

Chapter 1 Introduction

by Ben M Ford

THE PROJECTS

General introduction to the projects

This book and its accompanying CD-Rom present the results of two adjacent, large-scale, archaeological projects that took place sequentially between 2002 and 2007 within the north-west corner of the historic core of the city of Winchester in Hampshire, central Southern England (Fig. 1.1).

The archaeological works were conducted in response to two separate, unrelated but neighbouring developments. Archaeological works on the site of Northgate House (the former SCATS office), on the west side of the north end of Staple Gardens were conducted between 2002 and May 2005 in advance of the construction of new residential and retail units for Keyhaven Land (Winchester) Holdings Ltd and Laing Homes. Subsequently, excavations and building recording works were carried out between 2005 and 2007 on the opposite side of Staple Gardens at the site of Winchester Lending Library on Jewry Street, where Hampshire County Council proposed a new Cultural Discovery Centre (as it was called at the time but now commonly known, and henceforth referred to, as the Discovery Centre).

The fieldwork, post-excavation and publication were funded principally by Keyhaven Land (Winchester) Holdings Ltd and Hampshire County Council, with a minor contribution from Laing Homes Ltd. Additional financial assistance was provided by English Heritage to complete the research-driven aspects of the scientific dating programme. As the archaeological consultant for the Northgate House site, Gifford were engaged by Hampshire County Council to oversee the programme of post-excavation work that led to this publication.

The archives

Both the Northgate House and the Discovery Centre sites have separate fully integrated written, drawn, photographic, artefactual and ecofactual archives, which will be held by the Winchester Museums Service under Accession Codes; WINCM: AY93 for Northgate House, and WINCM: AY220 for the Discovery Centre. The archives will also contain all the documents presented on the CD-Rom (listed in the contents and discussed below).

For the purposes of the analysis, presentation and discussion in this book the two separate archive

data sets were studied as a single comprehensive and integrated archive. To enable the reader to distinguish between the two sites the prefix NH is retained throughout for data from Northgate House and the prefix CC for data from the Discovery Centre.

The structure of the report

The two excavations generated very large datasets of written, drawn and digital records, along with substantial amounts of artefactual and environmental material relating to the pre-Roman, Roman, Saxon, Anglo-Norman, medieval, post-medieval, and modern periods of activity at the sites. For publication, it was decided to present this information using a combination of printed and digital formats.

This printed volume contains an introductory background to the projects, the archaeological description and analysis by period and phase, summaries of all the specialist contributions, and a discussion of the results.

Chapter 1 establishes the background and location of the projects. The geology and topography section positions the sites within the landscape, and the historical and archaeological summaries provide the context, as it is currently understood, for human activity in the locality through time. The background to the projects gives a summary of the nature of the development and the archaeological response. Chapter 1 also summarises the research aims that guided the analysis. The last section outlines the approach to dating and phasing that was taken during analysis, and presents short written summaries of the project phases supported by simplified illustrations for each phase, and a land-use diagram.

Chapters 2, 3 and 4 contain descriptions of the phases of the archaeological sequence by period. The prehistoric and Roman periods are covered in Chapter 2, the late Saxon period in Chapter 3, and the Anglo-Norman and later medieval periods in Chapter 4. The descriptions are enhanced by reference to pertinent finds and environmental information and are supported by detailed illustrations. Chapter 5 summarises and discusses the results from each period incorporating stratigraphic, documentary, scientific dating, artefactual and ecofactual evidence to explore a number of themes. Chapter 6 presents the results of the archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon dating programmes and the

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Fig. 1.1 Location of Northgate House and Winchester Discovery Centre sites

report on the Bayesian statistical model developed for the site. Shortened versions of the specialist artefactual and environmental reports appear in Chapters 7 and 8, together with full finds illustrations and a selection of the most significant tables.

The CD-Rom accompanying this volume contains a number of documents relating to the projects; these are arranged as follows:

- Part 1: contains a description of the mitigation methodologies for both Northgate House and the Winchester Discovery Centre, along with the pre-analysis post-excavation Assessment Reports (Teague and Ford 2006, and Teague 2006 respectively) and the Revised Research Design (OA 2007a) that formed the basis for the analysis in this volume.
- Part 2: presents digital copies of the client reports for two Building Recording Projects that were undertaken as a result of the construction of the Discovery Centre. The first covers the WWII shelters (OA 2006) below the carpark of the former Winchester Library and the second covers the former Winchester Library structure itself (OA 2007b).
- Part 3: contains each specialist analysis report in full (referenced to in the print text as *Digital Sections 1 to 19*), including methodologies, catalogues, tables, diagrams, plates and figures. See contents list for details.
- Part 4: is a Photographic Gallery that contains additional selected images of the works.

LOCATION

The Northgate House development site is centred on NGR SU 479 297 and covers an area of 4562 m² (Fig. 1.2), within which 1821 m² was archaeologically investigated. It is bounded on its western upslope side by retaining walls that define the backs of a number of properties that front onto the northern end of Tower Street and on its eastern downslope side by Staple Gardens. The northern boundary of the development site is partly defined by the crooked corner of Tower Street to the north-west, and to the north-east by the southern boundary of Nos 21/22 Staple Gardens and by Northgate Place at the corner of Tower Street and Staple Gardens. The southern boundary of the site is defined by Staple Chambers, a 1960s office block. Immediately prior to the archaeological works the site had been occupied by three derelict buildings: Northgate House, a large 1960s office block set in the middle of the plot, No. 19 Staple Gardens, a late Victorian detached property to its south, and Documentation House, a smaller 1960s office block to its north. All three were set back from Staple Gardens and separated by gardens, carparking areas and access roads. The western end of each building had been slightly terraced into the ground and the eastern ends slightly raised on their

foundations to allow for the extant north-east facing slope of the site, which falls from 54.4 m aOD along its western side down to Staple Gardens which slopes down northwards from 51.5 m to 50.3 m aOD.

The Winchester Discovery Centre site is centred on NGR SU 480 297 and measured 3695 m² (Fig 1.2) within which an area of 976 m² was archaeologically investigated. This site is bounded to the west by a long, tall wall that retains Staple Gardens, to the east by Jewry Street, to the north by Tower Street, and to the south by the neighbouring properties of Nos 19–20A Jewry Street (excavated by Wessex Archaeology in 2006) and the Night Shelter on Staple Gardens. The entire site is defined by the curtilage of the former Library, which fronts onto Jewry Street, and is a listed Grade II* building reflecting its architectural history as the former Corn Exchange and Market House designed by local architect Owen Browne Carter in 1836 and completed in 1838 in the Classical style (Freeman 1991, 3–4). Immediately prior to redevelopment the Library was surrounded by a tarmac surfaced carparking area, with a public convenience in the north-east corner, an electricity sub-station in the north-west corner and a small derelict retail kiosk on the Jewry Street frontage in the south-east corner.

The site had a gentle downwards slope to the east and north-east. From a high point in the south-west corner at 49.4 m aOD it slopes down to Jewry Street, which is relatively level, at 46.6 m aOD, as it passes the front of the Library, and down to 48.7 m aOD in its north-west corner. Below the surface of the carpark were two large Second World War air-raid shelter complexes, which consisted of interconnected lengths of ‘corridors’ arranged in a rectilinear format to fit the available space. The site had evidently been terraced, to varying degrees, into the hillside along the full length of its western side and most of its northern side. This probably occurred during the construction of the Corn Exchange. The design of the Corn Exchange takes account of the resultant slope, with its internal floor broadly level with the external ground level to its west but with the main eastern entrance to this level reached by a set of grand steps from Jewry Street. An indication of the former topography and depth of deposits that had been removed to create the terrace can be gained from the slope of Staple Gardens and the downward west to east slope of Tower Street from its junction with Staple Gardens. This can be seen in the different construction materials used in the retaining wall to the west of the site that separates it from Staple Gardens, and is represented as the interface between the lower stone and flint, retaining, element of the wall with dressed flint panels and brickwork of the upper wall element. It is possible that the stonework in the lower element was derived from buildings that had existed on the site prior to the construction of the Corn Exchange.

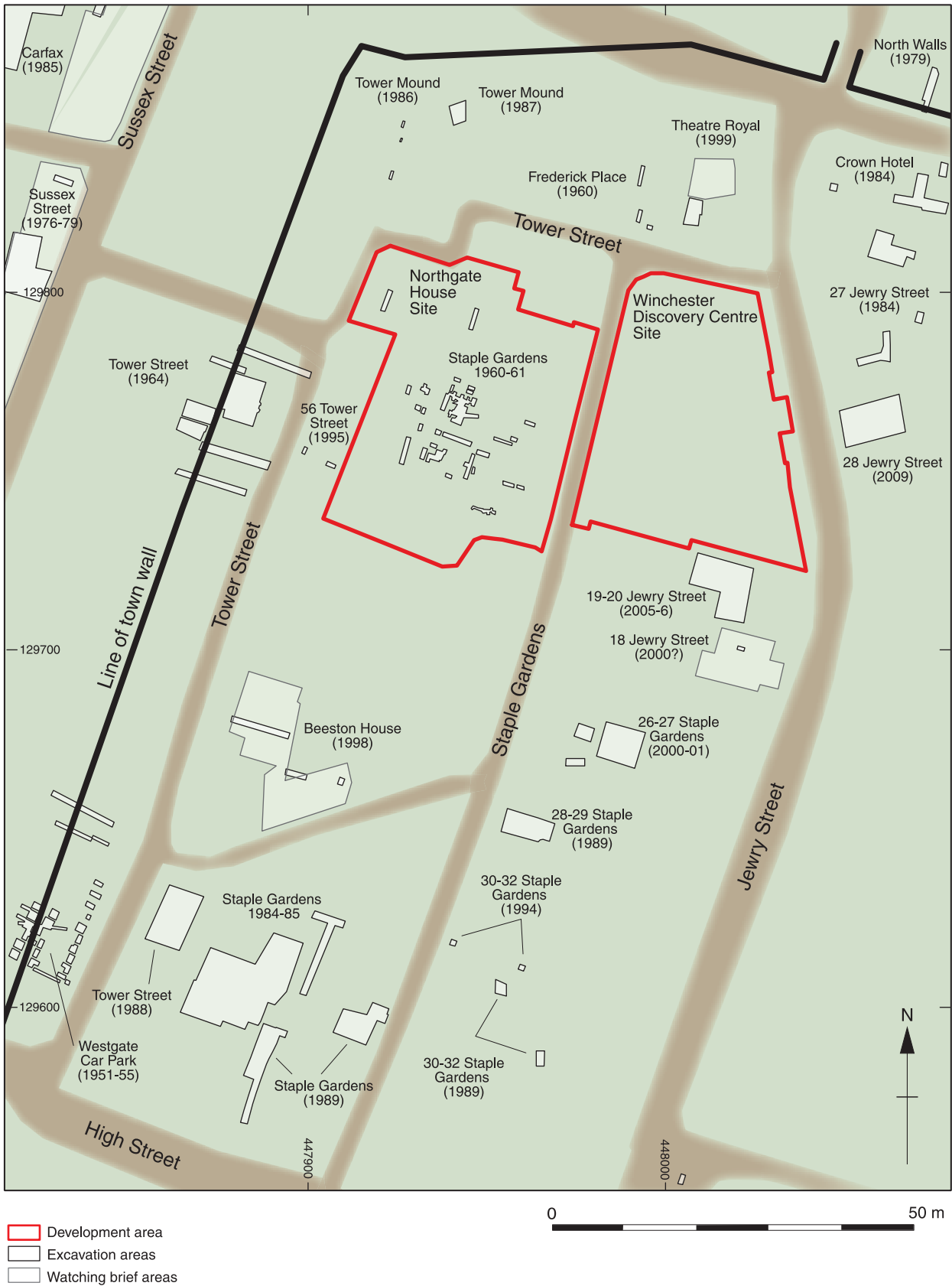


Fig. 1.2 Location of the Northgate House and Winchester Discovery Centre development sites and other previously excavated sites in the north-west corner of Winchester

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The City of Winchester sits at the western end of the South Downs, a linear band of chalk downland that extends eastwards through Hampshire and Sussex to Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters on the south coast (Fig. 1.1). This distinctive downland landscape has been formed over millions of years. The Upper Chalk bedrock that was laid down in the seabeds of the Cretaceous Epoch was subsequently folded and pushed upwards creating an incline (known locally as the 'Winchester incline') that is clearly seen in the slanting strata exposed by the Twyford Down cutting for the M3 motorway to the south-east of the city. The upper part of this incline was severely eroded by the actions of advancing and retreating ice sheets during the Pleistocene glaciations, during which time deposits of Clay-with-Flints and Sarsen stones were probably deposited. When the last Ice Age came to an end, a process that took place between 10–20,000 years ago, the retreating glaciers created huge flows of melt-water which carved their way through the area changing the landscape, shaping the hills and valleys, and depositing coarse gravel beds in the valley floors. During the Holocene these flows diminished and were transformed into slower-flowing rivers that laid down finer gravels, sands and silts within the valleys, and it was within these deposits that the rivers of the area, including the River Itchen, settled to meander and seasonally flood, as they do to this day. The geology of the area has been

mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS, Sheet E299).

The resultant local landscape, therefore, is one of undulating hills broken by river valleys, sometimes with steep sides, which are characteristically drained by rivers running from the north-east to the south-west. The rivers themselves are fed by rainfall runoff from the hillsides forming a series of streams that gather in size until reaching the valley floor and the Itchen itself. These would have flowed along smaller gullies and undulations, between which were spurs of higher ground, giving a corrugated rolling effect to the appearance of the hillsides. Winchester itself nestles on the gentle south-east lower slopes at the eastern end of such a spur, known today as St Paul's Hill and West Hill. This promontory in combination with the similar but more dominant St Giles Hill opposite creates a narrowing in the Itchen Valley (Figs 1.1 and 1.3 and Plate 1.1). Within the valley floor at this location there is evidence for at least one large island (Zant 1993, fig. 4) formed of calcareous *tufa* deposits.

The detailed underlying topography of the historic city has been masked by over 2000 years of human occupation, but the general picture is still visible in the townscape today, as the view from St Giles Hill over the city shows (Plate 1.2). The historic city is split into two distinct topographic zones, its western half lying on the broadly east-facing slopes of St Paul's Hill, and its eastern half covering the valley floor of the River Itchen (Fig. 1.3). Over the last 2000 years the valley floor has been reclaimed and raised and the various channels of the Itchen have



Plate 1.1 View over the Itchen Valley and Winchester looking northwards from St Catherine's Hill



Plate 1.2 View over Winchester looking westwards from St Giles Hill

been canalised and diverted, effectively pushing the main course of the river towards the eastern side of the valley. Here, City Bridge leads westwards over the Itchen into the eastern side of the historic city centre and onto the flat expanse of Broadway that leads onto the narrower High Street that travels upslope to the still extant medieval West Gate. These two streets form the city's principal east to west thoroughfare, to both sides of which north-south side lanes and streets can be found. On the valley floor these side streets are level with the Broadway but as the High Street rises it appears that the side streets are set closer together and run along the downhill edges of a series of terraces that accentuate the alignment of the hillside contours. Towards the western end of the High Street, on its north side, the final three side streets run across to the north-west corner of the city where the excavations were located. Jewry Street is the lowest, easterly and largest of these, and forms the principal north-south thoroughfare leading northwards out of the city, with the more minor Staple Gardens and Tower Street running parallel to it, each respectively further upslope (Fig. 1.2). Smaller lanes, such as the east-west section at the end of Tower Street, along with passageways and sets of steps connect these side streets together, and from these the jigsaw of the terraced building plots that front onto them can be glimpsed.

