

**2015
DORSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARD**

**DRUCE FARM ROMAN VILLA
ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT
2011 - 2015**

Submitted by



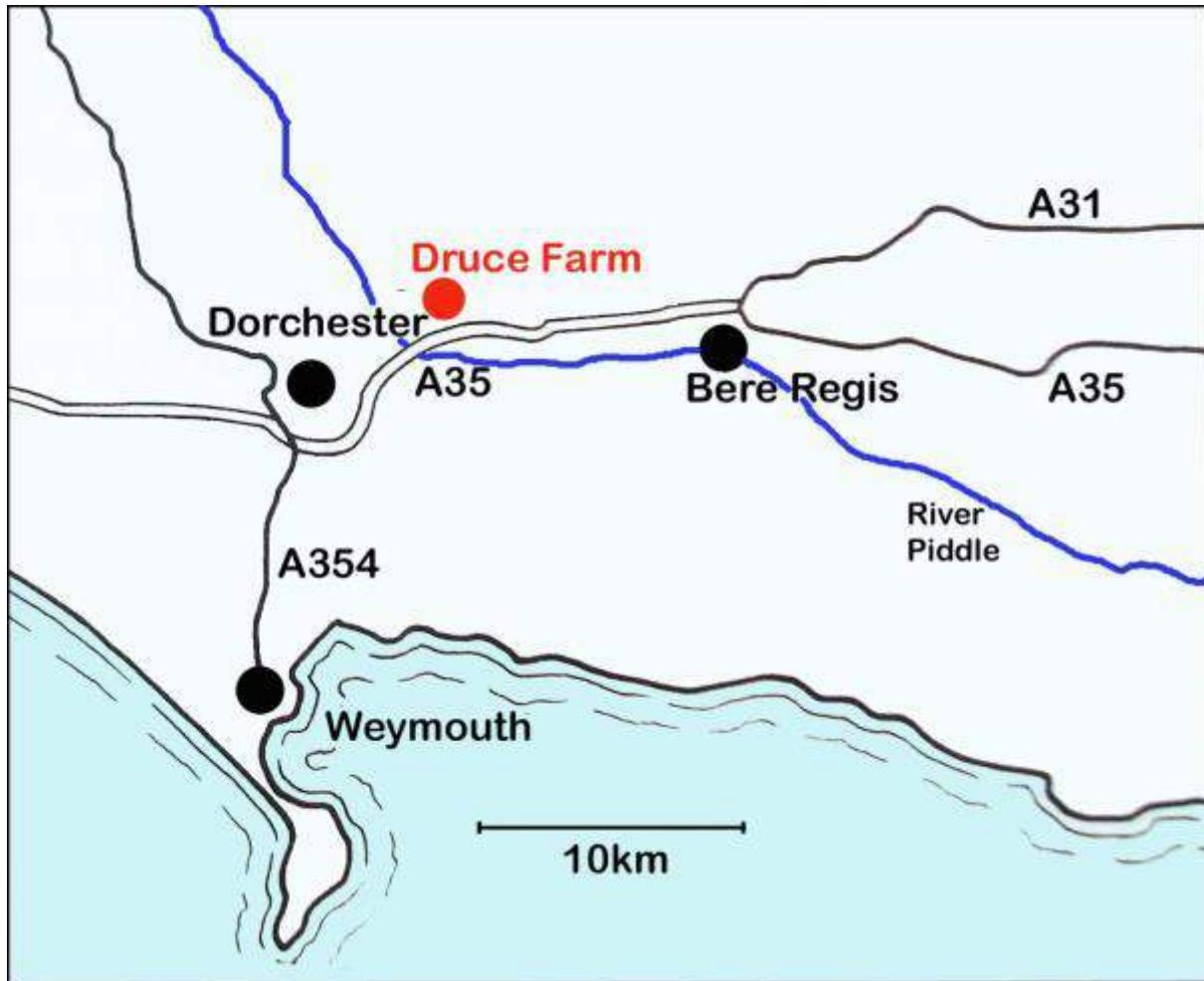
EAST DORSET ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Prepared by

**Lilian Ladle MBE - Site Director
Andrew Morgan - Chairman**

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Site Location



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1. Introduction

This report has been prepared to support a submission for the Dorset Archaeological Award for 2015. It describes the excavation of a Roman Villa of local and regional significance, which comprises three ranges of buildings.

The project is managed by the East Dorset Antiquarian Society (EDAS) and has been progressed through the co-operation and commitment of people from local archaeology societies both in the county and beyond, and has benefitted from the advice and input of professional colleagues. The project started in 2011 and the site will close on 18th September 2015, when the focus switches to the post-excavation tasks.

