evaluation excavation at 10 Rampart Road and 20 - 22 Vespasian Road revealed the possible line of the ancient shoreline. A few residual sherds of early-Roman pottery were found, and some undated features may have dated from this period. A rubbish pit of late 3rd century or later date was overlaid by a sequence of levelling deposits, dumped in the area of the beach; suggesting that the shoreline was moved northwards in the late-Roman period. There was also a probable rubbish pit of late 4th century date. The site lay immediately west of the outer fosse (Smith, 2000).

SOU 1100

Evidence for the location of the early 19th century river bank was found during a casual observation on service trenches associated with a new development at 37 – 39 Vespasian Road in 2001. The former shoreline appeared to be about 2 metres south of the junction of Englefield Road and Vespasian Road (Russel, A, 2001).

SOU 1110

A watching brief on groundworks for new crash barriers along Bitterne Road West revealed black soil layers containing Roman pottery, brick, tile and limestone rubble (Leivers, 2001).

SOU 1135

Following the discovery of human remains in the kitchen garden of Bitterne Manor House in 1935, an archaeological excavation took place in early 1936. Human burials of probable post-Roman date cut through earlier, probably Roman, deposits thought to represent the foundation of a small circular building (Williams-Freeman, 1936). A mosaic pavement may also have been found. A "red tessellated pavement" was photographed somewhere in Bitterne Manor on 21st March 1936. It seems likely that this pavement was found during the excavation in early 1936. The location of this site is uncertain, but site SOU 210, excavated later in 1936, may have been at the same location, in which case the small circular building was later reinterpreted as an oven. Due to boundary changes since WWII, the site may now lie outside the manor house grounds, in the public park.

SOU 1169

A small archaeological excavation beneath the kitchen floor at 16 Hawkeswood Road recovered a quantity of Roman artefacts from an early 20th century deposit. The finds included pottery dating from the 1st to the 4th century, a fragment of a late 1st century

glass beaker and fragments of ceramic building material suggesting a nearby building of some status (Russel, A, & Smith, 2003).

SOU 1179

A watching brief on groundworks at 42 Bitterne Road revealed the eastern edge of the inner defensive ditch of the Roman settlement at Bitterne Manor. The slope of the eastern edge of the ditch was found to be c45 degrees, although only a small section of it was exposed. Finds included Roman ceramic building material and pottery dating from the 1st to the 4th century; the bulk being 1st and 2nd century. Most of these probably came from fills of the ditch. Some large pottery sherds may have eroded from features cut by the ditch (Mead, 2002).

SOU 1183

An archaeological evaluation at 71 Bitterne Road West revealed a number of Roman features. These were a possible rubbish pit, a ditch over 0.85m deep, either a drain or a boundary ditch, and two linear features, perhaps boundary markers. The Roman pottery assemblage from the site covers the time period from the 1st to the 2nd century AD (Barnes, 2002).

SOU 1213

A north-south aligned Roman ditch was found during an archaeological evaluation excavation at 73 Bitterne Road. There was evidence that the ditch had been recut three times. The final recut was 3.15m wide and 0.62m deep. The fills contained 50 sherds of Roman pottery and other finds (Barnes, 2002).

SOU 1222

A watching brief at 44 Chafen Road revealed natural deposits below modern layers. The top of the natural gravel sloped down towards the west, which might indicate the eastern edge of the Roman outer ditch, the conjectural line of which passed through the site. No finds were recovered (Garner, 2002).

SOU 1268

A small pot of black ware covered with a lid and containing nothing but black earth was found during the laying out of Quayside Road in the area between the inner and outer ditches of Clausentum in 1901. The pot may have been Roman or possibly Iron Age.

SOU 1292

A watching brief on groundworks for new properties at 71 and 73 Bitterne Road West revealed two Roman features, a pit of late 3rd century date and a linear feature possibly dating to between the early 2nd and late 3rd centuries or possibly modern. The previous development of the site had probably disturbed archaeological remains (Barnes and L Harvey, 2004).

SOU 1293

During the 1850s, observations by Kell on the removal of an early 19th century wall in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House, to the west of the manor house, revealed the remains of a timber structure. This was thought to be part of a Roman waterfront "pier" or "wharf". The structure was formed of "piles" consisting of large pits or oak boxes, six feet wide, dovetailed at the ends and filled with huge stones. The location of this structure can be fairly well estimated using the information supplied by Kell and 19th century maps. A small part of the area referred to by Kell is still in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House, but the western end is now part of Clausentum Quay. The structure may extend beyond the area observed by Kell (Kell, 1859).

SOU 1304

Roman artefacts were recovered from an early-20th century garden soil horizon during the archaeological excavation of a test pit at 16 Hawkeswood Road. The finds were brick, tile, pottery and two coins (Smith, 2006).

SOU 1393

An archaeological evaluation at 34 Bitterne Road revealed the west edge of a feature aligned north-south, probably the Roman inner fosse. The fills, of uncertain date, included 1st and 2nd century pottery, probably redeposited. Above the ditch fills was a 0.15m thick layer of dark soil, which had slumped into the ditch. It was probably former topsoil formed by ploughing, probably in the medieval period and later. It contained a large amount of Roman material, including rubble and ceramic building material, perhaps derived from a nearby Roman building or the late Roman wall, together with modern material (Russel, 2006).

SOU 1434

A casual observation on groundworks at 85 Bitterne Road West revealed Roman pottery and ceramic building material in excavated spoil (Russel, A, 2009).