The topographic position of the modern city of Winchester and its surroundings has been favourable for access to a good variety of natural

resources relating to the geology and habitats provided by hill and river valley. Its situation, at the narrowing of the valley where the river is divided by islands, provides an advantageous and relatively easy crossing point over the Itchen for east-west inland routes and forms a natural crossroads with routes heading northwards from the south coast. As such, it became a focus for human activity and settlement from small-scale beginnings in the late Bronze Age to the modern city of the early 21st century. This situation and its obvious advantages to human activity have been discussed in previous publications (Zant 1993, 3; Scobie 1995, 4).

THE HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

Background

Over the past 60 years Winchester and its environs have been the subjects of extensive research, into the exceptional surviving documentary evidence, the standing historic buildings and the below-ground archaeological remains. Archaeological work up to the early 1980s has been reviewed by Martin Biddle (1983). This included the rescue work led by Frank Cottrill from 1949–1960, the ambitious research-led urban archaeological projects of the Winchester Excavations Committee and the Winchester Research Unit during the 1960s, which examined 2% of the city's walled area, and the subsequent rescue work of



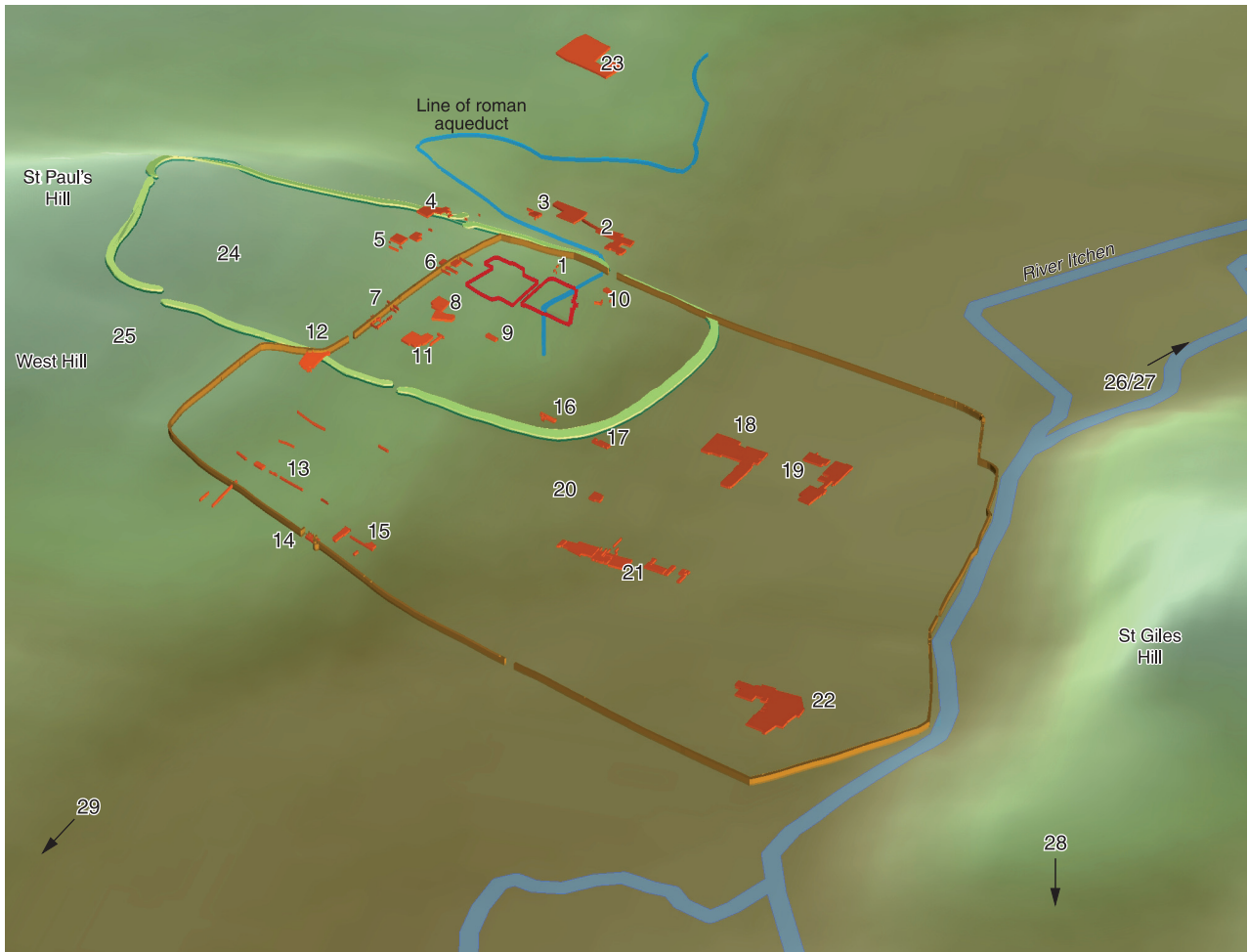
the Research Unit and the City Museums from 1972, which was mainly focused on the suburbs. In the late 1980s large-scale urban excavations conducted by the Museums Service took place in advance of the construction of The Brooks Shopping Centre.

Since 1990 much archaeological work has been undertaken as part of the local planning process, which has required that new developments take account of the potential archaeological remains that they could potentially destroy, with preservation *in situ* required as a priority, and where this is not possible preservation by excavation and record, supported by the developer. This meant, as with all the previous opportunistic 'rescue type work', that the location and scale of excavations depended on the location and size of new developments rather than sites being targeted specifically for research led excavation. It was also the start of excavation in the town by external archaeological contractors. The documentary resources relating to the settlement, its buildings and topography, trade, and its inhabitants have been comprehensively studied by Derek Keene (1985) and Alexandra Rumble (2003), and the extent of the archaeological research and excavation at Winchester has meant that we now have a considerable body of knowledge relating to the character, date and extent of human activity in the area. As Martin Biddle (1983) has commented, 'It is precisely the long continuation of work in Winchester which is yielding results that are more than superficial sketches of the city's development and changing character'.

The historical and archaeological background relevant to the present excavations is summarised below. The positions of the many archaeological excavations in the north-west corner of the historic core are shown on Figure 1.2, while Figure 1.3 shows the location of many of the other significant sites within the city and its immediate environs. These sites are referred to throughout this volume. Graham Scobie has produced a series of plans that show the current understanding of settlement development from the Iron Age to the medieval period (reproduced in Fig. 1.4). The sequence of landownership in the north-west corner of the city, as derived from the studies of medieval documents by Martin Biddle (1976) and Derek Keene (1985), is shown on Figure 1.5, while Figure 1.6 continues this sequence from the early post-medieval to the modern periods in the form of maps and views. Figure 1.7 establishes the correlation between the modern and medieval street names that will be used throughout this volume.

The pre-Roman period

The area occupied by the modern city of Winchester appears not to have been the focus of intensive activity during the earlier prehistoric period, but the higher downland surrounding the city was occupied from the early Neolithic period onwards. At Winnall Down, on the east side of the River Itchen, an interrupted ring ditch (pit circle) produced Plain Bowl pottery and 4th millennium radiocarbon dates (Fasham 1982). Activity continued during the

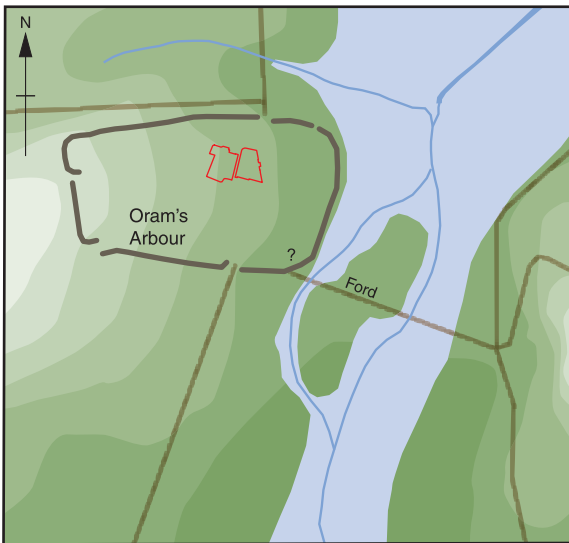


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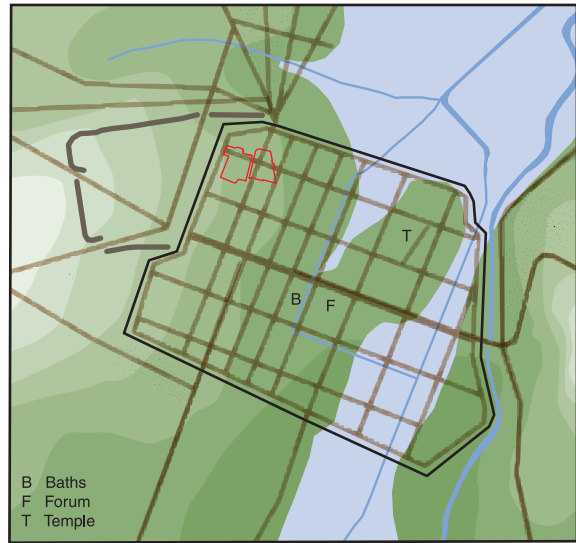
1	Frederick Place	15	Henly's Garage
2	Victoria Road	16	St George's Street
3	Eagle Hotel, Swan Lane	17	Mason's Hall, 2 Parchment Street
4	Carfax	18	The Brooks
5	Sussex Street	19	Lower Brook Street
6	Tower Street 1964	20	The Square
7	Westgate Car Park	21	Cathedral Green
8	Beeston House	22	Wolvesey Palace
9	28-29 Staple Gardens	23	Lankhills
10	27 Jewry Street	24	Oram's Arbour 2001-02
11	Staple Gardens 1984-85	25	Mews Lane
12	Castle Yard	26	Winnall II cemetery
13	Lower Barracks	27	Winnall Down/Easton Lane
14	Southgate	28	St Catherine's Hill

Fig. 1.3 Topography of Winchester showing the Iron Age enclosure and the Roman and medieval defensive circuits with the locations of Northgate House and Winchester Discovery Centre sites and other excavations referred to in the text (site locations after WCC UAD)

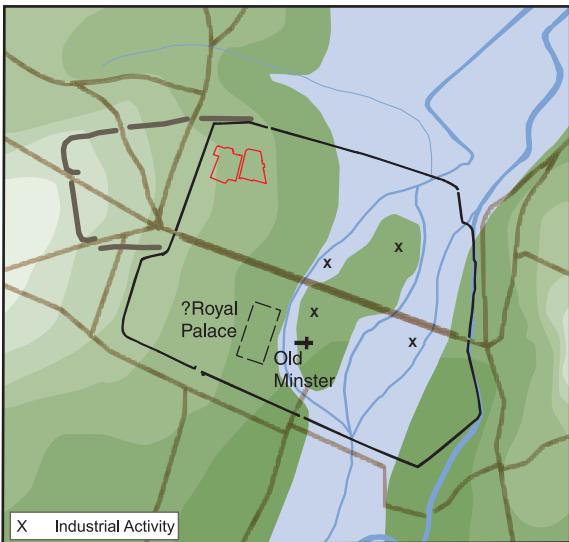
Fig. 1.4 (opposite page) The development of Winchester (after Scobie, G, Winchester Museums Service)



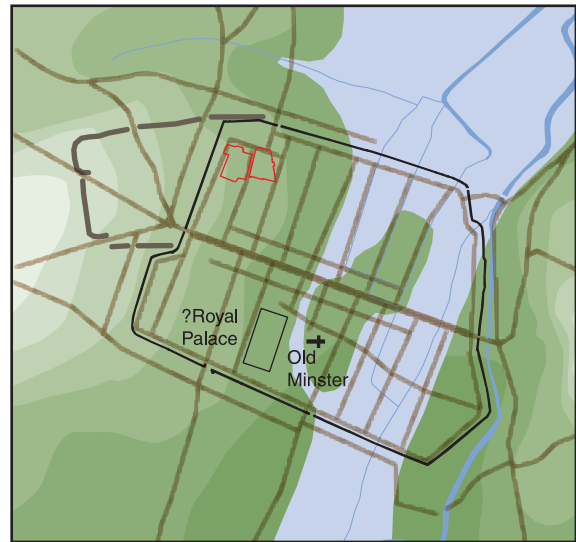
a. The Iron Age enclosure at Oram's Arbour



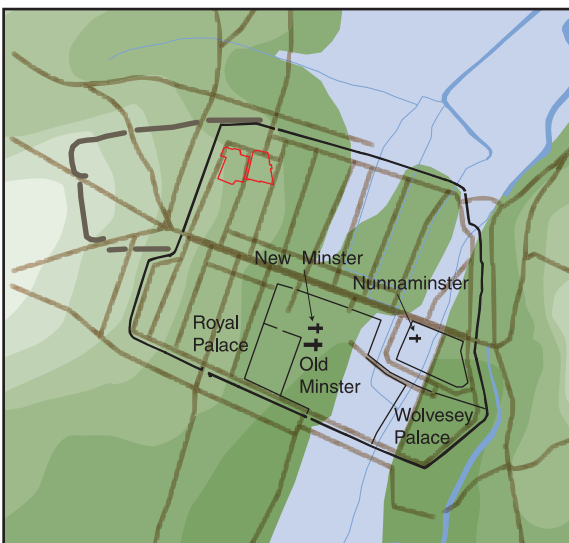
b. The streets and defences of Roman *Venta Belgarum*



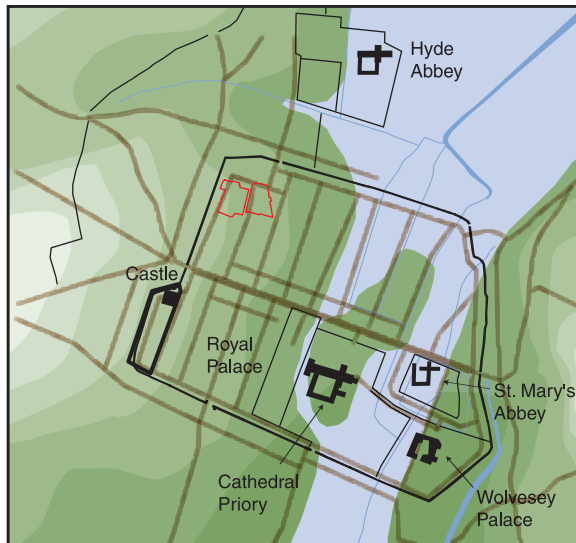
c. Mid 7th - Late 9th century Winchester



d. Mid - Late 9th century Winchester



e. Late 10th century Winchester



f. Medieval Winchester

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middle and late Bronze Age at Winnall Down and at nearby Easton Lane, as attested by farming settlement features and Deverel-Rimbury ceramics (Fasham 1985; Fasham *et al.* 1989). Located both to the west of Winchester, at West Hill, and to the south at Twyford Down, were the remains of Bronze Age settlements and associated burials (James 1997; Stuart and Birkbeck 1936; Walker and Farwell 2000).

Closer to the site of the present excavations, a Bronze Age Beaker was found some 0.5 km away at Mew's Lane and scattered finds of later Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint and pottery have been recorded elsewhere within the city limits (James 1997). Possible post-Deverel-Rimbury sherds from the Westgate Car Park site (Collis 1978, 200) and a late Bronze Age cremation vessel found in Tower Street (Biddle 1965, pl. 48, feature 71) attest to some level of activity during this period, but no structural evidence indicating sustained settlement before *c.* 800 BC has been noted in the vicinity of the site. It may be, however, that the lack of recorded earlier prehistoric settlements is a product of the pattern of archaeological investigation rather than a reflection of their genuine absence.

The earliest recognised evidence for settlement and organised farming within the modern city dates to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age transition (*c.* 800–600 BC). Distinctive 8th- to 6th-century pottery was found associated with a hearth excavated close to the present site at George Street (Cunliffe 1964, fig. 12, nos 1 and 2). Slightly later in date were field systems, stock pens, four-post structures and pits representing settlement and mixed agricultural activity, located mostly on the chalk to the west of the present site, including on the eastern slope of St Paul's Hill (Qualmann *et al.* 2004; WUAD No. 1370). The early Iron Age settlement can be put in the context of broadly contemporary sites on higher ground east of the Itchen, including an enclosed settlement at Winnall Down (Fasham 1985) and an unenclosed settlement at St. Catherine's Hill dating from *c.* 600 BC (Hawkes *et al.* 1930).

