

ROMAN WAY, ANDOVER,
HAMPSHIRE, 1992.

An Archaeological evaluation for
Test Valley Borough Council.

ran between Winchester, 20km to the south-east, to Mildenhall, near Marlborough, Wilts., 30km to the north-west. Area 8/4 Roman Way lies 400m north of the crossroads formed by this road and the Portway, (SU 3713 4743), the Roman road between Silchester, 30km to the north-east and Old Sarum, near Salisbury, Wilts. 12km to the south-west. The western side of the junction was the focus of an extensive Roman settlement which was examined prior to construction of the housing estate.

In the early 1970's the construction of Turin Court housing estate uncovered an earlier Iron Age settlement north-west of this Roman settlement and located immediately south of the study area. The northern extent of this activity was not determined and therefore, the land proposed for development here, would seem to have a high archaeological potential.

Strategy

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the date, nature, extent and state of preservation of those archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed development. To this end, it was decided to undertake a programme of trial trenching. Seven trenches were dug, of which two were interrupted (4 and 6), using a JCB

with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. These totalled 217m in length and are located as shown in Fig.2.

The spoil heaps were monitored for artefacts in order to provide an indication of the spatial distribution of material across the site.

Results

This work showed that a large proportion of the trenches were placed within an area of made up ground, from which the original topsoil had been removed prior to the dumping of building rubble, up to 1.20m thick. It was observed in sections of Trenches 5 and 6 that the subsoil (averaging 0.15m thick over the area) had also been removed, along with an unknown depth of bedrock. A large pit full of this rubble cutting the bedrock, was found in trench 6. This led to a 12m gap before the trench was resumed and completed. At the western extreme of trench 4 a soak-away was found cut into the bedrock. This was aligned more or less along the line of the trench and ran as far as trench 5.

The original topsoil was still present in trenches 1 and 2, and in the northern ends of trenches 3 and 6. It varied in depth from 0.23m in the north of trench 1, to

0.15m in trenches 3 and 6.

Of slight archaeological significance was an irregular charcoal flecked patch, the same colour and texture as the subsoil in trench 3. This contained two flint flakes, and one fragment of Roman pottery. This context was only 0.03m thick, and is thought to be subsoil pressed down into the bedrock surface, rather than an archaeological feature.

A small number of struck flint finds were recovered from the spoil heaps (Fig.3.), along with a few fragments of burnt flint. These indicate a low level of prehistoric activity of doubtful significance.

Conclusion

Very little archaeological evidence was recovered and no features were observed in any of the trenches. The disturbance of the bedrock in trenches 5 and 6 would have destroyed any features that may have been present. It would appear that the Iron Age settlement found immediately to the south did not extend into the study area. The disturbance observed in trenches 4-6 may have destroyed any outlying features associated with this site even if they had once existed here.

This area then appears to have no archaeological potential.

APPENDIX 1

TRENCH DETAILS

Origin at north or west end unless otherwise stated.

Trench	Length	Notes
1	30m	No features. Topsoil 0.23m deep in north, to 0.15m deep in south, silty-clay subsoil 0.16m deep. Test pit at 0m revealed Clay-with-Flint, 0.27m deep on top of chalk bedrock.
2	50m	No features. Topsoil 0.13m deep. Subsoil 0.13m deep. Clay-with-Flint bedrock.
3	40m	No features. Charcoal flecked patch at 29m. 0.30m deep in north, 1.10m in south. Topsoil 0m-15m, 0.15m deep, made up ground 15m-40m. Subsoil 0.15 deep, present for whole length of trench. Clay-with-Flint bedrock.
4	32m	No features. Interrupted trench originally 50m long. 0m-7m trench 1.10m deep, Soak-away on southern side. 15m-17m test pit, soak-away present. 27m-50m 0.90m deep. Made up ground, no topsoil. Subsoil 0.18m deep. Clay-with-Flint bedrock.
5	12m	No features. Originally 20m shortened by presence of soak-away. Trench depth from 1.20m at 0m, to 0.75m at 12m. Made up ground. No topsoil, or subsoil. Clay-with-Flint bedrock also disturbed.
6	38m	No features. Interrupted trench originally 50m long. 0m 0.50m deep to 0.75m deep at 31m. From 43m-50m 0.50 deep. Topsoil present from 0m-9m only. From 9m southwards made up ground, no subsoil and Clay-with-Flint bedrock disturbed. Large modern rubble filled pits from 9m-15m, and 22m-31m.
7	15m	No features. Trench depth from 0.90m at 0m, to 1.10m at 15m. Made up ground. No topsoil. Subsoil 0.15m deep. Clay-with-Flints bedrock.