SOU 1447

A watching brief on groundworks at 84 Bitterne Road West revealed a layer containing Roman pottery above the natural gravel. It may have been the top of the natural gravel, disturbed by Roman agriculture. Above this was a ploughsoil that probably continued to develop into the early 20th century. Further Roman finds were recovered from the ploughsoil and unstratified deposits (Everill, 2008).

SOU 1505

A casual watching brief on a trench dug on the west corner of Hawkeswood Road revealed deposits including black soil and areas of burning. Oyster shells, Roman brick and Roman roof tile fragments were observed in the spoil (Russel, 2007).

9.4. Saxon

Numerous human burials have been found in the part of the Bitterne Manor House grounds and public park adjacent to Bitterne Road and on land to the south, stretching to the south of Hawkeswood Road. At least 138 inhumations have been found, although details are incomplete. Of those recorded (over 96), all have been aligned east-west, of which 7 are recorded as head to the west. What little firm dating evidence there is (radiocarbon dates on burials) suggest a Saxon (5th to 8th century AD) date for the inhumations. The cemetery appears to lie within the area enclosed by the inner ditch of the Roman settlement of Clausentum. However Saxon inhumations have also been found between the inner and outer ditches. The inhumations have been found during road widening, service trench digging, foundation trench digging and on archaeological excavations, in the south part of the grounds of Bitterne Manor House, the public park east of the grounds and on land to the south and south west, stretching to the south of Hawkeswood Road and including the carriageway of Bitterne Road West.

In 1805, Englefield reported the discovery of an inhumation cemetery at Bitterne Manor. The cemetery was on the north side what is now Bitterne Road, and probably nearly half way between the inner ditch of Clausentum and Northam Bridge. Fifty or more skeletons were found, laid east to west and with evidence of coffins. The cemetery was probably of Saxon date. It was described by Englefield as follows. "On the north side of the new road (Bitterne Road), and nearly half way between the wall and the bridge, a very considerable number of skeletons was found, not less than fifty. They were laid east and west, and had

apparently been buried in coffins of wood fastened with iron nails, of which a great many were found with small portions of wood adhering to them." "It is remarkable that all the teeth in every one of the jaws were quite perfect, a circumstances which seems to indicate that the bodies were young men, probably soldiers, slain in some engagement; evidently, however, by the mode of sepulture, at a period later than the Roman inhabitancy of the spot."

Since then, most of these inhumations were unearthed during groundworks, and have been only briefly noted (if at all) by archaeologists. As recently as the mid 1950's, large numbers of skeletons were being unearthed in the area without archaeological recording taking place. The first archaeological excavations in the area took place in the manor house grounds in the 1930s, and inhumations were found. The archives for most of these sites are incomplete, the locations of some of the trenches is unknown, the total number of skeletons excavated is now uncertain and few skeleton drawings survive. The inhumations were found in deposits overlying what were identified as Roman deposits, or cutting into such deposits, and it is possible that excavation techniques at the time were inadequate for the identification of grave cuts in the post-Roman "dark earth". Only since the 1980s have any inhumations in the area been excavated to modern standards.

A rough estimate made in 1998 gave a total of at least 138 individual inhumations. Details of the age, sex and alignment of the inhumations are not usually available and may not be always reliable, but where such details are given, the totals are as follows.

Age/Sex: Over 25 adult men, about 4 adult women, 8 or 9 unsexed adults, and about 4 or 5 children.

Alignment: Over 96 east-west, of which 7 are recorded as head to the west and 1 as head to the east (although this was possibly an isolated skull).

Where recorded, the inhumations occur in deposits immediately above the Roman levels, or in graves cutting the Roman levels, or in undated "disturbed soil". In the 1930s, the inhumations were thought to be either late Roman or post-Roman. Cotton suggested that they were early Christian Saxon or early Norman (Cotton and Gathercole. 1958, 9, 11, 30 - 31). Morton suggested any date between the 7th century and 12th century AD (Morton, 1992, 25). The only grave-goods found to date have been two iron knives, said to be post-Roman, and a Saxon spearhead. On SOU 414, on the south corner of Hawkeswood Road and Bitterne Road in 1989/1990, six human burials were archaeologically excavated. One

burial was accompanied by a spearhead of 5th to 6th century date, so was probably a pagan Anglo-Saxon burial. A radiocarbon date obtained from another burial gave a date in the late 7th and 8th centuries AD. A late 7th or 8th century radiocarbon date was obtained for a burial from SOU 207, a watching brief on the north corner of Hawkeswood Road and Bitterne Road. It is therefore likely that the cemetery is of Saxon date.

All of the above were found in the area inside the inner ditch of the Roman settlement/fort of Clausentum. In the early 20th century, coffined inhumations (but also cinerary urns) were reportedly found at "George Parker's Half Acre", which was probably located within the inner ditch (see 9.2 above). These may or may not be part of the Saxon cemetery. In the late 1990s, Saxon inhumations were found at 75 Bitterne Road (SOU 862), between the inner and outer ditches of Clausentum. These may be part of the same cemetery as those inhumations found inside the inner ditch, although on present evidence they appear to be geographically distinct.

A Saxon coin (a sceat of Series H, BMC Type 39) found at Bitterne (probably Bitterne Manor) was exhibited in 1845. (Andrews, 1988, 39, 62). It formed part of a collection of coins from Clausentum which belonged at the time to Mrs Stuart Hall of Bitterne Manor. Another Saxon coin (also a sceat), found at "Hogsmount", bordering Clausentum, was exhibited in 1864; the precise location of "Hogsmount" is unknown. The present whereabouts of the coins is unknown. Sceatta of Series H, BMC Type 39 are Middle Saxon coins, probably minted at Hamwic.