At the current site a settlement with post-built roundhouses, dated to the early Iron Age on ceramic and stratigraphic evidence, was succeeded by a well-dated middle Iron Age settlement, elements of which were also discovered during excavations in the 1960s (Cunliffe 1964). During this time St Catherine's Hill was enclosed by imposing earthworks and the unenclosed settlement on St Paul's Hill underwent a similarly dramatic change with the construction of a bank and ditch enclosing an area of 20 ha, now known as Oram's Arbour (Fig. 1.4a). The line of the defensive circuit has been identified on three sides, along with the positions of western, northern and southern entrances. The eastern side of the enclosure was probably represented by the natural break of slope at the edge of the floodplain (Qualmann 1993, 75), and formalised defences have not yet been discovered—the marshy conditions perhaps rendered these unnecessary. The floodplain was apparently uninhabited during the Iron Age

(Zant 1993) and, although evidence for occupation within Oram's Arbour has been recovered at numerous sites (Qualmann *et al.* 2004; see Chapters 2 and 5, Fig. 5.2), the pattern of internal organisation and the precise function of the enclosure have remained elusive. On topographic grounds it could have been designed to control a pre-existing, possibly very ancient, network of trade routes that exploited a ford across the Itchen (Qualmann *et al.*, 2004). Its construction pre-dated the late Iron Age period generally accepted for the emergence of *oppida*, which developed in the wake of pre-conquest Roman trading influence, and its floruit ended during the closing decades of the late Iron Age (Zant 1993, Qualmann 1993), perhaps in response to the ascent of the more conventional *oppidum* of Calleva at Silchester.

The Roman period

The site of the Iron Age Oram's Arbour enclosure was chosen by the Romans to establish the settlement of *Venta Belgarum* (Fig. 1.4b). The settlement was defined by an initial phase of earthen rampart construction, which was erected in the early Flavian period, *c.* AD 75 (Biddle 1975a, 110), and may point to the town's status as a *municipium* (Wilson 2006, 30). The site's topographic situation clearly affected the positioning of the new defences, as did the extant remains of the northern earthworks of the Iron Age enclosure, which were in part incorporated into the north-west Roman defences thus maintaining the site's east-west and north-south axis. Notably, the position of the northern entrance remained in the same location as its Iron Age precursor, and a stretch of the northern defensive ditch was recut (Qualmann *et al.* 2004), with the corresponding ramparts probably enhanced. The principal changes were to the southern and western ramparts. The southern rampart was constructed *c.* 300 m to the south of the Oram's Arbour earthwork, and the western rampart was sited further down the east facing slopes of St Paul's Hill. This position may have been chosen due to an advantageous break of slope or terrace in the hillside (Qualmann 1993, fig. 4) but it also appears to coincide with the point where the chalk bedrock starts to be overlain by Clay-with-Flint deposits. The river was canalised to the eastern side of the valley floor in the Flavian or Trajanic period, allowing the Romans to overcome the topographic restrictions of the valley floor and reclaim and extend eastwards significantly beyond the higher ground offered by the islands that had thus far been utilised (Wacher 1995, 293; Zant 1993, 50–2). The town was fully enclosed when the earth ramparts were enlarged in the late 2nd century (Qualmann 1993, 73).

The rectilinear pattern of street and *insula* is ubiquitous throughout the Roman Empire; street grids are known at Trier (Germany), Arles (Gaul), Timgad (North Africa), and Silchester (Britain), to name just a few cities (Owens 1992, 121–48). At

Venta Belgarum the grid was influenced by the site topography, and has been relatively accurately predicted by connecting evidence from multiple archaeological observations (WMS, UAD). On the slope of the hillside the north-south streets were orientated with the prevailing contours, and it is notable that these streets were closer together, thus forming smaller insulae, than those in the valley floor. The notable exception to this pattern is the final set of insulae that ran inside the western defences of the town, the northernmost two of which were partially explored by these excavations. On the hillside the pattern may have been established by the end of the 1st century AD (Qualmann 1993, 75), although the principal elements must have been laid down around the same time as the initial earthen defences were being constructed. It is likely that the *insula* and street pattern in the valley floor evolved over a century or so with land reclamation efforts from the late 1st century AD into the late 2nd century (*ibid.*, 76).

Structures in the early Roman town were typically timber-built, but masonry buildings were constructed in time. As expected, the largest public building, the forum basilica (constructed around AD 100), was located in the centre of the town at the modern junction of Middle Brook Street and High Street (Biddle 1964, 203; Biddle and Quirk 1964, 153). A temple was located in the north-east quarter of the town towards Durngate (Biddle 1975b, 298), although more temples undoubtedly existed elsewhere in the town. Few domestic structures are known, but early Roman domestic residences have been excavated inside the south gate (Rees forthcoming) and in The Brooks (Zant 1993, 51). These were replaced in the late Roman period with much more richly-decorated houses, including courtyard houses with painted walls and mosaic flooring (Zant 1993, 83–127). The 2nd and 3rd centuries saw occupation particularly in the eastern and northern suburbs outside the defensive circuit, which was strengthened with a stone wall in the 3rd century (Qualmann 1993, 73). Much of the published evidence for occupation and structural remains comes from excavations in the heart of the settlement, chiefly at The Brooks (Zant 1993), but town-houses are also known from work in the south-east corner of the town at Wolvesey Palace (Biddle 1975b, 321–6), and evidence in the north-west part of the town was recovered from the site of Northgate House in the 1950s and 60s (Cunliffe 1964) and at Frederick Place (Collis 1978). This took the form of timber post-built structures and metalled surfaces with some metalworking activity, and started in the 2nd century, continuing into the later 4th century before being sealed under ‘dark earth’. The extra-mural areas inevitably provided space for burial, and extensive cemeteries developed, especially in the late Roman period. Lankhills is one of Winchester’s best-studied cemeteries (Clarke 1979; Booth *et al.* 2010), but others are known (Browne *et al.* forthcoming).

The post-Roman: early and middle Saxon periods

The period between the detachment of Britain from western Roman Imperial administration in the early 5th century and the establishment of the bishopric at Winchester in the mid 7th century remains obscure, with fragmentary archaeological evidence that is not closely datable. Several phases of metalling postdating the 360s or 370s were identified from the street to the south of the forum (Biddle 1970, 312–3) and a similar sequence was found on the street leading through the South Gate until it was closed at some point before the early 7th century when access was blocked initially by a ditch and later by a wall (Biddle 1975a, 116–8). Two human burials were found in front of this wall, one of which produced radiocarbon dates of 710±70 (HAR-294) and 660±80 (HAR-364). The Roman cemeteries outside and to the south of the East Gate seem to have been in use no later than the end of the 4th or early 5th centuries (Browne *et al.* forthcoming). The cemetery at Lankhills, outside the north gate, also continued in use at least to the end of the 4th century. Despite recent excavation and a suite of radiocarbon dates (Booth *et al.* 2010) the scale and duration of use into the early 5th century remains uncertain, but were perhaps quite limited (*ibid.*). A small quantity of Anglo-Saxon ‘grass-tempered’ pottery has been recovered from ‘dark earth’ deposits and as residual material in later contexts from within the town. On Lower Brook Street about twenty sherds, from at least three carinated bowls of Germanic type, were found in a late Saxon pit. This material has parallels from Feddersen Wierde in Lower Saxony and is datable to AD 400–50 a time associated with population movements connected with settlements in England (Biddle 1972, 101).

Christianity was established in Wessex around 635 with the conversion of King Cynegils of the Gewisse, followed by the establishment of a bishopric at Dorchester-on-Thames (Biddle 1972, 242), and after 662 the establishment of a second (or a replacement) bishopric in Winchester. At this time or possibly earlier, in 648, Cenwalh of Wessex founded a church, the ‘Old Minster’, within the former Roman defences near or on the site of the former Forum. This probably served as a royal chapel, and placed Winchester at the centre of the religious life of the king and the kingdom. There are few documentary references to either the church or Winchester until the 9th century, although two 8th-century kings, Cynewulf and Cuthred, possibly descendants of its founder, were buried there (Yorke 1982, 81).

The archaeological evidence for the middle Saxon period is limited but intriguing given the documentary context (Fig. 1.4c). The site of the 7th-century church was excavated after Quirk (1957) accurately predicted its location to the north of the present Cathedral. At Lower Brook Street a small inhumation cemetery seems to have had Christian characteristics

with graves orientated on an east-west axis. The grave goods are notably similar to those found in the later 7th-century cemetery at Winnall (Biddle 1975b, 305). One individual was buried with an elaborate necklace comprising three gold-and-garnet pendants, two other gold objects, two silver pendants and 27 silver rings, suggesting that this could be the cemetery of a high-status community. The cemetery was overlain by a rare example of a non-monastic masonry building, possibly two storeys in height. A timber annexe was later added which post-dated a timber-lined well, from which a piece of surviving timber gave a radiocarbon date of 710 ± 60 (HAR-288), recalibrated to 700 ± 70 by Ralph-Michael-Han (Biddle 1975b, 310). Evidence for gold working was found within the building and nearby. The building was later incorporated into the nave of St. Mary's Church on Tanner Street (Lower Brook Street) during the 10th century. Given its pre-urban context, and the associated finds, it seems likely to have been associated with high status settlement, possibly a private estate (Biddle 1972, 244). At The Square (Teague 1989b) excavations revealed a sequence of workshops associated with metalworking, the latest of which was associated with a sceat datable to 720–30 (Zant 1990); these underlay deposits representing the earliest laying out of the street immediately south of the High Street, argued to have been in place before 901 (Biddle 1976, 313–5).

The late Saxon period

It is during the period of sustained Viking threat and attacks throughout the mid-late 9th to the early 10th century that a real change is seen in the character of the occupation at Winchester, with the reintroduction of a truly urban form (Figs 1.4d and e). Although it is generally accepted that this process began in the later 9th century, there has been considerable debate about the precise dates of the re-establishment of the defences, the laying out of the rectilinear street system, and the emergence of urban occupation. Winchester was first listed as a defended *burh* in the Burghal Hidage, an administrative document (which exists in a number of different versions) relating to the obligations for the upkeep and defence of a system of fortifications against the Vikings. The document is currently believed to date from the period 914–19, during the reign of Edward the Elder (899–924), but it describes a system that is believed to have been developed by his father, King Alfred the Great. The network of *burhs* therefore may have been largely implemented during the reign of King Alfred (871–899) (Brooks 1964; Biddle 1975b). Of Winchester specifically, Haslam (2004) suggests a much more precise date of May 878 to August 879, although there is no evidence to support this assertion. However, the West Saxon Charters from the reign of Ethelbald (855–60) indicate the first exaction of the duty of fortress construction, army service, and bridge building, and a 10th-century poem records that a bridge was built over the Itchen

immediately outside the West Gate in 859. This could suggest that the earliest elements of the system pre-date Alfred's reign. Indeed, Yorke has proposed that Winchester was provided with defences in 860, as the result of the substantial Viking raid that it suffered (Yorke 1982, 67). Biddle (1983) notes that specific documentary references indicate that the defences could have been in place by 860, and raises the question of a possible direct relationship between the fortification of Winchester and the decline of the nearby mid-Saxon trading settlement of Hamwic, which had been attacked by the Vikings in 840.

Winchester was one of the very largest *burhs*, with 2400 hides assigned for its maintenance and defence. This figure can be equated with the total length of the circuit of the Roman walls and supports the widely accepted view that the Roman defensive circuit had been repaired, rebuilt or redrafted to protect the *burh*.

On Sussex Street, located outside the north-west corner of the city, excavation of material interpreted as upcast from the defensive ditch contained finds broadly dated to the reign of Alfred (Rees *et al.* 2008, 28). James suggests that the establishment of the streets was a secondary activity to the defensive works and the street system may have been established in stages (James 1997, 40–1), although Biddle and Hill, in an influential paper published in 1971, have argued that a grid of streets formed part of the original design of several of the larger *burhs*. Dating evidence from coins, and other finds retrieved from a limited number of locations, such as Castle Yard (Biddle 1975a) and around Gar St (Biddle 1965; Teague 1989a; Whinney 1989, 11) where the earliest street surfaces along with associated deposits have been encountered, indicate that these were definitely in place by *c* 900 and potentially from the mid 9th century. Elements of the street system are respected by the boundary of New Minster, which was founded in 902. Other evidence indicates a date between 880 and 886, or even perhaps in the decades prior to Alfred's reign (Biddle 1983, 119–21).

A mint was operating by about 896, and around this time a royal official, the town reeve, is first recorded. In 901, New Minster was founded by Edward the Elder as a mausoleum for his father. He also founded Nunnaminster and by 1000, after some enlargement, their precincts occupied a quarter of the walled area. By the Norman Conquest Winchester had been a major ecclesiastical centre and mausoleum for the rulers of Wessex and England for nearly 400 years, and as capital of the Old English kingdom it is estimated to have been the fourth wealthiest English town after London, York, and probably Norwich (Biddle 1976, 469; Keene 1985, 88).

Post-Norman Conquest: The Anglo-Norman and medieval periods

Winchester surrendered without a contest in November 1066, and its annexation allowed William

II of Normandy (William the Bastard) to proceed to capture London. On Christmas Day the following month the Conqueror was crowned William I of England, heralding the start of the Anglo-Norman period. From the 1060s until the early 12th century there was massive rebuilding in the ecclesiastical (south-east) quarter of the city, and in the adjacent royal, south-western quarter a palace and a castle was constructed whose earthworks necessitated the closure and destruction of at least two densely occupied streets (Biddle 1976, 470) (Fig. 1.4f). The city was chosen by William I and his immediate successors for crown-wearing ceremonies at major festivals, and the royal treasury was kept there. During this period of royal patronage, the presence of the court, and the administration associated with the treasury, ensured that Winchester remained at the centre of national life.

The success of Winchester's annual St Giles Fair is also seen as a major contributor to the city's continuing economic prosperity during this time. Biddle and Keene estimate the population of Winchester as in excess of 8000 people by 1148, and the inhabited area of the city was probably at its maximum extent (Biddle 1976, 498). The Anarchy during Stephen's reign (1135–54) brought conflict and disruption to the city in 1139–41 when the royal palace was destroyed and areas of the city were devastated and burnt (James 2007, 76). There is, however, little archaeological evidence for these chronicled events, though excavations on the site of St Mary's Abbey revealed fire damage to the south-western part of its cloister (Scobie and Qualmann 1993). It was probably during this period that a significant amount of aristocratic and official wealth was removed from the city, thus marking the start of Winchester's slow decline in status. As a consequence Winchester did not share the later 12th-century growth of other English cities such as Bristol and by the end of that century may have declined in rank to as low as eighth (Keene 1985, 88). After the accession of Henry II in 1154, the city never again seems to have regained its central role in the government of the kingdom, although it continued to be visited by royalty and in the 13th century it appears to have been a favourite place for Henry III, who was born and christened in the city, to spend Christmas.