APPENDIX 2
FINDS CATALOGUE

FLINT

(All on spoil heap unless stated otherwise).

Trench 1

0-10m	2 Intact flakes
10-20m	Scraper
20m-30m	2 Intact flakes; Core.

Trench 2

0-10m	Intact flake
10-20m	3 Intact flakes; Spall.
30-40m	2 Intact flakes

Trench 3

0-10m	Intact flake; Intact flake (from surface of bedrock)
10-20m	6 Intact flakes; 3 Spalls; 1 Awl.
20-30m	Intact flake; 2 Intact flakes (from surface of bedrock).

Trench 4

0-10m	3 Intact flakes
30-40m	Intact flake

Trench 7

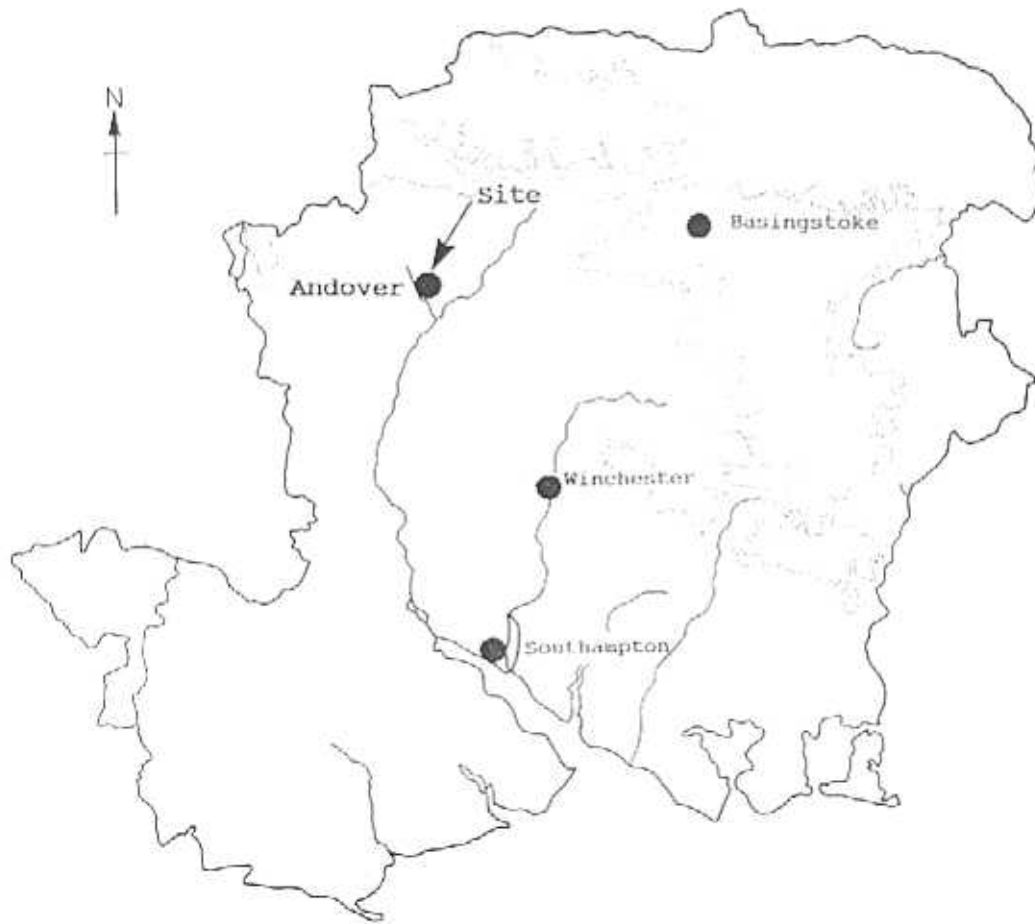
0-10m	Intact flake (from surface of bedrock)
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POTTERY