Gazetteer of Saxon sites in SOU number order

SOU 201

Some post-Roman evidence was found during an excavation in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House, just west of the house itself, in 1951 (Site A). A thick debris layer sealed the earlier Roman deposits. This may have been of late 4th or 5th century date. It did not contain anything that could be Pagan Saxon or medieval (Cotton & Gathercole, 1958). A Saxon disc brooch, dated to the late 5th century, was found on SOU 201 and in 2006, human bones and a sherd of Saxon pottery were found whilst sorting finds the site.

SOU 204

A human burial was found in an excavation in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1951 (Site D2). The skeleton was aligned east-west with the head to the west. The date of

the burial was uncertain, although a Saxon date is most likely. The site location is probably now in the public park. A sherd of Saxon pottery was found in 2006 whilst sorting finds from SOU 205 (Cotton & Gathercole, 1958).

SOU 207

Human remains were found during a watching brief in Bitterne Road, near the corner of Hawkeswood Road, in 1984. Parts of nine skeletons were found, aligned west-east. The other finds from the trench included iron nails, possibly indicating the presence of coffins. Radiocarbon dating of one of the burials indicates a date in the late 7th or 8th century AD.

SOU 211

Five fragmentary skeletons, orientated east-west, were found during an excavation in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in the late 1930s (Site B). These were found either resting on the top of the undisturbed Roman deposits, or in graves cut into those deposits (Waterman, 1941). They were therefore of post-Roman date, probably Saxon. Six sherds of Saxon pottery were found in 2006 whilst sorting finds from SOU 211.

SOU 213

Six human skeletons were found during the excavation of Site D in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1936 (Waterman, 1937). The skeletons were found apparently within a layer of black earth that lay beneath the topsoil. They were aligned east-west with their heads to the west. Two were in shallow graves, but the other grave cuts were not found. A bronze pin, a late Roman coin (dated c390 – c395AD) and a piece of possibly Roman glass were found apparently in association with the burials, although these were not thought to provide secure dating evidence. However it was suggested that the skeletons were late Roman. Found in the black earth were many late 3rd/4th century Roman coins and much pottery of the same date, but no later artefacts. The black earth overlay deposits of late 1st century/very early 2nd century date (Waterman, 1936). The skeletons are now thought more likely to be post-Roman, and the date of the black earth must also be considered uncertain.

SOU 216

Several inhumations were found during an excavation in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1939 (Site G). The precise location of this excavation is unknown, and may now lie either in the manor house grounds or in the public park. The skeletons were found in

long, shallow east-west trenches which cut the surface of a probable Roman road. The skeletons were extended and laid east-west with the head towards the west. Two of the skeletons were found with small iron knives (Waterman, 1941). The inhumations are of uncertain date, although are probably Saxon. A sherd of Saxon pottery was found in 2006 whilst sorting finds from SOU 216.

SOU 217

The remains of possibly four human skeletons were found during excavations in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1939 (Site H). The skeletons were aligned east-west. No graves are recorded, but iron nails were found. The skeletons were undated, but were probably Saxon. The exact location of this site is uncertain.

SOU 414

Six human burials were found during excavations on the south corner of Hawkeswood Road and Bitterne Road in 1989 and 1990. One burial was accompanied by a spearhead of 5th to 6th century date, so was probably a pagan Anglo-Saxon burial. A radiocarbon date obtained from another burial gave a date in the late 7th and 8th centuries AD. All the burials are therefore likely to be Anglo-Saxon (Smith, 1990).

SOU 456

Evaluation excavations at the former Bitterne Manor School site in Steuart Road revealed some features and finds that may have been Saxon, possibly dating to as late as the 9th century. A probable fire-gilding mixing bowl was found amongst finds from SOU 456 during post-excavation work in 2006. The mixing bowl was a re-used sherd of a Dressel 20 amphora (Spanish olive oil container). Gold residues were visible in a depression on the inside of the sherd. Analysis revealed gold and mercury were present. These had probably been ground together to make a mercury amalgam, used to apply gilding to silver or copper alloy objects. Such mercury (fire) gilding only became common in the late Roman period. It was found with late Roman pottery, some of which was of a form that continued in use into the Carolingian period. It is most likely that the sherd was reused for gilding in the 4th or 5th century, or possibly even as late as the 9th century (Smith, 1992).

SOU 656

Finds including human remains were recovered from groundworks in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House and the adjacent Bitterne Road in 1954. These were allocated SOU

number 656 but the various investigations were subsequently numbered SOU 875, 876, 877 and 878.

SOU 657

Undated pottery and human bones were found during groundworks at Bitterne Manor Stores (2 Hawkeswood Road). The human bones are from at least 6 adults and 1 juvenile, and are probably Saxon. The site now lies partly under Roman House, on the north corner of Hawkeswood Road and Bitterne Road, and partly under the Bitterne Road roadway.

SOU 697

Two partial inhumations, aligned east-west, were found during a watching brief on a cable trench dug in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1937. The inhumations were probably Saxon. The location now lies either in the public park to the east of the manor house grounds or under Bitterne Road West.

SOU 701

During observations on the laying out of Hawkeswood Road in 1908 a deep, black soil was observed above the natural gravel. The soil was rich in coins and pottery, including Roman Samian ware. The coins were a typical Roman assemblage. There was also a Saxon sceat. The current whereabouts of the finds is unknown.