The project area from medieval documentary sources

As with London, Winchester is not included in the Domesday Book (compiled in Winchester during 1086) and consequently no detailed records exist concerning the immediate economic and social impact that the Conquest had on Winchester. However, properties under royal ownership in Winchester were surveyed for Henry I around 1110 (Survey I), with notable reference made to details of landholding during the time of Edward the Confessor. The whole city was surveyed again for Bishop Henry of Blois in 1148 (Survey II). These two

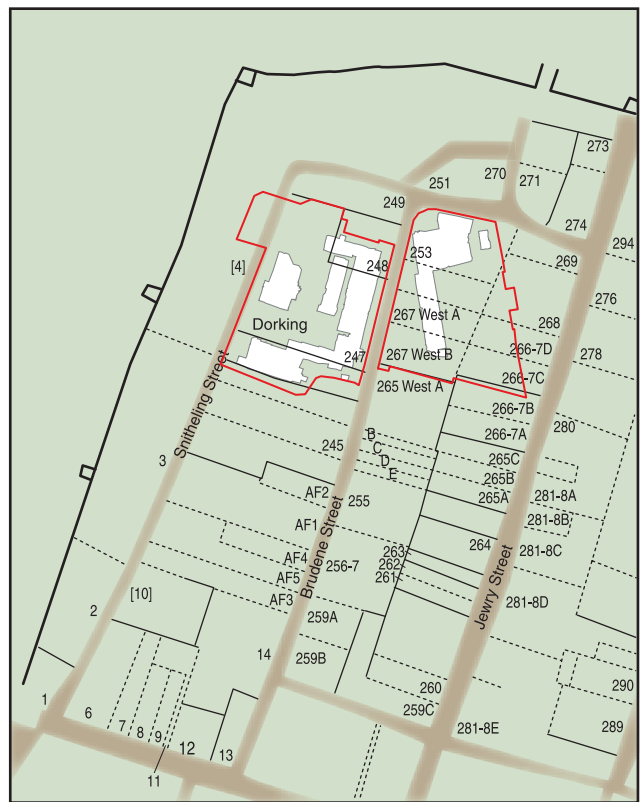
surveys survive in a single manuscript, known as the Winton Domesday, and give us the earliest and most detailed description of an English (or European) town of this time. A full edition, translation, and analyses of the surveys, drawing on the evidence derived from archaeological excavation and historical research in the city, was published in 1976 (Biddle 1976). Although an invaluable resource, the properties/tenants/owners in these surveys are listed simply as a progression along named streets, and it is not always clear from which direction the listing commenced, therefore they can only be reliably located by the street name they were on, and not where upon that street they fell. However, Biddle has produced a schematic plan of the schedules in Survey II, and suggests the direction in which each street was surveyed (Fig. 1.5a). Although the order of the properties is correct, their size, the direction of travel and the position of properties is not accurate for the streets in the north-west corner of the city (*ibid.*, fig. 4 and 244–8).

Properties from the Survey of 1110 will be referenced with the symbol 'I' and those from the 1148 Survey with 'II'; note that a different property numbering system was utilised for each survey study. The historic documents contain a variety of spellings for the street names, and to assist the reader a consistent terminology, based upon 13th century and later documentation studied by Keene (1985), will be used throughout this volume (see Fig. 1.6). For example, with reference to two of the historic streets that fall within the excavation area, Staple Gardens is first recorded as Bredenstret in Survey I (1110), and appears as Brudenestret in the Survey II (1148) but shall be referred to using the later medieval name of Brudene Street (Keene 1985, 455) throughout this volume. Similarly, modern Tower Street can also be equated with Snithelingastret in Survey I and as Snidelingestret in Survey II, but shall be referred to as Snitheling Street (*ibid.*).

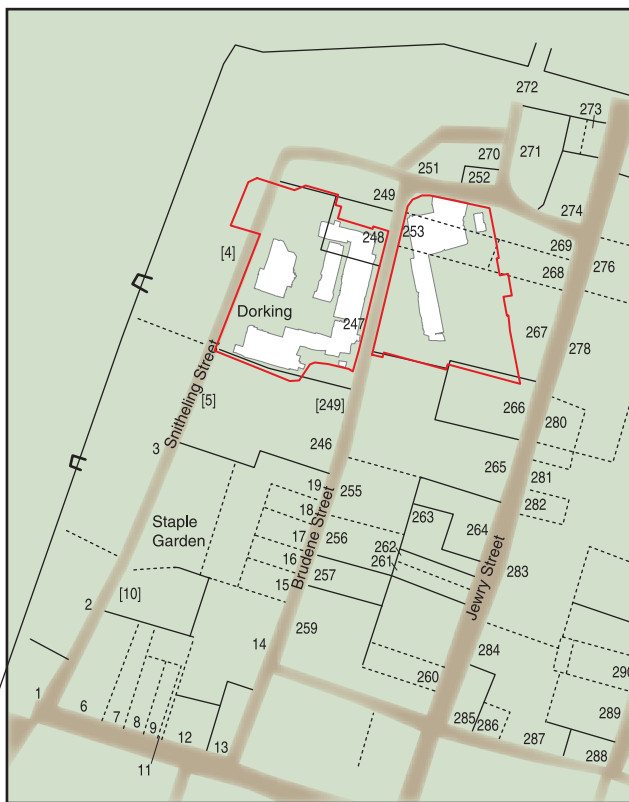
Although exact positions for individual properties are not reliably discernable the work on Survey II shows that each of the streets in mid 12th-century Winchester had its own well-defined character, with a broad trend for three distinct groupings. Firstly streets that formed the principal routes of communication and trade within and through the city, linking the main gates, but also in the case of Lower Brook Street (Tanner Street) where the passage through the city wall was little more than a postern. High Street/Broad Street that ran between the east and west gates, was the most densely occupied, with the highest property values and the principal market place of the city, clearly representing the heart of the urban community. Streets leading from High Street/Broad Street to the other main gates of the city were the next most densely populated and listed high property values. The second group of streets were less densely inhabited and contained some of the most imposing and desirable residences in the city, these also commanded higher property



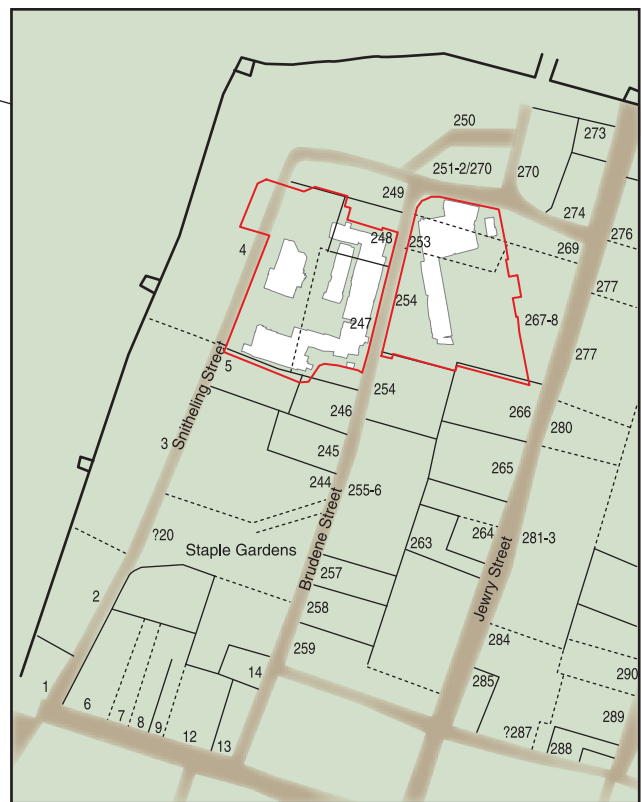
a. c1148



b. c1300

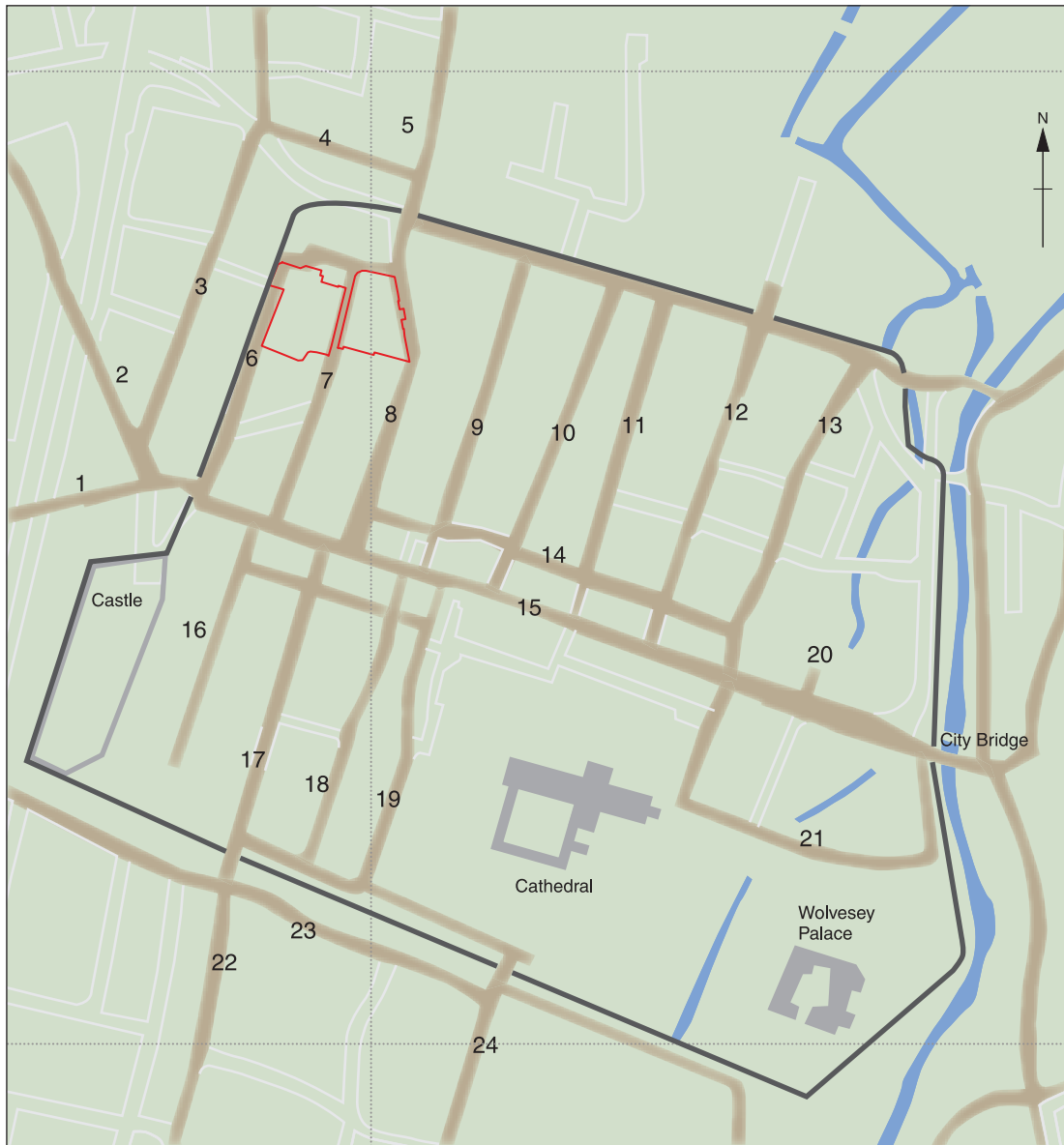


c. c1417



d. c1550

Fig. 1.5 Sequence of medieval tenement arrangements over time (a after Biddle 1976 and b–d after Keene 1985)





	Medieval streets			
	Modern streets			
No	Modern Name	Medieval Name (Keene 1985, 455-56)		
1	Romsey Road	Wode Street	11	Upper Brook Street
2	Upper High Street	Atheling Street	12	Middle Brook Street
3	Sussex Street	La Parrokes	13	Lower Brook Street
4	Swan Lane	Beggar Lane	14	St George's Street
5	Hyde Street		15	High St/Broad St
6	Tower Street	Snitheling Street	16	Trafalgar Street
7	Staple Gardens	Brudene Street	17	Southgate Street
8	Jewry Street		18	St. Thomas Street
9	St. Peter Street	Fleshmonger Street	19	Symonds Street
10	Parchment Street		20	Busket Lane
			21	Colebrook Street
			22	St. Cross Road
			23	Canon Street
			24	Kingsgate Street
				Shulworth Street
				Wongar Street
				Tanner Street
				Gar Street
				Gold Street
				Calpe Street
				Minster Street
				Buck Street
				Southgate Street
				Paillardestwichene

Fig. 1.6 Plan of Winchester showing the correlation between the medieval (c 1300) and modern street names used throughout the text (after Keene 1985)

values. St Thomas Street (Calpe Street) is the most striking example of this group of streets, and still contains a fine example of a two-storied hall, constructed in, or more probably well before, the middle of the 12th century. In a third group rents were low and houses were small and closely packed, of which Snitheling Street (with properties at its eastern end falling within the north of the Northgate House and Winchester Discovery Centre excavation areas) is one of the best examples (Biddle 1976, 495–6).

Brudene Street and Snitheling Street appear from the evidence of the surveys to have been populous, but rather different in character. Biddle and Keene have suggested that the combination of high density occupation and relatively high property values of Brudene Street may mean that its occupants were prosperous people. At the time of Survey I, there is some evidence to suggest that it may have been a street favoured by barons and magnates for occasional visits to the city (Biddle 1976, 387). These included (ibid., 53–57) Herbert the Chamberlain (Royal Treasurer under Henry I) who held Property 152 (I) (ie Property 152 from Survey I (1110)), as well as eleven other properties in the city. Wigod, the Sheriff of Lincoln, held Property 154 (I), and William son of Ansgar, a possible justiciar in Essex, held Property 138 (I). Among the barons, Herbert of St Quentin held Property 149–151 (I), Ralph of Mortemer Property 141–142 (I) and 148 (I) and the Count of Meulan Property 158 (I). Such people would, however, only have been occasional visitors and their properties may well have been sub-let either in whole or in part. By 1148, Biddle and Keene suggest Brudene Street has the appearance of an area perhaps occupied by prosperous tradesmen whereas Snitheling Street, by contrast, was an area of high density occupation and relatively low property values. This could mean it was a street where relatively poor families were living closely together.

The surveys provide some evidence for the occupations and status of property holders in the area, although this is not consistent. There is evidence from both surveys for the presence of possible, probable and definite named moneyers on Snitheling Street including Godric's son at the time of Edward the Confessor (Biddle 1976, 53) and Odo, who may have occupied properties within the site Property 129 (I). The moneyers Chepping, Property 134 (I), and his son Hugh, Property 403 (II), appear to have occupied the same property towards the north of Brudene Street and possibly within the project area at time of the surveys of 1110 and 1148 respectively (ibid., 54 and 98). There is no indication of whether these people worked at their recorded trades on the properties, although the terms in which his tenure is described in the survey suggest that Hugh son of Chepping lived at his property on Brudene Street in 1148. Two smiths are recorded in Snitheling Street in 1110 including Harding in Property 128 (I) who succeeded the tenancy of

Godric's son (ibid., 53). Biddle and Keene's analysis of the evidence from the 1148 Survey (ibid., figs 22 and 23) suggest that cloth workers, building workers, a possible smith, a brewer and victualling trades can be identified in both streets.

Analysis by Derek Keene (1985) of the medieval documents principally from c 1200 onwards (but with reference to earlier documents), in conjunction with the comprehensive *Tarrage Roll* survey of 1417, along with post-medieval deeds and topographic evidence (principally Godson's 1750 map and the 1:500 Ordnance Survey published in 1872/3 (surveyed between 1869 and 1871)) enabled a reliable reconstruction of owners, tenants and property boundaries for both the city and its suburbs (ibid., 37–40) over a period of nearly 300 years. The study included a biographical register of over 8000 property holders (most of whom lived in Winchester) and three sequential plans of the city dating to c 1300, 1417 and c 1550 (ibid., figs 72–4). The property numbers in his work are not related to the earlier Surveys, and will be referred to using simple numbers, eg Property 247.

Keene's work suggests that much of the Northgate House site between Brudene Street and Snitheling Street was located within Property 247, a small part of Property 248 to its north, and a part of Property 245/246 to the south. On the east side of Brudene Street the area of the Discovery Centre excavations fell within two large properties that flanked the street, Property 253, originally bounded to north by the eastwards continuation of Brudene Street (corresponding to the north arm of modern Tower Street), and Property 267 West A and B, whose southern extent corresponded to the existing boundary of the site.