From the onset there has been a commitment to making the site available to the wider community, with a series of Open Days, a schools programme and scheduled visits from a large number of societies and groups from Dorset and beyond.

Whilst this is a voluntary project run by amateurs, it is committed to the application of the highest archaeological standards and fully understands the need for timely publication of the results.

1.1. Background

The local farming community had suspected for some time that putative Roman settlement remains were located at the western end of 'Lower Limepits' field at Druce Farm. The field surface was littered with ceramic and stone building debris. During the early 2000s the Stour Valley Metal Detectorists, with permission of the landowner Mrs Ann Ridout, worked in this area and located coins and metalwork spanning the Roman period.

Encouraged by these findings Mrs Ridout contacted Lilian Ladle regarding an evaluation of the site. Field walking in 2011 by a group of EDAS members produced a range of building materials, including stone and ceramic roof tiles, knapped building flint nodules, tesserae and Roman pottery. Due to the excessive amount of material lying on the surface of the field, it was thought that extensive ploughing must have damaged any surviving below-ground remains.

1.2. Rationale

The landowner was keen to find out exactly what remains survived in Lower Limepits field so that a decision regarding the future agricultural use and management of the land could be taken. In order to do this, an evaluation was planned to determine the extent of the buildings and the levels of preservation, in particular of any walls and floors and to determine approximate dates for the use and abandonment of the buildings.

1.3. Archaeological Standards

The excavation was conducted using practises and guidelines issued by the Institute for Archaeologists with a full paper record, plans and photographs.

1.4. Landscape

The site is 200 metres to the north of the River Piddle which runs in an easterly direction into Poole Harbour at Wareham. The villa sits on a gentle south facing slope of chalk bedrock with a veneer of clay with flints that has been covered by a layer of river gravel deposited by melt water floods during the last Ice Age. To the east of the site is a shallow dry valley that runs towards the river. There is a spring line just above the valley bottom. The land is now used mainly for arable farming. The local fields are surrounded by long established substantial hedgerows. To the north of the field is a deep chalk pit of unknown age. On the undulating chalklands further north there are numerous signs of prehistoric activity with burial mounds, field systems and settlements. Three kilometres to the south is the Roman Road linking Dorchester (Durnovaria) to Badbury Rings (Vindocladia) and beyond. Immediately across the river is Waterston Manor House built on a Saxon site mentioned in the Domesday Book. Along the river valley are water meadows and watercress beds typical of chalk streams.

2. Project Development

In 2011 Lilian Ladle, who had visited the site on a previous occasion, contacted the farm owner Mrs Ann Ridout for permission to field walk. A small group of EDAS members spent a day picking material from the ground and speculating on what lay beneath. Systematic field walking followed suggesting that remains of buildings were present. This was confirmed by a geophysical survey which showed three ranges of buildings surrounding a courtyard area, all enclosed within substantial ditches.

Three exploratory trenches were opened in 2012; these confirmed building remains and deep ditches. Large quantities of building debris were found consisting of knapped flint nodules, limestone and ceramic roof tile fragments, mortar and painted plaster. In addition the finds included animal bone and pottery, mostly 3rd and 4th century Black Burnished Ware and examples of South East Dorset Orange Wiped Ware. Finewares included New Forest and Oxfordshire pottery. Fragmentary remains of nine wall sections were uncovered.

In 2013 it was decided to continue work to evaluate the preservation of the walls and floors in all three ranges of buildings, and to determine approximate dates for their use and abandonment. The excavation was extended with additional trenches which

revealed that all three buildings were more extensive than originally thought. A complete mosaic was uncovered in room N1 and fragments of other mosaics also found.

Due to progress made during the previous season it was agreed to return for a final season in 2014, with the intention of completing investigations of the villa. The geophysical survey (Fig.1) was extended to cover areas to the east and west which revealed a complex extension of the enclosure ditches.

A further five rooms were located on the North Range, with evidence indicating an east-west corridor-type house. The excavation of the East Range uncovered all the plinth foundations as well as the extent of the external walls. The construction and design of the roof was revealed. Contemporary and post-occupation pits were excavated. Work on the West Range confirmed that it consisted of four rooms. Examination of two of the rooms was instigated but not completed during the 2014 season. A very large, stone-built oven was located.



Fig-1: Geophysical survey showing the extensive system of enclosure ditches. The villa is situated within the highlighted area.

Towards the end of the 2014 season the site was visited by Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe who enthusiastically recommended that further work be undertaken to better understand two particular areas, namely room N3 in the North Range and the aisled hall in the East Range.