SOU 857

Excavations at the HA Fox Parts Centre, Hawkeswood Road showed that in the late 4th or 5th century the area was abandoned and dark soil layers built up across the whole site, cut by only two small pits and an irregular feature of 4th/5th century date. A few small sherds of dung-tempered Saxon pottery were found, possibly of late 5th century date (Russel, J, 2000).

SOU 862

Part of a Saxon inhumation cemetery was found during a watching brief at 75 Bitterne Road in 1998. 15 human skeletons were encountered within a "dark earth" layer" of late Roman date. Only one grave-cut was observed, visible only where it cut the natural gravel; the lack of grave cuts was perhaps due to later ploughing. The inhumations were aligned east-west and no grave goods were found. The burials are therefore interpreted as being Christian. Radiocarbon dating of 3 of the inhumations suggested a probable late-7th-century date for the cemetery (McDermott, 1998).

SOU 874

A human skull was found in a drainage trench in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1953. The skull was apparently from an *in-situ* burial in a grave, with the head to the east. However, given the reported orientation, it is questionable whether the skull was in situ or had been previously disturbed. A post-Roman, probably Saxon, date for the skull is suggested. The location is now in the public park east of the manor house grounds.

SOU 875, SOU 876 and SOU 877

Human remains were discovered during observations on groundworks in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House and the adjacent Bitterne Road in 1954. The groundworks consisted of levelling work associated with the widening of Bitterne Road and the laying of a gas main. One skeleton was excavated, said to be in a shallow grave and found with a Roman coin and some pottery. The total number of individuals found is unclear; sources refer "at least 20" or "nearly 50". They were apparently all found in disturbed ground, and the sources do not mention grave cuts. The burials were undated (the Roman coin found with the excavated skeleton was probably residual), but other human burials found in this vicinity are thought to be Saxon. The locations are probably now all under Bitterne Road West, adjacent to the manor house grounds and public park. A spiral-headed pin, of Hinton's 'Type D', commonly found with Saxon burials, may have been found during one of these observations.

SOU 878

Human burials, including one complete skeleton, were found during an excavation at Bitterne Manor in 1954. The exact location of the excavation is unknown, although it is likely to have been in the then manor house grounds. The inhumations are thought to be Saxon.

SOU 879

In 1955, human bones were unearthed in a pipe trench in the roadway to the east of 9 and 11 Bitterne Road. These bones had been *in-situ* burials before being disturbed by the digging. The bones are assumed to be Saxon.

SOU 880

Undated human burials were found during an excavation at 9 to 11 Bitterne Road in 1955. Very little is known about the results of the excavation. It is known that five headless human skeletons were uncovered, but many more may have been found. They were found

in very disturbed ground containing much Roman debris. The burials are provisionally thought to be Saxon.

SOU 882

Human bones were unearthed by building workers "near Bitterne Manor off Bitterne Road" in or before 1964. The precise location was not recorded but was probably somewhere in the then grounds of Bitterne Manor House. The bones were probably Saxon, by analogy with other sites in the vicinity.

SOU 914

A watching brief on a service trench on the north side of Bitterne Road, outside No 75, revealed a dark soil containing three fragments of human skull, thought to be from the known Saxon cemetery in the area (Russel, A, 2000).

SOU 1110

Human bones of possible Saxon date were found during a watching brief on new crash barriers along Bitterne Road West inside the Roman inner fosse in 2001. The finds were in a dark soil layer, the top of which was possibly a surface. In deposits exposed in the area outside the inner fosse, a large nail was found which may have been from a Saxon coffin (Leivers, 2001).

SOU 1129

A sherd of Saxon pottery of a typical pagan Saxon type was found during observations at Bitterne Manor School, Quayside Road in 1948.

9.4. Medieval

In about 1770, Speed described an "old Stone Building, now converted into a Barn", towards the north end of the bank inside the inner ditch at Bitterne Manor (fig 11, MSH314). He thought the original building was part of the Roman fort of Clausentum. In the upper part of the barn wall next to the ditch were slits, thought to be arrow slits, and north of the barn were remains of the circuit wall of the fort. In 1800, Englefield referred to the barn amongst other post-Roman remains and described four windows in the west wall. By 1805 the barn had been demolished. The date of the building is uncertain. The windows were probably of 12th century date. The barn may have been Roman with medieval additions, or a medieval structure built against the remains of the Roman circuit

wall and incorporating features in that wall. It was used as a barn in the post-medieval period, if not before. The "slits" could be barn ventilation holes.

Speed also described an "old Stone Building, now a Stable and Cart House" that seems to have been at the north end of the bank inside the inner ditch (fig 11, MSH315). He thought the original building was Roman. The building had "an arch'd window and a Slit", the latter interpreted as an arrow slit. The building is probably shown on the map published by Englefield in 1805, although he did not mention the stable in his description of remains at Bitterne Manor. The stable was probably destroyed in 1804/5 and is not shown on subsequent maps. The date of the original building must remain uncertain; it may have been Roman with medieval additions, or a medieval structure.

The "remains of a Stone Gateway" described by Speed in 1770 may have been Roman or medieval in origin. In 1800 Englefield mentioned the gateway as apparently medieval. It lay just north of what is now Bitterne Road (fig 11, MSH318) but had been demolished by 1805.

Gazetteer of Medieval sites in SOU number order

SOU 210

A few sherds of medieval pottery were found in the topsoil during an excavation in a trench (Site A) in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in the summer of 1936. The topsoil overlaid Roman deposits (Waterman, 1936). Due to post-war boundary changes, the site now lies in the public park.