Extracts of the transcripts (Keene 1985, 637–44) relating to these properties, and the sequential plans for the north-west corner of the city, are reproduced below and on Figure 1.5b–d.

West side from south to north

Property 5 and Property 245–6

The land represented by these three entries in the tarrage survey lay between the site acquired by the Austin friars, later the Staple, on the S., 247 on the N., Snitheling Street on the W., and Brudene Street on the E. It appears to have come into single ownership by the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century when the N. part of the land was taken into 247.

In the thirteenth century a tenement belonging to the Silvester family occupied part of the property. This was probably the tenement in Brudene Street which in 1249 Cristina, widow of Robert Sigayn, unsuccessfully claimed as her dower against Edmund Silvester. Andrew Silvester was probably a later owner. Adam de Northampton, citizen and skinner, acquired a substantial property near here in the later thirteenth century. By

1303 Adam and his wife Petronilla enfeoffed Cristina and Catherine, daughters of Adam le Hordier of Southampton, of two properties in Brudene Street: (i) a tenement between the capital tenement of Adam and Petronilla on the S. and the tenement formerly of Andrew Silvester on the N.; and (ii) the moiety of Silvester's tenement, the whole of which lay between the archdeacon's tenement on the N. (247) and the tenement of the donors which had formerly belonged to Joan Girard on the S. Adam de Northampton presumably lived in his capital tenement, and in 1280 was alderman of the ward of Brudene Street. Petronilla was in possession of part of 245-6 as a widow (see 247).

By 1319 the whole property had come into the possession of William de Drogenesford and his wife Catherine. After her husband's death Catherine granted it to John Ace, rector of Brown Candover, who in 1337 sold the tenement and garden here, between the archdeacon's tenement on the N. (247), the tenement of Cristina (surname lost but possibly Starye) on the S. (?AF 2), and Snitheling Street and Brudene Street on the W. and E., to Thomas de Medmenham and his wife Cristina.

De Medmenham's widow Cristina married Richard Wyke, and in (?)1388 they sold the garden 151 feet wide and occupying this site to Robert Crambourne, chaplain. This dimension is too great for the length of Brudene Street frontage later occupied by 245 and 246, and so perhaps applied to the Snitheling Street frontage [see Fig. 1.5c this vol.]. If this was so, a part of the W. end of this property must later have been taken into Staple Garden, which in the sixteenth century was said to lie on the S. and W. of 245.

By 1417 245 had come into the possession of the hospital attached to St. Swithun's Priory and was held by John Somerford, Robert Steward, and others. By 1597 the Dean and Chapter were letting the garden, which comprised 245 and was bounded by Staple Garden on the S. and W., on the same lease as 248 and part of 230 (q.v.). 245 can be traced in later Dean and Chapter records and was sold in 1852.

Property 246 lay between Properties 245 and 247 but is not recorded before the late sixteenth century, when it represented the east part of a garden held by William Burton. Burton purchased 246 from William Bethell. The property may therefore previously have belonged to Hyde Abbey.

The west part of Burton's garden was held on lease from the city for 9s. rent, and is represented by 5. John White leased it from 1569, Humphrey Norton from 1571, and Burton from 1600. 246 lay to the E., a lane (which presumably represented Snitheling Street) to the W., 244 to the S., and 'Hermits ground so called' to the N. The land was sold in 1823^{FN11}. In the late sixteenth century the boundary between 5 and 246 was marked by a high bank.

[Footnote 11] Enfr i, p. 257. In 1571 its dimensions were 40 yards 2 feet 3 inches from E. to W. on the N. side and 41 yards 1 foot 8 inches on the S. side. In 1823 it measured 20 yards from N. to S., and 41 yards from E. to W. By the latter date the lane on the W. had been included within the property: plan, HRO, Box 41 M 67/19 (ii).

Property 247

Between 245-6 on the S., 248 on the N. and E., Snitheling Street on the W., and Brudene Street on the E. 249 probably also lay on the N.

In the thirteenth century the greater part of the property belonged to the archdeacon of Winchester and was known as Dorking. In 1271 the archdeacon was ordered not to obstruct the public lane called Dorking which he had enclosed. In 1280 John son of Richard Starie was to pay the king 8d. rent for purprestures of a lane apud Dorkynege measuring 60 feet by 16 feet, and of another piece of land there measuring 50 feet by 16 feet.

In the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century Master Philip of St Austel, archdeacon of Winchester 1285-1304, enlarged the property to the S. By a deed registered in 1303 Petronilla, widow of Adam de Northt', citizen and skinner, granted him the moiety of a garden which had belonged to Agnes Greyshank and lay between the archdeacon's garden on the N. and Petronilla's tenement on the S. The moiety measured 15 and a half yards in width next to the archdeacon's garden and extended from Brudene Street to Snitheling Street.

In 1417 247 was a tenement of the archdeacon called Dorkyng held by Thomas Smale and John Frenshe. John Barbour of Hyde Street was administering the property for the archdeacon in 1412, when William Sequence entered it by force.

In the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries the property was a garden held from the archdeacon by William Burton. The garden remained in the possession of the archdeacons of Winchester and its bounds can be reconstructed from leases and sales of that period ^{FN7}.

[Footnote 7] The dimensions of 247 are recorded in a marginal note in Tarrage 1590. The garden was said to measure 38 and three quarter yards from E. to W. and 64 yards from N. to S. The latter measurement is roughly equal to the frontage of 247 on Brudene Street. The former is no more than two-thirds the distance between Brudene Street and Snitheling Street and cannot easily be reconciled with the evidence that 247 extended the full distance between the two streets. It is possible that the sixteenth-century surveyors were confused by a physical feature in the middle part of the garden, possibly the N. continuation of the bank recorded in association with 245-6.

Property 248

Between 247 on the S. and W. and 249 on the N.

By his will, proved in 1334, William de Cramburne, citizen, alias William le Lardener, bequeathed the plot of land on this site to his daughter Catherine. In 1335 Catherine granted the plot to Robert of Shaftebury and his wife Juliana, who by 1337 jointly granted it to Walter le Chamberleyn and his wife Maud.

The Cathedral Priory probably then recovered the property, which in 1417 was described as a garden next

to the gate of Dorking (247) belonging to the prior and held by John Somerford and John Hall.

In the late sixteenth century the garden was held by John Stephens, alias Stephen Knight, and in 1597 was let with 230 and 245 to John Purdue.

The dimensions in the Dean and Chapter deed of enfranchisement of 1858 enable the bounds of the property to be identified. At that date the rent from the garden was 2s. 9d. and this probably represents the sum due in the sixteenth century.

East side from north to south

Property 253

Probably at the corner of the lane leading from Brudene Street to North Gate, on the E. side of Brudene Street, and between 268-9 on the E. and 267 on the S. Godson shows a boundary which could enclose this property. In the sixteenth century 253 appears to have been bounded by 269 on the N.

By 1304 the tenements of Thomas the chaplain and of Henry de Preslonde lay to the W. of 268. The former was probably the tenement which by 1309 Thomas de Modesfont, chaplain, held from St. John's Hospital, and was probably also the tenement in Brudene Street held by Dom. Thomas of St. Saviour (Salvatoris) from which the hospital had a 4s. rent of assize in 1294. Thomas was thus probably rector of the church of St. Saviour.

Thomas's tenement was probably taken into 267, for later only the property of the de Preslonde family lay to the W. of 268. By 1346 Sibyl de Preslonde held the tenement. In 1352 the Frary and Kalendar had 6d. rent from her tenement next to the lane leading to North Gate, which had been granted, probably in the thirteenth century, by Thomas of St. Margaret. By 1371 the property was described as the garden of Sibyl de Preslonde and in 1376 John Saundres, skinner, was fined for closing the lane running from Brudene Street to Jewry Street next to her former tenement.

In 1398 the garden belonged to Henry atte Swane and by 1410 his tenure had ceased. In 1417 the wife of Richard Fylye held the garden.

In the mid sixteenth century the garden was part of the land attached to the house of William Agulley, whose heirs still held it in 1590; by that date John Gardiner was tenant and in 1604 he held it from William Waller, esquire.

Property 267 West

On the E. side of Brudene Street, probably between 253 on the N. and 265 West on the S. In the early fourteenth century there were two tenements adjacent N. and S. Later in the century the property was absorbed by 267 in Jewry Street.

By 1309 Thomas de Modesfont, chaplain, enfeoffed John le Deveneyns of the N. tenement, A, which lay between a tenement which Thomas held of St. John's

Hospital (part of 253?) on the N., a tenement belonging to le Deveneyns (the S. part of 267 West) on the S., and 266-7 D on the E. By 1327 le Deveneyns enfeoffed William Gabriel and his wife Joan of the S. tenement, B, which was opposite the courtyard (curia) of Dorkyngge (247) and was bounded by the tenement sometime of Nicholas de Eneford (part of 265 West?) on the S.

These two tenements appear subsequently to have been included in 267 (q.v.) in Jewry Street.

The project area from archaeological sources

Excavations in 1960 uncovered the remains of two substantial stone structures; the first a cellar interpreted as having belonged to an 'upper-hall' house, that flanked the second, which consisted of substantial stone foundations for a two-celled structure, interpreted as a 'chapel' or small church, immediately to its north-west (Cunliffe 1964). The internal dimensions of the cellar measured 5 m by 10.4 m (16 ft. 6 ins. by 34 ft. 6 ins.) with evidence for a groined vaulted roof over two approximately square bays. Its walls were generally 1 m wide and rendered with an inch-thick layer of plaster for at least 1.8 m above the chalk and mortar floor. The external north-west corner was built of large greensand blocks tooled with closely set parallel lines reminiscent of the 12th century work at the chapel on St Catherine's Hill, which corresponded in date to pottery recovered from the foundations. In the south-east corner double-thickness stonework possibly indicated the position of an external stair. Evidence for three walls abutting the outside of this structure suggests that it was extended at a later date, possibly in the late 13th or early 14th century. The 'chapel's' foundations consisted of rammed chalk arranged over two chambers. The larger, to the west, interpreted as the nave, measured 4.3 m by 6.1 m internally, with foundations from 1–1.4 m wide, and the smaller, with an internal space a little over 1.8 m square had foundations varying in width from 0.91 m to a very substantial 2 m at its eastern end, perhaps supporting a tower.

Cunliffe (1964, 171–5) postulates that the 12th century structures could be related to the 'mansio' of Drogo (mentioned as being on Brudene Street in Survey II of 1148), with the church being his private foundation of St. Odulf (a Flemish Saint also suggesting Drogos origins), or even having no ecclesiastical function at all. The later structural additions possibly relate to a change of ownership to the Archdeacon of Winchester sometime in the 13th century, being the property referred to in later documents as *Dorkinge*. Biddle (1976, 347 and nn. 2, 4) in a critique of Cunliffe's evidence later argued that revisions to the pottery dating could suggest any date after the 11th century for the stone house, but concurs that both buildings were associated with the tenureship of the Archdeacon of Winchester in the 13th century (the earliest reference to which appears in 1271 when the Archdeacon

was ordered not to obstruct the public lane called *Dorking* which he had enclosed (Keene 1985, 641; see above)). It has also been suggested that the chapel, although perhaps originating as a private foundation and clearly indicating the relatively high status of this property, could equate to the parish church of St Marys, *Our Ladye in Burdenstrete* (ibid.).

The post-medieval to modern periods

John Speed's map of Winchester, dated to 1611, shows that the defensive circuit remained a dominant feature in the early 17th century (Fig. 1.7a). Compared to earlier periods, when much of its interior was filled with streets and buildings, by 1611 the town had lost much of its earlier population; the population of Winchester ranged from 8000–11,000 in c 1148, 11,625 in c 1300, 7–8000 in 1417, 3000–6000 in 1603, and 4000 in 1725 (Biddle 1976; Keene 1985; James 1988). The area towards the north wall, and particularly the north-west corner, is markedly empty, with the area of our site shown with trees, indicating open ground, possibly an orchard (Fig. 1.7a). Buck's view of the city from St Giles Hill in 1736 (Fig. 1.7b), Godsons map of 1750 (Fig. 1.7c), and Thomas Milnes map of 1791 (Fig. 1.7d) show that the density and pattern of settlement within the walls had not changed substantially by the start of the 19th century from that shown by Speed almost 300 years earlier. The area of the present project is shown by Buck to be part of a large plantation occupying the north-west corner of the city up to and beyond the still extant defences, and as open ground by Godson and Milne. Snitheling Street is not shown on any of the 17th and 18th century depictions of the area, suggesting that it had fallen out of use by this time, and there is no trace of any of the buildings of the Archdeacon's residence, suggesting that they had been abandoned and demolished. The parish church of *Our Lady in Burdenstrete*, which is possibly identifiable with the 'chapel' excavated by Cunliffe (see above), was said in a Corporation Petition of 1452, to have been one of the 17 parish churches in Winchester that had fallen down in the previous 80 years

It was perhaps on the initiative of the archdeacons, who remained the most significant landowners in this area until the 19th century, that the area was first put under cultivation. The project area remained under cultivation for several centuries, during which time the city witnessed economic hardship (during the Civil War of the mid 17th century), and then steady economic revival from the late 17th century onwards. This was in part promoted by the decision of King Charles II in 1682 to construct a new palace on the site of the demolished medieval castle. During this period many of the timber-framed buildings shown on Speed's map would have been renovated, or replaced, predominantly in brick and occasionally stone.

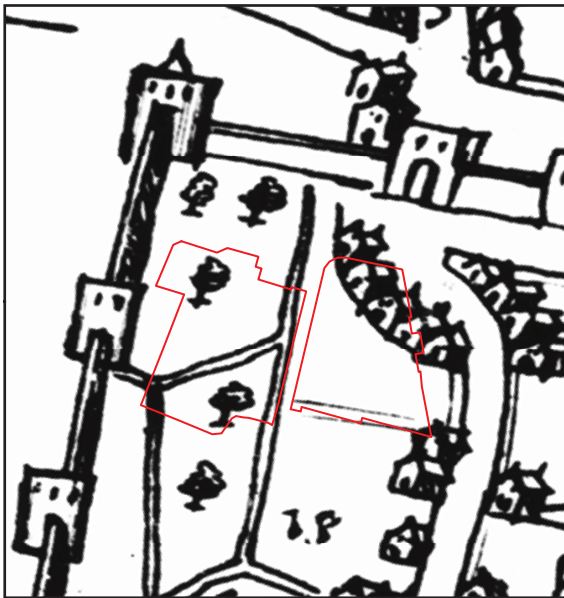
During the 19th century the population of Winchester increased dramatically, and the city grew in response to its elevated status as county town of Hampshire and the improved transport connections brought by the arrival of the railways. The Corn Exchange was constructed on Jewry Street between 1836 and 1838, and it was probably at this time that the Winchester Discovery Centre site was terraced and a high brick, flint and stone wall built to retain Staple Gardens and Tower Street. Jewry Street was re-routed to run past the grand frontage of the Corn Exchange, and became the principal route out of the city northwards and to the new railway station (first constructed in 1839). Milner, in 1839, records that the defences in the north-west corner of the city were sold and then levelled, and Tower Street and new property boundaries were marked out and developed (Cunliffe 1964, 62). The terraces on Tower Street, some of which remain today, date from this period. Between Tower Street and Staple Gardens larger walled plots of land were apparent; some of these remained as gardens until as late as the 1960s, while others were developed as large detached Victorian properties. To the north of the Northgate House site, where houses are separated from the street by a high brick and flint wall, there is a small gate with a stone carved with the initials 'J C 1846'. To the south, No. 19 Staple Gardens was constructed between 1872/3 and 1897 in one of the garden plots on the Northgate House site. During this period the cattle market moved to the Corn Exchange. A snapshot of these changes in progress can be seen on the 1872/3 OS map (Fig. 1.7e). By 1883 the land, which had been owned by the Archdeacons for around 700 years, was sold off (Cunliffe 1964, 164).