With permission of the landowner it was agreed that this recommendation should be accepted and the 2015 season started on 22nd April and will close on 18th September 2015. The site will be fully covered by November 2015.

The final challenge is to better understand the complex phases of building and occupation that have occurred on the site over several hundred years.

3. The Villa Complex

The villa comprises three sets of buildings arranged around a central courtyard. The area is delineated by enclosure ditches, and to the south was a probable monumental entrance. The villa complex is constructed on a slope with a drop of approximately seven metres from north to south.

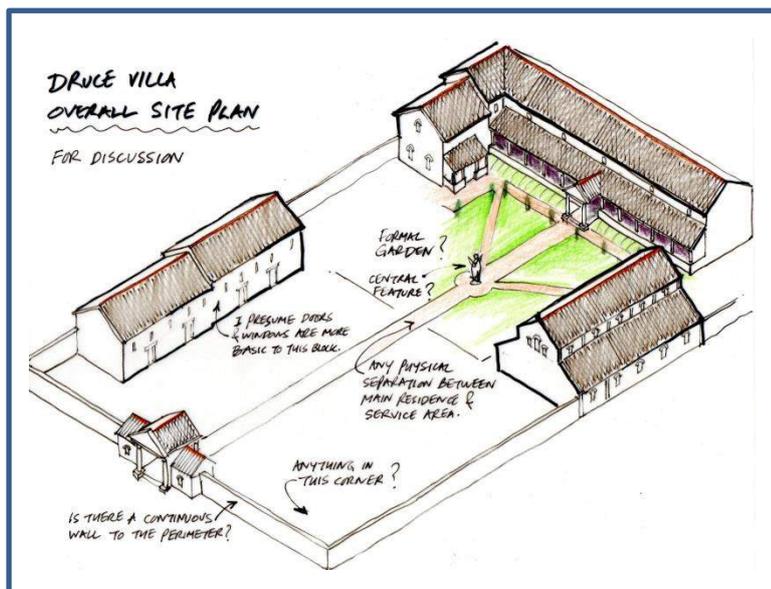


Fig-2: Preliminary sketch of the villa complex - [work in progress], courtesy Gareth Naylor.

3.1. North Range

The building has a total length of 35m and a width of 8m. Eleven rooms have been uncovered, demonstrating a complex sequence of alteration and re-building, as can be expected over 400 years of occupation.

External and internal walls are constructed of mortared flint throughout. The earliest walls are the most carefully constructed with flint laid in a herringbone pattern and embedded in thick, hard mortar; the corners are reinforced with ashlar. Later walls are less well made, often containing re-used building material, such as fragments of tile and building stone.

There is evidence for initial levelling and landscaping down to the natural chalk and later massive earth moving often using a mixture of clay with flint gravel (hoggin). In places recycled building material has also been used as infill.

Many of the rooms have evidence of occupation activity continuing for a long period after the conventional Roman exit c. AD 410.

Several rooms, especially rooms N1 and N3, exhibit clear evidence of the collapse and abandonment. The first significant phase was when the roofs collapsed resulting in a thick layer of heavy limestone roof tiles. Then because the walls were exposed to the

weather, any remaining mortar and plaster dropped off and eventually the flint walls fell on top of the tiles.

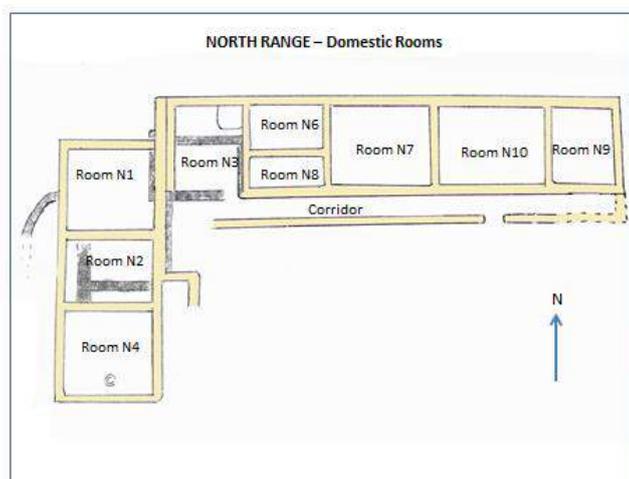


Fig-3: Schematic plan of the North Range.