SOU 214

In 1936, an apparently unsuccessful attempt was made to find the floor "on the inner, or north, side of the 13th century wall, which still exists at the south-west angle of the Manor House". The ruined arch of the chapel was repaired (Williams-Freeman. 1937)

SOU 215

A fragment of a late medieval wall was found during excavations at the "Roman Wall" site (Site F) in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House in 1936/1938. The site layer above the Roman deposits was described as "medieval debris", suggesting that Medieval finds were probably present in the post-Roman deposits (Waterman. 1947).

SOU 305

A penny of Henry III was found during a watching brief on groundworks between the inner and outer ditches of the Roman station of Clausentum at Bitterne Manor in 1901. The precise location of the findspot and the current whereabouts of the coin are unknown.

SOU 1290

A length of wall at the south-west corner of Bitterne Manor House is described in some sources as the remains of a medieval chapel. The wall incorporates an arch. The wall was restored in 1935/1936 and a trench was dug on the north side in an unsuccessful attempt to find the floor of the chapel. The remains of the "Chapel or undercroft", identified as 12th and 13th century stonework, were surveyed and drawn in 1936.

SOU 1291

A garderobe or rubbish pit was excavated in the cellars on the north side of Bitterne Manor House in 1953. It was thought to date to the 12th or 13th century.

9.5. Post-medieval

Archaeological investigations prior to the construction of the HA Fox Parts Centre, Hawkeswood Road (SOU 857) revealed very few post-medieval or early modern features and layers, possibly indicating that the area was used as pasture, or later as gardens. The few post-medieval features are best interpreted as the landscaping known to have been carried out in the early 19th century (Russel, J, 2000).

9.6. Geophysical survey

A geophysical survey was carried out within the public park in 2003 by the University of Southampton (Hay & Strutt, 2003). The results have interpreted using evidence from historic maps and plans (figs 8 and 9).

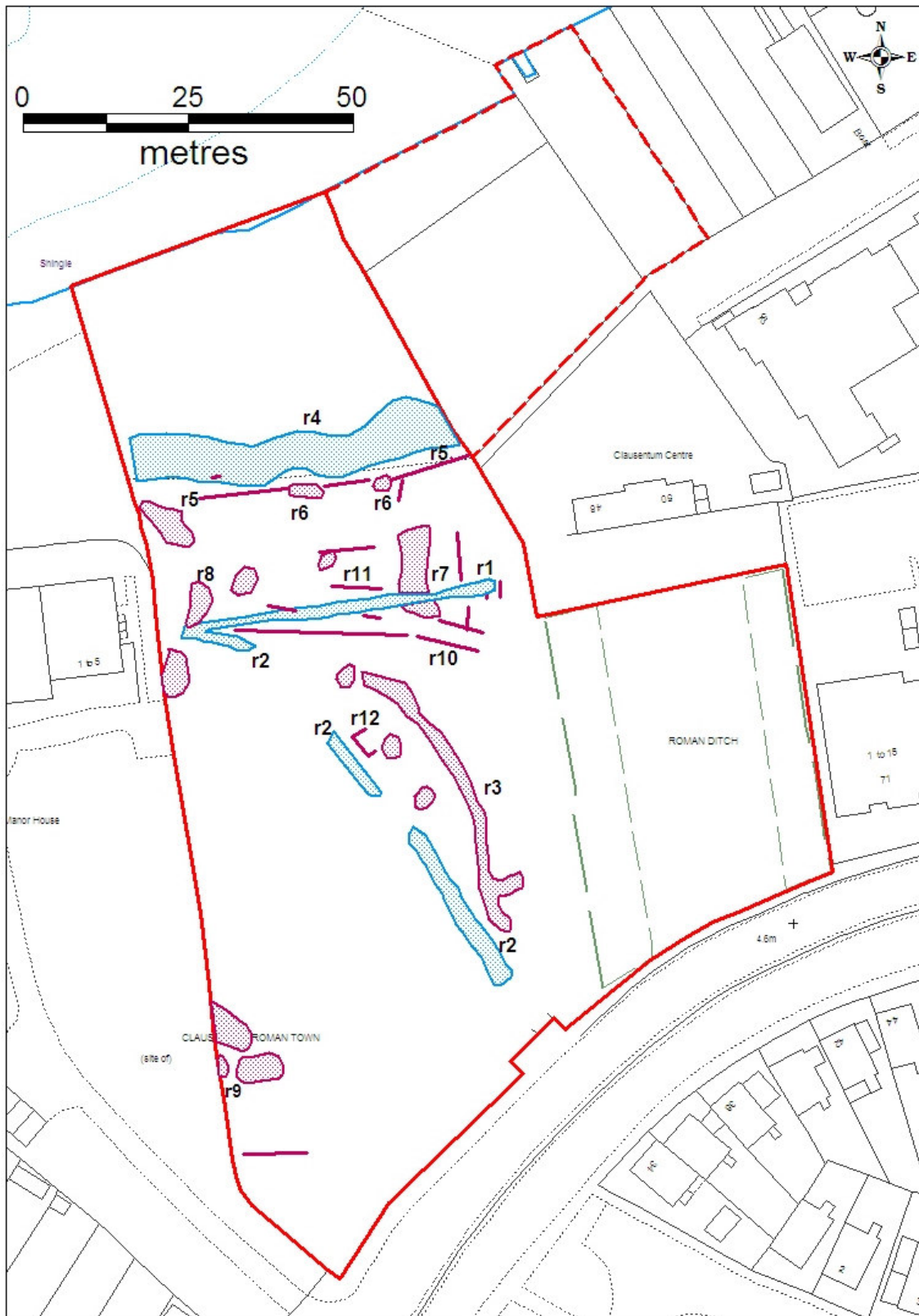


Figure 8. Results of the resistivity survey in 2003 (after Hay & Strutt).