Trench 3

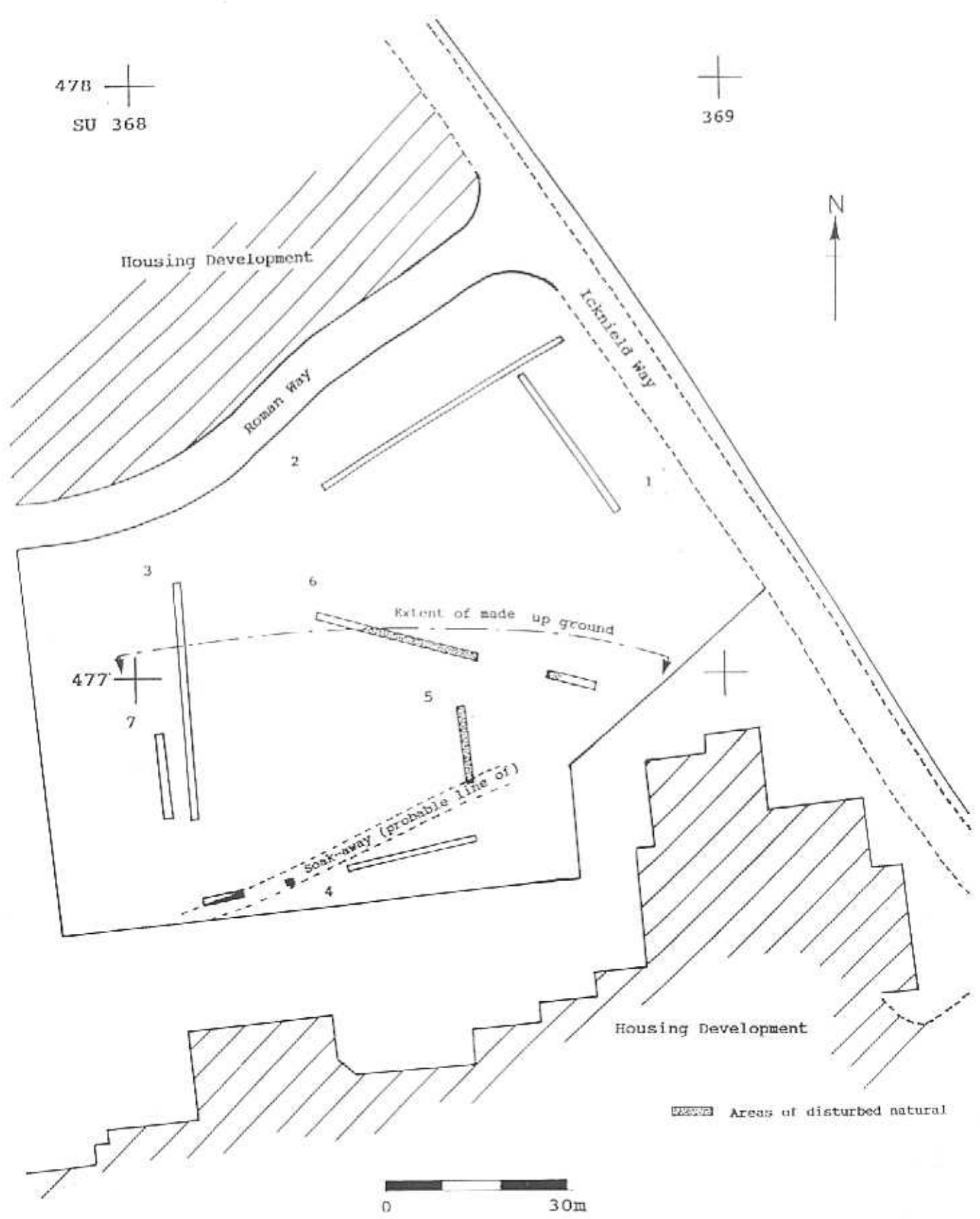
29m	One fragment (Roman)
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Hampshire



20 Km

Roman Way, Andover, Hampshire, 1992.



Roman Way, Andover, Hampshire, 1992.

Flint and Pottery