Room-1: This room contains an intact mosaic. The simple geometric design of two meandering lines following a right angled concentric path, crossing at the centre forming an inverted swastika, in blue lias and white limestone tesserae. The borders consist of larger limestone tesserae with random red ceramic pieces. Mr Anthony Beeson described it as “an elegant mosaic and of a style suggestive of Roman Villas in the vicinity of Ilchester”, and he praised the high standard of craftsmanship. It was probably laid c. AD 350. A terracotta fillet divides the wall from the floor.

The western part of the mosaic had been crudely repaired several times during the life of the villa. The damage was probably caused by the movement of a piece of heavy furniture such as a bed or couch. These repairs are estimated to have been made in the 5th or 6th centuries.

A burnt area in the north-east corner of the room yielded a coin dating to the late 4th/early 5th century AD.

After abandonment of the room, barn owls roosted in the exposed rafters for several years, generating pellets which contained thousands of tiny mammal and amphibian bones. These are currently undergoing radio carbon dating.

To the west of this room an apse-shaped structure is being excavated, as yet its purpose is not known.

Room 3: This is a complex room and with evidence suggesting multiple phases of construction. It was occupied from the early 2nd century AD through to the post Roman period, until at least the late 6th century AD.

The first phase is marked by a floor cut into the chalk bedrock and an east-west wall defining the south of the room. The west corner was constructed of ashlar and a further wall runs to the north where it ends at another corner constructed of seven layers of

ashlar. A second east-west wall runs across the centre of the room and was built on the chalk bedrock.

A later phase of building occurred when new walls were erected to extend the width of the room. The west wall shows two styles, the lower part is coarse and wide, suggesting it was to be covered by the infill, whilst the carefully made upper section is built in a herringbone bond.

The floor level was raised by bringing discarded material, such as demolition debris and black ash, from several locations on the site; this is visible as discrete layers.

There is evidence of two catastrophic events in this room. Before the rammed chalk floor was applied there was a fire evidenced by an extensive area of burnt hoggin, burnt clay, mortar and flint nodules along the north-south wall. The chalk floor was then laid. But before the room could be finished, the southern section of the floor collapsed, dropping by up to 18 cms. This was due to the inappropriate nature of the infill material. Thereafter the room appears not to have been used for domestic purposes but was levelled roughly with building material and a further crude rammed chalk floor created. A sub-square arrangement of flint nodules set in cob was assembled in the north east corner of the room, its purpose not known.

Three infant burials have been located here. Each was carefully positioned near to and aligned with a wall. Two were within the infill layers and the third was interred under the final floor

Room 6: contains a plain floor of red tesserae laid in two directions using cut up box flue tiles and roof tiles dating to c. AD 250. There are remnants of a skirting board. A rare fireplace is located on the eastern wall (another fireplace was found in Room 2). Examples of this type of room are common in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Room 8: this is probably an ante-room and offers a good example of a beaten/rammed chalk floor. Patches of opus signinum suggest that this room probably had a mosaic pavement. The room has suffered much damage and exhibits a number of plough lines cutting across the floor. In the SW corner of this room is evidence of an earlier chalk floor which incorporated a thin bed of mortar and a layer of flint nodules which probably extends under the whole room.

Room 7: this was a large square room with evidence of earlier activity beneath. It contains the remains of a mosaic with a red and white chequerboard pattern surrounded by a simple white meander with double returns, all inside a red surround and with a skirting board dating c. AD 250. The painted plaster here was quite plain being mainly magnolia and pink.

Room 10: this is probably the largest room in the house with possibly the finest mosaic but it has been almost completely destroyed by ploughing. The remnants of black, white and red borders of the mosaic are made from tiny tesserae and imply a grand figured pavement, dating c. AD 350.

There is evidence of an earlier mosaic lying underneath, dating c. AD 200.

On the eastern edge of this room there is a substantial pit that was re-filled with building material.

Room 9: the easternmost room of the range is at a slightly lower level and was covered by collapsed wall and roof. In the north-east corner of this room is evidence for the base of a staircase to an upper floor.

There are a number of pits in this area, dug well after the end of the Roman occupation when the building had been at least partially abandoned. There is evidence for small-scale ironworking and the deposition of animal remains.

Corridor: along south of the north range is a corridor. It has a porch structure with a doorway (possibly with double doors) that would have led out into the courtyard. The corridor is likely to have been open. Part of a stone pillar, found in Room-1, is a remnant of the pillars that may have lined this space. There is a concentration of roofing material suggesting the porch contained some yellow sandstone roof tiles used for decorative effect.

3.2. East Range

The east range comprises a very large, flint-walled building, measuring 24m long by 11m wide. It has been rebuilt at least twice. This aisled hall is perhaps the most impressive structure on the site, built in the style of a Roman basilica, similar to the nave of a church.