Blue = low resistance area; purple = high resistance area;

Purple lines = high resistance anomalies.

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The survey area had clusters of dense woodland and it was impossible to penetrate some areas. However, the results may indicate the possible presence of structures associated with the later settlement and its defences, as well as features related to the early modern occupation of the site.

A number of modern features were detected; notably the trenches of two modern pipelines **[r1]** and **[r2]** indicated by two bands of low resistance bisecting the site. A linear high resistance anomaly **[r3]** is seen along the eastern flank of the survey area measuring about 50m in length and a few metres in width. This feature coincides closely with the location of a former drive leading to Bitterne Manor. The lack of response to resistivity in the northern section of the survey area confirms that the river frontage has moved north due to land reclamation. A band of low resistance **[r4]** may be related to the former intertidal deposits or foreshore. A line of high resistance, measuring about 45m in length **[r5]** may represent the presence of a stone wall. This is likely to be part of the river frontage but its position suggests it is more likely to be related to the first, the early 19th century, phase of reclamation.

It is possible that two high resistance features measuring 3-5m in diameter **[r6]** may be related to Roman waterfront activity. The most striking high resistance anomaly **[r7]** was a linear feature oriented north – south and c3m in width. The feature may indicate the presence of fairly substantial wall remains. The proportions tally with the observation regarding the town wall made by Englefield who noted 'Its thickness was about 9 feet'. To the south was a double edged feature **[r10]**. Although not very clear in form this feature could represent the course of a road leading into the settlement. To the west is **[r8]** which may relate to two small structures shown on 19th century maps. Traces of a similar feature **[r9]** were detected in the southern most part of the study area and may also represent the remains of a stone structure. In the central section of the survey area a series of distinct linear high resistance anomalies **[r11]** and **[r12]** may represent structural remains.

A trial area was covered by magnetometry and the results confirmed suspicions that the features were constructed from materials such as limestone and flint which do not respond well to magnetometry. The anomalies present most likely represent modern metallic material lying close to the ground surface.

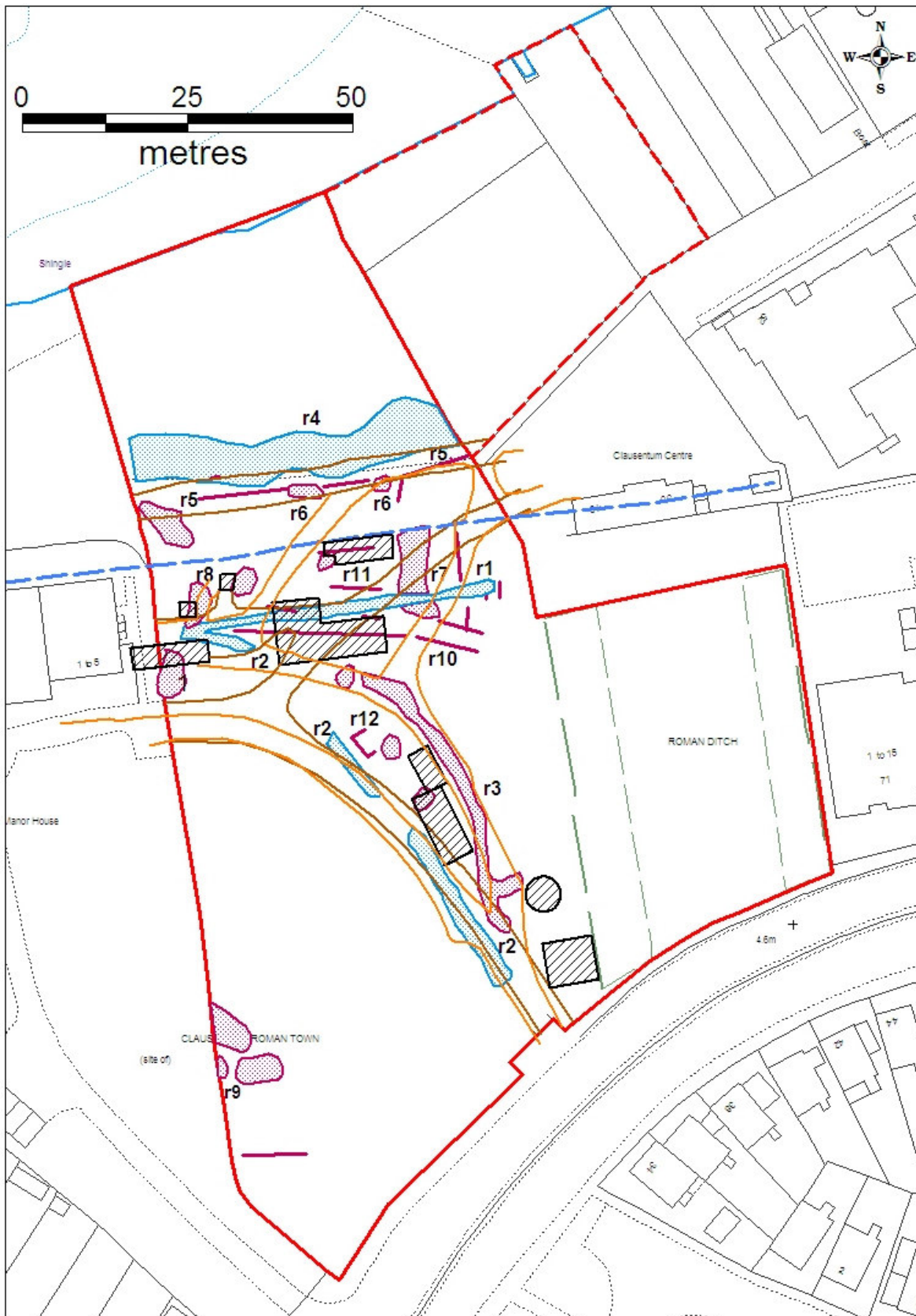


Figure 9. Results of the resistivity survey related to 19th and 20th century elements.
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10. CONCLUSIONS.