By the 1950s to 1960s the majority of site was owned by Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society Ltd (SCATS) (ibid., 163) and in 1961 it constructed a large office building, Northgate House, with a smaller office, Documentation House, to its north. These buildings required localised terracing and substantial foundations, which threatened large areas of archaeology. This prompted small-scale rescue excavations carried out by Winchester Museum Services prior to construction (ibid.).

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION PROCESS

General

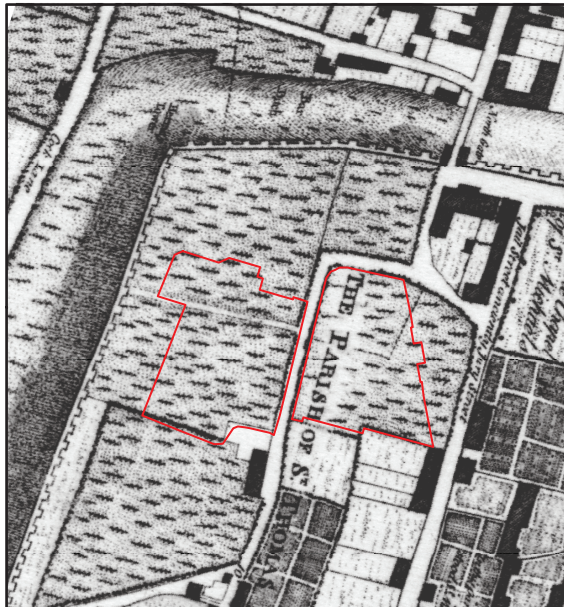
The archaeological projects relating to Northgate House and the Winchester Discovery Centre were designed and implemented in accordance with the controls that the Local Planning Authorities (Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council) have on development in areas under their jurisdiction. These planning principals were laid out in the Department of Environment's Planning and Policy Guidance (PPG) note 16: Archaeology



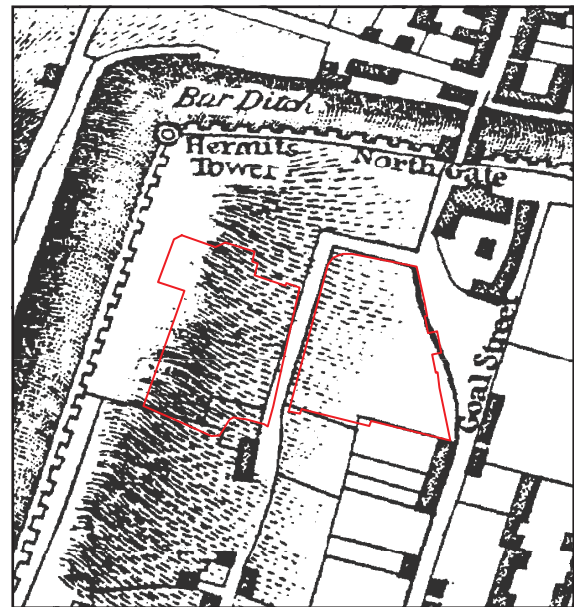
a. John Speeds Map 1611



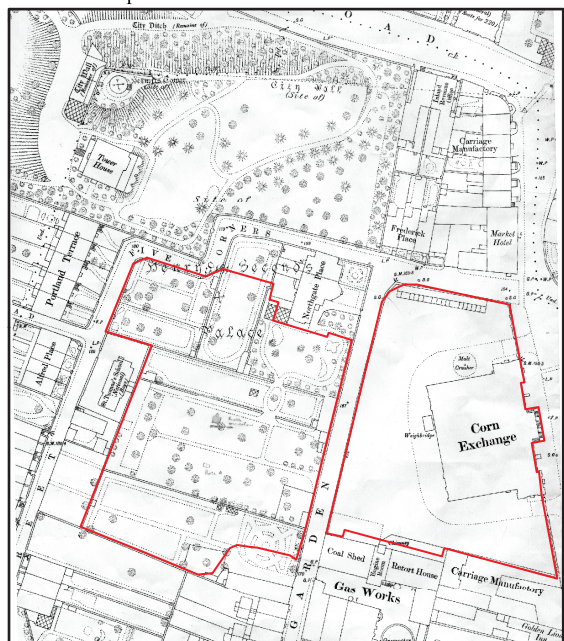
b. View of the city from St Giles Hill, Buck 1736



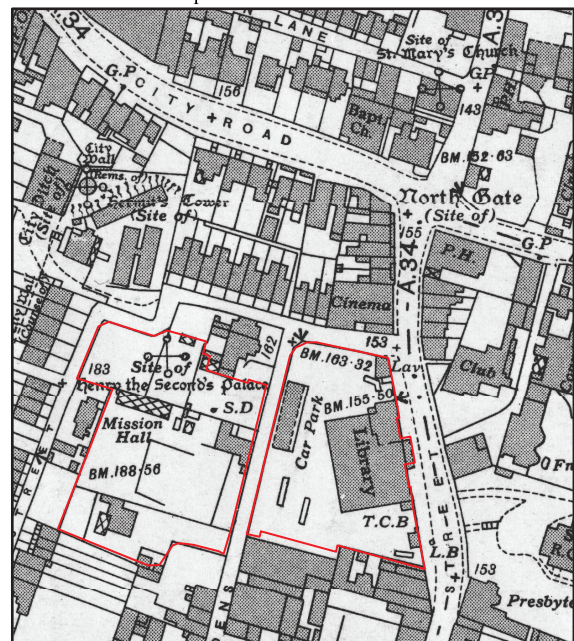
c. Godson Map 1750



d. Thomas Milne Map 1791



e. 1st Edition 1:500 Ordnance Survey Map, 1873



f. 1:1250 Ordnance Survey Map 1935

and Planning (HMSO 1990a), and PPG note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (HMSO 1990b), along with Policy HE.1 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (WCC 2001).

The policy guidance requires that the negative effect which development proposals can have upon potential archaeological remains is assessed and mitigated. It emphasises that where possible archaeological remains should be left in place (*preservation in situ*), and where this cannot be achieved then archaeological excavation accompanied by a full photographic, written and drawn record (*preservation by record*) followed by analysis and publication should be required.

In accordance with these requirements, opportunities were actively sought on both projects to allow archaeological deposits to remain undisturbed *in situ*. The impact of the proposed designs upon the archaeological resource was assessed, and some beneficial changes were made to the proposed designs. Subsequently, the archaeological excavations at both sites were specifically tailored to mitigate the impact of each development within the context of a set of pertinent research questions. The result was that a detailed and accurate archaeological archive was generated for all the archaeology that was to be unavoidably destroyed by the developments, with those archaeological deposits that were not destroyed, because they were either below or outside the impacts of the designs, preserved *in situ* for future archaeological study. This approach removed the need for subjective choices to be made about where to excavate. A summary of this process is presented below.

The two development sites (along with the stretch of the Staple Gardens carriageway that divides them) cover an area of 8465 m², which represents about 1.5 % of the total area within the circuit of the Roman and later defences and constitutes a significant portion of the north-west corner of the historic city. Within this larger area 1821m² was archaeologically investigated at the Northgate House site (Evaluation 32 m², Open Area Excavation 1698 m², and Watching Brief 91 m²), and 976m² at the Discovery Centre site (Evaluation trenching 63 m², Open Area Excavation 859 m², and Watching Brief 54 m²).

Figure 1.8 shows the locations of all the archaeological interventions that were carried out at both sites as a result of the mitigation strategies presented above, together with the locations of interventions from the previous excavation work between 1949–1960 (Cunliffe 1964, fig. 57), and the evaluation trenches by Gifford (Gifford and Partners 2004b and c) and Oxford Archaeology (OA 2005c). This figure also shows the area along the western side of the Staple Gardens frontage that was only partially excavated, and the area on the Discovery Centre site that had suffered significant

horizontal truncation. The difference between the survival of the archaeological deposits on both sites is represented in cross section on Figure 1.9.

Taken together the archaeological works covered an area of 2798m², or 0.5% of the historic core, and represent the largest excavations in urban Winchester since The Brooks excavations by the Museums Service in 1987–88, which examined 6600 m², equivalent to 1.15% of the historic core.

Site specific strategies

The Northgate House site and the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy

At the Northgate House site the process started in April 2002 when development proposals prompted a Desk Based Assessment that drew together archaeological, documentary and cartographic evidence from the site and its vicinity (Gifford and Partners 2004a), and concluded that significant archaeological remains could be present at the site. During May of the same year archaeological fieldwork to assess the physical nature of any such remains was undertaken on the western half of the site with the investigation of four evaluation trenches (Trenches NH1–4; see Fig. 1.8), along with observations made during geo-technical works that consisted of three mechanically excavated pits and three boreholes (Gifford and Partners 2004b). A further four evaluation trenches (Trenches NH5–8) were excavated on the eastern half of the site in January 2004 (Gifford and Partners 2004c). In combination these works did not recover *in situ* prehistoric evidence, but did encounter probable late–post-Roman Dark Earth along with significant quantities of Roman material that occurred residually within archaeological features that dated from the 10th–13th century. The work concluded that significant archaeological deposits survived largely intact below varying depths of post-medieval ‘cultivation’ soils, in the areas outside the footprints of the existing buildings, most notably along the Staple Gardens street frontage.

The proposed redevelopment of the Northgate House site consisted of five closely arranged substantial structures or blocks; three of these were arranged along the north, south and east sides of the scheme and formed a U-shape around a smaller fourth block (with a subterranean carpark) located centrally on the western side. The fifth block lay in the north-west corner. Each block was between 3–5 storeys high, and consisted of a large number of small internal spaces that formed multiple separate residential units with a row of retail units at ground floor level along the Staple Gardens frontage. In order to take account of the pronounced slope of the site the blocks had to be terraced into the hillside by

Fig. 1.7 facing page Location of development sites on the principal historic maps from early post-medieval to the modern period (17th–20th centuries)

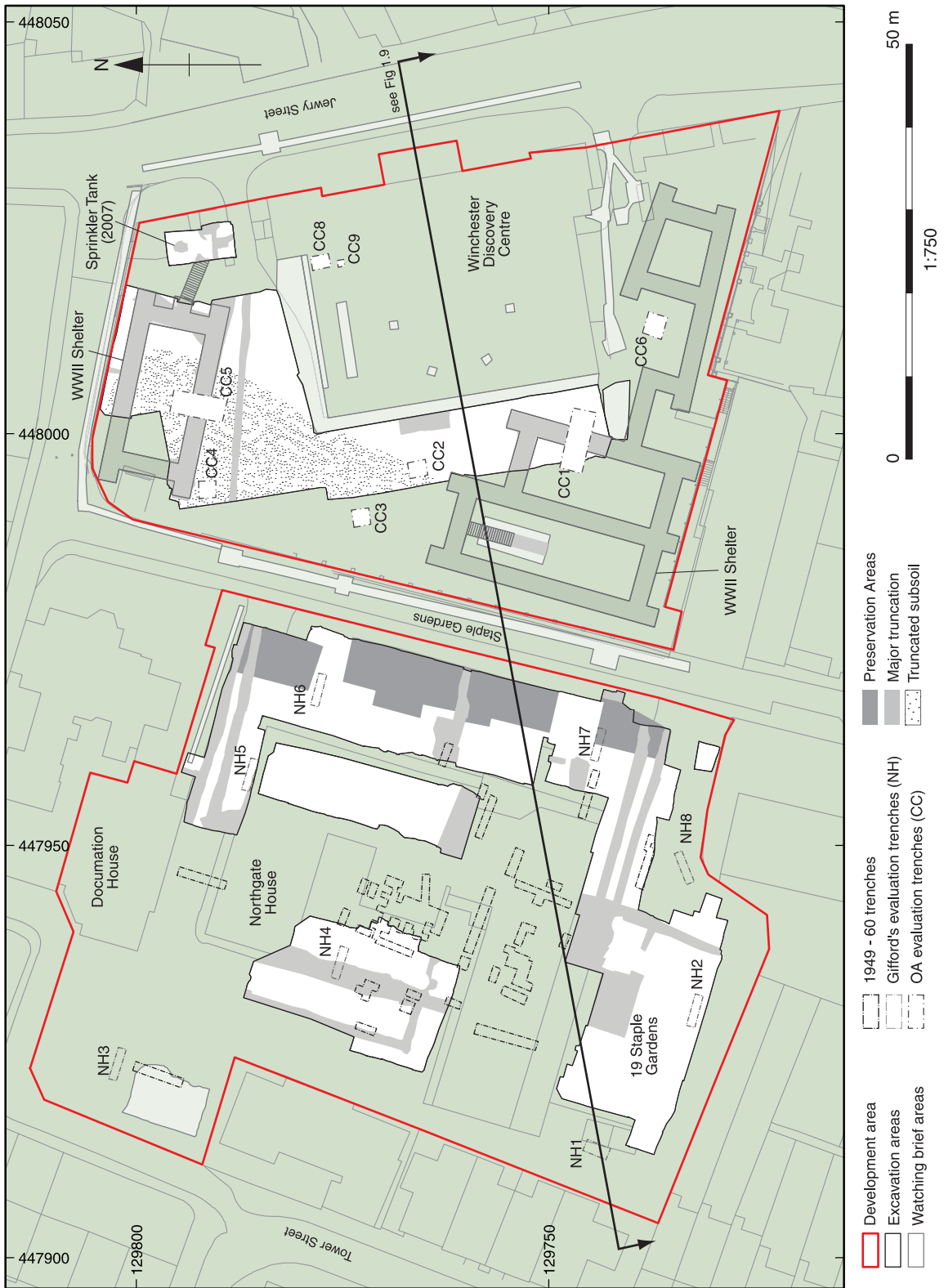


Fig. 1.8 Detailed excavation locations for the Northgate House and Winchester Discovery Centre sites

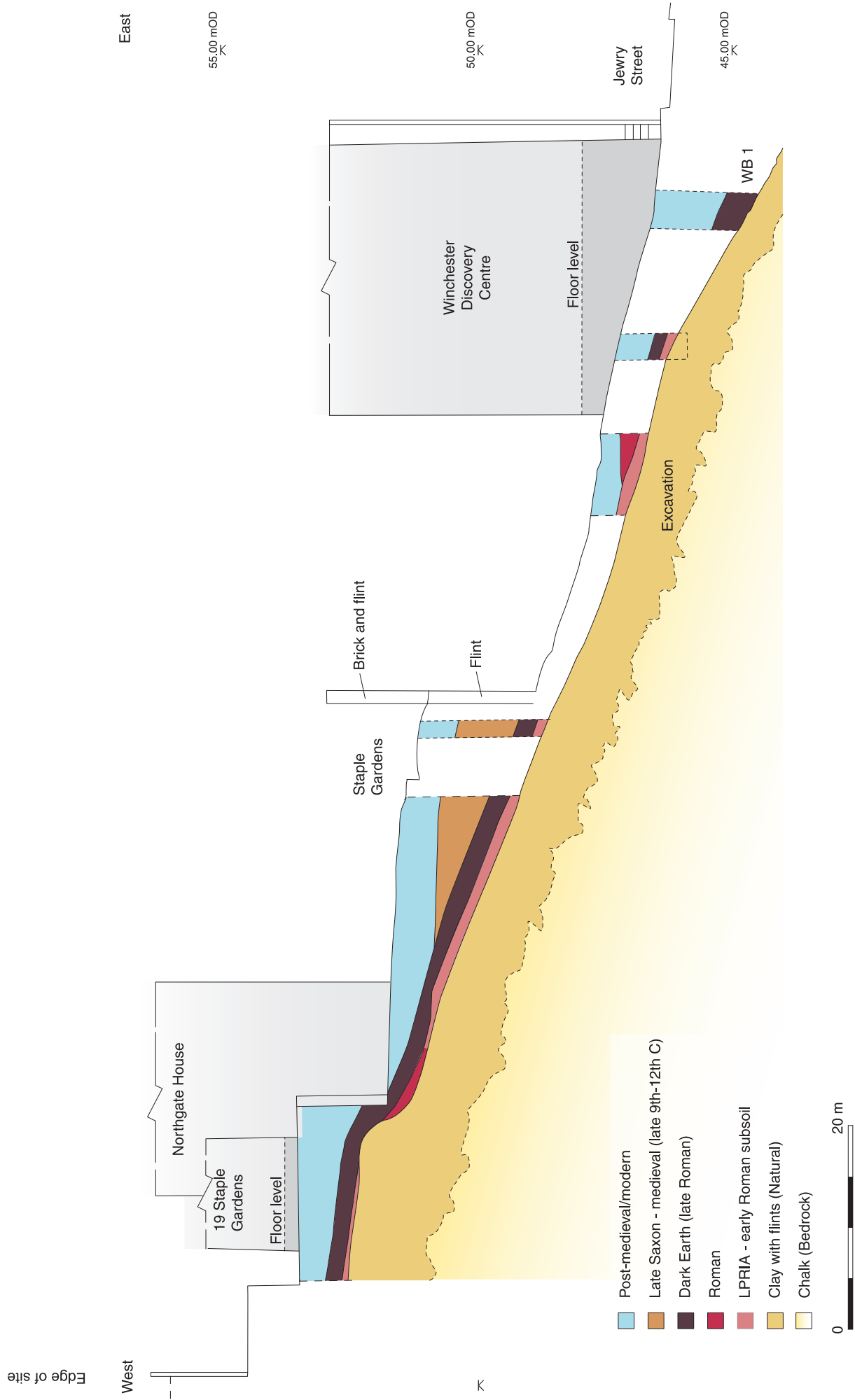


Fig. 1.9 Schematic west-east cross-section through the sites showing the survival of the archaeological resource

utilising a series of large steps, each representing a change in the height of the internal floor levels. The scale, mass and height of the proposal, in combination with the highly sub-divided nature of the interior spaces, and the floor level changes, required a heavy and intensive foundation arrangement with the concrete floor slabs strengthened by thicker ground-beams supported on an intensive pattern of concrete piles.