It contains at least eight flint-packed foundation pits (approx 0.5 metres deep) on which stood square stone plinths for massive timber uprights which supported the roof. The one plinth that still remains is unique in that it exhibits a cut measuring a Roman square foot.

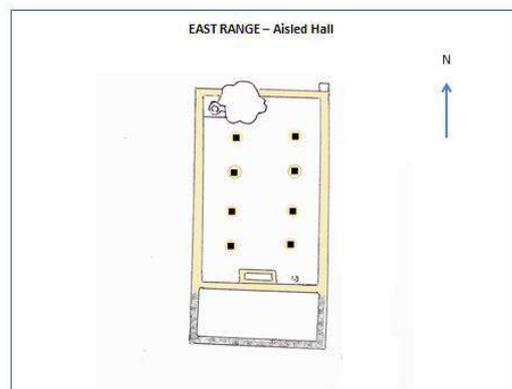


Fig-4: Schematic plan of the East Range.

At the northern end is a rare example of a collapsed gable wall which fell intact – frequently in the past these features were not been recognised and were removed as building debris. A series of putlog holes, filled with fragments of tegulae, show where scaffold timbers were placed to support wooden plank scaffolding. There are also corresponding post holes outside the foundations of the wall where the scaffold was erected.

The roof was a complex structure of limestone tiles and wide bands of rare and expensive Cornish slate that were sourced from Delabole quarry. There were also ceramic tiles running along the ridge.

In the north-west corner a large domestic oven was contemporary with the latter phase of construction.

The internal structures of the building are still being examined, but potential room configurations are being identified. It is likely that the hall was shortened in a second phase rebuild when a substantial east – west wall was inserted three quarters of the way down the building. The south eastern end of the hall has been much damaged by deep ploughing.

Various floor levels have been encountered as well as infill layers. There is an enigmatic tank structure within the building. Its purpose is not known but it was lined with waterproof *opus signinum*, it may have been an internal water feature or it may have had an industrial purpose.

Running centrally the length of the building is a wide deposit of mortar with impressions of imbrex and tegulae. This is from the apex of the roof, and it fell intact and is likely to be from an early phase of the building which was subsequently remodelled.

Several large pits were later cut into and through the northwest corner of the building. Their purpose is not yet understood.

3.3. West Range

The west range comprises four rooms used as workshops. At least two phases of building have been identified to date.

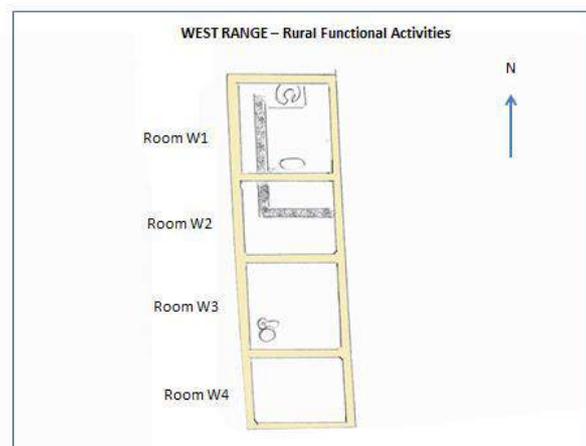


Fig-5: Schematic plan of the West Range.

Room W1: This room contains a very large stone-built oven which was subjected to intensive heat. The structure belongs to the first phase of the building and was covered by a later chalk floor.

Remnants of an iron furnace are evidenced by burning on the floor surface and much iron slag. Nails and iron fittings for the household were fabricated here.

There is also a suggestion that tesserae were made here by cutting up ceramic tiles.

On the eastern wall is evidence for a doorway: ceramic tile fragments were arranged to provide a level surface for a threshold, since removed.

This room contains the remains of two infant burials cut into the floor level.

Room W2: This room is currently being investigated. The flint nodules from the fallen walls and the limestone tiles from the collapsed roof have been removed to expose underlying features.

A north south wall has been uncovered which is from an earlier phase of construction.

Room W3: This room exhibits two intriguing structures, a tiny oven and a structure which possibly was used as a well.

4. Site Characteristics

4.1. Abandonment sequence

Abandonment of the site was a gradual process. It is clear that the buildings continued in use well after the Roman exit in c. 410 AD. But nevertheless it is also evident that this coincided with the loss of certain expertise, as evidenced by the crude repairs to the mosaic in Room N1. There is also extensive evidence of casual occupation of certain rooms such as N3 where there is a crude rammed chalk floor and temporary hearths. In Rooms 9 & 10 there is evidence of pits dug into existing floors, and deposition of animal remains.