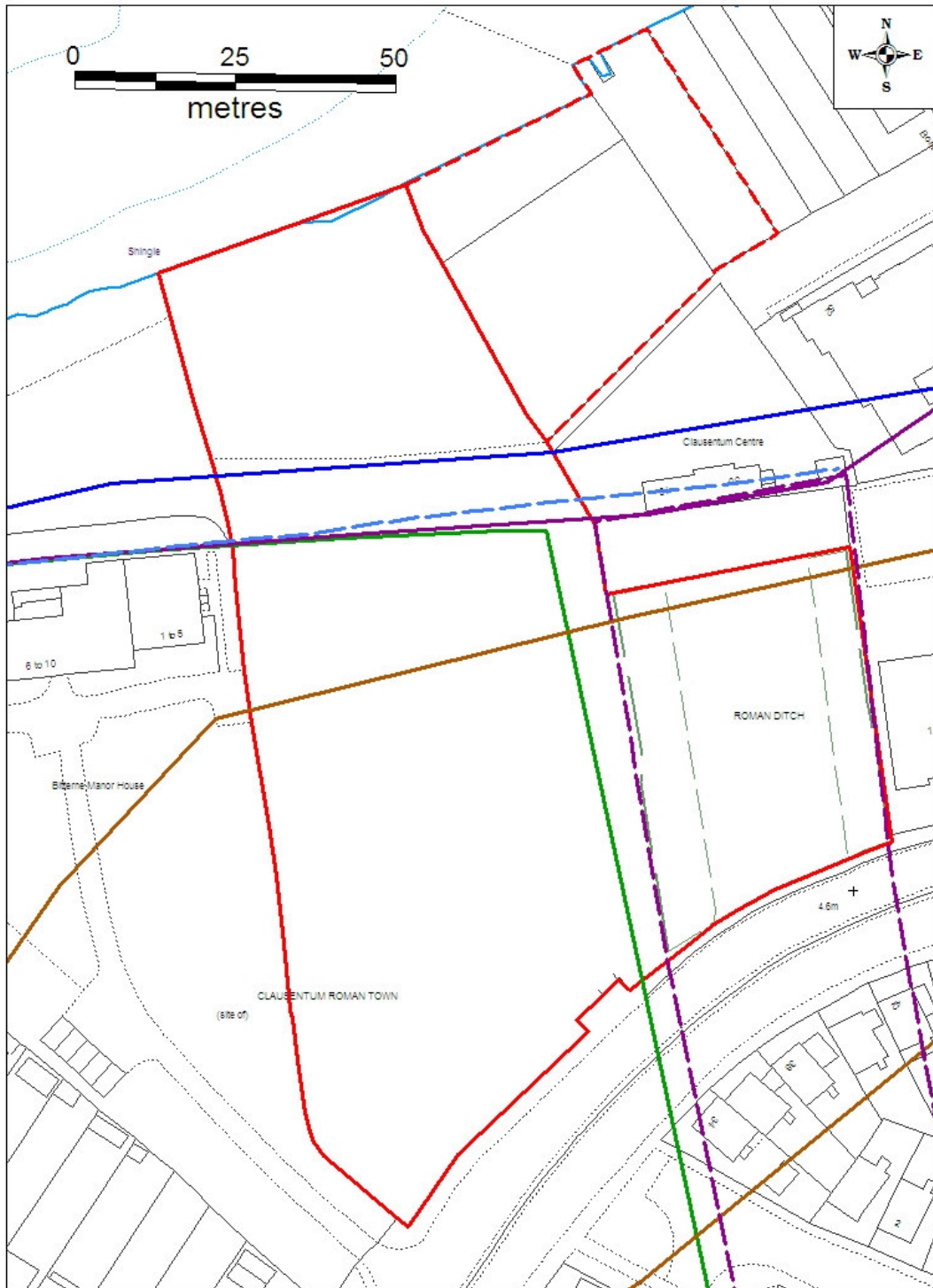


Figure 10. The assessment area, showing outlines of historic areas.

Purple = approximate extent of Roman settlement; purple dashed = inner ditch; green = probable area of Saxon burh; brown = approximate extent of Saxon cemetery; light blue dashed = approximate former shore line prior to reclamation; blue solid = extent of Bitterne Manor estate c1820.

