

Langport Roman Villa

Excavations at Somerton Road, Langport, Somerset



The Villa at Langport

From preliminary analysis the villa appears to have undergone several phases of development, the exact progression of these phases will become clearer in post-excavation analysis. So far we have at least six identifiable rooms and a corridor. Unfortunately determining the villa’s exact layout is hampered by destruction in parts by the cutting of later features and that large sections of the walls have since been robbed for their stone leaving only the cuts for the foundation trenches behind. It is also the case that the villa likely continues outside of the area of excavation into the neighbouring property. Initial dating of the coinage found during excavation puts the Roman occupation of the site into the late 1st to 3rd century AD probably starting to fall into disuse in the 4th century and the latter part of the Roman period in Britain (AD43-410).



Above: The Roman *Impluvium*

Rain Collection Pools?

Distinct due to the vertical stone slab edging these shallow rectangular depressions likely serve as pools meant to capture rain water. The smaller of the two, located within the building is likely a *impluvium*, a sunken area within a courtyard (*domus*) that collects rain water from the surrounding roofs before channelling it away to an underground cistern. The larger pool likely serves a similar purpose.



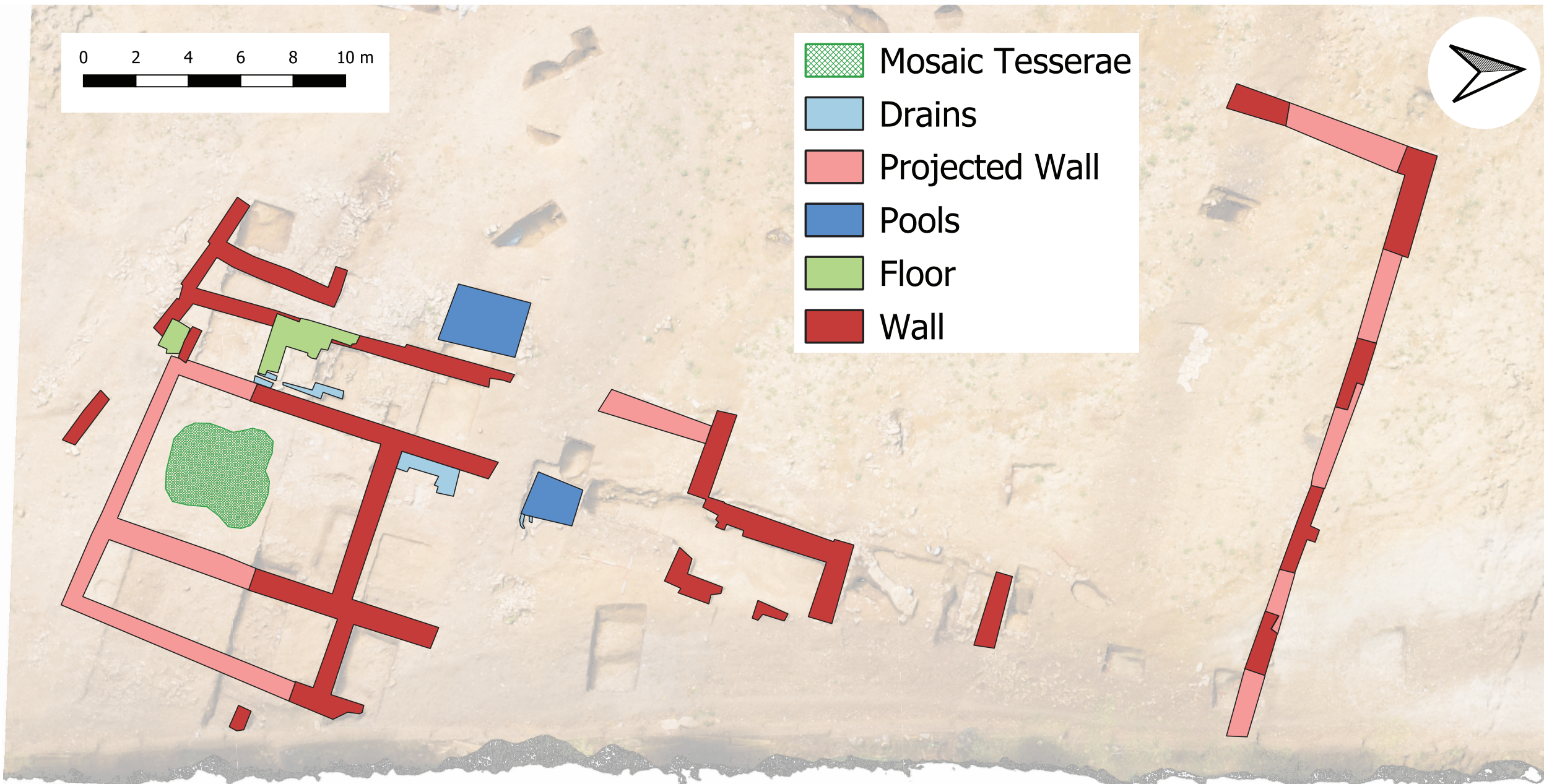
Above: Makers mark on base of Roman pot.

Floors

Two sections of stone slab flooring have been identified *in-situ*. Interestingly the larger of the two sits above a section of wall indicating it belongs to a later phase of the villa’s layout when the underlying wall went out of use.

Mosaic?

In one of the southern rooms surface finds of a small number of *tesserae* (small stone or ceramic tiles) indicates the presence of a mosaic.



Above: Section of Drainage.
Below left: Gaming pieces.
Below right: Belt buckle.

The Finds

A large number of finds were recovered during excavation on the villa. These were for the most part fragments of pottery and animal bones though a number of more personal items were also found. These include brooches, bone pins, belt buckles, gaming pieces and even metal tweezers.

Above: Plan of presently known villa structures.
Right: Aerial photograph of main villa building looking north.
Below: Crossbow brooch.



Above Left: Coin of Philip AD244-249, Rome mint.
Above Right: Metal tweezers.