4.2. Development Phases

It is becoming clear that several building phases, evidenced by varying wall construction techniques and the relationship of the walls themselves.

4.3. Roofing Material

The main roofing material is Purbeck limestone. These tiles covered all of the buildings. The majority are cut to a lozenge shape, with a nail hole at the top for attachment. Additional shapes are also found for left and right edge tiles and tiles for the top and bottom edges of the roof.

The earlier roofs were covered with ceramic tiles consisting of rectangular tegula and rounded imbrex. Several makers' marks have been noted. There is a very large quantity of mortar which was used to cement the ceramic tiles. Other roofing materials consist of yellow sandstone from south Somerset and grey slate from Delabole in Cornwall which were introduced for decorative effect.

4.4. Painted Plaster

The painted plaster fragments are plain, geometric as well as figured designs. At least ten colours are present including black, shades of green, yellow and red and very rare blue. Many of the colours are garish suggesting colourful room interiors.

4.5. Enclosure Ditches

A complex system of large, deep ditches encloses the villa complex (Fig-1) and extends into the adjacent field. Excavations have confirmed a sequence of cutting, infilling and re-cutting throughout the Roman period.

Many of the most exciting finds come from rubbish deposits thrown into the ditches.

5. Finds

5.1. Prehistoric Activity

Large quantities of flintwork from the Mesolithic, Early and Middle Bronze Age imply a long period of use of the site.

5.2. Roman Period

Many classes of finds have been recorded. The coin evidence supports activity throughout the Roman period. In the first instance the coin assemblage and the pottery will be used to spot-date the time frame.

Pottery: The pottery finds are extensive with locally-made Poole Harbour Black Burnished Ware vessels dominating. Other production sites include the New Forest, Oxfordshire and the Nene Valley. Pottery from Germany, France and Italy has also been recorded. Four spindle whorls (Black Burnished Ware) have been recorded.

Glass: Fragments of both window and vessel glass are present. A very rare piece of 'snake-thread' glass from Cologne implies access to high status goods.

Ironwork: There are very large quantities of ironwork, mostly nails, but a large variety of iron finds are present including household items and tools.

Shale: Fragments of shale are present and include a single spindle whorl fashioned from a lathe core. Part of a bowl made of shale, and a slab of shale, probably unworked, has also been found.

Worked bone: Several hair pins made from animal have been noted. Of particular interest is a recently discovered rare clasp knife with a finely carved bone handle and an iron blade with a bronze fitting.

Metalwork: The metalwork includes copper alloy hair pins, a leather working needle, a silver ring with a (broken) blue glass intaglio, and several decorative fragments of bracelets.

Animal bone: Large quantities of animal bone have been recovered, particularly from ditch infills; most of this was butchered bone from cattle sheep and pigs. Other mammal bones including horse, deer and dog were present.

Fish bone has been recorded as well as other marine resources such as oysters, limpets, cockles and whelks.

Infant Burials: Six infant burials have been recoded, three within room N3, two in room W1 and another in the midden to the east of the eastern enclosure. The location of the burials probably reflects the perceived status of the children.

5.3. Post Roman

Pottery and metalwork dating from the 5th – 7th centuries AD implies occupation long after the conventional end of Roman Britain.

6. Community Activities

From the start a great deal of effort has been spent to share knowledge of this spectacular site (a frequently made description) with the wider community, especially young people representing the future, and with local people who are inevitably intrigued by access to their heritage. Over the past three seasons well over 2000 visitors will have enjoyed a visit to the site, most from Dorset but many from further afield.

6.1. Open Days

Five Open Days have been arranged with the final one scheduled for 5th September 2015. All have been a great success enabling over 1,000 members of the community to learn about this special site

Visits are carefully organised, with guided tours using experienced volunteers that last from 45 – 60 minutes. We have a set of display boards providing detailed explanations of different aspects of the site and a selection of special finds. During the Open Days volunteers also continue working on the site doing tasks to demonstrate normal site activities such as excavating, washing finds and planning.

6.2. Schools Programme

During 2014 and 2015 EDAS has worked with the education officer of Dorset County Museum to offer schools the opportunity to visit the site. Over 250 children accompanied by 50 supporting adults have taken advantage of this opportunity. A special programme was devised including an introductory talk, a guided tour of the excavations, a chance to examine some of the recent artefacts, and an opportunity to undertake practical activities including finds washing and trowelling in newly-opened

trenches. The following schools took advantage of this unique opportunity; Poole High School, St Mary's School Yetminster, the Swanage School, Poole Grammar School, Thomas Hardy School, Bryanston School, Gryphon School Sherborne, Yeovil Park School, St. Mary's Primary Swanage, Piddle Valley Primary and home education groups from Beaminster and Weymouth.