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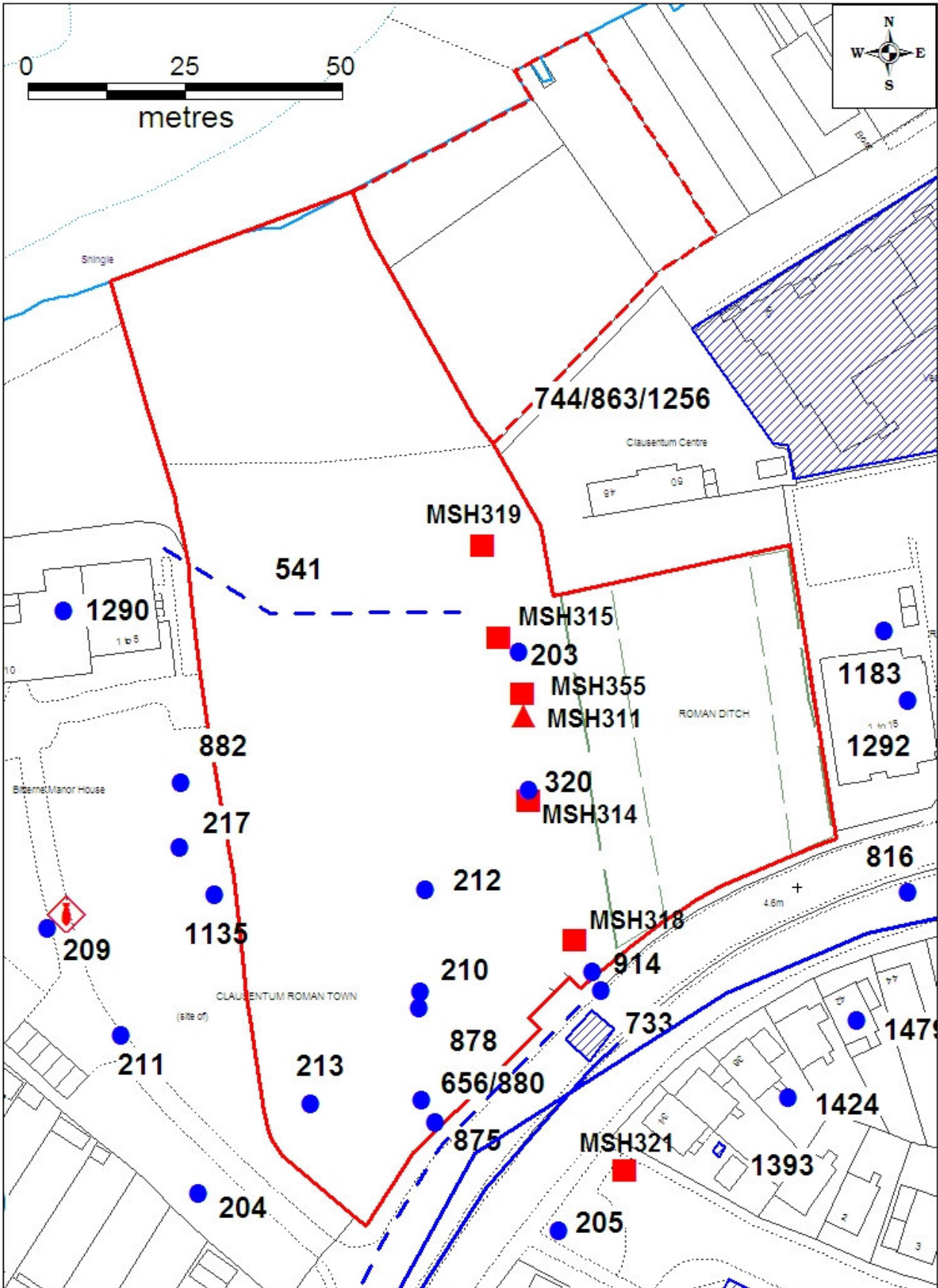


Figure 11. The assessment area, showing location of archaeological sites (SOU prefix omitted for clarity) and approximate locations of monuments (red squares); MSH 311 = approximate find spot of Roman altar.

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Elements of the Roman north wall probably survive along the line of the former north shore of the peninsula, west of the inner ditch/fosse and south of the reclaimed area. North of the wall line, evidence for Roman and possibly medieval use of the foreshore may be preserved below the reclamation deposits.

Elements of the wall on the inner bank, west of the inner ditch may also survive, including possible evidence for timber foundations as at SOU 202. At the north end of the wall, evidence for the base of the tower may survive, and further south there may be evidence for the semi-circular tower observed by Englefield.

The Roman or medieval gateway recorded by John Speed in the 18th century was located just to the north of the original line of the new road. The observations at SOU 914 suggest that the remains of this structure survive below the pavement and probably in the adjacent park. The site of the probable medieval barn located to the north of the gateway lies within the park and it is possible that evidence for its foundations may survive. Similarly, evidence may survive further north for the probable medieval structure used as a stable in Speed's time.

Most of the past archaeological excavations in the former Bitterne Manor grounds have been located to the west of the park area; the locations of others are unknown and possibly lie within the park. None were very extensive. Therefore most of the park south of the former shoreline and west of the inner ditch is likely to contain Roman evidence. Much of this may have been disturbed by landscaping and gardening in the 19th century, and by drainage and other modern services. However the evidence of the excavations to date suggests that stratified Roman deposits are potentially likely to survive despite this.

The inner ditch was probably much deeper than it is now, and it is likely that its original profile is preserved beneath the fills. The fills potentially contain important archaeological evidence. The primary silts may preserve environmental evidence for the Romano-British period. The early fills probably include Roman material and possibly artefacts relating to the Saxon cemetery. Later fills may contain medieval material, probably followed by Roman material deposited during early modern landscaping and gardening.

The full extent of the Saxon inhumation cemetery is unknown, however it is very likely that human burials are still present within the area of the park, particularly in the southern part,

close to Bitterne Road and west of the ditch. The inhumations excavated or recorded in the past have generally been found within soil layers overlying the Roman occupation deposits.

The modern topsoil and the underlying early modern garden soils are likely to contain significant quantities of unstratified artefacts, predominantly Roman but possibly including Saxon and medieval material.

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