The model of the surviving archaeological deposits gained from the evaluation was compared to the proposed design. It was evident that the need to terrace the blocks into the hillside would impact on the archaeological deposits to different degrees. The entire footprint of the southern and central blocks, and the western halves of the eastern and northern blocks would completely remove all archaeological remains. The eastern half of the eastern block would partially remove remains, and the western half of the northern block and the block in the north-west corner would have a very limited impact. In addition two deep trenches, which would contain all the new services such as electricity, gas, and water, also had a complete impact. Much of the landscaping outside the footprints of these structures would have a limited impact.

An 'Archaeological Mitigation Strategy' was devised by Gifford and Partners (2004d; 2005), which broadly proposed full archaeological excavation in areas of complete impact, partial excavation in areas of limited impact and a Watching Brief for the remaining areas.

Part of the archaeological works were completed by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2004), but the majority was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology using methodologies outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2005) to address questions detailed in a Research Design (OA 2004). The areas subject to open area excavation and Watching Brief are shown on Figure 1.8.

The Discovery Centre site and the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy

During February and March 2005 at the Discovery Centre site six evaluation trenches (Trenches CC 1–6) were archaeologically excavated in the car park outside the Library (as it was then), and two geotechnical trenches (Trenches CC 8 and 9) were observed under watching brief inside the building (OA 2005; Fig. 1.8). These identified features dating to the Iron Age, Roman structures, 'Dark Earth' deposits and structures and pits from tenements dating to the Saxon, Anglo-Norman and medieval Periods. The Second World War air raid shelters constructed in 1939 (Pinhorne and Cooper 1998) were fully intact but had truncated all the earlier archaeological remains. Unlike the situation at Northgate House the pre-modern archaeology had also suffered extensive horizontal truncation over most of the western and northern areas of the site.

Here, the survival of the archaeology was restricted to features cut into pre-Roman subsoils and natural deposits, but some horizontal stratigraphy had survived as slumped deposits within negative features. Towards the centre and south-east of the site there had been less truncation and intact Roman and later stratigraphy survived.

The development proposal was for a single L-shaped structure that would be directly connected to the western and northern sides of the existing Library. As with the proposal at the Northgate House site the building design, with regard to its impact upon the ground, was influenced by a number of factors. Its scale and mass had to be sensitive to, and not dominate, the existing Grade II* Library structure, it was therefore designed to be no more than two storeys high. Due to the intended public use of the building the internal spaces were significantly larger than at Northgate House so there were fewer rooms, and fewer load-bearing walls. The existing slope of the site was less pronounced (having already been significantly terraced), but the new internal floor levels had to take account of the Library's existing internal floor levels, which meant that there were fewer changes required in the heights between the proposed floors. The design also needed to minimise, where possible, its impact upon the archaeological resource that had been revealed by the evaluation.

As a consequence the foundations were slighter and less intensive than on the Northgate House development. The larger floor slabs were strengthened by thickened edges and supported on a well-spaced piling array. A small number of foundations were also required to deal with limited works within the former Library structure. The impact of the service corridors that took utilities such as gas, electric, water and sewerage, data cables etc, were minimised by running them, where possible, along the immediate outside of the building's western side. In the north-east corner of the site a subterranean water storage tank was installed. Finally, there were minimal impacts from the external landscaping and hard-standing. There was also a requirement to make-safe and strengthen the existing air raid structures that extended beyond the footprint of the new structure so that they could bear the weight of traffic using the proposed car park. To this end the shelters ageing roof slabs were relaid after the corridors had been filled with free running shingle.

The final design had a broad, shallow and light impact on the existing ground, however this still unavoidably affected the existing archaeological deposits, and elements of the extant air raid shelters.

A mitigation strategy, archaeological methodologies and a research agenda was devised by Oxford Archaeology (OA 2005). Open Area Excavation was chosen for the area affected by the footprint of the new building, the service corridor adjacent to its western edge and the area of the Water Tank.

Generally archaeological remains were not excavated below the levels that would be affected by the construction of the concrete floor slabs. However, features that fell in the positions of the concrete piles were hand-excavated to a safe depth and then hand augered. A number of other features, such as wells, were also mechanically augered. All other impacts from the design were dealt with under an archaeological Watching Brief.

Fieldwork

Historic Building Recording

Historic building recording works were carried on the air raid shelters and on the Grade II* listed Library structure. War period graffiti and notices were photographed, and described. Their height above the floor of the shelters was logged and their individual positions marked on an existing survey of the shelters. Existing surveys of the Library structure were annotated, and a photographic record made to show the details of the building's use that were revealed during the renovation and conversion works.

Open Area Excavation

All overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator under the control of an experienced archaeologist down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or natural geology (whichever was encountered first). The backfills to modern service trenches were also mechanically removed as were foundations from previous buildings, except where their removal would have damaged *in situ* archaeological deposits. On the Discovery Centre site the lengths of air raid shelters that fell within the excavation areas were carefully and systematically dismantled by a mechanical excavator, removing the concrete roof-panels, then the wall-panels, and leaving the floor slab *in situ*. Where possible the surviving graffiti on the wall panels was retained and form part of the site archive.

Archaeological hand excavation then proceeded in stratigraphic order, taking into account areas and features that were to be preserved *in situ*. A single context recording system was followed with all structures, deposits and cuts allocated unique context numbers and described on pro-forma context sheets. All cuts, structures and occupation deposits were photographed and drawn to scale, and all fills and other deposits where not photographed and drawn to scale were sketched on the relevant context pro-forma sheet. All scale drawings and sketches were related to the site grid and levelled to Ordnance Datum. All hand retrieved artefacts were bagged by their relevant context number and small finds were located in 3D. All deposits that contained preserved charred plant remains, and the potential for metalworking residues, were bulk sampled. All hearths that had

not been subject to post-depositional movement were sampled for archaeomagnetic dating by the relevant specialist. Selected areas of 'Dark Earth' deposits were column sampled. Hand and machine augered cores were taken from a selection of exceptionally deep features.

General views of the excavations at Northgate House and Winchester Discovery Centre are shown in Plates 1.3 and 1.4.

Watching Brief

An archaeological Watching Brief was maintained within all areas affected by the new buildings not covered by the open area excavations. Where archaeology was observed, written, drawn and photographic records were made and related to the site grid and Ordnance Datum. Scale, section and plan drawings were made of all the archaeological deposits that were left *in situ* after excavations were completed and can be referred to if and when opportunities for further work arise.

General comment on stratigraphic recording and Harris matrices

Gaining a thorough representation of the stratigraphic sequences was a fundamental aspect of the excavation process. Harris matrices (developed by Harris for use on Biddle's archaeological excavations in Winchester in the 1960s), were initially drawn up by the excavators and their Supervisors, these were unified by the Matrix Supervisor as part of the excavation process. This allowed stratigraphic problems to be resolved with reference to the physical site and the excavation team as an ongoing process during excavation, thus providing the best method for them to reliably reflect the excavated sequence accurately.

General comment on the in-situ preservation of archaeological remains

All archaeological deposits that remained unexcavated were covered with a layer of geotextile, followed by a layer of sand. This was designed to protect them from the subsequent covering of crushed material that then provided a stable surface or 'pile mat' for the process of foundation construction. During this operation no plant was allowed to move over the areas of preserved archaeological remains until the protective layers were put in place (Plate 1.5).

At the Northgate House site, complex occupation deposits relating to structures from the late Saxon and medieval periods were left *in situ* along some of the Staple Gardens frontage; Roman and prehistoric remains in these areas these were also left unexcavated. These are shown as the darker area within the excavation limits for the Northgate House site on Figure 1.8. In the remaining excavation areas shown on Figure 1.8 all archaeological remains of all



Plate 1.3 General view of the excavations at Northgate House



Plate 1.4 General view of excavations at Winchester Discovery Centre



Plate 1.5 View looking north-east showing the process of preservation in situ of deposits along the east side of Staple Gardens frontage on the Northgate House site

periods were excavated except for the basal fills of deep pits and wells. At the Discovery Centre the complete excavation of surviving occupation deposits from all periods not contained within cut features was achieved. Partial excavation of deposits within some cut features was achieved. The unexcavated *in situ* archaeology consisted of deep features such as pits, wells and cellars, some of which were augered and explored through small sondages. The phase plans accompanying the archaeological descriptions in Chapters 2, 3 and 4 indicate areas where archaeological remains of the corresponding phase were left unexcavated.

POST-EXCAVATION

The approach to post-excavation and the archives

The client reports that present the results of the two building recording exercises completed on the Winchester Discovery Centre site, the first on the graffiti in the air raid shelters (OA 2006) and the second on the Grade II* former Library building (OA 2007b), are included as Part 2 of the CD-Rom accompanying this volume.

Individual post-excavation assessment reports were produced after the completion of fieldwork at both Northgate House and the Winchester Discovery Centre (Teague and Ford 2006; Teague 2006; see CD-Rom, Part 1). These reviewed the entire archive of records, artefacts, ecofacts and samples for each site and presented an assessment of the potential for further analysis with a project specific Updated Research Design proposal. It was clear from these assessments that there was a compelling case for the analysis and publication of the two sites to be combined. Encouraged by the City Archaeologist this approach was set out in an Updated Project Design (OA 2007c; CD-Rom, Part 1). However, to assist future research, the prefix NH has been retained throughout for data from the Northgate House site and CC for that from the Winchester Discovery Centre site.

The Research Framework

The Updated Project Design (OA 2007) consisted of a series of period-specific research questions designed to explore the results presented in the assessments for each site within the context of the archaeology and historical documentary evidence in the locality and the wider area. It was these questions that guided the analysis for this report. The full set of research questions are presented in Part 1 of the accompanying CD-Rom, with summaries of the principal research aims presented by period below.

The pre-Roman period

The analysis sought to clarify the date, nature and extent of pre-Roman activity in the area and in partic-

ular to explore its relationship with the Iron Age earthwork of Oram's Arbour and nearby settlements.

The Roman period

The analysis sought to clarify the nature and chronology of Roman occupation within the area, and in particular its possible relationship with the pre-existing Iron Age settlement, and evidence for the early development of *Venta Belgarum* within this poorly understood north-west quadrant of the Roman town. Substantial assemblages of finds and craftworking debris would be subject to detailed analysis for evidence of the nature of later Roman occupation and industry in the area. Detailed study would also be undertaken of the morphology and contents of the Dark Earth to add to understanding of its chronology and origin.

The late Saxon period

It was clear that the excavations had recovered exceptional datasets for the late Saxon period. The analysis aimed to clarify the date and nature of the earliest occupation in the area, and the establishment of streets, occupation and tenements. A major programme of scientific dating was integrated into the post-excavation analysis in order to refine the dating of the late Saxon stratigraphy and features, and in particular to try to divide the late Saxon occupation into sub-phases, allowing a better understanding of the early development of the area in the late 9th and earlier 10th centuries. Consideration would be given to the way in which the archaeological data complemented information available from documentary sources, although from the outset it was not anticipated that precise correlations could be achieved.

The programme of analysis was also designed to study development in building forms and functions, and the abundant evidence for varied artisanal or craftworking activity in the area throughout this period. It was also clear that the good survival of animal and fish bone and charred and mineralised plant remains provided an excellent opportunity to study evidence for craftworking, along with diet, economic exploitation of the hinterland of the town, and trade.

The Anglo-Norman and medieval periods

Many of the research aims identified for the late Saxon period were also valid for the Anglo-Norman period, for which a similar large dataset was available. The analysis sought to identify change and development in the project area, in terms of chronology, building and structure types, tenement layouts and the nature of and relationships between domestic and artisanal activity.

For these periods the analysis sought information about the way in which the area changed at this time, in particular for evidence that might support

the documentary sources that suggest depopulation and the possible reasons for this. The analysis also sought to extend our understanding of the property of the Archdeacon of Winchester, in terms of its evolution, dating, and its relationship to other tenements in the area.

Dating, phasing and grouping: stratigraphy, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, and scientific dating

The Harris matrices compiled during the on-site excavations were transferred by hand onto Microsoft Excel spreadsheets during the post-excavation assessment stage, and annotated with extensive details relating to context type, stratigraphic groups, dating, and ecofactual sampling information, and thus provided a comprehensive relative chronological framework for all the excavated contexts.

Problems relating to ‘residuality’ and ‘intrusiveness’ of artefacts and ecofacts were addressed, using a combination of the stratigraphic sequences represented by the Harris matrices and the datable finds data (such as pottery and small finds). Residuality occurs when material from earlier activity has been redeposited within later contexts and presents a significant challenge for accurately understanding site use over time within urban archaeology.

Principally the problem is contained within each broad Period, ie it is not difficult to recognise Roman artefacts that have been redeposited within features and deposits from post-Roman periods (this occurs for example when multiple pits from different phases intercut each other in the same location), however this is not as easy when earlier late Saxon material is redeposited within later late Saxon deposits. ‘Intrusiveness’ is where material from later activity has found its way into earlier contexts; this is usually due to human error during the excavation process, or movement/disturbance of the *in-situ* deposits, due to slumping in pits for example. These issues are discussed in detail in the full post-Roman Pottery report (*Digital Section 1.3*), and in the Small Finds report (Chapter 7, and *Digital Section 3*).

