

9.1 SOUTHERN COUNTIES (WEST)

By JOHN P. SALVATORE

DORSET

(1) **Bearwood**, *North Poole, Canford Park* (SZ 0509 9731): an evaluation confirmed the results of a preceding geophysical survey and identified several probable enclosure ditches dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. The finds assemblage includes pottery sherds with burnt food residues and is suggestive of domestic waste, indicating that the features relate to an enclosed settlement. Fragments of probable Iron Age briquetage containers of the type associated with salt production/transportation were also present.¹

WILTSHIRE

(1) **Melksham**, *Melksham Campus Development* (ST 9023 6353): an evaluation identified a pit of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age whilst a second pit was dated to the Romano-British period. Two linear features corresponding with linear anomalies on a geophysical survey were also excavated, as were three undated pits of which only one is likely to be archaeological in origin. Finds indicate isolated late Bronze Age, early Iron Age or middle Iron Age, and Romano-British activity within the site, and possibly within the wider vicinity.²

HAMPSHIRE

(1) **Fareham**, *Stubbington Bypass* (SU 5561 0485): an evaluation revealed a series of Romano-British ditches, thought to represent evidence of field-systems, and a small square enclosure of unknown purpose. The pottery recovered is indicative of multi-period activity within the Roman period extending into at least the second half of the second century A.D.³

(2) **Havant**, *land south of Bartons Road* (SU 7310 0770): an evaluation revealed a series of late Iron Age/early Romano-British pits and ditches. Despite the relatively large number of datable features it was not possible to ascertain the type of activity they represented as, whilst large assemblages of unmortared brick and tile fragments, charcoal-rich fills and iron slag

¹ Work by J. Orellana of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

² Work by R. Williams of Wessex Archaeology for Wiltshire Council. L. Lichtenstein sent information.

³ Work by G. Howland of Pre-Construct Archaeology for Hampshire County Council. T. Vitali sent information.

suggested industrial processes, the types of pottery recovered indicated domestic settlement. The pottery assemblage also suggested two main phases of activity, one dating to the later Iron Age to early Roman period and the other to the mid-third to fourth century A.D., with a hiatus occurring between the two phases.⁴

(3) **Rownhams**, *land near Rownhams Lane* (SU 3885 1739): an excavation recorded a 70 m long section of the Roman road from Winchester to Otterbourne identified in a preceding evaluation. The road was found not to survive to the west of Clams Copse.⁵

(4) **Waterlooville**, *Dunsbury Park* (SU 4702 1098): an evaluation revealed an early Romano-British enclosure ditch and a contemporary pit located within its interior. Although the ditch appears to have gone out of use after the first century A.D., it may have survived as an earthwork for much longer. The function of the feature could not be ascertained though its relatively elevated location in the landscape with views southward toward the coastal plain and Langstone Harbour, may suggest it served a strategic role.⁶

(5) **Winchester**, *24 St Thomas Street* (SU 4480 1294): a watching-brief and excavation revealed multiple phases of activity. Large amounts of Roman pottery dated between A.D. 50 and 410 were recovered; however, the majority of the material is thought to be residual and was retrieved from a series of intercutting Saxo-Norman pits. This included a fragment of stamped samian ware; the stamp is complete and reads OFBASSICOE[(from the workshop of Bassus and Coelius) and is dated to A.D. 40–80. A small area of undisturbed Roman material was uncovered which may possibly have showed the remains a Roman wall.⁷

⁴ Work by K. Marshall of Pre-Construct Archaeology for CgMs Consulting. T. Vitali sent information.

⁵ Work by T. Brown of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

⁶ Work by D. McAtominey of Pre-Construct Archaeology for CgMs Consulting. T. Vitali sent information.

⁷ Work by R. Wolfe of Pre-Construct Archaeology for CFW Architects on behalf of Peter Chittick. T. Vitali sent information.