In addition members of the Dorset County Museum branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) attended a 3-day field school in 2015.

All the children were very enthusiastic and enjoyed the experience. The teachers were delighted that EDAS has been able to offer this unique opportunity for pupils to visit a real archaeology site and experience practical archaeology.

6.3. Student Placements

A number of students have taken the opportunity to work on the site. They range from GCSE students, university archaeology students and two post graduates undertaking PhD research.

6.4. Site Visits

A number of community groups and societies have taken advantage of special visits, each party ranging in size from 20 to 71 people, some have made annual visits, and they include:

- Bournemouth and Beyond
- Briantspuddle Community Group
- Broadmayne History Group
- Cerne Abbas Historical Society
- Dorchester U3A
- Dorset Diggers
- Dorset Family History Society
- Dorset Natural History and Archaeology Society
- East Dorset Antiquarian Society
- Puddletown Society
- Shaftesbury Archaeology Society
- Somerset and Camerton Archaeology Society
- Wareham & District Archaeology & Local History Society
- Warminster U3A Group
- Whitehorse Archaeology Group
- Wool Library Group

There will also be visits by members of the Association for Roman Archaeology and members of the Council for Independent Archaeology.

The site has also been visited by groups of students from Bournemouth University and a succession of professional and amateur archaeologists with an interest in Roman sites and Dorset Archaeology.

6.5. Group Presentations

For the last three years, Site Director Lilian Ladle has presented an illustrated lecture about this important site to a number of groups and communities in Dorset and beyond. This will continue for some time.

6.6. Television Broadcasts

Steve Humphries of BBC South Today made a live broadcast from the site on 16th September 2014 and returned to make a follow-up recording on 10th August 2015. BBC Solent radio featured the site on 17th August.

7. Publication Plan

A series of interim excavation reports has been submitted and published in the annual Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society from 2012-2014. A further report covering the 2014 findings was submitted for the 2015 edition.

Mr Bryn Walters (Director of the ARA) and Mr Luigi Thompson spent some time on the site. Mr Thompson took a comprehensive series of overhead pictures creating a photo-mosaic from which he painted the mosaic. Mr Anthony Beeson has professionally recorded the mosaic pavements. Details of the excavation were published in the journal of the Association for Roman Archaeology. The mosaic will be included in the corpus of Roman Mosaics.

Short reports have been included in the monthly EDAS Newsletter and for the CBA Wessex Newsletter.

Preliminary discussions have been held with DNHAS for the site to be published in the monograph series.

8. Future work

In the immediate future, the trenches will be back-filled. Advice has been taken on how to cover the mosaics and walls to provide optimum protection.

In the late autumn a detailed assessment will be completed of all the material that requires further study by archaeological experts. This will enable completion of the financial plan and commencement of the fund raising programme.

9. Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the land owners Mr and Mrs Ridout for unlimited access to the site, for the use of an ancient Land Rover for transportation to and from the site, and for storage facilities.

We also thank Mr Bernard Cox the tenant farmer who helped in 2012 -2013 to clear top soil from the trenches and who managed to cultivate round the excavation, and the enthusiastic support of Mr Rupert Edwards the Land Agent.

We thank EDAS committee member Robert Heaton for bringing his venerable JCB machine on site and using it to open new trenches and move substantial spoil heaps.

The work was undertaken by a core team of volunteers comprising mainly EDAS members and friends from various other societies, under the direction of Lilian Ladle MBE. Sue Cullinane instigated the school's education programme.

A number of experts have visited the site and all have been willing to offer their encouragement and advice and have been enthusiastic in their support of the approach taken and the manner the work has been undertaken, these include:

Prof Sir Barry Cunliffe
Mr Bryn Walters (ARA)
Mr Luigi Thompson (ARA)
Mr Anthony Beeson (ARA)
Mr Grahame Soffe (ARA)
Prof. Tony King (University of Winchester)
Dr Miles Russell (Bournemouth University)
Mr Paul Cheetham (Bournemouth University)
Dr Clare Randall
Dr Malcolm Lyne
Dr Martin Papworth (National Trust)
Ms Nancy Grace (National Trust)
Mr Mark Corney
Dr Stephen Cosh
Dr David Neal
Mrs Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen
Wendy Carruthers
Steven Wallis

Appendix-1: Images from the site



Image-1: The first trenches 2012.