A good chronological resolution was considered vital to enable some of the research questions to be addressed. A detailed study of the ceramic assemblages provided a comprehensive relative dating chronology (Chapter 7, and *Digital Section 1*). This was refined by date-ranges acquired through an extensive programme of archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon dating to provide, where possible, an absolute chronological framework (Chapter 6, and *Digital Section 19*). The programme of archaeomagnetic dating carried out during these excavations is quite unique within urban situations in Britain. The

Table 1.1 Periods, site phases and date ranges

Period name	Phase	Applies to	Date range	No of Contexts recorded
Natural	Phase 0	<i>In situ</i> natural geology		23
Pre-Roman	Phase 1	All pre-Roman archaeology whose phasing could not be further refined	Prior to c AD 43	71
	Phase 1.1	Early Iron Age	c 700–400 BC	95
	Phase 1.2	Middle Iron Age	c 400–100 BC	35
	Phase 1.3	Late Iron Age	c 100 BC–AD 43	31
Roman	Phase 2	All Roman archaeology whose phasing could not be further refined	c AD 43–400/50	0
	Phase 2.1	Early Roman	c AD 43–130/50	161
	Phase 2.2	Mid Roman	c AD 130/50–270	73
	Phase 2.3	Late Roman	c AD 270–350/75	658
	Phase 2.4	Latest Roman	c AD 350/75–400/50	75
The post-Roman: early and middle Saxon	Phase 3	All post-Roman archaeology whose phasing could not be further refined	c AD 400/50–850	0
Late Saxon	Phase 4	All late Saxon archaeology whose phasing could not be further refined	c 850–1050	374
	Phase 4.1	Earlier late Saxon	c 850–950	474
	Phase 4.2	Later late Saxon	c 950–1050	1142
Anglo-Norman	Phase 5	All Anglo-Norman archaeology	c 1050–1225	1842
Medieval	Phase 6	All medieval archaeology	c 1225–1550	725
Post-medieval	Phase 7	All post-medieval archaeology	c 1550–1800	2
Modern	Phase 8	All modern archaeology	c 1800 +	523
Unphased	Contexts that could not be allocated to a Phase			171
Voided	Contexts numbers that were allocated on site but subsequently not used			120
Total				6568

majority of the archaeomagnetic measurements were taken from *in situ* hearths within structures along the late Saxon Brudene Street West frontage. Complementary radiocarbon samples were chosen from deposits with direct and reliable physical relationships to these hearths, such as ash and charcoal deposits that lay immediately upon the fired surfaces. The stratigraphic sequences and their associated absolute date ranges (along with significant dated historical events) were queried against a number of specific research questions by the use of Bayesian statistical modelling, which resulted in a series of models whose reliability was measurable in terms of associated probabilities (see Chapter 6).

In combination, the stratigraphic sequences, the relative and absolute dating results and the statistical models provided the basis for dividing the evidence from the eight Periods covered by eighteen Phases of activity (Table 1.1).

Grouping

Once issues of phasing and dating were addressed, the grouping of contemporary features and deposits (eg into structures or properties) that had commenced during the excavation process was tested and finalised. The drawn record, consisting of hundreds of individual 'single-context' hand-drawn site plans was digitised into a single visual digital GIS drawing. Plans of contemporary features (along with undated features) could be generated and visual patterns perhaps not obvious during excavation, due to truncation or sheer density of features, were then identified and allocated unique group numbers. These groups then formed the basis for further interpretation and analysis.

A detailed methodology for phasing and grouping of the late Saxon and Anglo-Norman periods, where previous studies of the documentary evidence were pertinent in identifying individual properties, is presented at the start of Chapter 3.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: DEPOSIT SURVIVAL, SITE PHASES AND THE SEQUENCE OF LAND USE

The broad slope of the hillside and the survival of the archaeological deposits across both the Northgate House and Discovery Centre sites are shown on Figure 1.9. The phases of the archaeological sequence are summarised below, and illustrated in a series of simplified plans (Fig. 1.10), and a land-use diagram (Fig. 1.11).

Phase 1: Pre-Roman

It is notable that a lack of pits were found on the site that could be stratigraphically allocated to the pre-Roman Period. A small number of postholes and heavily truncated sections of gullies did not yield any dating evidence and did not form part of any

obvious structural pattern. These probably attest to the presence of roundhouses, as well as four- and six-post structures, which could equally belong to any of the datable pre-Roman phases.

Phase 1.1: Early Iron Age

Occupation at the site started on a limited scale in the early Iron Age with the construction of two, post-built roundhouses situated along the western side of the site (Fig. 1.10a). Traces of a possible third structure were found between the two and produced a fragment of a Greensand saddle quern, a type common during this period in Hampshire.

Phases 1.2 and 1.3: Middle – late Iron Age

Occupation intensified with the replacement of the earlier roundhouses by five middle Iron Age roundhouses represented by truncated lengths of curvilinear drip-gullies associated with burnished flint-tempered 'saucepan pot' ceramics (Fig. 1.10b). Four of the five formed a group aligned on a NNE-SSW axis, a trend indicated in the previous phase, and which clearly took advantage of a relatively level terrace that followed the contour of the hillside. On the same alignment as this group of structures, and approximately 50 m down slope to their east, a shallow linear holloway with a rudimentary surface of flints extended beyond the site limits towards the north entrance of the contemporary ditch and bank enclosure of Oram's Harbour.

The pre-Roman features were sealed by a homogeneous gravelly subsoil that yielded an early Dobunnic coin dated to *c* 40 BC. The holloway contained a similar soil that produced a calibrated radiocarbon date of 40 BC–AD 90 (OxA-16793) from a cattle bone fragment.

Phase 2.1: Early Roman

The alignment of the holloway was re-established a few metres down slope to its east by a ditch (Fig. 1.10c). This was perhaps dug as part of the setting out of the early Roman settlement and although infilled during the last quarter of the 1st century it clearly shared the same alignment as a well-built metalled street surface, which was constructed some 8 m to its east. This street ran beyond the site limits towards the location of the settlement's north entrance (north gate) and therefore represents the settlement's principal NNE-SSW thoroughfare. Running along the western side of the street were the remains of a substantial stone-built water channel; at the southern end of the site the channel turned in a south-easterly direction, across the alignment of the road, presumably at this point in a buried culvert (as it may have been throughout its length). It is probably an extension of the aqueduct known to run up to the area outside the north gate and would have supplied water to the western

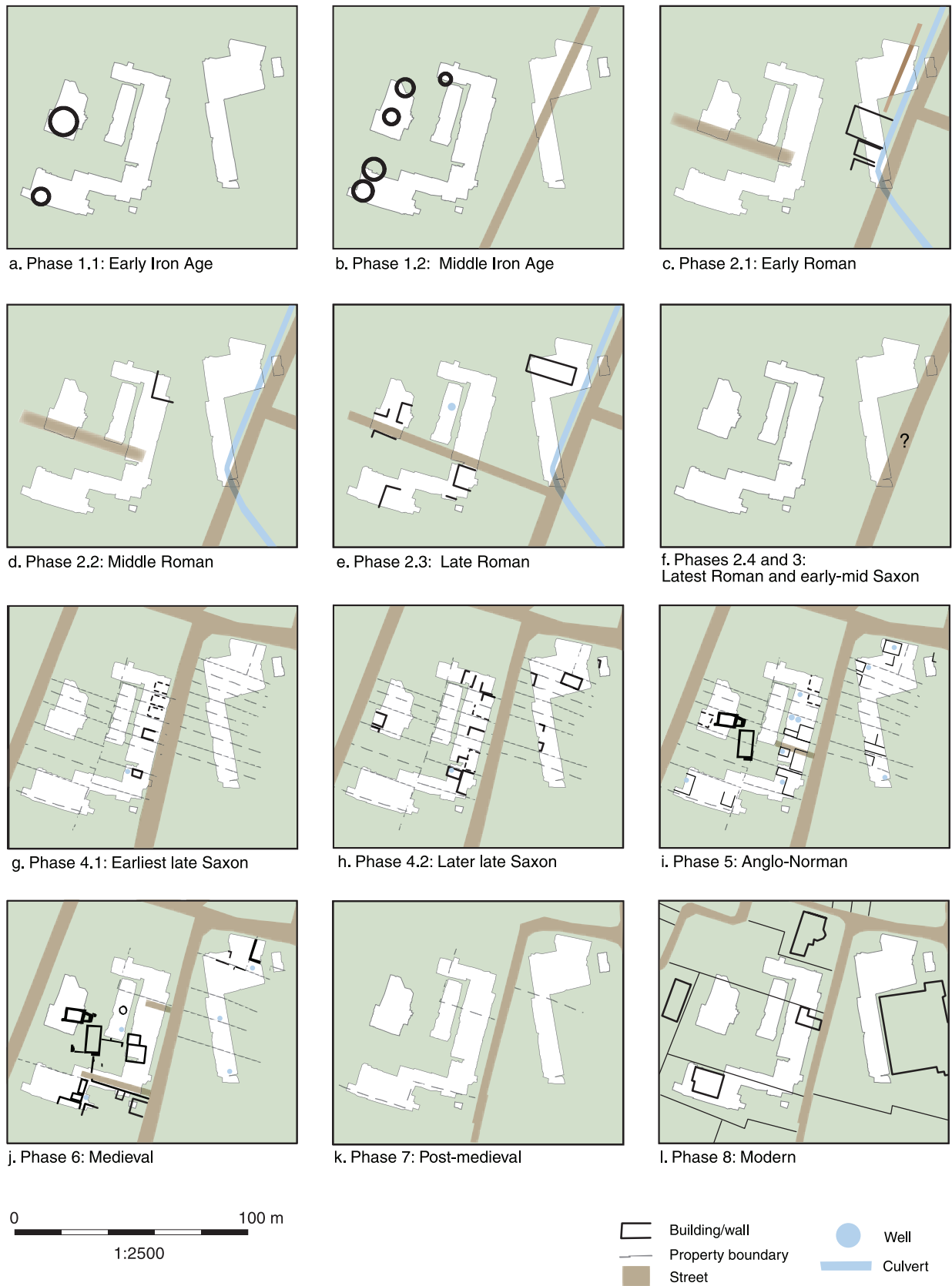


Fig. 1.10 Simplified plans showing the principal site phases

slopes of the town. Coin evidence suggests a construction date in the 1st or 2nd century. The very badly truncated remains of up to three timber structures were revealed along the western side of the street.

Phase 2.2: Middle Roman

The evidence suggests that a house was constructed and other activity was taking place away from the principal street (Fig. 1.10d). Towards the south-west part of the site a hearth gave an archaeomagnetic date of 96 BC–AD 130 (WOC), and a nearby neonate burial yielded a radiocarbon date of 1st to 2nd century AD (OxA-16713). Sometime later, perhaps in the first half of the 3rd century, a building with stone foundations was terraced into the slopes in the northern part of the site. The structure, which was only partially excavated, was destroyed by fire, which preserved (as carbonised remains) fairly substantial elements of the timber superstructure. A frame of larger timbers was infilled with wattle and daub that had been internally plastered and painted with orange-brown/red-brown and grey panels, bordered by light grey stripes. The limited dating evidence suggests occupation was probably confined to the 3rd century.

Phase 2.3: Late Roman

The late Roman period saw a noticeable increase in activity and density of settlement in this part of the settlement; the street pattern was extended and new buildings constructed with evidence of varied artisanal activity (Fig. 1.10e). Development extended along a newly metalled street, laid out within the first half of the 4th century on a WNW-ESE alignment and possibly extending as far as the principal thoroughfare to the east (the suggested junction lying just beyond the turn in the culvert). It was flanked on both sides by timber structures, one of which revealed evidence for bronze working. To the south of this new street a building with stone foundations was terraced into the hill slope and yielded a full set of bone weaving tablets. A more substantial structure was built alongside the north-south street using large chalk-packed post-pits, feasibly an aisled building.

Phase 2.4 and 3: Latest Roman and early-mid Saxon

The buildings were abandoned during the second half of the 4th century (Fig. 1.10f). The 'Dark Earth' that formed over the area suggests biological accretion and the deliberate middening of occupation debris from the end of the 4th century. No clear early-mid Saxon evidence was found.

Phase 4.1: Earliest late Saxon

This phase saw the commencement of a sustained period of intensive urban activity probably associ-

ated with the establishment of the late Saxon *burh* and Anglo-Saxon town (Fig. 1.10g). A new street (Brudene Street, still surviving as Staple Gardens) was constructed on a NNE-SSW alignment. A number of small timber structures (utilising a sill beam technique), flanked the western side of the street, behind which yards, pits and fence lines were revealed. Together this evidence represented six properties whose boundaries were maintained throughout the later late Saxon and Anglo-Norman Periods where a combination of domestic and artisanal activities including iron working, spinning and dyeing (with madder) took place. Bayesian modelling, based upon a targeted programme of radiocarbon and archaeomagnetic dating, concluded that this activity probably commenced between 840 and 880 (see Chapter 6) and that the properties were established more or less simultaneously.

Phase 4.2: Later late Saxon

There was an increase in the intensity of occupation across the site from the mid 10th century (Fig. 1.10h). The number of structures and their size increased with evidence for encroachment on to the western side of Brudene Street. On one property, a substantial house was constructed with large rectangular-sectioned posts, a new construction technique, that indicates a growing degree of prosperity. Semi-sunken 'cellars' are first noted to the rear of two properties (perhaps indicating a greater requirement for storage facilities), and generally back areas show higher concentrations of pit use. Evidence from the contents of the pits and debris upon internal floors show domestic activity continued but point to a diversification of artisanal activity with bronze, bone and horn working being practised along with a continuation of the dyeing and iron working activity. Locks and scales appear in the record suggesting trade in rare commodities was taking place with an associated need for added security.

Phase 5: Anglo-Norman

Artisanal activities from the previous phase continued at least during the first part of this phase, however the evidence from some properties appears more domestic in nature (Fig. 1.10i). Indications of increased prosperity are apparent. Wells constructed of chalk ashlar appear on a number of properties, reflecting a focus on controlling a reliable water supply. One property contained a well associated with a very substantial rectangular shaft retained by stone buttressed ashlar chalk walls, and a suggestion of a vaulted roof. Probably towards the end of the 12th century a stone chapel (possibly the parish church of St Mary) and a large stone house were constructed on the site of two properties on Snitheling Street. Another property on this street contained evidence for a furrier. Towards the end of this phase, most of the properties along

the western frontage of Brudene Street fell into decline and disuse with pits and wells infilled.

Phase 6: Medieval

During the 13th century the smaller properties that had characterised Brudene Street and Snitheling Street were amalgamated into larger higher status land-holdings (Fig. 1.10j). The residence on Snitheling Street that contained the stone house and chapel was enlarged eastwards encompassing at least three properties that formally occupied the western side of Brudene Street. This property was first documented in 1271 as containing the residence of the Archdeacon of Winchester. Additional elements of this property than those revealed in 1960 were recovered, including a possible kitchen, outbuildings, a dovecote, wells, and the boundary wall denoting its southern extent. The properties to the south of this residence were probably enlarged and formed from holdings that formerly fronted onto Snitheling Street and Brudene Street. A range of substantial masonry structures developed on Brudene Street which was probably the residence of Adam de Northampton, a wealthy citizen and skinner, in the later 13th century. On the eastern side of Brudene Street, a substantial stone cellar and a house occupied the northern properties, suggesting occupants of some rank. Evidence from pits from properties to the south of this suggest

that stone buildings also existed along the east side of Brudene Street. By the 15th century, virtually no evidence was found for occupation anywhere on the site.

Phase 7: Post-medieval

Except where it had been removed by later truncation a thick garden soil was noted across the site, corresponding with cartographic depictions by Speed (1610) and Godson (1750) showing that this area of the town was used for horticultural activities (Fig. 1.10k). No features datable to this phase were found.

Phase 8: Modern

The whole of the eastern side of Brudene Street (Staple Gardens) was terraced to provide a relatively flat area for the construction of the Corn Exchange in 1838 (Fig. 1.10l). Staple Gardens was retained by a large wall that defined the western boundary to this development; stonework in this wall may have derived from the remains of former medieval buildings on the site. Two World War II air raid shelter complexes were constructed in the area to the north and west of this structure. A house was constructed on the south side of the Northgate House site during the late 19th century and other parts of the site remained largely open ground until the 1960s.