Image-2: Magnetometry survey undertaken by Dave Stewart 2012



Image-3: Janet and Lilian explain everything to Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe in 2014



Image-4: Mrs Ann Ridout receiving copy of Luigi Thomson's painting of the mosaic, from John Bithell representing ARA.



Image-5: Aerial view of site taken by drone, in 2014.
Courtesy David Brown.



Image-6: North Range in 2015



Image-7: Mosaic pavement in Room N1



Image-8: Ashlar quoin at corner of two walls defining early building phase of Room N3. Under fine herringbone wall



Image-9: Complex structure of Room N3, with raised floor that has collapsed and early phases of walls built on chalk bedrock.



Image-10: Room N4, a fireplace of the east wall, with fragments of a fillet and a mosaic of red ceramic tesserae.



Image-11: Room N10 with a late well cut elongated pit, and deep post hole, which was subsequently re-filled with building material. No other finds.



Image-12: The Corridor, with doorway into the north range with rammed chalk floor, a large fragment of a potential pillar and evidence of a collapsed roof with decorative yellow sandstone roof tiles.



Image-13: East Range – the aisled hall in 2015.



Image-14: a stone plinth sitting on a flint foundation. Behind is a collapsed gable wall, with aligned flints and putlogs.



Image-15: East Range – a large domestic oven.



Image-16: East Range - a chalk floor abuts a flint foundation pit, and a waterproof tank lined with opus signinum, of unknown purpose.



Image-17: East Range – the collapsed wall overlays a layer of slate roof tiles fallen onto an internal wall of flints set in chalk cob.



Image-18: West Range of workshops in 2015.



Image-19: In Room W1 a large carefully constructed industrial oven. Use not known.



Image-20: In Room W1 tile fragments for levelling under threshold of doorway. To right cut for infant burial.



Image-21: In Room W4 an oval shaped stone feature, possibly a well and small oven to left.



Image-22: Deep 1.5m section of enclosure ditch outside West Range.



Image-23: trowelling in a real trench.



Image-24: School Programme – Finds washing with real artefacts.



Image-25: " Hey Bryan I've found a pottery sherd!"



Image-26 Members of Dorchester YAC receive attainment certificates after field course. With Sue and Bryan.



Image-27: Elouise Christie on Student Placement.



Image-28: Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen looking for treasure.



Image-29: Len explains everything to the nation on BBC South Today.



Image-30: Martin Green demonstrates practical archaeology techniques to Robert.



Image-31: Lilian, Janet and Carole - they who must be obeyed.



Image-32: Mathew proves style is not absent on site.



Image-33: Vanessa, Andrew and Geoff start post-ex classification of the iron artefacts.



Image-34: Open Day in full swing in 2014



Image-35: The sun doesn't always shine but it didn't deter the visitors, CBA Open Day in 2014.



Image-36: Ian dealing with some inquisitive visitors in 2015.



Image-37: Meticulous work drawing the site plan.



Image-38: EDAS member Finn Stileman, our youngest field archaeologist.



Image-39: Robert and Edie (the JCB) the hardest worker on site.



Image-40: Examples of painted plaster.



Image-41: Bronze leather-working needle from the fill of the western ditch



Image-42: Snake beaded glass from Rhineland.



Image-43: Youthful sculpture or ritual offering in Room N3. (Note the Mick Jagger lips)



Image-44: Infant burial in Room N3.



Image-45: small sample of mammal and amphibian bones from owl pellets Room N1.



Image-46: Pestle possibly made of Purbeck Marble from aisled hall pit.



Image-47: Rare Roman folding knife, with iron blade and clasp in the form of a lion-headed table leg

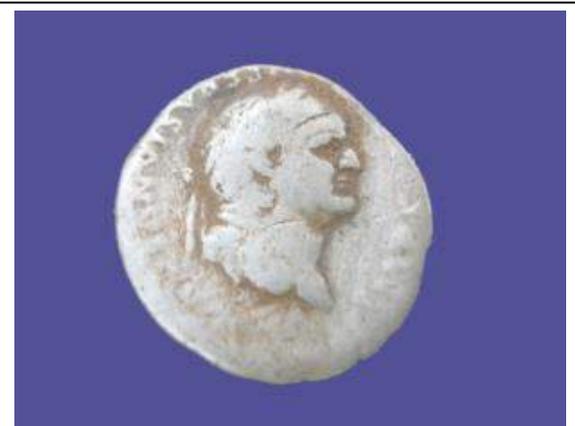


Image-48: Silver denarius of Vespasian (78 AD), the earliest dated Roman coin on site. (Metal-detected find).